

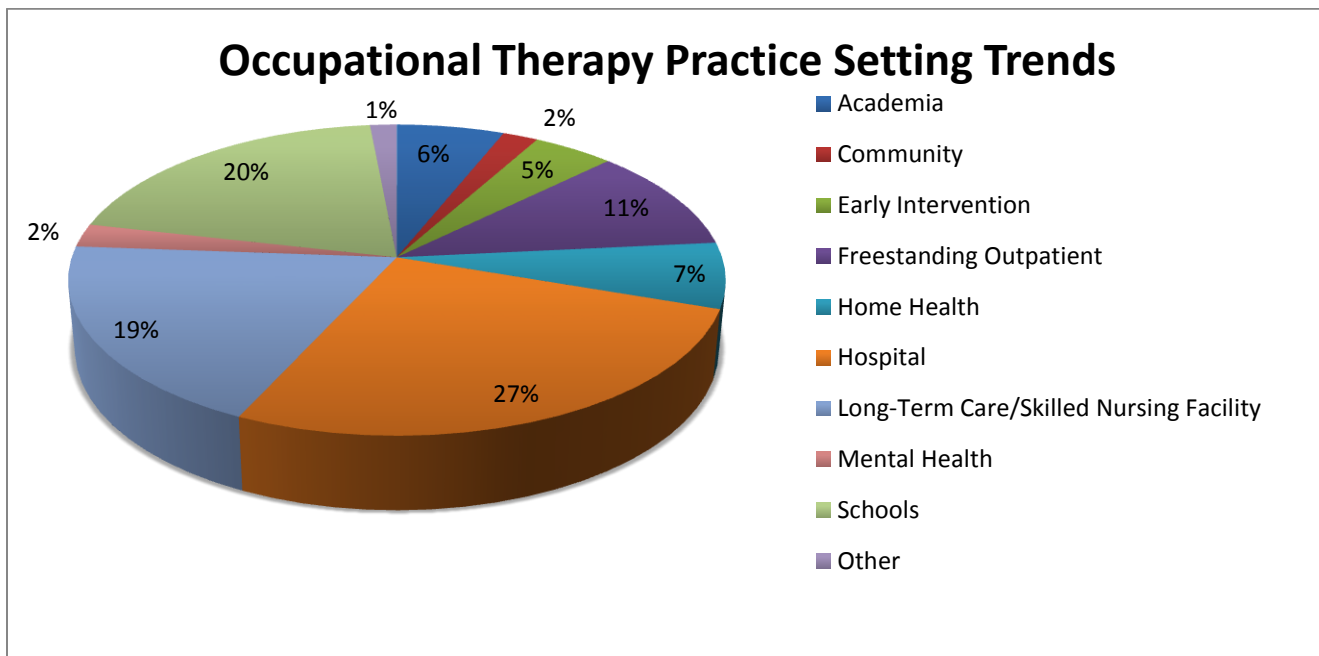
## Occupational Therapy Fact Sheet

### 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



### 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.

2017 State Regulatory Entity Survey Results: Number of Licensed/Regulated OT/OTAs

State	# of regulated OTs	# of regulated OTAs	2017 Totals
Alabama	1,477	857	2,334
Alaska	384	43	427
Arizona	2,330	1,119	3,449
Arkansas	1,518	697	2,215
California	13,323	2,933	16,256
Colorado	3,269	774	4,043
Connecticut	2,553	981	3,534
Delaware	653	332	985
District of Columbia	699	47	746
Florida	8,384	5,029	13,413
Georgia	3,534	1,327	4,861
Hawaii	759	94	853
Idaho	692	277	969
Illinois	6,736	2,909	9,645
Indiana	3,230	1,827	5,057
Iowa	1,399	663	2,062
Kansas	1,627	771	2,398
Kentucky	2,313	1,005	3,318
Louisiana	1,936	740	2,676
Maine	1,333	252	1,585
Maryland	3,222	925	4,147
Massachusetts	5,571	1,915	7,486
Michigan	5,900	1,907	7,807
Minnesota	3,755	1,127	4,882
Mississippi	1,053	587	1,640
Missouri	3,590	1,783	5,373
Montana	458	107	565
Nebraska	1,173	219	1,392
Nevada	883	250	1,133
New Hampshire	1,382	323	1,705
New Jersey	6,165	1,034	7,199
New Mexico	927	443	1,370
New York	12,948	4,003	16,951
North Carolina	3,968	1,903	5,871
North Dakota	593	181	774
Ohio	6,007	4,676	10,683
Oklahoma	981	1,079	2,060
Oregon	1,928	474	2,402
Pennsylvania	8,383	3,710	12,093
Puerto Rico	752	641	1,393
Rhode Island	743	563	1,306
South Carolina	1,915	937	2,852
South Dakota	488	165	653
Tennessee	2,721	1,517	4,238
Texas	9,646	5,396	15,042
Utah	864	363	1,227
Vermont	417	121	538
Virginia	3,888	1,411	5,299
Washington	3,060	950	4,010
West Virginia	671	512	1,183
Wisconsin	3,897	1,524	5,421
Wyoming	367	148	515
<b>2017 Totals</b>	<b>156,465</b>	<b>63,571</b>	<b>220,036</b>