

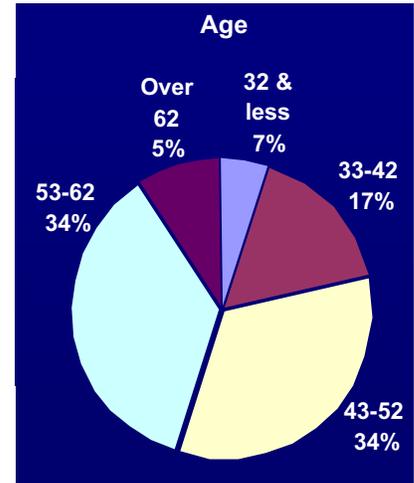
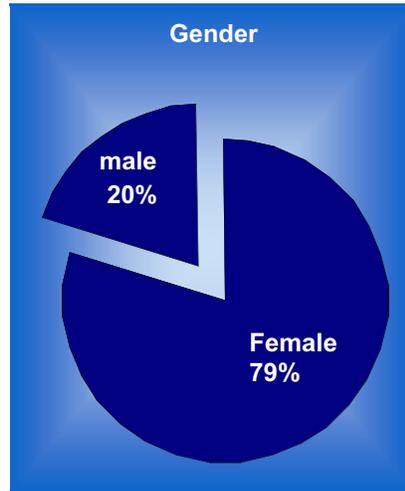
What is NASW's Practice Research Network?

Through funding provided by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), NASW created the concept of a Practice Research Network (PRN). The goal of the PRN project is to collect data from social work practitioners, and to use the data to develop best practices, inform policy, and improve service delivery. NASW is designing and conducting a series of practice-based research surveys to help meet this goal. The information presented in this Datagram is from the second survey, conducted in 2002. This survey included elements about client and provider demographics, as well as more detailed information about substance abuse treatment provided by social workers. The second PRN survey follows the initial effort in 2000, focusing on clinical social work practice and substance abuse-services issues relevant to the profession.

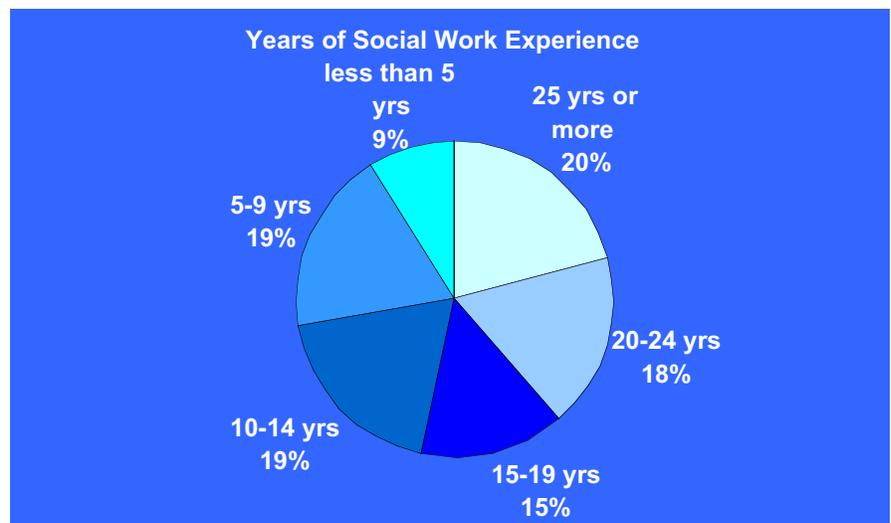
Practice Research Network Survey 2002

- Conducted during Fall, 2002
- Randomly administered to 2,000 NASW regular members
- Response rate of 78% (n=1,560), making the data highly representative; margin of error of +/- 2.5% at a 95% confidence level

Most NASW regular members are female (79%); 1% of those surveyed did not respond to the gender question. The median age is 50, nearly three-fourths (73%) were born before 1960, and 24% born during or after 1960.



Master's level is the highest social work degree held by the majority of NASW regular members (91%), and 6% of NASW members hold a doctorate degree.

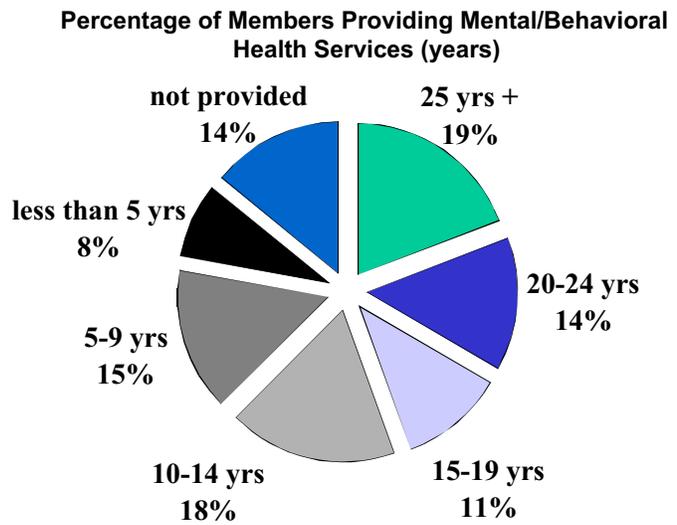


The typical NASW regular member has 16 years of social work experience since earning her/his first social work degree. More than a third (39%) reported 20 or more years' experience, and 9% reported fewer than five years in the field.

Mental/Behavioral Health Services

Respondents also were asked the number of years they had been providing mental/behavioral health services. The median response was 16 years, with 33% indicating 20 years or more, and 8% indicating fewer than five years. 14% reported they do not provide such services.

Practically all NASW regular members (92%) currently hold some form of state social work license, certification, or registration. A small percentage of members (8%) hold at least one substance abuse certification, and 7% reported having multiple certifications.



Marital Status

Two-thirds (66%) of regular members reported being married, 8% reported having domestic partners, and one-fourth (25%) are single. 1% of those surveyed did not respond to this question.

Ethnic/Racial Origin

A majority (87%) of regular members list their racial/ethnic origin as "White/Caucasian," and 5% selected "African American/Black." The remainder of members fall into other racial/ethnic categories.

