



Informing Research and Policy through Social Work Practice

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

Social Work Income 2
PRN 1, 6, 2002

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

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- Alton Hadley
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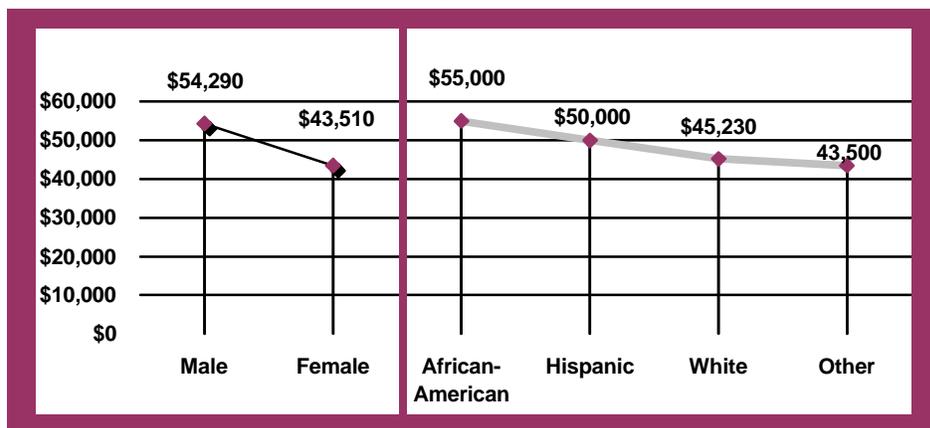
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Practice Research Survey 2000

- 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.

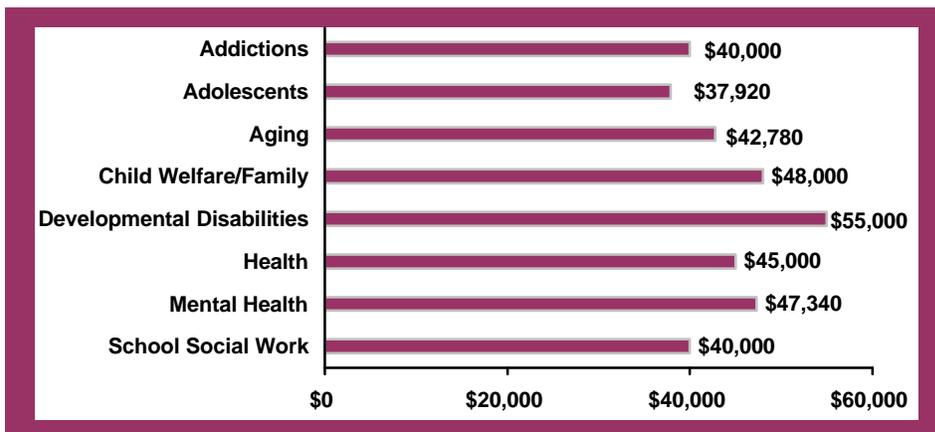
Variations in Median Salaries Among Members



Fifty one percent of members report that they are employed full-time in a social work position. Their median 1999 income was \$45,600.

Men earned about \$10,780 more than women with a median income for men reported at \$54,290 and for women, \$43,510. When comparing full time social work median salary by race, we found that African American members earned the most, \$55,000, followed by Hispanic members, \$50,000. White members' earnings averaged \$45,230.

1999 Full-Time Social Work Income by Primary Practice Area



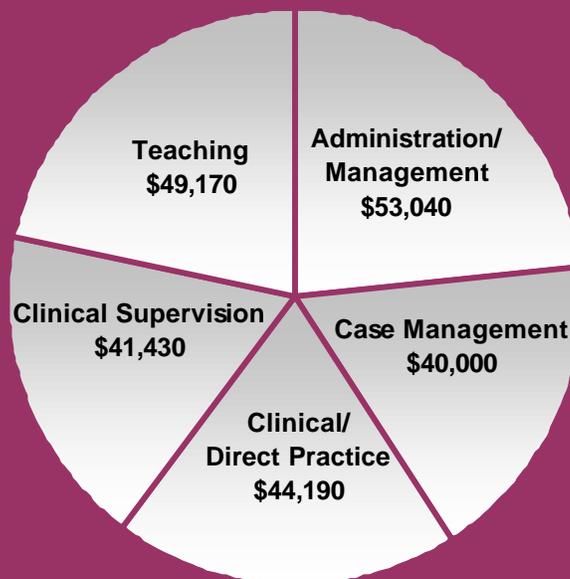
Income varied depending on practice area. The median income for members who identified developmental disabilities as their primary practice area was \$55,000. Median salaries for members whose primary practice areas were child welfare/family and mental health were fairly similar, \$48,000 and \$47,340 respectively. School social workers and social workers specializing in addictions averaged incomes of \$40,000. Those working with adolescents reported the lowest median income - \$37,920.

1999 Full-Time Social Work Income by Primary Organization



Variations in median income were also noted across the different types of organizations providing members primary social work employment. Income for practitioners in solo practice was the highest--\$62,500. Social workers employed in four other settings had median incomes that ranged at or around \$50,000—residential facilities (\$51,670), child welfare agencies (\$51,110), government agencies (\$50,000) and group private practice (\$50,000). Median incomes were lower for social work employment in nursing home/hospice settings (\$38,500), outpatient mental health (\$38,610) and social service agencies (\$39,820).

1999 Full-Time Social Work Income by Principal Role



Survey participants reported on their principal role in their primary practice area. Nearly 60% of members reported clinical/direct practice as their primary practice area. The median income for direct clinical practitioners was \$44,190. The highest income was reported for those in administration and management--\$53,040. This was followed by teaching--\$49,170. The lowest median income was reported for those whose primary role was case management--\$40,000.