

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Updates

July 29, 2025

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Presentation Overview

- Community Health Worker (CHW) Program General Updates
- Certification Quarterly Updates
- 2024 Annual Report Highlights

Community Health Worker (CHW) Program General Updates



CHW Core Competencies Enhancements

- CHW Core Competencies Enhancements will be **effective February 1, 2026**.
 - Training using approved updated curricula may begin.
 - New curricula submitted after this date must align with the new core competencies.
- Implementation is in progress:
 - Five interviews and focus groups were conducted to gather feedback on the implementation. DSHS is presenting the findings to this Committee today.
 - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will be posted to the [CHW Core Competency Update webpage](#).
- Visit the CHW Core Competency Update webpage regularly to stay informed!

CHW Program 2024 Annual Report

- The CHW Program 2024 Annual report is now available on the [CHW Training and Certification Program Annual Report webpage](#).

Certification Quarterly Updates

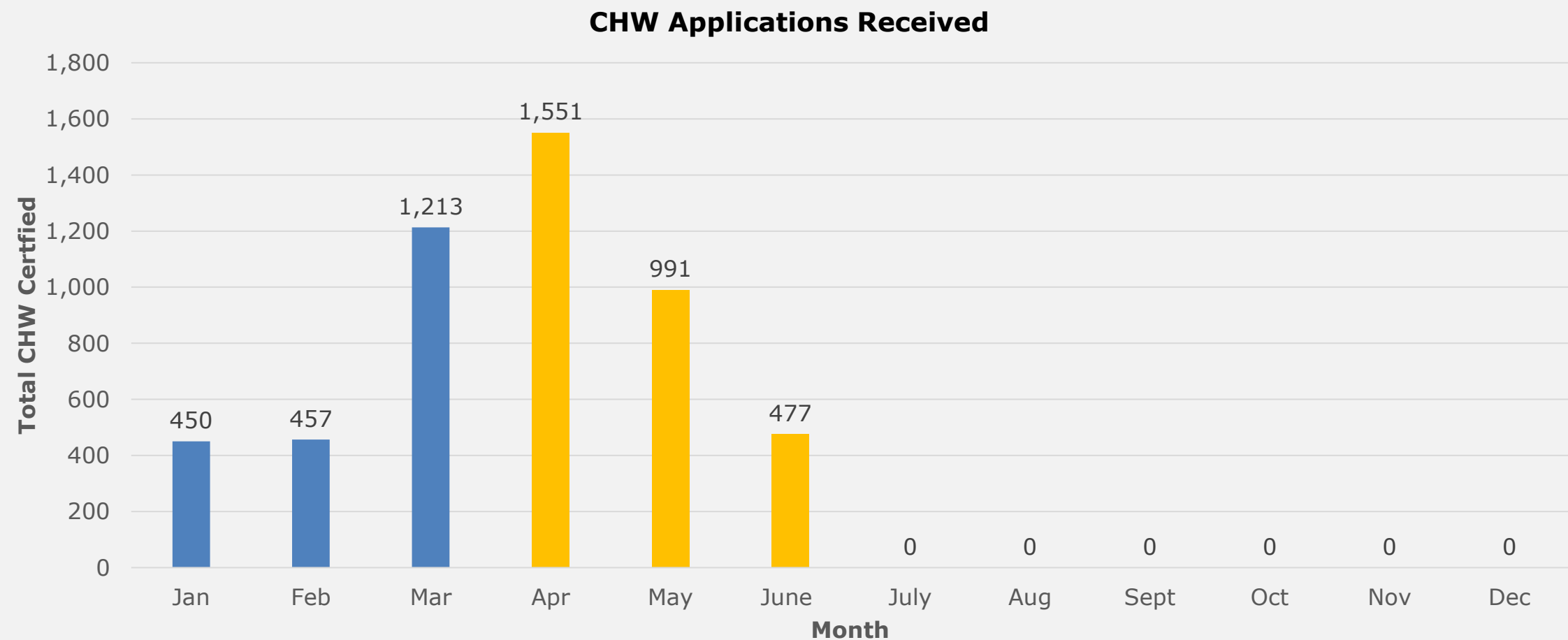


CHW Certification

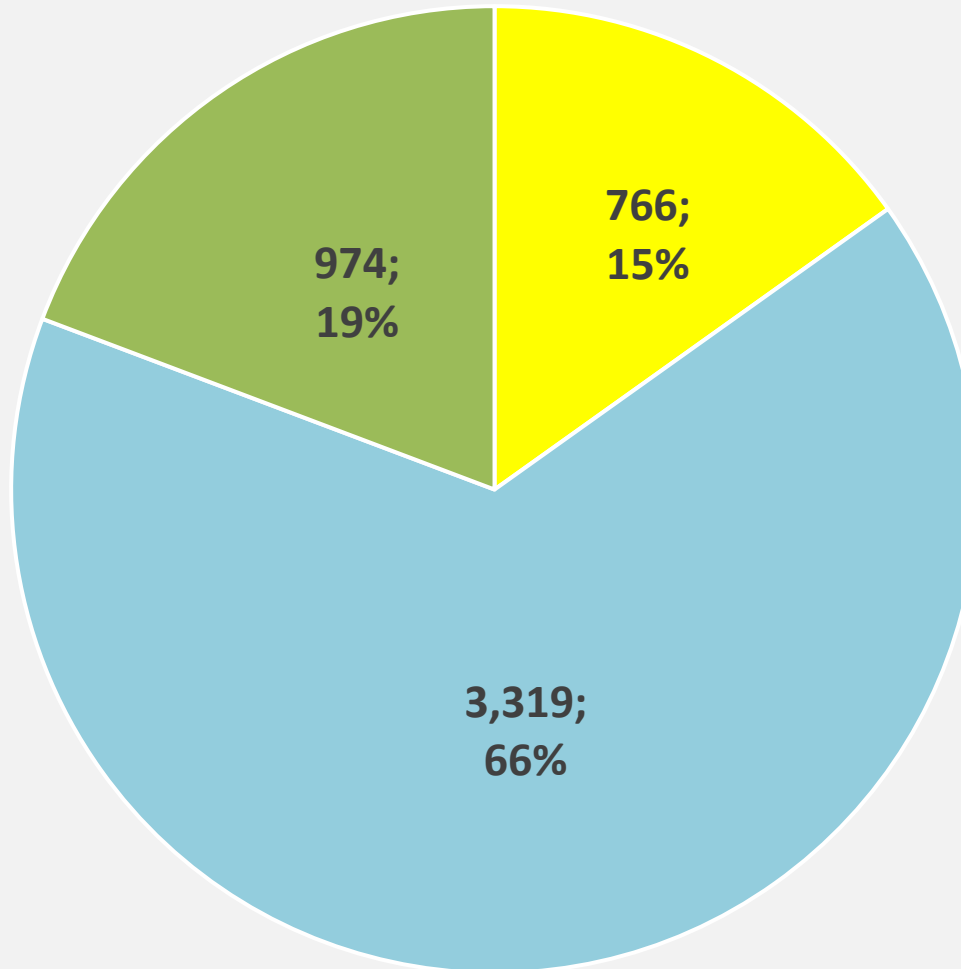
Total CHWs Certified by Year



CHW Applications Received



2025 Annual Applications Received by Type

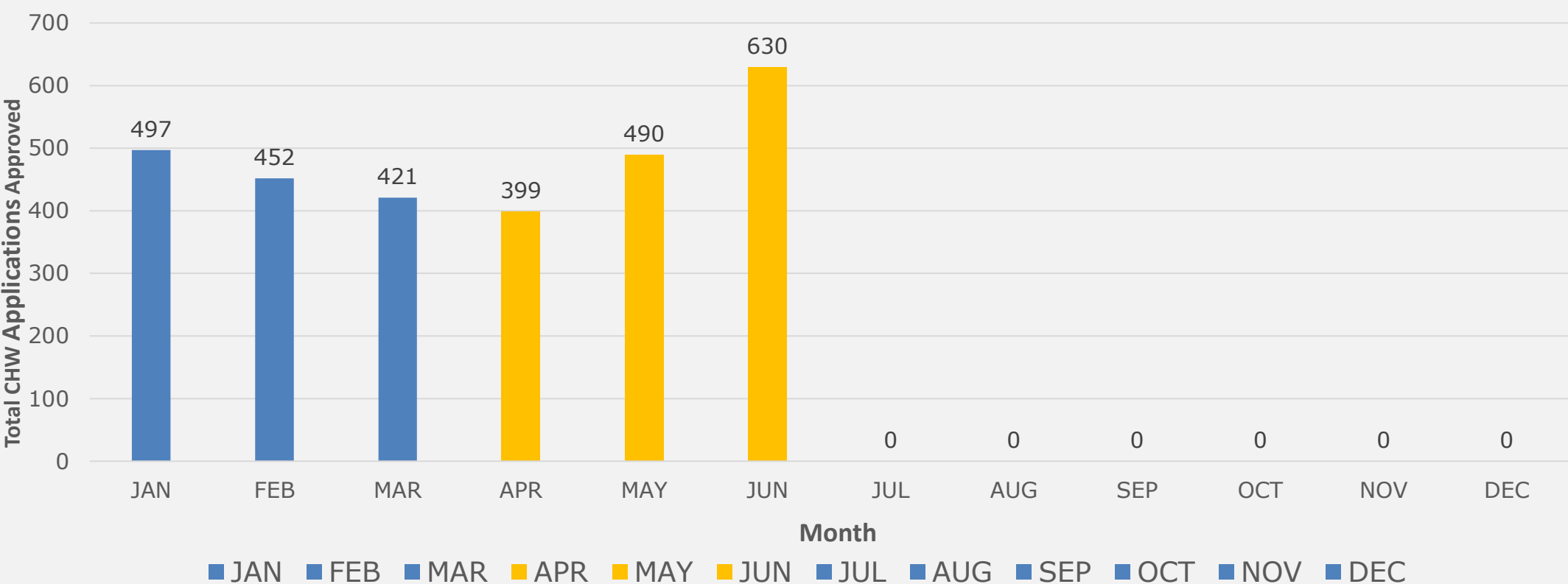


Annual CHW Applications Received By Type

- CHW applications received - Experience
- CHW applications received - Training
- CHW applications received - Renewal

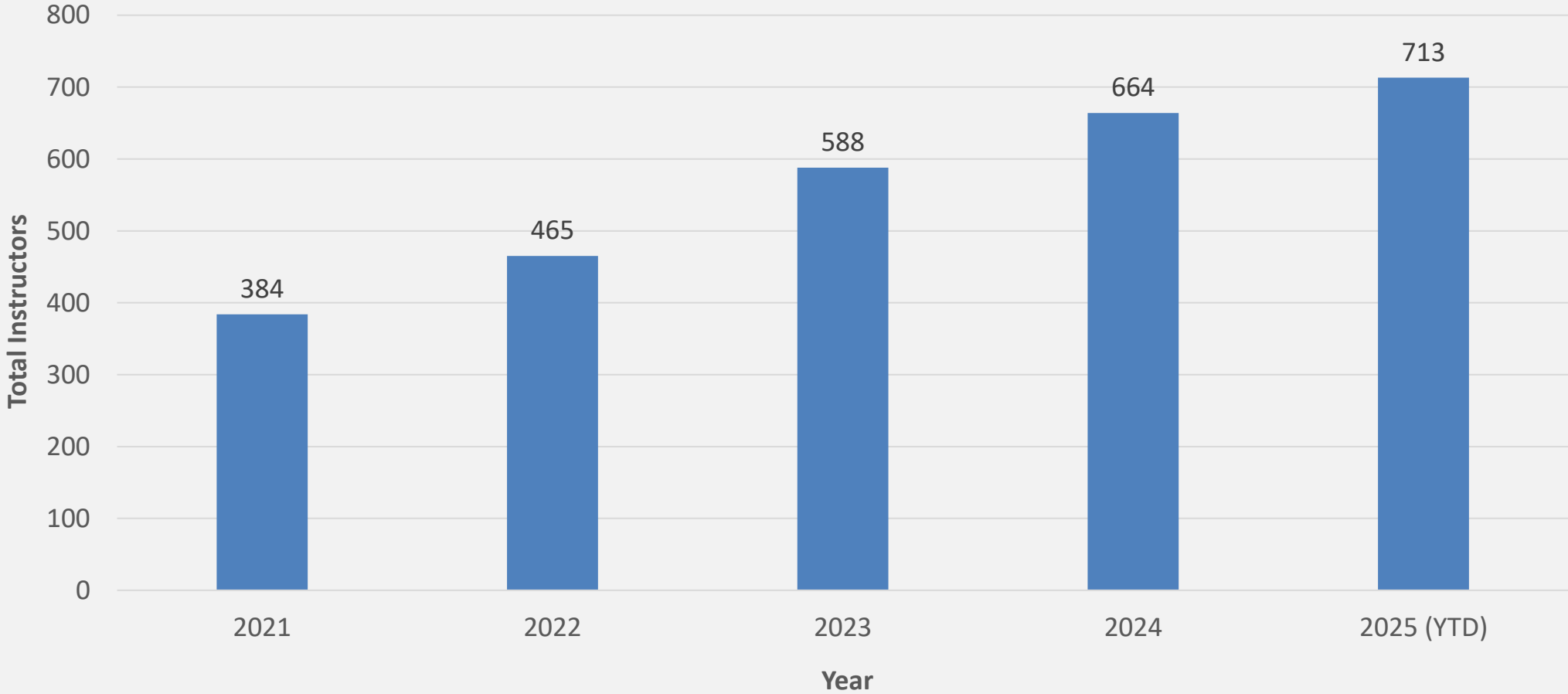
CHW Certifications Approved

CHW Applications Approved



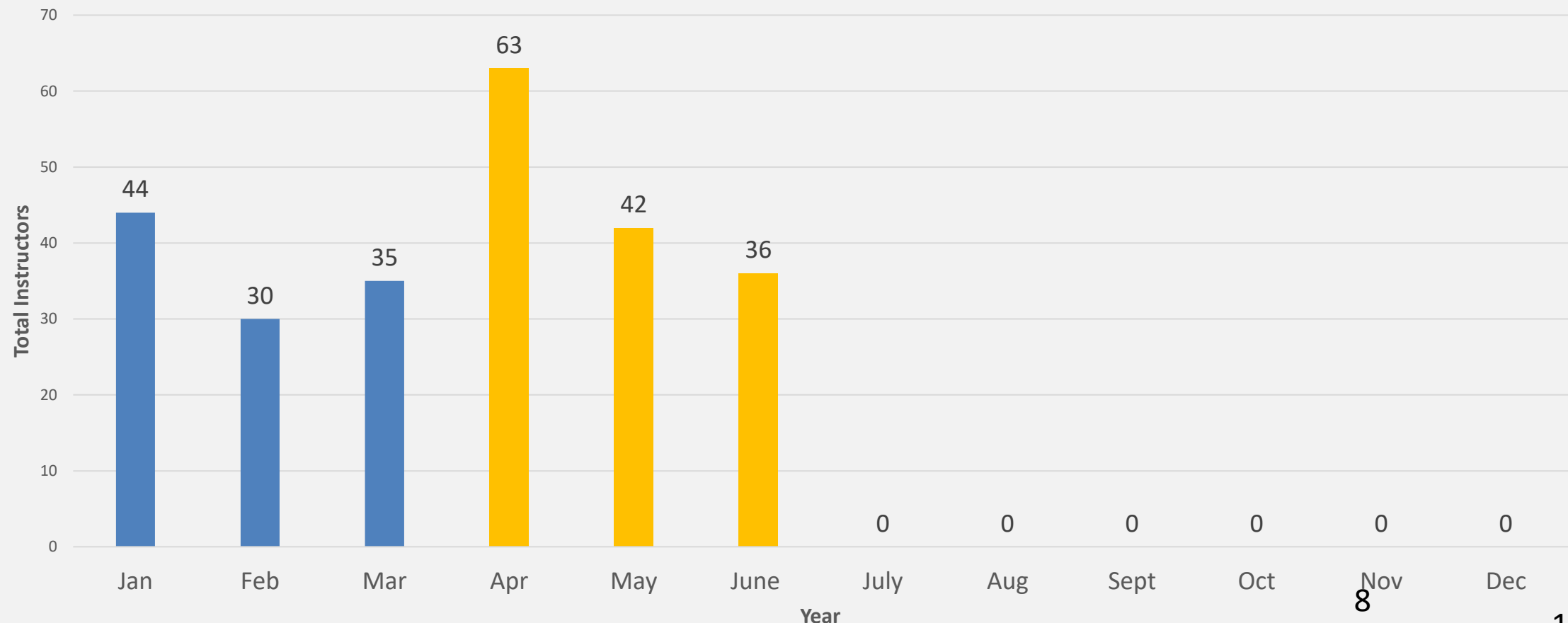
CHW Instructor (CHWI) Certification

Total Instructors Certified by Year

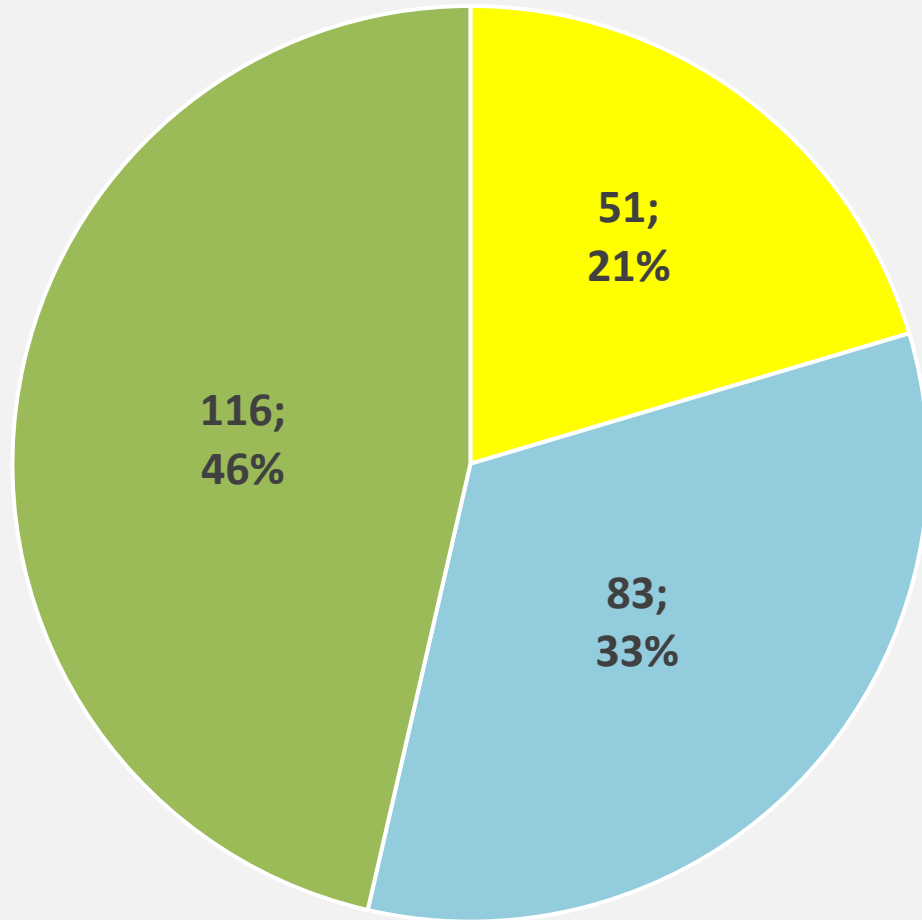


CHWI Applications Received

CHW Instructor Applications Received



2025 CHWI Applications Received by Type

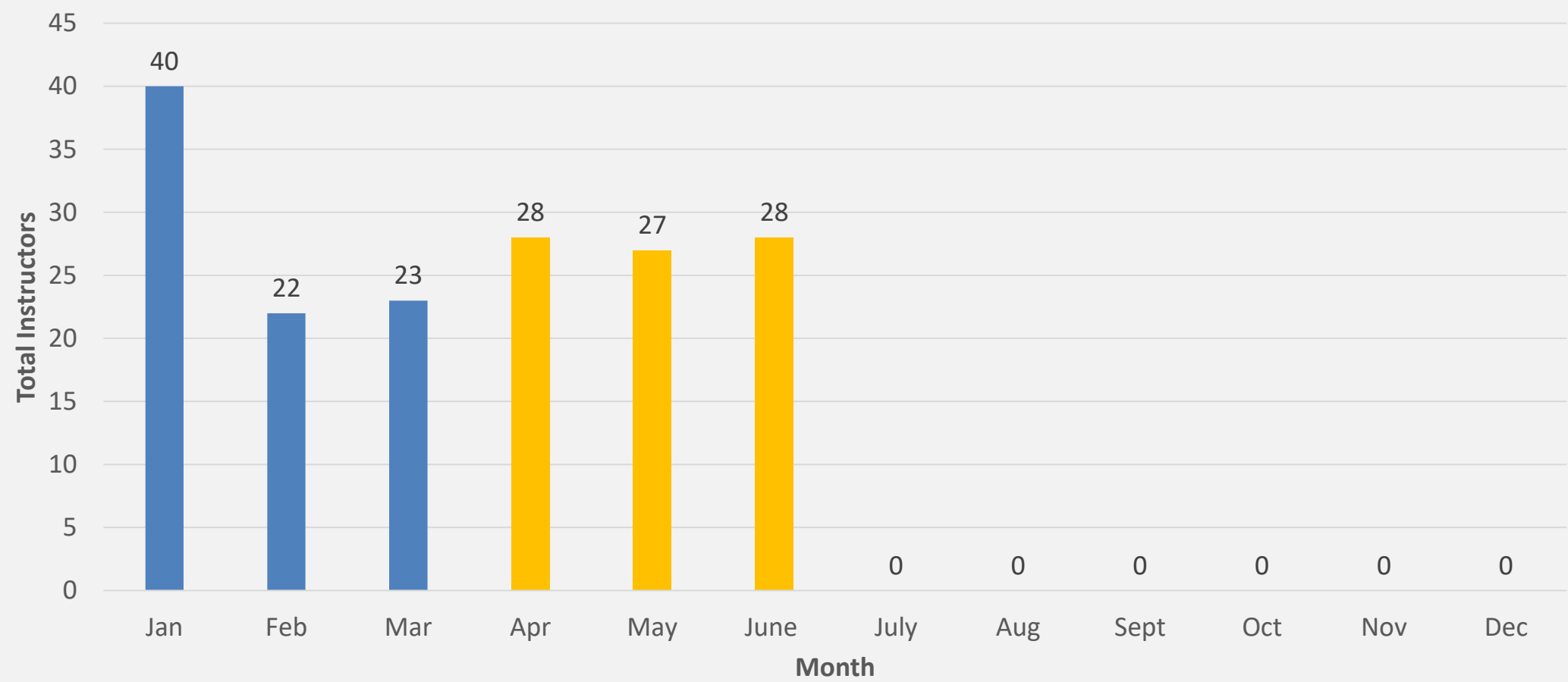


Annual Instructor Application Received by Type

- Instructor applications received - Experience
- Instructor applications received - Training
- Instructor applications received - Renewal

CHW Instructor Certification (Cont.)

Instructor Applications Approved



Curriculums

- From April 1 to June 30, 2025, the program has approved 9 **new** curriculums totaling 21 credit hours.

2024 CHW Program Annual Report Highlights

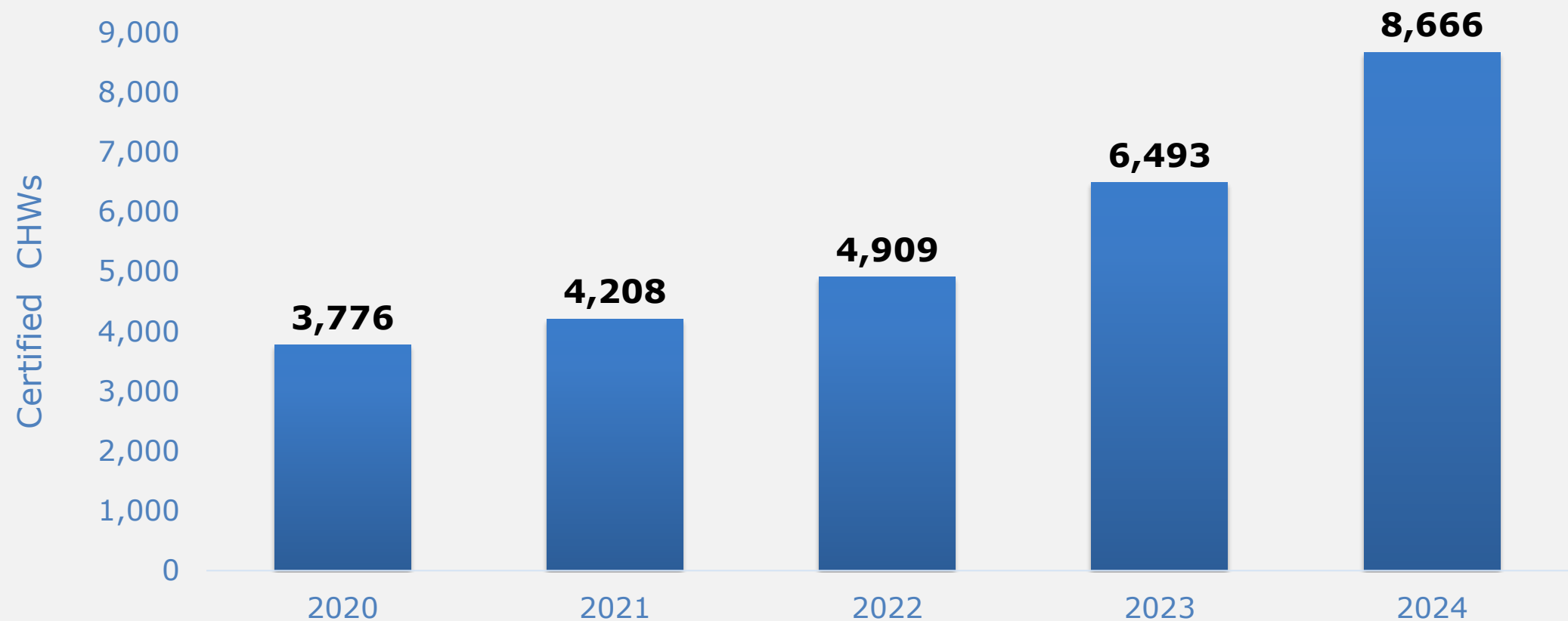


Background

- DSHS oversees the development and implementation of certification standards, guidelines, and requirements for CHWs.
 - Mandated by [Health and Safety Code, Chapter 48](#)
- To evaluate program implementation, the CHW Program tracks the following:
 - Number of newly certified CHWs and CHWIs
 - Total number of CHWs
 - CHWs and CHWIs demographics
 - Rate of CHWs and CHWIs certification renewals
 - Number of certified training programs
 - Number of certified continuing education courses
 - Location of certified CHWs, CHWIs and training programs in Texas

Certified CHWs, 2020-2024

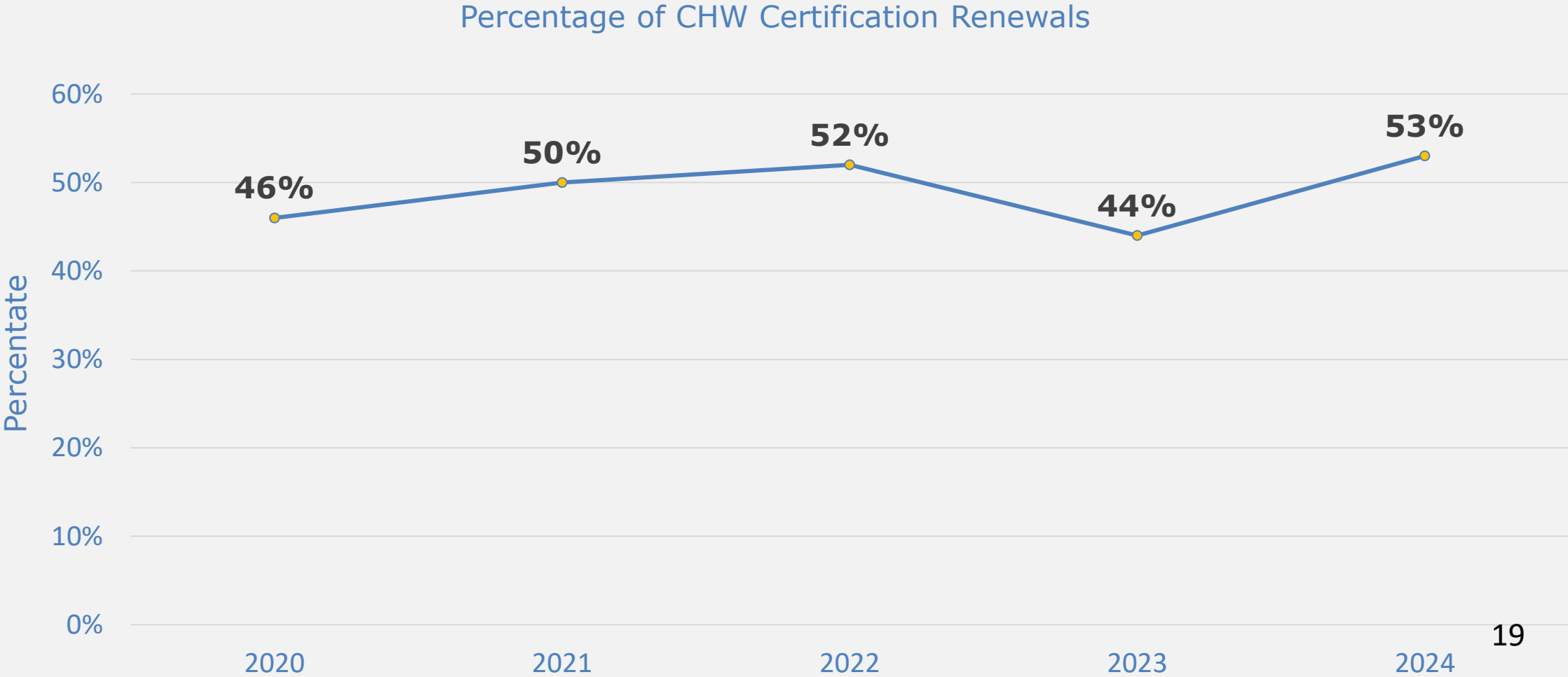
Number of Certified CHWs, 2020-2024



Certified CHWs, 2024

- 3,400 new CHWs were certified in 2024, a 17 percent increase from the previous year (2,897).
 - 888 (26 percent) were certified based on experience
 - 2,512 (74 percent) were certified through completing a certification course

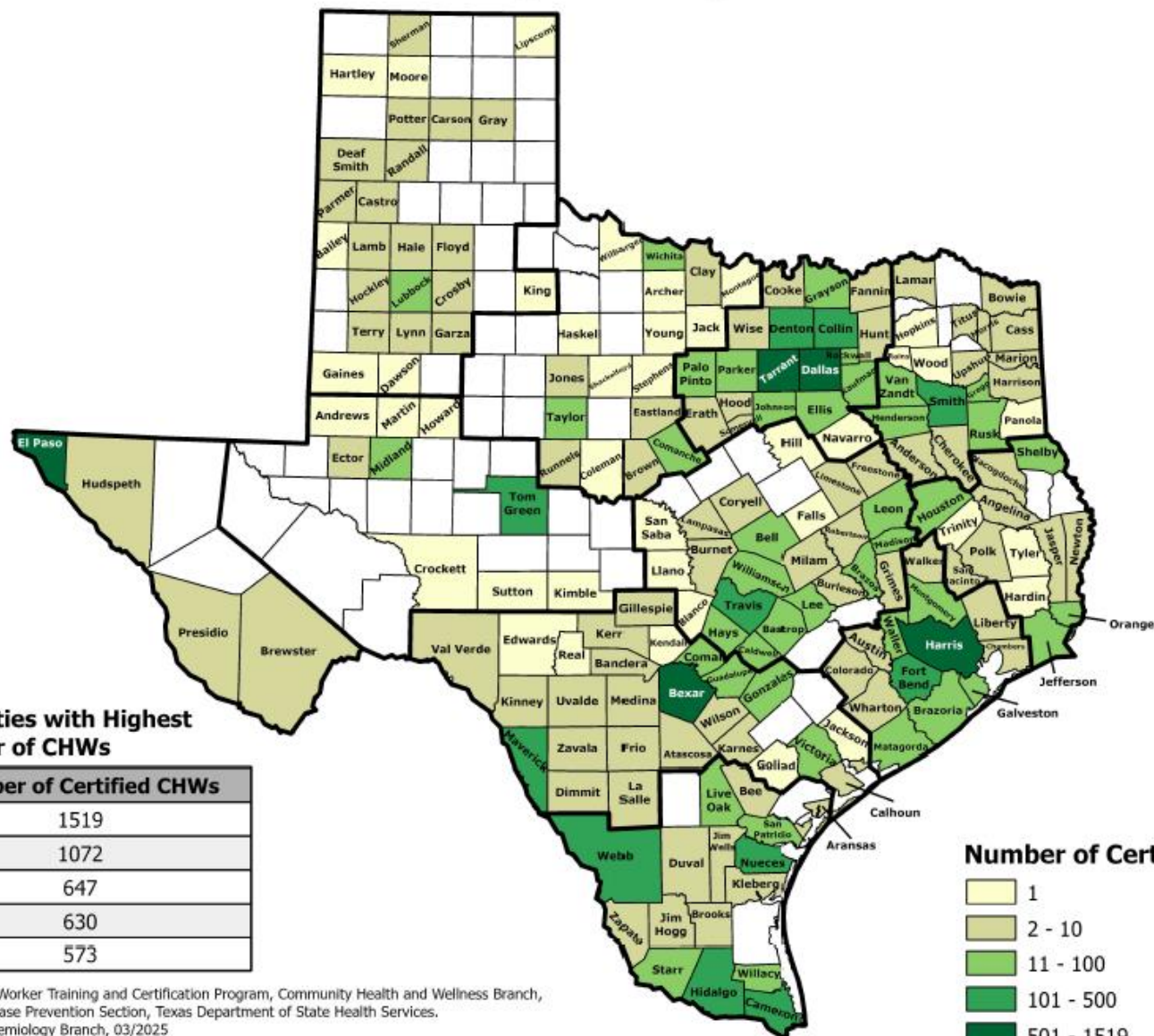
CHW Renewals, 2020-2024



CHWs Demographics

Race/Ethnicity	Sex			
	Female	Male	Total	Total Percentage
Hispanic	4,497	641	5,138	59%
Black	1,624	274	1,898	22%
White	975	214	1,189	14%
Asian	230	53	283	3%
American Indian/Alaska Native	19	5	24	(<1%)
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	5	4	9	(<1%)
Other	99	26	125	1%
Total	7,449	1,217	8,666	100% 20

Certified CHWs by County of Residence

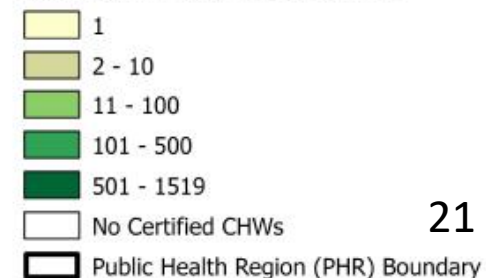


Top Five Counties with Highest Number of CHWs

County	Number of Certified CHWs
Harris	1519
Dallas	1072
Bexar	647
Tarrant	630
El Paso	573

Data Source: Community Health Worker Training and Certification Program, Community Health and Wellness Branch, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section, Texas Department of State Health Services.
Created by: Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch, 03/2025

Number of Certified CHWs



Texas Department of State Health Services



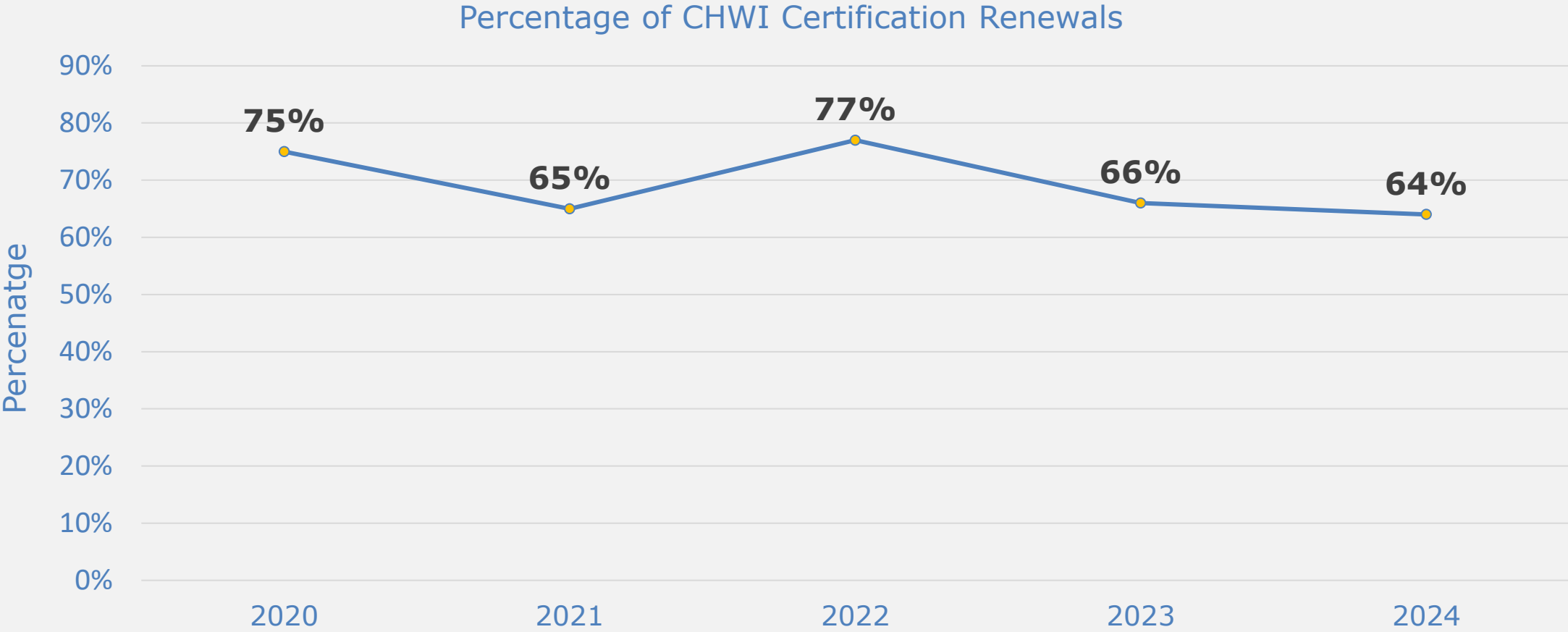
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Texas Department of State Health Services

Certified CHWIs, 2024

- 198 new CHWIs were certified in 2024, an increase of 13 percent from the 175 newly certified instructors in 2023.
 - 45 (23 percent) of the newly certified CHWIs were certified based on experience
 - 153 (77 percent) were certified through training

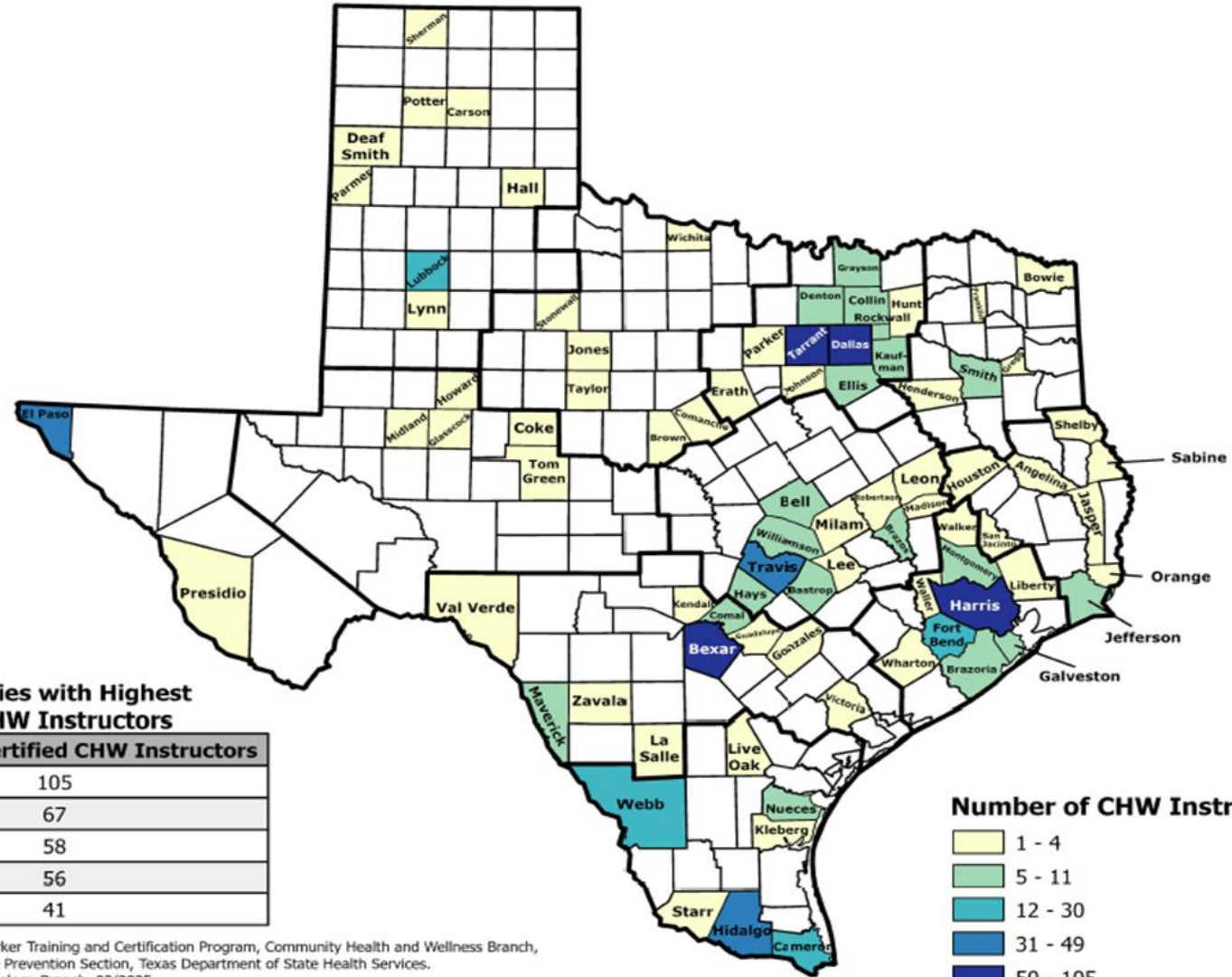
CHWI Renewals, 2020-2024



CHWIs Demographics

Race/Ethnicity	Sex			
	Female	Male	Total	Total Percentage
Hispanic	278	50	328	48%
Black	156	17	173	25%
White	150	11	161	24%
Asian	11	2	13	2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2	1	3	(<1%)
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0%
Other	6	0	0	1%
Total	603	81	684	100%

Certified CHW Instructors by County of Residence

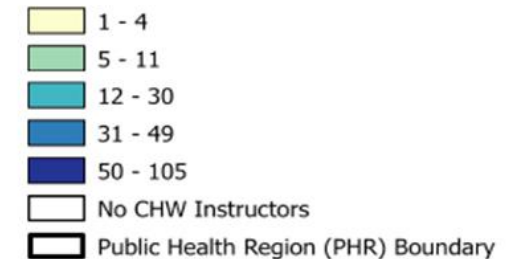


Top Five Counties with Highest Number of CHW Instructors

County	Number of Certified CHW Instructors
Harris	105
Dallas	67
Bexar	58
Tarrant	56
Travis	41

Data Source: Community Health Worker Training and Certification Program, Community Health and Wellness Branch, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section, Texas Department of State Health Services.
Created by: Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch, 03/2025

Number of CHW Instructors



Texas Department of State Health Services



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Certified Training Programs

- Certified training programs are organizations approved by DSHS to provide training for certified CHWs and CHWIs.
- Certified training programs include:
 - Community colleges
 - Health science centers
 - Area Health Education centers
 - Federally Qualified Health Centers
 - Regional CHW associations
 - Community-based programs

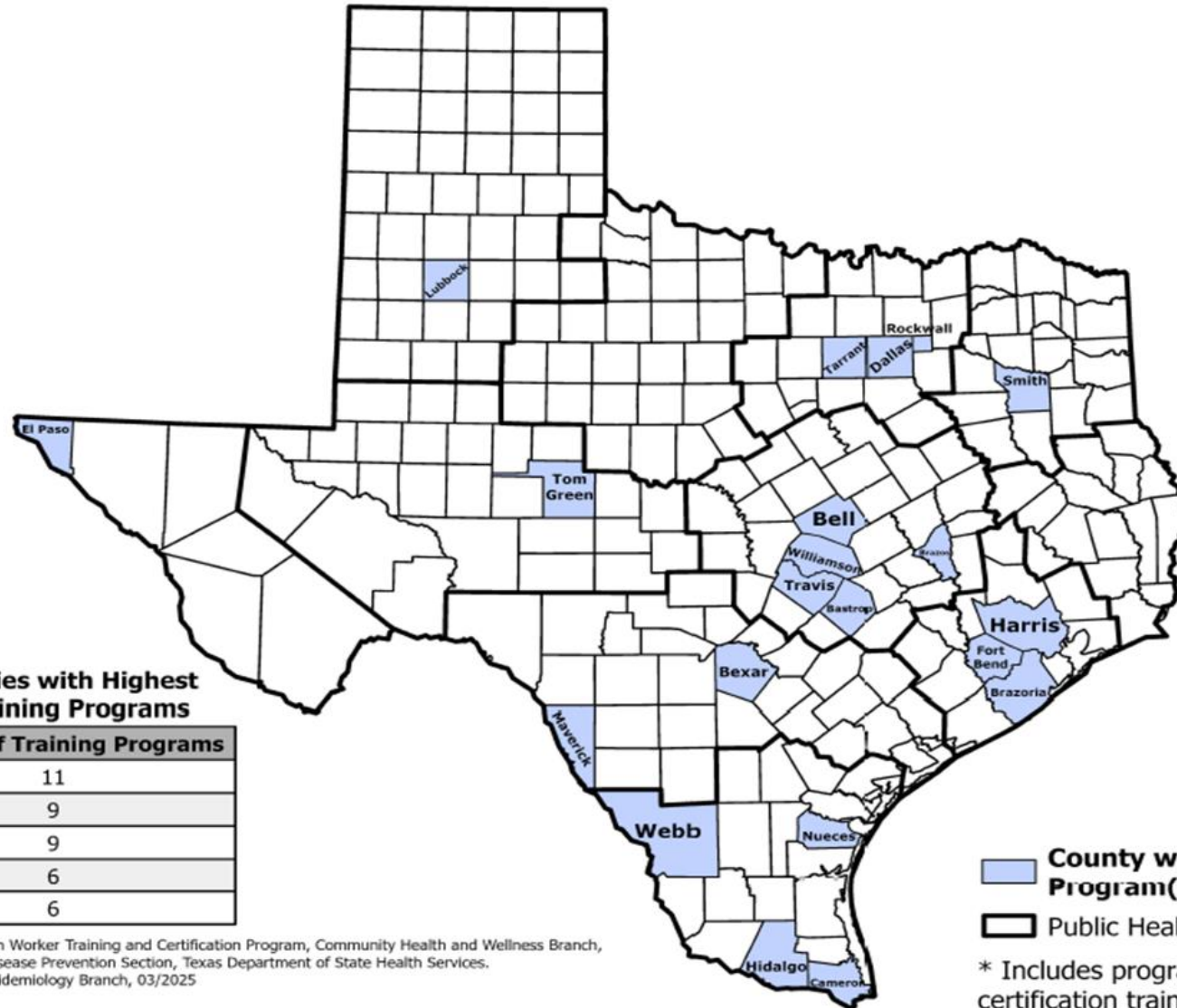


A list of approved certified training programs is available on the DSHS CHW Program website.

Opportunities for Continuing Education

- In 2024, certified training programs provided 417 continuing education opportunities for CHWs, offering 1,276 DSHS-certified hours in the form of in-person classes and distance learning.
- A total number of 13,125 unduplicated participants attended DSHS-approved continuing education in 2024.
- While all participants included in this total self-identified as a CHW during registration, they were not all certified CHWs.

Location of CHW Certification and Continuing Education Training Programs



Top Five Counties with Highest Number of Training Programs

County	Number of Training Programs
Harris	11
Travis	9
Dallas	9
Bexar	6
Tarrant	6

Data Source: Community Health Worker Training and Certification Program, Community Health and Wellness Branch, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section, Texas Department of State Health Services.
Created by: Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch, 03/2025

- County with CHW Training Program(s)*
 - Public Health Region (PHR) Boundary
- * Includes programs offering both 160 hour certification training and continuing education AND those offering continuing education only



Texas Department of State Health Services



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Health Services

Summary

- The number of CHWs in Texas continues to increase over time.
 - 3,400 new CHWs were certified in 2024, a 17 percent increase from the previous year (2,897).
 - In the last 5 years the number of certified CHWs has increased 130%, from 3,776 at the end of 2020.
 - This is the largest growth of certified CHWs in Texas in the last decade.
- The CHW Program continues to collaborate with state-level organizations to increase and promote job opportunities, continuing education and training opportunities with CHWs in all regions of Texas.
- The Texas CHW workforce continues to strengthen and grow as a result these efforts.

Reference

To view the complete CHW Program 2024 Annual Report visit the [CHW Training and Certification Program Annual Report webpage](#).



Thank you!

Community Health Worker Training and Certification Program

dshs.texas.gov/community-health-worker-or-promotora-training-certification-program

Email: chw@dshs.texas.gov

512-776-2576