

International Korean Medicine Conference

JeCheon, Korea
April 21, 2006

Acupuncture in America Today and Tomorrow...

Dr. JiMong Choe

OMD.,Ph.D.,L.Ac.

Professor Kings Park University, USA

Acupuncture in America

Today and Tomorrow

Contents

- History of Acupuncture in America
- Acupuncture use in America
 1. How Much & Who
 2. Results & Why
- Acupuncturists in America
- Acupuncture Licenses and laws
- Acupuncture Licenses in America
- Acupuncture in America Tomorrow
 1. Legislation
 2. Insurance Policy
 3. Insurance Coverage
 4. Herbal Medicine
 5. Education
- Acupuncture in America Tomorrow and Beyond
- Sources

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

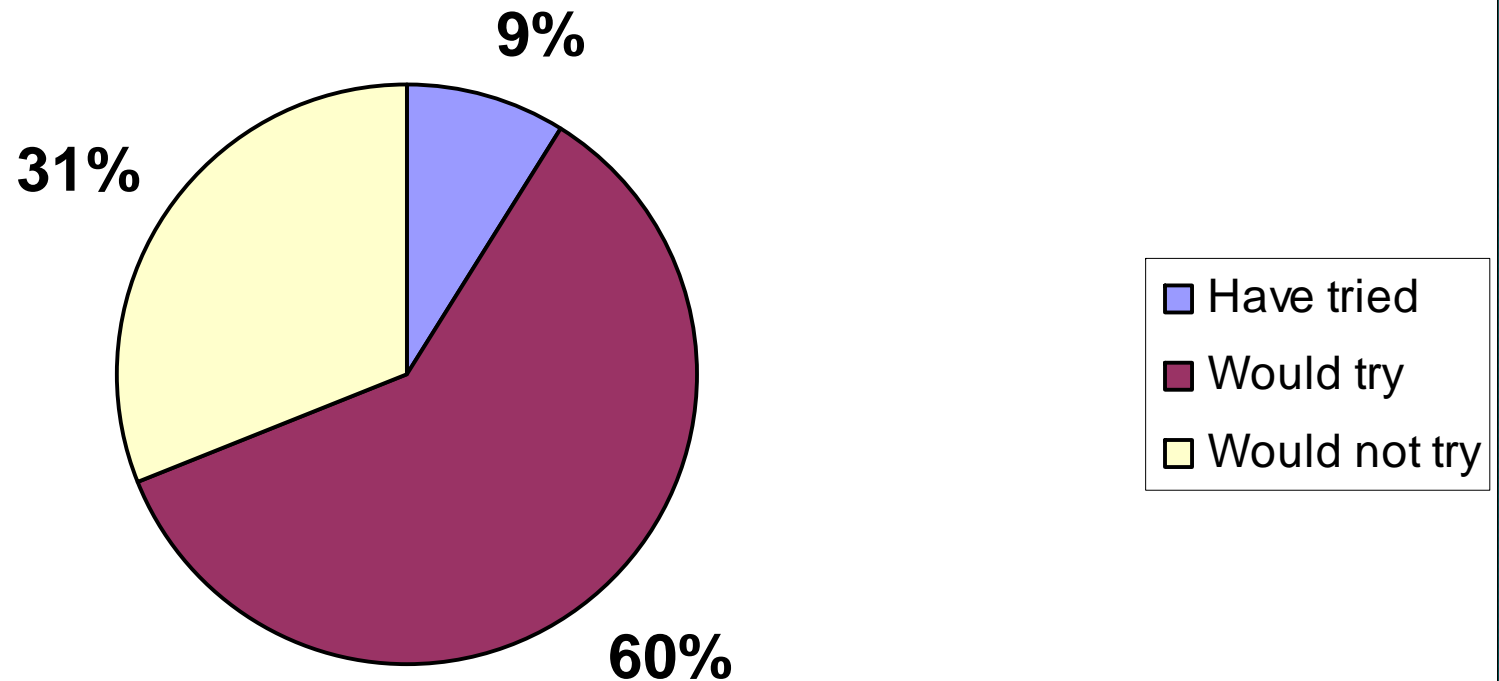
How Much & Why

- 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

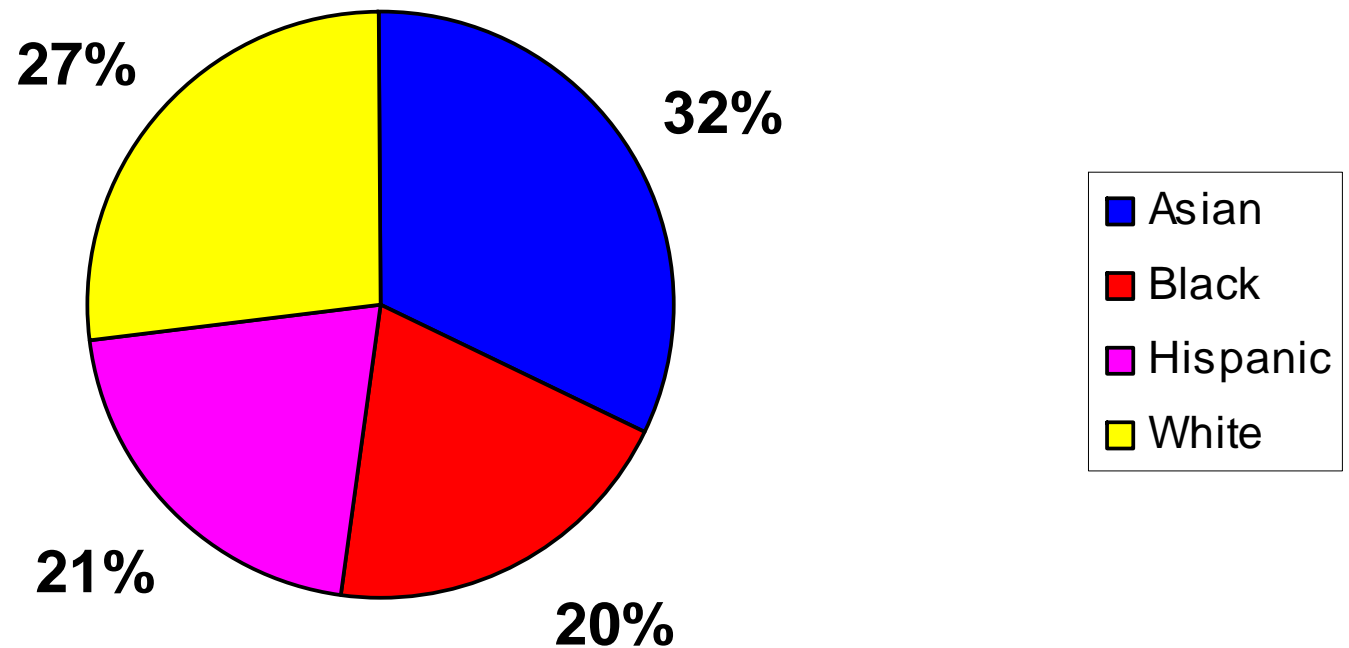
American use of acupuncture



Acupuncture use in America

How Much & Who

Alternative Medicine Use by Race/Ethnicity



Acupuncture use in America

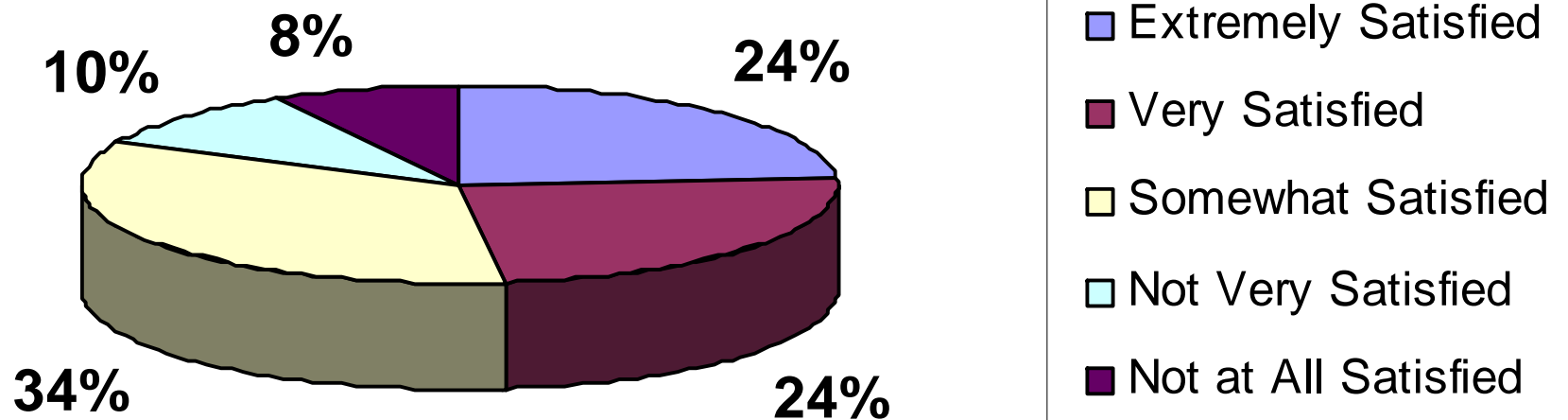
Results & Why

- 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

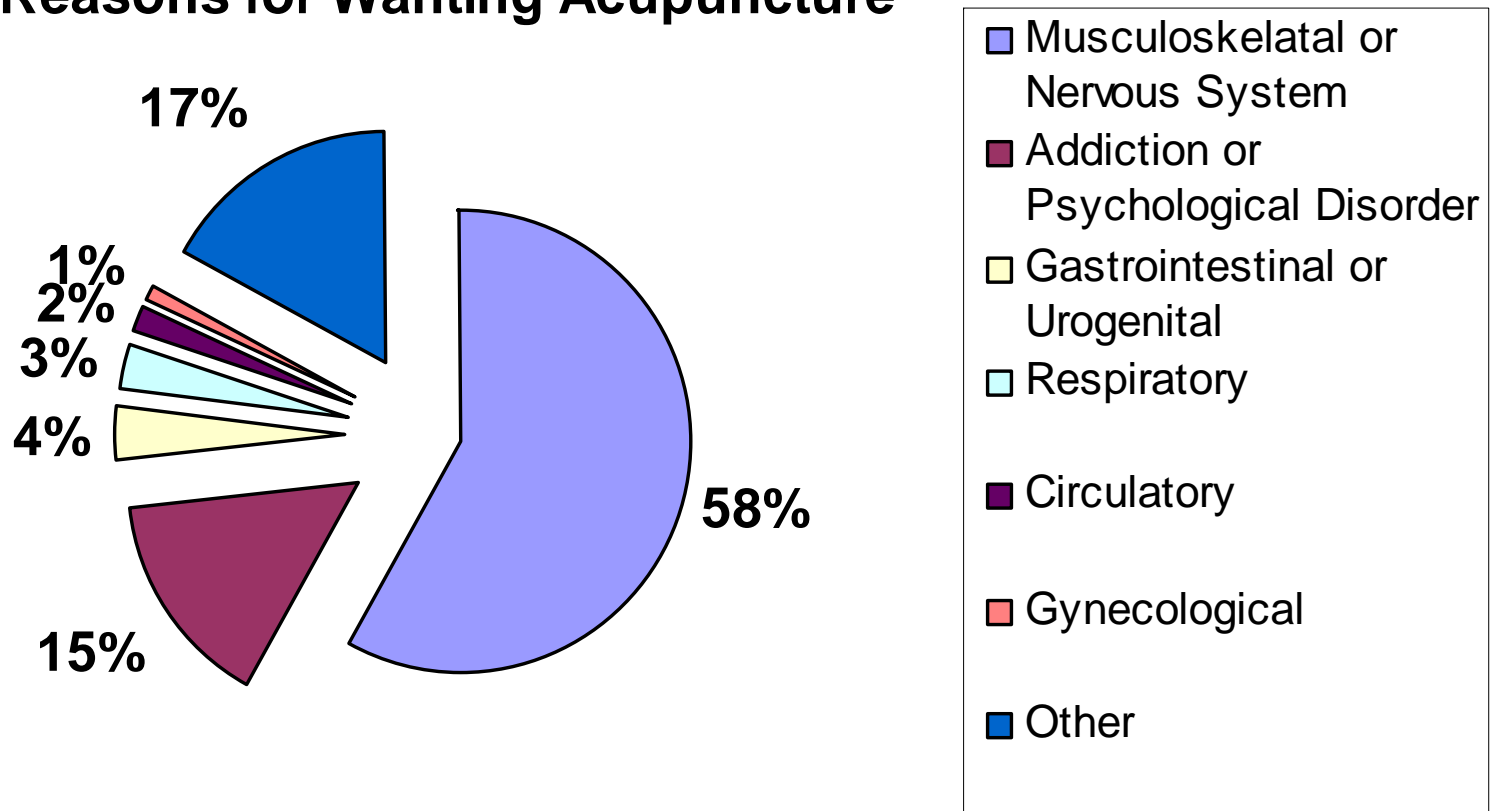
Acupuncture Patient Satisfaction



Acupuncture use in America

Results & Why

Reasons for Wanting Acupuncture



Acupuncturists in America

Characteristics

Average/No. (%)

• Age	48
• Years in Practice	10
• Gender	
Female	59%
Male	41%
• Race	
White	62%
Asian	36%
Other	2%

Acupuncturists in America

Characteristics

Average/No.(%)

- Education

High School	2%
Associates Degree	2%
Bachelor's Degree	6%
Master's Degree	58%
Doctorate	24%
Other Professional Degree	5%

- Foreign Training

Yes	24%
No	76%

Acupuncturists in America

Characteristics

Average/No. (%)

- Level of Practice

Full Time	57%
Part Time	41%
Retired	2%

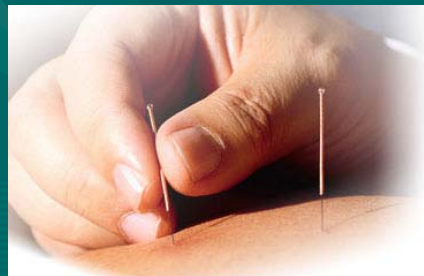
- Practice Location

Large City	32%
Suburb of Large City	30%
Small City	25%
Small Town/Rural	13%

Acupuncture in America Today

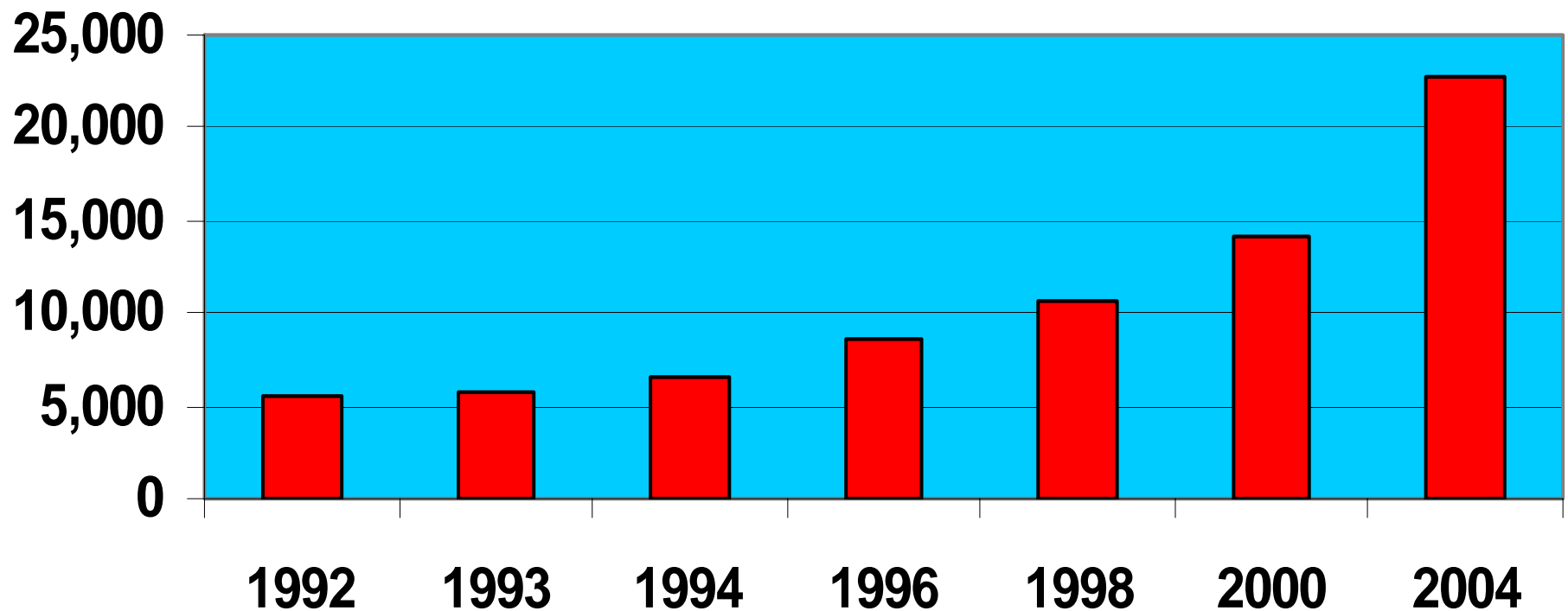
Licenses & Laws

- 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



Acupuncture in America Tomorrow

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

Acupuncture in America Tomorrow

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

Percentage of covered workers with
acupuncture benefits

	2002	2004
Conventional Plans	39	44
HMO plans	26	41
PPO plans	33	47
Point of service plans	35	52

Acupuncture in America Tomorrow

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

Sources

- acupuncturetoday.com
- aaom.org
- nccaom.org
- acaom.org
- nationalacupuncturefoundation.org
- National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine
- Acupuncture.com
- nccam.nih.gov
- Michael Devitt at Acupuncture Today
- Rebekah J Christensen at AAOM

Statistics

- NCCAOM National Survey-conducted by Harris Interactive
- National Health Interview Survey-conducted by the NIH
- *Ethnicity and Disease*, Volume 1, Winter 2006, “Research in the Acupuncturist Community
- *Nutrition Business Journal*, February 2005, “Complementary and Alternative Health Services in the United States in 2004”
- Employer Health Benefits 2004 Annual Survey - Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
- *Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine State Laws and Regulations*, 2005 Edition