

Data Supporting Regulation of Veterinary Technicians

Protecting Animals and the Public

During a 2017 job analysis for the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) asked veterinary technicians to rate duties of their jobs that could potentially cause harm to the patient. The following are the results for the job functions that could be the most potentially harmful to animals and the public:



Anesthesia



Emergency Medicine/Critical Care



Pharmacy and Pharmacology



Surgical Nursing



Animal Care and Nursing

Job Functions with Little to No Supervision

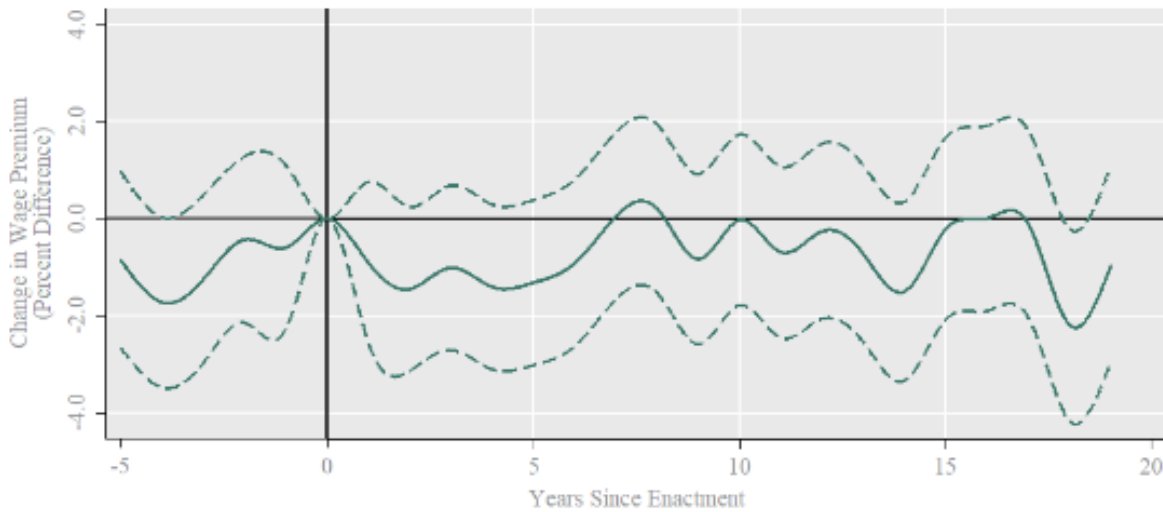
The veterinary technicians participating in the job analysis were also asked to indicate how often job functions are performed with very limited or no supervision. The following information illustrates how often potentially harmful job functions are almost solely performed by veterinary technicians.

	<i>% of time activity is done with little or no supervision</i>
Maintain anesthetic equipment and related materials to ensure reliable operation.	90.99%
Educate the client about anesthetics and anesthesia to ensure the safety of the patient/client and efficacy of the product(s) or procedure(s).	89.50%
Store, handle, and safely dispose of pharmacological and biological agents.	90.16%
Educate clients and the public about animal care (including but not limited to behavior, nutrition, pre- and post-operative care, preventative care, zoonosis) to promote and maintain the health of animals and the safety of clients/public.	90.92%
Prepare anesthetic equipment and related materials to ensure operator and patient safety.	82.77%
Maintain controlled drug inventory and related log books.	82.96%
Educate the client regarding pharmacological and biological agents administered or dispensed to ensure the safety of the patient/client and efficacy of the products.	86.03%
Recognize classifications of drugs, their mechanisms, and clinically relevant side effects.	78.48%
Maintain therapeutic treatments (including but not limited to catheters, wound management and bandages).	81.81%
Obtain patient related information in the development of an appropriate anesthetic plan.	67.30%
Utilize knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology as it applies to the use of pharmacological and biological agents.	74.20%
Utilize knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology as it applies to emergency medicine and critical care.	57.19%
Utilize knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology as it applies to anesthesia.	60.27%
Dispense medications in compliance with veterinary orders.	79.81%
Prepare medications in compliance with veterinarian's orders.	81.74%
Administer medications via the appropriate routes (e.g., aural, intravenous, subcutaneous).	79.47%
Calculate fluid therapy rate.	71.35%
Perform clinical diagnostic procedures (including but not limited to blood pressure measurement, electrocardiography, and oximetry) to aid in diagnosis and prognosis.	70.69%
Maintain a patent airway using endotracheal intubation.	48.56%
Calculate medications based on the appropriate dosage in compliance with veterinarian's orders.	66.41%
Monitor patients during all stages of anesthesia (pre-, peri-, and post-).	44.89%

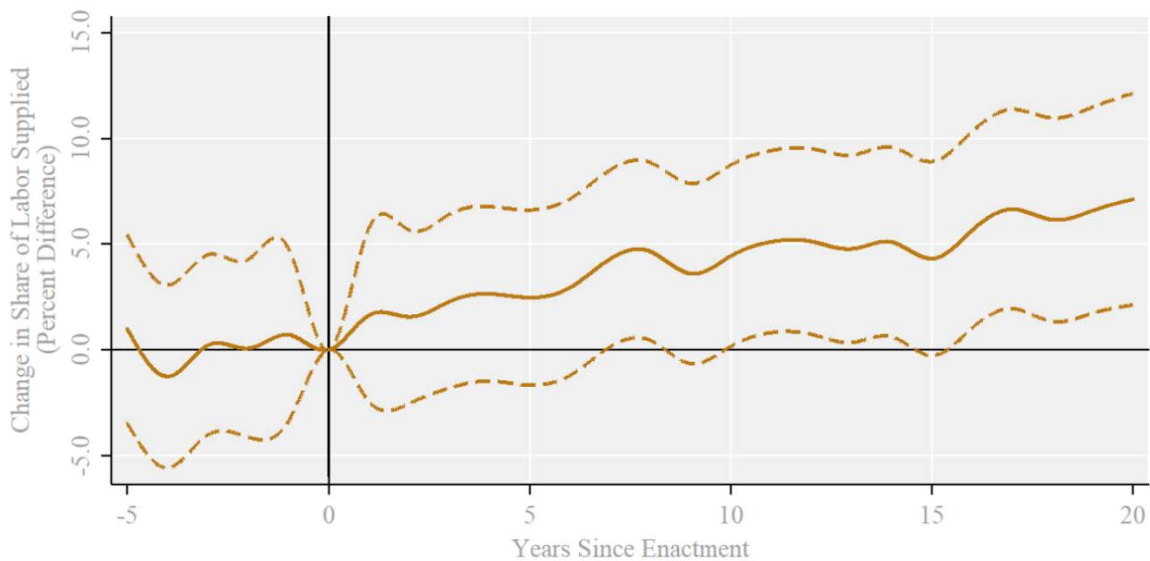
Economic Effects of Regulation

Data from "The Economic and Structural Effects of Occupational Licensure", a study by Beth Redbird, PhD, Assistant Professor at Northwestern University

The non-informed argument is that regulation results in increased wages for an occupation. Dr. Redbird's research indicates that when an occupation becomes regulated, there is typically a 0.94% wage decrease resulting in an approximate salary decrease of \$383.45 per year. The graphic below demonstrates the impact of regulation on an occupation before and after the regulation is implemented:

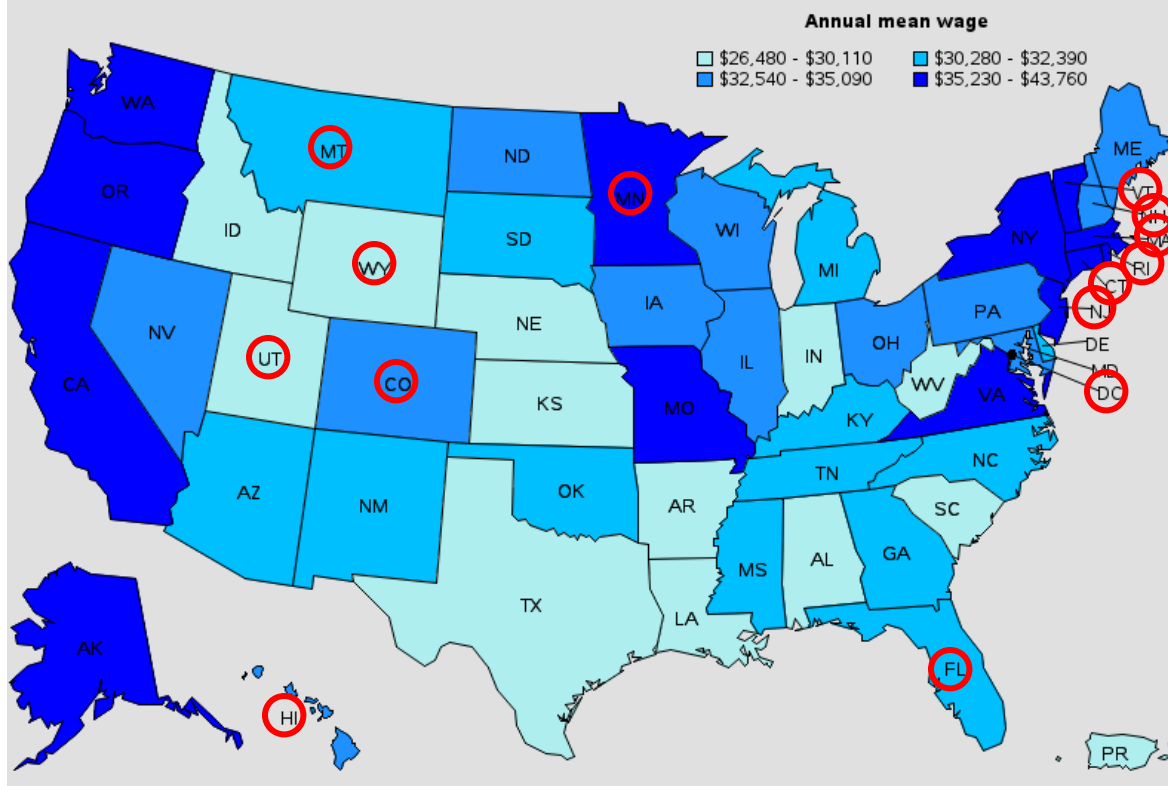


Her research also indicates that there is an increase in supply of individuals, presumably due to the increased understanding in requirements to enter the occupation. The graphic below depicts the increase in supply of individuals within an occupation after regulation is implemented:



The overlay depicted below of non-regulated jurisdictions for Veterinary Technicians on wage data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics supports the conclusion that regulation does not have a significant impact on annual mean wage.

Annual mean wage of veterinary technologists and technicians, by state, May 2016



ST = The jurisdictions where Veterinary Technicians are not regulated

Implementing Regulation for Veterinary Technicians

Regulation of veterinary technicians is critical to ensure:

Reduction of potential harm to patients

Increase in educated professionals

Reduction of risk to brand, image and reputation of veterinary clinic

Reduction of litigation risk to veterinary clinic/veterinary licensee

Increase in public safety

Increase in knowledge through proper continuing education

Increase in proper adherence to jurisdictional laws, e.g. controlled substances