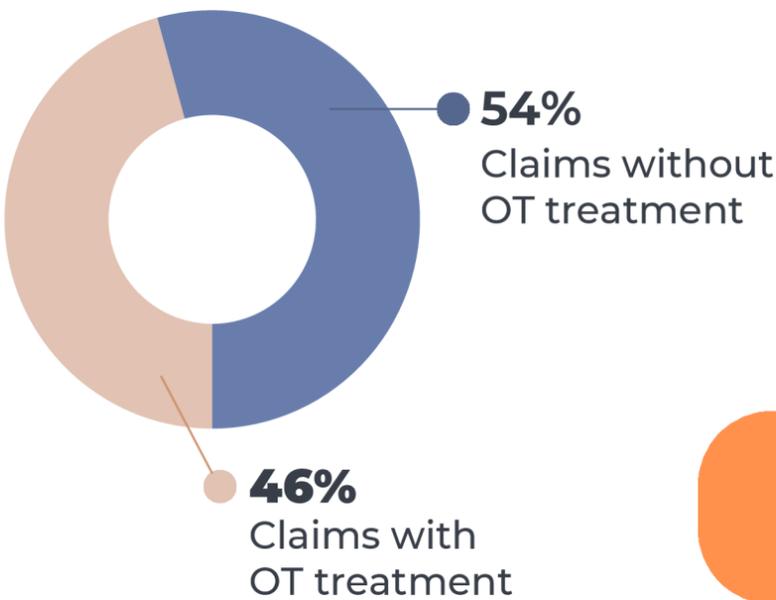


ANALYZING BRITISH COLUMBIA WORKERS COMPENSATION OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY USAGE WITH PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL

KEY INSIGHTS

EXAMINED 2,621 CLAIMS APPROVED UNDER WORKSAFEBC MENTAL DISORDER INJURY CLAIMS BETWEEN 2019–2023



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

46% of claims (1,199) included Occupational Therapy (OT) treatment

CHARACTERISTICS OF CLAIMANTS WHO HAD ACCESS TO OT TREATMENT

Occupations:

- Correctional Workers**

Highest % of claims with OT treatment (**55%**)

- Police**

Lowest % of claims with OT treatment (**36%**)

OT-treated claimants were typically **older** (42 vs. 39 years) and more likely **female** (41% vs. 33%).



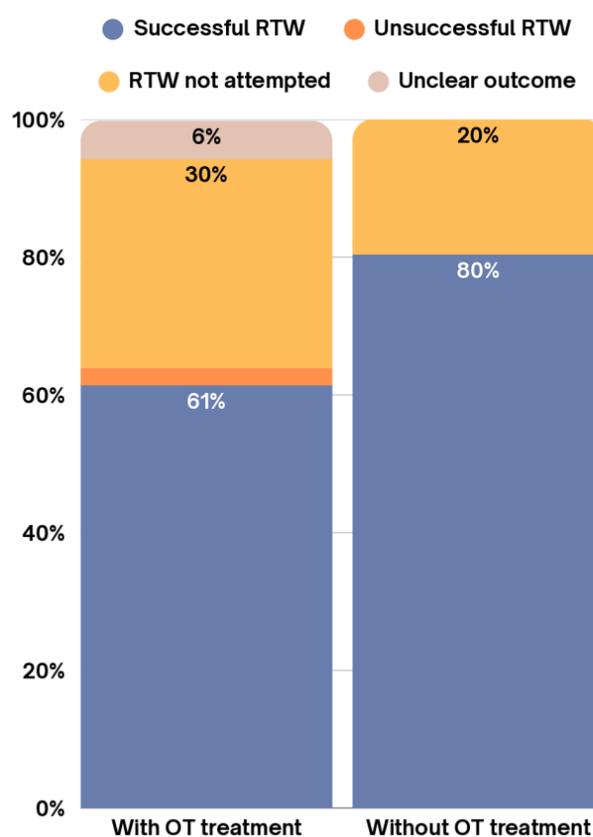
How long on average did PSP wait for access to OT treatment?

7.4 months

Claims that received access to OT treatment had more indicators of **claim severity** (higher age, more injuries and longer claims). **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 across all claims. Differences in RTW outcomes likely reflect greater claim complexity among OT-treated cases rather than the effectiveness of occupational therapy.

Implications for Policy

- **Earlier** access to OT and other **rehabilitation services** may support RTW processes, particularly for more **complex claims**
- **Workers' compensation organizations** should review health care decision-making and referral pathways to support **appropriate** use of OT in **managing complex cases**