

Physical Therapists Growth Trends

This fact sheet is an overview of the trends, distribution, and demographics of physical therapists in Texas. In 2022, there were 18,378 actively licensed physical therapists in Texas.

- This number represented a 19.0% increase since 2017 and a 56.2% increase since 2012 (Figure 1).
- The ratio of Texas population per one physical therapist in 2012 was 2,222:1 and in 2022 it was 1,699:1. The ratio of population to physical therapist has decreased by 24.9% (Figure 2).¹

Figure 1. Total Texas Physical Therapists

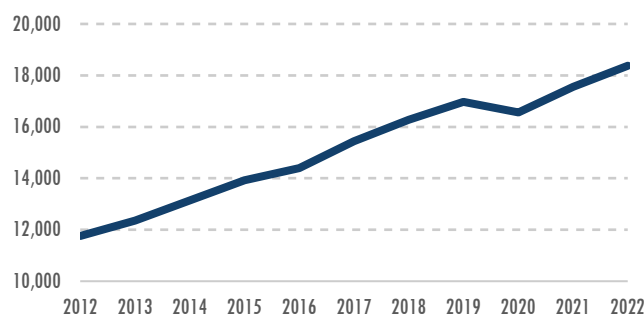
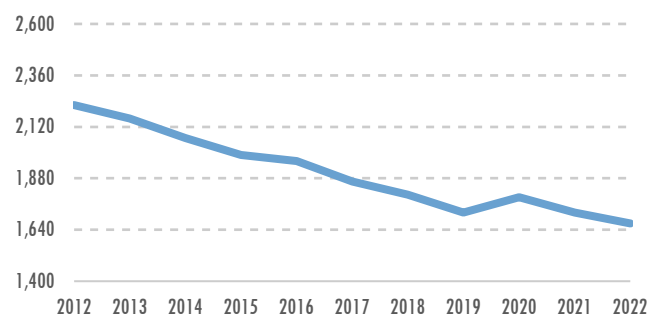


Figure 2. Ratio of Texas Population to Physical Therapist¹



Geographic Distribution of Physical Therapists

Figure 3. Ratio of Texas Population to Physical Therapist by County¹

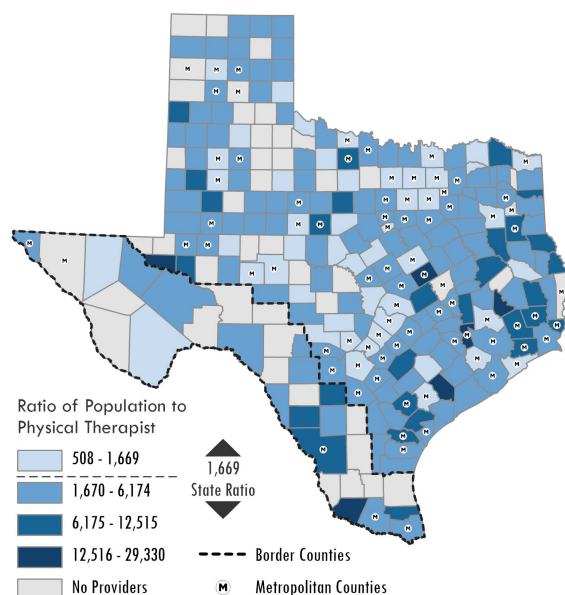


Table 1. Ratio of Texas Population to Physical Therapist by Geographic Designation¹

Geographic Designation	Ratio of Population to Physical Therapist
Metropolitan	1,593:1
Non-metropolitan	2,870:1
Border	3,114:1
Non-border	1,592:1
Texas	1,669:1

- The ratio of the Texas population to one physical therapist was higher in non-metropolitan counties compared to metropolitan counties.
- The ratio of the Texas population to one physical therapist was higher in border counties compared to non-border counties.
- 45 counties had no physical therapists (Figure 3).

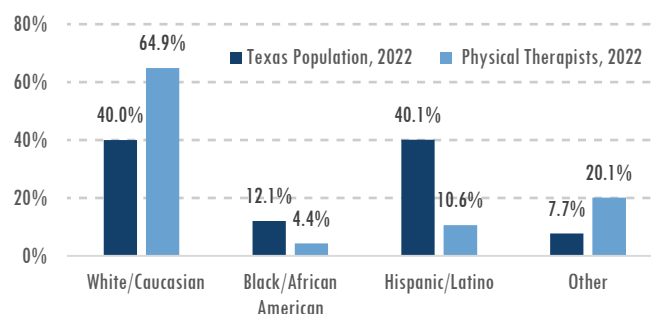
¹Population numbers are sourced from the Texas Demographic Center (previously the Texas State Data Center). The center regularly updates the demographic projections therefore, population numbers for a particular year may differ depending on the date the data was retrieved.

Demographics of Physical Therapists

Race/Ethnicity

Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino physical therapists were underrepresented when compared to the Texas population (Figure 4).² Race/ethnicity data were available for 18,377 of 18,378 physical therapists.

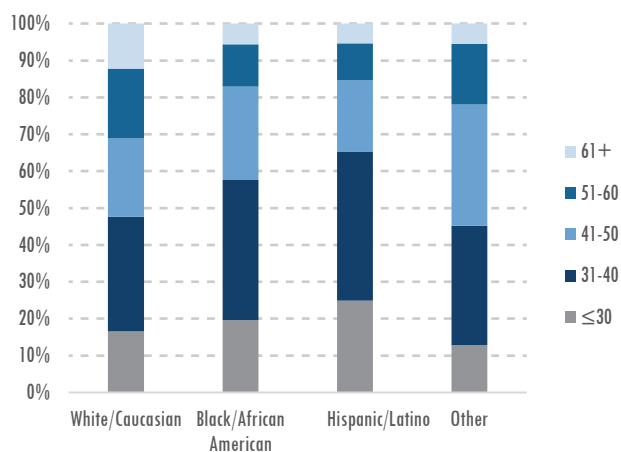
Figure 4. Race/Ethnicity of Texas Population and Physical Therapists²



Age Distribution by Race/Ethnicity

- 12.2% of White/Caucasian physical therapists were 61 years of age or over, while 47.6% were aged 40 years or under (Figure 5).
- 25.4% of Black/African American physical therapists were between 41 and 50 years of age, and 57.6% were aged 40 years or under (Figure 5).
- 19.3% of Hispanic/Latino physical therapists were between 41 and 50 years of age, and 65.4% were aged 40 years or under (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Age Distribution of Physical Therapists by Race/Ethnicity



Age

Within 10 years, 17.1% of the current Texas physical therapist workforce will be over 65 years of age.³

- 4.3% of active physical therapists in Texas were over 65 years of age in 2022.

Gender

- In 2022, 67.7% of physical therapists were female and 32.3% were male. Gender data were available for 18,317 of 18,378 physical therapists (99.7%) in 2022.
- In 2012, 70.8% were female and 29.2% were male. Gender data were available for 11,759 of 11,765 physical therapists (99.9%) in 2012.

Age Distribution by Gender

- Among physical therapists over 55 years of age, males comprised 30.9% of the physical therapist workforce.
- Among physical therapists aged 40 years or under in 2022, 67.8% were female and 32.2% were male.

Table 2. Age Distribution of Physical Therapists by Gender

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
≤30	2,138	942	3,080
31-35	2,102	1,114	3,216
36-40	1,888	857	2,745
41-45	1,680	792	2,472
46-50	1,212	644	1,856
51-55	1,220	597	1,817
56-60	907	422	1,329
61-65	717	303	1,020
>65	540	242	782
Total	12,404	5,913	18,317

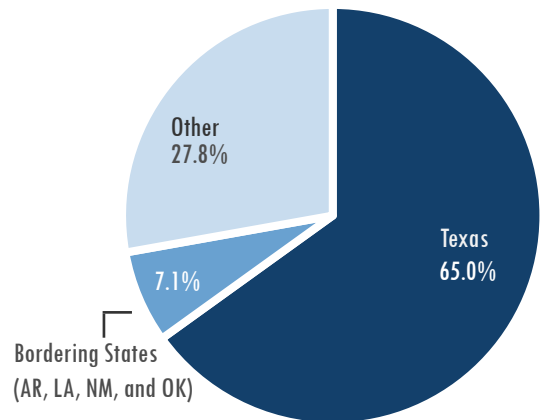
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³The earliest retirement age for social security is 62 (www.socialsecurity.gov).

Education of Physical Therapists

- As seen in Figure 6, 65.0% of physical therapists trained in Texas.
- 7.1% of physical therapists trained in states bordering Texas (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma).
- The remaining 27.8% of physical therapists trained in states other than Texas and those bordering Texas.
- Training data were available for 7,422 of 18,378 physical therapists (40.4%).

Figure 6. Physical Therapist Training by State



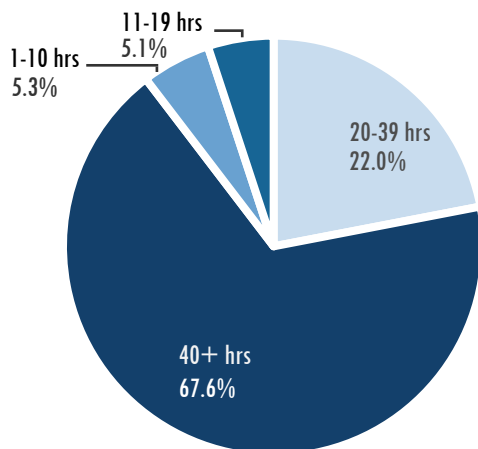
Employment Characteristics of Physical Therapists

- As seen in Figure 7, majority of physical therapists (67.6%) reported practicing for 40 or more hours.
- Primary practice hours data were available for 12,333 of 18,378 physical therapists (67.1%).
- In 2022, the top three primary specialties for physical therapists were orthopedics (34.0%), geriatrics (28.2%) and an "other" specialty (17.4%).
- Primary specialty data were available for 12,190 of 18,378 physical therapists (66.3%).

Table 3. Primary Specialty of Physical Therapists

Specialty	Number of Physical Therapists
Orthopedics	4,148
Geriatrics	3,437
Pediatrics	1,622
Sports	270
Cardiopulmonary	166
Manual Therapy	166
Wound Care/Management	143
Healthcare Compliance	43
Health Information	20
Hand	19
Ergonomics	14
Assistive Technology	11
Clinical Electrophysiology	6
Vocational Evaluation	4
Other	2,121
Total	12,190

Figure 7. Primary Practice Hours of Physical Therapists



- In 2022, the top three primary practice settings for physical therapists were an outpatient clinic or office setting (40.9%), a home health setting (19.2%), and a hospital (critical, intensive, acute, or subacute care) (17.9%).
- Primary practice setting data were available for 14,522 of 18,378 physical therapists (79.0%).

Table 4. Primary Practice Setting of Physical Therapists

Setting	Number of Physical Therapists
Outpatient clinic or office	5,933
Home health	2,781
Hospital (critical, intensive, acute, subacute care)	2,598
Skilled nursing, extended care or subacute care facility (inpatient)	1,071
Rehabilitation Facility	775
School (preschool, primary, secondary)	380
College or university research institution	222
Early childhood setting	159
Fitness or sports center	45
Athletic facility (university, amateur, professional)	33
Industrial, workplace, or other occupational environment	29
Mental health facility	12
Community outreach facility	9
Hospice	4
Other	471
Total	14,522