

### Information Related to Local Massage Therapy Employment Trends

Labor market information was sought from three sources; the CCBenefits Occupational Projection Model, the State of Illinois Department of Employment Security, and the employment projections of the U.S. Department of Labor. All three of these sources indicated that massage therapist is a career in which the demand outstrips the supply and for which continued growth is expected.

The CCBenefits Occupational Model indicates that 58 job openings are predicated in Lake County for Massage Therapists between 2007 and 2012.

#### Projected Number of Jobs, Lake County

<u>2007 Jobs</u>	<u>2012 Jobs</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Replacement Jobs</u>	<u>% New &amp; Rep.</u>	<u>Projected Total Job Change</u>
223	260	37	17%	21	26%	58

Source: CCBenefits Occupational Projection Model;

According to the Career Information System of the State of Illinois Department of Employment Security, "In Illinois, employment of massage therapists is expected to increase about as fast as average through 2014. About 130 job openings are expected each year. Nationally, the number of jobs for massage therapists is expected to grow faster than average through the year 2014".

Another source of employment data is *The State of Illinois*, Department of Employment Security, Economic and Analysis Division. The data from this source, although differing in some detail, validates the increasing demand for Massage Therapists reflected in the CCBenefits data. Illinois provides **employment projections** for 2002 to 2012. Following are employment projections for Massage Therapists, in selected locations.

	2002 Estimated Employment	2012 Projected Employment	Total 2002-2012 Employment Change	Annual Avg. Percent Change	Total Percent Change	Annual Avg. Openings Due to Growth	Annual Avg. Openings Due to Replacement	Total Annual Avg. Openings
Lake County	143	185	42	2.6	29.4	4	3	7
McHenry County	59	74	15	2.3	25.4	1	1	2
Cook County	1,212	1,395	183	1.4	15.1	18	23	41

Source: IL Dept. of Employment Security; data as of 2005 is aged to 2006Q1

As indicated in the table above, the number of Massage Therapists employed in Lake County in 2002 was 143. It is projected that in 2012 there will be 185. This represents an annual average growth rate of 2.6 percent, faster than 1.3 percent growth rate for all occupations in Lake County.

Growth plus replacement needs for Massage Therapists in Lake County are estimated to average about 7 openings per year. Of these estimated 7 openings per year, 57.1 percent of these openings are due to growth (new positions) and 42.9 percent of these openings are due to replacements. This compares with all occupations in Lake County where 37.2 percent of annual openings are due to growth and 62.8 percent of annual openings are due to replacements.

Although the anticipated number of openings in Lake County alone is relatively low, the number of openings in Cook County and in the metropolitan Chicago area is significant.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor (Occupational Outlook Handbook), "Employment for massage therapists is expected to increase faster than average over the period from 2004 to 2014 as more people learn about the benefits of massage therapy. In States that regulate massage therapy, therapists who complete formal training programs and pass the national certification exam are likely to have very good job opportunities." The state of Illinois does regulate massage therapy, recently putting licensing requirements into place.

Wage data for Massage Therapists indicates that this occupation provides satisfactory wages for Illinois community college graduates. Following are wage data for Massage Therapists in selected locations.

	Entry Level		Median Wage		Experienced Wage	
	Hourly	Annual	Hourly	Annual	Hourly	Annual
Lake County	\$9.90	\$20,578.99	\$23.92	\$45,747	\$27.72	\$57,650
Cook County	\$15.36	\$31,951	\$21.84	\$45,418	\$27.71	\$57,636

*Source: IL Dept. of Employment Security; data as of 2005 is aged to 2006Q1*

The wage data above (from the Illinois Department of Employment and Security) is validated by wage data from U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics which reports 2005 median hourly earnings for massage therapists, including gratuities earned, to be \$46,400. Generally, massage therapists earn 15 to 20 percent of their income as gratuities. For those who work in a hospital or other clinical setting, however, tipping is not common.

According to the recent ICCB Follow-up Study of Fiscal Year 2001 Graduates of Massage Therapy Programs provides a positive employment picture of Massage Therapy students in the Illinois Community Colleges offering such programs. The survey revealed that 73 % were exclusively employed while 10.2% were both employed and pursuing additional education (Note that the follow-up survey had a 56% response rate of 102 respondents).