

Minnesota's Physical Therapist Assistant Workforce, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2015 PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT WORKFORCE SURVEYⁱ

Overall

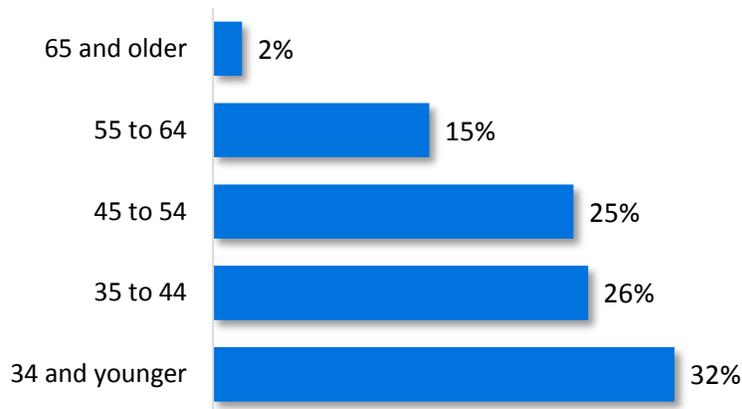
According to the Minnesota Board of Physical Therapy, as of April 2016, there were **1,687** actively licensed physical therapist assistants.ⁱⁱ

Demographics

Sex. Like most other health professions, physical therapist assistants are a female-dominated profession, with 83 percent who are women.

Age. Physical therapy assistants are young. Almost 60 percent of all physical therapist assistants are 44 or younger. Just 17 percent are 55 or older and are closer to retirement.

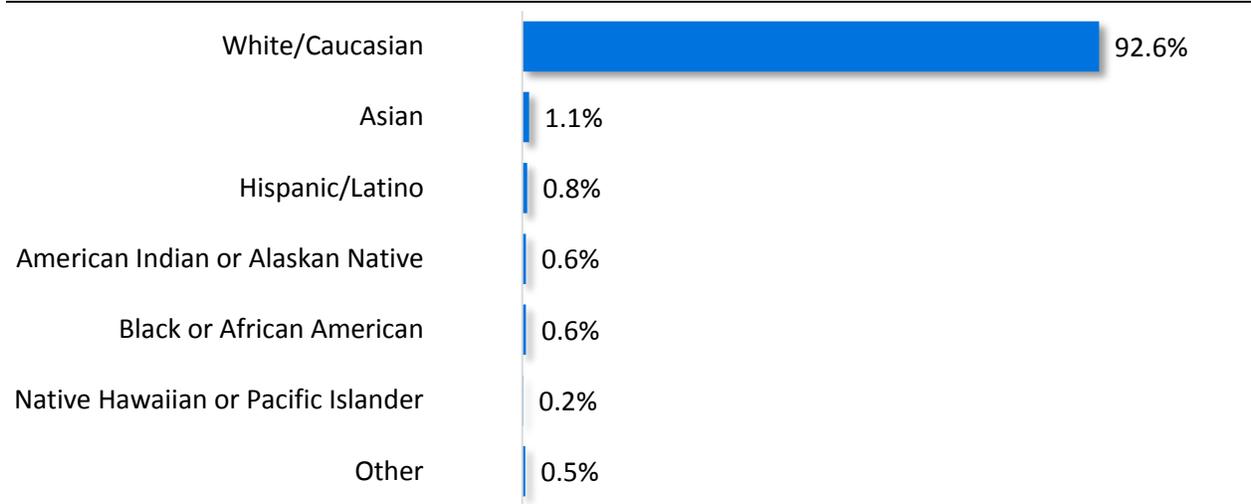
Age of Minnesota Physical Therapist Assistants



Source: Minnesota Board of Physical Therapy, April 2016. Analysis done by MDH. Percentages are based on all 1,555 licensees. Note: new licensees in 2016 are missing data, and are likely to be younger.

Race. The vast majority (92.6 percent) of physical therapist assistants indicated that they are white, which is typical of healthcare professionals in Minnesota.

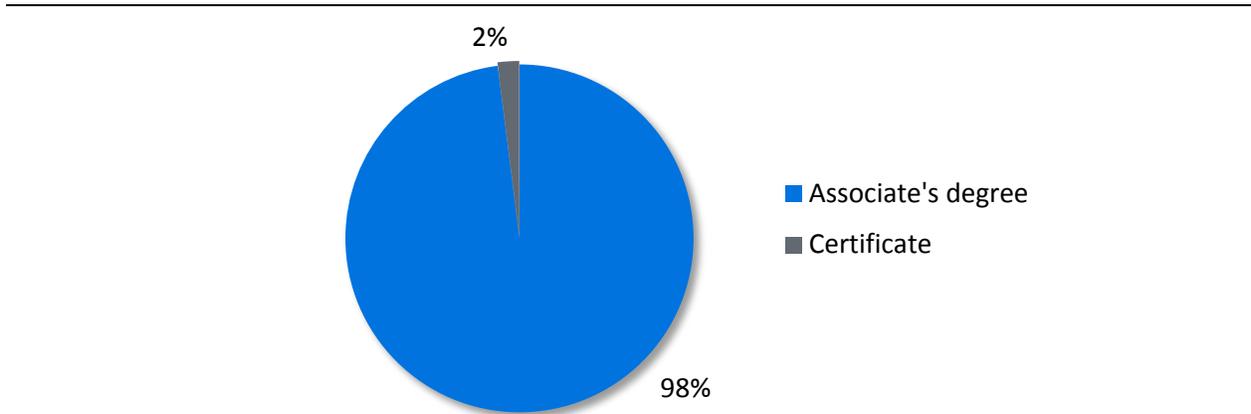
Race of Minnesota Physical Therapist Assistants



Source: MDH Physical Therapist Assistant Workforce Questionnaire, 2015. Respondents could select as many races as applicable.

Education Level. Almost all physical therapist assistants have an Associate's degree.

Education Level of Minnesota Physical Therapist Assistants



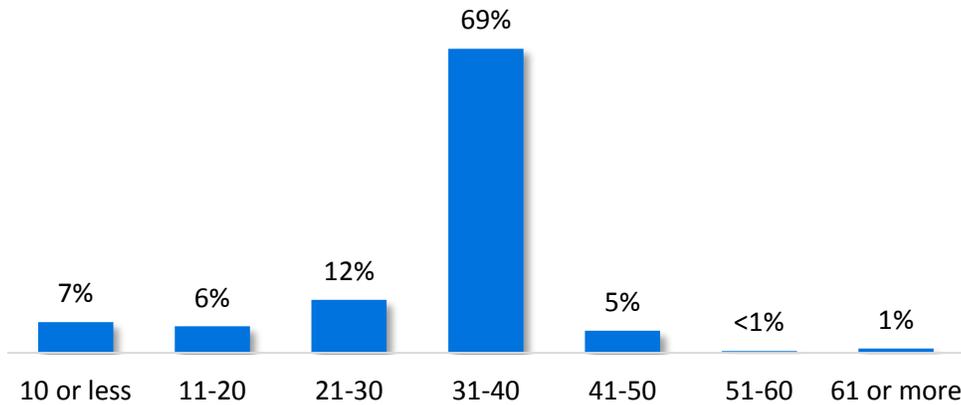
Source: MDH Physical Therapist Workforce Questionnaire, 2015. The chart is based on 1,640 survey responses.

Employment

Share of Employed. Overall, **94 percent** of Minnesota licensed physical therapist assistants reported on the MDH questionnaire that they were “working in a paid or unpaid position related to [their] license.” Of the small share *not* working in a physical therapy-related capacity, the majority (around 3 percent of the total) were seeking work as a physical therapist assistant.

Hours Worked. Physical therapist assistants reported the number of hours they worked in a typical week. The median number of hours worked in a week was 38, with the majority (69 percent) working between 31 and 40 hours per week.

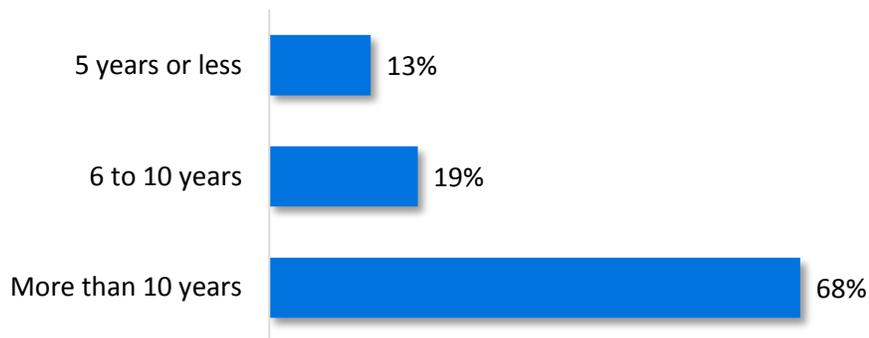
Hours Worked in a Typical Week



Source: MDH Physical Therapist Assistant Workforce Questionnaire, 2015. The chart is based on 1,623 survey responses.

Future Plans. The Minnesota physical therapy workforce is relatively stable. Almost 70 percent of respondents currently working in Minnesota plan to work in the profession for more than 10 years. For those planning to work five years or less, the most common reasons to no longer work in Minnesota are to retire (49 percent) or work in another state (26 percent).

Number of Years Planning to Practice in Minnesota



Source: MDH Physical Therapist Assistant Workforce Questionnaire, 2015. The chart is based on 1,462 survey responses.

Work Setting. While physical therapist assistants work in a variety of settings, one-quarter work in long-term care facilities. Other common settings include office/clinic and inpatient rehab unit/facilities. Compared to physical therapists, assistants are far more likely to be employed in long-term care facilities inpatient rehab unit/facilities and home health agencies.

Physical Therapist Assistants’ Work Setting

Setting	Share of Physical Therapist Assistants Working in this Setting
Long-term care facility	25.2%
Office/clinic	18.2%
Inpatient rehab unit/facility	17.6%
Hospital (outpatient)	11.6%
Home health agency	10.5%
Hospital (inpatient)	8.2%
Health and wellness facility	3.5%
School (K-12)	1.1%
College or University	0.2%
Other	3.8%

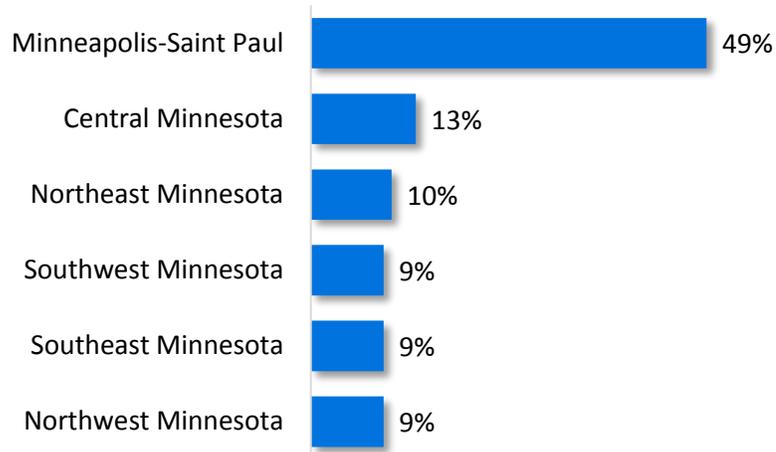
Source: MDH Physical Therapist Assistant Workforce Questionnaire, 2015. The chart is based on 1,470 survey responses.

Geographic Distribution

To get a sense of the accessibility of psychological services around the state, the next two charts provide two different views of the geographic distribution of physical therapist assistants who report they are currently working in the field and are working in a location in Minnesota. These analyses are based on geocoded addresses that are provided in the questionnaire.ⁱⁱⁱ

Distribution by Region. The first chart shows the distribution of physical therapist assistants across the six planning areas around Minnesota. As shown, the highest percent of physical therapist assistants (49 percent) are practicing in the Twin Cities metro area, with smaller shares practicing everywhere else in the state. For reference, the Twin Cities metro area houses approximately 54 percent of the state’s population, and the remainder of the state regions house between 6 and 13 percent. Physical therapist assistants are one of the few professions less concentrated in the Twin Cities than the Minnesota population and are fairly well distributed around the state.

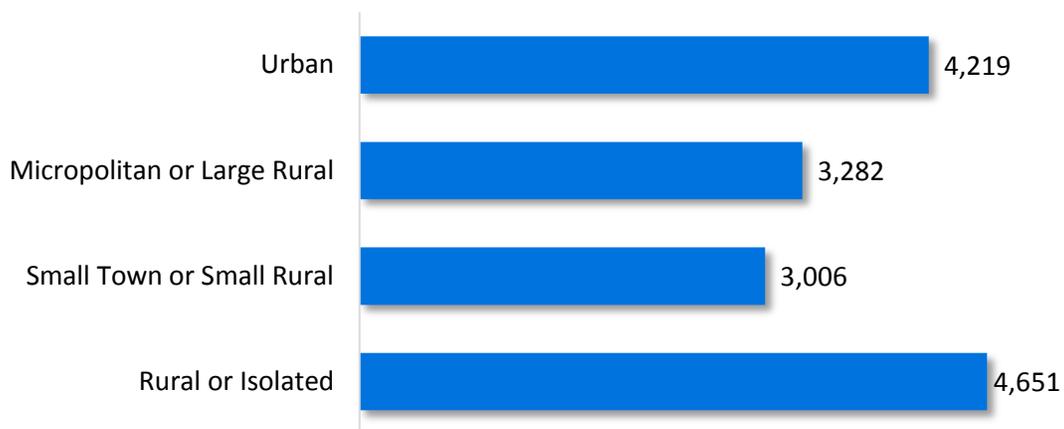
Physical Therapist Assistants by Minnesota Region



Source: MDH Physical Therapist Assistant Workforce Questionnaire, 2015. Percentages above are based on 1,326 valid Minnesota addresses for those currently working as a physical therapist assistant.

Distribution across urban and rural areas. The next chart provides another view of the geographic distribution of physical therapist assistants, comparing the size of the population to every one physical therapist assistant in urban, micropolitan, small town, and rural areas. Physical therapist assistants are better distributed in rural areas than most other health care professionals and surprisingly are more concentrated in rural and isolated areas than even in the urban areas. Ratios of physical therapist assistants to the population are much higher than physical therapists.

Minnesota Population-to-Physical Therapist Assistant Ratio



Source: MDH Physical Therapist Assistant Workforce Questionnaire, 2015. Percentages above are based on 1,326 valid Minnesota addresses for those currently working as a physical therapist assistant.

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Visit our website at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/workforce/data.html> to learn about the Minnesota healthcare workforce.

County-level data for this profession is available at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/workforce/database/>

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ⁱ The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), in cooperation with the Minnesota Board of Physical Therapy, collects information on demographics, education, career and future plans of physical therapist assistants during a workforce survey November to December 2015. Unless noted, all data are based on information collected from that survey. The survey response rate was 98 percent. Data for specific questions include only those who responded to the question.

ⁱⁱ Of the total licensed professionals, 142 listed a practice address outside of Minnesota; 195 did not provide a practice address, and based on survey responses, 6% of the total licensees are not currently practicing as a physical therapist assistant. Thus, not all actively licensed physical therapist assistants are part of the Minnesota workforce.

ⁱⁱⁱ Approximately 6 percent of physical therapist assistants responding to the survey and working reported no address. Nine percent reported an address outside of Minnesota. These two groups' professionals may or may not be providing services in Minnesota and could not be assigned an address location (geocoded).