

Texas Near the Top in U. S. Physician Recruitment

Texas is among the nation's leaders in attracting physicians to practice here.

The Lone Star State ranks second nationally both in [percentage physician growth and in attracting the most physicians](#) who treat patients. Only Utah saw its physician workforce grow at a greater rate since 2008. North Dakota, Colorado and Arizona filled out the top five.

California narrowly outpaced Texas for the national lead in attracting patient care physicians.

These findings and more can be found in “The Truth about Texas’ Medical Lawsuit Reforms” a just-released report by Texas Alliance for Patient Access.

In 2003 Texas lawmakers passed comprehensive reforms in an attempt to lift the state out of an acknowledged access to care crisis. Since then, both in raw numbers and per-capita, Texas has more doctors treating patients than ever.

“That is the exact opposite of what we saw during the crisis years, when the state experienced a per-capita loss of patient care physicians, said Dr. Howard Marcus, an Austin internist and chair of Texas Alliance for Patient Access.

More than two-thirds of the [state's 22 trauma regions experienced a per-capita loss in patient care physicians during the crisis years](#), Dr. Marcus said. [Since then, 80% of the regions have enjoyed a per-capita gain, he added.](#)

Physician growth is not limited to the state's metropolitan areas.

“Rural Texans were losing physicians during the liability crisis years,” said Marcus. “Today, those numbers are on the upswing with [more physicians per-capita serving rural Texas than ever.](#)

Since 2003:

- [59 rural counties have added at least one emergency medicine physician.](#)
- [32 rural counties have added an obstetrician.](#)
- [24 rural counties have added a cardiologist and 17 have added an orthopedic surgeon.](#)
- [40 rural counties that did not have a single ER doctor in 2003 now do.](#)