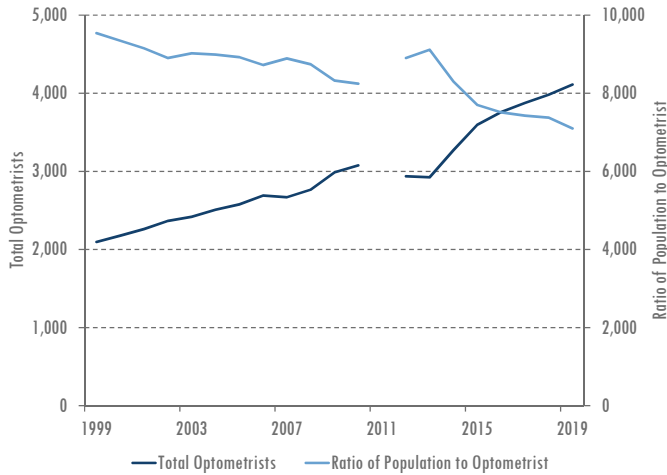




Optometrists

2019

Optometrist Growth Trends¹



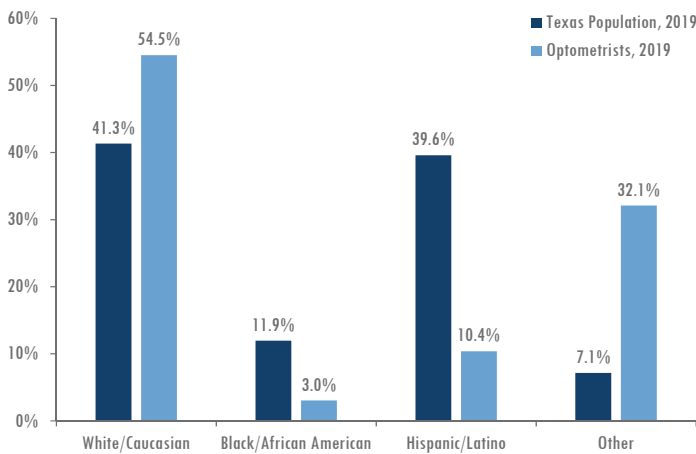
In 2019, there were 4,112 actively licensed optometrists providing care in Texas.

- This number represented a 25.7% increase since 2014 and a 37.7% increase since 2009.
- Relative to population growth, the size of the optometrist workforce has improved by 14.7% over the past 10 years.

Despite these improvements, Texas still had fewer optometrists than the national average.

¹ Data were not available in 2011.

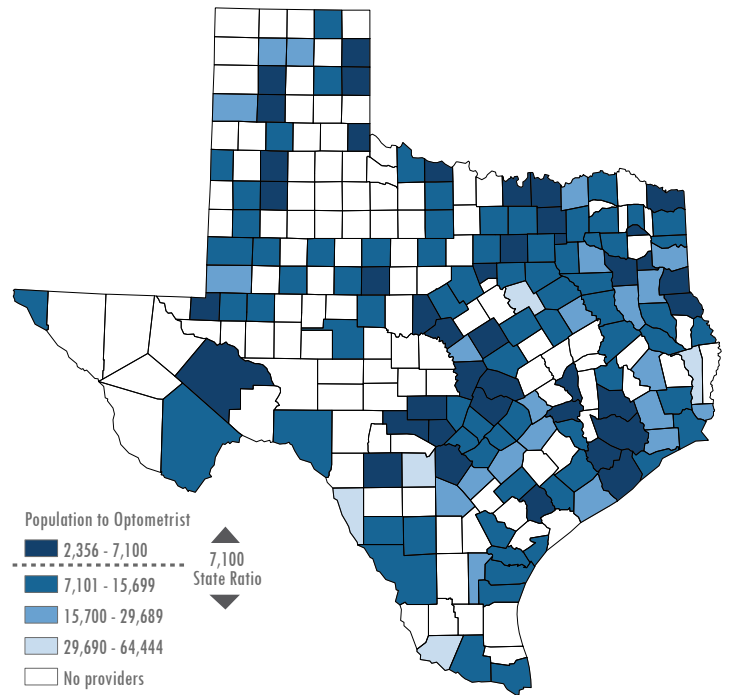
Race/Ethnicity of Optometrists



The racial/ethnic distribution of Texas optometrists differed greatly from that of the Texas population.²

² Race/ethnicity data were available for 4,051 of the state's 4,112 optometrists.

Ratio of Texas Population to Optometrist by County



Geographic Designation	Ratio of Population to Optometrist
Metropolitan	6,730
Non-metropolitan	13,160
Border	13,739
Non-border	6,751
Texas	7,100

Optometrists were not evenly distributed throughout the state.

- There was a 64.7% difference between the number of optometrists in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas even after controlling for population differences.
- Between border and non-border areas, the percent difference was 68.2%.

Gender of Optometrists

- In 2019, 51.4% of optometrists were female and 48.6% were male.
- In 2009, 42.1% were female and 57.9% were male.
- Among optometrists aged 40 years or younger in 2019, 66.7% were female and 33.3% were male.



Age Distribution of Optometrists by Gender

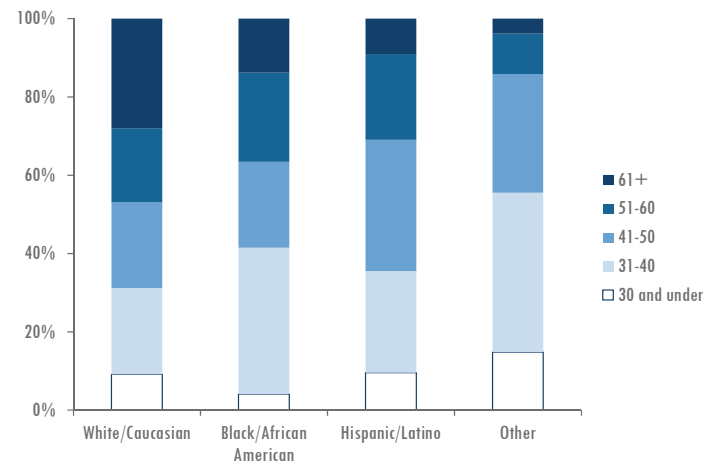
Age Group	Female	Male	Total
≤30	317	144	461
31-35	422	212	634
36-40	362	193	555
41-45	331	228	559
46-50	278	222	500
51-55	167	194	361
56-60	107	207	314
61-65	83	235	318
>65	47	362	409
Total	2,114	1,997	4,111³

Within 10 years, 34.1% of the current Texas optometrist workforce will be at or past retirement age.

- 9.9% of active optometrists in Texas were older than 65 years of age in 2019.
- 15.4% were between the ages of 56 and 65.
- Among optometrists over 55 years of age, males comprised 77.2% of the optometrist workforce.

³ Age data were available for 4,111 of the state's 4,112 optometrists.

Age Distribution of Optometrists by Race/Ethnicity⁴

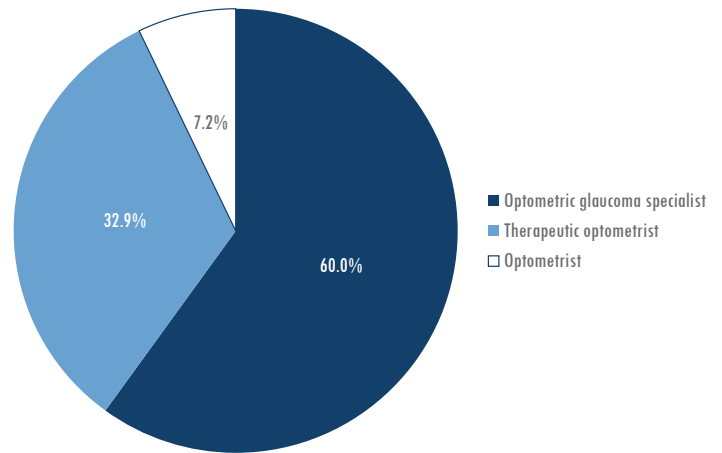


- Among white/Caucasian optometrists, 31.2% were aged 40 years or younger, and 28.0% were 61 years of age or older.
- 41.5% of blacks/African Americans were aged 40 years or younger, while 13.8% were 61 years of age or older.
- 35.5% of Hispanics/Latinos were aged 40 years or younger, while 9.0% were 61 years of age or older.

⁴ Age and race/ethnicity data were available for 4,050 of the state's 4,112 optometrists.

Employment Characteristics of Optometrists

Primary Practice Specialty⁵



⁵ Primary practice specialty data were available for 3,828 of the state's 4,112 optometrists.

Primary Practice Setting

Setting	Number of Optometrists
Private office	3,497
Public clinic college or university	144
Government facility	50
Hospital	46
Military facility	33
Nursing home	20
Drug and/or ophthalmic device company	19
Research facility	1
Total	3,810⁶

⁶ Primary practice setting data were available for 3,810 of the state's 4,112 optometrists.