



2022 ACS 1-YEAR ESTIMATES

POVERTY AND INCOME IN TEXAS

NOTE ON DATA COLLECTION, SURVEY INSTRUMENTS, AND INCLUSION:

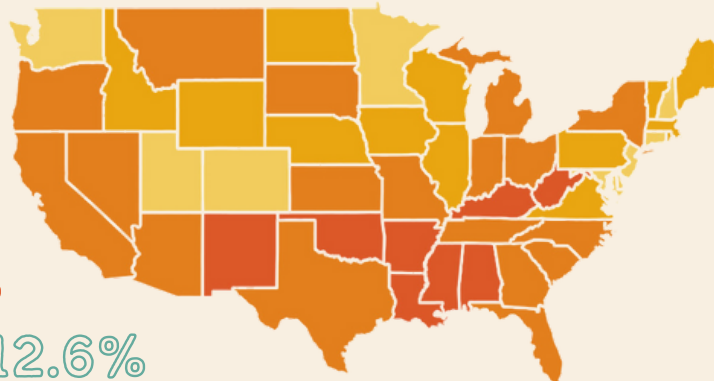
Unless otherwise noted, the data in this brief are from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Data collection efforts across many survey instruments have yet to fully include the diverse identities of Texans. Therefore, the demographic breakdown in this brief primarily reflects binary, cisgender sex-disaggregation of data, though such a binary focus excludes important information about transgender and gender-nonconforming populations. The categories of race and ethnicity also do not adequately reflect the multiracial and multiethnic populations of Texas. The primary sources for data collection in our state must evolve to be more inclusive and representative of the geographic, social, and cultural dimensions that define race and ethnicity.

POVERTY

The U.S. Census Bureau uses federal poverty thresholds to define individuals living in poverty, and considers families with incomes below these thresholds as "living below the poverty line."¹

SIZE OF FAMILY	POVERTY THRESHOLDS (TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME)
ONE PERSON (UNDER 65)	\$15, 225
FAMILY OF TWO (ONE ADULT, ONE CHILD)	\$20,172
FAMILY OF THREE (ONE ADULT, TWO CHILDREN)	\$23, 578
FAMILY OF FOUR (TWO ADULTS, TWO CHILDREN)	\$29, 678

Texas has the **10th worst** poverty rate in the nation, tying with North Carolina at 14%. Mississippi has the highest rate at 19.1%, while New Hampshire has the lowest at 7.2%.



Poverty Rate

- 7.2% to 10%
- 10% to 11.9%
- 11.9% to 14.3%
- 14.3% to 19.1%

TEXAS: 14%

NATIONAL: 12.6%

1. U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty Thresholds by Size of Family and Number of Children (2022): <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>



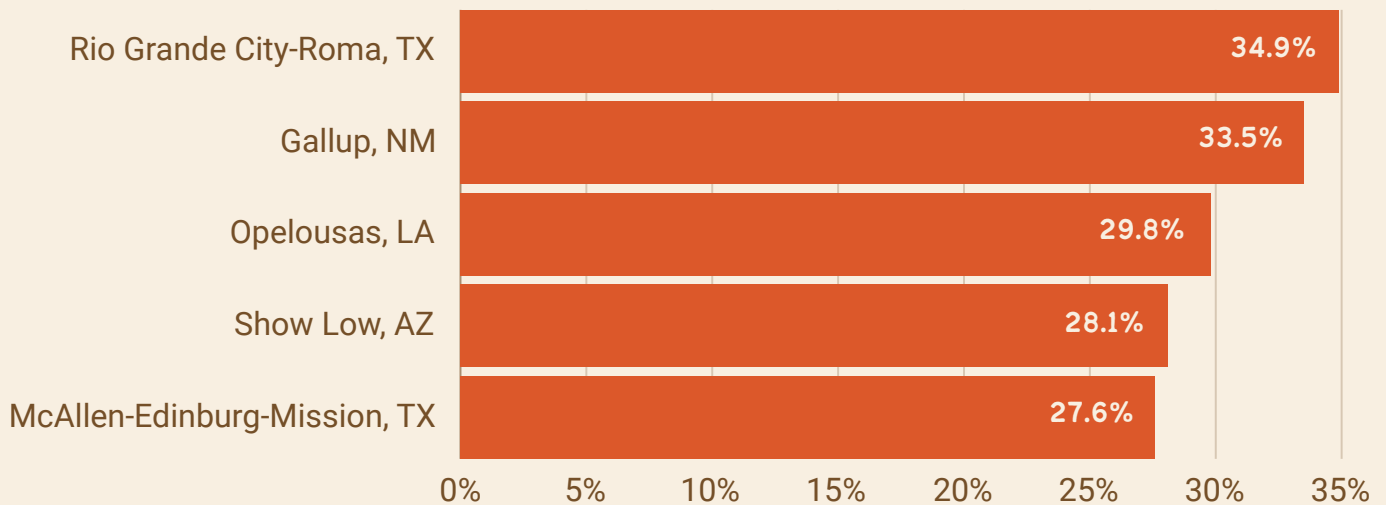
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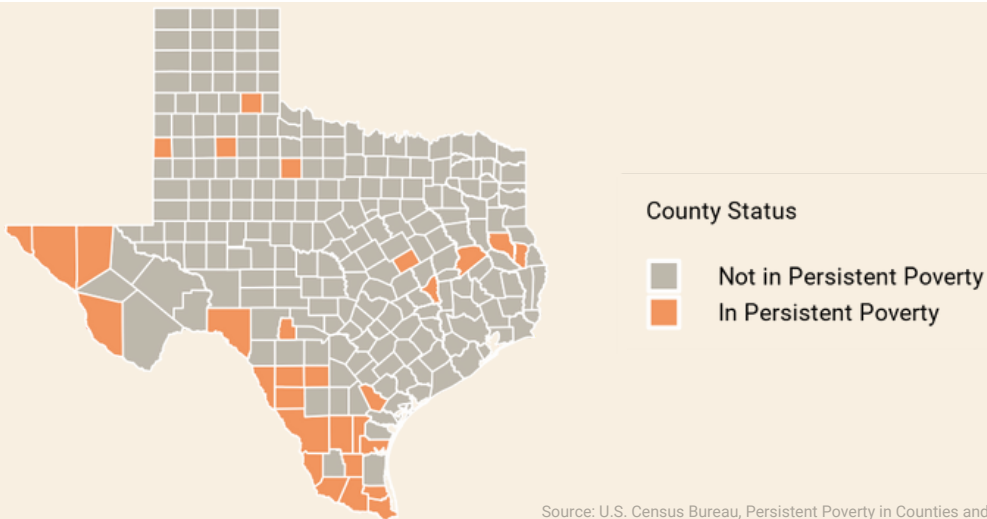
U.S. METRO AND MICRO AREAS²

The Rio Grande City-Roma Micro Area is the most economically challenged region in the state and the nation. Second in Texas is the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission region.

TWO OF THE FIVE POOREST METRO AREAS IN THE UNITED STATE ARE IN TEXAS



Between 1989 and 2019, **30 Texas counties**, primarily along or close to the U.S.-Mexico border, sustained persistent poverty rates at or above 20%.³



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Persistent Poverty in Counties and Census Tracts, May 09, 2023

2. Metropolitan Statistical (Metro) Areas and Micropolitan Statistical (Micro) Areas are geographic entities defined by the Office of Management and Budget. Metro areas include counties with community ties associated with one or more urban areas of at least 50,000 population, while Micro Areas have populations between 10,000 and 50,000. For more information: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro/about/glossary.html>

3. U.S. Census Bureau, Persistent Poverty in Counties and Census Tracts, Craig Benson, Alemayehu Bishaw, and Brian Glassman, May 09, 2023: <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2023/acs/acs-51%20persistent%20poverty.pdf>



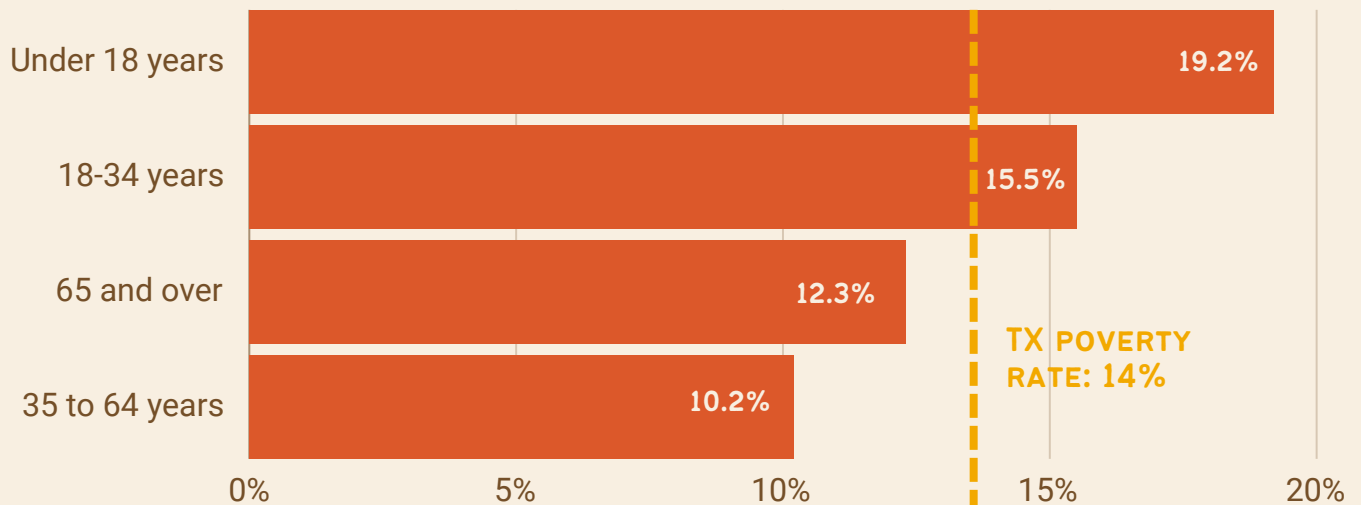
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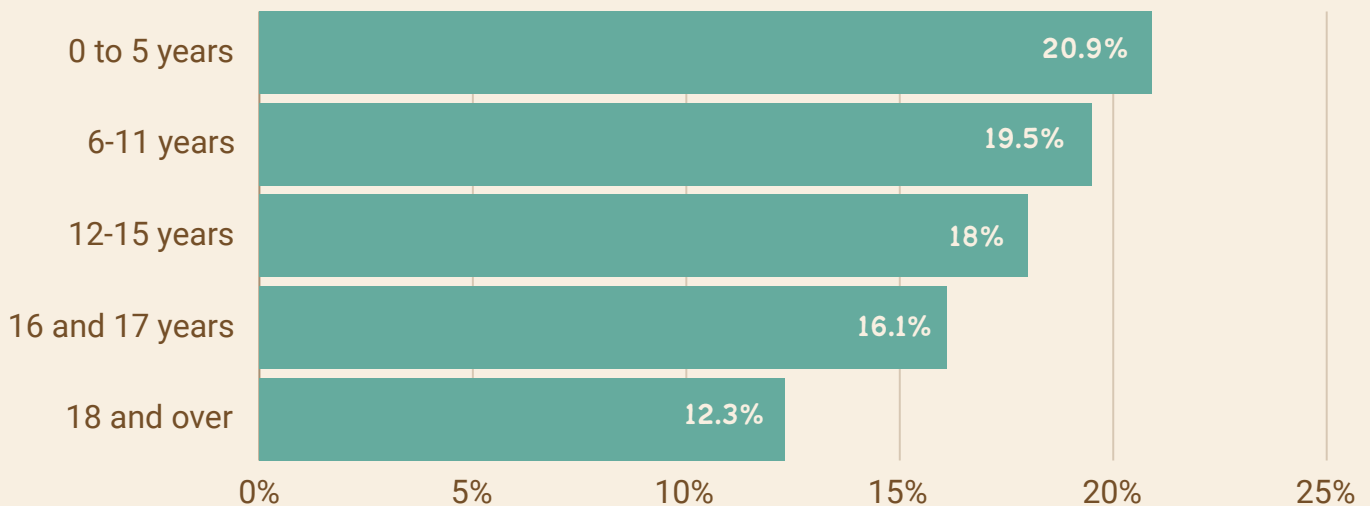
POVERTY BY AGE

Children in Texas bear the highest poverty rate in the state at **19.2%**, with those under five years old experiencing the most significant challenge at **20.9%**.

POVERTY OF RATE OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 IS 5.2 PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER THAN THE RATE OF THE ENTIRE TEXAS POPULATION



CHILDREN UNDER 5 IN TEXAS FACE A POVERTY RATE 1.7 TIMES GREATER THAN ADULTS





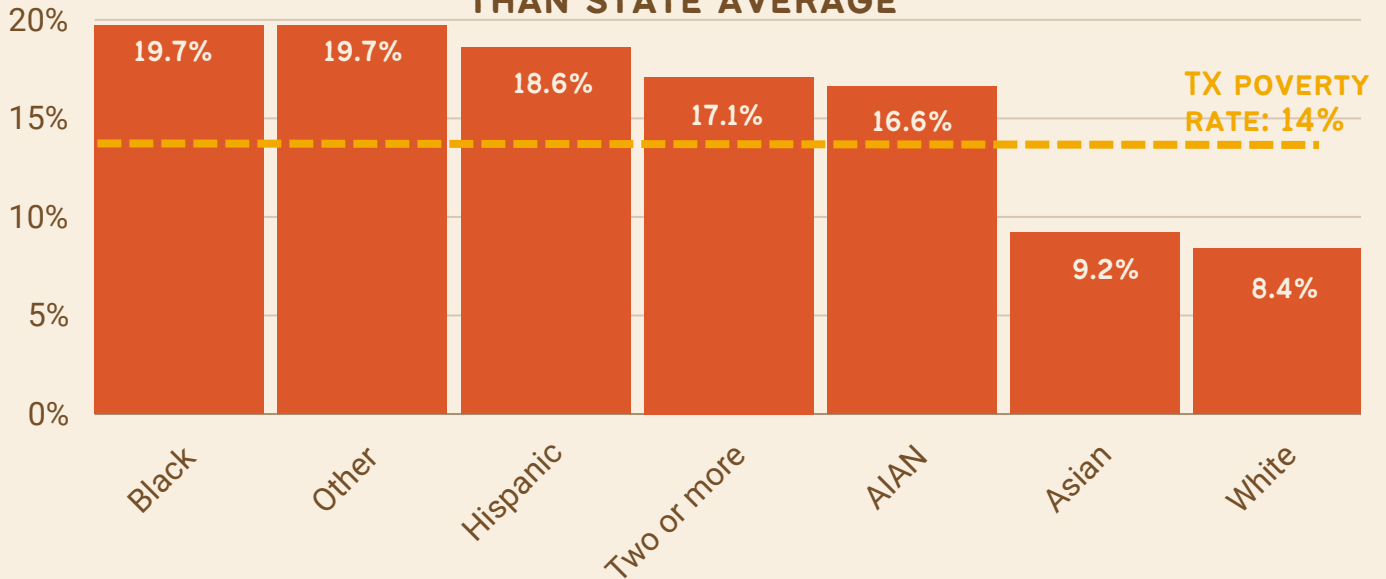
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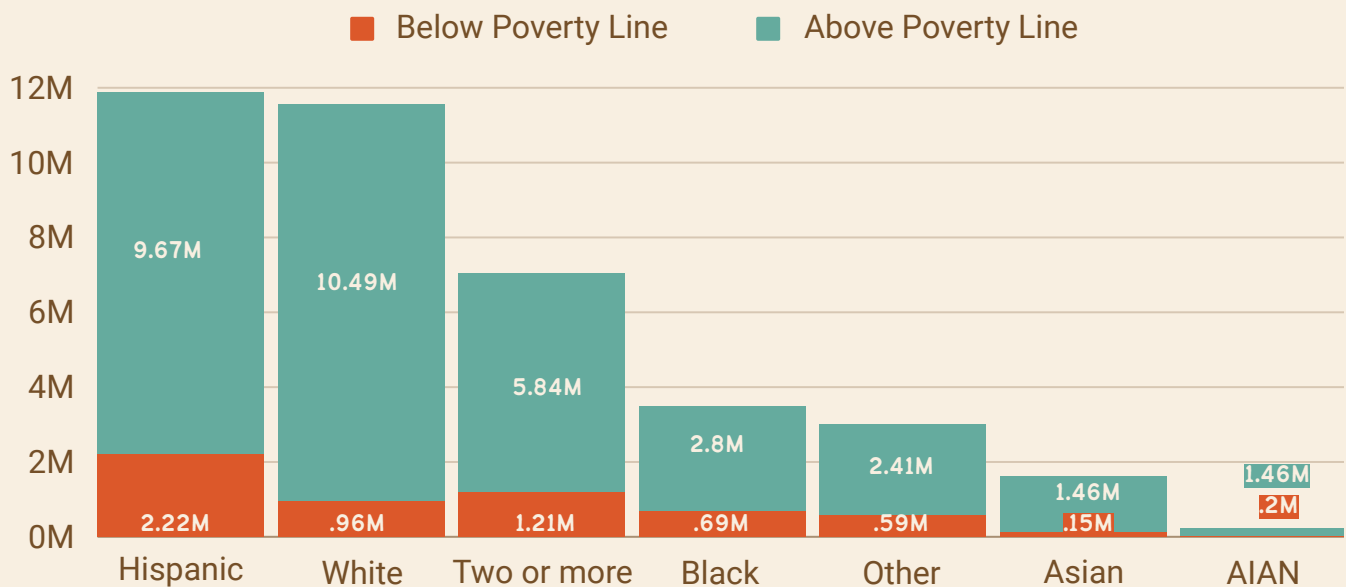
POVERTY BY RACE & ETHNICITY

Hispanic Texans (**2.22 million**) make up the largest group of individuals experiencing poverty in the state, despite having the third-highest poverty rate (**18.6%**).

MOST TEXANS OF COLOR EXPERIENCE POVERTY AT HIGHER RATES THAN STATE AVERAGE



2.22 MILLION HISPANIC TEXANS LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL





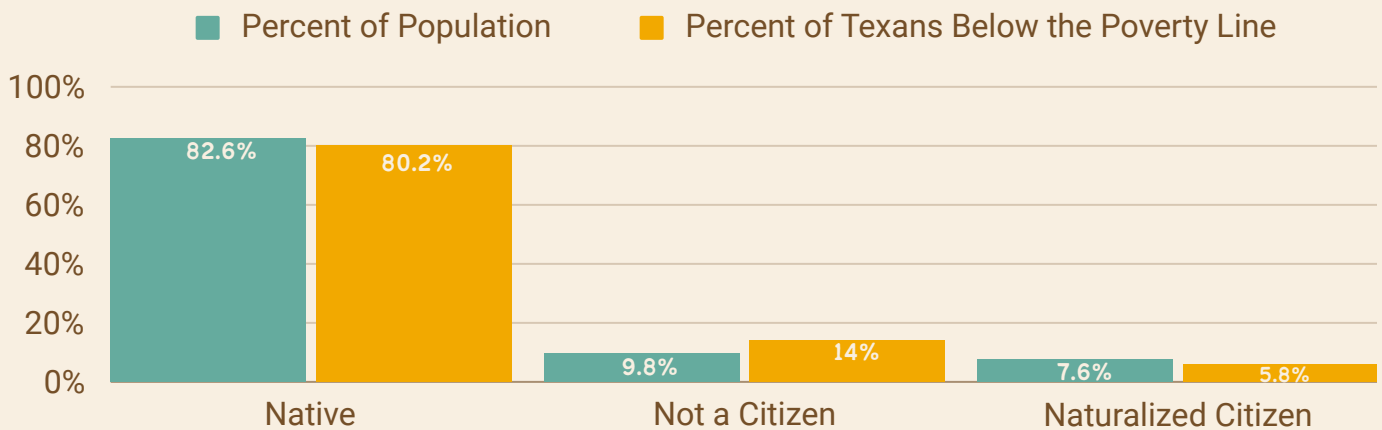
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POVERTY AND INCOME IN TEXAS

POVERTY BY NATIVITY

A large portion of those in poverty (80.2%) are native-born. However, Texans who are not citizens face a higher poverty rate (14%) compared to their percentage in the state population (9.8%).

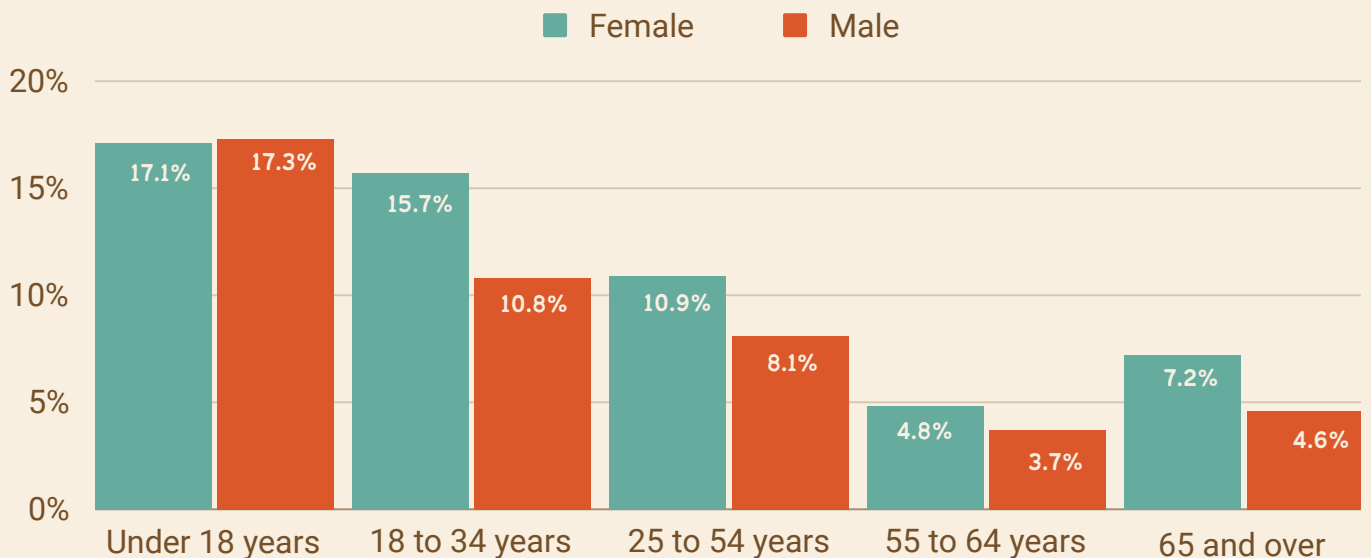
TEXANS WHO ARE NOT CITIZENS DISPROPORTIONATELY EXPERIENCE POVERTY



POVERTY BY GENDER

Among adults aged 18 and older, women are more likely to experience poverty. This is particularly evident in the 18 to 34 age bracket, where women have a poverty rate of 15.7% compared to men's 10.8%.

WOMEN OVER THE AGE OF 18 IN TEXAS ARE MORE LIKELY TO LIVE IN POVERTY COMPARED TO MEN





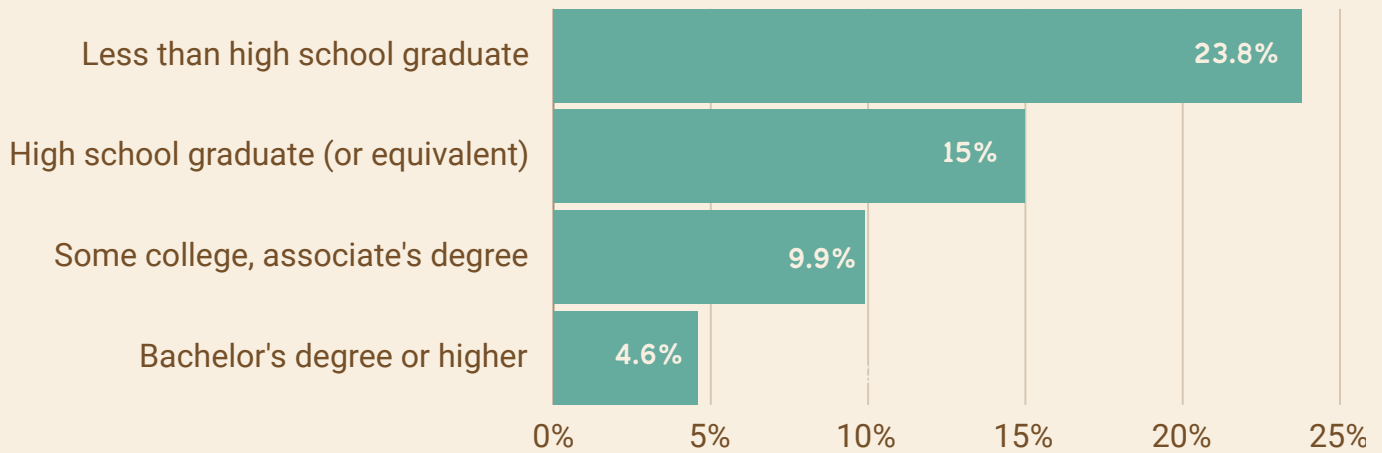
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POVERTY BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

A large portion of those in poverty (**80.2%**) are native-born. However, Texans who are not citizens face a higher poverty rate (**14%**) compared to their percentage in the state population (**9.8%**).

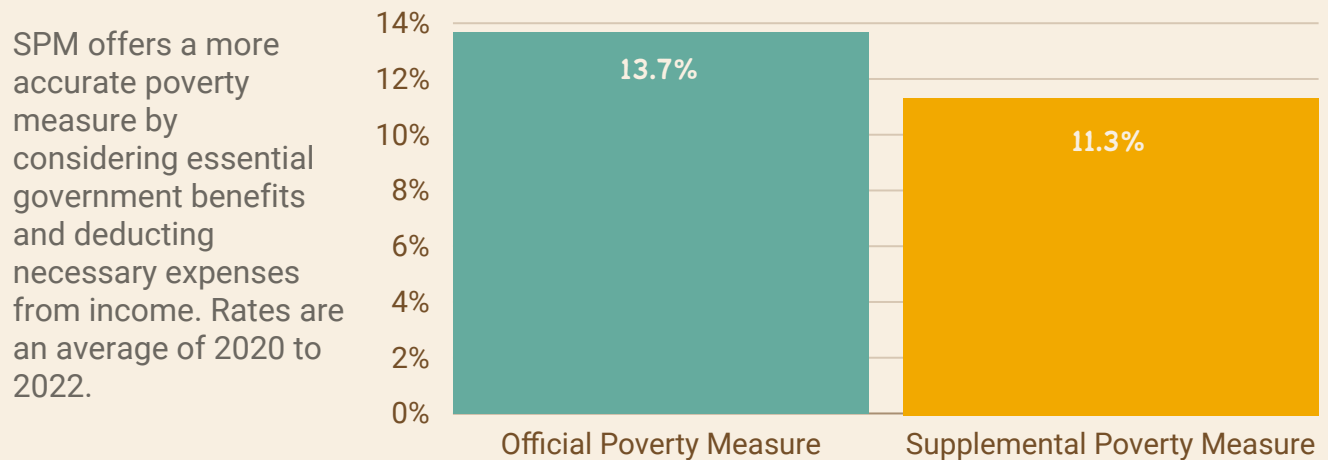
POVERTY RATES **DECLINE** AS EDUCATION ATTAINMENT **INCREASES**



SPM POVERTY RATE

Texas' supplemental poverty measure (SPM) averaged 11.3% from 2020 to 2022, surpassing the official poverty measure of 13.7%. The SPM accounts for governmental benefits (SNAP, Social Security, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Child Tax Credit) minus essential expenses related to taxes, work, health care, child care, and child support.⁴

TEXAS SUPPLEMENTAL POVERTY MEASURE RATE IS **LOWER** THAN OFFICIAL RATE



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty in the United States, Table B-5

4. U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty in the United States: 2022, Emily A. Shrider And John Creamer, September 12, 2023: <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-280.html>



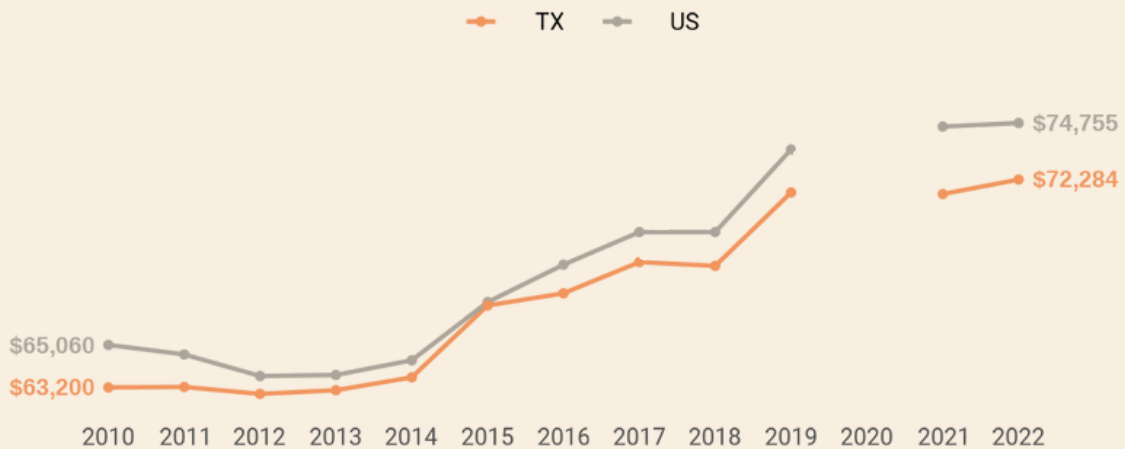
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POVERTY AND INCOME IN TEXAS

INCOME

The median household income in Texas is **\$72,284**. While median household income adjusted for inflation has increased since 2010, it consistently falls behind the national median.

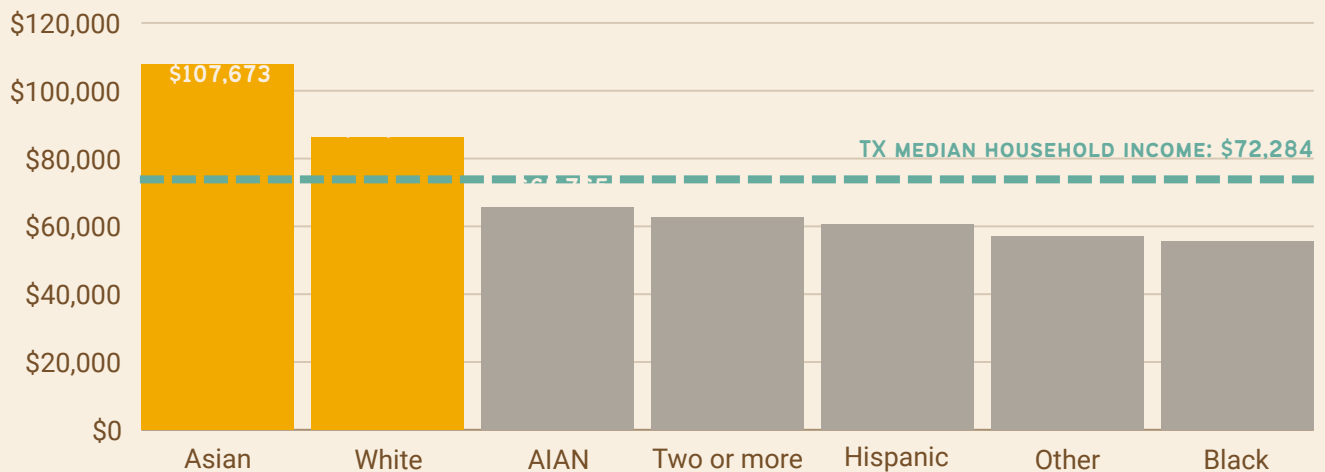
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN TEXAS HAS RISEN SINCE 2010



INCOME BY RACE & ETHNICITY

Asian households had a median income of **\$107,673** in 2022, nearly 1.5 times higher than the state median of **\$72,284**. White households followed with an income of **\$86,229**. Many households of color earn incomes below the state median.

ASIAN AND WHITE HOUSEHOLDS EARN INCOMES HIGHER THAN THE STATE MEDIAN



4. U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty in the United States: 2022, Emily A. Shrider And John Creamer, September 12, 2023: <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-280.html>

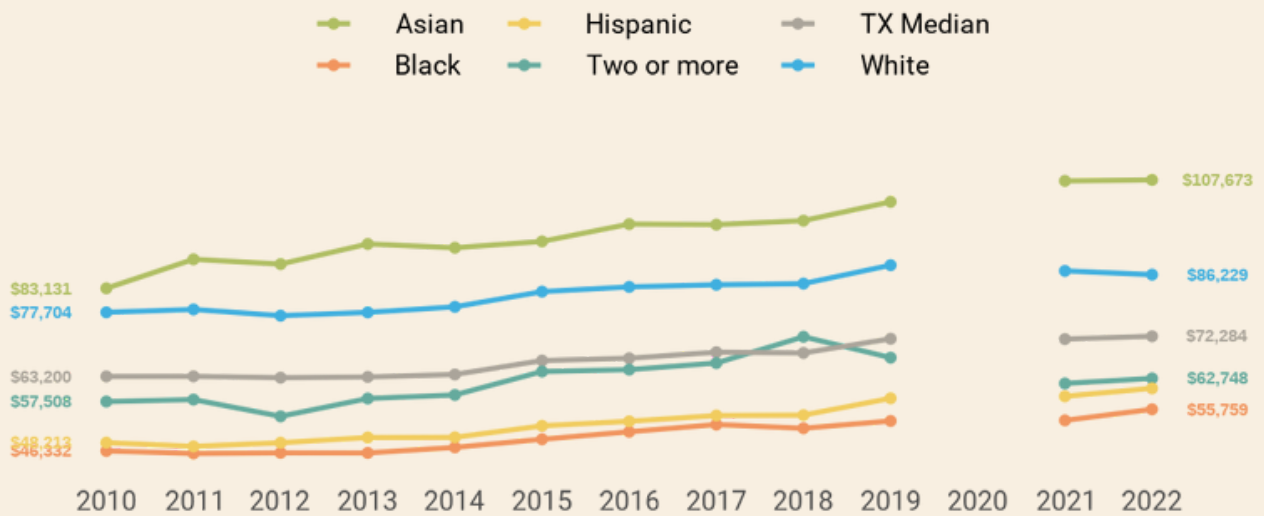


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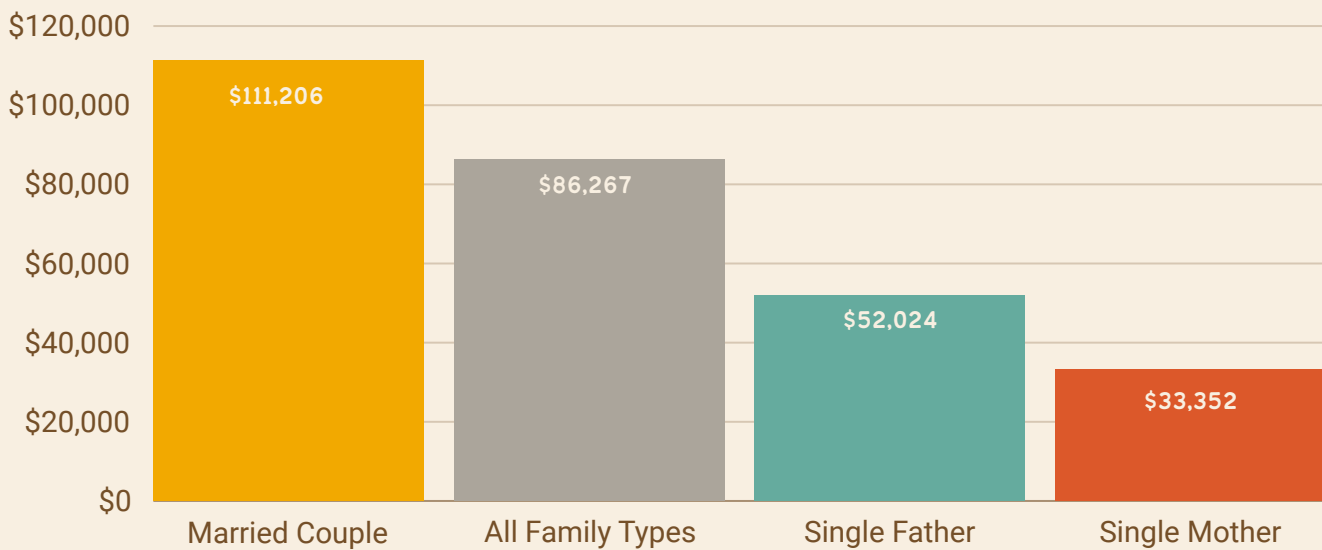
While median household income has increased across racial and ethnic groups since 2010, income disparities persist for Black, Hispanic, and multiracial households, who earn less than the state median.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME VARIES WIDELY ACROSS RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS



INCOME AND GENDER

The median income for families headed by single fathers is **\$18,000 higher** than that of families headed by single mothers.





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MEDIAN INCOME BY QUINTILES IN TEXAS AND THE U.S.

Like the rest of the nation, Texas wrestles with significant household income inequality. The wealthiest households earn 30 times more than the lowest-income households.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR THE TOP 5% IS 30X GREATER THAN THE LOWEST-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

