



Substance Abuse Treatment Studies (TOP 2104)

February 2024

Prepared by the South Central Coast Center of Excellence for
Labor Market Research

Program Recommendation

This report was compiled by the South Central Coast¹ Center of Excellence to provide regional labor market data for the program recommendation – Substance Abuse Treatment Studies. This report can help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from programs of study that align with this occupation group.

Key Findings

- In 2022, there were 5,037 jobs for Substance Abuse Treatment Studies-related occupations in the South Central Coast Region.
- This number is expected to increase by 12% through 2027.
- Projections show approximately 688 annual openings in the region. An average of 305 awards were conferred in relevant programs, indicating an undersupply.
- Typical entry-level education ranges from high school diploma or equivalent for Social and Human Service Assistants; Community Health Workers' and Healthcare Support Workers, All Other, to a bachelor's degree for Health Education Specialists.

¹ The South Central Coast Region consists of San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, Ventura County, and the following cities from North Los Angeles County: Canyon Country, Castaic, Lake Hughes, Lancaster, Littlerock, Llano, Newhall, Palmdale, Pearblossom, Santa Clarita, Stevenson Ranch, and Valencia.

Occupation Codes and Descriptions

There are four occupations in the standard occupational classification (SOC) system that were identified as related to Substance Abuse Treatment Studies for this analysis. The occupation titles and descriptions, as well as reported job titles, are included in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1 – Occupation, Description, and Sample Job Titles

SOC Code	Title	Description	Sample of Reported Job Titles
21-1091	Health Education Specialists	Provide and manage health education programs that help individuals, families, and their communities maximize and maintain healthy lifestyles. Use data to identify community needs prior to planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating programs designed to encourage healthy lifestyles, policies, and environments. May link health systems, health providers, insurers, and patients to address individual and population health needs. May serve as resource to assist individuals, other health professionals, or the community, and may administer fiscal resources for health education programs.	Certified Diabetes Educator, Clinical Instructor, Community Health Consultant, Education Coordinator, Health Education Coordinator, Health Education Specialist, Health Educator, Health Promotion Specialist, Public Health Educator, Public Information Officer
21-1093	Social and Human Service Assistants	Assist other social and human service providers in providing client services in a wide variety of fields, such as psychology, rehabilitation, or social work, including support for families. May assist clients in identifying and obtaining available benefits and social and community services. May assist social workers with developing, organizing, and conducting programs to prevent and resolve problems relevant to substance abuse, human relationships, rehabilitation, or dependent care.	Addictions Counselor Assistant, Advocate, Clinical Assistant, Residential Care Assistant, Social Services Aide, Social Services Assistant, Social Work Assistant, Social Work Associate, Social Worker Assistant

SOC Code	Title	Description	Sample of Reported Job Titles
21-1094	Community Health Workers	Promote health within a community by assisting individuals to adopt healthy behaviors. Serve as an advocate for the health needs of individuals by assisting community residents in effectively communicating with healthcare providers or social service agencies. Act as liaison or advocate and implement programs that promote, maintain, and improve individual and overall community health. May deliver health-related preventive services such as blood pressure, glaucoma, and hearing screenings. May collect data to help identify community health needs.	Apprise Counselor, Community Health Outreach Worker, Community Health Program Coordinator, Community Health Program Representative (Community Health Program Rep), Community Health Promoter, Community Health Worker (CHW), Community Nutrition Educator, HIV CTS Specialist (Human Immunodeficiency Virus Counseling and Testing Services Specialist)
31-9099	Healthcare Support Workers, All Other	All healthcare support workers not listed separately.	N/A

Source: O*NET Online

Current and Future Employment

In the South Central Coast region, the number of jobs related to Substance Abuse Treatment Studies occupations are expected to grow between 8% and 13% through 2027.

Exhibit 2 – Five-Year Projections for Substance Abuse Treatment Studies Occupations in the South Central Coast Region

SOC	Occupation	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	2022-2027 Change	2022-2027 % Change	Annual Openings
21-1091	Health Education Specialists	346	383	37	11%	43
21-1093	Social and Human Service Assistants	3,285	3,709	425	13%	440
21-1094	Community Health Workers	526	594	68	13%	69
31-9099	Healthcare Support Workers, All Other	880	950	70	8%	136
		5,037	5,636	599	12%	688

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Earnings

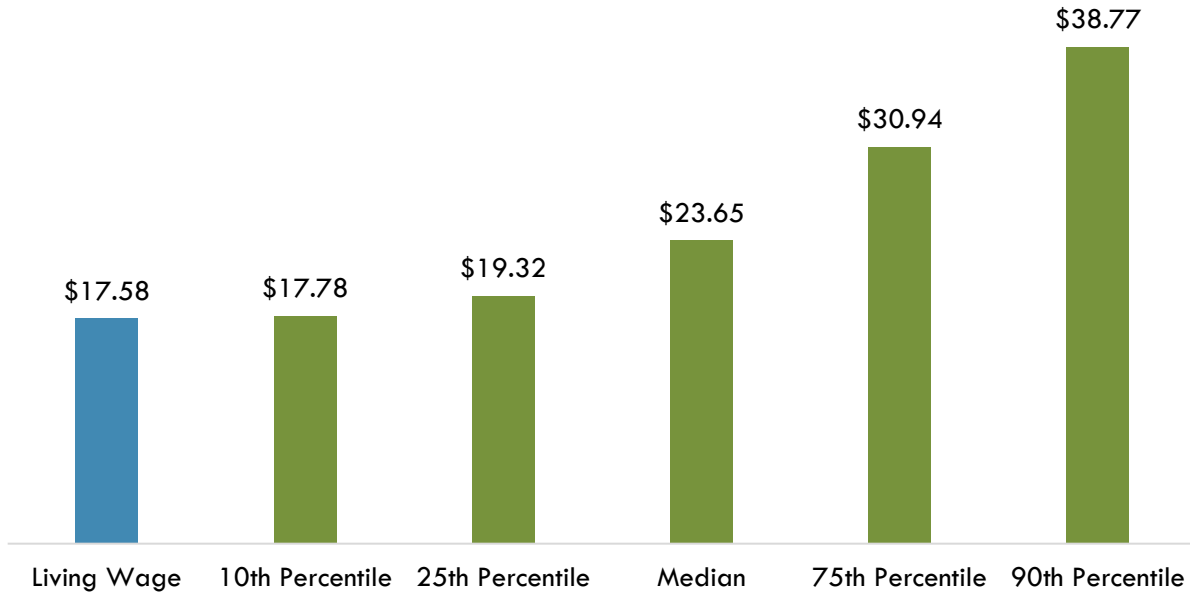
Exhibit 3 contains hourly wages and annual average earnings for these occupations. Entry-level hourly earnings are represented by the 25th percentile of wages, median hourly earnings are represented by the 50th percentile of wages, and experienced hourly earnings are represented by the 75th percentile of wages, demonstrating various levels of employment.

Exhibit 3 – Earnings for Substance Abuse Treatment Studies Occupations in the South Central Coast Region

SOC	Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
21-1091	Health Education Specialists	\$21.98	\$27.78	\$39.34
21-1093	Social and Human Service Assistants	\$18.07	\$21.79	\$27.05
21-1094	Community Health Workers	\$19.04	\$23.15	\$29.41
31-9099	Healthcare Support Workers, All Other	\$18.18	\$21.90	\$27.96

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Exhibit 3b – Earnings for Substance Abuse Treatment Studies Occupations in the South Central Coast Region



Source: Family Needs Calculator (Living wage is based on Single Adult households with no children); Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Employer Job Postings

In this research brief, real-time labor market information is used to provide a more nuanced view of the current job market, as it captures job advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study. Employer job postings are consulted to understand who is looking for professionals in a given field, and what they are looking for in potential candidates. To identify job postings related to Substance Abuse Treatment Studies the following standard occupational classifications were used:

21-1091	Health Education Specialists
21-1093	Social and Human Service Assistants
21-1094	Community Health Workers
31-9099	Healthcare Support Workers, All Other

Top Occupations

In 2023, there were 528 employer postings for occupations related to Substance Abuse Treatment Studies.

Exhibit 4 – Top Occupations by Job Postings

SOC Code	Occupation	Job Postings, Full Year 2023
21-1091	Health Education Specialists	199
21-1093	Social and Human Service Assistants	182
31-9099	Healthcare Support Workers, All Other	76
21-1094	Community Health Workers	71
	Total	528

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Top Titles

The top job titles for employers posting ads for jobs related to Substance Abuse Treatment Studies are listed in Exhibit 5. Health Navigators is mentioned as the job title in 16 job postings.

Exhibit 5 – Job Titles

Title	Job Postings, Full Year 2023
Health Navigators	16
Housing Navigators	15
Day Support Professionals	14
Independent Living Skills Specialists	13
Community Living Instructors	13
Social Services Assistants	11
Social Services Coordinators	10
Community Liaisons	10
Health Care Specialists	9
Direct Support Professionals	9

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Top Employers

Exhibit 6 lists the major employers hiring professionals in the Substance Abuse Treatment Studies field. The top employer posting job ads was Good Samaritan Shelter. The top worksite cities for these occupations were Thousand Oaks, Santa Barbara, Oxnard, and Ventura.

Exhibit 6 – Top Employers

Employer	Job Postings, Full Year 2023
Good Samaritan Shelter	35
HCA Healthcare	19
Achievement House	17
Momentum WORK	17
YMCA	9
Eldergrow	9
Tri-Counties Regional Center	9
Cottage Health	9

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Skills

The tables in Exhibit 7 list employers' most commonly requested skills in job postings related to Substance Abuse Treatment Studies. Social Work is the most sought-after specialized skill for employers. Communication was the most requested baseline skill. Microsoft Office was the most requested software and programming skill.

Exhibit 7 – Specialized Skills

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2023
Social Work	98
Case Management	83
Psychology	76
Nursing	70
Mental Health	57
Bilingual (Spanish/English)	56
Disabilities	45
Crisis Intervention	37
Care Coordination	35
Trauma Care	33

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Exhibit 7b – Baseline Skills

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2023
Communication	207
Writing	96
Advocacy	94
Coordinating	84
Microsoft Office	74
Leadership	73
Multilingualism	72
Microsoft Excel	69
Planning	66
Customer Service	65

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Exhibit 7c – Software and Programming Skills

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2023
Microsoft Office	74
Microsoft Excel	69
Microsoft Outlook	52
Microsoft PowerPoint	27
Homeless Management Information System	25
Microsoft Word	24
Mapping Software	15
Spreadsheets	11
Google Workspace	8
DocuSign (Software)	6

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Education and Training

Exhibit 8 shows the typical entry-level education requirement for occupations of interest, along with the typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency in the occupation.

Exhibit 8 – Education and Training Requirements

SOC	Occupation	Typical entry-level education	Typical on-the-job training
21-1091	Health Education Specialists	Bachelor's degree	None
21-1093	Social and Human Service Assistants	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
21-1094	Community Health Workers	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
31-9099	Healthcare Support Workers, All Other	High school diploma or equivalent	None

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Projections (Educational Attainment)

Regional Completions and Openings

Between 2019 and 2022, there were 305 awards conferred in the South Central Coast region aligned with programs related to the occupations in this report.

Exhibit 9 – Three-Year Average of Awards Conferred in the Region

TOP Code	Program	3-Year Average (2019-2022)
1201.00	Health Occupations, General	114
2104.00	Human Services	65
2104.40	Alcohol and Controlled Substances	126
	Average	305

Source: Datamart

CCC Awards

Exhibit 10 shows the average number of awards granted by community colleges within programs historically dedicated to training for the four occupations included in this report.

Exhibit 10 – CCC Awards in the South Central Coast Region, 2019-2022 Average

CCC Programs	3-Year Average
Allan Hancock	64
Antelope Valley	3
Canyons	58
Cuesta	50
Oxnard	62
Santa Barbara	44
Ventura	24

Source: DataMart, 2023

Sources

O*Net Online, Lightcast™ Analyst 2023, MIT Living Wage Calculator, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Education Attainment, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS) Data Mart, CTE LaunchBoard, Statewide CTE Outcomes Survey, Employment Development Department Unemployment Insurance Dataset

Notes

Data included in this analysis represent the labor market demand for relevant positions most closely related to Substance Abuse Treatment Studies. Traditional labor market information was used to show current and projected employment based on data trends, as well as annual average awards granted by regional community colleges. Real-time labor market information captures job post advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study and can signal demand and show what employers are looking for in potential employees, but is not a perfect measure of the quantity of open positions. All representations have been produced from primary research and/or secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. The most recent data available at the time of the analysis was examined; 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 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.