










Psychiatric Technicians

Labor Market Analysis: San Diego County

May 2022

Summary

NEW PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION?	EVIDENCE OF A SUPPLY GAP?	AT OR ABOVE THE LIVING WAGE?	EXPECTED LEVEL OF EDUCATION
 <p>Proceed with New Program</p>	 	 	<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's Degree+ <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Degree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some College or Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> HS Diploma or Equivalent
SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM MODIFICATION?	NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS THAT PROVIDE TRAINING	NUMBER OF ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than a HS Diploma <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship
 	<p>LOW</p> 	<p>MEDIUM</p> 	

The San Diego-Imperial Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE) developed this brief to assist the region's community colleges with strategic planning and program development. According to available labor market information, *Psychiatric Technicians* in San Diego County have a labor market demand of 79 annual job openings (while average demand for a single occupation in San Diego County is 242 annual job openings), and no educational institutions in San Diego County supply awards for this occupation, suggesting that there is a supply gap in the labor market. Entry-level and median wages for this occupation are above the living wage. This brief recommends proceeding with developing a new program and supports a program modification because 1) there is a supply gap in the region; 2) entry-level earnings for this occupation are above the living wage; and 3) no educational institutions train for this occupation in the region.

Introduction

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

Psychiatric Technicians (SOC 29-2053): Care for individuals with mental or emotional conditions or disabilities, following the instructions of physicians or other health practitioners. Monitor patients' physical and emotional well-being and report to medical staff. May participate in rehabilitation and treatment programs, help with personal hygiene, and administer oral or injectable medications.

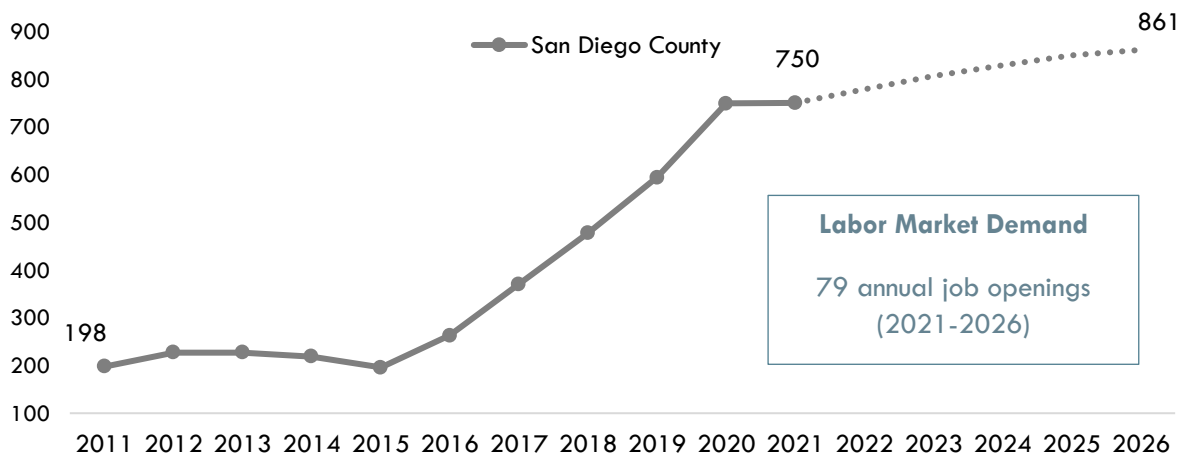
Sample reported job titles include:

- Mental Health Technician
- Behavioral Health Technician
- Mental Health Worker
- Support Team Member
- Residential Aide
- Psychology Associate
- Patient Care Specialist
- Milieu Therapist
- Mental Health Specialist

Projected Occupational Demand

Between 2021 and 2026, *Psychiatric Technicians* are projected to increase by 111 net jobs or 15 percent (Exhibit 1). Employers in San Diego County will need to hire 79 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 *Psychiatric Technicians* (2011-2026)²



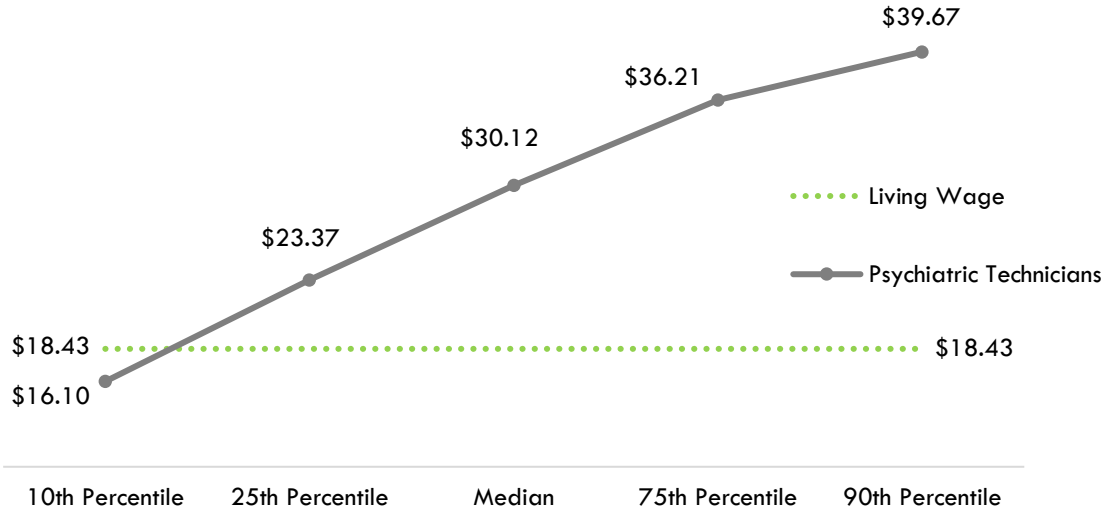
¹ The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used by federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating or disseminating data. [bls.gov/soc](https://www.bls.gov/soc).

² EMSI 2022.01; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

Earnings

Psychiatric Technicians receive entry-level hourly earnings of **\$23.37**; this is more than the living wage for a single adult in San Diego County, which is **\$18.43** per hour (Exhibit 2).³

Exhibit 2: Hourly Earnings⁴ for Psychiatric Technicians in San Diego County⁵



³ "Family Needs Calculator (formerly the California Family Needs Calculator)," Insight: Center for Community Economic Development, last updated 2021. insightccd.org/family-needs-calculator/.

⁴ 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.

⁵ EMSI 2022.01; 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.⁶ There is **one** TOP code and **one** CIP code related to *Psychiatric Technicians* (Exhibit 3).

Exhibit 3: Related TOP and CIP Codes for *Psychiatric Technicians*

TOP or CIP Code	TOP or CIP Program Title
TOP 1239.00	Psychiatric Technician
CIP 51.1502	Psychiatric/Mental Health Services Technician

According to TOP and CIP data, **no** community colleges or other educational institutions supply the region with awards for this occupation (Exhibit 4).

**Exhibit 4: Number of Awards (Certificates and Degrees) Conferred by Postsecondary Institutions
(Program Year 2016-17 through PY2019-20 Average)**

TOP6 or CIP	TOP6 or CIP Title	3-Yr Annual Average CC Awards (PY17-18 to PY19-20)	Other Educational Institutions 3-Yr Annual Average Awards (PY16-17 to PY18-19)	3-Yr Total Average Supply (PY16-17 to PY19-20)
1239.00	Psychiatric Technician	0	0	0
51.1502	Psychiatric/Mental Health Services Technician	0	0	0
Total				0

⁶ 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 supply⁷ suggests that there is a **supply gap** for this occupation in San Diego County, with **79** annual openings and **zero** awards. Comparatively, there are **1,004** annual openings in California and **543** awards, suggesting that there is also a supply gap across the state⁸ (Exhibit 5).

Exhibit 5: Labor Demand (Annual Openings) Compared with Labor Supply (Average Annual Awards)

	Demand (Annual Openings)	Supply (Total Annual Average Supply)	Supply Gap or Oversupply
San Diego	79	0	79
California	1,004	543	461

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.

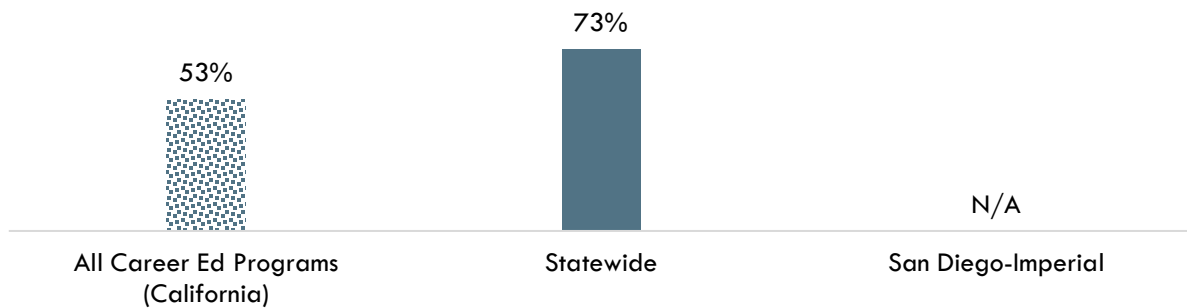
⁷ Labor supply can be found from two different sources: EMSI or the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart. EMSI uses CIP codes while MIS uses TOP codes. Different coding systems result in differences in the supply numbers.

⁸ "Supply and Demand," Centers of Excellence Student Outcomes, coecc.net/Supply-and-Demand.aspx.

Student Outcomes and Regional Comparisons

According to the California Community Colleges LaunchBoard, 73 percent of students statewide earned a living wage after completing a Psychiatric Technician (TOP 1239.00) program, compared to 53 percent of students in Career Education programs in general across the state (Exhibit 6a).⁹

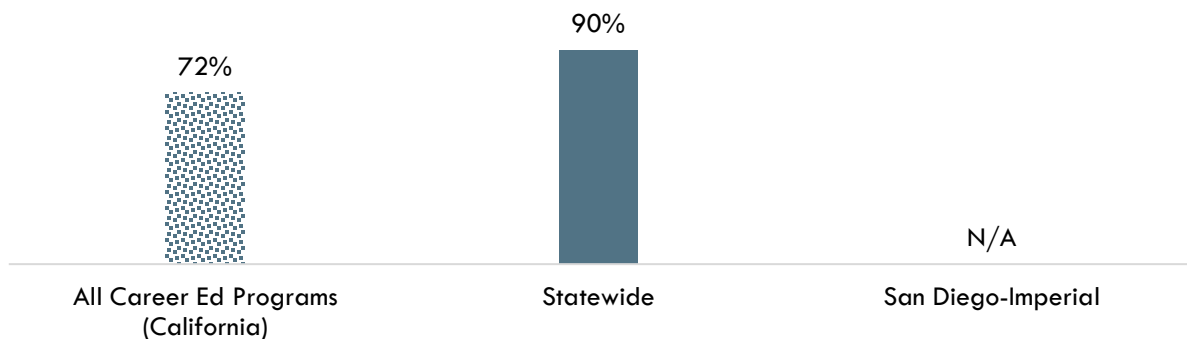
Exhibit 6a: Percentage of Students Who Earned a Living Wage by Program, (Psychiatric Technician, PY2018-19)¹⁰



"N/A" indicates insufficient data

According to the California Community Colleges LaunchBoard, 90 percent of students statewide obtained a job closely related to their field of study after completing a Psychiatric Technician (TOP 1239.00) program, compared to 72 percent of students in Career Education programs in general across the state (Exhibit 6b).¹¹

Exhibit 6b: Percentage of Students in a Job Closely Related to Field of Study by Program (Psychiatric Technician, PY 2017-18)¹²



"N/A" indicates insufficient data

⁹ "California Community Colleges Strong Workforce Program," California Community Colleges, calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/SWP.aspx.

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

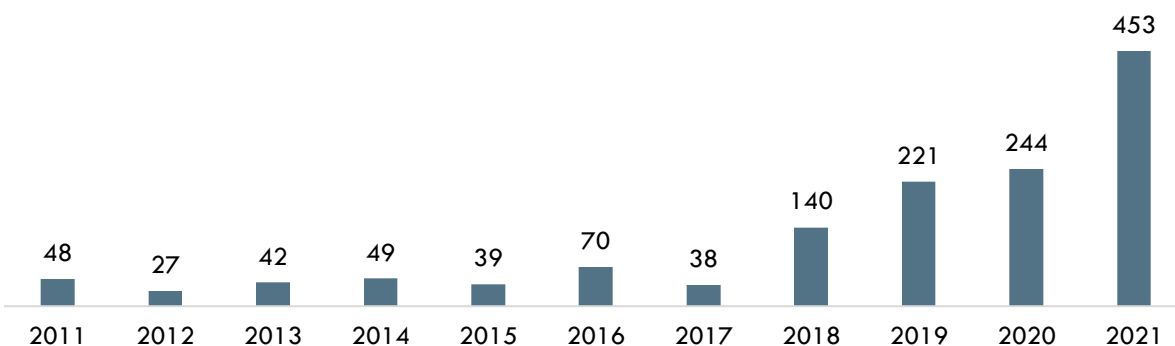
¹¹ "California Community Colleges Strong Workforce Program," California Community Colleges, calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/SWP.aspx.

¹² Most recent year with available data is Program Year 2017-18. Percentage of Students in a Job Closely Related to Field of Study: Among students who responded to the CTEOS, the percentage reporting employment in the same or similar field as their program of study.

Online Job Postings

This report analyzes not only historical and projected (traditional LMI) data, but also recent data from online job postings (real-time LMI). Online job postings may provide additional insight about recent changes in the labor market that are not captured by historical data. Between 2011 and 2021, there was an average of 125 online job postings per year for *Psychiatric Technicians* in San Diego County (Exhibit 7). Please note that online job postings do **not** equal labor market demand; demand is represented by annual job openings (see Exhibit 1). Employers may post a position multiple times for various reasons, such as increasing the pool of applicants, for example.

Exhibit 7: Number of Online Job Postings for *Psychiatric Technicians* in San Diego County (2011-2021)¹³



Top Employers

Between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021, the top five employers in San Diego County for *Psychiatric Technicians* were [Liberty Healthcare Corporation](#), [ABA Kids](#), [Prime Healthcare Services](#), [Matrix Providers](#), and [Luke Associates](#) based on online job postings (Exhibit 8).

Exhibit 8: Top Employers for *Psychiatric Technicians* in San Diego County¹⁴

Top Employers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liberty Healthcare Corporation• ABA Kids• Prime Healthcare Services• Matrix Providers• Luke Associates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn It Systems• Alvarado Parkway Institute• Discovery Mood & Anxiety Program• University of California San Diego• Rady Children's Hospital

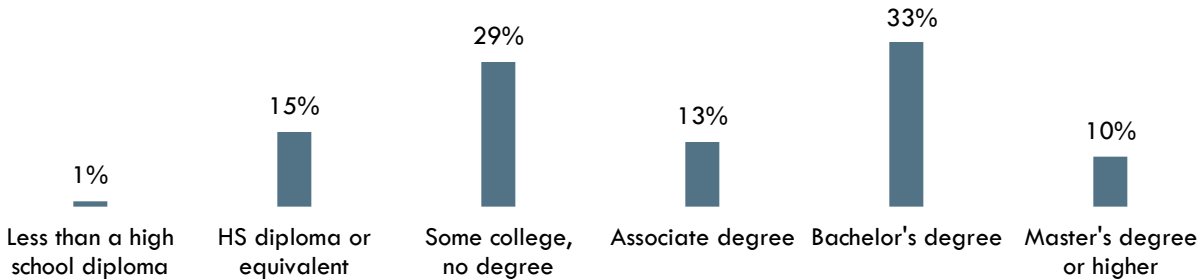
¹³ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2011-2021.

¹⁴ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2019-2021.

Education, Skills, and Certifications

Exhibit 9 indicates that the typical educational attainment for the occupation found currently in the national labor force is a **bachelor’s degree**. The typical entry-level education is a **postsecondary non-degree award**.¹⁵

Exhibit 9: National Educational Attainment of *Psychiatric Technicians*¹⁶



*may not equal 100 percent due to rounding

Exhibit 10 lists the top specialized, soft, and software skills that appeared in online job postings between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021.

Exhibit 10: Top Skills for *Psychiatric Technicians* in San Diego County¹⁷

Specialized Skills	Soft Skills	Software Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavioral Health Mental Health Patient Care ADLs Assistance Activities of Daily Living Treatment Planning Autism Diagnosis / Treatment / Care Patient Monitoring Psychology Behavior Analysis Patient Assistance Crisis Intervention Applied Behavior Analysis Scheduling Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Problem Solving Organizational Skills Teamwork / Collaboration Critical Thinking Spanish Communication Skills Telephone Skills Energetic Bilingual Planning Computer Literacy Creativity Physical Abilities Time Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft Excel Microsoft Access Microsoft PowerPoint Microsoft Word Prognosis Microsoft Outlook Microsoft SharePoint Google Drive Word Processing Crystal Reports PeopleSoft SPSS SQL

¹⁵ EMSI 2022.01; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

¹⁶ "Educational Attainment for Workers 25 Years and Older by Detailed Occupation," Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified September 4, 2019. bls.gov/emp/tables/educational-attainment.htm.

¹⁷ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2019-2021.

Exhibit 11 lists the top certifications that appeared in online job postings between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021.

Exhibit 11: Top Certifications for *Psychiatric Technicians* in San Diego County¹⁸

Top Certifications in Online Job Postings

1. Registered Behavior Technician
 2. Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)
 3. Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)
 4. Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
 5. Basic Life Saving (BLS)
 6. American Heart Association Certification
 7. Basic Cardiac Life Support Certification
 8. First Aid CPR AED
 9. Social Work License
 10. Home Health Aide
 11. Psychologist License
 12. CA License
 13. Security Clearance
 14. ServSafe
 15. Registered Dietitian
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¹⁸ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2019-2021.

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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.

This workforce demand report uses state and federal job projection data that was developed before the economic impact of COVID-19. The COE is monitoring the situation and will provide more information as it becomes available. Please consult with local employers to understand their current employment needs.