

Employment Projection

- Employment of *child, family, and school social workers* is expected to grow by about 12 percent, which is as fast as the average for all occupations.

State and National Trends- Child, Family, and School Social Workers

United States	Employment		Percent Change	<u>Job Openings</u> ¹
	2008	2018		
Child, family, and school social workers	292,600	328,700	+12%	10,960
Kentucky	Employment		Percent Change	<u>Job Openings</u> ¹
	2006	2016		
Child, family, and school social workers	7,870	8,650	+10%	210

- *Mental health and substance abuse social workers* will grow by almost 20 percent over the 2008–18 decade, which is much faster than the average. In particular, social workers specializing in substance abuse will experience strong demand. Opportunities for social workers in private practice will expand, as they are preferred over more costly psychologists.

State and National Trends- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers

United States	Employment		Percent Change	<u>Job Openings</u> ¹
	2008	2018		
Mental health and substance abuse social workers	137,300	164,100	+20%	6,130
Kentucky	Employment		Percent Change	<u>Job Openings</u> ¹
	2006	2016		
Mental health and substance abuse social workers	1,730	2,240	+30%	80

- Growth of *medical and public health social workers* is expected to be about 22 percent, which is much faster than the average for all occupations.

State and National Trends- Medical and public health social workers

United States	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings ¹
	2008	2018		
Medical and public health social workers	138,700	169,800	+22%	6,590
Kentucky	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings ¹
	2006	2016		
Medical and public health social workers	1,370	1,740	+27%	60

- Job prospects are expected to be favorable. Competition for social worker jobs is expected in cities where training programs for social workers are prevalent. Opportunities should be good in rural areas, which often find it difficult to attract and retain qualified staff.

Projections data from the National Employment Matrix

Occupational Title	SOC Code	Employment, 2008	Projected Employment, 2018	Change, 2008-18		Detailed Statistics	
				Number	Percent		
Social workers	21-1020	642,000	745,400	103,400	16	[PDF]	[XLS]
Child, family, and school social workers	21-1021	292,600	328,700	36,100	12	[PDF]	[XLS]
Medical and public health social workers	21-1022	138,700	169,800	31,100	22	[PDF]	[XLS]
Mental health and substance abuse social workers	21-1023	137,300	164,100	26,800	20	[PDF]	[XLS]
Social workers, all other	21-1029	73,400	82,800	9,400	13	[PDF]	[XLS]

NOTE: Data in this table are rounded. See the discussion of the employment projections table in the *Handbook* introductory chapter on *Occupational Information Included in the Handbook*.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition*, Social Workers, retrieved on March 1, 2010 from <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos060.htm>