

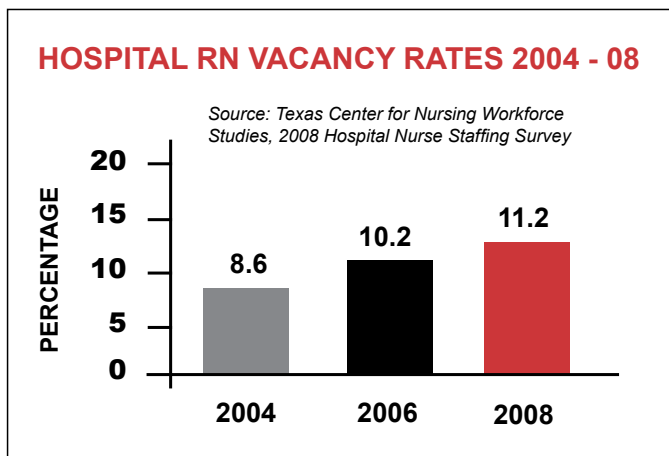
The Texas Nursing Shortage: Condition Critical More Graduates Needed to Close the Gap

The problem:

According to the latest projections from the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, **demand for full-time registered nurses in Texas in 2008 exceeds supply by 22,000.** Without major increases in funding for nurse education, this gap widens to 70,000 by 2020 as the state's rapidly growing population ages and requires more acute care, and as older nurses retire or reduce the hours they work.

The Texas Legislature and nursing schools have responded. In 2007, Texas nursing schools graduated 7,000 new registered nurses – a 55 percent increase over the 4,500 produced in 2001. While impressive, this increase is **far below the numbers needed to close the supply/demand gap.**

At the same time, **Texas nursing schools have turned away** thousands of qualified applicants – some 8,000 in 2008 alone. The problem is a **shortage of qualified faculty** willing to teach at prevailing salaries. Nurse faculty salaries must be competitive with schools in other states and with what nurses qualified to teach can earn in clinical practice settings.



How Texans are affected?

Registered nurses are essential to good patient care. Without enough RNs, **Texans' access to health care will be jeopardized** – from immunizations and routine injections to surgical procedures and hospital intensive care.

The solution:

The 2009 Texas Legislature should provide an additional \$60 million in special-item funding to increase the annual production of RN graduates from 7,000 in 2007 to 13,000 in 2013, almost doubling output. This level of additional funding must be sustained in subsequent years to help close the supply/demand gap.

- **Increase capacity.** Nursing schools cite the lack of faculty as the biggest barrier to enrolling more students.
- **Improve efficiency.** State dollars should be used to create incentives for nursing schools to admit and graduate more registered nursing students within a reasonable time.
- **Assist nursing students.** Financial aid and other incentives should be available to nursing students to encourage enrollment and graduation.
- **Hold schools accountable.** The Texas Legislature should build accountability into higher education funding allocations so that dollars actually produce more nursing graduates. Schools with records of producing year-over-year increases in the number of graduates or achieving high graduation rates should be given upfront funding to build on their proven successes.

The Legislature should affirm its commitment to institutions of higher education by restoring adequate support for the nursing funding formulas.

What you can do:

- **Tell** your legislators to support adding \$60 million to nursing education funding to double the number of nursing graduates by 2013.
- **Contact** your local Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Council and other business organizations to gain their support for this critical initiative.

- **Support** the nursing profession and encourage people to pursue a nursing career.

For more information and assistance to contact legislators, go to **www.TexasNeedsNurses.org**.

Texas Nursing Workforce Shortage Coalition Members

As of April 21, 2009, members of the Texas Nursing Workforce Shortage Coalition include:

Arlington Chamber of Commerce
Assessment Technologies Institute, LLC
Austin Chamber of Commerce
Baptist Health System - San Antonio
Baylor Health Care System
BioMed SA (San Antonio)
Black Nurses Association of Greater Houston
Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce
Centennial Medical Center
Children's Hospital Association of Texas
Children's Medical Center Dallas
CHRISTUS Health
CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care
CHRISTUS Spohn Health System
CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi-Memorial
CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi-Shoreline
CHRISTUS St. Catherine Hospital
Citizens Medical Center
Community Hospital Corporation
Dallas Regional Chamber
Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council
Epiphany Community Health Outreach Services
European Medical Staffing Ltd.
Faith Community Hospital
Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
Gateway to Care
Genesis Physicians Group
Good Samaritan Foundation of Texas
Good Shepherd Medical Center, Longview
Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Greater Houston Partnership
Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
Greater San Antonio Hospital Council
Greater Waco Chamber
Hamilton General Hospital
Harris County Healthcare Alliance
Harris County Hospital District
HCA – Hospital Corporation of America
HCA Central / West Texas Division (St. David's Partnership Austin & El Paso)
HCA Gulf Coast Division (Houston)
HCA North Texas Division (Dallas)
HCA San Antonio Division (HCA/Methodist Partnership)
HCCA International
Health Industry Council of Dallas/Fort Worth
Health Sense Home Care, Inc.
Hospital Members of the Health Industry Steering Committee of Central Texas
Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas
InLight Risk Management, LLC
IntraCare Medical Center Hospital
IntraCare North Hospital
JPS Health Network
Kerr Economic Development Foundation
Lake Pointe Medical Center
Lamb Healthcare Center
Las Palmas Medical Center
Lynn County Hospital District
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce
Matagorda Episcopal Health Outreach Program

Medical Center Hospital (Odessa)
Medical Center of Arlington
Medical Center of Lewisville
Medical Center of McKinney
Medical Center of Plano
Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
Methodist Charlton Medical Center
Methodist Dallas Medical Center
Methodist Healthcare – San Antonio
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Methodist Mansfield Medical Center
Mother Frances Hospital – Jacksonville
Mother Frances Hospital – Tyler
Mount Pleasant/Titus County Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Hispanic Nurses Houston Chapter
North Hills Hospital
One Voice
Palo Pinto General Hospital
Parkland Health & Hospital System
Peterson Regional Medical Center
Richardson Regional Medical Center
Scott and White Center for Healthcare Policy
Seton Family of Hospitals
Shannon Medical Center
Shifa Clinic (A Division of Houston Shifa Services Foundation)
Southwestern Adventist University
St. David's HealthCare
St. Joseph Health System
St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital
Teaching Hospitals of Texas
Tenet Healthcare Corporation
Texas and New Mexico Hospice Organization
Texas Association of Business
Texas Association of Community Colleges
Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional Nursing Programs
Texas Health Care Association
Texas Healthcare Trustees
Texas Health Resources
Texas Hospital Association
Texas Medical Association
Texas Medical Center
Texas Nurses Association
Texas Organization of Nurse Executives
Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals
Texas Podiatric Medical Association
Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children
Texoma Medical
The Methodist Hospital System
Thomason Hospital
Trinity Clinic
Trinity Mother Frances Hospitals and Clinics
University Health System
Wilson N. Jones Medical Center

Organizations submitting letters of support or passing resolutions include:

Abilene Chamber of Commerce
Harris County Commissioners Court
Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce
Laredo Chamber of Commerce
Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce