

Interpreter or translator?

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Legal requirement

- 1964: Passage of the Civil Rights Act. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity that receives Federal funds or other Federal financial assistance.
- 1974: Lau v Nichols, a case brought in California that was decided in the Supreme Court: This court case establishes that national origin includes language. ([quoted from Lau v. Nichols excerpts at Languagepolicy.net](#))

Language access defined

Title VI provides that **no person may be denied meaningful access** to a recipient/covered entity's benefits and services, on the basis of national origin. To comply with the Title VI requirement, a recipient/covered entity must ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to and can understand information contained in program-related written documents.

Timeline for certifications

1978: Court interpreter act (Federal)

1981: Washington State lawsuit that led to forming a state certification. First exams in 1993.

1993: Oregon court interpreter certification program established by statute.

1995: OR and WA found the Consortium for State Court Certification with NJ and MN.

1996: CA passes California Language Assistance Law and begins administering certification exams.

2012: NBCMI and CCHI become accredited certification programs.

2018: Description of interpreter and translator qualifications are included in Affordable Care Act regulations.

Translator

- Competence in two languages is necessary but not sufficient for any translation task. Though the translator must be able to (1) read and comprehend the source language and (2) write comprehensibly in the target language, the translator must also be able to (3) choose the equivalent expression in the target language that both fully conveys and best matches the meaning intended in the source language (referred to as *congruity judgment*).
- A weakness in any of these three abilities will influence performance adversely and have a negative impact on the utility of the product. Therefore, all three abilities must be considered when assessing translation skills.
- [ILR \(govtilr.org\)](http://govtilr.org)

Interpreter

- Interpretation involves the immediate communication of meaning from one language to another. Although there are correspondences between interpreting and translating, an interpreter conveys meaning orally, while a translator conveys meaning from written text to written text. As a result, interpretation requires skills different from those needed for translation.
- Command of two languages is prerequisite to any interpreting task. The interpreter must be able to (1) comprehend two languages as spoken and written (if the language has a script), (2) speak both of these languages, and (3) choose an expression in the target language that fully conveys and best matches the meaning of the source language.
- [ILR \(govtilr.org\)](http://govtilr.org)

What is a translator?

“Translators work with the written word, converting text from a source language into a target language. This is far more than replacing one word with another. The translator must also convey the style, tone, and intent of the text, while taking into account differences of culture and dialect. The finished document should read as if it had originally been written in the target language for the target audience.”

<http://najit.org/documents/03082016/T&I%20Descriptions%20-%202016-03-05.pdf>

What is a translator?

Though the translator must be able to

- (1) read and comprehend the source language and*
- (2) write comprehensibly in the target language, the translator must also be able to*
- (3) choose the equivalent expression in the target language that both fully conveys and best matches the meaning intended in the source language (referred to as congruity judgment)."*

<http://najit.org/documents/03082016/T&I%20Descriptions%20-%202016-03-05.pdf>

What is a translator?

Certified Translators:

- can document
 - certifying or assessment body
 - language combinations assessed
- Maintain Continuing Education credits
- Follow a code of professional conduct

When certification is not available for a language pair:

- sample translations reviewed by highly-qualified third parties may provide an acceptable practical alternative.

Definitions from ASTM F2089-15

Interpreting—the process of first fully understanding, analyzing, and processing a spoken or signed message and then faithfully rendering it into another spoken or signed language.

Definitions from ASTM F2089-15

Modes of interpreting:

- *Simultaneous*
- *Consecutive*
- *Sight translation*

Definitions from ASTM F2089-15

- *Simultaneous Interpreting*—the rendering of a speaker's or signer's message into another language while the speaker or signer continues to speak or sign.
- *Consecutive Interpreting*—the rendering of a speaker's or signer's message into another language when the speaker or signer pauses to allow interpreting.
- *Sight Translation*—the rendering of a written document directly into a spoken or signed language, not for purposes of producing a written document.

Interpreting skills and abilities per ASTM F2089-15

- *Concentration*
- *Knowledge of subject matter*
- *Research skills*
- *Comprehension*
- *Analytical skills*
- *Short term auditory and visual memory*
- *Consecutive note taking*
- *Cultural awareness*
- *Clear delivery and signing*
- *Interpersonal skills*
- *Flexibility*

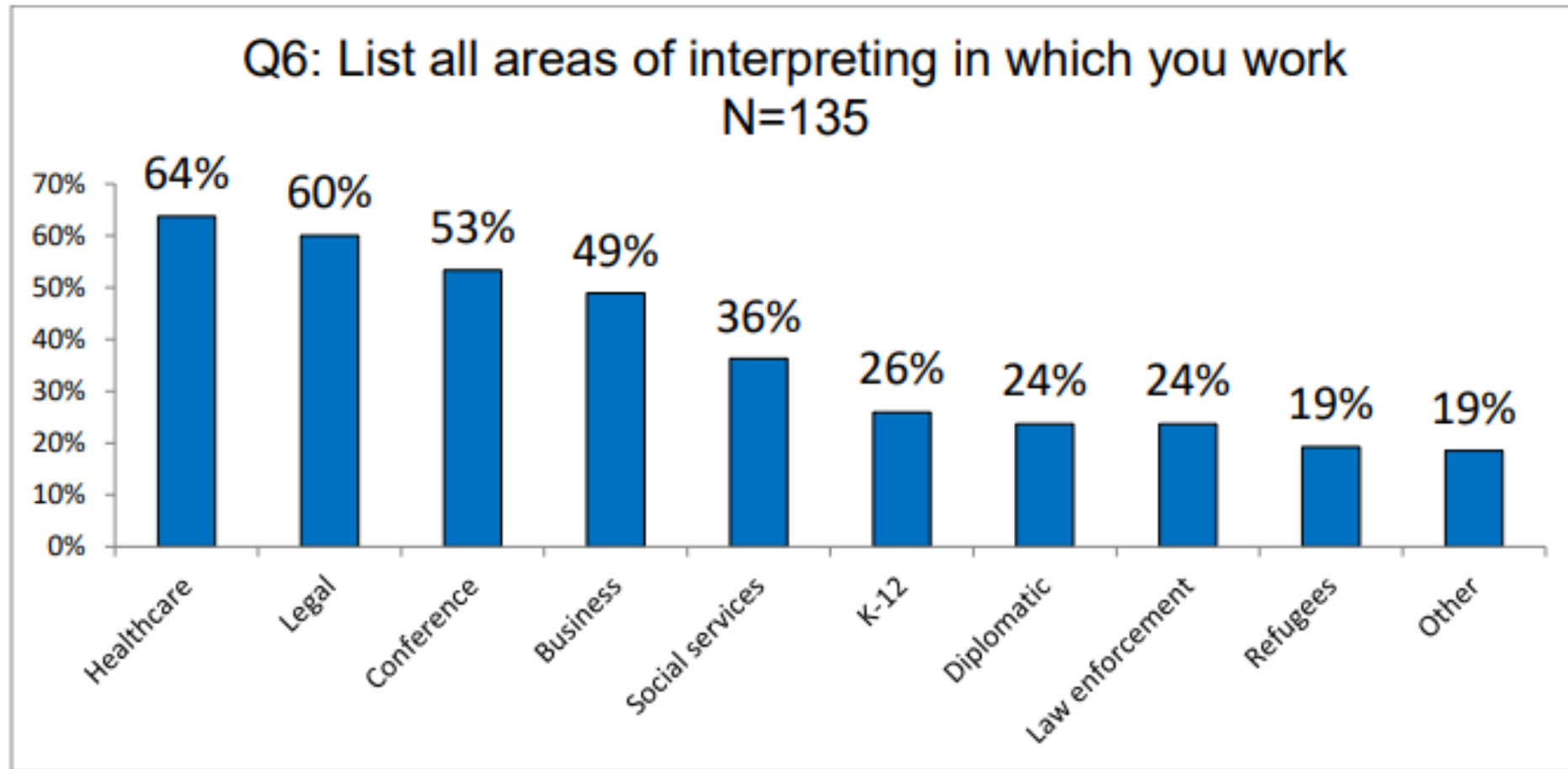
Competency levels or qualifications

- Post-secondary education or its equivalent,
- Successful completion of interpreter training by a recognized post-secondary institution,
- Endorsement by a certifying/credentialing body or professional organization,
- Qualifying scores as established by industry recognized certifying bodies in language proficiency tests,
- Qualifying scores as established by industry recognized certifying bodies (in interpreting tests as required by specific areas of interpreting; and
- Evidence of expertise and competence in interpreting demonstrated through a performance examination or experience or both as accepted by professionals in the field.

Areas of interpreting

- Diplomatic
- Conference
- Media
- Business
- Labor Relations
- Community
- Social Services
- Healthcare
- Educational
- Legal
 - Court/Judicial
 - Out-of-Court
- Security
- Military
- Disaster Relief and Humanitarian

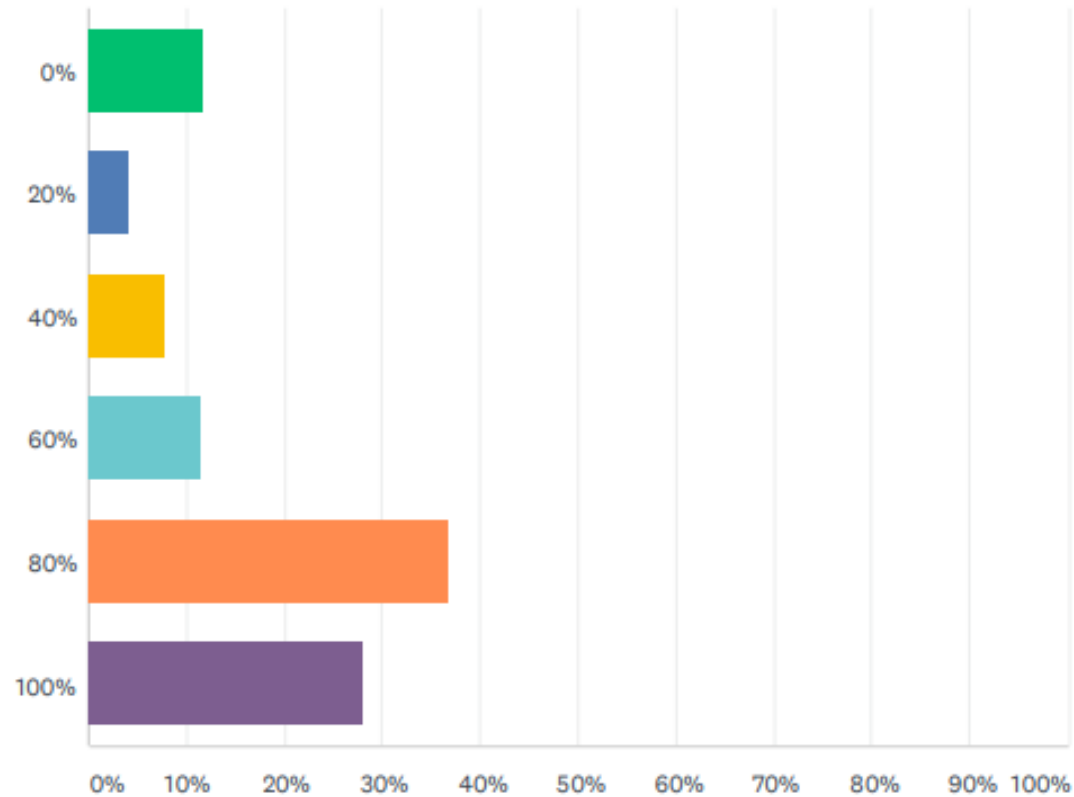
Where do interpreters work?



How did the pandemic affect interpreters?

Q12 For the months of March, April, and May 2020, how much did your interpreting income decrease by:

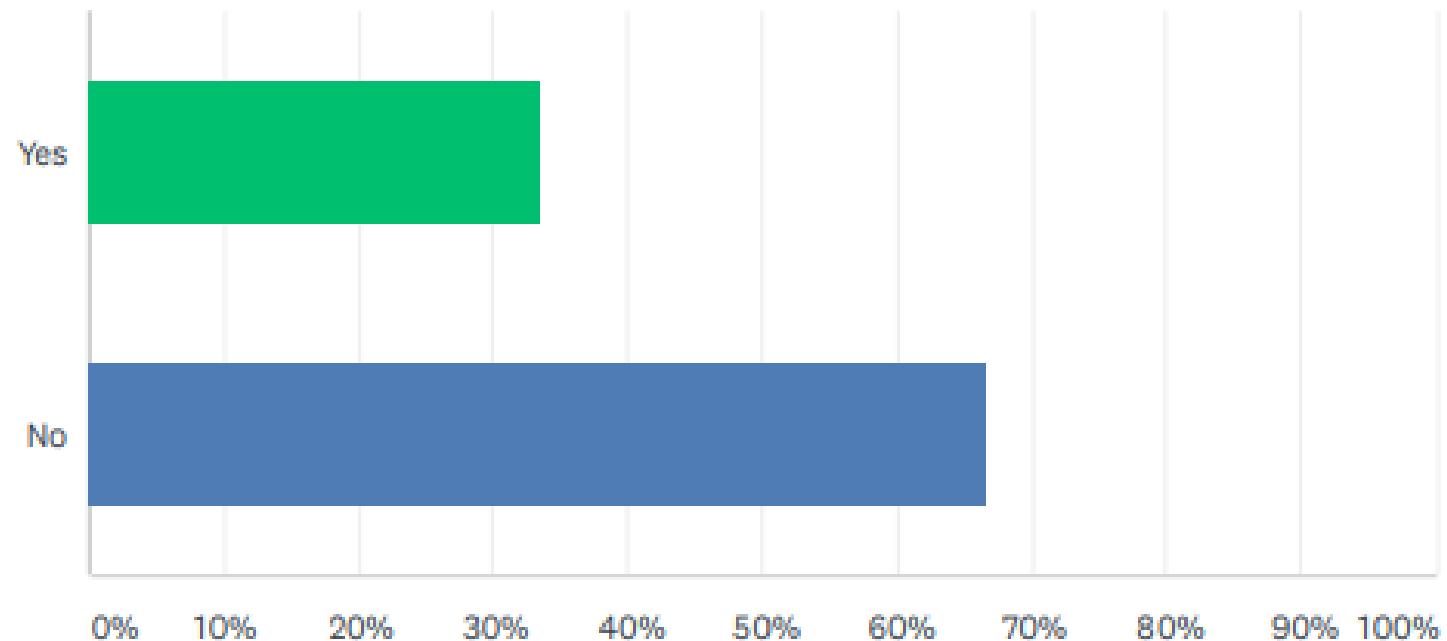
Answered: 450 Skipped: 22



Were interpreters back to normal in June 2020?

Q13 Did your interpreting income increase in June 2020?

Answered: 444 Skipped: 28



Needs analysis: Number of Interpreters required

To reduce the risk of error resulting from fatigue, during lengthy assignments interpreters should work in teams and alternate at regular predetermined intervals. **Interpreting is extremely mentally taxing because the interpreter is under pressure to preserve the form and full content of the source language message.**

<http://aiic.net/page/1125/remote-interpreting-assessment-of-human-factors-and-performance-parameters/lang/1>

Needs analysis:

Number of Interpreters required

- **Consecutive Interpreting:** It is recommended that **two interpreters** be hired **for meetings longer than 2 hours** or dealing with complex, technical and/or specialized subjects.
- **Simultaneous Interpreting:** **Two Interpreters** shall be assigned per language for any event lasting **over one hour**. Interpreters should **alternate every 15 to 30 minutes**.

Needs analysis: Preparation materials

To ensure interpreting quality and accuracy, interpreters shall have **access to or be briefed on pertinent materials** that will be discussed or referenced at the event.

- Program/agenda;
- Written text of speeches, scripts, handouts, and other printed matter;
- Reports;
- Power Point presentations;
- Materials from previous meetings;
- Classroom materials;
- Case files;
- Jury instructions; and
- Exhibits.

Code of professional conduct

- Impartiality
- Conflicts of interest
- Confidentiality
- Competency
- Accuracy
- Professional development
- Professional demeanor (cont. on next slide)

Not listed: advocacy – Not allowed in Washington State or in court interpreting

Code of professional conduct

- Professional demeanor (from previous slide)
 - Be prepared
 - Be punctual
 - Be polite, respectful and tactful to all parties
 - Be dressed appropriately
 - Avoid attracting undue attention to him/herself

Needs analysis: Basic working conditions

- **Visibility:** Interpreters need to see:
 - The speaker
 - The audience
- **Acoustics:** Interpreters need to hear the speaker well.

Requirements to work

Oregon	California	Washington
60 hours, with approved course or equivalent	40 hours required by national certifying bodies	None
If certification is available, pass certification exam. If certification is not available: Language proficiency test	Certification by NBCMI or CCHI. Both have written exams for languages with no certification exams. They both require proof of language proficiency.	Pass skills exam (for all interpreters) For the most used languages, must pass exams that verify skills in consecutive interpreting and sight translation. For other languages, they also have an interpreting test.
Work experience: 15 hrs for qualified interpreters, 30 for certified interpreters	No work experience required	No work experience required
National exams score on a composite scale.		Must pass both sections of the exam to pass.

Item	Oregon	California	Washington
60-hour training	\$450 to \$1500, approximately	\$450 to \$1500, approximately	Training is optional, not mandated.
Language proficiency testing	\$140	\$140	Not mandated
Exam	CCHI: $\$35 + \$175 + 210 = 420$ (NBCMI is similar)	CCHI: $\$35 + \$175 + 210 = 420$	Under \$90
Renewal cost	OHA does not require that interpreters renew their certification with national boards.	CCHI \$285 every 4 years NBCMI approx. 300 every 5 years This is administrative cost for renewal	Free
CE for renewal	24 hours of training, at \$0 to \$100 per hour. No administrative cost for renewal.	NBCMI: 30 hours of CE every 5 years. CCHI: 24 hours of CE plus 40 hours of work every 4 years.	5 hours of training per year. The Healthcare Interpreters Union provides free CE training.
Total	\$3000 plus renewal	\$3000 plus renewal	\$90 for a lifetime

Pay rates...

OR healthcare	OR court	WA healthcare
About \$25/hr, min 1 hr	\$46.50/hr, min 2 hours	\$42/hr, min 1 hour (2021)
Drive time: n/a	Drive time: 50% of interpreting rate, if one way distance is greater than 40 miles.	Drive time: n/a
Mileage: no.	Mileage: Federal mileage rates.	Mileage: after 20 miles, fed rate, capped at \$50,000/year
Cancellation: 2 hours	Cancellation: 2 business days at 100%	Cancellation: 1 business day at 50% 6 hr cancellation/no show: 75% time requested.

Resources

[Our Progress 2010-19.pdf \(wfse.org\)](#)

[2021-23 CBA Interpreters United.pdf \(wfse.org\)](#)

[Fees - CCHI \(cchicertification.org\)](#)

[Oregon Health Authority : Oregon Health Authority Approved Health Care Interpreter \(HCI\) Training Programs : Office of Equity and Inclusion : State of Oregon](#)

[Oregon Health Authority : Welcome to the Office of Equity and Inclusion \(OEI\) : Office of Equity and Inclusion : State of Oregon](#)

[Interpreter Job Description Recast updated Nov 23 2020.pdf \(ata-divisions.org\)](#)

Resources

[TI-Descriptions.pdf \(najit.org\)](#)

[A language access timeline for interpreting on the West Coast - Gaucha Translations](#)

[Federal Register :: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Policy Guidance on the Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination As It Affects Persons With Limited English Proficiency](#)

[ID-June-2019-all-members-survey-analysis.pdf \(ata-divisions.org\)](#)

[ID-Survey-2020-Results.pdf \(ata-divisions.org\)](#)

My position on HB 2359

[How to advocate for a law. I support HB2359 - Gaucha Translations](#)

[Oregon Healthcare Interpreting legislation update - Gaucha Translations](#)

Thank you!

Please direct any questions to Helen Eby, at
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