

Occupational Therapy Assistants Growth Trends

This fact sheet is an overview of the trends, distribution, and demographics of occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) in Texas. In 2022, there were 6,104 actively licensed OTAs in Texas.

- This number represented a 24.7% increase since 2017 and a 87.8% increase since 2012 (Figure 1).
- The ratio of the Texas population per one OTA in 2012 was 8,045:1 and in 2022 it was 5,024:1. The ratio of population to OTA has decreased by 37.6% (Figure 2).¹

Figure 1. Total Texas OTAs

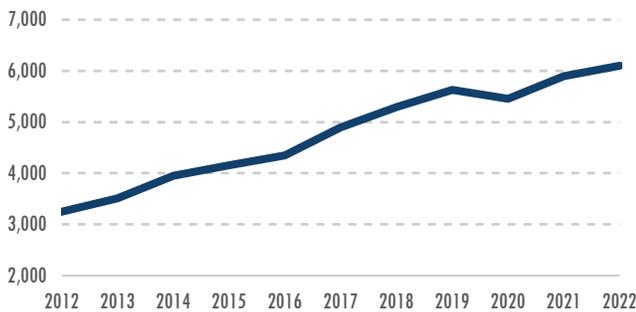
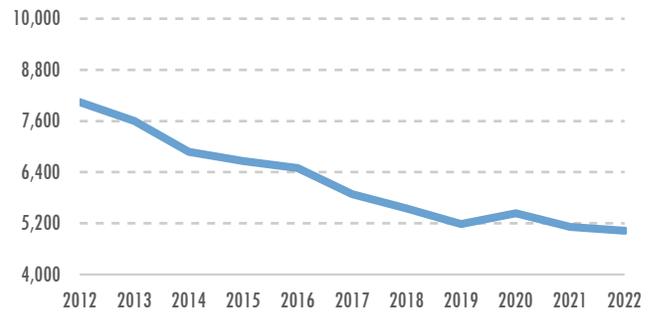


Figure 2. Ratio of Texas Population to OTA¹



Geographic Distribution of Occupational Therapy Assistants

Figure 3. Ratio of Texas Population to OTA by County¹

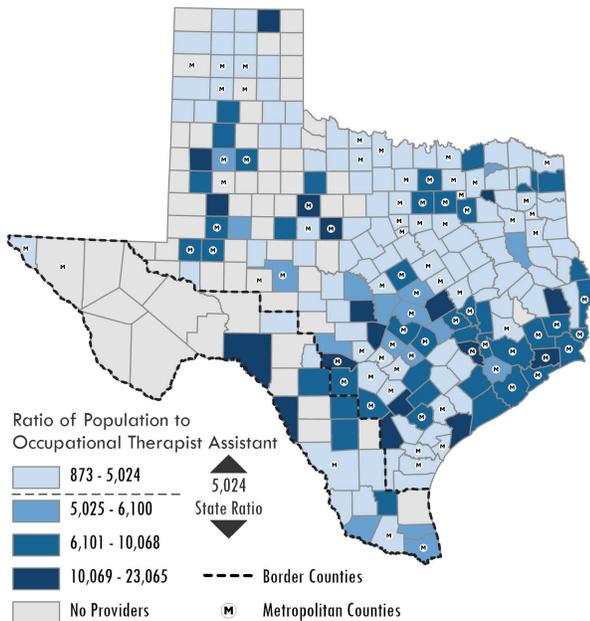


Table 1. Ratio of Texas Population to OTA by Geographic Designation¹

Geographic Designation	Ratio of Population to OTA
Metropolitan	5,166:1
Non-metropolitan	4,049:1
Border	3,759:1
Non-border	5,206:1
Texas	5,024:1

- The ratio of the Texas population to one OTA was higher in metropolitan counties compared to non-metropolitan counties.
- The ratio of the Texas population to one OTA was higher in non-border counties compared to border counties.
- 60 counties did not have OTAs (Figure 3).

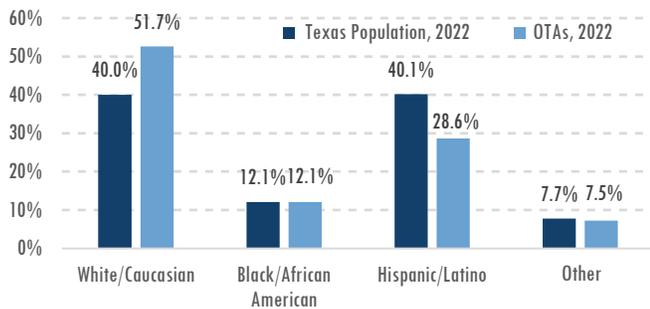
¹ Population numbers are sourced from the Texas Demographic Center (previously the Texas State Data Center). The center regularly updates the demographic projections therefore, population numbers for a particular year may differ depending on the date the data was retrieved.

Demographics of Occupational Therapy Assistants

Race/Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino OTAs and "Other" OTAs were underrepresented when compared to the Texas population (Figure 4).² Race/ethnicity data were available for 6,100 of 6,104 OTAs (99.9%).

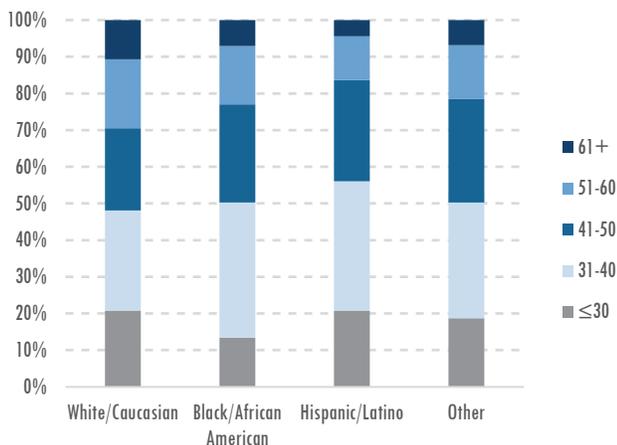
Figure 4. Race/Ethnicity of Texas Population and OTAs²



Age Distribution Race/Ethnicity

- 10.6% of White/Caucasian OTAs were 61 years of age or over, while 48.4% were aged 40 years or under (Figure 5).
- 26.8% of Black/African American OTAs were between 41 and 50 years of age, and 50.1% were aged 40 years or under (Figure 5).
- 26.9% of Hispanic/Latino OTAs were between 41 and 50 years of age, and 56.8% were aged 40 years or under (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Age Distribution of OTAs by Race/Ethnicity



Age

Within 10 years, 15.1% of the current Texas OTA workforce will be over 65 years of age.

- 3.2% of active OTAs in Texas were over 65 years of age in 2022.

Gender

- In 2022, 83.7% of OTAs were female and 16.3% were male. Gender data were available for 6,079 of 6,104 OTAs (99.6%) in 2022.
- In 2012, 84.2% were female and 15.8% were male. Gender data were available for 3,248 of 3,250 OTAs (99.9%) in 2012.

Age Distribution by Gender

- Among OTAs over 55 years of age in 2022, males comprised 17.1% of the OTA workforce.
- Among OTAs aged 40 years or under in 2022, 85% were female and 15% were male.

Table 2. Age Distribution of OTAs by Gender

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
≤30	1,028	118	1,146
31-35	834	168	1,002
36-40	777	181	958
41-45	664	141	805
46-50	563	124	687
51-55	461	102	563
56-60	355	69	424
61-65	247	51	298
>65	159	37	196
Total	5,088	991	6,079

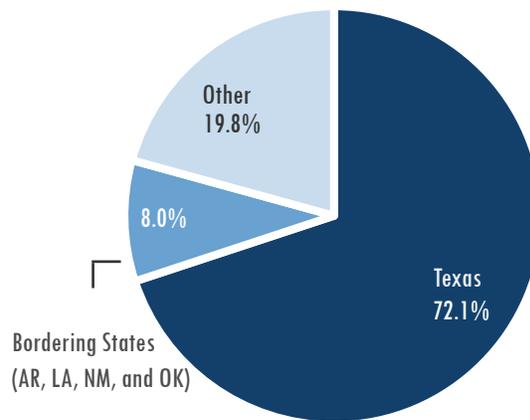
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Education of Occupational Therapy Assistants

- As seen in Figure 6, majority of OTAs trained in Texas (72.1%).
- 8.0% of OTAs trained in states bordering Texas (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma).
- The remaining 19.8% of OTAs trained in states other than Texas and those bordering Texas.
- Training data were available for 2,635 of 6,104 OTAs (43.2%).

Figure 6. OTA Training by State



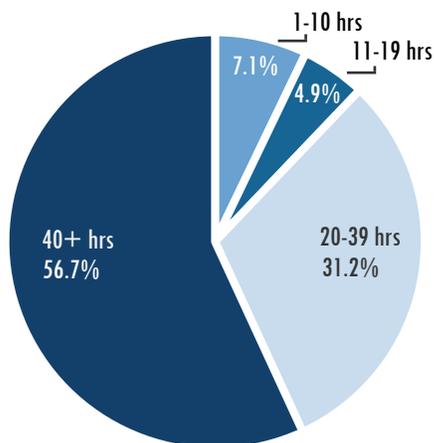
Employment Characteristics of Occupational Therapy Assistants

- As seen in Figure 7, majority of OTAs (56.7%) reported practicing for 40 or more hours.
- Primary practice hours data were available for 3,886 of 6,104 OTAs (63.7%).
- Majority of OTAs worked in geriatrics (56.9%).
- This was followed by 27.2% of OTAs working in pediatrics and 9.1% working in an other specialty.
- Primary specialty data were available for 4,085 of 6,104 OTAs (66.9%).

Table 3. Primary Specialty of OTAs

Specialty	Number of OTAs
Geriatrics	2,324
Pediatrics	1,110
Orthopedics	104
Advanced Practice for COTAs	76
Hand	27
Healthcare Compliance	21
Manual Therapy	19
Cardiopulmonary	18
Health Information	5
Assistive Technology	6
Sports	1
Wound Care/Management	2
Other	372
Total	4,085

Figure 7. Primary Practice Hours of OTAs



- In 2022, 38.6% of OTAs worked in a skilled nursing, extended care or subacute care facility (inpatient) setting.
- This was followed by 19.9% of OTAs working in a home health setting and 9.9% working in an outpatient clinic or office setting.
- Primary practice setting data were available for 4,976 of 6,104 OTAs (81.5%).

Table 4. Primary Practice Setting of OTAs

Setting	Number of OTAs
Skilled nursing, extended care or subacute care facility (inpatient)	1,922
Home health	992
Outpatient clinic or office	494
Rehabilitation facility	435
Hospital (critical, intensive, acute, subacute care)	388
School (preschool, primary, secondary)	329
Early childhood setting	60
Mental health facility	36
College or university research institution	21
Hospice	2
Industrial, workplace, or other occupational environment	2
Fitness or sports center	1
Community outreach facility	1
Other	67
Total	4,976

