


Enhancing and Improving Mental Health Workforce Shortages in Tarrant County Texas

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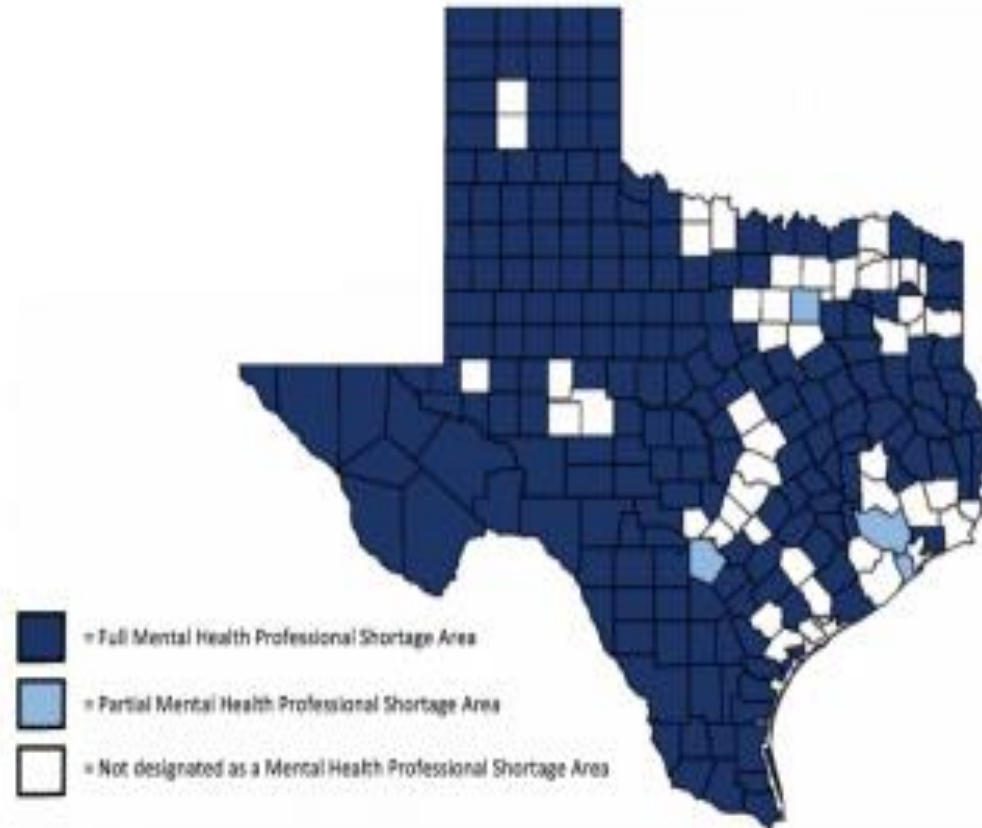
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Background: Shortage of Mental Health Workers, Texas

206 out of 254 (81%) Texas counties

Figure 2. Federally Designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas as of July 2015





Our Study


- Conducted 50 telephone interviews between February and April 2017
 - Surveyed 24 Bachelor and Master level interns in social work, licensed professional counseling, and psychiatric nursing; and 26 mental health professionals at MHC agencies
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What Did We Find?




Discussion and Implications

- Many students are drawn to the mental health field due to life experiences and passion to help people prior to the internship
 - Recruitment should seek to identify students with these particular backgrounds
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Discussion and Implications

- In order to maintain them in the pipeline for post-graduation work, experiential, skills-enhancing learning is vital for students in the mental health field.
 - Recruitment can focus on the job-related and employment-enhancing aspects of mental health internships
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Conclusion

- ➔ **More targeted recruitment of students into mental health majors (rather than blanket appeals to “everybody”) creates a larger pool of potential interns. Knowing the attributes of interns succeeding in the internships allows us to look for more such students to recruit**
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Conclusion

- ➔ **Ensuring that interns increase their mental health-related skills allows them to see their value in the field and gives them an advantage in obtaining employment after graduation. Retention plays a large part in decreasing shortages.**
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Questions?