

Explore HEALTH Careers.org

Do something that matters. For yourself. For others.

Excellent job prospects, rising salaries

America's Growing Demand for Health Care Workers

America needs more health care workers – a lot more. The U.S. Department of Labor predicts that 2.4 million new health care workers will need to be hired by 2014. Our aging population, new medical technologies, and changes in the way health care is provided 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.

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.

Health care facilities hire allied health workers to extend the capacity of their professional staff, such as doctors and nurses. Allied health professionals include nursing assistants, physical therapy aides, radiologic technologists, home health workers and EMTs.

Allied health workers make up more than 60 percent of the health care workforce in America.* Training for many

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

Home health aide	56.0%
Medical assistant	52.1%
Physician assistant	49.6%
Physical therapy assistant	44.2%
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%

allied health careers can be completed in just two years after high school.

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

Training for many allied health jobs can be completed in just two years at your local community college. Minority and low-income students can get help to pay for school through scholarships, grants and special loan programs.

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

On the job training programs offered by many health care

employers then 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

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Take Advantage of Health Career Opportunities for Underrepresented Minority and Low-Income Students

Together, African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans make up over 25 percent of the U.S. population. Yet, according to the Commission on Diversity in the Health Workforce, minorities make up only nine percent of nurses, six percent of physicians, and five percent of dentists.

The statistics are just as bad for most other health care jobs, and the situation is getting worse because the number of minority students training to become health workers is declining.

Diversity in the health care workforce improves health care for minorities

Dr. Louis Sullivan, founding dean of Morehouse School of Medicine and former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, says the lack of diversity among health providers leads to poorer health among minorities in America.

"The medical evidence is clear. Minorities in the U.S. have an increased incidence of disease and show less favorable health outcomes than whites," says Dr. Sullivan. "Without more diversity in the health workforce our nation's minority populations will continue to suffer."

Health care training programs are actively recruiting minorities

The first step in increasing diversity among health providers is to "prime the pipeline" by increasing the number of minority students who are studying to become health care workers.

To meet this goal, community colleges, universities and medical schools are actively recruiting minority students into health education programs.

Missing Persons: Minorities in the Health Professions, the final report of the Sullivan Commission, recommended several strategies to increase the health care workforce pipeline, including shifting financial aid from student loans

to scholarships, reducing dependency on standardized tests for admission, and enhancing the role of two-year colleges in training the health care workforce.

New options help students pay for health care training and education

Minority and low-income students who plan to pursue health careers can get financial aid to help pay for school. Local, state and federal government programs provide grants, loans, fellowships, scholarships and loan repayment options, particularly for students who wish to work in medically underserved areas.

ExploreHealthCareers.org offers a database of funding sources for minority and low income students. Search for scholarships, grants and loans by ethnicity, state and field of study.

Pre-health enrichment programs give students on the job experience

Summer programs, semester programs and internships can help minority and low-income students gain valuable experience working in a professional health care environment. On ExploreHealthCareers.org, students can search for pre-health enrichment programs by region, field and type of program.

"Participating in a pre-health enrichment program is an excellent way to learn what it's like to work in the field," says Henryne Tobias, Project Director for ExploreHealthCareers.org. "You get invaluable experience and personal contacts, and it can increase your chances of being accepted into the health professions program of your dreams."

The health care field offers extensive career opportunities for minority and low-income students. Start exploring your options today at www.ExploreHealthCareers.org.

Source: Missing Persons: Minorities in the Health Professions, A Report of the Sullivan Commission on Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce