
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 August 2024

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

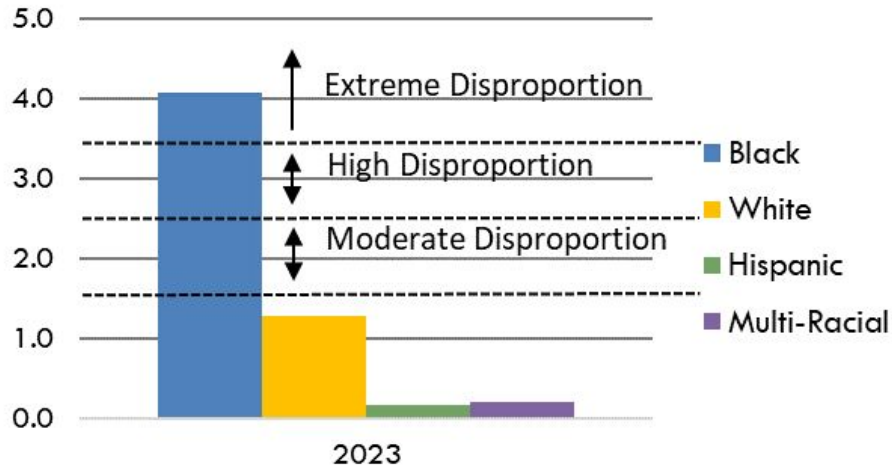
Section 3

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

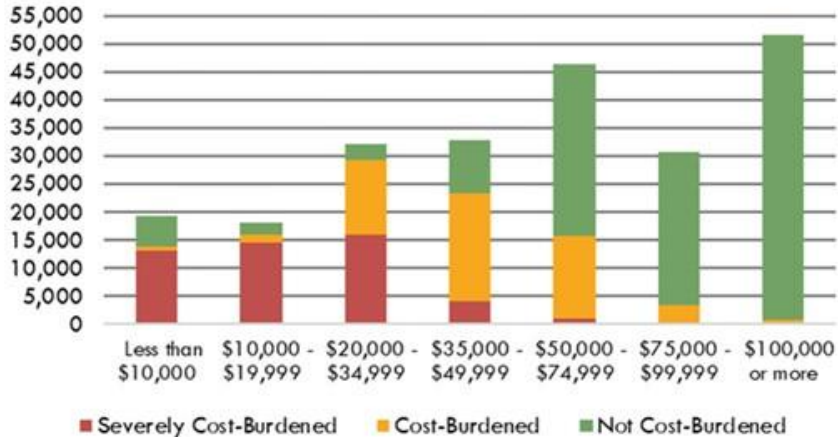
Disproportionality Ratios for the Population that Received Homeless Services, Travis County, 2023



Disproportionality among those who are experiencing homelessness reveals the greatest level of disproportionality found for any of the CAN Dashboard indicators. Travis County residents who are Black are disproportionately overrepresented among the people counted through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). In 2023, the disproportionality ratio for Black Travis County residents was 4.1 which indicates an extreme disproportion of overrepresentation.

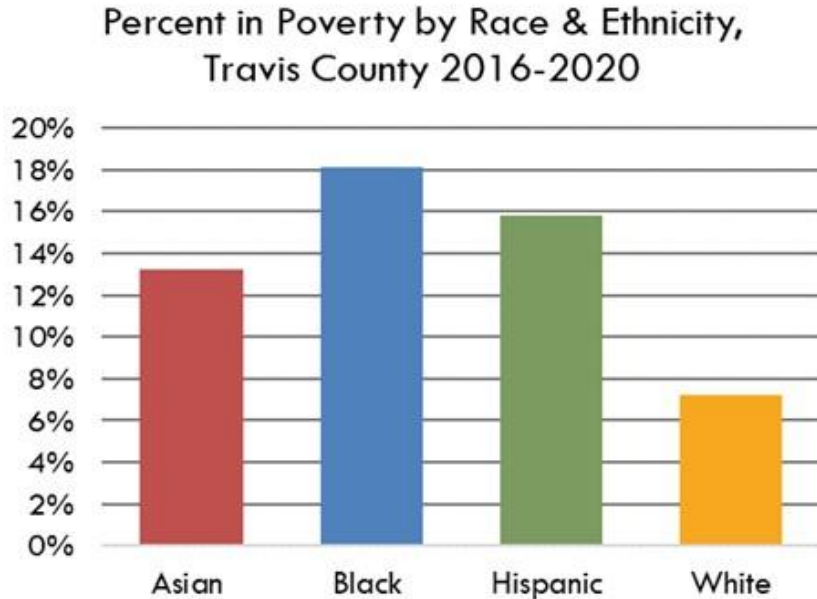
HOUSING COST BURDEN

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.

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

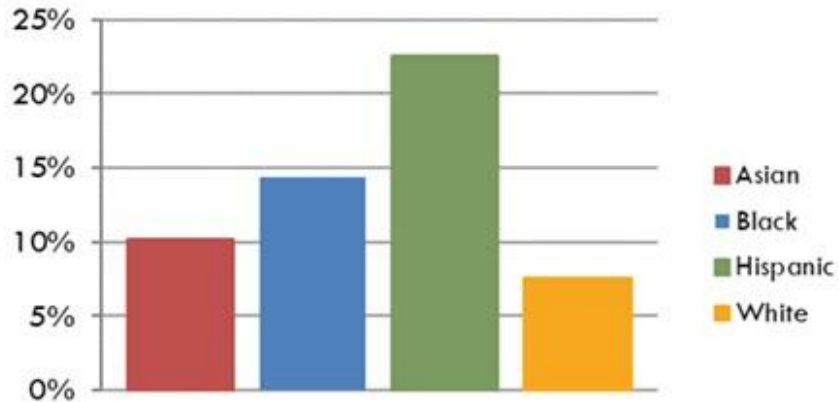
Central Health Demographics Report 2017
<https://www.centralhealth.net/initiatives/#demoreport>

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

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

ADULTS WHO ARE UNINSURED

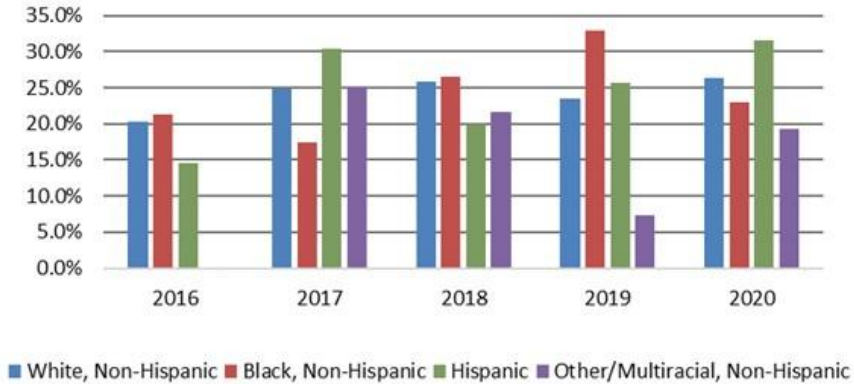
Percent of People Under 65 Who are Uninsured, by Race & Ethnicity, Travis County, 2021



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

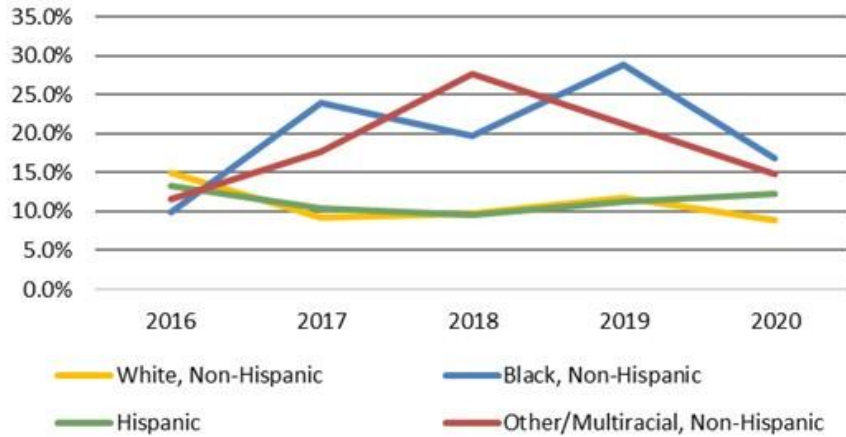
Poor Mental Health by Race & Ethnicity, Travis County



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

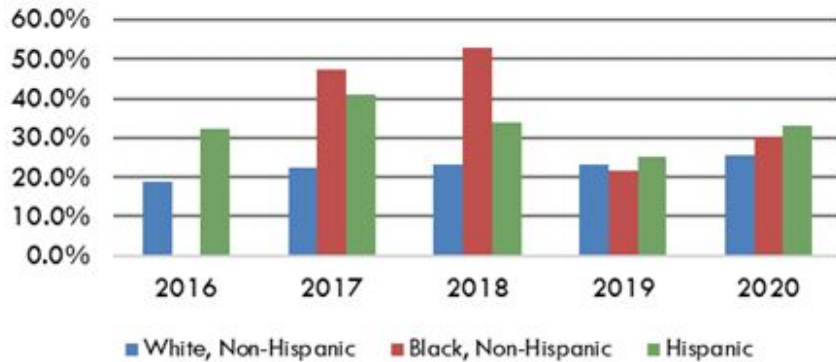
Percent Who Smoke, by Race & Ethnicity,
Travis County



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.

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

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

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

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

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/>