

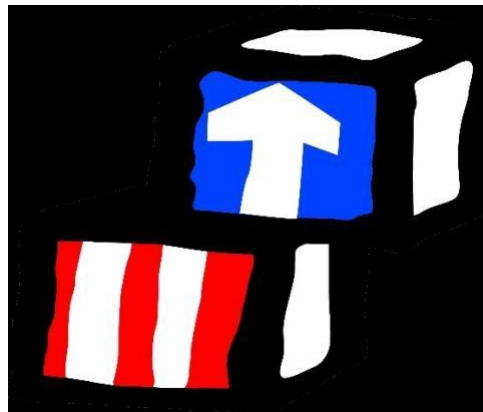


WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS

COMMISSIONERS COURT

Head Start and Early Head Start

2024-2025 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT



Prepared by



ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
THE KEY TO HEAD START SUCCESS

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Introduction

In accordance with Head Start Program Performance Standards 1302:11; Determining community strengths, needs and resources, in order to design a program that meets community needs and builds on strengths and resources, a program must conduct a Community Assessment at least once over the five-year grant period. The Community Assessment must use data that describes community strengths, needs, and resources and include, at a minimum:

- (i) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:
 - (A) Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6) (A).
 - (B) Children in foster care; and
 - (C) Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies.
- (ii) The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being.
- (iii) Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children.
- (iv) Other child-development child-care centers, and family childcare programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served.
- (v) Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and,
- (vi) Strengths of the community.

This Community Assessment presents an overview of the current community conditions for Webb County Commissioner's Head Start and Early Head Start within the designated service area. This assessment is to be used to aid in identifying the needs of low-income children and families in Webb County. It is also utilized to develop goals and objectives for program and strategic planning. This Community Assessment includes information derived from program data as well as community, state, and national sources on, but not limited to:

- Population Profile/Demographics
- Poverty
- Employment
- Education
- Housing
- Economics and Income
- Nutrition
- Health Care
- Head Start-eligible/available children
- Childcare facilities and school district Pre-K programs

- Children with special needs
- Transportation
- Education, Health, and Social Service Needs
- Community Resources and Survey results

Webb County Commissioner's Head Start and Early Head Start will use the Community Assessment information to further address the issues that are listed below:

- Determine the philosophy as well as long-range and short-range program objectives
- Determine the type of content area services that are most needed and the program option or options that will be implemented
- Determine strategies to successfully partner with local community organizations
- Determine resources to support family stability
- Determine the recruitment area that will be served
- Determine appropriate locations for centers/classrooms and the areas to be served by Webb County Commissioner's Head Start and Early Head Start program
- Set criteria that define the types of children and families who will be given priority for recruitment and selection

Executive Summary

The 2023 Kids Count Data Book ranks the State of Texas at number 44th overall in the nation for the well-being of its children. Texas also ranked 39th in Economic Well-being, 27th in Education, 48th in Health and 47th in Family and Community, as compared to other states in the United States. The Kids Count Data Book is an annual publication that assesses child well-being, nationally and across the 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Using an index of 16 indicators, the 2023 report ranks states on overall child well-being and in four domains: (1) economic well-being, (2) education, (3) health, and (4) family and community.

This report documents the needs assessment process, results, analysis, and considerations that Webb County Commissioners Head Start and Early Head Start Programs will employ to address unmet or under-met needs of low-income families and the communities in which they live. The purpose of this assessment is to guide the agency in decision-making, strategizing and moving forward with the development of the organization. The data in this report will strongly show that poverty is still an issue and requires an even greater need for the availability of programs that are able to utilize a Collective Impact approach to fill in gaps and reduce barriers for the population within the Webb County service area.

There are many strengths in this community such as strong partnerships with health care, non-profits and community-based organizations, churches, faith-based organizations, Texas A & M International University, community action agency, parks and recreation center. Strengths of the Head Start/Early Head Start programs are staff, resources, nutrition, facilities, school-readiness, communication, and teachers. Together we will work to embrace our strengths and diligently move toward our dreams for a better future for children and families in our local communities.

The 2024 Community Assessment identified the following statewide trends and areas of consideration, needs, and potential gaps:

Demographics

- ✓ Webb County data shows a population of 269,148 in 2023. The data further shows a 0.8% change in population from 2020 – 2023 for Webb County. The city of Laredo reported a population of 256,541 in 2023, with a 0.5% change from 2020 to 2023. Approximately 95% of the county's population resides in the city of Laredo.
- ✓ The majority of adults in Laredo were between the ages of 20 - 34 (21.9%) and 35 - 54 (24.3%). Adults, ages 65 – 84, made up approximately 8.3% of the population in Laredo. Most adults in Webb County were between the ages of 35 - 54 representing 24.2% of the population, while adults 65 - 84 represented 8.4% of the population. The median age in Webb County was 29.4, lower than the state (35.2) average. In Laredo,

there were 12,859 children below 3 years of age and 8,681 children ages 3 – 4. In Webb County, there were 13,353 children below age 3 and 9,237 children ages 3 – 4. Approximately 95% of children aged 0 to 4 reside in Laredo.

Poverty

- ✓ In 2022, the poverty rate for adults in Laredo was 21.0%, which was slightly lower than the county (21.4%), but considerably higher than the state (13.9%) and the national rates (12.5%). In 2022, the poverty rate for children ages 0 - 5 in Laredo was 27.7%, representing a 16.6% decrease since 2018. The poverty rate for Webb County also decreased from 45.6% in 2018 to 28.4% in 2022, representing a 17.2% decrease in the poverty rate for children ages 0 – 5. It is important to note that within the past five years, the poverty rates for children, ages 0 – 5 in Laredo and Webb County, have been consistently higher than the state and national rates.
- ✓ It is estimated that the poverty rate for all families with children under age five (5) was 22.3% in Webb County and 22.8% in Laredo, much higher than the state rate of 14.4% and national rate (12.8%). Married couples in Webb County, with children under age five (5), reported a 11.2% poverty rate, significantly higher than the state (6.0%) and national rate (4.6%). In Webb County, the data for female-headed households with children under age five (5) shows a 45.4% poverty rate as compared with female householders with children under 18 (46.1%).

Households and Families

- ✓ In Webb County, the data show married couples (5,806) with the largest number of children below age three (3), with female householders (2,519) reporting the next largest number of children below age three (3). In Webb County, there were approximately 404 male householders with children aged 3 – 4 and 823 male householders with children three (3) years and younger.
- ✓ In Webb County, the divorce rate for males 15 years and older (6.2%) was lower than the state rate (8.7%) and national rate of 9.3%, and the divorce rate for females 15 years and older (9.1%) was lower than the state (11.6%) and national rates (12.1%).
- ✓ According to ACS, there were 5,936 working families in Webb County in which both parents were in the labor force. There were 7,490 working families with children below age six (6) in Webb County in which the father was only in the labor force. The number of families in Webb County in which neither parent was in the labor force was 373.
- ✓ According to ACS, there were 11,407 children in Webb County living with only one parent, of which 2,168 children lived with a single father. 6,203 children were residing with mothers who were in the labor force, and 3,036 children lived with mothers who were not in the labor force. In Webb County, the percentage of grandparents responsible for raising their grandchildren was 29.4%, slightly lower than the state (33.9%)

and the national (32.4%) rate. Approximately 15.9% of grandparents were responsible for raising their grandchildren for five years or more in Webb County. Within the service area the percentage of grandparents (15.9%) responsible for raising their grandchildren for five years or more was slightly higher than the state (15.4%) and national rate (15.2%).

- ✓ In Laredo, 5,191 (7.0%) of the households received SSI, while only 1.8% of households (1,375) received cash public assistance. The percentage of SSI households in Laredo (7.0%) was slightly lower than the county (7.1%) but higher than the state (4.5%) and national rates (5.1%).

Income and Wages

- ✓ Per Capita income serves as an indicator of the location living standards. In Webb County, Per Capita income (\$23,446) was lower than both the city of Laredo (\$23,669) and the state Per Capita Income (\$37,514). Median Household Income in the city of Laredo (\$60,928) was higher than Webb County (\$59,984) but much lower than the state (\$73,035) and national (\$75,149) averages. The living wage within the service area for one adult with one child was \$31.33, as compared to Texas (\$35.39). The living wage within the service area for two adults (1 working) with one child was \$31.28, as compared to Texas (\$34.44). The living wage within the service area for two adults (1 working) with two children was \$35.24, as compared to Texas (\$38.55).
- ✓ Greater financial stability and having basic needs met can reduce the anxiety that comes from struggling to survive, or not having a cushion for emergencies. It also leaves more time to spend with loved ones and to give back to the community, all of which contribute to happiness and improved life satisfaction.
- ✓ Laredo's cost of living is 82.2, and Webb County's cost of living is 82.2 as compared to Texas (94.2). Laredo and Webb County are cheaper than the state and US average. Housing is the biggest factor in the cost-of-living difference.

Education

- ✓ Webb County (15.9%) reported a higher percentage of individuals with less than a 9th-grade education than the state rate (7.5%) and national rate (4.7%). According to the ACS, 26.0% of individuals in Webb County did not have a High School diploma, which was much higher than the state (7.3%) and national rates (6.1%). Approximately 21.9% of individuals in Webb County were high school graduates, while 18.8% obtained some college as compared to the state rate (20.9%).
- ✓ In Webb County, the percentage of individuals with a Bachelor's degree (14.7%) was lower than the state rate (20.7%). An estimated 5.9% of individuals in the service area had a Graduate or Professional degree, which was also lower than the state (11.5%) and national rates (13.4%).
- ✓ In 2022, the graduation rate was highest in Webb CISD (100%). United ISD (96.9%) and Laredo ISD (96.2%) reported the next highest graduation rates. Laredo ISD, Webb CISD, and United ISD reported graduation rates that were higher than the state rate of 90.0%. Triumph Public High Schools-Laredo (81.6%) reported a

graduation rate lower than the state (90.0%). In 2022 - 2023, the High School dropout rate was highest in Laredo ISD (3.1%), higher than the state (2.4%).

- ✓ Approximately 88,941 residents in LWDA – 21 South were eligible for adult education services. In Webb County, the percentage of students obtaining a GED in 2022 was 0.1%, slightly lower than the state rate of 0.3%.
- ✓ There were 52,480 (83.6%) economically disadvantaged students in Webb County during the school year 2022-2023. Economically disadvantaged students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or other public assistance.
- ✓ In Webb County, Spanish (87.8%) was the primary language spoken in homes throughout the service area. However, the percentage of homes where Spanish was the primary language was 87.7% in Laredo. Laredo also reported 0.3% of homes where Indo-European languages were the primary languages spoken, and 0.4% were Asian and Pacific Islander languages. Laredo reported 88.5% of households where languages other than English were spoken, slightly lower than the county rate of 88.6%, but significantly higher than the state (35.1%) and national rates (21.7%). In 2022 – 2023, the number and percent of students in all grades receiving bilingual or English as Second Language (ESL) instruction in the Webb County public school system were 27,666 (44.1%), significantly higher than the state rate of 19.2%.
- ✓ In Webb County, approximately 92.7% of households have a computer, with 81.0% of households with a broadband internet subscription. The percentage of broadband internet subscriptions is significantly lower in Webb County than the state (88.4%) and national (88.3%) rates.
- ✓ The MIECHV program builds upon decades of scientific research showing that home visits by a nurse, social worker, early childhood educator, or other trained professional during pregnancy and in the first years of a child's life help prevent child abuse and neglect, supports positive parenting, improves maternal and child health, and promotes child development and school readiness. The agency may consider the possibility of becoming a grantee.

Health

- ✓ In Webb County, adult smoking (17%), child obesity (15.4%), adult obesity (42%), food insecurity (16%), limited access to healthy foods (10%), and teen birth rate (52 per 100,000 population) were higher than the state rates. Webb County (12) reported a drug overdose death rate comparable to the state (12) rate. These numbers represent the rate of drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population. There were fewer primary care physicians, mental health providers, and dentists per resident in the service area when compared to the state ratio for those professions. Findings suggest that conditions related to unhealthy lifestyles and behaviors are a concern in the communities served by Region 20. These lifestyle conditions include sexually transmitted infections, adult obesity, teen birth rate, drug overdose, food insecurity, limited access to healthy foods, and smoking.

- ✓ Economic and social drivers such as income, education, and social connectedness have a direct bearing on health. These socio-economic determinants strongly interact to influence health and, in general, an improvement in any of these can produce an improvement in both health behaviors and outcomes among individuals and/or groups. Those with very low incomes, for example, often lack resources and access to nutritious food, adequate housing, safe walking paths, and working conditions, which can impact negatively on their health. Also, they may face financial and life stress, which—over time can have health consequences such as high blood pressure, or immune and circulatory complications. On the other hand, those who have adequate income and employment are likely to experience health outcomes that are less dependent on material needs but are nonetheless affected by the demands they face at home and at work and the degree to which they have control and decision-making influence in those settings. Generally, the degree to which people feel they have control over their circumstances is related to how healthy they are. Increased exposure to stress, as well as a lack of resources, skills, social support, and connection to the community, can contribute to less healthy coping skills and poorer health behaviors such as smoking, over-consumption of alcohol and drugs, and less healthy eating habits.
- ✓ The percentage of uninsured children below age 18 in the city of Laredo was 28.3%, slightly lower than the county rate (28.4%) but higher than the state (17.6%) and national rate (8.7%).
- ✓ Excess weight may indicate an unhealthy lifestyle and puts individuals at risk for further health issues. In Webb County, there are a total of 48,054 adults aged 20 and older who self-reported having a BMI greater than 30.0. This represents 27.6% of the survey population.
- ✓ Webb County residents reported 4.5 days per week with poor mental health in 2022, higher than the state (3.9) and the same as the national (4.5) average. The data shows that Webb County has reported higher numbers of poor mental health days than the state since 2018. Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in Texas and the 2nd leading cause of death for individuals aged 10 – 24. In Webb County there were 514 deaths of despair. This represents an age-adjusted death rate of 42.6 per every 100,000 total population, higher than the state (38.2), but lower than the national rate of 47.0.
- ✓ In Webb County, 67,993 participants were enrolled in children’s Medicaid. Total Medicaid enrollment for pregnant women was 7,497. CHIP enrollment was 583 children.
- ✓ In Webb County, there were 745 new cases of cancer reported. This means there is a rate of 331.8 for every 100,000 total population, lower than the state (412.2) and national (442.3) rates. In Webb County, there are a total of 1,000 deaths due to coronary heart disease. This represents an age-adjusted death rate of 98.0 per every 100,000 total population, higher than the state and national rates.
- ✓ The most common health conditions mentioned by key informants and focus group participants include diabetes, hypertension, obesity, heart disease, and cancer. As described by the participants, diabetes is common in Hispanic families and in the community. Nearly one-fifth (21.6%) of the community survey respondents reported a doctor or health care provider told them they had diabetes. The estimated

prevalence of diabetes in Laredo is 15.7%. Obesity Focus groups participants and key informants emphasized obesity as prominent in the Hispanic community. They shared several contributing factors such as inability to afford healthy food options, poor nutrition habits, and lack of nutrition education. Among community survey respondents, 35.3% reported a doctor or health care provider told them they have obesity. The estimated prevalence of obesity in Laredo is 45.2%. Lack of exercise and inadequate diet appear to be linked to these 2 health issues which complicate to additional health problems.

- ✓ There were three (3) identified HPSA facilities in Webb County. HPSA is defined as having shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers. This indicator is relevant because a shortage of health professionals contributes to access and health status issues. Within the report area, there are 8 Federally Qualified Health Centers. This means there is a rate of 2.99 Federally Qualified Health Centers per 100,000 total population.

Birth Characteristics

- ✓ There were an estimated 4,408 births within Webb County, of which 4,245 births were reported in Laredo. Most births (77.4%) in Webb County were to women ages 20 – 34.
- ✓ Laredo reported 4.1% of births to teen mothers. The percentage of teen births in Webb County (4.3%) was higher than the state (4.0%) and the national (2.6%) average.
- ✓ Webb County reported 32.5% of women, who gave birth within the last 12 months, below 100% of the poverty level, higher than the state (22.8%) and national (20.6%) rate. Approximately 27.1% of women giving birth in Webb County were between 100% - 199% of Federal Poverty Level, higher than the state (21.4%) and national (19.3%) rates.
- ✓ The majority of women in Webb County (99.7%) who gave birth within the past 12 months did not receive Public Assistance income. An estimated 0.3% of women who gave birth in Webb County received Public Assistance income, lower than the state rate (2.8%) and national rate (4.1%).
- ✓ In Webb County, approximately 43.1% of births were to unmarried women who did not receive Public Assistance income, much higher than the state (31.4%) and national (30.7%) rates.
- ✓ Webb County reported 17.9% of women who gave birth with less than a high school diploma, considerably higher than the state (12.8%) and national (10.3%) rates. However, an estimated 27.5% of women who gave birth had a high school education in Webb County. Approximately 12.3% of women who gave birth within the last 12 months reported attaining a Bachelor's degree, lower than the state rate of 21.4% and national rate of 22.8%. The percentage of women giving birth with less than a high school diploma in Laredo was slightly higher than the county (18.1%) rate.
- ✓ The infant mortality rate per 1,000 children who died before their first birthday was 3.7 (17) for Webb County, slightly lower than the mortality rate for the state (5.5).

- ✓ In Webb County, the number and percent of births to women who received no prenatal care, or care after the first trimester was 1,312 (30%), lower than the state rate (31%). The percent of women receiving late, or no prenatal care increased from 23% in 2017 to 30% in 2020.

Trauma

- ✓ Webb County Sherriff's Office reported 96 incidents of family violence, whereas the Laredo Police Department reported 2,029 family violence incidents. Laredo Community College Police Department and United ISD Police Department reported no incidents of family violence, and Texas A & M reported one incident of family violence. The largest percentage of family violence reports was between other family members (58.7%). The second most reported relationship among offenders and victims was marital and the third most common relationship was parental/child.
- ✓ The number of children ages 0 - 17 who were confirmed as victims of child abuse was 568 in 2020, (7.0 per 1,000 children), which was lower than the state rate (9.1 per 1,000 children). The number of confirmed victims of child abuse in Webb County increased from 374 in 2016 to 568 in 2020. The psychological consequences of child abuse and neglect include the immediate effects of isolation, fear, and an inability to trust. When children cannot trust that someone will be there to meet their needs, they tend to develop low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, and hopelessness. These difficulties can lead to lifelong relationship problems and may lead to the development of antisocial behavioral traits. These children are also more likely to engage in violent behaviors and to be diagnosed with conduct and personality disorders.
- ✓ In Webb County, the number of children, ages 0 - 17 in foster care, was 126 (1.6 per 1,000 children) in 2022, which represented a decrease of 3.5 per 1,000 children from 2018. In Webb County, the rate of children in foster care was equal to the state rate of 1.6 per 1,000 children. Many foster children struggle in school due to the trauma they experience as a result of abuse, neglect, separation, and instability. Approximately 80% of foster children are held back in school at least once by the time they reach 3rd grade.
- ✓ The Laredo Homeless Coalition conducted the Homeless Count in January 2024. According to the Coalition, the total homeless count for Webb County was approximately 304, an increase of 63 people from 2019. There was a significant decrease in the total homeless count for 2021 (86). An estimated 28 homeless individuals reported having a serious mental illness in 2020 as compared to 6 individuals in 2021. Respondents reported that unemployment was the main reason for their homeless situation. There were approximately 28 children under the age of 18, who reported homelessness in 2021. Most homeless individuals were males. Economic hardship (29%) was the most prevalent adverse childhood experience, followed by divorce (20%), alcohol (10%), and mental illness (8%) for children in Texas. Approximately 36% of children in Texas experienced one or two adverse childhood experiences and 11% experienced three or more.
- ✓ Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on health and well-being.

- ✓ A child with a complex trauma history may: Have trouble developing skills and learning, due to the amount of mental energy being spent reacting to trauma reminders, have trouble focusing, organizing, and processing information; this might make the child seem to be ignoring a caregiver or teacher who has to repeat requests or instructions to get a response, seem distracted because he is trying to predict or avoid the next “bad thing” that will happen, seem very nervous, emotionally intense, or to have a “hair-trigger” response; frequently, she may be flooded by overwhelming and unbearable emotions, seem “shut down,” numb, and unable to experience or express any emotions
- ✓ Toxic stress refers to prolonged or excessive activation of the body's stress response system, particularly in the absence of supportive relationships or buffering mechanisms. Unlike positive or tolerable stress, which can be beneficial and temporary, toxic stress occurs when individuals experience overwhelming or chronic stressors without adequate support to help them cope effectively.

Coronavirus

- ✓ The Covid-19 Pandemic, including the policy response, had vast detrimental effects on many industries -- healthcare, hospitality and tourism, but also education. After the surge in Covid-19 cases beginning in early 2020, on March 13, 2020, the Texas governor declared a health disaster and schools were closed until May 4, 2020, and essentially stayed closed through the end of the school year. The next school year, 2020 - 2021, saw K-12 enrollment crash, and only recently has it risen above pre-pandemic levels. This data looks at Texas K-12 total enrollment from before the pandemic through the 2022 - 2023 school year and examine which grade levels and which ethnic groups were most affected.
- ✓ Total enrollment in Texas schools steadily increased from 2013 to 2020. The decline in enrollment in the 2021 school year stands out clearly, with a decline of 122,354 students. Recall the timing of the enrollment measures. Enrollment for the 2020 school year was measured in October 2019, pre-pandemic. Enrollment for the 2021 school year was measured in October 2020, just over a half year from the March 2020 school closures due to COVID-19.
- ✓ In 2022, there was a partial recovery, with 5,427,370 students enrolled in Fall 2021, an increase of 55,784 students, or 1%, from the 2022 school year. Finally, in the 2023 school year, enrollment finally returned to and even somewhat exceeded the pre-pandemic numbers with 24,492 students higher than in 2020, at 5,518,432 students.
- ✓ Looking at the percentage changes over the 10-year period from 2013 to 2023, total enrollment in Texas public schools increased by 442,592 students, or by 8.7 percent. The largest annual percent decline reported in these ten years was in the academic year 2021, with a drop of 2.2 percent. Figure 32 portrays the annual change in total enrollment.
- ✓ For the 2021 school year, the Texas Education Agency offered parents (and children) the option of remote or in-person instruction. Schools were allowed to remain remote-only for the first weeks of the school year, but then were required to offer parents the choice of remote or in-person education. Importantly, the

schools had a large say in what occurred in the in-person setting, which may have differed greatly from the pre-pandemic experience.

- ✓ By delving into finer demographics and individual grade levels, we can also see that some ethnic groups and grade levels were disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Based on TEA data, the four largest racial groups are Hispanic, White, Asian and African American. On average, Hispanic students accounted for the largest percentage of total enrollment in Texas public schools at 52.3%, followed by White at 27.8%, African American at 12.6%, and Asians at 4.3% from 2013 school year to 2023 school year.
- ✓ The decline in enrollment between the 2020 and 2021 academic year, which spanned the COVID-19 outbreak, was visible across all major ethnic groups except Asians. White enrollees fell by 4%, followed by Hispanics at 2% and African Americans at 1.7%. Asians, on the other hand, saw an increase in enrollment by 1.5%. Enrollment growth was higher across all three academic years amongst Asian students. African American students saw an increase in enrollment in the 2022 and 2023 academic years by 0.2% and 2%, respectively, compared to the pre pandemic year 2020. On the other hand, Hispanic enrollment increased in 2023 by 0.8% compared to during the pandemic but showed decline in enrollment for the 2022 school year by 1.3% from its pre-pandemic levels. Enrollment amongst White students showed declines in all 2021, 2022 and 2023 academic years compared to the 2020 academic year.
- ✓ Based on TEA data, average enrollment in Pre-K and Early Enrollment account for 4.3% and 0.4%, respectively, of total public-school enrollment in Texas. Grade 9's share of total enrollment is highest amongst all grades at 8.2%. Kindergarten to Grade 8 and Grade 10 contribute between 7.1% to 7.5% of the total enrollment. Grade 12 contributes 6.3% and the share of Grade 11 is 6.8%.
- ✓ Comparing the pre-pandemic enrollment change in 2019-2020 to the subsequent year 2020-21 describes the extent to which the enrollment numbers dropped during the pandemic. Comparing the academic year 2020 to 2021 shows that Pre-Kindergarten had the largest decrease in enrollment at 20.9%, followed by Early Enrollment at 18.9%, and Kindergarten in third place at 5.9%.

Child Care

- ✓ From January 2023 to March 2024, multiple entities have published guidance on artificial intelligence (AI), underscoring growing public concerns regarding AI governance. Meanwhile, as federal and state legislators weigh the need for AI regulations to safeguard the public from various risks, recent discourse about AI risk has overlooked the use of AI by children and their families or caregivers. This gap is widening as students increasingly turn to AI for homework assistance and interact with AI-generated content (including images and videos), and as caregivers (including both parents and educators) attempt to use AI to foster child engagement. Drawing on lessons from a recent Child Trends study on the capabilities of AI systems, Child Trend proposes stronger guidance and regulations to ensure rigorous assessment of potential harm by AI systems in contexts involving children and families.

- ✓ The funded enrollment for Webb County Commissioners Head Start was 1,218 children, 72 Early Head Start, and 72 Child Care Partners in 2019 - 2020. There were approximately 12,859 available children ages 0 – 3 in Laredo and 3,562 eligible 0 – 3-year-old children. There were 8,681 available 3 – 5-year-old children of which 2,405 would be potentially eligible for Head Start program.
- ✓ In Webb County, there were approximately 13,353 available 0 – 3-year-old children and 3,792 eligible 0 - 3-year-old children. There were approximately 9,237 available children ages 3 – 5 and an estimated 2,623 eligible children ages 3 – 5. The number of unserved children ages 0 - 3 indicates possible expansion opportunities for Early Head Start as well as Head Start services in Webb County.
- ✓ According to American Community Survey, approximately 3,325 (3.9%) children were reported enrolled in a nursery school or preschool in Webb County, slightly lower than the state (5.5%) and national rate (5.8%).
- ✓ Approximately 3,018 children ages 3 and 4 were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten. Most of the children were reported as economically disadvantaged and English Language Learners. Laredo ISD reported serving 18 homeless children, while United ISD served 12 homeless children and 8 children in foster care.
- ✓ Within the service area, an estimated 34 schools provided full-day Pre-Kindergarten programs, of which Laredo ISD reported the largest number of schools providing full-day programs in 2023. United ISD reported the largest number of schools providing half-day programs.
- ✓ United ISD reported a Pre-K enrollment of 1,401 four-year-old children, of which 1,098 were full-day participants and very few were half-day participants.
- ✓ Laredo ISD reported a Pre-K enrollment of 1,598 children, of which 525 were three-year-old full-day participants and 1,065 were four-year-old full-day participants. Webb County ISD reported 19 children enrolled in Pre-K, of which 12 children were enrolled in a full-day program.
- ✓ The majority of children enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten programs in Webb County identified as Hispanic/Latino.
- ✓ In Webb County, approximately 78.4% of 3 - 4-year-old children were enrolled in public school and 21.6% were enrolled in private school. Laredo reported 77.3% of 3 - 4-year-old children enrolled in public school and 22.7% enrolled in private school.
- ✓ In Webb County, the number of children, ages 0 - 12, who received state-subsidized childcare during 2019 was 4,235 (6.9%), representing an increase of 446 children since 2015. The percentage of children receiving subsidized care in Webb County was higher than the state average (4.2%).

Housing

- ✓ The owner-occupied housing unit rate in the city of Laredo was 62.7%, which was slightly lower than the rate for Webb County (63.3%). The owner-occupied housing unit rate for Webb County was slightly higher than the state rate (62.4%).
- ✓ The City of Laredo (92.2%) had a slightly higher percentage of occupied housing units than the County (91.2%). The City of Laredo reported 7.8% vacant housing units and a 7.7% rental vacancy rate.

- ✓ The percentage of occupied units paying gross rent less than \$500 was slightly lower in the city of Laredo (6.9%) than Webb County (7.0%), which both were higher than the state average (4.6%). In Webb County, 33.6% of occupied units were paying rent ranging from \$1,000 - \$1,499. The median rent for Webb County was \$964.
- ✓ The city of Laredo (6.1%) reported a slightly lower percentage of households with no vehicle available than Webb County (6.2%). However, the percentage of households with at least one vehicle in the city of Laredo was 31.6%, slightly lower than the state and national rates (32.6%). Webb County had a lower percentage of households with two available vehicles (26.1%) than the state (40.1%) and national rate (37.0%).
- ✓ Webb County and the city of Laredo had somewhat comparable percentages as related to homes lacking plumbing, kitchen facility, and telephone services. However, there were 584 homes in the city of Laredo that lacked plumbing facilities, and 785 homes that lacked complete kitchen facilities in Webb County. The data reflects a higher percentage of households with no available telephone service in Webb County (1.4%) than the state (1.1%) and national rates (1.0%).
- ✓ The percentage of households that paid gross rent that was 35% or more of household income in the city of Laredo was 41.3%, as compared to 41.6% in Webb County, 40.5% for the state and 40.8% nationally.
- ✓ Fair market rent for four bedrooms was lower in Webb County (\$1,380) as compared to the state (\$2,098).
- ✓ Within the service area, a household must earn \$19.13 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom rental unit as compared to the state (\$25.06). The estimated mean renter hourly wage is \$20.14 in Webb County as compared to the state (\$27.65).
- ✓ New research finds that housing instability can affect the mental and physical health of family members of all ages. There has been quite a bit of research linking financial insecurity to poor health outcomes. The connection is, on its face, an obvious one, as a depleted checking account can cause stress, which can manifest in our bodies and minds. A new study by researchers at Boston Medical Center furthers that unfortunate connection: It finds housing instability, including chronically late rent payment, can affect the mental and physical health of family members of all ages. A stable home is a foundation to thrive.

Opportunities and Considerations

1. Increase resources and support for survivors of domestic violence in Head Start and local community members by expanding information about access to emergency shelters, transitional housing, legal advocacy, counseling, and other supportive services. Strengthen partnerships between law enforcement, domestic violence agencies, healthcare providers, and community organizations to enhance prevention efforts and improve outcomes for survivors and their families.
2. Continue to provide drug education and drug overdose awareness for families. Address stigma and discrimination associated with substance use disorders to promote a more compassionate and supportive environment for families seeking help and recovery. Educate staff and community members about the complexities of addiction and the importance of empathy and understanding in addressing substance misuse.
3. Strengthen tobacco and substance use prevention efforts to reduce smoking rates and substance abuse in Webb County. This could involve implementing tobacco-free policies, increasing access to smoking cessation resources, and providing education and support services for staff and families struggling with addiction.
4. Enhance mental health services and suicide prevention efforts to address underlying mental health issues and reduce suicide rates in local communities. This could include increasing access to mental health counseling, crisis intervention services, and referrals to support groups for individuals at risk of suicide.
5. Implement chronic disease management programs to support individuals living with conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer in Webb County. Provide education, resources, and support services to help individuals manage their conditions effectively and improve their overall health outcomes. Include the Health Advisory Committee for input on these health issues.
6. Launch program health education campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of healthy behaviors, disease prevention, and early detection of chronic conditions.
7. Launch an agency or program awareness campaigns to reduce stigma surrounding mental illness, promote help-seeking behaviors, and encourage open discussions about mental health issues and suicide intervention and prevention within the program. Utilize various media channels, community events, and educational materials to reach diverse populations and raise awareness about available resources and support services.
8. Continue to identify and intervene early to address mental health concerns and provide appropriate support services for children and their families.
9. Continue to provide or assist families with obtaining a GED and other supportive services for those who did not complete high school.

10. Continue to provide and increase access to prenatal care services for pregnant women in Webb County, particularly for those who are uninsured or have limited financial resources. This could involve encouraging access to prenatal care clinics, providing transportation assistance, and offering incentives for early and consistent prenatal care attendance.
11. Identify and address barriers that prevent pregnant women from accessing prenatal care, such as lack of transportation, childcare, and cultural preferences. Collaborate with community partners to develop solutions and initiatives to overcome these barriers and ensure equitable access to care for all women.
12. Continue to provide training and resources to staff, parents, healthcare providers, social service agencies, and community organizations on trauma-informed care practices. This can help professionals better recognize and respond to the needs of children and families who have experienced trauma, including those involved in the foster care system, and those affected by domestic violence or child maltreatment.
13. Intensify recruitment of grandparents and provide relevant resources to assist them with raising their grandchildren.
14. Raise public awareness about the issue of homelessness and housing affordability in the program and local communities through education campaigns, community forums, and media outreach. Foster empathy, understanding, and support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and mobilize staff, families and service providers to act and support efforts to address homelessness and housing insecurity.
15. Given the high number of eligible children for Early Head Start and Head Start services, consider expanding these programs in areas with high child poverty rates. Increasing access to quality early childhood education can support children's cognitive development, school readiness, and overall well-being.
16. Explore possible expansion or conversion opportunities for infants and toddlers.
17. Target outreach efforts towards communities with higher rates of teenage pregnancy, poverty, and limited access to healthcare services.
18. Raise awareness about the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), toxic stress, and trauma on children's development and well-being. Provide education and outreach to community members, policymakers, and stakeholders about the importance of early intervention, trauma-informed care, and supportive services for children and families in Webb County.
19. Continue to provide support services tailored to the needs of single-parent households in the program. These services may include counseling, support groups, parenting classes, and financial assistance programs to help single parents navigate their unique challenges and build resilience.
20. Expand and provide information and access to employment and training opportunities for single parents to enhance their economic stability and self-sufficiency. Partner with local businesses, educational institutions, and workforce development agencies to provide job training, career counseling, and job placement assistance for single parents seeking employment.

Methodology

The 2024 – 2025 Community Assessment was conducted by reviewing quantitative (secondary data) and qualitative data. Primary and secondary data were obtained from a variety of sources. Sources included the following: The Annie E. Casey 2024 Kids Count Data Book, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Child Care Aware, Citydata.com, Youth Homelessness Texas Report, Child Trend, Building Healthy Agencies, Youth Homelessness Texas Report, Texas Homeless Network, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, County Health Rankings, National Low-Income Housing Coalition, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Workforce Commission, Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunities, City of Laredo 2022-23 Community Health Needs Assessment, Texas Education Agency, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Division for ECI Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Childstats.gov, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Kids Count Data Center, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, Region I Education Service Center, Bureau of Vital Statistics, www.childstats.gov, www.communitycommons, Feeding America, Texas Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2020 Crime in Texas, National Low-Income Housing Coalition, U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts, American Community Survey, 2018 - 2022, Center for Health Statistics, National Center for Children in Poverty and 2022-2023 Head Start/Early Head Start Program Information Reports (PIR).

Relevant data was researched and analyzed regarding the State of Texas, Webb County, and the city of Laredo. This was accomplished by accessing websites of a multitude of local agencies and organizations, by e-mail inquiries, and by telephone. The data gathered pertains to general demographics and economics, education attainment, disabilities, health, nutrition, social service issues, transportation, housing, and childcare. Most data were retrieved from published sources available online or in a draft form from the originating public agencies. The information was used to frame a report that defines the number of Head Start and Early Head Start eligible children living in the service area, analyze what are the greatest needs for the families and local communities, and determine what Webb County Commissioners Head Start and Early Head Start can do to meet those needs.

One survey was developed and administered to Head Start and Early Head Start parents during the 2017 – 2018 program year. Questions in the surveys were tailored to gather data not found in other data sources. Results of the surveys were compiled and analyzed to identify future needs and direction of the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs.

Interpreting the Data

Understand what is being measured

It is important to understand what is being measured and how. Several types of data information are available in this document: numbers, percentages, rates, county and state rates, and county rankings. The Methodology section details data sources.

Beware of Small Numbers

County populations vary significantly. Such variations should be considered when interpreting the differences among counties. Low rates may appear in counties with large populations. Relying solely on rates, without considering the numbers involved, may result in overlooking locations which have large numbers of children.

Remember the Uses and Limits of Data

The data contained in this Community Assessment Update provides important baseline information. Effective use of data requires it to be understood in a broad context. Such information provides one way to look at how children are doing in a place, county, or state, offering the starting place to initiate dialogue with others who share your interest. There are many important perspectives required to piece together a complete picture. Collect additional data and viewpoints to determine the most useful view of childcare in your area.



State of Texas

Table 1: Participation in Federal Programs

Adults and children receiving welfare (TANF):	44,219
Children receiving food stamps (SNAP):	2,035,000
EITC recipients:	2,600,000
Families receiving childcare subsidies:	84,300
Households receiving federal rental assistance:	277,000
Households receiving LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program):	142,609
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP:	3,867,146
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Women, Infants, and Children supplemental nutrition program):	675,806
Participants in all Head Start programs:	70,299

Table 2: Assets

Asset poverty rate:	23.5%
Average college graduate debt:	\$24,655
Unbanked households:	9.5%

Table 3: Poverty by Demographic

Child poverty rate:	19.0%
Number of Asian and Pacific Islander Children below 200% poverty	75,000
Number of Black and Hispanic children below 200% poverty:	482,000
Number of Hispanic children below 200% poverty:	2,013,000
Percent of single-parent families with related children that are below poverty:	32%
Senior poverty rate:	10.6%
Women in poverty:	15.0%

Table 4: Family

Children in foster care:	31,427
Number of households with grandparents responsible for grandchildren under age 18:	749,131
Percent of children in immigrant families:	33.0%
Percent of children living in single-parent families:	35.0%
Teen birth rate per 1,000 population ages 15-19:	24.0%

Table 5: Economic Well-being

Extreme poverty rate:	9.0%
Food insecurity:	14.1%
Minimum Wage:	\$7.25
Number of Black children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment:	323,000

Number of Hispanic children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment:	1,034,000
Percent of uninsured individuals:	17.7%
Percent of low-wage jobs:	23.8%
Percent of working families under 200% of the poverty line:	32.6%
Poverty rate:	13.6%
Unemployment rate:	3.5%

Table 6: Education

High school graduation rate:	90.0%
Percent of the adult population with at least a high school degree:	82.9%
Percent of college students with debt:	56.0%
Percent of population over age 25 with at least a four-year college degree:	30.3%
Percent of teens ages 16 to 19 not attending school and not working:	8.0%

Table 7: Housing

Home foreclosure rate:	0.61%
Homeless people:	27,229
Households paying more than 50% of income on housing:	850,500
Percent renters:	38.0%
Total households:	11,589,324

Table 8: Justice System

Number of youths residing in juvenile justice and correctional facilities:	3,699
Incarcerated persons per 100,000 residents (prison and jail):	529

Source: <http://spotlightonpoverty.org> May 2024

State Government

- Governor: Greg Abbott (R)
- State Senate: 12 Democrats, 18 Republicans
- State House: 65 Democrats, 85 Republicans

Service Area Description

Webb County, Texas is located on the US/Mexico border separated only by the Rio Grande River and several international bridges from a more populous city, Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. The major city in Webb County, Laredo is the largest inland port in the United States and, as such, is a dynamic center of commerce. Laredo is on the Rio Grande in southwestern Webb County in South Texas, about 150 miles southwest of San Antonio and 135 miles west of Corpus Christi. It is served by Interstate Highway 35, U.S. Highways 59 and 83, State Highway 359, Ranch Road 1472, and the Missouri Pacific and Texas Mexican railroads. This cosmopolitan city is a major port of entry for international trade and tourism between the United States and Mexico. Laredo is the south entry point to the United States on US Highway 35, which serves as the route to Canada for thousands of trucks bearing cargo shipped through Mexico from around the globe. Other cities in Webb County are El Cenizo, Rio Bravo, Webb, Larga Vista, Aguilares, Dolores and Las Tiendas.

Most Webb County residents live in the city of Laredo, but a substantial number of individuals dwell in rural areas. Webb County is the site of several “Colonias,” clusters of residents whose homes were built during a period when the county governments in Texas did not have adequate authority to exercise control over real estate sales by unscrupulous landowners and developers who sold property that was lacking in access to basic utilities and sewage disposal facilities. Since 1989, a series of state laws have been passed to control the growth of these poor areas, and efforts by Texas A&M University. The Colonias Program and elected state and local officials have vastly improved the conditions of those areas.

In 2004, the University of Texas Health Science Center-Laredo opened and has increased the opportunities of residents to gain expertise in health-related fields. Texas A&M International University, often referred to as TAMIU, is a public, co-educational, state-supported university located in Laredo, Texas. The university has a modern campus on a 300-acre site in Laredo.

The dynamic growth of the County in the last decade has brought economic prosperity to some that contrasts with the continuing challenges of poverty and low education levels among many other Webb County residents. Oil and gas exploration in Texas has produced unexpected benefits for many communities across the state. One such area is the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas, which has historically been among the poorest areas in the state. The Eagle Ford is a unique formation. Whereas most shale oil and gas fields are predominantly either oil or gas, Eagle Ford contains significant quantities of oil, gas, and condensate. As such, the boom in energy production has presented an interesting situation about how local communities are addressing the opportunities and challenges.

Program Summary

The Webb County Head Start program is a comprehensive child development and early education program for low-income children, ages one to five years old, and their families. The program helps children become better prepared to succeed in school and life by addressing the needs of the whole child. In addition to providing a research-based academic curriculum, Head Start also provides an array of comprehensive services, including health and mental health screenings and services, nutrition, dental and vision services, and extensive parental involvement and early childhood development. The entire range of Head Start services is responsive and appropriate to each child and family's developmental, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage and experience. Comprehensive and quality services provided to Head Start and Early Head Start children will enhance each child's educational future and promote increased participation in the parent's role as their child's first teacher.

According to the 2022-2023 Program Information Report (PIR), Webb County Commissioners' Head Start and Early Head Start programs reported a funded enrollment of 1,218 Head Start, and a funded enrollment of 72 children in the Early Head Start Program and 72 children in child care partnership option. The Early Head Start program also served twenty-four (24) children in the home-based program option and eight (8) expectant mothers.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Vision, Mission and Values of Head Start



VISION

We envision a future where Head Start is recognized as the gold standard in child development and the provider of choice for Texas most vulnerable children and families.

MISSION

We empower Head Start programs to reach their full potential through advocacy, professional development, networking, and collaboration.

VALUES

Inclusion "Everyone is welcome"

We value diversity and engage people of all backgrounds and abilities as we strive for a more equitable society.

Ethical Behavior "Do the right thing"

We create and sustain relationships built on trust, moral courage, respect, and accountability.

Innovation "Creativity reigns"

We embrace the change around us and inspire one another to innovate our way forward

Teamwork "Better together"

We value the spirit in individual thinking and believe in the power of collaboration to accelerate our success.

Our Mission

Site Locations and Funded Enrollment

School	Address	# of Classrooms	Funded Enrollment
Anita T. Dovalina Elementary LISD	1700 W. Anna Ave, 78040	4	74
J.C. Martin Elementary LISD	1600 Monterrey, 78040	4	74
Alma. Pierce Elementary LISD	800 Eistetter St., 78041	4	74
Tomas Sanchez Ochoa Elementary LISD	211 E. Ash St., 78040	4	74
Heights Elementary LISD	1208 Market St., 78040	3	55
Finley Standalone	125 Atlanta, 78045	2	34
Finley Elementary UISD	201 Lowry, 78045	2	34
Newman Elementary UISD	1300 Alta Vista, 78041	3	60
Henry Cuellar Elementary UISD	6431 Casa Del Sol Blvd., 78043	2	40
Killiam Elementary UISD	5315 Fairfield Dr., 78043	1	20
Freedom Elementary UISD	415 EG Ranch Road, 78046	2	40
Larga Vista Standalone	5411 Cisneros, 78046	2	32
Henry B. Zachry Elementary LISD	3200 Chacota St., 78046	4	74
Veterans Memorial Elementary UISD	5909 S. Luke Blvd., 78046	2	40
Ruiz Elementary UISD	1717 Ave. Los President, 78046	2	40
Salinas Elementary UISD	3611 Alfredo Cantu Dr., 78046	1	20
Little Folks Standalone	1233 Paseo De Danubio, 78046	2	34
Arndt Elementary UISD	610 Santa Mata Blvd., 78046	3	60
Roosevelt Elementary UISD	3301 Sierra Vista Dr. 78046	2	40
Perez Elementary UISD	500 Sierra Vista Dr., 78046	1	20
Centeno Elementary	2710 La Pita Mangana, 78046	3	60
Prada Standalone	4906 S. Hwy.83, 78046	2	30
Prada Elementary UISD	510 Soria Dr., 78046	2	40
Floyd Standalone	4704 Naranjo, 78041	4	64
Little Palominos H/S Standalone	West End Washington, 78040	2	34
Little Palominos EHS Standalone	West End Washington, 78040	3	24
Little Palominos EHS Home Base-Standalone	West End Washington, 78040	0	16
Sierra Vista H/S Standalone	102 Sierra Vista, 78046	3	51
Sierra Vista EHS Standalone	102 Sierra Vista, 78046	2	16
Sierra Vista Home Base-Standalone	102 Sierra Vista, 78046	0	16
Child Care Partnership			
Education Center	412 Concord Hills Blvd., 78046	9	72
	TOTAL	80	1,362

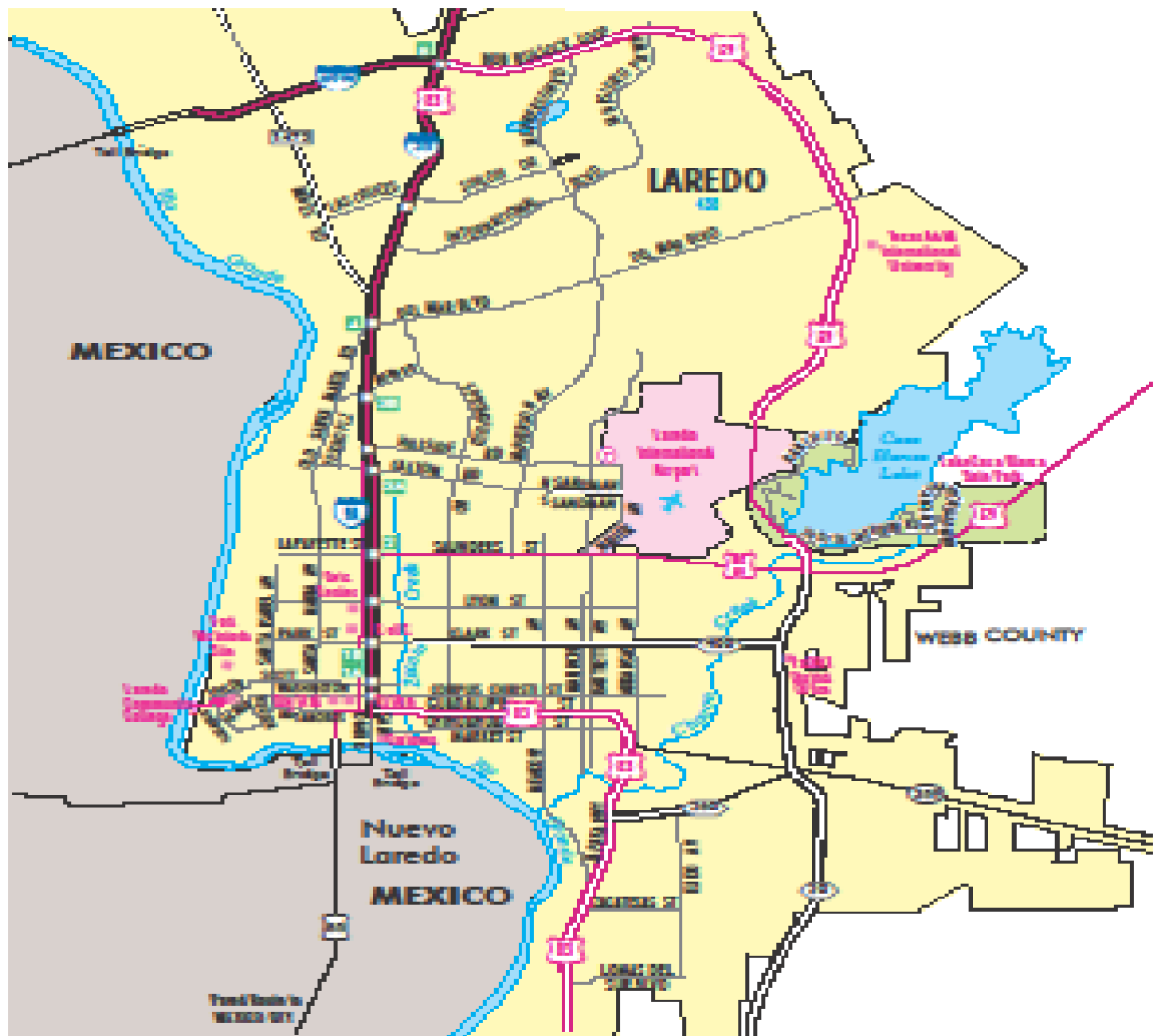
Source: Internal documentation

State and County Map

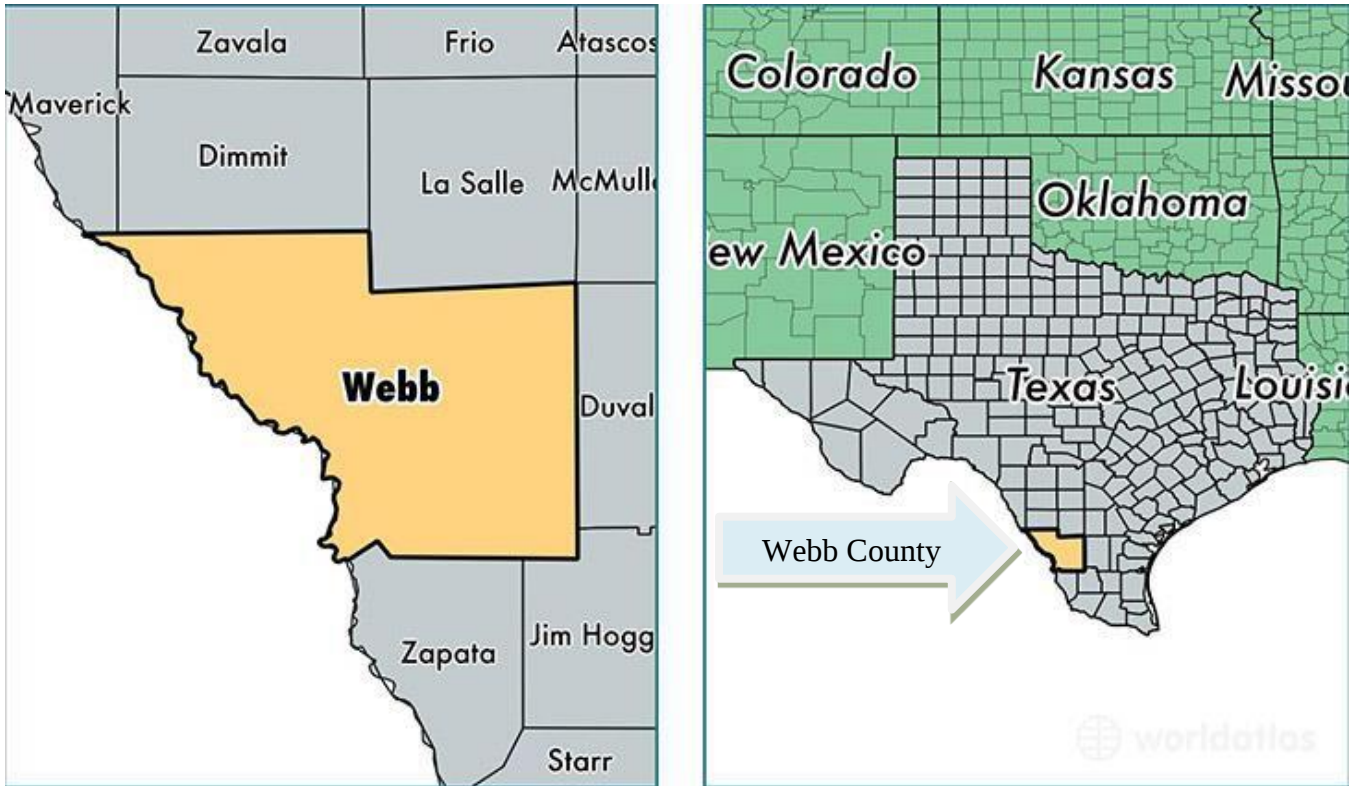


Source: Geology.com

Map of Laredo

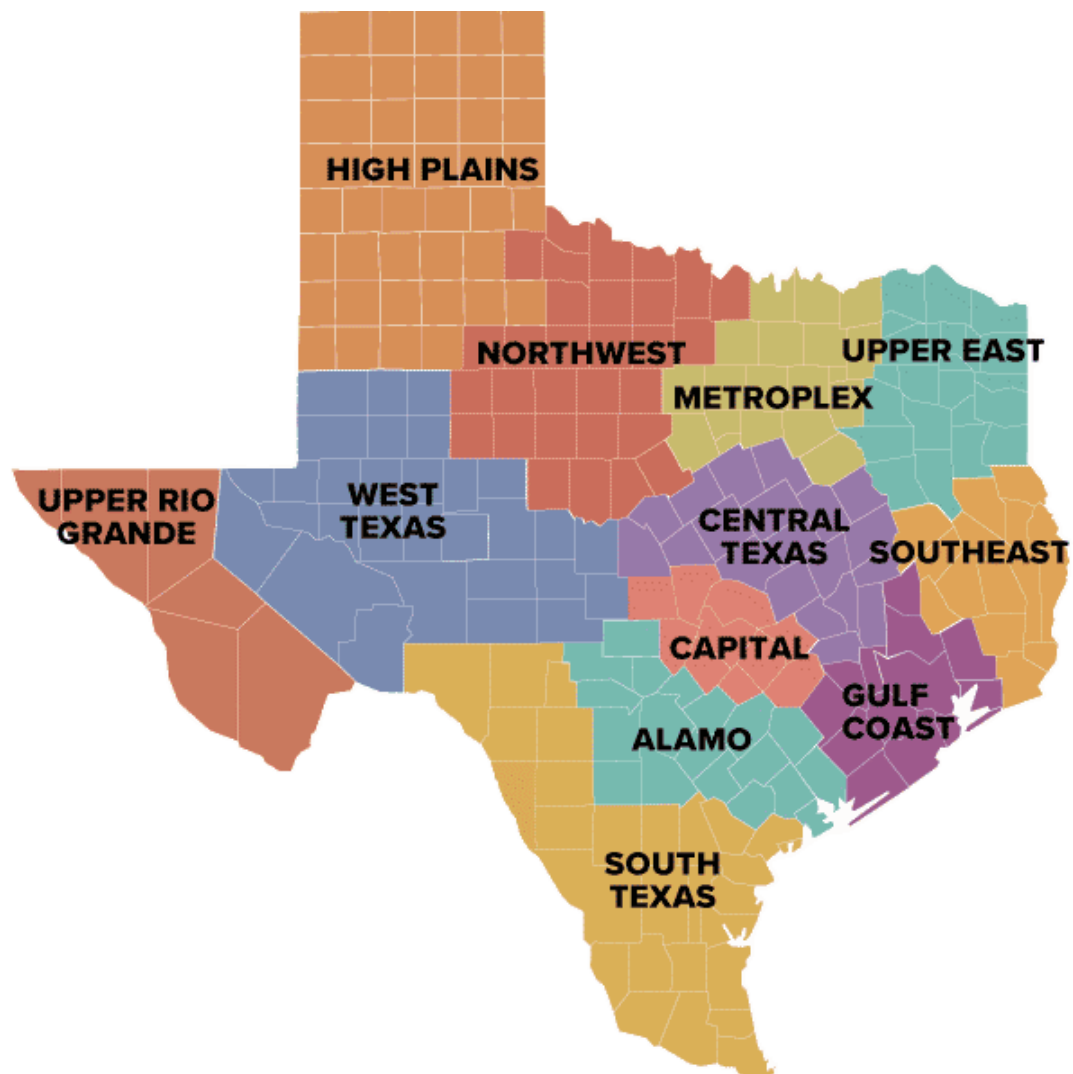


Map Surrounding Counties



Source: <http://www.worldatlas.com>

Figure 1: Economic Development Area Map



Source: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/economic-data/regions/2024/>

Demographics and Economics

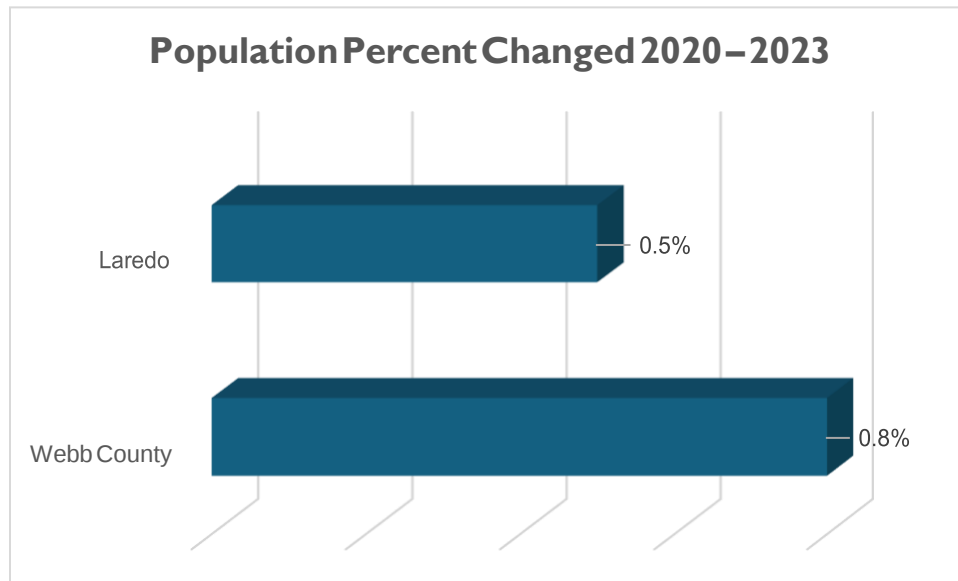


Table 9: Population

Location	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent Changed 2020 – 2023
Laredo	262,491	255,205	254,697	256,187	256,541	0.5%
Webb County	276,652	267,114	266,963	267,282	269,148	0.8%
Texas	28,995,881	29,145,505	28,862,581	29,243,342	30,503,301	4.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018– 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. *US Census Bureau Quick Facts*

Key Findings: Webb County data shows a population of 269,148 in 2023. The data further shows a 0.8% change in population from 2020 – 2023 for Webb County. The city of Laredo reported a population of 256,541 in 2023, with a 0.5% change from 2020 to 2023. Approximately 95% of the county’s population resides in the city of Laredo.

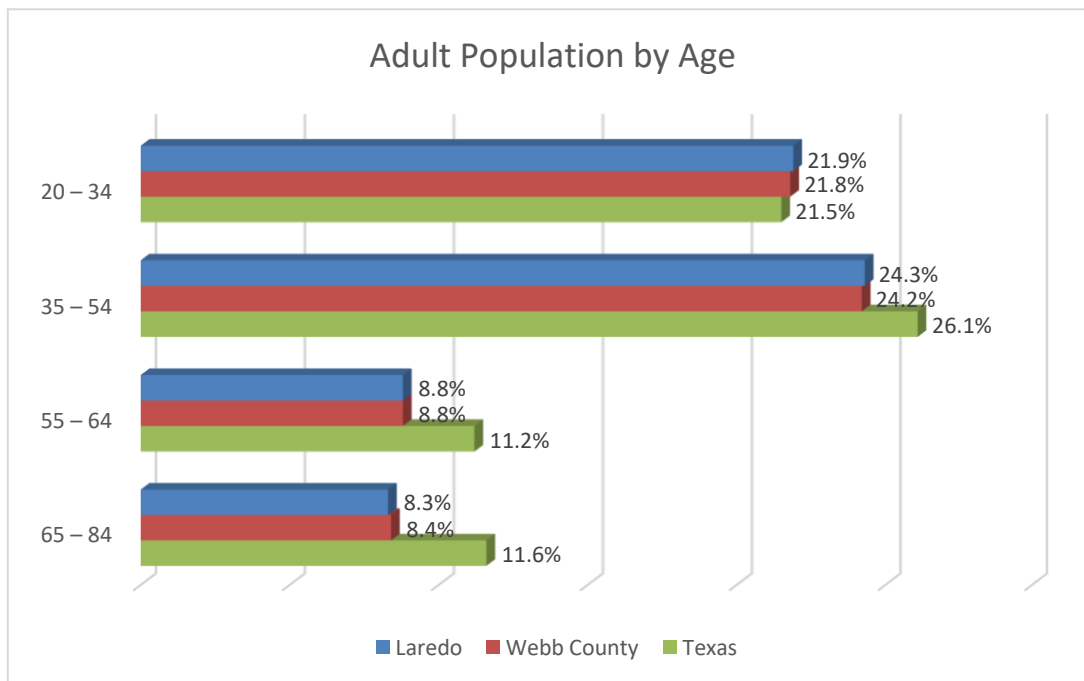


Table 10: Adult Population by Age

Location	20 – 34	%	35 – 54	%	55 – 64	%	65 – 84	%	85 and Older	Median Age
Laredo	56,107	21.9%	61,910	24.3%	22,314	8.8%	21,174	8.3%	3,262	29.3
Webb County	58,185	21.8%	64,813	24.2%	23,452	8.8%	22,543	8.4%	3,412	29.4
Texas	6,303,245	21.5%	7,643,390	26.1%	3,274,384	11.2%	3,366,269	11.6%	402,708	35.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP05

Key Findings: The majority of adults in Laredo were between the ages of 20 - 34 (21.9%) and 35 - 54 (24.3%). Adults, ages 65 – 84, made up approximately 8.3% of the population in Laredo. Most adults in Webb County were between the ages of 35 - 54 representing 24.2% of the population, while adults 65 - 84 represented 8.4% of the population. The median age in Webb County was 29.4, lower than the state (35.2) average.

Table 11: Population by Race/Ethnicity

Location	White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino	White Alone	Black	American Indian	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino
Laredo	3.2%	53.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	0.0%	39.5%	95.5%
Webb County	3.6%	97.5%	0.9%	0.6%	0.6%	0.1%	0.4%	95.3%
Texas	39.8%	77.4%	13.4%	1.1%	5.7%	0.2%	2.3%	40.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts; *z value greater than zero but less than half of unit of measure shown

Key Findings: The majority of the population in Laredo identified as Hispanic (95.5%), while individuals who identified as White Alone represented 53.4%. Blacks and Asians (0.5%) and Two or More Races (39.5%) were the

next largest population groups in Laredo. Individuals who identified as Hispanic or Latino represented 95.5% in Webb County.

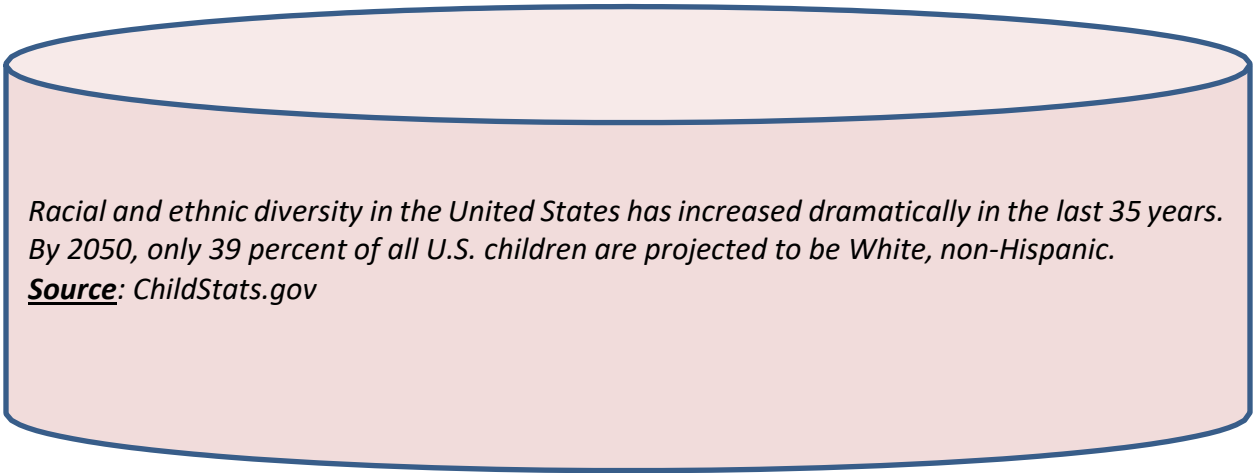


Table 12: Child Population Ages 0 - 4

Indicator/Location	Webb County	Laredo
	Estimate	Estimate
Total:	85,117	81,171
In households:	85,040	81,094
Under 3 years	13,353	12,859
3 and 4 years	9,237	8,681
Total 0 and 4 years	22,590	21,540

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. B09001

Key Findings: In Laredo, there were 12,859 children below 3 years of age and 8,681 children ages 3 – 4. In Webb County, there were 13,353 children below age 3 and 9,237 children ages 3 – 4. Approximately 95% of children aged 0 to 4 reside in Laredo.

Table 13: World Region of Birth of Foreign-born

Location Percentage	Europe	Asia	Africa	Oceania	Latin America	Northern America
Laredo	0.5%	1.4%	0.3%	0.0%	97.6%	0.1%
Webb County	0.5%	1.3%	0.3%	0.0%	97.7%	0.1%
Texas	4.3%	23.1%	5.8%	0.3%	65.3%	1.1%

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP02*

Key Finding: Webb County had a 97.7% representation of Birth of Foreign-born individuals from Latin America, considerably higher than the state rate of 65.3%, while 1.3% of Foreign-born was from Asia, considerably lower than the state (23.1%). Approximately 97.6% of Foreign-born individuals from Latin America resided in the city of Laredo.

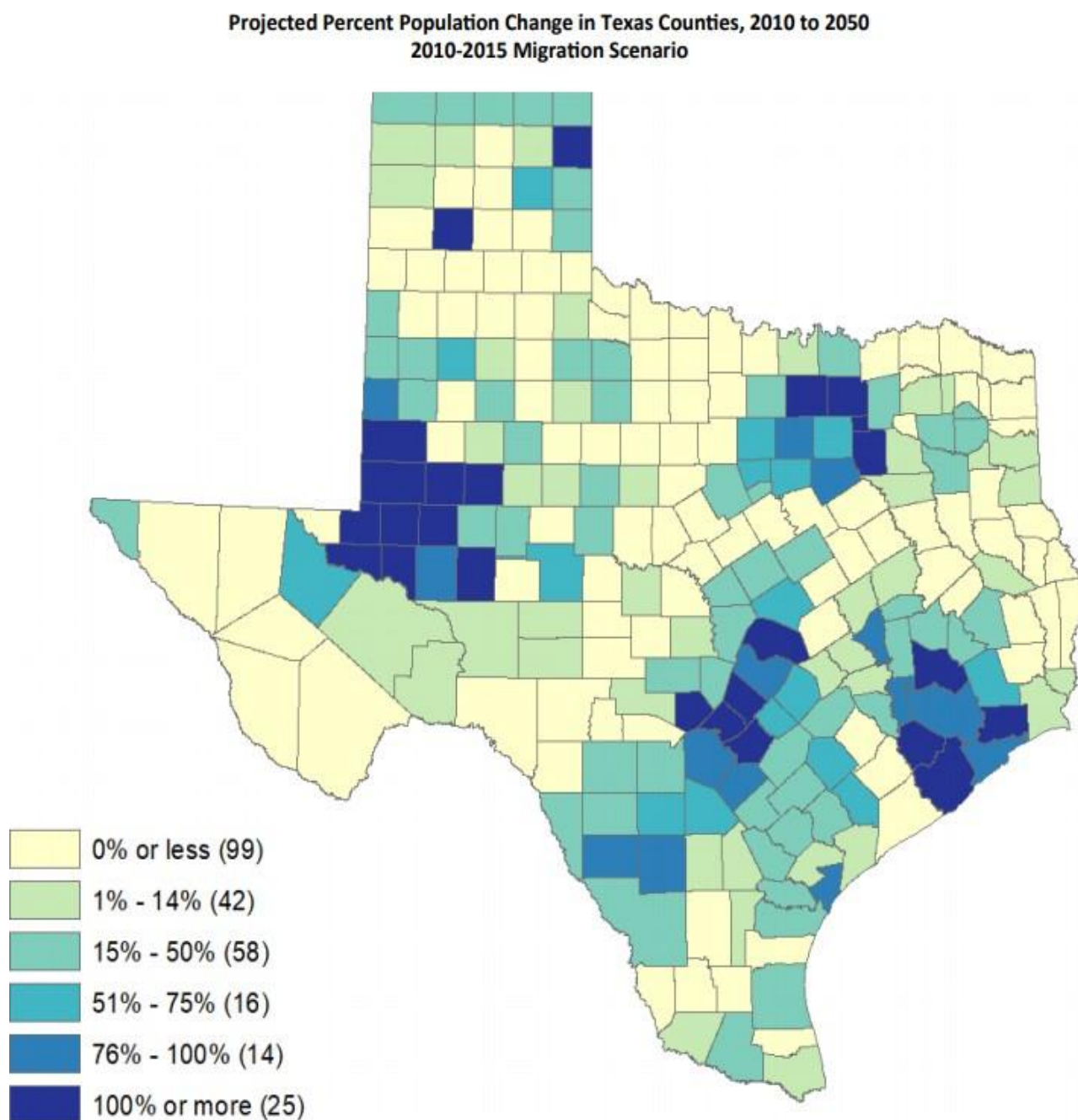
Table 14: Population Projections - Texas and Webb County 2025 - 2030

Projected Year	Total Population Texas	Total Population Webb County
2025	32,204,904	288,157
2030	34,894,429	298,364

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division; Center for Health Statistics;*
<http://osd.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections/>

Key Findings: The population for Webb County is projected to increase by 10,207 individuals by 2030.

Figure 2: Population Changes in Texas Counties, 2010 - 2050



Source: https://demographics.texas.gov/Resources/publications/2019/20190925_PopProjectionsBrief.pdf

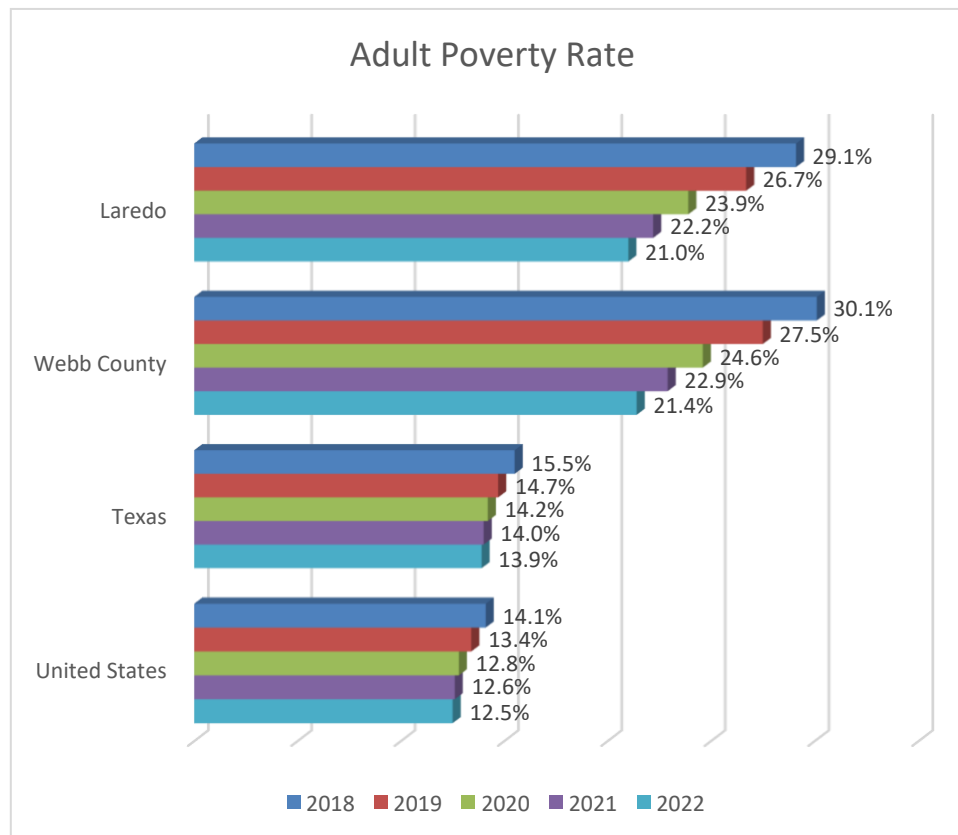


Table 15: Adult Poverty Rate

Location	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Laredo	29.1%	26.7%	23.9%	22.2%	21.0%
Webb County	30.1%	27.5%	24.6%	22.9%	21.4%
Texas	15.5%	14.7%	14.2%	14.0%	13.9%
United States	14.1%	13.4%	12.8%	12.6%	12.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP03

Key Findings: In 2022, the poverty rate for adults in Laredo was 21.0%, which was slightly lower than the county (21.4%), but considerably higher than the state (13.9%) and the national rates (12.5%).

Figure 3: 2024 Poverty Guidelines

2024 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	
Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$15,060
2	\$20,440
3	\$25,820
4	\$31,200
5	\$36,580
6	\$41,960
7	\$47,340
8	\$52,720
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,380 for each additional person.	

Source: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

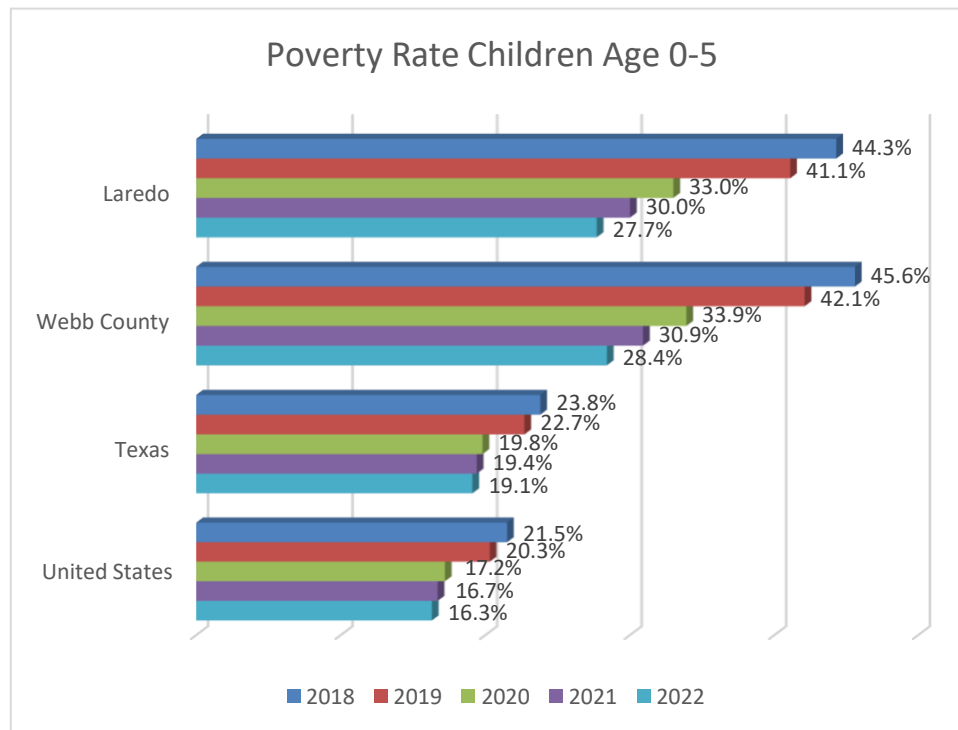


Table 16: Poverty Rate Children Ages 0 - 5

Location	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Laredo	44.3%	41.1%	33.0%	30.0%	27.7%
Webb County	45.6%	42.1%	33.9%	30.9%	28.4%
Texas	23.8%	22.7%	19.8%	19.4%	19.1%
United States	21.5%	20.3%	17.2%	16.7%	16.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP03

Key Findings: In 2022, the poverty rate for children ages 0 - 5 in Laredo was 27.7%, representing a 16.6% decrease since 2018. The poverty rate for Webb County also decreased from 45.6% in 2018 to 28.4% in 2022, representing a 17.2% decrease in the poverty rate for children ages 0 – 5. It is important to note that within the past five years, the poverty rates for children, ages 0 – 5 in Laredo and Webb County, have been consistently higher than the state and national rates.

Children living in poverty are vulnerable to environmental, educational, health, and safety risks. Compared with their peers, children living in poverty, especially young children are more likely to have cognitive, behavioral, and socioemotional difficulties. Additionally, throughout their lifetimes, they are more likely to complete fewer years of school and experience more years of unemployment.

Source: ChildStats.gov

Table 17: Types of Families – Children Below Age 5

Location	Married couples with children under 5 years only		Female householder with children under 5 years only		Male householder with children under 5 years only	
	Under 3	3 - 4	Under 3	3 - 4	Under 3	3 - 4
Laredo	5,657	4,011	2,437	1,707	811	404
Webb County	5,806	4,337	2,519	1,750	823	404
Texas	675,268	487,532	182,811	154,376	68,124	45,335
United States	6,813,361	4,938,907	1,816,150	1,445,657	730,843	490,572

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. B09002

Key Findings: In Webb County, the data show married couples (5,806) with the largest number of children below age three (3), with female householders (2,519) reporting the next largest number of children below age three (3). In Webb County, there were approximately 404 male householders with children aged 3 – 4 and 823 male householders with children three (3) years and younger.

Table 18: Poverty Rate by Marital Status

Location	Poverty Rate All Families		Percent of Poverty Married Couples		Percent of Poverty Female Householder	
	With Children under 18	With Children under 5	With Children under 18	With Children under 5	With Children under 18	With Children under 5
Laredo	24.3%	22.8%	13.5%	11.4%	46.0%	45.7%
Webb County	24.5%	22.3%	14.0%	11.2%	46.1%	45.4%
Texas	15.5%	14.4%	7.7%	6.0%	35.8%	39.9%
United States	13.6%	12.8%	5.9%	4.6%	33.1%	37.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. S1702. An '-' entry in the estimate column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate.

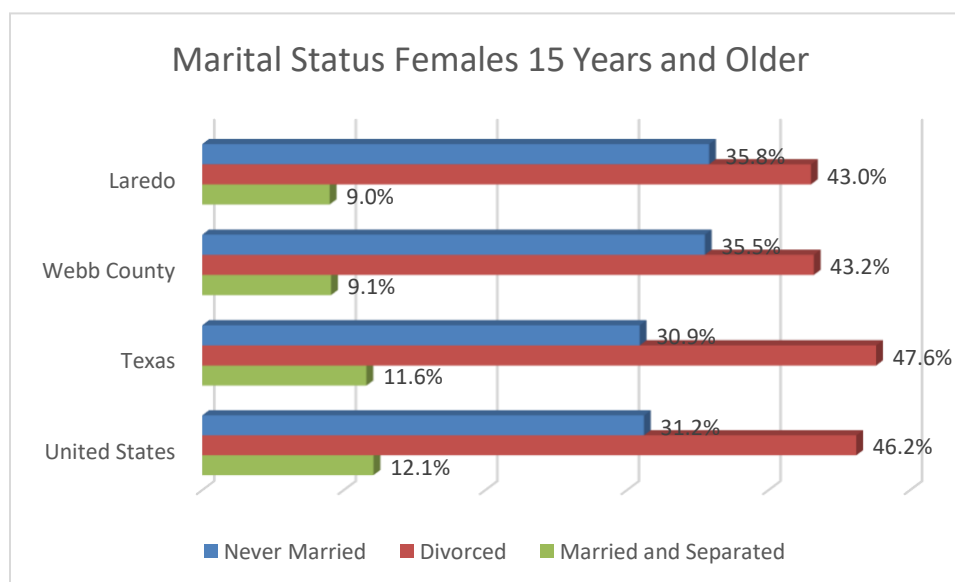
Key Findings: The percentage of households in poverty by marital status is shown in the table above. It is estimated that the poverty rate for all families with children under age five (5) was 22.3% in Webb County and 22.8% in Laredo, much higher than the state rate of 14.4% and national rate (12.8%). Married couples in Webb County, with children under age five (5), reported a 11.2% poverty rate, significantly higher than the state (6.0%) and national rate (4.6%). In Webb County, the data for female-headed households with children under age five (5) shows a 45.4% poverty rate as compared with female householders with children under 18 (46.1%).

Table 19: Marital Status Males 15 Years and Older

Location	Never Married		Married and Separated		Divorced	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Laredo	37,365	40.5%	45,474	49.3%	5,805	6.3%
Webb County	38,973	40.3%	47,878	49.5%	6,041	6.2%
Texas	4,191,541	36.5%	5,844,096	50.8%	1,003,957	8.7%
United States	49,370,788	37.0%	66,029,931	49.5%	12,401,740	9.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP02

Key Findings: In Webb County, the divorce rate for males 15 years and older (6.2%) was lower than the state rate (8.7%) and national rate of 9.3%.

**Table 20: Marital Status Females 15 Years and Older**

Location	Never Married		Divorced		Married and Separated	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Laredo	34,169	35.8%	41,049	43.0%	8,589	9.0%
Webb County	35,473	35.5%	43,150	43.2%	9,073	9.1%
Texas	3,592,018	30.9%	5,529,266	47.6%	1,345,949	11.6%
United States	42,932,208	31.2%	63,494,532	46.2%	16,579,336	12.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP02

Key Findings: In Webb County, the divorce rate for females 15 years and older (9.1%) was lower than the state (11.6%) and national rates (12.1%).

Table 21: Number of Working Families with Children below Age 6 (Living with both Parents)

Location	Both Parents in Labor Force	Father only in Labor Force	Mother only in Labor Force	Neither Parent in Labor Force
Laredo	5,606	7,186	219	299
Webb County	5,936	7,490	288	373
Texas	803,798	599,025	40,743	19,652
United States	8,988,564	4,913,454	487,181	208,680

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. B23008*

Key Findings: The number of working families with children below age six (6) living with both parents is shown in the table above. According to ACS, there were 5,936 working families in Webb County in which both parents were in the labor force. There were 7,490 working families with children below age six (6) in Webb County in which the father was only in the labor force. The number of families in Webb County in which neither parent was in the labor force was 373.

Table 22: Working Families with Children below Age 6 (Living with Single Parent)

Location	Number Living with One Parent	Number Living with Father	Living with Father		Number Living with Mother	Living with Mother	
			In Labor Force	Not in Labor Force		In Labor Force	Not in Labor Force
Laredo	10,972	2,071	1,769	302	8,901	6,051	2,850
Webb County	11,407	2,168	1,834	334	9,239	6,203	3,036
Texas	772,630	169,475	154,298	15,186	603,155	430,058	17,097
United States	7,343,719	1,787,792	1,607,919	179,873	5,555,927	4,167,069	1,388,858

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 - 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. (B23008)*

Key Findings: The number of working families with children below age six (6) living with a single parent is shown in the table above. According to ACS, there were 11,407 children in Webb County living with only one parent, of which 2,168 children lived with a single father. 6,203 children were residing with mothers who were in the labor force, and 3,036 children lived with mothers who were not in the labor force.

Table 23: Grandparents Responsible for Raising their Grandchildren

Location	Number of Grandparent Responsible	Percentage	5 years or more	
			Number	Percent
Laredo	2,981	29.9%	1,585	15.9%
Webb County	3,148	29.4%	1,704	15.9%
Texas	247,830	33.9%	112,508	15.4%
United States	2,243,607	32.4%	1,055,811	15.2%

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 - 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP02*

Key Findings: In Webb County, the percentage of grandparents responsible for raising their grandchildren was 29.4%, slightly lower than the state (33.9%) and the national (32.4%) rate. Approximately 15.9% of grandparents were responsible for raising their grandchildren for five years or more in Webb County. Within the service area the percentage of grandparents (15.9%) responsible for raising their grandchildren for five years or more was slightly higher than the state (15.4%) and national rate (15.2%).



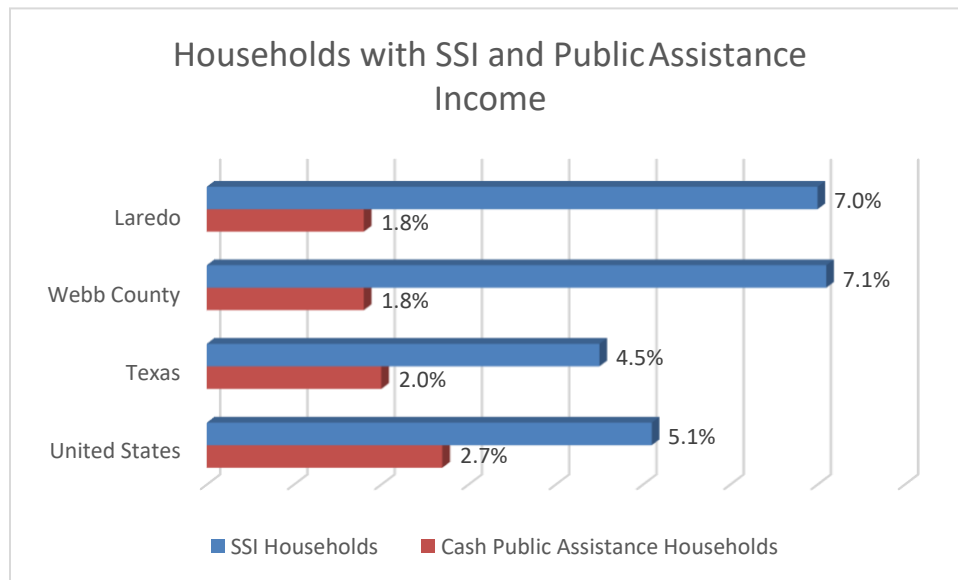


Table 24: Households with SSI and Public Assistance Income

Location	SSI Households	Percentage	Cash Public Assistance Households	Percentage
Laredo	5,191	7.0%	1,375	1.8%
Webb County	5,552	7.1%	1,415	1.8%
Texas	472,537	4.5%	209,959	2.0%
United States	6,457,476	5.1%	3,339,152	2.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP03

Key Findings: In Laredo, 5,191 (7.0%) of the households received SSI, while only 1.8% of households (1,375) received cash public assistance. The percentage of SSI households in Laredo (7.0%) was slightly lower than the county (7.1%) but higher than the state (4.5%) and national rates (5.1%).

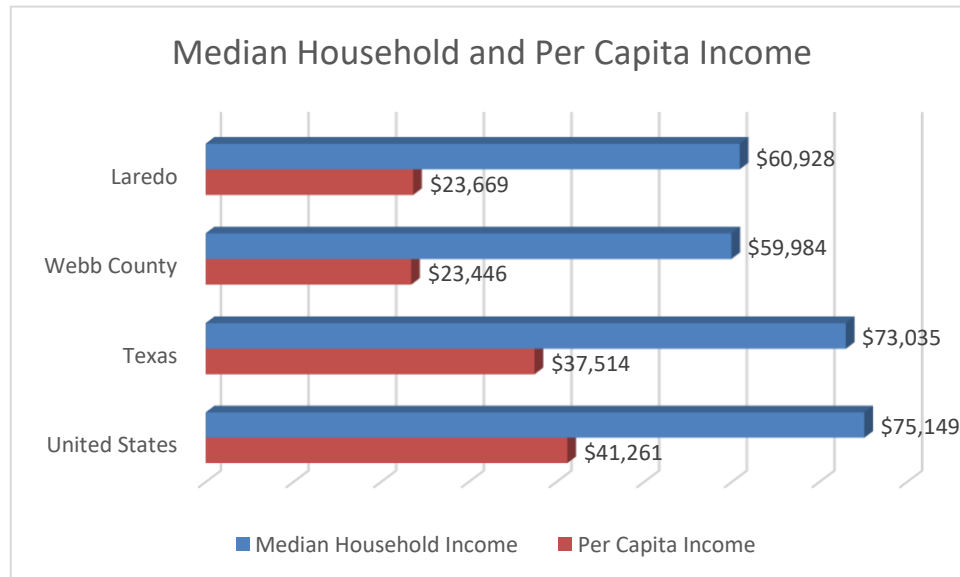


Table 25: Median Household and Per Capita Income

Location	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
Laredo	\$60,928	\$23,669
Webb County	\$59,984	\$23,446
Texas	\$73,035	\$37,514
United States	\$75,149	\$41,261

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP03,B19013, B19301.

Key Findings: Two common measures of income are Median Household Income and Per Capita Income, based on U.S. Census Bureau estimates. Both measures are shown for the location above. Per Capita income serves as an indicator of the location living standards. In Webb County, Per Capita income (\$23,446) was lower than both the city of Laredo (\$23,669) and the state Per Capita Income (\$37,514). Median Household Income in the city of Laredo (\$60,928) was higher than Webb County (\$59,984) but much lower than the state (\$73,035) and national (\$75,149) averages.

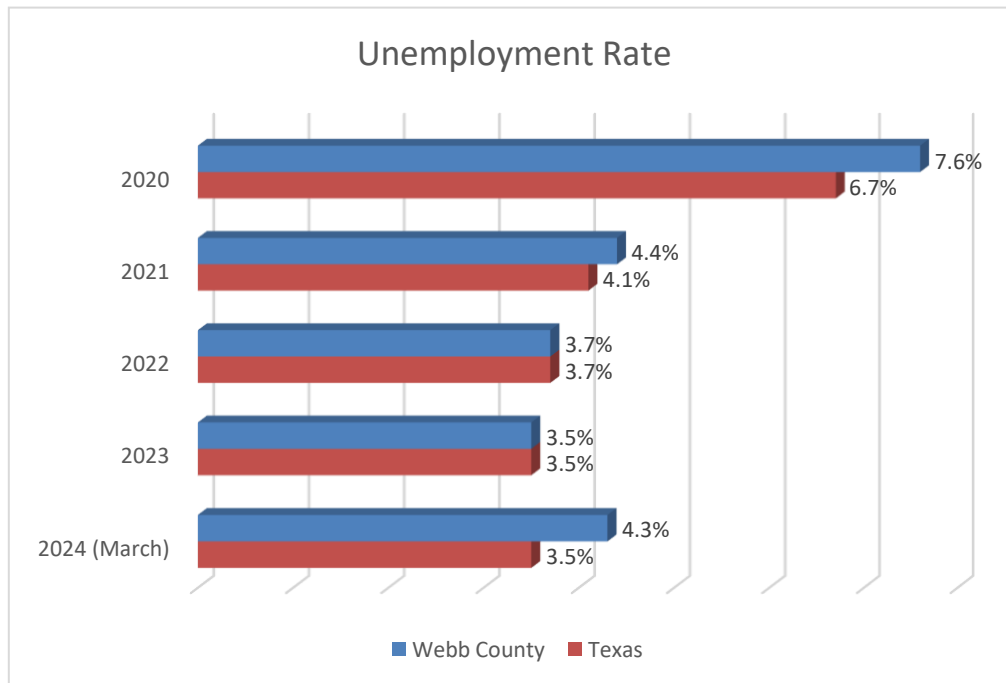


Table 26: Unemployment Rate

Location	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (March)
Webb County	7.6%	4.4%	3.7%	3.5%	4.3%
Texas	6.7%	4.1%	3.7%	3.5%	3.5%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics, American Community Survey DP03 2018-2022

Key Findings: In 2024, data for Webb County shows a slightly higher unemployment rate (4.3%) than the state (3.5%) average. Recent job loss has continued to be disproportionately evidenced in leisure and hospitality industries, and not surprisingly, some demographics, such as women, have been hit harder than others.

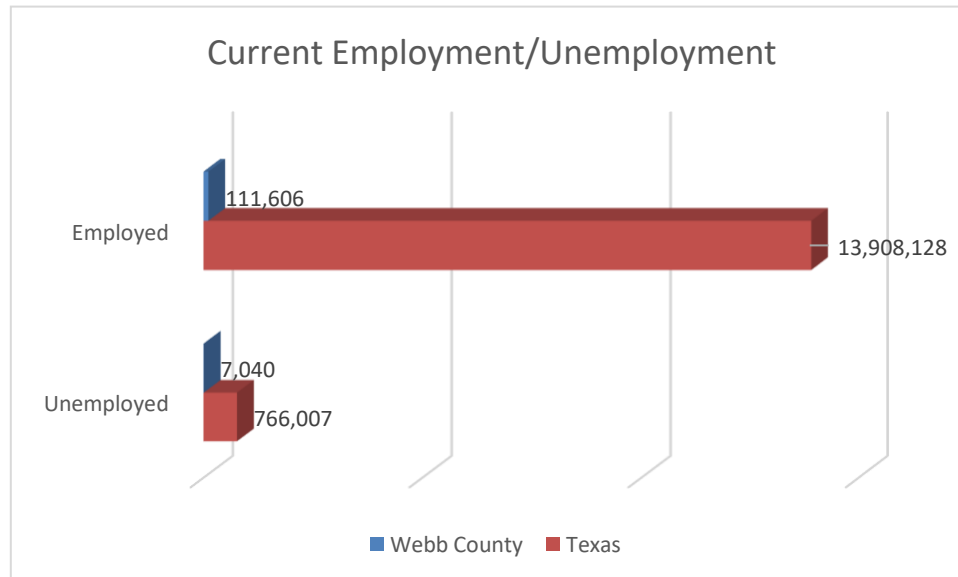


Table 27: Current Employment/Unemployment

Location	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed
		Number	Number
Webb County	118,646	111,606	7,040
Texas	14,674,135	13,908,128	766,007

Source: www.data.bls.gov; 2018-2022 Department of Labor and Industry Center for Workforce Information and Analysis. DP03 (City)

Key Findings: Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for the service area are shown in the table above. According to ACS, of the civilian labor force in Webb County (118,646) approximately 111,606 individuals were reported as employed and 7,040 individuals were reported unemployed.

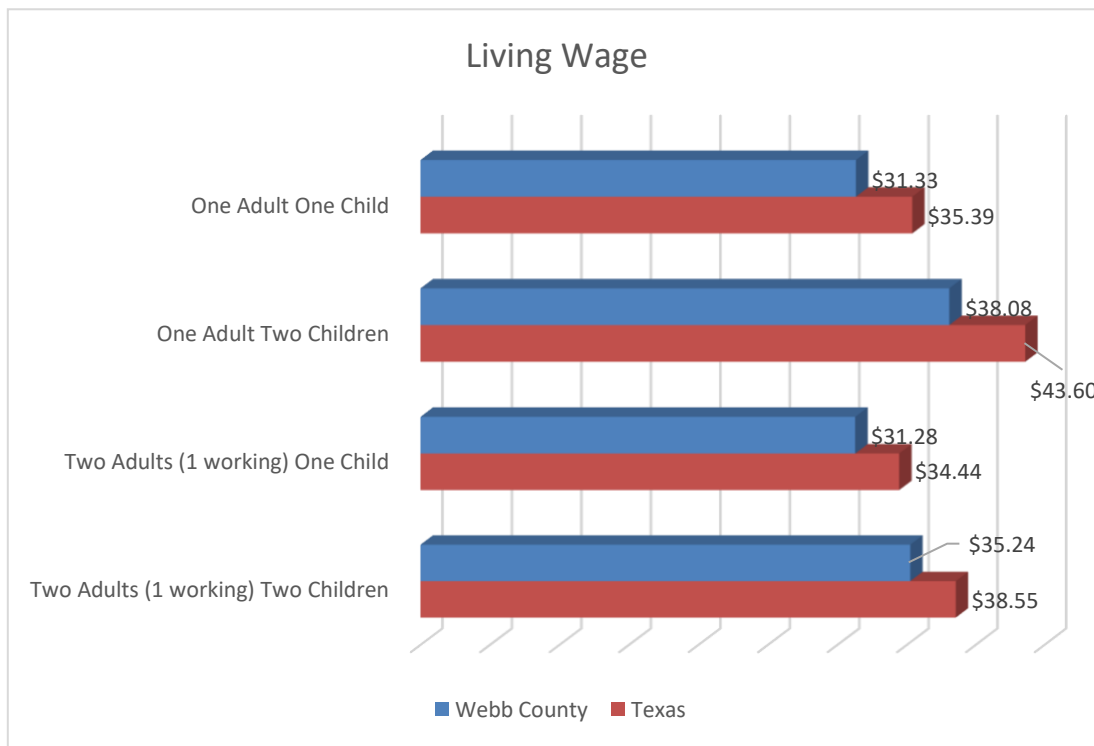


Table 28: Living Wage

Location	One Adult One Child	One Adult Two Children	Two Adults (1 working) One Child	Two Adults (1 working) Two Children
Webb County	\$31.33	\$38.08	\$31.28	\$35.24
Texas	\$35.39	\$43.60	\$34.44	\$38.55

Source: <http://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/>. *Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Living Wage Calculator.*
(No significant changes indicated)

Key Findings: The living wage shown is the hourly rate that an individual must earn to support their family if they are the sole provider or providers and are working full-time (2080 hours per year). The living wage within the service area for one adult with one child was \$31.33, as compared to Texas (\$35.39). The living wage within the service area for two adults (1 working) with one child was \$31.28, as compared to Texas (\$34.44). The living wage within the service area for two adults (1 working) with two children was \$35.24, as compared to Texas (\$38.55).

Figure 4: The Benefits of Sufficient Income

If households have sufficient income for...	Impact on ALICE	Impact on the Community
 Safe, Affordable Housing	Improved health through safer environments and decreased stress, improved educational performance and outcomes for children, greater stability for household members, a means to build wealth for homeowners	Less traffic, lower health care costs, better maintained housing stock, lower crime rates, less spending on homelessness/social services
 Quality Child Care and Education	Improved academic performance, higher lifetime earnings, higher graduation rates, improved job stability/access for parents, better health	Decreased racial/ethnic and socioeconomic performance gaps, decreased income disparities, high return on investment (especially for early childhood education)
 Adequate Food	Decreased food insecurity, improved health (especially for children and seniors), decreased likelihood of developmental delays and behavioral problems in school	Lower health care costs, improved workplace productivity, less spending on emergency food services
 Reliable Transportation	Improved access to job opportunities, school and child care, health care, retail markets, social services, and support systems (friends, family, faith communities)	Fewer high-emissions vehicles on the road, more diverse labor market, decreased income disparities
 Quality Health Care	Better mental and physical health (including increased life expectancy), improved access to preventative care, fewer missed days of work/school, decreased need for emergency services	Decreased health care spending, fewer communicable diseases, improved workplace productivity, decreased wealth-health gap
 Reliable Technology	Improved access to job opportunities, expanded access to health information and tele-health services, increased job and academic performance	Decreased "digital divide" in access to technology by income, increased opportunities for civic participation
 Savings	Ability to withstand emergencies without impacting long-term financial stability and greater asset accumulation over time (e.g., interest on savings; ability to invest in education, property, or finance a secure retirement)	Greater charitable contributions; less spending on emergency health, food, and senior services

Source: file:///C:/Users/DELL.DESKTOP-P82GEDL/Downloads/2020ALICEReport_TX_FINAL.pdf

In addition to the benefits of sufficient income listed above, greater financial stability and having basic needs met can reduce the anxiety that comes from struggling to survive, or not having a cushion for emergencies. It also leaves more time to spend with loved ones and to give back to the community, all of which contribute to happiness and improved life satisfaction. Having money saves money: Having enough income means that households can build

their credit scores and avoid late fees, predatory lending, and higher interest rates. That, in turn, means that ALICE families have more resources to use to reduce risks (e.g., by purchasing insurance), stay healthy (e.g., by getting preventative health care), or save and invest in education or assets that could grow over time (e.g., buying a home or opening a small business). Instead of a downward cycle of accumulating fees, debt, and stress, families can have an upward cycle of savings and health that makes them even better able to be engaged in their communities and, in turn, enjoy a reasonable quality of life. For communities, this leads to greater economic activity, greater tax revenue, lower levels of crime, and fewer demands on the social safety net, allowing more investment in vital infrastructure, schools, and health care. Strengthening communities by strengthening ALICE families means a higher quality of life for all. (*Alice Report 2020*)



Table 29: Cost of Living

Cost of Living	Laredo	Webb County	Texas	United States
Overall	82.2	82.2	94.2	100
Grocery	92.2	90.9	93.7	100
Health	95.1	95.1	100	100
Housing	55.3	55.9	83.5	100
Utilities	98.1	98.5	99.2	100
Transportation	95.4	96.2	103.3	100
Miscellaneous	76.6	76.6	83.2	100

Source: http://www.bestplaces.net/cost_of_living/county/texas/webb

Key Findings: The cost-of-living indices are based on a US average of 100. An amount below 100 means the city of Laredo and Webb County is less expensive than the US average. A cost-of-living index above 100 means the city of Laredo and Webb County is more expensive. Laredo's cost of living is 82.2, and Webb County's cost of living is 82.2 as compared to Texas (94.2). Laredo and Webb County are cheaper than the state and US average. Housing is the biggest factor in the cost-of-living difference.

Table 30: Time Leaving to go to Work

Indicator	Laredo	Webb County
Time		
12:00 a.m. to 4:59 a.m.	4,497	4,011
5:00 a.m. to 5:29 a.m.	3,537	3,154
5:30 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.	2,697	2,459
6:00 a.m. to 6:29 a.m.	4,460	4,086
6:30 a.m. to 6:59 a.m.	6,724	6,362
7:00 a.m. to 7:29 a.m.	14,637	14,208
7:30 a.m. to 7:59 a.m.	13,471	13,156
8:00 a.m. to 8:29 a.m.	17,022	16,471
8:30 a.m. to 8:59 a.m.	7,145	7,040
9:00 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.	9,882	9,657
10:00 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.	4,187	4,146
11:00 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.	1,878	1,787
12:00 p.m. to 3:59 p.m.	8,378	8,133
4:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.	6,680	6,412

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. B08302

Key Findings: According to the American Community Survey, most workers leave for work between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 8:29 a.m. The next largest number of workers leave from 9:00 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.

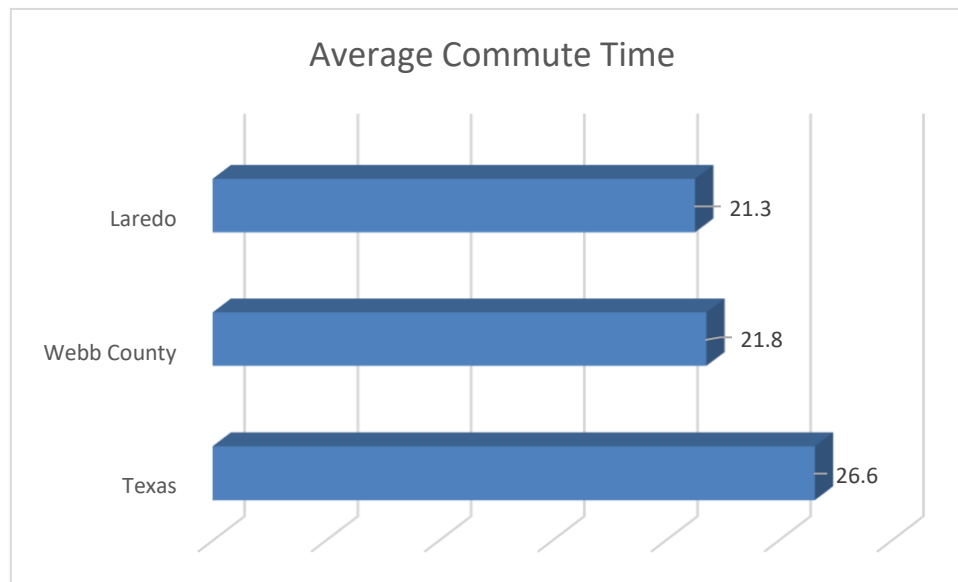


Table 31: Average Commute Time

Location	Minutes
Laredo	21.3
Webb County	21.8
Texas	26.6

Source: *U.S. Census Quick Facts 2022*

Key Findings: The average commute time for Laredo was 21.3 minutes, slightly lower than the county at 21.8 minutes and the state at 26.6 minutes.

Table 32: Commute Time

Indicator	Laredo	Webb County
Time		
Less than 5 minutes	2,256	2,450
5 to 9 minutes	10,528	10,814
10 to 14 minutes	18,757	19,168
15 to 19 minutes	23,509	23,904
20 to 24 minutes	18,092	18,398
25 to 29 minutes	5,187	5,277
30 to 34 minutes	12,373	13,225
35 to 39 minutes	926	1,059
40 to 44 minutes	1,467	1,757
45 to 59 minutes	3,507	4,062
60 to 89 minutes	2,019	2,371
90 or more minutes	2,461	2,710

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. B08303*

Key Findings: According to the American Community Survey, most workers in Webb County take approximately 15 to 19 minutes to travel to their workplace.

Table 33: Employment Projections Region 21 South Texas - 2016 - 2026

Occupations	Employment 2016	Projected 2026	Absolute Change	Percent Change
General and Operations Managers	1,243	1,493	250	20.0%
Sales Managers	74	85	11	14.8%
Administrative Services Managers	193	235	42	21.7%
Financial Managers	133	160	27	20.3%
Trans., Storage, and Distribution Managers	97	112	15	15.4%
Construction Managers	82	101	19	23.1%
Education Admin., Elementary and Secondary	296	347	51	17.2%
Food Service Managers	176	216	40	22.7%
Lodging Managers	75	81	6	8.0%
Medical and Health Services Managers	273	333	60	21.9%
Property, Real Estate & Community Assoc. Mgr.	118	141	23	19.4%
Managers, All Other	1,141	1,292	151	13.2%
Purchasing Agents, exc. Wholesale, Retail & Farm.	104	109	5	4.8%
Compliance Officers	1,046	1,156	110	10.5%
Human Resources Specialists	194	224	30	15.4%
Training and Development Specialists	110	131	21	19.0%
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	65	87	22	33.8%
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	354	416	62	17.5%

Source: <https://texaswages.com/projections>

Key Findings: In Webb County, the South Texas Workforce Commission projected general and operations managers to have the highest increase in positions by 2026.

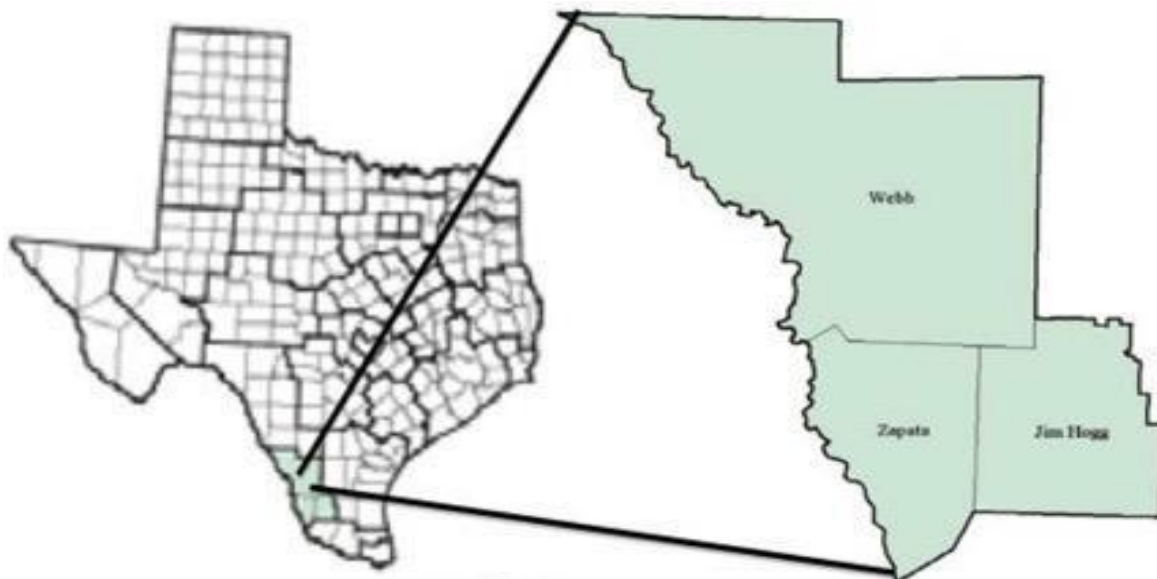
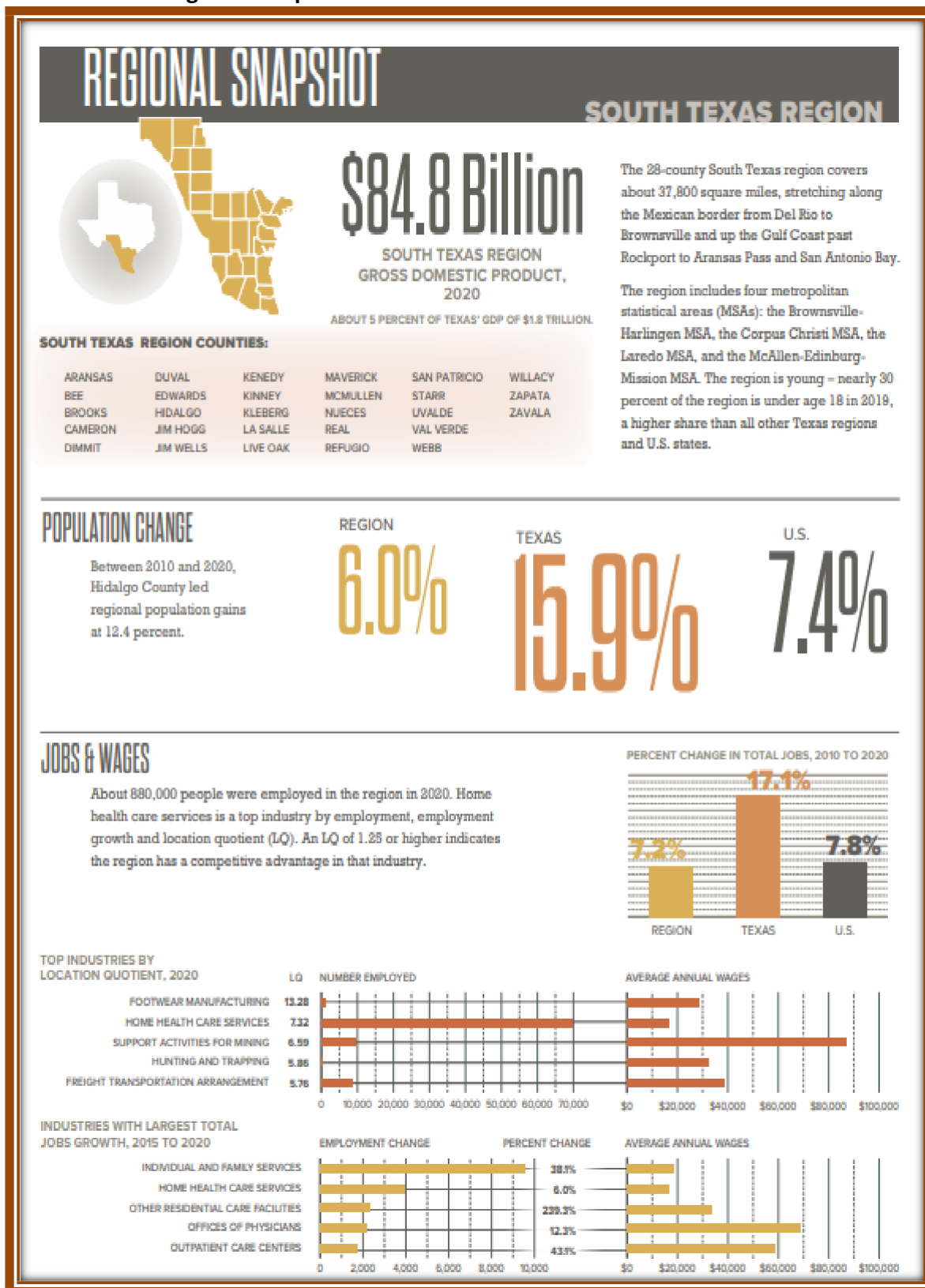


Figure 5: South Texas Regional Snapshot



Source: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/economic-data/regions/2022/south.php>

Highlights and Considerations – Demographic and Economics

- ❖ Webb County data shows a population of 269,148 in 2023. The data further shows a 0.8% change in population from 2020 – 2023 for Webb County. The city of Laredo reported a population of 256,541 in 2023, with a 0.5% change from 2020 to 2023. Approximately 95% of the county’s population resides in the city of Laredo.
- ❖ The majority of adults in Laredo were between the ages of 20 - 34 (21.9%) and 35 - 54 (24.3%). Adults, ages 65 – 84, made up approximately 8.3% of the population in Laredo. Most adults in Webb County were between the ages of 35 - 54 representing 24.2% of the population, while adults 65 - 84 represented 8.4% of the population. The median age in Webb County was 29.4, lower than the state (35.2) average.
- ❖ The majority of the population in Laredo identified as Hispanic (95.5%), while individuals who identified as White Alone represented 53.4%. Blacks and Asians (0.5%) and Two or More Races (39.5%) were the next largest population groups in Laredo. Individuals who identified as Hispanic or Latino represented 95.5% in Webb County.
- ❖ In Laredo, there were 12,859 children below 3 years of age and 8,681 children ages 3 – 4. In Webb County, there were 13,353 children below age 3 and 9,237 children ages 3 – 4. Approximately 95% of children aged 0 to 4 reside in Laredo.
- ❖ Webb County had a 97.7% representation of Birth of Foreign-born individuals from Latin America, considerably higher than the state rate of 65.3%, while 1.3% of Foreign-born was from Asia, considerably lower than the state (23.1%). Approximately 97.6% of Foreign-born individuals from Latin America resided in the city of Laredo.
- ❖ The population for Webb County is projected to increase by 10,207 individuals by 2030.
- ❖ In 2022, the poverty rate for adults in Laredo was 21.0%, which was slightly lower than the county (21.4%), but considerably higher than the state (13.9%) and the national rates (12.5%).
- ❖ In 2022, the poverty rate for children ages 0 - 5 in Laredo was 27.7%, representing a 16.6% decrease since 2018. The poverty rate for Webb County also decreased from 45.6% in 2018 to 28.4% in 2022, representing a 17.2% decrease in the poverty rate for children ages 0 – 5. It is important to note that within the past five years, the poverty rates for children, ages 0 – 5 in Laredo and Webb County, have been consistently higher than the state and national rates.
- ❖ In Webb County, the data show married couples (5,806) with the largest number of children below age three (3), with female householders (2,519) reporting the next largest number of children below age three (3). In Webb County, there were approximately 404 male householders with children aged 3 – 4 and 823 male householders with children three (3) years and younger.

- ❖ It is estimated that the poverty rate for all families with children under age five (5) was 22.3% in Webb County and 22.8% in Laredo, much higher than the state rate of 14.4% and national rate (12.8%). Married couples in Webb County, with children under age five (5), reported a 11.2% poverty rate, significantly higher than the state (6.0%) and national rate (4.6%). In Webb County, the data for female-headed households with children under age five (5) shows a 45.4% poverty rate as compared with female householders with children under 18 (46.1%).
- ❖ In Webb County, the divorce rate for males 15 years and older (6.2%) was lower than the state rate (8.7%) and national rate of 9.3%.
- ❖ In Webb County, the divorce rate for females 15 years and older (9.1%) was lower than the state (11.6%) and national rates (12.1%).
- ❖ According to ACS, there were 5,936 working families in Webb County in which both parents were in the labor force. There were 7,490 working families with children below age six (6) in Webb County in which the father was only in the labor force. The number of families in Webb County in which neither parent was in the labor force was 373.
- ❖ According to ACS, there were 11,407 children in Webb County living with only one parent, of which 2,168 children lived with a single father. 6,203 children were residing with mothers who were in the labor force, and 3,036 children lived with mothers who were not in the labor force.
- ❖ In Webb County, the percentage of grandparents responsible for raising their grandchildren was 29.4%, slightly lower than the state (33.9%) and the national (32.4%) rate. Approximately 15.9% of grandparents were responsible for raising their grandchildren for five years or more in Webb County. Within the service area the percentage of grandparents (15.9%) responsible for raising their grandchildren for five years or more was slightly higher than the state (15.4%) and national rate (15.2%).
- ❖ In Laredo, 5,191 (7.0%) of the households received SSI, while only 1.8% of households (1,375) received cash public assistance. The percentage of SSI households in Laredo (7.0%) was slightly lower than the county (7.1%) but higher than the state (4.5%) and national rates (5.1%).
- ❖ In Webb County, Per Capita income (\$23,446) was lower than both the city of Laredo (\$23,669) and the state Per Capita Income (\$37,514). Median Household Income in the city of Laredo (\$60,928) was higher than Webb County (\$59,984) but much lower than the state (\$73,035) and national (\$75,149) averages.
- ❖ In 2024, data for Webb County shows a slightly higher unemployment rate (4.3%) than the state (3.5%) average. Recent job loss has continued to be disproportionately evidenced in leisure and hospitality industries, and not surprisingly, some demographics, such as women, have been hit harder than others.
- ❖ According to ACS, of the civilian labor force in Webb County (118,646) approximately 111,606 individuals were reported as employed and 7,040 individuals were reported unemployed.
- ❖ The living wage within the service area for one adult with one child was \$31.33, as compared to Texas (\$35.39). The living wage within the service area for two adults (1 working) with one child was \$31.28, as

compared to Texas (\$34.44). The living wage within the service area for two adults (1 working) with two children was \$35.24, as compared to Texas (\$38.55).

- ❖ Greater financial stability and having basic needs met can reduce the anxiety that comes from struggling to survive, or not having a cushion for emergencies. It also leaves more time to spend with loved ones and to give back to the community, all of which contribute to happiness and improved life satisfaction.
- ❖ Laredo's cost of living is 82.2, and Webb County's cost of living is 82.2 as compared to Texas (94.2). Laredo and Webb County are cheaper than the state and US average. Housing is the biggest factor in the cost-of-living difference.
- ❖ According to the American Community Survey, most workers leave for work between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 8:29 a.m. The next largest number of workers leave from 9:00 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.
- ❖ The average commute time for Laredo was 21.3 minutes, slightly lower than the county at 21.8 minutes and the state at 26.6 minutes.
- ❖ According to the American Community Survey, most workers in Webb County take approximately 15 to 19 minutes to travel to their workplace.
- ❖ In Webb County, the South Texas Workforce Commission projected general and operations managers to have the highest increase in positions by 2026.

Education and Disabilities

Table 34: Educational Attainment for Population 25 Years and Older

Location	Percent Less than 9th Grade	Percent 9th to 12th -No Diploma	Percent High School Graduate	Percent Some College	Percent Associate's Degree	Percent Bachelor's Degree	Percent Graduate or Professional Degree
Laredo	15.2%	15.0%	21.7%	19.0%	8.0%	15.0%	8.0%
Webb County	15.9%	26.0%	21.9%	18.8%	7.8%	14.7%	5.9%
Texas	7.5%	7.3%	24.5%	20.9%	7.6%	20.7%	11.5%
United States	4.7%	6.1%	26.4%	19.7%	8.7%	20.9%	13.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP02

Key Findings: Webb County (15.9%) reported a higher percentage of individuals with less than a 9th-grade education than the state rate (7.5%) and national rate (4.7%). According to the ACS, 26.0% of individuals in Webb County did not have a High School diploma, which was much higher than the state (7.3%) and national rates (6.1%). Approximately 21.9% of individuals in Webb County were high school graduates, while 18.8% obtained some college as compared to the state rate (20.9%). In Webb County, the percentage of individuals with a Bachelor's degree (14.7%) was lower than the state rate (20.7%). An estimated 5.9% of individuals in the service area had a Graduate or Professional degree, which was also lower than the state (11.5%) and national rates (13.4%).

Attainment of a high school diploma or its equivalent is an indicator that a person has acquired the basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills needed to function in modern society. The percentage of young adults ages 18–24 with a high school diploma or an equivalent credential is a measure of the extent to which young adults have completed a basic prerequisite for many entry-level jobs and for higher education.

(www.child Stat.gov)

Table 35: High School Graduation Rates 2022

Location	Graduated
Triumph Public High Schools-Laredo	81.6%
Laredo ISD	96.2%
United ISD	96.9%
Webb CISD	100%
Texas	90.0%

Source: https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/src/src_srch.html. Texas Education Agency

***Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency**

Key Findings: In 2022, the graduation rate was highest in Webb CISD (100%). United ISD (96.9%) and Laredo ISD (96.2%) reported the next highest graduation rates. Laredo ISD, Webb CISD, and United ISD reported graduation rates that were higher than the state rate of 90.0%. Triumph Public High Schools-Laredo (81.6%) reported a graduation rate lower than the state (90.0%).

Table 36: High School Dropout Rate 2022

Location	Percent
Triumph Public High Schools-Laredo	0.0%
Laredo ISD	3.1%
United ISD	2.2%
Webb CISD	0.0%
Texas	2.4%

Source: https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/src/src_srch.html. Texas Education Agency.

Key Findings: In 2022 - 2023, the High School dropout rate was highest in Laredo ISD (3.1%), higher than the state (2.4%).

Table 37: 3rd Grade Students Passing STARR Math by Grade and Economic Status

Location	Indicator	Grade	2017-2018	2018 – 2019
Webb County	Non-Economically Disadvantaged	3rd	66%	66%
	Economically Disadvantaged	3rd	49%	52%
Texas	Non-Economically Disadvantaged	3rd	61%	62%
	Economically Disadvantaged	3rd	37%	38%

Source: Kids Count, Texas Education Agency. **Note - Economically Disadvantaged students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch or other public assistance.**

Key Findings: The chart above shows the percentage of 3rd-grade students who passed the math component of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) examination who classified as economically disadvantaged or non-economically disadvantaged by the Texas Education Agency. In 2018-2019, approximately 52% of economically disadvantaged third-grade students passed the STAAR reading test as compared to 66% of non-economically disadvantaged students in Webb County.

For many of our economically disadvantaged students, the norms they need to survive in their home environment many times conflict with the ones needed at school. Since most of the norms in both a school and business environment are that of the middle class, most of our students are unaware of what is considered appropriate for school.

Source: <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educationalleadership>

Table 38: 3rd Grade Students Passing STARR Reading by Grade and Economic Status

Location	Indicator	Grade	2017-2018	2018-2019
Webb County	Non-Economically Disadvantaged	3rd	57%	63%
	Economically Disadvantaged	3rd	37%	43%
Texas	Non-Economically Disadvantaged	3rd	58%	60%
	Economically Disadvantaged	3rd	32%	33%

Source: Kids Count, Texas Education Agency 2016. **Note - Economically Disadvantaged students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch or other public assistance.**

Key Findings: The chart above shows the number and percentage of 3rd-grade students who passed the reading component of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) examination who classified as economically disadvantaged or not economically disadvantaged by the Texas Education Agency. In Webb County, approximately 43% of economically disadvantaged third-grade students passed the STAAR math test as compared to 63% of non-economically disadvantaged students in 2018-2019.

Reading to young children promotes language acquisition and is linked with literacy development and, later, with achievement in reading comprehension and overall success in school. The percentage of young children read to three or more times per week by a family member is one indicator of how well young children are being prepared for school.

Source: America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2017

Table 39: Individuals Eligible for Adult Education Services Local Workforce Development Area – 21 South

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent, Native-Born		Not English Fluent, Foreign-born		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4 th Grade	3,134	8.9%	1,379	13.7%	7,805	17.9%	12,318	13.8%
5 th to 8 th Grade	6,043	17.2%	2,061	20.5%	12,685	29.0%	20,789	23.4%
9 th to 12 th Grade (no diploma)	26,018	73.9%	2,301	22.9%	9,637	22.1%	37,956	42.7%
High School Graduate	*	*	2,229	22.2%	7,148	16.4%	9,377	10.5%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	425	4.2%	831	1.9%	1,256	1.4%
Some College to 2-yr Degree	*	*	1,112	11.1%	2,984	6.8%	4,096	4.6%
Bachelor's Degree and Higher	*	*	548	5.5%	2,601	6.0%	3,149	3.5%
Total	35,195	100%	10,055	100%	43,691	100%	88,941	100%

Source: *Texas Workforce Council 2018. Understanding the Need for Adult Education in Texas. (LWDA -21 South: Jim Hogg County, Zapata County, and Webb County)*

Key Findings: Approximately 88,941 residents in LWDA – 21 South were eligible for adult education services.

Table 40: High School - Received GED

Location	Data Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Webb County	Number	8	8	8	4	7
	Percent	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Texas	Number	1,657	1,729	1,459	1,193	1,224
	Percent	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%

Source: *Kids Count; Texas Education Agency; *A code of NA generally indicates that the number is masked, either because it is a low number event or because a different category that is a low number event could be imputed based on the number.*

Key Findings: In Webb County, the percentage of students obtaining a GED in 2022 was 0.1%, slightly lower than the state rate of 0.3%.

Table 41: Student Enrollment in Public School by Race/Ethnicity

Location	Race/Ethnicity	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Webb County	Hispanic	99.0%	99.2%	99.2%	99.1%	99.1%
	White	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%
	African American	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
	Other	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Texas	Hispanic	52.6%	52.8%	52.9%	52.7%	52.9%
	White	27.4%	27.0%	26.5%	26.3%	25.7%
	African American	12.6%	12.6%	12.7%	12.8%	12.8%
	Other	7.4%	7.4%	7.9%	8.2%	8.6%

Source: Kids Count; Texas Education Agency. "Other" includes Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander, and Two or More Races.

Key Findings: In 2022-2023, the student enrollment by Ethnicity/Race was 99.1% (Hispanic), 0.1% (African American), 0.5% (White), and 0.3% (Other).

Table 42: Economically Disadvantaged Students

Location	Data Type	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Webb County	Number	55,955	55,529	53,239	49,116	52,480
	Percent	82.8%	82.6%	82.6%	82.5%	83.6%
Texas	Number	3,289,468	3,309,610	3,233,417	3,289,420	3,421,217
	Percent	60.6%	60.2%	60.2%	60.6%	62.0%

Source: Kids Count; Texas Education Agency

Key Findings: There were 52,480 (83.6%) economically disadvantaged students in Webb County during the school year 2022-2023. Economically disadvantaged students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or other public assistance.

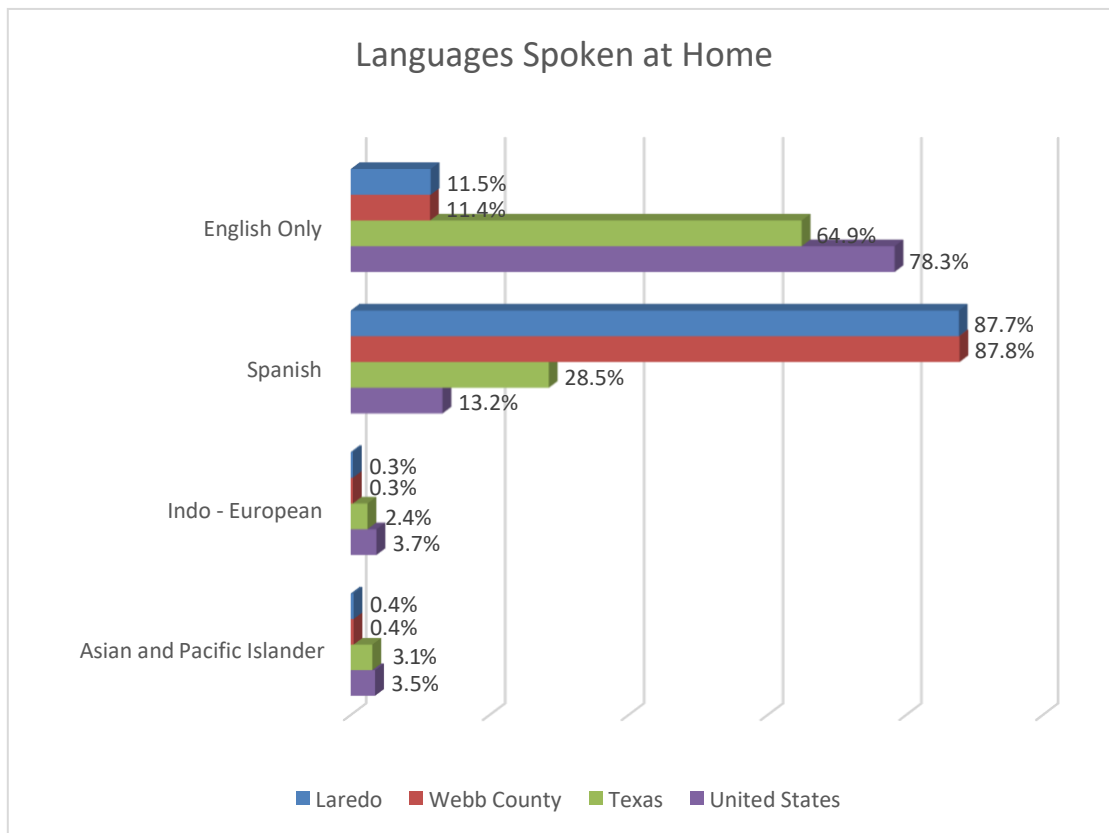


Table 43: Languages Spoken at Home

Location	English Only	Spanish	Indo - European	Asian and Pacific Islander	Other Languages
Laredo	11.5%	87.7%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%
Webb County	11.4%	87.8%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%
Texas	64.9%	28.5%	2.4%	3.1%	1.1%
United States	78.3%	13.2%	3.7%	3.5%	1.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP02

Key Findings: In Webb County, Spanish (87.8%) was the primary language spoken in homes throughout the service area. However, the percentage of homes where Spanish was the primary language was 87.7% in Laredo. Laredo also reported 0.3% of homes where Indo-European languages were the primary languages spoken, and 0.4% were Asian and Pacific Islander languages.

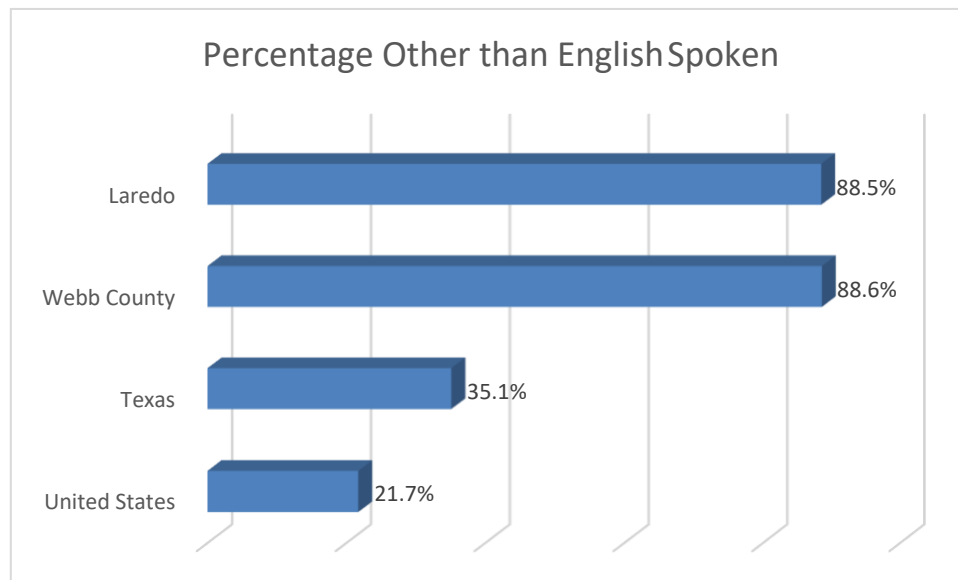


Table 44: Percentage Other than English Spoken

Location	Percentage
Laredo	88.5%
Webb County	88.6%
Texas	35.1%
United States	21.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. S1601, DP02

Key Finding: Laredo reported 88.5% of households where languages other than English were spoken, slightly lower than the county rate of 88.6%, but significantly higher than the state (35.1%) and national rates (21.7%).

Children who speak languages other than English at home and who also have difficulty speaking English may face greater challenges progressing in school and in the labor market.

Source: America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2017

Table 45: Speaks English Less than Very Well

Location	Speak English Less than very Well
Laredo	39.1%
Webb County	39.1%
Texas	13.0%
United States	8.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018– 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. S1601, DP02

Key Findings: Webb County and Laredo reported 39.1% of residents who spoke English less than very well, which was significantly higher than the state (13.0%) and national rates (8.2%).

Table 46: Students in Bilingual/ESL Programs

Location	Data Type	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 – 2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Webb County	Number	30,237	27,380	26,369	24,836	27,666
	Percent	44.7%%	40.7%	40.9%	41.7%	44.1%
Texas	Number	1,066,557	998,374	986,990	1,014,966	1,056,950
	Percent	19.6%	18.2%	18.4%	18.7%	19.2%

Source: Kids Count; Texas Education Agency

Key Findings: In 2022 – 2023, the number and percent of students in all grades receiving bilingual or English as Second Language (ESL) instruction in the Webb County public school system were 27,666 (44.1%), significantly higher than the state rate of 19.2%.

Reading to young children promotes language acquisition and is linked with literacy development and, later, with achievement in reading comprehension and overall success in school. The percentage of young children read to three or more times per week by a family member is one indicator of how well young children are being prepared for school.

Source: America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2017

Table 47: Computer and Internet Use

Location	Households with a Broadband Internet Subscription	Households with a Computer
Laredo	81.9%	92.8%
Webb County	81.0%	92.7%
Texas	88.4%	94.8%
United States	88.3%	94.0%

Source: *U.S. Census Quick Facts, 2018-2022*

Key Findings: In Webb County, approximately 92.7% of households have a computer, with 81.0% of households with a broadband internet subscription. The percentage of broadband internet subscriptions is significantly lower in Webb County than the state (88.4%) and national (88.3%) rates.



Figure 6: Texas Regional Education Service Centers Map



Source: <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/education-service-centers/education-service-centers-map>

Table 48: Special Needs by Type for Children Ages 3 - 5

Services	Free	HC	SP	Phy	Rdz	Dev	LP	Neur	Reco	JG	Post	Unph	AP	Feyl	Unph	LV	GEN	HS	Reco	LF	Zac	Amr	Fid	Dev	Per	Vet	SV	Totals
Total IAR this month/LEA																												0
Total IAR this month/PVT																												
LEA Waiting List				7							1			2		2												12
Total # of Identified by LEA	1	5		16	5		5	6	7	2	8	8	3	7	1	13	4	1	2	3	1	4	9	2	1	3	17	134
*Prior to Enrollment Ch w/Disabilities(LEA)	1	4		11	3		5	1	6		8	4	1	7	1	9	1	0	1	2	1	4	8	2	0	1	13	84
*During the enrollment CH w/Disb.		1		5	2			5	1	2		4	2			4	3	1	1	1			1		1	2	4	40
* Receiving TY Services:	0	4		15	5		3	6	7	2	8	8	3	6	1	9	3	1	2	3	1	4	9	2		3	15	120
NO SVC (not register w/LEA)	1	1		1			2							1		4	1			0					1		2	14
Health Impair.							1																					1
Em/Disturbance																												
Speech/Lang.	1	5		13	5		3	4	7	2	5	2	3	6	1	11	3	1	2	3	1	4	9	2	1	3	17	114
Intellectual Disabilities																												
Hearing Imp.											1																	1
Orthopedic Imp.																												
Visual Imp.																												
Learning Dis.																												
Autism								2								2	1											5
Traum/Brain Injury																												
Non-Cat Dev. Delay				3			1				2	6		1														13
Multiple Disabilities																												

Source: Internal data.

Key Findings: According to Region 1 Education Service Center,134 children with various disability determinations are currently being served in Webb County. The primary disability was speech or language impairment. Five (5) children were diagnosed with Autism, one (1) health impaired, one (1) vision impaired, and thirteen (13) children were diagnosed with non-categorical developmental delay.

Disability Codes

Orthopedic Impairment (OI)
Other Health Impairment (OHI)
Auditory Impairment (AI)
Visual Impairment (VI)
Deaf Blind (DB)
Learning Disability (LD)
Multiple Disabilities (MD)
Non-Categorical Early Childhood (NCEC)
Emotional Disturbed (ED)
Intellectual Disability (INTD)
Speech Impairment (SI)
Developmental Delay (DD)
Autism (AU)
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Source: Region I Education Service Center 2024. Internal data source

Special Needs Resources

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Project Niño
Region I Education Service Center
Laredo ISD
Texas Department of State Health Services
Border Region Behavioral Health Center
Texas A&M University
United ISD
Webb CISD
El Puente Counseling Center

Source: *Texas Department of State Health Services*

Table 49: Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Services

Location	Children Served: Comprehensive Services	Children Served: Follow Along	Total Served	Percent of Population Served: *Comp	Percent of Population Served: Total
Webb County	1,489	0	1,489	8.0%	8.0%
Texas	65,584	1,037	66,621	3.73%	3.79%

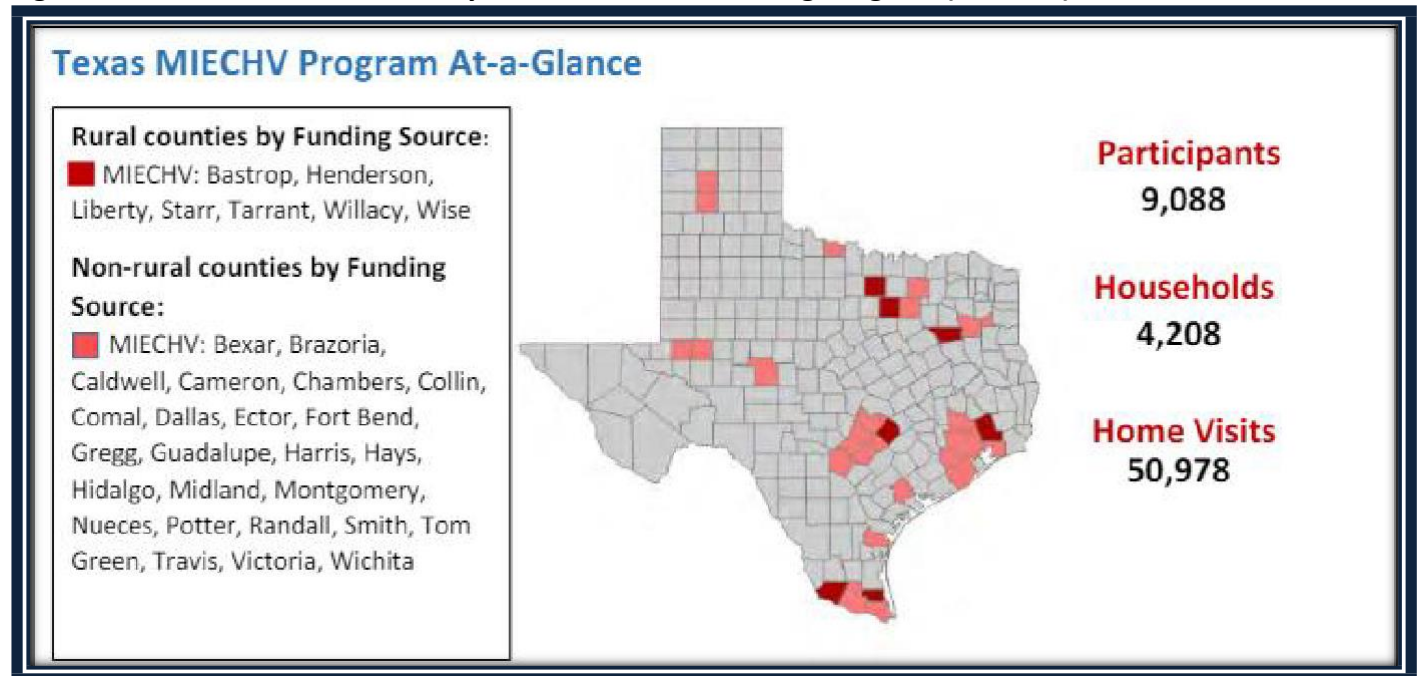
Source: <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/providers/assistive-services-providers/early-childhood-intervention-programs/eci-data-reports>

Key Findings: In FY 2023, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Division for ECI Services reported that the number of infants and toddlers receiving services from the Early Intervention program in Webb County was 1,489, representing 8.0% of the birth-to-three population.

Planning is crucial to the success of children with disabilities. Programs should be accessible, inclusive, collaborative, well organized, and set to show positive outcomes. The most far-reaching effect of federal legislation on inclusion enacted over the past three decades has been to fundamentally change the way in which early childhood services ideally can be organized and delivered.

Source: *Administration for Children and Families*

Figure 7: Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV), 2022



Source:

<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/mchb/MaternalChildHealthInitiatives/HomeVisiting/pdf/tx.pdf>

Texas Prioritizes Community Needs

MIECHV Program awardees tailor their programs to serve populations of need within their state. In Texas:

- **53.9%** of households were at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- **12.5%** of households included a pregnant enrollee under age 21

Texas Performance Highlights

MIECHV Program awardees track and report improvements in MIECHV benchmark areas every year. Awardees are required by authorizing statute to demonstrate improvement in benchmark areas every three years. In the most recent assessment following FY 2020, the Texas MIECHV program successfully met the requirements for demonstration of improvement by improving in 5 of the 6 MIECHV [benchmark areas](#).

FY 2022 Performance Highlights Include:

- **Behavioral Concern Inquiries:** Home visitors asked caregivers if they had any concerns regarding their child's development, behavior, or learning in 94.1% of postnatal home visits. Children with behavior problems are at greater risk of entering school with lower speech and language, motor, play, and school skills. Early detection can help address concerns prior to school entry and lead to improved child outcomes.
- **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Screening:** 73.4% of caregivers enrolled in home visiting were screened for IPV within 6 months of enrollment. IPV is associated with adverse physical and mental health outcomes. Children exposed to IPV are at a higher risk of abuse and neglect and may be more likely to experience certain health and behavioral problems, such as elevated blood pressure, sleep issues, anxiety, and depression.

Evidence-Based Home Visiting Models in Texas

[Healthy Families America \(HFA\)](#)

[Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters \(HIPPI\)](#)

[Nurse-Family Partnership \(NFP\)](#)

[Parents as Teachers \(PAT\)](#)

Source:

<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/mchb/MaternalChildHealthInitiatives/HomeVisiting/pdf/tx.pdf>

Key Findings: The MIECHV program builds upon decades of scientific research showing that home visits by a nurse, social worker, early childhood educator, or other trained professional during pregnancy and in the first years of a

child's life help prevent child abuse and neglect, supports positive parenting, improves maternal and child health, and promotes child development and school readiness. Texas Targets Community Needs MIECHV Program awardees to tailor their programs to serve populations of need within their state.

Highlights and Considerations – Education and Disabilities

- ❖ Webb County (15.9%) reported a higher percentage of individuals with less than a 9th-grade education than the state rate (7.5%) and national rate (4.7%). According to the ACS, 26.0% of individuals in Webb County did not have a High School diploma, which was much higher than the state (7.3%) and national rates (6.1%). Approximately 21.9% of individuals in Webb County were high school graduates, while 18.8% obtained some college as compared to the state rate (20.9%). In Webb County, the percentage of individuals with a Bachelor's degree (14.7%) was lower than the state rate (20.7%). An estimated 5.9% of individuals in the service area had a Graduate or Professional degree, which was also lower than the state (11.5%) and national rates (13.4%).
- ❖ In 2022, the graduation rate was highest in Webb CISD (100%). United ISD (96.9%) and Laredo ISD (96.2%) reported the next highest graduation rates. Laredo ISD, Webb CISD, and United ISD reported graduation rates that were higher than the state rate of 90.0%. Triumph Public High Schools-Laredo (81.6%) reported a graduation rate lower than the state (90.0%).
- ❖ In 2022 - 2023, the High School dropout rate was highest in Laredo ISD (3.1%), higher than the state (2.4%).
- ❖ Approximately 88,941 residents in LWDA – 21 South were eligible for adult education services.
- ❖ In Webb County, the percentage of students obtaining a GED in 2022 was 0.1%, slightly lower than the state rate of 0.3%.
- ❖ In 2022-2023, the student enrollment by Ethnicity/Race was 99.1% (Hispanic), 0.1% (African American), 0.5% (White), and 0.3% (Other).
- ❖ There were 52,480 (83.6%) economically disadvantaged students in Webb County during the school year 2022-2023. Economically disadvantaged students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or other public assistance.
- ❖ In Webb County, Spanish (87.8%) was the primary language spoken in homes throughout the service area. However, the percentage of homes where Spanish was the primary language was 87.7% in Laredo. Laredo also reported 0.3% of homes where Indo-European languages were the primary languages spoken, and 0.4% were Asian and Pacific Islander languages.
- ❖ Laredo reported 88.5% of households where languages other than English were spoken, slightly lower than the county rate of 88.6%, but significantly higher than the state (35.1%) and national rates (21.7%).
- ❖ Webb County and Laredo reported 39.1% of residents who spoke English less than very well, which was significantly higher than the state (13.0%) and national rates (8.2%).

- ❖ In 2022 – 2023, the number and percent of students in all grades receiving bilingual or English as Second Language (ESL) instruction in the Webb County public school system were 27,666 (44.1%), significantly higher than the state rate of 19.2%.
- ❖ In Webb County, approximately 92.7% of households have a computer, with 81.0% of households with a broadband internet subscription. The percentage of broadband internet subscriptions is significantly lower in Webb County than the state (88.4%) and national (88.3%) rates.
- ❖ According to Region 1 Education Service Center, 134 children with various disability determinations are currently being served in Webb County. The primary disability was speech or language impairment. Five (5) children were diagnosed with Autism, one (1) health impaired, one (1) vision impaired, and thirteen (13) children were diagnosed with non-categorical developmental delay.
- ❖ In FY 2023, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Division for ECI Services reported that the number of infants and toddlers receiving services from the Early Intervention program in Webb County was 1,489, representing 8.0% of the birth-to-three population.
- ❖ The MIECHV program builds upon decades of scientific research showing that home visits by a nurse, social worker, early childhood educator, or other trained professional during pregnancy and in the first years of a child's life help prevent child abuse and neglect, supports positive parenting, improves maternal and child health, and promotes child development and school readiness.

Health Care

Table 50: Health Behaviors

Indicator	Webb County	Texas
Adult smoking	17%	15%
Access to exercise opportunities	92%	80%
Adult obesity	42%	34%
Excessive drinking	16%	20%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	24%	25%
Sexually transmitted infections	409.2	445.1
Teen birth rate	52	26
Primary care physicians	3,290:1	1,630:1
Dentists	3,120:1	1,660:1
Mental Health Providers	2,550:1	760:1
Mammography screening	27%	39%
Food insecurity	16%	14%
Limited access to healthy foods	10%	8%
Drug Overdose Deaths	12	12
Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths	10	13

Source: *County Health Ranking, 2024*

Key Findings: In Webb County, adult smoking (17%), adult obesity (42%), food insecurity (16%), limited access to healthy foods (10%), and teen birth rate (52 per 100,000 population) were higher than the state rates. Webb County (12) reported a drug overdose death rate comparable to the state (12) rate. These numbers represent the rate of drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population. There were fewer primary care physicians, mental health providers, and dentists per resident in the service area when compared to the state ratio for those professions. Findings suggest that conditions related to unhealthy lifestyles and behaviors are a concern in the communities served by Region 20. These lifestyle conditions include sexually transmitted infections, adult obesity, teen birth rate, drug overdose, food insecurity, limited access to healthy foods, and smoking.

Economic and social drivers such as income, education, and social connectedness have a direct bearing on health. These socio-economic determinants strongly interact to influence health and, in general, an improvement in any of these can produce an improvement in both health behaviors and outcomes among individuals and/or groups. Those with very low incomes, for example, often lack resources and access to nutritious food, adequate housing, safe walking paths, and working conditions, which can impact negatively on their health. Also, they may face financial and life stress, which—over time can have health consequences such as high blood pressure, or immune and circulatory complications. On the other hand, those who have adequate income and employment are likely to experience health outcomes that are less dependent on material needs but are nonetheless affected by the demands they face at home and at work and the degree to which they have control and decision-making influence

in those settings. Generally, the degree to which people feel they have control over their circumstances is related

to how healthy they are. Increased exposure to stress, as well as a lack of resources, skills, social support, and connection to the community, can contribute to less healthy coping skills and poorer health behaviors such as smoking, over-consumption of alcohol and drugs, and less healthy eating habits (***“Social and Economic Factors that Influence Our Health and Contribute to Health Inequalities”***).

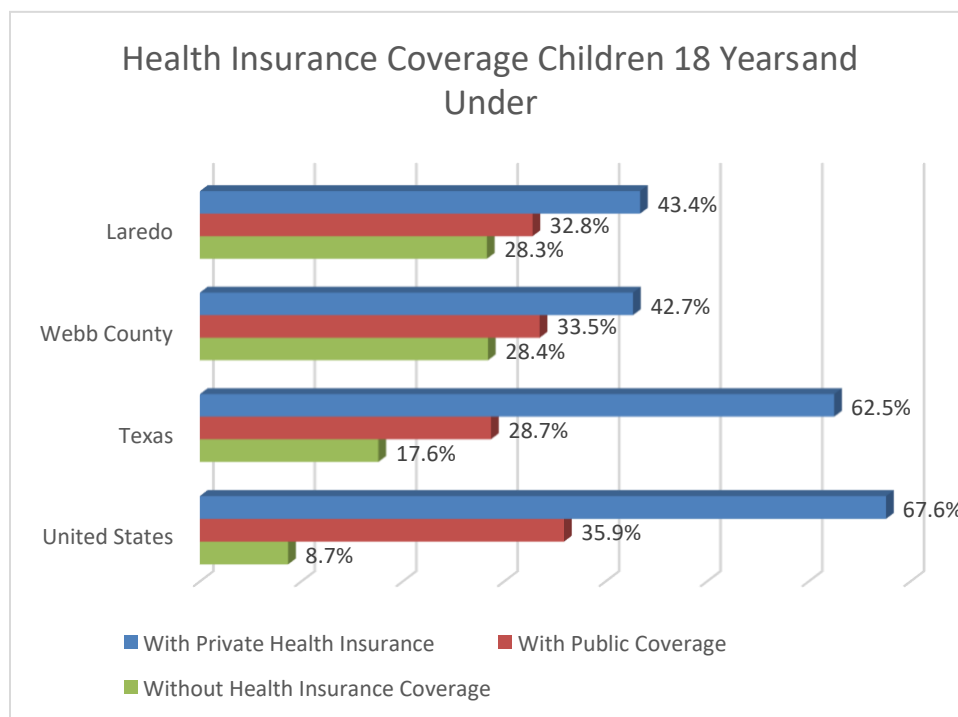


Table 51: Health Insurance Coverage Children 18 Years and Under

Location	With Health Insurance Coverage	With Private Health Insurance	With Public Coverage	Without Health Insurance Coverage
Laredo	71.7%	43.4%	32.8%	28.3%
Webb County	71.6%	42.7%	33.5%	28.4%
Texas	82.4%	62.5%	28.7%	17.6%
United States	91.3%	67.6%	35.9%	8.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP03

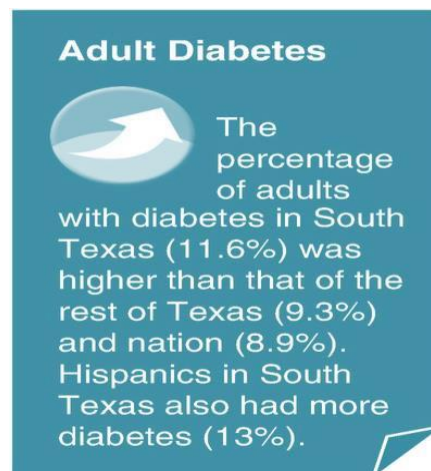
Key Findings: The percentage of uninsured children below age 18 in the city of Laredo was 28.3%, slightly lower than the county rate (28.4%) but higher than the state (17.6%) and national rate (8.7%).

Table 52: Adult Obesity

Report Area	Population Age 20+	Adults with BMI > 30.0 (Obese)	Adults with BMI > 30.0 (Obese), Percent
Webb County, TX	173,480	48,054	27.6%
Texas	21,241,748	6,575,889	30.9%
United States	232,757,930	70,168,831	30.1%

Source: *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. 2021.*

Key Findings: This indicator reports the number and percentage of adults aged 20 and older self-report having a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 30.0 (obese). Excess weight may indicate an unhealthy lifestyle and puts individuals at risk for further health issues. In Webb County, there are a total of 48,054 adults aged 20 and older who self-reported having a BMI greater than 30.0. This represents 27.6% of the survey population.

**Table 53: Poor Mental Health Days**

Location	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Webb County	4.1	4.1	4.5	4.6	4.5
Texas	3.4	3.4	3.8	3.8	3.9
United States	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.5

Source: *County Health Rankings 2018 - 2022*

Key Findings: According to County Health Rankings, Webb County residents reported 4.5 days per week with poor mental health in 2022, higher than the state (3.9) and the same as the national (4.5) average. The data shows that Webb County has reported higher numbers of poor mental health days than the state since 2018.



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11th leading cause of death in Texas

18th leading
cause of death for ages 65+

	Number of Deaths by Suicide	Rate per 100,000 Population	State Rank
Texas	4,193	14.17	35
Nationally	48,183	14.04	

60% of all suicides were by firearms.

Source: <https://afsp.org/state-fact-sheets>

Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in Texas and the 2nd leading cause of death for individuals aged 10 – 24. Texas Health and Human Services announced it is receiving more than \$180,000 in funding toward implementing a new national three-digit dialing code, 988, for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The new 988 number makes it easier for people in crisis or emotional distress to get immediate assistance and connect to mental health resources within their communities. This will ensure that Texans who need support can always count on a Lifeline. The grant funds will be used to help Texas Lifeline call centers to prepare for infrastructure needs and additional callers, purchase headsets and computers, train and educate staff, and data collection. The funding comes

from Vibrant Emotional Health, the nonprofit administrator of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and the 988 State Planning Grant. Effective July 2022, the new 988 Lifeline will replace 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Federal legislation authorizing 988 as the three-digit code for the Lifeline was passed in October 2020. HHSC recommends people in crisis and concerned family members continue to call the Lifeline at 800-273-8255 (800-273-TALK) until the 988 number becomes effective. *(Texas Health and Human Services Commission)*

Table 54: Medicaid Enrollment

Location	Total Enrollment	Total Enrollment in Children's Medicaid	Medicaid clients below Age 21	Pregnant Women	CHIPS
Webb County	91,584	67,993	70,464	7,497	583
Texas	5,727,639	4,161,020	4,280,379	483,129	53,605

Source: <https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/records-statistics/data-statistics/healthcare-statistics-2023>

Key Findings: In Webb County, 67,993 participants were enrolled in children's Medicaid. Total Medicaid enrollment for pregnant women was 7,497. CHIP enrollment was 583 children.

Table 55: Cancer Incidence

Location	Estimated Total Population	New Cases (Annual Average)	Cancer Incidence Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.) (2016 – 2020)
Webb County	224,532	745	331.8
Texas	29,274,138	120,668	412.2
United States	383,976,486	1,698,328	442.3

Source: *State Cancer Profiles. (2016 – 2020)*

Key Findings: In Webb County, there were 745 new cases of cancer reported (2016 – 2020). This means there is a rate of 331.8 for every 100,000 total population, lower than the state (412.2) and national (442.3) rates.

Table 56: Mortality - Coronary Heart Disease

Location	Total Population 2016 – 2020 Average	Five Year Total Deaths, 2016 – 2020 Total	Crude Death Rate (Per 100,000 Population)	Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)
Webb County	275,246	1,000	72.7	98.0
Texas	28,645,135	130,511	91.1	94.1
United States	326,747,554	1,838,830	112.5	91.5

Source: *US Department of Health Human Services, Health Indicators Warehouse. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. (No significant changes indicated)*

Key Findings: This indicator reports the 2016-2020 five-year average rate of death due to coronary heart disease per 100,000 population. Coronary heart disease is a leading cause of death in the United States. In Webb County, there are a total of 1,000 deaths due to coronary heart disease. This represents an age-adjusted death rate of 98.0 per every 100,000 total population, higher than the state and national rates.

Table 57: Deaths of Despair (Suicide + Drug/Alcohol Poisoning)

Location	Total Population, 2016-2020 Average	Five Year Total Deaths, 2016-2020 Total	Crude Death Rate (Per 100,000 Population)	Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Population)
Webb County	275,246	514	37.4	42.6
Texas	28,645,135	55,740	38.9	38.2
United States	326,747,554	806,246	49.4	47.0

Source: *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics. CDC WONDER*

Key Findings: This indicator reports average rate of death due to intentional self-harm (suicide), alcohol-related disease, and drug overdose, also known as "deaths of despair", per 100,000 population. In Webb County there were 514 deaths of despair. This represents an age-adjusted death rate of 42.6 per every 100,000 total population, higher than the state (38.2), but lower than the national rate of 47.0.

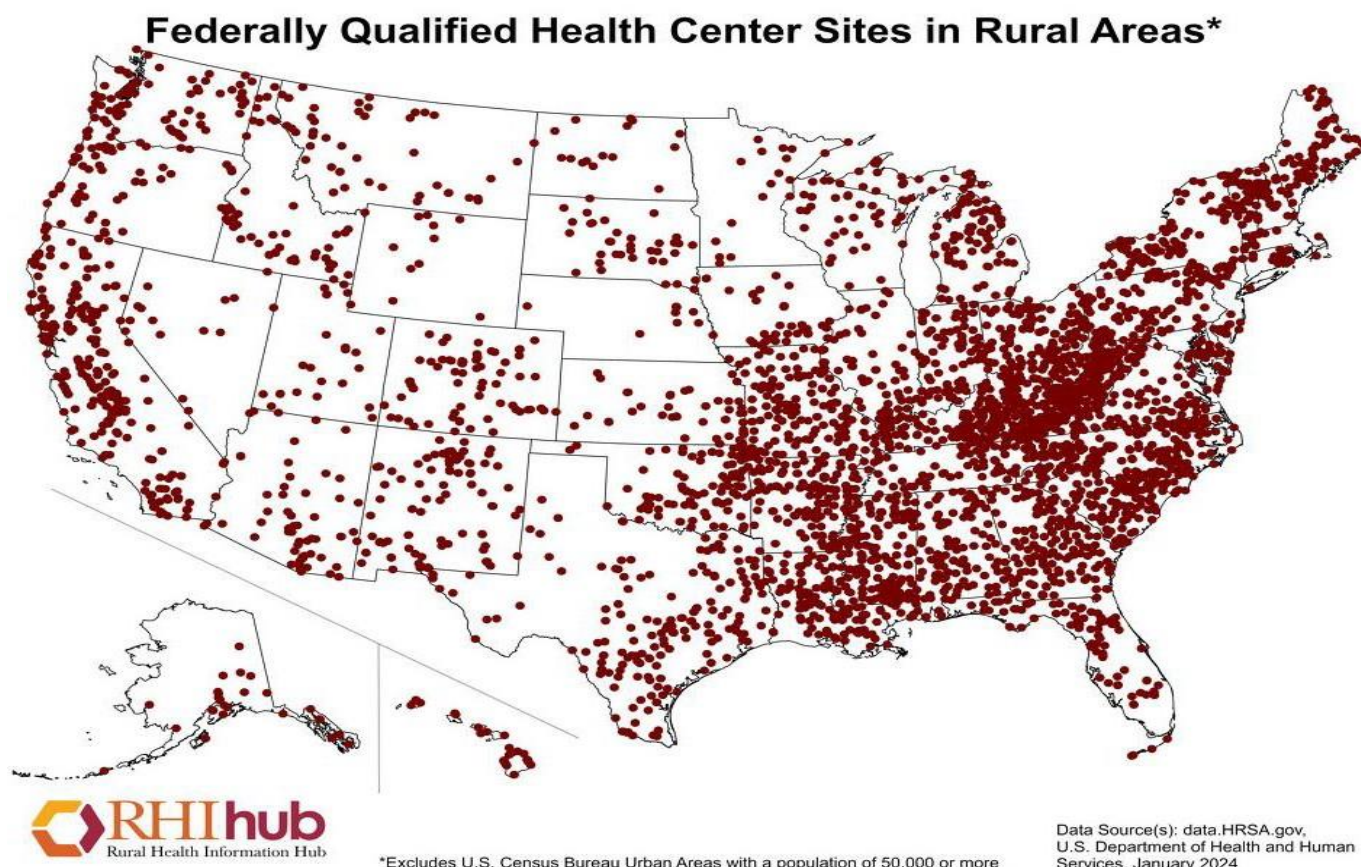
Table 58: Facilities Designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA)

Location	Primary Care Facilities	Mental Health Care Facilities	Dental Health Care Facilities	Total HPSA Facility Designations
Webb County	1	1	1	3
Texas	181	147	150	478
United States	3,599	3,171	3,071	9,836

Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Professional Shortage Areas

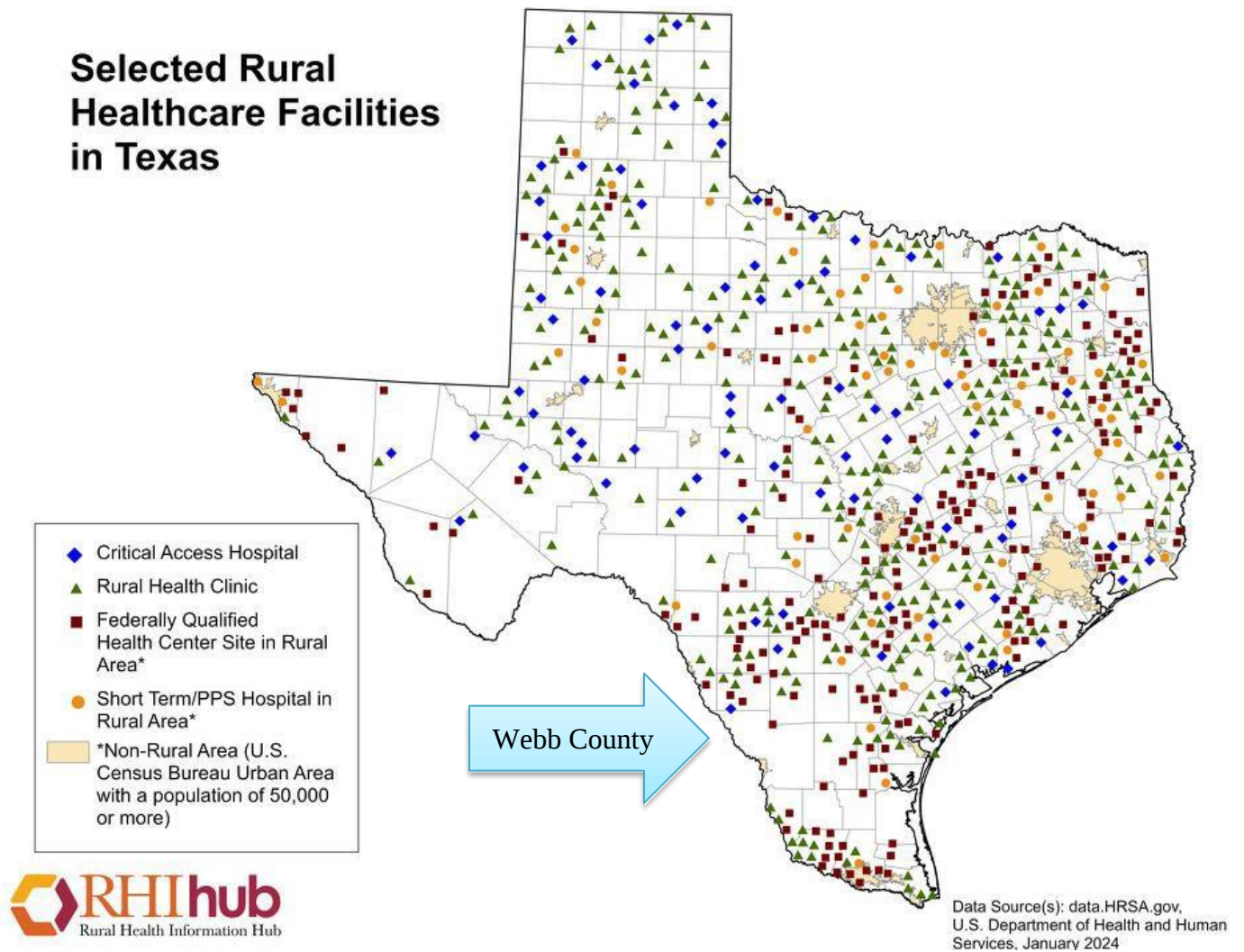
Key Findings: There were three (3) identified HPSA facilities in Webb County. HPSA is defined as having shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers. This indicator is relevant because a shortage of health professionals contributes to access and health status issues.

Figure 9: National Federally Qualified Health Center Sites in Rural Areas



Source: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/rural-maps/healthcare-facilities>

Figure 10: Selected Rural Healthcare Facilities in Texas



Source: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/rural-maps/healthcare-facilities>

Key Findings: This map shows the state's Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), as well as Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) sites and short term/PPS (Prospective Payment System) hospitals located in rural areas.

Table 59: Federally Qualified Health Centers

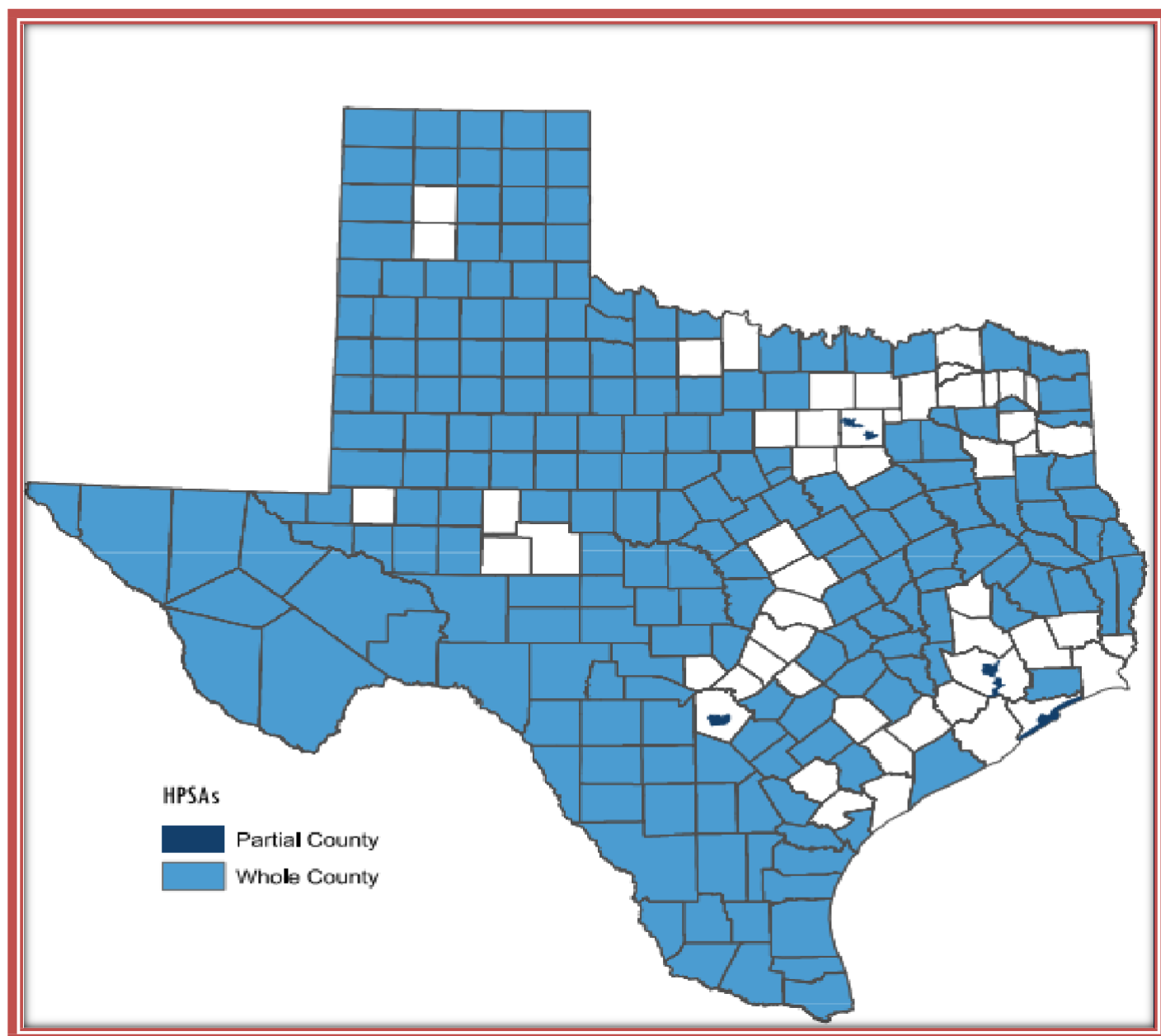
Report Area	Total Population (2020)	Number of Federally Qualified Health Centers	Rate of Federally Qualified Health Centers per 100,000 Population
Webb County, TX	267,114	8	2.99
Texas	29,145,499	657	2.25
United States	334,735,149	11,680	3.49

Source: www.communitycommons.org; US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Resources and Services Administration

Key Findings: Within the report area, there are 8 Federally Qualified Health Centers. This means there is a rate of 2.99 Federally Qualified Health Centers per 100,000 total population.



Figure 11: Primary Care Shortage Areas in Texas



Source:

https://demographics.texas.gov/Resources/Presentations/DDUC/2019/2019_06_06_Census2020WhatsatStakeforTexasDepartmentofState.pdf

Table 60: Health Concerns for Webb County Residents

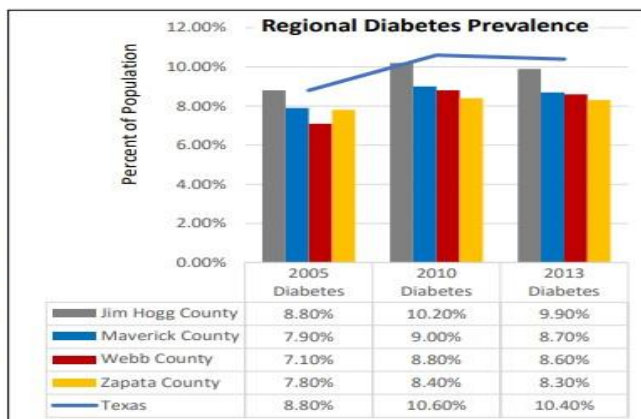
The most common health conditions mentioned by key informants and focus group participants include diabetes, hypertension, obesity, heart disease, and cancer. As described by the participants, diabetes is common in Hispanic families and in the community. Nearly one-fifth (21.6%) of the community survey respondents reported a doctor or health care provider told them they had diabetes. The estimated prevalence of diabetes in Laredo is 15.7%. Obesity Focus groups participants and key informants emphasized obesity as prominent in the Hispanic community. They shared several contributing factors such as inability to afford healthy food options, poor nutrition habits, and lack of nutrition education. Among community survey respondents, 35.3% reported a doctor or health care provider told them they have obesity. The estimated prevalence of obesity in Laredo is 45.2%. Lack of exercise and inadequate diet appear to be linked to these 2 health Issues which complicate to additional health problems.

Source: *Internal documentation*

Key Findings:

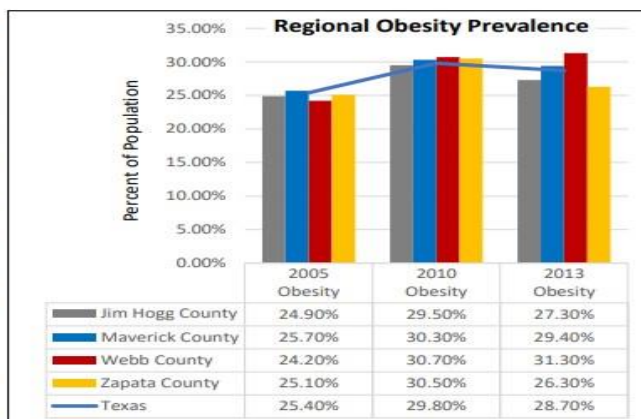
Diabetes

Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States⁴² with a state mortality rate of 19.9 in 2013⁴³. Diabetes prevalence—which is the total number of existing cases, including new cases—among adults has gone up from 8.80% in 2005 to 10.60% in 2010 and has held steady at 10.40% in 2013 for Region 20.



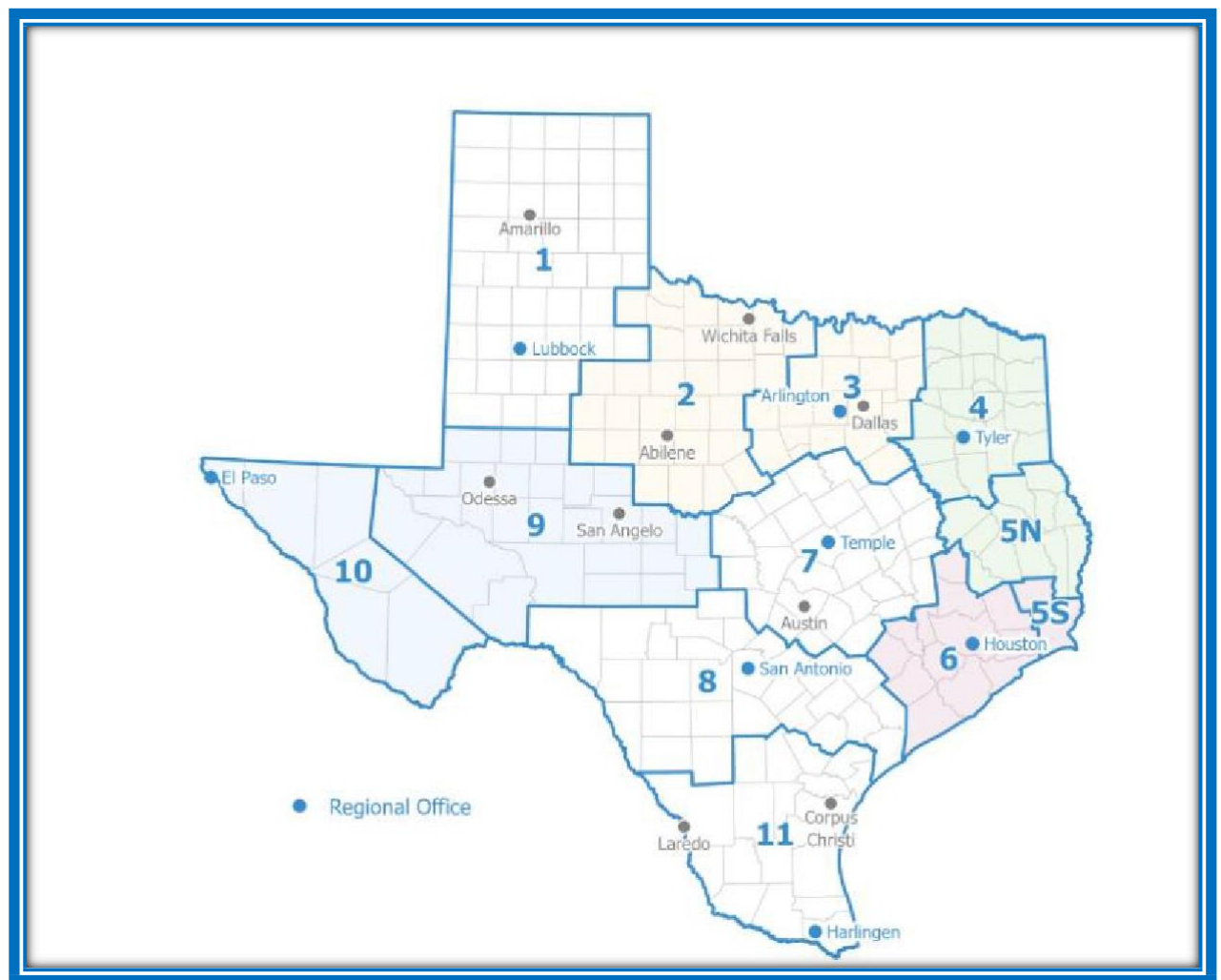
Obesity

The national rate of obesity in the US is estimated to be more than one third of the adult population (36.5%). The obesity prevalence rate of 28.58% in 2013 for Region 20 is on par with the state prevalence rate of 28.70%. Obesity has an adverse effect on the incidence of diabetes as well as other preventable health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, and certain types of cancers.



Head Start addresses the issues of diabetes and obesity by providing WIC services information and resources, parent and staff nutrition training, Child and Adult Care Food Program Breakfast, lunch and PM snack, parent Information, resources for Children, emergent reading booklets for each child, classroom movement, exercise activities and many more resources.

Figure 12: Public Health Regions



Source: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/center-health-statistics/center-health-statistics-texas-county-numbers-public-health-regions>

Highlights and Considerations – Health Care

- ❖ In Webb County, adult smoking (17%), adult obesity (42%), food insecurity (16%), limited access to healthy foods (10%), and teen birth rate (52 per 100,000 population) were higher than the state rates. Webb County (12) reported a drug overdose death rate comparable to the state (12) rate. These numbers represent the rate of drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population. There were fewer primary care physicians, mental health providers, and dentists per resident in the service area when compared to the state ratio for those professions. Findings suggest that conditions related to unhealthy lifestyles and behaviors are a concern in the communities served by Region 20. These lifestyle conditions include sexually transmitted infections, adult obesity, teen birth rate, drug overdose, food insecurity, limited access to healthy foods, and smoking.
- ❖ Economic and social drivers such as income, education, and social connectedness have a direct bearing on health. These socio-economic determinants strongly interact to influence health and, in general, an improvement in any of these can produce an improvement in both health behaviors and outcomes among individuals and/or groups.
- ❖ Those with very low incomes, for example, often lack resources and access to nutritious food, adequate housing, safe walking paths, and working conditions, which can impact negatively on their health. Also, they may face financial and life stress, which—over time can have health consequences such as high blood pressure, or immune and circulatory complications. On the other hand, those who have adequate income and employment are likely to experience health outcomes that are less dependent on material needs but are nonetheless affected by the demands they face at home and at work and the degree to which they have control and decision-making influence in those settings.
- ❖ Increased exposure to stress, as well as a lack of resources, skills, social support, and connection to the community, can contribute to less healthy coping skills and poorer health behaviors such as smoking, over-consumption of alcohol and drugs, and less healthy eating habits.
- ❖ The percentage of uninsured children below age 18 in the city of Laredo was 28.3%, slightly lower than the county rate (28.4%) but higher than the state (17.6%) and national rate (8.7%).
- ❖ Excess weight may indicate an unhealthy lifestyle and puts individuals at risk for further health issues. In Webb County, there are a total of 48,054 adults aged 20 and older who self-reported having a BMI greater than 30.0. This represents 27.6% of the survey population.
- ❖ According to County Health Rankings, Webb County residents reported 4.5 days per week with poor mental health in 2022, higher than the state (3.9) and the same as the national (4.5) average. The data

shows that Webb County has reported higher numbers of poor mental health days than the state since 2018.

- ❖ Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in Texas and the 2nd leading cause of death for individuals aged 10 – 24.
- ❖ In Webb County, 67,993 participants were enrolled in children’s Medicaid. Total Medicaid enrollment for pregnant women was 7,497. CHIP enrollment was 583 children.
- ❖ In Webb County, there were 745 new cases of cancer reported. This means there is a rate of 331.8 for every 100,000 total population, lower than the state (412.2) and national (442.3) rates.
- ❖ In Webb County, there are a total of 1,000 deaths due to coronary heart disease. This represents an age-adjusted death rate of 98.0 per every 100,000 total population, higher than the state and national rates.
- ❖ In Webb County there were 514 deaths of despair. This represents an age-adjusted death rate of 42.6 per every 100,000 total population, higher than the state (38.2), but lower than the national rate of 47.0.
- ❖ There were three (3) identified HPSA facilities in Webb County. HPSA is defined as having shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers. This indicator is relevant because a shortage of health professionals contributes to access and health status issues.
- ❖ Within the report area, there are 8 Federally Qualified Health Centers. This means there is a rate of 2.99 Federally Qualified Health Centers per 100,000 total population.
- ❖ The most common health conditions mentioned by key informants and focus group participants include diabetes, hypertension, obesity, heart disease, and cancer. As described by the participants, diabetes is common in Hispanic families and in the community. Nearly one-fifth (21.6%) of the community survey respondents reported a doctor or health care provider told them they had diabetes. The estimated prevalence of diabetes in Laredo is 15.7%. Obesity Focus groups participants and key informants emphasized obesity as prominent in the Hispanic community. They shared several contributing factors such as inability to afford healthy food options, poor nutrition habits, and lack of nutrition education. Among community survey respondents, 35.3% reported a doctor or health care provider told them they have obesity. The estimated prevalence of obesity in Laredo is 45.2%. Lack of exercise and inadequate diet appear to be linked to these 2 health issues which complicate to additional health problems.
- ❖ Region 20 is greatly affected by the limited physician capacity in primary and specialty care areas.

Birth Characteristics

Table 61: Births to Women in Past 12 Months

Location	Number of women ages 15 – 50 who had a birth in the past 12 months	15 - 19		20 - 34		35 - 50	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Laredo	4,245	174	4.1%	3,311	78.0%	760	17.9%
Webb County	4,408	188	4.3%	3,410	77.4%	810	18.4%
Texas	406,661	16,400	4.0%	290,419	71.4%	99,842	24.6%
United States	3,982,404	102,904	2.6%	2,808,021	70.5%	1,071,479	26.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018- 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. S1301

Key Findings: There were an estimated 4,408 births within Webb County, of which 4,245 births were reported in Laredo. Most births (77.4%) in Webb County were to women ages 20 – 34. However, Laredo reported 4.1% of births to teen mothers. The percentage of teen births in Webb County (4.3%) was higher than the state (4.0%) and the national (2.6%) average.

Nearly all teen pregnancies are unplanned. That is, teens say they did not want to get pregnant or cause a pregnancy. That alone is reason enough to care about preventing teen pregnancy. But it is also the case that teen pregnancy is closely linked to a host of other critical social issues—poverty and income, overall child well-being, out-of-wedlock births, responsible fatherhood, health issues, education, child welfare, and other risky behavior.

Source: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

Table 62: Poverty Status of Women Who gave Birth last 12 Months Ages 15 - 50

Location	100% of Poverty Level		100% – 199% of Poverty Level		200% or more above Poverty Level	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Laredo	1,345	31.8%	1,134	26.8%	1,756	41.5%
Webb County	1,431	32.5%	1,192	27.1%	1,775	40.4%
Texas	92,493	22.8%	86,790	21.4%	226,182	55.8%
United States	818,128	20.6%	766,334	19.3%	2,388,518	60.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 - 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. (S1301).

Key Findings: Webb County reported 32.5% of women, who gave birth within the last 12 months, below 100% of the poverty level, higher than the state (22.8%) and national (20.6%) rate. Approximately 27.1% of women giving

birth in Webb County were between 100% - 199% of Federal Poverty Level, higher than the state (21.4%) and national (19.3%) rates.

Table 63: Birth to Women Receiving Public Assistance and Unmarried Women

Location	Births to Women receiving Public Assistance Instance		Births to Women not receiving Public Assistance Income		Percent of Births to Unmarried Women within past 12 months	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Receiving	Did not receive
Laredo	9	0.2%	4,236	99.8%	0.0%	42.5%
Webb County	13	0.3%	4,395	99.7%	30.8%	43.1%
Texas	11,234	2.8%	395,427	97.2%	64.1%	31.4%
United States	161,655	4.1%	3,820,749	95.9%	65.0%	30.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 - 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. (S1301).

Key Findings: The majority of women in Webb County (99.7%) who gave birth within the past 12 months did not receive Public Assistance income. An estimated 0.3% of women who gave birth in Webb County received Public Assistance income, lower than the state rate (2.8%) and national rate (4.1%). In Webb County, approximately 43.1% of births were to unmarried women who did not receive Public Assistance income, much higher than the state (31.4%) and national (30.7%) rates.

Table 64: Educational Attainment of Women Who gave Birth last 12 Months Ages 15 - 50

Location	Less than High school	High School/GED	Some College or Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Laredo	18.1%	25.9%	36.5%	12.7%	6.9%
Webb County	17.9%	27.5%	35.7%	12.3%	6.7%
Texas	12.8%	25.0%	30.2%	21.4%	10.5%
United States	10.3%	23.0%	29.6%	22.8%	14.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 - 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. (S1301).

Key Findings: Webb County reported 17.9% of women who gave birth with less than a high school diploma, considerably higher than the state (12.8%) and national (10.3%) rates. However, an estimated 27.5% of women who gave birth had a high school education in Webb County. Approximately 12.3% of women who gave birth within the last 12 months reported attaining a Bachelor's degree, lower than the state rate of 21.4% and national rate of 22.8%. The percentage of women giving birth with less than a high school diploma in Laredo was slightly higher than the county (18.1%) rate.

Table 65: Race/Ethnicity of Women who gave Birth last 12 Months Ages 15 - 50

Location	White Alone/Not Hispanic Latino	Black/ African American	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic/ Latino
Laredo	56.3%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	40.2%	96.1%
Webb County	56.2%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	40.2%	96.1%
Texas	55.1%	13.3%	0.5%	5.9%	0.2%	8.8%	16.2%	46.1%
United States	61.2%	14.3%	1.0%	6.5%	0.3%	7.5%	9.3%	22.7%

Source: *U.S. American Community Survey 2018 – 2022. (S1301).*

Key Findings: Most women who gave birth within the last 12 months identified as White Alone/Not Hispanic/Latino, while mothers who identified as Hispanic or Latino (96.1%) were the next largest group.

Table 66: Births to Teens (Ages 19 and Younger)

Location	Data Type	2017	2018	2019	2020
Webb County	Number	643	537	530	461
	Percent	13.2%	11.5%	11.5%	10.6%
Texas	Number	27,255	25,219	24,387	22,896
	Percent	7.1%	6.7%	6.5%	6.2%

Source: *Kids Count, Texas Department of State Health Services, Bureau of Vital Statistics*

Key Findings: In 2020, the number and percent of births to females ages 19 and younger was 461 (10.6%), higher than the state rate of 6.2%. However, births to teens in Webb County have decreased since 2014.

Table 67: Birth to Teens by Age Group

Location	Age group	Data Type	2017	2018	2019	2020
Webb County	14 and younger	Number	LNE	LNE	13	LNE
		Percent	LNE	LNE	2.5%	LNE
	15 - 17	Number	257	LNE	180	155
		Percent	40.0%	LNE	34.0%	33.6%
	18 - 19	Number	380	355	337	306
		Percent	59.1%	66.1%	63.6%	66.4%
Texas	14 and younger	Number	301	300	273	257
		Percent	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%
	15 - 17	Number	7,754	6,859	6,535	6,070
		Percent	28.4%	27.2%	26.8%	26.5%
	18 - 19	Number	19,200	18,060	17,579	16,569
		Percent	70.4%	71.6%	72.1%	72.4%

Source: Kids Count Bureau of Vital Statistics, Texas Department of State Health Services. LNE – Low number of events

Key Findings: There were 155 births to teens ages 15 - 17 in Webb County during 2020. Approximately 306 births (66.4%) were to teens ages 18 - 19. In Webb County, births to teens from ages 15 - 19 decreased since 2015. In Texas, the percentage of births to teenagers, ages 15 - 17 (26.5%), was significantly lower than the rate for Webb County (33.6%).

Table 68: Birth to Single Teens

Location	Data Type	2017	2018	2019	2020
Webb County	Number	591	475	477	432
	Percent	12.1%	10.2%	10.3%	NA
Texas	Number	23,906	22,450	21,914	20,731
	Percent	6.3%	6.0%	5.8%	NA

Source: Kids Count, Texas Department of State Health Services

Key Findings: There were 432 births to unmarried teens in Webb County in 2020. Births to unmarried teens decreased from 2017 to 2020. The percentage of births to unmarried teens in Webb County (10.3%) was much higher than the state rate (5.8%) in 2019.

Table 69: Infant Mortality

Location	Data Type	2017	2018	2019
Webb County	Number	28	19	17
	Rate per 1,000	5.7	4.1	3.7
Texas	Number	2,209	2,067	2,073
	Rate per 1,000	5.8	5.5	5.5

Source: Kids Count, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Texas Department of State Health Services

Key Findings: The infant mortality rate per 1,000 children who died before their first birthday was 3.7 (17) for Webb County, slightly lower than the mortality rate for the state (5.5).

Table 70: Low Birth Weight Births (<2,500 grams)

Location	Data Type	2017	2018	2019	2020
Webb County	Number	383	360	366	341
	Percent	7.9%	7.7%	7.9%	7.8%
Texas	Number	32,229	32,262	31,910	30,456
	Percent	8.4%	8.6%	8.4%	8.3%

Source: Kids Count, Texas Department of State Health Services

Key Findings: Webb County reported 341 (7.8%) of infants born weighing under 5.5 pounds in 2020. The percentage of low-birth-weight infants in Webb County (7.8%) was slightly lower than the state rate of 8.3% in 2020.

Table 71: Preterm Births

Location	Data Type	2017	2018	2019	2020
Webb County	Number	710	666	735	666
	Percent	14.6%	14.3%	15.9%	15.3%
Texas	Number	46,742	45,936	50,183	45,561
	Percent	12.2%	12.2%	13.3%	12.4%

Source: Kids Count, Texas Department of State Health Services; Bureau of Vital Statistics Death Files

Key Findings: The number of babies born before 37-week gestation in Webb County was 666 (15.3%), slightly higher than the state rate (12.4%).

Table 72: Birth to Women Receiving Late or No Prenatal Care

Location	Data Type	2017	2018	2019	2020
Webb County	Number	1,130	1,145	1,243	1,312
	Percent	23%	25%	27%	30%
Texas	Number	134,302	11,960	118,335	113,764
	Percent	35%	29%	31%	31%

Source: Kids Count; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Texas Department of State Health Services

Key Findings: In Webb County, the number and percent of births to women who received no prenatal care, or care after the first trimester was 1,312 (30%), lower than the state rate (31%). The percent of women receiving late, or no prenatal care increased from 23% in 2017 to 30% in 2020.

Highlights and Considerations – Birth Characteristics

- ❖ There were an estimated 4,408 births within Webb County, of which 4,245 births were reported in Laredo. Most births (77.4%) in Webb County were to women ages 20 – 34. However, Laredo reported 4.1% of births to teen mothers. The percentage of teen births in Webb County (4.3%) was higher than the state (4.0%) and the national (2.6%) average.
- ❖ Webb County reported 32.5% of women, who gave birth within the last 12 months, below 100% of the poverty level, higher than the state (22.8%) and national (20.6%) rate. Approximately 27.1% of women giving birth in Webb County were between 100% - 199% of Federal Poverty Level, higher than the state (21.4%) and national (19.3%) rates.
- ❖ The majority of women in Webb County (99.7%) who gave birth within the past 12 months did not receive Public Assistance income. An estimated 0.3% of women who gave birth in Webb County received Public Assistance income, lower than the state rate (2.8%) and national rate (4.1%). In Webb County, approximately 43.1% of births were to unmarried women who did not receive Public Assistance income, much higher than the state (31.4%) and national (30.7%) rates.
- ❖ Webb County reported 17.9% of women who gave birth with less than a high school diploma, considerably higher than the state (12.8%) and national (10.3%) rates. However, an estimated 27.5% of women who gave birth had a high school education in Webb County. Approximately 12.3% of women who gave birth within the last 12 months reported attaining a Bachelor's degree, lower than the state rate of 21.4% and national rate of 22.8%. The percentage of women giving birth with less than a high school diploma in Laredo was slightly higher than the county (18.1%) rate.
- ❖ Most women who gave birth within the last 12 months identified as White Alone/Not Hispanic/Latino, while mothers who identified as Hispanic or Latino (96.1%) were the next largest group.
- ❖ In 2020, the number and percent of births to females ages 19 and younger was 461 (10.6%), higher than the state rate of 6.2%. However, births to teens in Webb County have decreased some since 2014.
- ❖ There were 155 births to teens ages 15 - 17 in Webb County during 2020. Approximately 306 births (66.4%) were to teens ages 18 - 19. In Webb County, births to teens from ages 15 - 19 decreased since 2015. In Texas, the percentage of births to teenagers, ages 15 - 17 (26.5%), was significantly lower than the rate for Webb County (33.6%).
- ❖ There were 432 births to unmarried teens in Webb County in 2020. Births to unmarried teens decreased from 2017 to 2020. The percentage of births to unmarried teens in Webb County (10.3%) was much higher than the state rate (5.8%) in 2019.
- ❖ The infant mortality rate per 1,000 children who died before their first birthday was 3.7 (17) for Webb County, slightly lower than the mortality rate for the state (5.5).

- ❖ Webb County reported 341 (7.8%) of infants born weighing under 5.5 pounds in 2020. The percentage of low-birth-weight infants in Webb County (7.8%) was slightly lower than the state rate of 8.3% in 2020.
- ❖ The number of babies born before 37-week gestation in Webb County was 666 (15.3%), slightly higher than the state rate (12.4%).
- ❖ In Webb County, the number and percent of births to women who received no prenatal care, or care after the first trimester was 1,312 (30%), lower than the state rate (31%). The percent of women receiving late, or no prenatal care increased from 23% in 2017 to 30% in 2020.

Nutrition

Table 73: WIC Recipients (Ages 0 - 4)

Location	Age Group	2019	2020	2021
Webb County	1 - 4	8,357	3,884	8,511
	Under 1	3,542	1,677	3,364
Texas	1 - 4	315,802	195,391	315,773
	Under 1	178,886	111,635	170,703

Source: Kids Count; Texas Department of State Health Services

Key Findings: In Webb County, there were 3,364 infants (under age 1) and 8,511 children (ages 1 - 4) that participated in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children's (WIC).

Table 74: Women WIC Participants

Location	Data Type	2019	2020	2021
Webb County	Number	4,100	1,947	3,852
Texas	Number	186,695	118,573	182,454

Source: Kids Count; Texas Department of State Health Services

Key Findings: In Webb County, 3,852 women participated in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children's (WIC) in 2021.

Table 75: Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status

Location	Households Receiving SNAP Below Poverty	Households Receiving SNAP Above Poverty	Households Receiving SNAP Below Poverty	Households Receiving SNAP Above Poverty
Webb County	9,004	9,803	47.9%	52.1%
Texas	529,893	679,592	43.8%	56.2%

Source: www.communitycommons.org; American Community Survey 2018 – 2022. S2201

Key Findings: The information in the chart above shows that 47.9% or 9,004 households below poverty received SNAP benefits. During this same period, there were 9,803 (52.1%) households above the poverty level that received SNAP benefits in Webb County.

A family's ability to provide for its children's nutritional needs is linked to the family's food security—that is, to its access always to adequate food for an active, healthy life for all household members. Households classified as having very low food security among children—a parent or guardian reported that at some time during the year one or more children were hungry, skipped a meal, or did not eat for a whole day because the household could not afford enough food.

Source: www.childstats.gov

Table 76: Household Food Insecurity

Location	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Webb County	7.0%	8.0%	9.0%	16.0%	16.0%
Texas	16.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	14.0%

Source: *County Health Rankings, 2018 - 2022*

Key Findings: Webb County reported 16.0% of households that were food insecure in 2022, which was slightly higher than the state rate of 14.0%. Food insecurity increased from 9.0% in 2020 to 16.0% in 2022.

Table 77: Child Food Insecurity

Location	Data Type	2018	2019	2020	2021
Webb County	Number	21,290	20,400	22,770	17,210
	Percent	23.3%	22.4%	25.5%	20.0%
Texas	Number	1,598,940	1,448,490	1,395,890	1,348,600
	Percent	21.6%	19.6%	18.9%	18.0%

Source: *Kids Count; Feeding America.*

Key Findings: In Webb County, 17,210 or 20.0% of children were estimated to be food insecure, which was slightly higher than the state rate of 18.0%. A child (under 18 years old) is defined as being food insecure if he or she lives in a household having difficulty meeting basic food needs, as defined by the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey.

Table 78: Free or Reduced-Price Meals

Location	Meal Type	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Webb County	Total	52,504	52,878	989,945	157,891
	Free or Reduced Price	47,448	49,114	789,017	137,472
Texas	Total	3,158,519	3,199,066	18,063	0
	Free or Reduced Price	2,535,045	2,579,745	16,755	0

Source: Kids Count; Texas Department of Agriculture

Key Findings: In Webb County, the number of children participating in the National School Lunch Program was 137,472 in 2021 - 2022. Free or reduced-price meals are available to students whose families earn less than 185% federal poverty guidelines or are enrolled in other programs for low-income children, such as SNAP. Children in foster care or who attend schools using the Community Eligibility Provision are also eligible.

Table 79: Overweight/Obese Preschoolers and Children

Location	Percentage
Webb County	15.4%
Texas	15.7%

Source: citi-data.com. 2021

Key Findings: In Webb County, the obesity rate for preschoolers was 15.4%, slightly lower than the state rate of 15.7%.

Table 80: Adult Obesity Trend 2018 - 2022

Location	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Webb County	31%	33%	38%	37%	42%
Texas	28%	29%	30%	31%	34%

Source: County Health Rankings 2018 - 2022

Key Findings: According to County Health Rankings, the adult obesity rate for Webb County was 42% in 2022 which was higher than the state rate of 34.0%. In Webb County, the obesity rates have been consistently higher than the state rates for the past five (5) years.

Highlights and Considerations – Nutrition

- ❖ In Webb County, there were 3,364 infants (under age 1) and 8,511 children (ages 1 - 4) that participated in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children's (WIC).
- ❖ In Webb County, 3,852 women participated in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children's (WIC) in 2021.
- ❖ 47.9% or 9,004 households below poverty received SNAP benefits in Webb County. During this same period, there were 9,803 (52.1%) households above the poverty level that received SNAP benefits in Webb County.
- ❖ Webb County reported 16.0% of households that were food insecure in 2022, which was slightly higher than the state rate of 14.0%. Food insecurity increased from 9.0% in 2020 to 16.0% in 2022.
- ❖ In Webb County, 17,210 or 20.0% of children were estimated to be food insecure, which was slightly higher than the state rate of 18.0%. A child (under 18 years old) is defined as being food insecure if he or she lives in a household having difficulty meeting basic food needs, as defined by the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey.
- ❖ In Webb County, the number of children participating in the National School Lunch Program was 137,472 in 2021 - 2022. Free or reduced-price meals are available to students whose families earn less than 185% federal poverty guidelines or are enrolled in other programs for low-income children, such as SNAP. Children in foster care or who attend schools using the Community Eligibility Provision are also eligible.
- ❖ In Webb County, the obesity rate for preschoolers was 15.4%, slightly lower than the state rate of 15.7%.
- ❖ According to County Health Rankings, the adult obesity rate for Webb County was 42% in 2022 which was higher than the state rate of 34.0%. In Webb County, the obesity rates have been consistently higher than the state rates for the past five (5) years.

Social Services

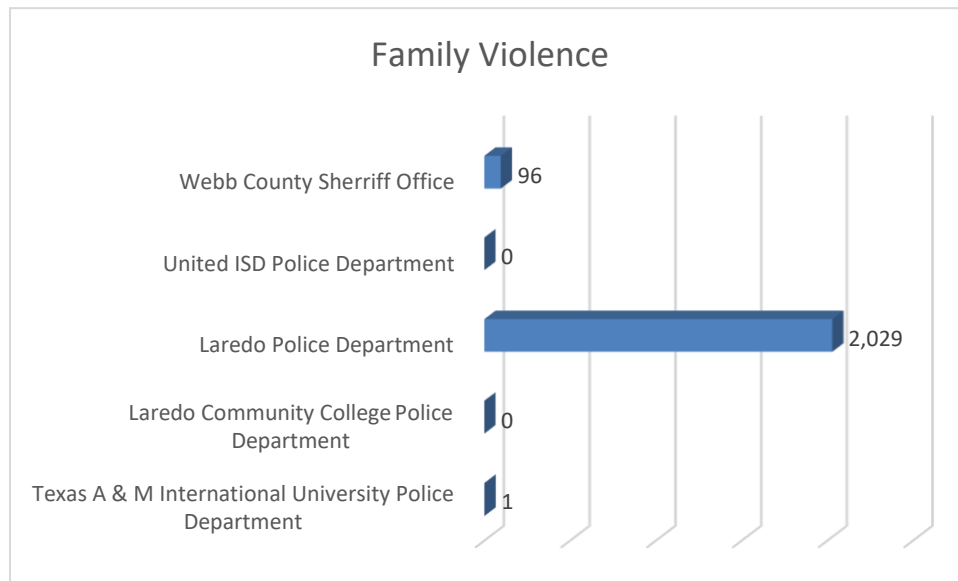


Table 81: Family Violence

Webb County Sherriff Office	96
United ISD Police Department	0
Laredo Police Department	2,029
Laredo Community College Police Department	0
Texas A & M International University Police Department	1

Source: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/crime-records/crime-texas>

Key Findings: Webb County Sherriff’s Office reported 96 incidents of family violence, whereas the Laredo Police Department reported 2,029 family violence incidents. Laredo Community College Police Department and United ISD Police Department reported no incidents of family violence, and Texas A & M reported one incident of family violence.

Table 82: Victim/Offender Relationship

Type		Relationship Victim to Offender	Total Percent
Marital	25.1%	Husband	3.7%
		Wife	11.3%
		Common-Law Husband	1.3%
		Common-Law Wife	4.8%
		Ex-Husband	1.0%
		Ex-Wife	3.0%
Parental/Child	16.2%	Father	2.4%
		Mother	5.9%
		Son	2.3%
		Daughter	3.2%
		Stepfather	0.8%
		Stepmother	0.3%
		Stepson	0.6%
		Stepdaughter	0.8%
		Foster Parent	0.0%
		Foster Child	0.0%
Other Family	58.7%	Grandfather	0.2%
		Grandmother	0.5%
		Grandson	0.1%
		Granddaughter	0.3%
		Brother	3.0%
		Sister	3.8%
		Stepbrother	0.1%
		Stepsister	0.2%
		Male Roommate	2.4%

		Female Roommate	3.4%
		Male In-Law	0.8%
		Female In-Law	1.1%
		Other Male Family Member	10.7%
		Other Female Family Member	32.0%

Source: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/crime-records/crime-texas>

Key Findings: The largest percentage of family violence reports was between other family members (58.7%). The second most reported relationship among offenders and victims was marital and the third most common relationship was parental/child. Safety and protection are provided to victims of family violence and/or sexual assault through crisis intervention counseling, risk assessment, safety planning, emergency shelter, support groups, women's economic education classes, hospital advocacy, legal advocacy, and accompaniment to law enforcement agencies and court. Crisis intervention and prevention programs are provided to the children who live in the emergency shelter and to non-residential children whose mothers attend evening support groups.

Figure 13: Texas Summary Domestic Violence Count



Source:<https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/17th-Annual-Domestic-Violence-Counts-Report-TX-Summary.pdf>

Key Findings: In Texas, 6,936 domestic violence victims were served, 1,603 hotline contacts were received, 1,159 people were educated, and 1,827 unmet requests for services were received.

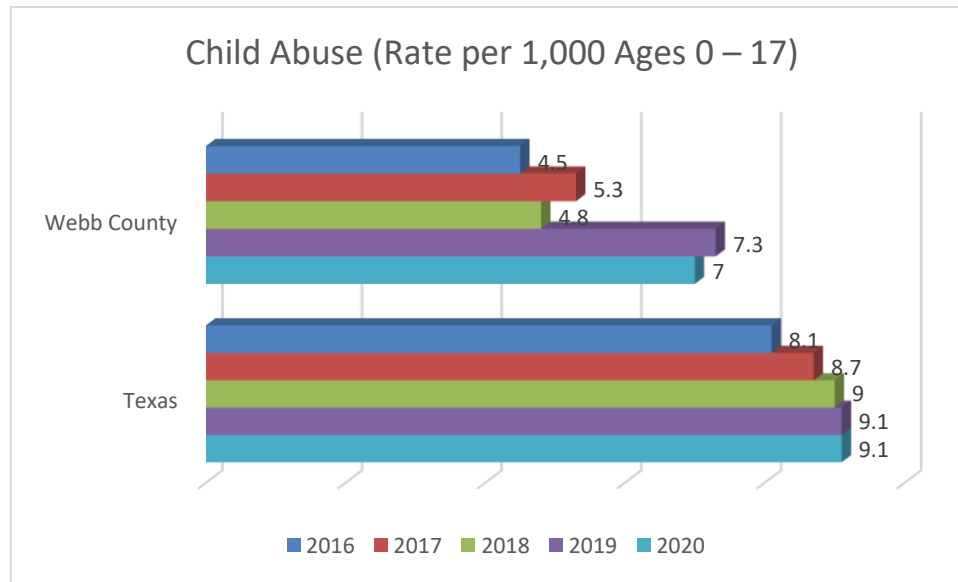


Table 83: Child Abuse (Rate per 1,000 Ages 0 – 17)

Location	Data Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Webb County	Number	374	438	398	602	568
	Rate per 1,000 children ages 0 - 17	4.5	5.3	4.8	7.3	7.0
Texas	Number	58,644	63,657	66,382	67,313	68,449
	Rate per 1,000 children ages 0 - 17	8.1	8.7	9.0	9.1	9.1

Source: Kids Count, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Key Findings: The number of children ages 0 - 17 who were confirmed as victims of child abuse was 568 in 2020, (7.0 per 1,000 children), which was lower than the state rate (9.1 per 1,000 children). The number of confirmed victims of child abuse in Webb County increased from 374 in 2016 to 568 in 2020. The psychological consequences of child abuse and neglect include the immediate effects of isolation, fear, and an inability to trust. When children cannot trust that someone will be there to meet their needs, they tend to develop low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, and hopelessness. These difficulties can lead to lifelong relationship problems and may lead to the development of antisocial behavioral traits. These children are also more likely to engage in violent behaviors and to be diagnosed with conduct and personality disorders (childhelp.org).

Table 84: Children in Foster Care (Rate per 1,000 Ages 0 – 17)

Location	Data Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Webb County	Number	433	421	443	157	126
	Rate per 1,000 children ages 0 - 17	5.1	5.1	5.4	1.9	1.6
Texas	Number	52,397	51,417	47,913	14,580	11,932
	Rate per 1,000 children ages 0 - 17	7.1	6.9	6.4	1.9	1.6

Source: Kids Count, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Key Findings: In Webb County, the number of children, ages 0 - 17 in foster care, was 126 (1.6 per 1,000 children) in 2022, which represented a decrease of 3.5 per 1,000 children from 2018. In Webb County, the rate of children in foster care was equal to the state rate of 1.6 per 1,000 children. Many foster children struggle in school due to the trauma they experience as a result of abuse, neglect, separation, and instability. Approximately 80% of foster children are held back in school at least once by the time they reach 3rd grade.

Table 85: Homeless – Point-in-Time Count

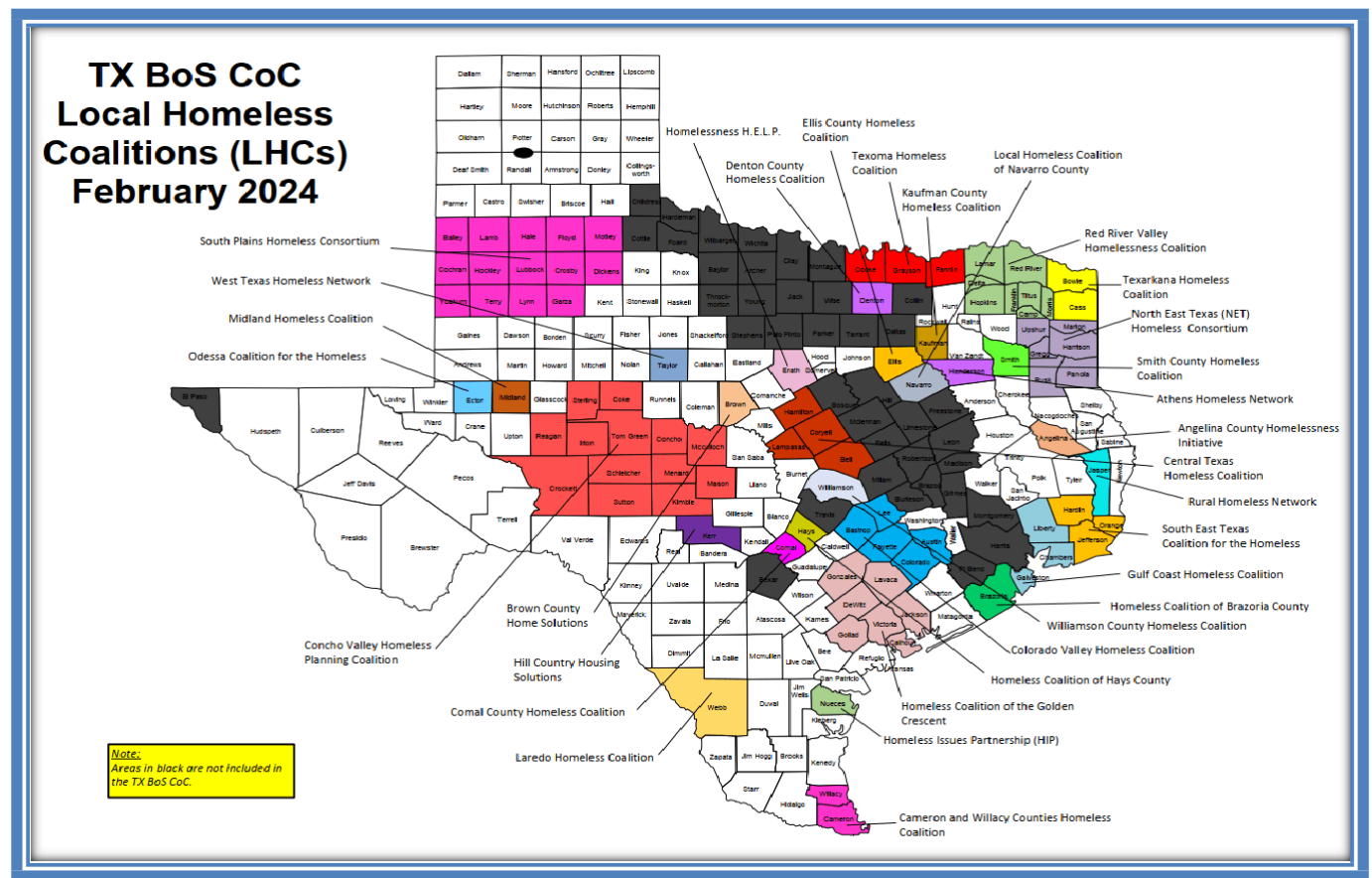

Total number of persons	228
Number of children (under age 18)	35
Number of youth (age 18 to 24)	6
Number of adults (age 25 to 34)	41
Number of adults (age 35 to 44)	36
Number of adults (age 45 to 54)	46
Number of adults (age 55 to 64)	38
Number of adults (age 65 or older)	26
Observed age 25 or older	0
Unknown Age	0
Chronically Homeless	51

Source: HUD Point-in-Time Report, 2024. Laredo Homeless Coalition. <https://www.thn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Final-Webb-2024-PIT-Report.pdf>

Key Findings: The Laredo Homeless Coalition conducted the Homeless Count in January 2024. According to the Coalition, the total homeless count for Webb County was approximately 304, an increase of 63 people from 2019. There was a significant decrease in the total homeless count for 2021 (86). An estimated 28 homeless individuals reported having a serious mental illness in 2020 as compared to 6 individuals in 2021. Respondents reported that unemployment was the main reason for their homeless situation. There were approximately 28 children under the age of 18, who reported homelessness in 2021. Most homeless individuals were males.



Figure 14: Texas BoS CoC Local Homeless Coalitions, February 2024



Source: Texas Homeless Network



Figure 15: Homelessness in Texas



Source: <https://www.thn.org/thdsn/data/>

State of Homelessness

Most people conjure an image of someone sleeping on a park bench or pushing their belongings in a cart. However, homelessness is a complex issue with subtle variations, and ending it can be just as complex. Homelessness happens when someone cannot afford a house of his or her own. Many times, families are “couch homeless.” These families may be staying with a friend or relative “sometimes the family is scattered among various friends and relatives” but they don’t have a home of their own. These families might not fit the image of homeless families living in a shelter or on the streets but face common challenges of people without homes. It is estimated that nearly a third of the workforce is one bad accident, one large medical bill, one missed paycheck away from financial ruin, including losing their homes.

For most, the cycle of homelessness is triggered by a job loss or unexpected bills that exceed their income. Because many aid programs require a home address, a family living with homelessness can face challenges in getting the assistance they need to get back on their feet. More than a third of the homeless population is employed, but these jobs tend to be low-waged and do not meet the needs of the family.

Children raised in homelessness have reduced literacy and vocabulary. These children are also less likely to have well-developed motor skills, and nearly half are unable to pass state-mandated testing at their grade level. Chronic stress and anxiety caused by poverty have also been linked to lower academic performance. These academic difficulties lead to higher dropout rates, limiting future opportunities. This contributes to multi-generational cycles of poverty.

<https://www.positivetomorrows.org/ending-homelessness/homeless-cycle-statistics/>

Table 86: Crime Rates

Agency	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Total
LAREDO COLLEGE PD								
Number of Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Rate Per 100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Clearances	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Percent Cleared	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	0	100.0
Number of Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
LAREDO ISD PD								
Number of Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Rate Per 100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Clearances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percent Cleared	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAREDO PD								
Number of Offenses	12	88	156	600	625	2,985	214	4,680

Rate Per 100,000	4.5	33.1	58.8	226.0	235.4	1,124.2	80.6	1,762.6
Number of Clearances	9	25	65	317	125	481	64	1,086
Percent Cleared	75.0	28.4	41.7	52.8	20.0	16.1	29.9	23.2
Number of Arrests	6	21	80	263	159	613	46	1,188
TX A&M UNIV: INTERNATIONAL PD								
Number of Offenses	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	6
Rate Per 100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Clearances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percent Cleared	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNITED ISD PD								
Number of Offenses	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	6
Rate Per 100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Clearances	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Percent Cleared	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	0	83.3
Number of Arrests	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
WEBB CO SO								
Number of Offenses	0	3	2	57	78	135	26	301
Rate Per 100,000	0	35.2	23.4	668.0	914.1	1,582.1	304.7	3,527.5
Number of Clearances	0	0	1	18	6	12	19	56
Percent Cleared	0	0	50.0	31.6	7.7	8.9	73.1	18.6
Number of Arrests	0	0	2	21	6	17	19	65
Webb County Total								
Number of Offenses	12	92	158	657	704	3,133	240	4,996
Rate Per 100,000	4.4	33.6	57.7	239.7	256.9	1,143.2	87.6	1,823.0
Number of Clearances	9	25	66	335	131	499	83	1,148
Percent Cleared	75.0	27.2	41.8	51.0	18.6	15.9	34.6	23.0
Number of Arrests	6	21	82	285	165	631	65	1,255

Source: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/crimereports/20/2020cit.pdf>

Key Findings: Assaults, burglaries, and larceny were the more prevalent crimes reported by Laredo Police Department, as well as Webb County Sherriff Office. Crime and violence frequently have dire and long-lasting impacts on young people who experience, witness or feel threatened by it. In addition to causing direct physical harm to young victims, serious crime and violence can adversely affect their mental health and development and increase the likelihood that they will commit acts of crime or serious violence.

Table 87: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) State

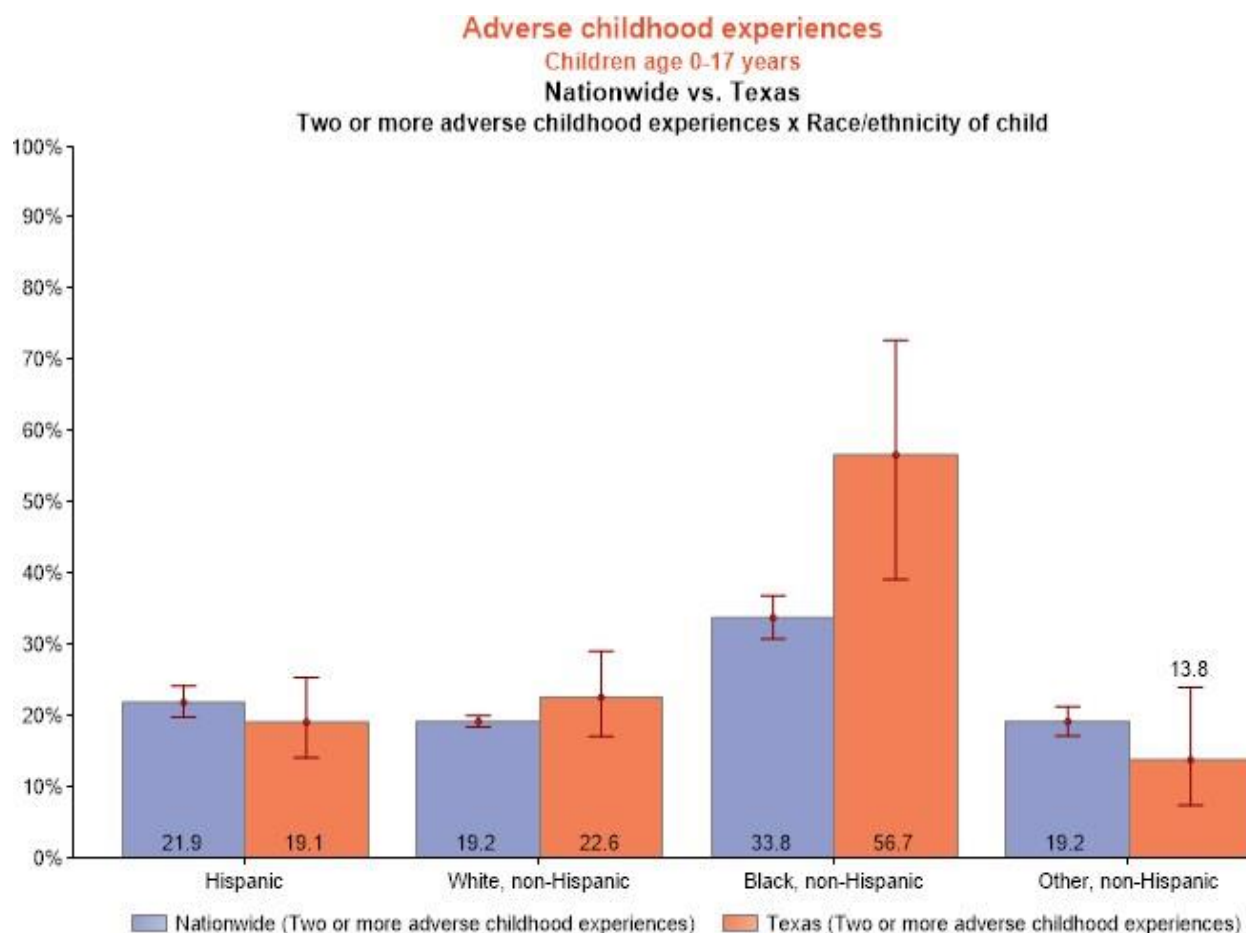
State/National	Highest	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Texas	Economic Hardship (29%)	Divorce (20%)	Alcohol (10%)	Mental Illness (8%)
United States	Economic Hardship (26%)	Divorce (20%)	Alcohol (11%)	Violence (9%) Mental Illness (9%)
State/National	Number of Adverse Childhood Experiences			
	0	1 or 2	3+	
Texas	54%	36%	10%	
United States	54%	36%	11%	

Source: https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Brief-adverse-childhood-experiences_FINAL.pdf

Key Findings: The table above shows the four most common adverse childhood experiences among children aged birth through age 17 on a state and national level. Economic hardship (29%) was the most prevalent adverse childhood experience, followed by divorce (20%), alcohol (10%), and mental illness (8%) for children in Texas. Approximately 36% of children in Texas experienced one or two adverse childhood experiences and 11% experienced three or more.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on health and well-being. These experiences range from physical, emotional, or sexual abuse to parental divorce or the incarceration of a parent or guardian. By far, the most common ACEs in all 50 states are economic hardship, parental divorce or separation. Nationally, just over one in four children ages birth through 17 has experienced economic hardship somewhat or very often. Divorce is the second-most-common ACE experienced by children in each age group. Nationally, about equal numbers of children ages birth to five have lived with someone who has an alcohol or drug problem or has lived with someone with mental illness. Living with someone with an alcohol or drug-use problem was reported among 12% of 6- to 11-year-old and 15 percent of 12- to 17-year-old. One in seven 12- to 17-year-old (14%) was the victim of, or witness to, neighborhood violence.

Figure 16: Adverse Childhood Experiences, Race and Ethnicity-Nationwide vs. Texas



Source: <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=4783&r=1&g=606&r2=45&a=7293>

Key Findings: According to Child Health Data, 56.7% of black non-Hispanic children experience two or more adverse childhood experiences in Texas as compared to 33.8% nationally.

Trauma

A growing body of research has made it increasingly apparent that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are a critical public health issue. ACEs are potentially traumatic experiences and events, ranging from abuse and neglect to living with an adult with a mental illness. They can have negative, lasting effects on health and well-being in childhood or later in life. However, more important than exposure to any specific event of this type is the accumulation of multiple adversities during childhood, which is associated with especially deleterious effects on development.

Potentially traumatic experiences are common among U.S. children, with more than one in four having been exposed to economic hardship, even in the first five years of life. One in five has experienced parental divorce or separation, and one in ten has lived in a household where an adult has an alcohol or drug problem. More troubling still, more than one in ten children nationally—and, in a few states, about one in six—has experienced three or more adverse experiences. These findings have important implications for children’s health and well-being, including the

need for increased attention to the early detection and treatment of children affected by trauma, as well as to the conditions in families and communities that contribute to adverse development.

Measurement of Adverse Childhood Experiences

The prevalence of eight adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) was measured consisting of whether the child ever:

1. Lived with a parent or guardian who was divorced or separated.
2. Lived with a parent or guardian who died.
3. Lived with a parent or guardian who served time in jail or prison.
4. Lived with anyone who was mentally ill or suicidal, or severely depressed for more than a couple of weeks.
5. Lived with anyone who had a problem with alcohol or drugs.
6. Witnessed a parent, guardian, or other adults in the household behaving violently toward another (e.g., slapping, hitting, kicking, punching, or beating each other up).
7. Was ever the victim of violence or witnessed any violence in his or her neighborhood; and
8. Experienced economic hardship “somewhat often” or “very often” (i.e., the family found it hard to cover costs of food and housing).

Source:https://childtrends-ciw49tixgw5lbab.stackpathdns.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Brief-adverse-childhood-experiences_FINAL.pdf

The Challenge

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have a significant negative impact on the lives of children. ACEs include emotional abuse and neglect, physical abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, violent treatment of mothers, household substance abuse, household mental illness, parental separation or divorce, and incarceration of a household member (SAMHSA, 2018). ACEs affect people in all areas of life including their career, social relationships, and most importantly, their health (Mersky et al., 2013). ACEs influence adolescent cognitive development, altering youths’ response to stress (Hillis et al, 2004) and potentially affecting their immune system (Danese & McEwen, 2012). ACEs’ severity stems from the fact that the effects may only manifest later in life, which may complicate treatment (Macnaught, 2017).

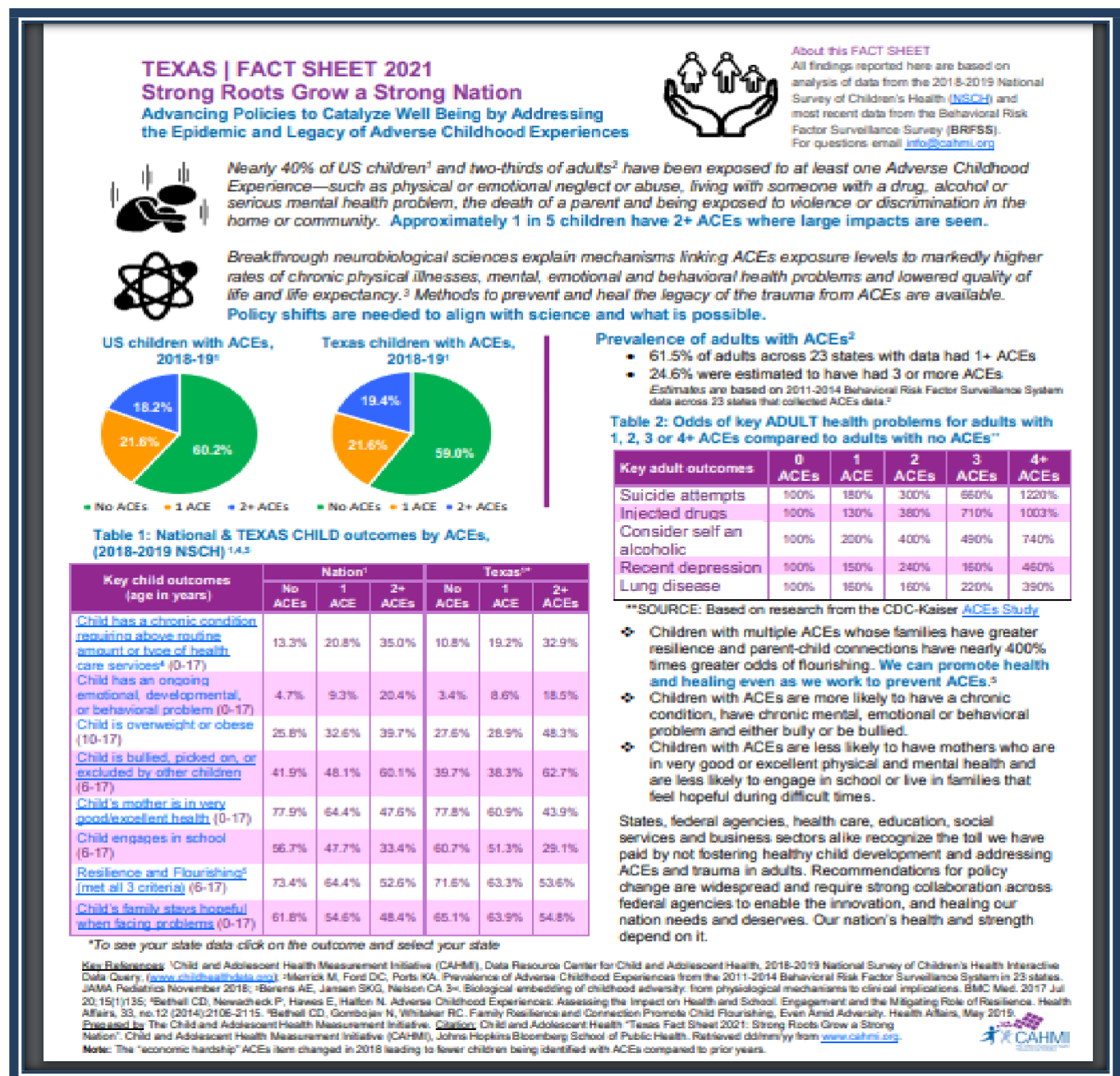
The CDC-Kaiser Permanente Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study is one of the largest investigations of childhood abuse and neglect and its impact on health and well-being. This study, involving over 17,000 participants, reported at least two-thirds of participants have experienced one adverse experience and 20% experienced three or more ACEs (CDC, 1998). Physical abuse was found to be the most experienced childhood adversity. The study also found that women experienced ACEs more than men (CDC, 1998). Victims mostly suffer more than one form of ACE with almost 40% of participants experiencing two or more. Additionally, 12.5% of the study’s sample experienced four or more ACEs (CDC, 1998). Childhood trauma leads to lifelong chronic illness (Nakazawa, 2016).

According to the CDC-Kaiser Permanente ACEs study, people reported having experienced four categories of childhood adversity are twice as likely to be diagnosed with cancer and depression as adults. The study also showed that as the number of ACEs increases so does the risk for sexually transmitted diseases, financial stress, poor academic achievement, suicide attempts, and liver disease, among other illnesses (CDC, 1998). The effect of childhood toxic stress also transcends the individuals who directly experience it, and ACEs have both implicit and explicit economic costs. Research has shown that the physical and mental health conditions caused by childhood toxic stress reduce productivity later in life (Shern et al, 2014). According to the CDC, ACEs also result in increased taxpayer costs for health care, child welfare, special education, and criminal justice (Baglivio et al, 2014). The CDC estimates the lifetime cost associated with child maltreatment to be \$124 billion (Fang et al., 2012).

https://ualr.edu/publicaffairs/files/2016/06/Spring_2018_Technical-Report_Final.pdf



Figure 17: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Texas Fact Sheet 2021



Source: https://www.cahmi.org/docs/default-source/resources/2021-aces-fact-sheets/cahmi-state-fact-sheet---tx.pdf?sfvrsn=4dfbfe00_4

Figure 18: Complex Trauma



Complex trauma describes both children's exposure to multiple traumatic events and the wide-ranging, long-term impact of this exposure. These events are severe, pervasive and often interpersonal, such as abuse or profound neglect. They usually begin early in life, may disrupt many aspects of the child's development, and interfere with the child's ability to form secure attachment bonds. Many aspects of a child's healthy physical and mental development rely on this primary source of safety and stability.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A CHILD WITH COMPLEX TRAUMA?

We all have an internal alarm system to warn us of danger and prepare us to respond. The "fight, flight, or freeze" response prepares us to fight off an attack, flee if fighting does not seem possible, or freeze if we can neither fight nor flee. This response is something that has been built into the human body and brain for thousands of years. When we perceive danger, this internal alarm system turns on, and when the danger passes, the alarm system shuts down.

Children with complex trauma often have overactive alarm systems, where their alarm system "goes haywire." These children may jump at any loud noise, or feel their hearts pounding when they see one child shove another on the playground. They might wake up from sleep every time a dog barks in the neighborhood. They are always on the lookout for danger. Often they think safe situations are dangerous. They have false alarms when things remind them of the traumatic events. We call these "trauma reminders."

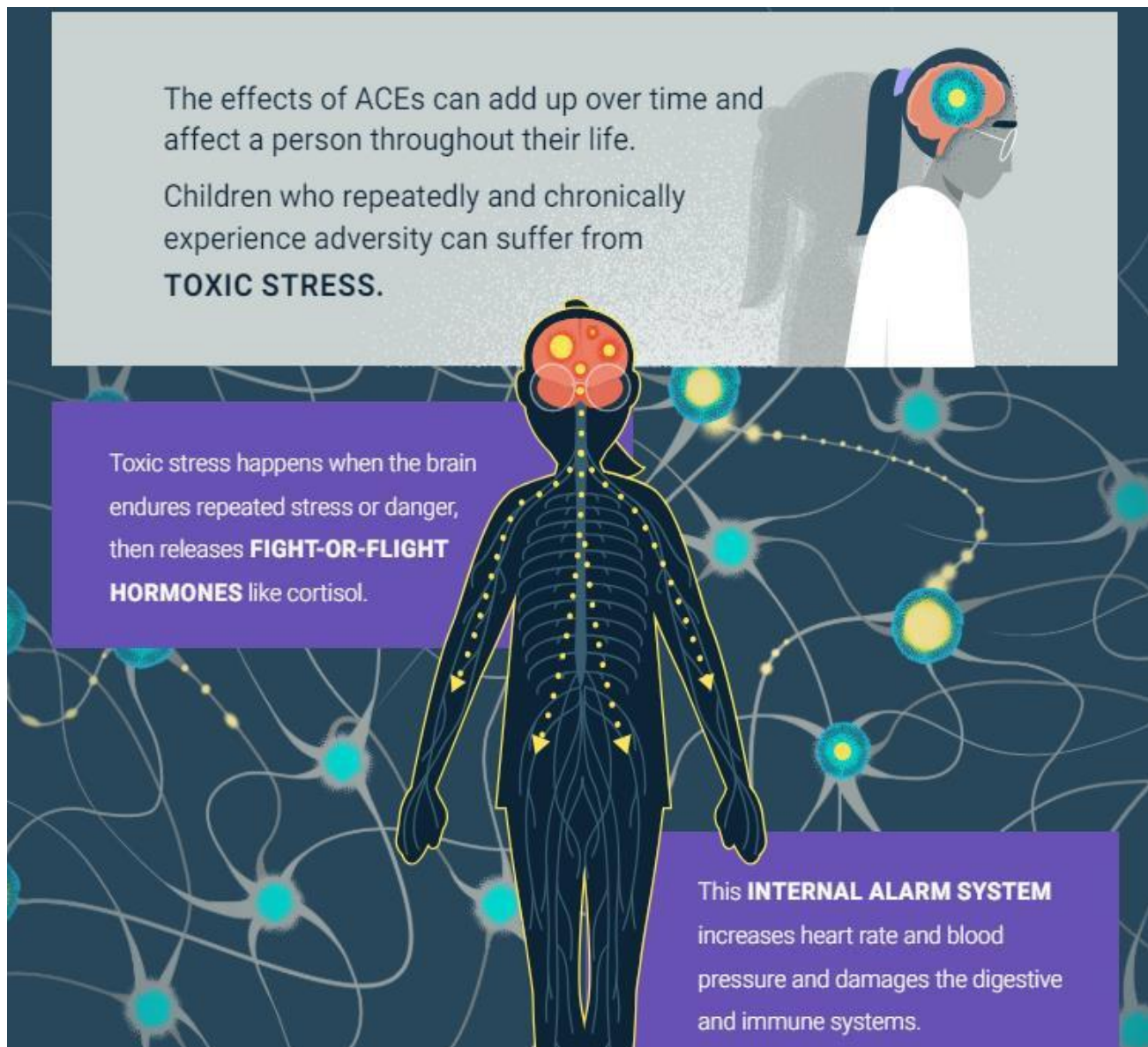
HOW DOES COMPLEX TRAUMA CHANGE MY CHILD'S THINKING?

A child with a complex trauma history may:

- ✓ Have trouble developing skills and learning, due to the amount of mental energy being spent reacting to trauma reminders
- ✓ Have trouble focusing, organizing, and processing information; this might make the child seem to be ignoring a caregiver or teacher who has to repeat requests or instructions to get a response
- ✓ Seem distracted because he is trying to predict or avoid the next "bad thing" that will happen
- ✓ Seem very nervous, emotionally intense, or to have a "hair-trigger" response; frequently, she may be flooded by overwhelming and unbearable emotions
- ✓ Seem "shut down," numb, and unable to experience or express any emotions

Source: <https://elcph.org/developmental-services/>

Figure 19: Toxic Stress



Source: https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/aces-infographic/assets/pdf/ACEs-Infographic-Narrative_508.pdf

Key Findings: Toxic stress refers to prolonged or excessive activation of the body's stress response system, particularly in the absence of supportive relationships or buffering mechanisms. Unlike positive or tolerable stress, which can be beneficial and temporary, toxic stress occurs when individuals experience overwhelming or chronic stressors without adequate support to help them cope effectively.

Figure 20: Understanding ACEs

We Can Prevent Childhood Adversity

The Science of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Shows We Can Improve People's Lives and Help Them Thrive

Understanding ACEs

Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, are potentially traumatic events in childhood (0-17 years), such as neglect and experiencing or witnessing violence.

ACEs include aspects of a child's environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding, such as living in a household with substance misuse or mental health problems.

ACEs can negatively impact physical, mental, emotional, and behavioral development. ACEs can also have lasting effects on health, well-being, and prosperity well into adulthood.

Source: <https://stjohns.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/community-health-planning-and-statistics/community-health-initiatives/veto-violence.html>

Key Findings: Understanding ACEs is crucial because these experiences can have long-term consequences for physical and mental health, social functioning, and overall quality of life. ACEs are cumulative, meaning that individuals who experience multiple adverse experiences are at greater risk for negative outcomes. However, early intervention, supportive relationships, and access to resources and services can mitigate the effects of ACEs and promote resilience and healing in affected individuals. By raising awareness of ACEs and implementing trauma-informed approaches to care, communities can better support individuals who have experienced childhood adversity and work to prevent its intergenerational transmission.

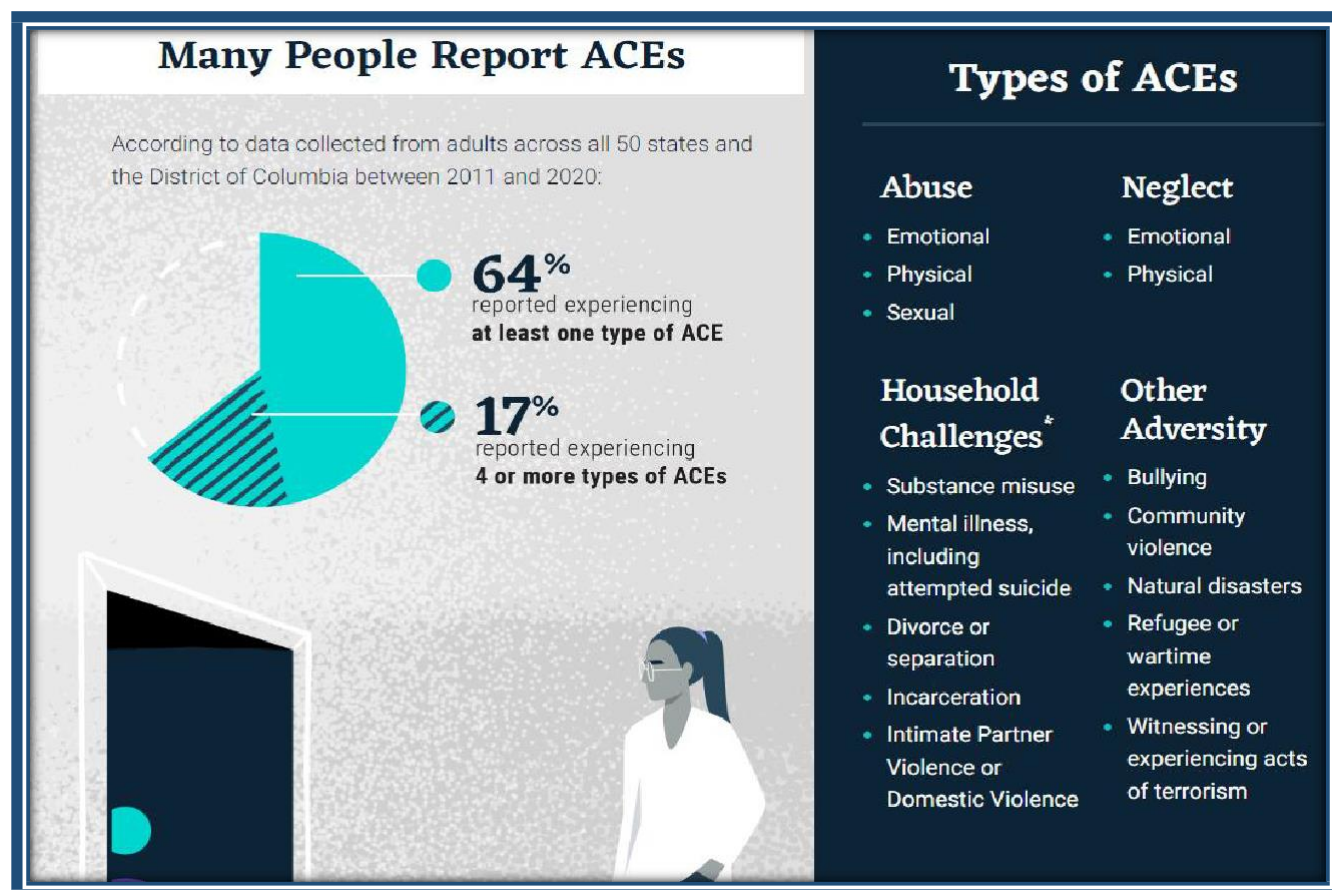
Here's how you can create positive childhood experiences for your toddler or preschooler!

- Read to your child** every day. Ask questions about the stories and pictures.
- Establish routines** for bedtime, meals, and more. Routines give kids a sense of security.
- Play with your child often.** Do activities that encourage creativity, like coloring and building.

Visit healthychildren.org/ACEs

American Academy of Pediatrics | healthychildren.org

Figure 21: Types of ACEs

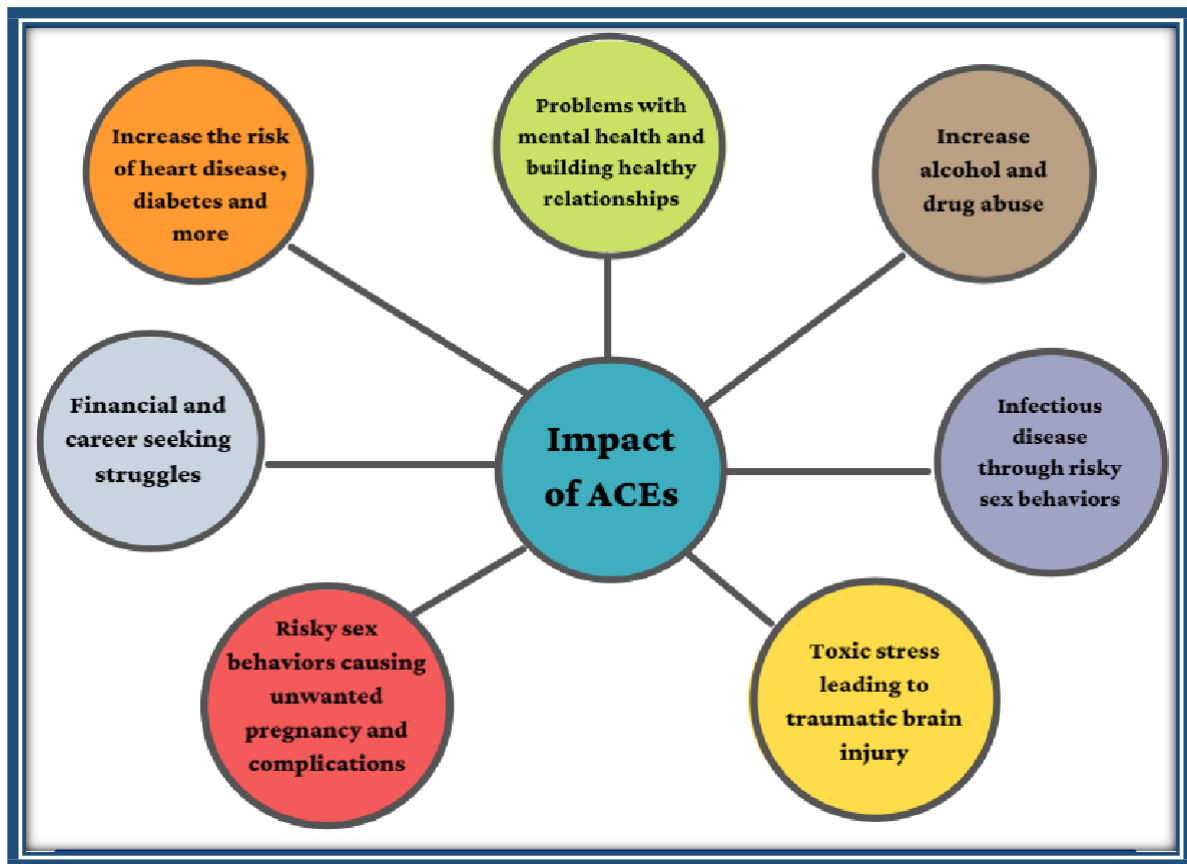


Source: <https://stjohns.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/community-health-planning-and-statistics/community-health-initiatives/veto-violence.html>

Figure 22: Types of Groups Most Likely to Experience ACEs



Figure 23: Adverse Childhood Experiences and Impact on Adulthood



Source:https://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/survey-data/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system/RevisedACEFlyer_12.14.pdf

Key Findings: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can have significant and long-lasting impacts on individuals as they transition into adulthood. ACEs refer to potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood, such as abuse, neglect, household dysfunction, or witnessing violence. Research has shown that ACEs can have various effects on adulthood, including those listed in Figure 23. The impact of ACEs on adulthood highlights the importance of early intervention, trauma-informed care, and comprehensive support systems to address the needs of individuals who have experienced childhood adversity. By addressing ACEs and providing appropriate resources and interventions, it is possible to promote healing, resilience, and improved outcomes in adulthood.

Highlights and Considerations – Social Services

- ❖ Webb County Sherriff's Office reported 96 incidents of family violence, whereas the Laredo Police Department reported 2,029 family violence incidents. Laredo Community College Police Department and United ISD Police Department reported no incidents of family violence, and Texas A & M reported one incident of family violence.
- ❖ The largest percentage of family violence reports was between other family members (58.7%). The second most reported relationship among offenders and victims was marital and the third most common relationship was parental/child.
- ❖ In Texas, 6,936 domestic violence victims were served, 1,603 hotline contacts were received, 1,159 people were educated, and 1,827 unmet requests for services were received.
- ❖ The number of children ages 0 - 17 who were confirmed as victims of child abuse was 568 in 2020, (7.0 per 1,000 children), which was lower than the state rate (9.1 per 1,000 children). The number of confirmed victims of child abuse in Webb County increased from 374 in 2016 to 568 in 2020. The psychological consequences of child abuse and neglect include the immediate effects of isolation, fear, and an inability to trust. When children cannot trust that someone will be there to meet their needs, they tend to develop low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, and hopelessness. These difficulties can lead to lifelong relationship problems and may lead to the development of antisocial behavioral traits. These children are also more likely to engage in violent behaviors and to be diagnosed with conduct and personality disorders.
- ❖ In Webb County, the number of children, ages 0 - 17 in foster care, was 126 (1.6 per 1,000 children) in 2022, which represented a decrease of 3.5 per 1,000 children from 2018. In Webb County, the rate of children in foster care was equal to the state rate of 1.6 per 1,000 children. Many foster children struggle in school due to the trauma they experience as a result of abuse, neglect, separation, and instability. Approximately 80% of foster children are held back in school at least once by the time they reach 3rd grade.
- ❖ The Laredo Homeless Coalition conducted the Homeless Count in January 2024. According to the Coalition, the total homeless count for Webb County was approximately 304, an increase of 63 people from 2019. There was a significant decrease in the total homeless count for 2021 (86). An estimated 28 homeless individuals reported having a serious mental illness in 2020 as compared to 6 individuals in 2021. Respondents reported that unemployment was the main reason for their homeless situation. There were approximately 28 children under the age of 18, who reported homelessness in 2021. Most homeless individuals were males.

- ❖ Economic hardship (29%) was the most prevalent adverse childhood experience, followed by divorce (20%), alcohol (10%), and mental illness (8%) for children in Texas. Approximately 36% of children in Texas experienced one or two adverse childhood experiences and 11% experienced three or more.
- ❖ According to Child Health Data, 56.7% of black non-Hispanic children experience two or more adverse childhood experiences in Texas as compared to 33.8% nationally.
- ❖ Toxic stress refers to prolonged or excessive activation of the body's stress response system, particularly in the absence of supportive relationships or buffering mechanisms. Unlike positive or tolerable stress, which can be beneficial and temporary, toxic stress occurs when individuals experience overwhelming or chronic stressors without adequate support to help them cope effectively.
- ❖ Understanding ACEs is crucial because these experiences can have long-term consequences for physical and mental health, social functioning, and overall quality of life. ACEs are cumulative, meaning that individuals who experience multiple adverse experiences are at greater risk for negative outcomes. However, early intervention, supportive relationships, and access to resources and services can mitigate the effects of ACEs and promote resilience and healing in affected individuals. By raising awareness of ACEs and implementing trauma-informed approaches to care, communities can better support individuals who have experienced childhood adversity and work to prevent its intergenerational transmission.
- ❖ Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can have significant and long-lasting impacts on individuals as they transition into adulthood. ACEs refer to potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood, such as abuse, neglect, household dysfunction, or witnessing violence. The impact of ACEs on adulthood highlights the importance of early intervention, trauma-informed care, and comprehensive support systems to address the needs of individuals who have experienced childhood adversity. By addressing ACEs and providing appropriate resources and interventions, it is possible to promote healing, resilience, and improved outcomes in adulthood.

Transportation

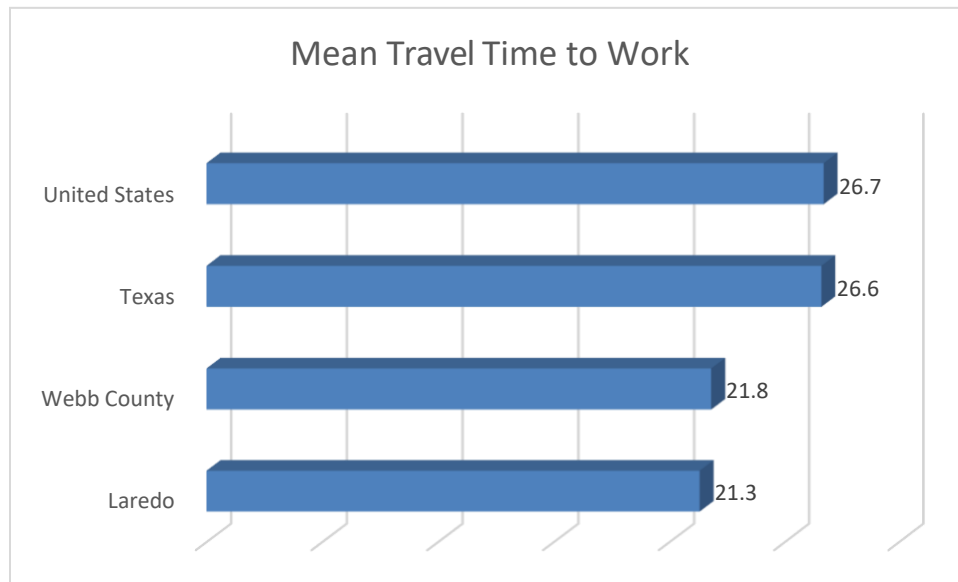


Table 88: Mean Travel Time to Work

Location	Minutes
Laredo	21.3
Webb County	21.8
Texas	26.6
United States	26.7

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, Quick Facts*

Key Findings: Average commute to work in Webb County was approximately 21.8 minutes. The commute to work in Laredo was approximately 21.3 minutes, slightly below the county (21.8) and state average (26.7).

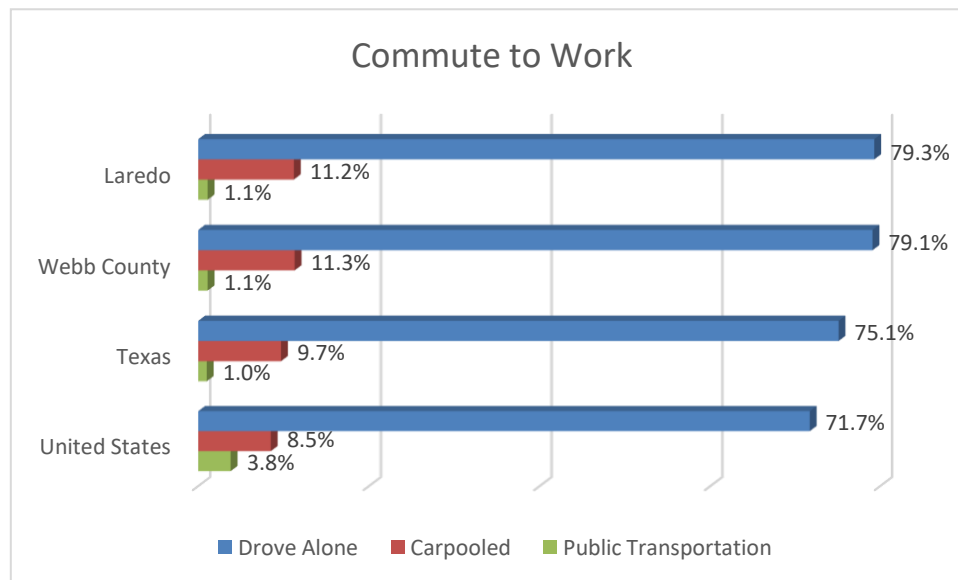


Table 89: Commute to Work

Location	Number of Workers Commuting to Work	Drove Alone	Carpooled	Public Transportation	Walked	Other Means	Worked at Home
Laredo	106,260	79.3%	11.2%	1.1%	1.6%	2.0%	4.9%
Webb County	110,657	79.1%	11.3%	1.1%	1.6%	2.0%	4.9%
Texas	13,755,352	75.1%	9.7%	1.0%	1.5%	1.7%	11.0%
United States	156,703,623	71.7%	8.5%	3.8%	2.4%	1.9%	11.7%

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP03*

Key Findings: The majority of Webb County and the city of Laredo are largely auto-oriented communities. In Laredo, approximately 79.3% of workers drove alone to work, while 11.2% carpooled. These percentages are somewhat consistent with the county rates. In addition, Laredo workers (1.6%) walked to work, while 1.1% used public transportation. An estimated 79.1% of Webb County workers drove to work alone in 2018 - 2022, and 11.3% carpooled. According to the 2019 Bureau of Census/American Community Survey (ACS), the number of workers 16 and over commuting to work, has several implications for transportation and municipal services.

Table 90: Commute Pattern – Place of Work

Location	Worked in County of Residence	Worked Outside of County of Residence	Worked Outside State of Residence
Laredo	94.9%	4.2%	0.9%
Webb County	94.7%	4.4%	0.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018– 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. S0801

Key Findings: The majority of residents worked in Webb County (94.7%), while 4.4% worked outside of the county. Approximately 0.9% of residents worked outside of the state.

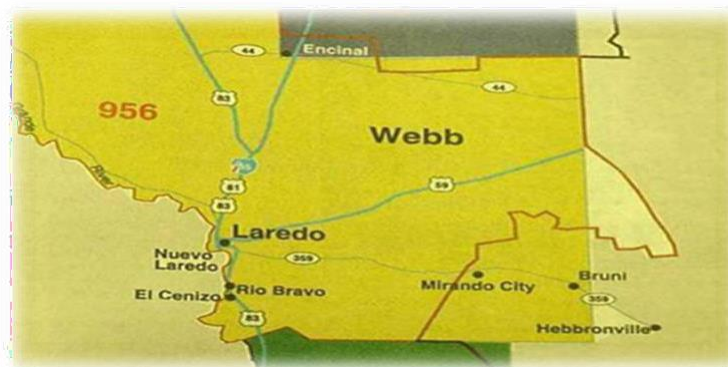
Transportation

Mass Transit

El Metro Transit is the operator of public transportation in Laredo, Texas. Twenty-three bus routes are operated in a hub and spoke system, with each terminating in a downtown transit center. Most routes function seven days per week. El Metro works with a fleet of over 47 fixed-route buses, 2 trolleys, and 18 Paratransit/El Lift vans. The El Metro hub is in downtown Laredo at El Metro Transit Center.

Rural Transit

Rural transportation is provided by the Webb County-operated "El Aguila Rural Transportation" (the Eagle) bus services. El Aguila Rural Transit System is located at 4801 Daughtery St. (Main Office) was established back in the 1980s to promote and provide professional rural mass transit services to the non-urbanized population, particularly to those individuals whose trips are not subsidized by another source. Services carry East to the Quad Cities of Aguilares, Mirando, Oilton, and Bruni; and South Hwy 83 to the cities of Rio Bravo and El Cenizo. Presently there are six routes, which cover most of the rural areas of Webb County. These routes are served with Type III 25 passenger buses and Type XI 33-passenger buses.



Highlights and Considerations – Transportation

- ❖ The average commute to work in Webb County was approximately 21.8 minutes. The commute to work in Laredo was approximately 21.3 minutes, slightly below the county (21.8) and state average (26.7).
- ❖ The majority of Webb County and the city of Laredo are largely auto-oriented communities. In Laredo, approximately 79.3% of workers drove alone to work, while 11.2% carpoolled. These percentages are somewhat consistent with the county rates. In addition, Laredo workers (1.6%) walked to work, while 1.1% used public transportation. An estimated 79.1% of Webb County workers drove to work alone in 2018 - 2022, and 11.3% carpoolled. According to the 2019 Bureau of Census/American Community Survey (ACS), the number of workers 16 and over commuting to work, has several implications for transportation and municipal services.
- ❖ The majority of residents worked in Webb County (94.7%), while 4.4% worked outside of the county. Approximately 0.9% of residents worked outside of the state.

Housing

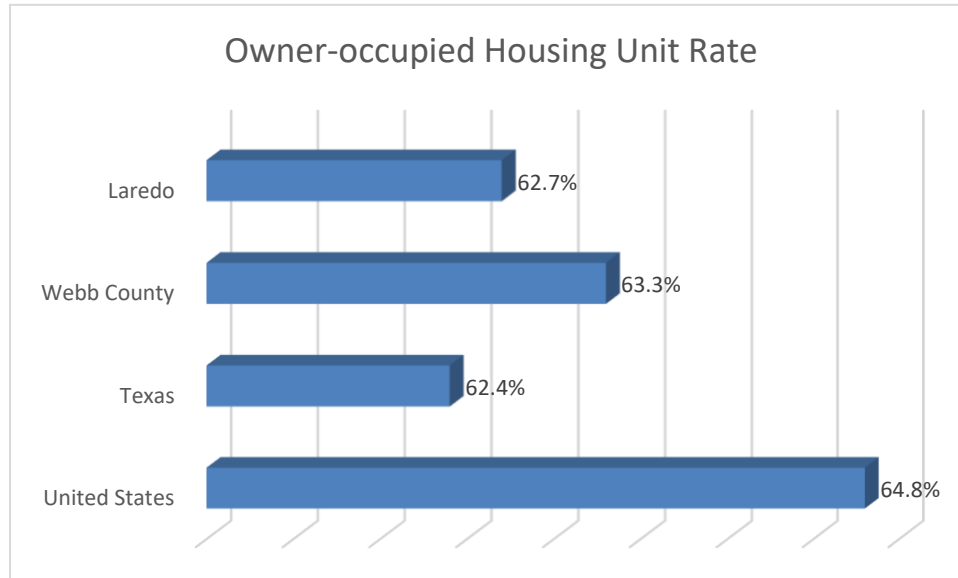


Table 91: Owner-occupied Housing Unit Rate

Location	Percentage
Laredo	62.7%
Webb County	63.3%
Texas	62.4%
United States	64.8%

Source: U.S. Census Quick Facts 2018 – 2022

Key Findings: The owner-occupied housing unit rate in the city of Laredo was 62.7%, which was slightly lower than the rate for Webb County (63.3%). The owner-occupied housing unit rate for Webb County was slightly higher than the state rate (62.4%).

Table 92: Vacancy Rate and Occupied Units

Location/Percentage	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units	Homeowner Vacancy Rate	Rental Vacancy Rate
Laredo	74,380	92.2%	7.8%	1.1	7.7
Webb County	77,797	91.2%	8.8%	1.1	7.9
Texas	10,490,553	90.0%	10.0%	1.2	7.4
United States	125,736,353	89.2%	10.8%	1.1	5.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018– 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP04

Key Findings: The City of Laredo (92.2%) had a slightly higher percentage of occupied housing units than the County (91.2%). The City of Laredo reported 7.8% vacant housing units and a 7.7% rental vacancy rate.

Table 93: Gross Rent (Occupied Units Paying Rent)

Location	Occupied Units paying rent	Less than \$500	\$500 - \$999	\$1,000 - \$1,499	\$1,500 - \$1,999	\$2,000 - \$2,499	\$2,500 - \$2,999	\$3,000 or more	Median Rent
Laredo	25,815	6.9%	47.2%	33.9%	9.8%	0.9%	1.2%	0.1%	\$968
Webb County	26,274	7.0%	47.6%	33.6%	9.6%	0.9%	1.1%	0.1%	\$964
Texas	3,763,955	4.6%	24.0%	38.8%	20.8%	7.7%	2.3%	1.8%	\$1,251
United States	42,085,857	7.0%	25.1%	30.5%	19.0%	9.4%	4.1%	4.9%	\$1,268

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP04

Key Findings: The percentage of occupied units paying gross rent less than \$500 was slightly lower in the city of Laredo (6.9%) than Webb County (7.0%), which both were higher than the state average (4.6%). In Webb County, 33.6% of occupied units were paying rent ranging from \$1,000 - \$1,499. The median rent for Webb County was \$964.

Table 94: Occupied Housing Units with/without Vehicles Available

Location	Occupied Housing Units	No Vehicle Available		1 Vehicle Available		2 Vehicles Available	
Laredo	74,380	4,552	6.1%	23,509	31.6%	26,893	26.1%
Webb County	77,797	4,785	6.2%	24,618	31.6%	28,159	36.2%
Texas	10,490,553	551,100	5.3%	3,373,402	32.2%	4,202,958	40.1%
United States	125,736,353	10,474,870	8.3%	41,021,872	32.6%	46,485,897	37.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP04

Key Findings: The city of Laredo (6.1%) reported a slightly lower percentage of households with no vehicle available than Webb County (6.2%). However, the percentage of households with at least one vehicle in the city of Laredo was 31.6%, slightly lower than the state and national rates (32.6%). Webb County had a lower percentage of households with two available vehicles (26.1%) than the state (40.1%) and national rate (37.0%).

Table 95: Selected Housing Characteristics

Location	Occupied Housing Units	Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities		Lacking Complete Kitchen Facilities		No Telephone Service Available	
Laredo	74,380	584	0.8%	735	1.0%	1,043	1.4%
Webb County	77,797	787	1.0%	785	1.0%	1,063	1.4%
Texas	10,490,553	46,304	0.4%	80,686	0.8%	114,860	1.1%
United States	125,736,353	486,881	0.4%	1,027,000	0.8%	1,317,528	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP04

Key Findings: Webb County and the city of Laredo had somewhat comparable percentages as related to homes lacking plumbing, kitchen facility, and telephone services. However, there were 584 homes in the city of Laredo that lacked plumbing facilities, and 785 homes that lacked complete kitchen facilities in Webb County. The data reflects a higher percentage of households with no available telephone service in Webb County (1.4%) than the state (1.1%) and national rates (1.0%).

Table 96: Gross Rent (as Percentage of Household Income)

Location	Less than 15.0%	15.0% - 19.9%	20.0% - 24.9%	25.0% - 29.9%	30.0% - 34.9%	35.0% or more
Laredo	14.4%	12.7%	11.7%	10.8%	9.2%	41.3%
Webb County	14.5%	12.6%	11.6%	10.8%	9.0%	41.6%
Texas	12.2%	12.9%	13.4%	11.7%	9.2%	40.5%
United States	13.1%	12.6%	12.8%	11.5%	9.1%	40.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. DP04

Key Findings: The percentage of households that paid gross rent that was 35% or more of household income in the city of Laredo was 41.3%, as compared to 41.6% in Webb County, 40.5% for the state and 40.8% nationally.

Table 97: Fair Market Rent

Location	Fair Market Rent (Monthly) Efficiency	Fair Market Rent (Monthly) 1 Bedroom	Fair Market Rent (Monthly) 2 Bedrooms	Fair Market Rent (Monthly) 3 Bedrooms	Fair Market Rent (Monthly) 4 Bedrooms
Webb County	\$791	\$796	\$995	\$1,276	\$1,380
Texas	\$1,004	\$1,090	\$1,303	\$1,695	\$2,098

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2022. <https://nlihc.org/oor/state/tx>

Key Findings: Fair market monthly rent for a 4-bedroom house or apartment for the service area is shown above. Fair market rent for four bedrooms was lower in Webb County (\$1,380) as compared to the state (\$2,098).



Table 98: Housing Affordability

Location	Estimated Mean Renter Hourly Wage	Hourly Wage 0 Bedroom	Hourly Wage 1 Bedroom	Hourly Wage 2 Bedrooms	Hourly Wage 3 Bedrooms	Hourly Wage 4 Bedrooms
Webb County	\$20.14	\$15.21	\$15.31	\$19.13	\$24.54	\$26.54
Texas	\$27.65	\$19.31	\$20.96	\$25.06	\$32.59	\$40.34

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2022. <https://nlihc.org/oor/state/tx>

Key Findings: The National Low Income Housing Coalition reports each year on the amount of money a household must earn to afford a rental unit based on Fair Market Rent in the area and an acceptable limit of 30% of income for housing costs. Within the service area, a household must earn \$19.13 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom rental unit as compared to the state (\$25.06). The estimated mean renter hourly wage is \$20.14 in Webb County as compared to the state (\$27.65).

Safe and stable housing is essential to the healthy growth of children. Research links inadequate or insecure housing to negative outcomes for children.

Source: Child Trends

Housing Instability

New research finds that housing instability can affect the mental and physical health of family members of all ages. There has been quite a bit of research linking financial insecurity to poor health outcomes. The connection is, on its face, an obvious one, as a depleted checking account can cause stress, which can manifest in our bodies and minds. A new study by researchers at Boston Medical Center furthers that unfortunate connection: It finds

housing instability, including chronically late rent payment, can affect the mental and physical health of family members of all ages. A stable home is a foundation to thrive. It is important to start thinking about creating more of that foundation, so people can have a fair shot and start getting ahead.

Over five years in five urban medical centers nationwide, the researchers surveyed and interviewed 22,324 low-income families with a series of questions about chronic forms of housing instability, and rated both the caregiver and child's health. Thirty-four percent of the families surveyed who had children ages four and below faced at least one form of housing instability; 27 percent fell behind on rent at least two times in the past year, 8 percent had moved at least twice in the past year, and 12 percent had a history of homelessness.

The study found caregivers of young children in low-income unstable housing are subject to significant negative health effects, becoming two times more likely than those in stable housing to be in fair or poor health, and almost three times more likely to report depressive symptoms. Children aged four and under in these families had almost a 20 percent increased risk of hospitalization, and over a 25 percent increased risk of developmental delays.

Two-thirds of these families were behind on rent at least twice in the past year. In addition, only 14 percent of families reported experiencing more than one form of housing instability—for example, being behind on rent and moving homes multiple times. This may indicate a need to approach distinct housing circumstances separately, instead of assessing these issues in one larger group.

The rated health of children in families experiencing trouble meeting rent deadlines looked like the health of children who had experienced homelessness or multiple moves. Taking these findings and the stressors of families' circumstances, doctors working in areas with these high-risk practices can better understand why patients are having certain health conditions. This is a real wake-up call and agencies need to start thinking about creating more affordable housing options for everyone.

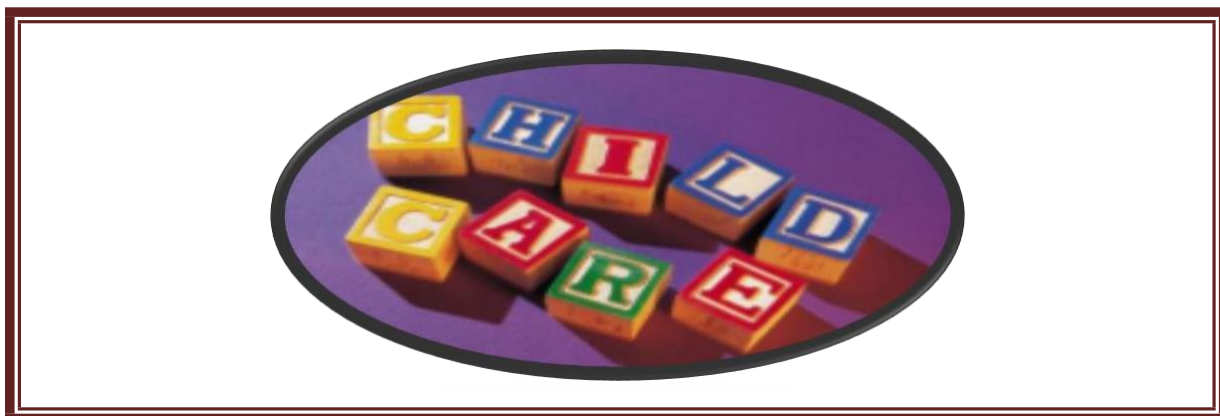
Source: The Burden of a Late Rent Check Can Harm the Health of Both Parents and Kids

[https://psmag.com/social-justice/late-rent-payments-family-](https://psmag.com/social-justice/late-rent-payments-family-health?utm_source=Partnership%20eNews%202%2F6%2F2018&utm_campaign=Partnership%20eNews%202%2F6%2F2018&utm_medium=email)

[health?utm_source=Partnership%20eNews%202%2F6%2F2018&utm_campaign=Partnership%20eNews%202%2F6%2F2018&utm_medium=email](https://psmag.com/social-justice/late-rent-payments-family-health?utm_source=Partnership%20eNews%202%2F6%2F2018&utm_campaign=Partnership%20eNews%202%2F6%2F2018&utm_medium=email)

Highlights and Considerations – Housing

- ❖ The owner-occupied housing unit rate in the city of Laredo was 62.7%, which was slightly lower than the rate for Webb County (63.3%). The owner-occupied housing unit rate for Webb County was slightly higher than the state rate (62.4%).
- ❖ The City of Laredo (92.2%) had a slightly higher percentage of occupied housing units than the County (91.2%). The City of Laredo reported 7.8% vacant housing units and a 7.7% rental vacancy rate.
- ❖ The percentage of occupied units paying gross rent less than \$500 was slightly lower in the city of Laredo (6.9%) than Webb County (7.0%), which both were higher than the state average (4.6%). In Webb County, 33.6% of occupied units were paying rent ranging from \$1,000 - \$1,499. The median rent for Webb County was \$964.
- ❖ The city of Laredo (6.1%) reported a slightly lower percentage of households with no vehicle available than Webb County (6.2%). However, the percentage of households with at least one vehicle in the city of Laredo was 31.6%, slightly lower than the state and national rates (32.6%). Webb County had a lower percentage of households with two available vehicles (26.1%) than the state (40.1%) and national rate (37.0%).
- ❖ Webb County and the city of Laredo had somewhat comparable percentages as related to homes lacking plumbing, kitchen facility, and telephone services. However, there were 584 homes in the city of Laredo that lacked plumbing facilities, and 785 homes that lacked complete kitchen facilities in Webb County. The data reflects a higher percentage of households with no available telephone service in Webb County (1.4%) than the state (1.1%) and national rates (1.0%).
- ❖ The percentage of households that paid gross rent that was 35% or more of household income in the city of Laredo was 41.3%, as compared to 41.6% in Webb County, 40.5% for the state and 40.8% nationally.
- ❖ Fair market rent for four bedrooms was lower in Webb County (\$1,380) as compared to the state (\$2,098).
- ❖ Within the service area, a household must earn \$19.13 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom rental unit as compared to the state (\$25.06). The estimated mean renter hourly wage is \$20.14 in Webb County as compared to the state (\$27.65).
- ❖ New research finds that housing instability can affect the mental and physical health of family members of all ages. There has been quite a bit of research linking financial insecurity to poor health outcomes. The connection is, on its face, an obvious one, as a depleted checking account can cause stress, which can manifest in our bodies and minds. A new study by researchers at Boston Medical Center furthers that unfortunate connection: It finds housing instability, including chronically late rent payment, can affect the mental and physical health of family members of all ages. A stable home is a foundation to thrive.



Recommendations for Regulating Artificial Intelligence to Minimize Risks to Children and Their Families

From January 2023 to March 2024, multiple entities have published guidance on artificial intelligence (AI), underscoring growing public concerns regarding AI governance. Meanwhile, as federal and state legislators weigh the need for AI regulations to safeguard the public from various risks, recent discourse about AI risk has overlooked the use of AI by children and their families or caregivers. This gap is widening as students increasingly turn to AI for homework assistance and interact with AI-generated content (including images and videos), and as caregivers (including both parents and educators) attempt to use AI to foster child engagement. Drawing on lessons from a recent Child Trends study on the capabilities of AI systems, Child Trend proposes stronger guidance and regulations to ensure rigorous assessment of potential harm by AI systems in contexts involving children and families.

Child Trend proposes that federal and state regulators mandate proper assessment of three aspects of AI systems to minimize the potential risks of AI to children and families. First, regulators should mandate AI assessments that are capable of distinguishing between AI systems that can reliably handle both simple and complex subjects and those that cannot. Our experience with the AI systems created for our study illustrates the need for safeguards so that AI tools and systems meant for young people—from chatbots to virtual reality devices—can be trusted to not generate images and suggestions that are harmful, dangerous, or unethical.

Secondly, we propose that regulators underscore that it's critical for AI assessment to consider the developmental appropriateness and safety of AI-generated content for different age groups in specific contexts. As explained above, the capability of AI systems to handle complex subjects should be part of the determination of developmental appropriateness and safety. The European Union's new Artificial Intelligence Act proposes a risk classification system for AI, raising the question of whether AI systems should follow an age rating system akin to motion picture ratings, the Entertainment Software Rating Board ratings used for video games, and the Pan European Game Information ratings (used in 39 countries). In the U.S. context, the California Age-Appropriate Design Code Act would mandate specific design and operation standards for digital services likely to be accessed by

children, ensuring that these services are appropriate and safe for various age groups. The need to help the public distinguish age-appropriate AI content has become increasingly pertinent as AI extends beyond text generation to the creation of images, audios, and videos.

Thirdly, Child Trend proposes that regulators mandate continuous quality improvement for AI systems—using such processes as regular license renewals—because training data evolves over time and can make existing versions of AI systems outdated. During Child Trends’ assessment of the two AI systems in the study, we found that one model couldn’t recognize “Latinx” due to its outdated training data. This limitation has significant real-world consequences for children trying to understand their world. Cultural norms and language are constantly emerging and changing—consider terms such as “woke,” “cisgender,” and “equity”—as communities work to create a more inclusive society for children and families, and as they engage in fierce debates over issues of race, gender, ideology, and religion. Changes in cultural norms and framings underscore the need to monitor and refine AI systems on an ongoing basis to ensure that they remain relevant, accurate, and inclusive of evolving societal and linguistic dynamics. Regulators should consider the authorization of AI systems for market entry as the beginning—not the end—of the oversight process and should mandate regular follow-up evaluations similar to an annual license renewal process.

As we navigate an increasingly AI-integrated world, it becomes ever more imperative to develop robust regulations and guidelines for AI development—especially in contexts impacting children and families. Congress and state legislatures play a pivotal role in shaping the legal framework to ensure that AI systems are deployed responsibly and ethically. This would involve not just a superficial adoption of technology, but a deeper, more informed understanding of how AI impacts child development and well-being that can pave the way for an AI-empowered future that is safe for our younger generations.

Harper, K. & Weilin, L., *Child Trend Early Childhood Data*, Apr 2024



Table 99: Available and Eligible Birth-to-Five Children

Child Poverty Rate 0 - 5	Location	Total Available Children ages 0 - 5	Available Children 0 - 3	Eligible Children 0 - 3	Available Children 3 - 5	Eligible Children 3 - 5
27.7%	Laredo	21,540	12,859	3,562	8,681	2,405
28.4%	Webb County	22,690	13,353	3,792	9,237	2,623

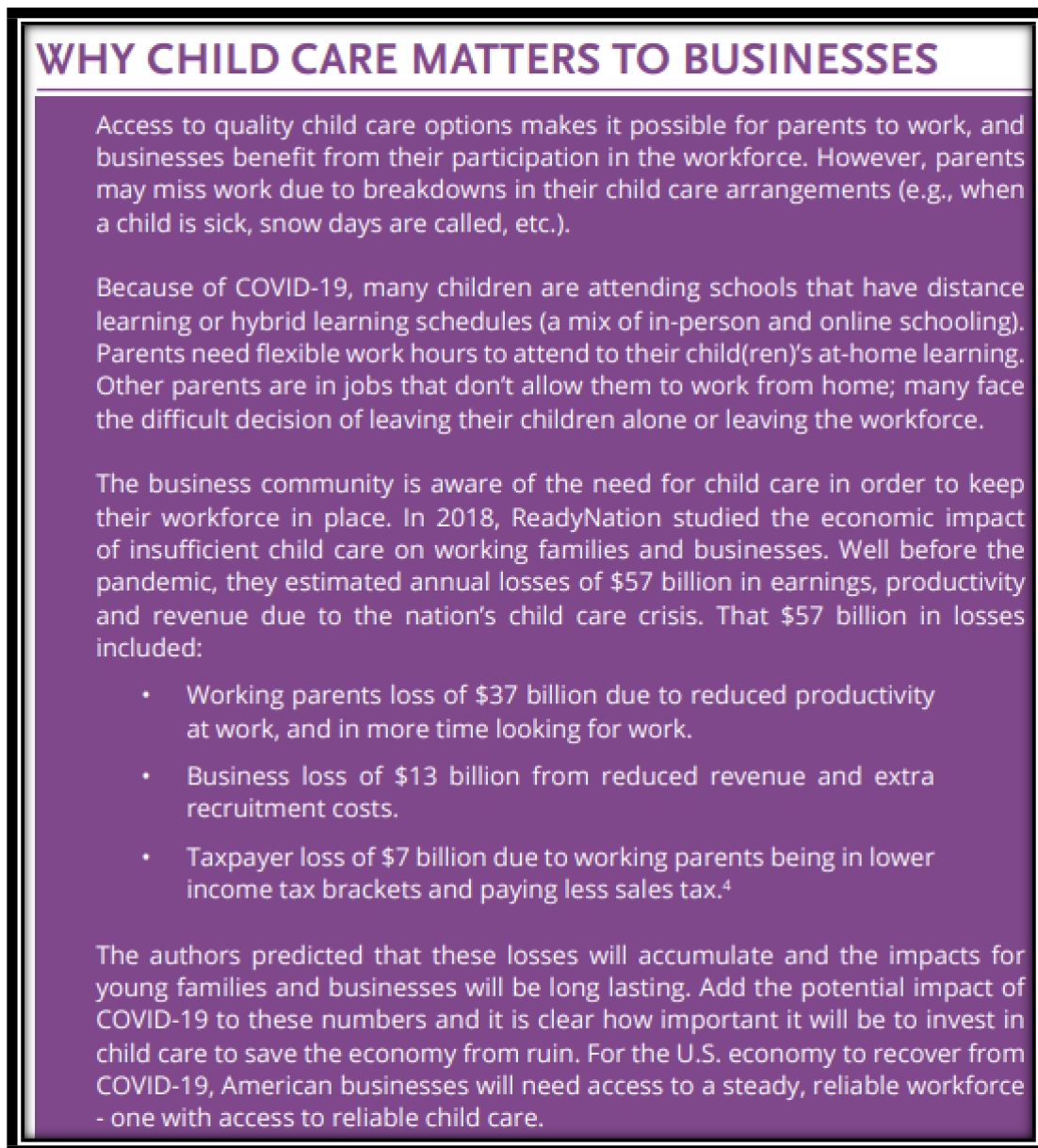
Source: *American Community Survey, 2018- 2022*

Key Findings: The funded enrollment for Webb County Commissioners Head Start was 1,218 children, 72 Early Head Start, and 72 Child Care Partners in 2019 - 2020. There were approximately 12,859 available children ages 0 – 3 in Laredo and 3,562 eligible 0 – 3-year-old children. There were 8,681 available 3 – 5-year-old children of which 2,405 would be potentially eligible for Head Start program.

In Webb County, there were approximately 13,353 available 0 – 3-year-old children and 3,792 eligible 0 - 3-year-old children. There were approximately 9,237 available children ages 3 – 5 and an estimated 2,623 eligible children ages 3 – 5. The number of unserved children ages 0 - 3 indicates possible expansion opportunities for Early Head Start as well as Head Start services in Webb County.



Figure 24: Why Child Care Matters to Businesses



Source: <https://info.childcareaware.org/> ; *Picking Up the Pieces — Building A Better Child Care System Post COVID 19.pdf*

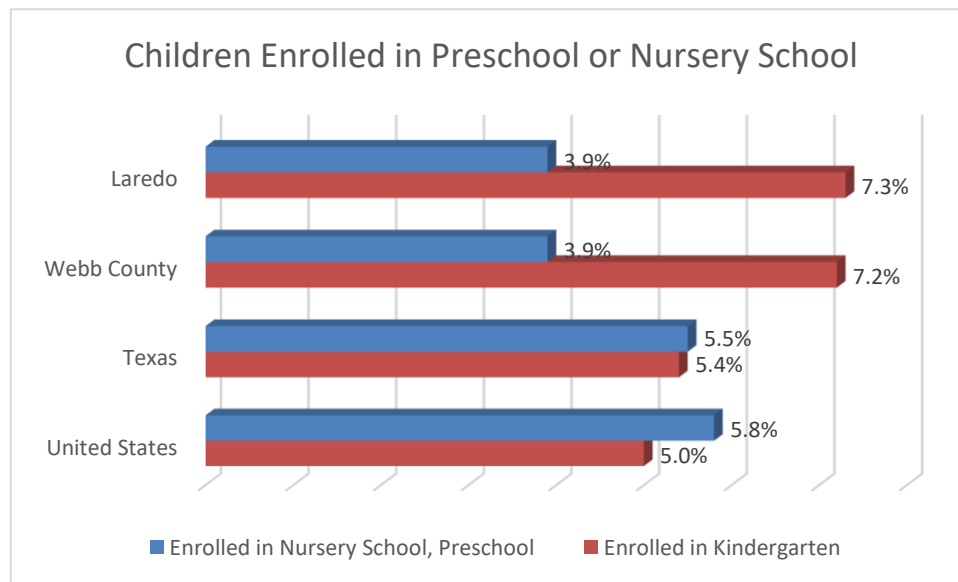


Table 100: Children Enrolled in Preschool or Nursery School

Location	Enrolled in Nursery School, Preschool		Enrolled in Kindergarten	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Laredo	3,157	3.9%	5,896	7.3%
Webb County	3,325	3.9%	6,081	7.2%
Texas	429,818	5.5%	415,649	5.4%
United States	4,634,033	5.8%	4,004,277	5.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. S1401

Key Findings: According to American Community Survey, approximately 3,325 (3.9%) children were reported enrolled in a nursery school or preschool in Webb County, slightly lower than the state (5.5%) and national rate (5.8%).

Table 101: Pre-Kindergarten Programs and Enrollment Ages 3 - 4

Location	Total Students Enrolled	Economically Disadvantaged	English Language Learners	Military Children	Homeless	Foster Care
Laredo ISD	1,598	1,537 (96%)	952 (60%)	* (0.0%)	18 (1.0%)	*
United ISD	1,401	1,219 (87%)	898 (64%)	11 (0.8%)	12 (0.9%)	8 (0.6%)
Webb CISD	19	11 (58%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

Source: Texas Education Agency. <https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/acctres/completion/2022/district.html> *- data are masked to protect the confidentiality of student data

Key Findings: The number of children enrolled in the Pre-Kindergarten program in the three school districts is shown in the chart above. Approximately 3,018 children ages 3 and 4 were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten. Most of the children were reported as economically disadvantaged and English Language Learners. Laredo ISD reported serving 18 homeless children, while United ISD served 12 homeless children and 8 children in foster care.

Table 102: Number of Pre-Kindergarten Schools by Full or Half-Day Programs

Location	Schools Providing Pre -K			Total	Percent Enrolled	
	Full-Day Only	Half-Day Only	Full and Half-Day		Full-day	Half-day
Laredo ISD	18	0	2	20	99.49%	0.50%
United ISD	16	3	7	26	78.44%	21.55%
Webb CISD	0	0	1	1	*	*
Total	34	3	10	47		

Source: Texas Education Agency. <http://www.texaseducationinfo.org/ViewReport.aspx>. 2019-2020; (*) -data are masked to protect the confidentiality of student data.

Key Findings: Within the service area, an estimated 34 schools provided full-day Pre-Kindergarten programs, of which Laredo ISD reported the largest number of schools providing full-day programs in 2023. United ISD reported the largest number of schools providing half-day programs.

Table 103: United ISD Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment by Full or Half-Day Programs

Location	Students Enrolled (Age 4)			Percent Enrolled	
	Full-Day	Half-Day	Total	Full-day	Half-day
United ISD	1,098	*	1,401	78.42%	*

Source: Texas Education Agency. <http://www.texaseducationinfo.org/ViewReport.aspx>. 2019-2020

Key Findings: United ISD reported a Pre-K enrollment of 1,401 four-year-old children, of which 1,098 were full-day participants and very few were half-day participants.

Table 104: Laredo ISD and Webb County ISD Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment by Full or Half-Day Programs

Location	Students Enrolled Ages 3 and 4					Percent Enrolled	
	Full-Day Age 3	Half-Day Age 3	Full-Day Age 4	Half-Day Age 4	Total	Full-day	Half-day
Laredo ISD	525	*	1,065	*	1,598	100%	0.0%
Webb CISD	*	0	12	*	19	*	*

Source: Texas Education Agency. <http://www.texaseducationinfo.org/ViewReport.aspx>. 2019-2020. (*) - data are masked to protect the confidentiality of student data.

Key Findings: Laredo ISD reported a Pre-K enrollment of 1,598 children, of which 525 were three-year-old full-day participants and 1,065 were four-year-old full-day participants. Webb County ISD reported 19 children enrolled in Pre-K, of which 12 children were enrolled in a full-day program.

Table 105: Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment by Ethnicity/Race

Location	Black or African American	Hispanic/Latino	White	Other
Laredo ISD	0	1,229	*	*
United ISD	*	1,071	7	*
Webb CISD	0	*	0	0

Source: *Texas Education Agency. <http://www.texaseducationinfo.org/ViewReport.aspx>. * - data are masked to protect the confidentiality of student data. Other category includes four races: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and individuals having origins in more than one non-Hispanic racial category.*

Key Findings: The majority of children enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten programs in Webb County identified as Hispanic/Latino.

Table 106: Children Ages 3 – 4 Enrolled in Public or Private School

Location	Number and Percent of 3- and 4-year-old children Enrolled in school		Number and Percent Enrolled in Public School		Number and Percent Enrolled in Private School	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Laredo	3,176	36.6%	2,458	77.3%	721	22.7%
Webb County	3,344	36.2%	2,623	78.4%	721	21.6%
Texas	336,497	41.7%	212,602	63.2%	123,895	36.8%
United States	3,631,021	45.6%	2,108,920	58.1%	1,522,101	41.9%

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 – 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. S1401*

Key Findings: In Webb County, approximately 78.4% of 3 - 4-year-old children were enrolled in public school and 21.6% were enrolled in private school. Laredo reported 77.3% of 3 - 4-year-old children enrolled in public school and 22.7% enrolled in private school.

Table 107: Children (Ages 0 – 12) receiving Subsidized Child Care

Location	Data Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Webb County	Number	3,789	3,535	3,099	3,572	4,235
	Percent	5.9%	5.5%	5.0%	5.8%	6.9%
Texas	Number	183,415	202,469	184,223	196,641	223,120
	Percent	3.5%	3.9%	3.5%	3.7%	4.2%

Source: *Kids Count, Texas Workforce Commission 2018-2020*

Key Findings: In Webb County, the number of children, ages 0 - 12, who received state-subsidized childcare during 2019 was 4,235 (6.9%), representing an increase of 446 children since 2015. The percentage of children receiving subsidized care in Webb County was higher than the state average (4.2%).

Table 108: Child Care Capacity

Location	Licensed Child Care Centers	Total Child Care Center Capacity	Licensed Child Care Homes	Licensed Child Care Home Capacity
Webb County	94	6,668	26	311

Source: <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/about-hhs/records-statistics/research-statistics/ccl/ccr-data-book-child-day-care-2020.pdf>

Key Findings: In Webb County, licensed childcare center capacity in 2020 was 6,668. The number of licensed childcare centers was 94. Licensed childcare homes' capacity was 311. There were 26 licensed childcare homes in Webb County. Childcare center capacity and childcare home capacity have decreased over the past years.

Texas Rising Star (TRS)

Texas Rising Star (TRS): a voluntary program for providers who are committed to quality care and who exceed the state's minimum childcare standards. Texas Rising Star Provider certification is a process for improving the quality of childcare services provided in Texas. The system provides graduated (2 - 4 star) levels of certification as providers meet progressively higher certification requirements. Texas Rising Star provides professional development resources and mentoring to sustain and improve the quality of early childhood environments at TRS certified programs. TRS certified providers may have access to three types of assistance: technical assistance (TA) plans, Service Improvement Agreements (SIAs), and probationary assistance. Non-TRS certified providers may also access technical assistance resources to help them prepare for certification. All center-based and home-based childcare providers in Texas can apply to participate in TRS if they meet certain eligibility criteria. Programs that participate in TRS meet higher quality standards than many other childcare programs.

In addition to Texas Rising Star, there are other State/National Quality Child Care Indicators. These include:

- ❖ Texas School Ready (TSR)
- ❖ National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- ❖ National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)
- ❖ National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Program (NACCP)
- ❖ Association of Christian Schools International (ASCI)
- ❖ National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- ❖ National After-School Association (NAA)

Highlights and Considerations - Childcare

- ❖ From January 2023 to March 2024, multiple entities have published guidance on artificial intelligence (AI), underscoring growing public concerns regarding AI governance. Meanwhile, as federal and state legislators weigh the need for AI regulations to safeguard the public from various risks, recent discourse about AI risk has overlooked the use of AI by children and their families or caregivers. This gap is widening as students increasingly turn to AI for homework assistance and interact with AI-generated content (including images and videos), and as caregivers (including both parents and educators) attempt to use AI to foster child engagement. Drawing on lessons from a recent Child Trends study on the capabilities of AI systems, Child Trend proposes stronger guidance and regulations to ensure rigorous assessment of potential harm by AI systems in contexts involving children and families.
- ❖ The funded enrollment for Webb County Commissioners Head Start was 1,218 children, 72 Early Head Start, and 72 Child Care Partners in 2019 - 2020. There were approximately 12,859 available children ages 0 – 3 in Laredo and 3,562 eligible 0 – 3-year-old children. There were 8,681 available 3 – 5-year-old children of which 2,405 would be potentially eligible for Head Start program.
- ❖ In Webb County, there were approximately 13,353 available 0 – 3-year-old children and 3,792 eligible 0 - 3-year-old children. There were approximately 9,237 available children ages 3 – 5 and an estimated 2,623 eligible children ages 3 – 5. The number of unserved children ages 0 - 3 indicates possible expansion opportunities for Early Head Start as well as Head Start services in Webb County.
- ❖ According to American Community Survey, approximately 3,325 (3.9%) children were reported enrolled in a nursery school or preschool in Webb County, slightly lower than the state (5.5%) and national rate (5.8%).
- ❖ The number of children enrolled in the Pre-Kindergarten program in the three school districts is shown in the chart above. Approximately 3,018 children ages 3 and 4 were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten. Most of the children were reported as economically disadvantaged and English Language Learners. Laredo ISD reported serving 18 homeless children, while United ISD served 12 homeless children and 8 children in foster care.
- ❖ Within the service area, an estimated 34 schools provided full-day Pre-Kindergarten programs, of which Laredo ISD reported the largest number of schools providing full-day programs in 2023. United ISD reported the largest number of schools providing half-day programs.
- ❖ United ISD reported a Pre-K enrollment of 1,401 four-year-old children, of which 1,098 were full-day participants and very few were half-day participants.
- ❖ Laredo ISD reported a Pre-K enrollment of 1,598 children, of which 525 were three-year-old full-day participants and 1,065 were four-year-old full-day participants. Webb County ISD reported 19 children enrolled in Pre-K, of which 12 children were enrolled in a full-day program.

- ❖ The majority of children enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten programs in Webb County identified as Hispanic/Latino.
- ❖ In Webb County, approximately 78.4% of 3 - 4-year-old children were enrolled in public school and 21.6% were enrolled in private school. Laredo reported 77.3% of 3 - 4-year-old children enrolled in public school and 22.7% enrolled in private school.
- ❖ In Webb County, the number of children, ages 0 - 12, who received state-subsidized childcare during 2019 was 4,235 (6.9%), representing an increase of 446 children since 2015. The percentage of children receiving subsidized care in Webb County was higher than the state average (4.2%).
- ❖ In Webb County, licensed childcare center capacity in 2020 was 6,668. The number of licensed childcare centers was 94. Licensed childcare homes' capacity was 311. There were 26 licensed childcare homes in Webb County. Childcare center capacity and childcare home capacity have decreased over the past years.

Coronavirus

Texas School Enrollment During and After Covid-19

The Covid-19 Pandemic, including the policy response, had vast detrimental effects on many industries -- healthcare, hospitality and tourism, but also education. After the surge in Covid-19 cases beginning in early 2020, on March 13, 2020, the Texas governor declared a health disaster and schools were closed until May 4, 2020, and essentially stayed closed through the end of the school year. The next school year, 2020 - 2021, saw K-12 enrollment crash, and only recently has it risen above pre-pandemic levels. This data looks at Texas K-12 total enrollment from before the pandemic through the 2022 - 2023 school year and examine which grade levels and which ethnic groups were most affected.

Figure 25: Total Enrollment by Academic Year

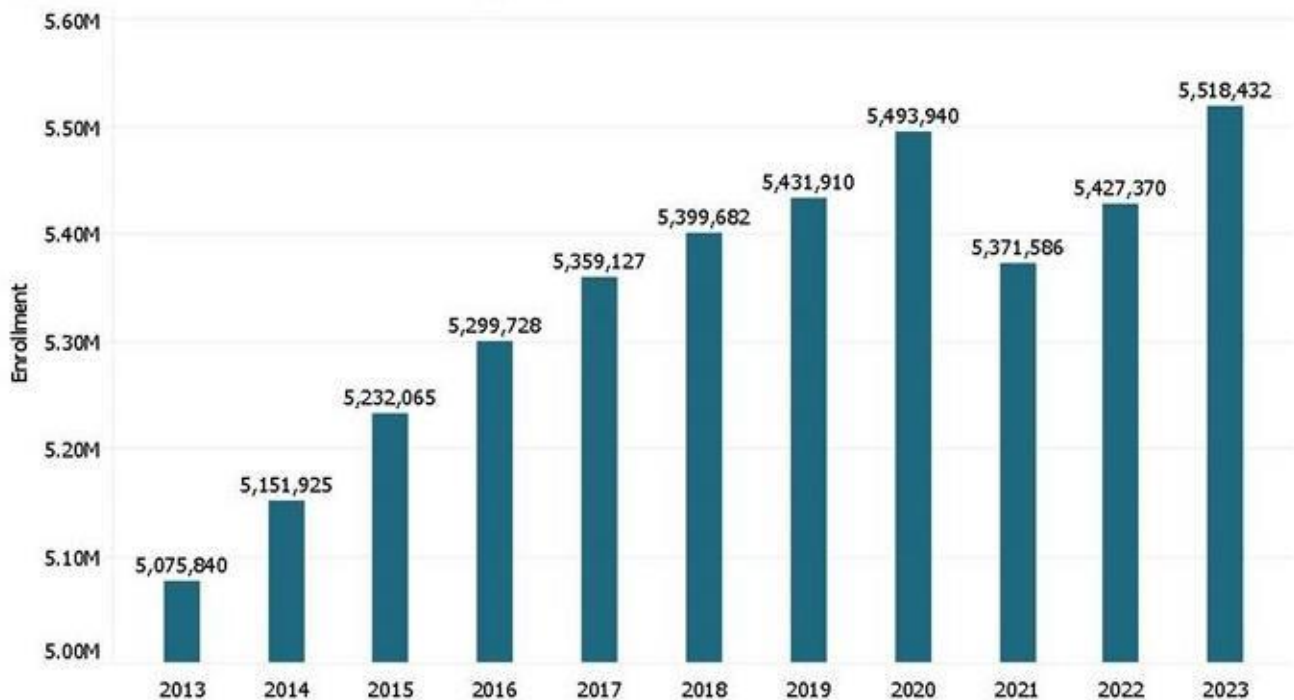
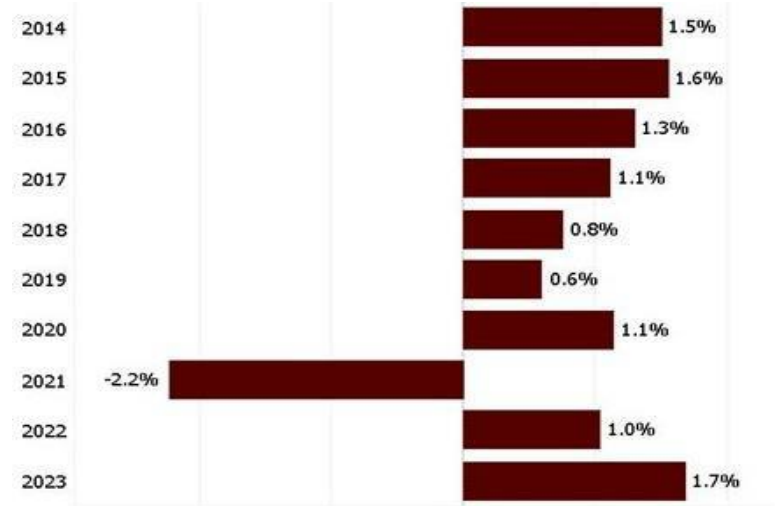


Figure 31 illustrates the total enrollment over the eleven academic years from 2013 - 2023. Total enrollment in Texas schools steadily increased from 2013 to 2020. The decline in enrollment in the 2021 school year stands out clearly, with a decline of 122,354 students. Recall the timing of the enrollment measures. Enrollment for the 2020

school year was measured in October 2019, pre-pandemic. Enrollment for the 2021 school year was measured in October 2020, just over a half year from the March 2020 school closures due to COVID-19.

In 2022, there was a partial recovery, with 5,427,370 students enrolled in Fall 2021, an increase of 55,784 students, or 1%, from the 2022 school year. Finally, in the 2023 school year, enrollment finally returned to and even somewhat exceeded the pre-pandemic numbers with 24,492 students higher than in 2020, at 5,518,432 students. Looking at the percentage changes over the 10-year period from 2013 to 2023, total enrollment in Texas public schools increased by 442,592 students, or by 8.7 percent. The largest annual percent decline reported in these ten years was in the academic year 2021, with a drop of 2.2 percent. Figure 32 portrays the annual change in total enrollment.

Figure 26: Percent Change in Enrollment in Previous Academic Year



For the 2021 school year, the Texas Education Agency offered parents (and children) the option of remote or in-person instruction. Schools were allowed to remain remote-only for the first weeks of the school year, but then were required to offer parents the choice of remote or in-person education. Importantly, the schools had a large say in what occurred in the in-person setting, which may have differed greatly from the pre-pandemic experience.

By delving into finer demographics and individual grade levels, we can also see that some ethnic groups and grade levels were disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Based on TEA data, the four largest racial groups are Hispanic, White, Asian and African American. On average, Hispanic students accounted for the largest percentage of total enrollment in Texas public schools at 52.3%, followed by White at 27.8%, African American at 12.6%, and Asians at 4.3% from 2013 school year to 2023 school year.

Figure 27: Comparison of Pre-COVID and Post-COVID Enrollment Changes by Race

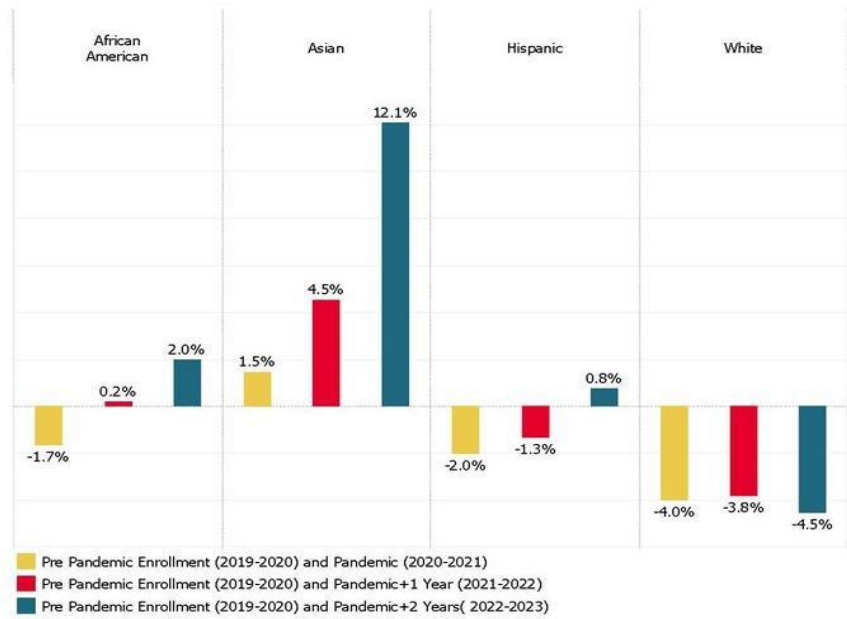


Figure 33 above illustrates the comparison of enrollment by race of pre-pandemic year 2020 with the 2021, 2022 and 2023 academic years. The decline in enrollment between the 2020 and 2021 academic year, which spanned the COVID-19 outbreak, was visible across all major ethnic groups except Asians. White enrollees fell by 4%, followed by Hispanics at 2% and African Americans at 1.7%. Asians, on the other hand, saw an increase in enrollment by 1.5%. Enrollment growth was higher across all three academic years amongst Asian students. African American students saw an increase in enrollment in the 2022 and 2023 academic years by 0.2% and 2%, respectively, compared to the pre pandemic year 2020. On the other hand, Hispanic enrollment increased in 2023 by 0.8% compared to during the pandemic but showed decline in enrollment for the 2022 school year by 1.3% from its pre-pandemic levels. Enrollment amongst White students showed declines in all 2021, 2022 and 2023 academic years compared to the 2020 academic year. Based on TEA data, average enrollment in Pre-K and Early Enrollment account for 4.3% and 0.4%, respectively, of total public-school enrollment in Texas. Grade 9's share of total enrollment is highest amongst all grades at 8.2%. Kindergarten to Grade 8 and Grade 10 contribute between 7.1% to 7.5% of the total enrollment. Grade 12 contributes 6.3% and the share of Grade 11 is 6.8%.

Figure 28: Comparison of Pre-COVID and Post-COVID Changes by Grades (EE – Grade 7)

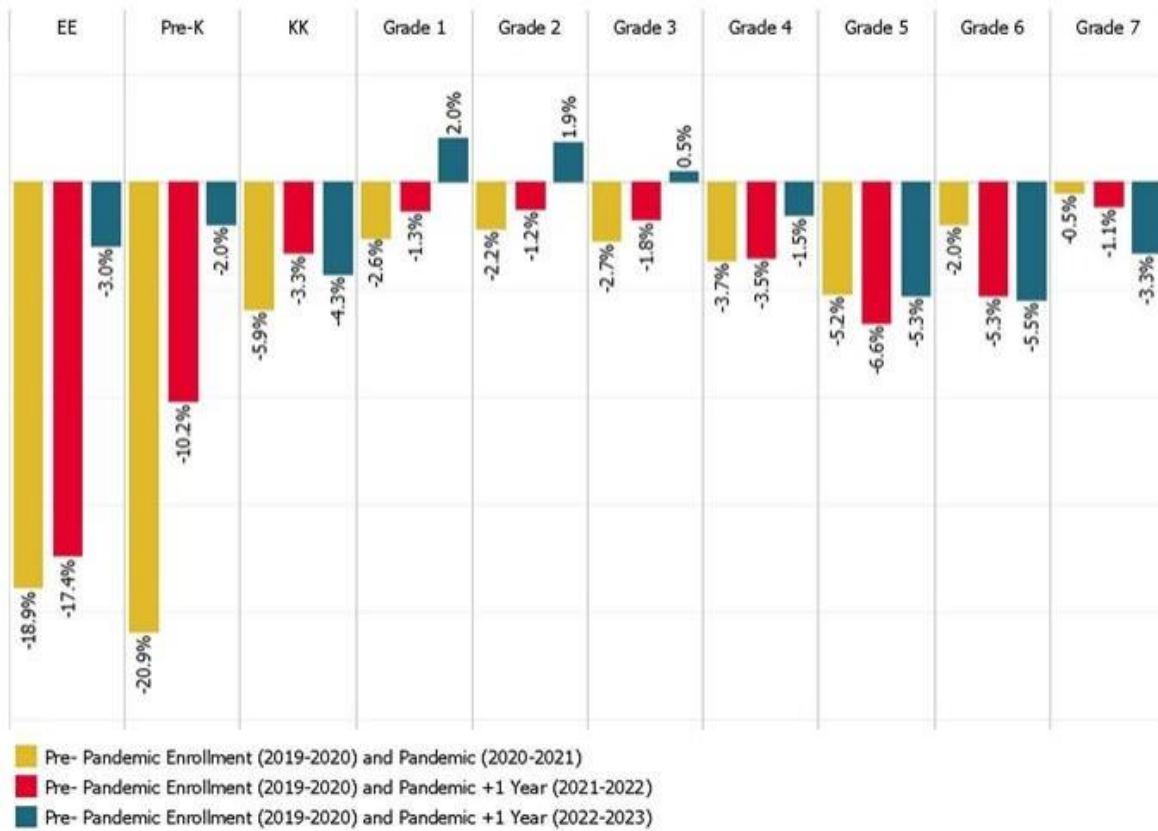


Figure 34 above compares the academic year 2020 percent changes in enrollment across grades Early Enrollment to Grade 7 to 2021, 2022 and 2023 academic years. Comparing the pre-pandemic enrollment change in 2019-2020 to the subsequent year 2020-21 describes the extent to which the enrollment numbers dropped during the pandemic. Comparing the academic year 2020 to 2021 shows that Pre-Kindergarten had the largest decrease in enrollment at 20.9%, followed by Early Enrollment at 18.9%, and Kindergarten in third place at 5.9%.

Source: Texas A & M University Private Enterprise Research Center; Texas Education Agency

Highlights and Considerations – Coronavirus

- ❖ The Covid-19 Pandemic, including the policy response, had vast detrimental effects on many industries -- healthcare, hospitality and tourism, but also education. After the surge in Covid-19 cases beginning in early 2020, on March 13, 2020, the Texas governor declared a health disaster and schools were closed until May 4, 2020, and essentially stayed closed through the end of the school year. The next school year, 2020 - 2021, saw K-12 enrollment crash, and only recently has it risen above pre-pandemic levels. This data looks at Texas K-12 total enrollment from before the pandemic through the 2022 - 2023 school year and examine which grade levels and which ethnic groups were most affected.
- ❖ Total enrollment in Texas schools steadily increased from 2013 to 2020. The decline in enrollment in the 2021 school year stands out clearly, with a decline of 122,354 students. Recall the timing of the enrollment measures. Enrollment for the 2020 school year was measured in October 2019, pre-pandemic. Enrollment for the 2021 school year was measured in October 2020, just over a half year from the March 2020 school closures due to COVID-19.
- ❖ In 2022, there was a partial recovery, with 5,427,370 students enrolled in Fall 2021, an increase of 55,784 students, or 1%, from the 2022 school year. Finally, in the 2023 school year, enrollment finally returned to and even somewhat exceeded the pre-pandemic numbers with 24,492 students higher than in 2020, at 5,518,432 students.
- ❖ Looking at the percentage changes over the 10-year period from 2013 to 2023, total enrollment in Texas public schools increased by 442,592 students, or by 8.7 percent. The largest annual percent decline reported in these ten years was in the academic year 2021, with a drop of 2.2 percent. Figure 32 portrays the annual change in total enrollment.
- ❖ For the 2021 school year, the Texas Education Agency offered parents (and children) the option of remote or in-person instruction. Schools were allowed to remain remote-only for the first weeks of the school year, but then were required to offer parents the choice of remote or in-person education. Importantly, the schools had a large say in what occurred in the in-person setting, which may have differed greatly from the pre-pandemic experience.
- ❖ By delving into finer demographics and individual grade levels, we can also see that some ethnic groups and grade levels were disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Based on TEA data, the four largest racial groups are Hispanic, White, Asian and African American. On average, Hispanic students accounted for the largest percentage of total enrollment in Texas public schools at 52.3%, followed by White at 27.8%, African American at 12.6%, and Asians at 4.3% from 2013 school year to 2023 school year.

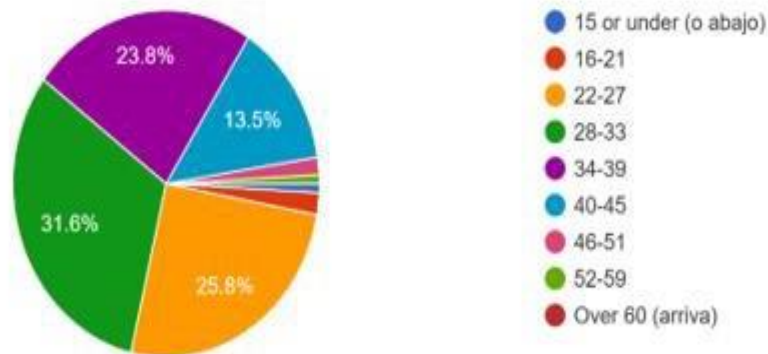
- ❖ The decline in enrollment between the 2020 and 2021 academic year, which spanned the COVID-19 outbreak, was visible across all major ethnic groups except Asians. White enrollees fell by 4%, followed by Hispanics at 2% and African Americans at 1.7%. Asians, on the other hand, saw an increase in enrollment by 1.5%. Enrollment growth was higher across all three academic years amongst Asian students. African American students saw an increase in enrollment in the 2022 and 2023 academic years by 0.2% and 2%, respectively, compared to the pre pandemic year 2020. On the other hand, Hispanic enrollment increased in 2023 by 0.8% compared to during the pandemic but showed decline in enrollment for the 2022 school year by 1.3% from its pre-pandemic levels. Enrollment amongst White students showed declines in all 2021, 2022 and 2023 academic years compared to the 2020 academic year. Based on TEA data, average enrollment in Pre-K and Early Enrollment account for 4.3% and 0.4%, respectively, of total public-school enrollment in Texas. Grade 9's share of total enrollment is highest amongst all grades at 8.2%. Kindergarten to Grade 8 and Grade 10 contribute between 7.1% to 7.5% of the total enrollment. Grade 12 contributes 6.3% and the share of Grade 11 is 6.8%.
- ❖ Comparing the pre-pandemic enrollment change in 2019-2020 to the subsequent year 2020-21 describes the extent to which the enrollment numbers dropped during the pandemic. Comparing the academic year 2020 to 2021 shows that Pre-Kindergarten had the largest decrease in enrollment at 20.9%, followed by Early Enrollment at 18.9%, and Kindergarten in third place at 5.9%.

Parent and Community Partner Survey

N= 245

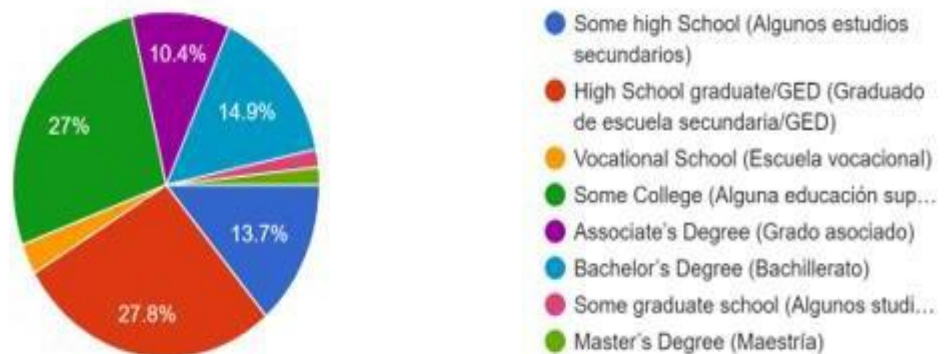
How old are you? Cuantos años tiene?

244 responses



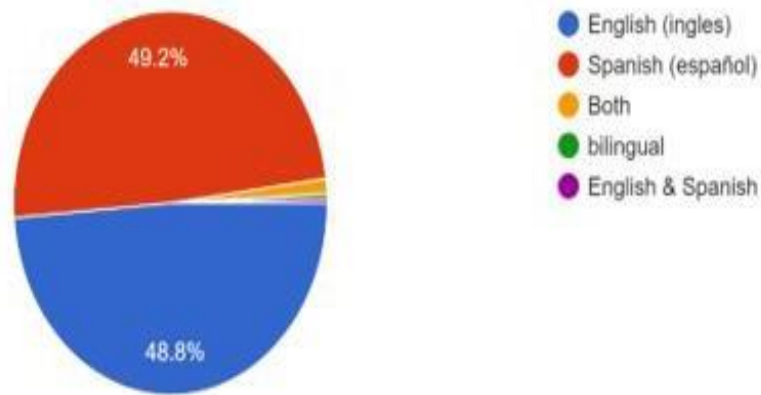
What is the highest level of education that you have completed? (¿Cuál es el nivel más alto de educación que ha completado?)

241 responses



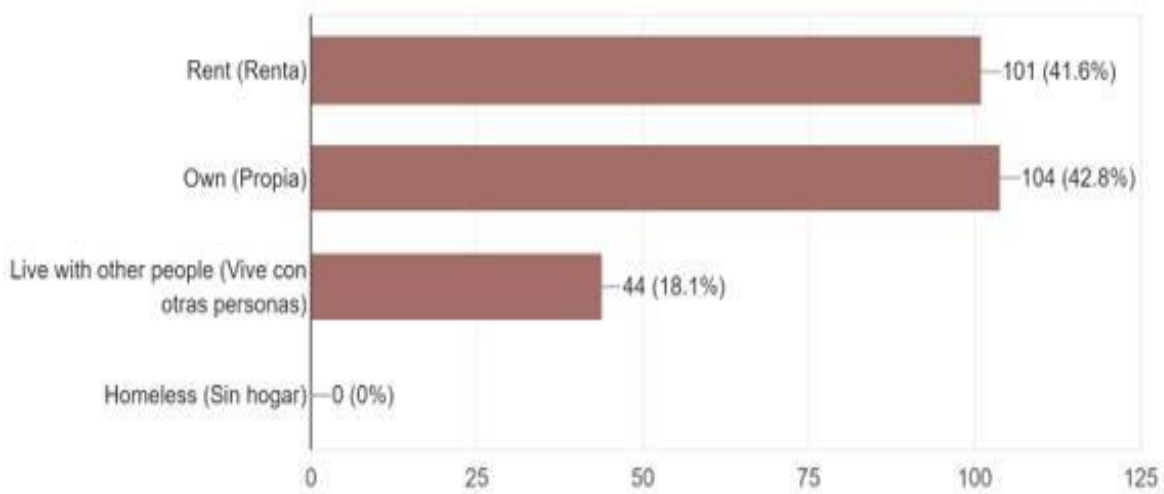
What is the primary language spoken in your home? (¿Qué idioma principal se habla en la casa?)

244 responses



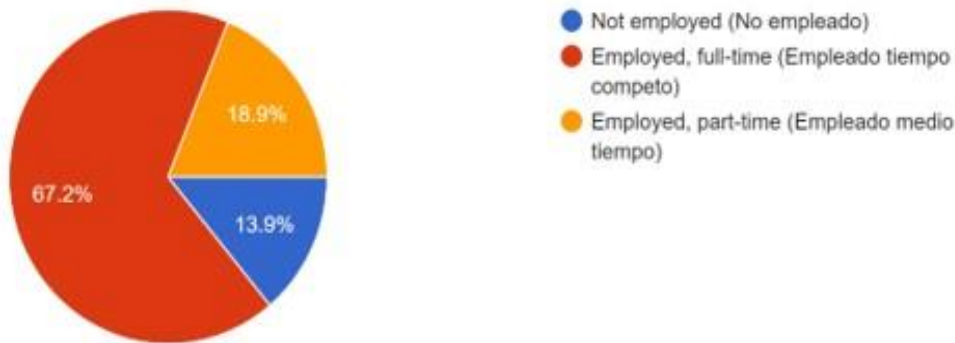
Which of these statements are true about your housing? (Cuál de estas afirmaciones son ciertas acerca de su vivienda?)

243 responses



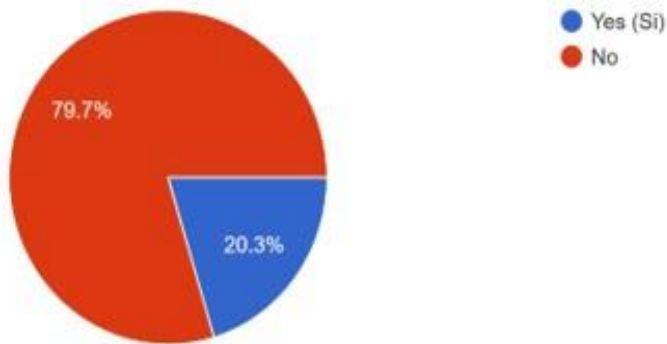
Are you or any other adult in your household employed? (¿Tu u otro adulto en su casa están empleado?)

244 responses



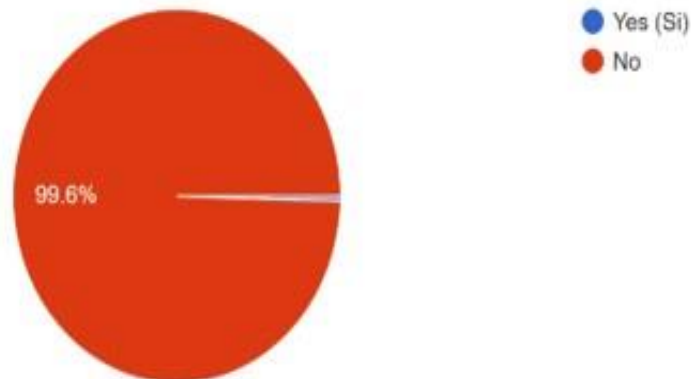
Are you or another adult in your household in school? (¿Es usted u otro adulto en su hogar en la escuela?) En caso afirmativo, ¿Cuál es el horario típico de la escuela?)

241 responses



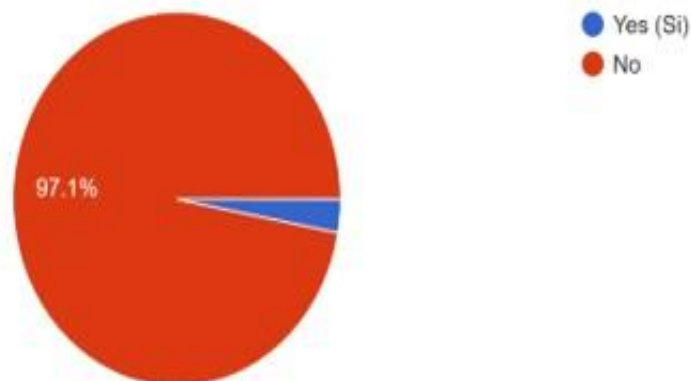
Are you or another adult in your household in a job training program? (¿Es usted u otro adulto de su hogar en un programa de capacitación laboral?)

242 responses



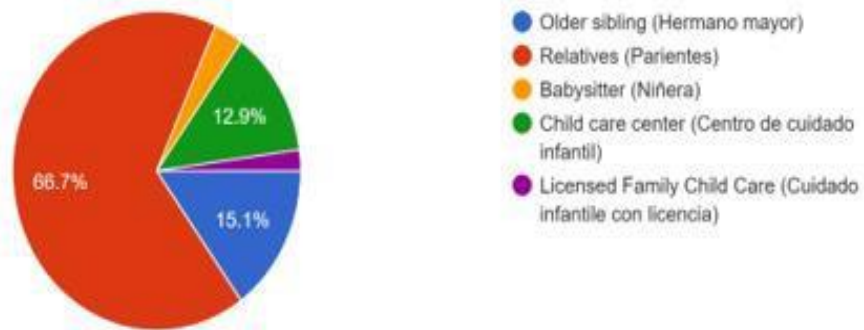
Are you or another adult in your household doing volunteer work? (¿Usted u otro adulto en su hogar esta haciendo trabajo voluntario?)

243 responses



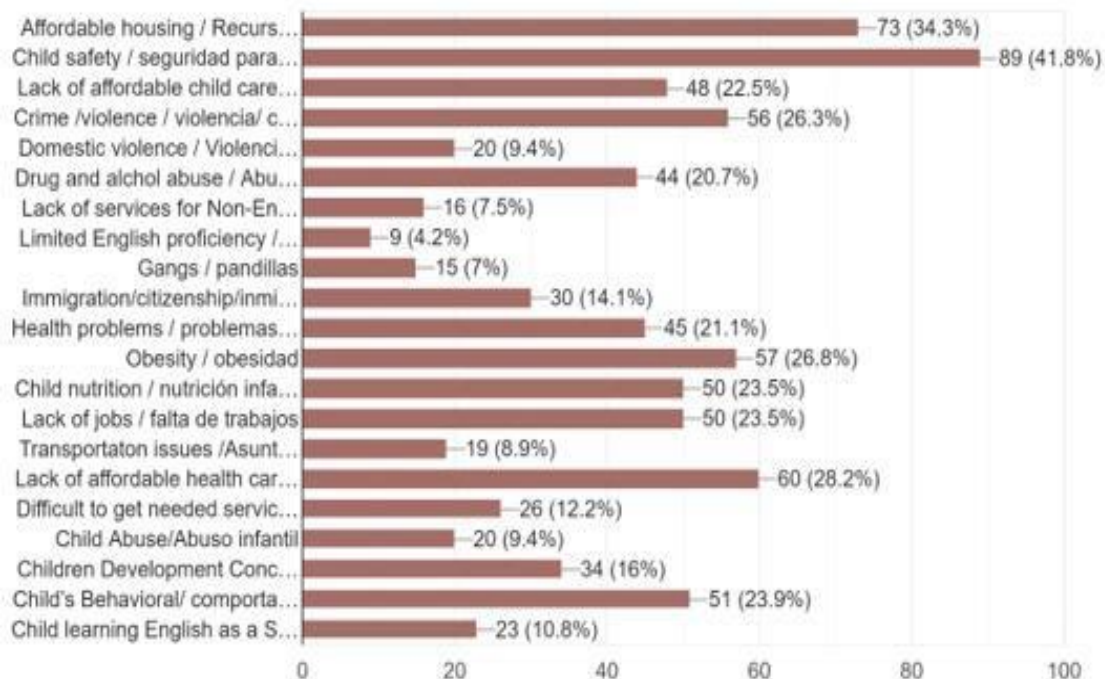
What type(s) of child care are you currently using other than Head Start? (Que tipo de cuidado de niños esta usando en la actualidad aparte de Head Start/Early Head Start?)

186 responses



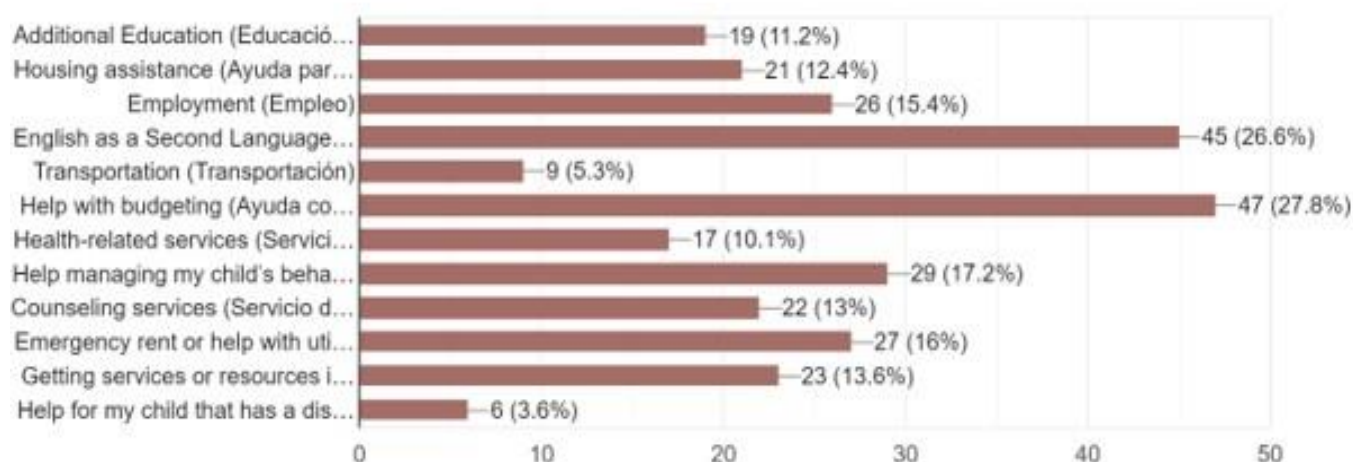
What are the top issues from the list below that you feel are major problems or concerns in your community? (¿Cuáles son los temas más importan...s problemas o preocupaciones de su comunidad?)

213 responses



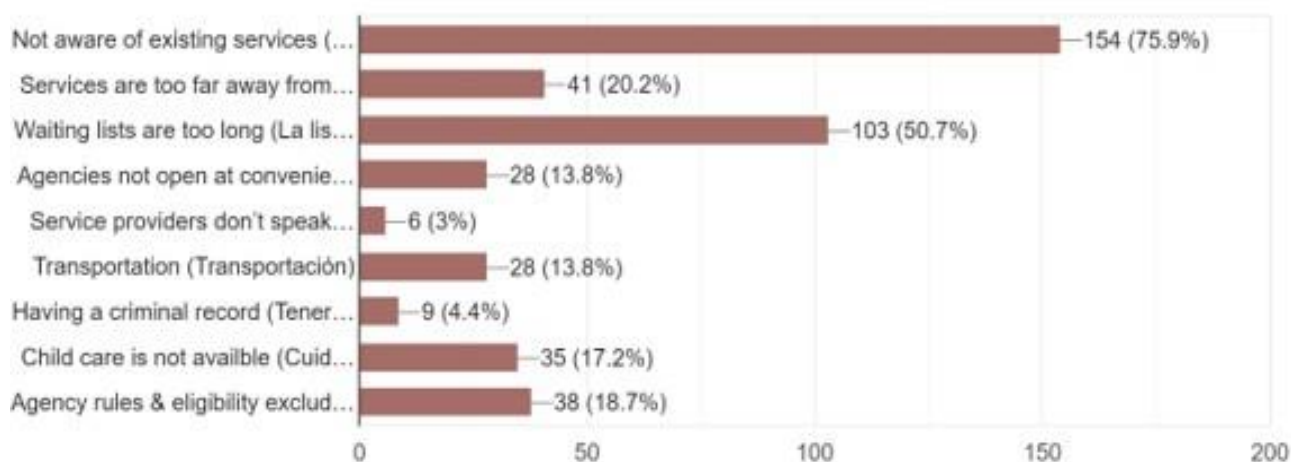
What items listed below are things that your family needs? (¿Qué elementos que figuran a continuación son las cosas que su familia necesita?)

169 responses



What do you consider to be barriers that prevent families from getting needed services? (¿Qué considera usted que son las barreras que impiden a...s familias de conseguir los servicios necesarios?)

203 responses



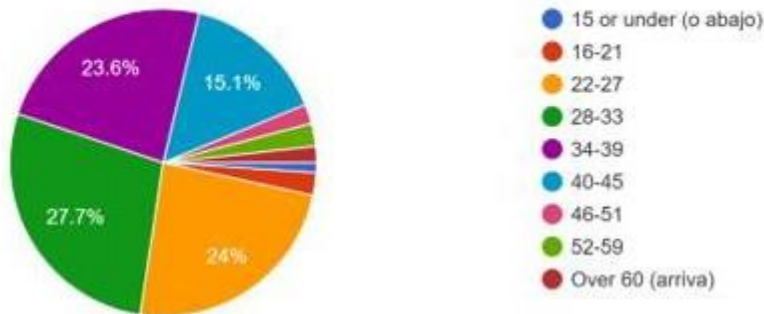
Source: Internal documentation 2024

Staff Survey

N = 293

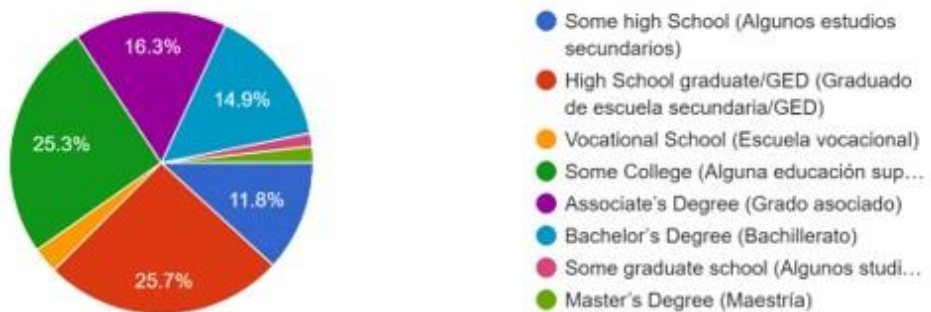
How old are you? Cuantos años tiene?

292 responses



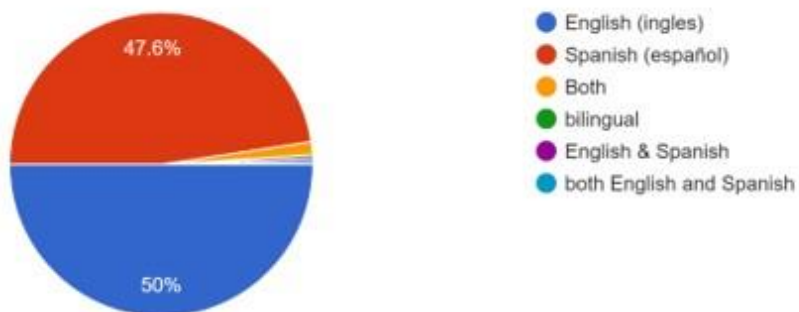
What is the highest level of education that you have completed? (¿Cuál es el nivel más alto de educación que ha completado?)

288 responses



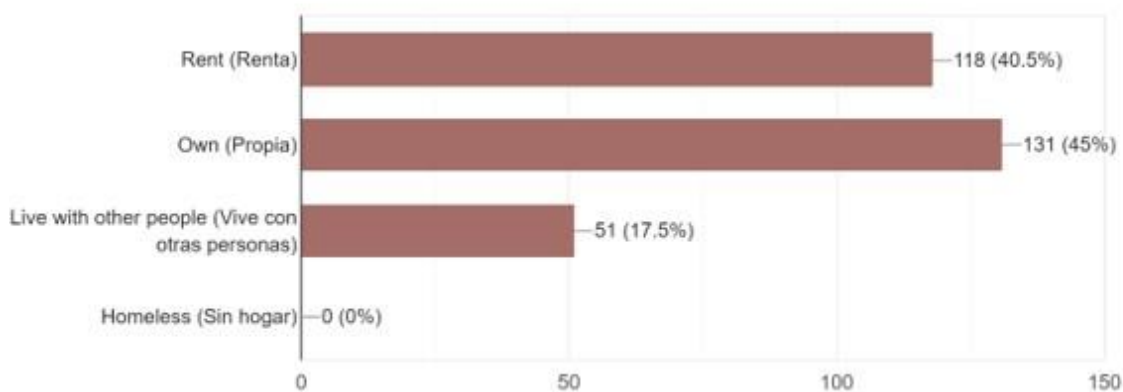
What is the primary language spoken in your home? (¿Qué idioma principal se habla en la casa?)

292 responses



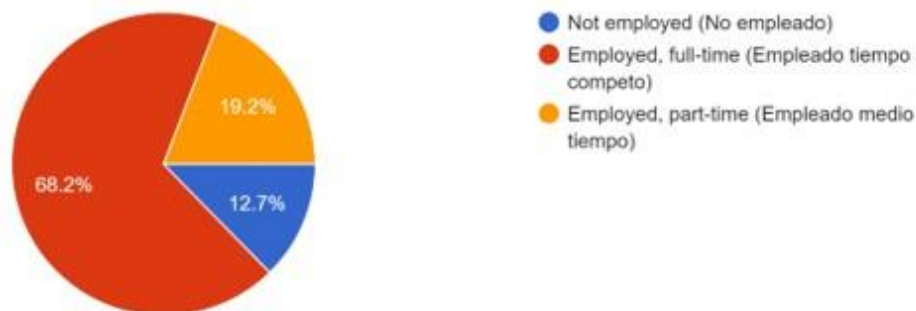
Which of these statements are true about your housing? (Cuál de estas afirmaciones son ciertas acerca de su vivienda?)

291 responses



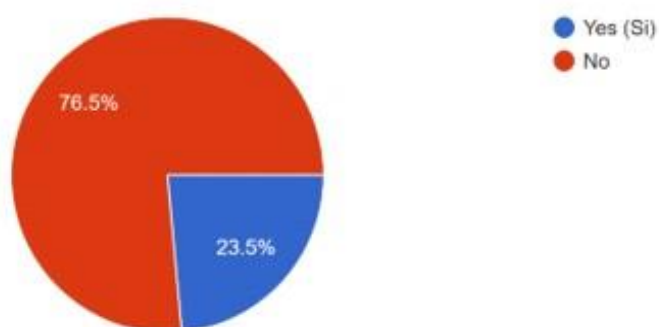
Are you or any other adult in your household employed? (¿Tu u otro adulto en su casa están empleado?)

292 responses



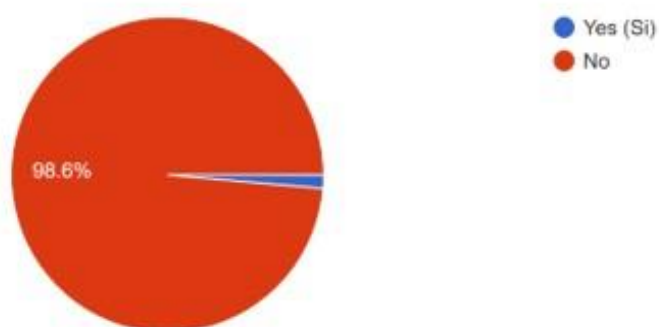
Are you or another adult in your household in school? (¿Es usted u otro adulto en su hogar en la escuela?) En caso afirmativo, ¿Cuál es el horario típico de la escuela?)

289 responses



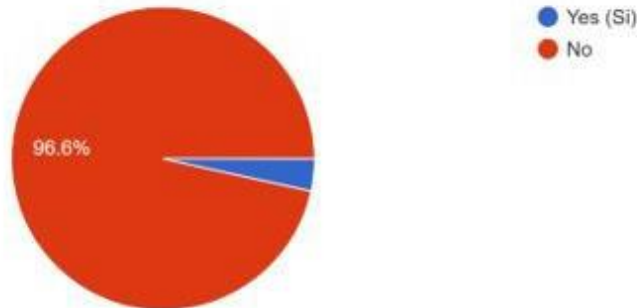
Are you or another adult in your household in a job training program?(¿Es usted u otro adulto de su hogar en un programa de capacitación laboral?)

290 responses



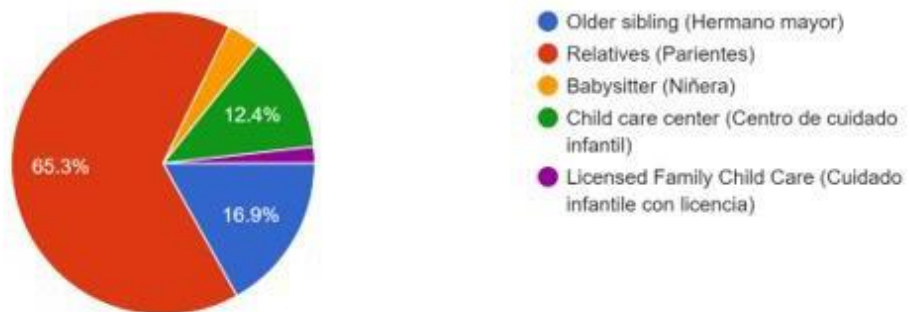
Are you or another adult in your household doing volunteer work? (¿Usted u otro adulto en su hogar esta haciendo trabajo voluntario?)

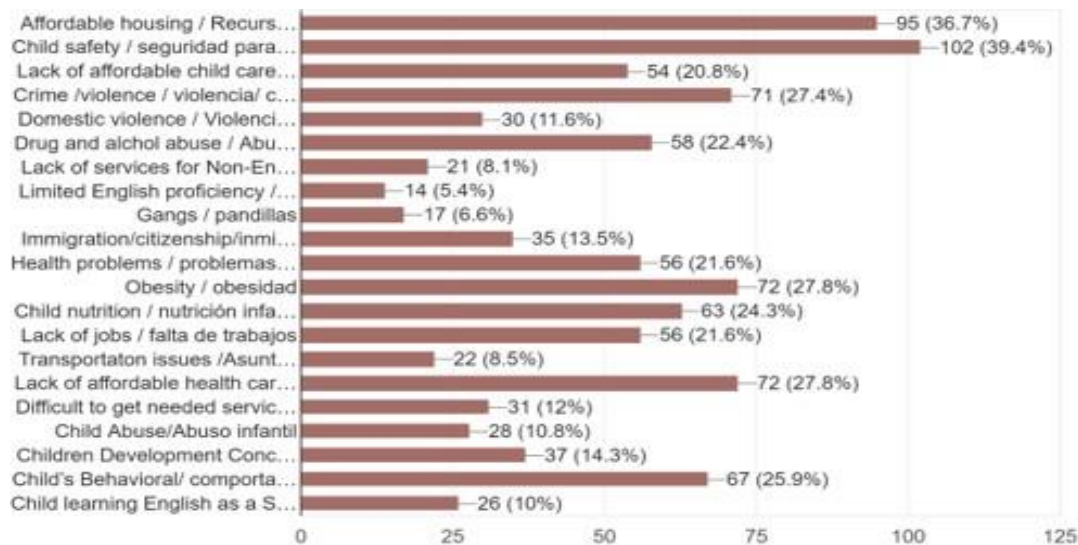
291 responses



What type(s) of child care are you currently using other than Head Start? (Que tipo de cuidado de ninos esta usando en la actualidad aparte de Head Start/Early Head Start?)

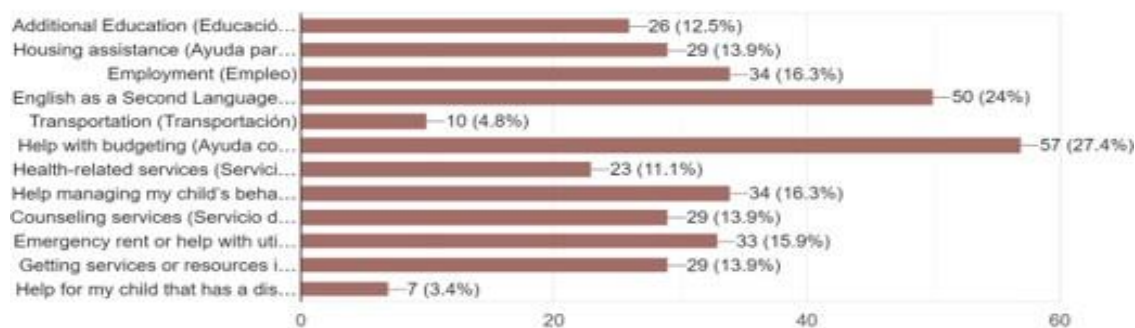
225 responses





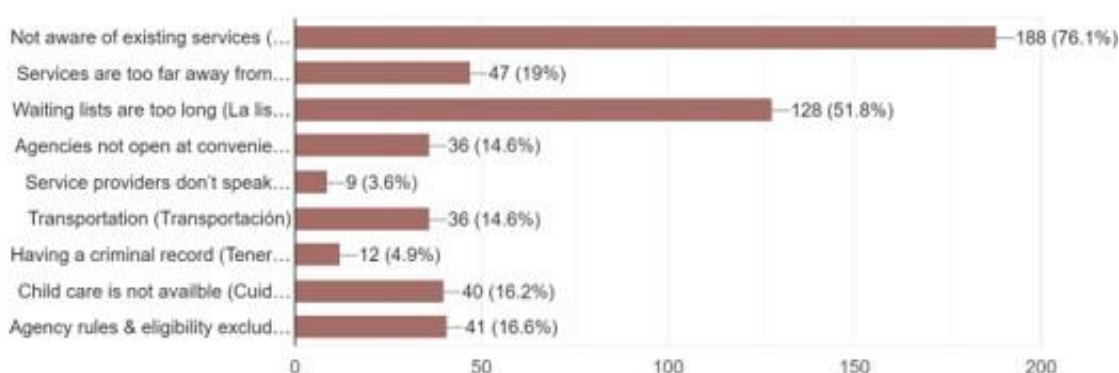
What items listed below are things that your family needs? (¿Qué elementos que figuran a continuación son las cosas que su familia necesita?)

208 responses



What do you consider to be barriers that prevent families from getting needed services? (¿Que considera usted que son las barreras que impiden a...s familias de conseguir los servicios necesarios?)

247 responses



Health, Education and Social Services Needs of Families

Employment	Housing assistance	Emergency rent and utility assistance	Tobacco Education	Preventive medical and oral health care
Health Education	Nutrition-related services - obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes	Parenting Education	English as a second language	Housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, repairs
Transition between programs	ESL	Additional Education/GED	Locating resources in the community	Child's screening and assessment results
Emergency/crisis intervention	Post-partum education	Job Training	Relationship/Marriage Education	Mental Health Services

Source: Program Information Report 2022 - 2023

Key Finding: According to PIR data, the top two services requested and received by families were preventive medical and oral health care children's screening and assessment results.

Availability and Accessibility of Community Resources and Services

Top two (2) barriers that prevent families from getting needed services
Not aware of existing services within the community
Agency rules and eligibility excludes people

Source: Internal Survey

Community Partnership and Resources

Webb County Head Start Community Partnerships List

Community Partnerships/ Agreement Letters	Contact Person	Address	Phone#	E-mail Address
Work Force Solutions for South Texas	Gricelia Perez	1406 Jacama Rd. Laredo Tx.	(956)794-6500	gricelia_perez@southtexasworkforce.org
MHP Salud	Jorge Garcia	3102 US.83Busg, Weslaco, Tx. 78596	(956)593-0062	jorge.garcia@mhpсалud.org
PEP Program	Annet Winch	201 Lindenwood Dr, Laredo, Texas 78045	(956)473-6506	awinch@uisd.net
WIC Program	Rebeca Alvarez	2600 Cedar Ave. Laredo, Tx. 78040	(956)795-4942	ralvarez@ci.laredo.tx.us
Casa De Misericordia	Sister Rose Mary	1000 Mier St. Laredo Tx. 78040	(956)712-9590	rosemary.welsh@mercy.net
Nurse-Family Partnership Program	Ms.G. Morua	2600 Cedar Ave. Laredo, Tx. 78040	(956)523-7848	gmorua@ci.laredo.tx.us
Laredo Independent School District	Pat Campos	2400 San Bernardo Ave. Laredo, Tx. 78040	(956)273-1273	ccampos@laredoisd.org
United Independent School District	Cordelia Cuellar	201 Lindenwood Dr, Laredo, Texas 78045	(956)473-2104	ccuellar@uids.net
Literacy Volunteers of Laredo	Ruth Sumrall	Fort McIntoch, Laredo, Tx. 78040	(956)724-5207	lvlaredo@gmail.com
The City of Laredo for The Laredo Public Library	Jaqueline F. Vela	1120 E. Calton Rd. Laredo, Tx. 78040	(956)795-2400	jflores9@ci.laredo.tx.us
Texas Work Force Solutions -Child Care Services	Noemi Pedroza	1406 Jacama Rd. Laredo Tx.	(956)794-1519	noemi.pedroza@southtexasworkforce.org
Laredo Life Pregnancy Center	Ivonne Lopez	1601 Musser St. Laredo, Tx. 78043	(956)727-1312	ilopez@laredolifecenter.org
Laredo College	Izela Mora	W End Washington St. Laredo Tx. 78040	(956)721-5436	izela.mora@laredo.edu
Texas Department of Protective Services (letter)	Alferma Giles	1500 N Arkansas Sve. Laredo, Tx. 78043	(210)337-3399	www.dfps.texas.gov
South Texas Food Bank	Elia Solis	2121 Jefferson St. Laredo Texas 78040	(956) 726-3120	esolis@southtexasfoodbank.org
Peaceful Solutions Charter Education INC. (Letter)	William Crouse	2900 Diaz St. Laredo, Tx. 78043	(956)286-0894	peacefulsolutionslaredo@gmail

Name of Service Provider	Description of Services	Contact information
American Red Cross	To provide emergency communication and services to military families	726-4778
Attorney General's Office	To provide child support services for the families of non-present parent	724-1602
Bethany House	To provide hot daily meals, provide shelter for the homeless, and help with clothing.	722-4152
Bethany House, Inc.	Provides hot daily meals, provides shelter for the homeless during cold weather, and helps with clothing. Homeless Prevention Program.	722-4152

BCFS Health and Human Services	Free pregnancy tests, prenatal, medical, and laboratory tests.	712-4700
Webb County Community Action	Assist in utilities, food pantry, and other services for the elderly.	722-6100 523-4182
Workforce Solutions	To provide services by education and training with the goals of full-time employment to recipients of T.A.N. F	794-6501
Workforce Solutions Child Care	Provides help for parents to obtain affordable childcare for children ages 0-12	794-1500
Stop Child Abuse and Neglect	To provide parenting education, counseling, substance abuse prevention services for children and their parents and the community	725-7211 725-7212
Texas Department of Human Services	Provides food stamp and health care services to low-income families	764-5200
Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services	Protect children as mandated by state law.	1-800-252-5400
Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Inc.	Free legal services for eligible low-income persons.	718-4600
Casa Misericordia	Provides secure, temporary residential services to victims of domestic violence.	712-9591
Catholic Social Services	Provides immigration services	722-2443
City of Laredo Housing Authority	To provide housing for low-income families	722-4521
City of Laredo Health Department	Provides medical and dental health care for the families	795-4900
Domestic Violence/ District Atty. Office	Provides legal guidance to persons in need of assistance	523-4900
Gateway Community Health Center	Provides a wide range of Medical and Dental Services	795-8100
Laredo Community College	E.S.L. classes, sites at various locations in the community.	721-5436 724-5207 794-4436
Mental Health Program	Provides therapy and counseling for parents and children	717-3733
Salvation Army	Provides emergency assistance temporarily to an individual	723-2349
South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse	To provide individual and group counseling, alcohol and other drug education for females and males 18 and older	791-6131

Source: Webb County Child Care Partnership Community Resource Guide 2024-2025

The agency's comprehensive Community Resource Directory has been prepared and made available to Head Start and Early Head Start families to assist them in identifying available resources. Webb County Commissioner's Head

Start and Early Head Start programs have a commitment to help provide services for families or to refer those families to the appropriate agency for needed services.

Partnership Agreements

Agency	Address	Telephone	Contact Person
Border Region/CAPS	1500 Pappas	794-3000	Jacqueline Lopez
El Puente Counseling Center.	1501 Corpus Christi	722-0121	Jackie Bassini
S.C.A.N.	1605 Saldana Ave.	724-3177	Melinda Mares
Luis Flores	1605 Saldana Ave.	286-9093	Mr. L. Flores
Dr. Daniel Garza	6801 McPherson Rd.	712-8200	Dr. Garza
Dr. Armando Garza	1517 E. Bustamante	722-7872	Dr. A. Garza
Dr. Avelino Alvarez	2337 Endeavor	726-7929	Dr. Alvarez
Rachel C. Vurbeff PNP	1614 Market	568-5340	Rachel Vurbeff
Galo Eye Clinic	5707 Springfield Ave	791-0080	Dr. Newton
Dr. Eric Sloman-Moll	10410 Medical Loop	794-8870	Dr. Sloman-Moll
Ruben Bocanegra	4151 Bob Bullock	724-2800	Mr. Bocanegra
Hector Lopez, Dentist	4151 Jaime Zapata Memorial Hwy #210	727-3593	Dr. Lopez
UTHSA, Dentist	2800 Cedar	523-7500	

Source: Internal Document

Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes

Licensed Center	ABC Discovery Learning Center	8610 McPherson Rd STE 300 Laredo, Tx 78045	956-753-6762
Licensed Child-Care Home	Academy of Young Scholars	4216 Campeche Dr Laredo, Tx 78046	956-568-7626
Licensed Child-Care Home	Alejandra's Day Care	1605 Woodstone CT Laredo, Tx 78045	956-726-9133
Licensed Center	All Star Kids, Inc.	1218 Laredo St Laredo, Tx 78040	956-723-3319
Licensed Center	Apple Bee Child Learning Center LLC	7519 Rocio Dr Laredo, Tx 78041	956-723-3331
Licensed Center	Arts & Learning Center	5901 McPherson Rd STE 11C Laredo, Tx 78041	956-723-3331
Licensed Center	Best Lil Schoolhouse 2	4120 E Saunders Laredo, Tx 78041	956-725-2378
Licensed Center	Best Lil Schoolhouse North Academy	603 Shiloh Dr Laredo, Tx 78045	956-602-0655
Licensed Center	Blooming Kids LLC	9109 McPherson Rd STE 6 Laredo, Tx 78045	956-237-1249
Licensed Child-Care Home	Building Blocks Day Care	4304 Salinas Ave Laredo, Tx 78041	956-725-4117
Licensed Child-Care Home	Busy Bees	9310 Albany Dr Unit 13 Laredo, Tx 78045	956-612-8513
Licensed Center	Carousel Learning Academy of Laredo	2110 Lomas Del Sur STE 120 Laredo, Tx 78046	956-717-6001
Licensed Center	Carousel Learning Academy of Laredo Heights	702 Laredo St Laredo, Tx 78040	956-725-6061
Licensed Child-Care Home	Castillito's Day Care	9557 Ashton Loop Laredo, Tx 78045	956-290-4658
Licensed Center	Champions Christian Academy	4020 Santa Maria Ave Laredo, Tx 78041	956-791-3020
Licensed Center	Children's Fountain of Knowledge Learning Center, Inc.	9109 McPherson Rd STE 9 Laredo, Tx 78045	956-753-7272
Licensed Child-Care Home	Children's World	8506 Forest Loop Laredo, Tx 78045	956-726-0068
Registered Child-Care Home	Clarissa Canales	504 North Star Dr Laredo, Tx 78045	956-286-0505
Licensed Child-Care Home	Creceer Learning Center	3014 Calle Piedra Ln Laredo, Tx 78045	956-744-4533
Licensed Center	Education Center-Concord Hills	412 Concord Hills Blvd Laredo, Tx 78046	956-753-3979
Licensed Child-Care Home	Eva's Day Care	17529 College Port Dr Laredo, Tx 78045	956-726-9267
Licensed Center	Finley Head Start Center	125 Atlanta Dr Laredo, Tx 78045	956-724-1105

Licensed Center	First Class Learning Center	9652 McPherson Rd Bldg STE 600 Laredo, Tx 78045	956-725-1680
Licensed Center	Gloria's Day Care Center, LLC	3417 W Fiesta Loop Laredo, Tx 78043	956-725-1316
Licensed Center	Golden Steps Child Development Center	2104 Quail Creek Rd Laredo, Tx 78045	956-717-9226
Licensed Center	Happy Beginnings Childcare & Learning Center	4414 Maria Luisa Dr Laredo, Tx 78043	956-753-7300
Licensed Center	Happy Days Day Care	717 Corpus Christi St Laredo, Tx 78040	956-523-8856
Licensed Center	Happy Hearts Learning Center	4910 S Zapata Hwy STE D1 Laredo, Tx 78046	956-795-1555
Licensed Center	Holy Hands Learning Center	1920 Corpus Christi St Laredo, Tx 78043	956-462-7130
Licensed Center	Intelligym Learning Center	1521 Jacaman Rd Laredo, Tx 78041	956-568-0914
Licensed Center	Jasmine's Child Day Care Center	712 Galveston St Laredo, Tx 78040	956-718-2952
Licensed Center	Johnson's Day Care & Learning Center	2118 S Jarvis Ave Laredo, TX 78046	956-753-5011
Licensed Center	Johnson's Daycare & Learning Center #2	2716 Corpus Christi St, Tx 78043	956-795-8824
Licensed Child-Care Home	Kids "R" Us Child Care and Learning Center	118 Birch Loop Laredo, Tx 78046	956-722-7304
Licensed Center	Kinderclub Learning Center, LLC.	601 Concord Hills Blvd Laredo, Tx 78046	956-726-9696
Licensed Center	Kristi-Lin's Academy Learning Express	1703 Commerce Dr Laredo, Tx 78041	956-727-9888
Licensed Center	Larga Vista Head Start Center	5411 Cisneros St Laredo, Tx 78043	956-728-1562
Licensed Center	LCC Camilo Prada Child Development Center	5500 S Zapata Hwy Laredo, Tx 78046	956-794-4561
Licensed Child-Care Home	Little Angels	1609 Woodstone Ct Laredo, Tx 78045	956-724-4134
Licensed Center	Little Characters Day Care Learning Center	3220 Ligarde St Laredo, Tx 78043	956-723-5439
Licensed Center	Little Feet & Learning Day Care Center	1001 Bristol Rd STE A Laredo, Tx 78045	956-729-8099
Licensed Center	Little Folks Head Start Center	1233 Paseo Danubio Rio Bravo, Tx 78046	956-791-9807
Licensed Child-Care Home	Little Friends Learning Center	207 Flathead Laredo, Tx 78045	956-251-9826
Licensed Center	Little Hearts Child Development Center	6553 Metro Ct STE B Laredo, Tx 78041	956-267-8354
Licensed Center	Little Palominos Head Start Center	W END Washington LCC Campus Laredo, Tx 78040	956-722-9946

Licensed Center	Little People North	4209 McPherson Ave Laredo, Tx 78041	956-791-5142
Licensed Center	Little People South	2619 Rosario St Laredo, TX 78043	956-722-0330

***Source: Texas Department Protective and Regulatory Services, Child Care Licensing. For further listings of childcare centers and family childcare homes please see:
www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care/ppFacilitySearchDayCare.asp***



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