

State of Social Work – Ohio 2021

Social workers are essential.

This year, social workers been on the front lines of responding to the health, economic, and racial crises facing our country by:

- Helping people hospitalized with COVID-19 get the best quality care
- Providing virtual therapy to clients
- Advocating for economic relief
- Providing social support for isolated clients
- Mobilizing to fight systemic racism
- Providing non-police transformational alternative response systems to respond to crises in communities

Throughout history, social workers have worked to improve people's wellbeing and make the United States more just and equitable as they have:

- Provided treatment for mental health and substance abuse
- Fought for civil and voting rights
- Spoke out against abuse and neglect
- Achieved minimum wages, benefits, and safe conditions for workers

National Association of Social Workers, Social Workers are Essential, on the Internet at <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=etD90pK30Bg%3d&portalid=0> (visited February 9, 2021)

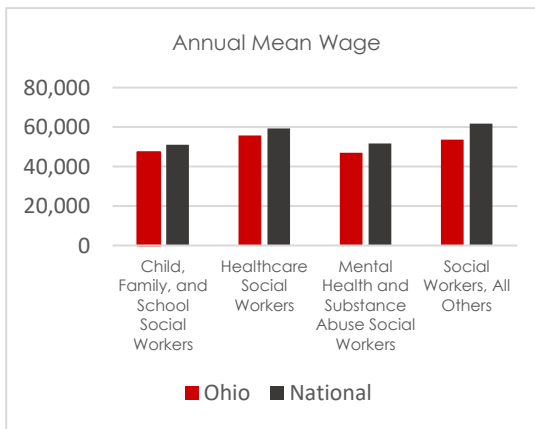
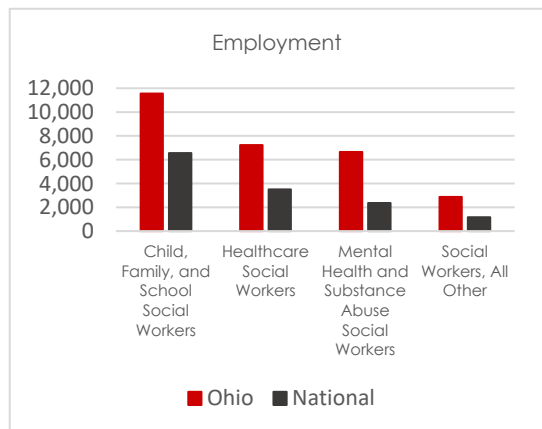
Social work is a growing field with diverse areas of practice.

Social workers share common theories of practice, values, and education, but can work in vastly different areas of practice:

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|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Mental health | • Community Development | • Courts |
| • Addiction | • Jails and prisons | • Administration |
| • Aging | • Schools | • Research |
| • Child welfare | • Advocacy | • Clinical practice |
| • Healthcare | • Politics | • Developmental disabilities |
| • Hospice | • Veterans | • And more! |
| • Public Health | | |

Despite increased demand for social workers, high debt, heavy caseloads and burnout continue to present challenges.

Social workers are too often overworked and underpaid. Large caseloads in school social work, child welfare, and community mental health continue to contribute to workplace stress and burnout. While Ohio has a high need and high employment of social workers, Ohio social workers often carry significant student loan debt burdens with low salaries compared to national averages.



Social workers are highly educated, licensed professionals.

Most social workers have a graduate-level education and license through the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist (CSWMFT) Board to provide assessment and interventions at interpersonal, organizational, and community levels.

All social workers are guided by a Code of Ethics and six key ethical principles:

- ❖ Service
- ❖ Social Justice
- ❖ Dignity and Worth of the Person
- ❖ Importance of Human Relationships
- ❖ Integrity
- ❖ Competence



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK