DATA BRIEF

See also full report[1] at http://ahec.iupui.edu/hws

Indiana Mental Health Professionals
2012 Licensure Survey

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CONCLUSIONS

Indiana's mental health workforce includes health care providers from many different professional and educational backgrounds. Demand for mental health services is expected to rise as more Indiana residents are able to obtain health coverage through insurance exchanges and the proposed expansion of the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP 2.0). Access to mental health care services can be improved by:

1. increasing workforce diversity,

2. improving geographic distribution of mental health professionals,

3. recruiting and retaining new mental health professionals.

Background

Understanding Indiana's healthcare workforce is critical to ensuring that Indiana residents have access to high quality care, to developing programs that train practitioners to meet future needs, and to recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals in Indiana. The mental health workforce in Indiana is composed of social workers, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and psychiatric/mental health advanced practice nurses. The data summarized here were collected during biennial license renewals in 2012 and 2013, and in a 2014 survey of psychiatric nurses.[1]

Psychiatrists

Psychiatrists are a shrinking part of the mental health workforce in Indiana, declining since 2009 to 356 in 2013. There were 43 counties in which no psychiatrist reported practicing. More than 25% of psychiatrists reported that greater than one-half of his or her patients paid using Indiana Medicaid. Nearly 20% of psychiatrists indicated that they do not accept Indiana Medicaid patients, and more than 50% did not offer a sliding fee scale.

Psychiatric/mental health nurses

A 2014 "snowball" survey[2] found 76 certified psychiatric/mental health advanced practice nurses actively practicing in Indiana. Public or community health was the most common practice setting (31.2%) followed by ambulatory care (24.7%) and hospitals (24.7%). One-third of Indiana psychiatrists reported working with a nurse practitioner.

1. Sheff ZT, Barclay JC, Banti S. *2012 Indiana Mental Health Professionals Licensure Survey Report.* Indianapolis: Indiana University, June 2014.

2. In snowball sampling, respondents recruit future respondents among their acquaintances. This is a useful technique when the whole population is not known, as with Indiana psychiatric nurses. The snowball technique makes it difficult to estimate accurately the total number of psychiatric nurses active in Indiana.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

As in many health professions, most of Indiana's mental health professionals were non-Hispanic (98%) and white (92%). In all sectors of the mental health workforce, African Americans and individuals of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity were under-represented—that is, the proportion of mental health professionals from these backgrounds was less than the proportion of Indiana's population from these backgrounds. Few mental health professionals reported being fluent in a language other than English.

Psychologists

The number of licensed psychologists actively practicing in Indiana rose from 2010 to 2012 by about 25%, to 1,064. There are 27 counties in which no psychologist reported practicing.

Social workers, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselors

Between 2004 and 2012, the total number of social workers, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselors with an active license has risen, but the number of these professionals practicing in Indiana has remained roughly constant. These professionals were concentrated in urban areas, and there are five counties in which none of these professionals reported practicing.

Number of Indiana Licenses by Year, Selected Mental Health Professions