



Community Dashboard 2012

key socioeconomic indicators
for Austin & Travis County

DIVERGENT PATHS, CONNECTED FUTURES

Austin and Travis County consistently rank among the top places in the nation to live, work, retire, start a business, or enjoy live music and the natural environment. We are fortunate to live in such a vibrant, educated, and culturally diverse community, but this community's fortune and prosperity are not shared by all.

There are a greater percentage of people who are low-income in the City of Austin than in the State of Texas as a whole or the nation. Our community also has a higher percentage of households that are housing cost-burdened. Only one-third of the low-income students who graduated high school from Austin ISD in 2010 met the state's "college readiness" standard for both mathematics and English Language Arts.

There is an increasingly stark economic divide in our community, and the futures of people on both sides of this divide are intrinsically linked. The increasingly low-income children filling elementary school classrooms are the future workers and taxpayers who will support Central Texas' aging pre-senior population, which is the fastest growing in the nation. The families pushed into the suburbs with limited transportation options or access to services are the workforce and the fuel that will keep the local economy strong.

Community Action Network (CAN) is a unique partnership of agencies, organizations and individuals who share a common vision for our community's social, health, educational and economic well-being. CAN developed the Community Dashboard to track 16 indicators that gauge progress made toward this common vision. New additions in this third annual Community Dashboard report include a "Strategic Framework for Action" and an inventory of "Common Strategies." Both were informed by many stakeholder meetings and by an analysis of over 70 planning documents. This work provides a common language for better understanding the inter-relationships of all our partners' efforts to enhance the community's well-being.

Carefully monitoring these indicators and identifying areas where we can work together for collective impact will help ensure that Austin remains a city that future generations will also be proud to call home.



CAN Partners work together to promote a community of equity and opportunity.

- Austin Chamber of Commerce
- Austin Community College
- Austin Independent School District
- Austin Travis County Integral Care
- Capital Metro
- Central Health
- City of Austin
- Community Justice Council
- Interfaith Action of Central Texas
- One Voice Central Texas
- Seton Healthcare Family
- St. David's Foundation
- St. Edward's University
- Travis County
- United Way Capital Area
- University of Texas at Austin
- Workforce Solutions– Capital Area

Visit www.cancommunitydashboard.org to learn more about the CAN Community Dashboard indicators and local efforts to improve these community conditions.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Protecting our quality of life for the long-term requires that we monitor and understand the implications of demographic changes in Austin and Travis County and in the larger five-county Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). In 2011, CAN convened mappers and planners from around the region to share data, information and insights about how the Central Texas community is changing. Following are some of the findings of this group.

growing

- From 2000 to 2010, the five-county metro area grew by 37%, according to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#). Austin was the fastest growing metro in Texas and the 8th fastest growing metro area in the United States.
- The growth rate for populations living at the [federal poverty threshold](#) and low-income populations (200% of poverty level) was about twice that of the population as a whole.

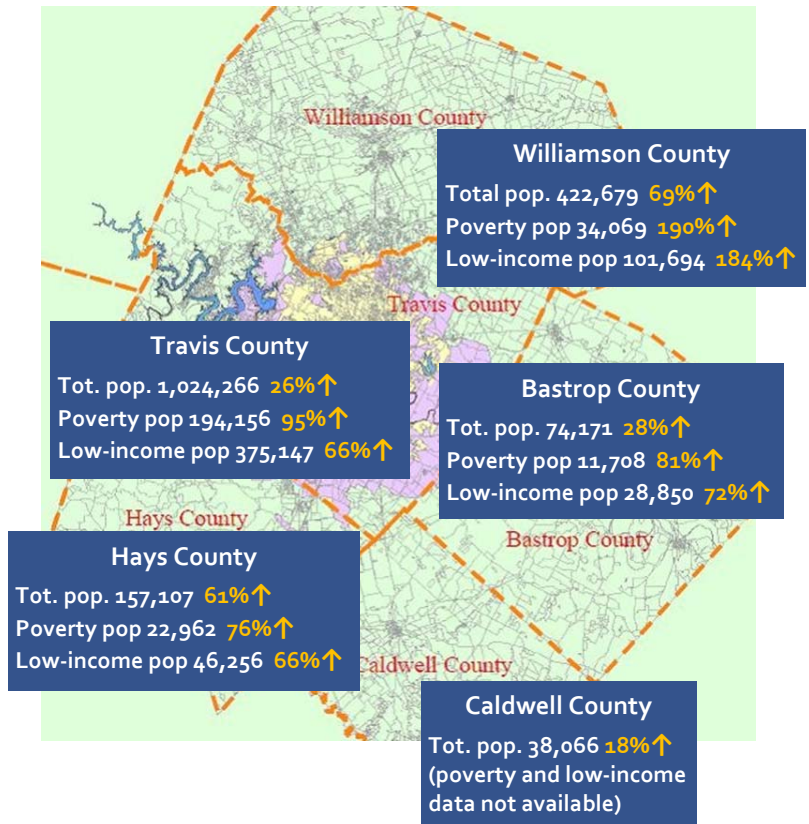
economic division

- According to the [City of Austin demographer](#), the median family income (MFI) for Anglo and Asian populations increased by more than 30% from 2000 to 2009, while the MFI for African American families increased only slightly and the MFI for Hispanic families actually fell from 2000 to 2009.
- There is a stark geographical divide in where low-income and higher income families live. The geographical patterns for the prevalence of childhood obesity, poor educational outcomes, and low voter turnout are similar to the geographical patterns for where low-income populations are concentrated.

diversifying

- Hispanics have increased as a percent of the total population in each of the five counties in the MSA, while the white population has decreased as a percent of the total population.
- The Asian population is the fastest growing population in Travis County, though its percent of the total remains small.
- African American populations held steady as a percent of the total MSA population, but shifted away from the City of Austin into the eastern portions of Travis County and into adjacent counties.
- The two bookends of our demographic growth trends are a large and fast-growing Hispanic child population and the fastest growing pre-senior (45–64 year old) population in the nation.

Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos MSA 2010 population totals and % change since 2000



pooling & sprawling

- There has been a “pooling” and “sprawling” of low-income populations as families double-up or move further out of the city limits to find affordable housing.
- Much of the growth over the past decade occurred outside the city limits of Austin. Some census blocks within the City of Austin saw zero or negative growth from 2000 to 2010, especially in the child population.

SETTING A COURSE FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

Community Action Network has facilitated the development of the Community Dashboard that provides a snapshot of the overall socioeconomic health and well-being of our community.

- 2008
A COMMON VISION:
 The CAN Board of Directors, Community Council, Issue Area Groups and other community stakeholders worked together to develop a common vision of our aspirations for all people in our community.
- 2009
COMMUNITY DASHBOARD INDICATORS:
 A Dashboard Steering Committee with expertise in education, health, human services, criminal justice, workforce development, transportation and housing identified 16 community indicators that measure whether we are making progress towards achieving our Common Vision. The indicators were approved by the CAN Board of Directors.
- 2010
BASELINE:
 The first annual Community Dashboard report was released and a website was created with an analysis of each indicator. The CAN Community Council hosted monthly televised forums with presentations on where we stand on each indicator, who is working to improve the indicator, and what more needs to be done.
- 2011
WHERE WE ARE HEADED:
 CAN published the second Community Dashboard report and the Dashboard Steering Committee began working with stakeholders to set goals and targets for the indicators.
- 2012
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION:
 This third annual Community Dashboard report updates data for each indicator and also includes a new Strategic Framework for Action. These strategies were identified through input from numerous stakeholders, Issue Area Groups, CAN partner agencies and through an analysis of community planning documents.

OUR COMMON VISION

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

COMMUNITY DASHBOARD INDICATORS



We are safe, just & engaged

community indicator	2011 report	2012 report <small>(data available as of 3/29/2012)</small>	target
Violent crime rate in Travis County	456 per 100,000 population in 2009	417 per 100,000 population in 2010	417 per 100,000 population by 2017
Proportionality of arrest demographics as compared to overall population in Travis County	disproportionate	disproportionate	target not set
Proportionality of voter turnout by age in Travis County	disproportionate	disproportionate	target not set



Our basic needs are met

Percent of Travis County residents who are low-income (below 200% FPL)	35% in 2009	37% in 2010	30% by 2017
Percent of Travis County households that are cost-burdened (pay 30% or more of income for housing)	38% in 2009	41% in 2010	36% by 2017
Vehicle miles traveled per capita in Travis County	23.8 miles per day in 2009	24.4 miles per day in 2010	23.4 miles by 2017
Number of people identified in the annual point-in-time homeless count	2,406 in 2010	2,244 in 2012	1,000 by 2017



We are healthy

Percent under age 65 in Travis County who have no health insurance	24% in 2009	22% in 2010	20% by 2014
Percent of adults in Travis County who report poor mental health*	19% in 2009	20% in 2010	15% by 2017
Percent of adults in Travis County who are smokers*	17% in 2009	14% in 2010	12% by 2020
Percent of adults in Travis County who are obese*	22% in 2009	24% in 2010	19% by 2020
Attainment of EPA air ozone standards	2010 in attainment	2011 in attainment	attainment



We achieve our full potential

Percent of children who are kindergarten ready	52% in 2009	50% in 2010	70% by 2015
Percent of Austin ISD students who graduate from high school in four years	76% for Class of 2009	79% for Class of 2010	90% for Class of 2014
Percent of Austin ISD graduates who are college ready in English and Math	Engl/Lang Arts: 62% Math: 63% Class of 2009	Engl/Lang Arts: 65% Math: 65% Class of 2010	Engl/Lang Arts: 73% Math: 81% Class of 2014
Unemployment rate for Travis County	7% in January 2011	6% in January 2012	4% by 01/2017

* Three year data aggregates are used to compensate for small sample sizes.

Learn more about each indicator at www.cancommunitydashboard.org

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

a common language for taking action together

Achieving equity and opportunity for all people in our community will require making progress in all four of the common goal areas outlined in the Community Dashboard. The Strategic Framework for Action provides a common language for policy-makers, service providers and the community at large to talk about the kinds of collective action that can help our community accomplish its vision of equity and opportunity for all people.

The community plans identified in the Strategic Framework for Action are examples of plans that make recommendations related to improving conditions across the community, rather than recommendations that drive the work of a single organization. These plans can inform and connect the individual plans of CAN partner agencies and others.

In looking at the Strategic Framework for Action, it is important to consider whether additional community plans are needed and how the existing community plans can be tied together or strengthened so that they can serve as the fabric that helps our community weave together an integrated network of services and care.





We are safe, just & engaged

We are Safe, Just & Engaged—Community Plans:

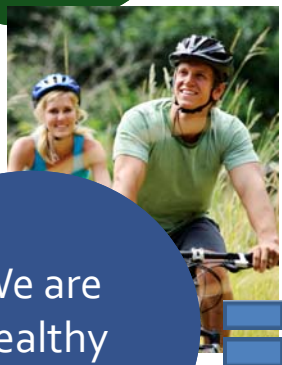
- 2012-2015 Travis County Plan for Criminal Justice and Related Activities
- Austin Travis County Integral Care, Mental Health Jail Diversion Plan
- City of Austin, Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan



Our basic needs are met

Our Basic Needs are Met—Community Plans:

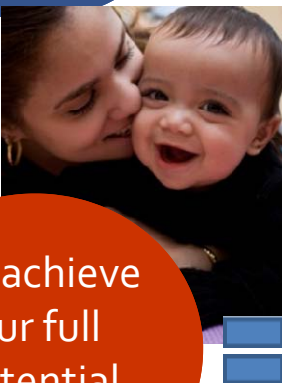
- Austin Travis County HHS Community Health Improvement Plan (under development)
- Ending Community Homelessness Coalition Plan to End Community Homelessness
- Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) 2035 Plan
- Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan
- Regional Transit Coordination Committee Capital Area Coordinated Transportation Plan



We are healthy

We are Healthy—Community Plans:

- Austin Travis County HHS Community Health Improvement Plan (under development)
- Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan
- Capital Area Planning Council of Governments (CAPCOG) 8 Hour Ozone Flex Program Austin-Round Rock MSA



We achieve our full potential

We Achieve our Full Potential—Community Plans:

- Travis County School Readiness Action Plan 2012-15 (under development)
- E³ Alliance Blueprint for Educational Change
- CAPCOG's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2010-2015



WE ARE SAFE, JUST AND ENGAGED

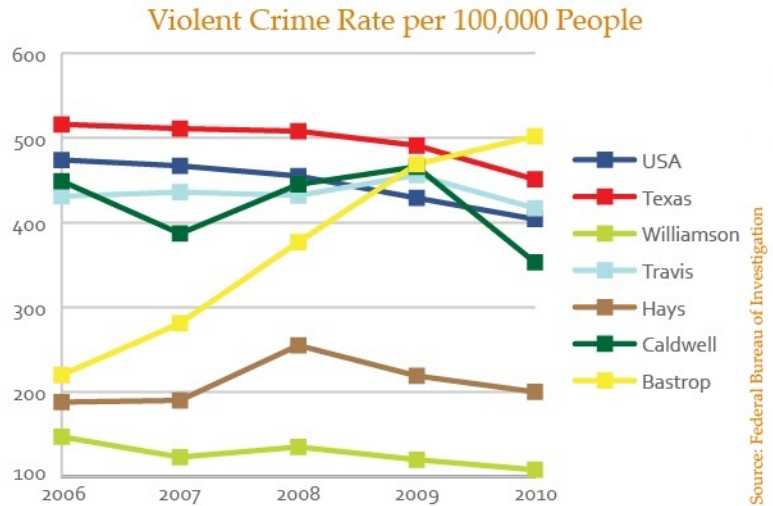
2017 Target:
417 per 100,000
population

Violent crime occurred at a rate of 417 per 100,000 population in Travis County

The violent crime rate for Travis County, and most of the other counties in the five-county metro area, decreased from 2009 to 2010. The violent crime rate for the City of Austin is lower than the average for U.S. cities of its size and is also lower than most other large cities in Texas.

People most vulnerable to violent crime are children, the elderly and people with disabilities. People who are immigrants and low-income are also more likely to be victimized.

The Community Justice Council brings together law enforcement, courts, juvenile and adult probation, prosecution, defense attorneys, victims' advocates, schools, and other community members to share information and increase collaboration among community justice agencies and partners. The [Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable](#) works to promote effective reentry and reintegration into the community for formerly incarcerated persons. The Family Violence Task Force, the Mental Health Jail Diversion Committee and the [Hate Crimes Task Force](#) all seek to reduce violent crime.



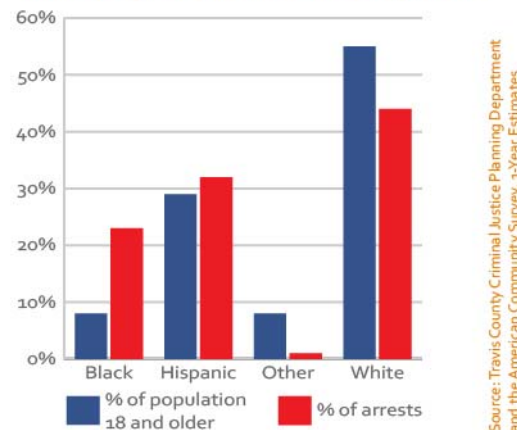
Arrests are not proportionate for all races in Travis County

2017 Target:
not yet set

African Americans make up 8% of the total adult population in Travis County, yet they represent 23% of all those arrested. The causes of disproportionality are complex and cross many social systems. The [Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities](#), under the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, was created in 2011 to address disproportionality found in many state social service systems.

The report [Breaking Schools' Rules: A Statewide Study on How School Discipline Relates to Students' Success and Juvenile Justice Involvement](#), found that African American students were suspended or expelled from school at exceptionally high rates. The Travis County District Attorney's Office, Austin ISD and Travis County Juvenile Probation have convened a work group to examine local data and to review best practices for impacting some of the findings in the report.

Arrest Demographics Compared to Population Demographics for Travis County, 2010



2017 Target:
not yet set

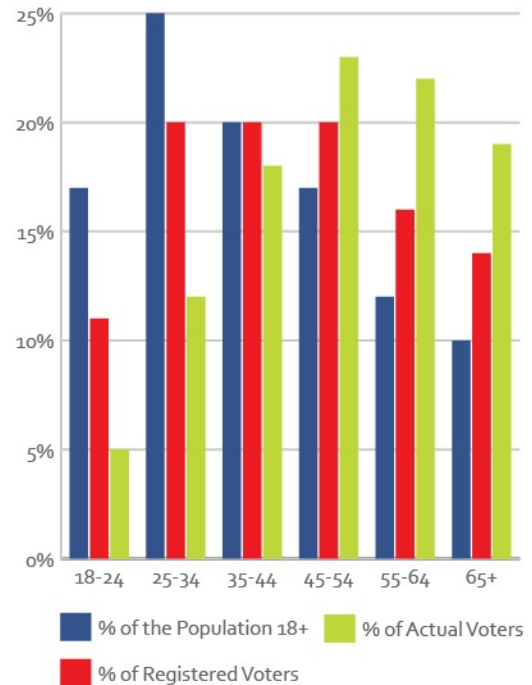
Proportionality of voter turnout by age in Travis County

Young people are much less likely to participate in elections than older people. The type of election impacts who is likely to vote. For example, in the 2008 presidential election, voters under the age of 35 made up 31% of all voters in Travis County, but in 2010, when voters chose a Governor and other state and local officials, voters under the age of 35 made up only 17% of the total vote.

African Americans and Hispanics also tend to be under-represented in the voting booths, as are people with lower incomes. There is concern that if voter i.d. laws are enacted, there may be even lower voter turnout among historically disenfranchised populations.

The [Texas Civic Engagement Table](#) proposes that organizations serving minority and moderate income people encourage their clients to become engaged in voting and in community life. UT's [Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Participation](#) encourages voting among young adults. The [East Austin Voter Mobilization Initiative](#) targets get-out-the-vote efforts in East Austin precincts with low voter turnout and large African American and Hispanic populations.

Travis County Demographics Compared to Demographics of Voters in the 2010 General Election



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

We are safe, just and engaged.

COMMON STRATEGIES FOR TURNING THE CURVE

The [Travis County FY2012 Community Plan for the Coordination of Criminal Justice and Related Activities](#) and the [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#) recommend the following:

- increased collaboration among criminal justice agencies and partners to maximize resources, improve the flow of information, and to better address the regional nature of crime
- Increased collaboration between criminal justice agencies and other community stakeholders such as government agencies to provide seamless services and prevent overlapping services and programming
- Increased contact between law enforcement and community members to build trust and promote long-term cooperation

Common strategies to reduce disproportionality

- The [Austin Community College Master Plan Fiscal Year 2011-2013](#), the [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#), and [E³ Alliance's Blueprint for Educational Change](#) recommend increasing educational opportunities for marginalized populations.
- The [2009-2011 HIV Health Services Comprehensive Plan](#), the [Austin ISD Strategic Plan 2010-2015](#), and the [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#) recommend recruitment of diverse staff members. Implementing this type of recruitment is often done with the intention that staff reflect the diversity of populations being served.
- The [2009-2011 HIV Health Services Comprehensive Plan](#), the [Austin Travis County Integral Care Local Area Service Plan FY2011-2012](#), and the [Austin ISD Strategic Plan 2010-2015](#) recommend cultural competency trainings for staff.

OUR BASIC NEEDS ARE MET

37% of Travis County residents are low-income

The percent of people in Travis County who are low-income increased for the third year in a row. The [Urban Institute](#) defines people as low-income when they earn less than 200% of the federal poverty level. In 2010, that was equal to \$44,100 annually for a family of four. Over 375,000 people in Travis County have fallen below this income level. People who are low-income fare worse on almost every indicator on the CAN Community Dashboard.

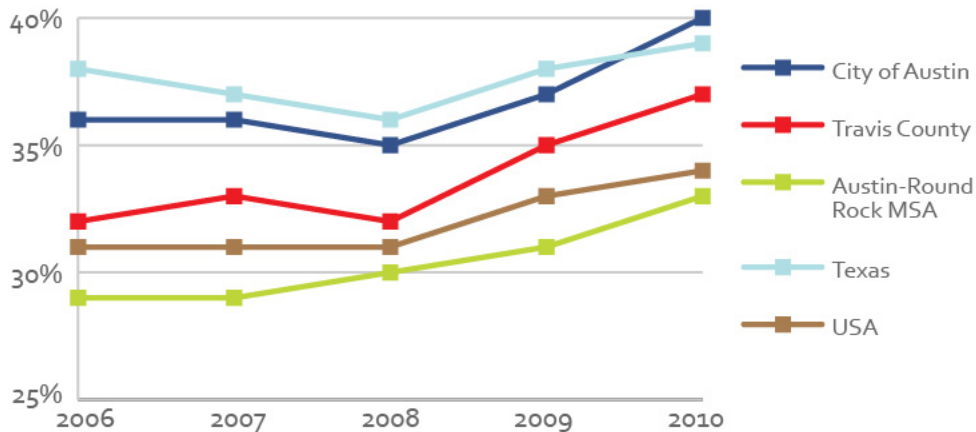
Women and children are most likely to be low-income. One-half of all children in Austin and in the State of Texas live in low-income households. Visit www.cancommunitydashboard.org to see more data on vulnerable populations and a map depicting where low-income populations are concentrated in the five-county area.

The Community Action Network Board of Directors voted in 2011 to support a new initiative called [Pathways to Prosperity](#). This regional effort to promote workforce training and employment options for people who are low-income is led by Workforce Solutions Capital Area. All of the initiatives and efforts outlined in this Community Dashboard report, when addressed together, will promote equity and opportunity and will help families and individuals improve their economic situations.

2017 Target:
30%



% of Individuals Living Below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

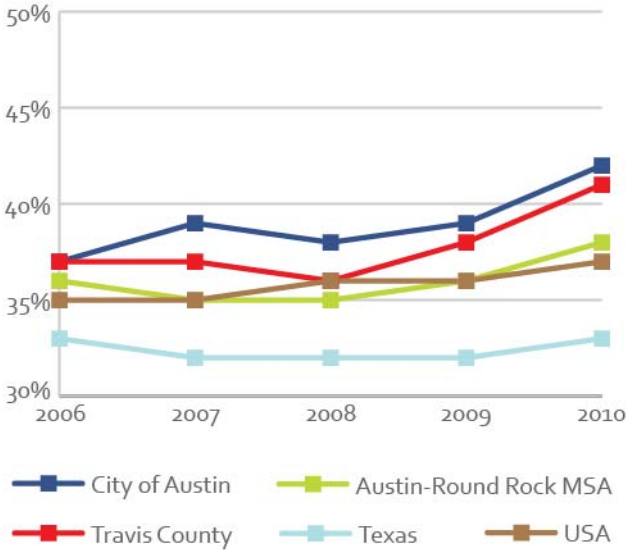


Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

41% of Travis County households are housing cost-burdened

2017 Target:
36%

% of Households that are Cost-Burdened



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

The percent of households in Travis County that are housing cost-burdened increased in 2010 and is higher than the state and the nation. The [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) considers households to be cost-burdened if they pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs and utilities. Renters and people who earn 30% or less of the median family income are most likely to be cost-burdened.

The City of Austin has received a [HUD Sustainability Grant](#) to plan a 200-acre mixed use community in the Colony Park area of northeastern Travis County with affordable housing linked to jobs, transit and services. The City's [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#) acknowledges the importance of promoting "Complete Communities" with affordable housing and access to services in all parts of town. The [Capital Area Council of Governments' Sustainable Places](#) grant promotes community design that connects where people live, learn, work, and play in the five-county Austin MSA.

24.4 daily vehicle miles per capita in Travis County

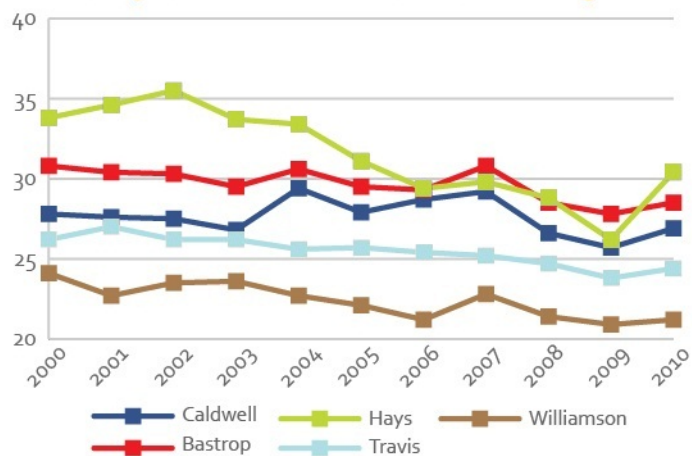
2017 Target:
23.4 miles per day

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita has been trending downward over the past decade, but increased in 2010. This could be due to the improving economy and population growth in the suburbs and outlying counties.

As housing is pushed further away from core employment areas, the VMT per capita increases. Local efforts that have promise for reducing VMT include the housing and land use efforts mentioned in the section above, but also the [Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization \(CAMPO\) 2035 Plan](#) which proposes targeting transportation investments to support Activity Centers throughout the region that link housing, employment and transportation. [Project Connect](#), a partnership between the City of Austin, Capital Metro, Lone Star Rail, CAMPO and the Central Texas Regional

Mobility Authority, promotes cross-jurisdictional cooperation toward regional high-capacity transit that is linked and connected to commuter transit and urban transit systems.

Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled Per Capita



Source: Texas Department of Transportation

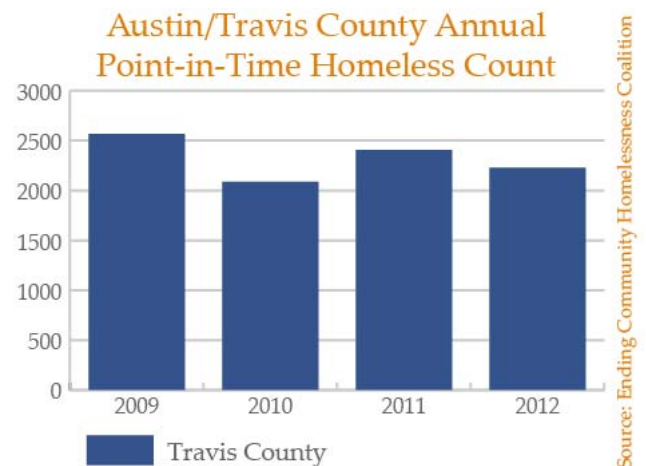
2,244 people are homeless in Travis County

2017 Target:

1,000

The [Ending Community Homelessness Coalition](#) (ECHO) annual point-in-time count identified 2,244 people in Austin and Travis County who were living on the streets, in cars, under bridges or in homeless shelters or transitional housing this past January. ECHO enlists the help of hundreds of volunteers to count people who are unsheltered for this annual count that is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Those identified in the point-in-time count are most likely to be white males and many are veterans and people with mental health or substance use issues. About 20% are chronically homeless. Point-in-time counts typically undercount families and children and do not include the marginally homeless and those who are doubling up on the couches of friends or relatives.

ECHO's [Plan to End Community Homelessness](#) recommends prevention and crisis services; short-term services, such as emergency and transitional shelter; and long-term services, such as permanent supportive housing. The Austin City Council set a goal in 2010 of creating 350 new units of permanent supportive housing by 2014.



Our basic needs are met.

COMMON STRATEGIES FOR TURNING THE CURVE

The [Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization \(CAMPO\)2035 Plan](#), [Austin Independent School District's District Wide Facilities Plan](#), [CAPCOG's Assessment of Growth and Development](#), the [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#), and the [Downtown Austin Plan](#) all recommend high density, transit-oriented development that connects housing to jobs and services.

The [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#), the [Downtown Austin Plan](#), and [NHCD's FY2009-2014 Consolidated Plan](#) recommend that the availability of units affordable to people with very low or low incomes be expanded through a variety of methods such as affordable housing incentives for developers or preservation of existing affordable housing units.

[Travis County's Consolidated Plan & Action Plan](#) and [NHCD's FY2009-2014 Consolidated Plan](#) recommend increasing the affordability of owner housing by providing homebuyer assistance for low to moderate income households.

[ECHO's Plan to End Community Homelessness](#), the [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#), the [City of Austin Downtown Austin Plan](#), the [City of Austin Comprehensive Housing Market Study](#), the and [City of Austin's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department's FY2009-2014 Consolidated Plan](#) recommend expanding the availability of affordable housing for very low-income and moderate income households and creating additional permanent supportive housing units.

[ECHO's Plan to End Community Homelessness](#), [Austin Community College District's Facilities Master Plan](#), and the [Community Action Network's Frequently Asked Questions about Basic Needs](#) suggest strengthening workforce development efforts for people who are low-income. ECHO recommends expanding workforce development programs that address the issue of insufficient wages and that are targeted at the homeless in our community; ACC recommends locating workforce development programs in areas where there are high concentrations of low-income people; and CAN's document recommends using economic development incentives for employers as a means to increase workers' skills and wages.

The [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#), the [City of Austin's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department's FY2009-2014 Consolidated Plan](#), and the [Community Action Network's Frequently Asked Questions about Basic Needs](#) recommend ensuring that low-income working families have adequate work supports, such as earned income tax credits, child care assistance, public health insurance coverage, and housing assistance.

WE ARE HEALTHY

22% of those under age 65 in Travis County have no health insurance

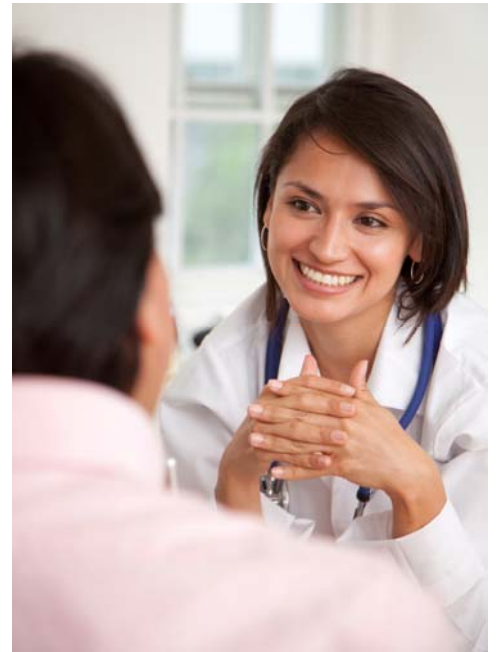
2017 Target:

20%

The State of Texas has the highest rate of people with no health insurance than any other state in the nation. Even though local rates have improved since 2008, the percent of those with no health insurance is much greater than the national average.

It is estimated that 68% of all uninsured people in Travis County are employed and 62% are U.S. citizens. People who are low-income are three times more likely than others in Travis County to have no medical coverage. Undocumented residents do not qualify for most public health insurance.

[Central Health](#), formerly the Travis County Healthcare District, was created in 2004 by a vote of Travis County residents. A dedicated property tax has allowed Central Health to expand access to health care for uninsured and under-served people. [Central Health Healthcare Navigation](#) is a partnership between Central Health and United Way Capital Area that connects people who call 2-1-1 with health insurance enrollment assistance. The [Central Texas Regional Healthcare Coverage Coalition](#) engages partners across multiple counties to help people access healthcare. Local partners are working to bring the [Benefit Bank of Texas](#) to the Austin area. This state-wide initiative screens, determines eligibility, and electronically submits applications for public health programs and a range of other benefits.



% of Population under age 65 with no Health Insurance



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

20% of adults in Travis County report poor mental health

The percentage of adults in Travis County who report poor mental health has increased each year since 2008 and is now equivalent with both the national and state rate. Days that include stress, depression and problems with emotions are considered “poor mental health days” in the [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#) survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control.

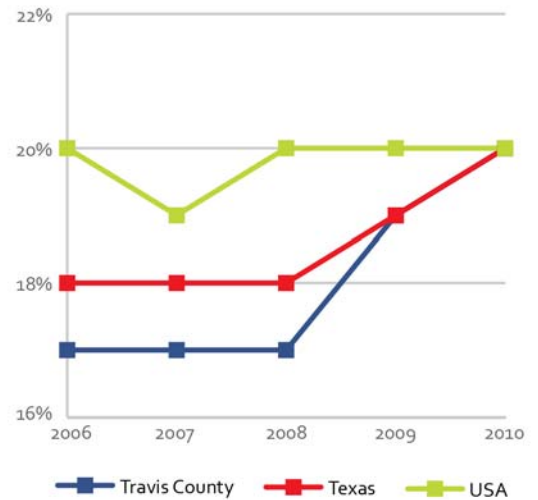
People earning less than \$25,000 per year are three times more likely to report poor mental health than those earning \$75,000 or more. It is estimated that 25% to 30% of all people incarcerated in Travis County have mental illness.

A partnership between [Central Health](#) and Austin/Travis County Integral Care has allowed the integration of health and behavioral health services, which helped contribute to a 79% increase in mental health visits from 2009 to 2010. The Psychiatric Services Stakeholder Group, a collaboration of government, healthcare, and other organizations, is working to create a stronger, more viable mental health crisis system.

Travis County became the first county in the nation to have a [Mental Health Public Defender Office](#) with specially trained prosecutors and case workers. The Mental Health Jail Diversion Committee is working to ensure people with behavioral health problems who are incarcerated receive the care and services they need so that they do not continually cycle through jails and emergency rooms.

2017 Target:
15%

% of Adults who Report Poor Mental Health



Source: Texas BRFSS

24% of adults in Travis County are obese

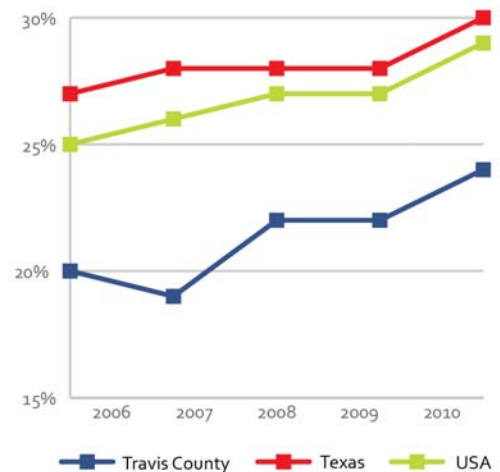
About one-fourth of all adults in Travis County are obese and the rate of obesity is steadily increasing. The state and national rates are even higher. Obesity rates are disproportionately high among low-income people who may not have access to healthy food or to safe, walkable neighborhoods and recreational opportunities. People with lower educational levels, African Americans, Hispanics and people with disabilities also have higher rates of obesity.

The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department was awarded a federal [Community Transformation Grant](#) of \$1 million annually for 5 years to promote healthier lifestyles and reduce health disparities. The effort will, among other things, promote policy changes to increase physical activity and improve nutrition.

Many CAN partners are working through [Children's Optimal Health](#) to map hot-spots of childhood obesity and to overlay those maps with data related to educational outcomes, food deserts, and crime.

2020 Target:
19%

% of Adults who are Obese



Source: Texas BRFSS

14% of adults in Travis County are smokers

A downward trend in smoking rates in Travis County continued in 2010 with 14% of adults reporting that they smoke to the [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#) survey. This trend was also reflected, to a lesser extent, in the state and national smoking rates.

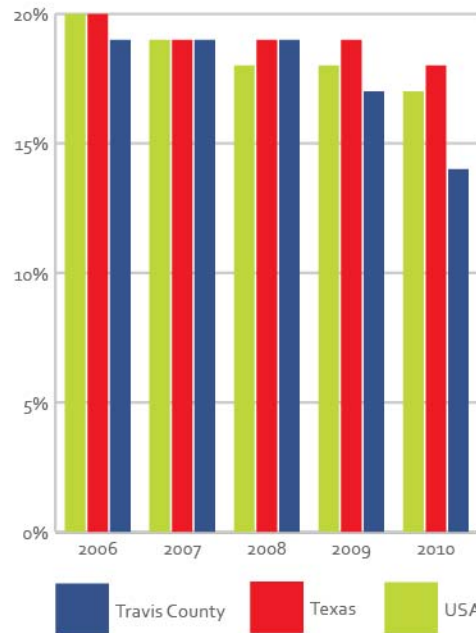
Before the negative effects were generally known, smoking was most prevalent among wealthier people. Now, those who earn less than \$25,000 a year are much more likely to smoke than those at higher income levels. There are also higher rates of smoking among young adults and men.

The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department received a \$7.5 million [Communities Putting Prevention to Work grant](#) in 2010 to address tobacco use. The effort's [Live Tobacco Free](#) media campaign has spread the message that tobacco is the #1 preventable cause of death and has let people know of free cessation workshops and treatment. Early successes of the campaign are that workplaces, hospitals, universities, service providers and apartment complexes are implementing tobacco-free policies.

The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department has received a [Community Transformation Grant](#) of \$1 million annually for five years to prevent chronic disease and reduce health disparities through healthy living, which includes reducing the use of tobacco.

2020 Target:
12%

% of Adults who are Smokers



Source: Texas BRFSS



a new community plan

FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department has begun a new community planning process to address the overall health and well-being of our community. The [Community Health Assessment](#) (CHA) engages community members and local health system partners to collect and analyze data on health and the social determinants of health. This data will be used to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) that will help guide strategies and investments in health and human services.

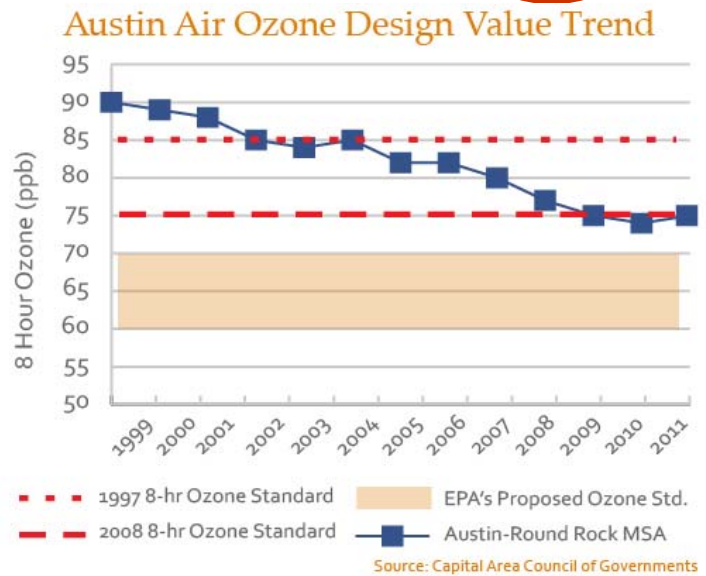
Austin area is in attainment of EPA air ozone standards

2017 Target: attainment

The Austin area ended a six year trend of steadily declining air ozone readings with a slight increase in 2011. In spite of this increase, Austin remains in attainment of current Environmental Protection Agency standards for ozone. If new, proposed standards are approved, Austin will be no longer be in attainment and will face federal sanctions.

The elderly, children, pregnant women and people with asthma and other respiratory problems suffer the most from poor air quality.

The Clean Air Coalition, facilitated by the [Capital Area Council of Governments](#), brings together governmental agencies, businesses, environmental concerns and others to develop strategies to improve air quality.



We are healthy.

COMMON STRATEGIES FOR TURNING THE CURVE

[Watson's 10 in 10 Proposal 2012—2022](#) is an effort led by State Senator Kirk Watson resulting in agreement between Central Health, the City of Austin, the University of Texas, Seton Healthcare Family, St. David's Healthcare and other local partners to work toward long-term strategies that include, among other things, a medical school, a teaching hospital and the expansion of local health clinics.

The [CAPCOG Area Agency on Aging Plan](#), [Central Health's Strategic Plan](#), the [Community Action Network's](#) Frequently Asked Questions documents on [Child and Youth Mental Health](#) and on [Childhood Poverty](#), and the [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#) advocate for increasing access to healthcare whether it be through expanded eligibility for public health insurance programs, increased efforts to enroll eligible persons in public health insurance programs, expanding healthcare provider capacity, or by locating healthcare services in neighborhoods to increase the affordability and accessibility of care.

[ATCIC's Local Service Area Plan for FY 2011-2012](#) and the [Community Action Network's Frequently Asked Questions about Behavioral Health](#) document recommend a seamless behavioral health continuum of care including crisis and non-crisis services. Both also recommend the integration of behavioral health and physical health services.

[ATCIC's Local Service Area Plan for FY 2011-2012](#) and the [Community Action Network's Frequently Asked Questions about Child and Youth Mental Health](#) document recommend that the community be provided with more information about the various aspects of mental health, mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance abuse to eliminate stigma.

[Austin Climate Protection Plan](#), the [8 Hour Ozone Flex Program for the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area](#), the [CAMPO 2035 Regional Transportation Plan](#), and the [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#) recommend that the Austin area increase use of renewable energy sources and decrease use of fossil fuels such as carbon and coal.

The [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#) and the [Tobacco Prevention & Control Strategic Plan for FY2012-2013](#) support the promotion of tobacco cessation programs and the development of policies and regulations to support tobacco-free environments.

The [8 Hour Ozone Flex Program for the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area](#), the [CAMPO 2035 Regional Transportation Plan](#), and the [Austin Climate Protection Plan](#) recommend that organizations with fleets of vehicles purchase alternative fuel vehicles.

The [8 Hour Ozone Flex Program for the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area](#) and the [CAMPO 2035 Regional Transportation Plan](#) recommend restricting the idling of diesel powered engines in heavy-duty motor vehicles and a regional rideshare program.

The [CAMPO 2035 Regional Transportation Plan](#) and [CAMPO's Plan for the Coordination of Public Transit-Health and Human Services Transportation](#) both recommend transportation improvements that reduce the number of high-capacity vehicles making trips (this includes buses, vans used by social service agencies and clinics, etc.) while increasing the number of people served by these vehicles.

WE ACHIEVE OUR FULL POTENTIAL

50% of children enter kindergarten ready for school

2015 Target:
70%

One-half of Central Texas kindergarteners were “school ready” according to a measure developed by the E³Alliance in coordination with United Way Capital Area Success by 6 and other partners. A sample of students from eight area school districts were assessed during the first six weeks of kindergarten across four domains of child development: social/emotional, language and communication, early literacy, and mathematics.

Students who qualified for free or reduced-price school lunches and those who did not participate in pre-kindergarten programs were much more likely to enter kindergarten already behind their peers.

In spite of State budget cuts to pre-k programs, [Austin ISD](#) has continued to provide full-day pre-kindergarten for eligible children. [United Way Capital Area’s Success by 6 initiative](#) is a community collaborative of over 30 organizations working together to ensure that children enter kindergarten happy, healthy and prepared for school success. An Early Childhood Stakeholders group that was formed through this collaborative effort has produced a Travis County School Readiness Action Plan 2012-15 with specific strategies for improving school readiness. Improving school readiness is one of four Goals of the [E³Alliance Blueprint for Educational Change](#).



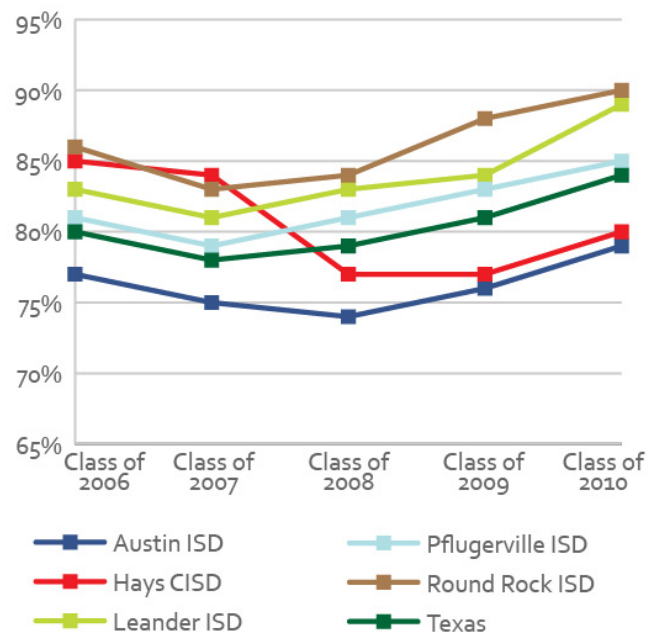
79% of Austin ISD students graduate from high school in four years

Class of 2014
Target:
90%

The graduation rate for Austin ISD has improved two years in a row. Even so, one in five Austin ISD students is still not graduating from high school in four years. There are significant gaps between the graduation rates of White students and the graduation rates of African American, Hispanic, and Native American students. Economically disadvantaged students have also historically lagged behind.

Austin ISD has approved a [Strategic Plan](#) to improve graduation rates and other educational outcomes. The City of Austin, Travis County, AISD Subcommittees are working to curb the impact of truancy and family housing mobility on graduation rates. The [E³ Alliance Blueprint for Educational Change](#) works across districts in the ten-county area to highlight promising practices and to engage whole communities in improving educational outcomes.

Four-Year Graduation Rates



Source: Texas Education Agency

65% of Austin ISD graduates are college ready in Math 65% are college ready in English/Language Arts

More students are graduating from high school college ready, according to a measure developed by the [Texas Education Agency](#). To meet this standard, students must achieve a high enough score on the SAT, ACT or TAKS test to make them eligible to take college-credit courses without first taking non-credit, remedial courses.

Even though the percent of Austin ISD graduates who are college ready in either Math or English/Language Arts has improved steadily over the past five years, gaps remain. There are significant disparities among various racial/ethnic groups and also among low-income student populations.

One of the key action steps in [Austin ISD's Strategic Plan](#) is to "ensure college ready rigor at each grade level" and to "expand opportunities for dual credit and advanced placement." The [E³ Alliance's Blueprint for Educational Change](#) notes that many students drop out of high school because they do not see the relevance of that work in their lives. To remedy this, the Blueprint suggests that school districts, colleges, and the business community work together to ensure that core educational subjects are taught with career relevance in mind and in ways that help students develop the skills that will lead them to be successful in college or in future careers.

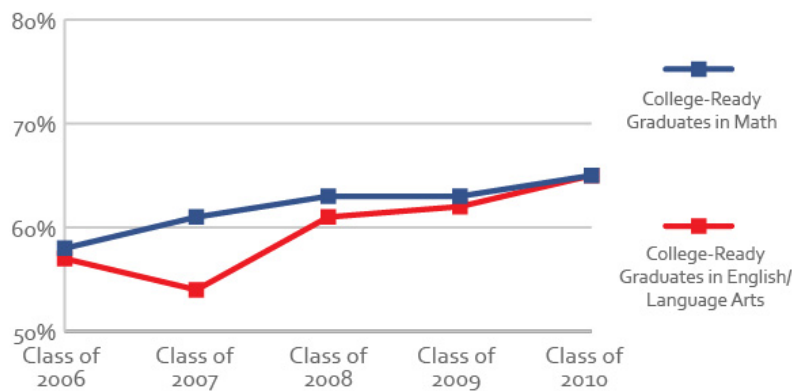
The [Austin Chamber of Commerce](#) recruits volunteers and works with Partners in Education to provide tutoring sessions for students who need extra help meeting college readiness standards.

[Austin Community College](#) is part of a state-wide College Readiness initiative that partners with local high schools to improve the college readiness of high school graduates.

Class of 2014
Target:
Engl./L.A. 73%
Math 81%



% of Austin ISD Graduates who are College-Ready by Subject



Source: Texas Education Agency

6% of Travis County workers are unemployed

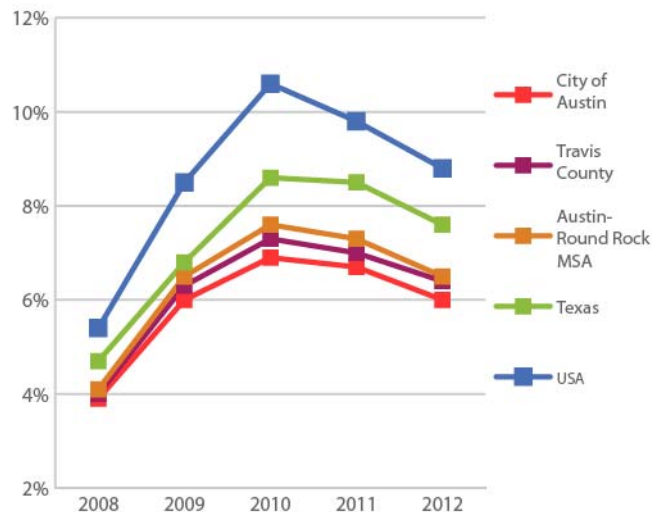
January 2017
Target:
4%

Unemployment rates continued a downward trend in 2012 after hitting a ten year high in 2010. Local unemployment rates have remained consistently lower than both the state and national rates. The [Capital Area Council of Governments](#) reports that the Austin region's job growth has primarily occurred in industries with relatively low wages, and the Austin MSA ranks near the bottom of all U.S. metro areas in average earnings and per capita income growth.

People most vulnerable to being unemployed are racial and ethnic minorities, especially African American males. Other populations with higher rates of unemployment are people with disabilities, criminal histories, or no post-secondary degrees or certifications.

[Workforce Solutions-Capital Area](#) is partnering with 10 education and community partners in the Workforce and Education Readiness Continuum (WERC) project. WERC is a network of strategic partners linked to help prepare Austin-area residents to enter and reenter today's competitive job market. Designed to seamlessly provide services ranging from GED, ESL, job-readiness training, and college-level education, WERC connects 38 provider locations to create "no wrong door" for workforce and education services.

Unemployment Rates - January



Source: Texas Labor Market Information

We achieve our full potential.

COMMON STRATEGIES FOR TURNING THE CURVE

The [Austin ISD Strategic Plan 2010-2015](#), the [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#), the [Travis County School Readiness Action Plan 2012-15](#) (under development), and [E³ Alliance's Blueprint for Educational Change](#) recommend increasing the capacity of and enrollment in early childhood education and pre-kindergarten programs.

The [Travis County School Readiness Action Plan 2012-15](#) (under development) and [E³ Alliance's Blueprint for Educational Change](#) recommend school readiness awareness campaigns and increasing early childhood education program accreditation rates.

[Austin Community College's Master Plan](#) and [E³ Alliance's Blueprint for Educational Change](#) both recommend the following strategies related to improving college readiness in Central Texas:

- Identify and enhance college readiness standards for the State and for Central Texas
- Align curriculum of high schools and post-secondary institutions to simplify transitions (An example of how this recommendation is being implemented in our community is through efforts outlined in the [Austin ISD Strategic Plan 2010-2015](#) whereby Austin ISD and Austin Community College partner to provide students with dual-credit course options.)
- Expand higher education capacity to ensure that there is access for the growing population

The [Austin Community College Master Plan FY2011-2013](#), the [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#), and [Workforce Solution's Public Policy Priorities](#) recommend the provision of workforce education programs targeted at under-employed populations such as people who have been released from incarceration.

[CAPCOG's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2010-2015](#), [Workforce Solution's Public Policy Priorities](#), and the [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#) recommend raising students' awareness of labor market opportunities.

The [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#) and the [Austin Chamber's Local Legislative Agenda](#) recommend the continuation and strengthening of partnerships between chambers and state and local governments to leverage incentives to attract and retain major employers.

[CAPCOG's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2010-2015](#) and the [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#) recommend expanding the availability of job training programs that will meet the needs of targeted industries and occupations.



We are Safe,
Just &
Engaged



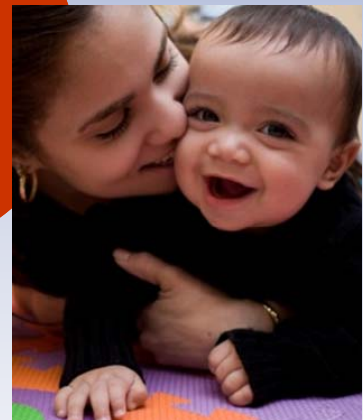
We are
Healthy

Equity &
Opportunity



Our
Basic Needs
Are Met

We Achieve
Our Full
Potential



The *Community Dashboard 2012* report was published by Community Action Network on March 29, 2012. Learn more about Community Action Network at www.caction.org.

This report was produced by:

Vanessa Sarria, Executive Director;
Mary Dodd, Assistant Director;
Chantel Bottoms, Senior Research Analyst; and
Catherine Raines, Web Site Developer.



Special thanks to members of the CAN Dashboard Steering Committee and to Travis County for printing the report.

