

Workforce Demographics and Job Satisfaction of Physical Therapists in Rural North Dakota



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INTRODUCTION

- Most rapidly aging areas of the United States are rural areas
- Rural-dwelling populations in the U.S have more chronic health conditions, higher rates of disability, and higher fall rates
- Majority of population of North Dakota (ND) lives in rural areas
- Physical therapists (PT) play a vital role in improving health
- Current demographics of PT in rural areas of ND is unknown
- Job satisfaction of PT in rural areas of ND is unknown

PURPOSE

- Explore current demographics and job satisfaction of PTs practicing in rural ND

METHODS

- Following IRB approval, a survey was sent to all 1102 licensed physical therapists in ND
- Qualtrics XM was used to develop survey and collect responses
- Survey was distributed via email containing anonymous link
- Descriptive statistics for demographic data of respondents working in rural areas (n=91) were compiled using SPSS

Table 1. Highest Earned PT Degree

	Frequency	Percent
BSPT	6	6.6
MPT	12	13.2
DPT	68	74.7
tDPT	5	5.5
Total	91	100.0

Figure 1. State PT Degree Completed (n = 91)

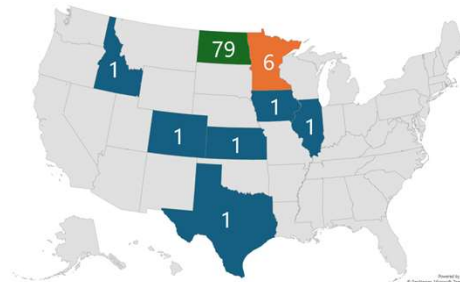


Figure 2. Current Employment Status (n = 91)

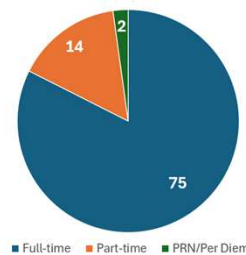


Table 2. Job Satisfaction Rating

Taking everything into consideration how do you feel about your current job as a whole? 0 = Very Dissatisfied; 7 = Very Satisfied

	Frequency	Percent
1.00	1	1.1
2.00	2	2.2
3.00	3	3.3
4.00	6	6.6
5.00	18	19.8
6.00	39	42.9
7.00	22	24.2
Total	91	100.0

RESULTS

- The survey was completed by 248 total physical therapists licensed in ND (Response rate of 22.5%)
- 91 respondents reported that they consider their current practice as a PT to be rural
- Highest earned PT degree of those in rural practice was 6 (6.6%) BSPT, 12 (13.2%) MPT, 68 (74.7%) DPT, and 5 (5.5%) tDPT [Table 1.]
- Number of years of experience of those in rural practice ranged from 1 - 41 years with a mean of 15.22 years
- Employment status of those in rural practice included 75 (82.4%) full-time, 14 (15.4%) part-time, and 2 (2.2%) PRN/Per Diem [Figure 1.]
- Job satisfaction rating of those in rural practice ranged from 1 - 7 on (0-7 scale) and average was 5.67 [Table 2.]
- Length of time respondents in rural practice anticipate staying in current position ranged from 1 - 5 years with average of 4.02 years

CONCLUSIONS & DISCUSSION

- PTs working in rural areas of ND are generally satisfied with their job and plan to stay in their current position
- Most PTs working in rural ND were educated in ND
- Future work to examine the correlation of job satisfaction to various other factors
- Expand current study to explore the role of PTs in rural areas via survey data and interviews

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