



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: February 14, 2012

Prepared By/Phone Number: David A. Salazar 854-4107

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Sherri E. Fleming,
County Executive for Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

Consider and Take Appropriate Action on the Request from the Community Action Network to Print 1000 Copies of their 2012 Community Dashboard Report.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

The Community Action Network's Community Dashboard provides an overview of social health and well-being of Austin and Travis County. In this year's report, the Community Action Network aims to identify areas where collaborative action is needed. The Community Dashboard is updated annually and the CAN Community Council holds televised public forums regarding the indicators, updates on current conditions, and identifying work to be done. A copy of the 2011 report is attached and the finalized version of 2012 report will be submitted in March 2012.

Travis County has been a longstanding partner in the Community Action Network.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends approval of this request in keeping with the Court's commitment to the community and organizations that serve Travis County residents, as well as to minimizing duplication of effort in the area of social services and public health.

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

If this request is approved, Travis County's Print Shop will be responsible for producing 1000 copies of the document in the form of a booklet, double-sided, in color, as follows:

5000 sheets of paper = \$135.00
Click charge: 10,000 x .07 = \$700.00
Labor @ \$20/hr x 10 hours = \$200.00
Overhead @ 20% of labor = \$40.00
Total cost = \$1,075.00

A budget transfer from line item 001-5830-601-6503 will be processed upon receipt of actual costs incurred by the Print Shop in fulfilling the request.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Mary Etta Gerhardt, Assistant County Attorney
Robert Duke, Supervisor, Travis County Print Shop
Diana Ramirez, Budget Analyst, Planning and Budget Office

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February 6, 2012

CAN Partner Organizations

Austin Chamber of Commerce

Austin Community College

Austin ISD

Austin Travis County Integral Care

Capital Metro

Central Health

City of Austin

Community Justice Council

Interfaith Action of Central Texas

One Voice Central Texas

Seton Healthcare Family

St. David's Foundation

St. Edward's University

Travis County

United Way - Capital Area

University of Texas at Austin

Workforce Solutions - Capital Area

Sherri Fleming
Executive Manager
Travis County
314 W. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Sherri,

I am writing on behalf of the Community Action Network (CAN) to request assistance in printing the **2012 CAN Community Dashboard Report**. CAN is a partnership of agencies, organizations and individuals who work together to enhance the social, health, educational and economic well-being of Central Texas. The Dashboard, comprised of 16 key socio-economic indicators, provides a snapshot of our community's well-being and helps track how our community is doing and identify areas that require collaborative attention and action.

Below is the process for developing the Community Dashboard that includes a brief description of how we intend to use the CAN Community Dashboard in 2012:

- **2008—a Common Vision:** the CAN Board of Directors, Community Council, Issue Area Groups and other community stakeholders developed and agreed on a vision for all people in our community.
- **2009—Community Indicators:** a Dashboard Steering Committee, with expertise across education, health, human services, criminal justice, workforce development, transportation and housing used the criterion of data power, proxy power and communication power to select a short-list of 16 community indicators. The Community Dashboard indicators were approved by the CAN Board of Directors.
- **2010—Baseline of Where We Stand:** the CAN Community Council hosted televised forums with presentations by community stakeholders on where we stand on each indicator, who is working to improve the indicator, and what more needs to be done. The first Community Dashboard report was released.
- **2011—Where We are Headed:** CAN published the second Community Dashboard report and the Dashboard Steering Committee began work with stakeholders to set goals and targets for the indicators.
- **2012—What Collaborative Action is Needed:** CAN will publish the third annual Community Dashboard report. In addition to updates on each indicator, the report will include data trends over time, goals/targets for indicators, data and impacts of demographic shifts, vulnerable populations impacted, current efforts/plans to move indicators in the right direction, and a Strategic Framework for Action that provides a common language that can be used across jurisdictions to facilitate coordination and collaborative action.

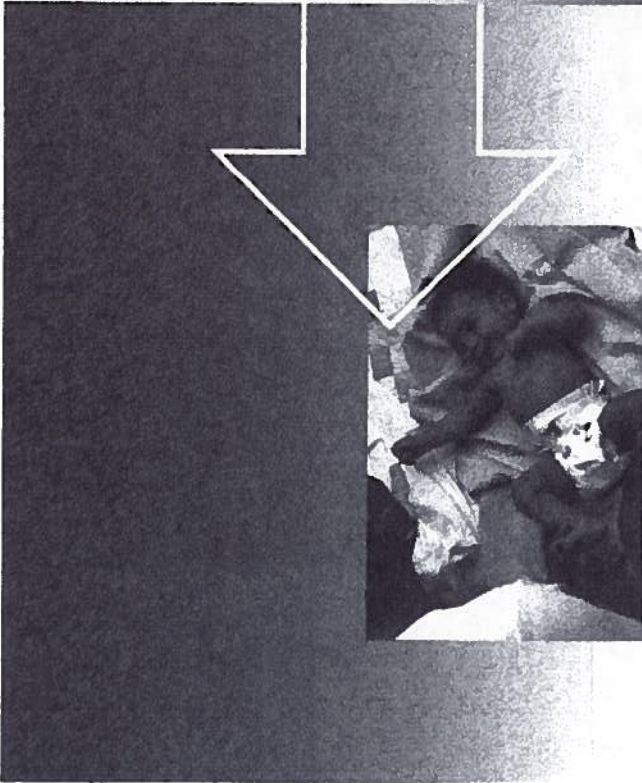
Thank you so much for your support.

Very Sincerely,

Vanessa Sarria, CAN Executive Director



Community Dashboard 2011



TRACKING OUR PROGRESS TOGETHER

Community Dashboard 2011 provides an overview of the social health and well-being of Austin and Travis County. By tracking the indicators in this report over time, we identify areas where collective attention and action are needed. The Community Dashboard 2011 report updates the original Community Dashboard 2008 report.

community dashboard 2011

Over the course of the past year, the Community Action Network's Community Council has held televised public forums on each of the community indicators. Key stakeholders were invited to discuss...

1. where we stand on each indicator,
2. who is working to move the indicator in the right direction, and
3. what more needs to be done.

This report highlights what we discovered through these conversations and updates the trend lines for each indicator. For more details about these forums, visit www.cancommunitydashboard.org.



CAN Partners work together to build a community of equity and opportunity.

- Austin Chamber of Commerce
- Austin Community College
- Austin Independent School District
- Austin Travis County Integral Care
- Capital Metro
- Central Health
- City of Austin
- Community Justice Council
- Interfaith Action Central Texas
- One Voice Central Texas
- Seton Family of Hospitals
- St. David's Foundation
- St. Edward's University
- Travis County
- United Way Capital Area
- University of Texas at Austin
- Workforce Solutions—Capital Area



for more information

For more information about Community Action Network, visit www.austintxaction.org. A direct link to the CAN Community Dashboard with more information about each of the indicators can be found at www.austintxaction.org/communitydashboard. Questions about CAN's Community Dashboard initiative should be directed to: Mary Pohl at mpohl@cancommunitydashboard.org or Vanessa Smith at vsmith@cancommunitydashboard.org. Questions about data in the report should be directed to: Central Elections at Central.Elections@cancommunitydashboard.org.

Visit www.austintxaction.org to learn more about the significance of the CAN Community Dashboard indicators and local efforts to improve these indicators.

www.austintxaction.org

community dashboard 2011

Community Dashboard 2011 provides an update of the first Community Dashboard report, released by the Community Action Network in 2010.

CAN would like to thank the members of the Dashboard Steering Committee, who monitored the progress of this initiative and made quarterly reports to the CAN Board of Directors.

CAN would also like to thank the members of the CAN Community Council, who held 9 televised community forums on the indicators, and a long list of stakeholders from 27 community partner organizations and collaborations who shared their expertise and knowledge about the indicators. A list of the forums and links to the presentations shared at them is available at www.cancommunitydashboard.org.

the role of CAN in the community

CAN's role in the community is to enhance awareness of community issues and support collaborators to maximize our community's resources and the impact of our efforts to help individuals and families. The annual Community Dashboard report helps us track how we are doing as a community to promote equity and opportunity for all people.

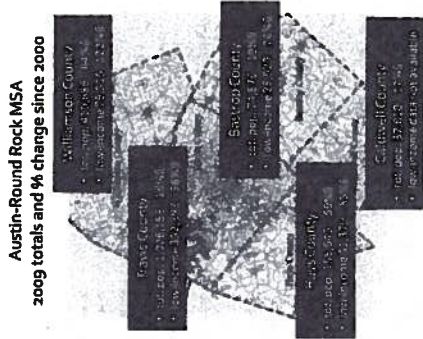
One-third of all people in Travis County and one-half of all children in the City of Austin are low-income, according to the latest U.S. Census data. The map at right shows the total population and total low-income population as well as the rate of growth for these populations in each of the five counties in the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

impact of low-income

Through televised community forums held by the CAN Community Council in 2010, we learned that people who are low income are ...

- less likely to be kindergarten ready,
- less likely to graduate from high school in four years,
- less likely to graduate "college ready,"
- more likely to smoke and to be obese,
- less likely to have health insurance,
- more likely to report "poor mental health days," and
- less likely to find housing they can afford.

Our ability to move the indicators on our Community Dashboard in the right direction will depend to a great extent on our ability to expand opportunity for people who are low-income.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates and Decennial Census

taking action together

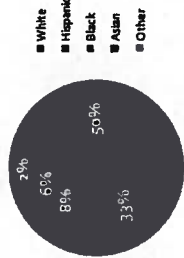
As the map above shows, the low-income population in Central Texas grew at twice the rate of the total population from 2000 to 2009.

- CAN Partners have committed to work together to 2011 to:
- take a closer look at shifting demographics and its impact in our community,
- develop collaborative solutions to help low-income people find jobs, and
- continue efforts to ensure people are connected to community resources to help them become stable.

OUR COMMUNITY & OUR COMMON VISION

According to the latest U.S. Census data, there were just over one million people living in Travis County in 2009 and more than half were White. The populations that grew the fastest from 2000 to 2009 were the Asian population (54% growth rate) and the Hispanic population (49% growth rate). The White and Black populations in Travis County both grew at a rate of 34% over that same time period, not keeping pace with the overall population growth rate of 36%. Considering the rate of growth for different age groups in Travis County, 45 to 64 year olds grew at the fastest rate, increasing 47% from 2000 to 2009. Another fast-growing age group was children under the age of 5, which increased by 35%.

Travis County, 2010



Source: U.S. Census, 2010

WE ACHIEVE OUR FULL POTENTIAL

We have the education, skills and opportunities to achieve our full potential and lead meaningful, joyful lives.

We have adequate income, resources and supports to live independent lives.

OUR BASIC NEEDS ARE MET

We live in a community where the basic needs of all are met.

We live in affordable and stable housing with access to open space and public amenities.

We have safe, affordable, accessible and reliable transportation.

WE ARE HEALTHY

We live, work, learn and play in accessible, safe, clean and healthy physical environments.

We have adequate nutrition and achieve and maintain optimal physical and behavioral health.

We are free from abuse, neglect, crime, violence and injustice.

We respect and value diversity.

We are aware, socially connected, and contribute to our neighborhoods, individual communities, and the community at large.

We have the opportunity and willingness to lead by utilizing our talents, passions and interests to improve the community.

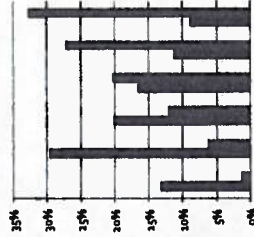
In 2008, members of the CAN community agreed on these common vision statements for all people in our community. In developing this vision, we drew on the Austin Equity Commission report, *Imagining the Solid, Increasing Opportunities in Austin*, the Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project, the Kirwan Institute's *Central Texas Opportunity, Inequality, and the National Association of Planning Councils' 2005 report "Leading Social Indicators"*.

Voter turnout is disproportionate

Young people are much less likely to participate in elections than older people. African American and Hispanic voters tend to be under-represented in the voting booths. The type of election impacts who is likely to vote. National elections generally have higher voter turnout than local elections.

The *Strength Your Jurisdiction* blueprint explains that who votes and who does not vote impacts who elected officials pay attention to, the culture of public policy and the quality of American democracy. It also impacts civic participation of all kinds. People who don't vote are less likely to self-identify as stakeholders in their communities. They are less likely to volunteer, contact their elected officials or participate in public life.

Travis County Demographics Compared to Demographics of Voters in the 2009 General Election



Ages Ages Ages Ages Ages Ages
18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+

■ % of the Population 18 and Older
■ % of Actual Voters

Source: Opinion Analysts

We are safe, just and engaged.

SOME LOCAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THESE INDICATORS

- Coalitions such as the Austin Travis Family Violence Task Force, the Start Strong Coalition, the Austin/Travis County Restorative, Rebuildable, and Central Texas Affected Neighborhoods, are helping to monitor and create programs and practices that impact violent crime.
- Social problem-solving court dockets have been created locally to impact issues such as substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, veterans, repeat offenders, etc.
- Local law enforcement outreach strategies to minority youth include Police Activity Leagues, Police Explorer programs, and prevention activities associated with the Joint Juvenile Gang Unit of the Austin Police Department, Travis County Sheriff's Office and Austin ISD.
- The Austin Disproportionality Advisory Committee was created to assist the Texas Department of Family Protective Services with strategies to address the disproportionate removal of children from their homes.
- Area school districts have implemented efforts to help reduce disproportionate school discipline referrals.
- The Travis County Elections Division works to increase voter turnout by offering programs such as early voting which provides voters with flexibility in voting times and locations.
- The Ametis Stratus Institute for Civic Engagement at the University of Texas works with young adults through programs such as "University of Texas Votes," a non-partisan effort to increase voting among college-age youth.
- The East Austin Voter Mobilization Initiative targets get-out-the-vote efforts in East Austin precincts with low voter turnout and large African American and Hispanic populations.

www.cancommunityashboard.org

Arrests are not proportionate for all races

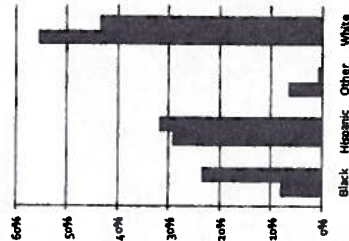
When we compare the demographics of those booked into the Travis County jail with the demographics of the adult population of the county as a whole, racial disparities become apparent, especially for the African American population. This disparity is, to some extent, symptomatic of disparities across social structures and in disparities in poverty and access to education and economic opportunity.

Disparities also exist in the rates at which African American students are removed from classrooms and in the removal rates of African American children from their homes by Child Protective Services. This phenomenon has been documented for decades in different programs. The causes of disproportionality are complex and cross many social systems.

■ % of adult population
■ % of arrests

Source: Travis County Criminal Justice Planning Department and the American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimate

Arrest Demographics Compared to Total Adult Population in Travis County, 2009



community indicator | 2010 report | 2011 report

community indicator	2010 report	2011 report
Percent of children who are kindergarten ready	under development	51% in 2010
Percent Austin ISD students who graduate from high school in four years	74% in 2008	76% for the Class of 2009
Percent Austin ISD graduates who are college ready	50% in 2008	50% in 2009
Unemployment rate for Travis County	X% in January 2010	X% in January 2011
Percent people in Travis County who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level)	31% in 2008	35% in 2009
Percent of Travis County households that are cost-burdened (pay 30% or more of income for housing)	37% in 2008	38% in 2009
Vehicle miles traveled per capita in Travis County	16 miles per day in 2007	25 miles per day in 2008
Number who received HUD-funded homeless services in Travis County	6,407 in 2008	X,XXX in 2009
Percent under age 65 in Travis County who have no health insurance	24% in 2008	24% in 2009
Percent of adults in Austin MSA who report 5 or more poor mental health days	18% in 2008	13% in 2009
Percent adults in Austin MSA who are smokers	20% in 2008	13% in 2009
Percent of adults in Austin MSA who are obese	31% in 2008	38% in 2009
Attainment of EPA ozone standards	attainment	attainment
Violent crime rate in Travis County	432 per 100,000 population in 2008	457 per 100,000 population in 2009
Proportionality of arrest demographics in Travis County to overall population	disproportionate	disproportionate
Proportionality of voter turnout in Travis County as compared to overall population	disproportionate	disproportionate

The Community Dashboard of key social indicators was developed by the Dashboard Steering Committee of the Community Action Network and approved by the CAN Board of Directors in 2009.

www.cancommunitydashboard.org



WE ACHIEVE OUR FULL POTENTIAL

52% of children enter kindergarten ready for school

In the first year of a new measure of kindergarten readiness, developed by the *E. Alliance*, slightly more than half of the 923 students tested mastered key competencies in social-emotional development, language and communication, emerging literacy, and mathematics. Students were tested in school districts across the five-county MSA. Children who were economically disadvantaged, or who qualified for free or reduced-price school lunches, were less likely to be kindergarten ready. Children who attended Pre-K/Kindergarten programs were much more likely to be kindergarten ready than those who did not.

According to *The Future of Children*, children who enter school not yet ready to learn don't perform as well in elementary through high school as their peers and are more likely to become teen parents, engage in criminal activities, and suffer from depression. Ultimately, these children are less educated and are more likely to be unemployed as adults.



WE ARE SAFE, JUST AND ENGAGED

Violent crime occurred at a rate of 457 per 100,000 population in Travis County

The violent crime rate for Travis County increased from 2008 to 2009, largely due to increases in crime in the urban areas of the county. Nation-wide, more densely populated areas typically experience higher rates of crime.

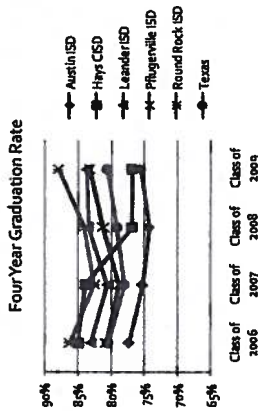
The *National Institute of Justice* reports that victims of violent crime face tangible costs of over \$7 billion annually because of medical and mental health care expenses, lost productivity, and property damage. If the intangible costs of reduced quality of life, pain, and suffering are added to this, the total rises to \$30 billion. Children are more likely to be exposed to violence and crime than adults. According to *Child Trends*, children who are exposed to violence are more likely to suffer from conduct problems, health-related problems, and cognitive problems.



75% of Austin ISD students graduate from high school in four years

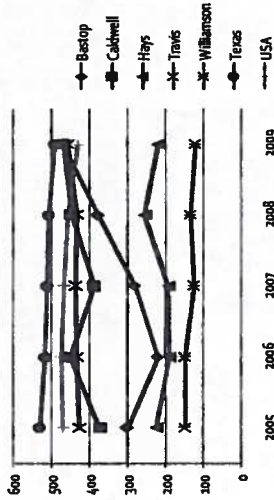
The graduation rates for most of the five largest school districts in the Austin MSA improved for the Class of 2009. While this is promising, the fact remains that nearly one in four Austin ISD students did not graduate from high school in four years.

Closer analysis reveals that there are significant gaps between the graduation rates of Asian, Native American and White students and the graduation rates of African American and Hispanic students. Economically disadvantaged students are also less likely to graduate high school in four years.



Source: Texas Education Agency

Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Capital Area Council of Governments and FBI Preliminary Unified Crime Reports

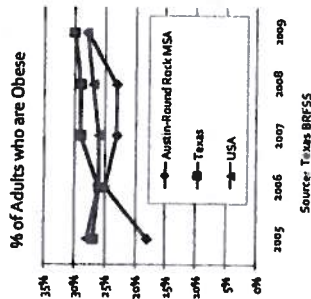
www.capmunicipalboard.org

28% of adults in the Austin metro area were obese

Obesity rates in the Austin MSA have increased significantly over the past five years. The small sample size of this survey may lend itself to fluctuations up or down in any one year. BRPSS data is best analyzed over time.

Adults who are obese or overweight are at a higher risk for coronary disease, type 2 diabetes, and cancer according to the National Institutes of Health. Obesity rates are disproportionately high among low-income adults and among youths who are males, African Americans, and/or Hispanics.

Add info from Camb's report on cost of obesity in Texas.



We are healthy

SOME LOCAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THESE INDICATORS

- **Integrated Care Coalition (ICC)** members screen individuals for public health insurance programs and assist families with the application process. ICC is developing technology that would allow agencies, with client permission, to share client documents.
- **Central Health** implements the Medical Assistance Program (MAP) which provides access to healthcare services for low-income Travis County residents who are not eligible for other public or private insurance programs.
- **Catholic Charities of Central Texas**, **Insure-a-Kid**, **Long Star Circle of Care** and other agencies in our region assist families in completing applications for public health insurance programs.
- **Austin-Travis County Intellectual Care's** mission is to improve the lives of people affected by behavioral health and developmental and/or intellectual challenges.
- **The Mower's Mental Health Task Force**, the **Behavioral Health Planning Partnership**, and the **Child and Youth Mental Health Planning Partnership** are local collaborations that help coordinate behavioral health planning needs.
- **The Austin-Travis County Health and Human Services Department** received a \$7.5 million "Communities Putting Prevention to Work" grant in 2010 from the **Centers for Disease Control** to reduce smoking in our community. The County also received a \$90,000 planning grant from the State Health Department to encourage people to make healthy food choices and to make physical activity a regular part of their day.
- **The Austin-Metro Area Council** promotes physical activity, nutrition, healthy weight, and tobacco-free living.
- **The Austin Tobacco Presentation and Control Coalition** works to promote smoking cessation.
- **Children's Oral Health (COH)** is a collective leadership initiative to ensure that every child in Central Texas becomes a healthy, productive adult engaged in his or her community.
- **The Clean Air Coalition** is a collaboration of local governments in our five-county region working together to develop plans to comply with EPA air quality guidelines.

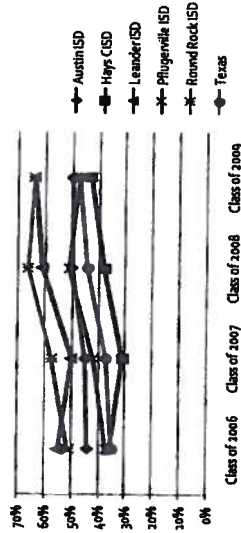
50% of Austin ISD graduates were college ready

While college readiness rates have improved for most of the largest school districts in the state-based **High School Transcript Study (HSTS)** over the past few years, there are disparities among different racial/ethnic groups. College readiness trends also show a gap in performance between the general student population and the economically disadvantaged student population.

The 2010 State of the **Midwestern** report for the **Austin-Travis County ISD** reports that college readiness is critical for students as the fastest-growing, highest-paying jobs in Central Texas require some post-secondary education. Most students in Central Texas report that they plan to attend a college or technical school in the year following graduation, but only 43% of college students actually earn a degree.



% of High School Graduates who are College Ready



x% of Travis County residents were unemployed

The local unemployment rate has shown recent improvement and is significantly lower than both the state and the nation. The sharp increase in unemployment rates that was experienced locally and across the United States from 2007 through 2009 has begun to level off and improve.

Workforce Solutions Capital Area reports that the overwhelming majority of people receiving unemployment benefits have no post-secondary degree. Workers with an associate's degree or better make up 4.5% of the local workforce, but only 1.5% of those receiving unemployment benefits.

We achieve our full potential.

SOME LOCAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THESE INDICATORS

- United Way Capital Area's Success by 6 program aims to ensure that by the time children enter their first year of school they are prepared to become healthy, happy, and smart students. The program's "Child Well-Being Blueprint" is an annual report of child well-being in Austin and Travis County.
- The Austin Independent School District's Strategic Plan 2010-2015 includes goals related to the graduation rate and college readiness.
- The El Alamo's Blueprint for Educational Change seeks to improve educational outcomes across the Central Texas region from pre-K through college through a collaborative process that engages parents, students, school personnel and members of the larger community.
- The Greater Business Coalition in Austin/Travis County has developed a detailed dashboard of outcomes and indicators for children and youth which includes this graduation rate indicator.
- The Juvenile Justice Services Group of Austin ISD, the City of Austin, and Travis County is working to identify ways to improve school attendance and address truancy, important precursors to graduation.
- The Austin Chamber of Commerce has an economic development initiative that strives to create jobs, diversify the economy, attract new businesses, and retain and grow existing businesses. The Chamber's Plan for 2015 initiative engages school districts and colleges and universities in ensuring success in high school and college.
- Austin Community College is the primary trainer and reskiler of the local workforce. The College Readiness Initiative at ACC includes partnerships with local high schools.
- The Literacy Coalition of Central Texas is dedicated to supporting and expanding literacy services so that businesses can hire, people can work, and families can thrive.
- Workforce Solutions—Capital Area coordinates local workforce development efforts and is currently developing a collaborative initiative called "9thway to Prosperity."

Austin area is in attainment of EPA air quality standards

Even though the Austin area is in attainment of current Environmental Protection Agency standards for ozone, the area will meet them only because of the unprecedentedly low ozone levels. Poor air quality causes irritation to the throat and lungs, results in diminished lung capacity, and aggravates asthma and other respiratory problems.

These health issues result in increased health care costs and increased school absences. Ozone levels have been steadily decreasing in the Austin area over the past decade, according to the Statewide Council of Austin, Travis, and Williamson Counties. EPA standards have been growing more stringent during this same time period.

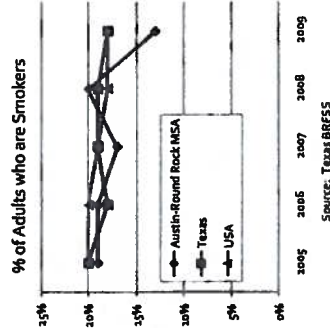


13% of adults in the Austin metro area are smokers

There was an unexpected drop in the smoking rates reported through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System in 2009. The small sample size of this survey may lend itself to fluctuations up or down in any one year. BRFSS data is best analyzed over time.

The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department received a \$7.5 million "Communities Putting Prevention to Work" grant in 2010 from the Centers for Disease Control to reduce smoking in our community.

Those who earn less than \$25,000 a year are more than twice as likely to smoke than those earning \$50,000 a year. A closer analysis of smoking data shows the highest rates of smoking among the young and among men.



WE ARE HEALTHY

24% of those under age 65 in Travis County have no health insurance

In 2009, Texas had the highest rate of uninsured individuals in the country according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The number of individuals receiving health insurance through their employer dropped to 40% compared to 50% in 2008 and 57% in 2000. Texas provides very few public insurance options for adults. People who are low income are almost three-times more likely to have no medical insurance. The percentage of uninsured Texas children is lower than that of adults, but continues to be the highest in the nation. The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) estimates that non-observers account for one-fourth of Texas' uninsured population.

% Under Age 65 with No Health Insurance



Source: American Community Survey

OUR BASIC NEEDS ARE MET

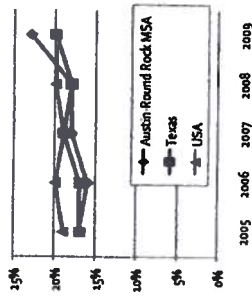
35% of Travis County residents are low-income

The percent of people in Travis County who are low-income, or earn less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, increased from 35% in 2001 to 38% in 2009. Over 300,000 people in Travis County have fallen to an income level that is barely sufficient to meet basic needs. Most low-income families here at least one adult who works full-time in a job or jobs that do not provide benefits.

The Urban Institute explains that many of these families may experience hardships related to food, housing and healthcare. CAN's analysis of the indicators in 2009 found that people who are low-income are less likely to be kindergarten ready, less likely to graduate in four years, less likely to be college-ready, more likely to smoke, more likely to be obese, less likely to have health insurance, more likely to report poor mental health days, and less likely to find housing that they can afford.

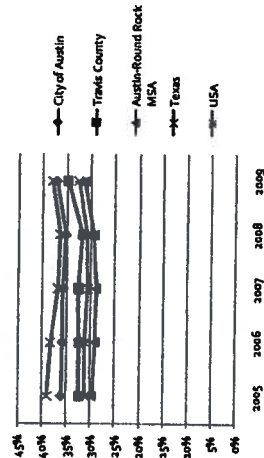
23% of adults in the Austin metro area report five or more poor mental health days within the past month

% Reporting Five or More "Poor Mental Health Days" within the Past Month



Source: Texas BRFSS

% of Individuals Who Are Low-Income



Source: American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

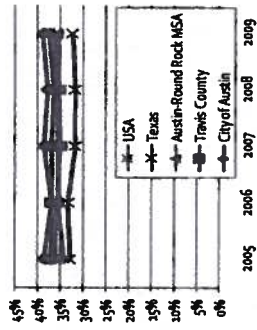
www.austincityboard.org

38% of Travis County households are housing cost burdened

The percent of households in Travis County who paid too much of their total income on housing increased slightly in 2009. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) considers households to be cost burdened if they pay 30% or more of their income on mortgage payments or rent and utilities.

Austin and Travis County have higher rates of households that are cost burdened than the five-county metro area, the state, and the nation. As Austin grows, affordability becomes more of a challenge for people at more income ranges. The lack of affordable homes in all parts of town intensifies socioeconomic segregation and leads to concentrations of poverty, school instability and an increase in crime.

% of Households that are Housing Cost Burdened



Source: American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

6,407 people received homeless services in Travis County

The number of homeless people who have received services in our community has fluctuated between 8,000 and 6,000 people in recent years.

Source: Homeless Management Information System

Our basic needs are not.

SOME LOCAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THESE INDICATORS

- The Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas is a coalition of agencies that work to secure basic resources, such as food and housing, for people in need.
- The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) advocates at the state level for policies to improve the safety net for people in need.
- Back on Central Texas is a community initiative led by United Way, Capital Area and PeopleFund that includes banks, credit unions, financial service providers, government, private sector, community organizations, and non-profits to bring more people into the financial mainstream.
- The City of Austin's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development provides housing, community development, and small business development services to increase opportunities for self-sufficiency.
- HousingWorks advocates for affordable housing throughout the City. In 2009, they released a collaborative report with the Urban Land Institute, the Real Estate Council of Austin, and the Austin Area Research Organization entitled "Building and Retaining an Affordable Austin."
- Capital Metro provides alternatives to private vehicle travel.
- The Capital Area Regional Transit Configuration Committee (RTC/C), an issue area group of CAN, promotes full mobility and access to community services for all people.
- The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) is working to improve this indicator through their new 2009 plan that will fund transportation to support high density "activity centers" connected by public transit.
- The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHCO) identifies specific strategies and oversees ongoing planning efforts and implementation of the plan to end chronic homelessness in Austin and Travis County.

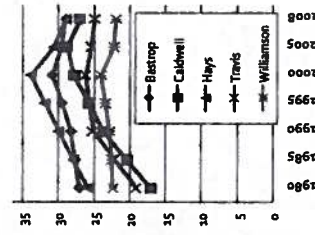
www.capitalareatransitboard.org

25 daily vehicle miles per capita in Travis County

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita has been trending downward across the five-county region over the past decade. Counties further away from high-employment centers have the highest VMT rates per capita. As affordable housing is pushed further away from core employment areas, there is often a trade-off in longer commutes and higher transportation costs. Even though VMT per capita has declined, the regional transportation system remains congested.

VMT per capita often declines during recessions with fewer people driving to work and a reduction in the amount of freight and goods that are transported. Factors that reduce VMT per capita even in a thriving economy include comprehensive transit, affordable housing near employment and services, greater access to alternative modes of transportation or when freight and goods are transported by rail rather than by truck.

Daily VMT Per Capita



Source: Texas Department of Transportation