

Recruitment Hotsheet – Respiratory Therapy

Respiratory therapists—also known as respiratory care practitioners—treat patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary disorders. Practicing under the direction of a physician, a respiratory therapist will assume primary responsibility for a patient's diagnostic procedures and evaluations. A respiratory therapist consults with physicians and other healthcare staff to help develop and modify patient care plans. They also provide complex therapy that requires considerable independent judgment, such as caring for patients on life support. Respiratory therapists are often responsible for supervising RT technicians. All states, except Alaska and Hawaii, require respiratory therapists to be licensed.

Employment Trends

Respiratory therapists held about 105,900 jobs in 2008. About 81 percent of those jobs were in hospitals, mainly in departments of respiratory care, anesthesiology, or pulmonary medicine. Most of the remaining jobs were in physicians' offices, home-equipment rental firms, nursing care facilities, employment services, and home healthcare services. Employment of respiratory therapists is expected to grow by 21 percent from 2008 to 2018, much faster than the average for all occupations. The increasing demand will come from substantial growth in the middle-aged and elderly population—a development that will heighten the incidence of cardiopulmonary disease. Growth in demand also will result from the expanding role of respiratory therapists in case management, disease prevention, emergency care, and the early detection of pulmonary disorders.

Top Markets

1. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ
2. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA
3. Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI
4. Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD
5. Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX

Top Programs*

[Georgia State University](#)

[Texas State University – San Marcos](#)

[Midwestern State University](#)

[Boise State University](#)

[Weber State University](#)

*ranked by number of bachelor's degrees awarded

Media Spotlight: Blogs

[Advance for Respiratory Care & Sleep Medicine Blog](#)

[Respiratory Therapy Cave](#)

Online Networks

[AARC Community](#)

[AARC Twitter](#)

[Advance for Respiratory Care & Sleep Medicine Facebook](#)

[Advance for Respiratory Care & Sleep Medicine Twitter](#)

[RT Magazine Facebook](#)

[RT Magazine Twitter](#)

[Who's Who in RT](#)

E-Newsletters

[Advance for Respiratory Care & Sleep Medicine](#)

[News-Line for Respiratory Care Professionals](#)

[RT's Respiratory Report](#)

Upcoming Events

Focus on Respiratory Care and Sleep Medicine Conference, May 13-15, 2010 – Orlando, FL

AARC Summer Meeting, July 18-22, 2010 – Marco Island, FL

56th International Respiratory Congress, December 6-9, 2010 – Las Vegas, NV