

## Preliminary Poverty, Income and Health Insurance Statistics for Travis County and Texas American Community Survey and Annual Supplement to the Current Population Survey, 2007

The U.S. Census Bureau releases poverty, income and health insurance data<sup>1</sup> annually in August. A summary of national trends can be found at:  
[www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income\\_wealth/012528.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/012528.html).

The following are some local income and poverty and state health insurance highlights from the August 26, 2008 data release. As a note, this information reflects conditions based on data collected during 2007 and thus may not reflect more recent trends (such as impacts of the economic downturn).

### I. Poverty<sup>2</sup> Estimates and Rates in Travis County<sup>3</sup>

<b>Poverty Estimates and Rates among Individuals and Children Travis County, Texas 1999-2007</b>							
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Individuals in Poverty</b>	<b>99,388</b>	<b>122,607</b>	<b>116,231</b>	<b>106,765</b>	<b>135,240</b>	<b>137,687</b>	<b>141,223</b>
<b>Individual poverty rate</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>
<b>Children (under 18) in Poverty</b>	<b>27,214</b>	<b>39,712</b>	<b>34,260</b>	<b>27,549</b>	<b>45,524</b>	<b>46,039</b>	<b>45,214</b>
<b>Child poverty rate</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>18.7%</b>

Created by Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2008

Source data: American Community Survey 2002-2007 and Census 2000

- In Travis County in 2007, there were an estimated 141,223 individuals living in poverty, 45,214 of whom were children.<sup>4</sup>
- The county poverty rate (14.7%) continues to be lower than the state poverty rate (16.3%) and higher than the national poverty rate (13.0%). This was also true in 2005 & 2006.
- There is not a significant shift in Travis County's poverty rate from recent years. The 2007 poverty rate figure did decrease slightly from 2006; ACS data for Texas and the U.S. also show this trend.

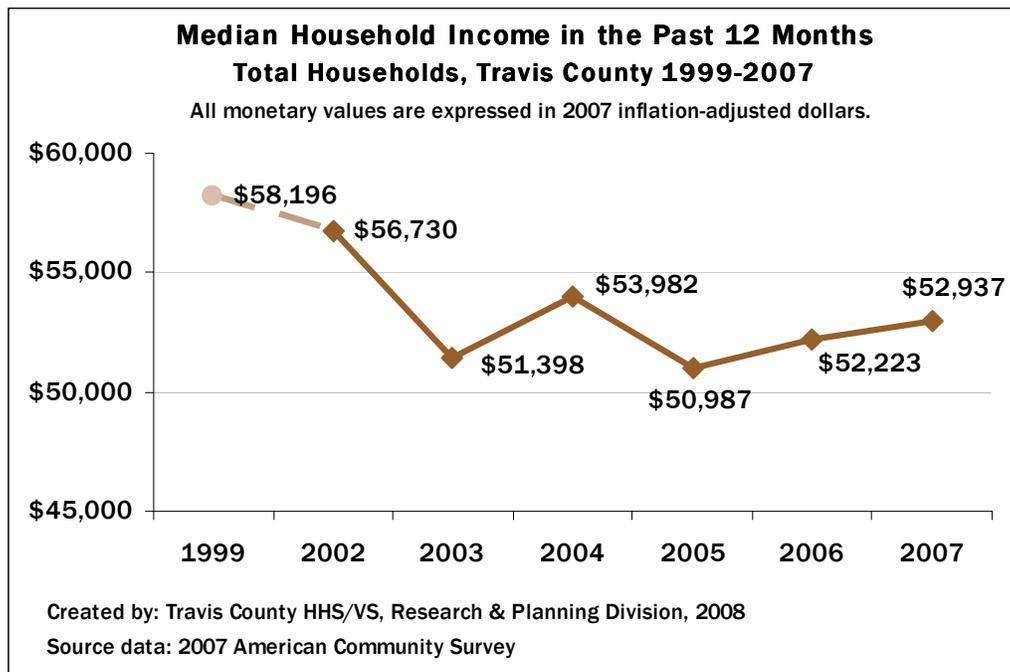
<sup>1</sup> The statistics presented in this document are released through two U.S. Census Bureau surveys. **The Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey** provides poverty, income and health insurance data on the national and state level. **The American Community Survey (ACS)** provides income and poverty data on the national, state and county level as well as for other geographies (such as cities). The ACS also includes data on a variety of social, demographic, economic and housing characteristics (these additional data sets are released in mid-September).

<sup>2</sup> The 2007 poverty threshold was \$10,590 for an individual and \$21,203 for a family of four.

<sup>3</sup> Due to several methodological issues, the Census Bureau recommends caution when comparing poverty rate from year to year. For example, while 2000 Census and ACS 2006-07 data include individuals living in group quarters, ACS 2002-05 data do not. Census 2000 collected data during a fixed period (calendar year), while ACS collects data on an ongoing basis and asks for income for the "past 12 months"

<sup>4</sup> While Census Bureau data provides a good overall analysis of poverty rates, some policy/research analysts suggest that the current measure of poverty undercounts the nation's poor. See <http://www.cbpp.org/8-21-08pov.htm> or [http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/webfeatures\\_snapshots\\_20080702](http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/webfeatures_snapshots_20080702) for discussion of alternative measures.

## II. Median Household Income in Travis County



- In 2007, Travis County's median household income rose slightly (\$714) from the prior year to \$52,937. Overall, median household income in Travis County has declined by 9% (\$5,259) between 1999 and 2007.
- As in previous years, Travis County's median household income is higher than the state's (\$47,548) and the nation's (\$50,740).

## III. Income Inequality for Travis County, Texas and the U.S.

Gini Coefficient and Shares of Income by Quintile Travis County, Texas and U.S., 2007							
	Gini Coefficient	Share of Income					
		Lowest Quintile	Second Quintile	Third Quintile	Fourth Quintile	Highest Quintile	Top 5 Percent
<b>Travis County</b>	0.481	3.2%	8.5%	14.1%	22.6%	51.7%	22.8%
<b>Texas</b>	0.473	3.3%	8.6%	14.4%	22.8%	50.9%	22.7%
<b>United States</b>	0.467	3.4%	8.8%	14.7%	22.9%	50.3%	22.5%

Created by Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2008  
Source data: American Community Survey 2007

- Two common measures of income inequality, the Gini index<sup>5</sup> and shares of aggregate income by quintile, indicate that Travis County has slightly greater income inequality than Texas or the United States.

<sup>5</sup> The Gini index is a summary measure of income inequality where 0 equals no inequality and 1 equals highest inequality. A lower number indicates a more equal distribution of wealth; a higher number indicates a less equal distribution of wealth.

- o The Gini index in 2007 for Travis County was .481, compared with .473 for Texas and .467 for the United States.
- o In Travis County in 2007, the richest 20% of the population received 51.7% of the total income, while the poorest 20% received 3.2% of total income. As detailed in the table above, this indicates slightly more income inequality as compared to Texas and the U.S.
- Data may indicate a slight decrease in income inequality in Travis County between 2006 and 2007. The Gini index for 2006 was .488 compared with .481 for 2007 (a lower number indicates a more equal distribution of wealth).

#### IV. Health Insurance in Texas

Health Insurance Coverage– Uninsurance Numbers and Rates Texas, 2004-2007		
	Number Uninsured	Percent Uninsured
2004	5,405,000	24.2%
2005	5,394,000	23.6%
2006	5,704,000	24.5%
2007	5,962,000	25.2%

Created by Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2008

Source data: Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey 2004-2007

- In 2007, an estimated 5,962,000 Texans (25.2%) lacked health insurance.
- Texas had the largest *percent* and second largest *number* (California has 6,613,000) of uninsured individuals in 2007.