



### Mental health and substance abuse social workers

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.

### Cognitive and mental requirements

The qualifications that workers need to use judgment, make decisions, interact with others, and adapt to changes in jobs.

All mental health and substance abuse social workers were required to interact with the general public and to have more than basic people skills. Work was controlled by people for 76.0 percent of these workers.

**Table 1. Percentage of mental health and substance abuse social workers with cognitive and mental requirements, 2021**

Requirement	Yes	No
<b>Pace: Pause control</b>	71.2	28.8
<b>Interaction with general public</b>	100.0	-

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

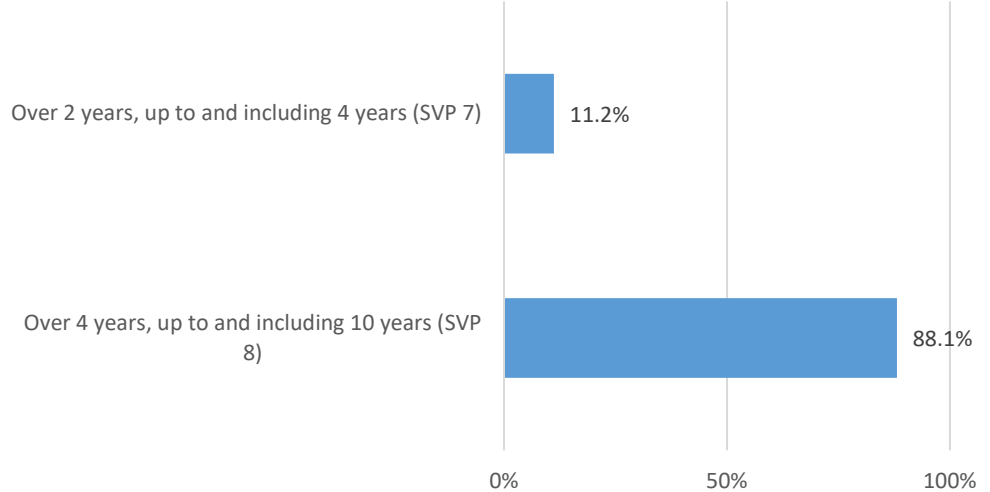
### Education, training, and experience requirements

The minimum level of formal education required, credentials necessary, on-the-job training, and prior work experience necessary for average performance in jobs.

In 2021, credentials were required for 97.2 percent of mental health and substance abuse social workers. Prior work experience was required for 86.9 percent, and on-the-job training was required for 61.7 percent.

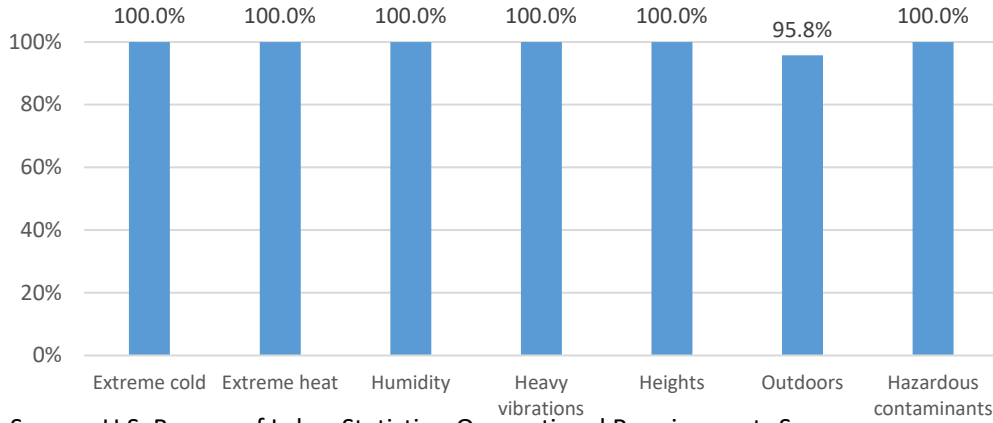
A master's degree was required for 90.1 percent of mental health and substance abuse social workers.

**Chart 1. Percentage of mental health and substance abuse social workers by specific preparation time (SVP) level, 2021**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

**Chart 2. Percentage of mental health and substance abuse social workers without exposure to environmental conditions, 2021**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

### Environmental conditions

The various tangible or concrete hazards or difficulties that are in the vicinity of where jobs' critical tasks are performed.

In 2021, a quiet noise exposure was present for 10.2 percent of mental health and substance abuse social workers, and 89.8 percent were exposed to moderate noise. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was not used by 100.0 percent of workers to mitigate noise exposure.

### Physical demands

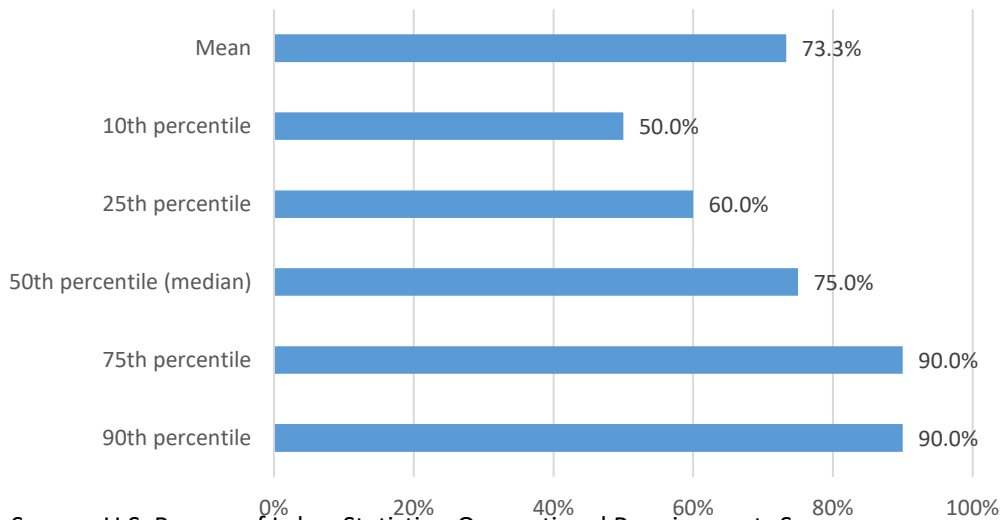
Refer to the physical activities required to perform tasks in jobs. The presence and, in some cases, duration of these activities are published.

In 2021, reaching at or below the shoulder was required for 59.1 percent of mental health and substance abuse social workers. For 5.6 percent of workers, reaching at or below the shoulder was seldom performed.

Performing work in low postures was required for 14.5 percent of mental health and substance abuse social workers and was not required for 85.5 percent.

The choice to sit or stand when performing critical tasks was available to 64.4 percent of mental health and substance abuse social workers. On average, workers spent 73.3 percent of the workday sitting and 26.7 percent of the workday standing.

**Chart 3. Mental health and substance abuse social workers by percent of workday sitting, 2021**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey