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Excellent job prospects, rising salaries.

America's Growing Demand for Health Care Workers

America needs more health care workers. The U.S. Department of Labor predicts that healthcare will generate 3 million new wage and salary jobs between 2006 and 2016. Seven out of the 20 fastest growing occupations are health care related.

Our aging population, new medical technologies, and changes in the way health care is, and will be provided in the future, are opening doors for young people who want to train for a job that pays well and gives them a chance to help other people. And opportunities for underrepresented minorities and low-income students are especially good in health care.

Discover a rewarding health career

While many health careers don't involve working directly with patients, every health professional plays a part in the health care process. So, in addition to paying well, health careers offer the satisfaction of helping others.

Advances in medical technology also make health careers exciting and ever-changing. Researchers are constantly discovering new ways to diagnose, treat and prevent diseases. Health workers receive ongoing training to learn new skills, use new technologies and improve patient care.

Employment boom for allied health care workers

Employment growth in the health field will be especially high for allied health care workers, especially for those who work outside the inpatient hospital sector, such as pharmacy technicians and personal and home care aides.

Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, and home health aides are among the occupations adding the most new jobs between 2006 and 2016, about 647,000 combined.

Projected growth in demand for allied health workers 2006-2016*

Home health aide	49%
Medical assistant	35%
Physician assistant	27%
Physical therapy assistant	32%

Projected growth in demand for allied health workers 2004-2014*

Dental hygienist	43.3%
Dental assistant	42.7%
Physical therapist	36.7%
Forensic science technician	36.4%
Veterinary technician	35.4%
Diagnostic medical sonographer	34.8%
Physical therapist aide	34.4%
Occupational therapist assistant	34.1%
Medical scientist	34.1%
Occupational therapist	33.6%
Cardiovascular technicians	32.6%

Qualify for a health care job with just 2 years of training after high school

While health care workers at all levels of education and training will continue to be in demand, training for many allied health jobs can be completed in just two years at your local community college. Students can get help to pay for school through scholarships, grants and special loan programs. www.explorehealthcareers.org lists hundreds of sources of financial aid and enrichment programs – and lists more than 7,000 academic programs in allied health care.

Tip: Look for accredited educational programs that offer job placement assistance after graduation.

On the job training programs offered by many health care employers help allied health workers obtain additional training and experience so they can get promoted into higher paying positions.

Learn more about allied health careers, how to get funding for school and how to advance with employer-sponsored "career ladders" programs on www.explorehealthcareers.org.

*Source U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics