

There are 122 dispensing opticians and 574 optometrists who were sent an invoice for their Annual Practising Certificates (APCs) in 2004. A health workforce survey was included with each invoice sent out in January 2004.

These statistics are based on the 94 active (working) dispensing opticians and the 432 active (working) optometrists who responded to the health workforce survey. This represents 77.0 percent of the dispensing opticians and 75.3 percent of optometrists who are 2004 APC holders. A further 3.3 percent of dispensing opticians and 7.1 percent of optometrists responded to the 2004 survey but did not report that they were actively working. It is not known if the certificate holders who did not respond to the survey (19.7 percent and 17.6 percent) are working as dispensing opticians and optometrists or not.

The active dispensing opticians and optometrist workforces both have a reasonably equal distribution of the sexes. Males account for 48.8 and 54.4 percent of dispensing opticians and optometrists respectively, as illustrated in Tables 1a and 1b.

The majority of the active dispensing opticians and optometrists identified themselves as belonging to the New

Zealand European ethnic group (see Tables 2a and 2b). This has been a consistent feature of this profession over previous years.

Table 3 illustrates the main employment of both male and female active dispensing opticians and optometrists.

Table 4 (overleaf) shows the main employment setting by work type of the 94 active dispensing opticians and the 432 active optometrists who responded to the 2004 survey. Each person can specify more than one work type, and this table shows that many dispensing opticians and optometrists work in more than one field within their main employment setting.

**Table 1a: Age and sex of active dispensing opticians, 2004**

Sex	Age group									Not reported	Total
	20–	25–	30–	35–	40–	45–	50–	55–	60+		
Male	0	1	7	9	5	5	4	5	7	1	44
Female	1	4	12	8	9	5	4	2	2	0	47
Not reported	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Total	1	5	20	17	14	10	8	7	9	3	94

**Table 1b: Age and sex of active optometrists, 2004**

Sex	Age group										Not reported	Total
	<20	20–	25–	30–	35–	40–	45–	50–	55–	60+		
Male	2	5	14	25	30	20	42	30	32	34	1	235
Female	0	6	41	42	33	26	14	10	3	1	1	177
Not reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	16	20
Total	2	11	55	67	63	46	57	40	37	36	18	432

**Table 2a: Prioritised ethnicity of active dispensing opticians, 2004**

Ethnic group	Number	Percentage
NZ European	60	63.8
Other European	26	27.7
Māori	1	1.1
Other	5	5.3
Not reported	2	2.1
Total	94	100.0

**Table 2b: Prioritised ethnicity of active optometrists, 2004**

Ethnic group	Number	Percentage
NZ European	293	67.8
Other European	69	16.0
Māori	3	0.7
Samoan	2	0.5
South East Asian	3	0.7
Chinese	24	5.6
Indian	8	1.9
Other Asian	7	1.6
Other Pacific	1	0.2
Other	7	1.6
Not reported	15	3.5
Total	432	100.0

*Note: because of rounding, the percentages do not add to 100.*

**Table 3: Main employment setting of active dispensing opticians and optometrists, by sex, 2004**

Employment setting	Male	Female	Not reported	Total
<b>Dispensing opticians:</b>				
Private practice (self-employed)	19	8	0	27
Private practice (employed by optometrist)	14	24	1	39
Private practice (employed by dispensing optician)	5	7	0	12
DHB	1	1	1	3
Other	3	4	0	7
Employment setting not reported	2	3	1	6
Total	44	47	3	94
<b>Optometrists:</b>				
Private practice (self-employed)	168	78	7	253
Private practice (employed by optometrist)	30	61	1	92
Private practice (employed by dispensing optician)	8	12	0	20
DHB	12	5	0	17
University	6	2	0	8
Other	3	10	0	13
Employment setting not reported	8	9	12	29
Total	235	177	20	432

Table 4: Work type by main employment setting for active dispensing opticians and optometrists, 2004

Employment setting by work type	General dispensing optometry	Teaching	Study/research	Management	Other	Not reported	Total
<b>Dispensing opticians:</b>							
Private practice (self-employed)	24	6	5	20	1	2	58
Private practice (employed by optometrist)	39	3	2	12	0	0	56
Private Practice (employed by dispensing optician)	11	1	0	3	0	0	15
DHB	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Other	3	0	0	4	0	2	9
Employment setting not reported	4	0	0	2	0	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Optometrists:</b>							
Private practice (self-employed)	252	1	47	143	6	1	450
Private practice (employed by optometrist)	90	1	6	4	2	0	103
Private practice (employed by dispensing optician)	21	0	2	0	1	0	24
DHB	17	2	3	4	1	0	27
University	3	9	8	5	0	0	25
Other	12	2	2	4	0	0	20
Employment setting not reported	12	0	2	4	0	17	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>684</b>



New Zealand Health Information Service

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MANATŪ HAUORA

# Optometrist and Dispensing Optician Workforce

## Summary results from the 2004 Health Workforce Annual Survey

The New Zealand Health Information Service (NZHIS) would like to thank all the optometrists and dispensing opticians who completed the 2004 workforce questionnaire. This is an annual survey which all optometrists and dispensing opticians are encouraged to complete.

If you have any comments or require further survey results, please contact:

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