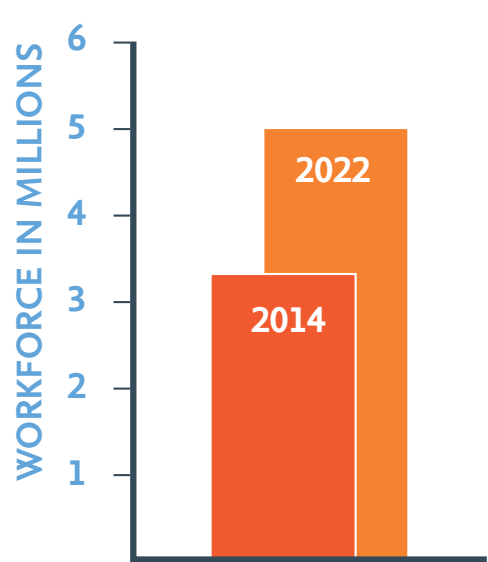


# America's Direct Support Professionals

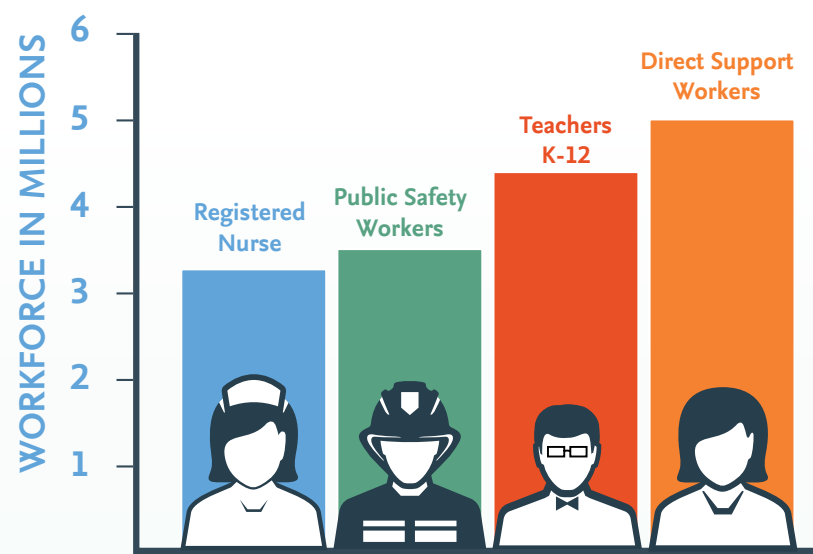
Promoting life in community for individuals with disabilities

## PREVALENCE OF THE WORKFORCE

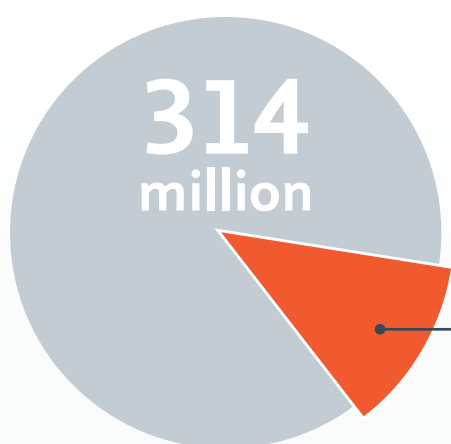


The direct-support workforce totaled more than **3.4 million in 2014**, and the need is expected to grow to nearly **5 million by 2022**.

**In 2022**, direct support workers will make up the **second largest occupational group** in the nation, just behind retail sales. They are expected to exceed **teachers K-12 (4.5 million)**, **public safety workers (3.5 million)** and **registered nurses (3.2 million)**.



## MEETING NEEDS



In 2013 there were more than 314 million individuals living in the community in the United States, **40 million** of whom were individuals with disabilities—a prevalence rate of **12.7%**

## LIFELINE AND FRONTLINE

Today, direct support workers serving all populations represent

**70-80%**

of the hands-on long-term care and personal assistance delivered to individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions and the elderly in the United States.

Direct support professionals provide support to individuals in a variety of ways, including help with

**eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, food preparation, medication management and light housekeeping.**

Together, they dedicate

**6.8 billion hours annually**



to empowering lives beyond limitations.

## HEADING UP HEALTH CARE

Direct-care workers account for

**33%**

of the U.S. health care workforce, far outnumbering other health care practitioner occupations such as physicians, nurses and therapists.



Direct-care workers also outnumber by **>2:1**

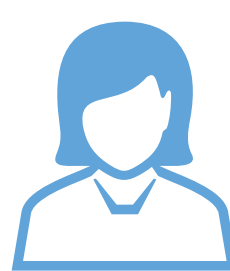
all allied health occupations, such as medical and dental assistants, and therapy assistants and aides.\*

\* PHInational.org

## DRIVING FORCE

As the movement for inclusion gains ground, direct support workers are

**clearing the way, supporting people with disabilities** to have better lives in their communities.



DirectCourse would like to thank this workforce for their contributions. For more information, visit [directcourseonline.com](http://directcourseonline.com).