

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers (21-1023)

Occupation description: Assess and treat individuals with mental, emotional, or substance abuse problems, including abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and/or other drugs. Activities may include individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, case management, client advocacy, prevention, and education.

Employment and Job Openings

	Employment			Average annual openings		
	2016 estimate	2026 projection	Percent change	Labor force exits	Occupation transfers	Total
Alaska	428	507	18.5	17	30	55
United States	123,900	147,900	19.3	4,900	8,600	15,890

Job outlook

Alaska: Alaska's employment growth is strong with moderate employment opportunities. [Read more.](#)

2019 Wages ?

	Mean Wage	Wage by Percentile				
	Mean	10th	25th	Median	75th	90th
United States	24.84	14.20	17.21	22.43	29.78	38.89
Alaska	24.70	14.15	16.59	21.13	30.20	39.53
Anchorage/Mat-Su Area	24.13	14.73	18.10	22.42	28.08	36.92
Balance of State	25.29	13.84	16.02	19.41	33.12	41.56

Labor Force Indicators

2016 Worker Characteristics

Total workers	Nonresident workers	Percent nonresident	Percent age 45 plus	Percent age 50 plus
513	38	7.4	41.8	30.2

2016 Potential Supply

Qualified but working in another occupation	200
Currently employed in a lower paid occupation	88
UI claimants previously working in occupation	37

2016 ALEXsys Employment Data

Number of registrants	288
Number of job position postings	130
Ratio of registrants to job position postings	2.2

Alaska Licensing Information

Social Worker – [View licensing requirements and number licensed](#)

Typical Entry-level Education, Experience, and/or On-the-job Training

Education: Master's degree

Work experience: None

On-the-job training: Internship/Residency

Training Resources

	Degree
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (JBER)	
Human Factors	MS
	Degree
Iisagvik College (Barrow)	
Allied Health – Human Services Emphasis	AA
	Degree
University of Alaska Anchorage (Anchorage)	
Clinical Social Work Practice	GCRT
Social Work	BSW
Social Work	MSW
	Degree
University of Alaska Anchorage, Prince William Sound (Valdez)	
Disability Services	AAS
	Degree
University of Alaska Fairbanks (Fairbanks)	
Social Work	BA
	Degree
University of Alaska Fairbanks, Bristol Bay (Dillingham)	
Social Work	BA
	Degree
University of Alaska Fairbanks, Chukchi (Kotzebue)	
Social Work	BA

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Kuskokwim (Bethel)	
Social Work	BA

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Northwest (Nome)	
Social Work	BA

Wayland Baptist University (Anchorage)	
Clinical Counseling (MA)	MA
Counseling (MA)	MA
School Counseling (MA)	MA

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