

North Carolina Mental Health & Substance Use Services Workforce Data Snapshot 2024:

Social Work (Licensed Clinical Social Workers & Associates)

13,945

**Total Licensed Social
Workers**
Active Practice

9,830

LCSWs
Licensed Clinical Social
Workers

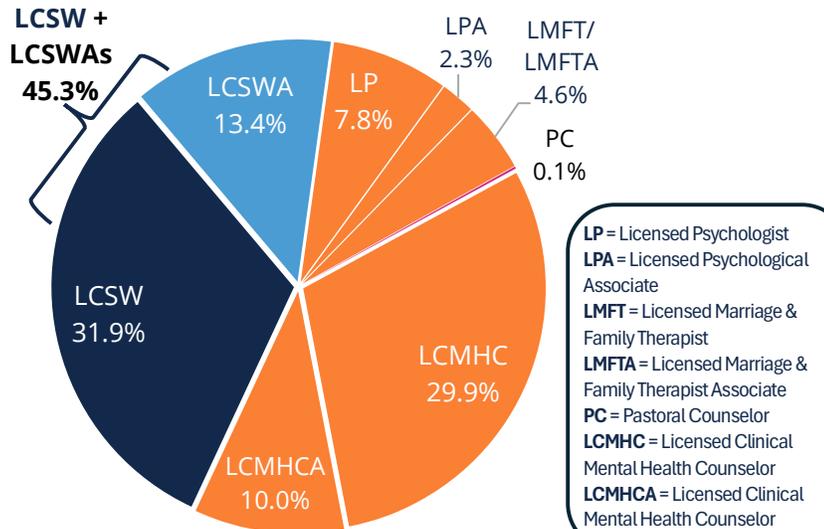
4,115

LCSWAs
Licensed Clinical Social
Worker Associates

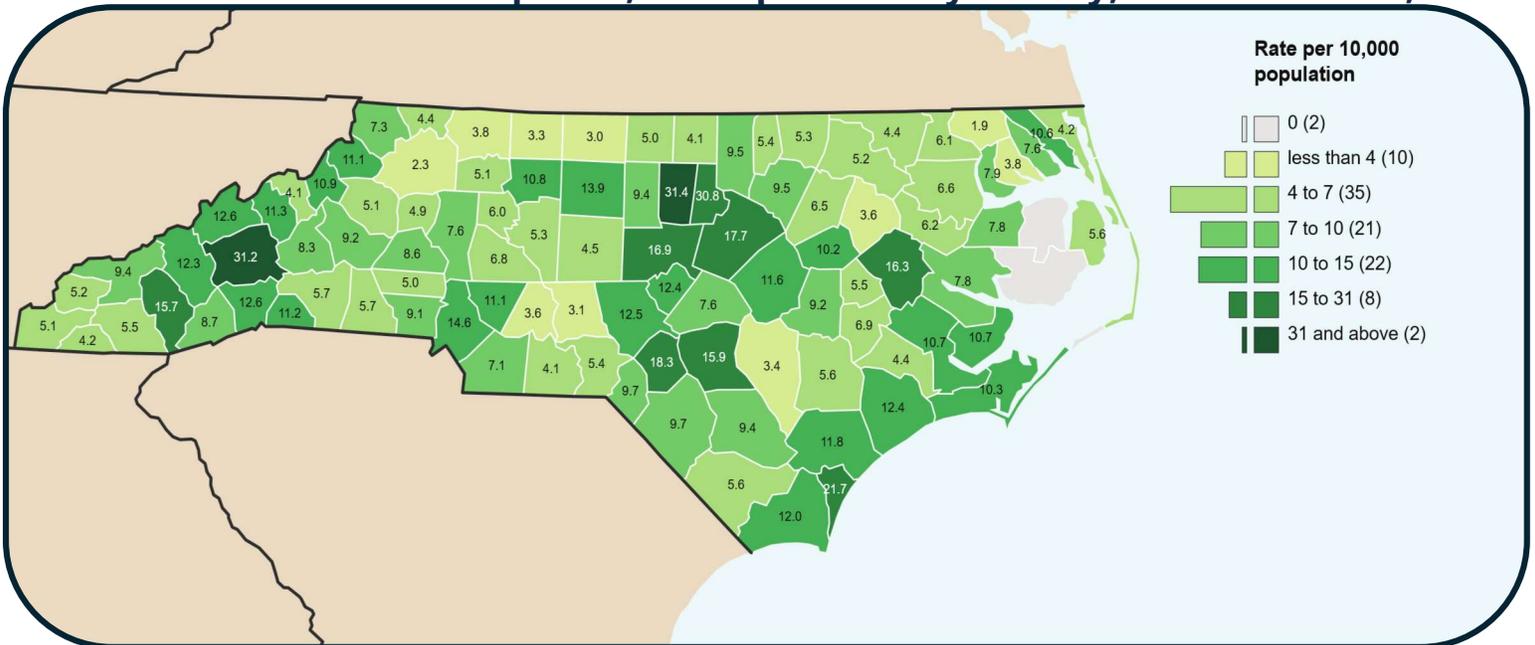
The average rate for social workers in-state was **12.7 per 10,000** population.

Social workers were **45.3%** of the entire graduate-level clinician workforce across North Carolina.

- LCSWs: 31.9%
- LCSWAs: 13.4%



Licensed Social Workers per 10,000 Population by County, North Carolina, 2024



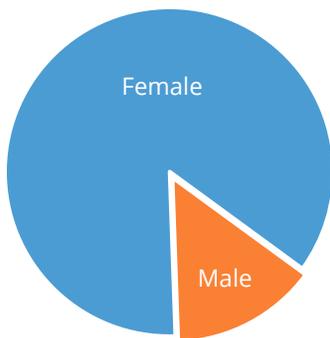
Social Workers in Metro and Nonmetro Counties by Licensure Type



DEMOGRAPHICS

85.6% of social workers identified as female in 2024.

Source: NPPES data.



Years in Practice: LCSWs

- Average Number of Years: **9.7**
- Deviation from the average (SD): **8.6 years**
- Minimum/Maximum Years in Practice (Range): **0 - 38**
- **63% licensed 10 years or less**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Metro counties had nearly double the rate of LCSWs** vs nonmetro areas: 9.95 vs 4.98 per 10k.
- The **state average was 12.7 social workers** per 10,000 population, with wide variability across counties.
 - **Two counties had a rate of 0 social workers** per 10,000 population.
 - **Two counties had rates higher than 31 social workers** per 10,000 population.
- There were **2:1 LCSWs to LCSWAs** in North Carolina.

This project was supported by the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services (DMHDDSUS). The information, content and conclusions are those of the authors and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by DMHDDSUS.

For more information, please find the full report at:
<https://nhealthworkforce.unc.edu/projects/mhsu-workforce/>

