Race, ethnicity and immigration status are both distinct and overlapping.

According to the Census Bureau, nearly half of the more than 7 million children in Texas are of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. Of the 3.5 million children of Hispanic ethnicity who live in Texas, 82 percent identify their race as White, 13 percent as ‘some other race,’ 4 percent as multiracial and 1 percent as Black.¹

Ninety-five percent of Hispanic children in Texas are U.S. citizens.² Texas is also home to many Hispanic children whose families have been living in the state even before it became part of the U.S. In fact, about half of Hispanic children in Texas have parents who were U.S. citizens at birth.³ Only five percent of Hispanic Texas children are not U.S. citizens, and only a subset of these are undocumented. Researchers estimate the number of undocumented children in Texas to be between 114,000 and 194,000.⁴ Although the vast majority of undocumented people in Texas are from Latin America, it is estimated that 8 percent are from Asia or Africa.⁵

One-third of Texas kids (nearly 2.4 million) live with one or more parents who is an immigrant.⁶ Of these children, half live with at least one parent who is not a U.S. citizen (includes legally authorized). Researchers estimate that 834,000 children in Texas live with one or more undocumented parents.⁷

The vast majority of Hispanic children in Texas are U.S. citizens.⁶

Hispanic children in Texas, by citizenship, 2014

- 95% U.S. CITIZENS (3.3 million kids)
- 5% NOT U.S. CITIZENS

*Only a subset of Texas kids who are not U.S. citizens are undocumented. Researchers estimate between 114,000 and 194,000 undocumented children of all races and ethnicities live in Texas (out of more than 7 million Texas kids).

Children of Hispanic ethnicity in Texas, by race, 2014

- 82% HISPANIC, WHITE
- 13% HISPANIC, OTHER RACE
- 4% HISPANIC, MULTIRACIAL
- 1% HISPANIC, BLACK

Millions of Texas kids live in immigrant families¹⁰

Out of 7 million Texas kids, 2.4 million Texas kids live with one or more parents who is an immigrant.

Of those, half of these kids live with at least one parent who is not a U.S. citizen (includes legally authorized).

Researchers estimate 834,000 Texas kids live with one or more parents who is undocumented.
Children in families that include one or more immigrants fare better on some aspects of child well-being than children with U.S.-born parents. Children in immigrant families have lower infant mortality rates than children with U.S.-born parents. They are also more likely to be born at a healthy birthweight, decreasing risk of developmental delays and disabilities. Seventy-five percent of children in immigrant families live with married parents, compared to 59 percent of children with U.S.-born parents. Research shows that children of married parents have better physical, cognitive and emotional outcomes.

Immigration and economic growth are linked. Research shows that metropolitan areas with the greatest economic growth also experienced the greatest increase in the labor force attributed to immigrants. Immigration functions as both a cause and effect of growth: growing cities attract workers, and new workers bolster economic growth. Immigrants also power the state economy as job creators, small business owners and entrepreneurs. Immigrants make up 18.4 percent of Texas business owners with paid employees and are self-employed at a higher rate (9.4 percent) than the native-born population (5.8 percent).

The largest percentage of parents who are immigrants arrive from Latin America, but a growing share arrive from Asia.

Endnotes
1-3 CPPP analysis of 2014 ACS PUMS. http://1.usa.gov/1WT6oVu
5-6 CPPP analysis of 2014 ACS PUMS. http://1.usa.gov/1WT6oVu
10 See notes 7-8.
11 To learn more, see California Policy Project (March 2017). Austin, TX: CPPP. http://bit.ly/2mb07 nm
16 See note 13.
20 U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs, Statistics for Owners of Respondent Employer Firms by Whether the Owner Was Born a U.S. Citizen by Sector, Gender, Ethnicity, Race, Veteran Status, and Years in Business for the U.S., States, and Top 50 MSAs, Table 5E 1400KSW09. Includes firms with payroll at any time during 2014.
21 U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0501.