



OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

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Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors

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[Pay](#)

The median annual wage for substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors was \$59,190 in May 2024.

[Job Outlook](#)

Employment of substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors is projected to grow 19 percent from 2023 to 2033, much faster than the average for all occupations.

About 48,900 openings for substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.

[State & Area Data](#)

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors.

[Similar Occupations](#)

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors with similar occupations.

[More Information, Including Links to O*NET](#)

Learn more about substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors by visiting additional resources, including O*NET, a source on key characteristics of workers and occupations.

[What They Do ->](#)

SUGGESTED CITATION:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/substance-abuse-behavioral-disorder-and-mental-health-counselors.htm> (visited June 20, 2025).

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