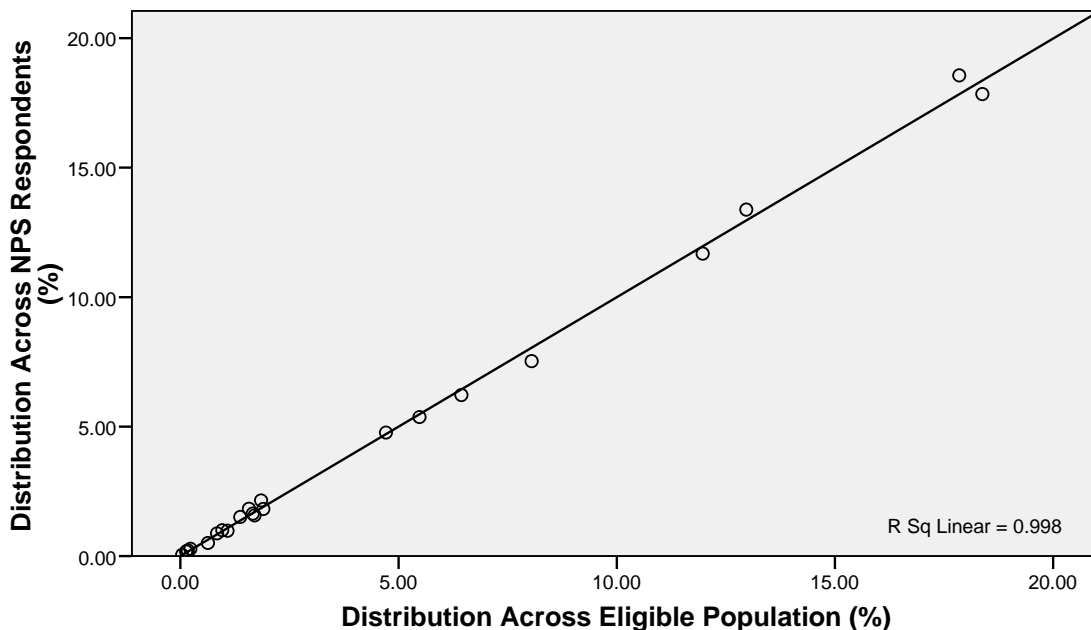


Comparison of Demographic Distributions in the 2007 NPS Database and the Total Physician Population

Figure 1 plots the percent distribution data presented in Table 1 for the eligible physician population and NPS respondents. Each data point in Figure 1 represents a physician subgroup defined by a province, territory and FP/GP or other specialist physician group. The correlation between the distribution in the physician population and the NPS respondents is high and positive ($r=0.998$). This indicates that, in general, subgroups that comprise a large proportion of the eligible population also comprise a large proportion of the NPS respondents.

Figure 1:

Percent Distribution of Physicians in the Eligible Population and in the 2007 National Physician Survey Database



Note: Each data point plots the percent values for a defined group of family physicians/general practitioners or other specialist physicians in a particular province or territory.

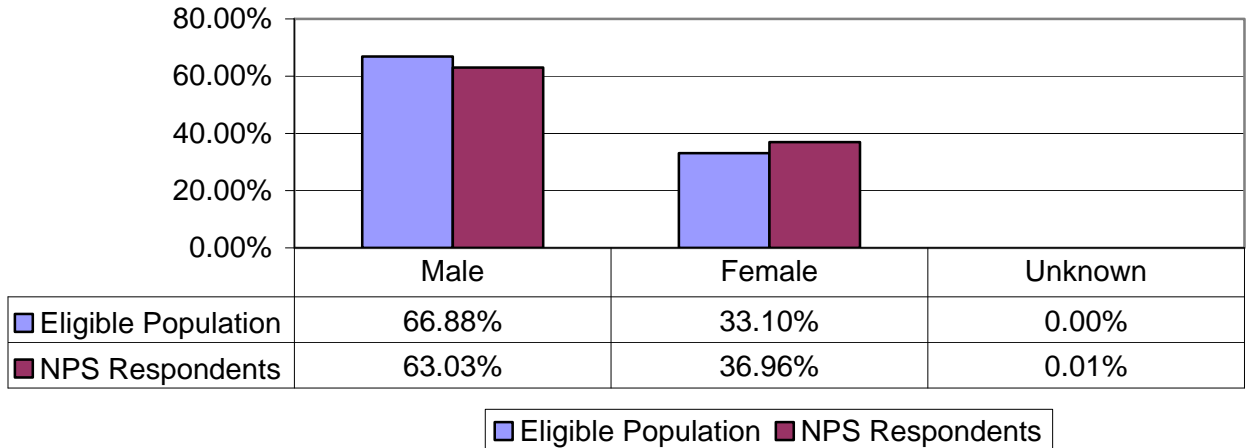
Source: 2007 NPS Masterfile.

An examination of the representativeness of the NPS respondents can be extended to physician age and sex distributions. Age and sex comparisons are presented in Figures 2 and 3. Among NPS respondents, there are proportionately more females than the physician population, 37.0% versus 33.1% respectively (see Figure 2).

Physicians aged 55 and older comprise a slightly larger proportion of the group of NPS respondents compared to the population, while physicians aged 44 and under are proportionately less represented (see Figure 3). The discrepancy between NPS respondents and population age group proportions is greatest for physicians aged between 35 and 44, with percentages equal to 26.0% and 23.3% respectively.

Figure 2:

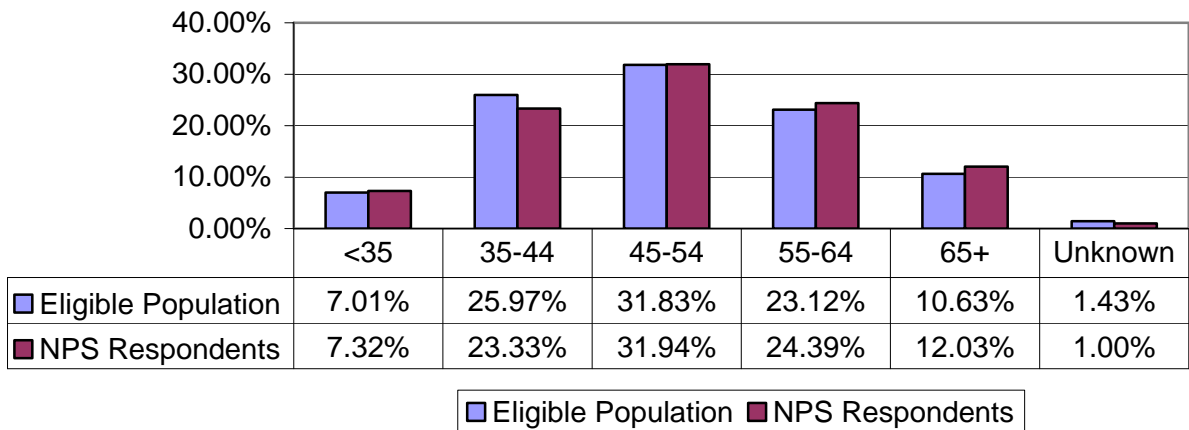
Percent Distribution of Physicians in the Eligible Population and in the 2007 National Physician Survey Database, by Sex



Source: 2007 NPS Masterfile

Figure 3:

Percent Distribution of Physicians in the Eligible Population and in the 2007 National Physician Survey Database, by Age Groups



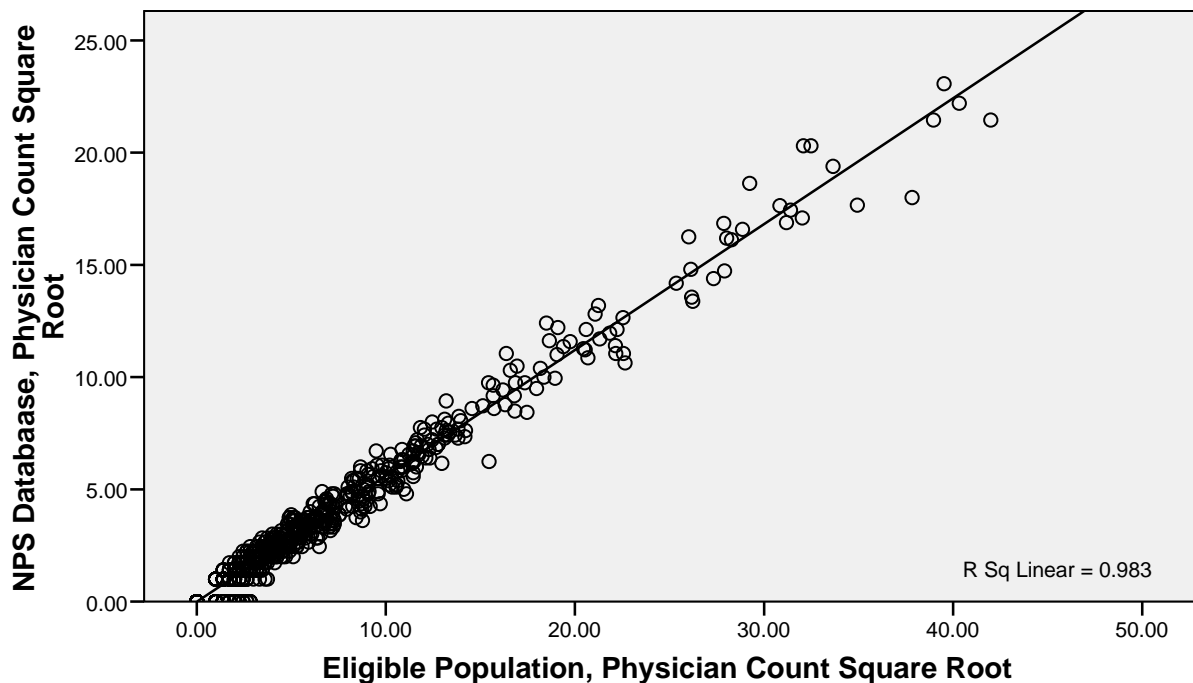
Source: 2007 NPS Masterfile

To illustrate the overall comparability of the 2007 NPS respondents to the physician population, Figure 4 combines data for all of the demographic characteristics reported above, with the addition of the decade in which the physician graduated from undergraduate medical school. Each data point in Figure 4 plots information for a

physician subgroup as defined by a province or territory, FP/GP or other specialist physician category, an age by sex group and a graduation year decade. The data that is plotted is the square root of the count of physicians in the defined group, for both the NPS respondents, and the physician population. The square root of the physician count is used in order to plot results for groups of very disparate size. As with the results shown in Figure 1, Figure 4 illustrates the strong correlation ($r=0.983$) between subgroup distributions in the NPS respondents, and the physician population, based on five basic demographic characteristics. The strong similarity between the respondents and the population suggests that non-response bias should be low for estimates from the NPS.¹

Figure 4:

Square Root of Physician Counts Within the Eligible Population and in the 2007 National Physician Survey Database. Groups Defined by Province or Territory, Broad Medical Specialty, Sex, Age Group Categories, and Graduation Year Decade.



Note: Each data point plots the square root of the physician count for a group of family physicians/general practitioners or other specialist physicians in a particular provincial/territorial, sex, age group, and graduation year decade group.

Source: 2007 NPS Masterfile.

¹ This section has been adapted from: Canadian Institute for Health Information, *Analytical Bulletin: 2004 National Physician Survey Response Rates and Comparability of Physician Demographic Distributions with those of the Physician Population* (Ottawa: CIHI, 2005).