

Human Services Cluster



Preparing individuals for employment in career pathways that relate to families and human needs such as counseling and mental health services, family and community services, personal care and consumer services.

Data Sources
CareerInfoNet
CareerClusters
The College Board
Tracer

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers

Ben, a high school junior, has been referred to a social worker. He's barely passing his courses, and he downs a six-pack of beer daily. The social worker decides to spend a few sessions asking him about his inner struggles and difficulties at home to help him notice that he's using beer to avoid his troubles. If that approach doesn't work, she'll confront Ben about his drinking and recommend that he attend a twelve-step program while continuing to see her.

Are you good at helping people through difficult times? If so, a career as a **mental health and substance abuse social worker** may be for you.

Mental health and substance abuse social workers assess (evaluate) and treat people with mental illnesses or substance abuse problems.

Are You Ready To...?

- See clients for one-on-one and group therapy
- Interact with people who are in extreme crises (such as a drug overdose) or intense emotional states (such as rage)
- Train people in the skills of everyday living

It Helps To Be...

Someone who wants to help people heal themselves. That requires fine-tuning your knowledge of when to listen, when to talk and when to sit in silence.

A Day In The Life...

- Counsel clients in individual or group sessions to assist them in dealing with substance abuse, mental or physical illness, poverty, unemployment or physical abuse
- Monitor, evaluate and record client progress with respect to treatment goals
- Modify treatment plans according to changes in client status
- Develop or advise on social policy or assist in community development

Salary and Opportunity in the Austin-area

Median Hourly Wage: \$22.96

That comes out to more than \$47,748 a year.

In 2016, we had 251 Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers.

By 2026, we'll need 298.

Could you be one of the 47?

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Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers

After High School...

In addition to a high school diploma, employers for mental health and substance abuse social workers require a **bachelor's degree**, and many jobs require a **master's degree**.



Top 5 Industries for Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers

1. Local Government
2. Religious Organizations
3. Individual and Family Services
4. Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals
5. State Government

Related College Majors

- Addiction Counseling
- Education
- Human Services
- Public Policy Analysis
- Social Work
- Sociology

Related Industry Certifications

- Certified Substance Abuse Program Administrator
- Certified Prevention Specialist
- Certified Clinical Supervisor
- Child Development Associate
- Clinical Social Worker Psychoanalyst Board Certification
- Certified Rational Living Therapist

Related Careers

- Addiction Counselors
- Child, Family & School Social Workers
- Clinical Psychologists
- Health Educators
- Medical and Public Health Social Workers

For more Career Profiles, visit our website:

<http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/YouthServices/CareerPlanning.aspx>.

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