



**CLINICAL SITES USED BY NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) conducts the Compliance Audit for Nursing Education Programs (CANEP) every other calendar year to measure Vocational and Professional Nursing programs’ compliance with the BON’s rules and regulations. The audit includes a supplemental survey where programs report the name and location of all clinical sites used by each program during the past academic year. This report presents a summary of clinical sites used by Vocational Nursing (VN) and Professional Nursing (RN) programs in academic year 2022-2023 (AY 22-23). This data was self-reported by nursing programs in October 2023 and may not reflect utilization of clinical sites in the current academic year of 2024-2025.

There were a total of 215 programs that reported their clinical sites, 86 VN and 129 RN programs. There were a total of 3,951 in-state sites reported and once duplicates and cases with insufficient information were removed, there were 2,216 unique in-state sites. RN programs reported 76.5% of in-state sites. There were 19 unique out-of-state clinical sites reported by one VN and eight RN programs.

**Geographic Location of Clinical Sites**

Table 1 summarizes the location of programs by program level and geographic designation. Geographic information was available for 99.1% of sites. The remaining 0.9% had a blank city and zip code or were reported as using multiple locations of that facility but the locations were not specified. Out of the 2,198 sites that have geographic information available,

- 175 (7.5%) were in metropolitan border counties.
- 1,587 (72.2%) were in metropolitan non-border counties.
- 28 (1.3%) were in non-metropolitan border counties.
- 408 (18.6%) were in non-metropolitan non-border counties.
- There is a lower percentage of VN program clinical sites in metro non-border counties (57.3%) when compared to the proportion of RN program clinical sites (76.9%).
- There is a higher percentage of VN program clinical sites in non-metro non-border (31.9%) than RN program clinical sites (12.8%).
- The distribution of clinical sites across geographic designations are similar to the distribution of the main campuses of VN programs and RN programs.

**Table 1. Geographic Designation of Clinical Sites and of Main Campuses by Program Level**

	VN Programs		RN Programs		All Clinical Sites
	Clinical Sites	Main Campus	Clinical Sites	Main Campus	
Metro Border	8.5%	10.5%	7.4%	7.9%	8.0%
Metro Non-Border	57.3%	59.3%	78.7%	76.9%	72.2%
Non-Metro Border	2.4%	1.2%	1.0%	1.2%	1.3%
Non-Metro Non-Border	31.9%	29.1%	12.8%	14.0%	18.6%

## Type of Clinical Site

Programs were asked to assign one of the following seven categories to each clinical site: Acute Care and Rehabilitation Facilities, Primary Care Settings, Extended Care Settings, Residential Care Facilities, Respite or Day Care Facilities, Community or Public Health Agencies, or Other. The clinical sites in the Other category were reclassified to add the following categories: School or Independent School District (ISD), Home and Community Support Services Agencies, and Ambulatory Care - Specialty. The first category, Acute Care and Rehabilitation Facilities, was recoded into two new categories: hospitals and nursing facilities. Extended care facilities that were included in the Nursing Facility licensing files<sup>1,2</sup> were also recoded into nursing facilities and those that were not in the licensing file were categorized as residential care or respite or day care facilities.

Table 2 shows the distribution by program level and total facilities that fall under each category.

**Table 2. Distribution of Clinical Site Categories by Program Level**

	Clinical Sites Used By VN Programs	Clinical Sites Used By RN Programs	All Clinical Sites
Hospital	32.8%	31.2%	27.3%
Community or Public Health Agencies	9.4%	18.1%	17.0%
Nursing Facilities	31.4%	10.6%	16.1%
School or ISD	7.0%	12.8%	11.5%
Ambulatory Care - Primary Care	7.4%	9.1%	9.7%
Home and Community Support Services Agencies	3.8%	6.0%	5.9%
Ambulatory Care - Specialty	3.3%	4.2%	4.5%
Behavioral Health	1.1%	2.5%	2.4%
Residential Care Facilities	0.7%	1.0%	0.9%
Respite or Day Care Facilities	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%
Other	2.0%	3.7%	3.7%

- The 3 most frequent types of clinical sites were hospitals (27.3%), community or public health agencies (17.0%), and nursing facilities (16.1%).
- 3.7% of facilities are in the Other category.
  - Facilities in this category include correctional facilities, child development centers, and charity organizations.

## Clinical Site Categories by Program Level

- The 3 most frequent types of clinical sites used by VN programs were hospitals (32.8%), nursing facilities (31.4%), and community or public health agencies (9.4%).
- The 3 most frequent types of clinical sites used by RN programs were hospitals (31.2%), community or public health agencies (18.1%), and schools or ISDs (12.8%).
- The pattern of clinical sites mirrors the most common practice settings of LVNs and RNs.

## Hospitals as Clinical Sites

Out of 735 licensed and license-exempt general, special, and behavioral health hospitals in Texas<sup>3</sup>, 499 (67.9%) were used as clinical sites by nursing programs during the 2022-2023 academic year. There was a total of 605 sites categorized as hospitals. The remaining 106 sites that could not be matched to the licensing file were sites for which insufficient information was provided and therefore, could not be matched, were federal hospitals, or were hospitals that are now permanently closed.

- Hospitals that were used as clinical sites for the 2022-2023 academic year had an average number of 160.0 beds and a median of 86.0 beds.
  - In comparison, the average number of beds in all licensed Texas hospitals was 120.3 and the median number of beds was 54.0.
  - The difference in mean and median number of beds suggests that larger hospitals are used as clinical sites.
- The hospital used most frequently as a clinical site was a pediatric hospital used by 26 programs.
- Hospitals that were used as a clinical site by more than one program were listed on average, by 3 programs.

Figure 1 (Appendix A, page 5) shows the location of licensed hospitals used as clinical sites.

## Nursing Facilities as Clinical Sites

Out of 1,291 nursing facilities<sup>1</sup> and hospital-based nursing facilities<sup>2</sup>, 337 (26.1%) were used as clinical sites. The average number of licensed beds of facilities used as a clinical site was 115.4 and a median of 120.0.

- In comparison, the mean number of beds in all facilities was 105.6 and a median of 117.0.
- Similar to hospitals, the difference in mean and median number of beds suggests that larger sites are used as clinical sites.

Figure 2 (Appendix A, page 6) shows the location of licensed nursing facilities used as clinical sites.

<sup>1</sup>. Directory of all Texas Nursing Facilities. Health and Human Services Commission. 2024

<sup>2</sup>. Directory of all Hospital-based Texas Nursing Facilities. Health and Human Services Commission. 2024

<sup>3</sup>. Directory of General and Special Hospitals. Health and Human Services Commission. 2024.

## Conclusion and Recommendations from the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies Advisory Committee

In AY 22-23, RN and VN programs reported a total 3,951 clinical sites and there were 2,216 unique clinical sites. RN programs reported 76.5% of in-state sites and 72.2% of all sites were in metropolitan non-border counties. The most frequent type of clinical site were hospitals (27.3%). In AY 22-23, RN and VN programs used 67.9% of licensed or license-exempt hospitals and 26.1% of nursing facilities as clinical sites. The data summarized in this report was self-reported by nursing programs in October 2023 and may not reflect utilization of clinical sites in the current academic year of 2024-2025.

### Recommendation 1: Connect geographically isolated facilities and remote students.

Educational programs should connect with hospitals and nursing facilities in rural areas that are currently not used as clinical sites to explore clinical opportunities for remote students that live near these unused rural facilities.



## Appendix A: Geographic Distribution of Hospitals and Nursing Facilities

**Table 3. Distribution of VN programs, RN programs, and licensed hospitals used as clinical sites across public health regions (PHRs).**

Public Health Region (PHR)	Educational Programs		Licensed Hospitals	
	VN Programs (n=86)	RN Programs (n=130)	Hospitals used as a clinical site	Total Number of Hospitals in PHR
1 - Panhandle	6	6	55.3%	47
2/3 - North Texas	16	29	67.8%	214
4/5N - East Texas	10	12	77.1%	48
6/5S - Gulf Coast	20	31	63.0%	154
7 - Central Texas	9	14	74.4%	90
8 - South Texas	9	16	74.0%	77
9/10 - West Texas	7	12	59.3%	54
11 - Rio Grande Valley	9	10	74.5%	51

**Table 4. Distribution of VN programs, RN programs, and licensed nursing facilities used as clinical sites across PHRs.**

Public Health Region (PHR)	Educational Programs		Licensed Nursing Facilities	
	VN Programs (n=86)	RN Programs (n=130)	Nursing facilities used as a clinical site	Total Number of Hospitals in PHR
1 - Panhandle	6	6	27.5%	69
2/3 - North Texas	16	29	29.5%	380
4/5N - East Texas	10	12	24.8%	149
6/5S - Gulf Coast	20	31	20.9%	225
7 - Central Texas	9	14	17.1%	170
8 - South Texas	9	16	32.7%	147
9/10 - West Texas	7	12	20.0%	65
11 - Rio Grande Valley	9	10	37.2%	86



Figure 1: Map of state-licensed hospitals used as clinical sites by Texas nursing programs.

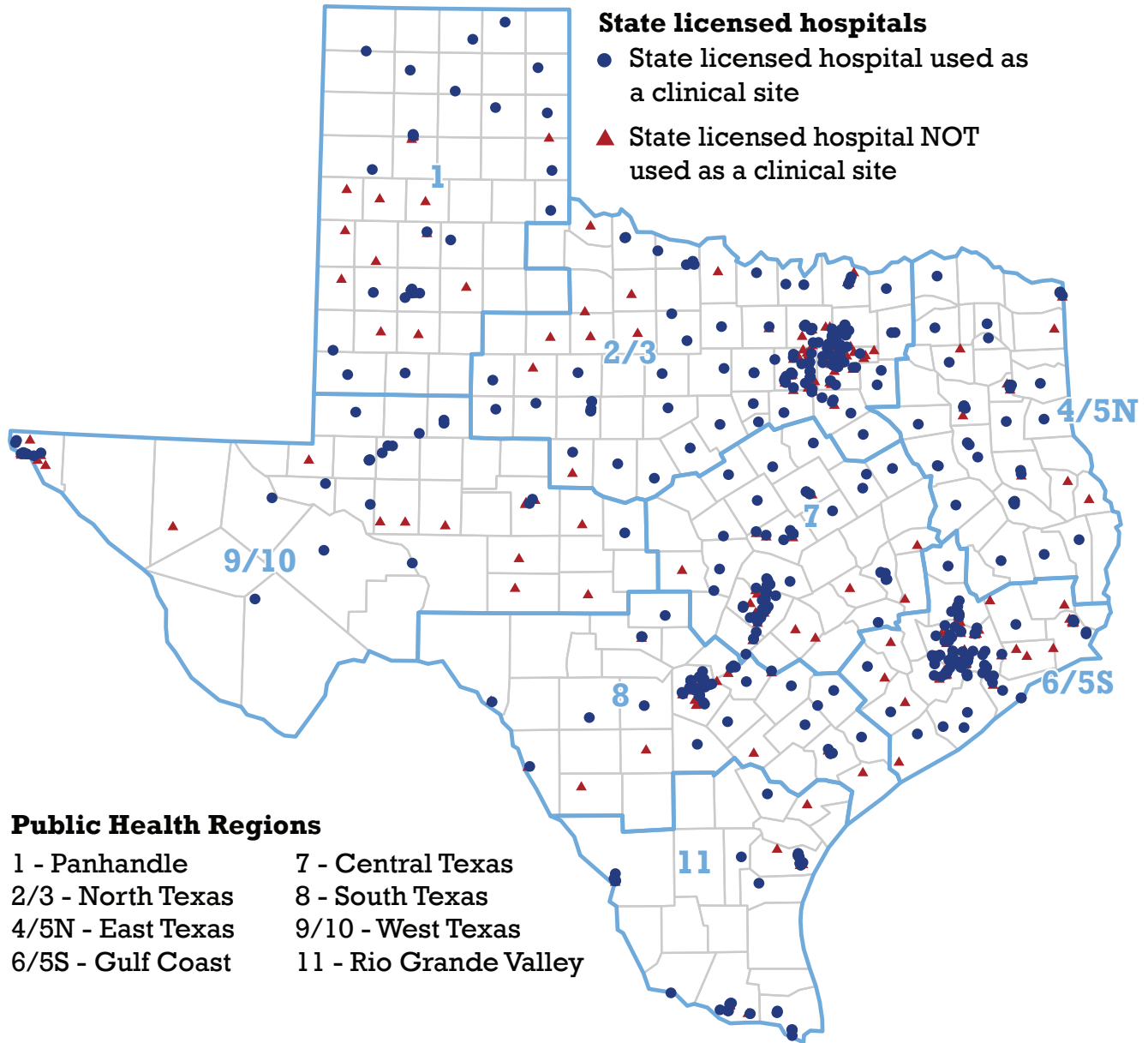


Figure 2: Map of state-licensed nursing facilities used as clinical sites by Texas nursing programs.

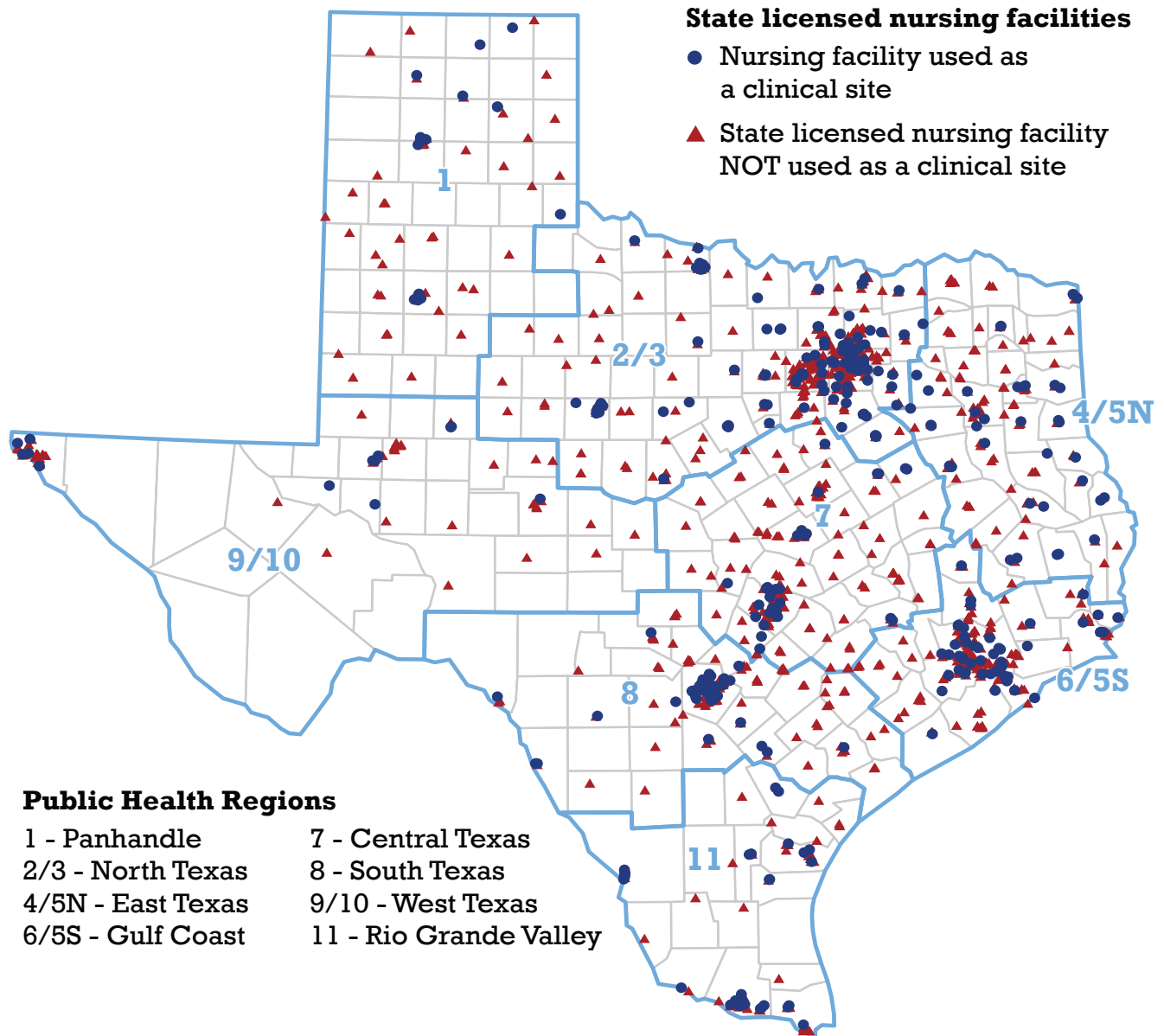


Figure 3: Map of VN and RN programs.

