

Trends in the Podiatric Profession A Comparative Study of 1970 and 1974 Survey Data

Information on all licensed podiatrists was collected in 1970 and 1974 through mailed questionnaires. The two questionnaires addressed essentially identical data elements and were coded and tabulated in comparable ways. Trends in the podiatric profession are discussed in this report by dealing with issues that impact on the general demographic characteristics of podiatrists, the characteristics of their clinical practice and the volume and nature of patient care administered during the week preceding the survey.

DHEW Publication No. (PHS) 79-1816

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
National Center for Health Statistics
Hyattsville, Md. November 1978



Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Greenberg, Leonard.

Trends in the Podiatric Profession

A Comparative Study of 1970 and 1974 Survey Data.

(Vital and health statistics: Series 14, Data from the National Health Survey, Data on national health resources, manpower, and facilities; no. 21) (DHEW publication; (PHS) 79-1816)

Includes bibliographical references.

1. Podiatrists—United States—Statistics. 2. Podiatry—United States—Statistics. I. Title. II. Series: United States. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital and health statistics: Series 14, Data on national health resources, manpower, and facilities; no. 21. III. Series: United States. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare. DHEW publication; (PHS) 79-1816. RD563.G73 362.1'9'75850973 79-606161
ISBN 0-8406-0139-5

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Vital and Health Statistics-Series 14-No. 21

DHEW Publication No. (PHS) 79-1816

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 78-606161

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SYMBOLS

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TRENDS IN THE PODIATRIC PROFESSION: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF 1970 AND 1974 SURVEY DATA

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INTRODUCTION

During the period from October through December 1974, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) conducted a survey of the Nation's podiatrists in cooperation with the American Podiatry Association. Of the 8,261 licensed podiatrists to whom self-administered questionnaires were mailed, valid responses were received from 7,253, a response rate of 88 percent. The results of the survey disclosed that 7,085 podiatrists were actively engaged in administering patient care during this period.¹⁻³ The methodology employed in conducting the survey and in analyzing its results is described in appendix I; the questionnaires employed are shown in appendix IV.

In this publication the reported results of the 1974 survey are compared with those obtained during an earlier survey, similar in scope, conducted in 1970.⁴⁻⁶ Trends, to the extent discernible from the published data, are highlighted and their implications in terms of manpower planning and other policy considerations are dealt with at some length.

DATA SOURCES AND ISSUES TREATED

The data sources employed in producing this report include detailed tables covering the 1974 survey¹⁻³ and the survey conducted in 1970.⁴⁻⁶

Additional use was made of special tabulations produced by NCHS in support of an earlier project conducted by the author.⁷

It should be noted that the questionnaires employed in the two surveys differed in several respects. The major differences were:

- The 1974 questionnaire addressed the issue of the podiatrist's race/ethnicity; the 1970 questionnaire did not.
- The 1970 questionnaire asked the podiatrist to estimate the sex distribution of patients; the 1974 questionnaire did not.

Apart from these differences, however, the two questionnaires addressed essentially identical data elements, subsequently encoded and tabulated in comparable ways. The specific issues selected for treatment in this report are as follows:

1. Issues that deal with the *general profile* of podiatrists
 - their age distribution
 - their sex distribution
 - their number of years active in podiatry

In addition to these issues, which are based on direct questionnaire responses, a special section of this report is devoted to the derived measure, podiatrist-population ratios.

2. Issues that deal with the *characteristics of clinical practice*
 - principal form of employment
 - number of assistants
 - primary clinical activity
 - types of patient services rendered
3. Issues that deal with the *volume and nature of patient care* administered during the week preceding the survey
 - hours worked
 - number of patient visits
 - treatment setting
 - age of patients seen

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Highlighted in this summary of findings are the major observations derived through a comparison of the 1970 and 1974 data.

Age Distribution

Although the median age of podiatrists has remained the same (51 years), there were in 1974 a greater percentage of older (65 or over) and younger (under 35) podiatrists than in 1970. In both years, the age distribution showed a distinct unevenness in the middle, with many more podiatrists between ages 45 and 54 than between 35 and 44. Moreover, the numerical disparity between these two age groups has widened materially since 1970.

Nationwide, the ranks of podiatrists under age 35 are growing at almost twice the rate as those over 65. However, when one considers the total number of podiatrists under age 45, compared to those over 65, that ratio declined from 3.3 in 1970 to 2.8 in 1974. Moreover, in certain geographic divisions—specifically, the New England and West North Central Divisions—the ratio went from substantially greater than to substantially less than 2.0, a development that warrants special attention.

Podiatrist-Population Ratios

The ratio of podiatrists per 100,000 population who provide patient care dipped slightly,

from 3.5 in 1970 to 3.4 in 1974. Five of the nine geographic divisions showed declines; the largest decline occurred in New England where the podiatrist-population ratio dropped from 5.9 to 5.1 per 100,000. Gains were noted only in the South Atlantic and Pacific Divisions, whose podiatrist-population ratios (2.1 and 3.2, respectively) nonetheless remained well below the national average. The Nation's least well supplied areas, from the standpoint of podiatric manpower, remain the East South Central and West South Central Divisions, with ratios of 0.9 and 1.5, respectively; neither of these divisions showed an increase.

Sex Distribution

The number of female podiatrists declined substantially, from 315 in 1970 to 271 in 1974. The age disparities noted earlier for the podiatric community as a whole are accentuated for women: In 1970, 59 percent of the Nation's female podiatrists were 55 years or older; by 1974, that proportion had increased to 64 percent, with no clear evidence of meaningful replacement at the younger age levels. Less than 1 percent of the Nation's podiatrists under age 35 were women.

Years Active in Podiatry

In 1970, podiatrists with 20 or more years of prior activity were a bare majority (52.6 percent). By 1974, that proportion had climbed to over 60 percent, indicating that the increased infusion of younger podiatrists in the early 1970's had not yet—as of 1974—made a material numerical impact.

Principal Form of Employment

The percent of podiatrists engaged in solo practice declined from 86 to 81 percent between 1970 and 1974 and the percent engaged in partnerships and group practice went from 8 to 16 percent. Most of the latter increase took place among podiatrists under age 45, although shifts toward partnerships and group practice were noted among older podiatrists as well. Comparable shifts in mode of employment were noted in all four geographic regions, with the South and

West registering slightly greater increases than did the Northeast and North Central Regions.

Use of Assistants

At all age levels, in all geographic regions, and within all forms of employment, there has been a marked increase in the use of assistants, both medical and nonmedical.

Nationwide, the percent of podiatrists with one or more assistants rose from 62 percent in 1970 to 73 percent in 1974. Almost all of that increase is attributable to the rise in percent of podiatrists with part-time assistants; the percent with one or more full-time assistants has remained virtually unchanged, indicating that those employing assistants for the first time are tending toward the employment of part-time help. Significantly, however, the percent of podiatrists with *two or more* full-time assistants has risen sharply (from 13 to 23 percent), reflecting an increased tendency among those who already employ full-time assistants to employ them in greater numbers.

Primary Clinical Activity

A marked shift was noted toward the reporting of surgery as one's primary clinical activity. The percent of podiatrists who reported general practice as their primary activity dropped from 90 to 84 percent, and the percent who reported surgery rose from 6 to 11 percent. The bulk of the latter increase took place among younger podiatrists, although some increase was noted among older podiatrists as well.

Types of Patient Services Rendered

Little change took place in the types of patient services rendered. Palliative and orthopedic services continued to be performed by over 90 percent of the Nation's podiatrists, and the prescription of drugs was close behind. Hospital surgery was on the rise, however. Only 30 percent reported it in 1970 as compared with 39 percent in 1974, by far the largest increase noted for any single form of service. Among podiatrists under age 35, a substantial majority reported hospital surgery as a "usual" service, as

against approximately 30 percent of those aged 55 or older.

Hours Worked

Despite the slight reduction in podiatrist-population ratio, there has seemingly been no corresponding increase in number of hours worked. The median number of hours devoted to patient care during the week preceding the survey dipped from 38.2 in 1970 to 37.4 in 1974, and the percent of podiatrists who devoted 35 hours or more each week to patient care declined from 70 to 68 percent.

The apparent tendency toward a shorter workweek was most evident among older podiatrists and among those who are self-employed. Salaried podiatrists and those under age 35 showed an *increased* number of hours devoted to patient care. To what extent these fluctuations can be attributed to seasonal factors (considering the different times of year at which the 1970 and 1974 surveys were conducted) is unknown.

Patient Visits

Notwithstanding the reduction in workweek, podiatrist productivity (measured in number of patient visits per week) increased sharply. The median number of patient visits rose from 71 to 77 and the percent of podiatrists who administered 100 patient visits or more during the preceding week went from 24 to 34 percent.

Gains in productivity were chiefly evident among younger podiatrists and among those engaged in partnerships and group practice. There is strong inferential evidence that these gains can be attributed almost exclusively to the increased use of both full- and part-time assistants.

From a geographic standpoint, the greatest gains were registered in the Northeast and North Central Regions, although the South remained the region with the highest unit productivity. The median number of patient visits per week in the South was 83 in 1974 (up from 80 in 1970), followed in order by the North Central (79), Northeast (76), and West (72). All of these figures represent gains since 1970, but the largest single increase was noted in the North Central

Region, which in 1970 had a median productivity of only 69.

Treatment Setting

As with the types of services rendered, the distribution of treatment settings remained fundamentally unchanged. Roughly 5 out of every 6 patients (84 percent) continued to be treated in the podiatrist's office and an additional 6 percent were treated in nursing homes. The remaining 10 percent of patients were treated in hospitals (5.4 percent), clinics (2.9 percent), and in the patient's home or other setting (1.6 percent). Home visits were only about half as frequent as in 1970, and clinic visits were slightly more common. The numbers involved, however, were quite small compared to the total universe of patient visits.

The median age of podiatrists involved in hospital and clinic treatment settings tended to be lower—both in 1970 and 1974—than that of those who treated patients in the office, the patient's home, or in nursing homes.

Age of Patient

Although podiatrists have traditionally treated a higher percent of older patients than young ones, the ratio of old-to-young has risen somewhat since 1970. In 1970, that ratio stood at 2.6 (31 percent old vs. 12 percent young); by 1974, it had reached 3.5 (35 percent old vs. 10 percent young).^a

GENERAL PROFILE

Age Distribution

The numbers presented in this and the ensuing sections pertain only to podiatrists who provide patient care. There were 7,078 such podiatrists in 1970 and 7,085 in 1974. The distribution of podiatrists, by age and geographic area, is shown in table 1.

Although the median age of podiatrists—51 years—remained fundamentally unchanged be-

tween 1970 and 1974, the shape of the distribution showed signs of revision. By 1974, the number of podiatrists at the outer age extremes had increased and the ranks of those within the inner age brackets had declined (see figure 1). One of the striking features of the age distribution—in 1974 as in 1970—is its unevenness. In both years, there were substantially fewer podiatrists between ages 35 and 44 than in either of the 10-year cohorts immediately ahead.

Two specific aspects of the age distribution stand out. The first is that the gap (between those aged 35 to 44 years and those immediately older) has widened. The second is that the ranks of all three age groups (35-44 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years) *combined* has decreased by almost 10 percent—from 5,415 in 1970 to 4,920 in 1974.

On a gross nationwide basis, from the standpoint of sheer numbers, the declines within these inner age brackets have been compensated

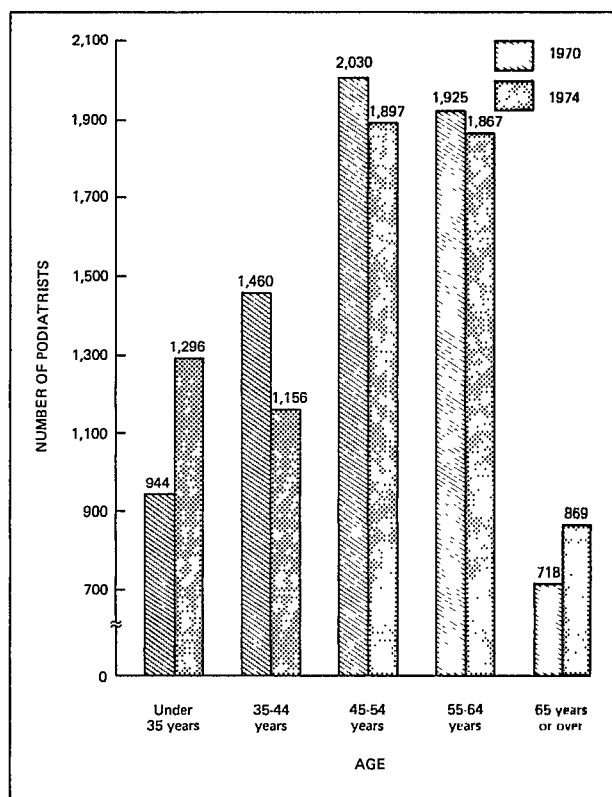


Figure 1. Number of podiatrists providing patient care, by age of podiatrist: United States, 1970 and 1974

^a“Old” is defined as age 65 years or older; “young” is 16 years or under.

for by corresponding increases at the extremes. As a consequence, the total number of podiatrists engaged in patient care has remained fundamentally unchanged as has their median age. The increased concentration of podiatrists at the outer extremes has led, however, to a profession in which almost 1 podiatrist in 3 is either under age 35 or over 64. This is a marked shift from 1970, in which the corresponding ratio was less than 1 in 4 (see table A).

On the positive side, these figures indicate that the ranks of the younger podiatrists are growing twice as fast as the ranks of those approaching retirement age, thereby assuring an increasing supply over the next few years. This situation, however, does not hold true across the

Nation. As shown in table B, older podiatrists are only barely being replaced in the Northeast, and the North Central Region is only slightly better off.

Compounding the issue of geographic disparity, the regions with the lowest replacement rates as shown in table B are also characterized by the greatest decline in number of podiatrists between the ages of 35 and 44 (see table C).

As a result of the factors just cited, the age profile of podiatrists in the Northeast and North Central Regions has taken an upward turn. The ratio of podiatrists of less than middle age (i.e., under 45 years) to those approaching retirement (65 years or over) has dropped substantially in both of these regions, as well as in each of their

Table A. Percent of podiatrists in the outer age brackets (under 35 years or 65 years or over) providing patient care and ratio of podiatrists between 35 and 65 years of age to those in the outer age brackets, by year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Year of survey	Outer age brackets			Ratio of podiatrists between 35 and 65 years to those in outer age brackets
	Both groups combined	Under 35 years	65 years or over	
	Percent of podiatrists			
1970.....	23.5	13.3	10.2	3.26 to 1
1974.....	30.6	18.3	12.3	2.27 to 1
Change, 1970-74	+7.1	+5.0	+2.1	...

Table B. Percent of podiatrists under 35 years and 65 years or over providing patient care and replacement rate, by geographic region and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Geographic region and year of survey	Percent of podiatrists under 35 years (A)	Percent of podiatrists 65 years or over (B)	Replacement rate (A) - (B)
Northeast:			
1970	9.9	10.1	-0.2
1974	14.7	14.3	+0.4
North Central:			
1970	13.6	11.1	+2.5
1974	16.9	13.6	+3.3
South:			
1970	17.7	8.4	+9.3
1974	26.3	6.9	+19.4
West:			
1970	18.6	10.0	+8.6
1974	21.9	10.1	+11.8

Table C. Number of podiatrists between 35 and 44 years of age providing patient care, with change between 1970 and 1974, by geographic region and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Geographic region	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Number		
United States	1,460	1,156	-304
Northeast.....	533	356	-177
North Central	463	336	-127
South.....	239	230	-9
West.....	225	233	+8

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

component divisions separately. In New England, for example, the ratio of less-than-middle-age to retirement-age podiatrists has been halved in 4 years—from 2.2 in 1970 to 1.1 in 1974. By way of contrast, that ratio has climbed from 6.4 to 9.0 in the South Atlantic Division and from 3.0 to 5.4 in the Mountain Division. The relevant figures, broken down by geographic region and division, are presented in table 2.

Nationwide, the ratio of less-than-middle-age to retirement-age podiatrists declined from 3.3 in 1970 to 2.8 in 1974. Regions and divisions with greater- and less-than-average ratios in each

of those years are shown in table D. As noted, the Mountain Region, originally below the nationwide average, is now above; the East North Central Region, originally above average, is now below.

Podiatrist-Population Ratios

Since the number of podiatrists who provide patient care has increased by only a tenth of a percent in 4 years, during which time the total population has climbed by almost 4 percent, the number of podiatrists per 100,000 population has declined slightly—from 3.5 per 100,000 population in 1970 to 3.4 in 1974.

Not surprisingly, the decline has been greatest in those geographic areas that show the greatest upward turn in age profile—the Northeast and North Central Regions and their component divisions. All other regions and divisions have remained essentially stable, except for the South Atlantic Division in which there has been some modest growth (see table 3).

The decline in the podiatrist-population ratios in the Northeast Region (and in the New England and Middle Atlantic Divisions) might be regarded as the first step toward a more uniform nationwide distribution, and not necessarily as a cause for concern. The decline in the North Central Region, however—and particularly in the

Table D. Ratio of podiatrists under 45 years of age to those 65 years or over providing patient care, by geographic area: United States, 1970 and 1974

Ratio	1970	1974
Regions:		
Greater-than-average.....	South West	Unchanged
Less-than-average.....	Northeast North Central	Unchanged
Divisions:		
Greater-than-average.....	East North Central South Atlantic West South Central Pacific	South Atlantic West South Central Mountain ¹ Pacific
Less-than-average.....	New England Middle Atlantic West North Central East South Central Mountain	New England Middle Atlantic East North Central ¹ West North Central

¹Denotes change.

West North Central Division—does constitute cause for concern because these units were, in 1974, at or below the national average. Whether or not increased enrollment in the schools of podiatric medicine, spurred by Public Law 94-484, will serve to reverse these trends (and to stimulate growth in other areas) remains to be seen.

Sex Distribution

A second major area of change with respect to the universe of podiatrists is that of sex. In 1970, there were 315 female podiatrists administering patient care; by 1974, that figure had dropped to 271, a decline of 14 percent.

The reason for the decline is evident from an examination of the age distribution of female podiatrists. As shown in table 4, they are chiefly to be found in the upper age brackets. In 1970, for example, females accounted for only 1.0 percent of podiatrists under the age of 35 but 10 percent of those age 65 or over; by 1974, both of these percents had declined.

Women, clearly, are retiring from the profession at a much higher rate than they are being replaced. Again, whether this trend will be reversed through increased enrollment of female students remains to be seen.

Years Active in Podiatry

A further characteristic of podiatrists, for which comparison is permitted by the 1970 and 1974 data, is "years active in podiatry." The relevant figures are presented in table E.

As with age, the distribution of years of activity is highly uneven. In 1970, those with 10 to 19 years of activity heavily outnumbered

the cohort immediately behind (28.8 to 18.6 percent). In 1974, a similar phenomenon (shifted slightly due to the passage of time) is noted with respect to those with 20 to 29 years of activity. In *both* years, well over 50 percent of the podiatrists engaged in patient care have had more than 20 years of prior activity—52.6 percent in 1970, increasing to 60.2 percent in 1974. These figures indicate an aging process that can only be reversed through an increased infusion of new podiatrists.

Table E. Number and percent distribution of podiatrists providing patient care, by years active in podiatry and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Years active in podiatry	1970		1974	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	7,078	100.0	7,085	100.0
0-9 years.....	1,314	18.6	1,529	21.6
10-19 years.....	2,040	28.8	1,289	18.2
20-29 years.....	1,542	21.8	2,122	30.0
30 years or more.....	2,182	30.8	2,143	30.2

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

The 1974 data on years of activity, unlike those reported in 1970, were subdivided into 5-rather than 10-year intervals. A useful by-product of this feature is that it permits the two sets of data to be checked for mutual consistency. Making use of the fact that the two surveys were conducted essentially 5 years apart (January-March 1970 vs. October-December 1974), the data were compared to see if the number of podiatrists who, in 1970, reported x years of prior activity equaled the number who, in 1974, reported $x + 5$ years of prior activity. The comparison in question is shown in table F.

Table F. Number of podiatrists providing patient care, by number of years active in podiatry and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Year of survey	Number of years active in podiatry							
	0-9	10-19	20-29	30 or more	5-14	15-24	25-34	35 or more
Number of podiatrists								
1970	1,314	2,040	1,542	2,182	...	...	...	...
1974	...	...	...	...	1,325	2,041	1,333	1,578

For the two youngest cohorts, the comparative figures are remarkably close—1,314 versus 1,325 and 2,040 versus 2,041. The closeness of these figures reinforces the credibility of the data and indicates that the 5-year attrition for these two groups was undoubtedly very small.

For those with greater numbers of years of experience, the differences are larger, but in the right direction and of reasonable magnitude. Moreover, they provide some measure of the attrition levels characteristic of the profession: Of the 1,542 podiatrists who reported 20 to 29 years of prior activity in 1970, some 200 were apparently no longer active in 1974, and of the 2,182 who reported 30 years or more of prior activity, some 600 were no longer active. Both of these levels of attrition seem reasonable.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CLINICAL PRACTICE

Principal Form of Employment

Although solo practice remains the most common form of employment—particularly among older podiatrists—the percent engaged in partnerships and group practice has risen markedly since 1970. The increase is evident at all age levels but particularly among younger podiatrists (see table G).

Changes in employment among podiatrists 35 years or older are largely attributable to de-

clines in solo practice. Within the youngest age group, however, the change is chiefly in the “salaried and other” category, as shown in table 5.

Another way of viewing changes in mode of employment among younger podiatrists is as follows: In 1970, only 78.4 percent of those under age 35 were self-employed; by 1974, that figure had risen to 92.7 percent.

Nationwide, the percent of podiatrists engaged in solo practice declined from 85.7 to 80.7 percent, and the percent of salaried and other practitioners declined from 6.1 to 3.5 percent. The combined drop of 7.6 percent equals (except for rounding error) the gain in partnerships and group practice noted earlier.

Increases in the percent of podiatrists engaged in partnerships and group practice were fairly uniform among the four geographic regions. The smallest increase (5.9 percent) was in the North Central Region; the largest (10.9 percent) took place in the South (see table H).

Declines in the “salaried and other” category ranged from a low of 2.0 percent in the South to a high of 3.4 percent in the West. The nationwide average drop, noted earlier, was 2.6 percent.

Declines in solo practice ranged from a low of 2.7 percent in the North Central Region to a high of 9.0 percent in the South. The nationwide average drop was 5.0 percent.

Use of Assistants

The use of office assistants, both medical and nonmedical, has increased. In 1970, about 62 percent of all podiatrists engaged in patient care employed one or more assistants; by 1974, that percent had increased to 73 percent.

Undoubtedly, the greater use of assistants is associated with the greater tendency toward partnerships and group practice. However, even solo practitioners are making greater use of assistants, as shown in table J.

The increased use of assistants is greatest among those age groups that showed the greatest trend toward partnerships and group practice. The relevant figures are shown in table K. Two aspects of this increased use of assistants are of particular note. The first is that the increase is almost wholly attributable to the greater use of part-time, rather than full-time, personnel. Spe-

Table G. Percent of podiatrists providing patient care engaged in partnerships or group practice, with change between 1970 and 1974, by age of podiatrist and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Age of podiatrist	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Percent of podiatrists		
All ages	8.3	15.8	+7.5
Under 35 years	16.9	32.6	+15.7
35-44 years	9.2	21.0	+11.8
45-54 years	7.2	11.3	+4.1
55-64 years	5.5	9.7	+4.2
65 years or over	5.4	6.9	+1.5

Table H. Percent distribution of podiatrists providing patient care by principal form of employment, according to geographic region and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Geographic region and year of survey	Total	Solo practice	Partnership or group practice	Salaried and other
Percent distribution				
Northeast:				
1970	100.0	87.6	7.0	5.4
1974.....	100.0	83.8	13.6	2.6
North Central:				
1970	100.0	84.6	8.5	6.9
1974	100.0	81.9	14.4	3.8
South:				
1970	100.0	82.9	11.0	6.1
1974	100.0	73.9	21.9	4.1
West:				
1970	100.0	83.2	8.8	8.0
1974	100.0	77.7	17.6	4.6

Table J. Percent of podiatrists providing patient care and using 1 assistant¹ or more, with change between 1970 and 1974, by principal form of employment: United States, 1970 and 1974

Principal form of employment	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
All forms.....	61.8	72.8	+11.0
Solo practice.....	60.6	68.8	+8.2
Partnership.....	86.8	94.6	+7.8
Group practice.....	89.0	91.0	+2.0

¹Includes both medical and nonmedical assistants.

Table K. Percent of podiatrists providing patient care and using 1 assistant¹ or more, with change between 1970 and 1974, by age of podiatrist and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Age of podiatrist	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Percent of podiatrists		
Under 35 years	73.4	91.6	+18.2
35-44 years	77.1	90.7	+13.6
45-54 years	66.8	75.6	+8.8
55-64 years	50.4	61.5	+11.1
65 years or over	32.3	38.9	+6.6

cifically, the percentage of podiatrists with part-time assistants has risen over 11 percent since 1970 (from 32.4 to 43.5 percent); the figure associated with *full-time* assistants has barely changed (48.3 percent vs. 47.5 percent). (See table 6.)

On the other hand, despite the relatively small increase in percent of podiatrists with one or more full-time assistants, the percent with *two or more* has almost doubled—from 13.0 to 23.4 percent—indicating that those podiatrists who did employ full-time assistants tended to employ them in greater numbers.

Age of podiatrist.—Podiatrists of all age levels showed both of the tendencies just noted: the greater use of *part-time* assistants and the greater prevalence of *two or more full-time* assistants. Only podiatrists under age 45, however, showed a tendency to hire full-time assistants where none previously worked.

Geographic region.—All four regions are fairly uniform in the degree of change noted. Regional differences are essentially in terms of *level*—that is, podiatrists in the South and West were more apt to use full-time assistants than were those in the Northeast and North Central Regions—rather than in terms of *change*.

Principal form of employment.—Interestingly, all three forms of self-employment showed a *decrease* in the percent of podiatrists with one or more full-time assistants. Only the

Table L. Percent of podiatrists providing patient care, with change between 1970 and 1974, by age of podiatrist, primary clinical activity, and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Age of podiatrist	General practice			Surgery		
	1970	1974	Change, 1970-74	1970	1974	Change, 1970-74
	Percent of podiatrists			Percent of podiatrists		
All ages	89.9	83.8	-6.1	5.7	11.0	+5.3
Under 35 years	75.5	68.2	-7.3	17.9	26.0	+8.1
35-44 years	86.1	76.6	-9.5	8.7	18.5	+9.8
45-54 years	92.9	87.2	-5.7	3.7	7.3	+3.6
55-64 years	95.0	91.4	-3.6	1.5	3.2	+1.7
65 years or over	94.3	92.3	-2.0	1.1	3.0	+1.9

increased tendency toward partnerships and group practice has kept the nationwide percent from declining. Again, these figures confirm that the use of part-time assistants is finding greater favor and that podiatrists—regardless of their mode of employment—are more likely to take on a full-time assistant if they already have one on staff.

Primary Clinical Activity

The percent of podiatrists who reported that their primary clinical activity was "general practice" declined from 89.9 percent in 1970 to 83.8 percent in 1974. Corresponding to that decline, the percent whose reported primary activity was "surgery" increased from 5.7 to 11.0 percent. This shift toward greater emphasis upon surgery was manifest at all age levels, but was predominant among younger podiatrists as shown in table L.

Types of Patient Services Rendered

The types of patient services rendered by podiatrists, in 1970 and 1974, are shown in table 7.

Except for hospital surgery, the percent changes are generally small and the order is fundamentally unchanged. Palliative services remained the most common form of treatment with orthopedic services and the prescription of drugs following closely behind. Low-voltage treatment and diathermy, which were among the least common types of services in 1970, have become less common. In addition to hospital

surgery, ultrasonic treatment, office surgery, and X-ray services have become more common.

Insight as to the relative frequency with which certain services are performed by various age groups may be gained from table 8. In that table, services are grouped into four categories according to the percent of podiatrists who performed them: almost all (more than 90 percent), most (60 to 90 percent), many (30 to 60 percent), and some (less than 30 percent).

Viewed from that standpoint, there are six services which almost all podiatrists under the age of 45 performed: palliative services, office surgery, prescription of drugs, physical therapy, orthopedic services, and X-ray services, but only *one* service which almost all podiatrists 55 years or older performed—palliative services. That pattern, evident in 1970, remained unchanged in 1974.

Hospital surgery, office surgery, physical therapy treatment, and X-ray services became less common as the age of the podiatrist increased. Diathermy, low-voltage treatment, ultraviolet lamp treatment, and the fitting of special shoes are seen to be essentially invariant with age. Apart from hospital surgery, no major changes were noted between 1970 and 1974.

VOLUME AND NATURE OF PATIENT CARE

Hours Worked

The median number of hours per week devoted to patient care showed a slight

decline—from 38.2 in 1970 to 37.4 in 1974. Along with that decline, the percent of podiatrists who reported having devoted 35 hours or more to patient care during the preceding week dipped from 70 to 68 percent.

The South remained the region in which the greatest percent of podiatrists provided at least 35 hours of patient care per week. In all four regions, however, that percent showed some degree of decline (see table M).

Not all age groups followed the nationwide trend, however. Those in the youngest age brackets, perhaps because of their increasing involvement in partnerships and group practice, showed a distinct tendency toward an *increased* number of hours of patient care per week, as shown in table N.

About 3 in every 4 podiatrists engaged in partnership or group practice devoted at least 35

hours per week to patient care, as opposed to 2 of every 3 solo practitioners. Except for those engaged in partnerships, these figures represent a substantial decline since 1970. Among salaried and other podiatrists, however, the comparable percent has gone up—from 40 percent in 1970 to 68 percent in 1974. The figures in question are shown in table O. Table 9 summarizes these data on hours worked in 1970 and 1974.

Patient Visits

Table 10 shows the median number of patient visits per week, by selected characteristics, for 1970 and 1974.

Despite the noted decline in number of hours devoted to patient care, the median number of patient *visits* per week increased by almost 10 percent—from 71 in 1970 to 77 in 1974. The South remained the region with the highest weekly median number of patient visits, but the Northeast and North Central Regions made great strides, as shown in table P.

The greatest gains in productivity were noted among those podiatrists under age 55. Podiatrists in the 35-44-year age bracket remained the most productive, but those under age 35 and between 45 and 54 years also showed gains (see table Q).

Some portion of these gains is undoubtedly attributable to changes in principal form of employment—toward partnerships and group practice. The latter forms of employment are by far the most productive, outstripping solo practice by an even greater margin than they did in 1970 (see table R).

Table M. Percent of podiatrists who devoted 35 hours or more to patient care, with change between 1970 and 1974, by geographic region and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Geographic region	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Percent of podiatrists		
United States	69.9	68.1	-1.8
Northeast.....	69.3	69.1	-0.2
North Central	69.5	66.9	-2.6
South.....	73.8	71.3	-2.5
West.....	68.8	64.6	-4.2

Table N. Percent of podiatrists who devoted 35 hours or more to patient care during the preceding week, with change between 1970 and 1974, by age of podiatrist and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Age of podiatrist	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Percent of podiatrists		
Under 35 years	69.0	75.0	+6.0
35-44 years.....	74.4	72.1	-2.3
45-54 years.....	74.7	72.9	-1.8
55-64 years.....	71.1	68.6	-2.5
65 years or over	45.4	41.4	-4.0

Table O. Percent of podiatrists who devoted 35 hours or more to patient care during preceding week with change between 1970 and 1974, by principal form of employment and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Principal form of employment	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Percent of podiatrists		
Self employed:			
Solo practice	70.0	66.8	-3.2
Partnership.....	74.6	74.7	+0.1
Group practice	80.5	74.2	-6.3
Salaried and other.....	39.7	67.9	+28.2

Table P. Median number of patient visits per week, with change between 1970 and 1974, by geographic region and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Geographic region	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Median number of patient visits		
United States	71	77	+6
Northeast.....	70	76	+6
North Central	69	79	+10
South.....	80	83	+3
West.....	71	72	+1

Table Q. Median number of patient visits per week, with change between 1970 and 1974, by age of podiatrist providing patient care and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Age of podiatrist	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Median number of patient visits		
Under 35 years	71	84	+13
35-44 years	84	100	+16
45-54 years	78	89	+11
55-64 years	66	68	+2
65 years and over.....	40	42	+2

Table R. Median number of patient visits per week, with change between 1970 and 1974, by principal form of employment of podiatrist providing patient care and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Principal form of employment	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Median number of patient visits		
Solo practice.....	70	73	+3
Partnership	84	103	+19
Group practice.....	89	103	+19

It is clear, however, that the major contributing factor toward the noted increase in productivity is the increased use of assistants. The importance of this factor is evident from the fact that no rise in productivity was noted for

practices with a fixed number of assistants; that is to say, podiatrists with a given number of assistants in 1974 were no more productive than those with the same number in 1970, leading one to conclude that any increase in productivity could only be associated with an increased number of assistants. As shown in table S, productivity is a strong function of the number of assistants employed, but the numerical relationship has not changed fundamentally since 1970.

Table S. Median number of patient visits per week, with change between 1970 and 1974, by number of full- and part-time assistants¹ to podiatrists providing patient care and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Number of assistants	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Median number of patient visits		
None.....	46	49	+3
One.....	73	72	-1
Two	94	94	0
Three or more.....	120	117	-3

¹Includes both medical and nonmedical assistants.

Table T. Percent of podiatrists providing patient care with 100 patient visits or more during preceding week, with change between 1970 and 1974, by selected characteristics of podiatrist and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Selected characteristic	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Percent of podiatrists		
United States	24.1	33.6	+9.5
<u>Geographic region</u>			
Northeast.....	22.4	33.0	+10.6
North Central	22.7	34.8	+12.1
South.....	32.8	38.1	+5.3
West.....	23.4	28.7	+5.3
<u>Principal form of employment</u>			
Solo practice.....	22.4	29.5	+7.1
Partnership	36.2	51.7	+15.5
Group practice.....	40.7	52.7	+12.0

Due no doubt to the increased use of assistants, weekly productivity in excess of 100 patient visits per week has become increasingly common. In 1970, less than 1 podiatrist in 4 administered as many as 100 visits per week; by 1974, that ratio had reached 1 in 3. Substantial gains in productivity were registered in all regions and among those forms of employment shown in table T.

Because of its impact upon local and regional manpower planning, the issue of productivity takes on special significance. Realistic estimates are required not only of the productivity podiatrists have achieved in the past but also of the levels that they can reasonably reach in the face of anticipated future demand. Appendix III examines this issue in further detail, making use of special runs conducted on unpublished data from the 1974 survey.⁷ In that appendix, it is shown that average productivities well in excess of 100 patient visits per week have been achieved by podiatrists of virtually all ages, given a sufficient number of assistants. Generally speaking, older podiatrists with $n + 1$ assistants are seen to be essentially as productive as younger ones with n assistants. This finding has strong implications in terms of future projections of manpower need.

Treatment Setting

In 1970, the Nation's 7,078 podiatrists who administered patient care treated a weekly total of 459,285 patients. Of these, 82.7 percent were treated in the podiatrist's office, 6.3 percent in nursing homes, and the remaining 10 percent in hospitals and other settings.

In 1974, with only a handful of additional podiatrists involved in patient care (7,085 as opposed to 7,078), and with a generally shorter workweek, podiatrists managed to treat an appreciably greater volume of patients—536,732 as against 459,285.^b The distribution of treatment settings, however, remained fundamentally

unchanged: Roughly 5 out of every 6 patients continued to be treated in the podiatrist's office and an additional 6 percent in nursing homes. The major change of consequence was a reduction in percent of patients treated at home and an increase in the percent treated in clinics. The relevant figures are shown in table U.

In 1974, well over 90 percent of all podiatrists provided treatment in their private offices; about a third treated patients in nursing homes. These figures have not changed substantially since 1970—however, home visits have declined and, to a lesser extent, visits conducted in clinics and on inpatients in hospitals have shown some increase (see table W).

Table U. Percent distribution of patients, with change between 1970 and 1974, by treatment setting and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Treatment setting	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974 ¹	
	Percent distribution		
Total	100.0	100.0	...
Podiatrist's office.....	82.7	84.2	+1.5
Hospital (inpatient)	3.3	3.1	-0.2
Hospital (outpatient)	2.8	2.3	-0.5
Clinic (other than hospital).....	1.9	2.9	+1.0
Nursing home	6.3	5.9	-0.4
Patient's home.....	2.2	1.0	-1.2
Other	1.0	0.6	-0.4

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

¹Percentages for 1974 are based on patient visits rather than patients seen.

Table W. Percent of podiatrists providing patient care, with change between 1970 and 1974, by treatment setting and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Treatment setting	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Percent of podiatrists		
Podiatrist's office.....	93.4	95.2	+1.8
Hospital (inpatient)	23.1	27.1	+4.0
Hospital (outpatient)	9.7	9.9	+0.2
Clinic (other than hospital).....	3.6	6.7	+3.1
Nursing home	33.3	34.1	+0.8
Patient's home.....	35.2	24.2	-11.0

^bThese numbers pertain to patients seen during the week immediately preceding the survey. It is possible, therefore, that the noted increase may be due—at least in part—to seasonal factors, since the 1970 survey took place in the first calendar quarter and the 1974 survey in the last.

Table X. Median age of podiatrists providing patient care, with change between 1970 and 1974, by treatment setting and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Treatment setting	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Median age of podiatrists		
Podiatrist's office.....	50.6	50.7	+0.1
Hospital (inpatient)	45.9	44.6	-1.3
Hospital (outpatient)	45.0	46.2	+1.2
Clinic (other than hospital).....	41.2	39.7	-1.5
Nursing home	49.3	49.5	+0.2
Patient's home	50.3	51.8	+1.5

Treatment administered in hospitals (both in- and outpatient) and in clinics tended to be administered by podiatrists who were generally younger. The median age of podiatrists involved in each of the various treatment settings is shown in table X; again, little change is noted between 1970 and 1974.

Table Y. Number and percent distribution of patients treated during week preceding survey, by age of patient and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Age of patient	Year of survey			
	1970		1974	
	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution
All ages.....	459,285	100.0	536,732	100.0
16 years or under ...	54,207	11.8	55,889	10.4
17-64 years	264,287	57.5	292,847	54.6
65 years or over	140,791	30.7	187,996	35.0

Age of Patient

Patients treated in 1974 tended to be older than patients treated in 1970. The relevant figures are shown in table Y.

The increased treatment of the elderly population may be associated with the expansion, since 1970, of podiatric benefits under Medicare.

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Table 1. Number of podiatrists providing patient care, by age of podiatrist and geographic area of practice: United States, 1970 and 1974

Geographic area of practice	1970						1974					
	Total	Under 35 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years or over	Total	Under 35 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years or over
Number of podiatrists												
United States....	7,078	944	1,460	2,030	1,925	718	7,085	1,296	1,156	1,897	1,867	869
<u>Geographic region</u>												
Northeast.....	2,991	296	533	894	967	301	2,876	423	356	737	949	411
North Central	2,059	279	463	572	515	230	1,968	332	336	604	428	268
South.....	989	175	239	299	192	83	1,135	298	230	297	232	78
West.....	1,038	193	225	265	251	104	1,105	242	233	259	258	112
<u>Geographic division</u>												
New England	697	33	133	213	242	76	621	51	61	172	237	100
Middle Atlantic.....	2,295	263	400	681	725	226	2,255	372	295	564	713	311
East North Central.....	1,698	247	383	465	420	183	1,636	296	282	497	345	216
West North Central.....	361	33	80	107	95	47	333	36	55	107	83	52
South Atlantic.....	588	106	151	171	120	40	701	196	146	174	147	38
East South Central.....	115	11	15	48	22	19	119	27	15	35	26	15
West South Central.....	286	58	73	79	51	24	315	75	69	88	59	24
Mountain.....	207	34	50	46	49	28	228	59	50	51	48	20
Pacific.....	831	159	175	219	202	76	877	183	183	209	210	92

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 2. Number of podiatrists under 45 years and 65 years and over providing patient care and ratio between the two age groups, by geographic area of practice and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Geographic area of practice and year of survey	Number of podiatrists under 45 years (A)	Number of podiatrists 65 years or over (B)	Ratio of (A) to (B)
<u>Geographic region</u>			
Northeast:			
1970	829	301	2.8
1974	779	411	1.9
North Central:			
1970	742	230	3.2
1974	668	268	2.5
South:			
1970	414	83	5.0
1974	528	78	6.8
West:			
1970	418	104	4.0
1974	475	112	4.2
<u>Geographic division</u>			
New England:			
1970	166	76	2.2
1974	112	100	1.1
Middle Atlantic:			
1970	663	226	2.9
1974	667	311	2.1
East North Central:			
1970	630	183	3.4
1974	578	216	2.7
West North Central:			
1970	113	47	2.4
1974	91	52	1.7
South Atlantic:			
1970	257	40	6.4
1974	342	38	9.0
East South Central:			
1970	26	19	1.4
1974	42	15	2.8
West South Central:			
1970	131	24	5.5
1974	144	24	6.0
Mountain:			
1970	84	28	3.0
1974	109	20	5.4
Pacific:			
1970	334	76	4.4
1974	366	92	4.0

Table 3. Number of podiatrists providing patient care per 100,000 population and change in ratio between 1970 and 1974, by geographic area of practice and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Geographic area of practice	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Number of podiatrists		
United States.....	3.5	3.4	-0.1
<u>Geographic region</u>			
Northeast.....	6.1	5.8	-0.3
North Central.....	3.7	3.4	-0.3
South.....	1.6	1.7	+0.1
West.....	3.0	3.0	0.0
<u>Geographic division</u>			
New England.....	5.9	5.1	-0.8
Middle Atlantic.....	6.2	6.0	-0.2
East North Central.....	4.2	4.0	-0.2
West North Central.....	2.2	2.0	-0.2
South Atlantic.....	1.9	2.1	+0.2
East South Central.....	0.9	0.9	0.0
West South Central.....	1.5	1.5	0.0
Mountain.....	2.5	2.4	-0.1
Pacific.....	3.1	3.2	+0.1

Table 4. Number and percent of female podiatrists and percent of all podiatrists providing patient care, by age of podiatrist and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Age of podiatrist and year of survey	Number of female podiatrists	Percent of all female podiatrists	Percent of all podiatrists (male plus female)
Under 35 years:			
1970.....	9	2.9	1.0
1974.....	12	4.4	0.9
35-44 years:			
1970.....	31	10.0	2.1
1974.....	11	4.1	0.9
45-54 years:			
1970.....	90	28.6	4.4
1974.....	75	27.7	4.0
55-64 years:			
1970.....	113	35.9	5.9
1974.....	105	38.7	5.6
65 years or over:			
1970.....	72	22.9	10.0
1974.....	68	25.1	7.8

Table 5. Percent distribution of podiatrists providing patient care, by principal form of employment, age of podiatrist, and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Age of podiatrist and year of survey	Total	Solo practice	Partnership and group practice	Salaried and other
Percent distribution				
Under 35 years:				
1970	100.0	61.5	16.9	21.6
1974	100.0	60.1	32.6	7.3
35-44 years:				
1970	100.0	86.5	9.2	4.2
1974	100.0	75.9	21.0	3.1
45-54 years:				
1970	100.0	88.1	7.2	4.8
1974	100.0	85.8	11.3	3.0
55-64 years:				
1970	100.0	91.2	5.5	3.3
1974	100.0	87.9	9.7	2.3
65 years or over:				
1970	100.0	92.0	5.4	2.6
1974	100.0	91.2	6.9	1.8

Table 6. Percent of podiatrists providing patient care who employ full- or part-time assistants,¹ by selected characteristics of podiatrist, year of survey, and number of assistants: United States, 1970 and 1974

Selected characteristic and year of survey	Number of assistants		
	1 or more full-time	1 or more part-time	2 or more full-time
Percent of podiatrists			
United States:			
1970	47.5	32.4	13.0
1974	48.3	43.5	23.4
<u>Age of podiatrist</u>			
Under 35 years:			
1970	55.1	40.4	18.5
1974	65.0	56.4	34.0
35-44 years:			
1970	60.5	45.7	20.2
1974	64.4	56.4	37.3
45-54 years:			
1970	51.5	34.9	13.9
1974	51.5	44.2	24.7
55-64 years:			
1970	39.0	22.3	7.5
1974	37.4	35.1	14.2
65 years or over:			
1970	22.4	14.6	3.9
1974	18.6	23.8	6.2
<u>Geographic region</u>			
Northeast:			
1970	33.9	29.2	7.1
1974	34.0	42.5	14.4
North Central:			
1970	51.2	35.3	13.9
1974	51.0	45.4	24.6
South:			
1970	68.9	32.4	27.0
1974	67.7	43.2	37.6
West:			
1970	58.9	35.8	15.2
1974	61.1	43.2	30.5
<u>Principal form of employment</u>			
Solo practice:			
1970	45.1	31.5	10.0
1974	42.4	41.4	16.2
Partnership:			
1970	78.8	51.4	39.7
1974	77.4	57.5	59.1
Group practice:			
1970	83.0	47.2	44.2
1974	75.4	50.1	52.7

¹Includes both medical and nonmedical assistants.

Table 7. Number and percent of podiatrists providing patient care, with change between 1970 and 1974, by selected patient services: United States, 1970 and 1974

Patient service	1970		1974		Change, 1970-74
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Palliative services	6,921	97.8	6,925	97.8	0
Orthopedic services	6,386	90.2	6,484	91.5	+1.3
Prescription of drugs	6,187	87.4	6,361	89.8	+2.4
Physical therapy treatment.....	5,686	80.3	5,840	82.4	+2.1
X-ray services	5,593	79.0	5,848	82.7	+3.6
Office surgery	5,437	76.8	5,719	80.7	+3.9
Whirlpool baths	4,976	70.3	5,075	71.6	+1.3
Ultrasonic treatment	4,524	63.9	4,825	68.1	+4.2
Fitting special shoes	3,703	52.3	3,687	52.0	-0.3
Low-voltage treatment	2,584	36.5	2,323	32.8	-3.7
Hospital surgery	2,148	30.3	2,788	39.4	+9.1
Ultraviolet lamp treatment.....	2,123	30.0	2,124	30.0	0
Diathermy	2,046	28.9	1,779	25.1	-3.8

Table 8. Percent of podiatrists providing patient care, by age of podiatrist, year of survey, and selected services provided: United States, 1970 and 1974

Age of podiatrist and year of survey	Percent of podiatrists			
	ALMOST ALL (More than 90 percent)	MOST (60-90 percent)	MANY (30-60 percent)	SOME (Less than 30 percent)
Services provided				
Under 35 years: 1970	Palliative services Office surgery Prescription of drugs Physical therapy treatment Orthopedic services X-ray services	Hospital surgery Whirlpool baths Ultrasonic treatment	Fitting special shoes	Diathermy Low-voltage treatment Ultraviolet lamp treatment
1974	As above, except "hospital surgery" went from MOST to MANY.			
35-44 years: 1970	Palliative services Office surgery Prescription of drugs Physical therapy treatment Orthopedic services X-ray services	Whirlpool baths Ultrasonic treatment	Fitting special shoes Hospital surgery Ultraviolet lamp treatment	Diathermy Low-voltage treatment
1974	As above, except "low-voltage treatment" went from SOME to MANY.			
45-54 years: 1970	Palliative services Prescription of drugs Orthopedic services	Office surgery Physical therapy treatment X-ray services Whirlpool bath Ultrasonic treatment	Fitting special shoes Hospital surgery Ultraviolet lamp treatment Low-voltage treatment	Diathermy
1974	As above, except "hospital surgery" went from MANY to SOME.			
55-64 years: 1970	Palliative services	Office surgery Prescription of drugs Physical therapy treatment Orthopedic services Whirlpool baths X-ray services	Fitting special shoes Ultraviolet lamp treatment Low-voltage treatment Ultrasonic treatment	Diathermy Hospital surgery
1974	As above, except "ultraviolet lamp treatment" went from MANY to SOME, and "diathermy" went from SOME to MANY.			
65 years or over: 1970	Palliative services	Prescription of drugs Orthopedic services	Fitting special shoes Ultrasonic treatment Office surgery Physical therapy treatment Whirlpool baths X-ray services	Diathermy Hospital surgery Ultraviolet lamp treatment Low-voltage treatment
1974	As above, except "prescription of drugs" went from MOST to MANY.			

Table 9. Percent of podiatrists who devoted 35 hours or more to patient care during preceding week, with change between 1970 and 1974, by selected characteristics of podiatrist: United States, 1970 and 1974

Selected characteristic	1970	1974	Change, 1970-74
United States	69.9	68.1	-1.8
<u>Geographic region</u>			
Northeast.....	69.3	69.1	-0.2
North Central	69.5	66.9	-2.6
South.....	73.8	71.3	-2.5
West.....	68.8	64.6	-4.2
<u>Age</u>			
Under 35 years	69.0	75.0	+6.0
35-44 years	74.4	72.1	-2.3
45-54 years	74.7	72.9	-1.8
55-64 years	71.1	68.6	-2.5
65 years or over	45.4	41.4	-4.0
<u>Principal form of employment</u>			
Solo practice.....	70.0	66.8	-3.2
Partnership	74.6	74.7	+0.1
Group practice.....	80.5	74.2	-6.3
Salaried and other.....	39.7	67.9	+28.2

Table 10. Median number of patient visits per week, with change between 1970 and 1974, by selected characteristics of the podiatrist providing patient care and year of survey: United States, 1970 and 1974

Selected characteristic	Year of survey		Change, 1970-74
	1970	1974	
	Median number of patient visits		
United States	71	77	+6
<u>Geographic region</u>			
Northeast.....	70	76	+6
North Central	69	79	+10
South.....	80	83	+3
West.....	71	72	+1
<u>Age</u>			
Under 35 years	71	84	+13
35-44 years.....	84	100	+16
45-54 years.....	78	89	+11
55-64 years.....	66	68	+2
65 years or over	40	42	+2
<u>Principal form of employment</u>			
Solo practice.....	70	73	+3
Partnership	84	103	+19
Group practice.....	89	103	+19

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APPENDIX I

DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Background: 1974 Survey of Licensed Podiatrists

The 1974 Survey of Licensed Podiatrists was conducted from October through December 1974 by NCHS in cooperation with the American Podiatry Association. Informatics, Inc., of Rockville, Md., was responsible for the collection, editing, processing, and tabulating of data obtained from the survey. A similar survey of the Nation's licensed podiatrists was conducted by NCHS in 1970. Informatics developed, tested, and implemented procedures to computer print onto the 1974 survey questionnaires responses to five questions reported by the respondent during the previous 1970 Survey of Podiatrists. Although all analyses in this report stem from the data collected by the contractor, all analyses were performed by the author.

A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in autumn of 1974 to all licensed podiatrists in the United States. The 1974 survey's mailing list was derived from the 1970 survey's mailing list with the addition of graduates of podiatry colleges between 1970 and 1973. This mailing list was then updated by the deletion of podiatrists known to have died as well as any duplicate listings of podiatrists.

Data Collection

The initial mailing list consisted of 8,763 podiatrists. A total of 8,261 podiatrists remained after eliminating names of the deceased; the duplicates discovered after mailing; and a few potential subjects who were out of scope of the survey because they were no longer licensed, had left the United States, or had been mistakenly assumed to be podiatrists. A further

elimination of refusals, postmaster returns, and other nonresponses reduced the usable universe to 7,253 "good" responses (table I).

Weighting Factors

In order to duplicate the total universe of podiatrists as it would have appeared had there been no refusals, postmaster returns, or other nonresponses, a weighting or "inflation" factor was established for each State from the ratio of total podiatrists in that State (excluding deceased and those out of scope of the survey) to the number of usable (good) responses obtained (see table II). Within each State the computerized record for each "good-response" podiatrist received the same weight. When all the weighted good-response records were cumulated, they yielded after rounding, a weighted national figure of 8,261 for total active and inactive podiatrists. In a similar manner, an estimate of 7,120 was derived for podiatrists who were active in their profession in 1974. Of the 7,120 good-response podiatrists, 7,085 reported that they

Table I. Number and percent distribution of the podiatric population surveyed, by type of response: United States, 1974

Type of response	Number	Percent distribution
All podiatrists surveyed excluding those deceased and out of scope...	8,261	100.0
Response	7,253	87.8
Refusal	133	1.6
Postmaster return	334	4.1
Nonresponse	541	6.5

Table II. Distribution by State of responding podiatrists and application of inflation factor: United States, 1974

State	Number of responding podiatrists	Weighting factor	Weighted number of podiatrists
United States.....	7,253	1.14	8,261
Alabama.....	20	1.35	27
Alaska.....	1	3.00	3
Arizona.....	74	1.05	78
Arkansas.....	21	1.05	22
California.....	815	1.14	929
Colorado.....	67	1.21	81
Connecticut.....	181	1.11	201
Delaware.....	19	1.05	20
District of Columbia.....	42	1.29	54
Florida.....	331	1.10	364
Georgia.....	69	1.17	81
Hawaii.....	5	1.60	8
Idaho.....	17	1.06	18
Illinois.....	583	1.17	682
Indiana.....	140	1.06	148
Iowa.....	87	1.11	97
Kansas.....	48	1.08	52
Kentucky.....	63	1.06	67
Louisiana.....	35	1.14	40
Maine.....	19	1.11	21
Maryland.....	120	1.18	142
Massachusetts.....	380	1.16	441
Michigan.....	289	1.11	321
Minnesota.....	78	1.03	80
Mississippi.....	9	1.22	11
Missouri.....	85	1.13	96
Montana.....	13	1.08	14
Nebraska.....	39	1.05	41
Nevada.....	16	1.06	17
New Hampshire.....	26	1.15	30
New Jersey.....	365	1.12	409
New Mexico.....	24	1.29	31
New York.....	1,159	1.18	1,368
North Carolina.....	54	1.06	57
North Dakota.....	5	1.00	5
Ohio.....	489	1.15	562
Oklahoma.....	45	1.18	53
Oregon.....	42	1.02	43
Pennsylvania.....	668	1.14	762
Rhode Island.....	53	1.13	60
South Carolina.....	14	1.29	18
South Dakota.....	14	1.00	14
Tennessee.....	41	1.10	45
Texas.....	205	1.18	242
Utah.....	32	1.06	34
Vermont.....	7	1.14	8
Virginia.....	81	1.07	87
Washington.....	74	1.04	77
West Virginia.....	41	1.10	45
Wisconsin.....	140	1.06	148
Wyoming.....	8	1.13	9

usually spent 1 hour or more a week in patient care. This figure is the statistical base for the tables and the textual commentary that appear in this report.

Numbers in this report have been independ-

ently rounded and may not add to totals. Percents also have been independently rounded and may not always add to 100.0. Percents and rates were calculated on the basis of original, unrounded figures and will not necessarily agree

Table III. Item nonresponse rates experienced in 1974 Survey of Licensed Podiatrists

Question number and subject		Number of respondents to whom question applied	Number of podiatrists not responding	Item nonresponse rate (percent)
1.	Year of birth.....	7,253	2	0.03
2.	Sex		1	0.01
3a.	School of graduation		4	0.06
3b.	Year of graduation.....		7	0.10
4.	Race		114	1.57
5.	Origin or descent		876	12.08
6.	Years active in podiatry		155	2.14
7.	Number of weeks active in 1973.....		18	0.25
8.	Current activity status		—	0.00
9.	Hours per week in all podiatric activities	6,248	152	2.43
10.	Usual activity in patient care		—	0.00
11a.	Primary activity	6,217	14	0.23
11b.	Secondary activity		35	0.56
12.	Services usually provided		38	0.61
13a.	Location of primary place of work		9	0.14
13b.	Years at location of primary place of work.....		26	0.42
14.	Principal form of employment		7	0.11
15.	Number and type of assistants		346	5.57
16a.	Hours providing patient care last week	6,248	29	0.46
16b.	Patients seen last week.....		87	1.39
16c.	Age of patients seen last week		43	0.69
16d.	Patient visits last week		81	1.30
16e.	Type of setting for patient visits last week		34	0.54
17a.	Hospital residency program		95	1.52
17b.	Clinic residency program		118	1.89
17c.	Preceptorship program.....		132	2.11
18a.	Hospital privileges.....		70	1.12
18b.	Clinic privileges.....		323	5.17

with the percents and rates calculated from rounded data.

In order to compensate for partial nonresponse within the questionnaire, that is, leaving individual items unanswered, a second type of adjustment was applied to the data as received. In such cases, omitted items were randomly

assigned the response obtained from respondents with similar characteristics, and the total figure for the item was adjusted to include this "imputation." As may be seen in table III, the need for this kind of adjustment was minimal. The item nonresponse rate was less than 2 percent for all except six items on the questionnaire.

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APPENDIX II

DEFINITIONS

Age.—Age refers to the respondent's age in 1970 and 1974. In all cases, age is calculated as the difference between 1970 or 1974 and the respondent's year of birth.

Active and inactive podiatrists.—For the purposes of the 1974 Survey of Licensed Podiatrists, practitioners who spent 1 hour or more each week in providing patient care or were engaged in another podiatric activity such as teaching and podiatric research were considered to be active podiatrists. Also included in the group of active podiatrists were practitioners who were *temporarily* not active at the time of the survey owing to short-term illness or injury, vacation, and so forth. Inactive podiatrists were defined as those practitioners who failed to meet the criteria for either of the above categories (see appendix IV, question 8 of 1974 questionnaire).

Principal form of employment.—Two general categories of employment may be identified from the survey data: self-employed and salaried. In addition, several specific types of employment may be identified within each of the two major categories.

A self-employed podiatrist may also be categorized according to one of the following types of self-employment:

A *solo practitioner* is a podiatrist working with or without assistants but not in conjunction with another health professional who can independently treat patients for podiatric or nonpodiatric ailments.

A *partnership practitioner* is one of two or more podiatrists who conjointly provide podiatric services only.

A *group practitioner* is a podiatrist conjointly working with at least one person in

another health profession who can independently treat patients for nonpodiatric ailments.

Salaried podiatrists could check 1 of 7 sources of their salary (see questionnaire). Because only a small number of podiatrists completed this section, for the purpose of this report they were grouped together.

For explanatory notes regarding the various principal types of employment, see question 14 of the 1974 questionnaire in appendix IV.

Geographic area.—For the purpose of reporting the data yielded by the 1974 podiatry survey, the United States (the 50 States and the District of Columbia) is divided into the geographic regions and divisions used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and into 10 Standard Federal Administrative Regions.

<i>Geographic region and division</i>	<i>States included</i>
Northeast	
New England	Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut
Middle Atlantic	New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
North Central	
East North Central ...	Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin
West North Central ..	Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas

South		Region III (Philadelphia)		District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia
South Atlantic	Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida	Region IV (Atlanta) ...	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee	
East South Central ..	Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi	Region V (Chicago)	Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin	
West South Central ..	Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas	Region VI (Dallas-Fort Worth)	Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas	
West		Region VII (Kansas City)	Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska	
Mountain	Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada	Region VIII (Denver)	Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming	
Pacific	Washington, Oregon, Alaska, California, Hawaii	Region IX (San Francisco)	Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada	
<i>Standard Federal Administration Region with headquarters city</i>		Region X (Seattle)	Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington	
Region I (Boston)	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont			
Region II (New York)	New York, New Jersey			

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APPENDIX III

PRODUCTIVITY AS RELATED TO USE OF AUXILIARY PERSONNEL, FOR VARIOUS AGE GROUPS

Data from the 1974 Survey of Licensed Podiatrists⁷ were subjected to special computer runs in which the mean productivity of podiatrists of various age groups, employing varying numbers of assistants, was calculated.

The following cell intervals were defined for the two independent variables:

Age:

Under 35 years
35-44 years
45-54 years
55-64 years
65 years or over

Number of assistants:

None
One
Two
Three or more

For each cell, the dependent variable "mean productivity" was defined as the average number of patient visits conducted during the preceding week by podiatrists with the specified cell characteristics.

The results of these calculations are shown in table IV for the case of full- and part-time assistants combined, and in table V for full-time assistants only. The cells in both tables contain the following entries:

P = The mean productivity characteristic of podiatrists within that cell.

σ_P = The standard deviation of P .

N = The number of podiatrists (nationwide) included within each cell.

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

Tables IV and V confirm that productivity varied sharply with both the age of the podiatrist and the number of assistants employed. Several additional features of these tables, however, are particularly noteworthy:

1. Despite the clearcut relevance of age, categories of older podiatrists with a given number of assistants are generally seen to be more productive than podiatrists in up to 3 age categories younger with just one assistant less. Several examples (see table VI), culled from table V, serve to illustrate this point. It would appear, therefore, that age is not an insurmountable barrier to high productivity. Given adequate demand, podiatrists could, if they chose, close the productivity gap simply by hiring an additional assistant.^c
2. A second feature that warrants comment is that productivity is highly variable,

^cThis statement contains two important qualifiers: "given adequate demand" and "if they chose." The first qualifier denotes simply that productivity can be pushed no further than local demand will carry it. The second qualifier implies that not all podiatrists (or other providers for that matter) are necessarily motivated to match that demand. Certainly, among older practitioners, the economic incentive characteristic of younger persons may be expected to have tapered off; this, perhaps more than anything else, may account for the drop in productivity noted among self-employed podiatrists starting at age 55, whereas those who are salaried are seen to maintain high productivity through age 64.

Table IV. Average number of patient visits per week, standard deviation, and number of podiatrists providing patient care, by number of full- and part-time assistants¹ employed and age of podiatrist: United States, 1974

Age of podiatrist and descriptive statistics	Number of assistants employed				All podiatrists combined
	0	1	2	3 or more	
All ages combined:					
<i>P</i>	50.7	74.2	93.5	123.3	83.4
<i>σ_P</i>	36.3	38.7	43.2	68.4	54.3
<i>N</i>	1,927	2,045	1,420	1,692	7,085
Under 35 years:					
<i>P</i>	68.1	66.8	84.3	115.4	90.2
<i>σ_P</i>	62.1	40.9	38.5	66.1	58.5
<i>N</i>	109	357	327	503	1,296
35-44 years:					
<i>P</i>	67.7	81.4	101.2	128.0	104.0
<i>σ_P</i>	36.2	45.3	49.2	60.8	57.3
<i>N</i>	108	284	298	466	1,156
45-54 years:					
<i>P</i>	59.5	82.4	99.2	132.2	92.5
<i>σ_P</i>	37.8	37.6	41.6	57.1	52.5
<i>N</i>	462	549	436	450	1,897
55-64 years:					
<i>P</i>	51.6	73.3	93.1	119.6	73.7
<i>σ_P</i>	31.6	33.6	41.9	71.6	47.8
<i>N</i>	718	632	287	230	1,867
65 years or over:					
<i>P</i>	34.8	59.7	71.3	86.0	46.8
<i>σ_P</i>	26.1	34.6	34.3	54.5	35.6
<i>N</i>	531	224	73	42	869

¹Includes both medical and nonmedical assistants.

NOTES: *P* = mean number of patient visits per week.
σ_P = standard deviation of *P*, for podiatrists within the cell in question.
N = number of podiatrists (nationwide) included within that cell.
Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

even among podiatrists of like characteristics. Of the 20 interior cells (i.e., those which do not display row or column totals) in table V fully half show standard deviations greater than 50.^d Standard deviations this high hamper one's ability to make meaningful manpower projections for limited geographic areas. This is

especially true at the county level, since 96 percent of the counties that have podiatrists at all, have less than 10 podiatrists. Since the precision of a sample varies with the square root of the sample size, it follows that given a standard deviation of (say) 50 and a sample size of 9, the standard error of the resulting productivity estimate is

$$\frac{50}{\sqrt{9}} = 16.7 \text{ visits per week.}$$

^dStandard deviations based (as these are) on 1 week's data can be misleading, since an otherwise active podiatrist on vacation or attending a professional meeting during the week in question will create the illusion of higher variability than would be noted over an extended period of time. There is no way of judging the magnitude of this phenomenon but its likely presence should be noted.

This means that for 85 percent of the counties in the United States, any estimate of productivity based on the age distribution of the podiatrists who prac-

Table V. Average number of patient visits per week, standard deviation, and number of podiatrists providing patient care, by number of full-time assistants¹ employed and age of podiatrist: United States, 1974

Age of podiatrist and descriptive statistics	Number of full-time assistants employed				All podiatrists combined
	0	1	2	3 or more	
All ages combined:					
<i>P</i>	64.2	89.4	109.3	130.9	83.4
σ_P	43.4	45.2	48.5	76.7	54.3
<i>N</i>	3,660	1,766	888	771	7,085
Under 35 years:					
<i>P</i>	75.8	84.9	99.4	119.5	90.2
σ_P	51.4	50.9	46.9	75.2	58.5
<i>N</i>	453	401	214	228	1,296
35-44 years:					
<i>P</i>	85.8	99.2	118.5	131.2	104.0
σ_P	51.7	53.2	54.1	60.1	57.3
<i>N</i>	412	313	215	216	1,156
45-54 years:					
<i>P</i>	73.5	94.3	114.3	145.3	92.5
σ_P	43.8	39.4	46.8	66.5	52.5
<i>N</i>	920	509	263	205	1,897
55-64 years:					
<i>P</i>	60.3	83.8	105.9	134.6	73.7
σ_P	35.8	38.0	43.7	52.0	47.8
<i>N</i>	1,169	434	167	97	1,867
65 years or over:					
<i>P</i>	38.6	76.9	89.0	99.7	46.8
σ_P	27.3	40.6	33.3	67.9	35.9
<i>N</i>	707	108	29	25	869

¹Includes both medical and nonmedical assistants.

NOTES: *P* = mean number of patient visits per week.

σ_P = standard deviation of *P*, for podiatrists within the cell in question.

N = number of podiatrists (nationwide) included within that cell.

Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

tice in that county, and the number of assistants they employ, is characterized by a 2-standard deviation (95 percent) confidence interval of *at least* ± 33 visits

per week, or about 1,500 per year. For counties with less than 9 podiatrists, the width of the confidence interval is correspondingly greater.

Table VI. Average number of visits per week, by age of podiatrist and assistants employed: United States, 1974

Example and age of podiatrist	Average number of patient visits per week
<u>Example 1</u>	
Younger podiatrists with <i>no</i> full-time assistants:	
Under 35 years	75.8
35-44 years.....	85.8
45-54 years.....	73.5
Older podiatrists with <i>one</i> full-time assistant:	
55-64 years.....	83.8
65 years or older	76.9
<u>Example 2</u>	
Younger podiatrists with <i>one</i> full-time assistant:	
Under 35 years	84.9
35-44 years.....	99.2
45-54 years.....	94.3
Older podiatrists with <i>two</i> full-time assistants:	
55-64 years.....	105.9
65 years or older	89.0
<u>Example 3</u>	
Younger podiatrists with <i>two</i> full-time assistants:	
Under 35 years	99.4
35-44 years.....	118.5
45-54 years.....	114.3
Older podiatrists with <i>three</i> full-time assistants:	
55-64 years.....	¹ 121.7
65 years or older	¹ 117.7

¹These numbers will not be found in table V because the column heading in that table pertains to three or *more* (rather than exactly three) assistants. The numbers in question are derived from the original computer printout on which table V was based.

— ○ ○ ○ —

APPENDIX IV

FACSIMILES OF SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES

1970 Survey Questionnaire

Form Approved Budget Bureau No. 68-569063 Approval Expires March 31, 1970	HSM-353 12-69 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE HEALTH SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS CONFIDENTIAL: All information which permits the identification of the individual will be held strictly confidential, will be used solely by persons engaged in, and only for the purposes of the survey and will not be disclosed or released to other persons or for any other purpose. SURVEY OF PODIATRISTS
--	---

1. Is your name correct, and is the address above your PRIMARY PLACE OF PRACTICE?

1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

↓

If no, please enter the correct information below:

Name: _____

First Middle Last

Primary place of practice: _____

Number Street

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

2. In what year were you born? _____

Year

3. Where were you born? _____

State or foreign country

4. Are you a citizen of the United States? (Please check appropriate box)

1 ☐ Yes, Native born

2 ☐ Yes, Naturalized

3 ☐ No

5. Sex: 1 ☐ Male

2 ☐ Female

6. A. From which college of podiatry did you graduate?

Name of college

State

B. When did you graduate? _____

Year graduated

7. What degrees have you earned OTHER THAN your degree in podiatry? (Check each box that applies)

☐ Doctorate (Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.)	☐ Bachelor's	☐ Other (Specify: _____)
☐ Master's	☐ Associate	☐ None

8. In which States do you currently hold a license to practice podiatry?

9. How many years have you been active in podiatry? (Include patient care, teaching, research, and administration. Exclude years spent in non-podiatric activities or retirement.)

Number of years

10. Are you **CURRENTLY ACTIVE** in podiatry? (Include patient care, teaching, research, and administration)

1 ☐ Yes, Full-time

3 ☐ No, Not active in podiatry but not retired

2 ☐ Yes, Part-time

4 ☐ No, Retired

PROCEED to
Question 11.

STOP! If you are not currently active in podiatry,
remainder of questionnaire does not apply. Please
return questionnaire in the envelope provided.

11. Which of the following categories best describes your **PRINCIPAL** form of employment? (Check one)

- 1 ☐ Self-employed – Solo practice
- 2 ☐ Self-employed – Partnership practice
- 3 ☐ Self-employed – Group practice
- 4 ☐ Employed by – Military
- 5 ☐ Employed by – Federal government (*non-military*)
- 6 ☐ Employed by – State or local government
- 7 ☐ Employed by – Non-government organization or institution
- 8 ☐ Employed by – Other podiatrist
- 9 ☐ Other (*Specify:* _____)

12. How many **WEEKS** were you active in podiatry during calendar year 1969?

(Include patient care, teaching, research, and administration. Do not count vacations as weeks worked.)

Weeks per year

13. **APPROXIMATELY** how many hours per week do you usually spend in each of the following podiatric activities?

_____ hrs. Patient care (Include office work connected with the care of your patients)
_____ hrs. Teaching in a college of podiatry
_____ hrs. Podiatry research
_____ hrs. Administration (Podiatry associations, college administration, etc.)
_____ hrs. Other podiatric activity
_____ Total hours per week

14. Do you spend any hours per week in the category "Patient care" in question 13a. above?

1 ☐ Yes, I spend some hours
in patient care.

2 ☐ No, I spend no hours
in patient care.

PROCEED to
Question 15.

STOP! If no hours are spent in patient care,
remainder of questionnaire does not apply. Please re-
turn questionnaire in the envelope provided.

15. When providing patient care, which of the services below are rendered to your patients by you or under your direction? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Palliative services
- ☐ Hospital surgery
- ☐ Office surgery
- ☐ Prescription of drugs
- ☐ Physical therapy treatment
- ☐ Orthopedic services
- ☐ Whirlpool baths
- ☐ Fitting of special shoes
- ☐ X-ray services
- ☐ Ultrasonic treatment
- ☐ Diathermy
- ☐ Low-voltage treatment
- ☐ Ultra-violet lamp treatment
- ☐ Other (Specify: _____)

16. In your principal form of employment, do you employ office assistants other than podiatrists to assist you? (Include receptionists, secretaries, technical assistants, nurses, etc.)

- 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

Please indicate the NUMBER of full-time and part-time office assistants employed by you.

a. Number of FULL-TIME assistants _____
(35 hours or more per week)

b. Number of PART-TIME assistants _____
(Less than 35 hours per week)

17. During your hours spent in patient care, what do you consider to be your PRIMARY, and your SECONDARY activity?

A. PRIMARY activity: (Check one)

- 1 ☐ General practice
- 2 ☐ Surgery
- 3 ☐ Podogeriatrics
- 4 ☐ Podopediatrics
- 5 ☐ Podiatric dermatology
- 6 ☐ Roentgenology
- 7 ☐ Foot orthopedics
- 8 ☐ Other (Specify: _____)

B. SECONDARY activity: (Check one)

- 1 ☐ General practice
- 2 ☐ Surgery
- 3 ☐ Podogeriatrics
- 4 ☐ Podopediatrics
- 5 ☐ Podiatric dermatology
- 6 ☐ Roentgenology
- 7 ☐ Foot orthopedics
- 8 ☐ Other (Specify: _____)
- 9 ☐ None

18. In your PODIATRY PRACTICE, how many hours did you spend in patient care LAST week?

hours

19. APPROXIMATELY how many PATIENT VISITS did you have LAST week? (Include office visits and visits in other settings.)

Approximate number of visits last week

20. APPROXIMATELY how many different PATIENTS does this represent? (Patients with multiple visits should be counted only once.)

Approximate number of patients last week

A. Of these PATIENTS, what is the APPROXIMATE NUMBER in the following age and sex categories?

	MALE PATIENTS LAST WEEK:	FEMALE PATIENTS LAST WEEK:
Number 16 years old or under:	_____	_____
Number from 17 to 64 years old:	_____	_____
Number 65 years old or over:	_____	_____

B. Of these PATIENTS, what is the APPROXIMATE NUMBER treated in the following settings?

_____ Number in private office
_____ Number in hospital (*Inpatient*)
_____ Number in hospital (*Outpatient*)
_____ Number in clinic (*Not associated with a hospital*)
_____ Number in nursing home (*Home for the aged, domiciliary, etc.*)
_____ Number in patient's home
_____ Number in other setting (*Specify: _____*)

COMMENTS – General comments are invited as well as comments on specific items:

PLEASE RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE STAMPED ENVELOPE PROVIDED.

1974 Survey Questionnaire

CONFIDENTIALITY: Your name and street address will be kept confidential by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and will not be released to anyone, for any reason whatsoever. The balance of the information supplied on the questionnaire will be released to the Bureau of Health Resources Development for the purposes described in the attached letter. Any additional publication or release of information from this questionnaire by the NCHS, will be in the form of aggregated statistical data only. Return of this questionnaire acknowledges your agreement to the release of these data by the NCHS in the manner outlined above.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
HEALTH RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS
5600 Fishers Lane Rockville, Maryland 20852
IN COLLABORATION WITH
BUREAU OF HEALTH RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

O.M.B. NO: 68S-731213
APPROVAL EXPIRES: DECEMBER 31, 1974

1974 SURVEY OF PERSONS TRAINED IN PODIATRIC MEDICINE

	Date you completed this questionnaire Mo. Day Yr.
Please correct your name and/or mailing address as appropriate	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR QUESTIONS 1, 2, and 3. If the 1970 responses are incorrect or blank, please provide the correct information under the "correct response" column.

1970 RESPONSE		CORRECT RESPONSE	
1. Year of birth _____	2. Sex ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE	1. Year of birth _____	2. Sex ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE
3. From which SCHOOL OF PODIATRY and in what YEAR did you graduate? School _____ State or foreign country _____ Year graduated _____		3. From which SCHOOL OF PODIATRY and in what YEAR did you graduate? School _____ State or foreign country _____ Year graduated _____	

4. Color or Race (Check one box only)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 ☐ WHITE | 2 ☐ NEGRO OR BLACK | 3 ☐ INDIAN (AMER.) 'ESKIMO/ALEUT |
| 4 ☐ CHINESE/JAPANESE | 5 ☐ FILIPINO/HAWAIIAN/KOREAN | 6 ☐ OTHER RACE (Specify: _____) |

5. Is your origin or descent (Check one box only)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1 ☐ MEXICAN OR CHICANO | 2 ☐ PUERTO RICAN OR BORICUA | 3 ☐ CUBAN |
| 4 ☐ CENTRAL OR SOUTH AMERICAN | 5 ☐ OTHER SPANISH | 6 ☐ NO, NONE OF THESE |

6. Years active in podiatry _____ (ROUND TO NEAREST YEAR)

(Podiatric activities include: patient care, teaching podiatric related course(s), podiatric research, program or institution administration, residency, in podiatric training after receiving podiatric degree, and other podiatric related activities. Include time on vacation from podiatric activities.)

7. During the year 1973, how many WEEKS were you in each of the following categories?

ACTIVE IN PODIATRY _____ WEEKS ACTIVE IN PODIATRY (Includes weeks in which 1 or more hours were spent in any of the following: patient care, teaching podiatric related course(s), podiatric research, program or institution administration, residency, in podiatric training, and other podiatric related activities) WHERE NONE, _____ WEEKS ON VACATION, MOVING, OR TEMPORARILY INACTIVE FOR OTHER REASON(S) WRITE 0 _____ WEEKS RETIRED FROM PODIATRY AND/OR ACTIVE IN ANOTHER OCCUPATION (ZERO) _____ WEEKS ILL OR INJURED _____ WEEKS UNEMPLOYED, LOOKING FOR WORK _____ WEEKS OTHER REASON(S) (Specify: _____) 52 WEEKS = TOTAL WEEKS IN 1973	
---	--

8. Are you CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN PODIATRY? (Check one box only)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 ☐ YES, CURRENTLY SPEND 1 OR MORE HOURS PER WEEK</p> <p>IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING: PATIENT CARE, TEACHING PODIATRIC RELATED COURSE, PODIATRIC RESEARCH, PROGRAM OR INSTITUTION ADMINISTRATION, RESIDENCY, IN PODIATRIC TRAINING, OR OTHER PODIATRIC RELATED ACTIVITY.</p> <p>2 ☐ YES, BUT CURRENTLY: ON VACATION, HAVE SHORT-TERM ILLNESS OR INJURY, MOVING OR TEMPORARILY INACTIVE FOR OTHER REASON(S)</p> | <p>3 ☐ NO, CURRENTLY RETIRED FROM PODIATRY</p> <p>4 ☐ NO, NOT RETIRED FROM PODIATRY, ACTIVE IN ANOTHER OCCUPATION (Specify OCCUPATION: _____)</p> <p>5 ☐ NO, HAVE DISABLING ILLNESS OR INJURY</p> <p>6 ☐ NO, UNEMPLOYED, LOOKING FOR WORK</p> <p>7 ☐ NO, OTHER REASON(S) FOR CURRENT INACTIVITY (Specify REASON(S): _____)</p> |
|---|---|

PLEASE CONTINUE

STOP! If you are not currently active in podiatry, remainder of questionnaire does not apply. Please return this questionnaire in the prepaid return envelope provided. Thank you for your participation.

9. How many HOURS PER WEEK do you USUALLY spend in each of the following podiatric activities?

_____ HRS. PATIENT CARE (Include also residency and administrative work related to patient care regardless of the setting.)
_____ HRS. TEACHING PODIATRIC RELATED COURSE(S)
WHERE _____ HRS. PODIATRIC RESEARCH
NONE, _____ HRS. PROGRAM OR INSTITUTION ADMINISTRATION (Associations, licensing boards, schools, hospitals, etc.)
WRITE _____ HRS. OTHER PODIATRIC ACTIVITIES (e.g., training received after podiatric degree, etc.)
0
(ZERO) (Specify: _____)

HRS. = TOTAL PER WEEK USUALLY SPENT IN ALL PODIATRIC ACTIVITIES

10. Did you report in question 9 above that you USUALLY spend 1 OR MORE HOURS PER WEEK IN PATIENT CARE?

1 ☐ YES. I USUALLY SPEND 1 OR MORE HOURS PER WEEK IN PATIENT CARE

2 ☐ NO. I DO NOT USUALLY SPEND ANY HOURS PER WEEK IN PATIENT CARE

PLEASE CONTINUE

SKIP TO QUESTION 16a.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR QUESTION 11. If the 1970 data do not reflect your current primary or secondary activity, mark the box under the "Current Activity" column that applies now.

11. During your hours spent in patient care, what do you consider to be your PRIMARY and your SECONDARY ACTIVITY?

1970 PRIMARY ACTIVITY

CURRENT PRIMARY ACTIVITY

1970 SECONDARY ACTIVITY

CURRENT SECONDARY ACTIVITY

1 ☐ GENERAL PRACTICE

1 ☐

1 ☐ NO SECONDARY ACTIVITY

1 ☐

2 ☐ SURGERY

2 ☐

2 ☐ SURGERY

2 ☐

3 ☐ FOOT ORTHOPEDICS, OR BIOMECHANICS

3 ☐

3 ☐ FOOT ORTHOPEDICS, OR BIOMECHANICS

3 ☐

4 ☐ PODOGERIATRICS

4 ☐

4 ☐ PODOGERIATRICS

4 ☐

5 ☐ OTHER ACTIVITY

5 ☐

5 ☐ GENERAL PRACTICE

5 ☐

6 ☐ OTHER ACTIVITY

6 ☐

INSTRUCTIONS FOR QUESTION 12.

IF: a) 1970 data do not reflect all services you currently provide or,
b) Since 1970 you have stopped providing a service previously indicated,
THEN: Mark ALL BOXES under the "Current Services" columns that indicate all services you provide now.

12. When providing patient care, which of the services below are usually rendered by you or under your direction?

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

1970 SERVICES

CURRENT SERVICES

1970 SERVICES

CURRENT SERVICES

☐ PALLIATIVE SERVICES

☐

☐ HOSPITAL SURGERY

☐

☐ OFFICE SURGERY

☐

☐ PRESCRIPTION OF DRUGS

☐

☐ PHYSICAL THERAPY TREATMENT

☐

☐ ORTHOPEDIC OR BIOMECHANICS

☐

☐ WHIRLPOOL TREATMENT

☐

☐ FITTING SPECIAL SHOES

☐

☐ X-RAY SERVICES

☐

☐ ULTRASONIC HEAT

☐

☐ DIATHERMY HEAT

☐

☐ LOW-VOLTAGE TREATMENT

☐

☐ ULTRA-VIOLET LAMP TREATMENT

☐

☐ OTHER SERVICE(S)

☐

PLEASE CONTINUE

PLEASE GO TO PAGE 3 ON THE REVERSE OF THIS PAGE.

13a. Where is your primary place of podiatric practice or employment located?

STATE	COUNTY	CITY, TOWN, UNINCORPORATED OR RURAL AREA	ZIP CODE
-------	--------	--	----------

13b. For how many YEARS have you been active in podiatry in the locations you specified in item 13a above?

**ANSWER ALL
THREE ITEMS**

_____ YEARS ACTIVE IN STATE (Specified above)

_____ YEARS ACTIVE IN COUNTY (Specified above)

_____ YEARS ACTIVE IN CITY, TOWN, UNINCORPORATED OR RURAL AREA (Specified above)

14. Which category below best describes your current PRINCIPAL FORM OF PODIATRIC EMPLOYMENT?

SELF-EMPLOYED:

(Check only one . . . the one usually worked most hours per week)

- ☐ SOLO PRACTICE
- ☐ Partnership Practice (Partnership includes two or more podiatrists conjointly providing podiatric services only)

- ☐ GROUP PRACTICE (Group includes at least one podiatrist conjointly working with at least one person in another health profession, who can independently treat patients for nonpodiatric ailments)

NUMBER OF PODIATRISTS IN PARTNERSHIP, INCLUDING YOURSELF

NUMBER OF PODIATRISTS IN GROUP, INCLUDING YOURSELF

Number of other health professionals in above group who can independently treat patients

GENERAL OR FAMILY PRACTICE (M.D. or D.O.)
 ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON (M.D. or D.O.)
 INTERNAL MEDICINE (M.D. or D.O.)
 OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (Specify: _____)
 WHERE
 NONE,
 WRITE
 0
 (ZERO)

EMPLOYEE OF:

- ☐ FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (Nonmilitary, includes V.A. hospitals, and Public Health Service, etc.)
- ☐ MILITARY SERVICE (ARMED SERVICES personnel only)
- ☐ STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Includes clinics, health departments, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, etc.)
- ☐ PREPAID GROUP HEALTH PLAN
- ☐ NON PREPAID GROUP HEALTH PLAN
- ☐ NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION (Includes private hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, schools, etc.)
- ☐ OTHER PODIATRIST

OTHER FORM OF EMPLOYMENT:

- ☐ (Specify: _____)

15. Indicate the NUMBER and TYPE OF ASSISTANTS whose services you use in your PRINCIPAL FORM OF EMPLOYMENT — EXCLUDE persons who can independently treat patients — INCLUDE assistants who are temporarily absent due to illness, injury, training, or vacation, etc.

REPORT NUMBER WHERE NONE, WRITE 0 (ZERO)	NOT SHARED by you with any other person who can independently treat patients		SHARED by you with 1 or more persons who can independently treat patients	
MEDICAL OCCUPATIONS (Includes persons trained as follows even if they are spending some time performing non-medical functions)	USUALLY WORK 1 TO 34 HOURS PER WEEK (Part Time)	USUALLY WORK 35 HOURS OR MORE PER WEEK (Full Time)	USUALLY WORK 1 TO 34 HOURS PER WEEK (Part Time)	USUALLY WORK 35 HOURS OR MORE PER WEEK (Full Time)
PODIATRY ASSISTANTS (Trained formally or on-the-job)				
REGISTERED NURSES				
OTHER MEDICAL OCCUPATIONS (Specify: _____)				
NON-MEDICAL OCCUPATIONS (Includes: receptionists, secretaries, typists, clericals, and other assistants who perform only non-medical functions.)				

16a. How many HOURS did you spend providing PATIENT CARE LAST WEEK?*(Include also residency and administrative work related to patient care regardless of the setting)*

_____ NUMBER OF HOURS (If none, write 0 (ZERO) and skip question 17)

16b. How many DIFFERENT PATIENTS did you see LAST WEEK, regardless of the setting?**16c. What PERCENTAGES of all the DIFFERENT PATIENTS seen by you LAST WEEK were in the AGE categories specified?**

Count each "DIFFERENT PATIENT" only once, regardless of the number of times seen or the setting.

_____ NUMBER OF DIFFERENT PATIENTS
(If none, write 0 (ZERO))

WHERE	_____ %	PERCENTAGE 16 YRS. OR LESS
NONE,	_____ %	PERCENTAGE 17 TO 64 YRS.
WRITE	_____ %	PERCENTAGE 65 YRS. OR MORE
0		
(ZERO)	_____ 100%	= ALL DIFFERENT PATIENTS SEEN LAST WEEK

16d. Of the patients seen by you LAST WEEK, how many PATIENT VISITS do these represent?**16e. What PERCENTAGES of your PATIENT VISITS LAST WEEK were in each of the SETTINGS specified?**

The number of "PATIENT VISITS" is the total number of times you saw patients last week. Include each separate patient visit, even if the same patient was seen more than once.

_____ NUMBER OF PATIENT VISITS
(If none, write 0 (ZERO))

	_____ %	PERCENTAGE IN PRIVATE OFFICE
	_____ %	PERCENTAGE IN HOSPITAL, INPATIENT
WHERE	_____ %	PERCENTAGE IN HOSPITAL, OUTPATIENT
NONE,	_____ %	PERCENTAGE IN CLINIC (Nonhospital clinic)
WRITE	_____ %	PERCENTAGE IN NURSING HOME (Home for the aged, extended care facility, domiciliary, rest home, convalescent home, etc.)
0		
(ZERO)	_____ %	PERCENTAGE IN RESIDENT FACILITY OR SCHOOL FOR THE HANDICAPPED
	_____ %	PERCENTAGE IN PATIENT'S HOME
	_____ %	PERCENTAGE IN OTHER SETTING(S)
	_____ 100%	= ALL PATIENT VISITS LAST WEEK

17. Are you currently in a:**ANSWER ALL
THREE ITEMS**

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) HOSPITAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM? | YES | NO |
| 2) CLINIC RESIDENCY PROGRAM? | 1 ☐ | 2 ☐ |
| 3) PRECEPTORSHIP PROGRAM? | 1 ☐ | 2 ☐ |

18. Do you currently have:**ANSWER
BOTH ITEMS**

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) HOSPITAL PRIVILEGES? | YES | NO |
| 2) CLINIC PRIVILEGES? | 1 ☐ | 2 ☐ |

Comments and Suggestions:

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