

CENTER *for* PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

State of Texas Children 2017

✦ Child Well-Being in the Rio Grande Valley ✦

#KidsCount



Every child is healthy, well-
educated and financially secure.

All 7.2
million
of them!





Every child is healthy, well-
educated and financially secure.

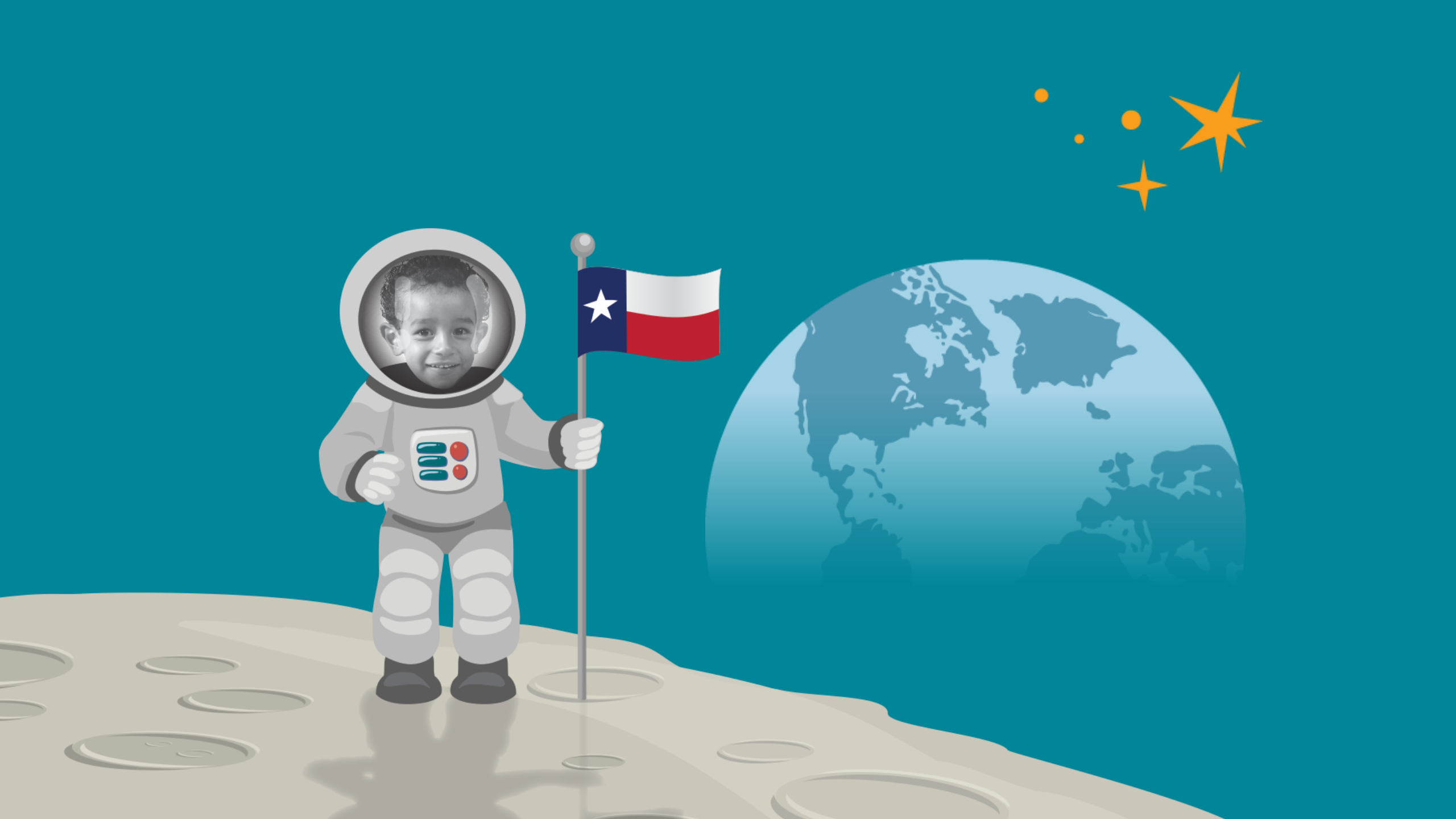
Thousands of Rio Grande Valley children live in immigrant families

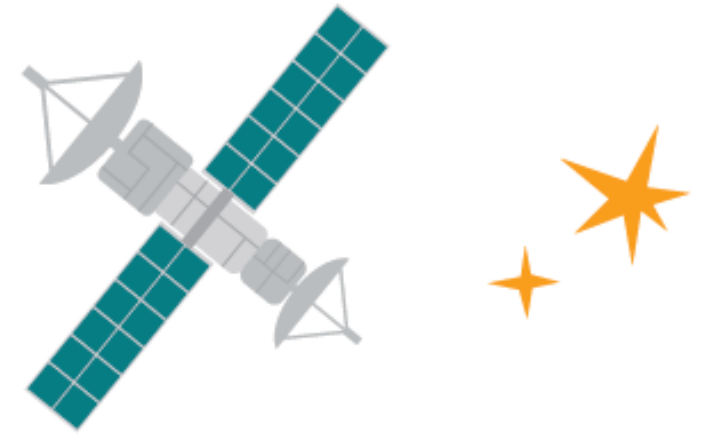


Out of 390,000 kids in Cameron and Hidalgo counties, more than half live with one or more parents who is an immigrant.



Of those, half live with at least one parent who is not a U.S. citizen (this includes parents who are legally authorized).

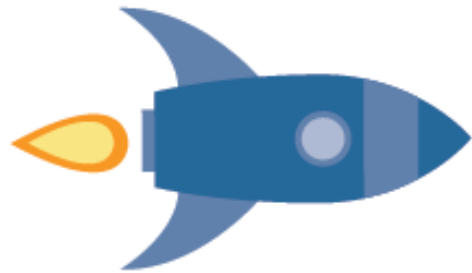




Every child is healthy, well-
educated and **financially secure.**

**Median income for households with children
is much lower in the Rio Grande Valley**

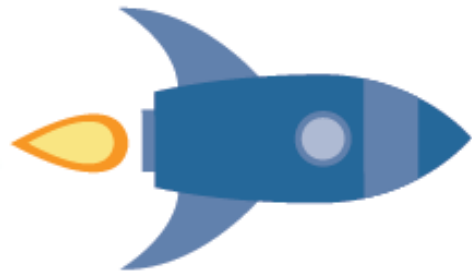
Median income for households with children is much lower in the Rio Grande Valley



\$35,750

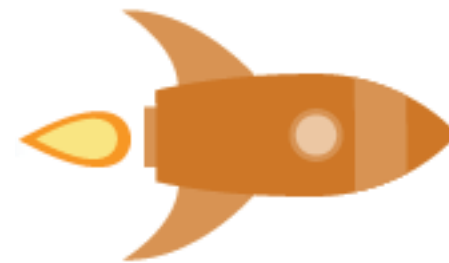
Cameron & Hidalgo Counties

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Cameron & Hidalgo Counties

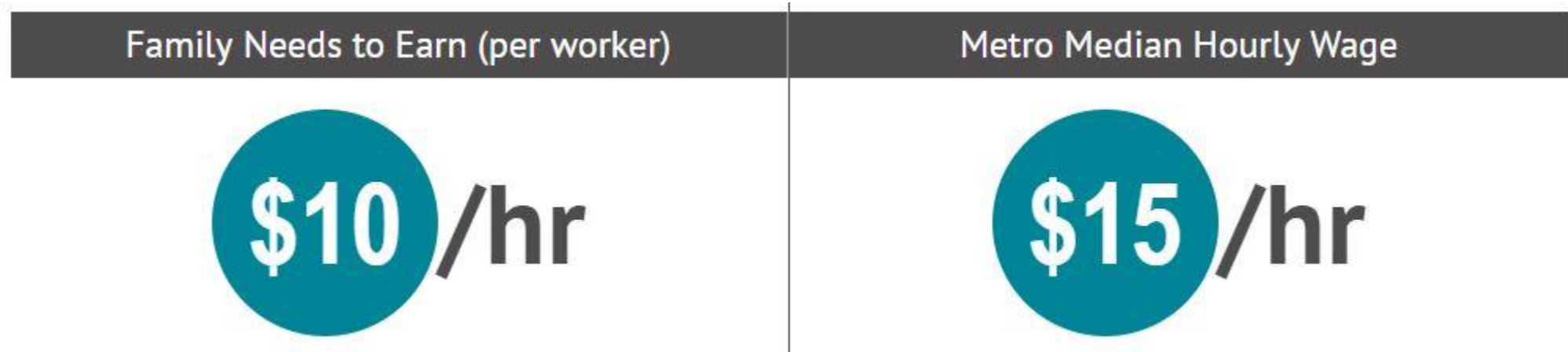


\$64,000

All Other Texas Counties

FamilyBudgts.org

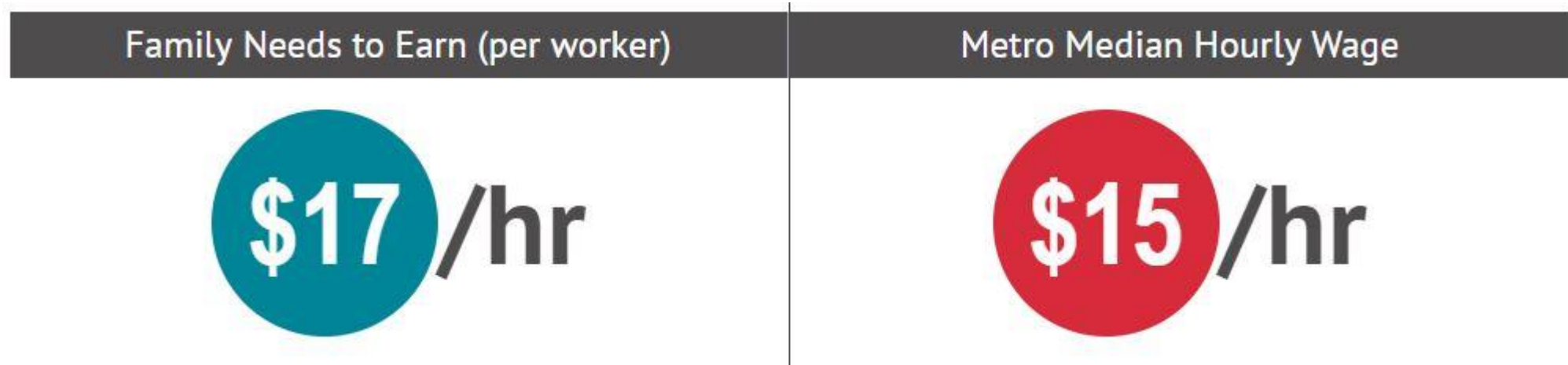
For a family with two kids to get by in the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission area...



Two working parents each need to make \$10/hour

FamilyBudgts.org

For a family with two kids to get by in the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission area...



A single parent needs to earn \$17/hour

**Too many Rio Grande Valley children live in poverty
(<\$24,500 for a family of four)**

Too many Rio Grande Valley children live in poverty (<\$24,500 for a family of four)



Texas 23%

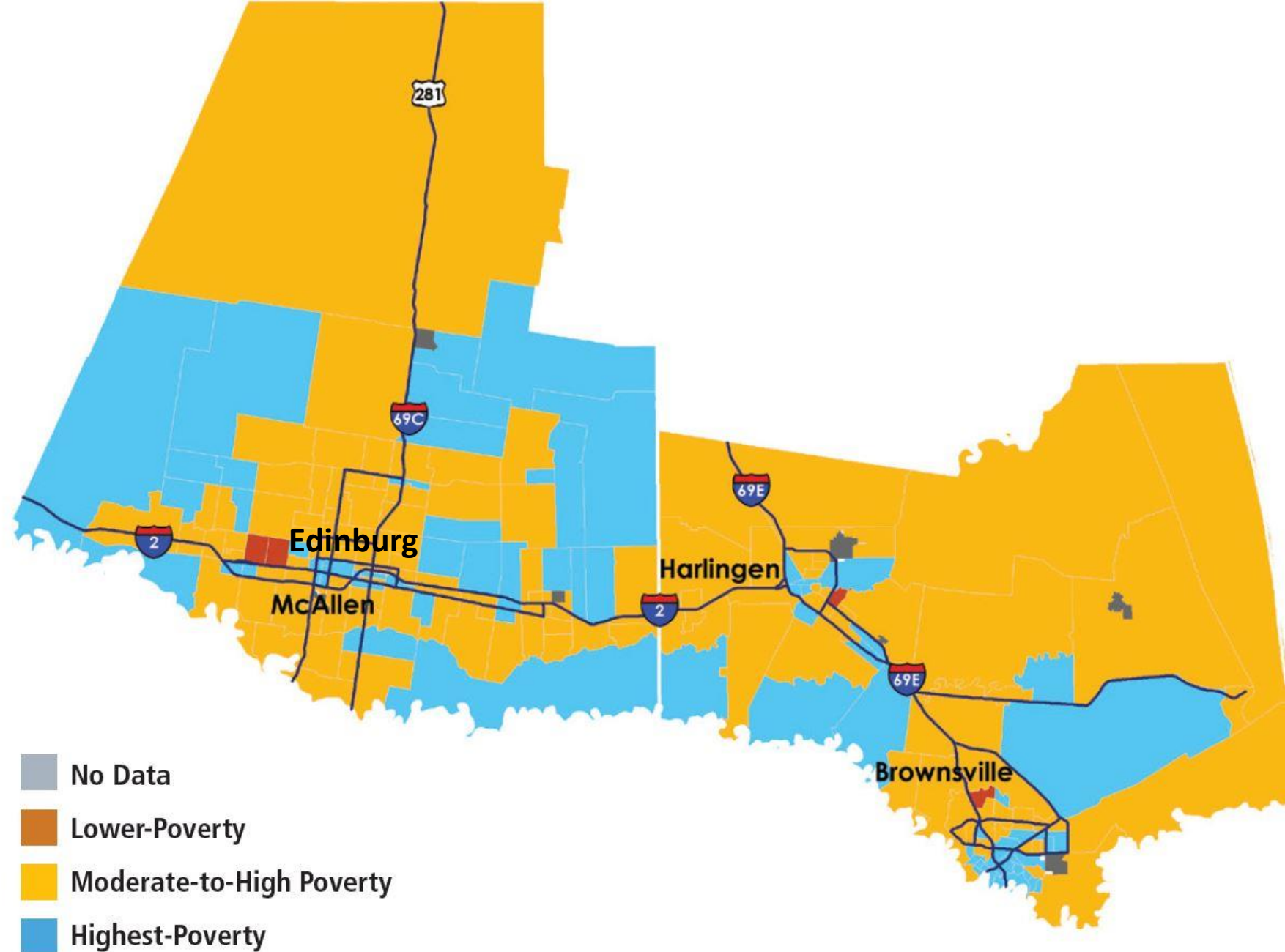
Too many Rio Grande Valley children live in poverty (<\$24,500 for a family of four)



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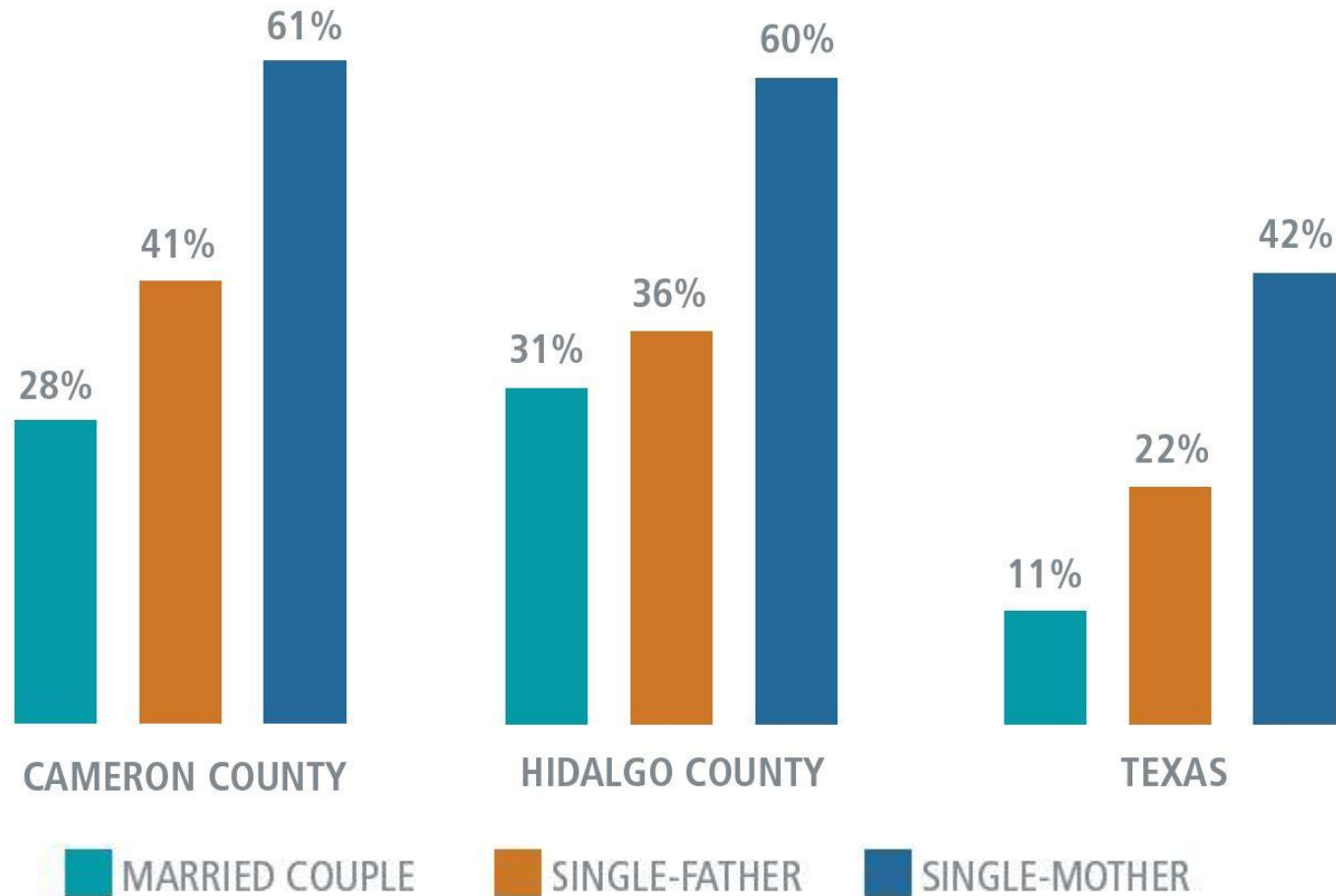
Hidalgo County, 43%

Cameron County, 46%



Total poverty rate by census tract, 2011-2015

The likelihood of living in poverty is affected by family structure and place.



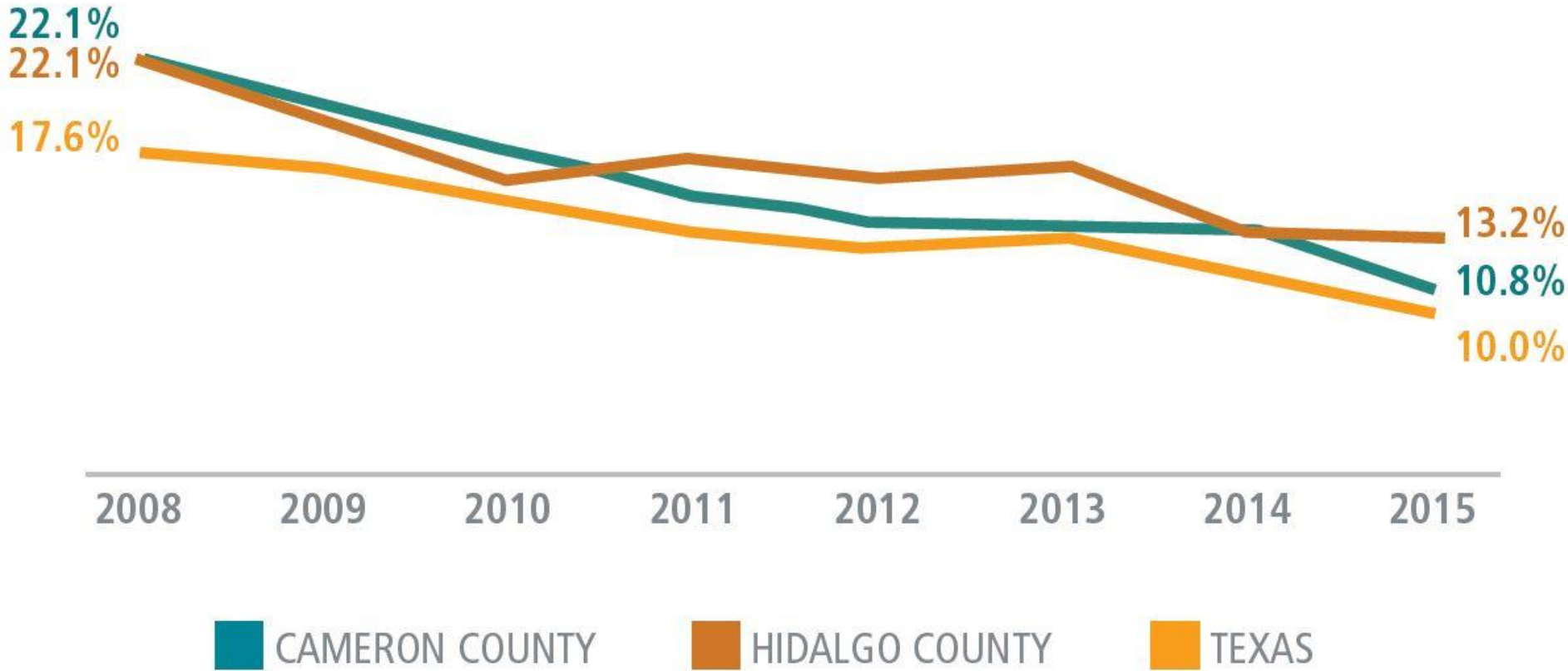
Policy matters.

Place matters.

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Child uninsured rates have declined, but remain too high



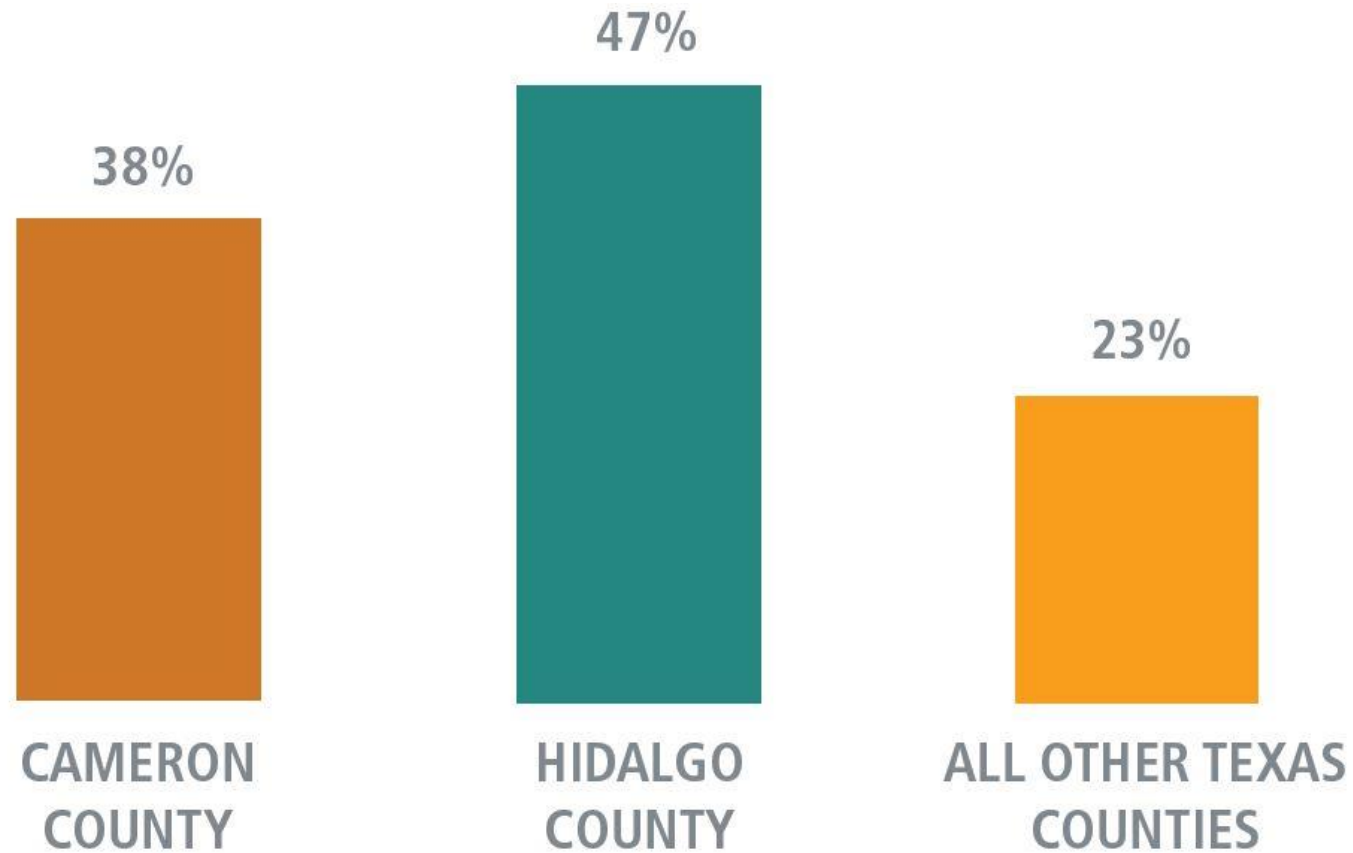
Health insurance access must be protected



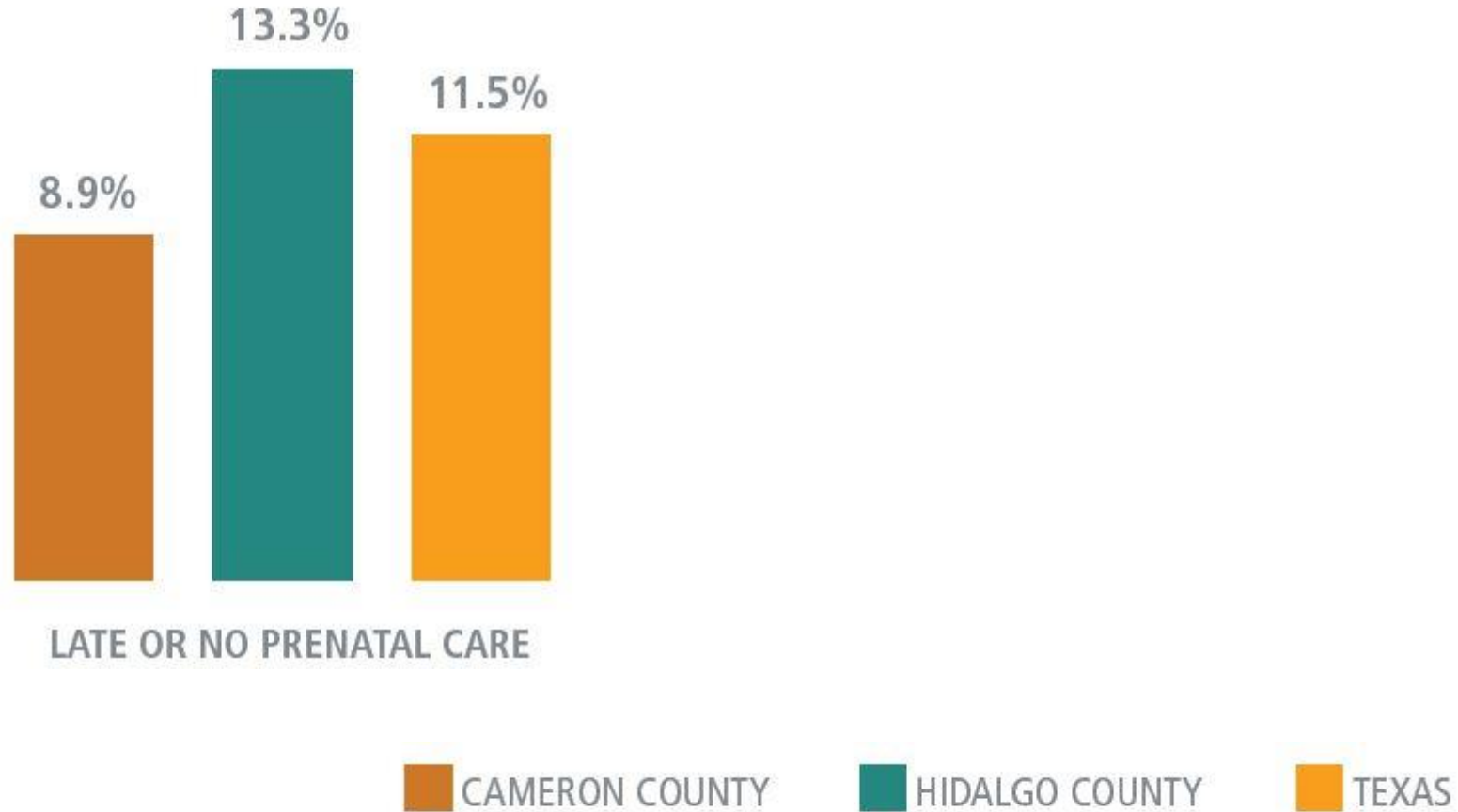
400,000
Texas children
rely on CHIP



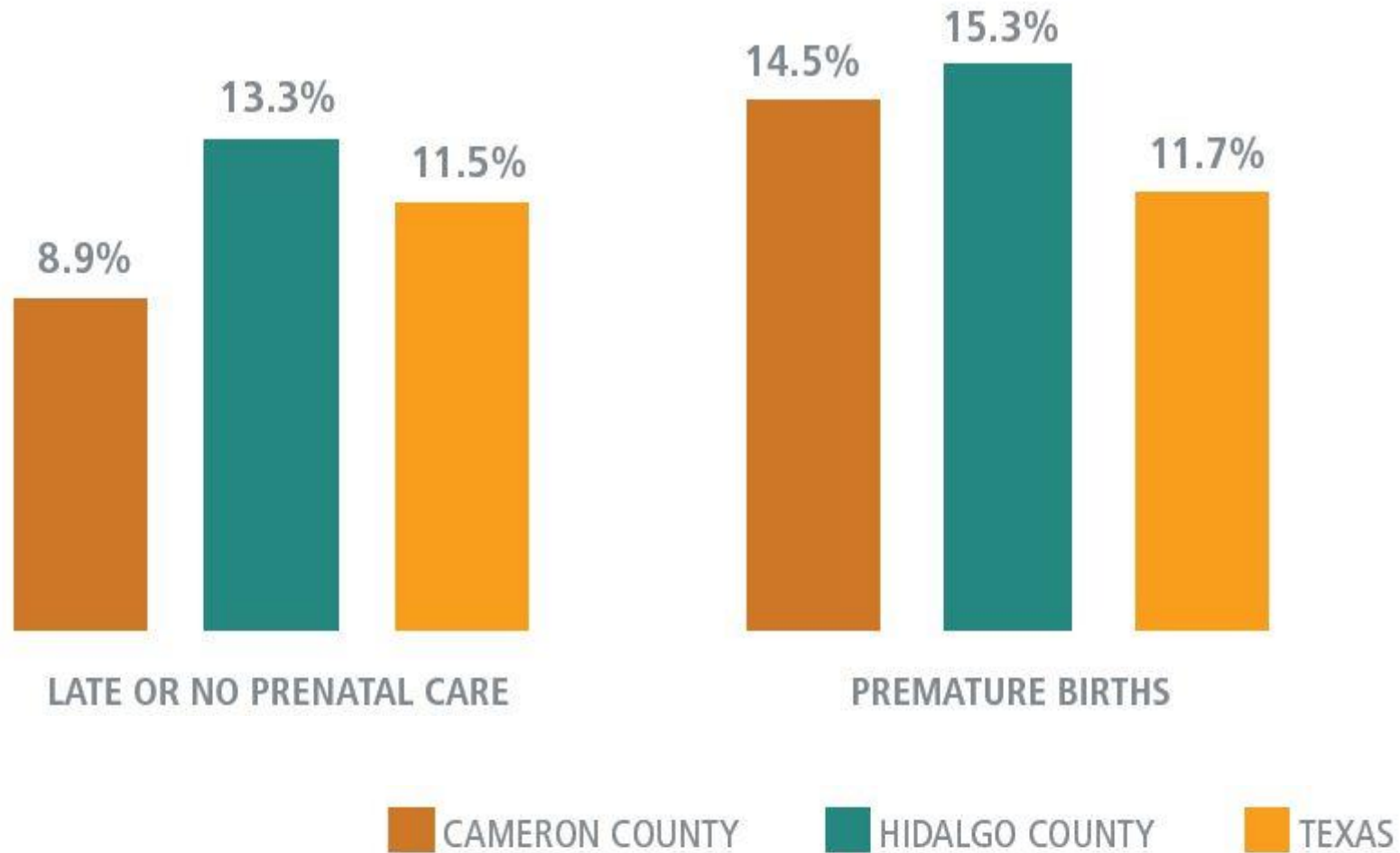
Women of childbearing age are more likely to be uninsured in the Rio Grande Valley than in the rest of Texas



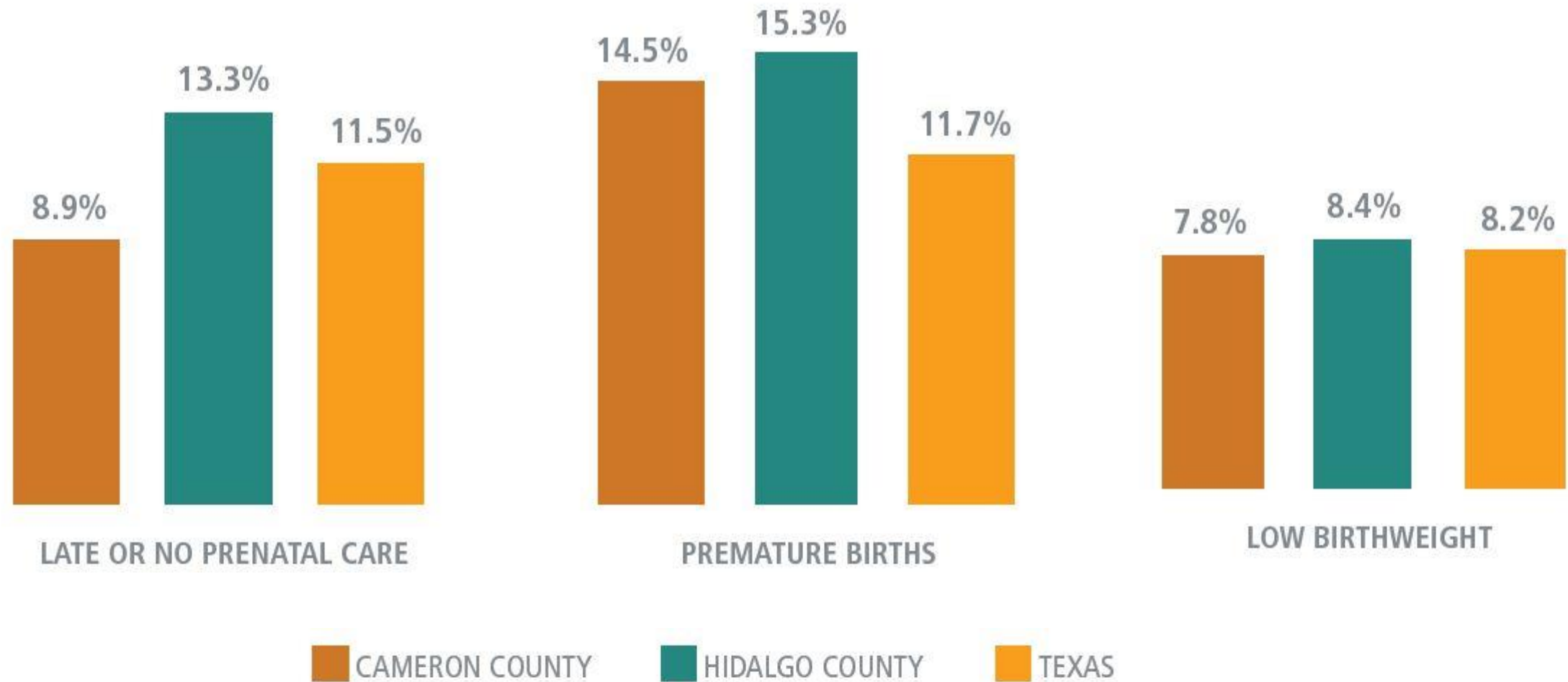
Infants in Hidalgo County are at higher risk of low birthweight or premature birth



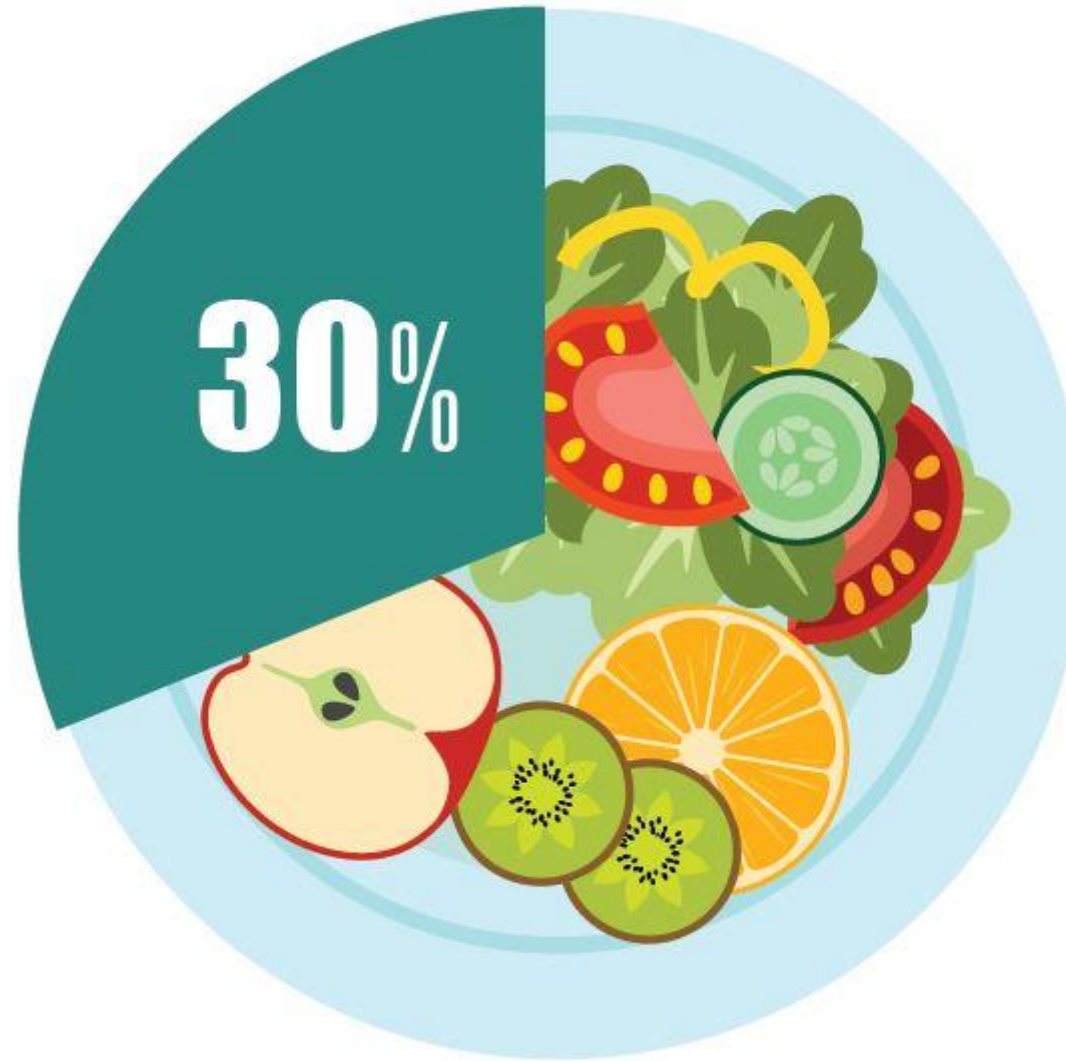
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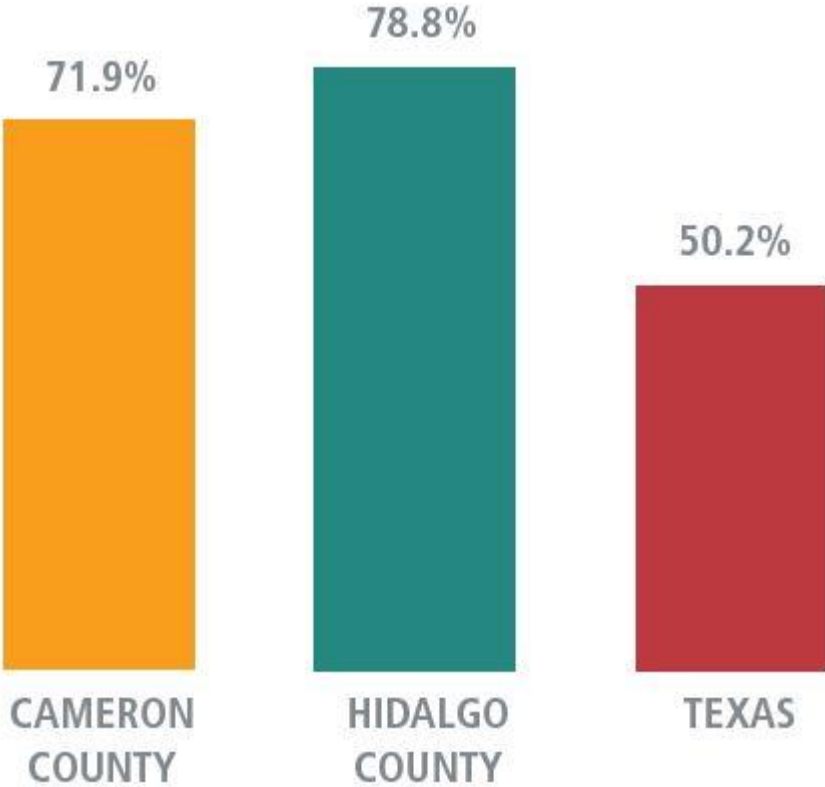
Around 30 percent of children in the Rio Grande Valley lack consistent access to adequate food



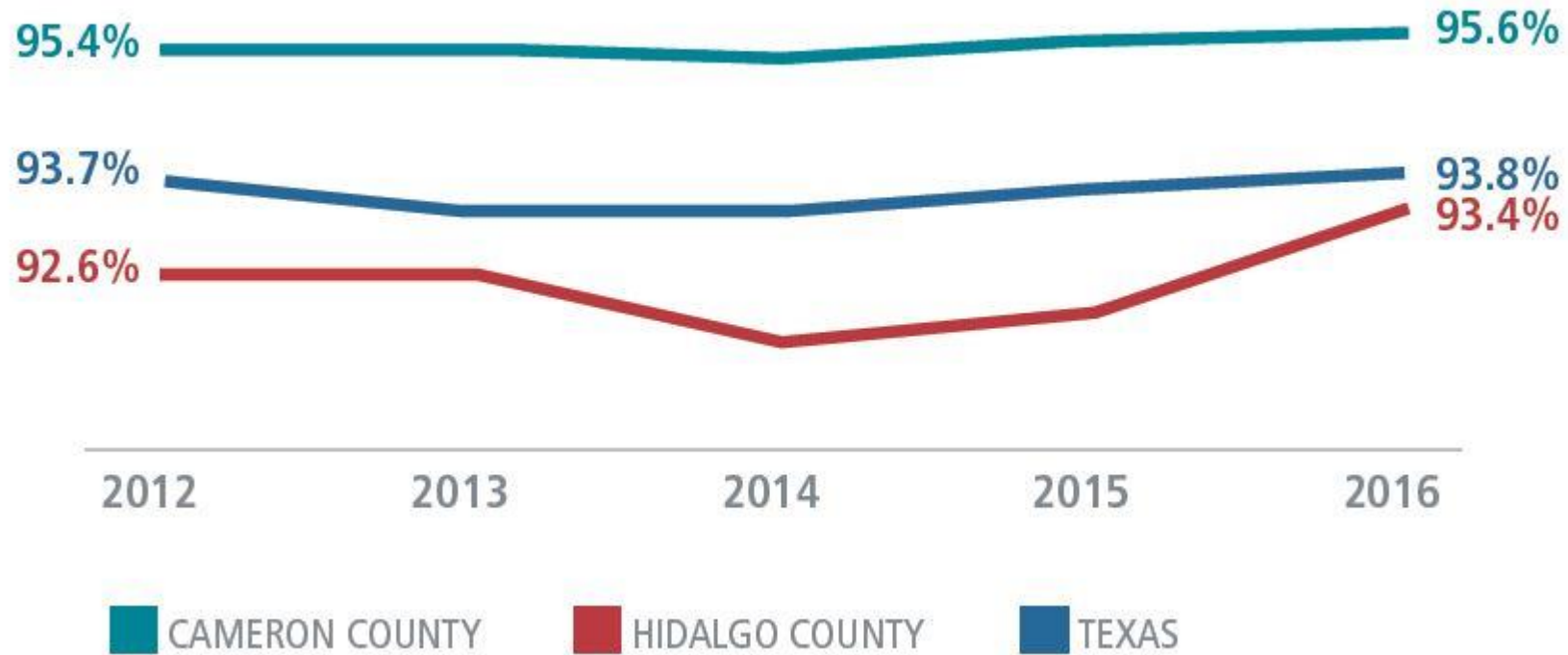


Every child is healthy, **well-educated**
and financially secure.

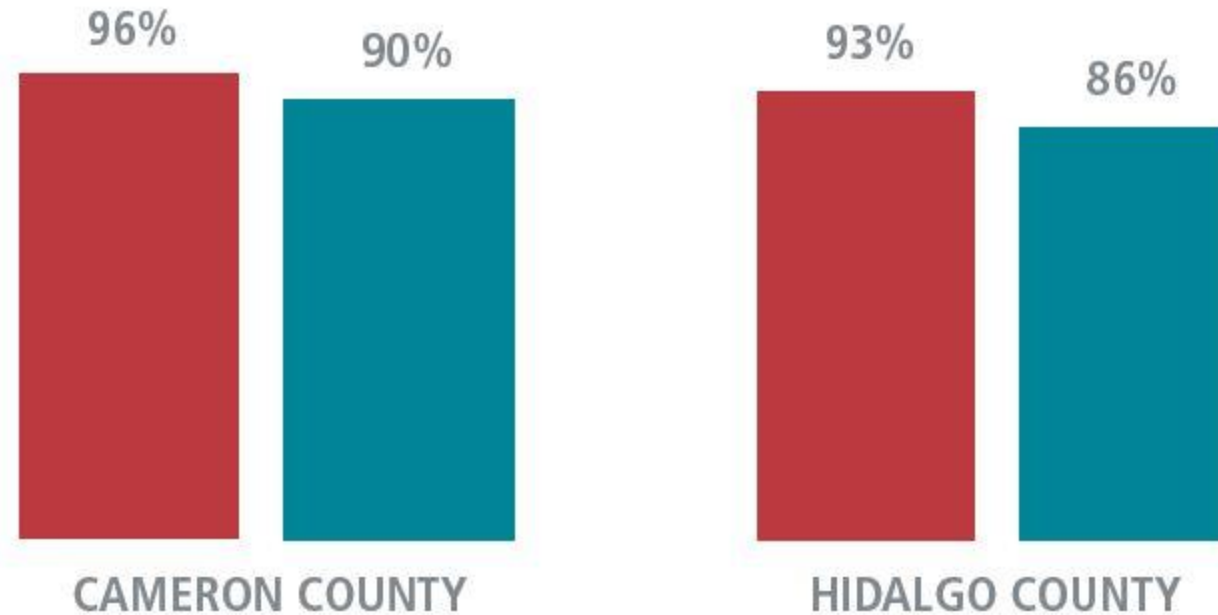
Pre-K enrollment is higher in the Rio Grande Valley than in Texas



High school completion rates remain high



High school completion rates remain high



What can we do?



Recommendations

- Make school funding more adequate and equitable





Recommendations

- Protect and expand access to health care





Recommendations

- Support children by supporting working families.



We believe in a Texas

that offers everyone the chance
to compete and succeed in life.

We envision a Texas

where everyone is healthy,
well-educated, and financially secure.

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@CPPP_TX

