



## Employment Outlook • March 2011

# Employment Forecast for the Pharmacy, Physical and Occupational Therapy Workforce in South Carolina

Every two years, the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics collaborate to estimate future employment levels for a wide variety of healthcare occupations. Their most recent report covers the period from 2008 to 2018. Summarized below are their estimates of how demand for those in the fields of physical and occupational therapy, occupational health and safety, and pharmacy is expected to change in South Carolina over the next decade. The number of anticipated annual openings include those due to growth (new jobs) and those created when people leave the workforce through retirement, career change, or for other reasons (replacements).

Pharmacy and Therapy Occupations	Employment			Total % Change	Average Annual Openings
	Actual 2008	Estimated 2018	Total Change		
Physical Therapists	2,415	3,096	681	28%	97
Physical Therapist Assistants	824	1,047	223	27%	34
Occupational Therapists	1,252	1,548	296	24%	53
Occupational Therapist Assistants	253	299	46	18%	9
Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	1,325	1,375	50	4%	49
Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	180	199	19	11%	8
Pharmacists	4,419	5,476	1,057	24%	204
Pharmacy Technicians	5,494	7,631	2,137	39%	353
Pharmacy Aides	909	929	20	2%	12

*Note: The occupational group counts in this table are based on survey data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and may differ from counts based on analysis of South Carolina professional license data used in the "South Carolina Health Professions Data Book."*

Pharmacy and the physical/occupational therapy fields are growing rapidly, with most openings expected to be from new job growth. In the 2008-09 academic year South Carolina graduated 198 new Pharmacists. In that same year 166 Pharmacy Technicians completed certificate programs in the state. South Carolina graduated 68 new Physical Therapists in 2008-09 and 72 new Physical Therapy Assistants. In that same year 49 Occupational Therapy Assistants were graduated from associate degree programs in South Carolina, as were 31 Occupational Therapists. Openings for both Occupational Health and Safety Specialists and Technicians are expected to come largely from the need to replace those leaving the workforce.

*Data Source: Unpublished tables provided by the South Carolina Department of Commerce "2008 - 2018 Healthcare Workforce in South Carolina by Occupational Title." National occupational projections can be found at: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.toc.htm>. Graduation figures are from the Institute of Education Sciences National Center for Education Statistics "Program Major Completions 2008-2009 Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences" downloaded August, 2010.*

Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis & Planning • South Carolina AHEC

19 Hagood Avenue, Suite 802, MSC 814 • Charleston, SC 29425

P: 843-792-4431 • F: 843-792-4430 • [www.officeforhealthcareworkforce.org](http://www.officeforhealthcareworkforce.org)