

Minnesota's Psychology Workforce, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 PSYCHOLOGY WORKFORCE SURVEYⁱ

Overall

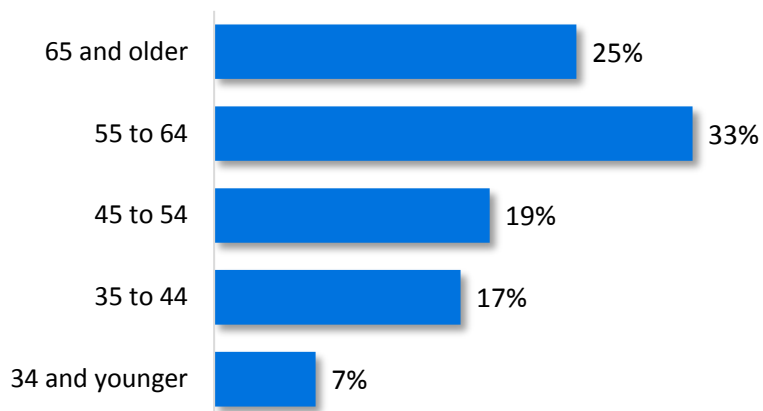
According to the Minnesota Board of Psychology, as of February 2016, there were **3,824** actively licensed psychologists.ⁱⁱ

Demographics

Sex. Psychology is female-dominated; 65 percent of psychologists are women. This is similar to the male/female distribution in other mental health professions.

Age. Psychology is one of the oldest professions in Minnesota's health care sector, demographically speaking. More than half of all psychologists are age 55 or older, and the youngest cohorts of psychologists are proportionately small, suggesting that there is not a large pipeline of new professionals entering the field to replace those retiring.

Age of Minnesota Psychologists

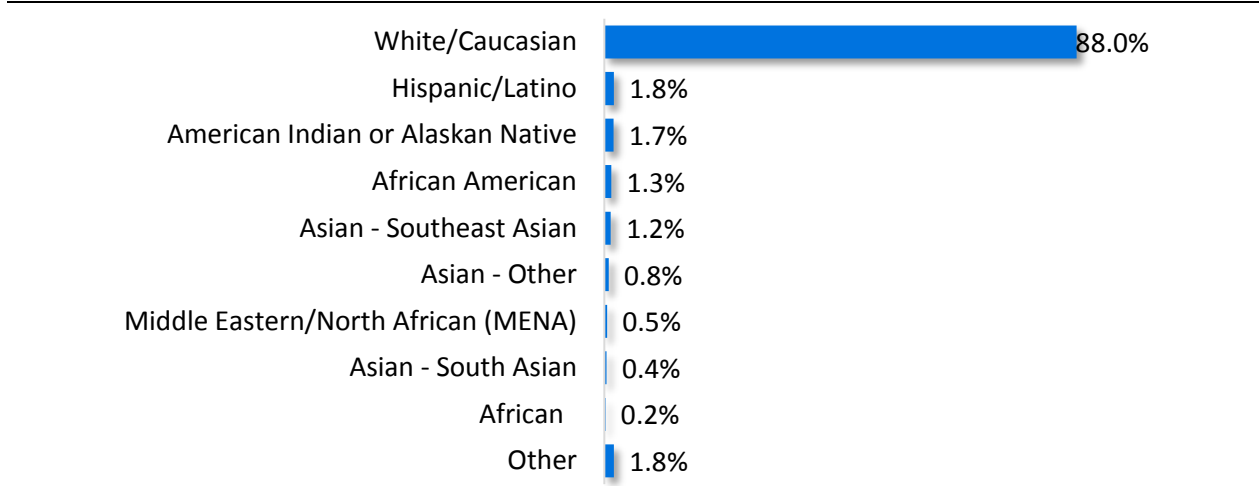


Source: Minnesota Board of Psychology, February 2016. Analysis done by MDH. Percentages are based on all 3,824 licensees.

MINNESOTA PSYCHOLOGY WORKFORCE, 2016

Race. The vast majority (88 percent) of psychologists indicated that they were white, which is typical of healthcare professionals in Minnesota.

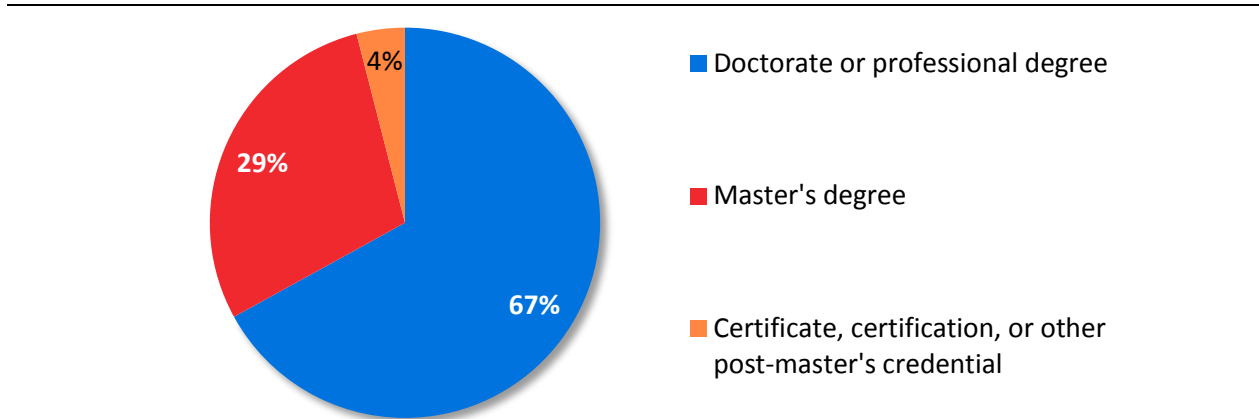
Race of Minnesota Psychologists



Source: MDH Psychologist Workforce Questionnaire, 2016. Respondents could select as many races as applicable.

Education Level. Psychologists who enter the profession today must have a doctorate degree for licensure in Minnesota, and the majority of psychologists (67 percent) also have either a PhD or a PsyD (a professional clinical) degree.

Education Level of Minnesota Psychologists

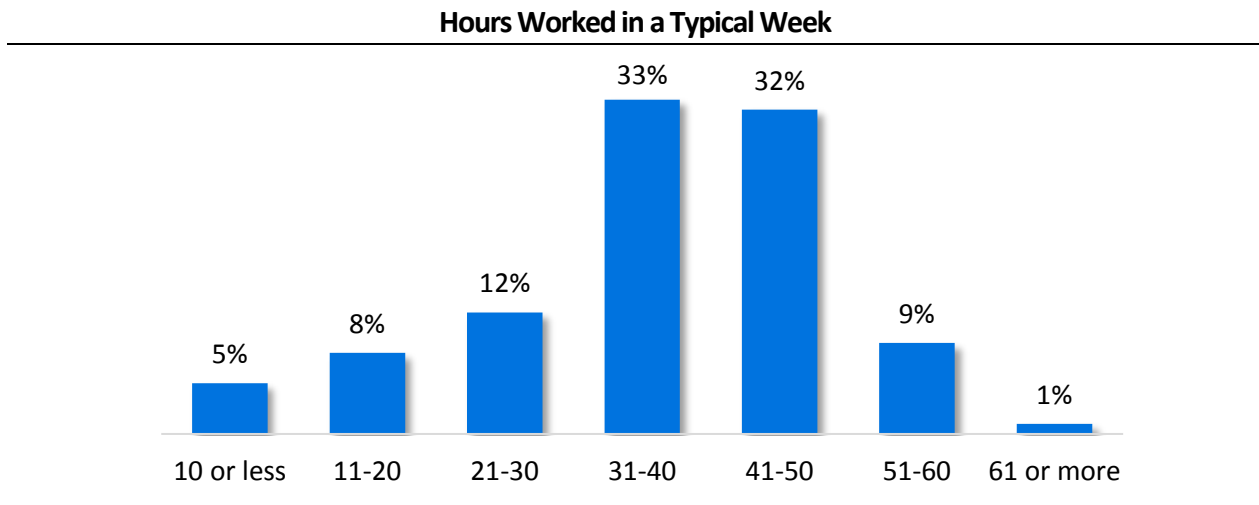


Source: MDH Psychologist Workforce Questionnaire, 2016. The chart is based on 1,268 survey responses.

Employment

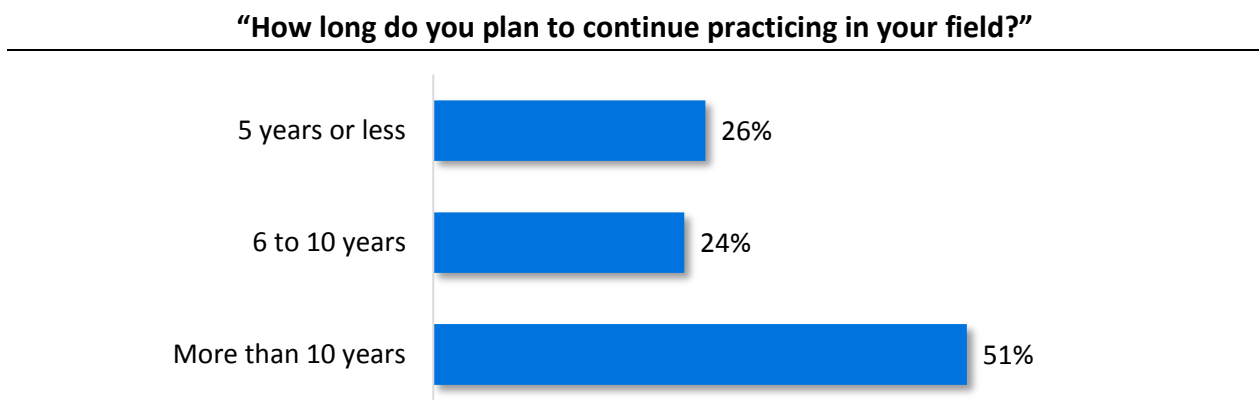
Share of Psychologists Employed. A total of **94 percent** of Minnesota licensed psychologists reported on the MDH questionnaire that they were “working in a paid or unpaid position related to [their] license.” Of the small share *not* working in a psychology-related capacity, the vast majority indicated that they were also not *seeking work* as a psychologist because they were either retired or working in another field.

Hours Worked. Psychologists reported the number of hours they worked in a typical week. While the median number of hours worked in a week was 40, nearly one-third of psychologists worked more than that—between 41 and 50 hours per week.



Source: MDH Psychologist Workforce Questionnaire, 2016. The chart is based on 1,253 survey responses.

Future Plans. More than one quarter indicated that they planned to leave the field within five years. Of those planning to leave, the vast majority (90 percent) indicated that they planned to retire.



Source: MDH Psychologist Workforce Questionnaire, 2016. The chart is based on 1,248 survey responses.

Work Setting. The questionnaire asked psychologists to identify their work settings. The majority of psychologists worked in a clinic setting (including professional office or other ambulatory care facility). (Additionally, not shown below: just under 43 percent of psychologists surveyed reported that they owned or co-owned a private practice.)

Psychologists' Work Setting

Setting	Share of Psychologists Working in this Setting
Clinic / Professional Office / Health Center / Ambulatory Care	62.1%
Hospital	9.2%
Academic (Teaching / Research)	5.7%
Community / Faith-Based Organization	4.4%
State, County, or City Agency	2.9%
Correctional Facility	1.9%
Long-Term Care Facility	1.9%
School (K-12)	1.4%
Insurance / Benefits Management Organization	1.0%
Home Health Care	0.7%
Public Health Agency	0.4%
Other	8.4%

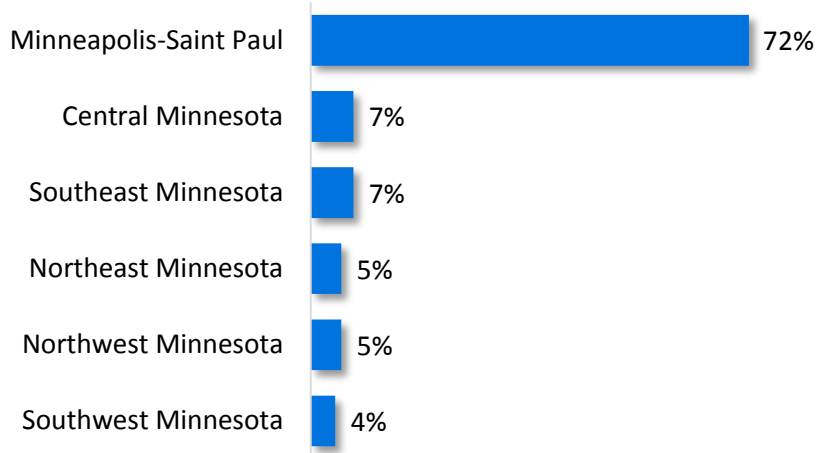
Source: MDH Psychologist Workforce Questionnaire, 2016. The chart is based on 1,202 survey responses.

Geographic Distribution

To get a sense of the accessibility of psychological services around the state, the next two charts provide two different views of the geographic distribution of psychologists. These analyses are based on geocoded addresses that are supplied to the Board of Psychology at the time of license renewal.ⁱⁱⁱ

Distribution by Region. The first chart shows the distribution of psychologists across the six planning areas around Minnesota. As shown, the vast majority of psychologists (72 percent) are practicing in the Twin Cities metro area, with significantly smaller shares practicing everywhere else in the state. For reference, the Twin Cities metro area houses approximately 54 percent of the state’s population, and the remainder of the state regions house between 6 and 13 percent. This suggests that the location of psychologists—and therefore the accessibility of psychological services—is heavily concentrated in the Twin Cities metro area, even relative to the large population there. It also suggests that Central Minnesota region might feel the lack of psychologists more than other regions.

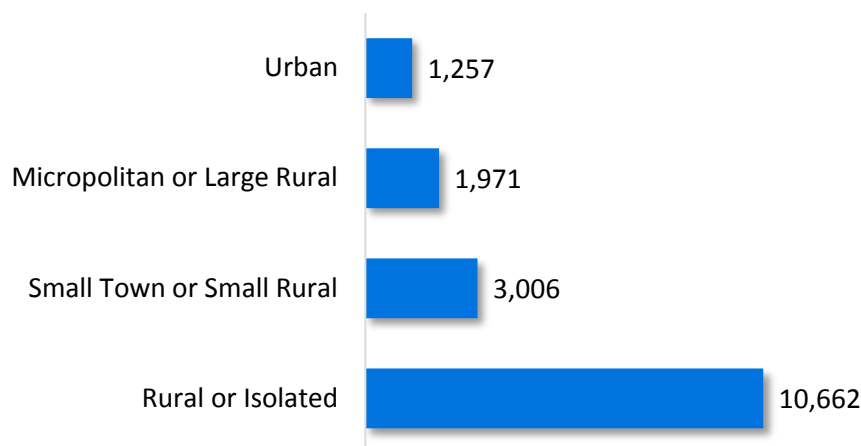
Psychologists by Minnesota Region



Source: Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) geocoding and analysis of February, 2016 Minnesota Board of Psychology address data. Percentages above are based on 3,556 valid Minnesota addresses.

Distribution across urban and rural areas. The chart below provides another view of the geographic distribution of psychologists, showing the size of the population for every one psychologist in urban, micropolitan, small town, and rural areas. As shown, there are just over 1,200 people for every one psychologist in urban areas of Minnesota, compared to nearly ten times that many in the most rural areas of the state. This general pattern is typical of other healthcare professions, and reflects the relative inaccessibility of care in sparsely populated areas of Minnesota.

Minnesota Population-to-Psychologist Ratio



Source: Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) analysis of February, 2016 Minnesota Board of Psychology address data. Percentages above are based on 3,556 valid Minnesota addresses.

Visit our website at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/data/workforce/index.html> to learn about the Minnesota healthcare workforce. County-level data for this profession is available at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/data/workforce/database/index.html>

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ⁱ The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), in cooperation with the Minnesota Board of Psychology, collects information on demographics, education, career and future plans of psychologists during a workforce questionnaire in April, 2016. Unless noted, all data are based on information collected from that survey. The survey response rate for the psychology survey was 35 percent. MDH conducted analyses to ensure that the sample of respondents was as representative as possible of all licensed psychologists in Minnesota. Psychologists of all ages and both sexes were equally likely to respond to the survey. However, psychologists with out-of-state addresses were less likely to respond to the survey than psychologists with in-state addresses.

ⁱⁱ Of the total licensed professionals, 241 listed a practice address outside of Minnesota; 27 did not provide a practice address, and based on survey responses, 6% of the total licensees are not currently practicing as a psychologist. Thus, not all actively licensed psychologists are part of the Minnesota psychology workforce.

ⁱⁱⁱ Addresses are generally practice locations, but a small number of psychologists reported organization headquarters and/or home addresses. Additionally, approximately seven percent of psychologists reported either an out-of-state address or no address to the Board; these professionals may or may not be providing services in Minnesota, but could not be geocoded.