



The Hospital Nurse Staffing Survey (HNSS) assesses the size and effects of the nursing shortage in hospitals, Texas' largest employer of nurses. During the spring of 2016, the TCNWS administered the HNSS to 666 Texas hospitals. These included for-profit, nonprofit, public, and Texas Department of State Health Services-operated hospitals, as well as hospitals linked to academic institutions; military hospitals were not surveyed. The facilities surveyed were general acute care, psychiatric, special, and rehabilitation hospitals. 345 (51.8%) hospitals responded to the survey.

This report summarizes the various measures reported in the HNSS reports as they pertain to state hospitals in Texas. The salient findings presented here highlight points of concern and differences between state hospital nurse staffing measures and those of non-state hospitals.

State Mental Health Facility Characteristics

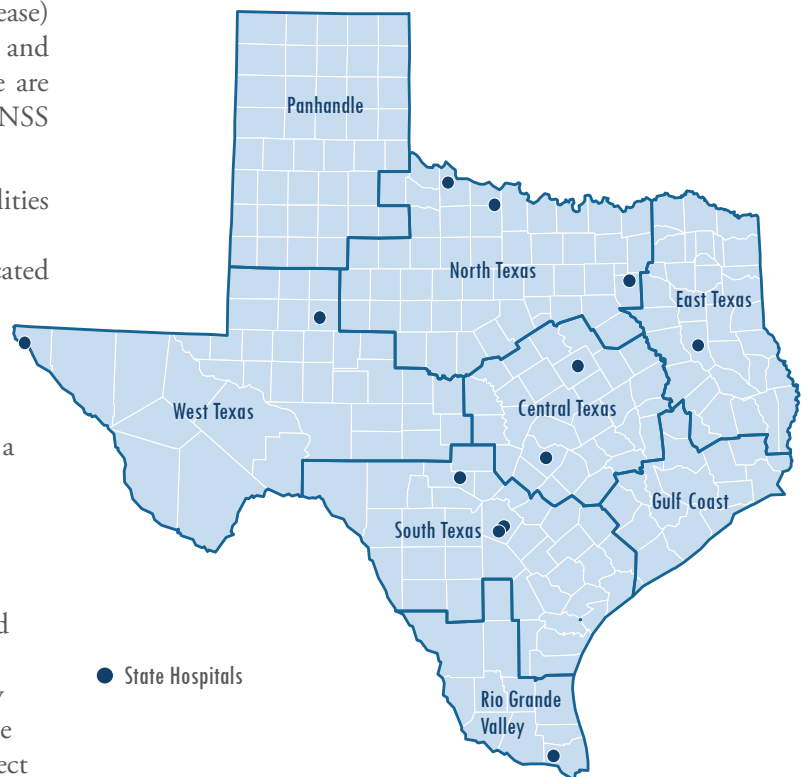
State hospitals are inpatient mental health facilities (with the exception of the Texas Center for Infectious Disease) operated using public funds from the State of Texas and controlled by an agency of state government. There are 12 state hospitals which are located in 6 of the 8 HNSS regions (see Figure 1).

- 7 out of 12 (58.3%) state hospital facilities responded to the 2016 HNSS.
- Four of the responding state hospitals were located in metropolitan, non-border counties. One hospital was in a metropolitan, border county and two were in non-metropolitan, non-border counties.
- Among responding state hospitals, there were a total of 1,654 beds.
- In six of these hospitals, all beds were staffed.

Staffing

- All 7 responding state hospitals reported recruiting employees only in Texas.
- The hospitals reported recruiting only psychiatric/mental health/substance use registered nurse (RN) positions and other direct patient care RNs.
- Two hospitals reported the average length of psychiatric/mental health/substance use RN position vacancy to be 60 or fewer days while five reported the average length of vacancies to be greater than 60 days.
- One hospital reported an increase in the number of

Figure 1. State hospitals in Texas



budgeted direct patient care RN FTEs on staff and six hospitals reported no change.

The state hospitals that responded to the 2016 HNSS reported the use of only 2 methods of interim staffing: voluntary overtime and the use of managerial staff.

