



ASSOCIATION  
OF OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
IN HEALTHCARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 13, 2017

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## AOHP Releases 2016 Staffing Survey Results

**PITTSBURGH** – The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) has released the results of its 2016 Staffing Survey, which provides a detailed overview of characteristics, workload and staffing patterns for occupational health departments in healthcare.

AOHP developed the Staffing Survey to address the lack of information that exists about current staffing needs for occupational health departments in U.S. healthcare settings. This most recent Staffing Survey builds on information that AOHP previously collected and analyzed in 2011 and 2014. The 2011 survey provided descriptive information about the relationship between full-time equivalent staffing levels and the number of healthcare workers served. In 2014, the survey was expanded to examine the relationship between staffing levels and reports of job stressors, well-being and job satisfaction.

"Occupational health professionals are responsible for the health, safety and well-being of their healthcare facility's entire workforce," explains AOHP Executive President Mary Bliss, RN, COHN. "This survey quantifies the importance of adequately staffing every hospital's occupational health department so they can effectively care for employees, which ultimately promotes improved patient care."

The current 39-item survey collected information related to: the healthcare facility, and composition of the workforce and personnel served; staff, including numbers and professions; the amount of time spent on 30 unique non-clerical and 12 clerical tasks performed; and software programs used to facilitate tracking within the department.

Some of the key findings from the 2016 Staffing Survey, which had nationwide representation from healthcare organizations of all sizes, include:

- The average nurse to full-time employee ratio
- The average total full-time equivalent allocated to an occupational health department
- The highest staffing levels in terms of full-time
- On average, number of RNs within the department were certified.
- The average amount of weekly work not completed, across all job categories.

The AOHP Staffing Survey was authored by Carol Brown, PhD, and Erin Shore, MPH, both from the Center for Health, Work and Environment at the Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Their work was supported by a number of AOHP members, including Executive President Mary Bliss, RN, COHN, Past Executive Board Member Linda Good, PhD, RN, COHN-S, Community Liaison MaryAnn Gruden, MSN, CRNP, NP-C, COHN/S-CM and Executive Director Annie Wiest.

AOHP, a national association with about 1,000 members, is the defining resource and leading authority for occupational health, safety and well-being in healthcare. AOHP advocates for employee health and safety, provides occupational health education and networking opportunities, offers health and safety advancement through best practice and research, and partners with employers, regulatory agencies and related associations.

AOHP members have free access to the survey results as a benefit of membership. For more information, or to order a copy of the AOHP 2016 Staffing Survey, please call AOHP Headquarters at 800-362-4347, or e-mail [info@aohp.org](mailto:info@aohp.org).

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