

Key socioeconomic indicators for Greater Austin and Travis County



INTRODUCTION

The CAN Dashboard provides an overview of the social health and well-being of Travis County and the greater Austin area. This seventh annual report charts progress on 17 indicators, highlights key disparities for each, and notes the local collaborative efforts working to move the indicators in the right direction.

The goal of the CAN Dashboard is to generate conversation about the ways we can work together to meet our community goals and promote equity and opportunity for all people.

Community Advancement Network (CAN) publishes the CAN Dashboard and its companion website www.CANcommunitydashboard.org annually. CAN partners represent many of the agencies and organizations in Austin and Travis County that provide resources to enhance the social, health, educational and economic well-being of Central Texas. The CAN board of directors includes board members and senior executives of the 24 CAN partner organizations, as well as the leadership of the CAN Community Council.



“*Equity* is defined as the state, quality or ideal of being just, impartial and fair...To be achieved and sustained, equity needs to be thought of as a structural and systemic concept.”

[Embracing Equity](#),
Annie E. Casey Foundation

community dashboard 2016

2016

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highlights

Some of the key challenges highlighted in this report:

- **The poverty rate in Travis County appears to have increased in 2014 for the first time since 2010.** Though sample sizes are too small to be conclusive, this is a trend to watch.
- **Even though unemployment is extremely low, most jobs created over the past decade pay less than required to meet families' basic needs.** A comparison of wage data from the Capital Area Council of Governments and estimates of what it takes to meet basic needs by the Center for Public Policy Priorities shows that 69% of all jobs created between 2005 and 2015 paid less than \$24.85, the hourly wage required to meet the basic needs of a family with one adult and two children.
- **The percentage of households that are housing cost-burdened increased for the first time since 2010.** Over a third of households are housing cost-burdened, paying more than 30% of their total income for housing. Renters are more than twice as likely as homeowners to be cost-burdened. Eighty-six percent of renter households earning less than \$35,000 a year are housing cost-burdened.
- **The number of people identified as homeless on a given day in Travis County increased for the first time in several years.**
- **For the first time in five years, the percentage of kindergarteners who were school ready declined significantly.**
- **Disparities persist across many indicators, including:**
 - ◇ jail bookings
 - ◇ homelessness
 - ◇ poverty
 - ◇ unemployment
 - ◇ obesity
 - ◇ smoking
 - ◇ post-secondary completion

Difference in outcomes for people of different races and ethnicities are examined in more detail in the new Equity Analysis section of the Dashboard, as well as on the individual indicator pages. An even deeper dive into disparities by race, economic status, disability status and educational attainment is available in the on-line dashboard.

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 (iACT)
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

A COMMON VISION

What is our common vision?

The CAN Board of Directors adopted a common vision for our community in 2008, after a year of community discussion. This common vision for all people is outlined below.

How will we know when we have achieved it?

A Dashboard Steering Committee of data experts across issue areas identified indicators to measure whether we are moving closer to this common vision. The CAN Board of Directors adopted the community indicators in 2009 and published the first report in 2010. The Dashboard Steering Committee continues to advise the Board of Directors on improvements and updates to the CAN Dashboard.

How is the CAN Dashboard used?

The CAN Dashboard helps launch an annual community conversation about whether we are moving closer to our shared vision for all people, and helps the CAN Board of Directors determine priorities for its annual Work Plan.



We are safe, just & engaged

We are free from abuse, neglect, crime, violence, and injustice.
We respect and value diversity.
We are aware, socially connected, and contribute to our neighborhoods, individual communities, and the community at large.
We have the opportunity and willingness to lead by utilizing our talents, passions and interests to improve the community.



Our basic needs are met

We live in a community where the basic needs of all are met.
We live in affordable and stable housing with access to open space and public amenities.
We have safe, affordable, accessible, and reliable transportation.



We are healthy

We live, work, learn, and play in accessible, safe, clean, and healthy physical environments.
We have adequate nutrition, and achieve and maintain optimal physical and behavioral health.



We achieve our full potential

We have the education, skills, and opportunities to achieve our full potential and lead meaningful, joyful lives.
We have adequate income, resources, and supports to live independent lives.



DASHBOARD

(Data is for Travis County, unless otherwise noted.)

		5-year baseline	most recent	target	5 year trend	on track to target?
We are safe, just & engaged	Crime rate per 100,000 people	5,357 in 2010	3,988 in 2014	1% annual reduction	BETTER	YES
	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 by 2020	UNCHANGED	NO
	Percent voter turnout National/Presidential election State/Gubernatorial election	64% in 2008 36% in 2010	58% in 2012 37% in 2014	65% in 2016 40% in 2018	WORSE	NO
Our basic needs are met	Percent who live in poverty	19% in 2010	17% in 2014	15% by 2020	BETTER	YES
	Percent of residents who live in food insecure households	16% in 2010	17% in 2014	15% by 2020	WORSE	NO
	Percent of cost-burdened households	41% in 2010	36% in 2014	33% by 2020	BETTER	YES
	Daily vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita	23.8 miles per day in 2009	24.8 miles per day in 2014	21 miles per day by 2020	WORSE	NO
	Number of people identified as homeless on a given day	2,244 in 2012	2,138 in 2016	1,000 by 2020	BETTER	NO
We are healthy	Percent under age 65 who have no health insurance	22% in 2010	18% in 2014	15% by 2020	BETTER	YES
	Percent of adults who report poor mental health	17% in 2011	16% in 2014	15% by 2020	UNCHANGED *	YES
	Percent of adults who are smokers	16% in 2011	11% in 2014	10% by 2020	BETTER *	YES
	Percent of adults who are obese	19% in 2011	21% in 2014	19% by 2020	WORSE *	NO
	Attainment of national ambient air quality standards	2009 in attainment	2015 in attainment	attainment	UNCHANGED	YES
We achieve our full potential	Percent of kindergarteners who are school ready	51% in 2011	41% in 2015	70% by 2018	WORSE	NO
	Percent of students who graduate from high school in four years	84% Class of 2010	89% Class of 2014	95% Class of 2020	BETTER	YES
	Percent of HS graduates who earn a post-secondary degree within 6 years of enrolling in college	51% Class of 2004	50% Class of 2008	55% for the Class of 2014 (by 2020)	UNCHANGED	NO
	Annual unemployment rate	6.4% in 2011	3.2% in 2015	3.5% in 2020	BETTER	YES

* Trend is based on four, rather than five years, because the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey, the data source for these indicators, changed methodology in 2011, and previous years are not comparable.

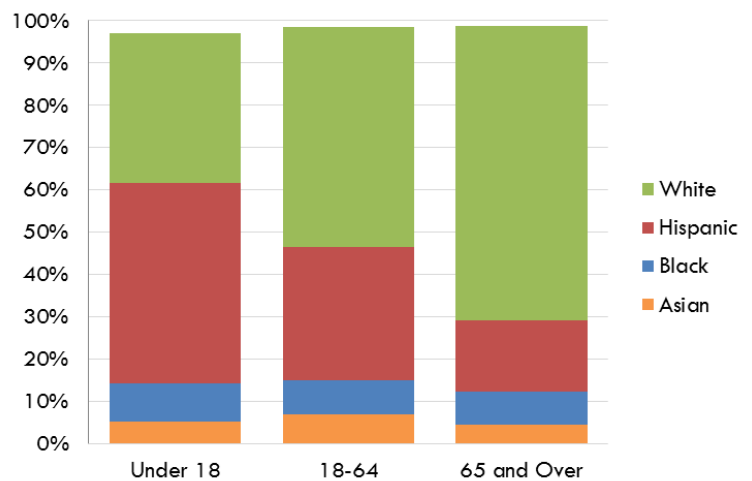
EQUITY ANALYSIS

diversity

One-half of all people living in Travis County in 2014 were White, one-third were Hispanic, 8% were Black and 6% were Asian. Younger populations are more likely to be Hispanic, while older populations are more likely to be White. White residents made up 70% of the population aged 65 and over in 2014. On the other end of the age spectrum, Hispanics made up almost one-half of the total child population.

People of color are more likely to be living in poverty (see page 12). Hispanics have the highest rate of poverty. When we consider that a majority of the child population is Hispanic, it becomes apparent that the educational success of this population is critically important to the economic future of our community as a whole.

Race and Ethnicity by Age Group, Travis County, 2014



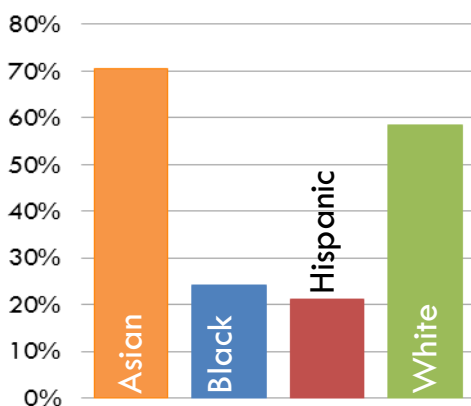
Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

education and income

There are stark differences in educational attainment levels and median household income by race and ethnicity. The first graph below depicts the percent of people in Travis County over the age of 25 who have a Bachelor's degree or higher. The second graph depicts Median Household Income. Less than one-fourth of Black and Hispanic adults over the age of 25 have a Bachelor's degree, and this contributes to lower household incomes for these groups.

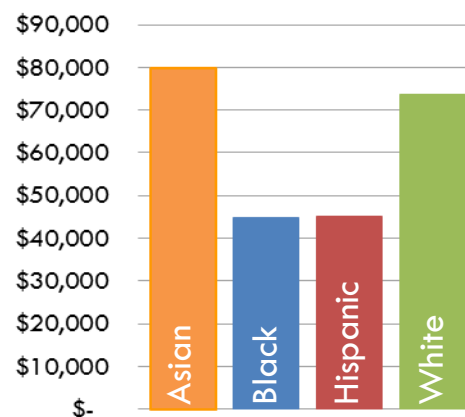
These disparities have serious implications for the future of our community. Increasing educational opportunity and educational success for people of all races and ethnicities is one way we can bridge the economic divide and increase access to opportunity.

Percent Age 25 and Over with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, Travis County, 2014



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

Median Household Income, Travis County, 2014



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

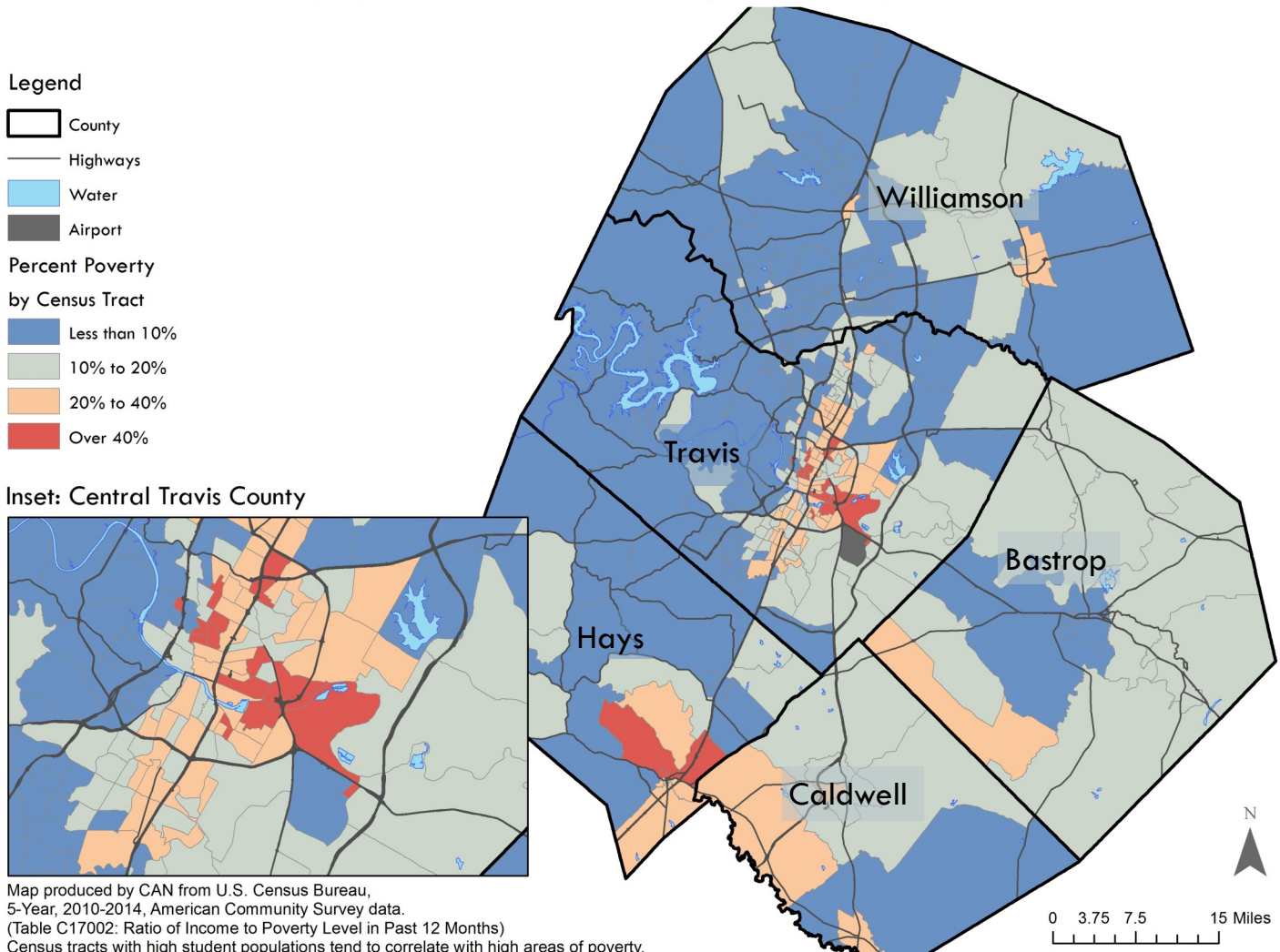
growth and economic segregation

[Forbes](#) ranked the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as the fastest growing large metro in the nation in 2016. The Austin MSA has been noted as the fastest growing city by Forbes every year since 2010, except for 2015, when the five-county Austin MSA was second to Houston.

From 2005 to 2014, the Austin MSA added more than half a million people, reaching a total population of 1.9 million in 2014. This represents a growth rate of 36%. The rate of growth for those living below the federal poverty level was even higher at 55%, more than doubling the total number of people living in poverty.

The map below depicts the concentration of poverty in our community. The dark orange areas represent census tracts where more than 40% of the population live below the federal poverty threshold. The light orange areas represent areas where 20% to 40% of all people live below the poverty threshold. The [Brookings Institution](#) notes that people who live in areas of concentrated poverty, whether they are poor or not, tend to face higher crime rates, poorer physical and mental health outcomes, poorer educational outcomes and weaker job-seeking networks. According to Brookings, “These challenges disproportionately fall to people of color, and, while they have long been particularly pronounced in inner cities, as poverty has spread beyond the urban core, so too has concentrated disadvantage. “

Percent Poverty by Census Tract, Austin MSA, 2010-2014, ACS 5-Year Data



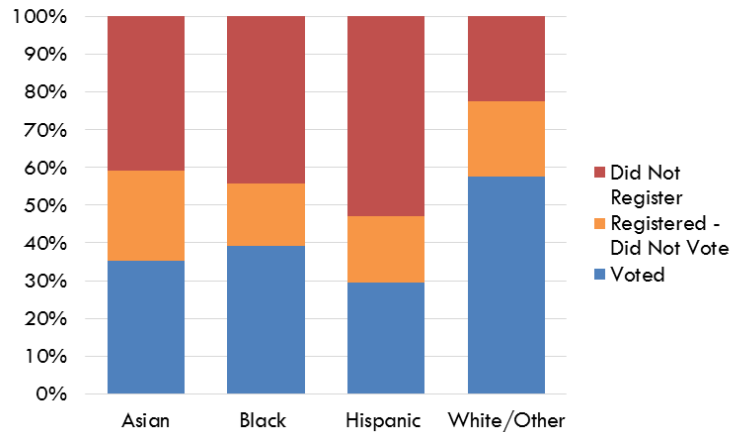
EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY: OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES

Are we safe, just & engaged?

The indicators selected to measure whether we are a community that is safe, just and engaged are crime, whether people of different races are disproportionately booked into jail, and voting. Over the five years from 2010 to 2014, the crime rate in Travis County decreased by 25%. However, Blacks are still much more likely than Whites and Hispanics to be booked into jail. Twenty-one percent of people booked into the Travis County jail in 2014 were Black, but only 8% of Travis County's adult population are Black. Disproportionality in jail bookings has remained stubbornly persistent over time.

An analysis of voting data from the last Presidential election shows that young people and people of color are least likely to vote. People who are White and older are most likely to vote. The chart at right compares the citizen voting age population by race and ethnicity and the proportion who voted, those who registered but did not vote, and those who did not register or vote. The data suggest opportunities to register more people to vote and to encourage those who are registered to participate.

Participation in the 2012 Presidential Election by Race & Ethnicity, Travis County



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates and Opinion Analysts

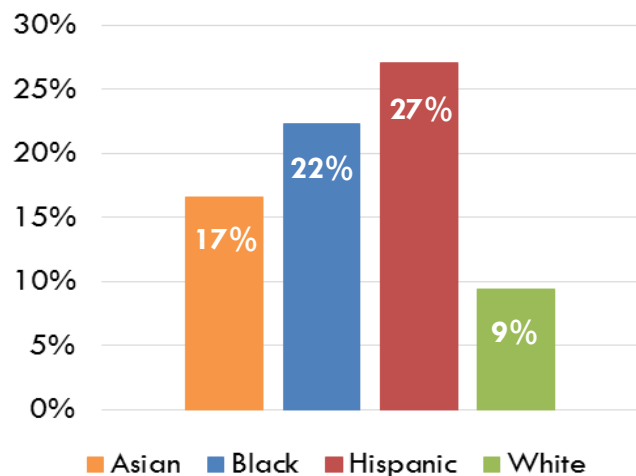
Are we meeting our basic needs?

Four of the five indicators in this section worsened for the first time since the end of the Great Recession. Poverty, the percent of people who pay more than 30% of their income for housing, the number of people who are homeless in Travis County on a given day, and the average number of miles driven by individuals on a daily basis all increased. The fifth indicator in this section—food insecurity—improved slightly since 2012, but is still higher than it was five years ago.

There are large disparities in poverty rates by race and ethnicity. The Hispanic poverty rate is three times the White poverty rate. The Black poverty rate is two and a half times the White rate.

Disparities in the homeless population are even greater. The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition reports that 42% of the 4,771 people who were assessed for homeless services in 2015 were Black, while only 8% of the Travis County population is Black. The overrepresentation of Blacks among people who are homeless is the greatest disparity of any indicator tracked in this report.

Poverty Rates by Race & Ethnicity, Travis County 2014



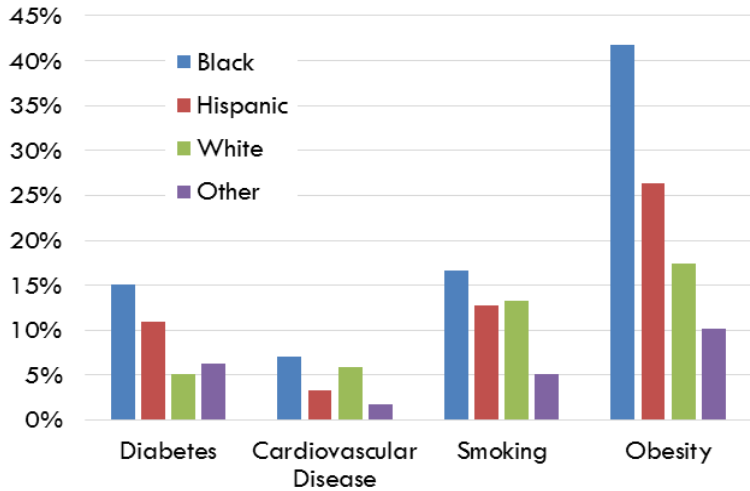
Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

Are we healthy?

Blacks are overrepresented among those who smoke, those who are obese, and those reporting poor mental health. There are life and death consequence to these health disparities. According to the Austin/Travis County Health Department, Blacks also have the highest rates of cardiovascular disease and diabetes—diseases more prevalent for those who are obese—and also die from these diseases at a higher rate than people of other races or ethnicities.

Almost one-third of Hispanics in Travis County report having no health insurance. Much of the improvement in the percent of people who are insured is due to implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which is not available to people who are unauthorized residents. According to the [Migration Policy Institute](#), an estimated 7% of the population in Travis County are undocumented immigrants, and 71% of those undocumented immigrants do not have health insurance.

Chronic Disease and Risk Factors by Race and Ethnicity, Travis County, 2011- 2014



Source: Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

Are we achieving our full potential?

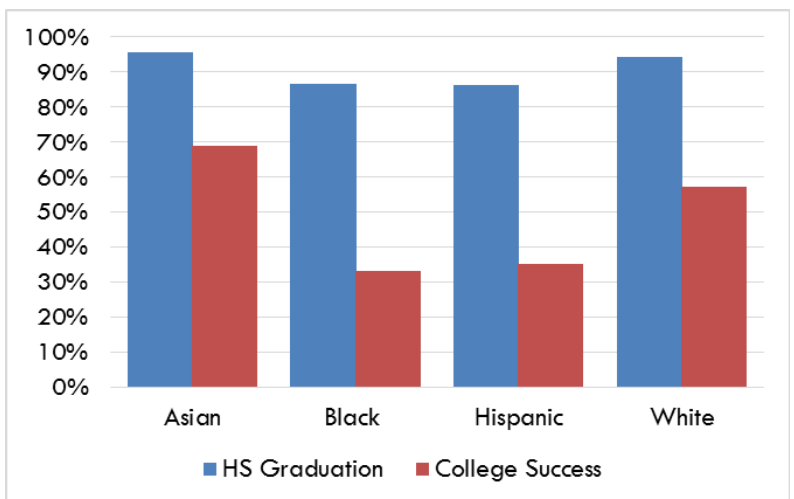
Educational disparities exist from kindergarten through adulthood in Central Texas. The impact of these outcomes is revealed in disparities in the unemployment rates, poverty rates, and median family income. Empowering everyone to achieve their full potential requires addressing these disparities throughout the educational continuum.

The Class of 2014 high school graduation rate for both Hispanics and Blacks was 86%, which is better than it was five years ago, but still lower than the graduation rates for Whites and Asians.

Disparity is even greater in college success. One-half of Central Texas high school graduates earn a post-secondary degree within six years of enrolling in a Texas college or university. But only 33% of Black students and 35% of Hispanic students earn a degree.

With a 2014 annual unemployment rate of 8.9%, a larger percentage of Blacks were unemployed than any other race or ethnicity, and their rate of employment has been the slowest to recover since the end of the recession. Hispanics had an unemployment rate of 4.9%, but low wages kept many in poverty.

High School Graduation and College Success Rates by Race and Ethnicity, Central Texas, 2014



Source: E³ Alliance

WE ARE SAFE, JUST AND ENGAGED



Target:
1% annual
reduction in crime

crime occurred at a rate
of 3,988 offenses per 100,000 people
in Travis County

where do we stand?

Travis County's overall crime rate dropped 10% from 2013 to 2014, far exceeding the community goal of a 1% annual reduction in crime. From 2010 through 2014, the local crime rate declined by 25%. The rate of violent crime has also declined. In 2014, Travis County had the lowest violent crime rate of the six largest urban Texas counties.

a focus on equity

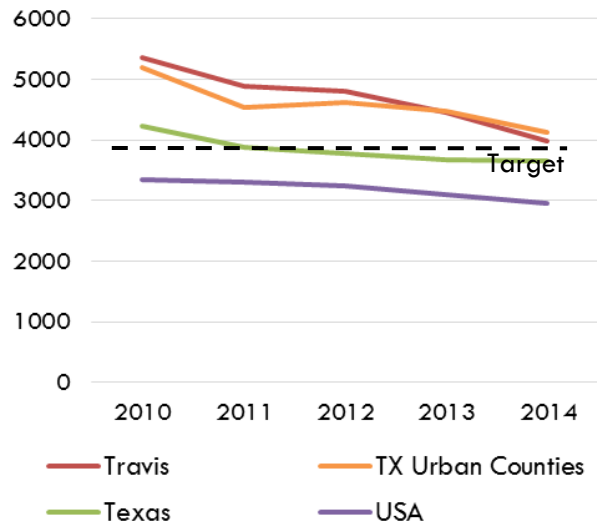
Local data on the race and ethnicity of those who are victims of crimes are not available. The Bureau of Justice Statistics' analysis of [Criminal Victimization](#) reports that African Americans were more likely to be victims of violent crime in 2014 than Whites and Hispanics.

local efforts

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. A study by the University of Texas showed the Rundberg area experienced a 4.5% reduction in violent crime and a 14% reduction in property crime.

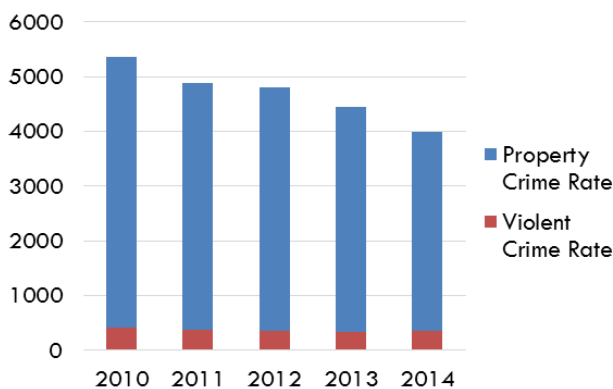
In 2011, APD created a centralized [Burglary Unit](#) to address this crime and is working with the District Attorney's office to target the most serious offenders. Since creation of this specialized unit, burglary case clearance rates increased from 5% in 2010 to 11% in 2014.

Crime Rate per 100,000 People



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

Crime Rate per 100,000 People, Travis County



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

Violent crime: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault

Property crime: burglary, theft, auto theft

There are far more property crimes reported in Travis County each year than violent crimes. In 2014, the property crime rate was 3,631 offenses per 100,000 people. The majority of these were theft. By contrast, the violent crime rate was 357 offenses per 100,000 people. The majority were aggravated assault, though there was an increase in reported rapes in 2014, due to a redefinition of rape by the FBI.

jail bookings are not proportionate for all races in Travis County



Target:
Proportionate bookings for all races by 2020

where do we stand?

People arrested by the 14 law enforcement agencies in Travis County are generally booked into the Travis County jail. Blacks are disproportionately overrepresented in these jail bookings compared to their representation in the overall Travis County adult population. Blacks account for about 21% of people booked into jail, but only 8% of Travis County's adult population, which indicates a high level of disproportionate representation for the Black population.

a focus on equity

According to [The Sentencing Project](#), the causes of racial disparity in the criminal justice system include: differential crime rates; implicit racial bias; resource allocation decisions; and criminal justice policies that exacerbate socioeconomic inequalities. Disproportionality is found in a number of systems, including child welfare, school discipline, health, homelessness, educational attainment, and employment. Addressing disproportionality requires uncovering both conscious and unconscious bias, both in institutions and in individuals.

local efforts

[Building Bridges: Brick by Brick](#) convenes conversations between residents, educational leaders, and law enforcement.

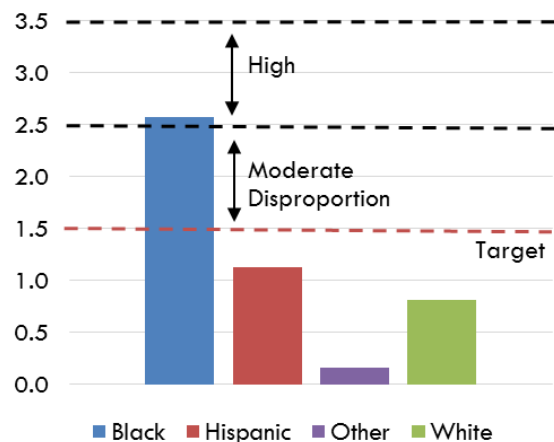
[Undoing Racism Austin](#) provides resources and training to address individual and institutional racial bias.

The [Texas Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities](#) analyzes disproportionality in communities and systems across the state, and provides free training.

[Recent changes to state law](#) have limited the extent to which students may receive tickets for Class C misdemeanors while on school grounds, resulting in [an 83% decline](#) in court filings for violations under the Education Code.

Austin ISD and other area school districts are implementing Restorative Justice techniques and training to get to the root causes of student misbehavior and to respond in ways that are not punitive. Changes in AISD have resulted in a 50% reduction in the number of Black students referred to Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs (DAEP).

Disproportionality Ratios for Bookings into the Travis County Jail, 2014



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



Disproportionality occurs across systems. Blacks are more likely than other groups to experience child abuse or neglect, homelessness, obesity and poor mental health.

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

Voter turnout of 58% in presidential election in Travis County

where do we stand?

Presidential elections generally have higher turnout rates than gubernatorial elections. The CAN Dashboard sets a target of 65% voter turnout for the November 2016 presidential election. Voter turnout for the last presidential election was 58%, well below the 64% voter turnout in the 2008 presidential election.

Turnout for the March 1, 2016 primary elections was more than double the turnout for the last Presidential Primary in 2012, with 34% of registered voters participating. Voter interest in the primary election could portend a higher voter turnout for this fall's Presidential election. There was a notable increase in Republican participation in the primary election.

a focus on equity

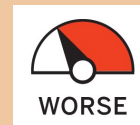
Young people and people of color are least likely to vote. During the 2012 presidential election, only 28% of Travis County citizens aged 18 to 24 voted, while more than 60% of voters aged 55 and older voted. Opinion Analysts, a local research firm, estimated voter participation by race and ethnicity for the last presidential election and found the lowest voter turnout rates among Hispanic, Black and Asian voters.

local efforts

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.

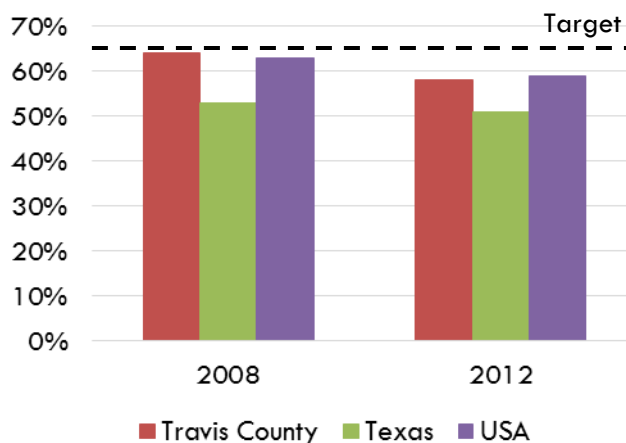
The [League of Women Voters](#) promotes voting and civic engagement by providing non-partisan Voter's Guides, candidate forums, and other trainings and information.

The [Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Engagement](#) promotes civic participation, including encouraging young people to vote.



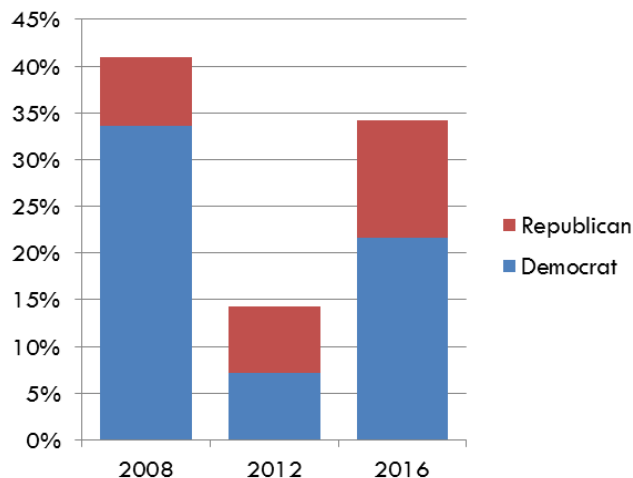
Target:
65% voter turnout
in 2016 Presidential
election

Voter Turnout of Citizen Voting Age Population in Presidential Elections



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

March Presidential Primary Voter Turnout of Registered Voters, Travis County



Source: Travis County Clerk

OUR BASIC NEEDS ARE MET

17% of Travis County residents live in poverty



Target:
15% poverty rate
by 2020

where do we stand?

The poverty rate in Travis County appears to have increased in 2014 for the first time since 2010. Though sample sizes are too small to be conclusive, this is a trend to watch. The poverty rate is still lower than the peak rate of 19% in 2010, when the community was suffering the greatest impact from the recession. The American Community Survey estimates 193,753 residents of Travis County were living in poverty in 2014.

The poverty threshold is set annually by the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) and varies by family type and size. In 2014, this was equivalent to \$23,850 for a family of four with two adults and two children and \$17,790 for a family of three with one adult and two children.

According to the [Center for Public Policy Priorities](#), it takes at least two times the federal poverty level for families and individuals to make ends meet in Austin.

a focus on equity

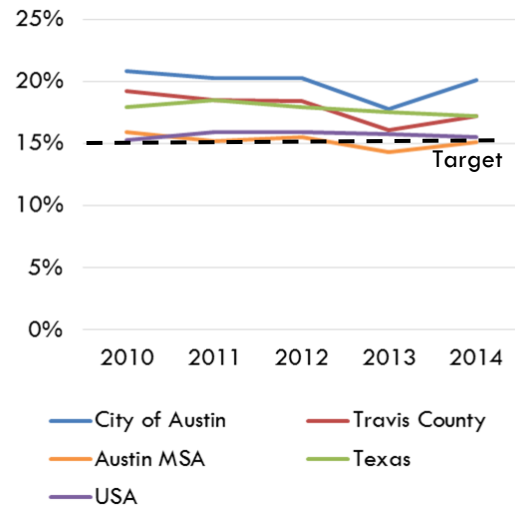
The poverty rate for Hispanics is three times the poverty rate for Whites in Travis County. Children are especially impacted. Almost one-fourth of all children in Travis County live in poverty. Forty percent of children living with one parent live in poverty, compared to 14% of children living with two parents.

local efforts

One Voice Central Texas is a coalition of about 85 nonprofits providing health and human services in Central Texas. The coalition's "[Tale of Two Austin's](#)" campaign draws attention to the needs of vulnerable populations.

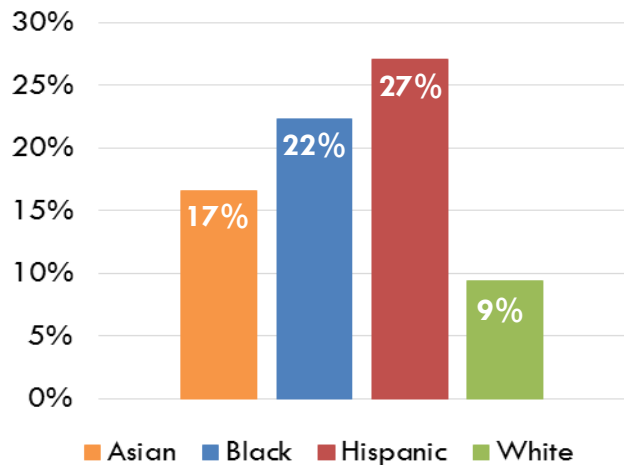
The City of Austin and Travis County have each increased funding for health and human services, providing safety net programs for individuals and families.

Percent of People Living in Poverty



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

Poverty Rates by Race & Ethnicity, Travis County 2014



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

17% of Travis County residents live in food insecure households

where do we stand?

In 2014, approximately 17% 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. Rates of food insecurity in Travis County have declined slightly since 2012, but are still higher than they were five years ago.

a focus on equity

Children are more likely than adults to experience food insecurity. According Feeding America, 24% of children in Travis County, or about 61,520 young people, experienced food insecurity in 2014. Feeding America does not report this data by race and ethnicity.

local efforts

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 priority and outlines strategies for achieving this goal.

The [Capital Area Food Bank](#) (CAFB) partners with nearly 300 organizations across Central Texas to provide emergency food assistance. Capital Area Food Bank is building a new building that is more than twice the size of the current one to meet the growing need in Central Texas.

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.

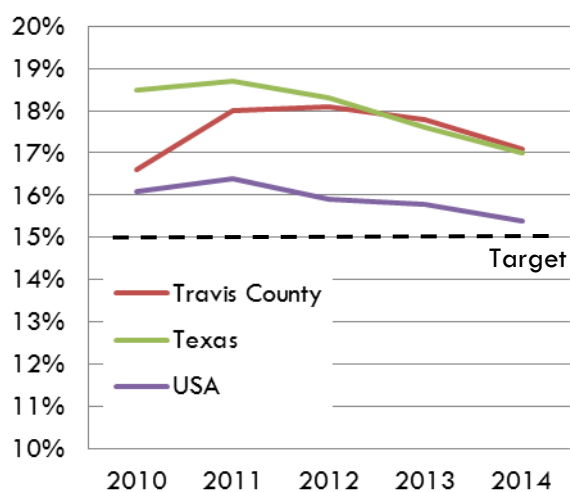
The Texas Hunger Initiative recruits community partners throughout the Austin area for the [Community Partner Recruitment Initiative](#), a state program that provides tools for community-based organizations to help people navigate the [YourTexasBenefits.com](#) site and apply for assistance.

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



Target:
15% by 2020

Percent of Residents Who Live in Food Insecure Households



Source: Feeding America



Feeding America estimates that 24% of Travis County's child population, approximately 61,520 children, live in households that are food insecure.

36% of Travis County households are housing cost-burdened



Target:
33% by 2017

where do we stand?

The percent of households in Travis County that were housing cost-burdened increased in 2014, after declining for three years. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) considers a household to be “cost-burdened” when the household pays more than 30% of total income on housing costs. Even though the five year trend is “better,” an estimated 159,548 households in Travis County spent more than 30% of their income on housing expenses in 2014.

a focus on equity

Renters are almost twice as likely as homeowners to be cost-burdened. Low-income renters are most impacted. According to census data, 86% of renter households earning less than \$35,000 a year are housing cost-burdened. As the graph below shows, many of these households are “severely cost-burdened,” meaning they pay more than half their total income for housing costs.

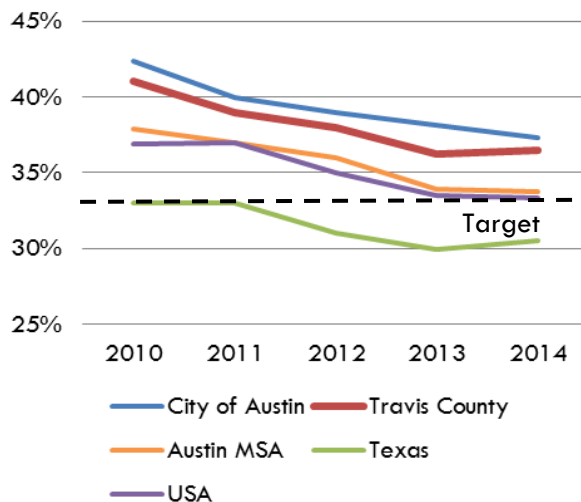
local efforts

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.

The City of Austin is implementing policies to preserve and create affordability for both renters and homeowners. Homestead Preservation Districts, Tax Incremental Revitalization Zones, density bonuses, and increased funding for the Housing Trust Fund are strategies to generate new affordable housing options for both renters and homeowners.

In spite of these efforts, Austin has enough affordable housing for only one of every four low-income households, according to the City’s [Neighborhood Housing and Community Development](#) Department. NHCD is soliciting community input to develop an Austin Housing Plan, and anticipates presenting a draft plan to residents and the Austin City Council in June 2016.

Percent of Households that are Cost-Burdened (pay more than 30% of income for housing)



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

Number of Renters that are Cost-Burdened and Severely Cost-Burdened, 2010-2014



Source: American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

NOTE: “Cost-Burdened” households pay more than 30% of total income for housing. “Severely Cost-Burdened” households pay more than 50% of income for housing.

24.8 daily vehicle miles traveled per capita in Travis County

where do we stand?

Daily vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita in Travis County increased in 2014, after several years of trending downward, and are now higher than in 2010. A higher number of miles driven by individuals on a daily basis, combined with population growth, means many more cars on our roadways, resulting in more congestion, more air pollution, and a poorer quality of life. The [INRIX 2015 Traffic Scorecard](#) rates six corridors in the Austin area as among the 100 most congested traffic corridors in the nation.

a focus on equity

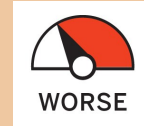
The Capital Area Council of Governments' [Housing Opportunity](#) report notes that, with the exception of Travis County, a majority of workers in the Austin MSA are employed outside of their home county. The [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#), the [Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization \(CAMPO\) Plan](#), and the CAPCOG Housing Opportunity report all promote the development of activity centers throughout the region to improve the balance between housing and jobs.

local efforts

The U.S. Department of Transportation has selected Austin as one of seven finalists in the [Beyond Traffic Smart City Challenge](#). If selected, Austin would receive up to \$50 million to implement a fully integrated, transportation network that uses data, technology and creativity to move people and goods in the future. If not selected, Austin plans to leverage local resources to implement the transportation improvements.

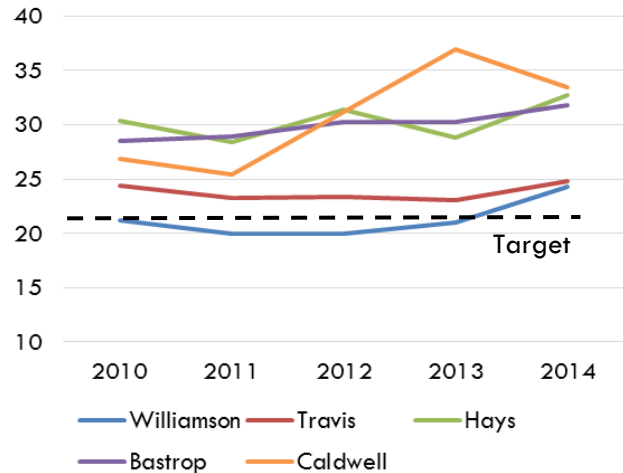


The lack of affordable housing options has drawn many low-income residents away from the urban core. While they may find less expensive housing, they also encounter higher transportation costs, geographic isolation and poor or little access to public transportation, employment, and services.



Target:
21 daily vehicle miles per capita by 2020

Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita



Source: CAMPO and Texas Department of Transportation

HousingWorks Austin has released a [Housing, Jobs Analysis](#) for each of the ten Austin City Council Districts, finding that districts with the most low-wage jobs have little affordable housing.

The [Austin Chamber's Mobility Report](#) recommends a multi-pronged approach to addressing Austin's traffic congestion including telecommuting, using flexible work schedules to reduce traffic during peak congestion times, encouraging public transit, and promoting mixed-use development to reduce home-work trip length.

[Capital Metro](#) provides bus, train, vanpool and para-transit services in its 535-square-mile service area. The agency provided 31.6 million rides, system-wide, in 2015. Capital Metro is engaging stakeholders in a Connections 2025 planning process to map out its future.

2,138 people are homeless on a given day in Travis County



BETTER

Target:

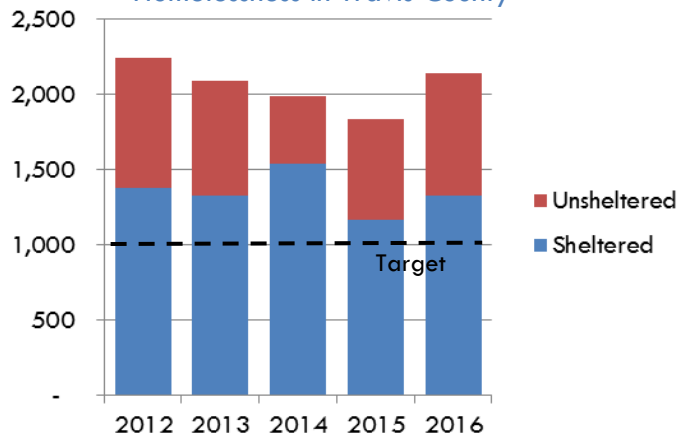
1,000 people identified in the annual Point-in-Time Count by 2020

where do we stand?

For the first time in three years, the number of people identified as homeless in the annual [Point in Time Count](#) increased. This indicator is rated “better” based on the five year trend line. The Point in Time Count occurs nation-wide, as directed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Hundreds of volunteers identify people who, during a particular 24-hour period, are experiencing homelessness.

Other measures of homelessness show a more severe problem. The [Ending Community Homelessness Coalition](#) (ECHO) notes more than 7,000 people received homeless services in 2015. Austin ISD reports a 54% increase in its homeless student population over the past five years, using a broader definition of homelessness that includes families that are doubling up or living in hotels or campgrounds. Austin ISD reports 2,637 students were homeless at some point during the 2014-2015 school year.

Annual Point-in-Time Count of People Experiencing Homelessness in Travis County



Source: Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

a focus on equity

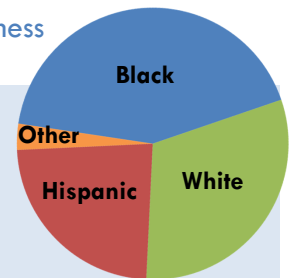
ECHO acts as the lead planning organization to end homelessness in Austin and Travis County. Coordinated Assessments of 4,771 people experiencing homelessness reveal that 42% are African American.

local efforts

ECHO reports that access to affordable, low-barrier housing is the single greatest challenge to ending homelessness. Austin invests \$19 million in local and federal funding for homeless services each year. Even so, at least 2,800 households (3,700 people) are in need of deeply affordable, low-barrier housing.

ECHO is one of six entities nation-wide selected for a [Pay for Success](#) initiative. ECHO is working with Central Health, Travis County Justice Planning and Austin Travis County Integral Care to provide housing for 250 frequent users of healthcare, jails, and shelters.

Who is Experiencing Homelessness in Austin/Travis County?



- 62% are males
- 20% are children
- 28% have experienced domestic violence
- 60% report a problem with drugs/alcohol
- 45% report a current mental health issue
- 63% report having been in the emergency room in the past 6 months
- 40% report being taken to hospital in an ambulance in the past 6 months
- 33% report being hospitalized

ECHO's [Homelessness in Austin Report](#) provides a snapshot of homeless people in our community. The data is based on surveys of 4,771 people experiencing homelessness in Austin and Travis County.

18% of those under age 65 in Travis County have no health insurance

where do we stand?

The percent of people under 65 who lack health insurance in Travis County has fallen from 22% in 2010 to 18% in 2014, which was the first year for full implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Nationally, 20 million people have enrolled in health insurance through the ACA, according to the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#). The percentage of people with no health insurance is much higher in states, such as Texas, that have chosen not to expand Medicaid coverage to all legal residents living in poverty.

a focus on equity

Approximately 31% of Hispanics in Travis County report having no health insurance. The ACA intended for states to expand Medicaid eligibility to lawfully-present adults with incomes under 138% of the federal poverty threshold. Those earning more than that may qualify for subsidies. Texas is one of the states that has chosen not to expand Medicaid coverage, and many Texans fall in the “coverage gap,” earning too little to qualify for subsidies and too much to qualify for Medicaid.

local efforts

[Central Health](#) offers individuals and families in Travis County, with incomes under 100% of the federal poverty threshold, comprehensive medical coverage through the Medical Access Program (MAP). Central Health also provides access to medical care for residents with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty threshold on a discounted sliding fee scale basis.

[EnrollATX](#) is a partnership between Central Health and United Way’s 211 that provides over-the-phone and in-person health insurance enrollment assistance. 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 region.

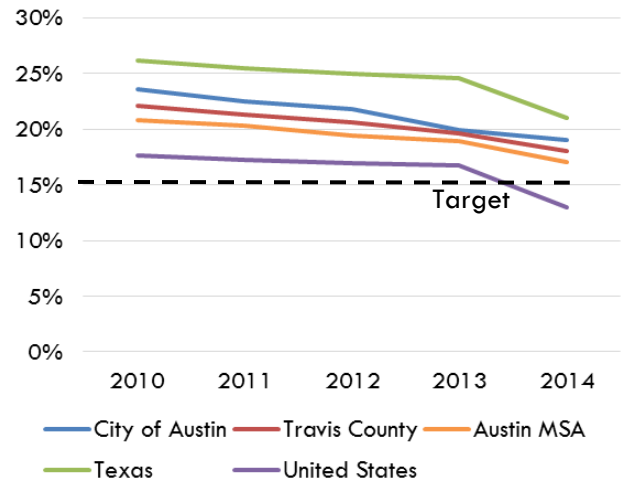


BETTER

Target:

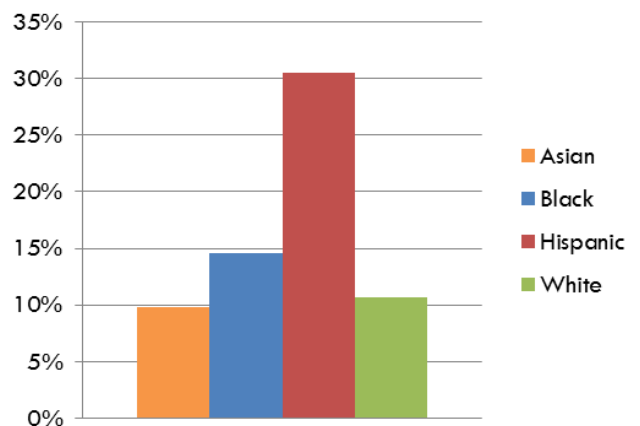
15% under age 65 will be uninsured by 2020

People under Age 65 with No Health Insurance



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

People under Age 65 With No Health Insurance, Travis County, 2014



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

16% of adults in Travis County report poor mental health



Target:

15% adults reporting poor mental health by 2020

where do we stand?

Approximately 16% of adults in Travis County reported experiencing five or more days of poor mental health over the past 30 days. These include days in which they experienced stress, depression, and problems with emotions. Although small sample sizes make comparisons somewhat uncertain, the share of Travis County residents reporting poor mental health appears to have decreased, following two years of increases, and is now at about the level it was in 2011.

a focus on equity

People with a disability were almost twice as likely to report poor mental health as Travis County residents overall, with 36% reporting five or more days of poor mental health. Sample sizes for this survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control, are small. The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department has aggregated four years of data to improve accuracy for sub-population comparisons. Other people reporting higher than average rates of poor mental health were people who earn less than \$25,000 a year and Black residents of Travis County.

local efforts

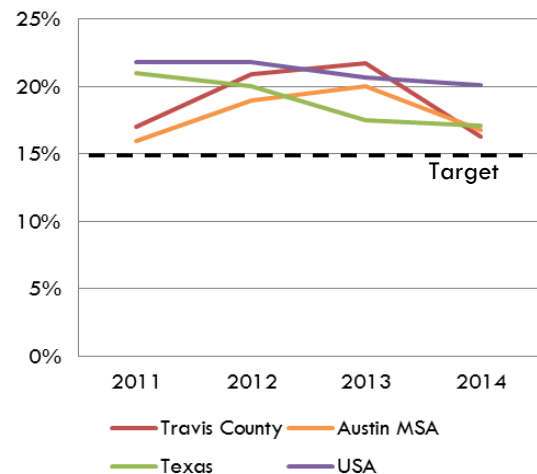
Under the leadership of Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC), local partners worked together to develop the [Travis County Children's Mental Health Plan](#), a five year plan to improve the wellness of children in Travis County.

Substance abuse is a closely related issue. Local public health, human service, and criminal justice partners worked with Austin Travis County Integral Care, in 2015, to develop a [Travis County Plan for Substance Use Disorders](#).

A [Youth Substance Abuse Coalition](#) is working to develop a plan and strategies for preventing and reducing youth substance abuse in Travis County.

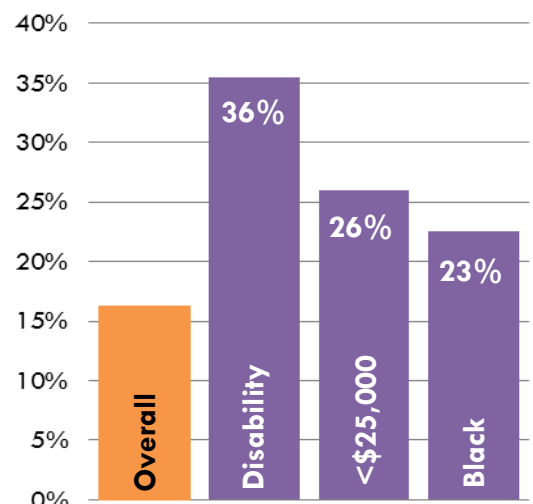
In spring of 2016, Austin Travis County Integral Care and local leaders broke ground on the [Judge Guy Herman Center for Mental Health Crisis Care](#), which will provide short-term emergency psychiatric crisis care. This will include stabilization, assessment and treatment in a secure, protected residential environment.

Adults Who Report Poor Mental Health



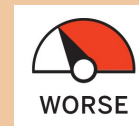
Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Adults Who Report Poor Mental Health,



Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

21% of Travis County adults are obese



Target:

19% adult obesity
rate by 2020

where do we stand?

The rate of adult obesity in Travis County was higher in 2014 than it was in 2011. The rate of adult obesity in Travis County has been consistently lower than the obesity rate for the Austin metro area, the state of Texas and the nation.

a focus on equity

Blacks in Travis County report the highest rate of obesity. According to the [2016 Chronic Disease in Travis County](#) report, Blacks also have the highest rates of cardiovascular disease and diabetes – diseases that are most prevalent among people who are overweight or obese. Travis County residents who are Black also die from these diseases at a higher rate than people of other races or ethnicities.

local efforts

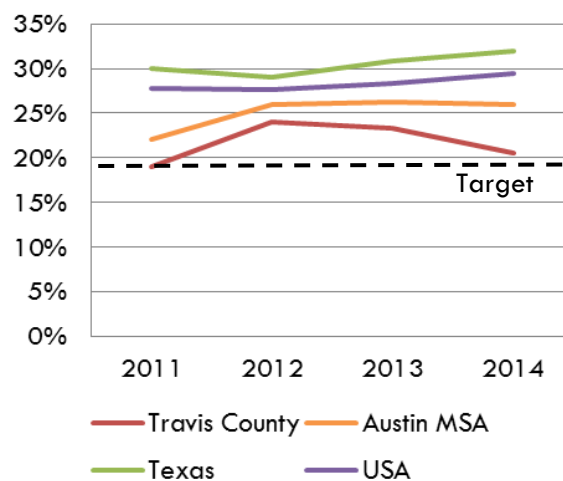
Reducing the burden of chronic diseases caused by obesity is one priority area for the [Austin/Travis County Community Health Improvement Plan](#). Strategies for achieving this goal include: increasing physical activity, increasing worksites with mother-friendly breastfeeding policies, increasing child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

The 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, Pflugerville and Round Rock ISDs to conduct these analyses.

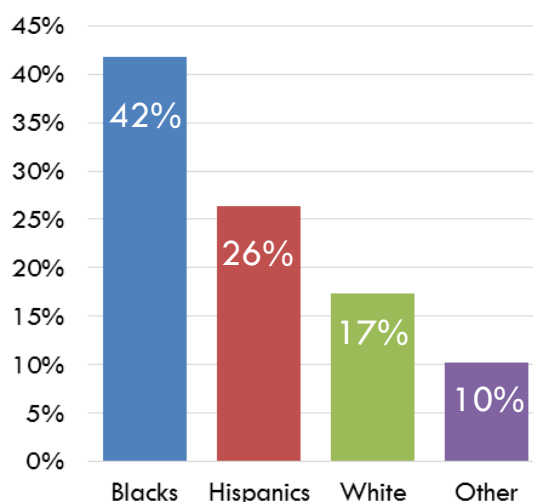
The [Austin Mayor's Health and Fitness Council](#) works to make Austin the fittest city in the country by partnering with local businesses to promote healthy living among their employees.

Percent of Adults Who are Obese



Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Adult Obesity by Race and Ethnicity, Travis County, 2011-2014



Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

11% of adults in Travis County are smokers



Target:

10% smoking rate by 2020

where do we stand?

The percent of adults in Travis County who report smoking has decreased from 16% in 2011 to 11% in 2014. The [Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department](#) reports that tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death. Each year more than 700 people in Travis County die due to the use of cigarettes and other tobacco products. The use of tobacco, including smoking cigarettes and using smokeless tobacco, increases the risk of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, as well as cancer of the lungs, throat, stomach, kidneys and pancreas.

a focus on equity

Blacks have the highest rate of smoking. Smoking is also most prevalent among men and people who earn less than \$25,000 a year. Tobacco is one of the four priority areas examined on [HealthyATC.org](#), a new web portal developed by the City of Austin, Travis County and Central Health, to share information about health disparities.

local efforts

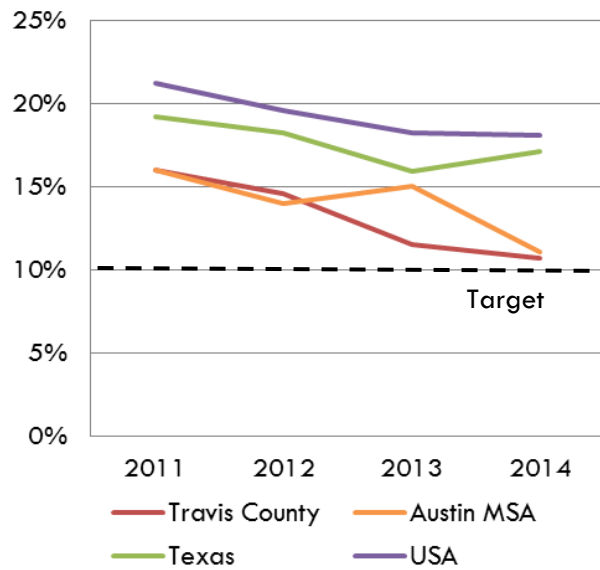
Many local organizations have enacted policies to discourage smoking. [Live Tobacco Free Austin](#) maintains a list of locations across the community that have gone tobacco free.

Organizations and governments 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 expanded their smoke-free policies to include the use of e-cigarettes.

Central Health's Health Equity Policy Council is made up of community members and stakeholders who consider what policies the community can adopt to address health equity. Tobacco is one of four priority areas.

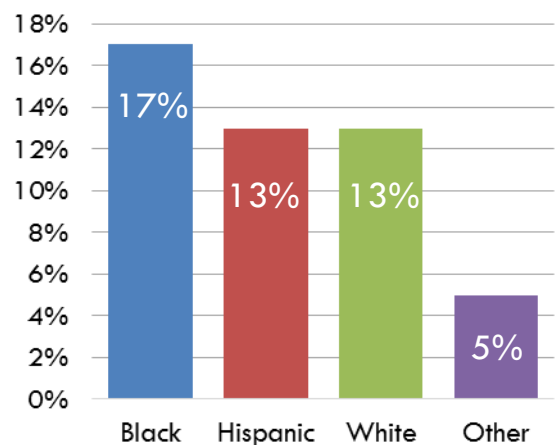
The City of Austin's [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#) supports the promotion of tobacco cessation programs and the development of regulations to support tobacco-free environments.

Percent of Adults Who Smoke



Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Percent of Adults Who Smoke, Travis County, 2011-2014



Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

Austin area is currently meeting national air quality standards



Target:
continue to be in
attainment

where do we stand?

The Austin area continues to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, even though the Environmental Protection Agency tightened the standard for ozone in October 2015. Central Texas had an average peak ozone level of 69 parts per billion (ppb) in 2014, very close the new 70 ppb standard set by the EPA. Failing to achieve this standard could result in \$24—\$42 billion in economic losses for the region, according to a report by the [Capital Area Council of Governments \(CAPCOG\)](#).

a focus on equity

Children, older adults, people who are active or work outdoors, and people with lung conditions, such as asthma, are most impacted by poor air quality, according to the [Environmental Protection Agency](#). CAPCOG estimates that reducing ozone by 1 ppb would prevent 2-3 deaths per year in the Austin metro area.

local efforts

The [Central Texas Clean Air Coalition](#) is a group of stakeholders from regional jurisdictions that work together to improve air quality in Central Texas and maintain compliance with federal standards.

[Air Check Texas: Drive a Clean Machine](#) provides up to \$3,500 for people living in Travis and Williamson Counties to help them replace older vehicles with newer, cleaner vehicles. The program, operated by the State of Texas, is available to people below certain income levels who wish to replace a car that is at least ten years old and has failed emissions tests.

[My Commute Solutions](#) is a local effort to challenge and reward residents who choose to not drive alone to work. The site helps people locate a carpool buddy, plan trips by transit, and map a bike route. People can easily calculate fuel saved, calories burned and pollution reduced.

Attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 2015

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 and people who work out doors are more at risk for health concerns due to poor air quality, according to the [Environmental Protection Agency](#).



Target:
70% of children enter school kindergarten ready by 2018

41% of kindergarten students are ready for school

where do we stand?

There was a significant decline in the percentage of Central Texas kindergarten students who were school ready in 2015. In previous years, a little more than half of Central Texas kindergarteners were school ready, based on the *Ready, Set, K!* assessment developed by the [E³ Alliance](#). E³ Alliance works with a weighted sample of Central Texas kindergarten classrooms to test student's social-emotional development, emerging literacy, language and communication, and math skills during the first 9 weeks of kindergarten.

a focus on equity

The greatest disparity in school readiness occurs by income. 30% of low-income students were school ready, compared to 51% of non low-income students. Approximately one-half of White students and one-third of Hispanic students were school ready. For the past 5 years, the sample sizes for Asian and Black students have been too small to be statistically reliable for comparison.

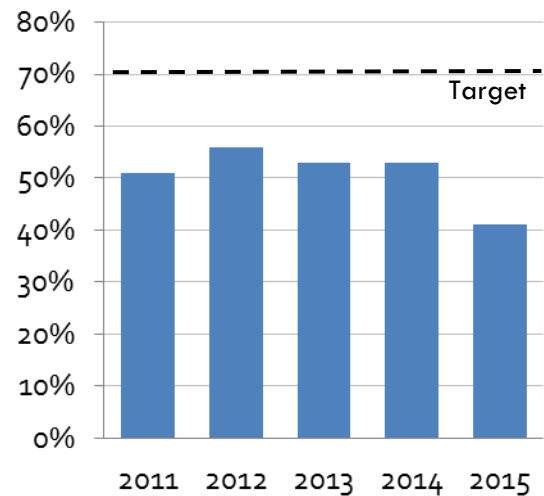
local efforts

Over 30 organizations, led by United Way for Greater Austin, created the [School Readiness Action Plan](#) to collectively address school readiness. Originally developed in 2012, the plan has 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.

E³ estimates that about three-fourths of eligible children in Central Texas enroll in public pre-kindergarten and has set a community goal of ensuring that all eligible children enroll in a pre-k program by 2020.

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

Percent of Central Texas Kindergarteners Who Are School Ready



Source: E³ Alliance



The E³ Alliance reports that students who attend pre-k are more likely to be school ready than those who do not. Only 28% of kindergarteners who did not attend pre-k were school ready, compared to 45% of students who did attend pre-school.

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



Target:
95% for the
Class of 2020

where do we stand?

Rates of high school graduation have improved over the past five years. Eighty-nine percent of Central Texas high school students in the Class of 2014 graduated in four years.

The E³ Alliance's [Blueprint for Educational Change](#) reports that on-time graduation has a positive effect 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.

a focus on equity

Eighty-six percent of Hispanic and Black students in the Class of 2014 graduated in four years, compared to 96% of Asian and 94% of White students. The chart below right shows that, while all racial and ethnic groups have seen improvements from 2004 to 2014, the achievement gap remains.

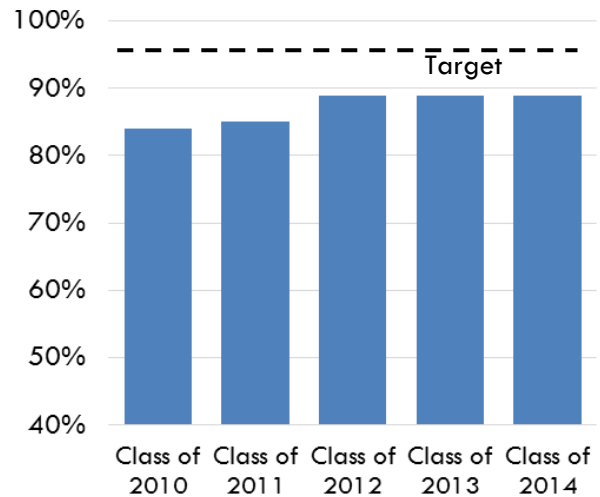
local efforts

[Pathways of Promise](#) is a partnership between the E³ Alliance and UT's Center for STEM Education that provides professional development to middle school math teachers with the goal of increasing the number of students who pursue advanced mathematics. Currently on 6 campuses, the goal is to expand to 12 campuses in 5 school districts in 2016.

[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.

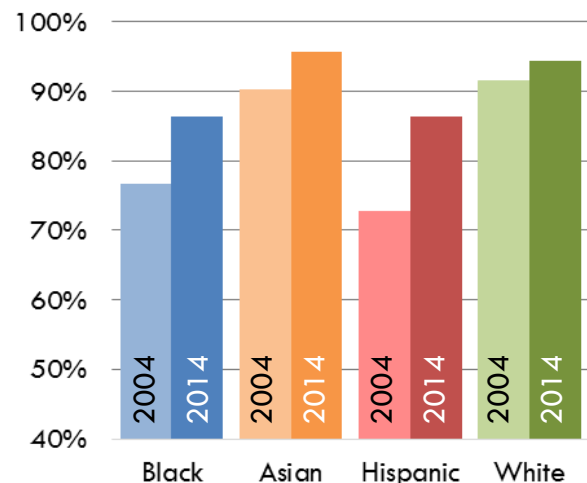
Local school districts are increasing the number of Early College High Schools, which allow students to earn up to two years of college credit before graduating from high school. Austin ISD has three Early College High Schools and Del Valle ISD has one.

Four Year High School Graduation Rates, Central Texas



Source: E³ Alliance

Four Year High School Graduation Rates by Race and Ethnicity for 2004 & 2014, Central Texas



Source: E³ Alliance

50% of college students earn a post-secondary degree within 6 years

where do we stand?

One half of Central Texas students who enroll in a Texas college or university within one year of graduating from high school earn a post secondary degree within six years. Data include students who attend Texas post-secondary schools and exclude the estimated 7% of graduates who attend school out-of-state.

A [Georgetown University](#) report found that 62% of jobs in Texas will require education beyond high school by 2020.

a focus on equity

Only 33% of Black students and 35% of Hispanic students achieve this college success measure, compared to 57% of White students and 69% of Asian students. This disparity has remained fairly constant over time.

local efforts

Disparities in college success are even greater when data are broken down by gender. The [Austin Area My Brother's Keeper Initiative](#) brings together local partners to measure these disparities and to develop strategies for improving educational outcomes for boys and young men of color.

The ACC [Highland Campus](#) is home to ACCelerator, a high-tech learning lab that provides faculty, staff, and tutoring 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.

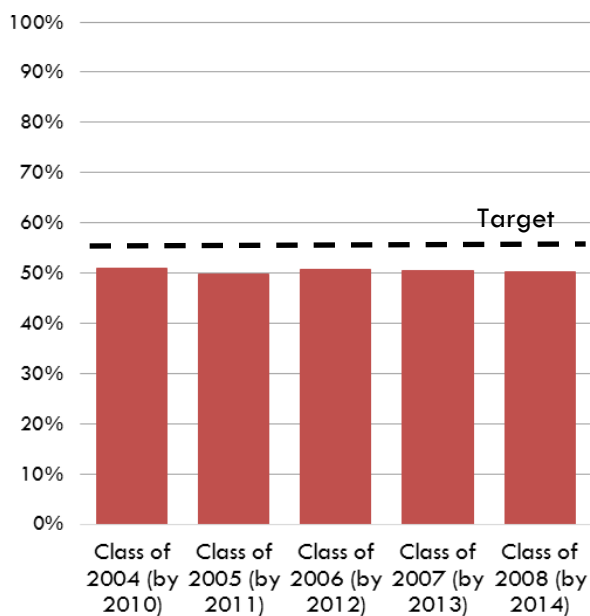
The [Austin College Access Network](#) (ACAN), facilitated by the E3 Alliance, is a collaborative of seven community-based organizations that works to help first-generation college students succeed in bridging the gap between high school and college success.

The Austin Chamber of Commerce [Financial Aid Saturday](#) events utilize volunteers to help families file Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms, a key step in going to college.



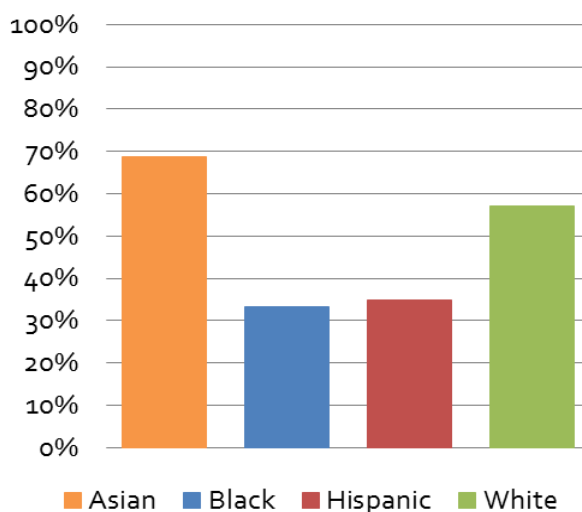
Target:
55% for the Class of 2014 (by 2020)

Percent of Central Texas HS Graduates Who Earn a Post-Secondary Degree Within 6 Years of Enrolling in a Texas College



Source: E³ Alliance

College Success Rates by Race and Ethnicity



Source: E³ Alliance

3.2% of Travis County workers are unemployed



Target:
3.5% unemployment rate by 2020

where do we stand?

The local unemployment rate fell to an historic low of 3.2% in 2015. This is lower than the state rate of 4.3% and the national rate of 5.3%. Even though unemployment is low, poverty rates have increased. A CAN analysis of wage data from the Capital Area Council of Governments and estimates of what it takes to meet basic needs by the [Center for Public Policy Priorities](#) shows that 69% of all jobs created between 2005 and 2015 paid less than what is required to meet the basic needs of a family with one adult and two children.

a focus on equity

The Great Recession (2007-2009) brought higher than usual unemployment rates. Significant declines in the unemployment rate did not begin until 2011, two years after the recession ended. Even then, Black unemployment remained high for another year. The graph at bottom right shows Travis County unemployment rates by race and ethnicity. The Black unemployment rate declined from a high of 12% in 2012 to 9% in 2014, this is a 25% improvement. The unemployment rate for Hispanics declined by more than half—from 10% in 2010 and 2011 to 5% in 2014.

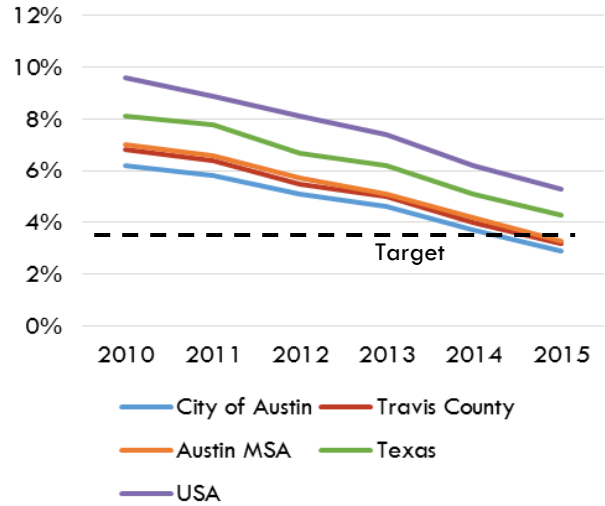
local efforts

Workforce Solutions Capital Area is leading an effort to develop the community's first ever master plan for workforce development. The goal is to strengthen the local workforce development system and better meet the needs of area employers and job seekers.

In March of 2016, the White House named Austin a [Tech-Hire](#) Community. TechHire is a multi-sector initiative designed to prepare local residents to fill technology jobs. Partners include Microsoft, Google, IBM, the City of Austin, Austin Community College, and Texas State University.

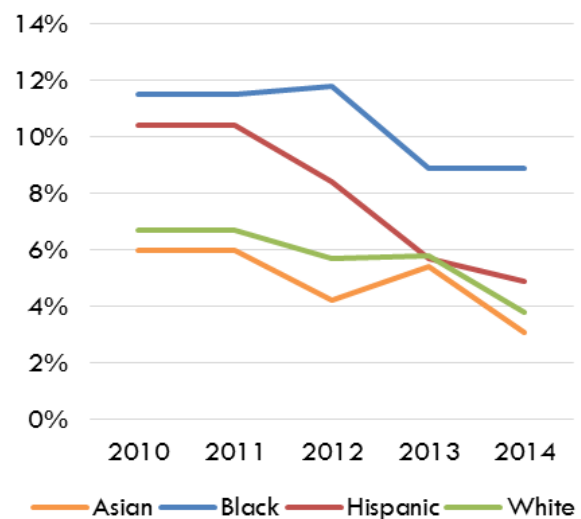
Austin-area chambers work to promote a strong economy and to expand business opportunities. Local chambers include the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Annual Unemployment Rates



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Annual Unemployment Rates by Race and Ethnicity, Travis County, 2014



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

CLOSING AND CREDITS

The indicators in the CAN Dashboard were selected by a Dashboard Steering Committee of data experts across issue areas. The final indicators were adopted by the CAN Board of Directors. The indicators are population-wide measures that indicate whether our community is moving closer to the common vision statements adopted by CAN stakeholders in 2008.

The CAN Board of Directors adopted community indicators in 2009, and CAN published the first Dashboard report in 2010. The Dashboard Steering Committee continues to advise the Board of Directors on improvements and updates to the CAN Dashboard. The Chair of the 2016 Dashboard Steering Committee is Louise Lynch, Provider Network and Authority Officer with Austin Travis County Integral Care.

Following are the 2016 members of the Dashboard Steering Committee:

Maureen Britton, Children's Optimal Health
Michelle Buckley, United Way 2-1-1
Greg Cumpton, Ray Marshall Center
Caitlin D'Alton, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Tiffany Daniels, Workforce Solutions Capital Area
Korey Darling, Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service
Mandy DeMayo, HousingWorks Austin
Hunter Ellinger, CAN Community Council
Sabine Foster, Ready By 21
Darla Gay, Community Justice Council
Marianna Gomez, Central Health
Kathy Green, Capital Area Food Bank
Stephanie Hawley, Austin Community College
Phil Huang, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services
Jennifer Lee, Center for Public Policy Priorities
Louise Lynch, Austin Travis County Integral Care
Adele Noel, Travis County Environmental Quality
Amy Price, United Way 2-1-1
Mariana Salazar, Ending Community Homelessness Coalition
Simon Tidd, E³ Alliance
Jonathan Tomko, City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

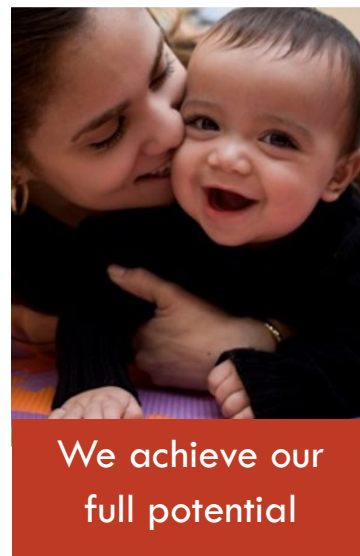
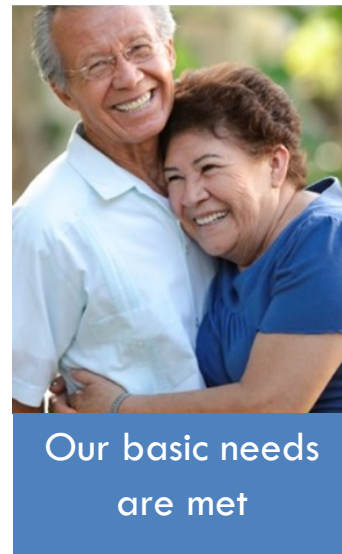
Community Advancement Network published *CAN Dashboard 2016* on June 2, 2016. Learn more about CAN at www.canatx.org. Citations in this report are hyperlinked in the on-line version. The report and additional data and analysis are available at www.CANcommunitydashboard.org.

The following CAN staff contributed to the research, writing and production of the CAN Community Dashboard 2016 report and the accompanying website:

Raul Alvarez, Executive Director
Mary Dodd, Assistant Director
Catie Bialick, Research Analyst
Carlos Soto, Research Analyst
Michael Danburg, Web Site Developer

Special thanks to the CAN Board of Directors for their continued support of this work, and to Travis County for printing the report.

can DASHBOARD



The CAN Dashboard and its companion website www.CANcommunitydashboard.org are published annually by Community Advancement Network (CAN). For more information about CAN, visit www.canatx.org.