

Intro to Health Science Careers

Obj. 15.5: Evaluate factors that influence personal interest in health science careers.



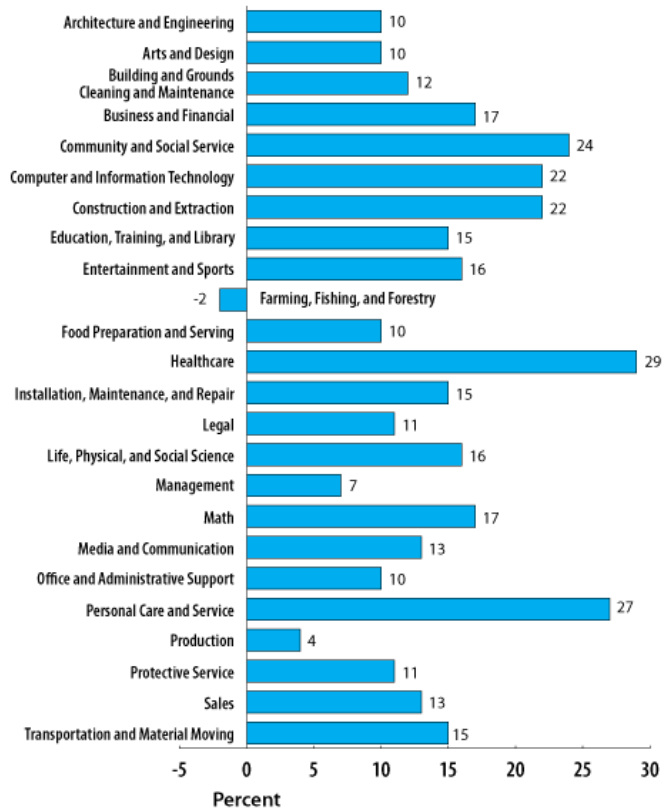
Health Care Job Outlook

1. According to the graph, which occupational group experienced the greatest positive change in projected total employment. What was the percent change?

2. Which two other occupational groups have the second and third greatest positive percent change, respectively?

3. Why do you think these top three occupational groups are projected to see the most growth? List as many possible reasons as you can think of.

Chart 6. Percent change in total employment, by occupational group, 2010–20 (projected)



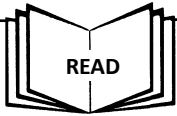
Source: BLS Division of Occupational Outlook

DISCUSS

Your Career Interests

Jot down your answers to the following three questions; then share your idea with a partner.

1. What are some of your top career interests? Do you think you are likely to change your mind?
2. Suppose you decide to go into a health science career. What health science careers might interest you? (If you already listed health science careers in #1, choose at least one additional health science career that you think might be interesting).
3. What are some types of careers that you know you are *least* interested in?



The Healthcare Industry

Read the following summary from Wikipedia, answering questions along the way:

The **health care industry**, or **medical industry**, is an aggregation of sectors within the economic system that provides goods and services to treat patients with curative, preventative, rehabilitative, and palliative care. The modern health care industry is divided into many sectors and depends on interdisciplinary teams of trained professionals and paraprofessionals to meet health needs of individuals and populations.

• Give an example of how a career you are interested in might involve teamwork or interdisciplinary teams.

The health care industry is one of the world's largest and fastest-growing industries. Consuming over 10 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) of most developed nations, health care can form an enormous part of a country's economy. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates there are 9.2 million physicians, 19.4 million nurses and midwives, 1.9 million dentists and other dentistry personnel, 2.6 million pharmacists and other pharmaceutical personnel, and over 1.3 million community health workers worldwide, making the health care industry one of the largest segments of the workforce.

• Why do you think the health care industry is one of the world's largest and fastest-growing industries?

A **health care provider** is an institution (such as a hospital or clinic) or person (such as a physician, nurse, allied health professional, or community health worker) that provides preventive, curative, promotional, rehabilitative or palliative care services in a systematic way to individuals, families or communities.

The medical industry is also supported by many **professions** that do not directly provide health care itself, but are part of the management and support of the health care system. The incomes of managers and administrators, underwriters, and medical malpractice attorneys, marketers, investors and shareholders of for-profit services, all are attributable to health care costs.

• Are you more interested in careers that are considered "providers" or "professionals"? Why?

The delivery of health care services—from **primary** care (general care such as checkups & screenings) to **secondary** (specialty or acute care, often in hospitals) and **tertiary** (advanced levels of specialized care) levels of care—is the most visible part of any health care system, both to users and the general public. There are many ways of providing health care in the modern world. The place of delivery may be in the home, the community, the workplace, or in health facilities. The most common way is face-to-face delivery,

where care provider and patient see each other 'in the flesh'. This is what occurs in general medicine in most countries. However, with modern telecommunications technology, remote health care is becoming more common. This could be when practitioner and patient communicate over the phone, video conferencing, the internet, email, or any other form of non-face-to-face communication.

Source: Wikipedia "Health care industry" <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_care_industry>

Considering the different settings that health care services and work can be carried out in, what type of setting, environment, type of care, and place of delivery interest you most?



Health Careers Web

With a partner or small group, create a web or visual map depicting the great variety of health science careers available. Use the Internet to conduct research. Plan out your web before you begin. It should be organized in a logical fashion based on the type of careers. You can select what characteristics you are grouping the careers within. Be sure to include a title and make it neat and visually appealing. As an additional challenge, select some additional information to display along with the careers (e.g., typical salary range, years of schooling, etc.).

Brainstorm/Plan:



Reflection

Write a one paragraph journal entry discussing your career interests and any evolution (change) in your interests in the past and present (today, perhaps!). Discuss what factors are important to you when considering a career. Explain why health science careers do or do not interest you. How might your plans and goals possibly change in the future?