Assessment practices of professional psychologists: Results of a national survey

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- Acknowledge my co-authors:
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Assessment represents a smaller part of the practices of professional psychologists than before managed care

Cited from: Lubin & Lubin, 1972; Lubin, Larsen, Matarazzo, & Seever, 1986; Camara, Nathan, & Puente, 2000; Rupert & Morgan, 2005; Rupert, Stevanovic, & Hunley, 2009
297 APAPO members returned 28-item email survey (16.7% response rate)

- 58 years old
- 90% identified as White/Caucasian
- 52% male

Setting:
- 61% outpatient mental health
- 15% inpatient hospital
- 13% forensic setting
Most common in forensic and inpatient settings

BDI, MMPI, and WAIS most common instruments

Referral question: assist in dx; assist in making recommendations; screen for neuro and cog deficits
Nearly 68% of surveyed psychologists reported that reimbursement issues were the most common barrier to conducting psychological assessment, mirroring the qualitative results from the previous APA survey (Eisman et al., 2000).

- High cost of assessment materials also a significant barrier
- Those who identified as working in a forensic setting appeared to be less influenced by reimbursement rates.
So what has changed in 20 years....

• In general, assessment represents a smaller part of the practices of professional psychologists than before managed care.
• However, for psychologists in some specialty areas and settings, namely forensic psychology and inpatient settings, assessment represents a significant portion of their work.
• Large majority of psychologists believe assessment is a valuable aid in making diagnostic decisions and treatment recommendations.
• Many psychologists identify that greater coverage by third-party payers, as well as having access to less costly assessment instruments, would enable greater use of assessment with patients.
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