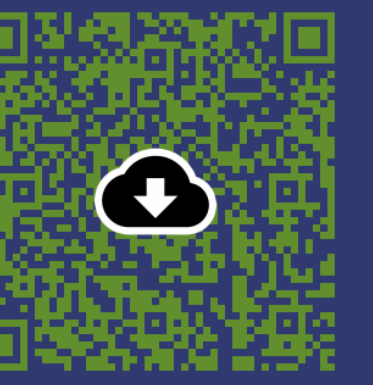




## Introduction

The task force of the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (ACBS) recently issued a comprehensive statement regarding the future trajectory of CBS (Hayes et al., 2021). Although this statement has sparked widespread debate encompassing both clinical practices and research activities, its actual impact on the ongoing activities of researchers and practitioners remains unknown.

### Purpose of This Study

To examine whether the task force statement has led to shifts in the research published in the Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science.

## Methods

### Data

Analyzed all 883 articles published in Volumes 1 to 39 of JCBS up to January 2026

### Extracted Items: The analyzed components included

- titles
- Abstracts
- author-specified keywords

## Analysis

**Analysis:** Computational and statistical analyses were performed using Python (v3.10) and R (v4.4.0).

**Text Clustering (Python):** Text data were vectorized using sentence-transformers. Dimensionality reduction via UMAP was followed by density-based clustering using HDBSCAN.

**Statistical Test (R):** X2 test examined differences in cluster distributions before and after the issuance of the task force statement.

## Discussion

Several differences emerged between the pre- and post-statement periods. While co-occurring COVID-19 research increased, more pronounced growth occurred in psychological flexibility measurement (**Cluster 8**) and non-clinical applications like coaching (**Cluster 13**). Conversely, studies emphasizing CBS itself (**Cluster 1**) and experiential avoidance (**Cluster 9**) decreased. These shifts diverge slightly from the task force's thematic focus. However, as new studies are planned in response to the statement, these trends will likely evolve further.

## Results

## A Significant Statistical Shift Post-Task Force Report. Decreased Focus on Experiential Avoidance, Increased Rise in Non-Clinical Applications

The HDBSCAN clustering identified 14 clusters. Data points classified as noise totaled 388 (approx. 44%), which falls within an acceptable threshold. Figure 1 shows the stacked area plot across all years, and Figure 2 displays the most frequent words for each cluster adjusted by TF-IDF.

A chi-square test confirmed a significant shift between the pre-2021 and post-2022 periods,  $X^2(13) = 37.91$ ,  $p < 0.01$ . Figure 3 illustrates the differences in these shifts, with blue indicating an increase and red indicates a decrease.

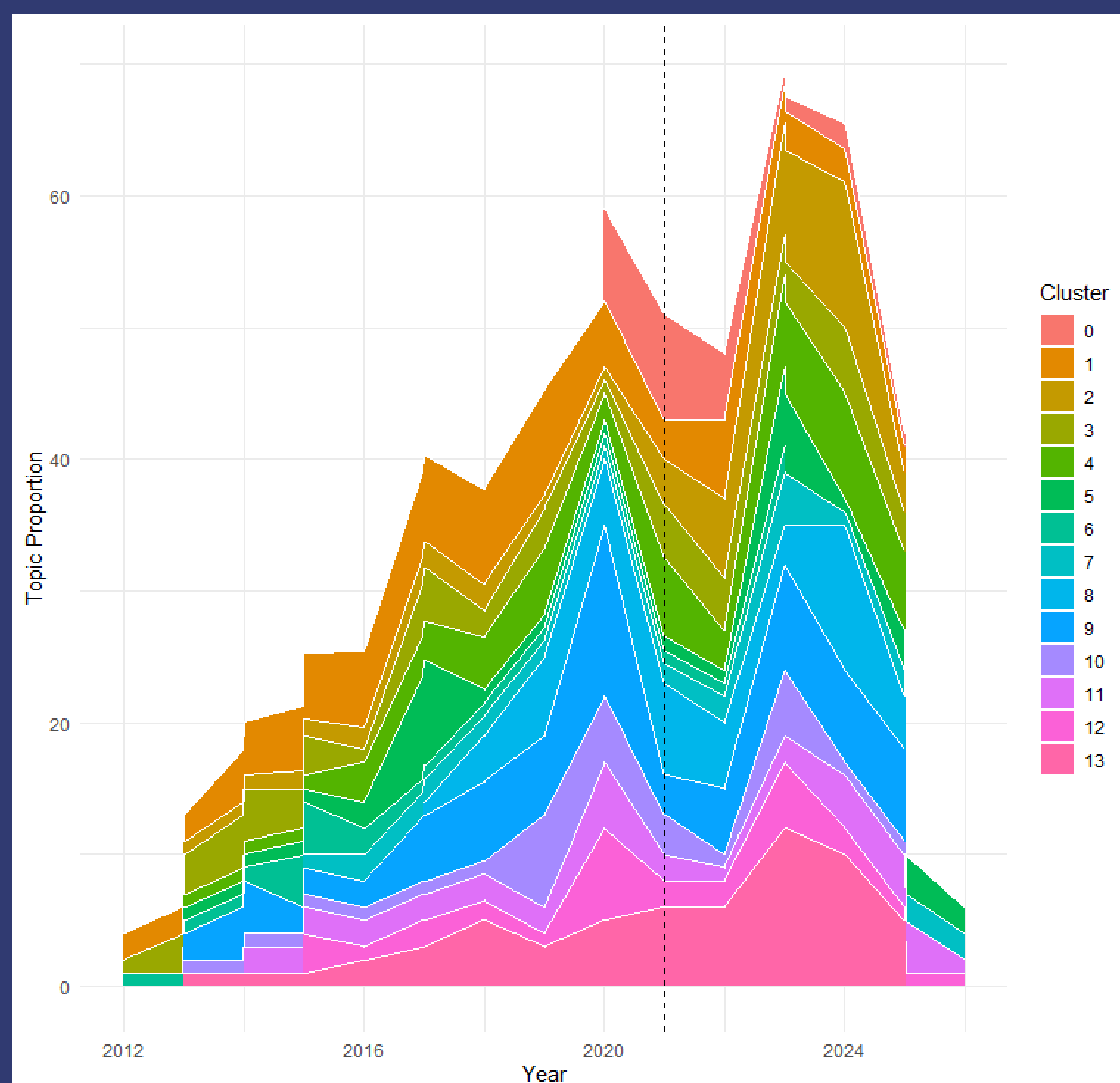


Figure 1 Stacked area plot of topic proportions across years.



Figure3 Changes in cluster proportions

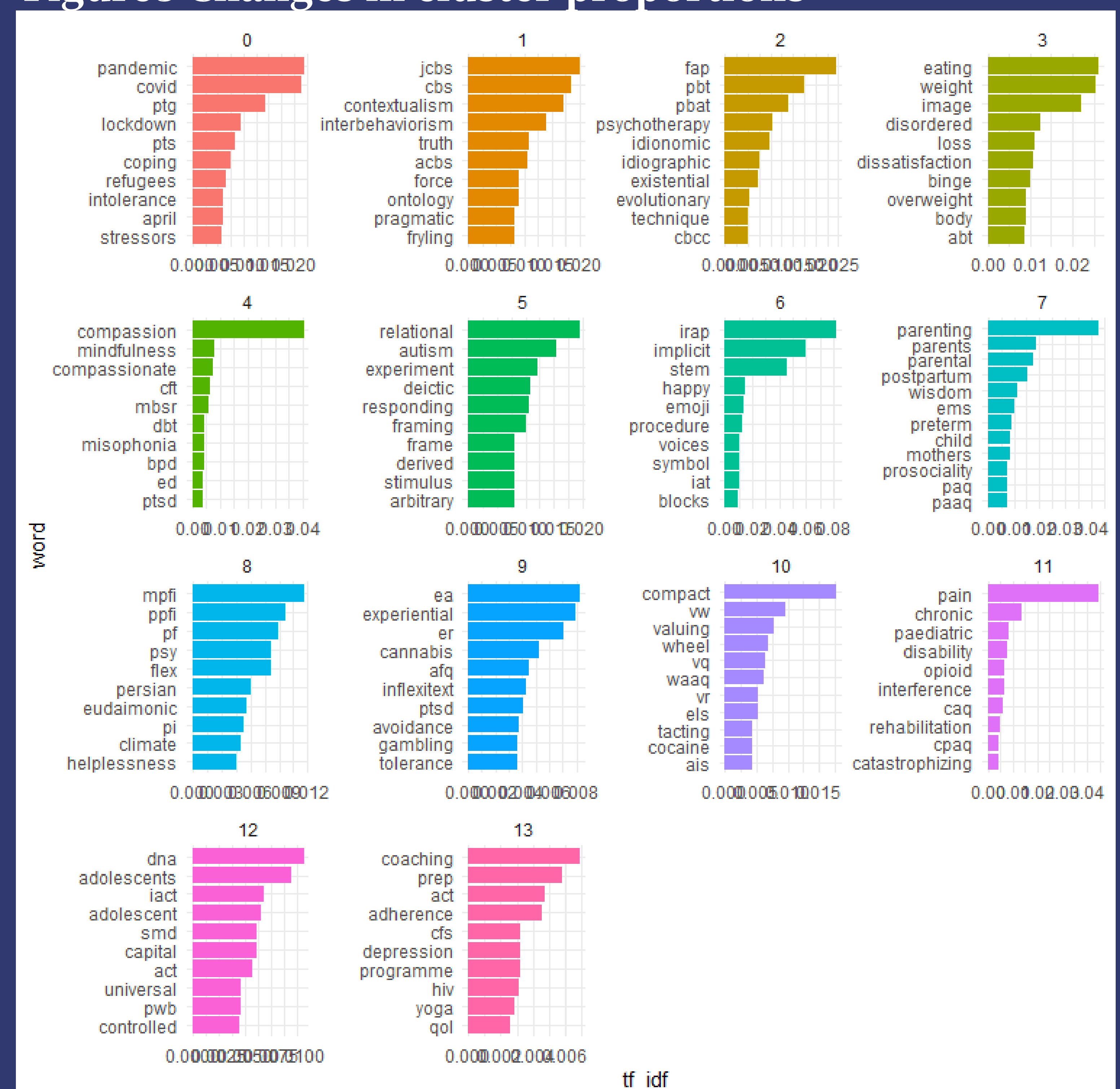


Figure2 Top frequent words for each cluster