Research Methodology

The initial Glaxo Pharmacy Specialty Survey was conducted in 1988 and updated in 1993. The program was then transferred to the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and is now maintained by the Association. The first APhA *Career Pathway Evaluation Program Pharmacist Profile Survey* was completed in 2002. In the spring of 2007, APhA completed the most recent survey to date, using a Web-based data collection technique. An expert panel that convened via conference call on a weekly basis identified potential respondents who likely would fit one of the career categories in the survey. Both individual (e.g., personal e-mails) and broadcast (e.g., newsletters, Web site information) invitations were used for recruiting survey respondents. Invitations were extended to participants from February 2007 through May 2007. A total of 1,347 survey forms were completed on the host site.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy in Minneapolis conducted data retrieval, data cleaning, data recoding, and data processing for this survey. Data analysis included descriptive statistics, chi-square analysis, and analysis of variance (ANOVA). Descriptive summaries, from both quantitative and qualitative data, were completed for each career category and are included in each of the profiles.

When utilizing these data, some of the limitations of the research should be kept in mind. As is the case in most surveys, a non-response bias could exist. Those who did not respond to the survey might have characteristics that are different from the responders. Although great effort was made to identify pharmacists in the pharmacy categories for this study, the lists were neither mutually exclusive nor exhaustive. Respondents self-reported the category that best fit their practice environment and activities. Some categories provided the opportunity to distinguish management from staff roles, which are provided as separate profiles. In addition, some sample sizes for a given category are small (e.g., n=19) and the reader is cautioned to view these data as being limited in scope. Each profile provides information on the aggregate background of the respondents.

Respondent Categories

- Academia: Clinical Practice
- Academia: Economic, Social, and Administrative Sciences
- Academia: Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Association Management
- Chain Community Pharmacy: Management
- Chain Community Pharmacy: Staff
- Clinical Specialists
- Community Health Center
- Compounding Pharmacy
- Contract Research Organization
- Corporate Management
- Government/Federal Pharmacy
- Home Health Care
- Hospital Pharmacy: Management
- Hospital Pharmacy: Staff
- Independent Community Pharmacy
- Long-Term Care
- Mail Service
- Managed Care
- Medical Communications/Drug Information
- Nuclear Pharmacy
- Pharmaceutical Industry: Medical Liaison
- Pharmaceutical Industry: Research and Development
- Pharmacy Benefit Management