

Independent Review of the Hoffman Report

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Part One: Independent Review Analysis

Independent Review Analysis

08.21.2015

Antonio E. Puente

(with assistance from: Inma Ibanez-Casas, Mary Catherine Devane, Brooke Leonard, Hana Kuwabara, Zara Melikyan, Andrea Mejia, Connor McMahan, Mariya Nosovitskaya, & Angela Sekely)

The information provided in the next set of slides is based on the following:

1. Reading of the entire report by Antonio E. Puente
2. Reading of the Executive Summary and at least one portion of the remaining report by each of the individuals named
3. These individuals comprise the University of North Carolina Wilmington Neuropsychology research and clinical group (Ibanez-Casas and Melikyan are post-doctoral fellows; Kuwabara, Mejia & Sekely are graduate students; the rest are advanced undergraduate students)
4. Individual analyses were completed and then two separate extended group discussions were completed followed by the development of the current power point. In addition, all of the group minus Leonard & McMahan attended the 2015 APA Convention including the Town Hall meeting
5. Puente attended both sessions of the Council of Representatives meeting in Toronto and met individually with Jean Maria Arrigo (47) and Larry James (19) for breakfast
6. This is a living document in which information and interpretation may change as additional information and analyses occurs
7. The following is intended as a discussion item for those interested in this topic and is based the final interpretation by Antonio E. Puente

Executive Summary

WHAT HAPPENED? After 9/11, APA releases ethical guidelines- Psychological Ethics and National Security- PENS (2005). These were intentionally loosely worded to permit DoD's psychologist to be "ethical" in "*Enhanced interrogation techniques*" (AKA Torture). This could have happened because of the social climate of 09.11 and some individuals interpretation of how psychology and APA could be involved. In other words, how could APA help the US fight terrorism?

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

- 1) Increase relationship with DoD (e.g., employment, grants, ...)
- 2) Improve public relations (better APA image)
- 3) Growth of psychology (Government)

DID APA COLLUDE WITH THE DoD/CIA TO SUPPORT AND/OR ALLOW COERSIVE INTERREGOTATIONS?

Yes!



Significant amount of evidence in Independent Report support this conclusion (between APA and DoD, not CIA)

Binder 1

- Documents included:
 - Detainee log
 - Emails
 - Conventions/conference programs and abstracts
 - Ethic code revisions
- Outcome:
 - Appearance of clandestine efforts, pride, no transparency, limited oversight
 - Public image > private image
 - Poorly defined boundaries of the role of psychologists in interrogations
 - SERE techniques explained
- Summary:
 - A system corrupted by individuals during a vulnerable and traumatic social-political climate

Binder 2

- Revising the “Resolution Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment or Punishment” aka PENS Report
 - AMA states physicians cannot participate in “coercive” interrogations etc.
- Effective was the operative word
- No clear operational definition of torture and interrogation
 - ApA says “do no harm” but this does not apply to military psychiatrists
- No question that APA members are against the use of torture methods in interrogations
 - The discussion is about what the word “coercive” means
- Significant collaboration with researchers who were associated with the federal government
 - Workshop to increase collaboration between APA and the federal government

Binder 3

- Checks and balances between DoD and APA limited
- Fine line between “do not harm” versus protecting society
- Research supporting torture strongly highlighted as beneficial towards results
- Collection of followers via emails, sometimes clandestine, limited oversight, and group think
- Pushed for immediate action after 9/11 - high societal emotions and aims for strong national concord

Binder 4

- Provides a mixture of information about Ethics Committee including changes in the ECTF drafts, non-confidential and confidential documents, etc
- The Ethics Committee handles various cases associated with ethics
- Ideas and thoughts to better ethical guidelines and facilitate change provided through feedback from psychologist.
- Despite many changes in other areas, aspects regarding torture have not changed post 9/11, supporting it in the case of terrorism.
- Review board selection set up: members selected on their ability to support what DoD wanted.

Binder 5

- Overall conclusion: out of 2400+ interrogations, only a handful reportedly violated DoD standards
- Increased number of approved interrogation techniques
- Issues of cruelty during the interrogations, medical care and records of the detainees
- Internal FBI review of the aggressive treatment of detainees
- Overview of psychology practice and policies in the U.S.
- APA ethics regulations and their revisions

Part Two: Survey Results

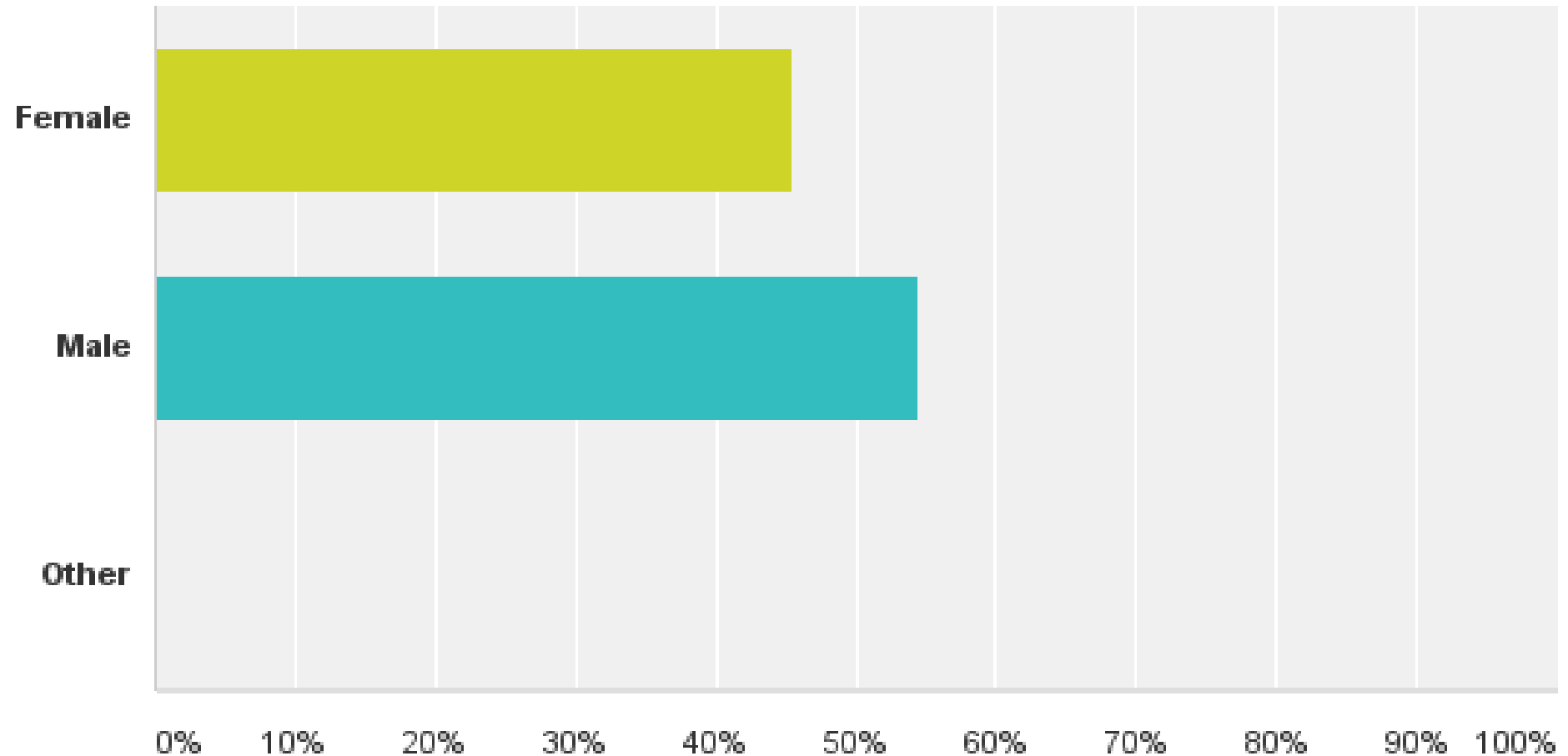
Survey Results

- 2,300 individuals opened the email out of 6,672 emails sent
- 710 people clicked on some aspect in the email
- 870 people reviewed the Independent Report Analysis
- 313 people clicked on the survey
- 183 responded to the survey

Note: Question 9 is derived from the APA Council of Representatives and Question 10 is derived from discussions with colleagues, reviewing the report and attending APA

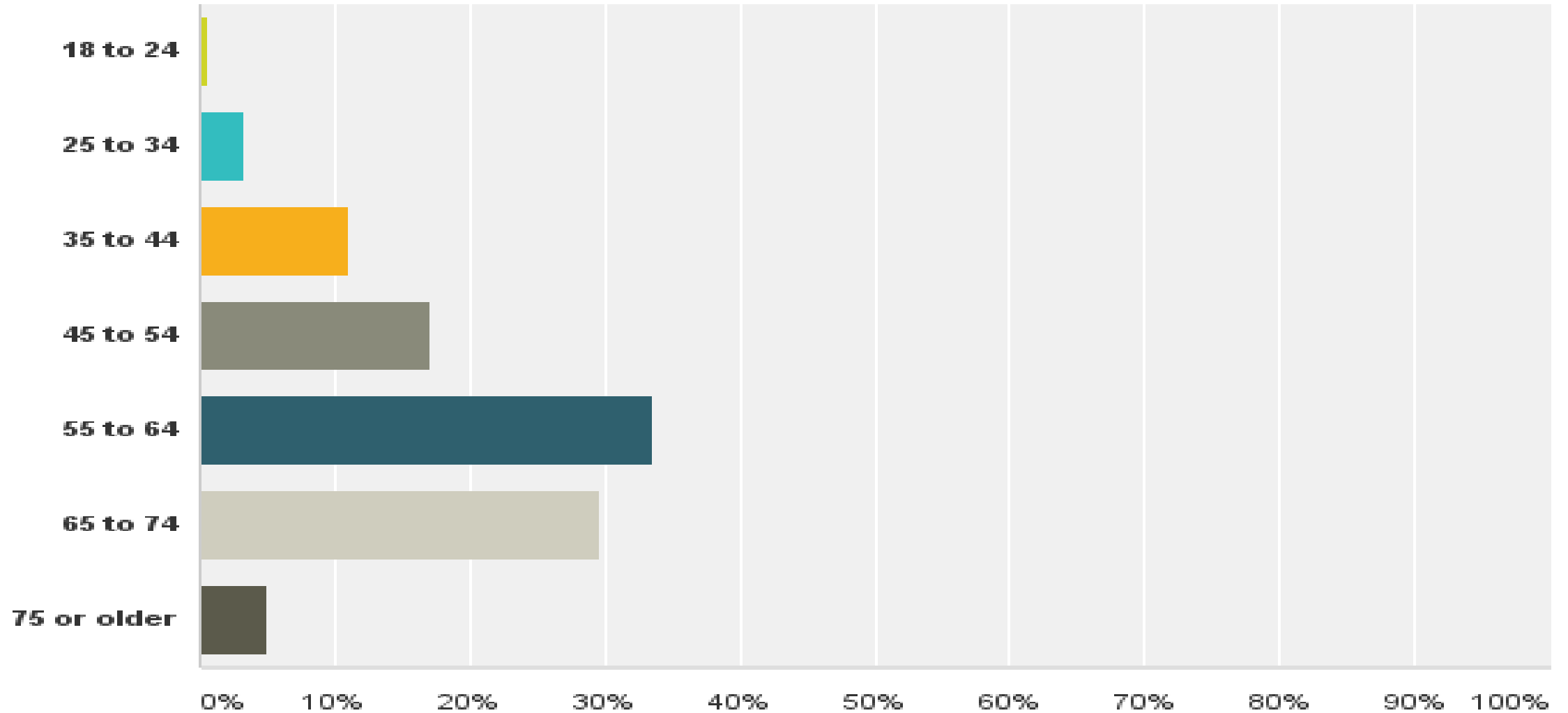
Q1: What is your gender?

Answered: 182 Skipped: 1



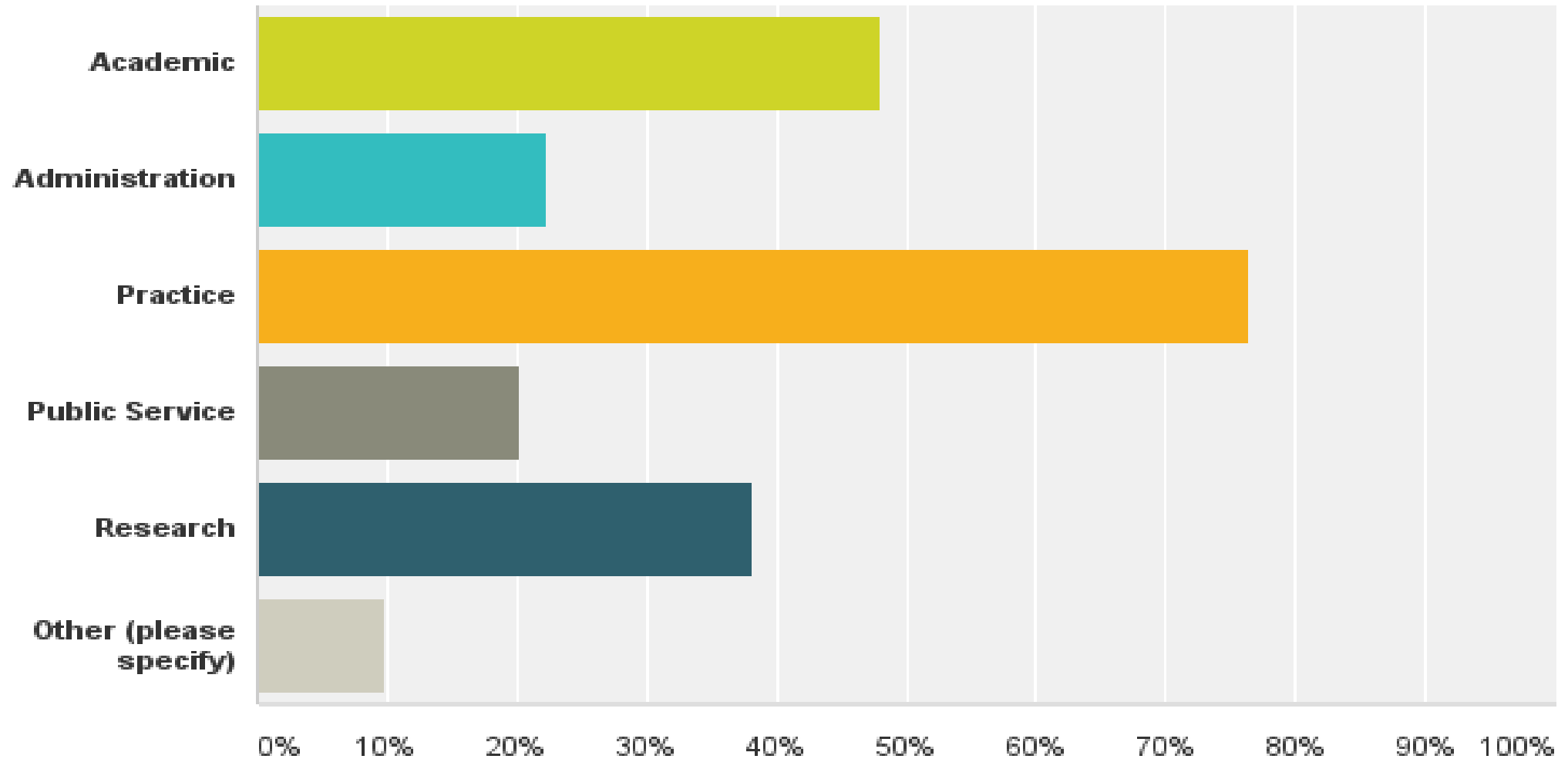
Q2: What is your age?

Answered: 182 Skipped: 1



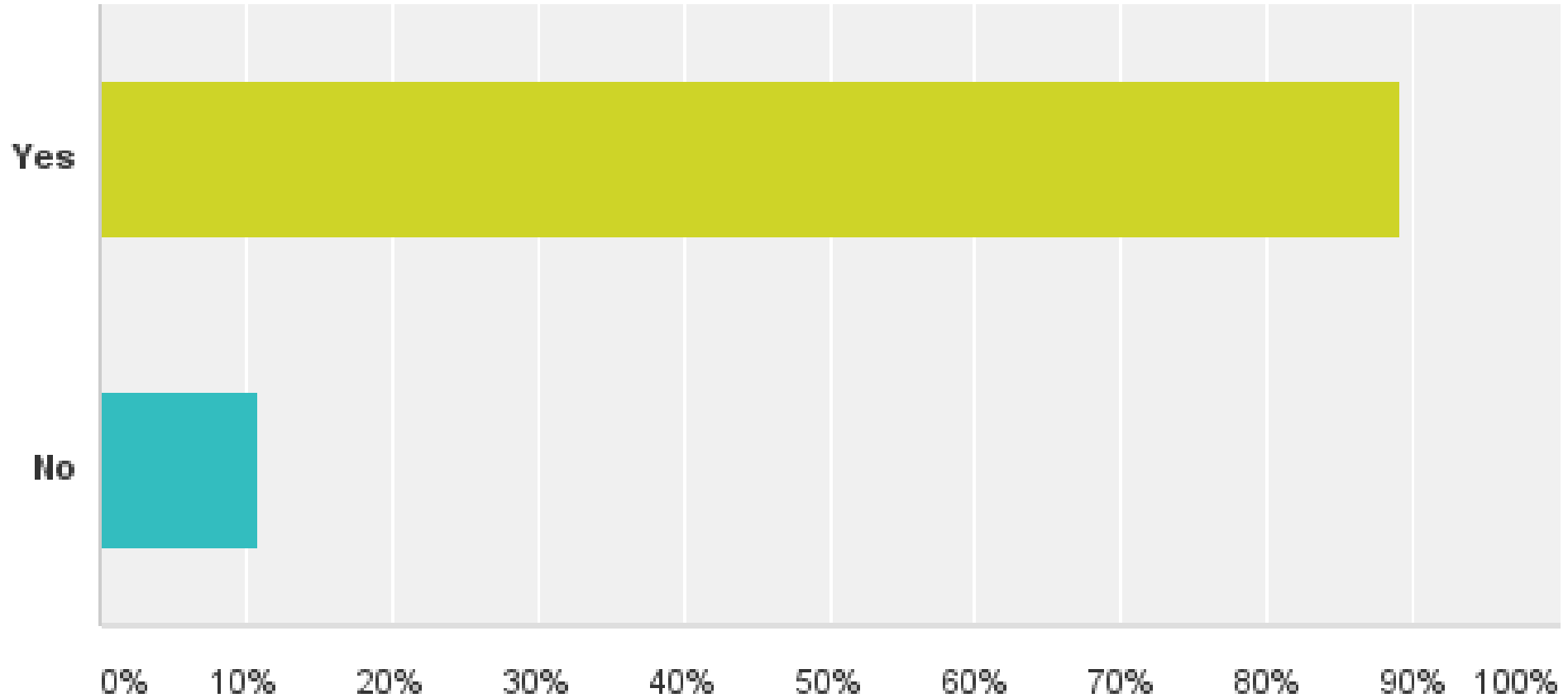
Q4: Check all of the area(s) that apply to you.

Answered: 183 Skipped: 0



Q5: Are you a member of the American Psychological Association?

Answered: 183 Skipped: 0



Q6: How much of the Independent Review have you read?

Answered: 179 Skipped: 4

Answer Choices	Responses	
Executive summary (~ page 72)	69.27%	124
The review past the executive summary (page 72 ~)	43.58%	78
Binders	19.55%	35
Auxiliary attachments	11.73%	21
None	10.61%	19
Total Respondents: 179		

Q7: If you read additional material, please check all that apply.

Answered: 175 Skipped: 8

Answer Choices	Responses	
Information provided by APA in general	81.14%	142
Information provided by APA divisions	69.71%	122
Information provided in newspapers	68.57%	120
Information provided in social media	34.86%	61
None of the preceding	6.29%	11
Total Respondents: 175		

Q8: Regarding the recent APA convention in Toronto, please check all that apply.

Answered: 177 Skipped: 6

Answer Choices	Responses
I did not attend APA	78.53% 139
I attended the Town Hall Meeting	11.30% 20
I attended specific division meetings regarding Independent review (please specify which division)	18.08% 32
Total Respondents: 177	

Q9: Rank order these possible actions based on your understanding of the Independent Review (1- being most important, 6- being least important)

Answered: 175 Skipped: 8

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Revise policy, procedure, and standards of the APA Ethics codes	27.44% 45	14.63% 24	14.02% 23	14.02% 23	12.20% 20	17.68% 29	164
Development of policies limiting third party impact on APA activities	8.70% 14	16.77% 27	14.91% 24	18.63% 30	21.12% 34	19.88% 32	161
Address conflict of interest in human right concerns for the organization, staff, and governance of APA	21.82% 36	22.42% 37	18.18% 30	16.97% 28	14.55% 24	6.06% 10	165
Changing the organizational climate of APA and APA governance	27.81% 47	14.20% 24	17.75% 30	13.61% 23	14.20% 24	12.43% 21	169
Develop and enforce standards of professionalism and civility for APA and APA governance	10.06% 16	20.75% 33	13.84% 22	13.84% 22	16.98% 27	24.53% 39	159
Encourage and protect dissenting and minority voices in APA and APA governance	8.38% 14	15.57% 26	22.16% 37	22.75% 38	16.77% 28	14.37% 24	167

Q10: Rank order the following additional actions that you believe should be taken regarding the Independent Review (1- being most important, 8 being least important). Answered: 175 Skipped: 8

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
The Independent review should be considered as an important first step	18.06% 28	17.42% 27	21.29% 33	12.26% 19	12.26% 19	3.87% 6	7.74% 12	7.10% 11	155
We must bring together the voices as well as identify and execute how to change APA for the better	10.49% 15	15.38% 22	16.08% 23	15.38% 22	16.08% 23	9.09% 13	10.49% 15	6.99% 10	143
The APA ethic standards, rules and procedures must be revised	9.33% 14	16.67% 25	12.67% 19	17.33% 26	10.67% 16	12.67% 19	12.00% 18	8.67% 13	150
Psychologists should be prohibited from any involvement in torture	45.00% 72	12.50% 20	11.25% 18	6.88% 11	5.63% 9	6.88% 11	2.50% 4	9.38% 15	160
APA must shift from a management driven association to a member driven association	14.69% 21	20.98% 30	13.29% 19	12.59% 18	13.29% 19	10.49% 15	5.59% 8	9.09% 13	143
An independent ombudsperson with organizational leadership experience should be appointed	2.11% 3	10.56% 15	9.15% 13	16.90% 24	11.97% 17	17.61% 25	19.01% 27	12.68% 18	142
Specific focus should be provided for the selection of an APA CEO	2.84% 4	6.38% 9	7.80% 11	14.89% 21	12.77% 18	17.73% 25	19.86% 28	17.73% 25	141
An external review of APA is needed to ensure transparency and integrity	8.22% 12	10.96% 16	13.70% 20	6.16% 9	13.01% 19	13.01% 19	14.38% 21	20.55% 30	146

Part 3: Summary & Direction

Summary

Antonio E. Puente
Statement Regarding the Independent Review
08.04.2015

Crisis is in an opportunity for change and reform paving a new road and vision one step at a time. As psychologists we alone are empowered to affirm the integrity of our profession and APA. We will renew our commitment to the principle that all people have an inalienable right to attain their human potential. Finally, we will act morally given the dictates of our conscience and the power afforded to us by our science and profession.

Direction

- These are the first two steps out of many to address the problems outlined by the Independent Review. The first was review and the second was data gathering. The idea is to be careful, sequential and thorough yet responsive and visionary.
- The next step will be to begin to address what else needs to be done to rectify the problems outlined and what can be done to make APA more transparent, efficient and responsive.
- This next step will be presented within one month of this posting.