

Physical Therapist Member Demographic Profile 2013

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has been conducting Membership or Practice Profiles since 1978 that, in part, collect information that provides a demographic description of its physical therapist members. The following presents key findings from this year's survey, as well as comparisons to the most recent surveys.

Sex. Respondents have remained predominantly female. There have been small fluctuations over the past few years, but overall the percentage of females has remained steady.

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

Race/Ethnic Origin. This was the third year that we asked this question in two parts. This decision was made so that we would collect information in the same manner as the federal government, as well as capture information about individuals with multiple racial backgrounds. First, respondents were asked whether or not they are of Hispanic or Latino origin. Then, they were asked to select the category or categories that best described their race.

There has been little change overall in the racial/ethnic origin of respondents. As has been found since data were initially collected, more than nine of ten respondents are white.

Ethnic Origin	2008	2010	2013
Hispanic or Latino	2.0	2.1	2.4
Not Hispanic or Latino	98.0	97.9	97.6

Race	2008	2010	2013
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.6	0.5	.8
Asian	4.1	4.7	4.7
Black or African American	1.6	1.4	1.2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.3	0.3	.3
White	93.0	92.7	91.7

Age. The mean age has increased slightly over the period between 2000 and the present, from 39.4 years in 2000 to 44.1 years in 2013. The smallest cohort remains those between 20-24 years old; however, it is likely that younger PTs were under represented in recent samples due to changes in the way new graduates are coded in the membership database. Also, it is possible that some in this cohort haven't yet updated their contact information in our database following graduation, contributing to their under representation.

Age	2000	2002	2004	2005	2006	2008	2010	2013
20-24	2.8	2.1	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9
25-29	18.0	14.7	10.9	14.4	11.4	12.9	13.4	14.3
30-34	16.9	16.4	16.3	15.5	14.3	14.5	13.2	13.8
35-39	14.7	14.2	16.4	15.9	14.7	14.3	12.8	10.4
40-44	14.0	15.7	15.4	13.5	14.5	13.6	12.8	11.6
45-49	13.9	14.8	15.4	13.5	14.9	13.5	12.6	12.6
50-54	8.7	13.1	14.7	13.1	14.1	12.9	13.4	11.7
55-59	5.0	6.0	7.6	8.7	10.3	10.8	12.1	13.0
60-64	1.9	2.0	2.3	3.0	4.0	4.4	6.5	7.9
65+	4.2	1.1	0.6	1.4	0.8	2.2	2.3	3.8

Years in the Profession. The mean number of years that respondents had been in practice in 2013 was 18.4 years. The largest cohort had been in practice for over 30 years (22.2%). On the other hand, the smallest percentage of respondents had been practicing less than one year (5.2%). As noted above, this group was likely under sampled.

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

Highest Earned Degree. Only responses from 2005 to 2013 are reported in the table below regarding highest earned degree. This decision was made as the question was asked differently in these years to reflect the acceleration of awarding the transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (tDPT) degree. In 2005, 21.4% of respondents indicated that their highest earned degree was a doctorate (either a DPT or other doctorate). In 2013, this percentage increased to 51.2%. These results were expected as the awarding of the clinical doctorate (including the transitional DPT degree) is a recent occurrence in physical therapy education.

Highest Earned Degree	2005	2006	2008	2010	2013
Baccalaureate	30.5	30.7	27.3	24.7	19.0
Master's	45.9	41.8	37.6	32.0	27.8
PhD (or equivalent)	6.1	5.4	4.9	5.8	5.6
DPT (entry-level)	6.4	10.4	15.7	20.7	29.2
tDPT (transition)	8.8	8.9	11.6	13.8	15.2
PhD (or equivalent) and DPT	0	0.2	0.2	.3	0.6
PhD (or equivalent) and tDPT	0.1	0.3	0.5	.6	0.6
Other	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0

Professional (Entry-Level) Degree. The professional (entry-level) degree held by the largest percentage of respondents (41.9%) continued to be the baccalaureate degree. These results were not surprising as they appear to be related to the age of respondents. Many of the respondents in the older age cohort only had the opportunity to enroll in a baccalaureate degree program. The percentage of recipients of an entry-level DPT degree increased to 25.5%. It will be interesting to track changes in the doctoral degree in the future as more education programs continue to award a DPT degree. The assumption is, clearly, that the percentage of individuals with a doctoral degree will increase substantially during future administrations of the survey.

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

Employment Status. The vast majority of respondents were practicing on either a full or part-time basis. Data also indicate that physical therapy remains a very viable profession in terms of employment opportunities. Only one percent of respondents indicated that they were unemployed and seeking work.

Employment Status	2000	2002	2004	2005	2006	2008	2010	2013
Full-time salaried	65.0	76.2	69.1	59.6	60.4	57.9	57.9	58.6
Part-time salaried	13.0	9.8	10.9	4.6	4.6	5.3	4.7	5.2
Full-time self employed	10.8	8.3	13.9	11.9	12.2	11.0	12.3	9.7
Part-time self employed	5.2	3.6	4.7	2.8	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.0
Full-time hourly	---	---	---	12.0	11.7	12.8	12.9	12.8
Part-time hourly	---	---	---	7.2	7.0	7.8	7.5	7.6
Retired	3.6	0.8	0.2	0.9	0.5	1.1	1.0	1.8
Unemployed/not seeking work	1.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3
Unemployed/seeking full-time employment	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.6
Unemployed/seeking part-time employment	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4

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

Facility/Setting. In order to better represent current practice, in 2010 APTA updated its standard list of facility types (practice settings). Since this is the second year that the new description of settings appeared on the survey, we are only reporting the 2010 and 2013 data.

The largest percentage of respondents reported being employed in outpatient settings. Nearly one-third of respondents (33.0%) were employed in private practice settings. An additional 20.3% were employed in health system or hospital based outpatient facilities.

Facility/Setting	2010	2013
Acute care hospital	11.4	11.0
Health system or hospital-based outpatient facility or clinic	20.9	20.3
Private outpatient office or group practice	33.6	33.0
Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)/Long Term Care	5.1	4.2
Patient's home/home care	6.8	6.7
School system (preschool/primary/secondary)	3.6	3.8
Academic institution (post-secondary)	9.6	10.4
Health and wellness facility	.5	.3
Research center	.2	.2
Industry	.5	.5
Inpatient Rehab Facility (IRF)	3.0	3.9
Other (please specify)	4.7	5.9