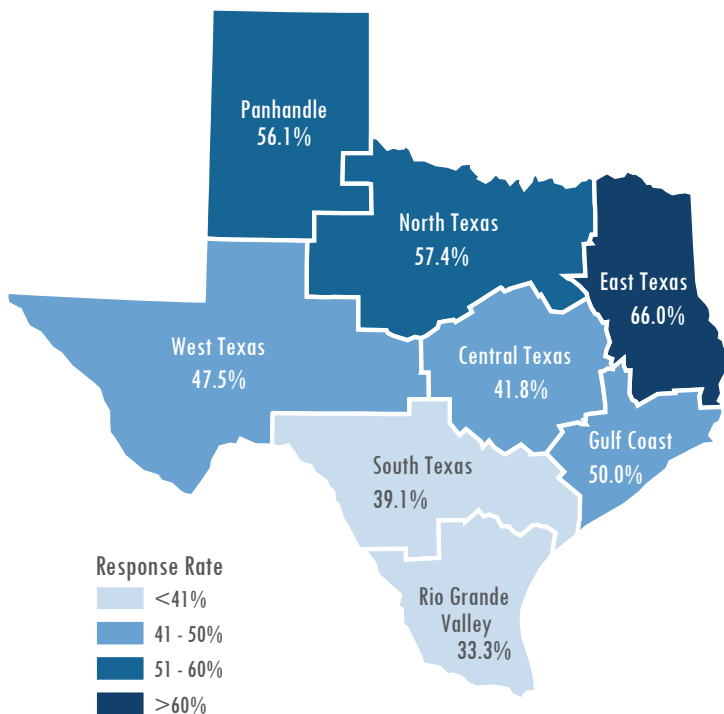


The Hospital Nurse Staffing Survey (HNSS) assesses the size and effects of the nursing shortage in hospitals, Texas' largest employer of nurses. During the spring and summer of 2022, the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) administered the HNSS to the Chief Nursing Officers/Directors of Nursing of 657 Texas hospitals. These included for-profit, nonprofit, public, and Texas Health and Human Services Commission-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; outpatient or community-based clinics were not included. Respondents provided data for 333 hospitals for a response rate of 50.7%. It is important to note that between the 2019 and 2022 HNSS, the COVID-19 pandemic occurred.

The hospitals that completed the 2022 HNSS were representative of all Texas hospitals by geographic designation and region, but not by bed size. This report provides survey response rates by region, geographic designation, and bed size. It also includes relevant hospital characteristics such as the number and distribution of teaching, rural, Magnet, Pathway to Excellence, and trauma center designated hospitals in the 2022 HNSS sample.

**Geographic Characteristics of Hospitals**

**Figure 1. Response rate by region**



- East Texas (66.0%) and North Texas (57.4%) had the highest response rates, while Rio Grande Valley (33.3%) and South Texas (39.1%) had the lowest (Table 1).
- Analysis found that there was no significant difference between responding hospitals and non-responding hospitals by region.<sup>1</sup>

**Table 1. 2022 HNSS response rate by region**

Region	# of Respondents in Region	Total # of Hospitals in Region	Response Rate
Panhandle	23	41	56.1%
Rio Grande Valley	16	48	33.3%
North Texas	109	190	57.4%
East Texas	31	47	66.0%
Gulf Coast	66	132	50.0%
Central Texas	33	79	41.8%
South Texas	27	69	39.1%
West Texas	28	59	47.5%
Texas	333	657	50.7%

The overall response rate for 2022 was 50.7%, down from the 2019 response rate of 56.5%.

Table 2 shows the number of responding hospitals by geographic designation.<sup>2</sup>

- Non-metropolitan, non-border counties had the highest response rate (58.6%), while metropolitan, border counties had the lowest (40.0%).
- Analysis found that there was no significant difference between responding hospitals and non-responding hospitals by geographic designation.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 2. Response rate by geographic designation**

Geographic Designation	# of Respondents in Designation	Total # of Hospitals in Designation	Response Rate
Metro Border	19	48	40.0%
Metro Non-Border	233	467	50.0%
Non-Metro Border	6	14	42.9%
Non-Metro Non-Border	75	128	58.6%

Table 3 displays information on the proportion of hospitals responding to the survey by region and bed size categories.

- Hospitals with less than 50 beds had the most number of respondents (133), while those with greater than 499 beds had the least number of respondents (24).

- Analysis found that there was a significant difference between responding hospitals and non-responding hospitals by bed size categories.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 3. Number of responding hospitals over total number of hospitals by region and bed size**

Region	Bed Size					Total
	<50	50-99	100-299	300-499	>499	
Panhandle	17/28	3/6	1/3	2/4	0/0	23/41
Rio Grande Valley	6/18	3/9	6/16	0/3	1/2	16/48
North Texas	32/88	33/47	25/32	9/11	10/12	109/190
East Texas	13/21	6/11	8/10	3/4	1/1	31/47
Gulf Coast	22/56	8/25	18/28	10/14	8/9	66/132
Central Texas	15/42	4/13	11/19	1/3	2/2	33/79
South Texas	11/36	3/6	9/17	3/6	1/4	27/69
West Texas	17/32	2/3	6/10	2/5	1/1	28/51
Texas	133/321	62/120	84/135	30/50	24/31	333/657

<sup>1</sup> ( $\chi^2(7, N = 657) = 10.2, p = 0.18$ )

<sup>2</sup> For county designation definitions visit [dshs.texas.gov/chs/hprc/counties.shtm](https://dshs.texas.gov/chs/hprc/counties.shtm)

<sup>3</sup> ( $\chi^2(3, N = 657) = 2.6, p = 0.28$ )

<sup>4</sup> ( $\chi^2(4, N = 657) = 14.2, p < 0.05$ )

## Hospital Designations

Hospitals were asked to indicate applicable hospital designations from the following choices: teaching hospital, Magnet hospital, Pathway to Excellence hospital, trauma hospital, and rural hospital.

Table 4 shows the percentage of responding hospitals in each class of hospital designation by region.

- Half of responding teaching hospitals were located in North Texas and the Gulf Coast.
- 84.6% of Magnet hospitals and 75.0% of Pathway to Excellence hospitals in Texas responded to the survey. The majority of responding Magnet and Pathway hospitals were in North Texas.
- South Texas had the greatest percentage of responding rural hospitals (68.4%), while North Texas had the lowest percentage (46.9%).

## Trauma Centers

Trauma facilities are hospitals that are designated by the Texas Department of State Health Services to provide emergency and specialized intensive care to critically ill and injured patients. They range from Level 1, a comprehensive trauma facility that manages major and severe trauma patients, to Level 4, a basic trauma facility that transfers major and severe trauma patients to a higher-level facility. There were a total of 293 trauma centers (TCs) in the HNSS population as of July 26, 2022.

- Of 19 level 1 TCs, 17 responded.
- Of 26 level 2 TCs, 17 responded.
- Of 58 level 3 TCs, 33 responded.
- Of 190 level 4 TCs, 106 responded.

Table 5 shows the percentage of responding hospitals in each region that were designated to be certain trauma center levels.



**Table 4. Number and percentage of responding hospitals in each hospital designation by region**

		Region								
		Panhandle	Rio Grande Valley	North Texas	East Texas	Gulf Coast	Central Texas	South Texas	West Texas	Texas
Teaching	n	2	3	15	4	13	6	2	2	47
	%	50.0%	37.5%	78.9%	80.0%	81.3%	85.7%	28.6%	40.0%	66.2%
Magnet	n	1	0	20	2	15	5	1	0	44
	%	50.0%	-	83.3%	100%	93.8%	83.3%	50.0%	-	84.6%
Pathway to Excellence	n	0	0	9	0	4	3	2	0	18
	%	-	-	100%	-	66.7%	60.0%	66.7%	-	75.0%
Trauma Center	n	12	8	50	19	29	23	21	11	173
	%	50.0%	33.3%	70.4%	67.9%	74.4%	54.8%	53.8%	42.3%	59.0%
Rural	n	14	3	15	18	6	12	13	13	94
	%	56.0%	60.0%	46.9%	62.1%	54.5%	63.2%	68.4%	59.1%	58.0%

Note: n=number of responding hospitals in Texas that reported having a hospital designation

**Table 5. Level of responding trauma centers by region**

Trauma Center Level		Region								Texas
		Panhandle	Rio Grande Valley	North Texas	East Texas	Gulf Coast	Central Texas	South Texas	West Texas	
1	n	1	1	7	0	4	3	0	1	17
	%	4.3%	6.3%	6.4%	0.0%	6.1%	9.1%	0.0%	3.6%	5.1%
2	n	0	1	5	1	4	6	0	0	17
	%	0.0%	6.3%	4.6%	3.2%	6.1%	18.2%	0.0%	0.0%	5.1%
3	n	0	2	15	5	7	0	2	2	33
	%	0.0%	12.5%	13.8%	16.1%	10.6%	0.0%	7.4%	7.1%	9.9%
4	n	11	4	23	13	14	14	19	8	106
	%	47.8%	25.0%	21.1%	41.9%	21.2%	42.4%	70.4%	28.6%	31.8%
Non-Trauma Centers	n	11	8	59	12	37	10	6	17	160
	%	47.8%	50.0%	54.1%	38.7%	56.1%	30.3%	22.2%	60.7%	48.0%

Note: n=number of responding hospitals in Texas that reported having a trauma designation



## Nurses on Boards

In 2011, the Institute of Medicine recommended preparing and enabling nurses to lead change to advance health, which includes having representation on boards and other key leadership positions.<sup>4</sup>

- 182 out of 318 (57.2%) respondents reported having RNs on their boards, an increase from 53.5% in 2019.

- 119 out of 182 (65.4%) respondents that did have RN board members reported that RNs had voting privileges, an increase from 56.2% in 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Institute of Medicine, Committee on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing. (2011). Front matter. *The future of nursing: Leading change, advancing health.*

## Conclusion

In 2022, the HNSS response rate was 50.7%. East Texas (66.0%) and North Texas (57.4%) had the highest response rates, while Rio Grande Valley (33.3%) and South Texas (39.1%) had the lowest (Table 1). Responding agencies were representative of all Texas hospitals by geographic designation and region, but not by bed size

Over half of responding hospitals were designated trauma centers (52.0%), most of which were level 4 trauma centers. 57.2% of responding facilities reported having RNs on their boards, and 65.4% of these RNs had voting privileges.

