

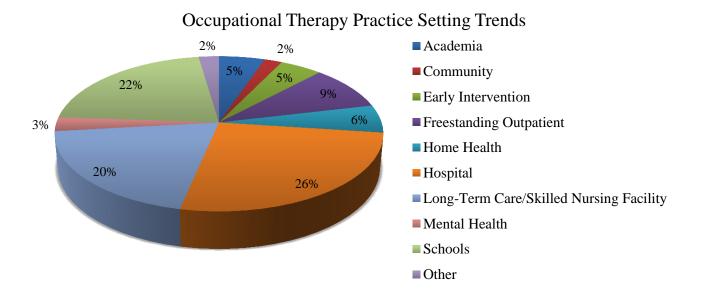
## **Occupational Therapy Fact Sheet**

### **About Occupational Therapy**

In its simplest terms, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants help people across the lifespan participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations). Common occupational therapy interventions include helping children with disabilities to participate fully in school and social situations, helping people recovering from injury to regain skills, and providing supports for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes. Occupational therapy services typically include: an individualized evaluation, during which the client/family and occupational therapist determine the person's goals, customized intervention to improve the person's ability to perform daily activities and reach the goals, and an outcomes evaluation to ensure that the goals are being met and/or make changes to the intervention plan.

Occupational therapy services may include comprehensive evaluations of the client's home and other environments (e.g., workplace, school), recommendations for adaptive equipment and training in its use, and guidance and education for family members and caregivers. Occupational therapy practitioners have a holistic perspective, in which the focus is on adapting the environment to fit the person, and the person is an integral part of the therapy team.

### **Practice Settings**<sup>2</sup>



#### **Education**

All occupational therapy practitioners must graduate from an accredited program. Since 2007, all occupational therapists must enter the field with a master's level degree or professional doctoral degree (OTD). Occupational therapy assistants enter the field with an associate's degree. Practitioners must also abide by licensure requirements per the state in which they practice. OT's and OTA's must also meet national and state continuing education requirements to maintain licensure.



# **Number of Currently Licensed Occupational Therapy Practitioners by State**

State	Regulated OT's	Regulated OTA's	2012 Totals
Alabama	1,194	621	1,815
Alaska	293	30	323
Arizona	1,824	638	2,462
Arkansas	1,189	295	1,484
California	9,716	2,283	11,999
Colorado	2,630	350	2,980
Connecticut	1,992	641	2,633
Delaware	433	216	649
District of Columbia	470	21	491
Florida	7,186	2,920	10,106
Georgia	2,906	851	3,757
Hawaii	551	50	601
Idaho	520	141	661
Illinois	5,660	2,260	7,920
Indiana	2,880	1,325	4,205
Iowa	1,119	438	1,557
Kansas	1,444	424	1,868
Kentucky	1,905	653	2,558
Louisiana	1,695	520	2,215
Maine	1,014	222	1,236
Maryland	2,670	586	3,256
Massachusetts	5,086	1,850	6,936
Michigan	4,879	1,481	6,360
Minnesota	3,062	945	4,007
Mississippi	898	431	1,329
Missouri	2,964	1,074	4,038
Montana	320	74	394
Nebraska	921	149	1,070
Nevada	595	187	782
New Hampshire	1,147	250	1,397
New Jersey	4,564	576	5,140
New Mexico	843	295	1,138
New York	10,712	4,032	14,744
North Carolina	3,271	1,433	4,704
North Dakota	470	165	635
Ohio	4,672	3,399	8,071
Oklahoma	815	737	1,552
	1,550	290	1,840
Oregon Pennsylvania	6,862	2,812	9,674
Pennsylvania Puerto Rico	635	352	9,674
Rhode Island	630	383	
South Carolina	1,532	735	1,013 2,267
South Carolina South Dakota	402	122	524
Tennessee	2,372 7,515	1,134	3,506
Texas	,	3,431	10,946 807
Utah	574		
Vermont	370	111	481
Virginia	3,033	929	3,962
Washington	2,890	655	3,545
West Virginia	570	347	917
Wisconsin	3,351	1,258	4,609
Wyoming	297	111	408
2012 Totals	127,093	45,466	172,559