

BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF INTENSIVE HAND THERAPIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY IN CANADA

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INTRODUCTION

- Intensive hand therapies are important for lifelong outcomes for children living with cerebral palsy (CP) under two years of age. However, access to these therapies are **limited** in Canada.
- Aim:** identify the reasons that support or limit the delivery of intensive hand therapies from the perspectives of pediatric occupational therapists (OTs).

METHODS

- Partner with stakeholders to co-develop a 5-Likert type response survey questionnaire using **Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research** to examine the barriers and facilitators in therapy access. Participant demographics and therapy delivery history was queried.
- Response options included "Strongly agree" (score of 5), "agree" (4), which were considered as **facilitators**, "neutral"(3), and "disagree"(2) and "strongly disagree"(1), which were considered as **barriers**.
- Snowball sampling was used to distribute the survey link to pediatric OTs in tertiary, rural and community practice sites across Canada.
- Survey responses analyzed using descriptive statistics. Key facilitators and barriers captured based on most amount of 5s (highest rating) or 2s (lowest rating as no 1s were scored) given to survey statements by respondents.

FINDINGS

Key Identified **Barriers** to Therapy Access:

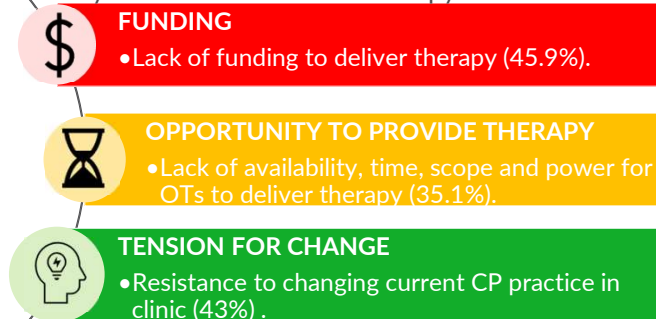


FIG 1: Identified barriers based on survey responses. (%) of OT respondents that responded with "disagree" for each barrier presented.

Key Identified **Facilitators** to Therapy Access:

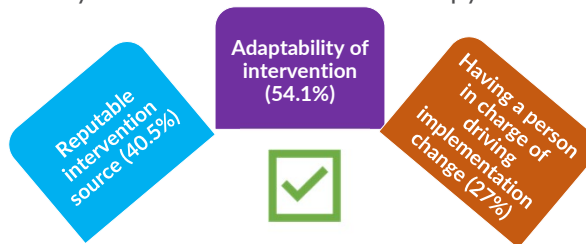
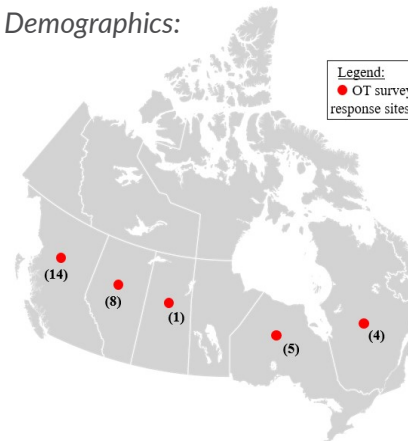


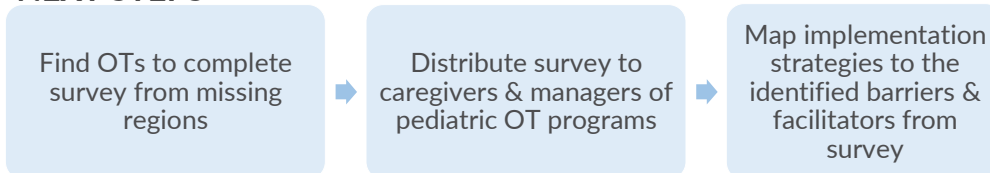
FIG 2: Identified facilitators based on survey responses. (%) of OT respondents that responded with "strongly agree" for each facilitator presented.

Demographics:



- Fig 3:** 37 OTs (36 female, 1 male) from 8/10 provinces an 0/3 territories completed the survey from urban regions. Data collection will continue, targeting missing regions and OTs practicing in rural areas.
- Current practice:
 - 38% spend 5-10 hours a week treating children with CP.
 - 43% deliver therapy in the clinic.
 - 24/37 OTs provide early intensive hand therapies for children with CP < 2 years of age.

NEXT STEPS



IMPLEMENTATION OF
INTENSIVE THERAPY FOR
EARLY REACH THROUGH PLAY

Study findings will inform and support increased delivery of hand and arm therapies for infants and toddlers with cerebral palsy across Canada.



Take a picture to participate in the INTERPLAY survey:

Open to:

- Caregivers of children with CP under 6 years old.
- Pediatric occupational therapists.
- Healthcare administrators of pediatric OT programs.