



AND



*Virginia Society for Clinical Social Work
10106-C Falace Way
Henrico, Virginia 23156*

*Northern Virginia Members of
The Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work
PO Box 711
Garrisonville, VA 22465*

**VSCSW STUDY OF VIRGINIA LSW'S
OCTOBER 5, 2017
BY: Joseph G. Lynch LCSW**



PowerPoint Slides

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MAY 11, 2017 -VBSW APPROVES PROPOSED LEGISLATION

VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR
2018 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
**ONLY THE NEW LANGUAGE TO BE ADDED
TO THE SOCIAL WORK LAW IS BELOW AND IS UNDERLINED**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 54.1-3700 and 54.1-3705 of the *Code of Virginia* be amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 54.1-3700. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

Baccalaureate social worker means a person, engaged in the practice of social work, who practices under the supervision of a master's social worker within an entity not otherwise exempted by provisions of § 54.1-3701 and who is engaged in a basic generalist practice to include casework management and supportive services and consultation and education.

Master's social worker means a person, engaged in the practice of social work, who is employed by an entity not otherwise exempted by provisions of § 54.1-3701 and who is engaged in a non-clinical, generalist scope of practice of social work to include staff supervision and management.

§ 54.1-3705. Specific powers and duties of the Board.

In addition to the powers granted in § 54.1-2400, the Board shall have the following specific powers and duties:

5. To license baccalaureate social workers, master's social workers, and clinical social workers to practice consistent with the definitions specified in § 54.1-3700 and regulations promulgated by the Board.

6. To register persons for the supervised practice of social work as required for licensure as a clinical social worker.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT PERSONS WHO CURRENTLY HOLD THE LSW?

Questions sent to Jaime Hoyle under Virginia FOIA		Answers to questions:
1	How many of the 846 LSW's are Bachelor's social workers?	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>The Board does not track the number of LSWs that hold a bachelor's versus master's degree. We also do not have any information about those that are employed in non-clinical/clinical practice, exempt/non-exempt settings or how many are required to be licensed by their employer. We do not track this information either.</p> </div>
2	How many of the 846 LSW's are Master's social workers?	
3	How many of the LSW's are employed in "non-clinical" social work practice?	
4	How many are engaged in "clinical" social work practice?	
5	How many of the LSW's are employed in exempt settings?	
6	How many of the LSW's are employed in non-exempt settings?	
7	How many of the LSW's are required by their employer to have the LSW?	
8	Is a copy of the questionnaire required for LCSW license renewal available to me under VA FOIA?	The questionnaire is available under FOIA.
9	If yes, can you send me a copy of the questionnaire?	The questionnaire was emailed to me.
10	Were the LSW's required to fill out a similar questionnaire when renewing the LSW license online?	No.
11	If yes, can you send me a copy of that questionnaire as well?	NA

DO WE WANT TO KNOW CHARACTERISTICS OF LSW'S AND HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION

A. NOW

B. WHEN WE ARE AT A SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JANUARY

THE VSCSW AND GWSCSW SELECTED "A"

PROPOSAL FOR STUDY :

At the July 15, 2017 VSCSW Board of Directors meeting Joe Lynch proposed and the VSCSW Board approved that the Legislative Committee conduct a study of LSW's in order to assist the committee, the VSCSW, the GWSCSW and our lobbyist to be prepared for the 2018 Virginia General Assembly in regard to the VBSW proposed legislation

	STEPS	TIMELINE
1	VSCSW Board of Directors approves LSW study.	July 15, 2017
2	Purchase the VIP-NET list of LSW's (* From March 31, 2017 to June 13, 2017 an additional 30 LSW's were added to the VIP-Net list for a total of 846)	June 13, 2017- list purchased
3	Convert the VIP-NET list of 846 LSW's into a mail-merged Word document of mailing labels.	June 17, 2017
4	Develop an assessment instrument.	July 15, 2017
5	Use bulk mailing to send 846 LSW/s a cover letter, a questionnaire and the proposed legislation.	August 1, 2017
6	Establish a process for analysis of the data from the returned questionnaires.	Aug-September 2017
7	Conduct analysis of data on returned questionnaires.	September 2017
8	Present report on data to VSCSW Board of Directors	September 9, 2017
7	Present report of LSW study results to VBSW	October 27, 2017

OUTLINE OF STUDY:

Included in the mailing to each LSW were:

- A one page questionnaire with 10 questions. The questionnaire contained 8 multiple choice type questions and two open ended response type questions.
- A listing of the 4 sentences to be added to the social work law by the VBSW proposed legislation (The cover letter included information with the URL to the full text of the legislation on the VBSW website)
- A cover letter describing the study and offering the option to complete the questionnaire online.
- The mailing was sent out on July 28, 2017.
- There was no “return due date” in the letter.
- Responses were collected from August 1, 2017 to October 1, 2017.
- The online version of the questionnaire was hosted by Survey Monkey which tabulated the data for those questionnaires.
- The data from the mailed returned questionnaires was added to the Survey Monkey data.
- The JMU BSW Social Work Department research professor Dr. Laura Hunt Trull assisted with Content Analysis of the open ended question responses

COUNT OF CURRENT LICENSES *
FISCAL YEAR 2017, QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31st, 2017

Quarter Breakdown	
Quarter 1	July 1st - September 30th
Quarter 2	October 1st - December 31st
Quarter 3	January 1st - March 31st
Quarter 4	April 1st - June 30th

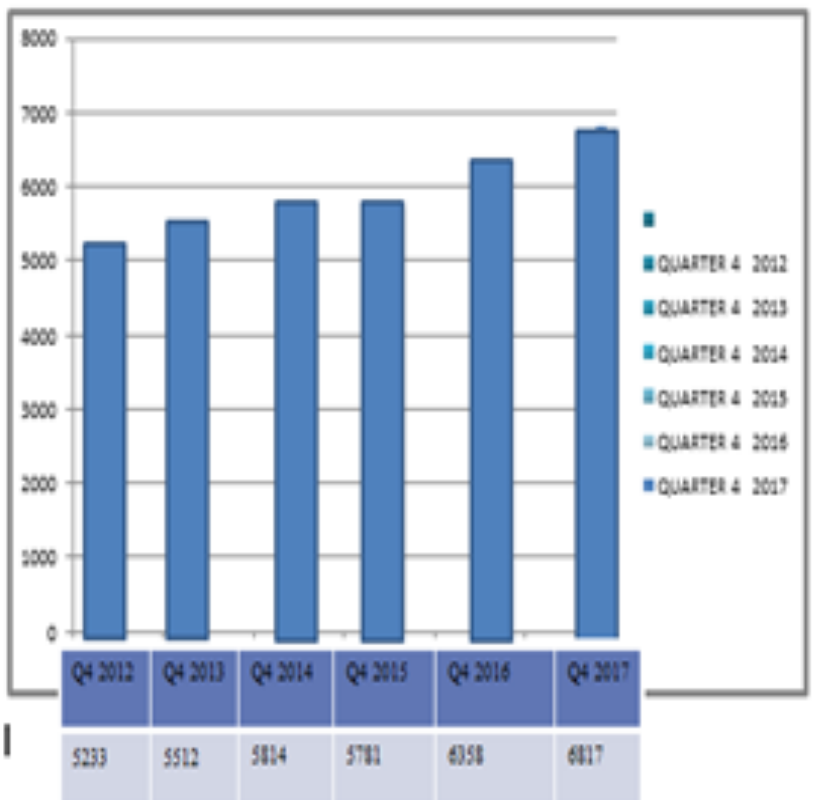
*CURRENT LICENSES BY BOARD AND OCCUPATION AS OF THE LAST DAY OF THE QUARTER
** NEW OCCUPATION

Board	Occupation	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	CURRENT
													Q3 2017
Social Work	Associate Social Worker	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Licensed Clinical Social Worker	5,814	5,903	5,986	6,104	5,781	5,948	6,060	6,170	6,358	6,458	6,558	6,684
	Licensed Social Worker	518	560	586	619	525	583	617	645	686	739	778	816
	Registered Social Worker	17	17	17	17	0	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
	Registration of Supervision										1,690	1,795	1,827
Total		6,350	6,481	6,590	6,741	6,306	6,544	6,690	6,828	7,057	8,900	9,144	9,340



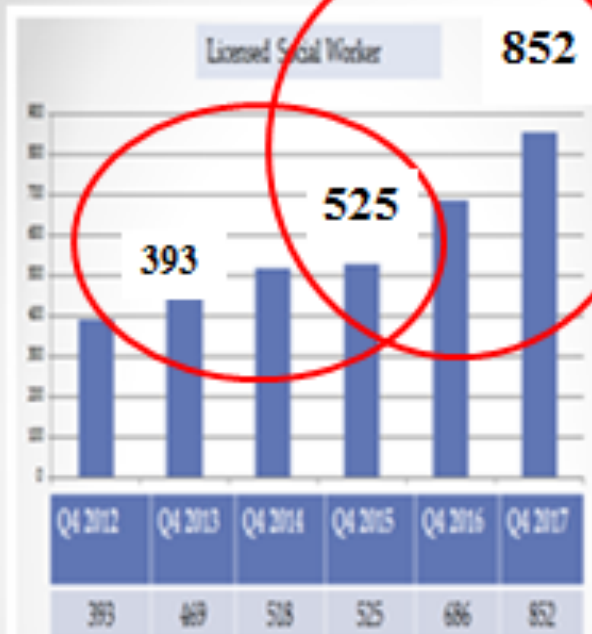
117% INCREASE FROM 2012 TO 2017

Licensed Clinical Social Worker



30% INCREASE FROM 2012 TO 2017

2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
19%	10%	1%	31%	24%



117% INCREASE FROM 2012 TO 2017

2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
19%	10%	1%	31%	24%

- ❖ On 6/30/13 there were 393 LSW's
- ❖ On 6/30/15 there were 525 LSW's

THAT REPRESENTS A 34% INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF LSW's IN THOSE TWO YEARS

- ❖ On 6/30/15 there were 525 LSW's
- ❖ On 6/30/17 there were 852 LSW's

THAT REPRESENTS A 62% INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF LSW's IN THOSE TWO YEARS



Virginia Society for Clinical Social Work
10106-C Falace Way
Henrico, Virginia 23158

July 17, 2017

Dear Virginia LSW:

We are writing to you to ask for your participation in a brief questionnaire about Virginia Licensed Social Workers. The Virginia Board of Social Work (VBSW) has been in discussion for a few years about Mid-Level licensure and public comments have been made at several meetings on this topic. At the VBSW Board meeting on May 11, 2017 the Board voted to approve a Legislative Proposal for Mid-Level Licensure. There are a few more steps in the process and then this proposed legislation is likely to become a bill in the 2018 General Assembly. The group that is expected to be impacted most by this legislation will be persons who now hold the LSW and persons who would seek to become what is now the LSW license. The VBSW is considering dividing the LSW license into two licenses:

1. LBSW - Licensed Bachelor's Social Worker
2. LMSW - Licensed Master's Social Worker

The VBSW has discussed requiring that the Bachelor's Social Worker take the ASWB Bachelor's level exam and the Master's Social Worker take the ASWB Master's level exam. Usually when a group of professionals are likely to be impacted by proposed legislation the regulatory board receives public comments from that group. There has been no comment to date from persons holding the LSW license. The Department of Health Professions most recent quarterly report finds that there are 846 LSW's. Of those 846 we found, that for the address of record with the Department, 670 listed a Virginia address, 84 listed an address in areas contiguous to Virginia and 92 listed an address in other states. A request to the VBSW under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act for some more detailed information about LSW's found that the Board collects very little information about LSW's. We would like to learn some general information about Virginia LSW's and some specific information about your opinions regarding the proposed legislation. We have enclosed:

- A copy of the four new sentences that appear in the proposed legislation. The VBSW website has the proposed legislation at <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/social/> (On the home page under Announcements - click on "draft legislative proposal").
- A brief questionnaire that we would like you to fill out and return to us. If you would like to fill out the questionnaire online you can go to the below URL and fill it out online:

http://www.vscsw.org/lsw_questionnaire/

Thank you for your assistance in helping us learn more about LSW's in Virginia. If you have any questions please feel free to email or call Joseph G. Lynch LCSW, VSCSW Legislative Vice President (contact information listed below)

Joseph G. Lynch LCSW

1) Year of Birth:							
2) Sex:		MALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3) Which degree had you obtained when you received your LSW?		BSW	<input type="checkbox"/>	MSW	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4) How many years have you had your LSW?		1	2	3	4	5	6+
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5) Would you describe your work as primarily clinical or non-clinical or a mix of both Clinical and Non-Clinical Clinical = provide direct services to clients Non-Clinical = provide staff supervision and management		CLINICAL					<input type="checkbox"/>
		NON-CLINICAL					<input type="checkbox"/>
		MIX OF BOTH CLINICAL AND NON-CLINICAL					<input type="checkbox"/>
In Virginia persons employed in certain work settings are exempt from the requirements of licensure. For example:							
1. Persons who render services but do not charge any fee.		2. Social work students in a field experience.					
3. Rabbis, priests, ministers or clergymen in the performance of their duties.		4. Persons employed by private business as personnel managers.					
5. Persons employed as salaried employees of the federal government, the Commonwealth, a locality, any agency funded by any such governmental entity, or a private, nonprofit organization.							
For a full explanation of Exemption see: http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title54.1/chapter37/section54.1-3701/							
6) Using the above understanding of exempt settings, would you describe your position as being in an Exempt setting or a Non-Exempt setting?		EXEMPT	<input type="checkbox"/>	NON-EXEMPT	<input type="checkbox"/>		
7) Are you required to have the LSW in order to be employed in your current position?		YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>		
8) Prior to this questionnaire were you aware of the Virginia Board of Social Work proposed legislation?		YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>		
9) If you have any opinions, feedback or comments to make about the Virginia Board of Social Work's proposed legislation please enter them below.							
10) Most LSW's have a Virginia address. Some LSW's live in states that border Virginia and some live in non-border states. Please let us know if you are in Virginia, in a border state or in a non-border state and what you see as the advantages and disadvantages of having the LSW?							

VBSW PROPOSED LEGISLATION

VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
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§ 54.1-3705. Specific powers and duties of the Board.

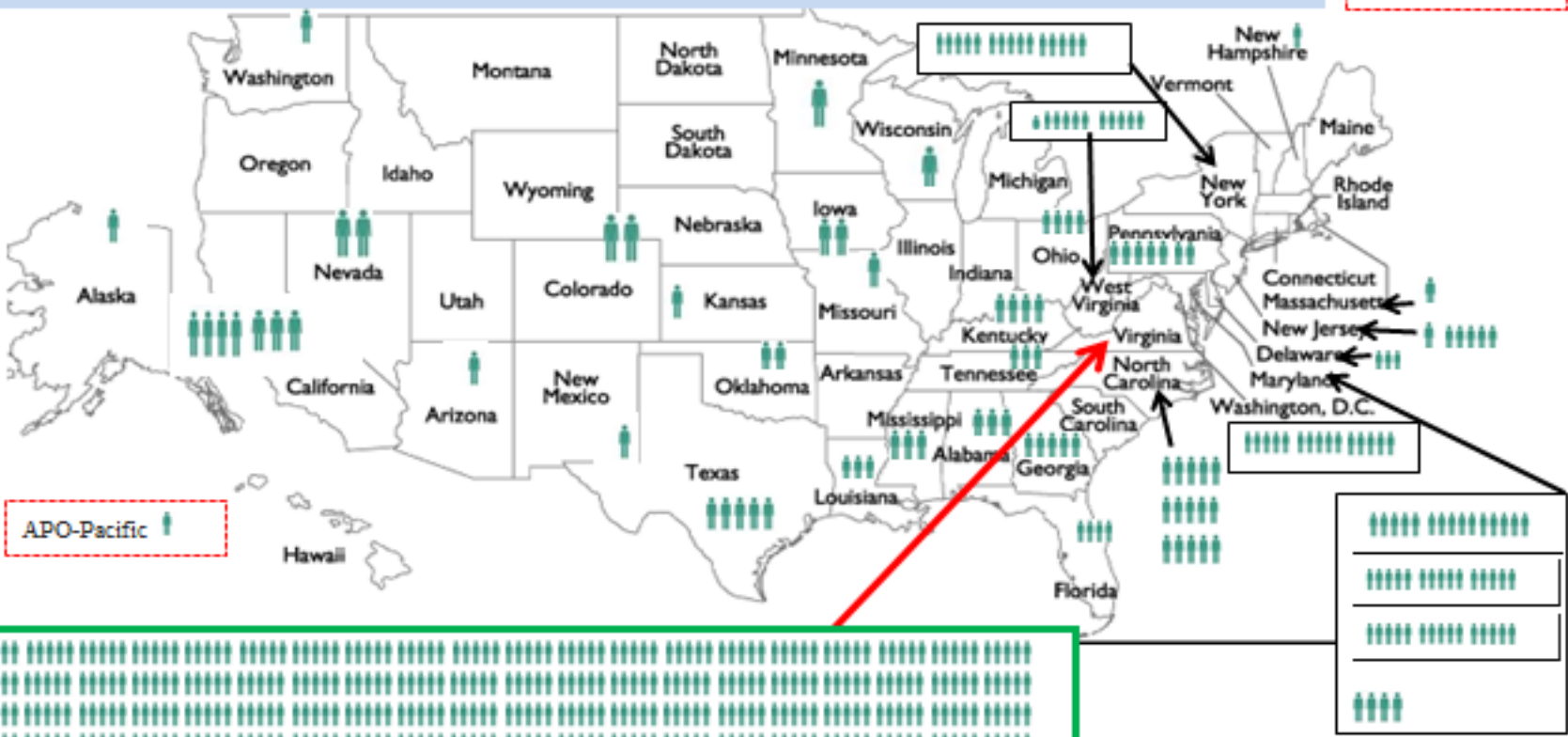
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MAP OF USA WITH DISTRIBUTION OF VIRGINIA LSW's

APO-Europe 



APO-Pacific 



VIRGINIA LSW's
670 = 79%

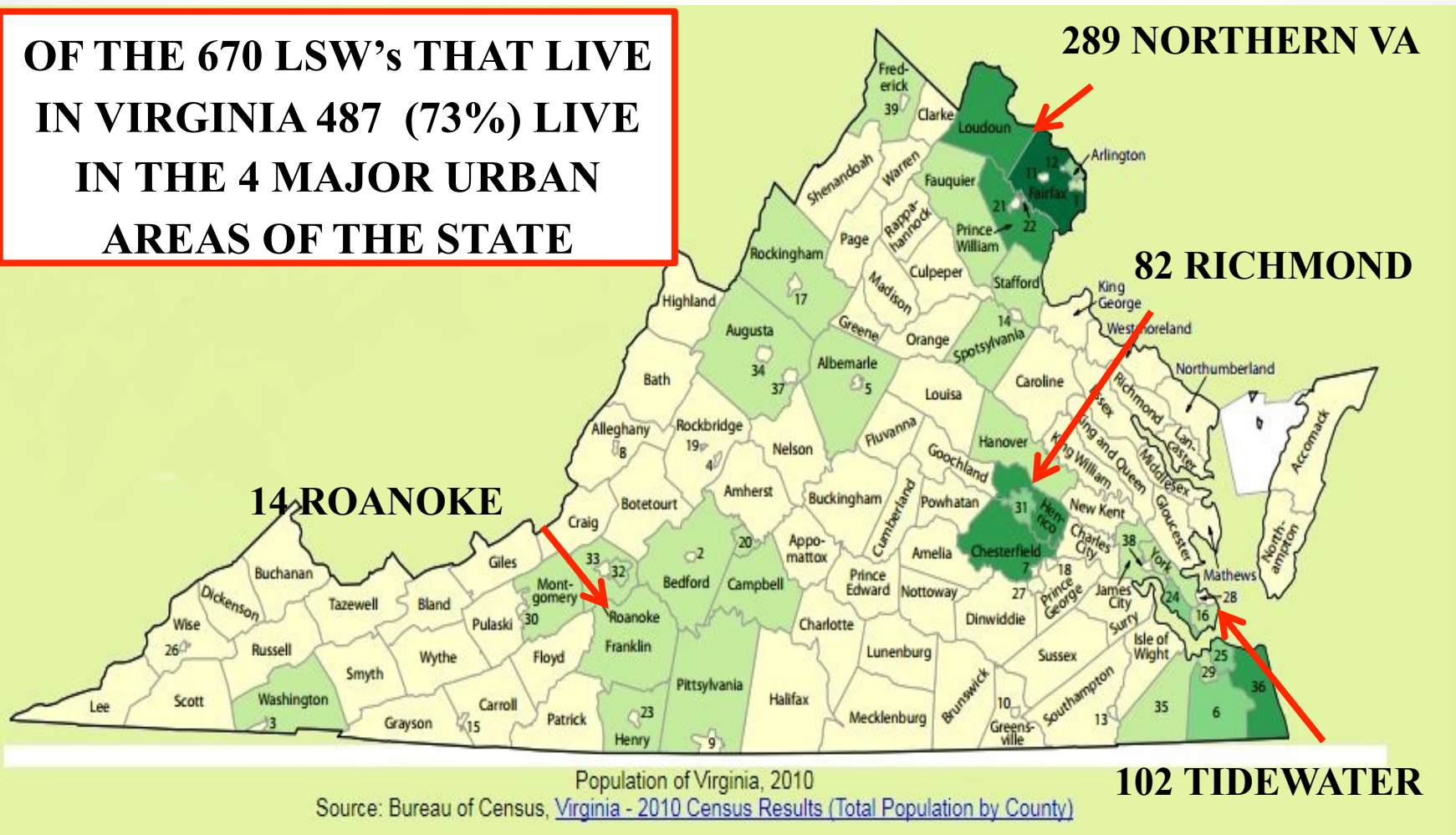
89%

CONTIGUOUS TO VA = 10%

CONTIGUOUS STATES AND DC		
STATE	# LSW'S	%
Kentucky	4	0.47
Maryland	36	4.26
North Carolina	15	1.77
Tennessee	3	0.35
West Virginia	11	1.30
Washington DC	15	1.77
TOTAL	84	10%

DISTRIBUTION OF THE 670 LSW's THAT LIST A VIRGINIA ADDRESS

OF THE 670 LSW's THAT LIVE IN VIRGINIA 487 (73%) LIVE IN THE 4 MAJOR URBAN AREAS OF THE STATE



DISTRIBUTION OF MSW'S AND BSW'S

97% MSW

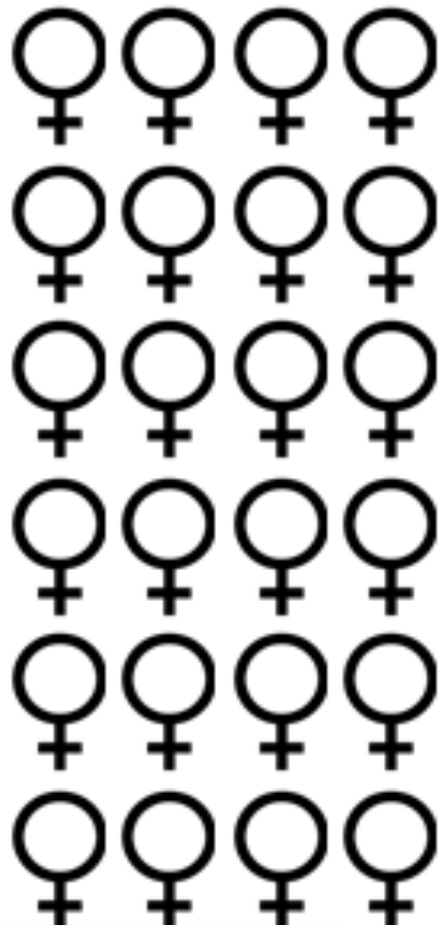


10% BSW



GENDER OF LSW's

90% FEMALE

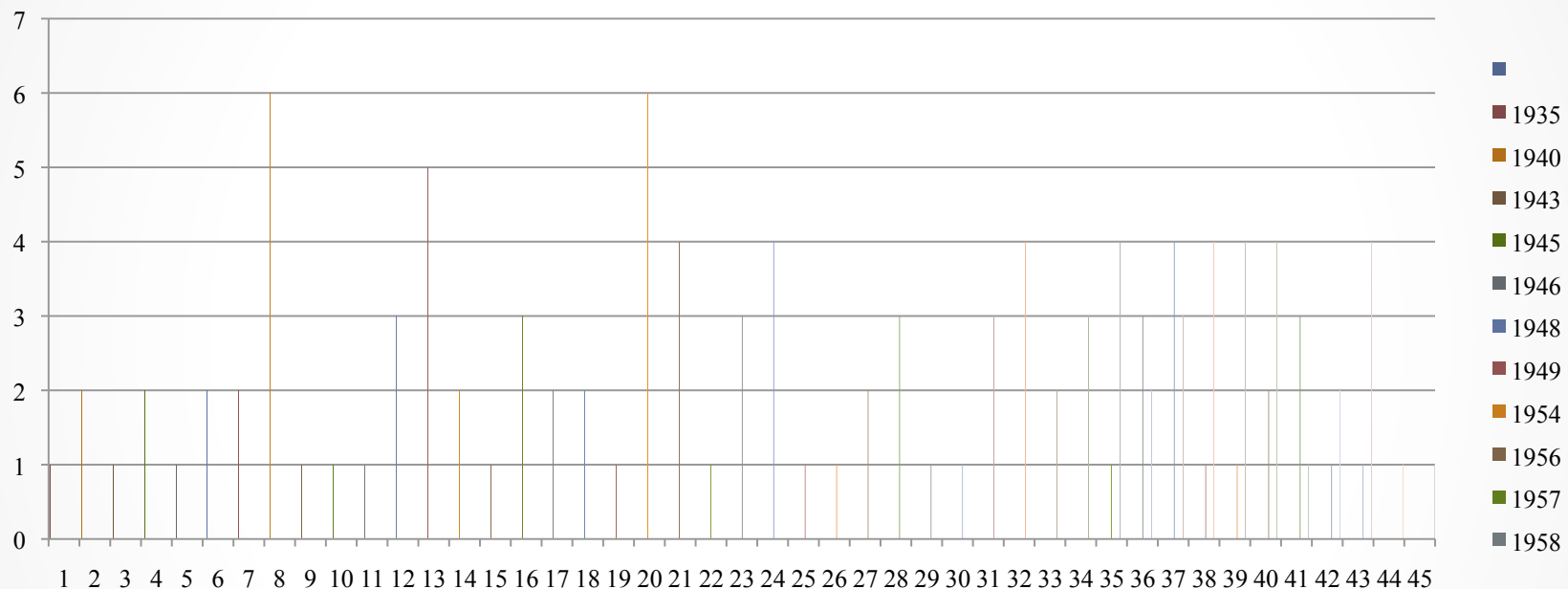


10% MALE



AGE OF LSWs

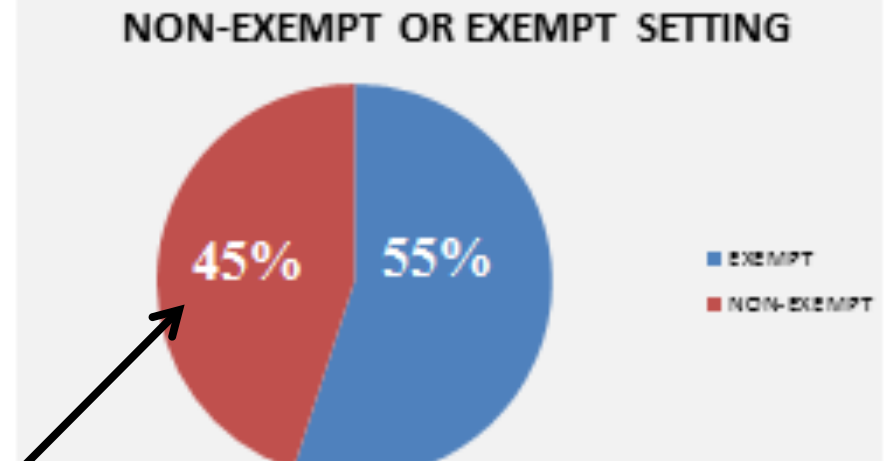
The LSW's ranged in age from 82 to 25 years old



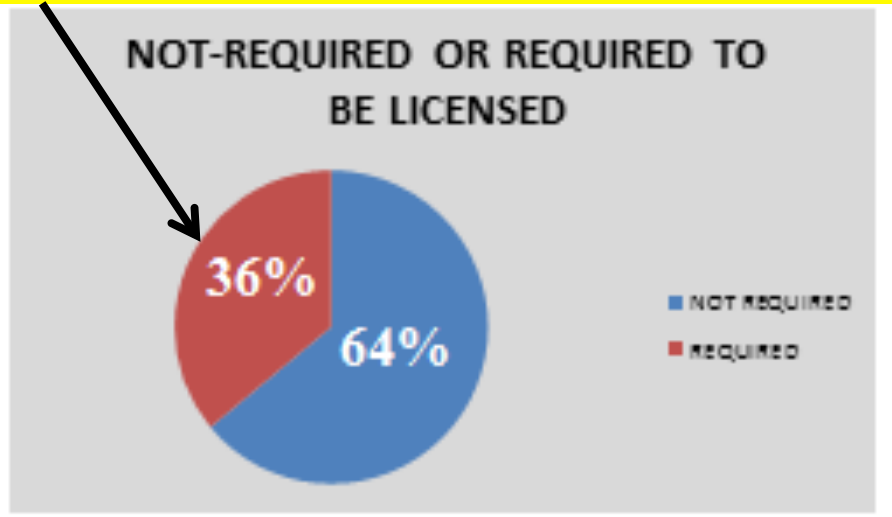
WERE YOU AWARE OF THE VBSW PROPOSED LEGISLATION?	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
I WAS AWARE	17	16%
I WAS NOT AWARE	90	84%
TOTAL	107	100.00%

**EXEMPT VS. NON-EXEMPT
AND
REQUIRED VS. NOT REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED**

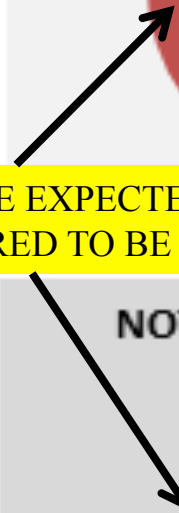
EXEMPT OR NON-EXEMPT PRACTICE SETTING	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
EXEMPT	59	55%
NON-EXEMPT	48	45%
TOTAL	107	100%



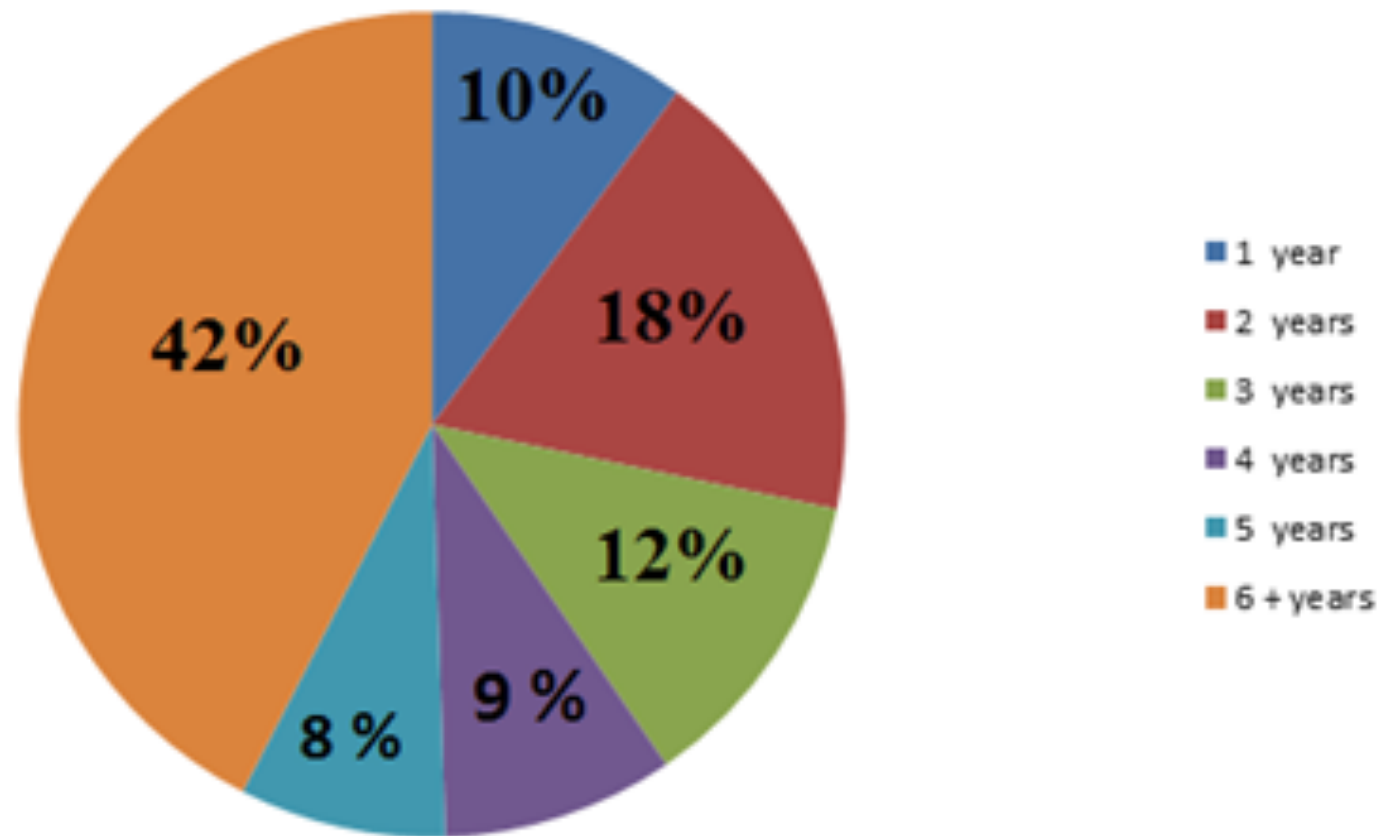
ARE YOU REQUIRED TO HAVE THE LSW IN ORDER TO BE EMPLOYED IN YOUR CURRENT POSITON?	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
REQUIRED	39	36%
NOT-REQUIRED	68	64%
TOTAL	107	100.00%



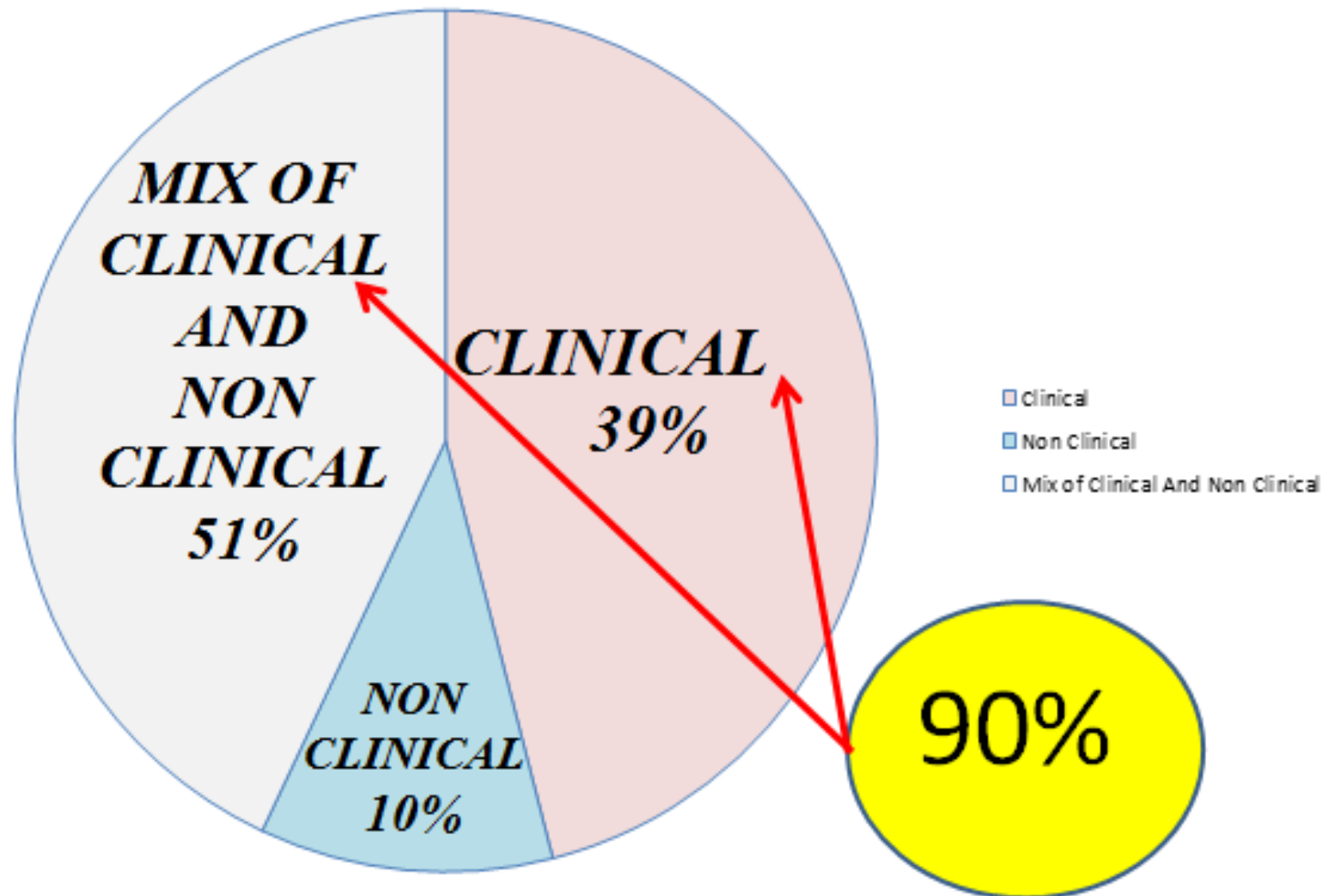
I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED THE % IN NON-EXEMPT SETTINGS AND THE % REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED TO BE MORE SIMILIAR



NUMBER OF YEARS LICENSED AS AN LSW



TYPE OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE



WORDSIFT: ADVANTAGES



ADVANTAGES OF LSW

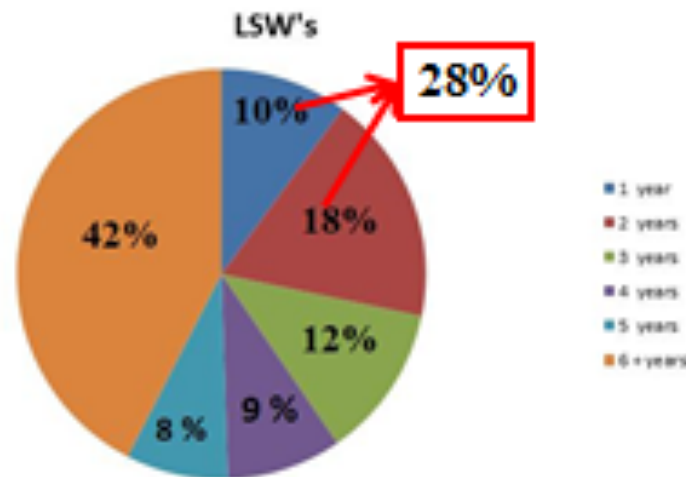
Several LSW's noted one advantage is that it demonstrates commitment to professional social work practice and distinguishes the LSW from others.



WORDSIFT: DISADVANTAGES



CAUTIONARY NOTE



The DHP Quarterly Report ending 06/30/17 notes that there are 852 LSW's. From 2015 to 2017 there were 327 new LSW's. That group of LSW's constitutes 38% of the 852 LSW's. In the returned questionnaires there were only 28% from that group of LSW's but 42% from LSW's who had been licensed for over 6 years. So some caution should be used in the results of the study as the 2 year or less licensed LSW's are somewhat underrepresented.

WHAT WE LEARNED ABOUT VIRGINIA LSW's AS A GROUP:

To the extent that the sample is representative of all LSW's in Virginia we have learned much about the characteristics of this population of social workers.

- The majority are female; MSW's who have had their LSW for over 6 years and range in age from 25 to 82 years old.
- They work about equally in "Exempt" and "Non-Exempt" settings.
- Only 10% practice exclusively in "non-clinical" social work practice.
- While 39% practice exclusively in "clinical social work" and another 51% practice "a mix of clinical and non-clinical social work."
- While the majority resides in Virginia or a contiguous state, Virginia LSW's are also located in 33 other states.
- The LSW's cite a pride in their credential. Feeling it distinguishes them from others in the work setting and underscores their professional identity as social workers and being committed to maintaining a higher standard of practice.

HOW DO LSW' FEEL ABOUT THE VBSW PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

- The majority of the LSW's were not aware of the proposed legislation.
- However upon learning of the text of the proposed legislation they made no comments in opposition to the legislation.
- Their comments were focused on being in favor of making a distinction between the Masters and Bachelors level practitioners.
- They wanted to not take another test, be grandfathered into the new LMSW and not made to be excessive fees to do so.



CONCLUSIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS:

The VSCSW Legislative Committee concludes that the population of Virginia LSW's will very likely be supportive of the VBSW proposed legislation as it moves through the General Assembly. Should we become aware of any negative testimony or comments purporting to represent the views of LSW's we now have data to present to legislators that shows overwhelming support from LSW's for this legislation. The VSCSW and the Northern Virginia members of the GWSCSW are now much better prepared for the upcoming General Assembly session.

For questions or further information about this study please contact:

*Virginia Society for Clinical Social Work
Joseph G. Lynch LCSW, Legislative Vice President
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