

Community Conditions Overview Fall 2008

Updates on economic, demographic, and social changes in Austin-Travis County, Texas, and the United States of America.

This document is published bi-annually with release dates in Fall and Spring.



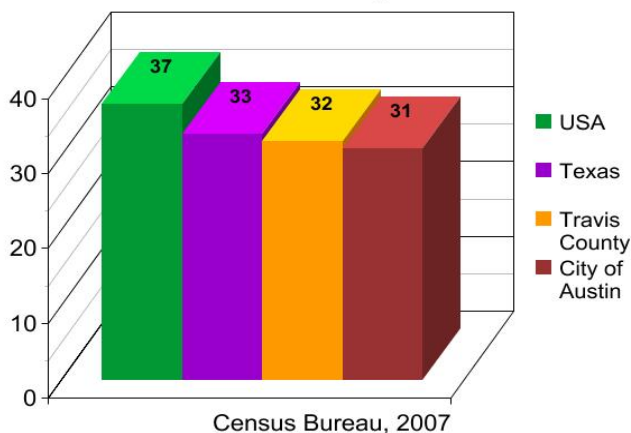
HIGHLIGHTS

- **Hurricane Ike:** The Austin Independent School District enrolled 144 Hurricane Ike evacuees. Seventy-five of those students were still with the district as of October 30, 2008.
- **Learning:** Locally, the percentage of people with a high school diploma or higher steadily decreased from 2005 to 2007. The percentage of people with a Bachelor degree or higher also steadily decreased from 2005 to 2007.
- **Working:** As of August 2008, mass layoffs in Travis County accounted for 14% of total State layoffs.
- **Thriving:** It is estimated that between 16-25% of people in Travis County are uninsured.
- **Connecting/Leading:** The total number of registered voters in Travis County will be 611,024 registered voters - a record breaking number!

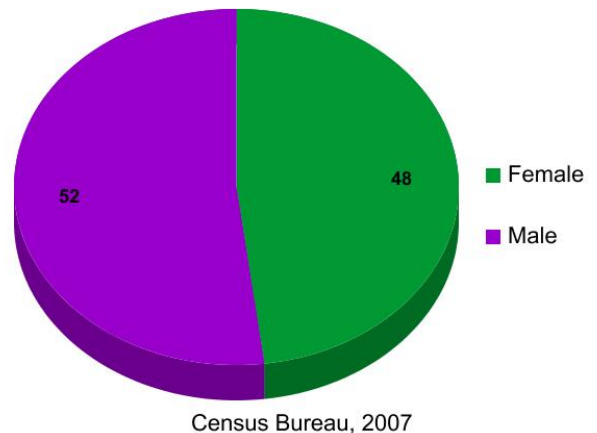
DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Population:** In 2007 Travis County had a population of 974,365 and the City of Austin had a population of 749,659. ([Census Bureau](#))
- **Older Adults:** They consistently constituted a smaller percentage of the population in Travis County (7% in 2007) and the City of Austin (6% in 2007) than the State and the Nation from 2005 to 2007. Meanwhile, 10% of the State and 13% of the Nation was 65 years and older in 2007. The older adult population in Central Texas is expected to increase 67% from 2000-2020. ([Census Bureau](#), [Texas Department on Aging](#))

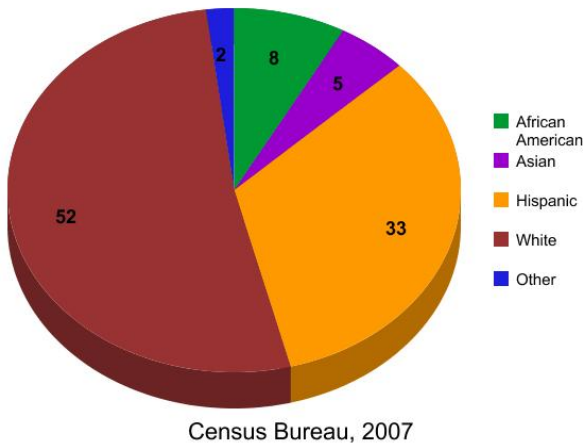
Median Age



Gender - Travis County & City of Austin

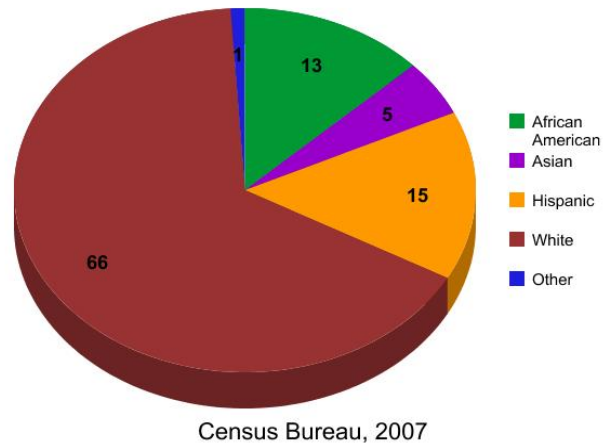


Race & Ethnicity - Travis County



Census Bureau, 2007

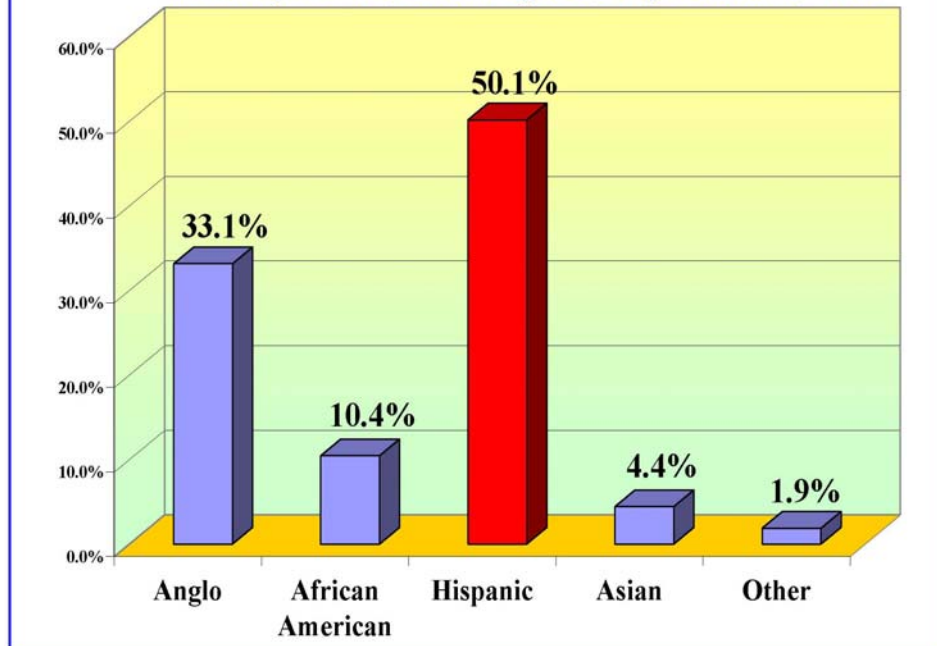
Race & Ethnicity - USA



Census Bureau, 2007

Note: Race and ethnicity percentages for the City of Austin varied only slightly from Travis County in 2007.

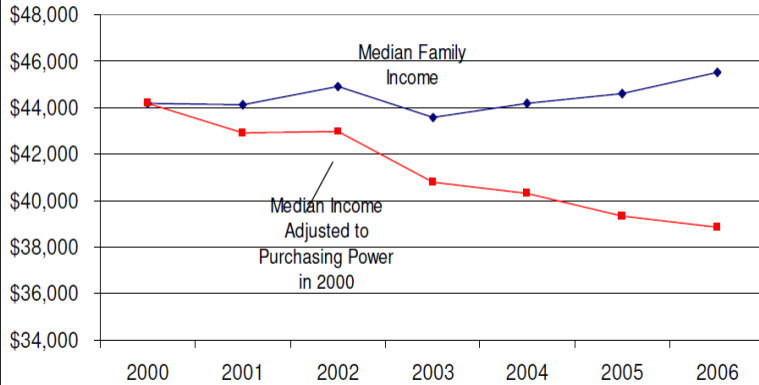
Ethnicity Shares, Under Age 18, City of Austin, 2006



ECONOMY

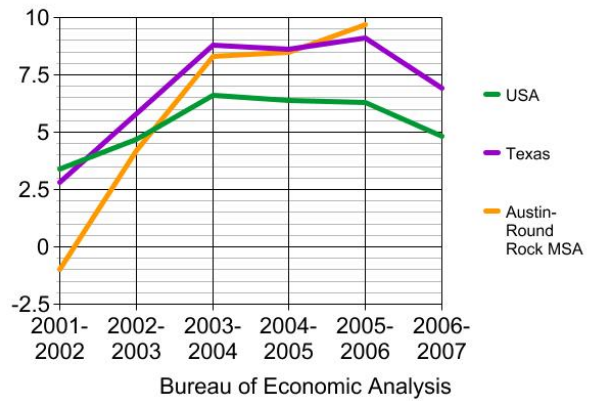
- **Per Capita Personal Income:** From 2004 to 2007 the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had a higher Per Capita Personal Income than the State, but a lower Per Capita Personal Income than the Nation. In 2007, the Austin-Round Rock MSA ranked 90th out of 363 MSAs in the country for per capita personal income. This is a drop from 2006's ranking of 81st. ([University of New Mexico's Bureau of Business and Economic Research; Bureau of Economic Analysis](#))
- **Median Income/Median Home Price:** From 2005 to 2007 the median income in Austin increased by 12% while the median home price increased by nearly 14%. ([Texas Real Estate Center; Census Bureau](#))
- **Gas Prices:** As of October 16, 2008 the average price of gas in the Austin-San Marcos area was \$2.90. This is more than a dollar drop from the record high average price of \$3.97 in July. The average price of gas in the Austin-San Marcos area is nearly equal to the average price of gas in the State, but is lower than the average price of gas for the Nation. ([AAA](#))

TX Paychecks go Up, But Purchasing Power Goes Down



Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center, Families with Related Children, American Community Survey

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) % Growth Rate



- **Sales Tax Revenue:** In the Austin-Round Rock MSA gross sales in the first quarter of 2008 were up 2.6% over the first quarter of 2007. This is a much slower gross sales growth rate than was experienced across the State (18.3%) and the Nation (18.6%). ([Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#))
- **Consumer Price Index:** In 2008 (Jan.-Aug.), according to the consumer price index gas prices increased by 22% and food prices increased by 8%. This follows gas price increases of 30% and food price increases of 5% in 2007. ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#))
- **Buying Power of the Dollar:** In 1998, \$1,000 had the same buying power as \$1,344 in 2008. ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#))

HURRICANE IKE—SEPTEMBER 13, 2008

- **Demographics of Evacuees in Austin:** A survey of evacuees that remain in the Austin-area (conducted the week of October 13th) revealed that 49% of them were between the ages of 19-54. Fifty-seven percent stated that their homes were not livable. Sixty-five percent stated that they had a disability. ([Texas Inter-faith Disaster Response](#))
- **Number of Hurricane Evacuees in Our Region:** At the peak of the Hurricane Ike crisis, there were 6,100 evacuees in Travis, Hayes, and Williamson counties. ([Community Action Network](#))
- **Patients Served by Local Hospitals:** In the first 24 hours of the hurricane crisis, Seton Family of Hospitals charted an 11 percent increase in patients, many acutely ill. Seton Family of Hospitals recorded more than 800 patient encounters related to the hurricane. ([Austin American-Statesman](#))
- **2-1-1 Calls:** Statewide, the 2-1-1 network has taken over 300,000 Ike-related calls. This was a 300% increase in call volume. Austin's 2-1-1 took approximately 45,000 of those calls. The top caller needs identified for Hurricane Ike include Disaster Food Stamps, Electric Bill Payment Assistance, FEMA Disaster Assistance Tele-Registration and Post Disaster Food Services. ([2-1-1](#))
- **AISD School Enrollment:** The Austin Independent School District enrolled 144 Hurricane Ike evacuees. Seventy-five of those students were still with the district as of October 30, 2008. ([Project HELP](#))
- **Volunteerism after Hurricane Ike:** More than 1,200 people volunteered to help serve evacuees at Austin shelters. ([Austin American-Statesman](#))

Donations to Capital Area Food Bank in Response to Hurricane Ike

Dollars Donated = \$380,000
Lbs. Of Donated Food & Supplies = 240,000

*As of September 19, 2008 ([Austin-American Statesman](#))

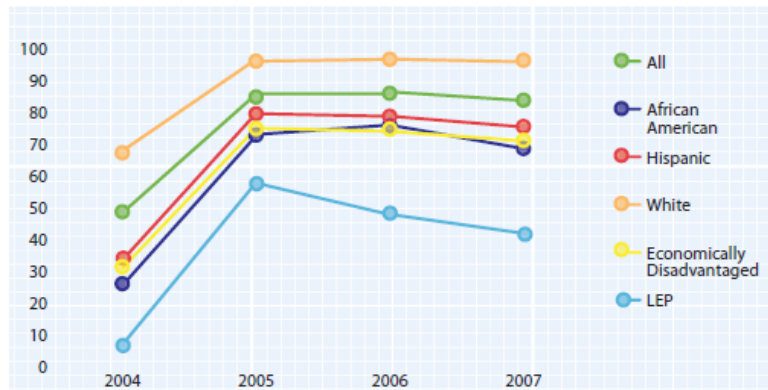
LEARNING

- AISD Student Demographics:** In the 2007-2008 school year, 62% of AISD students were economically disadvantaged (up from 47% in 1999) and 22% had a limited English proficiency (up from 17% in 1999). The percentage of Hispanic students increased by 1% from the 2006-2007 school year, while the percentage of White and African American students both declined by 1%. ([AISD](#))
- Pre-Kindergarten Language and Literacy Skills:** In the 2004-2005 school year, 42% of AISD pre-kindergarten students tested at or above the national average for language and literacy skills. This compares to 40% of pre-kindergarten students in the 2003-2004 school year. ([AISD](#))
- Pass Rate of 8th Graders on Math and Reading TAKS:** The percentage of 8th graders in the Austin Independent School District who passed the math and reading TAKS test has increased almost consistently from 2003 to 2007. Eighth graders passed the reading section at a significantly higher rate than the math section. For both subjects, there were large variances according to race, socioeconomic status, and English language proficiency. ([Austin Chamber of Commerce](#), [AISD](#))

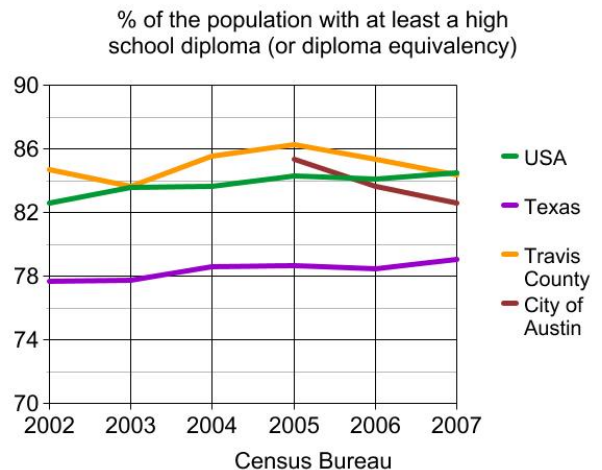
CUMULATIVE PASS RATE ON EXIT TAKS (ALL SECTIONS)

	2004	2005	2006	2007
All	47	85	85	82
African American	25	72	75	68
Hispanic	33	79	77	74
White	64	94	95	95
Economically Disadvantaged	30	74	73	70
LEP*	6	57	47	41

*Limited English Proficient



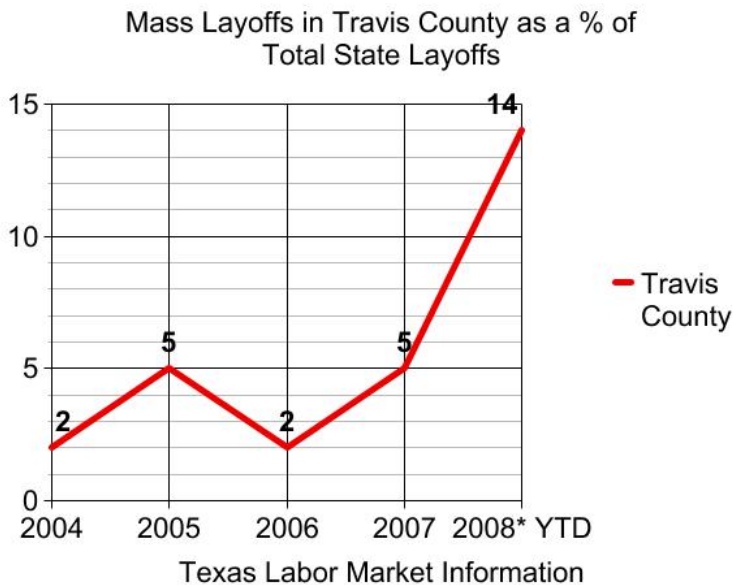
- Educational Attainment:** From 2005 to 2007 the percentage of people with a bachelor degree or higher slowly and steadily declined in Travis County and the City of Austin, a trend not found for the State or the Nation. From 2005 to 2007 the percentage of people with at least a high school diploma (or equivalency) also slowly and steadily declined in Travis County and the City of Austin, a trend not found for the State or the Nation. ([Census Bureau](#))



WORKING

- Unemployment Rate:** The year-to-date average unemployment rate is 3.8% for Travis County and 3.7% for the City of Austin. Both unemployment rates have increased slightly since 2007. The County and the City have consistently had lower unemployment rates than the State and the Nation since 2005. ([Texas Workforce Commission](#); [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#))

- **Annual Job-Growth Rate:** In August 2008 the annual job-growth rate for the Austin-Round Rock MSA was 2.4%, adding 18,100 jobs since August of 2007. Texas also had a job-growth rate of 2.4%. ([Texas Workforce Commission](#))
- **Teens Not Attending School and Not Working:** From 2005 to 2007 the percentage of teens who were not attending school and not working steadily declined in the City of Austin to 7%. This is lower than the percentage of teens that were not attending school and not working in the State (9% in 2007) and the Nation (8% in 2007). ([Kids Count Data Center](#))
- **Median Income:** In 2007, the median income in Travis County was \$52,937 and the median income in the City of Austin was \$48,966. This compares to the median incomes of the State (\$47,548) and the Nation (\$50,740). The median income in Travis County remained higher than the median incomes of the State and the Nation from 2005-2007. However, overall, median household income in Travis County has declined by 9% (\$5,259) between 1999 and 2007. ([Census Bureau, Travis County HHS Research and Planning](#))



- **Mass Layoffs:** In 2008, layoffs in Travis County reached the highest level that the Bureau of Labor Statistics had ever recorded for the month of August since they began collecting layoff data in 1995. As of August 2008 mass layoffs for the year totaled over 2,000, a much greater number of mass layoffs than were reported for the years 2004-2007. As of August 2008, mass layoffs in Travis County accounted for 14% of total State layoffs. ([Bureau of Labor Statistics, Texas Workforce Commission](#))

THRIVING

In 2007 40% of Central Texas families lived at or below the FBE income level, which measures the real income required to provide for families' most essential needs.

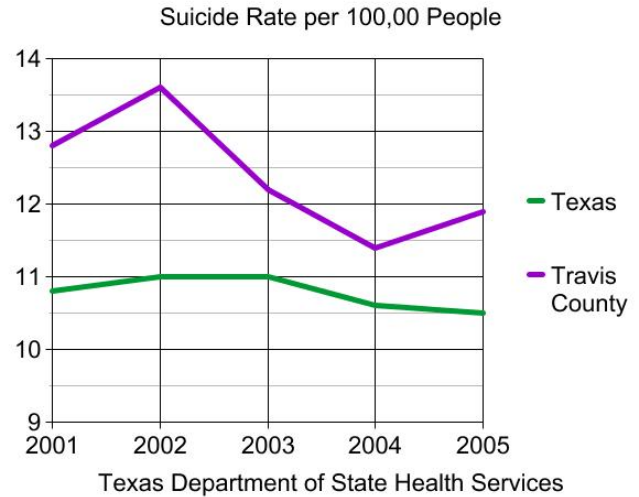
[\(Center for Public Policy Priorities\)](#)

In 2005, 55% of all emergency room visits were found to be for diagnoses that are considered potentially preventable, or primary care treatable.

[\(Integrated Care Collaboration\)](#)

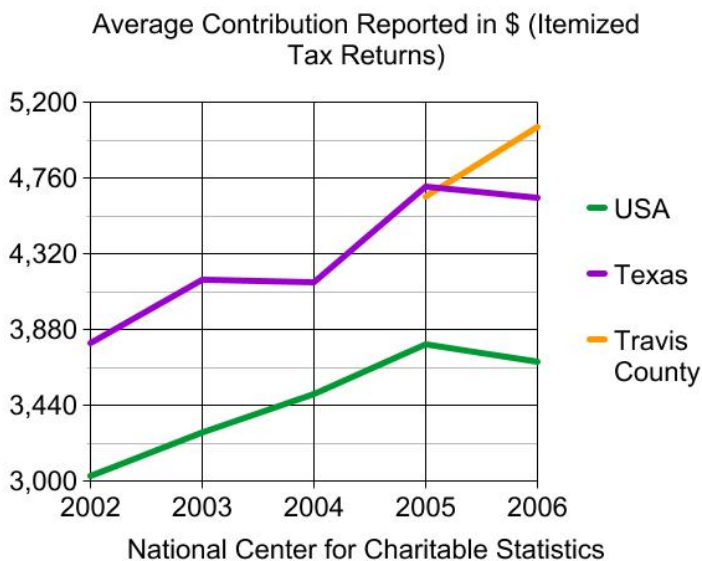
- **Individuals living at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level:** In 2007, 33% of individuals in Travis County and 36% of individuals in the City of Austin were living at 200% of the federal poverty level. This was lower than the State rate of 37%, but higher than the Nation's rate of 31%. The percentage of individuals at 200% of the federal poverty level remained almost constant in Travis County and the City of Austin from 2005 to 2007. ([Census Bureau](#))
- **Health Care Coverage:** The Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project reports that 16% of Travis County residents were uninsured in 2008. The Texas State Data Center reported that 21% of Travis County residents were uninsured in 2005, and the Small Area Health Estimates project reported that 25% of Travis County residents were uninsured. ([Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project](#))

- **Child Abuse:** In 2007, there were 10.6 confirmed victims of child abuse per 1,000 children in Travis County. This represents a slight decrease from 2006, and was lower than the State's rate of 11.2 in 2007. However, the rate of child abuse in Travis County was still higher than it was from 2003 to 2005. ([Department of Family Protective Services](#))
- **Suicide Rate:** In 2005, Travis County had a suicide rate of 11.9 deaths per 100,000 people. This represents a slight increase from 2004. The suicide rate in Travis County was higher than the suicide rate for Texas from 2001 to 2005. ([Texas Department of State Health Services](#))
- **Crime Rate:** In 2006, Travis County had a crime rate of 4,016 crimes per 100,000 persons. Although Travis County's crime rate has steadily decreased since 2003, it has remained consistently higher than the State and National rates. ([CAPCOG](#); [Texas Department of Public Safety](#); [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#))



CONNECTING/LEADING

- **Voter Turnout:** In 2006, Travis County had a voter turnout of 40% for the November general elections. In 2004, a presidential election year, Travis County had a voter turnout of 61%. Since 1996, voter turnout for the November general elections has been higher in Travis County than the State but lower than the Nation. National voter turnout has been at least 15% greater than Travis County voter turnout during presidential election years since 1996. ([Travis County Tax Assessor/Collector](#); [Texas Secretary of State](#); [Census Bureau](#))
- **Voter Turnout by Race/Ethnicity:** In the 2004 November general elections a much larger percentage of White persons reported voting than all other racial/ethnic groups in Travis County. African American reported voting at the second highest rate. These trends were similar to voter turnout trends reported nationally. A higher percentage of Hispanics and "Other Races" reported voting in Travis County than in the Nation. ([Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project](#))
- **Race/Ethnicity of Elected Officials:** In 2006, White men were still the most predominant group among elected officials in Travis County. Over the past six years there has been little noticeable change in the diversity of elected officials by race/ethnicity or gender. Of all groups, Hispanics are the most under-represented, despite a slight increase in 2004. ([Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project](#))



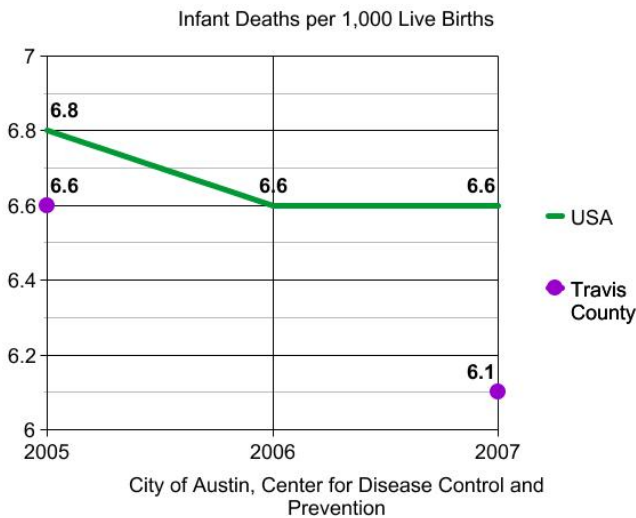
- **Voter Registration:** Once validated, the total number of registered voters in Travis County will be 611,024 registered voters - a record breaking number! ([Travis County Tax Office](#))

← Note: In 2006, only 36% of US taxpayers chose to itemize deductions on their tax returns. However, a study by the AAFRC Trust for Philanthropy demonstrated that the amount reported on itemized tax returns represents 81% of all individual giving. Thus, this data represents a third of all taxpayers and probably accounts for four-fifths of charitable contributions. Thus, in spite of the limitations, analyses of the data can provide information on giving patterns.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Homeless: In 2007 6,947 unique individuals received services from Austin area homeless service providers. This represents a 19% increase over 2006.

- **Aging:** As of September 2008 all of the affordable senior complexes had one to two year waiting lists. This compares to two to three year waiting lists in 2007. ([Aging Services Council](#); [Local Affordable Senior Complex Representatives](#))
- **Children and Youth:** In 2007 there were 6.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in Travis County. This represents a slight decrease from the infant mortality rate of 6.6 in 2005. This compares to the national infant mortality rate of 6.6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2006 and 2007. ([City of Austin](#); [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#))

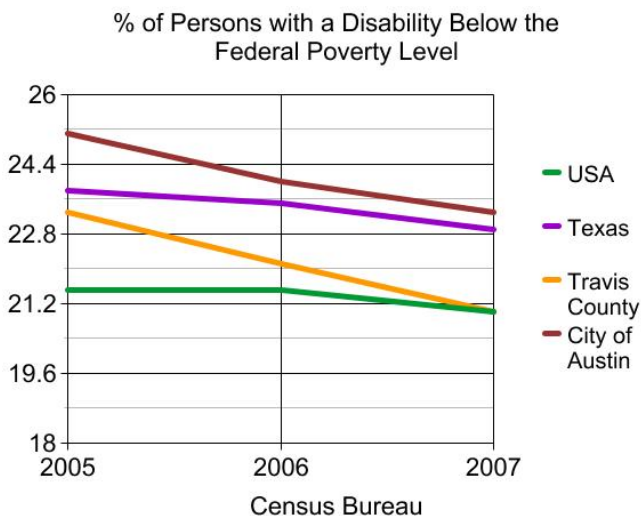


- **Immigrants:** In 2007 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) removed a record 276,912 immigrants from the United States, a 42% increase over 2006. In 2006 ICE removed 195,000 immigrants from the United States. This was also a record and represented a 13% increase over 2005. ([U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#))

- **Reentry:** In 2007, 2,091 people were released from prison in Travis County by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for either parole or mandatory supervision. This represents nearly a 4% decrease from the number of people released from prison in Travis County in 2006. Since 2004 in Travis County there has been an increasing trend toward supervising persons released from prison through parole. ([Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles](#))

- **Veterans:** The percentage of veterans with a disability steadily increased from 2005-2007 for the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, and the Nation. ([Census Bureau](#))

- **Victims:** In 2007, the Austin Police Department reported 540 violent crimes per 100,000 people. In comparison, Texas reported 511 violent crimes per 100,000 people and the Nation reported 467 violent crimes per 100,000 people. ([Federal Bureau of Investigation](#))



- **Persons with Disabilities:** From 2005-2007 the percentage of persons with a disability below the federal poverty level slowly and steadily declined for the City of Austin, Travis County, and the State. There are still a significantly greater percentage of people with disabilities below the federal poverty line than people without disabilities. Persons with mental disabilities had an especially high poverty rate, 25% for Travis County and 27% for the City of Austin in 2007. ([Census Bureau](#))

- Choose a local social service agency to support financially. Visit <http://www.ilivehereigivehere.org> to learn

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

about issues facing our community, and to link to non-profits that are providing solutions.

- Copy and distribute this document to help increase public awareness.
- Support the local economy by shopping at local businesses.
- Give to the United Way Capital Area’s Community Fund or the Austin Community Foundation’s Urgent Issues Fund.
- Find places in your community to volunteer, in your neighborhood or locally. Contact United Way’s Hands on Central Texas. Visit www.handsoncentraltexas.org.
- Support you local social service providers with time, money, and talent.
- Stay informed and get involved!

You are encouraged to copy and distribute this edition of the CAN Community Conditions Overview.

COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK PARTNERS

AUSTIN AREA HUMAN SERVICES ASSOCIATION	INTEGRATED CARE COLLABORATION
AUSTIN AREA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION	SETON FAMILY OF HOSPITALS
AUSTIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	ST. DAVID’S COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION
AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	ST. EDWARD’S UNIVERSITY
AUSTIN AREA INTERRELIGIOUS MINISTRIES	TRAVIS COUNTY
AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
AUSTIN TRAVIS COUNTY MHMR CENTER	UNITED WAY CAPITAL AREA
CAPITAL METRO	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
CITY OF AUSTIN	WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS CAPITAL AREA
COMMUNITY JUSTICE COUNCIL	

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