

Psychologists and Behavior Analysts in North Dakota

Psychologists

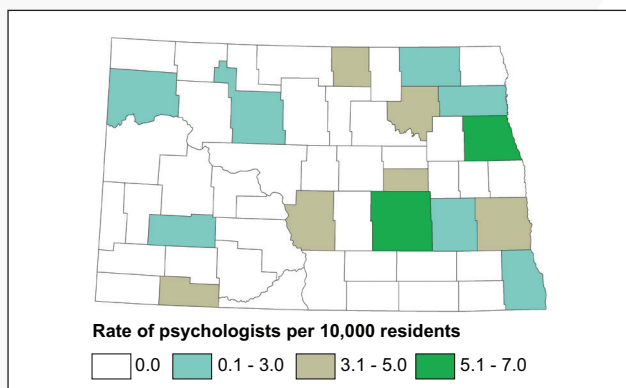
Psychologists are licensed mental health professionals who treat individuals with various mental illnesses. These include approaches such as cognitive-behavioral or psychodynamic therapy. They are also trained to administer and interpret various psychometric assessments used in the diagnosis of mental illnesses.

To be eligible for licensure in North Dakota, psychologists must pass a written and oral exam, have applied professional experience, and hold a doctoral degree in psychology from an accredited American Psychological Association or Canadian Psychological Association program.

Psychologists are a tier 1a behavioral health professional. The tiered system for behavioral health professionals in North Dakota is a basic ranking of behavioral health professionals based on their scope of practice, with tier 1 being the highest rank and tier 4 being the lowest rank. Tier 1a professionals have the skills and knowledge to observe, describe, evaluate, interpret, or modify human behavior for the purpose of reducing or eliminating behavioral health concerns.

As of 2018, 204 licensed psychologists were working in North Dakota, resulting in approximately 2.7 psychologists per 10,000 North Dakota residents. Figure 1 shows the rate of psychologists per 10,000 residents across North Dakota counties.

Figure 1. Rate of Psychologists Per 10,000 Residents



Behavior Analysts

Licensed (independent level) or registered (supervised level) behavior analysts study human behavior and use statistics to develop treatments to help in analyzing and possibly changing human behavior, especially when it is maladaptive to the client. Assessment and approval from a behavior analyst is required to make an autism diagnosis in North Dakota. In 2018, there were 21 behavioral analysts in North Dakota. Behavior analysts are a tier 3 behavioral health professional. The Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), a national board overseeing behavior analysts, provides education and certification requirements utilized by the North Dakota State Board of Psychologist Examiners (NDSBPE). The NDSBPE oversees the licensing of behavior analysts in North Dakota.

Education

BACB has a verified course sequence that individuals must take in order to meet the education requirements to be a board certified behavior analyst (BCBA). The University of North Dakota offers the verified course sequence to become a BCBA. It is offered within the MS in Special Education degree and for non-degree seeking students who already have a master's or doctoral degree. Behavior analysts must have a master's degree or higher from a NDSBPE-approved program in psychology, education, or a related field.

Licensure Requirements

- Agree to adhere to the code of ethical conduct adopted by the NDSBPE.
- Demonstrate that the applicant meets board-approved education requirements.
- Successful completion of examinations demonstrating professional competence.
- Provide documentation indicating that the applicant has completed supervision requirements.

Conclusion

- Psychologists treat mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders. They help people cope with problems ranging from immediate personal issues to severe, chronic disorders.
- Behavioral analysts are behavioral health professionals who seek to understand why certain behaviors occur and apply interventions to address a wide range of social problems and improve the quality of a person's life.
- Behavior analysts most often work with those with pervasive developmental disorders.
- Assessment and approval from a behavioral analyst is required to make an autism diagnosis in North Dakota.

Data

- North Dakota State Board of Psychologist Examiners (2018). Licensure file. Retrieved from <http://www.ndsbpe.org>.