



Informing Research and Policy through Social Work Practice

PRN Datagram.....PRN Datagram.....PRN Datagram

Practice Area
PRN 1, 3, 2000

What is NASW's Practice Research Network?

With funding support from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, NASW created the concept of a Practice Research Network (PRN). NASW is designing a series of practice-based research surveys that will build the information resources of the social work profession. The first survey included elements about client and provider demographics as well as more detailed information about substance abuse treatment. The goal of the PRN project is to collect data from social work practitioners and use the data to develop best practices, inform policy, and improve service delivery.

PRN Working Group

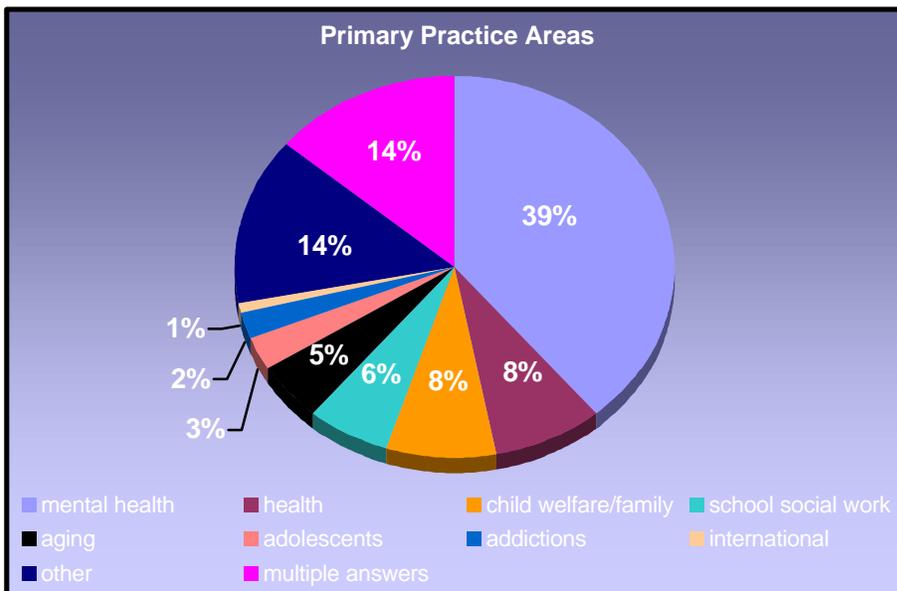
- Barbara Shank, Chair
- Gloria Aguilar
- Mark Battle
- Camielle Call-Tarbet
- Jerry Flanzer
- Alton Hadley
- Myra Wesley King
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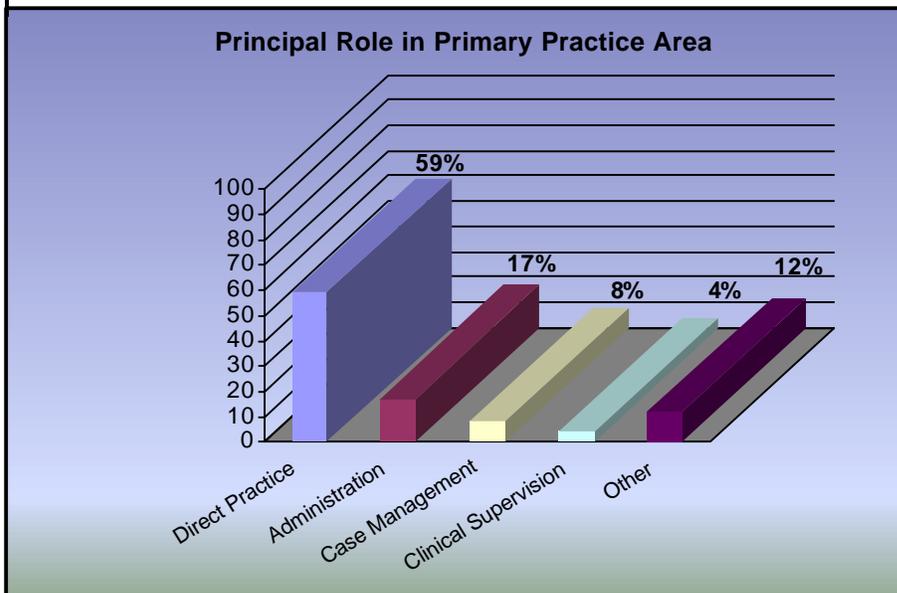
Toby Weismiller
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Practice Research Survey 2000

- Conducted in April 2000
- Administered to 2,000 NASW regular members
- Response rate of 81% - making the data highly representative. Margin of error of +/- 2.4% at the 95% confidence level.



The most frequently cited practice area was mental health. 39% of members reported that mental health was their primary practice area. 8% reported health, 8% reported child welfare/families, and 6% reported school social work as their primary practice area. A combined total of 11% reported aging, adolescents, addictions, and international as primary practice areas while 28% identified multiple areas or other categories.



59% of members reported their principal role in their primary practice area as direct practice. 17% identified their role as administration, 8% identified case management and 4% identified clinical supervision as their principal roles. 12% identified "other".

75% of members reported they are employed in an organizational (as opposed to a private practice) setting. Of these, 22% are employed in outpatient mental health setting, 10% are employed in schools, 9% in social services agencies, 8% in hospitals with a mental health unit, 6% in universities, and 5% in government social services agencies. A third of respondents identified “other” as their employment setting.

