

The CHP Corner, February 2021

For CHPs, aspiring CHPs, and anyone else on the bell curve.



The American Academy of Health Physics

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THE TITLE OF CERTIFIED HEALTH PHYSICIST

Scott Schwahn, AAHP President

My first draft ran long and you have enough to occupy your time, so just to get to the point... here's what I'm going to talk about this month: I'm going to tell you how to maintain your CHP into retirement, how you can use the title when you've only passed one part (hint: *you can't*), and about the use of the title CHP when you've not earned it or maintained it. And then I'm *not* going to summarize... so much for literary approach.

In my first month as President of the Academy, I have been surprised to hear from several fellow CHPs who either planned to retire or who were retired and were lamenting that they would have to give up their hard-earned CHP title. The problem is... *that is not true!* You can become an Emeritus CHP for the low, low maintenance fee of \$25 per year and no longer have to keep up with continuing education credits (CECs). You can still use the title of CHP or DABHP (Diplomate of the American Board of Health Physics) after your name. The process is simple... apply using this form: <https://www.aahp-abhp.org/media/716> and send it in to the [Secretariat <director@aahp-abhp.org>](mailto:director@aahp-abhp.org). The Secretariat will pass it on to the ABHP Vice-Chair for review and approval. Even if you've been retired for a couple years and let your CHP status lapse as a result, you might be able to just pay your past-due maintenance fees to catch up. As an Emeritus CHP, you will have all of the rights and privileges of any other CHP... you're a full member of the Academy!

On occasion, we run into folks "kind of" using the title of CHP in a very subtle, but inappropriate manner. An example that I recall was: "CHP (Part I)". Any implication that a person is certified by the ABHP when they have not passed both parts of the

exam within the allotted seven years of each other and have been officially told that they are a CHP is inappropriate. A person who has passed one part of the exam is invited to become an Associate Member of the Academy.

And... the last part is the uncomfortable one. Sometimes a person uses the title of CHP when they are not an active CHP. Here's the short version, since this article is still running long... please don't do it; it's an ethics issue, and no one likes to get or make that phone call or email to confront the problem. More often than not, it's just a matter of not getting your 4-year renewal CECs in on time, or not paying your maintenance fees annually. Please contact the Secretariat if you run into problems with those issues, and we'll do what we can to help. We're all stressed out to some extent, especially due to the impact of the pandemic. You worked hard on that title and we want you to keep it!

Stay safe -
Scott

WILLIAM A. MCADAMS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Kyle Kleinhans, Vice Chair, ABHP

The ABHP is soliciting nominations for this year's [William A. McAdams Outstanding Service Award](#). This award may be presented annually by the ABHP to honor a Certified Health Physicist who has made a significant contribution toward the advancement of professionalism in Health Physics and to the Certification process.

Nominees shall be CHPs who have served the health physics community through outstanding and extended work on the ABHP Examination Panels, ABHP Board, AAHP Continuing Education

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Committee, AAHP Executive Committee, other AAHP committees, teaching or other assistance in increasing knowledge of HPs, or other areas that enhance the professionalism of health physics. This award may be bestowed posthumously.

Any member of the AAHP may submit a nomination. This nomination process is done online via the [AAHP Members Only](#) page. Nominations must be received by 1 March 2020 to be considered, so drop a nomination for that deserving CHP as soon as possible!

CHP IN THE SPOTLIGHT: BRITT EDQUIST

Dan Sowers, CHP Corner Editor

We can find her hiking, biking, and skiing flanked by her border collies; we can find her visiting a different country each year driven by a passion to sample the local cuisine; we can find her making a difference as the Radiation Protection Engineering Manager at the Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP); and for the month of February we can find Britt Edquist as our CHP in the Spotlight!

Britt tells folks she “fell” into the field of health physics after inspiration and encouragement from her stepfather (also a health physicist!) but could it be her positive, contagious attitude to find the best career field out there which indeed guided many of her excellent career decisions? A Colorado native, she jumped west to earn her undergrad in chemistry at the Seattle University, then realized she missed the sun and moved to Santa Fe. Just outside of Los Alamos, she taught high school physics, chemistry, and algebra II, inspiring the next generation of minds to tackle the problems of tomorrow. It was in Santa Fe where “the talk” happened with her stepfather: she spoke with him and other colleagues in the health physics field and soon found her way to Colorado State University (CSU) for graduate studies.

Britt has been working with the ICP starting in the role of radiological engineer at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) since 2015. Taking the role as lead radiological engineer, she supported safe cleanup of transuranic waste at RWMC and decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) activities for the liquid sodium-cooled fast reactor Experimental Breeder Reactor II.

In her current role as the Radiation Protection Engineering Manager, Britt works diligently towards promoting and encouraging young and early career professionals to enter into the field of radiation protection at Environmental Management and D&D sites. This work has included developing and organizing an annual practicum at ICP with CSU and developing internship opportunities for health physics graduate students. Not busy enough you say? She also serves as the President of the Idaho Chapter of the Health Physics Society and as an ABHP Part II exam grader.

Aside from wanting a prestigious certification recognized across the health physics field, Britt needed to make good on the deal she made with her



Courtesy of Britt Edquist.

stepfather when she “fell” into a career in this field. She jumped into part I right out of graduate school, leaning on her advanced education and a couple textbooks to pass on the first attempt, although she recalls feeling quite unsure about her score leaving the exam

room. She sat for part II the year she was first eligible after taking the prep course through CSU. By this point, her extensive field work and education propelled her to victory and she had a real good feeling after part II that she was successful. Her advice for soon-to-be exam takers? “Don’t forget about Y-90!” Of course, she highly recommends time management and writing practice to ensure you can write LEGIBLY (emphasis is hers as an ABHP Part II exam grader!) for hours straight.

Britt’s success thus far may appear to have been intuitive and easy, but I’m reminded of an [open letter penned by a mechanical engineering senior](#) at Eastern Washington University recognizing the uphill struggle of his female classmates. In a profession-wide push to highlight gender equality, Britt stands tall with her many achievements. On behalf of CHPs everywhere, we raise a toast to Britt Edquist, our February CHP in the Spotlight!

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2020 CHP SALARY SURVEY

Gary Lauten, Salary Survey Coordinator

The 2020 Certified Health Physicist (CHP) survey data was collected by having CHPs submit their responses to survey questions on a web-based data entry form. As was done in previous years, data was collected in conjunction with a salary survey of the entire Health Physics Society (HPS). The HPS salary survey results will be reported separately in the Health Physics Newsletter. The survey was also available in hardcopy form for those who preferred to fax or mail their responses.

Data Analysis: The salary ranges marked by CHPs on the completed survey forms were rounded to the midpoints of those ranges before statistical analyses were performed. For example, if a CHP marked the salary range \$100,000 to \$102,499; their salary was rounded to the midpoint value of \$101,250.

Responses from CHPs who were either part time or retired were not analyzed, since the data did not allow meaningful comparisons to be made. To minimize skewing the results, data from three survey respondents were excluded from the data analysis because they indicated that they earned less than \$68,000 or more than \$220,000 per year.

Of 29 respondents attaining ABHP certification within the last two years, 76% did not receive a significant (10% or more) salary increase, whereas 24% did receive a significant salary increase. Of

respondents receiving a significant (10% or more) salary increase upon attaining ABHP certification within the last two years: 43% received this increase from their current employer, 14% from a new employer, 14% received this increase from part-time consulting, and 29% did not specify.

Data Presentation: In an effort to make the results of the survey interesting and useful, CHPs were subcategorized in several ways by education, primary job responsibility, years of experience, and combinations of these subcategories. CHP salaries by region are also presented in this report.

Readers are advised that for statistical validity, results were only given if there were 10 or more CHPs within that subcategory. Data presented for one subcategory of CHPs may not be possible for another subcategory. The subcategories in the tables may also change from year to year, depending on the number of responses received. Every effort was made to keep the subcategories consistent with previous surveys, but if there were less than 10 CHPs for a subcategory the results were not given.

Tables and Figures: Tables show results for full-time CHPs who received health, vacation, and retirement benefits from their primary employer unless otherwise noted. Histograms of the data shown in Table 1- All CHPs, and Table 2 - Masters Health Physics are included as Figures 1 and 2 respectively.

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All of the following tables are for fulltime CHPs with health, vacation, and retirement benefits unless otherwise indicated.

Table 1: All CHPs

All CHPs	Count	Average	Median	Max	Min	Std Dev
CHPs	199	\$147,911	\$151,250	\$220,000	\$68,750	\$31,359

Table 2: CHPs by Education and Field

Education	Count	Average	Median	Max	Min	Std Dev
Bachelors Health Physics	17	\$129,485	\$121,250	\$193,750	\$76,250	\$34,796
Bachelors Other Field	22	\$146,705	\$146,250	\$203,750	\$96,250	\$31,619
Masters Health Physics	81	\$151,966	\$156,250	\$220,000	\$68,750	\$29,630
Masters Other Field	24	\$147,188	\$148,750	\$196,250	\$101,250	\$33,926
Masters Nuclear Engineering	15	\$145,917	\$153,750	\$196,250	\$73,750	\$29,759
Ph.D. Health Physics	10	\$146,250	\$150,000	\$188,750	\$103,750	\$29,651
Ph.D. Other	12	\$146,250	\$151,250	\$181,250	\$86,250	\$26,586

Table 3: CHPs by Education and 6-15 Years Experience

Edu & 6-15 Yrs Experience	Count	Average	Median	Max	Min	Std Dev
All CHPs 6-15 yrs Experience	54	\$129,352	\$121,250	\$201,250	\$76,250	\$25,730
Masters Health Physics	20	\$141,125	\$148,750	\$201,250	\$96,250	\$27,464

Table 4: CHPs by Education and >15 Years Experience

Edu & >15 Yrs Experience	Count	Average	Median	Max	Min	Std Dev
All CHPs >15 yrs Experience	141	\$155,296	\$158,750	\$220,000	\$68,750	\$30,663
Bachelors Health Physics	10	\$147,000	\$146,250	\$193,750	\$106,250	\$31,930
Bachelors Other Field	18	\$153,194	\$151,250	\$203,750	\$96,250	\$30,433
Masters Health Physics	59	\$156,725	\$158,750	\$220,000	\$68,750	\$29,411
Masters Other Field	15	\$162,083	\$168,750	\$196,250	\$101,250	\$30,774
Masters Nuclear Engineering	11	\$146,932	\$156,250	\$196,250	\$73,750	\$33,950

Table 5: CHPs by U.S. Regions*

CHPs by Region	Count	Average	Median	Max	Min	Std Dev
Northeast	41	\$145,427	\$141,250	\$211,000	\$76,250	\$35,113
Midwest	35	\$145,893	\$151,250	\$196,250	\$81,250	\$26,528
South	58	\$144,159	\$146,250	\$220,000	\$68,750	\$31,267
West	45	\$150,983	\$153,750	\$220,000	\$73,750	\$31,789

*- The four major regions of the United States as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau for which data are presented represent groups of states as follows:

Northeast. Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Midwest. Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

South. Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia.

West. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

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Table 6: Masters Health Physics and Primary Employer

Masters Health Physics & Primary Employer	Count	Average	Median	Max	Min	Std Dev
Federal Government	14	\$147,143	\$152,500	\$171,250	\$91,250	\$23,750
Medical	12	\$158,896	\$165,000	\$208,000	\$101,250	\$31,686
University	11	\$130,341	\$123,750	\$203,750	\$68,750	\$42,928
Government Contractor	12	\$166,458	\$165,000	\$220,000	\$118,750	\$33,187
Other Commercial	10	\$160,375	\$158,750	\$210,000	\$133,750	\$20,950

Table 7: All CHPs by Other Certifications

All CHPs by Other Certifications	Count	Average	Median	Max	Min	Std Dev
NRRPT	34	\$148,801	\$152,500	\$220,000	\$73,750	\$33,733
Other	40	\$144,794	\$151,250	\$208,000	\$73,750	\$32,543

Table 8: Masters Health Physics and Primary Job Responsibility

Masters Health Physics & Primary Job Responsibility	Count	Average	Median	Max	Min	Std Dev
Applied Health Physics	24	\$155,729	\$160,000	\$201,250	\$68,750	\$26,601
Medical Health Physics	11	\$157,545	\$163,750	\$208,000	\$106,250	\$29,755

Table 9: All CHPs by Primary Job Responsibility

Primary Job Responsibility	Count	Average	Median	Max	Min	Std Dev
Applied Health Physics	60	\$147,879	\$151,250	\$209,000	\$68,750	\$33,778
Dosimetry	11	\$150,114	\$151,250	\$188,750	\$123,750	\$20,105
Emergency Preparedness	10	\$144,500	\$151,250	\$176,250	\$103,750	\$24,268
Environmental	10	\$152,475	\$148,750	\$211,000	\$111,250	\$28,599
Medical Health Physics	31	\$157,839	\$163,750	\$208,000	\$98,750	\$30,107
Regulations/Standards	13	\$146,250	\$151,250	\$171,250	\$111,250	\$21,842

Table 10: CHPs as Professional Staff (All CHPs in this category and by Education)

CHPs as Professional Staff	Count	Average	Median	Max	Min	Std Dev
All CHPs in this Category	91	\$141,069	\$143,750	\$220,000	\$76,250	\$28,735
Bachelors Health Physics	11	\$125,795	\$121,250	\$186,250	\$76,250	\$36,311
Bachelors Other Field	10	\$131,250	\$136,250	\$158,750	\$96,250	\$23,214
Masters Health Physics	33	\$145,682	\$151,250	\$220,000	\$91,250	\$26,129

Table 11: CHPs as Supervisor of Professional Staff (All CHPs in this category and by Education)

CHPs as Supervisor of Professional Staff	Count	Average	Median	Max	Min	Std Dev
All CHPs in this Category	31	\$149,637	\$146,250	\$220,000	\$101,250	\$30,251
Masters Health Physics	18	\$151,111	\$145,000	\$220,000	\$101,250	\$32,508

Table 12: All CHPs as RPM/RSO, University RSO, Medical RSO, University-Med RSO

CHPs as RPM/RSO	Count	Average	Median	Max	Min	Std Dev
All CHPs RPM/RSO	18	\$165,000	\$160,000	\$203,750	\$116,250	\$22,626
All CHPs University RSO	10	\$102,500	\$106,250	\$156,250	\$68,750	\$24,756
All CHPs Medical RSO	28	\$165,777	\$165,000	\$208,000	\$111,250	\$23,560
University/Medical RSO	14	\$155,554	\$152,500	\$209,000	\$106,250	\$33,535

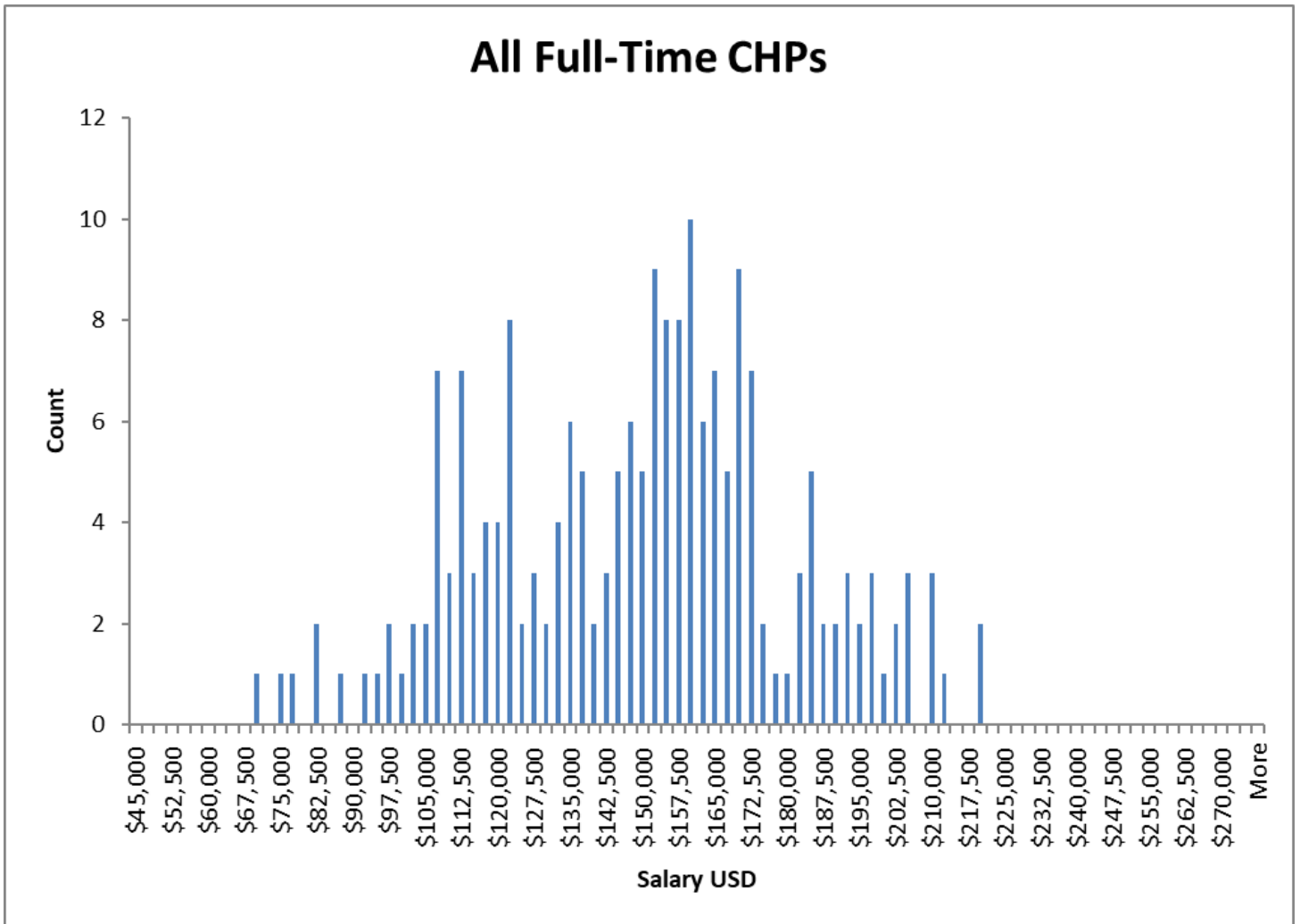


Figure 1: Histogram of Table 1 Data, all CHPs

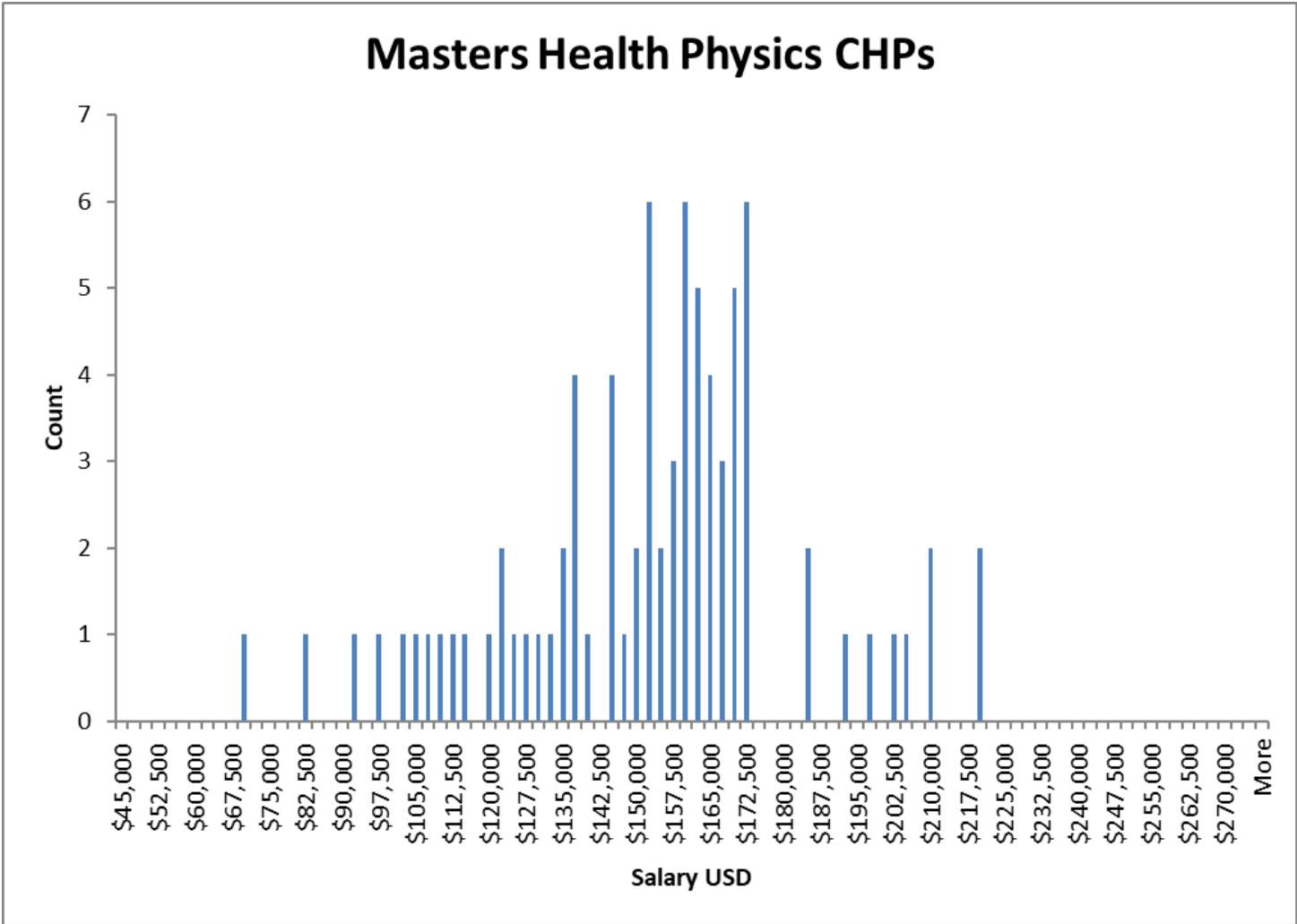


Figure 2: Histogram of Table 2 Data, Masters Health Physics CHPs

Acknowledgements

Thank you for participating in this survey. Your confidential data benefits the entire health physics community and is never shared such that it would be possible to identify individual participants.

Questions about this survey should be directed to Gary Lauten, via email: chpsalarysurvey@yahoo.com.