

# Chapter 12

## The Chiropractic Practitioner in New Zealand

This chapter examines the demographic data pertaining to the chiropractic practitioner/survey respondent. The survey questions began with personal data, then addressed education, specialization, work environment, and more.

### Preliminary Criteria

Following some preliminary questions, the survey sought to qualify each respondent. As discussed in Chapter 5, the only criterion for participation was that the individual be a licensed, full-time practitioner of chiropractic.

Question number 4 on the first page of the survey asked if the respondent was currently in active full-time chiropractic practice.

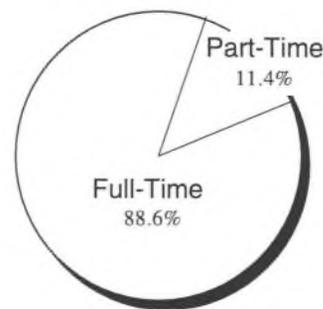
If the individual answered “no” to this question, he/she was instructed to return the uncompleted questionnaire. Eighty-eight percent of practicing respondents reported their practice to be full-time (Figure 12.1).

The next question asked the participants how many hours per week they devoted to their practices. The number of hours reported averaged 36.7 (Figure 12.2).

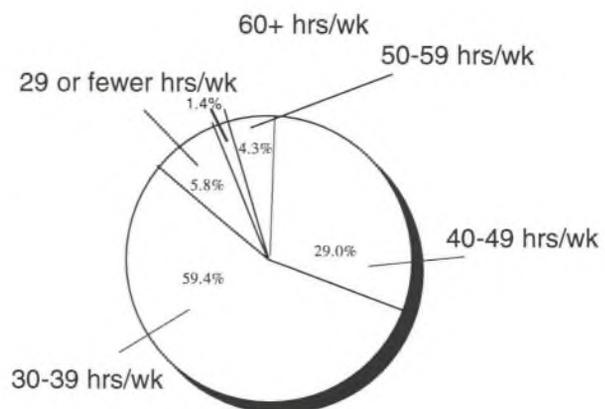
### Personal Demographics

In addition, the full-time practitioners who participated in the study were asked to provide demographic data about themselves.

The survey responses revealed that 95.5% of the participants were male and 4.5% were female. In comparison with information taken from the *United States Job Analysis of Chiropractic*, 86.7% of American practitioners are male and 13.3% are female.



**FIGURE 12.1**  
**Full-time Respondents\***

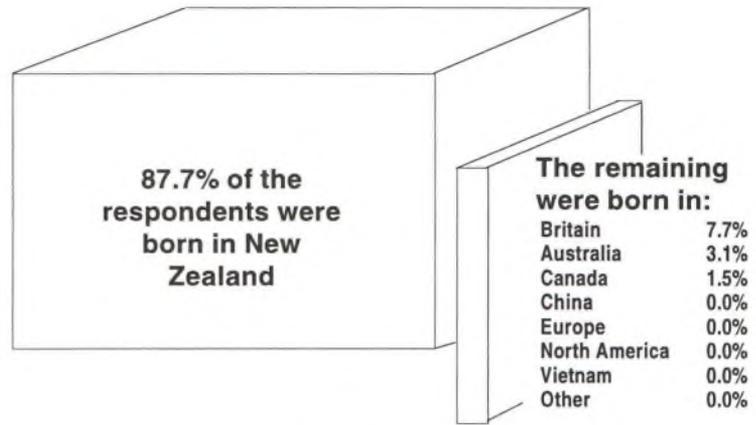


**FIGURE 12.2**  
**Hours per Week\***

\*Data are not weighted

## Place of Birth

Overall, 87.7% of the respondents were born in New Zealand while the remaining were born in Britain, Australia or Canada (Figure 12.3).



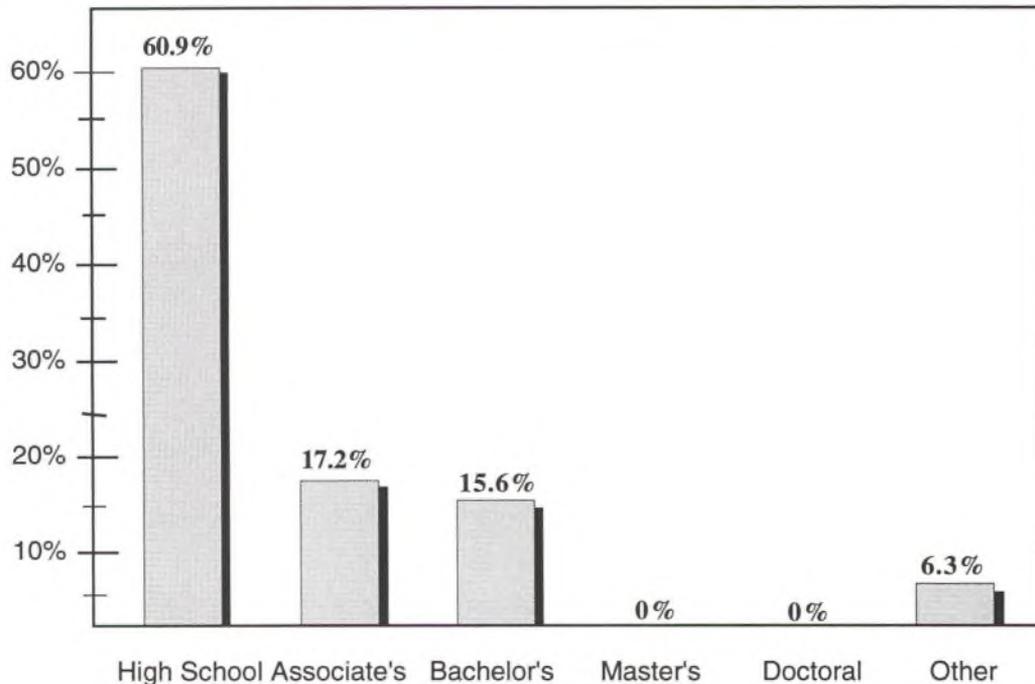
**FIGURE 12.3**  
Respondents' Place of Birth

## Level of Education

The participants were asked to mark the highest level of non-chiropractic education they had achieved. Approximately 17% of the respondents had an Associate degree and 15.6% had a Baccalaureate degree. The "Other" category was marked by 6.3% of the respondents (Figure 12.4).

## Specialization

Concerning post-graduate specialty board eligibility or certification, 94.0% had none, and 6.0% indicated they had certification in areas other than those listed (Table 11.1).



**FIGURE 7.4**  
Non-chiropractic Education

## Chiropractic Colleges Represented

Respondents next indicated the college which conferred their Doctor of Chiropractic degree (Table 7.1). The percent of graduates from each Chiropractic college was as follows:

<b>Palmer</b>	<b>40.6%</b>	<b>Cleveland-Kansas City</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Royal Melbourne</b>	<b>30.4%</b>	<b>Cleveland-Los Angeles</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Sherman</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>Institut Francais</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Anglo-European</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>Life-West</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Canadian Memorial</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>Logan</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Life</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

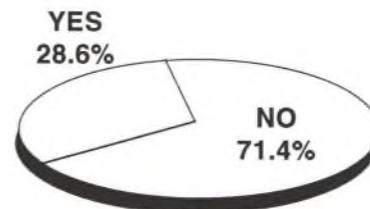
**TABLE 12.5**  
Source of Chiropractic Degree\*

## Respondent's Work Environment

Relative to the respondents' work environment, 70.6% of those participating in the survey indicated they currently practiced in a setting where they are the only doctor in the office, while 29.4% indicated there are two or more doctors in the office in which they practice. None of the respondents indicated that they are working either as a junior associate, examining doctor or in a capacity other than those previously reported.

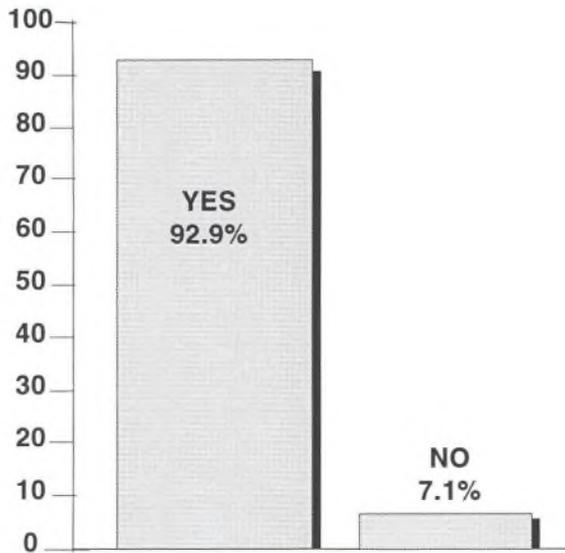
## Practice Locations

Concerning whether those completing the survey currently practice in one or more office location, approximately 71.4% indicated one location while 28.6% said they practiced in more than one location (Figure 12.6).



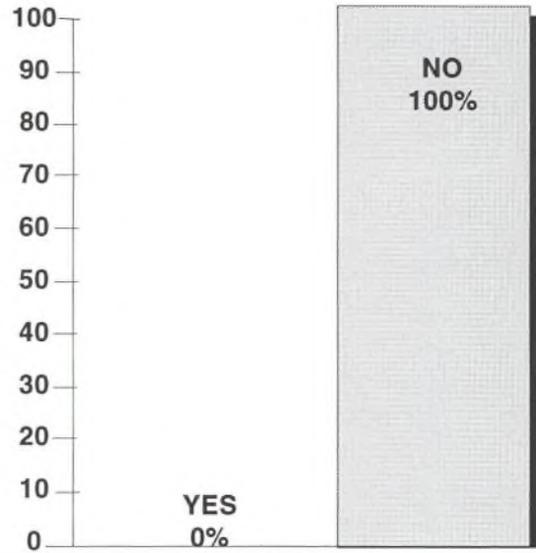
**FIGURE 12.6**  
Do you practice in more than one office location?

\* See Appendix for complete listing of colleges.



**FIGURE 12.7**

**Do you ever deliver chiropractic care outside an office setting?**



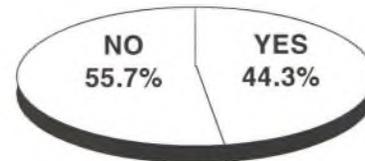
**FIGURE 12.8**

**Do you have staff privileges at a hospital?**

## Delivery of Care

In regard to whether the respondents EVER delegate certain patient care to a chiropractic assistant, 44.3% said “yes” while 55.7% indicated “no” (Figure 12.9).

Concerning the occasional delivery of chiropractic care outside the office setting, 92.9% indicated they do while 7.1% said they do not deliver care outside the office setting (Figure 12.8).



**FIGURE 12.9**

**Do you delegate some of your patient care to a chiropractic assistant?**

## Hospital Staff Privileges

In regard to having staff privileges at a hospital, 100% of the respondents said they do not (Figure 12.8).

Chiropractors referred to and received referrals from medical practitioners. Of the survey respondents, 98.6% reported that they had received referrals from medical practitioners within the past two years, while 1.4% indicated they had not.

## Experience and Orientation

The initial survey questions established how long the practitioners had been practicing in the state in which they are currently located. In answer to these questions, 40.0% said they had been practicing for 5 to 15 years in their current state; another 37.1% had been practicing for more than 15 years while 22.9% indicated they had been practicing for less than 5 years (Figure 12.10).

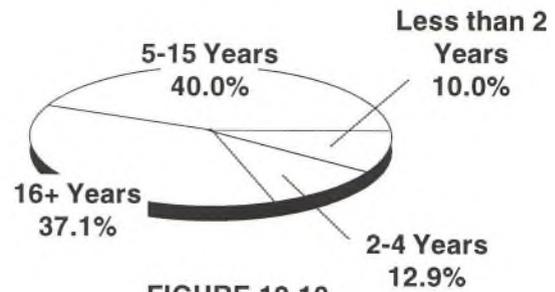


FIGURE 12.10

How long have you been in practice in the area in which you are currently located?

## Total Length of Practice

Responses as to how long they had been in practice altogether, including their current state and other states or countries, were similar to the previous survey question regarding experience and orientation. A total of 43.5% had been practicing 5 to 15 years, 42.0% had been practicing more than fifteen years while 14.4% had been practicing less than five years (Figure 12.11).

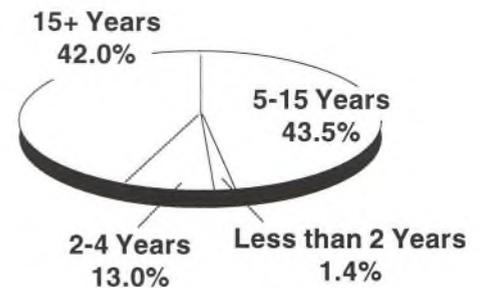


FIGURE 12.11

How long have you been practicing altogether?

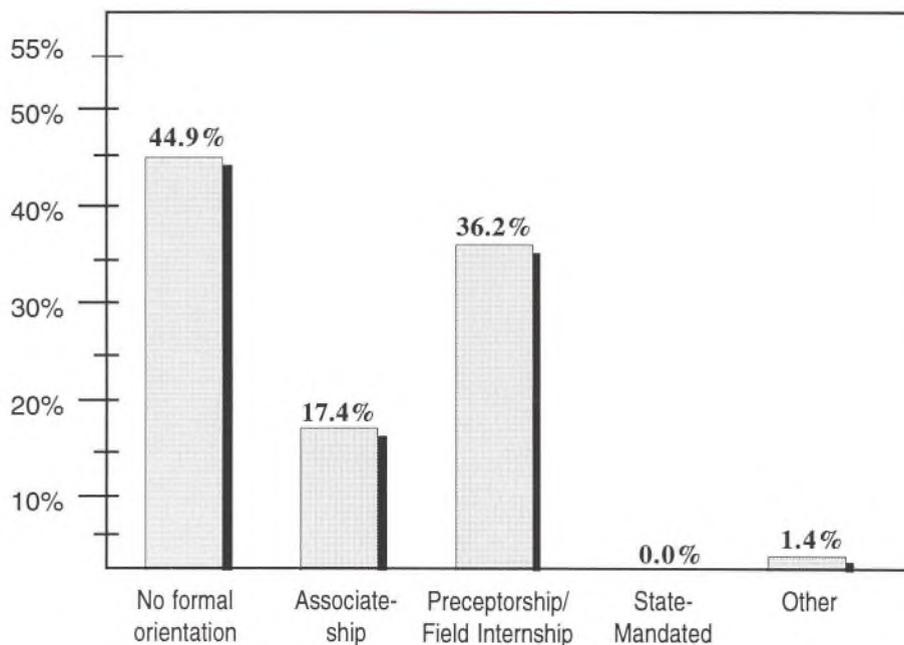


FIGURE 12.12

What kind of orientation did you receive in your first field practice setting?

## Clinical Orientation

When asked to indicate the type of clinical orientation the survey respondents had received in their first practice setting, the following responses were given as indicated in Figure 12.12: 44.9% indicated they had received no formal orientation, 17.4% said they had an associateship while 36.2% indicated they had a preceptorship or field internship. The "other" category was designated by 1.4% of the respondents. None of the respondents indicated they had participated in a state/territory-mandated training program.

## Breakdown of Time/Types of Patients

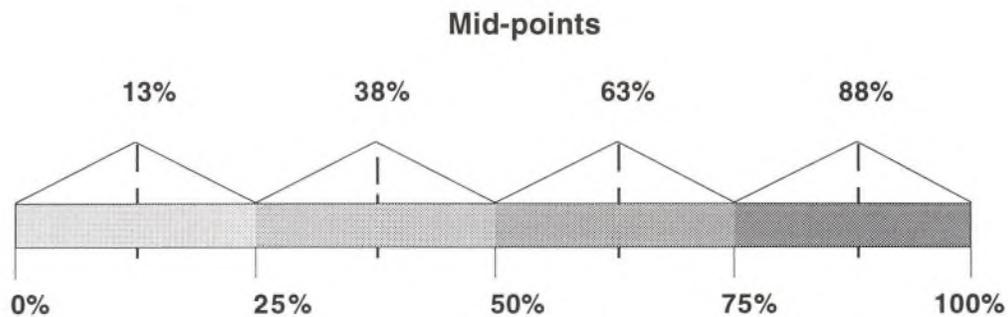


FIGURE 12.13

**Percentage of Time and Types of Patients**  
A mid-point of the percentage range was utilized to calculate an overall percentage for practitioner's use of time and patient demographics (pages 3-4 of the survey).

In exploring the percentage of time chiropractors typically spend on various aspects of their practices (business management, direct patient care, patient education, and research), information was gathered by way of a percentage scale with five answer choices. Additionally, respondents indicated patient Sex, Age, Ethnic Origin, and Occupation on a similar 5-point scale.

The mid-point of the percentage range was utilized to calculate each overall percentage (Figure 12.13). For example, if the respondent indicated that 1-25% of his/her time was spent on research, this was converted to a mid-point of 13%. In like manner, the 26-50% answer choice was converted to a mid-point value of 38%; 51-75% to 63%; and 76-100% to 88%. (Data were scaled within each question so that the score totaled 100%.)

By scoring responses in this manner, an average percentage was calculated. (Standard errors for these questions were similar to other questions reported on a percentage scale.) The respondents indicated that 60.0% of their time was typically spent on direct patient care, while patient education involved 19.0% of their time, with approximately 15.9% spent on business management. Little or no time (5.1%) was spent on research. (Percentages for patient demographic data were obtained in the same manner and are reported on pages 120 and 132.)