

DNA testing boom drives demand for genetic counselors

[W]ith precision medicine [going mainstream](#) and an [explosion of apps](#) piping genetic insights to your phone from just a few teaspoons of spit, millions of Americans are having their DNA decoded every year. That deluge of data means that genetic counselors—the specialized medical professionals trained to help patients interpret genetic test results—are in higher demand than ever. With two to three job openings for every new genetic counseling graduate, the profession is facing a national workforce shortage.

...

Baylor runs one of 11 new accredited programs in North America (10 in the US and one in Canada) that have launched in the last three years, increasing the total number of training programs on the continent by a third. There are at least a dozen more in various stages of development.

...

But with the shortfall in genetic counselors, there also aren't enough professionals to train the up-and-comers. Most programs can only accept 8 to 12 new students per year, because accrediting standards require each student to handle a certain number of clinical cases. Yet there are only so many supervisors to go around.

...

Counselors have also left the clinic for higher-paying jobs in other branches of the healthcare industry. Genetic counselors make less than other medical professionals with similar training.

...

There might be more ways to decode your DNA than ever before, but interpretation is still a scarce commodity.

Read full, original post: [So much genetic testing. So few people to explain it to you](#)