



2025
**FSBPT Census of Licensed Physical
Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants
in the United States**

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Introduction

In the face of pervasive workforce shortages, health workforce data collection has emerged as a top national and state priority. Access to health workforce data is essential to inform various aspects of policy and programs, such as identifying areas of health workforce shortage, planning for educational programs and regulatory policy changes, and forecasting employment demands.

Health workforce data collection has been a national priority for decades. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), in collaboration with national organizations, established minimum data set survey tools for several health professions, including physical therapy, in 2013. Detailed information about the health workforce is necessary to evaluate existing programs and to plan for future needs.

Using data from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), this report presents the 2025 census of licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. FSBPT is a membership organization comprised of fifty-three bodies charged with the regulation of physical therapy in their respective jurisdiction. All jurisdictional licensing boards regulating physical therapy in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands require an individual to be legally authorized to practice as a physical therapist or work as a physical therapist assistant. To legally provide physical therapy services, a jurisdiction may require a license, certification (PTA only), compact privilege, or, in limited jurisdictions, a registration limited to the provision of physical therapy via telehealth technologies. This report is an attempt to provide information about the physical therapy workforce including, but not limited to, information about the number of active licenses in the United States, the age of the physical therapists/physical therapist assistants, the sex of the physical therapists/physical therapist assistants, the percentage of physical therapists educated at entry-level programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation on Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), and the entry-level degree of physical therapists (bachelors, masters, doctorate).

Methodology

The source of data for this census is FSBPT's Examination, Licensure, and Disciplinary Database (ELDD). The ELDD is a secure, comprehensive national physical therapy database of disciplinary, licensure, and FSBPT examination score information (National Physical Therapy Examination, Law Examinations, and the Jurisprudence Assessment Module). The FSBPT mission is to protect the public by providing service and leadership that promote safe and competent physical therapy practice. The ELDD supports public protection by notifying other states of disciplinary actions against individuals who are licensed or seeking score transfers from other jurisdictions, which helps prevent those who have sanctions from evading penalties by relocating (Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, 2023).

Table 1: Data Sources

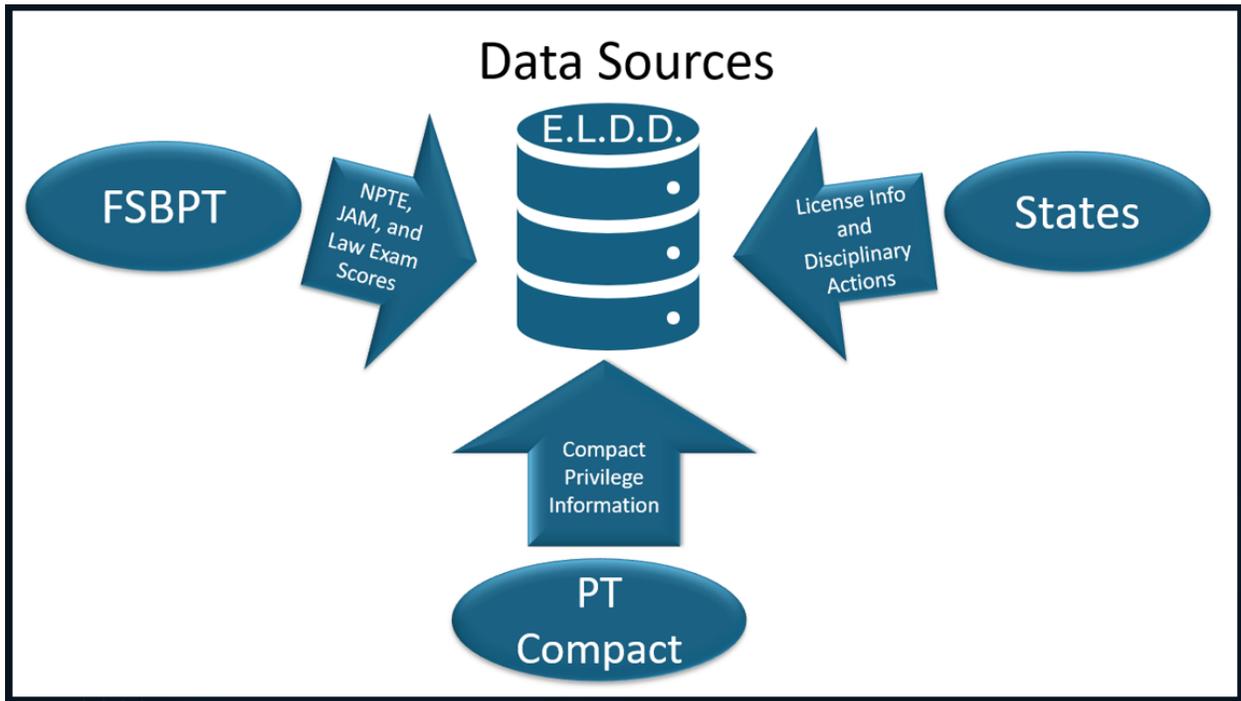
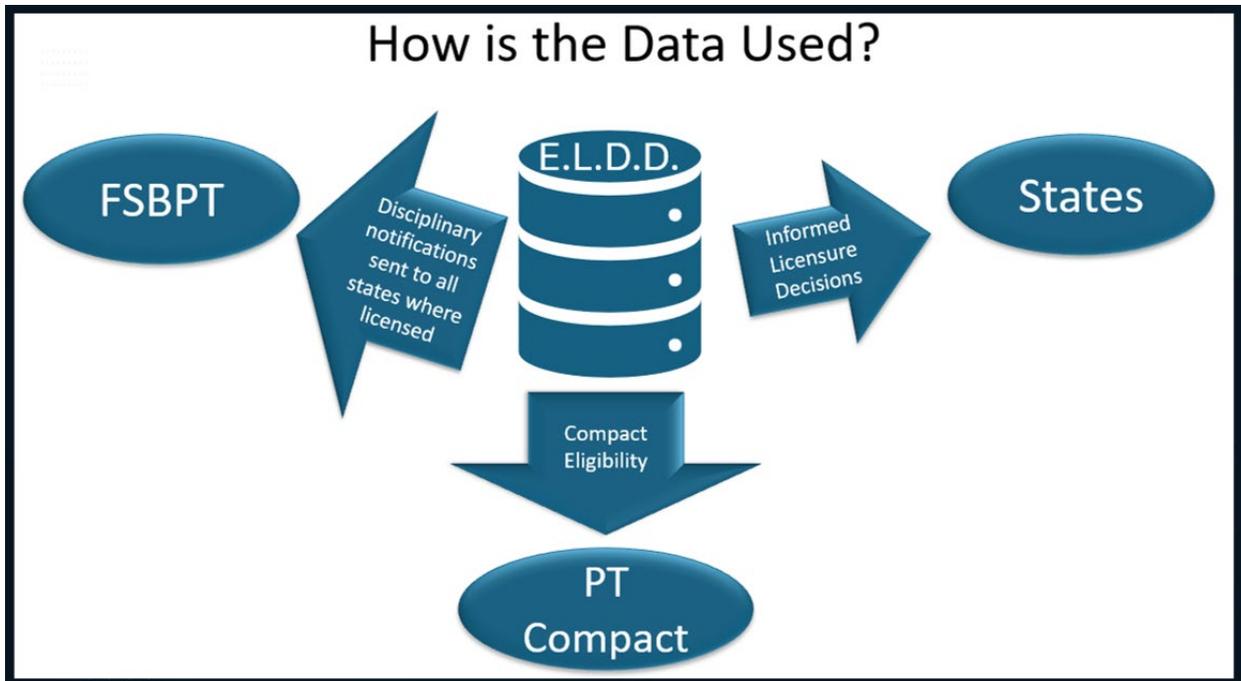


Table 2: How is the Data Used?

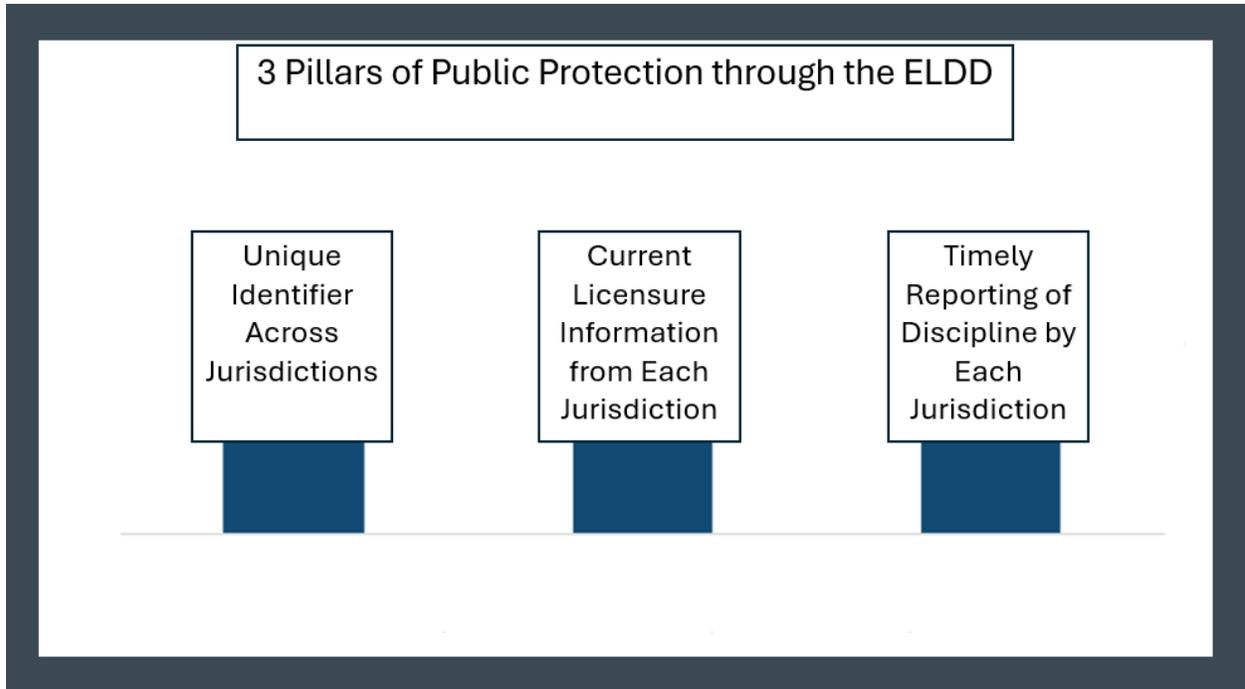


The data provided by FSBPT also includes school and candidate registration details. Having the ELDD information compiled in a single database enhances public protection. When disciplinary actions are reported to the ELDD, the FSBPT proactively disseminates disciplinary notifications to all jurisdictions

where the individual holds a license. For the ELDD to be effective, member jurisdictions must follow three requirements:

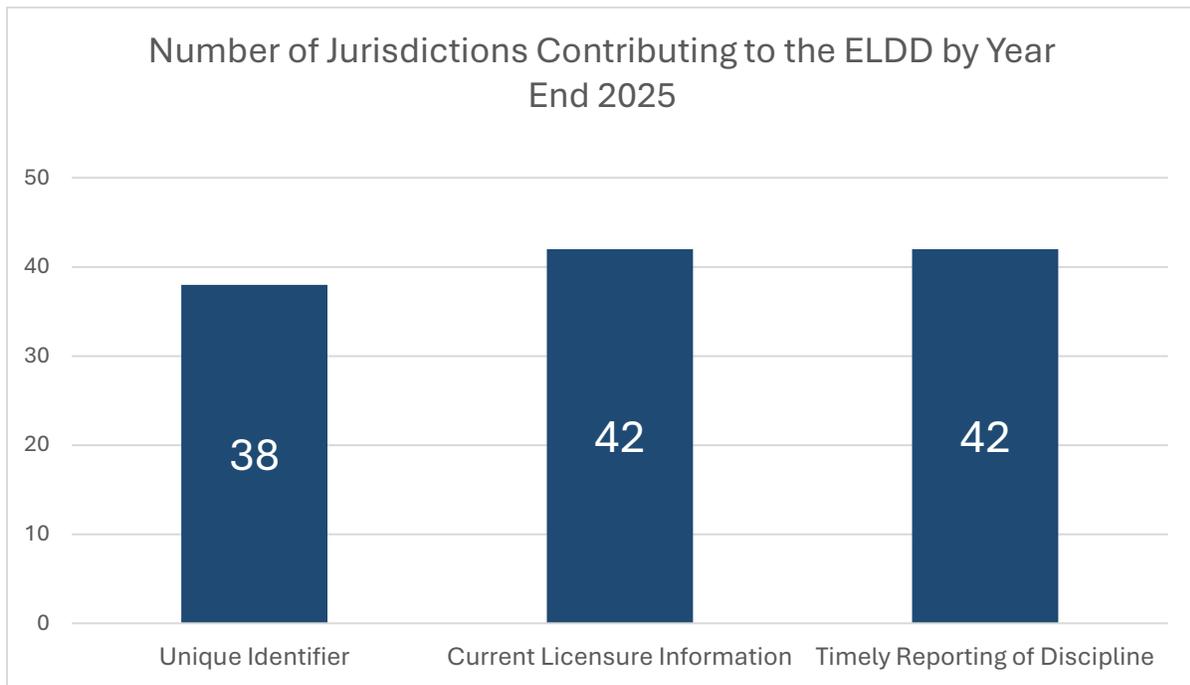
1. Use of a unique identifier across jurisdictions (the FSBPT ID)
2. Current licensure information from each jurisdiction (the goal is no less than weekly licensure information sharing by each jurisdiction)
3. Timely reporting of disciplinary action by each jurisdiction

Table 3: 3 Pillars of Public Protection through ELDD



Unfortunately, not all jurisdictions are actively contributing to the ELDD. Therefore, FSBPT staff attempt to fill gaps in the data by either requesting license information from those jurisdictions that do not contribute or downloading the information from a public download site, if available. In both situations, the data often lack important elements that are included when jurisdictions proactively provide licensure information. The charts below list the number of jurisdictions contributing to each of the following areas of the ELDD as of December 31, 2025:

Table 4: Number of Jurisdiction Contributing to the ELDD by Year End 2025



The lack of contribution by some jurisdictions, especially those with large numbers of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, is a limitation of this study.

Table 5: Jurisdictions Providing FSBPT ID In 2025

38 Jurisdictions Providing FSBPT ID In 2025		
Alabama	Kentucky	Ohio
Alaska	Louisiana	Oklahoma
Arizona	Maryland	Oregon
Arkansas	Minnesota	Pennsylvania
California	Mississippi	South Carolina
Colorado	Missouri	South Dakota
Delaware	Montana	Texas
District of Columbia	Nebraska	Utah
Florida	Nevada	Virginia
Georgia	New Jersey	Washington
Indiana	New Hampshire	West Virginia
Iowa	North Carolina	Wisconsin
Kansas	North Dakota	

Table 6: Jurisdictions Providing Weekly Licensure Files In 2025

42 Jurisdictions Providing Weekly Licensure Files In 2025		
Alabama	Kentucky	Oklahoma
Alaska	Louisiana	Oregon
Arizona	Maryland	Pennsylvania
Arkansas	Minnesota	South Carolina
California	Mississippi	South Dakota
Colorado	Missouri	Tennessee
Delaware	Montana	Texas
District of Columbia	Nebraska	Utah
Florida	Nevada	Vermont
Georgia	New Hampshire	Virgin Islands
Idaho	New Jersey	Virginia
Indiana	North Carolina	Washington
Iowa	North Dakota	West Virginia
Kansas	Ohio	Wisconsin

Table 7: Jurisdictions Reporting Timely Disciplinary Actions In 2025

42 Jurisdictions Reporting Timely Disciplinary Actions In 2025		
Alabama	Maryland	Oregon
Alaska	Minnesota	Pennsylvania
Arizona	Mississippi	Rhode Island
Arkansas	Missouri	South Carolina
California	Montana	South Dakota
Colorado	Nebraska	Tennessee
Delaware	Nevada	Texas
District of Columbia	New Hampshire	Utah
Georgia	New Jersey	Virgin Islands
Indiana	New Mexico	Virginia
Iowa	North Carolina	Washington
Kansas	North Dakota	West Virginia
Kentucky	Ohio	Wisconsin
Louisiana	Oklahoma	Wyoming

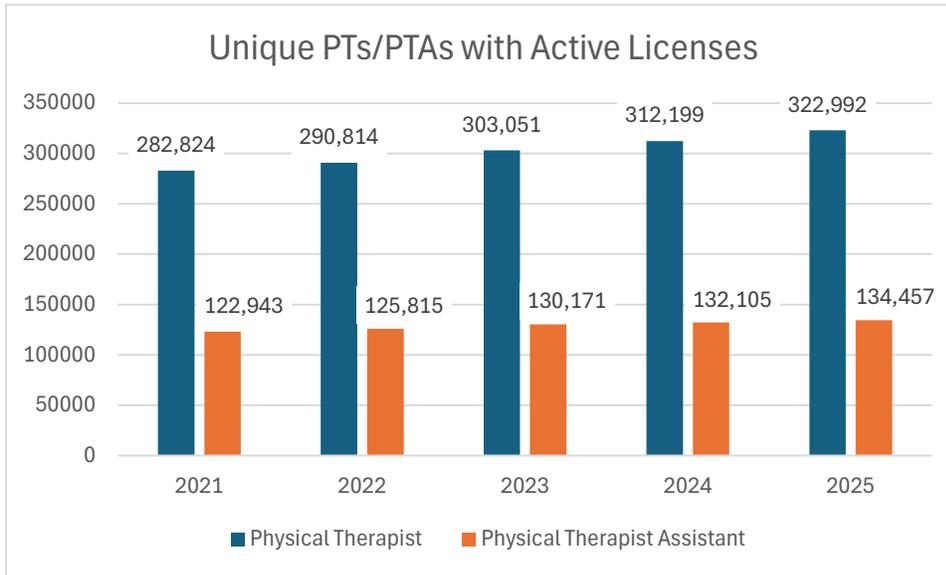
In addition to its role in public protection, the ELDD contains a wealth of information about individuals licensed to provide physical therapy care. FSBPT conducted this census for the year 2025, with data current as of December 31, 2025.

Results

Number of Licensees

Physical therapists are licensed in all fifty-three jurisdictions. Physical therapist assistants are regulated by licensure or certification in all fifty-three jurisdictions. For simplicity in this report, we will use the term licensure to include both licensure and certification for physical therapist assistants. There are 322,992 unique physical therapists and 134,457 unique physical therapist assistants with active licenses in the United States.

Table 8: Unique PT/PTAs with Active Licenses



Some of these physical therapist assistants and physical therapists have licenses to practice in multiple jurisdictions. When looking at active licenses by jurisdiction, New York has the largest number of physical therapists and Florida has the largest number of physical therapist assistants.

Table 9: Active Licenses – PTs/PTAs

Active Licenses			
Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant			
Jurisdiction	Physical Therapist		Physical Therapist Assistant
Alabama	3,717		3,116
Alaska	1,531		225
Arizona	7,183		2,268
Arkansas	2,855		1,808
California	31,826		9,599
Colorado	9,259		2,180
Connecticut	8,408		1,543
Delaware	1,724		580
District of Columbia	1,199		66
Florida	20,474		12,280
Georgia	9,306		3,002
Hawaii	1,690		327
Idaho	2,936		1,155
Illinois	14,730		6,146
Indiana	7,322		3,640

Active Licenses		
Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant		
Jurisdiction	Physical Therapist	Physical Therapist Assistant
Iowa	3,723	1,714
Kansas	3,670	2,141
Kentucky	4,395	2,357
Louisiana	3,843	1,743
Maine	3,515	778
Maryland	7,356	2,386
Massachusetts	11,728	2,888
Michigan	13,600	5,984
Minnesota	6,984	1,795
Mississippi	2,312	1,652
Missouri	8,016	3,494
Montana	1,947	436
Nebraska	2,345	1,166
Nevada	2,733	963
New Hampshire	2,472	551
New Jersey	13,805	1,916
New Mexico	2,588	1,186
New York	34,424	9,213
North Carolina	11,624	4,482
North Dakota	1,215	215
Ohio	12,439	8,291
Oklahoma	2,923	2,222
Oregon	5,590	1,326
Pennsylvania	17,599	6,042
Puerto Rico	840	1,613
Rhode Island	1,847	738
South Carolina	5,888	2,865
South Dakota	1,881	496
Tennessee	7,352	4,043
Texas	23,376	11,768
Utah	3,250	1,139
Vermont	1,349	206
Virgin Islands	79	18
Virginia	9,590	3,739
Washington	8,197	2,414
West Virginia	1,709	1,316
Wisconsin	7,595	2,212
Wyoming	846	322

Active Licenses		
Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant		
Jurisdiction	Physical Therapist	Physical Therapist Assistant
Total	378,805	145,765

Number of Compact Privileges

Additionally, some licensees may be authorized to practice/work in one or more jurisdictions via a compact privilege issued by the Physical Therapy Compact Commission. For a practitioner to obtain a compact privilege, the jurisdiction in which they would like the compact must have joined the Physical Therapy Compact Commission and be actively issuing compact privileges. As of December 31, 2025, thirty-six jurisdictions were actively issuing and accepting compact privileges.

Table 10: Jurisdictions Issuing Compact Privileges

Jurisdictions Issuing Compact Privileges		
Alabama	Louisiana	Oregon
Alaska	Maryland	Pennsylvania
Arizona	Mississippi	South Carolina
Arkansas	Missouri	South Dakota
Colorado	Montana	Tennessee
Delaware	Nebraska	Texas
District of Columbia	New Hampshire	Utah
Georgia	New Jersey	Vermont
Indiana	North Carolina	Virginia
Iowa	North Dakota	Washington
Kansas	Ohio	West Virginia
Kentucky	Oklahoma	Wisconsin

When looking at active compact privileges by jurisdiction, Washington issued the largest number of physical therapist compact privileges and Texas issued the largest number of physical therapist assistant compact privileges.

Table 11: Active Compact Privileges – PTs/PTAs

Active Compact Privileges Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant		
Jurisdiction	Physical Therapist	Physical Therapist Assistant
Alabama	151	32
Alaska	87	13
Arizona	658	58
Arkansas	282	101
Colorado	767	115
Delaware	317	62
District of Columbia	343	14
Georgia	774	221
Indiana	462	87
Iowa	345	66
Kansas	14	0
Kentucky	484	128
Louisiana	254	68
Maryland	539	108
Mississippi	218	64
Missouri	372	86
Montana	238	42
Nebraska	303	58
New Hampshire	211	28
New Jersey	290	46
North Carolina	813	181
North Dakota	154	18
Ohio	489	96
Oklahoma	393	97
Oregon	549	148
Pennsylvania	218	36
South Carolina	747	140
South Dakota	201	37
Tennessee	500	141
Texas	790	232
Utah	298	29
Vermont	64	10
Virginia	906	209
Washington	1,028	197
West Virginia	371	98
Wisconsin	298	26
Total	14,928	3,092

Licensees Who Live in Each Jurisdiction

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants frequently have the flexibility to accept travel assignments, reside near the border of another jurisdiction, or provide treatment via telehealth. This flexibility often necessitates holding multiple licenses and/or compact privileges. Additionally, some professionals may relocate to a new jurisdiction while retaining their original license, irrespective of their intention to continue treating patients in their previous jurisdiction. The table below illustrates the number of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants reported by each jurisdiction as having an address within their jurisdiction. It is important to note that the quality of the data is limited by the jurisdiction's participation with the ELDD.

Table 12: Active Licensees who Live in Each Jurisdiction – PTs/PTAs

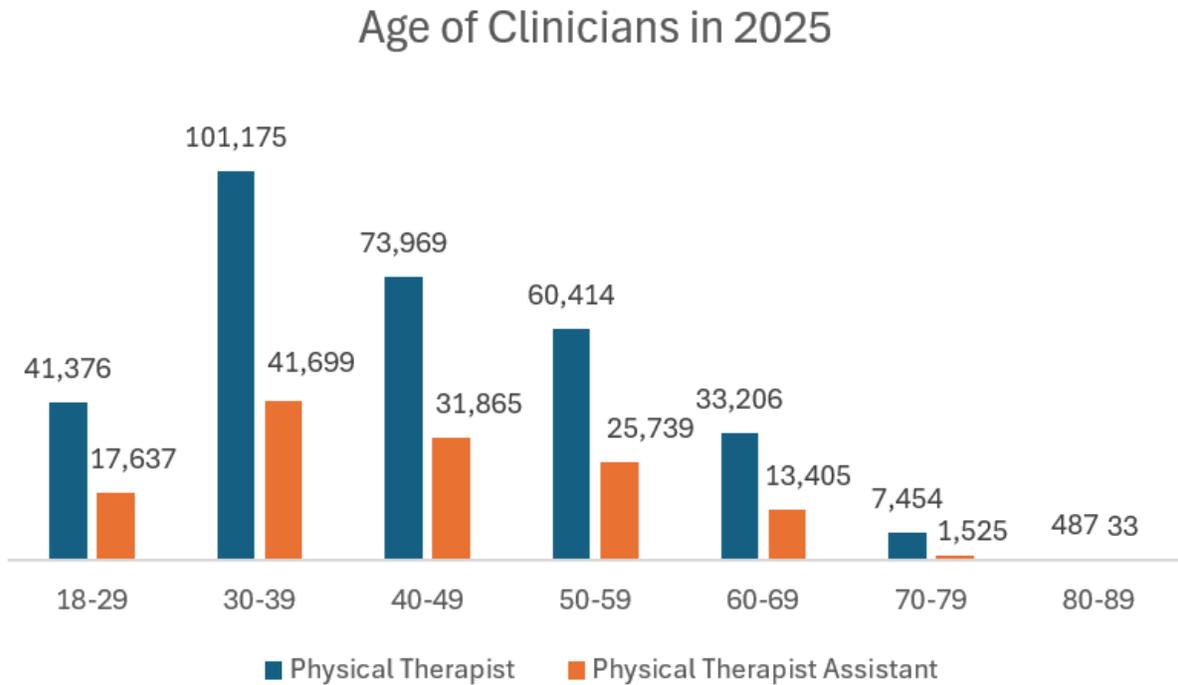
Active Licensees who Live in Each Jurisdiction Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant		
Jurisdiction	Physical Therapist	Physical Therapist Assistant
Alabama	3,333	2,986
Alaska	884	173
Arizona	6,040	2,061
Arkansas	2,685	1,667
California	27,902	9,017
Colorado	7,029	1,806
Connecticut	5,641	1,123
Delaware	1,078	476
District of Columbia	400	18
Florida	18,346	11,703
Georgia	7,834	2,622
Hawaii	291	119
Idaho	2,122	976
Illinois	12,739	5,607
Indiana	6,055	3,232
Iowa	3,156	1,475
Kansas	3,071	1,849
Kentucky	3,854	2,119
Louisiana	3,633	1,677
Maine	2,222	613
Maryland	6,075	1,940
Massachusetts	8,848	2,444
Michigan	11,316	5,584
Minnesota	5,945	1,599

Active Licensees who Live in Each Jurisdiction Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant		
Jurisdiction	Physical Therapist	Physical Therapist Assistant
Mississippi	2,113	1,543
Missouri	6,101	2,899
Montana	1,558	366
Nebraska	2,176	1,079
Nevada	2,260	869
New Hampshire	1,068	261
New Jersey	11,943	1,724
New Mexico	978	561
New York	24,383	6,657
North Carolina	10,328	4,159
North Dakota	1,011	171
Ohio	11,042	7,789
Oklahoma	2,726	2,140
Oregon	4,450	1,073
Pennsylvania	15,336	5,675
Puerto Rico	5	0
Rhode Island	1,051	444
South Carolina	4,836	2,612
South Dakota	1,281	355
Tennessee	6,513	3,695
Texas	21,119	11,109
Utah	2,839	1,066
Vermont	975	144
Virgin Islands	4	4
Virginia	8,166	3,385
Washington	6,693	2,158
West Virginia	1,319	1,032
Wisconsin	6,504	2,053
Wyoming	587	261
Total	309,864	128,170

Age

Of all physical therapists and physical therapist assistants with an active license and known age in the ELDD, the largest number of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are between 30 and 39 years of age. The mean age of physical therapists is 43 years old, and the mean age of physical therapist assistants is 42 years old.

Table 13: Age of the Clinician in 2025



Alaska, Illinois, and North Dakota have the lowest mean age of physical therapists (40 years old). Puerto Rico and South Dakota have the highest mean age of physical therapists (56 and 47 years old, respectively).

Table 14: Age of Physical Therapists by Jurisdiction

Age of Physical Therapists by Jurisdiction									
Jurisdiction	\bar{x}	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	Unknown
Alabama	41	611	1,283	768	675	308	71	1	0
Alaska	40	192	715	279	190	139	16	0	0
Arizona	42	1,157	2,540	1,381	1,202	725	165	12	1
Arkansas	42	433	949	551	608	271	41	2	0
California	43	3,220	11,139	7,342	5,734	3,471	842	74	4
Colorado	42	1,222	3,270	1,907	1,701	963	170	9	17
Connecticut	45	802	2,659	1,670	1,318	1,123	457	22	357
Delaware	43	220	537	438	321	176	23	2	7

Age of Physical Therapists by Jurisdiction									
Jurisdiction	\bar{x}	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	Unknown
District of Columbia	41	159	454	302	170	92	21	1	0
Florida	45	2,347	5,700	4,662	4,753	2,534	456	19	3
Georgia	42	1,347	3,168	2,056	1,628	818	191	7	91
Hawaii	43	135	631	369	245	142	45	3	120
Idaho	43	364	976	621	550	262	55	11	97
Illinois	40	1,926	4,652	3,639	1,879	678	79	15	1,862
Indiana	43	944	2,198	1,740	1,593	719	111	3	14
Iowa	41	558	1,271	865	694	270	58	7	0
Kansas	41	613	1,283	826	622	277	47	2	0
Kentucky	42	642	1,477	964	848	403	60	1	0
Louisiana	43	541	1,201	929	724	365	81	2	0
Maine	44	413	1,152	701	612	442	177	16	2
Maryland	43	887	2,272	1,810	1,459	728	164	9	27
Massachusetts	44	1,519	3,488	2,297	2,223	1,506	302	15	378
Michigan	46	1,184	3,847	3,316	2,881	1,741	563	55	13
Minnesota	41	1,090	2,573	1,568	1,098	576	79	0	0
Mississippi	43	275	712	565	484	242	33	1	0
Missouri	42	1,253	2,523	1,772	1,532	729	110	5	92
Montana	45	192	583	439	418	246	59	7	3
Nebraska	41	352	776	586	461	145	23	2	0
Nevada	42	300	1,013	659	500	227	33	1	0
New Hampshire	45	245	756	530	578	322	40	1	0
New Jersey	42	2,028	4,526	3,054	2,572	1,330	264	26	5
New Mexico	44	221	926	528	444	348	102	5	14
New York	43	4,517	10,921	7,846	5,281	3,207	969	30	1,653
North Carolina	42	1,691	3,833	2,746	2,105	1,035	197	16	1
North Dakota	40	249	423	296	148	85	13	0	1
Ohio	42	1,815	4,104	2,878	2,222	1,187	220	13	0
Oklahoma	44	372	882	619	649	321	74	6	0
Oregon	43	585	1,957	1,297	998	605	144	4	0
Pennsylvania	43	2,470	5,601	3,886	3,469	1,822	280	8	63
Puerto Rico	56	1	60	195	245	185	106	16	32
Rhode Island	43	255	609	357	359	230	34	3	0
South Carolina	42	962	1,920	1,280	1,114	510	76	1	25
South Dakota	47	175	437	380	489	246	92	30	32
Tennessee	42	1,121	2,443	1,493	1,509	677	100	9	0
Texas	42	3,300	8,045	5,736	3,906	1,974	402	11	2
Utah	43	335	1,167	701	626	350	64	6	1
Vermont	45	100	420	311	280	203	34	1	0

Age of Physical Therapists by Jurisdiction									
Jurisdiction	\bar{x}	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	Unknown
Virgin Islands	44	1	29	21	21	5	1	0	1
Virginia	42	1,383	3,366	2,176	1,665	859	134	6	1
Washington	42	934	2,912	1,950	1,450	821	124	6	0
West Virginia	43	228	505	459	348	132	32	4	1
Wisconsin	42	1,144	2,532	1,627	1,451	700	111	12	18
Wyoming	42	92	335	193	142	65	15	0	4
Total		49,122	123,751	85,581	69,194	37,537	8,160	518	4,942

Nebraska and Mississippi have the lowest mean age of physical therapist assistants (38 years old). Massachusetts and Vermont have the highest mean age of physical therapist assistants (49 and 48 years old, respectively).

Table 15: Age of Physical Therapist Assistants by Jurisdiction

Age of Physical Therapist Assistants by Jurisdiction									
Jurisdiction	\bar{x}	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	Unknown
Alabama	41	545	937	675	688	252	19	0	0
Alaska	40	34	96	49	29	17	0	0	0
Arizona	41	353	806	542	377	171	17	1	1
Arkansas	41	354	562	413	325	144	10	0	0
California	42	1,192	3,500	2,139	1,656	964	141	7	0
Colorado	42	256	801	505	391	198	28	1	0
Connecticut	45	96	465	303	268	173	43	1	194
Delaware	42	79	184	161	109	41	4	0	2
District of Columbia	43	3	22	26	11	3	1	0	0
Florida	44	1,457	3,569	2,994	2,659	1,442	156	1	2
Georgia	43	344	912	763	640	291	35	2	15
Hawaii	41	47	122	85	39	31	3	0	0
Idaho	39	251	374	282	148	65	11	0	24
Illinois	41	808	1,775	1,352	871	429	44	1	866
Indiana	43	450	1,075	974	757	351	27	0	6
Iowa	40	319	592	417	258	115	13	0	0
Kansas	41	384	658	499	378	210	12	0	0
Kentucky	43	339	656	612	516	220	13	1	0
Louisiana	41	242	590	433	312	150	16	0	0
Maine	45	86	224	164	152	130	19	1	2
Maryland	42	313	800	596	412	231	31	2	1
Massachusetts	49	156	625	485	884	618	68	1	51
Michigan	44	648	1,721	1,468	1,263	784	95	3	2
Minnesota	42	276	557	448	340	167	6	1	0

Age of Physical Therapist Assistants by Jurisdiction									
Jurisdiction	\bar{x}	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	Unknown
Mississippi	38	390	564	388	239	63	8	0	0
Missouri	42	566	1,042	789	680	378	38	0	1
Montana	42	53	141	120	83	34	2	0	3
Nebraska	38	239	428	308	145	45	1	0	0
Nevada	41	130	370	224	161	70	7	1	0
New Hampshire	47	31	140	117	151	104	8	0	0
New Jersey	46	148	586	391	455	297	38	0	1
New Mexico	42	126	453	295	180	113	18	0	1
New York	42	1,142	2,792	1,920	1,175	760	167	2	1,255
North Carolina	44	504	1,340	1,049	1,065	482	42	0	0
North Dakota	40	41	73	50	37	13	1	0	0
Ohio	43	1,069	2,411	2,122	1,771	840	77	1	0
Oklahoma	41	407	663	620	353	164	15	0	0
Oregon	45	126	384	334	282	180	20	0	0
Pennsylvania	42	857	1,901	1,300	1,312	614	52	0	6
Puerto Rico	43	38	643	412	263	160	12	1	84
Rhode Island	45	70	219	136	186	113	14	0	0
South Carolina	42	411	846	713	609	251	16	0	19
South Dakota	42	80	149	129	78	39	12	2	7
Tennessee	43	556	1,110	935	943	449	49	1	0
Texas	42	1,606	3,927	2,936	2,156	1,031	109	2	1
Utah	39	218	387	318	167	44	5	0	0
Vermont	48	12	42	54	57	36	5	0	0
Virgin Islands	41	1	8	6	2	1	0	0	0
Virginia	42	506	1,241	864	735	359	34	0	0
Washington	43	262	774	628	455	266	29	0	0
West Virginia	41	203	409	406	227	58	8	0	5
Wisconsin	43	259	667	530	507	231	15	1	2
Wyoming	41	53	109	62	63	25	2	0	8
Total		19,136	45,442	34,541	28,020	14,417	1,616	34	2,559

Sex

The sex of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants is not well captured in the ELDD with unreported data in 31% of physical therapists and 26% of physical therapist assistants. Of those individuals with sex reported, 66% of physical therapists are female and 68% of physical therapist assistants are female.

Table 16: Sex of Physical Therapists

Physical Therapist

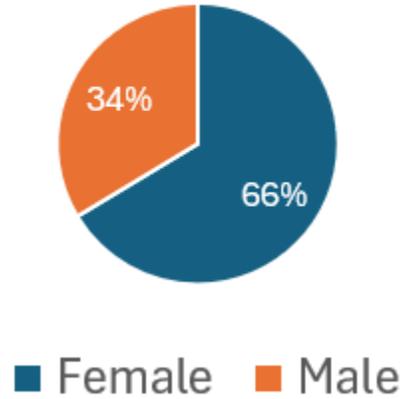
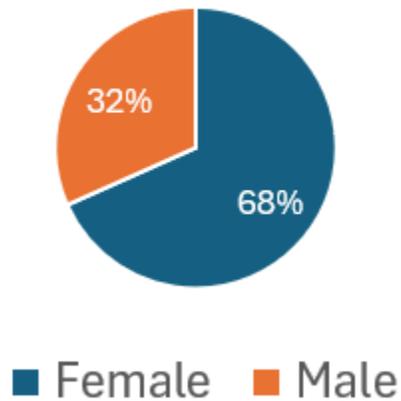


Table 17: Sex of Physical Therapist Assistants

Physical Therapist Assistants



Not all jurisdictions have the same percentages of females and males. New Hampshire and Puerto Rico have the greatest percentage of female physical therapists (75%), while Utah is the only jurisdiction with male physical therapists as the majority (51%).

Table 18: Sex of Physical Therapists by Jurisdiction

Sex of Physical Therapists by Jurisdiction		
Jurisdiction	Female	Male
Alabama	65%	35%
Alaska	67%	33%
Arizona	61%	39%
Arkansas	64%	36%
California	61%	39%
Colorado	69%	31%
Connecticut	69%	31%
Delaware	64%	36%
District of Columbia	72%	28%
Florida	64%	36%
Georgia	69%	31%
Hawaii	64%	36%
Idaho	54%	46%
Illinois	69%	31%
Indiana	67%	33%
Iowa	68%	32%
Kansas	71%	29%
Kentucky	66%	34%
Louisiana	63%	37%
Maine	70%	30%
Maryland	71%	29%
Massachusetts	74%	26%
Michigan	63%	37%
Minnesota	70%	30%
Mississippi	64%	36%
Missouri	72%	28%
Montana	68%	32%
Nebraska	67%	33%
Nevada	56%	44%
New Hampshire	75%	25%
New Jersey	66%	34%
New Mexico	62%	38%
New York	63%	37%
North Carolina	69%	31%
North Dakota	68%	32%
Ohio	70%	30%
Oklahoma	67%	33%
Oregon	65%	35%

Sex of Physical Therapists by Jurisdiction		
Jurisdiction	Female	Male
Pennsylvania	68%	32%
Puerto Rico	75%	25%
Rhode Island	71%	29%
South Carolina	68%	32%
South Dakota	65%	35%
Tennessee	66%	34%
Texas	66%	34%
Utah	49%	51%
Vermont	74%	26%
Virgin Islands	72%	28%
Virginia	69%	31%
Washington	65%	35%
West Virginia	63%	38%
Wisconsin	71%	29%
Wyoming	66%	34%

For physical therapist assistants, North Dakota has the highest percentage of female physical therapist assistants (79%). California has the largest percentage of male physical therapist assistants (49%).

Table 19: Sex of Physical Therapist Assistants by Jurisdiction

Sex of Physical Therapist Assistant by Jurisdiction		
Jurisdiction	Female	Male
Alabama	73%	27%
Alaska	67%	33%
Arizona	63%	37%
Arkansas	72%	28%
California	51%	49%
Colorado	68%	32%
Connecticut	68%	32%
Delaware	70%	30%
District of Columbia	68%	32%
Florida	62%	38%
Georgia	67%	33%
Hawaii	60%	40%
Idaho	75%	25%
Illinois	70%	30%
Indiana	77%	23%
Iowa	78%	22%

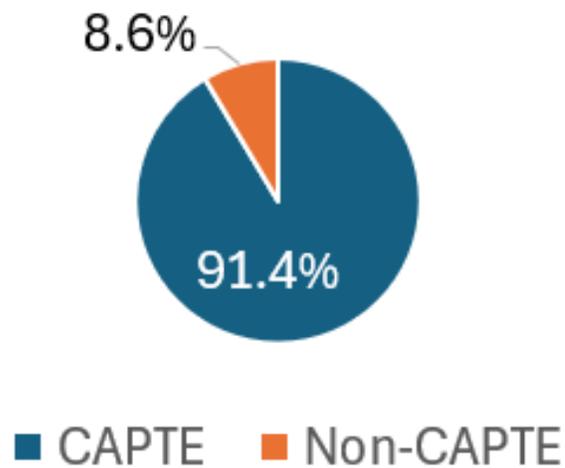
Sex of Physical Therapist Assistant by Jurisdiction		
Jurisdiction	Female	Male
Kansas	74%	26%
Kentucky	72%	28%
Louisiana	69%	31%
Maine	74%	26%
Maryland	71%	29%
Massachusetts	72%	28%
Michigan	71%	29%
Minnesota	76%	24%
Mississippi	72%	28%
Missouri	73%	27%
Montana	72%	28%
Nebraska	75%	25%
Nevada	58%	42%
New Hampshire	71%	29%
New Jersey	65%	35%
New Mexico	63%	37%
New York	64%	36%
North Carolina	71%	29%
North Dakota	79%	21%
Ohio	73%	27%
Oklahoma	76%	24%
Oregon	68%	32%
Pennsylvania	73%	27%
Puerto Rico	76%	24%
Rhode Island	70%	30%
South Carolina	73%	27%
South Dakota	78%	22%
Tennessee	70%	30%
Texas	66%	34%
Utah	75%	25%
Vermont	74%	26%
Virgin Islands	69%	31%
Virginia	71%	29%
Washington	71%	29%
West Virginia	71%	29%
Wisconsin	78%	22%
Wyoming	76%	24%

Entry-Level Education

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) grants accreditation status to qualified entry-level education programs for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants (Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, 2024a). Most physical therapists in the United States come from a CAPTE-accredited program (91.4%).

Table 20: Percentages of Licensees who Graduated from CAPTE-Accredited Programs

Percentages of Licensees who Graduated from CAPTE Accredited Programs



New York has the highest percentage of licensees who graduated from a non-CAPTE-accredited program (29.2%), and Ohio has the smallest percentage of licensees who graduated from a non-CAPTE-accredited program (1.3%).

Table 21: Percentage of Licensees who Graduated from a Non-CAPTE Accredited Program by Jurisdiction

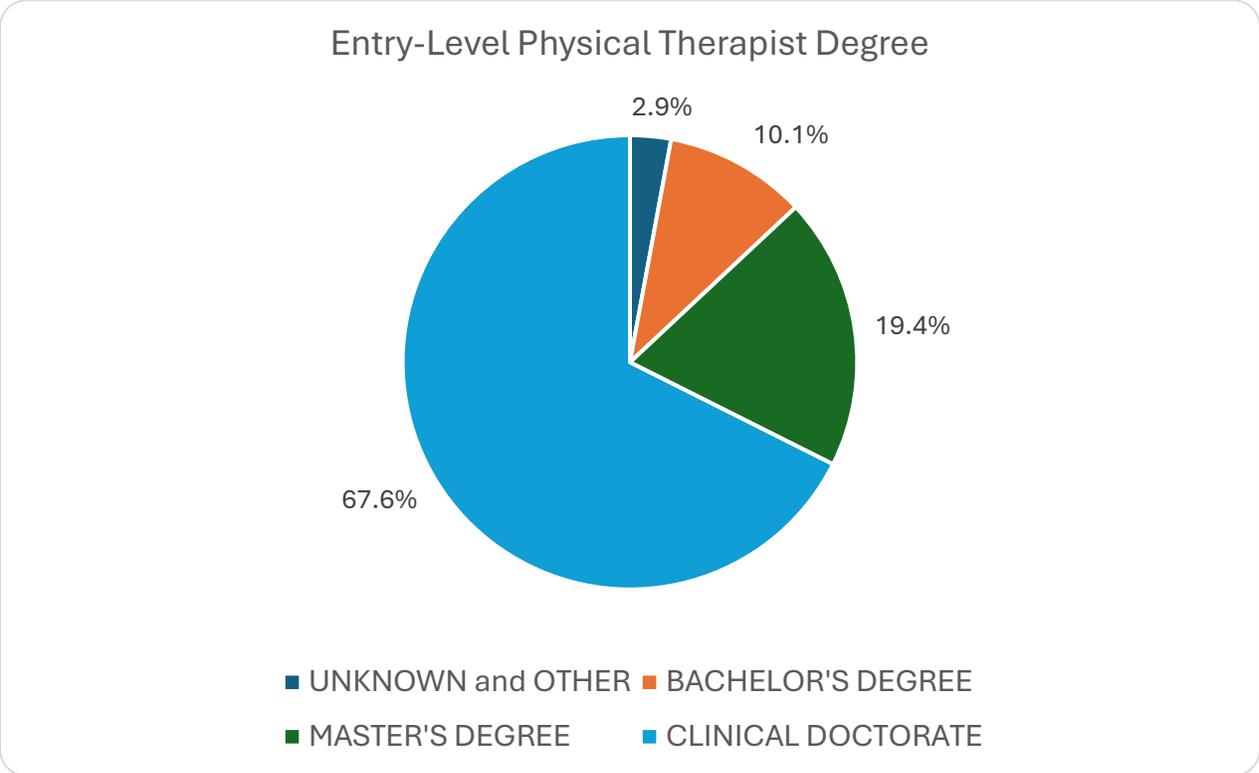
Jurisdiction	Non-CAPTE Accredited Program Graduates
Alabama	2.4%
Alaska	2.6%
Arizona	2.4%
Arkansas	3.6%
California	12.0%

Jurisdiction	Non-CAPTE Accredited Program Graduates
Colorado	4.3%
Connecticut	13.0%
Delaware	13.0%
District of Columbia	9.1%
Florida	9.7%
Georgia	4.8%
Hawaii	8.1%
Idaho	1.9%
Illinois	11.7%
Indiana	12.0%
Iowa	6.4%
Kansas	1.7%
Kentucky	1.6%
Louisiana	3.2%
Maine	3.0%
Maryland	11.9%
Massachusetts	4.6%
Michigan	14.9%
Minnesota	1.9%
Mississippi	1.4%
Missouri	2.9%
Montana	5.5%
Nebraska	4.4%
Nevada	12.6%
New Hampshire	3.2%
New Jersey	13.5%
New Mexico	8.6%
New York	29.2%
North Carolina	5.5%
North Dakota	4.1%
Ohio	1.3%
Oklahoma	2.2%
Oregon	4.7%
Pennsylvania	3.6%
Puerto Rico	2.8%
Rhode Island	2.3%
South Carolina	3.2%
South Dakota	5.5%
Tennessee	3.1%
Texas	14.8%

Jurisdiction	Non-CAPTE Accredited Program Graduates
Utah	2.4%
Vermont	3.6%
Virgin Islands	2.1%
Virginia	6.4%
Washington	5.6%
West Virginia	2.9%
Wisconsin	2.3%
Wyoming	1.5%

While physical therapist assistants continue to be educated at an associate’s degree level, physical therapist education has seen significant transformations over the years. The entry-level degree has been standardized to a clinical doctorate since 2016 (American Physical Therapy Association, 2023) but many in this census graduated prior to that time. Historical data in the ELDD did not contain the entry-level degree information. The CAPTE Master List of Accredited Education Programs for the Physical Therapist (Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, 2024b) contains dates of which degrees were offered at each program. By using ELDD data (school and graduation year) combined with the CAPTE Master List, FSBPT was able to fill in many gaps in the data.

Table 22: Entry-Level Physical Therapist Degree



More than 67% of the physical therapists with licenses are trained at the clinical doctorate level. This does not include those who pursued further education after initial licensure, such as the Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

Discussion

Data Quality

The lack of contribution to the ELDD by some jurisdictions, especially those with large numbers of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, is a limitation of this study. As the quality of the data in the ELDD continues to improve through active jurisdiction participation, so will the quality of the data in the physical therapy census. In recent years, several jurisdictions began actively sharing licensure data daily through an application programming interface (API). By the end of 2025, twenty-two jurisdictions will share licensure information at least daily through the API. The API has the potential for near real-time capture of census information and would improve the accuracy of the ELDD information in a more secure, more efficient method.

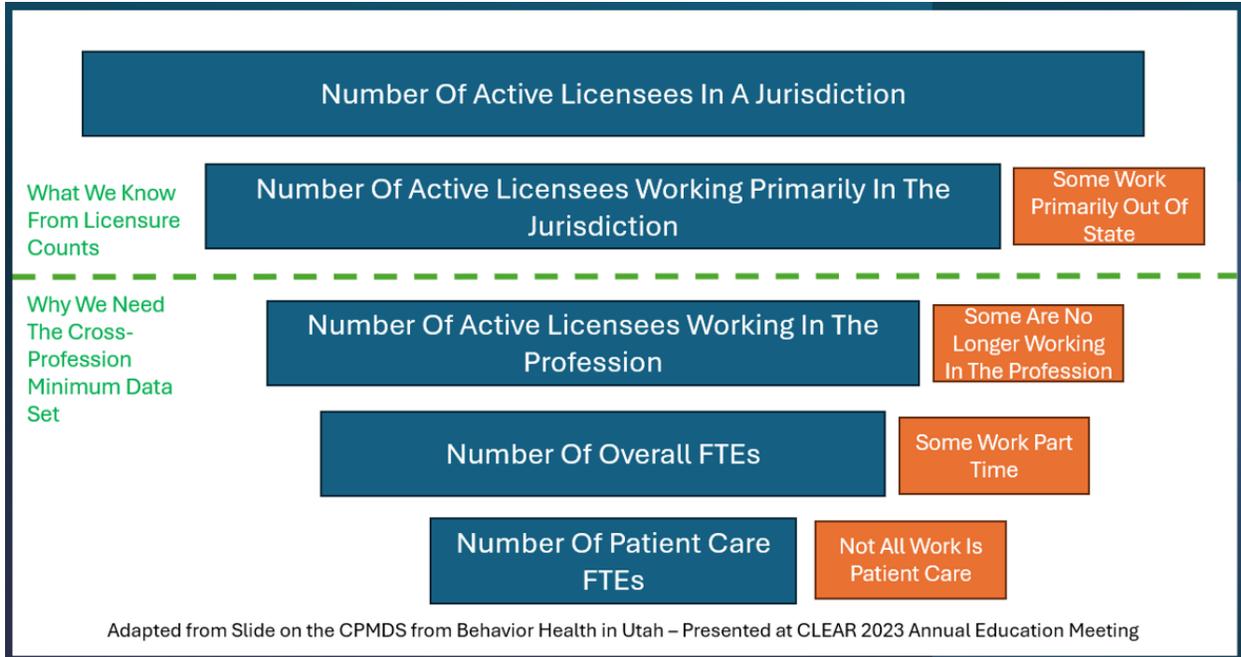
The Need for a Cross-Profession Minimum Data Set

Regulatory boards are in a unique position to collect workforce information at the time of initial licensure and renewal. A Cross-Profession Minimum Data Set (CPMDS) is needed to ensure consistency, where appropriate, in health workforce data. Inconsistencies in data-collection strategies (questions and response options) for data elements such as demographics threaten cross-profession comparison analysis. In 2022, seven national organizations came together to review existing survey tools and prepare the CPMDS to serve as a resource to the organizations, researchers, and federal and state governments seeking to collect health workforce data. Broad adoption of the CPMDS will streamline current efforts and support future initiatives by ensuring comparability across health professions data. Consistent workforce data across health professions is needed to inform policy and planning (Maxey and Medlock, 2023).

The CPMDS is a set of core questions for collecting data elements widely considered the “minimum necessary” for health workforce planning. The intent of the CPMDS is to serve as a framework for standardizing data collection across various health professions for the purpose of supporting comparisons and analyses within and between professions. As a framework, the CPMDS questions have been designed with varying levels of standardization. For example, the CPMDS provides standardized questions and response options for data elements that are consistent across the professions (e.g., demographics) but includes flexible questions and response options for data elements requiring customizations (e.g., specialty and practice setting). The CPMDS provides a framework for developing individual profession-specific tools (Maxey and Medlock, 2023).

While this census information gives insight to the number of individuals with licenses across the United States, it does not consider other important workforce information, such as the number of physical therapists who have a license but live primarily out of state, or the number of hours spent in direct patient care. The CPMDS will provide much stronger workforce information and should be implemented by each jurisdiction.

Table 23: What We Know from Licensure Counts & Why We Need the CPMDS



Alternative Authorizations to Practice

In addition to the Physical Therapy Compact discussed above, Universal Recognition Laws and Telehealth Registries may also allow qualified individuals authorization to practice without a traditional license. Of these alternative authorizations to practice, only the Physical Therapy Compact supports the ELDD. The Physical Therapy Compact enhances public protection by reporting directly to the ELDD, which has improved the number of jurisdictions actively participating in the ELDD and has improved the quality of the data. Universal recognition laws and telehealth registries do not report data to the ELDD and may, therefore, reduce the ELDD’s public protection effectiveness.

Conclusion

The ELDD is one of the primary tools FSBPT uses to accomplish its mission of public protection.

Collecting a core set of data elements for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants allows census information to be standardized across the fifty-three jurisdictions. To maintain the most up-to-date physical therapist and physical therapist assistant information possible, FSBPT needs to receive data directly from jurisdiction licensing boards. Licensing boards are uniquely positioned to collect workforce data, as every physical therapist and physical therapist assistant licensed to provide services in the jurisdiction must interact with the regulatory board. Reporting this licensing data to FSBPT’s ELDD

ensures that national workforce data is in one place. As more jurisdictions participate in the sharing of data with the ELDD, the quality of the census data will improve.

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