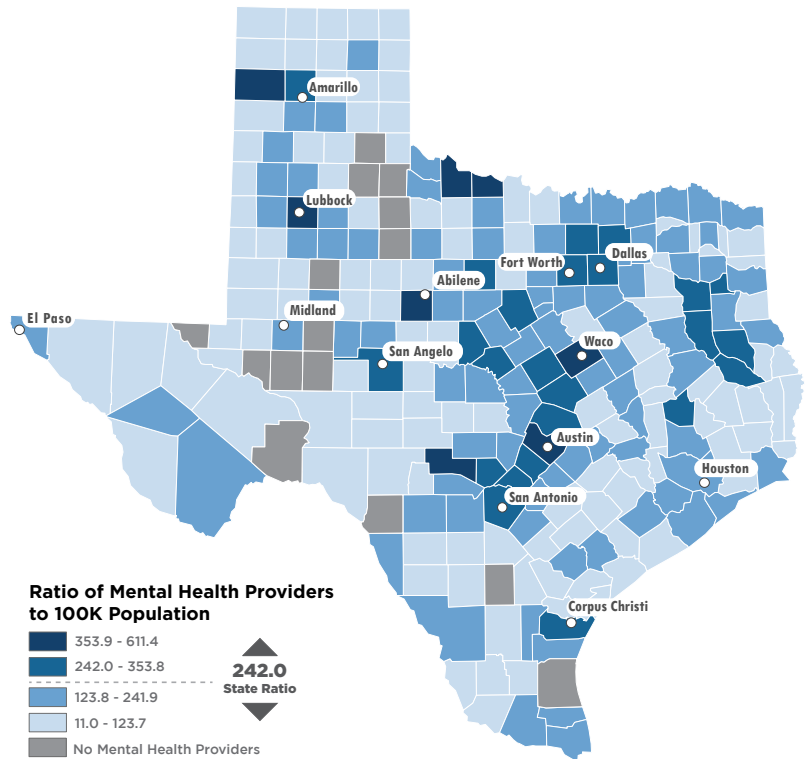# HOW IS THE MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE IN TEXAS DISTRIBUTED?

In 2019, there were 70,642 providers in Texas' mental health workforce, yielding a statewide ratio of 242.0 mental health providers per 100,000 people.[1,2] The map below shows the ratio of mental health providers in Texas per 100,000 people by county in 2019.[3]

As the map shows, the mental health workforce in Texas was not evenly distributed throughout the state. For instance:

- 15 counties had no mental health providers.

- 222 counties had a ratio of mental health providers per 100,000 people that was less than the statewide ratio.

- Only 32 counties had a ratio of mental health providers per 100,000 people that was equal to or greater than the statewide ratio.

The unequal distribution of mental health providers in Texas exacerbates the state's mental health workforce shortage. To better ensure that Texans have access to mental health services, stakeholders and policymakers should consider developing strategies that take into account which areas of the state have the fewest number of mental health providers and, thus, likely experience the greatest mental health workforce shortage.

Ratio of Mental Health Providers to 100K Population

- 353.9 - 611.4
- 242.0 - 353.8
- --- 242.0 State Ratio ---
- 123.8 - 241.9
- 11.0 - 123.7
- No Mental Health Providers

Footnotes

1. The mental health workforce in Texas includes the following professions: clinical nurse specialists, community health workers or promotores, licensed baccalaureate social workers, licensed chemical dependency counselors, licensed clinical social workers, licensed master social workers, licensed professional counselors, licensed psychological associates, licensed psychologists, licensed specialists in school psychology, marriage and family therapists, nurse practitioners, provisionally licensed psychologists, and psychiatrists.
2. Counts include only providers who were licensed with their Texas board and actively working in their profession. Clinical nurse specialists and nurse practitioners include only those who indicated they were employed in the field of nursing and had a specialty in psychiatric/mental health. Psychiatrists include only those who indicated they provided direct patient care. Analyses include all providers for whom the respective data were available.
3. Counties are categorized in the map based on rounded ratios of mental health providers to 100,000 population. The resulting conclusions are based on the rounded ratios.

www.dshs.texas.gov/nursingworkforce
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