

# Change in Percentage of High Risk Specialists

During the post crisis period (2005-2019), 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 77.52%, although the rate of increase varied by specialty.

SPECIALTY	May-2005	May-2019	CHANGE	% CHANGE
Pediatric Sub-specialists	294	1,688	1,394	474.15%
Emergency Medicine	1,584	4,604	3,020	190.65%
Vascular Surgeons	85	208	123	144.70%
Cardiologists	1,170	1,965	795	67.95%
Anesthesiologists	2,684	4,123	1,439	53.61%
Neurosurgeons	317	483	166	52.36%
OB/GYN's	2,303	2,979	676	29.35%
Orthopedic Surgeons	1,450	1,741	291	20.06%
Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons	337	359	22	6.52%
<b>High Risk Combined</b>	<b>10,224</b>	<b>18,150</b>	<b>7,926</b>	<b>77.52%</b>
<b>Texas Population</b>	<b>22,859,827</b>	<b>29,948,091</b>	<b>7,088,264</b>	<b>31.00%</b>
<b>High Risk Specialists per 100,000 Population</b>	<b>44.72</b>	<b>60.60</b>	<b>15.88</b>	<b>35.50%</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/0B43C8BD-DDA1-8DA0-20D9-6C2F446211EA>

**Texas Population Data: Texas Department of State Health Services**

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/chs/popdat/st2019.shtm>