



# Health Conditions

Health Care Education

Winter 2009

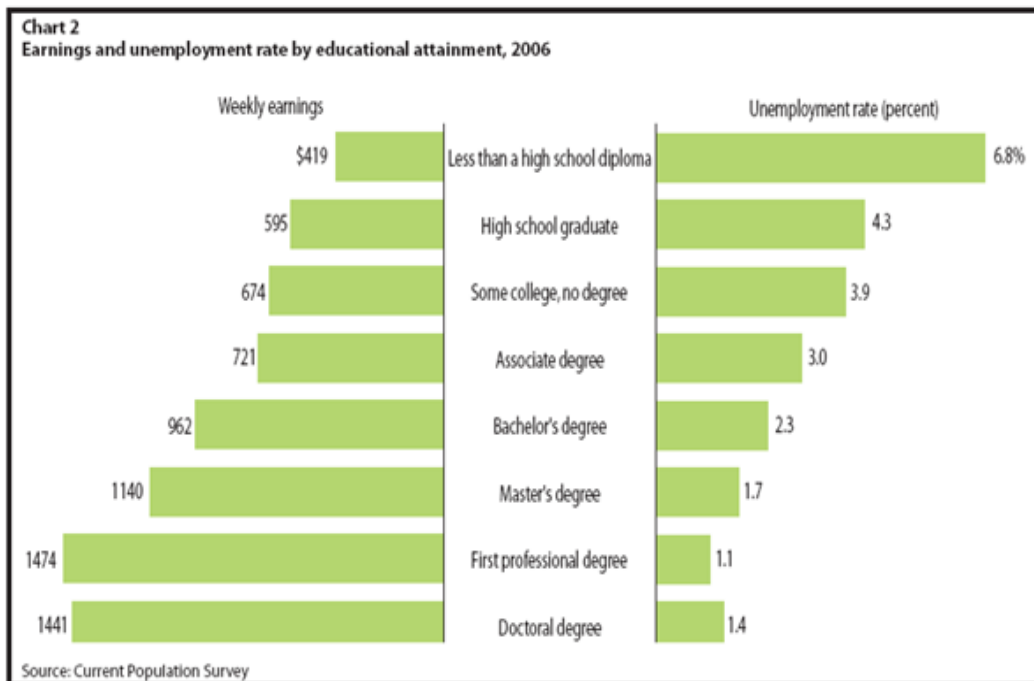
## Allied Health Workforce in Arizona

Arizona is currently experiencing shortages in a number of allied health professions. An aging workforce, an aging population, economic concerns, and increased demand have translated into a severe healthcare workforce shortage. Such shortages are exacerbated by Arizona's explosive population growth and are expected to continue indefinitely. Data provided by the Arizona Department of Commerce, Research Administration ([www.workforce.az.gov](http://www.workforce.az.gov)) indicate continued growth in a variety of health occupations.

### Arizona Statewide Health Occupation Growth, AZ Department of Com-

Occupation	Projected % Increase in AZ (2006-2016)
Physician Assistants	29.8%
Registered Nurses	31.6%
Occupational Therapists	26.8%
Respiratory Therapists	31.0%
Clinical Laboratory Technicians	34.0%
Dental Hygienists	50.1%
Cardiovascular Technologists	32.1%
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	29.2%
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	24.9%
Radiologic Technologists	28.0%
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics	23.6%
Pharmacy Technicians	57.3%
Surgical Technologists	36.7%
Health Information Technicians	24.2%
Opticians	36.9%
Home Health Aides	48.2%
Occupational Therapist Assistants	30.0%
Physical Therapist Assistants	37.4%

### Job Outlook by Education, 2006-2016 (<http://www.stats.bls.gov/opub/ooq/2008/fall/art01.pdf>)



The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates that the growth of nearly all health professions will outpace average growth for non-health professions through at least 2016.

Many of these jobs in health-care require an associate degree or higher.

Benefits of increased educational attainment include higher wages and lower unemployment rate. These benefits are depicted in the BLS chart below.

Educational requirements and wages vary significantly among the health professions. However, those with graduate degrees are necessary in many health professions to ensure an adequate supply of program faculty to train new workers.

Availability of advanced degree programs in allied health fields is of critical importance to ensure an adequate supply of faculty to train the next generation of workers.

Additionally, educational institutions may need to partner with healthcare providers to develop unique and flexible compensation packages to entice practitioners into teaching.

## Allied Health Workforce in Arizona (continued)

Recent estimates suggest that by 2014, 81,000 additional clinical laboratory technologists and technicians will be needed to replace retirees and an additional 68,000 to fill new positions. Currently, 40% of the clinical lab workforce is within 10 years of retirement and 44% of laboratories are already experiencing difficulty hiring qualified laboratory personnel (Critical Values, 1 (4), October 2008). The BLS also estimates that growth in the clinical laboratory field will exceed 10% through 2016 (See chart below). To meet this expected demand, programs will need to expand and clinical laboratories will need to develop a variety of techniques and strategies to retain existing workers.

Occupation	Employment, 2006	Projected growth rate, 2006-16 (percent)	Net job openings, projected 2006-16	Median annual wages, 2006	Percent of workers aged 25 to 44 with...*		
					High school diploma or less	Some college or associate degree	Bachelor's or higher degree
Registered nurses	2,505	24	1,000	\$57,280	1	43	56
Physicians and surgeons	633	14	204	≥145,600	0	0	100
Pharmacists	243	22	95	94,520	0	3	97
Physical therapists	173	27	68	66,200	2	9	89
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists	167	12	46	49,700	14	35	51
Medical and clinical laboratory technicians	151	15	46	32,840	14	35	51
Dentists, general	136	9	40	132,140	0	0	100
Speech-language pathologists	110	11	33	57,710	0	0	98
Occupational therapists	99	23	37	60,470	0	9	90
Physician assistants	66	27	27	74,980	8	26	67

\* Percents may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Much has been published about the shortage of nurses and pharmacists but several other health professions are also facing critical workforce shortages. The absence of any of these health professions can impact the availability and quality of patient care. Allied health professions expected to experience such shortages include:

- Cytotechnologists
- Dental Hygienists
- Medical Technologists
- Nuclear Medicine Technologists
- Radiation Therapists
- Radiographers
- Ultrasonographers

Source: [www.aacc.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/Divisions/Mangement/healthcare\\_workforce.pdf](http://www.aacc.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/Divisions/Mangement/healthcare_workforce.pdf)

### Did You Know.....

There are currently more than 200 allied health professions. These professions make up approximately 60% of the total U.S. healthcare workforce. In recent years, half of the fastest growing occupations have been in the allied health fields. By 2020, a shortage of 1.6 to 2.5 million allied health professionals is predicted.

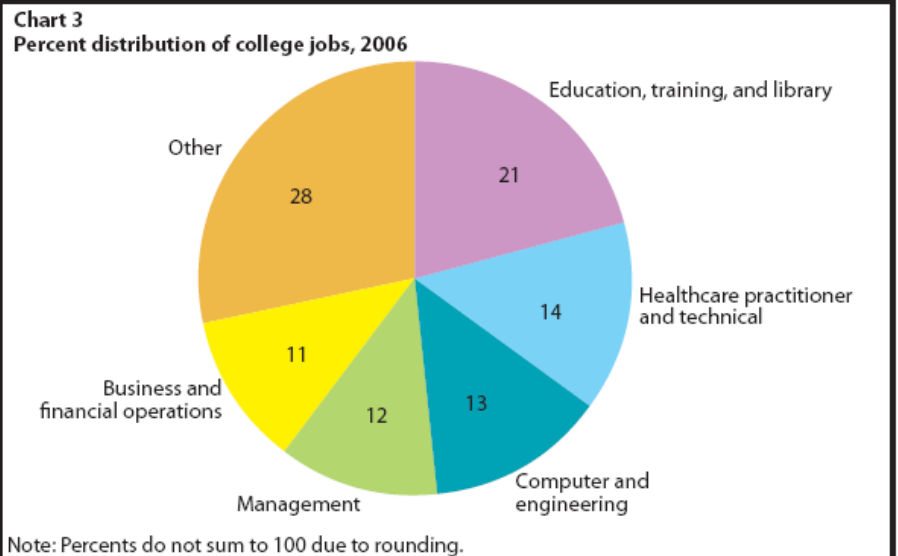
Source: [www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/56473.php](http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/56473.php)

### Coming Soon:

Clinical Simulation  
Changing Health Care Labor Market  
HIPAA Compliance

### Job Outlook by Education, 2006-2016

(Source: [www.stats.bls.gov/opub/ooq/2008/fall/art01.pdf](http://www.stats.bls.gov/opub/ooq/2008/fall/art01.pdf))



### Impact of State Economy on Hospitals

Arizona's current economic situation has increased financial pressure on area hospitals. A recent payment rate freeze for the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and potential changes in coverage levels are likely to have a profound impact on access to and delivery of health services in Arizona. Links to a variety of reports on this topic can be found on the [Health Conditions Blog](http://mcccdhealthconditions.blogspot.com/) at: <http://mcccdhealthconditions.blogspot.com/>