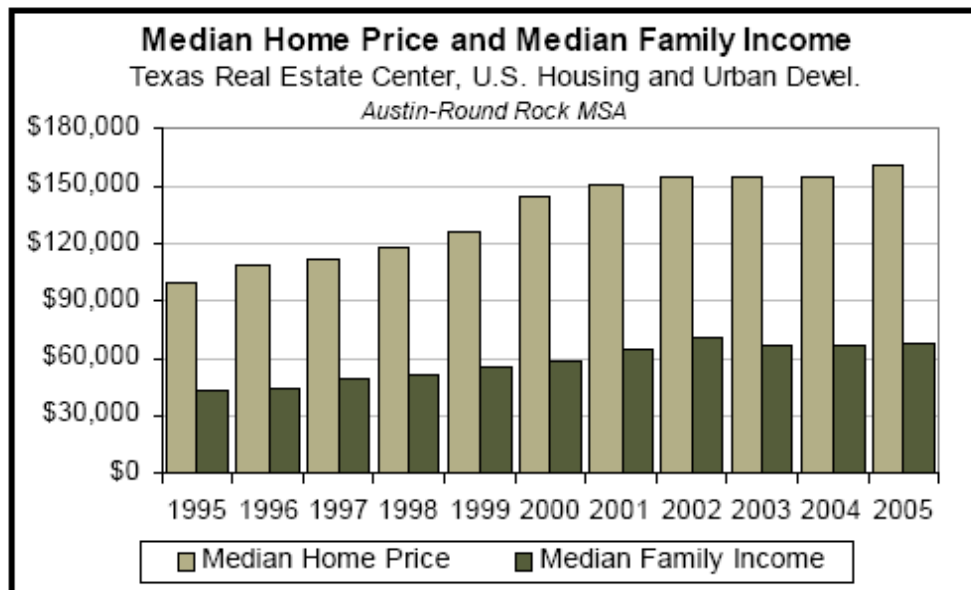




## ECONOMY

### LOCAL

- Austin scored 96.2 on the cost of living index, where the national average is 100. This means that Austin's cost of living is lower than the national average. (*Austin Chamber of Commerce*)
- Per capita personal income in the Austin-Round Rock metropolitan area increased by 5% from 2005-2006. The national increase was 4%. (*Bureau of Economic Analysis*)
- In the last 10 years, median family income in Central Texas has increased by roughly one third, while the median home price has increased by about 50%. (*Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project*)



### STATE

- December 2007 state sales tax net collections totaled \$1.8 billion, compared to \$1.7 billion in December 2006 (a 9% increase). (*Window on State Government*)
- The average price per gallon of regular gasoline in Texas rose 0.72 cents to \$3.099 from March 2007 to March 2008. (*AAA*)

### NATIONAL

- The real Gross Domestic Product growth slowed to 1% in the fourth quarter of 2007, down sharply from the 5% growth rate of the third quarter. (*Economic Policy Institute*)
- In 2006 estimates indicate that there were 649,700 new businesses with employees and 564,900 closures. (*U.S. Small Business Association*)

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

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### LOCAL

- The unemployment rate for Austin's metropolitan statistical area was 4% in December of 2007. This compared to the national unemployment rate of 5%. (*Austin Business Journal*)
- For the Travis County population ages 25 and over, the median earnings for someone with less than a high school education are \$17,978. This compares to earnings of \$25,399 for high school graduates, \$33,171 for persons who attended some college or have an associate's degree, \$42,825 for those with bachelor's degrees, and \$61,082 for those with graduate or professional degrees. (*2006 American Community Survey*)
- Since 2003 the Central Texas area has added 104,000 jobs and \$4.5 billion to payroll. (*Opportunity Austin*)
- The top local occupations that are expected to experience above-average growth from 2004-2014 are: medical assistants (projected growth rate of 64%), surgical technicians (60%), elementary education teachers (58%), and secondary education teachers (56%). (*WorkSource*)

### STATE

- Three Texas cities had the fastest growing labor force in the nation from 2000-2005: Frisco (with 74% labor force growth), Cedar Park (66%), and McKinney (53%). (*U.S. Census Bureau; 2/28/08*)

### NATIONAL

- There is a continuing trend of job growth in the health care and food service industries. However, there has been a drop in employment for the construction, manufacturing, and retail trade industries. (*Bureau of Labor Statistics; 02/08*)
- One in eight youth have a disability (some hidden or undiagnosed), which indicates that it is important for all workforce development workers to have some familiarity with the field of disability and appropriate youth employment and disability laws. (*U.S. Census Bureau, National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability*)

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

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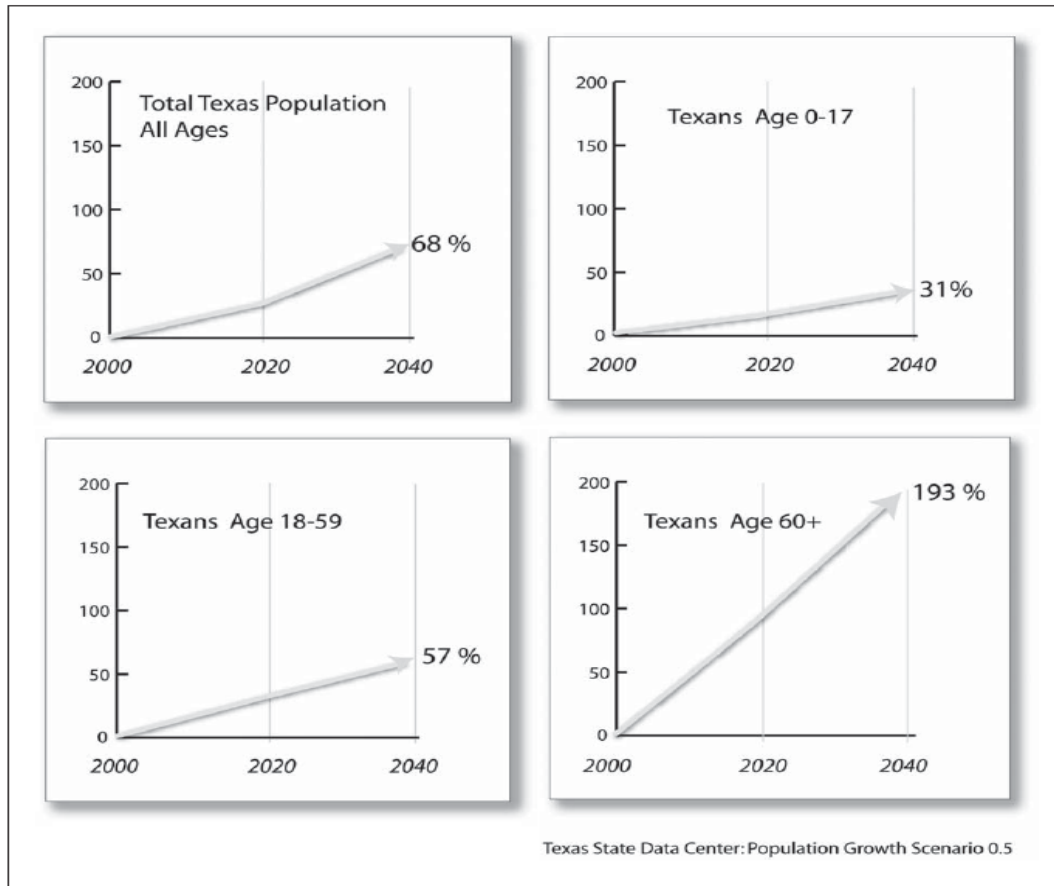
### LOCAL

- Population growth of 42,000 is projected for Austin in 2008, down from a high of about 60,000 in 2006. (*American Chronicle*)
- In 2006, Non-Hispanic Whites made up just over 55% of the regional population. (*Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project*)
- The Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area will experience the largest percent growth in the 60-plus population in Texas by 2040, a 322% increase. (*Texas Department on Aging*)

## STATE

- Over 2.7 million Texans are age 60 or over. The 60-plus population is projected to total 8.1 million by 2040, which means that they would constitute 23% of the total Texas population. (*Texas Department on Aging*)

**Figure 1.1. Population Growth in Texas for Selected Age Groups**



- Texas has the fourth largest population of older adults in the U.S., and the second largest older Hispanic population in the nation. (*Texas Department on Aging*)

## NATIONAL

- On March 11, 2008 the resident population of the United States was projected to be 303,609,565. (*U.S. Census Bureau*)

## BASIC NEEDS

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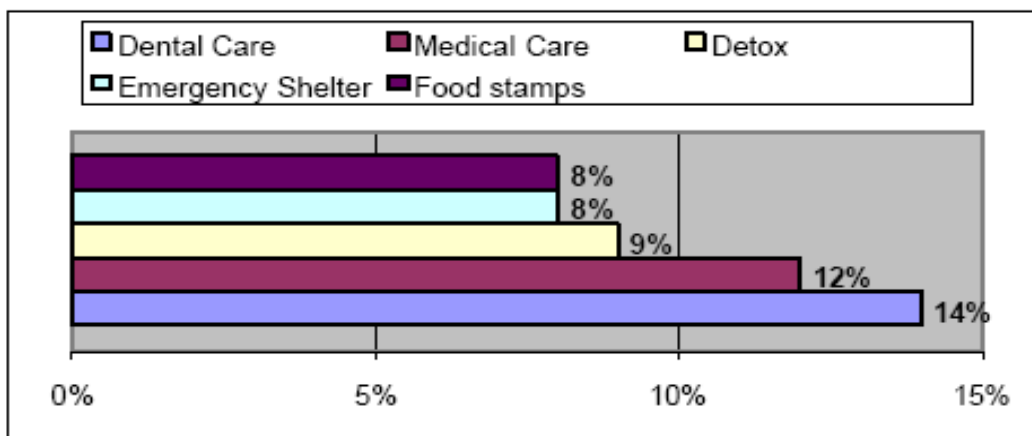
## LOCAL

- In 2006, an estimated 15% of Travis County residents were living below the federal poverty level. The Travis County poverty rate is higher than the U.S. rate (13%) but lower than the Texas rate (17%). (*2006 American Community Survey*)

- In Travis County 93% of eligible mothers and children are enrolled in the WIC Nutrition Program. This is much higher than the state rate of 78% and the national rate of 57%. (*Success by 6*)
- In 2006, the percentage of eligible Travis County residents receiving food stamps was 45%. This is lower than the state rate of 47%. (*Center for Public Policy Priorities*)
- Between 1997 and 2005, the number of students who were economically disadvantaged increased from just below 70,000 to more than 100,000. More than 42% of public school children in Austin and the surrounding counties are economically disadvantaged. (*Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project*)
- Austin has a higher proportion of workers earning poverty level wages than any comparison city its size – and the highest racial income inequality among comparison cities. (*United Way*)

#### STATE

- Texas has the 9<sup>th</sup> highest overall poverty rate in the nation, the 8<sup>th</sup> highest poverty rate for children under 18 years of age, and the 10<sup>th</sup> highest poverty rate for adults aged 65 or older. (*Catholic Campaign for Human Development*)
- The average monthly benefit for an individual enrolled in the Texas Food Stamp Program is \$93 per person, which works out to just \$1 per meal. (*Center for Public Policy Priorities*)
- A survey of Texas homeless populations showed that the most frequently cited needs by the homeless were dental and medical care. (*Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless*)



#### NATIONAL

- For the first time this decade, the nation's official poverty rate of Americans living in poverty declined from 12.6% in 2005 to 12.3% in 2006. (*Catholic Campaign for Human Development*)
- 4% of U.S. households experience hunger. Some people in these households frequently skip meals or eat too little, sometimes going without food for a whole day. 11.1 million people, including 430,000 children, live in these homes. (*USDA Economic Research Service*)

## HOUSING

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#### LOCAL

- The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) has 5,451 people on the wait list for one of their 1,928 units of public housing and 5,111 on the wait list for Section 8 vouchers. (*HACA; 01/08*)
- Austin's Section 8 waitlist is now closed and will not reopen for several years. (*HACA*)

- In Travis County, 84% of renters and 82% of owners with an income of less than \$20,000 spend 30% or more of their household incomes on housing costs and are thus cost burdened. For those households earning \$20,000-34,999, 63% of renters and 67% of owners are cost burdened. (*2006 American Community Survey*)
- More than 25% of the home loans made in 2004 to Hispanics and African Americans were on terms the U.S. Treasury defines as “excessively high annual percentage rates.” This compares to 6% for whites. (*Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project*)
- African Americans and Hispanics are more likely than Whites to feel uncomfortable in the neighborhood in which they live (59% of African Americans and 68% of Hispanics felt comfortable asking neighbors for help, compared to 79% of Whites). (*Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project*)

#### STATE

- In January 2008, Texas home sales totaled 14,118 down from 16,554 in January 2007. (*Texas A&M University*)

#### NATIONAL

- In 2000 there were 4,881,081 HUD-subsidized housing units with an occupancy rate of 87%. (*HUD*)
- In 2003, the ratio of affordable rental units to extremely-low-income renters was 78:100, but only 44 were of the units were available for those households (the remainder being occupied by higher-income households). (*HUD*)

## PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

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#### LOCAL

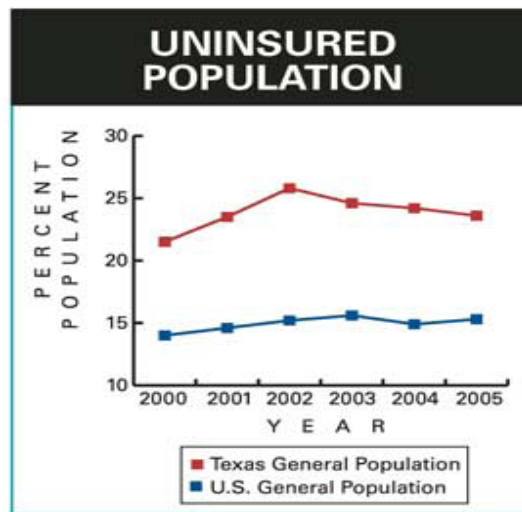
- One in five Travis County residents are uninsured. (*Travis County Healthcare District*)
- 7% of infants born in Travis County have a low birth weight. This is lower than both the state rate of 8% and the national rate of 8%. (*Success by 6*)
- Estimates indicate that in Travis County 79% of children are immunized by 24 months. This is higher than the state rate of 78% but lower than the national rate of 80%. (*Success by 6*)

#### STATE

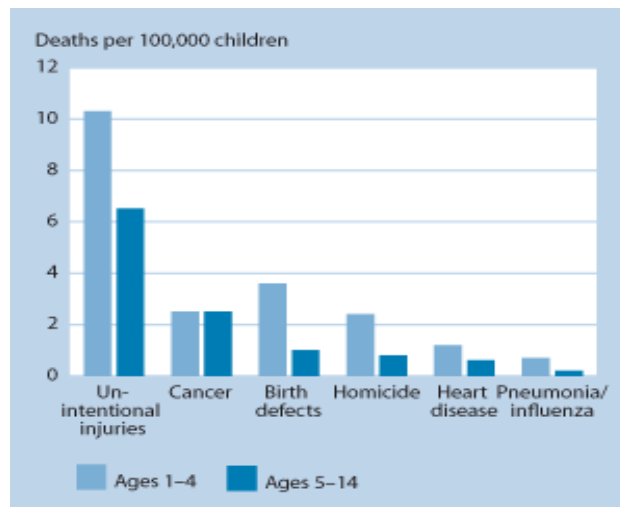
- The cost of health care for the average Texan is expected to rise from \$7,110 in 2006 to \$12,320 in 2015. (*Travis County Healthcare District*)
- 68% of income eligible children in Texas were enrolled in the CHIP/Medicaid program as of 2006. This represents a 2% decrease from the number of eligible Texas children enrolled in 2005. (*Success by 6*)

#### NATIONAL

- Texas consistently has a higher percentage of uninsured individuals than the nation as a whole. (*Travis County Healthcare District*)



- The teen birth rate in the United States rose in 2006 (an increase of 3%) for the first time since 1991. The largest increases were reported for non-Hispanic black teens, whose overall rate rose 5% in 2006. The rate rose 2% for Hispanic teens, 3% for non-Hispanic white teens, and 4% for American Indian or Alaska Native teens. (*National Center for Health Statistics*)
- In 2002, 22% of all births were to mothers with less than a high school education, down from 23% in 1994. (*National Center for Health Statistics*)
- In 2004, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death for children ages 1-14. For children ages 1-4 the rate was 10 deaths per 100,000 children, and for children ages 5-14 the rate was 7 deaths per 100,000 children. (*Forum on Child and Family Statistics*)



- In 2001, estimates of the occurrence of elder abuse and neglect varied from about 2-10% annual incidence. (*The National Academies*)

## EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE

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### LOCAL

- Last year, less than 14% of childcare centers in Austin met any quality standards. This was a much lower percentage than for other U.S. cities of comparable size. Today, 19% have achieved quality ratings, and by mid-2008, a full 27% of childcare centers will achieve quality ratings. (*Success by 6*)

### STATE

- Every \$1 invested in high quality pre-k programs returns at least \$3.50 to local Texas communities. (*Texas A&M University*)
- The average annual cost of center-based infant care in Texas is \$5,564.00. (*National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies*)
- In 2006, 24% of children in Early Head Start were Hispanic. This is estimated to be a mere 3% of the eligible Latino child population for the program. (*National Council of La Raza*)

### NATIONAL

- In 2001 the majority of children, 56%, ages 3-5 not yet enrolled in kindergarten were enrolled in a center-based program. Some 23% of children received care from relatives and 14% received care from non-relatives. (*National Center for Education Statistics*)
- In 2001, the most common primary care arrangements for children were parental care (40%) and center-based programs (33%). (*National Center for Education Statistics*)

## EDUCATION

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### LOCAL

- At 57%, Hispanics constituted the majority of students enrolled in the Austin Independent School District for the 2006-2007 school year. Other prevalent ethnicities were Whites at 27% and African Americans at 13%. (*AISD*)
- In 2006, 32% of all Travis County residents (5 years and older) reported speaking a language other than English at home and 13% reported speaking English “less than very well.” (*2006 American Community Survey*)
- Fewer than 8% of the campuses in Austin and surrounding counties earned an “exemplary” rating – and African American and Hispanic children are significantly less likely to attend an exemplary campus than others. White children represent 78% of the total enrollment at exemplary campuses. (*Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project*)
- Approximately 40% of the young children entering Central Texas public schools are at least 18 months behind in basic language and cognitive skills. The gap tends to persist over time, adversely impacting school readiness and lifelong success. (*United Way*)
- In Travis County, 43% of the population (age 25 or older) holds a bachelor’s degree or higher degree. This compares to the state rate of 25%. (*2006 American Community Survey, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*)
- In Austin the turnover rate for teachers is 16%, which is higher than the state rate of 15%. (*Texas Education Agency*)

### STATE

- In 2006, there were 188,258 higher education degrees awarded in the state of Texas. This represents an increase of 30% since 2002. (*Texas Higher Education Data*)

Researched and prepared by: Community Action Network- lead writer, Chantel Bottoms.

For more information, sources, or for an electronic version of the document, email [Chantel.Bottoms@austinsd.org](mailto:Chantel.Bottoms@austinsd.org), call 512-414-0327.

***Degrees Awarded – Statewide by Institution Type***

	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2002
Public University	100,202	96,975	92,342	86,389	82,852
Independent College or University*	25,643	25,608	26,588	26,329	0
Public 2-year College	57,134	56,984	53,967	50,068	44,789
Independent 2-year College*	117	133	126	107	0
Public Health-related Institution	4,515	4,377	4,166	3,780	3,821
Independent Health-related Institution**	647	612	718	595	246
	<i>188,258</i>	<i>184,689</i>	<i>177,907</i>	<i>167,268</i>	<i>131,708</i>

- Together, Blacks and Hispanics represent 55% of Texas’ 15-to-34 population, but approximately 36% of the students in Texas higher education. (*Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*)

**NATIONAL**

- Both teachers who left teaching and teachers who transferred to other schools at the end of 1999-2000 reported a lack of planning time, too heavy a workload, too low a salary, and problematic student behavior among their top five sources of dissatisfaction with the school they left. (*U.S. Department of Education*)

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

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**LOCAL**

- With 34,318 incidences, theft was the number one recorded offense in 2007 according to the Austin Police Department. Burglary and motor vehicle theft were the second and third most common offenses. (*APD*)
- In 2007 aggravated assault was the number one recorded violent offense with 1,795 incidences. Other recorded violent offenses include rape with 334 incidences and murder with 31 incidences. (*APD*)
- The Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area has seen gradual increases in numbers of violent crimes since 1998. (*Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project*)
- People living below the poverty line are more than three times more likely to feel afraid in their communities, whether at night or in the day, than their higher income counterparts. (*Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project*)
- 40% of African Americans gave the police a vote of “no confidence,” double the rate for whites and Hispanics. (*Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project*)

**STATE**

- During 2006 Texas’ crime rate was 4,600 crimes per 100,000 persons. This represents a decrease of 5% from the previous year. (*Texas Department of Public Safety*)

<b>Texas Crime Rate by Offense</b>			
<b>Offense</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Murder	5.9	6.1	- 3.3 %
Rape	35.8	37.2	- 3.8 %
Robbery	158.5	156.5	+ 1.3 %
Aggravated Assault	317.4	329.9	- 3.8 %
<b>VIOLENT CRIME TOTAL</b>	<b>517.6</b>	<b>529.7</b>	<b>- 2.3 %</b>
Burglary	917.8	961.2	- 4.5 %
Larceny-Theft	2,756.9	2,957.2	- 6.8 %
Motor Vehicle Theft	407.3	408.9	- 0.4 %
<b>PROPERTY CRIME TOTAL</b>	<b>4,082.0</b>	<b>4,327.3</b>	<b>- 5.7 %</b>
<b>INDEX CRIME GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>4,599.6</b>	<b>4,857.1</b>	<b>- 5.3 %</b>

- Texas, with 176,116 prisoners, was second only to California in the number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of state correctional authorities in 2006. (*Bureau of Justice Statistics*)

#### **NATIONAL**

- There were 5,703 fatal work injuries in the United States in 2006, down slightly from the total of 5,734 fatalities in 2005. Nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses among private industry employers in 2006 occurred at a rate of 4.4 cases per 100 equivalent full-time workers, a decline from 4.6 cases in 2005. (*Bureau of Labor Statistics*)
- On average, juveniles (ages 12-17) were more than twice as likely as adults (ages 18 or older) to be the victims of violent crime from 1993 to 2003. (*U.S. Department of Justice*)
- Among juveniles age 17 or younger, blacks were five times as likely as whites to be the victim of a homicide from 1993 to 2003. (*U.S. Department of Justice*)
- In 2006, Federal and State correctional authorities had jurisdiction over 1,570,861 prisoners, an increase of 3% since 2005. (*Bureau of Justice Statistics*)
- In 2006, 1 in every 33 black men was a sentenced prisoner. This compares to the rate of 1 in every 205 white men and 1 in every 79 Hispanic men. (*Bureau of Justice Statistics*)

## **TRANSPORTATION**

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#### **LOCAL**

- Since 1994, the percentage of Central Texans driving their own car to work has increased from 84% to 90%, while the number of persons taking the bus has dropped from 8% to 4%. (*Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project*)
- The region's "Travel Time Index" for commuting is now virtually identical to that of Dallas (a much larger metropolitan area) and is approaching that of Houston. Congestion is worse in the Austin metro area than it is in any other "mid-size" urban area in the nation. (*Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project*)

#### **STATE**

- By 2030, Texas road use will increase by 214% and highway freight traffic will increase by 77%. (*Texas Department of Transportation*)
- 45% of all Texans live within 50 miles of I-35. (*Texas Department of Transportation*)

### NATIONAL

- From 2006-2007, the number of airline passengers increased by 3%. (*U.S. Department of Transportation*)
- The total annual cost of owning and operating an automobile varies from \$5,987-\$10,003, while the total annual cost of riding public transportation varies from \$283.20-\$2,643.20. (*American Public Transportation Association*)

## RESOURCES

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### LOCAL

- In Austin, 29% of volunteers dedicated their time to educational and youth services, 28.3% to religious services, and 19% to social or community services. (*Corporation for National & Community Service*)



### STATE

- In 2007, a grand total of 384,545 Texans worked for non-profit 510(c)(3) organizations. (*Texas Association of Non-Profit Organizations*)

### NATIONAL

- In 2006, more than 26% of metro residents volunteered, compared to approximately 28% of people in non-metropolitan areas. (*Corporation for National & Community Service*)

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

### LOCAL

- African Americans and Hispanics are more likely to believe a person should give something back to the community (88% each, compared to 80% for whites). (*Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project*)

### STATE

- In 2007, 47% of Texas Federal Elected Officials were persons of color. There were also 1,804 State and Local Elected Officials of color. (*Gender and Multi-Cultural Leadership Project*)

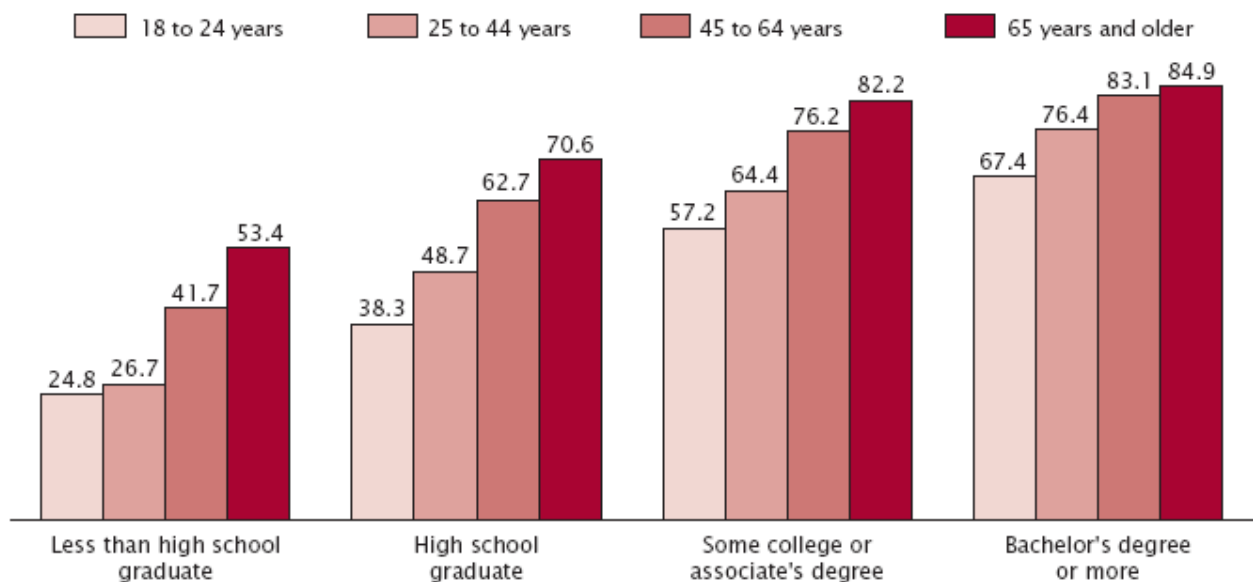
### NATIONAL

- 26.2% of the population volunteered for or through an organization from September of 2006 through September of 2007. This 0.5% decrease in the volunteer rate follows a decline of 2% in the prior year. (*Bureau of Labor Statistics*)
- In 2004, 55% of the voting-age (18 and over) population voted in the presidential election, up from 49% in 1992 and a high of 63% in 1960. (*Federal Election Commission*)
- In 2004, voting rates increased with educational attainment. This remained constant regardless of the voter's age. (*U.S. Census*)

Figure 2.

### Voting Rates by Educational Attainment and Age Groups: 2004

(Citizens 18 and older, in percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, November 2004.

Researched and prepared by: Community Action Network- lead writer, Chantel Bottoms.

For more information, sources, or for an electronic version of the document, email [Chantel.Bottoms@austinsd.org](mailto:Chantel.Bottoms@austinsd.org), call 512-414-0327.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?**

- Choose a local social service agency to support financially. Visit <http://www.ilivehereigivehere.org> to learn about issues facing our community, and to link to non-profits that are providing solutions.
- Copy and distribute this document to help increase public awareness.
- Support the local economy by shopping at local businesses.
- Give to the United Way Capital Area’s Community Fund or the Austin Community Foundation’s Urgent Issues Fund.
- Contact the United Way Capital Area’s Volunteer Center at 211 or search for volunteer opportunities on United Way Capital Area’s website at <http://www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org>.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Community Overview was researched and written by the Community Action Network.

**Lead Writer:**

Chantel Bottoms – *Community Action Network*

You are encouraged to copy and distribute this edition of the CAN Community Overview

**COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK PARTNERS**

<p><b>AUSTIN AREA HUMAN SERVICES ASSOCIATION</b>  <b>AUSTIN AREA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION</b>  <b>AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>  <b>AUSTIN AREA INTERRELIGIOUS MINISTRIES</b>  <b>AUSTIN TRAVIS COUNTY MHMR CENTER</b>  <b>CITY OF AUSTIN</b>  <b>COMMUNITY JUSTICE COUNCIL</b>  <b>GREATER AUSTIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>  <b>HEALTH PARTNERSHIP</b>  <b>(INDIGENT CARE COLLABORATION, SETON FAMILY OF HOSPITALS, ST. DAVID’S COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION)</b></p>	<p><b>HIGHER EDUCATION COALITION</b>  <b>(AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ST. EDWARD’S UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN)</b>  <b>TRAVIS COUNTY</b>  <b>TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT</b>  <b>UNITED WAY CAPITAL AREA</b>  <b>WORKSOURCE</b></p>
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