

MANPOWER DATA SURVEY

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Workforce Analysis Committee
Chair

PHASE 2: TRENDS SURVEY

In 1995 the Technologist Section contracted with the Technology Marketing Group (TMG) to perform a survey to identify the current practices and the changes in practices in the field of nuclear medicine as they affect nuclear medicine technologists. Candidate sites were chosen from TMG's database of 4873 diagnostic nuclear imaging facilities.

Facilities were divided into three categories: nonhospital facilities, hospitals with less than 250 beds and hospitals with 250 or more beds. The sites in the first

group comprised only 20% of the total. In addition the facilities were divided into five geographical regions: east, south, midwest, mountain/southwest and west, to give an appropriate mix.

The survey was returned by 416 of the 675 sites and the responses were cross-tabulated by weighting the ratios of the identified sites to the responding sites. The primary analysis of the survey created data tables showing the distribution of responses by segments of the total body. The findings presented here are a representation of the observations of that survey, referenced to the questions asked. Phase 1 of these manpower surveys covered demographics and was reported in *JNMT* in June 1996.

1. Administrative organization of department

Radiology	50%
Nuclear medicine	30%
Imaging	10%
Cardiology	8%
Others	2%

2. Occupancy rate of institution

Average occupancy	68%
Increased in past 3 yr	14%
Decreased in past 3 yr	35%

3. Personnel changes in the past 3 yr

	Increases	Decreases
Physicians	45%	—
Professional/technical	20%	28%
Support	25%	34%

4. Professional/technical positions available (approximately two-thirds of the available positions were full-time)

Yes	5%
No	95%

5. Annual number of procedures

1992	2171
1995	2375
Percentage of in-patients	28%

6. Changes in technologist functions over the past 3 yr

	Perform	Increase	Decrease
Radiopharmacy	64%	24%	15%
Patient assessment	79%	34%	0%
Computer processing	95%	66%	1%
Stress testing	74%	54%	8%
Interventional drug administration	49%	43%	3%
Blood drawing	46%	25%	4%
Transporting patients	54%	32%	4%
Secretarial functions	71%	45%	5%
Acceptance testing	55%	20%	1%

7. Cost-cutting methods being employed at institutions

Reduced funds for travel	57%
Reduced funds for meetings	57%
Increased insurance co-payments	56%
Introduction of flexible benefit plans	39%
Discontinuation of bonuses	27%
Offering early retirements	23%
Changing new hire benefits	14%

8. Cross training and splitting time in other areas

Splitting time	33%	Vascular or general radiology
Cross training	33%	28% of this mandated by institution

9. Mediums used for continuing education

	Used	Funded by institution
In-service education	76%	66%
Local meetings	79%	46%
Regional meetings	63%	55%
National meetings	40%	48%
Journal articles	64%	44%
Audiovisuals	54%	60%

10. Participation in quality assurance programs

Quality assurance	82%
Quality control	86%
CQI/TQM	57%