Labor Market Information

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COUN 503

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December 1st, 2022

 Counseling is an admirable profession that provides benefits and care to all types of people. They provide a specific type of care to people as well as emotional support in multiple types of settings. This type of profession can be very demanding, but still very rewarding because of how it can benefit individuals who are in need. There are many possibilities and routes that one can take when determining their place in the counseling profession such as deciding a specific population, desired work setting, or what theoretical orientation the counselor chooses. Nevertheless, counselors are still laborers that receive a salary, require specific trainings and qualifications, and need to be well-versed throughout their career. Monica G. Darcy and Nahid M. Abed-Faghri (2013) conducted a study to investigate responses regarding the characteristics and specifics of licensed mental health counselors. Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) are required to obtain a master’s degree in counseling, which includes completing 60 graduate hours and a specific number of clinical hours and supervision hours in order to be eligible for licensure (Darcy & Abed-Faghri, 2013). The respondents stated that they worked anywhere from 10-65 hours a week, with the average being 38.5 hours a week. This range of hours included whether the respondent worked one or more than one job, which can also have a direct effect on an individual’s salary. 34% of respondents reported that their salary was $60,000 and above, with 19% of respondents reporting $50,000-$60,000, 25% reporting $40,000-$50,000, and 21% of respondents reporting their salary was below $40,000 (Darcy & Abed-Faghri, 2013). Some career opportunities based off respondents’ answers for licensed counselors include individual counseling (94%), family counseling (65%), group counseling (49%), supervision (43%), and case management (37%). Professional counselors can choose to participate in professional associations such as the American Counseling Association (ACA), AMCHA, and American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (Darcy & Abed-Faghri, 2013).

**References**

Darcy, M. G., & Abed-Faghri, N. M. (2013). The Relationship between Counselors and Their

State Professional Association: Exploring Counselor Professional Identity. *Professional Counselor*, *3*(3), 152-160.