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## **Fluency and Use of Languages Other Than English Among School Psychologists: Data From the NASP Membership Survey**

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October 2008

Fluency of school personnel in languages other than English is an important factor in the ability of school systems to meet the needs of their increasingly diverse student populations. The NASP Research Committee collects data on language fluency and use among school psychologists every five years with the NASP Membership Survey. The most recent survey was conducted in the fall of 2005, with a randomly selected sample of 20% of NASP regular members by state. The 1,748 completed surveys represented a 59.3% response rate. Respondents reported that their primary employment positions were 80.4% practicing school psychologist, 6.0% university faculty, 5.4% administrator, 0.6% employee in a state education department, and 7.6% other. For more information about the survey, including extensive results, methods, limitations, see Curtis et al. (2008). The following is a summary of the fluency and use of languages other than English among school psychologists (NASP, 2008):

### **Survey Item: What language(s) do you speak fluently other than English?**

#### Percentage reporting fluency in at least one language other than English:

Among all respondents: 10.8%  
Among practicing school psychologists: 10.7%

#### Number of languages reported:

Among all respondents: 30  
Range: 1 to 4

#### Percentage of languages reported (number of times each language was reported divided by the total number of times all languages were reported):

Spanish: 47.6%	Mandarin: 1.9%
French: 13.1%	Polish: 1.5%
Sign Language: 7.8%	Cantonese: 1.0%
German: 6.3%	Creole: 1.0%
Italian: 3.4%	Danish: 1.0%
Portuguese: 2.4%	Hindi: 1.0%
Greek: 1.9%	Ukrainian: 1.0%
Hebrew: 1.9%	Other: 7.5% (n = 15)

**Survey Item: If you speak another language, do you provide psychological services to students/families in that language?**

Percentage of respondents who provide psychological services in a language other than English:

Among all respondents: 5.9%

Among practicing school psychologists: 6.2%

Percentage of those fluent in a language other than English who provide psychological services in that language:

Among all respondents who are fluent: 55.3%

Among practicing school psychologists who are fluent: 57.3%

**Limitations**

1. The data may not be representative of NASP regular members. Even with a high response rate, non-respondents may differ from those who responded.
2. Not all membership types were included in the survey (e.g., transition members who had graduated from their training programs and were employed as school psychologists).
3. School psychologists who are not members of NASP may differ from those who are members of NASP.
4. Fluency in languages was assessed by the respondent, and it was based upon each respondent's own definition of the term (which likely varies from person to person).
5. The data were collected in 2005, and it is unknown how the situation has changed since that time.
6. Other inherent limitations of survey methods may apply.

**References**

- Curtis, M. J., Lopez, A. D., Castillo, J. M., Batsche, G. M., Minch, D., & Smith, J. C. (2008, February). The status of school psychology: Demographic characteristics, employment conditions, professional practices, and continuing professional development. *Communiqué*, 36, 27-29. Retrieved September 23, 2008, from [http://www.nasponline.org/publications/cq/mocq365sp\\_status.aspx](http://www.nasponline.org/publications/cq/mocq365sp_status.aspx)
- National Association of School Psychologists. (2008). [Fluency in and use of languages other than English among NASP members.] Unpublished data from the 2004-05 NASP Membership Survey.