

The Home Health and Hospice Care Nurse Staffing Study (HHHCNSS) assesses nurse staffing and related issues in home health and hospice agencies. In 2022, the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) administered the HHHCNSS to 303 Texas home health and hospice agencies with a patient census of at least 250. Respondents provided data for 85 agencies for a response rate of 28.1%. These agencies were representative of Texas home health and hospice agencies by geographic designation. Data is compared to 2017 numbers as the 2019 survey had too low of a response rate to report. It is important to note that between the 2017 and 2022 HHHCNSS, the COVID-19 pandemic occurred.

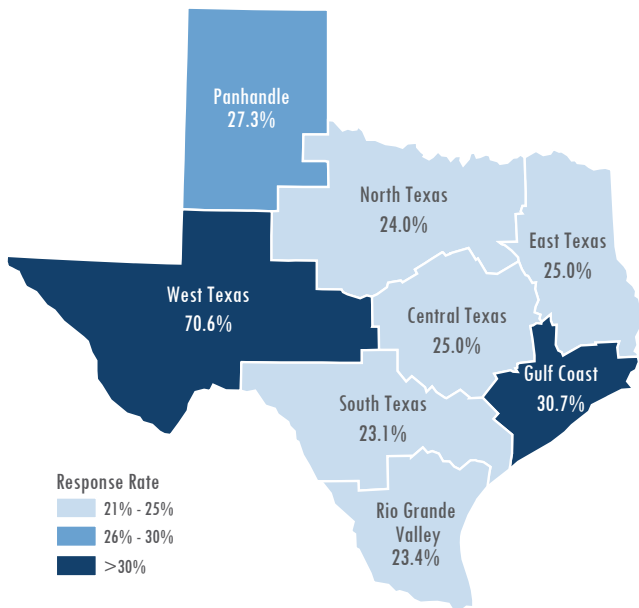
This report provides information on survey response rates by region, geographic designation, patient census, and agency type, as well as the number of nursing visits in 2021.

**Response Rate**

**Response Rates by Region and Geographic Designation**

- The overall response rate for 2022 was 28.1%, which was an increase from the 2017 response rate of 24.0% (for agencies with a patient census of 250 or greater).
- Response rates ranged from 23.1% in South Texas to 70.6% in West Texas (see Figure 1 and Table 1).
- Responding agencies were not representative of the agency population by region.<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 1. Response rate by region (n=85)**



**Table 1. Response rate by region**

| Region            | Number of Agencies (Percentage of Agencies) | Number of Agencies in Population | Response Rate |
|-------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Panhandle         | 3 (3.5%)                                    | 11                               | 27.3%         |
| Rio Grande Valley | 15 (17.6%)                                  | 64                               | 23.4%         |
| North Texas       | 18 (21.2%)                                  | 75                               | 24.0%         |
| East Texas        | 5 (5.9%)                                    | 20                               | 25.0%         |
| Gulf Coast        | 19 (22.4%)                                  | 62                               | 30.7%         |
| Central Texas     | 7 (8.2%)                                    | 28                               | 25.0%         |
| South Texas       | 6 (7.1%)                                    | 26                               | 23.1%         |
| West Texas        | 12 (14.1%)                                  | 17                               | 70.6%         |

- 60 of 85 agencies (70.6%) were located in metropolitan, non-border counties, while only 2 of 85 agencies (2.4%) were from non-metropolitan, border counties (Table 2).
- Agencies were representative of the agency population by geographic designation.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ( $\chi^2(7, N = 85) = 17.3, p = 0.02$ )

<sup>2</sup> ( $\chi^2(7, N = 85) = 6.2, p = 0.1$ )

**Table 2. Response rate by geographic designation**

| Geographic Designation | Number of Agencies (Percentage of Agencies) | Number of Agencies in Population | Response Rate |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Metro Border           | 20 (23.5%)                                  | 56                               | 35.7%         |
| Metro Non-Border       | 60 (70.6%)                                  | 214                              | 28.0%         |
| Non-Metro Border       | 2 (2.4%)                                    | 5                                | 40.0%         |
| Non-Metro Non-Border   | 3 (3.5%)                                    | 28                               | 10.7%         |

## Response Rates by Agency Type and Patient Census

Table 3 shows the response rate by agency type.

- The majority of responding agencies (84.7%) were home health agencies.
- Only 5 of 85 responding agencies (5.9%) were combined home health and hospice agencies, and only 8 of 85 responding agencies were hospice agencies.
- Responding agencies were representative of the agency population by agency type.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 3. Response rate by agency type**

| Agency Type | Number of Agencies (Percentage of Agencies) | Number of Agencies in Population | Response Rate |
|-------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Combined    | 5 (5.9%)                                    | 23                               | 21.7%         |
| Home Health | 72 (84.7%)                                  | 246                              | 29.3%         |
| Hospice     | 8 (9.4%)                                    | 34                               | 23.5%         |

Table 4 shows the response rate by patient census. The patient census is the count of unique clients served by the agency in a 12-month period.

- Response rates ranged from 18.2% to 50.0% across patient census categories.
- Responding agencies were not representative of the agency population by patient census.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> ( $\chi^2(2, N = 85) = .98, p = 0.6$ )

<sup>4</sup> ( $\chi^2(3, N = 85) = 8.1, p = 0.05$ )

**Table 4. Response rate by patient census**

| Patient Census | Number of Agencies (Percentage of Agencies) | Number of Agencies in Population | Response Rate |
|----------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 250-500        | 60 (70.6%)                                  | 207                              | 29.0%         |
| 501-1,000      | 12 (14.1%)                                  | 66                               | 18.2%         |
| 1,001-2,000    | 10 (11.8%)                                  | 20                               | 50.0%         |
| 2,001+         | 3 (3.5%)                                    | 10                               | 30.0%         |

## Nursing Visits

Agencies were asked for the number of billable and non-billable nursing visits in 2021 by in-person and telehealth visits. Table 5 below shows the average number and range of visits for the responding agencies.

**Table 5. In-person and Telehealth Nursing Visits**

| Type of Visit | Number of Responding Agencies | Mean Number of Visits | Range of number of visits |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| In-person     | 55                            | 18,971.0              | 15 - 104,657              |
| Telehealth    | 21                            | 334.7                 | 2 - 2,593                 |

80 of the 85 agencies responded to how many patients were declined in 2021 due to not having available staff to provide the necessary care.

- The average number of patients declined among responding agencies was 60.9.
- 39 responding agencies didn't decline any patients.
- Declined patients ranged from 2 to 769.
- A total of 4,874 patients were declined across the 80 Texas agencies that responded to this question.

## Conclusion

In 2022, the HHCNSS response rate was 28.1%. West Texas (70.6%) and the Gulf Coast (30.7%) had the highest response rates of the Texas regions. Although response rates were highest in non-metro, border counties (40.0%), these agencies made up just 2 of 85 (2.4%) responding agencies. Responding agencies were representative of the agency population by geographic designation and agency type.

Of the 58 agencies that responded, the mean number of in-person nursing visits was 246. Of the 63 agencies that responded, the mean number of telehealth nursing visits was 34.

A total of 4,874 patients were declined across 80 home health and hospice care agencies across Texas.