INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION DATA SURVEY

May 2015

International Private Physical Therapy Association (IPPTA)
**IPPTA Focus**

- Private Practitioner Business Education
- Benchmarking for Member Organisations
- Sharing of Information Amongst Member Organisations
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<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>BELGIUM</td>
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<td>CANADA</td>
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<td>DENMARK</td>
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<td>EIRE</td>
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<td>NORWAY</td>
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<td>SOUTH AFRICA</td>
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<td>SPAIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
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</table>
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Project Purpose
1. To establish a dataset of private practice physical therapy information common to all IPPTA Member Organisations
2. To allow information to be used for comparison amongst IPPTA Member Organisations.

Overall Responses
17 IPPTA Member Countries returned responses to this survey.

Population of Countries

An explanation of ‘populations’ follows because this is often misunderstood and as so many of the figures referred to within this document depend on ‘population’, clarity has been strived for.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>320,475,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>80,833,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>66,104,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>64,105,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>54,002,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>46,464,053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>35,675,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>23,757,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>16,891,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>11,237,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>9,747,355</td>
</tr>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>8,211,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>5,659,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>5,475,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>5,165,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eire</td>
<td>4,609,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>4,564,410</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 Populations of countries taking part in survey

The population of a country is usually described as an ‘estimate’.

The source of the population ‘estimates’ used in this survey come from’ Wikipedia’ which is a company based in the USA. Wikipedia do not compile their own figures but quote various relatively reliable sources from around the world that produce the figures. Most of the figures are produced by the national statistics departments of the relevant countries concerned and are variously described as ‘official estimates’ or ‘official population clock’. ‘Official’ usually is taken to mean ‘produced by the country that the figures relate to.’ The use of the word ‘clock’ implies a regular on-going series of estimates, whereas the word ‘estimate’ denotes the calculation of an estimate at spaced out periods.

The method of collecting data is varied but usually consists of using a census and then calculating the average changes in growth over periods of time after that census. This
becomes an ‘estimate’ that government statistics departments in countries all over the world use. Different sources will give different numbers for the same area being counted whether a continent, country, region or city. There is no absolutely accurate figure. The United Nations figures and those produced by the USA, for instance, are notably different. Not every country produces figures at the same time or even at similar frequencies and so the following table accurately details when the figures were produced and by whom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date of Estimate</th>
<th>Source of Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td>Official population clock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>April 2014</td>
<td>Official Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td>Official Monthly Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>Official Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>Official Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>Official Annual Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>Official Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td>Official population clock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td>Official population clock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
<td>Official Monthly Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
<td>Official Monthly Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>Official Quarterly Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
<td>Official Quarterly Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td>Official Monthly Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
<td>Official Quarterly Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eire</td>
<td>April 2014</td>
<td>Official Annual Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td>Official population clock</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Date and source of population data

The use of Wikipedia figures has been preferred to the World Bank figures used by WCPT because Wikipedia figures are more up to date and contemporaneous with other details collected in this survey. Only the above population figures are referred to.

Populations of participating countries

The United States of America declared the largest population with 320 million people.

A group of member countries have sizeable populations including Canada, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Germany ranging between 35 million and 80 million people. The next group with medium sized populations between 8 million and 23 million include Australia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Sweden. The last group of five member countries have smaller populations ranging between 4.5 million and 5.6 million people. These countries include New Zealand, Eire, Norway, Finland and Denmark. Figure 1 demonstrates the difference in size of population of member countries.
The reported numbers of registered physical therapists in each country is shown in Figure 2. The order of countries has been kept as per the population figure above. In terms of the number of physical therapists, the United States has the largest number followed by Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Spain.

**Figure 2 Number of Physical Therapists in each country**

The provision of physical therapists within each population is demonstrated in Table 3.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Number of P/T’s</th>
<th>People per P/T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>320,475,000</td>
<td>198,686</td>
<td>1613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>80,833,000</td>
<td>136,000</td>
<td>594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>66,104,000</td>
<td>75,164</td>
<td>879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>64,105,654</td>
<td>48,734</td>
<td>1315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>54,002,000</td>
<td>6,686</td>
<td>8077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>46,464,053</td>
<td>39,936</td>
<td>1163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>35,675,834</td>
<td>18,287</td>
<td>1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>23,757,600</td>
<td>26,123</td>
<td>909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>16,891,300</td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>11,737,963</td>
<td>29,007</td>
<td>405</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>9,747,355</td>
<td>12,310</td>
<td>792</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>8,211,700</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>5,659,715</td>
<td>11,693</td>
<td>484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>5,475,526</td>
<td>13,368</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>5,165,802</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eire</td>
<td>4,609,600</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>1317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N Zealand</td>
<td>4,564,410</td>
<td>4,040</td>
<td>1130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3 People per Physical Therapist in each country**

The figures in the fourth column are arrived at by dividing the population of the country by the number of physical therapists registered in the country. In attempting average the above figures a more accurate picture would be obtained by removing South Africa from any calculation. Their relative much greater number of people per Physical Therapist would affect the other numbers unduly. South Africa in this respect might be considered an outlier as they have a sizeable population with fewer physical therapists.

The other countries collectively show an average that produces a figure of 919 people per physical therapist. It is possible to arrange the other countries into three separate groups. Six of the remaining sixteen countries had over one thousand people per physical therapist, five countries had between 500 and 1000 people per physical therapist and the final five countries had fewer than 500 people per physical therapist

**Number of Physical Therapists in Private Practice**

![Private Physios](image-url)

**Figure 3 Number of physical therapists in private practice**
Figure 3 demonstrates the number of physical therapists in private practice. The chart shows countries listed by population with greater population on the left and less population on the right. The countries with the largest numbers of private practitioners are Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Australia.

*Note: The USA was unable to supply information for this question and this is represented in the graph zero.*

**Comparison of Numbers of Physical Therapists in Private Practice**

Figure 4 compares the numbers of physical therapists registered in a country and the numbers of physical therapists working in private practice in those countries.

*Note: The USA was unable to supply information for this question and this is represented in the graph zero.*

![Figure 4](image)

*Figure 4 Total numbers of registered physical therapists and numbers of registered physical therapists working in private practice*

Another method of illustrating the differences between the numbers of physical therapists registered in a country and working in private practice is shown in figure 5.
Percentage of Physical Therapists in Private Practice
Figure 6 demonstrates the percentage of the total number of physical therapists working in private practice in each country.

The physical therapy workforce engaged in private practice across the Member Organisations ranges from 61% in Australia to 6.2% in France. The average percentage of practitioners from Member Organisations in private practice is 34%

Member Organisation countries can be divided into three distinct groups when analysing the number of physical therapists working in private practice:

1. Four Member Organisations have over 50% working in private practice.
2. Eight Member Organisations have between 20% and 50% working in private practice
3. Four Member Organisations have under 20% working in private practice

Table 4 below shows the number of physical therapists working in private practice in each country and the corresponding percentage of the physical therapy workforce engaged in private practice. This was calculated by dividing the total number of registered P.T.’s by those known to be in private practice.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% Private P.T.’s</th>
<th>Number of private P.T.’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>Not known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>42.1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>6686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>11,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>54.3</td>
<td>2,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>61.2</td>
<td>16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>43,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>4,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>2,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>2,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eire</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>4,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>5,727</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 Number and percentage of physical therapists working in private practice

Populations and People per Physical Therapist

Figure 7 shows the ratio of people per physical therapist in each country. The figure is calculated by dividing the population by the number of physical therapists in each country.

![People per Physical Therapist](chart.png)

Figure 7 People per physical therapist
People per Private Physical Therapist

There are economic and social reasons in Member Countries that affect the utilisation of physical therapy services from a private physical therapist.

![Bar Chart: People per Private Physical Therapist](chart1.png)

**Figure 8 People per Private Physical Therapist**

Figure 8 shows that IPPTA Member Organisation countries can be divided into three general groups when analysing the number of private physical therapists per capita.

1. Countries having fewer than 2,000 people per private physical therapist
2. Countries having 2,000 – 6,000 people per private physical therapist
3. Countries having in excess of 11,000 people per private physical therapist.

The data shows that the Belgium, Netherlands and Norway are the best supplied with private physical therapists and that South Africa, France and Spain are the least well supplied with private physical therapists for the population.

Figure 9 demonstrates a comparison between the total number of physical therapists and the number of private practising physical therapists per head of population in each country.

![Bar Chart: People per PT and per private PT](chart2.png)

**Figure 9 Number of people per physical therapist and per private physical therapist in each country.**
Figure 9 shows that France, Sweden, Eire and the UK have far fewer private physical therapists per capita compared with the total number of physical therapists. New Zealand and Australia by comparison have a greater proportion of private physical therapists per capita compared with the total number of physical therapists.

**Physical Therapists as a Percentage of the Population**

The percentage of the population in each country who are physical therapists varies considerably. There appear to be four separate groupings. The smallest percentage of the population who are physical therapists is in South Africa where 0.012 of the population are physical therapists. There is a second large group consisting of 6 countries including Spain, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Eire, Canada and the USA who vary between 0.05% and 0.09% of the population. A third group of countries where physical therapists comprise between 0.11% and 0.17% of the population include Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, France and Australia. The fourth group of countries and those with the highest proportion of physical therapists as a percentage of the population include Norway, Belgium, Finland, Netherlands and Denmark with percentages of 0.27%, 0.24%, 0.22% and 0.21% respectively.

The average percentage across all IPPTA Member Organisation countries for physical therapists as a percentage of the total population is 0.13%.

Table 5 below shows the percentages for each country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>PT’s as % of population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N Zealand</td>
<td>.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eire</td>
<td>.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>.012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 5 Physical Therapists as a percentage of their country’s population*
Regulation of Physical Therapy

Regulatory Bodies

From a global perspective a range of bodies in each country have responsibility for administering the regulation of physical therapy. In eleven of the seventeen countries government departments, ministries or government run regulating bodies regulate the profession. Four countries including France, Germany, Canada and Spain have regional regulating bodies. In Eire the professional body undertakes regulation and in Switzerland the Swiss Red Cross organisation has the responsibility for regulation. In the United States of America regulation of the profession is performed by State Boards known as Chapters.

Compulsory Registration

In every country except Eire, registration is necessary to practice physiotherapy.

Protection of Title

Protection of Title is taken to mean that ‘only duly registered and qualified physical therapists are permitted to describe themselves as Physiotherapists/Physical Therapists or the like’. In every country except Eire the titles Physiotherapy and Physical Therapy are protected.

Regulation of Migrant Workers as Physical Therapists in Private Practice

In most IPPTA Member Organisation countries a government department is responsible for regulating migrant physical therapists in private practice. The exceptions are:

1. Eire, where the professional body regulates migrant physical therapists.
2. Sweden and France where a regional body regulates migrant physical therapists.
3. Canada where regional boards regulate migrant physical therapist workers on educational grounds.
4. Spain and the United States of America where both the government and regional bodies play a part in regulation (the government allowing a migrant worker to enter the country and a region regulating the right to practise as a physical therapist)

Switzerland regulates the migrant workers through the Swiss Red Cross

Definition of the Scope of Practice by a National Body

Scope of practice has two components:

1. The general scope of practice defined by a national body which outlines what is permissible within the profession in that country
2. The individual scope of practice that each Physical Therapist is responsible for defining themselves (i.e. what each physical therapist feels they are sufficiently educated about and experienced in to be able to treat patients safely and adequately).

(An individual’s scope of practice should nearly always fall within the national scope of practice. An exception might be if an extended scope practitioner is breaking new ground by extending or adding to their techniques and initially using techniques that at that time are not accepted as ‘physical therapy’ They would still be expected to only treat safely
and not to cause harm to the patient, whilst striving to ensure their new techniques come under the umbrella of ‘physical therapy’. This has the potential to cause a problem with the therapist’s professional liability insurance.)

Scope of Practice in this context is taken to mean ‘General Scope of Practice as outlined above in number 1.’

Eleven countries stated that a national body defined their scope of practice. These countries included:

1. Belgium
2. Eire
3. Finland
4. France
5. Germany
6. South Africa
7. Spain
8. Sweden
10. United Kingdom
11. New Zealand

Five countries stated that a national body did not define their scope of practice and they included:

1. Australia
2. Denmark
3. Netherlands
4. Norway
5. Canada

Direct Access

Physical therapists in 15 IPPTA Member Organisation countries are allowed direct access to patients. The exceptions are Belgium and France.

Ability to Assess

Physical therapists in all countries were permitted to assess patients.

Ability to Diagnose

Diagnosis by physical therapists is not permitted in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands or Sweden. All other countries permit physical therapists to diagnose patients.

Autonomous Treatment

Physical therapists in every country were permitted to treat autonomously.
**Referral to other Specialists**

Referral to other specialists (either medical or allied to medicine) by physical therapists is not permitted in Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway. Physical therapists in all the other countries are permitted to refer to specialists.

**Preventative Advice and Services**

Physical therapists in all countries except Belgium are allowed to offer preventative advice and/or services.

**Requirement of Continuing Professional Development**

Evidence of continuing professional development is required to continue practicing in nine IPPTA Member Organisation countries except Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Norway and Sweden.

**Guidance by Specific Standards of Practice**

‘Guidance by Specific Standards of Practice’ implies that the physical therapy practitioners have to adhere to a national professional code of conduct or ethics, which if deviated from, could result in various penalties up to and including the removal of the right to practice as a physical therapist.

Eleven countries give specific guidance with regard to the standards of practice required in order to practise physical therapy. (One country did not respond to this question)

Countries **not** offering specific guidance include:

1. Belgium
2. Finland
3. France
4. Norway
5. Spain.

**Use of Physical Therapy Aides**

The use of physical therapy aides in practice is **not** permitted in the following countries:

1. Belgium
2. Finland
3. France
4. Germany
5. Netherlands
6. Norway
7. Spain.

All the other countries allow the use of physical therapy aides under supervision.
Private Clinics
The concept of ‘private clinics’ has different meanings and ramifications in different countries. In Germany, private clinics are included in the general health care system and as a consequence all out-patient physical therapy is carried out in private clinics. Germany has many more private physical therapy clinics than other countries due to the manner in which the health system is structured. In countries where public and private health care is separated there are far fewer private physical therapy clinics per head of population.

Number of clinics
The data identifying the number of private clinics in each country was supplied from each Member Organisation and the average number of people per clinic was calculated. This data is purely an arithmetical calculation. Table 6 shows in descending order the countries with the lowest ratio of people per Private Practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of clinics</th>
<th>People per clinic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>4500</td>
<td>1217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>43000</td>
<td>1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>4800</td>
<td>3519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>953</td>
<td>4790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>4245</td>
<td>5597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>8085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eire</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>15365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>16026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>32491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>36001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 6 Number of Clinics in each country and the average number of people per Private Clinic*

Referral for Physical Therapy
Generally referral for physical therapy treatment comes from four major sources that include

1. the patient’s doctor or specialist
2. the patient themselves
3. the patient’s insurance company
4. the patient’s workplace.

The largest source of referral for treatment is from doctors and specialists followed by self-referral. A group of patients have been identified as being referred through more than one route suggesting that more than one source is responsible for introducing a person to physical therapy in some countries. As a result the total percentages amount to more than 100%.

Table 7 demonstrates what percentage (globally) comes from each of the four sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Referral</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self/patient</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td>65.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>3.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 7 Source of physical therapy referral*
Payment of Physical Therapists Working in Private Practice.

Physical Therapists working in private practice are remunerated in various ways. Table 8 shows the various remuneration methods and their use in member countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Payment to PT</th>
<th>Number of Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contract</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual fees</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 8 Source of payment to physical therapists working in private practice*

Reimbursement for the Supply of Physical Therapy Services
The source of funding for the provision of physical therapy services comes from three major sources in most countries including the government, medical insurance and from patients themselves. There are a variety of other sources of funding such as accident funds, employers and various government schemes but these are quite individualised to the country where they occur. Table 9 shows the sources of funding for physical therapy services amongst member countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Funding</th>
<th>Number of countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Insurance</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self/patient</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 9 Source of funding for physical therapy services*

Percentage of Funding for Physical Therapy Services from Each Source
The average proportion of funding from each source is shown in figure 10.

![Figure 10 Proportion of funding from each source](image-url)

Government Funding for Physical Therapy Affected by Age
In four IPPTA Member Organisation countries government funding for physical therapy treatment is dependent on the age of the patient. These countries are Finland, Canada, Norway and the United States of America.

Method of Fee Charging
The IPPTA Member Organisation countries use a variety of methods when charging fees for physical therapy treatment. The three most common methods of charging fees are
1. Charging an hourly rate
2. Charging for the service (regardless of the time spent with the patient)

Figure 11 reveals how many countries used each method of charging.

### Figure 11 Method of Fee Charging

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of Fee Charging</th>
<th>Number of Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hourly Rate</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modality</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Difference in Funding for In-Patient and Out-Patient Physical Therapy**

There is a difference in funding in some countries between in-patient and out-patient physical therapy services. Eight countries identify a difference in funding including Australia, Eire, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Canada, United Kingdom and the United States of America. The remaining Member Organisation countries either identify no difference in funding or the question is not relevant to their individual circumstances.
Registered physical therapists and subscription to national organisations

Membership of registered Physical Therapists to national organisations in the countries taking part in this survey varied greatly both within the national physical therapy organisations and within the private practice national organisations. This initially led to much confusion when collecting data.

It posed the question as to why such variation might occur. The international organisation IPPTA could not know the variations in benefits offered by each member organisation or the environment in which they exist but by offering the detail collected, it might be possible for individual countries to look at this detail and form their own conclusions and alter their strategies, if necessary.

The national detail is taken from the WCPT website and the national private practice organisation detail was provided by member organisations of IPPTA.

Registered physical therapists subscribing to their national organisation.

The following table has four columns which report the country (listed by size of population), the number of physical therapists registered in each country, the number of registered physical therapists who belong to the national physical therapy organisation and the percentage of physical therapists who chose to belong to the professional organisation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Reg. PT’s</th>
<th>Org numbers</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>198686</td>
<td>58843</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>136000</td>
<td>25,636</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>75164</td>
<td>4193</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>48734</td>
<td>40922</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>6686</td>
<td>3689</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>39936</td>
<td>5788</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>18287</td>
<td>10785</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>26123</td>
<td>12602</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>38000</td>
<td>17500</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>29007</td>
<td>4550</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>12310</td>
<td>10424</td>
<td>84.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>11000</td>
<td>8437</td>
<td>76.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>11693</td>
<td>10400</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>13368</td>
<td>7517</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>14000</td>
<td>7046</td>
<td>50.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eire</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>2899</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>4040</td>
<td>3055</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There appears to be little correlation between the countries and the percentage choosing to join their national organisation. Whilst there are similarities between the UK and Eire, Sweden and Denmark and Finland and Norway, there is apparently no similarity between Belgium and the Netherlands or Australia and New Zealand.
Those countries with organisations demonstrating a high membership of registered PT’s are Denmark, Sweden, UK, Eire, Switzerland and New Zealand. It may be that the national professional organisations in those countries offer more attractive or necessary benefits than found in other countries.

**Ratio of female to male physical therapists**
The ratio of females to males in the national organisations does seem to be connected with the percentage of membership. The table below demonstrates that national organisation membership below 50% and the female to male ratio of 2:1 have some correlation. Additionally where there is less than a 2:1 female to male ratio no membership to the national organisation rose above 50% of the registered physical therapists.

*Table 11 Percentage of national organisation membership and ratio of females to males*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% Membership</th>
<th>Ratio F : M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>3.13 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>84.5</td>
<td>4.56 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>3.9 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eire</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>3.22 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>76.5</td>
<td>2.79 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>3.05 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>2.77 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>6.13 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>7.45 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>50.5</td>
<td>3.14 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>2.04 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1.34 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>1.86 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>Not known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>1.14 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>1.5 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>1.26 : 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Registered private physical therapists subscribing to their national private practice organisation.

The collection of this data proved confusing for some Member Organisations but the information reported in the table below is currently considered accurate. Member Organisations representatives contributed the above data. The format is the same as in table 10 above.

New Zealand, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland and South Africa all report membership of at least 50% of their countries registered physical therapists who work in private practice.
Table 12 Private P.T’s who belong to their national private practice organisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Registered private PT’s</th>
<th>Org numbers</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>4284</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>4209</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>3395</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>6686</td>
<td>3724</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>9000</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>11,430</td>
<td>2372</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>2050</td>
<td>1738</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>5727</td>
<td>5211</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>12100</td>
<td>2262</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eire</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>2195</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ratio of female to male physical therapists in private practice

Thirteen countries were able to contribute all the relevant information to this section. Countries who reported a membership of at least 50% of the registered physical therapists working in private practice, had a female to male ratio of no less than 2:1.

Currently we do not understand why those countries with a smaller female to male ratio (i.e. under 2:1) do not have a membership of more than 50% of available registered physical therapists working in private practice.

Table 13 Ratio of females to males and percentage of national private organisation membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% Membership</th>
<th>Ratio F : M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>2.4 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>2.3 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>2 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>2.3 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>6.7 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>9 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eire</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>4 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Not known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2.57 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1.12 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1.85 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1.4 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>1.5 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>1.9 : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>2 : 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reports on Individual Member Countries

AUSTRALIA

Background Information
Population: 23,757,600
Number of Physical Therapists registered with regulatory body: 26,123
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 16,000
Number of private clinics: 4,245
Body responsible for professional regulation: Physiotherapy Board of Australia (government)

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in Australia and the title is protected. The Physiotherapy Board of Australia carries out regulation of migrant workers. The scope of practice is not defined by a national body.
Physical Therapists have direct access to patients, are permitted to assess and diagnose patients, treat autonomously, refer to other specialists and are allowed to offer preventative advice.
Physical therapy practice is guided by specific standards of practice and evidence of continuing professional development is required to remain registered.
Physiotherapy clinics may be owned by non-Physical Therapists. Physiotherapy aides are permitted to work in Australia under supervision only.

Referral
There is no data for referral from Australia.

Payment of Physical Therapists in Australia
Physical Therapists are paid by a number of different methods including salary, contract and individual fees.

Sources of Funding/Reimbursement
Sources of funding in Australia are detailed in figure 1.

![Figure 1 Source of funding for Australia](chart.png)
Fees are based both on an hourly rate and fee for service.
Age does not affect funding physical therapy by the government in Australia.
Funding for in hospital physical therapy is different to physical therapy administered out of hospital.

**General Summary**

Australia has 26,123 Physical Therapists of which it is estimated 16,000 are private practitioners to service 23,757,600 people.
There are 4245 private physical therapy clinics in Australia and each clinic could access 5597 people to treat if the population were divided equally.
Physical Therapists represent 0.11% of the population in Australia.
Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 61% of all Physical Therapists working in Australia.
Each Physical Therapist in Australia when divided amongst the population caters for 909 people in the population.
In Australia, medical insurance funds 50% of treatment in private practice.

**Additional Information**

In Australia the national physical therapy organisation attracts 48% of registered Physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is just over 2:1.
The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts just over 5% of registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 2:1.
BELGIUM

Background Information
Population: 11,737,963
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 29,007
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 11,430
Number of private clinics: Not known
Body responsible for professional regulation: FOD Volksgezondheid and RIZIV (government)

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in Belgium and the title is protected. FOD Volksgezondheid and RIZIV carry out regulation of migrant workers. The scope of practice is defined by a national body. Physical Therapists do not have direct access to patients nor are they allowed to diagnose, refer to other specialists or to offer preventative advice. They are permitted to assess and to treat autonomously. Physical therapy practice is not guided by specific standards of practice and evidence of continuing professional development is not required to remain registered. Physical Therapy clinics may be owned by non-Physical Therapists. Physical Therapy aides are not permitted to work in the Belgium.

Referral
The only source of referral in Belgium is from doctors. This is quite different from the worldwide average of other IPPTA Member Organisations. Figure 1 illustrates the differences.

![Figure 1 Source of Referral in Belgium](image)

Payment of Physical Therapists in the Belgium
Physical Therapists are paid by two methods including individual fees and ‘Perce’. The ‘Perce’ System works as follows:
Anyone working in Belgium pays mandatory social security contributions and in addition is usually required to join a health insurance scheme (mutuelle/mutualiteits) run by one of the private or mutual insurers that may be linked to a union. Individuals may choose which insurance scheme they join, although their employer usually enrols them in a scheme automatically.
The cost of care is partially or fully refunded by the health insurance scheme, depending on certain criteria fixed by law.
**Self-employed workers and freelancers**
Self-employed people are only insured to cover high cost risks e.g. conditions requiring hospital surgery and radiology tests, but can take out additional cover for minor risks. This extra cover then entitles self-employed workers and freelancers to partial reimbursement for consultations, certain dental care, physical therapy, prostheses and medication when not in hospital.

**The 'personal share'**
When medical costs are incurred the individual is asked to pay a portion of the costs. This is known as the personal share. This amount can be subject to a fixed maximum (a concept referred to as maximum billing) calculated with reference to income. For minor medical treatment the individual usually pays the healthcare provider in full and submits a certificate detailing the treatment and cost to their health insurance scheme for reimbursement. The rate at which an individual is reimbursed depends on the type of care, the provider used and their own personal status. If a person is disabled, widowed, retired or unemployed their personal share of the full cost would be less than a person working in a full time job.

**Sources of Funding/Reimbursement**
Sources of funding in Belgium are detailed in figure 2.

![Figure 2 Sources of funding for Belgium](image)

Fees are based on an hourly rate.
Age does not affect funding by the government in Belgium.
Funding for in hospital physical therapy is no different to physical therapy administered out of hospital.

**General Summary**
Belgium has 29,007 Physical Therapists of which 11,430 are private practitioners servicing a population of 11,737,963 people.
Physical Therapists represent 0.25% of the population in Belgium.
Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 39% of all Physical Therapists working in Belgium.
Each Physical Therapist in Belgium when divided amongst the population caters for 404 people in the population.
In Belgium, the government is responsible for funding 75% of treatment in private practice.
Additional Information

In Belgium the national physical therapy organisation attracts 15.5% of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 1.14:1.

The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts just over 21% of registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 1.12:1.
CANADA

Background Information
Population: 35,675,834
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 18,287
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 9,000
Number of private clinics: Not known
Body responsible for professional regulation: Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in Canada and the title is protected.
The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators carries out regulation of migrant workers.
The scope of practice is not defined by a national body.
Physical Therapists have direct access to patients, are allowed to diagnose, refer to other allied health practitioners and in some areas are permitted to refer to doctors. They are also permitted to assess, to treat autonomously and to offer preventative advice.
Physical therapy practice is guided by specific standards of practice and evidence of continuing professional development is required to remain registered.
Physical Therapy clinics may be owned by non-Physical Therapists.
Physical Therapy aides are permitted to work under supervision in Canada.

Referral
There is no data for referral from Canada.

Payment of Physical Therapists in Canada
Physical Therapists are paid by a number of different methods including salary, contract and individual fees.

Sources of Funding/Reimbursement
Sources of funding in Canada are from the government, insurance and by self-funding. The proportions are not known.
Patient age affects the government fee paid for physical therapy and funding differs for private in-patient and private out-patient physical therapy services.

General Summary
Canada has 18,287 Physical Therapists of which 9,000 are private practitioners to service 35,675,834 people.
Physical Therapists represent 0.05% of the population in Canada.
Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 49.2% of all Physical Therapists working in Canada.
Each Physical Therapist in Canada when divided amongst the population caters for 1951 people in the population.

Additional Information
In Canada the national physical therapy organisation attracts 59% of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 2.77:1.
The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts just over 10% of registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 1:1

**Summary of the Government Funded Healthcare System**

- Federal government mandates that the health services covered under Canada Health Act be publicly funded.
- Services covered under the Canada Health Act cannot be privately funded.
- Physical Therapy services delivered within hospital settings are covered under the Canada Health Act
- Physical Therapy services NOT delivered within hospital setting are NOT covered under the Canada Health Act
- While federally mandated under the Canada Health Act, healthcare is a provincial responsibility and each province determines what it will pay for beyond what is mandated by the Canada Health Act
- Some provinces (but not all) do pay for Physical Therapy services delivered outside of hospital settings
  - Citizens of all ages may not receive publically-funded Physical Therapy services in the community even if the province does provide publicly funded services in the community
- Approximately 50% of physical therapists work in public settings and 50% in private settings

**Summary of Private Health Insurers**

- Primarily Extended Health Benefits through employers
- May NOT cover services that are covered under the Canada Health Act
- May be purchased by individuals in some circumstances
- Physical therapists working in the private system are funded by individuals paying out-of-pocket, Workers Compensation, Motor Vehicle Insurance, or through Extended Heath Benefits.
DENMARK

Background Information
Population: 5,659,715
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 11,693
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 2,262
Number of private clinics: 700
Body responsible for professional regulation: Danish Health & Medicines Authority

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in Denmark and the title is protected.
The Danish Health & Medicines Authority carries out regulation of migrant workers.
The scope of practice is not defined by a national body.
Physical Therapists have direct access to patients, are permitted to assess and diagnose patients, treat autonomously and are allowed to offer preventative advice. They are not permitted to refer to other specialists.
Physical therapy practice is guided by specific standards of practice but evidence of continuing professional development is not required to remain registered.
Physical therapy clinics may be owned by non-Physical Therapists.
Physical Therapy aides are permitted to work in Denmark under supervision only.

Referral
Sources of referral in Denmark are from doctors, insurance companies, the workplace and from self-referral. Figure 1 illustrates the sources of referral.

Payment of Physical Therapists in Denmark
Physical Therapists are paid by a number of different methods including wages, contract and individual fees.
Sources of Funding/Reimbursement

Sources of funding in Denmark are from government, insurance companies and self-payment. The detail is in figure 2.

![Figure 2 Sources of funding in Denmark](image)

Fees are service based. Age does not alter the government fee paid for physical therapy and funding does not differ for private in-patient and private out-patient physical therapy services.

General Summary

Denmark has 11,693 Physical Therapists of which 2,262 are private practitioners to service 5,659,715 people.

There are 700 private physical therapy clinics in Denmark and each clinic could access 8085 people to treat if the population were divided equally.

Physical Therapists represent 0.21% of the population in Denmark.

Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 19.3% of all Physical Therapists working in Denmark.

Each Physical Therapist in Denmark when divided amongst the population caters for 484 people in the population.

In Denmark, the government funds 60% of treatment in private practice.

Additional Information

In Denmark the national physical therapy organisation attracts 89 % of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 3.13:1.

The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts just over 19% of registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 1.85:1.

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**EIRE**

**Background Information**
Population: 4,609,600
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 3,500
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 900
Number of private clinics: 300
Body responsible for professional regulation: Irish Society of Chartered Physical Therapists

**Professional Details**
Registration is not necessary to practice in Eire and the title is not protected.
The Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists carries out regulation of migrant workers.
The scope of practice is defined by a national body.
Physical Therapists have direct access to patients, are permitted to assess and diagnose patients, treat autonomously and are allowed to offer preventative advice. They are also permitted to refer to all other specialists.
Physical therapy practice is guided by specific standards of practice and evidence of continuing professional development is required to remain registered.
Physical Therapy clinics may be owned by non-Physical Therapists.
Physical Therapy aides are permitted to work in Eire under supervision only.

**Referral**
Sources of referral in Eire are from doctors, insurance companies, the workplace and self-referral. Figure 1 illustrates the sources of referral.

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**Figure 1 Sources of referral in Eire**

**Payment of Physical Therapists in Eire**
Payment of private Physical Therapists in Eire is by individual fees.
Sources of Funding/Reimbursement

Sources of funding in Eire are from insurance companies and self-payment. This is shown in figure 2.

Fees are service based. Age does not alter the government fee paid for physiotherapy but funding differs for private in-patient and out-patient physiotherapy services.

General Summary

Eire has 3,500 Physical Therapists of which 900 are private practitioners to service 4,609,600 people.

There are 300 private physical therapy clinics in Eire and each clinic could access 15,365 people to treat if the population were divided equally.

Physical Therapists represent 0.07% of the population in Eire.

Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 25.7% of all Physical Therapists working in Eire.

Each Physical Therapist in Eire when divided amongst the population caters for 1317 people in the population.

In Eire patients self-fund 85% of treatment in private practice.

Additional Information

In Eire the national physical therapy organisation attracts 83% of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 3.22:1.

The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts just over 39% of registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 4:1.
FINLAND

Background Information
Population: 5,475,526
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 13,368
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 3,000
Number of private clinics: 4500
Body responsible for professional regulation: Government

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in Finland and the title is protected.
Government departments carry out regulation of migrant workers.
The scope of practice is defined by a national body.
Physical Therapists have direct access to patients, are permitted to assess and diagnose patients, treat autonomously and are allowed to offer preventative advice. They are not permitted to refer to any specialists.
Physical therapy practice is not guided by specific standards of practice and evidence of continuing professional development is not required to remain registered.
Physical Therapy clinics may be owned by non-Physical Therapists. Physical Therapy aides are not permitted to work in Finland.

Referral
Sources of referral in Finland are from doctors and from self-referral. Figure 1 illustrates the sources of referral.

Figure 1 Source of referral in Finland
Payment of Physical Therapists in Finland
Payment of private Physical Therapists in Finland is either by way of contract or by individual fees.

Sources of Funding/Reimbursement
Sources of funding in Finland are from government, insurance companies, employers and self-payment. The detail is in figure 2.

Figure 2 Sources of funding in Finland

Fees are either time or service based. Age does alter the government fee paid for physical therapy but funding of private in-patient and out-patient service does not differ.

General Summary
Finland has 13,368 Physical Therapists of which 3,000 are private practitioners to service 5,475,526 people. There are 4500 private physical therapy clinics in Finland and each clinic could access 1,217 people to treat if the population were divided equally.
Physical Therapists represent 0.24% of the population in Finland.
Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 22.4% of all Physical Therapists working in Finland.
Each Physical Therapist in Finland when divided amongst the population caters for 410 people in the population.
In Finland insurance companies fund 67% of treatment in private practice.

Additional Information
In Finland the national physical therapy organisation attracts 56% of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 6.1:1.

The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts just over 67% of registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 2.3:1
FRANCE

Background Information
Population: 66,104,000
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 75,164
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 4,600
Number of private clinics: Not known
Body responsible for professional regulation: Ministry of Health

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in France and the title is protected.
The French Ministry of Health carries out regulation of migrant workers.
The scope of practice is defined by a national body.
Physical Therapists do not have direct access to patients but are permitted to assess and
diagnose patients, treat autonomously and are allowed to offer preventative advice. They are
not permitted to refer to any specialist.
Physical therapy practice is not guided by specific standards of practice and evidence of
continuing professional development is not required to remain registered.
Physical Therapy clinics may be owned by non-Physical Therapists.
Physical Therapy aides are not permitted to work in France.

Referral
Sources of referral in France are from doctors and from self-referral. Figure 1 illustrates the
sources of referral.

![Referral Source](image)

*Figure 1 Sources of referral in France*

Payment of Physical Therapists in France
Payment of private Physical Therapists in France is either by wages or individual fees.

Sources of Funding/Reimbursement
Sources of funding in France are from government, insurance companies and self-payment.
The detail is in figure 2.
Fees are service based. Age does alter the government fee paid for physical therapy but funding of private in-patient and out-patient service does not differ.

**General Summary**

France has 75,164 Physical Therapists of which 4,600 are private practitioners to service 66,104,000 people.

Physical Therapists represent 0.11% of the population in France.

Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 6.1% of all Physical Therapists working in France.

Each Physical Therapist in France when divided amongst the population caters for 879 people in the population.

In France the government funds 60% of treatment in private practice.

**Additional Information**

In France the national physical therapy organisation attracts 5.6% of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 1.26:1.

There is no record of how many physical therapists work in private practice in France but the national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts 4209 registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 2:1.
GERMANY

Background Information
Population: 80,833,000
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 136,000
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 43,000
Number of private clinics: 43,000
Body responsible for professional regulation: Regional Bodies

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in Germany and the title is protected. The German Government carries out regulation of migrant workers. The scope of practice is defined by a national body. Physical Therapists have direct access to patients and are allowed to assess but are not permitted to diagnose patients. They are permitted to treat autonomously and are allowed to offer preventative advice. They are not permitted to refer to any specialist. Physical therapy practice is guided by specific standards of practice and evidence of continuing professional development is required to remain registered. Physical Therapy clinics may be owned by non-Physical Therapists. Physical Therapy aides are not permitted to work in Germany.

Referral
Sources of referral in Germany are from doctors and patient self-referral. Figure 1 illustrates the sources of referral.

![Figure 1 Referral sources in Germany](image)

Payment of Physical Therapists in Germany
Payment of private Physical Therapists in Germany is either by individual fees or contract.

Sources of Funding/Reimbursement
Sources of funding in Germany are shown in figure 2.
Fees are either time or service based. Age does not alter the government fee paid for physical therapy but funding of private in-patient and out-patient patient service does differ.

**General Summary**

Germany has 136,000 Physical Therapists of which 43,000 are private practitioners to service 80,833,000 people.

Physical Therapists represent 0.17% of the population in Germany.

Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 31.6% of all Physical Therapists working in Germany.

Each Physical Therapist in Germany when divided amongst the population caters for 594 people in the population.

In Germany insurance funds 90% of treatment in private practice.

**Additional Information**

In Germany the national physical therapy organisation attracts 18.8 % of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is unknown.

The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts 30 % of registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is unknown.
NETHERLANDS

Background Information
Population: 16,891,300
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 38,000
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 16,000
Number of private clinics: 4,800
Body responsible for professional regulation: Government Department

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in the Netherlands and the title is protected.
The government of the Netherlands carries out regulation of migrant workers.
The scope of practice is not defined by a national body.
Physical Therapists have direct access to patients. Physical Therapists are not permitted to
diagnose patients but are allowed to assess patients, treat autonomously and offer
preventative advice. They are not permitted to refer to any specialist.
Physical therapy practice is guided by specific standards of practice and evidence of
continuing professional development is required to remain registered.
Physical Therapy clinics may be owned by non-Physical Therapists.
Physical Therapy aides are permitted to work in the Netherlands.

Referral
Sources of referral in the Netherlands are from doctors and from self-referral. Figure 1
illustrates the sources of referral.

![Sources of referral in the Netherlands](image)

**Figure 1** Sources of referral in the Netherlands

Payment of Physical Therapists in the Netherlands
Physical Therapists are paid by a number of different methods including wages, contract and
individual fees.
Sources of Funding/Reimbursement

N.B. Universal healthcare coverage in the Netherlands was attained in the Health Insurance Act of 2006, which requires anyone working or living in the Netherlands to purchase a private healthcare insurance plan. This plan takes a taxable income-based structure and requires payment of premiums to the private company. However, employers are required to reimburse employees toward the community-rated premium. Government subsidies are available to nearly two-thirds of Dutch families on a yearly basis. Payment for healthcare services, including physiotherapy, is provided by individual private health insurance companies. Individuals choose their own company and plan based on individual healthcare needs. Physiotherapy is a covered benefit in many plans offered by these health insurance companies. The cost of physiotherapy service depends upon consumer choice of plans so cost can vary among individuals. (Wynand P, van de Ven M, Schut FT. Universal Health Insurance in the Netherlands: A Model for the United States? Health Aff. May 2008; 27(3): 771-781)

Sources of funding in the Netherlands are shown in figure 2. The apparent anomaly in the figure is due to the system described above.

![Figure 2 Source of funding in the Netherlands](image)

Fees are modality based. Age does not alter the government fee paid for physical therapy and funding for private in-patient and out-patient services does not differ.

General Summary

The Netherlands has 38,000 Physical Therapists of which 16,000 are private practitioners to service 16,891,300 people.
Physical Therapists represent 0.22% of the population in the Netherlands.
Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 42.1% of all Physical Therapists working in the Netherlands.
Each Physical Therapist in the Netherlands when divided amongst the population caters for 444 people in the population.
In the Netherlands, insurance funds 95% of treatment in private practice. (Each person has to obtain a health insurance plan but employers are required to donate a contribution to this and the government does offer subsidies to those who require it.)
Additional Information

In the Netherlands the national physical therapy organisation attracts 46 % of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 1.34:1.

The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts 49 % of registered physical therapists that work in undertake private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 0.9:1.
NEW ZEALAND

Background Information
Population: 4,564,410
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 4,040
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 2,195
Number of private clinics: 953
Body responsible for professional regulation: Government Department

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in New Zealand and the title is protected. The government of New Zealand carries out regulation of migrant workers. The scope of practice is defined by a national body. Physical Therapists have direct access to patients and are allowed to assess and diagnose patients, treat autonomously and offer preventative advice. They are permitted to refer to specialists. Physical therapy practice is guided by specific standards of practice and evidence of continuing professional development is required to remain registered. Physical Therapy clinics may be owned by non-Physical Therapists. Physical Therapy aides are permitted to work under supervision in the New Zealand.

Referral
Sources of referral in New Zealand are mainly from doctors and from self-referral. Figure 1 illustrates the sources of referral.

![Figure 1 Sources of referral in New Zealand](image)

Payment of Physical Therapists in New Zealand
Physical Therapists are paid by a number of different methods including wages, contract and individual fees.
Sources of Funding/Reimbursement

Sources of funding in New Zealand are shown in figure 2.

![Source of funding in New Zealand](image)

*Figure 2 Source of funding in New Zealand*

Fees are either time or service based. Age does not alter the government fee paid for physical therapy and funding differs for private in-patient and out-patient services (specifically post-operative physical therapy care)

**General Summary**

New Zealand has 4,040 Physical Therapists of which 2,195 are private practitioners to service a population of 4,564,410 people.

There are 953 private physical therapy clinics in New Zealand and each clinic could access 4,734 people to treat if the population were divided equally.

Physical Therapists represent 0.09% of the population in New Zealand.

Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 54.33% of all Physical Therapists working in New Zealand.

Each Physical Therapist in New Zealand when divided amongst the population caters for 1130 people in the population.

In the New Zealand, the government funds 70% of treatment in private practice.

**Additional Information**

In New Zealand the national physical therapy organisation attracts 75 % of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 3.05:1

The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts 91 % of registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 2.4:1
Summary of Government funded healthcare system:

The government-funded public health system works on a community-oriented model, with four Key sectors:

- **District Health Boards** - District Health Boards (DHBs) are funded by the government and are responsible for providing or funding health and disability services in their district. Approximately 29% of the NZ registered physiotherapists are employed by the DHB’s.

- **Primary Health Care** - Primary health care covers a broad range of out-of-hospital services, although not all of them are government funded. Primary health care includes first level services such as general practice, mobile nursing and community health services.

- **PHOs (Primary Health Organisations)** - PHOs are the local structures for delivering and co-ordinating primary health care services. PHOs bring together doctors, nurses and other health professionals (such as Māori health workers, health promotion workers) in the community to serve the needs of their enrolled patients.

- **Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC)**. New Zealand has a government funded no fault personal injury scheme which covers all New Zealanders (and tourists) for the full range of personal injuries, whether they happen at home, work, or during sport or other leisure activities. ACC helps pay for medical and treatment fees, rehabilitation costs, residential care and lost income resulting from an accident or injury. Most private physiotherapy practices hold a contract with ACC to provide these services. About 54% of NZ registered physiotherapists work within a private practice.

Summary of private health Insurers:

- They receive no public funding
- Mainly purchased by employers as an employee benefit to supplement what is available in the Government funded healthcare system
- The marketplace is dominated by 1 large private medical insurer that insures approximately 61% of the marketplace. Approximately 32% of the population pay to access private medical insurance.
Background Information
Population: 5,165,802
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 14,000
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 4,300
Number of private clinics: 2000
Body responsible for professional regulation: Government Department

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in the Norway and the title is protected.
The government of Norway carries out regulation of migrant workers.
The scope of practice is not defined by a national body.
Physical Therapists have direct access to patients and are allowed to assess and to diagnose patients, treat autonomously and offer preventative advice. They are not permitted to refer to specialists.
Physical therapy practice is not guided by specific standards of practice in Norway and evidence of continuing professional development is not required to remain registered.
Physical Therapy clinics may not be owned by non-Physical Therapists.
Physical Therapy aides are not permitted to work in Norway.

Referral
The main source of referral in Norway is from doctors. Figure 1 illustrates the sources of referral.

![Figure 1: Sources of referral in Norway](image)

Payment of Physical Therapists in Norway
Payment of private Physical Therapists in the Norway is either by salary or contract.
Sources of Funding/Reimbursement
Sources of funding in Norway are shown in figure 2.

Figure 2 Sources of funding in Norway

Fees are either time or modality based. Age does alter the government fee paid for physical therapy but funding differs for private in-patient and out-patient services.

General Summary
Norway has 14,000 Physical Therapists of which 4,300 are private practitioners to service 5,165,802 people. There are 2,000 private physical therapy clinics in Norway and each clinic could access 2583 people to treat if the population were divided equally. Physical Therapists represent 0.29% of the population in Norway. Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 27% of all Physical Therapists working in Norway. Each Physical Therapist in Norway when divided amongst the population caters for 369 people in the population. In the Norway, the government funds 80% of treatment in private practice.

Additional Information
In the Norway the national physical therapy organisation attracts 50.5 % of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 3.14:1

The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts 19 % of registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 1.4:1
SOUTH AFRICA

Background Information
Population: 54,002,000
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 6,686
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 3,724
Number of private clinics: 1,500
Body responsible for professional regulation: Government Department

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in the South Africa and the title is protected.
The government of South Africa carries out regulation of migrant workers.
The scope of practice is defined by a national body.
Physical Therapists have direct access to patients and are allowed to assess and diagnose patients, treat autonomously and offer preventative advice. They are also permitted to refer to specialists.
Physical therapy practice is guided by specific standards of practice in South Africa and evidence of continuing professional development is required to remain registered.
Physical Therapy clinics may not be owned by non-Physical Therapists.
Physical Therapy aides are permitted to work under supervision in South Africa.

Referral
There is no data for referral from South Africa.

Payment of Physical Therapists in South Africa
Physical Therapists are paid by a number of different methods including salary, contract and individual fees.

Sources of Funding/Reimbursement
Sources of funding in South Africa are detailed in figure 1.

Figure 1 Sources of funding in South Africa
Fees are modality based. Age does not alter the government fee paid for physical therapy and funding for private in-patient and out-patient services does not differ.

**General Summary**

South Africa has 6,686 Physical Therapists, of which 3,724 are private practitioners, to service 54,002,000 people. There are 1,500 private physical therapy clinics in South Africa and each clinic could access 36,001 people to treat if the population were divided equally. Physical Therapists represent 0.012 % of the population in South Africa. Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 55.7% of all Physical Therapists working in South Africa. Each Physical Therapist in South Africa when divided amongst the population caters for 8,077 people in the population. In South Africa, the government and insurance companies fund the majority treatment in private practice.

**Additional Information**

In the South Africa the national physical therapy organisation attracts 55 % of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 7.45:1

The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts 56 % of registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 6.7:1
SPAIN

Background Information
Population: 46,464,053
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 39,936
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 4,000
Number of private clinics: No data
Body responsible for professional regulation: Regional Department

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in Spain and the title is protected. The Ministry of Labour and Immigration carries out regulation of migrant workers. The scope of practice is defined by a national body. Physical Therapists have direct access to patients and are allowed to assess and diagnose patients, treat autonomously and offer preventative advice. They are also permitted to refer to specialists. Physical therapy practice is not guided by specific standards of practice in Spain but evidence of continuing professional development is required to remain registered. Physical Therapy clinics may be owned by non-Therapists. Physical Therapy aides are not permitted to work in Spain.

Referral
The main source of referral in Spain is self-referral. Figure 1 illustrates the sources of referral.

![Figure 1 Sources of referral in Spain](image)

Payment of Physical Therapists in Spain
Physical Therapists are paid by either by salary or contract.

Sources of Funding/Reimbursement
Sources of funding in Spain are detailed in figure 2.
Figure 2 Sources of funding in Spain

Fees are either time or service based. Age does not alter the government fee paid for physiotherapy and funding for private in-patient and out-patient services does not differ.

**General Summary**

Spain has 39,936 Physical Therapists of which 4,000 are private practitioners to service 46,464,053 people. Physical Therapists represent 0.08% of the population in Spain. Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 10% of all Physical Therapists working in Spain. Each Physical Therapist in Spain when divided amongst the population caters for 1,163 people in the population. In Spain patients self-fund 70% of treatment in private practice.

**Additional Information**

In the Spain the national physical therapy organisation attracts 14.5% of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 1.5:1.

There is no record of how many physical therapists work in private practice in Spain but the national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts 39 registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is unknown.
SWEDEN

Background Information
Population: 9,747,355
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 12,310
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 2,050
Number of private clinics: 300
Body responsible for professional regulation: Government Department

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in the Sweden and the title is protected.
A regional body carries out regulation of migrant workers.
The scope of practice is defined by a national body.
Physical Therapists have direct access to patients and are allowed to assess patients, treat autonomously and offer preventative advice. Physical Therapists are not permitted to diagnose patients. They are permitted to refer to specialists.
Physical therapy practice is guided by specific standards of practice in Sweden but evidence of continuing professional development is not required to remain registered.
Physical Therapy clinics may be owned by non-Physical Therapists.
Physical Therapy aides are permitted to work under supervision in Sweden.

Referral
The main source of referral in Sweden is through a doctor. Figure 1 illustrates the sources of referral.

Payment of Physical Therapists in Sweden
Physical Therapists are paid by a number of different methods including individual fees, salary and contract.
Sources of Funding/Reimbursement

Sources of funding in Sweden are detailed in figure 2.

Fees are time based. Age does not alter the government fee paid for physical therapy but funding differs for private in-patient and out-patient services.

General Summary

Sweden has 12,310 Physical Therapists of which 2,050 are private practitioners to service 9,747,355 people.
There are 300 private physical therapy clinics in Sweden and each clinic could access 32,491 people to treat if the population were divided equally.
Physical Therapists represent 0.13% of the population in Sweden.
Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 16.7% of all Physical Therapists working in Sweden.
Each Physical Therapist in Sweden when divided amongst the population caters for 792 people in the population.
In Sweden, the government funds 80% of the treatment in private practice.

Additional Information

In the Sweden the national physical therapy organisation attracts 84.5 % of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 4.56:1

The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts 85 % of registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 2:1

Figure 2 Source of funding in Sweden
SWITZERLAND

Background Information
Population: 8,211,700
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 11,000
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 5,727
Number of private clinics: No data
Body responsible for professional regulation: Government Department

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in Switzerland and the title is protected.
The government of Switzerland carries out regulation of migrant workers.
The scope of practice is not defined by a national body.
Physical therapy practice is guided by specific standards of practice in Switzerland

Referral
There is no data for referral from Switzerland.

Payment of Physical Therapists in Switzerland
No data is available with regard to payment of Physical Therapists

Sources of Funding/Reimbursement
The only information currently known is that private physical therapy in Switzerland is partially paid for by the government and partially by the patient.

General Summary
Switzerland has 11,000 Physical Therapists, of which 5,727 are private practitioners, to service 8,211,700 people.
Physical Therapists represent 0.13% of the population in Switzerland.
Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 52% of all Physical Therapists working in Switzerland.
Each Physical Therapist in Switzerland when divided amongst the population caters for 747 people in the population.
In Switzerland, the patient pays the insurance cover for physiotherapy both through the national health care system and privately. The government and the individual fund equal amounts of the treatment in private practice.

Additional Information
In Switzerland the national physical therapy organisation attracts 76.5% of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 2.79:1

The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts 91% of registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 2.3:1
UNITED KINGDOM

Background Information
Population: 64,104,000
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 48,734
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: 16,000
Number of private clinics: 4,000
Body responsible for professional regulation: Government Department

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in the UK and the title is protected.
A government department carries out regulation of migrant workers.
The scope of practice is defined by a national body.
Physical Therapists have direct access to patients and are allowed to assess and to diagnose patients, treat autonomously and offer preventative advice. They are also permitted to refer to specialists.
Physical therapy practice is guided by specific standards of practice in the UK and evidence of continuing professional development is required to remain registered.
Physical Therapy clinics may be owned by non-Physical Therapists.
Physical Therapy aides are permitted to work under supervision in the UK.

Referral
The main source of referral in the UK is through self-referral. Figure 1 illustrates the sources of referral.

![Figure 1 Sources of referral in the UK](image)

Payment of Physical Therapists in the UK
Physical Therapists are paid by a number of different methods including salary, contract and individual fees (and occasionally ‘quid pro quo.’)
Sources of Funding/Reimbursement

Sources of funding in the UK are detailed in figure 1.

![Figure 2 Source of funding in the UK](image)

Fees are time and service based. Age does not alter the government fee paid for physical therapy but funding differs for private in-patient and out-patient services.

**General Summary**

The UK has 48,734 Physical Therapists of which 16,000 are private practitioners to service 64,104,000 people.

There are 4,000 private physical therapy clinics in the UK and each clinic could access 16,026 people to treat if the population were divided equally.

Physical Therapists represent 0.08% of the population in the UK.

Physical Therapists working in private practice represent 32.7% of all Physical Therapists working in the UK.

Each Physical Therapist in the UK when divided amongst the population caters for 1,315 people in the population.

In the UK, the patients fund 67% of the treatment in private practice.

**Additional Information**

In the United Kingdom the national physical therapy organisation attracts 84% of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 3.9:1.

The national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts 21% of registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 2.5:1.

**Summary of Government funded healthcare system:**

Policy is to provide the population with free healthcare at the point of need. In 2014 the vast majority of healthcare providers (including Physiotherapists) are employed by a national organisation (the NHS) that is funded directly from the tax system although there are plans to increase the number of independent commercial healthcare providers.
Summary of private health Insurers:
They receive no public funding
Mainly purchased by employers as an employee benefit to supplement what is available in the Government funded healthcare system
Their marketplace is dominated by 2 large private medical insurers who provide approximately 72% of their marketplace
Approximately 12% of the population have paid to access private medical insurance
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Background Information
Population: 320,475,000
Number of Physical Therapists registered with professional body: 176,000
Number of Physical Therapists working in Private Practice: No data
Number of private clinics: No data
Body responsible for professional regulation: Individual States

Professional Details
Registration is necessary to practice in the USA and the title is protected. A government department carries out regulation of migrant workers. The scope of practice is defined by a national body. Physical Therapists have direct access to patients and are allowed to assess and diagnose patients, treat autonomously and offer preventative advice. They are also permitted to refer to specialists. Physical therapy practice is guided by specific standards of practice in the USA and evidence of continuing professional development is required to remain registered. Physical Therapy clinics may be owned by non-Physical Therapists. Physical Therapy aides are permitted to work under supervision in the UK.

Referral
The main source of referral in the USA is through doctors. Figure 1 illustrates the sources of referral.

![Figure 1 Source of referral in the USA](image)

Payment of Physical Therapists in the USA
Physical Therapists are paid by a number of different methods including salary, contract and individual fees.

Sources of Funding/Reimbursement
Sources of funding in the USA are detailed in figure 2.
Fees are modality, time and service based. Age does alter the government fee paid for physical therapy and funding differs for private in-patient and out-patient services.

**General Summary**

The USA has 176,000 Physical Therapists servicing a population 320,475,000 people. There is no body in the USA that keeps a record of how many Physical Therapists are working throughout the USA in private practice. Physical Therapists represent 0.06% of the population in the USA. Each Physical Therapist in the USA when divided amongst the population caters for 1,821 people in the population. In the USA, the insurance companies fund 65% of the treatment in private practice.

In the United States of America there are 4,284 private practitioner members of the national private practitioner organisation. Of these 40% are female giving a ratio of 1.5:1 (F:M)

**Additional Information**

In the United States of America the national physical therapy organisation attracts 29.6% of registered physical therapists to become subscribing members. The ratio of female to male members is 1.86:1

There is no record of how many physical therapists work in private practice in the United States of America but the national organisation for private practitioner physical therapists attracts 4,284 registered physical therapists that work in private practice. The ratio of female to male practitioners in the organisation is 1.5:1.