



The Texas School Readiness Dashboard 2024

A PROJECT OF TEXANS CARE FOR CHILDREN

There is broad agreement in Texas about the importance of early childhood and school readiness. However, state leaders and advocates have historically tackled these issues in a piecemeal, siloed fashion rather than taking a more comprehensive approach.

In response, after a collective process with stakeholders from across Texas, Texans Care for Children launched the School Readiness Dashboard in late 2022 to offer a more holistic view of child and family experiences prior to children's first day of school. By including a variety of indicators spanning multiple areas of child development, the Dashboard encourages policymakers and communities to consider the programs, practices, and policies that contribute to children's growing brains and bodies and provide the foundation for a strong future.

This document includes all infographics of the School Readiness Dashboard published in April 2024. Please visit the Texas School Readiness Dashboard at TXreadykids.org for the most updated data, infographics, and policy recommendations.

Sufficient Household Resources

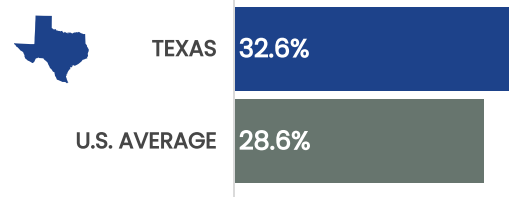
CHILDREN IN OR NEAR POVERTY



1 in 3

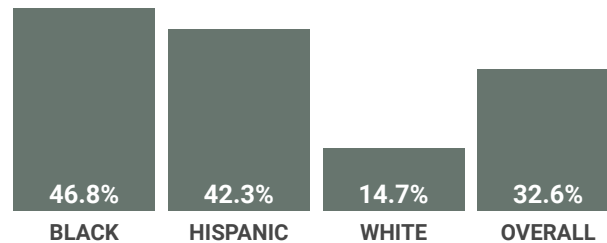
1 in 3 Texas children under age 6 is living in or near poverty.

COMPARED TO CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 IN OTHER STATES, TEXAS CHILDREN ARE MORE LIKELY TO LIVE IN LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS.



Low-income households have an annual income below 150% of the federal poverty level.

IN TEXAS, YOUNG CHILDREN OF COLOR ARE THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO LIVE IN OR NEAR POVERTY THAN WHITE CHILDREN.

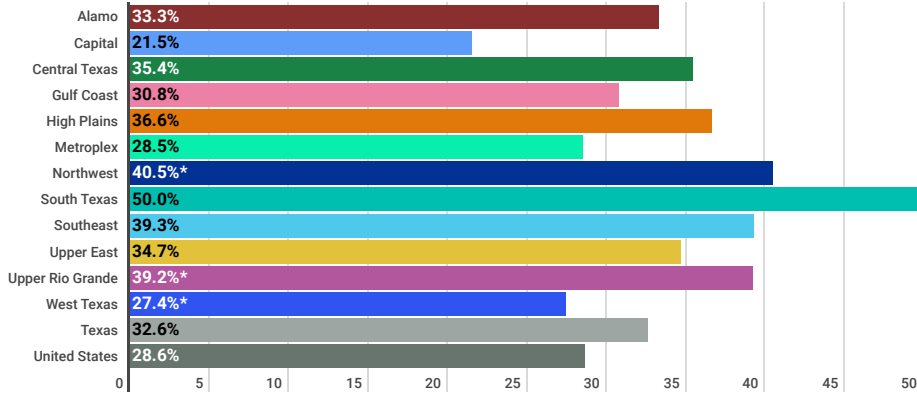


Source: 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

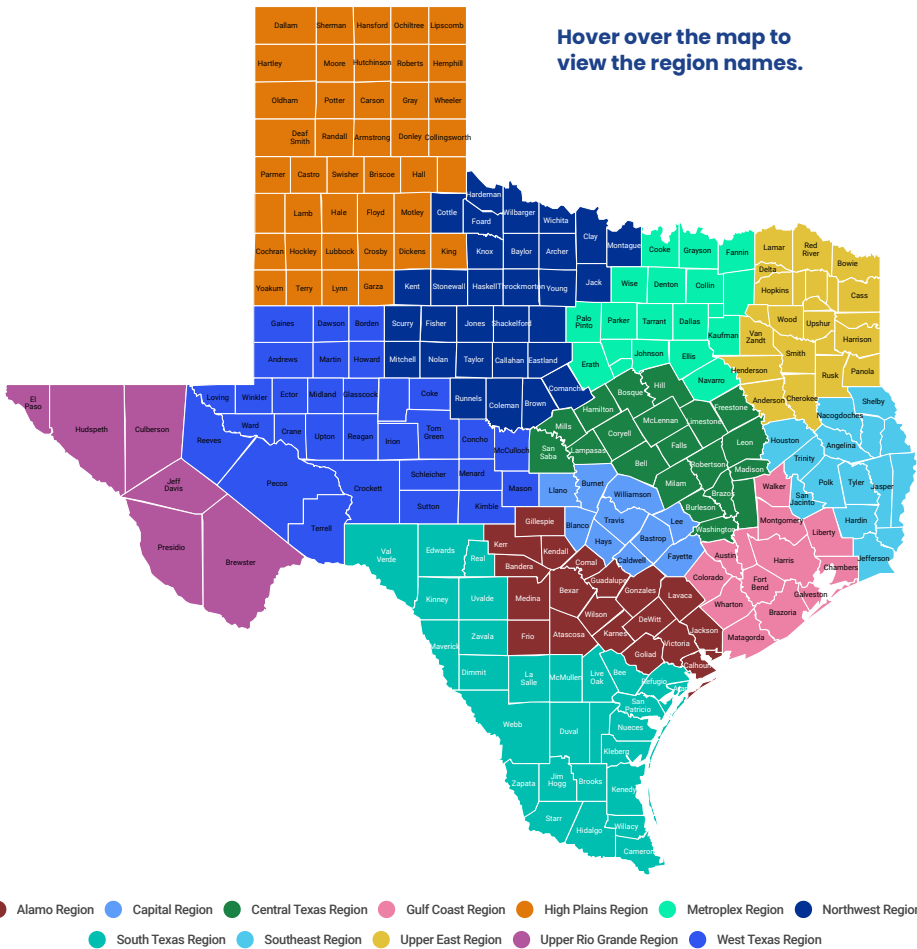
CHILDREN IN OR NEAR POVERTY



Most regions in Texas have poverty rates for young children that exceed the national average.



Note: Regions correspond to the Texas Comptroller regions.
*Values with an asterisk should be interpreted with caution due to small sample size.



Source: 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

CHILD HUNGER

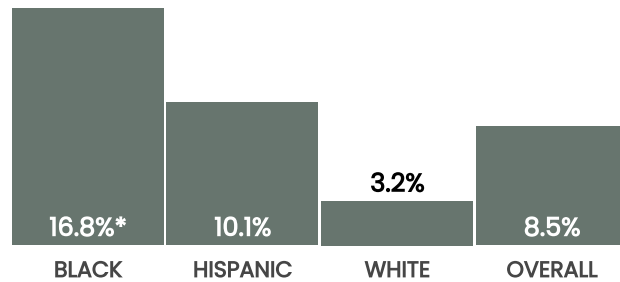


1 in 12

1 in 12 households in Texas with at least one child under age 6 reports child food insecurity.

IN TEXAS, CHILDREN OF COLOR ARE MORE THAN 3 TIMES AS LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE FOOD INSECURITY THAN WHITE CHILDREN.

Percentage of Texas households with at least one child under age 6 reporting low or very low food security



Source: 2019-2021 Current Population Survey (CPS), Food Security Supplement (FSS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)
*Values with an asterisk should be interpreted with caution due to small sample size.

SNAP ENROLLMENT

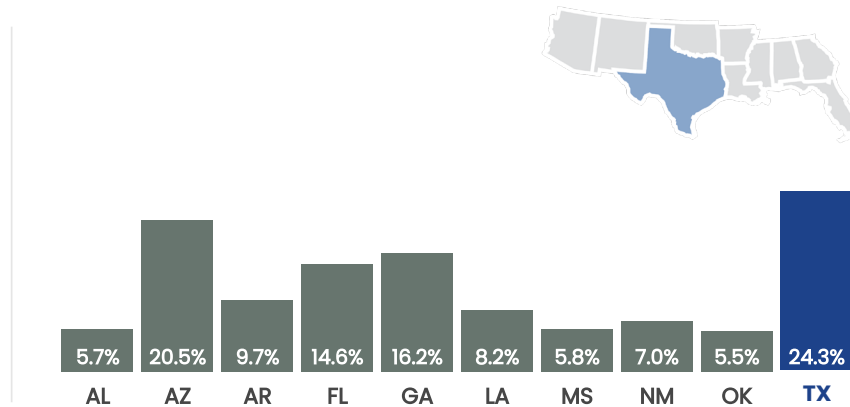


1 in 4

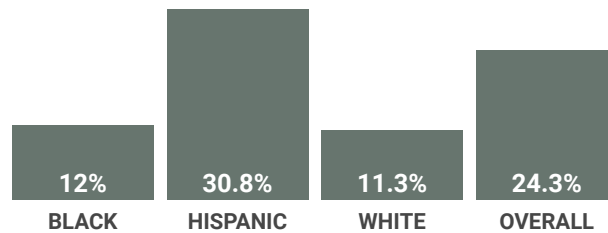


1 in 4 eligible Texas families with children are **not** receiving SNAP, the supplemental food assistance program for low-income families.

COMPARED TO OTHER STATES, TEXAS HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGES OF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN NOT RECEIVING SNAP.



1 IN 3 ELIGIBLE HISPANIC FAMILIES IN TEXAS IS NOT RECEIVING SNAP.



Source: 2017-2019 Transfer Income Model, Version 3 (TRIM3)

Positive Family-Child Interactions

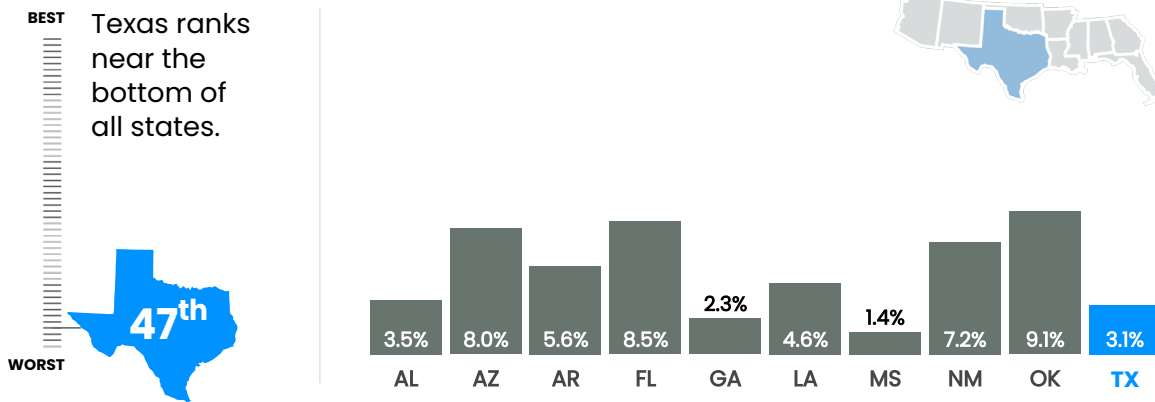
HOME VISITING



3%

Only 3.1 percent of Texas children under age 3 from families with low incomes are served by evidence-based home visiting programs.

TEXAS SERVES FEWER ELIGIBLE CHILDREN IN EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING PROGRAMS COMPARED TO OTHER STATES.



Note: Low-income households have an annual income below 150% of the federal poverty level.
Source: 2021 Home Visiting Yearbook; 2019-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).

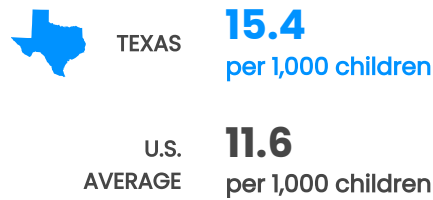
CHILD MALTREATMENT



15 per 1,000

15.4 per 1,000 children under age 6 in Texas experience abuse or neglect.

TEXAS CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 ARE MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE ABUSE OR NEGLECT COMPARED TO CHILDREN IN OTHER STATES.



IN TEXAS, THE CHILD MALTREATMENT RATE DIFFERS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY.

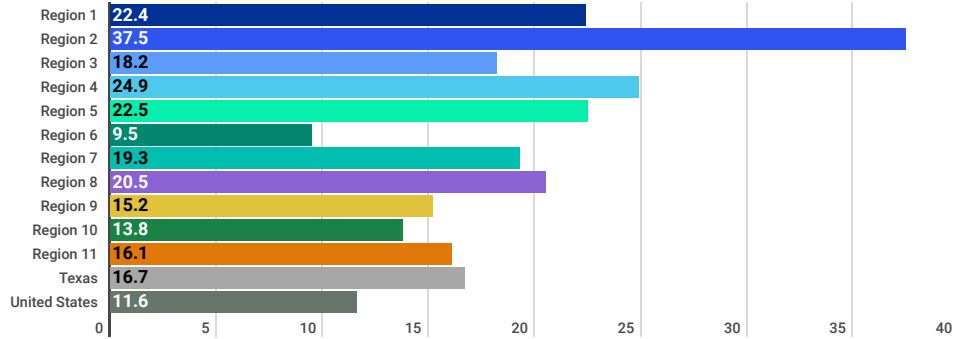


Note: Maltreatment entails a confirmed incident of abuse or neglect.
Source: 2021 Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Child File; Census Bureau annual state resident population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin.

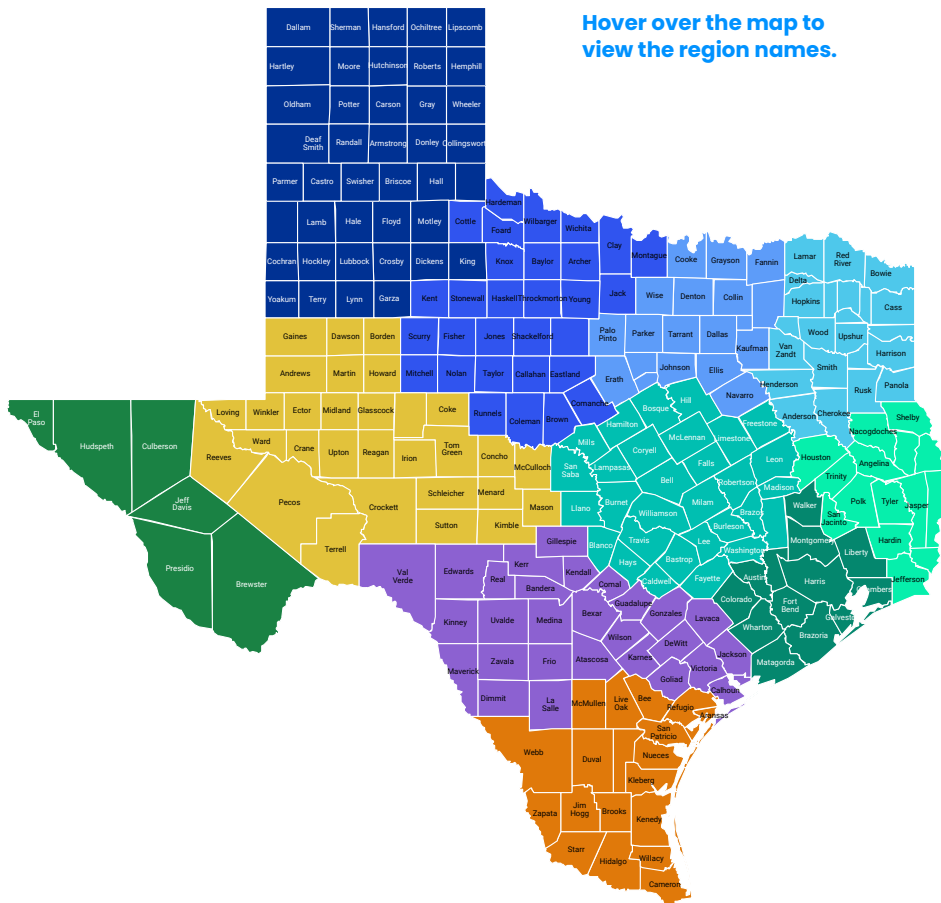
CHILD MALTREATMENT



The rate of child maltreatment (per 1,000 children under age 6) varies greatly across Texas.



Note: Regions correspond to the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) regions.

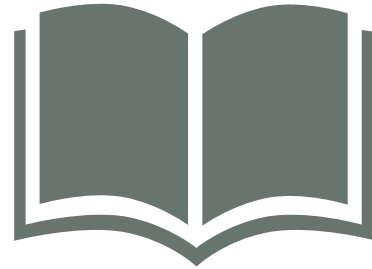


Note: Maltreatment entails a confirmed incident of abuse or neglect. The statewide estimate reported on this figure differs from the statewide estimate calculated with NCANDS data. See notes in data download for more detail. Source: 2021 DFPS Data Book; 2020 U.S. Census Bureau

DAILY READING



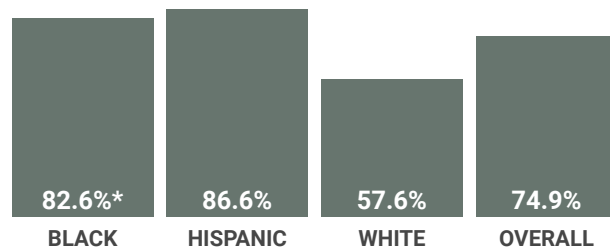
75%



75 percent of Texas children under age six are **not** read to every day by their families.



IN TEXAS, CHILDREN OF COLOR ARE 1.5 TIMES AS LIKELY NOT TO BE READ TO DAILY AS WHITE CHILDREN.



Source: 2019-2021 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) Public-Use Data
*Values with an asterisk should be interpreted with caution due to small sample size.

Good Health and Development

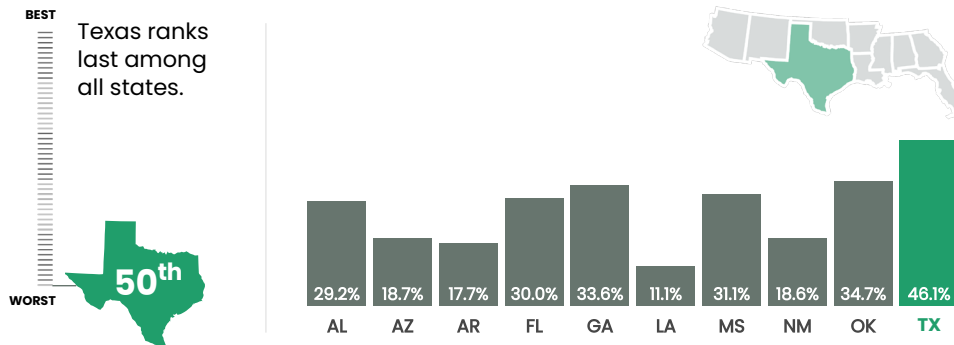
WOMEN'S HEALTH INSURANCE



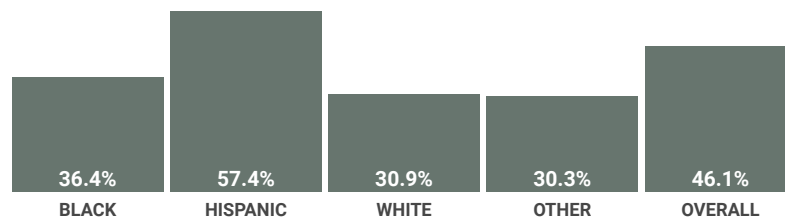
Nearly
1/2

46 percent of Texas women of childbearing age with low incomes do not have health insurance.

TEXAS HAS THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF ADULT WOMEN (AGE 19 TO 44) WITH LOW INCOMES WHO DO NOT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE.



AMONG TEXAS WOMEN (AGE 19 TO 44) WITH LOW INCOMES, HISPANIC WOMEN ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE UNINSURED.

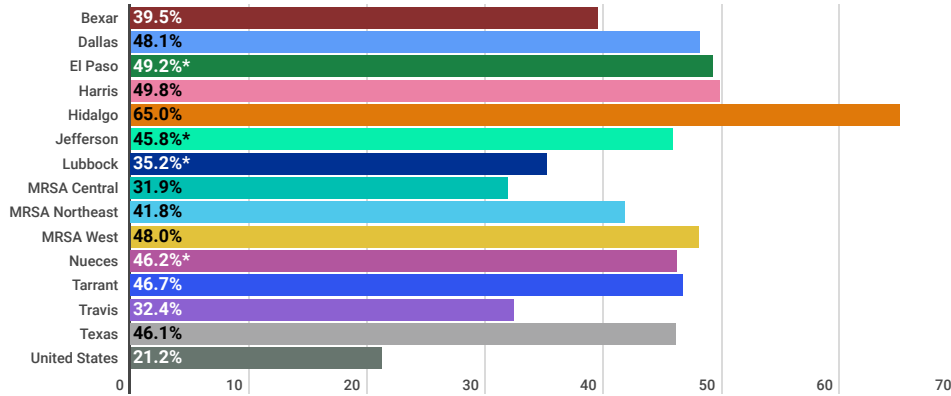


Note. Low incomes are annual incomes at or below 138% of the federal poverty level.
Source: 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

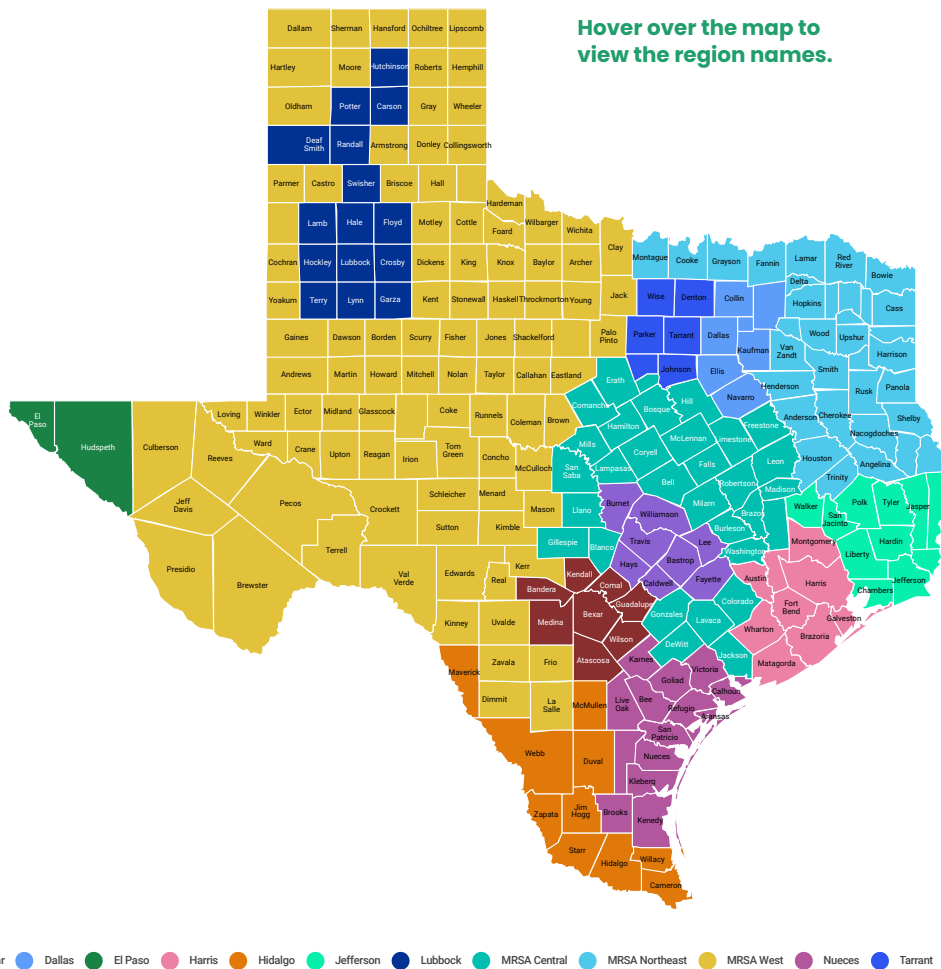
WOMEN'S HEALTH INSURANCE



All Texas regions have uninsured rates for adult women (age 19–44) with low incomes that far exceed the national average.



Note: Low incomes are annual incomes at or below 138% of the federal poverty level. Regions correspond to the managed care service areas. *Values with an asterisk should be interpreted with caution due to small sample size.



Source: 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)
 Note: Regions correspond to the managed care service areas.

PRETERM BIRTHS

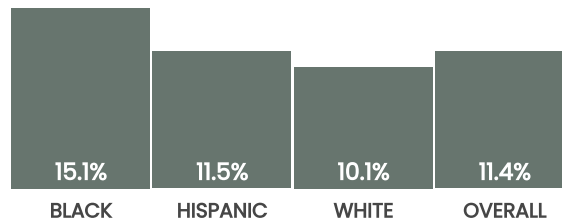


More than

1 in 10

11.4 percent of Texas infants are born preterm.

IN TEXAS, BLACK BABIES ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE BORN PRETERM COMPARED TO WHITE AND HISPANIC BABIES.



Note: Preterm refers to babies born prior to 37 weeks gestational age.
Source: Vital Statistics from CDC WONDER 2021 Natality Expanded.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

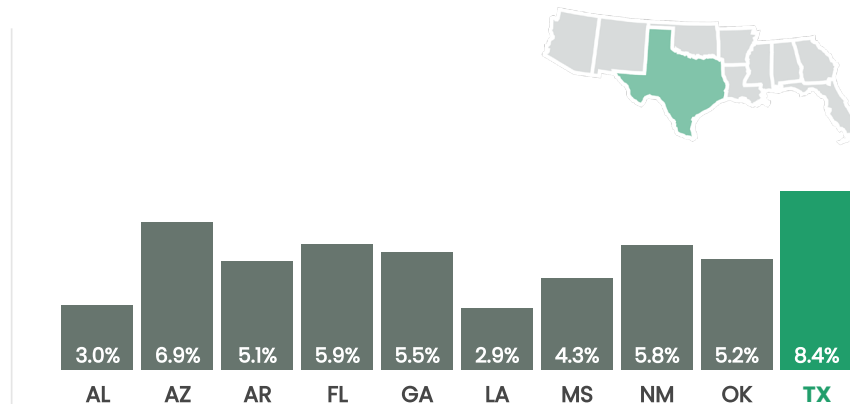


Nearly

200,000

In Texas, nearly 200,000 children under age 6 are uninsured.

TEXAS HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGES OF UNINSURED CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 IN THE NATION.

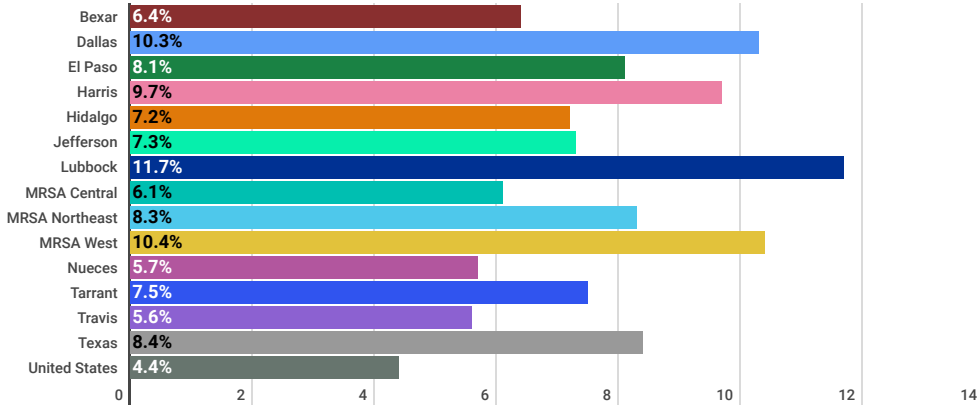


Source: 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).

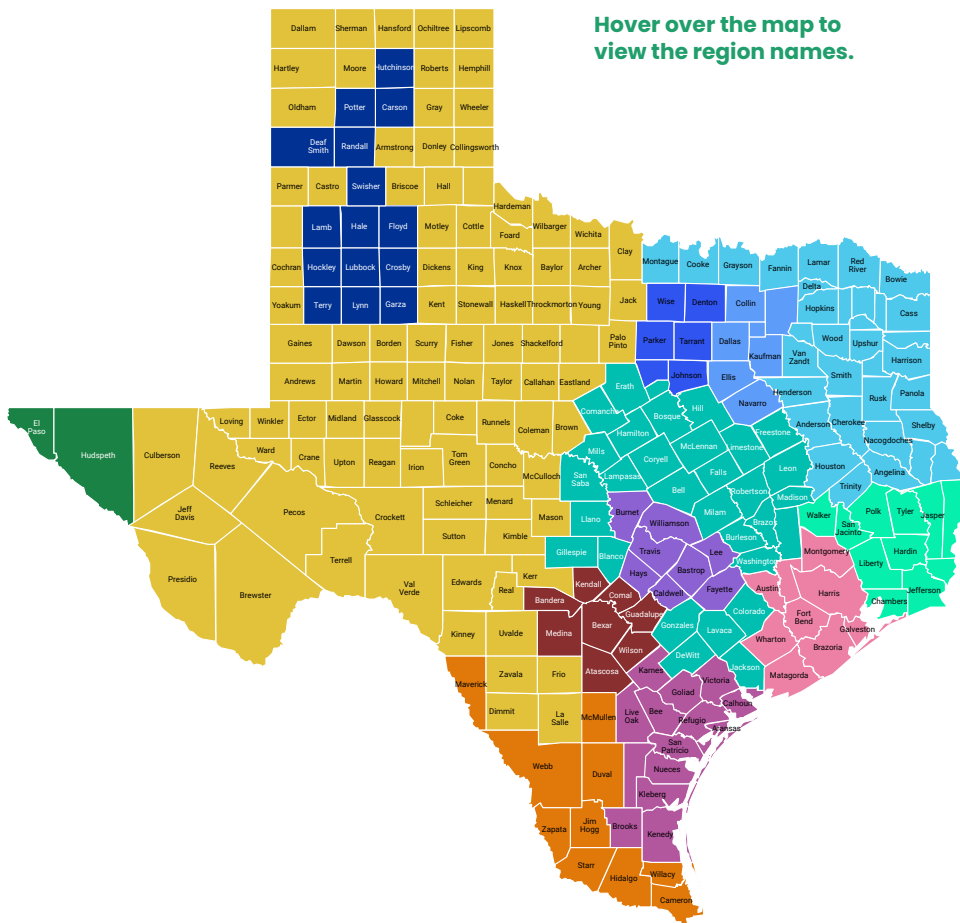
CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE



All Texas regions have uninsured rates for children under age 6 that exceed the national average.



Note: Regions correspond to the managed care service areas.



- Bexar
- Dallas
- El Paso
- Harris
- Hidalgo
- Jefferson
- Lubbock
- MRSA Central
- MRSA Northeast
- MRSA West
- Nueces
- Tarrant
- Travis

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)
 Note: Regions correspond to the managed care service areas.

INFANT WELL-CHILD VISITS



6 in 10 

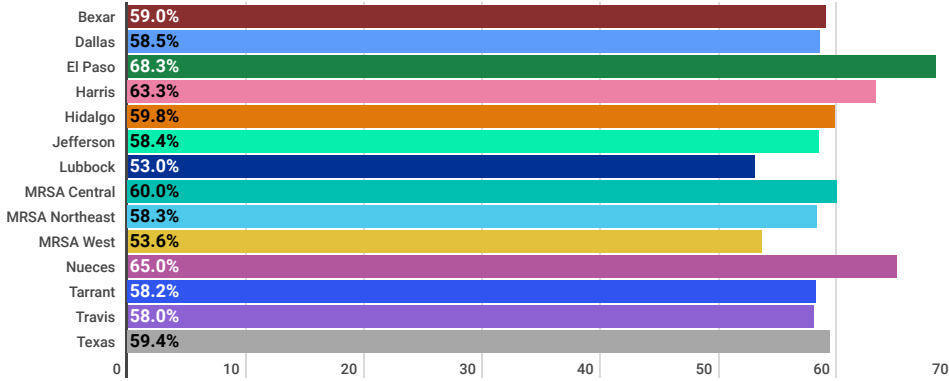
Only 59.4 percent of Texas infants enrolled in Medicaid complete 6 or more of the recommended 8 well-child visits in the first 15 months of life.

Source: Texas Healthcare Learning Collaborative, 2022

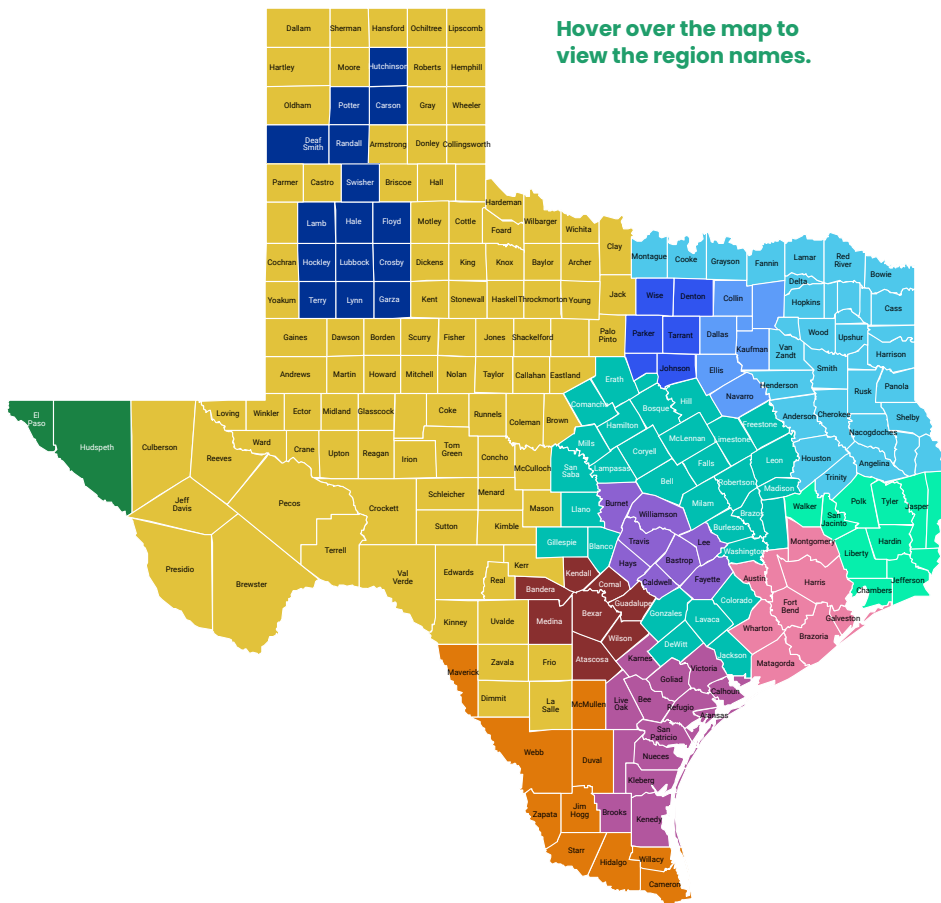
INFANT WELL-CHILD VISITS



The rate of infants enrolled in Medicaid who complete 6 or more of the recommended 8 well-child visits in the first 15 months is relatively consistent across the state.



Note: Regions correspond to the managed care service areas.



- Bexar
- Dallas
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- Jefferson
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- MRSA Central
- MRSA Northeast
- MRSA West
- Nueces
- Tarrant
- Travis

Source: Texas Healthcare Learning Collaborative, 2022
 Note: Regions correspond to the managed care service areas.

TODDLER WELL-CHILD VISITS



7 in 10 

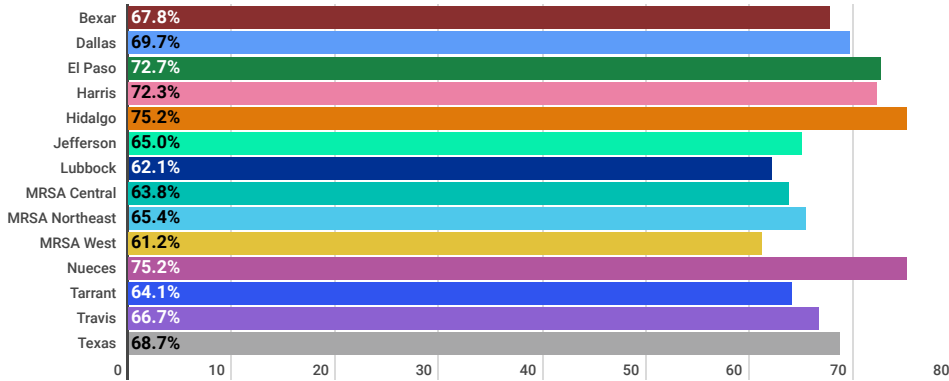
Only 68.7 percent of toddlers enrolled in Medicaid complete 2 or more well-child visits between age 15 and 30 months.

Source: Texas Healthcare Learning Collaborative, 2022

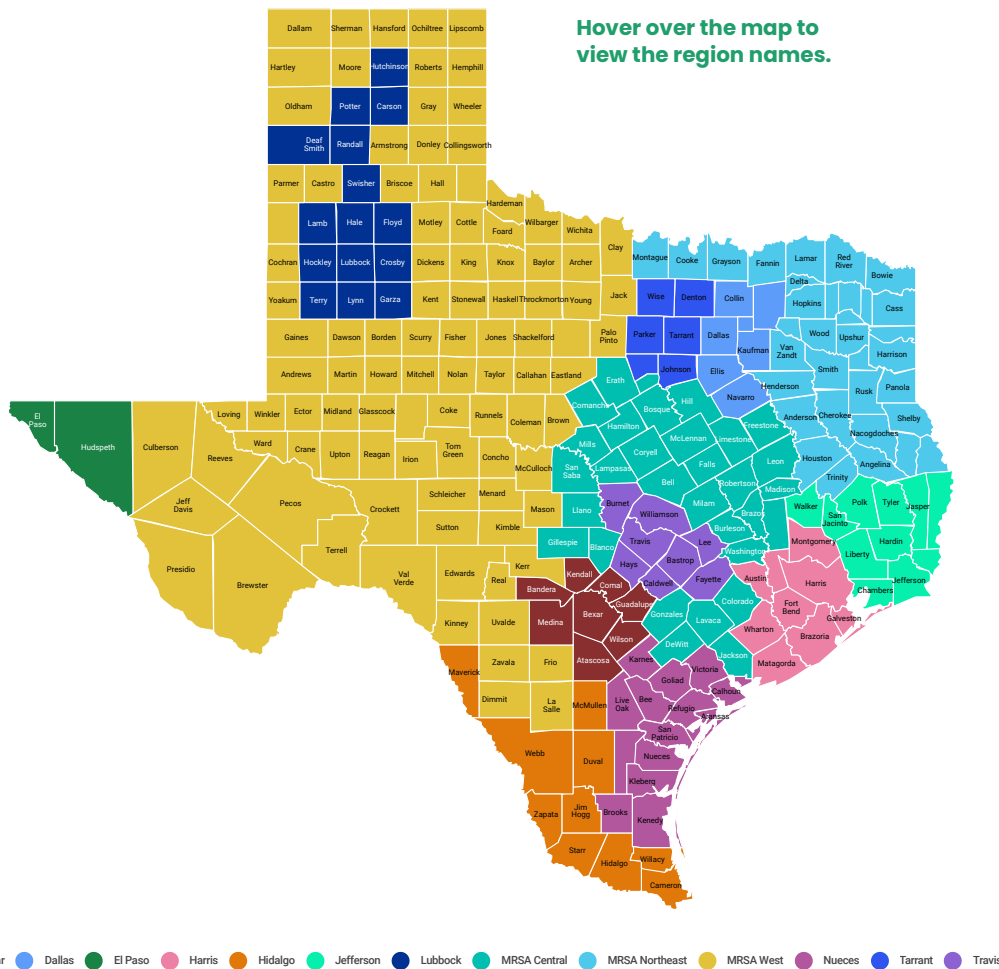
TODDLER WELL-CHILD VISITS



The rate of toddlers enrolled in Medicaid who complete 2 or more well-child visits between age 15 and 30 months is relatively consistent across the state.



Note: Regions correspond to the managed care service areas.



Source: Texas Healthcare Learning Collaborative, 2022.
 Note: Regions correspond to the managed care service areas.

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING



46%



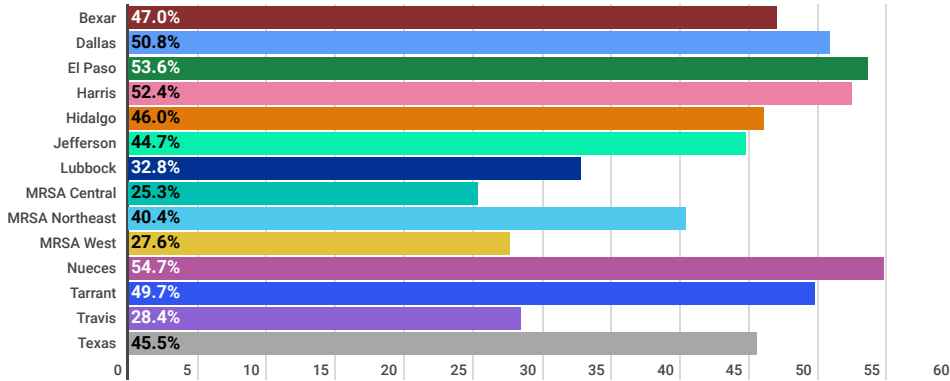
Less than half of Texas children age 3 and under who are enrolled in Medicaid complete a developmental screening in the 12 months before their first, second, or third birthday.

Source: Texas Healthcare Learning Collaborative, 2022

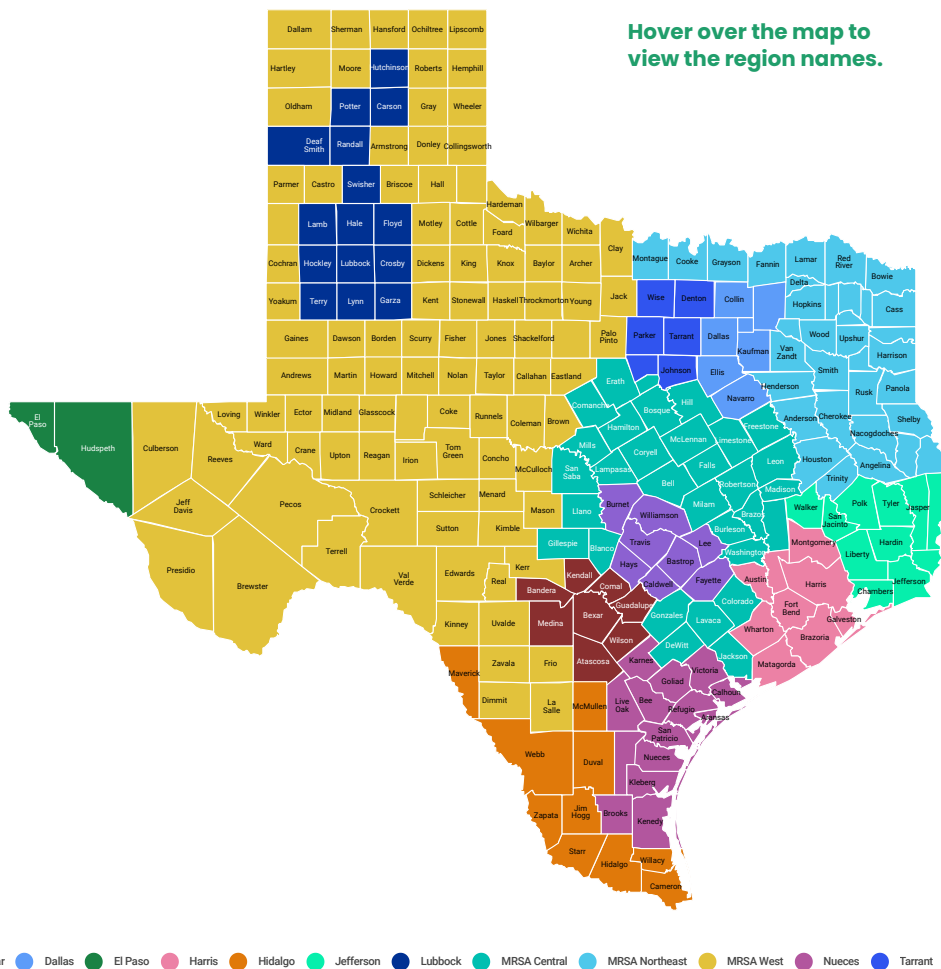
DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING



The rate of developmental screening among children age 3 and under who are enrolled in Medicaid varies considerably across Texas.



Note: Regions correspond to the managed care service areas.



Source: Texas Healthcare Learning Collaborative, 2022
 Note: Regions correspond to the managed care service areas.

ECI ENROLLMENT

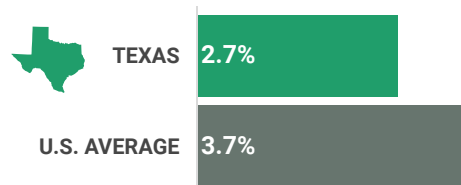
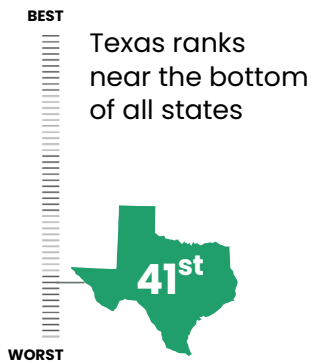


Less than

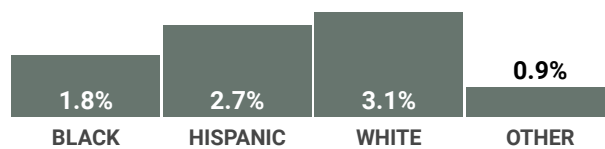
3%

Only 2.7 percent of Texas children under age 3 are enrolled in Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services.

TEXAS SERVES A SMALLER PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG CHILDREN WITH ECI SERVICES COMPARED TO OTHER STATES.



BLACK CHILDREN IN TEXAS ARE LESS LIKELY TO RECEIVE ECI SERVICES THAN WHITE OR HISPANIC CHILDREN.



Note: U.S. average includes outlying areas.
 Source: US Department of Education, ED Facts Metadata and Process System (EMAPS), 2021-2022; Texas Population Estimates Program, 2021

Enriching Early Learning Experiences

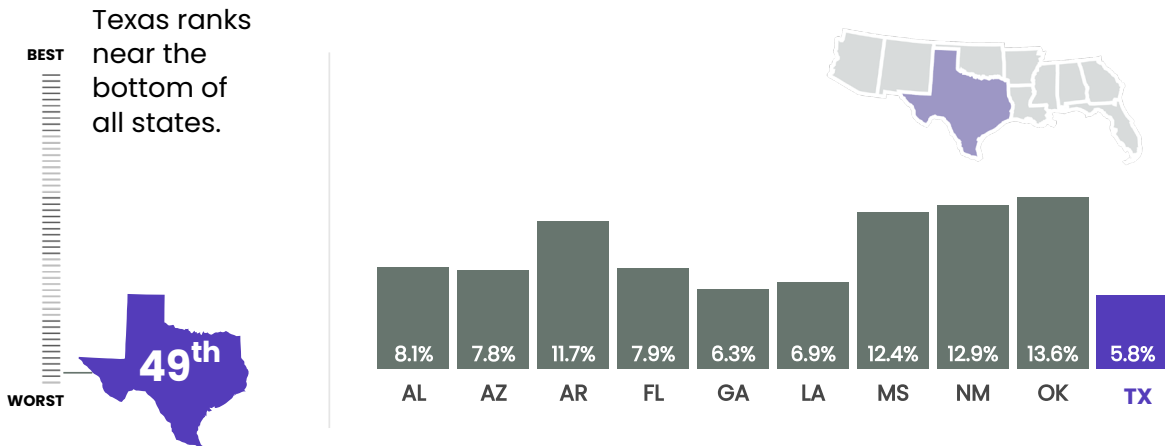
EARLY HEAD START ACCESS



6%

Only 5.8 percent of income-eligible children have access to Early Head Start.

TEXAS CHILDREN ARE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE ACCESS TO EARLY HEAD START COMPARED TO CHILDREN IN OTHER STATES.



Note: Income-eligible households have an annual income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level.
Source: 2021 Early Head Start enrollment data; 2019-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) Public-Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).

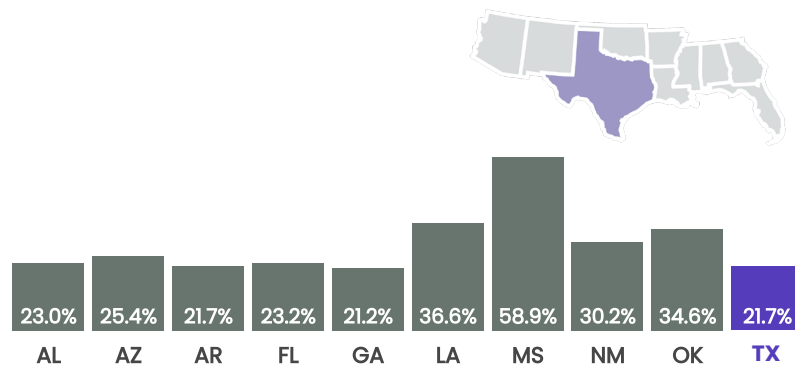
HEAD START ACCESS



1 in 5

Only 21.7 percent of income-eligible children have access to Head Start.

TEXAS CHILDREN ARE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE ACCESS TO HEAD START COMPARED TO CHILDREN IN OTHER STATES.



Note: Income-eligible households have an annual income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level.
 Source: 2021 Head Start enrollment data; 2019–2021 American Community Survey (ACS) Public-Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).

QUALITY CHILD CARE ACCESS



More than

8 in 10

83 percent of children under age six in working families with low incomes live in an area with **inadequate access** to subsidized child care.

FAMILIES WITH LOW INCOMES HAVE VERY LIMITED ACCESS TO QUALITY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS THAT PARTICIPATE IN TEXAS RISING STAR.

More than nine in ten Texas children under age six in working families with low incomes live in an area with inadequate access to child care providers that accept subsidies and are rated by Texas Rising Star.



Source: Children at Risk, Child Care Deserts Across Texas, 2023

PRE-K ENROLLMENT



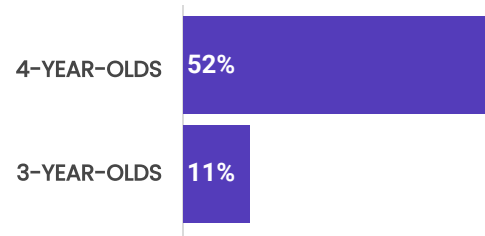
74%

In Texas, 74 percent of **eligible** 4-year-olds are enrolled in public pre-k.

52%

However, when considering **all** Texas 4-year-olds (not just those who meet eligibility criteria), only 52 percent are enrolled in public pre-k.

Only 11 percent of all Texas 3-year-olds are enrolled in public pre-k.



Source: National Institute for Early Education Research State of Preschool Yearbook, 2023; Texas Public Education Information Resource Reports, District Data Download, 2023

Texas Early Childhood Demographics

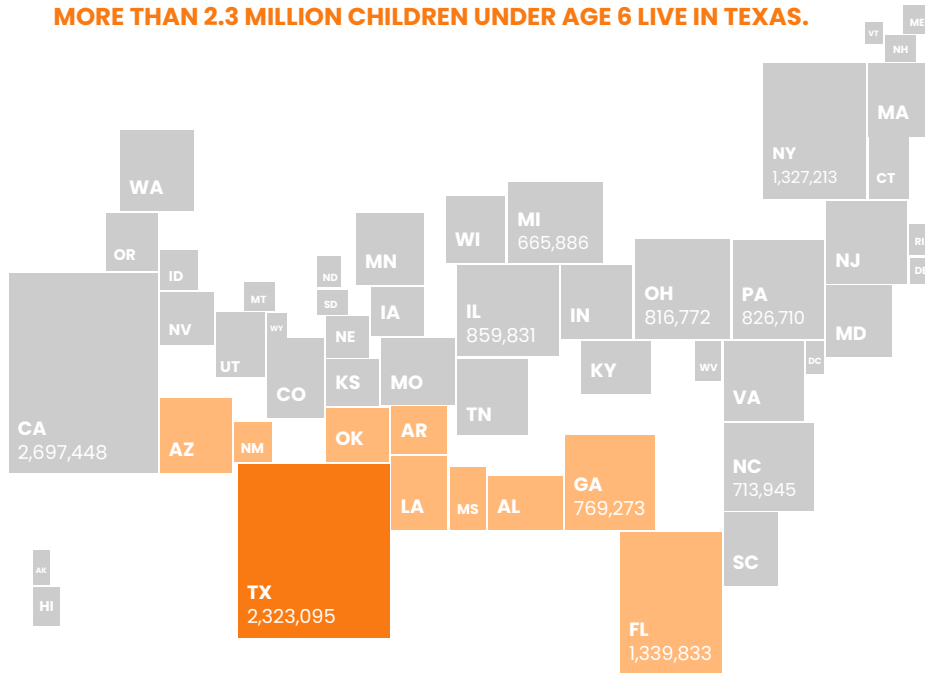
CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6



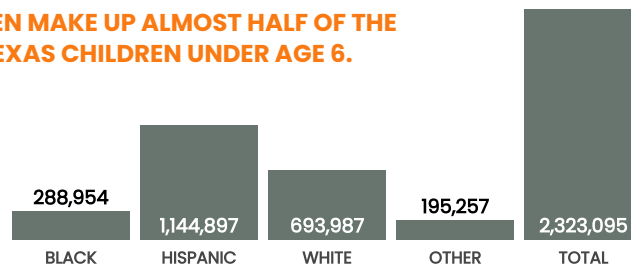
1 in 10

1 in 10 children under age 6 in America lives in Texas.

MORE THAN 2.3 MILLION CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 LIVE IN TEXAS.



HISPANIC CHILDREN MAKE UP ALMOST HALF OF THE POPULATION OF TEXAS CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6.



Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, Vintage 2021

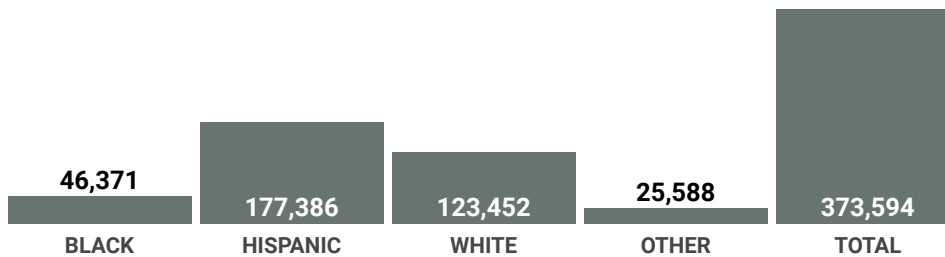
TEXAS BIRTHS



1 in 10

1 in 10 births in the U.S. each year is a child born in Texas.

HISPANIC BIRTHS MAKE UP NEARLY HALF THE BIRTHS IN TEXAS.



Source: Vital Statistics from CDC WONDER 2021 Natality Expanded.