# The Social Work Workforce in South Carolina | 2021

May 2025



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### **Report Preparation**

This document was produced by the South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce (SCOHW), a division of the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (SC AHEC). It contains information about clinical social workers actively employed in South Carolina as reported during the biennial social worker license renewal process ending on March 1, 2021.

For additional information about social workers and many other health professionals in South Carolina, please call us at 843-792-4430 or visit our website: <a href="https://www.scahec.net/scohw">www.scahec.net/scohw</a>.

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#### About the South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce

SCOHW, a division of South Carolina AHEC, studies issues that affect the balance of supply and demand for different types of healthcare professionals across South Carolina. Its primary mission is to develop accurate, reliable information about the healthcare workforce in South Carolina and to make that information widely available to support planning and policy decisions.





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# **Executive Summary**

Social workers are essential in meeting South Carolina's healthcare and social needs. Their versatility, expertise, and widespread presence make them crucial in improving access to mental and behavioral healthcare services throughout the state. This report focuses on trends in the social work education pipeline, the supply and distribution of social workers, their demographic and practice characteristics, and projections for the supply and demand of clinical social workers.

## **Data Highlights**

- Supply: In 2021, 2,488 active clinical social workers were practicing in South Carolina. Of these, 51% were licensed as LMSW, 47% as LISW-CP, 1% as LISW-Dual, and 0.1% (3 individuals) as LISW-AP. Excluded from the counts of clinical social workers were 342 social workers licensed as LBSWs (11.7% of total active social workers) and 85 LMSWs reporting a practice setting of "other".
- **Demographics:** The workforce is predominantly urban (92.2%) and female (87.3%). The median age of social workers in South Carolina is 46 years. Notably, there is a strong representation of younger professionals, with 38% of LMSWs and 26% of LISW-CPs being under the age of 40.
- Education: Since 2021, South Carolina has seen steady growth in the number of master's degrees in social work awarded, surpassing pre-COVID levels. However, there has been an overall decline in the number of bachelor's degrees granted, although a slight increase was observed between 2021 and 2022.
- **Practice Setting:** More than half (57.2%) of LISW-CPs reported working in healthcare settings. Other common practice areas include mental health and substance use disorders (12.7%), various settings categorized as "other" (7.4%), education (6.8%), unknown settings (6.4%), and social services, government, and criminal justice (5.2%). Long-term care, home health, and hospice services account for 4.4% of practice settings.
- Demand: Projections indicate a shortage of child, family, and school social workers, as well
  as healthcare social workers in South Carolina. Unfortunately, specific data on mental health,
  substance abuse social workers, and long-term care social workers could not be included due
  to small sample sizes.

## **Key Takeaways**

- Social workers work collaboratively across various sectors, including physical healthcare, behavioral healthcare, and social services. They operate both within health systems and in smaller community-based settings.
- There are more clinical social workers in South Carolina compared to other mental and behavioral health professions, but there is still a need for more professionals to ensure access to these services, especially in rural areas.
- While national projections indicate a balance in the supply and demand of social workers in the US as a whole, state-level data suggest that the demand for social workers in South Carolina will remain high throughout the next decade.

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## Introduction

Social workers play a vital role in addressing South Carolina's healthcare and social needs. Given their versatility, expertise, numbers, and distribution, social workers are critical in expanding access to mental and behavioral healthcare services across the state. This report highlights social work educational pipeline trends, supply, distribution, demographic and practice characteristics, and supply and demand projections for clinical social workers. The findings are intended to guide workforce development and policy planning in South Carolina.

## What is a Social Worker?

Social workers are trained professionals who help individuals access community services related to social determinants of health, manage care for patients with various health conditions, and work on clinical teams for mental and behavioral health treatment. They are often part of a larger integrated care team that collaborates to provide comprehensive support and services to individuals in need.<sup>1</sup> Most social workers, including those whose primary roles do not directly focus on mental and behavioral health, provide some level of mental and emotional support to their clients. They work in settings like healthcare, social services, corrections, and schools, but they can also work in places like public libraries.<sup>2</sup> They frequently work with high-need, low-income populations, helping bridge gaps in access to care and social services.<sup>3</sup>

Clinical social workers are a specialized subset within the field. They are licensed by states to diagnose and treat mental, emotional, and behavioral health issues. They conduct assessments, create treatment plans, and use various therapeutic approaches to address complex client needs. Additionally, they refer individuals to psychiatrists, psychologists, or other mental health professionals when specialized care is necessary. Collaborative practice is a hallmark of social work in healthcare settings. Social workers regularly partner with physicians, nurses, and other providers to develop comprehensive, holistic treatment plans that address medical and psychosocial factors affecting health outcomes.

By addressing the social determinants of health, such as poverty, education, and housing, and connecting people to services, social workers help mitigate barriers that can hinder effective healthcare delivery. This holistic approach not only improves individual patient outcomes but also contributes to the overall efficiency of the healthcare system.

## What Steps Are Needed to Become a Social Worker?

Each state determines its own regulation of the practice of social work, and laws and processes can be found through their respective board of social work. Some states, like Michigan and Ohio, certify or license individuals with associate degrees as social services technicians or social work assistants. Most states credential master's-prepared social workers for general or non-clinical practice. All states license clinical social workers.<sup>6</sup>

The practice of clinical social work requires a master's or doctoral degree in social work from an accredited program and supervised post-graduate experience. This experience is often gained under an associate or provisional license. Additionally, candidates must pass the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Clinical Examination, which tests their advanced knowledge in clinical practice.

#### Licensure in South Carolina

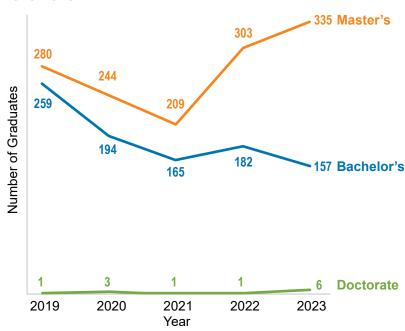
South Carolina offers several types of social work licenses that reflect different levels of practice. The Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker (LBSW) is available for individuals who hold a bachelor's degree in social work and allows for entry-level practice. The Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) enables MSW graduates to engage in non-clinical and supervised clinical roles. Advanced licenses include Licensed Independent Social Worker-Clinical Practice (LISW-CP), which allows for independent clinical practice, Licensed Independent Social Worker-Advanced Practice (LISW-AP), which focuses on administrative, policy, and macro-level social work, and Licensed Independent Social Worker-Dual (LISW-Dual) which allows for both independent clinical (CP) and advanced practice (AP).

In South Carolina, to become an LMSW, one must first obtain a Master of Social Work (MSW) or Doctor of Social Work (DSW) degree from an accredited program, pass the ASWB Master's Exam, and apply for a license from the South Carolina Board of Social Work Examiners.<sup>7</sup> From there, LMSWs are required to gain supervised post-graduate experience, which typically consists of 3,000 hours over the span of two years, before taking the ASWB Clinical Exam and applying for an LISW license. Detailed requirements and a description of what each license type can do are described in the South Carolina Social Work Practice Act and Regulations.<sup>8,9</sup>

## Trends in Social Work Education in South Carolina

South Carolina has six education programs that offer baccalaureate degrees in social work, two that offer master's degrees, and one that offers a doctoral (PhD) degree. There are no programs in South Carolina that currently offer a DSW degree. Figure 1 illustrates the number of graduates from social work degree programs in South Carolina by award type over the past five years. Between 2019 and 2021, the number of social work graduates at all degree levels declined. Since 2021, South Carolina has experienced steady growth in the number of social work master's degrees awarded, exceeding pre-COVID levels, but has seen an overall general decrease in bachelor's degrees despite a small increase between 2021-2022.

Figure 1. Number of Graduates from South Carolina Educational Institutions by Award Level, Social Work, 2019-2023



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), retrieved from <a href="https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/SummaryTables/report/360">https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/SummaryTables/report/360</a>; unpublished analysis of data used in the South Carolina Healthcare Workforce Education Dashboard produced by the South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce, South Carolina AHEC, <a href="https://www.scahec.net/scohw/viz/SC-Healthcare-Workforce-Edu-Dashboard.html">https://www.scahec.net/scohw/viz/SC-Healthcare-Workforce-Edu-Dashboard.html</a>.

# **Workforce Supply**

## Who is Currently Counted as a Clinical Social Worker in South Carolina?

The South Carolina Board of Social Work Examiners gathers information from social workers when they apply for their initial license and when they renew their license every two years. This self-reported information contains basic demographic, education, and practice characteristics. Information such as activity status and primary practice location are used to better understand how many social workers are working in South Carolina and where they are located. Social workers with an active license and a practice address within South Carolina who have a license type of LISW-AP, LISW-CP, or LISW-Dual, and most social workers with an LMSW are included in these workforce analyses. These license types are counted because they represent social workers actively involved in clinical or advanced practice roles.

In contrast, all LBSWs and any LMSW indicating their practice setting as "other" are excluded from counts of clinical social workers because their roles often fall outside the scope of clinical practice.

Of the 2,488 active clinical social workers practicing in South Carolina, 51% were LMSW, 47% were LISW-CP, 1% were LISW-Dual, and 0.1% (n=3) were LISW-AP (**Table 1**).

Table 1. Social Worker Licenses Included vs. Excluded in Current SCOHW Analyses

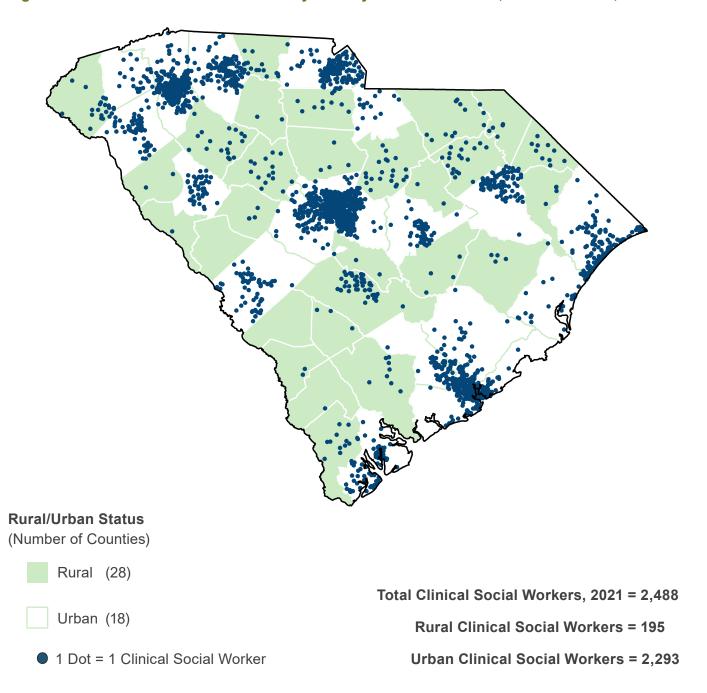
	Credential	Count
Included in SCOHW analyses	LISW-AP (Advanced Practice)	3
	LISW-CP (Clinical Practice)	1,169
	LISW-Dual (AP/CP)	36
	LMSW	1,280
Subtotal - active clinical social workers		2,488
Not included in analyses	LBSW	342
	LMSW (specifying "Other" practice setting)	85
Subtotal - other active social workers		427
Total		2,915

#### **Distribution**

**Figure 2** shows the distribution of clinical social workers across South Carolina in 2021. Each dot represents one active clinical social worker and is randomly placed within their ZIP code area to ensure privacy. The data show a high concentration of social workers in urban areas, particularly in Greenville, Richland, and Charleston counties, while rural regions have significantly fewer practitioners. This geographic disparity highlights the challenges of providing equitable access to clinical social work services in rural communities.

**Figure 3** shows the ratio of clinical social workers per 10,000 residents. These ratios show the relative availability of clinical social workers compared to the population across counties. The dark blue counties have higher ratios, which indicates better access to clinical social work services. Three counties – Barnwell, Edgefield, and McCormick – had no active clinical social workers in 2021. There is a noticeable contrast between urban and rural areas. Rural counties exhibit significant gaps in access; in 2021, 7.8% (n=195) of clinical social workers indicated a primary practice location within a rural county.<sup>10</sup>

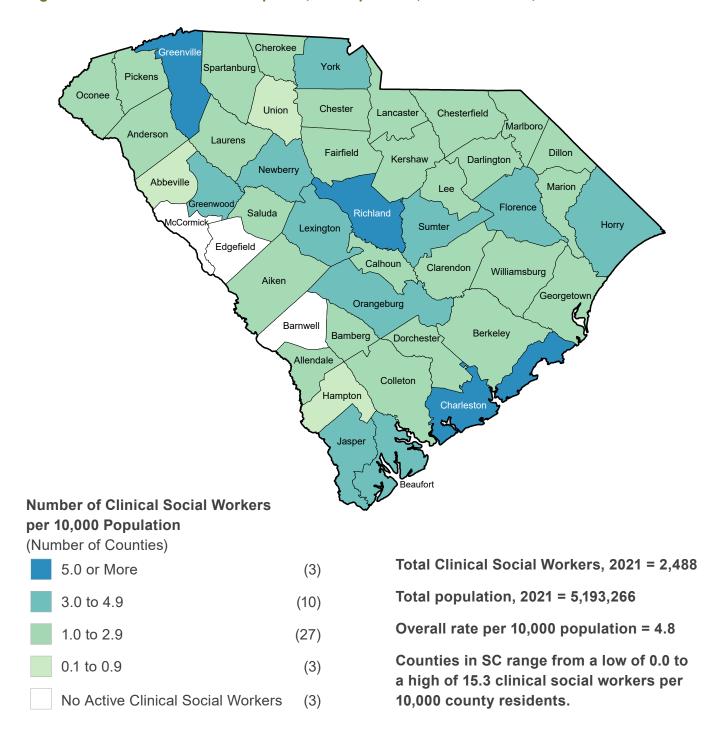
Figure 2. Active Clinical Social Workers by Primary Practice Location, South Carolina, 2021



Note: This information is based on all social workers with an active license to practice, a license designation of LISW-Clinical Practice, LISW-Advanced Practice, LISW-Dual, or LMSW (includes only LMSWs employed in non-profit agencies, government agencies, or health delivery facilities such as hospitals and hospice), and a primary practice location in a nonfederal setting in South Carolina as of 3/1/2021. Counts are based on the best available self-reported practice location information and exclude social workers with a license designation of LBSW. Dots are randomly scattered within the ZIP code area and may not represent the actual street address of the practice.

Sources: SC Office for Healthcare Workforce, SC AHEC, with data collected by the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) and obtained from the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA). Rural definition from the U.S. Census Bureau, Geography Division, <a href="https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html">https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html</a>. Rural counties are those counties where 50% of more of the population lives outside an urbanized area based on the 2020 Census.

Figure 3. Clinical Social Workers per 10,000 Population, South Carolina, 2021



Note: This information is based on all social workers with an active license to practice, a license designation of LISW-Clinical Practice, LISW-Advanced Practice, LISW-Dual, or LMSW (includes only LMSWs employed in non-profit agencies, government agencies, or health delivery facilities such as hospitals and hospice), and a primary practice location in a nonfederal setting in South Carolina as of 3/1/2021. Counts are based on the best available self-reported practice location information and exclude social workers with a license designation of LBSW.

Sources: SC Office for Healthcare Workforce, SC AHEC, with data collected by the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) and obtained from the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA). Population data (2021) provided by the Data Integration and Analysis Division of RFA, based on the Vintage 2022 Estimate Series from the U.S. Census Bureau.

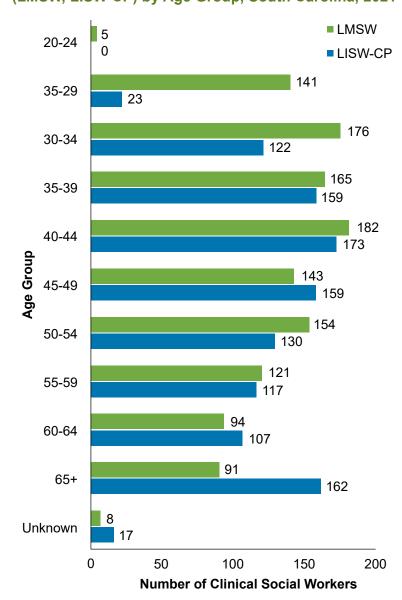
## **Demographic Characteristics**

**Table 2** shows the demographic characteristics of clinical social workers in 2021. The workforce is mostly urban (92.2%) and female (87.3%), and the median age is 46 years. **Figure 4** illustrates the age distribution of LMSWs and LISW-CPs. There is an adequate supply of younger LMSWs (38%) and LISW-CPs (26%) under age 40. Currently, 14% of LISW-CPs and 56% of LISW-Duals (n=20, not shown in chart) are age 65 or older.

Table 2. The Clinical Social Work Workforce in South Carolina, 2021

Workforce in South Carolina, 2021									
	Count	Percent							
Total	8,797	100.0%							
County of Primary Empl	oyment								
Rural	195	7.8%							
Urban	2,293	92.2%							
Sex									
Female	2,172	87.3%							
Male	280	11.3%							
Unknown	36	1.4%							
Race/Ethnicity									
African American	624	25.1%							
American Indian	5	0.2%							
Asian	19	0.8%							
Hispanic	37	1.5%							
Other	28	1.1%							
White	1,567	63.0%							
Missing	208	8.4%							
Age									
20-24	5	0.2%							
25-29	164	6.6%							
30-34	298	12.0%							
35-39	325	13.1%							
40-44	356	14.3%							
45-49	303	12.2%							
50-54	288	11.6%							
55-59	244	9.8%							
60-64	206	8.3%							
65+	273	11.0%							
Unknown	26	1.0%							
Median Age*	46 years								

Figure 4. Selected Clinical Social Workers (LMSW, LISW-CP) by Age Group, South Carolina, 2021



\*Note: The median represents the midpoint of a set of data, where half of the datapoints fall below and half fall above the median. Sources: SC Office for Healthcare Workforce, SC AHEC, with data collected by the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) and obtained from the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA). Data include social workers with an active license to practice, a license type of LISW-CP, LISW-AP, LISW-Dual and LMSW, and a primary practice address within South Carolina; LMSWs with a practice setting of "other" and all LBSWs are excluded. Rural definition from the U.S. Census Bureau, Geography Division, <a href="https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html">https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html</a>. Rural counties are those counties where 50% or more of the population lives outside an urbanized area based on the 2020 Census.

## **Practice Setting**

Clinical social workers report working in a range of settings, including healthcare (e.g., hospitals, outpatient clinics), long-term care, mental health, social services and government, education, and other.<sup>11</sup> **Table 3** shows clinical social workers by license type and practice setting. The majority (42.5%) of all social workers reported working primarily in a healthcare setting, followed by mental health and substance use disorder settings (13.0%). LMSWs are more distributed across settings.

Table 3. Clinical Social Workers by License and Type and Practice Setting, 2021

Practice Setting	# LMSW	# CP	# AP	# Dual	Total	Total %
Healthcare	392	644	1	17	1,054	42.5%
Community health center, rural health clinic	48	31	-	-	79	3.2%
Dialysis clinic	52	14	-	-	66	2.7%
Federal healthcare facility	48	131	-	-	179	7.2%
Hospital, nonfederal	202	79	1	1	283	11.4%
Outpatient office, clinic	42	389	-	16	447	18.0%
Long-Term Care, Home Health, Hospice	165	49	-	1	215	8.6%
Hospice	107	25	-	1	133	5.3%
Nursing home / other institution	28	13	-	-	41	1.6%
Patient homes / home health	30	10	-	-	40	1.6%
Residential care / assisted living	-	1	-	-	1	< 0.1%
Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder	176	143	-	5	324	13.0%
Hospital, nonfederal psychiatric	82	51	-	2	135	5.4%
Outpatient mental health clinic	85	83	-	2	170	6.8%
School / treatment center	9	9	-	1	19	0.8%
Education	170	77	1	1	249	10.0%
Elementary or secondary school	119	44	1	-	164	6.6%
Technical college / college / university	51	33	-	1	85	3.4%
Social Services / Government / Criminal Justice	140	58	-	5	203	8.2%
Admin / regulatory health agency	13	6	-	-	19	0.8%
State / county DHEC / DPH	18	3	-	1	22	0.9%
State / county / local / adult / juvenile corrections	43	12	-	2	57	2.3%
State / county social services	24	8	-	-	32	1.3%
Other government agency	42	29	-	2	73	2.9%
Other	153	83	1	7	244	9.7%
Non-profit organization	142	73	-	5	220	8.8%
Other	-	-	1	2	3	0.1%
Miscellaneous other *	11	10	-	-	21	0.8%
Setting Unknown	127	72	-	-	199	8.0%
Total	1,323	1,126	3	36	2,488	100.0%

<sup>\*</sup>Miscellaneous other includes community services, business establishment, group assigned to various settings, and pharmaceutical manufacturer.

Source: SC Office for Healthcare Workforce, SC AHEC, with data collected by the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) and obtained from the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA). Data include social workers with an active license to practice, a license type of LISW-CP, LISW-AP, LISW-Dual and LMSW, and a primary practice address within South Carolina; LMSWs with a practice setting of "other" and all LBSWs are excluded.

## The Role of Social Workers in Community Mental Health Centers

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) operates 16 community mental health centers (CMHCs) with 40 satellite clinics, totaling approximately 60 outpatient clinical sites (Figure 5). These CMHCs, which serve all 46 counties, offer outpatient care, school-based services, and telehealth options to enhance access to care. Social workers and other master's-prepared clinicians in these outpatient settings are employed by SCDMH as Mental Health Professionals.

In this role, social workers address a variety of needs, including conducting assessments, developing and managing treatment plans, connecting clients to resources, offering crisis intervention, and providing therapy for individuals with severe mental illnesses (SMI) and substance use disorders (SUD). They collaborate with other professionals to support individuals at risk of hospitalization or isolation, assisting clients in navigating challenges related to daily living, personal relationships, and work or school. Many centers also offer specialized services for children and veterans, reflecting the broad range of social work roles within the state's mental health infrastructure.

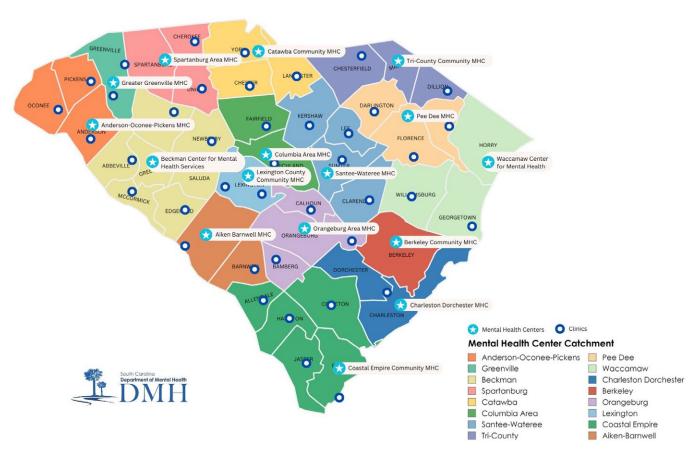


Figure 5. South Carolina DMH Outpatient Clinical Sites: Centers and Clinics

Map used with permission from the SC Department of Mental Health.

# **Workforce Supply and Demand Projections**

Understanding demand for health professionals is complex. Education statistics describe how many social workers are being trained. Licensure data describe how many are currently practicing. Those data alone are insufficient to understand how many social workers will be needed to provide clinical social work services and where those services will be most needed in the future.

The National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (NCHWA) at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) produces national and state workforce projections for many different health professionals. At the time of analysis, projections showed data for each year from 2021 to 2036 and include: the number of health professionals (supply), the number of health professionals needed to achieve adequate access to services based on previous utilization (demand), and total percent adequacy. Percent adequacy is calculated by dividing projected supply by projected demand. Anything above 100% could be interpreted as a surplus, and anything under 100% could be interpreted as a shortage.

**Table 4** shows data on four categories of social workers included in the HRSA projections. At the national level (**4a**), all social work groups except long-term care social workers are in balance with projected demand. There were not enough long-term care social workers to reliably include in the projections tool. However, these data mask an uneven distribution across the country. In South Carolina (**4b**), the projections indicate a shortage of child, family, and school social workers as well as healthcare social workers. Mental health and substance abuse social workers and long-term care social workers could not be included because of small numbers.

Models such as the HRSA workforce projections can be used as one measure to understand the relationship between supply and demand. With all projection models, it is important to understand what data sources, assumptions, and calculations go into the model.<sup>14</sup> Results become less accurate further into the future.

Table 4a. HRSA Workforce Projections for Social Work, United States, 2021 and 2031

			2021			2031
	2021	2021	Total %	2031	2031	Total %
Type of Social Worker	Supply	Demand	Adequacy	Supply	Demand	Adequacy
Child, Family and School Social Workers	130,770	130,910	100%	203,110	178,260	114%
Healthcare Social Workers	61,030	31,420	99%	94,270	92,910	101%
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers	74,420	72,980	99%	100,900	104,470	97%
Social Workers (Long-Term Care)	-	24,050*	-	-	41,440*	-
Total Social Workers	266,220	235,310	113%	398,280	375,640	106%

#### Table 4b. HRSA Workforce Projections for Social Work, South Carolina, 2021 and 2031

			2021			2031
	2021	2021	Total %	2031	2031	Total %
Type of Social Worker	Supply	Demand	Adequacy	Supply	Demand	Adequacy
Child, Family and School Social Workers	1,080	2,010	54%	1,450	2,770	52%
Healthcare Social Workers	770	930	83%	970	1,390	70%
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers	-	1,050*	-	-	1,520*	-
Social Workers (Long-Term Care)	-	340*	-	-	550*	-
Total Social Workers	1,850	2,940	63%	2,420	4,160	58%

<sup>\*</sup> Supply estimates were unavailable, so data are excluded from total supply, demand and total % adequacy calculations. Source: HRSA, BHW, NCHWA. Workforce Projections. <a href="https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/workforce-projections">https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/workforce-projections</a>. Accessed November 6, 2024. The projections have since been updated with more recent data. The 2021-2036 projections are used to better match the 2021 licensure data presented in this report.

## **Discussion**

According to Mental Health America (2024), South Carolina is ranked 49th in the nation on "how much access to mental health care exists within a state" and 41st on mental health workforce availability.<sup>15</sup> Multiple types of health professionals provide different levels of care, including prescribing and managing medication and providing counseling services. Of the licensed professions tracked by the South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce (SCOHW), social workers are more likely to practice in rural areas (n=195, 7.8%) than general psychiatrists (n=17, 3.1%), psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioners (n=11, 6.3%), and psychologists (n=11, 2.0%).<sup>10</sup>

Determining how to accurately count social workers is challenging. For the analyses here, LBSWs and some LMSWs were excluded as not providing clinical care. LBSWs currently make up 11.7% (n=342) of the total workforce, while LMSWs with missing or unspecified settings account for 2.9% (n=85). Experts suggest that future analyses should include LBSWs and all LMSWs, as even non-clinical roles support and contribute to the healthcare workforce. More work needs to be done to understand the current information available and what additional data could be collected through the licensure process to better describe the social work workforce.

## **Conclusions**

Social workers are a "boundary-spanning profession", working interprofessionally across physical healthcare, behavioral healthcare, and social services. They are embedded in health systems and in smaller community-based settings. Through this work, social workers provide essential mental and behavioral health services and help some of the most medically fragile and vulnerable populations in navigating the healthcare system.

Compared to other mental and behavioral health professions, the social work workforce is better distributed across the state. However, more are still needed to ensure access to mental and behavioral health services in the state's rural areas. Their age profile is stable, with a strong supply of younger social workers poised to continue providing care as older social workers retire. National projection models suggest that the need for social workers in South Carolina will remain strong through the next decade.

Understanding the availability, distribution, and characteristics of social workers, along with other health professionals, will remain important as the state continues its work to meet the mental and behavioral health needs of the population.

# **Data Sources and Limitations**

#### **Data Sources**

The information in this analysis includes social workers with an active license to practice and a self-reported primary practice location in South Carolina as of March 1, 2021. This information is based on all social workers with an active license to practice, a license designation of LISW-Clinical Practice, LISW-Advanced Practice, LISW-Dual, or LMSW (includes only LMSWs employed in non-profit agencies, government agencies, or health delivery facilities such as hospitals and hospice). All LBSWs and those LMSWs with a practice setting of "other" are excluded from these counts.

Licensure data are collected by the South Carolina Board of Social Work Examiners under the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) during initial licensure and subsequent biennial renewals. Data were obtained from the South Carolina Department of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA), the official repository of data collected from the state's licensing boards under LLR.

#### Limitations

The Board of Social Work Examiners collects basic demographic, education, and practice information from social workers every two years. However, the Board does not currently collect information such as specialty/area of practice, hours worked, or telehealth provision, which would provide a more complete picture of the roles and availability of social workers across the state.

SCOHW began receiving data on licensed social workers starting with the 2017 renewal cycle. At that time, it was decided that all LBSWs and LMSWs with a practice setting of "other" would be excluded from counts of clinical social workers. Because these social workers provide important care and services to the people of South Carolina, SCOHW is seeking feedback and may consider adding these segments of licensed social workers to future analyses and South Carolina Health Professions Data Books.

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