# State of Texas Children 2016
✴ Race and Equity in Dallas ✴

We all want a bright future for our children, and we want Dallas to be a place that makes that bright future possible. As the area's economy and population grow, its future depends on the health, education and financial security of all its children—across gender, neighborhood, income, race and ethnicity.[1]

Dallas is both a city of great wealth and of great poverty. Despite the area's economic resources, the data also show large racial and ethnic gaps in children's health, education and financial security. In order to "raise the bar" in child well-being for all Dallas area kids, we have to "close the gaps" by intentionally breaking down obstacles and creating equitable opportunities for good health, an excellent education and economic security for every child. This is the only way to ensure Dallas' economic future stays strong.

This Dallas report is part of a larger series of reports in the Texas Kids Count project that focuses on equity in child well-being across Texas and in several of its major metro areas. See more at CPPP.org/kidscount.
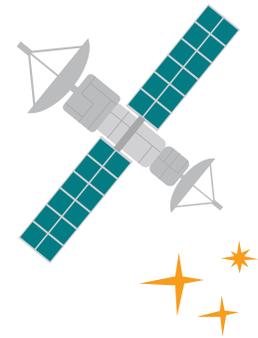
DEMOGRAPHICS

More than 1.2 million kids live in the Dallas metro area, representing more than one out of every six kids living in Texas.[2] The Dallas metro area (officially called the "Dallas metro division") is made up of seven counties: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman and Rockwall.[3] Demographic data are provided on the Dallas metro area to give a regional look at child population change. We focus on Dallas County as the metro area's core in our analysis of children's financial security, health and education.

THE PRESENT: While the child population is racially and ethnically diverse throughout the Dallas metro area, the composition differs depending on the county.[4]
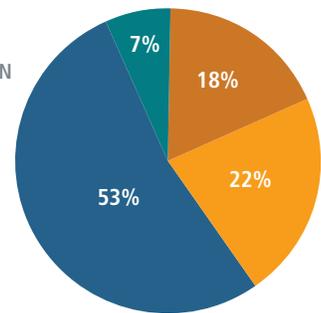
DALLAS METRO AREA, 2013
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION
1,217,761

- ■ HISPANIC
- ■ WHITE
- ■ BLACK
- ■ ASIAN, MULTIRACIAL OR OTHER RACE
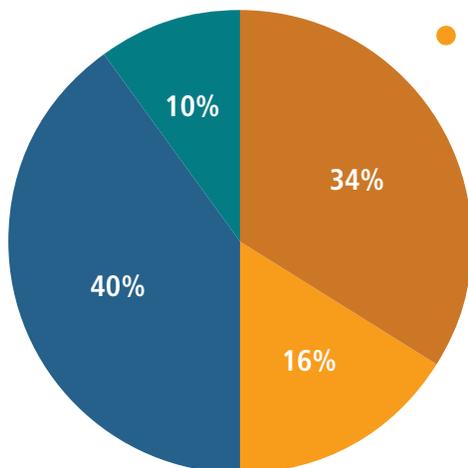
In this report, "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably.

Dallas Metro Area pie chart: 40%, 34%, 16%, 10%

DALLAS COUNTY, 2013
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION
671,039

Dallas County pie chart: 7%, 18%, 22%, 53%

COLLIN COUNTY, 2013
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION
235,062

Collin County pie chart: 18%, 53%, 9%, 20%
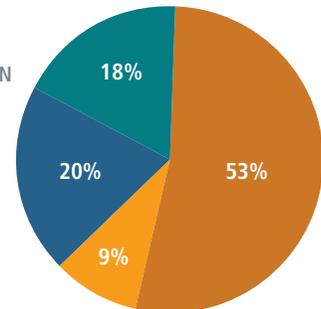
DENTON COUNTY, 2013
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION
193,223

Denton County pie chart: 12%, 53%, 8%, 26%

CENTER *for* PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES • TEXAS KIDS COUNT PROJECT
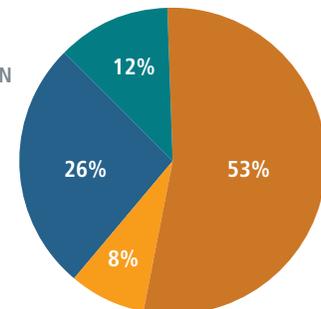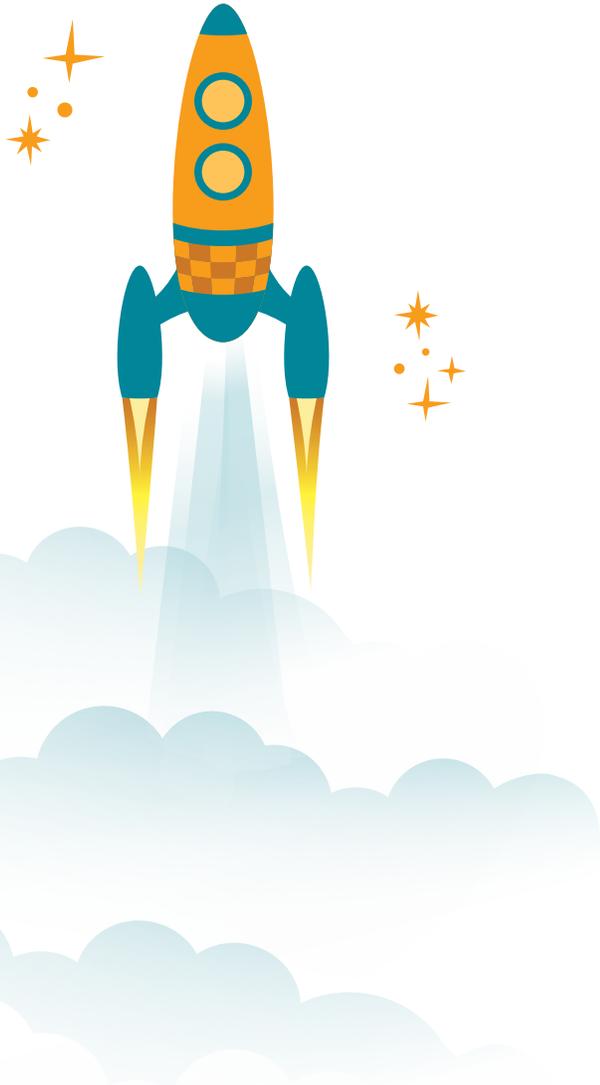
THE PAST: Dallas and Collin Counties have experienced the largest shifts in child population count; Rockwall and Collin Counties have experienced the fastest growth.

Dallas metro area percent Change in Child Population, 1990-2010[5]

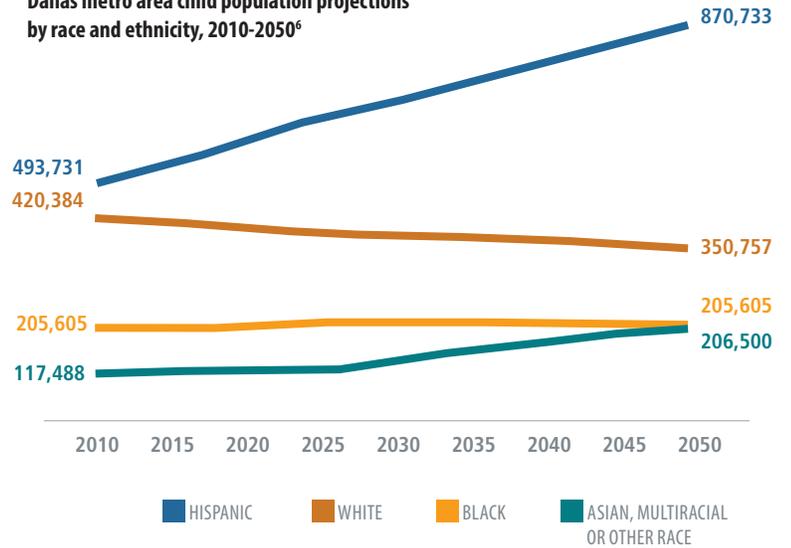| County	Percent
Denton	147%
Collin	194%
Hunt	26%
Rockwall	213%
Dallas	32%
Kaufman	94%
Ellis	64%

Legend:
- Up to 50%
- 51% to 100%
- 101% to 200%
- Greater than 200%
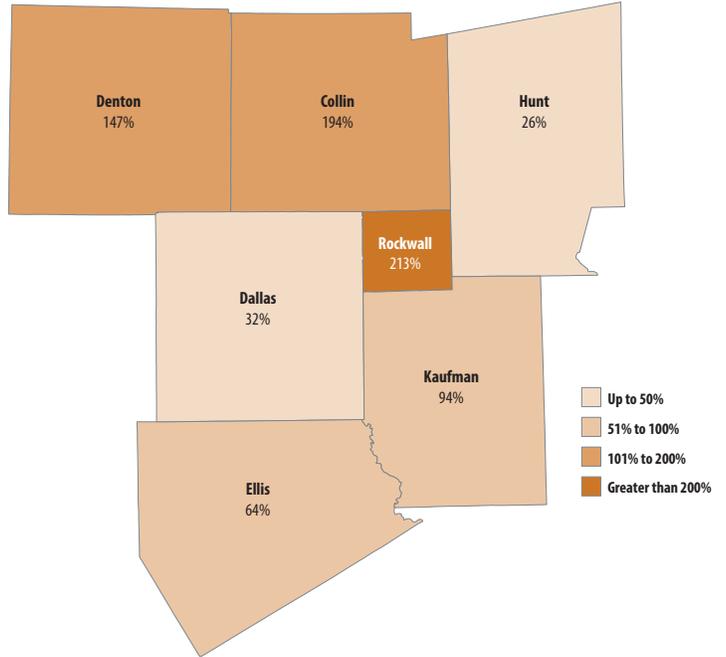
THE FUTURE: Across the seven-county Dallas metro area, the populations of Hispanic, Asian and multiracial children are projected to increase the fastest.

Dallas metro area child population projections by race and ethnicity, 2010-2050[6]

Hispanic: 493,731 → 870,733
White: 420,384 → 350,757
Black: 205,605 → 205,605
Asian, multiracial or other race: 117,488 → 206,500

Years: 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, 2045, 2050

Legend:
- HISPANIC
- WHITE
- BLACK
- ASIAN, MULTIRACIAL OR OTHER RACE

PLACE, RACE & POVERTY

Dallas' history, like many Texas cities, has been influenced by a mix of federal policy, discriminatory local laws and practices, and racially-motivated violence that have created and maintained deep divides in child well-being. In 1940, the city's 50,407 Black residents lived in segregated neighborhoods that covered only 3.5 square miles of the city. Both Black and Latino students attended segregated and under-resourced schools. In the 1940s and 50s, housing and education policies and practices created a largely White middle class in Dallas. These practices bypassed families of color, as Blacks and Latinos were systematically denied home and business loans, admission to colleges and job-training programs, and home sales. In the 1960s and 70s, tens of thousands of White Dallas residents continued to relocate to the suburbs, followed by major businesses, depleting the tax base in the urban center for services such as public safety, sanitation, transportation, parks and libraries, and requiring higher property taxes to make up the difference.[7]

These policies and practices may be from Dallas' past, but they still have a profound effect on the present. Current policies and practices do not undo past injustices, and barriers in housing, employment and education contribute to far too many children living in poverty and troubling disparities by race and ethnicity. Today, more than one of every three Hispanic and Black children in Dallas County lives in poverty.[8]

Research has found that the "neighborhood effects" of living in high-poverty areas influence not just children in low-income families, but all children who live in the area, including children who do not live in poverty themselves.[9] Neighborhoods of concentrated poverty can isolate residents from resources and opportunities. **Thirty-seven percent of children in Dallas live in high-poverty neighborhoods. Black and Hispanic children are more likely to live in high-poverty neighborhoods than Asian or White children.[10]**

Both racial and income segregation are strongly connected to lower rates of economic mobility for all. The more a place is segregated by race and income, the worse the chances of escaping poverty—whether you are White, Black, Hispanic or Asian. The segregation of a place exerts its own effect on the upward mobility of all individuals in the area. Children who live in more segregated areas have less economic mobility than children who live in less segregated areas.[11]

White children in Dallas County are more likely to live in low-poverty areas, while Black and Latino children are more likely to live in moderate-to-high-poverty areas.[12]
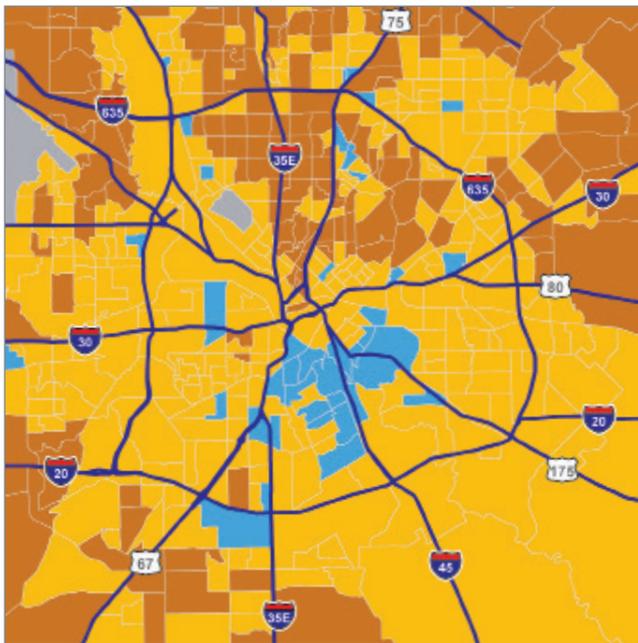
No Data
Lower-Poverty
Moderate-to-High Poverty
Highest-Poverty

**Dallas County Total Poverty Rate by Census Tract, 2010-2014[13]**
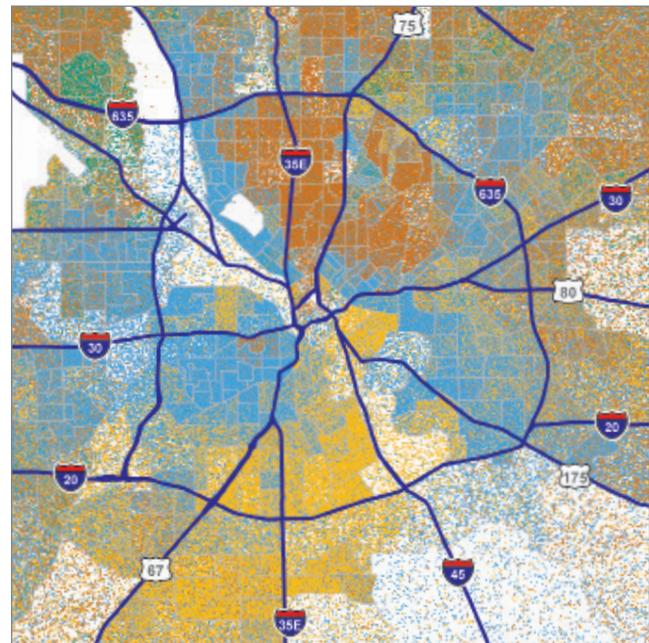
White
Asian/Pacific Islander
Black
Hispanic
Multirace & Other Race/Ethnicity

Dallas County Child Population by Race/Ethnicity Census Tracts, 2010 (dot = 1 child)[14]

Gender, family structure and race/ethnicity all influence the likelihood of living in poverty. Dallas County's single-parent families are more likely to live in poverty than married-couple families, and those poverty rates for single parents differ by gender and race. Single-mother families in Dallas County are nearly twice as likely to live in poverty as single-father families. Nearly half of single-mother families who are Hispanic live in poverty, compared to 24 percent of single-mother families who are White. And two-parent Hispanic families in Dallas County are more likely to live in poverty than single-father families who are White.[15]
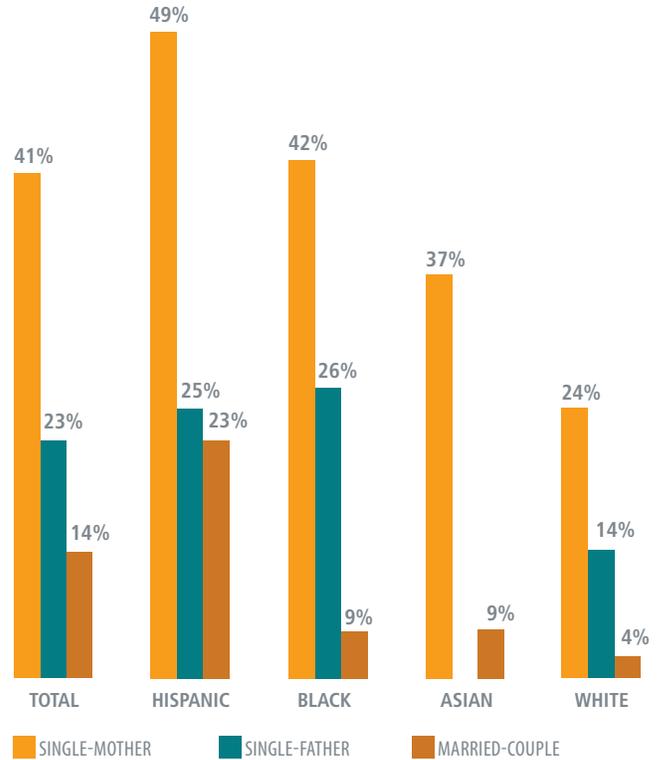
White households with children in Dallas County generally have much greater financial resources.

Dallas County median income of households with children, by race of householder, 2014[17]

WHITE
$100,000

ASIAN
$85,000

BLACK
$40,000

HISPANIC
$38,000
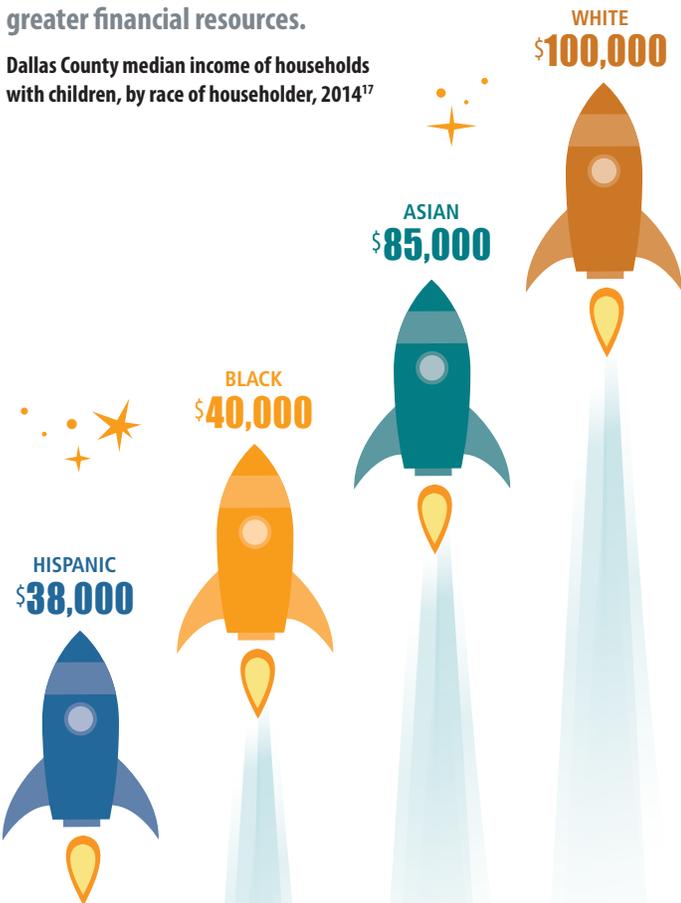
Gender, race and family type affect the likelihood of living in poverty.

Dallas County poverty rate, by family type and race/ethnicity, 2010-2014[16]

	TOTAL	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	WHITE
SINGLE-MOTHER	41%	49%	42%	37%	24%
SINGLE-FATHER	23%	25%	26%		14%
MARRIED-COUPLE	14%	23%	9%	9%	4%

Note: Data on poverty rates for single-father Asian families are not statistically reliable and therefore not reported. Differences between Hispanic married-couple and single-father poverty rates are not statistically significant.

Dallas County's child poverty rates are far too high, with wide disparities by race and ethnicity.

Dallas County child poverty rates, 2014[18]

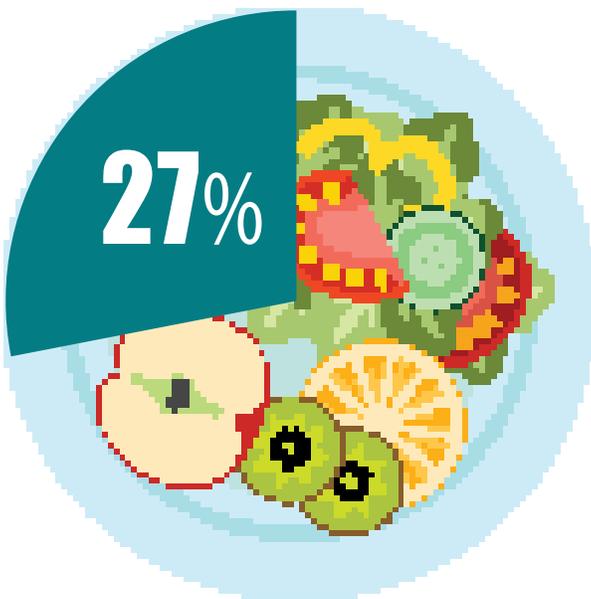| WHITE	ASIAN	BLACK	HISPANIC	TOTAL
14%	18%	34%	35%	30%
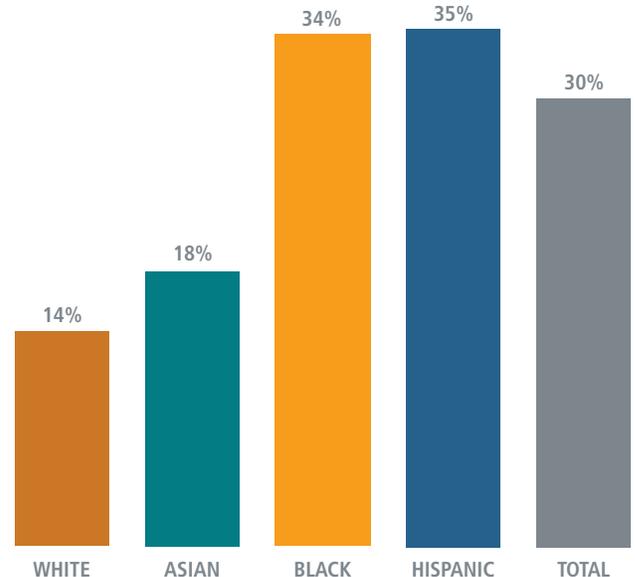
HEALTH

Race, place and poverty also affect children's health. Raising healthy children is about more than just encouraging kids to eat vegetables and exercise. Health is also about making sure kids can access healthy meals regularly, live in safe environments, receive preventive health care, and see a doctor when they need to, across race, ethnicity, language or family income.

Food insecurity

An estimated 27 percent of children (or 179,020 children) in Dallas County are food-insecure, meaning they lack consistent access to enough food for a healthy diet.[19] Food insecurity is a symptom of economic instability. When families struggle financially, too often little money is left for food, increasing the chance that kids go hungry. When growing children lack essential nutrients, they can experience delays in physical, intellectual and emotional growth.[20] Hungry children have a harder time focusing in school and are more likely to have social and behavioral problems.[21] Research shows Black and Hispanic children in Texas have rates of food insecurity exceeding 30 percent.[22]
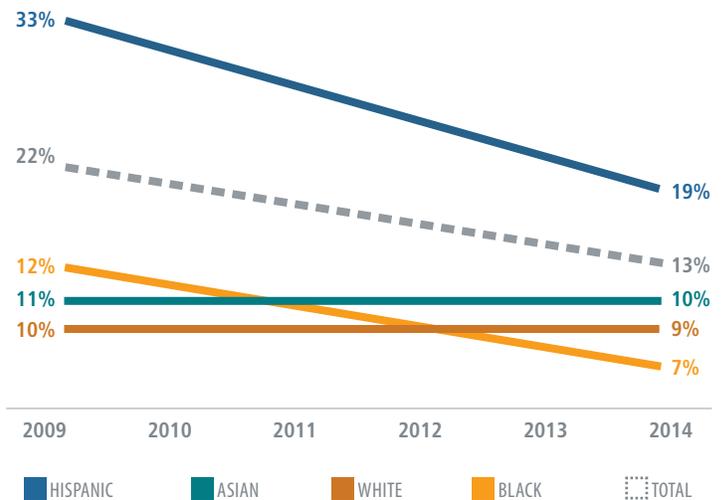
Access to health care

Health coverage for children has improved in Dallas County, and improved the most for Black and Hispanic children.[24] However, Hispanic children are still the most likely to be uninsured,[25] and the vast majority of uninsured Hispanic children are native to the U.S. (85 percent).[26] One barrier is jobs that do not offer affordable insurance to families.[27] Hispanic children are the least likely to be covered through their parents' employers even though their parents have employment rates similar to, or even higher than, other racial/ethnic groups.[28] Research shows that expanding coverage to low-income parents could improve rates even more.[29]

Twenty-seven percent of children in Dallas County lack consistent access to adequate food.

Rate of child food insecurity in Dallas County, 2013[23]

Reflecting improvement for Latino and Black children, child uninsured rates have improved. Still, nearly one in five Latino children in Dallas County lack health insurance.

Dallas County child uninsured rates by race/ethnicity, 2009-2014[30]

Note: The difference between 2014 White and Asian uninsured rates is not statistically significant, nor is the change between those rates from 2009 to 2014.
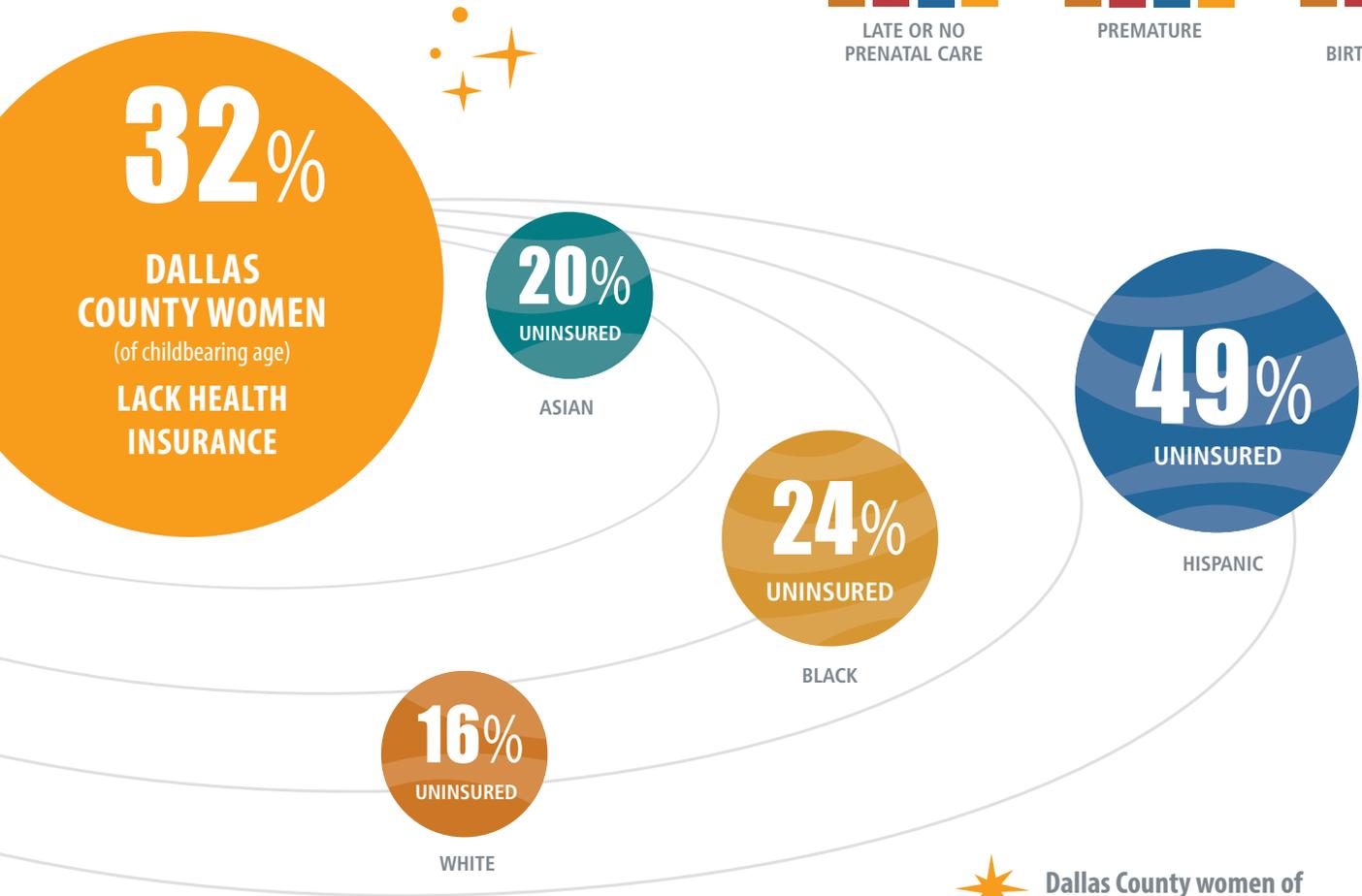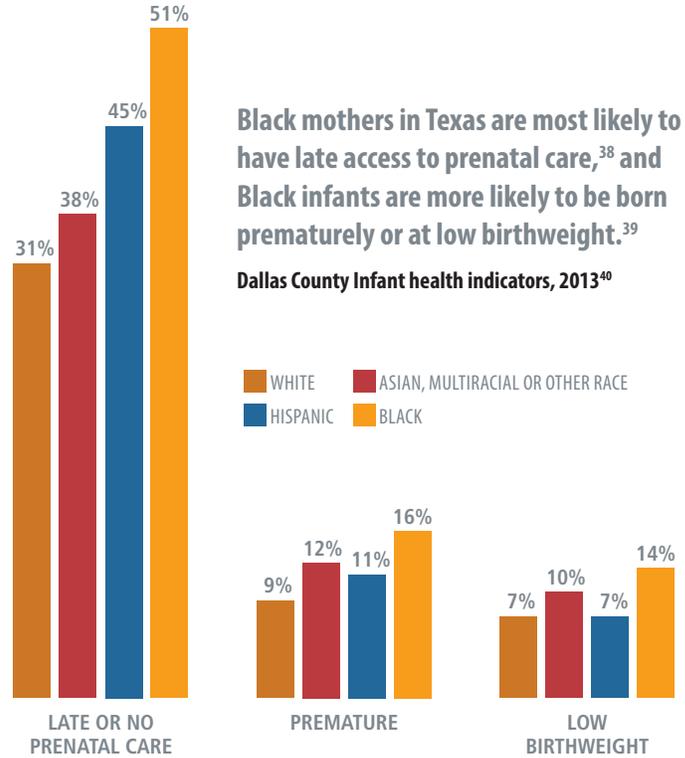
Maternal and infant health

Overall health and health care access for women before, during and after pregnancy is critical to babies' health. Nearly one of every three women (175,000+) in Dallas County between the ages of 15 and 44 lacks health insurance. The likelihood of being uninsured as a woman of childbearing age differs based on race and ethnicity,[31] and can lead to delayed or inconsistent care should a woman become pregnant.[32]

The most common barriers reported by Texas mothers with late or no prenatal care are being uninsured, not having enough money for the appointment, and not being able to book an appointment.[33] Black mothers in Texas are most likely to have late access to prenatal care.[34] Research also shows that mothers' chronic stress increases the risk of low birthweight and preterm births.[35] In Dallas County, Black infants are more likely to be born prematurely or at low birthweight.[36] Prematurity and low birthweight can both increase the risk of physical and cognitive developmental delays.[37]

Black mothers in Texas are most likely to have late access to prenatal care,[38] and Black infants are more likely to be born prematurely or at low birthweight.[39]

Dallas County Infant health indicators, 2013[40]

Legend:
- WHITE
- ASIAN, MULTIRACIAL OR OTHER RACE
- HISPANIC
- BLACK

LATE OR NO PRENATAL CARE
- White: 31%
- Asian, multiracial or other race: 38%
- Hispanic: 45%
- Black: 51%

PREMATURE
- White: 9%
- Asian, multiracial or other race: 12%
- Hispanic: 11%
- Black: 16%

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT
- White: 7%
- Asian, multiracial or other race: 10%
- Hispanic: 7%
- Black: 14%

32%
DALLAS COUNTY WOMEN
(of childbearing age)
LACK HEALTH INSURANCE

20% UNINSURED
ASIAN

24% UNINSURED
BLACK

49% UNINSURED
HISPANIC

16% UNINSURED
WHITE

Dallas County women of childbearing age (ages 15-44) who are uninsured, 2014[41]

EDUCATION

Every kid in Dallas deserves an education that helps her reach her full potential. And we know that different students need different resources and supports to be successful. However, today our education system often struggles to provide equitable opportunities for all children, threatening their futures and our collective economic security.

School funding matters for Dallas kids.

As the courts have decided repeatedly, Texas' school finance system does not meet its constitutional obligation to adequately fund public education. The majority of school funding comes from local property taxes that are generated based on the value of property within school districts. That means school districts that include homes or businesses with high property values can generate more tax money than school districts that include homes or businesses with lower property values. And because property values are lower in poorer neighborhoods, tax rates are often higher, in order to make up the difference. The three ISDs with the highest property wealth in Dallas County serve a student population that is 58 percent White, 25 percent Asian, 10 percent Hispanic and 3 percent Black, while the three ISDs with the lowest property wealth serve a student population that is 14 percent White, 2 percent Asian, 55 percent Hispanic and 27 percent Black.[42]
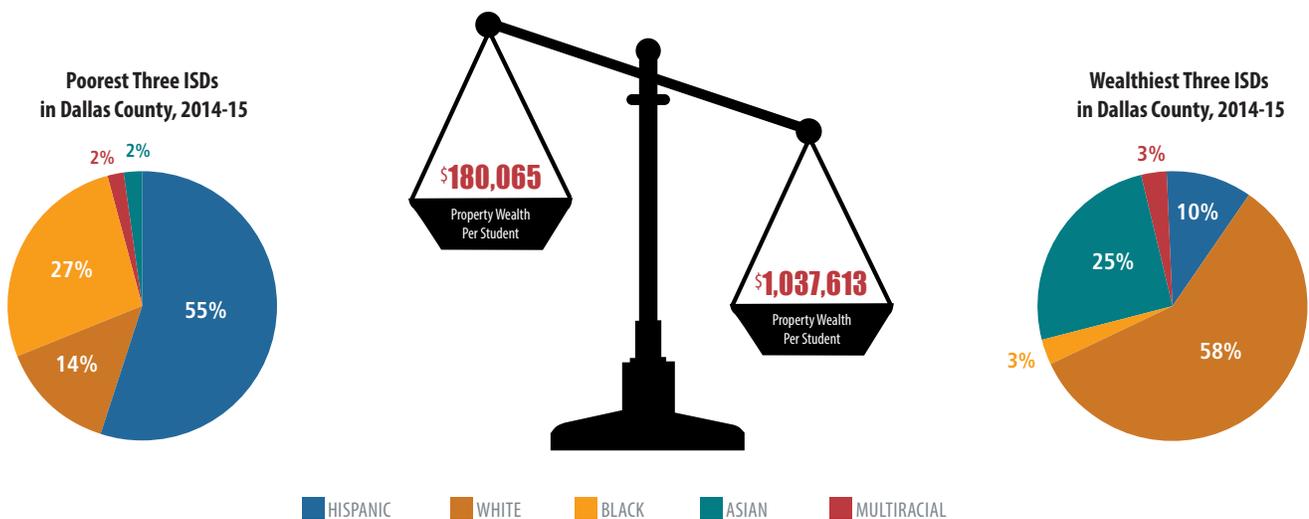
Two issues related to school funding tend to disproportionately affect Black and Hispanic students: instability in a school's teacher workforce and teacher experience. Unstable staffing can negatively affect school climate,[43] educational performance,[44] and school finances.[45] Schools with high turnover rates result in a larger share of inexperienced teachers.[46] Beginning teachers tend to be less effective in increasing student achievement in math and reading, even though they may become effective teachers later in their careers.[47]

High rates of teacher instability affect all students in Dallas County—but they are worse for Black and Hispanic students.

Dallas County students attending schools with more than 20 percent teacher turnover, 2014-15[48]

77% BLACK	71% HISPANIC
56% WHITE	55% ASIAN
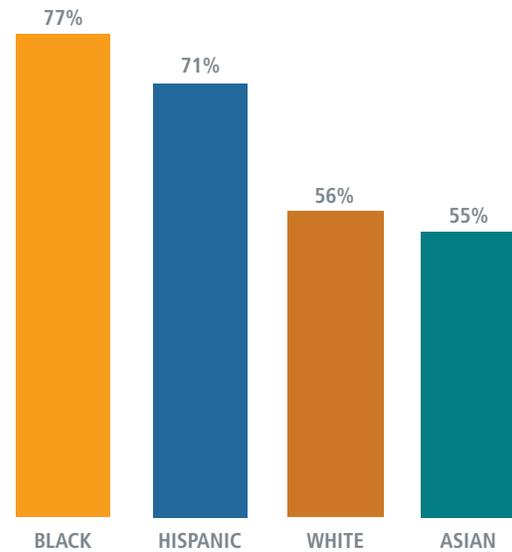
Property wealth varies enormously among Dallas County's school districts, so the state must help provide more equitable funding.[49]

Poorest Three ISDs in Dallas County, 2014-15

55% · 14% · 27% · 2% · 2%

$180,065
Property Wealth Per Student

$1,037,613
Property Wealth Per Student

Wealthiest Three ISDs in Dallas County, 2014-15

10% · 58% · 3% · 25% · 3%

■ HISPANIC   ■ WHITE   ■ BLACK   ■ ASIAN   ■ MULTIRACIAL

Race, ethnicity and economic need are strongly connected in Dallas County's public schools.

Race, ethnicity and economic need in schools are strongly connected and tend to follow patterns of residential segregation and poverty concentration constructed by decades of policy choices and individual behaviors.[50] Racial and income segregation are connected to inequitable school resources and academic opportunities.[51] Research shows that, in general, students in high-poverty schools have less access to effective teachers.[52] High-poverty schools also serve more students who are more likely to face out-of-school challenges that create barriers to learning, such as housing instability,[53] food insecurity,[54] and lack of access to health care.[55] Black and Hispanic students in Dallas County are much more likely to be enrolled in high-poverty districts (where more than 75 percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunch) than White and Asian children.[56]

Although low-income students face additional barriers, high-poverty districts can and do perform well. One important indicator of educational achievement is high school graduation. There are many measures of high school success but under any measure, districts in Dallas County have improved graduation rates for nearly all racial and ethnic groups of students. But as the data show, we can still do more to support the success of Hispanic and Black students.[58]

Black and Hispanic students in Dallas County are much more likely to be enrolled in high-poverty districts.

Share of Dallas County students in each racial/ethnic group enrolled in high-poverty school districts, 2014-15[57]
(Districts with >75% students qualifying for free/reduced lunch)

HISPANIC	BLACK	WHITE	ASIAN
59%	50%	18%	15%
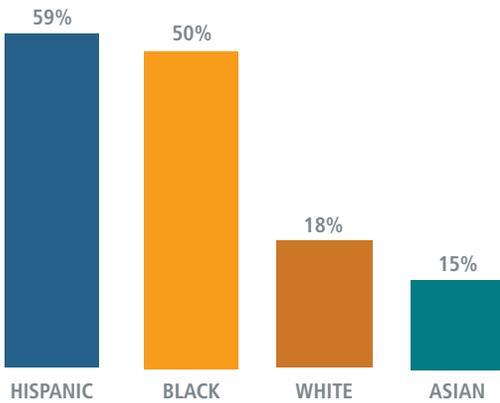
Districts in Dallas County have made progress on supporting high school graduation, but still need to close the gaps for Hispanic and Black students.

Dallas County High School Completion Rates by race/ethnicity, 2009-2014[59]

ASIAN · WHITE · MULTIRACIAL · HISPANIC · BLACK · TOTAL
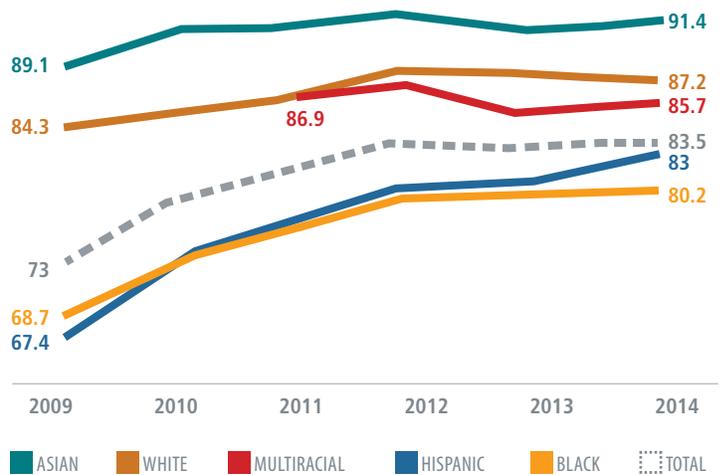
CONCLUSION

The Dallas area can be a place where every child has the basic building blocks—health, education and financial security—to reach his or her full potential. Accomplishing this depends on enacting smart public policies and practices that develop the capabilities in all kids.

Equity in child well-being—by race, ethnicity, income and gender—should be a value reflected by our decisions, and a goal we all work towards. Dallas has already been a leader in Texas by focusing on reducing poverty and holding serious community conversations about equity. Dallas can continue to build on this strong movement by not only creating strong, equity focused policies at the local level, but also using its strength of experience and influence to ensure that legislators support their efforts at the state level, too.

By raising the bar and closing the gaps in child well-being across race, ethnicity, income and gender, Dallas can capitalize on the strengths of its diverse child population, keeping it one of the most dynamic cities in the U.S.

ENDNOTES

1. We generally use the term "White" for "Non-Hispanic White" or "Anglo" and "Black" for "Black" or "African-American." "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably as a separate category, mutually exclusive of the racial categories "White" and "Black."

2. Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of child population data. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Total Child Population. http://bit.ly/1pFYUu4

3. Metropolitan areas are defined by the Office of Management and Budget and contain a core urban area of at least 50,000 population and adjacent counties with a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. For more information and current delineations, visit http://www.census.gov/population/metro/

4. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Child population by race/ethnicity. http://bit.ly/1RBAbAT

5. Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of child population data by race/ethnicity. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center. Child Population by race/ethnicity. http://bit.ly/1RBAbAT

6. Texas State Data Center. Child population projections. [Data file]. http://osd.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections/

7. Phillips, M. (2006). White metropolis: Race, ethnicity, and religion in Dallas, 1841-2001. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.

8. Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates). Table C17001B and C17001I.

9. Galster, G. (2010). The mechanism(s) of neighborhood effects. http://clas.wayne.edu/multimedia/usercontent/File/Geography%20and%20Urban%20Planning/G.Galster/St_AndrewsSeminar-Mechanisms_of_neigh_effects-Galster_2-23-10.pdf.

10. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Children living in high poverty areas (by city): http://bit.ly/1Ro759g; Children living in areas of concentrated poverty by race and ethnicity. http://bit.ly/22V2NKr

11. Chetty, R., Hendren, N., Kline, P., & Saez, E. (2014). Where is the land of opportunity? The geography of intergenerational mobility in the U.S. Full study: Quarterly Journal of Economics 129(4): 1553-1623, 2014 Executive Summary: http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/images/Geography%20Executive%20Summary%20and%20Memo%20January%202014.pdf

12. Center for Public Priorities analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates). Table DP03 and 2010 Decennial Census, Summary File 1.

13. U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates). Table DP03.

14. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census. Summary File 1.

15. Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates), Tables B17010, B17010I, B17010H, B17010D and B17010B.

16. Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates), Tables B17010, B17010I, B17010H, B17010D and B17010B.

17. Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample.

18. U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates). Table C17001, C17001B, C17001D, C17001H, C17001I.

19. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Child food insecurity. http://bit.ly/1RLGgh8

20. Child Trends Databank. (2014). Food Insecurity. http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=foodinsecurity

21. Child Trends Databank. (2014). Food Insecurity. http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=foodinsecurity

22. Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data. Three-year averages from 2012, 2013 and 2014 Food Security Supplements.

23. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Child food insecurity. http://bit.ly/1RLGgh8

24. Center for Public Priorities analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 - 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Tables B27001, B27001B, B27001D, B27001H, B27001I.

25. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Children without health insurance by race and ethnicity. http://bit.ly/1TeLQrL

26. Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 Current Population Survey data.

27. Kaiser Commission on the Medicaid and the Uninsured. (2013). Health coverage for the Hispanic population today and under the Affordable Care Act. Washington, DC: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. https://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/84321.pdf

28. Child Trends' and Population Reference Bureau's analysis of Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample.

29. United State Government Accountability Office. (2011). Medicaid and CHIP. Given the association between parent and child insurance status, new expansions may benefit families. http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11264.pdf See also Dubay, L, & Kenney, G. (2003). Expanding public health insurance to parents. Health Services Research, 38(5), 1283-1302.

30. U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 - 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B27001, B27001B, B27001D, B27001H, B27001I.

31. Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample.

32. Okeke, N., Saxton, D., & Mandell, D.J. (2013). 2011 Annual report: Texas Pregnancy risk assessment monitoring system. Austin, TX: Division for family and community health services, Texas Department of State Health Services. http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mch/

33. Okeke, N., Saxton, D., & Mandell, D.J. (2013). 2011 Annual report: Texas Pregnancy risk assessment monitoring system. Austin, TX: Division for family and community health services, Texas Department of State Health Services. http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mch/

34. Okeke, N., Saxton, D., & Mandell, D.J. (2013). 2011 Annual report: Texas Pregnancy risk assessment monitoring system. Austin, TX: Division for family and community health services, Texas Department of State Health Services. http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mch/

35. Guttmacher Institute. (2007). Infants' low birth weight is linked to low-income mothers' chronic stress. Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health 39 (3). https://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/3918207b.html See also Child Trends Data Bank. (2015). Preterm Births. http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=preterm-births

36. Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of Department of State Health Services Data. [Data File.] http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/VitalStatistics/Birth

37. Child Trends DataBank. (2015). Low and very low birthweight infants. http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=low-and-very-low-birthweight-infants

38. Okeke, N., Saxton, D., & Mandell, D.J. (2013). 2011 Annual report: Texas Pregnancy risk assessment monitoring system. Austin, TX: Division for family and community health services, Texas Department of State Health Services. http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mch/

39. Center for Public Policy Priorities analysis of Department of State Health Services Data. [Data File.] http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/VitalStatistics/Birth

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