About APC

The Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding is the voice for pharmacy compounding, representing compounding pharmacists and technicians in both 503A and 503B settings, as well as prescribers, educators, researchers, and suppliers.

Traditional compounding refers to creating a customized medication, most often from raw ingredients, for an individual patient pursuant to a prescription. Pharmacists’ ability to compound medications from pure ingredients is authorized in federal law and for good reason: Manufactured drugs don’t come in strengths and dosage forms that are right for everyone, and physicians need to be able to prescribe customized medications when, in their judgment, a manufactured drug is not the best course of therapy for a human or animal patient.

Every day, APC members play a critical role in patients’ lives, preparing essential, custom medications for a range of health conditions, including autism, oncology, dermatology, ophthalmology, pediatrics, women’s health, animal health, and others.

info@apc.org | apc.org | compounding.com

This report is a endeavor with assistance from:

A Snapshot of Pharmacy Compounding in America 2021

With assistance from Medisca, PCCA and Letco Medical, in early 2021 the Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding commissioned the Center for Business Research at the University of Mary Washington to conduct a demographic survey of more than 19,000 pharmacy compounders across America. More than 730 responded to the survey. Following is a snapshot of pharmacy compounding based on those responses.
13% said that prescription volume was 100% compounded preparations. The rest saw hybrid—compounding and traditional retail.

64% use the unique among hybrid pharmacies for how much of their prescriptions volume was compounded medications versus manufactured drugs.

56% compounded prescriptions dispensed daily.

72% compounded sterile preparations in bulk for office administration by physicians.

94% of respondents composed non sterile preparations.

83% compounded non sterile for both human and animal use.

Of respondents composed sterile preparations: 35%

Of respondents composed sterile preparations: 44%

Compound sterile for both humans and animals.

23 Years

In how long have you been dispensing compounded medications? More than 20 years

46% had been dispensing for 20 years.

88% had been dispensing for more than 10 years.

503B Outsourcing Facilities

16.7% were 1 employee

16.7% were 2-5 employees

12.5% were 6-10 employees

35.3% were 11+ employees.

Owners

43% were owners.

22% had an ownership interest.

21% were salaried employees.

87% said that their pharmacy or facility had been redesignated since the post-2014 era or was currently undergoing a redesign to meet the compliance standards.

77% of respondents belong to their state pharmacy association.

Percentage of owners who stated a compounded pharmacy service niche was one of their top five highest volume offerings.

Top 5 Compounding Niches as a Percentage of Overall Business

- Compounded hormone replacement therapy: 40.4%
- Veterinary (prescription only): 24.3%
- Veterinary (non-prescription only): 13.3%
- Ophthalmology: 10.9%
- Chemotherapy: 10.0%

Note on graph above: All respondents (n=100 respondents in every niche) & 99% of respondents were located in a state that allowed, at least 20% of the pharmacy’s business to be compounded business. Likewise, Veterinary (non-prescription only) makeup an average of 11% of the receipe for the pharmacy or facility’s overall compounding business.

24% of the pharmacies that respondents were licensed to operate in states.

15% of respondents were licensed to operate in one state.

43% of the pharmacies that respondents were licensed to operate in multiple states.

Issues of Concern

Respondents were asked how concerned they were about the impact of a number of issues on their compounding practice.

Top Ten Issues of Concern

- Effects of CMS regulations on general practice: 66.2%
- Effects of CMS regulations on specialty practices: 64.2%
- The meaningful use requirement: 64.3%
- Ongoing compliance with the 503B regulations: 64.2%
- Ongoing compliance with the 503B facility requirements: 64.2%
- Adoption of compounding best practices in the facility: 64.2%
- Compliance with HIPPA: 63.6%
- Effects of CMS regulations in online compounding: 63.6%
- Compliance with cGMP: 63.6%
- Compliance with NSF standards: 63.6%