

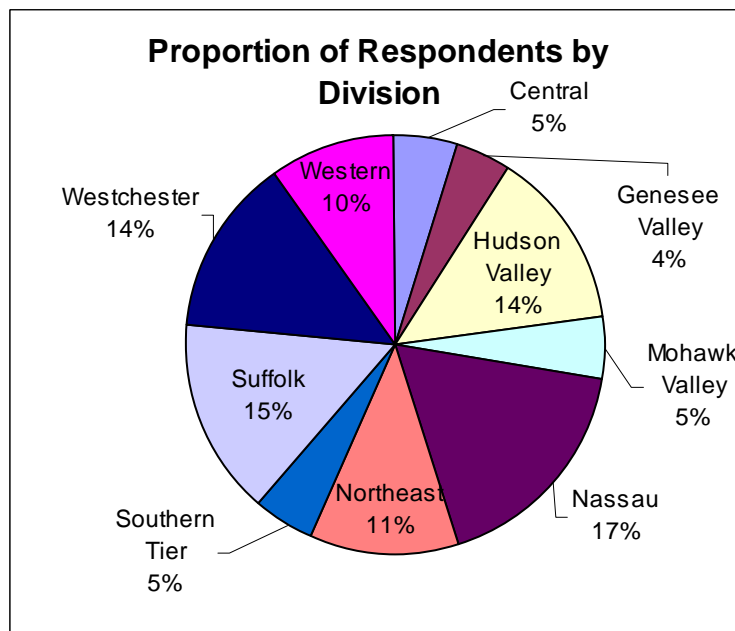
NASW-NYS Advocacy Survey 2007 Results

The NASW-NYS 2007 Advocacy Survey was sent to the entire Chapter membership (approximately 11,300 people) in the July/August *Update* newsletter, and also released on the www.naswnys.org website in the third week of July for online submission. The survey deadline was set at August 15, 2007, by which time 298 persons had responded (a 2.6% response rate). Seven (2%) of respondents were non-members of NASW.

Divisional Distribution of Respondents:

Survey response rates differed by Division, though there is a general congruence between the number of members per Division and the proportion responding from each Division. Due to the small sample size, however, some Divisions can easily appear under or overrepresented in the survey- most notably the Northeast, Mohawk Valley, and Western.

Division	Proportion of Respondents	Proportion of Membership
Central	5.1%	4.8%
Genesee Valley	4.1%	6.4%
Hudson Valley	13.8%	14.4%
Mohawk Valley	4.6%	2.7%
Nassau	17.4%	18.8%
Northeast	11.3%	7.4%
Southern Tier	4.6%	5.0%
Suffolk	15.4%	17.5%
Westchester	13.8%	16.1%
Western	9.7%	6.1%



Work Settings and Task of Respondents:

The majority of respondents worked in *outpatient mental health, solo private practice, or social service agency* settings, while the plurality (23.7%) worked in *outpatient mental health*. This is much different than NASW-NYS general membership, which has much greater representation in both the inpatient and outpatient health fields. The task that respondents reported performing most in their job was by far *clinical/direct practice*. This large proportion is similar for NASW-NYS membership in general:

Work Setting and Task of Survey Respondents

Work Setting		Job Task	
University	5.8%	Administration/Mgmt	11.8%
Health-Inpatient	5.1%	Clinical/Direct Practice	62.7%
Health-Outpatient	4.7%	Community Organizing	2.5%
Mental Health-Inpatient	1.8%	Advocacy	3.6%
Mental Health-Outpatient	23.7%	Research	1.1%
Private Practice-Solo	16.8%	Supervision	3.6%
Private Practice-Group	2.6%	Teaching	3.6%
Residential Facility	2.9%	Training (agency-based)	1.1%
School Social Work	6.9%	Retired	1.8%
Social Service Agency	9.5%	Other	8.2%
Retired	1.8%	Total	100.0%
Other	18.3%		
Total*	99.9%		

*Does not total to 100% due to rounding error.

Issue Importance:

Survey respondents were asked to rank items on a scale of importance (from least important to most important) for both general issues affecting social workers and their clients, and separately for a number of social work profession issues. The general item scale ran from 1-7 with 1 being most important and 7 being least important; therefore items with lower numbers were deemed ‘most important’ by survey respondents, while those with higher numbers ranked lower in importance.¹ The scale for professional issues ran from 1-6; comparisons can only be made within, and not between scales.

General Issues:

When asked to rank general issues, *Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse* was rated the most important area for legislative attention, while *Women’s Issues* ranked least important. The greatest number of ‘1’ ratings (most important) was a tie between *Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse* and *Professional Issues*.

General Issues in Order of Importance

Issue	Mean Rank
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse*	2.49
Children and Family Issues	3.38
Professional Issues*	3.65
Economic Security	3.83
Aging Issues	4.42
Human and Civil Rights	4.48
Women's Issues	4.67

*These categories tied for the greatest number of 1 ('most important') ratings.

For respondents who also indicated importance of another issue not included in the survey, the following are their suggestions for further focus at the Chapter level:

Other focus issues	
Disability Issues	Passage of an equal rights amendment
Early Childhood Trauma	Physical health concerns
Education issues	Rights of MSW that are deaf & hard of hearing
Environmental issues	School Social Work
Health care for all Americans, immigration	Withdraw now from Iraq
Affordable and accessible housing	Working within institutions
Ethical issues addressed	Protection and parity of licensing
Hospice & Palliative Care	Youth/adolescent issues: gangs, violence, homelessness
Housing issues	Forensic issues
Issues for head start funding	Adequate insurance reimbursement
Other professional issues	

¹ There was an 8th category for ‘Other,’ though respondents only filled this out occasionally. For the purposes of this set of analyses, ‘other’ has been excluded due to the diversity of qualifications made in this category.

Professional Issues:

Compensation (e.g. reimbursement rates, salary and benefits for professional social workers) ranked highest in order of importance; *Consumer Protection* ranked lowest. The greatest number of '1' ratings went to *Compensation*.

Professional Issues in Order of Importance

Issue	Mean Score
Compensation*	2.10
Title Protection	3.08
Professional Image	3.48
Educational Standards	3.56
Expanding/Preserving Scope of Practice	3.88
Consumer Protection	4.00

*This category received greatest number of 1 ratings.

Knowledge of Local Representatives

When asked if they knew who their local NASW Division Director, Advocacy & Government Relations Committee representative, and State legislative representatives were, the answers ranged. Respondents were most likely to know who their Senate and Assembly members were, and least likely to know of their Advocacy & Government Relations representative:

Knowledge of Key Division Level Actors

Do you know who your _____ is?...	Yes	No
Advocacy & Gov't Relations Representative	16.2%	83.8%
Division Director	38.7%	61.3%
State Senate and Assembly Members	68.4%	31.6%

Willingness to Participate

In a series of questions on willingness to participate in a number of different advocacy activities, respondents demonstrated widely varying interests depending on the type of advocacy activity at issue. Nevertheless, these results cannot be extrapolated to the general membership due to selection bias: those who answered the survey have already exhibited a higher level of interest in advocacy than the general membership by virtue of returning the survey.

Participation in Select Activities

Would you be willing to...	Yes	No
Write, call, email, fax a legislator	72.1%	27.9%
Write a letter to the editor on NASW issue	35.1%	64.9%
Visit a legislator in a district or Albany office	27.4%	72.6%
Invite a legislator to Division event	25.0%	75.0%
Attend a rally	42.5%	57.5%

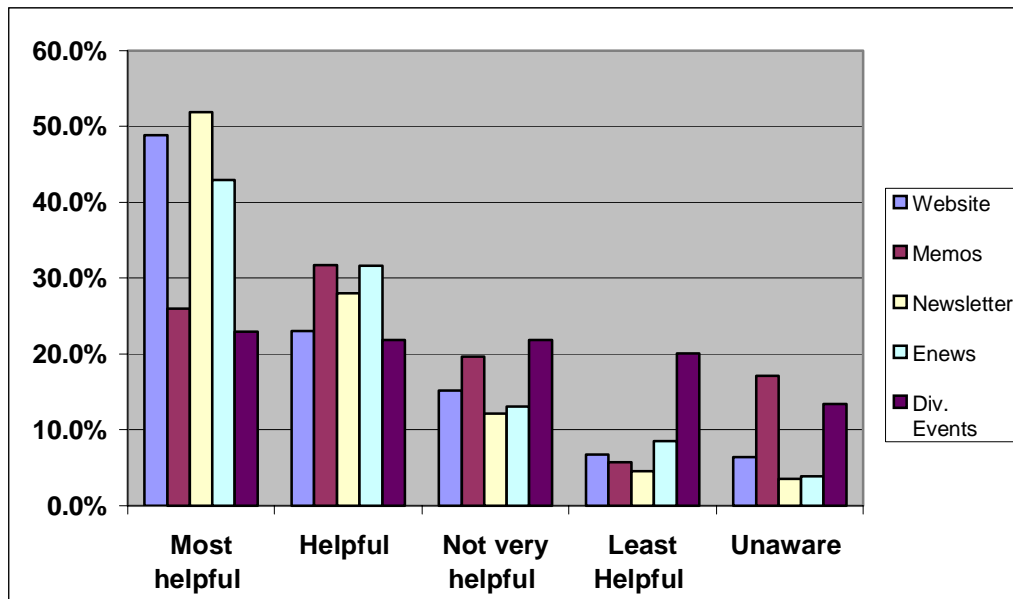
Advocacy Media

Survey respondents were asked to rate different forms of information sources for advocacy updates on a scale from most to least helpful. Rated on a scale of one to four, one being most helpful, the NASW-NYS newsletter, *Update* ranked highest for helpfulness, with a mean score of 1.68.

Mean Rankings of Info Sources

Information Medium	Mean Rating
<i>Update</i> Newsletter	1.68
NASW-NYS Website	1.78
E-News	1.87
Memos of Support/Opposition	2.06
Division Events	2.45

Helpfulness of Advocacy Media to Members



Other General Recommendations

Some respondents took the opportunity to comment on or recommend new forms of NASW-NYS communications with its members. Following is a sample of what some of the respondents said.

- All of the above are helpful, and I look forward to them being available as resources of information.
- Have attempted to contact my Chapter because I want to get involved and never got a response back - that is incredibly disappointing to me - very unprofessional.
- I am struggling to keep up with the on-line access. I'd rather have a bigger monthly mailing.
- I would prefer only to receive emails, instead of postal mail.
- I'd like to have a lot more e-mail alerts to legislators, the president, etc, concerning social, health, education, war, and environmental issues.
- Local Division is large and consequently not local for me.
- More division news.
- More graphics would be nice.
- [deleted] Division offers little beyond an annual luncheon.
- NASW needs to protect NYC school social workers.
- Need more professional development toward school social workers.
- Newsletter items regarding battles over legislation should include the names of interest groups, such as unions or other professions and politicians that oppose the interest of social workers.
- [name of upstate NY city] chapter does nothing!!!!
- Would be great to get newsletter for Nassau & Suffolk County.
- Anything printed [is helpful].