



VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

Podiatry Manpower Survey—Provisional Data

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FROM THE
NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Preliminary Results of Podiatry Manpower Survey: United States, 1970

All licensed podiatrists in the United States were surveyed by the National Center for Health Statistics with the cooperation of the American Podiatry Association during January through March 1970.

The American Podiatry Association supplied unpublished licensing lists from the 50 States and the District of Columbia as the basis for the mailing list. The original list contained 9,235 licenses covering new licenses and renewals for the appropriate renewal periods between the fall of 1967 and the spring of 1969. These lists were supplemented by the addition of the graduates of 1968 and 1969. Since podiatrists may be licensed in more than one State, all but one license for each podiatrist were removed from the list. After removing these duplicates and all podiatrists with foreign addresses, the list contained 8,290 podiatrists who were mailed questionnaires.

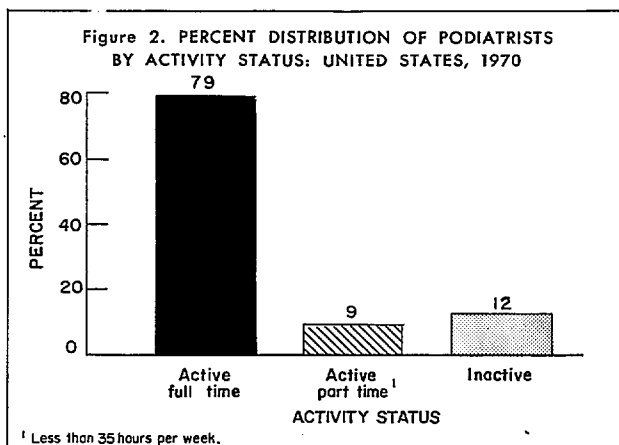
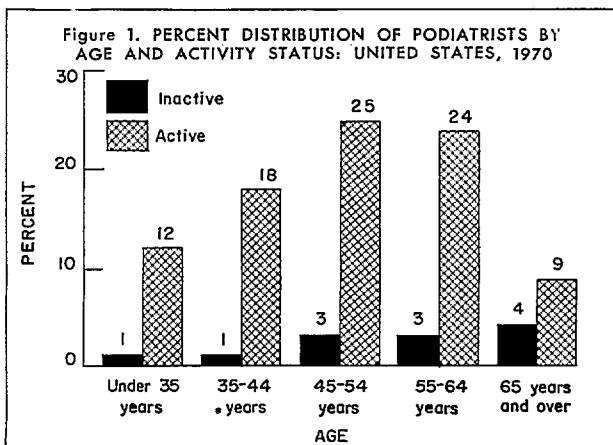
As the returned questionnaires were processed, additional duplicate names were deleted from the list as well as the names of podiatrists who had died or were out of scope; this left 8,050 podiatrists. Followup mailings and telephone contacts yielded a response rate of 92 percent.

The data are being edited more completely and additional corrections for nonresponse are being made. Since these adjustments may result in minor changes, data presented here are preliminary.

Characteristics of Podiatrists

Of the 8,050 licensed podiatrists in the United States in 1970:

- The average age, based on reported year of birth, was 51 years. About 13 percent were under 35 years of age, and 13 percent were 65 years of age or older. (See figure 1.)
- 94 percent were male and 6 percent were female.
- 95 percent were native-born citizens, almost 5 percent were naturalized, and fewer than 1 percent were not citizens.
- 74 percent were graduates of the five colleges of podiatry now in existence.
- 1 percent had a Ph.D. in addition to the podiatry degree; 2 percent, a master's degree; and 20 percent, a bachelor's degree.



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Table 1. Number of podiatrists and ratio to population, by activity status and region: United States, 1970

Region	Number of podiatrists		Ratio per 100,000 ¹ population	
	All	Active	All	Active
United States---	8,050	7,045	4.0	3.5
Northeast----	3,381	2,962	6.9	6.1
North Central--	2,298	2,042	4.1	3.6
South-----	1,158	999	1.8	1.6
West-----	1,213	1,042	3.6	3.1

¹Total resident population, July 1, 1969, published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 436, Jan. 1970.

- 70 percent were licensed in only one State; 23 percent, in two States; and 7 percent, in three States or more.
- The average length of active podiatric practice was 21 years.
- 79 percent were active in podiatry full time and 9 percent part time. The other 12 percent were inactive. (See figure 2.)

Ratio of Podiatrists to Population by Geographic Location

Of the 8,050 licensed podiatrists, 7,045 were active practitioners either full time or part time. The ratio of all the podiatrists to the total resident population in the United States was 4 per 100,000 (table 1). The Northeast Region had the highest ratio. The ratios of active podiatrists to the population were similar. The U.S. ratio of active podiatrists to the population was 3.5 per 100,000. The Northeast Region was again highest with 6 per 100,000, and the South the lowest with 2.

The State with the highest ratio of all podiatrists (active and inactive) to population was Massachusetts with 9 per 100,000; Alabama, Hawaii, Mississippi, and South Carolina had the lowest ratios of less than 1 per 100,000 population. Massachusetts and Mississippi again had the highest and lowest ratios of active podiatrists to population, 7.2 and 0.3, respectively. (See table 2.)

Active Podiatrists

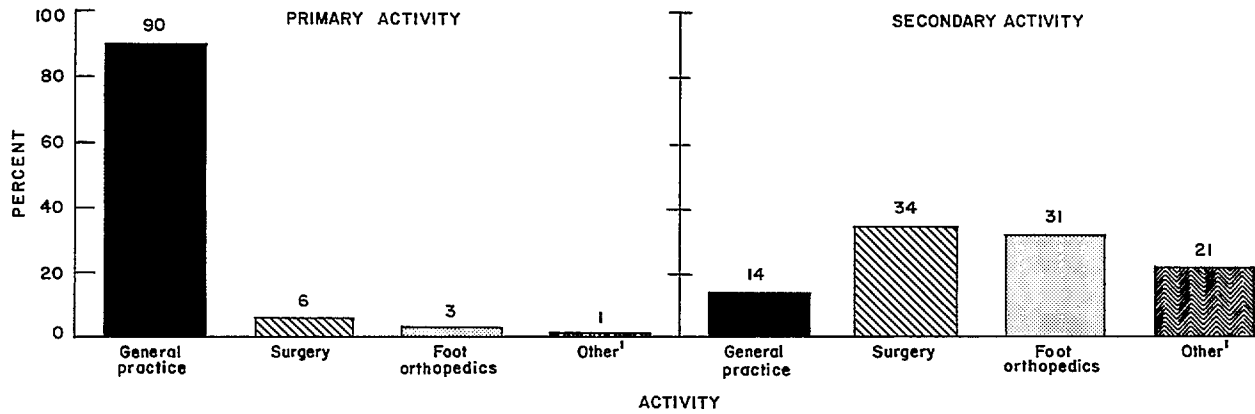
Eighty-eight percent of all podiatrists were actively engaged in podiatry. Of these 7,045 podiatrists,

Table 2. Number of podiatrists and ratio to population, by activity status and State: United States, 1970

State	Number of podiatrists		Ratio per 100,000 ¹ population	
	All	Active	All	Active
United States---	8,050	7,045	4.0	3.5
Alabama-----	26	20	0.7	0.6
Alaska-----	5	2	1.8	0.7
Arizona-----	47	37	2.8	2.2
Arkansas-----	23	18	1.2	0.9
California----	862	733	4.4	3.8
Colorado-----	79	70	3.8	3.3
Connecticut---	206	180	6.9	6.0
Delaware-----	22	22	4.1	4.1
District of Columbia----	69	57	8.6	7.1
Florida-----	249	190	3.9	3.0
Georgia-----	65	57	1.4	1.2
Hawaii-----	6	5	0.8	0.6
Idaho-----	17	16	2.4	2.2
Illinois-----	737	600	6.7	5.4
Indiana-----	158	146	3.1	2.9
Iowa-----	105	94	3.8	3.4
Kansas-----	50	45	2.2	1.9
Kentucky-----	61	55	1.9	1.7
Louisiana-----	42	40	1.1	1.1
Maine-----	24	22	2.5	2.2
Maryland-----	105	98	2.8	2.6
Massachusetts--	501	395	9.2	7.2
Michigan-----	287	271	3.3	3.1
Minnesota-----	82	78	2.2	2.1
Mississippi---	9	8	0.4	0.3
Missouri-----	97	85	2.1	1.8
Montana-----	14	14	2.0	2.0
Nebraska-----	45	42	3.1	2.9
Nevada-----	18	16	3.9	3.5
New Hampshire--	26	21	3.6	2.9
New Jersey----	417	360	5.8	5.0
New Mexico----	22	20	2.2	2.0
New York-----	1,378	1,232	7.5	6.7
North Carolina----	57	56	1.1	1.1
North Dakota--	6	6	1.0	1.0
Ohio-----	563	526	5.2	4.9
Oklahoma-----	53	47	2.1	1.8
Oregon-----	39	35	1.9	1.7
Pennsylvania--	760	690	6.4	5.8
Rhode Island--	61	56	6.7	6.1
South Carolina----	16	13	0.6	0.5
South Dakota--	16	15	2.4	2.3
Tennessee-----	39	29	1.0	0.7
Texas-----	209	188	1.9	1.7
Utah-----	26	25	2.5	2.4
Vermont-----	8	6	1.8	1.4
Virginia-----	64	58	1.4	1.2
Washington----	70	64	2.1	1.9
West Virginia--	49	43	2.7	2.4
Wisconsin-----	152	134	3.6	3.2
Wyoming-----	8	5	2.5	1.6

¹Total resident population, July 1, 1969, published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 436, Jan. 1970.

Figure 3. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE PODIATRISTS BY PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ACTIVITY: UNITED STATES, 1970



¹Includes podogeriatrics, podopediatrics, podiatric dermatology, roentgenology, and other activities.

90 percent were active full time and 10 percent were active part time.

As might be expected, the average age (50 years) of the active podiatrists was lower than that of the inactive group (58 years). The proportion of male podiatrists who were active in their profession (90 percent) was higher than that of female podiatrists (60 percent).

The number who were self-employed represents 94 percent of all active podiatrists, the majority being in solo practice. Only 6 percent were employees. (See table 3.)

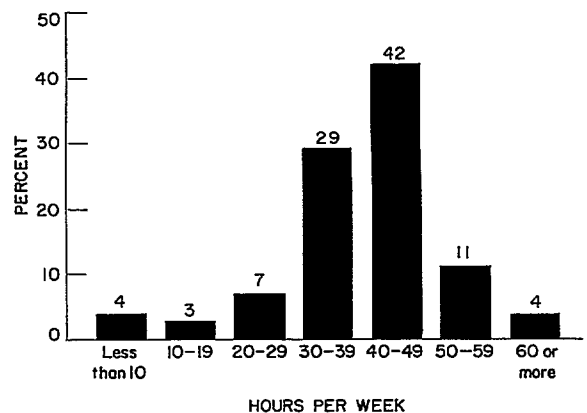
About 90 percent of active podiatrists indicated general practice as their primary activity. Of the remaining 10 percent, 6 percent indicated surgery as their primary activity, 1 percent podogeriatrics, and 3 percent foot orthopedics. Surgery was listed as the secondary activity by 34 percent of active podiatrists. (See figure 3.)

Nearly all of the active podiatrists spent some hours each week in patient care (fig. 4). About 3 percent of the active podiatrists reported that they spent some hours each week in teaching at a college of podiatry; 7 percent, in podiatric research; and 11 per-

Table 3. Number and percent distribution of active podiatrists by principal form of employment: United States, 1970

Principal form of employment	Number	Percent
Total-----	7,045	100.0
Private employment-----	6,900	97.9
Self-employment-----	6,600	93.7
Solo practice-----	6,018	85.4
Partnership practice-----	452	6.4
Group practice-----	130	1.9
Organization or institution-----	72	1.0
Other employment-----	228	3.2
Government employment---	145	2.1
Federal-----	80	1.2
State or local-----	65	0.9

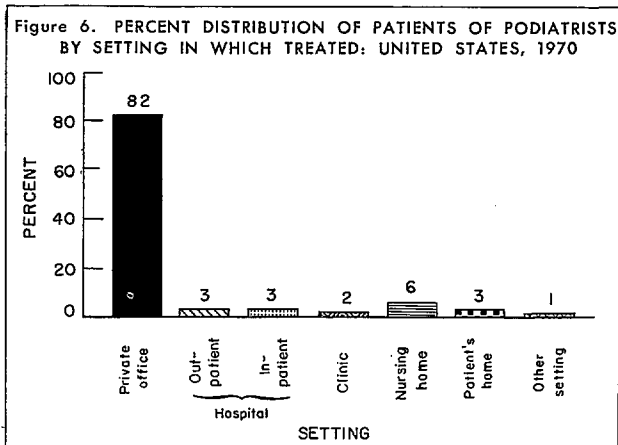
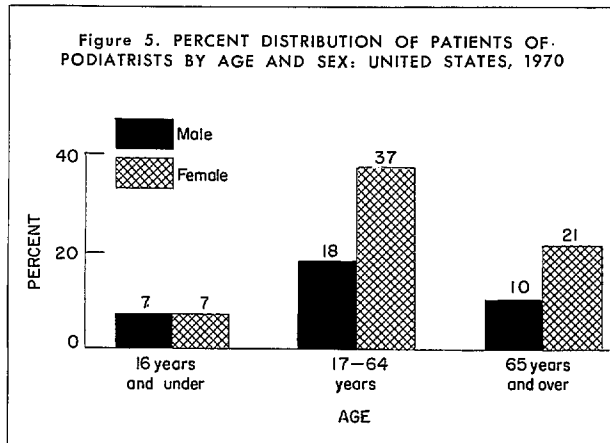
Figure 4. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE PODIATRISTS BY HOURS PER WEEK USUALLY SPENT IN PATIENT CARE: UNITED STATES, 1970



cent, in administration. Over half of the podiatrists, 57 percent, reported that they usually spent 40 hours or more each week in patient care.

Podiatric Patients

In response to the question "How many patient visits did you have last week?" podiatrists indicated that over 520,000 patient visits were made. The number of different patients seen was probably about 470,000. Approximately 55 percent of the patients were between 17 and 64 years of age, 14 percent were 16 years of age or younger, and 31 percent were 65 years of age or older. About 65 percent of all patients were female and 35 percent were male. (See figure 5.) More than four out of five (82 percent) of these patients were seen in the podiatrist's private office. An additional 8 percent were seen in a hospital or clinic setting; 9 percent, in the patient's home or a nursing home; and 1 percent, in other settings. (See figure 6.)



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