

THE 1996 CERTIFIED HEALTH PHYSICIST SALARY SURVEY RESULTS

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Background

The 1996 Certified Health Physicist (CHP) Salary Survey results are published in this report. This survey was conducted by Gary Lautenschlager, CHP, of the Midwest Chapter of the Health Physics Society in association with the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP).

Data Acquisition and Analysis

Certified Health Physicists were asked to complete the 1996 CHP Salary Survey form included with the June 1996 *CHP News* that was co-distributed with Volume XXIV, Number 6, of the *Health Physics Society's Newsletter*. A total of 169 responses were received.

156 of these responses were accepted into the database, and 13 were rejected. The 13 rejections included 7 completed survey forms with "no" checked when participants were asked if they were CHPs, 5 completed forms with neither the "yes" nor "no" box checked, and 1 faxed form that was illegible.

Data for retired/part time CHPs, CHPs that did not receive benefits, and CHPs without a Bachelor's or higher degree were accepted into the database, but could not be analyzed in any meaningful way due to their limited number.

The salary ranges checked by CHPs on the completed survey forms were reduced to the midpoints of those ranges before statistical analyses were performed. For example, if CHPs checked the box for the salary range \$50,000 to \$54,999, their salary was assigned the value of \$52,500.

There were 4 Master's in Health Physics CHPs and 4 Ph.D. CHPs who indicated that they earned more than

\$130,000 per year, and 1 CHP who earned less than \$20,000 per year.

These "less than \$20,000 and greater than \$130,000" salary data could not be assigned a salary value, and were not used in the statistical analyses.



With some exceptions, only results for those categories in which there were 10 or more CHPs are given. This choice of a minimum of 10 CHPs was partly based on statistical reasons and partly to help protect the confidentiality of individual CHPs. For example, if there were fewer than 10 completed survey forms within a category, such as CHPs with a Master's in Health Physics and an American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) certification, then those data were not analyzed. The exceptions that do appear are included for general interest.

The survey results from 139 CHPs who worked full time, received benefits from their primary employer, and earned between \$20,000 and \$130,000 per year are shown in Tables 1 through 10.

Table 1 shows the results for all of the 139 CHPs grouped together. Table 2 groups these CHPs by education and field, and Tables 3 through 7 group these CHPs with different levels of education and experience together.

Tables 8, 9, and 10 show survey results for Master's in Health Physics CHPs separately, because there was a sufficient number of responses from this group.

Tabulated Survey Results

The following ten tables show survey results for full time CHPs that also received health, vacation, and/or retirement benefits:

Table 1: CHPs

CHPs	Average Salary	Median Salary	Standard Deviation	Maximum Salary	Minimum Salary	Number in Category
(139 CHPs)	\$78,327	\$77,500	\$19,107	\$127,500	\$27,500	139

Table 2: CHPs by Level of Education and Field

Level of Education and Field	Average Salary	Median Salary	Standard Deviation	Maximum Salary	Minimum Salary	Number in Category
Bachelor's Other Field	\$66,711	\$67,500	\$18,125	\$97,500	\$27,500	19
Bachelor's Health Physics	\$73,269	\$72,500	\$12,885	\$107,500	\$57,500	13
Master's Other Field	\$73,500	\$75,000	\$12,096	\$92,500	\$52,500	20
Master's Health Physics	\$78,465	\$77,500	\$19,627	\$127,500	\$37,500	57
Ph.D. Other Field	\$91,875	\$92,500	\$17,500	\$122,500	\$62,500	16
Ph.D. Health Physics	\$87,500	\$82,500	\$19,579	\$117,500	\$57,500	13

Note: Highest degree indicated by the CHP was used. If a CHP held a health physics degree and another degree at their highest level of education, they were counted only in the health physics degree categories.

Table 3: CHPs by Level of Education Completed (Bachelor's, Master's, or Ph.D.)

Level of Education Completed	Average Salary	Median Salary	Standard Deviation	Maximum Salary	Minimum Salary	Number in Category
Bachelor's (HP, Other Field)*	\$69,375	\$70,000	\$16,301	\$107,500	\$27,500	32
Master's (HP, Other Field)	\$77,175	\$77,500	\$18,034	\$127,500	\$37,500	77
Ph.D. (HP, Other Field)	\$89,914	\$92,500	\$18,255	\$122,500	\$57,500	29

* - (HP, Other Field) = CHPs with Health Physics (HP) degree and CHPs with Other Field degree grouped together.

Table 4: CHPs by Years Experience

Years Experience	Average Salary	Median Salary	Standard Deviation	Maximum Salary	Minimum Salary	Number in Category
6 to 10 Years	\$57,955	\$62,500	\$14,740	\$72,500	\$27,500	11
10 to 15 Years*	\$67,500	\$67,500	\$13,811	\$102,500	\$42,500	28
15 to 25 Years	\$80,643	\$77,500	\$15,929	\$122,500	\$52,500	70
> 25 Years	\$90,893	\$87,500	\$18,462	\$122,500	\$62,500	28

* - The average and the median salary are indeed \$67,500.

Table 5: CHPs by Other Certifications

Other Certifications	Average Salary	Median Salary	Standard Deviation	Maximum Salary	Minimum Salary	Number in Category
NRRT	\$68,929	\$67,500	\$20,702	\$117,500	\$27,500	14
PE	\$84,722	\$82,500	\$18,893	\$117,500	\$62,500	9

Table 6: CHPs by Primary Job Responsibility

Primary Job Responsibility	Average Salary	Median Salary	Standard Deviation	Maximum Salary	Minimum Salary	Number in Category
Regulations/Standards	\$84,167	\$80,000	\$24,618	\$122,500	\$42,500	12
Reactors, Other	\$85,500	\$77,500	\$25,734	\$122,500	\$37,500	10
Radiological Assessment	\$79,722	\$77,500	\$16,029	\$102,500	\$57,500	9
Radiation Safety Officer	\$67,857	\$67,500	\$19,361	\$107,500	\$27,500	14
Other*	\$88,500	\$87,500	\$17,920	\$117,500	\$67,500	10
Applied Health Physics	\$64,750	\$62,500	\$11,863	\$92,500	\$42,500	20
Administration	\$88,214	\$82,500	\$13,536	\$127,500	\$72,500	21

* "Other" as in the "Primary Job Responsibility" section of the 1996 CHP Salary Survey form. Not all of the primary job responsibilities listed on the survey form are represented in this table.

Table 7: CHPs by Primary Employer Type

Primary Employer Type	Average Salary	Median Salary	Standard Deviation	Maximum Salary	Minimum Salary	Number in Category
Government Contractors	\$77,300	\$77,500	\$16,613	\$127,500	\$57,500	25
Nuclear Power Facility	\$73,958	\$72,500	\$16,906	\$122,500	\$52,500	24
Consulting Firm	\$86,833	\$87,500	\$22,270	\$117,500	\$27,500	15
Commercial	\$88,750	\$85,000	\$17,337	\$122,500	\$62,500	12
Federal Government	\$83,333	\$75,000	\$19,346	\$122,500	\$62,500	18
Medical Facility	\$78,214	\$67,500	\$25,889	\$122,500	\$47,500	7
National Laboratory	\$73,500	\$72,500	\$12,984	\$97,500	\$52,500	15
University	\$67,833	\$67,500	\$19,316	\$97,500	\$37,500	15

Table 8: Master's in Health Physics CHPs by Years Experience

Years Experience	Average Salary	Median Salary	Standard Deviation	Maximum Salary	Minimum Salary	Number in Category
10 to 15 Years	\$69,808	\$67,500	\$11,108	\$97,500	\$52,500	13
15 to 25 Years	\$77,667	\$77,500	\$14,473	\$107,500	\$52,500	30
>25 Years	\$99,722	\$92,500	\$20,017	\$122,500	\$72,500	9

Table 9: Master's in Health Physics CHPs by Primary Job Responsibility

Primary Job Responsibility	Average Salary	Median Salary	Standard Deviation	Maximum Salary	Minimum Salary	Number in Category
Administration	\$85,417	\$82,500	\$14,375	\$127,500	\$72,500	12
Applied Health Physics	\$61,667	\$62,500	\$9,962	\$77,500	\$42,500	12
Radiation Safety Officer	\$74,643	\$67,500	\$17,995	\$107,500	\$62,500	7

Table 10: Master's in Health Physics CHPs by Primary Employer Type

Primary Employer Type	Average Salary	Median Salary	Standard Deviation	Maximum Salary	Minimum Salary	Number in Category
Government Contractors	\$81,591	\$77,500	\$18,003	\$127,500	\$57,500	11
Nuclear Power Facility	\$73,750	\$72,500	\$17,726	\$122,500	\$52,500	12

Top Ten Reasons to become a CHP

Many CHPs provided their reasons for seeking certification. A top ten list follows:

10. "Establish credibility in my profession"
9. "To demonstrate competence in health physics"
8. "Professional growth"
7. "Enhance professional standing"
6. "To meet a promotion requirement"
5. "Increase professional skills and value to clients"
4. "To get more money"
3. "Challenge, status, and opportunity"
2. "Advancement, opportunity to move from medical physics to health physics"



And the number one reason for seeking certification is...

1. "To move from management into a staff/radiological engineering position"

Closing Remarks and Acknowledgments

Questions and comments about this survey should be addressed to Gary Lautenschlager, preferably via e-mail: GLauten@aol.com. Gary can also be reached at (630)840-8360 (W). All comments are welcome!

Many thanks to all those CHPs who submitted their responses for this survey and to the many persons who provided their comments. Special thanks to Nancy Johnson and the AAHP for their assistance.

If you are a CHP and did not contribute to this survey, please participate next time! ■

THE CERTIFICATION YEAR AT A GLANCE

Nancy Johnson, Program Director, AAHP Secretariat

January 15	Deadline for candidates to mail application for examination
Late January	Plaques and pins mailed to new CHPs
January/February	AAHP Executive Committee meets at the HPS Midyear Meeting
March 1	Nominations for William McAdams Outstanding Service Award
Late March	Acceptance letters mailed to examination candidates
Late March/Early April	AAHP election ballots are mailed
Late April	Recertification packets mailed to CHPs who are due for recertification
Late May/Early June	Entrance slips and final information mailed to exam candidates
June/July	Certification maintenance fee envelopes are mailed
	Certification exam is given on the Monday of the HPS Annual Meeting
	ABHP Board of Directors meets at the HPS Annual Meeting
	AAHP Executive Committee meets at the HPS Annual Meeting
	AAHP Open Meeting is held at the HPS Annual Meeting
	AAHP William McAdams Outstanding Service Award is presented at the AAHP Open Meeting
November	ABHP Board of Directors and Part I Panel meet
Late November	ABHP Certification Examination results are mailed