

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

Geographic Equivalence

Key Findings

- If current health service utilization patterns continue, the national demand for psychologists is expected to be **101,120 FTEs** in 2030, an increase of **5,940 FTEs (6%)** from 2015.
- However, under a hypothetical geographic equivalence scenario, the national demand is projected to increase by **10,830 FTEs**, or **11%**, to **106,020 FTEs** in 2030.
 - By geographic region, the largest demand increases due to the geographic scenario are within the **South** (2,360 FTEs) and the **Midwest** (1,090 FTEs).
 - By state, the largest demand increases due to the geographic scenario are within **Texas** (470 FTEs), **Florida** (280 FTEs), **California** (250 FTEs), **Georgia** (250 FTEs), and **Ohio** (240 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 in the U.S. population.

The projections examined a hypothetical "geographic equivalence." This scenario projected demand if the entire U.S. population had service utilization patterns similar to the insured population in metropolitan areas.

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

Between 2015 and 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. This assumes current utilization patterns of health services by the population will continue.

However, under the geographic equivalence scenario, the national demand is projected to increase by a *total* of 10,830 FTEs (11%) between 2015 and 2030, which is an *additional* 4,900 FTEs on top of the 5,940 FTE increase projected under the baseline scenario. In 2030, demand is projected to be 106,020 FTEs under the geographic equivalence scenario.

By region,³ the geographic equivalence scenario results in⁴ the largest increase in demand within the South (2,360 FTEs) and the Midwest (1,090 FTEs). The highest projected *demand* in 2030 under the geographic equivalence scenario are within the South (41,210 FTEs) and the West (25,810 FTEs).

By state, the geographic equivalence scenario results in the largest increase in demand within Texas (470 FTEs), Florida (280 FTEs), California (250 FTEs), Georgia (250 FTEs), and Ohio (240 FTEs). The highest projected *demands* in 2030 under the geographic equivalence scenario are within California (12,620 FTEs), Texas (9,580 FTEs), Florida (6,890 FTEs), New York (6,120 FTEs), and Pennsylvania (4,090 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 Geographic regions are those used by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁴ The results of the geographic equivalence scenario (see "increase due to geographic equivalence" in the table below) are calculated from the difference between the projected demand in 2030 under the geographic equivalence scenario and the projected demand in 2030 under the baseline scenario.

Suggested citation for this fact sheet: American Psychological Association. (2018). *APA Fact Sheet Series on Psychologist Supply and Demand Projections 2015-2030: Geographic Equivalence*. Washington, DC: Author.

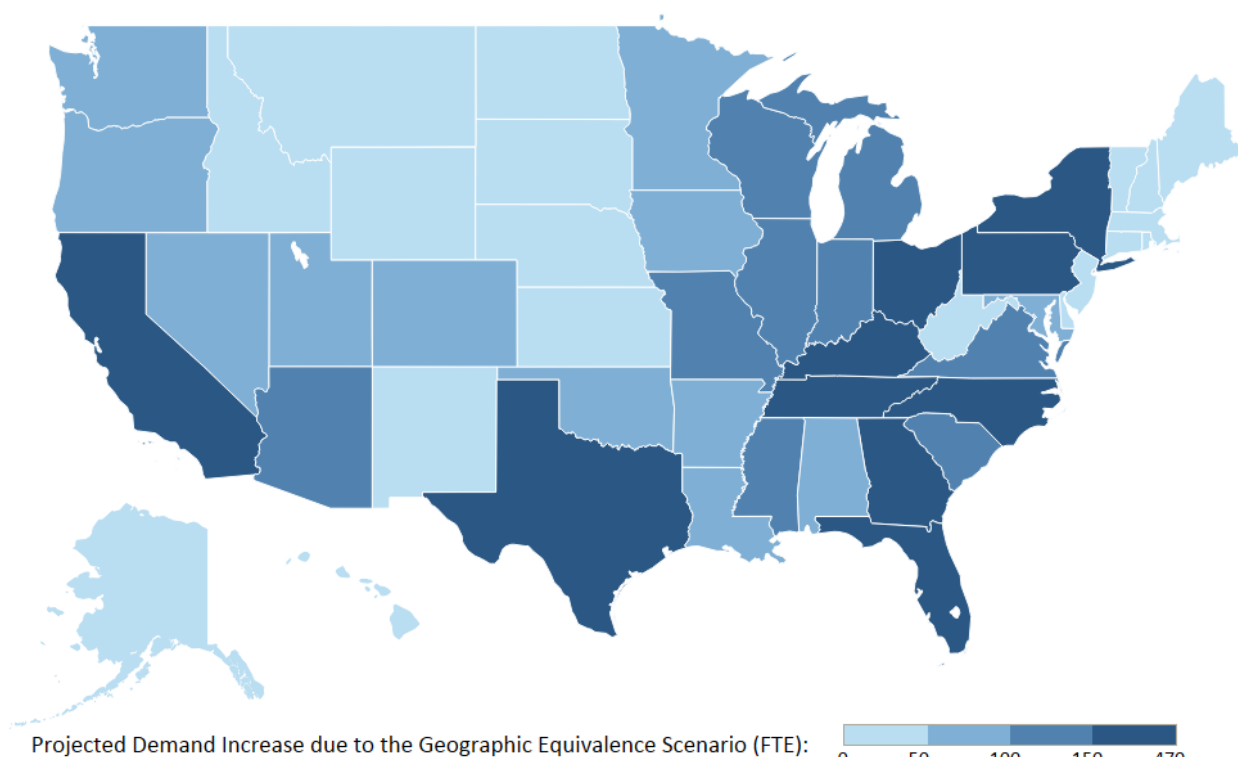
Projected Demand for Psychologists under Different Scenarios, 2015-2030

Region	2015 Baseline Demand	Baseline 2030			Geographic Equivalence 2030			Increase due to Geographic Equivalence
		Projected Demand	FTE Change	Percent Change	Projected Demand	FTE Change	Percent Change	
Northeast	17,230	17,010	-220	-1%	17,570	340	2%	560
Midwest	21,170	20,330	-830	-4%	21,420	260	1%	1,090
South	34,960	38,860	3,900	11%	41,210	6,260	18%	2,360
West	21,830	24,910	3,080	14%	25,810	3,980	18%	900
All	95,180	101,120	5,940	6%	106,020	10,830	11%	4,900

Note: FTE Change = 2030 Projected Demand – 2015 Baseline Demand; Percent Change = FTE Change / 2015 Baseline Demand; Increase due to Geographic Equivalence = Projected Demand under Geographic Equivalence 2030 – Projected Demand under Baseline 2030. 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 Increase due to the Geographic Equivalence Scenario, by State, 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.



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

CWS CENTER FOR
WORKFORCE
STUDIES
AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION