

Occupational Therapists Growth Trends

This fact sheet is an overview of the trends, distribution, and demographics of occupational therapists (OTs) in Texas. In 2022, there were 10,468 actively licensed occupational therapists in Texas.

- This number represented a 16.6% increase since 2017 and a 45.8% increase since 2012 (Figure 1).
- The ratio of the Texas population per one occupational therapist in 2012 was 3,642:1 and in 2022 it was 2,930:1. The ratio of population to occupational therapist has decreased by 19.6% (Figure 2).¹

Figure 1. Total Texas Occupational Therapists

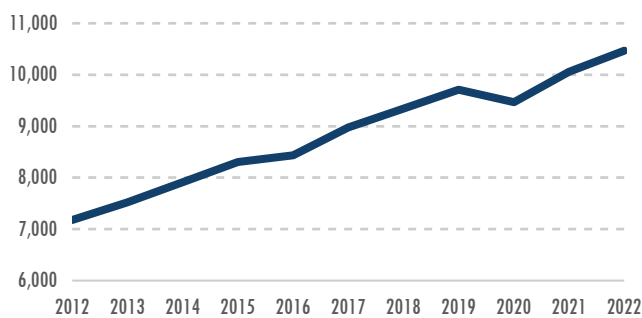
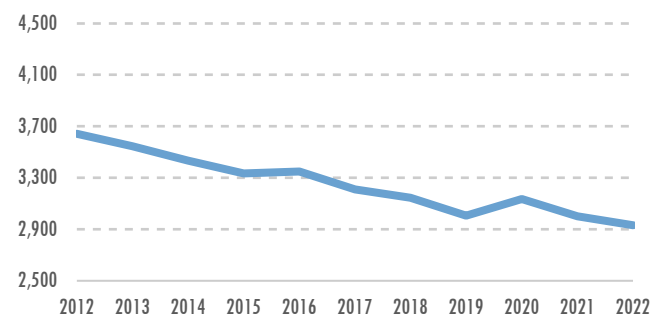


Figure 2. Ratio of Texas Population to Occupational Therapist¹



Geographic Distribution of Occupational Therapists

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

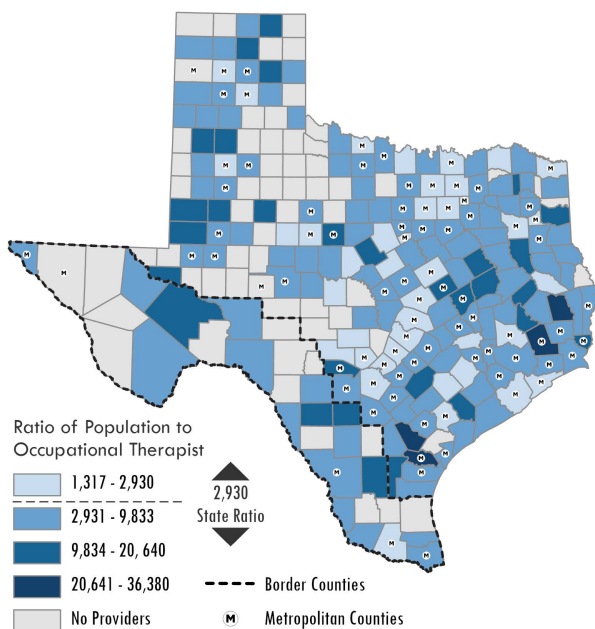


Table 1. Ratio of Texas Population to Occupational Therapist by Geographic Designation¹

| Geographic Designation | Ratio of Population to Occupational Therapist |
|------------------------|---|
| Metropolitan | 2,778:1 |
| Non-metropolitan | 5,611:1 |
| Border | 3,659:1 |
| Non-border | 2,870:1 |
| Texas | 2,930:1 |

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

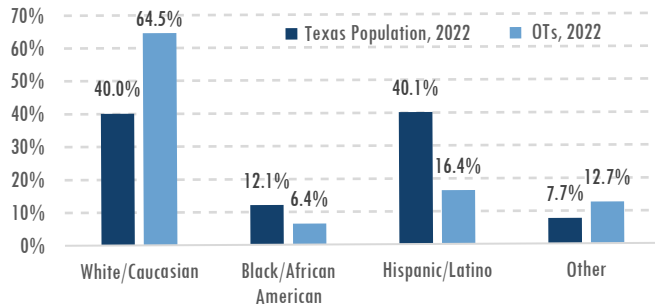
¹ Population numbers are sourced from the Texas Demographic Center (previously the Texas State Data Center). The center regularly updates the demographic projections therefore, population numbers for a particular year may differ depending on the date the data was retrieved.

Demographics of Occupational Therapists

Race/Ethnicity

Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino occupational therapists were underrepresented when compared to the Texas population (Figure 4).² Race/ethnicity data were available for 10,435 of 10,468 occupational therapists (99.7%).

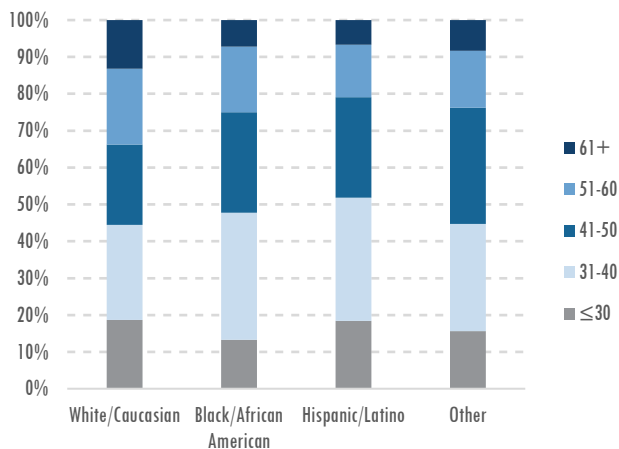
Figure 4. Race/Ethnicity of Texas Population and Occupational Therapists²



Age Distribution by Race/Ethnicity

- 13.2% of White/Caucasian occupational therapists were 61 years of age or over, while 44.5% were aged 40 years or under (Figure 5).
- 27.2% of Black/African American occupational therapists were between 41 and 50 years of age, and 47.7% were aged 40 years or under (Figure 5).
- 27.2% of Hispanic/Latino occupational therapists were between 41 and 50 years of age, and 51.8% were aged 40 years or under (Figure 5).

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



Age

Within 10 years, 18.6% of the current Texas occupational therapist workforce will be over 65 years of age.

- 5.1% of active occupational therapists in Texas were over 65 years of age in 2022.

Gender

- In 2022, 88.4% of occupational therapists were female and 11.6% were male. Gender data were available for 10,431 of 10,468 occupational therapists (99.6%) in 2022.
- In 2012, 88.1% were female and 11.9% were male. Gender data were available for 7,160 of 7,180 occupational therapists (99.7%) in 2012.

Age Distribution by Gender

- Among occupational therapists over 55 years of age, males comprised 12.5% of the occupational therapist workforce.
- Among occupational therapists aged 40 years or under in 2022, 90.6% were female and 9.4% were male.

Table 2. Age Distribution of Occupational Therapists by Gender

| Age Group | Female | Male | Total |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| ≤30 | 1,747 | 114 | 1,861 |
| 31-35 | 1,416 | 164 | 1,580 |
| 36-40 | 1,161 | 173 | 1,334 |
| 41-45 | 1,122 | 164 | 1,286 |
| 46-50 | 1,075 | 167 | 1,242 |
| 51-55 | 1,003 | 188 | 1,191 |
| 56-60 | 655 | 115 | 770 |
| 61-65 | 556 | 76 | 632 |
| >65 | 483 | 52 | 535 |
| Total | 9,218 | 1,213 | 10,431 |

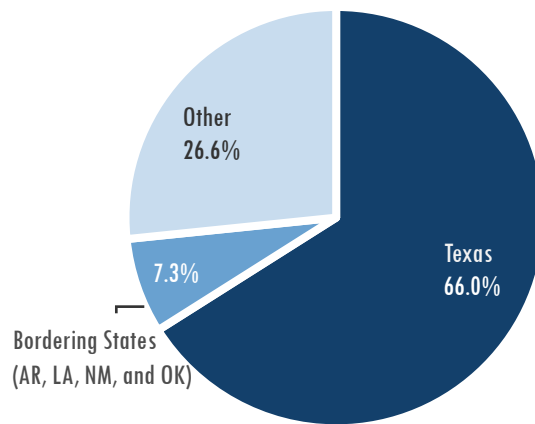
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Education of Occupational Therapists

- As seen in Figure 6, majority of occupational therapists trained in Texas (66.0%).
- 7.3% of occupational therapists trained in states bordering Texas (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma).
- The remaining 26.6% of occupational therapists trained in states other than Texas and those bordering Texas.
- Training data were available for 4,492 of 10,468 occupational therapists (42.9%).

Figure 6. Occupational Therapists Training by State



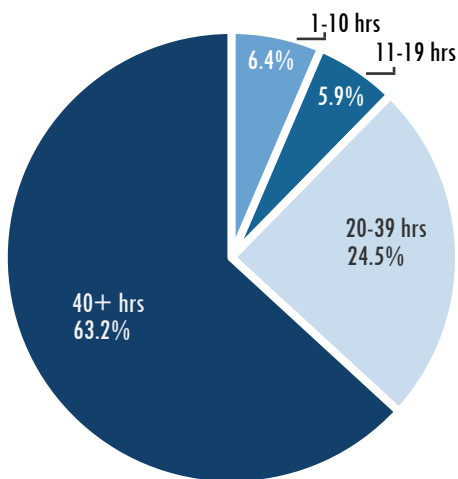
Employment Characteristics of Occupational Therapists

- As seen in Figure 7, majority of occupational therapists (63.2%) reported practicing for 40 or more hours.
- Primary practice hours data were available for 7,024 of 10,468 occupational therapists (67.1%).
- 37.6% of occupational therapists worked in pediatrics.
- This was followed by 30.9% of occupational therapists working in geriatrics and 18.6% working in an other specialty.
- Primary specialty data were available for 7,203 of 10,468 occupational therapists (68.8%).

Table 3. Primary Specialty of Occupational Therapists

| Specialty | Number of Occupational Therapists |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pediatrics | 2,705 |
| Geriatrics | 2,224 |
| Hand | 362 |
| Orthopedics | 343 |
| Cardiopulmonary | 75 |
| Manual Therapy | 49 |
| Assistive Technology | 40 |
| Healthcare Compliance | 29 |
| Ergonomics | 15 |
| Health Information | 9 |
| Advanced Practice for COTAs | 5 |
| Vocational Evaluation | 4 |
| Wound Care/Management | 3 |
| Clinical Electrophysiology | 1 |
| Sports | 1 |
| Other | 1,338 |
| Total | 7,203 |

Figure 7. Primary Practice Hours of Occupational Therapists



- In 2022, the top three primary practice settings for occupational therapists were an outpatient clinic or office setting (21.9%), a hospital (critical, intensive, acute, or subacute care)(19.9%), and a home health setting (15.1%).
- Primary practice setting data were available for 8,436 of 10,468 occupational therapists (80.6%).

Table 4. Primary Practice Setting of Occupational Therapists

| Setting | Number of Occupational Therapists |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Outpatient clinic or office | 1,844 |
| Hospital (critical, intensive, acute, subacute care) | 1,675 |
| Home health | 1,271 |
| School (preschool, primary, secondary) | 1,069 |
| Skilled nursing, extended care or subacute care facility (inpatient) | 1,033 |
| Rehabilitation facility | 770 |
| Early childhood setting | 246 |
| College or university research institution | 149 |
| Mental health facility | 47 |
| Industrial, workplace, or other occupational environment | 19 |
| Community outreach facility | 9 |
| Fitness or sports center | 3 |
| Hospice | 2 |
| Athletic facility (university, amateur, professional) | 1 |
| Other | 298 |
| Total | 8,436 |

