

Health Physicists Unite: Building Capacity for Our Radiation Protection Future

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Health Physics

- Training is not the same as education
- Certification is important
- There is no specific job code for Health Physicist in the Federal Government
 - Requirements are vague and non specific
 - General scientist can fulfil requirements
- Health physics is relegated to following checklists, taking away scientific judgement from professionals, reinforcing training, NOT education
- Few graduates, plus “loose” requirements, many openings means limited number of HP Program graduates actually hired into most government positions

Current Job Situation

- Job announcements collected as a function of helping alumni
- Analysis of June 2020 to February 2021 (trends since have been similar)
- Every effort was made to eliminate duplicates, although if a job was re-posted due to a failure to fill that position, it may have been deleted. No effort was made to ensure that all job announcements were collected.

Results

- A total of 8 months of data collection yielded 643 unique job announcements for health physicists.
- 125 were specifically denoted as technician jobs.
- 194 were specifically announced as jobs for “Health Physicist”
- Job titles used varied from “Environmental Scientist (typically for state level health physics positions, $n = 27$ announcements) to “Physicist” ($n = 20$).
- Job descriptions were carefully examined to ensure that nuclear engineering and medical physics positions were not misclassified as health physics. The preliminary analysis indicates an average of 80 unique posting per month, with approximately 16 for technicians and 64 for professionals.

Results

Military	37
Federal govt	34
State govt	58
National Lab	58
Medical	22
Industry	176
University	22
Other	236
Total	643