



Consejo General de Colegios
de Terapeutas Ocupacionales

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COVID19TO STUDY

“The General Council of Colleges of Occupational Therapists publishes the results of its Study on the incidence of COVID19 in Spain on Occupational Therapy and the people who receive its treatments”

The study has been carried out at a state level and has collected information on the effect on the health of therapists, their work situation, the prevention of occupational risks in the development of their care and the impact of the pandemic on its users

The General Assembly of the General Council of Occupational Therapy Colleges (CGCTO) approved the initiative to carry out a study to measure the impact of the COVID crisis19 on the profession and on people receiving occupational therapy treatment. The data collection was carried out from April 20 to May 8 and professionals from all the Autonomous Communities participated.

The main conclusions of the study are as follows:

- The main professional field of exercise of the occupational therapists surveyed is that of geriatrics, which is the group most affected by the pandemic.
- Almost half of those surveyed stated that they had not received any information or training on health and hygiene measures and the use of PPE.
- The highest number of infections in the group was in the areas of Geriatrics, Physical Disability and Mental Health, and in the Autonomous Communities of Madrid, Castilla y León, Navarra and Castilla-La Mancha.
- Access to screening tests and confirmation of diagnosis has been clearly restricted. As an example of this, more than half of the therapists considered positive have not had access to tests to confirm their recovery.
- Half of the professionals do not consider the information and training received on health and hygiene measures and the use of PPE adequate.
- Slightly more than half of the occupational therapists considered that access to and provision of means of individual protection was insufficient. This percentage is even higher among professionals in the public sector.
- Therapists in Castile-La Mancha, Catalonia and Andalusia reported the worst access and provision of means of protection.

- An unequal application of quarantine for the prevention of infection was detected in terms of the labour regime, with a third more in self-employed professionals and professional/cooperative societies than in employed workers.
- Geriatric professionals have scored in the variables of positive and negative emotional activation evaluated above any other field of work.
- Occupational therapy services have been especially affected by the impact of COVID-19, since a third of the therapists surveyed have had their professional activity interrupted, most of them affected by the application of an ERTE.
- The Community of Madrid, Castile and Leon, Andalusia and Castile-La Mancha were the regions most affected by the interruption of activity in the discipline.
- Once again, Geriatrics is the most numerous field in this respect, followed by Early Care and Physical Disability.
- Interventions, follow-ups and treatments carried out telematically have not been able to replace, in almost half of the cases, the face-to-face interventions carried out prior to the pandemic. According to the data, this has been largely due to the digital divide that continues to be very present in the groups with which we occupational therapists work, but also to the lack of foresight or material means on the part of the resources and services.
- The field of Geriatrics has been identified as the sector in which the greatest limitations to the professional activity of occupational therapists are imposed by those in charge.
- Six out of ten occupational therapists state that they have not received any training by telematic means on prevention and safety measures at work during the Pandemic.
- An even higher percentage of occupational therapists working in Geriatrics and Care for Dependency stated that they had not received any classroom training on health and hygiene measures and the use of PPE.
- The Community of Valencia, the Community of Madrid and the Region of Murcia are the territories with the lowest rate of face-to-face training on hygienic-sanitary measures and the use of PPE, above the general figures.
- Publicly owned centres have provided telematic information on health and hygiene measures and the use of PPE in a significantly higher percentage than those in private ownership.
- Women, in spite of being the majority group in the profession, have received telematic information on hygienic-sanitary measures and the use of PPE in a significantly lower percentage than men.

The full report on the results of the study is hosted on the Council's website and is accessible via the following link:

<https://consejoterapiaocupacional.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Impacto-del-covid19-en-la-terapia-ocupacional-CGCTO-web.pdf>