

Chapter 1

The Chiropractic Profession

One of health care's fastest growing professions, chiropractic has earned recognition for its remarkable effectiveness and has thrived along with a growing public awareness of and desire for natural, nonsurgical, and drugless methods of treatment.

Chiropractic is the nation's third largest primary health care profession, surpassed in numbers only by practitioners of medicine and dentistry. As of this writing, there are approximately 62,000 chiropractors in North America alone, with many more throughout the world. An estimated 7-to-16 percent of Americans consult a chiropractor for treatment each year (American Chiropractic Association 1998).

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands officially recognize chiropractic as a health profession. The following list has been adapted from the World Federation of Chiropractic's listing of the countries in which national health authorities recognize chiropractic.

<u>African Region</u>	<u>European Region</u>	Israel**	New Caledonia**
Botswana*	Belgium***	Jordan**	New Zealand*
Ethiopia**	Croatia**	Lebanon**	Papua New Guinea**
Kenya**	Denmark*	Libya**	<u>Persian Gulf</u>
Lesotho*	Finland**	Morocco**	<u>Region</u>
Mauritius**	France***	Qatar**	Saudi Arabia*
Namibia*	Germany**	Turkey**	United Arab Emirates**
Nigeria**	Hungary**	<u>North American</u>	<u>South American</u>
South Africa*	Iceland*	<u>Region</u>	<u>Region</u>
Swaziland*	Ireland**	Bahamas**	Argentina**
Zimbabwe*	Italy***	Barbados*	Bolivia**
<u>Asian Region</u>	Liechtenstein*	Bermuda**	Brazil**
China-Hong Kong*	Netherlands**	British Virgin Islands**	Chile**
Japan**	Norway*	Canada*	Colombia**
Malaysia**	Portugal***	Cayman Islands**	Ecuador**
Philippines*	Russian Federation**	Jamaica**	Peru**
Singapore**	Slovakia**	Leeward Islands*	Venezuela**
Thailand***	Slovenia**	Mexico*	
<u>Central American</u>	Sweden*	Puerto Rico*	
<u>Region</u>	Switzerland*	Trinidad and Tobago**	
Belize**	United Kingdom*	United States*	*recognized pursuant to
Costa Rica**	<u>Mediterranean</u>	U.S. Virgin Islands**	legislation
El Salvador**	<u>Region</u>	<u>Pacific Region</u>	**recognized pursuant to
Guatemala**	Cyprus*	Australia*	general law
Honduras**	Egypt**	Fiji**	***de facto recognition
Panama*	Greece**	Guam*	

Table 1.1. Countries in which Chiropractic is Recognized as a Health Profession (Adapted from Chapman-Smith 1997, 582)