

Appendix A: Detailed tables

Table A1: Employed practitioners: main occupation, 1996 to 2001

Main occupation	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<i>Clinician</i>	43,756	44,194	44,684	45,999	47,372	49,392
Primary care	20,185	20,134	20,429	20,616	21,081	21,671
Hospital non-specialist	4,199	4,321	4,172	4,469	5,121	5,169
Specialist	15,236	15,155	15,605	16,460	16,008	17,124
Specialist-in-training	4,136	4,584	4,479	4,455	5,162	5,429
<i>Non-clinician</i>	3,817	4,004	4,233	4,224	3,733	3,991
Administrator	882	855	912	890	1,205	1,271
Teacher/educator	524	520	524	541	428	452
Researcher	784	734	724	767	950	1,030
Public health physician	464	528	540	669	363	374
Occupational health physician	320	322	311	308	298	285
Other	844	1,046	1,222	1,049	490	579
Total	47,573	48,198	48,917	50,223	51,106	53,384

Note: Figures for all years have been revised. Revisions are a result of changed clinician definition and changes in the survey estimation method (see 'Break in series' in Appendix B: Explanatory notes).

Source: Medical Labour Force Survey, 1996 to 2001.

Table A2: Employed practitioners: region of main occupation, 1996

Main occupation	Major city		Inner regional		Outer regional		Remote		Very remote		Total	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
<i>Clinician</i>	32,995	273	5,716	152	2,480	127	337	103	150	87	43,756	239
Primary care	14,039	116	3,394	90	1,606	82	254	78	113	66	20,185	110
Hospital non-specialist	3,233	27	390	10	204	10	34	11	31	18	4,199	23
Specialist	12,227	101	1,721	46	592	30	36	11	6	3	15,236	83
Specialist-in-training	3,496	29	210	6	77	4	12	4	—	—	4,136	23
<i>Non-clinician</i>	3,129	26	281	7	130	7	26	8	9	5	3,817	21
Total	36,124	299	5,997	160	2,609	133	363	111	159	92	47,573	260

Notes

- Figures by region exclude 2,320 practitioners who did not report the region in which they worked whereas the totals by occupation include these practitioners.
- Rates are per 100,000 population.

Source: Medical Labour Force Survey, 1996; ABS 1997.

Table A3: Employed practitioners: selected characteristics, 1996

	Major city	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote	Total
Average age	44.8	45.3	45.1	43.4	41.0	44.9
Average weekly hours	47.8	48.7	49.7	51.5	53.7	48.1
Practitioner rate (per 100,000 population)	299	160	133	111	92	260
Population	12,098,432	3,753,536	1,956,338	326,994	172,306	18,307,606

Notes

1. Figures by region exclude 2,320 practitioners who did not report the region in which they worked whereas the total includes these practitioners.
2. Rates are per 100,000 population.

Source: Medical Labour Force Survey, 1996; ABS 1997.

Table A4: Practitioners who spent some time in clinical work: type of clinical work, 1996 to 2001

	Primary care	Hospital non-specialist	Specialist	Specialist-in-training	Unknown	Total
1996						
Clinicians	20,185	4,199	15,236	4,136	—	43,756
Non-clinicians	389	82	739	135	55	1,399
Total	20,574	4,281	15,975	4,270	55	45,155
1997						
Clinicians	20,134	4,321	15,155	4,584	—	44,194
Non-clinicians	331	67	704	108	64	1,274
Total	20,465	4,388	15,859	4,693	64	45,468
1998						
Clinicians	20,429	4,172	15,605	4,479	—	44,684
Non-clinicians	373	56	767	116	48	1,359
Total	20,802	4,228	16,371	4,594	48	46,043
1999						
Clinicians	20,616	4,469	16,460	4,455	—	45,999
Non-clinicians	327	75	717	121	57	1,296
Total	20,943	4,544	17,176	4,576	57	47,296
2000						
Clinicians	21,081	5,121	16,008	5,162	—	47,372
Non-clinicians	410	124	1,126	157	100	1,917
Total	21,491	5,244	17,135	5,318	100	49,289
2001						
Clinicians	21,671	5,169	17,124	5,429	—	49,392
Non-clinicians	448	170	1,130	166	74	1,987
Total	22,118	5,339	18,253	5,595	74	51,379

Note: Figures for all years have been revised. Revisions are a result of changed clinician definition and changes in the survey estimation method (see 'Break in series' in Appendix B: Explanatory notes).

Source: Medical Labour Force Survey, 1996 to 2001.

Table A5: Specialists: main specialty of practice and sex, 2001

Specialty of practice	Clinicians			Non-clinicians	All specialists		
	Number	% female	Average age	Number	Number	% female	Average age
<i>Internal medicine</i>							
Cardiology	649	10.0	48.2	40	689	9.8	48.1
Clinical genetics	39	72.1	46.9	4	43	65.8	47.6
Clinical haematology	149	21.0	48.2	22	172	19.9	47.9
Clinical immunology	86	10.1	50.5	24	109	13.1	51.0
Clinical pharmacology	4	—	40.0	12	17	—	44.5
Endocrinology	256	26.1	48.1	83	339	27.7	47.0
Gastroenterology	450	12.5	47.2	55	505	16.3	46.4
General medicine	404	14.0	54.3	41	445	14.8	54.4
Geriatrics	254	33.2	46.7	29	283	31.5	47.3
Infectious diseases	125	19.7	42.8	41	166	22.4	43.0
Medical oncology	171	24.6	43.7	24	195	23.7	43.4
Neurology	251	9.5	52.8	43	294	13.6	51.5
Nuclear medicine	166	13.9	47.3	—	166	13.9	47.3
Paediatric medicine	744	28.0	48.6	105	849	28.4	48.7
Renal medicine	144	19.3	47.9	36	180	20.1	46.9
Rheumatology	227	29.1	49.6	29	256	31.1	48.2
Thoracic medicine	277	10.6	47.9	47	324	14.8	46.3
<i>Pathology</i>							
General pathology	108	7.6	52.2	12	120	6.9	53.6
Anatomical pathology	511	33.9	49.6	11	522	33.1	49.9
Clinical chemistry	52	15.1	55.8	16	68	17.6	54.9
Cytopathology	22	69.0	47.3	3	24	61.8	47.3
Forensic pathology	31	8.9	55.0	3	34	8.2	54.3
Haematology	57	40.7	49.5	19	75	39.3	48.9
Immunology	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	13	—	47.2
Microbiology	88	26.0	46.9	22	109	24.1	48.2
<i>Surgery</i>							
General surgery	924	8.6	52.6	48	972	8.7	53.1
Cardiothoracic surgery	106	3.7	51.4	n.p.	107	3.6	51.5
Neurosurgery	125	16.1	48.9	12	137	15.7	49.7
Otolaryngology (ENT)	299	8.7	52.0	8	307	8.5	52.4
Orthopaedic surgery	703	3.6	51.3	55	758	3.4	52.2
Paediatric surgery	57	24.3	54.7	5	62	26.7	54.0
Plastic surgery	248	11.5	50.6	5	253	11.3	50.7
Urology	239	2.8	50.4	9	248	3.3	50.5
Vascular surgery	113	4.4	51.8	3	116	4.3	52.2
<i>Other specialties</i>							
Anaesthesia	2,197	20.7	48.4	41	2,238	20.6	48.6
Dermatology	329	25.3	51.3	9	338	25.7	51.2
Diagnostic radiology	1,135	18.8	49.6	33	1,168	19.4	49.7
Emergency medicine	442	17.5	41.0	29	470	17.3	41.2
Intensive care ^(a)	298	14.0	44.9	18	316	14.1	45.1
Medical administration	14	10.2	48.2	210	224	20.0	51.6
Obstetrics & gynaecology	1,123	20.1	51.8	46	1,169	20.2	52.0
Occupational medicine	29	—	55.2	174	203	12.3	52.2
Ophthalmology	642	11.6	52.0	12	653	12.1	52.2
Psychiatry	1,937	29.0	51.4	160	2,097	29.2	51.4
Public health medicine	27	28.5	50.6	201	228	29.4	49.6
Radiation oncology	182	26.1	43.9	13	195	26.9	44.3
Rehabilitation medicine	172	20.6	49.8	22	194	21.1	49.6
Other	520	21.9	50.5	156	676	20.6	51.2
Total	17,124	18.9	49.7	2,002	19,125	19.4	49.8

(a) Due to differences in state survey designs, three 'Intensive care' categories have been collapsed into one.

Note: The classification of specialists as clinicians or non-clinicians is based on the occupation in which they worked the most hours (see 'Break in series' in Appendix B: Explanatory notes).

Source: Medical Labour Force Survey, 2001.

Table A6: Specialists-in-training: main specialty and sex, 2001

Specialty of practice	Clinicians			Non-clinicians	All specialists-in-training		
	Number	% female	Average age	Number	Number	% female	Average age
<i>Internal medicine</i>							
Cardiology	86	12.6	32.3	10	96	11.3	32.4
Clinical genetics	n.p.	n.p.	34.0	5	7	24.3	34.0
Clinical haematology	29	30.3	34.2	4	34	39.4	33.8
Clinical immunology	16	91.1	30.5	—	16	91.1	30.5
Clinical pharmacology	5	23.4	33.0	n.p.	7	40.4	33.0
Endocrinology	57	40.0	33.6	15	72	36.6	33.5
Gastroenterology	68	20.9	32.5	6	74	22.1	33.7
General medicine	353	31.1	31.6	10	363	30.3	31.6
Geriatrics	64	44.8	34.0	n.p.	66	45.9	33.8
Infectious diseases	34	38.5	31.4	n.p.	36	42.2	31.4
Medical oncology	53	47.7	32.3	12	65	57.6	33.0
Neurology	30	35.1	32.4	6	37	39.6	32.6
Nuclear medicine	37	51.4	36.2	n.p.	39	49.7	36.5
Paediatric medicine	433	47.6	32.8	29	462	48.1	32.7
Renal medicine	54	41.1	32.5	n.p.	55	40.1	32.5
Rheumatology	22	32.9	30.5	n.p.	25	38.8	30.7
Thoracic medicine	57	19.4	32.7	—	57	19.4	32.7
<i>Pathology</i>							
General pathology	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	3	48.7	30.5
Anatomical pathology	118	60.2	31.6	11	129	59.6	31.6
Clinical chemistry	11	74.8	36.6	3	14	59.6	36.4
Cytopathology	—	—	—
Forensic pathology	4	100.0	31.0	—	4	100.0	31.0
Haematology	50	58.4	32.5	n.p.	51	59.4	32.9
Immunology	17	41.2	30.4	9	26	43.6	31.4
Microbiology	15	51.9	38.3	3	18	59.2	37.3
<i>Surgery</i>							
General surgery	370	28.5	31.3	35	405	27.0	31.3
Cardiothoracic surgery	36	24.8	33.0	5	41	21.7	32.5
Neurosurgery	32	47.9	34.3	5	37	41.4	33.5
Otolaryngology (ENT)	49	12.1	31.5	n.p.	51	11.7	31.3
Orthopaedic surgery	218	7.9	31.9	n.p.	219	7.8	31.9
Paediatric surgery	17	91.5	34.5	n.p.	18	92.1	33.6
Plastic surgery	43	16.7	34.1	8	51	18.3	34.3
Urology	79	4.3	33.4	—	79	4.3	33.4
Vascular surgery	32	59.0	34.5	—	32	59.0	34.5
<i>Other specialties</i>							
Anaesthesia	607	31.5	32.4	3	610	31.8	32.4
Dermatology	48	31.7	36.0	4	52	37.5	35.3
Diagnostic radiology	262	26.0	33.0	n.p.	263	26.4	33.0
Emergency medicine	573	39.3	33.0	3	576	39.1	33.0
Intensive care ^(a)	94	28.6	33.6	—	94	28.6	33.6
Medical administration	3	54.3	35.0	33	35	67.5	38.1
Obstetrics & gynaecology	320	49.8	34.3	5	325	49.9	34.3
Occupational medicine	7	—	34.4	19	26	27.4	35.9
Ophthalmology	122	32.4	33.9	n.p.	123	33.1	33.9
Psychiatry	610	50.0	35.3	22	632	50.4	35.3
Public health medicine	6	100.0	34.8	33	39	67.6	40.0
Radiation oncology	57	36.5	31.0	n.p.	59	35.6	31.0
Rehabilitation medicine	40	50.0	35.7	—	40	50.0	35.7
Other	185	42.8	33.6	9	194	44.0	33.6
Total	5,429	37.1	33.1	329	5,758	37.6	33.2

(a) Due to differences in state survey designs, three 'Intensive care' categories have been collapsed into one.

Note: The classification of specialists as clinicians or non-clinicians is based on the occupation in which they worked the most hours (see 'Break in series' in Appendix B: Explanatory notes).

Source: Medical Labour Force Survey, 2001.

Appendix B: Explanatory notes

Method

Each state and territory medical board conducts an annual renewal of practitioner registration. As part of the registration renewal process, the survey questionnaire was sent to all medical practitioners in all jurisdictions except New South Wales, where approximately 25% of practitioner renewals were sent the questionnaire. This was, in effect, a random sample and the New South Wales estimates based on this are considered to be reliable at the state level. The results of the 2001 survey relate to the period when the renewal notices and the survey were dispatched. Survey data on practice activity refer to the four-week period before completion of the questionnaire by each medical practitioner.

Scope and coverage

The scope of the Medical Labour Force Survey is all practitioners registered with the medical board in each state/territory and eligible to practise. Coverage in some states excludes medical practitioners who registered for the first time during the current year and practitioners with a conditional registration.

Response rate

The responses to the AIHW Medical Labour Force Surveys in 2001 represented 64.5% of the medical registrations in all jurisdictions excluding New South Wales (Table B1).

Table B1: Estimated survey response rate, states and territories, 2001

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total ^(a)
2001 response rate	n.a.	63.9	76.8	36.4	71.3	65.4	71.6	60.3	64.5

(a) Excludes NSW because of incomplete information on the number of practitioners in the survey.

Source: Medical Labour Force Survey, 2001.

The overall response rate is an approximation also because some medical practitioners were registered in more than one state or territory and may have completed a questionnaire in just one state or territory. It is not known how often this occurred because it is not possible to match survey records across jurisdictions.

Break in series

Changes to the questionnaire

In 2000, significant changes to the survey questionnaire were introduced. They were designed to improve and expand the information collected about the hours worked by medical practitioners. The expanded information on the fields of practice has led to a change in the way clinicians and non-clinicians are defined. Since 2000, practitioners who spent part of their time in clinical work but the majority of their time working in a non-clinical medical occupation are assigned the occupation in which they worked the most hours. In previous surveys, these practitioners were all assigned the occupation of clinician. In this publication, clinician and non-clinician numbers have been revised for surveys prior to 2000 to enable general comparisons; however, the method used is a close approximation only, not the same measure, and this must be kept in mind when comparing pre-2000 data with data collected from 2000 onwards. As a result of the revision, pre-2000 figures presented in this publication are different from estimates of clinicians and non-clinicians published in the past.

Changes to the estimation method

A different method of survey estimation was introduced in 2000 to improve survey processing. This method was also used to produce estimates for the 2001 survey. For consistency across surveys, estimates for surveys prior to 2000 have been revised using the same method. As a result of the revisions, pre-2000 figures presented in this publication are different from estimates published in the past.

Notes on the AIHW labour force estimates

The figures produced from the Medical Labour Force Survey are estimates. Not all medical practitioners who were sent a questionnaire responded to the survey, and estimates of the whole practitioner population are based on survey data which have been weighted to match the available registration information. In 2001, complete registration data were available for four jurisdictions (but not for Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory). Where registration data were not available, estimation was made on the basis that survey non-respondents in each state/territory had the same characteristics as respondents. The exception was Tasmania for which no age or sex data were available, either from registration data or from the survey.

Additional estimation has been made for survey respondents who provided incomplete labour force information, again on the basis that survey non-respondents had the same characteristics as respondents.

Rounding of estimates may result in numbers not adding up to totals in some tables.