

# JOB ANALYSIS OF CHIROPRACTIC

A project report, survey analysis,  
and summary of the practice of  
chiropractic within the United States



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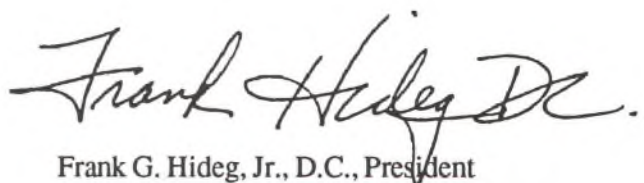


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In addition, thanks are expressed to Paul Townsend, D.C., for his commendable contribution to the research, development, and administration of the survey instrument. Dr. Townsend worked with the survey instrument format and design through several revisions which are outlined in this report. Special appreciation is expressed to Delle Morgan and Yvonne Sieve for their role in the writing, editing, and desktop publishing of this report; to Renéé Alles for her assistance and support; and to Ray Townsend, D.C., James Bastian, D.C., Jeff Truesdall, D.C., and grammarian Miriam Marshall for their valued critiques at various stages of the production of the manuscript.

The NBCE would also like to thank the directors and staff members of the Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards, the American Chiropractic Association, and the International Chiropractors Association, who provided requested information pertaining to various materials presented in this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Hideg Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank G. Hideg, Jr., D.C., President  
National Board of Chiropractic Examiners





## PREFACE

Presented in this book are analyzed data collected in 1991 and 1992 by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners in its **Survey of Chiropractic Practice**.

As a well-established independent testing agency, the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) applied proven testing industry guidelines throughout each phase of this survey project, called a job analysis. In doing so, we sought to provide the chiropractic health care field with the most credible, relevant, and accurate reference possible, one which documents chiropractic as it is defined by those who practice it as a full-time profession.

These objectives have been met through the collective effort of those involved. Members of our staff, members of the NBCE Job Analysis Steering and Job Analysis Advisory Committees, state licensing board members, chiropractic faculty, private practitioners, statisticians, editors, and a host of other professionals helped produce a survey instrument of outstanding quality. A gratifying survey response from members of the profession served to further validate the survey's statistical data base.

It is this exhaustive commitment to excellence that so often distinguishes our profession. And it is largely what distinguishes this report, making it one which may have far-reaching significance in chiropractic health care for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Mark G. Christensen, Ph.D.

Director of Testing

National Board of Chiropractic Examiners

*" ... we sought to provide the health care field with the most credible, relevant, and accurate reference possible, one which documents chiropractic as it is defined by those who practice it as a full-time profession."*



# Introduction

The chronology of testing and measurement can be traced to the beginning of recorded history. Such early writings describe rituals that gauged the wisdom, physical endurance or bravery of various tribal members.

At one time or another, through one form or another, mankind has always devised a means of studying the world in which we live. We observe and surmise, prove and disprove, amass and dissect. We measure, we document and we formulate principles upon which scientific and sociological changes sometimes come to be based.

Over the years, as the consequences of these studies became more weighty and the procedures and results increasingly scrutinized, strict guidelines for obtaining the maximum in testing validity and consistency were developed. Today, these guidelines are established and refined by various independent testing organizations, as well as by the United States government.

In its role as the national and international testing agency for the chiropractic profession, the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners adheres to these guidelines, which enables testing agencies to prepare and administer fair, uniform, and valid tests and measurements.

Although there could be no "right" or "wrong" answers to the survey which formed the basis of this report, the testing and measurement guidelines followed were necessary to obtain valid and reliable data. In short, only through strict adherence to government and industry guidelines can a survey project, such as this job analysis, gain the desired validity and credibility.

## Organization of the Report

While compiling data from the **NBCE Job Analysis of Chiropractic**, the authors were committed to providing comprehensive and accurate documentation of every aspect of the job analysis project. Repeatedly surfacing during the compilation process was the reminder that the readership of the report might well include individuals with a wide range of backgrounds and purposes, and with varying degrees of familiarity with the fields of chiropractic and/or testing and measurement. This prevailing awareness affected the construction of the report in both content and format.

At every step, the authors presented the relevant data, then stepped back to assess whether the body of information offered previously in the text was sufficient to afford and facilitate comprehension by a full range of readers. In many cases, the authors



resolved this question by including clarifying background information which had been presumed unnecessary at the outset of the project.

Additionally entering into the decision to include some passages of text was the need to acquaint the reader with the licensed practitioner of chiropractic, since it was this individual who collectively provided the data upon which the job analysis report is based. Thus, the authors have attempted to present an objective and well-rounded picture of the present-day chiropractor and his/her practice. Also addressed is the historical background of the profession, and current information including educational requirements for becoming a chiropractor.

The information was often presented as a general overview, followed by a more detailed topical discussion presented chronologically. The editors have attempted to convey information through visual means where appropriate. A glossary of terms can also be found in an Appendix of this report.

The first two chapters serve to familiarize the reader with chiropractic\* and its practitioners, including the personal, educational, and professional criteria these individuals met in becoming *licensed practitioners of chiropractic*. Also presented is a description of major government inquiries and legal action conducted relative to chiropractic. In this way, the authors sought to explain why the chiropractic practitioner -- and only the chiropractic practitioner -- is qualified to provide the data which forms the job analysis of chiropractic.

Chapter 3 provides background information relative to the regulation of occupational licensing. Here, the reader is acquainted with licensure and certification testing, as well as the legal aspects that shape regulatory agency requirements.

In chapter 4, we find the procedures necessary to reap maximum project validity. This chapter discusses the process of planning, development, and research protocols observed in the job analysis project, from committees to field tests to the gathering of statistics and state information, and the design of the final survey.

Chapter 5 describes the method and factors utilized in compiling the survey mailing list, tracking all components, tabulating the data, etc. A number of steps were taken to encourage a high rate of response. These are all presented in this chapter.

Chapter 6 provides an overview of the respondent chiropractors, patient demographics, and respondent comments as written on the survey form. Included is a summary of conditions, treatments, and activities. The subsequent chapters provide a detailed breakdown of the characteristics of the "typical" chiropractic practitioner (Chapter 7) and the "typical" chiropractic patient (Chapter 8) as indicated by the survey response data.

The final chapter in the Job Analysis of Chiropractic report (Chapter 9) summa-

\* "Chiropractic" is generally used as a noun, although it may appear to be an adjective in many contexts.

rizes the response data relative to the activities performed by the practitioners participating in the survey, and the perceived frequency and risk factors. Also included are various adjustive and non-adjustive procedures.

In addition to the relevant forms and correspondence, the Survey of Chiropractic Practice, glossary of terms, acknowledgments and index, included in the Appendix is a listing of survey participants. Ultimately, it was their involvement which made the Job Analysis of Chiropractic project possible.

\* \* \*