

# JOB ANALYSIS OF CHIROPRACTIC IN CANADA

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



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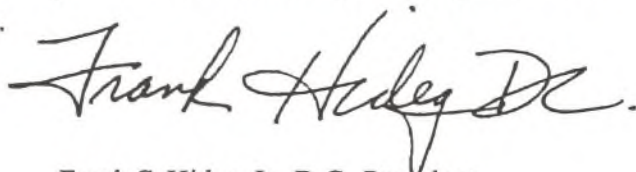
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In addition, thanks are expressed to Paul Townsend, D.C., for his commendable contribution to the research, development, and administration of the survey instrument. Dr. Townsend worked with the survey instrument format and design through several revisions which are outlined in this report. Special appreciation is expressed to Delle Morgan and Yvonne Sieve for their roles in the writing, editing, and desktop publishing of this report; to Debora Beeman for her assistance and support; and to Ray Townsend, D.C., Greg Crawford, D.C., and grammarian Miriam Marshall for their valued critiques at various stages of the production. Special appreciation is also expressed to Jim zumBrunnen for his statistical calculations.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank Hideg Jr. D.C.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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





*" ... we sought to provide the Canadian 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."*

## PREFACE

Presented in this book are analyzed data collected by the United States National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE), with the assistance of the Canadian Chiropractic Examining Board (CCEB) and the Canadian Federation of Chiropractic Regulatory Boards, in its *Survey of Chiropractic Practice in Canada*.

As a well-established independent testing agency, 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 Canadian 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, members of the CCEB and the Canadian Federation of Chiropractic Regulatory Boards, 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 in Canada for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Mark G. Christensen, Ph.D.

Director of Testing

National Board of Chiropractic Examiners



# 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 studies have become 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 both the Canadian and United States governments.

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. In its role as a national and international testing agency for the chiropractic profession, the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) in the United States adheres to these guidelines, which enable testing agencies to prepare and administer fair, uniform, and valid tests and measurements.

In addition to the NBCE job analyses performed in the United States and Canada, similar studies have also been conducted by the NBCE in Australia and New Zealand at the request of the chiropractic leadership in those countries. The NBCE designed, administered, and funded the multi-national Job Analysis of Chiropractic projects as a service to the profession worldwide.

## Organization of the Report

While compiling data from the *NBCE Job Analysis of Chiropractic in Canada*, 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 awareness 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 fully acquaint the reader with the licensed practitioners of chiropractic, since these individuals collectively provided the data upon which the job analysis report is based. Thus, the authors and editors 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 academic requirements for becoming a licensed chiropractor.

The information was often presented as a general overview, followed by a more detailed topical discussion presented chronologically. Information was conveyed 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 briefly is a collection of major government inquiries, studies, or rulings conducted in recent years relative to chiropractic. By providing the information in these chapters, the authors demonstrate 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. The reader is acquainted with licensure and certification testing, as well as the legal aspects that shape regulatory agency requirements. In addition, a brief summary of the chiropractic licensing requirements for each province is presented.

In chapter 4 are the procedures followed in the development of the survey instrument. 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 data, and to 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. Additionally, a number of steps were taken to encourage a high rate of response which typically enhances the validity of study data. These are presented in this chapter.

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



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.

Chapter 9 summarizes the response data relative to the activities performed by the practitioners participating in the survey, the estimated frequency of performance and the perceived risk to patient welfare should the activity be omitted or performed poorly. Also, included are various adjustive and non-adjustive procedures. Chapter 10 presents survey response data on a province-by-province basis. These data are unweighted (raw) as opposed to the weighted data presented previously in the text.

Included in the Appendices are relevant forms and correspondence, the Survey of Chiropractic Practice in Canada, a glossary of terms, an index, and a listing of Canadian survey participants.

\* \* \*