

Occupational Therapy Fact Sheet

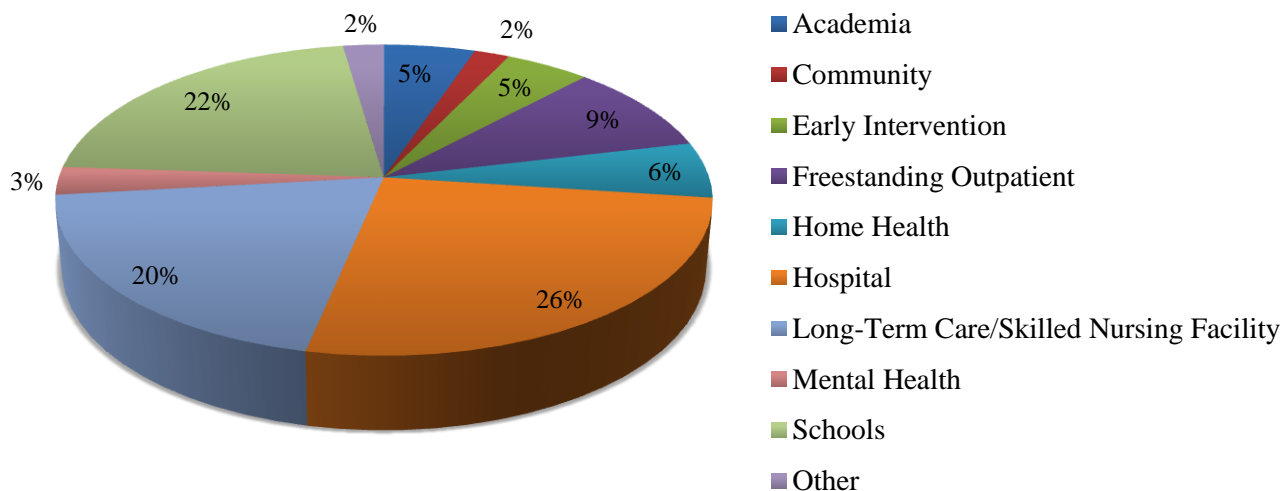
About Occupational Therapy

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 Settings²

Occupational Therapy Practice Setting Trends



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	2014 Totals
Alabama	1,286	689	1,975
Alaska	335	45	380
Arizona	1,974	816	2,790
Arkansas	1,328	407	1,735
California	12,558	2,412	14,970
Colorado	2,570	470	3,040
Connecticut	2,181	754	2,935
Delaware	518	266	784
District of Columbia	539	28	567
Florida	7,705	3,924	11,629
Georgia	3,153	1,050	4,203
Hawaii	601	50	651
Idaho	552	191	743
Illinois	5,944	2,094	8,038
Indiana	3,086	1,694	4,780
Iowa	1,297	524	1,821
Kansas	1,527	582	2,109
Kentucky	2,060	835	2,895
Louisiana	1,817	632	2,449
Maine	1,128	235	1,363
Maryland	2,917	723	3,640
Massachusetts	5,434	1,955	7,389
Michigan	5,216	1,644	6,860
Minnesota	3,363	1,029	4,392
Mississippi	979	507	1,486
Missouri	3,195	1,382	4,577
Montana	360	85	445
Nebraska	1,035	187	1,222
Nevada	681	203	884
New Hampshire	1,199	271	1,470
New Jersey	5,171	709	5,880
New Mexico	806	323	1,129
New York	11,610	3,995	15,605
North Carolina	3,417	1,559	4,976
North Dakota	525	176	701
Ohio	4,910	3,926	8,836
Oklahoma	876	858	1,734
Oregon	1,702	386	2,088
Pennsylvania	7,398	3,122	10,520
Puerto Rico	635	352	987
Rhode Island	688	479	1,167
South Carolina	1,738	885	2,623
South Dakota	436	145	581
Tennessee	2,294	1,236	3,530
Texas	8,511	4,181	12,692
Utah	657	286	943
Vermont	387	117	504
Virginia	3,233	1,040	4,273
Washington	3,081	831	3,912
West Virginia	648	418	1,066
Wisconsin	3,545	1,373	4,918
Wyoming	348	128	476
2014 Totals	139,154	52,209	191,363