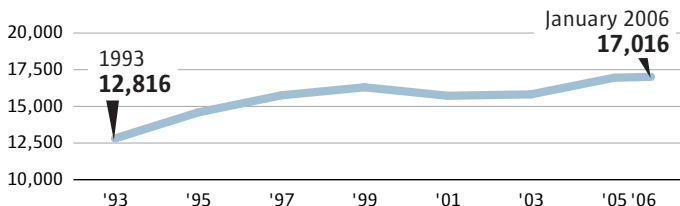


Increase in registered counselors

Since Washington created the registered-counselor credential nearly 20 years ago, thousands of people have flooded into health care's least-guarded profession.



What it takes to be a counselor

Registered counselors outnumber all other types of counselors in this state by more than 2-to-1. While it takes years of education and training to become a licensed mental-health counselor, for instance, almost anybody can become a registered counselor.

Number of active counselors as of January 2006

	Registered counselor	Licensed mental-health counselor	Chemical-dependency professional	Licensed marriage and family therapist
	17,016	4,154	2,519	919
Licensing requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No education needed 4-hour course in AIDS awareness No exam needed No continuing education needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's degree or Ph.D. 3,000 hours of supervised experience Qualifying exam 36 hours of continuing education every two years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate's degree or two years of college 1,500-2,500 hours of supervised experience Qualifying exam 28 hours of continuing education every two years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's degree or Ph.D. 3,000 hours of supervised experience Qualifying exam 36 hours of continuing education every two years

Sources: Washington Department of Health