

Drug Information and Drug Use Evaluation

Patricia Macgregor

The survey results for 2005/06 indicated an increase in the percentage and number of respondents that reported having dedicated staff for drug information and drug use evaluation.

- Thirty-seven percent of the respondents reported that they have dedicated staff for drug information and drug use evaluation services, compared to 30% in 2003/04. This represents an increase of ten respondents in the 2005/06 survey that reported having dedicated drug information/drug use evaluation staff in their department, compared to the 2003/04 survey.
- The majority of respondents that reported having these positions were from teaching hospitals and hospitals with more than 500 beds. (Table C-1)

Table C-1 Drug Information and Drug Use Evaluation Services 2005/06

	All	Bed Size			Teaching Status	
		100- 200	201- 500	>500	Teaching	Non-Teaching
Hospitals (n=)	(142)	(27)	(78)	(37)	(37)	(105)
Respondents that have dedicated staff for drug information/ drug use evaluation	53 37%	4 15%	24 31%	25 68%	30 81%	23 22%
FTE pharmacists for drug information services	average 1.4 n 42	1.6 2	0.8 18	1.8 22	1.6 29	0.9 13
FTE support staff for drug information services	average 0.7 n 25	0.6 2	1.0 9	0.5 14	0.5 19	1.0 6
FTE pharmacists for drug use evaluation services	average 1.1 n 48	1.1 4	0.7 21	1.5 23	1.3 27	0.9 21
FTE support staff for drug use evaluation services	average 0.4 n 14	1.0 1	0.4 7	0.3 6	0.4 9	0.5 5

- For those hospitals that reported having dedicated drug information/drug use evaluation staff, the average reported staffing for drug information services was 1.4 FTE pharmacists, similar to the average of 1.3 FTE pharmacists reported in the 2003/04 report, and 0.7 FTE support staff, which represents a notable increase from the average of 0.4 FTE support staff reported in the 2003/04 report.
- Forty-three percent of all hospitals with assigned drug information positions reported having more than 1 FTE pharmacists. Eighty-three percent of the respondents with more than 1 FTE pharmacist assigned to drug information services were teaching institutions (15/18), and 83% were hospitals with more than 500 beds (15/18).
- BC was the only region of the country where no respondents reported having more than 1 FTE for drug information services.
- The average FTEs assigned to drug utilization services were reported to be 1.1 FTE pharmacists in 2005/06, compared to 0.7 FTE pharmacist in 2003/04, and 0.4 FTE support staff in 2005/06, compared to 0.5 FTE support staff in 2003/04.