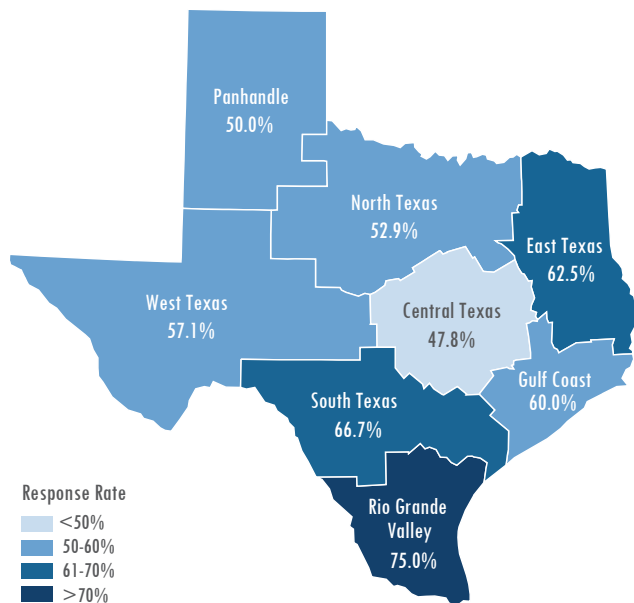


The Texas Governmental Public Health Nurse Staffing Survey (TGPHNSS) assesses nurse staffing and related issues in Texas governmental public health agencies. In the spring of 2022, the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) administered the TGPHNSS to public health agencies across Texas. This included local health departments, public health service regions, and Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Health and Human Services (HHS) central offices in Austin. DSHS and HHS central office programs will be referred to as state offices. A total of 50 agencies participated for a final response rate of 56.8%. It is important to note that between the 2019 and 2022 TGPHNSS, the COVID-19 pandemic occurred.

This report provides data on agency types as well as the response rate by agency type, region, and geographic designation. Also included in the report are agency characteristics such as administration of nursing services, nurses on boards, and program areas.

Geographic Characteristics of Public Health Agencies

Figure 1. Response rate by region



The final response rate, with 50 of the 88 public health agencies responding, was 56.8%, which was a slight decrease from 2019 (63.8%).

Response Rate by Region

Figure 1 and Table 1 show the response rate of public health agencies by region.

- The Rio Grande Valley had the highest response rate with 75.0% of agencies in the region completing the survey.
- Central Texas had the lowest response rate in the state (47.8%).

Table 1. Response rate by region

Region	# of Respondents in Region	Total # of Public Health Agencies in Region	Response Rate
Panhandle	2	4	50.0%
Rio Grande Valley	6	8	75.0%
North Texas	9	17	52.9%
East Texas	5	8	62.5%
Gulf Coast	9	15	60.0%
Central Texas	11	23	47.8%
South Texas	4	6	66.7%
West Texas	4	7	57.1%
Texas	50	88	56.8%

Response Rate by Geographic Designation

Table 2 (page 2) displays the response rate by metropolitan and border status (geographic designation). Please see Appendix D for the list of all Texas counties by metropolitan and border status.

- Similar to 2019, agencies in border counties had the highest response rate. Non-metropolitan border agencies had a response rate of 100% and metropolitan border agencies had a response rate of 85.7%.
- Agencies in non-metropolitan non-border counties had a final response rate of 56.3%.
- Metropolitan non-border counties again had the lowest response rate (53.1%) among geographic designations.

Table 2. Response rate by geographic designation

Geographic Designation	# of Respondents in Designation	Total # of Agencies in Designation	Response Rate
Metro Border	6	7	85.7%
Metro Non-Border	34	64	53.1%
Non-Metro Border	1	1	100%
Non-Metro Non-Border	9	16	56.3%

Response Rate by Agency Type

Agencies were asked to best characterize their agency.

- Local health department- health district had the highest response rate with all 9 reporting (100.0% response rate).
- Local health department- city had the second highest response rate with 50.0% of the 16 agencies responding.
- Local health department- county had a response rate of 47.2% from the 36 total agencies.

Table 3 displays the response rate by agency type. City, health district, and county agencies are consolidated and represented by local health departments. Department of State Health Services (DSHS) central offices and DSHS public health regions are consolidated into Department of State Health Services, and Health and Human Services (HHS) and Office of the Inspector General are consolidated into Health and Human Services.

- 7 of the 8 DSHS public health service regions responded to the survey (87.5% response rate).
- Local health departments had a response rate of 55.7%, with 34 of 61 agencies responding to the survey.
- The response rate for Texas Health and Human Services was 75.0%.

Table 3. Response rate by agency type

Agency Type	# of Responding Agencies	# of Agencies in Population	Response Rate
Local Health Departments	34	61	55.7%
Department of State Health Services	7	15	46.7%
Texas Health and Human Services	9	12	75.0%

Administration of Nursing Services/Nurses on Boards

Agencies were asked if they had a position designated with overall administrative responsibility for nursing services. Of the 46 agencies that responded to this question, 35 said they had a designated position.

- Among respondents who did have a person with administrative responsibility for nursing services, 71.4% (25 agencies) reported that the person was a RN.
- 3 agencies, 8.6%, said this position was held by APRNs, and 1 said it was held by an LVN.
- 6 agencies reported that the person responsible for nursing services had degrees such as Doctor of Medicine/Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Doctor of Healthcare Administration, or a Masters of Public Health.

Like previous iterations of the survey, the 2022 TGPHNSS asked respondents if they had any RN members on their organization's board.

- Of the 46 agencies that responded to the question, only 8 reported (17.4%) having a RN on their board.
- Almost half of respondents (n=21) selected “not applicable or unknown” and 24.8% (n=16) of agencies selected “no” on the question.
- All but 1 of the respondents who did have RN board members reported the RNs had voting privileges.



Conclusion

The final response rate, with 50 of the 88 public health agencies responding, was 56.8%, which was a slight decrease from 2019 (63.8%). Public health service regions had the highest response rate (87.5%) among agency types. The Rio Grande Valley had the highest response rate with 75.0% of agencies in the region completing the survey. Central Texas had the lowest response rate in the state (47.8%).

Of the responding agencies, 76.1% reported having a position designated with overall administrative responsibility, and among those that had such a position,

71.4% staffed the position with a RN. This is in line with the IOM recommendation that public health implement formal career ladders and collaborative governance structures that provide public health nurses with greater autonomy, responsibility, and opportunities to serve in leadership roles.¹ The 2022 TGPHNSS also tracked nurses on boards and 17.4% of responding agencies had a RN board member. Of the RNs that were board members, all but one had voting privileges.

¹Institute 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*.