California Acupuncture Profession Trends

Terri Thorfinnson, J.D.
Executive Officer
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Stakeholder Meetings
December 9, 2013, San Francisco, CA
December 16, 2013, Los Angeles, CA
California Approved Acupuncture Training Programs

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Acupuncture Training Programs

- 35 California Board Approved Acupuncture Training Programs
- 19 Training Programs in-state
- 16 Training Programs out-of-state
California Acupuncture Licensing Trends

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California Licensees 2009

Total Licensees
N = 13,787

- Active = 9,543
- Delinquent = 686
- Inactive = 1,497
- Cancelled = 2,056
- Issued = 450

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California Licensees 2010

Total Licensees
N = 14,375

- Active = 9,678 (65%)
- Delinquent = 872 (6%)
- Inactive = 1,661 (11%)
- Cancelled = 2,164 (15%)
- Issued = 439 (3%)

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California Total Licensees 2011

Total Licensees
N = 15,132

Active = 10,182
Delinquent = 839
Inactive = 1,745
Cancelled = 2,366
Issued = 313

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California Licensees 2012

Total Licensees
N = 15,907

- Active = 10,349
- Delinquent = 1,084
- Inactive = 1,885
- Cancelled = 2,589
- Issued = 673

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California Licensees 2013

Total Licensees
N = 16,678

- Active = 10,999 (63%)
- Delinquent = 954 (6%)
- Inactive = 1,905 (11%)
- Cancelled = 2,820 (16%)
- Issued = 673 (4%)

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California Acupuncture Licensing Trends

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California Acupuncture Licensing Exam
CALE Test Takers 2009-2013

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CALE Foreign Test Takers

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Language Demographics of CALE 2008 Occupational Analysis

CALE Test Takers by Language

- English: 56%
- Chinese: 28%
- Korean: 16%

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California Acupuncture Profession
California Acupuncture Profession

Educational Background

- Masters in Asian Medicine: 55%
- Doctorate in Asian Medicine: 22%
- Doctorate in Another Field: 9%
- Bachelor Degree: 6%
- Master's in Another Field: 5%
- Other: 3%

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California Acupuncture Profession 2008 Occupational Analysis

Multi-Licensure

81%

19%

Acupuncture only
Multi-Licensure

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Acupuncture Workforce Trends
National Acupuncture Workforce: Income by Time Worked

Figure 1: LAc Income Distribution by Deciles: NCCAOM 2010

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National Acupuncture Workforce: Income by Time Worked

Figure 3: LAc Income Distribution by Quartiles: NCCAOM 2008

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California Workforce: Average Hours Worked

Average Hours Worked

- > 40 hours: 32%
- > 20 hours < 40 hours: 28%
- < 20 hours: 39%

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CAB Occupational Analysis Workforce Trends

- < 30 hours
- > 30 hours

CAB 2001:
- 55% < 30 hours
- 45% > 30 hours

CAB 2008:
- 33% < 30 hours
- 67% > 30 hours

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California Acupuncture Profession 2008 Occupational Analysis

Primary Focus of Practice

- General Practice: 45%
- Pain Management: 20%
- Orthopedic/Neurology: 31%
- Women's Health: 3%
- Missing Data: 1%

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California Acupuncture Profession
2008 Occupational Analysis

Primary Work Setting

- Sole Practitioner: 63%
- Independent Practitioner in Group Setting: 17%
- Acupuncture Medical Group or LLC: 9%
- Interdisciplinary Medical Group: 4%
- Multiple Settings: 4%
- Missing Data: 3%

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Quick Facts

• One-third of all Licensed Acupuncturists are in California.
• 20%-25% of all Licensed Acupuncturists are Asian.
• 40% of all Asian Licensed Acupuncturists are in California.
• Average gross income is approximately $50,000.
• Average debt is approximately $45,000.
• 50% of acupuncturists work less than 30 hours per week.
• 50% of acupuncturists earn less than $50,000 (gross).
• 90% of acupuncturists work independently.
2008 California Occupational Analysis
Demographics

• 63% sole practitioners
• 46% licensed 0-5 years
• 38% worked 21-39 hours per week
• 44% general practice focus
• 89% English proficiency
• 81% speak English fluently
• 70% have patients whose primary language is English
• 76% felt training program prepared them

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Sources

• California Acupuncture Board Data: Licensing, Training Programs, Exams.
• Stumpf et al. 2010: *Unveiling the United States Acupuncture Workforce*
• Stumpf et al. 2011: *The U.S. Acupuncture Workforce: The Economics of Practice*
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