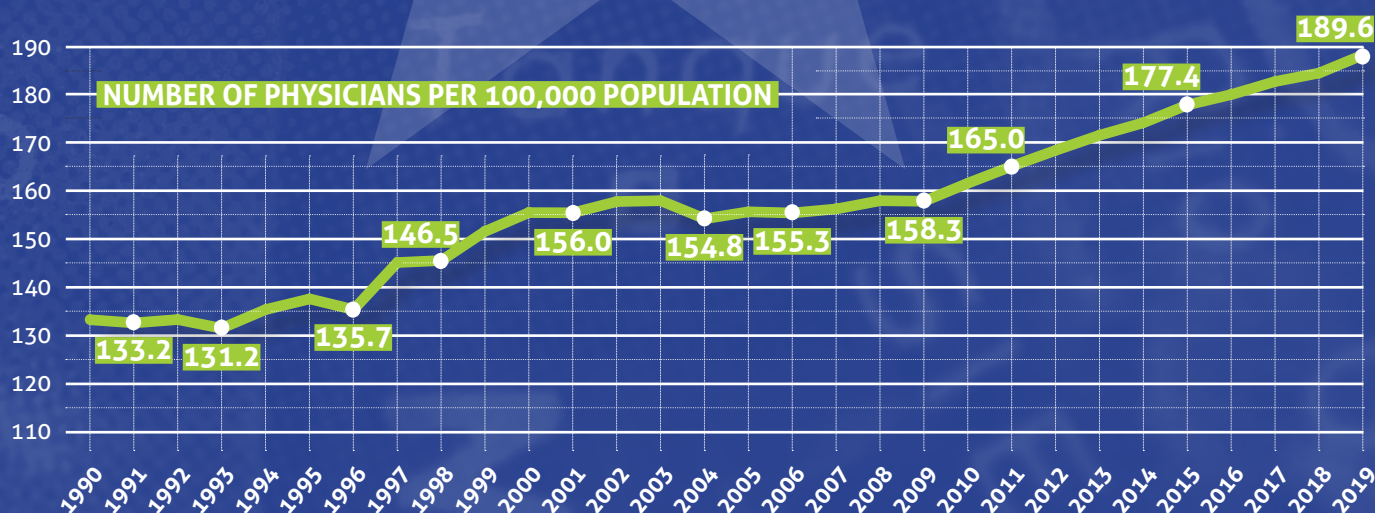


The Doctors Are In! ...

by SEAN PRICE

The ratio of patient-care physicians to Texas' overall population hit an all-time high in 2019, according to data released by the Texas Department of State Health Services. But that's not the really good news. The best news is that the ratio has grown without interruption in each year of the past decade – a first since the Texas Medical Association began compiling annual records in 1990. In both the 1990s and the 2000s, the ratio trended upward, but it was punctuated by occasional down years. But from 2010 to 2019, the ratio has moved ever upward, meaning that Texas' supply of patient-care physicians is consistently growing even faster than the state's population, says Marcia Collins, TMA's director of medical education. The data also show that TMA's efforts to help policymakers turn Texas into a more physician-friendly state have succeeded. "This is the goal we have been trying to reach for decades, and we have done it," Ms. Collins said.

Ratio of Texas Patient-Care Physicians

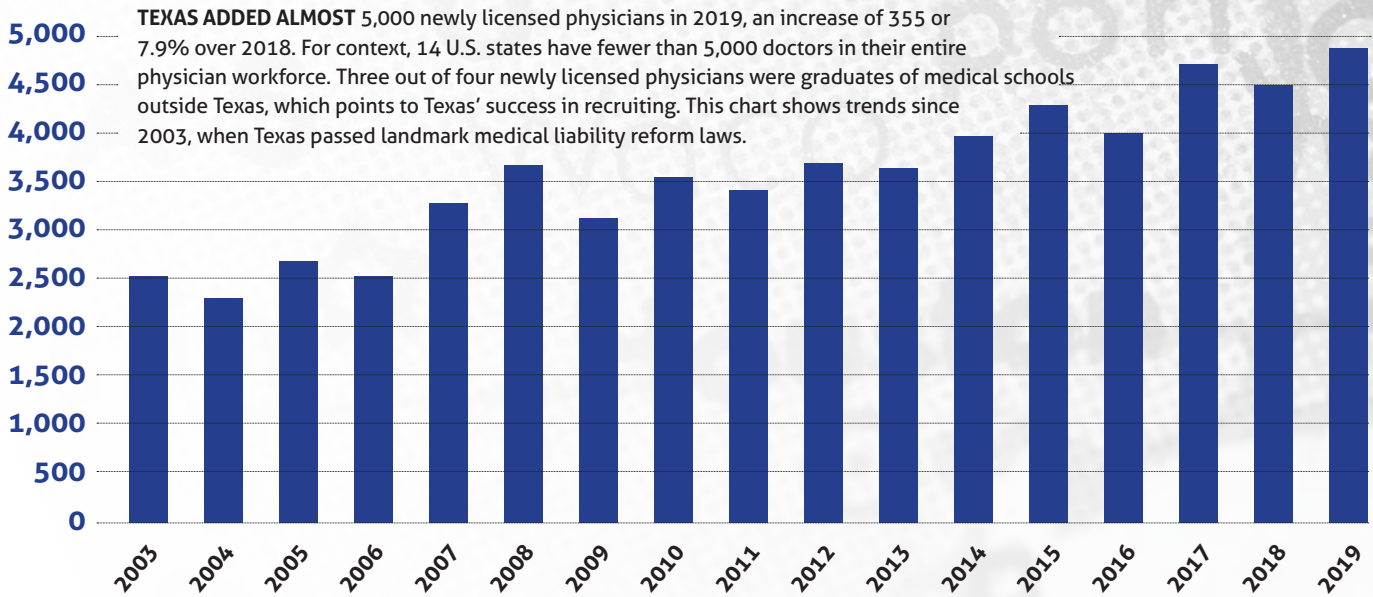


Source: Texas Department of State Health Services Health Professions Resource Center

Texas, that is

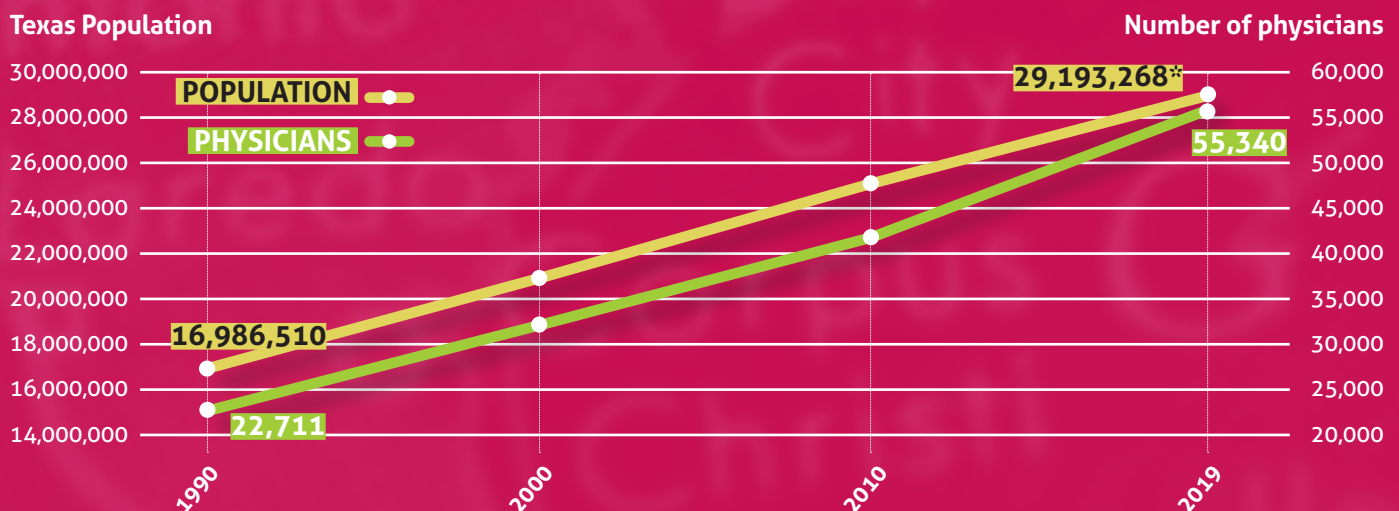


Newly Licensed Physicians 2003-19



Source: Texas Medical Board

Growth in Patient-Care Physicians, 1990-2019



*estimated

Sources: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Demographic Center at The University of Texas at San Antonio

The State of Texas' Physician Workforce

TEXAS CONTINUES to rank among the most successful states in retaining physicians from its medical schools and residency programs, beating out 47 other states, 2019 data show. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Texas is No. 3 in the percentage of physicians retained from both medical school and residency training, behind Hawaii and California. In addition, Texas ranked No. 2 in the percentage of physicians retained from medical school, the same ranking as in 2017, and moved up a slot for the percentage of physicians retained from residency training, from No. 5 to No. 4.



TOTAL ACTIVE PATIENT-CARE PHYSICIANS

57,384

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS

19,097

FEMALE PHYSICIANS

22,705

MD AND DO STUDENTS

8,112

RESIDENTS, FELLOWS

8,589

Source: AAMC

TMA's Advocacy Pays Off for Physicians

THE TEXAS MEDICAL ASSOCIATION'S successful push for landmark medical liability reforms in 2003 helped make Texas a physician-friendly state. Subsequent legislative victories have cemented that reputation. Here are a few wins from the 2019 Texas legislative session:

- **House Bill 1**, the state's budget, adds:
 - \$150 million for mental health services and workforce growth;
 - \$81 million for medical schools and GME
 - \$68 million for women's health
- **Senate Bill 1742**: New network directory requirements, more explicit prior authorization transparency
- **House Bill 3911**: Mandatory network adequacy reviews for PPOs
- **Senate Bill 670**: Medicaid now covers telemedicine services