TEXAS ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION
Established 1936

Orthopaedic Overview: Harris County

Orthopaedic surgeons are physicians who are devoted to the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and rehabilitation of injuries, disorders, and diseases that affect the body's musculoskeletal system. The system includes bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, nerves, and tendons.

Due to the complicated nature of the musculoskeletal system, an orthopaedic surgeon undergoes many years of training. This includes four years of medical school, five years in an orthopaedic residency, and, in many cases, at least a year in a fellowship. An orthopaedic surgeon's goal is to restore a patient's quality of life, function, and decrease pain.

Orthopaedic surgeons perform musculoskeletal services in a variety of settings: traditional general hospital, specialty hospital, ambulatory surgery center (ASC), and office setting.

Orthopaedics in Harris County

By the Numbers:

10 After undergraduate work, an orthopaedic surgeon often completes at least 10 years of education and training.

4 The number of residency slots awarded to 550 applicants to the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston's residency program in 2012-13.

408 The number of orthopaedic surgeons practicing in Harris County. (Based on Texas Medical Board data.)

7 The number of physician-owned hospitals in Harris County. (Based on Texas DSHS data.)

39 Thirty-nine Harris County ASCs contributed to the 130,000 orthopaedic same-day surgeries that were performed in Texas' ASCs (2016-17 period).

31 Percentage of participants in the Employees Retirement System of Texas who had a musculoskeletal diagnosis in FY 2017. (31.5 percent.)

23 Percentage of participants in the Teacher Retirement System of Texas who had a musculoskeletal diagnosis in FY 2017. (23.8 percent.)

The Harris County data set includes all cities located within Harris County.