How do high school students’ expectations for having a job in healthcare change between their freshman year and two-and-a-half years later?

- Nearly a third of students (31 percent) expected to have a job in a healthcare field at age 30 either when they were freshmen in high school in 2009 or in 2012 (FIGURE 1).
- Twelve percent of students who were freshmen in high school in 2009 expected to have a career in a healthcare occupation at the age of 30 in both 2009 and 2012.
- Ten percent of students who were freshmen in high school in 2009 did not expect to have a career in a healthcare field at age 30 in 2009, but did in 2012.
- Approximately 69 percent of students who were freshmen in high school in 2009 did not expect to have a career in healthcare at age 30, either in 2009 or 2012.

FIGURE 1. Percentage distribution of 2009 ninth-graders’ expectations for a career in a healthcare field at age 30 when asked in 2009 and 2012

Does the pattern of expectations for a career in healthcare differ by student sex?

Healthcare as a field employs more females than males. It is estimated that 80 percent of all healthcare workers are female.²

- Among 2009 ninth grade students, three times as many females as males in 2009 expected to have a career in a healthcare field at age 30 (31 percent compared to 9 percent) (FIGURE 2).
- In 2012 the pattern was the same, with 34 percent of females expecting a career in a healthcare field at age 30 compared to 10 percent of males.
- Among 2009 ninth-graders, a higher percentage of females than males expected to have a career in a healthcare field at age 30 in both 2009 and 2012 (20 percent compared to 4 percent).

Endnotes
