

# can DASHBOARD 2015

key socioeconomic indicators  
for Greater Austin & Travis County



# INTRODUCTION

This sixth annual CAN Dashboard report highlights demographic changes in Travis County and the Austin area and provides updates on 17 indicators that track the overall well-being of our community. The report focuses on notable trends and disparities and summarizes local collaborations and initiatives that are working to move these indicators in the right direction. The Dashboard also includes key issues and trends affecting six select populations considered by the CAN Community Council in 2014. The goal of the CAN Dashboard is to generate conversation around the ways we can work together to meet our community goals and promote equity and opportunity for all.

## community dashboard 2015

### table of contents

According to research by the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), the City of Austin was the fastest-growing major city between 2010 and 2013, and is now the 11th largest city in the nation. In 2010, like the rest of the nation, our community was experiencing the impact of the Great Recession. Since then, many of CAN's indicators have improved, with eleven moving in a positive direction, and five meeting CAN's community targets.

Disparities remain, however, and our area continues to face many challenges. As the population grows, transportation and affordability remain two top challenges. According to the [2015 Zandan poll](#), area residents named these issues as Austin's most important problems. Although the average amount that each of us drive on a daily basis in Travis County has declined over recent years, our roadways remain congested. Population growth continuously adds more drivers to Austin roadways, and, with 90 percent of jobs located in Williamson and Travis Counties, a large number of commuters drive from one county to another for work. Increased growth also puts pressure on housing costs. In 2013, more than one-third of households in Travis County were considered housing cost-burdened.

As our indicators of well-being improve, we must continue to work together to ensure that all people share in the region's prosperity. Disparities by race and ethnicity, income, and geography persist across indicators. These issues are beyond the ability of any one individual, organization, or sector to address and require community-wide collaboration to produce viable solutions.

Introduction .....	1
Community demographics .....	3
Moving toward a common vision .....	5
CAN Community Dashboard .....	6
<b><i>We are safe, just &amp; engaged indicators</i></b>	
crime .....	7
proportionality of jail bookings .....	8
voter turnout .....	9
<b><i>Our basic needs are met indicators</i></b>	
low-income .....	10
food insecurity .....	11
housing cost-burdened .....	12
vehicle miles traveled .....	13
homeless .....	14
<b><i>We are healthy indicators</i></b>	
health insurance .....	15
mental health .....	16
smoking .....	17
obesity .....	18
air quality .....	19
<b><i>We achieve our full potential indicators</i></b>	
kindergarten ready .....	20
high school graduation .....	21
college success .....	22
unemployment .....	23
A focus on select populations .....	24

## challenges

Some of the key challenges highlighted in the report include:

- Disparities by race and ethnicity persist across many indicators, most prominently in criminal justice, but extending to health, basic needs, and education.
- 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.
- 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 CAN Dashboard indicators, from health to education.
- We are a healthy community overall, but one-fifth of residents lack health insurance, and many people struggle with obesity and poor mental health.
- 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% of Central Texas high school graduates, and 13% of low-income graduates, completed a post-secondary credential at a Texas institution of higher education within 6 years of finishing high school.

## How do we promote equity

The CAN Dashboard report and its companion website [www.CANcommunitydashboard.org](http://www.CANcommunitydashboard.org) provide an overview of the overall social health and well-being of Austin and Travis County.

The CAN Dashboard website includes an electronic version of this report with hyperlinks to referenced research. There are also expanded data, tables and citations on community demographics for each of the dashboard indicators.

## mission

CAN is a partnership of governmental, non-profit, private and faith-based organizations which leverage mutual resources to collectively improve social, health, educational and economic opportunities in our community.



### CAN Partner organizations

- Austin Chamber of Commerce
- Austin Community College
- Austin Independent School District
- Austin Travis County Integral Care
- Capital Metro
- Central Health
- City of Austin
- City of Pflugerville
- Community Justice Council
- Del Valle Independent School District
- Goodwill Industries of Central Texas
- Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Huston-Tillotson University
- interfaith Action of Central Texas
- Manor Independent School District
- One Voice Central Texas
- Seton Healthcare Family
- St. David’s Foundation
- St. Edward’s University
- Travis County
- United Way for Greater Austin
- University of Texas at Austin
- Workforce Solutions– Capital Area

and opportunity?

# COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

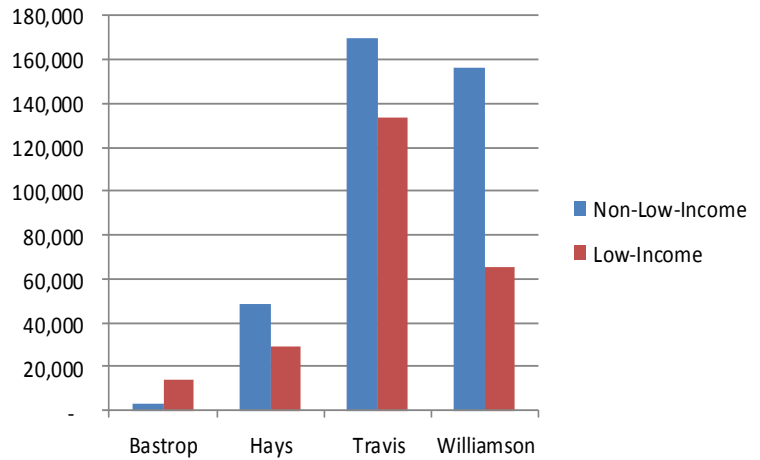
## growth and segregation

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Travis County's population grew at a much faster rate than the state and nation from 2000 to 2013. Between these years, the county's population grew by 38%, compared to 27% growth in the state and 12% growth in the nation. Hays and Williamson Counties grew at even faster rates—80% and 88% respectively.

As the Austin area has grown, the low-income population has grown as well, and many more people with low-incomes live in surrounding counties than in the past. From 2000 to 2013, the number of low-income residents grew by 133,163 in Travis County and by 115,063 in the four neighboring counties. Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties added a substantial number of both low-income and non-low-income residents. In Bastrop County, a majority of the net change (81%) was due to growth in the low-income population. A majority of the low-income (63%) and total population (60%) of the five-county metro area lived in Travis County in 2013.

A 2015 study by the [Martin Prosperity Institute](#) found Austin to be the most economically-segregated large metro area in the country, particularly by educational level and occupation. The map below shows where higher concentrations of low-income populations reside.

Population Change by Income Status, 2000 to 2013



Source: American Community Survey, 1-year Estimates and 2000 Decennial Census (1-year data unavailable for Caldwell County)

Percent Low Income By Census Tract, 2009-2013

### Legend

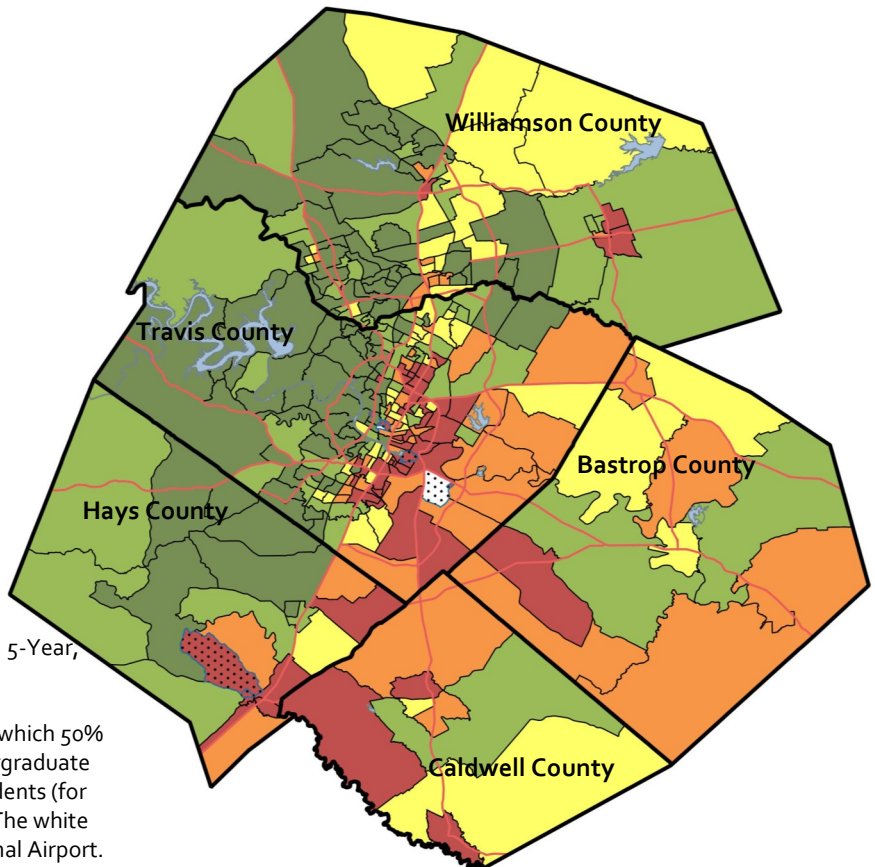
- County
- Highway
- Water
- Use Caution\*

Percent of population earning less than twice the poverty level

- 20% and Under
- 20.1% to 30%
- 30.1% to 40%
- 40.1% to 50%
- 50.1% and Over

Map produced by CAN from U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year, 2009-2013, American Community Survey data.

\*Note: "Use Caution" refers to Census Tracts in which 50% or more of the population were enrolled in undergraduate or graduate school or in which less than 500 residents (for whom poverty status was determined) resided. The white area on the map is Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.



## diversity and disparity

Travis County is a “no majority” community, in which no one racial or ethnic group makes up more than 50% of the population. Younger populations are more likely to be Hispanic, whereas older populations are more likely to be White. White residents make up 70% of the over 65 population, whereas the under 18 population is nearly 50% Hispanic.

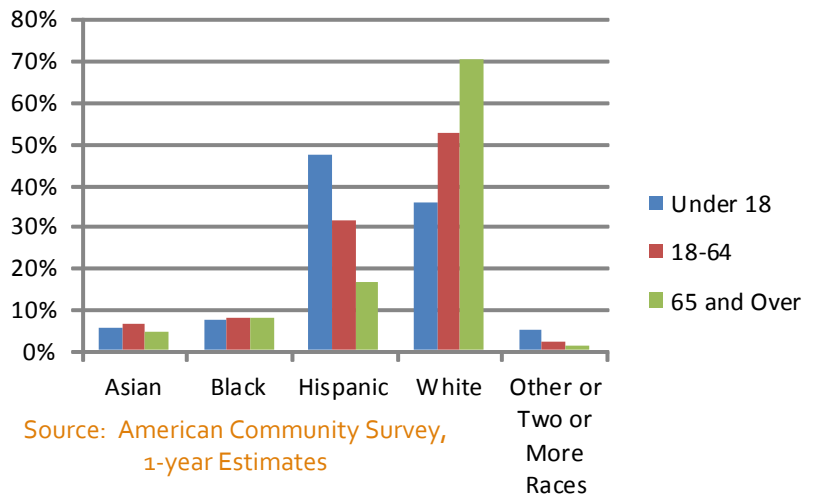
From 2000 to 2013, the total Hispanic population grew by 66%, compared to 38% overall growth. The White and Black populations grew much less over this period—21% and 22% respectively.

The largest growth among racial and ethnic groups was among those identifying as Asian (83% growth) or “Other or Two or More Races” (70% growth).

Travis County’s Black population actually experienced a slight numeric decline between 2012 and 2013, although the difference did not represent a statistically significant change. Nevertheless, this will be an important trend to watch, particularly in light of a finding from [University of Texas researchers](#) that Austin was the only fast-growing city to lose Black residents between 2000 and 2010. These demographic trends will have an impact on many of the indicators tracked in the Dashboard.

In 2013, disparities in median household income persisted, with Black (\$42,188) and Hispanic (\$42,883) households earning substantially less than White (\$71,402) and Asian (\$73,102) households.

Percent of Age Group Identifying as a Given Race or Ethnicity, Travis County, 2013



Top Languages Spoken by Those Who Speak English Less Than “Very Well” Travis County, 2009-2013

Language	Number who speak English less than “very well”
Spanish	110,686
Vietnamese	6,585
Chinese	3,940
Korean	1,617
Arabic	1,116

Source: American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates

## language diversity

About one-third of Travis County residents (31%) speak a language other than English at home and 13% speak English less than “very well”, according to 5-year American Community Survey data.

In 26% of Spanish-speaking households and 23% of households speaking Asian languages, no one over the age of 14 speaks English very well. Since 2000, the number of residents, over the age of 5, who speak English less than “very well” has grown by 41%, compared to 31% growth in the total population over 5 years old.



# MOVING TOWARD A COMMON VISION

The Community Dashboard provides an annual snapshot of the overall socioeconomic health and well-being of Travis County and the greater Austin metro area and launches an annual conversation among the CAN partner organizations and the community as a whole. Each year, we consider: Are we moving closer toward our shared vision for all people? What collaborative efforts are helping? Are these efforts sufficient? **What more is needed?**



The **Common Vision** was adopted by the CAN Board of Directors in 2008 after a year of community discussion.

**Community Indicators** were adopted by the CAN Board of Directors in 2009. The first Community Dashboard report was released in 2010.

The **Strategic Framework for Action**, found on the back cover of this report, was developed in 2011-2012 and summarizes strategies identified by stakeholders across many jurisdictions and disciplines.

Each year the CAN Community Council and the Board of Directors convene conversations on issues facing our community and use this information to inform the annual [CAN Work Plan](#).

## OUR VISION

<p><b>We are safe, just &amp; engaged</b></p>	<p>We are free from abuse, neglect, crime, violence, and injustice.</p> <p>We respect and value diversity.</p> <p>We are aware, socially connected, and contribute to our neighborhoods, individual communities, and the community at large.</p> <p>We have the opportunity and willingness to lead by utilizing our talents, passions and interests to improve the community.</p>
<p><b>Our basic needs are met</b></p>	<p>We live in a community where the basic needs of all are met.</p> <p>We live in affordable and stable housing with access to open space and public amenities.</p> <p>We have safe, affordable, accessible, and reliable transportation.</p>
<p><b>We are healthy</b></p>	<p>We live, work, learn, and play in accessible, safe, clean, and healthy physical environments.</p> <p>We have adequate nutrition, and achieve and maintain optimal physical and behavioral health.</p>
<p><b>We achieve our full potential</b></p>	<p>We have the education, skills, and opportunities to achieve our full potential and lead meaningful, joyful lives.</p> <p>We have adequate income, resources, and supports to live independent lives.</p>



# DASHBOARD

(Data is for Travis County unless otherwise noted.)

baseline  
(5 year data history)

most recent

goal

target

status\*  
(5 year trend)

We are safe, just & engaged

Crime rate per 100,000 population

5,820 in 2009

4,453 in 2013

reduce crime rate

1% annual reduction



Proportionality of jail bookings across all races and ethnicities

disproportionality ratio of 2.6 for Blacks in 2008

disproportionality ratio of 2.6 for Blacks in 2013

proportionate jail bookings

proportionality by 2017



Percent voter turnout  
National/Presidential election  
State/Gubernatorial election

64% in 2008  
36% in 2010

58% in 2012  
37% in 2014

increase voter turnout

65% in 2016  
40% in 2014



Percent of residents who are low-income (<200% of the federal poverty threshold)

35% in 2009

33% in 2013

reduce low-income

30% by 2017



Percent of residents who live in food insecure households

16% in 2009

18% in 2013

reduce food insecurity

15% by 2017



Percent of cost-burdened households (pay 30% or more of income for housing)

38% in 2009

36% in 2013

reduce cost-burdened households

36% by 2017



Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita

23.8 miles per day in 2009

23.0 miles per day in 2013

reduce VMT

21 miles per day by 2017



Number of people identified in the annual point-in-time homeless count

2,406 in 2011

1,877 in 2015

end homelessness

1,000 by 2017



Percent under age 65 who have no health insurance

24% in 2009

20% in 2013

reduce uninsured

20% by 2014



Percent of adults who report poor mental health

17% in 2011

22% in 2013

reduce poor mental health

15% by 2017



Percent of adults who are smokers

16% in 2011

12% in 2013

reduce smoking

12% by 2020



Percent of adults who are obese

19% in 2011

23% in 2013

reduce obesity

17% by 2020



Attainment of national ambient air quality standards

2009 in attainment

2014 in attainment

achieve EPA standards

attainment



Percent of Central Texas children who are kindergarten ready

52% in 2010

53% in 2013

increase kinder-ready kids

70% by 2015



Percent of Central Texas students who graduate from high school in four years

80%  
Class of 2008

89%  
Class of 2013

increase HS graduation

95% Class of 2015



Percent of Central Texas high school graduates who earn a post-secondary credential within 6 years

28%  
Class of 2004

30%  
Class of 2008

Increase college success

35% for the Class of 2014 (by 2020)



Unemployment rate

7.0% in January 2011

3.7% in January 2015

reduce unemployment

4% in 01/2017



Our basic needs are met

We are healthy

We achieve our full potential

\* Due to margins of error, most recent data may not represent a statistically significant difference from baseline year.

# WE ARE SAFE, JUST AND ENGAGED



**Goal:** reduce crime rate

**Target:** 1% annual reduction

## crime occurred at a rate of 4,453 per 100,000 people in Travis County

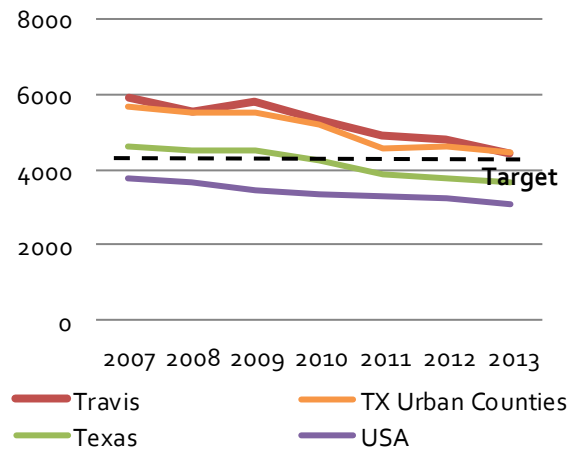
Travis County has experienced a steady decline in the number of indexed crimes reported in recent years, consistently meeting CAN's community target of a 1% annual decline in the overall crime rate. In 2013, the crime rate declined to 4,453 offenses per 100,000 people, representing a total of 52,475 offenses reported to police in 2013.

Travis County's overall crime rate was slightly lower than the pooled rate for the six major Texas urban counties (Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis), which was 4,478 offenses per 100,000 people in 2013. Travis County experienced the lowest violent crime rate among the six urban counties, although its property crime rate was the third highest, surpassed by Bexar and Harris Counties.

The Capital Area Council of Governments [Regional Strategic Criminal Justice Plan](#) outlines regional priorities for a 10 county area in Central Texas, including technological improvements, re-entry services, mental health and substance abuse services, and language access services. The [FY2014-2015 Community Justice Plan for Travis County Adult Probation](#) outlines funding needs for community supervision, including mental health and substance abuse treatment services.

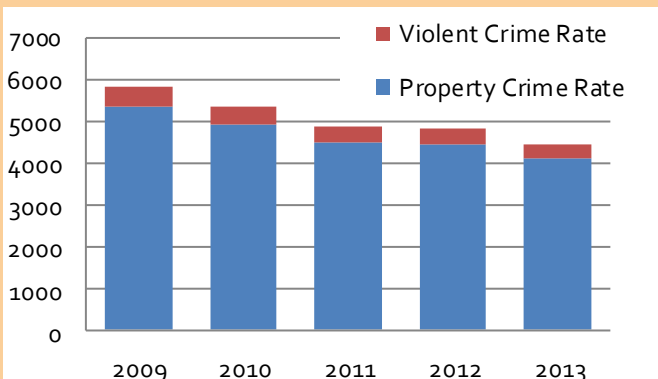
Local initiatives work to reduce crime. The Austin Police Department's [Restore Rundberg](#) initiative brings together community members and institutional partners to develop long-term solutions to deterring crime in a targeted area. In 2011, APD created a specialized [Burglary Unit](#) to address this crime and is working with the District Attorney's office to target the most serious offenders. Other collaborations, such as the [Austin/Travis Family Violence Task Force](#), the [Start Strong Coalition](#), and the [Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable](#), are helping to monitor and create programs and practices that impact crime.

Crime Rate per 100,000 People



Source: Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Reports and Federal Bureau of Investigation

Travis County Crime Rate per 100,000 People



Source: Texas Department of Public Safety

**Violent Crime:** murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault

**Property Crime:** burglary, theft, auto theft

Property crime is the main driver of the overall crime rate, although both the property and violent crime rates in Travis County have been trending downward. In 2013, there were 5,446 property crimes and 325 violent crimes reported to law enforcement agencies per 100,000 Travis County residents.



# jail bookings are not proportionate for all races in Travis County

Blacks are more likely than Whites and Hispanics to be booked into jail in Travis County. People identifying as Black account for about 21% of people booked into jail, but only 8% of Travis County's adult population. This results in a disproportionality ratio of 2.6, which indicates a high level of disproportionate representation for the Black population. This level of disproportionality has been constant over time.

According to [The Sentencing Project](#), the causes of racial disparity in the criminal justice system include: differential crime rates; race-neutral policies that have a disparate racial impact; implicit racial bias; resource allocation decisions; and criminal justice policies that exacerbate socioeconomic inequalities. Disproportionality is found in a number of systems. Addressing it requires a cross-cutting approach. Disproportionality in school discipline, child welfare, homelessness, and educational attainment may influence contact with the criminal justice system.

CAN has worked with local leaders to facilitate dialogue on cultural competency, diversity, and inclusion. In 2013, a CAN Work Group developed a [Cultural Competency, Diversity, and Inclusion Toolkit](#) to connect local organizations with resources to improve their proficiency in these areas. In 2015, CAN is hosting a series of training workshops for system leaders on how to create culturally competent, diverse, and inclusive organizations.

Other local efforts bring attention to these issues. [Building Bridges: Brick by Brick](#) convenes conversations between neighborhood residents, educational leaders and law enforcement. [Undoing Racism Austin](#) brings together a diverse group of stakeholders to address issues of disproportionality and provides resources and training. The [Texas Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities](#) addresses these issues in communities across the state.

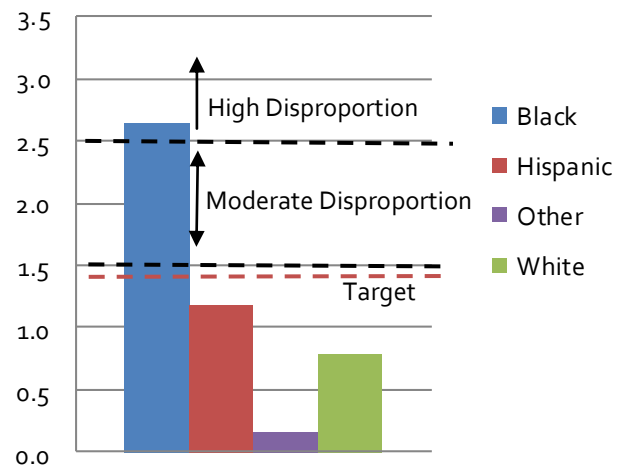
In 2014, The Council of State Governments Justice Center released the [School Discipline Consensus Report](#), which contains over 60 recommendations for reducing disparities in school discipline. The report was a follow-up to the 2011 [Breaking Schools' Rules](#) report which examines disproportionality in Texas school discipline. [Recent changes to state law](#) have limited the extent to which students may receive tickets for Class C misdemeanors while on school grounds. In the first year of implementation, courts statewide [saw an 83% decline](#) in court filings for violations that fall under the Education Code.



**Goal:** proportionate jail bookings for all races and ethnicities

**Target:** proportionality by 2017

Disproportionality Ratios for Bookings into the Travis County Jail, 2013



Source: Travis County Sheriff's Office and the American Community Survey 1-Year Population Estimates



Blacks are more likely to experience child abuse/neglect, homelessness, and removal to a disciplinary alternative education program.

Hispanics are more likely than other groups to experience poverty, have less than a high school diploma, and lack health insurance.

# Voter turnout of 37% in Travis County

In the November 2014 general election, about 37% of voting-age citizens in Travis County turned out to vote. Voter turnout was virtually unchanged from the 2010 Gubernatorial election and was lower than the 2006 election. According to the [United States Elections Project](#), the 2014 general election had the lowest voter turnout nationwide since 1942.

The 2014 election was historic for voters in the City of Austin, the largest jurisdiction in Travis County. For the first time, voters elected council members from ten single member districts across the city. Additionally, local elections were moved from May to November and will now be held concurrently with State/Gubernatorial and National/Presidential elections. Thanks in part to these changes, there were about 250% more votes cast in the Mayoral and City Council races in November 2014 than in the May 2012 local election.

[VoteTravis.com](#), a joint effort between the [Travis County Tax Office Voter Registration Division](#) and the [Travis County Clerk Elections Division](#), allows Travis County residents to check their voter registration status, find a convenient polling location, and view a customized sample election ballot.

The [League of Women Voters](#) promotes voting and civic engagement by providing non-partisan Voter's Guides, candidate forums, and other trainings and information. The [Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Engagement](#) promotes civic participation, including encouraging young people to vote.

Civic engagement is not limited to voting. Based on data from the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#), Austin-area residents appear to be more politically engaged than Texans and Americans overall. In 2013, 80% of people in the Austin-Round Rock Metro Area reported discussing politics with family and friends, compared to 63% of Texans and 72% of Americans. In the Austin area, 44% of residents reported expressing political or community opinions over the Internet, compared to 24% of Texans and 28% of Americans.

Smaller shares of residents reported other types of civic engagement. Only 26% reported volunteering in the past year, though Austin still ranked 17th of the 51 largest metro areas for volunteer efforts. Nearly one-fifth of residents (18%) also reported not talking with neighbors at all in the past year. A majority, 55%, reported that they are not involved in any type of civic group, including neighborhood or school groups and sports associations.

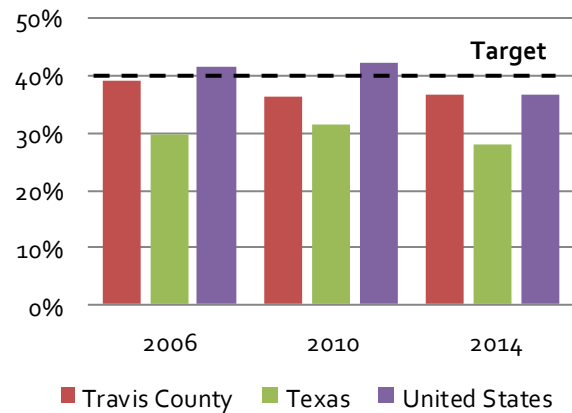


**Goal:** increase turnout

**Targets:**

- 40% in 2014 State/Gubernatorial election
- 65% in 2016 National/Presidential election

## Voter Turnout of Citizen Voting Age Population in Gubernatorial Elections



Source: Travis County Clerk, United States Elections Project, and the American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates



Younger people are least likely to vote. One-fourth of Travis County citizens between 18 and 44 years of age voted in 2014, compared to 59% of those 55 and over.

# OUR BASIC NEEDS ARE MET

## 33% of Travis County residents are low-income

The percent of people who are low-income in Travis County hit a high point in 2010 and has steadily declined since then, approaching pre-recession levels. In 2013, 33% of Travis County residents were low-income, down from 37% in 2010. People are considered low-income when they earn less than twice the federal poverty threshold. In 2013, this was equivalent to \$47,248 for a family of four with 2 parents and 2 children.

Even though the percent of people who are low-income has declined, the number of people who are low-income has increased, due to our area's fast overall population growth. An estimated 358,974 people in Travis County had low incomes in 2013.

More people with limited incomes are living outside Austin's city limits than in the past. According to data gathered by the [Brookings Institution](#), the Austin area had the second greatest increase in suburban poverty in the nation between 2000 and 2012. [Brookings notes](#) that the challenges of suburban poverty include poor access to transit, limited access to jobs, strained local services, and schools facing rapid increases in low-income student populations.

One Voice Central Texas is a coalition of 79 nonprofits providing health and human services in Central Texas. The coalition's "[Tale of Two Austins](#)" campaign highlights disparities in our community and draws attention to the needs of vulnerable populations.

Both the City of Austin and Travis County recently issued funding for social services. In 2014, Austin City Council [approved funding for 33 agencies and collaborations](#) to provide social services across a self-sufficiency continuum. Travis County's social service contracts include a new initiative to serve families with children in outlying areas of the county with a holistic approach.

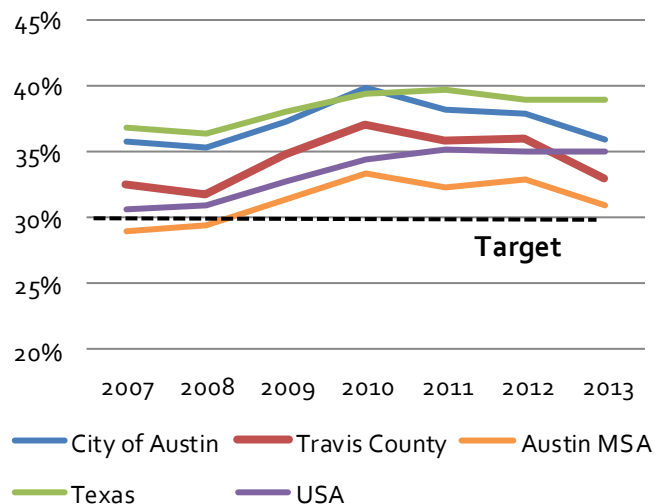
CAN devoted much of its work in 2014 to examining the ability of our community to foster equity and opportunity as it grows and changes. CAN convened a series of four [Safety Net Forums](#) to share information about available resources and discuss ways to better serve our changing population. At its meetings, the CAN Community Council considered vulnerable populations in our community, [identifying key needs](#) of these populations and developing recommendations for system improvements.



**Goal:** reduce percent who are low-income

**Target:** 30% by 2017

Percent of People Who are Low-Income



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates



41% of Travis County children live in low-income families. 62% of children in single parent-headed families are low-income, according to American Community Survey data.

# 18% of Travis County residents live in food insecure households

In 2013, about 18% of Travis County residents faced food insecurity, or limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, according to [Feeding America](#), the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity. Feeding America uses state data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and local data from the U.S. Census Bureau to estimate county-level food insecurity. Rates of food insecurity have increased in Travis County over the past five years, while they have declined in Texas and the U.S. as a whole.

The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department worked with a number of community partners to develop a [Community Health Improvement Plan](#) (CHIP). The CHIP identifies increasing access to healthy foods as a community priority and outlines a number of strategies for achieving this goal: increasing participation of eligible people in food assistance programs, increasing food production and distribution sites in high need areas, and promoting access to healthy foods and beverages in retail settings.

The 83rd Texas Legislature passed [a bill](#) requiring schools in which 80% or more of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch to offer free breakfast to all students. During the 2013-2014 school year, a number of area schools began offering universal free breakfast as a result of this law.

The [Sustainable Food Policy Board](#) (SFPB) serves as an advisory body to the Austin City Council and the Travis County Commissioners Court to improve the availability of safe, nutritious, and locally and sustainably-grown food at reasonable prices. In 2014, based on a recommendation from the SFPB, the City of Austin and Travis County provided funding to increase outreach to promote enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Double Dollar Incentive Program, a Sustainable Food Center program funded by St. David's Foundation and the City of Austin, allows SNAP recipients to "double their dollars" when purchasing food at area farmers markets.

The Texas Hunger Initiative also works to recruit community partners throughout the Austin area for the [Community Partner Recruitment Initiative](#), a state program that provides tools for community-based organizations to help their clients navigate the [YourTexasBenefits.com](#) site and apply for food assistance programs.

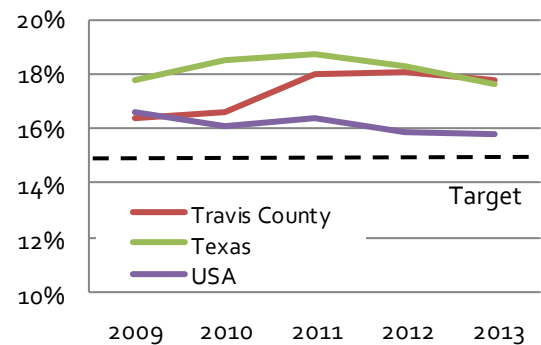
The City of Austin's [Food System Portal](#), managed by the Office of Sustainability, provides information and resources for growing, selling, eating, and composting food, including information on area food banks and food assistance programs.



**Goal:** decrease the percent of people who are food insecure

**Target:** 15% by 2017

Percent of Residents Who Live in Food Insecure Households



Source: Feeding America



Children are more likely than adults to experience food insecurity. According to data from [Feeding America](#), one quarter of children in Travis County, or about 64,000 young people, experienced food insecurity in 2013.



# 36% of Travis County households are housing cost-burdened



**Goal:** reduce percent of households that are cost-burdened

**Target:** 33% by 2017

The [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) (HUD) considers housing to be affordable when households spend no more than 30% of income on housing costs and utilities. The percent of Travis County residents who pay more than this amount for housing has declined from 42% in 2010 to 36% in 2013, meeting the previous CAN Dashboard target. However, the percent of households that are cost-burdened remains higher than both the state and the nation. The CAN Board of Directors approved a new target of 33% by 2017, which is equal to the aggregate rate for Texas' five largest urban counties, excluding Travis.

In 2013, 48% of renter and 25% of homeowner households were cost-burdened. Renters with low incomes are most heavily impacted. According to the most recent Census estimates, 73% of Travis County renters earning less than \$50,000 per year were considered housing cost-burdened.

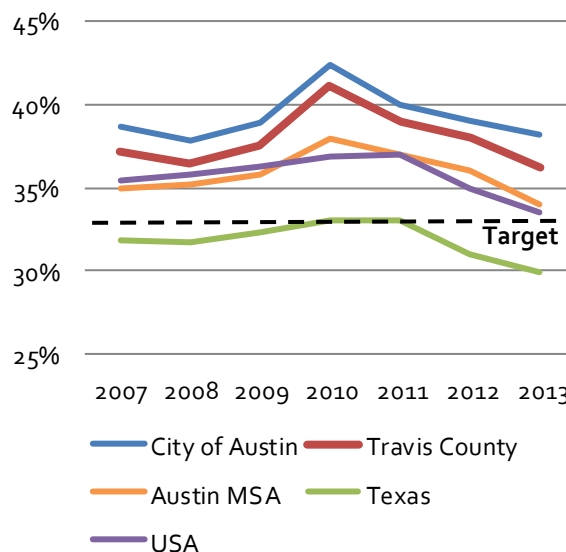
City of Austin voters have twice approved Affordable Housing Bonds—\$55 million in 2006 and \$65 million in 2013. These funds help leverage other public and private funding sources to build and preserve affordable housing.

BBC Research conducted a [Comprehensive Housing Market Analysis](#) for the City of Austin in 2014. The report suggests that the City's [CodeNEXT](#) process of rewriting the land development code can help increase affordable housing by expanding the types of housing that are allowed and by simplifying the land development process.

The Comprehensive Housing Market Study recommends that the Austin City Council adopt goals to ensure that 10% of all rental housing is affordable to households earning less than \$25,000 and that 24% of all owner occupied housing is affordable to households earning less than \$50,000. Austin City Council recently adopted goals for the preservation of 20,000 affordable housing units over 20 years in response to a [study about the need to preserve affordable housing](#).

The Capital Area Council of Governments [Housing Opportunity in Central Texas](#) report notes that a lack of affordability within the urban core is forcing lower income residents to move to the suburbs and beyond. While they might find less expensive housing, they also encounter geographic isolation and poor access to transportation, employment and educational opportunity.

Percent of Households that are Cost-Burdened



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates



To meet current demand, the Housing Market Analysis finds that Austin needs an additional 48,000 rental units affordable to people earning \$25,000 or less.

[Foundation Communities' Capital Studios](#), above, is the first affordable housing community to be built in downtown Austin in 45 years. Funded partially with City of Austin bond funding, the property provides 135 affordable efficiency apartments for very low income single adults.



# 23.0 daily vehicle miles per capita in Travis County



**Goal:** reduce vehicle miles traveled per capita

**Target:** 21 miles per day by 2017

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita are trending downward in Travis County. Even though VMT per capita have decreased, the overall vehicle miles traveled have increased steadily along with population growth. Traffic was the top concern for Austin-area residents in the [2015 Zandan Poll](#), with 82% citing it as the top issue. As of 2014, 12 of the state's 100 most congested roadways were located in Travis County, according to the [Texas Department of Transportation](#).

The Capital Area Council of Governments' [Housing Opportunity in Central Texas](#) report states that about 90% of the jobs in the five-county area are located within Travis and Williamson Counties. The report notes that an overwhelming majority of workers in Bastrop, Caldwell and Hays Counties travel to another county for work.

The Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Plan, and the CAPCOG Housing Opportunity report each promote the development of activity centers throughout the region to improve the balance between housing and jobs. The Draft [CAMPO 2040 Plan](#) includes a policy to target 50% of discretionary federal transportation funding to support the development of activity centers.

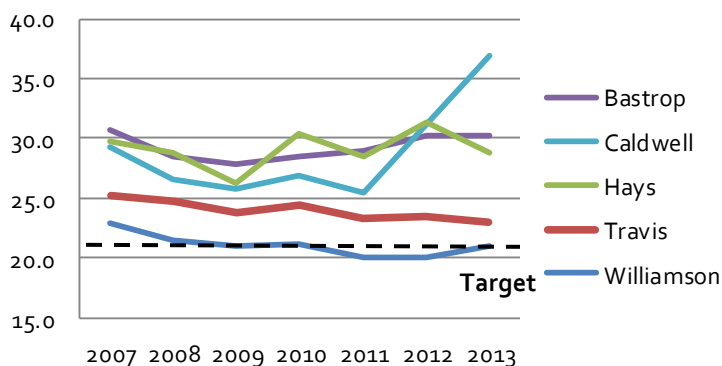
The [Austin Chamber's Mobility Report](#) recommends a multi-pronged approach to addressing Austin's traffic congestion problems. Suggestions include encouraging a mobile workforce, using flexible work schedules to reduce traffic during peak congestion times, encouraging public transit and other modes of transportation, and promoting mixed-use development, as envisioned in the CAMPO Plan, to reduce home-work trip length.

Another local plan that addresses transportation issues is [Travis County's Land, Water, and Transportation Plan](#), which



According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 77% of workers in the Austin metro area drove alone to work in 2013 and 10% carpooled. About 7% work from home, a higher percentage than in the state and nation. Another 5% used active transportation, including public transit, biking, and walking.

Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita



Source: CAMPO and Texas Department of Transportation

seeks to address congestion through a transportation system that encourages the use of active modes of transportation, including walking, bicycling, and transit, in addition to building and improving roadways.

Project Connect, a partnership between the City of Austin, Capital Metro, Lone Star Rail, CAMPO, and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, has developed a long-term vision for regional high-capacity transit to improve mobility in Central Texas.

Many local agencies and organizations facilitate access to alternative modes of transportation. [Capital Metro](#) and the [Capital Area Rural Transportation System](#) provide public transit alternatives to private vehicle travel. The [Basic Needs Transportation Fund](#), a partnership between Capital Metro and One Voice Central Texas, enhances access to transportation for low-income transit-dependent people.

# 1,877 people are homeless in Travis County

Over the past five years, the number of people identified as homeless during the annual [Point in Time Count](#) has declined. This annual count occurs nation-wide, as directed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Hundreds of volunteers identify people who, on that particular night, were experiencing homelessness. About two-thirds of those identified were “sheltered” in emergency or other designated shelters, and one-third were “unsheltered,” living on the streets, in cars, or other areas not intended for human habitation. Throughout calendar year 2014, 12,999 people received homeless services at organizations in the community.

The [Ending Community Homelessness Coalition](#) (ECHO) acts as the lead planning organization to end homelessness in Austin and Travis County. ECHO coordinates homeless services funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In Fiscal Year 2014, this totaled \$5.6 million.

To better address homelessness, ECHO has developed a [Framework for Housing Stability](#). Participating organizations utilize specialized staff to assess clients’ needs using a coordinate assessment. Provider staff then refer clients to the agency that can best meet their needs.

ECHO was recently chosen as one of six entities nation-wide to receive a [Pay for Success Feasibility Grant](#) from the Corporation for Supportive Housing. This three-year technical assistance grant will help create a model to better meet the needs of frequent users of emergency rooms, jails, and shelter services.

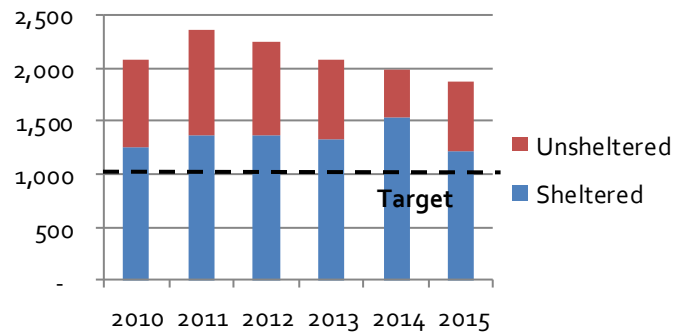
In 2010, the Austin City Council set a goal to create 350 permanent supportive housing (PSH) units, that provide housing along with support services, by 2014. An [evaluation](#) by ECHO suggests that for targeted populations, PSH may increase client stability and decrease interactions with jails and emergency departments. An initiative called “[A Roof Over Austin](#)” was developed and the goal for PSH units was surpassed. In 2014, Council set a new goal to create 400 more permanent supportive housing units over the next four years, with half to be devoted to a “Housing First” model.



**Goal:** end homelessness

**Target:** 1,000 people identified in the annual Point-in-Time Count by 2017

People Experiencing Homelessness,  
Annual Point-in-Time Count



Source: Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

Rendering of the Austin Travis County Integral Care  
Housing First PSH Development



Austin Travis County Integral Care was selected to build the first “Housing First” development in Austin, creating homes for 50 residents who are chronically homeless. “Housing First” is a philosophy that requires placing clients immediately into housing, with the lowest barriers possible. The project is funded with a State of Texas Healthy Communities grant and local affordable housing bonds.

# WE ARE HEALTHY

## 20% of those under age 65 in Travis County have no health insurance

The percent of people under 65 who lack health insurance in Travis County continues to fall. In 2013, our area met CAN's goal of 20% uninsured. Nevertheless, a higher percentage of local residents lack health insurance than nationally, and one out of five people under age 65 do not have health insurance.

The latest 2013 Census data do not fully reflect the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on health care coverage, as enrollment in the program began in October of that year. Central Health estimates that just over 101,000 people selected healthcare plans during the second year of enrollment, which began in November 2014.

Local partners have worked together to provide information and assistance related to healthcare enrollment. [EnrollATX](#), a partnership between Central Health and 211 Texas, provides information and over-the-phone health insurance enrollment for Central Texans. United Way for Greater Austin and Foundation Communities have partnered through the [Consumer Health Insurance Marketplace Enrollment Services \(CHIMES\) Consortium](#) to provide in-person health insurance enrollment assistance in the ten-county South Central Texas region.

Despite the expansion of coverage due to ACA, many area residents remain without coverage. Residents who fall in the "coverage gap," earning too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to qualify for subsidies to purchase private insurance, will continue to rely on local safety nets. [Central Health](#) provides access to healthcare for uninsured and under-served residents through the Medical Assistance Program (MAP).

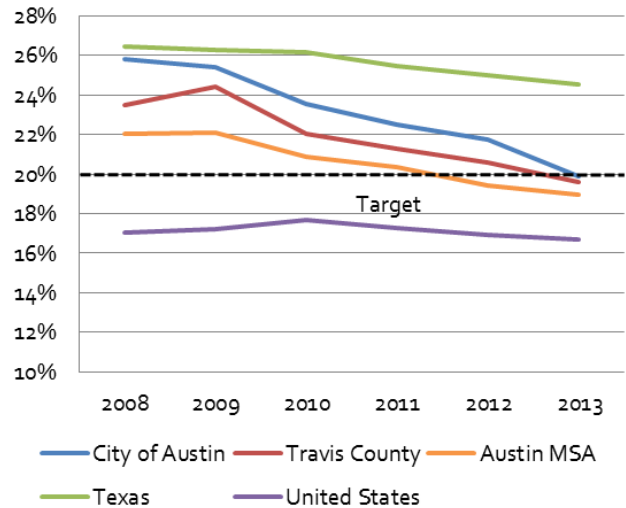
Other local initiatives aim to increase access to healthcare for local uninsured and underinsured residents. In the fall of 2014, Central Health and CommunityCare opened the [Southeast Health and Wellness Center](#) to provide person-centered care to low-income residents of Southeast Austin. Work also began on [UT's Dell Medical School and Seton Teaching Hospital](#). The [Community Care Collaborative](#) is implementing a Street Health Care project to better meet the health needs of people experiencing homelessness.



**Goal:** reduce percent of people under age 65 who are uninsured

**Target:** 20% by 2017

### People under Age 65 With No Health Insurance



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates



The Affordable Care Act gave states the option to [expand Medicaid eligibility](#) to include lawfully-present adults with incomes under 138% of the federal poverty threshold. Currently, Texas leaders have chosen not to expand the program. If Texas had undertaken expansion in 2013, Central Health estimates that about 64,000 additional people could have enrolled in Medicaid.

# 22% of adults in Travis County report poor mental health

About 1 in 5 adults in Travis County reported experiencing poor mental health in 2013. This includes people who reported 5 or more days of poor mental health, including stress, depression, and problems with emotions, in the last 30 days. Although small sample sizes for local estimates preclude definitive conclusions, the percent of local residents experiencing poor mental health appears to have increased since 2011. During the same time period, the percentage of Texans experiencing poor mental health has declined.

Under the leadership of Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC), local partners worked together to develop the [Travis County Children’s Mental Health Plan](#), a five year plan to improve the wellness of children and youth in Travis County. Goals of the plan include: promoting wellness and supporting resilience; providing a continuum of services; responding effectively to children, youth, and families in crisis; and improving outcomes and accountability across the system.

A number of local collaborative projects address mental health needs in the area. In 2014, the Seton Psychiatric Emergency Department opened to provide specialized emergency services. As part of the statewide 1115 Medicaid waiver, ATCIC created a [mobile crisis outreach team](#) to divert people who are having a mental health crisis from jail and emergency departments and to the appropriate health services. The organization has also launched a [Health Justice Learning Collaborative](#) with the Travis County Sheriff’s Office to enhance mental health planning prior to an individual’s release from jail. Huston-Tillotson University has partnered with the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas and other local partners to create the Sandra Joy Anderson Health and Wellness Center to increase access to mental health services in East Austin.

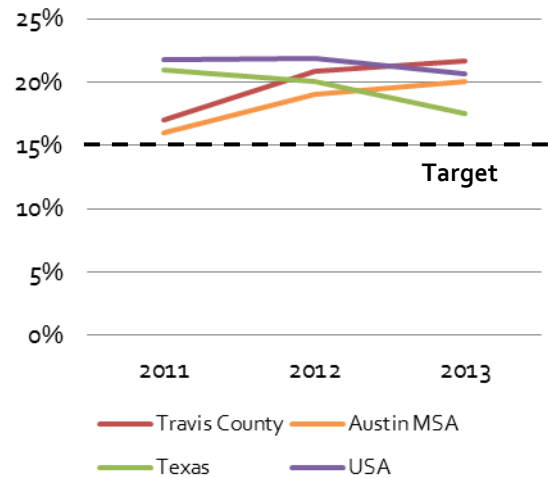
Substance abuse is a closely related issue. Local public health, human services, and criminal justice partners have worked together to develop a Substance Abuse Plan for Travis County that will be released in 2015. In May 2014, the group released a set of [initial recommendations](#) which included a focus on people experiencing homelessness and women with children.



**Goal:** reduce percent of people reporting poor mental health

**Target:** 15% by 2017

Adults Who Report Poor Mental Health



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System



Younger adults are more likely to experience poor mental health than older adults in Travis County. In 2013, 32% of people between 18 and 29 experienced poor mental health. People with disabilities are also more likely than those without a disability to experience poor mental health, with 38% reporting this.



# 23% of adults in Travis County are obese

Nearly a quarter of adults in Travis County report having a body mass index above 30, which is the range considered obese. Although small sample sizes for local estimates preclude definitive conclusions, the percent of local residents who are obese appears to have increased since 2011. Nevertheless, a lower share of local residents are obese than in the state as a whole.

The [Centers for Disease Control](#) reports that a body mass index above 30 increases the risk for a number of conditions, including coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, certain types of cancers, and hypertension, or high blood pressure. Some factors that affect obesity are outside the control of individuals and policymakers, including the influence of genetics and certain illnesses. Community and environmental factors can influence the prevalence of obesity by encouraging, or discouraging, physical activity and healthy eating.

Reducing the burden of chronic diseases caused by obesity is one priority area for the [Austin/ Travis County Community Health Improvement Plan](#). Strategies highlighted for achieving this goal include: increasing the percent of children and adults who meet guidelines for physical activity, increasing worksites with mother-friendly breastfeeding policies, increasing child care settings that promote healthy eating, and reducing the percentage of children and adults who consume sugar-sweetened beverages.

The [Chronic Disease Prevention Coalition](#) brings together community partners to promote strategies that reduce chronic diseases, including obesity. The [Central Texas Diabetes Coalition](#) is a collaborative group working to address the prevention and control of type 2 diabetes in Austin and the surrounding areas. According to the [2015 Critical Health Indicators Report](#), over half of adults with diabetes are obese.

The Go Austin! Vamos Austin! Initiative works to improve health by increasing access to opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating in the 78744 and 78745 zip codes.

[Children's Optimal Health](#) has partnered with local school districts to produce maps and convene summits to raise awareness about childhood obesity in their communities. They have worked with Austin, Del Valle, Manor, and most recently, Pflugerville and Round Rock ISDs to conduct these analyses.

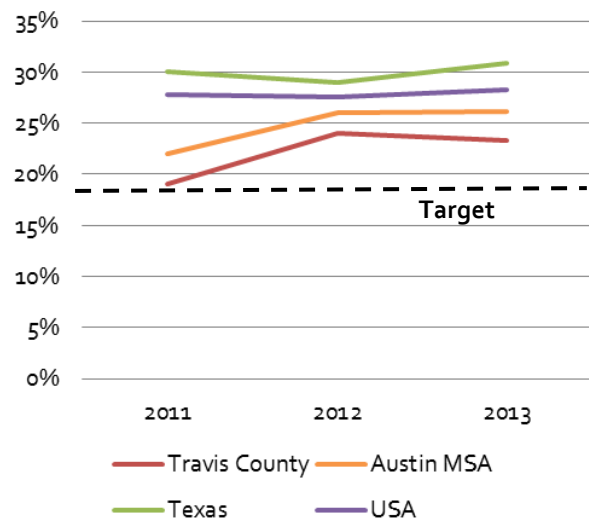
The [Austin Mayor's Health and Fitness Council](#) works to make Austin the fittest city in the country by partnering with local businesses to promote healthy living among their employees.



**Goal:** reduce percent who are obese

**Target:** 17% by 2020

Percent of Adults Who are Obese



Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System



People with lower incomes are more likely than those with higher incomes to be obese. 37% of people making less than \$25,000 per year report a body mass index above 30, compared to 14% of people making \$50,000 per year or more.



# 12% of adults in Travis County are smokers

In 2013, 12% of Travis County residents reported being current smokers, meeting CAN's community target. Although small sample sizes for local estimates preclude definitive conclusions, the percent of Travis County residents who report smoking appears to have declined since 2011. This follows the overall trend in Texas. In 2013, 16% of Texans were smokers, down from 19% in 2011. Smoking in the 5-county Austin-Round Rock Metro Area does not appear to have declined to the extent experienced in other jurisdictions. Overall, local residents do seem to smoke at lower rates than Texans as a whole, however.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, causing more than one in five deaths and increasing the risk of developing heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer. Smoking harms nonsmokers as well. The CDC estimates that second hand smoke causes nearly 42,000 deaths a year in the U.S.

Organizations across the community have enacted policies to discourage smoking. Live Tobacco Free Austin maintains a list of locations across the community that [have gone tobacco free](#). This list includes many of the area's largest employers, including Austin ISD, City of Austin departments, Dell, Seton Healthcare Family, St. David's Medical Center, and the University of Texas at Austin.

Organizations and governments across the area have also begun to address the use of electronic cigarettes. In 2014, the City of Austin, with support from the [Central Health Board of Managers](#), passed a [resolution](#) prohibiting the sale of e-cigarettes to minors. Many other organizations and local governments have included the use of e-cigarettes in their smoke-free policies, including [Austin ISD](#), [Del Valle ISD](#), [Manor ISD](#), [Austin Community College](#), [Capital Metro](#), and the [University of Texas at Austin](#).

The City of Austin's [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#) supports the promotion of tobacco cessation programs for children and adults and the development of regulations to support tobacco-free environments.

The Austin/ Travis County Health and Human Services Department's [2015 Critical Health Indicators Report](#) tracks smoking and many other factors that affect the health of Travis County residents.

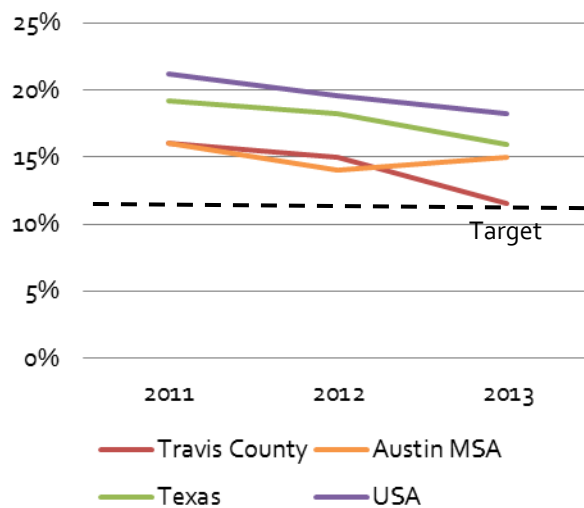


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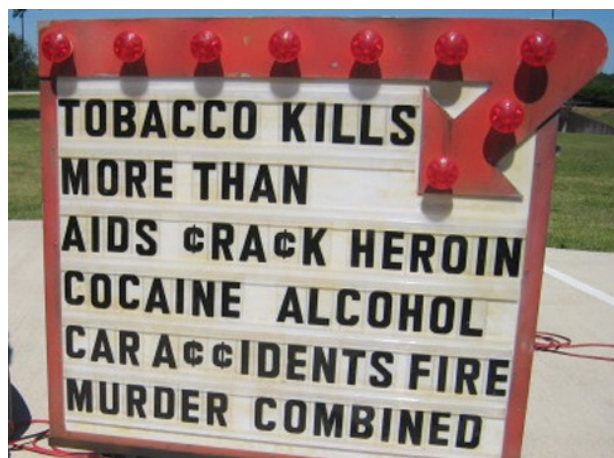
**Goal:** reduce percent who smoke

**Target:** 12% by 2020

Percent of Adults Who Smoke



Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System



Adults most likely to report smoking are men, younger adults between the ages of 18 and 29 and people with lower incomes.

# Austin area is in attainment of national air quality standards



**Goal:** attainment

**Target:** continue to be in attainment through 2017

The Austin area remains in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The 8-hour ozone design value, which is used to track attainment of the ozone standard, has steadily declined over time. Since 2007, it has declined from 80 parts per billion (ppb) to 69 ppb, a 14% reduction.

In November 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed [new, stricter standards](#) for ground-level ozone. The EPA expects to finalize these standards in October 2015.

Based on the new standards, the Austin area could fall out of attainment. Falling into non-attainment would require area partners to work with the state to develop an implementation plan with strategies to further reduce ozone by a given date. The [Capital Area Council of Governments](#) projects that the area could reach attainment of the new standards by continuing to implement current plans and policies.

The [Central Texas Clean Air Coalition](#) is a group of stakeholders from regional jurisdictions that voluntarily work together to improve air quality in Central Texas and maintain compliance with federal standards. In December 2013, the CAC adopted Ozone Advance, a voluntary regional ozone plan to maintain attainment. This is the fourth ozone plan adopted since 2002.

[Commute Solutions](#), a collaborative effort led by the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, provides education and information on strategies to reduce “drive alone” vehicle trips. The organization promotes transportation options including carpools, vanpools, public transit, bicycling, and walking, as well as flextime, compressed workweeks, and teleworking as strategies. The partner site [mycommutesolutions.com](#) helps connect carpoolers and provides suggestions for alternative measures to get to work.

To improve air quality, cars registered in Travis and Williamson Counties are required to undergo [emissions inspections](#) as part of annual vehicle registration. Low-income customers who fail emissions tests may qualify for assistance repairing or replacing the vehicle.

## Attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 2014

Carbon Monoxide	Attainment
Lead	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment
Ozone	Attainment
Particle Pollution	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Attainment

Source: Capital Area Council of Governments and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



Children, older adults, people who are active outdoors, and people with lung conditions such as asthma are most impacted by poor air quality, according to the [Environmental Protection Agency](#).

# WE ACHIEVE OUR FULL POTENTIAL

## 53% of children enter kindergarten ready for school

Just over half of children entering kindergarten in 2014 were “school ready.” To track school readiness, [E3 Alliance](#) developed a measure known as *Ready, Set K!* that assesses students in four domains: social-emotional development, emerging literacy, language and communication, and math. Each year, kindergarten teachers in a sample of Central Texas classrooms assess the readiness of their new students. The E3 Alliance has collected this school readiness data since 2010.

School readiness has a lasting effect throughout a child’s lifetime, influencing later academic success. Children who are low-income are less likely than other children to meet “school ready” standards. E3 reports that 65% of non-low-income students enter kindergarten ready for success, compared to 42% of low-income children. Participation in pre-kindergarten programs can help prepare students for school. In their 2014 study, E3 found that 55% of students who attended a pre-kindergarten program, regardless of income level, were school ready. Low-income four-year olds are eligible to participate in free pre-k programs offered through public schools. E3 estimates that about three-fourths of eligible children in Central Texas enrolled in public pre-kindergarten in 2013. E3 has set a community goal of ensuring that all eligible children enroll in a pre-k program by 2020.

Local agencies have partnered to address school readiness. Over 30 organizations, led by United Way for Greater Austin’s Success by 6 initiative, created the [School Readiness Action Plan](#) to collectively impact school readiness. Originally crafted in 2012, the plan has recently been updated with goals focused on 2015 through 2018. Goals for the plan include: supporting families to help them support their children, increasing access to high quality early education and care, promoting preventive health and mental health services, and fostering public and private partnerships to promote school readiness.

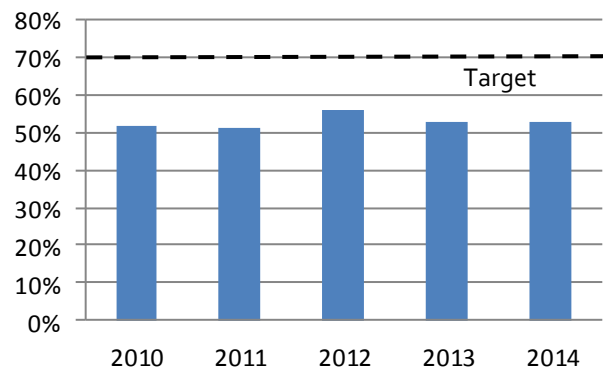
In addition to measuring success, the E3 Alliance has also developed a [School Readiness Parent Guide](#) to help parents prepare their children for school.



**Goal:** increase percent of children who enter kindergarten school ready

**Target:** 70% by 2015

Percent of Central Texas Children Who Enter Kindergarten Ready for School



Source: E<sup>3</sup> Alliance



The [E3 Alliance reports](#) that students who attend pre-k are more likely to be school ready than those who do not. Only 42% of kindergarteners who did not attend pre-k were school ready.

# 89% of Central Texas students graduate from high school in four years



**Goal:** increase percent who graduate from high school in four years

**Target:** 95% for the Class of 2015

Rates of high school graduation have improved over the past five years in both Central Texas and the state as a whole. In 2013, 89% of Central Texas high school students graduated in four years, surpassing the state rate of 88%.

The E3 Alliance's [Blueprint for Educational Change](#) reports that on-time graduation has a positive affect on future employment and earnings. According to their research, a majority of jobs will require a credential beyond a high school degree by 2020. E3 works with public and private organizations to align strategies that promote on-time graduation and connections to higher education.

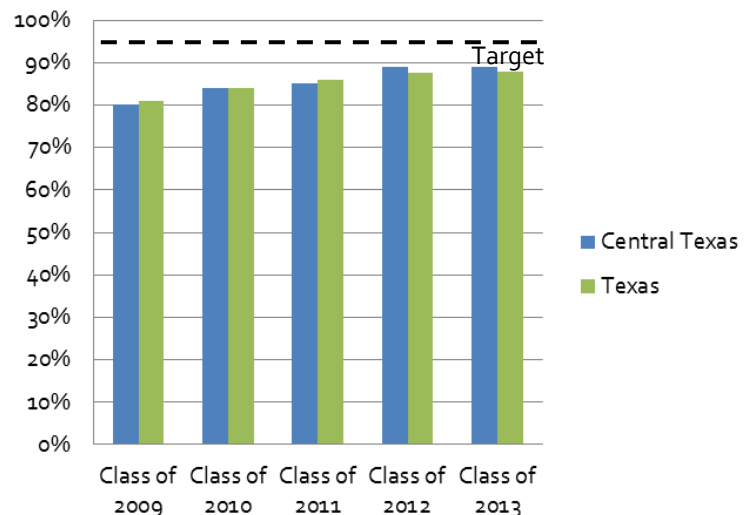
More students are graduating from high school "college ready," according to state standards. Meeting this standard means student do not have to take non-credit remedial courses in college before taking full credit courses. E3 reports that, for the class of 2013, 62% of graduating students met college and career readiness standards. Only 43% of graduates in the class of 2007 met this standard.

Local research by E3 Alliance and Children's Optimal Health indicates that students whose families move frequently have lower graduation rates, and residentially mobile students are concentrated in specific locations. The Austin ISD, City of Austin, Travis County Joint Subcommittee considered the issue of high [student mobility](#) in 2014, recommending investments in data systems to better coordinate student services for these students and families.

[Austin Community College](#) works with area school districts to create stronger connections between high school and college. [ACC Tech](#), [Early College Start](#), and [Early College High School](#) ease the transition to post-secondary education by providing opportunities for high school students to complete college credit while in school.

[Texas House Bill 5](#), enacted during the 2013 Legislative Session, made significant changes to degree requirements in Texas high schools. E3 has partnered with Austin ISD, Bastrop ISD, Round Rock ISD, and San Marcos CISD on the [Pathways of Promise](#) initiative. The initiative works to strengthen career and technology educational (CTE) pathways, after research found that students who concentrate on career and technology education, particularly low-income students, graduate at higher rates than students who take less of these types of courses.

Four Year High School Graduation Rates



Source: E3 Alliance



Gaps in graduation rates by income have narrowed in recent years, although disparities remain. The [E3 Alliance](#) reports that the graduation rate for low-income students in the Class of 2013 was 83%, compared to a 96% graduation rate for non-low-income students. This gap has narrowed from the Class of 2007, when only 60% of low-income students graduated, compared to 88% of non-low-income students.



# 30% of high school graduates earn a post-secondary credential within 6 years



**Goal:** increase college success

**Target:** 35% for the Class of 2014 (by 2020)

Only 30% of Central Texas high school graduates earned a post-secondary degree or certificate within 6 years of graduating from high school. The [E3 Alliance](#) analyzed data from the University of Texas Education Research Center for the Central Texas High School Class of 2008 and found that the overwhelming majority of those who earned a post-secondary credential completed a bachelor's degree and less than 10% earned an associate's degree or certificate. This data only includes students who attended Texas post-secondary schools and excludes the estimated 7% of Central Texas graduates who attend school out-of-state.

Attaining a post-secondary credential is critical. A [Georgetown University](#) report found that 62% of jobs in Texas will require education beyond high school by 2020. The [Hamilton Project](#) found that earnings for people with a high school diploma or less have declined nationally since 1990, while earnings for those with a bachelor's degree or higher have increased.

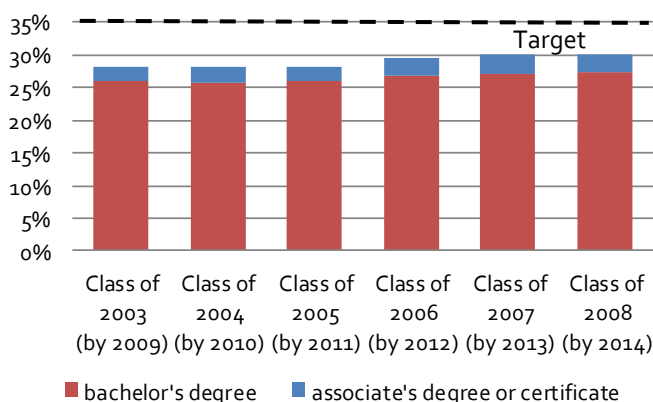
In the Summer of 2014, ACC opened its [Highland Campus](#), and began the second phase of construction in Spring 2015. The new campus is home to the ACCelerator, a high-tech learning lab that provides computer resources along with faculty, staff, and tutor support for students. At this location, ACC also offers a new Developmental Math course, which provides individualized learning modules that allow students to reach college-level math proficiency at their own pace. Ensuring student success at ACC is critical for our area, as data from the E3 Alliance indicate that [about one-third](#) of Central Texas students who enroll in higher education within a year of finishing high school do so at ACC.

The Austin Chamber of Commerce works with area school districts to track the number of students prepared for, and enrolling in, college each year with annual [Education Progress Reports](#). At [Financial Aid Saturday](#) events, Chamber volunteers help local families file Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms, a key step in transitioning to college.

The University of Texas at Austin's [Longhorn Campaign for Men of Color](#) has brought together local partners to develop strategies for improving educational outcomes for boys and young men of color.

The [Austin College Access Network](#) (ACAN), facilitated by the E3 Alliance, is a collaborative of seven community-based organizations that works to help first-generation college students succeed in bridging the gap between high school and college success. ACAN works with Austin Community College, Texas State University, and Concordia University to help more students enter college and be successful.

Percent of Central Texas High School Graduates Who Earn a Post-Secondary Credential Within 6 Years



■ bachelor's degree ■ associate's degree or certificate

Source: E3 Alliance



Students from low-income families complete college at lower rates than students from non-low-income families. In the Class of 2008, only 13% of low-income students completed within 6 years, compared to 39% of non-low-income students.



# 3.7% of Travis County workers are unemployed



**Goal:** reduce percent who are unemployed

**Target:** 4% by 2017

Our community met and exceeded the CAN Dashboard target for unemployment with a January 2015 unemployment rate of 3.7%. This is a significant decline from a high of 7.3% in 2010. Local jurisdictions have consistently seen lower unemployment rates than the state and nation. In January 2015, Texas had a 4.6% unemployment rate and the national unemployment rate was 6.1%

Although unemployment has decreased substantially in our area since the recession, access to a good job is important as well. In the five occupations with the highest number of workers in the Austin metro area, the median wage was \$31,000 per year or less, according to data from the [Texas Workforce Commission](#). A total of 123,380 people were employed in these occupations in 2014. Three of these occupations paid a median wage of \$23,000 or less per year.

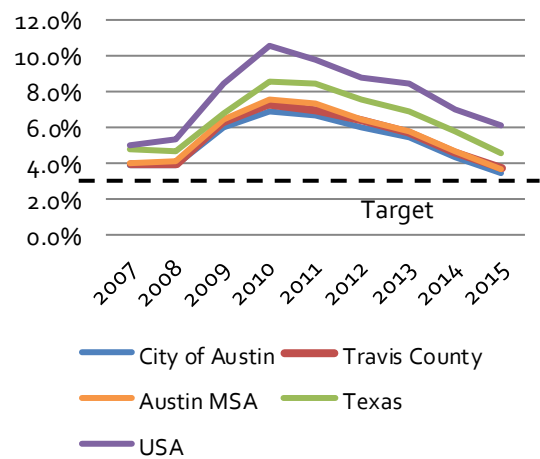
[Workforce Solutions- Capital Area](#) provides numerous employment resources for residents seeking employment and job training opportunities. Their [Capital Area Jobs Map](#) provides up-to-date information on job openings near job seekers' homes. The [Workforce and Education Readiness Continuum](#) provides a range of training opportunities through a network of eleven community partners.

Opportunity youth are young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are disconnected from educational opportunities and the workforce. The [Austin Opportunity Youth Collaborative](#) connects workforce providers across the community to better serve young people. In 2014, the group received a grant from the Aspen Institute to align systems and implement collaborative strategies.

The [Austin Two Generation Advisory Council](#), co-facilitated by United Way for Greater Austin and the Ray Marshall Center, includes partners from across the community. They strive to connect high quality early childhood education with training opportunities for low-income parents. The committee helped launch a pilot program with Austin ISD at the Uphaus Early Childhood Center, and crafted a two-generation vision for Austin.

Austin-area chambers of commerce work to promote a strong economy and create opportunities for small businesses. Local chambers include the [Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce](#), the [Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce](#), the [Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce](#), and the [Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#).

January Unemployment Rates



Source: Texas Workforce Commission



In 2013, the unemployment rate for people with a disability was 16.2% compared to 5.4% for people without a disability.

People with lower levels of educational attainment are also more likely to face unemployment than people with higher levels of education.

# A FOCUS ON SELECT POPULATIONS

If our community is to achieve equity and opportunity for all people, it is important to gauge not only how the community as a whole is doing, but also how sub-populations are faring. CAN has selected six populations for which we track data and, where available, specific outcomes for the CAN Dashboard indicators. These populations may face a greater risk of poor socio-economic health status and well-being. At their 2014 meetings, the [CAN Community Council](#) heard presentations by local collaborations and service providers and discussed the needs and challenges of these populations in our area.

## children and youth

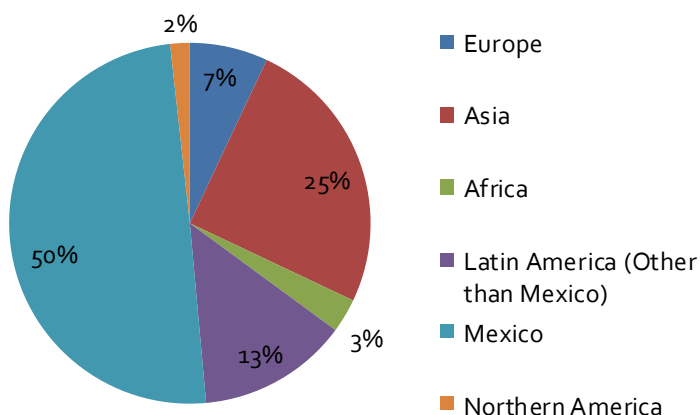
In 2013, 379,207 children and youth under the age of 25 lived in Travis County, equal to about 34% of the population. Over the last few years, the child and youth population has grown, although their share of the population has remained relatively constant. The Community Council identified key challenges faced by this population: gaps in early education and care and school readiness; prevalence of trauma and adverse childhood experiences; gaps in youth and family services; short-comings in post-secondary readiness; and the persistence of the school-to-prison pipeline. The [Ready by 21 Dashboard](#) provides more detailed information on the well-being of children and youth in Central Texas.



## immigrants

In 2013, 201,668 people, or 18% of the population of Travis County, were born in a foreign country. Of these residents, 68% were not citizens, although this number has declined since 2010. Foreign-born residents are vulnerable to negative outcomes on a number of indicators. Foreign-born Travis County residents are more likely than non-foreign-born residents to have low-incomes, limited English proficiency, and lack health insurance. Immigrants need information on our nation's laws, community customs, and their rights. Insufficient command of the English language may impede residents from becoming citizens. Depending on citizenship status, foreign-born residents may face barriers to accessing certain government programs. The [Immigrant Services Network of Austin](#) brings together community stakeholders to increase awareness and inform policy to better serve the immigrant population.

Place of Birth for the Foreign-Born Population, Travis County, 2011-2013



Source: American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates

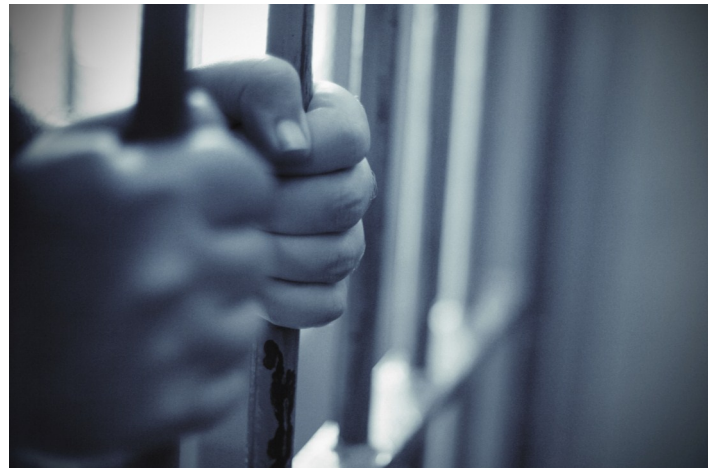
## older adults

Travis County is home to a large and growing population of older adults. In 2013, 91,108 individuals over the age of 65 resided in Travis County, making up about 8% of the total population. Since 2009, the over 65 population in Travis County has grown by 29%, and, according to the [Brookings Institution](#), the Austin Metro Area was home to the nation's fastest-growing pre-senior population (ages 55-64) between 2000 and 2010. As the population has grown, it has diversified as well, necessitating the provision of culturally and linguistically proficient services. Individuals over 65 experience numerous challenges, including deteriorating health, loneliness, isolation, mental health, and substance use issues. Many older adults prefer to remain in their own home or to live with a family member as they age. The Aging Services Council of Central Texas has highlighted providing in-home services and supports to caregivers who aid older adults with daily tasks as a priority for the Austin area. The [Aging Services Council](#) is a network of individuals and organizations who work together to ensure that older adults and caregivers have the information and services they need to support themselves and family members as they age.



## people with a criminal history

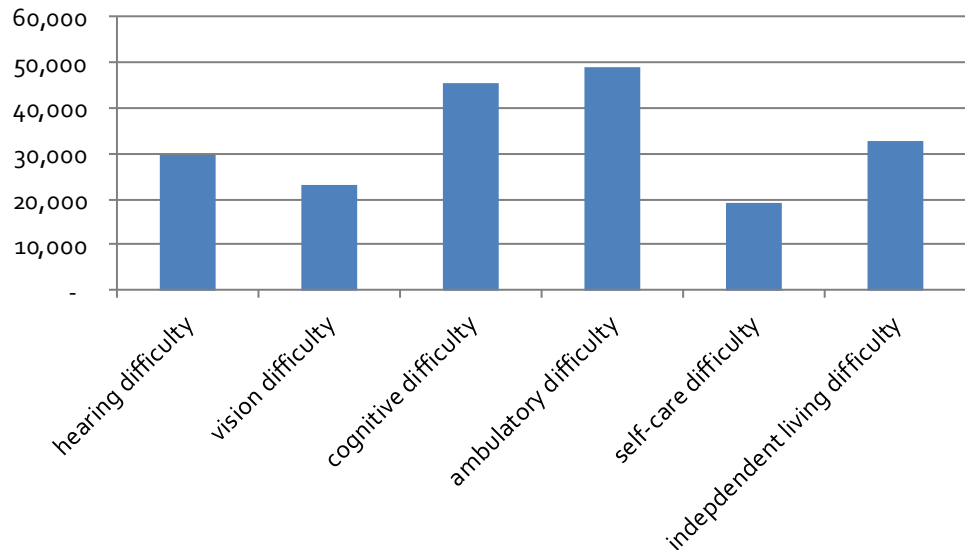
People with a criminal history face many barriers when attempting to reintegrate into society. The [Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable](#), citing work by the [National Employment Law Project](#), estimates that about 70 million people nationally, or just under a third of the population, have a criminal record. Over the last four years, 50,000 to 60,000 people were arrested and booked into jail in Travis County each year, and between 2,500 and 3,000 people convicted of a crime in Travis County are released from incarceration in the state prison system each year. A criminal record can have an effect on an individual's later life, regardless of whether they were convicted and sentenced to jail or prison. Criminal histories make it difficult for individuals to find both housing and employment. Individuals with a criminal history may also have difficulty finding mental health or substance abuse services. Additionally, many formerly incarcerated individuals face challenges with debt and regaining proof of identification and a driver license. The [Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable](#) is a collaborative effort among local agencies that promotes public safety through effective reintegration of formerly incarcerated persons and individuals with a criminal history.



## people with disabilities

In 2013, there were 110,447 people with disabilities residing in non-institutional settings in Travis County, equal to about 10% of the population. About four in ten of these individuals have more than one type of disability, and nearly one quarter of veterans have a disability. People with disabilities tend to face low levels of employment and low-incomes. The lack of affordable housing linked to transportation presents a substantial challenge to independent living for people with disabilities, as does the limited availability of supportive community services through the state. Furthermore, state cuts to the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program have limited the community's ability to identify early and provide services to children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Caregivers may face challenges navigating support systems, particularly the transition from ECI to school-based services, and school-based services to adult support services. The [Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities](#) advises the Austin City Council and City manager on the needs of people with disabilities in Austin. IDDACT, a local coalition of service providers and community stakeholders, is working to develop a community plan for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Number of People in the Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population with a Given Type of Disability, Travis County, 2013



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

## veterans

In 2013, 6.2% of Travis County residents, or 52,858 people, were veterans. Although the veteran population is projected to decline, according to the Veterans Administration, an increasingly large share of veterans are female. According to service providers who spoke with the Community Council, veterans are often married to other veterans or are single parents. Therefore, many veterans need services that support family well-being, including safe, affordable housing and quality, affordable childcare. Area service providers work with veterans and their families to navigate complex federal systems and ensure that they receive all benefits to which they are entitled. Other local efforts aid veterans in coping with mental health and substance use issues, as well as deterring interaction with the criminal justice system. Local providers have also collaborated to provide services that decrease the number of veterans experiencing homelessness.





# STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION



The *Community Dashboard 2015* report was published by CAN on May 20 2015. Learn more about CAN at [www.canatx.org](http://www.canatx.org).

Citations in this report are hyperlinked in the on-line version of the report. The report and additional data and analysis are available at [www.CANcommunitydashboard.org](http://www.CANcommunitydashboard.org).

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