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The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has a mission well suited to its location and the public need. Just 20 years ago, the region of West Texas — an area larger than most U.S. states and many countries — had severe medical problems. In this region of 135,000 square miles, Texans had the lowest number of physicians per population in the country. The infant mortality was the highest in the state. Communities could not get doctors, and people were hours away from life-saving health services.

In just two decades the Health Sciences Center has helped turn that situation around with an infusion of new physicians, new nurses, and new allied health specialists in the area. A few specifics show just how far the region has come:

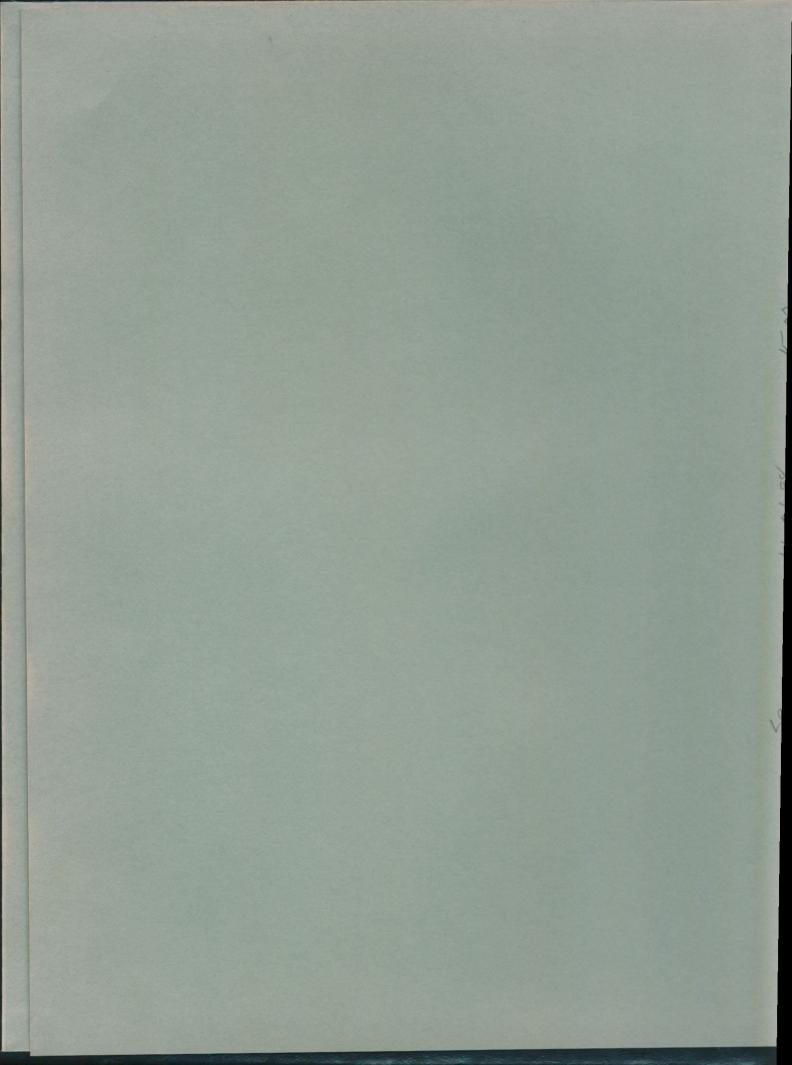
—In 1972, there was one physician for every 1,200 people in West Texas. Today the ratio is one physician for every 900 people. Two out of every three physicians completing residency training at Texas Tech have remained in Texas. Two-thirds of that number now practice in West Texas.

-The infant mortality rate in West Texas, the highest in the state in 1972, is

now among the lowest.

—The four regional centers have helped citizens reduce medical complications and the expense of treatment by bringing preventative and ambulatory health care closer to their homes. Primary care clinic visits one of the cheaper forms of health care — have risen in West Texas from 25,000 in 1972 to 280,000 in 1987.

Sophisticated health care is now available to Texas citizens in this region. Clinics and centers are operated by the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center to treat Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, kidney disease, cerebral palsy, infertility, substance abuse, and several other serious disorders. Last year, Texas Tech health care professionals at the four regional centers provided more than \$27 million in uncompensated health care to indigent and elderly Texas citizens. This record of accomplishments shows that the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center is fulfilling its intended mission with excellent results.



## PLEXUS 1988 VOLUME VI





















