

CAREER FINDER

WORK IN THE
**HEALTH CARE
INDUSTRY**

by Emma Huddleston



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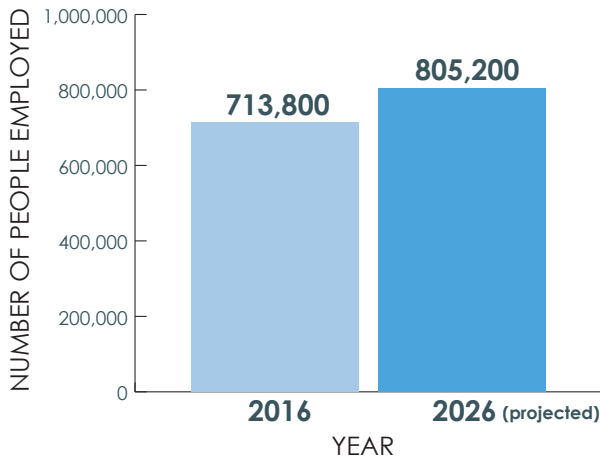
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CONTENTS

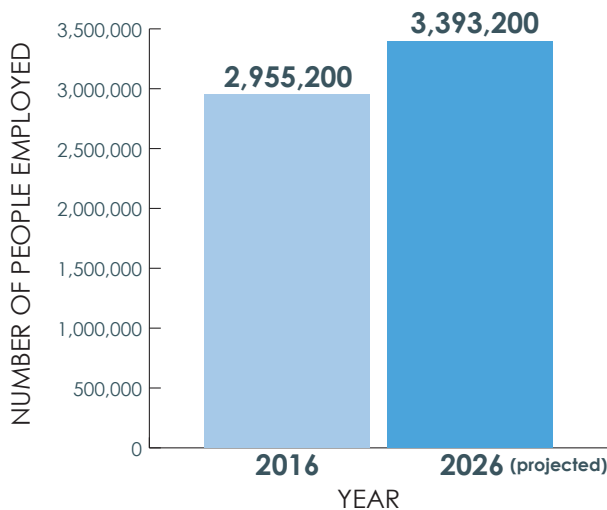
THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY	4
INTRODUCTION	6
WHAT IS THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY?	
CHAPTER ONE	12
HOME HEALTH AIDE	
CHAPTER TWO	24
DOCTOR	
CHAPTER THREE	38
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT	
CHAPTER FOUR	48
REGISTERED NURSE	
CHAPTER FIVE	60
DIETITIAN	
Interview with a Professional	74
Other Jobs in the Health Care Industry	76
Glossary	77
Index	78
Image Credits	79
About the Author	80

THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY

Doctors and Surgeons



Registered Nurses



HOME HEALTH AIDE

It can be expensive to visit a doctor, especially if someone needs daily help. That is why home health aides are in demand. Aides care for people in their homes or in a group home. This type of care can be cheaper than visiting a doctor. Aides provide personal care. They help with everyday activities.

MINIMUM EDUCATION: High school diploma or equivalent

PERSONAL QUALITIES: Social, patient, detail-oriented, trustworthy, reliable, caring

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSING: Varies depending on location and employer

WORKING CONDITIONS: Home health aides work in a variety of settings, such as client or group homes.

SALARY: The average salary in 2017 was \$23,130 per year, or \$11.12 per hour.

NUMBER OF JOBS: 2,927,600 in 2016

FUTURE JOB OUTLOOK: The number of jobs is expected to grow 41% from 2016 to 2026, or an additional 1,208,800 jobs.

A home health aide is the most in-demand job in the health care industry. The need for aides is expected to rise in the next decade. The US population is getting older. About 35 percent of Americans are



Home health aides assist people with daily activities.

fifty years old or older. Many people will need medical care as they age.

WHAT THEY DO

Aides have many responsibilities. They assist with daily activities. These activities

can include eating, bathing, dressing, and chores. Sometimes aides buy groceries. They may take clients to doctor appointments. They help organize a client's schedule. Aides make sure clients are taking their medication.

Aides have special relationships with their clients. They may be together for many hours each day. Aides may work in clients' homes. Then clients are in a familiar place. They do not have to travel to get medical care. Aides can get to know the client's family. This can strengthen the relationship between the aide and the client. Aides can

FIND OUT MORE

The American Society on Aging (ASA)

website: www.asaging.org

The ASA trains health care professionals who work with elderly clients. It also helps people find jobs in the health care industry. It hosts conferences each year to educate health care professionals.

National Association for Home Care and Hospice (NAHC)

website: www.nahc.org

The NAHC is a network of health care providers, organizations, and businesses. It holds meetings and conferences for health care professionals.

The SCAN Foundation

website: www.thescanfoundation.org

The SCAN Foundation is a charity. It helps elderly people find good health care. It supports people who want to live independently as they age.

INTERVIEW WITH A PROFESSIONAL

Dr. Elsa Kracke is a pediatrician. She works for St. Luke's Children's Pediatrics in Boise, Idaho.

WHY DID YOU BECOME A PHYSICIAN/PEDIATRICIAN?

I always liked science and math growing up, but during high school when I was a student athlete I became interested in nutrition, anatomy, and how the body works. I chose to become a doctor to help others learn how to take care of their bodies, so they can prevent illnesses. Being a doctor is fun because you get to help children every day.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL WORK DAY?

A typical work day includes going to the clinic and seeing patients from infancy to eighteen years old. I see children for well child checks to monitor their growth and developmental milestones (such as walking and talking) and check their vision and hearing. I also help children when they are sick or injured. I work with a team of people, including nurses, therapists, and social workers.

OTHER JOBS IN THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY

- Audiologist
- Dentist
- Diagnostic Imaging Worker
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Exercise Physiologist
- Massage Therapist
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Laboratory Scientist
- Medical Transcriptionist
- Nursing Assistant
- Nutritionist
- Occupational Therapist
- Occupational Therapy Assistant or Aide
- Optician
- Optometrist
- Paramedic
- Personal Care Aide
- Pharmacist
- Phlebotomist
- Physical Therapist
- Podiatrist
- Prosthetist
- Radiologic and MRI Technician
- Recreational Therapist
- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Surgeon

Editor's Note: The US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics provides information about hundreds of career options. The agency's Occupational Outlook Handbook describes the education and skill requirements, pay, and future outlook for each job. The Occupational Outlook Handbook can be found online at www.bls.gov/ooh.

GLOSSARY

accredited

recognized as meeting certain requirements or standards

certification

an official recognition from a state or an organization that shows someone has special training

clinic

a place where people can get medical treatment, usually for minor injuries or illnesses

diagnose

to identify a disease or illness based on a patient's symptoms

genetic

able to be passed from a parent to a child

internship

a period of training or work to learn about a certain job

major

the main subject a student studies at a college or university

nutrition

the food and nutrients people need to grow and stay healthy

prescribe

to give a prescription, or a note that gives information about the drugs and medicine a person needs

symptom

a sign that someone may have a disease or illness

INDEX

- Bureau of Labor Statistics, US, 10
- cardiologists, 28
- checkups, 7, 24, 28
- clinical dietitians, 65
- clinical rotations, 42, 44
- Commission on Dietetic Registration, 71
- community dietitians, 65–66
- CPR training, 20–21
- dietitians, 60–63, 65–66, 68, 71–72
- doctors, 4, 8, 12, 15, 18, 24–32, 35–37, 38–41, 42, 44, 45, 48, 50, 53–54, 55
- group homes, 12, 16
- home health aides, 12–22
- internships, 68
- licensed practical nurses (LPNs), 53
- management dietitians, 66
- Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), 31
- medical school, 30–32, 35
- neonatal nurses, 50
- nurse practitioners (NPs), 55, 57
- nurses, 4, 6, 17, 27–28, 40–42, 48–55, 57–59
- paramedics, 41–42
- pediatric oncology nurses, 50–51
- pediatricians, 28, 45
- personal care aides, 17
- physician assistants, 27, 38–42, 44–47
- public health nurses, 50
- registered nurses (RNs), 4, 48–55, 57–59
- residency, 32, 35
- surgeons, 4, 6–7, 29–30, 32, 38–40, 53, 55
- vital signs, 49–50
- X-rays, 25–26