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Acupuncture in America
Today and Tomorrow...

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Acupuncture in America

Today and Tomorrow

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History of Acupuncture in America

- 1971 – New York Times reporter James Reston, on President Nixon’s trip to China, writes article on his acupuncture experience. This is the first widespread introduction to acupuncture.

- 1973 – 1st Acupuncture practice laws passed in Maryland, Nevada and Oregon.

- 1982 – The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) was established to set national standards of competence.
History of Acupuncture in America

- 1988 – The Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM) was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for the accreditation of Masters degree and Masters level acupuncture. In 1992 this was expanded to include programs in Oriental Medicine.

- 1996 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved acupuncture needles for use by licensed practitioners, listing them as Class II medical devices.

- 2002 – The National Institutes of Health (NIH) conducted the largest and most comprehensive survey of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) use by American adults – over 8 million adults have used acupuncture and 2.1 million U.S. adults had used acupuncture in the previous year.
Acupuncture use in America

How Much & Why

- Acupuncture use has doubled in the past 10 years and continues to grow
- An estimated 20 million Americans have tried acupuncture
- Over 4.5 billion dollars is spent on Asian Medicine each year and growing
- Over 3 billion dollars is spent on acupuncture each year and growing
Acupuncture use in America
How Much & Who

American use of acupuncture

- 9% Have tried
- 31% Would try
- 60% Would not try

Have tried
Would try
Would not try
Acupuncture use in America
How Much & Who

Alternative Medicine Use by Race/Ethnicity

- Asian: 32%
- Black: 20%
- Hispanic: 21%
- White: 27%
Acupuncture use in America

Results & Why

- Almost half (48%) of those that received acupuncture were “extremely satisfied” or “very satisfied”

- Only 8% were not at all satisfied

- Acupuncture was used for a variety of conditions, from physical pain and disease to mental and emotional problems.
Acupuncture use in America
Results & Why

Acupuncture Patient Satisfaction

- Extremely Satisfied: 24%
- Very Satisfied: 24%
- Somewhat Satisfied: 34%
- Not Very Satisfied: 10%
- Not at All Satisfied: 8%
Acupuncture use in America

Results & Why

Reasons for Wanting Acupuncture

- Musculoskeletal or Nervous System: 58%
- Addiction or Psychological Disorder: 17%
- Gastrointestinal or Urogenital: 4%
- Respiratory: 3%
- Circulatory: 2%
- Other: 1%
- Gynecological: 1%
## Acupuncturists in America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Average/No. (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years in Practice</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## Acupuncturists in America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Average/No. (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associates Degree</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Professional Degree</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Foreign Training</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>76%</td>
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# Acupuncturists in America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Average/No. (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level of Practice</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Time</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part Time</td>
<td>41%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Practice Location</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large City</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburb of Large City</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small City</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Town/Rural</td>
<td>13%</td>
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</table>
Acupuncture in America Today

Licenses & Laws

• As of 2005, there were 22,671 Licensed Acupuncturists in the United States

• 41 States and the District of Columbia have Acupuncture Practice Laws

• In 3 of the remaining 9 states, Acupuncture has been deemed the practice of medicine
Acupuncture in America Today

Number of Acupuncture Licenses in America

- 1992
- 1993
- 1994
- 1996
- 1998
- 2000
- 2004

Licenses:
- 2000: 20,000
- 2004: 25,000
Acupuncture in America

The following areas are shaping the future of Acupuncture in America

• Legislation - Attaining Acupuncture Licensure in all 50 states

• Insurance – Passing the Federal Acupuncture Coverage Act and greater inclusion in managed care and insurance plans
Acupuncture in America Tomorrow

- Herbal Medicine – Insuring access and fair regulations
- Education – Development of a Doctorate as a first professional degree
- Continued research, development and collaboration with Western medicine
Legislation

- Acupuncture practice laws in all 50 states will make passing any national legislation much easier.

- Licensure requirements in all 50 states strengthens Acupuncture as a profession, increases its status and validity in the eyes of the public.

- Licensure in all 50 states would allow greater access to insurance reimbursement and student loan programs.
Acupuncture in America Tomorrow

Insurance Policy

• Passing of the Federal Acupuncture Coverage Act (HR 818) would add acupuncture as a benefit covered under both Medicare and the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program.

• With acupuncture coverage established on a national level, it would be faster and easier for private health insurance companies to follow suit.

• Greater insurance coverage would mean greater availability in hospitals and other public venues.
Acupuncture in America Tomorrow

Insurance Coverage

• While we have a long way to go before there is equality in insurance coverage, insurance companies are expanding their coverage

• As shown by Kaiser Family Foundations survey, 47% of all employers surveyed offered acupuncture as a health benefit, up from 33% in 2002

• There is still a great disparity of availability between states, making the aforementioned Licensure in all 50 states and national standards all the more important
Acupuncture in America
Tomorrow

Insurance Coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of covered workers with acupuncture benefits</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2004</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conventional Plans</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>HMO plans</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPO plans</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point of service plans</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Herbal Medicine

- National standards set by the FDA, the Traditional Medicines Congress and others, with a list of recognized medicinal herbs, would insure access and availability of traditional medicines.

- National standards would furthermore allow uniform access amongst individual states.
Acupuncture in America

Tomorrow

Education

• A First Professional Doctorate will elevate the public and legal status of acupuncture by insuring the same level of professional competency and accreditation of other doctoral-level health care professions

• This change in status and title will increase the opportunities for the advancement of acupuncture and all other health fields as society moves towards greater integration
Acupuncture in America Tomorrow...and Beyond

- Acupuncture in America will continue to grow and thrive
- As the legal issues are resolved, more emphasis can be put towards education, research and development
- As acupuncture is advanced and the public and medical communities learn and understand more, a real integration and collaboration can take place between Asian medicine and Western medicine
Acupuncture in America
Tomorrow...and Beyond

- As technology continues to advance in both Asian and Western Medicine, combined with deeper understanding and sharing of ideas, a new paradigm of health and wellness will emerge, with acupuncture and Asian medicine at the forefront.
Acupuncture in America
Today and Tomorrow

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