Baby, What You Want Me to Do?: Understanding factors influencing MPA membership and involvement

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Overview

Project Aims

Method

Summary of Findings

Suggestions for Improvement

Future Directions

Project Aims

Understand what influences psychologists' decisions for or against MPA membership

- Inform organizational efforts toward increasing MPA membership
- Facilitate active involvement from MPA members
- Enhance efforts that better serve MPA members and meet the needs of Mississippi psychologists

Method

Qualtrics survey distributed via

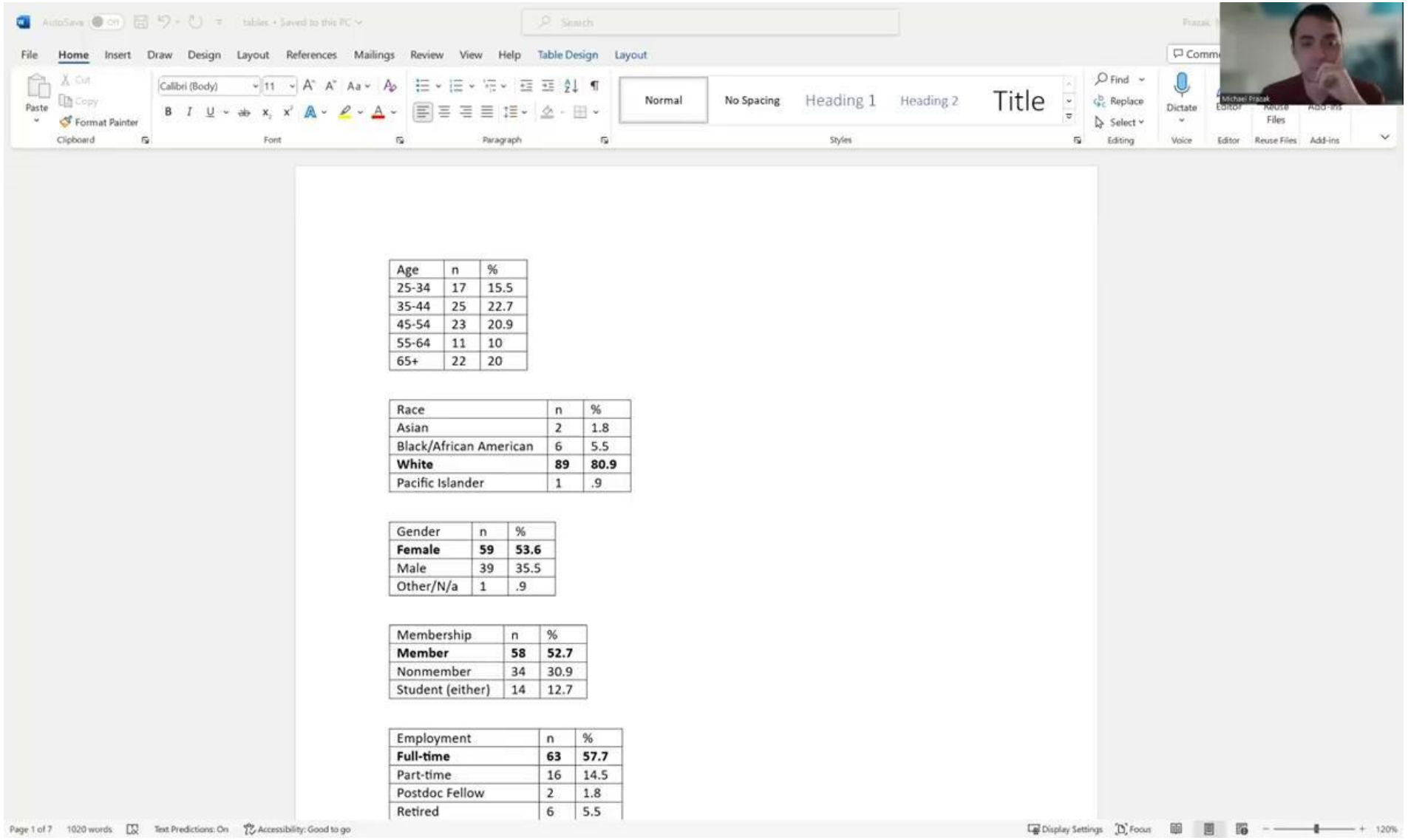
- MPA listserv
- Professional contacts
- University listservs

Population: psychologists and students in psychology programs throughout Mississippi

Information gathered:

- Demographics
- Perceived benefits/criticisms of MPA membership
- MPA involvement - past and present
- Awareness (or lack thereof) MPA accomplishments and efforts
- Access to MPA information

Summary of Findings



Age	n	%
25-34	17	15.5
35-44	25	22.7
45-54	23	20.9
55-64	11	10
65+	22	20

Race	n	%
Asian	2	1.8
Black/African American	6	5.5
White	**89**	**80.9**
Pacific Islander	1	.9

Gender	n	%
Female	**59**	**53.6**
Male	39	35.5
Other/N/a	1	.9

Membership	n	%
Member	**58**	**52.7**
Nonmember	34	30.9
Student (either)	14	12.7

Employment	n	%
Full-time	**63**	**57.7**
Part-time	16	14.5
Postdoc Fellow	2	1.8
Retired	6	5.5

Suggestions for Improvement

- Connect more experienced members to less experienced members
  - LDA program is a great example
- Create more support for independent practitioners
  - Forums specifically for independent practitioners in Mississippi
- Increase benefits and decrease costs
  - Create partnerships with other state organizations (LCSW, LMFT, etc.)
  - Create partnerships with other businesses
  - Create opportunities to engage with lower time commitments (local/regional meet-ups, virtual discussions, etc.)

Suggestions for Improvement

- Better communication/advertisement
  - Tell people what we do (share accomplishments)
  - Invite colleagues
  - Increase social media presence (more posts/opportunities to interact)
  - Increase use of listserv/create more specific forums
- Get more students involved
  - Work more closely with undergraduate and graduate programs
  - Create opportunities for connection (guest lecture, virtual discussions, etc.)
  - Provide more incentives for students (mentorships, training, job shadow, etc.)
  - Increase research partnerships with students and universities

Directions for Future Exploration

- Why are other associations more appealing?
- What specific costs are barriers?
- What values are most important to psychologist in Mississippi?