

Race/Ethnicity of Doctorate Recipients in Psychology in the Past Ten Years: 2010

In response to a request from Dr. Holliday in Public Interest, CWS staff compiled data summarizing the representation of ethnic minorities at the doctoral-level in psychology. Additional data will be provided on representation in the pipeline, by degree level and type, and we will provide some data from other science and engineering fields for comparison purposes. Unlike some Federal agencies, CWS includes Asians in the counts of racial/ethnic minorities in psychology.

Psychology Doctorates

Most recent data from December 2009, as reported in *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities: Summary Report 2007-2008* (NSF 10-309)

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/doctorates> indicated that 20% of Psychology PhDs were awarded to minority graduates in 2008. This varied by psychology subfield, from a low of just over 13% in experimental to a high of 25% in I/O. NSF data indicate that in 2000, minority representation was 16.7% and in 1998 was at 15.5%.

From the 2007 APA Doctorate Employment Survey CWS found that 22% of new doctorates were members of a minority group. Ten years ago the representation was at 15%. In 2007, of those respondents providing an answer, Hispanics and Blacks/African Americans each comprised 5% of the new doctorates while Asians represented 6%. Two Native Americans responded to the survey, while those who specified multiple race/ethnicity were 2% of respondents. Forty-eight of the 1,146 respondents did not report their racial or ethnic background. These numbers include PsyDs which is not the case for NSF data.

Comparison With Other S/E Fields

NSF data provide the opportunity to see how psychology fared in 2008 in terms of minority representation vis a vis other fields. Table 9 from the most recent NSF report noted earlier contained data that show that 24% of new psychology doctorates who were US citizens and permanent residents reported minority status. In Engineering, minority representation was at 27%. Education fields reported 25.8 % minority, Biology and biomedical fields claimed 24%, Mathematics was at 19% and Chemistry reported 23%.

Over the past two decades all the science and engineering fields have generally witnessed an increase in minority representation from less than 20% in 1988. As an example, the social sciences reported only 14% minority representation. By 2008, all fields were better than 20% minority and in most cases reported one-fourth or better minority representation.

First-Year Graduate Students in Psychology

These data were compiled from the 2010 Graduate Study in Psychology effort and were collected in 2009. We have race/ethnicity for first-year students only. For full-time

students in 2008-2009 minority representation was 24%, 33%, and 22% respectively, in public doctoral, private doctoral, and public and private master's programs in the U.S. Of 16 Canadian departments reporting, only 9% of first-year full-time students were reported as being racial/ethnic minorities. In 2008-2009, among part-time students, minority representation was 30% in public doctoral programs and 36% in private doctoral programs for first-year students. At the master's level we found 35% minority in public settings and 28% in private settings. Numbers of part-time students were much smaller than full-time students and represented only 14% of all first-year students.

At the doctoral level by setting of department, minority students represented 26% of first-year full-time students in traditional health service provider programs in 2008-2009 and 33% of first-year full-time students in professional school settings. For part-time students, minority students represented 31% of first-year part-time students in traditional health service provider programs in 2008-2009 and 37% of first-year part-time students in professional school settings.