

Physical Therapy Workforce Shortage in Texas

Presented to Governor's Task Force on Health Care Workforce Shortages

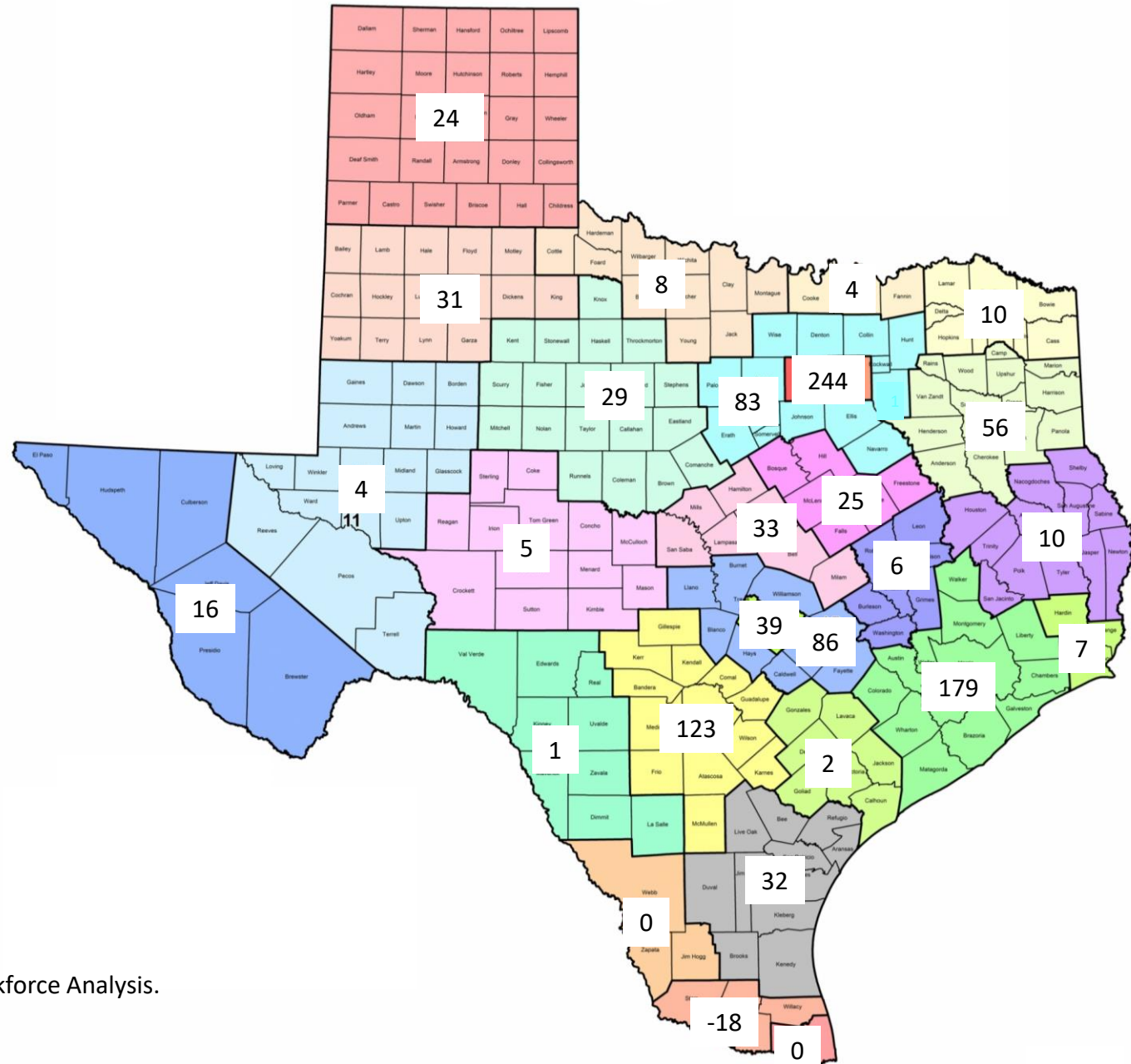
8/15/2024



Texas Physical Therapy Workforce

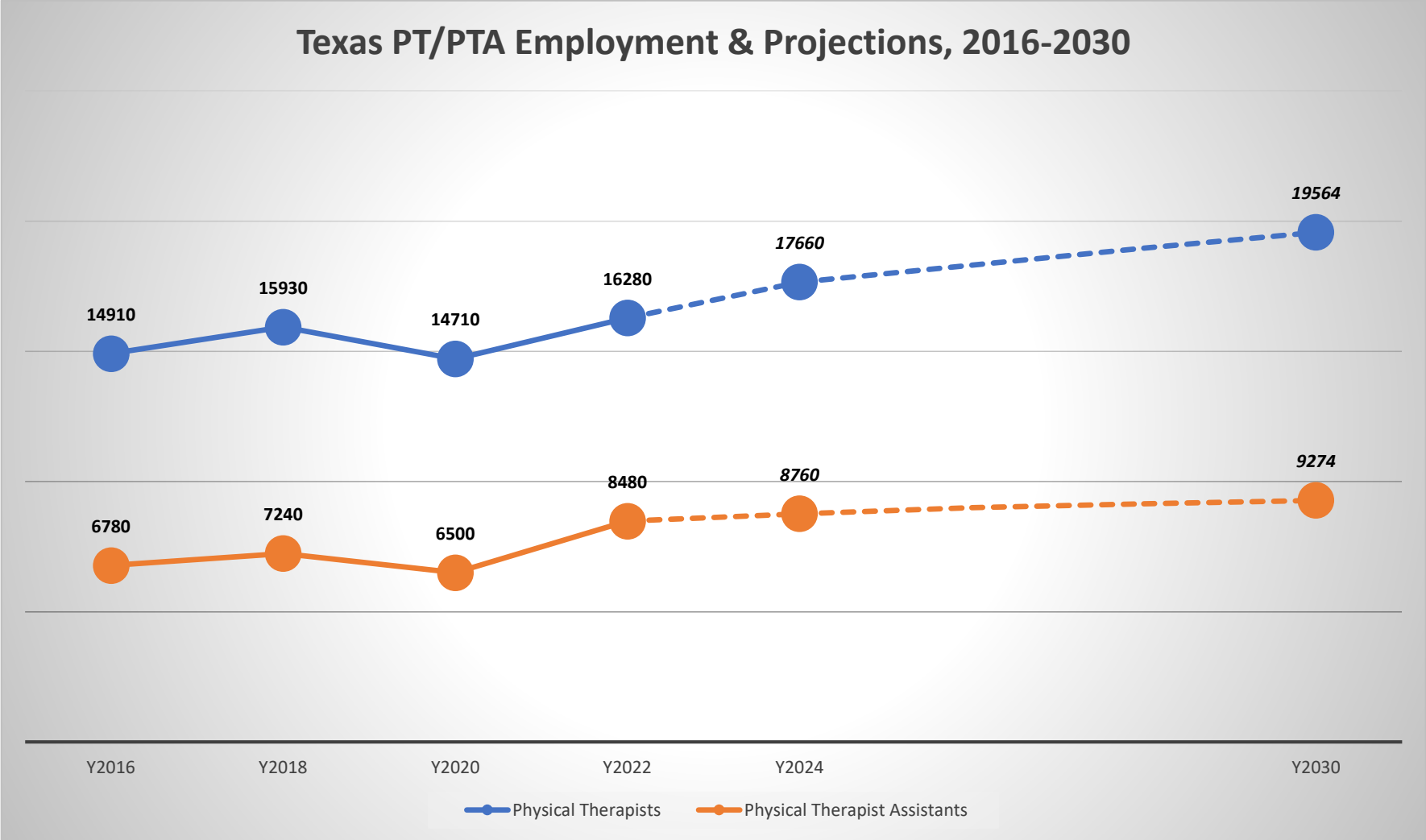
- US Bureau of Labor Statistics reflects employment of 17,170 PTs in Texas in 2023
- Current gap between supply and demand in Texas is 1058 therapists
- Employment is projected by BLS to grow 15% from 2022 to 2032
- Demand continues to increase due to factors such as:
 - Increasing population in the state
 - Aging population
 - Increasing prevalence of chronic conditions
- Average # of PTs per 100,000 population in Texas is 63.7; national average is 95

Current PT Workforce Shortage by Regions of Texas



Data from Texas Workforce Commission. GAP Analysis, Texas Workforce Analysis.
<https://texaslaboranalysis.com/GapAnalysis>

Texas PT/PTA Employment & Projections, 2016-2030

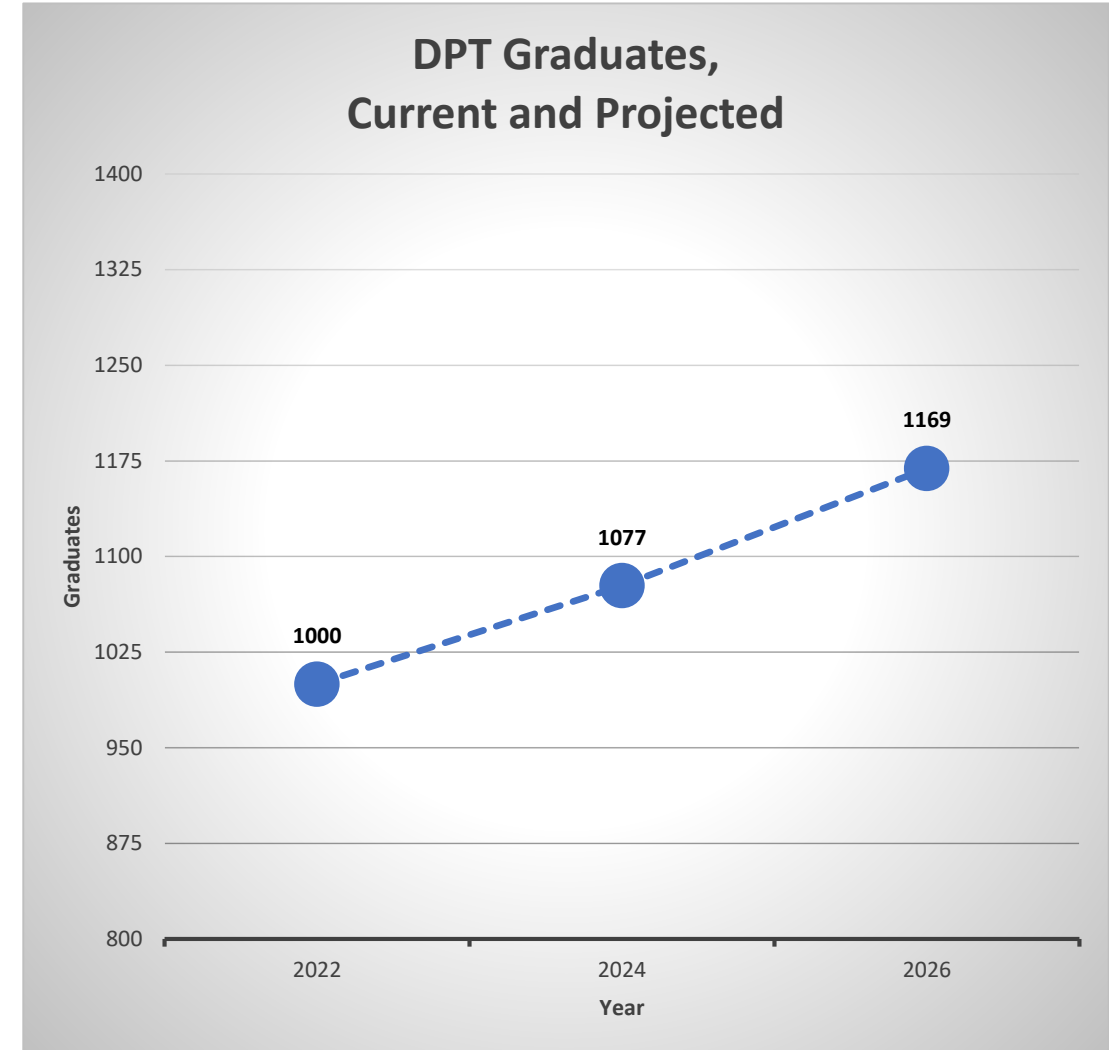


Data from Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S Department of Labor (2024). *Occupational Outlook Handbook: Physical Therapists*.
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapists.htm>

Supply

- Number of graduates is increasing but unable to meet growing demand
- Other factors impacting supply include:
 - licensure pass rate for Texas DPT programs (fsbpt.org)
 - 2022-23 1st pass rates 70.8% - 98.2%
 - 2022-23 ultimate pass rates 90.41% - 100%
 - 3-4% attrition per year of therapists leaving the profession through retirement, etc.

| capteonline.org | TX Accredited Program Institutions | TX Developing Program Institutions |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Doctor of Physical Therapy | 17 | 3 |
| Physical Therapist Assistant | 28 | 1 |



2022 data from Texas Labor Analysis; 2024, 2026 projections data from ptcas.org

Educational Challenges

- Higher education is facing a nationwide faculty shortage within physical therapy programs.
 - Accreditation standards require at least 50% of faculty hold an academic doctoral degree, such as a PhD, DSc, or EdD.
- Clinical education of physical therapy students is limited by PT shortages in clinical practice, which often limits the number of students that a program can accommodate.

Other Challenges to Addressing Workforce Shortage

- Limited public awareness of physical therapy
- Limited financial aid for post-baccalaureate health professions programs
- Differences between salaries in academia and clinical practice
- Cost and time to earn advanced degree to meet accreditation requirements for faculty

Potential Strategies to Address PT Workforce Shortages

- Extend programs that address nursing and nursing faculty shortages to other health professions, such as:
 - Children of Professional Nursing Program Faculty and Staff Exemption Program
- Extend student loan repayment/forgiveness programs to other health professions, such as:
 - Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Assistance Program
- Decrease patient barriers to physical therapy services, such as expanding direct access and addressing reimbursement and co-pay issues.