

Physician Assistant Growth Trends

This fact sheet is an overview of the trends, distribution, and demographics of physician assistants in Texas. In 2020, there were 9,610 actively licensed physician assistants in Texas.

- This number represented a 36.0% increase since 2015 and a 94.4% increase since 2010.
- Relative to population growth, the size of the physician assistant workforce has improved by 39.8% over the past 10 years.

Despite these improvements, Texas still had fewer physician assistants per capita than the national average.

Figure 1. Total Physician Assistants

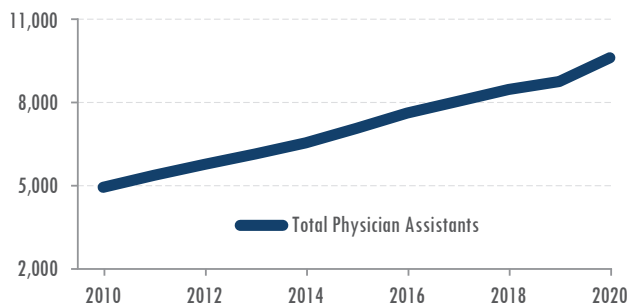
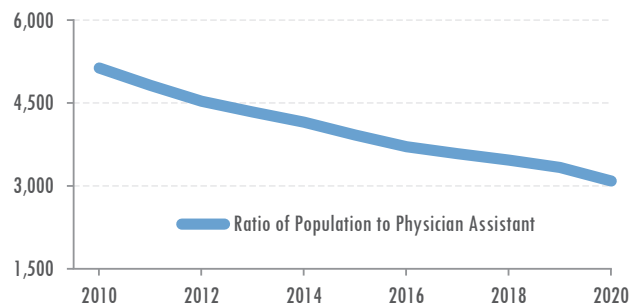


Figure 2. Ratio of Population to Physician Assistant



Geographic Distribution of Physician Assistants

Figure 3. Ratio of Texas Population to Physician Assistant by County

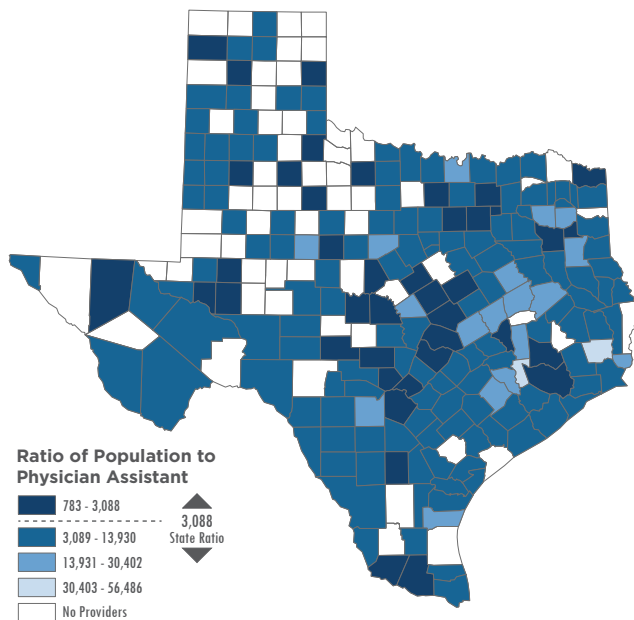


Table 1. Ratio of Texas Population to Physician Assistant by Geographic Designation

Geographic Designation	Ratio of Population to Physician Assistant
Metropolitan	2,916
Non-metropolitan	6,199
Border	3,668
Non-border	3,037
Texas	3,088

Physician assistants were not evenly distributed throughout the state.

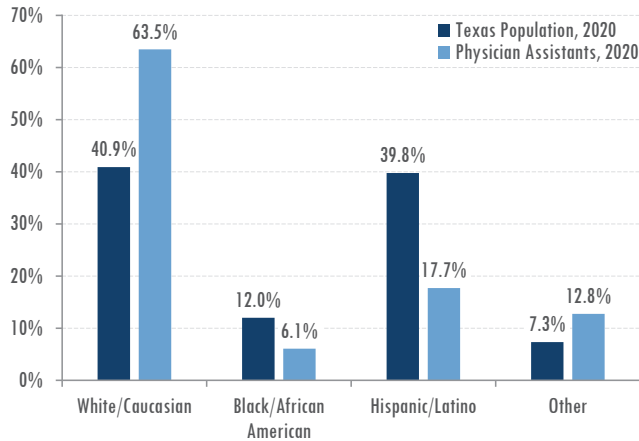
- Per capita, metropolitan counties had 2.1 times as many physician assistants as non-metropolitan counties.
- Per capita, non-border counties had 1.2 times as many physician assistants as border counties.

Demographics of Physician Assistants

Race/Ethnicity of Physician Assistants

Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino physician assistants were underrepresented when compared to the Texas population.

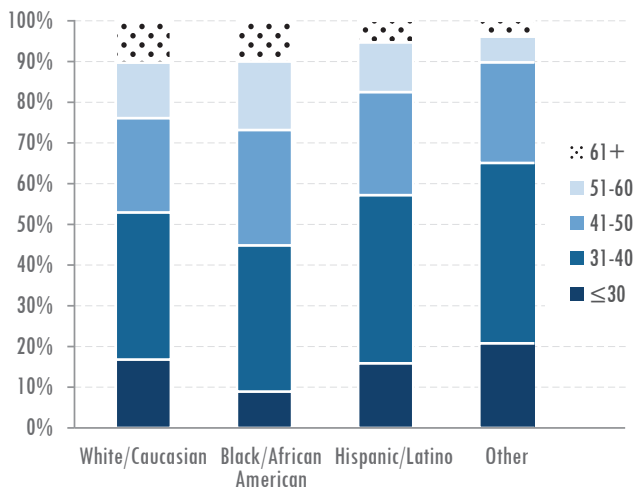
Figure 4. Race/Ethnicity of Texas Population and Physician Assistants



Age Distribution of Physician Assistants by Race/Ethnicity

- 52.9% of white/Caucasian physician assistants were aged 40 years or under, while 10.3% were 61 years of age or over.
- 44.8% of black/African American physician assistants were aged 40 years or under, and 28.4% were between 41 and 50 years of age.
- 57.2% of Hispanic/Latino physician assistants were aged 40 years or under, while 5.3% were 61 years of age or over.

Figure 5. Age Distribution of Physician Assistants by Race/Ethnicity



Gender of Physician Assistants

- In 2020, 70.0% of physician assistants were female and 30.0% were male.¹
- In 2010, 60.7% were female and 39.3% were male.
- Among physician assistants aged 40 years or under in 2020, 81.2% were female and 18.8% were male.

Age Distribution of Physician Assistants by Gender

Within 10 years, 14.2% of the current Texas physician assistant workforce will be over 65 years of age.²

- 3.7% of active physician assistants in Texas were over 65 years of age in 2020.
- 54.8% were aged 40 years or under.
- Among physician assistants over 55 years of age, males comprised 53.6% of the physician assistant workforce.

Table 2. Age Distribution of Physician Assistants by Gender

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
≤30	1,387	214	1,601
31-35	1,621	387	2,008
36-40	1,261	386	1,647
41-45	903	382	1,285
46-50	584	437	1,021
51-55	330	340	670
56-60	278	262	540
61-65	231	231	462
>65	123	236	359
Total	6,718	2,875	9,593

¹ Gender data were available for 9,593 of 9,610 physician assistants.

² The earliest retirement age for social security is 62.



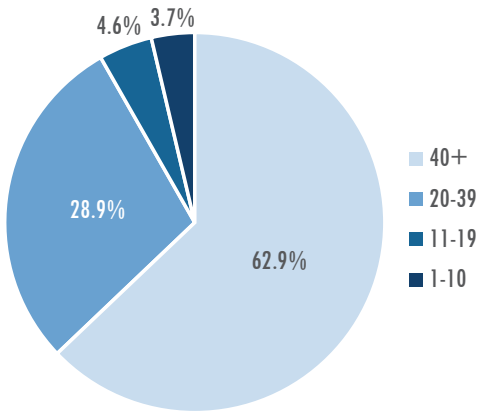
Employment Characteristics and Education of Physician Assistants

Practice Characteristics of Physician Assistants

Table 3. Primary Practice Setting of Physician Assistants

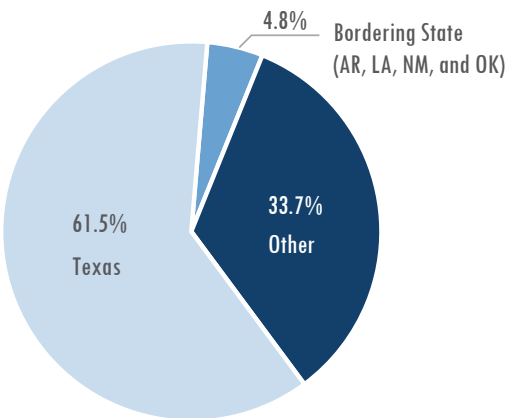
Setting	Number of Physician Assistants
Hospital Based	2,432
Partnership or Group	2,251
Solo	1,105
Direct Medical Care	425
Veterans Affairs	215
Military	184
Medical School Faculty	146
Health Maintenance Organization	36
Public Health Service	34
Research	19
Other	978
Total	7,825³

Figure 6. Primary Practice Hours of Physician Assistants⁴



Training of Physician Assistants

Figure 7. State of Physician Assistant Program⁵



³ Primary practice setting data were available for 7,825 of 9,610 physician assistants.

⁴ Primary practice hours data were available for 7,955 of 9,610 physician assistants.

⁵ State of physician assistant program data were available for 9,586 of 9,610 physician assistants.