

APA Fact Sheet Series on Psychologist Supply and Demand Projections 2015-2030:

Demand across Age Groups

Key Findings

- For 2030, the largest projected demand among age groups is within the U.S. older adult population (age 65 years and older) for **16,540 FTE** psychologists, an increase of **5,790 FTEs** from 2015. The increase consists of a **2,330 FTE** increase in demand within the population of ages 65 to 74 years, and a **3,460 FTE** increase within the population 75 years and older.
- Approximately **9,300 FTEs** of the projected demand are from the population of older women and **7,250 FTEs** are from the population older men.
- States with the highest projected demand within the older adult population for psychologists include **California** (1,990 FTEs), **Florida** (1,390 FTEs), **Texas** (1,230 FTEs), **New York** (850 FTEs), and **Pennsylvania** (750 FTEs).

Background

Workforce projections¹ examine current and future psychologist supply and demand in the United States from 2015 to 2030. Supply is determined on the basis of the number of licensed psychologists active in the workforce,² new entrants, and workforce participation patterns, whereas demand is determined on the basis of current patterns of service utilization and projected demographic changes of the U.S. population.

The projections are described in terms of full-time equivalent (FTE) psychologists. An FTE is defined as a licensed, doctoral-level psychologist who works 39 hours per week.

Findings

From 2015 to 2030, the national demand for psychologists is projected to increase to 101,120 FTEs. That is an increase of 5,940 FTEs (6%) from the demand level in 2015.

By age group, the largest projected FTE increase in demand between 2015 and 2030 is in the population of older adults, ages 65 years and older (an increase of 5,790 FTEs), followed by those ages 35-44 years (1,510 FTEs) and those under 12 years old (400 FTEs). Demand for other age groups were projected to decrease between 2015 and 2030.

In 2030, the projected demand for psychologists in the population ages 65 years and older is 16,540 FTEs, which breaks down into a demand for 8,190 FTEs within the population ages 65 to 74 years (an increase of 2,330 FTEs from 2015) and for 8,350 FTEs within the population ages 75 and older (an increase of 3,460 FTEs).

Approximately 56% (9,300 FTEs) of the projected demand in the older adult population in 2030 is from women, and 44% (7,250 FTEs) is from men. Broken down by race/ethnicity, the projected demand in 2030 from the older adult population comes from Whites (12,470 FTEs, or 75%), Black/African Americans (1,670 FTEs, or 11%), Hispanics (1,390 FTEs, or 8%), and other racial/ethnic groups (900 FTEs, or 5%).³

States with the highest projected demand for psychologists within the older adult population in 2030 include California (1,990 FTEs), Florida (1,390 FTEs), Texas (1,230 FTEs), New York (850 FTEs), and Pennsylvania (750 FTEs).

¹ IHS Markit. (2018). *Psychologist workforce projections for 2015-2030: Addressing supply and demand*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

² Includes licensed psychologists actively working in a position that requires a psychology license, or in a position that does not require a psychology license but uses clinical skills and/or training as a psychologist.

³ Racial/ethnic groups are treated here as mutually exclusive. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Racial/ethnic minority groups include Black/African American, Hispanic, and other racial/ethnic minority groups (Asian, Native American/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and people of two or more races). These racial/ethnic groups are combined due to their relatively small sizes, and in some cases, to the lack of detailed breakdown of racial/ethnic categories within federal data sources. Terminologies of racial/ethnic groups are those used within federal data sources.

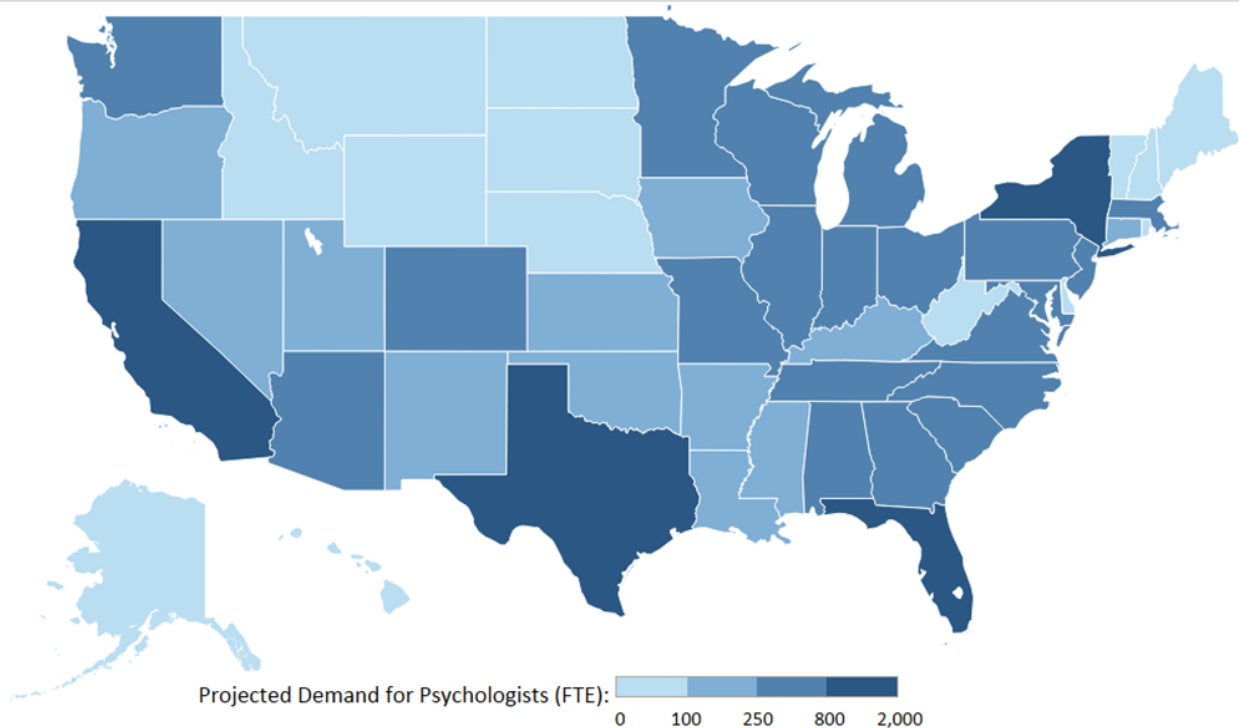
Projected Demand for Psychologists across Age Groups, 2015-2030

Age Groups	2015 Demand (FTEs)	2030 Demand (FTEs)	FTE Change	Percent Change
0 to 5 years	1,770	1,890	110	6%
6 to 12 years	14,860	15,150	290	2%
13 to 17 years	11,930	11,860	-70	-1%
18 to 34 years	20,420	20,350	-70	0%
35 to 44 years	10,410	11,930	1,510	15%
45 to 64 years	25,040	23,400	-1,640	-7%
65 to 74 years	5,860	8,190	2,330	40%
75 years and older	4,890	8,350	3,460	71%
All	95,180	101,120	5,940	6%

Note: This table summarizes projected demand for psychologists based on current utilization patterns and projected demographic changes. FTE Change = 2030 Demand – 2015 Demand; Percent Change = FTE Change / 2015 Demand. Projected FTEs were rounded to the nearest ten. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: IHS Markit, *Psychologist workforce projections for 2015-2030: Addressing supply and demand* (2018).

Projected Demand for Psychologists within Older Adult Population (Age 65 and Older), 2030



Source: IHS Markit, *Psychologist workforce projections for 2015-2030: Addressing supply and demand* (2018).

Limitations

Workforce projections are based on available data that reflect current patterns. Several limitations are worth noting. Demand is based on service utilization rather than need. It is likely that the need for psychological services exceeds current utilization levels. While the projections include psychology specialties, available data do not enable separate projections by specialty. Workload definitions for psychologists in federal data sources emphasize mental health services, rather than health services more broadly. It is likely that the projections underestimate psychologists' provision of physical health-related services. Therefore, demand for health services may be higher than estimated here.



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