










Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers

Labor Market Analysis: San Diego County

August 2023

Summary

NEW PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION?	EVIDENCE OF A SUPPLY GAP?	AT OR ABOVE THE LIVING WAGE?	EXPECTED LEVEL OF EDUCATION
 Proceed with Caution	 	 	<input type="checkbox"/> Doctorate Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree <input checked="" 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Less than a HS Diploma <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship
SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM MODIFICATION?	NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS THAT PROVIDE TRAINING	NUMBER OF ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS	
 	LOW 	HIGH 	

The Center of Excellence (COE) for the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges developed this brief to assist the region's community colleges with strategic planning and program development. According to available labor market information, *Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers* in San Diego County have a labor market demand of 509 annual job openings (while average demand for a single occupation in San Diego County is 289 annual job openings). With two community colleges offering awards (e.g., certificates, degrees) and two community colleges along with several non-community-college providers offering certification for lifeguards in San Diego County, creating another program may affect those programs. However, one college reported supplying one award for this occupation, suggesting that there is a supply gap in the labor market. Entry-level and median wages for this occupation are below the living wage. This brief recommends to proceed with caution when developing a new program and supports a program modification because although 1) a high number of annual openings exist and 2) a supply gap exists for these positions, 3) entry-level and median wages are below the 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:

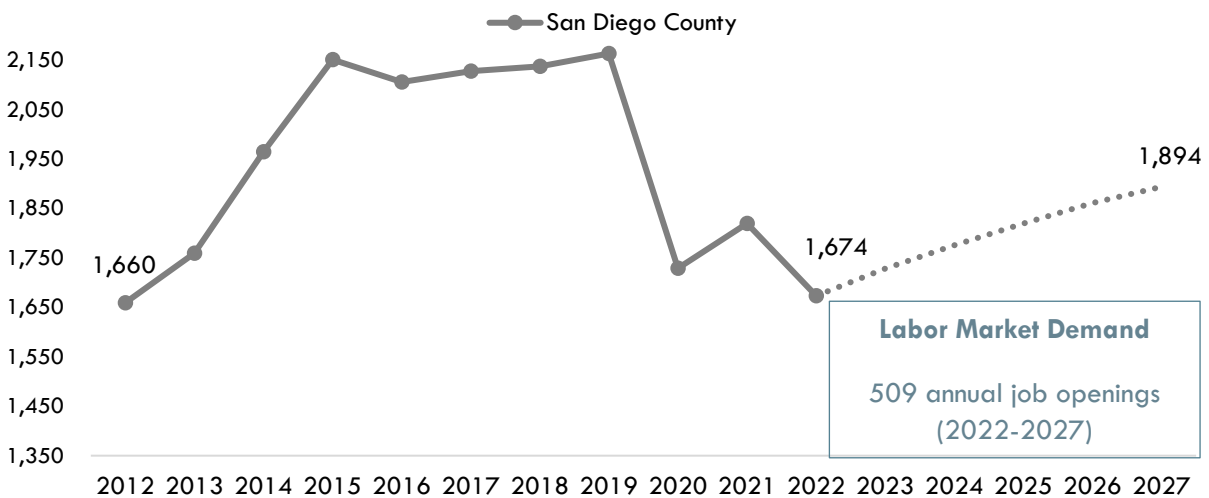
Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers (SOC 33-9092): Monitor recreational areas, such as pools, beaches, or ski slopes, to provide assistance and protection to participants. Sample reported job titles include:

- Beach Lifeguard
- Ski Patroller
- Pool Lifeguard
- Life Guard
- Ski Patrol Paramedic
- Pool Attendant
- Ocean Lifeguard Specialist
- Ocean Lifeguard
- Marine Safety Officer

Projected Occupational Demand

Between 2022 and 2027, *Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers* are projected to increase by 220 net jobs or 13 percent (Exhibit 1). Employers in San Diego County will need to hire 509 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 *Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers* (2012-2027)²



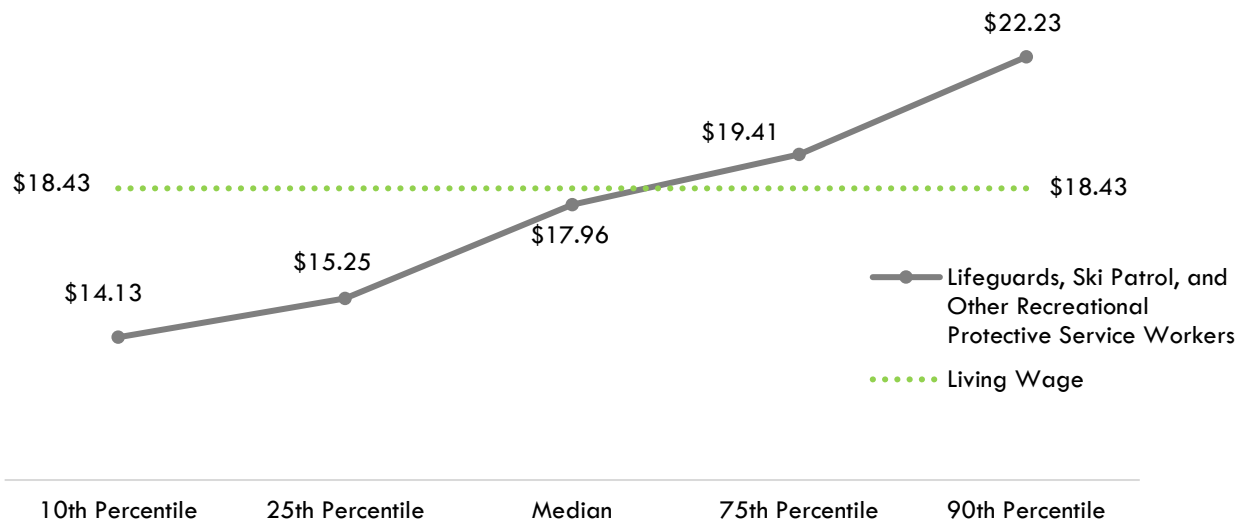
¹ The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used by federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating or disseminating data. [bls.gov/soc/](https://www.bls.gov/soc/).

² Lightcast 2023.03; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

Earnings

Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers receive entry-level hourly earnings of \$15.25; this is less than the living wage for a single adult in San Diego County, which is \$18.43 per hour (Exhibit 2).³ “Beach Lifeguards” had higher earnings than “Pool Lifeguards.” Refer to Appendix A at the end of this brief for more information.

Exhibit 2: Hourly Earnings⁴ for Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers in San Diego County⁵



³ “Family Needs Calculator (formerly the California Family Needs Calculator),” Insight: Center for Community Economic Development, last updated 2022. 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 Lightcast 2023.03; 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. There is **one** TOP code and **one** CIP code related to *Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers* (Exhibit 3).

Exhibit 3: Related TOP and CIP Codes for Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers⁶

TOP or CIP Code	TOP or CIP Program Title
TOP 0835.70	Aquatics and Lifesaving
CIP 31.9999	Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies, Other

San Diego Mesa College and San Diego Miramar College offer awards (e.g., certificates, degrees) while Grossmont College and Southwestern College offer certification programs for lifeguards. Non-community college providers such as the YMCA, Red Cross and the City of San Diego also offer lifeguard certifications in San Diego (Exhibit 4).

Exhibit 4: Number of Awards (Certificates and Degrees) Conferred by Postsecondary Institutions (Program Year 2019-20 through Program Year 2021-22 Average)

TOP6 or CIP Code	TOP6 or CIP Program Title	3-Yr Annual Average CC Awards (PY19-20 to PY21-22)	Other Educational Institutions 2-Yr Annual Average Awards (PY19-20 to PY20-21)	Total Average Supply (PY19-20 to PY21-22)
0835.70	Aquatics and Lifesaving	1	0	1
	• San Diego Miramar	1	0	
			Total	1

⁶ This brief uses a conservative estimate of program supply and only calculates awards from the TOP code listed in Exhibit 3.

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 **509** annual openings and **one** award. Comparatively, there are **3,751** annual openings in California and **one** award, suggesting that there is 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	509	1	508
California	3,751	1	3,750

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.

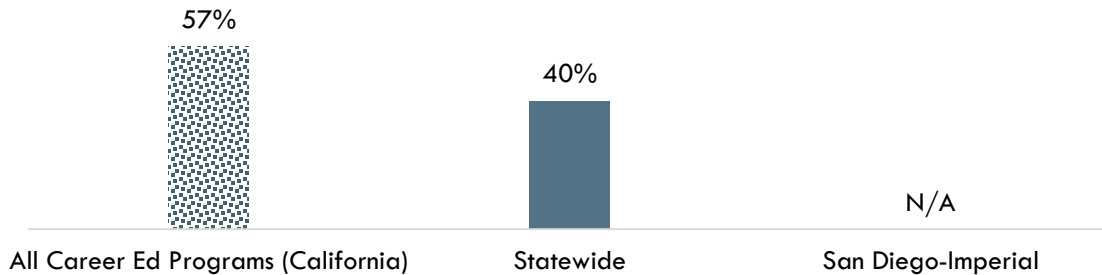
⁷ Labor supply can be found from two different sources: EMSI or the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart. EMSI uses CIP codes while MIS uses TOP codes. Different coding systems result in differences in the supply numbers.

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

Student Outcomes and Regional Comparisons

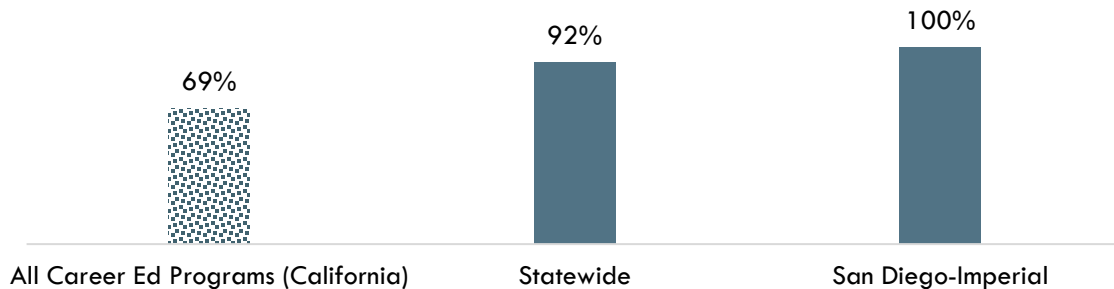
According to the California Community Colleges LaunchBoard, 40 percent of students statewide earned a living wage after completing an Aquatics and Lifesaving (TOP 0835.70) program, compared to 57 percent of students in Career Education programs in general across the state (Exhibit 6a).⁹

Exhibit 6a: Percentage of Students Who Earned a Living Wage by Program (Aquatics and Lifesaving, PY2020-21)¹⁰



According to the California Community Colleges LaunchBoard, 100 percent of students in the San Diego-Imperial region obtained a job closely related to their field of study after completing an Aquatics and Lifesaving (TOP 0835.70) program, compared to 92 percent statewide and 69 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 (Aquatics and Lifesaving, PY2019-20)¹²



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

¹⁰ Most recent year with available data is Program Year 2020-21. Among completers and skills builders who exited, the percentage of students who attained a living wage.

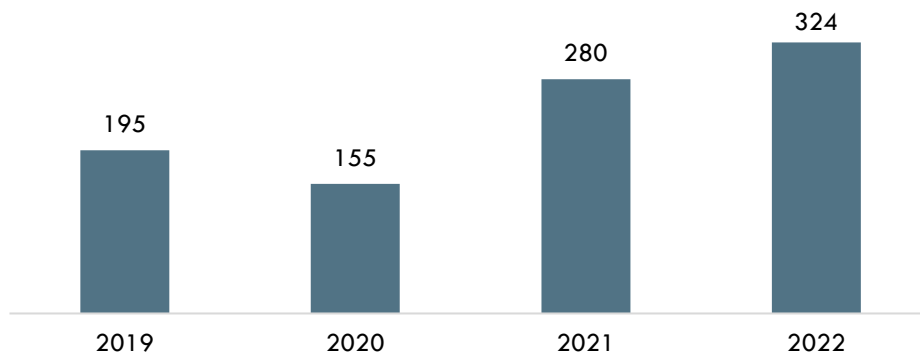
¹¹ "California Community Colleges Strong Workforce Program," California Community Colleges, calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/SWP.aspx.

¹² Most recent year with available data is Program Year 2019-20. 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 2019 and 2022, there was an average of 239 online job postings per year for *Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers* in San Diego County (Exhibit 6). Please note that online job postings do **not** equal labor market demand; demand is represented by annual job openings (see Exhibit 1). While this brief includes online jobs postings data to help with curriculum development, the community colleges should note that this type of data is impacted by several variables: employers may post a position multiple times to increase the pool of applicants; a job posting can remain posted after a business decides not to fill a position; or an employer may use one posting to fill multiple positions, for example.

Exhibit 6: Number of Online Job Postings for Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers in San Diego County (2019-2022)¹³



¹³ Lightcast; "Job Posting Analytics." 2019-2022.

Top Employers

Between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022, the top five employers in San Diego County for *Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers* were *YMCA, Hyatt, Premier Aquatic Services, Omni Hotels & Resorts, and the City of Carlsbad* based on online job postings (Exhibit 7).

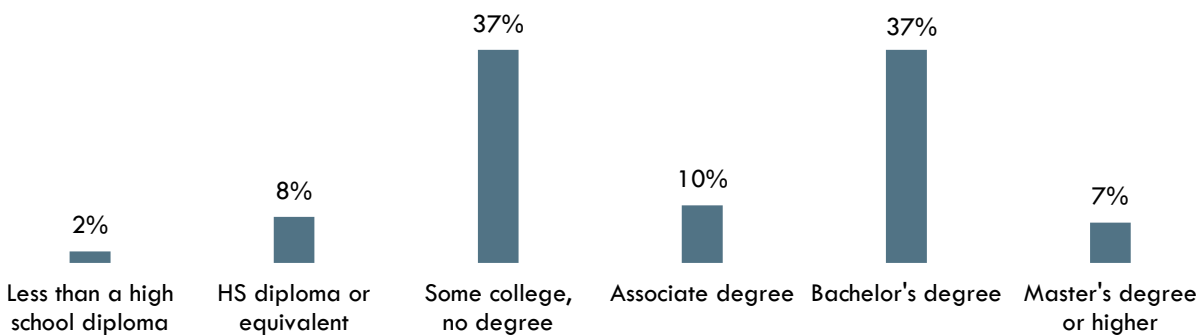
Exhibit 7: Top Employers for *Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers* in San Diego County¹⁴

Top Employers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YMCA • Hyatt • Premier Aquatic Services • Omni Hotels & Resorts • City of Carlsbad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Of San Diego • Barona Resort & Casino • City Of Coronado • Waterworks Aquatics • City Of Poway

Education, Skills, and Certifications

Exhibit 8a indicates that the typical educational attainment for the occupation found currently in the California labor force is between *some college, no degree* and a *bachelor's degree*. The typical entry-level education is *no formal educational credential*.¹⁵

Exhibit 8a: California Educational Attainment of *Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers*¹⁶



*May not total 100 percent due to rounding

¹⁴ Lightcast; "Job Posting Analytics." 2020-2022.

¹⁵ Lightcast 2023.03; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

¹⁶ "Educational Attainment for Workers 25 Years and Older by Detailed Occupation," Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified September 8, 2022. bls.gov/emp/tables/educational-attainment.htm.

Based on online job postings between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022 in San Diego County, employers posted a **high school diploma or equivalent** as the most requested educational requirement for *Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers* (Exhibit 8b).¹⁷

Exhibit 8b: Educational Requirements for Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers in San Diego County¹⁸

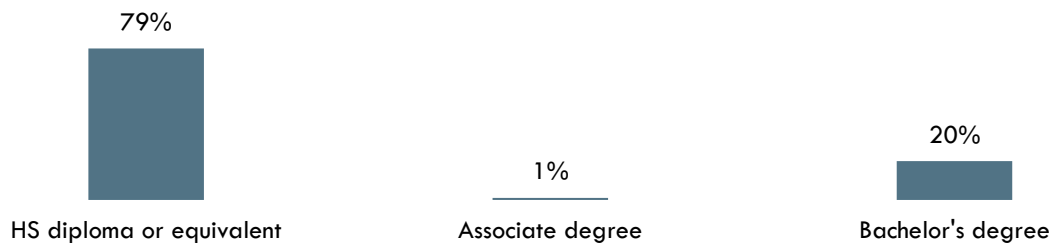


Exhibit 9 lists the top specialized, soft, and software skills that appeared in online job postings between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022.

Exhibit 9: Top Skills for Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers in San Diego County¹⁹

Specialized Skills	Soft Skills	Software Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation • Swimming Pool Maintenance • Emergency Medical Services • Emergency Medicine • Public Relations • Emergency Response • Automated External Defibrillator • Swimming Instruction • Program Standards • Oxygen Therapy • Auditing • Basic First Aid • Development Aid • Cashiering • Life Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid • Customer Service • Communications • Swimming • Management • Operations • Cleanliness • Lifting Ability • Writing • English Language • Teaching • Tactfulness • Professionalism • Leadership • Supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

¹⁷ Lightcast; "Job Posting Analytics." 2020-2022.

¹⁸ "Educational Attainment for Workers 25 Years and Older by Detailed Occupation," Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified April 9, 2021. bls.gov/emp/tables/educational-attainment.htm.

¹⁹ Lightcast; "Job Posting Analytics." 2020-2022.

Exhibit 10 lists the top certifications that appeared in online job postings between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022.

Exhibit 10: Top Certifications for Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers in San Diego County²⁰

Top Certifications in Online Job Postings

1. First Aid Certification
 2. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification
 3. American Red Cross (ARC) Certification
 4. Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Certification
 5. CPR/AED For The Professional Rescuer
 6. American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification
 7. Lifeguard Certification
 8. Water Safety Instructor Certification
 9. Certified First Responder (CFR)
 10. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
 11. American Red Cross First Aid Certification
 12. Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 13. American Red Cross CPR Certification
 14. CDL Class C License
 15. Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification
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²⁰ Lightcast; "Job Posting Analytics." 2020-2022.

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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.

Appendix A: Online Training Providers, Cost, and Website

The following table lists the employers, hourly wages, and websites for recently posted online job postings or job descriptions and salaries for lifeguards. Employers' names with "*" indicate that the position was posted for a "Beach Lifeguard." "N/A" indicates no information was found for the listed employer.

Websites accessed 8/15/2023.

Employer	Hourly Wage
City of San Diego *	\$22.18
City of Coronado *	\$20.57
City of Oceanside *	\$19.56
City of Imperial Beach *	\$18.05
YMCA	\$18.00
City of Poway	\$17.96
City of Coronado	\$17.53
City of Oceanside	\$17.16
City of Carlsbad *	\$17.00
City of San Diego	\$16.89
City of Escondido	\$16.28
City of Chula Vista	\$16.27
City of La Mesa	\$15.50
Sesame Place San Diego (formerly Aquatica)	\$15.50
City of Solana Beach *	\$15.00
Legoland	N/A