



The Home Health and Hospice Care Nurse Staffing Study (HHHCNSS) assesses nurse staffing and related issues in home health and hospice agencies. In 2017, the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) administered the HHHCNSS to 925 Texas home health and hospice agencies with a patient census of at least 250. Respondents provided data for 222 agencies for a response rate of 24.0%. These agencies were representative of Texas home health and hospice agencies by region, patient census, and agency type.

This report provides information on survey response rates by region, geographic designation, patient census, and agency type, as well as RNs serving on agency boards.

Response Rate

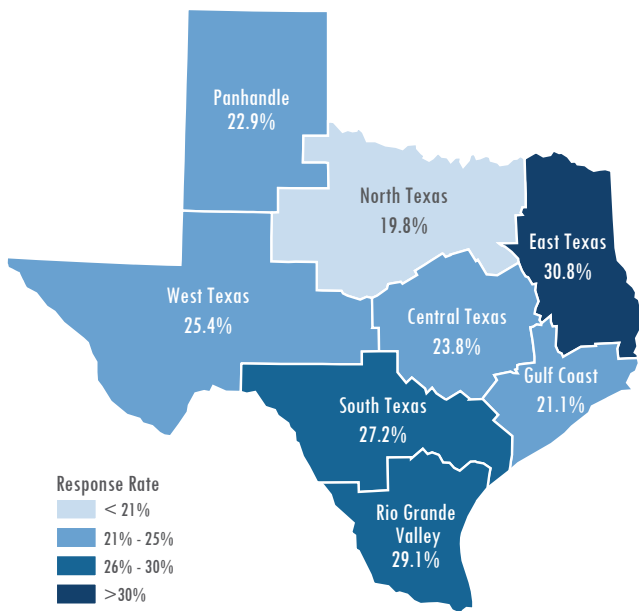
Response Rates by Region and Geographic Designation

- The overall response rate for 2017 was 24.0%, which was a decrease from the 2015 response rate of 33.0% (for agencies with a patient census of 250 or greater).
- Response rates ranged from 19.8% in North Texas to 30.8% in East Texas (see Figure 1 and Table 1).
- Agencies were representative of the agency population by region.¹

Table 1. Response rate by region

Region	Number of Agencies (Percentage of Agencies)	Number of Agencies in Population	Response Rate
Central Texas	19 (8.6%)	80	23.8%
East Texas	24 (10.8%)	78	30.8%
Gulf Coast	42 (18.9%)	199	21.1%
North Texas	46 (20.7%)	232	19.8%
Panhandle	8 (3.6%)	35	22.9%
Rio Grande Valley	37 (16.7%)	127	29.1%
South Texas	28 (12.6%)	103	27.2%
West Texas	18 (8.1%)	71	25.4%

Figure 1. Response rate by region (n=222)



- 148 of 222 agencies (66.7%) were located in metropolitan, non-border counties, while only 4 of 222 agencies (1.8%) were from non-metropolitan, border counties (Table 2).
- Results could not be generalized to the agency population by geographic designation.²

¹ ($\chi^2(7, N = 222) = 5.8, p = 0.6$)

² Due to an assumption violation, the chi-square test results were invalid (an expected cell frequency was less than 5).

Table 2. Response rate by geographic designation

Geographic Designation	Number of Agencies (Percentage of Agencies)	Number of Agencies in Population	Response Rate
Metro Border	40 (18.0%)	135	29.6%
Metro Non-Border	148 (66.7%)	681	21.7%
Non-Metro Border	4 (1.8%)	8	50.0%
Non-Metro Non-Border	30 (13.5%)	101	29.7%

Response Rates by Agency Type and Patient Census

Table 3 shows the response rate by agency type.

- Most responding agencies were home health agencies, followed by hospice agencies.
- Just 8 of 222 responding agencies (3.6%) were combined home health and hospice agencies.
- Responding agencies were representative of the agency population by agency type.³

Table 3. Response rate by agency type

Agency Type	Number of Agencies (Percentage of Agencies)	Number of Agencies in Population	Response Rate
Combined	8 (3.6%)	46	17.4%
Home Health	180 (81.1%)	709	25.4%
Hospice	34 (15.3%)	170	20.0%

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 were similar across patient census categories.
- Responding agencies were representative of the agency population by patient census.⁴

³ ($\chi^2(2, N = 222) = 2.5, p = 0.3$)

⁴ ($\chi^2(3, N = 222) = 0.4, p = 0.9$)

Table 4. Response rate by patient census

Patient Census	Number of Agencies (Percentage of Agencies)	Number of Agencies in Population	Response Rate
250-500	103 (46.4%)	432	23.8%
501-1,000	67 (30.2%)	291	23.0%
1,001-2,000	36 (16.2%)	142	25.4%
2,001+	16 (7.2%)	60	26.7%

Nurses on Boards

The Institute of Medicine has recommended preparing and enabling nurses to lead change to advance health, which includes having representation on boards and other key leadership positions.⁵ The HHHCNSS first tracked this indicator in 2015, but the question was modified in 2017.

- 125 of 219 respondents (57.1%) reported having an RN on their board.
- 116 of the 125 respondents (92.8%) who had RN board members reported the RNs had voting privileges.

⁵ Institute of Medicine, Committee on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing. (2011). Front matter. *The future of nursing: Leading change, advancing health.*

Conclusion

In 2017, the HHHCNSS response rate was 24.0%. East Texas (30.8%) and the Rio Grande Valley (29.1%) had the highest response rates of the Texas regions. Although response rates were highest in non-metropolitan, non-border counties (50.0%), these agencies made up just 4 of 222 (1.8%) responding agencies. Responding agencies

were representative of the agency population by region, agency type, and patient census.

125 of 219 respondents (57.1%) reported having RNs on their boards, and 116 of these 125 respondents (92.8%) with RN board members reported the RNs had voting privileges.

