

Graduate Psychology Education: North Texas-20 Project



Progress Report | 2025



Overview

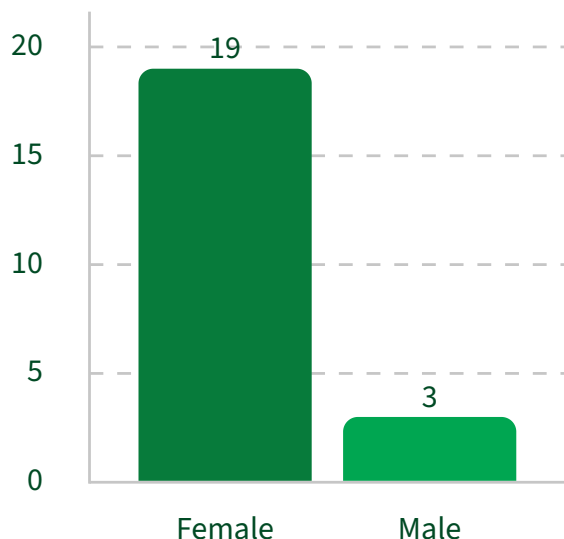
In close partnership with community-based primary care sites, Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) programming targets more than 20 mental health professional shortage areas and/or medically underserved communities across North Texas. Advanced doctoral trainees in clinical psychology are strategically placed at these community sites for advanced, interdisciplinary training in integrated behavioral healthcare (including tele-behavioral health). Beyond providing experiential placements in areas of high need, our work also focuses on development of trainees, site supervisors, and faculty in prevention, treatment, and recovery from Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and other Substance Use Disorders (SUD), provision of culturally competent and trauma informed care, assessment of social determinants of health, and provider resiliency training. Funded by a grant funding through the Graduate Psychology Education mechanism of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), we have been continuously funded in this work since 2019.



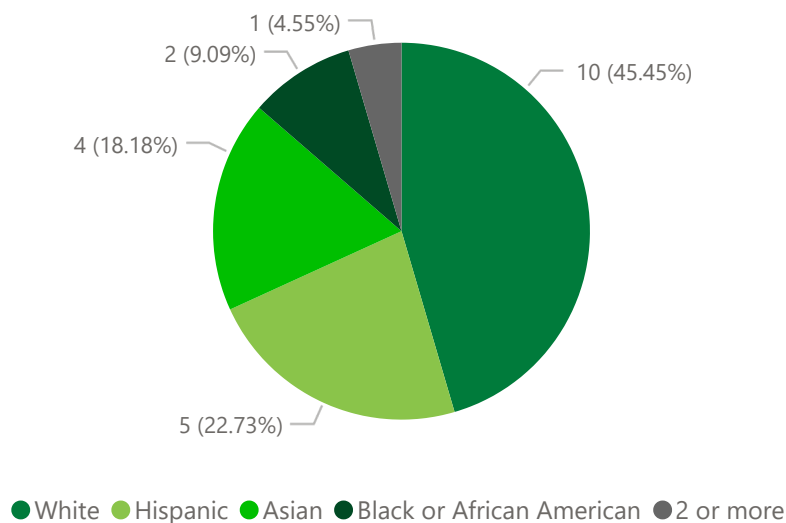
Demographic

2023-2025

Gender



Race/Ethnicity



Achievements

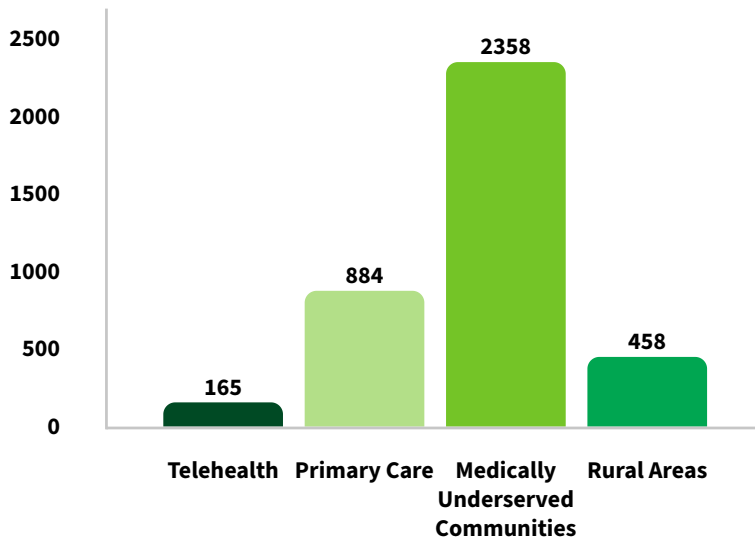
The North Texas-20 project was created to develop highly skilled mental health professionals who can address the specific needs of Texans in areas with insufficient healthcare services. HRSA has acknowledged our excellent work, recently approving our competitive renewal application which will bring another \$1.2 million to UNT from 2025-2028

The project's strategy centers on strengthening partnership between academic institutions and clinical settings, particularly integrated primary care facilities. This collaborative approach integrates delivery of mental health services with primary care, facilitating a holistic approach to patient well-being. These partnerships have proven successful, as evidenced by the practicum hours completed within integrated primary care settings by our doctoral trainees. (Shown on graph)

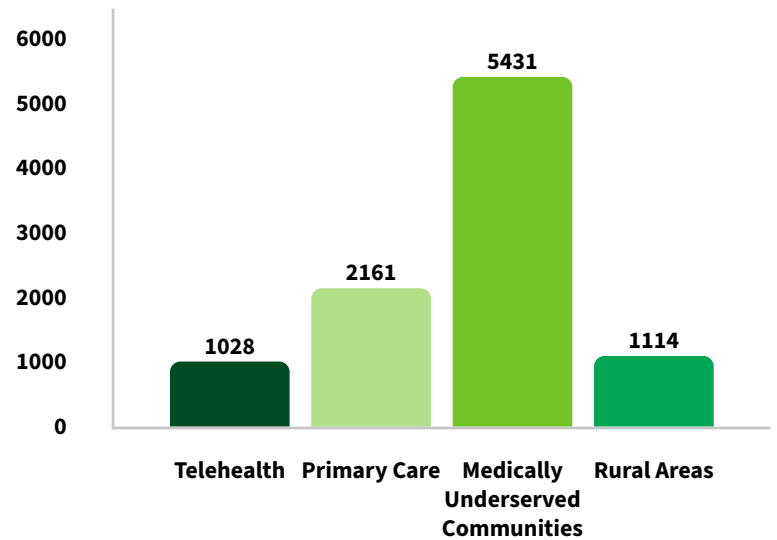
Another key objective is to ensure that future mental health professionals are equipped to serve the specific needs of underrepresented communities. The North Texas-20 project actively places doctoral students in clinics serving medically underserved populations, including rural areas. This hands-on training experience provides students with valuable experience in addressing the unique challenges faced by these communities. This emphasis on community engagement has resulted in 5,606 practicum hours completed in medically underserved communities and 1,136 hours in rural areas, highlighting the project's commitment to reaching underserved populations.

Practicum Setting Hours

This Year (2025)

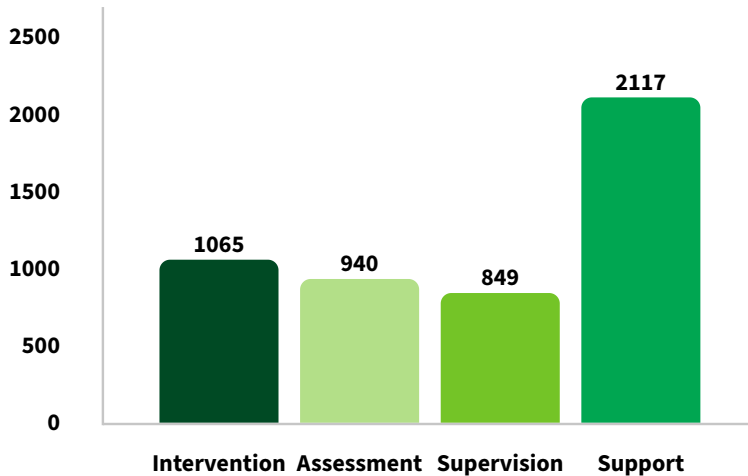


Total

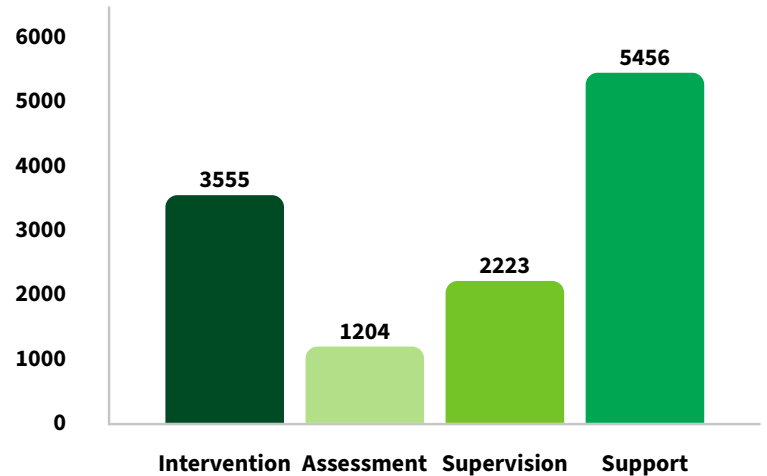


Training Hours

This Year (2025)



Total



1,121
Clients Served

173
Treated for (SUD)

843
Screened for (SUD)

321
Clients Use Opioids

Expanding the Mental Health Workforce

The project has successfully recruited 38 doctoral clinical psychology students to date, providing them with valuable training and financial support. To date \$950,000 in stipends have been awarded to students from economically and/or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds to support their training. This financial assistance not only alleviates financial burdens but also helps to ensure that individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds have the opportunity to pursue careers in mental health. We have a high rate of placing graduate/program completers (more than 77%) in practice settings having the principal focus on serving residents of medically underserved communities.

Advanced Interdisciplinary Training

The project provides students with a comprehensive curriculum that encompasses both traditional clinical psychology training and specialized interdisciplinary training in areas such as behavioral healthcare, tele-behavioral health, and substance use disorder prevention and treatment. This specialized training equips students with the knowledge and skills to address complex health issues prevalent in underserved communities, including chronic conditions, mental health disorders, substance use disorders, and social determinants of health.

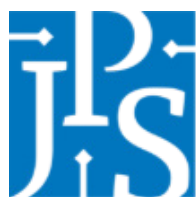
Impacting Underserved Communities

The project has already made a tangible impact across the Metroplex in underserved communities. In addition to reaching patients in primary care settings, students have provided 1,028 hours of telehealth treatment services to patients in rural areas, expanding access to mental health care for individuals who may face significant barriers to traditional in-person services. The innovative approach to service delivery addresses the geographic and financial limitations that often hinder access to mental healthcare in rural areas.

By fostering a collaborative approach to mental health workforce development, and providing students with specialized training in areas relevant to underserved communities, the North Texas-20 project is actively working towards a more equitable and accessible mental healthcare system across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and outlying rural areas. The project's continued success is poised to have a lasting positive impact on the well-being of Texans in our region.

Community Partners

We proudly collaborate with organizations across North Texas in efforts aimed at improving the behavioral health of our region. Partnerships include recruitment of participants for clinical research as well as placement of trainees in areas in need of providers. Our partners are known for deep engagement in their communities.



JPS Health Network
Fort Worth, Texas



Baylor Scott & White
HEALTH



The Steven A. Cohen
Military Family Clinic
at Metrocare



**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
& SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Department of Psychology

