



2024

**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 health workforce shortage areas, planning for educational programs or 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.

This is the 2024 census of licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants using data from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). FSBPT is a membership organization comprised of the 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 the initial 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 helps support public protection by serving as a mechanism to proactively notify other jurisdictions of disciplinary action in which an individual is licensed or has requested a score transfer to in order to prevent sanctioned individuals from moving across state lines to avoid the effects of disciplinary action (Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, 2023).

Table 1: Data Sources

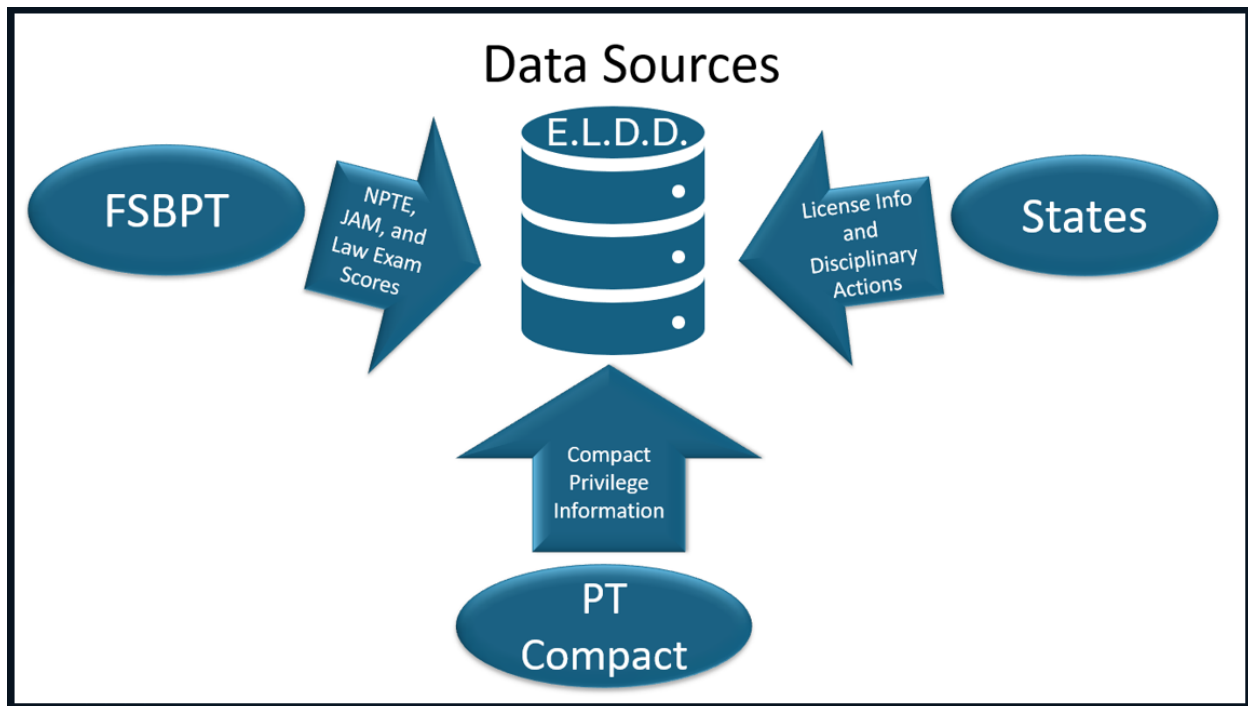
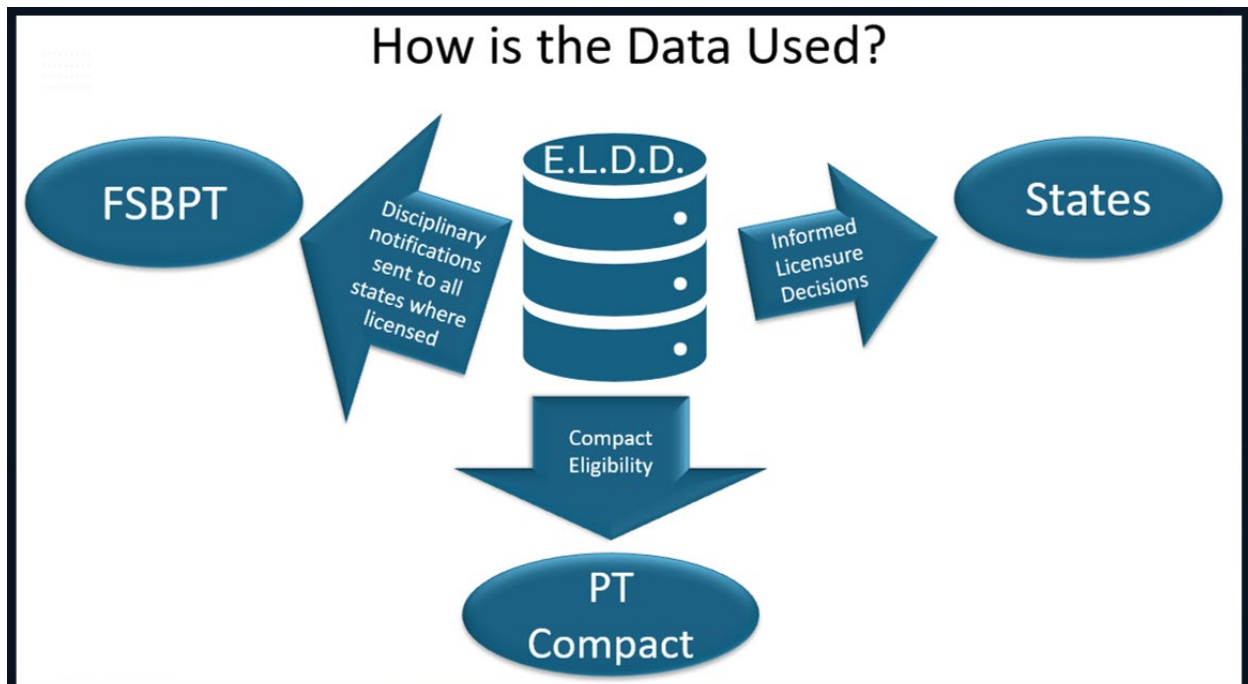


Table 2: How is the Data Used?

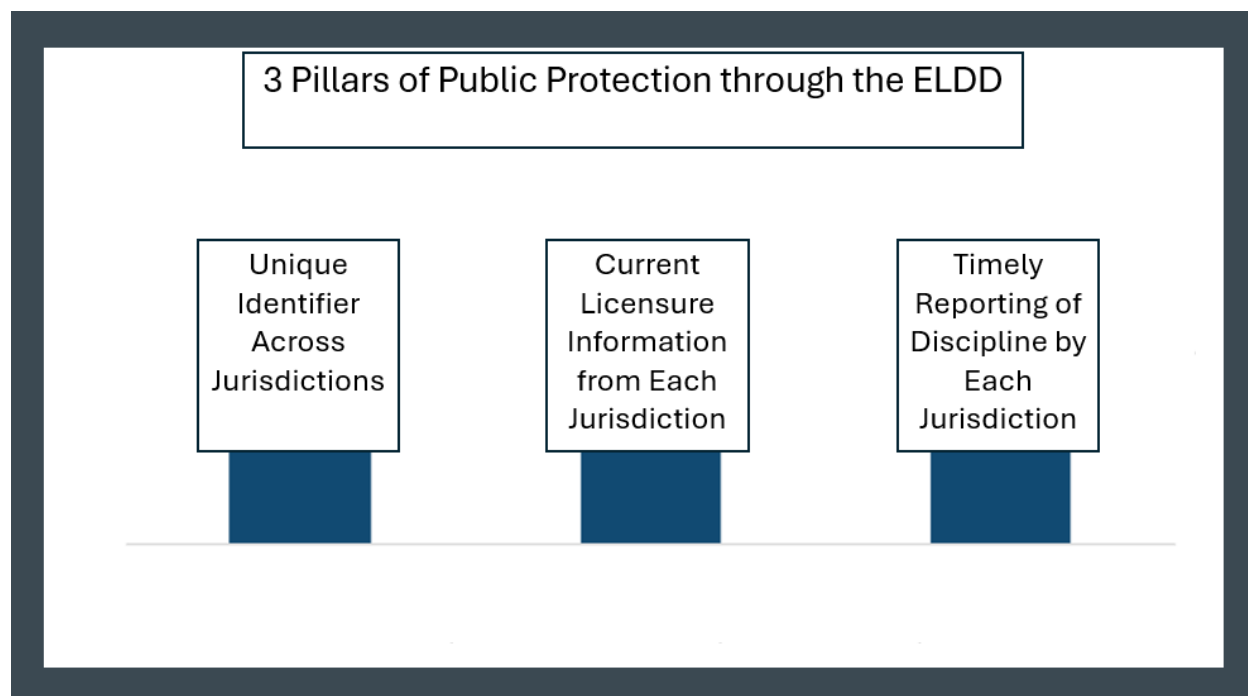


The data provided by FSBPT also includes school and candidate registration details. Having the ELDD information compiled in a single database enhances public protection. When disciplinary actions are reported to the ELDD, the FSBPT proactively disseminates disciplinary notifications to all jurisdictions

where the individual holds a license. For the ELDD to be effective, there are three requirements from member jurisdictions:

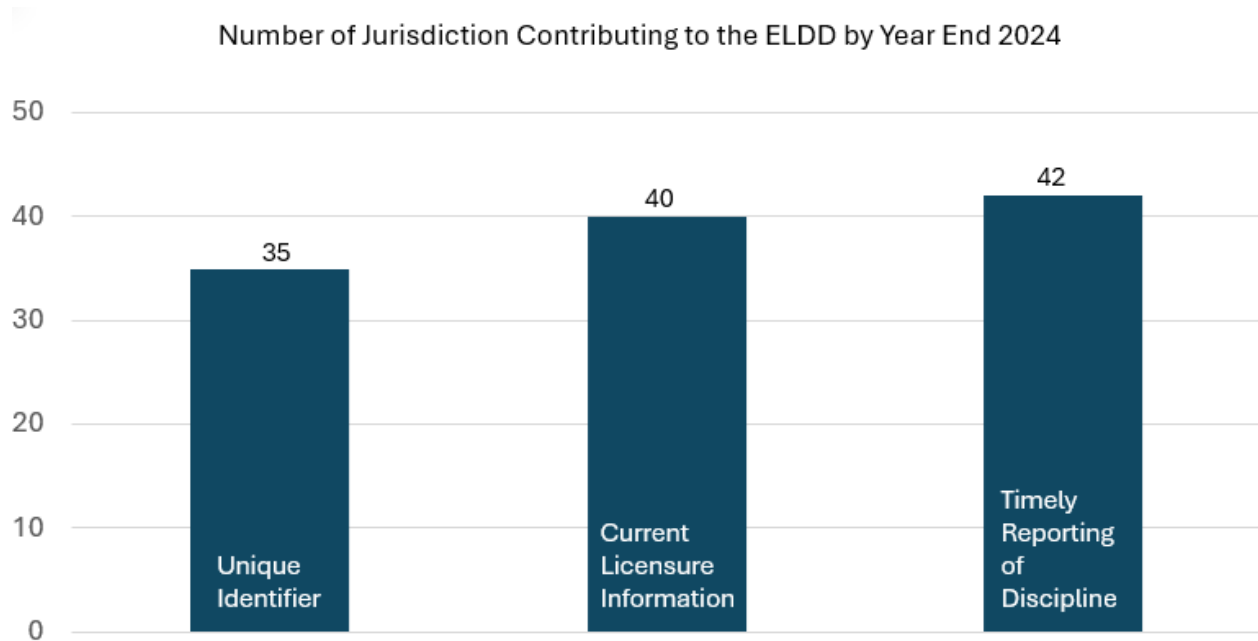
1. Use of a unique identifier across jurisdictions (the FSBPT ID),
2. Current licensure information from each jurisdiction (the goal is no less than weekly licensure information sharing by each jurisdiction), and
3. Timely reporting of disciplinary action by each jurisdiction.

Table 3: 3 Pillars of Public Protection through ELDD



Unfortunately, not all jurisdictions are actively contributing to the ELDD and FSBPT staff attempt to fill gaps in the data by either requesting license information from those jurisdictions who do not contribute or downloading the information from a public download site, if available. In both situations, the data is often missing important elements that are included when the licensure information is proactively provided by the jurisdiction. The charts below list the number of jurisdictions contributing to each of the following areas of the ELDD as of December 31, 2024:

Table 4: Number of Jurisdiction Contributing to the ELDD by Year End 2024



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 2024

35 Jurisdictions Providing FSBPT ID In 2024		
Alabama	Louisiana	Oklahoma
Arizona	Maryland	Oregon
Arkansas	Minnesota	Pennsylvania
California	Mississippi	South Carolina
Delaware	Missouri	South Dakota
District of Columbia	Montana	Texas
Florida	Nebraska	Utah
Georgia	Nevada	Virginia
Indiana	New Jersey	Washington
Iowa	North Carolina	West Virginia
Kansas	North Dakota	Wisconsin
Kentucky	Ohio	

Table 6: Jurisdictions Providing Weekly Licensure Files In 2024

40 Jurisdictions Providing Weekly Licensure Files In 2024		
Alabama	Louisiana	Oklahoma
Arizona	Maryland	Oregon
Arkansas	Minnesota	Pennsylvania
California	Mississippi	South Carolina
Colorado	Missouri	South Dakota
Delaware	Montana	Tennessee
District of Columbia	Nebraska	Texas
Florida	Nevada	Utah
Georgia	New Hampshire	Virgin Islands
Idaho	New Jersey	Virginia
Indiana	North Carolina	Washington
Iowa	North Dakota	West Virginia
Kansas	Ohio	Wisconsin
Kentucky		

Table 7: Jurisdictions Reporting Timely Disciplinary Actions In 2024

42 Jurisdictions Reporting Timely Disciplinary Actions In 2024		
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

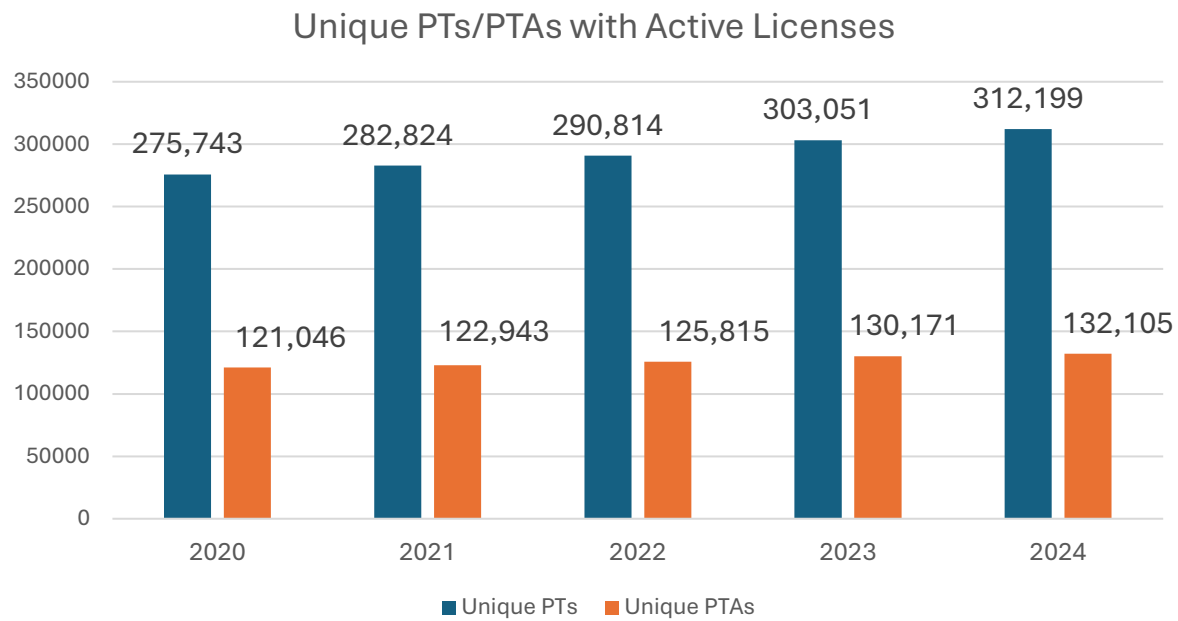
In addition to its role in public protection, the ELDD contains a wealth of information about individuals licensed to provide physical therapy care. This census was run for the year 2024, with data current as of December 31, 2024.

Results

Active Licenses

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 more than 310,000 unique physical therapists with active licenses in the United States and more than 130,000 unique physical therapist assistants licensed 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 by Jurisdiction – PTs/PTAs

Active Licenses		
Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant		
Jurisdiction	Physical Therapist	Physical Therapist Assistant
Alabama	3,630	3,048
Alaska	1,340	197
Arizona	6,582	2,101
Arkansas	2,748	1,787
California	30,707	9,112
Colorado	9,452	2,263
Connecticut	7,982	1,480
Delaware	1,857	599
District of Columbia	1,447	84
Florida	21,131	12,767
Georgia	8,672	2,839
Hawaii	1,456	243
Idaho	2,733	1,084
Illinois	13,763	5,822

Active Licenses		
Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant		
Jurisdiction	Physical Therapist	Physical Therapist Assistant
Indiana	6,881	3,474
Iowa	3,659	1,701
Kansas	3,312	1,910
Kentucky	4,453	2,462
Louisiana	3,734	1,731
Maine	3,230	723
Maryland	7,313	2,370
Massachusetts	11,542	2,995
Michigan	13,042	5,791
Minnesota	6,473	1,686
Mississippi	2,273	1,610
Missouri	7,598	3,318
Montana	1,932	438
Nebraska	2,370	1,208
Nevada	2,607	899
New Hampshire	2,571	625
New Jersey	12,989	1,848
New Mexico	2,403	1,106
New York	32,627	8,634
North Carolina	11,358	4,473
North Dakota	1,192	203
Ohio	11,767	8,734
Oklahoma	2,821	2,151
Oregon	5,178	1,214
Pennsylvania	16,566	5,792
Puerto Rico	841	1,614
Rhode Island	1,661	693
South Carolina	6,110	2,963
South Dakota	1,805	469
Tennessee	7,144	4,071
Texas	22,598	11,497
Utah	3,297	1,176
Vermont	1,252	198
Virgin Islands	59	15
Virginia	9,918	3,887
Washington	8,058	2,444
West Virginia	1,619	1,268
Wisconsin	7,642	2,346

Active Licenses		
Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant		
Jurisdiction	Physical Therapist	Physical Therapist Assistant
Wyoming	839	312
Total	366,234	143,475

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. In order to obtain a compact privilege, the jurisdiction must join the Physical Therapy Compact Commission and be actively issuing compact privileges. As of December 31, 2024, thirty-two jurisdictions were actively issuing and accepting compact privileges.

Table 10: Jurisdictions Issuing Compact Privileges

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

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

Table 11: Active Compact Privileges by Jurisdiction – PTs/PTAs

Active Compact Privileges		
Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant		
Jurisdiction	Physical Therapist	Physical Therapist Assistant
Alabama	27	6
Arizona	529	58

Active Compact Privileges Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant		
Jurisdiction	Physical Therapist	Physical Therapist Assistant
Arkansas	225	83
Colorado	664	98
Delaware	232	43
District of Columbia	197	10
Georgia	612	203
Indiana	357	86
Iowa	317	87
Kentucky	355	103
Louisiana	203	62
Maryland	372	86
Mississippi	176	49
Missouri	325	68
Montana	173	38
Nebraska	246	40
New Hampshire	171	17
New Jersey	184	29
North Carolina	644	140
North Dakota	135	17
Ohio	404	66
Oklahoma	327	76
Oregon	466	130
South Carolina	564	110
South Dakota	176	31
Tennessee	446	151
Texas	601	186
Utah	238	26
Virginia	750	203
Washington	835	158
West Virginia	281	98
Wisconsin	205	15
Total	11437	2573

Licensees Who Live Within the Jurisdiction

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants frequently possess the flexibility to engage in traveling 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 (e.g., address information is very limited for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands).

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

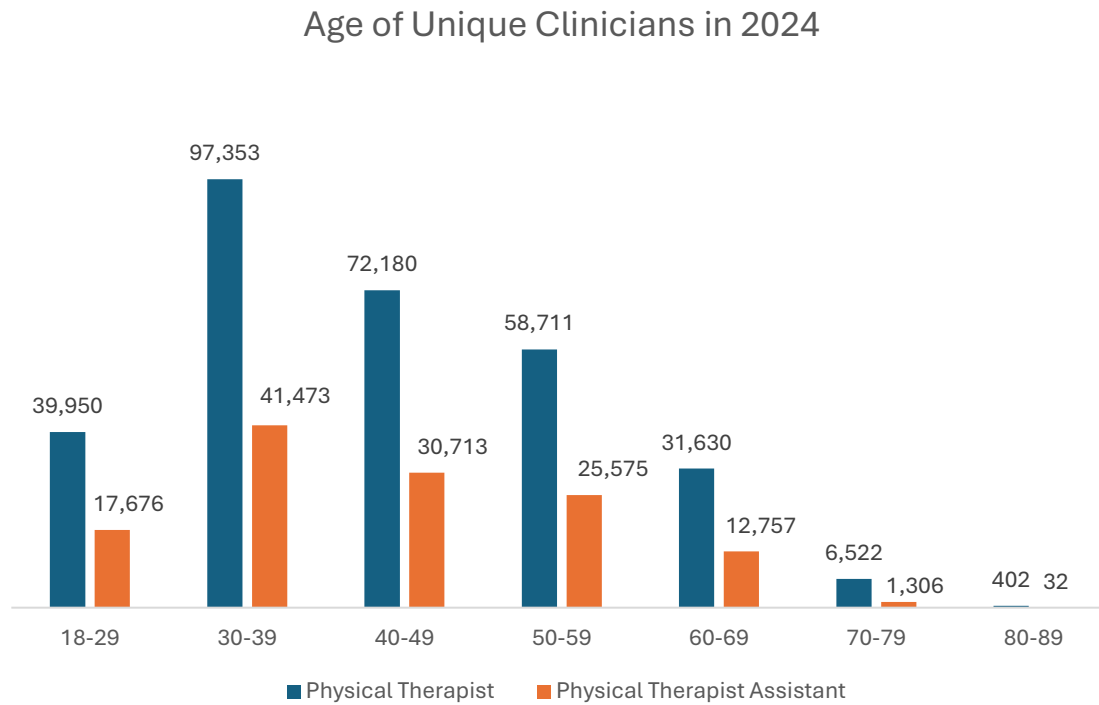
Active Licenses who Live in Jurisdiction Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant		
Jurisdiction	Physical Therapist	Physical Therapist Assistant
Alabama	3,197	2,905
Alaska	847	155
Arizona	5,695	1,921
Arkansas	2,583	1,634
California	26,986	8,567
Colorado	7,061	1,838
Connecticut	5,428	1,091
Delaware	1,086	469
District of Columbia	442	22
Florida	18,297	12,012
Georgia	7,163	2,463
Hawaii	289	119
Idaho	2,038	931
Illinois	11,917	5,270
Indiana	5,777	3,104
Iowa	3,064	1,452
Kansas	2,840	1,687
Kentucky	3,762	2,160
Louisiana	3,525	1,661
Maine	2,131	588
Maryland	5,951	1,929
Massachusetts	8,834	2,565
Michigan	10,908	5,420
Minnesota	5,586	1,504
Mississippi	2,058	1,499
Missouri	5,814	2,773
Montana	1,547	371
Nebraska	2,156	1,106
Nevada	2,164	825
New Hampshire	1,107	295
New Jersey	11,303	1,667

Active Licenses who Live in Jurisdiction Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant		
Jurisdiction	Physical Therapist	Physical Therapist Assistant
New Mexico	975	561
New York	23,390	6,367
North Carolina	9,982	4,113
North Dakota	966	159
Ohio	10,523	8,174
Oklahoma	2,639	2,073
Oregon	4,240	1,008
Pennsylvania	14,635	5,458
Puerto Rico	5	0
Rhode Island	1,033	439
South Carolina	4,779	2,656
South Dakota	1,221	333
Tennessee	6,259	3,700
Texas	20,260	10,792
Utah	2,800	1,080
Vermont	945	141
Virgin Islands	4	4
Virginia	8,181	3,461
Washington	6,793	2,213
West Virginia	1,259	996
Wisconsin	6,470	2,165
Wyoming	594	255
Total	299,509	126,151

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 30-39 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 Unique Clinicians in 2024



Alaska, District of Columbia, 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 (55 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	576	1263	746	682	298	64	1	0
Alaska	40	186	597	238	189	117	13	0	0
Arizona	42	1061	2246	1322	1150	665	128	9	1
Arkansas	42	424	905	543	588	251	35	2	0
California	43	3153	10572	7232	5492	3418	768	70	2
Colorado	42	1305	3330	1869	1784	976	158	8	22
Connecticut	45	816	2493	1574	1279	1069	372	16	363
Delaware	42	293	595	440	317	180	22	3	7
District of Columbia	40	212	583	345	181	107	17	2	0
Florida	45	2466	5895	4759	4905	2620	458	25	3
Georgia	42	1283	2898	1967	1531	741	146	5	101
Hawaii	44	67	534	337	221	135	35	1	126
Idaho	43	328	898	580	527	238	51	10	101
Illinois	41	1248	4391	3611	1652	614	87	14	2146

Age of Physical Therapists by Jurisdiction									
Jurisdiction	\bar{x}	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	Unknown
Indiana	43	879	2059	1708	1498	626	95	2	14
Iowa	41	540	1283	857	664	260	49	6	0
Kansas	41	548	1148	772	564	247	32	1	0
Kentucky	42	682	1459	971	850	416	74	1	0
Louisiana	42	536	1161	925	691	348	72	1	0
Maine	44	367	1047	666	565	414	160	9	2
Maryland	43	931	2258	1789	1413	740	140	11	31
Massachusetts	44	1454	3351	2260	2279	1514	324	14	346
Michigan	45	1180	3708	3215	2799	1610	476	45	9
Minnesota	41	1002	2394	1447	1077	502	51	0	0
Mississippi	43	264	721	562	460	236	28	2	0
Missouri	42	1182	2406	1728	1446	662	81	2	91
Montana	45	185	599	426	417	238	57	7	3
Nebraska	41	370	794	581	438	161	24	2	0
Nevada	42	293	958	622	481	215	37	1	0
New Hampshire	44	274	789	541	589	333	44	1	0
New Jersey	42	1949	4188	2995	2423	1203	208	18	5
New Mexico	44	241	806	503	423	329	83	3	15
New York	42	4589	9935	7538	5002	2994	745	27	1797
North Carolina	42	1692	3719	2682	2058	1019	177	10	1
North Dakota	40	240	416	287	148	92	9	0	0
Ohio	42	1703	3934	2742	2145	1059	174	9	1
Oklahoma	44	357	861	626	611	296	66	4	0
Oregon	43	564	1788	1223	963	522	116	2	0
Pennsylvania	43	2334	5288	3733	3317	1605	220	6	63
Puerto Rico	55	1	66	215	236	177	101	12	33
Rhode Island	43	225	532	332	345	201	25	1	0
South Carolina	41	1019	2098	1283	1102	509	70	1	28
South Dakota	47	164	416	377	484	218	85	28	33
Tennessee	42	1142	2327	1451	1513	616	89	6	0
Texas	42	3311	7797	5459	3777	1888	358	6	2
Utah	43	356	1182	677	652	342	81	6	1
Vermont	44	99	372	287	230	130	19	1	114
Virgin Islands	45	3	15	18	18	3	1	0	1
Virginia	42	1534	3454	2172	1704	899	150	4	1
Washington	42	942	2825	1918	1442	813	115	3	0
West Virginia	43	198	491	434	340	126	25	4	1
Wisconsin	42	1127	2534	1629	1434	758	128	13	19
Wyoming	42	98	329	175	155	67	11	0	4

Age of Physical Therapists by Jurisdiction									
Jurisdiction	\bar{x}	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	Unknown
Total		47993	118708	83389	67251	35817	7154	435	5487

Nebraska and Mississippi have the lowest mean age of physical therapist assistants (38 years-old). Massachusetts and New Hampshire have the highest mean age of physical therapist assistants (49 and 47 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	541	944	653	675	216	19	0	0
Alaska	39	32	89	39	24	13	0	0	0
Arizona	40	332	766	491	349	150	12	0	1
Arkansas	40	355	558	411	313	140	10	0	0
California	42	1114	3269	2005	1652	953	112	7	0
Colorado	42	285	826	501	402	220	28	1	0
Connecticut	44	110	445	280	250	158	31	1	205
Delaware	41	88	196	154	114	39	5	0	3
District of Columbia	42	8	30	25	14	6	1	0	0
Florida	43	1521	3824	3011	2782	1468	159	0	2
Georgia	43	324	903	708	618	242	27	1	16
Hawaii	42	26	91	61	35	27	3	0	0
Idaho	39	238	349	265	139	59	10	0	24
Illinois	42	647	1727	1306	839	427	46	1	829
Indiana	42	478	1004	936	730	298	22	0	6
Iowa	40	328	591	398	257	119	8	0	0
Kansas	41	343	603	431	361	162	10	0	0
Kentucky	42	359	703	630	525	230	14	1	0
Louisiana	41	256	610	414	305	135	11	0	0
Maine	45	73	218	153	144	122	10	1	2
Maryland	42	329	809	557	426	216	29	3	1
Massachusetts	49	169	627	485	942	642	73	2	55
Michigan	44	674	1686	1413	1248	698	70	0	2
Minnesota	41	266	533	417	325	140	5	0	0
Mississippi	38	384	561	375	229	54	7	0	0
Missouri	42	548	1019	735	658	333	24	0	1
Montana	42	54	152	117	77	33	2	0	3
Nebraska	38	252	474	294	140	47	1	0	0
Nevada	41	115	371	189	154	61	8	1	0
New Hampshire	47	40	159	140	165	115	6	0	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
New Jersey	45	154	578	352	458	277	28	0	1
New Mexico	41	125	435	262	163	105	15	0	1
New York	42	1076	2575	1769	1114	694	127	2	1277
North Carolina	43	560	1328	1020	1051	472	42	0	0
North Dakota	40	37	77	41	37	10	1	0	0
Ohio	43	1132	2639	2113	1849	921	78	2	0
Oklahoma	40	408	646	601	338	144	14	0	0
Oregon	44	117	363	287	281	150	16	0	0
Pennsylvania	42	872	1846	1234	1269	522	43	0	6
Puerto Rico	42	73	659	407	246	134	10	1	84
Rhode Island	45	68	206	129	183	96	11	0	0
South Carolina	42	445	896	703	614	265	20	0	20
South Dakota	41	69	147	124	74	39	7	2	7
Tennessee	43	572	1139	947	935	434	41	3	0
Texas	42	1641	3841	2839	2119	968	87	1	1
Utah	39	231	413	310	165	53	4	0	0
Vermont	46	13	42	51	49	25	4	0	14
Virgin Islands	41	1	6	6	1	1	0	0	0
Virginia	42	580	1295	866	747	362	36	1	0
Washington	43	291	793	598	472	262	28	0	0
West Virginia	40	200	417	378	207	54	7	0	5
Wisconsin	43	291	707	545	543	244	13	1	2
Wyoming	40	57	103	57	58	26	1	0	10
Total		19302	45288	33233	27865	13781	1396	32	2578

Sex

The sex of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants is not well captured in the ELDD with unreported data in 34% of physical therapists and 29% of physical therapist assistants. Of those individuals with sex reported, 67% of physical therapists are female and 69% of physical therapist assistants are female.

Table 16: Sex of Unique Physical Therapists

Physical Therapists

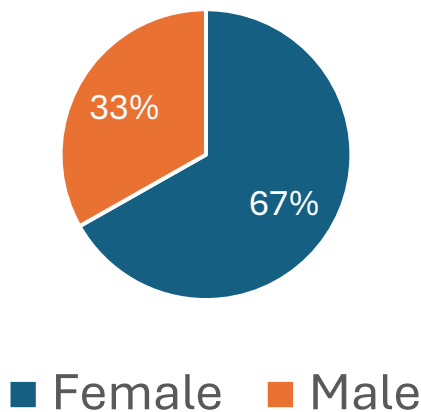
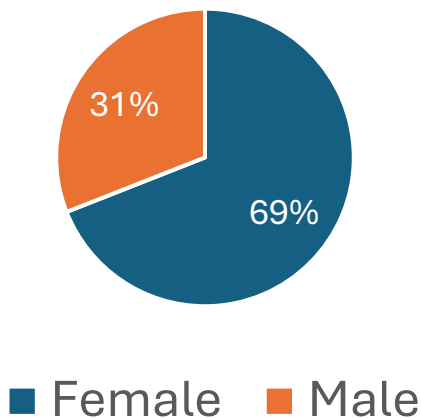


Table 17: Sex of Unique Physical Therapist Assistants

Physical Therapist Assistants



Not all jurisdictions have the same percentages of females and males. Vermont has the greatest percentage of female physical therapists (76%), while Utah is the only jurisdiction with male physical therapists as the majority (52%).

Table 18: Sex of Physical Therapists by Jurisdiction

Sex of Physical Therapists by Jurisdiction		
Jurisdiction	Female	Male
Alabama	65%	35%
Alaska	67%	33%

Sex of Physical Therapists by Jurisdiction		
Jurisdiction	Female	Male
Arizona	61%	39%
Arkansas	63%	37%
California	62%	38%
Colorado	69%	31%
Connecticut	69%	31%
Delaware	65%	35%
District of Columbia	73%	27%
Florida	64%	36%
Georgia	69%	31%
Hawaii	65%	35%
Idaho	54%	46%
Illinois	69%	31%
Indiana	67%	33%
Iowa	68%	32%
Kansas	72%	28%
Kentucky	66%	34%
Louisiana	62%	38%
Maine	70%	30%
Maryland	70%	30%
Massachusetts	74%	26%
Michigan	63%	37%
Minnesota	70%	30%
Mississippi	65%	35%
Missouri	73%	27%
Montana	68%	32%
Nebraska	67%	33%
Nevada	55%	45%
New Hampshire	74%	26%
New Jersey	66%	34%
New Mexico	63%	37%
New York	63%	37%
North Carolina	69%	31%
North Dakota	69%	31%
Ohio	70%	30%
Oklahoma	68%	32%
Oregon	65%	35%
Pennsylvania	68%	32%
Puerto Rico	74%	26%
Rhode Island	71%	29%

Sex of Physical Therapists by Jurisdiction		
Jurisdiction	Female	Male
South Carolina	67%	33%
South Dakota	66%	34%
Tennessee	66%	34%
Texas	66%	34%
Utah	48%	52%
Vermont	76%	24%
Virgin Islands	68%	32%
Virginia	69%	31%
Washington	66%	34%
West Virginia	63%	37%
Wisconsin	71%	29%
Wyoming	65%	35%

For physical therapist assistants, Iowa has the highest percentage of female physical therapist assistants (79%). California has the largest percentage of male physical therapist assistants (48%).

Table 19: Sex of Physical Therapist Assistants by Jurisdiction

Sex of Physical Therapist Assistant by Jurisdiction		
Jurisdiction	Female	Male
Alabama	73%	27%
Alaska	69%	31%
Arizona	64%	36%
Arkansas	72%	28%
California	52%	48%
Colorado	68%	32%
Connecticut	67%	33%
Delaware	72%	28%
District of Columbia	64%	36%
Florida	62%	38%
Georgia	67%	33%
Hawaii	63%	37%
Idaho	74%	26%
Illinois	72%	28%
Indiana	78%	22%
Iowa	79%	21%
Kansas	74%	26%
Kentucky	72%	28%
Louisiana	70%	30%

Sex of Physical Therapist Assistant by Jurisdiction		
Jurisdiction	Female	Male
Maine	74%	26%
Maryland	71%	29%
Massachusetts	73%	27%
Michigan	71%	29%
Minnesota	76%	24%
Mississippi	72%	28%
Missouri	73%	27%
Montana	73%	27%
Nebraska	76%	24%
Nevada	59%	41%
New Hampshire	72%	28%
New Jersey	65%	35%
New Mexico	64%	36%
New York	64%	36%
North Carolina	71%	29%
North Dakota	77%	23%
Ohio	73%	27%
Oklahoma	75%	25%
Oregon	70%	30%
Pennsylvania	73%	27%
Puerto Rico	78%	22%
Rhode Island	70%	30%
South Carolina	73%	27%
South Dakota	78%	22%
Tennessee	70%	30%
Texas	66%	34%
Utah	75%	25%
Vermont	75%	25%
Virgin Islands	62%	38%
Virginia	71%	29%
Washington	72%	28%
West Virginia	71%	29%
Wisconsin	77%	23%
Wyoming	74%	26%

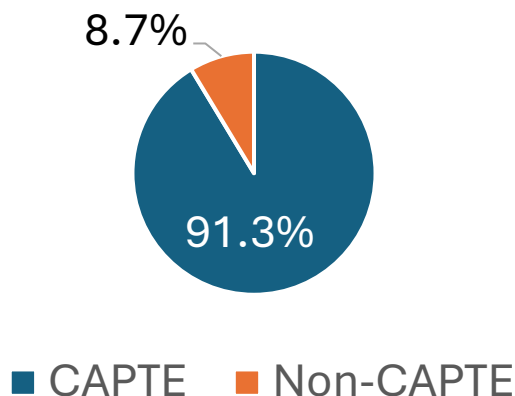
Entry-Level Education

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 CAPTE Accredited Program (91.3%).

Table 20: Percentages of Licensee who Graduated from CAPTE Accredited Programs

Percentages of Licensees who Graduated from CAPTE Accredited Programs



New York has the highest percentage of non-CAPTE accredited program graduates (28.5%) and Ohio has the smallest percentage of non-CAPTE accredited program graduates in its license pool (1.3%).

Table 21: Percentage of Non-CAPTE Accredited Program Graduates by Jurisdiction

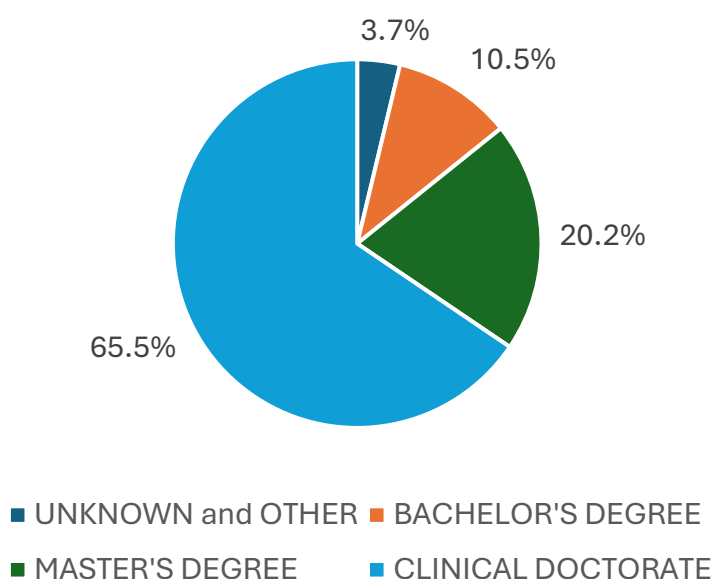
Jurisdiction	Non-CAPTE Accredited Program Graduates
Alabama	2.6%
Alaska	2.7%
Arizona	2.3%
Arkansas	3.9%
California	12.4%
Colorado	4.6%
Connecticut	13.1%
Delaware	13.2%
District of Columbia	9.0%
Florida	9.7%
Georgia	4.9%
Hawaii	8.0%
Idaho	1.8%
Illinois	12.4%
Indiana	12.4%

Jurisdiction	Non-CAPTE Accredited Program Graduates
Iowa	6.8%
Kansas	1.8%
Kentucky	1.7%
Louisiana	3.3%
Maine	3.1%
Maryland	12.2%
Massachusetts	4.8%
Michigan	15.5%
Minnesota	2.0%
Mississippi	1.6%
Missouri	3.1%
Montana	5.7%
Nebraska	5.0%
Nevada	12.7%
New Hampshire	2.7%
New Jersey	13.9%
New Mexico	9.0%
New York	28.5%
North Carolina	5.6%
North Dakota	4.5%
Ohio	1.3%
Oklahoma	2.3%
Oregon	4.9%
Pennsylvania	3.6%
Puerto Rico	2.9%
Rhode Island	2.2%
South Carolina	3.2%
South Dakota	5.8%
Tennessee	3.2%
Texas	15.3%
Utah	2.4%
Vermont	3.6%
Virgin Islands	2.7%
Virginia	6.6%
Washington	5.3%
West Virginia	2.9%
Wisconsin	2.5%
Wyoming	1.8%

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 utilizing ELDD data (school and graduation year) combined with the CAPTE Master List, many gaps in the data can be filled.

Table 22: Entry-Level Physical Therapist Degree

Entry-Level Physical Therapist Degree



More than 65% 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 2024, sixteen jurisdictions 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.

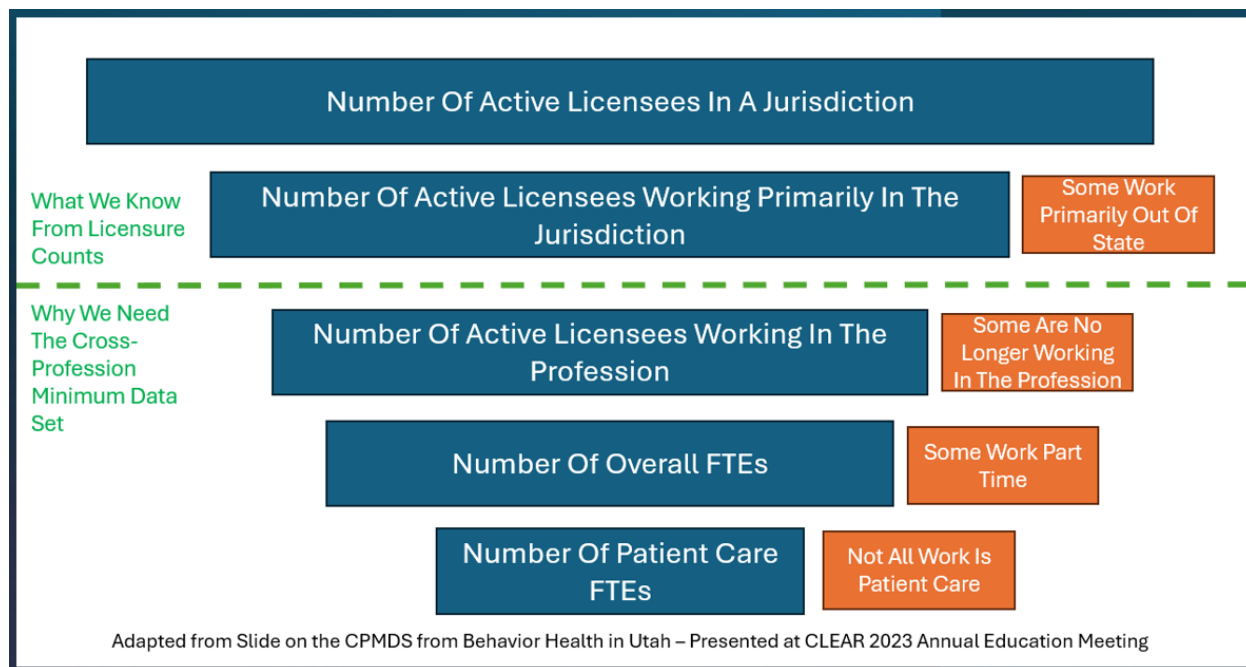
The Need for a Cross-Profession Minimum Data Set

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 federal and state governments, organizations, and researchers seeking to collect health workforce data. Broad adoption of the CPMDS will streamline current 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 within and between profession comparisons and analyses. 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 upon which individual profession-specific tools can be developed (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 public protection efforts of the ELDD.

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

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