School Psychology: A National Perspective from the 2020 Membership Survey

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NASP Research Committee
Agenda

1. Purpose
2. Method
3. Results
4. Summary and Next Steps
Purpose of Membership Survey

Provides overview of the profession every 5 years including:

- Demographics
- Effect of policy and legal changes
- Professional practices
- Guide advocacy
Method

● Survey Instrument
  ○ 53 items: demographics, professional practices, NASP’s Strategic Goals
  ○ Survey instrument available online

● Procedure
  ○ Emailed surveys and reminders on a weekly basis for a month
Participants

\[ N = 1,308 \]

- Sampled 30% of Regular and Early Career members by state
- School-based \( N = 1,031 \)
- Response rate: 33.2%
- Analyzed in Jamovi
General Demographics
Age & Gender

AGE

Range = 25 to 86

$M = 43.93 \ (11.89)$
Disability

- No answer: 1.4%
- Disability: 5.2%
- No Disability: 93.4%
Ethnicity & Race

- American Indian: 1%
- Asian: 2%
- Black or African American: 4%
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander: 9%
- White: 3%
- More than one race: 2%
- Self-describe: 2%
- No answer: 14%
Ethnicity & Race

- Prefer not to answer: 3.4%
- Prefer to Self-Describe: 6.8%
- Not of AMENA or Hispanic/Latinx origin: 79.3%
- Hispanic or Latinx origin: 6.0%
- Arab, Middle Eastern, or North African origin: 0.5%
**Language**

\[ n = 127 \ (12\%) \] respondents provide services in a second language.

Languages included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Albanian</th>
<th>Greek</th>
<th>Polish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Sign Language</td>
<td>Haitian Creole</td>
<td>Portuguese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Hebrew</td>
<td>Punjabi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armenian</td>
<td>Italia</td>
<td>Russian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basque</td>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgarian</td>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>Swedish</td>
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<td>Dutch</td>
<td>Lumbee</td>
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<td>Filipino</td>
<td>Mandarin Chinese</td>
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<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Navajo</td>
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</table>
Experience & Degree

Years of Experience

\[ M = 13.26 \text{ yrs} \]
\[ SD = 9.99 \]

Highest Degree Earned

- Doctoral level: 16.8%
- Specialist level: 73.9%
- Master's level: 9.3%
Licensure

- ABPP: 0.2%
- ABSNP: 1.8%
- BCBA: 1.2%
- LPC: 2.5%
- Teacher: 13.2%
- Lic. Psych.: 9.9%
- NCSP: 65.4%
Employment settings

- Traditional public school, 85.13%
- Public charter school, 6.98%
- Private school (including private charter schools), 3.95%
- College/University, 7.59%
- Independent Practice, 4.70%
- State Department of Education, 0.30%
- Hospital/Medical Setting, 1.06%
- Other, 5.92%
Salary by region

Western Region
- Median Salary: $80,000
- Avg. Salary: $81,458

Central Region
- Median Salary: $72,000
- Avg. Salary: $71,864

Southeast Region
- Median Salary: $63,000
- Avg. Salary: $65,397

Northeast Region
- Median Salary: $78,000
- Avg. Salary: $80,411
# Students to School Psychologist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,383:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1,244:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NASP Recommended</strong></td>
<td><strong>500:1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Practice Domains
Employment Setting & Contract Type

- **12-month:** 13.2%
- **11-month:** 23.3%
- **10-month:** 63.5%

- **Other:** 2.2%
- **Urban:** 24.4%
- **Suburban:** 52.7%
- **Rural:** 20.5%
- **Frontier:** 0.1%
How do school psychologists spend most of their time?

- Supervision: 26%
- Research: 13%
- Crisis Response: 36%
- Safe & Supportive Schools: 28%
- MBHS: 47%
- Academic Interventions: 22%
- Family Services: 15%
- System Consultation: 31%
- Teacher Consultation: 64%
- Evaluation Tasks: 88%

Percent spending "quite a bit" or "a great deal" of time on the task.
Assessment

Re-Evaluations

Initial Evaluations
Intervention

Other Counseling, Individual

MBHS, Individual

Academic Interventions, Individual
Intervention

Other Counseling, Group

MBHS, Group

Academic Interventions, Group
Consultation

**Instructional Support**
- A great deal: 10.9%
- Quite a bit: 20.0%
- Somewhat: 28.7%
- Very little/rarely: 23.7%
- Not at all: 16.7%

**Systems**
- A great deal: 29.9%
- Quite a bit: 34.4%
- Somewhat: 24.8%
- Very little/rarely: 8.3%
- Not at all: 2.6%
Summary

- School Psychologist to Student ratio has improved, but still far from the recommended 1:500

- More than 80% of School Psychologists identify as Female, White, Able-bodied, and Monolingual working in traditional public schools

- Overall average salary $78,011

- Most on a 10-month contract with majority of tasks focused on evaluation and followed by teacher consultation
Looking to the future

Post-2020...

- Increased mental health concerns from the pandemic, economic distress, and political tensions all negatively influencing children

- Ethnic and racial diversity of practitioners has not aligned with the ethnic and racial diversity of children in schools; recruitment and retention efforts must be increased

- Need for broader systems-level changes and practice changes to handle increased demand for services
Contact Information

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