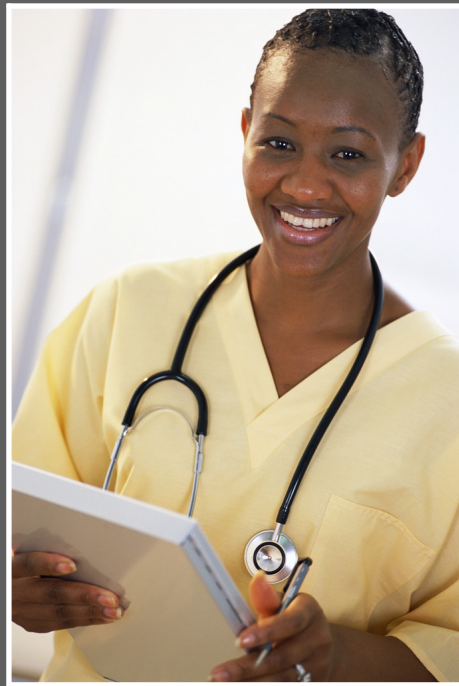


# Key Findings, 2009

## Careers in Allied Health

### Northern Inland Region



Centers of Excellence  
Economic and Workforce Development  
California Community Colleges

The Centers of Excellence, in partnership with business and industry, deliver regional workforce research customized for community college program decision making and resource development.

For additional information, access the Careers in Allied Health environmental scan, available online at:

[www.coecc.net/health](http://www.coecc.net/health)



**C·O·E**

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Inform Connect Advance

[www.coecc.net](http://www.coecc.net)

#### **Inside:**

Research Objectives

Allied Health Employers

Occupational Employment

Workforce Challenges

Education and Training



## Research Objectives

The Center of Excellence, in partnership with the RHORC, analyzed 60 allied health occupations in terms of job growth, replacement demand, and minimum education requirements. Of the occupations examined, nine were selected for further investigation based on the following criteria:

- Curriculum and employment requirements are relevant for community college instruction.
- The projected growth plus replacements equal at least 25 or more jobs per year (250 or more over 10 years) to substantiate offering a program.
- The occupation must pay a living wage for the region.<sup>1</sup>

The nine occupations that met these criteria are: medical and clinical laboratory technician (MLT); medical and clinical laboratory technologist (CLS); radiologic technologists and technician; registered nurse; medical assistant; medical records and health information technician; pharmacy technician; respiratory therapist; and surgical technologist. In addition, the diagnostic medical sonographers occupation was added to the list.<sup>2</sup>

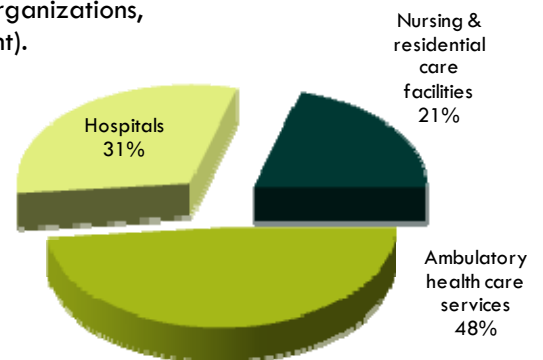
## Allied Health Employers

In the Northern Inland region, there are approximately 1,450 health care organizations, ranging from small outpatient facilities to long-term care units to community hospitals.

- Ambulatory healthcare services accounts for 81% (about 1,180 firms) of regional healthcare organizations.
- 17% of healthcare firms are in nursing and residential care facilities.
- Hospitals make up just 2% of the Northern Inland region's healthcare organizations, but employ 31% of the health care workforce (see pie chart on the right).

### Industry Employment by Health Care Sector

The pie chart to the right shows the distribution of health care employment by industry sector for the Northern Inland region. Industry employment data represents totals for 2007.



## Occupational Employment

Allied Health Occupations	Current Employment	12-month Projected Growth	12-month Replacement Needs
Diagnostic medical sonographers	170	<5	<5
Medical and clinical laboratory technicians (MLT)	180	<5	<5
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists (CLS)	180	10	10
Medical assistants	1,310	60	30
Medical records and health information technicians	290	10	20
Pharmacy technicians	570	30	50
Radiologic technologists and technicians	360	10	20
Registered nurses (RN)	3,260	100	40
Respiratory therapists	200	10	10
Surgical technologists	150	10	10

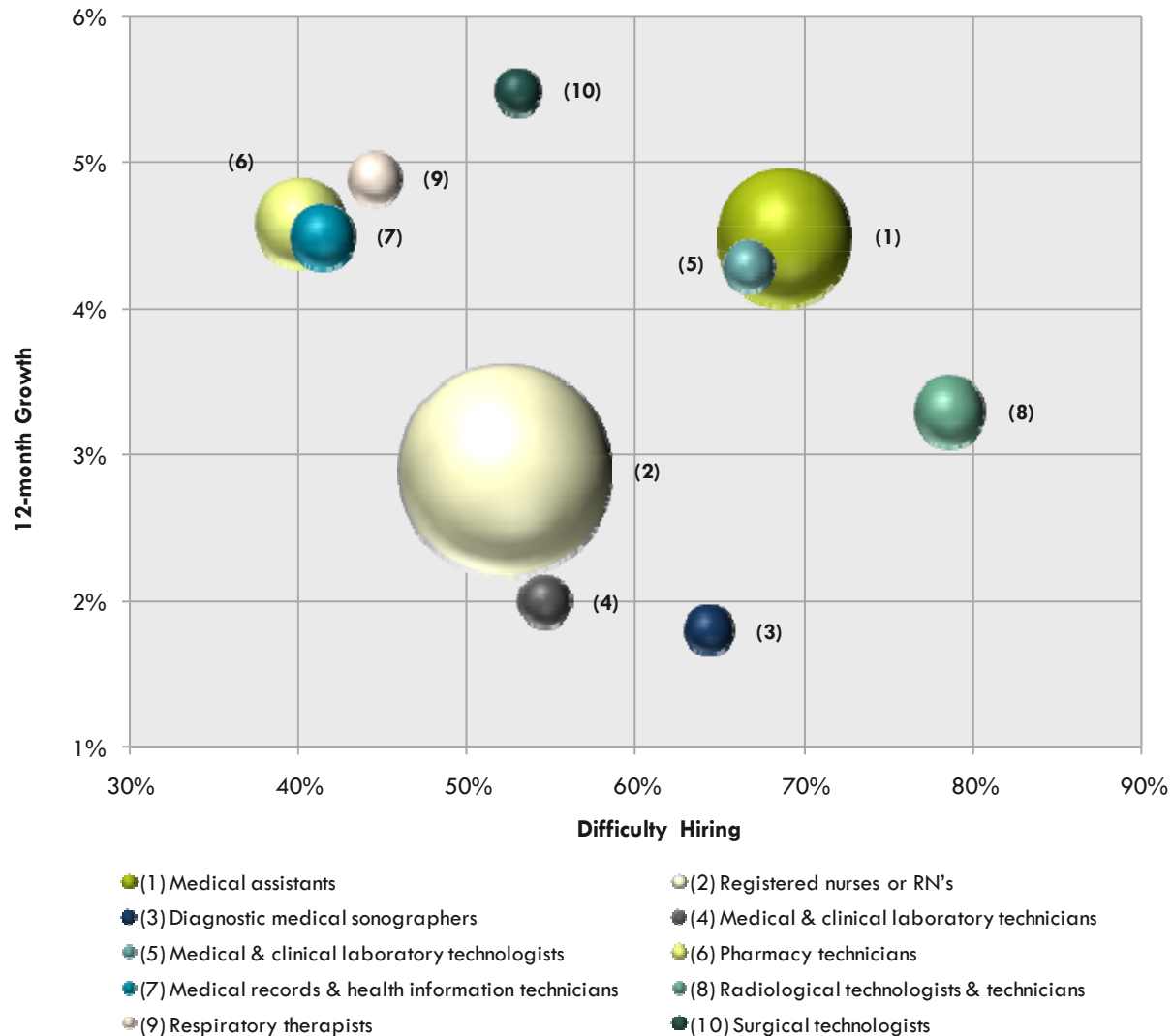
<sup>1</sup>The living wage is equal to or above the 25th percentile earnings of \$14.54 per hour.

<sup>2</sup>Pre-survey interviews revealed employers are having significant difficulty filling open diagnostic medical sonographers positions.

## Workforce Challenges

Employers indicate difficulty in hiring for all ten occupations. The chart below shows the 12-month projected growth rate of the ten occupations in relationship to the level of difficulty hiring. The area or size of each bubble represents the size of current employment for each occupation.

- Employers reported the greatest difficulty recruiting entry-level radiological technologists and technicians (79%).
- 68% of employers experience difficulty recruiting qualified medical assistants.
- Two out of three employers surveyed have difficulty hiring medical and clinical laboratory technologists (66%).



## Education and Training

Employers expressed interest in education and training programs that can be developed by community colleges:

- Four out of five employers (81%) showed interest in a training program in ultrasound for diagnostic medical sonographers.
- Close to three-quarters of employers (74%) expressed interest in a training program for surgical technologists.
- 62% of employers indicated interest in a training program for entry-level radiological technicians.
- Half of the employers surveyed (52%) showed interest in customized training for current allied health employees.
- Only 26% of employers expressed interest in a training program for entry-level allied health technicians, such as orthopedic technicians or electrocardiograph technicians.

## Education and Training

The graphic below details the program offerings associated with the twelve occupations profiled in Northern California.

<p><b>Diagnostic Medical Sonographers</b> Cosumnes River College (planned, Fall 2011)</p>	<p><b>Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians</b> Folsom Lake College (planned, Summer 2010)</p>	<p><b>Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists</b> University of California, Davis (Master's Degree program) California State University, Sacramento (Bachelor's Degree program)</p>															
<p><b>Medical Assistants</b> Butte College      Yuba College Shasta College      Mendocino College Cosumnes River College Lake Tahoe Community College</p>	<p><b>Medical Records and Health Information Technicians</b> Butte College (related courses) Cosumnes River College Mendocino College Shasta College</p>	<p><b>Pharmacy Technicians</b> Cosumnes River College Shasta College (contract education)</p>															
<p><b>Registered Nurses</b></p> <table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td>American River College</td> <td>Butte College</td> <td>Humboldt State</td> </tr> <tr> <td>College of the Redwoods</td> <td>College of the Siskiyous</td> <td>Mendocino College</td> </tr> <tr> <td>California State University, Chico</td> <td>Sacramento City College</td> <td>Shasta College</td> </tr> <tr> <td>California State University, Sacramento</td> <td>University of California, Davis</td> <td>Woodland College</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sierra College</td> <td>Yuba College</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			American River College	Butte College	Humboldt State	College of the Redwoods	College of the Siskiyous	Mendocino College	California State University, Chico	Sacramento City College	Shasta College	California State University, Sacramento	University of California, Davis	Woodland College	Sierra College	Yuba College	
American River College	Butte College	Humboldt State															
College of the Redwoods	College of the Siskiyous	Mendocino College															
California State University, Chico	Sacramento City College	Shasta College															
California State University, Sacramento	University of California, Davis	Woodland College															
Sierra College	Yuba College																
<p><b>Radiological Technologists and Technicians</b> Yuba College</p>	<p><b>Respiratory Therapists</b> American River College Butte College</p>	<p><b>Surgical Technologists</b> No community college program in region.</p>															

### For More Information

For more information on this study, contact:

Theresa Milan, Center Director  
Northern California Region  
(916) 563-3235  
[milanti@losrios.edu](mailto:milanti@losrios.edu)

Download the Careers in Allied Health environmental scan, available online at [www.coecc.net/health](http://www.coecc.net/health).

### Research Partners

CALIFORNIA  
**Community Colleges**  
Regional  
Health  
Occupations  
Resource  
Centers/Health Care Initiative

