

CWS Factsheet Series on Population Served: Psychologists Providing Services to the Working Poor

Key Findings

- **Younger, racial/ethnic minority psychologists, and those with disabilities** were more likely to provide services to the working poor at higher frequencies.
- **Psychologists with Psy.D. degrees, those working in organized human services settings** (hospitals, community mental health centers, etc.), those **working more hours** per week, and those under **salaried employment arrangement** were also more likely to provide service to the working poor at higher frequencies.

Background

This factsheet presents an analysis of the characteristics of psychologists providing services to the working poor based on responses from approximately 3,800 **doctoral-level licensed psychologists** in the **2015 APA Survey of Psychology Health Service Providers**.¹ In a typical week,

- 39% of psychologists **frequently or very frequently** provided services to the working poor, and
- 61% of psychologists **never, rarely, or occasionally** provided services to the working poor

Findings

Psychologists with the following characteristics were more likely to provide services to the working poor:

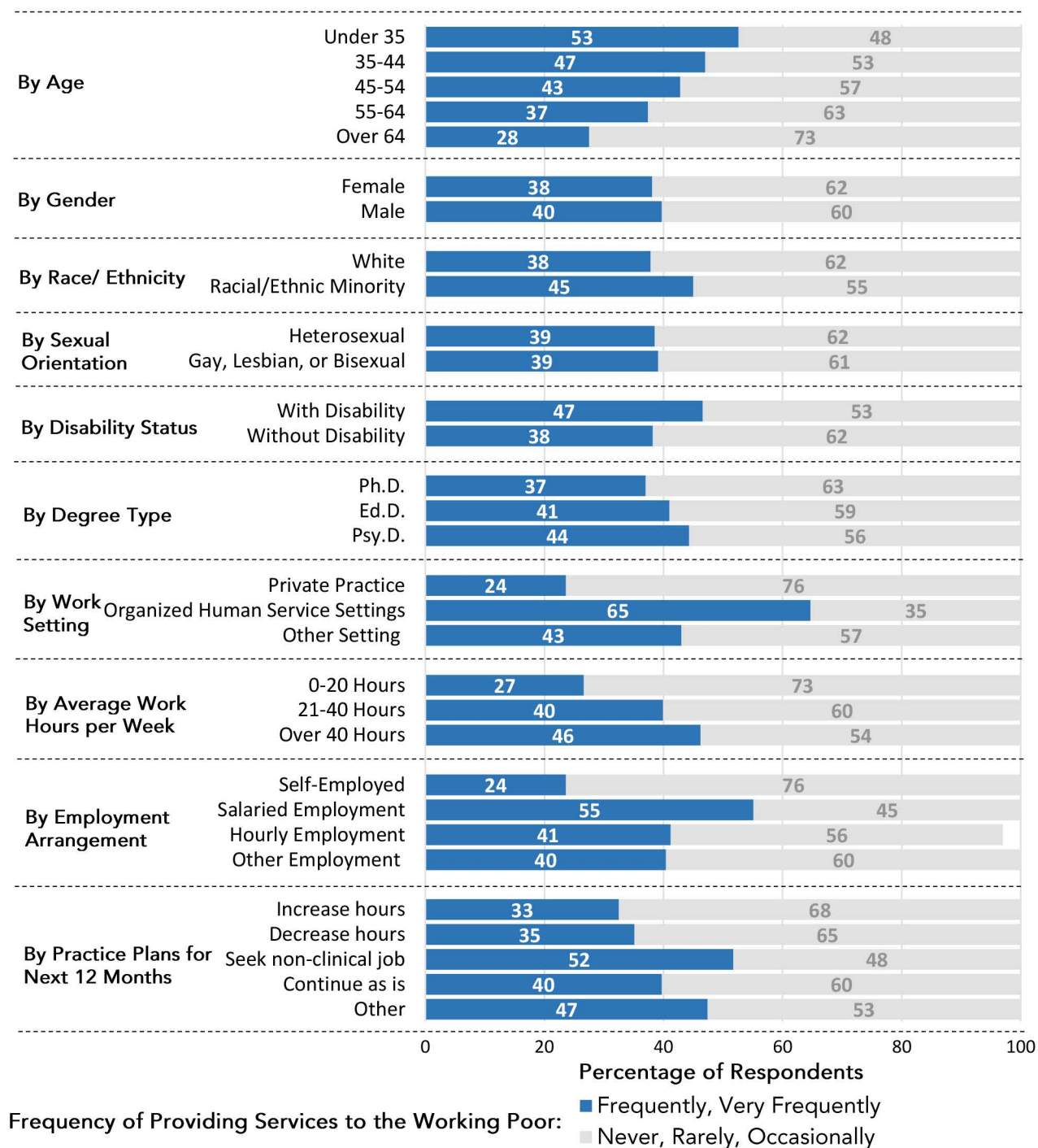
- **Younger** – 53% of psychologists under age 35 reported frequently or very frequently providing services to the working poor, more than those ages 35-44 (47%), 45-54 (43%), 55-64 (37%) and over 64 (28%).
- **Racial/ethnic minority** – more racial/ethnic minority psychologists (45%) than White psychologists (38%) reported frequently or very frequently providing services to the working poor.
- **With disabilities** – 47% of psychologists with disabilities reported frequently or very frequently providing services to the working poor, as opposed to 38% for psychologists without disabilities.
- **With Psy.D. degrees** – 44% of psychologists with Psy.D. degrees reported frequently or very frequently providing services to the working poor, more than those with Ph.D. (37%) or Ed.D. degrees (41%).
- **Working in organized human services settings**, such as hospitals, community mental health centers, etc. – 65% of psychologists working in organized human service settings reported frequently or very frequently providing services to the working poor, more than those in private practices (24%) and other settings, i.e., business, government settings, universities (43%).
- **Working more hours per week** – 40% of psychologists who worked 21-40 hours per week and 46% of those worked more than 40 hours per week reported frequently or very frequently providing services to the working poor, whereas only 27% of those who worked 20 hours per week or less reported the same.
- **Salaried employment** – 55% of psychologists under salaried employment reported frequently or very frequently serving the working poor, more than those self-employed (24%), under hourly employment (41%), or other employment arrangement (40%).

1. All statements in this factsheet are based on χ^2 test results. For more information about χ^2 test results, please refer to the documentation file for this factsheet series. For more information about other findings of the survey or the survey methodology, please refer to the report: American Psychological Association. (2016). *2015 survey of psychology health service providers*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/workforce/publications/15-health-service-providers/index.aspx>

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Characteristics of Psychologists Providing Services to the Working Poor

Characteristics of Psychologists



Note: Missing values were excluded prior to analysis.
Source: 2015 APA Survey of Psychology Health Service Providers.