



2025

APA Div. 37 Section on Child Maltreatment Membership Engagement Survey Report

Prepared By

Susan Yoon, PhD

Report designed by Alvalyn Dixon-Gardner

Report Overview

The APA Division 37 Section on Child Maltreatment is committed to fostering a connected, inclusive, and engaged professional community dedicated to the prevention, assessment, and treatment of child maltreatment. Meaningful member engagement is essential to sustaining our mission and ensuring that section activities reflect the priorities, interests, and needs of our membership.

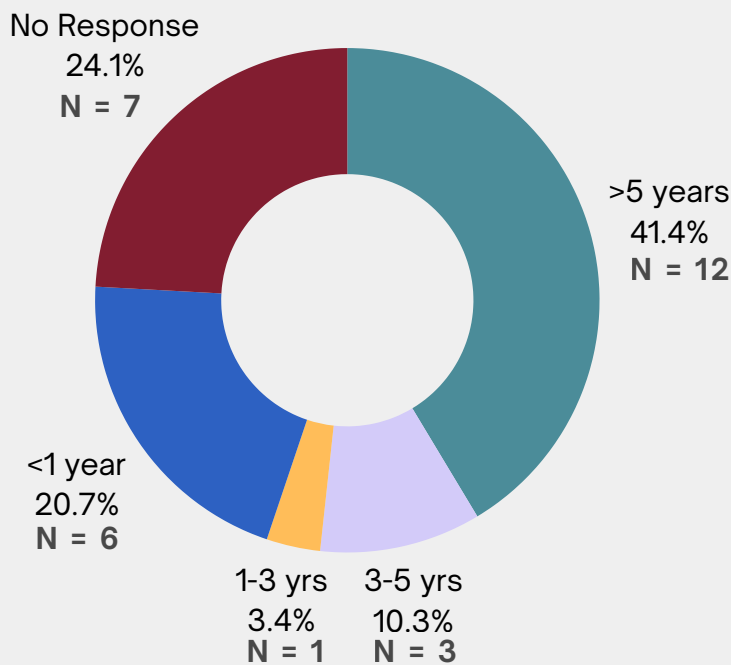
To this end, the Section Board conducted a brief member survey in October 2025 to gather feedback on members' experiences with the Section, perceptions of current engagement opportunities, and suggestions for strengthening involvement moving forward. The survey was designed to inform board decision-making and to guide future initiatives aimed at enhancing communication, participation, professional development, and community building within the Section on Child Maltreatment.

This report summarizes key findings from the member engagement survey. The results provide valuable insight into what members value most about the Section, perceived gaps or barriers to engagement, and concrete recommendations for improvement. Findings from this survey will be used to support strategic planning efforts and to ensure that the Section continues to evolve in ways that are responsive, equitable, and aligned with member needs.

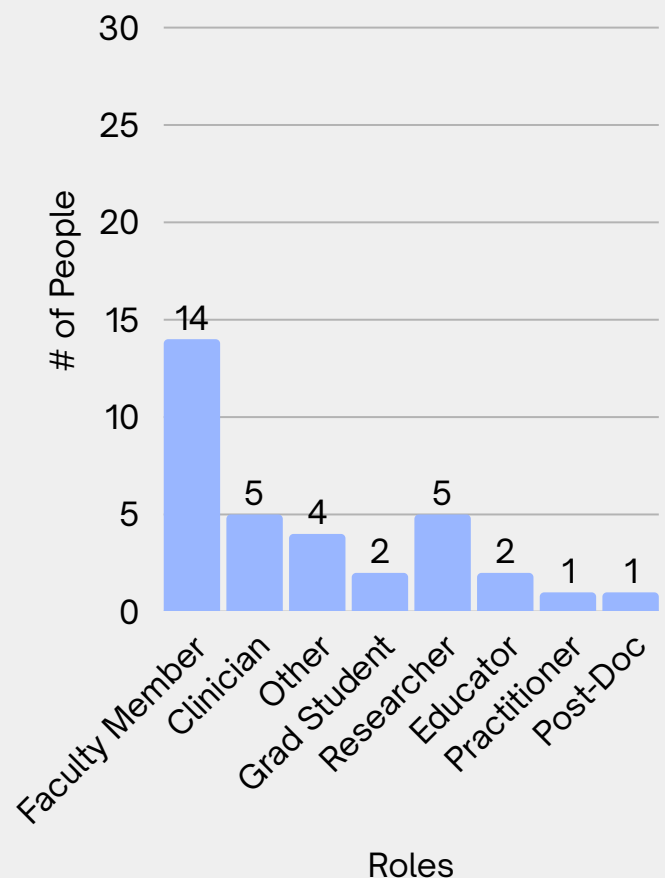
Response Summary

Total Valid Respondents: 29

How long have you been a member of Division 37's Child Maltreatment section?



What best describes your current role (e.g., faculty, student, clinician)?



48.3% of survey respondents are Faculty Members

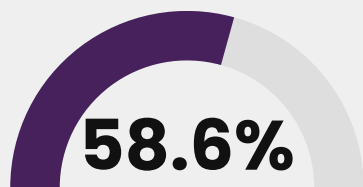
Response Summary

What field of study are you in/is most relevant to your work?

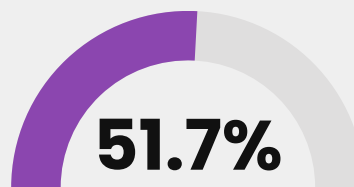
Field	N	%
Clinical/Counseling Psychology	15	51.7
Developmental Psychology	7	24.1
Social Work	3	10.3
Health Psychology	2	6.9
Human Development	2	6.9
Public Health	2	6.9
Social Psychology	1	3.4
Forensic Psychology	1	3.4

Response Summary

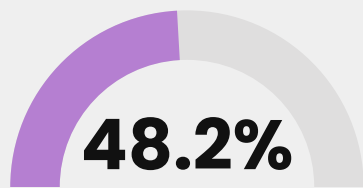
Best Formats to Review Updates on Child Maltreatment (CM) Information



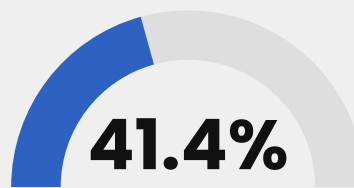
Section Newsletter



Section Listserv



Research Pubs



Webinars

Remaining Formats:

Infographics	34.5%
News Articles	27.6%
Videos	17.2%
LinkedIn	10.3%
Instagram	3.4%

Response Summary

What type of updates are of most interest to you?



58.6% said

National
policy
changes
regarding CM



55.2% said

Funding
changes on
CM research &
programming



51.7% said

New clinical
interventions
relevant to
addressing CM

Remaining Updates:

Local/state-wide policy
changes regarding CM

44.8%

New programming
relevant to mitigating CM

37.9%

"Grad programs for students
interested in this work"

3.4%

"CH, trauma, DV, coercive
control in family courts"

3.4%

Response Summary

Most Important Div 37 Membership Benefits for Section on CM

51.7% of participants said:

Listserv

Access to Newsletter

48.3% of participants said:

Opportunities to Support Advocacy & Policy

41.4% of participants said:

Awards

Remaining Benefits:

Task for Involvement	17.2%
Website	13.8%
Post-Doc Opportunities	10.3%
LinkedIn	6.9%
Networking/Leadership Opportunities	6.9%
Guides and Family Law Info/Educational Materials	3.4%

Response Summary

What Type of Additional Div 37 Benefits are of Interest?

Responses	%
Speaker Series or Invited Talk	55.2
Network/Meeting Opportunities	55.2
Research to Support Advocacy	48.3
Current Administration Policy Updates	41.4
Resources for Navigating DEI Work and Funding in the Current Administration	41.4
Mentorship Program	24.1
Student Presentation Opportunities	20.7
Teaching Support	17.2
Fellowship Program	17.2
Networking/Leadership Opportunities	6.9
Guides and Family Law Info/Educational Materials	3.4

Response Summary

How do you hope that your membership supports the field of child welfare and maltreatment prevention?

“

Direct engagement in policy work on the hill – specifically the activities of the congressional foster youth caucus and influencing that work.

Promoting research, Training scientists, and Excellent dissemination work.

Keeping informed helps me in my work with students and young professionals and pass the baton.

I hope my membership will continue to **elevate the issue of child maltreatment in research, policy and practice communities**. I also hope it will **aid in supporting upcoming professionals within the field** to improve the lives of children. I would like to see more outreach/contact as a member to legal professionals and family court/child welfare systems.

I would love to see any highlights of how our membership addresses child welfare and maltreatment in relation to identity.

Supporting members to connect with resources from my organization, offering leadership to the section.

I hope that I am able to **contribute to the growing body of literature**, best practices, and building my network.

I hope it **supports child maltreatment research efforts**, especially **for students and early career scholars**.

”

Response Summary

What Content Would You like to see on Div 37 CM Section of the Website?



55.2% said

List of
National CM
Research
Program
Resources



48.3% said

Member Directory
with research
interests/contact
information



41.4% said

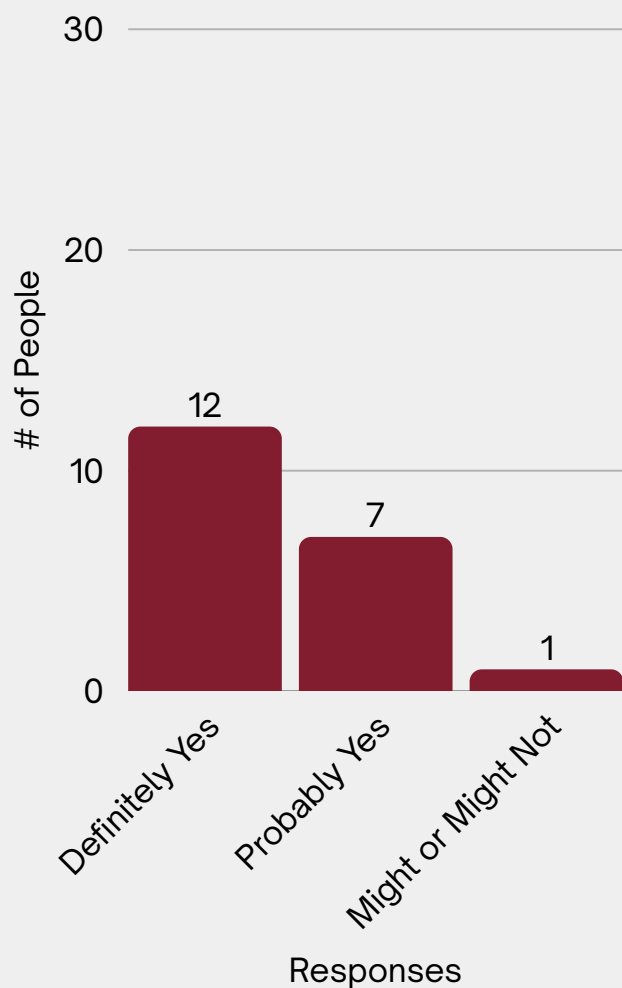
List of
education
& training
programs
in CM

Remaining Updates:

Resources for teaching about topics in CM	41.4%
Member publications	41.4%
Current topics in CM	37.9%
List of available research internship positions	34.5%
Resources for assessment and screening measures	31.3%
Sending CM policy alerts through Listerv to take action	3.4%
Guides/resources for professionals navigating CM cases in family court systems	3.4%

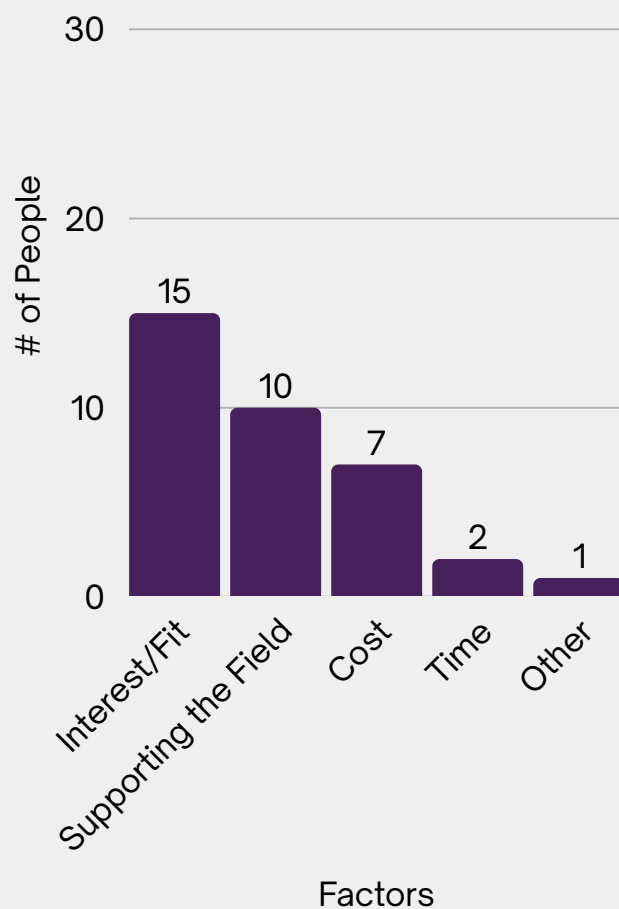
Response Summary

Do you plan to renew your Div 37 Section on CM Membership next year?



41.4% of participants plan to renew membership

What factors impact your renewal decision?



51.7% of participants said interest/fit.

Response Summary

What recommendations do you have for enhancing membership engagement?

“**Contact members as soon as they join** and remind them of benefits. **Get them connected to** other students etc. or **folks at their level.**”

“A **mentor program** would be fantastic!”

“**Networking opportunities for professionals**, not just student-focused events”

“Quarterly **newsletter, webinars**, APA division **social**”

“Creating a “**teaching child maltreatment**” **task force** and for there to be more resources to support those who teach in the child maltreatment field.”

“A list of child maltreatment graduate programs would be a great resource for prospective students.”

A participant even noted they “aren’t sure” of the recommendations they would suggest.

Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. This report was prepared by the Executive Board of the APA Div 37 Section on Child Maltreatment. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to discuss our findings further, please don't hesitate to reach out to Susan Yoon (Member-at-Large for Membership Engagement) at yoon.538@osu.edu.