



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career



Career Cluster:

Health Care & Human Services

Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors

Standard Occupational Codes 21-1014 and 21-1011

(Please note: the general information about this occupation pertains to Mental Health Counselors, code 21-1014; however, the employment and wage data on the reverse side includes both occupations.)

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 Styles (personality tendencies) of people who perform well in this occupation have:

Sincerity — A tendency to be genuine and sincere in interactions with others at work, without concern for personal gain or self-interest.

Optimism — A tendency to exhibit a positive attitude and positive emotions at work, even under difficult circumstances.

Adaptability — A tendency to be open to and comfortable with change, new experiences, or ideas at work.

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

- Oral Comprehension
- Oral Expression
- Problem Sensitivity
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning

Work Activities

- Assisting and Caring for Others
- Establishing and Maintaining Interpersonal Relationships
- Getting Information
- Making Decisions and Solving Problems
- Documenting/Recording Information
- Thinking Creatively

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.

A registered apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit StartTodaySD.com or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	4
Workplace Documents	4
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:

- Ambulatory Health Care Services
- Social Assistance
- Hospitals
- Nursing and Residential Care Facilities
- Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
1,605	1,879	274	17.1%	160	\$53,650	\$54,760

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.

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