
Expanding Opportunity Framework Racial Disparities Analysis

*Understanding Different Approaches for Addressing
Racial Disparities*

Section 4 Educational & Economic Opportunity

A tool developed by:
The Community Advancement Network (CAN) - Austin, TX
Updated August 2026

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Addressing
Concentrated
Wealth & Power

Safety &
Justice

State/National
Legislation &
Policy

Housing,
Health &
Human
Services

Social Capital
& Community
Leadership

Educational
& Economic
Opportunity

Expand
Opportunity
for Youth &
Adults

Workforce
Development

Section 4

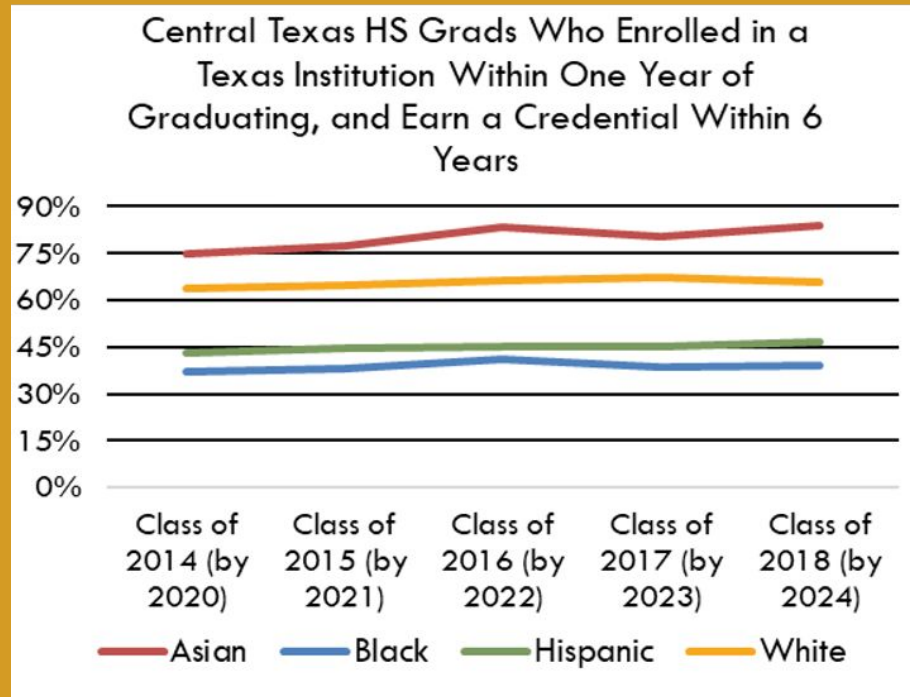
Introduction

Access to a quality education, including early education (zero to 5 years of age), is pivotal to future educational and economic success. Disparities in access to high quality early education services, high quality K-12 schools and enrichment opportunities create additional disparities in post-secondary outcomes/options and good paying jobs.

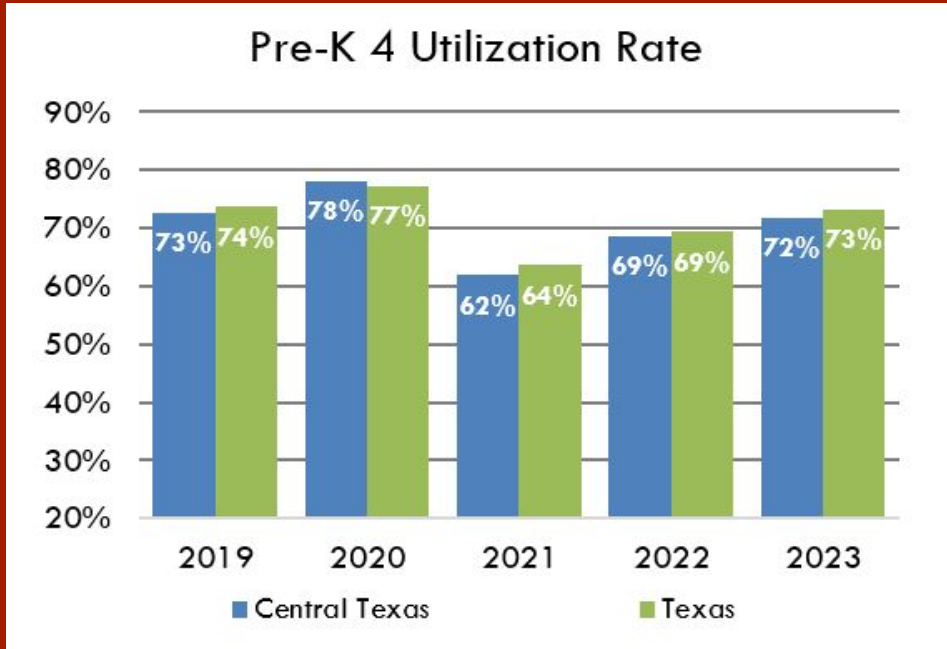
POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Black high school graduates and Hispanic high school graduates complete postsecondary education programs at lower rates than Asian or White students. For the Class of 2018, 39% of Black and 47% of Hispanic high school graduates completed postsecondary education programs within six years. This is compared to 84% of Asian and 66% of White students. These rates have remained relatively consistent over time.

Data Source: E3 Alliance



PRE-K UTILIZATION



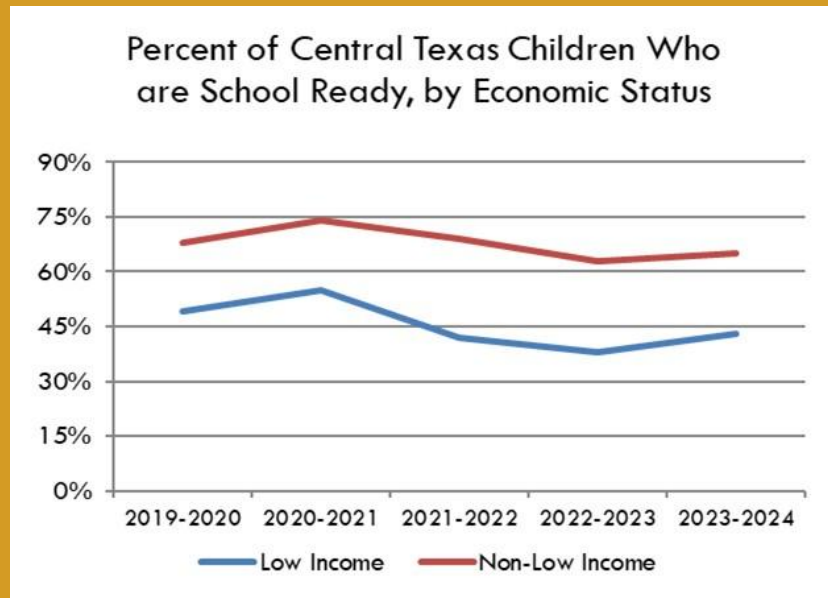
The most recently available data from E³ Alliance show that Central Texas residents utilize Pre-K at lower rates than the state of Texas. Half-day public Pre-K is available to children who have limited English proficiency, are economically disadvantaged, have an active duty military parent, or are homeless. Children who attend pre-kindergarten programs are more likely to enter kindergarten school ready than children who did not attend pre-k.

Data Source: E3 Alliance

SCHOOL READINESS

The greatest disparity in school readiness occurs by income. Approximately 43% of low-income kindergarteners were school ready in the 2023-2024 school year, compared to 65% of children from moderate and high-income families. The gap in school readiness by income appears to have narrowed between 2019 and 2021. In 2022, the school readiness rate for Central Texas children from non-low income families was 22 percentage points higher than the school readiness rate for low income children.

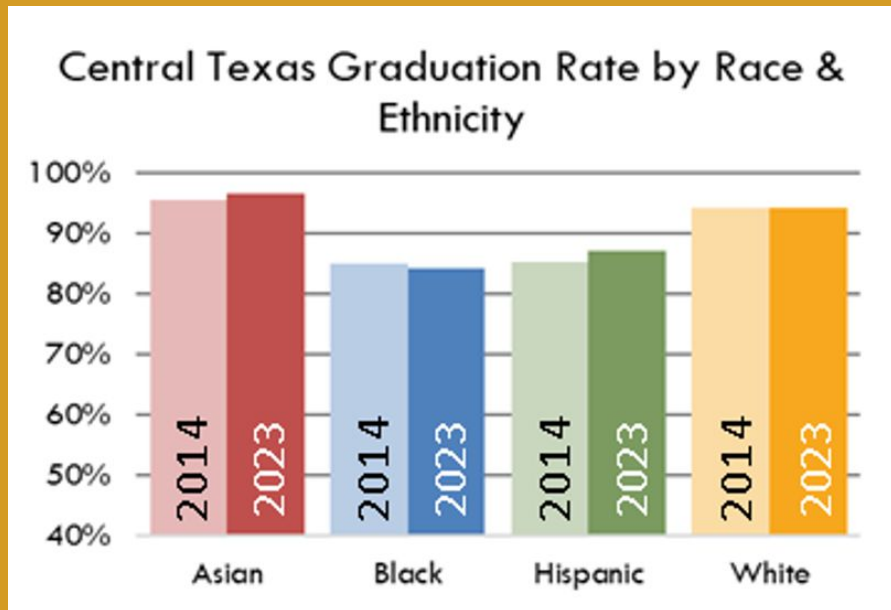
Data Source: E3 Alliance



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Although disparities exist by race and ethnicity, the gap has closed over the last ten years, and most racial and ethnic groups have seen improvements. Hispanic students saw graduation rates improve from 85% for the Class of 2014 to 87% for the class of 2023, while the graduation rate for Black students declined from 85% to 84% over the same period.

Data Source: E3 Alliance



ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO ADDRESS RACIAL DISPARITIES IN:

EDUCATION

People of Color-Led Organizations

ACC – Truth, Racial Healing and
Transformation Campus Center
<https://students.austincc.edu/truth-racial-healing-and-transformation-center/>

African American Youth Harvest
Foundation
<https://aayhf.org/>

AVANCE Austin
<http://avanceaustin.org/>

Black Austin Coalition
<https://blackaustincoalition.com/>

Con Mi Madre
<http://www.conmimadre.org/>

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

Project MALES Program
<https://projectmales.education.utexas.edu/>

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO ADDRESS RACIAL DISPARITIES IN:

EDUCATION

Austin Youth Development Program (COA)
<https://www.austintexas.gov/health/austin-youth-development>

Communities in Schools – ASPIRE program
<https://ciscentraltexas.org/aspire/>

Communities in Schools – Male Student
Achievement Program (MSAP)
<https://ciscentraltexas.org/msap/>

Integral Care – Families with Voices
<https://integralcare.org/program/families-with-voices/>

United Way – 2-Gen Coalition for
Economic Advancement
<https://unitedwayaustin.org/our-work/our-goals/2-gen-coalition/>

United Way - Success by 6
<https://www.unitedwayaustin.org/our-work/success-by-6/>

E3 Alliance
<https://e3alliance.org/>

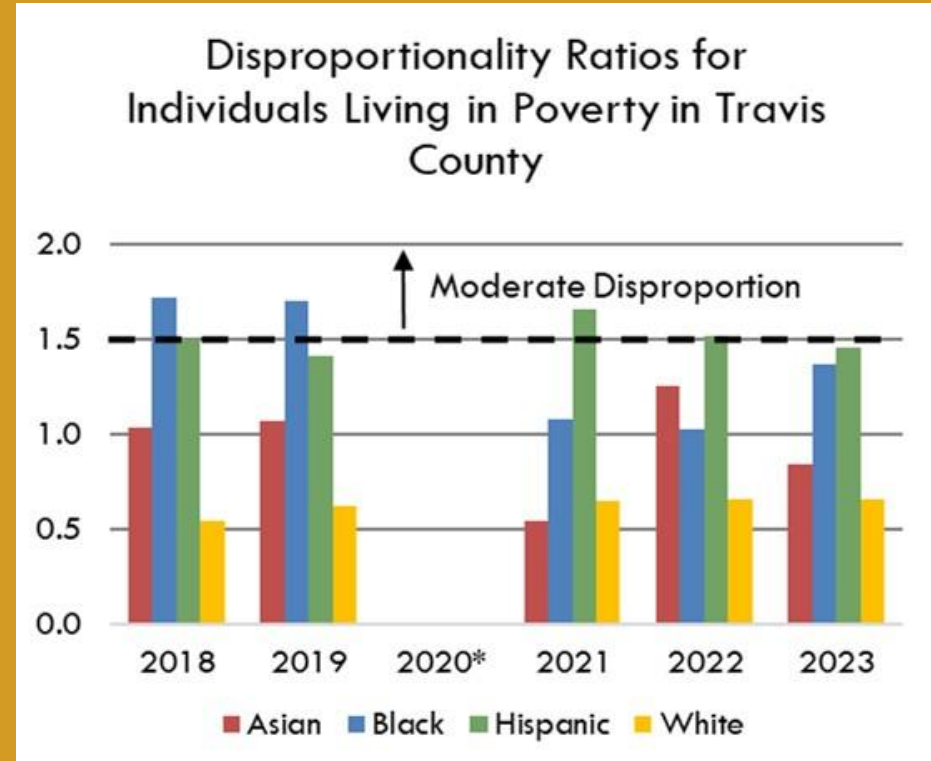
Breakthrough Central Texas
<http://breakthroughctx.org/>

College Possible
<https://collegepossible.org/>

POVERTY

In 2023, Hispanic and Black residents of Travis County reported slight levels of disproportion as it relates to the impact of poverty. For Black residents, this shows an improvement from the moderate disproportion level reported in 2018 and 2019. In 2022, Asian residents of Travis County reported an increase in the level of disproportion in this metric.

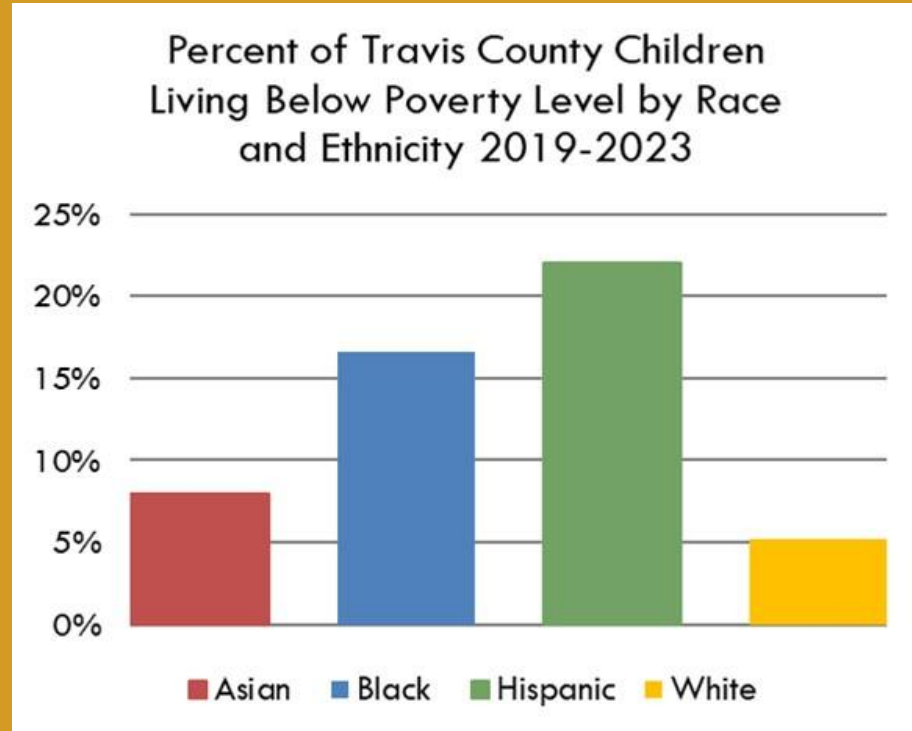
SOURCE: 2025 CAN Community Dashboard
<https://dashboard.canatx.org>



CHILD POVERTY

The disparity in poverty rates by race and ethnicity is even greater for the child population than it is for the total population. Between 2019 and 2023, 22% of Hispanic children and 17% of Black or African American children lived below the federal poverty level, compared to 8% of Asian children and 5% of White children.

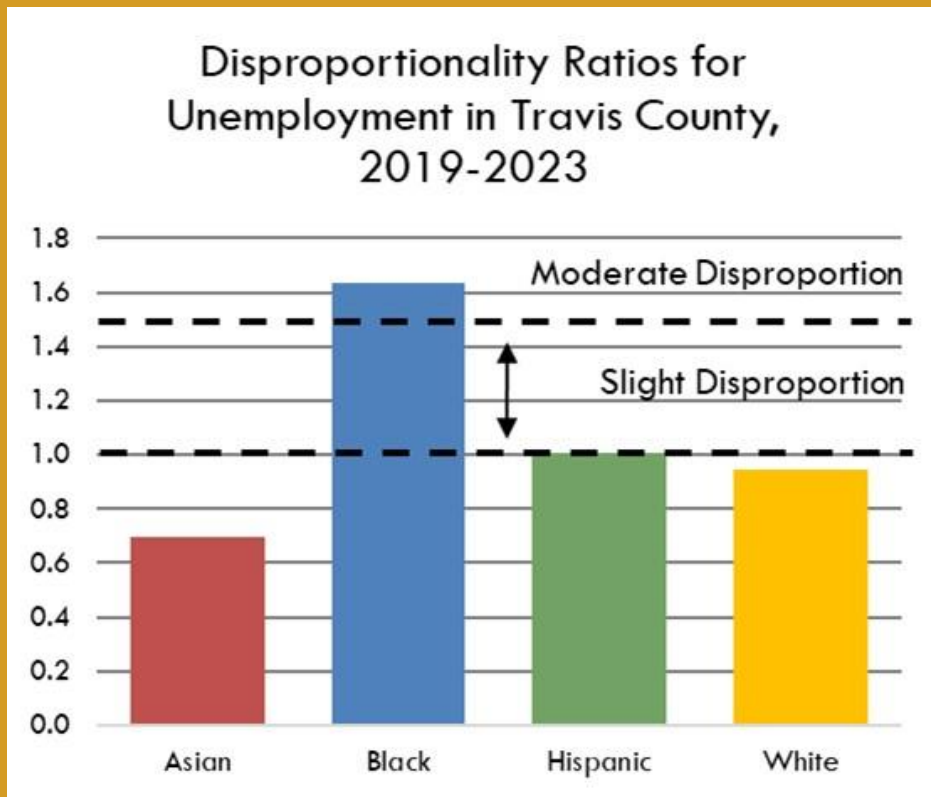
SOURCE: 2025 CAN Community Dashboard
<https://dashboard.canatx.org>



UNEMPLOYMENT

From 2019 to 2023, African American Travis County residents had an unemployment disproportionality ratio of 1.6, which represents a moderate level of disproportion.

SOURCE: 2025 CAN Community Dashboard
<https://dashboard.canatx.org>



ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO ADDRESS RACIAL DISPARITIES IN:

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

People of Color-Led Organizations

Austin Area Urban League
<https://aaul.org/>

UpTogether
<https://www.uptogether.org/>

BCL of Texas
<https://bcloftexas.org/>

Black Austin Coalition
<https://blackaustincoalition.com/>

Greater Austin Asian Chamber
<https://www.austinasianchamber.org/>

Workers Defense
<http://www.workersdefense.org/>

Greater Austin Black Chamber
<https://www.austinbcc.org/>

Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber
<https://www.gahcc.org/home/>

Diversity & Ethnic Chamber Alliance of Central
Texas
<https://decacentx.com/>

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO ADDRESS RACIAL DISPARITIES IN: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Integral Care – Families with Voices

<https://integralcare.org/program/families-with-voices/>

United Way – 2-Gen Coalition for Economic
Advancement

<https://unitedwayaustin.org/our-work/our-goals/2-gen-coalition/>

Central Texas Asset Funders Network

<https://assetfunders.org/regional-chapter/central-texas/#:~:text=The%20Central%20Texas%20Chapter%20of%20the%20Asset%20Funders.access%20to%20prosperity-building%20opportunities%20that%20drive%20economic%20mobility.>

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Undoing White Supremacy Austin - Unlearning Circles

<https://undoingwhitesupremacy.org/unlearning-circles/>

Community Healing Circles

<https://students.austincc.edu/truth-racial-healing-and-transformation-center/racial-healing-circles/>

RESOURCE TO LEARN ABOUT ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CAN "Get Engaged" Community Calendar

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FUkB R8pDw7Pb4HNIoT1dBn09UXnuVvOa1HP9KMF3aMo/edit?gid=1003257320#gid=1003257320>

COALITIONS WORKING TO ADDRESS RACIAL DISPARITIES

Black Austin Coalition

<https://blackaustincoalition.com/>

Austin Justice Coalition

<https://austinjustice.org/>

Brave Communities

<https://bravecommunities.org/>

Communities of Color United

<https://www.facebook.com/CCUCoalition/>

Community Resilience Trust

<https://communityresiliencetrust.org/>