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PHARMACISTS WORKING IN NSW

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

- From 2002 to 2003, the NSW pharmacist workforce is estimated to have increased from a headcount of 5,408 to 5,518 (after adjusting for non response, see Section 1, p.6, "Estimating Workforce Size"). This represents an increase of 110 or 2.0% in that period.
- Workforce participation rates for pharmacists in NSW appear to have declined between 2002 and 2003 (from 78.3% to 76.0%).
- The proportion of women in the pharmacist workforce is 51.8%, and the proportion of men in the pharmacist workforce is 48.2%, with a greater proportion of women in younger age groups. Some 45.8% of the female workforce were aged under 40, while 29.2% of males were under forty years in 2003. 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 (78.3% of all hospital/clinic pharmacists) than the proportion of women working as community (retail) pharmacists (46.4%) in their main job.
- Some 37.7% of the workforce are aged under forty years, 21.2% are aged 40 to 49 years, 19.1% are aged 50 to 59 years, and 22.0% of the workforce are 60 years and older. The modal age range is 25 to 29 years and 30 to 34 years (i.e. the age range with the greatest numbers of working pharmacists), although the average age is 43.6 years.
- Some 7.7% of pharmacists working in NSW are also registered interstate, with the highest proportion being registered in Queensland followed by Victoria.
- Some 79.8% of the workforce are community/retail pharmacists in their main job, with 12.9% working as hospital/clinic pharmacists, 2.7% as industrial pharmacists, 3.0% in other categories, 0.8% in administration and 0.8% also in teaching. This varies with the second job, with 80.1% working as community/retail pharmacists, 7.3% working as hospital/clinic pharmacists, 7.3% in other positions, 3.4% as teachers/educators, and 1.4% in administration.
- The large majority of community pharmacists are in an in-charge position (86.2%) in their main job, while only 13.8% are staff pharmacists. However, just over half of community pharmacists are salaried (56.4%), 25.5% are sole proprietors, and 18.1% are in a partnership as proprietors. A large majority are in permanent positions, either full time or part time (82.8%), while 17.2% are relievers

in either one or more locations. The proportion of pharmacists in charge is lower for a second job at 81.8%, while 18.2% are staff pharmacists. However, the large majority of community pharmacists (88.6%) in a second community pharmacy position are salaried, 5.6% are sole proprietors, and 5.8% are in a partnership as proprietors. Just over half or 51.7% are in permanent positions in a second job, either full time or part time, while 48.4% 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 (51.5% of women compared with 30.1% of men). Some 97.0% of pharmacists reported working part time in their **second** job (hours worked less than 35 hours per week). Some 36.1 % 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 (45.9% of women compared with 25.2% of men). The modal range of hours worked (the hours range with the greatest numbers of working pharmacists) was 40 to 44 hours per week (lower than in 2002 at 55 to 59 hours).
- The majority of community/retail pharmacists work full time (59.3%) while a similar proportion of hospital/clinic pharmacists (55.8%) reported working full time. The modal hours range for community/retail pharmacists was 50 to 59 hours (15.5% of all community/retail pharmacists) while it was 40 to 44 hours for hospital/clinic pharmacists (28.4%).
- The full time equivalent pharmacist workforce (FTE workforce) consists of 4,580.2 FTE (see Table 3.14) from the 4,265 pharmacists who provided data on their hours worked (Table 3.11). Therefore the FTE ratio of 1.074 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 2,169.7 FTE (47.4% of the FTE workforce) and men 2,410.5 FTE (52.6%), indicating that the greater hours worked by males result in their higher average FTE (males were 48.2% of the headcount workforce).
- The large majority of pharmacists work in the private sector (85.0%) while the public sector accounted for 16.0% of pharmacists in 2003 in their main job. Community pharmacists are four fifths or 79.6% of the total workforce, and hospital pharmacists in general hospitals 11.2%. The only other employment area of any size is private pharmaceutical organisations, with 2.5% of pharmacists. This trend is more pronounced in the second job, with 90.8% in the private sector and only 9.2% in the public sector.
- Stand alone premises account for 70.3% of premises in a main job, and 67.1% in a second job. Some 24.4% of premises are in a shopping mall complex in a main job, and 25.6% in a second job.
- In 2003, the main job for 82.9% of pharmacists was located in Metropolitan Area Health Services, with 68.4% in Metropolitan Sydney and 14.5% in other major Metropolitan areas. Northern Sydney was the main job location for 19.3% of pharmacists with South Eastern Sydney having 18.3%. Rural Area Health services were the main job location for 17.0% of pharmacists, with Mid North Coast having the highest proportion in a rural area at 3.4% followed by Northern Rivers at 3.3%. For the second job there is a slightly higher proportion of pharmacists working in Metropolitan Area Health Services (83.9%).
- There was 80.9% of community retail pharmacists working in Metropolitan Area Health Services in their main job, and 87.4% of hospital/clinic pharmacists.