

# Change in Percentage of High Risk Specialists

During the post crisis period (2005-2016), the number of high-risk specialists in Texas grew more than twice as fast as the state's population. The ranks of high-risk specialists grew by 59.85%, although the rate of increase varied by specialty.

SPECIALTY	May-2005	May-2016	CHANGE	% CHANGE
Pediatric Sub-specialists	294	1,415	1,121	381.29%
Emergency Medicine	1,584	3,705	2,121	133.90%
Vascular Surgeons	85	189	104	122.35%
Cardiologists	1,170	1,845	675	57.69%
Anesthesiologists	2,684	3,836	1,152	42.92%
Neurosurgeons	317	441	124	39.12%
OB/GYN's	2,303	2,803	500	21.71%
Orthopedic Surgeons	1,450	1,744	294	20.28%
Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons	337	365	28	8.31%
<b>High Risk Combined</b>	<b>10,224</b>	<b>16,343</b>	<b>6,119</b>	<b>59.85%</b>
<b>Texas Population</b>	<b>22,859,827</b>	<b>28,240,245</b>	<b>5,380,277</b>	<b>23.54%</b>
<b>High Risk Specialists per 100,000 Population</b>	<b>44.72</b>	<b>57.87</b>		<b>29.40%</b>

The American Medical Association defines primary care physicians as those engaged in family practice (also called family medicine or general practice), pediatrics, geriatrics, internal medicine, and obstetrics/gynecology. There is no absolute, defined list for high-risk specialties. Generally speaking, high-risk specialists are recognized as those engaged in invasive procedures on patients with high morbidity or mortality. A recent article in the New England Journal of Medicine entitled "Malpractice risk according to physician specialty" featured a table ranking the proportion of physicians facing malpractice claims annually according to specialty. [1] For the purposes of this chart, we drew upon the highest risk specialties on that list [2] to track the post crisis change in the number of Texas physicians in nine high-risk specialties.

[1] "Malpractice risk according to physician specialty", Jena, A.B., Seabury, S., Lakdawalla D., Chandra, A., New England Journal of Medicine; 365:629-636, August 18, 2011.

[2] Ibid, Figure 1, "Proportion of physicians facing malpractice claims annually, according to specialty".

Physician Data: Texas Medical Board, Physician Demographics by County/ Specialty

<http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/dl/5C3EC6D6-C371-2B19-FAEF-09B8E9B132A9>

Texas Population Data: Texas Department of State Health Services

<http://www.dshs.texas.gov/chs/popdat/ST2016p.shtml>