

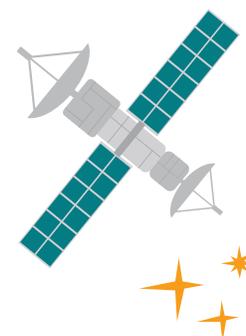
State of Texas Children 2016

★ Race and Equity in Austin ★

We all want a bright future for our children, and we want Austin to be a place that makes that bright future possible. As the area's economy and population grow, its future depends on the health, education and financial security of all its children—across gender, neighborhood, income, race and ethnicity.¹

Austin is a city that prides itself on its creativity, innovative spirit and fast-growing economy. As the state's capital, Austin is also the meeting place for legislators who make decisions that influence children's lives. Although in some ways Austin is unique in Texas, the data show that racial and ethnic differences in children's health, education and financial security are similar to disparities seen across the state. In order to "raise the bar" in child well-being for all Austin area kids, we have to "close the gaps" by intentionally breaking down obstacles and creating equitable opportunities for good health, an excellent education and economic security for every child. This is the only way to ensure Austin's economic future stays strong.

This Austin report is part of a larger series of reports in the Texas Kids Count project that focuses on equity in child well-being across Texas and in several of its major metro areas. See more at CPPP.org/kidscount.



DEMOGRAPHICS

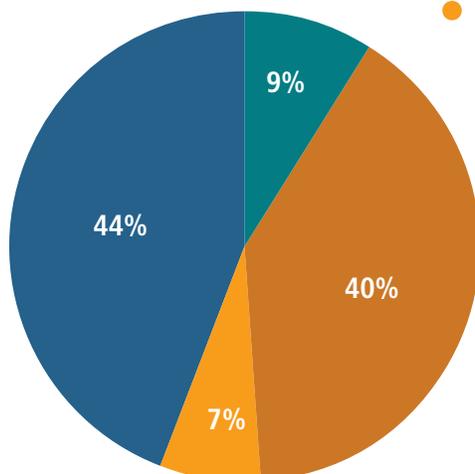
More than 450,000 kids live in the Austin metro area, which is made up of five counties: Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell and Hays.² Fifty-eight percent of children in the Austin metro area live in Travis County. Demographic data are provided on the Austin metro area to give a comprehensive regional look at child population change. However, we focus on Travis County as the metro area's core in our analysis of children's financial security, health and education.

THE PRESENT: Children of color represent the majority of the child population in the Austin metro area.³

AUSTIN METRO AREA POPULATION, 2014
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION

479,589

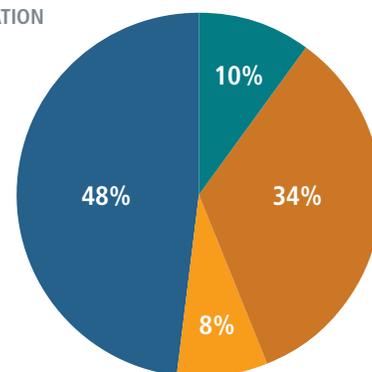
- HISPANIC
- WHITE
- BLACK
- ASIAN



**In this report, "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably.*

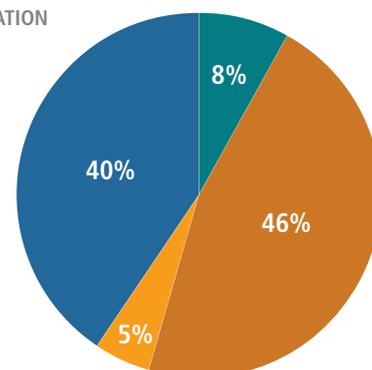
TRAVIS COUNTY, 2014
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION

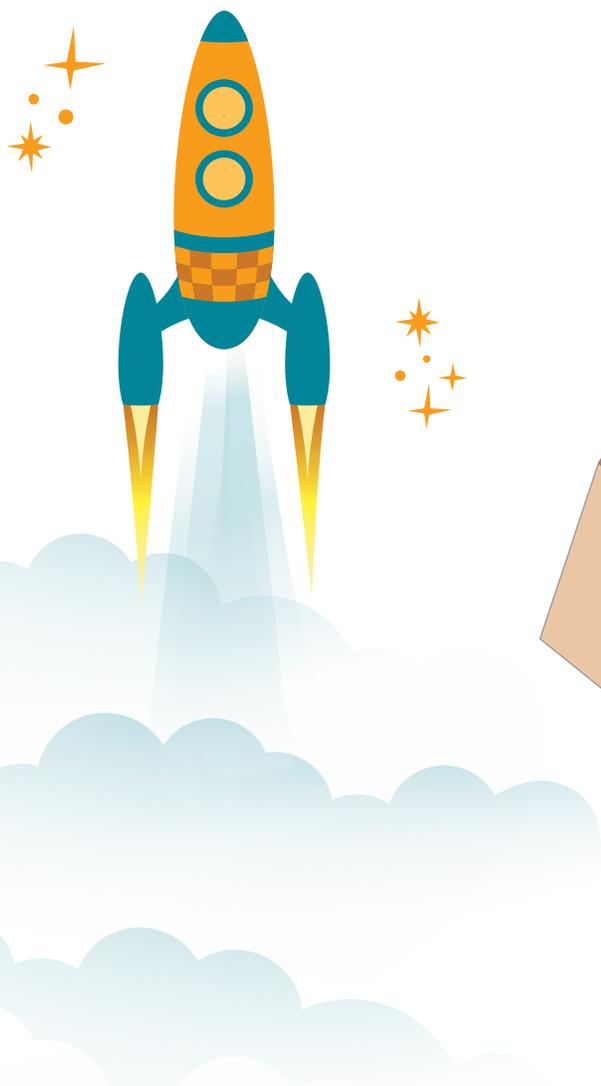
273,892



OUTLYING COUNTIES (BASTROP, CALDWELL, HAYS, WILLIAMSON), 2014
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION

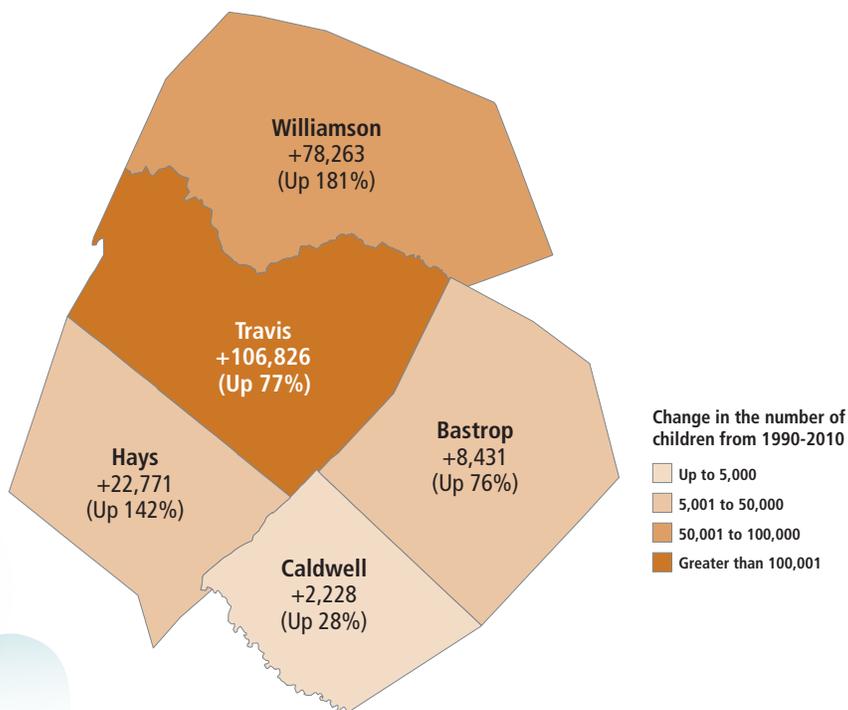
205,697





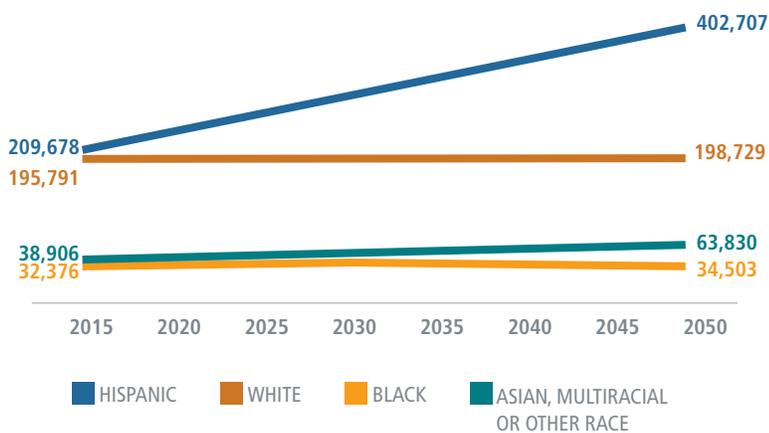
THE PAST: Travis county has experienced the *largest* growth in child population in the region, while Williamson county has experienced the *fastest* growth.

Change in Child Population, 1990-2010⁴



THE FUTURE: Across the five-county metro area, children of color represent the future workforce of Austin.

Child population projections by race and ethnicity, 2015-2050⁵



PLACE, RACE & POVERTY

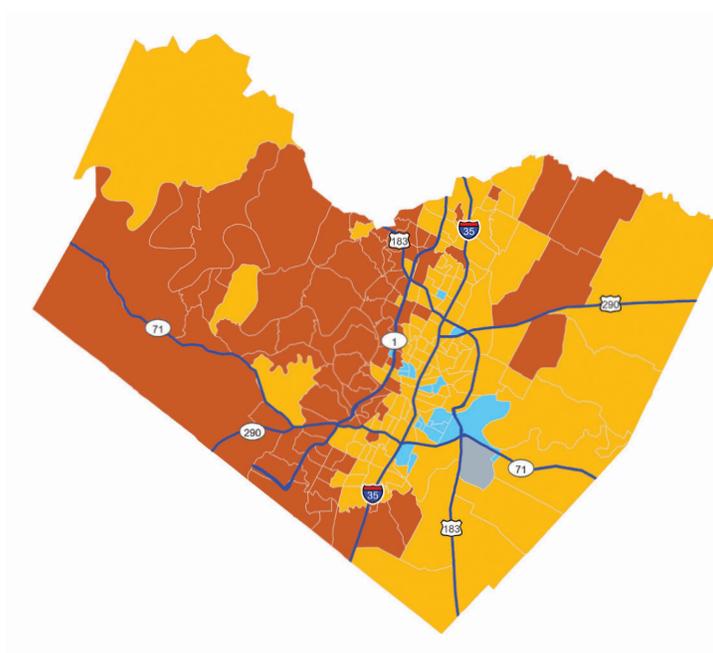
Like many Texas cities, Austin has a history of segregating places where children live, play and learn. Starting in the early 1900s, White homeowners used deed restrictions on their homes to prevent Black, Hispanic and Asian families from moving into certain neighborhoods. In 1928, the City of Austin formalized these private restrictions through zoning designed to relocate all Black residents, schools and other public services for Black Austinites to a newly created "Negro District" that also had weaker protections against potentially undesirable industrial uses. The federal Home Owners' Loan Corporation⁶ also reinforced local restrictions by systematically approving mortgages in "White neighborhoods" and denying mortgages in "Black neighborhoods."⁷

This history has had cumulative effects, in both the educational and economic benefits and disadvantages that can be passed on from generation to generation. These policies and practices may be from Austin's past, but they still have a profound effect on the present. Current policies and practices do not undo past injustices, and barriers in housing, employment and education contribute to far too many children living in poverty and troubling disparities by race and ethnicity. Today, nearly one of every three Black children and more than one of every four Hispanic children in Travis County lives in poverty.⁸

Research has found that the "neighborhood effects" of living in high-poverty areas influence not just children in low-income families, but all children who live in the area, including children who do not live in poverty themselves.⁹ Neighborhoods of concentrated poverty can isolate residents from resources and opportunities. **Twenty-nine percent of children in Austin live in high-poverty neighborhoods.**¹⁰

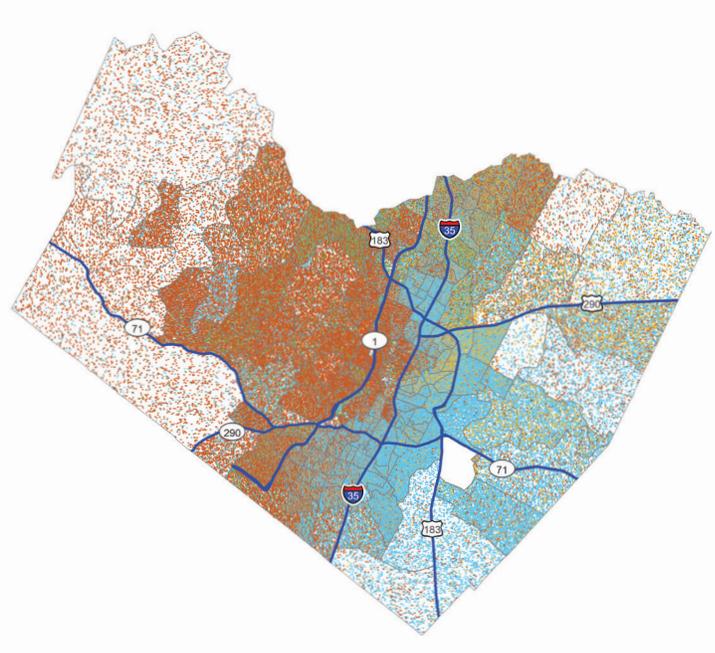
Both racial and income segregation are strongly connected to lower rates of economic mobility for all. The more a place is segregated by race and income, the worse the chances of escaping poverty—whether you are White, Black, Hispanic or Asian. The segregation of a place exerts its own effect on the upward mobility of all individuals in the area. Children who live in more segregated areas have less economic mobility than children who live in less segregated areas.¹¹ In a recent study of large U.S. metro areas, Austin had the highest degree of overall economic segregation, taking into account segregation by income, education and occupation.¹²

Austin has areas of racial, ethnic and income diversity, but children of color are more likely to live in the higher-poverty areas.¹³



Total Poverty Rate by Census Tract, 2010-2014

- No Data
- Lower-Poverty
- Moderate-to-High Poverty
- Highest-Poverty



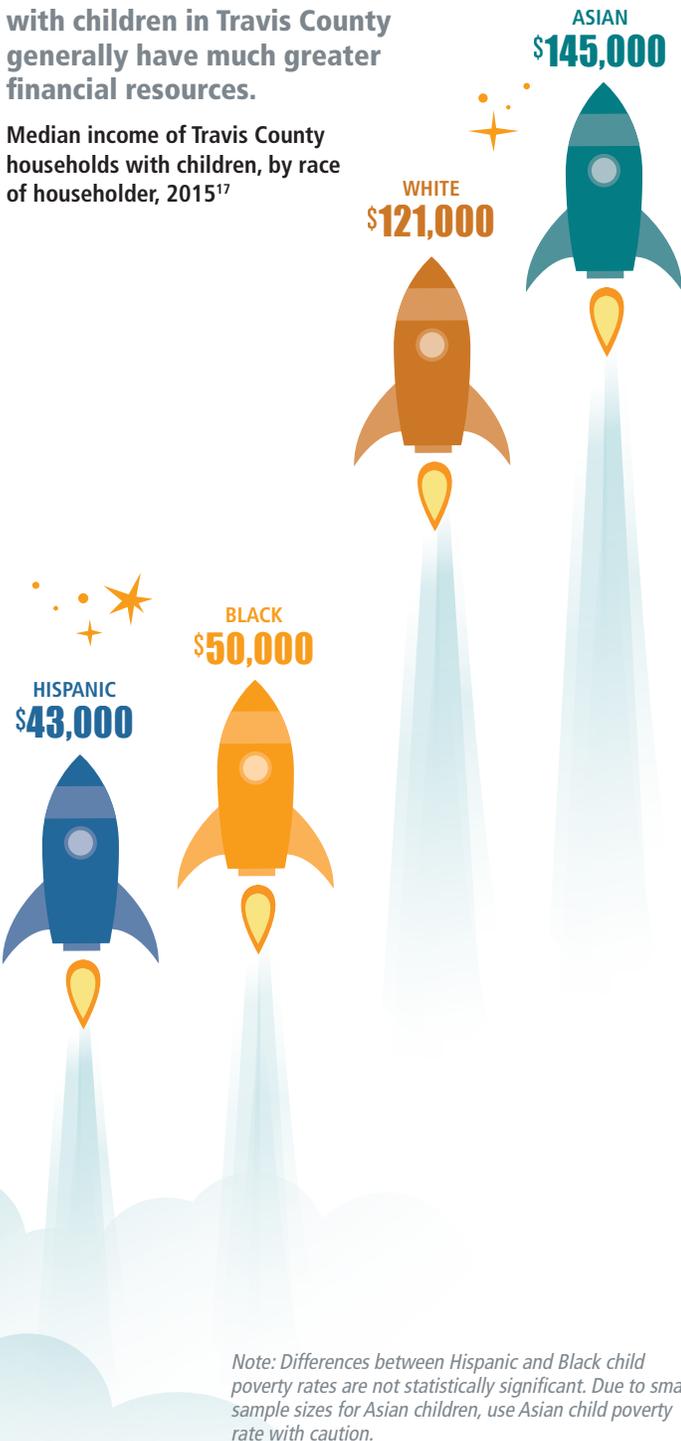
Child Population by Race/Ethnicity Census Tracts, 2010 (dot = 1 child)

- Hispanic
- White
- Black
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Multirace & Other Race/Ethnicity

Other factors like family structure and gender also influence the likelihood of living in poverty. Travis County's single-parent families are more likely to live in poverty than married-couple families, and poverty rates for single parents differ by gender and race. Single-mother families in Travis County are nearly twice as likely to live in poverty as single-father families. More than half of single-mother families who are Hispanic live in poverty, compared to 18 percent of single-mother families who are White.¹⁴ Nearly one in three children in Travis County lives with a single parent.¹⁵

Asian and White households with children in Travis County generally have much greater financial resources.

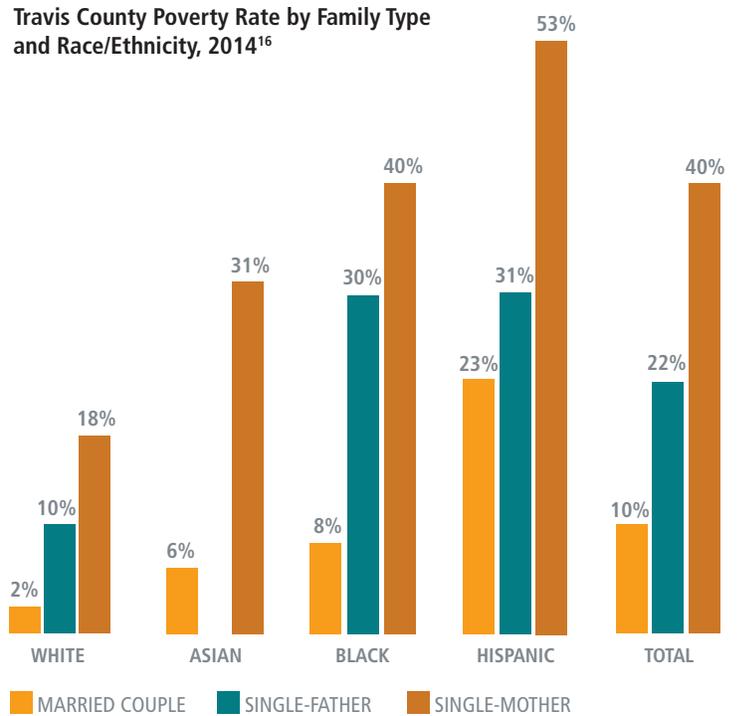
Median income of Travis County households with children, by race of householder, 2015¹⁷



Note: Differences between Hispanic and Black child poverty rates are not statistically significant. Due to small sample sizes for Asian children, use Asian child poverty rate with caution.

Poverty is most likely to affect children in families headed by Hispanic single mothers, but one in five Hispanic married-couple families also live in poverty.

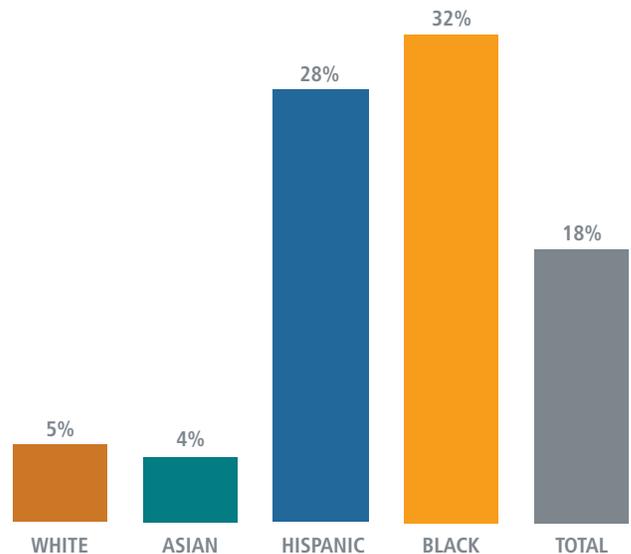
Travis County Poverty Rate by Family Type and Race/Ethnicity, 2014¹⁶



Note: Data on poverty rates for single-father Asian families are not statistically reliable and therefore not reported. Differences between Black single-father and single-mother poverty rates, and Black and Hispanic single-father poverty rates are not statistically significant. Differences between Asian and Black single-mother and married-couple family poverty rates are not statistically significant.

Travis County's child poverty rates are far too high, with wide disparities by race and ethnicity.

Travis County Child Poverty Rates, 2015 Percent¹⁸



HEALTH

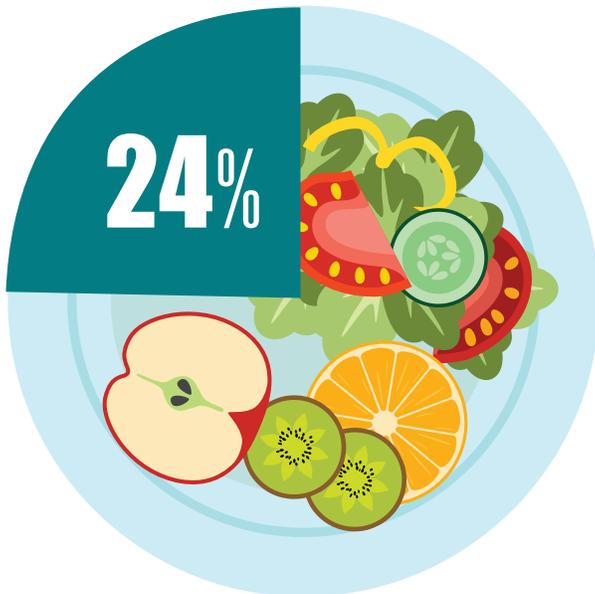
Race, place and poverty also affect children’s health. Raising healthy children is about more than just encouraging kids to eat vegetables and exercise. Health is also about making sure all kids, across race, ethnicity, language or family income, can access healthy meals regularly, live in safe environments, receive preventive health care, and see a doctor when needed.

Food insecurity

An estimated 24 percent of children (or 61,520 children) in Travis County are food-insecure, meaning they lack consistent access to enough food for a healthy diet.¹⁹ Food insecurity is a symptom of economic instability. When families struggle financially, too often little money is left for food, increasing the chance that kids go hungry. When growing children lack essential nutrients, they can experience delays in physical, intellectual and emotional growth.²⁰ Hungry children have a harder time focusing in school and are more likely to have social and behavioral problems.²¹ Research shows Black and Hispanic children in Texas have rates of food insecurity exceeding 30 percent.²²

Twenty-four percent of children in Travis County lack consistent access to adequate food.

Travis County child food insecurity rate, 2014²⁸

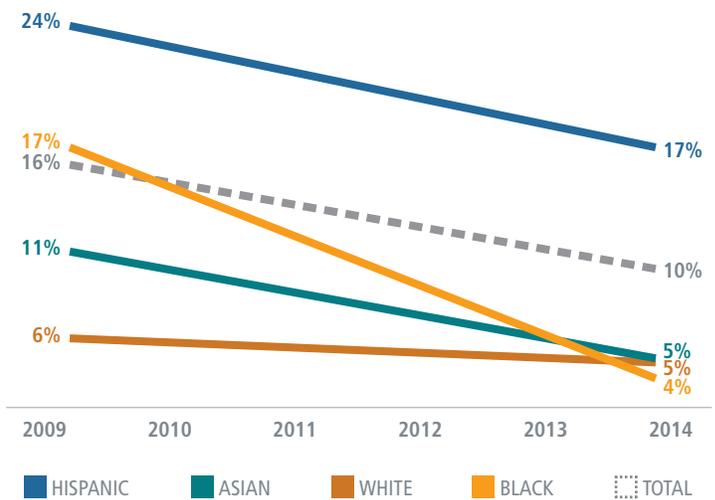


Access to health care

Consistent access to health care begins with adequate health insurance coverage. Health coverage for children has improved in Travis County, for children of all races and ethnicities.²³ However, Hispanic children are still the most likely to be uninsured.²⁴ One barrier is jobs that do not offer affordable insurance to families.²⁵ Hispanic children are the least likely to be covered through their parents’ employers even though their parents have employment rates similar to, or even higher than other racial/ethnic groups.²⁶ Research shows that expanding coverage to low-income parents could improve rates even more.²⁷

Gaps in uninsured rates among Black, Asian and White children in Travis County have closed; barriers remain for Latino children.

Child uninsured rates by race/ethnicity, 2009-2014²⁹



Note: Differences between 2014 White, Asian and Black child uninsured rates are not statistically significant. Difference between 2009 and 2014 White child uninsured rates is not statistically significant.

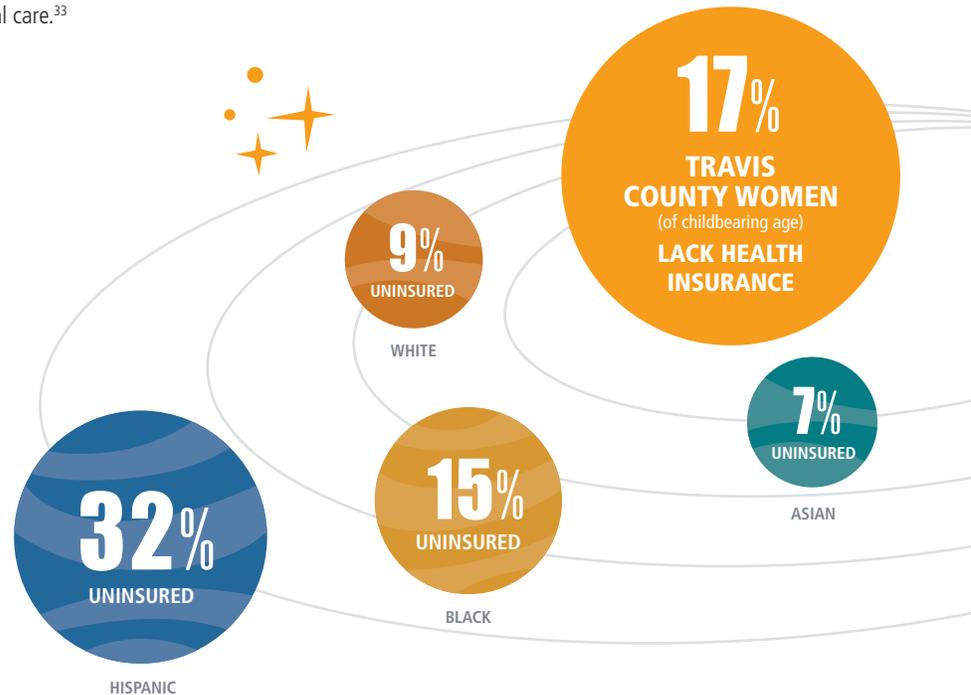
Maternal and infant health

Overall health and health care access for women before, during and after pregnancy is critical to babies' health. Nearly one of every six women (279,000+) in Travis County between the ages of 15 and 44 lacks health insurance. The likelihood of being uninsured as a woman of childbearing age differs based on race and ethnicity,³⁰ and can lead to delayed or inconsistent care should a woman become pregnant.³¹

The lack of insurance is one factor in whether women access on-time prenatal care. The most common barriers reported by Texas mothers who had late or no prenatal care are being uninsured, not having enough money for the appointment, and not being able to book an appointment.³² Black and Hispanic mothers are most likely to have late access to prenatal care.³³

The likelihood of being born preterm or at low birthweight also differs by race and ethnicity. Although many infants born preterm or at low birthweight grow up to be healthy, these two risk factors can both increase the risk of physical and cognitive developmental delays.³⁴ In Travis County, Black infants are most likely to be born prematurely or at low birthweight.³⁵ Research shows that chronic stress experienced by mothers increases the risk of low birthweight and preterm births,³⁶ and that even very young children can experience high levels of stress that affect their development.³⁷ Prematurity and low birthweight can increase the risk of physical and cognitive development delays, and are also a risk factor in infant mortality.

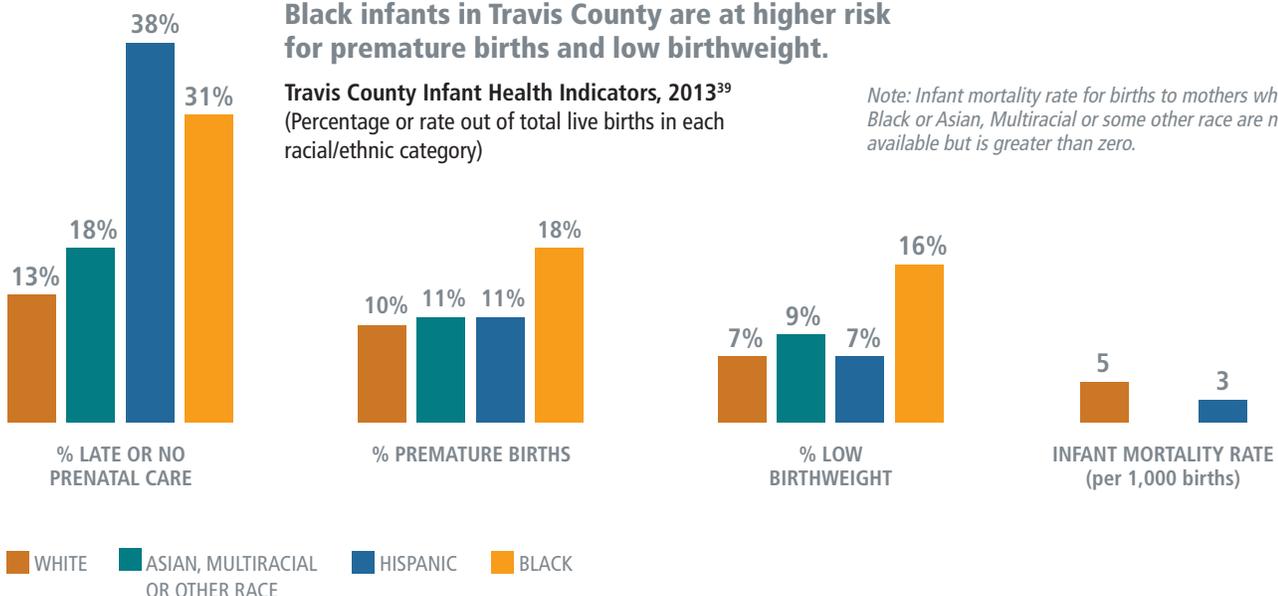
Many women in Travis County of childbearing age (ages 15-44) are uninsured.³⁸



Black infants in Travis County are at higher risk for premature births and low birthweight.

Travis County Infant Health Indicators, 2013³⁹
(Percentage or rate out of total live births in each racial/ethnic category)

Note: Infant mortality rate for births to mothers who are Black or Asian, Multiracial or some other race are not available but is greater than zero.



EDUCATION

Every kid in Austin deserves an education that helps her reach her full potential. And we know that different students need different resources and supports to be successful. However, today our education system often struggles to provide equitable opportunities for all children, threatening their futures and our collective economic security.

Race, ethnicity and economic need in schools are strongly connected and tend to follow patterns of residential segregation and poverty concentration constructed by decades of policy and community choices.⁴⁰

School funding matters for Austin kids.

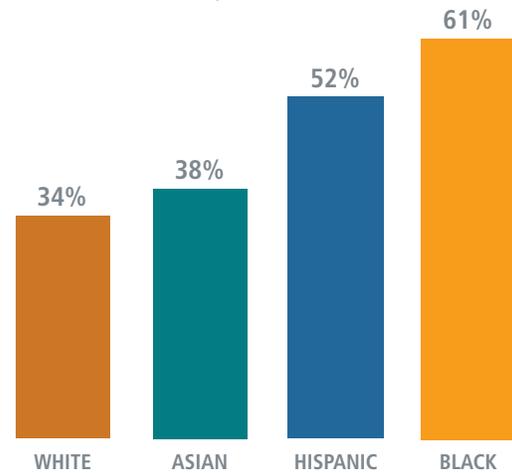
Texas' school finance system does not adequately fund public education. **The majority of school funding comes from local property taxes that are generated based on the value of property within school districts.**

That means school districts that include homes or businesses with high property values can generate more tax money than school districts that include homes or businesses with lower property values. More financial resources mean better compensation, development and support of teachers and staff, and better access to materials and equipment like books, science labs, art, music and technology. And because property values are lower in poorer neighborhoods, tax rates are often higher, in order to make up the difference. The ISD with the highest property wealth per student in Travis County serves a student population that is 71 percent White, 13 percent Latino, 11 percent Asian, four percent Multiracial and one percent Black, while the ISD with the lowest property wealth per student serves a student population that is 62 percent Latino, 24 percent Black, nine percent White, two percent Asian and two percent Multiracial.⁴¹

Two issues related to school funding tend to disproportionately affect Black and Hispanic students: instability in a school's teacher workforce and teacher experience. Unstable staffing can negatively affect school climate,⁴² educational performance,⁴³ and school finances.⁴⁴ Schools with high turnover rates result in a larger share of first-year teachers.⁴⁵ Although first-year teachers may be effective, they tend to be less effective than non-first-year teachers in increasing student achievement in math and reading.⁴⁶

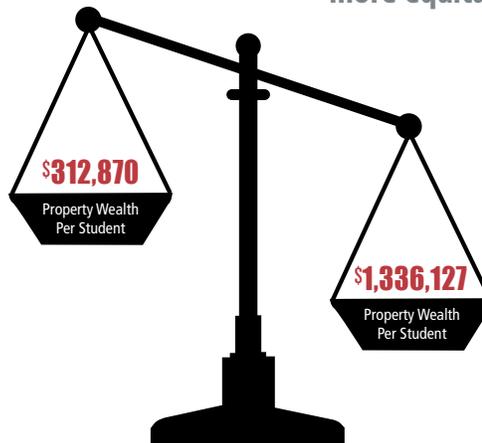
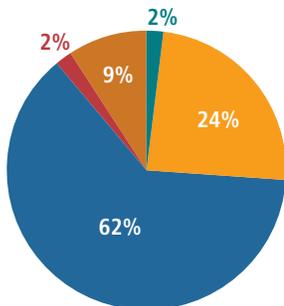
Teacher instability is most likely to affect Black students in Travis County.

Students attending schools with more than 20 percent teacher turnover, between 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years⁴⁷

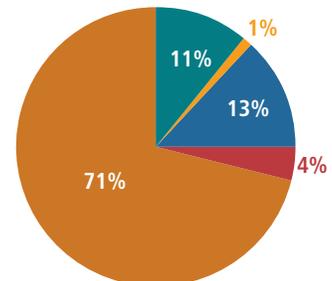


Property wealth varies among Travis County's school districts, so the state must help provide more equitable funding.⁴⁸

Poorest ISD in Travis County, 2014-15



Wealthiest ISD in Travis County, 2014-15



Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

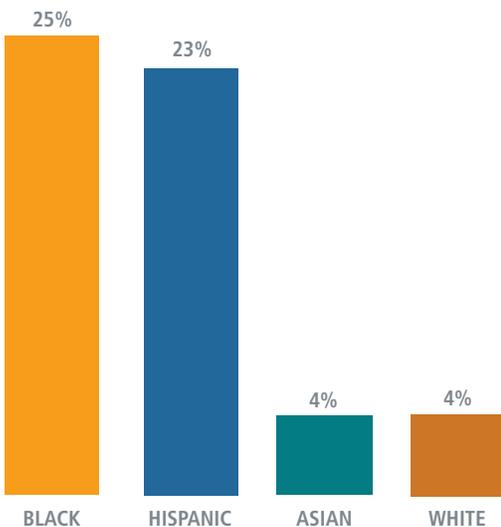
ASIAN BLACK HISPANIC MULTIRACIAL WHITE

Race, ethnicity and economic need are connected in Travis County's public schools.

Race, ethnicity and economic need in schools are strongly connected and tend to follow patterns of residential segregation and poverty concentration constructed by decades of policy and community choices. Racial and income segregation are connected to inequitable school resources and academic opportunities.⁴⁹ Although teachers of varying levels of experience and effectiveness teach across schools, research shows that, in general, students in high-poverty schools have worse access to consistently effective teaching throughout their schools.⁵⁰ High-poverty schools also serve more students who are more likely to face out-of-school challenges that create barriers to learning, such as housing instability,⁵¹ food insecurity,⁵² and lack of access to health care.⁵³ Hispanic and Black students are still more likely to be enrolled in high-poverty districts, where more than 75 percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunch.⁵⁴

Black and Hispanic students in Travis County are more likely to be enrolled in high-poverty school districts.

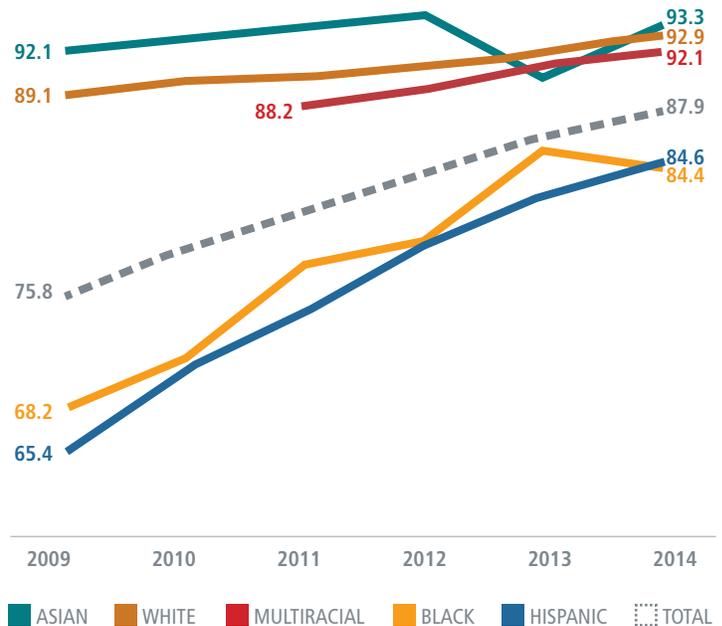
Share of Travis County students in each racial/ethnic group enrolled in high-poverty school district, 2014-15⁵⁶
(District with >75% students qualify for free/reduced lunch)



Although low-income students face additional barriers, high-poverty districts can and do perform well for low-income, Latino and Black students. One important indicator of educational achievement is high school graduation. There are many measures of high school success but under any measure, districts in Travis County have improved graduation rates for nearly all racial and ethnic groups of students. But as the data show, we can still do more to support the success of Hispanic and Black students throughout Travis County.⁵⁵

Districts in Travis County have made progress on supporting high school graduation, but still need to close the gaps for Hispanic and Black students.

Travis County High School Completion Rates by Race and Ethnicity, 2009-2014⁵⁷



CONCLUSION

The Austin metro area can be a place where every child has the basic building blocks—health, education and financial security—to reach his or her full potential. Accomplishing this depends on enacting common-sense public policies and practices that develop all kids' capabilities.

Equity in child well-being—by race, ethnicity, income and gender—should be a value reflected by our decisions, and a goal toward which we all work. Austin's recent economic and population growth must be accompanied by thoughtful conversations and decisions that help the city's prosperity be sustainable across communities.

Austin's policymakers and residents can continue to create opportunity by creating and demanding strong, equity-focused policies at the local level. But they can also

use their experience and influence to ensure that legislators support policies that promote equity for children and families at the state level.

By raising the bar and closing the gaps in child well-being across race, ethnicity, income and gender, the Austin metro area can capitalize on the strengths of its diverse child population, keeping it one of the most dynamic cities in the U.S.

This report was authored by Jennifer Lee, Research Associate, Kathy Hill, Research and Planning Intern, and Kristie Tingle, Research Associate, as part of Texas Kids Count, a project of the Center for Public Policy Priorities. Maps created by Kate Vickers. The research was funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Austin Community Foundation. For endnotes and sources, visit CPPP.org/kidscount.

ENDNOTES

1. We generally use the term "White" for "Non-Hispanic White" or "Anglo" and "Black" for "Black" or "African-American." "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably as a separate category, mutually exclusive of the racial categories "White" and "Black."
2. Metropolitan areas are defined by the Office of Management and Budget and contain a core urban area of at least 50,000 population and adjacent counties with a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. For more information and current delineations, visit <http://www.census.gov/population/metro/>
3. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center. Child Population by race/ethnicity. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6417-child-population-by-race-ethnicity?loc=45&loct=5#detailed/5/6515-6768/false/36,868,867,133,38/2728,2159,2157,2663,2161/13312>
4. Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of child population data. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center. Total Child Population. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/3050-total-child-population?loc=45&loct=5#detailed/5/6515-6768/false/36,868,867,133,38/any/6304>
5. Texas State Data Center. (2014). 2014 Population projections data downloads. [Data file]. <http://osd.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections/>
6. Tretter, E. (2012). Austin Restricted. University of Texas Digital Repository. <http://bit.ly/1PB8rwoE>
7. Tretter, E. (2012). Austin Restricted. University of Texas Digital Repository. <http://bit.ly/1PB8rwoE>
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11. Chetty, R., Hendren, N., Kline, P., & Saez, E. (Jan 2014). Where is the land of opportunity? The geography of intergenerational mobility in the U.S. Full study: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 129(4): 1553-1623, 2014 Executive Summary: <http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/images/Geography%20Executive%20Summary%20and%20Memo%20January%202014.pdf>
12. Florida, R. & Mellander, Charlotta. (Feb 2015). Segregated City: The Geography of Economic Segregation in America's Metros. Martin Prosperity Institute. <http://martinprosperity.org/media/Segregated%20City.pdf>
13. Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates) Table DP03 (poverty rates) and 2010 Decennial Census, Summary File 1, Table PCT12H – PCT12O (child population data by race/ethnicity). "Lower-poverty" refers to poverty rates less than ten percent; "moderate-to-high poverty" refers to poverty rates between ten and 40 percent; "highest-poverty" refers to poverty rates higher than 40 percent.
14. CPPP analysis of 2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B17010, B17010I, B17010H, B17010D, B17010B.
15. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center. Children in single-parent families. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/3059-children-in-single-parent-families?loc=45&loct=5#detailed/5/6515-6768/false/1485,1376,1201,1074,1000/any/8192,8193>
16. CPPP analysis of 2014 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates), Tables B17010, B17010I, B17010H, B17010D, B17010B.
17. CPPP analysis of 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample.
18. CPPP analysis of 2015 American Community Survey (1-year estimates). Tables C17001, C17001B, C17001D, C17001H, C17001I
19. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center. Child Food Insecurity. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7889-child-food-insecurity?loc=45&loct=5#detailed/2/any/false/36,868,867,133/any/15218,15219>
20. Child Trends Databank. (2014). Food Insecurity. <http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=foodinsecurity>
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22. Population Reference Bureau analysis of Census, CPS, 3-year average from 2012, 2013, 2014 Food Security Supplements.
23. CPPP analysis of 2009 through 2014 American Community Survey data (1-year estimates). Tables C27001, C27001B, C27001D, C27001H, C27001I.
24. CPPP analysis of 2009 through 2014 American Community Survey data (1-year estimates). Tables C27001, C27001B, C27001D, C27001H, C27001I.
25. Kaiser Commission on the Medicaid and the Uninsured. (2013). Health coverage for the Hispanic population today and under the Affordable Care Act. Washington, DC: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. <https://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/84321.pdf>
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27. United States Government Accountability Office. (2011). Medicaid and CHIP. Given the association between parent and child insurance status, new expansions may benefit families. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11264.pdf> See also Dubay, L. & Kenney, G. (2003). Expanding public health insurance to parents. *Health Services Research*, 38(5), 1283-1302.
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29. CPPP analysis of 2009 through 2014 American Community Survey data (1-year estimates). Tables C27001, C27001B, C27001D, C27001H, C27001I.
30. Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of 2015 ACS 1-year Public Use Microdata.
31. Okeke, N., Saxton, D., & Mandell, D.J. (2013). 2011 Annual report: Texas Pregnancy risk assessment monitoring system. Austin, TX: Division for family and community health services, Texas Department of State Health Services. <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mch/>
32. Okeke, N., Saxton, D., & Mandell, D.J. (2013). 2011 Annual report: Texas Pregnancy risk assessment monitoring system. Austin, TX: Division for family and community health services, Texas Department of State Health Services. <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mch/>
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34. Child Trends Data Book. (2015). Low and very low birthweight infants. <http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=low-and-very-low-birthweight-infants>
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