WHAT AAMFT APPROVED SUPERVISORS GET PAID

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ABSTRACT: A national survey of American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Approved Supervisors found statistically significant bivariate relationships between their annual income in 1999 and their gender, professional identity, supervision setting, and geographic locale. Race, community size, and years of clinical experience were not significantly related to income statistically. Moreover, only gender was statistically significant upon a sequential logistic regression of these variables relative to an income of greater or less than $50,000 a year.

KEY WORDS: approved supervisor; professional income; marriage and family therapy income.

The 2002 American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Practice Research Survey published in Family Therapy Magazine (March/April, 2004) indicated what marital and family therapists got paid in 2002 relative to age, setting, degree, and race. The present report reviewed a recent national survey of AAMFT Approved Supervisors (Lee, Nichols, Nichols, & Odom, 2004) to ascertain what those MFT supervisors earned and what variables made a difference.
METHOD

Lee and his associates sent surveys to 30% (N = 721) of all 2046 AAMFT Approved Supervisors in the United States and 46% of these (n = 330) were returned. The respondents closely matched the total population of AAMFT Approved Supervisors with regard to gender and level of academic degree. Of the respondents, 17% were male with a master’s degree, 28% were male with a doctoral degree, 33% were female with a master’s degree, and 22% were female with a doctoral degree.

The 2002 AAMFT Practice Research Survey had explored the relationship between earned income and age, occupational setting (private practice, academic, community agency, private training institute), highest clinical degree (master’s, doctorate), and ethnic identity (African American, Caucasian, Hispanic). The present study explored these variables as well as gender (male, female), community size, geographic region (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004), and years of clinical experience. All variables except income, age, community size, and years of experience were coded as discrete categories. Respondents indicated their total income for 1999 according to four categories: Less than $20,000, $20,000–34,000, $35,000–50,000, and more than $50,000. Respondents’ community size also was divided into four categories: Less than 100,000, 100,000–499,000, 500,000 to 1 million, and over 1 million. Age and years of clinical experience were continuous variables.

RESULTS

The chi square (χ²) test of independence was used to examine the relationship between income and, respectively, gender, race, academic discipline, highest clinical degree, professional identity, geographic region, and supervision setting. These data are given as Table 1. The relationships between income and gender, professional identity, highest clinical degree, and supervision setting, were statistically significant.

Because we expected the relationship between these variables and income to be multivariate, a sequential logistic regression analysis was performed through SPSS Binary Logistics to assess prediction of membership in one of the two categories of income, namely, less than $50,000 earned income in 1999 and more than $50,000. The predictors used were gender, race, academic discipline, highest clinical degree,