



South Dakota
High Demand
&
High Wage
Career



Career Cluster: Human Services

Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors

Standard Occupational Code 21-1018

What They Do

Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors counsel and advise individuals with alcohol, tobacco or drug addiction or other problems, including mental health issues. May counsel individuals, families or groups or engage in prevention programs.

Is This For You?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

Social (Helpers) — Like to work with other people. They enjoy teaching, helping and curing people. They are good with words.

Investigative (Thinkers) — Interested in science and logic. They like to analyze, evaluate and solve problems, and enjoy learning and understanding the causes of events.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

Relationships — Allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment.

Achievement — Results oriented and allow employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.

Independence — Allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.

Abilities reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career.

- Oral Expression
- Problem Sensitivity
- Speech Clarity
- Deductive Reasoning
- Active Listening

Basic Skills You Need

- Active Listening
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Social Perceptiveness
- Monitoring
- Reading Comprehension
- Service Orientation
- Writing
- Judgment and Decision Making

Education & Training

Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselor positions generally require the minimum of a bachelor's degree in social work or a related field. Some positions may require a master's degree.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	3
Workplace Documents	5
Graphic Literacy	4

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of substance abuse and mental health counselor are:

- Individual and Family Services
- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Outpatient Care Centers
- Residential, Intellectual & Developmental Disability, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse Facilities

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2022 Employment	2032 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
1,726	1,979	253	14.7%	178	\$48,520	\$50,960

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center

www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

Provided By

Labor Market Information Center
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation
605.626.2314

Visit dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in this occupational profile.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. U.S. DOL funded. For details, see dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta_grant.aspx.

Printed on recycled paper. 



July
2024