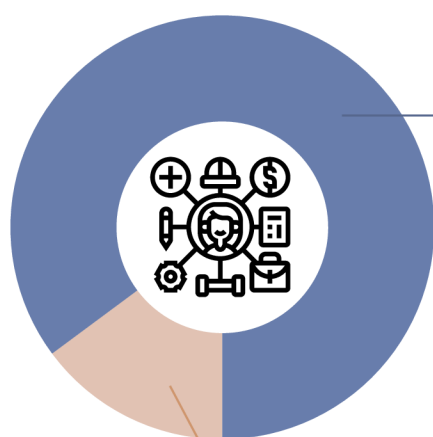


OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TREATMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL WITH WORK-RELATED PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURIES: ANALYZING ONTARIO WORKER'S COMPENSATION DATA FROM 2017–2021

KEY INSIGHTS:

EXAMINED 6,674 CLAIMS APPROVED UNDER THE WSIB ONTARIO MENTAL STRESS INJURY PROGRAM (MSIP) BETWEEN 2017 AND 2021.



85%
Claims without
OT treatment

15%
Claims with
OT treatment

Study focused on public safety personnel (PSP) in Ontario, Canada, including **communicators, correctional workers, firefighters, paramedics, and police officers.**

Only 15% of claims (991) included Occupational Therapy (OT) treatment

CHARACTERISTICS OF CLAIMANTS WHO HAD ACCESS TO OT TREATMENT

Occupation:

• Communicators

Highest % of claims with OT treatment (21%)

• Paramedics

Lowest % of claims with OT treatment (13%)

OT-treated claimants were typically **older** (43.25 vs. 41.5 years), more likely **female** (40.8% vs. 33.3%) and had more **cumulative event injuries** (71% vs. 55%).



How long on average did public safety personnel wait for access to OT treatment?

1.5 years

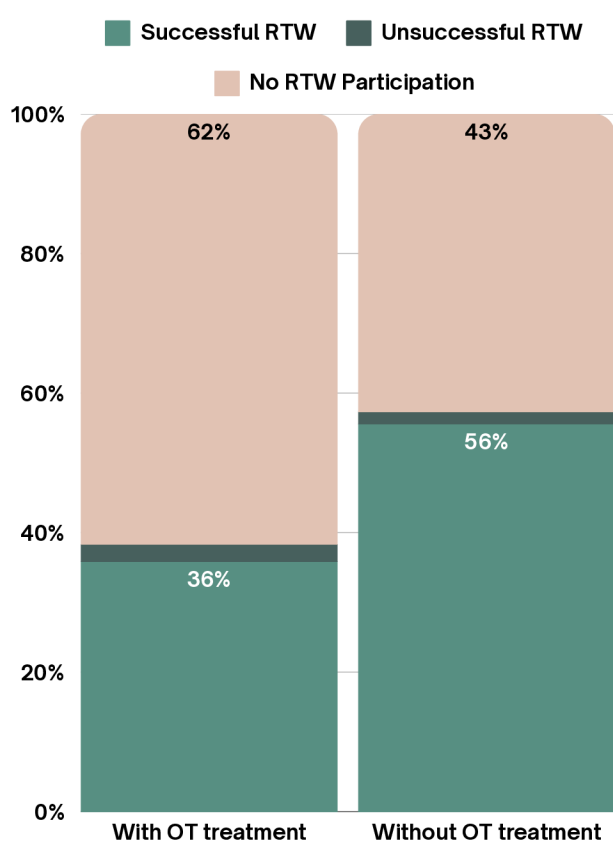
Claims that received access to OT treatment had more indicators of **claim severity.**

This may have impacted **RTW outcomes.**



Prolonged claim durations contribute to significant human and financial costs, emphasizing the need for timely intervention.

RETURN TO WORK (RTW) OUTCOMES:



*Unsuccessful RTW rates were low, with 2.5% for OT-treated claimants and 1.7% for non-OT-treated claimants.

Implications for Policy:

- **Earlier** access to OT and other rehabilitation services may **improve RTW** rates and **reduce claim durations.**
- Worker's compensation organizations should streamline health care decision-making and **optimize the use of OT in managing complex cases.**