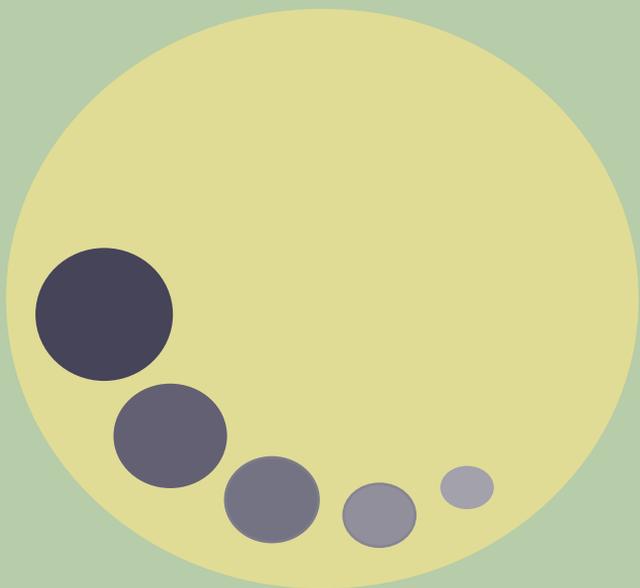


# Travis County Snapshot

from the **American Community Survey 2016**



2017

The logo features a large light green circle containing several smaller yellow circles of varying sizes. The text is overlaid on the right side of the green circle.

# Travis County Snapshot

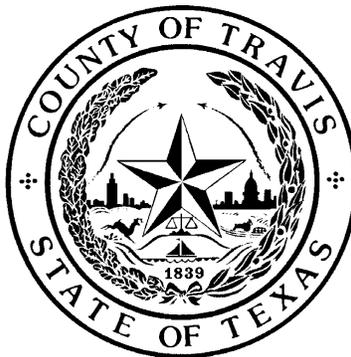
from the American Community Survey 2016

## **Acknowledgements**

This report was researched and written by the staff at the Travis County Health and Human Services, Research & Planning Division. Lead writers were Brittain Ayres, Tara Carmean, and Tonya Pennie with the support of other division staff, Lawrence Lyman (Division Director), and Sherri E. Fleming (County Executive for Travis County HHS).

## **Questions or Comments?**

For questions or for more information, please contact the Research & Planning Division at [HHS\\_R&P@traviscountytexas.gov](mailto:HHS_R&P@traviscountytexas.gov).



# Table of Contents

<b>About the Chartbook</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Social Characteristics</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Age .....	6
Race and Hispanic Origin.....	7
Educational Attainment .....	8
Place of Birth .....	9
Language.....	10
Nativity .....	11
Disability .....	12
Veteran's Status .....	13
<b>Economic Characteristics</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Median Household Income .....	15
Household Income Distribution.....	16
Poverty .....	17
Income to Poverty Ratio.....	18
Employment and Age .....	19
Employment by Industry .....	20
Employment and Education.....	21
Earnings and Education .....	22
Commuting.....	23
Health Insurance.....	24
<b>Housing Characteristics</b> .....	<b>25</b>
Household Type .....	26
Cost Burden .....	27
Rent Values.....	28
Housing Values .....	29
Median Housing Value.....	30
<b>Methodology</b> .....	<b>31</b>

# About the Chartbook

## About the American Community Survey

The American Community Survey (ACS) is one of many surveys conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. It includes questions about social, housing, and economic characteristics. While many available data sources address these subjects, the Research & Planning Division has increasingly relied on the ACS as a primary resource to describe current demographics and local conditions. Compared to the more widely-known Decennial Census, which is conducted every 10 years, the ACS is conducted on an ongoing basis and releases data annually. Thus it can provide more up-to-date information, particularly for communities undergoing rapid demographic change. (For more on the ACS, please see the Methodology section at the end of this chartbook.)

## About the Chartbook

All of the information contained herein is publicly available via the U.S. Census Bureau's website. However, due to time constraints or technical limitations, it may sometimes be difficult for users to access, analyze, and interpret needed data. By selecting key variables from among the many available, analyzing the data for important relationships and trends, and presenting it in the chartbook in a clear, accessible visual format, our goal is to provide current information describing the Travis County community.

Because the data presented in the chartbook is representative of a sample and not the entire population, some of the smaller estimates are unreliable due to sampling error,<sup>1</sup> which generally increases as sample sizes decrease. Comparisons of indicators between geographies, subpopulations, or across time periods may appear significant, but may not be. Therefore, we perform testing of estimates that appear unreliable for significance and any comparisons that are explicitly made between geographies, subpopulations, or across time periods at 90% level of confidence. (For more information on statistical testing, see the Methodology section at the end of this chartbook.)

We hope this information is helpful in efforts to improve programs, plan community investments, and shape local policies. We encourage users to borrow and cite this material.

---

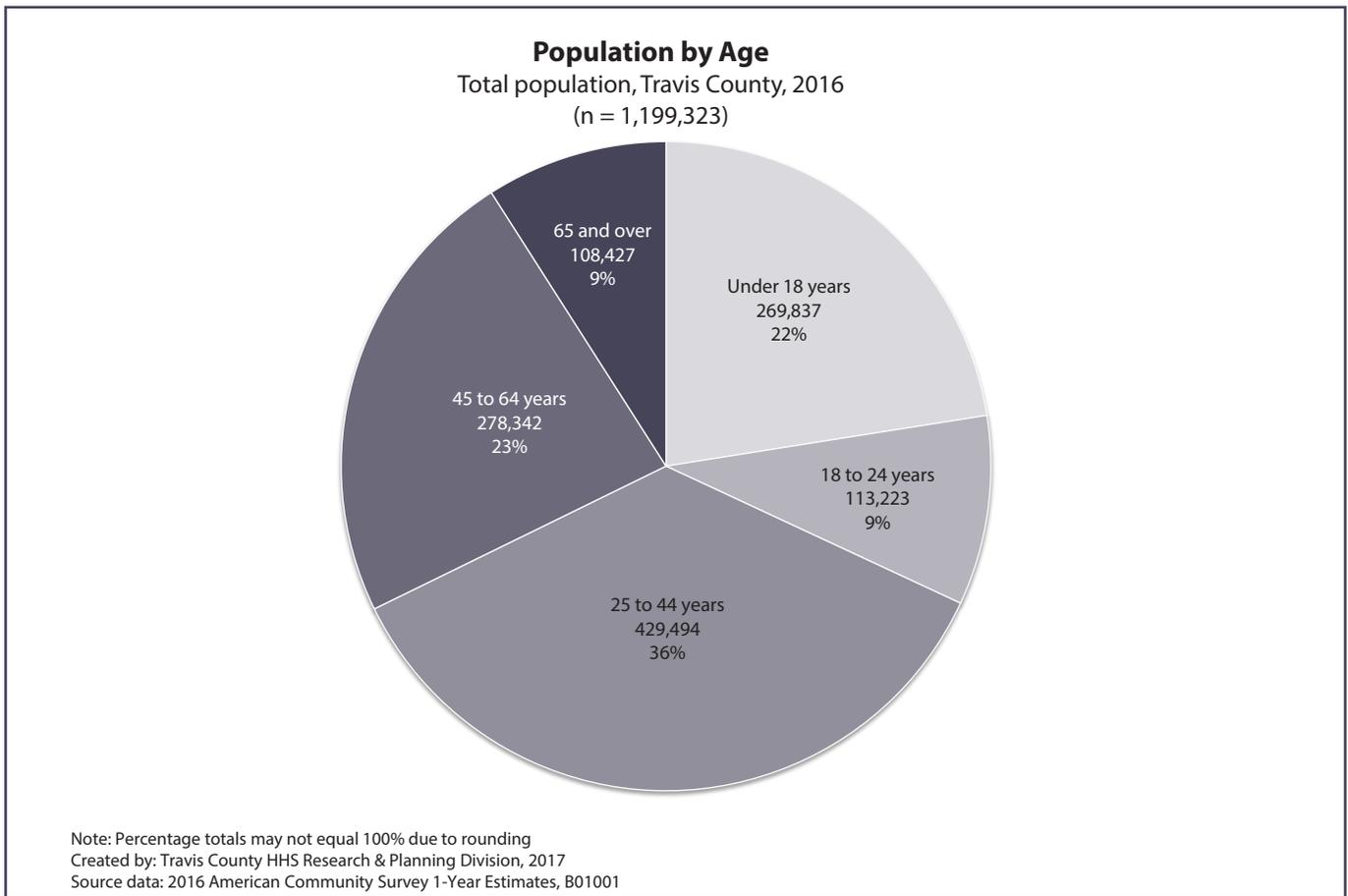
<sup>1</sup> Sampling error is the difference between the characteristics of a sample and the population from which it was drawn.

# Social Characteristics



Age .....	6
Race and Hispanic Origin.....	7
Educational Attainment .....	8
Place of Birth.....	9
Language .....	10
Nativity .....	11
Disability .....	12
Veteran's Status .....	13

# Age



**Age Distribution:** Age distribution in Travis County continues to be characterized by a large working age population (18-64). Working age adults comprise about 68% of the county's population. In comparison, the 18-64 year old age group comprises 62% of the Texas population and of the United States as a whole.

**Median Age:** The median age in Travis County is 33.7. This reflects a slightly younger population than that of Texas (34.5) and the U.S. (37.9).

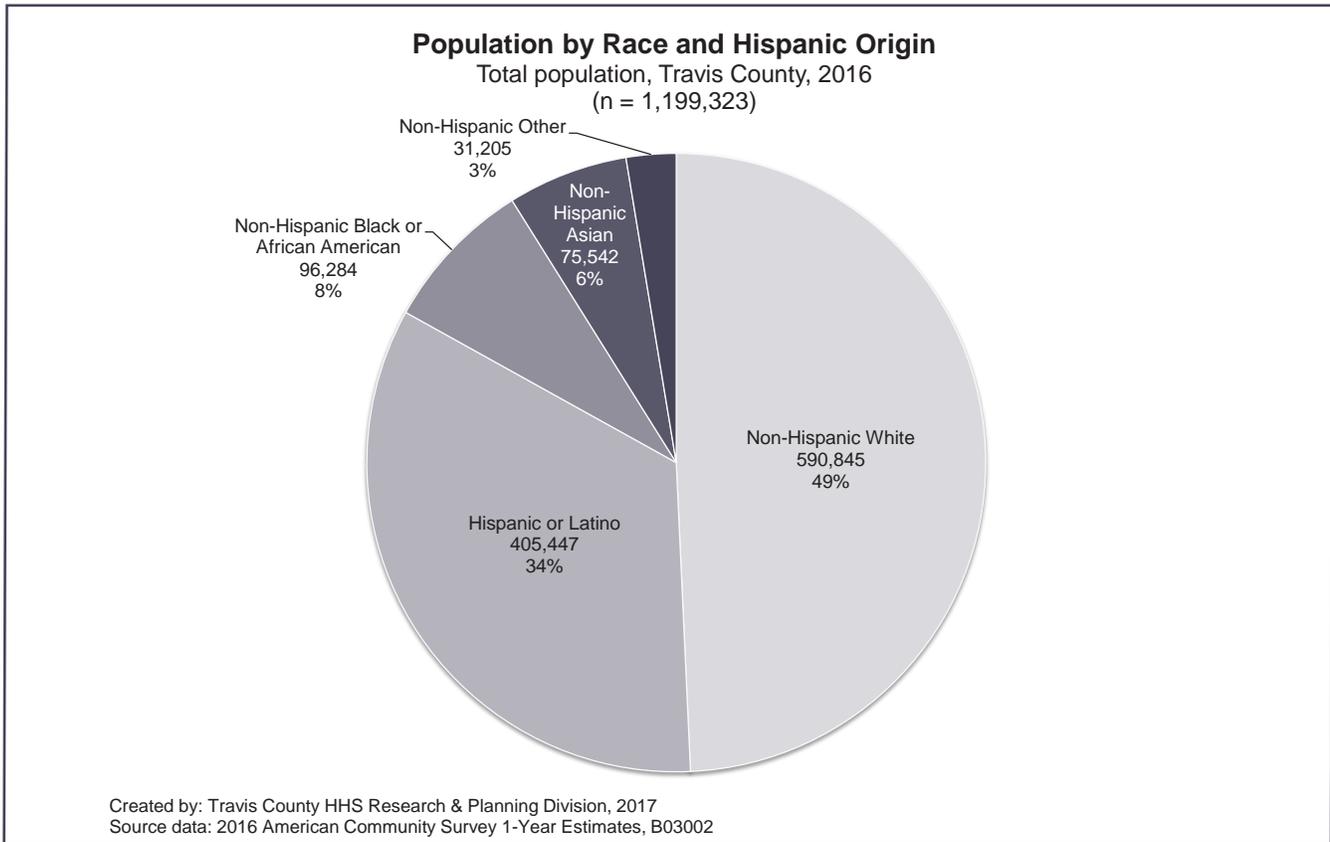
**Trends to Watch:** Since 2012, the Travis County total population has increased by 9%, compared to 7% statewide and 3% nationally. During the same time, in Travis County, 18 to 24 year olds is the only age group with a decrease in population.

Change in Population by Age, Travis County, 2012-2016				
	2012	2016	Difference	Percent Change
Under 18	260,108	269,837	9,729	4%
18 to 24	124,475	113,223	-11,252	-9%
25 to 44	378,988	429,494	50,506	13%
45 to 64	246,555	278,342	31,787	13%
65 and over	85,458	108,427	22,969	27%
Total	1,095,584	1,199,323	103,739	9%

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017

Source data: 2012 & 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B01001

# Race and Hispanic Origin



**Race and Hispanic Origin:** Almost one-half of the Travis County population identifies as Non-Hispanic White (49%), followed by Hispanic or Latino (34%), Non-Hispanic Black or African American (8%), Non-Hispanic Asian (6%), and Non-Hispanic Other<sup>1</sup> (3%).

From 2012 to 2016 the number of Non-Hispanic Whites increased by 8%, Hispanic or Latinos by 9%<sup>2</sup>, Non-Hispanic Black or African Americans by 10%, and Non-Hispanic Asians by 21%.

**Geographic Comparison:** The table below provides a comparison of the racial and ethnic compositions of Travis County, Texas, and the U.S.

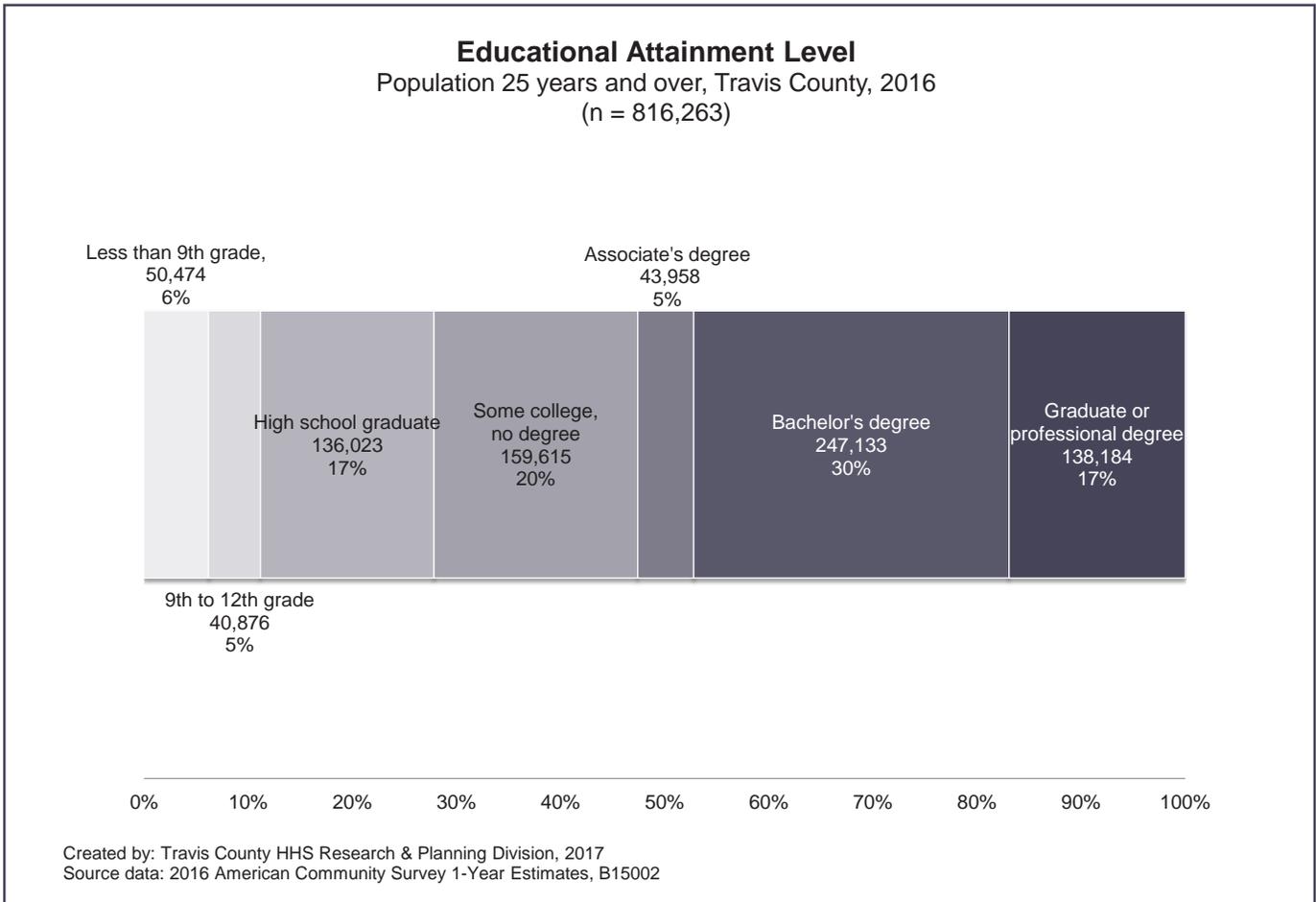
<b>Population by Race and Hispanic Origin</b>			
Travis County, Texas & U.S., 2016			
	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Non-Hispanic White	49%	43%	61%
Hispanic or Latino	34%	39%	18%
Non-Hispanic Black or African American	8%	12%	12%
Non-Hispanic Asian	6%	5%	5%
Non-Hispanic Other	3%	2%	3%

Note: Percentage totals may not equal 100% due to rounding  
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017. Source: 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B03002

<sup>1</sup> Non-Hispanic Other includes the following: Non-Hispanic Other Race, Non-Hispanic Two or More Races, Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native

<sup>2</sup> A statistical test for sampling variability was not appropriate for changes over time due to use of a controlled estimate. For more information on controlled estimates, please refer to [https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech\\_docs/accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2016.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2016.pdf)

# Educational Attainment



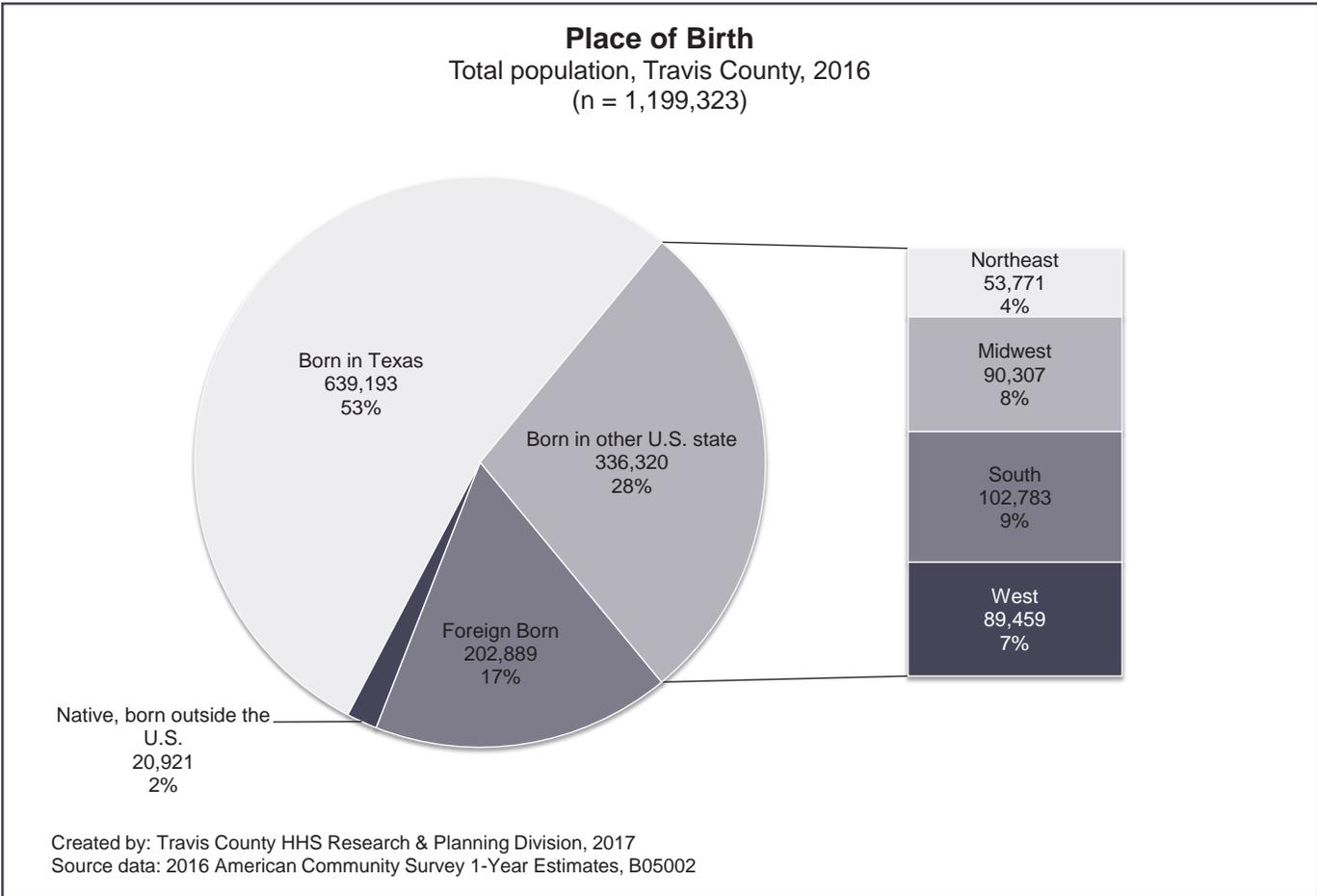
**Educational Attainment Level:** Travis County continues to have a highly educated population. In comparison to state figures, proportionately more Travis County residents have a college degree, and fewer lack a high school diploma.

- 47% of Travis County residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 29% of Texans and 31% of U.S. residents.
- 11% of Travis County residents report having less than a high school diploma or equivalency, compared with 17% of Texans and 13% of U.S. residents.

**College or Graduate School Enrollment:**<sup>3</sup> About 10% of Travis County's population is enrolled in college or graduate school. This compares with about 8% of the Texas population and 9% of the U.S. population.

<sup>3</sup> These statistics include individuals enrolled in school which advances a person toward a college, university or professional school (such as law or medicine) degree. They do not include people enrolled in vocational, technical, or business school (such as post secondary vocational, trade, hospital school or on the job training). (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2016 Subject Definitions, pg. 120.)

# Place of Birth



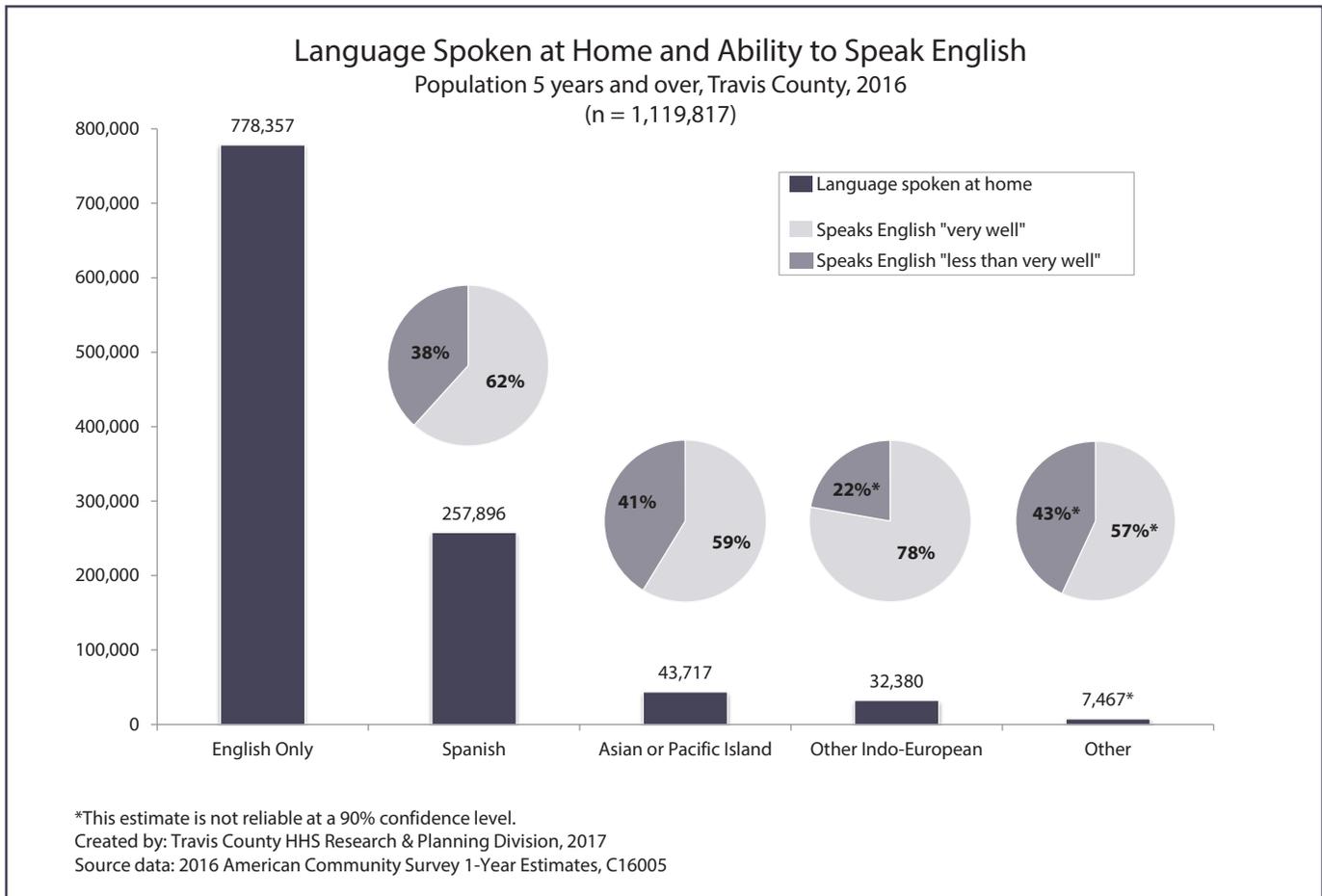
**Place of Birth for the Travis County Population:** Slightly over one-half of Travis County residents (53%) were born in Texas, over one-quarter (28%) were born in another state, and about 17% of residents are foreign born.

**Geographic Comparison:** In comparison to state and national averages, Travis County residents are:

- Less likely to have been born in their current state of residence. 53% of Travis County residents were born in their state of residence compared with 60% of Texas residents and 58% of U.S. residents.
- More likely to be foreign born than the U.S. 17% of Travis County and Texas residents are foreign born compared with 14% of U.S. residents. However, Travis County has a proportionately smaller foreign born population than both Harris and Dallas Counties, where foreign born residents comprise 26% and 24% of the population, respectively.

**Trends to Watch:** Since 2012, the number of Travis County residents who were born in another state increased by 12%, the number of residents born in Texas increased by 9%, and the number of residents who were foreign born increased by 6%.

# Language



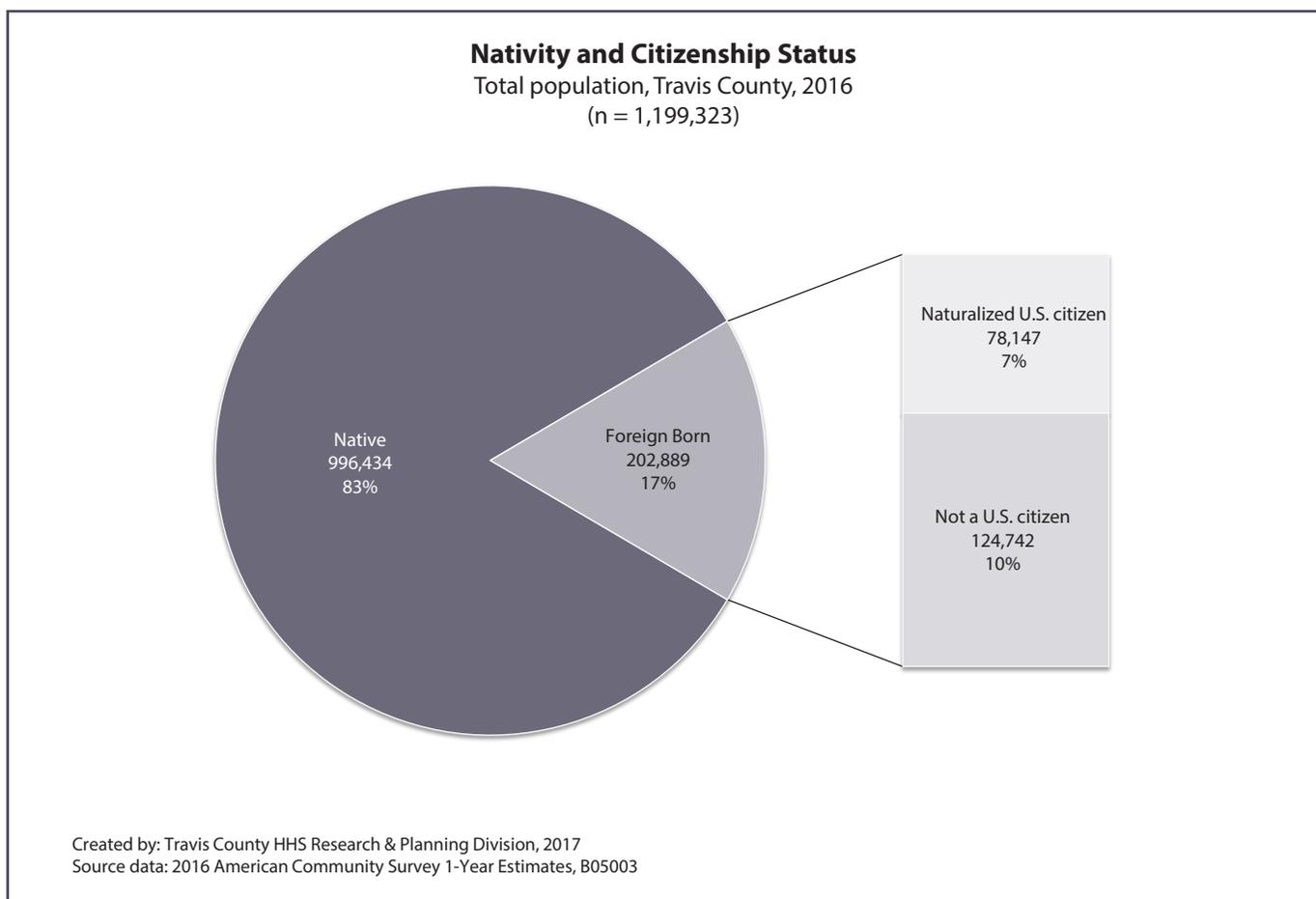
**Languages Spoken at Home:** Almost one-third of the Travis County population (30% or 341,460 residents) speaks a language other than English at home. In comparison, 22% of U.S. residents and 36% of Texans speak a language other than English at home.

**Ability to Speak English:** 63% of Travis County residents who speak a language other than English at home also speak the English language "very well," and 37% speak English "less than very well."

From 2012 to 2016, the number of Travis County residents who speak the English language "very well" increased by 14%. During the same time period there was not a statistically significant difference for residents who speak English "less than very well".

**Limited English Speaking Households:** 6% of all Travis County households (28,434 households) are limited English speaking households.<sup>4</sup> 78% of limited English speaking households speak Spanish (22,310 households).

<sup>4</sup> A "Limited English speaking household" is one in which no member 14 years old and over (1) speaks only English at home or (2) speaks a language other than English at home and speaks English "Very well." In other words, all members 14 years old and over have at least some difficulty with the English language. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2016 Subject Definitions, pg. 48).



In Travis County, 83% of residents are Native and 17% are Foreign-born, which has been relatively consistent since 2012.<sup>5</sup> Of the 202,889 residents who are Foreign-born, the majority (124,742 individuals) are not U.S. citizens and 78,147 individuals are Naturalized U.S. citizens.

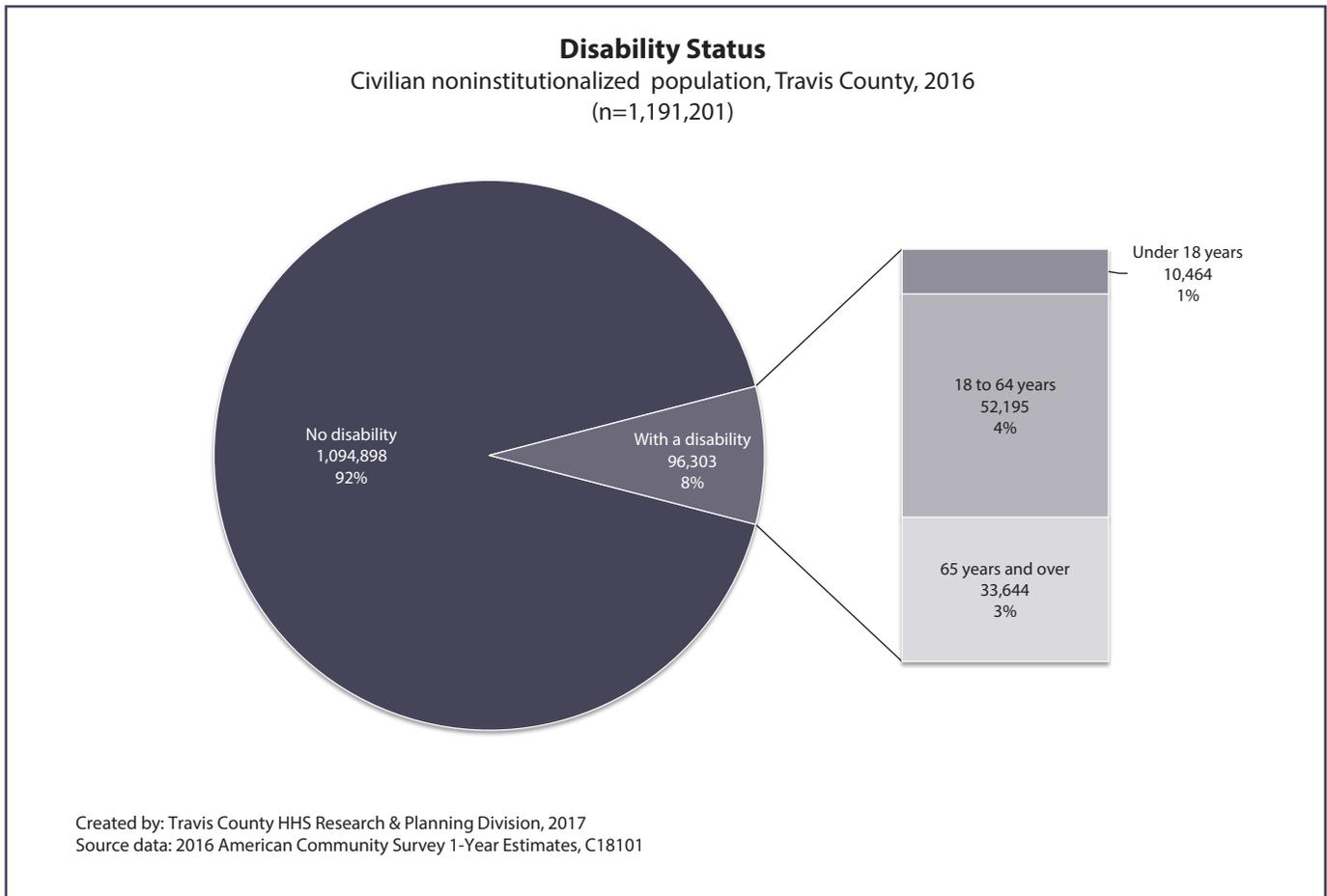
**Geographic Comparison:** The following table displays the proportion of residents by Nativity and Citizenship status in Travis County, Texas, and the U.S.

<b>Nativity and Citizenship Status</b>			
Travis County, Texas & U.S., 2016			
	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Native	83%	83%	86%
Foreing-born	17%	17%	14%
Foreign-born: Naturalized U.S. citizen	39%	37%	49%
Foreing-born: Not a U.S. citizen	61%	63%	50%

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017. Source: 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B05003

<sup>5</sup> The native population includes anyone who was a U.S. citizen at birth. The native population includes those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Marianas, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as those born abroad of at least one U.S. citizen parent. The foreign-born population includes anyone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2016 Subject Definitions, page 106.)

# Disability



**Disability Status<sup>6</sup>:** 8% of Travis County residents have a disability. Four percent (10,464) of individuals under 18 years old have a disability, 6% (52,195) of individuals 18 to 64 years old have a disability, and 32% (33,644) of individuals 65 years and over have a disability.

**Geographic Comparison:** The table below provides disability status by age comparisons of Travis County, Texas, and the U.S.

<b>Disability Status by Age</b>			
Civilian noninstitutionalized population, Travis County, Texas & U.S., 2016			
	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Total with a disability	8%	12%	13%
Under 18 without a disability	4%	4%	4%
18 to 64 with a disability	6%	10%	11%
65 and over with a disability	32%	39%	35%

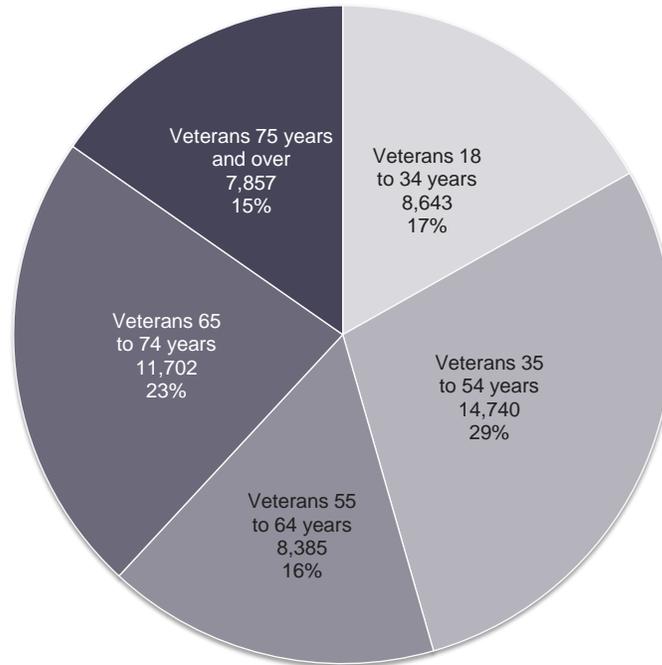
Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2017. Source: 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C18101

**Trends to Watch:** Since 2012, the proportion of Travis County residents with a disability has decreased from 9% to 8% in 2016.

<sup>6</sup> The ACS attempts to capture six aspects of disability, including serious difficulties with hearing, vision, cognition, and ambulation, and functional limitations such as difficulty with activities of daily living (i.e. difficulty bathing, dressing, and performing errands). (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2016 Subject Definitions, pg. 60.)

# Veteran's Status

**Veteran Population by Age**  
 Civilian Population 18 years and over, Travis County, 2016  
 (n = 51,327)



Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017  
 Source data: 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B21001

**Veterans:** In Travis County, approximately 6% (51,327 individuals) of the population are veterans<sup>7</sup>. Over one-third, (38% or 19,559) of the Travis County veteran population are age 65 and over, followed by veterans 35 to 54 years (29%), veterans 18 to 34 years (17%), and veterans 55 to 64 years (16%).

**Geographic Comparison:** Between 2012 to 2016, the total number of veterans in Travis County, Texas, and the U.S. decreased. The table below shows the veteran population by age for Travis County, Texas, and the U.S.

## Veteran Population by Age

Travis County, Texas & U.S., 2016

	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
18 to 34 years	17%	12%	9%
35 to 54 years	29%	28%	24%
55 to 64 years	16%	18%	18%
65 years and over	38%	43%	50%
Total Veteran population	6%	7%	7%

Note: Percentage totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

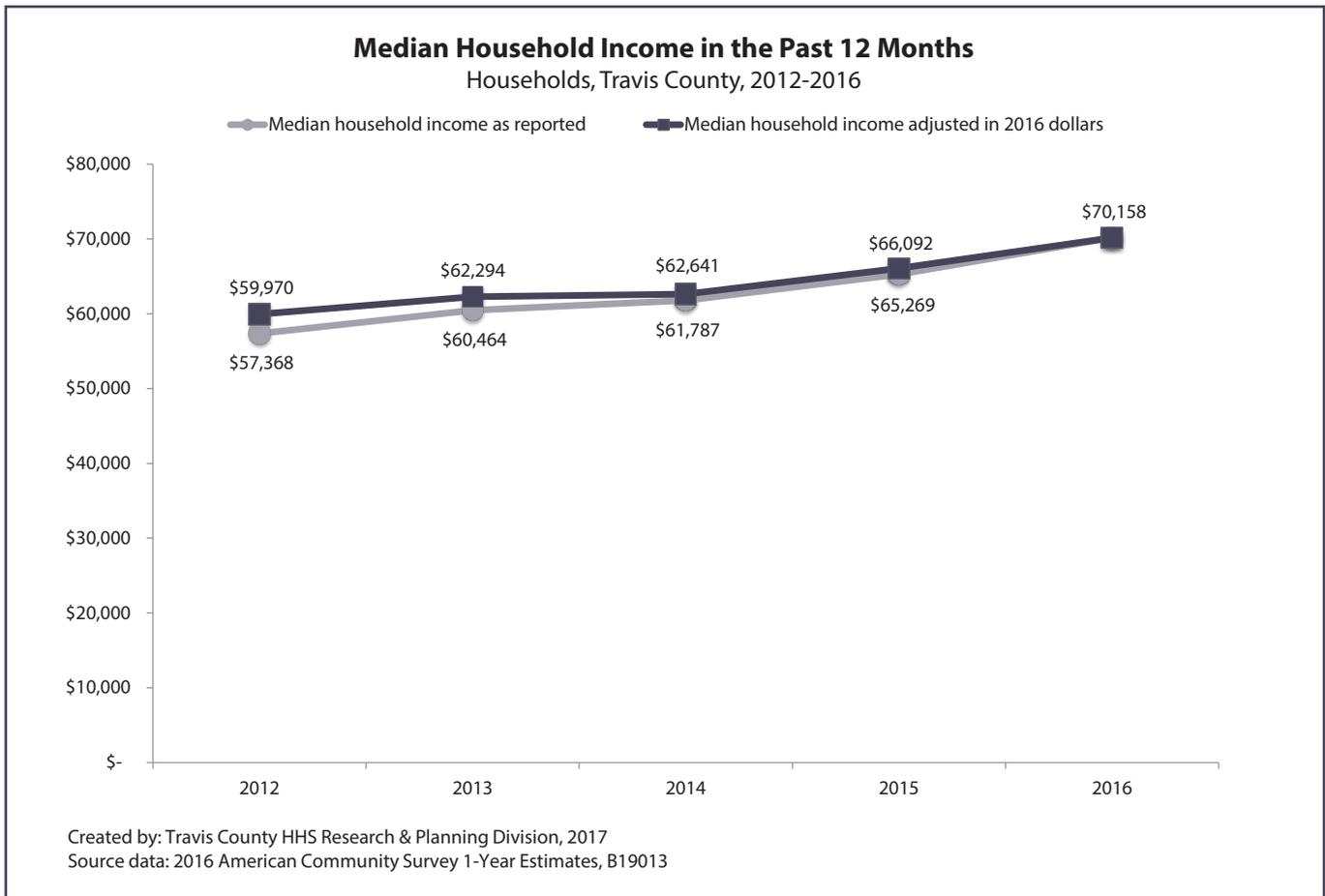
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017. Source: 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B21001

<sup>7</sup> Veterans are defined as men and women who have served (even for a short time), but are not currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. Individuals who served in the National Guard or Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty. While it is possible for 17 year olds to be veterans of the Armed Forces, ACS data products are restricted to the population 18 years and older. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2016 Subject Definitions, pg. 125).

# Economic Characteristics

Median Household Income .....	15
Household Income Distribution .....	16
Poverty .....	17
Income to Poverty Ratio .....	18
Employment and Age.....	19
Employment by Industry.....	20
Employment and Education.....	21
Earnings and Education .....	22
Commuting .....	23
Health Insurance.....	24

# Median Household Income



**Median Household Income:**<sup>8</sup> In 2016, Travis County's reported median income was \$70,158.

The reported median income has increased. Between 2012 and 2016, the reported median income increased by \$12,790. When adjusted in 2016 dollars, the reported median income increased by \$10,188.

**Geographic Comparison:** In 2016, the Travis County median household income was higher than the Texas (\$56,565) and the U.S. (\$57,617). In addition, between 2012 and 2016, Travis County had a larger increase in the median household income than Texas and the U.S.

<b>Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months</b>			
Households, Travis County, Texas and U.S., 2011 & 2015			
	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Median Household Income 2012 (in 2016 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)	\$59,970	\$53,041	\$53,701
Median Household Income 2016	\$70,158	\$56,565	\$57,617
Difference between 2012 and 2016	\$10,188	\$3,524	\$3,916
Percent change between 2012 and 2016 (In 2016 Inflation-Adjust Dollars)	17%	7%	7%

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS Research & Planning Division, 2017  
Source data: American Community Survey 2012 & 2016 1-Year Estimates, B19013, and the Consumer Price Index

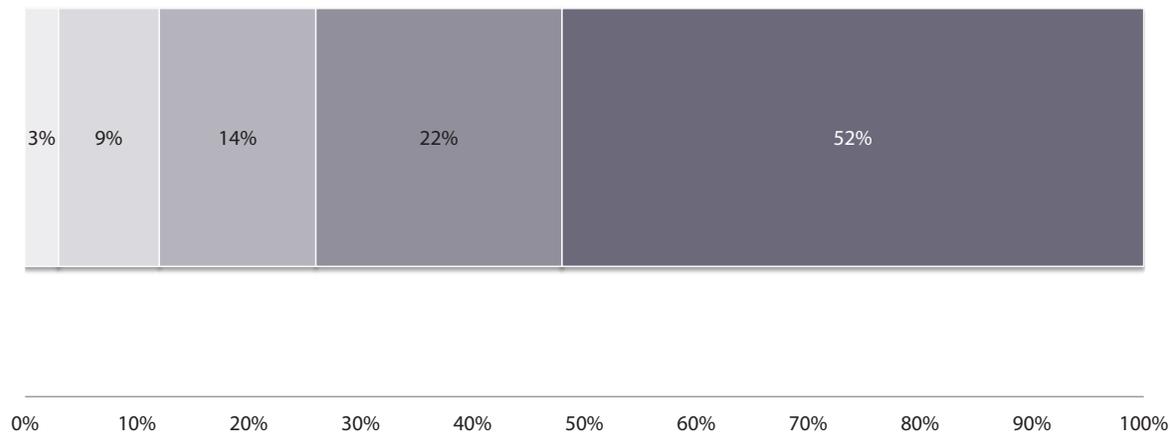
<sup>8</sup> The ACS asks respondents how much was earned during the past 12 months. Consequently, a person answering the questions in December 2016 would respond based on income earned between December 2015 and November 2016.

# Household Income Distribution

## Distribution of Household Income

Households, Travis County, 2016

- Lowest Quintile (\$30,898 and below)
- Second Quintile (\$30,899 to \$55,926)
- Third Quintile (\$55,927 to \$87,343)
- Fourth Quintile (\$87,344 to \$140,670)
- Highest Quintile (\$140,671 and above)



Note: In this chart, households have been separated into quintiles, or five groups each representing 20% of households. The first quintile is comprised of the bottom 20% of incomes, the second quintile is comprised of the next 20%, and so on.

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017  
 Source data: 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B19080 & B19082

To assess household income distribution, households are separated into quintiles<sup>9</sup> (five groups each representing 20% of households). The bottom 20% of households represent about 3% of the county's income, while the top 20% of households represent over half of the county's income.

**Geographic Comparison:** The household distribution by share is nearly the same in the U.S., Texas, and Travis County. The quintile limits in Travis County are higher in all five quintiles than those of Texas and the U.S.

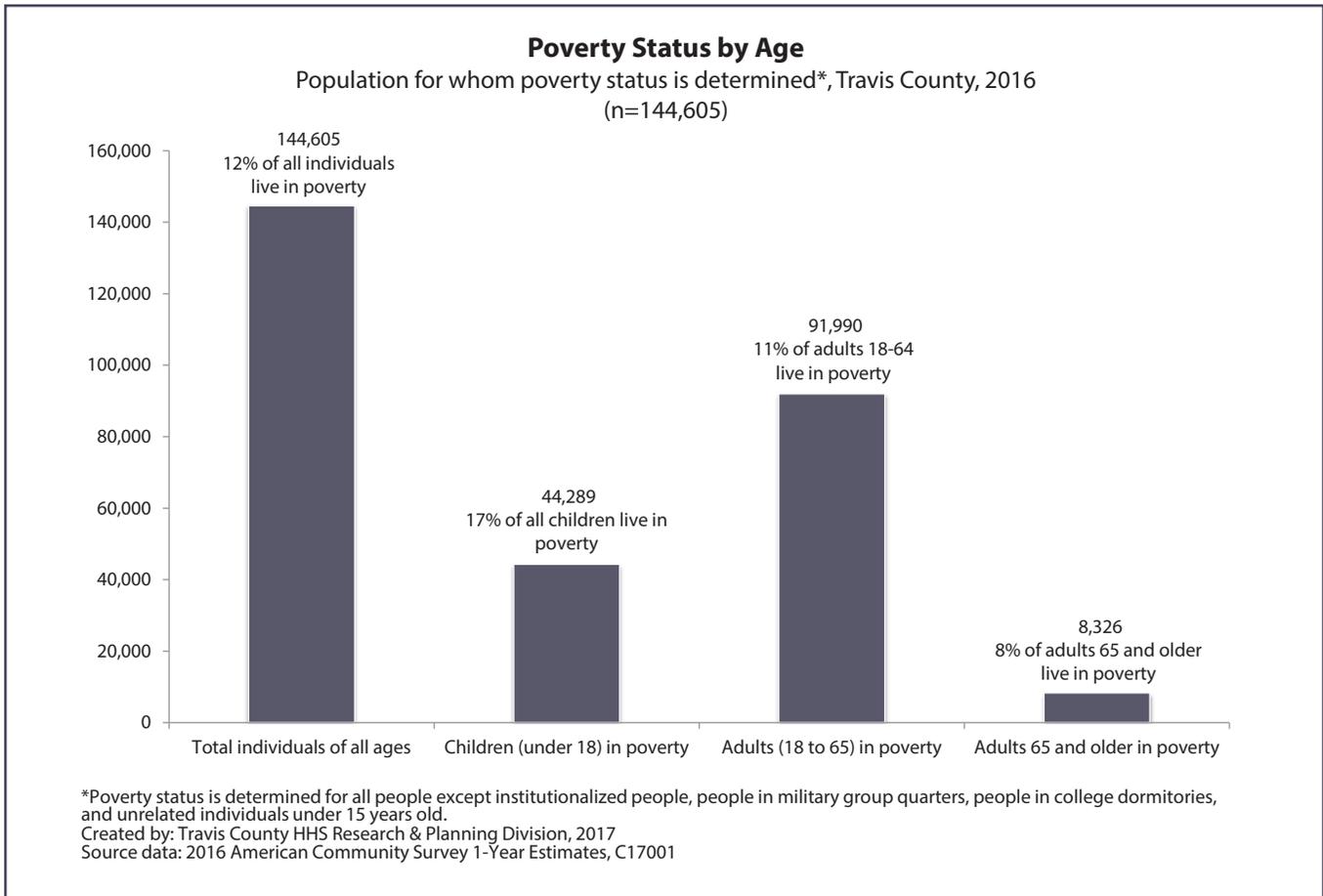
## Household Income Quintile Upper Limits

Households, Travis County, Texas & U.S., 2016

	Travis County		Texas		U.S.	
	Upper Limit	Share	Upper Limit	Share	Upper Limit	Share
Lowest Quintile	\$30,898	3%	\$23,982	3%	\$23,638	3%
Second Quintile	\$55,926	9%	\$44,811	8%	\$45,325	8%
Third Quintile	\$87,343	14%	\$71,305	14%	\$72,384	14%
Fourth Quintile	\$140,670	22%	\$115,799	23%	\$116,614	23%
Lower Limit of Top 5 Percent	\$250,00+	52%	\$217,380	51%	\$219,851	51%

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017. Source: 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B19080

<sup>9</sup> For shares of household income by quintiles, negative incomes are converted to zero for these measures. These measures are the aggregate household income in each quintile as a percentage of the total aggregate household income.



Twelve percent of all Travis County residents are living in poverty.<sup>10</sup> Of those in poverty, 30% are children under 18, 64% are adults age 18 to 64, and 6% are adults 65 and over. Females have a higher poverty rate (14%) than males (11%). From 2012 to 2016, the overall individual poverty rate has decreased.

<b>Poverty Status by Age</b>					
Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined, Travis County, 2012-2016					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Individuals in Poverty	197,657	176,920	193,753	153,579	144,605
Individual Poverty Rate	18%	16%	17%	13%	12%
Children (under 18) in Poverty	67,791	55,554	63,659	48,676	44,289
Child Poverty Rate	26%	22%	24%	18%	17%

Created by: Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Division, 2017 Source data: American Community Survey 2012-2016 1-Year Estimates, C17001

**Geographic Comparison:** Travis County's proportion of individuals living in poverty (12%) is less than Texas (16%) and the United States (14%). The poverty rate for children under 18 in Travis County (17%) is lower than that of the state (22%) and the nation (19%).

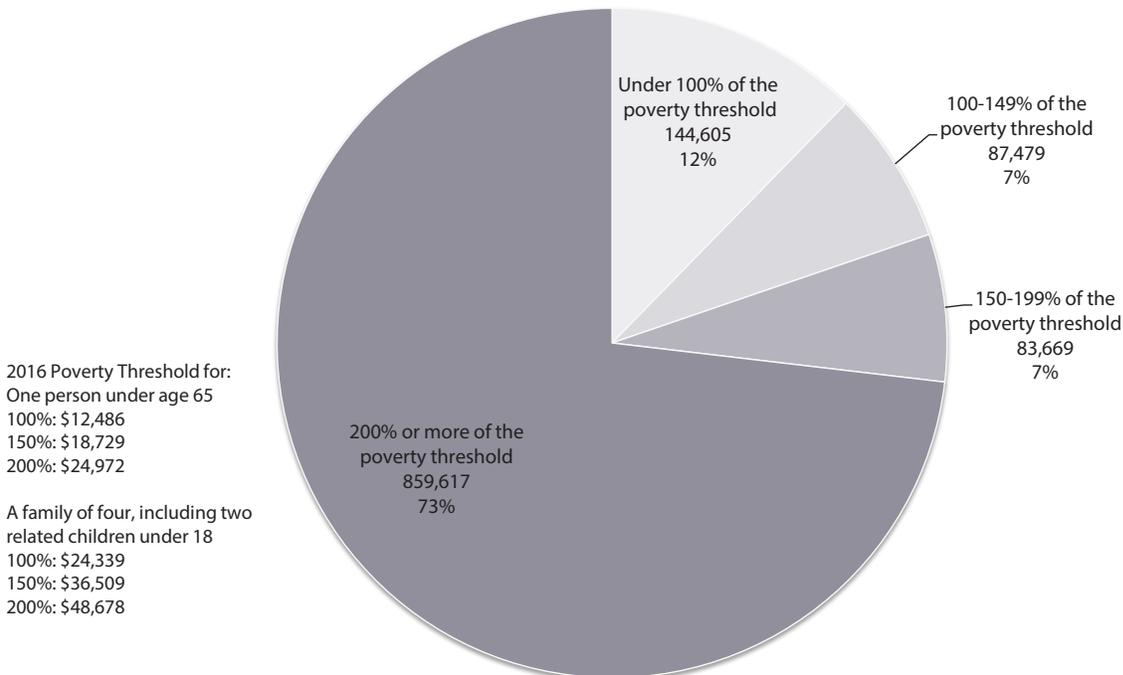
<sup>10</sup> 2016 poverty thresholds define poverty for an individual under age 65 at \$12,486 in annual income and for a family of four with two children at \$24,339 in annual income. The thresholds consider family size and composition when determining whether an individual is living in poverty and can be found at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>.

# Income to Poverty Ratio

## Ratio of Income to Poverty Threshold in the Past 12 Months

Population for whom poverty status is determined\*, Travis County, 2016

(n = 1,175,370)



2016 Poverty Threshold for:  
One person under age 65  
100%: \$12,486  
150%: \$18,729  
200%: \$24,972

A family of four, including two related children under 18  
100%: \$24,339  
150%: \$36,509  
200%: \$48,678

\*Poverty status was determined for all people except institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.  
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017  
Source data: 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C17002

Less than one-third (27%) of residents, or 315,753 individuals, live below 200% of the poverty threshold.<sup>11</sup> Of those who are living below 200% of the poverty threshold, 12% (144,605 individuals) live below 100% of the poverty threshold, and 15% (171,148 individuals) live between 100-199% of the poverty threshold.

From 2012 to 2016, the number of individuals living below 100% of poverty decreased from 197,657 individuals to 144,605 individuals, respectively. During the same time period, the number of residents living below 200% of the poverty threshold decreased from 385,000 individuals to 315,753 individuals, respectively.

**Geographic Comparison:** As shown in the following table, 12% of Travis County residents live below the poverty level, which is lower than Texas (16%) and the United States (14%).

## Ratio of Income to the Poverty Level in the Past 12 months

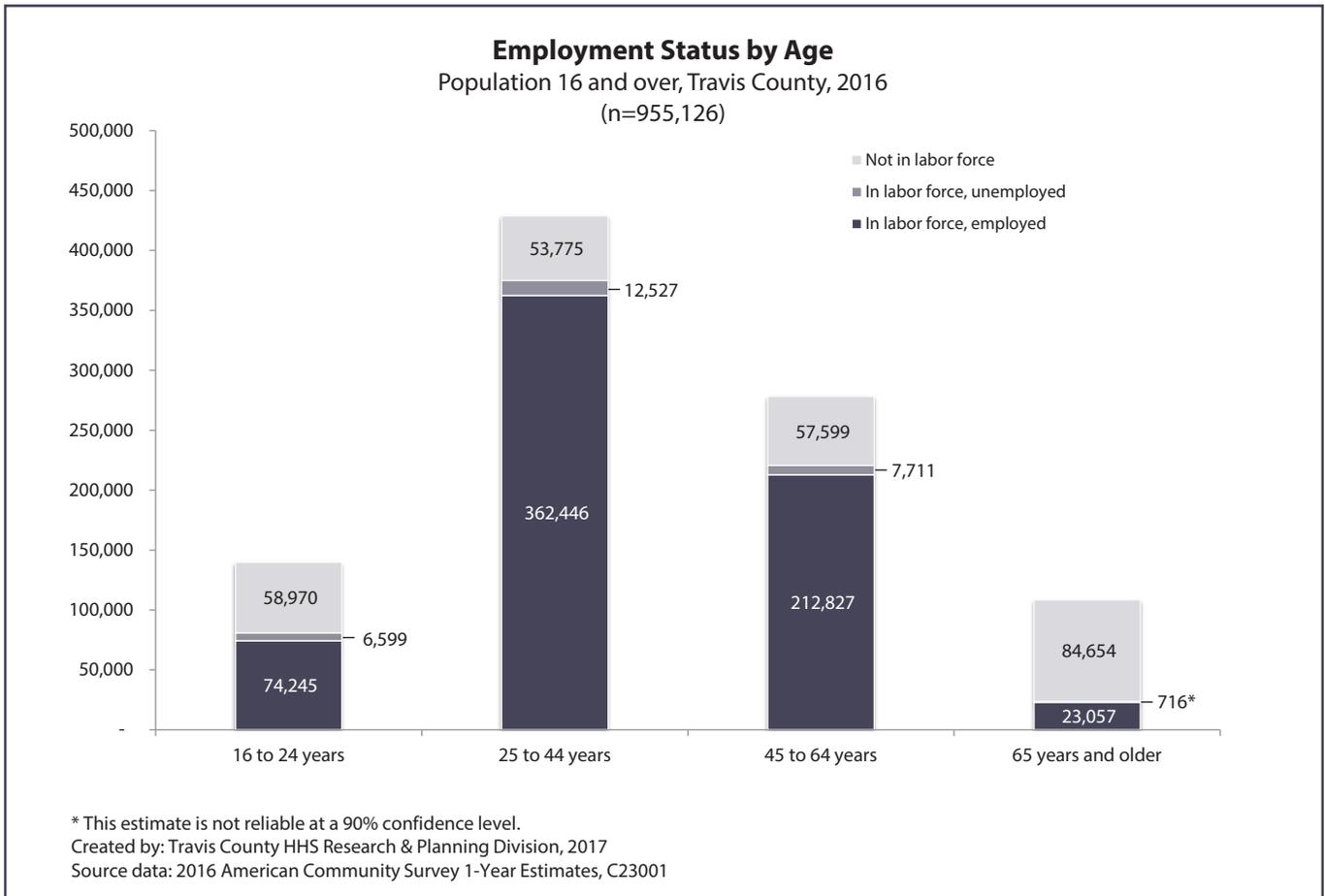
Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined, Travis County, Texas, & U.S., 2016

	Travis County	Texas	U.S.
Income < 100% of the poverty threshold	12%	16%	14%
Income 100%-199% of the poverty threshold	15%	20%	18%
Income 200% or more of the poverty threshold	73%	64%	68%

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017 Source data: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B17002

<sup>11</sup> The Census Bureau uses poverty thresholds as denoted in the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14 as described on the Census Bureau's website at <http://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html>. The thresholds consider family size and composition when determining whether an individual is living in poverty and can be found at <http://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>.

# Employment and Age



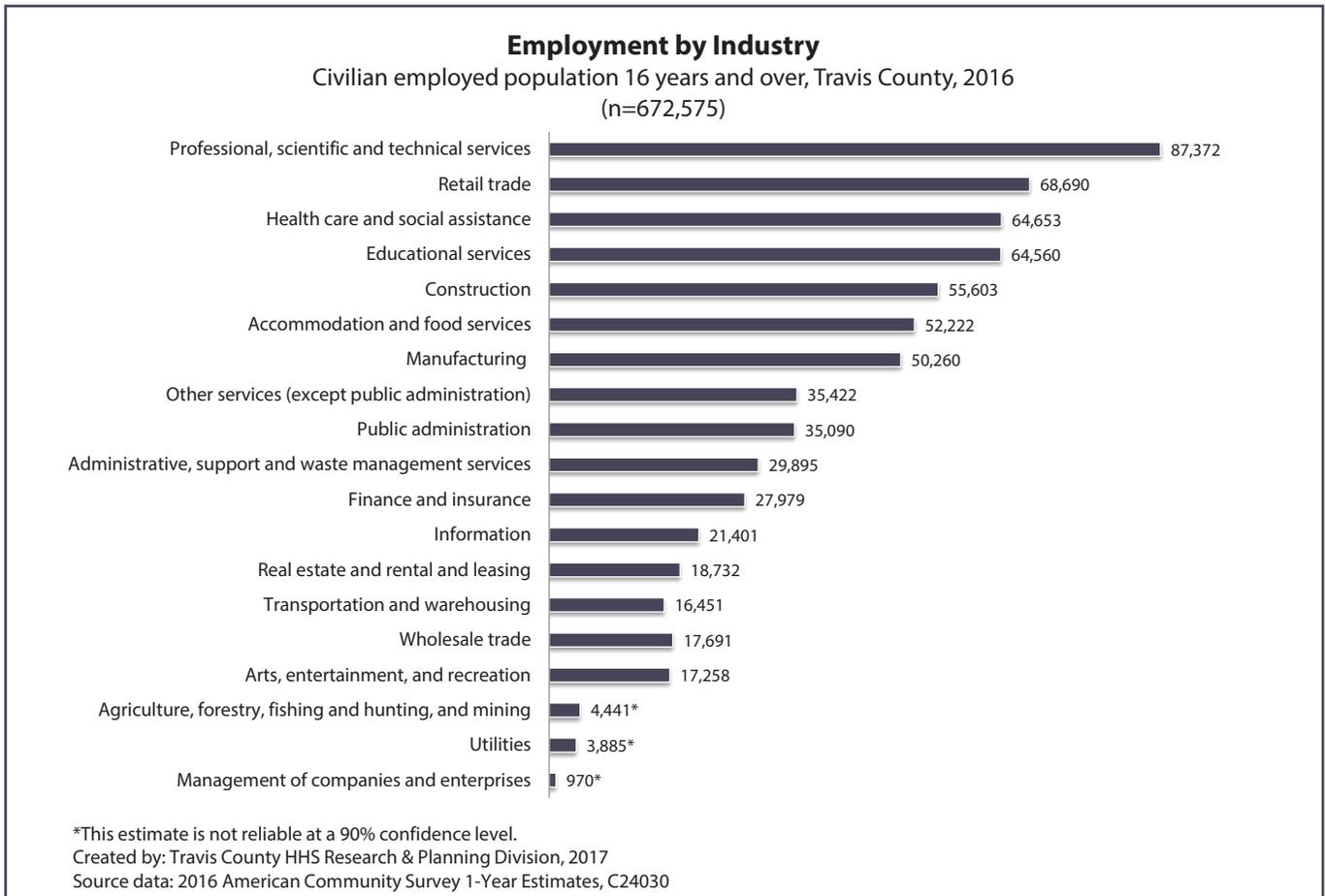
**Travis County's Labor Force:** In total, 70% of Travis County's population age 16 and over (672,575) is in the labor force and employed. Nearly 28,000 (3%) of those in the labor force were unemployed in 2016.

**Labor Force by Age:** Individuals between the ages of 25 and 44 constitute over half (54%) of Travis County's labor force. The 45 to 64 age group comprises 31% of the labor force, followed by the 16 to 24 age group (12%) and finally those 65 years and older (3%).

**Unemployment by Age:** Travis County's overall unemployment rate (which is the percent of unemployed individuals of those in the labor force) was 4% in 2016. By age, the unemployment rate is highest for those age 16 to 24 years old (8%), and around 3% for all other age groups.<sup>12</sup>

12 The unemployment rate for individuals 65 years and over is 3% but this estimate is not reliable at a 90% confidence level.

# Employment by Industry



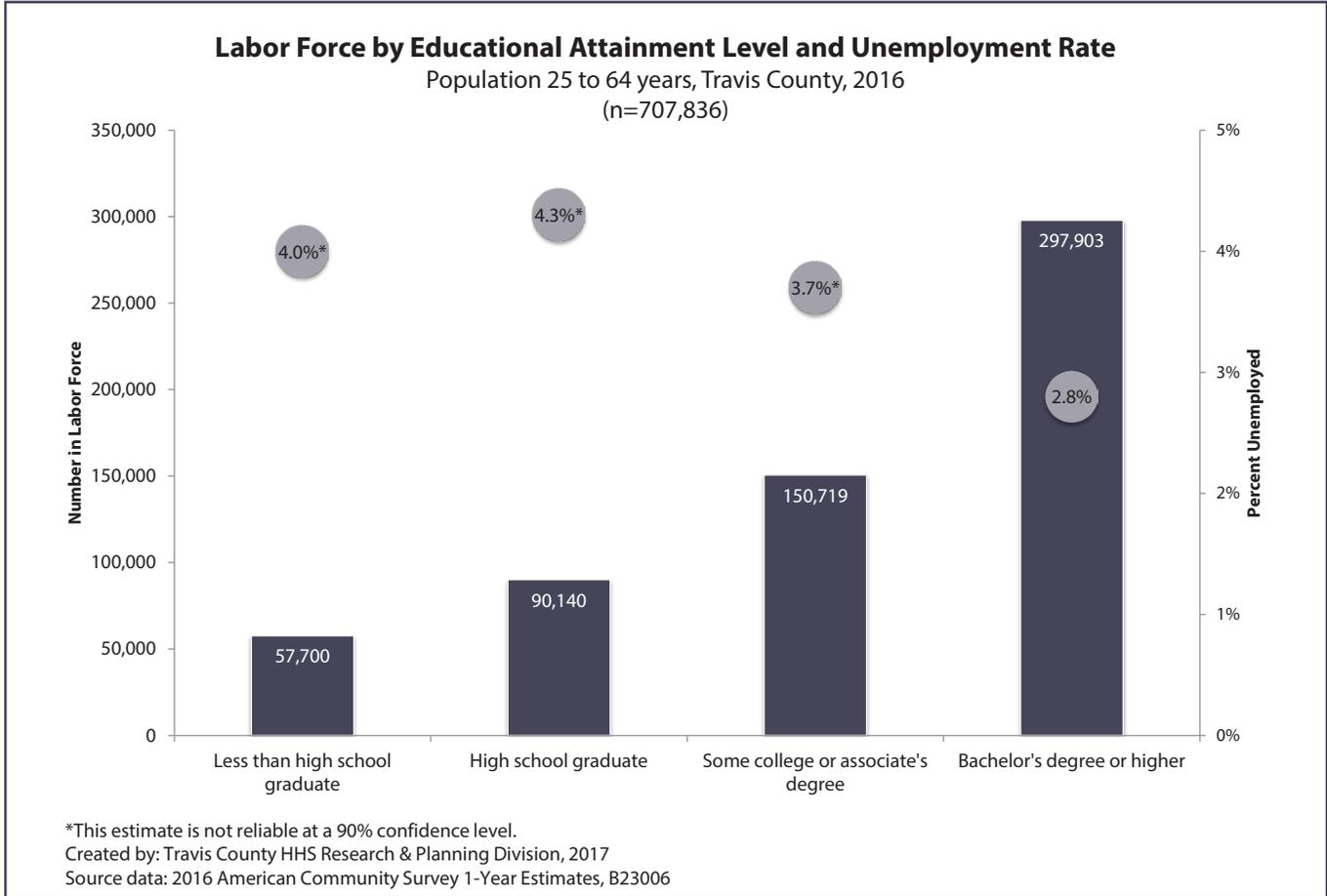
**Employment by Industry:** Half (51%) of Travis County's civilian employed population age 16 and over is employed in the following five industries: professional, scientific, and technical services; retail trade; health care and social assistance; educational services; and construction.

**Geographic Comparison:** The proportion of Travis County workers in the professional, scientific, and technical services industry (13%) nearly doubles the proportion in Texas (7%) and the United States (7%).

Employment in the Top Five Industries					
Travis County, Texas, & U.S., 2016					
Travis County		Texas		U.S.	
Professional/scientific/technical	13%	Health care & social assistance	12%	Health care & social assistance	14%
Retail trade	10%	Retail trade	11%	Retail trade	11%
Health care & social assistance	10%	Educational services	10%	Manufacturing	10%
Educational services	10%	Construction	9%	Educational services	9%
Construction	8%	Manufacturing	8%	Accommodation & food services	8%

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017. Source data: 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C24030

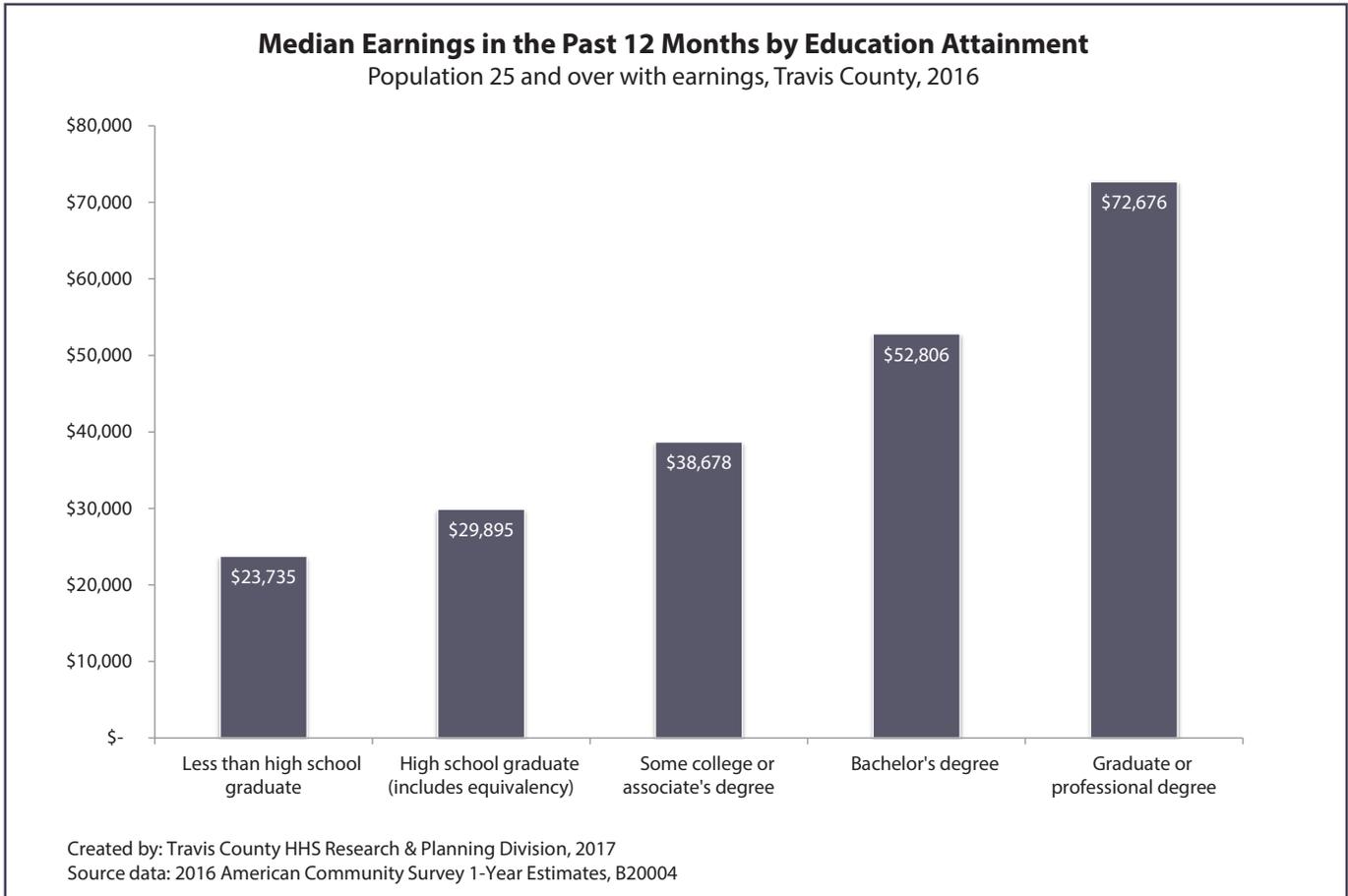
# Employment and Education



**Educational Attainment in the Labor Force:** Among the Travis County population in the labor force between the ages of 25 and 64, one half (50%) have a bachelor's degree or higher and one-quarter (25%) have some college or associates degree. High school graduates make up 15% of the labor force and the remaining 10% have less than a high school degree.

**Geographical Comparison:** In comparison to Texas and the U.S., the Travis County labor force is more highly educated. In Travis County, 50% of workers age 25 to 64 have a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 33% in Texas and 36% in the U.S.

# Earnings and Education

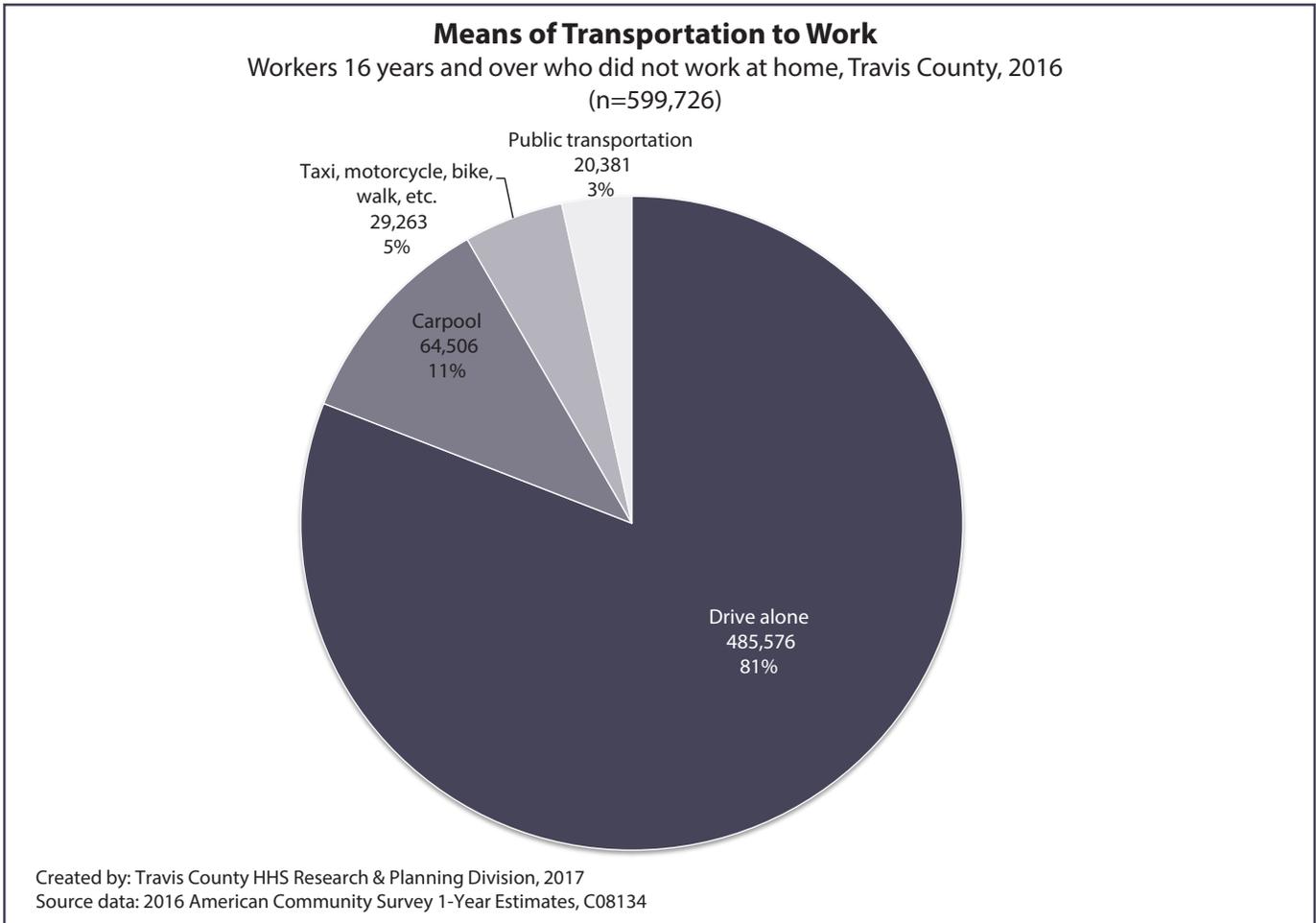


**Educational Attainment and Earnings:** Educational attainment and earnings are directly related: as education level increases, earnings increase. In 2016, the overall median earnings<sup>13</sup> in Travis County were \$42,394, a 4% increase over 2015 (\$40,786). The median earnings increase for each incremental level of education.

**Median Earnings and Gender:** The median earnings for men (\$49,046) are 28% higher than those for women (\$37,154).

**Geographic Comparison:** Travis County's 2016 overall median earnings (\$42,394) are 14% higher than Texas (\$36,361) and 11% higher than the U.S. (\$37,842).

<sup>13</sup> The median divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median income and one-half above the median. The median income for individuals is based on individuals 15 years old and over with income. (American Community Survey/Puerto Rico Community Survey 2016 Subject Definitions, pg.85.)



**Means of Transportation to Work:** The vast majority of Travis County workers age 16 and older drive to work alone (81%). While 11% carpool, only 5% use other means of transportation, including: taxi, motorcycle, bicycle, or walking. The remaining 3% use public transportation.

**Travel Time:** Most commuters (63%) travel under 30 minutes to get to work, while nearly one-third (31%) spend between 30 minutes to an hour traveling to work. A small percentage (6%) travel an hour or more to work.

**Geographic Comparison:** The percentage of Travis County commuters who drive to work alone (81%) is less than the state (85%) but has no statistically significant difference with the nation (80%). More Travis County commuters use public transportation (3%) than the state (2%) and other metropolitan counties<sup>14</sup> in Texas (range between 1% and 2.9%).

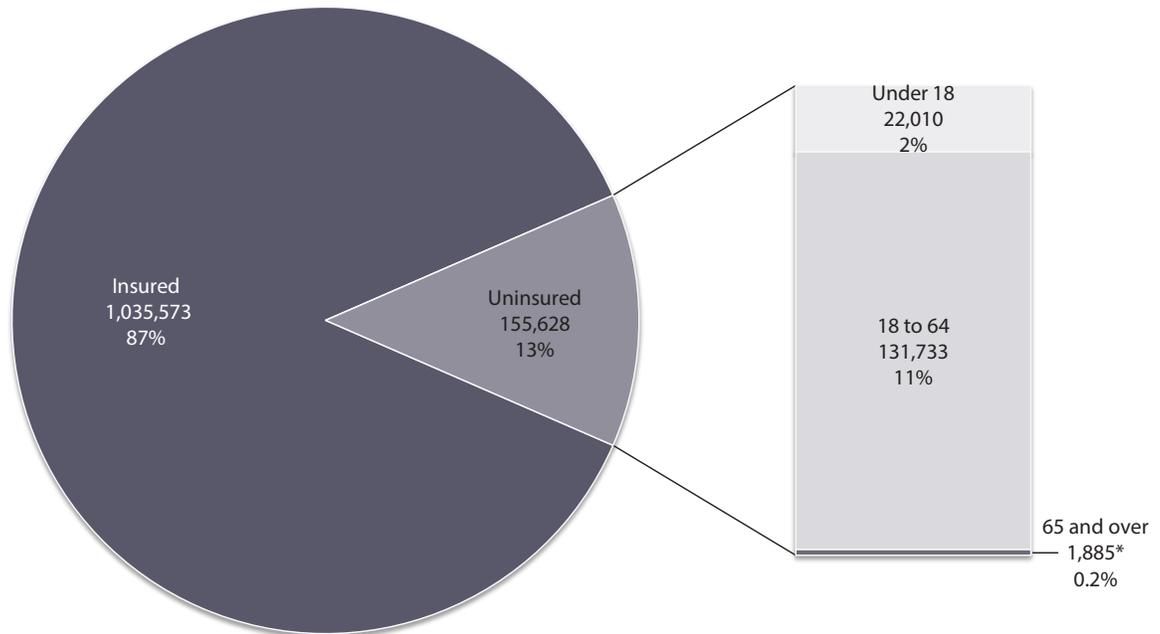
More Travis County workers commute under 30 minutes (63%) than in the state (61%) and the nation (62%).

**Trends to Watch:** Since 2012, the proportion of Travis County residents that drive less than 30 minutes to work decreased from 66% to 63%, while the number of residents that drive 30-59 minutes increased from 29% to 31%.

<sup>14</sup> Comparison counties include Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, and Tarrant.

# Health Insurance

**Health Insurance Coverage Status by Age**  
 Civilian non-institutionalized population, Travis County, 2016  
 (n = 1,191,201 )



\*This estimate is not reliable at a 90% confidence level.  
 Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017  
 Source data: 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C27001

In Travis County, 13% of residents (155,628 individuals) do not have health insurance.<sup>15</sup> From 2012 to 2016, the number of Travis County residents with health insurance increased by 18% and the number of residents without health insurance decreased by 25%.

**Health Insurance Coverage Status by Age, Travis County, 2012 & 2016**

	2012	2016	Difference	Percent Change
Insured	879,122	1,035,573	156,451	18%
Uninsured	208,783	155,628	-53,155	-25%
Uninsured, under 18 years	25,457	22,010	-3,447*	-14%*
Uninsured, 18 to 64 years	181,581	131,733	-49,848	-27%
Uninsured, 65 and older	1,745	1,885	140*	8%*

\*The difference between the 2012 & 2016 estimates is not statistically significant.  
 Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017      Source data: 2012 & 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C27001

**Geographic Comparison:** Travis County's proportion of uninsured residents (13%) is higher than the U.S. (9%) but lower than Texas (17%).

15 The Census Bureau defines coverage to include plans and programs that provide comprehensive health coverage. People are considered insured if they report having at least one of the following: private health insurance or public coverage. Private health insurance is a plan provided through an employer or union, a plan purchased by an individual from a private company, or TRICARE or other military health care. Public health coverage includes the federal programs Medicare, Medicaid, and VA Health Care (provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs); the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); and individual state health plans. People who had no reported health coverage, or those whose only health coverage was Indian Health Service, are considered uninsured. (American Community Survey/ Puerto Rico Community Survey 2016 Subject Definitions, page 72-74.)

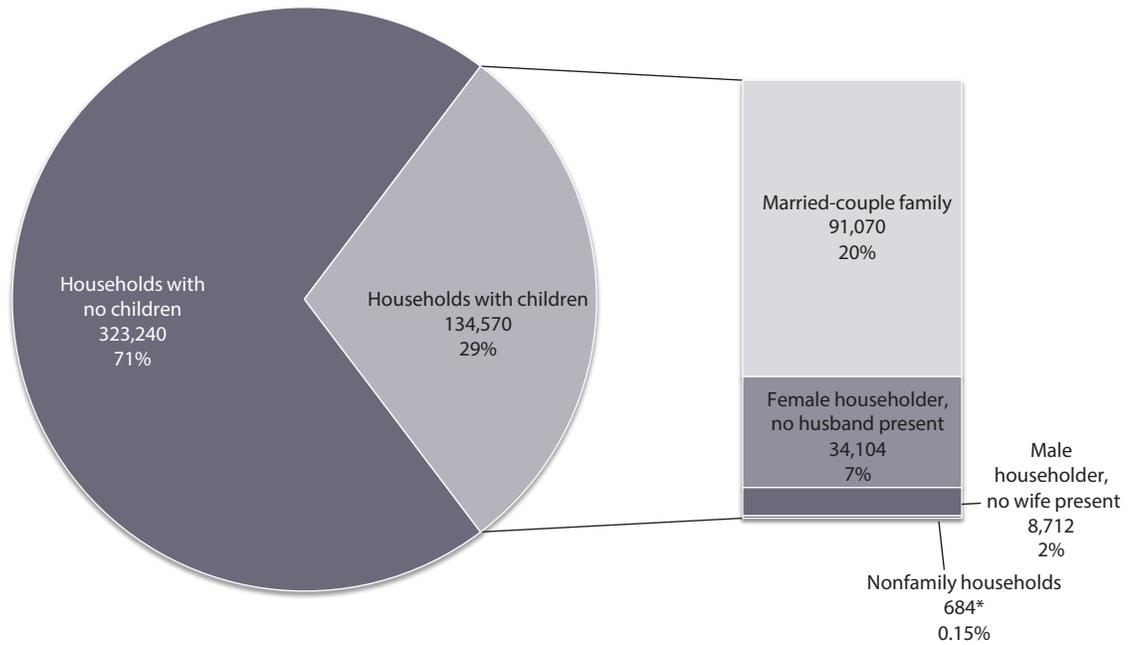
# Housing Characteristics



Household Type.....	26
Cost Burden .....	27
Rent Values.....	28
Housing Values .....	29
Median Housing Value .....	30

# Household Type

**Households by Presence of Children by Household Type**  
Households, Travis County, 2016  
(n = 457,810 Households)



\*This estimate is not reliable at a 90% confidence level.  
Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017  
Source data: 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B11005

In Travis County, 71% of households do not include children. Of the 134,570 households with children, 68% (91,070 households) are married-couple families, 32% (42,816 households) have one householder with no spouse present, and less than 1% (684 households<sup>16</sup>) are nonfamily households.<sup>17</sup>

Since 2012, the proportion of households with children and the proportion of households with no children has stayed relatively stable.

**Geographic Comparison:** Twenty-nine percent of Travis County households include children, which is lower than Texas and U.S. households (37% and 31%, respectively.)

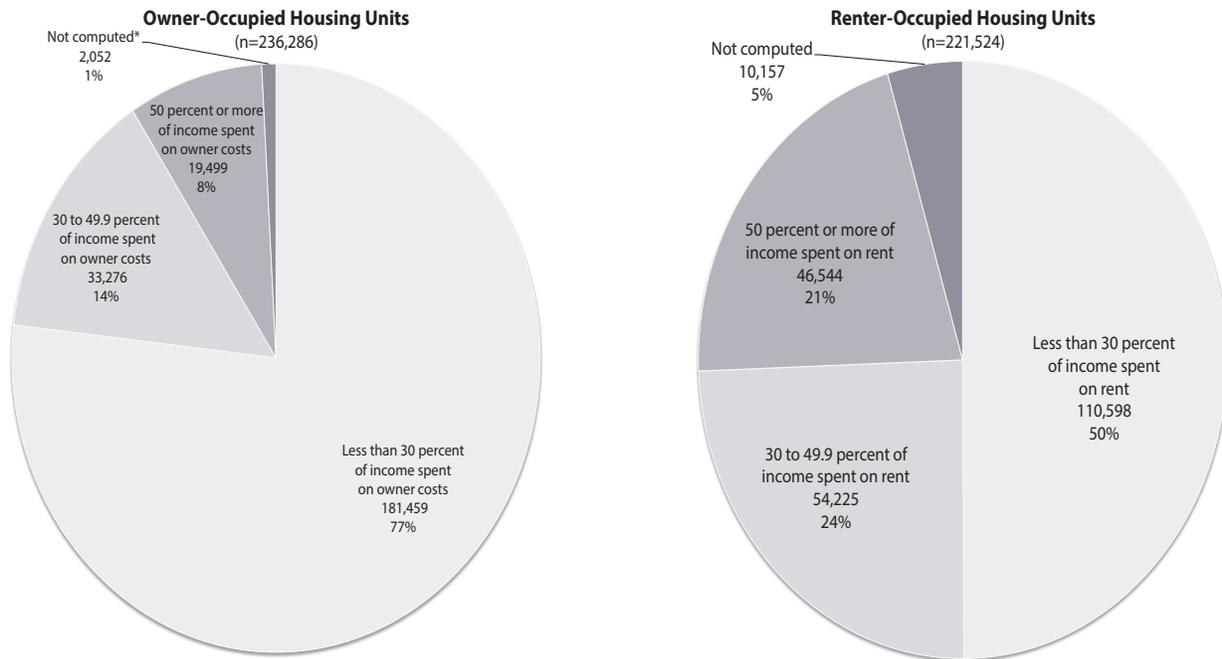
<sup>16</sup> This estimate is not reliable at a 90% confidence level.

<sup>17</sup> "Nonfamily households" are comprised a householder living alone or with nonrelatives only. Unmarried couples households, whether opposite-sex or same-sex, with no relatives of the householder present are tabulated in nonfamily households. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2016 Subject Definitions, page 80.)

# Cost Burden

## Percent of Household Income Spent on Housing Costs

Travis County, 2016



\*The estimate for this category is not reliable at a 90% confidence level.

Percentage totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2017

Source data: 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B25070 & B25091

**Cost Burden**<sup>18</sup>: In Travis County, 52% of occupied housing is owner-occupied and 48% is renter-occupied. A large percentage of both renters and owners in Travis County experience a housing cost burden, which is defined as spending 30% or more of household income on housing costs.<sup>19</sup> However, the percent of households that are cost burdened is higher among renters than owners. Almost one-half (45%) of renter households spend 30% or more of their income on housing, and almost one-quarter (21%) of renter households experience a severe cost burden, spending at least one-half of their income on housing. Comparatively, 22% of owner households spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs and 8% spend at least one-half.

The proportion of households with a cost burden or severe cost burden decreased or remained relatively the same. From 2012 to 2016:

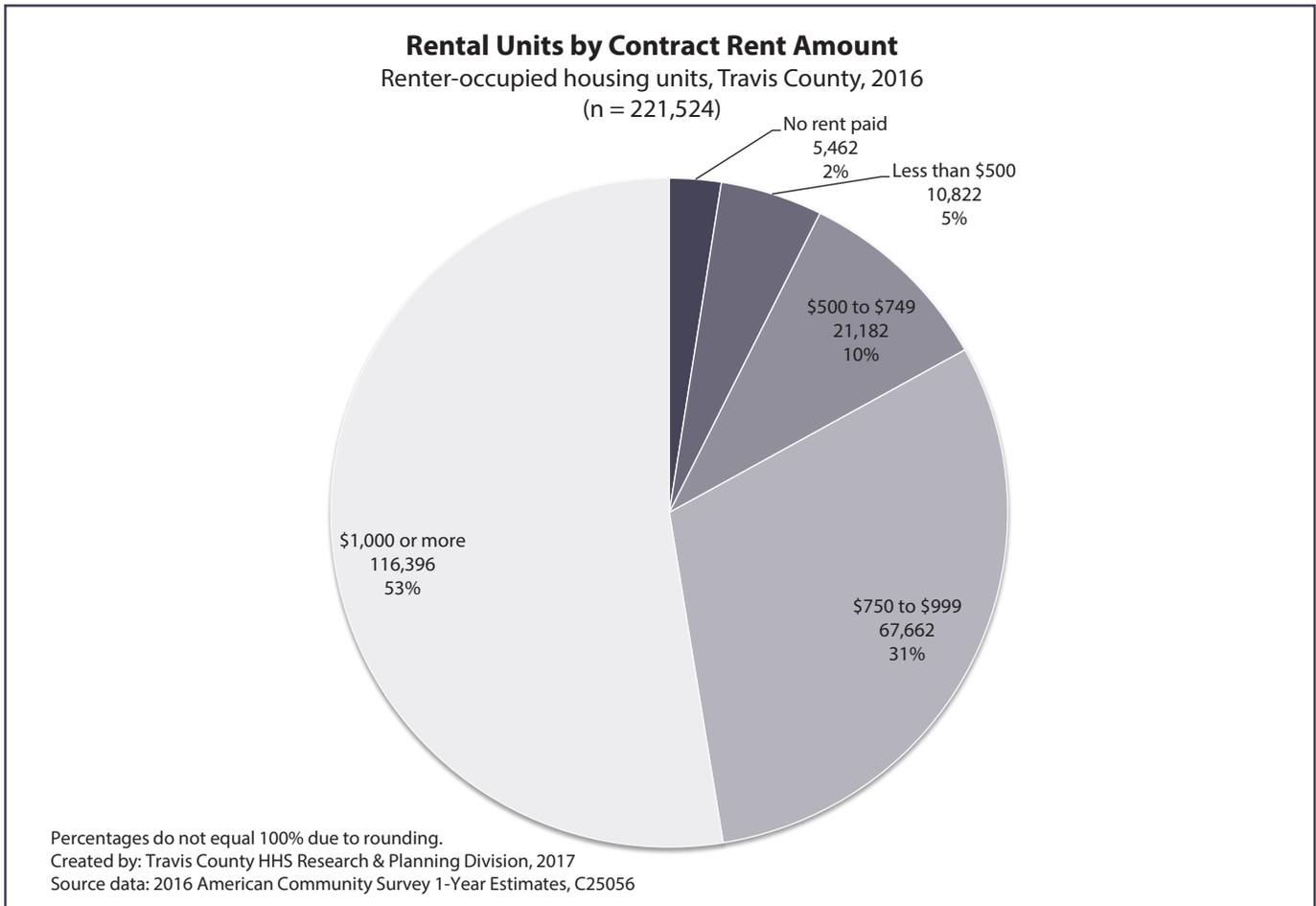
- the proportion of owner households with a severe cost burden decreased from 12% to 8%.
- the proportion of renter households with a severe cost burden decreased from 25% to 21%
- the proportion of owner households with a cost burden decreased from 28% to 22%
- the difference in the proportion of renter households with a cost burden is not statistically significant

**Geographic Comparison:** The proportion of Travis County owner-occupied households (22%) experiencing a cost burden is higher than Texas (20%) but not statistically different from the United States (23%). The proportion of Travis County renter households (45%) experiencing a cost burden is not statistically different from Texas (44%) or the United States (46%).

<sup>18</sup> Cost burden is determined as the percentage of household income spent on housing costs. Monthly owner costs are the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property; real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities; and fuels. It also includes, where appropriate, the monthly condominium fee for condominiums and mobile home costs. Gross rent is the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities and fuels. (American Community Survey/ Puerto Rico Community Survey 2015 Subject Definitions, page 19, 25, and 33-34.)

<sup>19</sup> See U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/affordablehousing/](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/).

# Rent Values



**Contract Rent<sup>20</sup> Distribution:** Over one-half (53%) of Travis County’s occupied rental units have rents at or above \$1,000. Fourteen percent of occupied rental units have rents below \$750 (not including 2% with no rent paid.)<sup>21</sup> From 2012 and 2016, the number of rental units less than \$750 decreased while the number of rental units at or above \$750 increased.

Rental Units by Contract Rent Amount				
	2012	2016	Difference	Percent Change
No rent paid	4,939	5,462	523*	11%*
Less than \$750	75,069	32,004	-43,065	-57%
\$750 to \$999	58,642	67,662	9,020	15%
\$1,000 or more	62,577	116,396	53,819	86%
Total renter-occupied units	201,227	221,524	20,297	10%

\*The difference between the 2012 & 2016 estimates is not statistically significant.

Created by: Travis County HHS Research & Planning Division, 2017

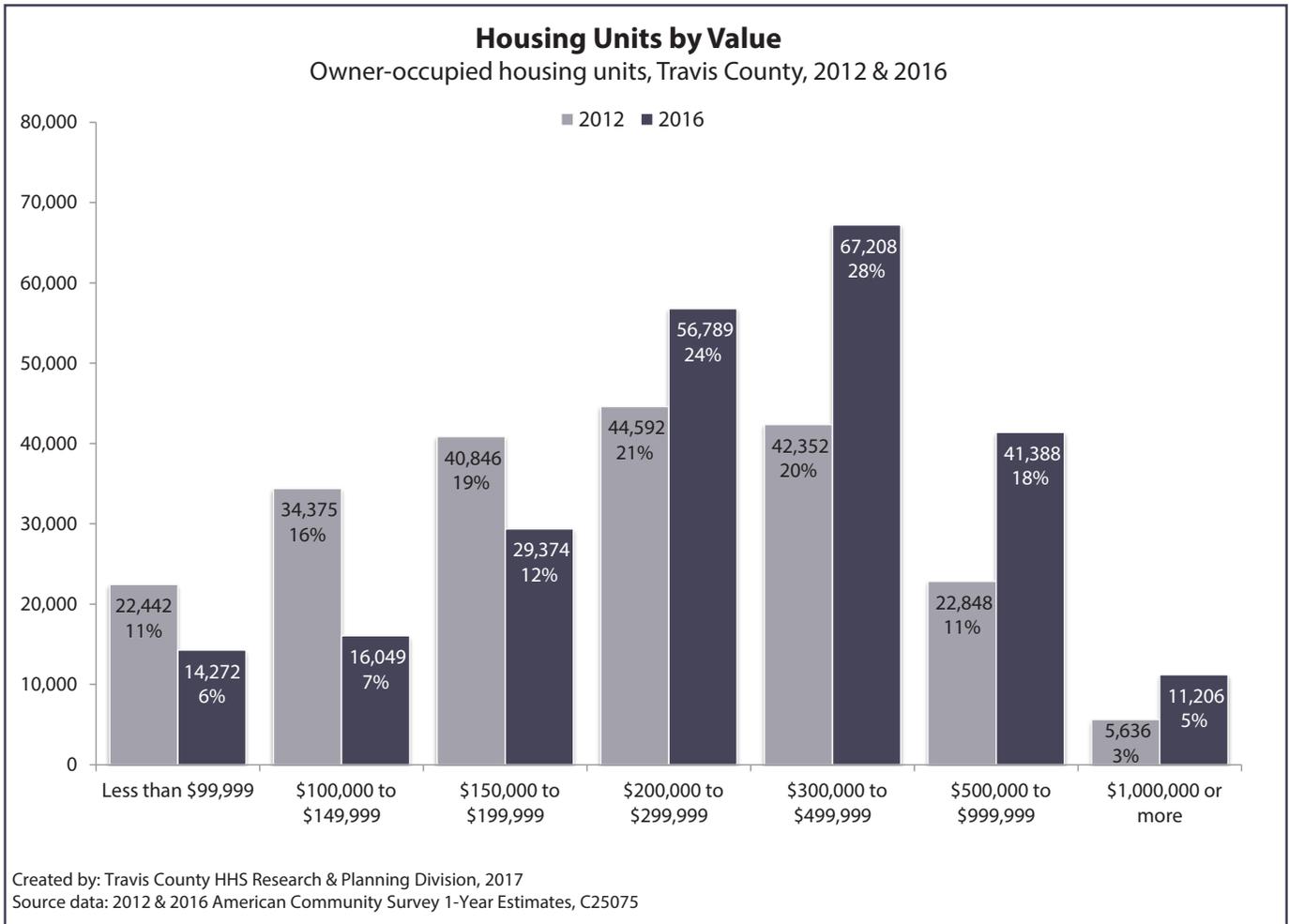
Source data: 2012 & 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, C25056

**Median Contract Rent:** The median contract rent in Travis County is \$1,044, compared to \$809 in Texas and \$841 in the U.S.

<sup>20</sup> Contract rent is the monthly rent agreed to or contracted for, regardless of any furnishings, utilities, fees, meals, or services that may be included. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2016 Subject Definitions, page 16.)

<sup>21</sup> “No rent paid”, also called “no cash rent”, refers to housing units that are renter occupied without payment of rent. The unit may be owned by friends or relatives who live elsewhere and who allow occupancy without charge. Rent-free houses or apartments may be provided to compensate caretakers, ministers, tenant farmers, sharecroppers, or others. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2016 Subject Definitions, page 16.)

# Housing Values

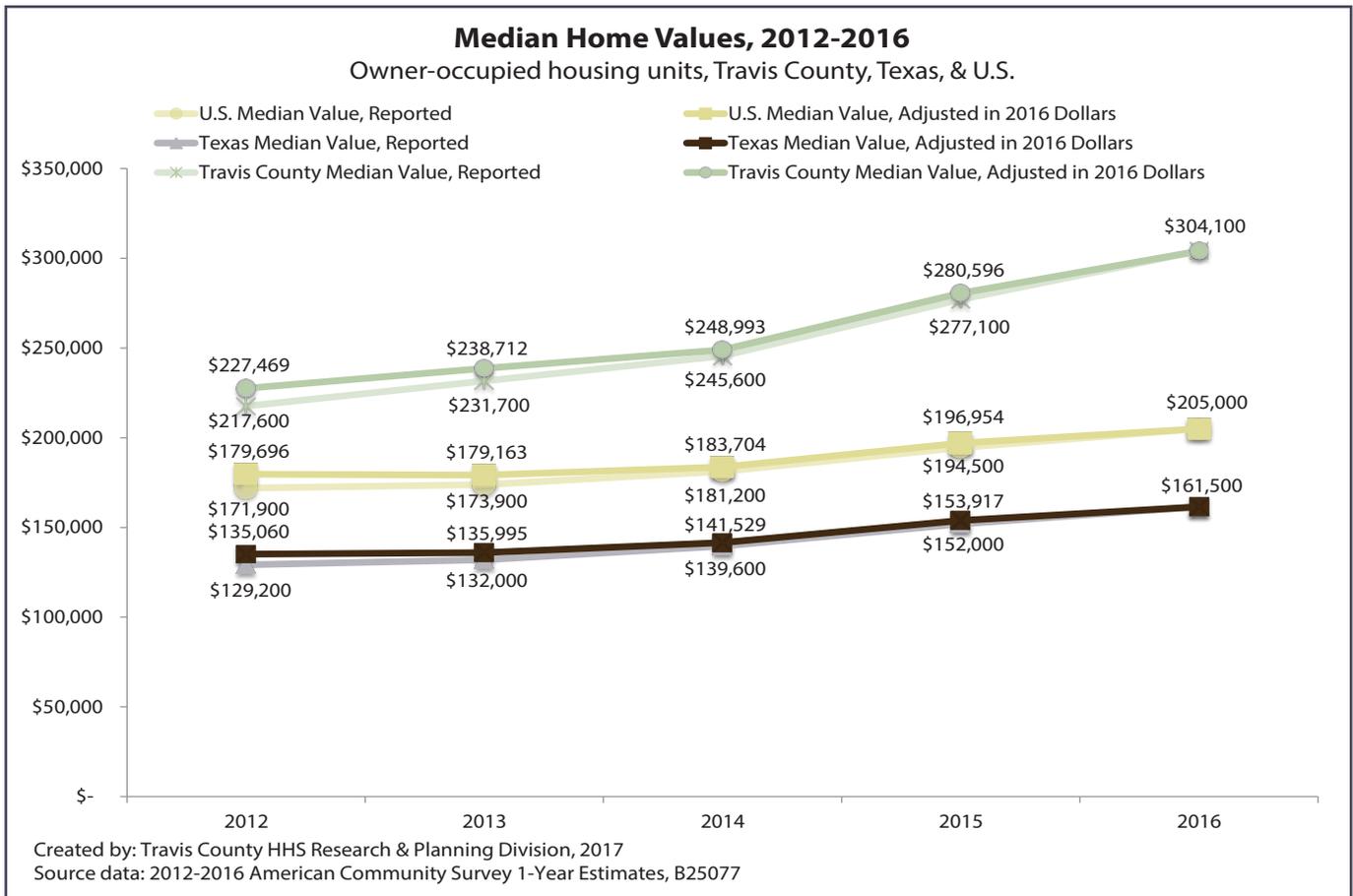


**Housing Value<sup>22</sup> Distribution:** Less than one-sixth (14%) of Travis County owner-occupied homes are valued under \$150,000 (approximately 30,321). Over one-half (51%) of owner-occupied homes are valued at or over \$300,000.

From 2012 to 2016, the number of owner-occupied homes valued under \$200,000 decreased while the number of home values at or above \$200,000 increased. In 2012, 46% of homes were valued below \$200,000 and 54% of homes were valued at or above \$200,000. In 2016, 25% of homes were valued below \$200,000 and 75% of homes were valued at or above \$200,000.

<sup>22</sup> Value is the respondent's estimate of how much the property (house and lot, mobile home and lot, or condominium unit) would sell for if it were for sale. For vacant units, value was the price asked for the property. (American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2016 Subject Definitions, page 43.)

# Median Housing Value



In Travis County, the reported median home value for owner-occupied housing units is \$304,100.

From 2012 to 2016, the reported median home values in Travis County increased by 40% from \$217,600 to \$304,100. When adjusted for inflation,<sup>23</sup> the median home values during the same time period increased by 34%.

## Geographic Comparison:

- The reported median home value in Travis County is higher than Texas (\$161,500) and the U.S. (\$205,000).
- From 2012 to 2015, median home values rose at a faster pace in Travis County than Texas and U.S. When adjusted for inflation, the median home values in Texas and the U.S. rose by 20% and 14%, respectively.

<sup>23</sup> Inflation adjustment calculation based on Consumer Price Index at: <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/tables.htm>.

# Methodology

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) is the primary data source for this chartbook. Data from the 2012-2015 ACS are also referenced for trend analyses.

## About the American Community Survey

The American Community Survey (ACS) replaced the long form of the 10-year U.S. Census or Decennial Census and collects information on an ongoing basis rather than once every ten years. The survey includes questions about housing, social, and economic characteristics.<sup>24</sup> The ACS employs continuous data collection, with annual results produced at the national, state, city, and county levels as well as smaller geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or greater. In 2011, data based on a 5-year sample became available for many small areas (state, county, city, town, place, census tracts and block groups). Also in 2011, changes in sampling design were made that have increased the reliability of small tract estimates.<sup>25</sup>

## ACS Methodology

The ACS is conducted every month on independent samples of housing unit<sup>26</sup> addresses (whether vacant or occupied) and persons in group quarters<sup>27</sup> facilities, and produces annual estimates of the total residential population. Each year, approximately 3.5 million housing unit addresses in the United States and approximately 206,000 residents in group quarters facilities are selected.<sup>28</sup> Surveys are collected from 1/12 of the sample each month. An address will not be included in the ACS survey more than once in a five-year period.<sup>29</sup>

For Travis County, the original 2016 (entire 12 month) sample of initial addresses selected was 9,753, and the final number of housing unit interviews (actual sample used to produce results) was 6,305.<sup>30</sup> The group quarters population sample is not available at the county level, but for the entire state of Texas, the initial sample selected was 13,214 and the final number of group quarters actual interviews was 10,421.<sup>31</sup>

The ACS is conducted primarily through self-response. The ACS employs two distinct data collection methodologies: one for individuals residing in housing units and another for those residing in group quarters. For those residing in housing units, four modes of data collection are used: the internet, a mailout/mailback, Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) and a Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI). The general timing of data collection is completed within three months. During Month 1, addresses in the sample are sent an initial mailing package, which contains information for completing the ACS questionnaire on the internet. If an online response is not received after two weeks, then a second mailing package is sent. This package contains a paper questionnaire and the housing unit has

24 A copy of the 2016 questionnaire can be found at: <http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaires/2016/quest16.pdf>.

25 For more information on 2011 reliability improvements, go to [http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech\\_docs/accuracy/Multi-yearACSAccuracyofData2011.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/accuracy/Multi-yearACSAccuracyofData2011.pdf).

26 A housing unit may be a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms or a single room that is occupied (or, if vacant, intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Both occupied and vacant housing units are included in the housing unit inventory. Boats, recreational vehicles (RVs), vans, tents, railroad cars, and the like are included only if they are occupied as someone's current place of residence. (American Community Survey/Puerto Rico Community Survey 2016 Subject Definitions, pg. 7.)

27 A group quarters is a place where people live or stay, in a group living arrangement that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. Group quarters include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, and workers' dormitories. (American Community Survey/Puerto Rico Community Survey 2016 Subject Definitions, pg. 8.)

28 U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates, Tables B98001 and B98002.

29 American Community Survey Design and Methodology, available at: [http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/design\\_and\\_methodology/acs\\_design\\_methodology\\_report\\_2014.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/design_and_methodology/acs_design_methodology_report_2014.pdf)

30 U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B98001.

31 American Community Survey Sample Size Definitions, available at: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/sample-size-and-data-quality/sample-size/index.php>

# Methodology

the option of which mode to use to complete the interview. During Month 2, all mail non-responding addresses with an available phone number are sent to the CATI. During Month 3, a sample of mail non-responses without a phone number, CATI non-responses, and unmailable addresses are selected and sent to CAPI. For participants residing in Group Quarters, field representatives use several options, including completing the questionnaire while speaking to the resident in person or over the telephone, conducting a personal interview with a proxy, such as a relative or guardian, or leaving paper questionnaires for residents to complete for themselves and then pick them up later. This last option is used for data collection in Federal prisons.<sup>32</sup>

## Limitations

Because the findings are based on a sample rather than entire populations, the results would differ slightly if another sample were drawn or if the entire population were surveyed. This reduces the reliability of the results. A certain amount of variability (also called sampling error) is associated with any estimate based on a sample. In general, the larger the sample, the smaller the sampling error will be.<sup>33</sup> ACS estimates highlighted in this publication with relatively small sample sizes and therefore relatively large margins of error have been tested for reliability at a 90% level of confidence.<sup>34</sup> When direct comparisons are made (for example, between geographic areas or over time), tests have been performed for statistical significance at a 90% confidence level. Estimates with coefficients of variation<sup>35</sup> of more than 15% were either excluded or footnoted as being unreliable. Note that testing was not conducted on every possible permutation of comparisons between visible figures in this report's charts and tables, so inferences about statistics and trends should be interpreted with caution.

For more information and instruction on testing for reliability and statistical significance, as well as general guidance on how to use American Community Survey data, please see the Compass guides published by the U.S. Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance.html>.

*Non-response error:* If certain individuals do not respond to the survey, the strength of the findings will be diminished. Additionally, those who respond to the survey may possess certain traits that skew the results differently than if everyone in the sample responds (this is known as selection bias). However, while surveys are often voluntary, response to the ACS is required by law (Title 18 U.S.C Section 3571 and Section 3559), and those who refuse or willfully neglect to respond to the survey are subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 and those willfully gives any false answers are subject to a fine up to \$500.<sup>36</sup> The response rate for the ACS is high (the 2016 response rate for Texas was 93.4% for housing units and 93.4% for group quarters).<sup>37</sup>

32 American Community Survey Accuracy of the Data (2016), available at: [https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech\\_docs/accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2016.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2016.pdf).

33 U.S. Census Bureau, A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What General Data Users Need to Know. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2008. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2009/acs/ACSstateLocal.pdf>.

34 A confidence level or interval is a range of values that describes the uncertainty surrounding an estimate. The "90%" in the confidence interval listed above represents a level of certainty about our estimate. If we were to repeatedly make new estimates using exactly the same procedure (by drawing a new sample, conducting new interviews, calculating new estimates and new confidence intervals), the confidence intervals would contain the average of all the estimates 90% of the time. We have therefore produced a single estimate in a way that, if repeated indefinitely, would result in 90% of the confidence intervals formed containing the true value. (From the US Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates website, <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/methods/statecounty/ci.html>, accessed 10/7/2016).

35 Coefficient of variation is a measure used to discern the level of reliability of an estimate. It is calculated using the estimate and its standard error. For more information on calculating and using coefficients of variation, see: A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What General Data Users Need to Know, available at <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2008/acs/ACSGeneralHandbook.pdf>.

36 American Community Survey: Why Were You Selected? available at: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about/why-was-i-selected.html>

37 Response rate information is available on the Census Bureau's American Community Survey website at: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/sample-size-and-data-quality/response-rates/>