


Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology  
Continuing Education  
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences University of Pittsburgh



## Demographics & Opinions of ATPs in Supply & Manufacturing

Joy Nix, ATP, CIFT, MS  
July 27, 2018

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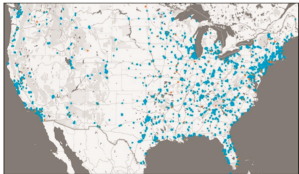
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### CRT Industry At-A-Glance



- 4,092 ATPs Nationwide
- Suppliers & Clinicians
- Active & Not-Active
- Government Mandated Role
- Demand increase 4.8% per year (1959 – 2005)

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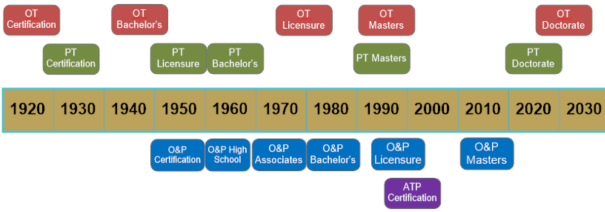
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Jett, Spicer & Flaubert, 2017; Valentine, 2017; LaPlante & Kaye, 2010



The timeline shows the evolution of professional standards for Occupational Therapists (OT) and Physical Therapists (PT) from 1920 to 2030. OT milestones include Certification (1920), Bachelor's (1930), Licensure (1950), Masters (1980), and Doctorate (2020). PT milestones include Certification (1920), Licensure (1950), Bachelor's (1960), Masters (1980), and Doctorate (2020). O&P milestones include Certification (1920), High School (1930), Associates (1940), Bachelor's (1950), Licensure (1960), and Masters (2010). ATP Certification is shown as a future milestone around 2025.

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ABC, 2018; AOPA, 2018; AOTA, 2017; APTA, 1996; West, 1992; Winters, 1995

## ATP Impact on Clients

- Provide mobility
- Access to independence
- Access to community and social engagements
- Access to environment
- Impact client's self-identity
- Effect treatment trajectory

Bingham & Beatty, 2003; Dicianno et al., 2018; Dicianno, Cooper & Coltellaro, 2010; European Physical & Rehabilitation Medicine Bodies Alliance, 2018; Ripat, Verdonck, & Carter, 2018




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## Questions

- What is the age of the ATPs?
- What are the demographics of ATPs?
- Is there a sufficient workforce to meet the future needs?
- What are the opinions of ATPs regarding the future of the profession, education needed for the role and the need for state licensure?
- How do younger ATPs compare to older ATPs in these areas?




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## Exploratory Study Development

- Partner with NCART
- Develop 18-Question Survey
  - 14 Demographic
  - 4 Opinion
- Set Up Filter Question
- Internal Review Board
- Qualtrics Web Based Survey




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## What We Asked About

- Zip Code
- Age
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Disability
- Financial Compensation Structure
- Work Hours
- Years Experience\*
- Type of Company
- Category of Company\*
- Certifications
  - When ATP Certified
  - Other
- Education Background
- Opinions:
  - Recommend profession
  - Comments\*
  - Education think necessary
  - If should have state licensure




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## Exploratory Study Methods

- Distribution
  - Press Release
  - Mailing Lists (email)
  - CRT Industry Websites
- March 6, 2018 – April 15, 2018
- Email10 Winners of RSTCE Access Code Information




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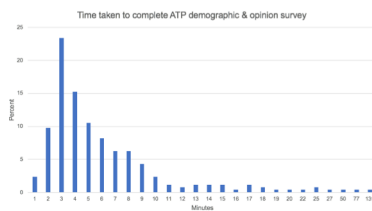
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## Time To Complete Survey




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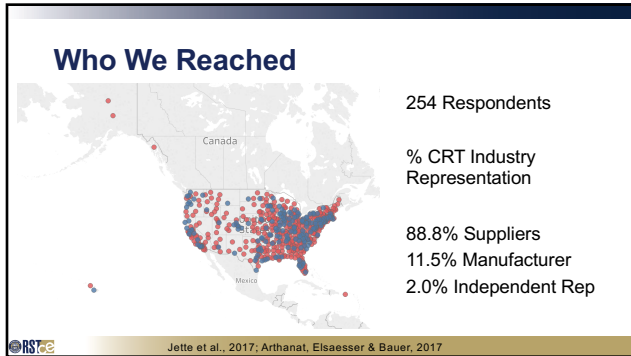
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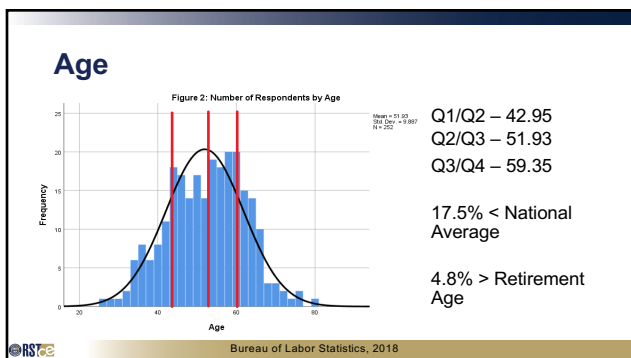
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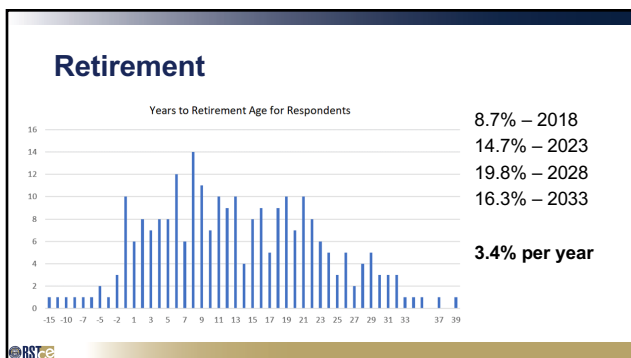
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## It's a Good Gig

- People don't seem to retire!
- 79.5% ATPs recommend it!
- Reasonable work hours!

Hours per week	Total	≤ 52	53+
Less than 40	5.2%	6.6%	4.0%
40-50	56.4%	59.8%	53.2%
51-60	26.0%	21.3%	31.0%
More than 60	12.4%	12.3%	11.9%




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## Gender



**79.1%**

78.2 for younger group  
79.7 for older group



**20.9%**

21.8 for younger group  
20.3 for older group




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## Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Total	≤ 52	53+
White/Caucasian	92.5%	90.3%	94.5%
Hispanic/Latino	3.6%	4.0%	3.1%
Black/African-American	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Native American/Alaska Native	0.8%	1.6%	0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.4%	0.8%	0%
Arab/Middle Eastern	0%	0%	0%
Other	2.0%	2.4%	1.6%




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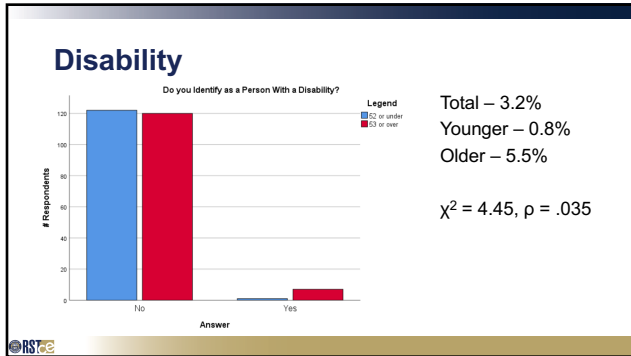
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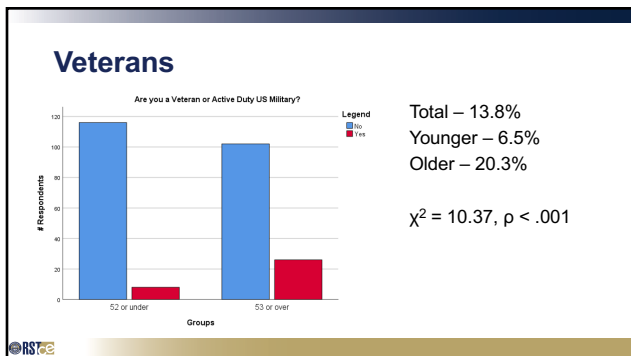
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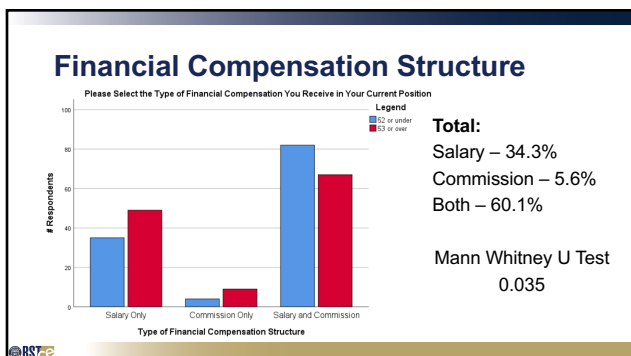
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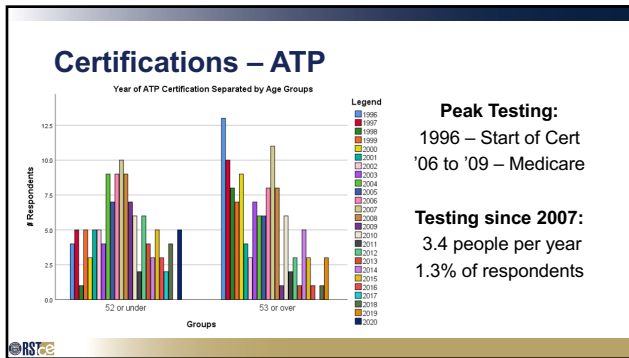
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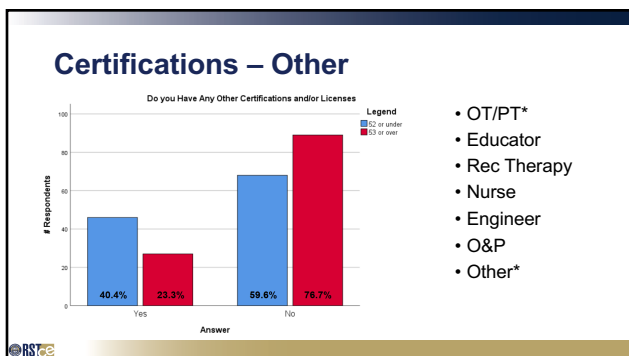
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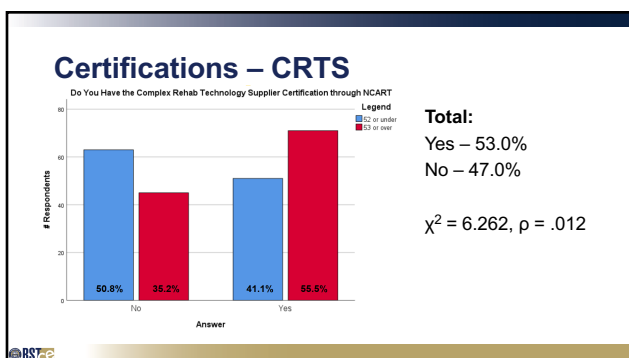
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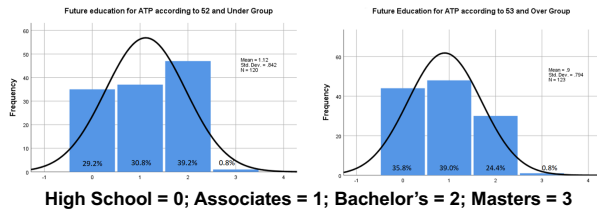
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## Education – Experience

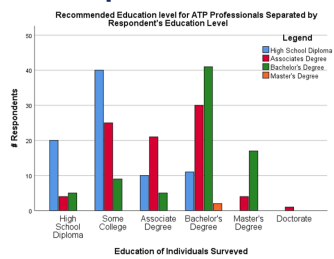
Background	Total	≤ 52	53+
High School	11.4%	8.1%	14.8%
Some College	29.5%	29.0%	28.9%
Associates	15.4%	12.1%	18.8%
Bachelor's	34.6%	38.7%	31.3%
Masters	8.7%	12.1%	5.5%
Doctorate	0.4%	0%	0.8%



## Education – Opinion



## Education – Opinion



## Study Limitations

- Convenience Sample
  - Likely high number of NCART members
- Email dissemination
- Incentive may have encouraged those interested in more education
- Internet savvy requirement
- Filter question may not have stopped all clinicians
- Age group breakdown didn't allow for equal-sized groups




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## New Questions

- Why have white men dominated this industry?
- How does satisfaction in this industry compare to other fields?
- What is the trend of Clinicians and Suppliers in ATP testing?
- How many registered ATPs are active in the industry?
- Who is taking responsibility to recruit ATPs into profession?
  - Government
  - CRT Industry
  - Educational Institutions
  - Organizations




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## More Questions

- What is the average age at entry into ATP field
- What does the future look like for ATP requirements and certification?
- What else can we learn from the data from this study?




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**Q&A:**

- *What was the importance of separating clinicians from suppliers in this study?*
- *What pros and cons do you see about offering an associates-level requirement for ATPs?*
- *Based on your knowledge of the field, what recommendations would you have for companies to transition to bringing younger employees into this profession?*



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