COMMUNITY HEALTH
Career Pathways Overview

OVERVIEW
Community healthcare professionals are frontline public health workers who have a close understanding of the community they serve. This trusting relationship enables them to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

THE STATISTICS
Careers within this field include Social Services Assistant, Community Health Worker, Health Education Specialist and Medical and Health Services Manager. The National median ranges are listed below and are directly correlated with education and experience. The outlook for this pathway is projected to grow 19% from 2019 - 2029.

SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANT
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER
HEALTH EDUCATION SPECIALIST
MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES MANAGER
**Social and human service assistants** provide client services, including support for families, in a wide variety of fields, such as psychology, rehabilitation, and social work. They have many job titles, including case work aide, clinical social work aide, family service assistant, social work assistant, addictions counselor assistant, and human service worker.

**Credentials Required:** High School Diploma  
**Outlook:** Projected 17% growth between 2019-2029

**Community health workers** (CHWs) are non-clinical healthcare personnel that serve as a bridge between the community and the healthcare service providers. CHWs are the trusted frontline workers who have in-depth knowledge of the community.

**Credentials Required:** High School Diploma, Associates Degree, and professional certification  
**Outlook:** Projected 13% growth between 2019-2029

**Health education specialists**, or health educators plan, provide and manage health education programs that help individuals, families, and their communities maximize and maintain healthy lifestyles.

**Credentials Required:** Bachelor's Degree, Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES)  
**Outlook:** Projected 13% growth between 2019-2029

**Medical and health services managers**, also called healthcare executives or healthcare administrators, plan, direct, and coordinate medical and health services. They may manage an entire facility, a specific clinical area or department, or a medical practice for a group of physicians.

**Credentials Required:** Bachelor's Degree in health administration/management, professional certification  
**Outlook:** Projected 13% growth between 2019-2029
OVERVIEW
Pharmacists dispense prescription medications to patients and offer expertise in the safe use of prescriptions. They also may conduct health and wellness screenings, provide immunizations, oversee the medications given to patients, and provide advice on healthy lifestyles.

THE STATISTICS
Careers within this field include Pharmacy Aide, Pharmacy Technician, and Licensed Pharmacist. The National median ranges listed below are directly correlated with education and experience. The outlook for this pathway is projected to grow 4% from 2019 - 2029.
**PHARMACY AIDE**

**Pharmacy aides** perform clerical functions such as record drugs delivered to the pharmacy, store incoming merchandise, and inform the supervisor of stock needs. Pharmacy assistants in retail pharmacies often work as clerks or cashiers. They may answer phones and accept prescriptions for filling. Assistants who work in hospitals deliver medication to patients.

**Credentials Required:** High School Diploma  
**Outlook:** Projected 4% growth between 2019-2029

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**PHARMACY TECHNICIAN**

**Pharmacy technicians** help pharmacists dispense prescription medication to customers or health professionals. In most states, technicians can compound or mix some medications and call physicians for prescription refill authorizations. Technicians also may need to operate automated dispensing equipment when filling prescription orders.

**Credentials Required:** High School Diploma, On-the-job training, postsecondary education programs in pharmacy technology  
**Outlook:** Projected 4% growth between 2019-2029

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**PHARMACY MANAGERS**

**Pharmacists** dispense prescription medications to patients and offer expertise in the safe use of prescriptions. They also may conduct health and wellness screenings, provide immunizations, oversee the medications given to patients, and provide advice on healthy lifestyles.

**Credentials Required:** Doctor of Pharmacy Degree, Postgraduate professional degree, must pass North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam (NAPLEX) and Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam (MPJE) exams  
**Outlook:** Projected 4% growth between 2019-2029
OVERVIEW

Sports medicine is a branch of medicine that deals with physical fitness and the treatment and prevention of injuries related to sports and exercise.

THE STATISTICS

Careers within this pathway include Physical Therapy Aide, Physical Therapy Assistant, Athletic Trainer, Exercise Physiologist and Physical Therapist. National median wages for these occupations are listed below. The outlook for this pathway is projected to grow about 20% from 2019 - 2029.
**Physical Therapy Aide**

Physical therapist aides work under the direction and supervision of physical therapists.

**Credentials Required:** High School Diploma, On-the-job training

**Outlook:** Projected 21% growth between 2019-2029

**Physical Therapy Assistant**

Physical therapist assistants work under the direction and supervision of physical therapists helping patients who are recovering from injuries and illnesses to regain movement and manage pain.

**Credentials Required:** Associates Degree, Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, National Physical Therapy Exam for physical therapist assistants.

**Outlook:** Projected 33% growth between 2019-2029

**Athletic Trainer**

Athletic trainers specialize in preventing, diagnosing, and treating muscle and bone injuries and illnesses. They carry out rehabilitation programs for injured athletes.

**Credentials Required:** Bachelor's Degree, Certification Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer (BOC) exam

**Outlook:** Projected 16% growth between 2019-2029

**Exercise Physiologist**

Exercise physiologists develop fitness and exercise programs that help patients recover from chronic diseases and improve cardiovascular function, body composition, and flexibility. Exercise physiologists analyze a patient's medical history to determine the best possible exercise and fitness regimen.

**Credentials Required:** Bachelor’s Degree, Exercise Physiologist Certified (EPC) certification, Certified Exercise Physiologist (EP-C), Certified Clinical Exercise Physiologist (CEP), Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist (RCEP)

**Outlook:** Projected 11% growth between 2019-2029

**Physical Therapist**

Physical therapists provide care to people of all ages who have functional problems resulting from back and neck injuries; sprains, strains, and fractures; arthritis; amputations; neurological disorders, such as stroke or cerebral palsy; injuries related to work and sports; and other conditions.

**Credentials Required:** Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree from Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)

**Outlook:** Projected 18% growth between 2019-2029
OVERVIEW

Nurses are hands-on health professionals who provide focused and highly personalized care. Nurses promote health, prevent disease, and help patients cope with illness. The primary job of a nurse is to work with physicians and other healthcare workers to treat their patients.

THE STATISTICS

Nursing is a career in which your ideas can change the lives of others, and even healthcare itself. As the US population ages, there’s an ever-greater need for qualified nurses to provide the necessary care. The National median ranges are listed below and are directly correlated with education and experience. The outlook for this pathway is projected to grow 19% from 2019 - 2029.

PATHWAY

CERTIFIED HOME HEALTH AIDE

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

REGISTERED NURSE

CHHA - Certified Home Health Aid
CNA - Certified Nursing Assistant
LPN - Licensed Practical Nurse
RN - Registered Nurse

$0 $20,000 $40,000 $60,000 $80,000
**NURSING Career Pathways Overview**

**CERTIFIED HOME HEALTH AIDE**

**Home Health Aides**, with guidance from a registered nurse, assist patients with their basic living activities in home settings or residential facilities.

**Credentials Required:** High School Diploma, Vocational Technical Degree plus certification  
**Outlook:** Projected 34% growth between 2019-2029

**CERTIFIED NURSES ASSISTANT**

**Certified Nurses Assistants/Nurses Aides/Patient Care Technicians** attend to patient comfort and treatment, particularly those who are bedridden and need assistance with daily tasks.

**Credentials Required:** High School Diploma, High School Diploma, Vocational Technical Degree plus certification  
**Outlook:** Projected 8% growth between 2019-2029

**LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE**

**Licensed Practical Nurses** work with doctors and registered nurses on direct patient care and maintain close supervision of patients' symptoms and reactions to medication.

**Credentials Required:** High School Diploma, High School Diploma, Vocational Technical Degree plus certification  
**Outlook:** Projected 9% growth between 2019-2029

**REGISTERED NURSE**

**Registered Nurses** offer health information and provide direct patient care to patients and their families in close coordination with other health care professionals.

**Credentials Required:** Associate's degree in Nursing or a Bachelor's degree in Nursing required; State certification  
**Outlook:** Projected 7% growth between 2019-2029
OVERVIEW

Health administration professionals work to administer, lead and manage healthcare systems, such as hospitals, hospital networks or large healthcare systems. These dedicated individuals work closely with other healthcare professionals to ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

THE STATISTICS

Careers within this pathway include Certified Medical Administration Assistant, Certified Coding Assistant, Registered Health Information Technician, and Health Information Manager. The National median ranges are listed below and are directly correlated with education and experience. The outlook for this pathway is projected to grow about 17% from 2019 - 2029.
HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION
Career Pathways Overview

CERTIFIED MEDICAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Certified medical administrative assistants (CMAA) complete administrative and clinical tasks in hospitals, offices of physicians, and other healthcare facilities.

Credentials Required: High School Diploma, Vocational Technical Degree plus certification
Outlook: Projected 19% growth between 2019-2029

CERTIFIED CODING ASSISTANT

Certified Coding Assistants/Medical records and health information specialists organize, manage, and code health information data. They use various classification systems to code and categorize patient information for insurance reimbursement purposes, for databases and registries, and to maintain patients’ medical and treatment histories.

Credentials Required: High School Diploma, High School Diploma, Vocational Technical Degree plus certification and Exam
Outlook: Projected 8% growth between 2019-2029

REGISTERED HEALTH INFORMATION SPECIALIST/TECH

Registered health information technicians (RHIT), verify the accuracy of electronic medical records.

Credentials Required: Associates degree plus certification
Outlook: Projected 8% growth between 2019-2029

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGER

Health information managers (HIM) organize, oversee, and protect patient health information data which includes symptoms, diagnoses, medical histories, test results, and procedures. These administrative professionals make sure that traditional and digital medical data maintains its quality, accuracy, accessibility, and security.

Credentials Required: Bachelor’s degree, and sometimes Master degree
Outlook: Projected 32% growth between 2019-2029