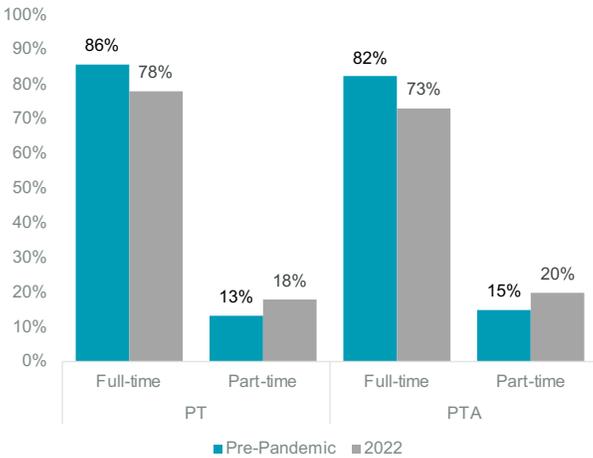


Three Years of Physical Therapy in a Public Health Emergency: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Physical Therapy Profession



APTA surveyed members throughout the public health emergency to gauge how the COVID-19 pandemic was affecting the physical therapy profession. The last survey, from fall 2022, shows the profession has largely returned to pre-pandemic norms, but there are some areas of the workforce that may be changed forever.

Changes in Employment Status



61% + 70% reported seeing patients with long COVID.
PTs + PTAs

Among those who have access to this data, about half of PTs report lower patient satisfaction and poorer outcomes with telehealth compared with in-person services.



80% of PTs and PTAs say their pride in their career has increased or stayed the same.

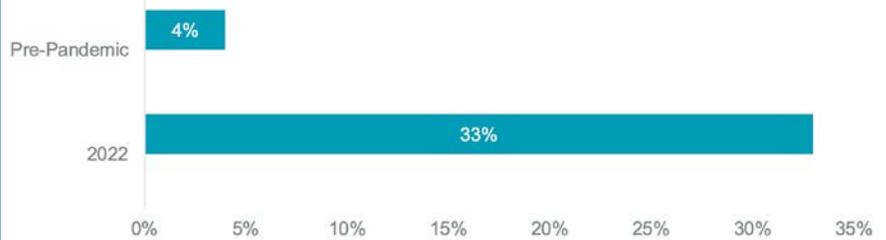


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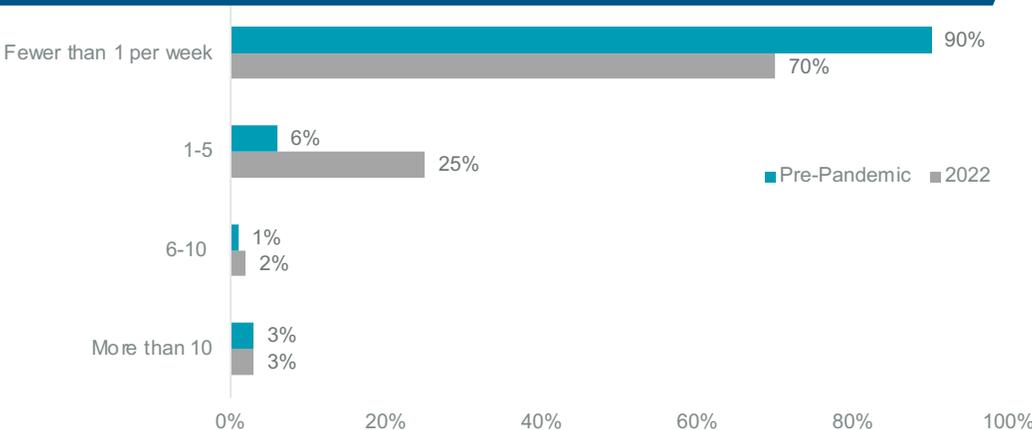


of PTs reported seeing additional or more-severe conditions in their patient population that they attributed to lack of medical or physical therapy follow-up during the pandemic.

PTs Who Provide Telehealth Services



Average Patients Treated Per Week Via Live Video Consult by PTs



9,958

more PTs left the workforce in 2021 than graduated into the workforce in 2021.*

Data in this report was collected through four surveys of APTA members about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the first survey, APTA surveyed 5,400 PTs and 1,100 PTAs between April 24 and May 11, 2020; 1,813 PTs and 271 PTAs responded to the second survey between July 2 and 22, 2020; 1,066 PTs and 236 PTAs responded to the third survey between March 16 and April 5, 2021; and 1,757 PTs and 330 PTAs responded to the final survey between July 21, 2022, and Aug. 27, 2022.

*A report from data and analytics company Definitive Healthcare found that 22,032 physical therapists had left the workforce in 2021. Also in 2021, 12,074 physical therapists graduated into the workforce, according to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.