

## Interesting Facts About The Declining Number of Specialty Psychologists In Some NPTC Regions

I have been a subscriber to the American Psychological Association (APA) monthly magazine the Monitor on Psychology since my contribution in 2016 (see Monitor, **JUDICIAL NOTEBOOK: Courtroom semantics: The impact of Ebonics**).

The current issue of the Monitor revisited a topic relevant to interns as we prepare for a life and career after NPTC. Some of us might be searching for 1- to 2-year postdoctoral fellowships in research/academic settings. Some of us may be searching for a permanent full-time job. Others might not even be thinking about what comes next and just need a break to gather their thoughts. With that said, I'd like to share some information I read in this month issue of the Monitor that might help with your decision-making. The fact is, there seems to be a decline in the number of psychologists in some NPTC Regions. This indicates a greater need for psychologist with specialty training and you might want to consider pursuing a career in your NPTC region.

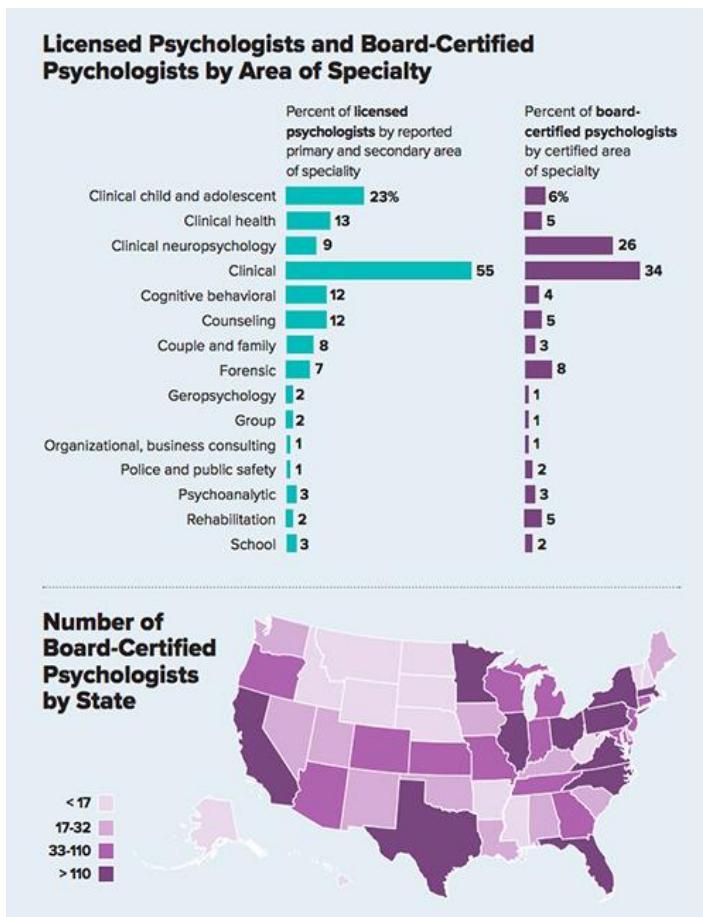


Image 1

In 2017, the Monitor published an education and employment story titled: [DATAPOINT: A look at psychologists' specialty areas](#). Authors Lin, Christidis, and Stamm reported how, in 2017, approximately 3,900 (approximately 4%) of licensed psychologists across the U.S. were board (reported by the American Board of Professional Psychology [ABPP] Certification). According to the authors, states with the highest number of board-certified psychologists who specialize in a specific area of psychology included California (422), New York (297), Florida (277), Texas (226) and Massachusetts (176).

Lin, Christidis, and Stamm (2017) also reported that board-certified psychologists predominantly specialized in clinical psychology and clinical neuropsychology.

In the adjacent image (image credit: Lin, Christidis, and Stamm 2017) you will notice that some of the geographic regions of NPTC represent anywhere between 33 to 110 board certified psychologists per state. You might be asking why is this important to me? I will explain

In 2024, the same authors published an update to their 2017 Monitor Datapoint report about [the most and least common specialty areas for licensed psychologists](#). However, in comparison to the 2017 geographical map of board-certified psychologists by state, there was noticeable difference to me. While in information in the report showed that clinical psychology and clinical neuropsychology still claimed the top spot as

the most self-reported specialty, the geographical map of board-certified psychologists by state was noticeably different. I noticed that some of the states represented by NPTC, the shading of the U.S (Page, Stamm, Assefa, and Khaddouma, 2024) reflect a decline in the number of specialty psychologists.

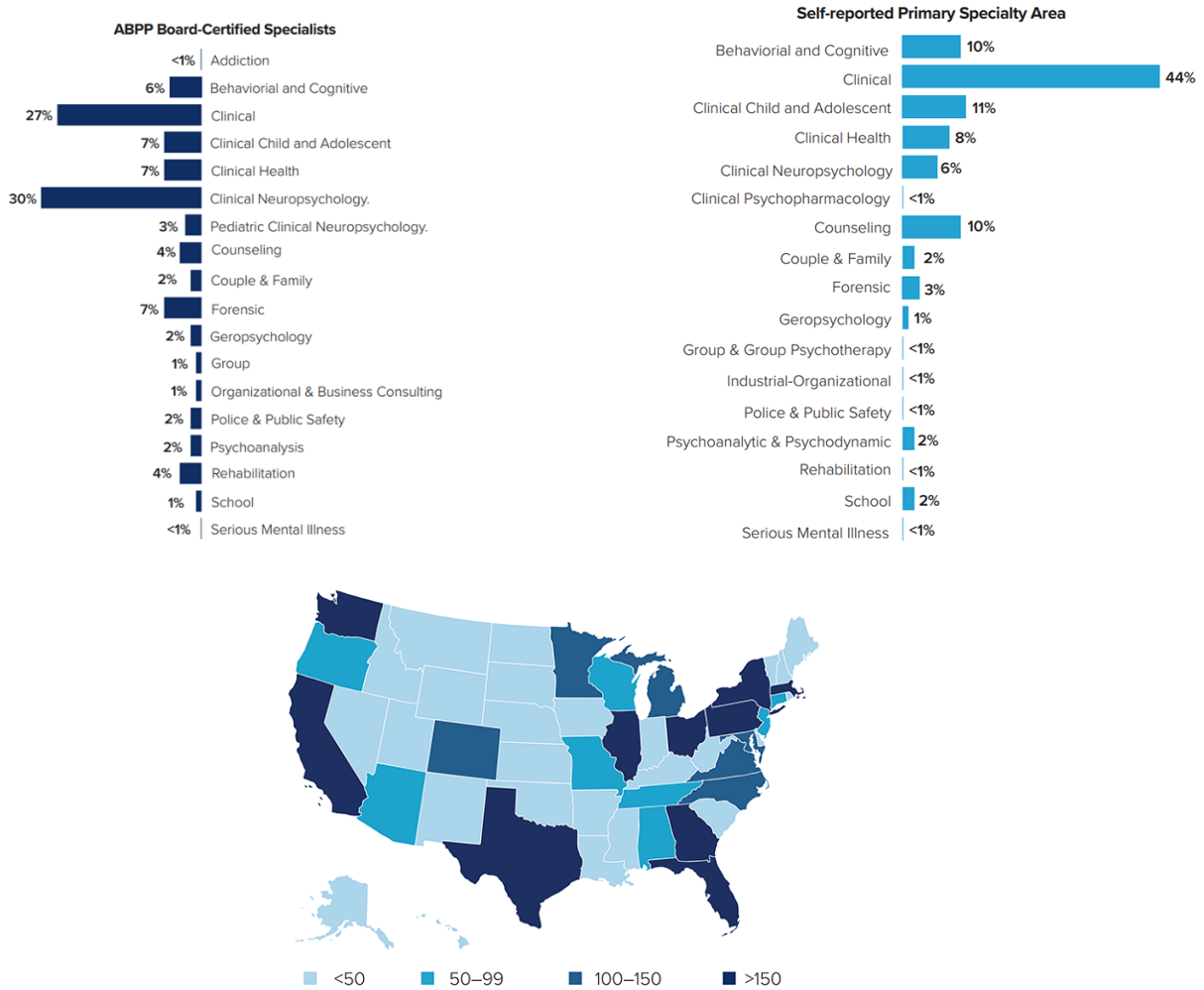


Image 2

Why is this an important point to mention? First, the geographic distribution of board-certified psychologists across states seem to reflect similar distribution of all licensed psychologists as those in 2017, there are a few minor yet important differences. For example, while California (427), Florida (279), and Texas (258) show a slight increases in licensed psychologists. However, New York (295) shows a decrease and my state, the Indiana, part of the NPTC Great-Lakes Region reflects a decline from 33 to 110 to less than fifty (<50) across my state since 2017. This is not the datapoints I had not expected to see, and I felt a little despondent. For this reason (i.e., decline of specialty psychologists in some of the NPTC regions), as you consider the next step in your career, may I encourage you to consider pursuing a career in your respective region or state. As consequence, in addition to issues of affordability, the decline people who specialize in psychology, serves to grow an unmet need.

Claire Scott-Bacon

## References

DATAPOINT: A look at psychologists' specialty areas. News from APA's Center for Workforce Studies By Luona Lin, MPP, Peggy Christidis, PhD, and Karen Stamm, PhD. September 2017, Vol 48, No. 8 Print version: page 15. Online version <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2017/09/datapoint>

Research Datapoint: The most and least common specialty areas for licensed psychologists. Clinical psychology is the top self-reported specialty, whereas clinical neuropsychology is the top ABPP certification. By Cory Page, MPH, Karen Stamm, PhD, Meron Assefa, and Alexander Khaddouma, PhD. Date created: March 1, 2024. Vol. 55 No. 2., Print version: page 19. Online version <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2024/03/top-psychology-specialties>

RESEARCH: Why people aren't getting the care they need. News on psychologists' education and employment from APA's Center for Workforce Studies By Jessica Conroy, Luona Lin, and Amrita Ghaness, BA. Date created: July 1, 2020. Vol. 51, No. 5 Print version: page 21. Online version: <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2024/03/top-psychology-specialties>

Image 1 Retrieved on 3/11/2024 from <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2017/09/datapoint>

Image 2 retrieved on 3/11/2024 from <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2024/03/top-psychology-specialties>