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ABSTRACT

This report presents preliminary findings from a mail survey of all optometrists licensed to practice in the State of South Carolina. The survey was conducted in 1972 by the International Association of Boards of Examiners in Optometry as part of a national endeavor to collect data on all optometrists in the United States. Approximately 96 percent of the 174 optometrists in South Carolina who were sent questionnaires responded. Thus the professional characteristics of an overwhelming majority of optometrists in South Carolina are described in the report. Tabulated data show the number of: (1) optometrists by county of primary practice; (2) active optometrists by age and sex; (3) active optometrists by school and year of graduation; (4) optometrists by activity status and by age; (5) active optometrists by principal form of employment and age; (6) practicing optometrists by years of practice and use of supplementary personnel; (7) practicing optometrists by primary specialty and age; and (8) active optometrists by type of activity and age. A sample questionnaire is included in the report. (JR)

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LICENSED
OPTOMETRISTS
IN
SOUTH CAROLINA
1972

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LICENSED OPTOMETRISTS

IN

SOUTH CAROLINA

1972

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service Health Resources Administration
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Division of Manpower Intelligence

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INTRODUCTION

The International Association of Boards of Examiners in Optometry in 1972, conducted a mail survey of all optometrists licensed to practice in the State of South Carolina. The survey was conducted concurrently with the optometrists' reregistration with the State Licensing Board.

This report presents preliminary findings from the survey, as furnished by optometrists in the State who completed and returned questionnaires. Approximately 96 percent of the 174 optometrists in the State who were sent questionnaires responded. Thus the professional characteristics of an overwhelming majority of optometrists in the State are described here.

The survey of optometrists in South Carolina is part of a national endeavor to collect data on all optometrists in the United States. Optometric licensing boards in all States are utilizing the same questionnaire to survey optometrists licensed in their respective States. As data collection is completed for each State, similar individual State reports will be issued. A more comprehensive national report will be published after data collection is completed for all States. The Division of Manpower Intelligence, Bureau of Health Resources Development, Health Resources Administration, is coordinating this national survey program done under contract, to assist the profession in developing a data base for optometric manpower. The goal is to make basic data on health manpower available, at the earliest date possible, to States, counties, planning agencies, and other interested parties.

For purposes of this survey, active optometrists are defined as those currently in patient care (optometric practice), teaching, research, and administration. Those categorized as full-time are in practice 30 or more hours per week. Practicing optometrists include only those optometrists engaged in patient care. The questionnaire used in this survey is included as an appendix to this report. It should be noted that all items in the tables that follow are comparable to those found on the questionnaire, from a definitional standpoint. In some tables, asterisks may be used to denote data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

The preparation of this report has been made possible through the cooperation of the entire profession of optometry, the State Licensing Board, the Manpower Resources and Requirements Branch of the Division of Manpower Intelligence, and the Optometric Manpower Resources Project, Suite 206, 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

HIGHLIGHTS

- * In the State of South Carolina, 95 percent of the optometrists were reported as being active, i.e., engaged in patient care, teaching, research, and administration. Of the total number of optometrists in the State, 90 percent were in patient care.
- * The largest number of active optometrists in a single county in South Carolina were reported in Richland County: 17 optometrists, or 11 percent of all those in the State.
- * Twenty-five percent of the active optometrists were under 40 years of age; 68 percent were between 40 and 59 years; and 6 percent were 60 years or older. Of the respondents, 2 percent were female.
- * The school graduating the largest number of active optometrists in the State -- 91 or 58 percent -- was Southern College of Optometry.
- * Of the active optometrists, 85 percent were working 30 or more hours a week.
- * In the State of South Carolina, 85 percent of the active optometrists were self-employed, with 69 percent in solo practice. Of all employed optometrists, the greatest number were employed by Professional Corporations.
- * Ninety-three percent of the practicing optometrists, i.e. those engaged in patient care, reported that they employed supplementary personnel to assist them.
- * Of the practicing optometrists reporting a specialty, the greatest number reported Contact Lenses.
- * While the vast majority, 148 or 94 percent, of the active optometrists in the State were in optometric practice, 2 optometrists were reported in teaching, 5 in research, 1 in administration, and 2 in the other optometric activities.

TABLE 1.
 NUMBER OF OPTOMETRISTS BY COUNTY OF PRIMARY PRACTICE :
 SOUTH CAROLINA, 1972

COUNTY OF PRIMARY PRACTICE	TOTAL OPTOMETRISTS	ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS ^{1/}	OPTOMETRISTS IN PATIENT CARE
TOTAL.....	165	157	148
ABBEVILLE.....	1	1	1
AIKEN.....	3	3	3
ALLENDALE.....	1	1	1
ANDERSON.....	6	5	4
BAMBERG.....	1	1	1
BARNWELL.....	1	1	1
BEAUFORT.....	2	2	2
BERKELEY.....	3	3	2
CALHOUN.....	1	0	0
CHARLESTON.....	18	16	14
CHEROKEE.....	4	4	4
CHESTER.....	2	2	2
CHESTERFIELD.....	1	1	1
COLLETON.....	2	2	2
DARLINGTON.....	3	3	3
DILLON.....	1	1	1
DORCHESTER.....	1	1	1
EDGEFIELD.....	1	1	1
FAIRFIELD.....	1	1	1
FLORENCE.....	6	5	4
GEORGETOWN.....	3	2	2
GREENVILLE.....	16	16	15
GREENWOOD.....	3	3	3
HANFORD.....	2	2	2
HORRY.....	7	7	7
Kershaw.....	3	3	3

^{1/} INCLUDES OPTOMETRISTS ENGAGED IN PATIENT CARE, TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND
 ADMINISTRATION.

... CONTINUED

TABLE 1. (CONCLUDED)

NUMBER OF OPTOMETRISTS BY COUNTY OF PRIMARY PRACTICE :
SOUTH CAROLINA, 1972

COUNTY OF PRIMARY PRACTICE	TOTAL OPTOMETRISTS	ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS ^{1/}	OPTOMETRISTS IN PATIENT CARE
LANCASTER.....	2	2	2
LAURENS.....	4	3	3
LEE.....	1	1	1
LEXINGTON.....	7	7	6
MARION.....	4	4	4
MARLBORO.....	2	2	2
NEWBERRY.....	1	1	1
OCONEE.....	5	5	5
ORANGEBURG.....	2	2	2
PICKENS.....	5	4	4
RICHLAND.....	17	17	16
SALUDA.....	1	1	1
SPARTANBURG.....	8	8	7
SUMTER.....	4	4	4
UNION.....	2	2	2
WILLIAMSBURG.....	1	1	1
YORK.....	6	6	6

^{1/} INCLUDES OPTOMETRISTS ENGAGED IN PATIENT CARE, TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND
ADMINISTRATION.

Table 2.

NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS BY AGE AND SEX:
South Carolina, 1972

Age in Years	Number of Active Optometrists			Percent Distribution		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
ALL AGES.....	157	154	3	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 30.....	16	16	0	10.2	10.4	0.0
30-39.....	23	23	0	14.6	14.9	0.0
40-49.....	54	*	*	34.4	*	*
50-59.....	52	*	*	33.1	*	*
60-69.....	8	8	0	5.1	5.2	0.0
70 and over.....	2	2	0	1.3	1.3	0.0
Not Reported.....	2	2	0	1.3	1.3	0.0

* Data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

Table 2

NUMBER OF ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS, BY SCHOOL AND YEAR OF GRADUATION:
South Carolina, 1972

School of Graduation	All Active Optometrists ^{1/}	Year of Graduation					
		Before 1930	1930-1939	1940-1949	1950-1959	1960-1969	1970 or Later
..LL SCHOOLS..	157	2	6	43	39	23	15
Ohio State.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Illinois.....	7	0	0	4	1	0	0
Southern.....	91	0	2	16	28	20	10
Pacific.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Houston.....	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Indiana.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
California (Berkeley)....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania...	9	2	0	2	1	1	3
Massachusetts..	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Northern Illinois.....	35	0	4	20	4	0	0
Chicago (Monroe).....	6	0	0	0	2	0	0
Columbia.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Needles.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rochester.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montreal.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waterloo.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Not Reported.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

^{1/} Includes those optometrists who did not report year of graduation.

* Data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

Table 4.
 NUMBER OF OPTOMETRISTS, BY ACTIVITY STATUS AND AGE:
 South Carolina, 1972

Activity Status	All Ages ^{1/}	Age in Years					
		Under 30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over
TOTAL.....	165	18	27	54	52	9	4
ACTIVE.....	157	16		54	52	8	2
Working 30 or more hours.....	134	13	21	47	46	6	0
Working less than 30 hours.....	23	3	2	7	6	2	2
INACTIVE.....	8	2	0	2	0	1	2
Retired.....	4	0	0	0	0	1	2
Unemployed.....	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Recent graduate ^{2/} ..	0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other unemployed....	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
All other inactive.....	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Not Reported.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

^{1/} Includes those optometrists who did not report year of birth.

^{2/} Graduate of optometry school within past 12 months.

* Data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

Table 5.

NUMBER OF ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS, BY PRINCIPAL FORM OF EMPLOYMENT AND AGE:
South Carolina, 1972

Principal Form of Employment	All Ages ^{1/}	Age in Years					
		Under 30	30- 39	40- 49	50- 59	60- 69	70 and Over
TOTAL.....	157	16	23	54	52	8	2
SELF EMPLOYED.....	133	11	15	46	48	7	2
Solo practice.....	109	7	11	43	40	4	2
Partnership.....	21	4	4	3	*	*	0
Group.....	1	0	0	0	*	*	0
EMPLOYED.....	18	3	7	5	3	0	0
Professional corporation.....	16	2	7	4	3	0	0
Federal government (Military).....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Federal government (Non-military)....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State or local government.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other optometrist...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmologist.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physician.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm or manufacturer.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-profit organizatn or institution....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multidisciplinary grp practice.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Not Reported.....	8	2	1	3	1	1	0

^{1/} Includes the optometrists who did not report year of birth.

* Data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

Table 6.

NUMBER OF PRACTICING OPTOMETRISTS, BY YEARS IN PRACTICE AND
USE OF SUPPLEMENTARY PERSONNEL:
South Carolina, 1972

Years in Practice	Optometrists in Patient Care		
	Total	Employing Supplementary Personnel ^{1/}	
		Number	Percent
ALL LENGTHS OF PRACTICE.....	148	137	92.6
Less than 10.....	15	15	100.0
10-19.....	37	35	94.6
20-29.....	65	60	92.3
30-39.....	17	15	88.2
40 or more.....	2	2	100.0
Not Reported.....	12	10	83.3

^{1/} Includes secretaries, receptionists, paraoptometric personnel, dispensing opticians, optical and contact lenses technicians.

Table 7.

NUMBER OF PRACTICING OPTOMETRISTS, BY PRIMARY SPECIALTY AND AGE:
South Carolina, 1972

Primary Specialty	All Ages ^{1/}	Optometrists in Patient Care					
		Age in Years					
		Under 30	30- 39	40- 49	50- 59	60- 69	70 and Over
ALL SPECIALTIES.....	148	14	22	51	51	7	1
Contact lenses....	86	6	19	30	28	2	0
Visual training...	4	0	0	2	1	1	0
Subnormal vision..	4	0	0	2	2	0	0
Developmental vision.....	5	2	0	1	2	0	0
Occupational vision.....	8	0	0	2	6	0	0
Aniseikonic therapy.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other ^{2/}	12	2	0	6	3	1	0
Not Reported.....	29	4	3	8	9	3	1

^{1/} Includes those optometrists who did not report year of birth.

^{2/} Includes these optometrists reporting 100 percent of their time spent in general practice.

Table 8.

NUMBER OF ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS, BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY AND AGE:
South Carolina, 1972

Type of Activity	All Ages ^{1/}	Age in Years					
		Under 30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over
ALL ACTIVITIES ^{2/} ...	157	16	23	54	52	8	2
Optometric practice.....	148	15	22	52	51	7	1
Teaching.....	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Research.....	5	3	1	0	1	0	0
Administration....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other.....	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Not Reported.....	9	2	1	3	1	1	1

^{1/} Includes those optometrists who did not report year of birth.

^{2/} Numbers may add to more than total as optometrists may report more than one activity.

* Data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

(97-98) 6. Graduated from optometry school in 19____ (Year)

(99-100) Name of School:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 01 ___ Ohio State | 07 ___ California (Berkeley) | 13 ___ Columbia |
| 02 ___ Illinois | 08 ___ Los Angeles | 14 ___ Needles |
| 03 ___ Southern | 09 ___ Pennsylvania | 15 ___ Rochester |
| 04 ___ Pacific | 10 ___ Massachusetts | 16 ___ Montreal |
| 05 ___ Houston | 11 ___ Northern Illinois | 17 ___ Waterloo |
| 06 ___ Indiana | 12 ___ Chicago (Monroe) | 18 ___ OTHER _____ |

Degrees Earned in addition to Optometric: (Check all that apply and Indicate in what field.)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (101) 1 ___ Doctorate _____ | (104) 4 ___ Associate _____ |
| (102) 2 ___ Master's _____ | (105) 5 ___ Other _____ |
| (103) 3 ___ Bachelor's _____ | (106) 6 ___ None _____ |

HIGHEST Level of FORMAL Education Attained: (Check appropriate boxes in grid)

		YEARS COMPLETED						
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
(107)	Pre-Optometry							
(108)	Optometry							
(109)	Post-Optometry							

(110) 7. Are you currently active in optometry? (Include patient care, teaching, and administration.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 ___ Yes, full time. | 3 ___ No, retired. |
| 2 ___ Yes, part time. | 4 ___ No, unemployed (recent graduate of optometry school) |
| | 5 ___ No, unemployed (not recent graduate of optometry school) |
| | 6 ___ No, not active in optometry. |
- In what field are you active? _____

Proceed to Item 8

STOP! Remainder of questionnaire does not apply.
Please return questionnaire

8. PRINCIPAL Form of employment:

(111-112) 01 ___ Self-employed - Solo practice

02 ___ Self-employed - Partnership practice

03 ___ Self-employed - Group practice

04 ___ Employed by professional corporation established after 1969

If in a partnership, group practice, or corporation, how many OPTOMETRISTS are there in the partnership COUNTING YOURSELF? ___

(113-114)

05 ___ Employed by - Federal government _____
(Military, Public Health Service Commissioned Co:ps, etc.) (Specify)

06 ___ Employed by - Federal Government (non-military) _____ (Specify)

07 ___ Employed by - State or local government _____ (Specify)

08 ___ Employed by - Optometrist(s)

09 ___ Employed by - Ophthalmologist(s)

10 ___ Employed by - Physician(s) other than ophthalmologist(s)

11 ___ Employed by - Firm or manufacturer (profit making) _____ (Specify)

12 ___ Employed by - Non-profit organization or institution _____ (Specify)

13 ___ Employed in Multidisciplinary Group Practice _____ (Specify)

14 ___ OTHER (Specify) _____

9. Approximately what PERCENT of your time do you usually spend in each of the following activities?

(115-117) 1 ___ % Optometric practice

(118-120) 2 ___ % Teaching (as related to optometry)

(121-123) 3 ___ % Optometric research: Clinical, Basic science, Other

(124) 4 ___ % Administration (in schools or colleges, associations, etc.)

(125-127) 5 ___ % OTHER (Specify) _____

(128-130)

100%

If ZERO % of your time is spent in OPTOMETRIC PRACTICE, STOP! and return questionnaire. Otherwise, continue.

(131-132) 10. Practice Optometry: _____ Weeks per year (excluding vacations)

(133-134) _____ Hours per week (available for patient care)

(135-136) 11. Years in practice: _____

(137-138) 12. In what YEAR do you intend to retire? _____

13. How many CLOCK hours of personal attendance did you devote to continuing education during the past 12 months?

(139-140) In courses sponsored by Schools or Colleges? _____ Hours

(141-142) In other sponsored educational meetings? _____ Hours

