

**Table 1 Sociodemographic characteristic of the responding Syrian pharmacists (n = 656), 2013–2014**

Parameter	City (n = 217)	Countryside (n = 439)	Total (n = 656)	P-value <sup>a</sup>
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	
<b>Age (years)</b>				
20–29	24 (11.1)	158 (35.9)	182 (27.7)	0.013
30–39	38 (17.5)	83 (19)	121 (18.4)	
40–49	57 (26.3)	103 (23.5)	160 (24.4)	
50–59	62 (28.6)	56 (12.7)	118 (18.1)	
≥ 60	36 (16.5)	39 (8.9)	75 (11.4)	
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	137 (63.1)	286 (65.1)	423 (64.5)	0.736
<b>Highest pharmacy degree</b>				
Bachelor	149 (68.7)	313 (71.3)	462 (70.4)	0.042
Masters	29 (13.4)	47 (10.7)	76 (11.6)	
PhD/Pharm D	14 (6.4)	7 (1.6)	21 (3.2)	
Not reported <sup>b</sup>	25 (11.5)	72 (16.4)	97 (14.8)	
<b>Professional Practice setting</b>				
Community	194 (89.4)	436 (99.3)	630 (96)	0.033
Hospital (inpatient)	11 (5.1)	2 (0.46)	13 (2)	
Hospital (outpatient)	12 (5.5)	1 (0.23)	13 (2)	
<b>Experience (years)</b>				
< 2 <sup>c</sup>	0 (0)	212 (48.3)	212 (32.3)	0.027
2–5	28 (12.9)	118 (26.9)	146 (22.3)	
6–10	67 (30.9)	57 (13)	124 (18.9)	
11–15	88 (40.6)	23 (5.2)	111 (16.9)	
> 15	34 (15.6)	29 (6.6)	63 (9.6)	
<b>Average time spent in direct contact with patient for each prescription (min)</b>				
< 5	126 (58.1)	92 (21)	218 (33.2)	0.026
5–9	61 (28.1)	211 (48.1)	272 (41.5)	
10–15	26 (12)	81 (18.5)	107 (16.3)	
> 15	4 (1.8)	55 (12.4)	59 (9)	

<sup>a</sup>Chi-squared test.<sup>b</sup>Although unanswered, the minimum required for licensure in Syria is to obtain a bachelor degree.<sup>c</sup>In Syria, pharmacists cannot practice in the city without a minimum 2 years experience in the countryside.