

A photograph of the Oregon State Capitol building, a tall, modern structure with a curved base and a flagpole on top, set against a clear blue sky. The building is framed by a large, stylized circular graphic with a blue and white color scheme.

OBPT
OREGON BOARD OF
PHYSICAL THERAPY

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

Oregon Board of Physical Therapy

The statutory purpose of the Board is to protect the public health, safety and welfare for all Oregonians by maintaining standards for quality care, professional skill and competence through the effective regulation of the practice of physical therapy.



Enabling Statutes & Rules

ORS 688.010-688.240, ORS 676 (health boards generally) & ORS 182.454 (semi-independent agencies)
OAR 848



Professionals Regulated

~5,000 Physical Therapists (PTs)
Doctorate Level Degree
~1,200 Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs)
Associates Level Degree



Core Functions

Licensing
Complaint Investigation
Education & Outreach
Planning & Partnership



8 Member Board

5 Physical Therapists
1 Physical Therapist Assistant
2 Public Members



Budget & Staff

\$1.77 M 21-23
BI Budget
3.6 FTE

Variety of Specializations



Orthopedic, Neurology, Pediatric, Geriatric, Oncology, Women's Health, Cardiovascular & Pulmonary, Sports, Wound Management & Animal Therapy.

Variety of Practice Settings



Acute Care, Skilled Nursing, Outpatient, Home Health, Private Clinic, Schools, Sports Teams; Workplaces, etc.

Access to Care



Self-Referral or Provider Referral
Commercial Insurance, Medicare/Medicaid, Third-Party, Private Pay.

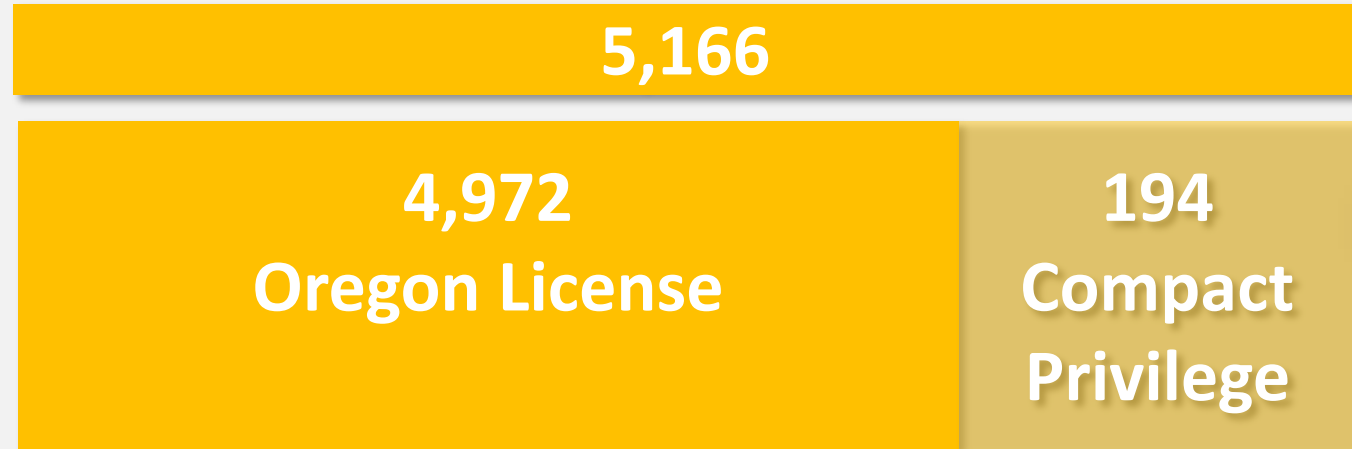
The Practice of Physical Therapy

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants help you maximize your movement, manage pain, avoid surgery and prescription drugs, manage chronic (long-term) conditions, and recover from and prevent injury.

Source: APTA

Oregon Physical Therapy Workforce – Current Practitioner Counts

Physical Therapists



3.75%

Physical Therapist Assistants



4.63%

Total: 6,397 (with Compact)

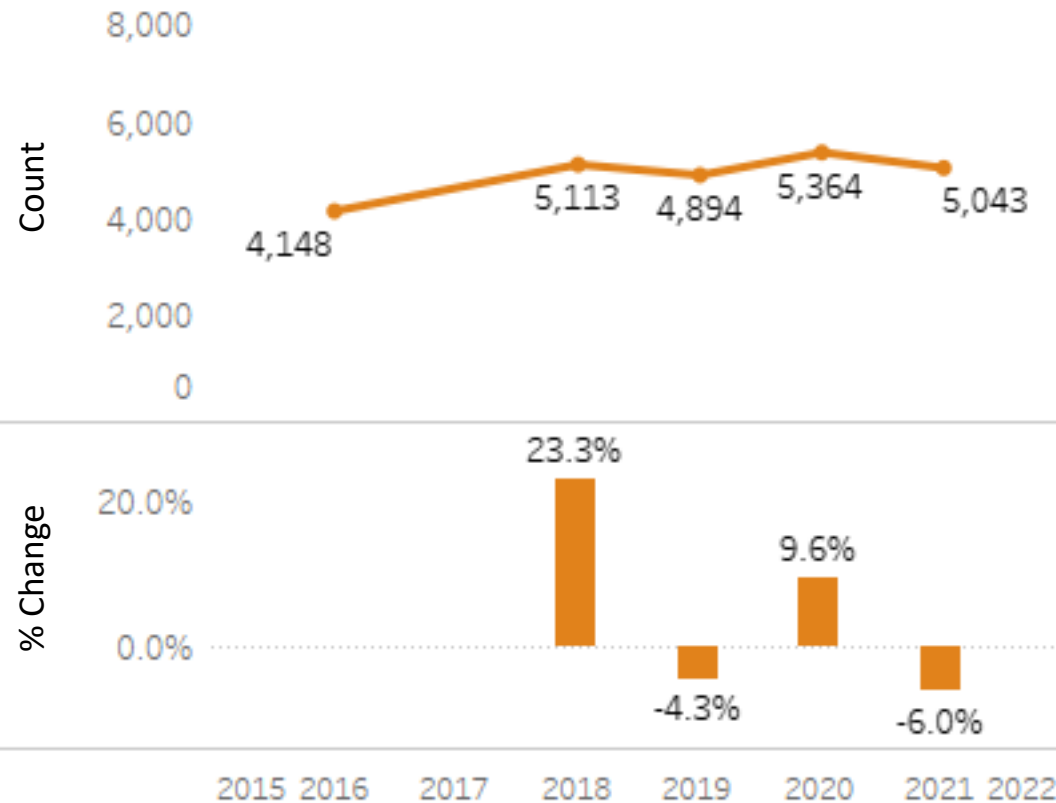
Source: OBPT Licensing System as of 9/19/2022

Oregon Physical Therapy Workforce – Practitioner Counts Over Time

Current = 5,166

Physical therapists

over time & percent change from previous time point

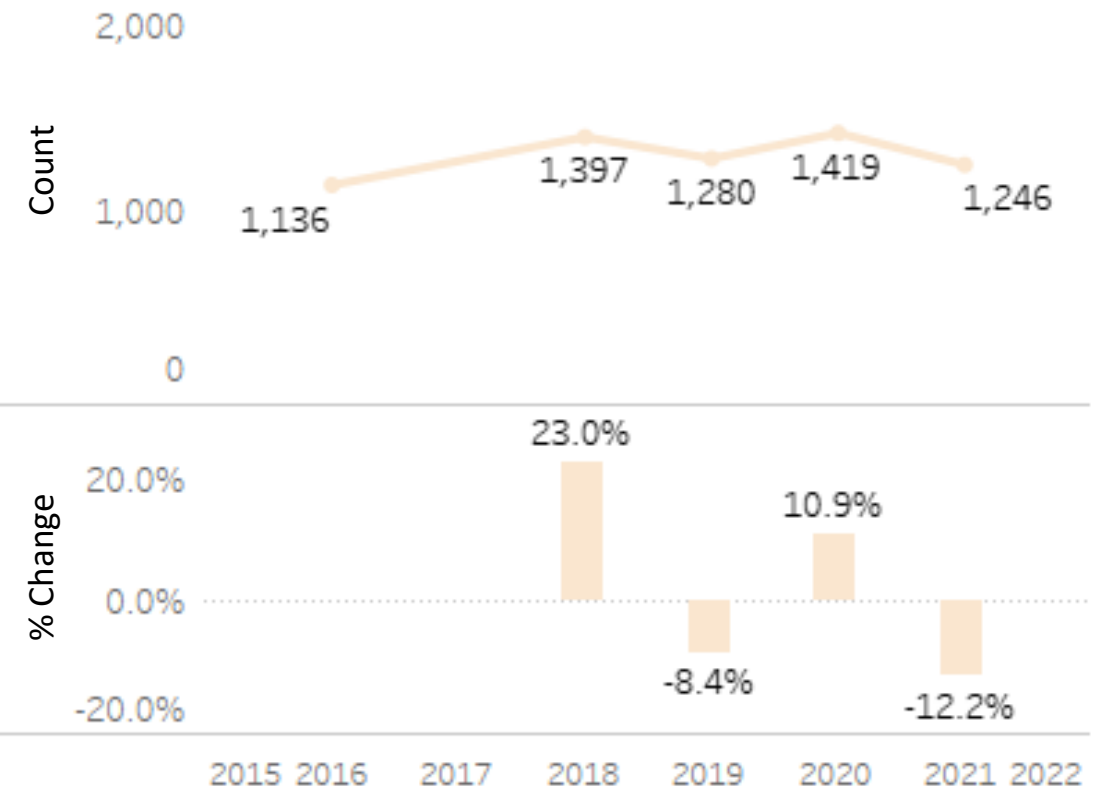


2022 OHA Data Not Yet Avail

Current = 1,231

Physical therapy assistants

over time & percent change from previous time point



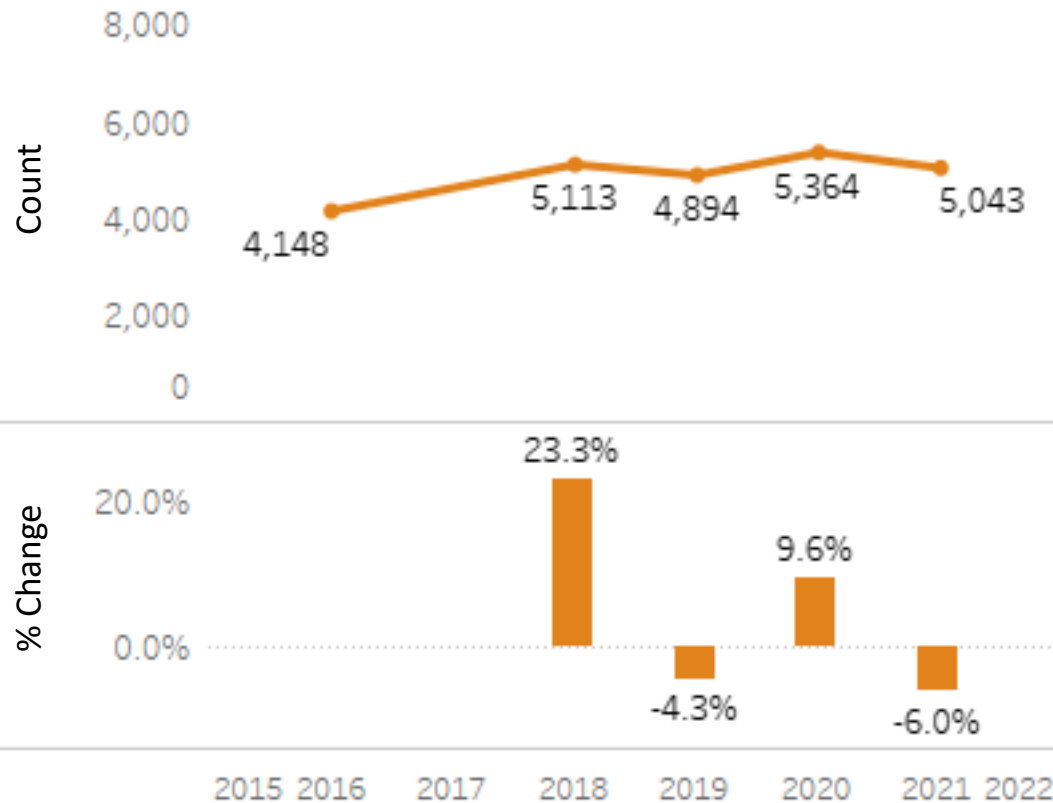
Source: [Oregon Health Authority Healthcare Workforce Reporting Data](#)
Data as of January of reported year; OBPT renewals each even year.

Oregon Physical Therapy Workforce – Licenses vs Active Practice

License Holders (PT)

Physical therapists

over time & percent change from previous time point

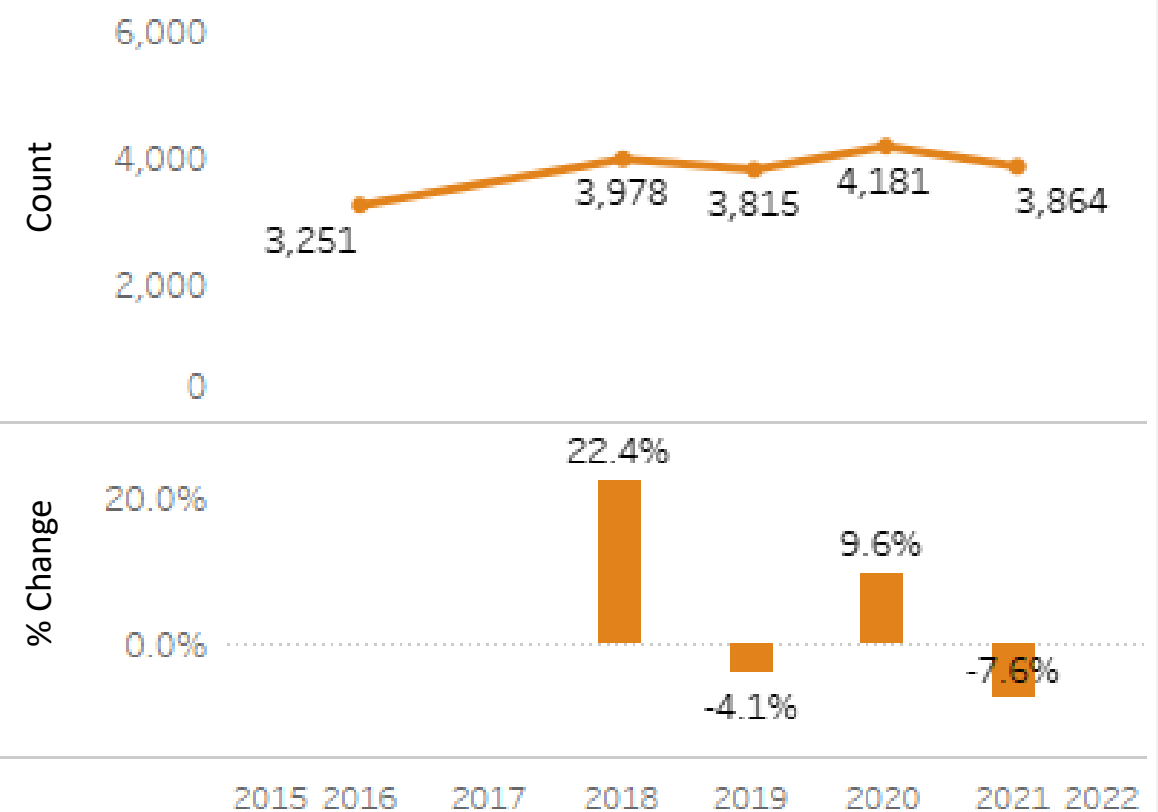


2022 OHA Data Not Yet Avail

Est. Actively Practicing in Oregon (PT)

Physical therapists

over time & percent change from previous time point



Source: [Oregon Health Authority Healthcare Workforce Reporting Data](#)
Data as of January of reported year; OBPT renewals each even year.

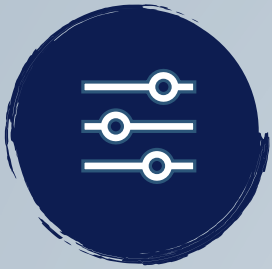
Oregon Physical Therapy Workforce – Reported Barriers

- Devaluation over time; reduced reimbursement.
- Availability of specific specialists/practitioners where/when needed.
- Practitioner burnout/Practice hour reductions.
- (Lack of) Diversity of workforce.
- Need for better data.



Source: Stakeholder Feedback

Oregon Physical Therapy Workforce – Current Strategic Initiatives



Diversifying Workforce

Educational Pathway Workgroup – partnership with all Oregon PT/PTA schools and APTA-OR chapter..



Data Analysis

Creating greater understanding of and visibility into workforce.



Partnership

Outreach initiatives to employers to understand workforce barriers/potential for partnership.



Supporting Licensees

Providing resources for maintaining healthy practice; wellness, continuing education options.



Requirements Review

Removing unnecessary barriers to licensure. Improving systems, reviewing requirements.

OBPT Application Processing

Majority of applications* processed within 1-2 business days of all application materials being received.

Applicant Provides

Demographics;
Questions;
Declarations;
Completes Pain
Course.

+

Requests/Completes
External Items

Application

Externally Sourced

Typically received within 1-15 days of being requested.

Clinical Exam

NPTE

OR Laws Exam

OR-JAM

Transcripts

Schools

Background
Check

OSP/FBI
/Other

License
Verifications

Other
States

**Including renewals, which require applicant responses and submittal of CE, and Board-performed LEDS-check.*

OBPT Application Processing – Other Factors & Context

Application

Recent System Improvements

- Shifted from paper to online applications in 2020, reducing lead times.
- Applicant portal shows status of all components in real-time.
- Outreach to applicants if external items not received in expected timeframes.
- ***Non-linear submittal allowed***—can submit external items before application.

Applications with Longer Timeframes

- Exam applicants allowed to start process prior to graduation and testing (up to six months).
- Foreign credentialing and licensure verification can take several months.
- Background verifications/case reviews for failure to disclose or where possible nexus to practice can delay processing.

Compact Privileges

- Issued by Physical Therapy Compact Commission.
- Based on Home State qualification and licensure expiration date.
- Privilege State can have jurisprudence requirement.
- Privilege State investigates complaints in that jurisdiction.
- Privilege State receives portion of fee to offset expenses.

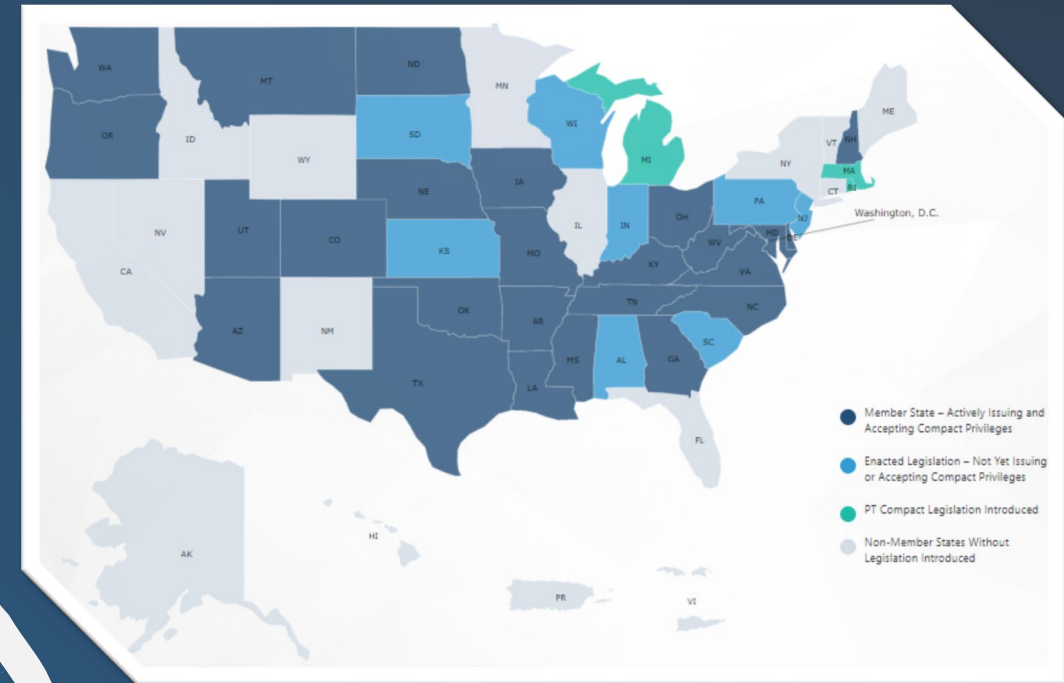
Benefits

- Improved public protection via Interstate collaboration & data-sharing.
- Reduced burden for travelers; short-term practice through streamlined management.

PT Compact

Oregon is one of 34 participating states; 1st state to enact legislation in 2016; issuing since mid-2018.

25 states actively issuing privileges.



<https://ptcompact.org/>

For Consideration

Possible legislative topics to help address workforce/patient access “pain points”.

- Addressing reimbursement.
- Encouraging greater Oregon Health Plan participation in underserved areas.
- Supporting wellness programs offered for more health professionals.
- Adding PTs/PTAs to loan forgiveness and/or regional incentive programs; scholarships.
- Supporting acquisition, analysis and sharing of health practitioner data; finding ways to incorporate new applicants, compact privilege holders, or other license types not currently captured.
- Minor modernization of PT Practice Act (and rulemaking) to address barriers for some endorsement applicants.

Based on Stakeholder Feedback

Thank you

physical.therapy@obpt.oregon.gov

Phil Haworth, PT
Board Chair

Michelle Sigmund-Gaines
Board Director