

Francis, P., Moiseichik, M., & Muir, S.

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.

## BACKGROUND

- mHealth applications are increasingly utilized within healthcare practice (Baig et al., 2015).
- It is imperative that app development targets needs within occupational therapy.

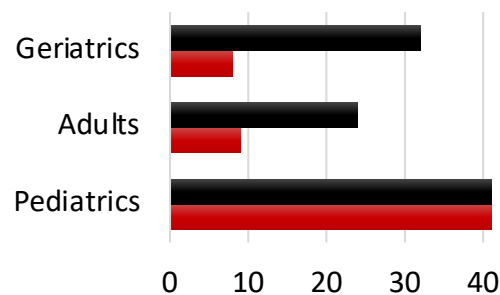
## PURPOSE

- To recognize what aspects of apps Arkansan occupational therapists use and what they hope to see improve, to inform future app development.

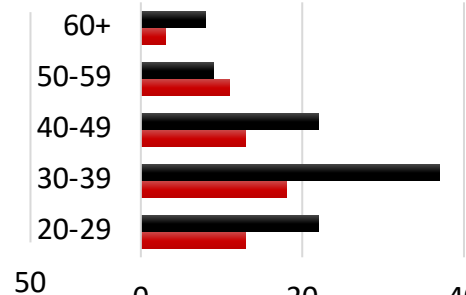
## METHODOLOGY

- Systematic random sample of 676 occupational therapists was selected from a mailing list of 2,815 occupational therapists registered with the Arkansas State Medical Board.
- 318 out of 676 participants provided email addresses and indicated willingness to complete an online survey (47.0%)
- Survey questions were replicated from a study completed in Ohio (Seifert et al., 2017), with permission granted to modify as needed.
  - Questions covered practice information, demographic criteria, description and barriers of app use, preferences regarding apps, as well as how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected app use and occupational therapy practice in general.
- Descriptive statistics were used for demographic information, while frequency statistics were used to represent remaining data collected.
- Chi square analysis was used to analyze association between app use and practitioner age, practice population, as well as practice setting.

### Primary Treatment Population



### Practitioner Age



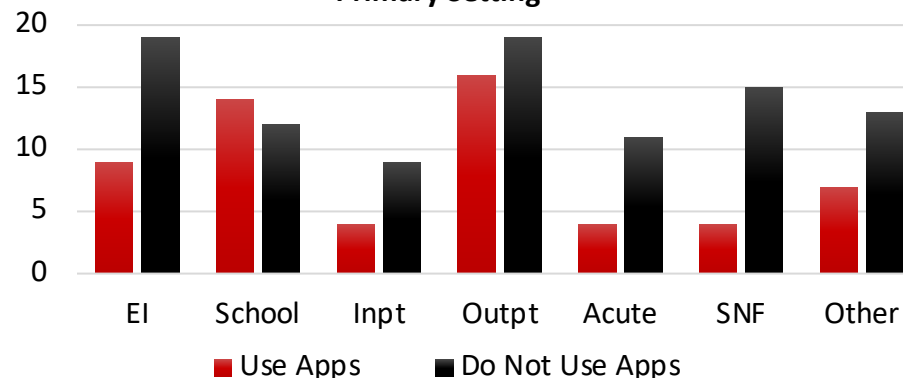
Number of Respondents

Number of Respondents

■ Do Not Use Apps ■ Use Apps ■ Do Not Use Apps ■ Use Apps

Number of Respondents

### Primary Setting

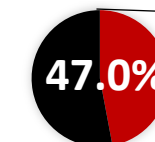


### References:

Baig, M. M., Gholamhosseini, H., & Connolly, M. J. (2015). Mobile healthcare applications: System design review, critical issues and challenges. *Australasian Physical & Engineering Sciences in Medicine*, 38(1), 23-38. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s13246-014-0315-4>

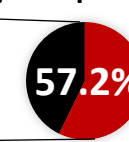
Seifert, A. M., Stotz, N., & Metz, A. E. (2017). Apps in therapy: Occupational therapists' use and opinions. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*, 12(8), 772-779. doi:[10.1080/17483107.2016.1262912](https://doi.org/10.1080/17483107.2016.1262912)

### Email Provision Rate



n = 676

### Survey Completion Rate



n = 318

## RESULTS

- Total survey completion response rate was 26.9% (182/676)
- Most respondents were age 50 or below and currently practicing in a pediatric setting.
- Significant relationship found between working in adult and geriatric populations and not using apps.
- Significant relationship found between working in skilled nursing and early intervention facilities and not using apps
- Was not a significant difference between those who do or do not use apps and 'other' responses to practice setting (primarily home health).
- Practitioners ages 30-39 were less likely to use apps.
- COVID-19 was not indicated to have made an impact on level of app use by occupational therapists in Arkansas

## DISCUSSION

- Similarities were found between Arkansan study and replicated Ohio study:
  - Level of app use, mode of use, therapist recommendations and opinions, most common target skills, support purposes, app preferences, and search methods
- Similarities indicate potential for generalizing findings between regions and utilizing information to enhance future app development and design, thus furthering relevance of mHealth research within occupational therapy.

