

Athletic Training as a Workforce

Work Settings

Athletic Trainers are employed in secondary schools, college and universities, professional sports, hospitals and clinics, the military and in industrial and commercial settings. In addition, Athletic Trainers work in conjunction with other health care professionals such as Physician Assistants, Physical Therapists, Chiropractors, Occupational Therapists, Massage Therapists and Nursing.

Occupational Rating

O*Net Online (a US Department of Labor federally funded national consortium that lists occupations, describes various jobs, their duties, the education needed for those occupations and then rates those occupations) rated Athletic Training as an occupation that involves extensive preparation (Job Zone Rating 5/5), and its education is specific to the jobs and duties Athletic Trainers perform (Specific Vocational Training 8.0+/9.0). (Occupational Comparisons: Chiropractor, Physical Therapist and Nutritionist/Dietitian are equal to Athletic Training. Registered Nurses, Occupational Therapists and Speech-Language Pathologists Job Zone Rating = 4/5 and Specific Vocational Training = 7.0 to 8.0/9.0. Physical Therapy Assistants, Respiratory Therapists, Licensed Practical Nurses Job Zone Rating = 3/5 and Specific Vocational Training = 6.0 to 7.0/9.0.)

Quality and Productivity

A 1999 study assessed the effect of care on health-related quality of life outcomes. Post injury Functional Variables (work activities, activities of daily living, sports recreation/wellness) and Physical Variables (movement, strength, endurance, motor abilities and sensory) were measured pre and post Certified Athletic Trainer care. Results showed Certified Athletic Trainer care affected a positive change in the function and quality of life of those with musculoskeletal disorder related to physical activity as well as a high level of patient satisfaction. *Albohm MJ, Wilkerson GB. An outcomes assessment of care provided by certified athletic trainers. J Rehabilitation Outcomes Meas. 1999; 3(3):51-56*

Cost-Effectiveness

A 2003 survey was completed to determine the baseline cost/benefit numbers for BOC Certified Athletic Trainers working in occupational settings. The most cited and highest rated service provided by Certified Athletic Trainers was injury prevention, followed by wellness programs, physical conditioning ergonomic programs and rehabilitation and safety programs. Certified Athletic Trainers also provided a positive Return on Investment (per \$1 invested an <\$7> return on investment), as well as a significant reduction in incident/severity rates and worker's compensation claims. *Craig Halls, MBA, LAT/ATC, CEES. Executive Summary: Certified Athletic Trainers Deliver ROI in Occupational Work Settings, 2003 Survey.*