

Academy of Managed
Care Pharmacy

American Association of
Colleges of Pharmacy

American College of
Apothecaries

American College of
Clinical Pharmacy

American Pharmacists
Association

American Society of
Consultant Pharmacists

American Society of
Health-System Pharmacists

Bureau of Health Professions

National Alliance of State
Pharmacy Associations

National Association of
Boards of Pharmacy

National Association of
Chain Drug Stores

National Community
Pharmacists Association

Pharmaceutical Research and
Manufacturers of America

Pharmacy Technician
Certification Board

Officers

Lucinda L. Maine, AACP
President

Arlene A. Flynn, AACP
Vice-President/Treasurer

**Embargoed For Release
Until 3:00 AM EST, March 1, 2010**

**Contact: Rebecca M. Morgan
703-739-2330, ext. 1032
202-280-8068 (mobile)
rmorgan@aacp.org**

Trends Reveal Shifts in the Pharmacy Profession toward More Patient Care

Alexandria, Va.—Results released today from the Pharmacy Manpower Project's [2009 National Pharmacist Workforce Survey](#) indicate shifts in the pharmacy profession toward more patient care. This 2009 report also provides insight into how the nation's current economic situation has influenced the dynamics of the U.S. pharmacy workforce as nearly a quarter of pharmacists are practicing part-time and more are working past retirement age. This study is the third in a series of surveys commissioned by the Pharmacy Manpower Project, Inc. (PMP) since 2000 and has been highly anticipated throughout the industry.

Findings reported in the study also suggest that women, pharmacists working in other fields, or those new to the profession may have decided to enter the workforce or continue working past retirement age to lessen the impact of the bad economy on themselves or their families.

“While effects of the 2008/2009 economic recession were detected in this study for some work settings, the results showed that pharmacists continued to be in high demand overall,” said Dr. Jon C. Schommer, the study's principal investigator, and professor and associate department head at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. “We propose that the pharmacy profession currently has, and will continue to build, capacity for contributing to the reforming healthcare system to meet patient care needs that are rooted in improving the effectiveness, safety and value of medication therapy.”

Female practicing pharmacists have increased significantly, comprising 46% of the workforce in 2009, up from 31% in 1990. Study results also reveal an aging population of pharmacists with 37% over age 55 in 2009, compared to 30% in 2004 and only 21% in 2000.

Between 2000, 2004 and 2009, the proportion of pharmacists working full-time decreased from 73% to 68% to 67%, respectively, while those working part-time increased from 14% to 17% to 20%. Among respondents who were actively practicing as pharmacists, the proportion of both male and female pharmacists working part-time increased between 2000, 2004 and 2009. 23% of the workforce reported working part-time in 2009, up from 20% in 2004 and 16% in 2000.

The decrease in full-time hours suggests that employers may have been forced to reduce staffing levels due to the recession. Supporting this, 68% of pharmacists rated their workload level at their place of practice as high or excessively high, which is an increase of 14 percentage points compared to 2004.

The age distribution of actively practicing pharmacists varies tremendously between men and women. 48% of practicing male pharmacists are greater than 46 years of age and 30% are older than 60. Nearly half of active female pharmacists are between the ages of 31 and 45 while 40% are between 46 and 60 and only 4% are older than 60.

The trend of part-time work is increasing for both men and women pharmacists. 29% of women worked part-time in 2009, up from 26% in 2004 and 23% in 2000. More men are also working part-time as the proportion increased from 11% to 15% to 18% for the years 2000, 2004 and 2009, respectively.

Trends revealed in the 2009 survey include shifts in the pharmacy profession toward more patient care and illustrate the novel roles pharmacists are playing in various capacities. Definitions for work activities were updated to be broader in scope and more explicitly included patient care, research and education activities. Pharmacists practicing in community pharmacy settings (independent, chain, mass merchandiser or supermarket pharmacies), devoted at least 70% of their time to medication dispensing. Hospital and other patient care pharmacists devoted less than half their time to medication dispensing and each of these pharmacist categories devoted 27% of their time to patient care on average. Pharmacists in every practice setting, however, indicated that they would like to spend less time in medication dispensing and business/organization management and more time in patient care services, education and research activities.

“Legislation for health reform has recognized that without an adequate health workforce, both in number and skills, there can be no meaningful reform,” said Dr. Lucinda L. Maine, AACP executive vice president and CEO. “The *2009 National Pharmacist Workforce Survey* provides very valuable data with which pharmacy can engage policymakers and others in discussions regarding pharmacists’ many potential contributions to patient-centered care.”

The survey provides a snapshot of work contributions, and the demographic and work characteristics of the pharmacist workforce in the U.S. during 2009. Data were collected from a random sample of 3,000 individuals selected from a list of 249,381 licensed pharmacists in the U.S. Response rate to the survey was 52%.

To view the complete survey results, executive summary and PMP fact sheet, visit the [AACP Web site](#) and click on Resources, then Research.

The Pharmacy Manpower Project, Inc. was established in 1989 as a nonprofit corporation comprised of major national pharmacy professional and trade organizations. Its mission is to serve the public and the profession by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data regarding the size and demography of the pharmacy practitioner workforce and conducting and supporting research in areas related to that workforce.