

CENTRAL TEXAS SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS PROJECT

2012 Data Report

Eighth Indicators Report

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Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project
PO Box 684766
Austin, Texas 78768
information@centex-indicators.org

www.centex-indicators.org

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Barbara Brown Wilson
UT-Austin Center for Sustainable Development
Mike Clark-Madison
Hahn, Texas

PRODUCTION

Tom Hilde
UT-Austin Center for Sustainable Development
Matt Fougerat
UT-Austin Center for Sustainable Development

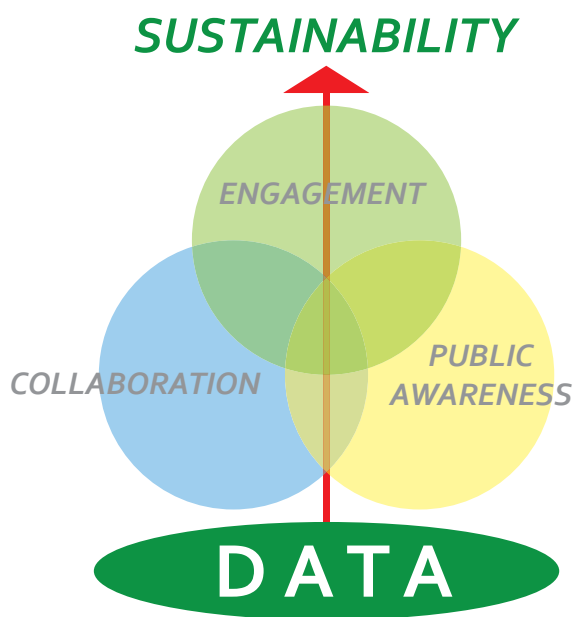
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the launch of the Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project in 1999, the mission of the CTSIP has been to promote sustainability using community indicators. Good indicators are easy to communicate and understand, are drawn from trend data, and are connected to other indicators. They provide a comprehensive view of our region and indicate where leaders need to focus our efforts toward sustainability, and where action is needed to reverse a declining trend or preserve success.

Sound decision-making is built on solid data. The public should not only be made aware of the data, but provided the opportunity to collaborate with decision-makers on interpreting the questions raised by overlapping and inter-related indicators. Authentic collaboration engages the community at multiple levels, broadening the ownership of the actual decisions pursued. This application of indicators leads to sustainable communities.



The updated indicators in the 2012 Data Report reveal some new trends, some persistent trends, and suggest the pursuit of sustainability in our region remains a deep challenge. While our commitment to indicators remains unchanged over the last ten years, the context of pursuing our mission and the role of indicators in our community has changed substantially.

The inaugural Indicators Report in 2000 addressed three counties - Hays, Travis, and Williamson - with scarce data sources gathered by phone, fax and almanac. By 2009, our study region had expanded to include Bastrop, Caldwell, and most recently Burnet County (see map on facing page). We now track 40 indicators utilizing 170 measures mined from mountains of data: large opinion surveys, extensive online databases (which didn't exist in 2000), and private sources, with a special interest in mapping.

Since 2000, the concepts of regionalism, collaboration and even indicators have all taken root and are increasingly a part of conversations across the region in many organizations and pertaining to a broad array of issues. Yet we struggle to integrate these concepts into our decision-making and long-term investments.

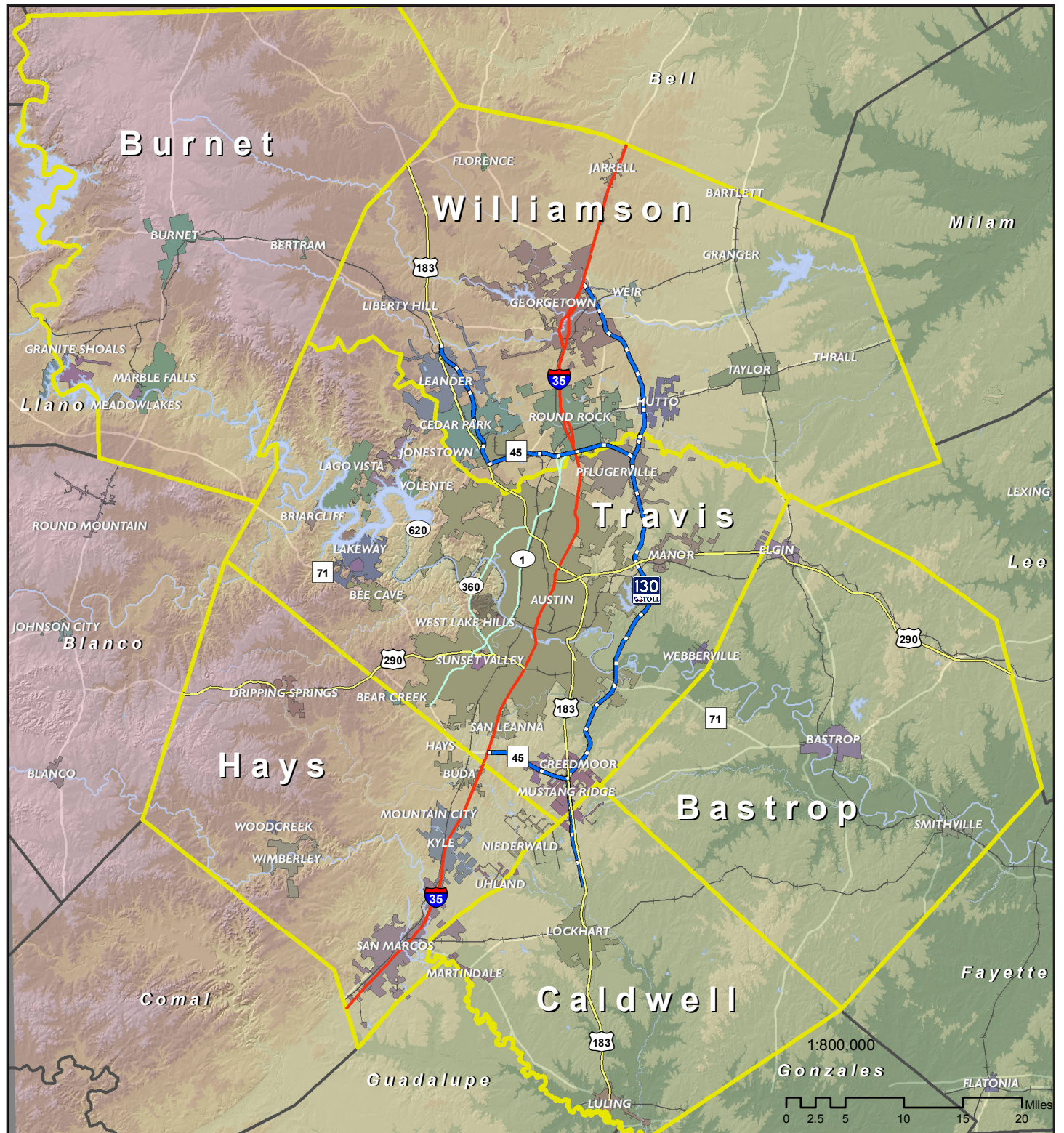
The Indicators Project is a diagnostic tool that can guide Central Texans as they engage in public discourse and debate about how to focus their energies and set goals on issues of critical concern and arrive at policies and actions that improve the livability of our region.

But even the best indicators are useless if not used by their community. The 2012 Data Report is not a resource to be read straight through, cover to cover. We suggest you read and use not only those indicators you know best, but also those with which you are least familiar. We encourage you to look for connections between indicators and ask how and why they are related. On the following pages you will find the key themes emerging from this Data Report as well as a snapshot guide to what we believe the indicators are showing us.

The 2009 Data Report marked a milestone in the life of the organization behind it, and the evolution continues with the release of the 2012 Data Report. The CTSIP is currently managed as an innovative partnership with the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture, and Hahn, Texas. The CTSIP is also engaged in the Sustainable Places Project, a major regional planning initiative. Over the next year we hope to expand the capacity of the CTSIP to serve as a data warehouse and a spark for community engagement and other regional efforts.

The Indicators Project will remain independent. This model will ensure we remain a trustworthy source of information for all communities in the region and build the flexibility to adapt to the region's needs, opportunities and challenges.

Our Central Texas Region



Executive Summary

What Are Indicators?

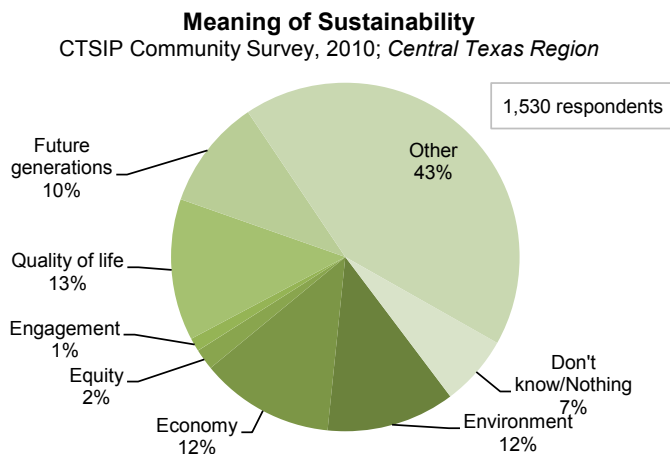
The CTSIP defines a community indicator as a collection of related data and measures that together describe one facet of how quality of life is changing. A collection of indicators are related, and together communicate the state of a community and a region. To fully understand and affect any one indicator requires seeking and understanding the interconnections across many indicators.

Many indicator reporting efforts – an international field of study – view their data compilations through a particular lens such as health, equity or environment. Only a handful of efforts are framed through the lens of sustainability – itself a broad and complex concept derived as much from science and data as from a sense of moral responsibility and empathy.

Awareness of Sustainability

In 2006, in the interest of setting a baseline for our own work in promoting sustainability in Central Texas, we began tracking attitudes toward sustainability in our biennial Community Survey (see page 122).

Most people do not have a traditional first association of sustainability as connected equally to environment, equity and economy. There are strong associations with quality of life and future generations. The weak association with equity is a concern across sustainability research. The large percent of “other” responses, increased since 2008, likely masks several attitudes: rejection of single associations for sustainability, primary association with some other definition, or association with none of the options.



Survey question: What one word or phrase do you first associate with sustainability? If none, just say so.

Central Texas 2012: Key Themes

The 2012 Data Report shows the continued impact of the national recession and recovery on our region, several bright spots of growth and improvement, and persistent patterns that reveal challenges we must overcome. Four key themes have emerged in the 2012 Data Report:

1. Families and individuals in the region continue to feel the effects of the economic recession, even while the Central Texas economy has proven resilient relative to other areas of the country. Personal and family incomes have struggled to keep pace with the cost of living, and basic services such as health and child care remain out of reach for many family budgets. Impacts extend beyond the economic realm, such as in the perception of opportunity and levels of philanthropy. The relationships between indicators (crime patterns and health, family income and educational opportunities, low wage jobs and costs of living) are sharpened, and all seem more urgent to attend to than in recent years.

2. Race and ethnicity continue to impact how Central Texans perceive issues and how resources are distributed in the region. While tolerance and opportunity are improving in some areas, larger structural problems such as educational equity, diversity of leadership, and literacy remain a challenge. With a growing minority-majority population, the region needs to evolve accordingly.

3. The recent extended drought has highlighted environmental trends, revealing a lack of action in implementing robust air, water, waste, and land use/mobility policies and altering social behavior. Not focusing on these environmental efforts will slowly undermine the region's quality of life and economic opportunities. Levels of awareness of drought and air quality are extremely sensitive to short term developments, rather than long-term strategies.

4. Accelerating these structural issues in our region, we are growing even faster than projected - making these issues that much more pressing for our continued prosperity. Providing additional services and infrastructure for a growing population - while maintaining the quality of what is currently in place - will continue to be a challenge for Central Texas.

We believe you will find additional themes with close reading of this Data Report, and we hope that in turn leads to new directions for public policy and dialogue. The scope and pace of regional change call for us to pay close attention to the nature of that change. This report is a means of doing so.

How Are We Doing? Trends and Status Summary

Public Safety18

Community Safety	↑	●
Safe Families	↔	●
Equity in Law	↔	●

Education and Children 26

Child Care: Quality	↔	●
Child Care: Access	↔	●
Schools: Quality	↓	●
Schools: Equity	↑	●
Schools: Performance	↑	●
Higher Education	↑	●

Social Equity 40

Cost of Living	↓	●
Housing: Ownership	↓	●
Housing: Rental	↔	●
Home Loans	↑	●
English Proficiency	↑	●
Diversity of Leadership	↔	●
Race Relations	↔	●

Engagement 56

Philanthropy and Volunteerism	↔	●
Participation in the Arts	↓	●
Neighborhoodness	↔	●
Civic Participation	↑	●

Economy 66

Household Income	↔	●
Diversity of Economy	↑	●
Exporting Industries	↑	●
Labor Availability	↑	●
Job Availability	↓	●
Entrepreneurship & Innovation	↔	●

Environment 80

Water Consumption	↔	●
Water Quality	↔	●
Energy Use	↑	●
Air Quality	↑	●
Solid Waste/Recycling	↔	●
Hazardous Waste	↑	●

Health 94

Health Insurance	↔	●
Physical Health	↔	●
Mental Health	↓	●

Land Use and Mobility102

Density of New Development	↓	●
Rural Land	↓	●
Public Open Space	↔	●
Commuting	↓	●
Vehicle Miles Traveled	↑	●

To facilitate the value of each indicator as a stand-alone product, as well as the Data Report as a whole, we have qualitatively evaluated both a Trend and a current Status – based solely on our immersion in compiling and promoting this Data Report over the past decade.

- The Trend flag provides a sense of the last several years of how our region is doing in improving an indicator.
- The Status flag informs how the region should feel and respond today to improve the Trend.

	UNCHANGED	WORSENING	IMPROVING
Trend	↔	↓	↑
	ACTION NEEDED	KEEP WATCH	DOING WELL
Status	●	●	●



Demographics

Population

Households

Population Cohorts

Population Distribution

Demographics

Population

CONTEXT

Population growth, the raw number of people living in a place, is the fundamental driver behind all of our data trends, from education to traffic to housing. The direction and rate of change in these numbers define our pursuit of sustainability in our region.

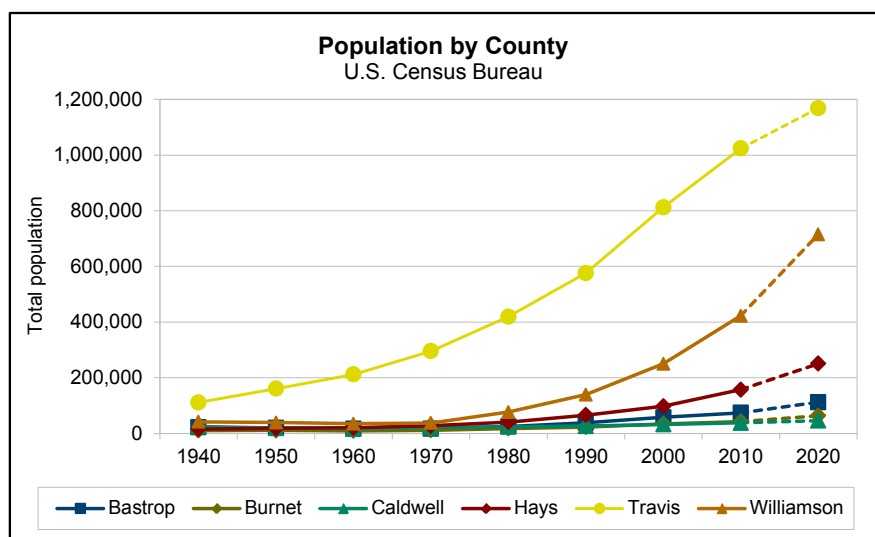
The nature of population growth is also critical. Planning for a young workforce population migrating into the region is different than planning for young families settling down in the region.

SOURCES

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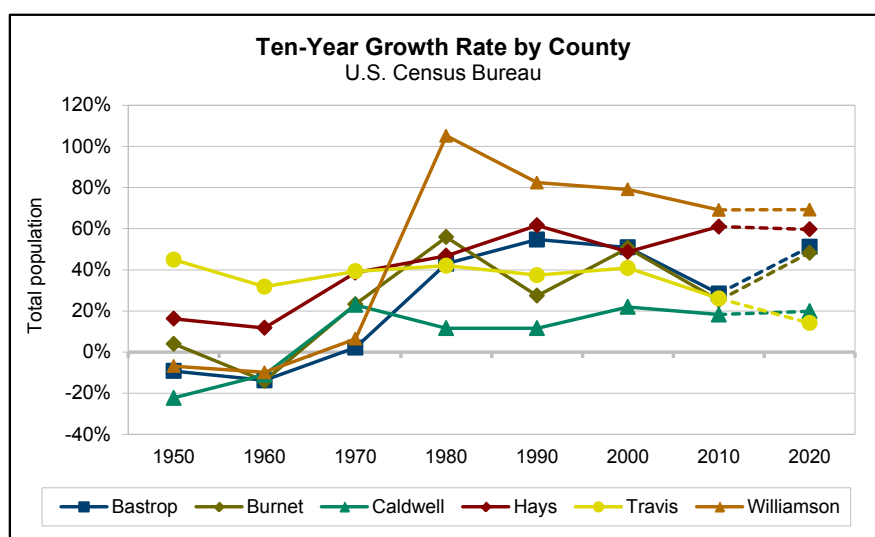
Population

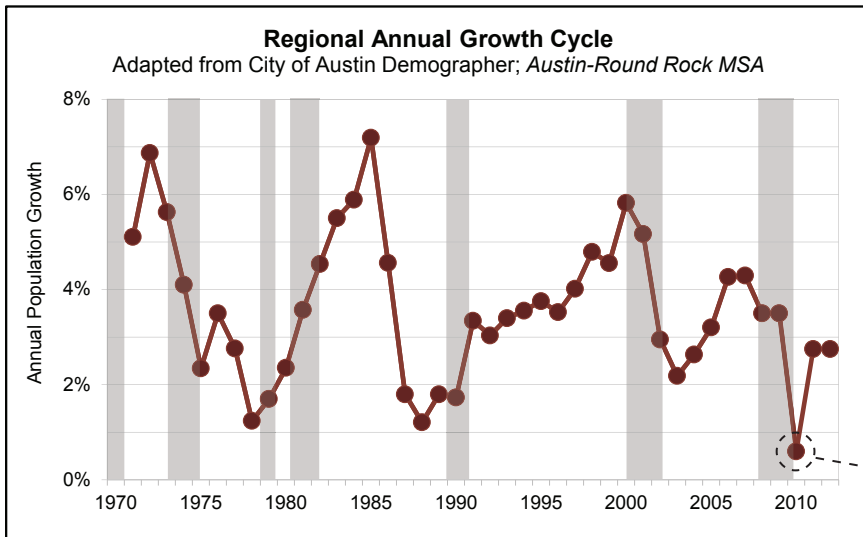
- The 2010 decennial census recorded 1,759,039 residents in the six-county Central Texas region. Projections for 2020 estimate this number to grow to 2,356,127 (Texas State Data Center, Scenario 2).
- The final 2010 Census count was about 60,000 over the projected 2010 population (Texas State Data Center, Scenario 2).
- All Central Texas counties will continue to grow in large numbers, with only Travis County showing a decreasing rate of growth.



Population Growth Rates

- While the region as a whole tends to double every 20 years, growth rates have historically varied greatly by county.
- Through 2020, Travis County is expected to slow its growth rate, while more recently urbanized counties (Bastrop and Hays) are expected to show higher rates of growth.





Regional Cycles and Shifts

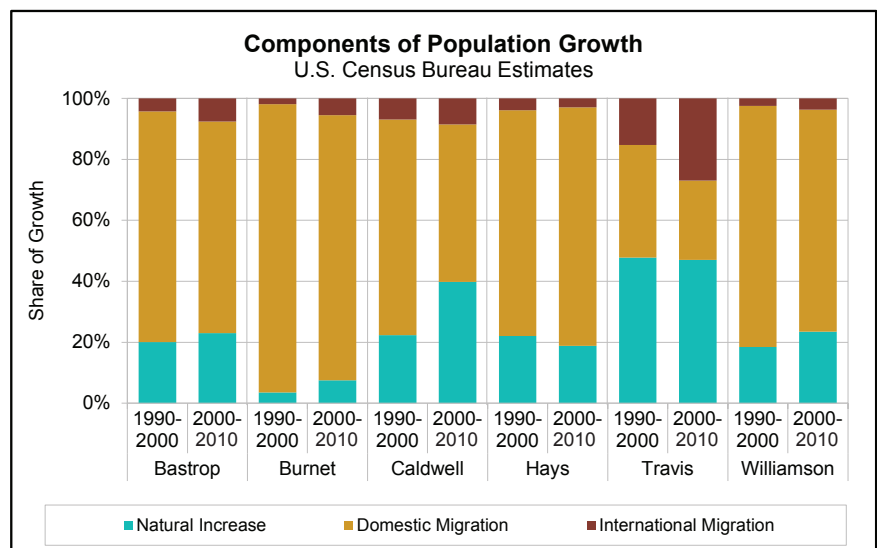
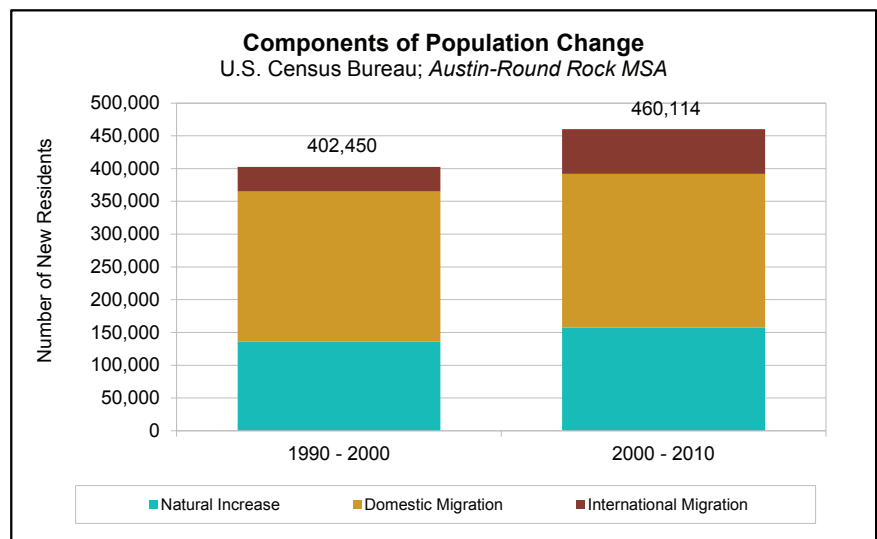
- Over the past 40 years the variability in year-to-year regional growth rates has decreased and settled in at an average annualized rate of 3.5% since 1990.
- Central Texas regional growth rates do not show a strong correlation to national economic contraction cycles (depicted on chart by gray bars). The most recent recession, however, saw the lowest annual growth rate since 1970.

How to read this chart:

The Central Texas regional population grew 0.5% in 2010.

Components of Change

- Population growth consists of two basic components: natural increase and migration. Natural increase is a function of births minus deaths (a positive number or rate indicates more births than deaths). Migration is a function of domestic, or internal, migration (people moving within the United States) plus international migration (people crossing an international boundary when moving).
- Natural increase has accounted for about one third of all regional growth the last several decades.
- International migration has increased to 15% of all population growth within the region from 2000 to 2010, up from less than 10% in each of the prior two decades. Undocumented immigration is technically a share of international migration, but estimates vary widely on the number of undocumented immigrants in Central Texas. Travis County receives the greatest share of international migration.
- Domestic migration overall is down in the past decade compared to prior decades, when it topped 60% of our region's growth.



Households and Families

CONTEXT

The population can also be viewed by the way individuals live together. The broadest unit is a “household,” which consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or group of rooms, or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when occupied or intended for occupancy as independent living quarters.

The main subset is a “family household” which is a household maintained by a householder who is in a family (a group of two people or more related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together), and includes any unrelated people who may be residing there.

A “non-family household” consists of a householder living alone (a one-person household) or where the householder shares the home exclusively with people to whom he/she is not related.

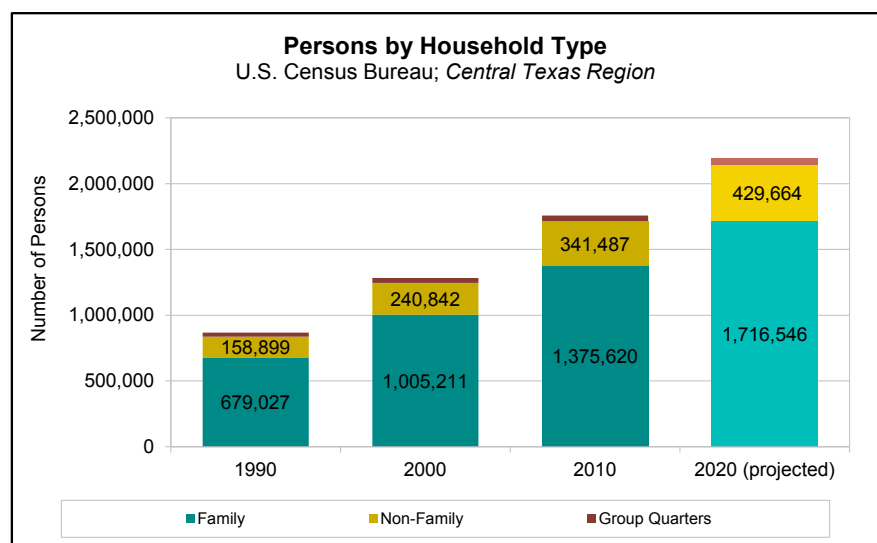
The presence of children is tracked by various household and family types and can also reveal important trends in the changing fabric of a community.

SOURCES

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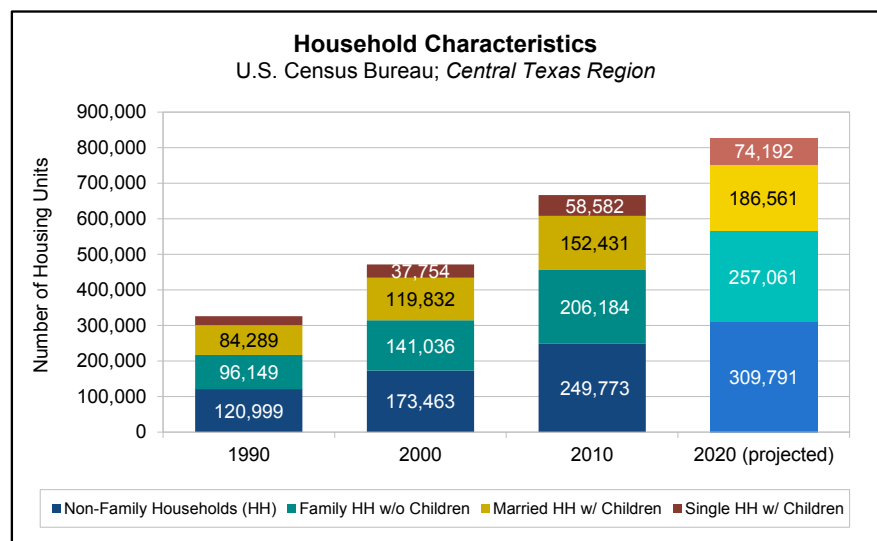
Household and Family Size

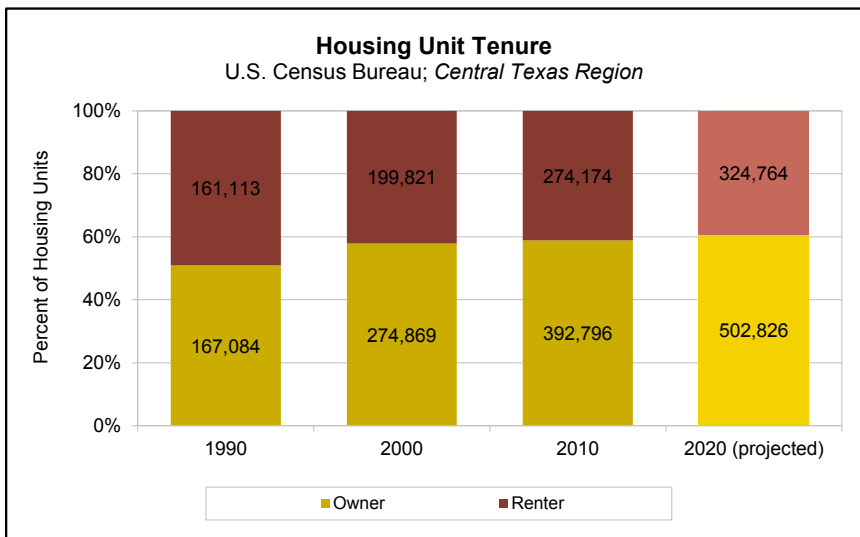
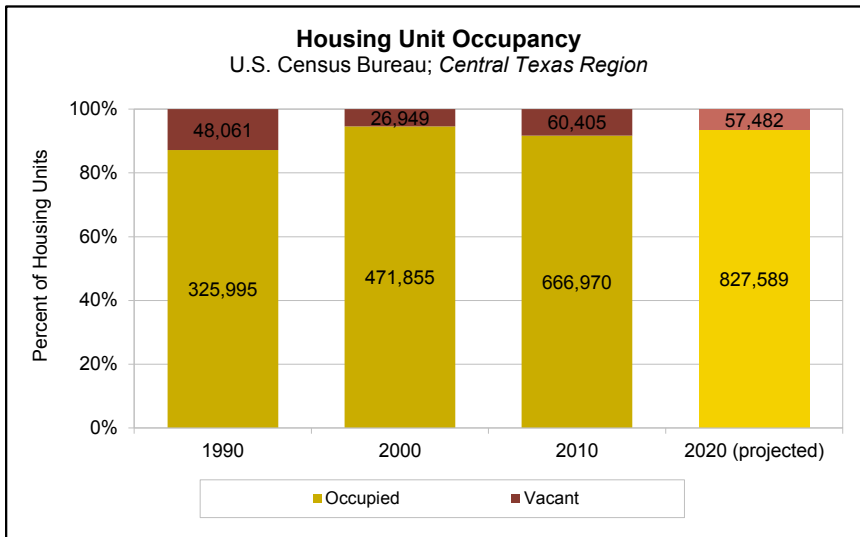
- The share of people in non-family households is growing slightly.
- The total number of households in Central Texas grew by 37% between 2000 and 2010, and is projected to grow an additional 25% between 2010 and 2020.
- The average household size was 2.58 in 2010, unchanged since 2000, whereas average family size increased from 3.18 to 3.21 in the same time frame.



Households Composition

- The distribution of housing units by family type and presence of children remains fairly consistent even as the total numbers increase in all types.
- The greatest percentage increase between 1990 and 2010 was seen in single households with children.





Households

- As the population grows, the total number of housing units tends to grow as well. The proportion of housing units that are owner-occupied, renter-occupied, or even vacant varies as larger cycles ripple through the region, such as boom-and-bust periods or regulatory changes encouraging or discouraging different development patterns.
- The 2010 Census revealed more than 40,000 additional housing units than had been projected for the region, based on mid-decade estimates.
- The Central Texas region's vacancy rate is 8.3%, which is 2.2% lower than the national average for Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the 2010 Census.
- In 2010, 47.5% of the region's housing units were owner-occupied, a rate 17% lower than the national MSA average.

Population Cohorts

CONTEXT

The shifting patterns within our overall population - both by race/ethnicity as well as by age - illustrate that Central Texas continues to progress through a significant demographic shift, as are the state and the nation. This shift will affect not only how we manage the challenges of growth today, but also how we think about the future.

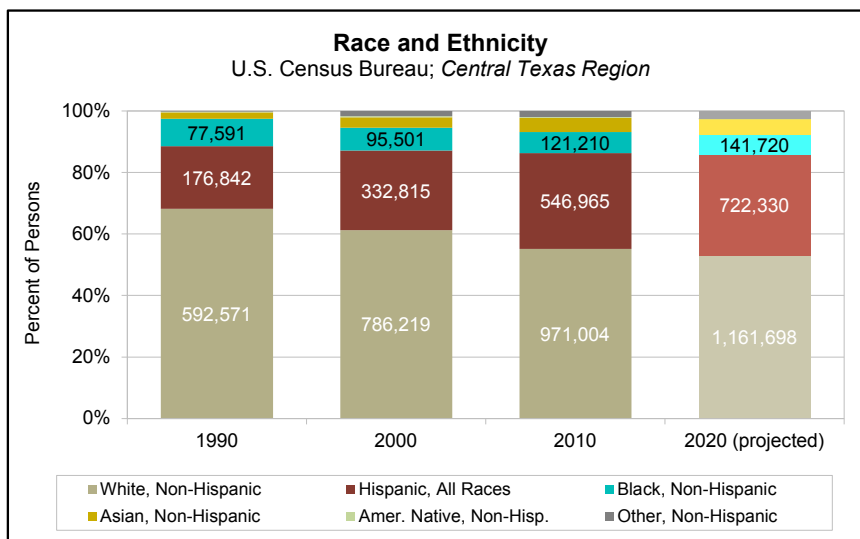
The trends in sub-groups or cohorts of the overall population – such as race and ethnicity, age, and income – are also important to track. Many regional or overall population trends are significantly different, both positive and negative, when disaggregated by population cohorts.

SOURCES

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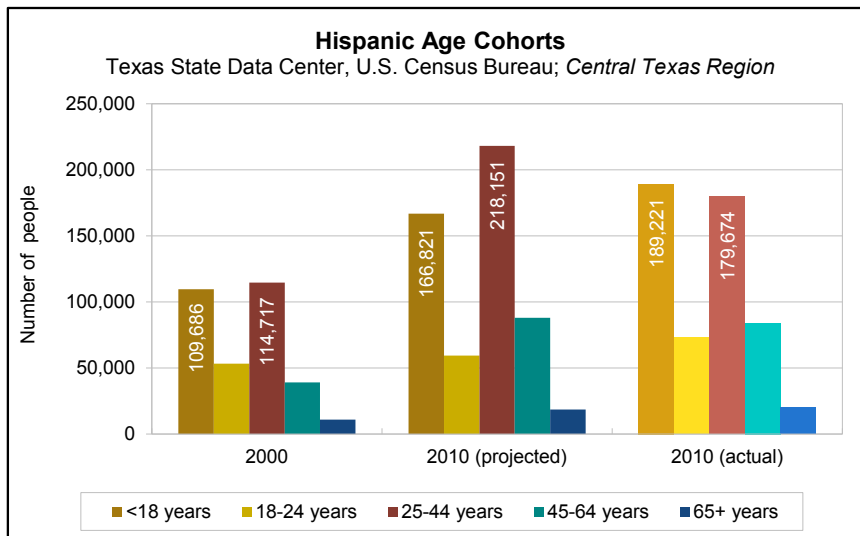
Race and Ethnicity

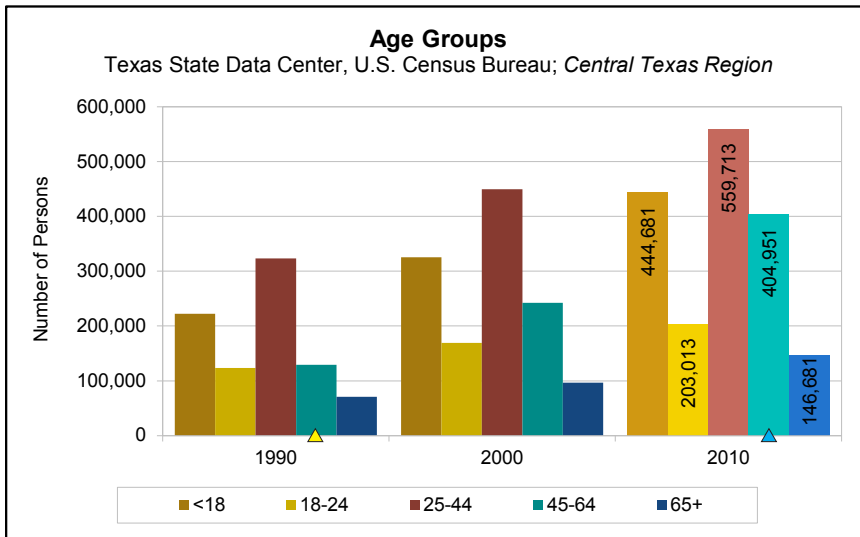
- In the 2010 Census, Non-Hispanic Whites still comprised the largest number of people in the region, but their share of the population is steadily decreasing, down from 68% in 1990 to 55% in 2010.
- The African-American share of the total population has decreased from 9% in 1990 to 7% in 2010.
- Asians have more than doubled their share since 1990.



Hispanic Age Groups

- Hispanics, all races, represent the largest “minority” population (31% of the total population in 2010). The Hispanic population grew by more than 64% between 2000 and 2010.
- The under-18 population grew by 73% between 2000 and 2010, substantially more than projected (Texas State Data Center, Scenario 2.0), making it the largest Hispanic age cohort.





Age Groups

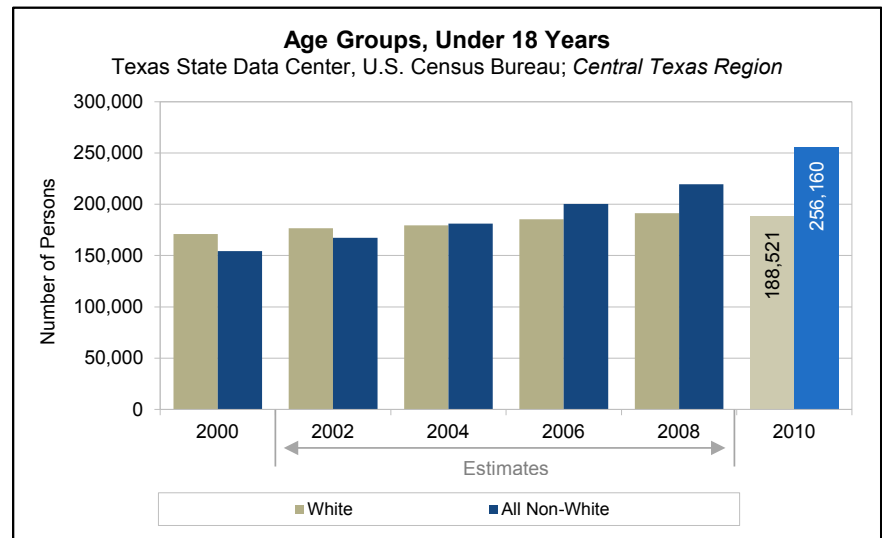
- While Central Texas certainly has the same “baby boomer” bubble as most urban areas and the nation, the region has a relatively higher proportion of the young workforce-aged population.

How to read this chart:

- ▲ In 1990, the region was home to 130,000 residents from 45 to 64 years of age.
- ▲ In 2010, the regional population of this age group had increased to nearly 405,000 residents.

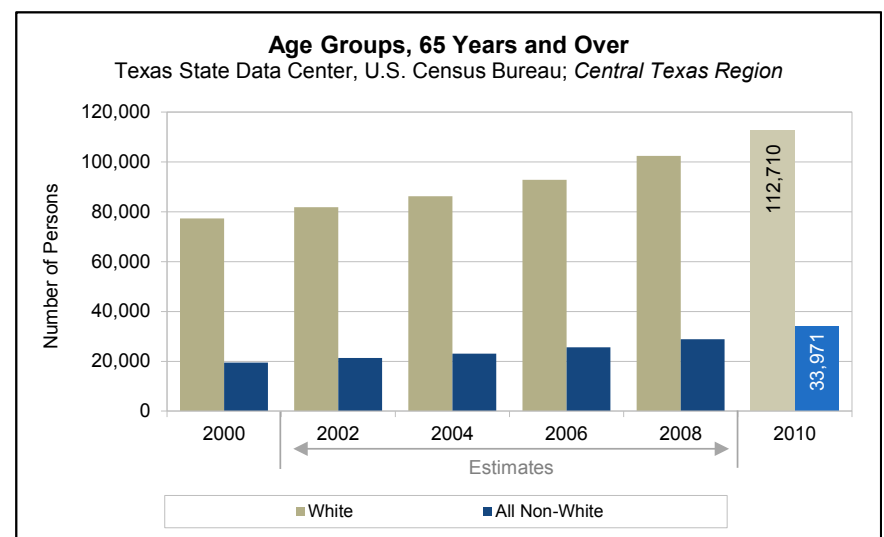
Youth by Race/Ethnicity

- In recent years, the non-White youth population (individuals under 18 years of age) has been growing faster than the White youth population, far outpacing estimates.
- The non-White cohort is primarily Hispanic.
- This shift is reflected in increasing diversity within the public school system.



Elderly by Race/Ethnicity

- In recent years, the White elderly population (individuals 65 years of age or older) has been growing dramatically faster than the non-White elderly population.
- While not on the same scale as increases in the youth population, the services needed by a growing elderly population can demand greater resources.



Population Distribution

CONTEXT

The distribution patterns of our overall population reflect the strength, or lack thereof, of our management of growth and our sensitivity to managing the allocation of resources to support the distribution of the population.

Population growth and distribution are shaped by the values of a community. How well we incorporate sustainability into our values will determine how well we benefit or are hindered by ongoing growth.

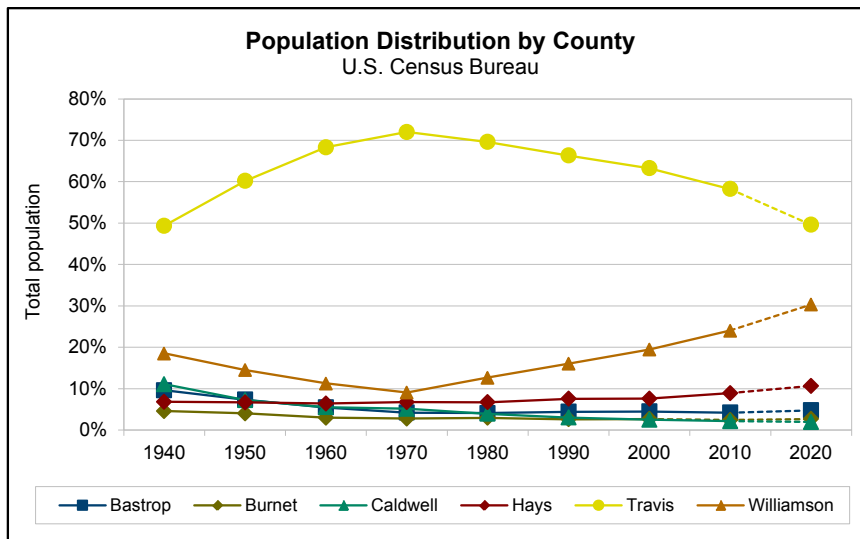
As cities age and expand, balancing the costs of services to old and new neighborhoods becomes increasingly complex.

SOURCES

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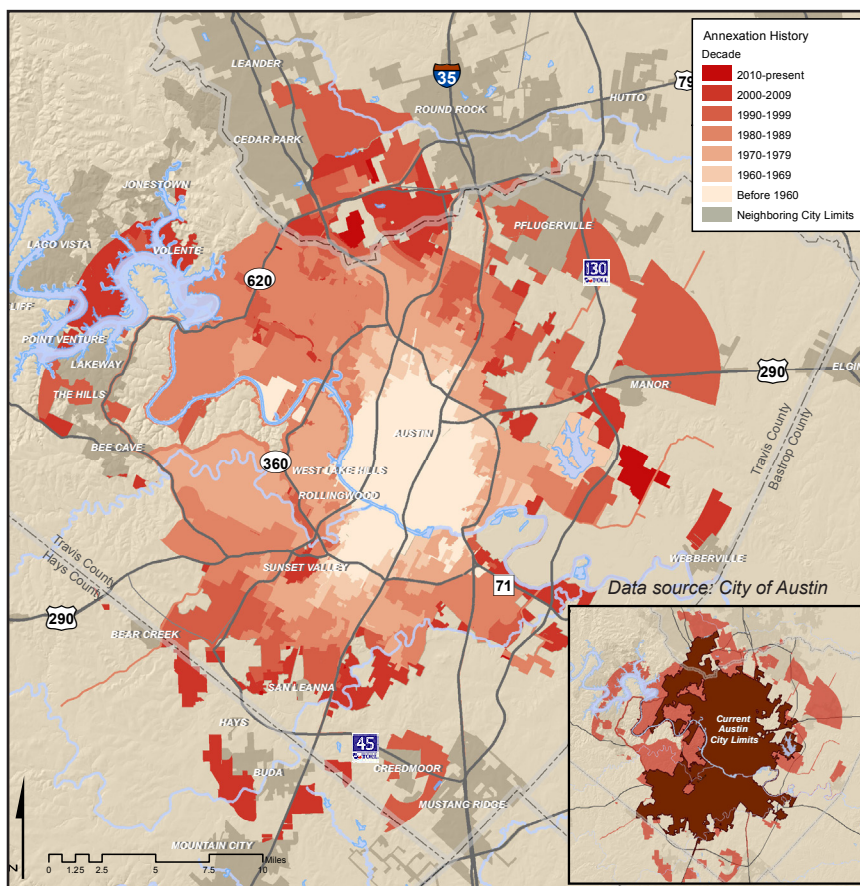
Distribution by County

- In 2020, Travis County is projected to house approximately 50% of the total regional population, down from a peak of 74% in 1970.



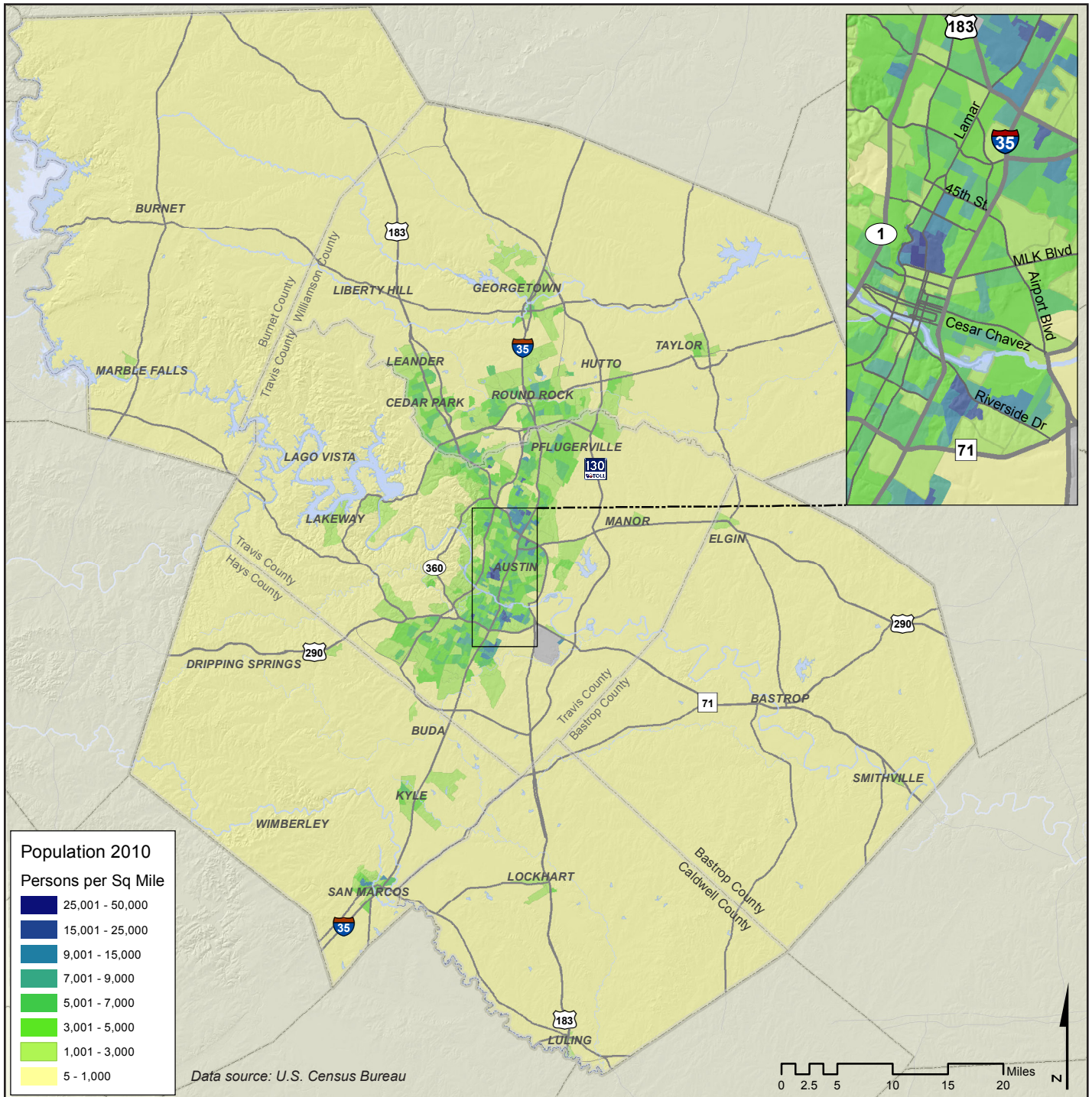
Growth Management Patterns

- Annexation patterns reflect responses to growth and demand for services.



2010 Population Distribution by Census Block Group

- According to the 2010 Census, the population density of the Central Texas region continues to be within Austin and along the IH-35 corridor. Quickly emerging nodes and strips of density, especially in Williamson and Hays counties, suggest development patterns are contributing to a sprawling population distribution and placing stress upon the provision of services.





Public Safety

Community Safety

Safe Families

Equity in Law Enforcement

Community Safety

CURRENT STATE

Most of our communities are seeing fairly steady crime rates, even as the population grows.

IDEAL STATE

People in Central Texas communities are safe from crime.

CONTEXT

The presence of crime in both urban and rural communities can make people feel unsafe and fearful, often precluding them from full engagement in their communities.

Perhaps more influential than the actual incidence of crime we can verify is the perception of crime, the belief that you are not fully safe in your surroundings.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

Indexed Property Crime

Perception Of Safe Neighborhood

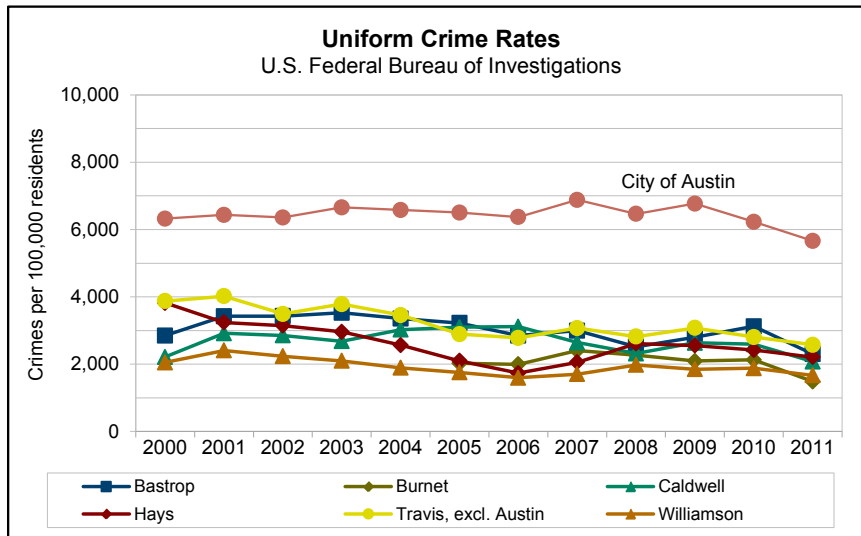
Perception Of Safe Neighborhood By Gender

SOURCES

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Uniform Crime Rate (UCR)

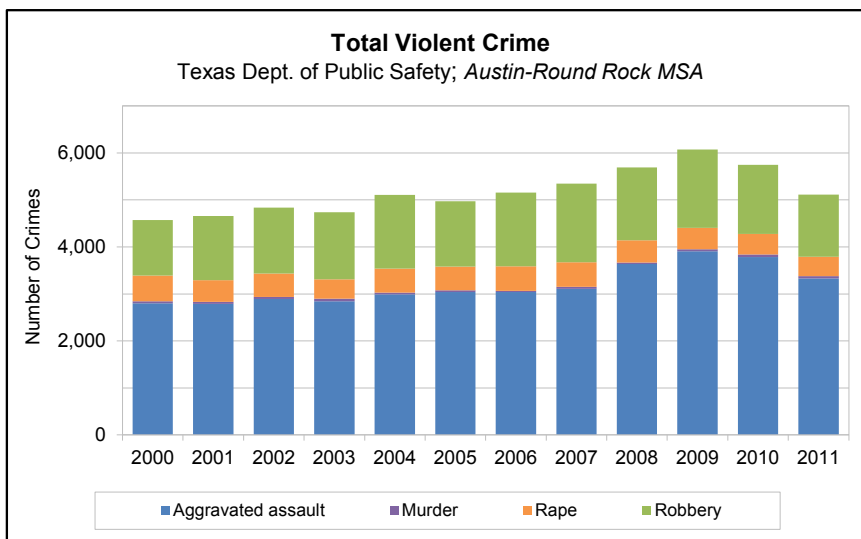
- The City of Austin, the urban core of the region, continues to experience higher crime rates than surrounding areas – however, its UCR has decreased since 2009.
- All counties in the region saw decreases in UCR in 2011.



The UCR is defined by the FBI (local definitions of specific crimes and rates often vary) and allows comparisons over time and between areas, but should not be used to rank areas.

Violent Crime

- The number of violent offenses reported has increased from 4,574 in 2000 to 5,111 in 2011 (currently on a decline from 6,074 offenses in 2009), while the violent crime rate fell steadily from 383.7 in 2000 to 284.1 per 100,000 population in 2011.
- Property crimes (not shown) are much more common than violent crimes, increasing in number from 51,324 in 2000 to 61,313 in 2011, while the rate decreased from 4,304.9 in 2000 to 3,408.5 in 2011.

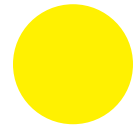


TREND

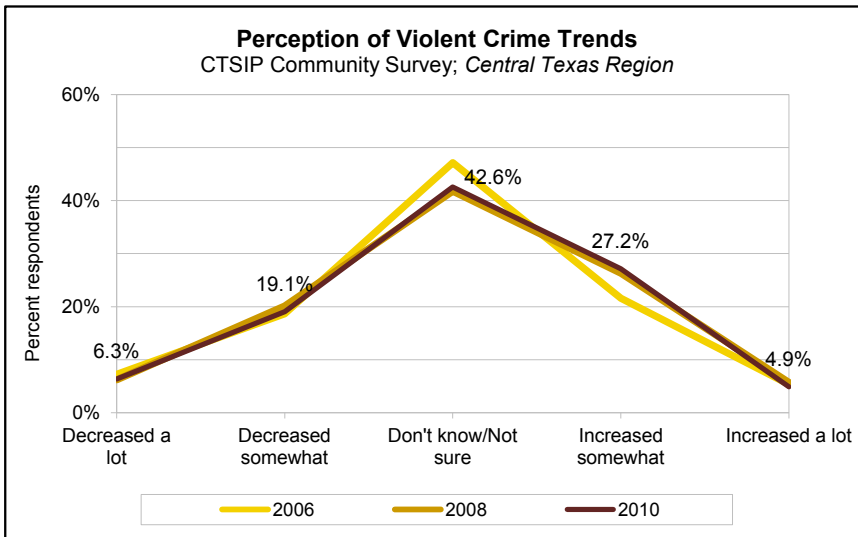
STATUS



IMPROVING

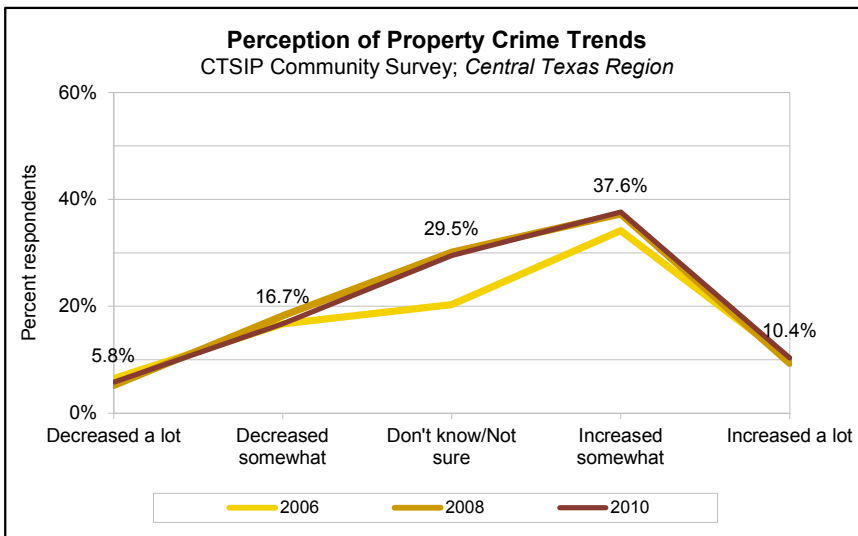


KEEP WATCH



Perception of Crime

- About 30% of Central Texas residents perceive that violent crimes in the region are increasing, slightly more than believe they are decreasing - statistically unchanged from 2008 and 2006.
- Just over 40% of Central Texas residents do not have a strong opinion of how violent crime is changing.
- In the CTSIP 2010 Community Survey, Burnet County has the lowest rate of perception of increasing violent crime at 23%; Travis County is the highest at 36%.



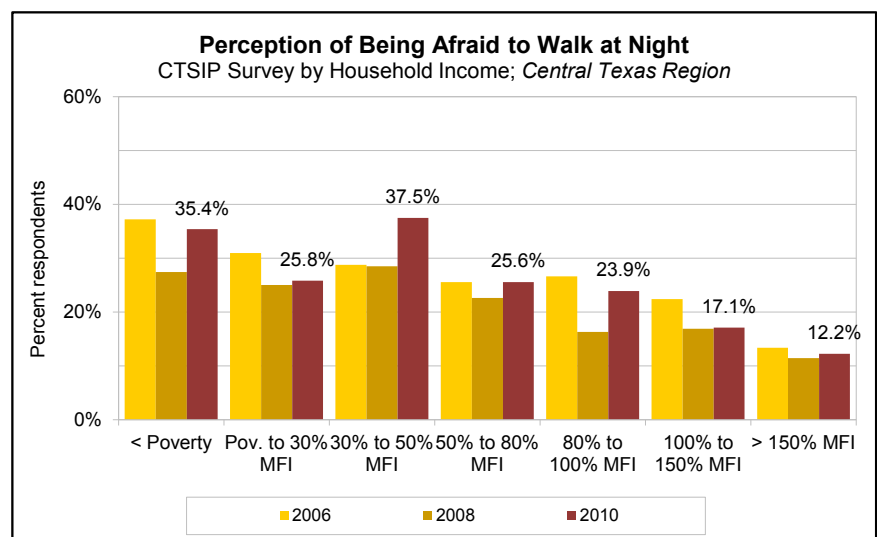
- About 45% of Central Texas residents perceive that property crimes are increasing, unchanged from 2008.
- Williamson County has the lowest rate of perception of increasing property crime at 35%; Travis County is the highest at 53%.

Survey Question: Over the past 2 years, how much do you feel that violent crime and property crime in your neighborhood or community has increased?

Perception of Safety

- People at lower levels of household income are much more likely to feel afraid to walk in their neighborhoods at night (or during the day, not shown).
- The percentage of respondents who feel fear in their environs has increased in all income brackets since 2008.

Survey Question: Is there any area in your neighborhood or community (within 1/2 mile of your home) where you are afraid to walk at night?



Safe Families

CURRENT STATE

While trends in safe families are stable, disturbing levels of domestic violence and abuse remain an issue.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas is a community in which all persons live in a safe home environment.

CONTEXT

Even more destructive than violent crimes to the fabric of individual or community life are domestic violence crimes - those typically occurring within what should be the safe harbor of one's home and own neighborhood.

Our aspirations to sustainability will always be tethered to our ability to keep our children within safe families.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

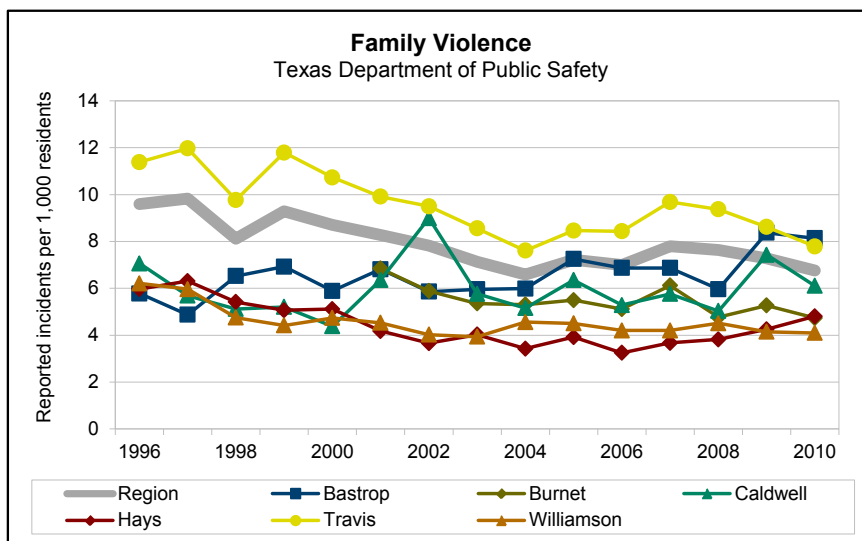
Youth Offenders
Children in Shelters

SOURCES

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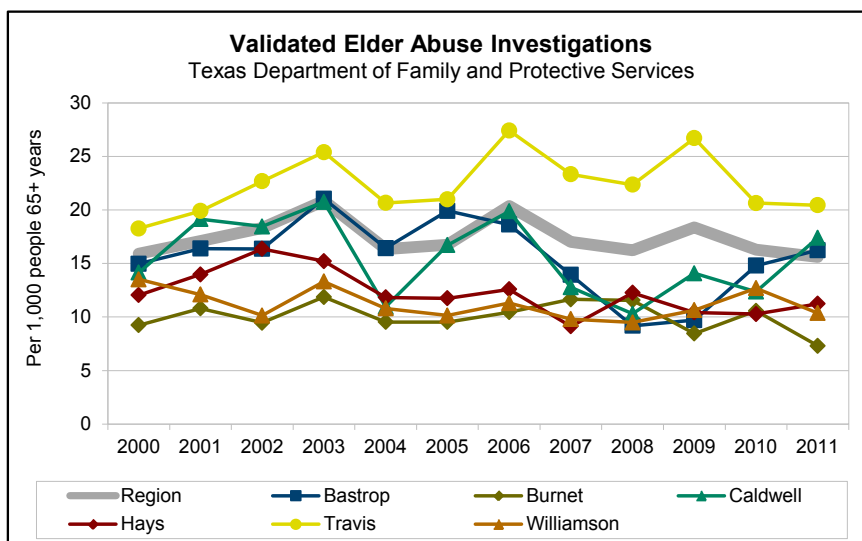
Family Violence

- Bastrop and Burnet counties recorded a sharp increase in reported intimate partner violence in 2009.
- Travis County, which from 2004 to 2007 saw increasing rates of reported intimate partner violence, has now seen decreased rates for the third year in a row; the same trend holds true for the region.
- These data only reflect *reported* incidents of domestic violence.



Elder Abuse

- Elder abuse generally refers to complaints related to the care or assistance of adults with disabilities or seniors over 65 years of age.
- All Central Texas counties have had fluctuating rates of elder abuse over the past several years with Travis County consistently having the highest rate – perhaps in part due to the much higher number of facilities, and higher population of elders in care, in Travis County.



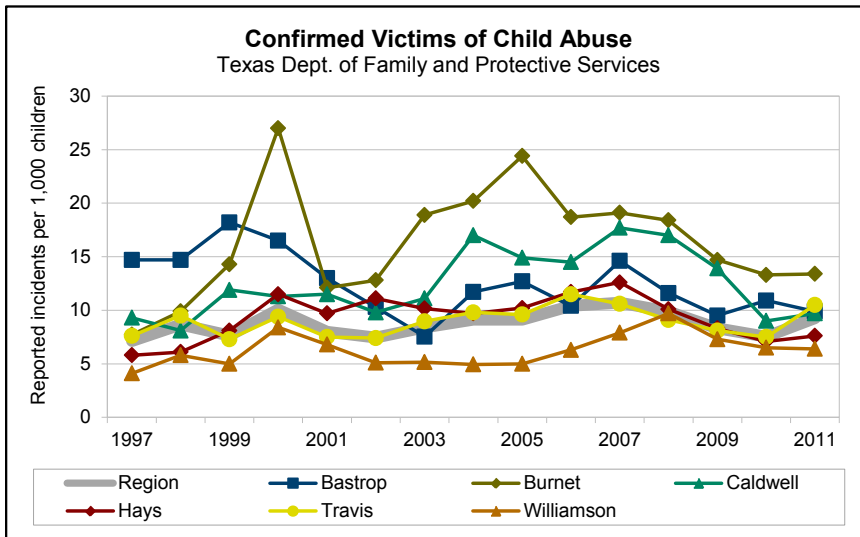
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STATUS



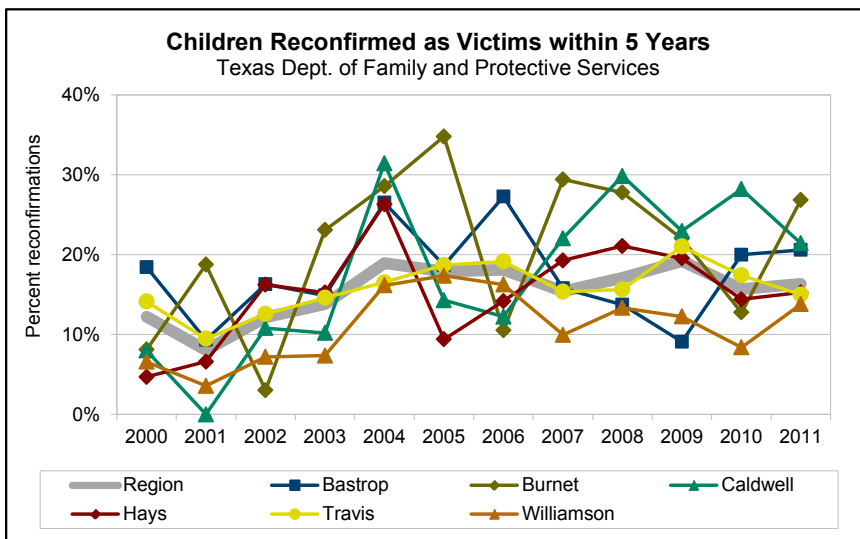
UNCHANGED

ACTION NEEDED



Child Abuse

- The most rural counties – Burnet, Bastrop and Caldwell – consistently have the highest *rates* of reported child abuse, perhaps in part due to lower numbers of children and actual incidents.
- Perhaps more disturbing than confirming a child abuse victim is having that same child become a victim again. One in six – 16% – of the children in Central Texas removed from abusive environments in 2006 were reconfirmed as victims by 2011 (an improvement from nearly one in five children in 2009).



Equity in Law Enforcement

CURRENT STATE

African-American youth and adults face consistently higher rates of arrest and have much less confidence in the system than persons of other race or ethnicity.

IDEAL STATE

All Central Texans have equal access to justice, education, and economic advancement without regard to race or ethnicity.

CONTEXT

Throughout the country, race and ethnicity are a consistent dimension of public safety activities and discussions. Perceptions of inequitable treatment by law enforcement, even if contrary to data, corrode community cohesion as well as the effectiveness of law enforcement.

Pursuing equity in the practice and perception of law enforcement is often undermined by single incidents; we must work to avoid trends of such incidents.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

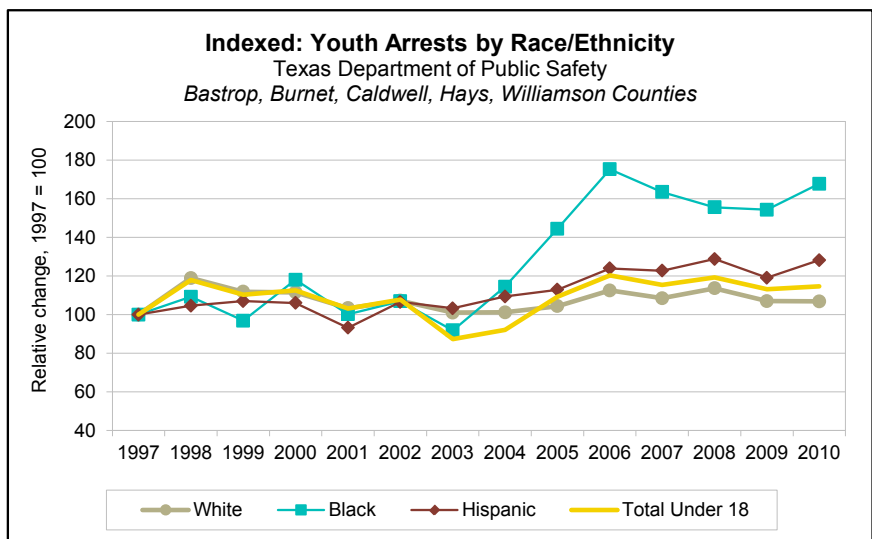
- Adult Arrest Rates
- Reported Race/Ethnicity
- Hate Crimes By City
- Confidence In Parole System
- Use Of Force By Law Enforcement

SOURCES

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Change in Youth Arrests

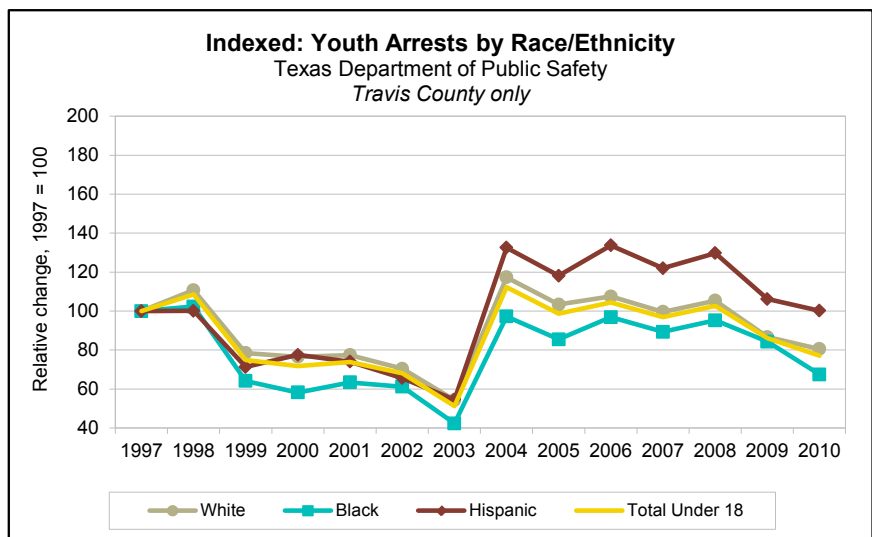
- Looking at change from 1997 to 2004, arrests of people under 18 years of age remained consistent in all counties (except Travis, see below), despite higher growth in the under-18 population.
- Beginning in 2004, youth arrests increased, especially for Black* youth. While these arrests have decreased since 2006, the most recent year of data shows another increase.



*Terminology note: Data reported use 'Black'; CTSIP and other sources use 'African-American.'

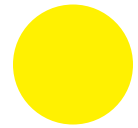
Change in Youth Arrests in Travis County

- Looking at change from a base year of 1997, arrests of people under 18 years of age in Travis County have fluctuated widely. Further analysis reveals instability in the Austin Police Department data.
- Since 2004, Hispanic youth are seeing higher arrest rates than other race/ethnic groups, while total arrests for all groups have decreased.



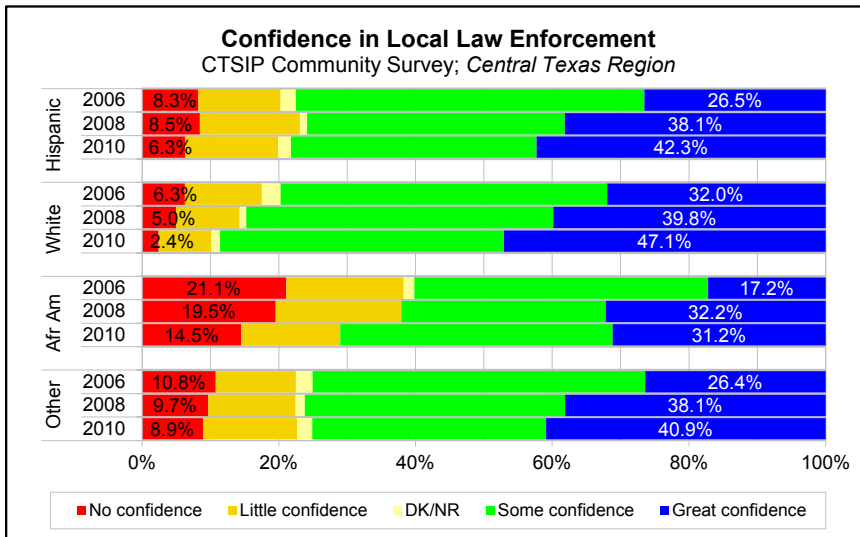
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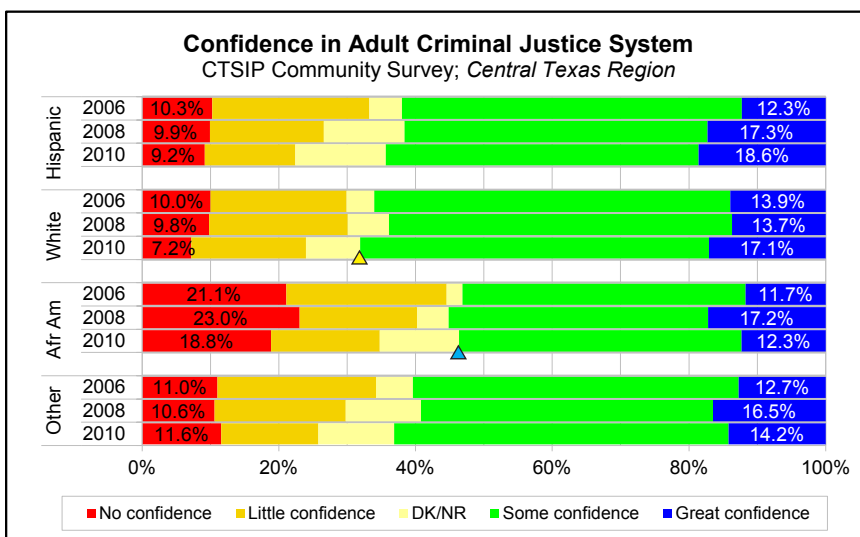
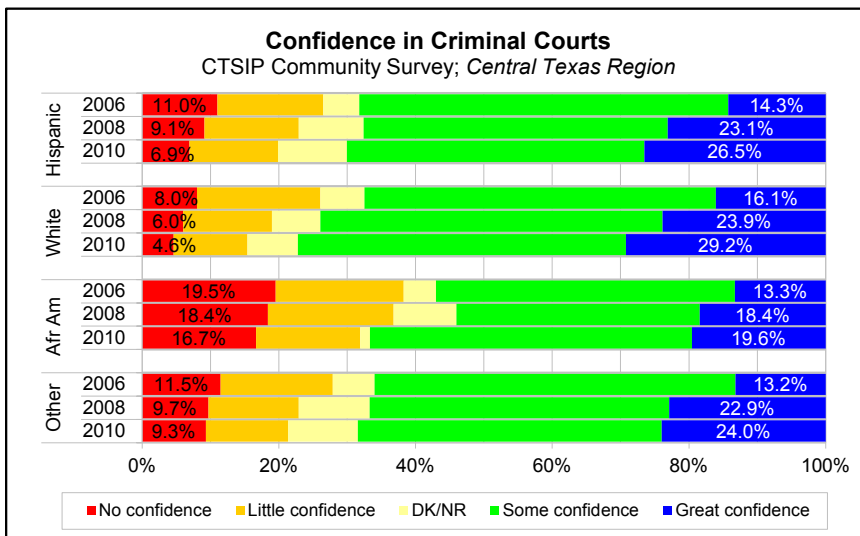
KEEP WATCH



Perception of Equity

- Nearly 85% of all residents have “some” or “a great deal” of confidence in local law enforcement, and confidence has generally improved in all areas since 2008.
- However, almost 30% of African-Americans have “little” or “no” confidence in local law enforcement. This number has significantly decreased from nearly 40% in 2008, suggesting improving relations.
- African-American confidence in criminal courts has also improved, from about 60% showing at least some confidence in 2008 to nearly 70% in 2010. However, almost 17% of African-Americans have “no” confidence in the courts, over twice the rate of any other group.
- Overall, more than 65% of Central Texans have “some” or “a great deal” of confidence in the adult criminal justice system as a whole, yet nearly 20% of African-Americans have “no” confidence in the system.

Survey Question: How much confidence do you have in 1) the local police and law enforcement? 2) your city or county criminal courts? 3) the adult criminal justice system as a whole?



How to read this chart:

- ▲ In 2010, almost 70% of White respondents in the region noted at least “some confidence” in the adult criminal justice system.
- ▲ Only 53% of African-American respondents indicated the same level of confidence in 2010.



Education and Children

Child Care: Quality

Child Care: Access

Schools: Quality

Schools: Academic Performance

Schools: Equity In Education

Higher Education

Child Care: Quality

CURRENT STATE

The importance of the quality of child care still appears to be varied yet low for parents/guardians.

IDEAL STATE

All children and families in Central Texas have access to high-quality early education, child care, and family support.

CONTEXT

Research shows that quality child care in the first years of life has a lifelong impact on an individual's physical, mental and social development.

The costs of maintaining accreditation for a facility, and of retaining quality workforce, continue to be a challenge for providers – especially as more families seek more creative and affordable child care arrangements.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

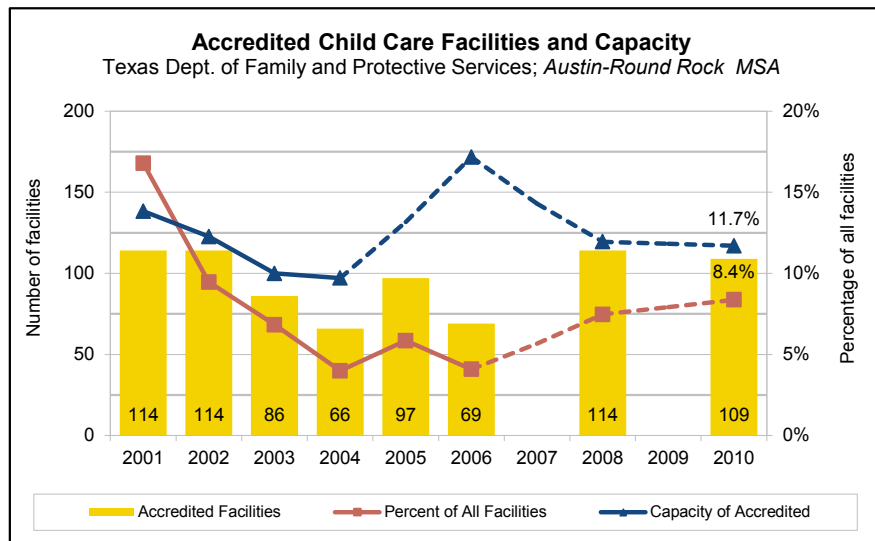
Location of Child Care
Proximity of Family
Household Income

SOURCES

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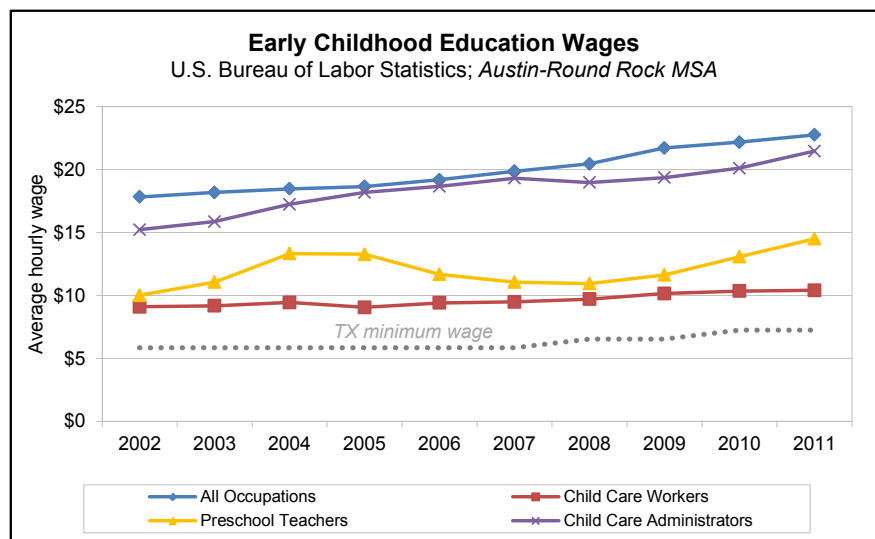
Accredited Child Care

- The number of child care facilities providing a higher level of care and instruction (than minimally required to operate) is relatively stable according to data from Texas Rising Star, National Association for the Education of Young Children, and National Association of Family Child Care. *Note: The data below is an unduplicated count.*
- The percentage of all child care facilities that are accredited remains less than 10%. The capacity of the accredited facilities is consistently more than 10% of overall child care capacity (enrollment availability).



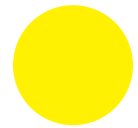
Wages for Child Care Workers

- The typical wage of a child care or preschool worker is significantly lower than the overall wage rate for the region.
- Wages do not directly correlate with quality of care, but highlight the challenges of maintaining affordable prices for care and retaining child care staff.



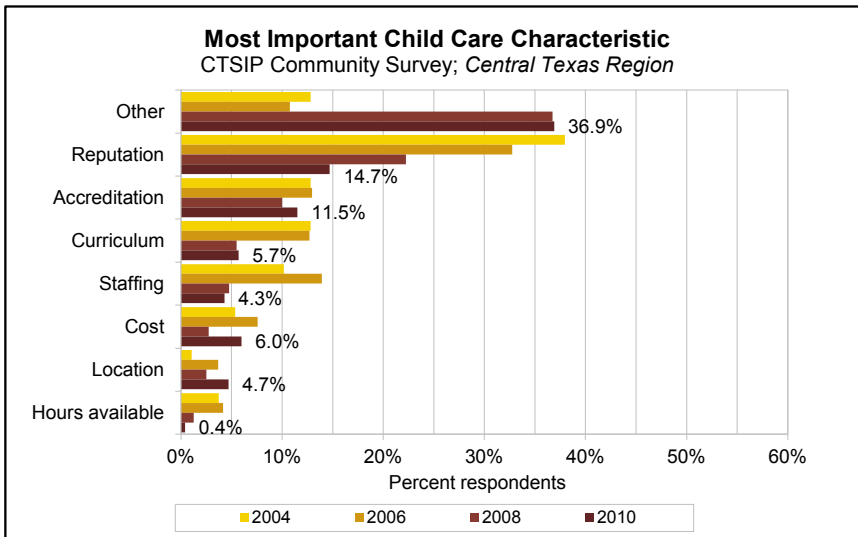
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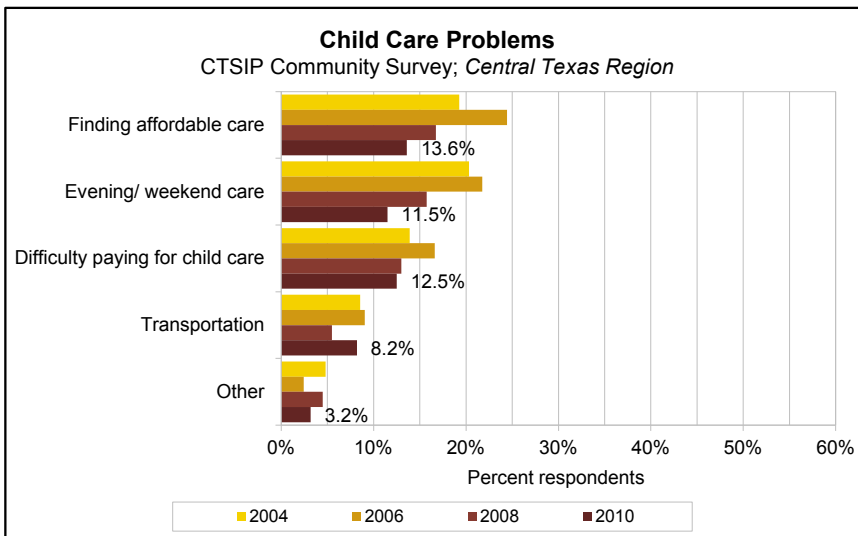
KEEP WATCH



Survey Question: What is the most important characteristic you look for (or would look for) in selecting a provider outside of your home for your child?

Perceptions of Care

- The 2010 CTSIP Community Survey reveals a continued decrease in “reputation” as a key characteristic in care givers’ consideration of a child care facility.
- Among the dramatically higher number of “other” responses, 23% specified “safety” or “security” characteristics, while another 19% specified “trustworthiness.”
- The value of curriculum and staffing in childcare facilities as a major deciding characteristic continues to decline.



Survey Question: Have you had any of these child care related problems during the past two years?

- For those in the Community Survey who had experienced child care problems, finding affordable or off-hours care is a decreasing concern, while transportation is a slightly increasing concern.
- *Note: Survey questions fielded to 279 respondents reporting at least one child six years or younger in household.*

Child Care: Access

CURRENT STATE

Accessibility of affordable care outside the home, while stable, will remain a challenge as our regional population continues to grow.

IDEAL STATE

All children and families in Central Texas have access to high-quality early education, child care, and family support.

CONTEXT

Many families may desire or need to access child care outside of the home but are limited by the cost of care or cannot find an arrangement that aligns with their work or life demands.

As public sector budgets continue to shrink for support services and public school programs, and as the cost of unsubsidized care continues to rise, the pressure to equitably support all the children of Central Texas will increase.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

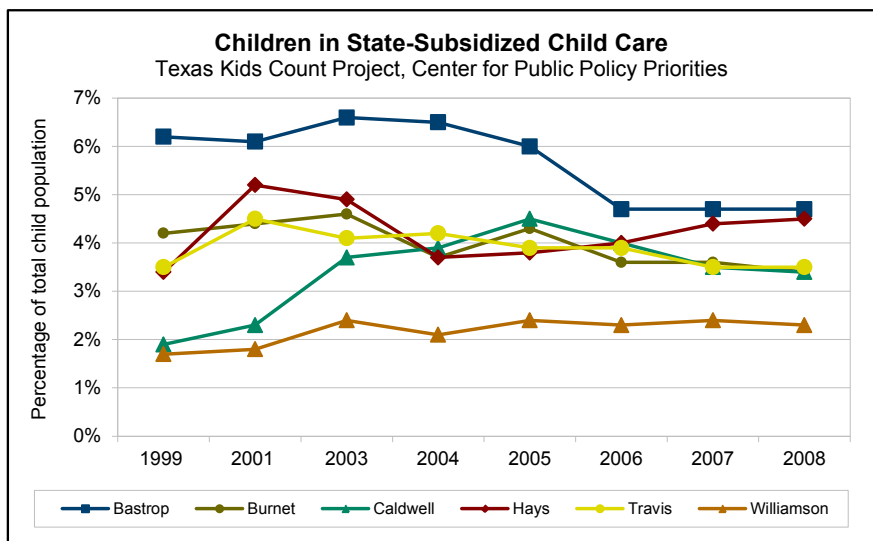
- Number of Public Pre-K Programs
- Percentage of Families Needing Care for Children Under 5
- Proximity of Child Care to Child Populations

SOURCES

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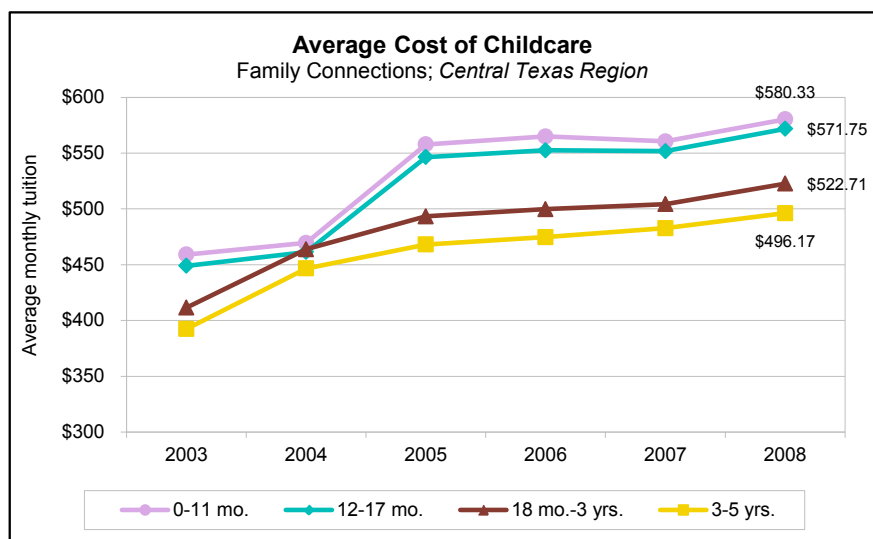
Subsidized Child Care

- The percentage of children under the age of 14 receiving state-subsidized child care has converged around 4% in recent years, representing 9,996 children across Central Texas in 2008.
- Most public school districts also provide free pre-kindergarten options for 3- and 4-year-olds. The budgets for pre-K programs are not increasing at the same pace as pre-K enrollments.
- Note: This is the most recent data available.*



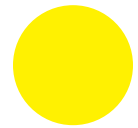
Cost of Child Care

- The average monthly tuition for child care is rising for all age groups, with a premium on day care facilities for infant care.
- The cost of child care can approach that of housing for some families and is becoming more out of reach for many Central Texans.
- Note: Family Connections data is no longer available.*



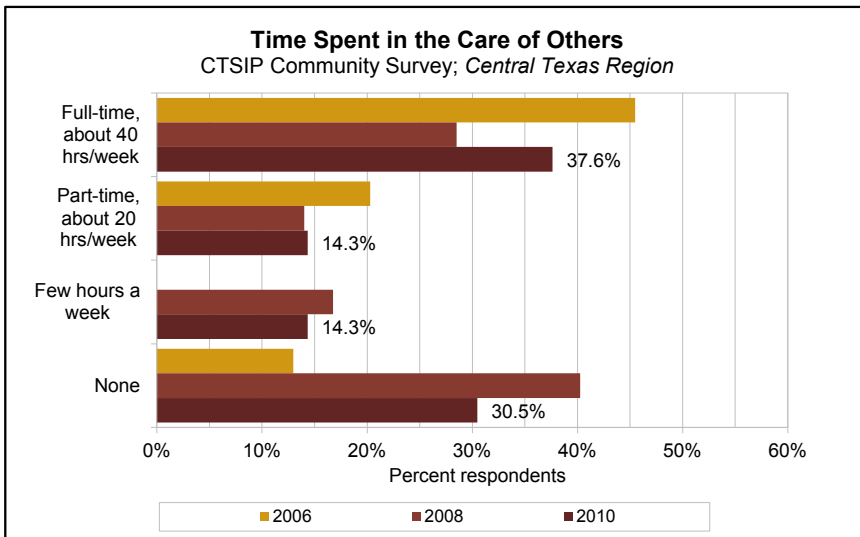
TREND

STATUS



UNCHANGED

KEEP WATCH



Child Care Needs

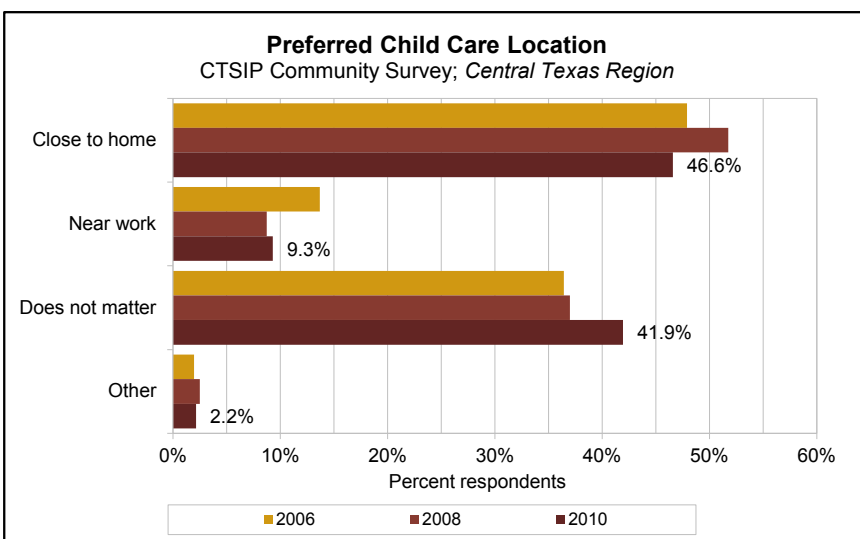
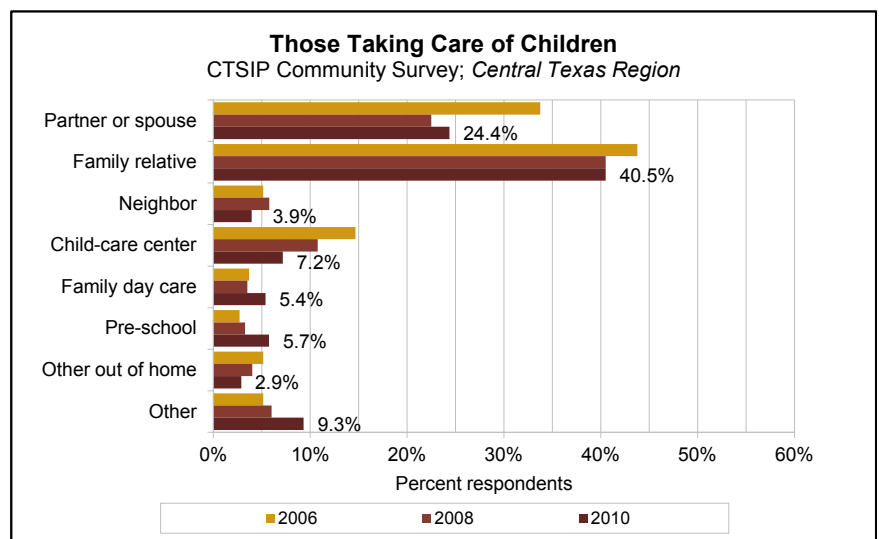
- More than a third of those in need of child care for their children require full-time care.
- Full-time demand is a major factor in the increasing costs of child care in a family's budget.

Survey Question: For only the oldest child, how many hours each week does the child/children living in your home spend in the care of others (outside of the parents) for education, enrichment or child care?

Choice of Child Care

- Likely due to the increasing costs of center-based child care, a majority of parents/guardians are opting to leave children in the care of relatives.
- Child care centers have consistently become less utilized over past years.

Survey Question: Who currently or presently takes care of this child/these children when adults in the household are not at home or not available to take care of them?



Child Care Location

- Child care close to home is much more highly preferred than care close to the workplace.
- Nearly as many parents/guardians have no preference where their child's place of care is located.

Survey Question: Where (in what part of your community) do you most need or want your child care services to be located?

Education and Children

Schools: Quality

CURRENT STATE

Opportunity to attend an Exemplary school varies widely by race/ethnicity and across the region.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas schools meet the educational needs of all students through a system of educational excellence in a safe and inclusive community.

CONTEXT

Our public education system is a necessary gateway for almost all children in our region to prepare themselves for success in life.

Ensuring that system provides a safe, quality education to all kids enrolled, and a consistent and equitable assessment of what they learn, is a basic obligation of an involved community.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

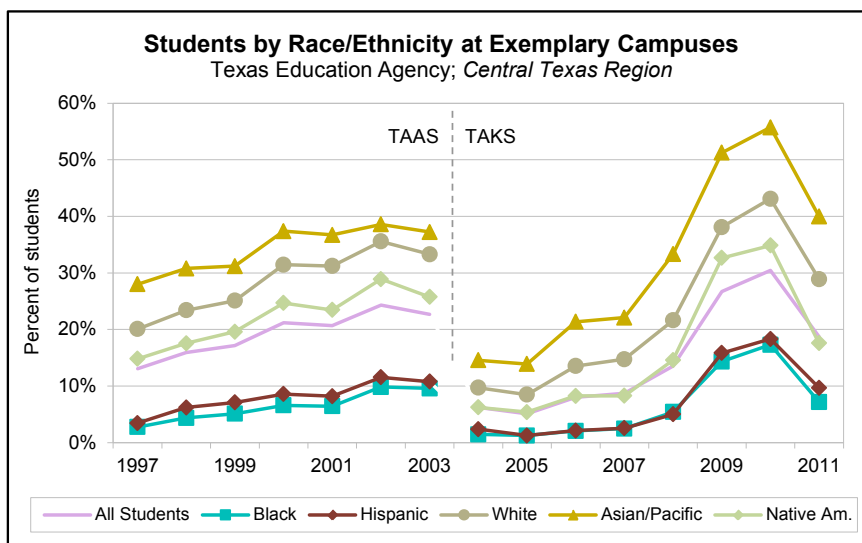
Race/Ethnicity of Enrollment by Campus Rating
 Student/Teacher Ratio
 Teacher Turnover Rate

SOURCES

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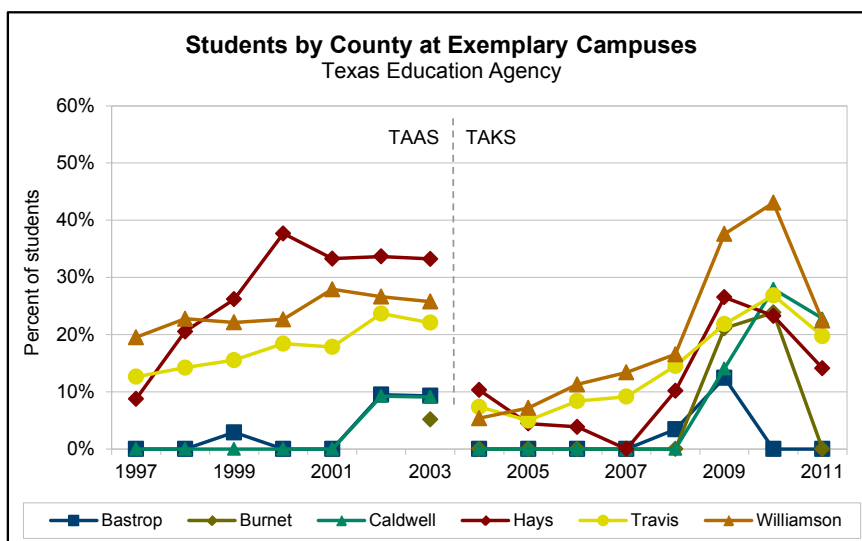
Exemplary Campuses by Race/Ethnicity

- Hispanic and Black students remain significantly less likely to attend an Exemplary campus.
- Since TAKS testing began, the gap between racial/ethnic groups has widened. Increased standards and the elimination of the Texas Projection Measure resulted in fewer schools earning an Exemplary accountability rating in 2011.
- *Note: The STAAR testing system replaced TAKS in Spring 2012.*



Exemplary Campuses by County

- After a significant increase in the number of Exemplary campuses since 2008, higher accountability standards in 2011 resulted in fewer Exemplary schools.
- The smaller school districts have seen progress but are less stable, illustrated by Bastrop and Burnet counties having zero Exemplary campuses again in 2011.



TREND

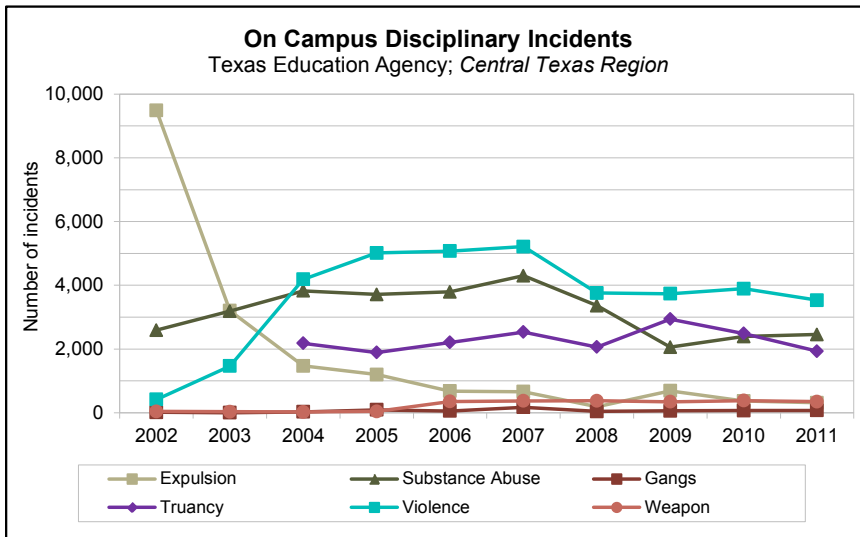
STATUS



WORSENING



ACTION NEEDED



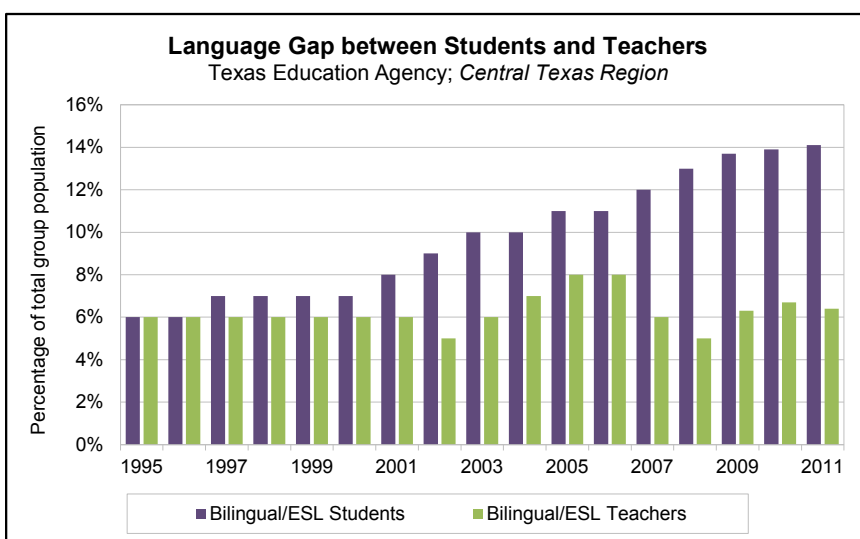
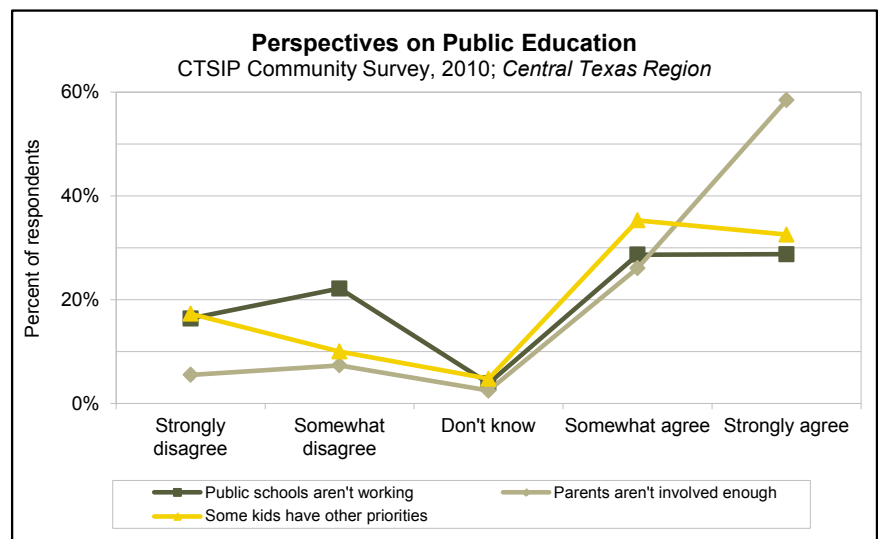
Campus Safety

- In recent years, the number of reported disciplinary incidents has decreased slightly, with drops in reported violence and substance abuse.

Perspectives on Drop-Outs

- As in 2008, nearly 90% of survey respondents believe that a lack of parental involvement is an important factor in student drop-out or poor performance.
- While not as strong, a majority also believe a non-working public school system, as well as the alternative priorities students may have, are factors in poor student performance.

Survey Question: Agreement: I'm going to read some statements typically given for why kids dropout or don't perform well in high school: The public school system isn't working / Parents aren't involved enough / Some kids have more important priorities than school / Success in life doesn't depend on finishing high school.



Classroom Language Barriers

- As the number of students who are learning English has soared, the number of teachers trained to teach in ESL classrooms has lagged behind, declining by 50% from 2006 to 2008 with minimal recovery since.

Education and Children

Schools: Equity

CURRENT STATE

While improving, Central Texas schools struggle to achieve equitable outcomes for Hispanic and African-American students.

IDEAL STATE

All Central Texans have equal access to justice, education, and economic advancement without regard to race or ethnicity.

CONTEXT

Our public education system is a necessary gateway for almost all children in our region to prepare themselves for success in life.

Enabling the system to adapt to rapidly changing student demographics so as to best achieve equitable outcomes for all students is a basic obligation of an involved community.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

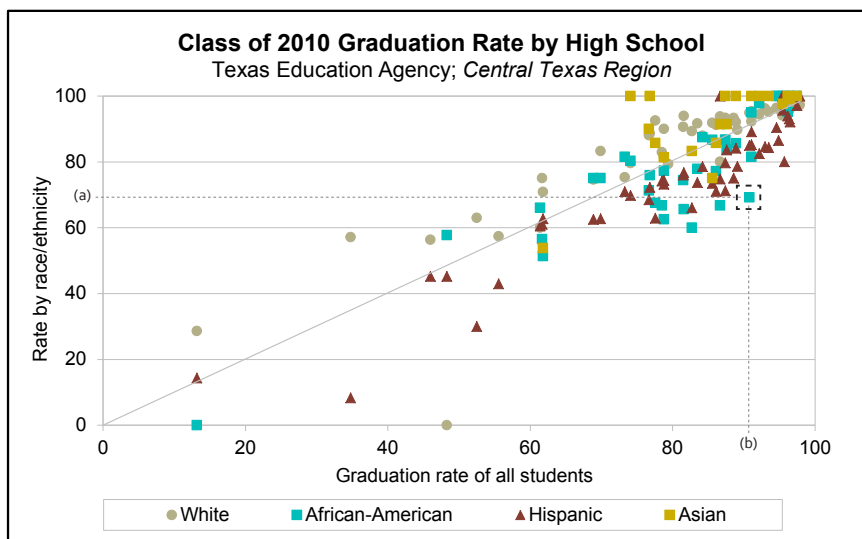
Graduation/GED Rates for Economically Disadvantaged Students
High School Attrition Rates

SOURCES

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High School Completion by Race/Ethnicity

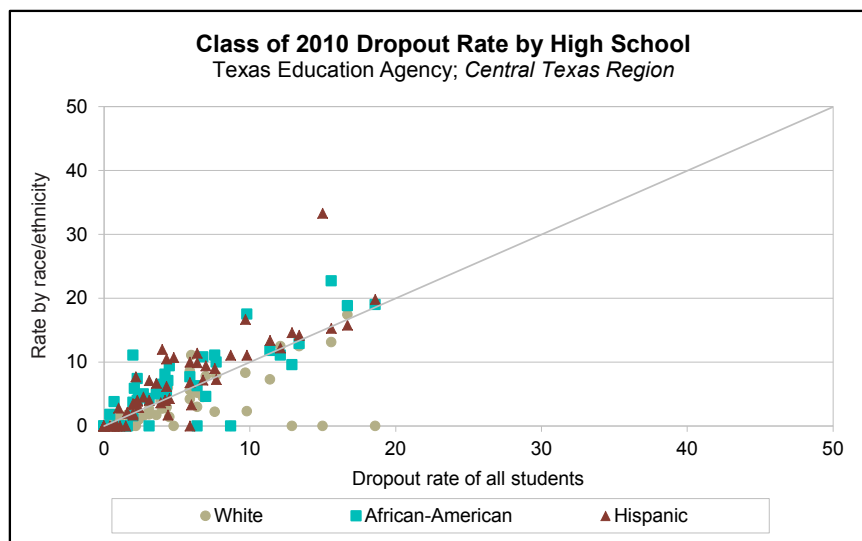
- The diagonal line below represents perfect equity between the graduation rate for a campus as a whole (horizontal axis) and the graduation rate for a race/ethnic group on that campus (vertical axis).
- On most of the campuses in Central Texas, Hispanic and Black students graduate at lower rates than the campus as a whole.



How to read this chart: 70% of African-Americans at this high school graduated on-time (a). This is less than the 90% graduation rate of all students at the school (b).

High School Dropout by Race/Ethnicity

- The diagonal line below represents perfect equity between the dropout rate for a campus as a whole and the dropout rate for a race/ethnic group on that campus.
- On several of the campuses in Central Texas, Hispanic and Black students drop out at almost double the rate of the campus as a whole.



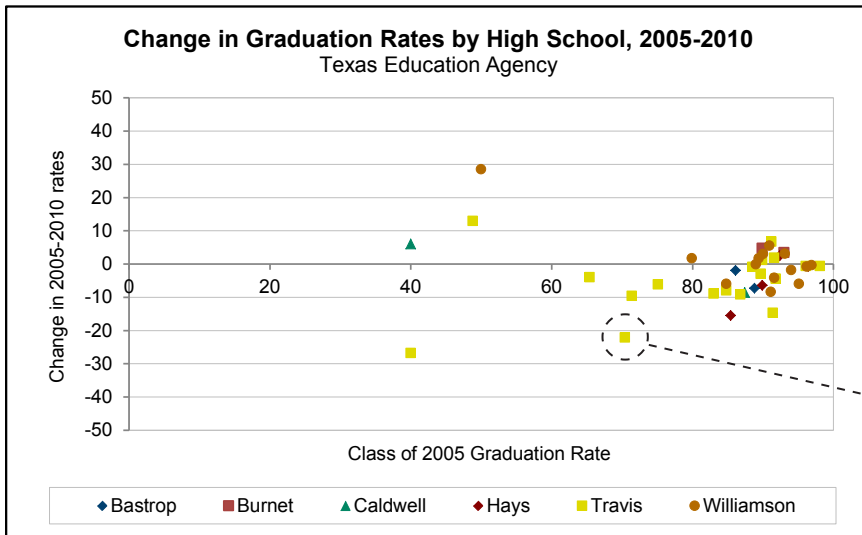
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ACTION NEEDED

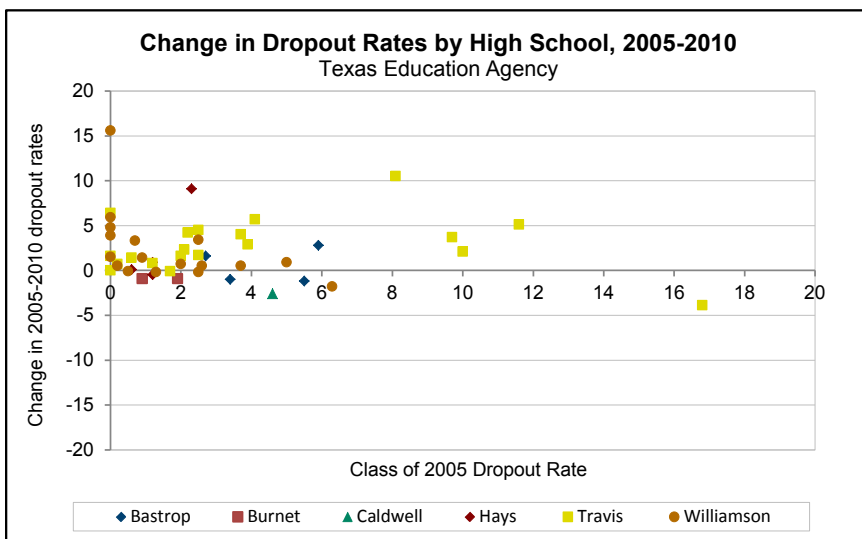


Graduation Rates Declining

- Travis County has the most campuses with very low graduation rates. The majority of campuses have seen a decrease in graduation rates.

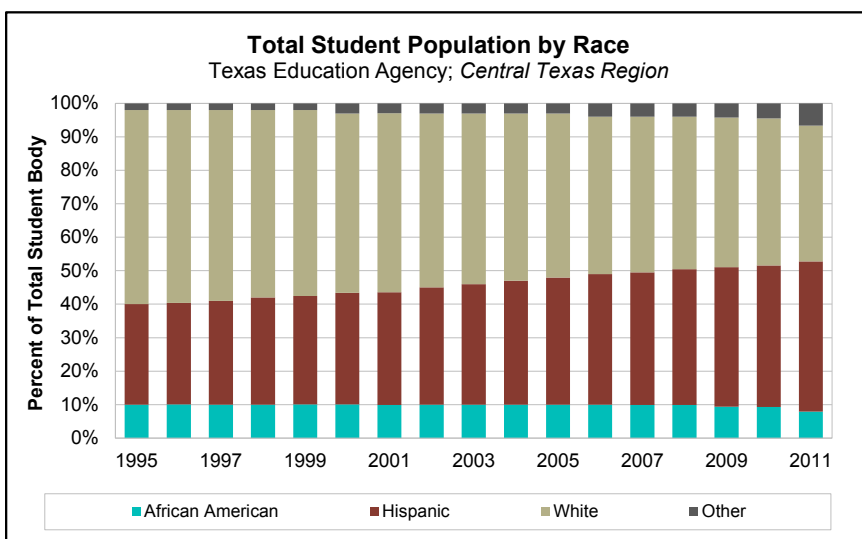
How to read this chart:

While 70% of the Class of 2005 graduated on time at this Travis County campus, its 2010 graduation rate was 20% lower in comparison.



Dropout Rates Increasing

- The majority of Central Texas schools have seen increased dropout rates since 2005. This is especially prevalent in Travis and Williamson Counties.



School Population Snapshot

- This graph shows the racial/ethnic composition of the Central Texas region's primary and secondary school population.
- The Hispanic population has grown by more than 15% of the total student population since 1995. The growth rate of other ethnic groups is also increasing, making Central Texas a collection of minority-majority school districts.

Schools: Performance

CURRENT STATE

A gap remains, although narrowing, between high- and low-performing campuses within counties and within school districts.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas schools meet the educational needs of all students through a system of educational excellence in a safe and inclusive community.

CONTEXT

Academic performance, as often assessed through standardized testing (an approach facing increasing criticism in Texas), is the most broadly used determination of whether quality and equity efforts have been successful, despite the persistence of gaps in equity.

Differences in academic performance by campus and by school district often mirror other economic and land use patterns.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

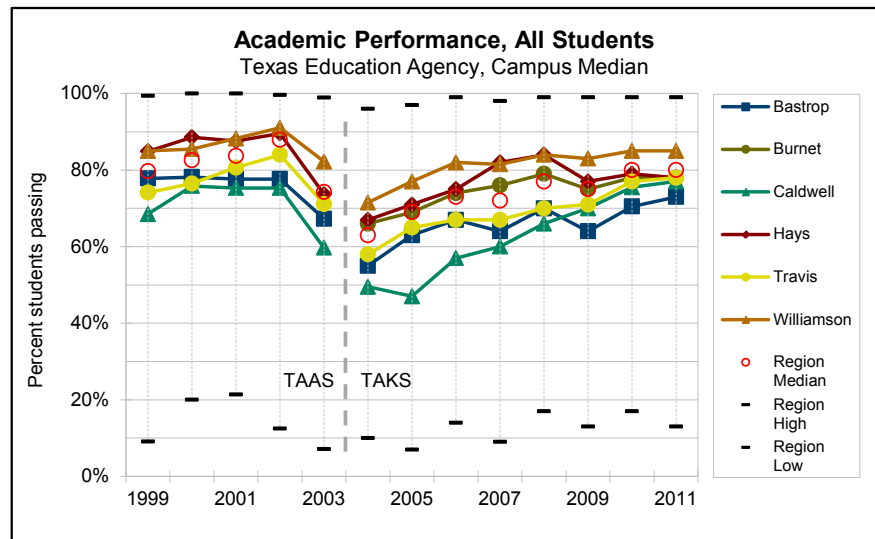
Academic Performance by Race/Ethnicity

SOURCES

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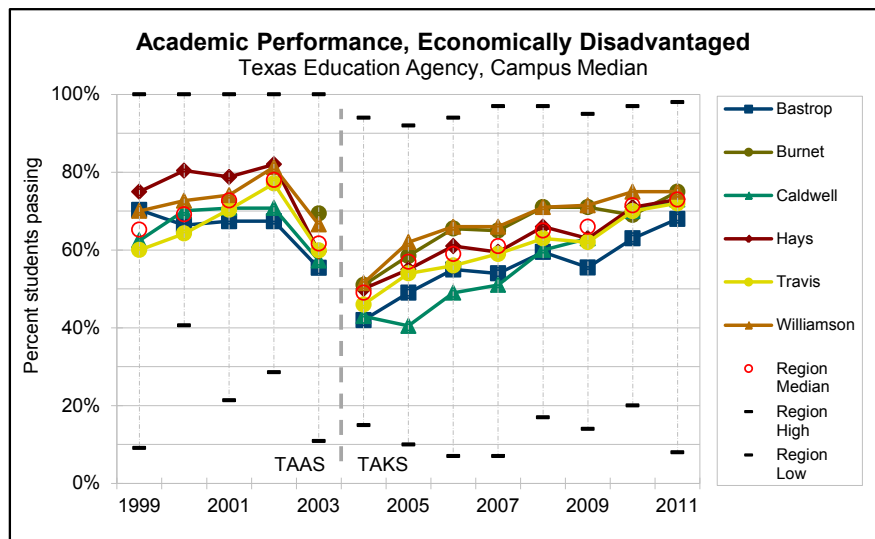
Range of Academic Performance

- While the median TAKS passage rate for schools by county has remained at or above 60% in recent years, the range of passing rates across schools in the region is significant, with some schools showing less than a 20% passing rate.
- *Note: The STAAR testing system replaced TAKS in Spring 2012.*



Range of Academic Performance

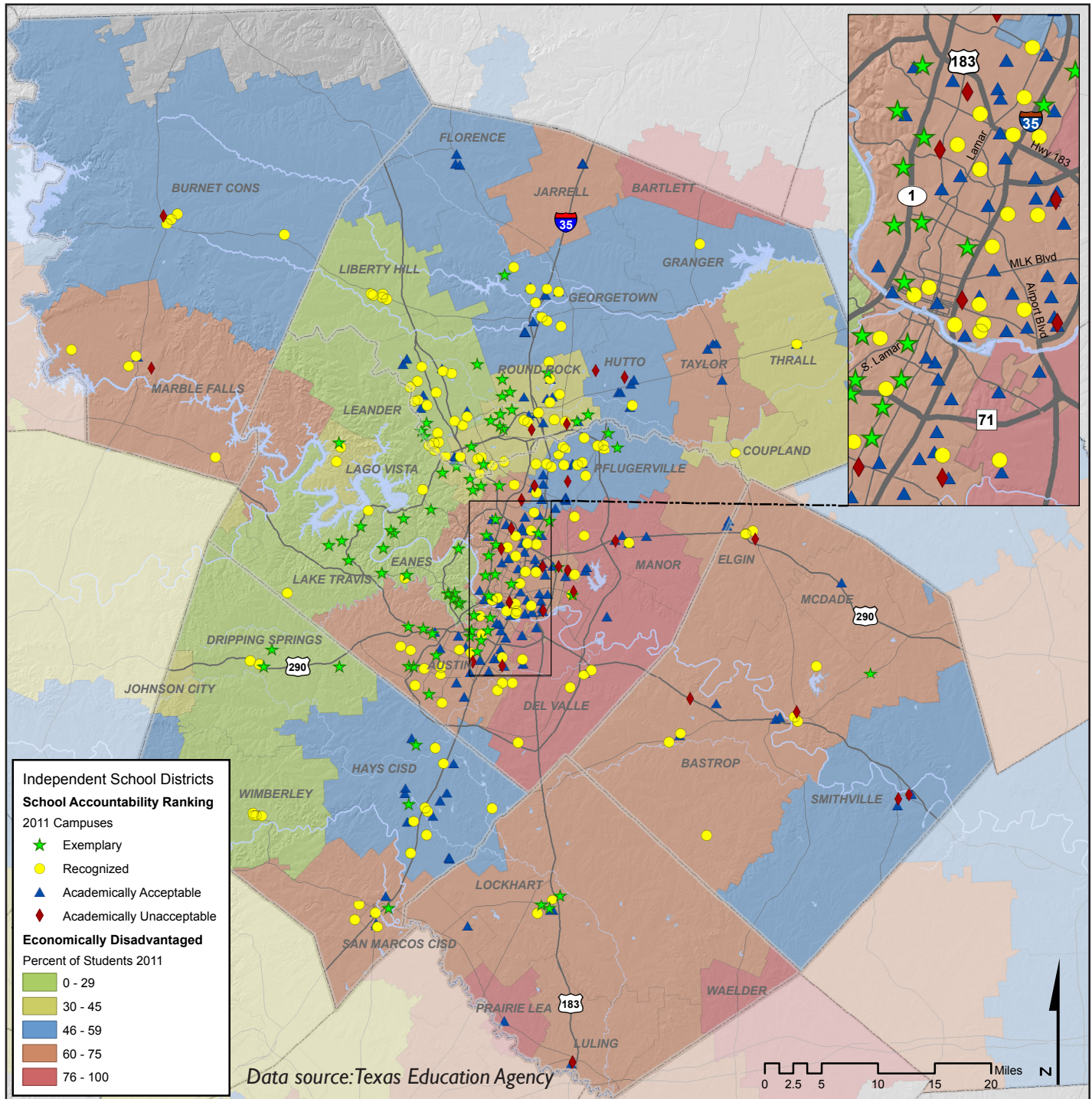
- When disaggregating the median TAKS passing rates by school for just those students flagged as Economically Disadvantaged, the overall pattern is similar to rates for all students but is approximately 10 points lower in all counties. This suggests that all counties in our region are struggling to meet the needs of Economically Disadvantaged students.





School Performance 2011

- The number of academically unacceptable campuses in the region has increased from three in 2010 to 27 in 2011, due to more stringent testing standards and changes in TAKS accountability measures.
- There is a higher share of exemplary and recognized campuses in districts with low percentages of Economically Disadvantaged students.



Education and Children

Higher Education

CURRENT STATE

While the percent of Central Texas high school graduates attending public colleges is steadily increasing, more awareness is needed on the value of education.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas schools meet the educational needs of all students through a system of educational excellence in a safe and inclusive community.

CONTEXT

The higher education system is a gateway for youth to the full range of employment opportunities as well as an economic driver for the entire region.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

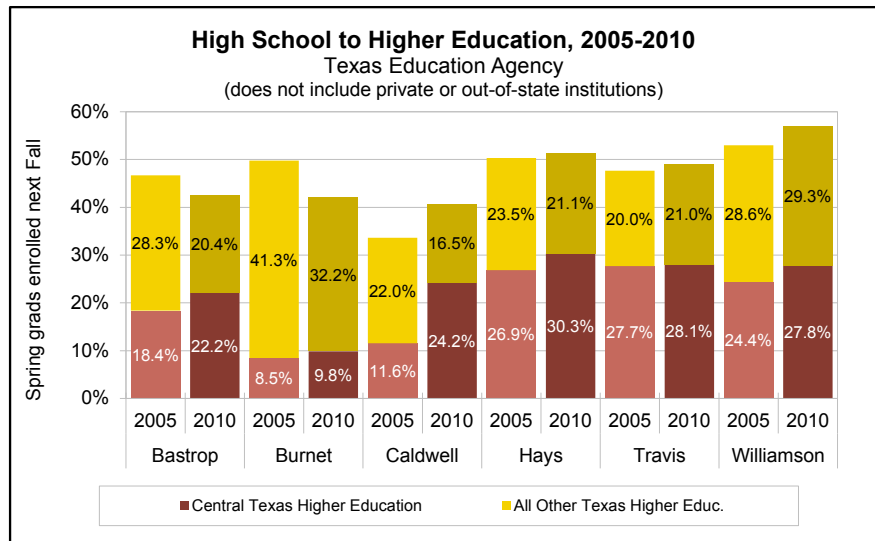
College-Ready High School Graduates

SOURCES

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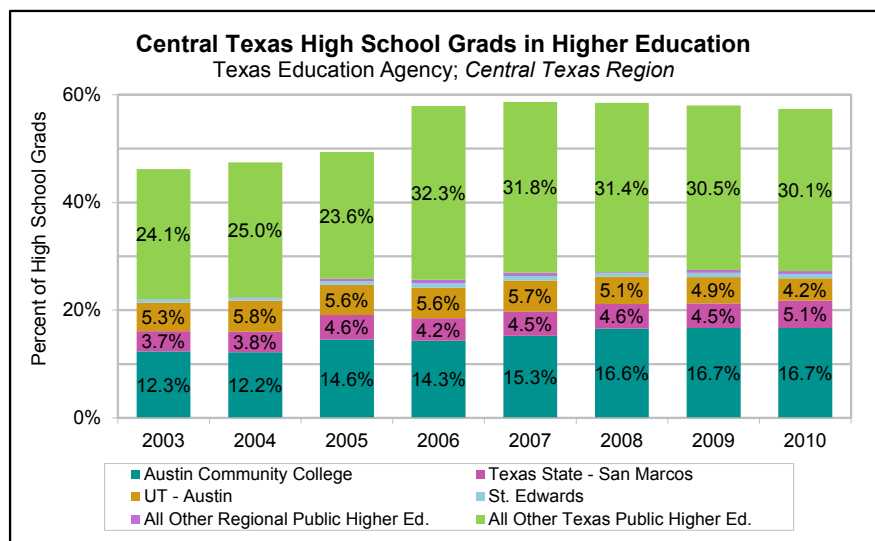
Local Matriculation

- In 2010, more than half of Central Texas high school graduates (8,597 students) attended a Texas public higher education institution (4-year or 2-year program) the fall following their spring graduation.
- More than twice as many high school graduates from Caldwell County attended Central Texas higher education institutions in 2010 than they did in 2005, a larger increase than any other county.



Local Matriculation

- Austin Community College continues to receive the majority of incoming Central Texas students and has experienced steady growth in enrollment over the past seven years.
- The University of Texas at Austin has seen a decrease in its share of local matriculation over the last few years.



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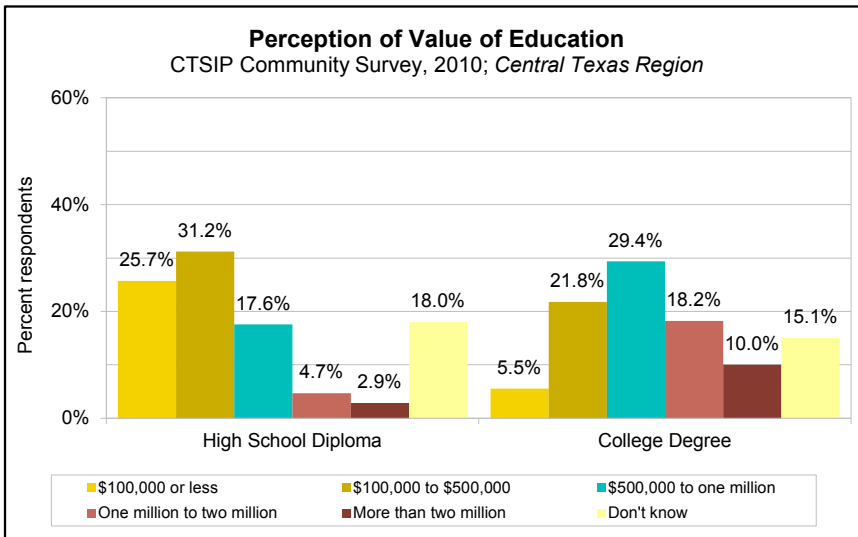


IMPROVING

STATUS



DOING WELL



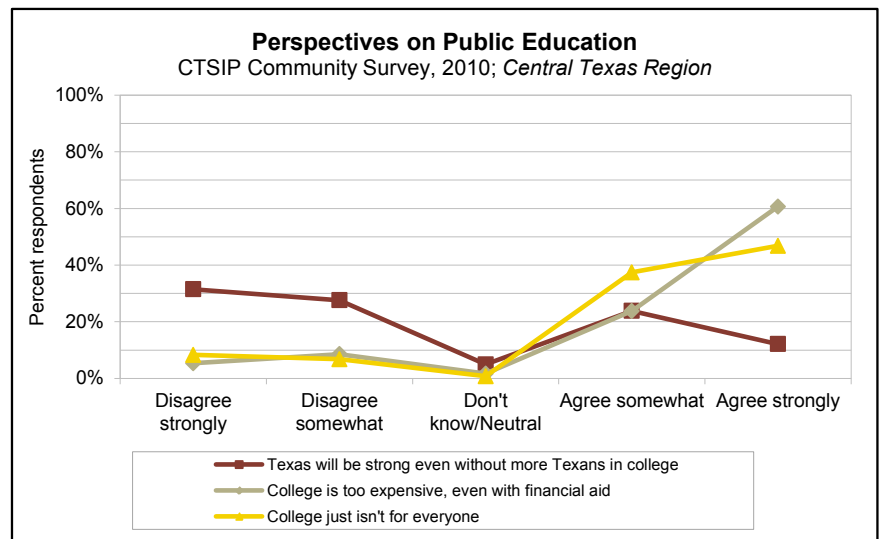
Survey Question: How much additional income over a lifetime do you think a high school diploma/ college degree is worth?

Million Dollar Question

- Research has shown the value in increased earnings of a high school diploma to be \$1,000,000. The value of a college degree is another \$1,000,000 in increased earnings.
- A majority of CTSIP Community Survey respondents undervalued these educational attainments and a significant percent did not know or even guess the value, suggesting there are opportunities for greater community education about the value of education.

Thoughts on Public Education

- The majority of respondents perceive the cost of higher education as prohibitively expensive.
- Respondents' faith in Texas' economic resilience seems tied to the education levels of its residents.



Survey Question: Agreement: The Texas economy will be strong no matter how many Texas kids go to college / College is too expensive nowadays, even with financial aid / Going to a college or university just isn't for everyone.

Section Sponsor



Social Equity

Cost of Living

Housing: Ownership

Housing: Rental

Home Loans

English Proficiency

Diversity in Leadership

Race Relations

Social Equity

Cost of Living

CURRENT STATE

Family expenses continue to rise faster than family incomes, keeping many Central Texas families living on the edge of their means.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas is an affordable place to live, work and play.

CONTEXT

There are many definitions and measures around the idea of cost of living, affordability and lifestyle. All of them share the premise that quality of life is lessened if the cost of living keeps a family constantly at the edge of their means.

Sustainability is concerned with balancing the costs and allocation of resources such that meeting one's own basic needs is within reach of every member of a population.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

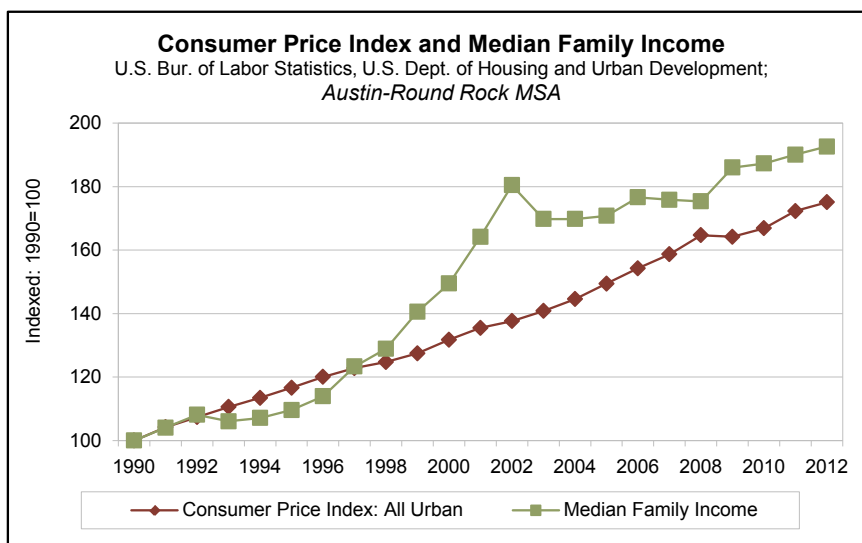
Various Living Wage Calculations

SOURCES

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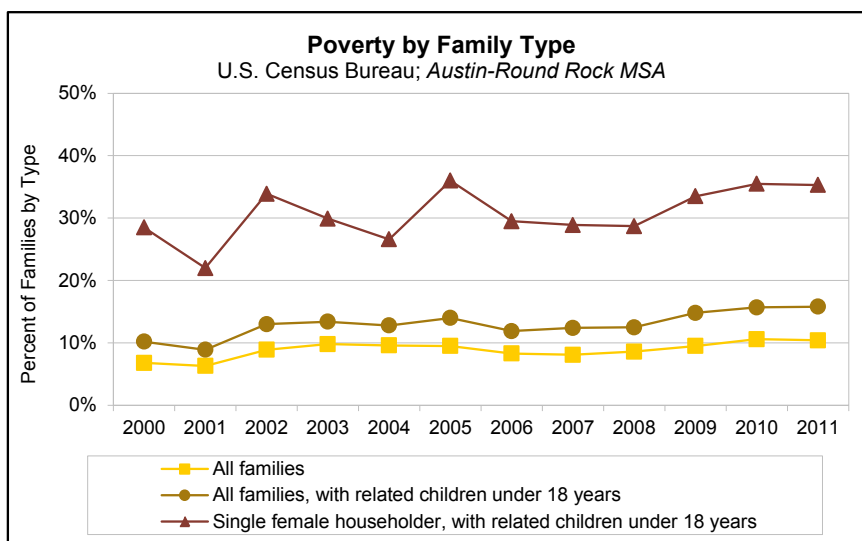
Gap between Income and Household Necessities

- Trends show the gap in our region between Median Family Income and the Consumer Price Index (CPI, a measure that aggregates the prices of a consistent "basket of goods" in different regions and at different points in time) has narrowed since 2002. This suggests that an increasing share of a household's income is being consumed by necessary household costs such as rent, groceries, and transportation.



Family Poverty

- About one-third of Central Texas single mothers and their children live in poverty, as defined by the Census.
- Most definitions of poverty are determined at the national level and can mask large numbers of individuals and families at a local level who have incomes above the poverty line, but who still have difficulty supporting their families.



TREND

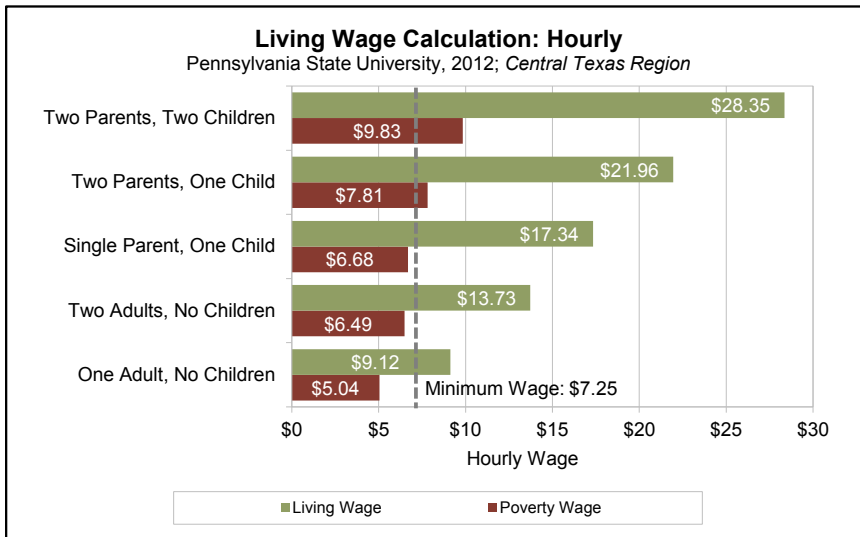


WORSENING

STATUS

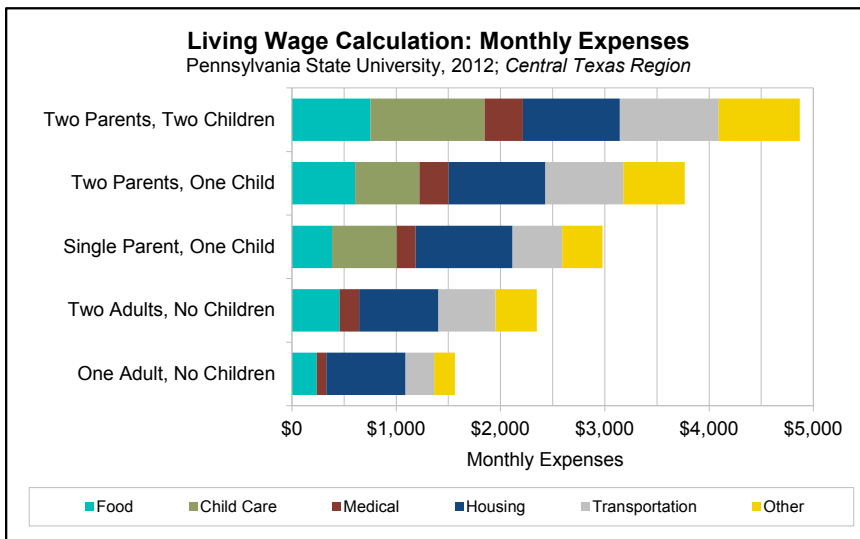


ACTION NEEDED



Living Wage

- A living wage is the income necessary for a family to meet its basic needs.
- The minimum wage in Texas does not amount to a living wage for a single adult with no children.
- While larger families predictably have higher total monthly expenses, single-parent families with children face the greatest challenge in maintaining a living wage, which is more than double the minimum hourly wage in Texas. In 2008, the Center for Public Policy Priorities estimated that 53% of single parents with children in Travis County did not make enough money to meet their basic needs.
- In families with two parents, the minimum wage isn't enough to maintain income above the federal poverty level.
- The cost of child care greatly increases a family's monthly expenses.



Housing: Ownership

CURRENT STATE

Home prices continue to rise faster than incomes; the housing bust also continues to be felt across the region.

IDEAL STATE

All Central Texans have access to quality, desirable housing in livable communities throughout the region.

CONTEXT

Home ownership traditionally signifies economic stability and is also a key driver of land-use patterns. In addition, opportunities for home ownership have a great deal of symbolic power for communities and emotional impact on residents. The security of home ownership allows people to feel more productive and able to change their communities.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

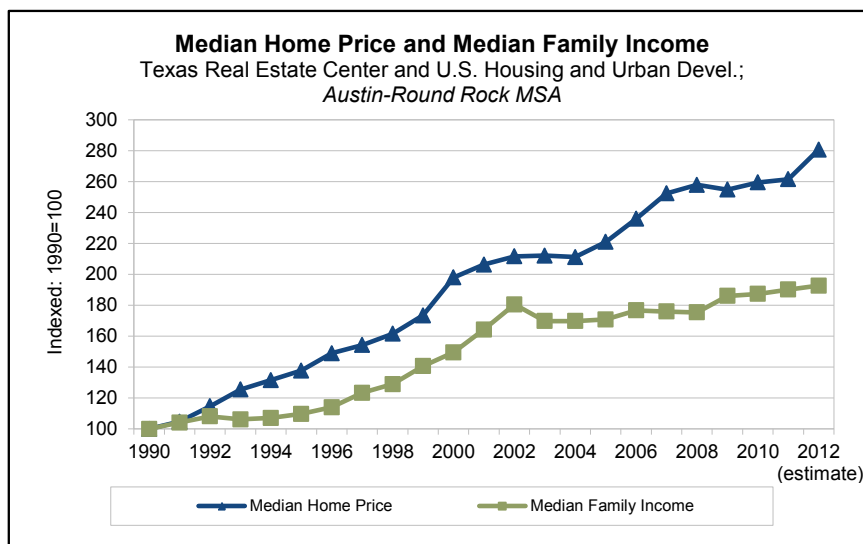
Home Owners with Housing Problems, by Race/Ethnicity

SOURCES

Page 114

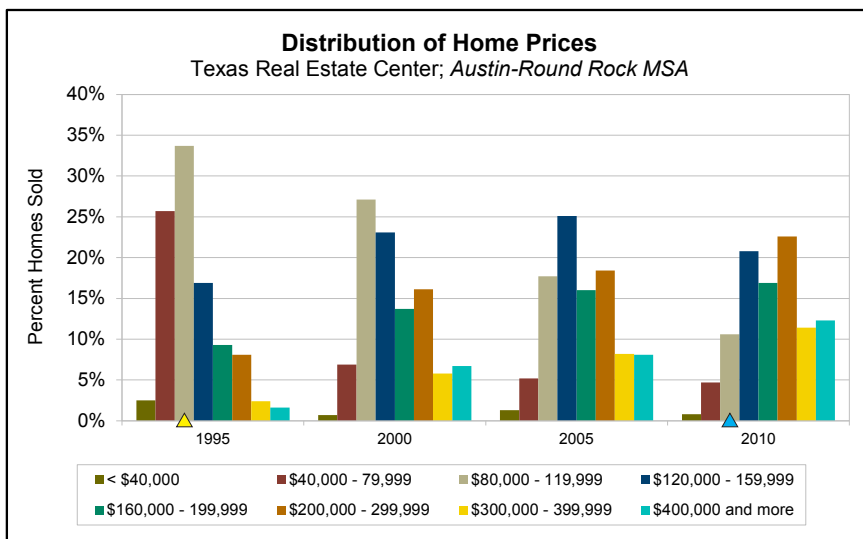
Gap between Home Price and Income

- Both regional median family income (for a four-person family) and median home prices levelled off in 2002 – partly as a result of the “dot-com” bust. But home prices rose steeply again while income remained flat, widening the gap between the two measures.
- Home prices vary significantly across the region. Aggregating to the regional level can mask more severe gaps between income and prices at the municipal and county level.



Distribution of Home Prices

- The market share of homes over \$250,000 has increased, while that of more affordable homes has declined, suggesting the housing market has stopped providing housing in this range.



How to read this chart:

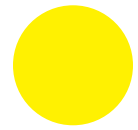
- ▲ In 1995 nearly 35% of homes sold were priced between \$80,000 - \$120,000
- ▲ In 2010, just over 10% of homes were sold in the same price range

TREND

STATUS

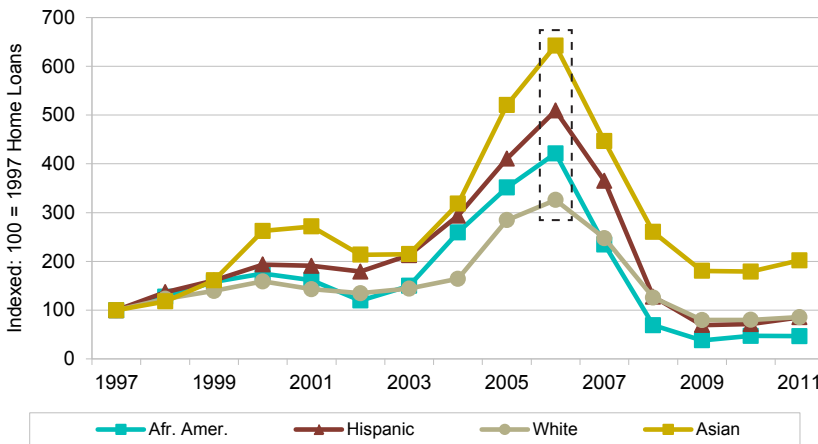


WORSENING



KEEP WATCH

Indexed Home Loans Originated by Race/Ethnicity
Financial Institutions' Examination Council; Austin-Round Rock MSA

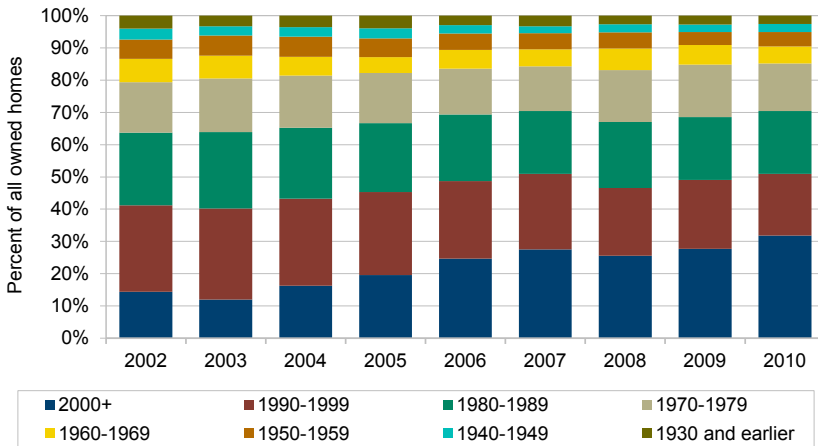


Home Loan Activity

- Since the mortgage crisis, annual home loans in Central Texas have dropped to below 1997 levels, the lowest since that time.
- Home loans peaked in 2006 for all race/ethnicities, and to a higher degree for minorities.
- Since the recession, African Americans and Hispanics in Central Texas have seen a disproportionate reduction in loans originated.

How to read this chart: Compared to 1997 levels, 2006 saw 6.5 times as many home loans originated by Asians; 5x as many by Hispanics; 4x as many by African Americans; and 3x as many by Whites.

Year Owned Homes Built
U.S. Census; Austin-Round Rock MSA



Age of Housing Stock

- More owned homes in Central Texas were built in the past decade than any other previous decade.
- The majority of the housing stock built after 2000 was constructed between 2003 and 2007.
- Nonetheless, the proportion of the housing stock built before 1980 has only decreased by about 5% since 2002.
- Older homes tend to be less energy-efficient, which could have potential consequences moving forward.

Housing: Rental

CURRENT STATE

Rent prices are stabilizing; affordable housing is strongly supported but not well distributed.

IDEAL STATE

All Central Texans have access to quality, desirable housing in livable communities throughout the region.

CONTEXT

While home ownership has both practical and symbolic significance as a sign of community stability and prosperity, rental units meet the bulk of the region's need for affordable housing, especially at the lowest income levels. The share of Central Texans who rent rather than own their homes has traditionally been high compared to other urban areas.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

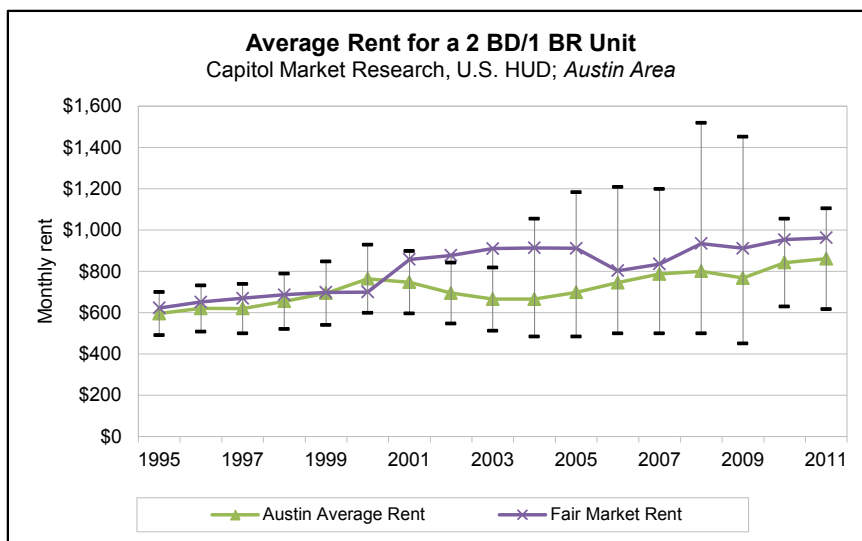
Housing by Owner/Renter
Distribution of Rent
Renters with Housing Problems

SOURCES

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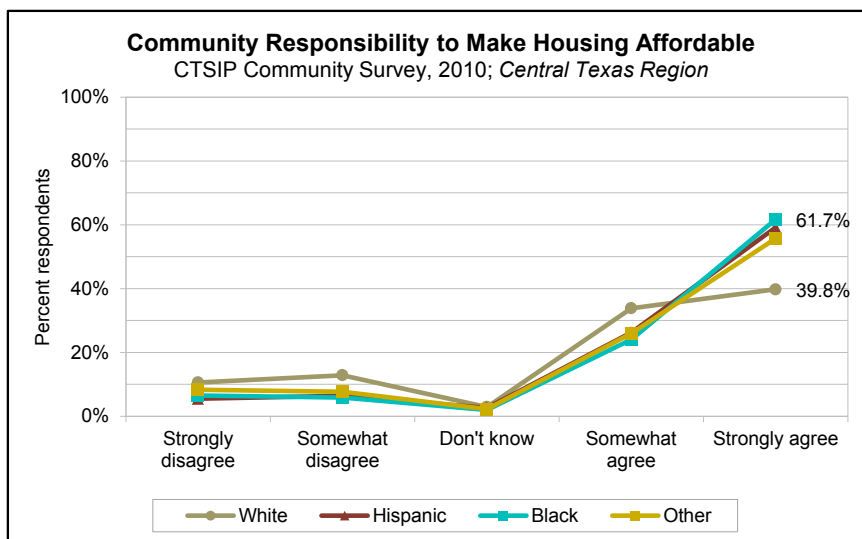
Affordability of Local Rental Units

- Data compiled by Capitol Market Research, Inc. shows average 2 bed/1 bath apartment rents are trending below the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fair Market Rent benchmark.
- The increasing range of rents through 2009, especially those on the high end, reflected the surge in Austin growth following the dot-com bust. The narrowing in range of rents reflects the market stabilizing.



Perception of Affordable Housing

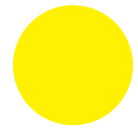
- In 2010, as in 2008, a majority of Central Texans believe the community has a responsibility to make sure housing is more affordable for median income workers.
- The strength of belief in this responsibility varies significantly based on respondents' income (not shown) and race/ethnicity.



Survey Question: Agreement: Our community has a responsibility to make sure housing is more affordable for the average worker (affordable to teachers, firefighters, etc.)

TREND

STATUS

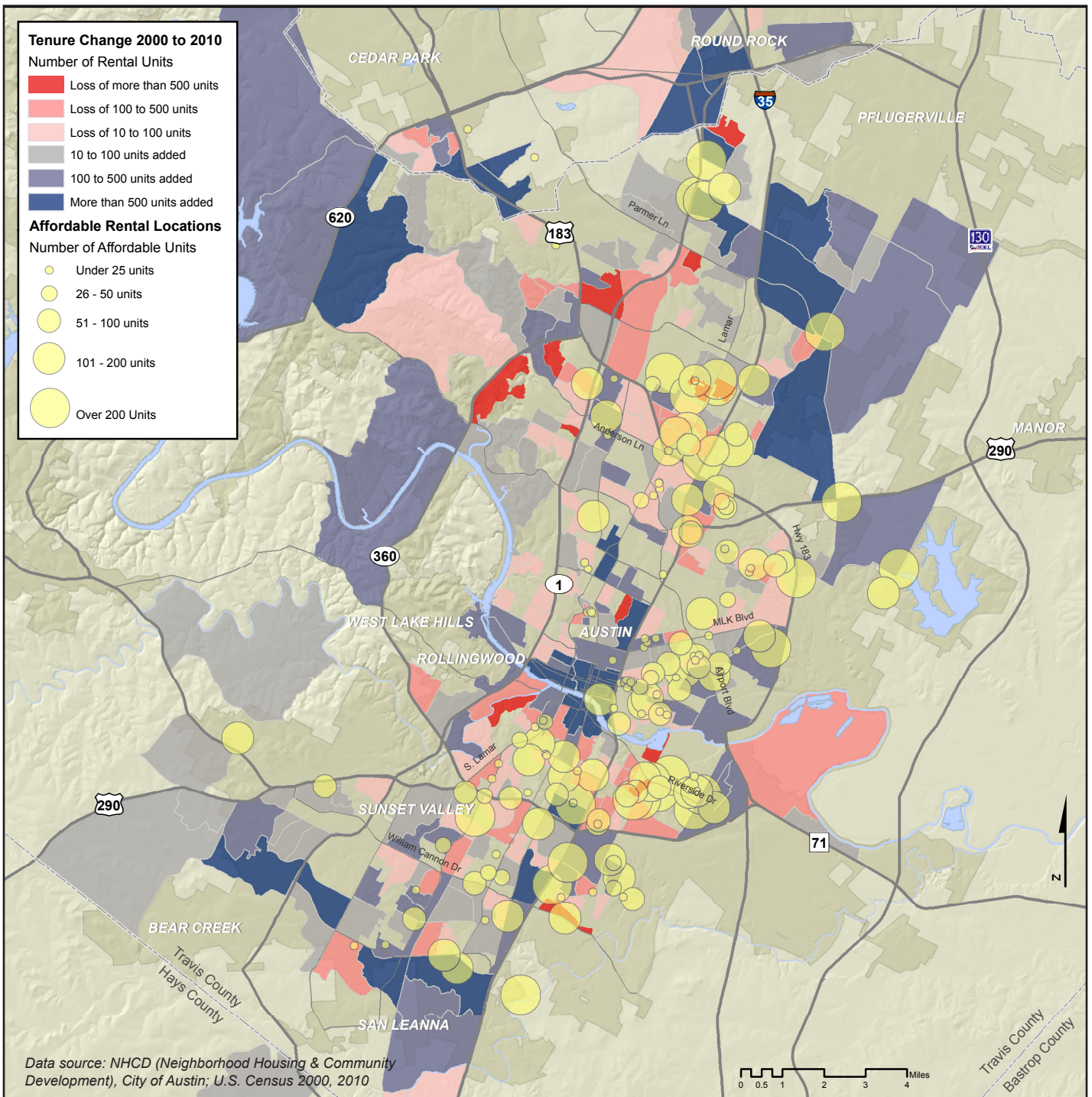


UNCHANGED

KEEP WATCH

Affordable Rental Housing

- Affordable and workforce rental housing is in short supply compared to the needs in Austin and Central Texas. These units are also distributed unevenly, possibly adding transportation costs to reach employment centers.
- Several areas of Austin have seen shifts in rental units since 2000. A single census block in the East Riverside area lost more than 2,000 rental units in 2009. Meanwhile, the downtown area has added more than 2,000 units, placing more rental housing near a major employment center. However, a very small percentage of these units are affordable.



Home Loans

CURRENT STATE

Trends clearly show the recent housing bubble and suggest a significant disparity is being corrected rather than equity being achieved.

IDEAL STATE

All Central Texans have equal access to justice, education and economic advancement without regard to race or ethnicity.

CONTEXT

Few aspects of society have been more discussed during the production of this Report as the collapse of the housing finance market triggering a national recession. The “lowering of all boats” may provide an opportunity to reform the system and prevent a repeat home lending bubble.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

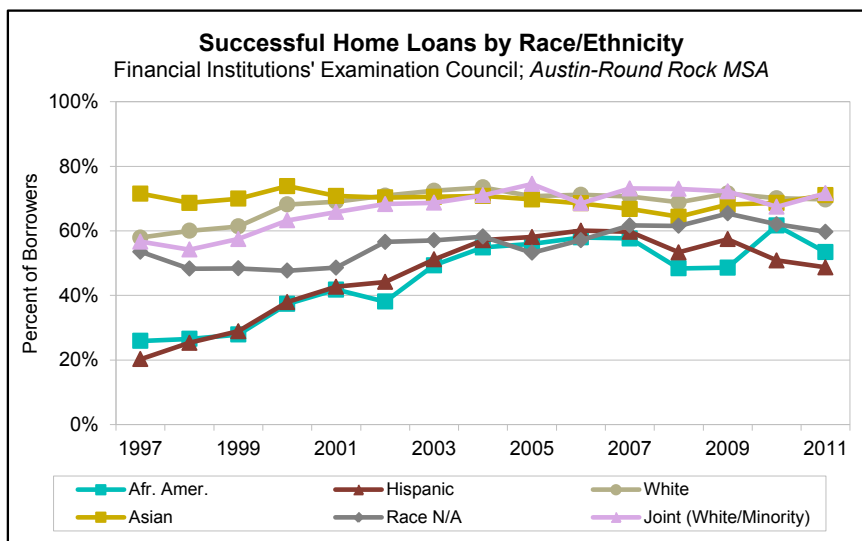
Small Business Loans
Lenders by CRA Rating

SOURCES

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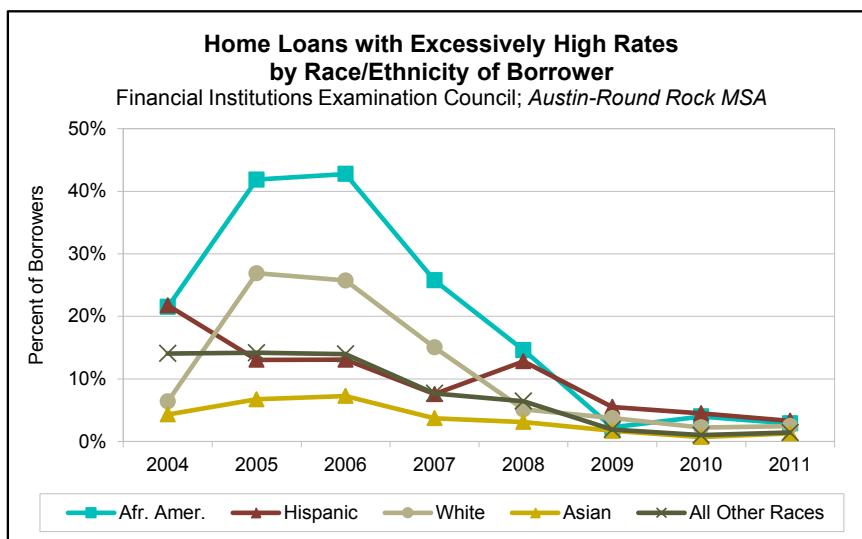
Home Loans by Race/Ethnicity

- The last decade reveals stability in successful home loan applications for all race/ethnicity groups. Hispanic and African-American loan success rates have shown the greatest improvement, each increasing by almost 40%.
- The housing crisis appears to have affected success rates of African Americans and Hispanic more than other groups.



Home Loans with High Rates by Race/Ethnicity

- From 2005 to 2007, significantly more African-American borrowers faced excessively high annual percentage rates of interest on their home loans (defined as 3 or more points higher than the rate set by the U.S. Treasury).
- Since 2007, the percentage of African-American borrowers facing these high rates has decreased to more equitable levels.



TREND



IMPROVING

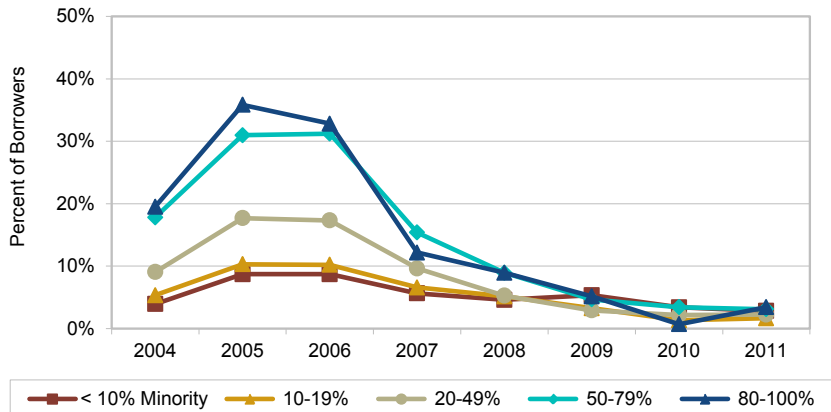
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ACTION NEEDED

Home Loans with Excessively High Rates by Minority Composition of Neighborhood

Financial Institutions Examination Council; Austin-Round Rock MSA

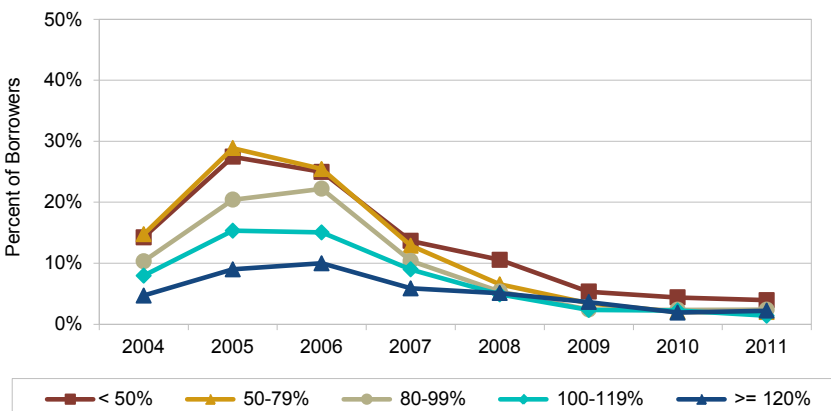


Home Loans with High Rates by Minority Neighborhood

- In 2005 and 2006, one-third of the home loans made in Central Texas neighborhoods with at least 50% non-white population (minority-majority neighborhoods) had excessively high percentage rates of interest (1,039 loans in 2005).
- From 2007 to 2011 the percentage of borrowers seeing high rates decreased in all neighborhoods.
- In 2011, only 28 total loans with excessively high rates were made in minority-majority neighborhoods.

Home Loans with Excessively High Rates by Applicant Income Percent of Regional Median Income

Financial Institutions Examination Council; Austin-Round Rock MSA

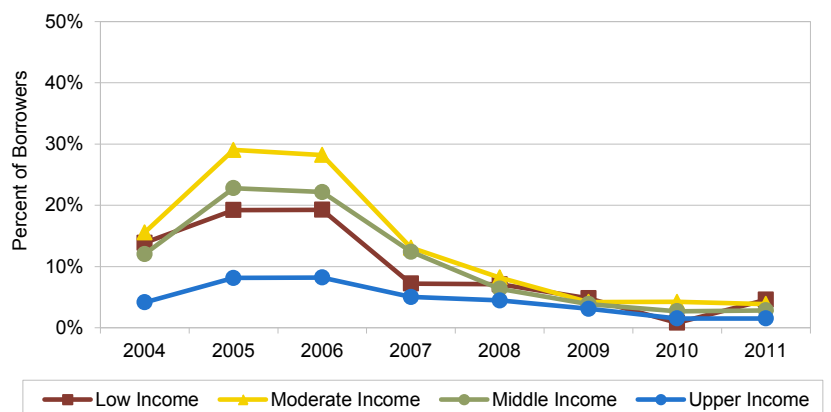


Home Loans with High Rates by Borrower Income

- Before improving in 2007, a larger proportion of the loans made to Central Texas borrowers with lower incomes had excessively high percentage rates of interest, compared to loans to borrowers with higher incomes.
- This can be attributed to a number of factors, such as poor credit, tightened lending policies, decline of flexible mortgages, and some home buyers' general lack of awareness of the mortgage process.

Home Loans with Excessively High Rates by Income Characteristics of Neighborhood

Financial Institutions Examination Council; Austin-Round Rock MSA



Home Loans with High Rates by Neighborhood Income

- Before improving in 2007, almost one-third of the home loans made in moderate income (lower middle class) neighborhoods had excessively high percentage rates of interest.
- In 2005, 697 of the 2,400 total home loans in moderate income neighborhoods had excessively high rates.
- In 2011, only 4% of home loans in moderate income neighborhoods had excessively high rates, representing only 32 loans.

English Proficiency

CURRENT STATE

Almost 20% of Central Texans feel to some degree limited by their English language proficiency; these families are highly concentrated within the region.

IDEAL STATE

All Central Texans attain a literacy level that provides the foundation to lead successful and productive lives.

CONTEXT

Literacy is one of the primary benefits of education and a significant equity concern in that the lack of basic literacy can diminish or prevent access to economic opportunities or full participation in one's broader community.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

Parents Feeling Limited by English Proficiency Skills

Public Library Circulation, Items, Visits

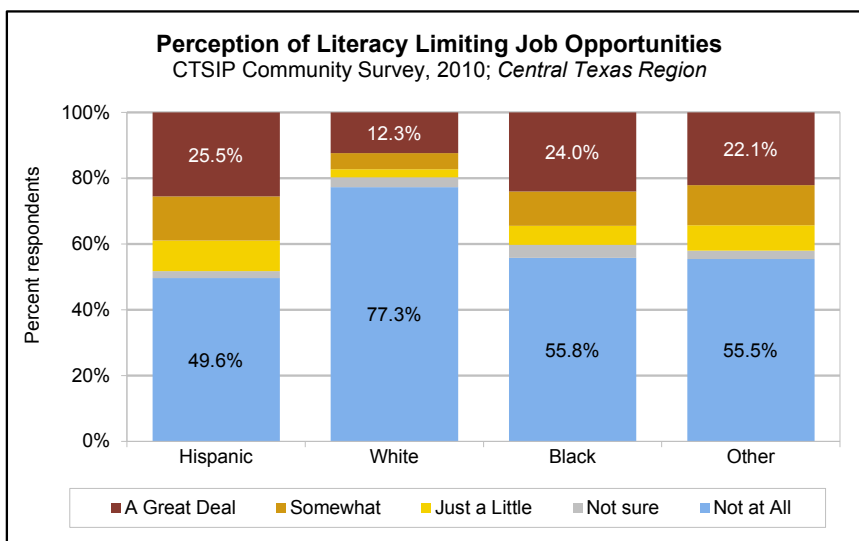
Adult Enrollment in Literacy Programs

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Perception of English Proficiency

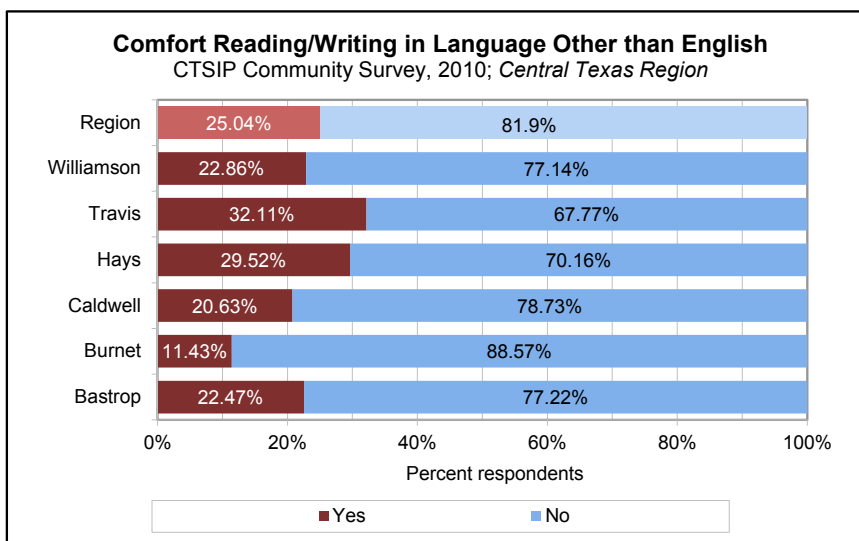
- Approximately 20% of Central Texans feel “somewhat” or “a great deal” limited by their English language skills in their ability to get a job for which they are otherwise qualified.
- This perception is stronger among minorities, shared by 39% of Hispanic respondents and 34% of Black respondents, compared to 17% of White respondents.



Survey Question: Would you say that your abilities to read and write in English limit your potential to get a job that you would otherwise be qualified for?

Comfort in a Language other than English

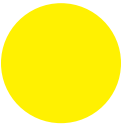
- Overall, 25% of Central Texans are comfortable reading and writing in a language other than English.
- Compared to the regional average, this is true for a larger share of residents in Travis and Hays counties.



Survey Question: Are you comfortable reading and writing in a language other than English?

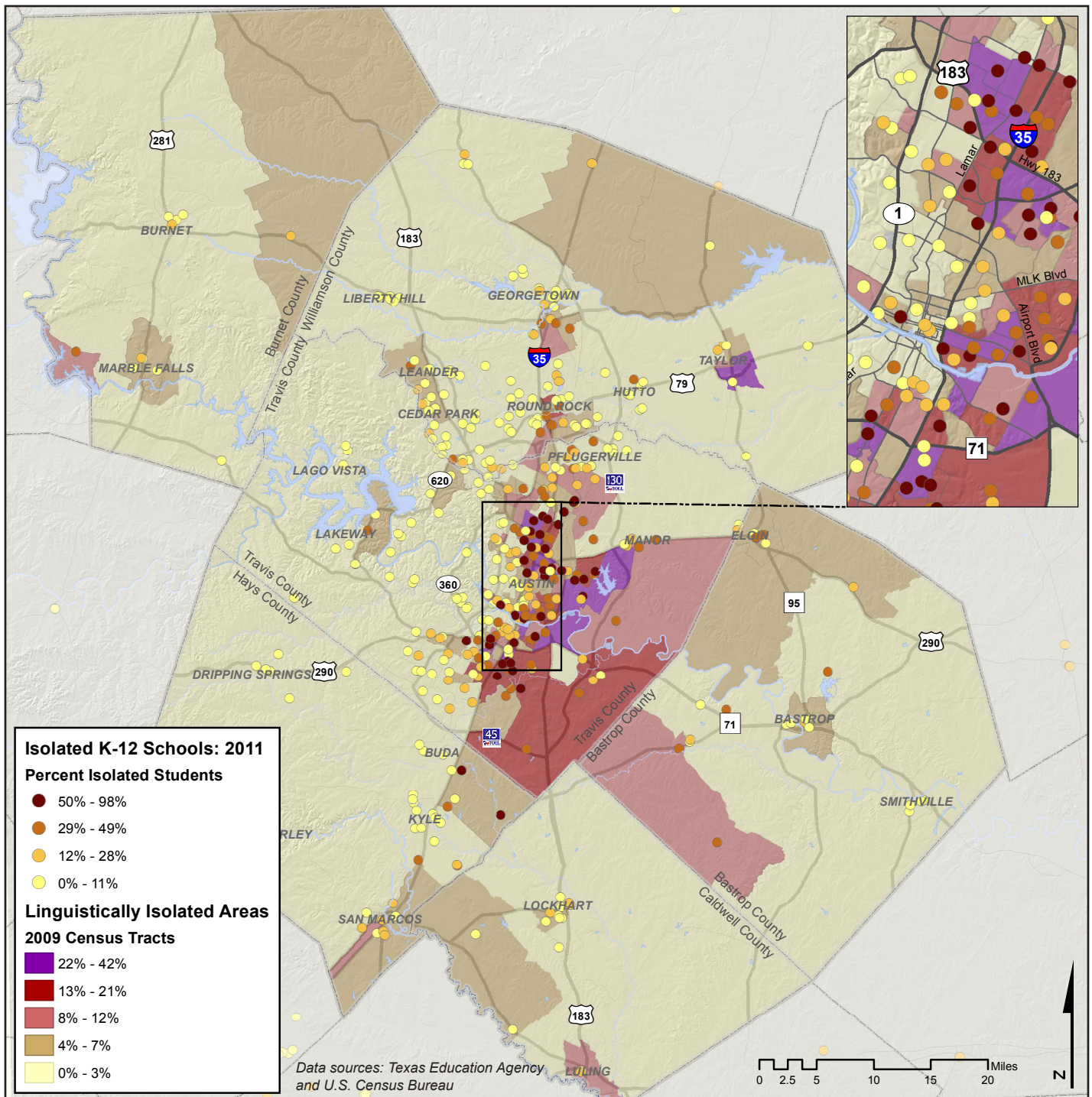
TREND

 IMPROVING

STATUS

 KEEP WATCH

Distribution of Limited English Proficiency Students

- This map shows the percent of students by public school campus determined to have Limited English Proficiency (LEP). While only a handful of campuses have no LEP students, the campuses with the most LEP students are in Austin ISD, in the neighborhoods east of Interstate-35 or north of Highway 183. Also shown are 2009 American Community Survey data describing disconnected pockets of the population whose primary language is something other than English.



Diversity of Leadership

CURRENT STATE

Minorities and women remain significantly under-represented in publicly elected positions.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas values leadership that reflects the community's diversity.

CONTEXT

Embodied within equity and engagement is the idea of trust that elected leaders fairly represent all those whom they represent, regardless of the similarities or dissimilarities between the elected officials and their constituents.

Measuring the efficacy of leadership is difficult and can often only be served through qualitative assessments of how values are shared and exemplified through leadership and action.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

Perception of civic activity with most impact by race/ethnicity

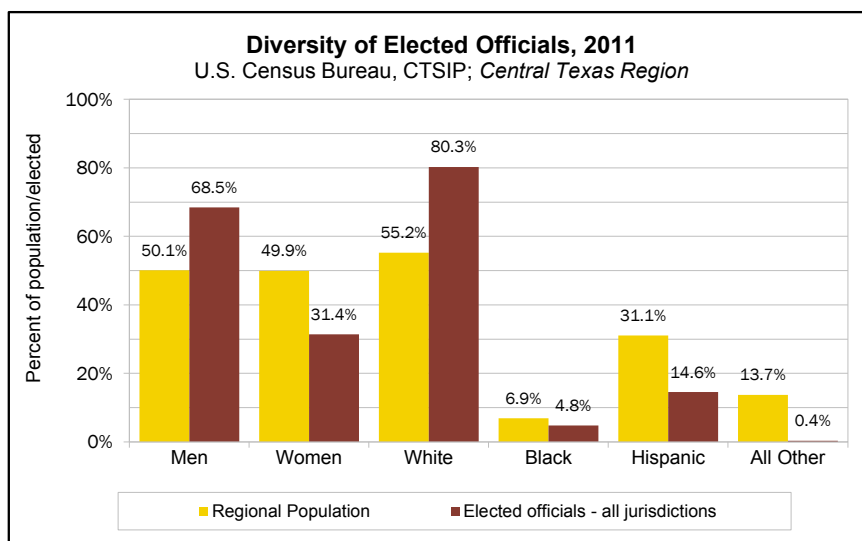
Perception of Who is Addressing Concerns about Future

SOURCES

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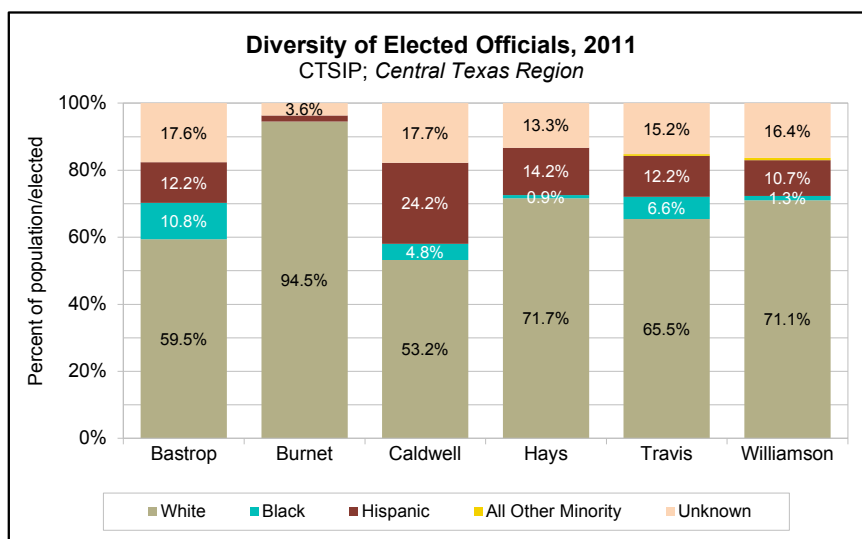
Local and State Government Elected Officials

- White men are still the most over-represented group among elected officials. Over the past ten years there has been little noticeable change in the diversity of elected officials by race/ethnicity or gender.
- Of all race/ethnicity groups, Hispanics are the most under-represented, despite a slight increase since 2004 (not shown).
- Women continue to be under-represented in elected office.



Local and State Government Elected Officials

- These same data by county show Caldwell County to have the most diversity among elected officials, despite the percentage of unknown race. This includes a Hispanic representation of 24%.
- The percentage of women in elected office (not shown) in 2011 varies from 20% in Burnet County to 38% in Travis County.



Note that if a state office represents multiple counties it is calculated for each applicable county.

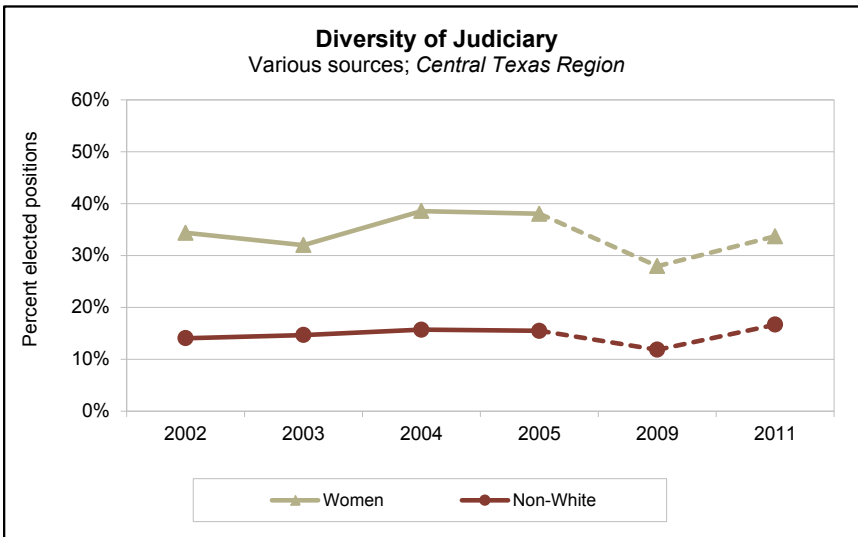
TREND

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ACTION NEEDED

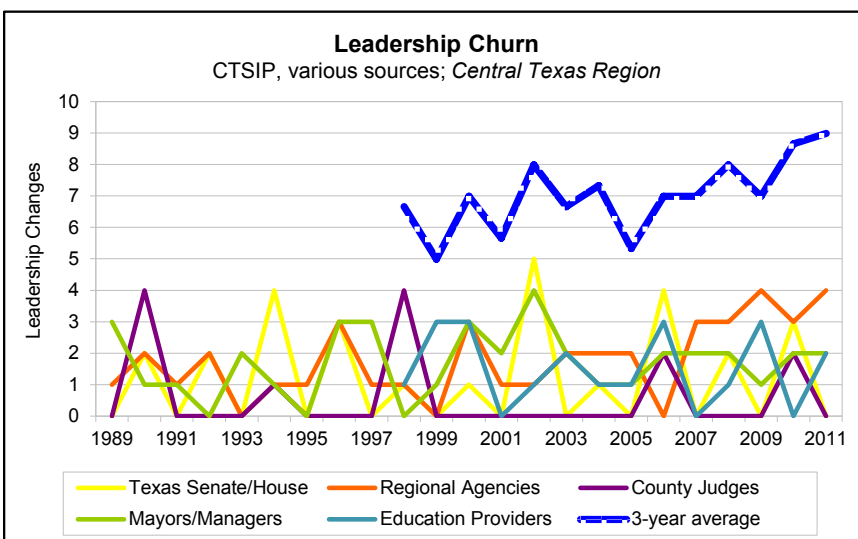
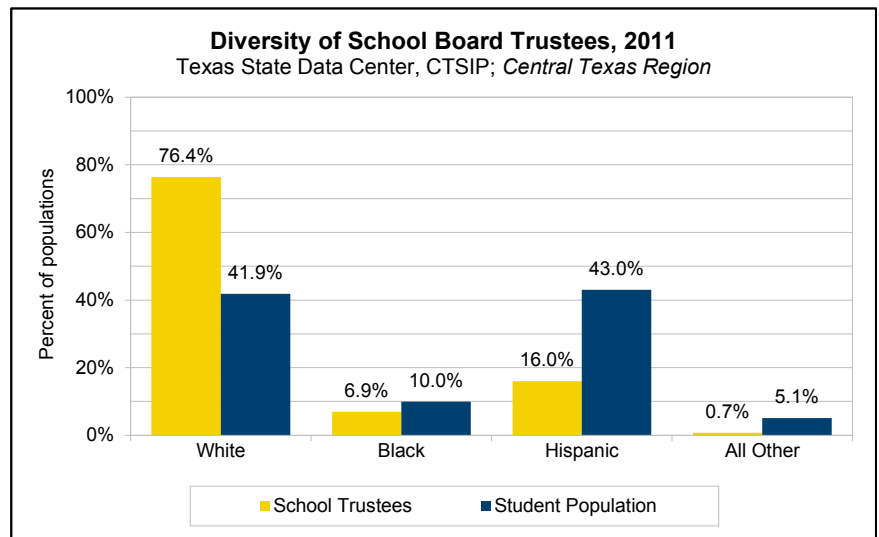


Local and State Judges

- About 17% of the elected judiciary is non-white, a slight increase from 2009, but overall a consistent trend despite the steady increase in the total number of positions.
- A third of the elected judiciary (not including municipal judges) is female, a slight increase from 2009 but lower than previous survey years.

School Board Trustees

- While the student population of the public school districts in Central Texas is more racially/ethnically diverse than the population as a whole, the make-up of trustees on the school boards does not reflect this diversity. While this does not speak directly to quality of representation, few environments are demographically changing as rapidly as the public school system and therefore in need of rapidly adapting leadership.



Leadership Turnover

- The individuals in leadership positions in Central Texas are constantly changing through term-limits, elections, retirement and other factors. Often the effect on policy and operations after a leadership change takes several years.
- The Central Texas region has a steadily increasing degree of leadership churn.
- *Note: Data accounts for turnover in education providers beginning in 1998.*

Race Relations

CURRENT STATE

While racial tension is declining in the workplace, Central Texans remain mixed about why and how to approach racial tension in the community.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texans demonstrate that we value diversity and respect each other.

CONTEXT

The history of our region, as well as our nation, includes deep division by race/ethnicity that has shaped land use, education, public safety and many other issues.

Efforts continue both to understand why such inequities persist, in our personal perceptions as well as a community, and how to resolve them.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

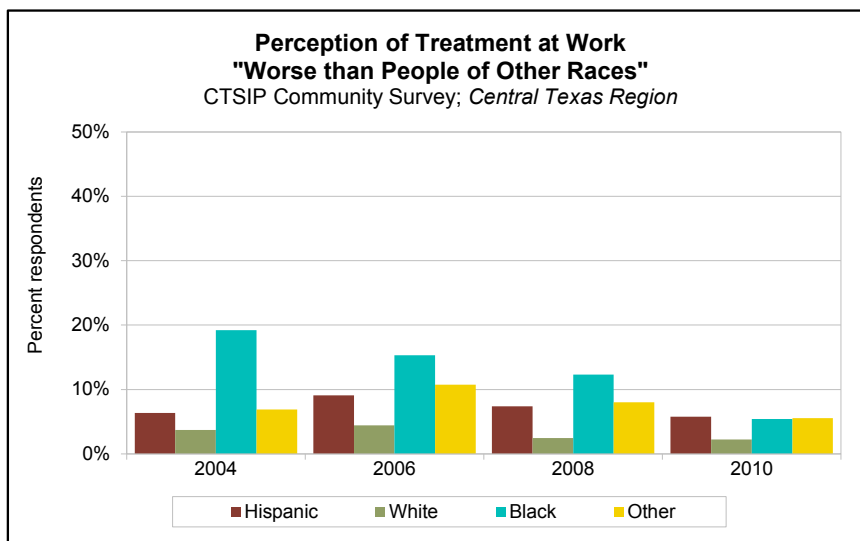
see *City of Austin African-American Quality of Life Scorecard*
see *City of Austin Hispanic Quality of Life Scorecard*

SOURCES

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Discrimination at Work

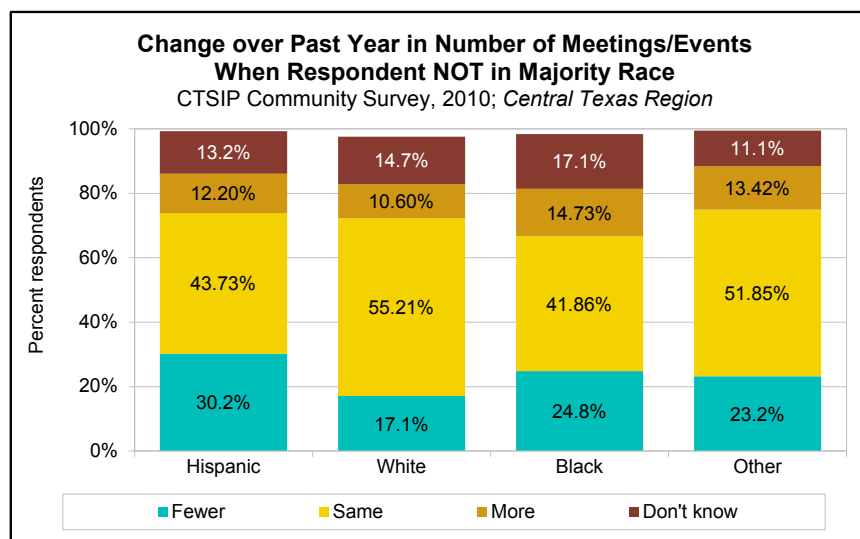
- In 2010, approximately 5% of African-American respondents perceived they were treated worse at work than those of other races, down from almost 20% in 2004. In 2010, 5% of Central Texans of any race/ethnicity perceived they were treated better than people of other races at work (not shown).



Survey Question: Within the past 12 months at work, do you feel you were treated worse than, the same as, or better than people of other races or ethnicities?

Mingling with Other Race/Ethnicities

- Just over 25% of non-White Central Texans have been in fewer settings in the past year where their race/ethnicity made up the majority of the audience. Events targeted at specific groups are one indicator of strength within these communities, but increasingly homogenous cultural events do not signal healthy race relations.



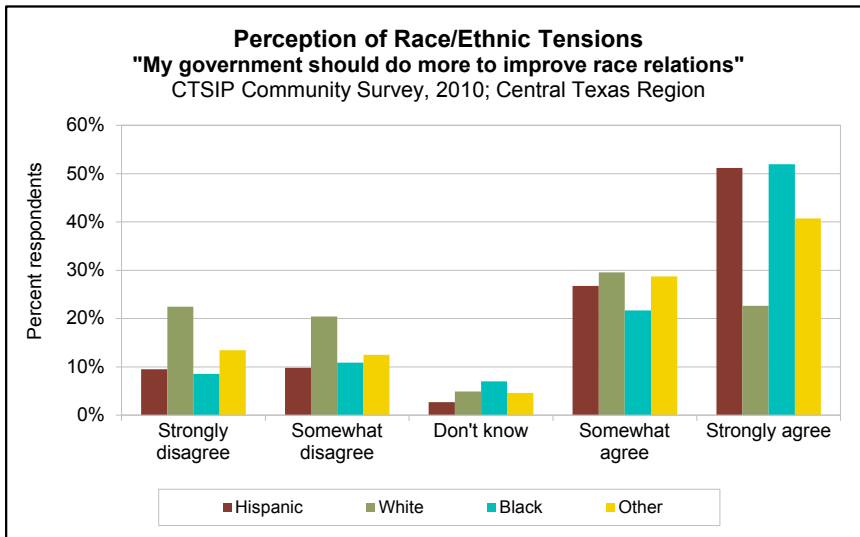
Survey Question: How many times in the past 30 days have you attended an event or activity, outside of work, where you were not part of the majority race/ethnicity in attendance? In the last 12 months, would you say that the number of these events is:



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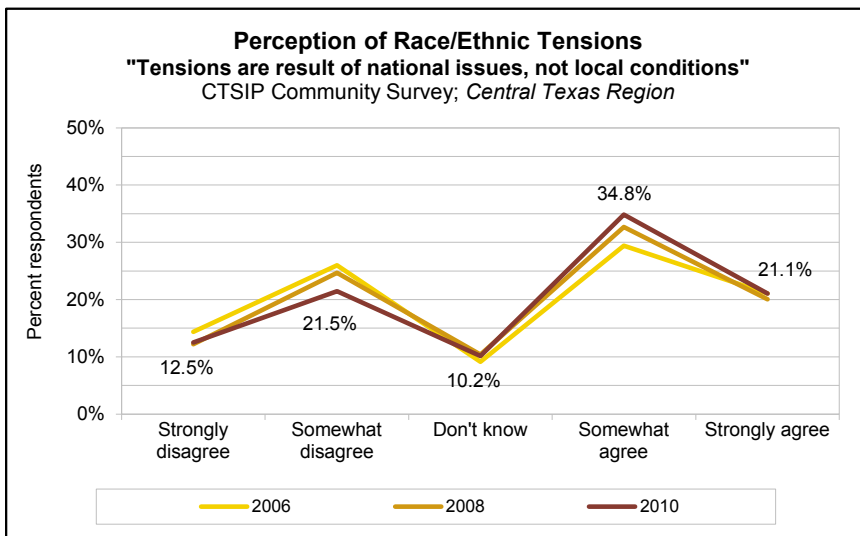
ACTION NEEDED



Racial Tension: Government Role

- Almost 60% of Central Texans believe their government should do more to improve race relations.
- Agreement is higher among Central Texas minorities.

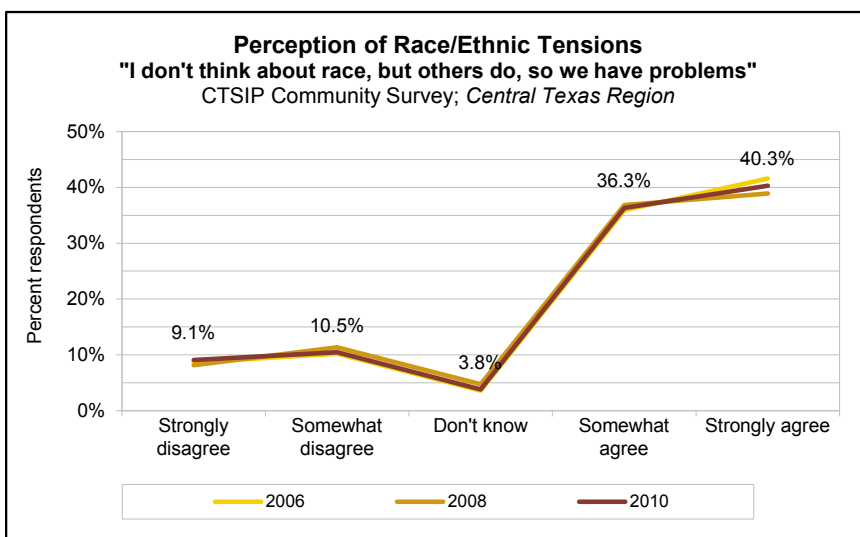
Survey Question: Agreement: My government should do more to improve race relations ...



Racial Tension: National or Local

- While just over 55% of Central Texans believe racial tension in their community is more a result of national issues than local conditions, the sentiment is not strong either way. A notable 10% of respondents are unsure the distinction can be made.
- There is a slight increasing trend toward seeing national factors as causing local tensions.

Survey Question: Agreement: Racial tensions are a result of big social and national trends rather than a result of local trends and conditions ...



Racial Tension: Not me

- Over 75% of Central Texans do not see their own perceptions of race as contributing to why racial tension and problems exist in their community.

Survey Question: Agreement: I don't think about people based on their race or ethnicity, but because others do, we have problems ...

Section Sponsor



Engagement

Philanthropy and Volunteerism

Participation in the Arts

Neighborliness

Civic Participation

Philanthropy and Volunteerism

CURRENT STATE

Contributing money is increasing steadily, while volunteering time declined over the last survey period.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texans are engaged in their communities and participate in civic processes.

CONTEXT

Many aspects of community and the incremental steps toward sustainability rely on individual commitments of time, money, and influence.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

Perception of Philanthropy as "Very Important"

Recent Philanthropy by Length of Residence

Percentage of Income to Charitable Giving

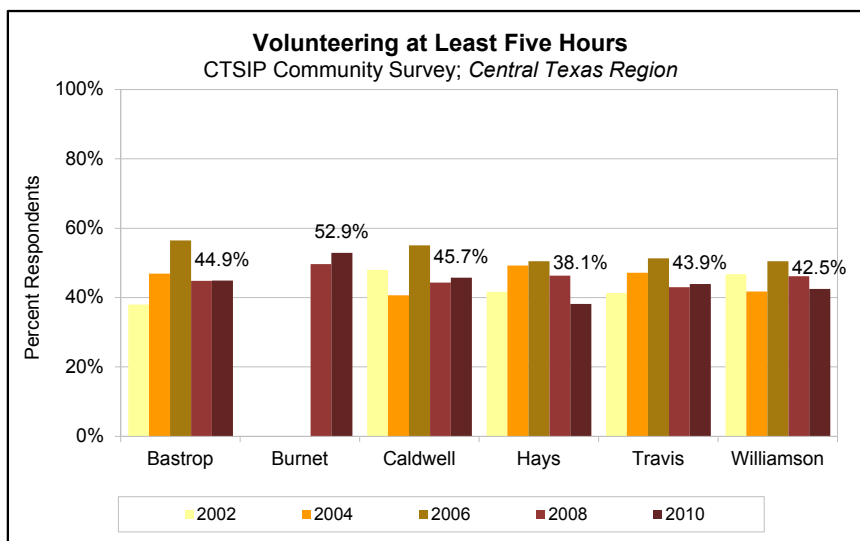
Registered Charitable Organizations

SOURCES

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Giving Time

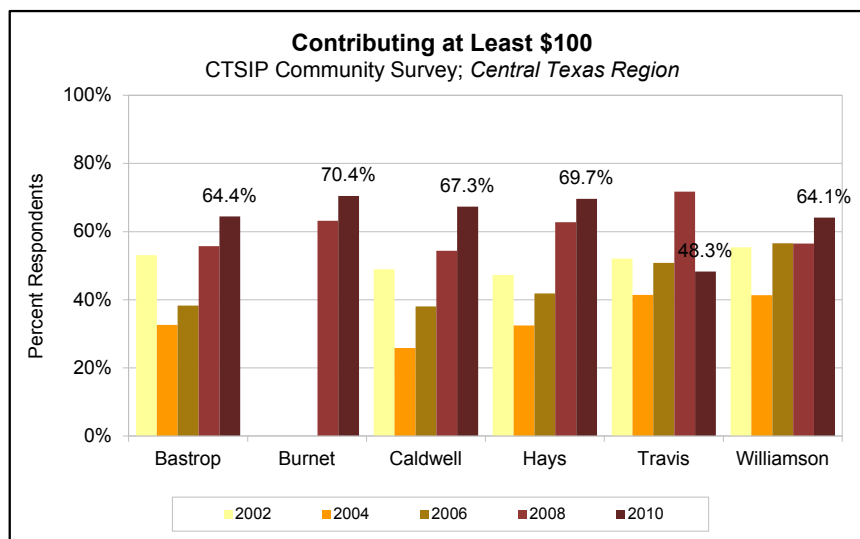
- While trends in volunteering vary slightly by county, they have remained consistently between 40% and 50% since 2002. After decreasing from 2006 to 2008, reported volunteering was relatively consistent between 2008 and 2010.
- *Note: CTSIP recently included Burnet County in its survey and research scope, so data preceding 2008 is unavailable.*



Survey Question: Over the last 2 months, how many hours altogether did you spend volunteering -- either to help people in need or to improve the quality of life in your community?

Giving Money

- In 2010, monetary donations continued to be more common than volunteering in every county. Financial contributions continued to increase from 2008 to 2010 in each county other than Travis, which saw a considerable drop.



Survey Question: Thinking about the total amount you have given to charitable programs or organizations over the course of the last year, would you say you have given . . .

TREND

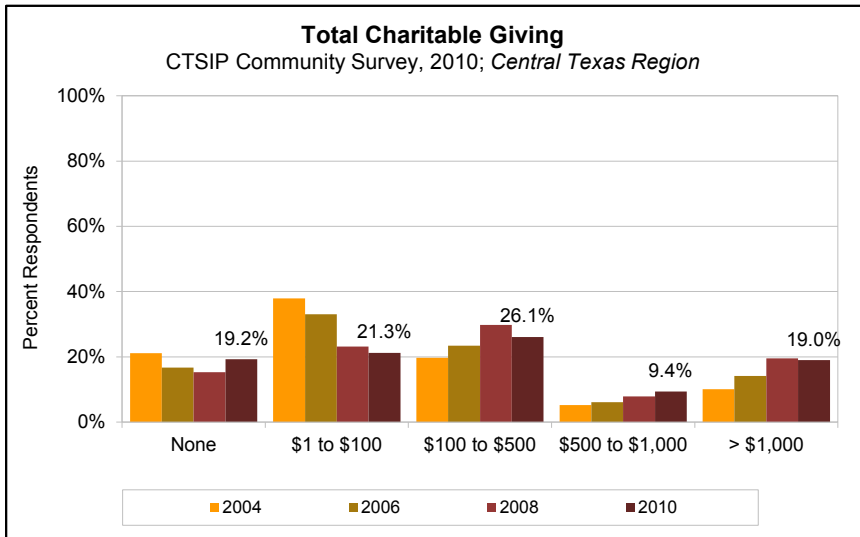
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DOING WELL



Giving More

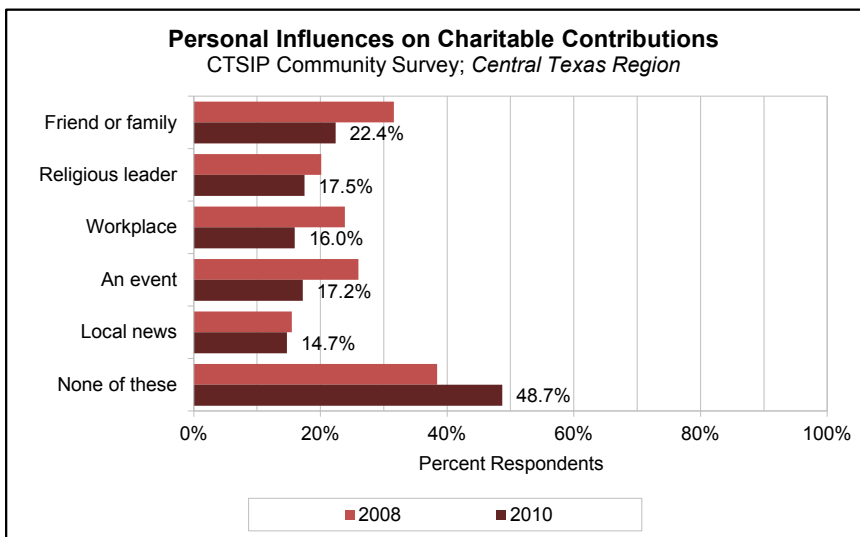
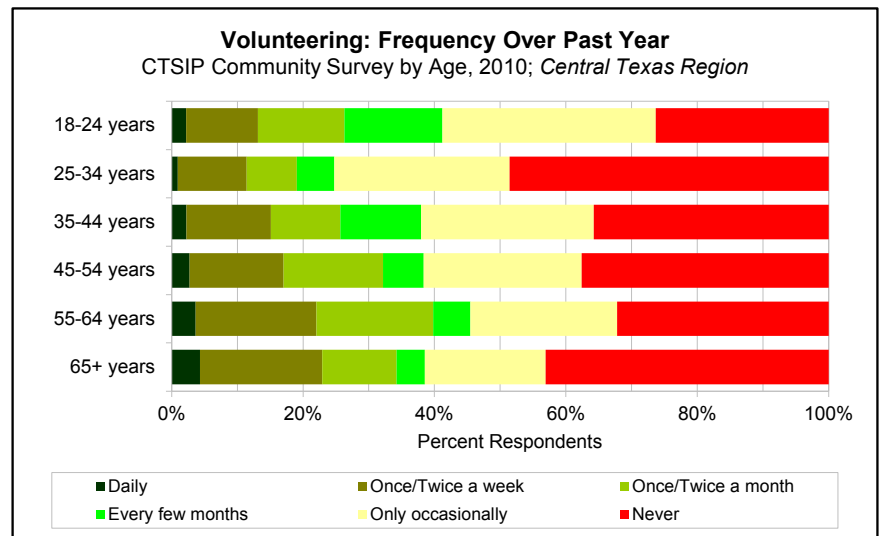
- Since 2004, the percent of people giving higher dollar amounts has increased. This may have been spurred by the *Chronicle of Philanthropy's* 2003 report that ranked Austin 48th out of the 50 largest American cities in per capita giving.

Survey Question: Thinking about the total amount you have given to charitable programs or organizations over the course of the last year, would you say you have given ...

Volunteering by Age

- The frequency of volunteering varies significantly by the age of the volunteer.
- While more than 40% of Central Texans ages 18 to 24 volunteer at least once every few months, just over half as many ages 25 to 34 volunteer this often.
- More than 20% of respondents over 55 years of age volunteer at least once or twice a week.

Survey Question: How often do you serve as a volunteer for charitable programs or organizations?



Influences on Giving

- Many different things help influence someone to contribute money to a charitable cause. In 2010, nearly 50% of respondents didn't associate with any of our survey choices, and influence from all categories decreased. Of the given choices, friends and family was the leading influence.

Survey Question: In the last year, have you made a charitable contribution after learning about an issue or need from any of the following?

Participation in the Arts

CURRENT STATE

Formal arts participation is declining slightly even as the perception of arts as an active part of a person's life appears strong.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas communities provide all people exceptional opportunities for and easy access to artistic and cultural activities of their choice.

CONTEXT

Access and exposure to cultural events have many benefits besides economic development. Active participation in the arts can spur personal creativity, enrich our social lives, and enhance overall well-being.

With the desire for a vibrant arts community comes the need to support local events, affordable housing options, and arts programs in the schools.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

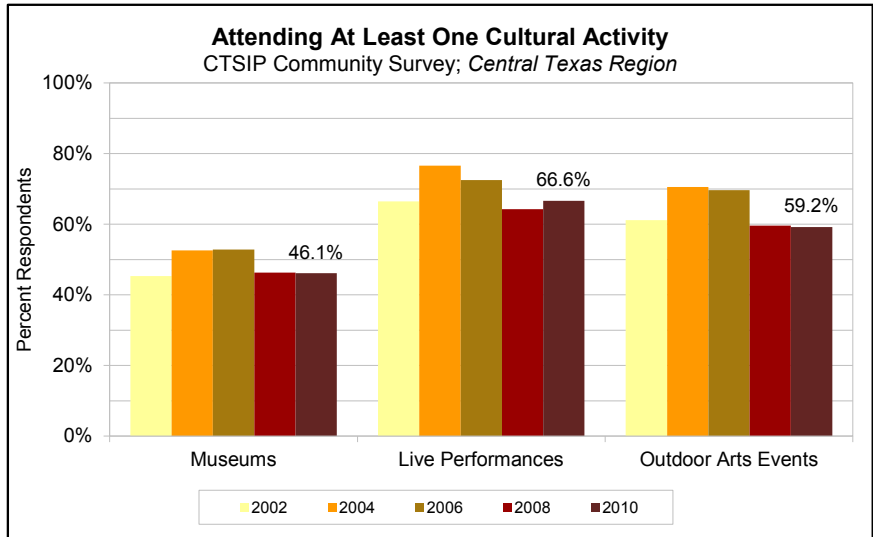
Perception of Quality of Cultural Activities

SOURCES

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Arts Attendance

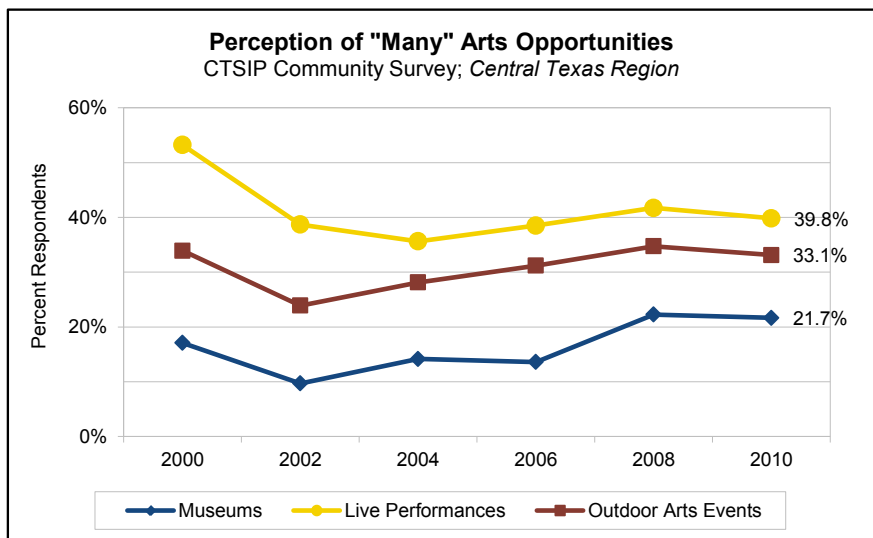
- Self-reported attendance of cultural activities surveyed by the CTSIP showed decreases from 2006 to 2008 and has remained relatively consistent since.
- Region-wide, attendance of live performances is down 10% since 2004.



Survey Question: During the last year, how many times did you attend a local museum/ local performance of live entertainment/ outdoor festival or special event focusing on arts or culture?

Arts Opportunities

- Region-wide, the perception of "many" arts opportunities was steadily increasing until a slight decrease in 2010. In 2008, as in all previous survey years, county urbanicity directly relates to "many" arts opportunities - ranging from 58% of Travis respondents to under 10% in Burnet and Caldwell counties.



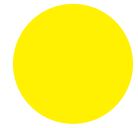
Survey Question: Think about the availability of the arts in your community. Do you think there are many, quite a few, a small number, or almost no opportunities to attend a local museum/ local performance of live entertainment/ outdoor festival or special event focusing on arts or culture.

TREND

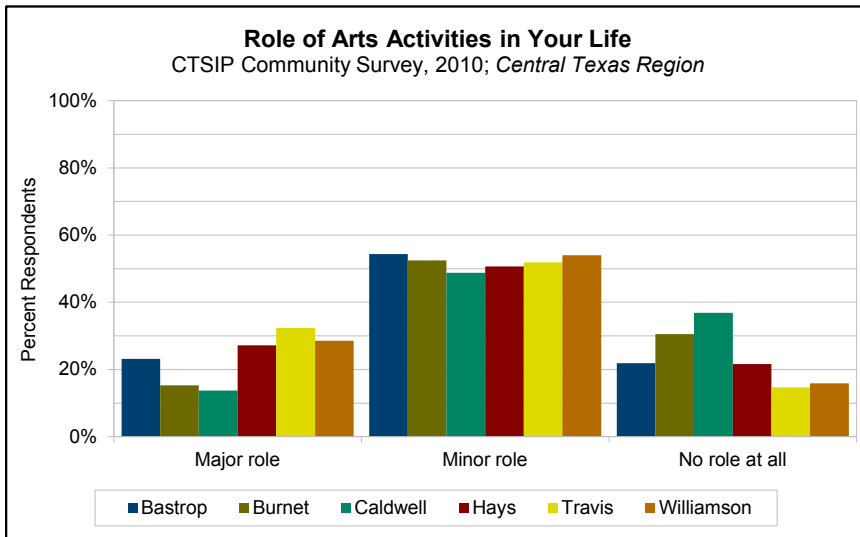
STATUS



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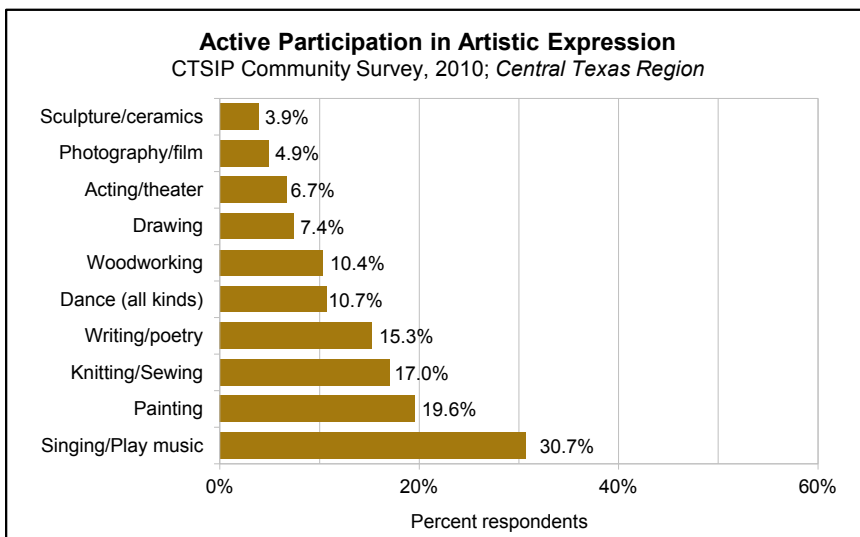
KEEP WATCH



Survey Question: Would you say arts activities play a major role, minor role, or no role in your life?

Personal Influence of the Arts

- In 2010, three of four Central Texans believe the arts play at least a minor role in their lives.
- Fewer respondents in Caldwell and Burnet counties indicated arts playing a major role in their life, and also a higher likelihood of arts having no role at all.



Survey Question: Do you actively participate in any forms of artistic expression such as acting, dance, painting, playing an instrument, woodworking, quilting or writing?

Arts Participation

- In 2010, just under 45% of Central Texans reported actively participating in some form of artistic expression with no statistical difference across counties or age groups.
- Over 30% of these cite their preferred form as singing or playing music.

Neighborliness

CURRENT STATE

In all, three of four Central Texans trust their neighbors, but this varies by income and race/ethnicity groups.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texans know their neighbors and can call on them for assistance if needed.

CONTEXT

Neighborliness, as measured in the CTSIP Community Survey by "trust," is inherently a subjective, qualitative issue. Trust is built many different ways, all of which involve some level of personal commitment to a formal relationship such as through a neighborhood association, business group, or church, or informal relationship through casual or virtual contact (fence post conversation, e-mail, web).

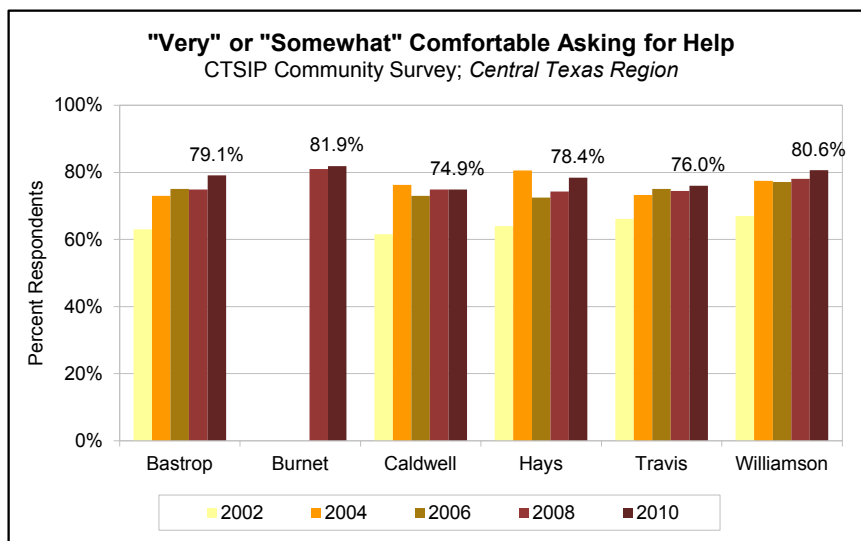
Trust and neighborliness is also directly affected by the real and perceived change of the neighborhood in response to economic forces, crime rates, and turnover (the churn of people moving in and out).

SOURCES

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Comfort Level

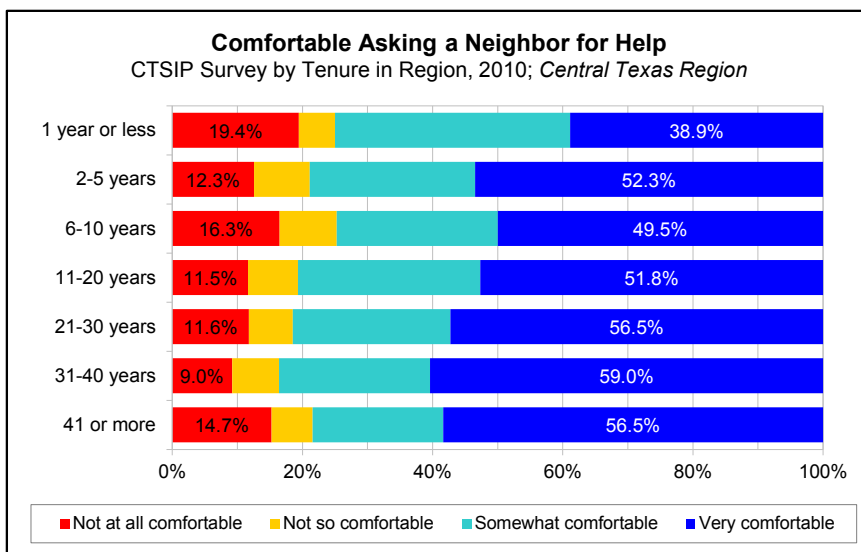
- The regional trend is continuing to improve - more than 75% of Central Texans are comfortable asking a neighbor for help. The gap between counties in any year has not changed since 2000; neighborliness is prevalent throughout the region.



Survey Question: Suppose you needed some kind of help or a small favor. How comfortable would you be asking one of your neighbors for help?

Comfort Level by Tenure in Central Texas

- Length of residence affects the degree of comfort people feel with seeking help from their neighbors. Those living here longer are more likely to be "very" comfortable.
- However, there is little variability by tenure among those "not at all" comfortable seeking help.



Survey Question: Suppose you needed some kind of help or a small favor. How comfortable would you be asking one of your neighbors for help?

TREND

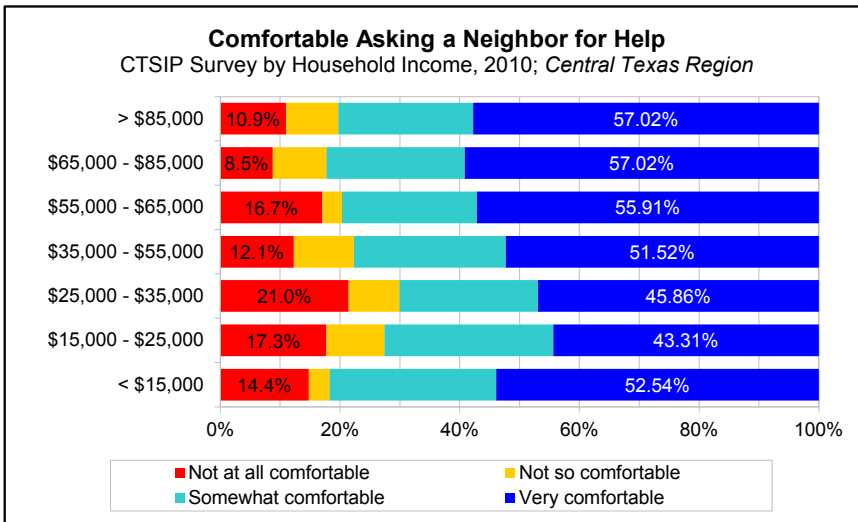


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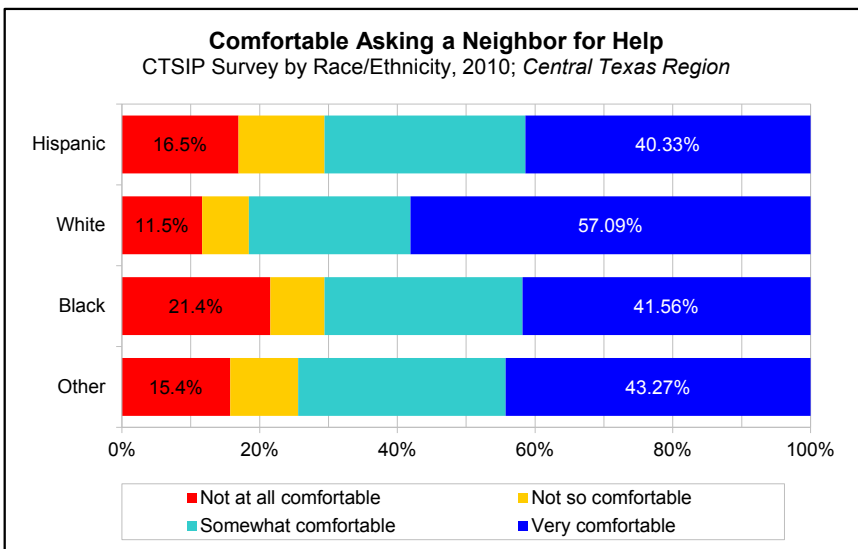
DOING WELL



Survey Question: Suppose you needed some kind of help or a small favor. How comfortable would you be asking one of your neighbors for help?

Comfort Level by Income

- The level of comfort varies relatively little across income groups, with the exception of households making \$15,000 to \$35,000 in annual income. Nearly 10% fewer of these households feel at least somewhat comfortable compared to other income groups.
- Somewhat surprising is the level of comfort of very poor households (less than \$15,000 in annual income). More than 80% feel at least somewhat comfortable asking for help. In 2008, almost 30% of the respondents in this group indicated that they were “not at all comfortable.”



Survey Question: Suppose you needed some kind of help or a small favor. How comfortable would you be asking one of your neighbors for help?

Comfort Level by Race/Ethnicity

- The level of comfort is not as strong for minority populations as it is for Whites; 21% of African Americans are “not at all comfortable” asking a neighbor for help, however this is down from 31% in 2008.

Civic Participation

CURRENT STATE

A majority of Central Texans engage in their communities in multiple ways beyond voting.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texans are engaged in their communities and participate in civic processes.

CONTEXT

Intervention in community processes drives sustainability. Engagement opportunities range well beyond voting booths and include public hearings, media campaigns, church, and even protests. They vary widely between different communities of interest and are necessary on almost any issue related to economy, safety, health, social equity, education, environment, or land use.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

Voter Turnout by Race/Ethnicity

Voter Registration

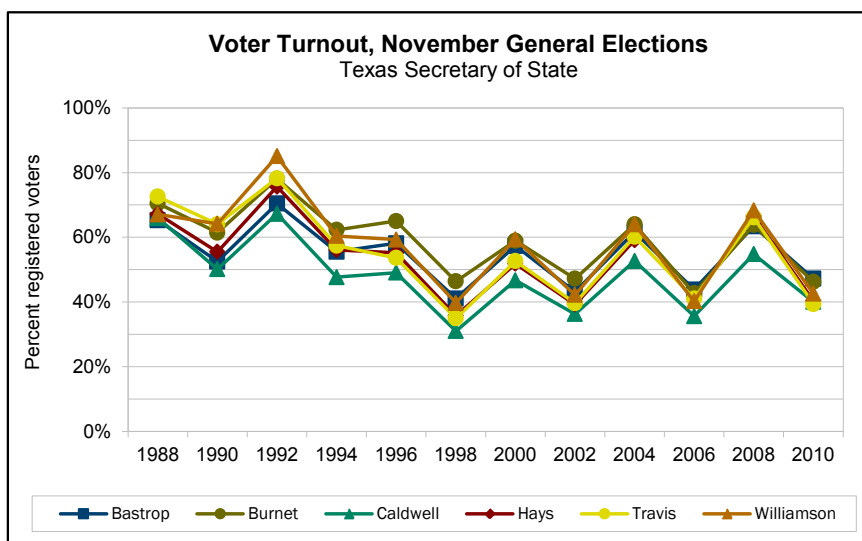
Self-Reported "Well-Informed"

SOURCES

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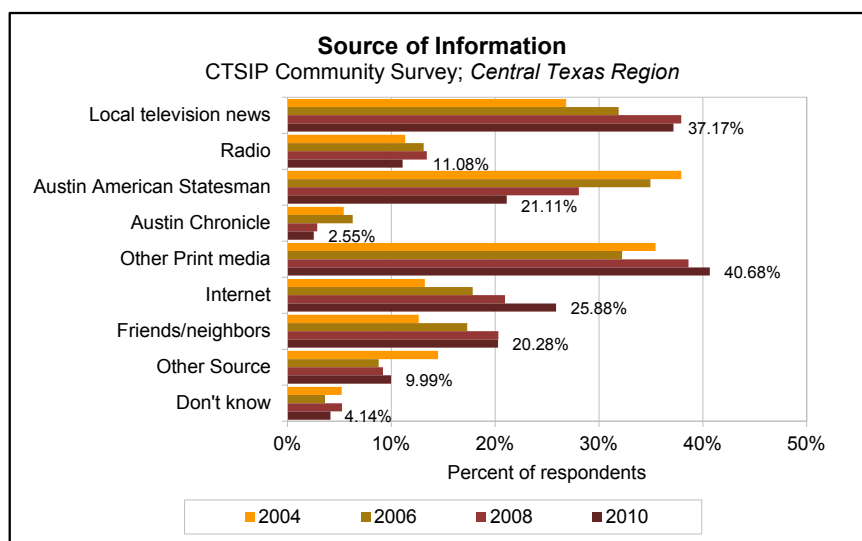
National Elections

- While still much lower than the recent peak turnout in the Presidential election of 1992 (when Ross Perot was on the ballot with Clinton and Bush), the 2008 General Election continued a gradual increase over the past decade in turnout.
- Turnout in the 2010 mid-term elections continued the rising trend.



Source of Information

- Central Texans are moving away from traditional sources of information on community issues, such as the Austin American-Statesman, and increasingly to the Internet, local TV news, and alternative print sources.



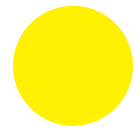
Survey Question: Where do you get your information about issues that concern you about the future of your community?

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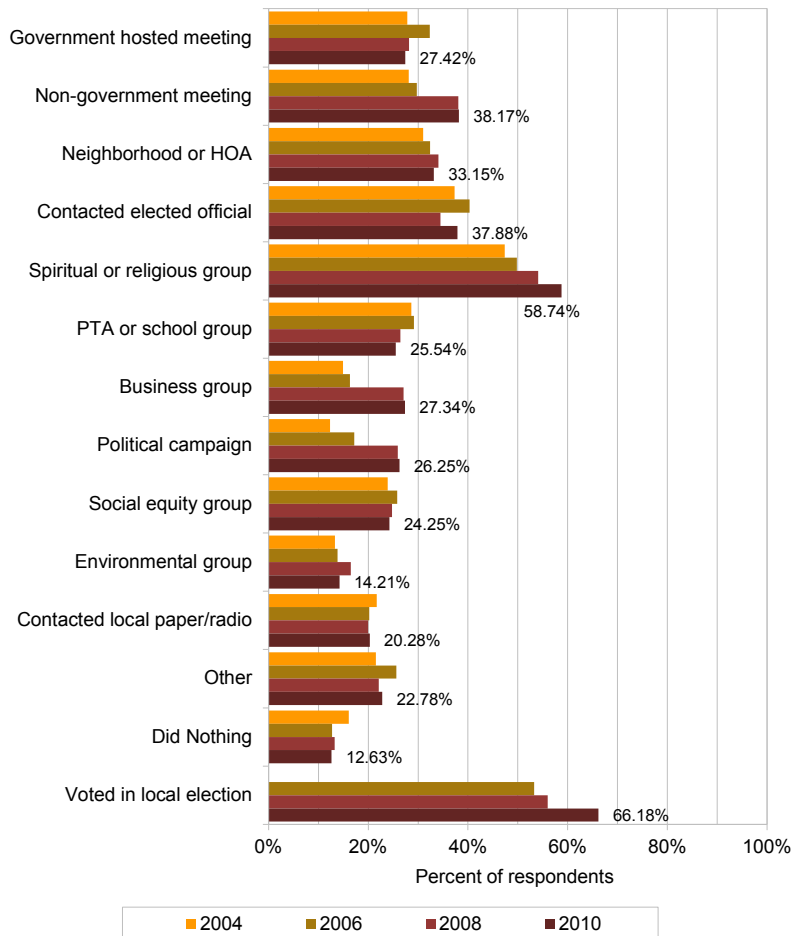
IMPROVING



KEEP WATCH

Active Participation

CTSIP Community Survey; Central Texas Region



Survey Question: In the last 12 months, tell me what types of local groups you have been involved in or actions you have taken as a result of your concern or interest in the future of your community:

Local Action

- In 2010, as in previous years, more than 85% of the regional population got involved in at least one activity at the local level in the past year as a result of their concern for the future of their community. While 13% did nothing, almost 60% participated in at least three activities.
- Participation in spiritual or religious groups has undergone a trend of steady increase since 2004, with nearly 60% of respondents participating in 2010.
- Central Texans report voting in local elections (at bottom of chart) at lower rates than they report voting in national elections. Self-reported voting (by a survey sample population) has consistently been shown to be dramatically greater than actual voting participation.

Section Sponsor



Economy

Household Income

Diversity of Economy

Exporting Industries

Labor Availability

Job Availability

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Household Income

CURRENT STATE

Family income growth remains flat, although average wages are steadily increasing. The recession has affected income growth dramatically in a few corners of Central Texas.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas is an area where workers are able to earn enough income to support their families.

CONTEXT

Median Family Income (MFI) is important not only as a gauge of internal regional economic health, but also because many federal and state programs related to affordable housing, child care support, health care, and public education are indexed to the MFI.

MFI is calculated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a region and is not sensitive to income distribution within a region.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

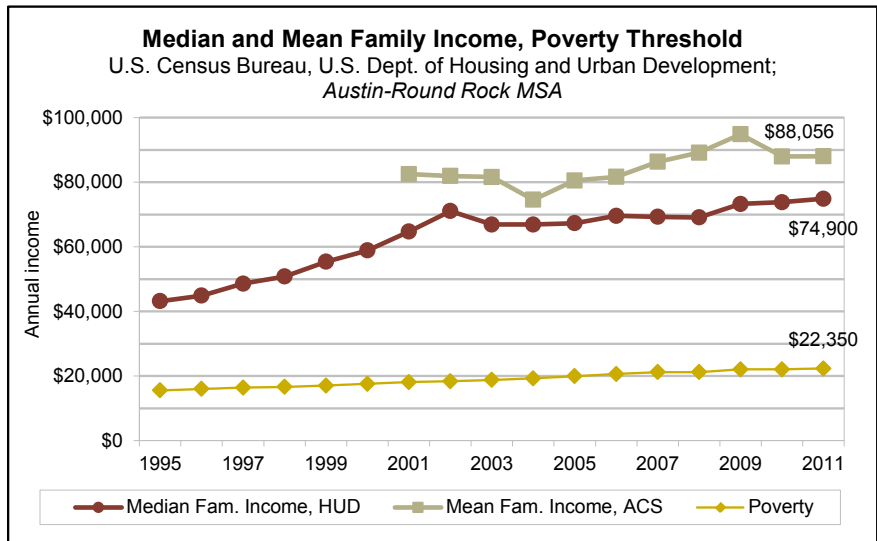
Low Income Families
Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch

SOURCES

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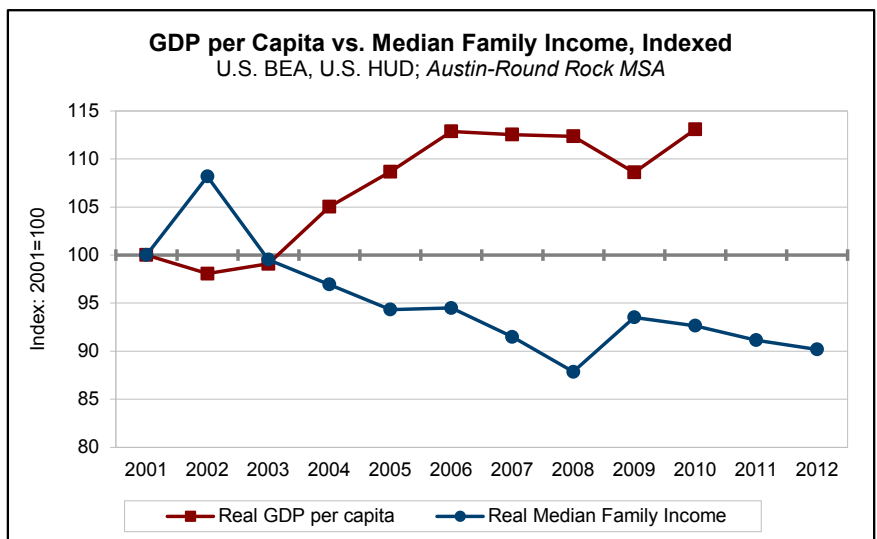
Family Income

- Through the 1990s, until the dot-com bust in 2001-2002, family income grew at a fast pace. Since 2002, *Median* Family Income (MFI) has remained relatively flat as our regional economy stabilized.
- *Mean* Family Income is the average income earned by all families. The mean income is usually more affected by the relatively unequal distribution of income which tilts toward the top. The gap has decreased since 2009, likely as a result of the latest recession.



Gap Between Income and Economic Growth

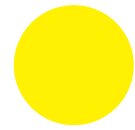
- After adjusting for inflation, MFI for the Central Texas region has decreased since 2002, while real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita has increased (indexed for comparison).
- While the economy is 'growing,' the benefits of this growth haven't been proportionately realized by families in Central Texas.



* Note: Regional GDP is most recent data available.

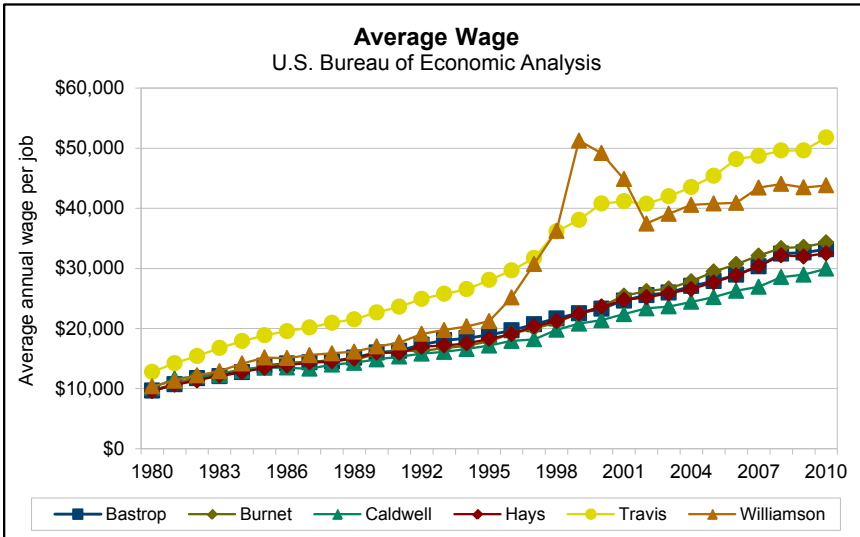
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KEEP WATCH

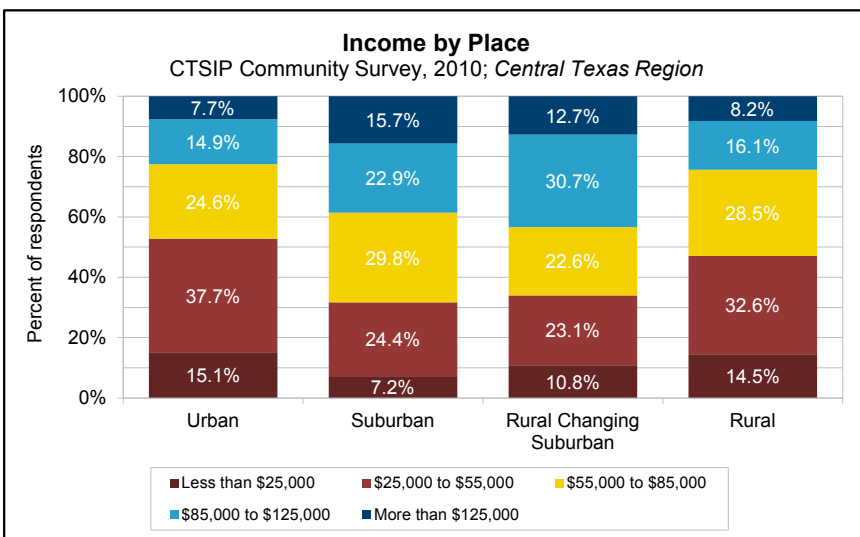
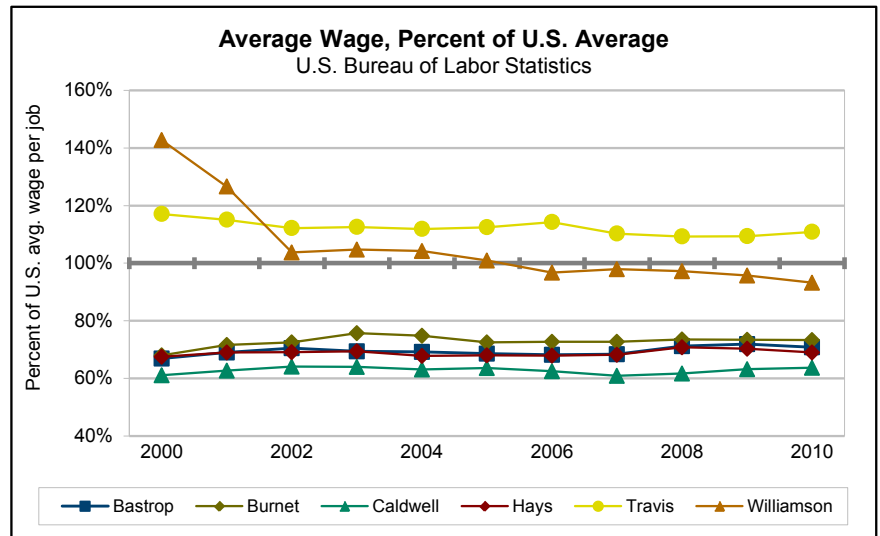


Wages

- Average wages continue to grow steadily throughout the region.
- Travis County wages are growing at a faster rate than surrounding counties.
- The dot-com boom and bust dramatically affected average wages in Williamson County.

Relative Wages

- Wages in Travis County are consistently above U.S. average wages.
- In recent years, wages in Williamson County have fallen below the U.S. average.
- Wages in Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell and Hays counties are lower than the U.S. average, a general trend in Texas non-urban counties.



Income by Urbanicity

- Approximately 40% of respondents from suburban settings reported incomes greater than \$85,000, compared to about 20% of respondents living in urban or rural locations.

Diversity of Economy

CURRENT STATE

While our economy recovered quickly after the dot-com bust, it did not structurally change. Our economy was more resilient through the recent recession.

IDEAL STATE

The Central Texas economy is diverse enough to minimize the negative effects of cyclical downturns and changing market conditions.

CONTEXT

Firms in every industry have been affected by the recent recession. While major employers that are spread across several regions may be more able to weather a recession, small businesses tend to be more local in nature and more vulnerable to regional trends in housing affordability, health insurance, land use and transportation.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

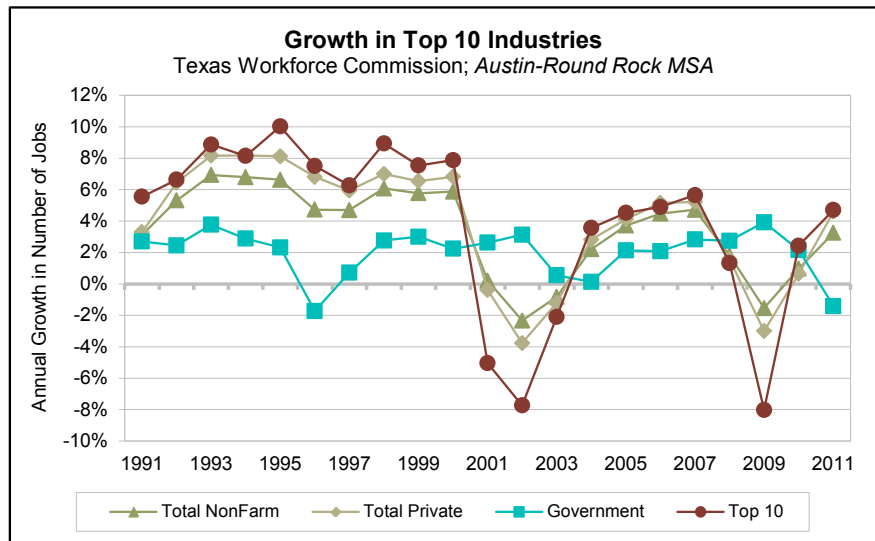
Percentage of Sales Tax Permits Locally Held

SOURCES

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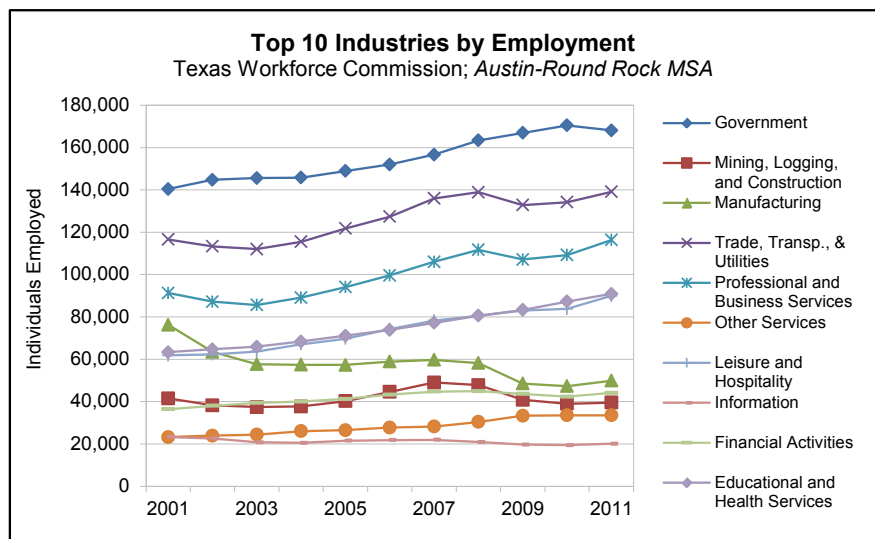
Growth in Major Industries

- The Top 10 Central Texas industries (relatively unchanged in a decade) bore the brunt of the downturn in 2001, but rebounded with several years of increasing growth before another sharp decline beginning in 2007 at the outset of the most recent recession.
- Government employment is a strength for any capital city - the reliability of steady growth in state government and related institutions stabilizes the Central Texas region.



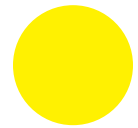
Top 10 Industries

- Within the Top 10 industries, employment in government, educational and health services, financial activities, and hospitality have been relatively unphased by the recession.
- Manufacturing and information technology are the only sectors in the Top 10 industries to decline over the past decade.



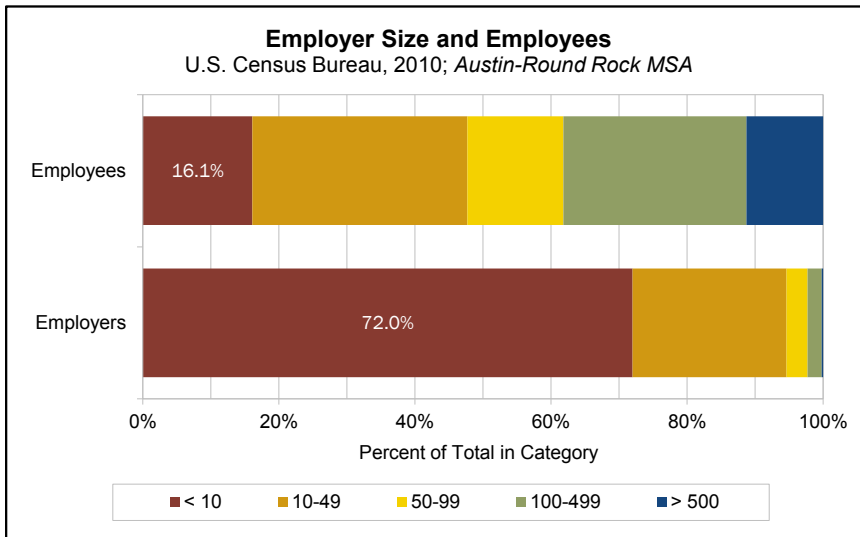
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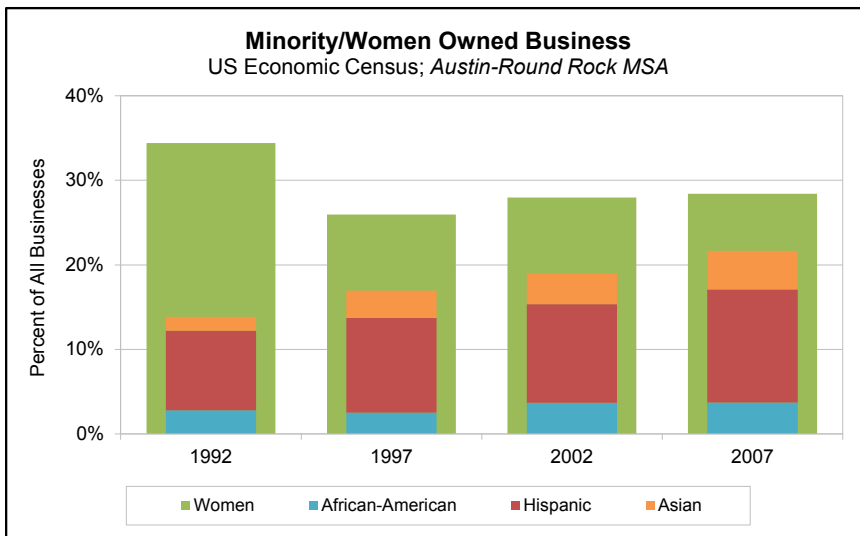
IMPROVING

KEEP WATCH



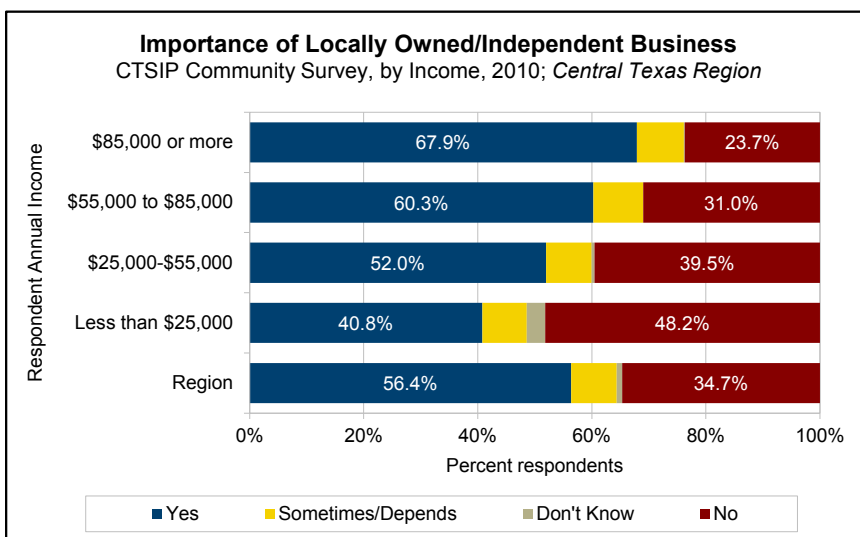
Employer Size

- The total number of employers in Central Texas in each size class steadily increases each year. In 2010, most employers (72%) had fewer than 10 employees.
- However, only 16% of employees work for these employers. Most employees work for mid-size employers.



Minority Owned Business

- The percent of women-owned businesses in Central Texas increased less between 2002 and 2007 than it did the previous five years.
- The percent of non-White owned business has been steadily growing since 1992. The Austin and Dallas regions lag well behind the Houston and San Antonio regions in minority business ownership (not shown).
- *Note: 2007 data is the most recent available. The 2012 Economic Census will be conducted in late 2012 and data will be available beginning in 2013.*



Support for Local Businesses

- More than 55% of Central Texas respondents indicated that it mattered to them whether a business is locally owned and independent.
- Nearly a third of those who choose to patronize local businesses over large chains do so because they want to support their community (not shown).
- Residents with lower incomes reported a lower priority for local businesses, where goods are often less affordable than at the larger chain stores.

Survey Question: Does it matter to you if a business is locally owned and independent?

Exporting Industries

CURRENT STATE

Our primary exporting industries in the high-tech manufacturing sector recovered quickly from the current recession.

IDEAL STATE

Job growth in key primary, or basic, industries continues to bring new dollars into Central Texas.

CONTEXT

Exporting industries tend to generate both regional costs and benefits as well as inter-region competition. Coordinating policies and incentives across local levels to produce a truly collaborative economic framework for every municipality, county and school district is challenging to design and implement, much less balance with natural resource availability and equity trade-offs.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

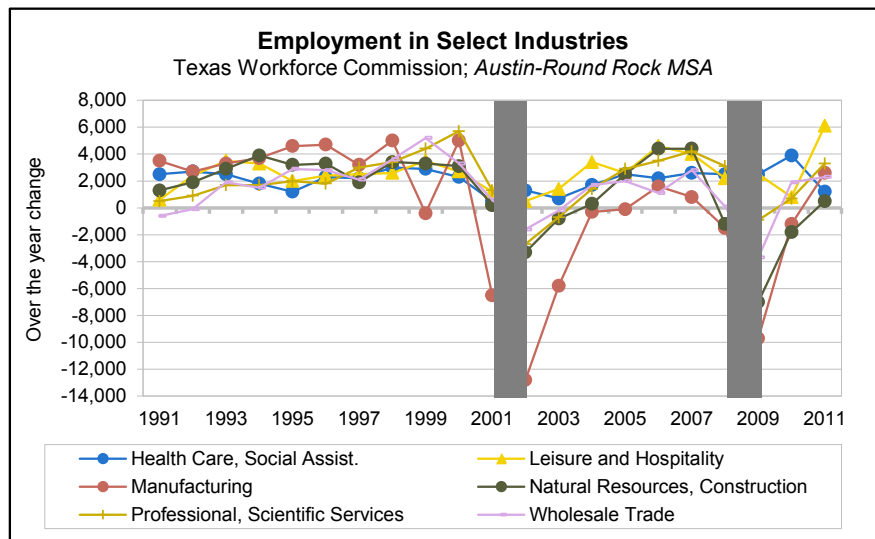
Shift-share Quotients

SOURCES

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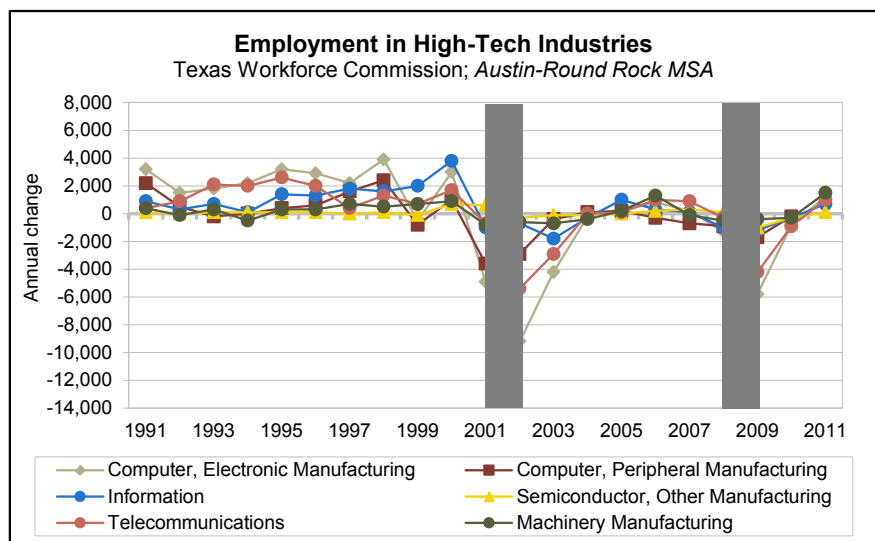
Key Industries

- The same industries that sharply declined in 2001 reported negative growth again in 2008, with construction-related employment even more impacted.
- The trajectory of employment numbers has improved since 2009, with all sectors reporting positive growth in 2011.



High-Tech Industries

- The core private industry sector for the Austin region, high-tech related industries (almost all within the Manufacturing category above), has been quickly bouncing back to positive growth since the recent recession.



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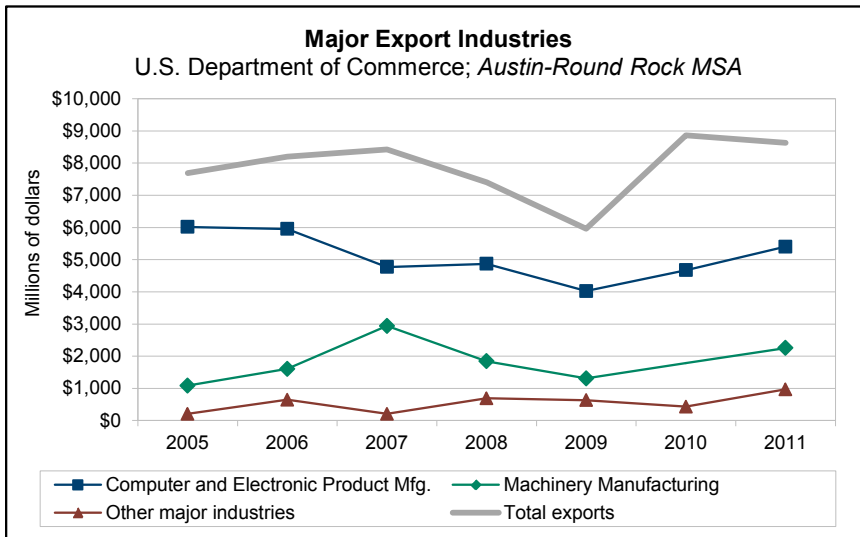


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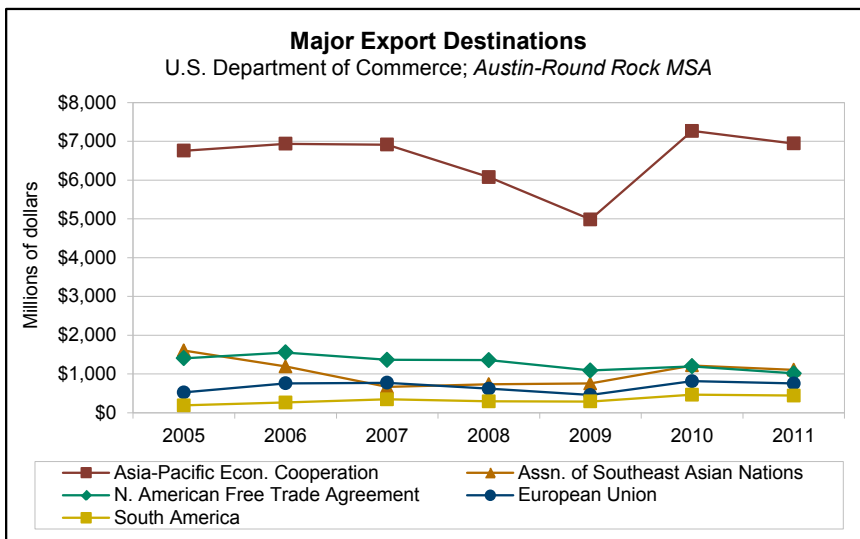


DOING WELL



Exports by Commodity

- Total exports have bounced back since declining during the latest recession.
- Computers and electronics, Central Texas' top export industry, gained over \$1.3 billion in exports from 2009-2011.
- In 2010, exports made up 10.5% of Central Texas GDP and supported 58,000 jobs in the region, according to a Brookings report.
- *Note: Some data is withheld for disclosure reasons.*



Export by Destination

- Goods from Central Texas, by dollar value, are primarily exported to Asia for further processing and assembly.
- Asian markets were the primary driver for the 2010 increase in exported goods from Central Texas.
- In 2010, the top five export markets for semiconductors were China, Malaysia, Mexico, Korea and Taiwan, according to a Brookings report.
- *Note: World destinations based on political, economic, and geographic groupings by U.S. Dept. of Commerce.*

Labor Availability

CURRENT STATE

As during the dot-com bust, even as job growth declined in 2008-09, labor force growth remained steady.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas has a diverse, well-trained labor supply that is in balance with employer needs.

CONTEXT

The labor force is made up of individuals who base their choices on a broader set of factors than just job availability - the affordability of a region, the perception of access to opportunities, and quality of life.

In the global economy, regions sell the connections between their emerging industries and what makes their region attractive to the labor force to fill jobs in those industries.

Incorporating sustainability into this pursuit includes training current residents to be able to take emerging jobs such that the region does not become dependent on new workers moving in.

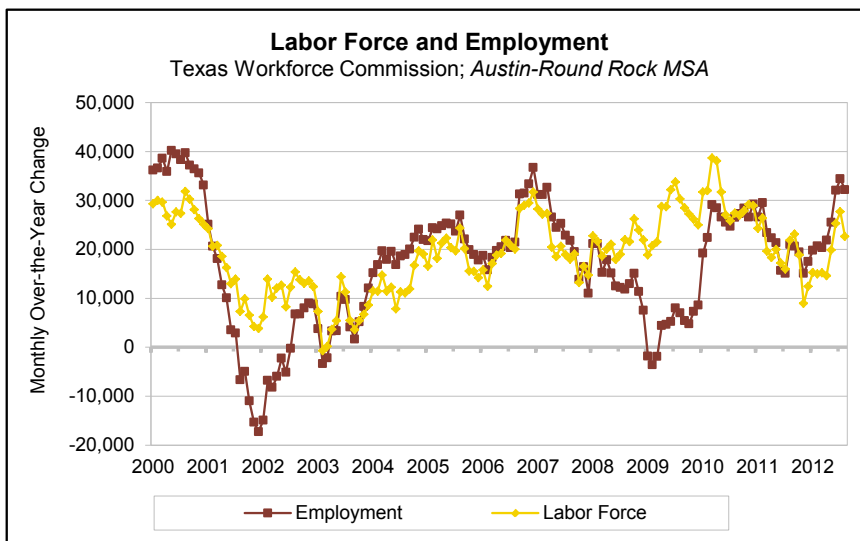
ADDITIONAL MEASURES

Skills lacking in Entry-Level Applicants

SOURCES

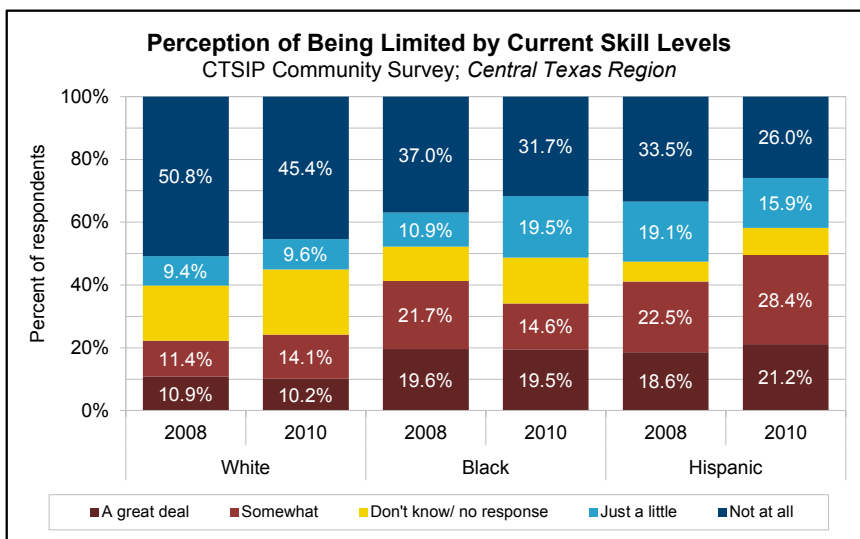
Regional Labor Force and Employment

- Despite erratic job growth in Central Texas - in concert with national downturns - the civilian labor force has grown every month except one (February 2003) for almost 15 years.
- Trends through the last two recessions show the Central Texas region remains attractive to workers that are able to migrate to areas of opportunity during large economic downturns.



Perception of Personal Skills and Opportunities

- Personal confidence in skill levels relative to desired employment decreased between 2008 and 2010 for every race/ethnicity.
- Of all 2010 respondents, 19% felt at least “somewhat” limited by their skill level. A greater share of minorities feel this way, including nearly half of Hispanics.



Survey Question: To what extent would you say that your current skill levels or education limit your ability to have the kind of job or position you'd like to have within the next 5 years?

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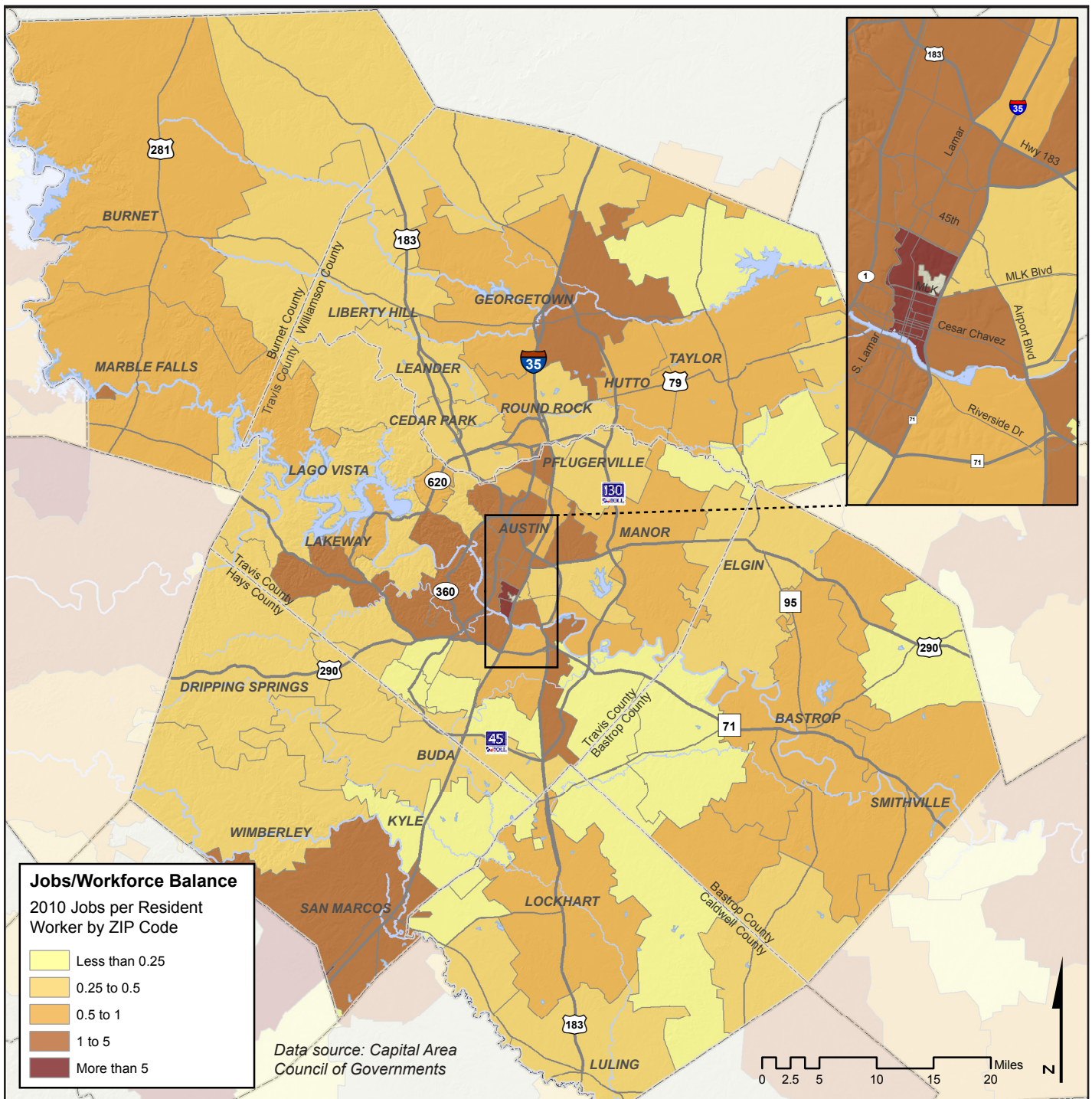
 IMPROVING

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 DOING WELL

Proximity to Work

- This map shows the number of jobs per resident worker in each ZIP code, reflecting the opportunities for employment in close proximity to home. This is a major component of “housing-jobs balance” and an important indicator that not only highlights economic issues but also land use efficiency and mobility.



Job Availability

CURRENT STATE

Unemployment climbed to record highs across Central Texas during the recent recession, and has persisted at high levels.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texans have satisfactory job opportunities.

CONTEXT

Because the greatest job growth is typically in low-paying occupations, regions interested in sustainability must plan for growing disparities in social equity. The difficulty for any region is not just in how to attract more primary jobs, but also to understand and plan for secondary job workers' needs for affordable child care, health care, housing, and transportation.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

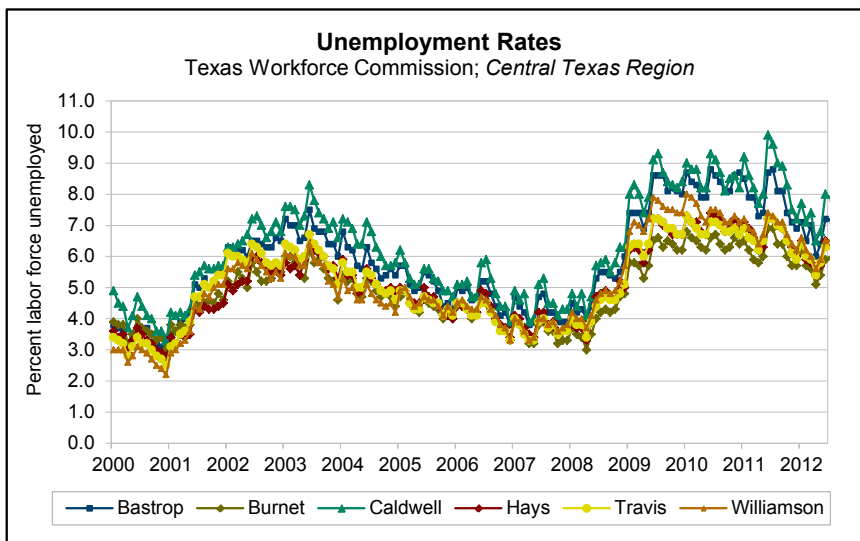
- Perception of Job Skills by Race/Ethnicity
- Help Wanted Index
- Employment by Race/Ethnicity
- Distance to Work

SOURCES

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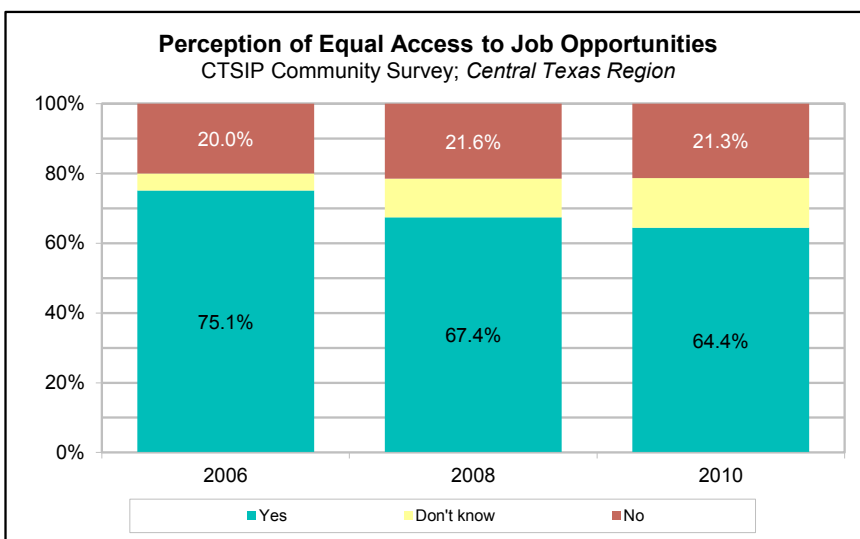
Unemployment Rate by County

- Unemployment spiked following the economic crisis of 2008, and rates in Central Texas continue to be high. Rates in Bastrop and Caldwell counties have risen higher than surrounding counties.
- As of August 2012, the Austin-Round Rock MSA unemployment rate was 5.9%, down from 7.1% one year earlier. Overall, Central Texas is faring better than the state and the nation, which have unemployment rates of 7.0% and 8.2%, respectively.



Perception of Equal Access to Jobs

- Continuing a 2008 trend, fewer people believed they had equal access to job opportunities as others with similar skills in 2010, likely due to reduced employment prospects since the recession.



Survey Question: Compared to other people in our region with the same education, skills, and interests that you have, do you feel you have equal opportunities to get the kind of job you'd like to have?

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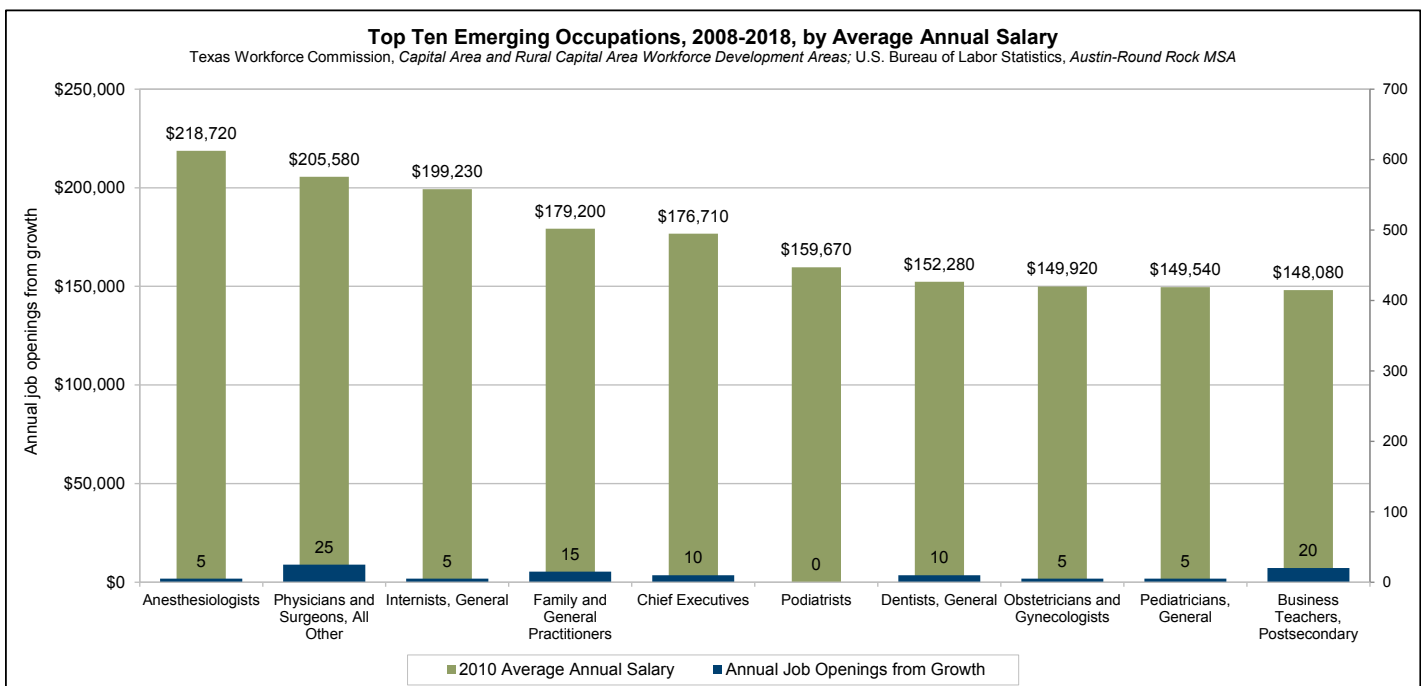
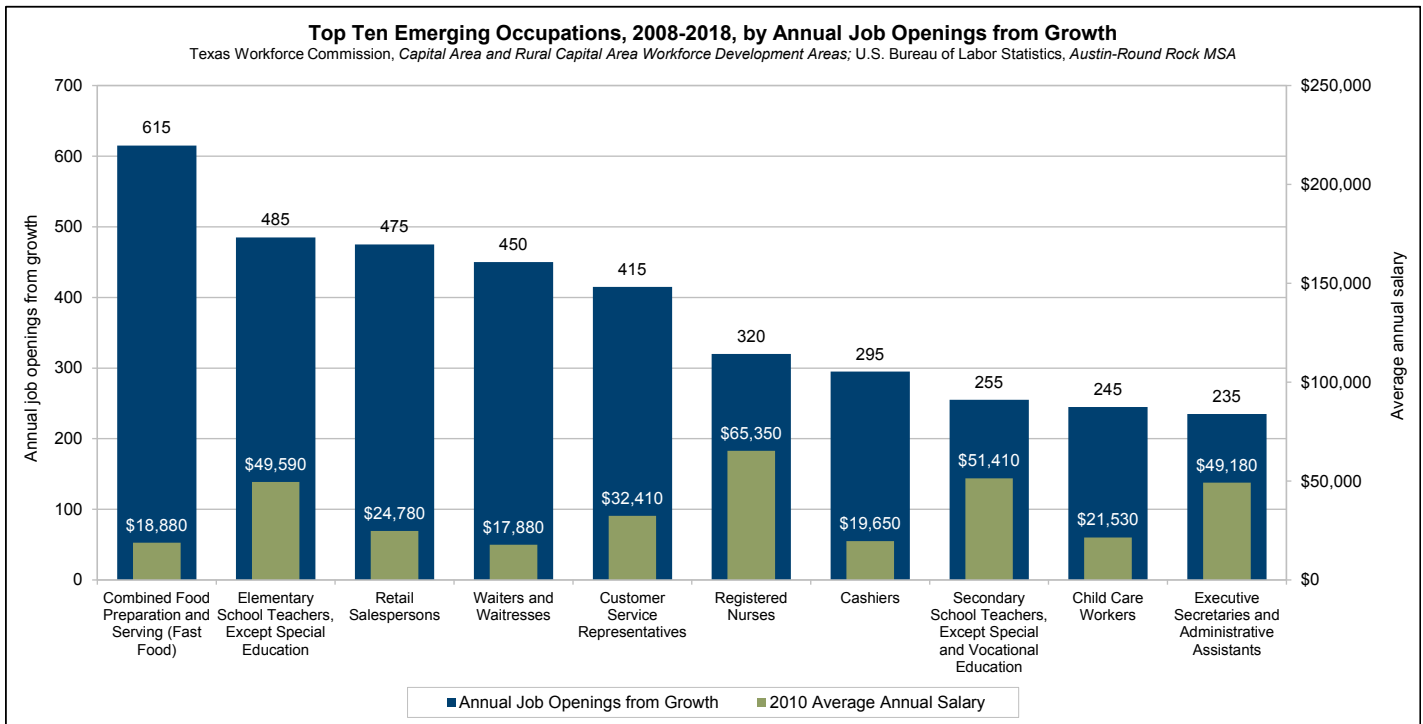
WORSENING



ACTION NEEDED

Emerging Occupations

- The charts below show emerging occupations for Central Texas, ranked first by the total annual number of projected new jobs created in that occupation, and then by average annual salary. Economic development efforts typically focus on high-paying, prominent industries (“primary” or “key” industries and occupations), yet the majority of employment growth is typically in secondary occupations that follow or result from the growth in primary occupations. Secondary occupations are often lower paying than primary jobs.



Entrepreneurship and Innovation

CURRENT STATE

The current recession has significantly slowed, but not halted, entrepreneurial activity.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas is a region where entrepreneurship and innovation flourish.

CONTEXT

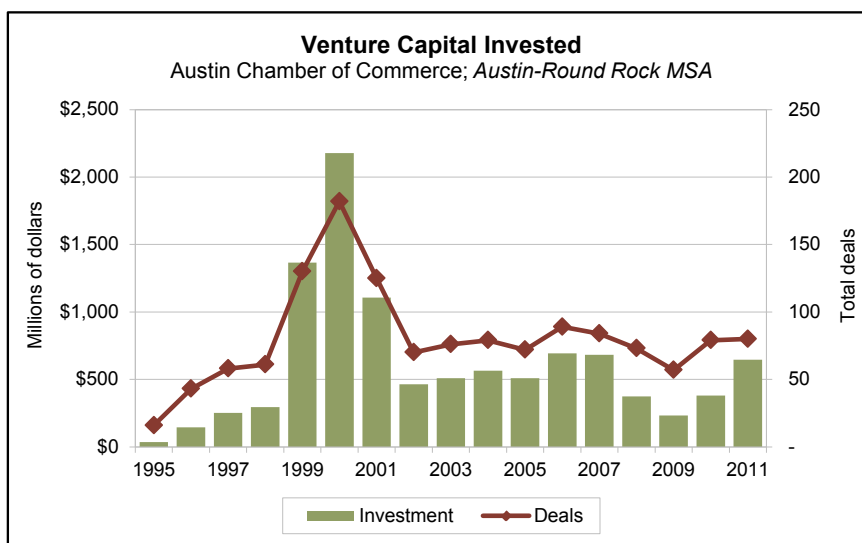
Through history, human persistence and ingenuity have proven capable of solving the most intractable problems facing each generation. The achievement of sustainability, at every scale from household to globe, will rely on the creativity of individuals both in invention – such as improving the efficiency of gas-electric cars – and lifestyle – such as actually buying a gas-electric car.

SOURCES

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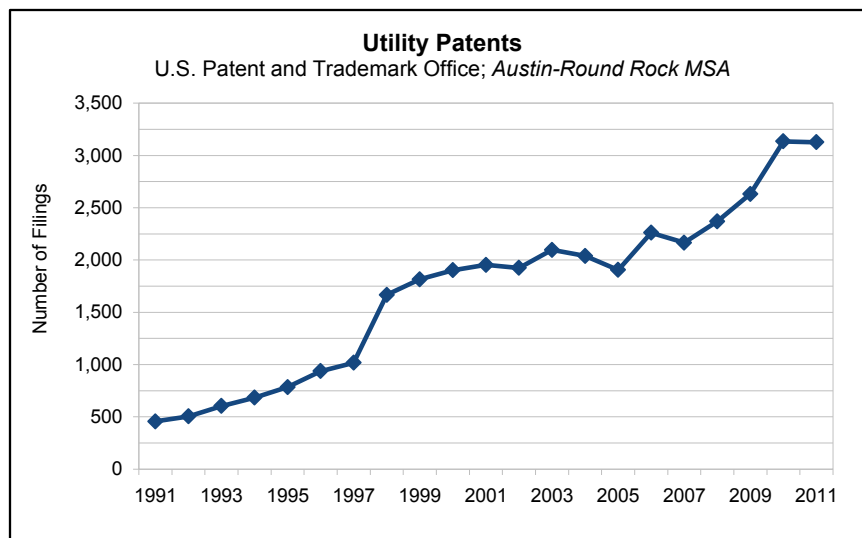
Investment in Ideas

- Venture capital investment drives entrepreneurship and is an enabler of start-ups, funding innovative new ideas and economic growth.
- While still a relatively small region for venture capital, Central Texas has seen at least 60 major investments a year since the mid-1990s.
- While hurt by the latest recession, both the number of deals and amount of money invested were increasing in 2011.



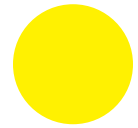
Patent Activity

- As with venture capital investment, the steady increase in patent activity suggests a solid base of innovation in Central Texas.
- Patent activity has accelerated in recent years.
- Much of this patent activity can be attributed to IBM, which employs 6,300 Austin residents and is one of the top patent filers in the nation.



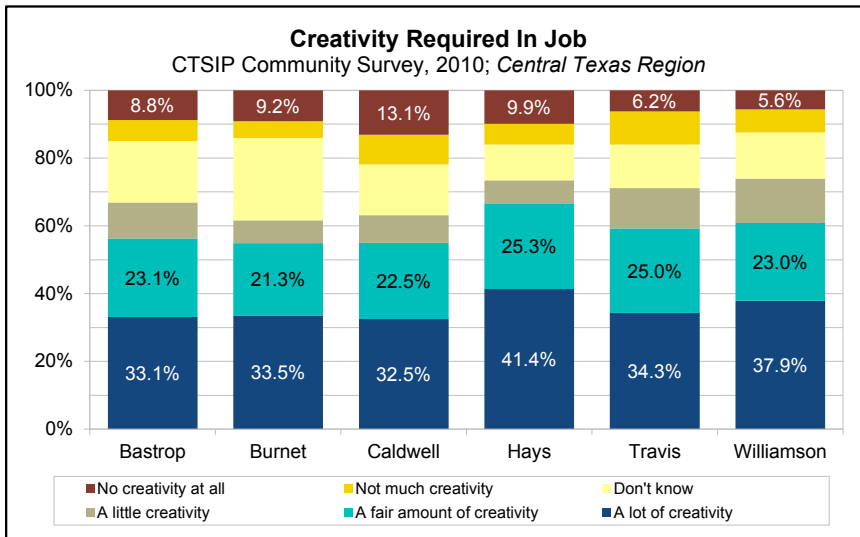
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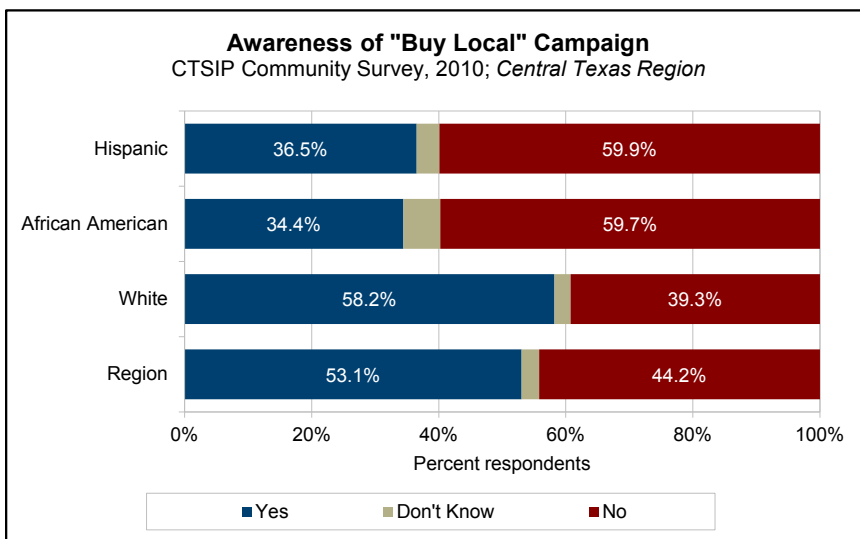
KEEP WATCH



Creativity on the Job

- In 2010, almost 60% of Central Texans reported their job requires “a fair amount” or “a lot” of creativity.
- Responses by county were relatively consistent. However, higher levels of creativity were reported in Hays County, while more respondents in Caldwell County felt their jobs did not require much creativity.

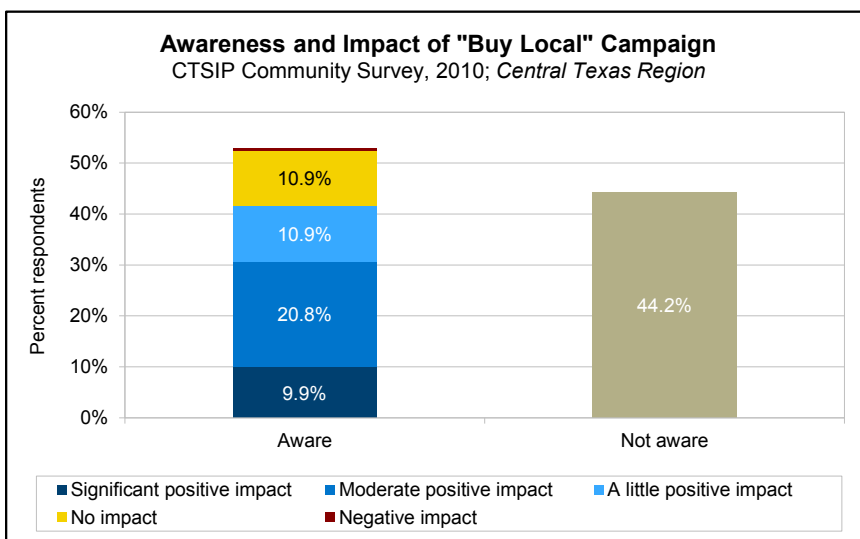
Survey Question: How much creativity does your job require in order to do your work well?



"Buy Local" Awareness

- While over 50% of Central Texans are aware of a “Buy Local” campaign, there is a high variability depending on race/ethnicity.
- A substantially lower share of minorities are aware of a “Buy Local” campaign, indicating a lack of outreach to these groups.

Survey Question: Are you aware of a “buy local” or “local first” campaign in your community encouraging citizens to patronize locally owned and independent stores?



"Buy Local" Impact

- 40% of Central Texans have been positively impacted by a “Buy Local” campaign, but only 10% have felt a significant positive impact.
- The majority of respondents have not been positively impacted by such campaigns, either due to a lack of awareness (44%) or a lack of impact (11%). Only a small fraction were negatively impacted (0.5%).

Survey Question: Are you aware of a “buy local” or “local first” campaign in your community encouraging citizens to patronize locally owned and independent stores? If so, has this campaign had an impact on what businesses you choose to patronize?

Section Sponsor



Environment

Water Consumption

Water Quality

Energy Use

Air Quality

Solid Waste

Hazardous Materials

Water Consumption

CURRENT STATE

The ongoing drought has increased awareness of water consumption and conservation.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas residents and businesses manage water to ensure adequate and affordable long-term supplies and reduce demand for new water sources.

CONTEXT

Water management is as important to the sustainability of our region as any other single concern.

Access to water is not geologically distributed to match current growth and consumption patterns, which drives demand for large infrastructure projects. Greater effort is needed to prepare the region for possible extended drought.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

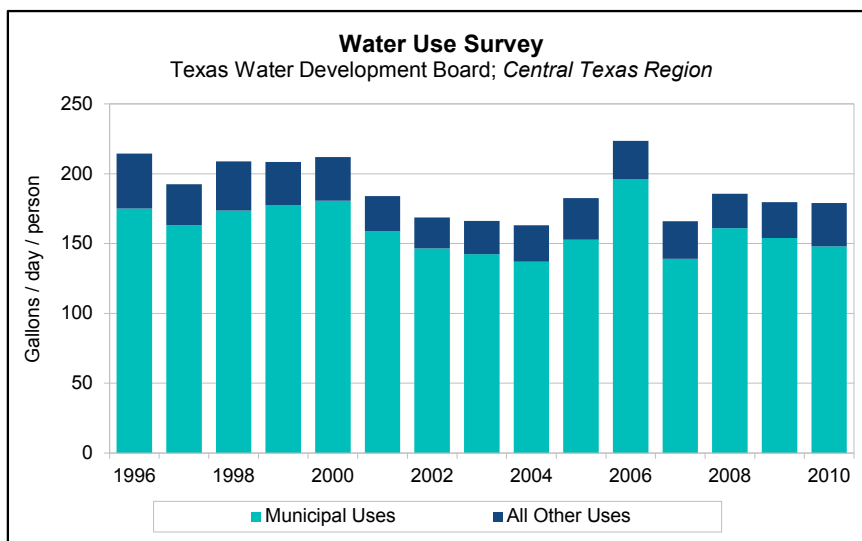
Projected Water Demand
Surface Water Capacity
Household Usage Survey

SOURCES

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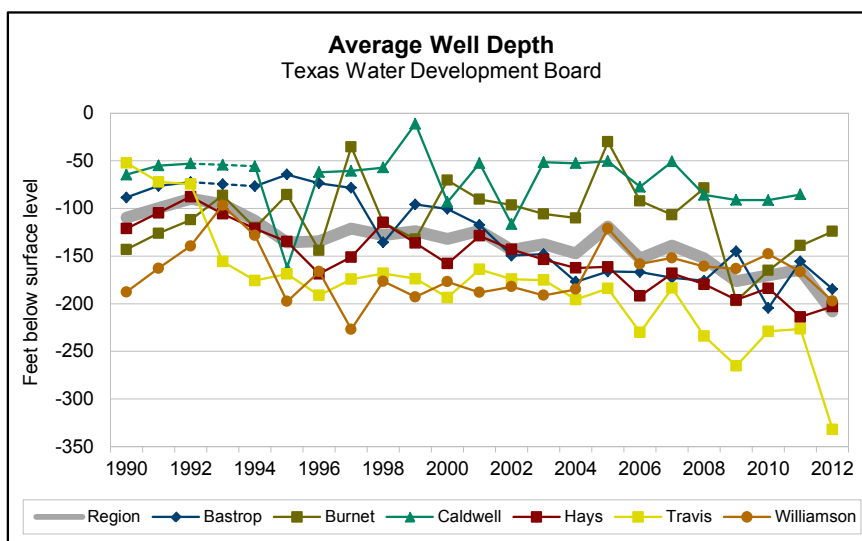
Current Demand for Water

- Regional municipal demand for water is greater than all other uses combined and includes city-owned utilities, public water districts, water supply corporations, or private utilities supplying residential, commercial (non-manufacturing businesses), and institutional water.
- While the Water Use Survey is mandatory for public water suppliers, major manufacturers and utilities, it is voluntary and subject to error.



Groundwater Availability

- Long-term trends show an increasing transition from groundwater to surface water as a primary source for Central Texas (not shown).
- Extended drought (Central Texas was under extreme/exceptional drought conditions from April 2011 to March 2012) will constrain both of these sources.
- As a region, Central Texas is showing a sinking water table.



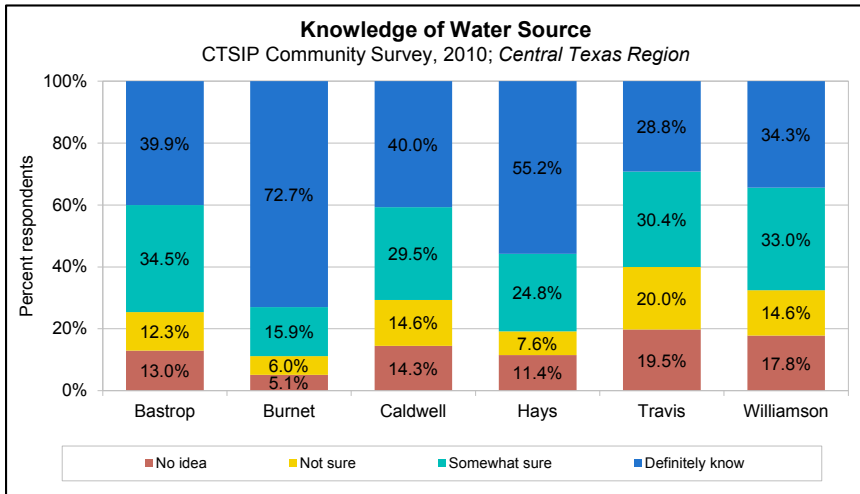
TREND

STATUS



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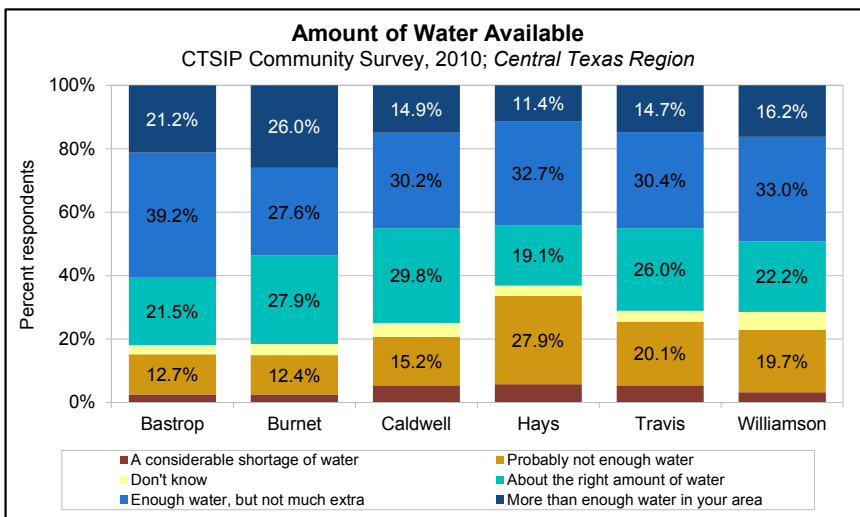
ACTION NEEDED



Water Knowledge

- Burnet and Hays County residents are most confident of their knowledge in the source of their water.
- Region-wide, about 15% of Central Texans have “no idea” where their water comes from.

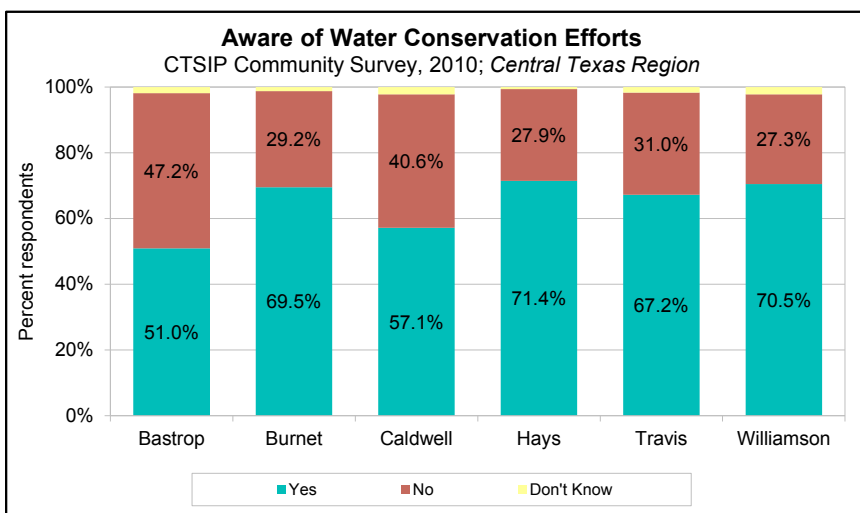
Survey Question: Describe your knowledge of the natural source for your drinking water.



Concern about Water

- Hays County residents are most concerned about the current availability of water, whereas Burnet County residents are the least concerned.
- Region-wide in 2010, 23% of Central Texans were concerned about a lack of available water.

Survey Question: Thinking about the amount of water in your community, would you say there is...



Conservation Effort Awareness

- Generally, residents of urban counties are more aware of efforts and programs to conserve water in their communities. This may be a result of campaigns focusing on urban and suburban utilities and high-growth areas where current and future water use is and will be greatest.

Survey Question: Are you aware of any efforts to conserve water in your community?

Water Quality

CURRENT STATE

Poor water quality remains a chronic issue for many streams, water bodies and public drinking water suppliers across the region.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas residents have access to clean drinking water, and local waters (lakes, rivers, streams) support environmental and human needs.

CONTEXT

In some corners of the region, water quality has much deeper meanings to economy, health, and engagement than just suitability for drinking. It is inextricably tied to the quality of life and personal connection to place.

Water quality issues in rural areas include other factors such well quality and depth, salinity, availability, and the sale of water rights to meet demands outside the Central Texas region.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

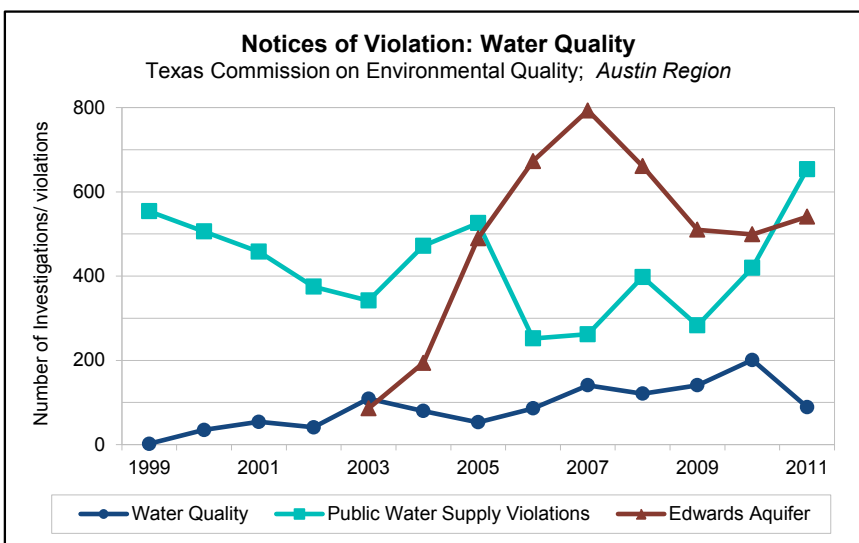
Impervious Cover Runoff

SOURCES

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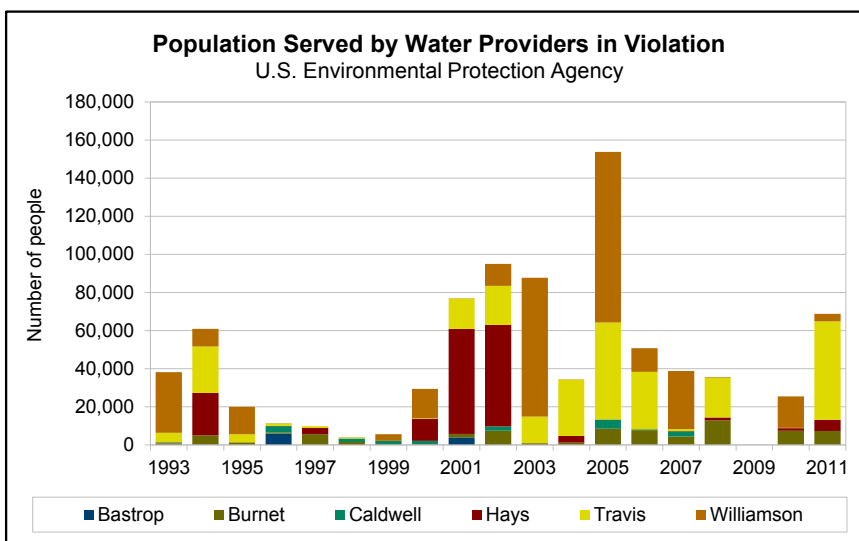
Water Quality Violations

- Violations are issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Enforcement Division only after significant investigation and focus mostly on public health concerns.
- Violations by public water suppliers have fluctuated in recent years, but have been increasing since 2006 – most substantially in 2011. A supplier could have multiple or repeated violations.
- While only 292 violations have resulted from investigations related to the Edwards Aquifer since 1998, the number of investigations has increased dramatically, peaking in 2007.



Public Drinking Water Quality

- In 2011, over the course of the year, almost 70,000 Central Texans were served by a public water provider that was in violation of EPA water quality rules. *Note: 2009 data unavailable.*



TREND

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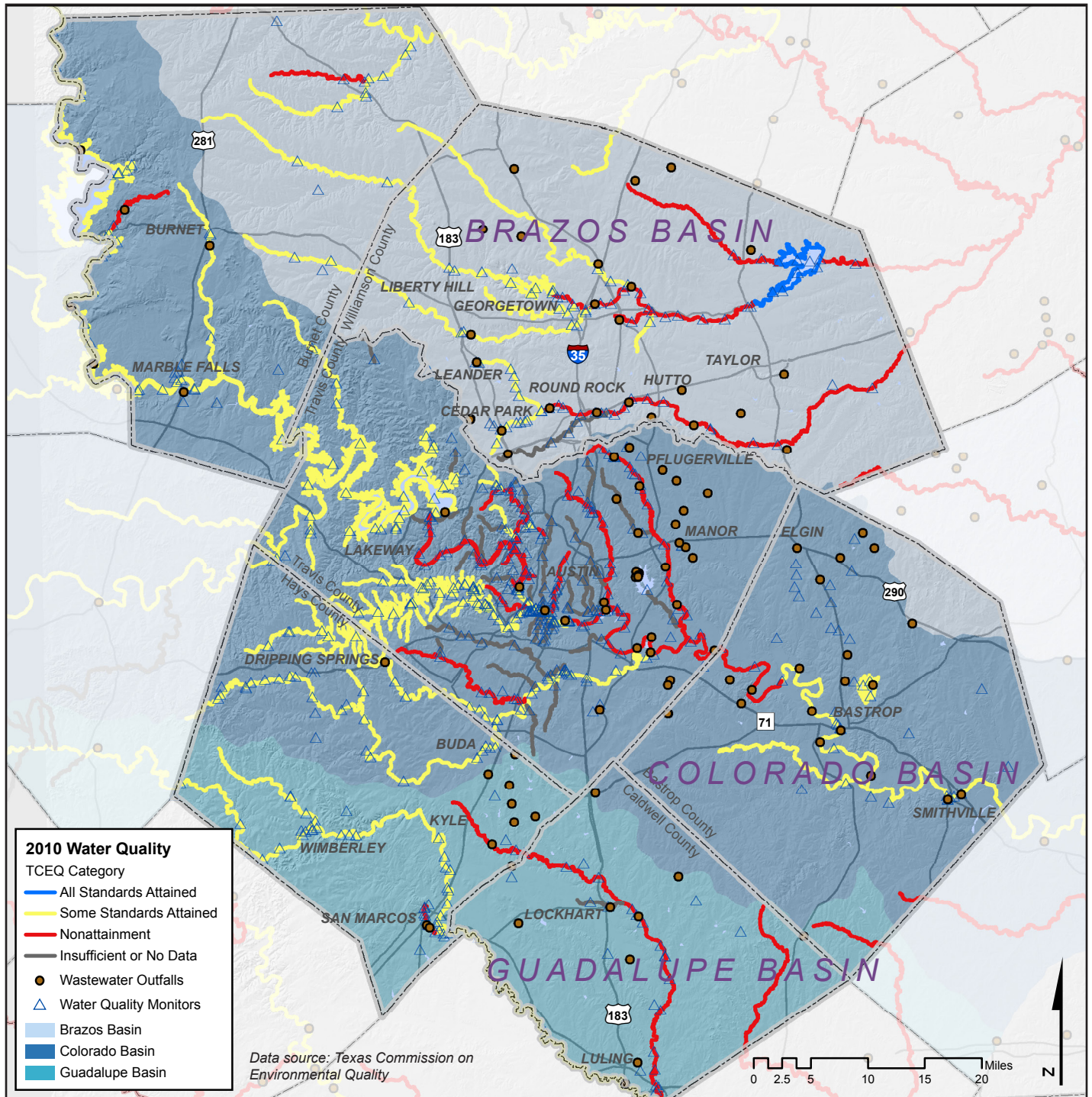


UNCHANGED

ACTION NEEDED

Distribution of Poor Water Quality

- The map shows impairment within the region’s three river basins for the year 2010.
- If a water body violates just one of many criteria, it is listed as being impaired or as not meeting its designated use for that year. Monitored bodies include the largest lakes, rivers, and streams in the region, with multiple monitoring sites along several rivers.



Energy Use

CURRENT STATE

While still a relatively small share of total generation, renewable sources, as well as conservation, have gained increasing attention across the region and in all economic sectors.

IDEAL STATE

Non-renewable energy use in Central Texas is minimized in order to reduce pollution and consumers' energy costs.

CONTEXT

Energy, even more so than water, is a dominant theme within sustainability. Energy production consumes a great deal of water and generates air pollutants, greenhouse gases and hazardous waste.

Energy conservation needs to become a more prominent focus.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

Residential Energy Consumption

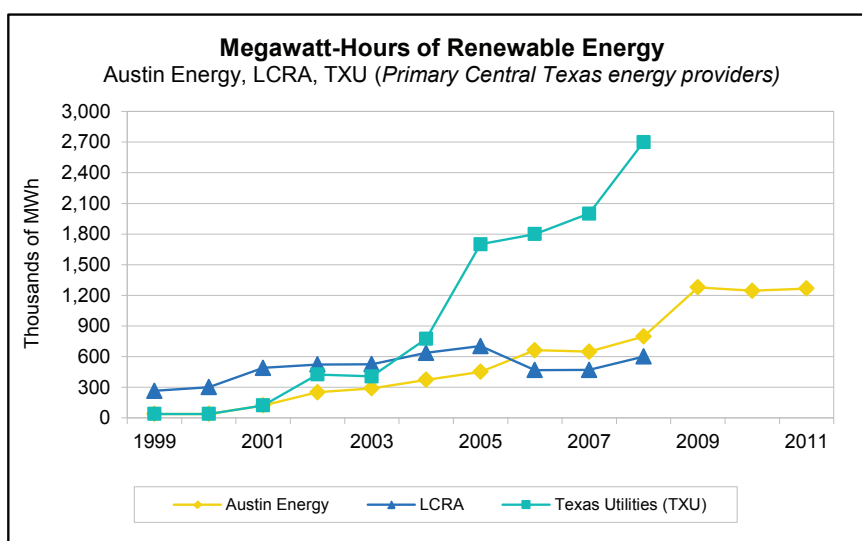
Connectivity of the Energy Grid (Access to Renewable Sources)

SOURCES

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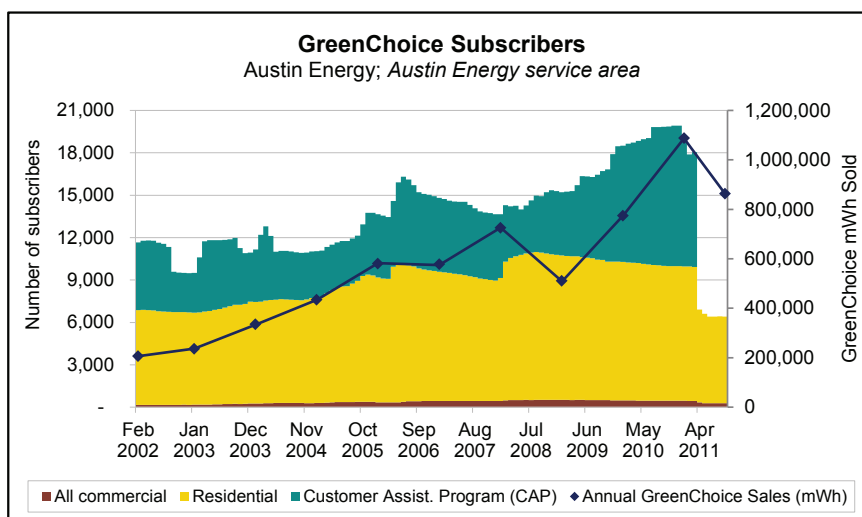
Renewable Energy Generation

- Renewable generation by the two primary Central Texas providers - Austin Energy and LCRA - has reached a plateau. Austin Energy is considering a plan to greatly expand its renewable investments.
- The spike in TXU's renewable energy generation comes from large-scale investments in wind power.
- CTSIP was unable to obtain proprietary data from LCRA and TXU for this report, but is working to include this data in future publications.



GreenChoice Subscribers

- Austin Energy has led the nation in annual kilowatt sales of green energy for the past nine years.
- Several batches of subscribers expired in March 2011, as well as the supply of renewable energy for the Customer Assistance Program.
- While commercial clients make up a small fraction of the total GreenChoice subscribers, they represent 90% of the program's kWh sales.

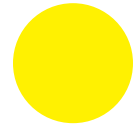


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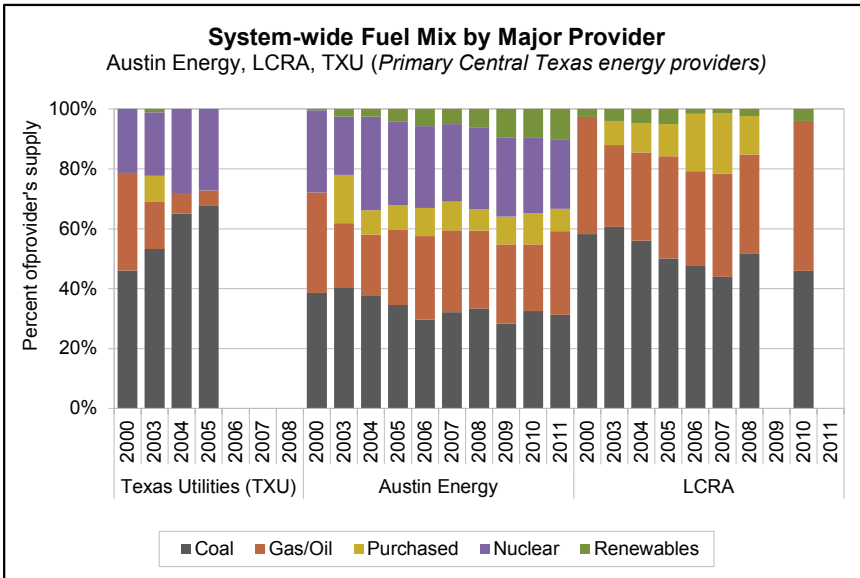


IMPROVING

STATUS

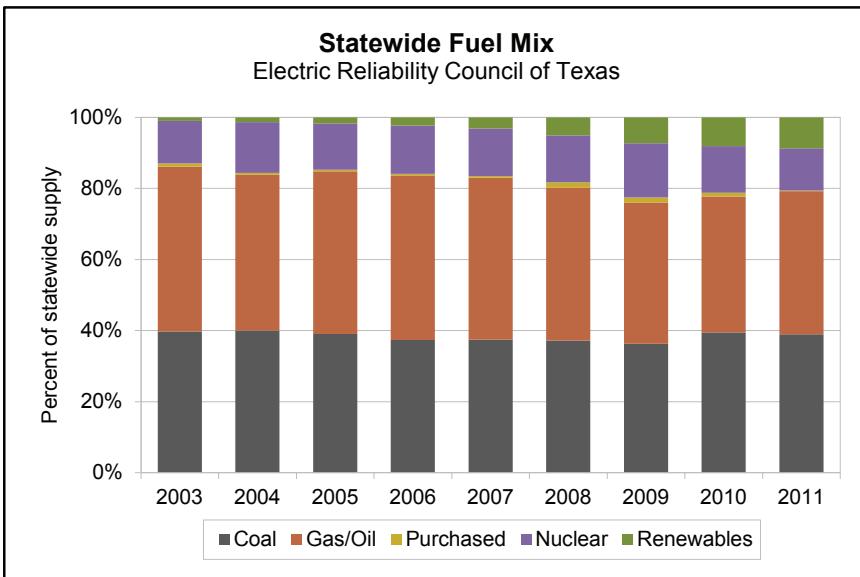


KEEP WATCH



Fuel Mix by Major Provider

- While conventional fossil fuel types such as coal and natural gas dominate the Central Texas provider mix, investments in renewable sources are steadily growing.
- Austin Energy has a goal to increase its share of renewable sources to meet energy demands to 35% by 2020, in accordance with the City of Austin's Climate Protection Plan.
- Texas leads the nation in wind power capacity and generation with 10,223 MW of capacity, more than three times the national average. Yet distributing this power to Texas' urban regions remains a challenge.
- *Note: Missing data reflects proprietary information from LCRA and TXU that was unable to be gathered for this report. CTSIP is working to obtain the data for future publications.*



Air Quality

CURRENT STATE

While air quality is steadily improving in Central Texas, the urgency to maintain efforts remains high.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texans are not exposed to levels of air pollutants that are hazardous to their health or the environment.

CONTEXT

Regional air quality is determined by multiple activities, some of which we can manage through local policy and personal choices - such as local pollution emissions, efficient mobility and land use coordination, public awareness - and some which we cannot - such as continental weather patterns and non-local emissions.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

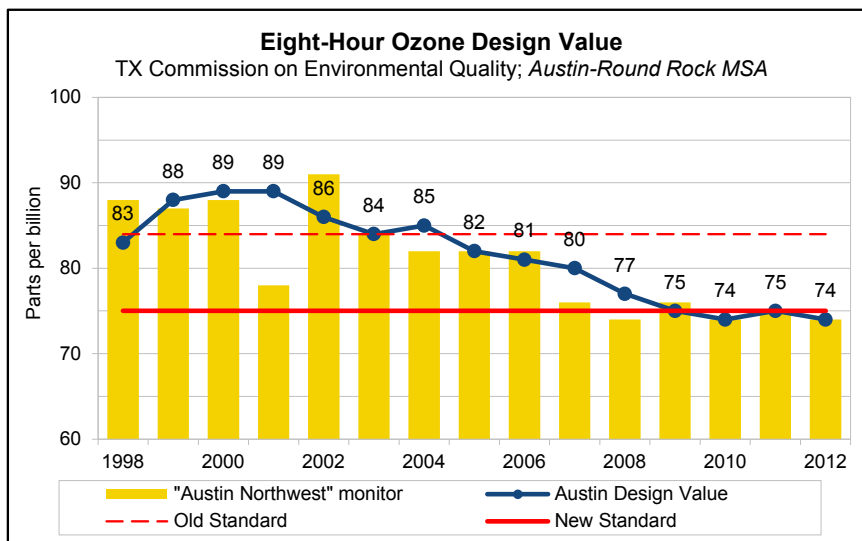
Indoor Air Quality

SOURCES

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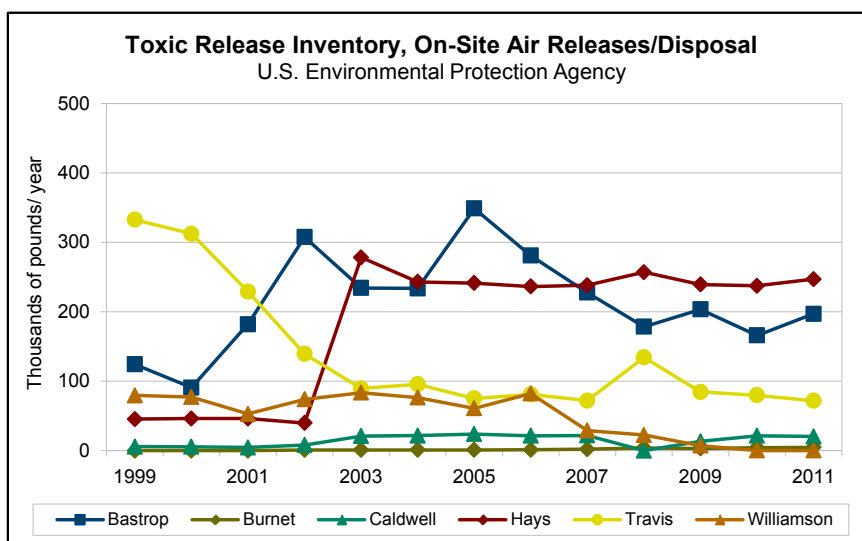
Ground Level Ozone

- Ozone is created when nitrogen oxide (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react with sunlight and heat. A substantial amount of these precursor emissions are generated in Central Texas – primarily from trucks, automobiles and construction vehicles.
- In 2008 the EPA lowered the ozone design value from 84 parts per million (ppm) to 75 ppm. The Austin region was able to reach attainment according to the new standard in 2009.



Air Emissions

- The EPA Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) tracks emissions and waste generation from industrial processes. Most of the on-site emissions (off-site emissions indicate waste moved for disposal somewhere else) are released to the air, primarily through controlled stacks.
- Air releases in Bastrop County are related to brick manufacturing; in Hays County air releases are related to cement manufacture.

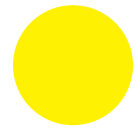


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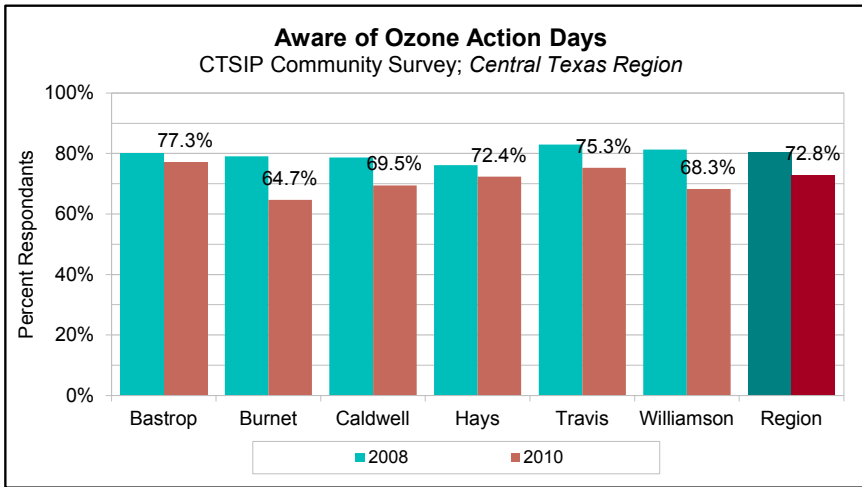
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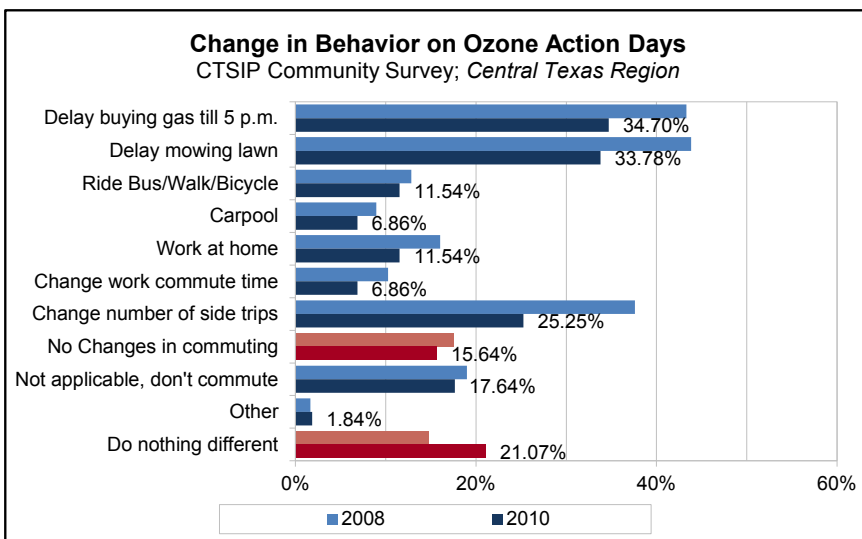
KEEP WATCH



Ozone Action Days

- About 73% of Central Texans are familiar with Ozone Action Days - a public awareness and personal action campaign triggered when conditions are predicted to be ideal to generate ground level ozone at levels harmful to human health.
- In 2010, respondents from all counties indicated a lower awareness than in 2008, a year in which more stringent attainment standards were introduced.

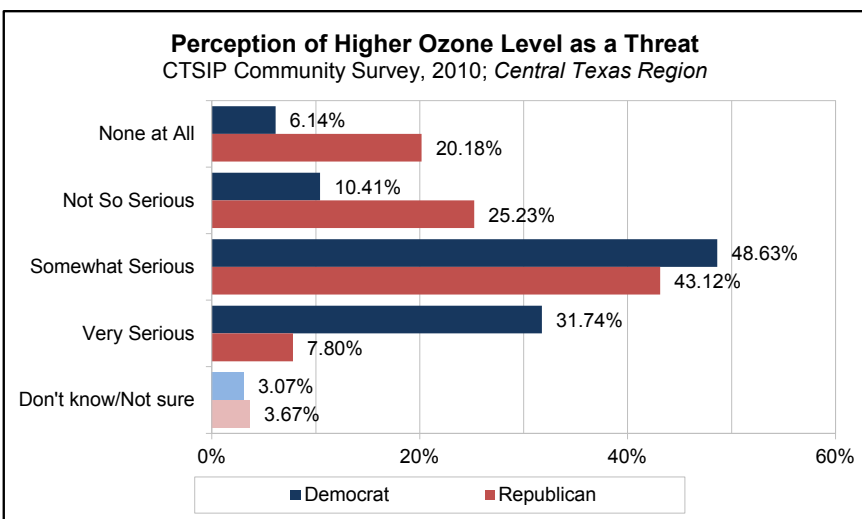
Survey Question: Are you familiar with Ozone Action Days?



Action on Ozone Action Days

- Almost 35% of Central Texans report taking two actions that have been shown to reduce local emissions that contribute to ozone generation. However, in 2010, behavioral changes were generally less frequent than they were in 2008.
- More than 20% of Central Texans do nothing different on Ozone Action Days - another 15% make no changes in their commuting pattern.

Survey Question: Do you do any of the following differently on Ozone Action Days?



Perception of Ozone

- About 65% of Central Texans perceive high ozone levels as a “somewhat” or “very” serious threat to themselves and their family.
- About 13% perceive no threat from high ozone levels.
- While political affiliation continues to show a correlation with the perceived seriousness of environmental threats, most respondents from both parties agree that the threat is at least “somewhat” serious.

Survey Question: What threat do you believe higher ozone levels pose to you and your family?

Solid Waste / Recycling

CURRENT STATE

Diversion from landfill and resource recovery is increasing steadily.

IDEAL STATE

Solid waste in Central Texas is managed so that it does not contribute to pollution.

CONTEXT

New large recycling facilities have improved the economies of waste diversion.

The expansion of recycling and resource recovery to more materials should hopefully reduce persistent problems like illegal dumping and the burning of trash.

Recycling and composting have caught on with the general public, giving administrators more leverage to expand recycling programs.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

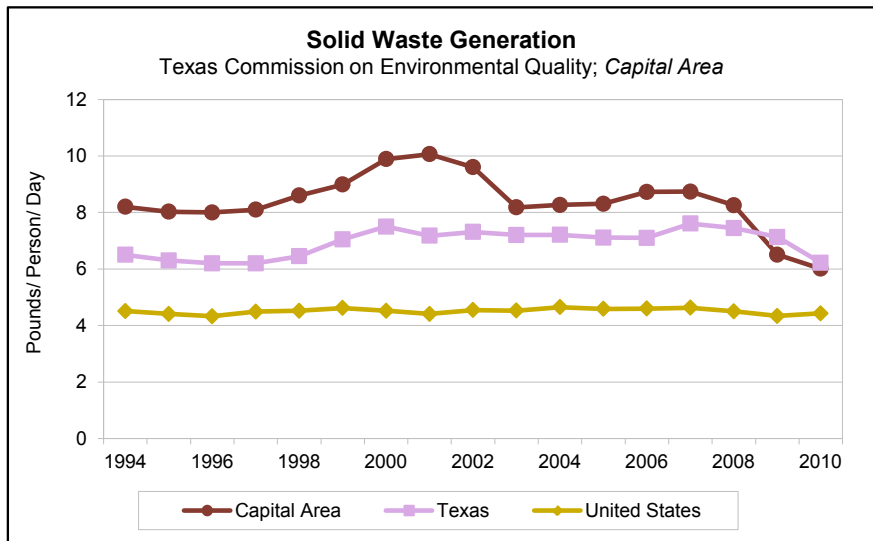
- Landfill Volume
- Years of Landfill Life Remaining
- CAPCOG Mapping Tool for Recycling and Waste Facilities

SOURCES

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Waste Generation

- Until recently, Central Texans appeared to generate more waste per person than state and national averages. However, at least 15 counties and cities outside of Central Texas, including San Antonio and Bexar County, export their waste to landfills in Central Texas.
- Since 2008, the CAPCOG 10-county region has significantly reduced its waste generation, from over 8 to about 6 pounds per person per day, dropping below the Texas average.



Improper Disposal

- The number of violations issued for waste-related issues, such as illegal dumping, steadily increased from 2002 to 2009.
- A significant reduction in 2010 could signal the beginning of a declining trend, or a change in reporting and enforcement procedure. Municipal solid waste violations returned to prior levels in 2011.



TREND

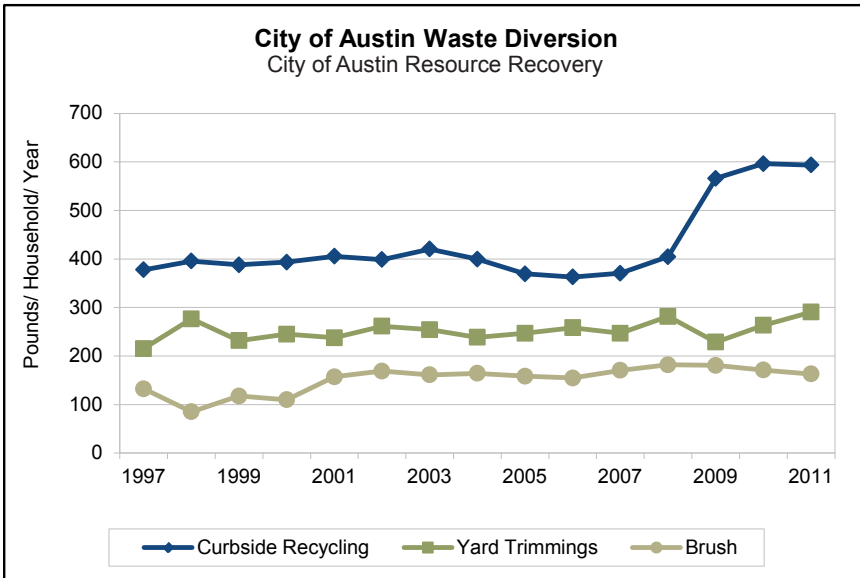
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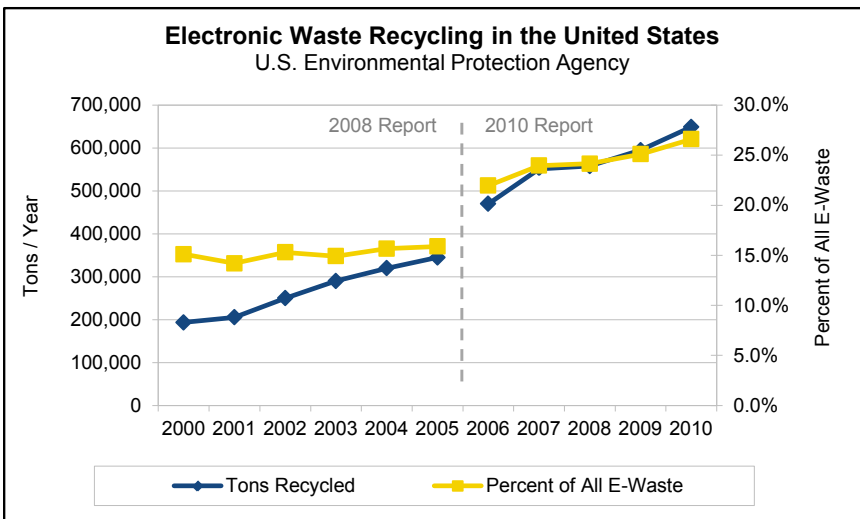


DOING WELL



City of Austin Recycling

- The City of Austin's Recycling Program diverts a significant amount of recyclables and organic waste from landfills (over 90,000 tons in 2011) as recycling and diversion rates have increased steadily (to 38% in 2011).
- The City of Austin implemented single-stream recycling in October 2008, which allowed customers to recycle more items without sorting. This improvement is reflected in the substantial increase in curbside recycling beginning in 2009.



Electronics Waste Recycling

- While no trend data is yet available for the Central Texas region, estimates at the national level show e-waste recycling increasing.
- *Note: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2010 report altered its methodology in estimating electronics recycling.*

Hazardous Waste

CURRENT STATE

While improving, hazardous waste releases persist across all Central Texas counties.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas are not exposed to harmful levels of toxic or hazardous materials.

CONTEXT

Most hazardous material generation is related to industrial processes. In Central Texas, brick manufacturing in Elgin, petroleum activities in Luling, and electronics manufacturing in Travis County are the main point sources for hazardous waste.

All chemicals listed in the Toxic Release Inventory have documented negative health effects on humans, yet regional or local documentation of the effects of prevalent chemicals is lacking.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

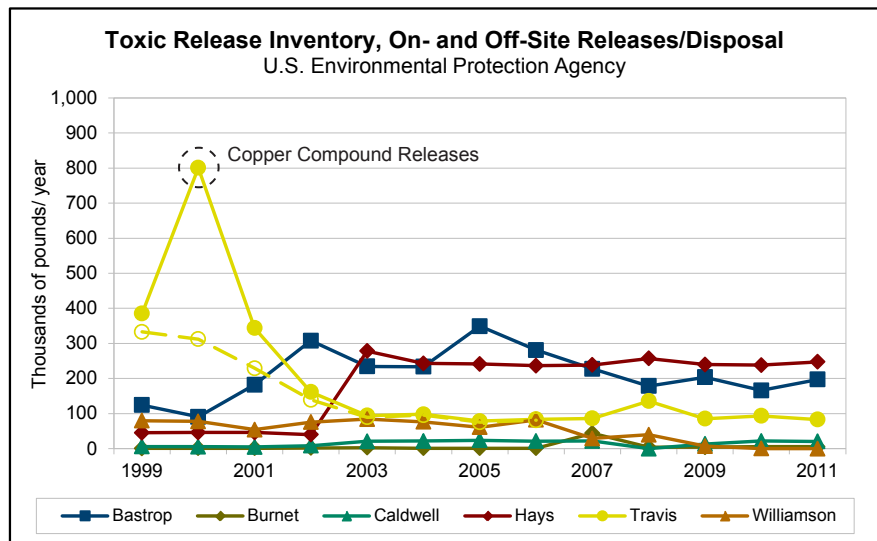
Toxic Release Inventory by Type of Release
CAPCOG Mapping Tool for Recycling and Waste Facilities

SOURCES

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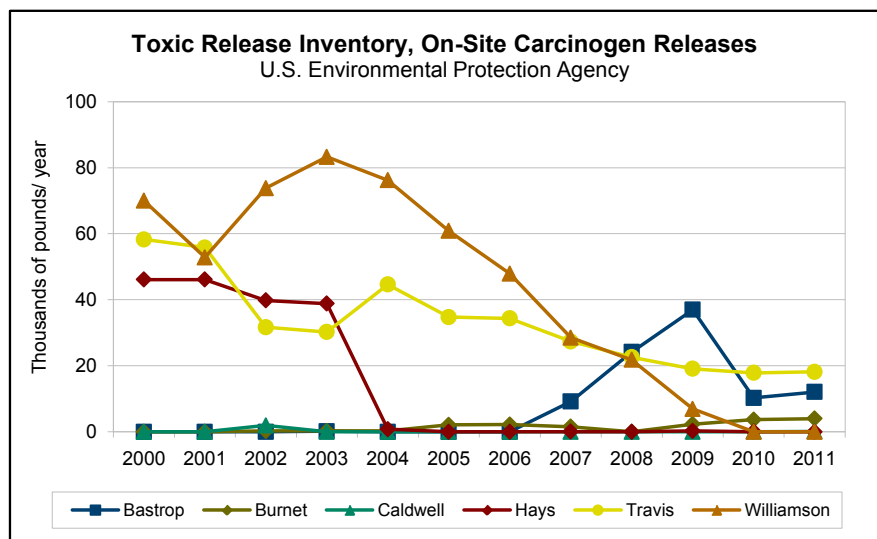
Toxic Releases

- Improvements since 2000 in Travis County are largely due to air emission regulations leading to reductions. The large releases in Travis County in 2000 were primarily copper compounds.
- See Air Quality (p. 88) for detail of on-site air releases in Hays and Bastrop counties.



Carcinogens

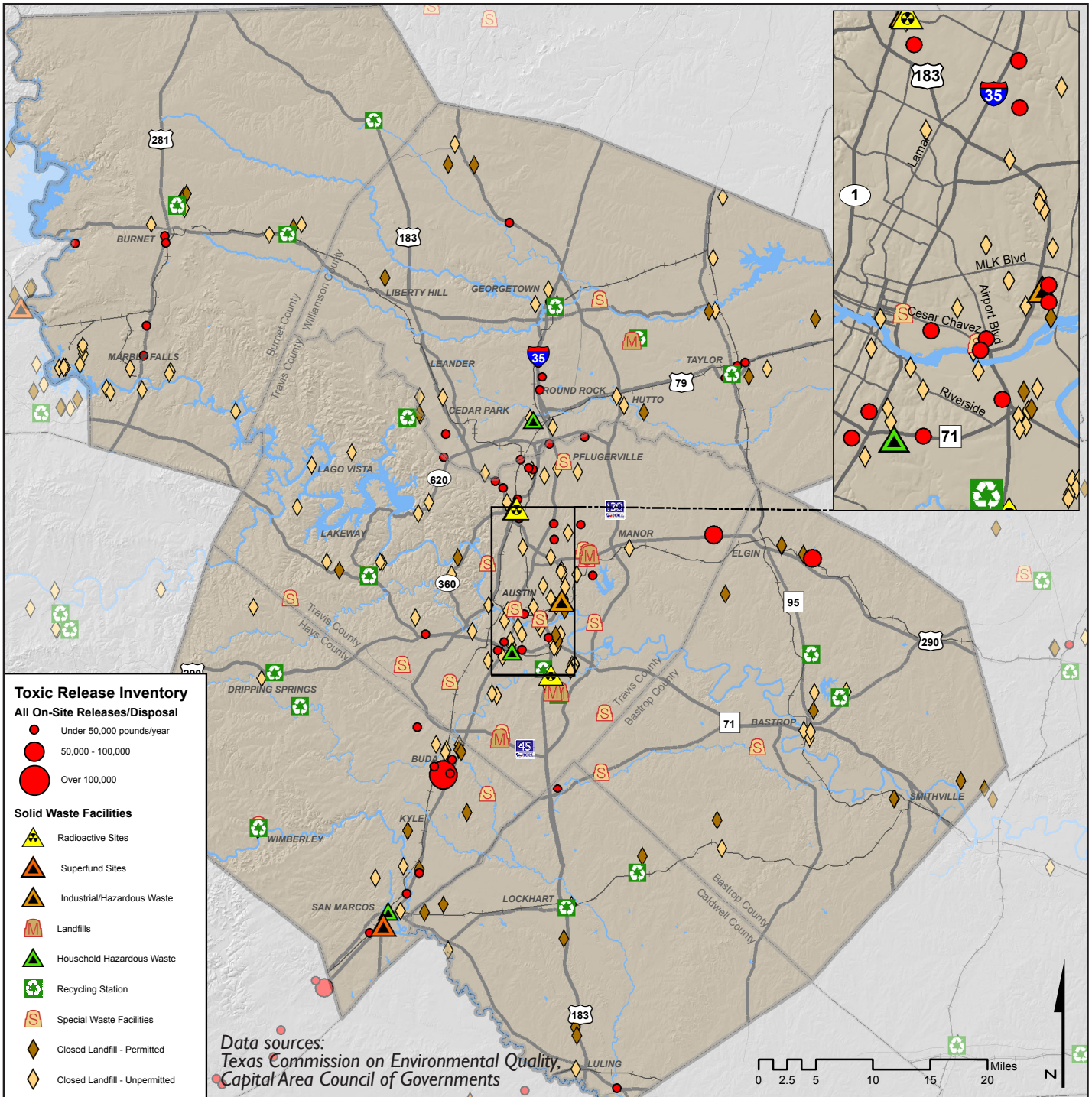
- The Toxic Release Inventory tracks carcinogenic chemicals.
- The bulk of releases in Williamson and Travis Counties were styrene, a by-product of high-tech related manufacturing; these releases have slowly decreased since 2003.
- The recent increases in Bastrop were solely attributable to releases of lead.





Toxic Releases 2011

- The map shows locations of facilities that release or manage hazardous and non-hazardous waste, as well as old landfills closed prior to development activity in an area. While facilities that hold permits and report hazardous air emissions are spread across the region, there are clusters in East Austin and around traditional industrial areas.
- Many cities and towns in Central Texas provide or contract for recycling services or host recycling drop-off centers.



Section Sponsors



Health

Health Access

Physical Health

Mental Health

Health Access

CURRENT STATE

While Central Texas has a lower percentage of uninsured than Texas as a whole, disparities exist across the region.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texans have access to quality health care.

CONTEXT

As with many equity-related indicators, the consequences of not having health insurance fall disproportionately on lower income residents. Within a sustainability view, society struggles with whether to focus first on people or the environment; yet if people's basic personal needs, such as health, are not met, the needs of the environment may be quickly forgotten.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

Type of Medical Care Unable to Access

First Choice of Medical Provider

Medicaid Enrollment by Age

Eligible Population in Children's Health Insurance Program

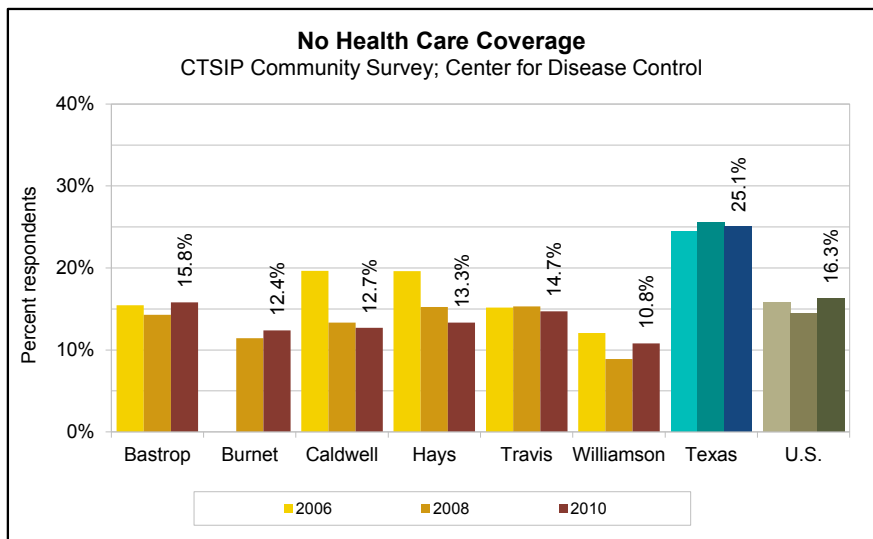
Doctor-Patient Language Barriers

SOURCES

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Coverage By County

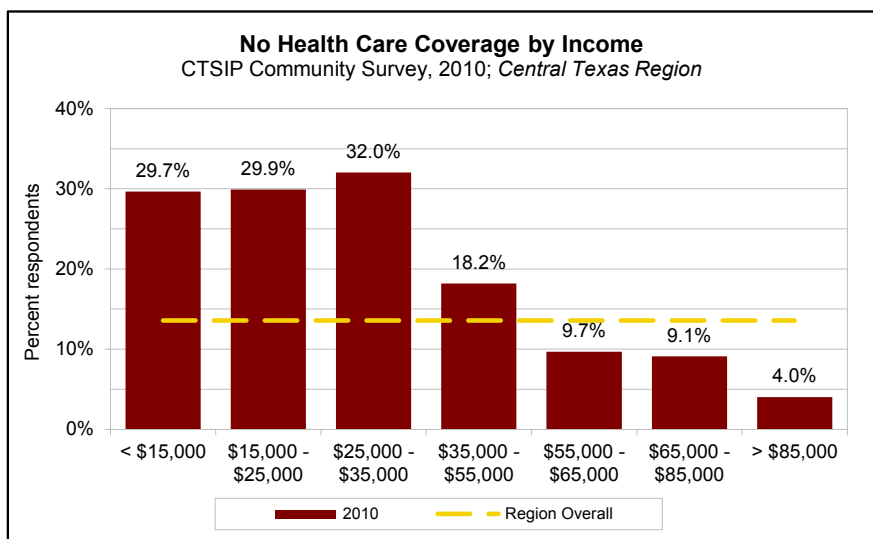
- The percentage of uninsured people within Texas has decreased slightly since 2008; results were mixed for Central Texas.
- Central Texas counties have a lower rate of uninsured people than the state as a whole. Bastrop and Travis counties are on relative par with the nation's rate of uninsured.



Survey Question: Do you currently have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare?

Coverage By Income

- The highest percentage of uninsured Central Texas residents are found in the lower-income groups, earning less than \$35,000 per year. Approximately 30% of those surveyed in this income group were uninsured.



Survey Question: Do you currently have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare?

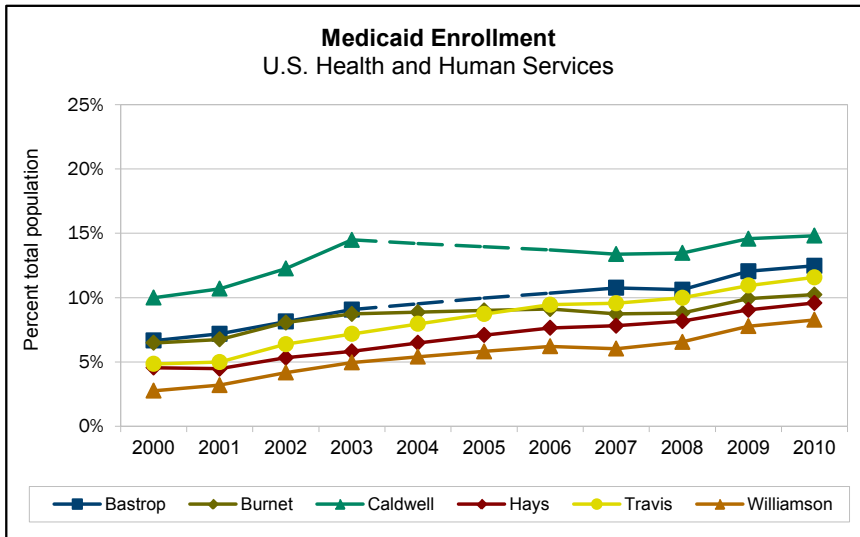
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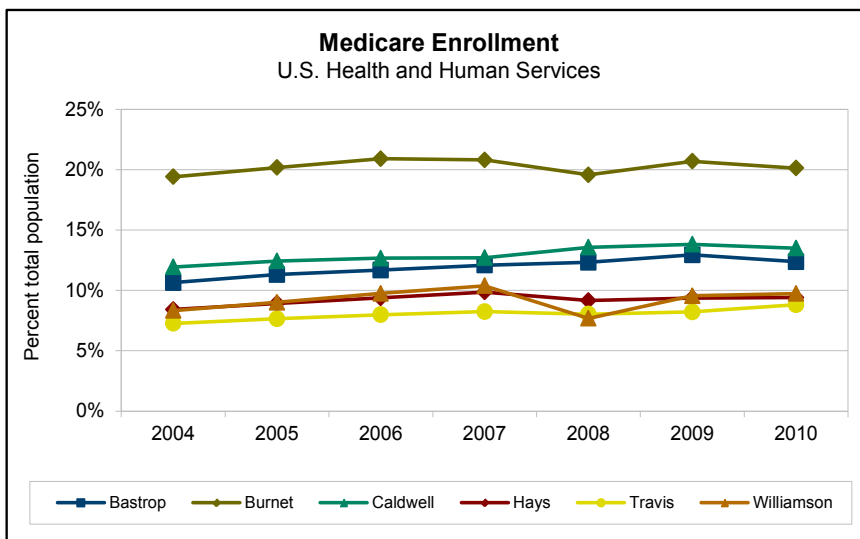
UNCHANGED

ACTION NEEDED



Medicaid Enrollment

- State programs offer public assistance to those whose income and resources are insufficient to pay for health care, regardless of age. The federal government provides matching funds to state Medicaid programs.
- Between 2008 and 2010 there has been a continued increase in Medicaid enrollment across all counties, likely resulting from residual effects of the 2008 economic crisis.



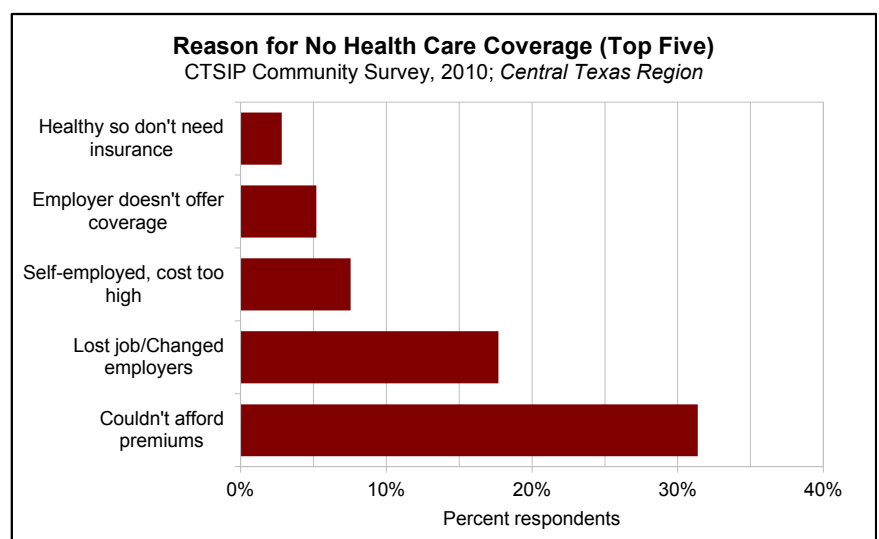
Medicare Enrollment

- Medicare is designed for senior citizens (people 65 years of age or older) and certain younger people with specific disabilities.
- According to U.S. Census data, despite a 52% growth in the eligible population from 2000 to 2010, Medicare enrollment in Central Texas has remained relatively flat.

Reasons For No Coverage

- The most common reason for Central Texans having no health care coverage is the cost.
- The reasons “Employer doesn’t offer coverage” and “Lost job/Changed employers” also suggest that the cost of individual or family coverage is prohibitively expensive.

Survey Question: What is the main reason you are or were without health care coverage?



Physical Health

CURRENT STATE

Over the past several years, self-reported health status has slowly declined.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texans are physically healthy, engage in activities that promote health and are served by adequate health care resources in their communities.

CONTEXT

Lifestyle choices can have significant impact on personal and family health. Compounded across a population and multiplied by factors such as a shortage of health professionals and public education and awareness, these choices can be a barrier to aspirations of sustainability for an individual, a household and a region.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

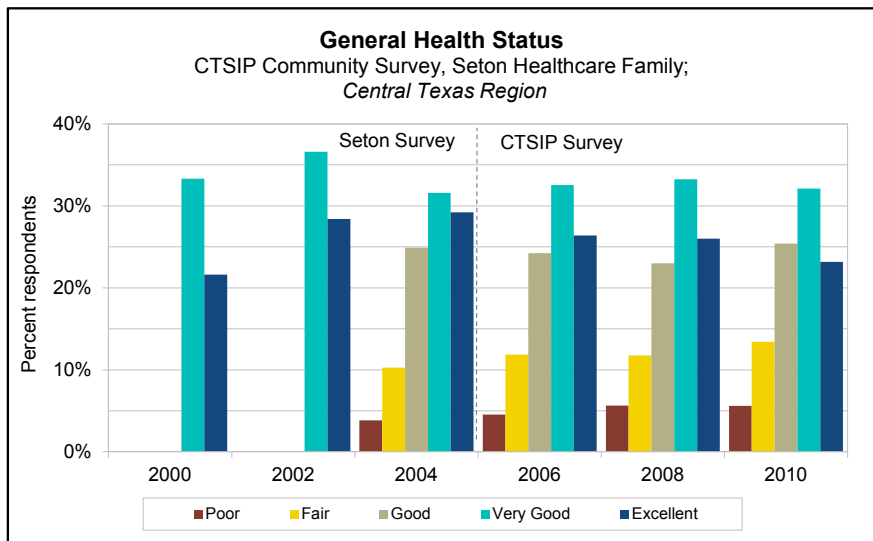
- Inadequate Prenatal Care
- Preventable Disease Rates
- Body Mass Index Rates

SOURCES

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Health Status

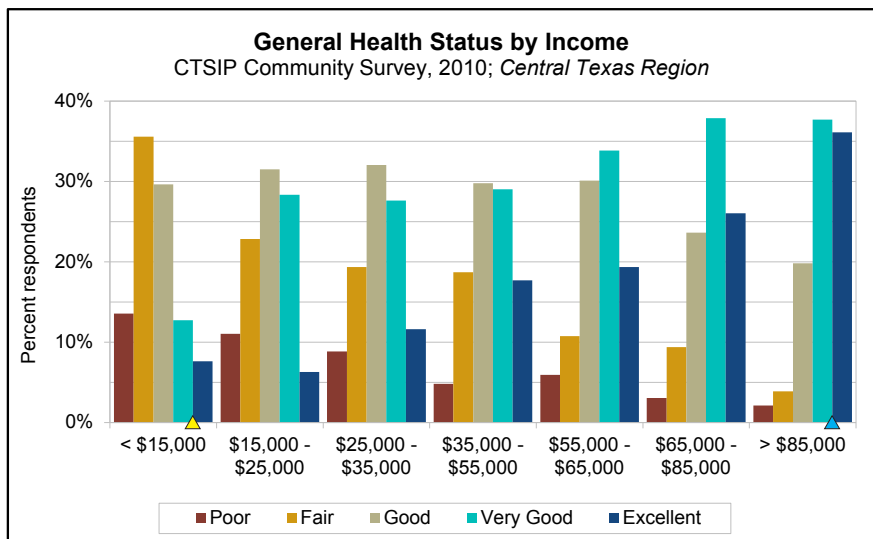
- Central Texas residents generally report feeling “very good” or “excellent” in their general health. However, the percent of those feeling “excellent” has been on the decline since 2004.



Survey Question (both charts): Would you say that in general your health is

Health Status By Income

- Income appears to factor directly on general health. Those with the highest incomes reported feeling “Very Good” or “Excellent” in significantly higher numbers, while lower income groups reported poorer health.
- This highly correlated response may be attributed to access to affordable health coverage.

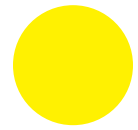


How to read this chart:

- ▲ In 2010, only 20% of regional respondents with annual incomes less than \$15,000 reported “very good” health or better.
- ▲ More than 70% of respondents with incomes over \$85,000 reported the same level of health in 2010.

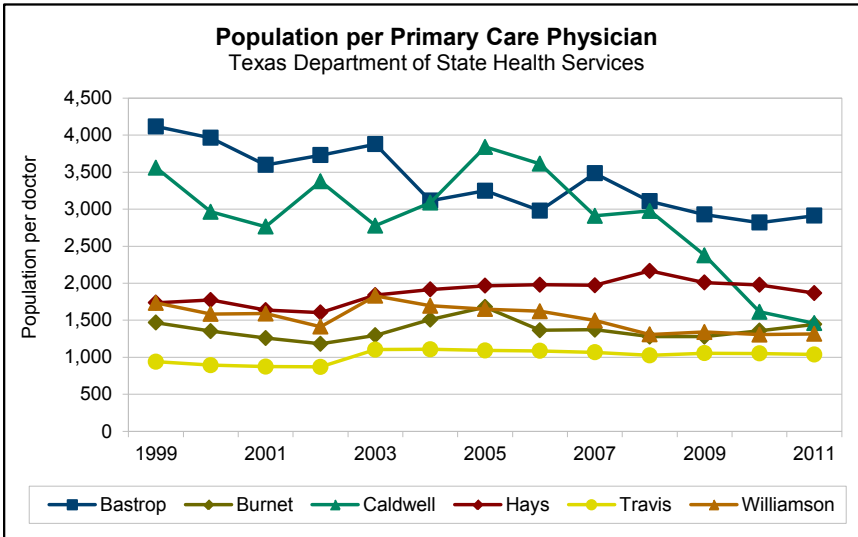
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KEEP WATCH

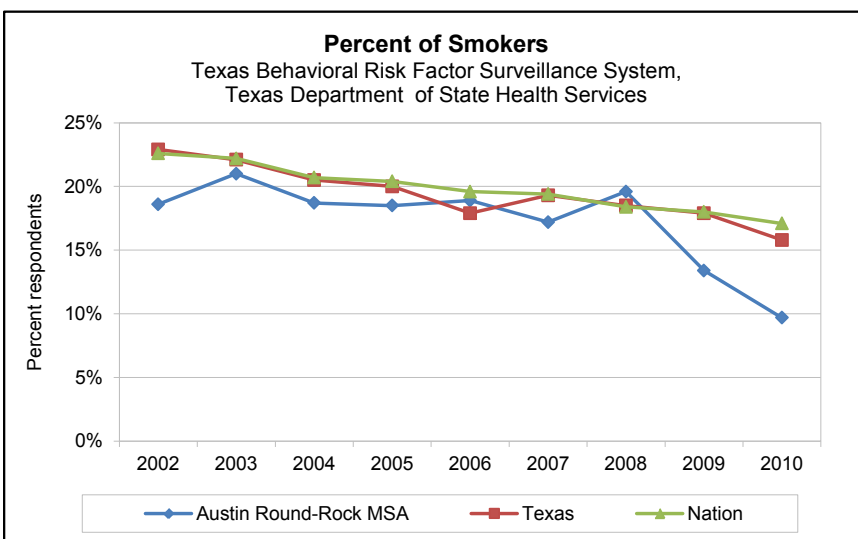
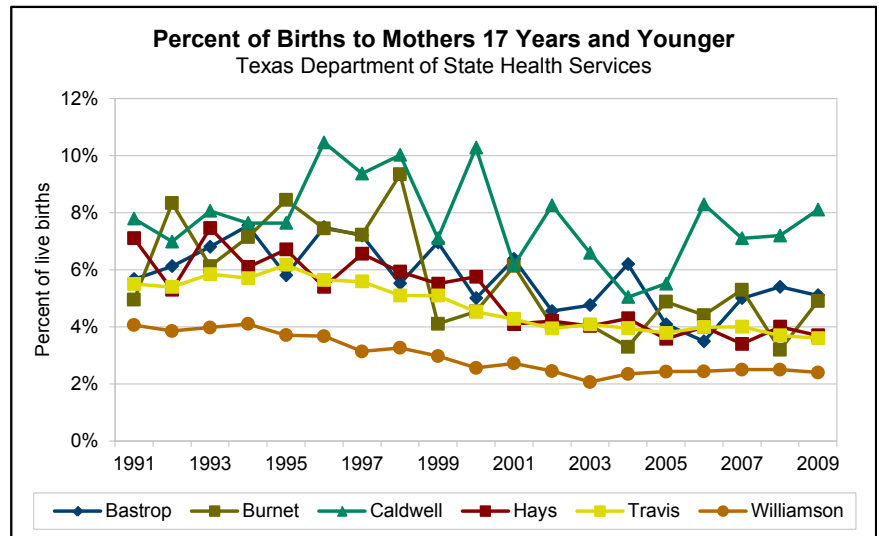


Availability of Physicians

- Bastrop County has significantly fewer primary care physicians available in comparison to other Central Texas counties. Caldwell County has seen a significant improvement in physician coverage since 2008.
- Medically Underserved (MUA) status is designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to areas or populations having a shortage of personal health services. As of January 2012, all Central Texas counties were classified as Medically Underserved Areas.

Teenage Mothers

- Teenage birth rates can highlight youth development issues in a community.
- Williamson and Travis County teenage birth rates declined between 1990 and 2000, and have leveled out since 2000.
- The percentages of teenage births in Travis and Williamson counties tend to remain steady year to year; the appearance of variance in other Central Texas counties reflects fewer total births.



Smokers

- After peaking in 2008, the percentage of Central Texans who smoke has substantially declined, falling well below the overall state and national rates.
- This data comes from a telephone survey conducted by the Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

Mental Health

CURRENT STATE

The public mental health system has not expanded to keep pace with the growing demand for services.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texans are mentally healthy.

CONTEXT

Central Texas lacks adequate resources for those who experience mental, emotional or substance use disorders. The disparities are particularly notable for those with lower household incomes. As with physical health, these disparities can be a barrier to aspirations of sustainability for an individual, a household and a region.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

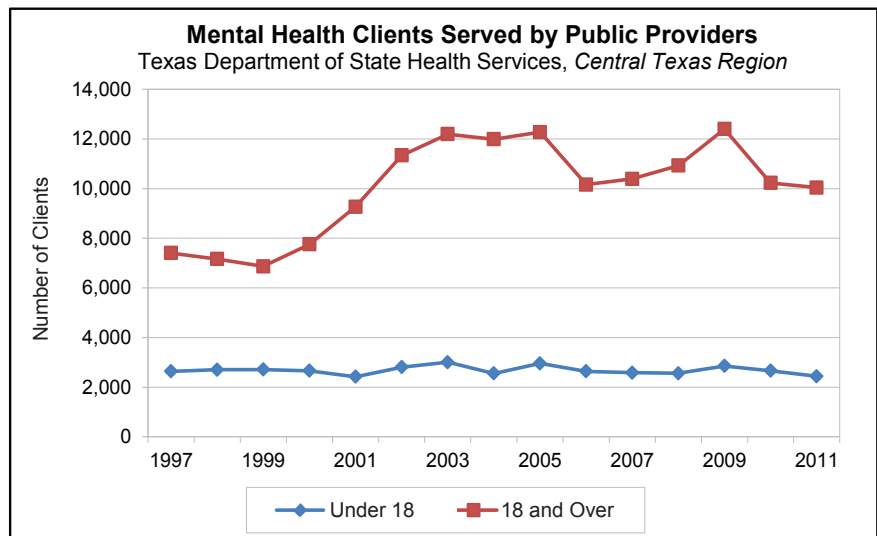
Substance Abuse Treatment
Youth Admitted For
Substance Abuse Treatment

SOURCES

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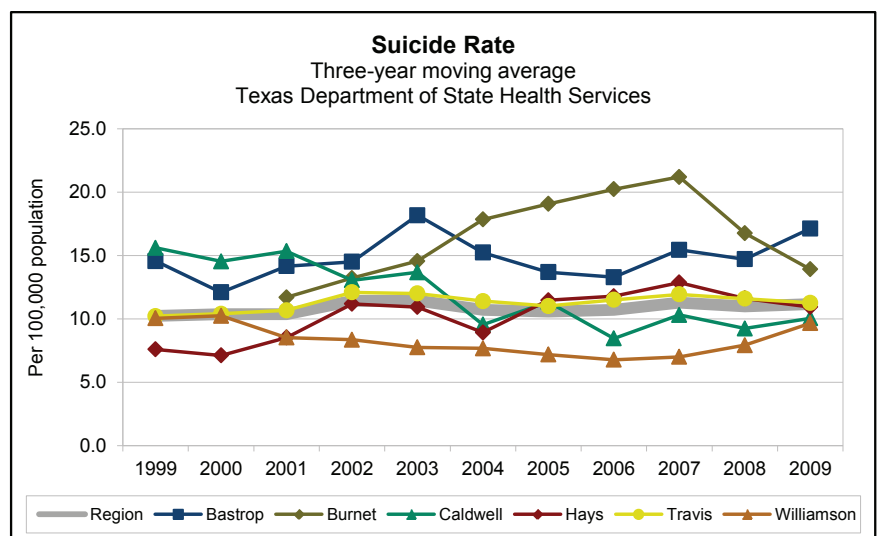
Clients Served By Public Providers

- The number of adult residents served by public mental health providers increased after 2006, spiking in the first half of 2009. Since this peak, however, the number has been in decline.
- The number of youth mental health clients remains fairly unchanged. According to Community Action Network reports, of the children and youth diagnosed with mental illness, only 18% receive the mental health treatment for which they qualify.



Suicide Rate

- Overall, the suicide rate for the Central Texas region has remained relatively steady over the past decade. Recently, the rates of Bastrop and Williamson counties have increased slightly, while the rate in Burnet County has declined.



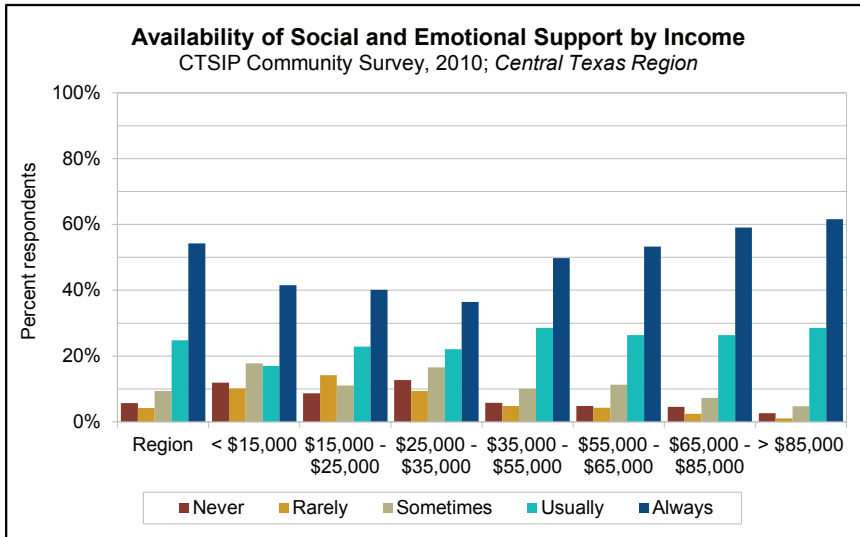
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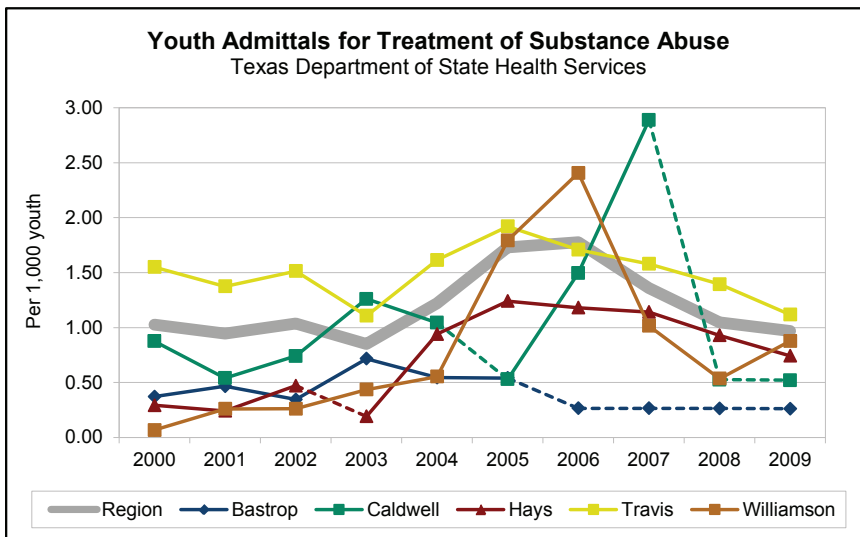
ACTION NEEDED



Support

- Only half of Central Texas residents report “always” receiving the emotional and social support they need.
- The availability of emotional support appears related to reported household income.

Survey Question: How often do you get the social and emotional support you need?



Youth Substance Abuse

- Travis County has a fairly steady rate of youth admitted into substance abuse treatment centers; slightly higher than other Central Texas counties.
- The mid-part of the decade saw an increase in admittance numbers, reflected in Travis and Hays counties, and more severely in Williamson and Caldwell counties. This trend has declined in recent years.
- While not shown in this chart, the most common drug abused by the youth of Central Texas has been marijuana.
- *Note: The Texas Department of State Health Services suppresses any youth admittance numbers less than 10. In these instances CTSIP has used 5 as a proxy and is identified in the graph by a dashed line.*

Section Sponsor



Land Use and Mobility

Density of New Development

Rural Land

Publicly Owned Open Space

Time Spent Commuting

Vehicle Miles Traveled

Density of New Development

CURRENT STATE

The recession severely slowed new development across the region, but the region continues to add significant units in and outside of incorporated areas.

IDEAL STATE

Development is encouraged in appropriate areas to ensure affordable infrastructure, preserve open space, promote ecosystem health, minimize pollution, and support economical and efficient transportation.

CONTEXT

Density has many definitions and to be done successfully must be designed to optimize many location factors such as schools, mobility networks, public safety, and patterns of health, as well as economic costs and benefits of infrastructure and tax base.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

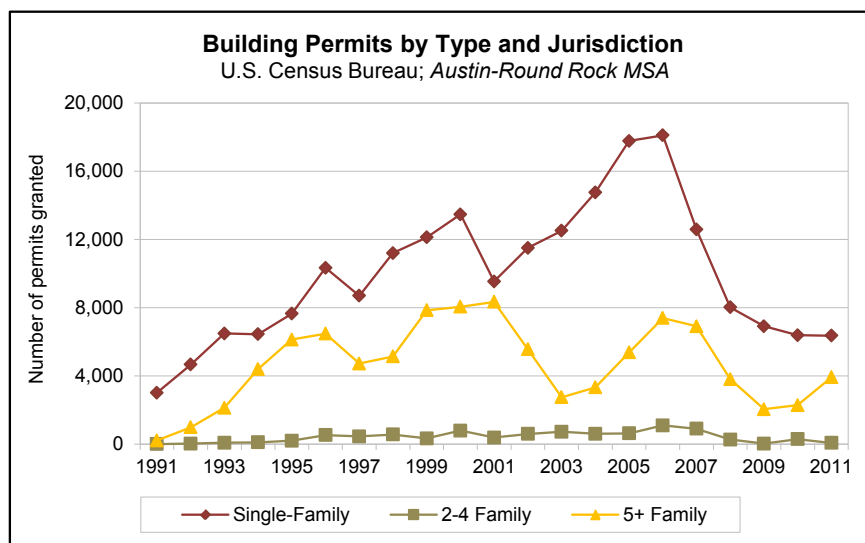
Municipal Comprehensive Plans

SOURCES

Page 114

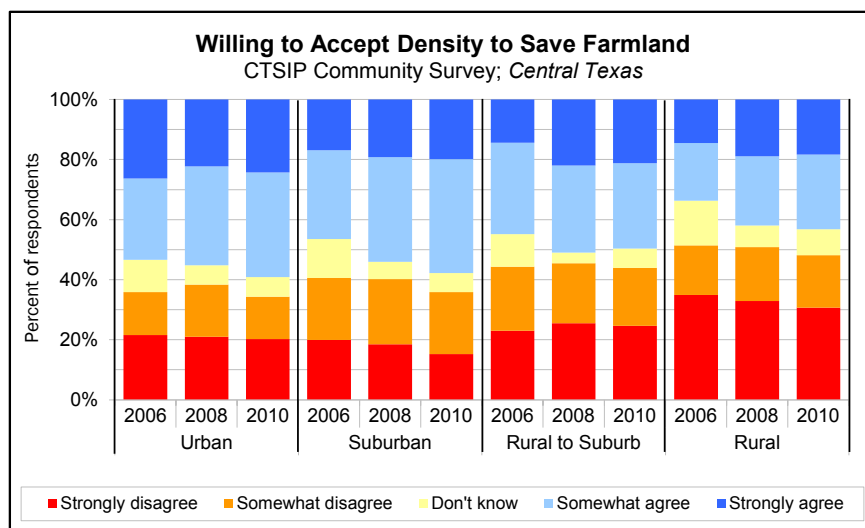
Building Permits

- Single-family residential permits were trending steadily upwards for 15 years until 2006 when they began a sharp decline, along with multi-family permits.
- Despite recent declines, Austin was ranked the #1 healthiest housing market in 2010 by Builder.com and Hanley Wood Market Intelligence, based on the number of permits issued in 2009.

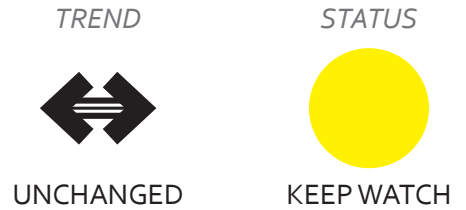


Density to Preserve Farmland

- Rural residents reported the highest percentage unwilling to accept density in order to protect natural and farming land, although rural respondents' perceptions have changed since 2006.
- The percentage of suburban residents who "somewhat agree" with accepting density has increased from 2006.

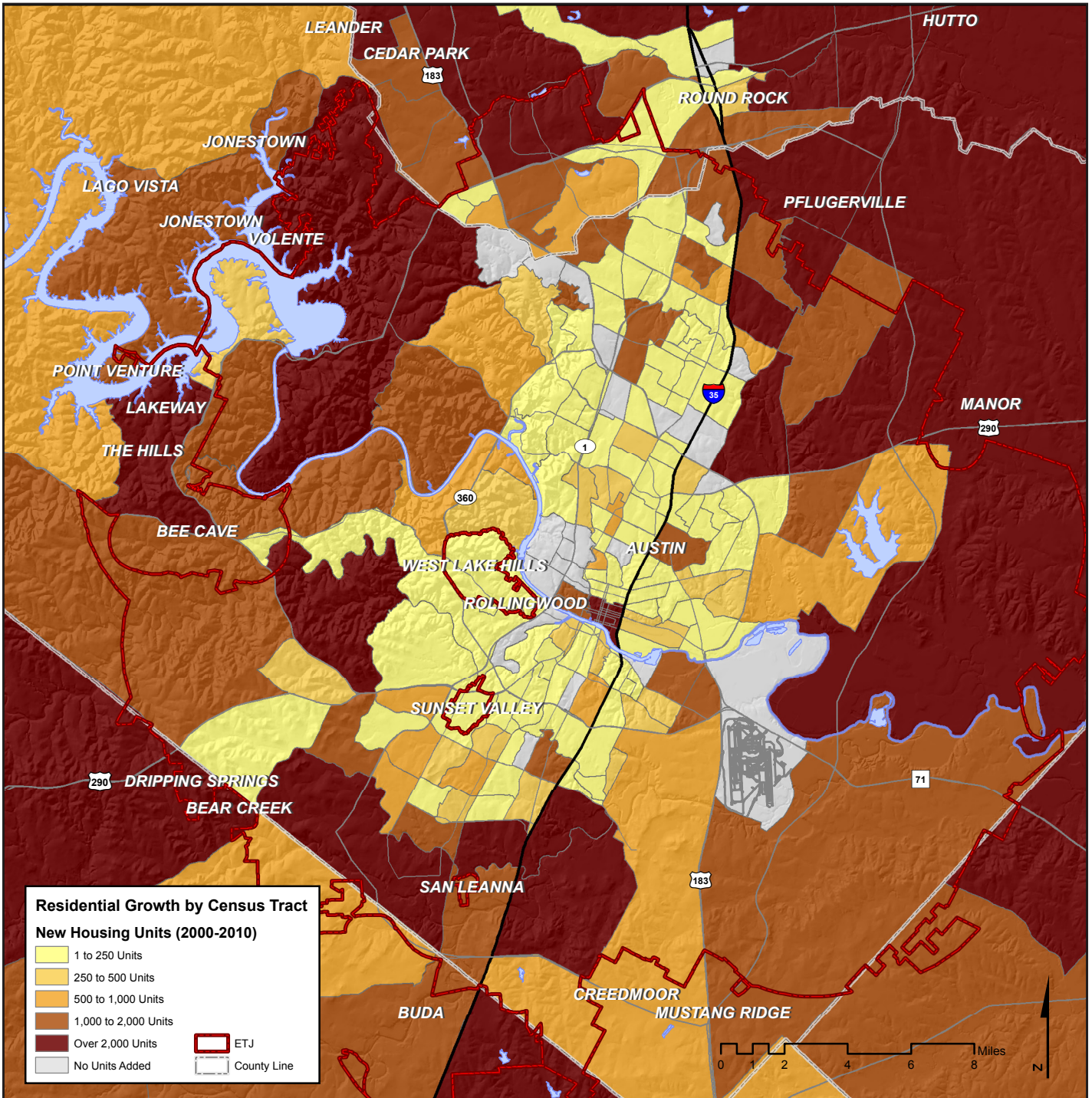


Survey Question: Agreement: I am willing to have more people live in my neighborhood so that less natural land or farming areas have to be developed.



2000 - 2010 Residential Growth in Austin

- Darker shades on the map indicate census tracts with higher levels of residential growth.
- The bulk of new residential growth is taking place on the urban fringe, in the city's extraterrestrial jurisdiction (ETJ), indicating low density development and sprawling urbanization.



Data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Capital Area Council of Governments and City of Austin

Rural Land

CURRENT STATE

Rural areas of Central Texas continue to absorb huge population growth and face increasing fragmentation and conversion to unplanned urbanization.

IDEAL STATE

Development is encouraged in appropriate areas to ensure affordable infrastructure, preserve open space, and ecosystem health, minimize pollution, and support economical and efficient transportation.

CONTEXT

Rural lands, which are predominately privately owned, serve many purposes in Central Texas - for agricultural production, stormwater retention, aquifer recharge, cultural heritage, tourism and animal habitat.

These contributions of rural land may need to be valued as 'green infrastructure,' as vital to the health of the regional as transportation and land use investments.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

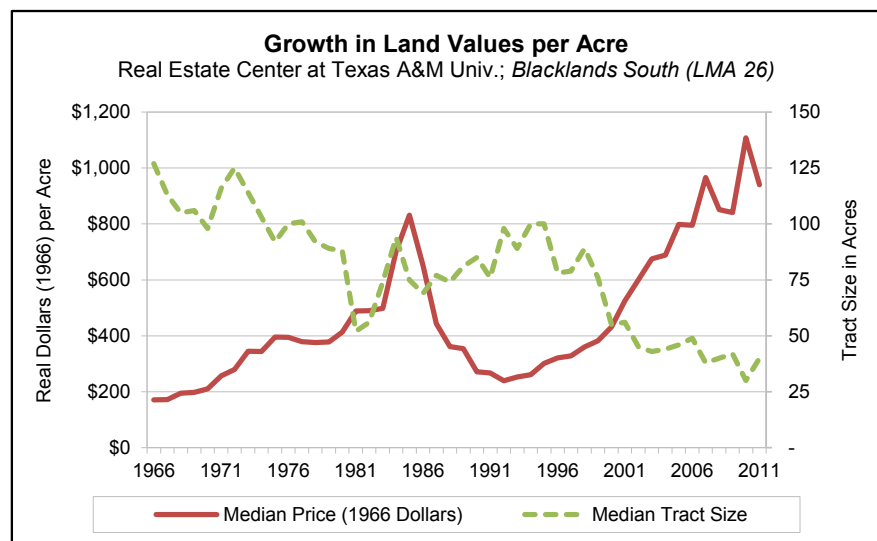
Rural Wastewater Systems
Agricultural Land Value

SOURCES

Page 114

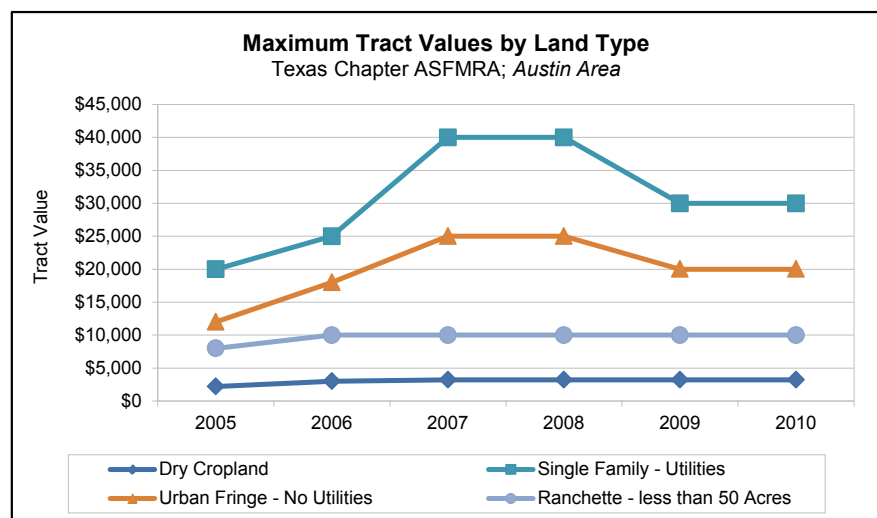
Market Value of Agricultural Land

- The increase in dollar value per acre of land and the decrease in tract size over time demonstrate the pressure to develop agricultural lands in urbanized regions into more “market responsive” land uses such as residential subdivisions.
- Land values across Central Texas increased steadily between 1997 and 2008 before the economic crisis caused values to become more volatile.
- *Real values are adjusted for inflation and are in 1966 dollars.*



Value by Land Type

- Before decreases in 2008, recent years had seen increases in the value of both land on the urban fringe with no utilities and single family areas with utilities.
- The land values of cropland and rural areas outside the urban fringe have remained consistent.



TREND

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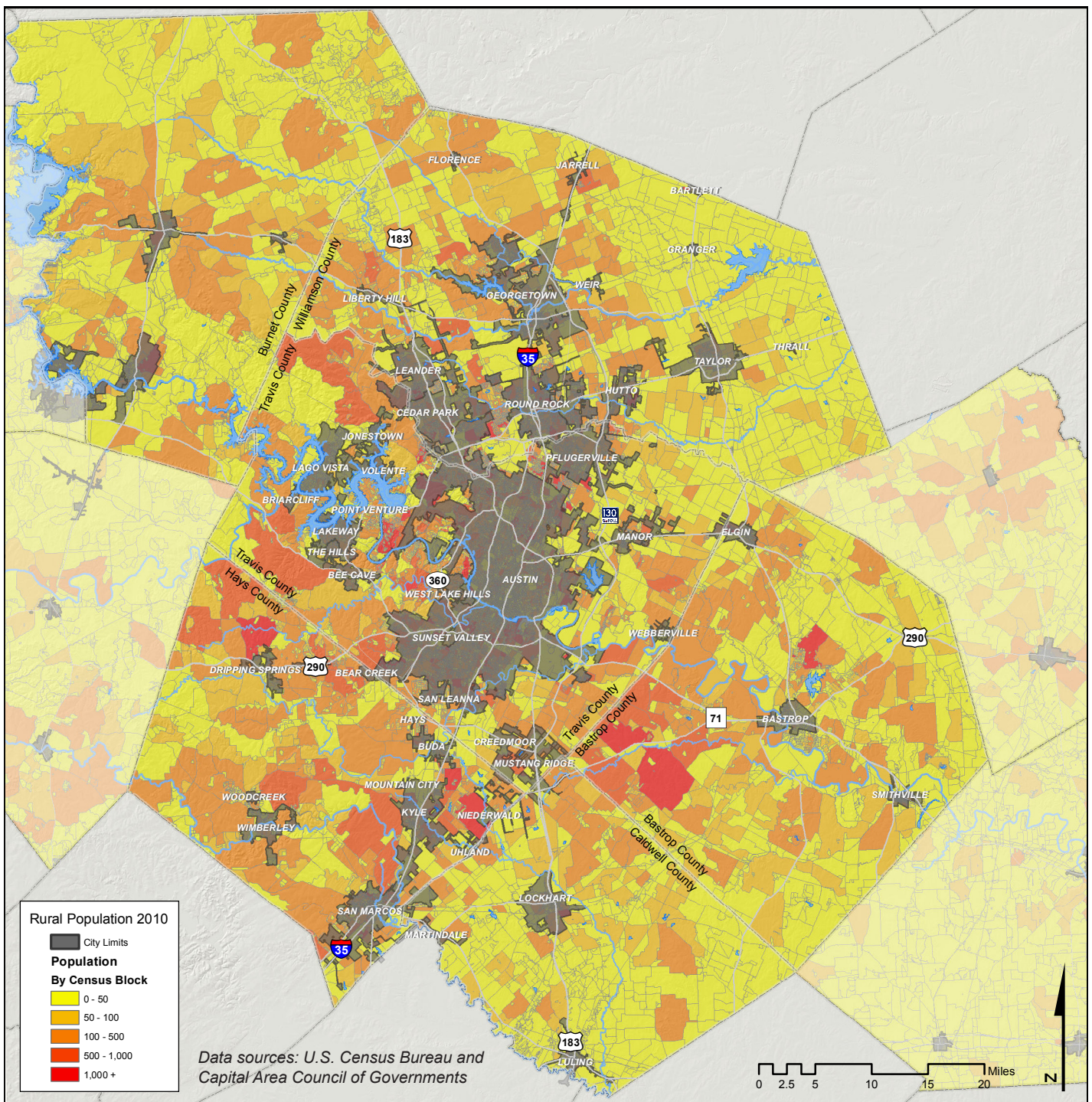


WORSENING

ACTION NEEDED

Rural Population

- The map below shows the areas outside of city limits that have substantial numbers of inhabitants.
- Scattered and undirected new development indicates a lack of applied vision for growth in the region and will likely adversely affect trends in investment in schools, water, energy, public safety, and health facilities and services.
- The most populated census block outside of municipal boundaries has 2,291 inhabitants, found near Lake Travis.



Public Open Space

CURRENT STATE

Renewed creativity in securing open space for public and non-public access will be needed to keep pace with population growth.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texas parks and public green spaces provide affordable public recreational opportunities to a growing population while protecting wildlife habitats and environmental quality.

CONTEXT

The planning and construction of parks and other public open spaces is known to be a crucial factor in maintaining societal and personal health as well as contributing to the quality of life and economic development potential of a region. Ensuring an adequate, if not equal, distribution of public open spaces is often difficult.

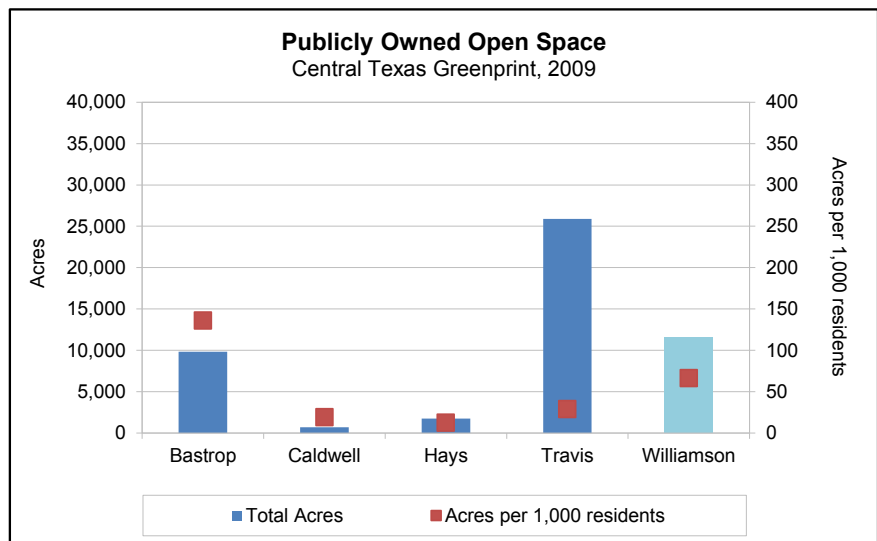
Publicly owned lands, and private, are increasingly viewed as "green infrastructure" - as necessary a system to maintain a region as any other type of investment.

SOURCES

Page 114

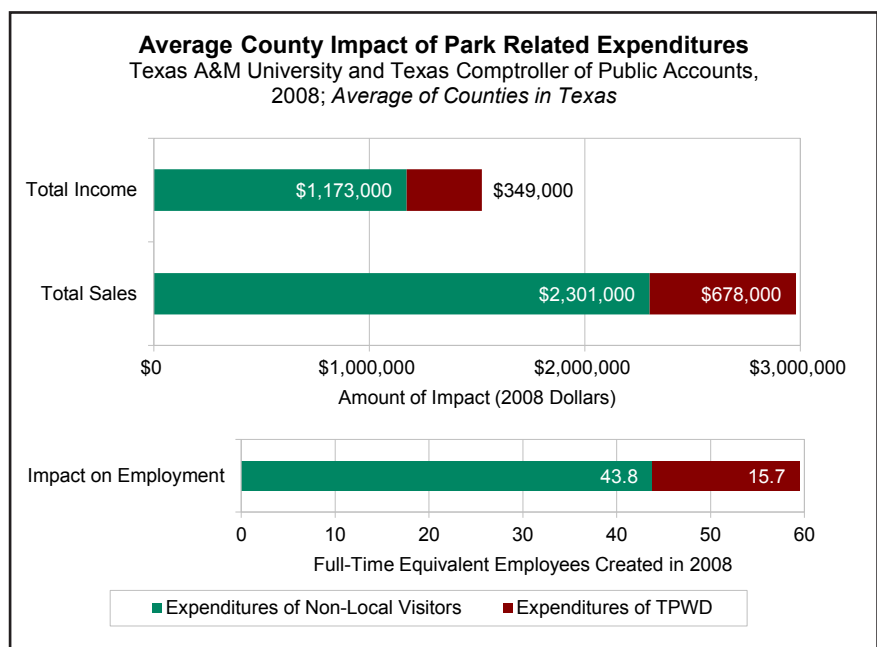
Public Open Space

- Caldwell and Hays Counties have little public open space and parks relative to their more urban neighbors. Hays County has a considerable amount of preserve lands with limited or no public access.
- Bastrop has considerable open space per capita, attributable to Bastrop and Buescher State Parks.



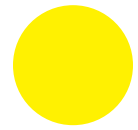
Economic Impact of Texas State Parks

- Communities benefit economically from parks directly from tourist and visitor spending at area businesses, such as restaurants, retail stores, and hotels.



TREND

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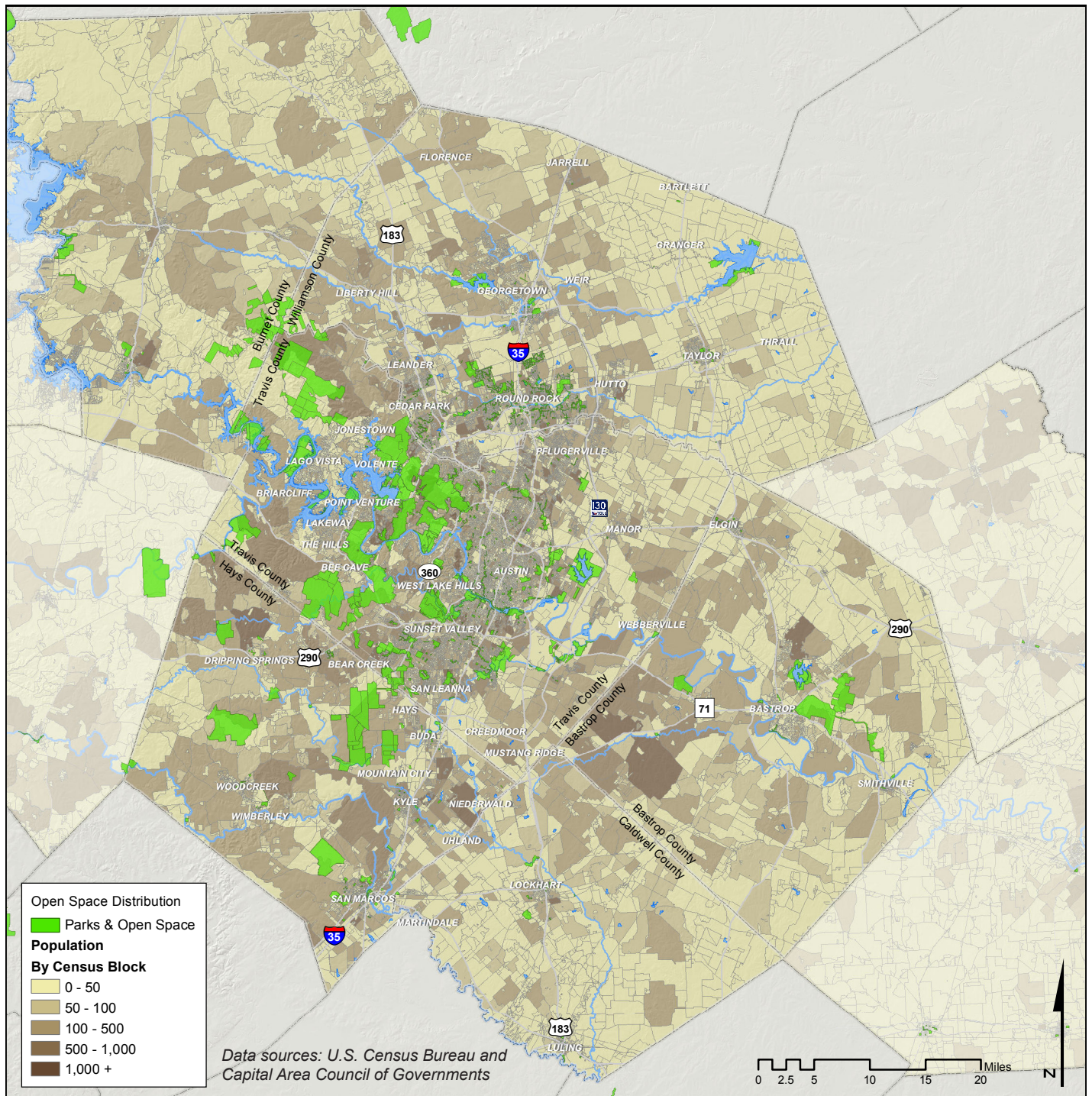


UNCHANGED

KEEP WATCH

Open Space

- The map displays dedicated open space and parkland and its spatial relationship with resident distribution in Central Texas. The map highlights that public open space is concentrated along the western part of Central Texas and is not evenly distributed throughout the counties, leaving some populated areas underserved.



Commuting

CURRENT STATE

Perceived change in commute times varies across the region. The use of, and preference for, commuting options is also variable.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texans have access to affordable and reliable transportation alternatives that allow them to travel efficiently throughout the region.

CONTEXT

Many regions are diversifying their transportation networks by improving transit services and coordinating investment with other infrastructure such as emerging centers, water supply, open space areas, and schools. A shift in perceptions about mobility needs is driving efforts to bring housing and jobs closer together to mitigate long commutes.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

Unlinked Passenger Trips on Capital Metro

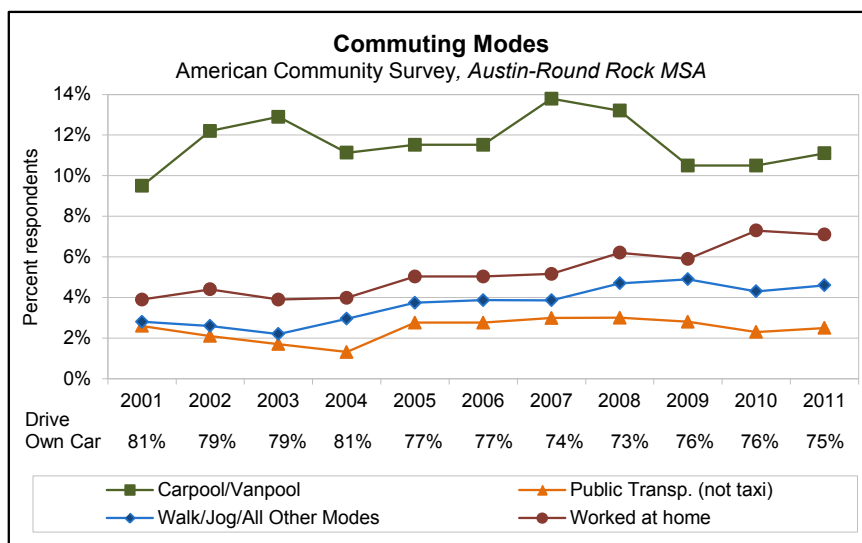
Bus Operating Expenses Per Passenger Trip

SOURCES

Page 114

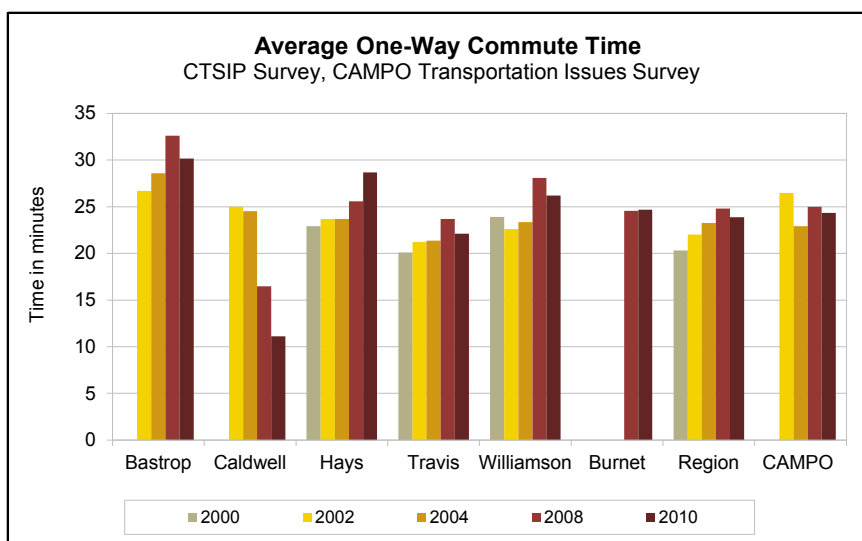
Commuting Modes

- In 2011, 75% of Central Texans commuted alone to work in their own cars, virtually unchanged over the past decade.
- More people walk, jog, or bicycle to work than those who use public transportation to commute and the trend is slowly climbing. This can inform future decisions about infrastructure investment in “complete streets,” or neighborhoods with connected streets complete with bicycle lanes and sidewalks.



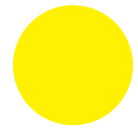
Average One Way Commute Time

- For the most part commuting times have increased across Central Texas, most notably in Bastrop, Hays and Williamson Counties. Caldwell County, however, has seen a significant decrease in commuting times between 2004 and 2010.



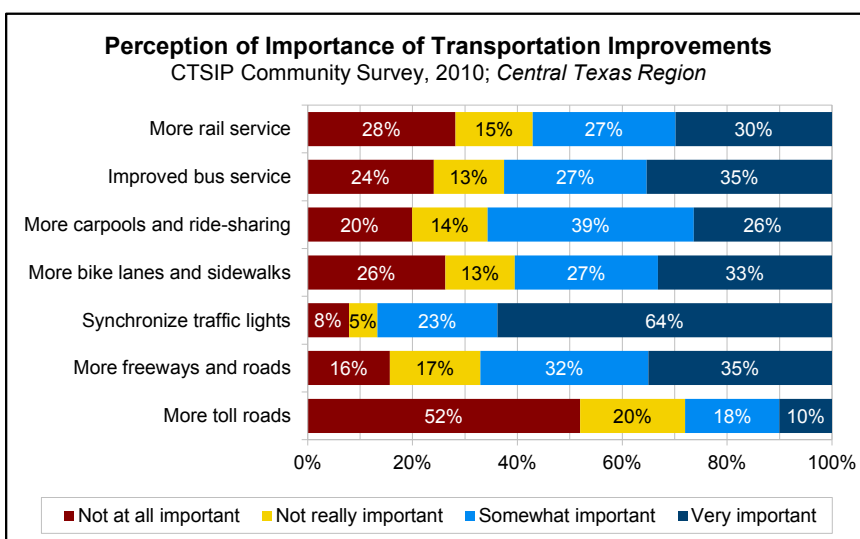
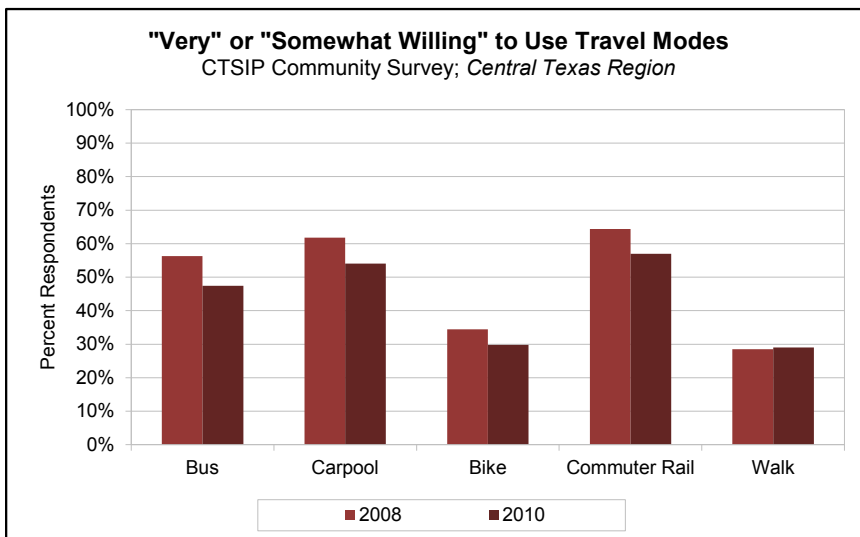
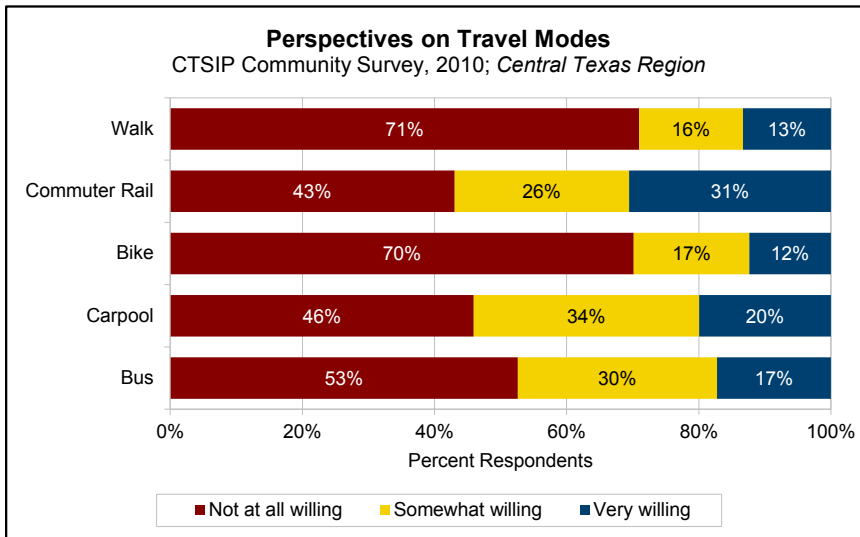
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KEEP WATCH



Alternative Commute Modes

- Central Texans are generally unwilling to use alternatives to driving alone, even if conditions were right for them.
- Of several available alternative options, Central Texas commuters are most willing to use commuter rail, if conditions were right for them.
- Over 70% of commuters are unwilling to bike or walk to work, likely a reflection of a lack of proximity to work.
- From 2008 to 2010, willingness among Central Texans to utilize alternative travel modes for commuting decreased in all categories besides walking.
- Reduced willingness to utilize alternative commute modes represents a disconnect with regional planning goals, which include providing more quality alternative transportation options for commuters.

Survey Question (both charts): If the conditions were right for you, please tell me if you would be very, somewhat, or not at all willing to use the following alternatives to driving alone to work/school/other destination:

Improvement Priorities

- Over 60% of Central Texans consider synchronized traffic lights to be a "very important" transportation improvement.
- More toll roads are "not at all important" for 52% of respondents.
- Concerning other transportation improvements, less agreement can be seen among respondents, however most respondents list them as at least "somewhat important."

Survey Question: I'm going to read a list of things typically cited to improve transportation. For you, please tell me if these are very important, somewhat important, not really important, or not at all important?

Vehicle Miles Traveled

CURRENT STATE

Despite the dip in vehicle miles traveled per capita, our regional transportation system remains congested.

IDEAL STATE

Central Texans have access to affordable and reliable transportation alternatives that allow them to travel efficiently throughout the region.

CONTEXT

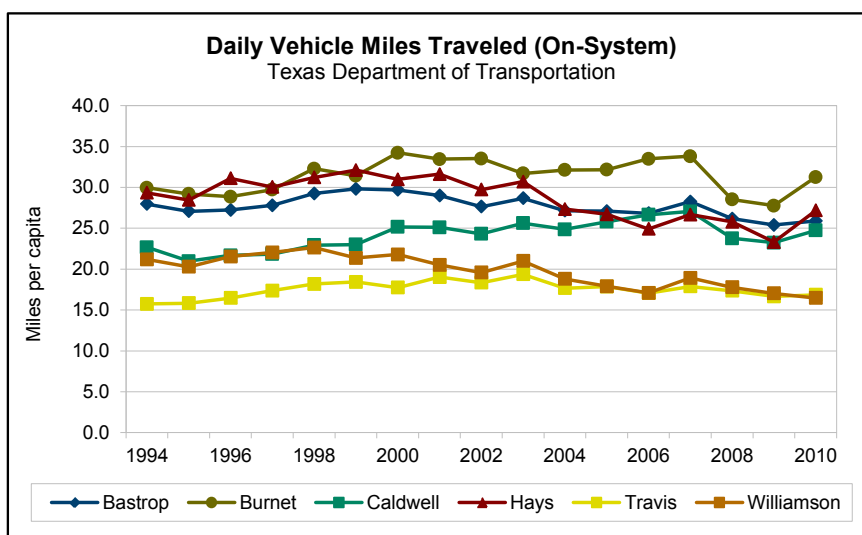
The effort to reduce daily vehicle miles traveled (DVMT) depends on planning and building a comprehensive multi-modal transportation system to strategically distribute work, personal and other trips. The effort also depends on individuals and families to adapt their lifestyles and travel behaviors to take best advantage of the system available to realize savings in fuel, emissions, time, and improving quality of life.

SOURCES

Page 114

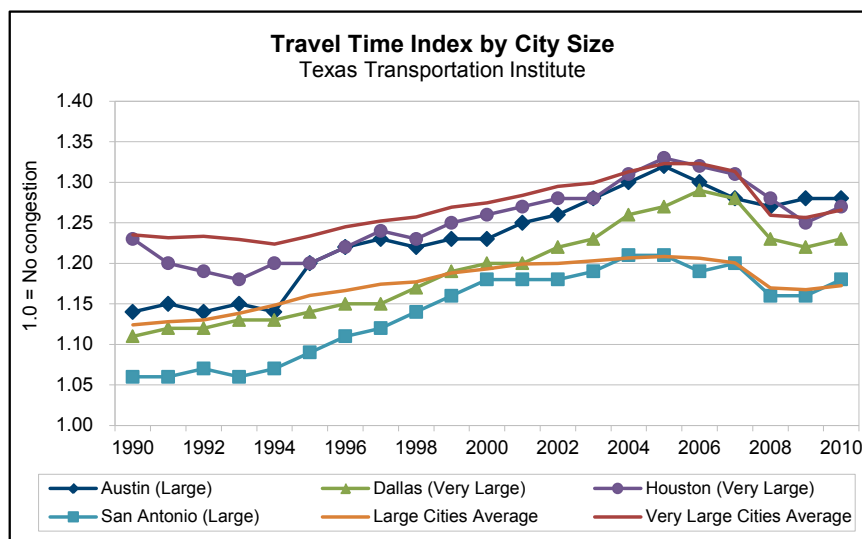
Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled

- Vehicle miles traveled throughout Central Texas declined between 2007 and 2009, before jumping again in some counties in 2010.
- On-system roadways are roadways designated on the State Highway System and maintained by TxDOT.
- Although daily vehicle miles traveled are reportedly on the decline, Austin has seen a fairly significant increase in carbon emissions from transportation since 2000 (not shown).



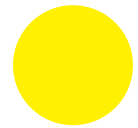
Travel Time Index

- The Travel Time Index (TTI) is the ratio of peak period travel time to free flow travel time. The TTI expresses the average amount of extra time it takes to travel in the peak relative to free-flow travel.
- Congestion in Austin is well above the average for a city of its size, with a TTI higher than Houston, Dallas and San Antonio in 2010.



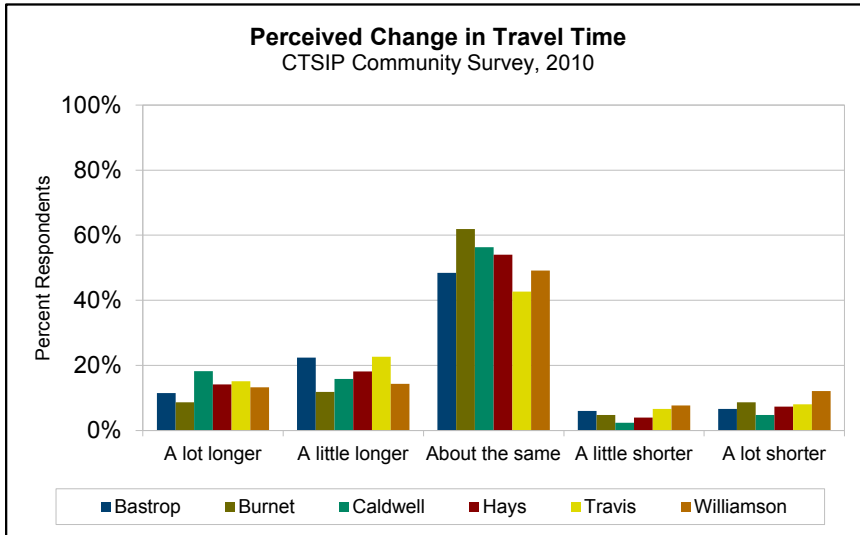
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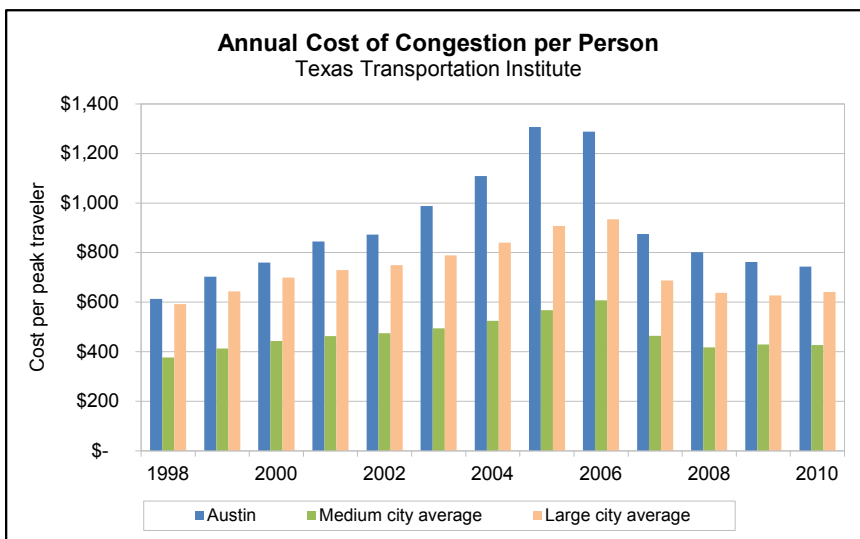
KEEP WATCH



Travel Time

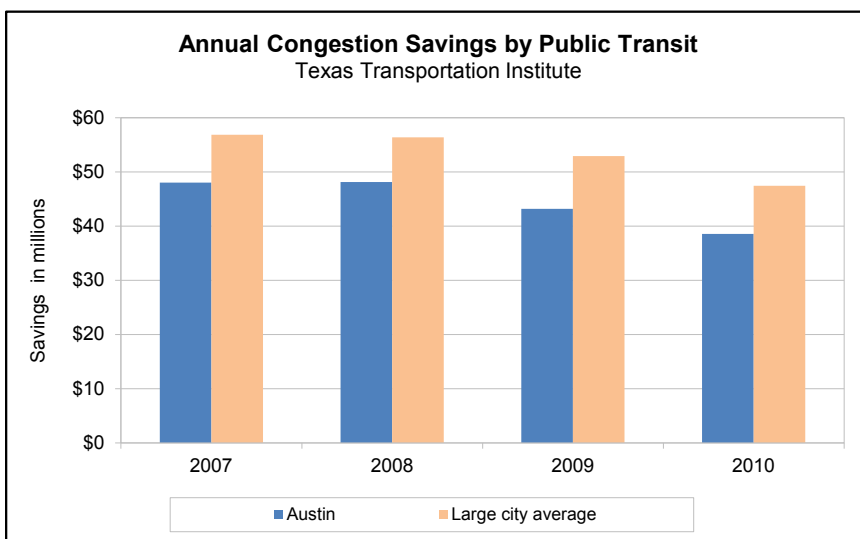
- Of residents that have seen a change in travel times over the past two years, twice as many think travel times have gotten longer rather than shorter.
- The most frequent reasons for shorter travel time were changes in job (27%) or residence (17%) location, rather than improvements in traffic congestion (6%) or better roads (9%).
- For those with longer travel times, 65% of people believe the cause is that traffic congestion has gotten worse.

Survey Question: Compared to 2 years ago, would you say that these days your total travel time is . . .



Cost of Congestion

- The average cost per commuter in the Austin area has fallen sharply recently, coming closer in line with the average costs for other “Large” cities.
- A University of Texas at Austin survey in 2004 revealed Austin area commuters would be willing to pay \$12 to save an hour of commute time.
- *Note: TTI altered its methodology for the most recent report. The congestion estimates for all study years are recalculated every time the methodology is altered to provide a consistent data trend.*



Public Transportation Savings

- Public transportation serves to alleviate congestion, resulting in savings to residents spending less time in traffic.
- The Austin area lags behind the average congestion savings being realized in other “Large” cities.
- *Note: Due to methodology changes, TTI data for this measure is only available from 2007 to 2010.*

SOURCES

The Data

Key to the integrity of any indicator is the quality of the data. Good indicators are understandable to the general public and use familiar language rather than specialized jargon. People should be able to relate quality data and indicators to their daily lives.

Each of our indicators is a collection of key datasets and measures needed to accurately and fully describe the state of a given indicator. Often there are more measures for an indicator than we have room to print. In most cases, the measures we print are a result of comments and feedback received from users of previous reports about what is most useful to them.

Subjective Data

The CTSIP relies on both public data gathered from regulatory agencies and more qualitative, subjective data gathered through surveys, including our own Community Survey (page 122) – a primary source for several of our indicators. We believe both types are valuable to fully understanding issues, a given indicator and the relationships between indicators.

Spatial Data

Community indicators inherently describe differences across a community of some geographical dimension – whether a neighborhood, city, county, region or country. The CTSIP endeavors to show the spatial qualities of our indicators whenever possible. Such spatial display of information is often more persuasive than simple tables and charts.

If you find a measure that you believe is in error, or want to suggest an additional measure for an indicator, please contact us via post or e-mail.

Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project
PO Box 684766
Austin, TX 78768

feedback@centex-indicators.org

Demographics

All population and household data are imperfect, including the census, and are based on some method of counting a sample of one or more variables then estimating total counts. All these methods wrestle with estimating “hard to enumerate” populations and environments, leading to possible under-counts of certain populations such as homeless and immigrant groups. Deep snapshots, such as the national decennial Census, help local and regional planners calibrate their methods and account for rapid growth rates, new growth patterns and changes in regional demographics – thereby also helping planners refine their efforts toward regional sustainability.

The move away from the “long form” sample in the 2010 Census, ostensibly replaced by the rolling American Community Survey, has resulted in a less-detailed snapshot, especially for small communities. Verification and refinement of projections for cohorts of interest or small geographies within any region made over the past decade or for the next several decades will be either substantially less accurate or impossible.

Population **p. 10**

City of Austin	www.ci.austin.tx.us/demographics
U.S. Census Bureau	factfinder.census.gov

Households **p. 12**

U.S. Census Bureau	factfinder.census.gov
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Population Cohorts **p. 14**

Texas State Data Center	www.txsdcenter.utsa.edu
U.S. Census Bureau	factfinder.census.gov

Population Distribution **p. 16**

U.S. Census Bureau	factfinder.census.gov
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Public Safety

Community Safety p. 20

The Uniform Crime Rate (UCR) is a composite measure of seven offenses selected for their seriousness, frequency of occurrence, and likelihood of being reported to police. The Uniform Crime Rate (UCR) is defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (local definitions of specific crimes and rates often vary) and allows comparisons over time and between areas, but should not be used to rank areas.

U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations www.fbi.gov
Texas Department of Safety www.txdps.state.tx.us
CTSIP Community Survey [see page 122](#)

Data Limitations

Local jurisdictions often report local crime rates using different standards and definitions than reported under the UCR.

Safe Families p. 22

Family violence is defined as all reported crimes committed against a family member related by blood or marriage.

Texas Dept. of Public Safety www.txdps.state.tx.us
TX Dept. of Family Protective Services www.dfps.state.tx.us

Equity in Law Enforcement p. 24

Youth arrest data is recorded by county, offense type, age, race/ethnicity and gender. This data does not account for multiple arrests of the same person.

Texas Dept. of Public Safety www.txdps.state.tx.us
CTSIP Community Survey [see page 122](#)

Education and Children

Child Care: Quality p. 28

Accreditation and even total number of facilities can vary greatly during the year, even by season. Analyses can be affected depending on the time data is gathered.

TX Dept. of Family Protective Services www.dfps.state.tx.us
U.S. Bur. of Labor Statistics www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm
CTSIP Community Survey [see page 122](#)

Child Care: Access p. 30

Accreditation and even total number of facilities can vary greatly during the year, even by season. Analyses can be greatly affected depending on when data is gathered from the state or NAEYC.

Texas Kids Count Project, Center for Public Policy Priorities
datacenter.kidscount.org
Family Connections www.familyconnectionsonline.org
CTSIP Community Survey [see page 122](#)

Schools: Quality p. 32

There are several metrics for school performance and success, including the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS), which continues to track the transition from the TAAS to the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), The TAAS test was replaced in 2003 by TAKS, which was replaced in 2011 by the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), which accounts for two breaks in the trends for all TEA AEIS measures.

Texas Education Agency www.tea.state.tx.us
CTSIP Community Survey [see page 122](#)

Schools: Equity p. 34

Percentages for this measure may not equal total percentages reported in School Quality due to aggregation of some Hispanic students into other race/ethnic categories.

Texas Education Agency www.tea.state.tx.us

Sources

Schools: Performance p. 36

The TAAS test was replaced in 2003 by the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), which was replaced in 2011 by the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), representing two breaks in the trend for this measure.

Texas Education Agency www.tea.state.tx.us

Higher Education p. 38

Texas Education Agency www.tea.state.tx.us

CTSIP Community Survey [see page 122](#)

Social Equity

Cost of Living p. 42

The Living Wage Calculator was developed as part of the Living Wage Project, and is a companion to the Poverty in America website. Modeled after the Economic Policy Institute's metropolitan living wage tool, it is designed to provide a minimum estimate of the cost of living for low wage families. The estimates do not reflect a middle class standard of living, but rather minimum cost thresholds.

Penn. St. University <http://www.livingwage.geog.psu.edu/>

U.S. Bur. of Labor Statistics www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm

U.S. Census Bureau factfinder.census.gov

U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Devt. www.huduser.org

Housing: Ownership p. 44

Federal Financial Institutions Exam. Council www.ffiec.gov

Texas Real Estate Center www.recenter.tamu.edu

U.S. Census Bureau factfinder.census.gov

U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Devt. www.huduser.org

Housing: Rental p. 46

The Fair Market Rent (FMR) is a percentile measure set at the median so that 50% of rents are below the FMR and 50% are above FMRs are gross rent estimates.

Map data from Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD), City of Austin.

City of Austin www.ci.austin.tx.us

Capitol Market Research, Inc. www.cmraustin.com

U.S. Census Bureau factfinder.census.gov

U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Devt. www.huduser.org

CTSIP Community Survey [see page 122](#)

Home Loans p. 48

The Federal Financial Institution Examination Council (FFIEC) monitors compliance of banks and lenders with the Federal Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA).

Federal Financial Institutions Exam. Council www.ffiec.gov

English Proficiency p. 50

CTSIP Community Survey [see page 122](#)

Texas Education Agency www.tea.state.tx.us

U.S. Census Bureau factfinder.census.gov

Diversity of Leadership **p. 52**

The CTSIP conducted web surveys of all city, county, school, state, and federal public officials in the six-county region.

Texas State Data Center	www.txsdcenter.utsa.edu
Texas Courts Online	courts.state.tx.us
U.S. Census Bureau	factfinder.census.gov

Race Relations **p. 54**

This indicator added by the CTSIP in 2006.

CTSIP Community Survey	see page 122
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Engagement

Philanthropy /Volunteerism **p. 58**

CTSIP Community Survey	see page 122
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Participation in the Arts **p. 60**

CTSIP Community Survey	see page 122
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Neighborliness **p. 62**

CTSIP Community Survey	see page 122
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Civic Participation **p. 64**

Texas Secretary of State	www.sos.state.tx.us
Central Texas Blood and Tissue Center	www.bloodandtissue.org
CTSIP Community Survey	see page 122

Sources

Economy

Household Income p. 68

Limits for both family and household income are established by metropolitan statistical area (MSA), regardless of city or county variations within the MSA. Poverty thresholds are set for the nation as a whole.

U.S. Census Bureau	www.census.gov
U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	www.bea.gov
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	www.stats.bls.gov
U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Devt.	www.huduser.org
CTSIP Community Survey	see page 122

Diversity of Economy p. 70

Texas Workforce Commission	www.twc.state.tx.us
U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Census	www.census.gov
CTSIP Community Survey	see page 122

Exporting Industries p. 72

Employment data is by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)

Austin Chamber of Commerce	www.austin-chamber.org
Texas Workforce Commission	www.twc.state.tx.us
International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce	www.trade.gov/mas/ian/ metroreport/index.asp

Labor Availability p. 74

Capital Area Council of Governments	www.capcog.org
Texas Workforce Commission	www.twc.state.tx.us
CTSIP Community Survey	see page 122

Job Availability p. 76

The unemployment ratio is the ratio of the number of unemployed persons to the total civilian labor force. Unemployed persons are those who are available for work and who have made specific efforts to find employment.

Texas Workforce Commission	www.twc.state.us
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	www.stats.bls.gov
CTSIP Community Survey	see page 122

Entrepreneurship / Innovation p. 78

Data is based on franchise taxpayers (incorporated, for-profit businesses) that are still filing returns as ongoing entities after initially filing three years earlier.

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts	www.cpa.state.tx.us
Austin Chamber of Commerce	www.austin-chamber.org
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	www.uspto.gov
CTSIP Community Survey	see page 122

Environment

Water Consumption p. 82

Texas Water Development Board www.twdb.state.tx.us
CTSIP Community Survey see page 122

Water Quality p. 84

If a water body violates just one of many criteria, it is listed as impaired or as not meeting its designated use for that year. Monitored bodies include the largest lakes, rivers, and streams in the state, with multiple monitoring sites along several rivers.

A gap in EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) data online made 2009 information on providers in violation unavailable for this report.

TX Commission on Env. Quality www.tceq.state.tx.us
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov

Energy Use p. 86

Data gathered from interviews with energy providers on reported energy generation from 1997 to most current year available. No distinction is made between residential and commercial or industrial consumers. For the 2012 report, CTSIP was unable to obtain proprietary data from LCRA and TXU, but is working to include this data in future publications.

Lower Colorado River Authority www.lcra.org
Austin Energy www.austinenergy.com
Electric Reliability Council of Texas www.ercot.com
American Wind Energy Association www.awea.org

Air Quality p. 88

The EPA ozone “design value” is calculated with the fourth highest annual daily maximum eight-hour ozone concentrations averaged over a three-year period. The Austin area currently measures ozone concentrations at three monitors.

Texas Commission on Env. Quality www.tceq.state.tx.us
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov
CTSIP Community Survey see page 122

Solid Waste/Recycling p. 90

Regional and State of Texas disposal estimates cannot be disaggregated to determine specifically where solid waste originates below the county level.

Texas Commission on Env. Quality www.tceq.state.tx.us
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov
City of Austin Resource Recovery
www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-resource-recovery

Hazardous Waste p. 92

Capital Area Council of Governments www.capcog.org
Texas Commission on Env. Quality www.tceq.state.tx.us
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov

Sources

Health

Health Insurance p. 96

The Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System is a federally funded telephone survey that collects data from randomly selected Texans on health characteristics including health insurance and lifestyle risk factors contributing to leading causes of death and chronic disease.

U.S. Health and Human Services www.hhs.gov
CTSIP Community Survey [see page 122](#)
Center for Disease Control, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.htm

Physical Health p. 98

Eligibility for designation as an Medically Underserved Area (MUA) is based on the demographics of the entire population in an area compared to national statistics for four health care demand/resource indicators: Percentage of elderly population (over 65 years),

Poverty rate, Infant mortality rate, Ratio of primary care physicians per 1,000 population.

The Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System is a federally funded telephone survey that collects data from randomly selected Texans on lifestyle risk factors contributing to leading causes of death and chronic disease.

Texas Dept. of State Health Services www.dshs.state.tx.us
Medically Underserved Area Designations
www.dshs.state.tx.us/CHS/HPRC/MUAlist.shtm
CTSIP Community Survey [see page 122](#)

Mental Health p. 100

Youth admittance numbers less than 10 for substance abuse treatment centers are suppressed by Texas Department of State Health Services. In these instances CTSIP has used 5 as a proxy.

Texas Dept. of State Health Services www.dshs.state.tx.us
CTSIP Community Survey [see page 122](#)

Land Use and Mobility

Density of New Development p. 104

The decennial census provides a snapshot of population and housing, especially for areas not otherwise assessed on a regular basis, such as unincorporated areas of Texas counties.

U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov
CTSIP Community Survey [see page 122](#)

Rural Land p. 106

The Real Estate Center at Texas A&M tracks land value trends in Texas regions. Trend data for various types of land are provided by the Texas Chapter of American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, available online from the Real Estate Center website.

U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov
Real Estate Center at Texas A&M recenter.tamu.edu
Capital Area Council of Governments www.capcog.org

Public Open Space p. 108

Texas Comptroller's Office www.cpa.state.tx.us
Texas A&M University www.tamu.edu
U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov

Central Texas Greenprint for Growth

Envision Central Texas www.envisioncentraltexas.org
Capital Area Council of Governments www.capcog.org
Trust for Public Land www.tpl.org
Final Report www.capcog.org/information-clearinghouse/publications/#central-texas-greenprint-for-growth

Commuting p. 110

U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov
CTSIP Community Survey [see page 122](#)

Vehicle Miles Traveled

p. 112

Texas Transportation Institute defines medium urban areas as over 500,000 and less than 1 million and large urban areas as over 1 million and less than 3 million. Since the 2009 CTSIP data report, Austin has been redefined as a large city based on this criteria.

The methodology used to calculate Travel Time Index and congestion costs have been developed by the Texas Transportation Institute over several years and several research projects. The congestion estimates for all study years are recalculated every time the methodology is altered to provide a consistent data trend. There were several methodology changes applicable to the most recent data, and CTSIP has included recalculated values for all study years.

Texas Dept. of Transportation	www.dot.state.tx.us
Texas Transportation Institute	www.tti.tamu.edu
CTSIP Community Survey	see page 122

COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2010

The CTSIP Community Survey was originally designed in 2000 to measure six indicators for which no adequate public data were available. We now rely on our biennial Community Survey for eight of our indicators' primary measures, and as secondary measures for another five. An extensive amount of survey data is not published in the Data Reports, but used to inform other projects. These data are sourced as "CTSIP Community Survey."

The CTSIP Community Survey has been fielded in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010. The CTSIP will endeavor to field the survey again in 2012.

Methodology

The 2010 sample was designed with quotas by county (below) and for African American, Hispanic, and young adult (less than 24 years of age) respondents. The survey was conducted between December 2010 and February 2011 to respondents 18 years or older. Each year approximately 3% are conducted in Spanish; an additional 1% of households contacted can not be interviewed because of non-Spanish and English language barriers.

Findings for individual counties in the Data Report are based on the total completed interviews within the county. Findings reported for the six-county region are based on the total number of completed interviews in all six counties.

County	Quota	Error at 95% Confidence
Bastrop	315	±5.5%
Burnet	315	±5.5%
Caldwell	315	±5.5%
Hays	315	±5.5%
Travis	817	±3.4%
Williamson	315	±5.5%
Region	2,395	±2.6%

While the survey is quite long, less than 6% of respondents refuse outright or terminate mid-interview. The much larger future design issue is responding to the growing number of "no answer" (47% of dials in 2010) and decrease in home land phone lines in favor of cell phones.

Partnering

From time to time the CTSIP adds new questions and modules to the Community Survey. This consideration is based on improving the quality of an indicator as well as the survey needs of a community partner. Please contact us for more information.

Questions

The original survey in 2000 consisted of 21 questions on seven topics, including demographics. Marie Crane and Associates designed the original survey, as well as the 2001 addition of a module on Workforce Training.

In 2004 we added modules on Child Care, Civic Engagement, Health Status and Health Insurance, and Reactions to Race/Ethnicity. The new modules on Health and Race were modeled on questions created by the U.S. Center for Disease Control.

In 2006, we added Worry about Crime, Sustainability, and Land Use/Growth. Questions on Land Use, Sustainability and new questions added to previous modules were designed with the help of Opinion Analysts, Inc.

In 2008 we expanded our Commuting module to capture questions historically fielded in a CAMPO survey. We created new modules for Water awareness and Climate Change. Of greatest significance was adding Burnet County to the sample.

In 2010 we added questions related to social equity and local business.

Modules	Questions
Arts Participation	10
Philanthropy/Volunteerism (w/ ILHIGH)	8
Neighborliness	1
Civic Engagement	6
Child Care	14
Sustainability	8
Commuting (w/ CAMPO)	38
Air Quality	6
Worry About Crime	9
Workforce and Education	16
English Proficiency	3
Land Use/Growth	8
Health Status and Access (w/ Central Health)	15
Reactions to Race/Ethnicity	9
Water Awareness	6
Climate Change	9
Demographics	17
Social Equity	3
Local Business	5

The full survey instrument is available on request. The survey has been implemented since 2004 by Customer Research International, based in San Marcos, Texas.