## MENTAL HEALTH CAREER FACTS

| What do mental health professionals do?  | Mental health professionals assess and treat patients with mental/emotional and substance abuse conditions, provide crisis prevention and education, and more.   |
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| What are some career options in mental health?   | Case managers or navigators assist licensed mental health professionals in planning treatment, coordinating services and delivery, and maintaining documentation.  |
|  | <b>Psychiatric Technicians</b> compliment licensed mental health professionals in listening to patients' concerns, recording their conditions, and reporting changes in patient health or behavior to medical staff.   |
|  | Social Workers or Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) evaluate clients' needs and refer them to resources and services. Social workers can provide individual, family, and group therapy, and advocacy services.   |
|  | Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCC) work with individuals, families or groups, on any issue that impacts mental health. Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT) provide individual, couple, family and group counseling, with a focus on problems that are social and relationship based.  |
|  | <b>Psychologists (PsyD)</b> offer psychological testing, diagnosis, and treatment to individuals and families in numerous settings including clinics, schools, hospitals, and private practice.  |
|  | <b>Psychiatrist (MD)</b> are medical doctors who diagnose patients and prescribe medication and treatment plans.   |
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| What education is needed?  | With a 2-year <b>associate's degree</b> or completion of a <b>certificate program</b> , possible roles include psychiatric technician, certified drug and alcohol counselor, and peer mentor.  |
|  | With a 4-year <b>bachelor's degree</b> you can become a case manager or navigator, or use a bachelor's as a step to pursue an advanced degree to become a licensed professional.   |
|  | With a master's degree and additional hours of supervised clinical training, you can become a social worker, professional clinical counselor, marriage and family therapist, and more. With a doctorate degree, you can become a psychologist (PhD/PsyD). After completing medical school and your medical degree, you can go on to a residency in psychiatry and become a psychiatrist, and more (MD/DO). |
| Other Facts  |  |
| Where do mental health professionals work?   | Common places are treatment centers, correctional facilities, hospitals, outpatient clinics, and schools.  |
| How is telehealth<br>(phone or video-based<br>appointments) affecting<br>mental health care? | <b>Telehealth</b> is expanding access to patients who might otherwise have difficulty securing mental health treatment, particularly patients from underserved communities, such as those living in rural areas.   |





