Primary Care Physician Growth Trends

This fact sheet is an overview of the trends, distribution, and demographics of primary care (PC) physicians in Texas. PC physicians include physicians indicating a primary specialty in family medicine or practice, general practice, geriatrics, internal medicine, obstetrics and/or gynecology, or pediatrics. In 2020, there were 22,610 actively licensed PC physicians in Texas.

- This number represented a 13.6% increase since 2015 and a 29.0% increase since 2010.
- Relative to population growth, the size of the PC physician workforce has improved by 9.4% over the past 10 years.

Despite these improvements, Texas still had fewer PC physicians per capita than the national average, and much of the state was federally designated as a PC health professional shortage area.

Figure 1. Total PC Physicians

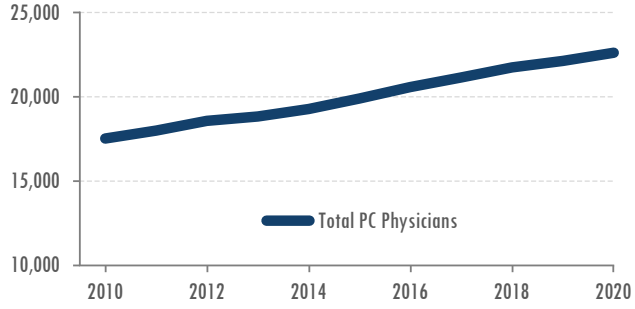
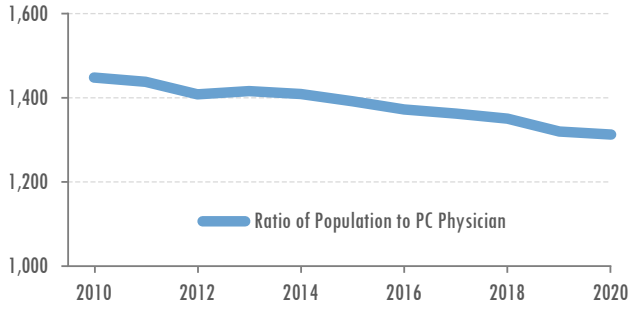


Figure 2. Ratio of Population to PC Physician



Geographic Distribution of Primary Care Physicians

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

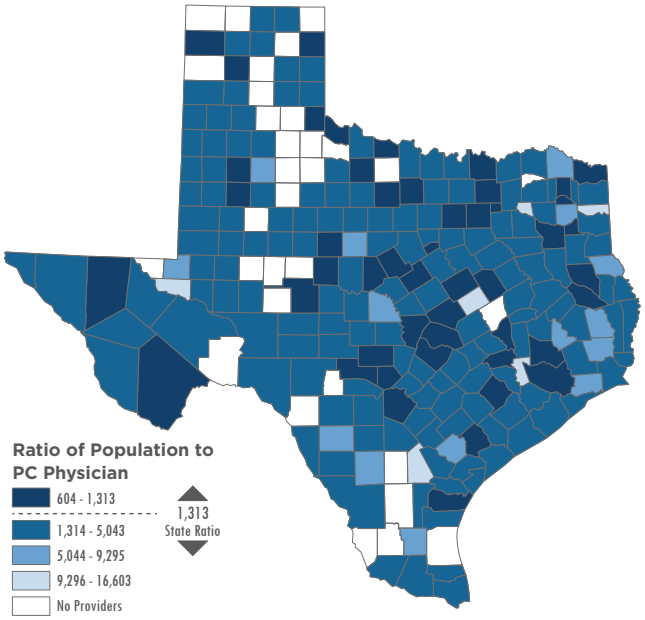


Table 1. Ratio of Texas Population to PC Physician by Geographic Designation

Geographic Designation	Ratio of Population to PC Physician
Metropolitan	1,264
Non-metropolitan	1,957
Border	1,799
Non-border	1,276
Texas	1,313

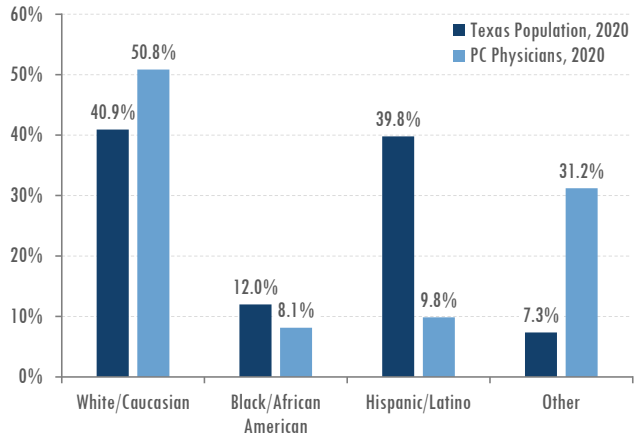
PC physicians were not evenly distributed throughout the state.

- Per capita, metropolitan counties had 1.5 times as many PC physicians as non-metropolitan counties.
- Per capita, non-border counties had 1.4 times as many PC physicians as border counties.

Race/Ethnicity of PC Physicians

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

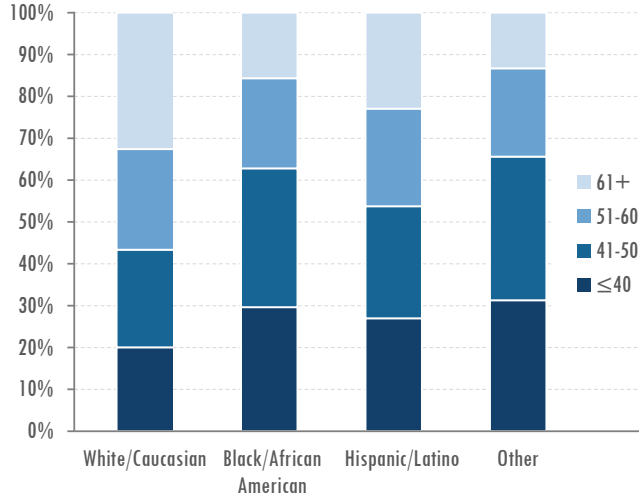
Figure 4. Race/Ethnicity of Texas Population and PC Physicians



Age Distribution of PC Physicians by Race/Ethnicity

- 32.6% of white/Caucasian PC physicians were 61 years of age or over, while 20.1% were aged 40 years or under.
- 33.2% of black/African American PC physicians were between 41 and 50 years of age, and 29.6% were aged 40 years or under.
- 27.0% of Hispanic/Latino PC physicians were aged 40 years or under, and 26.8% were between 41 and 50 years of age.

Figure 5. Age Distribution of PC Physicians by Race/Ethnicity



Gender of PC Physicians

- In 2020, 47.0% of PC physicians were female and 53.0% were male.[1]
- In 2010, 37.5% were female and 62.5% were male.
- Among PC physicians aged 40 years or under in 2020, 63.0% were female and 37.0% were male.

Age Distribution of PC Physicians by Gender

Within 10 years, 34.6% of the current Texas PC physician workforce will be over 65 years of age.[2]

- 14.9% of active PC physicians in Texas were over 65 years of age in 2020.
- 19.7% were between the ages of 56 and 65.
- Among PC physicians over 55 years of age, males comprised 71.4% of the PC physician workforce.

Table 2. Age Distribution of PC Physicians by Gender

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
≤30	136	90	**226**
31-35	1,500	809	**2,309**
36-40	1,928	1,192	**3,120**
41-45	1,823	1,326	**3,149**
46-50	1,710	1,441	**3,151**
51-55	1,286	1,534	**2,820**
56-60	930	1,415	**2,345**
61-65	685	1,421	**2,106**
>65	625	2,751	**3,376**
Total	**10,623**	**11,979**	**22,602**

[1] Gender data were available for 22,602 of 22,610 PC physicians.

[2] The earliest retirement age for social security is 62.

Education and Employment Characteristics of Primary Care Physicians

Training of PC Physicians

Figure 6. Country of Medical School of PC Physicians

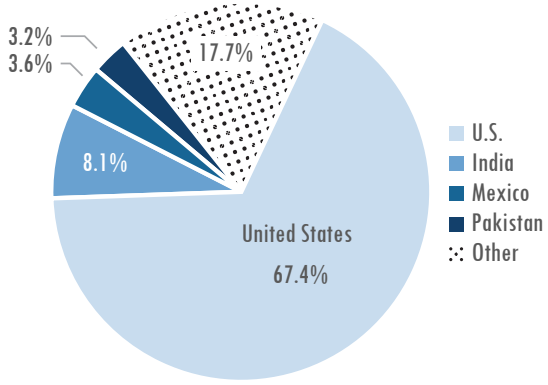


Figure 7. State of Medical School of PC Physicians[3]

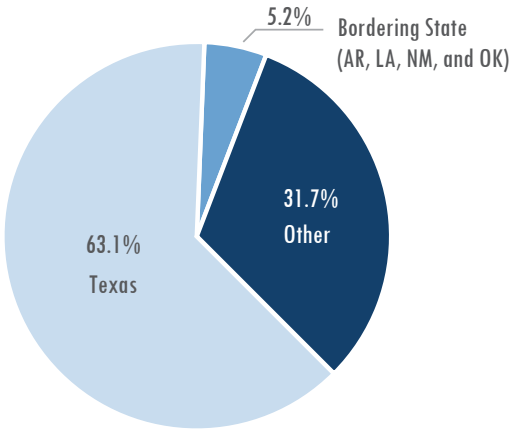
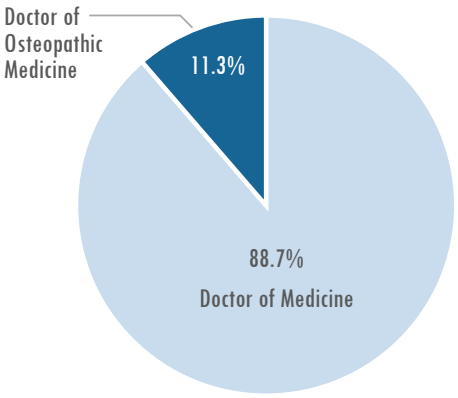


Figure 8. Degree Type of PC Physicians



Practice Characteristics of PC Physicians

Table 3. Primary Specialty of PC Physicians

Specialty	Number of PC Physicians
Internal Medicine	7,148
Pediatrics	4,367
Family Practice	4,283
Family Medicine	3,423
Obstetrics and Gynecology	2,551
General Practice	535
Gynecology	209
Geriatrics	94
Total	**22,610**

Table 4. Primary Practice Setting of PC Physicians

Setting	Number of PC Physicians
Partnership or Group	8,175
Hospital Based	5,228
Solo	4,300
Direct Medical Care	2,987
Medical School Faculty	454
Health Maintenance Organization	89
Research	12
Other	1,258
Total	**22,503[4]**

[3] Among PC physicians indicating attendance at a medical school in the United States.

[4] Primary practice setting data were available for 22,503 of 22,610 PC physicians.