

Fast Facts About Rural Texas

General

133 (52%) of the 254 counties in Texas are rural. Another 44 are considered “micropolitan”

Rural	Micropolitan
- 47 have no hospital	- 3 have no hospital
- 68 have one hospital	- 31 have one hospital
- 18 have two or more	- 10 have two or more

64 counties in Texas are considered to be frontier (less than 7 people per square mile)

- 24 Frontier counties (37%) have rural hospitals
- 32 Frontier counties in Texas are considered to be border counties (within 100km of an international border)
- 12 border counties (37%) have rural hospitals

Texas has a total of 65 Federally-designated Critical Access Hospitals (less than 25 beds)

Health Professional Shortage (HPSA) and Medically Underserved Areas (MUA)

- 15 counties have never had a primary care physician at any point in time.
- 131 whole-county Primary Care HPSAs and 48 partial county HPSAs
- 176 counties are designated MUAs and 47 are partial-county MUAs
- In rural Texas there are critical shortages in mental health, dental health, and pharmacy professions.

3.2 million Texans (16%) live in rural areas:

- 30% of Texans age 65 and older live in rural Texas
- 20% of rural Texans are covered by Medicaid
- 25% of rural Texans have no health insurance

Texas Hospitals: 523 hospitals in Texas

185 rural and community hospitals:

114 hospitals are 50 Beds and under

- 35% of the hospitals in Texas are rural.
- 75% of rural hospitals in Texas are governmental facilities (hospital districts, authorities, city or county) locally governed and tax supported.
- 57% of the rural hospitals in Texas are Critical Access Hospitals
- 70% of inpatients in rural hospitals (on average) are Medicare, Medicaid, or uninsured:
- 55% are on Medicare

Texas Rural Health Clinics

- Total: **(2005) 333** Provider Based: 179 Free Standing: 129
- Total: **(2002) 355** Provider Based: 206 Free Standing: 154
- Total: **(1999) 444**
- BBA: **(1998) 565**

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Information compiled from:

TORCH (Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals)
THA (Texas Hospital Assoc.)
TARHC (Texas Assoc. of Rural Health Clinics)
ORHCA (Office of Rural Health Clinics Assoc.)