



Physical Therapist Member Demographic Profile 2016-2017

The Physical Therapist Practice Profile is a survey conducted by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) to elicit information from its PT members on a number of issues that are important to the profession. The following tables present demographic data for physical therapists by sex, race/ethnic origin, age, number of years in the profession, highest earned academic degree, professional (entry-level) degree, employment status, and employment facility/setting. The survey was conducted in late 2016 and early 2017. A total of 47,620 survey emails were successfully delivered and 7,490 responses were received (15.7%). Because respondents did not always answer all items, the sample size may vary across tables.

Table 1. Sex, by Percentage

Sex	2000	2002	2004	2005	2006	2008	2010	2013	2016
Female	69.7	69.0	67.8	68.2	69.1	68.1	68.3	69.9	69.4
Male	30.3	31.0	32.2	31.8	30.9	31.9	31.7	30.1	30.6

Table 2. Race/Ethnic Origin, by Percentage

Race/Ethnic Origin	2016*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.4
Asian	5.4
African American or Black (Not of Hispanic origin)	1.5
White (Not of Hispanic origin)	88.5
Hispanic/Latino	2.5
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	0.2
Other	1.5

**Only responses from 2016 are reported in the table regarding race/ethnic origin. This decision was made as the question was changed in 2016 to be consistent with the categories used in APTA's membership database.*

Table 3. Age, by Percentage

Age	2000	2002	2004	2005	2006	2008	2010	2013	2016
20-24	2.8	2.1	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.6
25-29	18.0	14.7	10.9	14.4	11.4	12.9	13.4	14.3	16.9
30-34	16.9	16.4	16.3	15.5	14.3	14.5	13.2	13.8	14.0
35-39	14.7	14.2	16.4	15.9	14.7	14.3	12.8	10.4	10.4
40-44	14.0	15.7	15.4	13.5	14.5	13.6	12.8	11.6	10.3
45-49	13.9	14.8	15.4	13.5	14.9	13.5	12.6	12.6	11.4
50-54	8.7	13.1	14.7	13.1	14.1	12.9	13.4	11.7	11.3
55-59	5.0	6.0	7.6	8.7	10.3	10.8	12.1	13.0	11.3
60-64	1.9	2.0	2.3	3.0	4.0	4.4	6.5	7.9	8.4

65+	4.2	1.1	0.6	1.4	0.8	2.2	2.3	3.8	5.3
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Table 4. Years in the Profession, by Percentage

Years in the Profession	2000	2002	2004	2005	2006	2008	2010	2013	2016*
<1	6.7	3.2	0.3	2.6	3.3	4.5	5.0	5.2	6.4
1-3	16.1	12.6	8.0	10.3	7.4	8.8	9.9	11.0	14.4
4-5	7.7	8.1	9.5	8.2	6.5	5.8	5.3	6.1	6.7
6-10	15.4	16.4	18.9	18.7	17.2	16.1	13.4	11.3	11.6
11-15	12.1	13.2	14.0	13.4	14.2	14.7	14.0	12.9	9.8
16-20	12.2	12.8	13.1	11.4	12.9	12.1	11.9	11.3	12.8
21-30	18.8	23.5	24.7	21.9	24.1	21.8	21.6	20.1	20.2
31+	11.0	10.3	11.5	13.6	14.4	16.3	18.9	22.2	18.0

*2016 data comes from the APTA membership database and was calculated based on the number of years since graduation from the entry-level PT program.

Table 5. Highest Earned Degree, by Percentage*

Highest Earned Degree	2005	2006	2008	2010	2013	2016
Baccalaureate	30.5	30.7	27.3	24.7	19.0	15.8
Master's	45.9	41.8	37.6	32.0	27.8	20.2
PhD (or equivalent)	6.1	5.4	4.9	5.8	5.6	5.3
DPT (entry-level)	6.4	10.4	15.7	20.7	29.2	38.7
tDPT (transition)	8.8	8.9	11.6	13.8	15.2	17.1
PhD (or equivalent) and DPT	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.7
PhD (or equivalent) and tDPT	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.9
Other	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.4

*Only responses from 2005 to 2016 are reported because the question was asked differently in these years to reflect the acceleration of awarding the transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (tDPT) degree.

Table 6. Professional (Entry-Level) Degree, by Percentage

Entry-Level Education	2000	2002	2004	2005	2006	2008	2010	2013	2016
Baccalaureate	55.2	54.0	54.0	48.5	51.8	47.4	47.1	41.9	37.2
Postbaccalaureate certificate	7.9	6.2	5.7	5.3	3.4	3.7	3.3	3.2	2.6
Master's	34.0	35.5	35.5	37.6	34.6	33.9	30.2	27.9	24.2
Doctoral	0.8	2.2	3.1	7.2	8.4	13.0	17.3	25.5	34.7
Other	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.9	2.0	2.1	1.4	1.3

Table 7. Employment Status, by Percentage

Employment Status	2000	2002	2004	2005	2006	2008	2010	2013	2016
Full-time salaried	65.0	76.2	69.1	59.6	60.4	57.9	57.9	58.6	58.0
Part-time salaried	13.0	9.8	10.9	4.6	4.6	5.3	4.7	5.2	3.8
Full-time self-employed	10.8	8.3	13.9	11.9	12.2	11.0	12.3	9.7	8.7

Part-time self employed	5.2	3.6	4.7	2.8	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.0	2.8
Full-time hourly	---	---	---	12.0	11.7	12.8	12.9	12.8	15.8
Part-time hourly	---	---	---	7.2	7.0	7.8	7.5	7.6	8.0
Retired	3.6	0.8	0.2	0.9	0.5	1.1	1.0	1.8	1.8
Unemployed/not seeking work	1.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3
Unemployed/seeking full-time employment	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.5
Unemployed/seeking part-time employment	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2

**These categories were not included in the years indicated.*

Table 8. Facility/Setting, by Percentage*

Facility/Setting	2010	2013	2016
Acute care hospital	11.4	11.0	11.4
Health system or hospital-based outpatient facility or clinic	20.9	20.3	21.8
Private outpatient office or group practice	33.6	33.0	31.3
Skilled nursing facility (SNF)/Long-term care	5.1	4.2	4.4
Patient's home/home care	6.8	6.7	6.5
School system (preschool/primary/secondary)	3.6	3.8	3.3
Academic institution (postsecondary)	9.6	10.4	10.6
Health and wellness facility	.5	.3	0.6
Research center	.2	.2	0.3
Industry	.5	.5	0.5
Inpatient rehab facility (IRF)	3.0	3.9	3.7
Other	4.7	5.9	5.7

**In order to better represent current practice, in 2010 APTA updated its standard list of facility types (practice settings). Thus, only 2010-2016 data is presented here.*

[Contact: research-dept@apta.org | Last Updated 2/5/19]