



The Benefits of Being a CHP

Carolyn MacKenzie, CHP

President, American Academy of Health Physics

07/26/2023 Health Physics Society, National
Harbor, Maryland

Women as CHP's- how many are there?*

- ▶ In 1988 when I became certified- only 20 women **(3%)** were CHPs!
- ▶ In ~2010, 150 women CHP's **(12%)**
- ▶ In 2023, 169 women CHP's **(15%)**

*no gender data is collected
so this is a rough count
based on names



Not many!



Why are there so few women CHPs?

- ▶ Hard to juggle it all!
- ▶ Early stage in career-working, school, family, etc.
- ▶ And you want me to study for an exam too!?!?



Is it worth it? The benefits:

- ▶ You are identified as a qualified, knowledgeable employee
- ▶ You gain professional credibility
- ▶ Your career may be advanced
- ▶ You may stand above the competition
- ▶ Your earnings potential increases

Examples of recent job postings looking for CHPs



- ▶ RSO-Yale New Haven Health, New Haven, CT – **CHP desired**
- ▶ Manager, Radiation Protection Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM – **CHP required**
- ▶ Health Physicist III – Radiation Safety, Northwestern Medicine, Chicago, IL- **CHP preferred**
- ▶ Mid-Level Environmental Health Physicist, H3 Environmental, Albuquerque, NM- **CHP desired**

You are qualified!

- ▶ NRC 10 CFR Part 35.50 -required training and certification for medical RSO/Associate RSO **met by CHP**
- ▶ American Board Medical Physicists Reciprocity- **CHPs wishing to enter the ABMP certification process to proceed directly to the ABMP Part III (oral exam)** for medical health physics (MHP), given that they meet additional requirements applicable to all MHP candidates



Benefits 2022 Salary Survey*



Type	Count	Average	Median	Max	Min	Std Dev
All HPs+	177	\$130,813	\$126,250	\$305,000	\$41,250	\$46,752
All CHPs*	198	\$158,342	\$156,250	\$250,000	\$78,750	\$32,110

+\$27,529.0 difference on average with certification!

* February 2022 CHP Corner

+ http://hps.org/documents/2022_hp_salary_survey.pdf

Exam Passage Rates

5-year average PRE COVID (2015-2019) passed:

Part 1: 45% Part 2: 45% passed

2020 and 2021--- COVID years

▶ 2020 Part 1: 43% 2020 Part 2: 44%

▶ 2021 Part 1: 32% 2021 Part 2: 10%

2022.....

▶ 2022 Part 1: **22%** 2022 Part 2: **63%**



How to Prepare for the Exam

- ▶ See exam preparation guide at AAHP-ABHP.org website! Allow plenty of time to study! 200-500 hours average.
- ▶ From personal experience, I found the CHP exam preparatory classes and guides very helpful.
- ▶ As an employer, consider giving your employee time to study each week before the exam and pay for a preparatory class- invest in your employee!



Be a mentor to a budding CHP!

- ▶ Mentor people studying for the exam!
- ▶ Gather family support for the effort!



For More Information:

- ▶ <https://aahp-abhp.org>
- ▶ director@aahp-abhp.org
- ▶ Email me: Carolyn MacKenzie
cmack3140@gmail.com