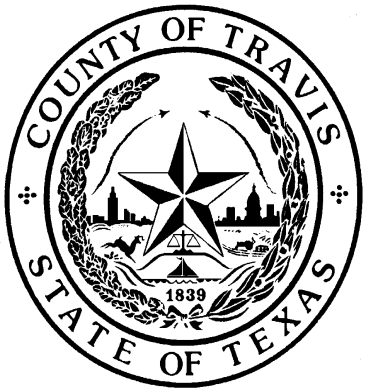
Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

Community Services Block Grant Community Needs Assessment

2015



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I. Executive Summary

This Needs Assessment is a requirement by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for recipients of the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG). For Travis County, the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department is the administrator of CSBG funds. This needs assessment takes into account demographic and other data to illustrate the conditions and causes of poverty in Travis County. In addition, this needs assessment references secondary sources on Travis County community data, including data from the City of Austin, the Community Advancement Network (CAN), the Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Services Department, and United Way for Greater Austin.

Drawing on the work from these sources ensures that this needs assessment not only benefits from additional analysis on key trends affecting Travis County, but also provides a consistent assessment of the needs of low-income Travis County residents. As discussed further in the methodology section, the work of these organizations, among others, is included in this analysis, in addition to primary data and data pulled from Community Commons.

Key Findings

Travis County, along with the entire Austin metropolitan area, has seen dramatic growth and demographic changes in recent years. Austin was listed by Forbes magazine as the second fastest growing city in America and continues to top "best of" lists including best economy and best quality of life indicators such as the best place to raise a family. This growth has been in concert with shifts in the demographics, the economy and educational system, and the housing market – all factors that impact where and how overall poverty as well as poverty for specific sub-populations is concentrated in Travis County. A summary of the causes and conditions of poverty and identified needs in Travis County is listed below; Sections, V, VI and VII of the full report provide a detailed overview of the quantitative causes and conditions of poverty and the needs identified in the needs assessment process. Many of the causes and conditions of poverty are key findings from the Community Advancement Network (CAN) 2015 Dashboard Report.[1]

Causes and Conditions of Poverty: Demographics

- Travis County experienced population growth of over 30 percent from 2000 to 2013.
- Poverty has dramatically increased in Travis County since 2000, with an increase in poverty from 9.9 percent to 15.9 percent in 2013.
- 54 percent of the Austin metropolitan area's poor population live in neighborhoods with poverty rates of 20 percent or higher.
- Low-income households are increasingly located in outer parts of Travis County and the surrounding counties and decreasingly located in the Central City. The percentage of families with children is also decreasing in the central core.
- Children are more likely to suffer from poverty in Travis County, with one in five children under the age of 18 living in poverty. Female headed households and racial and ethnic minorities have much higher rates of poverty. In comparison, seniors have relatively low rates of poverty.

[1] CAN Dashboard 2015: Key Socioeconomic Indicators for Greater Austin and Travis County. Online at http://www.cancommunitydashboard.org/files/2015CANCommunityDashboard.pdf.

- Poverty rates may be starting to decline in the City of Austin and Travis County. According to the City of Austin Demographer, this could be due to a growing suburbanization of poverty.
- Disparities by race and ethnicity persist across many indicators, most prominently in criminal justice, but extending to health, basic needs, and education.
- More than one-third of residents have low-incomes and one out of five struggle with food insecurity. People with low-incomes fare worse across a host of community indicators, from health to education.

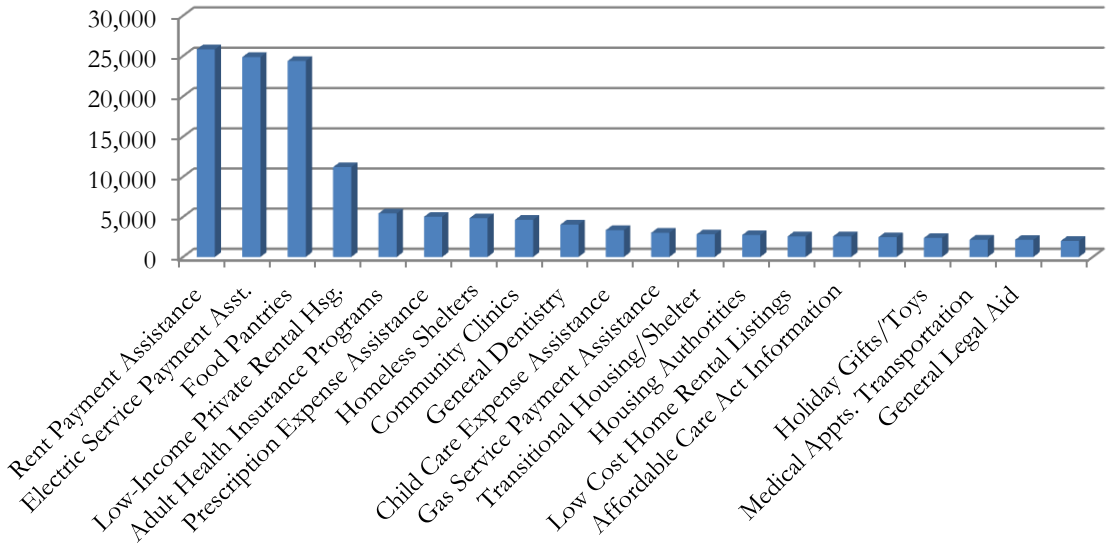
Causes and Conditions of Poverty: Economy & Educational System

- While Travis County as a whole is doing well compared to other communities in many key indicators, many people living in poverty in Travis County are not experiencing that success and are often economically segregated in low-opportunity neighborhoods without access to quality schools and employment.
- Without access to educational opportunities, low-income households will not be able to move out of poverty through better employment.
- Low-income students are not seeing adequate gains in educational attainment.
- Austin's strong economy has led the area to achieve unemployment levels that are well below those of the nation as a whole, but the top five occupations pay $31,000 per year or less.
- Local graduation and college readiness rates have improved, but only 30 percent of Central Texas high school graduates, and 13 percent of low-income graduates completed a post-secondary credential at a Texas institution of higher education within six years of finishing high school.

Causes and Conditions of Poverty: Housing

- The lack of affordable housing continues to challenge low-income households to stay in the neighborhood of their choice and African American and Hispanic households are no longer concentrated only in areas of Central and East Austin.
- Over a third of households are housing "cost-burdened," including almost half of all renter households and three-fourths of renters with annual incomes below $50,000.
- To meet current demand, the City of Austin Housing Market Study finds that Austin needs an additional 48,000 rental units affordable to people earning $25,000 or less.

Top Needs Identified by 2-1-1 Callers in Travis County, 2014



Note: The needs do not reflect callers' requests for Medicaid and SNAP benefits which were the top identified needs. Callers may report multiple needs so the number of needs listed will be slightly different from the number of callers.
Source: United Way for Greater Austin, April 2015.

II. Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

(Page 1 of 2)

Subrecipient: Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Division

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Act requires States administering this grant to secure a Community Needs Assessment from CSBG eligible entities. Subrecipients must submit this *Community Needs Assessment Results Overview* along with a *2015 CSBG Community Needs Assessment (CNA) Report* by June 30, 2015. Refer to the *Develop a CNA Report* section of this document for guidance on creating a CNA report. **.**

1. ***Community Needs Assessment Overview*** - Complete the table with the requested information for each county in the CSBG service area. **.**

#	County	* Poverty Population	# of Residents and Others** Surveyed	# Clients Surveyed	# of Community Forum Held	# of Focus Group held	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Board Members Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed
1	Travis County	15.9%	255	219	N/A	N/A	Austin City Council Members (3)	Mitchell Harrison; Angelica Noyola; Gilberto Rivera; Bettye Taylor	53 service providers surveyed
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									

* Poverty Population according to the numbers published by the Community Commons website.
** This category includes all other respondents to the survey except clients and service providers, including residents of Austin/Travis County (222 responses), local officials (2 responses), volunteers (22 responses), and other (9 responses).

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT RESULTS OVERVIEW (Page 2 of 2)

Subrecipient:

2. ***Overview of top 5 needs by type of data collection method*** - Complete the table with the requested information for each county in the CSBG service area: **.**

#	Client Surveys	Resident & Other Surveys*	Forums	Focus Group	Elected Officials/ Board Members Interviewed	Service Providers Surveyed	Quantitative Data	FINAL RANKING OF TOP NEEDS
1	1	1	N/A	N/A	2	2	4	Employment
2	4	3	N/A	N/A	1	1	2	Housing Services
3	2	2	N/A	N/A	4	5	3	Education
4	3	5	N/A	N/A	3	3	1	Basic Needs
5	5	4	N/A	N/A	5	4	5	Health

*This category includes all other respondents to the survey except clients and service providers, including residents of Austin/Travis County (222 responses), local officials (2 responses), volunteers (22 responses), and other (9 responses).

3. **Sources** utilized to obtain the **Quantitative Data** for the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) – Indicate the sources used by either checking the applicable boxes and/or providing a description: **.**

☒ The Community Commons website www.communitycommons.org

☒ Other sources. Identify the other sources that were utilized: 2-1-1 Data, CAPCOG, ACS, U.S. Census, City of Austin Demographer, Travis County HHS&VS - Research and Planning Division, Martin Prosperity Institute, Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings, City of Austin- NHCD, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, Central Texas Afterschool Network, the Kirwan Institute, ECHO, Texas A&M Real Estate Center, Marcus and Millichap, National Low-Income Housing Coalition, Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable, Community Advancement Network of Austin/Travis County, Texas A&M Transportation Institute, IRNIX Scorecard, United Way for Greater Austin, Feeding America, Texas Food Bank Network, Healthy Places – Healthy People, E3 Alliance, Ready by 21, Center for Public Policy Priorities, Texas Workforce Investment Council, Literacy in Central Texas, Greenlights for Non-Profit Success

Note: *Subrecipients that need more space than what is provided in this form may develop their own forms with the same information or add additional pages of this form.*

4. Provide the page numbers in the CNA Report where the key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs are identified, as required by CSBG Organizational Standard 3.4: **A summary of the causes and conditions of poverty can be found in Section V (pages 10-11), and the Top Identified Needs chart is located in Section XI on page 91.**

III. Introduction

The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (A/TCHHSD) serves as the Community Action Agency (CAA) for Travis County and receives federal Community Services Block Grant Funds (CSBG) funds passed through the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA) funds annually to provide services to combat poverty. A/TCHHSD utilizes CSBG funds as the primary source of support for the City's six neighborhood centers and three outreach locations. Services provided through these A/TCHHSD locations include basic needs, employment assistance and support, social work case management and preventive health. Federal regulations require CAA's to conduct needs assessments and use the results to design programs to meet community needs.

New guidelines for the Community Needs Assessment process were released by TDHCA in March 2015, and include the following requirements:

- Must be conducted every 3 years;
- Must collect current poverty data and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity;
- Must collect and analyze both qualitative and quantitative data on its service areas;
- Must include key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs;
- The governing board must formally accept the completed assessment;
- Must inform an outcome-based and anti-poverty focused Community Action Plan; and
- Customer satisfaction data and input identified should be considered in the strategic planning process.

A/TCHHSD contracted with Woollard Nichols & Associates (WNA) to support the community needs assessment process and report development.

The Austin Community Development Commission (CDC) serves as the required CSBG Governing Board for Travis County. The CDC approved the Needs Assessment plan on May 12th, 2015 and formally accepted the final completed needs assessment on June 1st, 2015.

IV. Methodology

Quantitative Analysis

In order to capture a full analysis of the causes and conditions of poverty in Travis County, multiple data sources were utilized. The report relies heavily on the use of secondary resources to help complete the quantitative picture of the causes and conditions of poverty. The primary data source for the demographics and condition in the County were pulled from Community Commons, a web-based resource created to assist Community Action Agencies to compile quantitative data and to produce maps. The Community Commons data was suggested by TDHCA to use for the report and provides a wealth of data. The Community Commons resource does not readily provide an ability to pull data by type of data source, such as an option to pull 1-Year American Community Survey data versus 5-Year estimates or to provide an option of what date to pull the data. Therefore, some of the data from Community Commons may differ slightly from other secondary sources depending on the data source.

In order to gauge the priorities and analysis done by groups and agencies that also report and analyze poverty and related conditions in the County, the team gathered a wealth of secondary resources that included reports by the Travis County Health and Human Services Department; the City of Austin Demographer, Ryan Robinson; the Community Advancement Network (CAN); and the City of Austin's Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, among others. All sources are noted throughout the report.

Qualitative Analysis

Surveys

To capture qualitative feedback on the local needs and conditions of poverty, the team conducted a community needs survey asking respondents to rank the needs of their neighborhood. The survey was administered through Survey Monkey and available to anyone residing or working in Travis County. It was available in English and Spanish. The survey was promoted through the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services web site, the Austin Monitor local news web site, as well as online through email distribution to recipients of the City's social service contracts. See the table below for a full listing of community outreach conducted during the Needs Assessment process.

The survey was available from April 17th through May 6th. In addition, paper copies were distributed in English and Spanish at the Neighborhood Centers and at times, such as during the food distribution, staff were available to help clients fill out the survey. Clients were also given the opportunity to fill out a client satisfaction survey, and service providers were asked an additional set of questions relating specifically to provision of services. 528 total survey responses were received, including responses from 219 clients, 255 residents, and 53 service providers. Survey respondents were widespread geographically, indicating responses from 30 zip codes in Travis County. According the sample size calculator recommended by TDHCA, with a recommended 5 percent margin of error, 90 percent confidence level, and 50 percent response distribution, the minimum sample size was 271[2]. Based on the 528 total survey responses received, the actual confidence level was between 95 and 99 percent.

[2] According to results at www.raosoft.com/samplesize.hmtl. Date retrieved: May 22, 2015.

CSBG Needs Assessment Outreach

Meetings
Colony Park Neighborhood Association Meeting: Monday, April 20, 2015
Restore Rundberg Meeting: Thursday, April 23, 2015
Southeast Contact Team Meeting: Tuesday, April 28, 2015
Social Media
Health and Human Services Department Web site
Austin Council Member Ora Houston's Web page
Next Door Social Network Posting – 12 neighborhoods throughout Austin
St. John Neighborhood Association Webpage
Neighborhood Associations and Other Groups Contacted
East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning Team
Govalle/Johnston Terrace Neighborhood
Rosewood Neighborhood Contact Team
Galindo Elementary Neighborhood Association
Montopolis Community Alliance
Montopolis Neighborhood Association
LBJ Neighborhood Association
Pecan Springs/Springdale Hill neighborhoods
University Hills neighborhood
Windsor Park Neighborhood Contact Team
Windsor Park Neighborhood Association
Austin Neighborhood Councils East
Mendez Family Resource Center
River City Youth Foundation
Surveys Conducted During Distributions Held in Partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank
Turner Roberts Recreation Center (Colony Park)
South Austin Neighborhood Center
Montopolis Neighborhood Center
Rosewood-Zaragosa Neighborhood Center
St. John Community Center
Dove Springs Recreation Center
East Austin Neighborhood Center
Blackland Neighborhood Center

Key Informant Interviews

To round out the surveys and quantitative data, the team conducted key informant interviews with four members of the Austin Community Development Commission representing geographic areas of poverty. In addition, three Austin City Council members were interviewed.

Report Development

The needs assessment report was compiled during the months of May and April incorporating the data from the above sources. The Community Development Commission approved the Needs Assessment Plan and discussed preliminary findings on May 12, 2015, and approved the final Needs Assessment on June 1, 2015.

V. Overview of the Causes and Conditions of Poverty in Travis County

Travis County, along with the entire Austin metropolitan area, has seen dramatic growth and demographic changes in recent years. Austin was listed by Forbes magazine as the second fastest growing city in America and continues to top "best of" lists including best economy and best quality of life indicators such as the best place to raise a family. This growth has been in concert with shifts in the demographics, the economy and educational system, and the housing market – all factors that impact where and how overall poverty as well as poverty for specific sub-populations is concentrated in Travis County. A summary of these causes and conditions of poverty in Travis County is listed below; the section that follows provides a more detailed overview of the quantitative causes and conditions of poverty compiled through the needs assessment process.

Causes and Conditions of Poverty: Demographics

- Travis County experienced population growth of over 30 percent from 2000 to 2013.
- Poverty has dramatically increased in Travis County since 2000, with an increase in poverty from 9.9 percent to 15.9 percent in 2013.
- 52 percent of the Austin metropolitan area's poor population live in neighborhoods with poverty rates of 20 percent or higher.
- Low-income households are increasingly located in outer parts of Travis County and the surrounding counties and decreasingly located in the Central City. The percentage of families with children is also decreasing in the central core.
- Children are more likely to suffer from poverty in Travis County, with one in five children under the age of 18 living in poverty. Female headed households and racial and ethnic minorities have much higher rates of poverty. In comparison, seniors have relatively low rates of poverty.
- Poverty rates may be starting to decline in the City of Austin and Travis County. According to the City of Austin Demographer, this could be due to a growing suburbanization of poverty.
- Disparities by race and ethnicity persist across many indicators, most prominently in criminal justice, but extending to health, basic needs, and education.
- More than one-third of residents have low-incomes and one out of five struggle with food insecurity. People with low-incomes fare worse across a host of community indicators, from health to education.

Causes and Conditions of Poverty: Economy & Educational System

- While Travis County as a whole is doing well compared to other communities in many key indicators, many people living in poverty in Travis County are not experiencing that success and are often economically segregated in low-opportunity neighborhoods without access to quality schools and employment.
- Without access to educational opportunities, low-income households will not be able to move out of poverty through better employment.
- Low-income students are not seeing adequate gains in educational attainment.
- Austin's strong economy has led the area to achieve unemployment levels that are well below those of the nation as a whole, but the top five occupations pay $31,000 per year or less.

- Local graduation and college readiness rates have improved, but only 30 percent of Central Texas high school graduates, and 13 percent of low-income graduates completed a post-secondary credential at a Texas institution of higher education within six years of finishing high school.

Causes and Conditions of Poverty: Housing

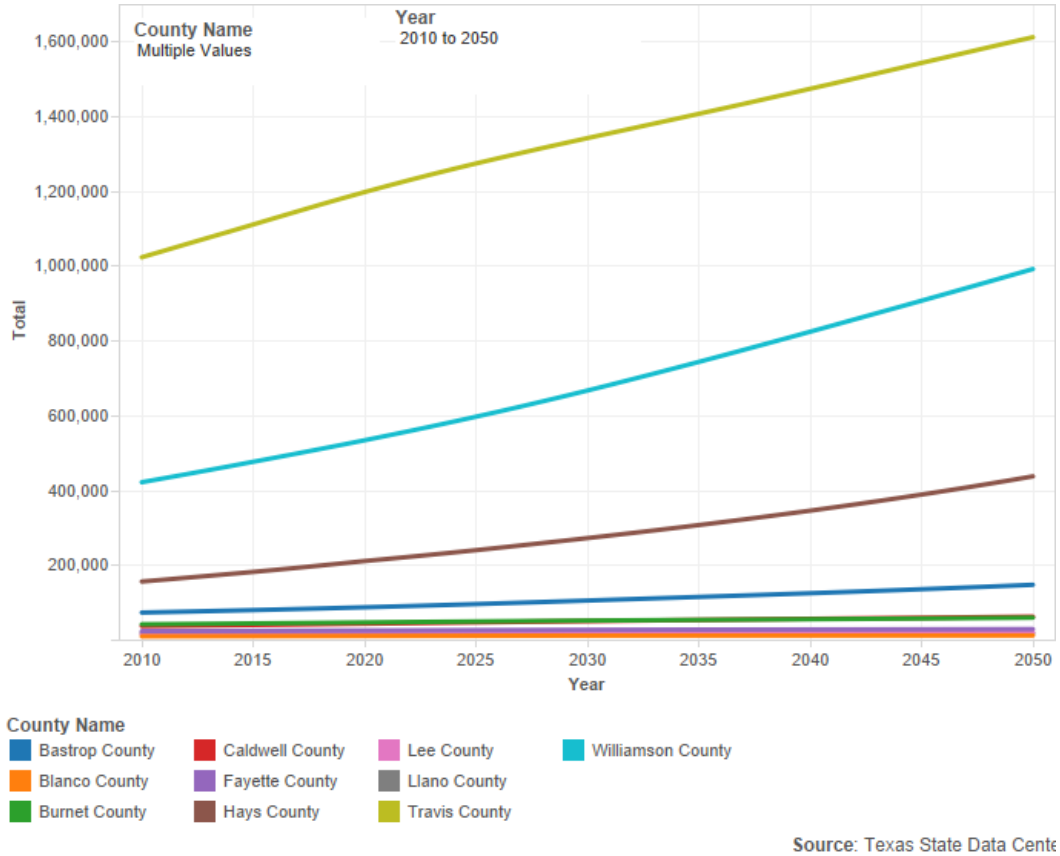
- The lack of affordable housing continues to challenge low-income households to stay in the neighborhood of their choice and African American and Hispanic households are no longer concentrated only in areas of Central and East Austin.
- Over a third of households are housing "cost-burdened," including almost half of all renter households and three-fourths of renters with annual incomes below $50,000.
- To meet current demand, the City of Austin Housing Market Study finds that Austin needs an additional 48,000 rental units affordable to people earning $25,000 or less.

Travis County Demographic Overview

Population Profile

Travis County has had a population growth of over 30 percent from 2000 to 2013. While Travis County has a smaller percentage of seniors than Texas, or the U.S., the population of those age 65 and over is the fastest growing population in the County followed by those age 45 to 64.

Figure V – 1, Population Growth Forecast by County (2010-2050)

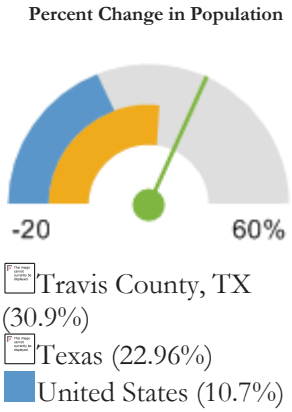


Created By: Capital Area Council of Governments, Central Texas Regional Data, pulled April 21, 2015, http://www.capcog.org/data-maps-and-reports/central-texas-regional-data/

Population Change from 2000 to 2013

	Total Population, 2013 ACS	Total Population, 2000 Census	Population Change from 2000-2013 Census/ACS	Percent Change from 2000-2013 Census/ACS
Travis County, TX	1,063,248	812,280	250,968	**30.9%**
Texas	25,639,372	20,851,820	4,787,552	22.96%
United States	311,536,591	281,421,906	30,114,685	10.7%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



Geographic Distribution

Urban and Rural Population 2010

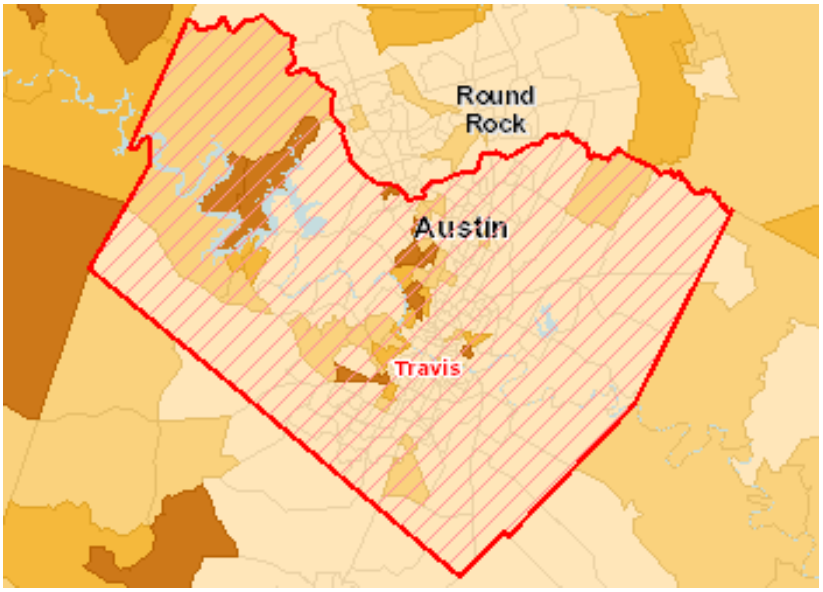
This indicator reports the percentage of population living in urban and rural areas. Urban areas are identified using population density, count, and size thresholds. Urban areas also include territory with a high degree of impervious surface (development). Rural areas are all areas that are not urban. Travis County, compared to other counties and the U.S., contains very little area designated as rural.

Report Area	Total Population	Urban Population	Rural Population	Percent Urban	Percent Rural
Travis County, TX	1,024,266	968,305	55,961	94.54%	5.46%
Texas	25,145,561	21,298,039	3,847,522	84.7%	15.3%
United States	312,471,327	252,746,527	59,724,800	80.89%	19.11%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. Source geography: Tract
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Geographic Distribution by Age

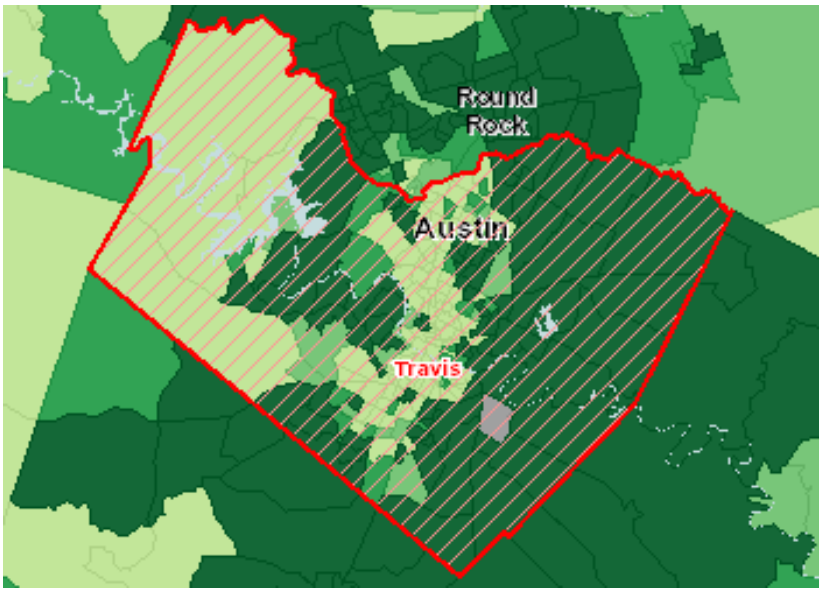
The location of seniors and family households are almost opposite of each other, with seniors being located primarily in west Travis County and families located primarily in East, Far West, and Southwest portions of the County.



Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Figure V-2, Population Age 65 , Percent by Tract, ACS 2009-13

- Over 20.0%
- 16.1 - 20.0%
- 12.1 - 16.0%
- Under 12.1%
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Area



Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Figure V – 3, Households with Children (Age 0-17), Percent by Tract, ACS 2009-13

- Over 35.0%
- 31.6 - 35.0%
- 28.1 - 31.5%
- Under 28.1%
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Area

Household/Family Type

Travis County has fewer families with children under age 18 than the Texas or the U.S average. The number of households with children continues to decrease in Travis County, with a decrease from 32.23 percent of total households in 2009 to 31.25 percent in 2013.[3] In 2013, the City of Austin had only a 28.3 percent of households with children, fewer than the County as a whole, and much less than in previous decades.[4] In 1970, according to the City of Austin's Demographer, the City of Austin had 38.2 percent of households with children, which is closer to the Texas average today.[5]

Family Households with Children, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

Report Area	Total Households	Total Family Households	Family Households with Children (Under Age 18)	Family Households with Children (Under Age 18), Percent of Total Households
Travis County, TX	411,876	237,213	128,704	31.25%
Texas	8,886,471	6,206,755	3,392,748	38.18%
United States	115,610,216	76,744,360	37,741,108	32.65%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: Tract
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Age Distribution

From 2000 to 2008, the fastest growing age groups in Travis County were people ages 45 to 64 and those under the age of 18. From 2009 to 2013, the population of those under the age of 18 is one of the slowest growing populations and the growth of those between the ages of 45 to 64 have also slowed, but continue to make up a large amount of growth. Travis County has seen an increase in young adults, with 14 percent growth rate between 2009 to 2013, compared to a negative growth rate from 2000 to 2008.[6]

Total Population by Age Groups, Percent, 2009-13 5 Year Estimate

Report Area	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65
Travis County, TX	7.24%	16.41%	11.72%	19.18%	15.39%	12.82%	9.64%	7.61%
Texas	7.55%	19.46%	10.27%	14.39%	13.69%	13.4%	10.56%	10.67%
United States	6.44%	17.28%	9.97%	13.39%	13.12%	14.29%	12.08%	13.43%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

[3] American Community Survey, Table B11005, 2005-09
[4] American Community Survey, Table B11005, 2009-13
[5] City of Austin, Ryan Robinson, http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Planning/share-families-w-children.pdf
[6] Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service, Research and Planning Division, Snapshot from the American Community Survey, 2008 and 2013, https://www.traviscountytx.gov/images/health_human_services/Docs/2013-ACS_Final.pdf

Growth in Population by Age, Travis County, 2009-2013				
	2009	2013	Growth	Percent Change
Under 18	246,455	261,404	14,949	6%
18 to 24	102,985	117,803	14,818	14%
25 to 44	388,906	395,706	6,800	2%
45 to 64	217,417	254,933	37,516	17%
65 and over	70,395	91,108	20,713	29%
Total	1,026,158	1,120,954	94,796	9%

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2014 Source data: 2009 & 2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B01001

Household Income and Poverty

Household Income

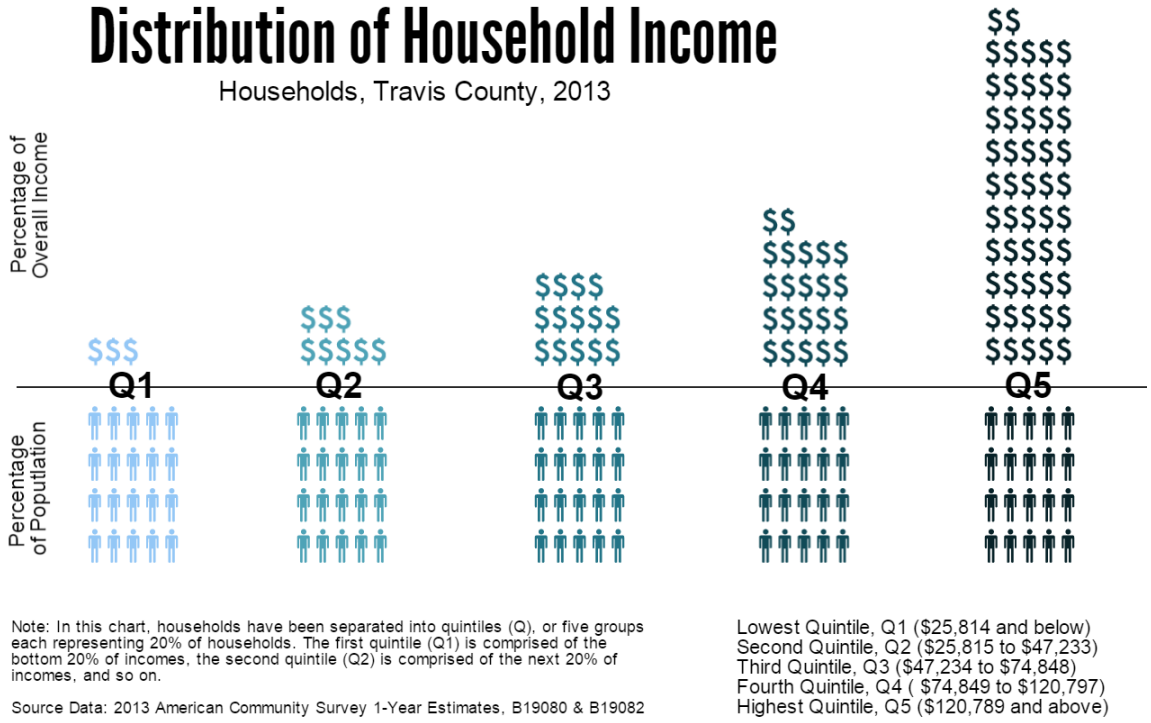
Travis County has a higher median household income than Texas or the U.S. An analysis done by Travis County HHS/VS, Research and Planning Division, shown in Figure V-4, shows that over 50 percent of household income is earned by the top 20 percent of earners.[7] This control of income by the highest income households demonstrates the income disparity in the County, with those that make the lowest 20 percent of incomes only earning 3 percent of the total household income in the County.

Household Income, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

Report Area	Median Household Income
Travis County, TX	$60,372
Texas	$51,714
United States	$52,250

Note: Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Figure V-4



[7] Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service, Research and Planning Division, Snapshot from the American Community Survey, 2013, https://www.traviscountytx.gov/images/health_human_services/Docs/2013-ACS_Final.pdf

Poverty

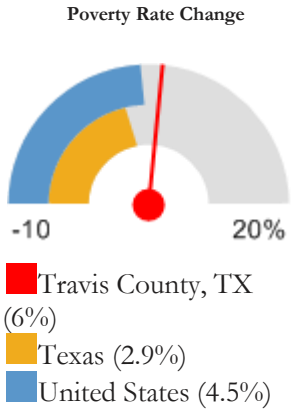
Travis County had a six percent increase in Poverty from 2000 to 2013. However, the poverty rate has decreased from the 2012 rate of 18 percent.[8] While this could be seen as good news, those living in poverty may be leaving the County due to growing unaffordability. The Austin Metro area was recently rated by the Martin Prosperity Institute as the most economically segregated large Metro area in America.[9] This economic segregation is demonstrated by concentrations of income and poverty in parts of the County that are generally not located in areas of employment or educational opportunity.

Poverty Rate Change

Poverty rate change in the report area from 2000 to 2013 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 6%, compared to a national increase of 4.5%.

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2000	Poverty Rate 2000	Persons in Poverty 2013	Poverty Rate 2013	Poverty Rate Change 2000-2013
Travis County, TX	82,249	9.9%	174,374	15.9%	**6%**
Texas	3,041,109	14.6%	4,531,419	17.5%	2.9%
United States	63,160,498	11.3%	97,615,778	15.8%	4.5%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



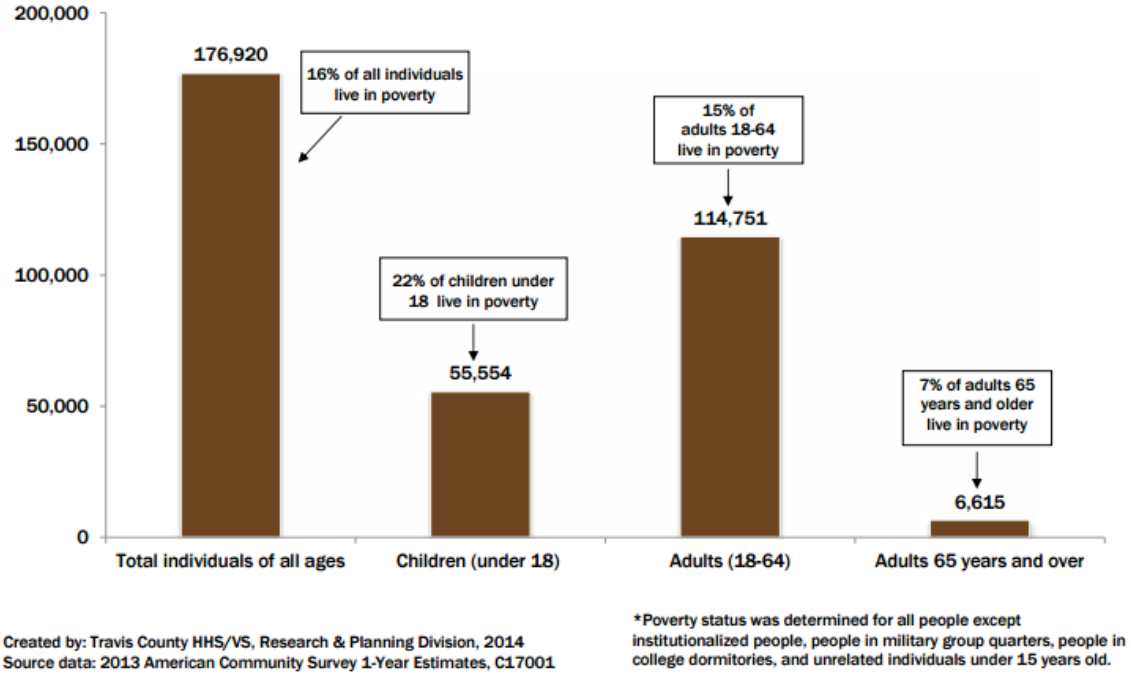
Households in Poverty

Poverty impacts children in Travis County the hardest with 22 percent of children under 18 living in poverty. Seniors in Travis County have the lowest rate of poverty. Travis County has four times the number of female headed households in poverty than male headed households. Hispanics and African Americans have much higher rates of poverty as well. According to the Travis County HHS/VS, Research and Planning Division, 2014 Community Impact Report, another indicator of estimating the basic cost of living is the Better Texas Family Budget tool developed by the Center for Public Policy Priorities. According to this tool, households in the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos metropolitan area need incomes at least double the poverty threshold to make ends meet.[10] The Community Impact Report also looked at asset poverty and liquid asset poverty for the County. Asset poverty refers to a household's asset, such as a home or business, taking into account debt and

[8] U.S Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2012
[9] Insight: Segregated City, Richard Florida and Charlotta Mellander, Martin Prosperity Institute, http://martinprosperity.org/content/insight-segregated-city/
[10] Travis County HHS/VS, Research and Planning Division, Food & Transportation 2014 Community Impact Report, https://www.traviscountytx.gov/images/health_human_services/Docs/cir-2014/Food-Transportation.pdf.

savings. Liquid poverty refers to the number of households that have three months of savings. The Report found that in Texas, about 26 percent of Texans are asset poor and 50 percent are liquid asset poor.[11]

Figure V-5, Poverty Status by Age, Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined, Travis County 2013 (n=1,096,344)

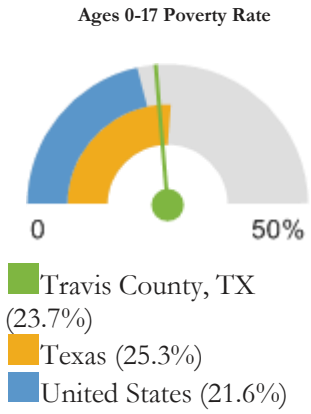


Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0-17, 2009 – 2013

Population and poverty estimates for children age 0-17 are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey 5 year data, an average of 23.7 percent of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is greater than the national average of 21.6 percent. According to Travis County HHS/VS, Research and Planning Division, in 2008, the one-year estimates showed that children had a poverty rate of 19 percent in Travis County, compared to 22 percent according to the one-year estimate for 2013. The one-year estimate shows a slightly lower poverty rate than the 5-year estimate.

Report Area	Ages 0-17 Total Population	Ages 0-17 In Poverty	Ages 0-17 Poverty Rate
Travis County, TX	248,417	58,979	23.7
Texas	6,840,903	1,727,801	25.3
United States	72,748,616	15,701,799	21.6

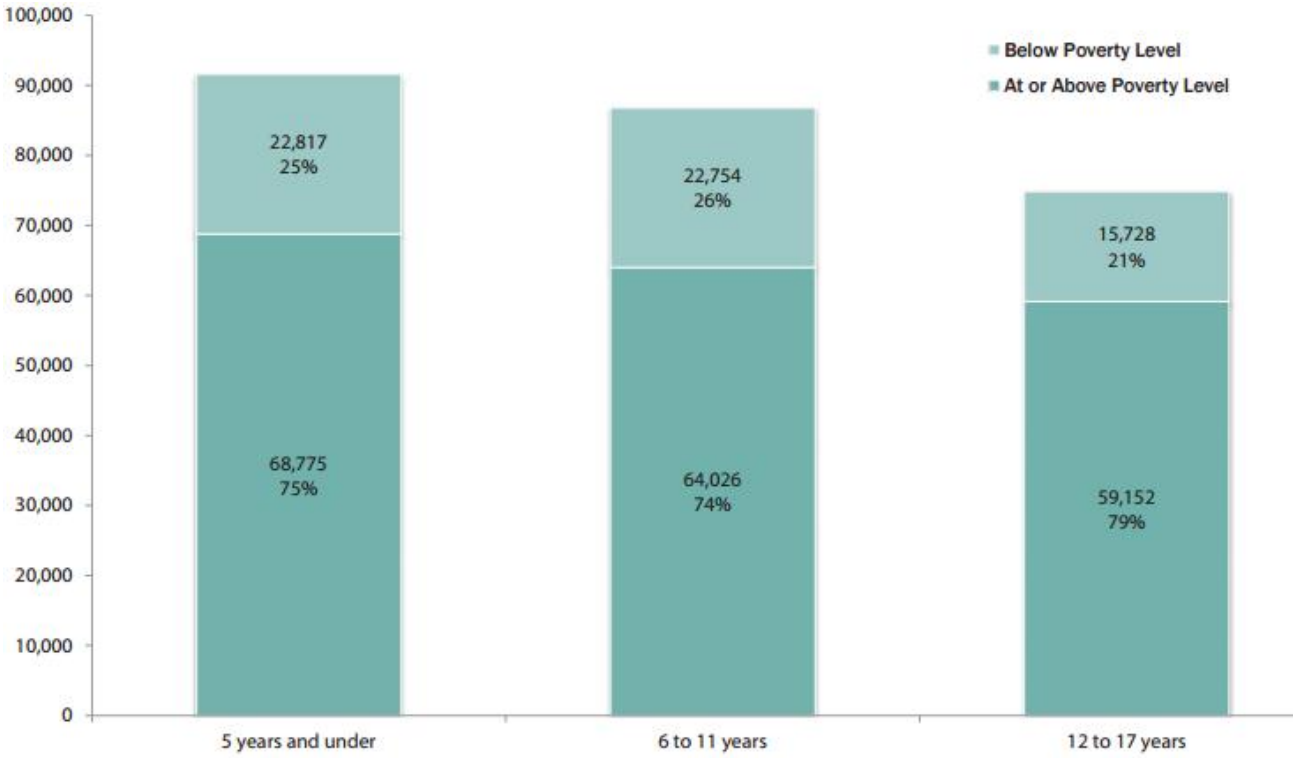
Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



[11] Travis County HHS/VS, Research and Planning Division, Food & Transportation 2014 Community Impact Report, https://www.traviscountytx.gov/images/health_human_services/Docs/cir-2014/Food-Transportation.pdf.

The chart below illustrates how poverty in Travis County impacts the yougest members the hardest, with one in four children under the age of 11 living in poverty in the County.

Figure V-6, Poverty Status by Age, Population under 18 years Travis County, 2011 – 2013 (n=253,252)

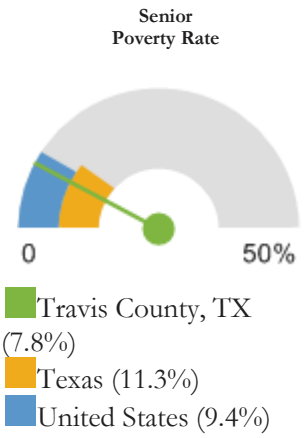


Seniors in Poverty, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

Poverty rates for seniors (persons age 65 and over) are shown below. According to American Community Survey estimates, there were 6,113 seniors, or 7.8 percent, living in poverty within the report area. The American Community Survey one-year estimate shows a slightly lower poverty rate for 2013 of seven percent. According to Travis County HHS/VS, the poverty rate for seniors decreased slightly from 2008, with a one-year estimate of 8 percent to 2013 the number of seniors in poverty decreasing to 7 percent.

Report Area	Seniors Total	Seniors in Poverty	Senior Poverty Rate
Travis County, TX	78,684	6,113	7.8
Texas	2,652,550	299,125	11.3
United States	40,544,640	3,793,577	9.4

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



Households in Poverty by Family Type, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

The number of households in poverty by type are shown in the report area. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there were 28,848 households living in poverty within the report area.

Report Area	Total Households	Households in Poverty Total	Households in Poverty Married Couples	Households in Poverty Male Householder	Households in Poverty Female Householder
Travis County, TX	237,213	28,848	10,627	3,277	14,944
Texas	6,206,755	850,741	351,896	75,914	422,931
United States	76,744,360	8,666,630	3,148,540	923,063	4,595,027

Note: Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Poverty by Gender, Race and Ethnicity

Females are slightly more likely to live in poverty in Travis County than males. Hispanic households have the a high percentage of people living in poverty with over 28 percent living in poverty, compared to less than 12 percent of non-Hispanics. Black, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and Other Races also have a high percentage of the population living in poverty as well.

Population in Poverty by Gender, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

Report Area	Total Male	Total Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Travis County, TX	85,696	95,835	16.31%	18.55%
Texas	1,984,244	2,432,585	16.1%	19.14%
United States	20,955,836	25,707,598	14.11%	16.57%

Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Population in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

Report Area	Total Hispanic / Latino	Total Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Hispanic / Latino	Percent Not Hispanic / Latino
Travis County, TX	99,151	82,380	28.24%	11.92%
Texas	2,505,875	1,910,954	26.29%	12.33%
United States	12,507,866	34,155,568	24.66%	13.5%

Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

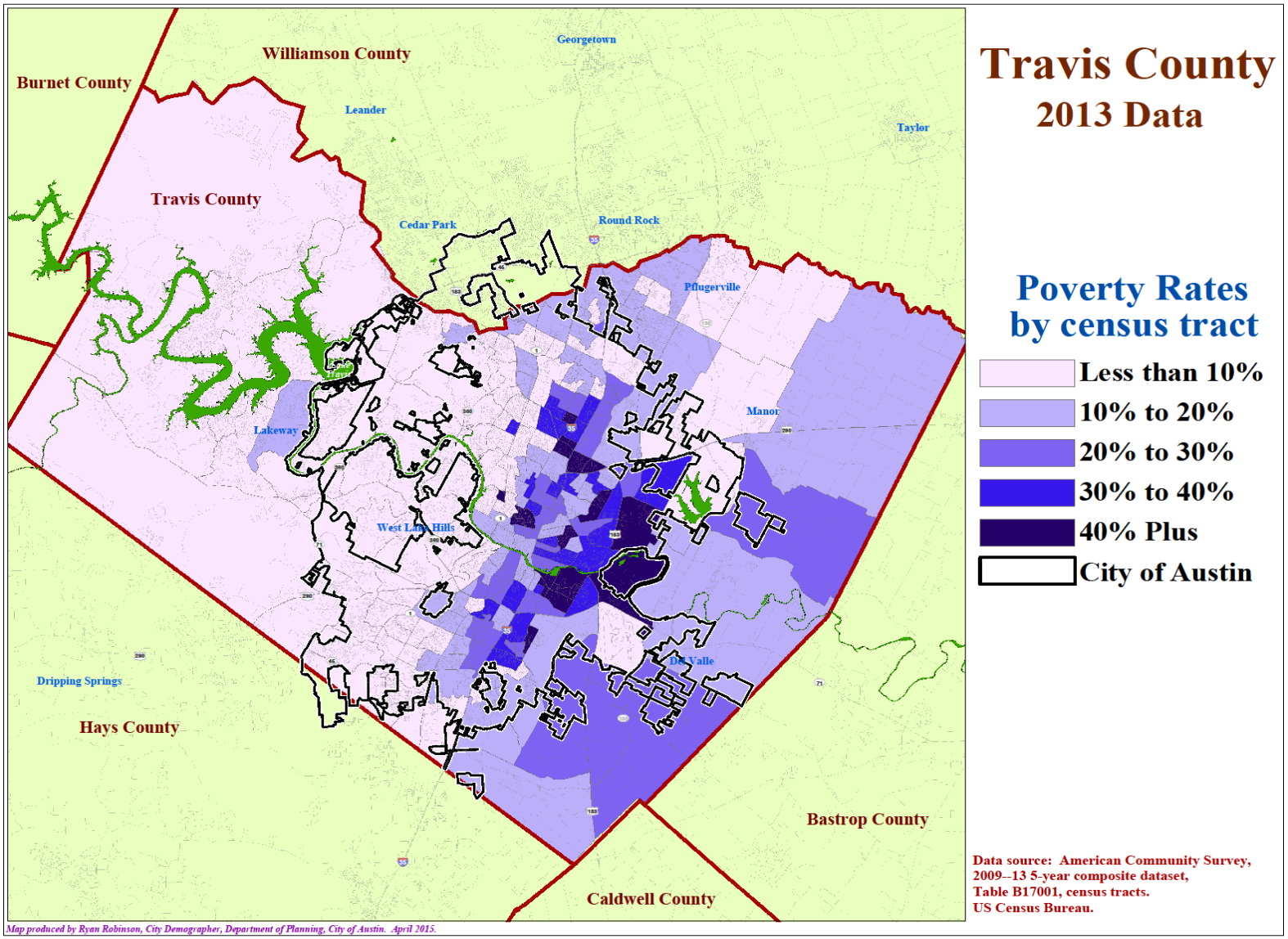
Population in Poverty by Race Alone, Percent, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

Report Area	White	Black or African American	Native American / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Travis County, TX	15.28%	23.35%	18.73%	15.35%	23.14%	31.28%	18.83%
Texas	16.02%	24.17%	22.21%	12.04%	18.91%	26.9%	18.17%
United States	12.53%	27.13%	28.56%	12.53%	19.58%	26.82%	20.06%
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background							

Location of Poverty

Poverty forms a crescent around the eastern side of Travis County with the majority of high areas of poverty East of I-35. While central East Austin still has some poverty, poverty concentrations have moved out of the central city to east of 183, Southeast Austin, and North and Northeast Austin.

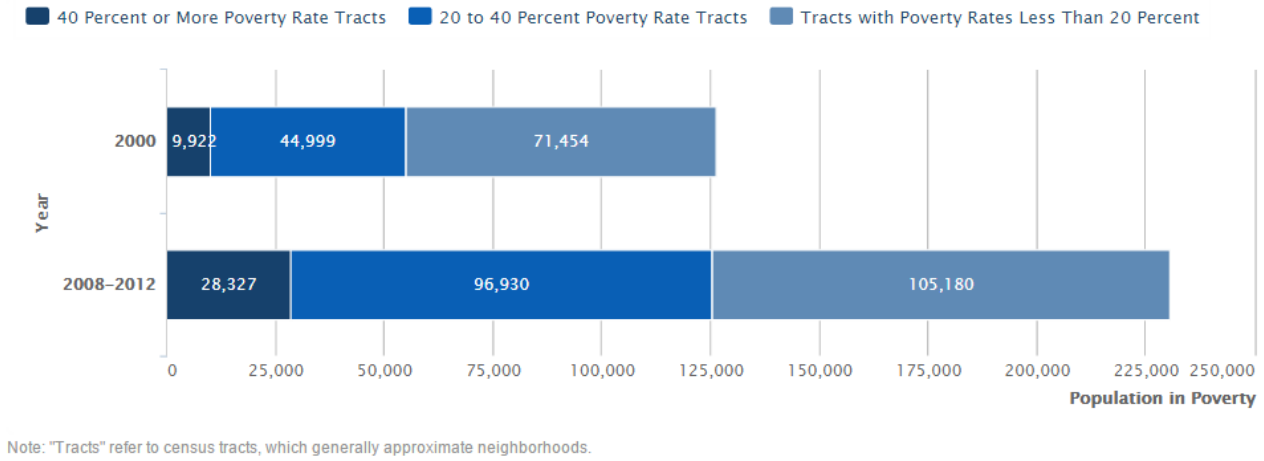
Figure V-7, Poverty Rates by Census Tract – Travis County, 2013 Data



Concentrations of Poverty

The Brookings Institute found that 54 percent of the Austin metropolitan area's poor population live in neighborhoods with poverty rates of 20 percent or higher.[12]

Figure V-8, Persons in Poverty in High-Poverty and Distressed Neighborhoods, Austin Metro Area



Created By: Brookings Institute, Date Pulled: May 12, 2015, http://www.brookings.edu/research/interactives/2014/concentrated-poverty#/M12420

Low-Income Sprawl

Travis County is one county in a larger metropolitan area. Low-income households are increasingly located in the outer parts of Travis County and surrounding suburbs. A study done by the Brookings Institute found for the Austin metropolitan area that the number of poor people increased by 142.5 percent in the suburbs from 2000 to 2011, compared to 76.6 percent in the City. However, the poverty rate in the suburbs is still substantially lower than the City, with the suburbs having a 10.9 percent poverty rate, compared to 20.3 percent poverty rate in the City in 2011. [13]

The Brookings Institute found the following were driving factors for poverty trends in the Austin Metro Area:

- Suburban Population Growth - The suburbs had a large population growth compared to the City, with an 18.3 percent growth in the city from 2000 to 2010 compared to a 57.2 percent growth in the suburbs during that time.
- The Economy – The suburbs saw a growth in unemployed population from 17,048 in 2007 to 34,998 in 2010.
- Immigration – The suburbs saw an increase in foreign-born poor, from 12.9 percent share in 2000 to 18.4 percent share in 2010.
- Housing – The number of Housing Choice Vouchers used in the suburbs grew from 33.6 percent in 2000 to 40.9 percent in 2008.

According to the Brookings Institute, the implications of this change in the Austin Metro area include the following:

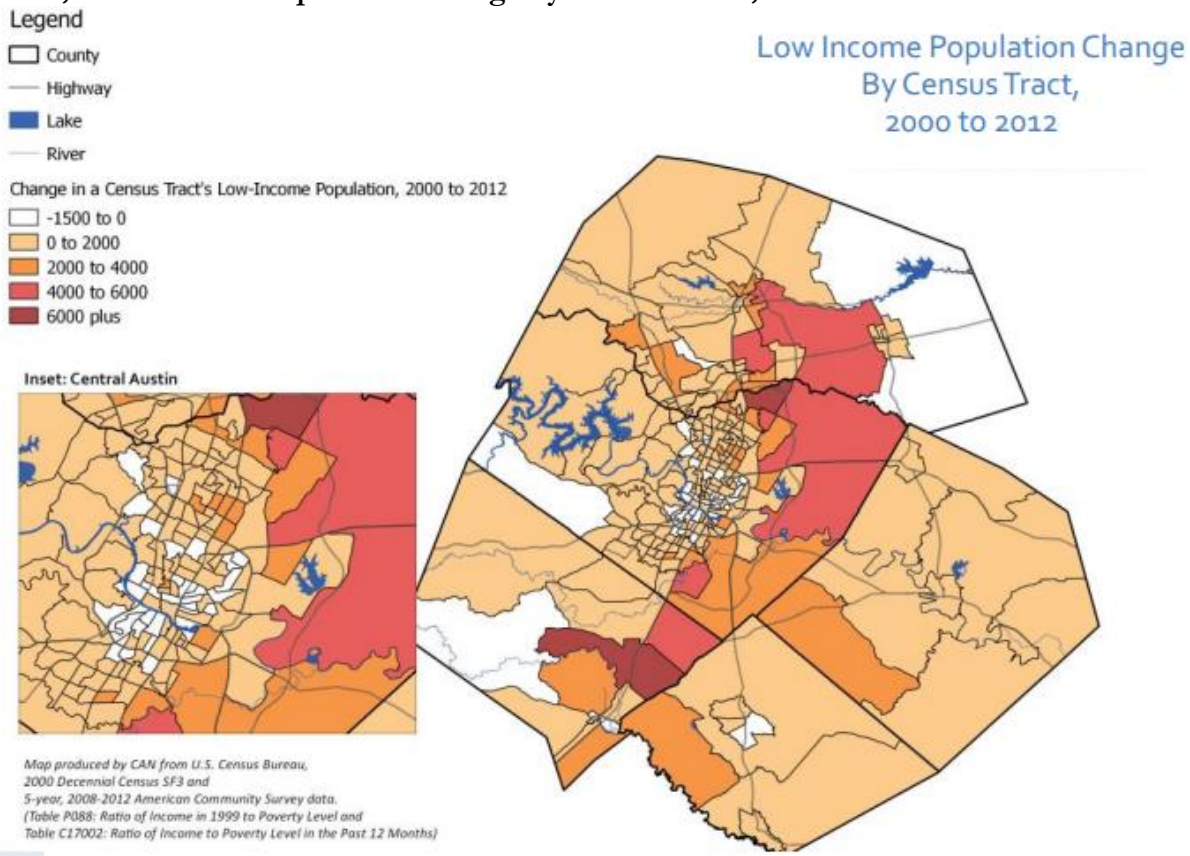
[12] Brookings Institute, The Growth and Spread of Concentrated Poverty, 2000 to 2008-2012, By: Elizabeth Kneebone, http://www.brookings.edu/research/interactives/2014/concentrated-poverty#/M12420

[13] Confronting Suburban Poverty in America, Austin,TX Metro Area Profile, Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings, http://confrontingsuburbanpoverty.org/wp-content/uploads/metro-profiles/Austin-TX.pdf

- Schools – The number of students eligible for free and reduced lunch grew 56 percent in the suburbs from the 2005-06 school year to the 2009-10 school year. The number of students eligible for free and reduced lunch in the City grew 24.9 percent during the same time period.
- Transportation – Only 49.2 percent of low-income suburban residents have transit access and only 11.9 percent of low-income suburban residents have jobs accessible via transit within 90 minutes.[14]

CAN's 2014 Community Dashboard report shows that low-income households are increasingly found in outlying areas of the County as well as surrounding Counties and decreasing in central Travis County. The surbanization of low-income households is a national trend. The Brookings Institute, in 2010, produced a report that found that by 2008, suburbs were home to the largest and fastest-growing poor population in the country, growing at three times the rate of urban poverty.[15]

Figure V-9, Low-Income Population Change by Census Tract, 2000 to 2012



Created By: Community Advancement Network, Dashboard 2014

[14] Confronting Suburban Poverty in America, Austin, TX Metro Area Profile, Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings, http://confrontingsuburbanpoverty.org/wp-content/uploads/metro-profiles/Austin-TX.pdf

[15] Brookings Institute, The Growth and Spread of Concentrated Poverty, 2000 to 2008-2012, By: Elizabeth Kneebone, http://www.brookings.edu/research/interactives/2014/concentrated-poverty#/M12420

Race/Ethnicity Demographics

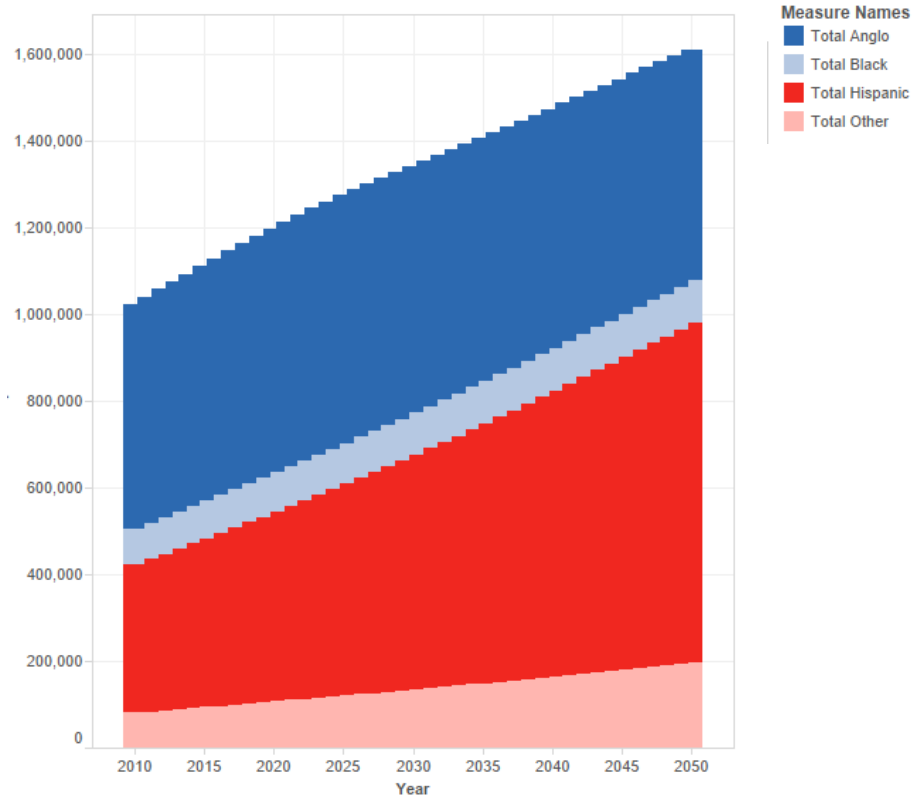
Travis County's non-Hispanic white population is 50 percent of the total County population, but is expected to decrease as a percentage of the whole as the population grows. The County's African American population is anticipated to not increase substantially, while much of the County's growth is expected to come from growth in the number of Hispanic, Asian, and other minority households.

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin
Travis County, Texas & U.S., 2013

	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Non-Hispanic White	50%	44%	62%
Hispanic or Latino	34%	38%	17%
Non-Hispanic Black	8%	12%	12%
Non-Hispanic Asian	6%	4%	5%
Non-Hispanic Other Race/Two or More Races	3%	2%	3%

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2014 Source: 2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B03002

Figure V-10, Travis County, Population Forecasts by Race/Ethnicity (2010 – 2050)



Created By: Capital Area Council of Governments, Central Texas Regional Data, pulled April 21, 2015, http://www.capcog.org/data-maps-and-reports/central-texas-regional-data/, Source: Texas State Data Center

While change is predicted for the racial and ethnic composition in Travis County in the future, the County did not see particularly big shifts in composition from 2008 to 2013. In 2008, for instance, the Non-Hispanic White population was 51.5 percent of the population compared to 50 percent in 2013. The Hispanic population was 32.9 percent in 2008, and is 34 percent in 2013.[16]

[16] Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service, Research and Planning Division, Snapshot from the American Community Survey, 2008 and 2013, https://www.traviscountytx.gov/health-human-services/research-planning/snapshot

The City of Austin's Draft 2014 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice found that racial and ethnic minorities are sometimes migrating out of historically segregated parts of central Austin. A survey found the following reasons why families said they had moved from Austin and the number one reason was affordability.[17]

Primary Reasons Racial and Ethnic Minorities are Moving out of Austin, 2014

	Affordability	Schools	Traffic	Taxes
African American families (n=20)	60%	40%	15%	5%
Hispanic families (n=57)	51%	21%	7%	7%
All non-White families (n=79)	66%	30%	11%	9%
White families (n=116)	59%	29%	9%	9%

Note: Numbers add to greater than 100% due to multiple response.
There were too few Asian families to report.

Source: BBC Research & Consulting from the Austin Housing Choice Survey.

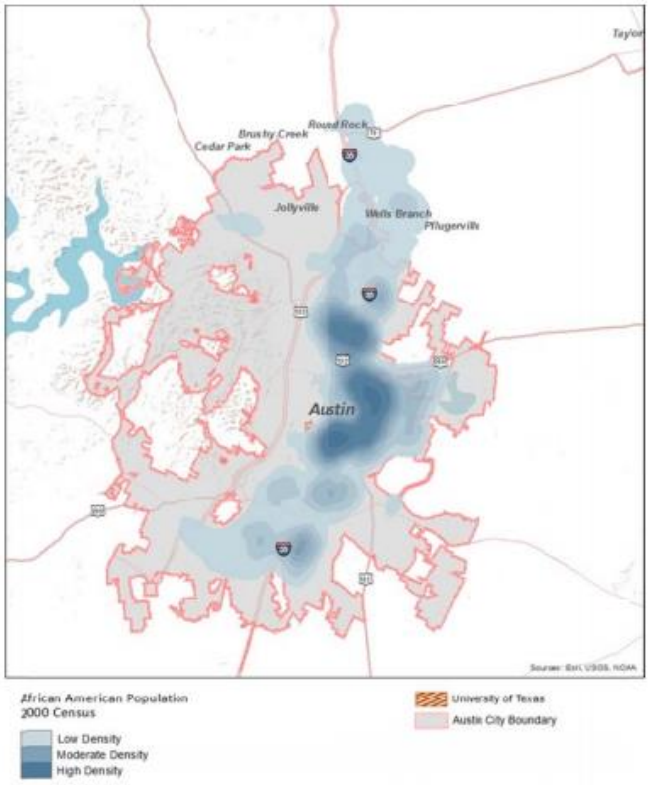
Created By: City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, December 19, 2014, https://austintexas.gov/page/reports-publications, Section II, page 5.

[17] City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, December 19, 2014, https://austintexas.gov/page/reports-publications, Section II, page 4.

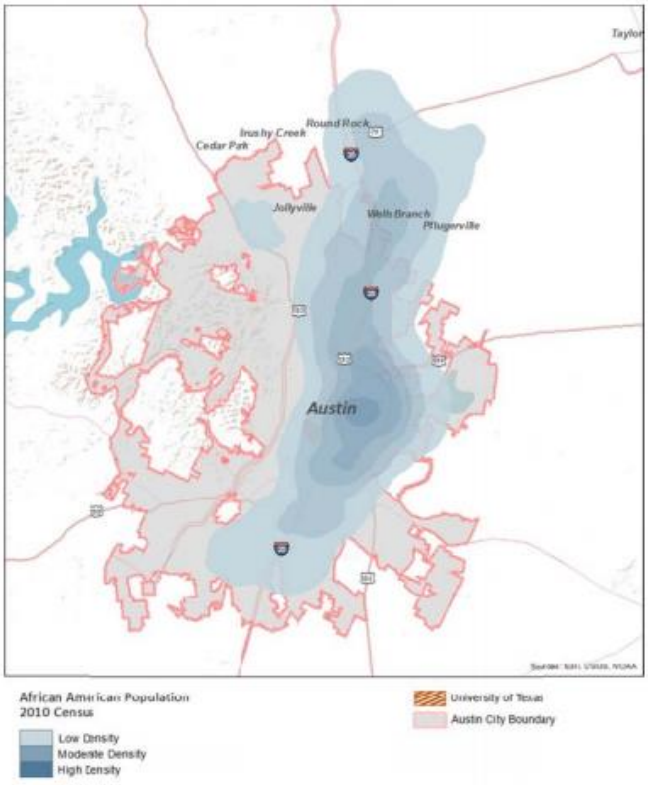
Locations of Race and Ethnicity over Time

The City of Austin's Draft 2014 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing found that African American households have become less concentrated in East Austin and have migrated further north. The same analysis found that Hispanic households have migrated further north and south, but their concentration in central and southeastern part of Austin have remained.

Figure V – 11, Where African American Residents Lived, Austin and Region 2000 (on Left)
Figure V – 12, Where African American Residents Lived, Austin and Region 2010 (on Right)



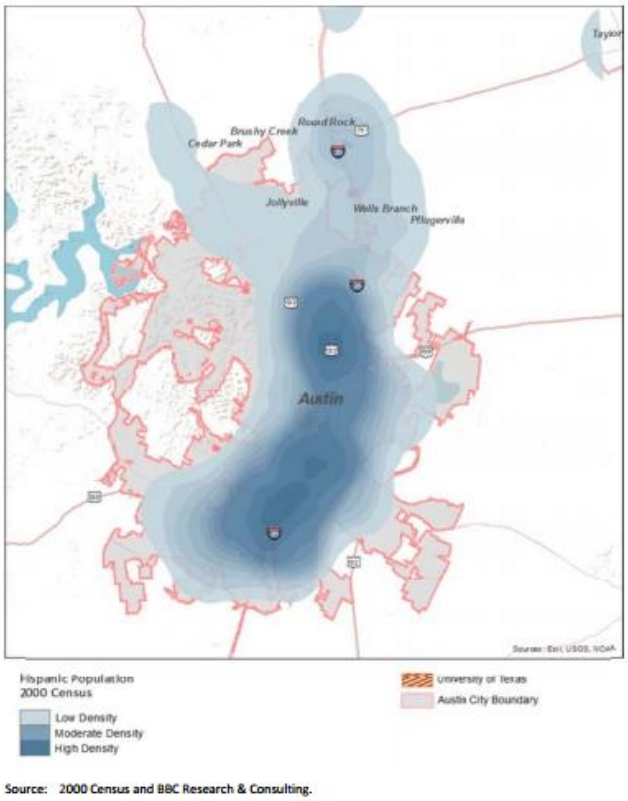
Source: 2000 Census and BBC Research & Consulting.

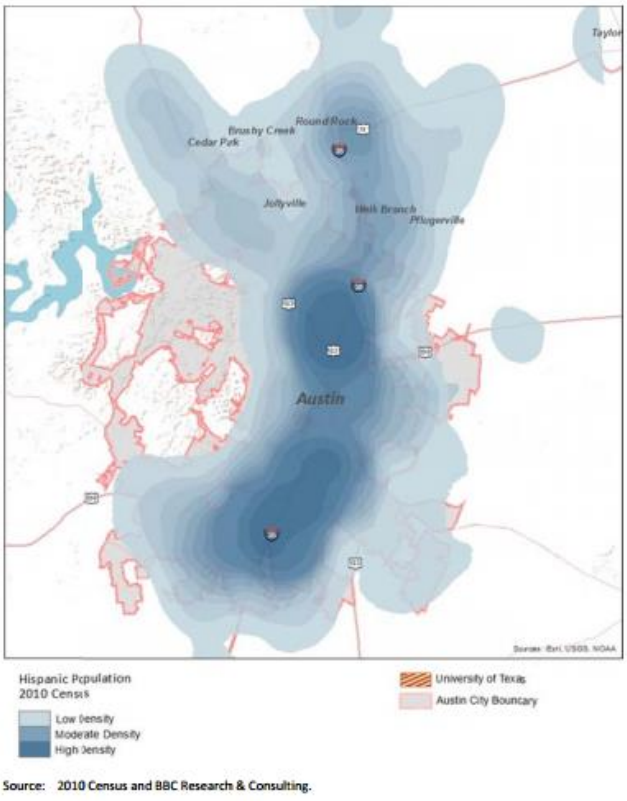


Source: 2010 Census and BBC Research & Consulting.

Maps Created By: City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, December 19, 2014, https://austintexas.gov/page/reports-publications

Figure V – 13, Where Hispanic Residents Lived, Austin and Region 2000 (on Left)
Figure V – 14, Where Hispanic Residents Lived, Austin and Region 2010 (on Right)





Maps Created By: City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, December 19, 2014, https://austintexas.gov/page/reports-publications

Family Households with Children by Ethnicity Alone, 2009-13 5 Year Estimate

Report Area	Total Hispanic / Latino	Total Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Hispanic / Latino	Percent Not Hispanic / Latino
Travis County, TX	49,655	78,862	68.74%	47.8%
Texas	1,415,547	1,965,502	68.11%	47.61%
United States	7,195,881	30,405,692	67.82%	45.98%
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background				

Family Households with Children by Race Alone, Percent, 2009-13 5 Year Estimate

Report Area	White	Black or African American	Native American / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Travis County, TX	51.39%	61.01%	56.59%	57.92%	64.18%	69.39%	61.72%
Texas	51.88%	60.74%	58.48%	59.37%	64.2%	69.99%	60.89%
United States	45.52%	59.76%	60.09%	54.52%	66.04%	71.42%	61.02%

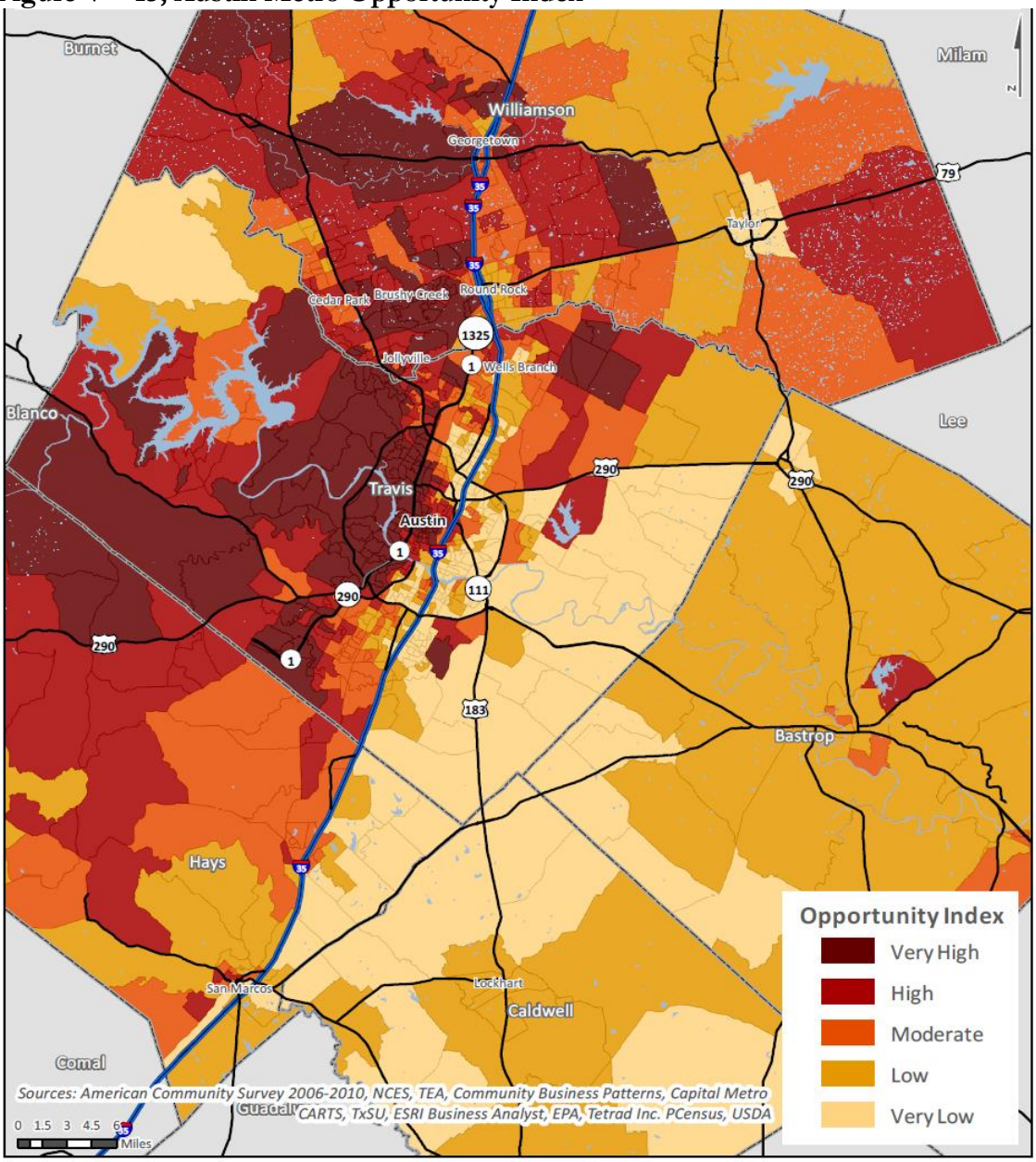
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Location of Geographic Opportunity

The Kirwan Institute, in coordination with the non-profit Green Doors and Capital Area Council of Governments did an analysis in 2013 that looked at where areas of opportunity are in the Austin Metro area. Those areas, as shown in the map below, are not typically where low-income households live and generally have a lack of subsidized affordable housing.

The opportunity index is based on education data, economics, mobility data, housing and environmental data. According to the study, together the data illustrate areas in the region that afford more or less opportunity for residents to lead successful lives.

Figure V – 15, Austin Metro Opportunity Index



Source: The Geography of Opportunity in Austin and How It Is Changing, Capital Area Council of Governments, Green Doors, and the Kirwan Institute, 2013

VI. Identified Needs in Travis County

This section provides a detailed overview of the needs identified in the needs assessment process, including both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the identified needs.

Housing

Quantitative Analysis

Cost Burden

Lack of affordable housing is a growing problem in Travis County. Many households are cost burdened and low-income households are increasingly located outside of Central Travis County and in more isolated parts of the County and the Metropolitan Statistical Area, sometimes away from historic neighborhood ties and economic opportunities.

The data below shows the percentage of households by tenure who are cost burdened. Cost burdened rental households (those that spent more than 30 percent of the household income on rental costs) represented 49.59 percent of all of the rental households in the report area and only 15.32 percent of owner occupied without mortgages households, according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 2009-2013 5-year estimates. The data for this indicator is only reported for households where tenure, household housing costs, and income earned was identified in the American Community Survey.

Cost Burdened Households by Tenure, Percent, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

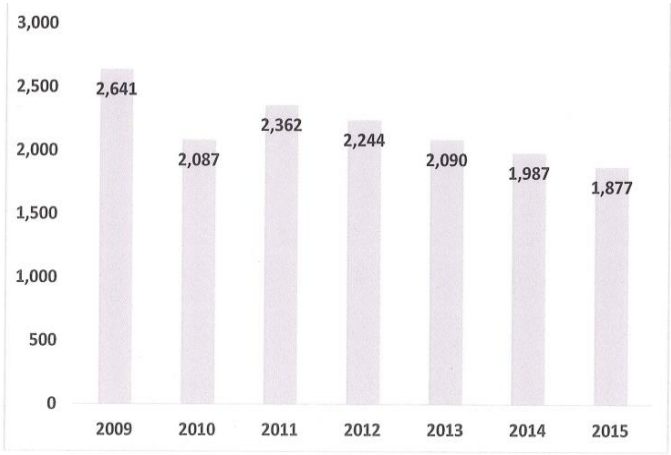
Report Area	Rental Households	Percentage of Rental Households that are Cost Burdened	Owner Occupied Households (With Mortgage)	Percentage of Owner Occupied Households w/ Mortgages that are Cost Burdened	Owner Occupied Households (No Mortgage)	Percentage of Owner Occupied Households w/o Mortgages that are Cost Burdened
Travis County, TX	198,685	49.59%	154,094	31.92%	59,097	15.32%
Texas	3,262,919	45.23%	3,460,178	30.27%	2,163,374	13.25%
United States	40,534,516	48.31%	49,820,840	35.4%	25,254,860	14.98%

Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Homelessness

In Travis County, according to ECHO's 2015 Point-in-Time Count, there are 1,877 homeless individuals in Travis County, of those, 1,210 (64 percent) in shelter. ECHO estimates that 32 percent of the homeless population are chronically homeless and finds that the most common causes of homelessness are lack of affordable housing, unemployment, substance abuse, and/or mental illness. ECHO reports that homeless families are typically young, female headed households with limited education with high rates of domestic violence and mental illness.[18] Of the 1,877, 238 are veterans, with slightly half of those unsheltered. Men, however, make up 85 percent of the unsheltered population and youth age 18 to 24 represent 8 percent of the total unsheltered individuals.

Figure VI- 1, Total Persons Experiencing Homelessness, Austin/Travis County PIT Estimates 2009-2015



Created By: ECHO, Press Release 2015 Point-in-Time Results

The total individuals from ECHO's Point-in-Time counts have decreased in general. In 2013 and 2014, local programs helped nearly 1,280 people secure permanent housing. In 2015, there are 29 percent fewer individuals experiencing homelessness than in 2009.[19] The City of Austin in 2010 created a goal of creating 350 units of Permanent Supportive Housing. To date the City of Austin has created 253 units, with another 78 in the pipeline.[20] Permanent Supportive Housing is an evidenced-based approach to ending chronic homelessness.

[18] ECHO Website, http://austinecho.org/about-homelessness/

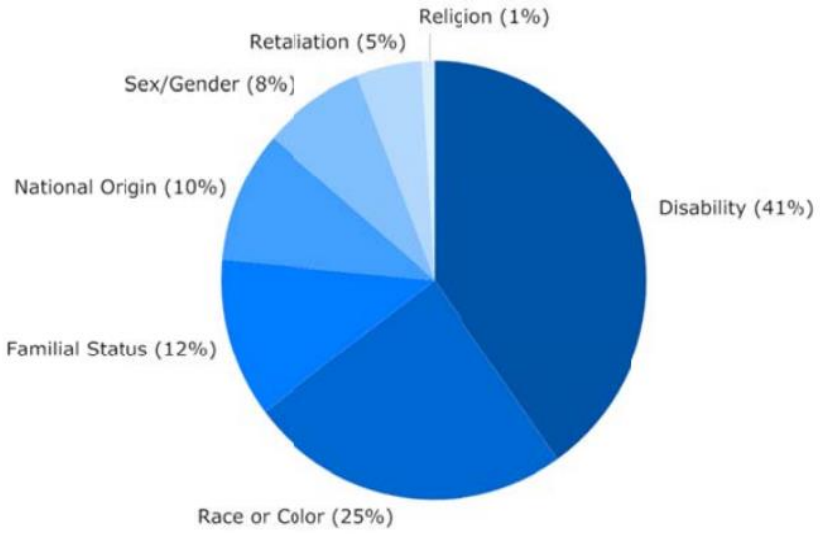
[19] ECHO, Austin Travis County 2015 Homelessness Point-in-Time Count (PIT) Results, http://austinecho.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/For-Press-Release-2015-PIT-Results.pdf

[20] City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Report on the Status of Permanent Supportive Housing in Austin, August 2014, https://austintexas.gov/page/reports-publications.

Fair Housing

Discrimination can be a large barrier for low-income households to access housing. The City of Austin recently completed the 2014 Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. Disability was listed as the number one reason for Fair Housing complaints.

Figure VI- 2, Reason for Fair Housing Complaints, HUD Complaints, 2012-2014



Created By: City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, December 19, 2014, Section IV, page 3, Source of Data: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The following were listed as the highest fair housing barriers in the report:[21]

- Lack of affordable housing in Austin disproportionately impacts persons with disabilities and certain racial and ethnic minorities who have lower incomes and higher poverty rates.
- Lack of affordable housing citywide has exacerbated the patterns of segregation created through historical policies and practices.
- Information on housing choice is not widely available, in languages other than English and/or in accessible formats.
- Overly complex land use regulations limit housing choice and create impediments to housing affordability.

[21] City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, December 19, 2014, https://austintexas.gov/page/reports-publications, Section V, page 1.

Cost of Housing in Travis County

The cost of housing in Travis County, whether renting or owning, is much more costly than the state or national averages. Fair market rents, as determined by HUD, have increased dramatically in the last four years. In addition to the cost of owning a home going up, the prices of homes sold in the Austin area have increased. The median home price in the Austin area has increased from about $150,000 in 2000 to over $250,000 in March of 2015.[22]

Rental Housing Costs

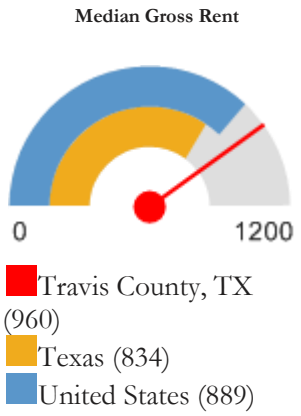
The cost of rent in Travis County is impacted by the population growth of the county and the high demand for housing. According to United Way of Greater Austin, in 2014, excluding calls for Medicaid and SNAP benefits, rent payment assistance was the number one need request in Travis County with 25,814 requests.[23] The first quarter of 2015 saw a less than 6 percent vacancy rate creating pressure on the cost of rental housing. According to Marcus and Millichap, by the end of 2015, the Austin area will see average rents of $1,136.[24] With a median gross rent of $960 in Travis County, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's Housing Wage Calculator, a household would need to earn $18.46 per hour, or $38,400 per year to afford that rent. A minimum wage worker in Travis County, making $7.25 would need to work 102 hours a week in order to afford this rent.[25]

Gross rent is the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer) and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.) if these are paid by the renter (or paid for the renter by someone else). Gross rent provides information on the monthly housing cost expenses for renters. When the data is used in conjunction with income data, the information offers an excellent measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. The data also serve to aid in the development of housing programs to meet the needs of people at different economic levels, and to provide assistance to agencies in determining policies on fair rent.

Housing Environment - Gross Rent, 2008-2012 5-Year Estimate

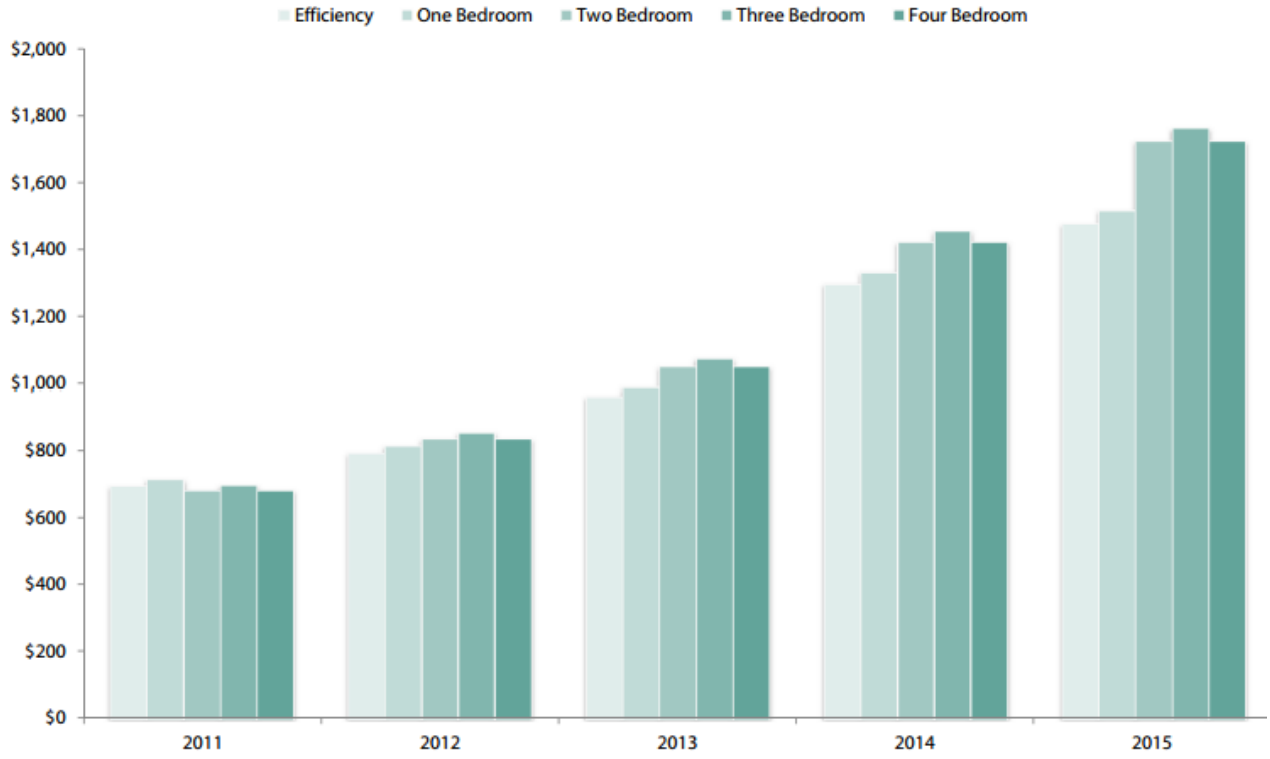
Report Area	Total Renter-Occupied Housing Units	Average Gross Rent	Median Gross Rent
Travis County, TX	194,938	$1,025	**$960**
Texas	3,173,591	$851	$834
United States	39,742,140	$940	$889

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: Tract
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



[22] Texas A&M Real Estate Center, MLS Housing Activity, Austin, http://recenter.tamu.edu
[23] Source: United Way for Greater Austin, April 2015.
24 Austin Apartment Research Report, Austin Metro Area, First Quarter 2015, Marcus & Millichap, http://www.marcusmillichap.com/research/researchreports/reports/2015/04/03/austin-apartment-research-report
[25] National Low Income Housing Coalition's Housing Wage Calculator, http://nlihc.org/library/wagecalc

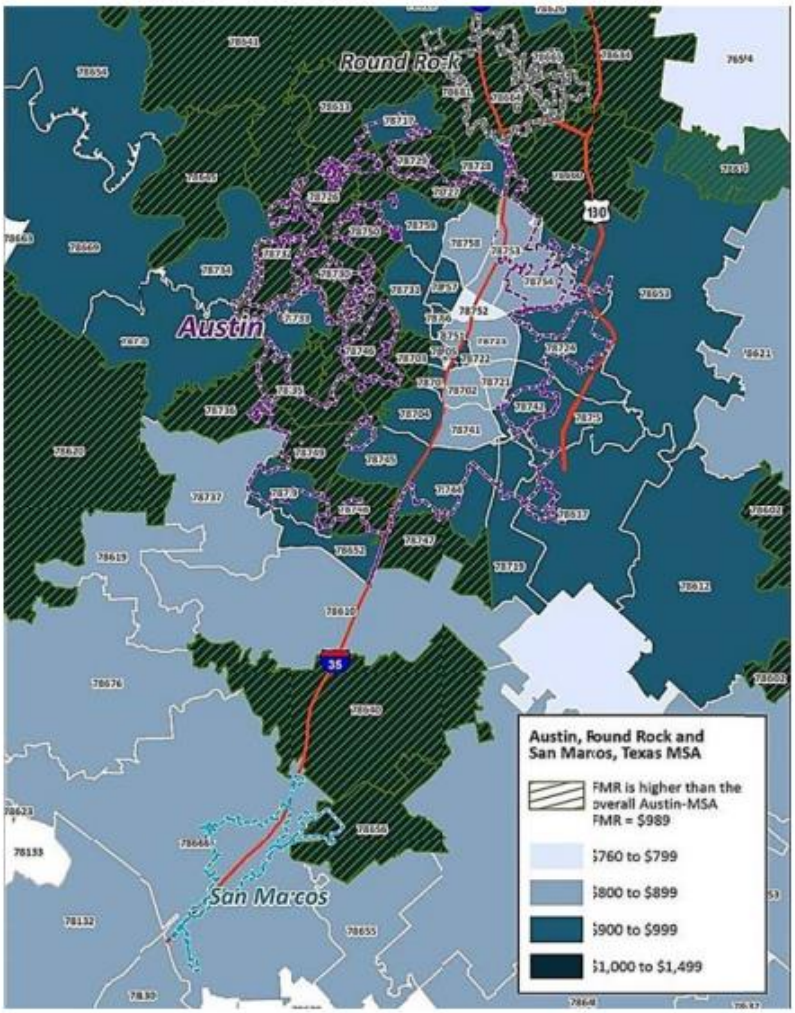
Figure VI – 3, Fair Market Rents, Austin-Round Rock MSA, 2011-2015



Created by: Travis County HHS/VS CDBG Office, 2014
Source data: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUDUSER

While the cost of rent has increased, as indicated in the map below, the most cost effective rents in the Travis County area are in central east, North, North East, and Southeast Austin. Areas of higher opportunity, including in West Austin are more expensive.

Figure VI – 4, Distribution of Rental Costs Relative to FMRs for the Austin, Round Rock and San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA), 2012.



Created By: City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, December 19, 2014. Note: The 2012 2-bedroom FMR for the Austin Round Rock-San Marcos area is $989. The crosshatch indicates a ZIP code where the ZIP code FMR is higher than the overall FMR. Source: www.huduser.org; Fair Market database

Costs of Homeownership

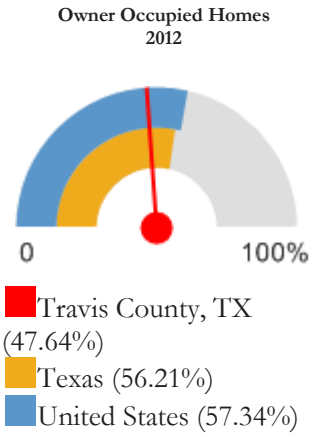
The cost of buying a home is much more expensive in Travis County than the state or U.S. average. The median home price in the Austin area has increased from about $150,000 in 2000 to over $250,000 in March of 2015.[26] In addition, low-income homeowners can struggle to maintain the costs of maintenance and rising property taxes. The number of Travis County residents who own a home, as opposed to rent, has decreased from 2000 and is far below state and national averages.

Housing Environment – Owner Occupied Housing, 2008-2012 5 Year Estimate

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that Travis County has a lower rate of owner occupied housing than the state or U.S and the western part of Travis County and far east have the highest concentrations of owner occupied housing.

Report Area	Owner Occupied Homes 2000	Owner Occupied Homes 2000	Owner Occupied Homes 2012	Owner Occupied Homes 2012
Travis County, TX	164,975	51.43%	210,468	**47.64%**
Texas	4,716,959	63.8%	5,609,007	56.21%
United States	69,815,753	66.19%	75,484,661	57.34%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



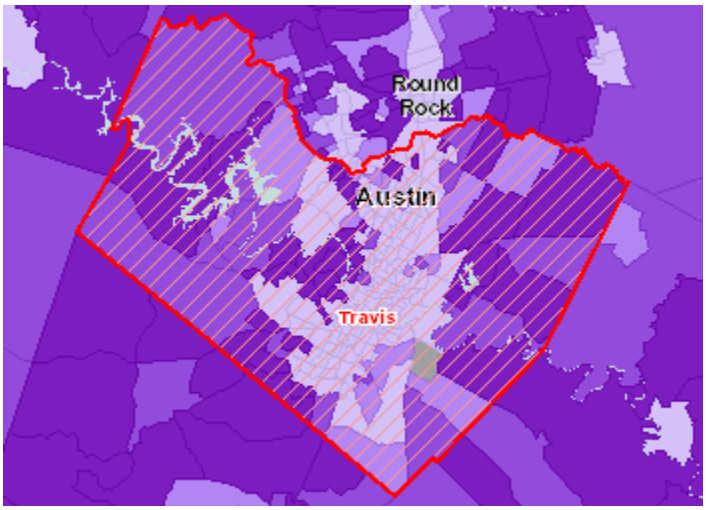


Figure VI – 5, Owner-Occupied Housing Units, Percent by Tract, ACS 2008-12

- Over 82.0%
- 74.1 - 82.0%
- 66.1 - 74.0%
- Under 66.1%
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Area

Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

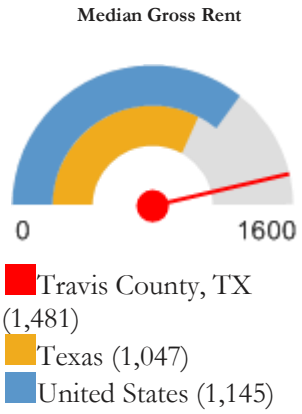
[26] Texas A&M Real Estate Center, MLS Housing Activity, Austin, http://recenter.tamu.edu

Housing Environment - Owner Costs, 2008-2012 5-Year Estimate

Selected monthly owner costs are the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property (including payments for the first mortgage, second mortgages, home equity loans, and other junior mortgages); real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer); and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.). It also includes, where appropriate, the monthly condominium fee for condominiums and mobile home costs. Selected monthly owner costs were tabulated for all owner-occupied units, and usually are shown separately for units "with a mortgage" and for units "not mortgaged."

Report Area	Total Owner-Occupied Housing Units	Average Monthly Owner Costs	Median Monthly Owner Costs
Travis County, TX	210,468	$1,736	**$1,481**
Texas	5,609,007	$1,234	$1,047
United States	75,484,664	$1,415	$1,145

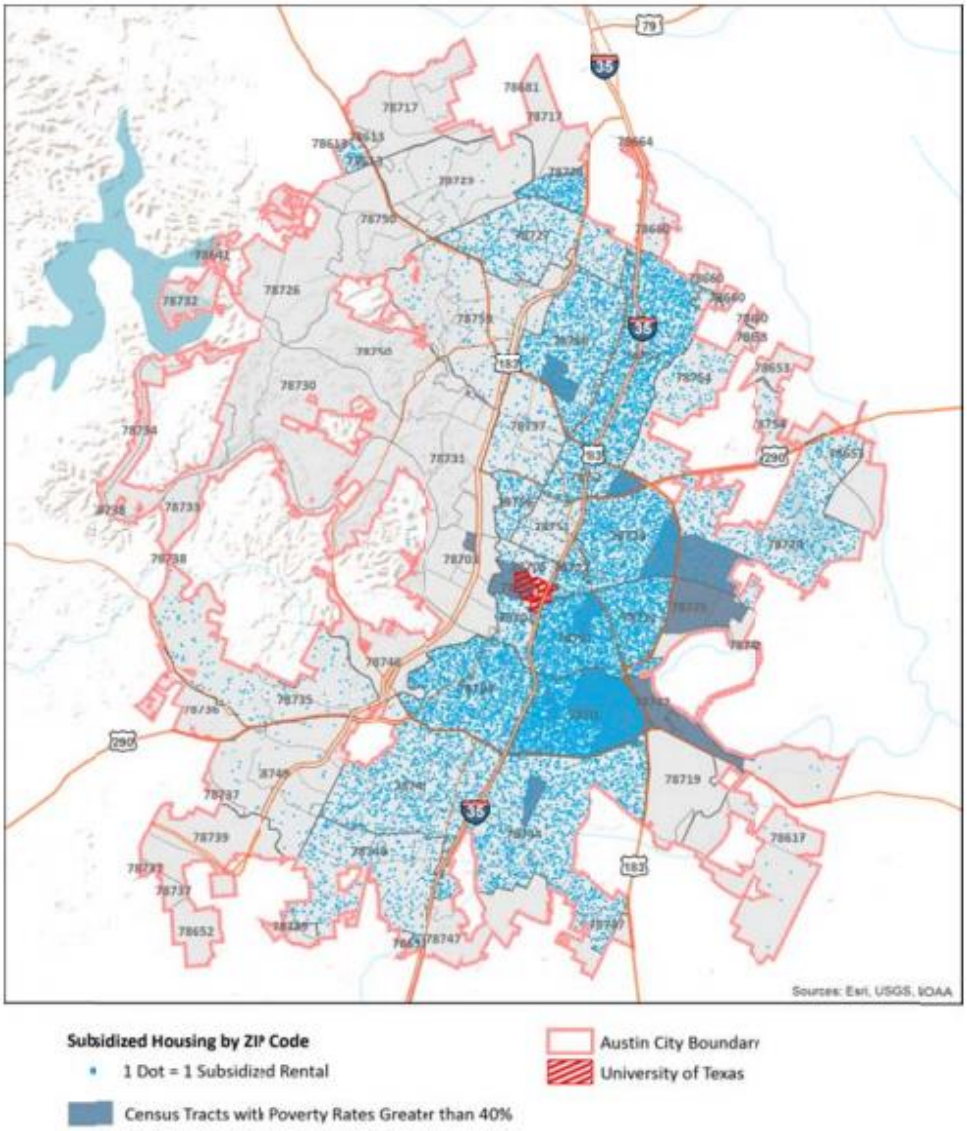
Note: This indicator is compared with the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: Tract
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



Location of Subsidized Housing

The City of Austin report also found that even with approximately 18,500 publicly subsidized rental units in Austin, there is a large shortage of affordable rental housing. The report found that the historic concentration of affordable housing has exacerbated racial, ethnic, and income concentrations. They found that most zip codes contain about 3 percent of the city's subsidized rental units, but four ZIP codes have between 9 and 10 percent of the city's subsidized units (78702, 78704, 78744, and 78753). And 78741, in Southeast Austin, contains the largest amount, with 18 percent.[27]

Figure VI – 6, Subsidized Rentals and Extremely High Poverty Census Tracts, Austin, 2012



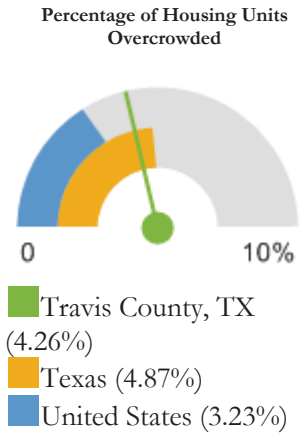
Created By: City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, December 19, 2014, https://austintexas.gov/page/reports-publications. Source: 2008-2012 ACS, City of Austin and BBC Research & Consulting

[27] City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, December 19, 2014, https://austintexas.gov/page/reports-publications, Section II, page 35.

Housing Environment - Overcrowded Housing, 2008-2012 5-Year Estimate
This indicator reports data on overcrowded housing from the latest 5-year American Community Survey. The Census Bureau has no official definition of crowded units, but this report considers units with more than one occupant per room to be crowded.

Report Area	Total Occupied Housing Units	Overcrowded Housing Units	Percentage of Housing Units Overcrowded
Travis County, TX	405,406	17,279	**4.26%**
Texas	8,782,598	428,141	4.87%
United States	115,226,800	3,718,967	3.23%

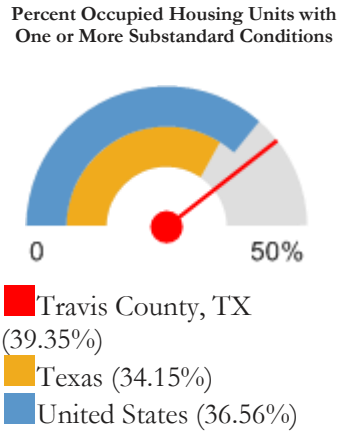
Note: This indicator is compared with the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: Tract
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



Housing Environment - Substandard Housing, 2008-2012 5-Year Estimate
This indicator reports the number and percentage of owner- and renter-occupied housing units having at least one of the following conditions: 1) lacking complete plumbing facilities, 2) lacking complete kitchen facilities, 3) with 1.01 or more occupants per room, 4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than 30 percent, and 5) gross rent as a percentage of household income greater than 30 percent. Selected conditions provide information in assessing the quality of the housing inventory and its occupants. This data is used to easily identify homes where the quality of living and housing can be considered substandard.

Report Area	Total Occupied Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions	Percent Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions
Travis County, TX	405,406	159,524	**39.35%**
Texas	8,782,598	2,998,908	34.15%
United States	115,226,800	42,129,344	36.56%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: Tract
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



The Impact of Utility Costs

The Travis County HHS/VS, Research and Planning Division, 2014 Community Impact Report found that energy and water costs are a factor in affordable housing in the County. They found that energy costs were increased by Austin Energy and by the Austin Water Utility in recent years. In 2012, Austin Energy implemented an average rate increase of 7 percent and another small increase in 2014. They found that areas outside of Austin Energy and the Austin Water Utility may have even higher electrical bills because their services are unregulated. They found that average residential electrical prices in deregulated areas of Texas were 18.6 percent higher than average prices in

areas of Texas. The Austin Water rates were also increased by 123 percent between 2000 and 2014.[28] According to the United Way for Greater Austin, requests for Electric Service Payment Assistance was the second highest requested need, excluding Medicaid and Snap benefits, in Travis County in 2014 with 24,851 people requesting assistance.[29]

Qualitative Analysis

Survey respondents rated housing needs as the third-highest overall need. They ranked all listed housing needs – affordable rental housing; help paying rent; help paying energy bills; emergency shelter; and help buying a home – as needed, or very highly needed, with affordable rental housing ranking the highest and emergency shelter ranking the lowest.

	1 (Not Needed)	2 (Rarely Needed)	3 (Needed)	4 (Highly Needed)	5 (Very Highly Needed)	Total	Weighted Average
Affordable Rental Housing	**8.70%** 42	**3.52%** 17	**16.98%** 82	**17.60%** 85	**53.21%** 257	483	4.03
Help Paying Energy Bills	**7.50%** 36	**8.75%** 42	**18.33%** 88	**25.42%** 122	**40.00%** 192	480	3.82
Help Paying Rent	**9.62%** 46	**7.95%** 38	**17.36%** 83	**25.73%** 123	**39.33%** 188	478	3.77
Help buying a home	**10.82%** 49	**7.28%** 33	**25.83%** 117	**19.65%** 89	**36.42%** 165	453	3.64
Emergency Shelter	**11.23%** 52	**12.31%** 57	**24.41%** 113	**19.44%** 90	**32.61%** 151	463	3.50

Data Source: SurveyMonkey; Date Retrieved: May 22, 2015.

Key informants ranked housing as the highest-priority need. Key informants and survey respondents mentioned additional housing needs including the high costs of rental housing, the need for home repairs, property tax burden, and barriers to housing for people with criminal backgrounds. Key informants and survey respondents also offered a variety of solutions to address housing needs including property tax relief, permanent supportive housing, innovative public/private partnerships, energy efficiency programs, and dispersion of affordable housing across the city. In their own words:

- *We need affordability and housing that meets the needs for people of all income levels; need to address the needs of those who are homeless with a combination of housing and social service support.*
- *We need to look at how foreclosures are being handled… get the information to non-profits to help homeowners, and then look at giving non-profits priority to buy foreclosed homes. We also need to continue working on Homestead Preservation [District] laws and policies.*
- *We are in desperate need of affordable housing to maintain the culture and diversity that makes this neighborhood great.*
- *Permanent supportive housing for special needs populations including people with a mental illness, a cognitive disability, the elderly, etc.*
- *Public/Private Partnerships to create affordable housing (i.e., Mueller).*
- *Distribute affordable housing throughout the City. This would help the employed live closer to work in some cases.*

[28] Travis County 2014 Community Impact Report, Housing Continuum, Travis County Health & Human Services & Veterans Service Research & Planning Division, https://www.traviscountytx.gov/images/health_human_services/Docs/cir-2014/.
[29] Source: United Way for Greater Austin, April 2015.

Employment

Travis County's strong economy has kept unemployment lower than both the state and national averages. However, unemployment is strongly tied to education levels, with those households with less than a high school diploma having twice the unemployment rates of those with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

Travis County HHS/VS, Research and Planning Division, 2014 Community Impact Report found that minimum wage in Travis County, of $7.25 an hour is not considered a livable wage. They cite the Center for Public Policy Priorities Family Budget Estimator that finds that a single adult with employer-sponsored health insurance and no children must earn $10.81 per hour to live in the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos MSA without relying on public assistance. For those without medical insurance and with children, the cost is much higher.[30]

Quantitative Analysis

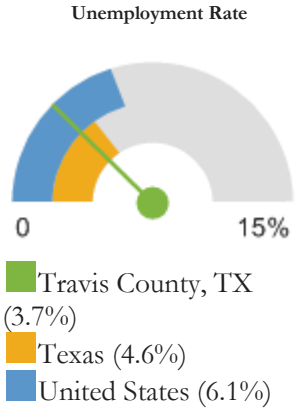
Unemployment

Current Unemployment, 2015

Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for each county in the report area is provided in the table below. Overall, the report area experienced an average 3.7% percent unemployment rate in January 2015.

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Travis County, TX	648,972	625,283	23,689	**3.7%**
Texas	13,126,930	12,524,124	602,806	4.6%
United States	157,195,716	147,573,653	9,622,063	6.1%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



[30] Travis County 2014 Community Impact Report, Workforce Development, Travis County Health & Human Services & Veterans Service Research & Planning Division, https://www.traviscountytx.gov/images/health_human_services/Docs/cir-2014/Workforce-Development.pdf

Five Year Unemployment Rate

Unemployment change within the report area from January 2011 to January 2015 is shown in the chart below. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this five year period fell from 6.79% percent to 3.65% percent.

Report Area	January 2011	January 2012	January 2013	January 2014	January 2015
Travis County, TX	6.79%	6.12%	5.68%	4.52%	**3.65%**
Texas	8.26%	7.28%	6.9%	5.72%	4.59%
United States	9.84%	8.88%	8.56%	7.09%	6.12%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

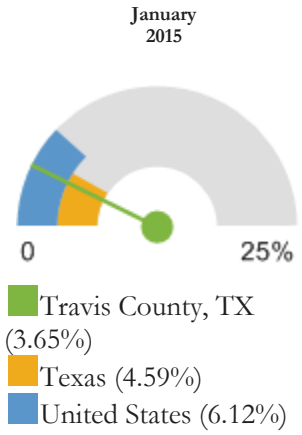
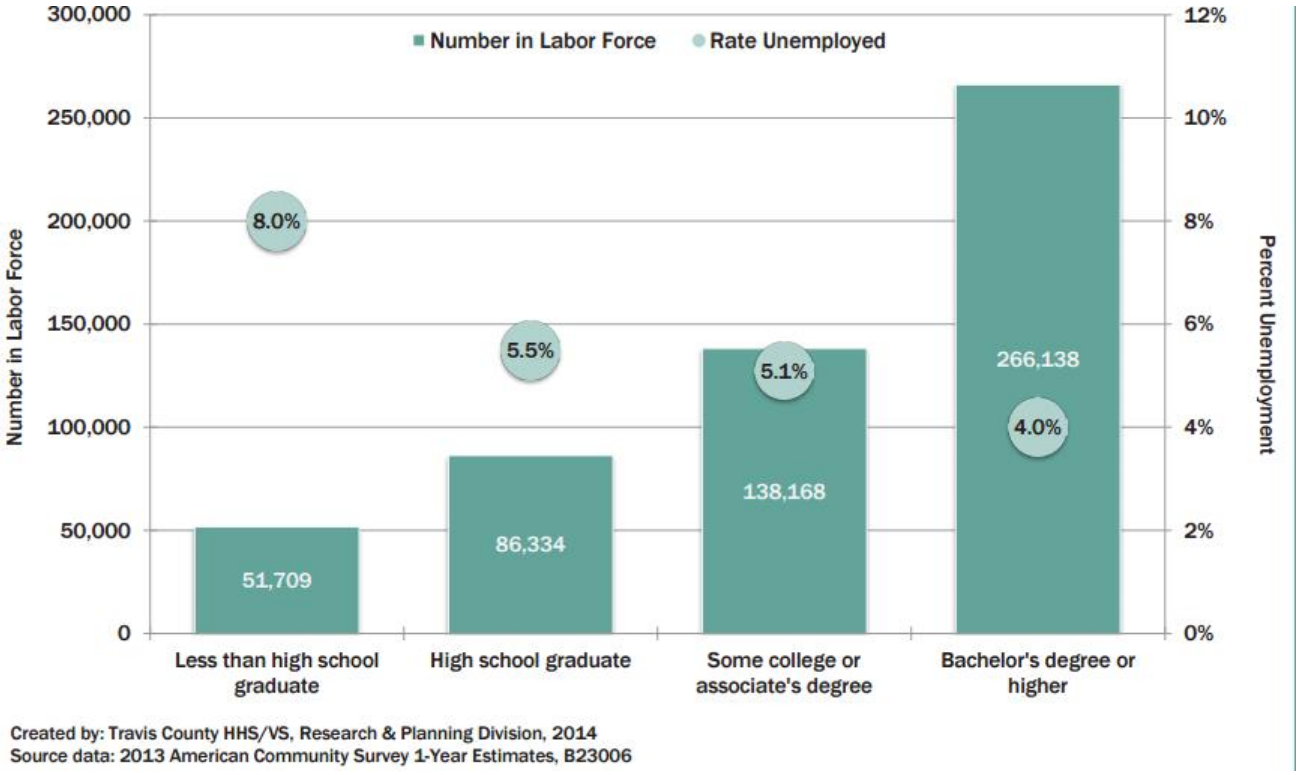


Figure VI – 7, Labor Force by Educational Attainment Levels and Unemployment Rates, Population Age 26 to 64, Travis County, 2013 (n=650,639)

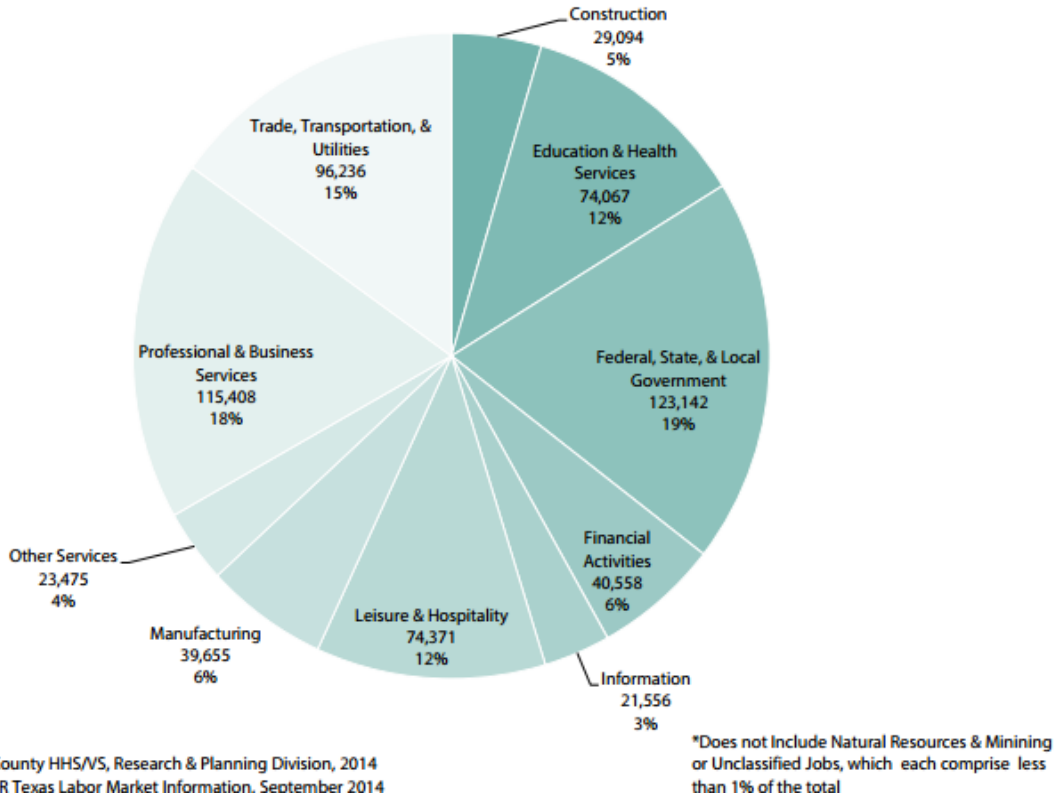


Employment Barriers

The Travis County HHS/VS, Research and Planning Division, 2014 Community Impact Report found that lack of transportation and unaffordable child care as a barrier to employment for low-income households.

The 2014 Austin/Travis County Reentry Report Card reported that stable employment is an important predictor of reentry success. They found that Texas has over 200 laws that restrict persons with criminal histories from finding jobs and over 1,900 separate licensing and statutory restrictions that bar or limit employment to persons with criminal histories.[31]

Figure VI – 8, Employment by Industry*, Capital Area Workforce Development Area, September 2014



Government is the leading industry in Travis County, followed closely by Professional and Business Services.

Qualitative Analysis

Survey respondents ranked employment needs as the highest overall need, with help finding a job, job training, and jobs for people with criminal backgrounds as needed to highly needed services.

[31] Austin/Travis County Reentry Report Card, September 2014, http://www.reentryroundtable.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/ATCRRT-report-card-revised-Sept14-Final.pdf

	1 (Not Needed)	2 (Rarely Needed)	3 (Needed)	4 (Highly Needed)	5 (Very Highly Needed)	Total	Weighted Average
Help Finding a Job	**7.96%** 39	**6.53%** 32	**22.45%** 110	**25.92%** 127	**37.14%** 182	490	3.78
Job Training	**8.79%** 43	**8.79%** 43	**26.18%** 128	**22.49%** 110	**33.74%** 165	489	3.64
Jobs for People with a Criminal Record	**12.15%** 57	**10.02%** 47	**21.32%** 100	**17.06%** 80	**39.45%** 185	469	3.62

Data Source: SurveyMonkey; Date Retrieved: May 22, 2015.

Survey respondents mentioned the specific employment needs of youth and young adults, as well as jobs for persons with disabilities and older adults on fixed incomes. Other employment needs listed included support for small and microbusinesses, living wages, internship and vocational opportunities, and addressing barriers to getting and keeping a job.

Key informants also ranked employment needs as a high priority, highlighting barriers to employment particularly for persons with criminal backgrounds as well as the need for private and public sector policies and collaboration to provide employment opportunities in low-income neighborhoods, and opportunities for small- and micro-business development.

In their own words:

- *Lack of job opportunities and pathways for upward mobility, especially for immigrants in our community and those lacking a college degree.*
- *Lack of job opportunities in the communities where people who are living on low incomes live, in addition to lack of job training and job readiness skills.*
- *Internship/vocational opportunities.*
- *Partnership with employers who are willing to employee people who have a record, no driver license, or other situations that impede them from being hirable.*
- *Jobs for people with disabilities.*
- *Jobs for older folks on a fixed income.*
- *Jobs with wages that cover childcare, housing and basic needs.*
- *Mentors for youth and apprenticeship programs.*

Basic Needs

Quantitative Analysis

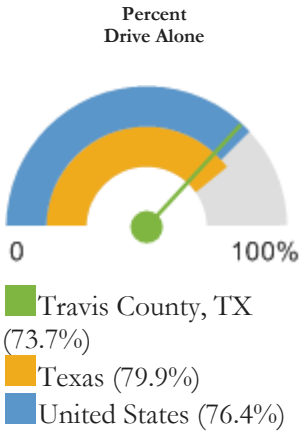
Transportation

Travis County has a higher percentage of people than the state who work at home and take public transportation. The Austin metro area is known for its bad traffic with the Texas A&M's Transportation Institute, Urban Mobility Report saying that auto commuters in the Austin area wasted 44 hours annually in traffic in 2011 as opposed to 10 hours in 1982.[32] According to IRNX, Austin has the 4th worst city for traffic in the country.[33] Low-income households often depend on the availability of public transportation, including people with disabilities. With affordable housing and low-income households now increasing outside the central city, many of the households that depend on public transportation no longer have access.

Commuter Travel Patterns, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

This table shows the method of transportation workers used to travel to work for the report area. Of the 551,255 workers in the report area, 73.7 percent drove to work alone while 10.5 percent carpooled. 3.6 percent of all workers reported that they used some form of public transportation, while others used some optional means including 3.4 percent walking or riding bicycles, and 2 percent used taxicabs to travel to work.

Report Area	Workers 16 and Up	Percent Drive Alone	Percent Carpool	Percent Public Transportation	Percent Bicycle or Walk	Percent Taxi or Other	Percent Work at Home
Travis County, TX	551,255	**73.7%**	10.5%	3.6%	3.4%	2%	6.9%
Texas	11,445,014	79.9%	11.1%	1.6%	1.9%	1.5%	4%
United States	139,786,640	76.4%	9.8%	5%	3.4%	1.2%	4.3%



Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

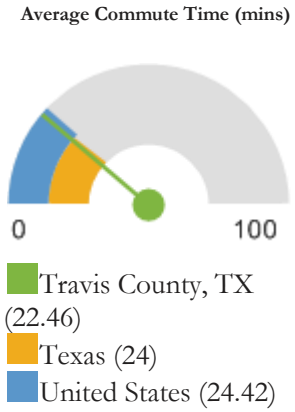
[32] Texas A&M's Transportation Institute, Urban Mobility Report, 2012 http://d2dtl5nnlpfr0r.cloudfront.net/tti.tamu.edu/documents/mobility-report-2012.pdf
[33] IRNIX Scorecard, http://www.inrix.com/scorecard/

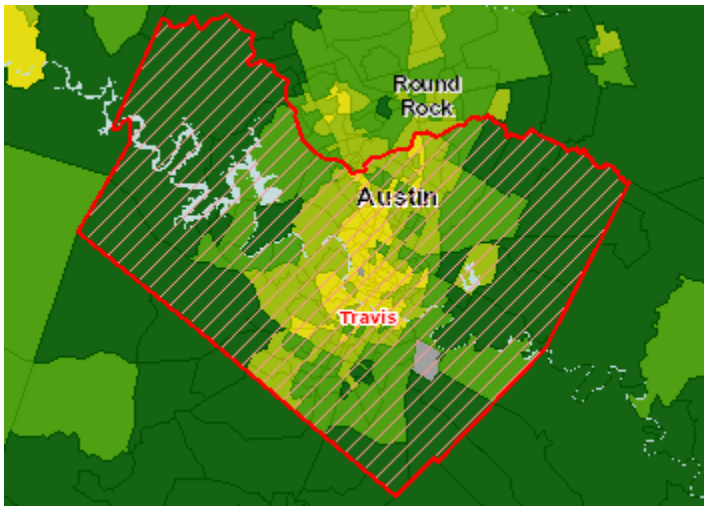
Travel Time to Work, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

Travel times for workers who travel (do not work at home) to work is shown for the report area. The median commute time for the report area of 22.46 minutes is shorter than the national median commute time of 24 minutes.

Report Area	Workers 16 and Up	Travel Time in Minutes (Percent of Workers) Less than 10	Travel Time in Minutes (Percent of Workers) 10 to 30	Travel Time in Minutes (Percent of Workers) 30 to 60	Travel Time in Minutes (Percent of Workers) More than 60	Average Commute Time (mins)
Travis County, TX	551,255	10.13	56.71	27.97	5.19	22.46
Texas	11,445,014	13.1	50.97	28.83	7.09	24
United States	139,786,640	13.48	50.76	27.64	8.12	24.42

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background





Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Figure VI – 9, Average Work Commute Time (Minutes), Average by Tract, ACS 2009-13

Over 28 Minutes
25 - 28 Minutes
21 - 24 Minutes
Under 21 Minutes
No Data or Data Suppressed

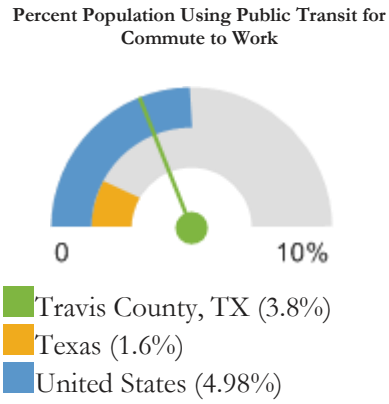
Report Area

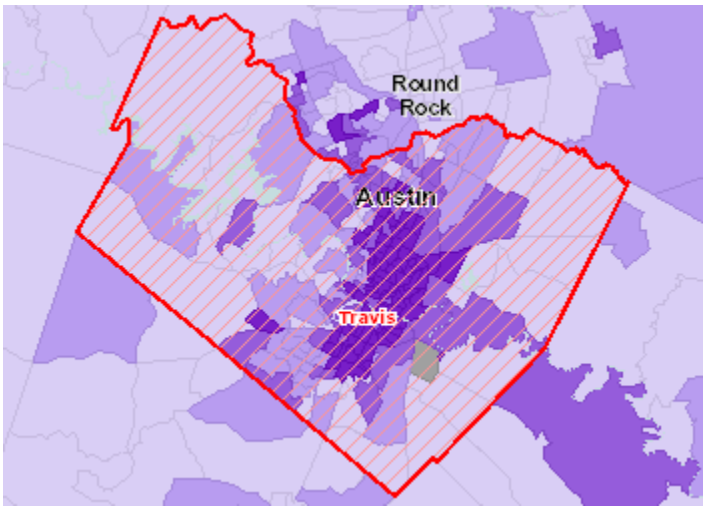
Use of Public Transportation, 2008-2012 Estimates

This indicator reports the percentage of population using public transportation as their primary means of commute to work. Public transportation includes buses or trolley buses, streetcars or trolley cars, subway or elevated rails, and ferryboats.

Report Area	Total Population Employed Age 16	Population Using Public Transit for Commute to Work	Percent Population Using Public Transit for Commute to Work
Travis County, TX	536,112	20,370	**3.8%**
Texas	11,314,152	181,413	1.6%
United States	139,893,632	6,967,689	4.98%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: Tract
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background





Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

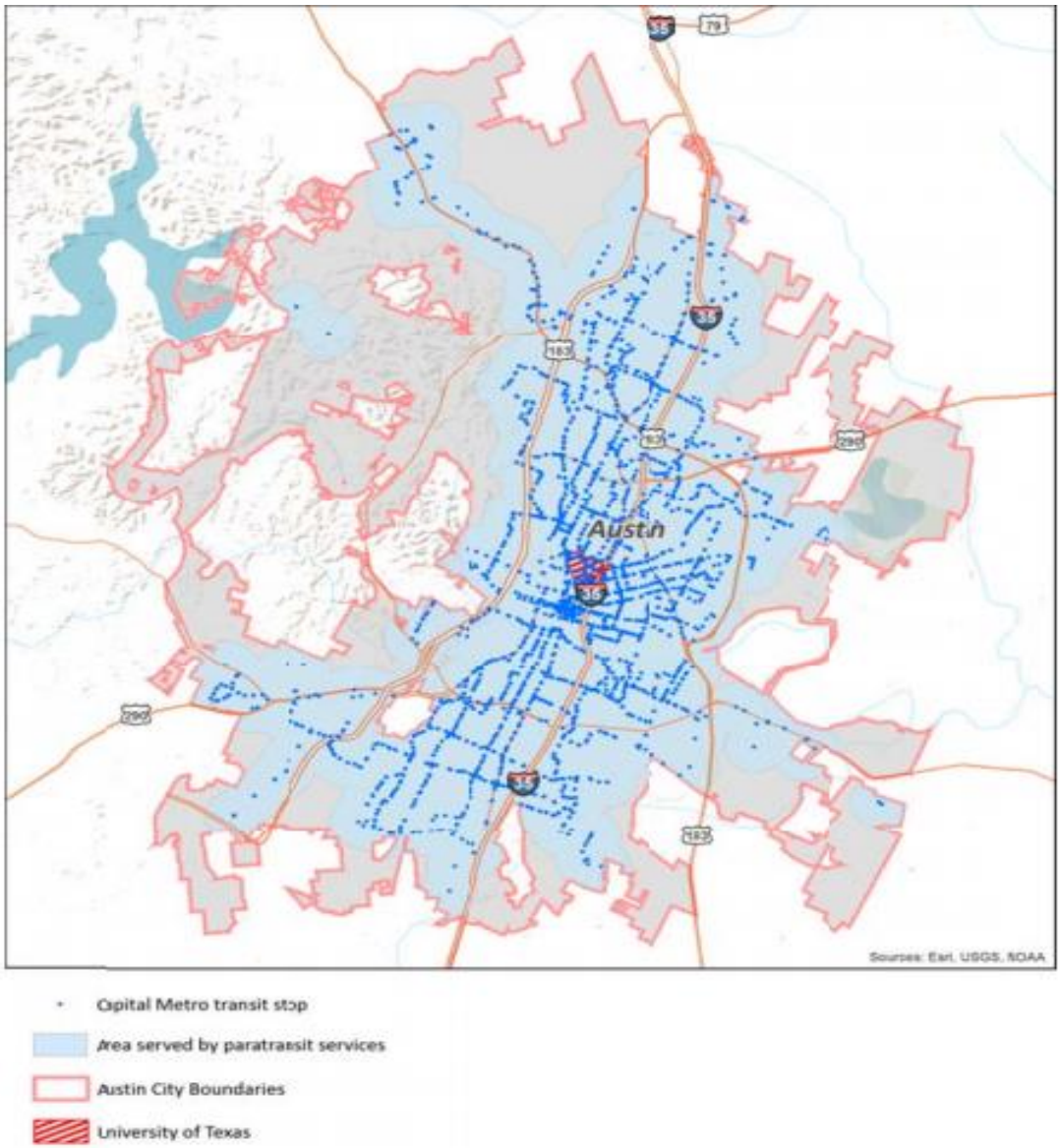
Figure VI-10, Workers Traveling to Work Using Public Transit, Percent by Tract, ACS 2008-12

- Over 4.0%
- 1.1 - 4.0%
- 0.1 - 1.0%
- No Workers Using Public Transit
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Area

Location and Access to Public Transportation

People with disabilities are often dependent on public transportation and paratransit services. The City of Austin's map illustrates where paratransit and public transportation are available in the Austin area. Many people with disabilities must live in one of these areas in order to have any access to transportation.[34]

Figure VI-11, CapMetro Fixed Route Bus and Rail Stops Showing Neighborhoods where Transit-Dependent Residents with Disabilities Can Access Transit Services



Created By: City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, December 19, 2014, Source: City of Austin and BBC Research & Consulting

[34] City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, December 19, 2014

Food and Nutrition

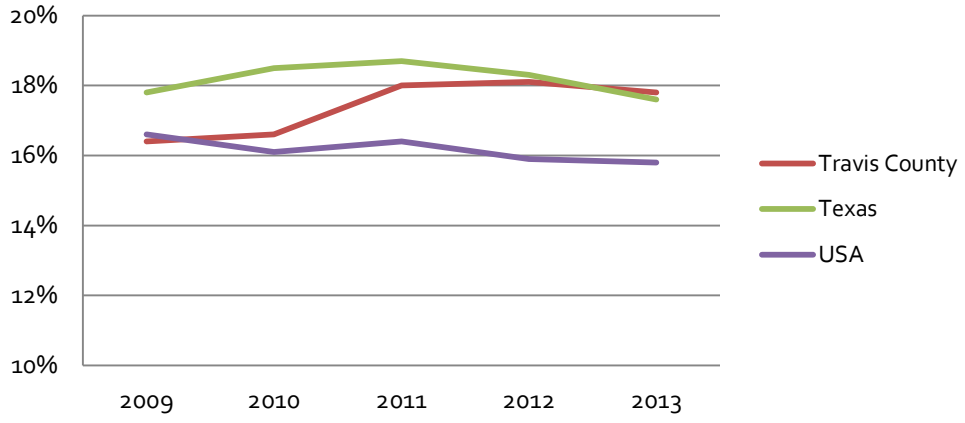
One of the impacts of poverty and lack of adequate employment is the creation of food insecurity. While income has increased in Travis County, income has not kept pace with the cost of food and household goods. According to the United Way for Greater Austin, excluding calls for Medicaid and SNAP benefits, requests for food pantries is the third highest need requested in Travis County in 2014.[35]

Change in Income and Costs, 2009-2013

	Cost of Goods/Services	*Cost of Food*	*Median Income*
	Consumer Price Index, All Items 1st Half Semi Annual Avg. South Urban Area	*Consumer Price Index, Food 1st Half Semi Annual Avg. South Urban Area*	*Annual Household Median Income* Travis County*
2009	206.5	217.0	$57,981
2013	226.0	236.2	$60,464
Percent Change	9%	9%	4%

*2009 income is reported in 2013 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2013
Source data: Source data: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index; 2009 & 2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B19013

Figure VI-12, Percent of Individuals Who Live in Food Insecure Households



Created By: Community Advancement Network, Community Dashboard, Date Retrieved: May 5, 2015, http://www.cancommunitydashboard.org/

A survey found that 17.8 percent of the Travis County in 2013 was food insecure.[36] While food insecurity has gotten better in Texas, the problem is generally getting worse in Travis County. This chart from the Community Advancement Network's Dashboard, illustrates this issue.

Children are more likely to face the effects of food insecurity in Travis County with more than half of students eligible for free or reduced priced lunches. Almost 40,000 people are below the poverty level in Travis County and do not receive SNAP benefits.

For households with the ability to buy food, many parts of Travis County do not have adequate fresh food readily available but have high access to fast food restaurants. Almost 35 percent of Travis County is considered a food desert, higher than the state or national average. A food desert is a low-income census track without adequate access to a grocery store or supermarket.[37]

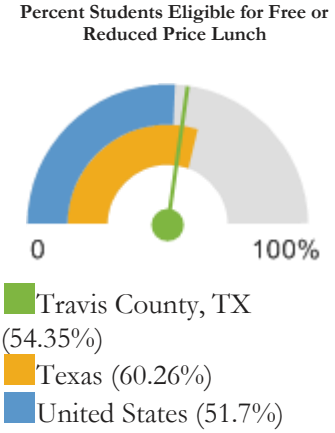
[35] United Way for Greater Austin, 2014 Community Needs & Trends Report , http://www.unitedwayaustin.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/2014_CNT_Report-final_updated_2.pdf
[36] Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2015, http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/2013/TX_AllCounties_CDs_MMG_2013.pdf
[37] Community Commons, Population with Low-Food Access, chart available on page 55.

Free and Reduced Lunch Program, 2012-2013 School Year

The following report shows that 95,019 students (or 54.35 percent) were eligible for free or reduced price lunches during the 2012 - 2013 school year, which is more than the national average of 51.7 percent.

Report Area	Total Students	Number Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible	Percent Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible
Travis County, TX	174,818	95,019	**54.35%**
Texas	5,077,507	3,059,657	60.26%
United States	49,936,793	25,615,437	51.7%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average.
Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data. Source geography: Address
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



Children Eligible for Free Lunch (Alone) by Year, 2009-10 through 2012-13

Report Area	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Travis County, TX	53.84%	54.58%	54.84%	54.35%
Texas	53.28%	53.26%	54.14%	60.38%
United States	47.76%	49.24%	48.29%	51.77%

Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status (ACS), 2009-2013 5-Year Estimate

The below table shows that 40,624 households (or 9.86 percent) received SNAP payments during 2013. During this same period there were 39,853 households with income levels below the poverty level that were not receiving SNAP payments. The national average is 7.7 percent. The Texas Food Bank Network estimates that about 43 percent of Travis County residents who qualify for SNAP benefits do not receive them.[38]

Report Area	Households Receiving SNAP Total	Households Receiving SNAP Percent	Households Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty	Households Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty	Households **Not** Receiving SNAP Total	Households **Not** Receiving SNAP Percent	Households **Not** Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty	Households **Not** Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty
Travis County, TX	40,624	9.86%	20,853	19,771	371,252	90.14%	39,853	331,399
Texas	1,173,314	13.2%	614,271	559,043	7,713,157	86.8%	781,064	6,932,093
United States	14,339,330	12.4%	7,498,398	6,840,932	101,270,886	87.6%	8,917,586	92,353,292

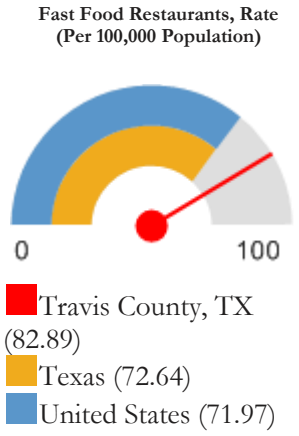
Note: Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Fast Food Restaurant Access

This indicator reports the number of fast food restaurants per 100,000 population. Fast food restaurants are defined as limited-service establishments primarily engaged in providing food services (except snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars) where patrons generally order or select items and pay before eating. This indicator is relevant because it provides a measure of healthy food access and environmental influences on dietary behaviors.

Report Area	Total Population	Number of Establishments	Establishments, Rate per 100,000 Population
Travis County, TX	1,024,266	849	**82.89**
Texas	25,145,561	18,265	72.64
United States	312,471,327	224,877	71.97

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, County Business Patterns. Additional data analysis by CARES. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



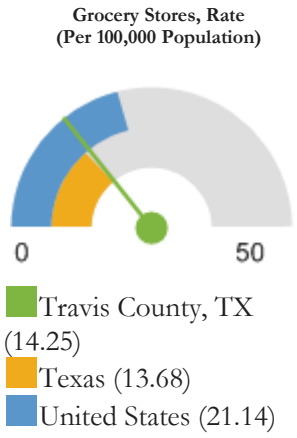
[38] Texas Food Bank Network, http://tfbn.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/TFBN_SNAP_PAI_2011_v3.xlsx

Grocery Store Access

This indicator reports the number of grocery stores per 100,000 population. Grocery stores are defined as supermarkets and smaller grocery stores primarily engaged in retailing a general line of food, such as canned and frozen foods; fresh fruits and vegetables; and fresh and prepared meats, fish, and poultry. Included are delicatessen-type establishments. Convenience stores and large general merchandise stores that also retail food, such as supercenters and warehouse club stores are excluded. This indicator is relevant because it provides a measure of healthy food access and environmental influences on dietary behaviors.

Report Area	Total Population	Number of Establishments	Establishments, Rate per 100,000 Population
Travis County, TX	1,024,266	146	14.25
Texas	25,145,561	3,441	13.68
United States	312,471,327	66,047	21.14

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, County Business Patterns. Additional data analysis by CARES. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

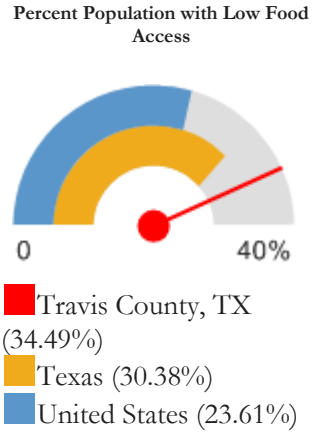


Population with Low Food Access, 2010

This indicator reports the percentage of the population living in census tracts designated as food deserts. A food desert is defined as a low-income census tract where a substantial number or share of residents has low access to a supermarket or large grocery store. This indicator is relevant because it highlights populations and geographies facing food insecurity.

Report Area	Total Population	Population with Low Food Access	Percent Population with Low Food Access
Travis County, TX	1,024,266	353,309	34.49%
Texas	25,145,561	7,639,114	30.38%
United States	308,745,538	72,905,540	23.61%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, USDA - Food Access Research Atlas. Source geography: Tract
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



Qualitative Analysis

Survey respondents listed basic needs as the fourth-highest overall need, with safety, better public transportation, affordable child care and food as the highest needs, respectively, within the category. In terms of safety, the need for parks and recreation opportunities as well as accessible sidewalks and safe school crossings were mentioned frequently. Access to healthy and affordable food, personal hygiene items and diapers were also listed as other critical basic needs.

	1 (Not Needed)	2 (Rarely Needed)	3 (Needed)	4 (Highly Needed)	5 (Very Highly Needed)	Total	Weighted Average
Safety	**5.36%** 26	**8.04%** 39	**22.06%** 107	**22.27%** 108	**42.27%** 205	485	3.88
Better public transportation	**6.92%** 33	**9.85%** 47	**21.59%** 103	**22.01%** 105	**39.62%** 189	477	3.78
Food	**5.33%** 27	**9.86%** 50	**24.06%** 122	**24.65%** 125	**36.09%** 183	507	3.76
Affordable child care	**14.58%** 70	**6.04%** 29	**20.63%** 99	**16.25%** 78	**42.50%** 204	480	3.66
Help with Bus Passes/Gas	**7.79%** 38	**11.48%** 56	**22.75%** 111	**25.41%** 124	**32.58%** 159	488	3.64
Clothes	**8.74%** 43	**19.51%** 96	**32.52%** 160	**19.72%** 97	**19.51%** 96	492	3.22

Data Source: SurveyMonkey; Date Retrieved: May 22, 2015.

Key informants saw basic needs as a critical need behind housing and employment. In particular, key informants discussed the continuing need for emergency assistance and access to healthy and affordable food.

In their own words:

- *Emergency assistance – more outreach; people don't know what is available or know how to access; extended hours that services are provided (8-5) are not intended to support the working class.*
- *[Consider] innovative solutions to help convenience stores promote/sell more fresh and healthy foods.*
- *Transportation – minimizing travel time.*
- *For wheelchairs - sidewalks, paint curbs and trimmed branches.*
- *Access to safe places to be active & acess [sic] to fresh & affordable fruits & vegetables.*
- *Access to healthy real, whole plant food, not canned goods and white breads.*
- *Diapers for babies and adults.*

Education

Quantitative Analysis

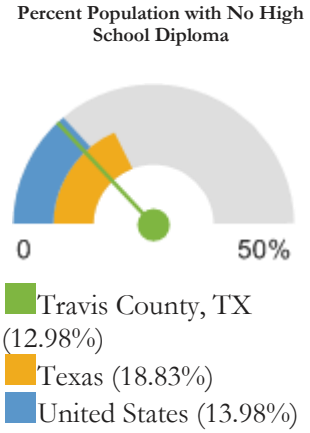
Travis County has a highly educated workforce, compared to the state and national averages, with over 44 percent of persons over the age of 25 having a Bachelors' degree or higher. However, those without a high school degree are more likely to live in Eastern Travis County and North Austin. Travis County also has lower illiteracy levels that the state and national averages as well.

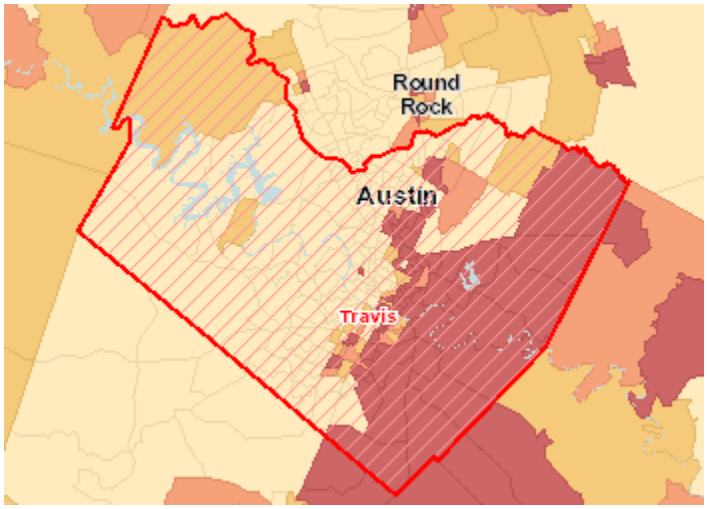
Educational Attainment, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

Educational Attainment shows the distribution of educational attainment levels in the report area. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25, and is an average for the period from 2009 to 2013.

Report Area	Percent No High School Diploma	Percent High School Only	Percent Some College	Percent Associates Degree	Percent Bachelor's Degree	Percent Graduate or Professional Degree
Travis County, TX	12.98	16.9	19.6	5.6	28.6	16.3
Texas	18.83	25.3	22.7	6.5	17.7	8.9
United States	13.98	28.1	21.3	7.8	18.1	10.8

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background





Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

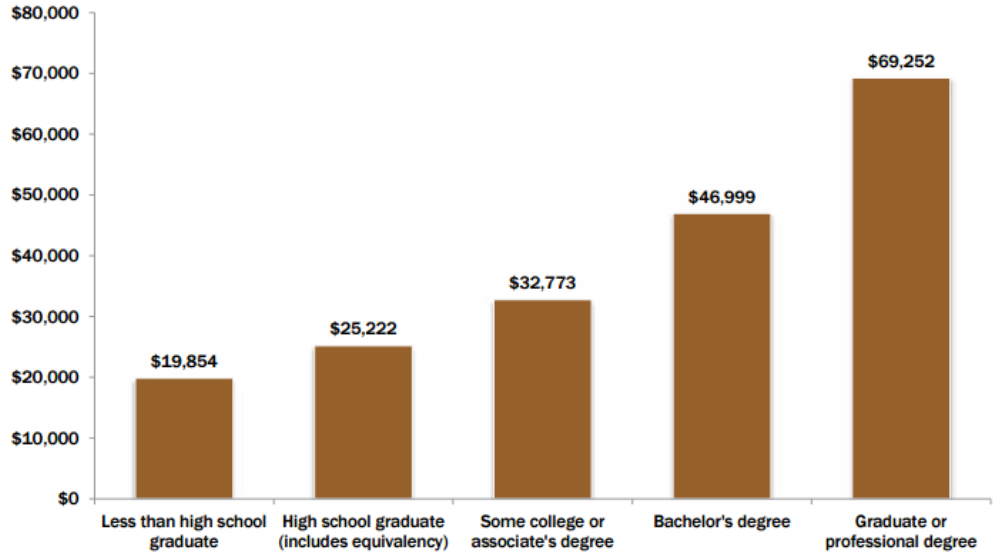
Figure VI-13, Population with No High School Diploma (Age 18), Percent by Tract, ACS 2009-13

- Over 21.0%
- 16.1 - 21.0%
- 11.1 - 16.0%
- Under 11.1%
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Area

Household Income by Level of Education

The *Travis County Snapshot from the American Community Survey 2013* found that the level of education has a direct relationship with the the amount a person earns in Travis County.[39]

Figure VI-14, Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months by Educational Attainment, Population 25 and over with earnings, Travis County, 2013



Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2014
Source data: 2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B20004

High School Drop-Out Rates, 2009-12

Report Area	High School Drop-Out Rate	High School Drop-Out Rate for Economically Disadvantaged Students
Travis County, TX	7.4%	10.9%
Texas	6.6%	7.8%
Center for Public Policy Priorities, Texas Regional Opportunity Index, Data: Texas Education Agency		

Qualitative Analysis

Education services were ranked as the second-highest priority need by survey respondents, behind employment. While all the needs listed in the category were rated as needed to highly needed, the most critical need was help to go to college, followed by parenting classes and computer skills classes.

[39] Travis County Snapshot from the American Community Survey, 2013 https://www.traviscountytx.gov/health-human-services/research-planning/snapshot

	1 (Not Needed)	2 (Rarely Needed)	3 (Needed)	4 (Highly Needed)	5 (Very Highly Needed)	Total	Weighted Average
Help to go to College	**6.74%** 32	**4.42%** 21	**24.00%** 114	**22.74%** 108	**42.11%** 200	475	3.89
Computer Skills Classes	**5.80%** 28	**6.42%** 31	**26.50%** 128	**22.77%** 110	**38.51%** 186	483	3.82
Parenting Classes	**8.10%** 38	**6.61%** 31	**21.54%** 101	**22.81%** 107	**40.94%** 192	469	3.82
Help to go to Trade/Technical School	**7.98%** 38	**6.93%** 33	**23.95%** 114	**22.90%** 109	**38.24%** 182	476	3.76
English as a Second Language Classes	**9.32%** 44	**8.26%** 39	**24.15%** 114	**23.09%** 109	**35.17%** 166	472	3.67
Classes for Adults in Reading/Writing	**8.30%** 40	**10.79%** 52	**22.61%** 109	**23.86%** 115	**34.44%** 166	482	3.65
GED Classes	**9.96%** 48	**8.30%** 40	**29.88%** 144	**20.54%** 99	**31.33%** 151	482	3.55

Data Source: SurveyMonkey; Date Retrieved: May 22, 2015.

Many respondents also mentioned the needs of educational programs for children and youth, including support for children with special needs, social and emotional learning, mentorship programs, Prekindergarten, and after-school programs. Other educational needs included apprenticeship programs, health care navigation, English as a Second Language and a variety of parenting topics. Key informants also saw the need for equitable educational systems as well as job readiness and job skills training as a high priority.

In their own words:

- *Lack of equity in our educational system for people of all ages.*
- *Parenting classes specific to understanding the mental and emotional needs of children.*
- *Help to get Certifications that allow one to work & advance in jobs.*
- *Better coordination of services, programs exist but people don't know about them.*
- *Better services and quality education for young students in elementary for neighborhood kids.*
- *Immersion in new culture. Everyone needs to be receptive of all cultures, but we cannot forget that people coming to the United States have an obligation to learn about the culture and accept the culture of the new country they are choosing to adopt.*
- *Entrepreneurship Training.*
- *GED's are useless unless coupled with further ed[ucation].*
- *Fee-free summer enrichment with mentors thru high school.*

Money Management

Quantitative Analysis

According to the Center for Public Policy Priorities, Travis County is doing better than the Texas average on several indicators of financial opportunity. The rate of payday and auto loans are the rates per 10,000 people, are lower than the state. The subprime credit score is for consumers with less than a 660 credit score. Underbanked households have a bank account, but also use alternative sources. All of the indicators demonstrate a need for households to understand how to access lines of credit and manage the funds they do have.

Travis County Opportunity Snapshots		
	Travis County	Texas
	Rate	Rate
Payday & Auto Title Loan Transactions	1770	2598
Subprime Credit Score Rate	35.3%	44%
Child Care's Share of Family Budget	13.6%	13.1%
Unbanked Households Rate	9.9%	11.7%
Underbanked Households Rate	22.5%	24.1%

Source: Center for Public Policy Priorities, Texas Regional Opportunity Index, pulled May 11,2015.

The United Way for Greater Austin found that in Austin, a payday loan borrower spends $22.37 for every $100 borrowed and that in Texas, 67 percent of loans are for $500 or less. They also found that according to the Pew Charitable Trust, that 69 percent of people take out their first payday loan for reoccurring loans, such as rent or credit card bills.[40] United Way also found that for those that do not have bank accounts, and rely on check cashing, will spend an average of $230 to $980 each year on check cashing.[41]

Qualitative Analysis

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the need for Money Management services was the lowest ranked need among all of the categories, although survey respondents did indicate that all of the services listed – counseling on debt and credit, classes on making/using a budget, help applying for Social Security, Disability or other benefits, and Help preparing income taxes were needed to very highly needed.

[40] United Way for Greater Austin, What is payday lending & why does it matter?, http://www.unitedwayaustin.org/01/2014/what-is-payday-lending-why-does-it-matter/

[41] United Way for Greater Austin, http://www.unitedwayaustin.org/our-work/financial-opportunity/

	1 (Not Needed)	2 (Rarely Needed)	3 (Needed)	4 (Highly Needed)	5 (Very Highly Needed)	Total	Weighted Average
Counseling on debt and credit	**10.20%** 47	**7.16%** 33	**26.68%** 123	**22.34%** 103	**33.62%** 155	461	3.62
Classes on making/using a budget	**8.51%** 40	**8.72%** 41	**29.36%** 138	**23.19%** 109	**30.21%** 142	470	3.58
Help applying for Social Security, Disability or other benefits.	**8.75%** 42	**10.63%** 51	**27.92%** 134	**22.71%** 109	**30.00%** 144	480	3.55
Help preparing income taxes	**9.51%** 45	**8.46%** 40	**30.44%** 144	**23.89%** 113	**27.70%** 131	473	3.52

Data Source: SurveyMonkey; Date Retrieved: May 22, 2015.

Respondents also mentioned the challenges with payday and title loans and the need for alternatives to these financial services in their neighborhoods. The need for representative payee and bill payer services for seniors and people with disabilities was also mentioned. Key informants also highlighted the need for money management, especially in terms of educating low-income homeowners about their resources and rights when approached to sell their homes. In their own words:

- *Self-sufficiency – need to know how to budget, work toward getting off public assistance and build assets.*
- *Reputable alternative financial services.*
- *Pay debt and have savings program at the same time.*
- *How to open a bank account, use checking.*
- *Access to credit unions on Eastside.*
- *Be aware of predatory lenders; shopping on a budget.*
- *Avoiding payday and title loans.*
- *Representative Payee and Bill Payer Services are very highly needed.*

Public Health

Quantitative Analysis

According to Healthy Places, Healthy People[42], two-thirds of adults and one-fifth of youths in Travis County are overweight or obese. Fifteen percent of Travis County adults are smokers[43]. Both conditions put people in a high risk for disease and preventable death. In general, Travis County residents have better health than the state or the U.S. as indicated in the *General Health Status* Table. The exception is poor mental health, with about one in five people adults reporting poor mental health. About one in five people in Travis County are uninsured, higher than the national average, but lower than the state average.

General Health Status

Indicator	*Travis County*	*Texas*	*U.S.*
A. Percent with fair to poor general health[1]	15%	19%	18%
B. Percent with poor physical health status[2]	16%	20%	21%
C. Percent with poor mental health[3]	20%	20%	22%
D. Premature death (age-adjusted mortality rate of residents under 75 per 100,000 population)[4]	5,392	6,928	7,714

Notes: Indicators A-C represent 2011-2013 data. Indicator D represents data from 2008-2010. Indicator A refers to adults reporting poor or fair health as opposed to excellent or good health. Indicator B captures the percentage of adults reporting that their physical health was poor on 5 or more days in the past 30 days. Indicator C captures the percentage of adults reporting that their mental health was poor on 5 or more days in the past 30 days.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2014
Source data: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011-13 and County Health Rankings, 2013

In April, 2015, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department released its 2015 Critical Health Indicators Report. Among the findings, lack of good nutrition and physical activity were cited as causes of preventable chronic diseases. Health disparities in Travis County were also highlighted in the report:

- Black Americans have disproportionately higher rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases and are more likely to die from HIV than other groups.
- The infant mortality rate for Blacks was two to three times higher compared with Whites, and babies born to black mothers are more likely to be premature and have low birth weight.
- Blacks have a higher prevalence of cardiovascular disease than Whites and Hispanics, but both Blacks and Hispanics have higher rates of diabetes than Whites.
- When comparing the raw number of teen births in Travis County, Hispanics had over seven times the number of teen births compared to Whites and approximately six times the number of teen births compared to Blacks.
- By contrast, 82 percent of suicides occurring in the City of Austin are committed by Whites.[44]

Uninsured Population

The uninsured population is calculated by estimating the number of persons eligible for insurance (generally those under 65) minus the estimated number of insured persons. The Community Advancement Network reports that the number of uninsured people in Travis County continues to decline, and is expected to decline even further due to the Affordable Care Act. The rate of uninsured went down to 20 percent of Travis County in 2013, from 24 percent in 2009.[45]

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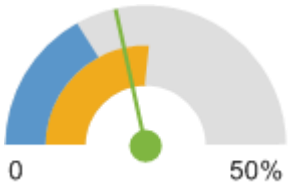
[42] Healthy Places, Healthy People, http://www.healthyplaceshealthypeople.org/
[43] Community Advancement Network, 2014 Dashboard
[44] Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, 2015 Critical Health Indicators Report
[45] Community Advancement Network, Dashboard, http://www.cancommunitydashboard.org/drilldowns/health-insurance.php

Report Area	Insurance Population	Number Insured	Number Uninsured	Percent Uninsured
Travis County, TX	987,463	773,901	213,562	**21.6%**
Texas	22,674,778	16,962,480	5,712,298	25.2%
United States	264,246,236	219,286,188	44,960,048	17%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Percent Uninsured



Travis County, TX (21.6%)
Texas (25.2%)
United States (17%)

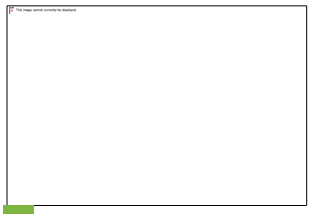
Insurance - Uninsured Children, 2012

This indicator reports the percentage of children under age 19 without health insurance coverage. This indicator is relevant because lack of insurance is a primary barrier to healthcare access including regular primary care, specialty care, and other health services that contributes to poor health status.

Report Area	Total Population Under Age 19	Population with Medical Insurance	Percent Population With Medical Insurance	Population Without Medical Insurance	Percent Population Without Medical Insurance
Travis County, TX	268,546	237,470	88.4%	31,076	**11.6%**
Texas	7,248,229	6,301,908	86.94%	946,321	13.06%
United States	76,468,844	70,705,585	92.46%	5,763,259	7.54%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Percent Population Without Medical Insurance



Travis County, TX (11.6%)
Texas (13.06%)
United States (7.54%)

Uninsured Population by Age Group, Percent, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

Report Area	Under Age 18	Age 18 - 64	Age 65
Travis County, TX	11.17%	24.83%	2.23%
Texas	13.73%	30.44%	1.95%
United States	7.61%	20.59%	0.97%

Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Causes of Death

The leading cause of death in Travis County is cancer, followed closely by heart disease.

Leading Causes of Death, 2012

Underlying Cause of Death	*Travis County Number of Deaths*[5]	*Travis County Rank*[6]	*Texas Rank*[7]	*U.S. Rank*[8]
A. Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	1,116	1	2	2
B. Diseases of the heart	957	2	1	1
C. Accidents (injuries)	432	3	5	5
D. Cerebrovascular disease (stroke)	229	4	4	4
E. Chronic lower respiratory diseases	205	5	3	3
F. Intentional self-harm (suicide)	141	6	*	10
G. Alzheimer's disease	137	7	6	6
H. Diabetes mellitus	119	8	7	7
I. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	105	9	10	**
J. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	90	10	9	9

*The eighth leading cause of death in Texas is septicemia. Suicide is not one of the ten leading causes of death in Texas.
**The eighth leading cause of death in the U.S. is influenza/pneumonia. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis is not one of the ten leading causes of death in the nation.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2014
Source data: Texas Department of State Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, 2012 and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2012

Behavioral Health

An estimated one in five residents have a diagnosable mental health or addictive disorder, including children and adults.

Prevalence of Behavioral Health Disorders/Illnesses, Travis County, 2013

	Travis County Population[3]	*Estimated Travis County Population with a Diagnosable Mental or Addictive Disorder/Any Mental Illness*		*Estimated Travis County Population with a Diagnosable Mental or Addictive Disorder with Severe Functional Impairment/ Serious Mental Illness*	
		Percent	*Number*	*Percent*	*Number*
Children Under 18	261,404	20%[4]	52,281	5%[5]	13,070
Adults 18-64	768,442	19%[6]	146,004	4%[7]	30,738

Notes: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) measures behavioral health illness in children as diagnosable mental or addictive disorders associated with at least minor functional impairment and severe functional impairment. SAMHSA measures adult mental illness as any mental illness and includes any mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder in the past year that met DSM-IV criteria, excluding developmental and substance use disorders. Serious adult mental illness includes schizophrenia, major depression, and bipolar disorder.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research and Planning Division, 2014
Source data: 2013 American Community Survey 1–Year Estimates, Table B01001; SAMHSA, 2014; and the Children's Hospital Association of Texas, 2006

Qualitative Analysis

Survey respondents ranked health care as the fifth overall need, but still ranked health needs as needed to highly needed, with affordable health care as the #1 most critical health need.

	1 (Not Needed)	2 (Rarely Needed)	3 (Needed)	4 (Highly Needed)	5 (Very Highly Needed)	Total	Weighted Average
Affordable health care	**5.17%** 25	**4.55%** 22	**17.36%** 84	**21.49%** 104	**51.45%** 249	484	4.10
Health Screenings	**5.65%** 27	**5.86%** 28	**25.73%** 123	**24.06%** 115	**38.70%** 185	478	3.84
Counseling Services	**7.32%** 35	**7.11%** 34	**21.13%** 101	**24.90%** 119	**39.54%** 189	478	3.82
Exercise Classes	**6.00%** 29	**8.28%** 40	**27.54%** 133	**24.64%** 119	**33.54%** 162	483	3.71
Healthy Eating Classes	**7.94%** 37	**7.30%** 34	**27.04%** 126	**22.10%** 103	**35.62%** 166	466	3.70
Health Education Classes	**8.52%** 41	**6.65%** 32	**31.19%** 150	**23.08%** 111	**30.56%** 147	481	3.60

Data Source: SurveyMonkey; Date Retrieved: May 22, 2015.

Mental health services and affordable dental care were the most frequently mentioned health needs. In addition, culturally appropriate services, assistance with prescriptions, access to healthy and affordable foods, reproductive health care, chronic disease management and access to convenient wellness and exercise classes were all mentioned as other health needs.

Key informants also listed health care needs as a lower but still important priority. Key informants highlighted access to healthy foods and access to affordable health care as specific needs.

In their own words:

- *Access to health care – insurance, affordable clinics.*
- *Counseling esp[ecially] chemical addiction. All must be culturally sensitive, including to different family structures*
- *affordable prescription programs.*
- *Coordinating healthy eating and health education with recreations center activities and/or ymca/gym discount incentives.*
- *Health Education needs to include sex education and HIV/STDs.*
- *Free classes with childcare from 6pm to 8pm.*
- *There are health providers in the neighborhood, but they are expensive.*
- *It's hard to eat healthy when just trying to fill stomachs.*
- *Community building to support healthy behaviors.*
- *Coordination of all available mental health services.*

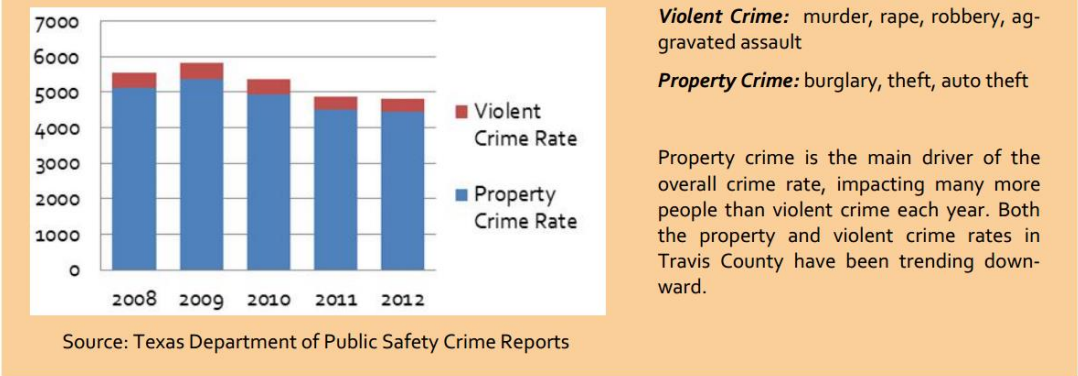
Public Safety

Quantitative Analysis

According to a map created by the City of Austin, shown below in Figure VI-15, there are two areas that show both a high concentration of poverty and crime, one in Southeast Austin and one in far east Austin. The violent crime rate in Travis County is lower than the state and the nation. Restore Rundberg is an initiative in place to reduce crime in partnership between the Austin Police Department and the neighborhood.

According to the Community Advancement Network, 2014 Snapshot, the crime rate has continued to decrease in Travis County.

Figure VI-15, Travis County Crime Rate per 100,000 Population



Created By: Community Advancement Network, Community Dashboard, Date Accessed: May 5, 2015, http://www.cancommunitydashboard.org/

Violent Crime

This indicator reports the rate of violent crime offenses reported by law enforcement per 100,000 residents. Violent crime includes homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. This indicator is relevant because it assesses community safety.

Report Area	Total Population	Violent Crimes	Violent Crime Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)
Travis County, TX	1,049,712	4,003	**381.31**
Texas	25,589,808	108,021	422.1
United States	306,859,354	1,213,859	395.5

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI Uniform Crime Reports. Additional analysis by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. Accessed via the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

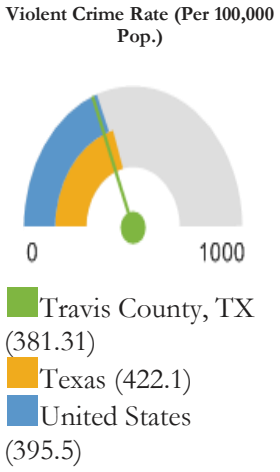
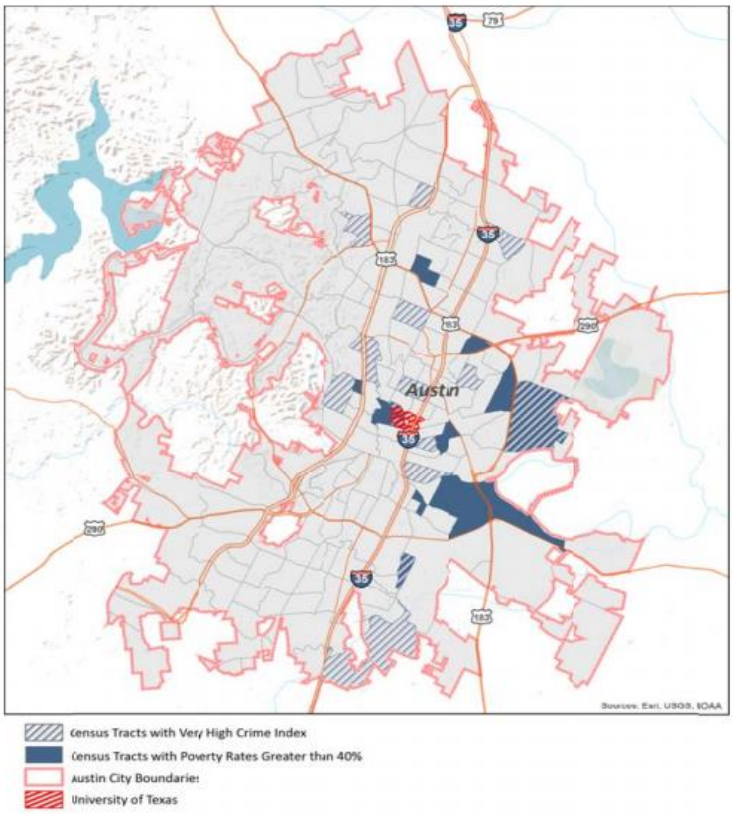
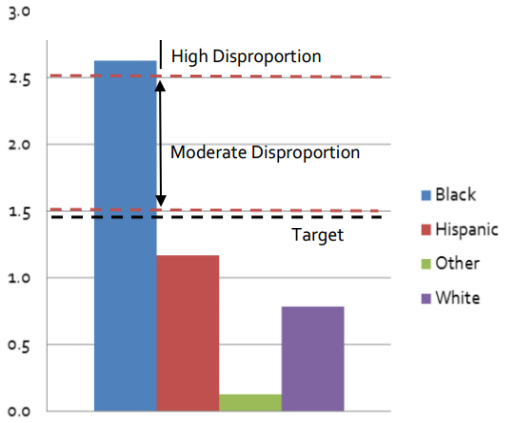


Figure VI-16, Areas with Very High Crime Rates and Extremely High Poverty Census Tracts, Austin, 2012



Created By: City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, December 19, 2014, Source: 2008-2012 ACS, ESRI Crime Index and BBC Research & Consulting

Figure VI-17, Disproportionality Ratios for Bookings into the Travis County Jail, 2012



Created By: Community Advancement Network, Community Dashboard, Date Accessed: May 5, 2015, http://www.cancommunitydashboard.org/, Source: Travis County Sheriff's Office and the ACS 1-Year Population Estimates

The Community Advancements Network's 2014 Community Dashboard report also found that in 2012 that African Americans had a high disproportion of booking in the Travis County jail and were 3.3 times more likely than Whites to be booked into the Travis County jail. They also found that Black students were 4.8 times more likely than White students in Austin ISD to be removed from the classroom and placed in Disciplinary Alternative Education Program.[46]

[46] Community Advancement Network, 2014 Community Dashboard, http://www.cancommunitydashboard.org/files/2014CANCommunityDashboard.pdf

Qualitative Analysis

Crime and safety was listed as a component of basic needs services in the survey, and survey respondents ranked it as the number one basic needs concern, with residents citing the needs for safe parks and recreation opportunities as well as accessible sidewalks and safe school crossings. Key informants echoed the concern about accessible sidewalks and pedestrian safety, especially near the City's Neighborhood Centers.

In their own words:

- *Public Safety – need to look at how to achieve public safety in a broader sense than just law enforcement, understand the need for social services to help people deal with issues they are facing that can reduce the need for law enforcement.*
- *Rosewood-Zaragoza [neighborhood center] is very well utilized; [I am] concerned about an accident nearby with many people using wheelchairs or walkers. More signage or safety classes for pedestrians. Utilize the time spent waiting in line for fresh food to provide education on pedestrian safety, as well as other agencies (Austin Energy, etc).*
- *Police to respond to loud noise calls.*
- *More lights in the parks.*
- *More surveillance because there are a lot of cars that speed.*
- *Security at the same time in the night to make sure kids aren't on the streets.*
- *Prostitution/trafficking. Treat workers as victims. Treat johns as opportunistic criminals.*
- *The safety of our neighborhood is compromised because of the sketchy motel area on Braker and 35. Lots of drug activity and homeless people panhandling literally one street over from mine. I would like to see the area cleaned up a bit as there have been a few incidents in the neighborhood directly due to that area.*
- *Side walk continuations = safety.*
- *Clean abandoned homes.*
- *Safety (high rate of burglary & vandalism).*

VII. Needs for Specific Sub-Populations

Children and Youth

Children and youth in Travis County suffer from income inequality in Travis County at greater rates than adults with about 1 in 4 children living in poverty. Some data indicators are improving for child wellbeing in the county, including infant mortality and juvenile violent crime. Many indicators, however, point to a lack of opportunity for children and youth. A recent study by the Equality of Opportunity Project found that living in Travis County limits a child's future income potential. The report indicates that the income-mobility of Travis County's low-income children ranked 85th of the 100 largest counties in the Country.[47]

Education Goals

According to Ready by 21, one of the key indicators to getting youth ready by 21 for college work and life, includes having children ready to enter Kindergarten. Ready by 21 has measure this indicator over time and found that in general this indicator is not improving in the Austin/Travis County area and shows that those 4 year olds enrolled in a public Pre-K program having a much better chance of being ready for Kindergarten.

Children Enter Kindergarten School Ready[4]	2010*	2011	2012	2013	2014**	Progresss toward Goal	Trend
Overall	52%	51%	56%	53%	53%	●	➡
Girls	61%	63%	63%	59%	61%	●	➡
Boys	44%	40%	49%	47%	46%	●	⬆
Non-Low Income	66%	63%	68%	64%	65%	●	➡
Low Income	39%	40%	45%	44%	42%	●	⬆
Attended a Pre-Program	55%	55%	58%	58%	55%	●	➡
Did Not Attend a Pre-K Program	39%	38%	42%	46%	42%	●	➡
Eligible 4-Year Olds Enrolled in Public Pre-K[5]	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**		
Central Texas Region	76%	79%	80%	78%	77%	●	➡
Early Childhood Programs in Quality Improvement and Accreditation Programs[6]							
Licensed Child Care Quality-Rated Capacity	28%	33%	31%	31%	34%	●	⬆

*Kindergarten Readiness Measure began in 2010.

**Kindergarten Readiness Measure revised slightly.

Created By: E3 Alliance, 2015 Progress Report: The Blueprint for Educational Change, http://e3alliance.org/2015/02/25/2015-progress-report-the-blueprint-for-educational-change/

[47] The Impacts of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility: Childhood Exposure Effects and County-Level Estimates, Raj Chetty and Nathaniel Hendren, Harvard University and NBER, May 2015, http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/images/nbhds_paper.pdf

Ready by 21 also found that White and Asian students have made progress towards passing school indicator tests, but that African American and Hispanic students have poor passing rates, in addition to low-income students.

Student Passing Rates (STAAR, Phase II, Level II)[10]*	2012**	2013	2014	Progresss toward Goal	Trend
Black 8th Grade Students					
Mathematics	40%	37%	43%	●	↑
Reading	51%	58%	53%	●	→
Hispanic 8th Grade Students					
Mathematics	48%	47%	54%	●	↑
Reading	54%	61%	58%	●	→
White 8th Grade Students					
Mathematics	79%	76%	82%	●	↑
Reading	84%	86%	85%	●	→
Asian 8th Grade Students					
Mathematics	89%	87%	93%	●	↑
Reading	83%	87%	87%	●	↑
Low Income 8th Grade Students					
Mathematics	44%	43%	48%	●	↑
Reading	50%	56%	53%	●	→
Non-Low Income 8th Grade Students					
Mathematics	78%	76%	81%	●	↑
Reading	83%	87%	85%	●	→
Attendance Rate Progress toward 95% absent ≤ 6 days					
8th Grade Overall	New Objective: Benchmarking in 2015				
9th Grade Overall	New Objective: Benchmarking in 2015				

*Note: STAAR Level II, Phase II represents the most recent guidance to school districts regarding student achievement that is demonstrating performance on track to college and career readiness by high school graduation.

**STAAR is the new state assessment implemented in 2012. Achievement Gap indicators prior to 2012 used TAKS. Please refer to the E3 Alliance website for more data regarding student performance on TAKS.

Created By: E3 Alliance, 2015 Progress Report: The Blueprint for Educational Change, http://e3alliance.org/2015/02/25/2015-progress-report-the-blueprint-for-educational-change/

Childcare and After School Activities

Travis County, 2014 Community Impact Report, found that Travis County lacked adequate out-of-school time programs, which was concluded by a mapping study conducted by the Central Texas Afterschool Network. There are over 183,000 school age children in Travis County. Quality after school activities and summer programs, in addition to weekends and holidays are important, particularly for at-risk youth. The report points to positive affects on attendance, test scores and grade retention for quality after-school programs and finds that the incidence of juvenile crime triples during afterschool hours and children are at greater risk for being victims of a crime. Few students in Travis County participate in afterschool or summer activities, with only 15 percent of students participating in summer programs in 2010 for 20 days or more and 23 percent of students during the 2010-11 school year served by an afterschool program for 30 days or more.[48]

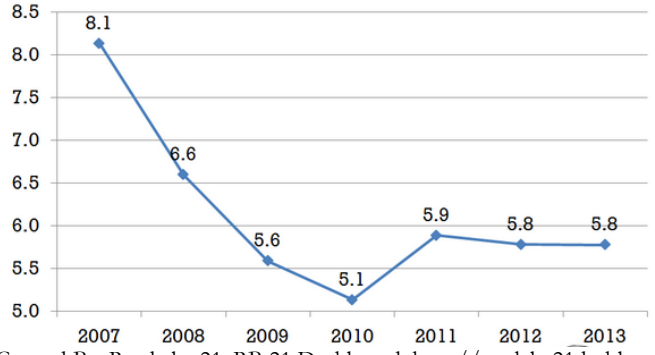
[48] Travis County, Child and Youth Development 2014 Community Impact Report, Travis County Health and Human Services &Veterans Service Research and Planning Division, https://www.traviscountytx.gov/health-human-services/research-planning/cir-2014

In 2013, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) found that the Austin Capital area, which included Travis County and parts of Dallas Fort Worth as having the most expensive child care in the state. They found that in 2013, the average cost of full-time care in a licensed child care center to be $8,810 a year, with care for infants often costing more. In Travis County the number of accredited child care provider increased from 124 in 2008 to 131 in 2014.[49]

Foster Care

Ready by 21 showed a decrease in the number of children in substitute care. The rate is per 1,000 children, ages 0-17, placed in substitute care in Travis County. Substitute care includes Foster Care, Kinship Care, Residential Treatment, and Independent Living.

Figure VII – 1, Children in Substitute Care, Rate per 1,000 Children under 18 in Travis County

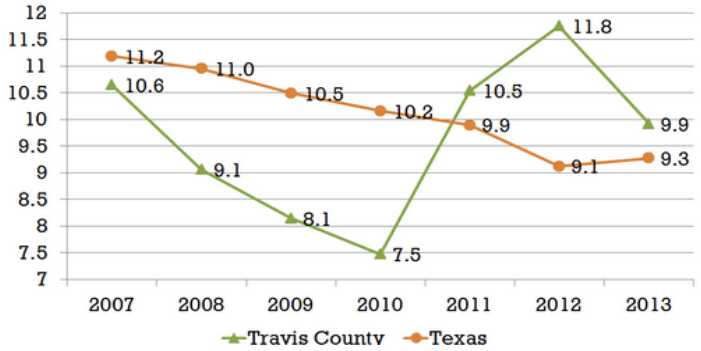


Created By: Ready by 21, RB 21 Dashboard, http://readyby21dashboardatx.org/socially-and-emotionally-healthy-and-safe/children-and-youth-in-foster-care.php, Date Pulled: May 5, 2015. Data Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Annual Report and Data Book, 2007 – 2013.

Child Abuse/Neglect

The number of child abuse and neglect cases had risen from 2010 to 2012, but have showed a recent decline. The number of confirmed investigations of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under 18 in Travis County.

Figure VII – 2, Confirmed Investigations of Child Abuse/Neglect, Rate per 1.000 children under 18



Created By: Ready by 21, RB 21 Dashboard, http://readyby21dashboardatx.org/physically-healthy-and-safe/child-abuse-and-neglect.php, Date Pulled: May 5, 2015, Data Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Annual Report and Data Book, 2007 – 2013

[49] Travis County, Child and Youth Development 2014 Community Impact Report, Travis County Health and Human Services &Veterans Service Research and Planning Division, https://www.traviscountytx.gov/health-human-services/research-planning/cir-2014

Infant and Child Mortality

The Center for Public Policy Priorities, KIDS Count Data, finds that Travis County's rate of infant mortality is improving and is better than Texas' rate. However, the rate of child death was improving, but saw an increase in 2012.

Infant Mortality

Year(s): 5 selected | Data Type: All

Data Provided by: Center for Public Policy Priorities

Location	Data Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Texas	Number	2,478	2,394	2,362	2,136	2,224
	Rate per 1,000	6.1	6.0	6.1	5.7	5.8
Travis	Number	94	93	86	71	71
	Rate per 1,000	5.7	5.7	5.4	4.6	4.5

DEFINITIONS & SOURCES COLLAPSE

Definitions: Number and rate per 1,000 of children who died before their first birthday.

Data Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics, Texas Department of State Health Services.

Created By: Center for Public Policy Priorities, KIDS Count Data Center, Data Pulled: May 5, 2015, http://forabettertexas.org/datatools.html

Child Deaths (1-14)

Year(s): 5 selected | Data Type: All

Data Provided by: Center for Public Policy Priorities

Location	Data Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Texas	Number	986	1,017	920	960	954
	Rate per 100,000 children ages 1-14	18.4	20.1	17.2	17.7	17.4
Travis	Number	29	34	27	19	31
	Rate per 100,000 children ages 1-14	15.0	18.3	13.9	9.5	15.0

DEFINITIONS & SOURCES COLLAPSE

Definitions: Number and rate per 100,000 of deaths from all causes for children ages 1-14.

Data Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics, Texas Department State Health Services.

Created By: Center for Public Policy Priorities, KIDS Count Data Center, Data Pulled: May 5, 2015, http://forabettertexas.org/datatools.html

Juvenile Crime

The Center for Public Policy Priorities, KIDS Count found that the number of juvenile violent crimes is declining in Travis County dramatically since 2008, with the most improvement in 2011 and 2012. Travis County has a better rate than Texas as a whole.

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests

Year(s): 5 selected | Data Type: All

Data Provided by: Center for Public Policy Priorities

Location	Data Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Texas	Number	5,121	5,018	4,379	3,729	3,709
	Rate per 100,000 children ages 10-17	181.6	178.3	145.5	121.5	119.7
Travis	Number	164	185	148	109	104
	Rate per 100,000 children ages 10-17	181.1	201.3	150.1	107.7	99.5

DEFINITIONS & SOURCES COLLAPSE

Definitions: Number and rate per 100,000 of total arrests of children ages 10-17 for the offenses of murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Data Source: Texas Department of Public Safety

Footnotes: These numbers should not be construed as individual people, but rather individual charges when an arrest occurs.

Created By: Center for Public Policy Priorities, KIDS Count Data Center, Data Pulled: May 5, 2015, http://forabettertexas.org/datatools.html

Seniors

Seniors are the fastest growing age group of Travis County, but currently make up one of the smallest percentage of the total population. Travis County needs to plan for this population growth by considering the needs of seniors, who are more likely than the general population to have a disability and need accessible housing and health supports.

Population Age 65, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

An estimated 7.61% percent of the population in the report area according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2009-13 5-year estimates. An estimated total of 80,935 older adults resided in the area during this time period. The number of persons age 65 or older is relevant because this population has unique health needs which should be considered separately from other age groups.

Report Area	Total Population	Population Age 65	Percent Population Age 65
Travis County, TX	1,063,248	80,935	7.61%
Texas	25,639,372	2,736,346	10.67%
United States	311,536,608	41,851,040	13.43%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: Tract
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Population Age 65 by Ethnicity Alone, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

Report Area	Total Hispanic / Latino	Total Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Hispanic / Latino	Percent Not Hispanic / Latino
Travis County, TX	13,188	159,814	3.7%	22.62%
Texas	570,425	3,842,894	5.87%	24.14%
United States	2,978,430	50,023,352	5.75%	19.26%
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background				

Population Age 65 by Race Alone, Percent

Report Area	White	Black or African American	Native American / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Travis County, TX	8.57%	7.32%	4.81%	5.08%	0%	3.21%	2.26%
Texas	12.09%	7.75%	7.56%	7.35%	2.91%	4.66%	4.76%
United States	15.39%	9.18%	7.79%	9.98%	6.07%	4.2%	4.61%
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background							

Persons with Disabilities

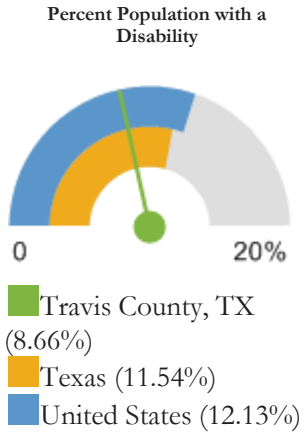
Travis County has a smaller percentage of people with disabilities than the state or national averages. Seniors are over 4 times as likely to have a disability in Travis County. Since seniors are one of the fastest growing populations in the County, there will be an increased need for accessible and affordable housing close to public transportation, as well as other services designed to help seniors and those with disabilities live independently in the community, which decreases the need for more costly alternatives such as nursing homes.

This indicator reports the percentage of the total civilian non-institutionalized population with a disability. Travis County has a smaller percentage of persons with disabilities compared to Texas or the U.S.

Population with any Disability, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

Report Area	Total Population (For Whom Disability Status Is Determined)	Total Population with a Disability	Percent Population with a Disability
Travis County, TX	1,056,504	91,510	**8.66%**
Texas	25,158,370	2,902,056	11.54%
United States	306,448,480	37,168,876	12.13%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: Tract
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background



Population with Any Disability by Age Group, Percent, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

Report Area	Under Age 18	Age 18 - 64	Age 65
Travis County, TX	3.68%	7.61%	34.28%
Texas	4.13%	9.94%	40.19%
United States	4.03%	10.1%	36.48%

Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Disability Status, Number, and Type by Age
Civilian Non-institutionalized Population, Travis County, 2013

	Total Population N=1,113,959		*Population Under 65* N=1,025,333		*Population 65 and Over* N=88,626	
Disability Status and Number	***Number***	***Rate***	***Number***	***Rate***	***Number***	***Rate***
With a disability	110,447	10%	79,379	8%	31,068	35%
One type of disability	64,629	6%	50,152	5%	14,477	16%
Two or more types of disability	45,818	4%	29,227	3%	16,591	19%
Disability Type						
Ambulatory difficulty	48,899	4%	29,818	3%	19,081	22%
Cognitive difficulty	45,369	4%	37,251	4%	8,118	9%
Independent living difficulty	32,605	3%	20,442	2%	12,163	14%
Hearing difficulty	29,683	3%	15,500	2%	14,183	16%
Vision difficulty	23,183	2%	17,083	2%	6,100	7%
Self-care difficulty	19,258	2%	13,353	1%	5,905	7%

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2014
Source data: 2013 American Community Survey 1–Year Estimates, S1810 & B18108

Veterans

Travis County has fewer veterans than the average for the state and the U.S. According to a study of Texas Veterans by the Texas Workforce Investment Council, Texas veterans are more likely to be older, more educated, white, and male than non-veterans in Texas. The veteran population in Texas, partially due to being an older population, is almost twice as likely to have a disability as non-veterans. Unemployment rates also are lower for Veterans in Texas compared to non-veterans, but are higher for Gulf War II Veterans.[50]

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) of Austin, in 2014, started OneKeyATX with the goal of ending veteran homelessness in Austin. ECHO wants to identify 234 housing units to dedicate to veteran families.[51]

Veterans, Age and Gender Demographics, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

Veterans, Age and Gender Demographics show the number of veterans living in the report area. 6.65% of the adult population in the report area are veterans, which is less than the national average of 8.99%.

Report Area	Veterans Total	Veterans Male	Veterans Female	% Pop over 18 Total	% Pop over 18 Males	% Pop over 18 Females
Travis County, TX	53,933	48,375	5,558	6.65	11.88	1.38
Texas	1,583,272	1,445,791	137,481	8.51	15.88	1.45
United States	21,263,780	19,709,452	1,554,327	8.99	17.21	1.27

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: County
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

Linguistically Isolated Population

According to the Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, many linguistically isolated households do not participate in the census. They point to the number of students who are eligible for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) as another good indicator of the true impact on the community. In Travis County, they found that 24.3 percent of students qualified for LEP services, which requires that the family to identify that they speak a language other than English at home.[52]

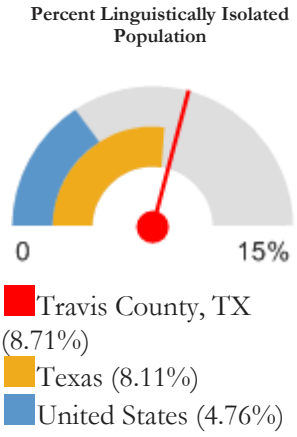
Linguistically Isolated Population, 2009 to 2013 5-Year Estimate

This indicator reports the percentage of the population aged 5 and older who live in a home in which no person 14 years old and over speaks only English, or in which no person 14 years old and over speak a non-English language and speak English "very well."

[50] Texas Workforce Investment Council, Veterans in Texas: A Demographic Study, December 2012, http://gov.texas.gov/files/twic/Veterans_in_Texas.pdf
[51] ECHO, OneKeyATX, http://austinecho.org/the-solution/onekeyatx-2/
[52] Literacy in Central Texas, a Snapshot of Conditions, Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, 2010

Report Area	Total Population Age 5 and Older	Linguistically Isolated Population	Percent Linguistically Isolated Population
Travis County, TX	986,314	85,867	**8.71%**
Texas	23,704,400	1,922,266	8.11%
United States	291,484,480	13,871,217	4.76%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average. Data breakout by demographic groups are not available.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Source geography: Tract
Created By: Community Commons, Date Retrieved: March 25, 2015, See Appendix A for Data and Methodology Background

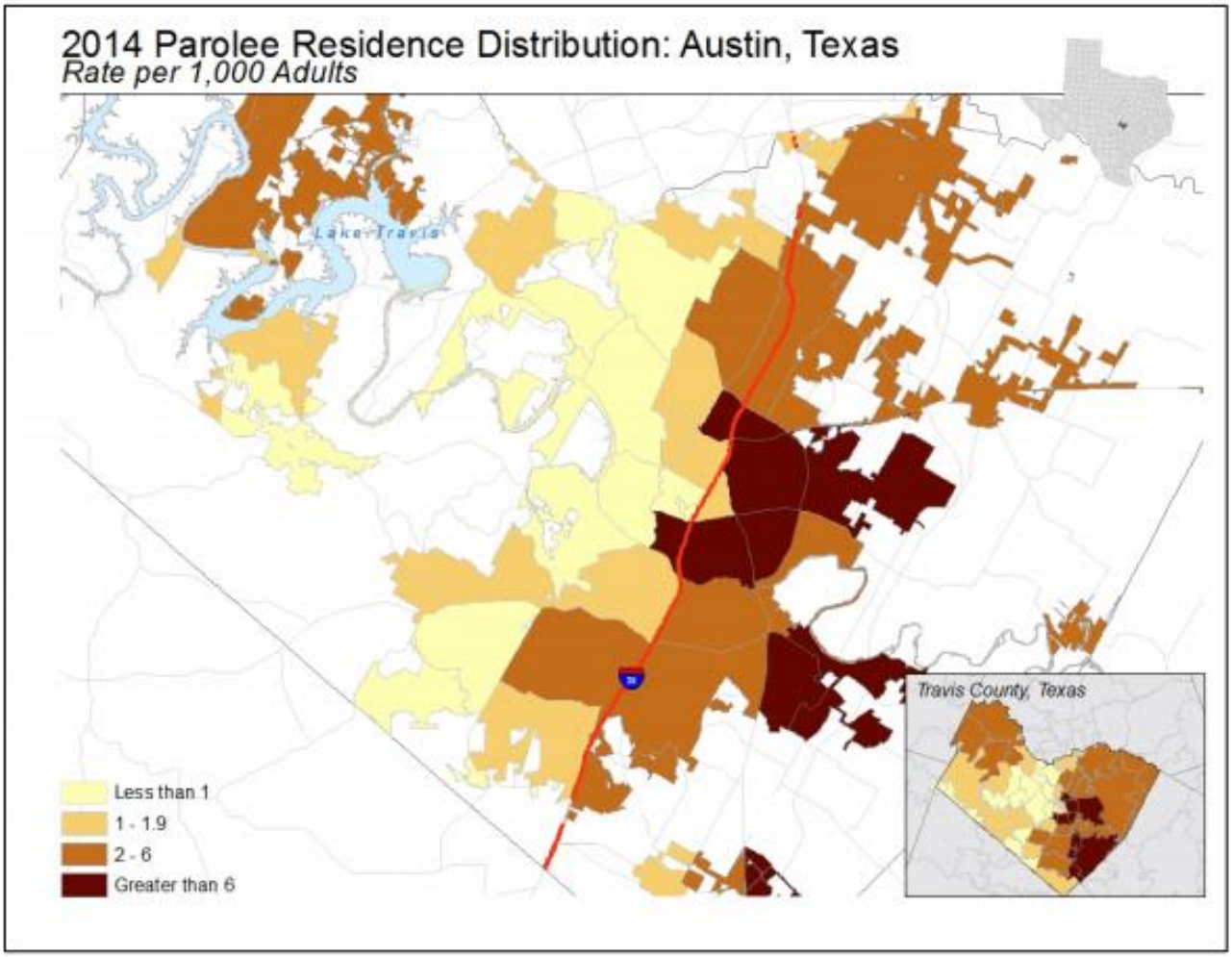


Persons with Criminal Backgrounds

The Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable has a mission to promote public safety through effective reentry and reintegration of formerly incarcerated persons and individuals with criminal histories. Their September 2014 Report Card provides a picture of the reentry population in the county. They found that the largest issues for successful reentry are housing, mental health, substance abuse, and employment. There are approximately 2,800 parolees who are primarily located in East Austin as shown in the map below. However, just as low-income households are increasing in areas outside of the central City, they found that parolees are also locating further east and outside of Austin.[53]

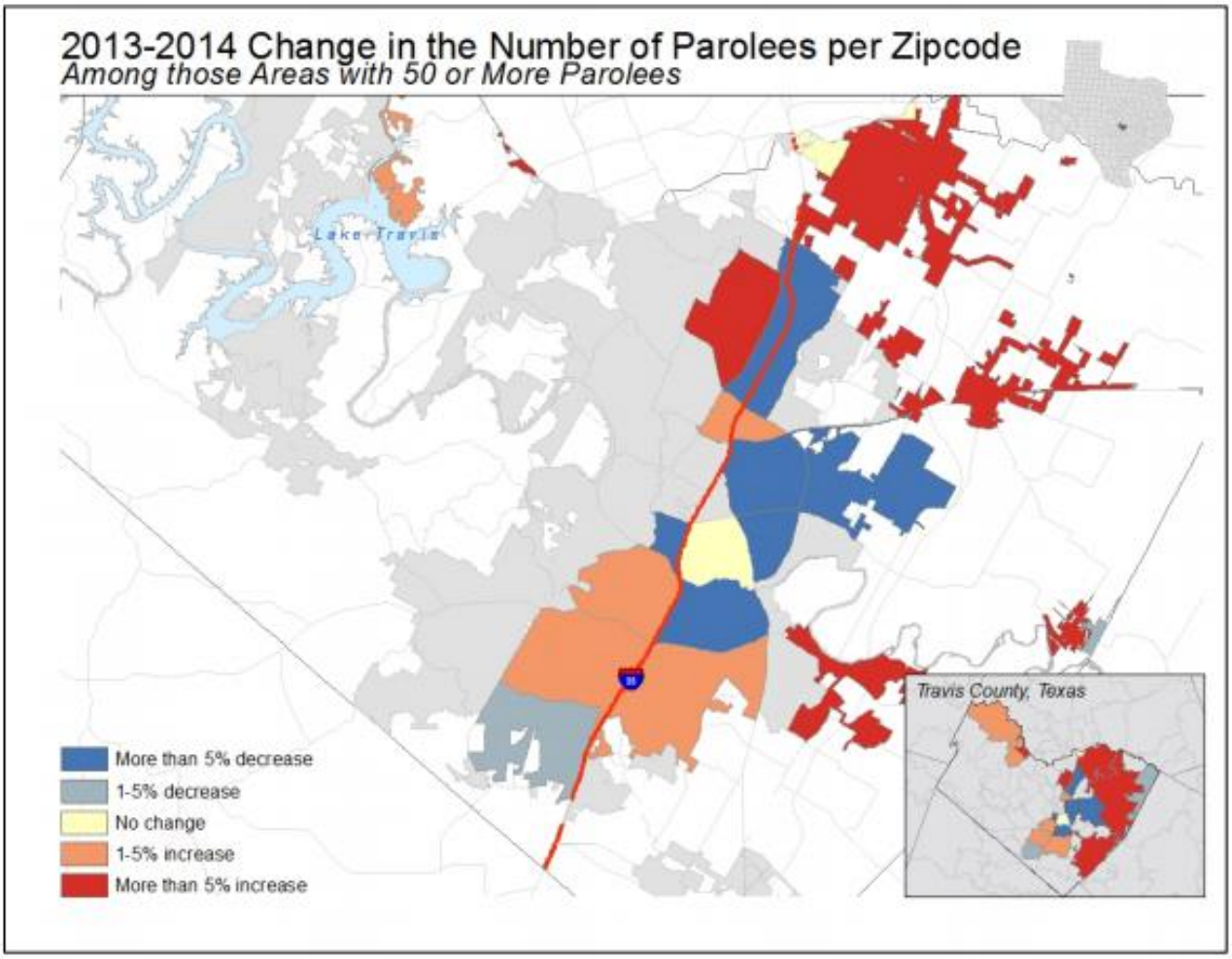
[53] Austin Travis County Reentry Report Card, September 2014, http://www.reentryroundtable.net/publications/

Figure VII – 3, Parolee Resident Distribution in Austin, TX, 2014 (Rate per 1,000 Adults)



Created By: Austin Travis County Reentry Roundtable, Reentry Report card, September 2014, http://www.reentryroundtable.net/publications/; Note: these numbers exclude parolees released to ZIP code 78617 (Del Valle), where the Austin Transitional Center halfway house is located. Data Source: Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Figure VII – 4, Change in the Number of Parolees per ZIP Code, 2013-2014 (Among those Areas with 50 or More Parolees)



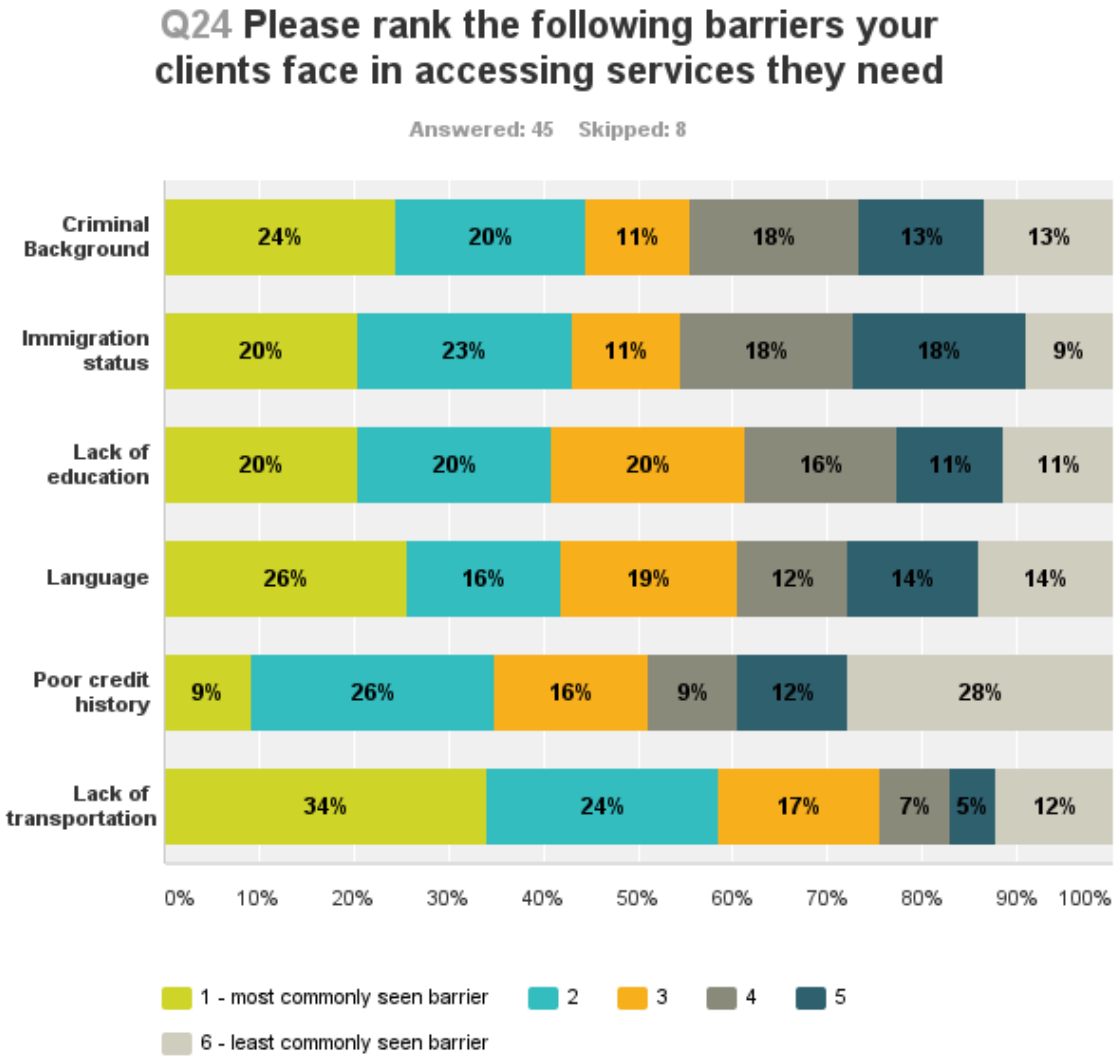
Created By: Austin Travis County Reentry Roundtable, Reentry Report card, September 2014, http://www.reentryroundtable.net/publications/

VIII. Barriers to Meeting Needs

Identified Barriers

Survey respondents identifying as service providers were asked to rank the barriers their clients faced in accessing needed services. Based on a weighted average of the responses, lack of transportation was listed as the most commonly seen barrier, followed by lack of education; language, criminal background, and immigration status. Poor credit history was much less commonly cited than the other barriers.

Figure VIII -1: Survey Question for Service Providers on Ranking Barriers Clients Face in Accessing Services



Source: SurveyMonkey. Date Retrieved: May 14, 2015.

Key informants provided additional feedback on barriers to meeting needs, including the following categories:

Access to Information & Services

- Information not being accessible in multiple formats (e.g. not just on a web site; available at area community centers, churches, businesses, etc)
- Information about the service delivery system is confusing, complex and hard for people to find the help they need. Use of too many acronyms to describe services.
- Hours of services at City neighborhood centers limited to daytime hours.
- Current staffing levels at City neighborhood centers
- Lack of public transportation, especially in areas east of 183
- Lack of access to computers/internet access
- Lack of education
- Access to Health Care east of 183

Background Check Barriers

- Criminal Background – barrier in accessing employment and housing
- Lack of Identification
- Immigration Status

Literacy/Language Availability

- Low literacy rates – lack of information and services in languages that are accessible to all people, including use of pictures and symbols for those who do not read or write well
- Computer literacy
- Financial literacy

Physical Barriers

- Safety/accessibility – sidewalks and access to community centers

Other Service Provider Comments

- *It would be helpful if clients could access more resources in a centralized way--it would be less confusing, time-consuming, and frustrating for clients if they could access many services all in one place, instead of having to go all over to do so. I think people often give up or don't follow through because of the scattered nature of services, and they have only so much time and energy in the day.*
- *It is fairly common for my clients to struggle with applying for or renewing HHSC public benefits, such as SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid. It seems like there are a lot of errors that occur, a confusing process, poor or unclear communication to clients about what they need to do and when, and difficulty navigating the bureaucracy of state agencies to clear up any problems. I have seen clients who lost their benefits several times due to clerical or other errors that were often not their fault.*
- *Establish more affordable child care options and expand existing subsidy programs when possible. Child care is essential for people to maintain employment, and it is a huge barrier for many, largely because it is so costly. People have to be already working to even apply for CCS subsidy through Texas Workforce Commission, and then they get on a waitlist for several months but need reliable childcare in the interim.*

IX. Current CSBG-Funded Services and Identified Needs

Poverty Data and Number of People Served by CSBG Direct or Supported Services

As cited previously, 2013 Community Commons data reports that 174,374 persons were living in poverty in Travis County. As the designated CSBG Community Action Agency serving Travis County, the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (A/TCHHSD) served 47,704 persons in 2014 with CSBG direct or supported services. In addition, the City of Austin and Travis County's combined investments in social services help area non-profits meet the needs of people living in poverty.

Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department continues to participate in numerous community collaborations to better coordinate services and increase the collective impact of investments made to address the causes and conditions of poverty in Travis County. These collaborations include the Community Advancement Network (CAN), Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), the Integrated Care Collaboration and others.

The following services and activities have either been implemented or will be implemented or expanded to meet the needs as identified by the Community Needs Assessment:

1. Employment

While the overall unemployment rate in Travis County is lower than both that of the State of Texas and the United States, many in Travis County, especially those with less than a high school diploma, continue to struggle to find good jobs with a living wage and good benefits. In recent years, A/TCHHSD has continued to increase its emphasis on helping low-income people become more self-sufficient through the use of CSBG funds. In 2014, A/TCHHSD enrolled 126 people in case management services designed to assist them with finding employment. Of these, 59 persons found a job.

In addition, A/TCHHSD continues to partner with Workforce Solutions to provide assistance to persons seeking employment through the Workforce Education and Readiness Collaboration (WERC). Workforce Solutions provides services through the WERC collaboration at three A/TCHHSD neighborhood centers. A/TCHHSD also employs a job counselor using CSBG funds who helps people find and maintain their jobs.
A/TCHHSD has worked with the City of Austin Human Resources Department, Austin Free-Net, and other internal partners in recent years to increase awareness of the employment assistance and support services provided through the use of CSBG funds. Promotional materials and public service announcements have been developed and staff are participating in a number of community events, including job and career fairs to increase awareness of these services.

2. Housing

As noted earlier, population growth has increased the cost of housing for the residents of Travis County. Many residents face increasing rents and property taxes, making housing less affordable, especially for those living on low or fixed incomes. In 2014, A/TCHHSD re-established CSBG funded assistance with rent and utilities, which was initially offered through CSBG-American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds in previous years.

Currently, this assistance is focused on supporting individuals working toward achieving self-sufficiency A/TCHHSD's case management and employment support services. 50 persons received assistance with obtaining or maintaining safe and affordable housing in 2014 through CSBG.

A/TCHHSD also continues to provide support to the Best Single Source Plus collaboration, and is participating with the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition's (ECHO) Coordinated Assessment process. Through the 1115 Waiver federal dollars, the City of Austin is improving the health outcomes of our community. Two projects are focused on Permanent Supportive Housing and provide intensive support services for the chronically homeless. Finally, A/TCHHSD links people to assistance through a number of community partners. These include Travis County Health and Human Services, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Austin and Travis County Housing Authorities, Foundation Communities, Blackland Community Development Corporation and others.

3. Education

Higher levels of education are directly linked to higher earnings in Travis County, as noted earlier. The most critical need cited by survey respondents was help to go to college, but help to go to trade/technical school and computer skills classes were all rated as needed to very highly needed.

A/TCHHSD has partnered with Workforce Solutions Workforce Education and Readiness Continuum, Austin Community College and Austin Free-Net to link clients to educational resources, including computer skills training classes. Case managers work with clients to link them to additional services provided through social service contracts, including Capital Idea which helps provide assistance with the cost of education. Additional partnerships are being explored to better meet the need identified for educational assistance.

4. Basic Needs

Requests for food pantries was the third highest need as reported by United Way's 211 data. A/TCHHSD continues to serve as a key partner of the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) in meeting the need for food assistance, particularly in those areas who have little access to fresh, healthy food. In 2014, A/TCHHSD provided food assistance to 35,640 persons through CSBG supported services at six neighborhood centers and three outreach locations. In addition, in 2014, all neighborhood centers became Community Partners through the State of Texas Health and Human Services Commission, to allow staff to assist clients with applications for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Transportation is a growing problem, as more low-income households are moving outside of the central city to find affordable housing. Community Commons data indicates that over 20,000 residents use public transit to commute to work.

In 2014, A/TCHHSD applied for and received approval to participate in the Basic Needs Transportation Fund's program to purchase deeply discounted bus passes through Capitol Metro to provide to clients needing transportation assistance. 165 persons received CSBG direct funded transportation assistance in 2014.

5. Health

Although Travis County residents in general have better health than the State or U.S, several areas of concern persist. In particular, the rates of adults and youth who are overweight or obese, due to lack of good nutrition and physical activity. Disparities which exist for many preventable diseases and causes of death are also cause for concern.

In 2014, through CSBG direct and supported services provided by A/TCHHSD, 9,400 persons received preventive health services. These services include immunizations, health screenings, pregnancy tests, linkages to medical coverage and primary care, prescription assistance and other services. In addition, preventive health education was provided through a wide variety of community partnerships. Finally, car seat education and installation was provided to Travis County families through the partnership with the SafeKids Coalition.
The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department participates in numerous activities to improve the health of the community. A/TCHHSD participates in the Austin Tobacco Prevention and Control Coalition (ATPCC) and the Central Texas Diabetes Coalition, as well as the Integrated Care Collaboration to improve the health outcomes for Travis County.

In 2012-13, A/TCHHSD worked with a number of community partners including Travis County Health and Human Services and Veteran's Services, Central Health, St. David's Foundation, Seton Healthcare Family, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Heath Austin Regional Campus, Capital Metro and Austin/ Travis County Integral Care to conduct a Community Health Assessment and draft a Comprehensive Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). These partners and other community stakeholders continue to work on the CHIP's strategies and objectives to make progress on the goals identified.

A/TCHHSD is also involved in numerous other Public Health and Human Services 1115 Waiver Transformation Projects. Among these projects are:

- **Expansion of the Community Diabetes Project** - This project provides free diabetes self-management education classes for individuals living with diabetes. The series of six classes is offered in Spanish or English by community health workers in community settings.
- **Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program targeting 18-24 year olds** - This tobacco prevention and cessation intervention project aims to reduce tobacco use among the 18-24 year old population. Research indicates that tobacco cessation before the age of 30 avoids almost all the long-term effects of smoking.
- **Immunizations** - This project seeks to increase the provision of vaccines to decrease morbidity and mortality to uninsured or Medicaid/Medicare eligible high risk populations. This project specifically targets clients seeking STD & HIV services, day laborers, homeless individuals, substance abusers, and other high risk individuals.
- **Maternal Infant Outreach Program** - This program provides support for African American women before and during their pregnancies, and throughout the first year of life of their child. Community health workers help women access health and human services, provide health education and birth education and provide labor and delivery support.
- **Healthy Families Expansion** -This program provides long-term home visiting services to support the needs of first-time African American parents. Services begin during the woman's pregnancy and continue until the child turns three years old.
- **Peer to Peer Health Education to Prevent Teen Pregnancy** -The goal of this intervention for all youth who participate—as either community educators or program participants—is to increase their knowledge, skills, and attitudes about health and personal choices while becoming empowered to disseminate this information to their peers.

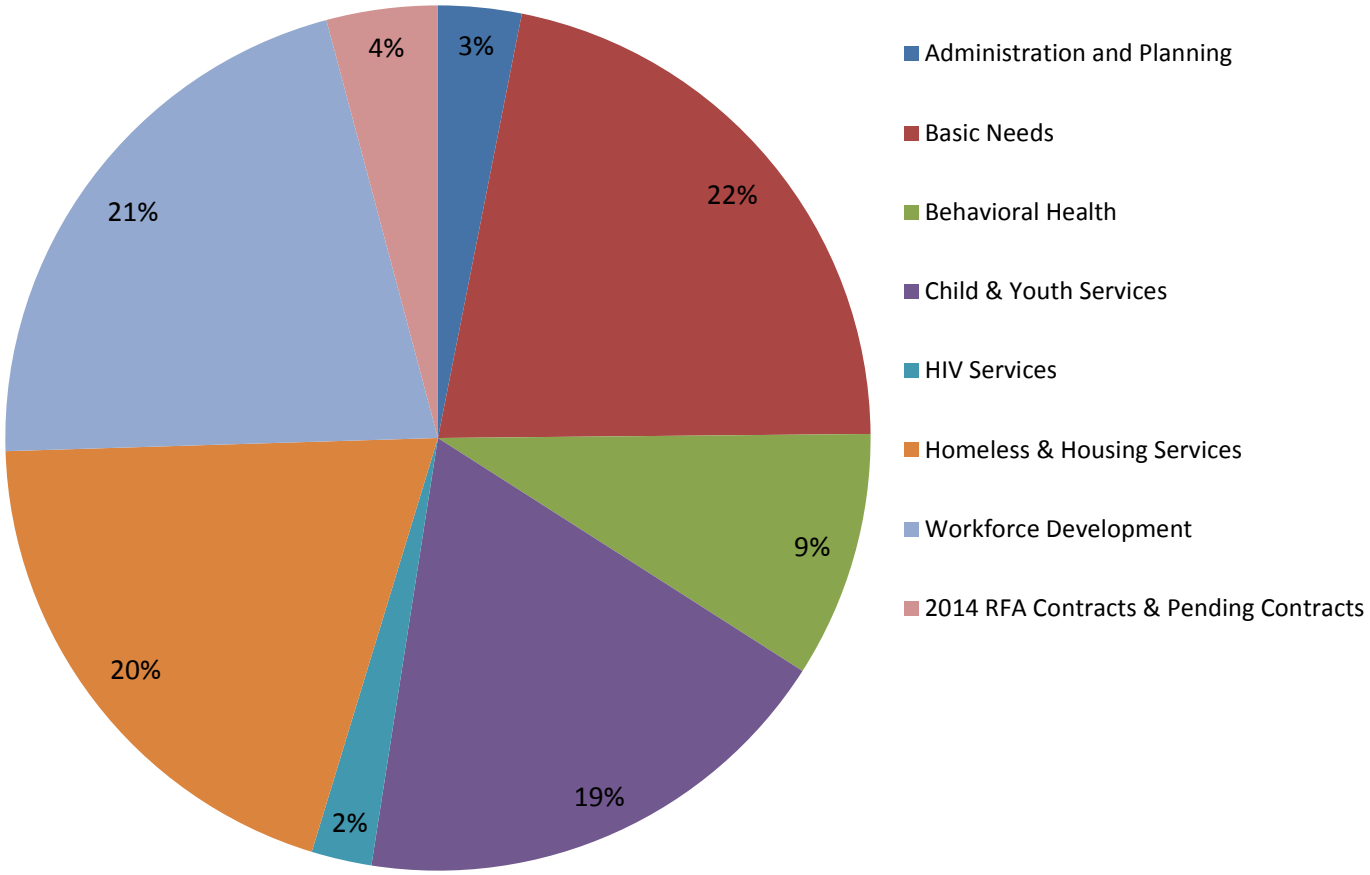
X. Inventory of Community Strengths and Assets

Community Summary

Strong Investment in Anti-Poverty Programs

Historically, the City of Austin has relied upon the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds as the primary source of support for its six neighborhood centers and three outreach locations. The neighborhood centers and outreach locations have continued to serve as a key safety net for people in poverty throughout Travis County. City of Austin policymakers have also demonstrated a strong commitment to funding social services in the City of Austin budget. In Fiscal Year 2015, the City invested more than $26 million in social service contracts with a number of non-profits and other agencies in the areas listed in the chart below.

Figure IX – 1, City of Austin – Social Service Investment, 2015



Source: City of Austin

Travis County also has a strong commitment to funding social services. The 2012 Community Impact Report summarizes more than $11 million in investment in the following areas: Basic Needs, Behavioral Health, Child and Youth Development, Education, Housing Continuum, Legal Services, Planning and Evaluation, Public Health and Access to Healthcare, Supportive Services for Independent Living, and Workforce Development.
United Way for Greater Austin is another key community funder of health and human services, raising funds through a workplace giving philanthropic model. In Fiscal Year 2015, United Way raised almost $15 million for agencies in Travis County, with $2.4 million supporting grants and contracts in three target areas: early childhood education, improving the high school graduation rate, and financial opportunity.

Culture of Dialogue and Innovation

The Austin/Travis County health and human services sector is highly networked and influenced by a regional culture of dialogue and innovation. Organizations such as the Community Advancement Network (CAN), One Voice Central Texas, and Greenlights for Non-Profit Success convene non-profit executives, policymakers, and community stakeholders to draw attention and find solutions to pressing community concerns. The CAN Dashboard is an annual snapshot of 17 key indicators in Travis County and efforts to move the indicators in the right direction. The indicators fall into four categories: We are Safe, Just and Engaged; Our Basic Needs are Met; We are Healthy; and We Achieve our Full Potential. In 2014 and 2015, CAN also convened a series of local conversations focused on cultural competence and language access within the human services sector and developed a Cultural Competence, Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit to support local agencies in offering non-judgmental services that are responsive to the beliefs, practices and cultural and linguistic needs of their clients.

Community Resources and Partners

According to a recent report by Greenlights, *On the Verge, Value and Vulnerability of Austin's Nonprofit Sector*, the Austin area is home to nearly 6,000 nonprofits, an increase of 36 percent from 2004. Of those nonprofits, 74 are focused on housing and 53 are focused on food and nutrition. A/TCHHSD, through its work with the Neighborhood Centers, partners and coordinates with many local organizations to leverage the CSBG funds provided to Travis County. The following list includes a sample of the organizations with whom A/TCHHSD partners directly, in addition to other organizations who provide these services to Travis County residents.

Austin/Travis County Community Resources by Type of Service

Type of Service	Neighborhood Center Partnering Agencies	Other Community Resources
Food	Capital Area Food Bank, Wheatsville Food Coop, St. John and Resurrection Episcopal Churches, Feed the Hungry, HHSC Community Partner Program, WIC	Caritas of Austin,, Micah 6 at UPC, Austin Baptist Chapel, Greater Mount Zion Baptist, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, , Hope Lutheran Church, Hope Food Pantry, The Store House, El Buen Samaritano, St. Edwards's Baptist Church, Church of Christ Hyde Park, Salvation Army Shelter, University Presbyterian Church, Cristo Rey SVDP, Eastside Community Connection, Olivet Helping Hand Center, , St. Andrews Presbyterian St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Bannockburn Baptist Church,Dolores Catholic Church, Mision Cristiana Intl/LIDS, Bread For All, Travis Heights Food Pantry, Travis County Community Center at Del Valle, Travis

		County Community Center at Post Road, Lake Travis Crisis Ministries, Mission Possible, Bethany Faith Food Pantry, Trinity Center, Welcome Table, St. Austin SVDP, Dorcas Passion Ministries, Christian Life Church (C.L.C.), Austin Cornerstone Church Food Pantry, Haynie Chapel Food Pantry, St. Elizabeth, Pflugerville First UMC, Eternal Faith Baptist, Kingdom of God Christian Center, Dorcas Passion Ministries, Covenant United Methodist, Hands of Love, Feed the Community, Vineyard Christian Fellowship
Basic Needs	Capital Area Food Bank, Travis County Health and Human Services and Veteran's Services	Austin Diaper Bank, Round Rock Area Serving Center, Round Rock Area Serving Center, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Charities of Central TX, El Buen Samaritano, Salvation Army
Rent and Utility Assistance	Easter Seals of Central Texas, Inc.; Travis County Health and Human Services and Veteran's Services	Caritas of Austin, Baptist Community Center, Greater Mt. Zion, Texas VFW Foundation, Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Vincent de Paul Societies, Catholic Charities of Central Texas, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Westover Hills Church of Christ, Christian Service Center
Employment	Workforce Solutions Capital Area; The City of Austin Human Resources Department Dewitty Job Training and Employment Center	Goodwill, Austin Area Urban League, Inc, Austin Travis County Integral Care-Developmental Disabilities Services Division, Ascend Learning Center, Capital IDEA, The City of Austin-Parks and Recreation Department Senior Programs and Services, Easter Seals Central Texas Inc, WIA Youth Services, Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHHS), Travis County Criminal Justice Planning and Comprehensive Workforce Development Program, Travis County Offender Workforce Development Program
Affordable Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing	City of Austin and Travis County Housing Authorities; Blackland Community Development Corporation; City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development	Foundation Communities, Permanent Supportive Housing Programs, local Community Development Corporations, Austin Habitat for Humanity, Austin Tenants' Council, Green Doors, Family Eldercare, Lifeworks, St. George's Senior Housing, Inc., Foundation for the

		Homeless, Front Steps, SafePlace
Emergency Shelter		Austin's Resource Center for the Homeless, Salvation Army, Safeplace, Foundation for the Homeless, Ending Community Homelessness Organization
Public Health	Central Health Community Care; HHSC Community Partner Program; Travis County Health and Human Services and Veteran's Services; Texas Department of State Health Services – Public Health Region 7; University of Texas at Austin – School of Nursing; American Heart Association, WeViva, Integrated Care Collaboration	El Buen Samaritano, People's Community Clinic, Volunteer Healthcare Clinic, Austin Travis County Integral Care, Seton, SafeKids, Sendero, United Healthcare, Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Seton, Planned Parenthood, AIDS Services of Austin, Inc, Health Alliance for Austin Musicians, Integrated Care Collaboration, Insure-A-Kid, Manos de Cristo, MedSavers Pharmacy, People's Community Clinic, St. David's Foundation, Any Baby Can, – Children's Wellness Center, University of Texas at Austin –Community Women's Wellness Center, HealthStart Foundation, Marathon Kids, Austin Speech Labs, Breast Cancer Resource Centers of Texas, , Lone Star Assoc. of Charitable Clinics, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Volunteer Healthcare Clinic, SIMS Foundation, , The Care Communities, WeViva, Wright House Wellness Center
Mental Health		Austin Travis County Integral Care, Austin Child Guidance Center, Capital Area Counseling, Austin Recovery, Christi Center, Jewish Family Service of Austin, Waterloo Counseling Center, Center for Survivors of Torture
Education – literacy, GED, financial assistance, ESL	Austin Community College, Workforce Solutions, Austin Free Net	Literacy Coalition, Any Baby Can, Huston Tillotson University, La Fuente Learning Center, Lifeworks, ACE: A Community for Education, American Youthworks, The Austin Project, Capital IDEA, Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, BookSpring, The Austin Project, Austin Partners in Education
Child Care		Workforce Solutions, Child Inc., Any Baby Can
Employment and Job Training	Workforce Solutions, Austin Free-Net	Vaughn House, Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, Skillpoint Alliance, American YouthWorks, Capital IDEA,
Public Benefits	Texas Health and Human Services Commission	
Child/Youth	SafeKids Coalition, Child Inc.	Asian American Cultural Center, The

Development		Austin Project, Austin Young Men's Business League, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas, Inc, Boys and Girls Clubs of the Capital Area, City of Austin – Parks and Recreation Department, Extend-A-Care for Kids, Heart House Austin, The Junior League of Austin, Morning Star Rising, River City Youth Foundation, YMCA Austin, Austin Area Urban League, Austin Child Guidance Center, Austin Diaper Bank, Any Baby Can, Austin Children's Services, AVANCE, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area, CASA of Travis County, Child Inc., Council on At-Risk Youth, Extend-A Care for Kids, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Open Door, Preschools, Partnerships for Children, The Settlement Home for Children, Southwest Key Programs, Inc., Urban Roots, YMCA of Austin, Communities In Schools, Wonders & Worries, Austin Area Urban League, LifeWorks, Center for Child Protection
Senior Services	Family Eldercare	AGE of Central Texas, Capital City Village, Drive A Senior, Meals on Wheels and More, H.A.N.D., The Arc of Capital Area
Disability Services	Easter Seals Central Texas	The Arc of the Capital Area, H.A.N.D, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

XI. Top Identified Needs

The CSBG Work Group formed to review the results of the needs assessment and determine the final ranking of needs included the Program Supervisors of the Neighborhood Centers, the Manager of the Neighborhood Centers, Administrative Assistant to the Neighborhood Centers and the Woollard Nichols and Associates consultants. The team was presented quantitative data of the needs, as well as the qualitative data gathered from the surveys and interviews. The team created the final ranking after considering the quantitative and qualitative data.

Some of the feedback on the needs from the team:

- They were not surprised that the clients and the providers would have different priorities and in many instances they agreed with the clients, who identified employment as the highest need. Without employment, their clients will not be able to leave the poverty conditions which they currently face.
- Most Neighborhood Center clients are renting and cannot afford to own or are living with relatives.
- Money management is important, but many clients are already making tough choices to manage the money they do have. For people with low incomes, this involves choosing between basic needs, like paying the rent and cutting back on food. People do need to understand how to budget and the dangers of subprime lending, such as payday lenders.
- Many clients are staying in the same household as their extended family to make sure that everyone is taken care of, especially if only one family member is working.
- We must balance the need to provide a safety net with other priorities.
- The community has historically relied on the Neighborhood Centers to help them meet their basic needs, and the Capital Area Food Bank views the Neighborhood Centers as a key partner in the community for the provision of food assistance. However, many other agencies and partners are providing basic needs assistance in the community which may indicate the need to sharpen the focus of CSBG supported services on employment, and other needs identified by the community in addition to linking people to other resources.

The Work Group also discussed the demographic shifts that have been occurring in the community, and the three outreach locations which A/TCHHSD has added in the Colony Park, Hornsby Bend and Dove Springs areas to help address this change.

Initial discussions have been held regarding the increased population of low-income households in North Austin, which is currently served by one neighborhood center in the St. John area. The Community Development Commission has recommended a new designated geographic area representative be added to the Commission for this area, and this recommendation will be moved forward for City Council action.

Other community concerns raised by the Needs Assessment will be considered as part of the Strategic Planning and Community Action Plan processes for 2016. These include the concerns which were raised related to the need for better publicity about Neighborhood Center services and concerns about facilities, such as safety and sidewalks.

Identified Needs	Quantitative Data	Service Provider Survey	Client Survey	Other Surveys	Interviews	FINAL RANKING
Basic Needs (Food, Clothes, Help with Bus Passes/Gas, Better public transportation, affordable child care, safety)	**1**	**3**	**3**	**5**	**4**	**4**
Employment (Job Training, Help Finding a Job, Jobs for People with a Criminal Background)	**4**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Education (GED Classes, English as a Second Language, Computer Skills Classes, Help to go to Trade/Technical School, Help to go to College, Classes for Adult Reading/Writing, Parenting Classes)	**3**	**5**	**2**	**2**	**6**	**3**
Money Management (Help applying for Social Security, Disability benefits, Classes on making/using a budget, Help preparing income taxes, counseling on debt and credit)	**5**	**6**	**6**	**6**	**5**	**6**
Housing Services (Affordable Rental Housing, Help Paying Rent, Help Paying Energy Bills, Emergency Shelter)	**2**	**1**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**2**
Health (Health Education Classes, Exercise Classes, Health Screening, Affordable Health Care, Counseling Services, Healthy Eating Classes)	**6**	**4**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**5**

XII. 2015 Top Five Needs and Current Services with National CSBG Goals and Performance Indicators

National Goals	Top Identified Needs	Current Services and Activities Addressing Needs	National Performance Indicators
Goal # 1: Low-income people become more self-sufficient (Family Goals) Goal # 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved. (Agency Goal)	**1. Employment**	• Assist persons to obtain and maintain employment. • Assist persons to obtain an increase in employment income and/or benefits. • Assist persons to achieve a living wage. • Partnerships with Workforce Solutions (WERC), Austin Free-Net	1.1A 1.1B 1.1C 1.1D 4.1A, 4.1G
Goal # 1: Low-income people become more self-sufficient (Family Goals) Goal # 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved. (Agency Goal)	**2. Housing Services**	• Housing Assistance (Employment Support) • Utility Assistance (Employment Support) • Assist persons to create a budget and provide financial counseling • Partnerships with City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Travis County Health and Human Services Department, City of Austin and Travis County Housing Authorities, Foundation Communities, Permanent Supportive Housing Programs, local Community Development Corporations (e.g. Blackland); Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), Emergency Shelters	1.2H 1.2J, 1.2L 1.3D 4.1A, 4.1B, 4.1C, 4.1D, 4.1G, 4.1H

Goal #6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and supportive systems (Family Goals)	**Housing Services (cont.)**	• Housing Assistance (Emergency/Family Support) • Utility Assistance (Emergency/Family Support)	6.2C, 6.2E, 6.4E 6.2B, 6.4G, 6.4I
Goal # 1: Low-income people become more self-sufficient (Family Goals) Goal # 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved. (Agency Goal) Goal #6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and supportive systems (Family Goals)	**3. Education**	• Education (Employment Support) • Partnerships with Austin Community College, Workforce Solutions (WERC) • Nutrition Classes • Educational Classes for parents on nutrition, other parenting topics and child passenger safety education • Educational Classes for other adults and provide counseling to assist adults improve and exhibit an increase in family functioning skills	1.2A, 1.2B 4.1J, 4.1G 6.3B 6.3J, 6.3K 6.3K
Goal # 1: Low-income people become more self-sufficient (Family Goals) Goal # 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved. (Agency Goal)	**4. Basic Needs**	• Food Assistance (Employment Support) • Transportation (Employment Support) • Partnerships with Capital Area Food Bank, Wheatsville Food Coop, St. John and Resurrection Episcopal Churches, Feed the Hungry, HHSC Community Partner Program, WIC	1.2I 1.2F 4.1A, 4.1B, 4.1C, 4.1D, 4.1F

Goal #6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and supportive systems (Family Goals)	**Basic Needs (cont.)**	• Food Assistance (Independent Living/ Emergency/Family Support) • Transportation assistance (Emergency/Family Support) • Clothes Closet	6.1A, 6.1B, 6.2A, 6.4F 6.2I, 6.4C 6.2K
Goal # 1: Low-income people become more self-sufficient (Family Goals) Goal # 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved. (Agency Goal) Goal #6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and supportive systems (Family Goals)	**5. Health**	• Adult Immunizations (Employment Support) • Partnerships with Central Health, CommUnity Care, Austin Travis County Integral Care, Seton, SafeKids, University of Texas, Sendero, United Healthcare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, HHSC Community Partner Program • Child Immunizations (Child/Family Development) • Health Screenings (Independent Living/Emergency Assistance • Nutrition Classes • Adult Immunizations (Family Support)	1.2G 4.1A, 4.1C, 4.1D, 4.1F, 4.1J, 4.1L 6.3A 6.1A, 6.1B, 6.2F, 6.3B 6.3B 6.4D

XIII. Appendices

This report contains the following appendices:

A. Community Commons Methodology
B. Community Needs Survey
C. Key Informant Interview Questions