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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count report details trends in the well-being of children in Texas. The statistical portrait is based on indicators in the areas of: (1) family and community population; (2) economic resources, security, and opportunity; (3) early care and education; (4) school success; (5) teens at risk; (6) physical, social, and emotional health; (7) hunger and nutrition; and (8) safety and personal security. Each of these core sections includes descriptions of trend data for the state of Texas, as well as point-in-time comparisons among the six largest counties where the majority of Texans live. County rankings for nine of the indicators are appended. Among the findings of the report are the following: (1) an increase in children living in single-parent families, especially with single fathers; (2) an increase in the number of children in subsidized child care; (3) a decrease in juvenile violent crime; (4) a decrease in teen pregnancy but an increase in births to single teens; (5) improvement in infant mortality but an increase in low birth weight births; (6) decline in food stamp participation but an increase in WIC program participation; and (7) an increase in number of children in family violence shelters. (HTH)

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the State of Texas Children

2003

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation National KIDS COUNT Staff

William O'Hare, Don Crary, Megan Reynolds, Cory Anderson, Francine Brown

TEXAS KIDS COUNT

In the decade since it began, Texas KIDS COUNT has secured a unique and invaluable role, supporting individuals and organizations in their need for objective, reliable, relevant and timely data on the circumstances of children in communities throughout the state.

THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

The Center for Public Policy Priorities is a 501(c)(3) non-partisan, non-profit policy research organization committed to improving public policies and private practices that influence the economic and social prospects and conditions of individuals, families, and communities.

Dear Reader,

A wise person once said, "The seed of action is thought."

If this is true, then the content and direction of our thoughts become of supreme importance. We also know that the precursor of thoughts is knowledge; without solid facts and clear information, our thoughts will be jumbled, and our actions chaotic. It is on this philosophical foundation that the Center for Public Policy Priorities and Texas KIDS COUNT is built.

We believe that in order for a better world for children to be realized, the highest quality knowledge must be brought to bear. Since 1993, Texas KIDS COUNT has collected and made public the most comprehensive database of indicators on child well-being in the state. But this information is not collected merely to be collected. It is actually the raw material from which sound and smart public policy is made.

In the absence of this book and its companion web site (factbook.cppp.org), it would be next to impossible for counties in Texas to know how their children are faring from one set of years to the next across 36 key indicators. It would be difficult to know what types of programs and policies are working, and which ones are not. And without information like this, how can Texas craft policy that truly meets the needs of its most precious treasure, its children?

I invite you to explore, enjoy, and employ this book. I think you will find it an indispensable resource for your work, a text that you refer to often for wide array of purposes. And if you find that it is useful, consider giving to Texas KIDS COUNT. In so doing, you will help guarantee that this important research will continue into the future.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

F. Scott McCown

F. Scott McCown
Executive Director

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FOREWORD

In April 1993 the Center for Public Policy Priorities and the Children's Defense Fund of Texas unveiled the first product of their major initiative, a collaboration known as Texas KIDS COUNT. T*he State of Texas Children: A County by County Fact Book* gave policy-makers, journalists, advocates, community leaders, and service providers the first-ever compilation of data on the status of children in every county in the state. With the publication of its first *Fact Book* ten years ago, Texas KIDS COUNT joined a growing network of state KIDS COUNT projects sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Today the organizational members of the KIDS COUNT network carry on research and analysis on the status of children in every state in the nation and the District of Columbia. Over the past ten years, in addition to the publication of numerous reports and policy briefs, the network of KIDS COUNT partners also has established its presence as a significant source of electronic data on child well-being, available through the Internet.

With the release of this report, *The State of Texas Children 2003*, Texas KIDS COUNT marks its tenth anniversary. Since the publication of the first Texas KIDS COUNT *Fact Book* a decade ago, the status of Texas children has improved in many areas, while declining in others. Later in this report you'll read about these changes and their implications. Yet, one circumstance that was true in 1993 remains so roday. Too many Texas children face significant hardships that undermine their physical and emotional health, their ability to learn and achieve, and their prospects of growing into productive, fulfilled adults. As the most comprehensive provider of longitudinal data across a range of topics important to the welfare of Texas children, Texas KIDS COUNT informs planning, accountability, and advocacy to ensure the birthright of every Texas child—equal opportunity for a fair start toward a promising future.

Longtime users of Texas KIDS COUNT will notice some changes that we believe will maintain *The State of Texas Children*'s relevance while at the same time making it easier to use and more timely than ever before.

Beginning in 2003, *The State of Texas Children* will shift from biennial to annual publication. With this change, the most current available data on child well-being in Texas will appear in print more quickly and correspond more directly ro the evolving policy climate and actual events relevant to Texas children and families.

With this edition, the *Fact Book* will no longer contain the county-by-county profile pages that Texas KIDS COUNT users have come to recognize. Although the *Fact Book* will no longer contain them, users who rely upon KIDS COUNT county profiles for an inclusive overview of the status of children in each of Texas' 254 counties still will be able to view and download these through *Texas KIDS COUNT Online*. The new online county profiles feature a reader-friendly format presenting base year, current year, county rank, and percentage

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change information for each Texas KIDS COUNT indicator, along with graphs comparing the county's progress to statewide figures for every item in the KIDS COUNT database.

For several years now, all Texas KIDS COUNT indicators have been accessible through an interactive database at the *Texas KIDS COUNT Online* page (http://kidscount.cppp.org/cfdir/kidscount.cfm) maintained on the Center for Public Policy Priorities website. In the past year, we've completed significant improvements to this convenient online tool. Indicators have been updated, navigation has been streamlined, and the process for requesting data and obtaining output has been redesigned. The interactive database offers Texas KIDS COUNT users a series of very practical features. Because it operates interactively, the online KIDS COUNT database permits users to request and retrieve customized data reports that specify the exact counties, indicators, and years of interest, along with comparative information for the state of Texas as a whole if desired. Since we continually add to it as new indicator data becomes available from source agencies, the online database guarantees Texas KIDS COUNT users the most current information available on the range of topics addressed by Texas KIDS COUNT. Over the past several years, we've heard from residents throughout Texas who access KIDS COUNT data primarily through our website. We encourage readers who haven't tried or rarely use Texas KIDS COUNT's online database to explore its features.

Experienced users probably will notice our reorganization of Texas KIDS COUNT data into eight major categories—each represented by a core section in *The State of Texas Children 2003*—that encompass major factors relevant to the physical, educational, social, and emotional welfare of Texas children from infancy through adolescence. A number of indicators, such as infant mortality, child poverty, and teen pregnancy, represent outcomes actually experienced by children and their families in the state. Another series of KIDS COUNT indicators document the use of social services, such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) that together provide a critical safety net for Texas children and families in need. A third group of indicators, mostly demographic information such as total population and child population counts, offers insight into the contextual factors that influence the circumstances and prospects of our children, their families, and our communities. Although we have reorganized and renamed categories of KIDS COUNT data, users who tely on these items to document longitudinal trends should know that the KIDS COUNT database still includes the same specific indicators that we have traditionally reported. Each core section of *The State of Texas Children 2003* also introduces readers to an emerging topic in research and analysis on child well-being—such as family strengths, child and teen mental health, and teen citizenship—that we view as important, but for which no methodologically sound county-level data yet exists.

"There is no task more important, than building a world in which all of our children can grow up to realize their full potential in health, peace, and dignity."

—U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan

TEXAS KIDS COUNT DATA CATEGORIES

- Family & Community Population
- Economic Resources, Security & Opportunity
- Early Care & Education
- School Success
- Teens At Risk
- Physical, Social & Emotional Health
- Hunger & Nutrition
- Safety & Personal Security

The rest of this report begins with an Executive Summary highlighting major findings reflected in the most current Texas KIDS COUNT data. The eight core sections, corresponding to the eight primary Texas KIDS COUNT data categories, follow. Each of these core sections gives background on its topical significance for Texas children, then highlights our analysis of KIDS COUNT data for Texas and each of its largest urban counties. *The State of Texas Children 2003* concludes with a series of appendices that offer county rankings on a core set of Texas KIDS COUNT indicators.

Over the past decade Texas has experienced dramatic growth in both the size and diversity of its population. During this time the state witnessed both unparalleled prosperity and the hardships of economic bust. Alongside events of the most profound historical significance, the everyday life of Texans has gone on. In 1993, we wrote of the state of Texas children:

Many {of our} children are born with multiple strikes against them: poor health and nutrition as infants, few developmental stimuli, no positive and appropriate role models, patterns of physical and emotional abuse, and more. Many of these handicaps in turn result from poverty, a condition which afflicts one in four Texas children. The lives of these children could have turned out differently.

Despite some improvements since we first published these words, in 2003 very little about them fundamentally has changed. Ten years hence, we hope that the work of Texas KIDS COUNT, with the efforts of all concerned Texans, will make them obsolete.

Dayna Finet

Dayna Finet, Ph.D.
Director, Texas KIDS COUNT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Texas KIDS COUNT database contains eight data categories, 35 indicators—about half with multiple levels—for ten years and 254 counties. In our analysis of this sizable collection for *The State of Texas Children 2003*, we wanted to do two things. First, we wanted to find as many different ways of finding meaning in the data as we could, both for the state of Texas and for the local regions that we analyzed. And second, we wanted to coherently report on what we found, so that readers of this document could readily inrerpret our conclusions. In each of the report's core sections, you'll find our description of trend data for the state of Texas as a whole. We also present point-in-time comparisons among the six largest counties—Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis—where the vast majority of Texans live. Finally, we outline changes, for Texas and these counties, on the array of Texas KIDS COUNT indicators. Here are our conclusions about the state of Texas children.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY POPULATION

An Aging and More Diverse Texas

More Children in Single-Parent Families, Especially Single Dads

Foster Care Placements Rise Significantly

ECONOMIC RESOURCES, SECURITY & OPPORTUNITY

Child Poverty Declines But Inequities Remain

Rising Incomes Not Fully Reflected in the Texas Poverty Rate

Unemployment Rises Since 2000

Few Poor Texas Children Receive Public Assistance

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

More Children on Stare Subsidized Care

Substantial Growth in Public Pre-Kindergarren

SCHOOL SUCCESS

Texas Dropout and Equivalency Rates Fall

TAAS Scores Improve Across All Subject Areas

More Students Receiving Special Education and Bilingual Services

TEENS AT RISK

Juvenile Violent Crime Down From Mid-1990s Peak

Teen Pregnancy Down Slightly But Births To Single Teens Increase Substantially

African American Teens Lead Decline in Overall Pregnancy Rate

Births to Single White and Hispanic Teens Increase

PHYSICAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Improvement in Infant Mortality While Low Birth Weight Births Get Worse

Inadequate Prenatal Care Drops Overall, But Up Slightly In Late 1990s

Child Medicaid Enrollments Decline While CHIP Participation Soars

HUNGER & NUTRITION

Decline in Food Stamp Participation Outpaces Improvement in Poverty Rare

WIC Program Usage Up

Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program Serves Half of Texas' School Students

SAFETY & PERSONAL SECURITY

Child Abuse Declines, Then Rises Again

Death Rate Declines For Texas Teens, Less For Texas Children

Racial Disparity in Child Deaths Persists, But Improves for Teen Violent Deaths

Overall, More Children in Family Violence Shelters

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Section 1:

Family & Community Population

Children's lives begin with their entry into the intricate human environments of family and community. From birth forward, other people—both family and strangers—affect children's lives in almost every imaginable way.

POPULATION CHANGE IN TEXAS

Texas children today are growing up as members of the largest, most diverse population the state has ever known. Texas has always experienced relatively rapid growth. In every decade since Texas became a state and continuing on into the present, the increase in the state's population has exceeded the rate of population growth for the nation as a whole[1]—the 2000 Census revealed a 22.8% growth rate in Texas compared to a U.S. population increase of 13.2%. The years between 1990 and 2000 witnessed the state's largest numerical population increase ever, as the Texas populace rose by almost 3.9 million people. With the release of results from the 2000 Census, Texas officially became the nation's second-largest state, following California.

In the last decade, population increased in every one of the state's 27 metropolitan statistical areas. The region along the Texas-Mexico border, the central Texas corridor between Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio, and the Houston-Galveston area saw the highest rates of growth, while the Panhandle, West Texas, and the area around Beaumont-Port Arthur grew least. Despite its vast rural geography, the state's population is largely urban. In 2000, only 15.2% of Texans lived in non-metropolitan counties while metropolitan counties claimed 84.8% of the state's population. During the 1990's the state's rural-urban gap widened, as metropolitan counties received 91.2% of Texas' overall population growth, compared to just 8.8% for non-metropolitan counties.[2]

Over the past two decades the population of Texas has grown not only in magnitude, but also in its racial and ethnic diversity. In both the 1980s and the 1990s, non-White population groups grew by much larger percentages than did the White population. As a result, the state's White population has declined proportionately while non-White groups have gained larger shares of the Texas populace overall, a development detailed in *Table 1.1*.[4]

Table 1.1
Population Change in Texas

	Percent Change 1980 to 1990	Percent Change 1990 to 2000	Percent of Total Population 1980	Percent of Total Population 1990	Percent of Total Population 2000
White	10.1	7.6	65.7	60.6	53.1
African-American	16.8	22.5	11.9	11.6	11.6
Other	88.8	81.2	1.4	2.2	3.3
Hispanic	45.4	53.7	21.0	25.6	32.0

Source: Murdock, S., et. al. (2002). *The Texas Challenge in the Twenty-First Century: Implications of Population Change for the Future of Texas.* College Station: Texas A & M University, Department of Rural Sociology.

TEXAS CHILDREN

Based on 2000 Census figures, the number of children living in the United States grew 13.7% between 1990 and 2000, from 63.7 million to 72.3 million. Texas witnessed an even larger increase in its child population. Here, the state's number of resident children rose steadily throughout the 1990s, from 4.8 million in 1990 to 5.9 million in 2000, an expansion of 21.7%.[5] Although the Texas population is aging—by 2040 nearly one in five Texas residents will be 65 or older, compared to fewer than one in ten in 2000—Texas today

remains younger than the nation overall, with a median age of 32.3 years compared to the national median age of 35.3 years.[6]

As the nation's child population increased in size, its diversity also grew, fueled by the dramatic increase in Hispanic residents. Texas even more profoundly experienced this trend, due to contrary patterns of change in the state's White and Hispanic child populations. While the proportion of White children in Texas declined from 51% in 1990 to 43% in 2000, the proportion of Hispanic children grew from 34% to 41% over the same period. The percentage of African-American children declined slightly, from 13% to 12%, between 1990 and 2000.[7] As a result, illustrated in *Table 1.2*, although White persons remained the majority racial group among adults in Texas, White children no longer counted as the majority among Texans under age 18.

FAMILIES IN TRANSITION

Children raised in single-parent families can and do succeed. Absolute differences between measures of well-being for these children and for children from two-parent households are small. Yet one-parent families face more restricted economic, social, emotional, and practical resources compared to two-parent households. These resource limitations can leave the children of one-parent families at a relative disadvantage, eventually leading to academic and behavioral problems.[8]

Table 1.2
Percentage of Population, 2000

	Child	Adult
White	42.6	56.3
African-American	12.4	10.9
Other	4.4	4.2
Hispanic	40.5	28.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 and Annie E. Casey Foundation (2001). *KIDS COUNT Data Book 2001: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*. Baltimore: Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The nation's rising proportion of single-parent families represents one of recent decades' most significant demographic trends. In 1950, only 7.2% of all families with children were headed by a single mother or father. By 2000, single-parent families had increased almost 300% to account for 28.2% of all families with children. The proportion of single-parent families grew most, by 59%, during the 1970s. Although both the number and share of single-parent families has continued to rise, the rate of increase has declined. Between 1990 and 2000, the proportion of all families headed by a single parent grew by just 17.9%, the same rate of increase experienced during the 1950s.[9] Several decades ago single parenthood most commonly resulted from divorce. Since 1980, a dramatic increase in births to unmarried women, representing about one-third of all births in 2000, along with a drop in the birth rate for married women, primarily accounts for growth in the proportion of families headed by a single parent.[10] Although single-mother families still far outnumber single father ones, the percentage increase in single father families has exceeded the proportional growth in single-mother families, both in the 1950-2000 period and for the most recent decade between 1990 and 2000.[11]

WHAT TEXAS KIDS COUNT SAYS ABOUT FAMILY & COMMUNITY POPULATION

FAMILY & COMMUNITY POPULATION INDICATORS

Total Population
1990 – 2001

Total Child Population
1990 – 2001

Child Population By Age Group
1990 – 2001

Families With Children
1990 and 2000

Children in Foster Care
1990 – 2002

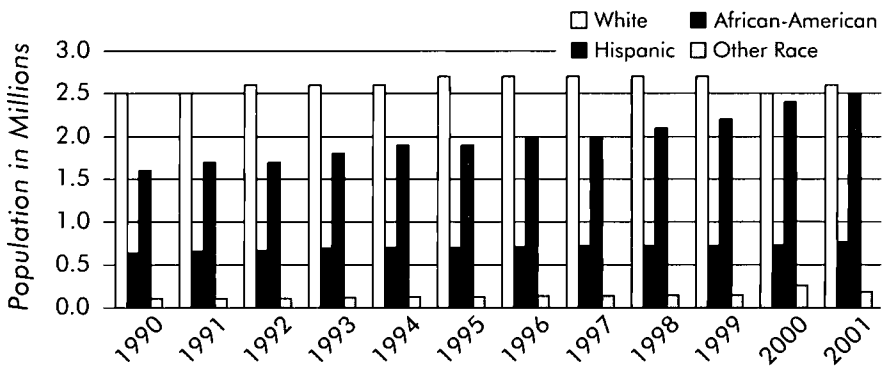
AN AGING AND MORE DIVERSE TEXAS

By 2001, the estimated population of Texas had grown to over 21.3 million people, an increase of 25.5% since 1990. The state's child population grew by a somewhat smaller 23.4%, numbering an estimated 5.9 million in 2001. As a result, children represented a smaller proportion of the population (27.9%) in 2001 than in 1990 (28.4%). Older age groups in the child population saw a more significant expansion during the 1990s than did younger age groups. While the 12- to 14-year-old and 15- to 17-year-old groups each increased by close to 31%, the number of children aged zero to five years grew by 18.3% and the group of children aged six through eleven increased 21.7%.

These trends toward an aging Texas have important implications for the future of the state. Within several decades, a smaller population base of young and middle-aged working adults will need to provide the economic foundation to support a growing population of elderly Texans. Investments made now in the health, education, economic security, and personal safety of our children are crucial if they are to realize their potential to contribute fully to the economic vitality and overall quality of life in Texas several decades from now.

Statewide, population expansion among non-White race and ethnic groups has dominated the last decade of demographic transformation, a trend that has occurred to an even greater extent among children than among adults.

Figure 1.1
Child Population by Race and Ethnicity



Both in the total population and among children, the number of White Texans grew less than any other race or ethnic group—by 8.6% and 3.7%, respectively—between 1990 and 2001. Though the absolute number of people counted in Other Race groups remain a comparatively small proportion of the Texas populace, increases of 92.1% for the total population and 66.2% among children outpaced percentage gains for any other race or ethnic group in the state since 1990. Leading this demographic shift has been sizeable expansion of Texas' Hispanic population, particularly among children in the state, a steady rise illustrated in *Figure 1.1*.

Leading this demographic shift has been sizeable expansion of Texas' Hispanic population, particularly among children in the state.

Since 1990, changes in the racial and ethnic composition of the state's most populous counties have differed somewhat from shifts in the population of Texas as a whole, and the counties also have experienced comparatively divergent patterns of change among themselves. Travis County's overall population growth of 44.8% was nearly twice the stare's 25.5% population increase and exceeded the rise in total population of each of Texas' other five largest counties. El Paso, Bexar, Dallas, and Harris Counties experienced smaller percentage population gains than the state as a whole, with El Paso County growing least, by 16.3%.

Changes in the child populations of the six largest Texas counties mirrored shifts in their populations overall. Travis County's child population grew most, at 42.7%, compared to the state, which experienced a 23.4% increase in its number of resident children. In comparison, the child population of El Paso County increased by only 12.6% between 1990 and 2001.

Texas' six largest counties also witnessed different patterns of change, compared to Texas as a whole, among specific race and ethnic groups. Travis County's total White population growth, at 25.3%, was close to three times higher than the increase of 8.6% for Texas as a

FAMILY STRENGTHS

Much of what we know about children and families today dwells on the multitude of problems and challenges they routinely confront. Although it remains important to understand and address these concerns, research on the theme of family strengths— the kinds of relationships and family practices that nurture close-knit, supportive, and healthy families—also needs to inform policymaking and general public discussion about our children's needs. By analyzing national survey samples of American families and youth, researchers have identified some of the family strengths associated with positive outcomes for children. These factors include such characteristics as parental positive mental health, regular household routines, shared parent-child activities, parental monitoring and supervision, and parent-child warmth and supportiveness.

Family Strengths: Often Overlooked, But Real
Child Trends
www.childtrends.org

whole, and exceeded growth in the White population for each of the other five largest counties. In three counties—Dallas, El Paso, and Harris—the total White population declined. The number of Hispanic residents in Bexar (up 31.9%) and El Paso (up 32.0%) Counties increased less dramatically than the Hispanic population statewide (60.3%), while growth in the Hispanic populations of Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis Counties surpassed statewide increases. The percentage increase in Dallas County's Hispanic population, at 121.9%, led that of the state's other large counties. Only one of the state's largest counties, El Paso, experienced a drop in its African-American population—down by 3.4%, compared to a statewide rise of 24.7% in its number of African-American residents. The African-American population increased most, by 41.0%, in Tarrant County.

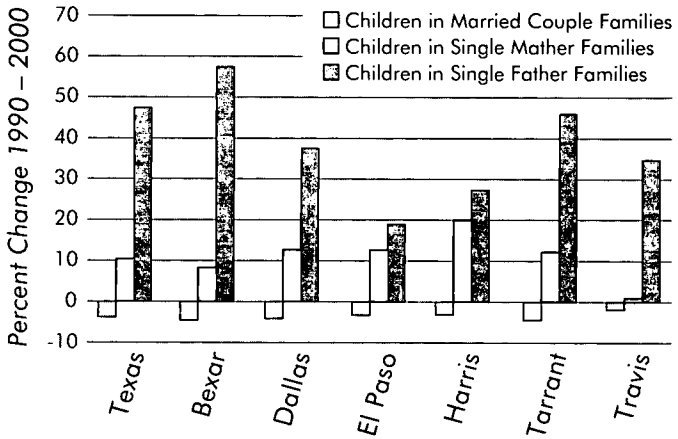
Similar to the population overall, observable differences among the largest counties' child population trends were evident in the period between 1990 and 2001.

However, the pattern of change for children in these counties reflected more pronounced racial and ethnic diversity, and underscored the important influence of Hispanic population growth among residents under 18 years old. The population of White children in Travis County rose 17.6%, more than any other of the state's large counties, and almost five times the 3.7% increase in the White child population for Texas as a whole. From 1990 to 2001, the number of White children dropped in Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, and Harris Counties, with El Paso County, showing a decline of 29.8%, experiencing the largest percentage change among the state's largest counties. The

The proportion of children living in single-parent families—headed by both men and women—in 2000 represented nearly one-quarter of all families with children in the state.

Hispanic child populations of Bexar (up 23.4%) and El Paso (up 22.8%) Counties grew,

Figure 1.2
Children in Married and Single-Parent Families



but at a smaller percentage than the state's Hispanic child population increase of 51.4%, while the number of Hispanic children in Dallas and Tarrant Counties, at 115.5% and 116.9% respectively, grew at more than twice the rate of the under-18 Hispanic population throughout the state. Patterns of population change among African-American children in the six largest counties matched trends for the overall African-American population. The population of African-American children declined by 2.6% in El Paso County, compared to a

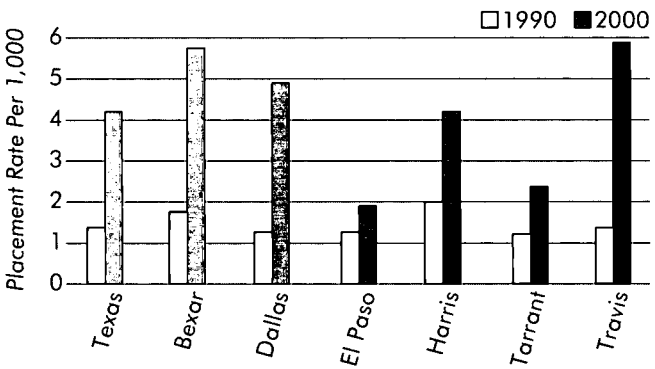
statewide rise of 20.9% in the number of African-Americans under 18 years old. The African-American child population grew most, by 42.4%, in Tarrant County.

MORE KIDS IN SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES, ESPECIALLY SINGLE DADS

Although the pace of increase in the share of children in single families has slowed, it did not stop during the 1990s. Children living with both parents still counted as more than three-quarters of families with children in Texas, but their proportion dropped by 4.2%, from 79.6% to 76.3%, between 1990 and 2000. The number of children in families headed by single mothers increased 10.2%, from 17.1% to 18.9% of all children in families. During the same period, the percent of children in single-father families jumped from 3.3% to 4.9%, an increase of 47.0%. The proportion of children in single-parent families overall—headed by both men and women—grew by 16.2% between 1990 and 2000, when they represented nearly one-quarter, or 23.7%, of all children in the state.

For the most part, Texas' largest counties mirrored these statewide trends, as illustrated in *Figure 1.2*. The proportion of children of married couples declined in each of the state's most populous counties, with the smallest drop, of 1.7%, experienced in Travis County and the largest decreases, of 4.9% each, in Bexar and Tarrant Counties. The share of children in families headed by single fathers grew most, by 57.7%, in Bexar County, while El Paso County experienced the smallest increase, a comparatively modest rise of 19.0%. Though very small, only Travis County saw a decline in the proportion of children in single-mother families, down 0.6% between 1990 and 2000.

Figure 1.3
Foster Care



FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS RISE SIGNIFICANTLY

During the 1990s, the rate of placement of children in foster care increased several times over, both across the state and in each of Texas' largest counties, a trend graphically represented by *Figure 1.3*. In 1990, neither the state nor any of its largest counties observed a foster care rate higher than 2.0 placements per 1,000 children. By 2002, this rate had more than doubled (up by 186.7%) in Texas and in Harris (up 108.3%) and Tarrant (up 110.2%) Counties. The foster care placement rate more than tripled in Bexar (224.6%), Dallas (309.7%), and Travis (312.1%) Counties during the period. In contrast, foster care placements rose a much smaller, though sizeable, 63.3% in El Paso County between 1990 and 2002.

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Section 2:
Economic Resources, Security & Opportunity

Economic insecurity in childhood creates a host of immediate and long-term problems. In families without adequate financial resources, children typically go without basic human needs such as housing, food, and medical care. Their academic performance suffers, as does their social and emotional health. The consequences of economic deprivation are lasting as well, jeopardizing children's long-term employment and earnings potential.

CHILDHOOD POVERTY

There have always been poor people. But there has not always been consensus on the definition of poverty. Beginning in the early 1960s, the U.S. government attempted to quantify poverty, and the measure created at that time—although not without dispute in recent years—has become institutionalized as the official poverty measure that we still use today. Each year, the U.S. Census Bureau calculates the federal poverty threshold in order to produce statistical estimates of the population of poor people. Poverty statistics are collected and distributed by the federal government through the decennial U.S. Census and a small number of more frequent sample surveys.[3] Based on a simplified version of the Census Bureau's poverty threshold, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services prepares annual poverty guidelines used for administrative purposes. Government agencies and other organizations use the poverty guidelines, reproduced in *Table 2.1*, to determine eligibility for various programs and services for low-income families.

In Texas, the percentage of poor people exceeds the poverty rate for the nation as a whole, and Texans in poverty make up almost one-tenth of the whole nation's poor population. Official statistics from the 2001 Current Population Survey (CPS) place the number of Texans living in poverty at more than 3.1 million, representing 14.9% of the state's residents. The 32.9 million poor Americans represent a smaller proportion, 11.7%, of the nation's total population.[6]

Table 2.1
2003 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Family Size	Annual Income	Monthly Wage	Hourly Wage
1	$8,980	$748	$4.32
2	$12,120	$1,010	$5.83
3	$15,260	$1,272	$7.34
4	$18,400	$1,533	$8.85
5	$21,540	$1,795	$10.36
6	$24,680	$2,057	$11.87
7	$27,280	$2,318	$13.38
8[5]	$30,960	$2,580	$14.88

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

A higher proportion of Texas children, compared to the state's overall population and to children nationwide, are poor. According to the 2001 CPS report on poverty in the states, more than 1.03 million Texas children, about 21.1% of our state's child population, were estimated to be living in families with incomes below the federal poverty level.[7] In comparison, 11.7 million, or 16.3%, of children in the United States are poor.

Poverty is especially concentrated in the Texas-Mexico border region, which the U.S. Census Bureau has determined to include the very poorest communities in the entire United States.

FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY

In the mid-1990s, welfare reform occurred alongside a period of low unemployment and general economic prosperity. During that time, a significant number of families left public assistance and joined the workforce. Poverty rates dropped across the country and in Texas. But despite these encouraging developments, evidence in recent years suggests enduring eco-

nomic hardship among millions of Texans who, working full time or even at several jobs, earn incomes above the official poverty line but still inadequate to support their families' basic needs for housing, food, child care, medical care, and transportation to work and school.

While poverty dropped and incomes rose, the state's economic growth did not move poor Texans out of poverty and into the middle class.

The persistent economic insecurity of low-income working families has caused policymakers, researchers, and advocates to question the present-day validity of the poverty measure. Created in the 1960s when families spent about one-third of their incomes on food, the official poverty measure simply multiplied by three the cost of a sample basket of groceries to estimate the minimum amount of income that families of different sizes needed to survive. Since then, the structure of family budgets has changed in significant ways. For example, the prices of housing and medical care have increased disproportionately compared to overall inflation, and child care costs represent a new financial burden for today's working families.

As an alternative to the official poverty standard, government officials and researchers on low-income issues have recently proposed more realistic measures of family economic need,[8] such as the Center for Public Policy Priorities' Family Security Index.[9] Using a "market-basket" approach, the Index estimated how much it really costs for Texas families to support an austere, yet safe and decent life by detailing the actual cost of basic needs—housing, food, child care, medical expenses, and transportation—throughout the state. In each of Texas' 27 metropolitan areas, the combined cost of these essential items ranged between two and three times the official poverty line. Like similar measures used in other states, the Family Security Index confirms the significant level of economic distress experienced even by families who are not officially considered "poor." Combined with local labor market and employment statistics, the Family Security Index documented how families throughout Texas continually struggle to manage the cost

FAMILY ASSETS

Family economic security requires more than just an income above the poverty line. Assets also matter. Assets safeguard household stability and foster home ownership. They make it possible to plan for long-term investments in education and for retirement. But more Americans are asset poor than income poor. Last year a major study reported the status of family assets across the country and in each state. Compared to other states, far fewer Texas families have the means to survive at the poverty level for three months were they to lose their jobs. Texas ranked 43rd among the states on the study's measure of average net worth, and 45th in the share of households with zero net worth. The state performed much better on several measures of asset policy, including early childhood and adult education initiatives.

State Asset Development Report Card: Benchmarking Asset Development in Fighting Poverty
Corporation for Enterprise Development
www.cfed.org

of rent, groceries, child care and other essentials. Without the income necessary to meet basic expenses, these families remain extremely vulnerable to unexpected major expenses, such as medical emergencies or costly car repairs. For families that spend everything they earn just to pay the bills, opportunities to create long-term economic security through savings for education and retirement, or through the acquisition of even modest assets, remain out of reach. With no financial cushion as a buffer, any loss of income—which thousands of low-income Texas families have confronted since the beginning of the current economic recession—can prove devastating.

Other evidence details the level of hardship Texas families endure even when parents work full time and earn as much—or even up to twice as much—as the official amount of poverty-level income. A 2001 report by the Economic Policy Institute used national survey data to determine the kinds of hardships faced by working families and estimated how many families routinely experience such distress. Among states analyzed in the study, Texas reported the highest rate of families who encountered "critical" hardships such as missing meals, not getting necessary medical care, and doubling up on housing, along with "serious" hardships that included worry about having enough food, lack of health insurance, inability to make housing or utility payments, and inadequate child care.[10]

Although it can represent a critical support for families experiencing financial distress, TANF reaches only a small fraction of children in poverty.

A "historically wide"[11] gap in income between the highest-earning households and families of low and moderate incomes has contributed to the economic insecurity of so many Texas families. Compared to similar economic cycles in the late 1970s and 1980s, the prosperity of the 1990s failed to benefit low- and moderate-income families as much as it helped high-income households. By the end of the last decade, inequality between high- and low-income Texas families was third highest, and the gap between high- and middle-income households in Texas was fourth highest, among the fifty states.[12]

Solutions to routine economic hardship and the prosperity gap include wage improvements and, for families in need of assistance, a safety net of social services to support them in hard times and to help them create a durable foundation for long-term economic security. With the passage of 1996 federal welfare reform legislation, public assistance policy and programs have emphasized work as the antidote to poverty. Yet, although enrollment in Texas' cash assistance program has declined substantially since 1996, there is scarce evidence that welfare reform has moved our poorest families out of poverty. A comprehensive study of former welfare recipients, published in 2001 by the Texas Department of Human Services, reported that although 70% of respondents found work during the year after leaving welfare, they earned an average annual income of $10,800—well below the poverty line for a family of two or more people.[13]

WHAT TEXAS KIDS COUNT SAYS ABOUT ECONOMIC RESOURCES, SECURITY & OPPORTUNITY

ECONOMIC RESOURCES, SECURITY & OPPORTUNITY INDICATORS

Poverty For Total Population
1989 – 1999

Child Poverty
1989 – 1999

Median Household Income
1989 – 1999

Unemployment
1990 – 2002

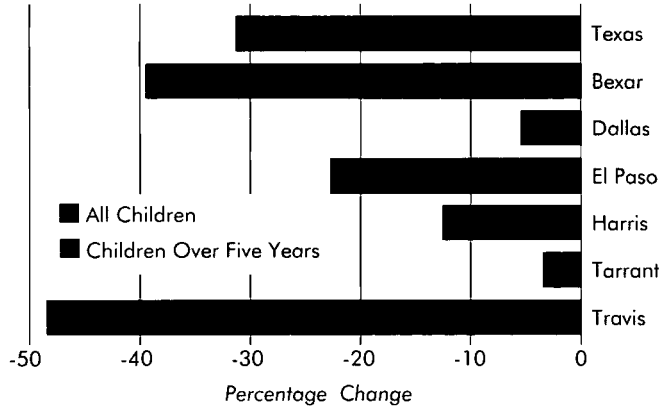
Children Receiving TANF And AFDC
1993 – 2001

CHILD POVERTY DECLINES BUT INEQUITIES REMAIN

Although measures of family economic security would produce better estimates of genuine hardship and need among Texas children and families, the official poverty threshold remains the most widely used method of identifying and addressing economic distress. According to this standard, the living conditions of Texans, adults and children alike, have improved since the beginning of the last decade. The overall poverty rate for Texas declined by 14.9% between 1989 and 1999, and the poverty rate for the state's under-18 population dropped by 15.6%. Although the proportion of Texas children living in poverty rose 17.6% between 1989 and 1993, this rate then declined steadily throughout the rest of the period. Even with this improvement, by 1999 slightly more than one-fifth, or 20.5%, of Texas children lived in families with incomes at or below poverty level.

While statewide child poverty declined over the past decade, Texas' six largest counties showed very different patterns of improvement, as reflected in *Figure 2.1*. In Travis County, the overall child poverty rate dropped by 24.7%, surpassing gains for the state as a whole and for all of the other large counties. In contrast, the poverty rate for children in Dallas and Tarrant Counties fell by just 3.2% and 3.4%, respectively, between 1989 and 1999. Although Bexar (down by 19.8%) and El Paso (down by 12.2%) Counties experienced comparatively greater improvement in their child poverty rates, these counties continued to demonstrate the highest levels of child poverty among the state's largest counties. In 1999 the percentage of El Paso County children living in families at or below poverty level, 31.7%, was more than twice the rate of child poverty in Tarrant (14.2%) and Travis (14.3%) Counties and one and one-half times higher than the child poverty rate for Texas (20.5%) as a whole.

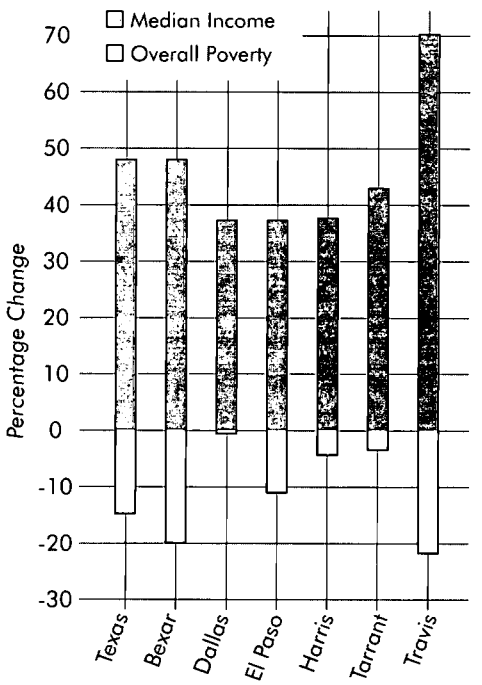
Figure 2.1
Children in Poverty



RISING INCOMES NOT FULLY REFLECTED IN THE TEXAS POVERTY RATE

Spurred by overall economic expansion, median incomes in Texas rose substantially during the late 1990s. According to Census data collected in 1990 and 2000, respectively, the state's median household income rose from $27,01 to $39,927 during the 1990s, an increase of 47.8%. The pattern of change in median income among the state's most populous counties resembled poverty trends between 1989 and 1999. Travis County, which experienced a more sizeable decline in child poverty than did the state or any of its other five largest counties, also witnessed a steeper increase (70.1%) in median household income than the other counties or Texas (47.8%) as a whole. El Paso and Bexar Counties, with higher rates of child poverty than Texas or its other largest counties, also reported lower median incomes in 1999, $31,051 and $38,328 respectively, than in the state overall or in the other most populous counties.

Figure 2.2
Change in Poverty and Median Income

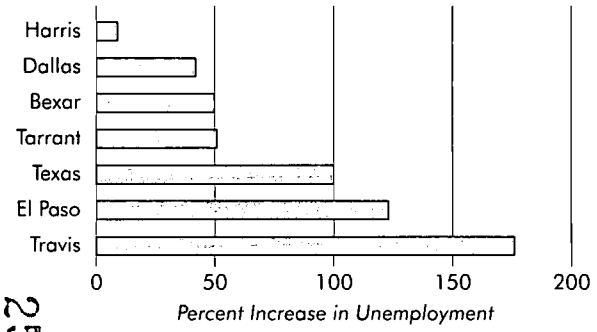


While poverty dropped and incomes rose between 1989 and 1999, data suggest that the state's economic growth did not fully benefit all of its residents, and in particular, did not move a proportionate number of poor Texans out of poverty and into the middle class. *Figure 2.2* shows that throughout the state and in each of its largest counties, median household income rose much more than poverty fell. Dallas County, where the increase in median income (up 37.1%) outpaced the decline in poverty (down 0.7%) by more than 53 times over, experienced this disparity most profoundly. Bexar County saw the most equitable pattern of change in its median income and poverty rate between 1989 and 1999. There, a rise in median income of 47.8% compared to a drop in the poverty rate of 20.1%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RISES SINCE 2000

Throughout many parts of Texas the middle and late 1990s saw unprecedented prosperity largely resulting from historically low unemployment levels. With the exception of Bexar County, the state as a whole and each of the major counties experienced a steady decline in unemployment rates beginning in 1992 and continuing through 2000. With the onset of the state's economic recession, unemployment levels climbed. As a result, the statewide

Figure 2.3
Unemployment 2000 to 2002



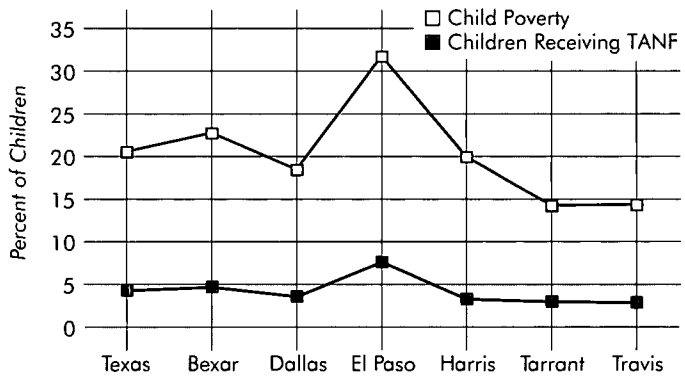
unemployment rate remained unchanged, at 6.3%, between 1990 and 2002, while unemployment moved higher in Dallas (up by 47.2%), Harris (up by 19.6%), Tarrant (up by 19.2%), and Travis (up by 18.4%) Counties. As illustrated in *Figure 2.3*, the recession's effect on unemployment was most severe in Travis County, where unemployment jumped by 176% between 2000 and 2002.

FEW POOR TEXAS CHILDREN RECEIVE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, which replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) as part of the 1996 federal welfare reform legislation, provides temporary cash assistance to the state's lowest-income families. Current TANF rules impose strict work requirements and limit the length of time that families can receive benefits. Welfare reform and low unemployment during the 1990s led to a steep decline in the number of Texas children who receive cash assistance through TANF. Between 1993 and 2001, TANF recipients under 18 dropped by 58.7%, from 10.5% to 4.3% of the child population statewide. The lowest rate of TANF participation in 2001 occurred in Travis County, where 2.9% of children received TANF support. El Paso County experienced the highest percentage rate of TANF participation in 2001, with 7.6% of the county's children collecting assistance through the program.

Although it can represent a critical support for families experiencing financial distress, TANF funding reaches only a small fraction of children in households with poverty-level incomes. This largely results from eligibility rules that place TANF income limits well below the poverty line. As *Figure 2.4* demonstrates, the percentage of children living in poverty—for the state as a whole and in each of its largest counties—far exceeds the percentage of children in families receiving TANF support. In Harris County, child poverty outpaced TANF participation by more than six to one. In El Paso County, with the highest relative rate of poor children's TANF participation, only about one in four poor children received TANF assistance.

Figure 2.4
Children in Poverty and Receiving TANF



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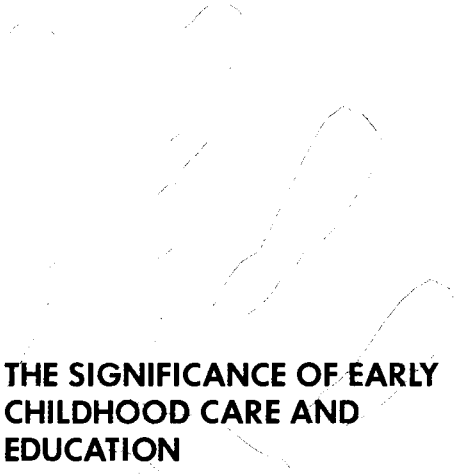
Section 3:
Early Care & Education

Research on early childhood development continues to support the critical importance of early childhood experiences, both for their developmental opportunities and for the potentially hazardous immediate and long-term consequences when young children do not receive adequate nurturing and stimulation. Early childhood services also represent an important work support for low- and moderate-income parents who rely on quality placements for their children in order to maintain stable employment.



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

Over the past several decades a growing body of interdisciplinary research has detailed the complex cognitive, emotional, and social processes that occur during the earliest years of life. Children's inborn capacity and enthusiasm for learning interact with environmental and cultural influences to chart the course of a child's future. Depending on circumstances, these first years can steer that child toward success in school and later life or else toward a future of potential long-term vulnerability and unrealized potential. A 2000 report by the National Research Council acknowledged both the opportunities and risks of early childhood experiences. "A fundamental paradox exists and is unavoidable: development in the early years is both highly robust and highly vulnerable."[1]

At the same time that our knowledge of early childhood development has evolved, contemporary social, economic, and political conditions have complicated the responsibility, shared by families and communities, of providing young children with the support and resources they need during their crucial early years. Largely due to wider employment among mothers of young children—both married women in dual-earner families and female single parents—the proportion of children under six with employed mothers, measured at 7% in 1940, is projected to rise to 83% by 2005.[2] In 2000, 61% of mothers with children under three were employed, compared to just 34% in 1975.[3] Translated, this demographic shift signifies a huge increase in the demand for early childhood care that has not yet fully been addressed.

Research evidence indicates that quality early care and education programs can encourage short-term improvements in children's IQ, along with more lasting academic gains, including lower probabilities of grade retention and better chances of high school graduation.[4] Effective programs also appear to promote positive long-term behavioral and social outcomes including greater independence and social confidence, reduced risk of contact with the justice system, lower utilization of publicly-funded social services, and higher median income.[5]

But the quality of early care and education in Texas, as in the nation, is highly variable. Studies of child care quality consistently indicate that the care provided in about one-fifth of child care settings fails to meet even minimal standards.[6] Too many programs pay workers poorly, provide few opportunities for employee training and development, and experience excessive turnover. Numerous lesser quality programs fail to offer developmentally appropriate curricula.

Availability also poses problems. Many early care and education programs offer only partial-day services rather the all-day child care that fulltime working parents need, and programs that provide care during non-standard hours are rare. Although federal and state support

for child care subsidies grew significantly during the 1990's, at the end of the decade funding reached only about 12% of the estimated 15 million children whose families qualified for it.[7] Waiting lists for child care assistance in Texas are very long, and reliable estimates suggest that only a small fraction of potentially eligible children in the state, as in the nation, actually receive this support.[8] When the 2003 reauthorization of federal welfare reform legislation takes effect, parental work requirements will rise from 30 to 40 hours per week, straining even more the availability of affordable child care for low-income working parents.

Low quality and inaccessible early care and education disproportionately hurts families in poverty and the working poor.[9, 10] Safe and reliable child care is expensive, estimated at nearly $6,000 per year for a one-year-old child in a child care center or licensed home.[11] A recent report from the Children's Defense Fund found that in all but one state (not Texas), the yearly cost of child care exceeded annual expenses for public college tuition.[12] In Texas, the monthly cost of care for two children ranges from a low of $408 in the Brownville metropolitan area to a high of $613 in the Dallas metropolitan area.[13] Depending on a family's number of wage earners and dependent children, these costs can represent between 14% and 22% of the pre-tax total required to pay for basic needs.

Throughout Texas, a relatively small fraction of children receive state subsidized child care.

CHILD CARE, HEAD START, AND PUBLIC PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Increased workforce participation by the mothers of even very young children has encouraged greater public acceptance of the critical need for accessible, affordable, quality child care. Because the high cost of care disproportionately burdens low-income working families, child care policies have primarily sought to assist poor families and those with incomes just above the official poverty level. Many—though by no means the majority—of the workers in these families are making the transition from public assistance to paid employment.

Welfare reform actions since 1996 have dramatically altered child care policy, and its outcomes, in Texas. Both funding for child care and the number of children receiving child care subsidies have grown. In 1996, spending on child care subsidies in the state came to $179.9 million, with state dollars accounting for 12.5% of that total. By 2003, child care subsidies increased to $441.4 million, with state funds representing 17%. The number of children served by the state's child care system has increased from 63,221 in 1996 to a projected 107,195 by 2003. Despite this growth in spending and enrollment, though, Texas' child care system remains

under-funded and inadequate to address the true level of need. Though larger than in prior years, state child care appropriations for fiscal years 2002 and 2003 were too low to qualify the state for its entire allotment of federal child care matching funds, leaving Local Workforce Development Boards to make up the difference. Using the state's maximum allowable eligibility standard of family income at 85% of state median income as a measure, approximately 1,236,800 children—almost twelve times the number expected to be served this year—would qualify for daytime child care or after-school care. According to the Texas Workforce Commission, currently more than 34,000 children throughout the state remain on the waiting list for child care assistance.

Head Start began in 1965 as an eight-week summer program for low-income preschoolers. Today Head Start provides comprehensive educational and health services designed to improve the school readiness of the nation's neediest children—those living in families with incomes at or below the poverty line and children with disabilities or other special needs. Children receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can automatically enroll in Head Start, and 10% of Head Start slots are reserved for children with disabilities. Head Start programs approach school readiness holistically, addressing not only cognitive development but also supplying other essential services, including health screenings, immunizations, mental health counseling, dental services, nutritious meals, and parenting supports.[14] Nationally, Head Start services reach about 900,000 children, only about three out of five children who qualify.[15]

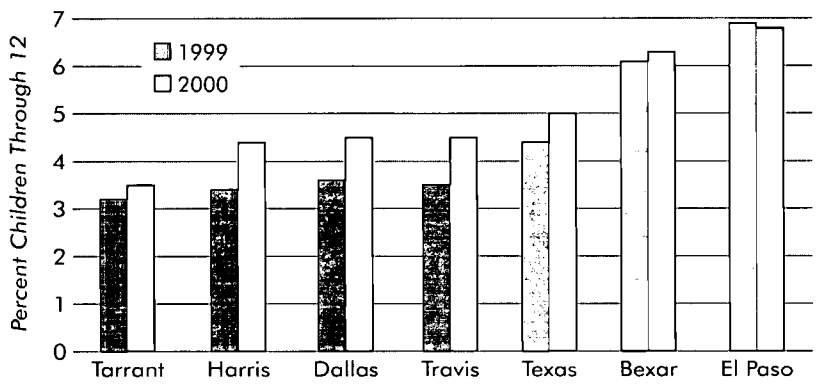
The number of children receiving pre-kindergarten services has grown substantially.

Like Head Start itself, Early Head Start serves families with incomes at or below the federal poverty line by supporting prenatal health, the developmental needs of infants and toddlers, and the overall well-being of families with very young children. Created by the federal reauthorization of Head Start in 1994, Early Head Start has grown from a base of 68 programs in 1995 to a total of 708 programs in 2002.[16] Despite this programmatic growth, Early Head Start enrolls only about three percent of those eligible for the program.[17]

With Head Start as a model, public pre-kindergarten programs began to emerge throughout the United States in the 1980s, and the number of states offering them grew rapidly during the 1990s. The Texas Legislature enacted the state's public pre-kindergarten program in 1985, and the Texas Education Agency, which administers it, began offering services in the 1985-1986 school year.

Public pre-kindergarten targets children who may need help to develop basic academic and social skills needed to succeed in the mainstream public school setting. According to TEA guidelines, three- and four-year-old children qualify for public pre-kindergarten if they are unable to speak or comprehend English, if they meer the requirements for the free or reduced-price lunch program, or if they are homeless. Other children also may attend public pre-kindergarten classes if space is available afrer all eligible children in a school district have been served. Even if children qualify for public pre-kindergarten, state law does not requite them to attend. School districts must provide pre-kindergarten services if at least 15 eligible four-year-olds reside in the district, and may offer the program if at least 15 eligible three-year-olds live in the district. However, districts may apply for and receive an exemption from the requirement to offer pre-kindergarten classes if they can demonstrate that they could not provide these services without building new facilities to house them.

Figure 3.1
Subsidized Child Care



WHAT TEXAS KIDS COUNT SAYS ABOUT EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION INDICATORS

Children On State Subsidized Child Care
1999—2000

Children In Public Pre-Kindergarten
1993—2001

Children Enrolled In Head Start
2000—2001

MORE CHILDREN ON STATE SUBSIDIZED CARE

Throughout Texas, a relatively small fraction of children receive state subsidized child care. However, the percentage of children whose families receive child care assistance has grown. *Figure 3.1* displays changes in the percentage of children served by child care subsidies in 1999 and 2001. In 2001, 5.0% of Texas children under 13 years of age received child care subsidies, a 15.2% increase since

1999. Among the state's largest counties, El Paso (at 6.8% of the under-13 population) and Bexar (at 6.3%) reported the largest proportion of resident children whose families received child care assistance in 2001. Although proportionately more children in El Paso and Bexar Counties received child care subsidies in both 1999 and 2001, Travis and Harris Counties experienced much larger increases, of 29.0% and 29.6% respectively, during that time.

SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN PUBLIC PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Both public pre-kindergarten and Head Start exist to improve school readiness among young children whose ability to learn might otherwise be impaired by economic and other disadvantages.

Since 1993, the number of children receiving public pre-kindergarten services in Texas has grown substantially, a trend detailed in

Figure 3.2
Public Pre-Kindergarten

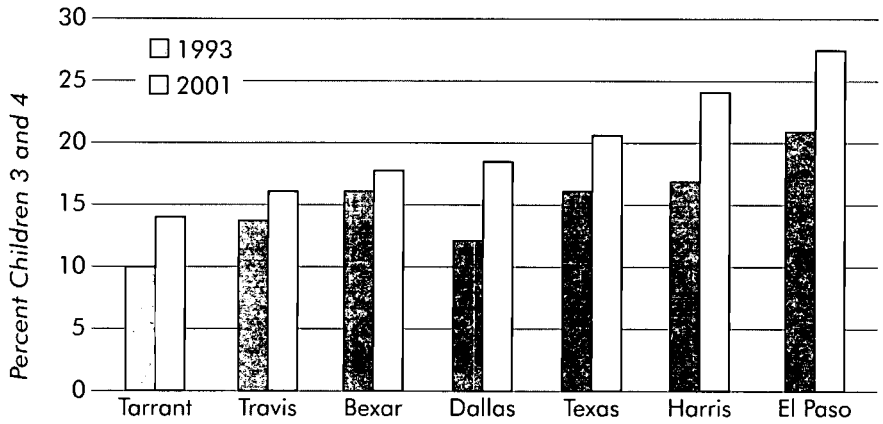


Figure 3.2. By 2001, just over one fifth of three- and four-year-olds in the state were enrolled in public pre-kindergarten. Four of the state's largest counties experienced sizeable increases in pre-kindergarten enrollment, led by Dallas County, where pre-kindergarten programs expanded by 52.4% between 1993 and 2001. In both 1993 and 2001, El Paso County reported the highest rates of pre-kindergarten participation, at 20.9% and 27.5% respectively. Pre-kindergarten enrollments were lowest in Tarrant County in both years, at 10.0% of three- and four-year olds in 1993 and 14.0% in 2001.

While pre-kindergarten participation rose, Head Start enrollments remained comparatively steady. Between 2000 and 2001,

participation in the Head Start program grew by less than 1.0% in Texas (up by 0.3%) and in Bexar (up by 0.3%), Harris (up 0.7%), and Dallas (up 0.8%) Counties. In Travis and Tarrant Counties, the proportion of children served by Head Start declined, down 1.9% and 1.3% respectively. Only El Paso County experienced a comparatively perceptible increase in Head Start enrollment, growing 5.5% between 2000 and 2001. In both 2000 and 2001, El Paso and Bexar Counties enrolled about three times as many of their three- and four-year-olds in Head Start as did Tarrant, Harris, and Dallas Counties.

Although the programs serve populations with some similar characteristics and needs, public pre-kindergarten reaches a larger proportion of young children, in Texas and in each of its largest counties, than Head Start does. Statewide, more than twice as many three- and four-year-olds participate in public pre-kindergarten (20.6%) as in Head Start (9.3%). The ratio between pre-kindergarten and Head Start enrollment is largest in Harris County, where more than four times more young children are enrolled in pre-kindergarten (24.1%) compared to Head Start (5.5%).

THE CHILD CARE WORKFORCE

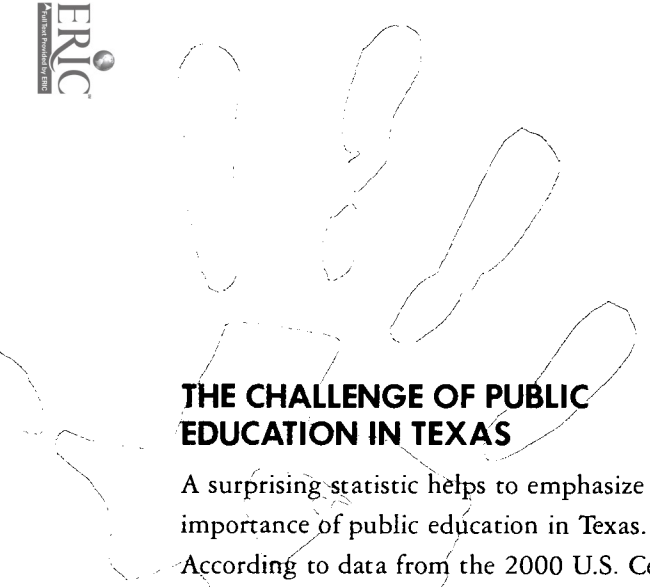
Parents intuitively know the stakes when they place their children in the care of others while they work. The job of caring for young children entails enormous responsibility for their cognitive, emotional, and social development. In essence, child care quality depends primarily on the stability, motivation, and genuine commitment of child care workers. Ironically, a workforce that faces such daunting expectations is also one of the worst-compensated and least-supported professions in the country. According to a recent report, the estimated 1.5 million center-based and licensed child care employees, along with another 1 million license-exempt paid child care workers, earn about $6.70 per hour, or half the nation's average hourly wage. Not surprisingly, low pay is the primary reason that child care workers quit their jobs, and the workforce has an estimated turnover rate of about 40%. Adequate compensation, along with reasonable workloads, better training, and more promising career paths, could improve conditions for workers whose efforts are indeed vital to child and family wellbeing.

The Unsolved Challenge of System Reform: The Condition of the Frontline Human Services Workforce
Annie E. Casey Foundation
www.aecf.org

Section 4:
School Success

Neither a thriving market economy nor a viable democracy can function for long without adequately educated workers and citizens. Public elementary and secondary schools in Texas will add millions more students over the next several decades, and the quality of these children's preparation to contribute to the economy and the society represents one of the state's most pivotal challenges.

ERIC



THE CHALLENGE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN TEXAS

A surprising statistic helps to emphasize the importance of public education in Texas. According to data from the 2000 U.S. Census, the state's elementary school enrollment of 2.7 million, combined with its high school enrollment of 1.3 million, outnumbers the total population in 24 of the other 50 states. Texas' economic investment in its schools is huge. In 2000, the cost of public elementary and secondary education in Texas amounted to more than $23 billion.[1] Although quality public education offers many individual and social benefits, one primary reason for the magnitude of the state's commitment rests in the consistent association of education with socioeconomic security and achievement. Households headed by workers without high school diplomas in the United States brought in an average of $28,974 in 1999, compared to annual incomes of $45,368 for households headed by high school graduates and $89,029 for those headed by people with undergraduate degrees.[2]

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As *Table 4.1* shows, educational attainment in Texas does not quite measure up to the level of educational achievement for the nation overall. Almost 3.2 million adult Texans—nearly one-quarter of the state's population 25 or older—have not completed a high school education, compared to the approximately one-fifth of adults without high school diplomas nationwide. A slightly higher percentage of the U.S. population (24.4%) than in Texas (23.2%) has obtained at least a bachelor's degree.

Projections of demographic change over the next several decades suggest that the educational level of Texas workers could become problematic without some correction of existing educational disparities among the state's main racial and ethnic groups. Non-White persons will become an increasingly larger share of the total Texas population, and people in non-White groups currently exhibit lower levels of educational attainment than does the White population. Unless the educational characteristics of non-White Texans improve, the state can expect a less well-educated, less skilled, and lower-earning workforce that will make it less competitive and severely strain its social service delivery systems. On the other hand, if Texas can narrow the gap between the educational achievement of its White and non-White populations, demographic predictions suggest the state likely will experience higher overall incomes and consumer expenditures, along with reduced public service costs.[3]

Table 4.1
Educational Attainment in Texas in 2000

	Texas		United States	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than Grade 9	1,465,420	11.5	13,755,477	7.5
9 – 12 Grade, No Diploma	1,649,141	12.9	21,960,148	12.1
High School Graduate/GED	3,176,743	24.8	52,168,981	28.6
Some College, No Degree	2,858,802	22.4	38,351,595	21.0
Associate's Degree	668,494	5.2	11,512,833	6.3
Bachelor's Degree	1,996,250	15.6	28,317,792	15.5
Graduate/Professional Degree	976,043	7.6	16,144,813	8.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Numbers are based on the population 25 years or older.

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

Students who leave high school without obtaining a diploma face very severe economic and other consequences that follow them for years. Students leave school without graduating for reasons that range from poor attendance and low grades to pregnancy, marriage, or employment.[4] Whatever their reasons, teens who drop out of school lack the most basic requirement needed to access further education or enter the labor force, restricting their opportunities for employment and income. High school dropouts face other adverse prospects. They are more likely than high school graduates to receive public assistance and to become single teen parents. Dropouts represent a disproportionate share of the nation's prison population and inmates on death row.[5]

Because the results of not completing a high school education are so bleak, pervasive, and lasting, the methodology used to measure high school dropout and completion rates is important. It has also become somewhat controversial, as various organizations use and advocate alternative measurement approaches. Different methodologies, in turn, can yield widely varied estimates of the high school dropout rate. In 1998, the Texas Education Agency revised its method for measuring dropouts in order to also track high school completion rates. TEA generates its statistics on high school dropout and completion rates by tracking an entire cohort of ninth-grade students through high school, then recording each student's status at the end of four years. Students may fall into one of four categories monitored by the TEA—graduated, completed GED, continued in school, or dropped out. TEA does not follow students after the end of the four-year period, so the agency cannot determine whether the status of students in the last three of these categories has changed. Using its revised dropout methodology, TEA has reported a steady decline in high dropout rates throughout the late 1990s. The measurement of high school attrition rates, proposed by some education researchers and advocates, presents a less positive view of dropout trends in Texas. The attrition approach uses enrollment in the first and last years of high school to estimate the number of students who leave school and cannot be accounted for. This methodology produces dropout percentages several times higher than the dropout rates provided by the TEA.[6]

Each of Texas' largest counties saw declines in the percentage of high school dropouts, although the size of this gain varied sizably.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Despite methodological debate and concern about the appropriate role of standardized testing in student evaluation, some kind of academic assessment is needed in order for us to know what students actually learn. Many factors affect student achievement, including class size, teacher motivation and training, parental involvement in their children's schooling, students' special needs, and even basics—whether children rest enough at night and eat breakfast in the morning.[7] Although achievement testing at times has been controversial, it currently enjoys broad public and biparrisan political support. School accountability anchors the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* that became law in early 2002. This legislation requires states to

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develop educational standards for math, reading, and science, and then to test the progress of every student toward their achievement. Results of this testing will become publicly available, and parents of students in low-achieving schools will have the option of transferring their children to a better-performing or public charter school.

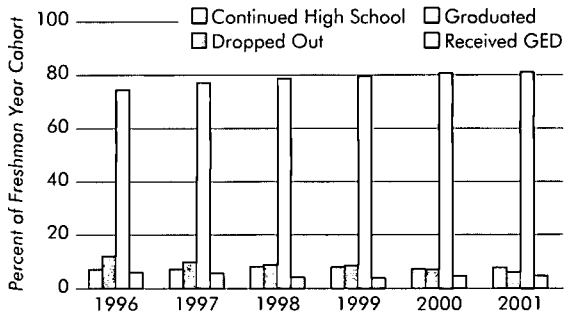
Texas has long made achievement testing a central measure of educational effectiveness. For over a decade, the TEA used the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) tests of reading, math, and writing to assess individual student achievement as well as the performance of school campuses and districts. High school students were required to pass TAAS exit exams in order to graduate. In the 2002-2003 academic year, the TAAS exams were replaced with a new assessment measure, the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). Mandated by the 76th Texas Legislature, the more rigorous TAKS exams will incorporate broader subject content including science and social studies. The Legislature also required that students in the third, fifth, and eighth grades must pass the TAKS exam in order to progress to the next grade level. Because it makes TAKS performance the sole factor determining which students will be promoted or graduated, some educators and researchers have suggested that schools use additional measures of achievement, such as grades and teacher recommendations, to make decisions about student progress.[8]

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Current education policy regarding special education students originated in 1975 federal legislation mandating the provision of a free and appropriate public education, along with necessary support services, to all students regardless of disability status. Now known as the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA), this law also guarantees that students should receive instruction in the least restrictive educational setting possible.

School personnel screen students for the presence of disabilities that interfere with educational achievement, and can include physical limitations, learning disabilities, or emotional disturbances, among others. For students who qualify, the school convenes a group consisting of the student's parents, teachers, and other school personnel, to create an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for the child's education, tailored to the child's specific individual needs.

Figure 4.1
High School Dropout and Completion



Texas provides bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction to students in pre-kindergarten through high school who speak and hear a language other than English in their homes or who have difficulty communicating in English. Although instructors with special training conduct classes, students learn from the same curriculum as native English-speakers. They must receive TAKS instruction

in English, and bilingual and ESL students also participate in the same language arts, reading, math, science, social studies, music, art, and physical education activities mandated for students whose first language is English.

WHAT TEXAS KIDS COUNT SAYS ABOUT SCHOOL SUCCESS

SCHOOL SUCCESS INDICATORS

High School Dropout & Completion
1996 – 2001

Students Passing TAAS Reading
1994 – 2002

Students Passing TAAS Math
1994 – 2002

Students Passing TAAS Writing
1994 – 2002

Special Education Students
1993—2002

Students In Bilingual/ESL Programs
1993 – 2002

TEXAS DROPOUT AND EQUIVALENCY RATES FALL

According to data assembled by the Texas Education Agency and presented in *Figure 4.1*, high school dropout rates in the state fell by almost half since the mid-1990s, from 12.1% in 1996 to 6.2% in 2001. During that time, the percentage of high school students who completed GED certificates also declined by a little over one-fifth, from 6.1% to 4.8%. While dropouts fell progressively during the period, the GED completion rate reached its lowest point in 1999, then rose again in 2000 and remained level in 2001. The percentage of students graduating on time (up 8.8%, from 74.5% to 81.1%) and of students continuing high school at the end of four years (up 8.9%, from 7.2% to 7.9%) each rose just less than one-tenth between 1996 and 2001. In 2001, a little more than 80% of Texas high school students graduated on time, compared to just under three-quarters of these students in 1996.

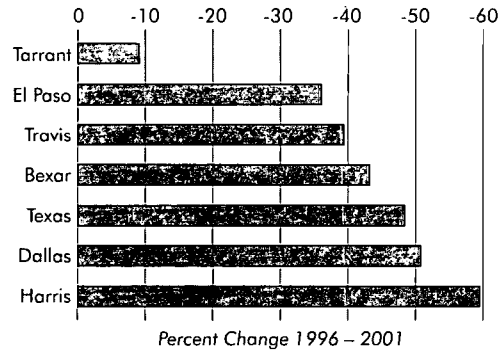
Each of Texas' largest counties also saw declines in the percentage of high school dropouts, although, as shown in *Figure 4.2*, the

SCHOOL SAFETY

Statistically, we know that much more of the serious violent crime involving school-aged children and youth occurs outside the school setting than within it. Still, violent crimes at school victimized about 700,000 students aged 12 through 18 in 2000 and around 559,000 teachers during the five-year period between 1996 and 2000. In 2001, 20% of students reported the presence of street gangs at their school. Approximately 12% of 12- to 18-year-olds described the use of hate-related language by another person, directed toward themselves. Another 36% saw derogatory hate-related graffiti at their school. Not only is the safety of students and instructors at risk. A climate of threat and intimidation makes it much harder to teach and learn, and for our schools to work.

Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2002
National Center for Education Statistics
www.nces.ed.gov

Figure 4.2
High School Drop Out Rate



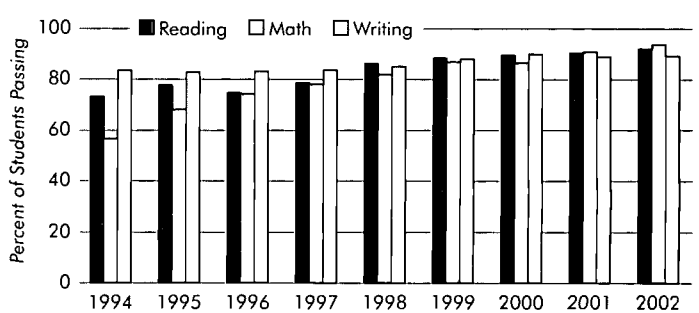
size of this gain varied sizably. In Tarrant County, dropouts fell by just 9.1% between 1996 and 2001. Harris County, where the percentage of high dropouts fell by 59.5%, experienced a decline more than six times as large. With the largest percentage improvement since 1996, Dallas (ending in 2001 with a dropout rate of 5.1%) and Harris (at a 6.9% dropout rate in 2001) Counties reported the lowest levels of high school dropouts among the six largest counties in 2001. The 2001 dropout rate was highest in Travis County, where almost one-tenth, or 9.3%, of students failed to complete high school.

TAAS SCORES IMPROVE ACROSS ALL SUBJECT AREAS

Test performance for Texas fourth- and tenth-graders has improved on TAAS reading, math, and writing exams since 1994. The data graphed in *Figure 4.3* and *Figure 4.4* reflect similar trends for both grade levels across all three subject areas. For both the fourth and the tenth grades, the proportion of students passing the TAAS reading test grew by more than 25% between 1994 and 2002. Among fourth grade students, the pass rate for the TAAS reading exam grew from 73.4% to 92.0%. The proportion of tenth-grade students who passed the TAAS reading test rose from 74.9% in 1994 to 94.3% in 2002. During the same period, the percentage of the state's students who passed the TAAS math exam rose by more than 65% for both fourth- and tenth-grade students. Only 56.8% of fourth-grade students achieved passing grades on the TAAS math test in 1994, a rate that climbed to 93.7% by 2002. In 1994, just 55.2% of tenth-graders passed the TAAS math exam, while in 2002, 91.7% did. TAAS writing scores also improved, but by smaller percentages than the results for TAAS reading and math tests. The proportion of Texas fourth-graders who passed the TAAS writing exam grew 6.9% between 1994 and 2002, when 83.5% and 89.3%, respectively, did so. Tenth-grade students' writing scores improved more, gaining 14.3% between 1994 (when 79.5% passed) and 2002 (when 90.9% passed).

Student progress on the TAAS exams in each of the six large counties closely matched the improvements observed statewide. Across each of the counties, the percentage of students passing the math portion of the TAAS rose

Figure 4.3
Fourth Grade TAAS Reading, Math, and Writing

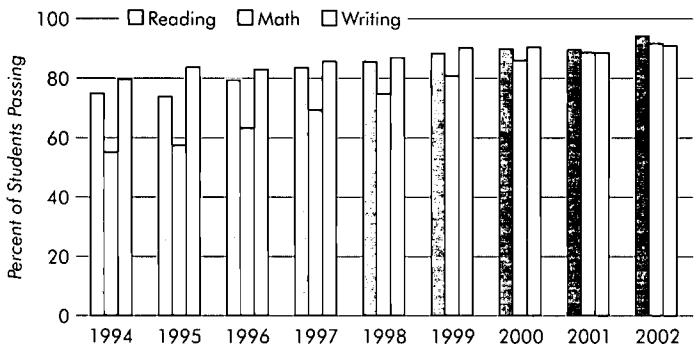


most, followed in turn by scores for the TAAS reading and writing exams. Consistently, increases in the pass rate for all three subjects in Bexar and El Paso Counties outperformed the state and the other large counties for both fourth- and tenth-grade students. On the TAAS reading test, fourth-grade scores improved most in Bexar County (up 41.0%, compared to the statewide increase of 25.4%) and the largest tenth-grade gain occurred in El Paso County (up 42.9%, compared to a 25.9% rise in the statewide pass rate). The percentage increase in students passing the fourth-grade math exam was 103.5% in Bexar County, while Texas overall saw an increase of 64.9% The proportion of students passing the tenth-grade math exam also doubled in El Paso County, rising by 100.3% compared to a 66.2% increase statewide. Rising by 14.3%, Bexar County also led the state and the other five largest counties in the improvement in pass rates for the fourth-grade TAAS writing exam. In Texas, the increase in fourth-grade TAAS writing performance was 6.9%. Tenth-grade writing scores gained by 22.1% in El Paso County, while they rose 14.3% throughout the state.

MORE STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION AND BILINGUAL SERVICES

Public schools in Texas have experienced some growth in the proportion of students served by both special education and bilingual or ESL programs. In 1993, 10.4% of students enrolled in Texas public schools received some kind of special education services. By 2002, that amount had grown by 14.5%, to include 11.9% of public school students. The percentage of students participating in bilingual or ESL programming statewide increased by more than one-third, from 9.7% to 13.0%, between 1993 and 2002.

Figure 4.4
Tenth Grade TAAS Reading, Math, and Writing



Gains in the percentage of students receiving special education or bilingual services also occurred in each of the state's large counties, but these changes varied, sometimes considerably, across counties and in comparison to Texas overall. With an increase of 31.8%, El Paso County served almost one-third more special education students in 2002 compared to 1993. Yet the proportion of students receiving special education support grew by only 4.8% in Tarrant County during the same time. Bilingual instruction in the six largest counties showed even more variation. Bexar County reported a nearly imperceptible 0.2% rise in the proportion of its students who received bilingual instruction, while this rate more than doubled (up by 118.8%) in Travis County and rose nearly as much in Dallas (up by 82.5%) and Tarrant (up by 89.0%) Counties.

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Section 5:
Teens at Risk

Adolescence represents the transition from childhood structure to the freedoms and responsibilities of adulthood. With the guidance of parents, teachers, and other caring community members, teens can emerge from this time as mature and healthy young adults. Yet adolescence also presents risks that can compromise otherwise promising futures. In cities and small towns, and among all racial, ethnic, and economic groups, these challenges are pervasive.

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YOUTH VIOLENCE

For a decade beginning in the mid-1980s, a wave of youth violence alarmed the nation.[1] Arrests of juveniles for the crimes of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault climbed 74% from a 1985 low of 303 arrests per 100,000 teens to a peak, in 1994, of 527 arrests per 100,000 teens. Since then, teen violent crime arrests have dropped substantially, falling each year through 2000, when the juvenile violent crime arrest rate stood at 309 per 100,000 teens.[2] Between 1993 and 2001, the proportion of all teens involved in physical fighting dropped from 42% to 33%.[3] Weapon possession by teens—particularly important because the presence of weapons heightens the risk that conflict will result in serious injury or death—also has declined. In 1991, 26% of high school students reported carrying weapons such as guns, knives, or clubs within the previous 30 days. By 1999, the proportion of teens who carried weapons had dropped to 17%, where it remained in 2001.[4]

While these developments tell us that violence within the total teen population has diminished, specific teen subgroups still leave reason for concern. Although the rate of teen violent crime has declined overall, arrest rates for females have not decreased proportionately. In 1980, the arrest rate for teenaged females stood at 12% of the rate for teenaged males. But the female arrest rate did not fall as sharply as the arrest rate for males during the late 1990s. As a result, by 2000 the teen female arrest rate was 24% of the rate for teenaged males.[5] For reasons not completely understood, students in lower grades exhibit higher incidence of both physical fighting and weapon possession than do older students. In 2001, 40% of ninth-grade students reported their involvement in physical fighting, compared to 27% of students in the twelfth grade. That same year, 20% of ninth-graders, but 15% of twelfth-grade students, said that they had carried a weapon within the prior 30 days.[6]

Rates of single teen pregnancy remained higher in 2001 than in 1990 for each race and ethnic group.

Law enforcement personnel, school officials, and parents remain apprehensive about violence in youth culture despite its apparent retreat since the worst years of the 1980s and 1990s. Responding to the 1999 shooting deaths of 14 students and a teacher at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, the U.S. Surgeon General commissioned a major report to address the factors that both underlie youth violence and safeguard against it.[7] This report concluded that the decline in teen violent crime arrests should not lead to complacency. Violence committed by, and inflicted upon, American teens remains a serious, ongoing problem. True, juvenile arrest rates dropped, primarily due to a sharp decline in lethal violent incidents among teens. But the self-reported frequency of youth involvement in other violent crime, particularly aggravated assault, had not improved since the peak juvenile crime years between the mid-1980s and the mid-1990s. According to the Surgeon General's study, between 30% and 40% of teenaged males and between 15% and 30% of

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teenaged females reported having committed a serious violent offense before they reached the age of 17. Teenagers involved in serious violent crime also engaged in multiple risk behaviors, challenging intervention strategies. Successful techniques to reduce or prevent juvenile violent crime most commonly utilize a multimodal strategy to address both individual and environmental risk factors. These approaches focus on the development of teens' individual competencies, parental effectiveness training, school social climate, and on the weakening of teenagers' ties to gangs and other antisocial or delinquent peers.[8]

TEENAGED CHILDBEARING

Childbirth during adolescence sets up both mother and baby for a sequence of adverse consequences that can persist for years. Babies born to teenaged mothers are more likely to suffer from low birth-weight and more of these children die at or shortly after birth.[9] Teenaged parents typically lack the resources to provide the nurturing and stimulating home environment that young children require for their cognitive and emotional growth,[10] and teen mothers exhibit a higher incidence of neglectful and abusive treatment of their children than any other group.[11] Young mothers who cannot complete their education due to early family responsibilities endure limited employment and earnings potential, and their children, in turn, experience the damaging health, educational, and social outcomes of this economic insecurity.[12]

An encouraging decline in the birth rate among teens has occurred steadily throughout the past decade. In 2001, the birthrate for young women aged 15 to 17 stood at an historic low.[13] This reduction in teenaged births occurred for both younger and older adolescents, across every race and ethnic group, and in every state in the nation.[14] Induced abortion rates among teens have also fallen steadily, probably due to a combination of demographic, economic, political and cultural factors.[15]

Despite the drop in adolescent births overall, some trends indicate ongoing reasons for concern about childbearing among American teens.[16] The number of repeat births to teens, which include about one in five teen births, remains a cause for concern. Further, almost 80% of babies born to teenagers come into families with unmarried parents. Although every race and ethnic group has experienced a decline in teenaged births in recent years, racial and ethnic disparities in adolescent birthrates still persist. Finally, despite recent improvement in the rate of teenaged childbirth, pregnancy rates for American youth remain among the highest in the industrialized world.[17,18]

Between 1990 and 2001, births to African-American teens declined substantially more than the rate of births to teenaged White or Hispanic women.

Although the percentage of sexually active teens has declined among all race and ethnic groups since 1995, in 2001 more than one-third of ninth-grade students and over half of twelfth-

graders described themselves as sexually experienced.[19] Aside from the resulting risk of pregnancy, other potentially damaging consequences arise from early sexual activity among teens. Moreover, the earlier teenagers begin sexual involvement, the more their risk of these negative outcomes increases. Teens, especially females, exhibit higher rates of sexually transmitted disease than among other age groups.[20] Especially among younger adolescent women, initial sexual encounters are frequently coercive, resulting in sometimes devastating health and emotional outcomes.[21] Teenagers report less consistent use of contraception than do older women, putting these young people at greater risk for unintended pregnancy, HIV, and AIDS.[22]

Researchers and professionals who work with teens know many of the factors associated with their healthy and unhealthy sexual practices. Females and younger teens display lower levels of sexual experience and activity than do males and older youth. Teenagers who come from two-parent households, and families where parents and children communicate openly and often, tend to postpone sexual activity, while adolescents living with a mother who gave birth as a teen or with sexually active siblings show a higher incidence. Participation in school or community activities and involvement with achievement-oriented friends lowers the likelihood of teen sexual behavior, but engagement in other risk behaviors and involvement with other sexually active teens increases it. Adolescents from affluent communities are less sexually active than teenagers living in poor neighborhoods. A history of sexual abuse predicts early sexual activity.[23]

Programs to encourage healthy sexual practices among teens can work. Curricula found to positively affect teen's sexual behavior include such elements as multiple components, a theoretical foundation, clear and accurate message delivery, engaging curriculum-based activities, opportunities to practice communication and refusal skills, leader training, and attention to the age and cultural background of program participants.[24]

WHAT TEXAS KIDS COUNT SAYS ABOUT TEENS AT RISK

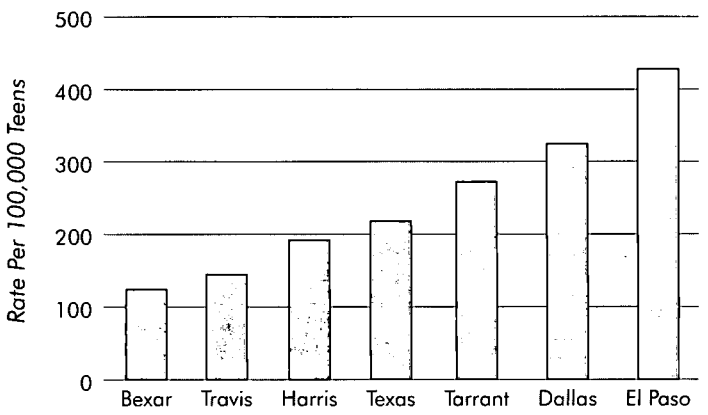
TEENS AT RISK INDICATORS

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests
1990 – 2001

Teen Pregnancy
1990 – 2001

Single Teen Pregnancy
1990 – 2001

Figure 5.1
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests 2001

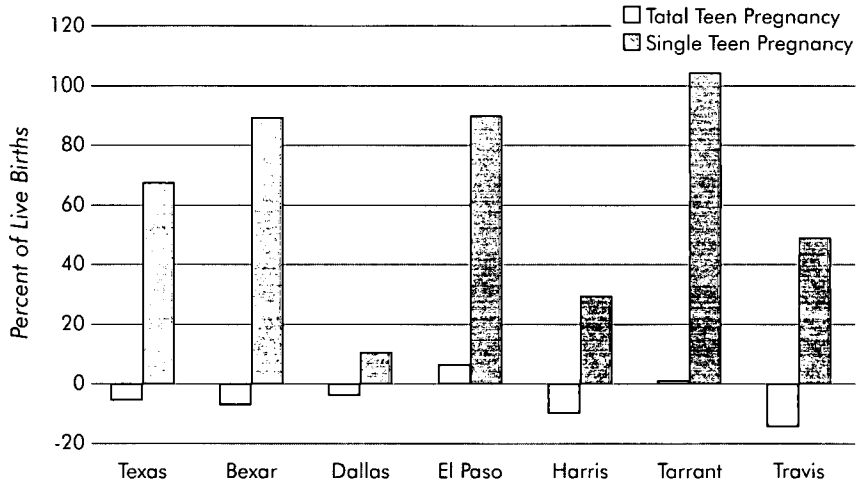


JUVENILE VIOLENT CRIME DOWN FROM MID-1990S PEAK

Juvenile violent crime arrests have dropped by 27.7% in Texas, from a rate of 302.2 arrests per 100,000 teens in 1990 to a rate of 218.4 arrests in 2001. Trend data show two distinct patterns during the period overall. In the early 1990s, juvenile violent crime rose sharply, increasing 40.7% between 1990 and 1994. After arrests peaked in 1994, however, they declined by an even larger percentage, falling 48.6% to their 2001 level.

Among the state's largest counties, El Paso County experienced the least amount of improvement in its juvenile violent crime rate, which dropped 21.0% between 1990 and 2001, and ended the period with the highest rate of teen violent crime, at 427.5 arrests per 100,000 teens in 2001. *Figure 5.1* pictures the juvenile violent crime arrest rate for Texas and each of its largest counties in 2001. Teen violent crime was lowest in Bexar County in both 1990 (at 209.2 arrests per 100,000 teens) and 2001 (at 124.2 arrests per 100,000). Travis and Dallas Counties, with the highest rates of juvenile violent crime in 1990 (575.9 and 593.1 arrests per 100,000 teens, respectively) had improved most by 2001. Travis County led the decline in violent crime among teens, experiencing a drop of 74.9%, followed by Dallas County, with a decrease of 45.3%.

Figure 5.2
Change in Total and Single Teen Pregnancy 1990 – 2001



TEEN PREGNANCY DOWN SLIGHTLY BUT BIRTHS TO SINGLE TEENS INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY

Overall rates for teen pregnancy remain consistently higher than rates of single teen pregnancy, for the population overall and among the race and ethnic groups. However, the gap between teen pregnancy overall and single teen

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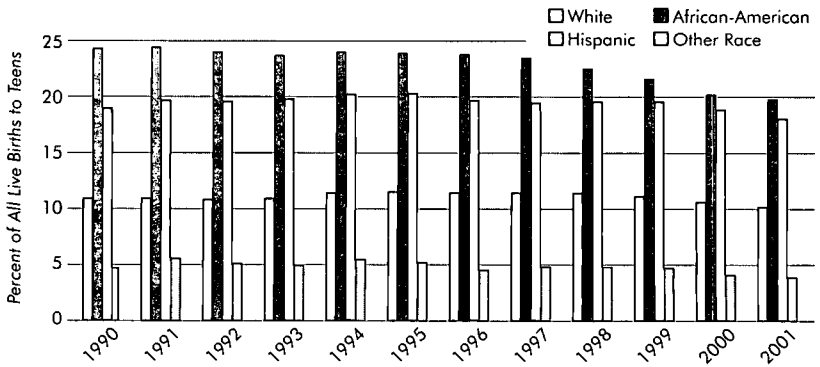
TEEN CITIZENSHIP

Political and civic engagement benefits both individuals and the larger society. Young people who join in voluntary activities experience more positive educational and social outcomes, and their communities benefit from their energy and ideas. But despite an expressed interest in community involvement, less than half of American teens say that they actually participate in volunteer political or community action. In order to find out more about the factors that lead to civic engagement among teens, and about the positive consequences of this involvement, we first need better quality research. Basic measures of civic involvement, high quality data sources, a specific focus on adolescents, and long-term follow-up studies are needed to help us understand what will best encourage young people to take their crucial place as future voters, volunteers, and people actively engaged in the civic life of Texas and the nation.

Encouraging Civic Engagement: How Teens Are (or Are Not) Becoming Responsible Citizens
Child Trends
www.childtrends.org

Figure 5.3
Teen Pregnancy by Race and Ethnicity



pregnancy narrowed during the last decade, a development represented in *Figure 5.2*. For teens in all race and ethnic groups, teen pregnancy declined by 5.4%, from 15.6% of all live births in Texas in 1990 to 14.7% percent of the state's live births in 2001. At the same time, single teen pregnancy jumped by 67.4%, from 6.0% to 10.0% of live births between 1990 and 2001. Total teen pregnancy peaked in 1995, at 16.6% of live births, and has declined steadily ever since. Single teen pregnancy has tapered off each year since it reached its high point of 11.0% of all live births in 1998.

In both 1990 and 2001, teen pregnancy rates in Bexar (16.7% of live births in 1990 and 15.6% of births in 2001) and El Paso (15.9% and 16.9%) Counties exceeded the percentage of teen births for Texas overall (15.6% and 14.7%) and for each of its other largest counties. El Paso County, where the rate of overall teen pregnancies grew by 6.4%, experienced the only sizeable percentage increase among the six counties. During the period, Travis County showed the greatest improvement in its rate of teen pregnancies, dropping 14.2%.

Births to single teens more than doubled in Tarrant County (up by 104.2%) between 1990 and 2001, a rate of increase that led the state and the other large counties. However, the absolute teen pregnancy rate in Tarrant County remained below the percentage of births to teens for Texas as a whole in 2001. El Paso County, with an increase in single teen pregnancy of 90.0%, and El Paso County, where single teen pregnancies rose by 89.4%, also topped the rate of increase for the state and for the other three most populous counties.

Among the state's large counties, only El Paso (at 11.1% of live births) and Bexar (at 11.4%) Counties surpassed the statewide rate of single teen ptegnancy in 2001.

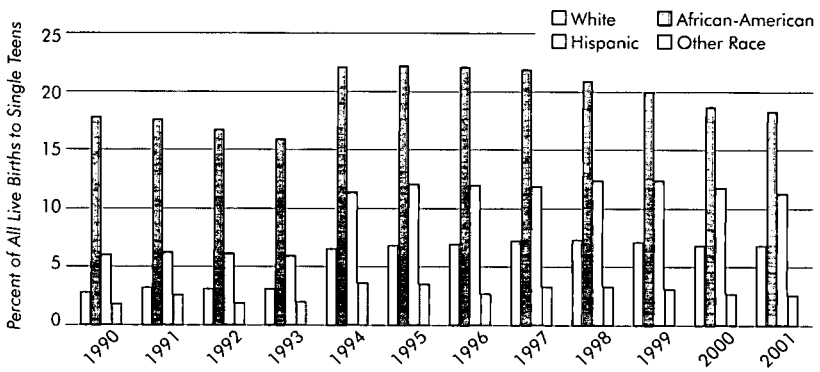
AFRICAN-AMERICAN TEENS LEAD DECLINE IN OVERALL PREGNANCY RATE

Young African-American women in Texas still exhibit the highest rate of teen pregnancy in comparison to other race and ethnic groups (*Figure 5.3*). The pregnancy rate for African-American teens in 2001 was 19.8%, just slightly more than the pregnancy rate of 18.1% for Hispanic teens but almost twice the 10.2% pregnancy rate for White teens. However, births to African-American teens declined substantially more, down by 18.7% between 1990 and 2001, than did the rate of births to teenaged Hispanic (down by 4.8%) or White (down by 6.7%) women.

BIRTHS TO SINGLE WHITE AND HISPANIC TEENS INCREASE

All race and ethnic groups in Texas experienced a spike in single teen pregnancy in 1994, and the rate of teen births remained stable for each of these groups throughout the decade before beginning to decline in the late 1990s. Still, rates of single teen pregnancy remained higher in 2001 than in 1990 for each race and ethnic group. Illustrated in *Figure 5.4*, young White women led the rise in single teen pregnancy, as births to single White teenagers rose by 138.6% between 1990 and 2001. The rate of single teen pregnancy also increased substantially, by 90.2%, among young Hispanic women. African-American teens displayed a very different pattern, as the single teen birth rate for this group grew by just 3.1% between 1990 and 2001.

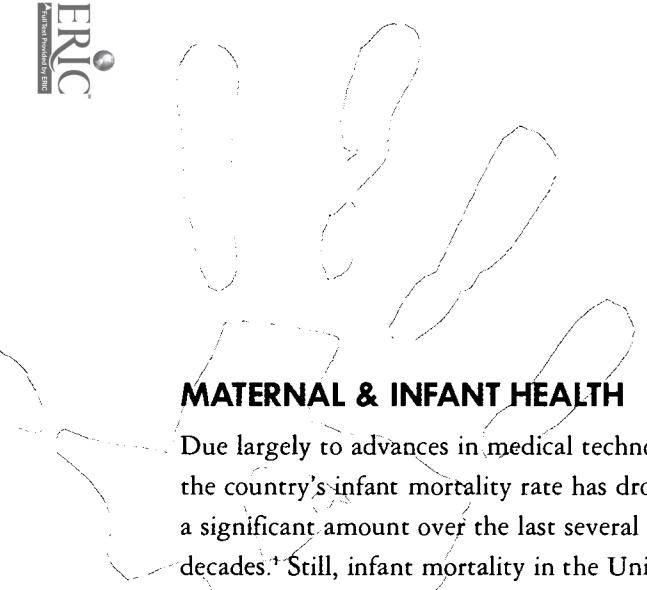
Figure 5.4
Single Teen Pregnancy by Race and Ethnicity



Section 6:
Physical, Social & Emotional Health

To grow up sound and complete, children require adequate health care services even before birth and continually throughout childhood and adolescence. Increasingly, the cost of high quality health care has challenged providers, employers, policy-makers and perhaps most importantly, families.

ERIC



MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH

Due largely to advances in medical technology, the country's infant mortality rate has dropped a significant amount over the last several decades.[1] Still, infant mortality in the United States continues at one of the highest levels among industrialized nations.[2] About two-thirds of infant deaths occur in the neonatal period, before a baby reaches the first four weeks of life. The other one-third of infant mortality deaths happen during the postnatal period, between one month and one year of age.[3] Leading causes of infant death include low birthweight births, congenital deficiencies, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and the substantial drop in SIDS deaths during the late 1990s was a major factor in the decline in infant mortality during that time.[4] Although infant mortality rates have improved for children in all race and ethnic categories, large disparities in infant deaths persist across these population groups, and the infant mortality rate for African-American babies still consistently outnumbers infant deaths from other race and ethnic groups.[5]

Since the mid-1980s, the rates of both low birthweight and very low birthweight births have climbed steadily.[6] Low birthweight children who weigh less than 2500 grams (about five and one-half pounds) at birth, and very low birthweight babies weighing 1500 grams or less (about three and one-quarter pounds) face elevated risks of developmental complications and neonatal or postnatal death than heavier babies. Because the vital systems of low and very low birthweight babies have not fully developed, these children frequently suffer from lung and other organ problems, bleeding of the brain, and a compromised immune system that makes them especially vulnerable to opportunistic infections. Low birthweight children account for about four-fifths of all infant deaths within the first four weeks of birth, and are 24 times more likely to die within their first year of life than normal-weight babies. Very low birthweight babies are 96 times more likely to die before their first birthday, compared to heavier infants.[7] Doctors and researchers have isolated several probable causes of low and very low birthweight births. An increase in multiple births has resulted in a greater proportion of smaller babies. Very young and older mothers face higher chances of bearing low and very low birthweight infants. Smoking, alcohol, and drug use are associated with the incidence of low and very low birthweight births. Nutritional deficiencies, including inadequate weight gain by the mother during pregnancy, also appear to play a role.[8]

To forestall the incidence of infant death and low birthweight births, attention to the health status of children must begin during mothers' pregnancies. Early and consistent prenatal care and education allow women and their health care providers to identify and treat potential problems. For both mother and child, adequate medical care during pregnancy is crucial to insure healthy birth outcomes. The number of American women receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy has grown sizably over the past several decades, an

In 2001, the death rate for African-American babies stood at twice the mortality rate for White and Hispanic infants.

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improvement that occurred across all race and ethnic groups.[9]

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN

Health insurance access and cost have become increasingly troublesome economic and public policy issues, with practical implications that converge on the vital needs of children and families. Although various sources give different estimates, it appears that as many as one-third of Americans may go without health insurance at some point during a given year.[10] While even families covered by employer-sponsored plans have experienced rising health-related costs, low- and middle-income families who have no insurance through their jobs cannot possibly afford the premiums and out-of-pocket costs that the market demands. Without public-sponsored, subsidized health care coverage, these families have no realistic choice but to go uninsured and take their chances. The consequences jeopardize children's well-being and in the end, shift the cost of health care onto more expensive pathways into the health care system when these children do get hurt or sick.

A recent analysis by the Center for Public Policy Priorities documents how Texas Medicaid and the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) have preserved health insurance for a large number of low-income Texas children during a time when economic recession and rising insurance costs have cut into employer-sponsored and privately-purchased health insurance coverage among Texas adults.[11] Medicaid is a jointly-funded federal and state program that provides no-cost medical coverage to poor children and adults who meet certain income and asset requirements. In 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature approved simplified Medicaid procedures to reduce administrative barriers that can discourage eligible Texas children from participation in the program. CHIP benefits families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid but who also earn too little to afford private-market health insurance. Depending on their income, families enrolled in CHIP do pay some premiums, as well as co-payments for physician visits, emergency room services, and prescriptions. Basing its calculations on insurance status data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Center found that

CHILD AND TEEN MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated 7.5 million American children and teens experience serious behavioural health conditions such as anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. About half of them experience some resulting level of disability. In a national focus group study, parents of children with serious mental health diagnoses reported multiple barriers. Well over half described a lack of mental health parity in insurance. Less than one-tenth said school personnel had the background to appropriately educate their children. More than one-third had a child within the juvenile justice system after failing to secure mental health services in the community. Almost one-quarter were advised to relinquish custody of their children in order to obtain necessary mental health care.

Families On the Brink: The Impact of Ignoring Children With Serious Mental Illness
National Alliance For the Mentally Ill
www.nami.org

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the number of uninsured Texas children fell by more than 107,000 between 2000 and 2001, while the state's uninsured adult population grew. Enrollment of those eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP enabled them to maintain insurance coverage at a time when employer-sponsored or privately-purchased health insurance coverage probably would not have been available to them.[12]

WHAT TEXAS KIDS COUNT SAYS ABOUT PHYSICAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

PHYSICAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH INDICATORS

Infant Mortality
1990 – 2001

Low Birthweight Babies
1990 – 2001

Mothers Receiving Little Or No Prenatal Care
1990 – 2001

Children Enrolled in Medicaid
1995 – 2001

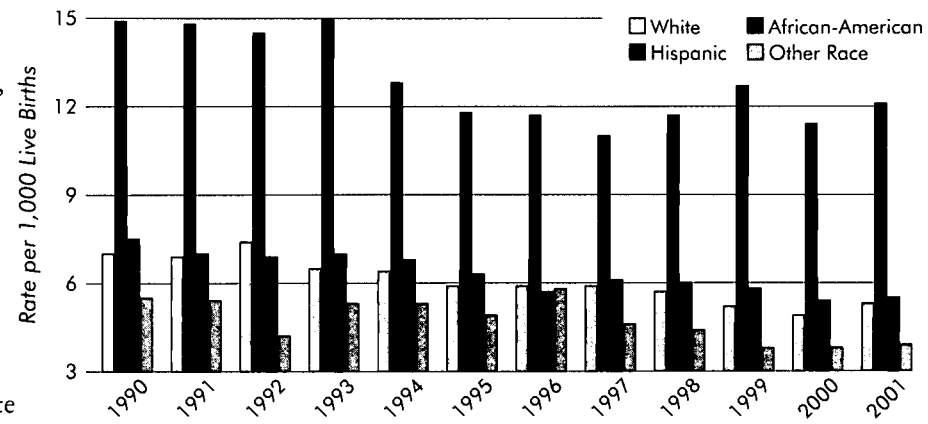
Children Enrolled In CHIP
2000 – 2001

Children Receiving SSI
1997 – 2001

IMPROVEMENT IN INFANT MORTALITY WHILE LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BIRTHS GET WORSE

Mortality rates for Texas babies fell steadily throughout the 1990s, although the state's decline in infant mortality may have tapered off in the past few years. Between 1990 and 2001, the percentage of babies who died in their first year dropped by 26.0%, from 8.2 to 6.1 children per 1,000 live births. Most of this improvement occurred between 1990 and 1996, when the infant mortality rate for Texas decreased by 20.7%. From 1997 through 2000, the state's infant mortality rate remained relatively steady, and between 2000 and 2001, it rose by 5.2%. *Figure 6.1* illustrates change in the infant mortality rate for Texas' race and ethnic groups. White and Hispanic population groups experienced comparable gains in infant death rates between 1990 and 2001, which fell by 24.6% and 26.5%, respectively, during that time. The mortality rate for African-American babies also improved, but not as much, dropping a somewhat smaller 18.8% during the period. In 2001, the death

Figure 6.1
Infant Mortality by Race and Ethnicity

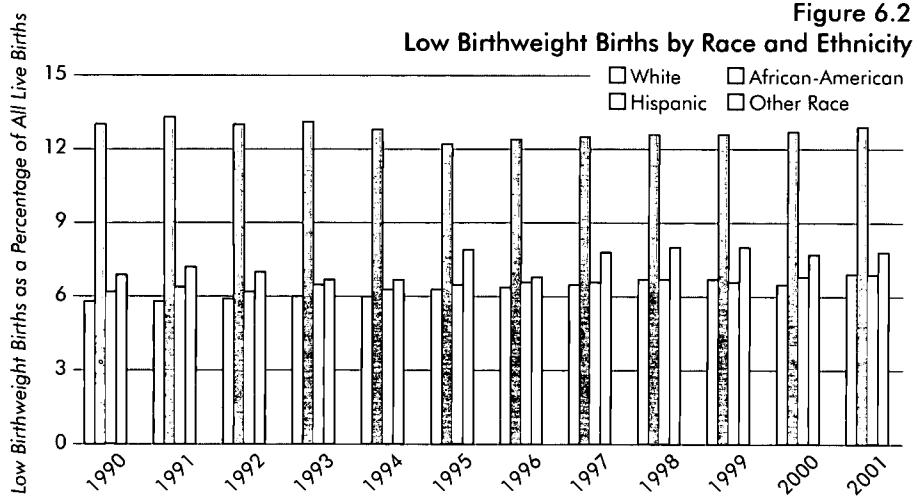


rate for African-American babies (at 12.1 per 1,000 live births) stood at more than twice the rate of mortality for White (5.3 per 1,000) and Hispanic (5.5 per 1,000) infants.

Tarrant County led the state's large counties in infant mortality in both 1990 (10.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births) and 2001 (7.8 per 1,000). In both years, El Paso County experienced the lowest infant mortality rate among large counties, at 6.2 and 4.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, in turn, in 1990 and 2001. The rate of infant deaths improved most in Harris County, declining by 38.2%, from 8.8 to 5.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2001.

Statewide between 1990 and 2001, a different pattern occurred for low birthweight births than for the infant mortality rate. Unlike infant mortality, which has declined overall, the proportion of Texas babies born underweight increased by 9.0% between 1990 and 2001, from 6.9% to 7.6% of live births. During this time, the percentage increase in low birthweight White babies (up by 18.7%) was almost twice the growth in low birthweight births for the state as a whole (shown in *Figure 6.2*). Up by 11.0%, the increase in low birthweight births for Hispanic infants also outpaced growth in the percentage of these births for Texas overall. In contrast to the rise in low birthweight births among White and Hispanic groups, the African-American population alone experienced a slight decline of 1.0% in the percentage of babies born under weight. Still, the absolute rate of low birthweight births remained highest among African-Americans babies in 2001 (at 12.9% of live births, compared to 6.9% of live births for both White and Hispanic babies) as in 1990 (when the percentage of low birthweight babies stood at 13.0% among the African American, 6.2% among the Hispanic, and 5.8% among the White population groups).

Figure 6.2
Low Birthweight Births by Race and Ethnicity



In both 1990 and 2001, Travis County experienced the lowest percentage of low birthweight births, at 6.5% and 6.9% of all live births, respectively, among Texas' six most populous counties. In Dallas County, low birthweight births rose by just 1.5% between 1990 and 2001, the smallest rate of increase among Texas' large counties and one-sixth the size of the increase in low birthweight births for the state overall. Harris County, where the low birthweight rate rose by 2.6% and Travis County, where the percentage of low birthweight births grew 6.2%, also saw smaller percentage

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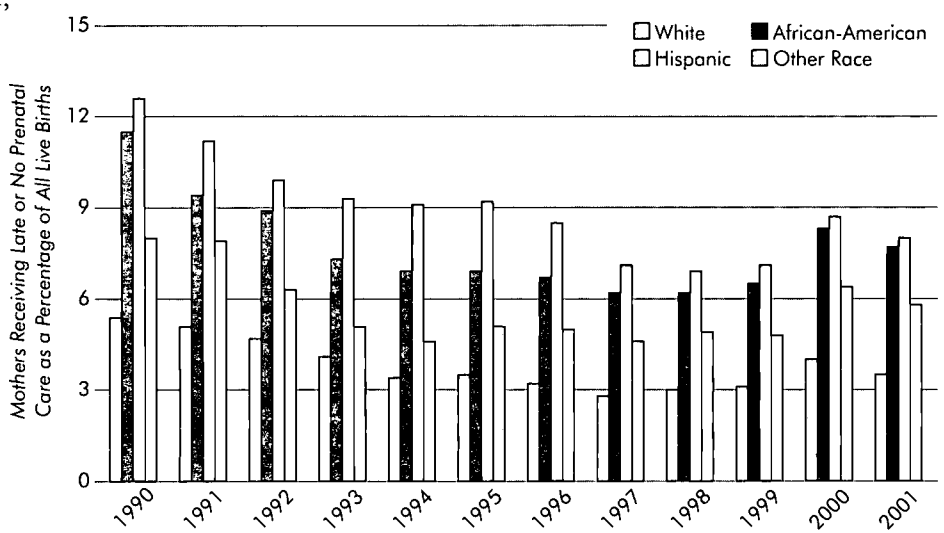
increases than Texas as a whole. In contrast, Bexar County's low birthweight rate jumped by 19%, a higher percentage increase than in any other of the large counties in the state.

Figure 6.3
Mothers Receiving Late or No Prenatal Care by Race and Ethnicity



INADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE DROPS OVERALL, BUT UP SLIGHTLY IN LATE 1990S

In Texas as a whole, the percentage of babies born to mothers who received little or no prenatal care dropped by about one-third (down 31.5%) between 1990 and 2001. White, African-American, and Hispanic race and ethnic groups experienced comparable declines in the proportion of these babies, falling in turn by 36.2%, by 33.1%, and by 37.0% during that time, trends that are visible in *Figure 6.3*.

While the percentage of babies born to mothers who received insufficient care during pregnancy steadily declined from 1990 thorough 1997, this trend reversed for several subsequent years. Across each race and ethnic group, the proportion of babies whose mothers received inadequate care during pregnancy consistently rose from 1998 until 2001, when it again experienced a slight decline.

Tarrant County's improvement in the percentage of babies born to mothers with inadequate prenatal care, which fell by 45.6% between 1990 and 2001, outpaced gains for the state and each of the other large counties. Only Travis County, up by 35.9%, experienced an increase in the proportion of births to mothers receiving little or no prenatal care. The percentage of babies whose mothers received insufficient prenatal care was lowest in Bexar County in both 1990 (at 3.5% of live births) and 2001 (3.0% of live births).

CHILD MEDICAID ENROLLMENTS DECLINE WHILE CHIP PARTICIPATION SOARS

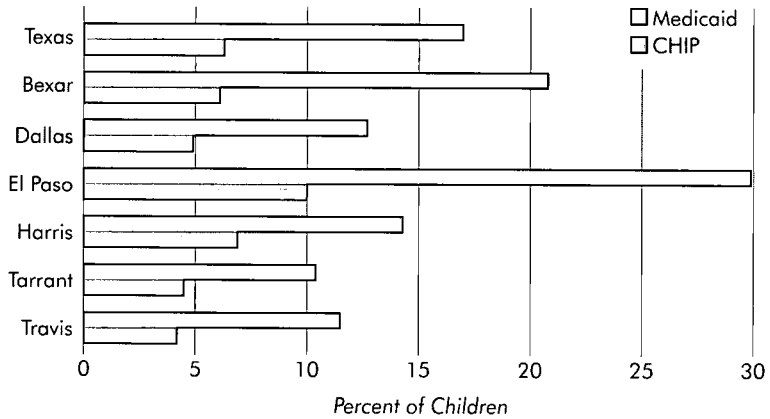
Due to a healthy economy and the transition of families out of the state's public assistance system, the percentage of children enrolled in Medicaid fell by almost a fifth, down 18.0%,

between 1995 (when 20.8% of the state's under-18 population enrolled) and 2000 (with an enrollment representing 16.0% of Texas children). Most of this decline took place between 1995 and 1998, while the proportion of children enrolled in Medicaid remained steady through 2000 and increased to 17.0% in 2001.

Figure 6.4 presents 2001 Medicaid and CHIP enrollments for Texas and each of its largest counties. In both 1995 and 2001, Medicaid enrollment rates for the state's six largest counties maintained identical relative rankings. Tarrant County, with 14.2% of its child population receiving Medicaid in 1995 and 10.4% of its children enrolled in 2001, experienced the lowest rates of program participation in both years. Medicaid enrollment in El Paso County surpassed membership rates for each of the other large counties in both 1995 and 2001, with 29.5% and 29.9% of its children, respectively, receiving Medicaid program support in those years. Although its increase of 1.5% between 1995 and 2001 was small, El Paso County was the only one of Texas' most populous counties in which Medicaid enrollments rose. In Harris (down 34.1%), Dallas (down 31.4%), Tarrant (down 26.8%), and Travis (down 23.2%) Counties, the decline in Medicaid participation exceeded the drop in program enrollment statewide.

Reflecting Texas' abundance of low-wage jobs that offer no medical insurance, the rate of CHIP participation climbed more than sixfold, from 1.0% to 6.3% of Texas children, in the program's first year. Even with this one-year jump in CHIP membership, the percentage of the state's children enrolled in Medicaid in 2001 remained at almost three times the proportion of children participating in CHIP.

Figure 6.4
Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment 2001



El Paso County led the other five largest counties in CHIP enrollment in both 2000 (when 1.4% of the county's children received CHIP benefits) and 2001 (when 10.0% the child population participated in the program). Dallas County, where 2000 CHIP enrollment (0.6% of children) was lowest among the state's most populous counties, by 2001 had experienced the largest percentage increase in program participation, up by 696.7%. With the lowest percentage rise in CHIP enrollment among the large counties between 2000 and 2001 (up 396.7%), Travis County also enrolled the smallest proportion of its child population, 4.2%, in CHIP in 2001.

ERIC

Section 7:
Hunger & Nutrition

For many people, hunger is emblematic of economic hardship—as such, we often literally describe being poor as "going hungry." Hunger and food insecurity persist in families who struggle to survive at or near the poverty line, and they also extend into income levels that many would consider middle class. This issue is crucial for children, who cannot maintain their health, grow, or learn without the basic resource of adequate and nutritionally sound food.

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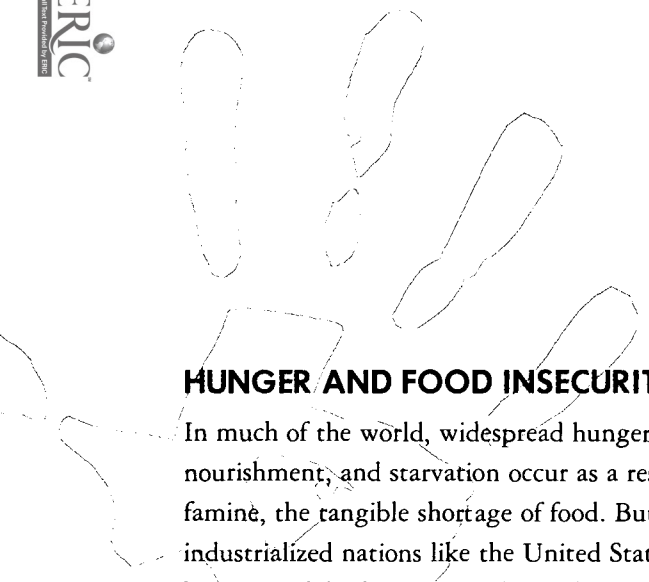

HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

In much of the world, widespread hunger, malnourishment, and starvation occur as a result of famine, the tangible shortage of food. But in industrialized nations like the United States, hunger and food insecurity do not happen because food is unavailable. Rather, food hardship here occurs because people of limited economic means lack sufficient financial resources to purchase food. The distinction is important, and in recognizing it, researchers have developed the concept of "food insecurity" to encompass the varied degrees of food hardship that affect low-income families in the U. S. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines hunger as the "uneasy or painful sensation caused by lack of food due to lack of resources to obtain food" and food insecurity as "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and sufficient foods." On the other hand, families are considered food secure if they have "assured access to enough food for an active healthy life." The USDA uses these definitions to classify American households as either "food secure," "food insecure without hunger," "food insecure with moderate hunger," or "food insecure with severe hunger." Households are considered food insecure with "moderate" or "severe" hunger when a lack of resources means that the child family members do not get enough to eat.[1] In the early 1990s, USDA and other national researchers developed the Food Security Core Module, a survey tool to measure and collect national data on the prevalence of hunger and food insecurity in the United States. The Census Bureau first administered the survey in 1995, and released the most recent data from it in 2002. According to these data, Texas has the second highest rate of food insecurity in the country, with almost 14% of households either hungry or at risk for hunger.[2] This means that over 2.8 million Texans cannot always afford an adequate and nutritious diet. One-quarter of these families, over 729,000 Texans, experience outright hunger.

Food insecurity in Texas is more pronounced than in the nation overall as a result of widespread poverty and the high percentage of families among the working poor. In a recent national report on family economic hardships, 17.5% of respondents in households with incomes up to twice the federal poverty line reported skipping meals because they lacked the money to pay for food. More than 40% of the study's participants said they routinely worried about having enough food.[3] A 1999 report on family economic security found that over half (56.8%) of children in Texas households with incomes up to twice the federal poverty line lived in families where the adults worried about or had difficulty affording food.[4] Characteristics of households that face food insecurity include difficulty obtaining enough food, anxiety about the family food supply, skipping meals, and the use of emergency food resources.[5]

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HUNGER & NUTRITION

PROGRAMS TO HELP FAMILIES PROVIDE FOOD

Based on an idea that goes back to the late 1930s, Food Stamps provide a temporary safety net to low-income individuals and families.[6] Food Stamps help families avoid hunger and lift low-wage workers out of poverty. In fiscal year 2001, average monthly participation in the Food Stamp program stood at more than 17.3 million people. The federal government pays 100% of the cost of Food Stamps, while the state provides half the cost of program administration, including the expense of determining eligibility.

Food Stamps help the most needy members of our communities. Approximately 89% of households that receive Food Stamps have incomes below the federal poverty line, and over one-third are considered extremely poor, with incomes at or below 50% of the official poverty threshold. Households with children account for 87% of Food Stamps benefits.

In Texas, recent policy decisions have resulted in program changes that reduce administrative barriers to Food Stamp participation. One of these modifications expands the use of telephone interviews to establish eligibility, instead of requiring Food Stamp applicants to appear for a personal interview with an eligibility worker. Another policy change reduces the frequency of recertifications, when clients must prove that they are still eligible for Food Stamp benefits. New rules also set up more realistic resource limits for program participation, so that families still can qualify for benefits even if they own some savings or a modest vehicle.

Created in the 1970s, the Women's, Infants', and Children's food program provides supplemental foods and other health resources to pregnant and lactating women and children under age five in order to enhance their nutritional status. WIC prescribes a specific nutritional regimen to address the individual health needs of each program participant. In fiscal year 2000, WIC served approximately 7.2 million women and children monthly, and studies have documented a number of positive health outcomes resulting from women's and children's involvement in the program.

The National School Lunch Program provides children across the country with an opportunity to obtain at least one complete meal each school day. Lunches served by the program supply at least one-third of children's Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) for key nutrients. During the 2000-2001 school year, 24.7 million children participated in the school lunch program and on any given day, 15.6 million of them received free or reduced-price lunches available to children in low-income

The decline in Food Stamp participation far exceeded the much smaller drop in Texas' child poverty rate.

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UNIVERSAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST

To qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, students must come from families that meet low-income eligibility guidelines. Universal school breakfast programs offer breakfast to all children regardless of income. Educators know that school breakfast enhances student performance, improves student health, and improves the behavioral and learning environment at school. On these grounds, proposals to establish universal school breakfast programs identify several of their main advantages. By utilizing certain provisions of the National School Lunch Act, schools can delay burdensome eligibility processing for the first three years of the breakfast program, perhaps longer. Since universal breakfast programs serve all students, they can reduce some of the stigma of a meal targeted to low-income children. Finally, free breakfasts offered to all students can be served in classrooms, an innovation that has surprised some schools with its positive behavioral and academic outcomes.

School Breakfast Report Card 2002
Food Research and Action Center
www.frac.org

families. Household income determines eligibility for free and reduced-price lunches through the program. Children in families with incomes between 130% and 185% of the federal poverty threshold qualify for reduced-price meals. Family income at or below 130% of the poverty line makes children eligible for free school lunch. In Texas, over 1.7 million children qualified for free or reduced price lunches in school year 2001 – 2002.

In Texas, an extensive emergency feeding network of private, non-profit, and faith-based institutions plays a significant role in feeding the hungry, even when they qualify for and may be receiving benefits through the Food Stamp program. The Texas Association of Second Harvest Food Banks (TASHFB) represents the largest network of food banks in the state. These 19 food banks distribute food to 3,700 charitable agencies that serve all 254 Texas counties. In 1999, Texas food banks collected and distributed 125 million pounds of food to its network of charities. These charities served 33 million hot meals to hungry individuals and families in Texas and provided groceries to 2.5 million households, representing approximately 7.5 million people.

Economic conditions over the last several years have severely strained the resources of charitable food providers throughout the state. At the same time that struggling families' demand for emergency food has climbed, the economic vulnerability of food bank donors has compromised their ability to provide as much food to the network as it needs to serve its clients.

Nearly half the students enrolled in Texas schools participate in the free and reduced-price lunch program.

In 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 398, which provides $500,000 in state funds to transport surplus fresh produce from Texas farms to local food banks throughout the state. The legislation also subsidizes the fees that farmers would otherwise pay to harvest this surplus. During the first year of this project, over four million pounds of fresh produce was

distributed—the equivalent of eight million servings of fruits and vegetables to needy households. In 2002, Texas distributed over $7 million worth of fresh produce under the Surplus Agricultural Products Grant. This means that for every state dollar spent in 2002, Texas food banks distributed $30 worth of fresh produce.

WHAT TEXAS KIDS COUNT SAYS ABOUT HUNGER & NUTRITION

63

HUNGER & NUTRITION INDICATORS

Children Receiving Food Stamps
1995 – 2001

Children Receiving Free Or Reduced-Price Lunch
1993 – 2002

Children Receiving WIC
1996 – 2001

DECLINE IN FOOD STAMP PARTICIPATION OUTPACES IMPROVEMENT IN POVERTY RATE

Figure 7.1 illustrates trends in participation in the three major food assistance programs for Texas children between 1993 and 2002. From 1995 to 2001, the percentage of Texas children receiving Food Stamps dropped by more than half, from 19.6% to 9.3%. This fall in Food Stamp participation far exceeded the much smaller drop in Texas' child poverty rate during this time (*Figure 7.2*). The Figure also displays comparative change in child poverty and Food Stamp program participation for the state's six largest counties. In each one, both child poverty and the percentage of children receiving Food Stamps fell, but Food Stamp participation declined much more. Together, these data suggest that although the economic pressures on low-income families may have lessened just a little, their utilization of a significant source of assistance has deteriorated by much more.

Figure 7.1
Food Program Enrollment

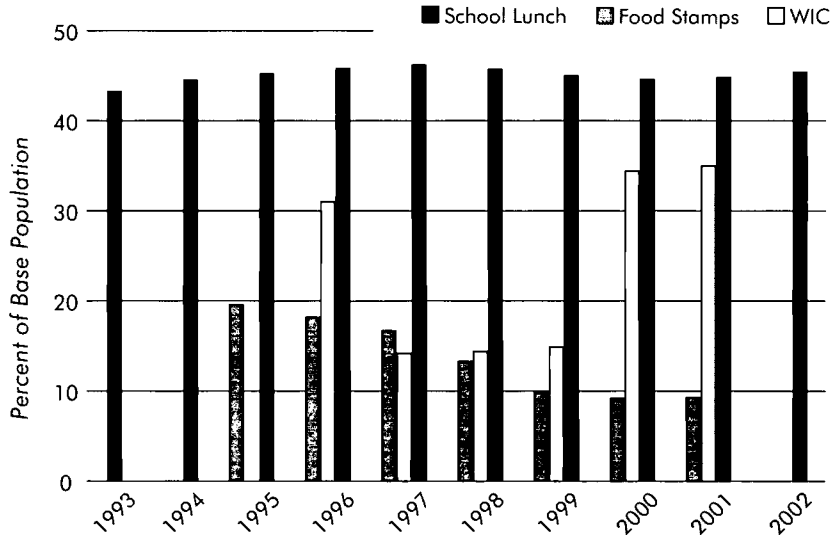
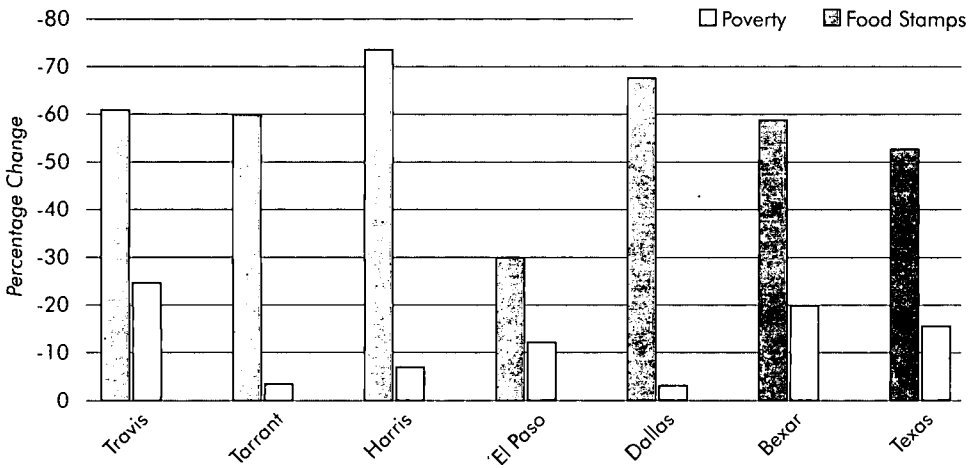


Figure 7.2
Change in Child Poverty and Children Receiving Food Stamps



In each of Texas' largest counties, Food Stamp usage also fell by sizable amounts, which *Figure 7.3* displays. With a decline of 73.6%, Harris County experienced the steepest drop in Food Stamp participation between 1995 and 2001. Four other counties—Dallas, Travis, Tarrant, and Bexar—saw Food Stamp program participation decline by more than 50.0% from 1995 to 2001. Tarrant County, with 11.8% of its children participating in 1995 and 4.8% in 2001, showed the lowest rate of Food Stamp program use in both years. El Paso County, at 31.7% in 1995 and 22.7% in 2001, consistently experienced the highest rates of Food Stamp participation among the six large counties.

WIC PROGRAM USAGE UP

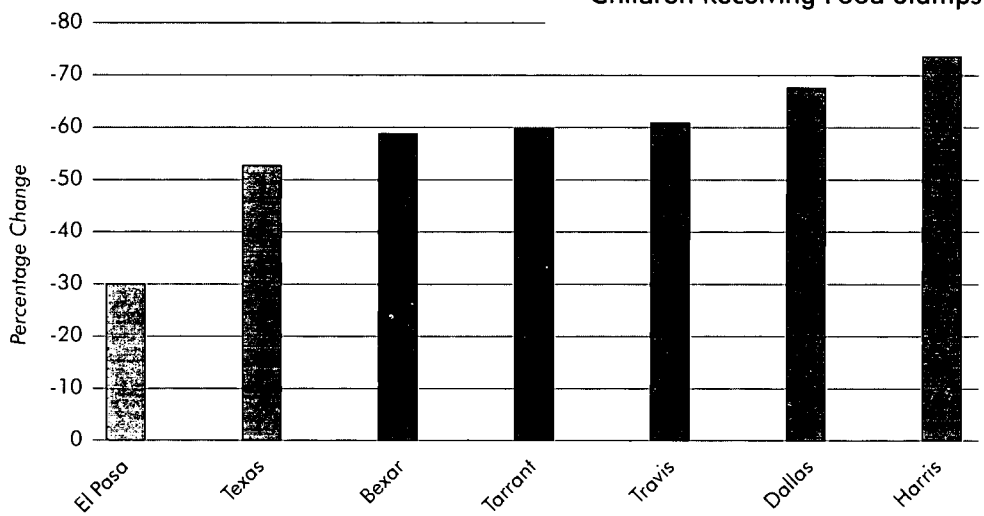
Between 1996 and 2001, the WIC program served a growing percentage of infants and young children in Texas. WIC use in Texas increased 12.7% during that time, from 31.0% to 35.0% of children under five years of age. In all but Bexar County (where 2.9% more children received WIC in 2001 compared to 1996) growth in the proportion of children receiving services through WIC was higher than the percentage increase in WIC statewide. With the highest proportion, among large counties, of children receiving WIC in both 1996 (47.9%) and 2001 (60.5%), El Paso County also experienced the largest percentage increase in client growth—more than double WIC growth for Texas as a whole—between those years.

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM SERVES HALF OF TEXAS' SCHOOL STUDENTS

Nearly half the students enrolled in Texas schools are eligible for in the free and reduced-price lunch program, a rate that has moved relatively little statewide between 1993 and 2002, when 43.2% and 45.4%, respectively, of the student population was eligible to receive this benefit. *Figure 7.1* displays the trend in lunch program eligibility during that time.

Sizable though opposing changes occurred across Texas' largest counties, which El Paso and Bexar Counties exemplify. In 1993, lunch program eligibility in these two counties surpassed program use statewide and in each of Texas' other largest counties. That year 55.7% of the Bexar County and 62.6% of the El Paso County student population was eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches. Between 1993 and 2002, the share of students eligible for El Paso County school lunch programs barely changed, slipping by 1.9% to eventually include 61.4% of students in El Paso's schools. In Bexar County a very different trend occurred. Eligibility for the school lunch program there fell by almost a quarter, down 22.7% to include 43.1% of the student population in 2002. In three other counties, the proportion of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches grew by levels comparable to the amount of the Bexar County decline. The percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches grew by 22.5% in Tarrant County and by 23.9% in Dallas County. The share of public school students eligible for free or reduced price lunches climbed by more than one-third, or 34.4%, in Harris County between 1993 and 2002.

Figure 7.3
Children Receiving Food Stamps



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Section 8:

Safety & Personal Security

Society has no greater obligation than the protection of its most vulnerable members. Without the power or resources to protect themselves, abused and neglected children in Texas rely on the vigilance of adults to rescue them from physical injury, severe neglect, sexual assault, and emotional cruelty. Parents, caregivers, school personnel and other adults also must intervene to prevent child and teen injuries and deaths due to unintentional causes.

ERIC

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

In 1961, the medical profession formally recognized child abuse as "battered child syndrome." Since that time, our understanding of the multiple dimensions of child abuse and neglect have become more nuanced and complex. The Child Welfare League of America[1] publishes *Standards for Services for Abused or Neglected Children and Their Families*, which defines four primary forms of child abuse and neglect. Physical abuse involves actions by parents or other adults that cause physical injury to a child. Neglect—the most common form of child maltreatment—occurs through the failure of parents or other caregivers to provide a child with needed and age-appropriate food, clothing, hygiene, medical care, education, protection from harm, and supervision. Sexual abuse refers to sexual activity with a child by a parent or other adult, including any kind of coerced sexual contact or any kind of sexual exploitation of the child. In cases of emotional maltreatment, the parent or other adult rejects, berates, ignores, or isolates a child, in ways that are likely to cause serious mental, emotional, or social impairment.

In the latest year (2001) for which available national data exist, Child Protective Services (CPS) agencies in the United States took an average of 50,000 calls concerning child maltreatment each week. Translated, this number represented more than 7,100 calls every single day.[2] CPS workers who screened these calls classified about two-thirds of them as appropriate for investigation, and more than one-quarter of those referrals eventually ended up as substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect. The child victims of these confirmed maltreatment cases numbered almost 2,500 per day and totaled 903,000 per year. An estimated 1,300 children—between three and four children per day—died of maltreatment in 2001, 40.9% of them infants under one year old, and 84.5% of them under the age of six.[3]

Abuse and neglect affect children immediately and in the long term. Adverse health consequences of maltreatment, including brain injuries, neuromotor handicaps, mental health disorders, and sexually transmitted diseases, can occur at the time of the abuse or shortly thereafter. Poor school performance, as well as lingering antisocial, aggressive, and self-destructive behaviors, are documented enduring effects. The services offered by child welfare agencies may improve the health, emotional, and behavioral status of child abuse victims, and some researchers have suggested that measures of child well-being should be incorporated into the ongoing assessment of children in the protective services system.[4]

Greater improvement for African-American children and youth led the decline in both child deaths and teen violent deaths.

In 1991, the 7[2nd] Texas Legislature reorganized the state's human service agencies and cteated the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS). In state fiscal year 1992, when DPRS began operation as an independent entity, it reported 107,276 investigations of child abuse. Six years later, Travis County State District Judge F. Scott McCown, who eventually heard more than 2,000 child abuse cases

concerning more than 4,000 children, petitioned the 76th Legislature on behalf of the young people he termed the "forgotten children of Texas." In his report to the Legislature, Judge McCown documented a severe deterioration in both the volume and quality of the state's investigation of child abuse and neglect. Although doing its best with inadequate resources, Child Protective Services (the DPRS division that investigates reports of child abuse and neglect) classified too few calls about children as reports of maltreatment, assigned too few for investigation or completed assigned investigations too slowly, confirmed too few victims, and removed too few confirmed victims from the control of abusive or neglectful adults. In the context of a statewide rise in child deaths of more than 70% between fiscal years 1997 and 1998,[5] the Legislature responded to Judge McCown's petition. Members voted emergency funding to increase CPS staff and services, fund caseload growth, reduce supervisory and caseworker caseloads, and improve compensation for CPS staff. In 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature enlarged the state's commitment to child protection, approving the funding to support continued caseload growth. These legislative actions have provided the resources required to protect an expanding number of children who might otherwise have remained in dangerous or potentially fatal environments. By state fiscal year 2002, the number of CPS investigations grew to 125,258,[6] involving a total of 266,864[7] children. *Table 8.1* details the number of confirmed child victims in 2002 by type of abuse or neglect. During 2002, an average of 9,000 families per month received in-home services to reduce the risk of child abuse or neglect. A total of 2,248 adoptions were completed for children whose return to home would leave them unsafe, and at the end of the year, another 3,821 children remained in CPS custody awaiting adoption. In 2002, 203 Texas children died as a result of abuse or neglect. Of those children who were killed, 41.4% were under the age of one year, and 78.8% were less than three years old.[8]

Table 8.1
Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect in Texas in 2002

Neglectful Supervision	24,183
Physical Abuse	12,800
Sexual Abuse	7,290
Physical Neglect	6,763
Medical Neglect	2,244
Emotional Abuse	1,260
Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibility	815
Abandonment	486

Source: Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. (2002). *Annual Report 2002*. Austin: Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

Texas law requires that any person suspecting child abuse or neglect must report these concerns to the state's Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-252-5400). In a situation threatening imminent harm to a child, the call should instead go to local law enforcement authorities or the 911 emergency number. Persons may report suspected child abuse or neglect anonymously, and will remain immune from criminal or civil liability for making the report as long as they have done so in good faith.

UNINTENTIONAL CHILD AND TEEN DEATHS

Although consciousness of child maltreatment has grown, the incidence of unintentional injuries and deaths among children and youth remains a comparatively unrecognized yet enormous public health problem. Together, events including motor vehicle collisions, drownings, fires, poisonings, and gun accidents represent the leading cause of death for Americans between one and 19 years of age.[9]

By 2002, the rate of confirmed child abuse in Texas again increased.

Much of the damage resulting from unintentional causes is preventable. Public health campaigns have educated parents and other adults about the benefits of safety strategies like the use of bicycle helmets and smoke detectors. In examples such as the required use of car seats for small children, legislation and regulation have been used to protect children from unintended injury or death. Alongside environmental and product modifications, such as neighborhood traffic calming and the manufacture of flame-retardant children's clothing, these measures have helped to reduce the child death rate by more than 40% between 1980 and 2001.[10, 11]

Each year firearm incidents injure or kill more than 20,000 children and youth in the United States.[12] Homicides account for an estimated 58% of firearm deaths among children and youth, while 33% of these deaths are due to suicide and another 7% occur as a result of unintentional shootings.[13]

According to estimates, four firearm-related injuries also take place for every gun death among people under 20 years old.[14] The number of gun deaths among children and youth has declined from its peak in the mid-1990s. However, the particular lethality of guns, along with widespread access to them, has created great concern among parents, health and other service providers, and law enforcement personnel. Strategies for addressing the risk of gun-related injuries and deaths among children include closer monitoring of their access to guns, improvement in firearm safety features, and stricter control over the illegal flow of guns to youth.[15]

WHAT TEXAS KIDS COUNT SAYS ABOUT SAFETY & PERSONAL SECURITY

SAFETY & PERSONAL SECURITY INDICATORS

Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse
1990—2002

Child Deaths
1990—2001

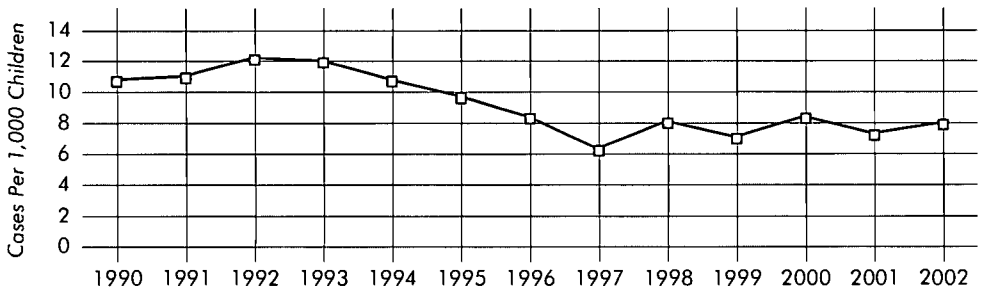
Teen Violent Deaths
1990—2001

Children in Family Violence Shelters
2000—2001

CHILD ABUSE DECLINES, THEN RISES AGAIN

Since 1990, cases of confirmed child abuse in Texas have dropped by 26.0%. Confirmed instances of abuse, illustrated in *Figure 8.1*,

Figure 8.1
Confirmed Incidence of Child Abuse



peaked in 1992 at 12.1 per 1,000 children, then fell by almost half, to a low of 6.2 per 1,000 children in 1997. By 2002, the rate of confirmed child abuse in the state had again increased by 27.4%, standing then at a rate of 7.9 cases per 1,000 children.

Between 1990 and 2002, confirmed child abuse rates in each of the state's largest counties declined at a greater percentage than for Texas as a whole. Confirmed child abuse fell by 42.5% in Bexar County and by 41.3% in Tarrant County, leading the improvement among large counties. The lowest incidence of confirmed child abuse in 2002 occurred in El Paso County, which experienced a rate of 5.8 confirmed cases per 1,000 children.

DEATH RATE DECLINES FOR TEXAS TEENS, LESS FOR TEXAS CHILDREN

Statewide, the rates of both child deaths and teen violent deaths fell steadily between 1990 and 2001. Total child deaths dropped 24.9%, from 33.3 per 1,000 children in 1990 to 25.0 per 1,000 children in 2001. Although it remains more than twice as high as the child death rate, the teen violent death rate in Texas declined by a greater percentage, 32.4%, from 80.4 deaths per 1,000 teens in 1990 to 54.4 deaths per 1,000 teens in 2001.

Change in child death rates for each of the state's six most populous counties varied from trends for the state. In three counties—Harris (down 31.2%), Tarrant (down 27.1%), and Dallas (down 25.3%)—the drop in the child death rate exceeded the decline for the state overall. El Paso County experienced a much smaller decrease in child deaths, which fell a comparatively modest 5.0%. In Travis County, the child death rate jumped 47.4% between 1990 and 2001. By 2002, the Travis County child death rate of 28.0 per 1,000 children surpassed comparable rates in Texas and each of the other five largest counties.

Like Texas itself, almost all of the state's largest counties saw greater improvement in the teen death rate than in the child death rate. Tarrant County, with a decline in the teen death rate of 23.2% and a drop in the death rate for children of 27.2%, was the only exception to this pattern. Teen deaths fell most, by 58.4%, in Harris County and least, by 9.4%, in Travis County. In 2001, the Travis County teen death rate of 54.3 per 1,000 teens nearly matched the state rate of 54.4. Tarrant (with a rate of

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & CHILDREN

Although we currently have no exact estimates, available data tells us that thousands of children annually suffer the adverse effects of exposure to domestic violence. In historical terms, the legal system has barely begun to address domestic violence as a genuine problem for women, much less to recognize its destructive consequences for children. Yet the safety of mothers and their children remain integrally linked. Researchers believe that as many as 10 million children come into contact with domestic violence each year, but only a small fraction of them receive services tailored to their specific needs. In 30% to 60% of families experiencing either child maltreatment or domestic violence, the other form of abuse also occurs. Better integration of domestic violence and child protective services programs could more adequately serve both mothers and children who critically need this support to overcome the devastating legacy of intimate abuse.

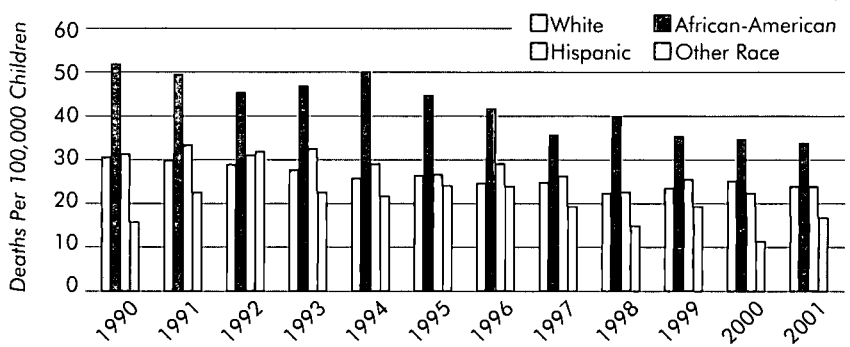
The Future of Children: Domestic Violence and Children
David and Lucille Packard Foundation
www.futureofchildren.org

66.8 per 1,000) and Dallas (at 68.6 per 1,000) Counties both exceeded the rate of teen violent death for Texas overall.

RACIAL DISPARITY IN CHILD DEATHS PERSISTS, BUT IMPROVES FOR TEEN VIOLENT DEATHS

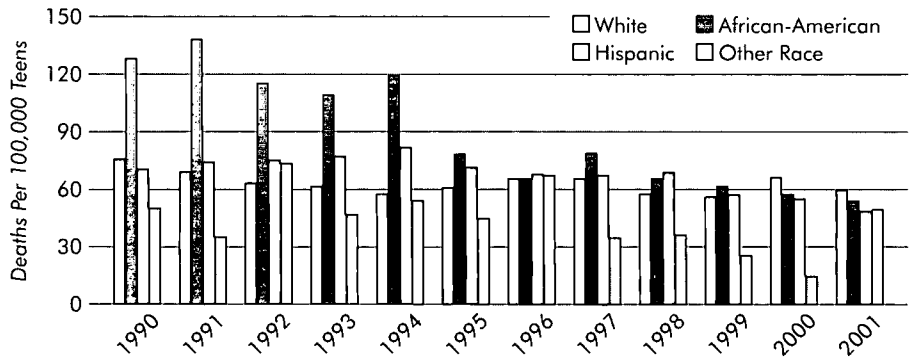
Comparatively greater improvement for African-American children and youth has led the decline in both child deaths and teen violent deaths for Texas as a whole, narrowing the gap between death rates for these children and the members of other race and ethnic groups throughout the state. Trends in child death rates for different race and ethnic groups appear in *Figure 8.2*. With the exception of increases in 1994, 1995, and 1998, the rate of African-American child deaths moved steadily downward between 1990 and 2001, an eventual percentage decline of 34.7%. In spite of greater percentage improvement, African-American children still experience a much higher death rate than children of other race and ethnic groups, at 41.4% higher than both White and Hispanic children. The death rate for Hispanic and White children also dropped, but by smaller percentages of 23.6% and 21.7%, respectively.

Figure 8.2
Child Deaths By Race and Ethnicity



An even greater relative decline occurred in the violent death rate for African-American teens. *Figure 8.3* charts teen violent death rates for various race and ethnic groups between 1990 and 2001. A drop of 57.9% in African-American teen violent deaths almost doubled the 31.2% decline in Hispanic teen violent deaths and was nearly three times greater than the 21.2% decrease in White teen violent deaths. In contrast to child death statistics, data on teen violent deaths show that by 2000 and 2001, White teens—rather than African-American teens—surpassed death rates for all other race and ethnic groups.

Figure 8.3
Teen Violent Deaths by Race and Ethnicity



OVERALL, MORE CHILDREN IN FAMILY VIOLENCE SHELTERS

More Texas children were living in family violence shelters in 2001 than in 2000, but this rate increased by only 5.3%, from 2.7 to 2.8 children per 1,000, between the two years. Wider variation in this rate occurred among Texas' largest counties. In Bexar County, the rate of children housed in family violence shelters dropped 7.5%, from 2.0 to 1.8 per 1,000 children. Two other counties—Tarrant (down 3.3%) and Harris (down 2.2%)—also saw a decline in this rate. Dallas County experienced a much larger percentage increase in the rate of children living in shelters. There, the rate grew 21.4%, from 1.7 to 2.0 children per 1,000. The rate of children in shelters also rose, by 18.0% and 19.3%, respectively, in El Paso and Travis Counties. For the state as a whole and in its largest counties, the number of children living in family violence shelters remains very small. For this reason, what appear as large percentage changes may in fact reflect relatively minor absolute differences.

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DATA DOCUMENTATION

This section provides general information for users of Texas KIDS COUNT data. More detailed technical documentation appears on the Texas KIDS COUNT website, http://www.cppp.org/kidscount/index.html.

DATA SELECTION CRITERIA

Much of the value of Texas KIDS COUNT resides in the quality of the data we assemble and report. Our criteria for data selection, described here, assure our users that the information they obtain from Texas KIDS COUNT will consistently remain the most reliable, objective, and timely available.

1 Texas KIDS COUNT obtains data only from official sources, at national, state, and county levels. To give us the greatest amount of confidence in the quality of Texas KIDS COUNT data, we rely on data from non-commercial, non-proprietary source agencies that employ trained researchers and document their methodology. Official data also has the advantage of public availability, often for no charge.

2 Because the ability to document trends in child well-being over time is a core feature of Texas KIDS COUNT, we select both indicators and data sources that are updated regularly and predictably.

3 Users of Texas KIDS COUNT tell us that their greatest need for information involves local level data. For this reason, the core Texas KIDS COUNT database contains only indicators available at the county level, measured consistently for every county in the state.

4 Texas KIDS COUNT intends to characterize the status of children and families in the state as comprehensively as possible, so indicators are chosen that represent the most important aspects of child and family well-being and give us information about children at each age. These include statistics on children's family and community setting, economic security, education, health, and safety.

5 Finally, indicators selected for the Texas KIDS COUNT database must tell us something substantial about the status of our children. A number of indicators do this by describing actual outcomes, for example, the number and percentage of Texas children living in poverty, the infant mortality rate, or high school dropout and completion data. Other indicators, such as Medicaid and CHIP enrollment, or the number of children receiving child care assistance or Food Stamps, provide programmatic data that demonstrate how Texas is addressing the situation of children and families in need. A third type of indicator, primarily demographic information such as the overall and child population and the number and percentage of single parent families, gives useful information about the social and economic context which affects the prospects of children in the state.

DATA LIMITATIONS

Although our criteria for the selection and use of Texas KIDS COUNT data offer the best guarantee of its quality, users should understand some of the chief limitations that we encounter when attempting to accurately portray the complex situation of Texas children.

1 For a large number of important issues relevant to child well-being, very little solid information exists at the county level, and in many cases,

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even at the state level—if such data indeed exists at all. The list of these topics is long, including, for example, fragile families, homeless families, school safety, abortion among teens, childhood asthma and lead poisoning, childhood hunger, and the effects on children of being witness to incidents of domestic violence.

2 There exists almost no data below the county level that could give us insight into the condition of children and families in specific cities, towns, and even neighborhoods. School district data represents the primary exception to this situation, but the very large number of school districts in Texas make it infeasible for the Texas KIDS COUNT project to produce a single report that would include data from every district in the state.

3 Data for several important indicators, including children in single parent families, comes from the decennial U.S. Census, and so are updated only every ten years. Due to lengthy processing time for more detailed social and economic indicators, the Census Bureau takes approximately two years, post-collection, to actually make this information available to the public.

4 Detailed race and ethnic breakdowns of many Texas KIDS COUNT indicators could provide important and useful insight into disparities in child well-being in the state. Unfortunately, only a very small number of source agencies can provide this information.

RESPONSIBLE DATA USE

In any social science, even users without a technical background should understand something about the basic assumptions that underlie reported data, and which can substantially influence any interpretations about the meaning of that data. For this reason, Texas KIDS COUNT provides precise, yet comprehensible, documentation of data sources, definitions, and other technical notes that we urge our users to consult.

The *Fact Book* provides basic information on indicator definitions and data sources. Further documentation on the Texas KIDS COUNT website gives important basic information about each indicator in the Texas KIDS COUNT database. First, our data notes describe how source agencies measure specific indicators so users can confidently tell what these indicators actually mean. For example, users should know whether an indicator representing program enrollment is based on an annual average of monthly enrollment totals or on a point-in-time measure where a given monthly figure is used to designate annual enrollment. It is also important to distinguish whether enrollment figures are unduplicated, meaning that individuals are counted only once, no matter whether they leave and then return into a program such as Medicaid, or whether the indicator counts each enrollment event so that a given person is counted each time he or she joins the program, even if it happens more than once within a single year. Users should be aware of different time intervals—chiefly calendar years, school years, and state fiscal years—represented within various indicators. It is also important to make note of the population base for reported rates, generally given in terms of a percentage—reflecting a base population of 100—or in terms of the incidence of an event per 1,000 or 100,000 population. Over time, the methodology for measuring indicators can change. For example, the Census Bureau reclassified and

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expanded its set of race categories between 1900 and 2000. Similarly, the Texas Education Agency has substantially revised its methodology, since the early 1990s, for estimating high school dropout and completion rates. Users must consider any changes in the measurement of KIDS COUNT indicators when attempting to make comparisons between years contained in the database. Finally, our data documentation explains any particular background information, including any caveats to consider, when interpreting KIDS COUNT data.

Awareness of several additional points can help our users take advantage of KIDS COUNT data responsibly.

1 When county populations are very small or events occur very infrequently, calculations of rates and percentages can be subject to random error which can make these data unstable and perhaps even misleading. Our presentation of county level data alerts users to instances when the frequency of a reported data point falls below 20 and its interpretation requires caution based on this small amount.

2 Although Texas KIDS COUNT makes the effort to locate and provide the most rigorous data available, it is important to remember that data from our source agencies often has been gathered and processed by individual counties throughout the state. If these counties vary in their capacity for accurate reporting, it may introduce potential error into final reported figures.

3 The Texas KIDS COUNT database offers important information about the status of Texas children across a number of key issue areas, and as one of its central features, permits us to observe trends on these topics over time. For methodological reasons, however, the data alone do not allow us to draw any conclusions about relationships among indicators or to determine what outside factors may have caused or might result from them. It always will remain helpful for users of Texas KIDS COUNT to examine the kinds of information from additional sources that can work alongside KIDS COUNT data. Consideration of other credible information, along with KIDS COUNT data, is likely to provide the most complete and best informed analysis of child and family circumstances, how these came about, and what they suggest for the future.

INTERPRETING KIDS COUNT DATA

Two primary ways of reading KIDS COUNT data involve looking at trends and exploring comparisons.

1 Whether for better or worse, change across indicators in the Texas KIDS COUNT database reflects improvement or, alternatively, deterioration in the conditions of children throughout the state. While we provide information about the rate of change between base and current years for each indicator, users themselves can also examine trends between two single years in a data series or track annual change for the entire series. Users should consider that an absence of change also may signify important information about child well-being.

2 Several types of comparisons can aid in understanding the meaning of indicator data for a given county, identifying relative areas of strength and weakness for a county, as well as

similar and dissimilar trajectories of change. County data compared to state data and comparisons among individual counties are basic ways of identifying meaningful patterns in the KIDS COUNT data. It also can help to look at data from counties similar on a salient characteristic. For example, urban, suburban, and rural counties may merit comparison with other like counties elsewhere in the state. Comparison with counties in other regions of the state also can reveal important information.

UNDERSTANDING RATIOS, PERCENTAGES, RATES, AND RANKS

CALCULATING RATIOS, PERCENTAGES, AND RATES

Computing a ratio makes it possible to compare the relative size of two numbers. Obtaining a ratio is easy—simply divide one number by the other. The result will represent a ratio expressed in decimal terms.

A reporter wants to know how much Texas CHIP enrollment has grown since the program's first year. In 2000, the first year of CHIP in Texas, 59,926 children enrolled. In 2001, the last full year for which data is available, the program enrolled 400,456 children. Dividing the current year enrollment of 400,456 by the first year enrollment of 59,926 produces a result of 6.68, which means that CHIP program participation was almost seven times larger in 2001 than it was in 2000.

To translate a ratio into a *percentage*, multiply it by 100.

A grant writer wants to know the state's percentage of children living in single parent families. To answer this question, first divide the number of children living in families headed by a single mother or father—1,227,192—by the total child population living in families—5,169,200 (not identical to, and somewhat smaller than, the total child population). This calculation will produce a ratio of .237. Multiplying the ratio by 100 will produce a percentage of 23.7.

For relatively infrequent events, the number of observations may be relatively small. In these cases, a multiplier of 1,000 or 100,000 results in a rate that may be easier to understand than the same ratio transformed into a percentage.

A caseworker needs to identify the infant mortality rate for Texas. To find this out, begin by dividing the number of infant deaths, 2,229, by the total number live births, 366,033. The ratio of infant deaths to live births is .00608, a number difficult to interpret either alone or as a percentage. But multiplying the ratio by 1,000 produces a more easily understood rate of 6.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

Turning raw frequency counts into the standardized form of percentages and rates facilitates comparison among populations that may vary by size, by time period, and by location. Comparisons of this type are especially useful when examining differences between different groups during the same year and between different years for the same group.

CALCULATING PERCENTAGE CHANGE

To discover the degree of improvement or decline in a KIDS COUNT indicator over time, calculate the percentage change between two years that are being compared. To do this, subtract the earlier year figure from the more recent year figure (both of which may be expressed as an actual value, a percentage, or a

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rate), and divide this difference by the earlier year amount. Then multiply this quotient by 100 to turn it into a percentage. If the later year value is less than the amount for the earlier year, the percentage change will turn out negative. If the later year figure exceeds the earlier year's amount, the percentage change will be positive.

A teacher wants to determine how much Texas' child population grew or declined between the 1990 Census and the 2000 Census. In 1990, a total of 4,835,839 children lived in Texas. In 2000, the child population totaled 5,886,759. To find out the percentage increase in the state's child population, first subtract 4,835,839 from 5,886,759 for a difference of 1,050,920. Divide this result by 4,835,839, for a ratio of .217, then multiply by 100 to get a percentage increase of 21.7% in Texas' child population between 1990 and 2000.

INTERPRETING RANKS

Along with the *Fact Book*, Texas KIDS COUNT separately publishes comprehensive profiles for each of the state's 254 counties. These profiles rank the counties on all individual KIDS COUNT indicators. Other ranking information also appears elsewhere within the KIDS COUNT *Fact Book*.

The logic of indicator rankings can sometimes seem confusing but a brief explanation clarifies how they work. In order to appreciate what these rankings mean, it helps to know the three basic types of KIDS COUNT indicators.

A number of indicators, such as population counts, provide relevant background information for understanding child well-being in Texas, but have no inherent positive or negative implications. The ranks for these indicators simply correspond to their reported size. For example, the county with the largest population will have a rank of 1st, while the county smallest in population will rank 254th, but without necessarily implying that a rank of 1st is better than a rank of 254th.

For other indicators in the KIDS COUNT database, ranks signify relatively better and worse performance in terms of the child outcomes they represent. In these instances, smaller-numbered ranks (closer to 1st) reflect more positive performance than do larger-numbered ranks (closer to 254th). Many of the indicators in this group, such as TAAS reading, math, and writing scores, measure positive outcomes. Higher values on these indicators correspond to smaller-numbered, and therefore better, ranks. Other indicators, such as confirmed child abuse, represent negative child outcomes. In these cases, higher values directly parallel higher-numbered, and therefore worse, ranks.

DEFINITIONS AND DATA SOURCES

FAMILY & COMMUNITY POPULATION

Total Population

Definition—For 1990 and 2000, the actual count of the total population of Texas. For all other years, estimates of the total Texas population.

Data Source—U.S. Census Bureau (1990, 2000). Texas State Data Center, State Population Estimates Program, Texas A&M University (intercensal years).

Total Child Population

Definition—For 1990 and 2000, the actual count of the Texas population under 18 years of age. For all other years, estimates of the state population under 18.

Data Source—U.S. Census Bureau (1990, 2000). Texas State Data Center, State Population Estimates Program, Texas A & M University (intercensal years).

Child Population By Age Group

Definition—For 1990 and 2000, actual counts of the number of children within each age group. For all other years, estimates of the number of children within each range of ages.

Data Source—U.S. Census Bureau (1990, 2000). Texas State Data Center, State Population Estimates Program, Texas A & M University (intercensal years).

Families With Children

Definition—Number and percentage of all children living in families with both parents present in the home, and number and percentage of all children living in families headed by a parent without a spouse present in the home.

Data Source—U.S. Census Bureau.

Children In Foster Care

Definition—Actual number, and rate per 1,000 children, of children in foster care.

Data Source—Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, annual *Legislative Data Book*.

ECONOMIC RESOURCES, SECURITY & OPPORTUNITY

Poverty For Total Population

Definition—For 1989 and 1999, actual count and percentage of the total Texas population in households with incomes below the official federal poverty threshold. For all other years, estimates of the number and percentage of the total Texas population living in households with incomes below the official federal poverty threshold.

Data Source—U.S. Census Bureau (1989, 1999). U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program (all other years).

Child Poverty

Definition—For 1989 and 1999, actual count and percentage of related children under the age of 18 living in families with incomes below the official federal poverty threshold. For all other years, estimates of the number and percentage of children living in families with incomes below the official federal poverty threshold.

Data Source—U.S. Census Bureau (1989, 1999). U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program (all other years).

Median Household Income

Definition—The point at which one-half of all households have higher incomes and one-half of all households have lower incomes.

Data Source—U.S. Census Bureau (1989, 1999). U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program (all other years).

Unemployment

Definition—Percentage of the civilian labor force either not working, or looking for work, or available to accept a job.

Data Source—Texas Workforce Commission.

Children Receiving TANF And AFDC

Definition—Number and percentage of children under 18 years of age receiving cash assistance through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program (1997 and after) and the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program (prior to 1997).

Data Source—Texas Department of Human Services.

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Children On State Subsidized Child Care

Definition—Number of children receiving child care subsidy as a percentage of the population of children under 14 years of age.

Data Source—Texas Workforce Commission.

Children In Public Pre-Kindergarten

Definition—Number and percentage of children ages three and four enrolled in public school pre-kindergarten programs.

Data Source—Texas Education Agency.

Children In Head Start Program

Definition—Number and percentage of the children ages three and four enrolled in the Head Start program.

Data Source—U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

SCHOOL SUCCESS

High School Dropout & Completion

Definition—Graduation status for entire cohort of ninth grade students at the time the class graduates.

Data Source—Texas Education Agency.

Students Passing TAAS Reading

Definition—Number and percentage of fourth and tenth grade students passing the reading component of the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills examination.

Data Source—Texas Education Agency.

Students Passing TAAS Math

Definition—Number and percentage of fourth and tenth grade students passing the mathematics component of the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills examination.

Data Source—Texas Education Agency.

Students Passing TAAS Writing

Definition—Number and percentage of fourth and tenth grade students passing the writing component of the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills examination.

Data Source—Texas Education Agency.

Special Education Students

Definition—Number and percentage of students in all grades receiving special education services.

Data Source—Texas Education Agency.

Students In Bilingual/ESL Programs

Definition—Number and percentage of students in all grades receiving bilingual or English as Second Language instruction.

Data Source—Texas Education Agency.

TEENS AT RISK

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests

Definition—Number of arrests, and rate per 100,000 children aged 10 to 17, for the offenses of murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Data Source—Texas Department of Public Safety.

Teen Pregnancy

Definition—Number of births, and percentage of all live births, to females aged 13 through 19, by race and ethnic group, regardless of marital status.

Data Source—Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Single Teen Pregnancy

Definition—Number of births, and percentage of all live births, to unmarried females aged 13 through 19, by race and ethnic group.

Data Source—Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

PHYSICAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Infant Mortality

Definition—Number of deaths, and rate per 1,000 live births, of children under one year of age, by race and ethnic group.

Data Source—Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Low Birthweight Babies

Definition—Number and percentage of live births of infants weighing under 5.5 pounds, or 2,500 grams, by race and ethnic group.

Data Source—Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Mothers Receiving Little Or No Prenatal Care

Definition—Number and percentage of live birth mothers who began prenatal care in the third trimester of pregnancy or received no prenatal care, by race and ethnic group.

Data Source—Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Children Enrolled In Medicaid

Definition—Number and percentage of children through age 18 enrolled in the Texas Medicaid program.

Data Source—Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN CHIP

Definition—Number and percentage of children through age 18 enrolled in the Texas Children's Health Insurance Program.

Data Source—Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Children Receiving SSI

Definition—Number, and rate per 1,000 children, of children under 18 years of age receiving Supplemental Security Income.

Data Source—U.S. Social Security Administration.

HUNGER & NUTRITION

Children Receiving Food Stamps

Definition—Number and percentage of children under 18 enrolled in the Food Stamp program.

Data Source—Texas Department of Human Services.

Children Receiving Free Or Reduced-Price Lunch

Definition—Number and percentage of total school enrollment receiving either free or reduced priced school lunch.

Data Source—Texas Education Agency.

Children Receiving WIC

Definition—Number of infants, number of non-infant children one through four years of age, and infants and children combined as a percentage of the total child population under the age of five years, receiving assistance through the Women's, Infants, and Children's food program.

Data Source—Texas Department of Health.

SAFETY & PERSONAL SECURITY

Confirmed Victims Of Child Abuse

Definitions—Actual number, and rate per 1,000 children, of children confirmed as victims of child abuse.

Data Source—Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, annual *Legislative Data Book*.

Child Deaths

Definition—Number of deaths, and rate per 100,000, of children ages one through 14 from all causes.

Data Source—Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Teen Violent Deaths

Definition—Number of deaths, and rate per 100,000, of teens ages 15 through 19 by homicide, suicide, and accident.

Data Source—Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Children In Family Violence Shelters

Definition—Actual number, and rate per 1,000 children under 18, of children living in family violence shelters.

Data Source—Texas Department of Human Services.

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APPENDIX

Since 1990, the national KIDS COUNT project has tracked a set of core indicators of child well-being in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. In this Appendix, we report rates and ranks on these indicators for each of Texas' counties.

All 254 Texas counties are ordered by their rank for the most current year of data available. For purposes of comparison, we also report base year rates and ranks.

Readers will note some instances of apparently extreme change in ranks between base and most recent year. In most cases this results from a very small number of occurrences for an indicator, when small changes in these counties' numbers can produce large changes in rates. In order to alert readers to these instances, we report in brackets any rate based on fewer than 20 cases.

For more information on the indicators on the following pages, consult the Data Documentation section.

COUNTY RANKINGS

- Low Birthweight Babies
- Infant Mortality
- Child Deaths
- Teen Violent Deaths
- Teen Pregnancy
- Single Teen Pregnancy
- High School Dropouts
- Child Poverty
- Single-Parent Families

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Low Birthweight Babies

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
1	0.0%	Crane	25	(3.8%)
1	0.0%	Edwards	13	(2.9%)
1	0.0%	Jeff Davis	249	(15.8%)
1	0.0%	Kenedy	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Kent	241	(11.1%)
1	0.0%	King	244	(12.5%)
1	0.0%	Loving	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Roberts	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Stonewall	188	(8.0%)
1	0.0%	Terrell	221	(9.1%)
1	0.0%	Upton	30	(4.2%)
12	(1.3%)	Haskell	41	(4.8%)
13	(2.0%)	Zavala	240	10.8%
14	(2.6%)	Gillespie	134	(7.0%)
15	(2.7%)	Lynn	66	(5.6%)
16	(2.9%)	Mason	22	(3.7%)
17	(3.0%)	Eastland	149	(7.2%)
18	(3.2%)	Ochiltree	41	(4.8%)
19	(3.6%)	Goliad	237	(10.5%)
20	(3.7%)	Callahan	214	(8.8%)
21	(3.7%)	Jim Hogg	12	(2.8%)
21	(3.7%)	Menard	1	0.0%
23	(3.8%)	Hood	85	6.1%
24	(3.8%)	Winkler	124	(6.9%)
25	(4.0%)	Jackson	230	(9.7%)
26	(4.0%)	Coleman	205	(8.4%)
27	(4.1%)	Camp	215	(8.8%)
28	(4.2%)	Hamilton	23	(3.8%)
29	(4.3%)	Hardeman	235	(10.0%)
29	(4.3%)	Real	95	(6.3%)
29	(4.3%)	San Saba	229	(9.7%)
32	(4.4%)	Young	52	(5.1%)
33	(4.5%)	Llano	180	(7.8%)
34	(4.6%)	Ward	47	(4.9%)
35	(4.7%)	Presidio	13	(2.9%)
36	(4.7%)	Stephens	132	(6.9%)
37	(4.8%)	Culberson	51	(5.0%)
38	(4.9%)	Mills	211	(8.7%)
39	(5.0%)	Fannin	68	(5.6%)
40	(5.0%)	Hemphill	218	(8.9%)
40	(5.0%)	Sherman	41	(4.8%)
42	5.0%	Hill	191	8.0%
43	5.2%	Jasper	183	7.9%
44	(5.3%)	Glasscock	1	0.0%
44	(5.3%)	Kinney	144	(7.1%)
44	(5.3%)	Throckmorton	241	(11.1%)
47	(5.5%)	Gonzales	69	(5.7%)
48	(5.6%)	Borden	1	0.0%
48	(5.6%)	Concho	11	(2.4%)

Low Birthweight Babies

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
50	5.6%	Kerr	106	6.6%
51	(5.6%)	Martin	148	(7.2%)
52	(5.7%)	Blanco	62	(5.5%)
53	(5.7%)	Cochran	246	(13.7%)
53	(5.7%)	Refugio	111	(6.7%)
55	(5.7%)	Colorado	60	(5.5%)
56	5.8%	Starr	39	4.7%
57	(5.9%)	Limestone	196	8.1%
57	(5.9%)	Oldham	41	(4.8%)
57	(5.9%)	Sterling	27	(4.0%)
57	5.9%	Wilson	171	7.7%
61	5.9%	Comal	97	6.3%
62	6.0%	Willacy	156	7.3%
63	6.1%	Rockwall	8	(1.9%)
64	6.1%	Cameron	82	6.0%
65	6.2%	Hays	72	5.7%
66	6.2%	Hidalgo	55	5.1%
67	(6.2%)	Lavaca	29	(4.2%)
68	6.3%	Wise	89	6.1%
69	6.4%	Wharton	195	8.1%
70	(6.4%)	Schleicher	35	(4.5%)
71	(6.4%)	Zapata	173	(7.7%)
72	6.4%	Hockley	204	8.4%
73	(6.5%)	Coke	244	(12.5%)
73	6.5%	Guadalupe	87	6.1%
75	6.5%	Smith	160	7.5%
76	6.6%	Ellis	98	6.3%
77	6.6%	Montgomery	88	6.1%
78	6.6%	Anderson	36	4.6%
79	(6.7%)	Motley	252	(17.6%)
80	6.7%	Williamson	58	5.3%
81	6.7%	Van Zandt	217	8.8%
82	(6.7%)	Gaines	37	(4.6%)
83	6.7%	Erath	251	17.1%
84	(6.7%)	Crosby	123	(6.9%)
85	6.7%	Palo Pinto	83	6.0%
86	(6.7%)	McCulloch	234	(9.9%)
87	(6.8%)	Franklin	24	(3.8%)
88	6.8%	Brown	164	7.6%
89	6.8%	Denton	71	5.7%
90	6.8%	Parker	102	6.5%
91	6.9%	Austin	70	(5.7%)
92	(6.9%)	Lampasas	27	(4.0%)
93	6.9%	Brazos	76	5.9%
94	6.9%	Coryell	125	6.9%
95	(6.9%)	Hansford	48	(5.0%)
96	6.9%	Travis	104	6.5%
97	(7.0%)	Fayette	193	(8.1%)
98	(7.0%)	Burleson	56	(5.2%)

Low Birthweight Babies

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
99	7.1%	Caldwell	78	5.9%
100	7.1%	Deaf Smith	138	7.0%
101	(7.1%)	Foard	248	(15.0%)
102	7.2%	Howard	108	6.7%
103	7.2%	Waller	207	8.6%
104	(7.3%)	Delta	139	(7.0%)
104	7.3%	Panola	46	(4.9%)
106	7.3%	Fort Bend	115	6.8%
107	7.3%	Collin	67	5.6%
108	7.3%	McLennan	140	7.1%
109	(7.3%)	Dimmit	127	(6.9%)
110	(7.4%)	Somervell	84	(6.0%)
111	7.4%	Johnson	152	7.3%
112	(7.4%)	Dickens	253	(18.8%)
113	7.4%	Moore	186	8.0%
114	7.4%	Bastrop	157	7.4%
115	7.4%	Atascosa	133	6.9%
116	7.5%	Walker	225	9.3%
117	7.5%	Matagorda	176	7.8%
118	7.5%	Harris	153	7.3%
119	7.5%	Webb	74	5.8%
120	7.5%	Midland	126	6.9%
121	(7.6%)	Freestone	232	(9.8%)
122	7.6%	Polk	40	(4.8%)
123	7.6%	Chambers	159	(7.5%)
124	7.6%	Titus	119	6.8%
125	(7.6%)	Hall	194	(8.1%)
126	(7.6%)	Bosque	21	(3.5%)
127	(7.6%)	Pecos	199	8.2%
128	7.6%	Navarro	114	6.8%
129	7.6%	San Jacinto	127	(6.9%)
130	7.7%	Taylor	93	6.2%
131	7.7%	Medina	59	5.3%
132	7.7%	Gregg	178	7.8%
133	7.7%	Brazoria	122	6.9%
134	7.7%	Hopkins	20	(3.5%)
135	(7.7%)	Reeves	188	8.0%
136	7.7%	Tarrant	116	6.8%
137	7.7%	Dallas	168	7.6%
138	7.8%	Maverick	109	6.7%
139	7.8%	Grimes	167	7.6%
140	7.8%	Grayson	73	5.7%
141	7.8%	El Paso	129	6.9%
142	7.9%	Nacogdoches	219	9.0%
143	7.9%	Bell	165	7.6%
144	7.9%	Randall	142	7.1%
145	(7.9%)	Parmer	33	(4.4%)
146	8.0%	Kaufman	161	7.5%
147	(8.0%)	Rains	239	(10.8%)

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Low Birthweight Babies

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
147	(8.0%)	Sabine	31	(4.3%)
149	8.0%	Wichita	121	6.9%
150	8.0%	Uvalde	201	8.3%
151	8.1%	Bexar	117	6.8%
152	8.1%	Upshur	79	6.0%
153	8.1%	Kendall	175	(7.8%)
153	(8.1%)	Yoakum	220	(9.0%)
155	(8.1%)	Comanche	18	(3.1%)
156	8.2%	Galveston	177	7.8%
157	8.2%	Lamar	96	6.3%
158	8.3%	Orange	137	7.0%
159	8.3%	Rusk	151	7.3%
160	(8.3%)	Lee	227	(9.4%)
161	8.3%	Calhoun	169	7.6%
161	(8.3%)	Lipscomb	136	(7.0%)
161	(8.3%)	Reagan	224	(9.2%)
164	8.4%	Milam	150	7.3%
165	8.4%	Nueces	103	6.5%
166	8.4%	Burnet	135	7.0%
167	(8.4%)	Tyler	170	(7.7%)
168	(8.4%)	Clay	54	(5.1%)
169	8.5%	Ector	197	8.2%
170	(8.5%)	Crockett	106	(6.6%)
171	(8.5%)	Live Oak	91	(6.1%)
172	(8.5%)	Dallam	233	(9.9%)
172	8.5%	Houston	212	8.7%
174	(8.6%)	De Witt	130	(6.9%)
175	(8.6%)	Madison	179	(7.8%)
176	8.6%	Hunt	120	6.8%
177	8.6%	Victoria	208	8.6%
178	8.6%	Angelina	166	7.6%
179	(8.6%)	Red River	53	(5.1%)
180	8.7%	Potter	213	8.7%
181	8.7%	Liberty	163	7.5%
182	8.7%	Hardin	112	6.7%
183	(8.7%)	Runnels	231	(9.7%)
184	(8.7%)	Armstrong	249	(15.8%)
184	(8.7%)	Nolan	100	(6.4%)
186	8.8%	Montague	19	(3.4%)
187	(8.8%)	Karnes	109	(6.7%)
188	8.8%	San Patricio	86	6.1%
189	(8.8%)	Collingsworth	118	(6.8%)
190	8.9%	Val Verde	61	5.5%
191	9.0%	Harrison	223	9.1%
192	9.0%	Tom Green	75	5.8%
193	9.1%	Wood	209	8.6%
194	(9.1%)	Garza	243	(12.2%)
195	9.1%	Henderson	64	5.6%
196	9.2%	Cooke	81	6.0%

Low Birthweight Babies

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
196	9.2%	Kleberg	143	7.1%
198	9.2%	Scurry	57	(5.3%)
199	(9.2%)	La Salle	34	(4.4%)
200	(9.3%)	Shackelford	9	(2.2%)
201	9.3%	Jefferson	216	8.8%
202	(9.4%)	Leon	17	(3.1%)
203	(9.4%)	Morris	94	(6.2%)
204	(9.5%)	Jack	206	(8.5%)
205	9.5%	Bee	50	5.0%
206	(9.5%)	Carson	236	(10.5%)
207	9.5%	Frio	101	(6.5%)
208	9.6%	Bowie	172	7.7%
209	9.7%	Wilbarger	192	(8.0%)
210	9.7%	Andrews	113	(6.7%)
210	(9.7%)	Kimble	10	(2.3%)
212	9.7%	Jim Wells	187	8.0%
213	(9.7%)	Duval	154	(7.3%)
214	(9.8%)	Brooks	181	(7.8%)
214	(9.8%)	Castro	90	(6.1%)
216	9.9%	Hale	162	7.5%
216	(9.9%)	Trinity	210	(8.7%)
218	9.9%	Gray	38	(4.6%)
219	(10.0%)	Irion	228	(9.5%)

Infant Mortality

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
1	0.0	Armstrong	1	0.0
1	0.0	Bailey	123	(7.9)
1	0.0	Baylor	213	(15.6)
1	0.0	Calhoun	183	(12.2)
1	0.0	Callahan	125	(8.0)
1	0.0	Carson	236	(23.3)
1	0.0	Coke	1	0.0
1	0.0	Coleman	145	(9.3)
1	0.0	Concho	240	(23.8)
1	0.0	Cottle	1	0.0
1	0.0	Crane	189	(12.7)
1	0.0	Crockett	1	0.0
1	0.0	Culberson	221	(16.7)
1	0.0	Dallam	234	(22.0)
1	0.0	Delta	223	(17.5)
1	0.0	Dickens	1	0.0
1	0.0	Donley	243	(29.4)
1	0.0	Eastland	1	0.0
1	0.0	Edwards	1	0.0
1	0.0	Fisher	230	(19.2)
1	0.0	Foard	251	(50.0)
1	0.0	Franklin	228	(18.9)

Infant Mortality

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
1	0.0	Garza	1	0.0
1	0.0	Glasscock	1	0.0
1	0.0	Goliad	1	0.0
1	0.0	Gonzales	165	(10.6)
1	0.0	Grimes	68	(3.3)
1	0.0	Hall	216	(16.1)
1	0.0	Hansford	1	0.0
1	0.0	Hardeman	245	(33.3)
1	0.0	Haskell	1	0.0
1	0.0	Hockley	116	(7.6)
1	0.0	Hudspeth	244	(30.3)
1	0.0	Irion	1	0.0
1	0.0	Jasper	190	(12.8)
1	0.0	Jeff Davis	1	0.0
1	0.0	Jim Hogg	204	(13.9)
1	0.0	Kendall	201	(13.7)
1	0.0	Kenedy	1	0.0
1	0.0	Kent	1	0.0
1	0.0	Kerr	186	(12.3)
1	0.0	King	1	0.0
1	0.0	Kinney	1	0.0
1	0.0	Lipscomb	1	0.0
1	0.0	Live Oak	1	0.0
1	0.0	Loving	1	0.0
1	0.0	Madison	121	(7.8)
1	0.0	Mason	1	0.0
1	0.0	McCulloch	1	0.0
1	0.0	McMullen	1	0.0
1	0.0	Menard	1	0.0
1	0.0	Mills	233	(21.7)
1	0.0	Motley	252	(58.8)
1	0.0	Newton	1	0.0
1	0.0	Ochiltree	231	(20.4)
1	0.0	Pecos	225	(17.9)
1	0.0	Presidio	151	(9.8)
1	0.0	Reagan	1	0.0
1	0.0	Real	1	0.0
1	0.0	Refugio	1	0.0
1	0.0	Roberts	1	0.0
1	0.0	Sabine	168	(10.8)
1	0.0	San Augustine	156	(10.0)
1	0.0	San Saba	1	0.0
1	0.0	Schleicher	1	0.0
1	0.0	Scurry	75	(4.4)
1	0.0	Shackelford	1	0.0
1	0.0	Stephens	120	(7.7)
1	0.0	Sterling	247	(40.0)
1	0.0	Sutton	1	0.0
1	0.0	Terrell	254	(90.9)

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Infant Mortality

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
1	0.0	Terry	1	0.0
1	0.0	Throckmorton	246	{37.0}
1	0.0	Waller	64	{3.1}
1	0.0	Ward	209	{14.8}
1	0.0	Wheeler	211	{15.4}
1	0.0	Winkler	97	{6.3}
1	0.0	Yoakum	235	{22.4}
79	{1.0}	Bastrop	106	{6.7}
80	{1.8}	Matagorda	170	{10.9}
81	{2.3}	Wilson	1	0.0
82	{2.5}	Bee	103	{6.5}
83	{2.5}	Willacy	80	{5.2}
84	{2.7}	Maverick	156	{10.0}
85	{3.2}	Brown	77	{4.6}
86	{3.2}	Lamar	150	{9.7}
87	{3.3}	Limestone	1	0.0
88	{3.3}	Jim Wells	92	{5.9}
89	{3.4}	Van Zandt	212	{15.5}
90	{3.7}	Nacogdoches	205	{14.1}
91	3.8	Collin	108	6.9
92	{3.9}	Hill	84	{5.5}
92	{3.9}	Titus	206	{14.1}
94	{3.9}	Hays	142	{9.0}
95	{4.0}	Polk	222	{17.5}
96	{4.0}	Lampasas	224	{17.8}
97	{4.1}	Houston	171	{10.9}
98	{4.2}	Navarro	67	{3.3}
99	{4.2}	Hopkins	62	{2.7}
100	{4.2}	Gaines	1	0.0
101	{4.4}	Montague	149	{9.7}
102	{4.5}	Bosque	90	{5.8}
103	{4.5}	Comal	132	{8.4}
104	4.6	Denron	118	7.6
105	4.6	Hidalgo	87	5.6
106	{4.6}	Brazoria	124	7.9
107	4.6	Williamson	93	{5.9}
108	{4.6}	Andrews	215	{15.9}
108	{4.6}	Lee	241	{25.2}
110	{4.6}	Val Verde	112	{7.2}
111	{4.7}	Burleson	238	{23.5}
112	{4.7}	Johnson	174	{11.2}
113	4.7	El Paso	94	6.2
114	{4.8}	Reeves	125	{8.0}
114	{4.8}	Wilbarger	81	{5.3}
116	4.9	Cameron	91	5.9
117	{5.0}	Walker	180	{11.8}
118	{5.0}	Wharron	148	{9.7}
119	{5.0}	Ector	113	{7.5}
120	{5.1}	Washington	63	{3.0}

Infant Mortality

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
121	{5.1}	Dawson	73	{3.9}
122	{5.2}	Medina	76	{4.4}
123	{5.4}	Henderson	60	{2.6}
124	5.4	Harris	137	8.8
125	5.5	Travis	101	6.4
126	5.5	Fort Bend	89	5.7
127	{5.5}	Cherokee	154	{10.0}
128	{5.5}	Ellis	184	{12.3}
129	{5.5}	Leon	1	0.0
130	{5.6}	Milam	197	{13.2}
131	5.6	Montgomery	107	6.8
132	{5.7}	Deaf Smith	179	{11.7}
133	{5.7}	Victoria	187	{12.5}
134	{5.8}	Camp	208	{14.7}
135	{5.8}	Atascosa	219	{16.3}
136	{5.8}	Wise	173	{11.2}
137	{5.8}	Kleberg	140	{8.9}
138	{5.9}	Fannin	105	{6.6}
139	{5.9}	Brazos	78	{4.8}
140	{5.9}	Taylor	167	10.7
141	{6.0}	Cass	210	{14.9}
142	{6.0}	Anderson	127	{8.1}
143	{6.2}	Red River	88	{5.6}
143	{6.2}	Trinity	239	{23.6}
145	6.2	Galveston	114	7.5
146	{6.2}	Randall	86	{5.5}
147	{6.3}	Comanche	1	0.0
148	6.3	Bexar	109	7.0
149	{6.3}	Harrison	102	{6.4}
150	6.3	Dallas	139	8.8
151	6.4	Webb	95	6.2
152	{6.5}	Llano	135	{8.7}
153	6.6	Nueces	134	8.7
154	{6.7}	Runnels	226	{18.2}
155	{6.7}	Morris	227	{18.6}
156	{6.7}	Erath	194	{13.0}
157	{6.8}	Wood	144	{9.2}
158	{6.9}	Rusk	169	{10.8}
159	{7.0}	Howard	216	{16.1}
160	{7.1}	Smith	119	{7.7}
161	{7.2}	Hunt	141	{8.9}
162	{7.2}	Coryell	104	{6.6}
163	{7.2}	Bowie	166	{10.7}
164	{7.4}	Fayette	229	{19.0}
165	7.5	Bell	153	10.0
166	{7.5}	Brooks	195	{13.1}
166	{7.5}	Castro	185	{12.3}
166	{7.5}	Zapata	84	{5.5}
169	{7.5}	Starr	74	{4.3}

Infant Mortality

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
170	{7.6}	San Patricio	71	{3.8}
171	{7.6}	Colorado	121	{7.8}
171	{7.6}	Frio	70	{3.8}
173	{7.6}	Caldwell	191	{12.9}
174	7.8	Tarrant	155	10.0
175	{7.8}	Lavaca	188	{12.6}
176	{7.8}	Angelina	176	{11.3}
177	7.8	Lubbock	138	8.8
178	{7.8}	Uvalde	164	{10.6}
179	{7.8}	Guadalupe	131	{8.4}
180	{7.9}	Upshur	152	{10.0}
181	{8.1}	Palo Pinto	61	{2.6}
182	{8.1}	Parker	65	{3.1}
183	8.4	McLennan	111	7.2
184	8.5	Jefferson	146	9.5
185	{8.5}	Tom Green	83	{5.4}
186	{8.5}	Marion	1	0.0
187	{8.6}	Gillespie	98	{6.3}
188	{8.8}	Hurchinson	207	{14.3}
189	{8.9}	Hood	196	{13.2}
190	{8.9}	Young	213	{15.6}
191	{8.9}	Midland	133	{8.4}
192	{9.0}	Childress	216	{16.1}
193	{9.1}	Hardin	69	{3.5}
194	{9.3}	Hale	110	{7.1}
195	{9.3}	Roberrson	161	{10.3}
196	{9.3}	Austin	198	{13.3}
197	{9.4}	Blanco	201	{13.7}
198	{9.5}	Chambers	72	{3.9}
199	{9.5}	Wichita	130	{8.4}
200	{9.6}	Liberty	96	{6.2}
201	{9.7}	Nolan	192	{12.9}
202	{9.7}	Cooke	162	{10.4}
203	{9.9}	Rockwall	82	{5.4}
204	{9.9}	Zavala	1	0.0
205	{10.0}	Grayson	115	{7.6}
206	{10.0}	Kaufman	178	{11.6}
207	{10.0}	Burnet	1	0.0
207	{10.0}	Rains	199	{13.5}
209	{10.2}	Jones	143	{9.1}
210	{10.2}	Moore	128	{8.2}
211	{10.4}	San Jacinto	1	0.0
212	{10.5}	Dimmit	79	{4.9}
213	{10.5}	Falls	242	{28.9}
213	{10.5}	Hamilton	1	0.0
213	{10.5}	Somervell	1	0.0
216	{10.9}	Panola	175	{11.3}
217	11.3	Gregg	158	{10.2}
218	{11.5}	Jackson	159	{10.2}

Infant Mortality

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
219	[11.9]	Gray	177	[11.6]
220	11.9	Potter	99	[6.3]
221	[12.0]	Bandera	136	[8.8]
222	[12.0]	Clay	159	[10.2]
223	[12.5]	Shelby	66	[3.2]
224	[13.2]	Lamb	1	0.0
225	[13.2]	Parmer	1	0.0
226	[13.3]	Swisher	1	0.0
227	[13.5]	De Witt	203	[13.8]
228	[14.0]	Tyler	199	[13.5]
229	[14.2]	Orange	100	[6.4]
230	[14.3]	Cochran	1	0.0
231	[14.5]	Archer	253	[84.2]
232	[15.4]	Duval	219	[16.3]
233	[16.1]	Kimble	236	[23.3]
234	[16.8]	Brewster	248	[41.3]
235	[17.8]	Freestone	249	[43.5]
236	[19.2]	Crosby	117	[7.6]
237	[20.4]	La Salle	172	[11.1]
238	[21.1]	Jack	1	0.0
239	[23.3]	Knox	1	0.0
240	[24.1]	Mitchell	129	[8.3]
241	[24.2]	Aransas	193	[12.9]
242	[25.0]	Hemphill	1	0.0
242	[25.0]	Sherman	1	0.0
242	[25.0]	Upton	163	[10.5]
245	[25.2]	Karnes	147	[9.5]
246	[27.0]	Floyd	182	[12.2]
247	[28.2]	Martin	181	[12.0]
248	[28.6]	Hartley	232	[21.3]
249	[40.0]	Lynn	1	0.0
249	[40.0]	Stonewall	1	0.0
251	[43.5]	Briscoe	1	0.0
252	[55.6]	Borden	1	0.0
253	[58.8]	Collingsworth	250	[45.5]
253	[58.8]	Oldham	1	0.0

Child Deaths

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
1	0.0	Baylor	1	0.0
1	0.0	Borden	1	0.0
1	0.0	Brewster	1	0.0
1	0.0	Brooks	1	0.0
1	0.0	Carson	238	[128.4]
1	0.0	Chambers	163	[42.4]
1	0.0	Cochran	1	0.0
1	0.0	Coke	1	0.0
1	0.0	Coleman	188	[53.8]

Child Deaths

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
1	0.0	Collingsworth	240	[133.3]
1	0.0	Colorado	1	0.0
1	0.0	Comanche	1	0.0
1	0.0	Concho	1	0.0
1	0.0	Crane	221	[78.6]
1	0.0	Crosby	233	[110.4]
1	0.0	Culberson	1	0.0
1	0.0	De Witt	181	[49.7]
1	0.0	Deaf Smith	145	[36.7]
1	0.0	Delta	248	[225.2]
1	0.0	Dimmit	139	[34.2]
1	0.0	Donley	1	0.0
1	0.0	Duval	126	[30.5]
1	0.0	Eastland	122	[28.8]
1	0.0	Edwards	1	0.0
1	0.0	Fayette	183	[51.7]
1	0.0	Fisher	254	[407.3]
1	0.0	Floyd	172	[46.3]
1	0.0	Foard	1	0.0
1	0.0	Franklin	208	[63.2]
1	0.0	Gaines	110	[24.2]
1	0.0	Garza	1	0.0
1	0.0	Gillespie	129	[31.1]
1	0.0	Glasscock	1	0.0
1	0.0	Hall	1	0.0
1	0.0	Hansford	242	[135.8]
1	0.0	Hardeman	1	0.0
1	0.0	Hartley	252	[245.7]
1	0.0	Haskell	1	0.0
1	0.0	Hemphill	1	0.0
1	0.0	Hudspeth	253	[269.9]
1	0.0	Hutchinson	1	0.0
1	0.0	Irion	1	0.0
1	0.0	Jack	241	[133.5]
1	0.0	Jeff Davis	1	0.0
1	0.0	Jim Hogg	247	[223.7]
1	0.0	Karnes	134	[33.0]
1	0.0	Kenedy	1	0.0
1	0.0	Kent	1	0.0
1	0.0	Kerr	217	[74.6]
1	0.0	Kimble	1	0.0
1	0.0	King	1	0.0
1	0.0	Kleberg	196	[57.0]
1	0.0	Knox	229	[95.0]
1	0.0	La Salle	1	0.0
1	0.0	Live Oak	1	0.0
1	0.0	Loving	1	0.0
1	0.0	Lynn	237	[121.7]
1	0.0	Marion	1	0.0

Child Deaths

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
1	0.0	Martin	1	0.0
1	0.0	Mason	1	0.0
1	0.0	Matagorda	225	[84.9]
1	0.0	Maverick	174	[47.0]
1	0.0	McMullen	1	0.0
1	0.0	Medina	206	[61.9]
1	0.0	Menard	1	0.0
1	0.0	Milam	94	[19.5]
1	0.0	Mitchell	235	[115.1]
1	0.0	Moore	1	0.0
1	0.0	Motley	1	0.0
1	0.0	Newton	209	[63.3]
1	0.0	Oldham	1	0.0
1	0.0	Panola	98	[20.5]
1	0.0	Parmer	1	0.0
1	0.0	Polk	231	[101.6]
1	0.0	Presidio	1	0.0
1	0.0	Reagan	1	0.0
1	0.0	Red River	146	[37.4]
1	0.0	Reeves	236	[119.4]
1	0.0	Refugio	200	[58.6]
1	0.0	Roberts	1	0.0
1	0.0	Sabine	211	[64.2]
1	0.0	Schleicher	1	0.0
1	0.0	Scurry	173	[46.7]
1	0.0	Shackelford	1	0.0
1	0.0	Sherman	1	0.0
1	0.0	Somervell	1	0.0
1	0.0	Stephens	230	[100.6]
1	0.0	Sterling	1	0.0
1	0.0	Stonewall	1	0.0
1	0.0	Sutton	232	[102.6]
1	0.0	Terrell	1	0.0
1	0.0	Throckmorton	1	0.0
1	0.0	Washington	1	0.0
1	0.0	Wheeler	1	0.0
1	0.0	Wilbarger	245	[194.6]
1	0.0	Winkler	167	[44.1]
1	0.0	Yoakum	1	0.0
98	[6.0]	Kaufman	180	[49.4]
99	[6.4]	Hunt	124	[29.8]
100	[7.9]	Taylor	93	[19.1]
101	[9.5]	Randall	171	[45.6]
102	[10.1]	Lamar	190	[55.4]
103	[10.4]	Atascosa	111	[24.8]
104	[11.0]	Williamson	105	[23.1]
105	[11.8]	Hale	101	[22.5]
106	[13.4]	Wilson	1	0.0
107	[13.8]	Collin	104	[23.1]

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Child Deaths

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
108	[13.8]	Upshur	239	[130.0]
109	[14.0]	Caldwell	88	[16.9]
110	[15.5]	Parker	179	[48.5]
111	[15.9]	Hopkins	87	[16.4]
112	[16.2]	Nueces	90	[18.4]
113	17.2	Tarrant	106	23.6
114	[17.6]	Bee	132	[31.8]
115	[17.8]	Val Verde	127	[30.6]
116	[17.9]	Cass	85	[15.5]
117	[18.1]	Nacogdoches	202	[59.4]
118	[18.3]	Palo Pinto	197	[57.4]
119	[18.7]	San Patricio	155	[39.9]
120	[18.8]	Fort Bend	95	[19.9]
121	[19.0]	Denton	96	[20.3]
122	[19.2]	Shelby	168	[44.4]
123	[19.7]	Wichita	141	[35.1]
124	[19.8]	Kendall	137	[33.7]
125	[19.8]	Guadalupe	212	[67.9]
126	[20.4]	Austin	228	[94.0]
127	[21.1]	Galveston	144	[35.6]
128	[21.1]	Montgomery	147	[37.4]
129	[21.4]	Cameron	113	[25.4]
130	[21.5]	Webb	86	[15.8]
131	21.6	El Paso	102	22.7
132	21.8	Hidalgo	157	40.3
133	[22.0]	Brazoria	156	[39.9]
134	[22.4]	Bastrop	194	[56.3]
135	[22.5]	Wharton	81	[10.4]
136	[22.8]	San Jacinto	1	0.0
137	[23.2]	Limestone	103	[22.8]
138	[23.6]	Walker	227	[92.8]
139	23.9	Bexar	123	29.6
140	[24.0]	Harrison	151	[38.2]
141	[24.2]	Jefferson	100	[21.2]
142	[24.5]	Gray	154	[39.4]
143	24.8	Dallas	135	33.1
144	[24.9]	Aransas	223	[82.3]
145	[25.3]	Coryell	83	[14.6]
146	[25.3]	McLennan	97	[20.4]
147	[25.3]	Houston	108	[23.7]
148	[25.4]	Gonzales	218	[75.1]
149	[26.3]	Cooke	84	[14.9]
150	26.3	Harris	150	38.2
151	[26.4]	Hood	136	[33.6]
152	[27.2]	Rockwall	1	0.0
153	[27.4]	Tyler	205	[61.7]
154	[27.5]	Johnson	129	[31.1]
155	[27.8]	Frio	222	[81.3]
156	[27.9]	Grayson	160	[41.7]

Child Deaths

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
157	28.0	Travis	92	19.0
158	[28.1]	Brown	162	[42.3]
159	[28.7]	Montague	1	0.0
160	[28.8]	Ector	165	[42.9]
161	[29.4]	Lubbock	138	[34.0]
162	[29.8]	Burleson	251	[236.9]
163	[29.9]	Young	116	[26.0]
164	[30.3]	Midland	133	[33.0]
165	[30.7]	Burnet	213	[67.9]
166	[31.0]	Cherokee	142	[35.3]
167	[31.2]	Bell	176	47.7
168	[31.3]	Nolan	118	[27.3]
169	[31.4]	Zapata	243	[156.6]
170	[31.7]	Brazos	107	[23.7]
171	[31.8]	Hays	131	[31.4]
172	[31.9]	Victoria	1	0.0
173	[32.1]	Potter	186	[53.2]
174	[32.2]	Howard	198	[57.5]
175	[32.4]	Liberty	199	[57.5]
176	[33.2]	Wood	89	[17.9]
177	[33.7]	Ellis	109	[23.8]
178	[33.8]	Andrews	114	[25.4]
179	[34.2]	Jackson	140	[34.3]
180	[34.8]	Gregg	153	[39.3]
181	[35.9]	Henderson	117	[27.0]
182	[38.2]	Terry	121	[28.6]
183	[41.8]	Hockley	1	0.0
184	[41.9]	Trinity	175	[47.4]
185	[42.0]	Jim Wells	128	[31.0]
186	[42.1]	Van Zandt	185	[52.6]
187	[42.1]	Jasper	166	[43.3]
188	[44.0]	Runnels	159	[40.8]
189	[44.1]	Tom Green	79	[9.3]
190	[44.7]	Grimes	220	[76.1]
191	[45.7]	Waller	99	[21.1]
192	[45.8]	Wise	115	[25.8]
193	[46.7]	Bowie	207	[63.0]
194	[47.3]	Ochiltree	226	[87.4]
195	[47.6]	Uvalde	1	0.0
196	[48.1]	Madison	187	[53.5]
197	[48.4]	Clay	177	[48.4]
198	[49.2]	Hardin	224	[83.5]
199	[50.3]	Castro	1	0.0
200	[50.8]	Comal	80	[9.6]
201	[51.2]	Orange	78	[5.5]
202	[51.3]	Starr	158	[40.6]
203	[51.8]	Angelina	152	[38.2]
204	[52.2]	Smith	149	[37.5]
205	[53.3]	Lampasas	1	0.0

Child Deaths

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
206	[54.8]	Falls	193	[55.8]
207	[56.1]	Rusk	161	[41.7]
208	[56.6]	Swisher	182	[50.3]
209	[57.6]	Robertson	120	[28.6]
210	[58.0]	Rains	216	[74.5]
211	[59.5]	Lee	214	[69.5]
212	[60.3]	Pecos	112	[25.1]
213	[61.1]	Jones	1	0.0
214	[61.7]	McCulloch	1	0.0
215	[61.8]	Lamb	119	[27.4]
216	[61.9]	San Augustine	210	[63.6]
217	[61.9]	Freestone	125	[29.9]
218	[62.0]	Hill	191	[55.6]
219	[62.1]	Bosque	143	[35.5]
220	[62.4]	Willacy	201	[59.3]
221	[62.4]	Navarro	82	[11.8]
222	[62.5]	Blanco	244	[167.4]
223	[64.2]	Erath	91	[18.7]
224	[66.9]	Hamilton	1	0.0
225	[67.1]	Bailey	234	[114.0]
225	[67.1]	Dallam	219	[75.9]
227	[73.8]	Titus	192	[55.8]
228	[78.7]	Childress	1	0.0
229	[80.0]	Camp	177	[48.4]
230	[80.7]	Anderson	170	[44.8]
231	[80.9]	Callahan	148	[37.5]
232	[86.1]	Lavaca	1	0.0
233	[87.4]	Fannin	164	[42.6]
234	[87.5]	Calhoun	169	[44.6]
235	[88.7]	San Saba	1	0.0
236	[89.4]	Ward	203	[59.8]
237	[93.2]	Llano	1	0.0
238	[97.3]	Zavala	204	[60.0]
239	[103.3]	Mills	1	0.0
240	[105.2]	Archer	195	[56.6]
241	[106.5]	Dawson	189	[55.4]
242	[109.2]	Leon	1	0.0
243	[115.1]	Crockett	1	0.0
244	[119.5]	Bandera	184	[52.0]
245	[148.6]	Upton	1	0.0
246	[150.0]	Goliad	1	0.0
247	[168.6]	Lipscomb	1	0.0
248	[183.8]	Real	249	[228.3]
249	[203.3]	Morris	215	[69.6]
250	[268.1]	Dickens	1	0.0
251	[271.7]	Briscoe	250	[228.8]
252	[308.2]	Kinney	1	0.0
253	[314.5]	Cottle	246	[217.4]
254	[471.7]	Armstrong	1	0.0

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Teen Violent Deaths

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
1	0.0	Aransas	161	[88.0]
1	0.0	Archer	217	[177.0]
1	0.0	Armstrong	1	0.0
1	0.0	Austin	238	[292.4]
1	0.0	Bailey	244	[355.9]
1	0.0	Bandera	252	[580.6]
1	0.0	Baylor	250	[485.4]
1	0.0	Briscoe	1	0.0
1	0.0	Brooks	1	0.0
1	0.0	Camp	235	[272.1]
1	0.0	Childress	253	[716.0]
1	0.0	Clay	204	[141.6]
1	0.0	Cochran	1	0.0
1	0.0	Collingsworth	246	[427.4]
1	0.0	Colorado	1	0.0
1	0.0	Comanche	185	[112.7]
1	0.0	Concho	1	0.0
1	0.0	Crane	1	0.0
1	0.0	Culberson	1	0.0
1	0.0	Dallam	1	0.0
1	0.0	Dawson	216	[175.7]
1	0.0	Delta	1	0.0
1	0.0	Dickens	1	0.0
1	0.0	Dimmit	1	0.0
1	0.0	Donley	1	0.0
1	0.0	Eastland	242	[341.1]
1	0.0	Edwards	1	0.0
1	0.0	Fayette	231	[245.7]
1	0.0	Fisher	1	0.0
1	0.0	Floyd	209	[163.1]
1	0.0	Foard	1	0.0
1	0.0	Franklin	1	0.0
1	0.0	Gaines	1	0.0
1	0.0	Garza	1	0.0
1	0.0	Glasscock	1	0.0
1	0.0	Goliad	1	0.0
1	0.0	Grimes	1	0.0
1	0.0	Hall	1	0.0
1	0.0	Hansford	1	0.0
1	0.0	Hardeman	240	[297.6]
1	0.0	Hartley	1	0.0
1	0.0	Haskell	1	0.0
1	0.0	Hemphill	1	0.0
1	0.0	Hockley	201	[136.4]
1	0.0	Hopkins	115	[47.8]
1	0.0	Houston	222	[201.6]
1	0.0	Hudspeth	1	0.0
1	0.0	Jackson	173	[104.4]
1	0.0	Jim Hogg	1	0.0

Teen Violent Deaths

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
1	0.0	Karnes	1	0.0
1	0.0	Kenedy	1	0.0
1	0.0	Kent	1	0.0
1	0.0	Kimble	1	0.0
1	0.0	King	1	0.0
1	0.0	Kinney	249	[469.5]
1	0.0	Kleberg	1	0.0
1	0.0	Knox	1	0.0
1	0.0	La Salle	1	0.0
1	0.0	Lamb	168	[95.1]
1	0.0	Lampasas	1	0.0
1	0.0	Lipscomb	1	0.0
1	0.0	Live Oak	208	[154.1]
1	0.0	Llano	1	0.0
1	0.0	Loving	1	0.0
1	0.0	Lynn	1	0.0
1	0.0	Madison	1	0.0
1	0.0	Marion	1	0.0
1	0.0	Martin	1	0.0
1	0.0	Mason	1	0.0
1	0.0	Maverick	108	[25.1]
1	0.0	McMullen	1	0.0
1	0.0	Medina	218	[184.9]
1	0.0	Menard	1	0.0
1	0.0	Mitchell	1	0.0
1	0.0	Moore	203	[140.9]
1	0.0	Motley	254	[900.9]
1	0.0	Nolan	148	[80.3]
1	0.0	Ochiltree	1	0.0
1	0.0	Oldham	1	0.0
1	0.0	Pecos	1	0.0
1	0.0	Presidio	1	0.0
1	0.0	Rains	223	[208.8]
1	0.0	Reagan	1	0.0
1	0.0	Real	1	0.0
1	0.0	Reeves	1	0.0
1	0.0	Roberts	1	0.0
1	0.0	Runnels	197	[126.6]
1	0.0	Sabine	1	0.0
1	0.0	San Augustine	221	[198.0]
1	0.0	San Jacinto	210	[163.3]
1	0.0	San Saba	236	[277.0]
1	0.0	Schleicher	1	0.0
1	0.0	Shackelford	1	0.0
1	0.0	Sherman	247	[450.5]
1	0.0	Somervell	230	[243.3]
1	0.0	Sterling	1	0.0
1	0.0	Sutton	1	0.0
1	0.0	Swisher	1	0.0

Teen Violent Deaths

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
1	0.0	Terrell	1	0.0
1	0.0	Throckmorton	1	0.0
1	0.0	Upton	1	0.0
1	0.0	Uvalde	164	[90.8]
1	0.0	Walker	1	0.0
1	0.0	Ward	1	0.0
1	0.0	Wheeler	251	[534.8]
1	0.0	Wilbarger	1	0.0
1	0.0	Willacy	1	0.0
1	0.0	Wilson	1	0.0
1	0.0	Winkler	239	[295.0]
110	[5.2]	Brazos	105	[6.8]
111	[19.5]	Henderson	144	[74.6]
112	[25.7]	Rockwall	182	[108.9]
113	[26.5]	Van Zandt	111	[37.1]
114	[27.2]	Parker	1	0.0
115	[27.8]	Jim Wells	1	0.0
116	[27.9]	Johnson	167	[93.1]
117	[28.2]	Waller	183	[111.1]
118	[29.0]	Cherokee	211	[164.2]
119	[29.1]	Cameron	120	[52.7]
120	[29.9]	Brown	175	[104.9]
121	[31.4]	Bowie	198	[131.0]
122	[32.0]	Kerr	114	[45.2]
123	[32.4]	Cooke	151	[82.6]
124	[32.5]	Nacogdoches	143	[70.0]
125	[34.9]	Gregg	202	[140.8]
126	[35.1]	Hood	122	[56.1]
127	[35.2]	Nueces	107	[17.1]
128	[35.4]	Williamson	109	[28.3]
129	[36.0]	Coryell	118	[50.6]
130	[36.1]	Jasper	232	[252.0]
131	[36.2]	Washington	1	0.0
132	[37.0]	Denton	142	[69.8]
133	[37.8]	Ector	138	[66.6]
134	[37.9]	Harrison	159	[86.9]
135	[38.3]	Wood	207	[151.8]
136	[39.1]	Midland	139	[68.3]
137	[39.4]	Taylor	176	[105.3]
138	39.9	Bexar	132	63.9
139	[41.0]	Howard	158	[86.7]
140	41.8	El Paso	127	60.7
141	41.8	Harris	170	100.6
142	[42.9]	Cass	200	[133.3]
143	[43.5]	Chambers	126	[60.5]
144	[44.4]	Smith	141	[69.7]
145	44.7	Hidalgo	134	64.9
146	[46.9]	Randall	194	[123.4]
147	[47.3]	Lubbock	110	[31.5]

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Teen Violent Deaths

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
148	(49.1)	Wise	1	0.0
149	(49.6)	Comal	153	(85.2)
150	(50.0)	Milam	124	(58.9)
151	(50.0)	McLennan	113	(42.6)
152	(50.5)	Kendall	1	0.0
153	(51.8)	Fort Bend	123	(57.2)
154	(51.9)	Jones	1	0.0
155	(52.1)	Wichita	117	(50.1)
156	(54.2)	Rusk	128	(61.6)
157	54.3	Travis	125	60.0
158	(54.4)	Shelby	196	(124.0)
159	(54.8)	Tom Green	130	(63.0)
160	(56.1)	Panola	1	0.0
161	57.4	Collin	152	(84.5)
162	(58.5)	Orange	147	(79.1)
163	(58.5)	Galveston	135	(65.3)
164	(60.6)	Matagorda	186	(112.9)
165	(61.1)	Deaf Smith	219	(190.4)
166	(61.2)	Lee	1	0.0
167	(61.9)	Hale	178	(106.4)
168	(62.0)	Brazoria	155	(85.6)
169	(62.6)	Bell	187	(115.8)
170	(63.5)	Kaufman	215	(174.5)
171	(66.4)	Guadalupe	172	(101.3)
172	(66.6)	De Witt	212	(165.0)
173	66.8	Tarrant	160	87.0
174	(67.7)	Lavaca	154	(85.3)
175	(67.9)	Jefferson	116	(48.1)
176	(68.0)	Upshur	214	(166.5)
177	(68.3)	San Patricio	1	0.0
178	68.6	Dallas	171	100.9
179	(69.3)	Scurry	140	(69.5)
180	(70.8)	Polk	206	(143.5)
181	(71.5)	Webb	119	(51.2)
182	(72.5)	Gillespie	174	(104.6)
183	(74.0)	Young	1	0.0
184	(74.0)	Starr	136	(66.3)
185	(74.9)	Andrews	150	(82.5)
186	(75.0)	Montague	233	(257.3)
187	(75.1)	Caldwell	184	(112.1)
188	(76.4)	Frio	1	0.0
189	(78.8)	Val Verde	1	0.0
190	(79.1)	Bee	169	(99.8)
191	(79.6)	Ellis	191	(119.5)
192	(82.4)	Robertson	234	(271.2)
193	(83.2)	Potter	156	(85.9)
194	(84.3)	Duval	213	(165.4)
195	(87.6)	Zapata	1	0.0
196	(89.6)	Titus	121	(55.2)

Teen Violent Deaths

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
197	(90.1)	Liberty	220	(193.2)
198	(91.8)	Hays	106	(13.6)
199	(91.9)	Terry	1	0.0
200	(96.1)	Grayson	162	(88.1)
201	(96.2)	Zavala	145	(77.0)
202	(98.6)	Angelina	195	(123.8)
203	(99.0)	Triniry	245	(420.2)
204	(99.5)	Morris	179	(107.2)
205	(100.4)	Erath	149	(80.6)
206	(100.5)	Palo Pinto	188	(116.0)
207	105.7	Montgomery	192	(120.7)
208	(105.8)	Navarro	131	(63.9)
209	(107.1)	Parmer	1	0.0
210	(108.0)	Bastrop	112	(38.6)
211	(108.5)	Wharton	137	(66.5)
212	(113.1)	Victoria	163	(89.4)
213	(113.7)	Atascosa	146	(77.2)
214	(116.6)	Gray	133	(64.9)
215	(123.9)	Hardin	166	(92.6)
216	(125.4)	Gonzales	228	(241.0)
217	(127.2)	Brewster	199	(132.5)
218	(129.9)	Yoakum	205	(141.8)
219	(134.5)	Hunt	129	(63.0)
220	(136.9)	Fannin	190	(119.2)
221	(138.8)	Tyler	157	(86.5)
222	(141.4)	Jack	248	(468.4)
223	(148.1)	Hutchinson	177	(105.6)
224	(149.3)	Freestone	1	0.0
225	(150.1)	Anderson	193	(122.5)
226	(153.8)	Burnet	226	(214.4)
227	(154.8)	Hill	224	(209.4)
228	(155.8)	Coleman	243	(349.7)
229	(157.2)	Refugio	1	0.0
230	(159.0)	McCulloch	1	0.0
231	(159.2)	Bosque	179	(107.2)
232	(162.1)	Crosby	1	0.0
233	(165.7)	Falls	1	0.0
234	(167.5)	Hamilton	1	0.0
235	(171.9)	Lamar	165	(91.4)
236	(185.4)	Limestone	227	(217.7)
237	(192.9)	Calhoun	1	0.0
238	(226.2)	Coke	1	0.0
239	(233.1)	Mills	1	0.0
240	(241.0)	Stephens	1	0.0
241	(242.3)	Newton	237	(280.1)
242	(250.6)	Leon	229	(242.4)
243	(267.1)	Callahan	1	0.0
244	(376.8)	Burleson	181	(107.4)
245	(380.7)	Castro	189	(118.6)

Teen Violent Deaths

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
246	(392.9)	Red River	1	0.0
247	(436.7)	Jeff Davis	1	0.0
248	(476.9)	Blanco	1	0.0
249	(515.5)	Carson	225	(211.4)
250	(524.9)	Crockett	241	(318.5)
251	(645.2)	Irion	1	0.0
252	(684.9)	Stonewall	1	0.0
253	(757.6)	Cottle	1	0.0
254	(1,538.5)	Borden	1	0.0

Teen Pregnancy

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
1	0.0%	Kenedy	30	(12.5%)
1	0.0%	King	239	(25.0%)
1	0.0%	Loving	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Oldham	4	(4.8%)
1	0.0%	Roberts	30	(12.5%)
1	0.0%	Terrell	15	(9.1%)
1	0.0%	Throckmorton	134	(18.5%)
8	5.1%	Collin	13	8.3%
9	(5.7%)	Hartley	32	(12.8%)
9	(5.7%)	Mason	134	(18.5%)
11	6.9%	Rockwall	8	7.5%
12	7.2%	Denton	6	7.2%
13	(7.5%)	Blanco	29	(12.3%)
14	7.7%	Williamson	14	8.8%
15	(8.7%)	Briscoe	118	(17.9%)
16	8.7%	Fort Bend	18	10.2%
17	(10.0%)	Irion	230	(23.8%)
18	10.1%	Kendall	19	10.5%
19	(10.5%)	Glasscock	5	(7.1%)
20	(10.7%)	Carson	12	(8.1%)
21	(10.9%)	Hardeman	26	(11.7%)
22	(11.1%)	Jeff Davis	245	(26.3%)
23	(11.4%)	Sutton	88	(16.7%)
24	11.7%	Travis	41	13.6%
25	(11.8%)	Crane	112	(17.7%)
25	(11.8%)	Sterling	27	(12.0%)
27	11.9%	Coryell	56	15.2%
28	12.0%	Lee	20	(10.7%)
29	12.1%	Comal	49	14.7%
30	12.1%	Galveston	48	14.7%
31	12.2%	Upshur	219	23.1%
32	12.3%	Montgomery	38	13.3%
33	12.3%	Brazoria	68	15.6%
34	12.5%	Brazos	42	13.7%
35	(12.5%)	Fisher	100	(17.3%)
35	(12.5%)	Sherman	46	(14.3%)

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Teen Pregnancy

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
37	12.6%	Fayette	11	(8.1%)
38	12.7%	Bandera	10	(7.9%)
39	12.8%	Randall	39	13.5%
40	12.8%	Harris	45	14.2%
41	12.9%	Hays	24	11.2%
42	12.9%	Gillespie	148	19.0%
43	12.9%	Parker	46	14.3%
44	12.9%	Wilson	25	11.3%
45	(12.9%)	Coke	69	(15.6%)
46	(13.0%)	Real	141	(18.8%)
46	(13.0%)	San Saba	243	(25.8%)
48	13.1%	Tarrant	34	13.0%
49	(13.3%)	Donley	176	(20.6%)
50	(13.5%)	Childress	154	(19.4%)
51	(14.0%)	Knox	252	31.3%
52	(14.1%)	Martin	37	(13.3%)
53	(14.3%)	Foard	254	(40.0%)
54	14.4%	Bell	66	15.5%
55	14.5%	Dallas	54	15.0%
56	14.5%	Camp	224	23.5%
57	14.6%	Parmer	103	17.5%
58	14.6%	Guadalupe	97	17.2%
59	14.8%	Lavaca	35	13.0%
60	14.9%	Maverick	160	19.8%
61	14.9%	Bastrop	93	16.9%
62	(15.0%)	Hemphill	22	(11.1%)
63	15.0%	Nacogdoches	146	18.9%
64	15.1%	Hood	59	15.3%
65	15.2%	Erath	91	16.9%
66	(15.3%)	Franklin	237	24.5%
67	15.3%	Austin	36	13.0%
68	15.4%	Walker	63	15.4%
69	(15.5%)	Goliad	104	(17.5%)
70	15.5%	Hardin	145	18.8%
71	15.6%	Bexar	89	16.7%
72	15.6%	Wise	52	14.9%
73	15.8%	Montague	123	18.0%
73	(15.8%)	Somervell	21	(10.8%)
75	15.8%	Ochiltree	71	15.6%
76	15.9%	Johnson	96	17.2%
77	15.9%	Smith	85	16.4%
78	(16.0%)	Edwards	246	(26.5%)
78	16.0%	Panola	132	18.4%
80	16.0%	Webb	82	16.3%
81	16.0%	Grayson	99	17.3%
82	16.0%	Harrison	95	17.1%
83	16.2%	Llano	72	(15.7%)
84	16.4%	Val Verde	80	16.2%
85	16.5%	Jefferson	61	15.3%

Teen Pregnancy

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
86	16.6%	Madison	182	21.1%
87	16.7%	Hunt	169	20.1%
88	(16.7%)	Borden	204	(22.2%)
88	(16.7%)	Hansford	43	(13.9%)
88	(16.7%)	Lipscomb	3	(2.3%)
88	16.7%	Washington	64	15.5%
92	16.7%	Hidalgo	62	15.4%
93	16.7%	Kaufman	115	17.8%
94	16.8%	Cameron	58	15.2%
95	16.8%	Burnet	84	16.4%
96	16.8%	Brewster	73	(15.7%)
97	(16.8%)	Hamilton	81	(16.3%)
98	16.9%	El Paso	77	15.9%
99	17.0%	Bosque	102	17.4%
100	17.0%	Ellis	106	17.6%
101	17.0%	Orange	109	17.6%
102	(17.0%)	Rains	51	(14.9%)
103	17.2%	Angelina	177	20.7%
104	17.2%	Jackson	180	20.9%
105	(17.3%)	Jim Hogg	204	(22.2%)
106	17.3%	Cherokee	181	21.0%
106	17.3%	Medina	86	16.4%
108	17.4%	Grimes	119	17.9%
109	(17.6%)	Collingsworth	239	(25.0%)
110	17.7%	Van Zandt	175	20.6%
111	17.7%	Lampasas	92	16.9%
112	17.8%	Nueces	124	18.0%
113	17.9%	Red River	229	23.7%
114	17.9%	Hutchinson	206	22.3%
115	18.0%	Caldwell	125	18.0%
116	18.0%	Anderson	150	19.2%
117	18.0%	Chambers	33	12.9%
118	18.0%	Victoria	152	19.2%
119	18.1%	Archer	7	(7.4%)
120	18.2%	Waller	170	20.2%
121	18.3%	Shelby	186	21.3%
122	(18.3%)	Dallam	161	(19.8%)
123	18.3%	Willacy	155	19.4%
124	18.4%	Callahan	90	16.8%
125	18.5%	Gregg	128	18.1%
126	18.5%	Jasper	183	21.1%
127	18.5%	Bowie	184	21.1%
128	(18.6%)	Shackelford	57	(15.2%)
129	18.6%	Lubbock	131	18.4%
130	18.7%	Milam	174	20.5%
131	18.7%	Tyler	75	15.8%
132	18.7%	Colorado	78	16.0%
133	18.7%	Cooke	65	15.5%
134	18.7%	Navarro	209	22.4%

Teen Pregnancy

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
135	18.8%	Burleson	171	20.2%
136	18.8%	Cass	211	22.6%
137	18.9%	Wichita	163	19.9%
138	18.9%	Taylor	67	15.6%
139	19.0%	Hopkins	126	18.1%
140	19.0%	Gray	164	20.0%
141	19.1%	Fannin	137	18.5%
142	19.1%	Ward	233	24.1%
143	19.1%	San Jacinto	139	18.7%
144	19.1%	Rusk	213	22.8%
145	(19.1%)	Schleicher	40	(13.6%)
146	19.2%	Atascosa	212	22.7%
147	19.3%	Starr	108	17.6%
148	19.3%	Leon	16	(9.9%)
149	19.3%	Liberty	215	22.9%
150	(19.4%)	Kimble	44	(14.0%)
151	19.4%	Tom Green	136	18.5%
152	19.4%	De Witt	162	19.8%
153	19.4%	Live Oak	53	(14.9%)
154	19.4%	Titus	60	15.3%
155	(19.4%)	Reagan	156	(19.5%)
156	19.4%	Brown	194	21.5%
157	19.5%	Presidio	242	25.5%
158	19.5%	Kleberg	55	15.2%
159	19.5%	Castro	172	20.2%
160	19.9%	Calhoun	130	18.3%
161	19.9%	Matagorda	187	21.3%
162	20.0%	Kerr	117	17.8%
163	20.0%	Falls	197	21.7%
163	(20.0%)	McMullen	1	0.0%
163	(20.0%)	Motley	224	(23.5%)
163	(20.0%)	Stonewall	27	(12.0%)
167	20.1%	McLennan	189	21.4%
168	20.1%	Henderson	168	20.0%
169	20.2%	Palo Pinto	216	23.0%
170	20.3%	Stephens	111	17.7%
171	20.3%	Houston	164	20.0%
172	20.4%	Uvalde	201	22.0%
173	20.4%	Young	141	18.8%
174	20.6%	Limestone	178	20.7%
175	20.7%	Runnels	83	16.4%
176	20.8%	Morris	101	17.4%
177	20.9%	Polk	173	20.3%
178	21.0%	Potter	203	22.1%
179	(21.1%)	Kinney	149	(19.0%)
180	21.3%	Nolan	227	23.6%
181	21.3%	Freestone	74	15.8%
182	(21.4%)	Cochran	116	(17.8%)
183	21.6%	Trinity	127	18.1%

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Teen Pregnancy

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
184	21.7%	Midland	79	16.1%
185	[21.7%]	Clay	17	[10.2%]
186	[21.7%]	Armstrong	76	[15.8%]
187	21.8%	Zapata	143	18.8%
188	[21.8%]	Delta	153	[19.3%]
189	21.8%	San Patricio	164	20.0%
190	[22.0%]	Mills	244	[26.1%]
191	22.0%	Wood	191	21.5%
192	22.1%	Eastland	94	16.9%
193	22.2%	Gaines	121	17.9%
194	22.3%	Gonzales	140	18.7%
195	22.3%	Robertson	164	20.0%
196	[22.5%]	Upton	234	24.2%
197	22.6%	Wharton	107	17.6%
198	[22.7%]	Hall	113	[17.7%]
199	22.7%	Jim Wells	133	18.5%
200	22.9%	Bailey	87	16.5%
201	23.0%	Jones	214	22.8%
202	23.0%	Howard	129	18.3%
203	23.0%	Lamar	122	17.9%
204	23.1%	Ector	151	19.2%
205	23.1%	Scurry	208	22.4%
206	23.1%	Hale	198	21.7%
207	23.2%	Jack	188	21.3%
208	23.3%	Hill	235	24.3%
209	23.8%	Bee	105	17.6%
210	23.9%	Marion	221	23.3%
211	24.0%	Newton	98	17.3%
212	24.0%	Frio	236	24.4%
213	24.1%	Deaf Smith	232	23.8%
214	24.2%	Aransas	147	19.0%
215	24.2%	Pecos	200	21.9%
216	24.2%	Coleman	210	22.4%
217	24.3%	Zavala	222	23.3%
218	24.3%	Moore	138	18.7%
219	24.3%	Floyd	110	17.7%
219	24.3%	Yoakum	120	17.9%
221	[24.6%]	Baylor	69	[15.6%]
222	25.2%	San Augustine	248	27.0%
223	25.3%	Mitchell	207	22.3%
224	[25.4%]	Crockett	50	[14.8%]
225	25.6%	Lamb	179	20.8%
226	25.6%	Hockley	202	22.1%
227	25.6%	Comanche	218	23.1%
228	25.6%	Haskell	230	23.8%
229	[25.8%]	Garza	250	28.4%
230	[25.9%]	Dickens	239	[25.0%]
231	26.2%	Dimmit	220	23.2%
232	[26.2%]	Culberson	247	[26.7%]

Teen Pregnancy

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
233	26.3%	Andrews	223	23.4%
234	26.5%	La Salle	114	[17.8%]
235	26.7%	Refugio	199	21.8%
235	26.7%	Winkler	185	21.3%
237	27.0%	Sabine	193	21.5%
238	27.0%	Karnes	238	24.8%
239	27.2%	Duval	157	19.6%
240	27.4%	Terry	217	23.0%
241	27.5%	Wilbarger	224	23.5%
242	27.6%	Dawson	196	21.7%
243	[27.8%]	Concho	190	[21.4%]
244	28.0%	Lynn	159	19.6%
245	28.6%	Brooks	158	19.6%
245	[28.6%]	Kent	22	[11.1%]
247	29.5%	Reeves	144	18.8%
248	[29.6%]	Menard	9	[7.7%]
249	29.8%	Crosby	228	23.7%
250	30.0%	Swisher	251	28.8%
251	30.3%	McCulloch	192	21.5%
252	[31.0%]	Hudspeth	249	[27.3%]
253	[32.5%]	Wheeler	195	[21.5%]
254	[47.1%]	Cottle	253	[35.3%]

Single Teen Pregnancy

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
1	0.0%	Briscoe	199	[7.1%]
1	0.0%	Jeff Davis	124	[5.3%]
1	0.0%	Kenedy	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Kent	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	King	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Loving	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Mason	206	[7.4%]
1	0.0%	Oldham	106	[4.8%]
1	0.0%	Roberts	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Terrell	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Throckmorton	70	[3.7%]
12	3.6%	Collin	33	2.4%
13	[4.3%]	Real	162	[6.3%]
14	4.5%	Rockwall	26	[2.1%]
15	5.0%	Denton	23	2.0%
16	5.3%	Williamson	48	3.2%
17	5.5%	Coryell	54	3.4%
18	[5.7%]	Blanco	1	0.0%
19	[5.7%]	Hartley	85	[4.3%]
20	6.4%	Maverick	35	2.6%
21	[6.4%]	Kendall	18	[1.8%]
22	[6.7%]	Donley	149	[5.9%]
23	6.7%	Fort Bend	92	4.5%

Single Teen Pregnancy

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
24	6.7%	Starr	25	2.1%
25	6.7%	Montgomery	66	3.6%
26	[7.1%]	Foard	254	[15.0%]
26	[7.1%]	Sutton	111	[5.0%]
28	[7.2%]	San Saba	1	0.0%
29	7.3%	Webb	83	4.2%
30	7.5%	Upshur	133	5.5%
31	[7.5%]	Sherman	234	[9.5%]
32	[7.7%]	Gillespie	117	[5.1%]
33	7.8%	Erath	100	[4.7%]
34	[8.0%]	Stonewall	79	[4.0%]
35	8.0%	Parker	58	3.4%
36	8.2%	Brazoria	109	4.8%
37	8.2%	Hidalgo	50	3.3%
38	8.3%	Zapata	38	[2.8%]
39	8.3%	Travis	139	5.6%
40	[8.3%]	Hansford	22	[2.0%]
40	[8.3%]	Lipscomb	1	0.0%
42	8.4%	Bandera	124	[5.3%]
43	8.4%	Bell	103	4.7%
44	8.5%	Fayette	52	[3.3%]
45	[8.6%]	Parmer	37	[2.7%]
46	[8.7%]	Camp	118	[5.1%]
47	8.7%	Randall	56	3.4%
48	8.8%	Cameron	65	3.6%
49	8.9%	Harris	187	6.9%
50	9.2%	Brazos	174	6.4%
51	9.4%	Comal	41	2.8%
52	9.4%	Bosque	61	[3.5%]
53	[9.5%]	Somervell	30	[2.4%]
54	[9.5%]	Carson	61	[3.5%]
55	9.6%	Galveston	154	6.0%
56	9.6%	Val Verde	57	3.4%
57	9.7%	Lee	19	[1.9%]
58	9.7%	Hardin	232	9.2%
59	9.7%	Wilson	157	6.0%
60	[9.7%]	Llano	36	[2.6%]
61	9.8%	Tarrant	108	4.8%
62	[9.9%]	Martin	30	[2.4%]
63	9.9%	Dallas	226	8.9%
64	9.9%	Hays	71	3.7%
65	[9.9%]	Childress	175	[6.5%]
66	[10.0%]	Hemphill	1	0.0%
66	[10.0%]	Irion	234	[9.5%]
68	10.1%	Montague	32	[2.4%]
69	[10.1%]	Ochiltree	14	[1.4%]
70	[10.2%]	Franklin	19	[1.9%]
71	10.2%	Hood	47	[3.2%]
72	[10.3%]	Callahan	171	[6.4%]

ERIC

Single Teen Pregnancy

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
73	10.3%	Nacogdoches	167	6.3%
74	[10.5%]	Glasscock	64	[3.6%]
75	10.6%	Cherokee	145	5.8%
76	10.6%	Hutchinson	94	[4.6%]
77	10.6%	Burnet	110	[4.9%]
78	10.7%	Bastrop	182	6.7%
79	10.7%	Johnson	67	3.6%
80	10.8%	Wise	40	[2.8%]
81	[10.9%]	Archer	24	[2.1%]
81	[10.9%]	Hardeman	16	[1.7%]
83	10.9%	Austin	88	[4.3%]
84	[10.9%]	Delta	17	[1.8%]
84	10.9%	Panola	220	8.6%
86	10.9%	Cooke	72	[3.7%]
87	[11.0%]	Rains	130	[5.4%]
87	11.0%	Shelby	169	6.3%
89	[11.0%]	Madison	243	[10.9%]
90	11.1%	El Paso	146	5.8%
91	11.1%	Smith	147	5.8%
92	[11.1%]	Jim Hogg	82	[4.2%]
93	11.1%	Fannin	87	[4.3%]
94	11.2%	Tyler	183	[6.8%]
95	11.3%	Willacy	91	[4.5%]
96	11.3%	Lampasas	179	[6.7%]
97	11.3%	Van Zandt	144	5.8%
98	11.4%	Chambers	102	[4.7%]
99	11.4%	Bexar	156	6.0%
100	[11.4%]	Presidio	76	[3.9%]
101	11.6%	Orange	138	5.6%
102	[11.6%]	Knox	253	[14.9%]
103	11.7%	Hopkins	85	[4.3%]
104	11.7%	Grayson	176	6.6%
105	11.8%	Walker	190	6.9%
106	[11.8%]	Brewster	81	[4.1%]
106	[11.8%]	Crane	74	[3.8%]
106	[11.8%]	Sterling	1	0.0%
109	12.0%	Ellis	193	6.9%
110	12.0%	Angelina	210	7.8%
111	12.0%	Harrison	233	9.5%
112	12.0%	Hunt	192	6.9%
113	12.0%	Guadalupe	148	5.9%
114	[12.2%]	Dallam	51	[3.3%]
115	12.2%	Navarro	229	9.1%
116	12.2%	Brown	172	6.4%
117	12.2%	Titus	44	[3.1%]
118	12.3%	Kaufman	160	6.2%
119	[12.5%]	Fisher	21	[1.9%]
120	12.6%	Kerr	104	4.7%
121	[12.6%]	Hamilton	162	[6.3%]

Single Teen Pregnancy

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
122	12.8%	Rusk	238	10.5%
123	12.8%	Liberty	181	6.7%
124	12.8%	Caldwell	129	5.4%
125	12.8%	Jefferson	209	7.7%
126	12.8%	Cass	217	8.2%
127	[12.8%]	Stephens	28	[2.3%]
128	12.9%	Jasper	221	8.7%
129	[12.9%]	Coke	162	[6.3%]
130	13.0%	McLennan	227	8.9%
131	13.0%	Red River	236	[9.6%]
132	13.0%	Gaines	95	[4.6%]
133	13.0%	Anderson	194	7.0%
134	13.1%	De Witt	213	[7.8%]
135	13.1%	Medina	78	[4.0%]
136	[13.2%]	Live Oak	124	[5.3%]
137	[13.3%]	Motley	149	[5.9%]
137	13.3%	Young	46	[3.1%]
139	13.4%	Milam	204	7.3%
140	13.4%	Gregg	161	6.2%
141	13.5%	Wichita	208	7.4%
142	13.5%	Polk	195	7.0%
143	13.6%	Lavaca	198	[7.1%]
144	13.6%	Waller	225	8.9%
145	13.7%	Henderson	212	7.8%
146	13.9%	Lubbock	177	6.6%
147	13.9%	Gray	136	[5.5%]
147	13.9%	Hale	101	4.7%
147	[13.9%]	Reagan	59	[3.4%]
147	13.9%	San Jacinto	43	[3.0%]
151	[14.0%]	Shackelford	89	[4.3%]
152	14.0%	Grimes	215	7.9%
153	[14.0%]	Baylor	162	[6.3%]
154	14.1%	Wood	122	[5.2%]
155	14.1%	Taylor	63	3.6%
156	[14.1%]	Coleman	98	[4.7%]
156	14.1%	Washington	188	6.9%
158	14.2%	Tom Green	143	5.7%
159	14.2%	Freestone	132	[5.4%]
160	14.2%	Houston	251	13.1%
161	14.3%	Atascosa	152	5.9%
162	[14.3%]	Goliad	196	[7.0%]
162	[14.3%]	Winkler	189	[6.9%]
164	14.3%	Bowie	247	11.3%
165	14.3%	Potter	211	7.8%
166	14.4%	Nueces	151	5.9%
167	[14.4%]	San Augustine	244	[11.0%]
168	14.5%	Ward	224	[8.9%]
169	14.5%	Colorado	178	[6.6%]
170	[14.5%]	Kimble	29	[2.3%]

Single Teen Pregnancy

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
171	14.6%	Eastland	127	[5.3%]
172	[14.6%]	Mills	241	[10.9%]
173	[14.7%]	Lynn	98	[4.7%]
173	14.7%	Runnels	158	[6.1%]
175	[14.7%]	Collingsworth	230	[9.1%]
175	14.7%	Limestone	206	7.4%
175	14.7%	Victoria	97	4.6%
178	14.7%	Calhoun	205	7.3%
179	[14.8%]	Dickens	162	[6.3%]
179	14.8%	Kleberg	90	4.5%
181	14.9%	Leon	45	[3.1%]
182	14.9%	Jackson	141	[5.6%]
183	[15.0%]	Sabine	218	[8.6%]
184	15.1%	Matagorda	180	6.7%
185	[15.2%]	Garza	130	[5.4%]
186	[15.3%]	Crockett	216	[8.2%]
187	15.4%	Morris	72	[3.7%]
188	15.5%	Burleson	197	[7.0%]
189	15.6%	Moore	75	[3.8%]
190	[15.7%]	Clay	80	[4.1%]
191	[15.7%]	Cochran	134	[5.5%]
192	15.8%	Castro	69	[3.7%]
192	[15.8%]	Jack	170	[6.4%]
192	[15.8%]	Kinney	106	[4.8%]
195	15.8%	Jones	114	[5.0%]
196	15.9%	Uvalde	55	[3.4%]
197	15.9%	Palo Pinto	185	6.8%
198	15.9%	Hill	223	8.8%
199	16.0%	Bailey	105	[4.7%]
199	[16.0%]	Edwards	222	[8.8%]
201	16.0%	Howard	116	5.0%
202	16.1%	Andrews	39	[2.8%]
203	[16.2%]	Yoakum	15	[1.5%]
204	16.6%	Lamar	203	7.2%
205	[16.7%]	Borden	245	[11.1%]
205	[16.7%]	Hall	49	[3.2%]
205	[16.7%]	Haskell	199	[7.1%]
208	16.7%	Lamb	191	[6.9%]
209	16.8%	Falls	252	13.4%
210	16.9%	Comanche	142	[5.6%]
211	17.0%	Midland	96	4.6%
212	17.0%	San Patricio	128	5.4%
213	[17.0%]	Schleicher	93	[4.5%]
214	17.0%	Scurry	214	[7.9%]
215	17.2%	Ector	153	5.9%
216	17.3%	Deaf Smith	77	[4.0%]
217	[17.4%]	Armstrong	238	[10.5%]
218	17.5%	Pecos	186	[6.8%]
219	17.7%	Hockley	140	5.6%

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Single Teen Pregnancy

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
220	17.7%	Aransas	121	(5.2%)
221	17.9%	Nolan	119	(5.2%)
222	18.0%	Floyd	135	(5.5%)
223	(18.1%)	Mitchell	34	(2.5%)
224	18.1%	Robertson	250	12.8%
225	18.3%	Jim Wells	113	5.0%
226	(18.5%)	Menard	1	0.0%
226	18.5%	Trinity	249	(11.8%)
228	18.7%	Wharton	120	5.2%
229	19.0%	Bee	202	7.2%
230	19.0%	Gonzales	84	(4.2%)
231	(19.0%)	Hudspeth	230	(9.1%)
232	19.3%	Newton		
233	(19.4%)	La Salle	53	(3.3%)
234	19.5%	Frio	159	(6.1%)
235	19.9%	Dimmit	59	(3.4%)
236	(20.0%)	McMullen	1	0.0%
237	(20.2%)	McCulloch	237	(9.9%)
238	20.3%	Zavala	42	(2.8%)
239	20.5%	Marion	246	(11.2%)
240	20.8%	Karnes	228	(9.0%)
241	20.8%	Wilbarger	173	(6.4%)
242	21.0%	Terry	155	(6.0%)
243	21.2%	Crosby	27	(2.3%)
244	(21.4%)	Culberson	111	(5.0%)
245	21.8%	Brooks	123	(5.2%)
246	(22.2%)	Concho	199	(7.1%)
247	22.4%	Dawson	137	(5.5%)
248	(22.5%)	Upton	168	(6.3%)
248	(22.5%)	Wheeler	240	(10.8%)
250	22.7%	Reeves	184	(6.8%)
251	22.9%	Refugio	242	(10.9%)
252	23.1%	Duval	68	(3.7%)
253	23.3%	Swisher	115	(5.0%)
254	(41.2%)	Cottle	248	(11.8%)

High School Dropouts

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1996 Rank	1996 Rate
1	0.0%	Armstrong	82	(6.9%)
1	0.0%	Borden	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Briscoe	59	(5.3%)
1	0.0%	Carson	21	(1.9%)
1	0.0%	Concho	84	(7.0%)
1	0.0%	Culberson	24	(2.4%)
1	0.0%	Foard	153	(10.0%)
1	0.0%	Glasscock	135	(9.1%)
1	0.0%	Hardeman	40	(3.7%)
1	0.0%	Irion	1	0.0%

High School Dropouts

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
1	0.0%	Jeff Davis	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Kenedy	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	King	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Loving	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Mason	172	(10.9%)
1	0.0%	Menard	165	(10.5%)
1	0.0%	Motley	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Reagan	17	(1.4%)
1	0.0%	Real	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Roberts	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Sherman	26	(2.9%)
1	0.0%	Sterling	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Stonewall	1	0.0%
1	0.0%	Wheeler	86	(7.1%)
1	0.0%	Winkler	14	(0.7%)
26	(0.7%)	Coke	20	(1.5%)
27	(1.0%)	Hamilton	149	(9.8%)
28	(1.0%)	Kendall	150	9.8%
29	(1.1%)	Jackson	106	(7.9%)
30	(1.2%)	Haskell	23	(2.2%)
31	(1.2%)	Crane	103	(7.9%)
32	(1.2%)	Lavaca	22	(2.1%)
33	(1.2%)	Jim Hogg	231	(15.3%)
34	(1.2%)	Wharton	111	8.2%
35	(1.3%)	Camp	229	15.3%
36	(1.3%)	Callahan	84	(7.0%)
37	(1.5%)	Somervell	117	(8.6%)
38	(1.5%)	Van Zandt	167	10.7%
39	(1.6%)	Cass	105	7.9%
40	(1.7%)	Bee	152	9.9%
41	(1.8%)	Yoakum	102	(7.9%)
42	(1.8%)	Shackelford	73	(6.1%)
43	(1.8%)	Hudspeth	80	(6.8%)
44	(1.9%)	Sabine	54	(5.1%)
45	(1.9%)	Gillespie	128	(8.9%)
46	(2.0%)	Crockett	241	(16.9%)
47	(2.0%)	Goliad	43	(3.9%)
48	(2.1%)	Eastland	132	9.0%
49	(2.1%)	Washington	88	7.2%
50	(2.1%)	Hemphill	56	(5.2%)
50	(2.1%)	Young	208	13.0%
52	(2.2%)	Wise	176	11.0%
53	(2.3%)	Lee	135	(9.1%)
54	(2.3%)	Collingsworth	91	(7.3%)
55	2.3%	Collin	72	6.0%
56	(2.3%)	Franklin	153	(10.0%)
57	2.3%	Brazoria	181	11.4%
58	2.4%	Denton	92	7.3%
59	(2.4%)	Mills	18	(1.5%)

High School Dropouts

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
60	(2.5%)	Archer	47	(4.5%)
61	(2.5%)	Childress	174	(10.9%)
62	(2.5%)	Dallam	45	(4.2%)
63	(2.5%)	Coleman	69	(5.8%)
64	(2.7%)	Milam	120	8.6%
65	(2.7%)	Matagorda	207	13.0%
65	(2.7%)	Upton	114	(8.3%)
67	(2.8%)	Leon	103	(7.9%)
67	(2.8%)	Titus	67	(5.7%)
69	(2.8%)	Madison	93	(7.3%)
70	(2.8%)	Austin	95	7.5%
71	(2.8%)	Rains	188	(12.0%)
71	(2.8%)	Throckmorton	30	(3.2%)
73	(2.8%)	Lynn	107	(8.0%)
74	(2.8%)	Randall	41	(3.8%)
75	(3.0%)	San Saba	205	(12.9%)
76	(3.0%)	Mitchell	189	(12.1%)
77	(3.0%)	Newton	173	(10.9%)
78	3.0%	Guadalupe	200	12.6%
79	(3.0%)	Dawson	159	10.2%
80	(3.1%)	Red River	219	14.1%
81	(3.2%)	Baylor	61	(5.4%)
82	(3.2%)	Jasper	70	5.8%
83	(3.2%)	De Witt	113	8.3%
84	(3.3%)	Lipscomb	68	(5.8%)
85	3.3%	Williamson	48	4.6%
86	(3.4%)	Garza	82	(6.9%)
87	3.4%	Parker	58	5.2%
88	3.4%	Walker	163	10.5%
89	3.4%	Nacogdoches	222	14.4%
90	(3.4%)	Hockley	235	15.7%
91	(3.6%)	Bosque	33	(3.5%)
92	(3.6%)	Delta	30	(3.2%)
93	(3.6%)	Bandera	28	(3.0%)
93	(3.6%)	Blanco	15	(1.0%)
95	(3.6%)	Moore	39	(3.7%)
96	(3.7%)	Terry	178	11.1%
97	(3.7%)	Lamb	169	10.7%
98	3.7%	Rockwall	164	10.5%
99	(3.8%)	Fannin	122	8.7%
100	(3.8%)	Chambers	143	9.6%
101	3.8%	Hardin	66	5.7%
102	3.8%	Brown	204	12.8%
103	3.9%	Anderson	226	14.7%
104	4.0%	Montgomery	133	9.1%
105	4.0%	Cherokee	215	13.8%
106	(4.1%)	Erath	129	8.9%
107	4.1%	Ellis	177	11.1%
108	(4.2%)	Cooke	135	9.1%

High School Dropouts

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
109	4.2%	Liberty	186	11.8%
110	(4.2%)	Freestone	55	(5.2%)
111	(4.2%)	Gray	202	12.7%
112	(4.2%)	Limestone	157	10.1%
113	(4.2%)	Tyler	130	9.0%
114	(4.3%)	San Augustine	89	(7.2%)
115	(4.3%)	Bailey	247	(20.0%)
116	(4.3%)	Aransas	109	(8.1%)
117	(4.4%)	Wilbarger	110	(8.2%)
118	4.5%	Galveston	191	12.2%
119	(4.5%)	Parmer	223	14.4%
120	(4.5%)	Upshur	90	7.2%
121	4.6%	Fort Bend	124	8.8%
122	4.7%	Polk	63	(5.5%)
123	(4.8%)	Donley	246	(19.6%)
123	(4.8%)	Schleicher	77	(6.7%)
125	4.8%	Navarro	125	8.8%
126	4.9%	Orange	101	7.8%
127	(4.9%)	Calhoun	234	15.6%
128	5.0%	Atascosa	94	7.5%
129	5.0%	Hays	139	9.2%
130	5.0%	Comal	74	6.2%
131	5.0%	Hill	50	(4.7%)
132	(5.0%)	Karnes	86	(7.1%)
133	5.1%	Dallas	161	10.3%
134	5.1%	Wood	52	(5.0%)
135	(5.1%)	Crosby	194	(12.4%)
135	(5.1%)	Edwards	36	(3.6%)
135	(5.1%)	Hansford	142	(9.4%)
135	5.1%	Jim Wells	158	10.2%
139	5.1%	Kaufman	112	8.2%
140	5.2%	San Patricio	108	8.0%
141	5.2%	Lamar	224	14.5%
142	(5.2%)	Ochiltree	119	(8.6%)
143	5.2%	Wichita	76	6.5%
144	(5.2%)	Palo Pinto	213	13.7%
145	5.3%	Brazos	123	8.7%
146	(5.3%)	Kinney	153	(10.0%)
146	(5.3%)	Lampasas	64	(5.5%)
148	(5.3%)	Live Oak	160	(10.2%)
149	5.3%	Cameron	240	16.8%
150	5.3%	Taylor	198	12.5%
151	5.3%	Bowie	134	9.1%
152	(5.3%)	Oldham	35	(3.5%)
153	5.4%	Johnson	212	13.6%
154	(5.4%)	Clay	42	(3.9%)
155	5.4%	Bastrop	228	15.1%
156	(5.5%)	Fisher	19	(1.5%)
156	(5.5%)	Jones	151	9.9%

High School Dropouts

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
158	5.5%	Lubbock	190	12.1%
159	5.5%	Coryell	140	9.2%
160	(5.6%)	Sutton	25	(2.5%)
161	5.6%	Gregg	197	12.4%
162	5.6%	Webb	168	10.7%
163	(5.7%)	Brewster	16	(1.3%)
164	5.7%	Maverick	239	16.2%
165	(5.7%)	Colorado	75	(6.3%)
166	(5.8%)	Runnels	216	13.8%
167	5.8%	Harrison	162	10.3%
168	5.8%	Grayson	96	7.5%
169	(5.9%)	Knox	29	(3.2%)
170	(5.9%)	Montague	57	(5.2%)
171	(6.0%)	Nolan	183	11.7%
172	(6.0%)	Fayette	60	(5.3%)
173	6.0%	Bell	97	7.6%
174	(6.0%)	McCulloch	61	(5.4%)
175	(6.1%)	Andrews	156	10.1%
176	6.1%	Burnet	192	12.2%
177	(6.1%)	Jack	126	(8.9%)
178	6.2%	Waller	195	12.4%
179	(6.3%)	Kent	77	(6.7%)
180	(6.3%)	Castro	179	(11.3%)
181	(6.4%)	Llano	81	(6.8%)
182	(6.4%)	Gaines	201	12.7%
183	(6.4%)	Houston	30	(3.2%)
184	(6.5%)	La Salle	51	(4.9%)
185	(6.5%)	Falls	131	(9.0%)
186	6.6%	Nueces	144	9.6%
187	6.6%	Medina	114	8.3%
188	(6.6%)	Floyd	166	(10.7%)
188	6.6%	Hunt	148	9.8%
190	6.6%	Smith	193	12.4%
191	(6.6%)	Duval	79	(6.7%)
192	6.6%	Henderson	121	8.7%
193	(6.8%)	Comanche	44	(4.1%)
194	(6.8%)	Frio	100	(7.7%)
195	6.8%	Tom Green	185	11.7%
196	6.8%	Grimes	238	16.0%
197	6.9%	Harris	242	17.0%
198	6.9%	Caldwell	49	(4.7%)
199	(6.9%)	Morris	65	(5.6%)
200	6.9%	Rusk	147	9.7%
201	7.0%	Hopkins	210	13.3%
202	7.0%	Wilson	146	9.6%
203	7.1%	Potter	203	12.8%
204	(7.1%)	Swisher	99	(7.7%)
205	7.2%	Panola	98	7.6%
206	7.5%	Jefferson	214	13.7%

High School Dropouts

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
207	7.5%	El Paso	184	11.7%
208	(7.6%)	Scurry	138	9.1%
209	(7.6%)	Trinity	244	17.5%
210	7.7%	Hutchinson	116	8.4%
211	(7.7%)	Terrell	1	0.0%
212	7.7%	Deaf Smith	248	21.6%
213	7.8%	McLennan	209	13.2%
214	7.9%	Gonzales	199	12.5%
215	8.0%	Hood	206	13.0%
216	(8.1%)	San Jacinto	211	13.5%
217	(8.1%)	Brooks	221	(14.2%)
218	8.3%	Bexar	225	14.6%
219	8.3%	Val Verde	218	14.0%
220	(8.3%)	Burleson	187	11.9%
221	8.4%	Midland	252	22.9%
222	8.5%	Hidalgo	220	14.2%
223	(8.7%)	Cottle	36	(3.6%)
224	8.7%	Tarrant	145	9.6%
225	8.7%	Kerr	227	14.8%
226	8.9%	Howard	171	10.9%
227	9.2%	Kleberg	71	5.9%
228	(9.2%)	Kimble	180	(11.4%)
229	9.3%	Travis	233	15.4%
230	9.7%	Victoria	236	15.9%
231	9.7%	Pecos	46	(4.2%)
232	(9.7%)	Zavala	249	22.4%
233	(9.7%)	Refugio	53	(5.1%)
234	9.8%	Ward	27	(3.0%)
235	9.8%	Shelby	182	11.5%
236	(10.4%)	Marion	196	(12.4%)
237	10.4%	Reeves	170	(10.9%)
238	(10.4%)	Hall	174	(10.9%)
239	(11.5%)	Dimmit	229	15.3%
240	(11.6%)	Martin	117	(8.6%)
241	11.9%	Hale	232	15.4%
242	(12.0%)	Stephens	237	(16.0%)
243	(12.5%)	McMullen	1	0.0%
244	12.6%	Starr	245	17.6%
245	12.9%	Angelina	217	14.0%
246	13.0%	Uvalde	250	22.4%
247	(13.0%)	Cochran	254	32.1%
248	13.3%	Ector	251	22.4%
249	(13.6%)	Hartley	36	(3.6%)
250	14.5%	Zapata	34	(3.5%)
251	15.3%	Presidio	253	25.2%
252	16.2%	Robertson	127	(8.9%)
253	(17.2%)	Dickens	141	(9.3%)
254	18.4%	Willacy	243	17.0%
219	(10.0%)	Newton	32	(4.3%)

High School Dropouts

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1990 Rank	1990 Rate
219	10.0%	Shelby	200	8.3%
219	[10.0%]	Sutton	202	[8.3%]
219	[10.0%]	Wheeler	16	[3.1%]
224	[10.1%]	Brewster	221	[9.1%]
225	10.1%	Washington	203	8.4%
226	10.4%	Lubbock	182	7.9%
227	10.4%	Cass	147	7.2%
228	10.6%	Hutchinson	238	10.6%
229	11.1%	Cherokee	146	7.2%
230	11.2%	Robertson	105	[6.6%]
231	11.2%	Dawson	63	[5.5%]
232	[11.4%]	Hartley	99	[6.4%]
233	[11.7%]	San Augustine	188	[8.0%]
234	[11.8%]	Cottle	77	[5.9%]
235	11.9%	Lamb	154	[7.3%]
236	[11.9%]	Hudspeth	254	[21.2%]
237	[12.0%]	Mitchell	49	[5.0%]
238	12.1%	Falls	247	13.7%
239	12.6%	Bailey	141	[7.1%]
240	[12.6%]	Floyd	185	[7.9%]
241	12.9%	Terry	130	[6.9%]
242	13.3%	Jones	198	[8.2%]
243	[13.3%]	Donley	13	[2.9%]
244	[13.5%]	Childress	45	[4.8%]
245	13.5%	Bandera	91	[6.1%]
246	[13.8%]	Archer	158	[7.4%]
247	[14.0%]	Baylor	226	[9.4%]
248	14.5%	Aransas	65	[5.6%]
249	[14.5%]	Marion	174	[7.8%]
250	15.3%	Swisher	184	[7.9%]
251	[16.3%]	Knox	79	[6.0%]
252	[16.7%]	Fisher	26	[3.8%]
253	[20.0%]	McMullen	1	0.0%
254	[21.7%]	Briscoe	144	[7.1%]

Child Poverty

1999 Rank	1999 Rate	County	1989 Rank	1989 Rate
1	0.0%	Loving	1	0.0%
2	5.5%	Collin	3	7.0%
3	5.6%	Rockwall	2	6.8%
4	5.7%	Williamson	11	12.0%
5	6.5%	Denton	4	7.2%
6	[7.5%]	Roberts	5	7.8%
7	8.0%	Irion	23	15.2%
8	8.3%	Hartley	26	16.0%
9	8.8%	Forr Bend	9	10.9%
10	9.0%	Randall	9	10.9%
11	9.2%	Carson	7	10.7%

Child Poverty

1999 Rank	1999 Rate	County	1989 Rank	1989 Rate
12	9.8%	Parker	17	14.0%
13	10.2%	Archer	18	14.1%
14	10.3%	Hood	15	13.1%
15	10.5%	Somervell	72	21.4%
16	10.6%	Reagan	16	13.5%
17	11.1%	Johnson	24	15.3%
18	11.4%	Montgomery	25	15.6%
18	11.4%	Wise	30	17.0%
20	11.5%	Ellis	21	14.9%
21	12.0%	Comal	41	18.6%
21	12.0%	Hays	39	18.4%
23	12.1%	Clay	12	12.8%
24	12.8%	Coryell	19	14.4%
25	12.9%	Brazoria	12	12.8%
26	13.0%	Fayette	59	20.6%
27	13.1%	Kent	161	29.0%
27	13.1%	Wilson	116	24.9%
29	13.5%	Hardin	40	18.5%
29	13.5%	Wheeler	77	21.8%
31	13.6%	Guadalupe	107	24.3%
32	13.7%	Chambers	14	13.0%
32	13.7%	Kaufman	51	19.7%
34	13.8%	Bandera	36	17.8%
35	13.9%	Gillespie	28	16.6%
36	14.1%	Austin	38	18.2%
37	14.2%	Tarrant	20	14.7%
38	14.3%	Borden	129	26.0%
38	14.3%	Grayson	28	16.6%
38	14.3%	Travis	45	19.0%
41	14.4%	Kendall	61	20.9%
42	14.5%	Foard	91	22.8%
43	14.7%	Blanco	79	21.9%
44	14.8%	Callahan	131	26.2%
44	14.8%	Lee	61	20.9%
46	15.0%	Jack	109	24.6%
47	15.1%	Burnet	111	24.7%
47	15.1%	Hutchinson	30	17.0%
47	15.1%	Washington	55	20.1%
50	15.2%	Coke	97	23.5%
51	15.3%	Crane	57	20.3%
52	15.4%	Caldwell	224	39.9%
52	15.4%	Lavaca	77	21.8%
54	[15.6%]	Kenedy	146	27.7%
55	16.0%	Bastrop	99	23.7%
55	16.0%	Dallam	122	25.4%
57	16.3%	Concho	189	33.9%
57	16.3%	Hunt	47	19.3%
57	16.3%	Wilbarger	130	26.1%
60	16.5%	Panola	119	25.3%

Child Poverty

1999 Rank	1999 Rate	County	1989 Rank	1989 Rate
60	16.5%	Van Zandt	56	20.2%
62	16.6%	Bell	69	21.2%
62	16.6%	Erath	71	21.3%
62	16.6%	Midland	44	18.9%
65	16.7%	Hemphill	7	10.7%
66	16.8%	Shackelford	105	24.2%
67	17.1%	Bosque	74	21.7%
68	17.2%	Armstrong	27	16.2%
69	17.3%	Freestone	61	20.9%
70	17.5%	Victoria	97	23.5%
71	17.6%	Jeff Davis	112	24.8%
72	17.7%	Rains	42	18.7%
72	17.7%	Wichita	66	21.1%
74	17.8%	Llano	52	19.8%
75	17.9%	Gray	33	17.3%
76	18.0%	Galveston	66	21.1%
77	18.1%	Montague	74	21.7%
77	18.1%	Moore	32	17.1%
79	18.2%	Glasscock	176	31.4%
79	18.2%	Taylor	49	19.4%
81	18.3%	Fannin	94	23.3%
82	18.4%	Dallas	45	19.0%
82	18.4%	Hopkins	86	22.4%
84	18.5%	Ochiltree	22	15.1%
85	18.6%	Liberty	82	22.0%
86	18.7%	Wharton	152	28.1%
87	18.8%	Smith	79	21.9%
88	19.0%	Orange	60	20.7%
89	19.3%	Upshur	66	21.1%
90	19.4%	Henderson	112	24.8%
90	19.4%	Jackson	137	26.6%
92	19.9%	Harris	72	21.4%
93	20.1%	Lampasas	141	27.0%
93	20.1%	Medina	165	29.6%
93	20.1%	Throckmorton	103	24.0%
96	20.2%	Hill	160	28.8%
96	20.2%	Waller	104	24.1%
98	20.3%	Cooke	82	22.0%
98	20.3%	Madison	210	38.0%
98	20.3%	Walker	74	21.7%
101	20.5%	Mason	179	31.8%
101	20.5%	Tom Green	85	22.1%
101	20.5%	Ward	101	23.9%
104	20.8%	Andrews	79	21.9%
104	20.8%	Brewster	176	31.4%
104	20.8%	Grimes	165	29.6%
107	20.9%	Parmer	169	30.2%
107	20.9%	Wood	119	25.3%
109	21.0%	Gregg	90	22.7%

ERIC

Child Poverty

1999 Rank	1999 Rate	County	1989 Rank	1989 Rate
109	21.0%	Rusk	140	26.8%
111	21.1%	McLennan	118	25.1%
111	21.1%	Palo Pinto	135	26.5%
113	21.4%	Bailey	185	33.0%
113	21.4%	Young	49	19.4%
115	21.5%	Colorado	128	25.9%
115	21.5%	Donley	100	23.8%
117	21.6%	Calhoun	94	23.3%
117	21.6%	Hamilton	53	19.9%
117	21.6%	Leon	108	24.4%
117	21.6%	Tyler	89	22.6%
121	21.7%	Delta	171	30.8%
121	21.7%	Dickens	218	38.9%
123	21.9%	Franklin	58	20.4%
123	21.9%	Lubbock	91	22.8%
125	22.0%	Anderson	112	24.8%
125	22.0%	Milam	163	29.5%
127	22.1%	Brazos	86	22.4%
127	22.1%	Scurry	105	24.2%
129	22.2%	Angelina	119	25.3%
129	22.2%	Harrison	138	26.7%
131	22.5%	Live Oak	162	29.3%
132	22.6%	Cass	170	30.3%
133	22.7%	Bexar	154	28.3%
134	22.8%	Sherman	36	17.8%
135	22.9%	Comanche	135	26.5%
135	22.9%	Kerr	61	20.9%
135	22.9%	Stephens	124	25.5%
138	23.0%	Jones	147	27.8%
138	23.0%	King	6	[9.8%]
138	23.0%	Lamar	142	27.1%
138	23.0%	Mitchell	165	29.6%
142	23.1%	Burleson	126	25.8%
142	23.1%	Hansford	33	17.3%
144	23.3%	Eastland	150	28.0%
144	23.3%	Sterling	42	18.7%
146	23.5%	Cherokee	157	28.5%
146	23.5%	Limestone	150	28.0%
146	23.5%	San Jacinto	168	29.7%
149	23.6%	Brown	133	26.4%
149	23.6%	Hale	174	31.1%
151	23.7%	Briscoe	208	37.1%
151	23.7%	Matagorda	126	25.8%
151	23.7%	Navarro	101	23.9%
151	23.7%	San Patricio	188	33.8%
155	23.8%	Jasper	122	25.4%
156	23.9%	Gonzales	203	36.1%
156	23.9%	Martin	195	35.1%
158	24.0%	Sabine	133	26.4%

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Child Poverty

1999 Rank	1999 Rate	County	1989 Rank	1989 Rate
158	24.0%	Trinity	209	37.3%
160	24.1%	Lipscomb	35	17.5%
160	24.1%	Polk	143	27.2%
160	24.1%	Yoakum	109	24.6%
163	24.2%	Refugio	178	31.5%
164	24.3%	Ector	144	27.6%
165	24.5%	Hockley	125	25.6%
165	24.5%	Nueces	152	28.1%
165	24.5%	Swisher	196	35.2%
168	24.8%	Crockett	220	39.2%
168	24.8%	Newton	172	30.9%
170	25.0%	Jefferson	147	27.8%
171	25.1%	Shelby	182	32.6%
172	25.2%	Howard	163	29.5%
172	25.2%	Sutton	69	21.2%
172	25.2%	Winkler	138	26.7%
175	25.3%	Mills	154	28.3%
176	25.4%	Titus	116	24.9%
177	25.5%	Bowie	94	23.3%
177	25.5%	Runnels	47	19.3%
179	25.6%	Castro	217	38.8%
180	25.7%	Potter	173	31.0%
181	25.8%	Atascosa	222	39.7%
181	25.8%	Morris	181	32.5%
181	25.8%	Red River	193	34.8%
184	25.9%	Goliad	53	19.9%
185	26.2%	De Witt	180	32.0%
185	26.2%	Hardeman	157	28.5%
187	26.3%	Baylor	175	31.3%
188	26.4%	Deaf Smith	201	35.7%
188	26.4%	San Saba	236	46.5%
190	26.6%	Upton	86	22.4%
191	27.4%	Nacogdoches	112	24.8%
192	27.6%	Coleman	199	35.5%
192	27.6%	Pecos	203	36.1%
194	27.7%	Fisher	207	37.0%
195	27.8%	Collingsworth	214	38.4%
196	27.9%	Lamb	216	38.7%
197	28.5%	Lynn	234	45.6%
198	28.6%	Houston	187	33.5%
198	28.6%	McMullen	65	21.0%
198	28.6%	Robertson	211	38.1%
201	28.8%	Kimble	154	28.3%
202	29.0%	Floyd	221	39.5%
202	29.0%	Schleicher	132	26.3%
204	29.1%	Childress	235	46.0%
204	29.1%	Falls	202	35.8%
204	29.1%	McCulloch	192	34.7%
207	29.3%	Dawson	229	42.0%

Child Poverty

1999 Rank	1999 Rate	County	1989 Rank	1989 Rate
207	29.3%	Gaines	206	36.7%
209	29.4%	Cottle	238	47.0%
210	29.5%	Karnes	238	47.0%
211	29.7%	Nolan	149	27.9%
212	29.9%	Garza	144	27.6%
212	29.9%	Marion	233	44.9%
214	30.0%	Jim Hogg	231	42.9%
215	30.2%	Camp	184	32.8%
216	30.6%	Real	197	35.4%
217	30.9%	Stonewall	82	22.0%
218	31.2%	San Augustine	223	39.8%
219	31.3%	Culberson	211	38.1%
220	31.5%	Aransas	219	39.0%
221	31.7%	El Paso	203	36.1%
222	32.1%	Jim Wells	200	35.6%
223	33.1%	Terrell	215	38.5%
224	33.2%	Terry	197	35.4%
225	33.5%	Oldham	93	23.2%
226	33.6%	Kinney	226	40.8%
227	34.0%	Val Verde	238	47.0%
228	34.1%	Uvalde	227	40.9%
229	34.2%	Bee	191	34.6%
229	34.2%	Haskell	159	28.7%
231	35.1%	Motley	183	32.7%
232	35.3%	Knox	185	33.0%
233	35.7%	Kleberg	194	34.9%
234	35.9%	Duval	241	47.3%
235	36.4%	Reeves	190	34.2%
236	36.7%	Frio	237	46.8%
237	36.9%	Crosby	225	40.0%
238	38.0%	Cochran	213	38.3%
239	38.5%	La Salle	243	47.7%
240	39.7%	Hall	228	41.1%
240	39.7%	Webb	241	47.3%
242	40.3%	Dimmit	248	56.3%
242	40.3%	Menard	230	42.6%
244	40.7%	Maverick	251	58.3%
245	41.4%	Hudspeth	247	55.1%
246	42.1%	Willacy	250	57.5%
247	43.4%	Cameron	244	50.7%
247	43.4%	Presidio	252	58.7%
249	45.7%	Hidalgo	246	52.7%
250	46.2%	Zapata	245	52.6%
251	47.4%	Edwards	249	57.0%
252	49.0%	Zavala	253	59.5%
253	51.8%	Brooks	232	44.4%
254	59.5%	Starr	254	68.0%

Single Parent Families

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1996 Rank	1996 Rate
1	39.4%	Brooks	51	20.8%
2	34.6%	Bee	112	17.5%
3	34.3%	Bowie	17	24.1%
4	33.6%	Robertson	7	26.6%
5	33.5%	Menard	153	15.3%
6	33.3%	Jefferson	10	25.9%
7	33.2%	Marion	1	30.5%
8	32.0%	Morris	33	22.5%
9	31.9%	Falls	9	26.3%
10	31.6%	Trinity	26	23.1%
11	31.2%	Potter	6	27.4%
12	31.1%	Limestone	46	21.5%
13	30.6%	Howard	32	22.5%
14	30.6%	Anderson	31	22.6%
15	30.4%	Karnes	36	22.2%
16	30.4%	Donley	224	11.1%
17	30.3%	Lamar	44	21.6%
18	30.0%	Kleberg	56	20.5%
19	30.0%	De Witt	108	17.6%
20	29.9%	Houston	3	27.7%
21	29.6%	Frio	4	27.6%
22	29.5%	Nolan	42	21.6%
23	29.4%	La Salle	81	18.9%
24	29.3%	Nueces	24	23.6%
25	28.8%	Childress	132	16.5%
26	28.7%	Madison	5	27.5%
27	28.7%	San Augustine	2	28.0%
28	28.6%	Bexar	14	24.8%
29	28.4%	Lubbock	80	18.9%
30	28.3%	Walker	22	23.8%
31	28.2%	Duval	23	23.7%
32	28.0%	Gregg	30	22.6%
33	27.9%	Nacogdoches	35	22.2%
34	27.6%	Atansas	97	18.1%
35	27.5%	Ector	67	19.9%
36	27.5%	Zavala	27	22.9%
37	27.4%	Dallas	20	24.0%
38	27.3%	Galveston	25	23.6%
39	27.2%	Navarro	55	20.6%
40	27.0%	McLennan	16	24.4%
41	26.9%	Brown	43	21.6%
42	26.8%	Tom Green	83	18.8%
43	26.6%	Mitchell	122	17.0%
44	26.5%	Wichita	61	20.2%
45	26.4%	Reeves	178	14.0%
46	26.3%	Stephens	159	15.1%
47	26.0%	Harrison	28	22.8%
48	25.9%	Cherokee	19	24.1%
49	25.8%	Cass	37	22.2%

Single Parent Families

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1996 Rank	1996 Rate
50	25.7%	Shelby	8	26.5%
51	25.4%	Travis	18	24.1%
52	25.4%	Dallam	60	20.2%
53	[25.3%]	Kenedy	253	[2.5%]
54	25.3%	Camp	13	25.2%
55	25.3%	El Paso	34	22.3%
56	25.2%	Wood	125	17.0%
57	25.2%	Smith	78	19.0%
58	25.1%	Waller	73	19.5%
59	25.1%	Milam	75	19.1%
60	25.0%	Haskell	209	11.8%
61	24.9%	Cottle	76	19.0%
62	24.9%	Polk	142	15.8%
63	24.9%	Jim Wells	140	15.9%
64	24.8%	Harris	29	22.7%
65	24.7%	Hardeman	62	20.1%
66	24.7%	Throckmorton	228	10.7%
67	24.6%	Red River	15	24.8%
68	24.6%	Wilbarger	50	20.9%
69	24.5%	Taylor	113	17.5%
70	24.5%	Calhoun	134	16.3%
71	24.4%	Collingsworth	131	16.5%
72	24.4%	Palo Pinto	84	18.8%
73	24.3%	Orange	102	17.9%
74	24.3%	Victoria	93	18.3%
75	24.2%	Presidio	88	18.6%
76	24.2%	Caldwell	38	22.2%
77	24.2%	Lamb	150	15.4%
78	24.2%	Bell	69	19.8%
79	24.2%	Scurry	119	17.2%
80	24.2%	Brewster	66	19.9%
81	24.1%	Brazos	48	21.4%
82	24.0%	Hunt	91	18.3%
83	24.0%	Hall	120	17.1%
84	23.9%	Grimes	117	17.3%
85	23.9%	Jasper	109	17.6%
86	23.9%	Kimble	106	17.8%
87	23.9%	Grayson	72	19.6%
88	23.9%	Eastland	212	11.7%
89	23.8%	Cameron	40	21.8%
90	23.8%	Newton	64	20.0%
91	23.6%	Washington	98	18.0%
92	23.6%	Tarrant	71	19.7%
93	23.6%	Titus	144	15.7%
94	23.5%	Fannin	114	17.5%
95	23.5%	Runnels	58	20.3%
96	23.5%	Kerr	49	21.4%
97	23.5%	Hill	118	17.3%
98	23.5%	San Patricio	87	18.6%

Single Parent Families

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1996 Rank	1996 Rate
99	23.4%	Fisher	57	20.3%
100	23.4%	Hockley	168	14.5%
101	23.3%	Angelina	39	22.0%
102	23.3%	Crockett	47	21.5%
103	23.3%	Gonzales	54	20.7%
104	23.2%	Burleson	11	25.4%
105	23.2%	Henderson	68	19.8%
106	23.2%	Briscoe	215	11.5%
107	23.2%	Winkler	175	14.1%
108	23.2%	Dawson	124	17.0%
109	23.2%	Edwards	189	13.5%
110	23.1%	Wharton	52	20.8%
111	22.8%	Jackson	99	18.0%
112	22.7%	Refugio	82	18.8%
113	22.7%	Crosby	176	14.1%
114	22.7%	Deaf Smith	107	17.6%
115	22.6%	Mills	136	16.1%
116	22.5%	Kent	249	[5.3%]
117	22.4%	Real	170	14.4%
118	22.4%	Comanche	221	11.3%
119	22.3%	Dimmit	63	20.0%
120	22.2%	Jack	230	10.4%
121	22.1%	Knox	100	18.0%
122	22.0%	Uvalde	79	19.0%
123	21.8%	Garza	164	14.6%
124	21.6%	Terry	188	13.5%
125	21.6%	Bastrop	90	18.4%
126	21.6%	Rusk	96	18.1%
127	21.5%	Matagorda	86	18.6%
128	21.5%	Culberson	12	25.3%
129	21.4%	Montague	110	17.6%
130	21.4%	Freestone	85	18.7%
131	21.3%	Leon	182	13.8%
132	21.3%	Hamilton	121	17.1%
133	21.3%	Willacy	139	16.1%
134	21.2%	Comal	193	13.4%
135	21.2%	Jones	203	12.3%
136	21.1%	Lynn	211	11.8%
137	21.1%	Atascosa	101	17.9%
138	21.1%	Starr	161	15.1%
139	21.1%	Swisher	59	20.2%
140	21.1%	Martin	241	8.7%
141	21.0%	Sabine	74	19.3%
142	21.0%	Webb	65	20.0%
143	20.9%	Llano	138	16.1%
144	20.9%	Midland	129	16.7%
145	20.9%	Hale	126	16.9%
146	20.9%	Terrell	169	14.5%
147	20.9%	Pecos	207	12.0%

Single Parent Families

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1996 Rank	1996 Rate
148	20.8%	Hudspeth	94	18.2%
149	20.8%	Blanco	163	14.7%
150	20.8%	Liberty	162	15.0%
151	20.8%	Guadalupe	53	20.8%
152	20.7%	Hardin	177	14.0%
153	20.7%	Moore	184	13.8%
154	20.6%	San Jacinto	156	15.2%
155	20.5%	Panola	127	16.8%
156	20.4%	Coryell	205	12.3%
157	20.3%	Motley	172	14.2%
158	20.3%	Young	149	15.5%
159	20.2%	Coleman	21	23.9%
160	20.2%	Stonewall	166	14.6%
161	20.2%	Gray	105	17.8%
162	20.2%	McCulloch	116	17.4%
163	20.1%	Zapata	217	11.4%
164	19.9%	Hidalgo	77	19.0%
165	19.8%	Kaufman	95	18.2%
166	19.7%	Burnet	123	17.0%
167	19.6%	Medina	143	15.7%
168	19.6%	Brazoria	181	13.8%
169	19.6%	Lampasas	147	15.6%
170	19.4%	Cochran	222	11.2%
171	19.3%	Bandera	146	15.6%
172	19.1%	Rains	128	16.8%
173	19.1%	Ward	229	10.4%
174	19.1%	Ellis	165	14.6%
175	19.0%	Live Oak	202	12.7%
176	19.0%	Van Zandt	180	13.9%
177	18.9%	Cooke	145	15.7%
178	18.7%	Jim Hogg	45	21.6%
179	18.7%	Concho	225	11.1%
180	18.7%	Upshur	158	15.2%
181	18.6%	Austin	141	15.9%
182	18.6%	Hays	174	14.2%
183	18.5%	Schleicher	226	11.0%
184	18.5%	Wheeler	151	15.4%
185	18.4%	Maverick	135	16.2%
186	18.3%	Baylor	204	12.3%
187	18.3%	McMullen	252	[2.8%]
188	18.1%	Franklin	191	13.4%
189	18.0%	Randall	155	15.2%
190	18.0%	Foard	208	11.9%
191	18.0%	Callahan	115	17.4%
192	17.9%	Parker	194	13.4%
193	17.8%	Lavaca	130	16.6%
194	17.8%	Kinney	70	19.7%
195	17.7%	Wilson	192	13.4%
196	17.6%	Crane	232	9.9%

Single Parent Families

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1996 Rank	1996 Rate
197	17.6%	Hood	173	14.2%
198	17.6%	Val Verde	89	18.5%
199	17.5%	Castro	216	11.4%
200	17.5%	Hutchinson	171	14.2%
201	17.4%	Borden	133	16.4%
202	17.3%	Goliad	152	15.3%
203	17.3%	Floyd	235	9.2%
204	17.3%	Fayette	185	13.8%
205	17.2%	Gillespie	214	11.6%
206	17.1%	Colorado	111	17.6%
207	17.1%	Hopkins	167	14.5%
208	17.1%	Upton	238	9.1%
209	17.1%	Delra	219	11.3%
210	16.9%	Yoakum	243	8.6%
211	16.9%	Fort Bend	190	13.5%
212	16.8%	Lee	92	18.3%
213	16.7%	San Saba	104	17.8%
214	16.5%	Johnson	186	13.6%
215	16.4%	Montgomery	160	15.1%
216	16.4%	Sutton	246	6.8%
217	16.4%	Denton	201	12.8%
218	16.3%	Coke	231	10.2%
219	16.2%	Tyler	41	21.8%
220	16.1%	Andrews	197	13.2%
221	16.1%	Chambers	198	13.1%
222	15.9%	Hemphill	245	7.3%
223	15.8%	Clay	210	11.8%
224	15.7%	Shackelford	103	17.8%
225	15.6%	Ochiltree	195	13.3%
226	15.4%	Irion	239	8.9%
227	15.3%	Gaines	223	11.1%
228	15.3%	Williamson	148	15.5%
229	15.2%	Bosque	199	12.9%
230	15.2%	Sherman	248	5.5%
231	14.9%	Somervell	187	13.6%
232	14.7%	Jeff Davis	157	15.2%
233	14.4%	Rockwall	240	8.8%
234	14.3%	Wise	233	9.9%
235	14.3%	Kendall	154	15.3%
236	13.8%	Parmer	220	11.3%
237	13.6%	Dickens	137	16.1%
238	13.5%	Erath	179	14.0%
239	13.4%	Mason	218	11.3%
240	13.2%	Bailey	244	7.3%
241	13.0%	Collin	206	12.1%
242	12.9%	Archer	236	9.2%
243	12.7%	Lipscomb	242	8.6%
244	12.0%	Carson	227	10.8%
245	11.9%	Hansford	234	9.6%

Single Parent Families

2001 Rank	2001 Rate	County	1996 Rank	1996 Rate
246	11.7%	Armsrrong	196	13.3%
247	11.5%	Sterling	213	11.7%
248	10.2%	Oldham	183	13.8%
249	9.7%	Hartley	251	4.8%
250	8.8%	Glasscock	200	12.9%
251	8.2%	Reagan	250	5.3%
252	[3.4%]	Roberts	237	9.1%
253	0.0%	King	247	[5.9%]
253	0.0%	Loving	254	0.0%

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(4) Hourly wage calculation assumes full time employment, defined as working 52 weeks per year and 40 hours per week.

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