



AMERICAN
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Researching the Psychology Workforce

Quarterly COPAFS Meeting
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What do we do?

Mission Statement

The APA Center for Workforce Studies collects, analyzes, and disseminates information relevant to psychology's workforce and education system.



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The psychology workforce is...

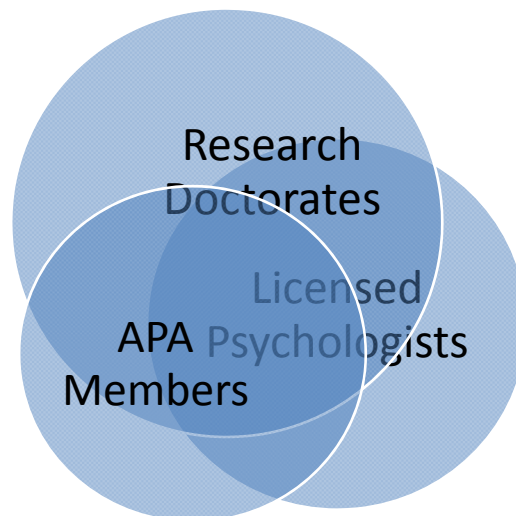
... complex.

*.... defined by possession of a
doctorate in psychology.*

*... characterized by overlapping data
sources.*



How many psychologists are in the U.S.?



Where do our data come from?

Center for Workforce Studies/APA Data Sources

- **CWS Surveys**
 - Faculty Salaries in Graduate Departments of Psychology
 - Doctorate Employment Survey
 - Salaries in Psychology Survey
 - Health Service Provider Survey
- **APA Member Profiles**
- **Graduate Study in Psychology**



Where do our data come from?

Administrative Data Sources

- **State licensure board lists**
- **Dissertation abstracts**
- **“Data warehouse”** containing information on all psychologists



Where do our data come from?

Federal Data Sources

- **National Science Foundation (NSF), National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)**
 - Survey of Earned Doctorates
 - Survey of Doctorate Recipients
 - Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT)
- **U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)**
 - Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)
 - Digest of Education Statistics
- **U.S. Census Bureau**
 - Population estimates
 - American Community Survey



Where do our data come from?

Federal Data Sources (continued)

- **Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)**
 - Occupational Outlook Handbook
 - Occupational Employment Statistics
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**
 - Behavioral Health United States
- **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)**
 - Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)
- **Other Sources**
 - CDC, HRSA



Challenges in Researching the Psychology Workforce

- **How is a psychologist defined?**
 - **Occupation?**
 - Level of occupation detail in the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system
 - Postsecondary teachers of psychology
 - **Education level and degree field?**
 - Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) degrees
 - The SOC does not distinguish between education levels
 - ACS has field of bachelor's degree and level of degree
- **What about license status?**
 - SOC definitions are based on work performed and do not distinguish between licensed and non-licensed individuals
- **Acknowledge strengths and limitations of each data source**



How many psychologists are licensed in the United States?

Auntre¹ Hamp, MEd, MPH, Karen Stamm, PhD, Peggy Christidis, PhD, Andrew Nigrinis, PhD
American Psychological Association, Center for Workforce Studies, May 2014

Although licensure laws vary from state to state, becoming licensed as a psychologist is typically the culmination of earning a doctoral degree in clinical, counseling, or school psychology, accruing postdoctoral clinical hours, and passing the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology.

An estimated 106,500 psychologists possess current licenses in the United States.¹

- California (17,890) followed by New York (12,020) and Pennsylvania (5,620) have the most licensed psychologists, while Wyoming (170), South Dakota (190) and Alaska (190) have the least.



Approximately 33.9 psychologists are licensed per 100,000 population in the United States.^{1,2}

- The District of Columbia (173.3) and Vermont (100.5) have the highest representation of licensed psychologists per 100,000 population, while Mississippi (11.9) and South Carolina (13.0) have the lowest.
- The South region (24.0) has the lowest representation of licensed psychologists when compared with the Midwest (30.6), West (37.5) and Northeast regions (54.2).^{1,2,3}





For more information, please see
the CWS website: www.apa.org/workforce

Questions?

Contact us at cws@apa.org