



APRIL 8, 2021 Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

Texas KIDS COUNT

Health Equity for Every Texas Child

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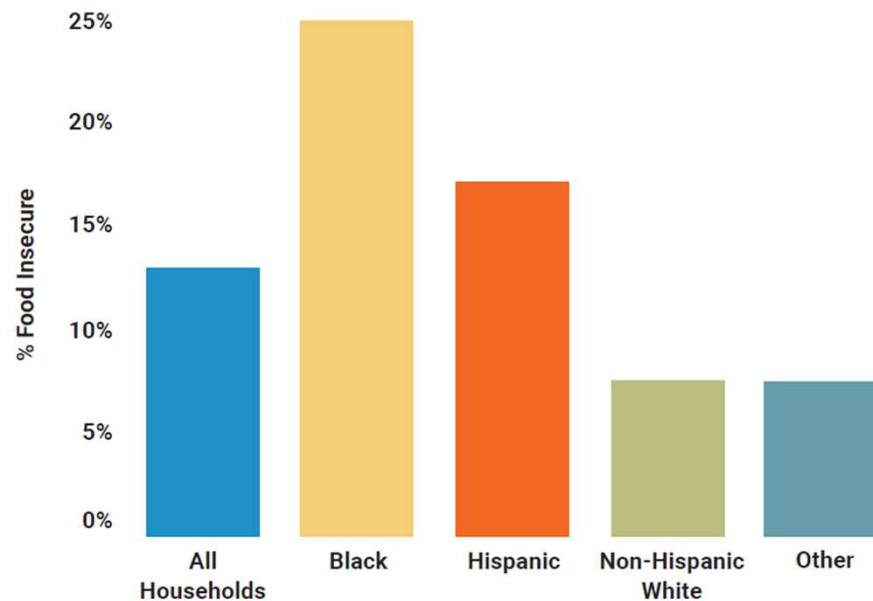
Every Texan gratefully acknowledges Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc., for their financial support of this publication. The opinions expressed in this document are those of Every Texan and do not necessarily reflect the views of Methodist Healthcare Ministries.



Food Security

Percentage of Households in Texas Food Insecure, by Race/Ethnicity of Household Head

Source: FRAC Analysis of Current Population Survey, 2017-2019



Even before the pandemic (2017-2019), 13% of all Texas households were food insecure, with Black and Hispanic families disproportionately facing the financial stressors underlying food insecurity.

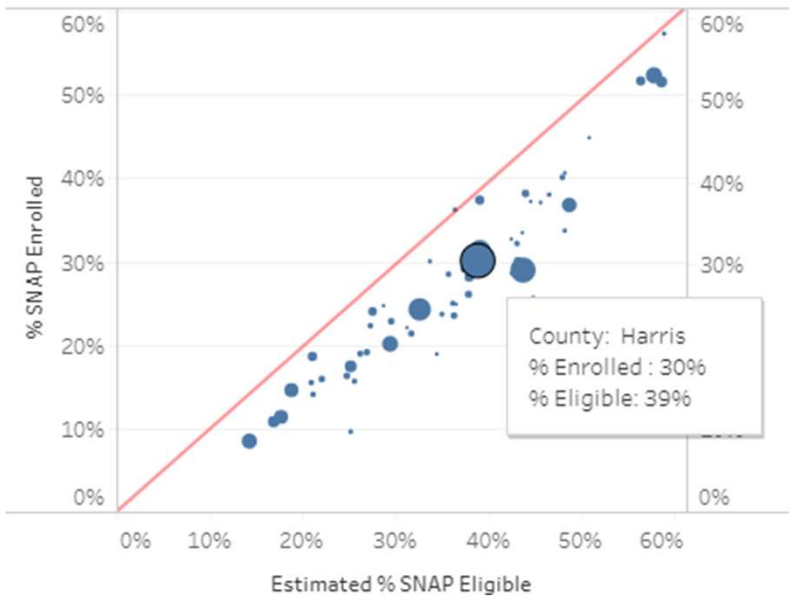
Every child deserves the nutrition they need to thrive. Texas has one of the worst rates of child food insecurity in the nation (Feeding America, 2020). Of Texas households with children, one in five did not have enough to eat in the past week, and more than one in three Black families and one in four Hispanic families experienced hunger (Household Pulse Survey, 2020). Policymakers should reduce barriers to enrolling in nutrition programs such as SNAP so every Texan can access the food they need to stay healthy.

Food Security

% Children SNAP Enrolled vs. SNAP Eligible
Source: American Community Survey, 2018 5-year
Estimates Public Use Microdata

Choose a county*

(All)



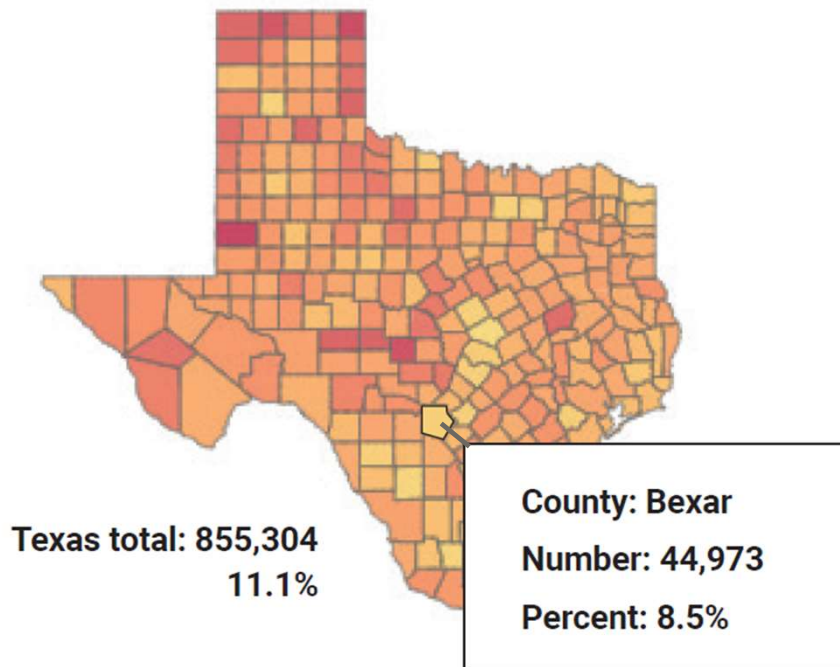
Before the pandemic, rates of child enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) varied by county, with many Texas counties not having yet reached all eligible children.

During the pandemic, overall SNAP cases jumped from about 1,427,000 in February 2020 to 1,775,000 in September 2020, an increase of nearly 350,000 cases in Texas. Cases can include more than one individual (Texas Health and Human Services, 2020).

Health Insurance

Uninsured Children Under 19 by County

Source: American Community Survey, 2018 5-year Estimates



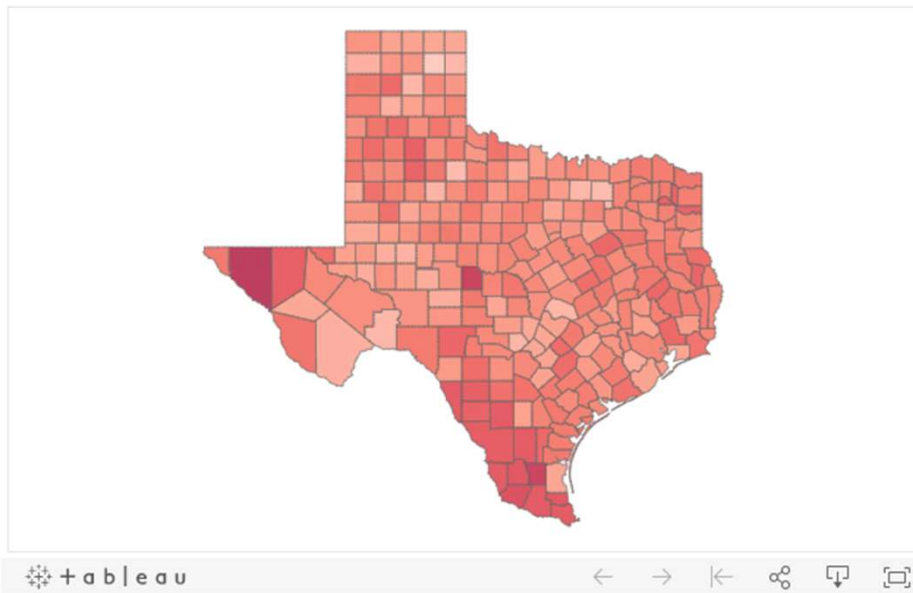
Every child deserves affordable and accessible health care. Texas has the worst rate of child health insurance coverage in the nation—one in four uninsured U.S. children live here. Hispanic children are twice as likely as others to be uninsured (American Community Survey, 2019). Policymakers should protect health and human services funding, expand Medicaid, and remove enrollment barriers so every Texan can access the health care they need to thrive.

Uninsured rates vary by county, which you can explore using our interactive map feature online.

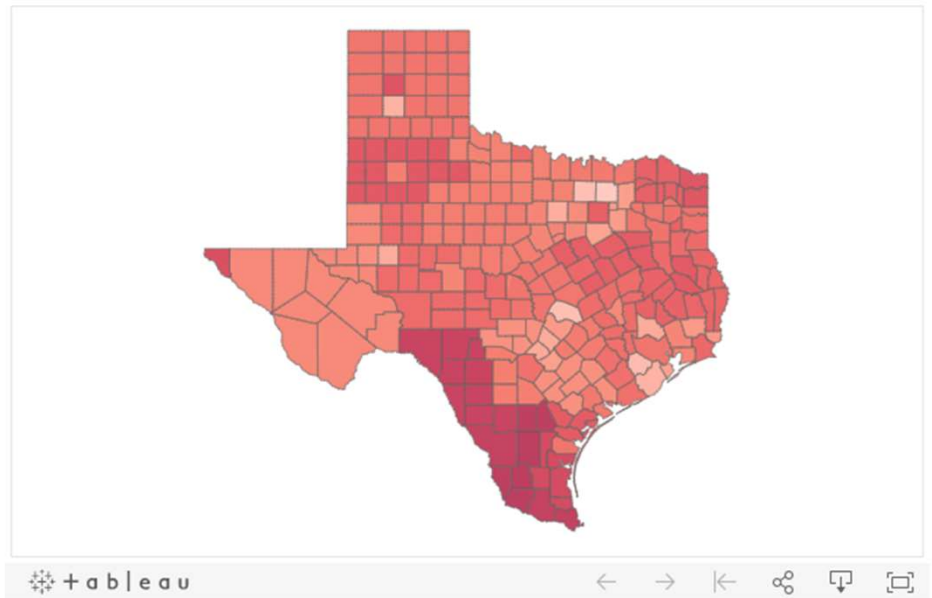
Health Insurance

To confirm Medicaid eligibility, Texas conducts income checks multiple times a year rather than simply yearly. Under this policy, parents must respond to income checks within 10 days with documentation to confirm a child's eligibility for Medicaid, or they lose coverage (Texas Health and Human Services, 2020). Thousands of eligible children lose Medicaid coverage every month under this policy, forcing children to miss appointments or pay for appointments out-of-pocket until they can confirm eligibility.

% of Children on CHIP or Medicaid
Source: American Community Survey, 2019



Estimated % Eligible for CHIP or Medicaid
Source: American Community Survey, 2014-2019 5-year estimates

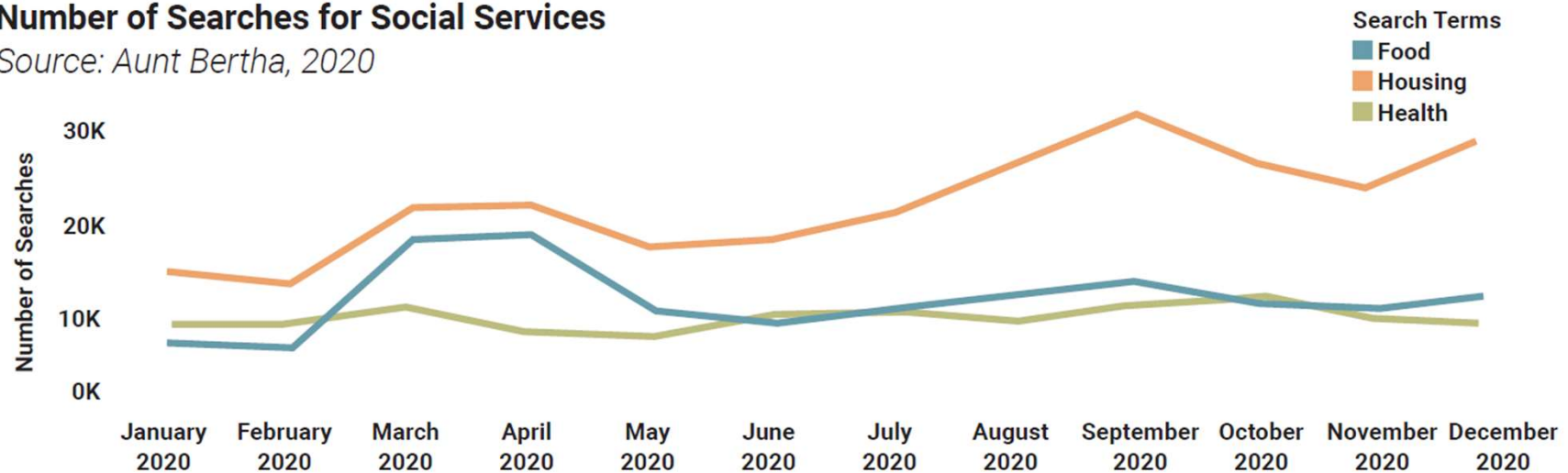


Economic Opportunity

Every child deserves to live in an environment where they can thrive. In Texas one in five children experiences poverty (American Community Survey, 2019). Parents are forced to choose between work and childcare, and many work without livable wages and benefits. Due to systemic racism, families of color and mixed-immigration-status families are disproportionately likely to face these challenges. Policymakers should advance policies supporting quality jobs and economic opportunity for all to ensure every Texan has the opportunity to succeed.

Number of Searches for Social Services

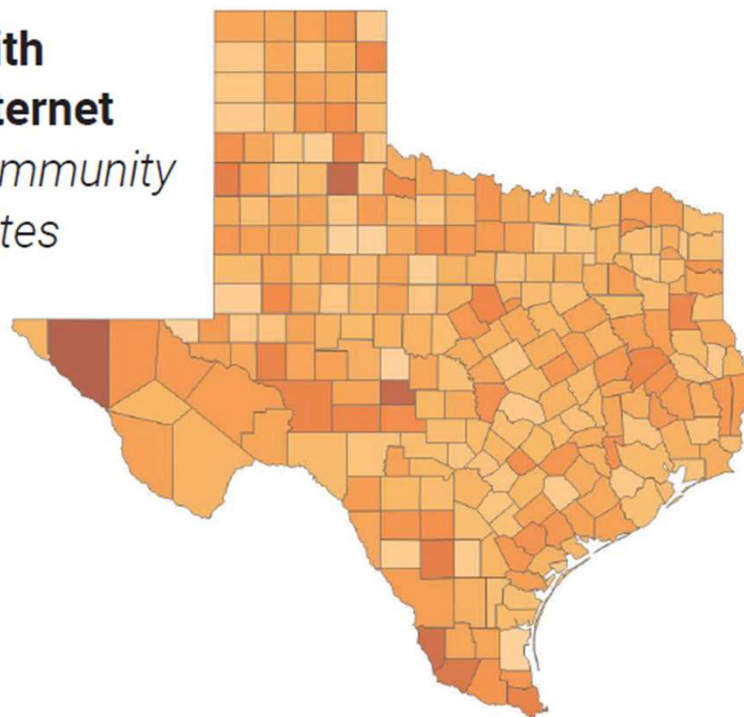
Source: Aunt Bertha, 2020



Education

Percent Under 18 with Computer but No Internet

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates



Every child has the right to a quality public education. Yet as schools move online, Texas has one of the worst home internet access rates for children nationwide, especially in rural communities and communities of color. Students lack equal access to pre-K, support for English language learners, and affordable higher education. Policymakers should equitably fund public education to ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Read Every Texan's blog on ["3 Ways to Address Texas' Digital Divide"](#)

Support for Immigrant Families

In recent years, the (now defunct) public charge rule and other immigration policy changes, which proposed tying immigration cases to immigrants' use of public benefits, had a chilling effect on families' decision to unenroll or not seek healthcare coverage. 89 percent of Texas children in immigrant families are U.S. citizens, but families may choose not to participate in programs that would benefit their citizen children, out of fear of deportation or immigration consequences for non-citizen family members (KIDS COUNT Data Center, 2019). Organizations around Texas report the chilling effect of public charge as the driver for low enrollment among immigrant families in recent years in Children's Medicaid and CHIP, and even lower numbers of routine doctor's visits and vaccinations.

% in Mixed-Status Households

Source: American Community Survey, ages 0 - 17, 2019 Public Use Microdata

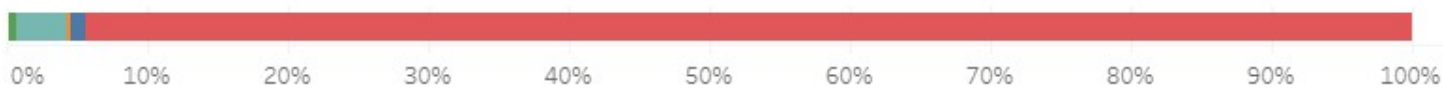


Mixed Status Household

- Mixed Status
- Non-Mixed Stat...

Under 18 by Citizenship Status

Source: 2019 American Community Survey, ages 0 -17



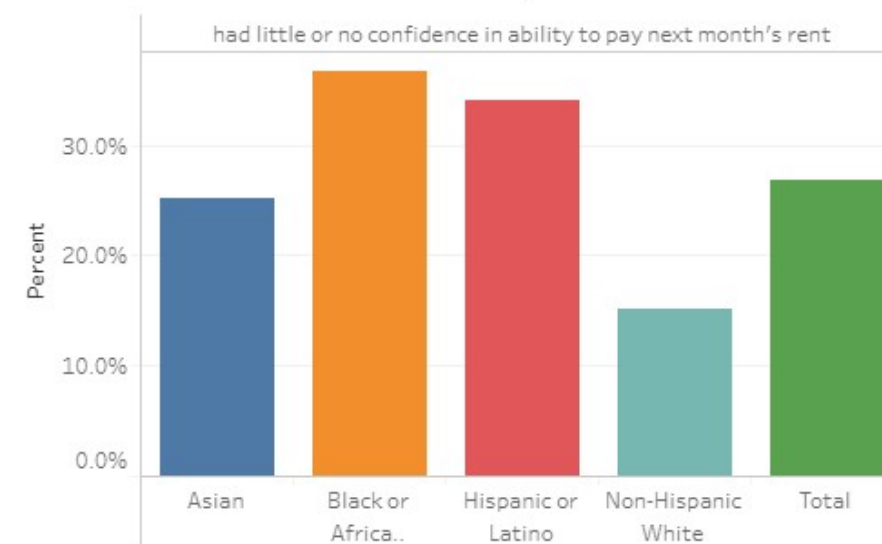
Citizenship Status

- Born in the U.S.
- Born abroad of American par..
- Born in Puerto Rico, Guam, th.
- Not a citizen of the U.S.
- U.S. citizen by naturalization

Impacts of COVID-19

Adults living with children who in recent months

Source: Census Household Pulse Data, 2020



27% of all families but 37% of Black and 34% of Hispanic families had little or no confidence at the end of December in paying the next month's rent (U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey, 2020).

Pandemic job losses have hit Texans hard. Over 4.2 million Texans filed for unemployment relief from mid-March 2020 through mid-January 2021. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic only worsened racial and ethnic inequities and brought new challenges to the forefront. (Texas Workforce Commission, 2021).

Estimates from Texas demographer Rogelio Saenz show that of “person-years” lost due to early death from COVID-19 (the difference between a person's age at death and their life expectancy), 60% of the loss came from Hispanic families, although they make up only 40% of the state's population Texas.



Social Justice Requires Public Policy

Read more about our 2021 Legislative Priorities at everytexan.org

Food Security

Health Insurance

Economic Opportunity

Education

Support for Immigrant Families

Equitable Economic Recovery



Texas KIDS COUNT

Health Equity for Every Child

All children deserve the opportunity for a healthy life. In Texas, not all children have the health insurance, food security, and economic security needed for a healthy childhood, due to disparities rooted in systemic racism. Public policy can improve health equity for all Texas children. Policymakers should make practical changes this Legislative Session to ensure all Texas children have the opportunity to thrive.



Download the 2-pager

Download

<https://everytexan.org/kids-count-2021>



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- Food Insecurity
 - Programs that combat food insecurity
 - Who experiences food insecurity?
 - Effectiveness of Strategies Reducing Food Insecurity
- Health Insurance
 - State and Federal Policies Contributing to Decline in Texas Children's Coverage

Food Insecurity

Health Equity and Economic Opportunity

Every child deserves the nutrition they need to thrive. In Texas, 16.5% of households experience rates of child food insecurity in the nation. Of Texas households with children, one in four do not have enough to eat in the past week, and more than one in three Black families and one in four Hispanic families experienced hunger. Policymakers should reduce barriers to enrolling in nutrition programs such as SNAP so every Texan can access the food they need to stay healthy.

[Learn More](#)

Percentage of Households in Texas Food Insecure, by Race/Ethnicity of Household Head

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Food Insecurity

Health Insurance

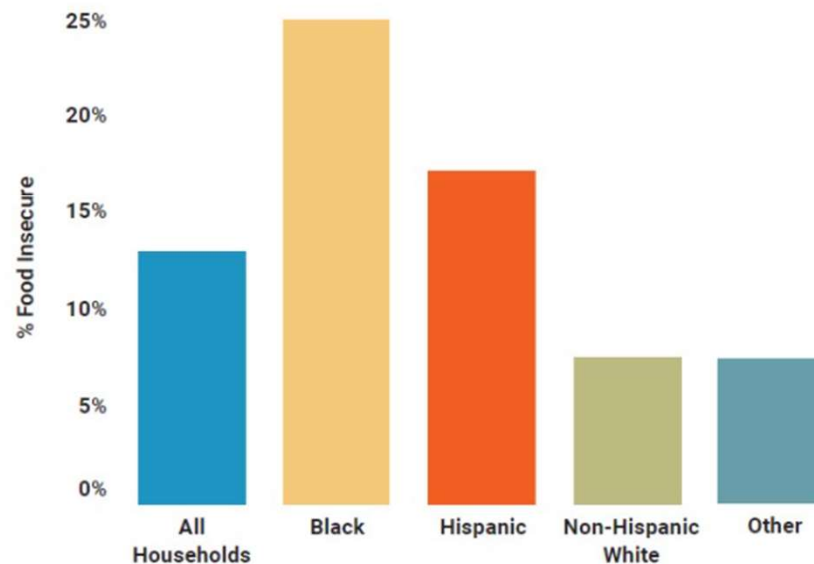
Economic Opportunity

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[Learn More](#)

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Food Insecurity

A child's potential to thrive is limited if they face hunger. Not having adequate nutrition impacts how children grow, play, and learn. Texas has one of the highest rates of child food insecurity in the nation, at nearly 22 percent, or almost 1.6 million children.

[Read More](#)

Health Insurance

Supporting children's health gives them the best chance of succeeding in school and later in life. Yet, Texas still has the worst child uninsured rate in the U.S. at 12.7%—more than twice the U.S. average of 5.7%. Nearly one in four uninsured children in the U.S. live here in Texas.

[Read More](#)

Economic Opportunity

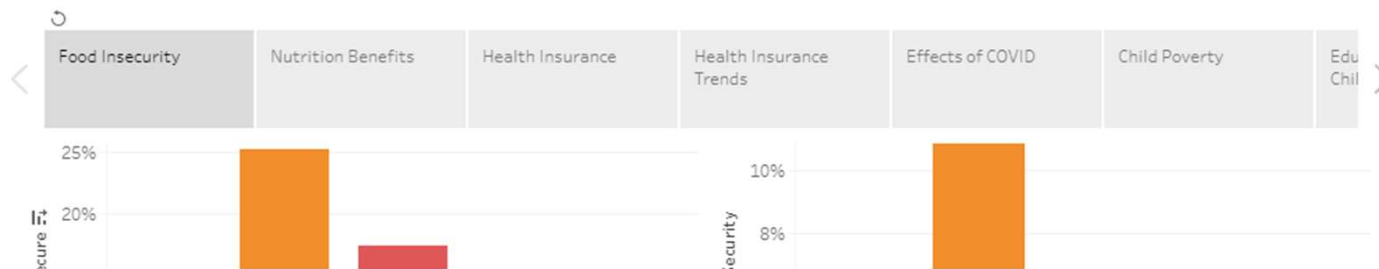
Health starts where we live, learn, work, and play. But 1 in 5 Texas children experience poverty. Making sure parents can get to good paying and supportive jobs can reduce financial distress for working families.

[Read More](#)

Data Dashboard

Texas KIDS COUNT Report

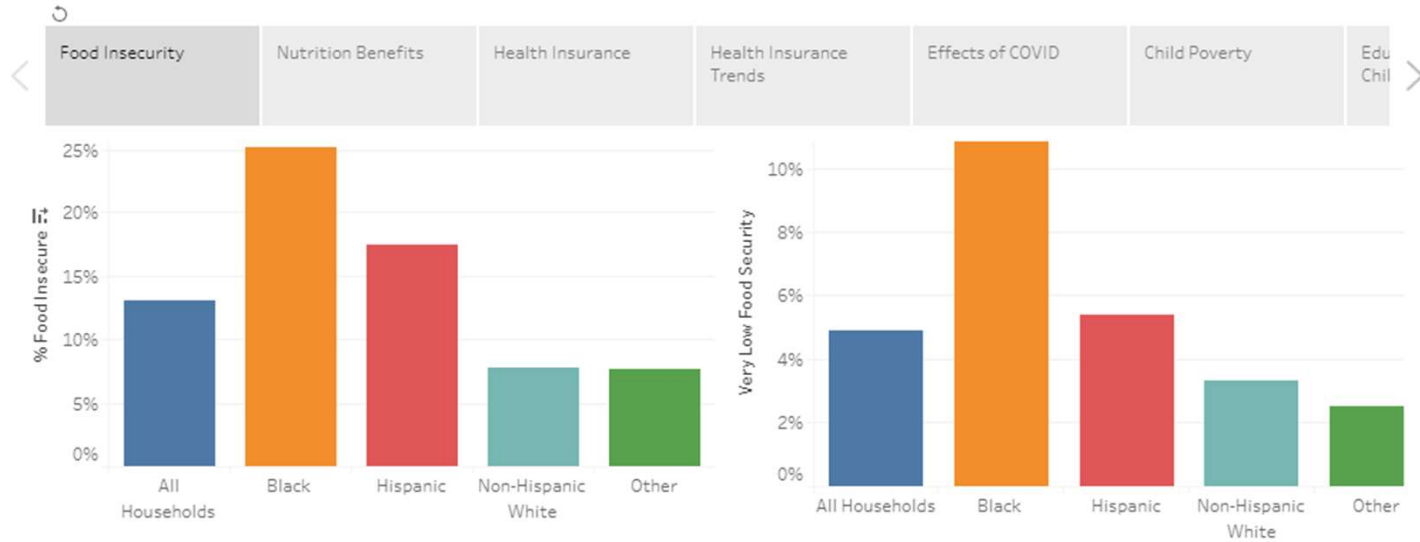
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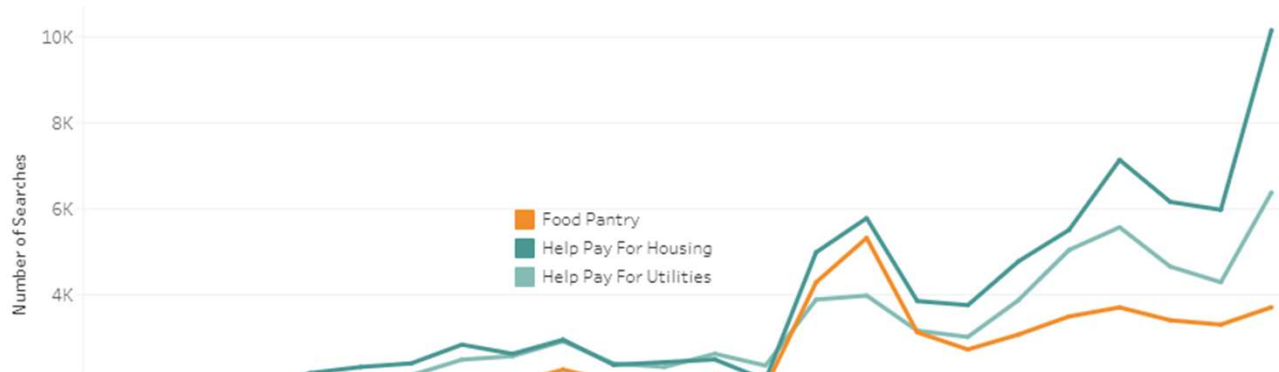
Data Dashboard

Texas KIDS COUNT Report

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Source: Aunt Bertha, 2020



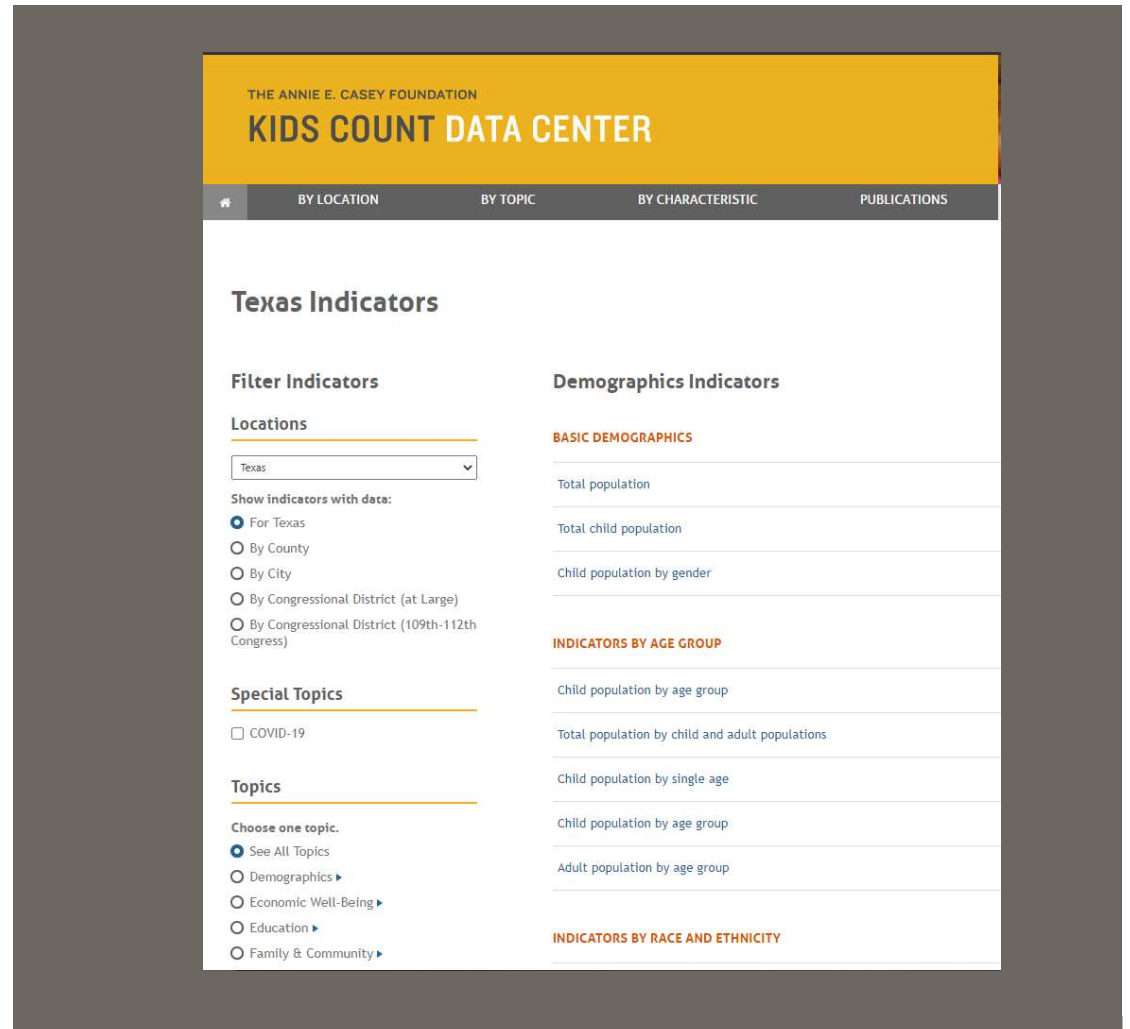
LEARN MORE

Every child deserves a healthy life.

Find out how we can advance health equity for every Texas child in our new KIDS COUNT report and data dashboard at everytexan.org/kids-count-2021

Follow Every Texan at [@EveryTxn](https://everytexan.org)

KIDS COUNT is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the U.S. funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Check out the [Kids Count Data Center](#) for extensive child well-being data on kids across the U.S. and for each of Texas' 254 counties.



The screenshot displays the 'KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER' website interface. At the top, a yellow header contains the text 'THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION' and 'KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER'. Below the header is a navigation bar with four tabs: 'BY LOCATION', 'BY TOPIC', 'BY CHARACTERISTIC', and 'PUBLICATIONS'. The main content area is titled 'Texas Indicators' and is divided into two columns. The left column, 'Filter Indicators', includes a 'Locations' section with a dropdown menu set to 'Texas', a 'Show indicators with data:' section with radio buttons for 'For Texas' (selected), 'By County', 'By City', 'By Congressional District (at Large)', and 'By Congressional District (109th-112th Congress)', a 'Special Topics' section with a checkbox for 'COVID-19', and a 'Topics' section with radio buttons for 'See All Topics', 'Demographics', 'Economic Well-Being', 'Education', and 'Family & Community'. The right column, 'Demographics Indicators', lists several categories: 'BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS' (Total population, Total child population, Child population by gender), 'INDICATORS BY AGE GROUP' (Child population by age group, Total population by child and adult populations, Child population by single age, Child population by age group, Adult population by age group), and 'INDICATORS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY'.



EVERY TEXAN

Social justice requires public policy



Questions about the data? Email knop-narbutis@everytexan.org

EVERYTEXAN.ORG