

## Texas nursing home rates on the rise

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The cost of nursing home care has increased for most cities in Texas over the last five years, according to a survey by Genworth Financial Inc.

The Richmond, Va.-based financial security company's Cost of Care Survey found that costs for nursing-home care in Dallas are up 14 percent.

Rates in San Antonio are up 34 percent, making it the most expensive market in Texas for this type of care.

Austin costs have increased 20 percent, while in Houston, costs are actually down 1 percent.

Costs in the rest of Texas rose an average of 24 percent over the five-year period, higher than the national average of 17 percent.

When it comes to the cost of one year in a private nursing home, however, Texas is doing better than the nation as a whole.

Dallas costs \$60,640 a year on average. San Antonio costs \$67,624 a year. Houston costs \$56,592 on average and Austin costs \$54,890. Throughout the rest of Texas the cost is \$52,590.

The Texas figures compare with a national average for a year in a private nursing home of \$76,460 -- more than one and a half times the average annual household income in the United States of \$48,201.

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