

2

PHARMACISTS WORKING IN NSW

This section documents the number and characteristics of pharmacists working in NSW.

- From 2001 to 2002, the NSW pharmacist workforce is estimated to have increased from a headcount of 5,215 to 5,408 (after adjusting for non response, see Section 1, p.6, "Estimating Workforce Size"). This represents an increase of 193 or 3.7% in that period.
- Workforce participation rates for pharmacists in NSW were relatively constant between 2001 and 2002 (from 77.8% to 78.3%).
- The proportion of women in the pharmacist workforce is 51.4%, and the proportion of men in the pharmacist workforce is 48.6%, with a greater proportion of women in younger age groups. Some 43.6% of the female workforce were aged under 40, while 28.1% of males were under forty years in 2002. However, women are greater in numbers in all age groups younger than 55 years, while men are significantly higher in numbers in the 55 year age group and older age groups.
- There is a much higher proportion of women working as hospital/clinic pharmacists (78.6% of all hospital/clinic pharmacists) than the proportion of women working as community (retail) pharmacists (45.6%) in their main job.
- Some 36.2% of the workforce are aged under forty years, 23% are aged 40 to 49 years, 20.9% are aged 50 to 59 years, and 21.2% of the workforce are 60 years and older. The modal age range is 25 to 29 years (ie the age range with the greatest numbers of working pharmacists).
- Some 7.7% of pharmacists working in NSW are also registered interstate, with the highest proportion being registered in Queensland followed by Victoria.
- Some 79.9% of the workforce are community/retail pharmacists in their main job, with 12.4% working as hospital/clinic pharmacists, 3.0% as industrial pharmacists, 3.1% in other categories, 0.9% in administration and 0.7% in teaching. This varies with the second job, with 82.5% working as community/retail pharmacists, 7.2% working as hospital/clinic pharmacists, 6.1% in other positions, 3.1% as teachers/educators, and 0.8% in administration.
- The large majority of community pharmacists are in an in-charge position (86.6%) in their main job, while only 13.4% are staff pharmacists. However, just over half of community pharmacists are salaried (55.7%), 26.6% are sole proprietors, and 17.7% are in a partnership as proprietors. A large majority are in permanent positions, either full time or part time (83.8%), while 16.2% are relievers in either one or more locations. The proportion of pharmacists in charge is similar for a second job

at 84.8%, while 15.2% are staff pharmacists. However, the majority of community pharmacists (90.3%) in a second community pharmacy position are salaried, 4.6% are sole proprietors, and 5.1% are in a partnership as proprietors. Just over half or 53.9% are in permanent positions in a second job, either full time or part time, while 46.0% are relievers in either one or more locations.

- For hospital/clinic pharmacists, 15.5% are in a director position in their main job, 3.1% are in a deputy director position, 20.1% are senior pharmacists, just over a third (38.9%) are clinical pharmacists, and 22.4% are pharmacists. There are very few hospital/clinic pharmacists in a second job overall (n= 55) and the largest numbers are in pharmacist positions (45.5%) and clinical pharmacist positions (40.0%).
- Some 41.3% of pharmacists reported working part time in their main job (hours worked less than 35 hours per week) and 58.7% reported working full time. Women were more likely to work part time than men (52.7% of women compared with 29.3% of men). Some 98.8% of pharmacists reported working part time in their **second** job (hours worked less than 35 hours per week). Some 36.3% of pharmacists reported working part time in their **total job hours** (hours worked less than 35 hours per week). Women were more likely to work part time than men (47.0% of women compared with 28.2% of men). The modal range of hours worked (the hours range with the greatest numbers of working pharmacists) was 50 to 59 hours per week.
- The majority of community/retail pharmacists work full time (59.7%) while a similar proportion of hospital/clinic pharmacists (53.0%) reported working full time. The modal hours range for community/retail pharmacists was 50 to 59 hours (17.6% of all community/retail pharmacists) while it was 40 to 44 hours for hospital/clinic pharmacists (24.4%).
- The full time equivalent pharmacist workforce (FTE workforce) consists of 4,485.8 FTE (see Table 3.14) from the 4,219 pharmacists who provided data on their hours worked (Table 3.11). Therefore the FTE ratio of 1.063 compared to total numbers indicates that there is a greater than one to one relationship. This is due to the number of pharmacists who work 35 hours or greater contributing more to the productive workforce than those working less than 35 hours. Women were 2,068.3 FTE (46.1% of the FTE workforce) and men 2,417.5 FTE (53.9%), indicating that the greater hours worked by males result in their higher average FTE (males were 48.6% of the headcount workforce).
- The large majority of pharmacists work in the private sector (86.0%) while the public sector accounted for 14.0% of pharmacists in 2002 in their main job. Community pharmacists are 80.1% of the total workforce, and hospital pharmacists in general hospitals 10.4%. The only other employment area of any size is private pharmaceutical organisations, with 3.0% of pharmacists. This trend is more pronounced in the second job, with 90.2% in the private sector and only 9.8% in the public sector.
- Stand alone premises account for 70.3% of premises in a main job, and 65.3% in a second job. Some 24.0% of premises are in a shopping mall complex in a main job, and 24.6% in a second job.
- In 2002, the main job for 82.8% of pharmacists was located in Metropolitan Area Health Services, with 68.3% in Metropolitan Sydney and 14.5% in other major Metropolitan areas. Northern Sydney was the main job location for 19.2% of pharmacists with South Eastern Sydney having 18.0%. Rural Area Health services were the main job location for 17.1% of pharmacists, with Northern Rivers having the highest proportion in a rural area at 3.3%. For the second job there is a higher proportion of pharmacists working in Metropolitan Area Health Services.
- There was 80.9% of community retail pharmacists working in Metropolitan Area Health Services in their main job, and 86.5% of hospital/clinic pharmacists.