



Evidence Related to Setting, Structure, and Outcomes of Occupational Therapy Nontraditional Level II Fieldwork: A Scoping Review

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INTRODUCTION

Definition: Nontraditional Fieldwork (NTFW): Site where OT services may be unavailable prior to implementation

- May be supervised by an employee of organization¹ or an OT
- ACOTE: full time FW hours for 24 weeks graduation eligibility²

Gaps in the literature include:

- Definition of NTFW
- Amount of supervision
- Sample size variations between traditional FW and NTFW
- How students engage with patients in NTFW settings
- Information to support and inform all stakeholders about difficulties in NTFW settings
- Results on student educational success in NTFW

Purpose: to address the gap in the literature by looking at widely available sources to provide relevant insight into nontraditional Level II Fieldwork for the interested audience.

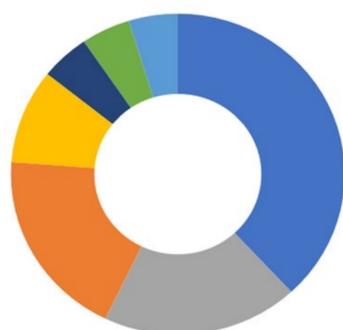
METHODS

- Scoping Review using Arksey and O'Malley guidelines³.
- Looked at 5 databases (PubMed, CINAHL, Eric, ProQuest, and JOTE).
- Search originally yielded 329 amount of articles total from the listed databases
- Inclusion Criteria: must follow search terms
- Exclusion Criteria:
 - Not within the past 38 years
 - Not available in English
 - Did not include level II fieldwork students
 - Supervision from an OTA
 - Project protocols
 - Traditional fieldwork experience
- Between May 2020 – June 2021 extracted data from 18 articles.

RESULTS

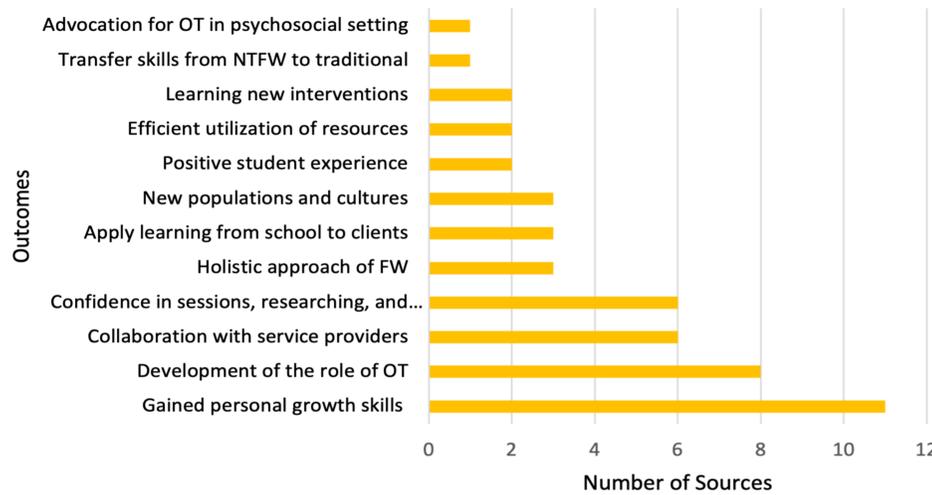
- After data extraction, four quantitative tables were created to best display the included literature.
- The preliminary themes include areas of nontraditional fieldwork settings, educational outcomes of students, and the role of occupational therapists in these particular settings.
- Our research question will focus on the evidence and models of practice relating to occupational therapy students, academia, and fieldwork sites participating in NTFW in comparison to traditional fieldwork.

Settings in NTFW

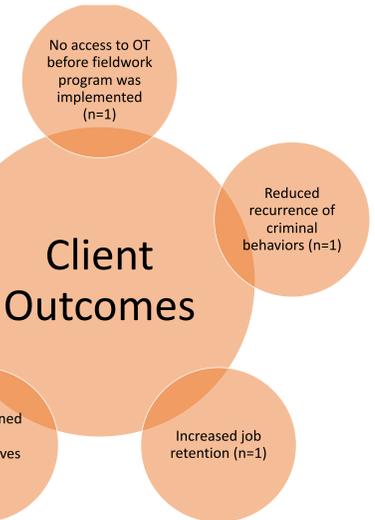
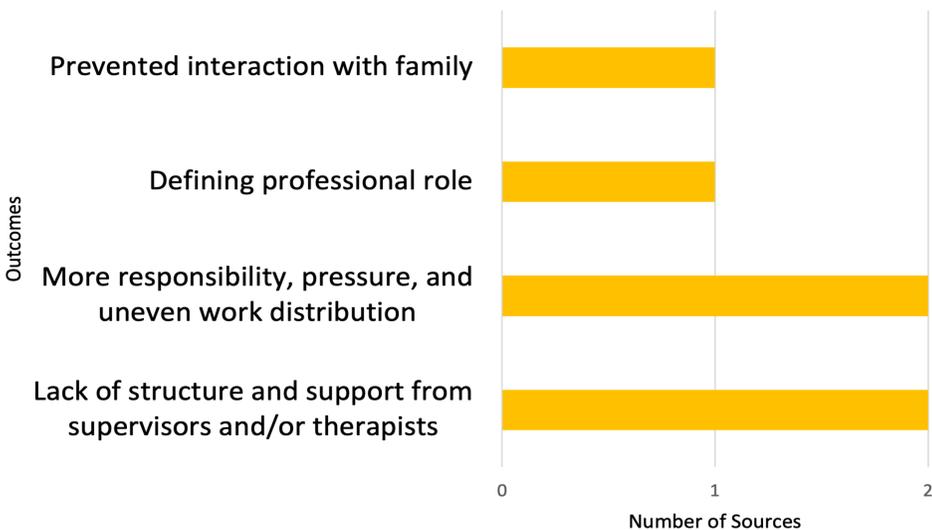


- Mental Health/Psychosocial-Community Based
- Community Programs for Homeless
- Role-Emerging (no established role or program)
- Criminal Justice
- Inpatient Psychiatric
- International NTFW
- Refugee Resettlement Program

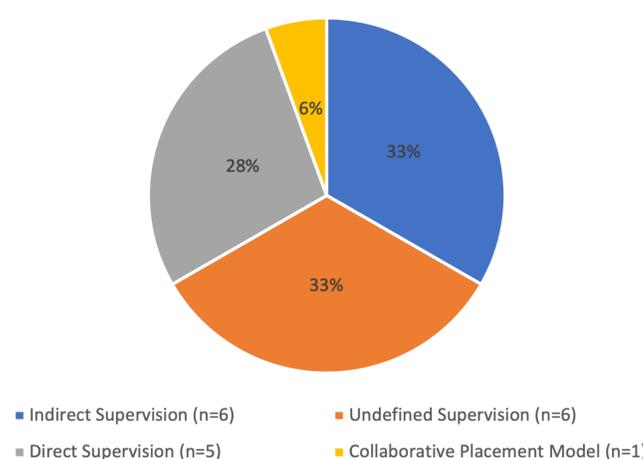
Beneficial Student Outcomes



Challenging Student Outcomes



Supervision Methods in NTFW



- Indirect Supervision (n=6)
- Undefined Supervision (n=6)
- Direct Supervision (n=5)
- Collaborative Placement Model (n=1)

CONCLUSIONS

- Researchers aim to provide relevant evidence on nontraditional fieldwork settings, structure, and outcomes for level II OT students.
- This research is important due to:
 - Widening occupational therapy scope of practice in comparison to traditional FW
 - Positive student educational and professional outcomes
 - Advocating for increased funding and billing for unique populations
 - Revealing a wide variety of settings where OTs can intervene to promote holistic care
- Further research is needed for:
 - Consolidating a definition to clarify and communicate the goals of NTFW to the profession
 - Revealing statistically and clinically significant client outcomes
 - Creating a consistent supervision model for NTFW coordinators, supervisors, and students

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

Clinical Implications for **Students**:

- NTFW experience led to more positive outcomes promoting personal and professional skills along with a better understanding of the OT profession
- Further research is needed for more challenging student outcome

Clinical Implications for **Profession/Educators**:

- Better understanding of services, structure, and settings for NTFW along with education on how to provide services to promote better holistic care

Clinical Implications for **Clients**:

- Limited client outcomes other than increased access to care, increased job retention, reduced recurrence of criminal behaviors, and increased self-efficacy
- Further quantitative research is needed for client outcomes

Clinical Implications for **Educators in Academia**:

- Educate on NTFW as well as traditional fieldwork, compare the benefits and challenges for all stakeholders, and be aware of frameworks and theories used in NTFW settings
- Understand the background and importance of nontraditional fieldwork

Clinical Implications for **Educators in the Field**:

- Prepare their incoming students with the challenges that may arise in NTFW. These challenges may include a lack of structure and supervision, more responsibility, a potentially uneven work distribution, and varying roles of OT interventions

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Lachelle Smith M.Ed, MSLIS for her help in refining our search strategy. We would also like to thank Teal Benevides, PhD, MS, OTR/L and Patty Watford, OTD, MS, OTR/L for their help in developing this paper.

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