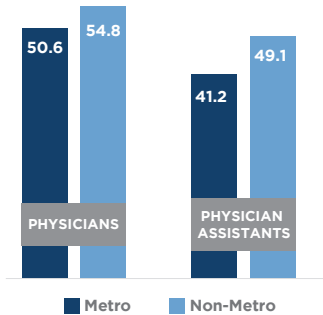


PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS IN TEXAS

Primary care is integral for the prevention, detection, and management of disease. Primary care includes the following specialties: family medicine, family practice, general practice, geriatrics, internal medicine, obstetrics and/or gynecology, and pediatrics. There were 56,765 direct patient care physicians in Texas in 2020, including 22,610 primary care physicians. There were 9,610 physician assistants total, and 3,022 of those were primary care specialists. There were 32 counties with no primary care physicians and 75 counties with no primary care physician assistants. There were 28 counties with neither.

Figure 3. Average Age of Primary Care Physicians and Primary Care Physician Assistants by Geographic Designation



The average age of primary care physicians was significantly different between metro and non-metro counties. The average age of primary care physicians was 50.6 years in metro counties and 54.8 years in non-metro counties. For primary care physician assistants, the average age in metro counties was 41.2 years, compared with 49.1 years in non-metro counties.

Overall, there were 10,623 female primary care physicians and 11,979 male primary care physicians in 2020. Primary care physicians in non-metro counties were over twice as likely to be male than female, compared with a more even distribution in metro counties. Across the state, male primary care physicians were an average age of 54.5 years and females were an average age of 46.7 years. For primary care physicians under the age of 40, 63% were female and 37% were male. There were 2,125 female primary care physician assistants (70.4%) and 894 male primary care physician assistants (29.6%) in 2020.

Table 1. Gender of Primary Care Physicians by Geographic Designation

	FEMALE ♀	MALE ♂
METRO	10,167	10,842
NON-METRO	456	1,137
TOTAL	10,623	11,979

As primary care physicians and physician assistants in rural areas age and retire, they may leave practices that have to close because there are no providers in the area to continue the practice. Ensuring access to primary care for all Texans is imperative, as the primary care workforce is essential for managing and diagnosing health conditions.

