Employment Projections

- Every 2 years BLS releases long-term national employment projections
- Total employment is projected to increase 6.5 percent from 2014 to 2024
  - 9.8 million new jobs
- Healthcare occupations are projected to add 2.3 million jobs, or about 1 in 4 new jobs added to the total economy
Occupational Outlook Handbook

- Projections data are featured in the *Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH)*
- The 2016-17 edition of the OOH includes 329 occupational profiles covering 576 detailed occupations
- Each profile features information on
  - Job duties
  - Work environment
  - Wages
  - How to become one – education, training, licenses and certifications
  - Job outlook
Typical education, training, and work experience pathway

- Not everyone working in an occupation needs the same level of preparation for entry
- What is typical?
- Occupations that typically require a postsecondary credential of less than a bachelor’s degree
  - Associate’s degree
  - Postsecondary nondegree award
Most healthcare occupations are regulated

- May require a license, certification, or registration
  - Licenses are typically issued by states to ensure that workers have met specific legal requirements to practice in an occupation
  - Some occupations are certified; these certifications may be required or optional and demonstrate competency
  - Registrations are typically required and issued by state or local governments
- Requirements vary by state
Dental occupations

- Dental hygienists
  - Associate’s degree
  - All states require a license

- Dental assistants
  - Postsecondary nondegree award
    - Less common pathway: on-the-job training
  - Some states require license, registration, or certification
## Dental occupations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental hygienists</td>
<td>200.5</td>
<td>237.9</td>
<td>37.4 18.6</td>
<td>70.3</td>
<td>$71,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental assistants</td>
<td>318.8</td>
<td>377.4</td>
<td>58.6 18.4</td>
<td>137.5</td>
<td>$35,390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Emergency medical technicians

- Postsecondary nondegree award
  - Programs provide training at three levels:
    - EMT
    - Advanced EMT
    - Paramedic
- Paramedics may need an associate’s degree
- All states require license and a certification may be required prior to license
  - In most states, an individual who has National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) certification qualifies for licensure
## Emergency medical technicians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOC occupation title</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>2014 median wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency medical technicians and paramedics</td>
<td>241.2</td>
<td>299.6</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>98.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Diagnostic imaging occupations

- Cardiovascular technologists and technicians
- Diagnostic medical sonographers
- Nuclear medicine technologists
- Radiologic technologists
- MRI technologists

- All typically require an associate’s degree for entry
- Licensing and certification requirements vary by occupation and state
- Employers typically prefer to hire candidates with certification
## Diagnostic imaging occupations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular technologists and technicians</td>
<td>52.0</td>
<td>63.5</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>$54,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic medical sonographers</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>76.7</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>$67,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear medicine technologists</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>$72,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiologic technologists</td>
<td>197.0</td>
<td>214.2</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>$55,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnetic resonance imaging technologists</td>
<td>33.6</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>$67,090</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Laboratory technician occupations

- Medical and clinical laboratory technicians
  - Associate’s degree
  - Some states require license

- Phlebotomists
  - Postsecondary nondegree award
    - Less common pathway: high school diploma + on-the-job training
  - Phlebotomists are not licensed
    - However, almost all employers prefer to hire phlebotomists who have earned certification
## Laboratory technician occupations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOC occupation title</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Job openings due to growth and replacement needs, 2014-24</th>
<th>2014 median wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical and clinical laboratory technicians</td>
<td>163.4</td>
<td>192.4</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>68.1</td>
<td>$38,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phlebotomists</td>
<td>112.7</td>
<td>140.8</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>$30,670</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Direct care occupations

- Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses
- Nursing assistants
- Medical assistants

- Postsecondary nondegree award
- LPNs and LVNs must be licensed
- Nursing assistants must be on state registry
- Medical assistants are not required to be licensed in most states
# Direct care occupations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses</td>
<td>719.9</td>
<td>837.2</td>
<td>117.3</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>322.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing assistants</td>
<td>1,492.1</td>
<td>1,754.1</td>
<td>262.0</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>599.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical assistants</td>
<td>591.3</td>
<td>730.2</td>
<td>138.9</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>262.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Behavioral health occupations

- Psychiatric technicians
  - Postsecondary nondegree award and prior clinical experience
  - Most states do not license psychiatric technicians

- Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors
  - Many positions need a bachelor’s degree and some a master’s degree
    - There are positions for workers with less than a bachelor’s degree depending on the type of employer or setting
  - Regulation of counselors varies by state and by practice setting
## Behavioral health occupations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOC occupation title</th>
<th>Employment</th>
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<th>2014 median wage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number, in thousands</td>
<td>Change, 2014-24</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric technicians</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>71.4</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td>116.2</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Physical and occupational therapy occupations

- Physical therapist assistants
- Occupational therapy assistants

- Associate’s degree
- All states require a license or certification for PT assistants
- Most states require license or registration for OT assistants
## Physical and occupational therapy occupations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOC occupation title</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Job openings due to growth and replacement needs, 2014-24</th>
<th>2014 median wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical therapist assistants</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>110.7</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational therapy assistants</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>47.1</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Pharmacy technicians

- High school diploma + moderate on-the-job training
  - Less typical pathway: postsecondary nondegree award

- Most states regulate technicians in some way
Pharmacy technicians

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SOC occupation title</th>
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<th>Job openings due to growth and replacement needs, 2014-24</th>
<th>2014 median wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number, in thousands</td>
<td>Change, 2014-24</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy technicians</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>372.5</td>
<td>407.2</td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For more information about these occupations and hundreds of others, please see the OOH webpage:

http://www.bls.gov/ooh/home.htm
Contact Information

Emily Richards Rolen

Division of
Occupational Employment Projections
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