TEXAS ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION
Established 1936

Orthopaedic Overview: San Antonio

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 San Antonio

By the Numbers:

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

6 The number of residency slots awarded to 690 applicants to the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio's residency program in 2017-18.

239 The number of orthopaedic surgeons practicing in the San Antonio area. (Based on Texas Medical Board data.)

3 The number of physician-owned hospitals in San Antonio. (Based on Texas DSHS data.)

10 Ten San Antonio-area ASCs contributed to the 130,000 orthopaedic same-day surgeries were performed in Texas' ASCs in the state's 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 San Antonio area includes Bexar, Comal, Bandera, Kendall, and Guadalupe counties.