

LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTIONS, AND SECURITY IN VIRGINIA

Welcome to the Career Cluster Brief on Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security in Virginia. This brief highlights information important to each of the five pathways - Correction Services, Emergency/Fire Management, Security/Protective Services, Law Enforcement, and Legal Services—included in this career cluster.

Highly skilled public service professionals are vital to the day-to-day life of our communities and to the future of the Commonwealth. Public safety agencies at the state and local levels work to make Virginia a safe place to live and work and include services such as police protection, crime prevention, emergency management, fire protection, criminal investigations, operation of correctional facilities and re-entry programs, and coordinated response to natural and man-made disasters, among others. In this brief, we explore trends across occupations in this cluster, and we address state priorities, education, employment, and earnings in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security.

13%

Expected Growth in Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Jobs by 2020.

LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTIONS, AND SECURITY IN VIRGINIA: IMPORTANT WORK ACROSS MULTIPLE SECTORS

Working at both the state and local levels, public safety professionals include state and local police, firefighters, criminal investigators, correctional officers, crime prevention specialists, firearms specialists, emergency medical technicians, and countless others in legal, educational, and administrative divisions to support the efforts of those “on the front lines”.

Here are a few facts about some of the thousands of state and local public safety professionals in Virginia:

800,000

Number of incidents responded to by Virginia fire departments in 2012

- In 2012, Virginia fire departments responded to almost 800,000 incidents (or one incident every 40 seconds). Of these incidents, close to 70% were rescue and emergency medical service calls.
- That same year, the Virginia State Police infield operations responded to 1.15 million incidents, processed 265,000 criminal investigation reports, and conducted 450,000 background checks for firearms
- The Virginia Department of Corrections has received national awards for their innovative Administrative Step Down Program, as well as for Energy Efficiency and Environmental Stewardship. As an example of the entrepreneurial talents within this department, milk from cows at Virginia Tech is now processed by the Department of Corrections and returned to Blacksburg for use in student dining halls.

Increasingly, homeland security and disaster preparedness consume the time and talents of public safety professionals in Virginia – helping to keep us from harm and insuring that Virginians are prepared to respond quickly and effectively in the wake of natural disasters. A few examples follow:

Rail safety

Virginia is recognized for leadership in passenger rail through the creation in 2011 of the Inncity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital Fund. According to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation 2013 Statewide Rail Plan, that fund is expected to provide \$44 million in passenger rail improvements in 2014 – leading to an 85% increase in rail funding. Further, Virginia is host to the only 110 MPH exclusive high-speed intercity passenger rail service in the Southeast.

Commercial rail safety has recently attracted significant attention. Following the recent train derailment in Lynchburg, Governor McAuliffe created a rail safety task force to “enhance Virginia’s capability to protect lives, property, and the environment along rail lines”. Whether in commercial or passenger rail, safety and response to rail incidents will be a critical part of the mission of many public safety professionals in Virginia.

Mental health protection and treatment

The number of “temporary detention orders,” in which judges order patients hospitalized, has swelled 23 percent statewide this year. Increased focus on emergency mental health concerns has already led to the creation of mental health first aid training sponsored by the Department of Criminal Justice Services. Professionals working as campus police officers, municipal law enforcement officers, campus security officers, campus administrators, residence life staff, counselors, teachers, members of the clergy, and other mental health and public safety professionals are encouraged to earn this certification.

Disaster preparedness

Public safety roles in disaster preparedness and emergency management are found in almost all public institutions and, increasingly, in private businesses. In 2011, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management began a Public Private Liaison Program to further reach out to private business customers and help to train their staffs. Projected growth is also anticipated in the need for training citizen volunteers through the work of groups such as Citizens Corps and the American Red Cross as communities across the Commonwealth emphasize readiness for emergency response.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, & EARNINGS: ANALYZING DATA FROM LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTIONS, AND SECURITY

GROWTH by 2020

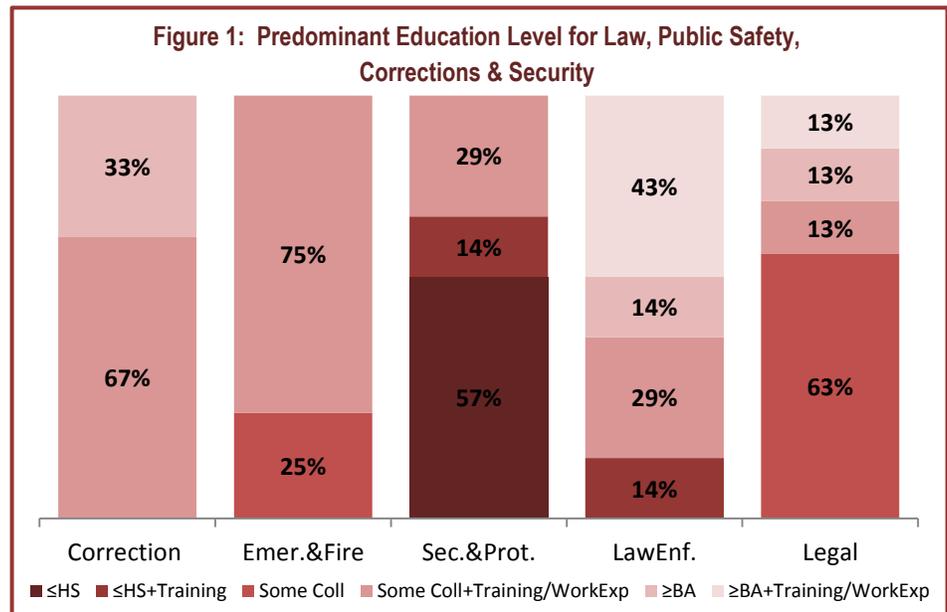
EMT & Paramedics: 34%
Lawyers: 20%
**Private Detectives &
Investigators: 31%**
**Transportation Security
Screeners: 26%**

Occupations in law, public safety, corrections, and security comprise almost 4 percent of jobs in Virginia. This career cluster is expected to grow by 13 percent through 2020, providing employment to more than 170,000. The cluster has a wide range of career pathways, many of which belong to the public sector; occupations within these pathways are anticipated to see varying degrees of growth, with jobs for Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics expanding by over 30 percent at the same time as opportunities for Fish and Game Wardens decline by nearly 10 percent.

This career cluster has 5 pathways: Correction Services, Emergency/Fire Management, Security/Protective Services, Law Enforcement, and Legal Services. The following sections analyze data for the different occupation groups within law and related services in terms of the 3 E’s: **education, employment, and earnings**.

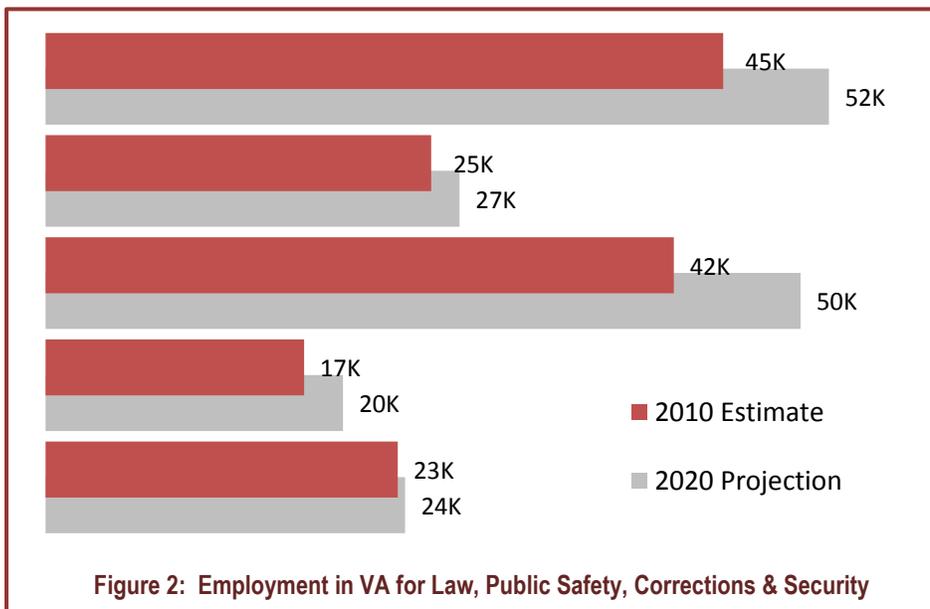
Education

Workers having some college education with additional training and work experience make up the largest share (34%) within this cluster. Formal educational attainment varies across jobs: 21% of those employed in this cluster have attained no more than a high-school degree while 24% have a Bachelor's degree or more, along with further training and experience. Figure 1 shows the predominant level of education within Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security. Among the 5 pathways, Security and Protective Services has the lowest educational requirement, with 57% of its workers having less than a high-school diploma. Law Enforcement and Legal Services occupations include the greatest variation in academic achievement. These occupations and subspecialties include higher rates of advanced degrees, with 75% of legal service jobs calling for some college and training, and 57% of law enforcement officials needing a BA or more as well as additional training and experience.



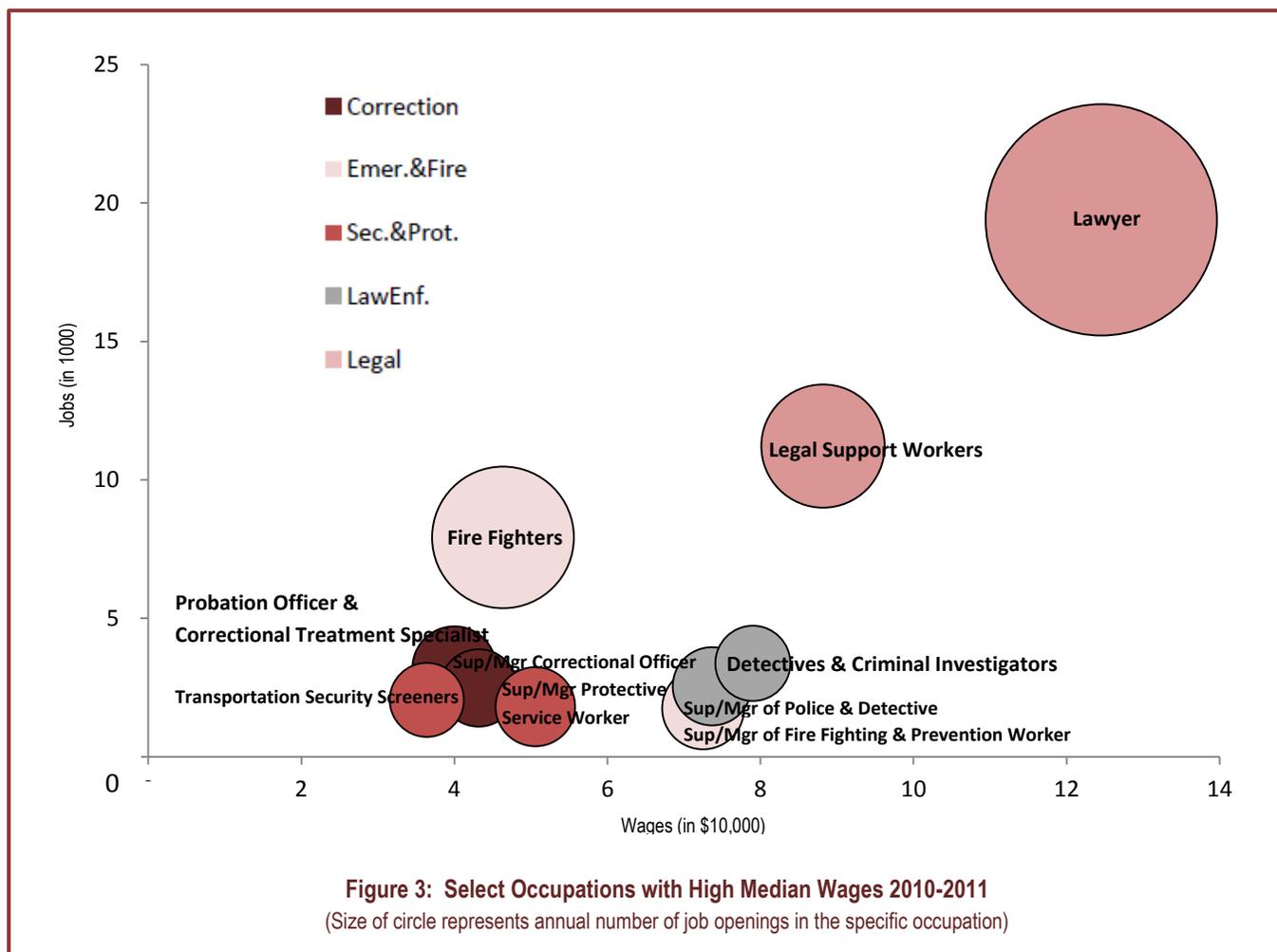
Employment

As shown in Figure 2, employment across all 5 pathways in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security is expected to grow through 2020. Legal Services will have the highest employment with more than 52,000 workers, while Security and Protective Services is projected to experience the *fastest* rate of growth within the industry (20 percent). Correction Services and Law Enforcement, however, are expected to grow at much slower paces. The entire cluster is expected to have close to 173,000 jobs by 2020.



Earnings and Growth

Job growth for workers in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security varies across pathways, but almost all occupations are expected to expand by 2020. Comparing the top two wage-earning occupations for each pathway in Figure 3, career growth for legal services seems to be the most promising in terms of current employment, wage-earnings, and job opportunities. Lawyers earn the highest median wage (\$125,000) and will have more than 750 job openings. Legal support workers, prevention workers, supervisors/managers of police and detectives, and detectives/criminal investigators are also recorded to have median salaries above \$70,000.



Emergency medical technicians/paramedics, private detectives/investigators and arbitrators/mediators/conciliators will witness some of the largest growth *percentages*; the few exceptions are supervisors/managers of correctional officers, crossing guards, and fish/game wardens – the occupations may shrink over the next ten years. Between 2010 and 2020, the overall sector will have more than 5000 annual job openings.

THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN LAW AND RELATED FIELDS

Technology plays diverse roles across the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Career Cluster – however, some consistent themes emerge across the sector as a whole. In particular, new data gathering mechanisms, emerging data management systems, and changes in legislation governing data collection, and sharing practices and protocols will have an influence on all of these fields.

Implications of data availability

New legislation regarding access to data (such as emails and personal records) will affect the kinds of evidence that may be legally obtained by law enforcement personnel, or allowed in a court of law. For example, while law enforcement officials do not currently need a warrant to access emails over 180 days old, the Email Privacy Act, currently making its way through Congress, would require a warrant in order to access that information. As students consider careers in public safety and law, it will be important for them to understand the ways in which our country's legal framework is changing – and will continue to change – to address questions raised by the increasing amount of, and access to, personal electronic data.

Advances in surveillance technology

Improvements in both software and hardware—such as highly advanced computing tools and cameras—as well as the growing amount of information available about individuals' everyday actions change the nature of surveillance in both public and private spaces. No longer are security personnel limited to analog video footage or transistor radios. An understanding of not only the available tools and techniques for intelligence-gathering, but also of the ethical concerns that accompany improved surveillance techniques will help students demonstrate their capacity for critical thinking to potential employers.

Increasing reliance on data analysis

It is generally understood that careful and thorough case management for parolees helps to reduce the likelihood that they will become repeat offenders. Careful quantitative research on the impact of certain intervention strategies may result in improved case management protocols and techniques. Such research requires strong data, likely to be collected by parole officers or case workers. Students who understand how to effectively collect and analyze such data will be better equipped for these occupations.

Beyond Big Data, however, there are other exciting technological advances that play a role in law, and related fields.

Security and public safety, for instance, benefit from sophisticated robots that are able to smoothly navigate areas too dangerous or difficult for humans. According to a January *Forbes* interview of William Santana Li, CEO of Knightscope, the company that developed the Knightscope K5 robot, "Security 1.0 was human beings with...cars and a CB radio. Security 2.0 was the same thing, but we added laptops. But security 3.0 is humans, robotics, and intelligence together, having real time on-site data and historical information and new kinds of tools that were never thought of before for this industry." These security robots are projected to play bigger roles in security and public safety as the technology behind them grows more advanced.

How can we better prepare students at the secondary level for careers in law and related fields, especially in light of rapid changes in the technology and techniques used? Any access to software or hardware used in the industry will give students valuable hands-on experience, and may additionally spark their interest in the technical aspects of these fields. More broadly, students will benefit from discussion about the benefits and concerns that arise with increasing access to personal data. But perhaps most simply *and* most importantly, students who understand that careers in these areas are projected to become more data- and technology- driven will be more likely to make informed decisions about what roles they would like play—and what jobs they would like to hold—in the areas of public service and safety.