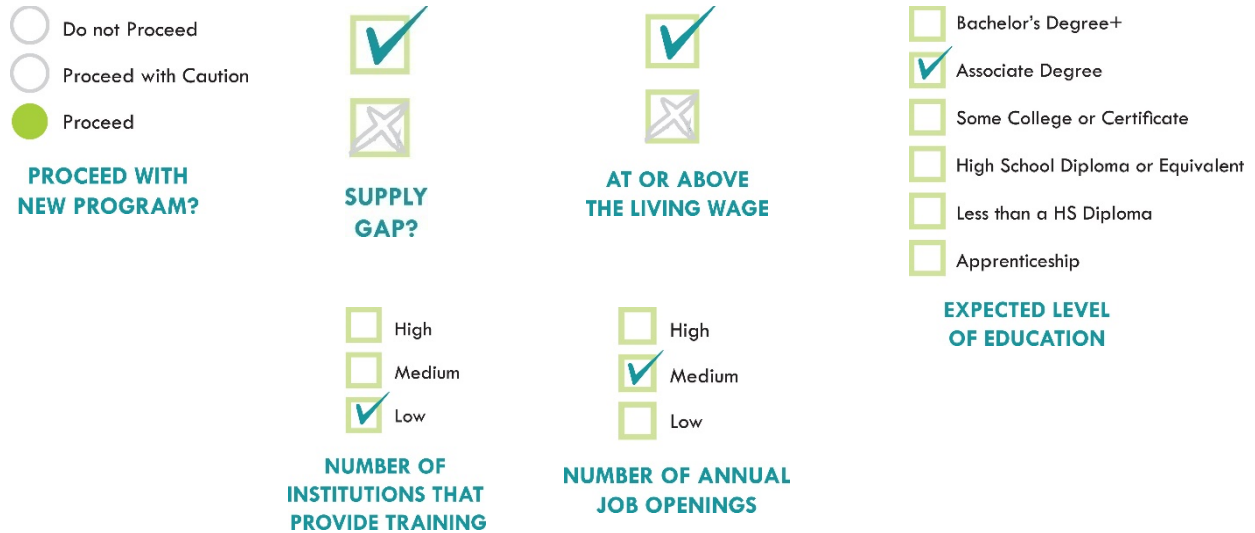


Physical Therapist Assistants

Labor Market Analysis: San Diego County

June 2019

Summary



According to available labor market information, *Physical Therapist Assistants* have a labor market demand of 112 annual job openings, while average demand for an occupation in San Diego County is 277 annual job openings. Two educational institutions in San Diego County supply 49 awards for this occupation, suggesting that there is a supply gap. This occupation's entry-level and median wages are above the Self-Sufficiency Standard, suggesting that students who successfully complete a program and obtain employment in a related field may earn a living wage.

Introduction

This report provides labor market information in San Diego County for the following occupational code in the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)¹ system:

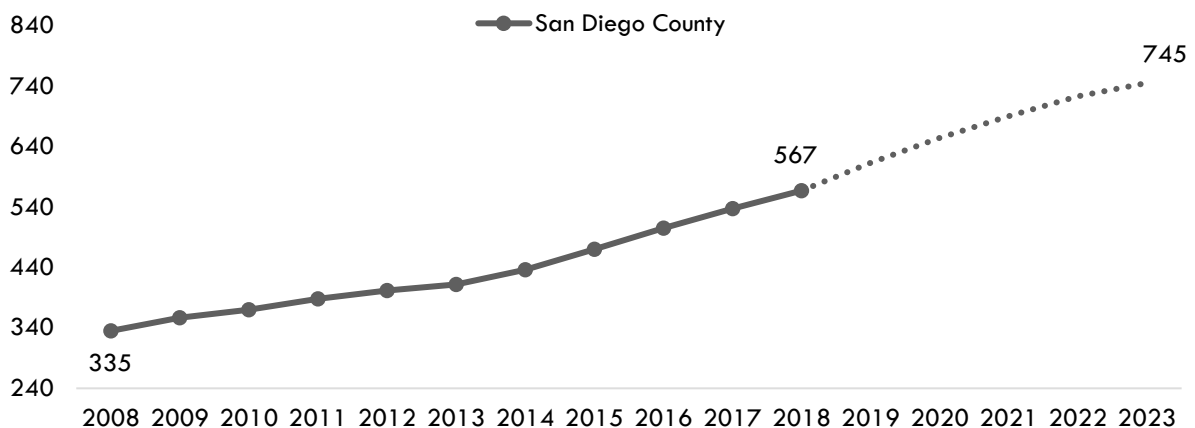
Physical Therapist Assistants (SOC 31-2021): Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. May, in accordance with State laws, assist in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, document the progress of treatment, and modify specific treatments in accordance with patient status and within the scope of treatment plans established by a physical therapist. Generally requires formal training. Sample reported job titles include:

- Physical Therapy Technician
- Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant
- Staff Physical Therapy Assistant
- Physical Therapist Assistant and Nurse Aide
- Per Diem Physical Therapist Assistant
- Outpatient Physical Therapist Assistant
- Home Health Physical Therapist Assistant
- Certified Physical Therapist Assistant

Projected Occupational Demand

Between 2018 and 2023, *Physical Therapist Assistants* are projected to increase by 178 jobs or 31 percent (Exhibit 1). Employers in San Diego County will need to hire 112 workers annually to fill new jobs and backfill jobs due to attrition caused by turnover and retirement, for example.

Exhibit 1: Number of Jobs for Physical Therapist Assistants (2008-2023)²



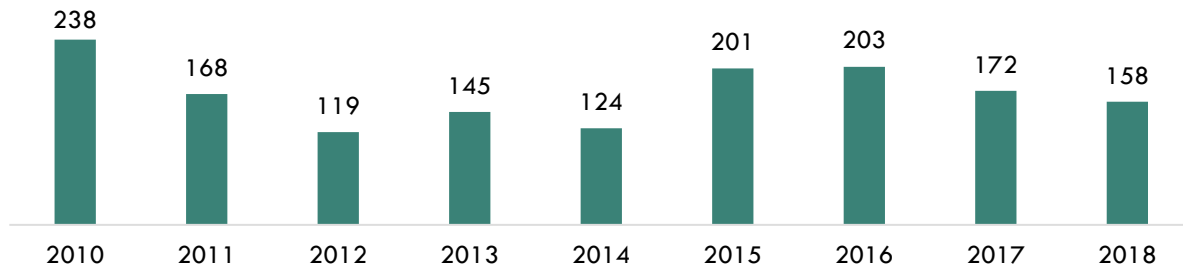
¹ The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used by federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating or disseminating data. [bls.gov/soc](https://www.bls.gov/soc/).

² Emsi 2019.02; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

Online Job Postings

Between 2010 and 2018, there was an average of 170 online job postings per year for *Physical Therapist Assistants* in San Diego County (Exhibit 2).

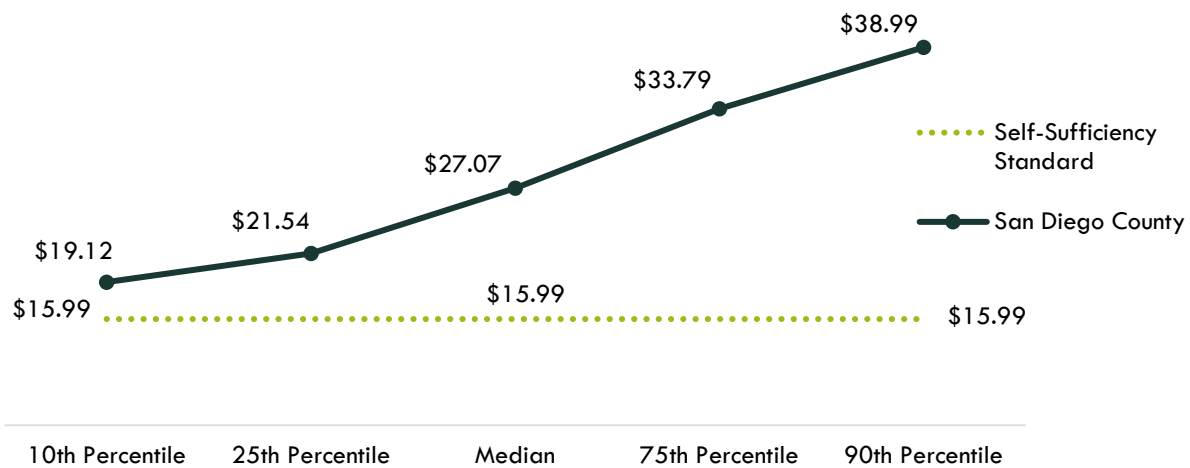
Exhibit 2: Number of Online Job Postings for *Physical Therapist Assistants* in San Diego County (2010-2018)³



Earnings

Physical Therapist Assistants receive median hourly earnings of \$27.07; this is more than the Self-Sufficiency Standard for a single adult in San Diego County, which is \$15.99 per hour (Exhibit 3).⁴

Exhibit 3: Hourly Earnings⁵ for *Physical Therapist Assistants* in San Diego County⁶



³ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2010-2018.

⁴ "Self-Sufficiency Standard," Insight: Center for Community Economic Development, last updated 2018. insightccd.org/2018-self-sufficiency-standard.

⁵ 10th and 25th percentiles could be considered entry-level wages, and 75th and 90th percentiles could be considered experienced wages for individuals who may have been in the occupation longer, received more training than others, etc.

⁶ Emsi 2019.02; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

Educational Supply

Educational supply for an occupation can be estimated by analyzing the number of awards in related Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) or Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes.⁷ There is **one** TOP code and **one** CIP code related to *Physical Therapist Assistants* (Exhibit 4).

Exhibit 4: Related TOP and CIP Codes for *Physical Therapist Assistants*

<i>Physical Therapist Assistants</i>
TOP 122200: Physical Therapist Assistant
CIP 51.0806: Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant

According to TOP data, **one** community college supplies the region with awards for this occupation: **San Diego Mesa College**. According to CIP data, **one** non-community college supplies the region with awards: **Concorde Career College-San Diego** (Exhibit 5).

Exhibit 5: Number of Awards (Certificates and Degrees) Conferred by Postsecondary Institutions (Program Year 2013-14 through PY2016-17 Average)

TOP6 or CIP	TOP6 or CIP Title	3-Yr Annual Average CC Awards (PY14-15 to PY16-17)	Other Educational Institutions 3-Yr Annual Average Awards (PY13-14 to PY15-16)	3-Yr Total Average Supply (PY13-14 to PY16-17)
122200	Physical Therapist Assistant	20	0	20
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> San Diego Mesa 	20	0	
51.0806	Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant	0	29	29
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concorde Career College-San Diego 	0	29	
			Total	49

⁷ TOP data comes from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart (datamart.cccco.edu) and CIP data comes from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data).

Demand vs. Supply

Comparing labor demand (annual openings) with labor supply⁸ suggests that there is a **supply gap** for this occupation in San Diego County, with **112** annual openings and **49** awards. Comparatively, there are **1,030** annual openings in California and **511** awards⁹ (Exhibit 6).

Exhibit 6: Labor Demand (Annual Openings) Compared with Labor Supply (Average Annual Awards)

Community Colleges and Other Postsecondary Educational Institutions	Demand (Annual Openings)	Supply (Total Annual Average Supply)	Supply Gap or OverSupply
San Diego	112	49	63
California	1,030	511	519

Please note: This is a basic analysis of supply and demand of labor. The data does not include workers currently in the labor force who could fill these positions or workers who are not captured by publicly available data. This data should be used to discuss the potential gaps or oversupply of workers; however, it should not be the only basis for determining whether or not a program should be developed.

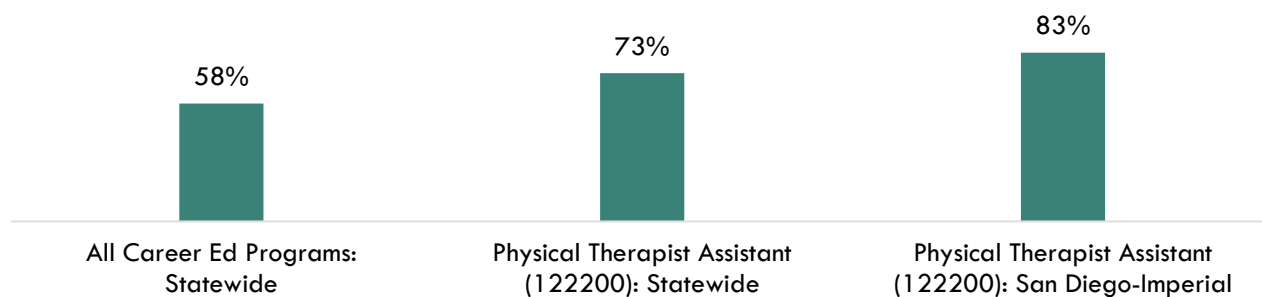
Student Outcomes and Regional Comparisons

According to the California Community Colleges LaunchBoard, there was insufficient data to calculate the “Percentage of Students Employed in a Job Closely Related to Field of Study” in the San Diego-Imperial region and across the state for Physical Therapist Assistant (122200); however, there was data for the “Proportion of Students Who Earned a Living Wage.” Eighty-three percent of students in the San Diego-Imperial region and 73 percent statewide earned a living wage for Physical Therapist Assistant (122200) program, compared to 58 percent of students who earned a living wage in Career Education programs across the state (Exhibit 7).

⁸ Labor supply can be found from two different sources: EMSI or the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart. EMSI uses CIP codes while MIS uses TOP codes. Different coding systems result in differences in the supply numbers.

⁹ “Supply and Demand,” Centers of Excellence Student Outcomes, coecc.net/Supply-and-Demand.aspx.

Exhibit 7: Proportion of Students Who Earned a Living Wage, PY2015-16¹⁰



Top Employers and Work Locations

Between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018, the top five employers in San Diego County for this occupation were [Sharp Healthcare](#), [Scripps Health](#), [Ensign Therapy](#), [Accentcare](#), and [Genesis Healthcare Corporation](#) (Exhibit 8).

Exhibit 8: Top Employers in San Diego County for *Physical Therapist Assistants*¹¹

Top Employers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp Healthcare • Scripps Health • Ensign Therapy • Accentcare • Genesis Healthcare Corporation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sutter Health • Omni Hotel Corporation • Department of Veterans Affairs • American International Group Incorporated • Affirma Rehabilitation

Skills, Education, and Certifications

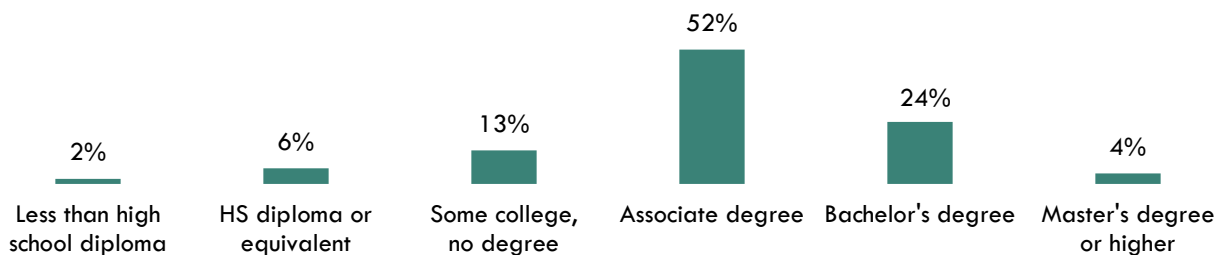
Exhibit 9 indicates the educational attainment for the occupation found currently in the national labor force. There is no typical on-the-job training for this profession. The typical entry-level education is an [associate degree](#).¹²

¹⁰ Among completers and skills builders who exited, the proportion of students who attained a living wage.

¹¹ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2016-2018.

¹² Source: Emsi, 2018.04; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

Exhibit 9: National Educational Attainment of Physical Therapist Assistants¹³



*May not add to 100% due to rounding

Exhibit 10 lists the top specialized, soft, and software skills that appeared in online job postings between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018.

Exhibit 10: Top Skills for Physical Therapist Assistants in San Diego County¹⁴

Specialized Skills	Soft Skills	Software Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Treatment Planning Patient/Family Education and Instruction Patient Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Skills Problem Solving Teamwork / Collaboration Writing Work Area Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft Excel Microsoft Word Microsoft Powerpoint Word Processing Microsoft Windows

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¹³ "Educational Attainment for Workers 25 Years and Older by Detailed Occupation," Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified October 18, 2018. bls.gov/emp/tables/educational-attainment.htm.

¹⁴ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2016-2018.

Important Disclaimers

All representations included in this report have been produced from primary research and/or secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. This study examines the most recent data available at the time of the analysis; however, data sets are updated regularly and may not be consistent with previous reports. Efforts have been made to qualify and validate the accuracy of the data and the report findings; however, neither the Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE), COE host district, nor California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office are responsible for the applications or decisions made by individuals and/or organizations based on this study or its recommendations.