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# Race Equity Action Framework (REAF)

*Understanding Different Approaches for Advancing Racial Equity*

## Section 3

### Housing, Health & Human Services

A tool developed by:

The Community Advancement Network (CAN) - Austin, TX

Updated March 2023

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# Race Equity Action Framework

Criminal &  
Civil Justice

State/National  
Legislation &  
Policy

Addressing  
Concentrated  
Wealth & Power

Social Capital  
& Community  
Leadership

*Housing,  
Health &  
Human  
Services*

Expand  
Opportunity  
for Youth &  
Adults

Educational  
& Economic  
Opportunity

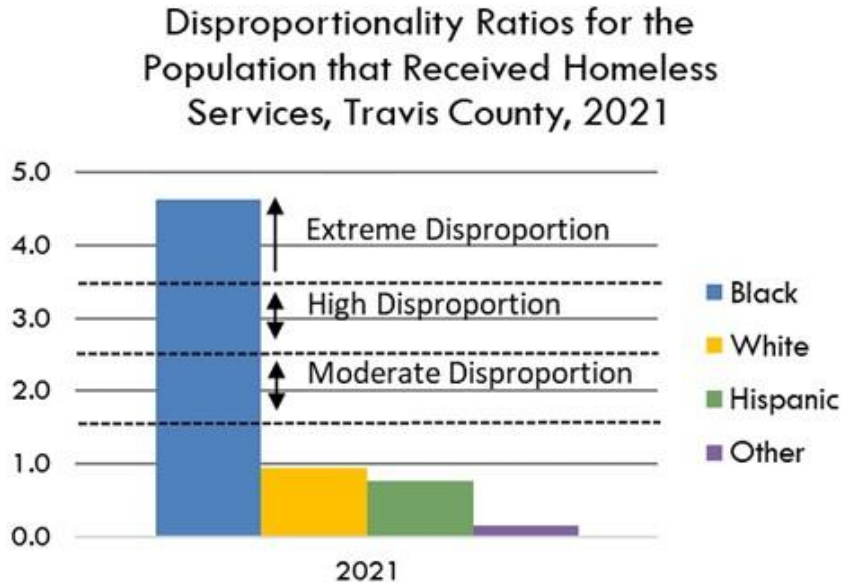
Workforce  
Development

# Section 3

## Introduction

It is important for individuals and families to have their basic needs met in order to create an environment of stability that can allow these individuals and families to pursue avenues of personal growth and fulfillment which may not otherwise be accessible to them. We cannot have equity of opportunity if certain segments of our community must focus all of their efforts on meeting the most basic of human needs like housing, food, clothing and quality health care.

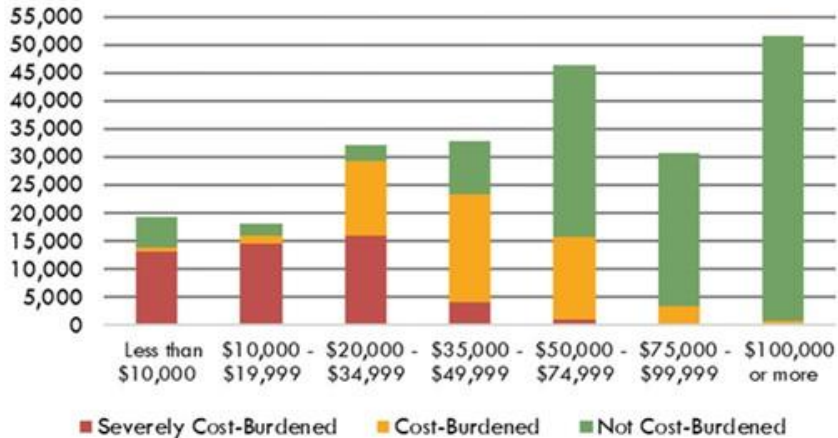
# HOMELESSNESS



Disproportionality among those who are experiencing homelessness reveals the greatest level of disproportionality found for any of the CAN Dashboard indicators. Blacks are over five times more likely than Whites to experience homelessness in Travis County. Blacks are disproportionately overrepresented among the 3,151 people who received homeless services and who were assessed through the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). In Fiscal Year 2021, the disproportionality ratio for Blacks was 4.6 which indicates an extreme disproportion of overrepresentation.

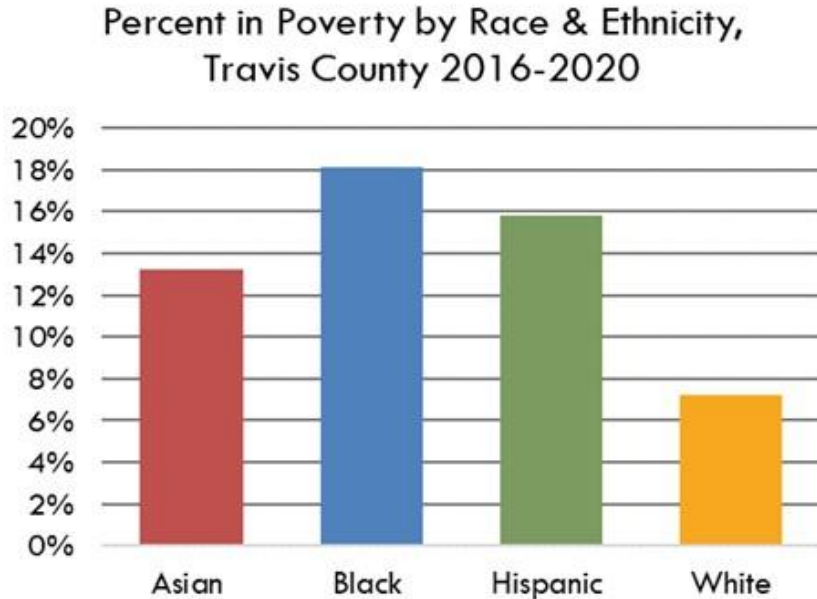
# HOUSING COST BURDEN

Travis County Renter Households,  
2016-2020



Low-income renters are most impacted. According to census data, 85% of renters with a household income less than \$35,000 a year are housing cost-burdened, and the majority of those households (63%) are “severely cost-burdened,” which means they pay more than half their total household income for housing.

# POVERTY



The poverty rate for all races and ethnicities has declined since the end of the Great Recession, however, disparities remain. Poverty rates for Travis County residents who are Black or Hispanic are about 2.5 times greater than the poverty rates for Whites. Less than one-tenth of White residents live below the poverty level, which is about \$27,000 for a family with two adults and two children and \$22,000 for a family with one adult and two children.

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# DATA SOURCES WITH OUTCOMES BROKEN DOWN BY RACE

Children's Optimal Health – Local  
Substance Abuse Patterns by Race; Child  
Maltreatment Data by Race (2016)  
[https://www.cohtx.org/wp-content/uploads/child\\_maltreatment\\_summit.pdf](https://www.cohtx.org/wp-content/uploads/child_maltreatment_summit.pdf)

Central Health Demographics Report 2017  
<https://www.centralhealth.net/initiatives/#demoreport>

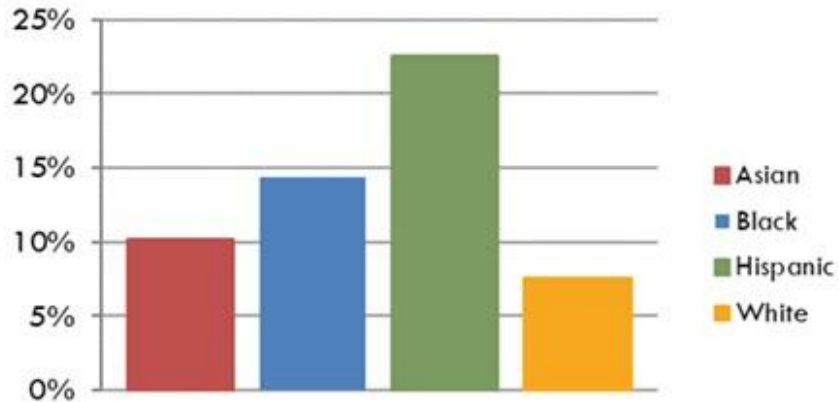
ECHO Data Portal on Homelessness  
<https://www.austinecho.org/leading-system-change/data-and-reports/>

CAN – Equity Analysis  
<http://canatx.org/dashboard/>

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# ADULTS WHO ARE UNINSURED

Percent of People Under 65 Who are Uninsured, by Race & Ethnicity, Travis County, 2021

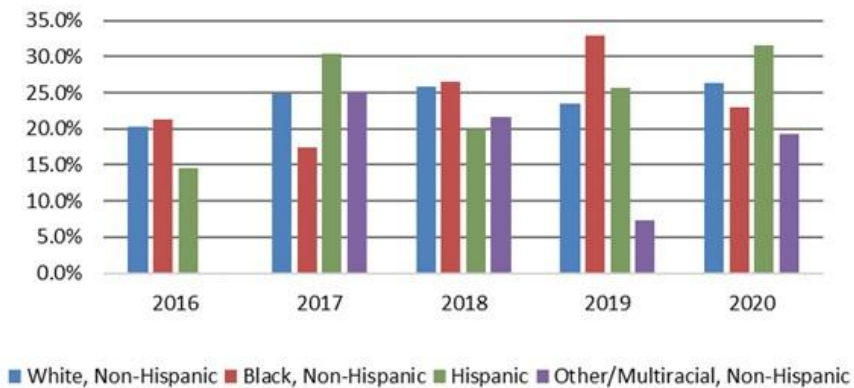


In Travis County the uninsured rate is highest for Hispanics, with 23% of Hispanics under age 65 uninsured. Travis County residents who are low-income have an even higher uninsured rate of 26% – twice the overall rate of 13%. People with higher incomes are most likely to have employer-based health coverage. People earning lower incomes are less likely to receive this benefit.



# MENTAL HEALTH

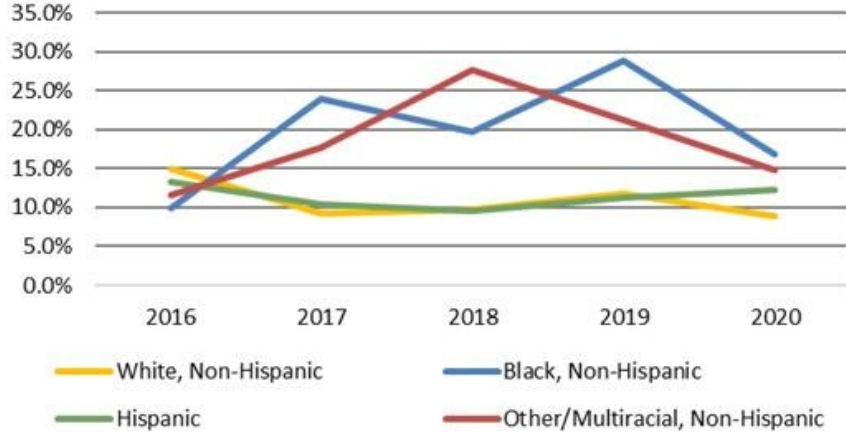
Poor Mental Health by Race & Ethnicity, Travis County



Black adults in Travis County were most likely to report poor mental health. Due to small sample sizes, the data were aggregated over five years for a comparison of sub-groups. An estimated 25% of Black adults who were surveyed during this five year time period reported experiencing five or more days of poor mental health within the past month. Poor mental health can include stress, depression, and emotional issues.

# SMOKING

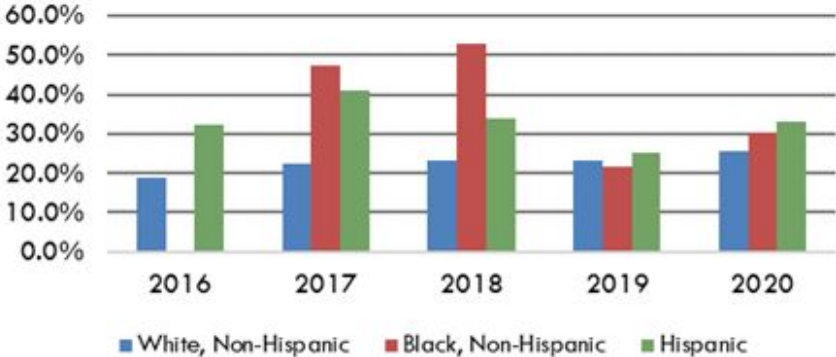
Percent Who Smoke, by Race & Ethnicity,  
Travis County



Black adults and people of other races were more likely to report smoking than White or Hispanic adults. An estimated 18% of Blacks, 18% of people identifying as other races or ethnicities, 11% of Hispanics, and 11% of Whites reported smoking.

# OBESITY

Obesity, by Race & Ethnicity,  
Travis County



Black adults in Travis County are more likely to be obese than people of other races and ethnicities. According to the 2017 Critical Health Indicators report, Black residents also have the highest rates of cardiovascular disease and diabetes – diseases that are more prevalent among people who are overweight or obese. Obesity data were aggregated over five years for sub-group comparisons, due to small sample size.

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# DATA SOURCES WITH OUTCOMES BROKEN DOWN BY RACE

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Substance Abuse Patterns by Race;  
Child Maltreatment Data by Race (2016)  
[https://www.cohtx.org/wp-content/uploads/child\\_maltreatment\\_summit.pdf](https://www.cohtx.org/wp-content/uploads/child_maltreatment_summit.pdf)

Central Health Demographics Report  
2017  
<https://www.centralhealth.net/initiatives/#demoreport>

CAN – Equity Analysis  
<http://canatx.org/dashboard/>

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## ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO ADDRESS RACIAL EQUITY IN:

## HOUSING

### *People of Color-Led Organizations*

Go Austin! Vamos Austin!

<https://www.goaustinvamosaustin.org/>

East Austin Conservancy/Eastside  
Guardians

<http://www.eastsideguardians.org/>

Immigrant Services Network

<https://isnaustin.wordpress.com/>

Austin Justice Coalition

<https://austinjustice.org/>

Austin Revitalization Authority

<https://austinrev.org/>

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS  
WORKING TO ADDRESS RACIAL  
EQUITY IN:**

**HOUSING**

BASTA!

<http://www.bastaaustin.org/>

Austin Tenants Council

<https://www.housing-rights.org/>

Refugee Services of Texas

<https://www.rstx.org/>

Austin Refugee Roundtable

<http://austinrefugees.org/>

Austin Housing Coalition

<https://austinhousingcoalition.org/>

Housing Works

<https://www.housingworks.org/>

Blackland CDC

<https://www.blacklandcdc.org/>

Community Powered Workshop

<https://communitypoweredworkshop.org/home/>

## ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO ADDRESS RACIAL EQUITY IN:

# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

*(People of Color-Led)*

Asian Family Support Services of Austin  
<https://www.afssaustin.org/>

Austin Health Commons  
[www.austinhealthcommons.org](http://www.austinhealthcommons.org)

Central Texas African American Family Support  
Conference  
<https://ctaafsc.com/>

Excellence and Advancement Foundation  
<https://breakthepipeline.org/>

Go Austin! Vamos Austin!  
<https://www.goaustinvamosaustin.org/>

Immigrant Services Network  
<https://isnaustin.wordpress.com/>

Latino Healthcare Forum  
<https://www.lhcf.org/>

Mama Sana Vibrant Woman  
<https://www.msvwatx.org/>

Measure – Health Disparity Care Team  
<https://www.measureaustin.org/health-in-austin>

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS  
WORKING TO ADDRESS RACIAL  
EQUITY IN:**

**HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES**

Central Health - Health Champions  
Program

[https://www.centralhealth.net/initiatives/  
community-health-champions/](https://www.centralhealth.net/initiatives/community-health-champions/)

Central Health - Equity Policy Council

[https://www.centralhealth.net/initiatives/  
central-health-equity-policy-council/](https://www.centralhealth.net/initiatives/central-health-equity-policy-council/)

Refugee Services of Texas

<https://www.rstx.org/>

Austin Refugee Roundtable

<http://austinrefugees.org/>

University of Texas Dell Medical School –  
Health Equity Strategic Plan

[https://dellmed.utexas.edu/about/mission-a  
nd-vision/health-equity-diversity-inclusion](https://dellmed.utexas.edu/about/mission-and-vision/health-equity-diversity-inclusion)



# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Beyond Diversity (Leadership Austin)  
<https://leadershipaustin.org/2020/12/26/beyond-diversity-seminar-2021-dates/>

Undoing Racism  
<https://undoingracismaustin.org/activities/register-for-future-undoing-racism-workshops-in-austin/>

Racial Healing Circles  
<https://www.austinyca.org/blog/racial-healing-circles>

## COALITIONS WORKING TO ADDRESS INSTITUTIONAL RACISM

Austin Black Caucus  
<https://www.facebook.com/AustinBlackCaucus/>

Central Texas Collective for Racial Equity  
<https://ctcraciaequity.org/>

Austin Justice Coalition  
<https://austinjustice.org/>

Communities of Color United  
<https://www.atxccu.org/>

Community Resilience Trust  
<https://communityresiliencetrust.org/>

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

## GOVERNMENTAL RESOURCES FOR ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY

Austin ISD Chief Equity Officer  
<https://www.austinisd.org/equityoffice/staff>

City of Austin Chief Equity Officer  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/equity-office>

ACC Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer  
<https://www.austincc.edu/news/tag/chief-equity-diversity-inclusion-officer>

## RESOURCE TO LEARN ABOUT ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CAN "Get Engaged" Podcast & Calendar  
<http://canatx.org/podcasts/>