

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 097 196

SE 017 371

TITLE Licensed Optometrists in Alaska 1973.  
INSTITUTION Health Resources Administration (DHEW/PHS), Bethesda,  
Md. Div. of Manpower Intelligence.  
PUB DATE Sep 73  
NOTE 20p.

EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.75 HC-\$1.50 PLUS POSTAGE  
DESCRIPTORS \*Health Personnel; Manpower Needs; \*Occupational  
Surveys; \*Optometrists; Questionnaires; \*State  
Surveys; Surveys  
IDENTIFIERS \*Alaska

ABSTRACT

This report presents preliminary findings from a mail survey of all optometrists licensed to practice in the State of Alaska. The survey was conducted in 1973 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. Since there was a 100 percent response, the professional characteristics of all of the optometrists in the state are described in the report. Tabulated data show the number of: (1) optometrists in patient care, (2) active optometrists by age and sex, (3) active optometrists by school and year of graduation, (4) optometrists by activity status and age, (5) 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. (EB)

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**LICENSED  
OPTOMETRISTS  
IN  
ALASKA  
1973**

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## INTRODUCTION

The International Association of Boards of Examiners in Optometry in 1973, conducted a mail survey of all optometrists licensed to practice in the State of Alaska. 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. All of the 16 optometrists in the State who were sent questionnaires responded. Thus the professional characteristics of all of the optometrists in the State are described here.

The survey of optometrists in Alaska 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, 1750 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- \* In the State of Alaska, all 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 100 percent, were in patient care.
- \* The largest number of active optometrists in a single Division in Alaska were reported in Anchorage: 6 optometrists, or 38 percent of all those in the State.
- \* Fifty-six percent of the active optometrists were under 40 years of age; 38 percent were between 40 and 59 years; and 6 percent were 60 years or older. Of the respondents, 6 percent were female.
- \* The two schools graduating the largest number of active optometrists in the State -- 5 or 31 percent each -- were Southern College of Optometry and Pacific University College of Optometry.
- \* All of the active optometrists were working 30 or more hours a week.
- \* In the State of Alaska, 75 percent of the active optometrists were self-employed, with 50 percent in solo practice. Of all employed optometrists, the greatest number were employed by the Federal Government (Military).
- \* Eighty-eight 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 all of the 16 active optometrists in the State were in optometric practice, 1 was reported in teaching, 1 in administration, and 1 in the other optometric activities.



TABLE 1.

NUMBER OF OPTOMETRISTS BY DIVISION OF PRIMARY PRACTICE :  
ALASKA, 1973

DIVISION OF PRIMARY PRACTICE	TOTAL OPTOMETRISTS	ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS <sup>1/</sup>	OPTOMETRISTS IN PATIENT CARE
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
ANCHORAGE DIVISION	6	6	6
FAIRBANKS DIVISION	5	5	5
JUNEAU DIVISION	2	2	2
KEAI-COOK INLET DIV	1	1	1
KETCHIKAN DIVISION	1	1	1
HATANUSKA-SUSITNA DV	1	1	1

<sup>1/</sup> INCLUDES OPTOMETRISTS ENGAGED IN PATIENT CARE, TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND  
ADMINISTRATION.

Table 2.

NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS BY AGE AND SEX:  
Alaska, 1973

Age in Years	Number of Active Optometrists			Percent Distribution		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
ALL AGES....	16	15	1	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 30.....	4	4	0	25.0	26.7	0.0
30-39.....	5	5	0	31.3	33.3	0.0
40-49.....	4	*	*	25.0	*	*
50-59.....	2	*	*	12.5	*	*
60-69.....	1	1	0	6.3	6.7	0.0
70 and over.....	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not Reported.....	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0

\* Data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

Table 3.

NUMBER OF ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS, BY SCHOOL AND YEAR OF GRADUATION:  
Alaska, 1973

School of Graduation	All Active Optometrists <sup>1/</sup>	Year of Graduation					
		Before 1930	1930- 1939	1940- 1949	1950- 1959	1960- 1969	1970 or Later
ALL SCHOOLS..	16	0	0	0	4	8	2
Ohio State.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois.....	3	0	0	0	0	2	0
Southern.....	5	0	0	0	2	2	1
Pacific.....	5	0	0	0	2	3	0
Houston.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Indiana.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
California (Berkeley)....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Pennsylvania...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Massachusetts..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Illinois.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Chicago (Monroe).....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Columbia.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Needles.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Reported.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1/</sup> 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:  
Alaska, 1973

Activity Status	All Ages <sup>1/</sup>	Age in Years					
		Under 30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over
TOTAL.....	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
ACTIVE.....	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
Working 30 or more hours.....	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
Working less than 30 hours.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INACTIVE.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retired.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unemployed.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recent graduate <sup>2/</sup> ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other unemployed....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All other inactive.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Reported.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1/</sup> Includes those optometrists who did not report year of birth.

<sup>2/</sup> Graduate of optometry school within past 12 months.

Table 5.

NUMBER OF ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS, BY PRINCIPAL FORM OF EMPLOYMENT AND AGE:  
Alaska, 1973

Principal Form of Employment	Age in Years						
	All Ages <sup>1/</sup>	Under 30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over
TOTAL.....	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
SELF EMPLOYED.....	12	2	3	4	2	1	0
Solo practice.....	8	1	1	3	2	1	0
Partnership.....	3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Group.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
EMPLOYED.....	4	2	2	0	0	0	0
Professional corporation.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Federal government (Military).....	3	*	*	*	*	*	*
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 organization or institution....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multidisciplinary grp practice.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Reported.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1/</sup> Includes those 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:  
Alaska, 1973

----- Optometrists in Patient Care -----			
Years in Practice	Total	Employing Supplementary Personnel <sup>1/</sup>	
		Number	Percent
-----			
ALL LENGTHS OF PRACTICE.....	16	14	87.5
Less than 10.....	6	5	83.3
10-19.....	6	5	83.3
20-29.....	4	4	100.0
30-39.....	0	0	0.0
40 or more.....	0	0	0.0
Not Reported.....	0	0	0.0
-----			

<sup>1/</sup> Includes secretaries, receptionists, paraoptometric personnel, dispensing opticians, optical and contact lenses technicians.

Table 7.

NUMBER OF PRACTICING OPTOMETRISTS, BY PRIMARY SPECIALTY AND AGE:  
Alaska, 1973

Primary Specialty	Optometrists in Patient Care						
	All Ages <u>1</u> / <sup>1</sup>	Age in Years					
		Under 30	30- 39	40- 49	50- 59	60- 69	70 and Over
ALL SPECIALTIES.....	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
Contact lenses....	9	3	3	2	0	1	0
visual training...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subnormal vision..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Developmental vision.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Occupational vision.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aniseikonic therapy.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other <u>2</u> / <sup>2</sup> .....	3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Not Reported.....	3	1	0	1	1	0	0

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

2/ Includes those optometrists reporting 100 percent of their time spent in general practice.

\* Data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.

Table 8.

NUMBER OF ACTIVE OPTOMETRISTS, BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY AND AGE:  
Alaska, 1973

Type of Activity	All Ages <sup>1/</sup>	Age in Years					
		Under 30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over
ALL ACTIVITIES <sup>2/</sup> ...	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
Optometric practice.....	16	4	5	4	2	1	0
Teaching.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Research.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Administration....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other.....	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Not Reported.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1/</sup> Includes those optometrists who did not report year of birth.

<sup>2/</sup> Numbers may add to more than total as optometrists may report more than one activity.

\* Data omitted to preserve confidentiality of individuals.



# SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE



O.M.B. No. 68-572031  
Approval Expires 12-31-73

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS  
OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY, INC.

## National Census Optometric Manpower Resources

NAME: Dr. <sub>(1-15)</sub> Last, <sub>(16-26)</sub> First <sub>(27)</sub> MI

**PRIMARY PLACE OF PRACTICE**  
(or Residence if not practicing optometry)

<sub>(28-47)</sub>  
Number and Street

City

<sub>(48-52)</sub> State <sub>(53-57)</sub> Zip Code

**DO NOT WRITE  
IN THIS SPACE**

ST <sub>62 63</sub>

CO <sub>64 65 66</sub>

CT <sub>67 68 69 70</sub>

SM <sub>71 72 73 74</sub>

<sub>(58-61)</sub> - <sub>(62-63)</sub> - <sub>(64-67)</sub>  
Social Security Number

(75-90) 1. In which States do you currently hold an ACTIVE LICENSE to practice Optometry?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(91-92) 2. Present State of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

(93-94) 3. Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

(95) 4. Sex: 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Male  
2 \_\_\_\_\_ Female

(96) 5. Racial/Ethnic Category:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 _____ White/Caucasian     | 6 _____ All Other _____<br><i>(Specify)</i> |
| 2 _____ Black/Negro         | <i>Also mark if applicable:</i>             |
| 3 _____ Japanese/Chinese    | 7 _____ Mexican American                    |
| 4 _____ Other Asian         | 8 _____ Puerto Rican                        |
| 5 _____ Indian/Eskimo/Aleut | 9 _____ Other Latin American                |

(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)	COLLEGE Pre-Optometry							
(108)	Optometry							
(109)	Post-Optometry							

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

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

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
- (113-114) 04 \_\_\_ Employed by professional corporation established after 1969
- 05 \_\_\_ Employed by - Federal government \_\_\_\_\_  
(Military, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, etc.) (Specify)
- 06 \_\_\_ Employed by - Federal Government (non-military) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Specify)
- 07 \_\_\_ Employed by - State or local government \_\_\_\_\_  
(Specify)
- 08 \_\_\_ Employed by - Optometrist(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Specify)
- 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) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Specify)

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

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
- (124-127) 4 \_\_\_\_\_ % Administration (in schools or colleges, associations, etc.)
- (128-130) 5 \_\_\_\_\_ % OTHER (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 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

