

SOCIAL WORKERS IN PENNSYLVANIA

- A social worker in Pennsylvania is defined as “a person who holds a current license under this act or has received a bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral degree from an accredited school or program of social work or social welfare” (P.L.929, No.68).
- There are 30 accredited bachelor degree programs and 11 master degree programs for social work in Pennsylvania accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).
- There are over 40,000 degreed social workers in Pennsylvania.

 **SOCIAL WORK:**
purpose &
possibility

REFERENCES

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Social Workers
Help starts here.™

For more information on social workers and how they can help you go to <http://www.helpstartshere.org/>

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SOCIAL WORKERS ARE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



 **N A S W** | PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
National Association of Social Workers

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Social workers are the largest group of mental health providers in the United States

(SAMHSA, 2002)

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

Pennsylvania law states that social workers apply a range of “special knowledge” and “therapeutic techniques” that is “directed at helping people to achieve adequate and productive personal, interpersonal, and social adjustments in their individual lives, in their families, and in their community” (P.L.929, No.68). Services that social workers provide include:

- Diagnostic assessment of mental illness and substance abuse
- Individual, group, and family psychotherapy and counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Addictions intervention & recovery

Mental health and substance abuse social workers are likely to work in hospitals, substance abuse treatment centers, community mental health agencies, local governments, or in private practice.

PROFESSIONAL FACTS

- Social work was designated as one of the four core mental health professions in the federal legislation establishing the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) (Proctor, 2004).
- The Surgeon General’s Report on Mental Health identified psychiatric social workers as one of the specialty services “designed expressly for the provision of mental health services.” (Office of the Surgeon General, 1999).
- Social workers represent more than 60 percent of the mental health work force and provide more mental health services in the community than any other profession (Proctor, 2004).
- Social work is the development of interventions that are appropriate and effective in the context of social and demographic diversity and diagnostic complexity (NIMH & NIH, 1998).
- The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) lists NASW as a source of referrals for finding a mental health professional.

OUTLOOK

- Social workers providing mental health and substance abuse treatment services will grow by 30 percent — much faster than the average — over the 2006–16 decade.
- Social workers focus on the emotional and psychological well-being of an individual. In combination with various theoretical frameworks, social work addresses the person-in-environment from a strengths-based perspective.
- As health care evolves, social workers will continue to make a significant contribution towards improving the mental health of our communities.

(Bureau of Labor and Statistics, 2009)