Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors
in 2 California Counties

Contents

What is Lightcast Data?

Lightcast data is a hybrid dataset derived from official government sources such as the US Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Bureau of Labor Statistics. Leveraging the unique strengths of each source, our data modeling team creates an authoritative dataset that captures more than 99% of all workers in the United States. This core offering is then enriched with data from online social profiles, resumés, and job postings to give you a complete view of the workforce.

Lightcast data is frequently cited in major publications such as *The Atlantic*, *Forbes*, *Harvard Business Review*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today*.

Report Parameters

1 Occupation

21-1018   Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors

2 Counties

6079   San Luis Obispo County, CA   6083   Santa Barbara County, CA

Class of Worker

QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed

The information in this report pertains to the chosen occupation and geographical areas.

Executive Summary

Aggressive Job Posting Demand Over a Thin Supply of Regional Jobs

615
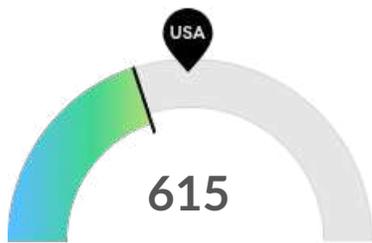
Jobs (2023)

Your area is not a hotspot for this kind of job. The national average for an area this size is 837* employees, while there are 615 here.

$47,593

Compensation

Earnings are about average in your area. The national median salary for Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors is $49,059, compared to $47,593 here.

32
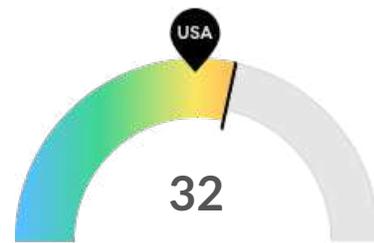
Job Posting Demand

Job posting activity is high in your area. The national average for an area this size is 26* job postings/mo, while there are 32 here.

*National average values are derived by taking the national value for Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors and scaling it down to account for the difference in overall workforce size between the nation and your area. In other words, the values represent the national average adjusted for region size.

Jobs

Regional Employment Is Lower Than the National Average

An average area of this size typically has 837* jobs, while there are 615 here. This lower than average supply of jobs may make it more difficult for workers in this field to find employment in your area.
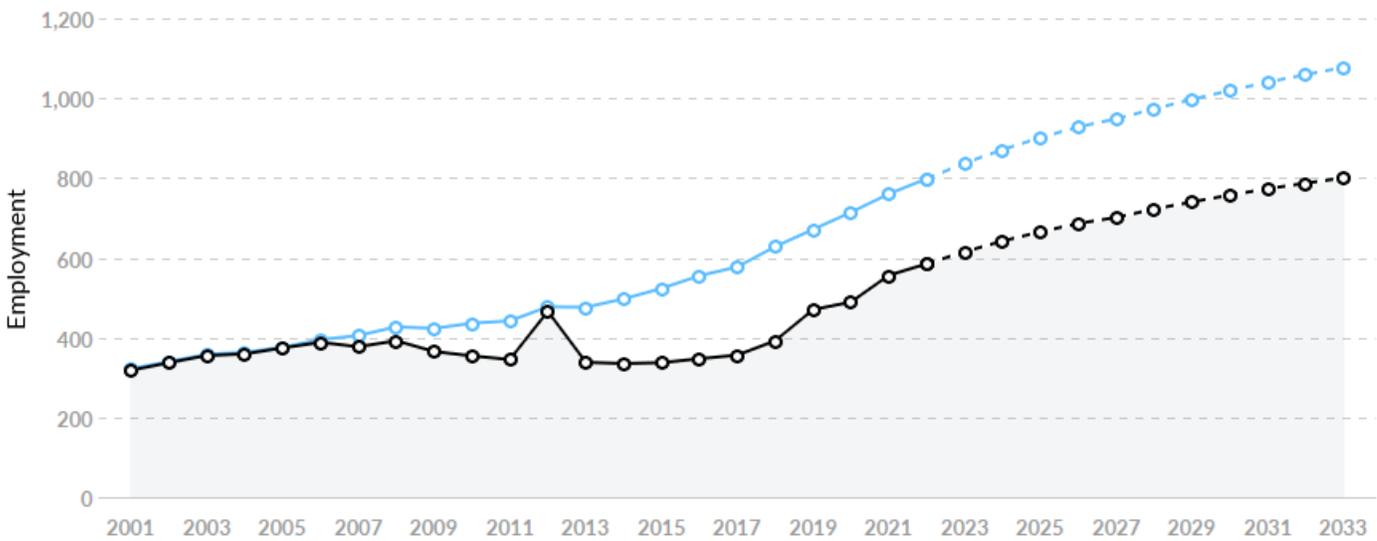
	Region	2023 Jobs	2033 Jobs	Change	% Change
●	2 California Counties	615	800	185	30.0%
●	National Average	837	1,077	240	28.7%

*National average values are derived by taking the national value for Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors and scaling it down to account for the difference in overall workforce size between the nation and your area. In other words, the values represent the national average adjusted for region size.

Regional Breakdown
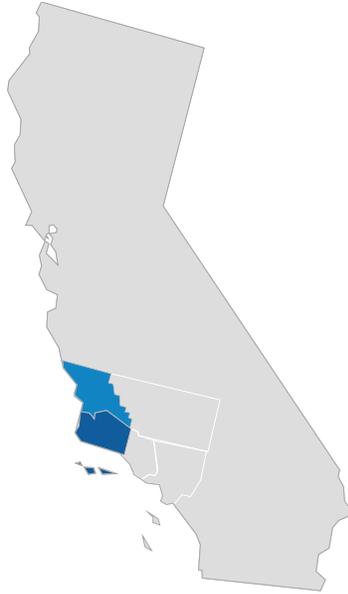
County	2023 Jobs
Santa Barbara County, CA	389
San Luis Obispo County, CA	227

# Most Jobs are Found in the Individual and Family Services Industry Sector

| Industry	% of Occupation in Industry (2023)
Individual and Family Services	20.3%
Outpatient Care Centers	14.9%
Offices of Other Health Practitioners	13.3%
Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	11.6%
Residential Intellectual and Developmental Disability, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Facilities	10.0%
Education and Hospitals (State Government)	3.8%
Other	26.1%

Compensation

Regional Compensation Is 3% Lower Than National Compensation

For Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors, the 2021 median wage in your area is $47,593, while the national median wage is $49,059.
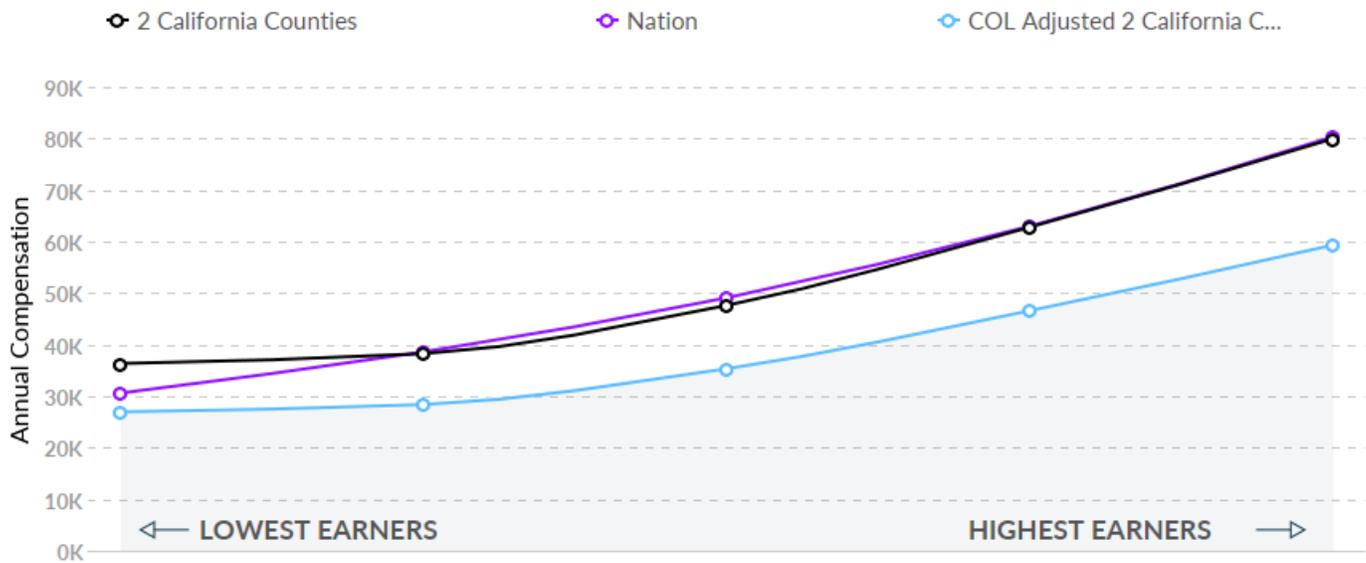
Job Posting Activity

189 Unique Job Postings

The number of unique postings for this job from Jan 2023 to Jun 2023.

47 Employers Competing

All employers in the region who posted for this job from Jan 2023 to Jun 2023.

29 Day Median Duration

Posting duration is 4 days shorter than what's typical in the region.

● Monthly Unique Postings   ● Estimated Hires Per Month*
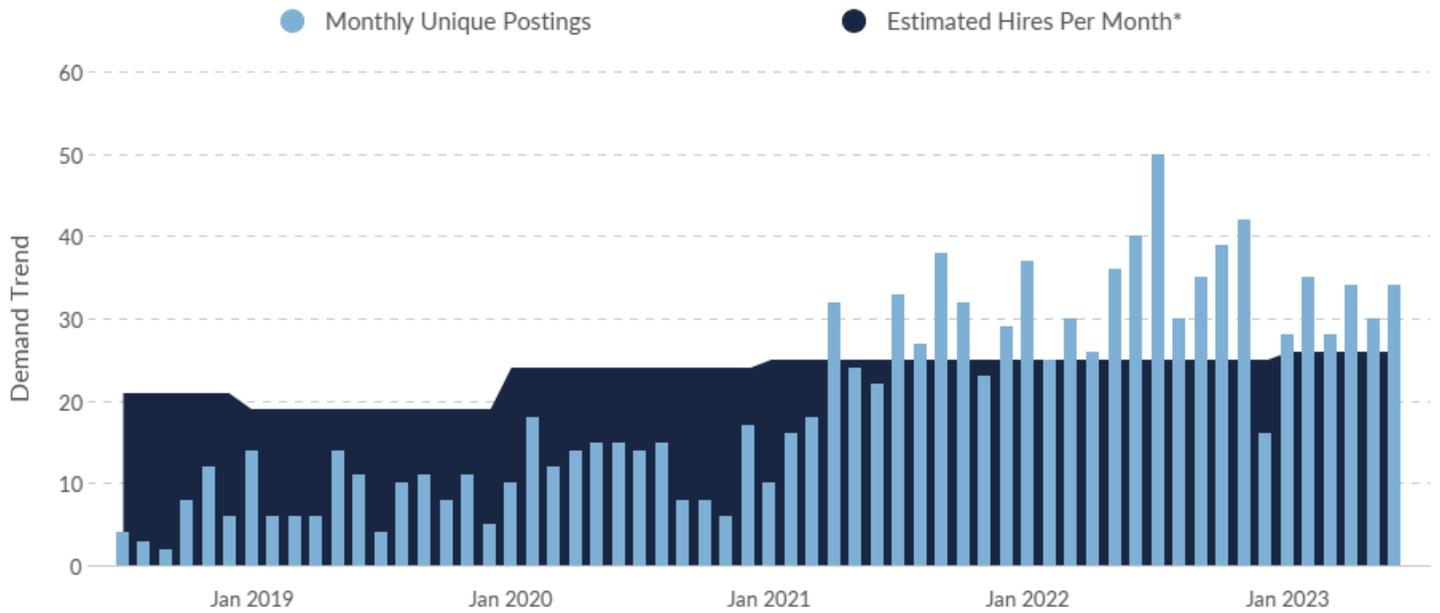
Occupation	Avg Monthly Postings (Jan 2023 - Jun 2023)	Avg Monthly Hires (Jan 2023 - Jun 2023)
Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	32	26

*A hire is reported by the Quarterly Workforce Indicators when an individual's Social Security Number appears on a company's payroll and was not there the quarter before. Lightcast hires are calculated using a combination of Lightcast jobs data, information on separation rates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and industry-based hires data from the Census Bureau.

| Top Companies	Unique Postings		Top Job Titles	Unique Postings	
Wellpath	23		Counselors	20	
Council On Alcoholism And Dru...	13		Mental Health Counselors	18	
Pinnacle Treatment Centers	13		Mental Health Clinicians	17	
Foresight Mental Health	12		Mental Health Therapists	16	
Telecare	12		Substance Abuse Counselors	9	
Merakey	11		Licensed Mental Health Clinicians	7	
Amity Foundation	7		Licensed Mental Health Therapi...	7	
Cottage Health	7		Licensed Clinical Professional C...	6	
Community Solutions	6		Clinical Counselors	4	
Scientific Games	5		Lead Clinicians	4	

Top Distinguishing Skills by Demand

An occupation's Distinguishing Skills are the advanced skills that are called for occasionally. An employee with these skills is likely more specialized and able to differentiate themselves from others in the same role.

Distinguishing Skills

Defining Skills

Necessary Skills
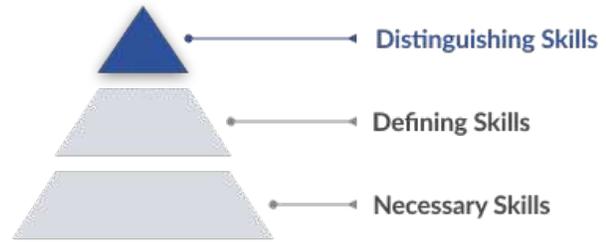
Skill	Salary Boosting	Job Postings Requesting
Behavioral Science	✖	27
Clinical Psychology License	✖	20
Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker	✖	11
Motivational Interviewing	✖	10
Clinical Psychology	✔	10
Licensed Mental Health Professional	✖	10
Psychological Evaluations	✖	10
Substance Dependence	✖	9
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	✖	7
Mental Health Assessments	✖	5

Top Defining Skills by Demand

An occupation's Defining Skills represent the day-to-day tasks and responsibilities of the job. An employee needs these skills to qualify for and perform successfully in this occupation.

Distinguishing Skills

Defining Skills

Necessary Skills
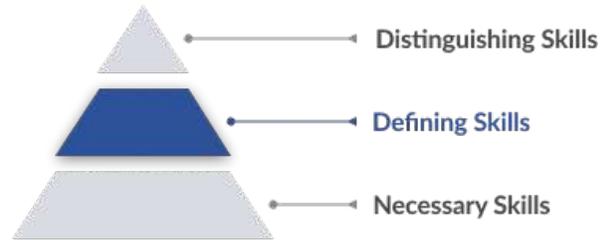
Skill	Salary Boosting	Job Postings Requesting
Mental Health	✖	117
Psychology	✖	78
Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)	✖	70
Treatment Planning	✖	65
Licensed Marriage And Family Therapist (LMFT)	✖	62
Social Work	✖	58
Valid Driver's License	✖	45
Case Management	✖	42
Psychotherapy	✖	40
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor	✖	36

Top Necessary Skills by Demand

An occupation's Necessary Skills are the specialized skills required for that job and relevant across other similar jobs. An employee needs these skills as building blocks to perform the more complex Defining Skills.

Distinguishing Skills

Defining Skills

Necessary Skills
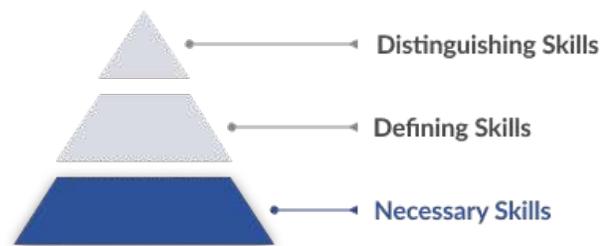
Skill	Salary Boosting	Job Postings Requesting
Medical Records	❌	38
Discharge Planning	❌	33
Psychiatry	❌	21
Billing	❌	18
Telehealth	❌	14
Electronic Medical Record	❌	12
Human Services	❌	8
Trauma Care	❌	7

Demographics

Retirement Risk Is About Average, While Overall Diversity Is High

143
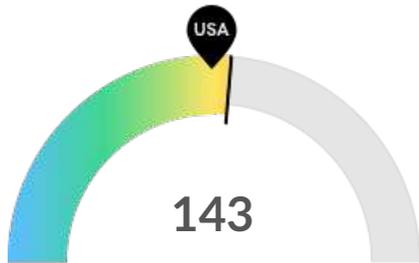
Retiring Soon

Retirement risk is about average in your area. The national average for an area this size is 132* employees 55 or older, while there are 143 here.

320
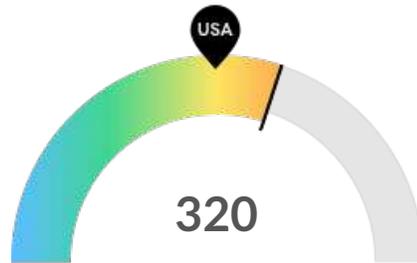
Racial Diversity

Racial diversity is high in your area. The national average for an area this size is 241* racially diverse employees, while there are 320 here.

403
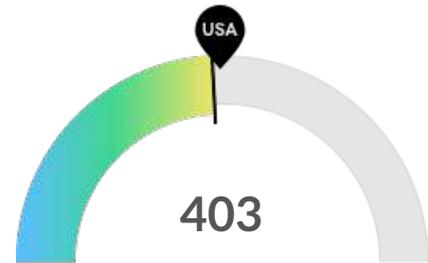
Gender Diversity

Gender diversity is about average in your area. The national average for an area this size is 422* female employees, while there are 403 here.

*National average values are derived by taking the national value for Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors and scaling it down to account for the difference in overall workforce size between the nation and your area. In other words, the values represent the national average adjusted for region size.

Occupation Age Breakdown
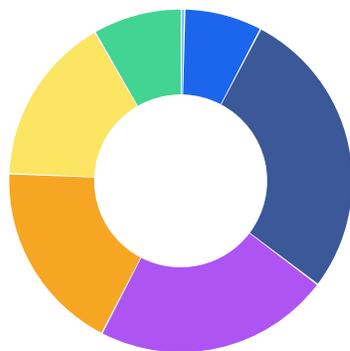
	% of Jobs	Jobs
14-18	0.3%	2
19-24	7.3%	43
25-34	27.6%	161
35-44	22.3%	130
45-54	18.1%	106
55-64	16.0%	94
65+	8.4%	49

Occupation Race/Ethnicity Breakdown
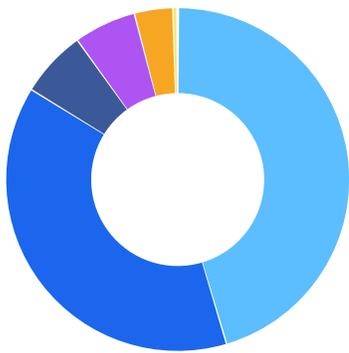
	% of Jobs	Jobs
● White	45.3%	265
● Hispanic or Latino	38.4%	224
● Asian	6.3%	37
● Black or African American	5.9%	34
● Two or More Races	3.6%	21
● American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%	2
● Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	1

Occupation Gender Breakdown
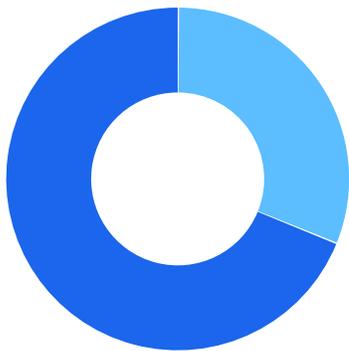
	% of Jobs	Jobs
● Males	31.1%	182
● Females	68.9%	403

National Educational Attainment
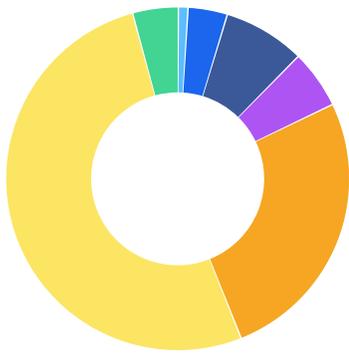
	% of Jobs
● Less than high school diploma	0.9%
● High school diploma or equivalent	3.7%
● Some college, no degree	7.7%
● Associate's degree	5.5%
● Bachelor's degree	26.1%
● Master's degree	51.8%
● Doctoral or professional degree	4.3%

Occupational Programs

5 Programs

Of the programs that can train for this job, 5 have produced completions in the last 5 years.

761 Completions (2021)

The completions from all regional institutions for all degree types.

80 Openings (2021)

The average number of openings for an occupation in the region is 74.

CIP Code	Top Programs	Completions (2021)	
42.0101	Psychology, General	575	
51.1501	Substance Abuse/Addiction Counseling	71	
42.2813	Applied Psychology	41	
42.2814	Applied Behavior Analysis	37	
44.0000	Human Services, General	37	

Top Schools	Completions (2021)	
Allan Hancock College	196	
California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo	169	
Santa Barbara City College	146	
Cuesta College	137	
Fielding Graduate University	78	
Westmont College	26	
Antioch University-Santa Barbara	9	

Appendix A

Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors (SOC 21-1018):

This occupation includes the 2018 SOC occupations 21-1011 Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselors and 21-1014 Mental Health Counselors.

Sample of Reported Job Titles:
Chemical Dependency Counselor (CD Counselor)
Addiction Counselor
Substance Abuse Counselor (SA Counselor)
Drug Counselor
Certified Substance Abuse Counselor
Mental Health Counselor
Mental Health Therapist
Mental Health Clinician
Clinical Mental Health Counselor
Mental Health Specialist

Related O*NET Occupations:
Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselors (21-1011.00)
Mental Health Counselors (21-1014.00)