



The Legitimization Marriage and Family Therapy in the United States: A Cautionary Tale

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The Legitimization Marriage and Family Therapy in the United States: A Cautionary Tale

- Introduction
- Marriage and Family Therapists: The Creation of a Profession
 - Legal Recognition
 - AAMFT MFT Model Law
 - Scope of Practice
 - Who are Marriage and Family Therapists in the United States?
- The Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy
- Nothing Fails Like Success
- The Future is Competence
- Do you want to create a profession or promote a practice?

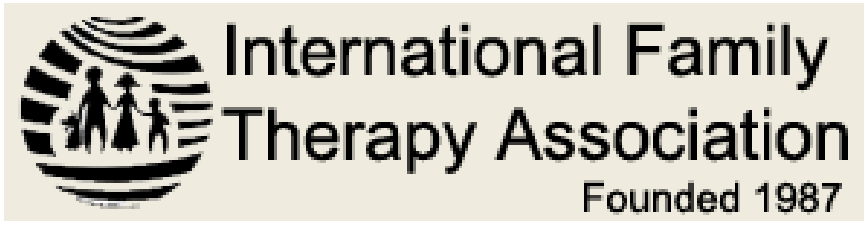
- Feel free to create your presentation as you see fit from the 3nd page onward
- Please remember, however, that use of standard font size and a blank background etc. as presented on these slides will be most easily read and printed by interested viewers



California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists



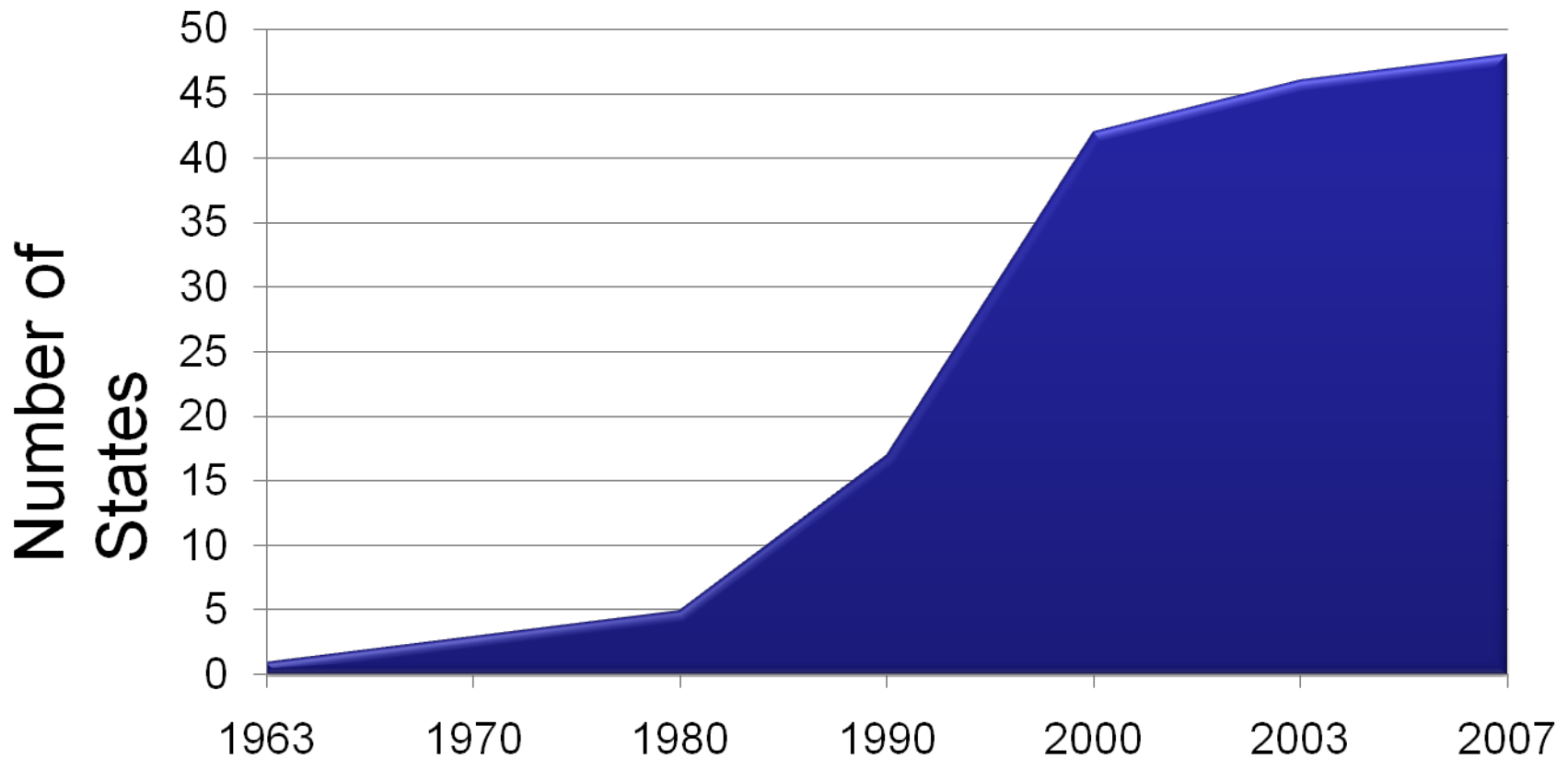
We're here for *You!*



AAMC Statement of Purpose

...to foster the exchange of pertinent information, and promote and maintain standards at a professional level in a new field of clinical specialization. Its special focus is upon the interpersonal relationships between men and women, and how these may be constructive, mutually supportive, and a source of strength to the family group. This approach is useful within the practice of recognized “helping” professions: medicine, psychology, social work, the law, ministry and teaching

Number of States that License MFTs by Year



Michael Bowers
AAMFT Executive Director

The underwriting of these regulations by the AAMFT has contributed significantly to the legitimization of marriage and family therapists as one of the core mental health professions recognized by the United States federal government.

MFT Model Law

- Regulated by the title “marriage and family therapy and the practitioner as a “marriage and family therapist”
- Graduate training from a COAMFTE Accredited Program or equivalent
- 2 years post degree work experience
- Qualified supervision by an AAMFT Approved Supervisor
- Passes an examination

Michael Bowers

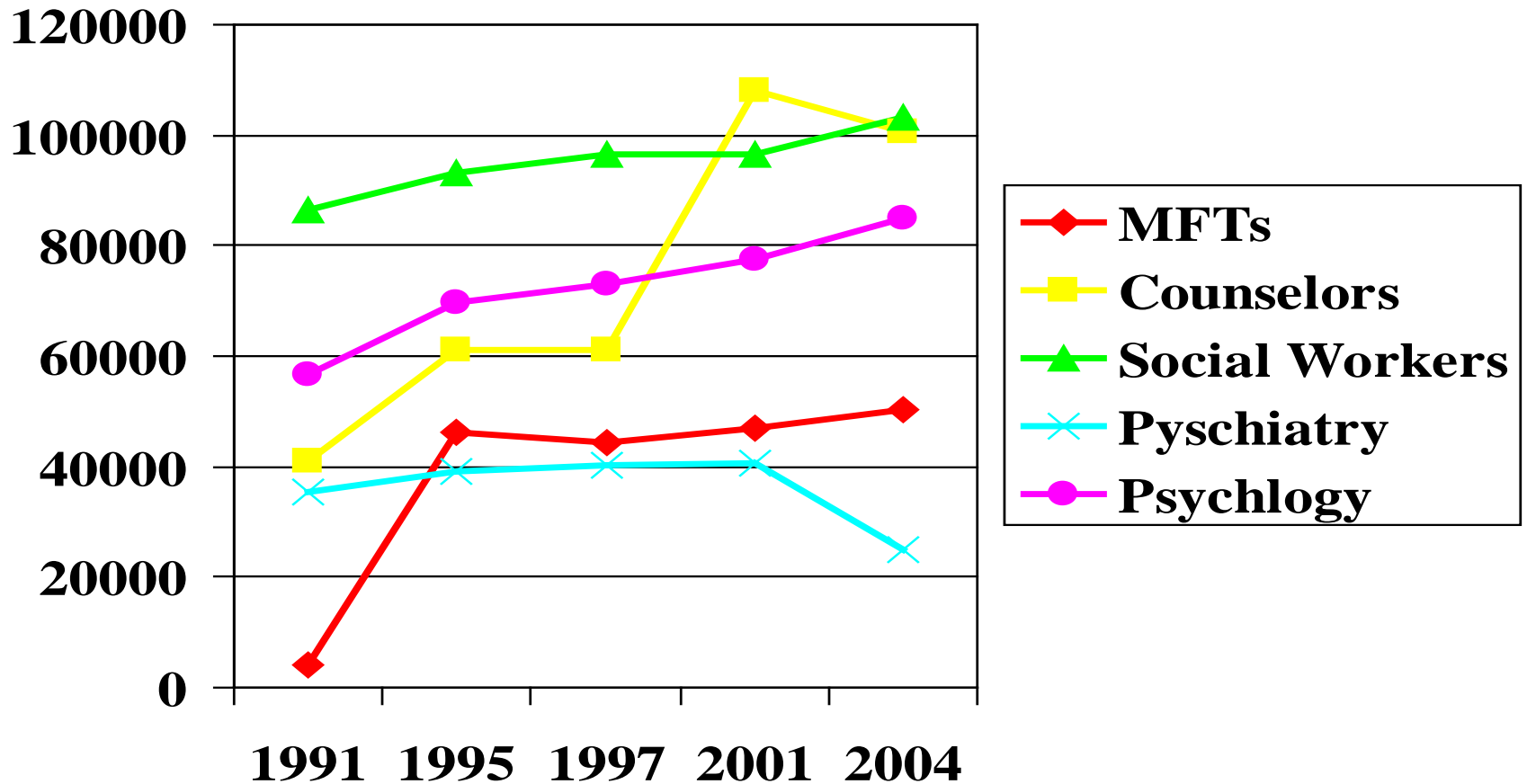
AAMFT Executive Director

Almost from the inception of the AAMFT, the primary recognition has been that with the development of theories and techniques of MFT, a new discipline has been established that is distinct from the other traditional mental health disciplines of psychiatry, psychology, social work, and nursing

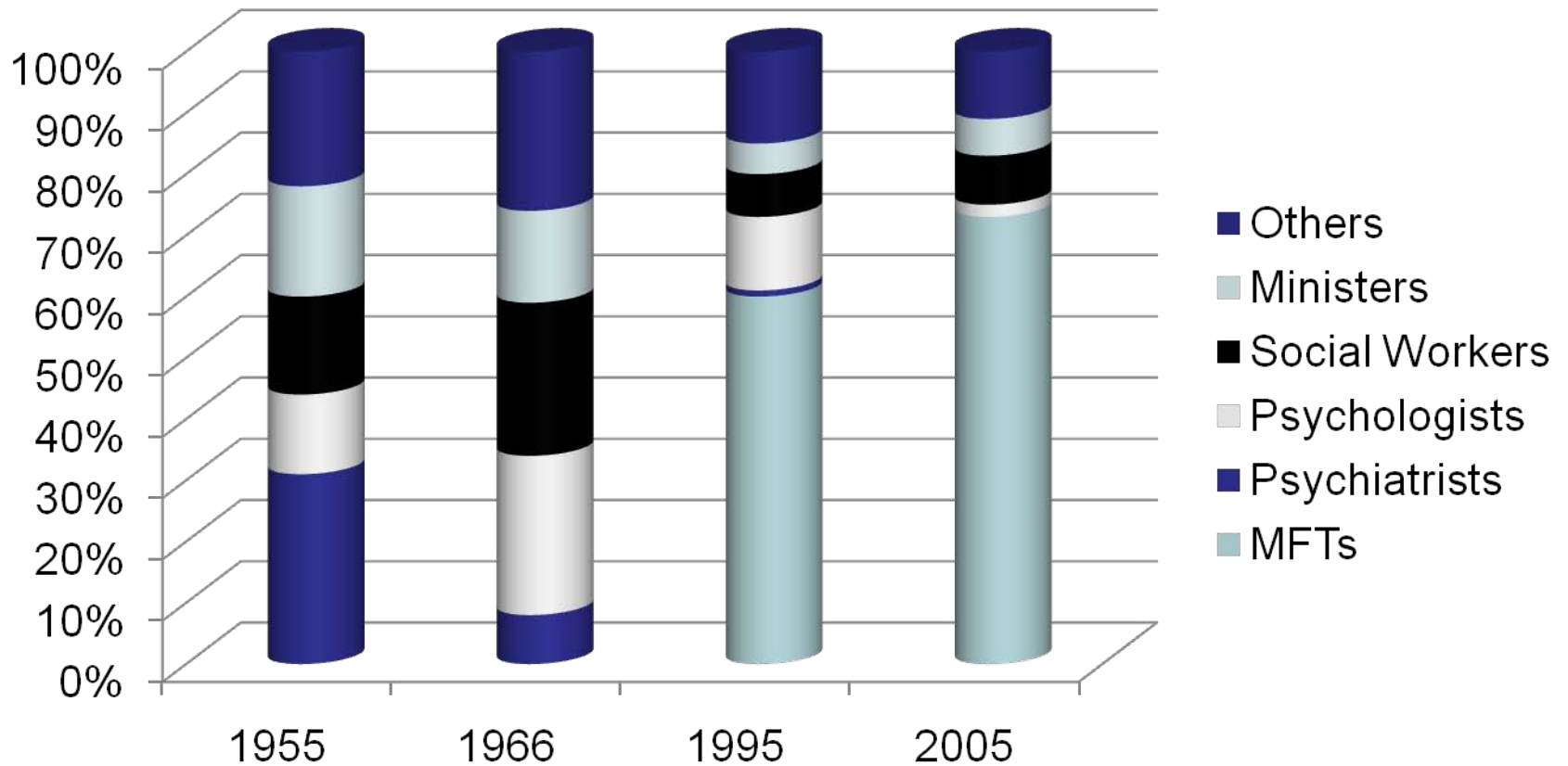
MFT Scope of Practice

The diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, whether affective, behavioral, or cognitive, within the context of family systems.

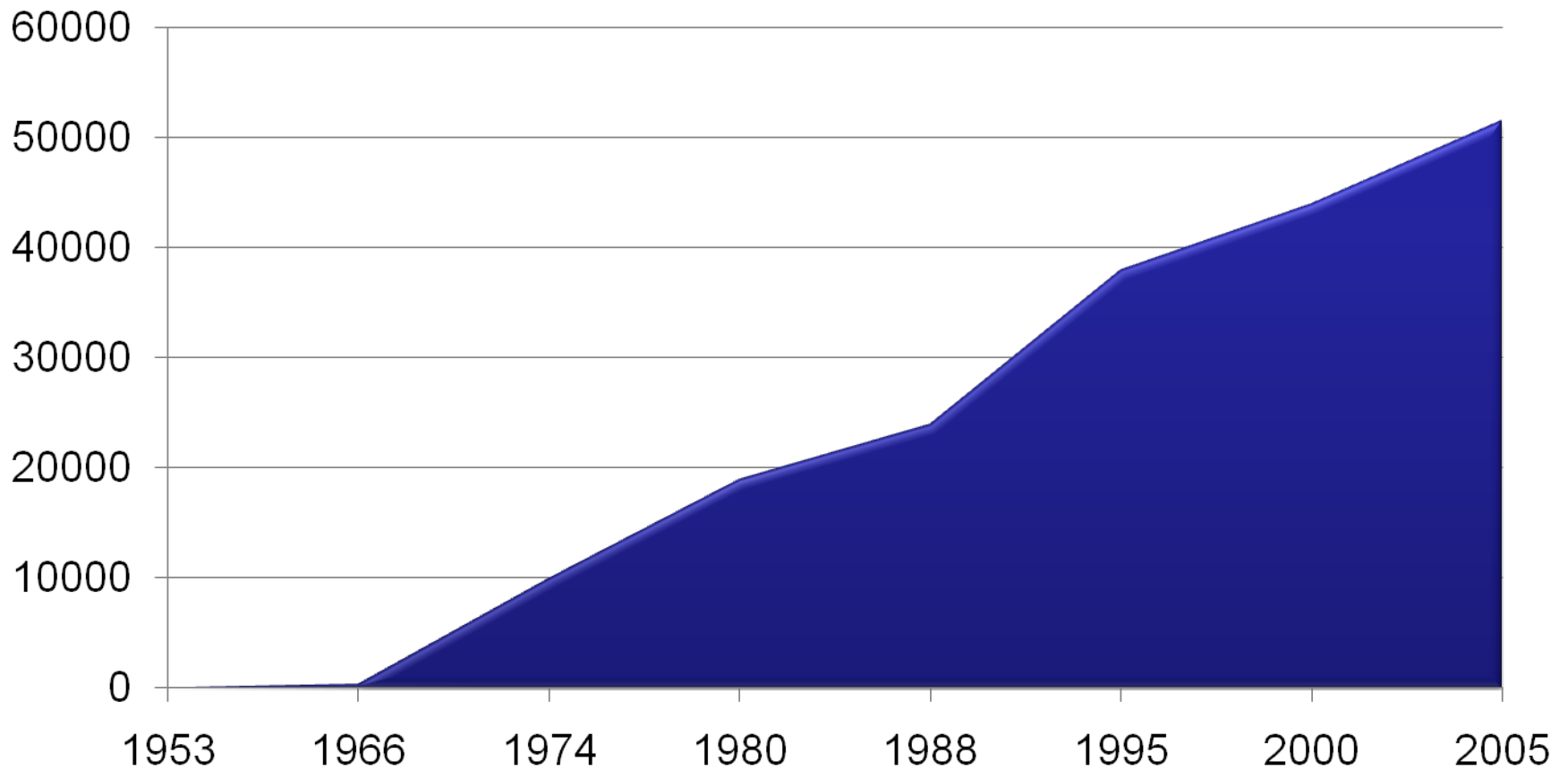
Clinically Trained MH Clinicians in the U.S. 1991-2004



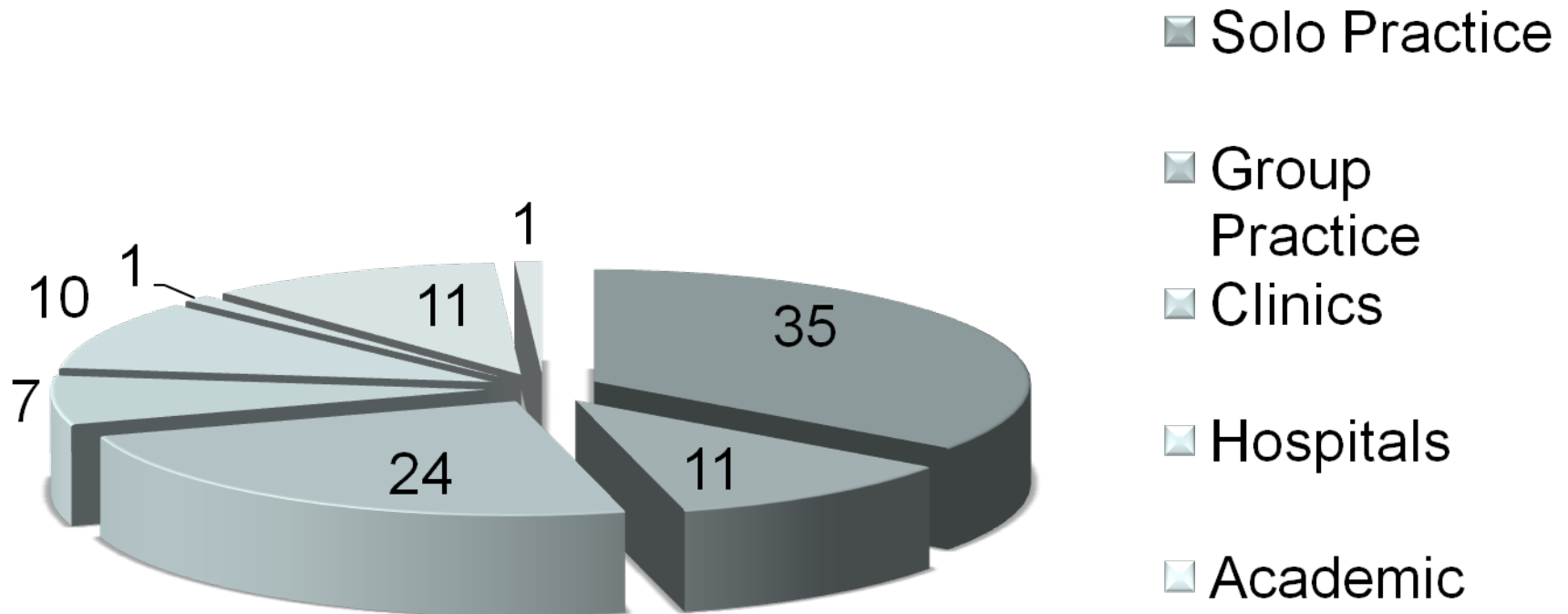
Changes in Primary Professions Identifying as MFTs



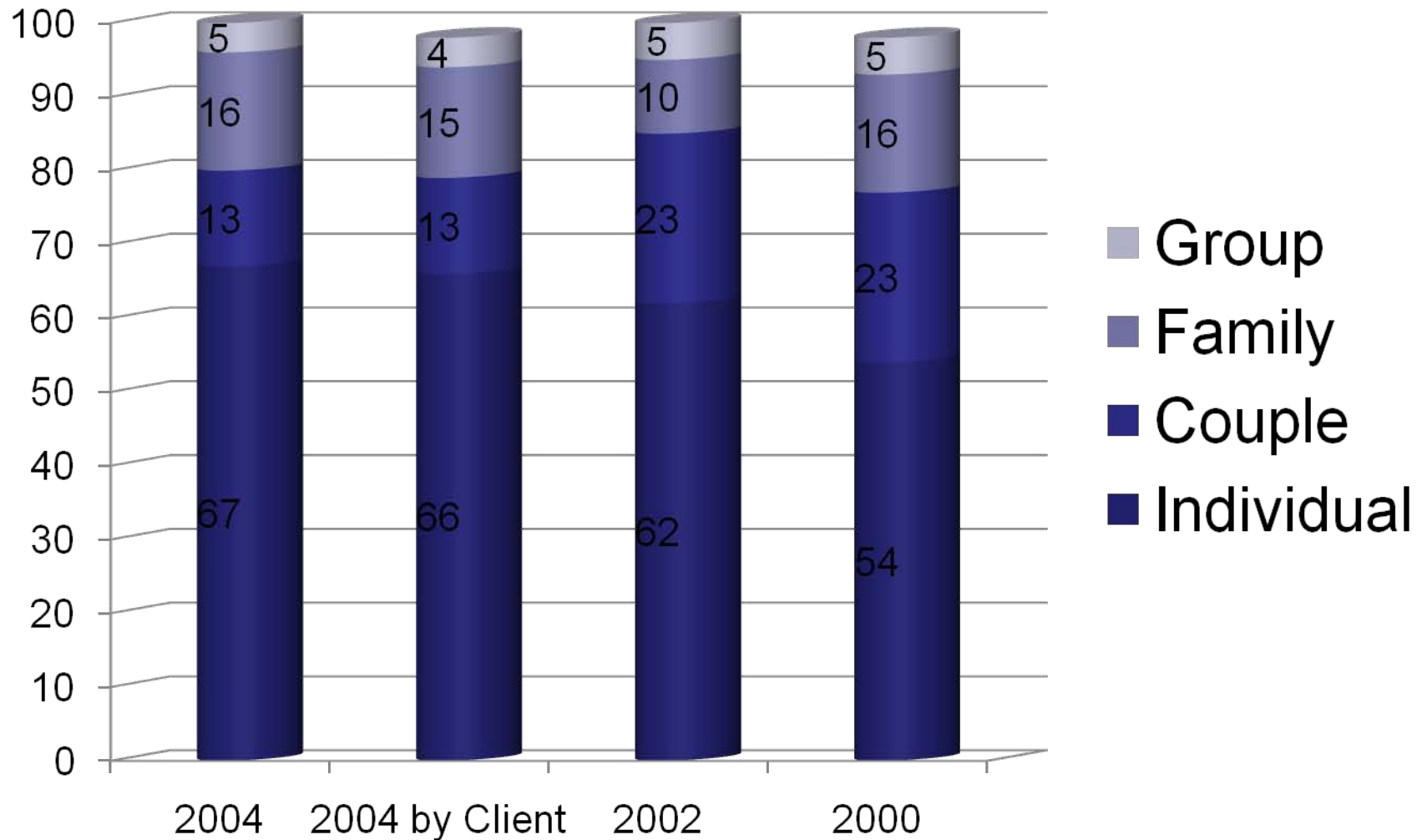
Growth of MFTs by Year



Practice Settings of MFTs In U.S.



Types of Therapy Delivered by MFTs



Primary Diagnosis (*n*=562)

Mood Disorders	23%
Couples Relationship Problems	21%
Family Relationship Problems	12%
Anxiety Disorders	11%
Adjustment Disorders	10%
Childs Behavior/ School Performance	6%
Substance Abuse/Dependence	6%
Parent/ Child/ Parenting Issue	5%
Other Situationally Precipitated	5%



International Family
Therapy Association
Founded in 1987

XVII

World IFTA Congress 2009

Slovenia, March 4-7, 2009



Congress Theme: Reconciling Differences: Can Family Therapy Help Heal the World?

Topics

Abuse /Violence

Couples

Death/Loss

Infidelity

Legal/Courts

Medical/Physical/Collaborative Care

Mental Illness/Health

Research

Spirituality

Substance Abuse/Addiction

Training/Supervision

Trauma

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