

# *Community Wide Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment*



***Cen-Tex Family Services, Inc.***  
***Head Start and Early Head Start***  
***Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette,***  
***and Lee Counties, Texas***

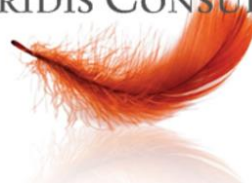
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Community Needs Assessment prepared by:

**SPIRIDIS CONSULTING**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### PURPOSE

Cen-Tex Family Services Inc. has developed the *2018 Community Wide Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment* to identify the strengths, challenges, and barriers to self-sufficiency of those living in poverty, specifically in the counties of Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette and Lee counties in Texas. The Community Assessment process examines the capabilities of community members, partner agencies and organizations while identifying services and solutions that support and nurture families and children. The Assessment is intended for the design of future program plans to meet community needs; to build on the current strengths and resources of the community; and to assist in reducing identified barriers to self-sufficiency for families living in poverty.

Cen-Tex Family Services conducts a comprehensive Community Assessment during each five-year period, and annually reviews and updates the Assessment to reflect significant changes affecting Head Start and Early Head Start children and families throughout the four-county service area. The quantitative and qualitative data gleaned from the Assessment are used to make informed decisions which may include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Determination of long- and short-range program goals, objectives, and priorities;
- ◆ Types of services most needed for families living in poverty;
- ◆ Geographic areas to be served by the program, if additional funding is available, or if limitations in the amount of resources make it impossible to serve the entire service area;
- ◆ Locations of Head Start and Early Head Start services; and
- ◆ Criteria that define the special populations of children who will be given priority for recruitment and selection for program services.

## METHODOLOGY

The 2018 *Community Wide Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment* has been developed per the requirements of the 2016 Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS).

HSPPS Standard 1302.11 *Determining Community Strengths, Needs and Resources* (right) outlines the information that must be included and analyzed about each grantee's Early Head Start and/or Head Start funded area.

Cen-Tex Family Services Inc. utilized the consulting services of Spiridis Consulting LLC to facilitate the Community Assessment process, conduct focus groups, research and analyze data, and compile the final Community Assessment report.

Methods utilized for the collection of quantitative and qualitative data information included:

- Head Start and Early Head Start family surveys
- Community agency surveys;
- Staff surveys;
- Local, state and federal data resources;
- Cen-Tex data systems; and
- American Community Survey estimates\*.

\*The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey by the U.S. Census Bureau. It regularly gathers information previously contained only in the long form of the decennial census, such as population, educational attainment, income, language proficiency, migration, disability, employment, and housing characteristics. These data are used to track shifting demographics and learn about local communities. Sent to approximately 295,000 addresses monthly (3.5 million per year), it is the largest household survey that the Census Bureau administers.<sup>1</sup>

### HSPPS 1302.11 *Determining Community Strengths, Needs and Resources*

- ♦ The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak.
- ♦ Children in foster care, children experiencing homelessness, and children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to children by community agencies;
- ♦ 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;
- ♦ Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
- ♦ Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
- ♦ Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and approximate number of eligible children served;
- ♦ Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and
- ♦ Strengths of the community.

## DATA SUMMARY

Cen-Tex Family Services' four-county service area has several community issues which greatly impact families living in poverty including lack of: affordable and quality child care, availability of housing, jobs with livable wages, health and dental care for adults, and public transportation. These and other issues are often intertwined, meaning that families must overcome several challenges and remove a multitude of barriers to move towards self-sufficiency. Through the Community Assessment process, both strengths and challenges were identified. Below is a summary of demographic information and data trends that most impact those living in poverty. For detailed information regarding any statistic, refer to the narrative in the Community Assessment.

Ranking	2018 Family Survey Greatest Areas of Major Challenge	Percent of Respondents
1	Affordable Health Care	14.0%
2	Affordable Dental Care	13.9%
3	Affordable and Safe Housing	11.7%
	Access to Health Insurance	11.7%
4	Finding a Job	9.9%
5	Adult Education Options	9.0%
6	My Child's Behavior	7.2%
7	Managing and Budgeting Money	6.7%
	Paying for Utilities	6.7%
8	Infant and Toddler Care	6.3%
9	Affordable Preschool	5.9%
10	Access to Banking Services	5.8%

Ranking	2018 Family Survey Greatest Areas of both Major Challenge and Somewhat of a Challenge	Percent of Respondents
1	Managing and Budgeting Money	49.8%
2	Access to Health Insurance	41.9%
3	Affordable Health Care	41.4%
4	Paying for Utilities	39.9%
5	Affordable Dental Care	39.5%
6	Finding a Job	35.0%
7	My Child's Behavior	33.9%
8	Affordable and Safe Housing	30.9%
9	Adult Education Options	29.0%
10	Computer and Internet Access	24.8%
	Nutritious Meals	24.8%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

- Bastrop County's population is estimated at 78,286, an increase of 5.5% between 2010 and 2016.
- Colorado County's population is estimated at 21,019, an increase of .7% between 2010 and 2016.
- Fayette County's population is estimated at 24,554, an increase of 1.5% between 2010 and 2016.
- Lee County's population is estimated at 16,754, an increase of .9% between 2010 and 2016.
- The majority race in each county is White; Fayette County has the highest rate (90.2%) and Colorado County has the lowest rate (74.9%). The African-American population is the highest in Colorado County (13.8%) and the lowest in Fayette County (6.4%).
- The Hispanic population in each county is as follows: Bastrop County (35.2%); Colorado County (28.2%); Fayette County (19.9%); and Lee County (23.1%). Spanish is spoken as follows: Bastrop County (25.7%); Colorado County (21.2%); Fayette County (16.6%); and Lee County (16.4%).

## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- The 2018 minimum wage in Texas is \$7.25 per hour, the same as the current federal minimum wage. Following are living wages per hour needed to support a single adult and one child: Bastrop County (\$24.62); Colorado County (\$21.24); Fayette County (\$21.43); and Lee County (\$22.04). A single adult with one child who is earning minimum wage makes only 29.5% of the living wage in Bastrop County; 34.1% in Colorado County; 33.8% in Fayette County; and 32.9% in Lee County.
- The February 2018 unemployment rate was 3.4 in Bastrop County; 3.5 in Colorado County; 3.1 in Fayette County; and 3.5 in Lee County, compared to both the Texas' unemployment rate and the federal unemployment rate of 4.1.
- Per capita income includes all income sources. Per capita income is the average income for every adult and child. Per capita income of Fayette County is the highest at \$28,664, while Bastrop (\$25,252), Colorado (\$26,160), and Lee (\$25,548) counties are all lower than Texas (\$27,828).

## HOUSING

- Per the 2018 Family Survey, "Affordable and Safe Housing" was the 3rd greatest concern. 11.7% identify housing as a "major challenge" and 19.3% identify it as "somewhat of a challenge."
- Cost burdened households in the area are as follows: Bastrop County (26.9%); Colorado County (19.7%); Fayette County (20.7%); and Lee County (24.4%). Each of the four counties has fewer cost burdened households than Texas (30%) and the U.S. (32.9%).
- Fair Market Rent for a modest two-bedroom apartment is \$1,251 per month in Bastrop County, much higher than \$697 in Colorado County; \$727 in Fayette County; and \$767 in Lee County. To afford a modest two-bedroom apartment a family needs to earn \$22.98/hour in Bastrop County; \$13.10/hour in Colorado County; \$13.65/hour in Fayette County; and \$15.42/hour in Lee County.

## HOMELESSNESS

- In 2015, the percent of students identified as homeless (per the McKinney-Vento Act) in Bastrop and Colorado counties was between 2.6% and 5%. Less than 2.5% of students in Fayette and Lee counties were identified as homeless.

## EDUCATION

- In all four counties, adults age 25 and older without a high school diploma are greater than Texas (17.65%) and the United States (13%). The percent of those without a H.S. diploma are as follows: Bastrop County (19.4%), Colorado County (18.1%), Fayette County (18.3%), and Lee County (17.7%).
- Between 15.7% and 16.8% of Whites in the four-county area do not have diplomas, compared to 15.2% - 24.7% of African-Americans.
- Hispanic adults without a High School diploma are even higher: Bastrop County (48.1%); Colorado County (35.9%); Fayette County (51%) and Lee County (49%).

## DISABILITIES

- In 2016, infants and toddlers up to age three received early intervention services as follows: 167 children (3.9%) in Bastrop County; 82 children (7.7%) in Colorado County; 29 children (2.7%) in Fayette County; and 31 children (3.7%) in Lee County.
- Children ages 3-21 years who have been diagnosed with disabilities: 5.1% of children in Bastrop County; 5.2% of children in Colorado County; 4.8% of children in Fayette County; and just 2.6% of children in Lee County.
- During 2016-2017, Cen-Tex served 36 (16.2%) Early Head Start children and 37 (9.4%) Head Start children with disabilities, for a total of 73 (11.9%) children with disabilities.

## EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE: BIRTH TO FIVE

	Children Under 5	Population Under 5 in Poverty*	Infants and Toddlers	Infants and Toddlers in Poverty	3 and 4 Year Olds	3 and 4 Year Olds in Poverty
<b>Bastrop County</b>	5,527	1,277 (23.1%)	3,410	788	2,117	489
<b>Colorado County</b>	1,320	176 (13.3%)	795	106	525	70
<b>Fayette County</b>	1,278	176 (13.8%)	790	109	488	67
<b>Lee County</b>	1,034	299 (28.9%)	634	183	400	116

- In 2015, 1,803 babies were born across the service area; this number represents the approximate number of expectant mothers.
- During 2016-2017, there were a total of 1,092 Pre-K funded slots in the service area: Bastrop County (684); Colorado County (157); Fayette County (145); and Lee County (106).
- The estimated underserved birth-five child population is as follows: 598 children in Bastrop County; 50 children in Colorado County, 98 children in Fayette County, and 133 children in Lee County.



## CHILD WELFARE

- Substantiated cases of child abuse/neglect under age 5 changed between 2012 and 2017 as follows:  
Bastrop County: 425 in 2012 to 449 in 2017, an increase of 5.7%.  
Colorado County: 81 in 2012 to 60 in 2017, a decrease of -26.3%.  
Fayette County: 80 in 2012 to 95 in 2017, an increase of 18.8%.  
Lee County: 63 in 2012 to 85 in 2017, an increase of 34.9%.
- Reports of abuse or neglect with less immediate safety risks are routed to Alternative Response (AR). Between 2016 and 2017, AR cases increased as follows: Bastrop County—391 to 933 (138.6%); Colorado County—0 to 9; Fayette County—69 to 337 (388.4%); and Lee County—70 to 120 (71.4%).
- Of children placed in substitute care in 2017, the following were under age five: 36.8% (82) in Bastrop County; 38.5% (5) in Colorado County; 39.6% (21) in Fayette County; and 56% (14) in Lee County. Between 2015 and 2017, children put in substitute care decreased in all counties.
- During 2016-2017, 8 (3.3%) EHS children and 17 (4.3%) Head Start children were in foster care at some point during the program year. One percent of Early Head Start children and 1% of Head Start children were being raised by a grandparent or another relative, due to a parent's absence.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- 254 Texas counties are ranked against one another and across 34 measures of health behaviors, clinical care, physical environment, and health outcomes. In 2018, the counties are ranked as follows: Bastrop (80<sup>th</sup>); Colorado (125<sup>th</sup>); Fayette (17<sup>th</sup>); and Lee (62<sup>nd</sup>).
- The 2018 Family Survey reveals that 4% of respondents feel that “Depression in the Home” is a “major challenge” and 12.1% of respondents feel it is “somewhat of a challenge.”

## FOOD AND NUTRITION

- Texas's household food insecurity rate fell from 17% in 2014 to 15.7% in 2015; the child insecurity rate fell from 25.6% in 2014 to 23.8% in 2015. While the child food insecurity rate has dropped, 1 in 4 children in Texas are still food insecure. As of 2015, child food insecurity rates were as follows: Bastrop County (21.8%); Colorado County (21.4%); Fayette County (22.2%); and Lee County (22.8%).
- Between 2014 and 2016, SNAP recipients under age five increased by 13.8% in Bastrop County; 4.5% in Colorado County; and 8.7% in Lee County. SNAP recipients under age five decreased by -6.7% in Fayette County. Forty-three percent of EHS/HS families received SNAP during 2016-2017.
- Between 2013 and 2015, the percent of children under age five enrolled in WIC decreased in all four counties: Bastrop County (-1.0%); Colorado County (-3.5%); Fayette County (-10.0%); and Lee County (-15.1%). During the 2016-2017 program year, 73.3% (129) of Early Head Start families received WIC services. In comparison, only 49.2% (186) of Head Start families received WIC services.

## TRANSPORTATION

- It is estimated that the following households do not have a vehicle: 4.6% in Bastrop County; 4.8% in Colorado County; 4.3% in Fayette County; and 3.7% in Lee County.
- Of families who responded to the 2018 Family Survey, 90.8% indicate that they have reliable transportation; 6.4% do not have transportation; and 2.8% have a car needing repair.
- Of survey respondents to the 2018 Family Parent Survey, 3.2% indicate that access to reliable transportation is a “major challenge” and 12.7% indicate that it is “somewhat of a challenge.”

## CRIME AND VIOLENCE

- Violent crime includes murder/manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Following are the changes in the total crimes and violent crimes per 100,000 people between 2015 and 2016:  
Bastrop County: Total crime offenses increased by 9.9%; violent crimes increased by 33.8%.  
Colorado County: Total crime offenses decreased by -15.5%; violent crimes increased by 12.3%.  
Fayette County: Total crime offenses decreased by -7.8%; violent crimes increased by 9.3%.  
Lee County: Total crime offenses increased by 5.9%; violent crimes increased by 4.4%.
- Of respondents to the 2018 Family Survey, 2.2% indicate that community violence is a “major challenge” and 5.8% indicate that it is “sometimes a challenge.”

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2016, there were 1,375 opioid-related overdose deaths in Texas, a rate of 4.9 deaths per 100,000 persons compared to the national rate of 13.3 deaths per 100,000 persons. Since 2010, the number of heroin-related deaths steadily increased from 260 to 530 deaths, and deaths attributed to synthetic opioids (mainly fentanyl) rose from 156 to 250.
- In 2015, Bastrop, Colorado and Lee counties had less than ten opioid-related deaths; exact data is unavailable. Fayette County reported zero opioid-related deaths.
- Alcohol remains the most commonly used substance among Texas students. In 2016, 52.7% of students reported that they had used alcohol at some point in their lives. Past-month alcohol use also increased from 21.2% in 2014 to 28.6% in 2016.

## COMMUNICATION

- The 2018 Family Survey shows that 94.5% of respondents have a computer, or Smartphone or Tablet with internet access; 4.6% do not have access and .9% have intermittent access.
- 2.3% of respondents find access to phone service to be a “major challenge”; 9% find it to be somewhat of a challenge.”

## KEY FINDINGS

### **Affordable Early Education and Child Care**

Data shows that Cen-Tex is currently targeting the neediest children and families in Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette, and Lee counties. Children are enrolled from cities/towns with significant challenges including: high poverty, higher unemployment and lower income levels. Cen-Tex can continue to support quality and affordable early care by applying for future EHS Expansion or EHS-Child Care Partnership funding, when available, and by continuing to expand partnerships with local child care centers/family child care homes to provide quality services to underserved infants/toddlers.

### **Advocacy**

Cen-Tex and community agencies throughout the four-county service area have diverse resources and supports for the challenges that families in poverty face; this is an area of strength. However, even with these resources, there are several community issues which greatly impact residents, specifically lack of: affordable and quality child care, availability of housing, jobs with livable wages, health and dental care for adults, and public transportation. These and other issues are often interwoven, meaning that families must overcome several challenges and remove a multitude of barriers to move towards self-sufficiency.

Cen-Tex's role in community advocacy is crucial, including:

- Communicating the major findings of the Community Assessment and program outcomes, particularly for use in program planning and advocacy for families;
- Promoting the understanding of advocacy and the role that the Governing Board, Policy Council, Management, and Family Service Staff have in community advocacy;
- Providing training for these groups (above) on advocacy and the difference between lobbying (not allowed for staff on work time) and advocacy;
- Ensuring key management staff and Governing Board members are involved in key community groups, task forces, and coalitions working to break down barriers (i.e. housing) for families; and
- Utilizing the Policy Council and other parents for advocacy to benefit the program; this will also build advocacy skills in parents.

## **Financial Capabilities**

Per the 2018 Family Survey, 6.7% of parents indicate that “managing and budgeting money” is a “major challenge” and 43% indicate that it is “somewhat of a challenge.” It is through knowledge, skills, and access to resources that parents can be financially capable. Cen-Tex can continue to provide or increase services/community partnerships to include all or some of the following: financial services, financial coaching, financial counseling, credit counseling, credit building, access to affordable financial products, free tax preparation assistance, assistance with accessing federal/state benefits, incentivized savings programs, asset building/asset ownership programs.

## **Career Opportunities with Livable Wages**

Currently, the top industries in the four-county service area are in the following sectors:

- Retail;
- Education and Health Care;
- Construction; and
- Agriculture and Oil Mining.

The 2018 minimum wage in Texas is \$7.25 per hour, significantly lower than the living wage necessary to adequately support a family. Following are living wages per hour needed to support a single adult and one child: Bastrop County (\$24.62); Colorado County (\$21.24); Fayette County (\$21.43); and Lee County (\$22.04).<sup>2</sup> The living wage is the hourly rate that an individual must earn to adequately support the family and cover day-to-day expenses, if the person is the sole provider and working full-time (2080 hours per year). A single adult with one child who is earning minimum wage makes only 29.5% of the living wage in Bastrop County; 34.1% in Colorado County; 33.8% in Fayette County; and 32.9% in Lee County.

Cen-Tex can continue to strengthen support for families who are employed, but do not earn a living wage, by:

- Strengthening and developing strategic partnerships with agencies/educational institutions such as local Chambers of Commerce, Community Colleges/Universities, and trade schools; these partnerships can identify the most competitive job skills (current and upcoming) in the four-county service area;
- Continuing to educate parents on where they can obtain targeted training/education for employment opportunities with higher wages, potential career growth and a greater chance of self-sufficiency;
- Promoting individualized career counseling services to parents, as part of the family partnership process; career counseling on targeted programs and colleges may better align parents’ educational goals with the economic reality and growing industries of each county; and
- Developing intensive family partnerships and engagement activities which encourage parents to complete high school/G.E.D, credentialing/trade programs, and/or higher education courses.

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## GEOGRAPHY AND LOCATION

Cen-Tex Family Services, Inc. receives federal funding to administer the Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships grant in Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette, and Lee counties, four of 254 counties in Texas.

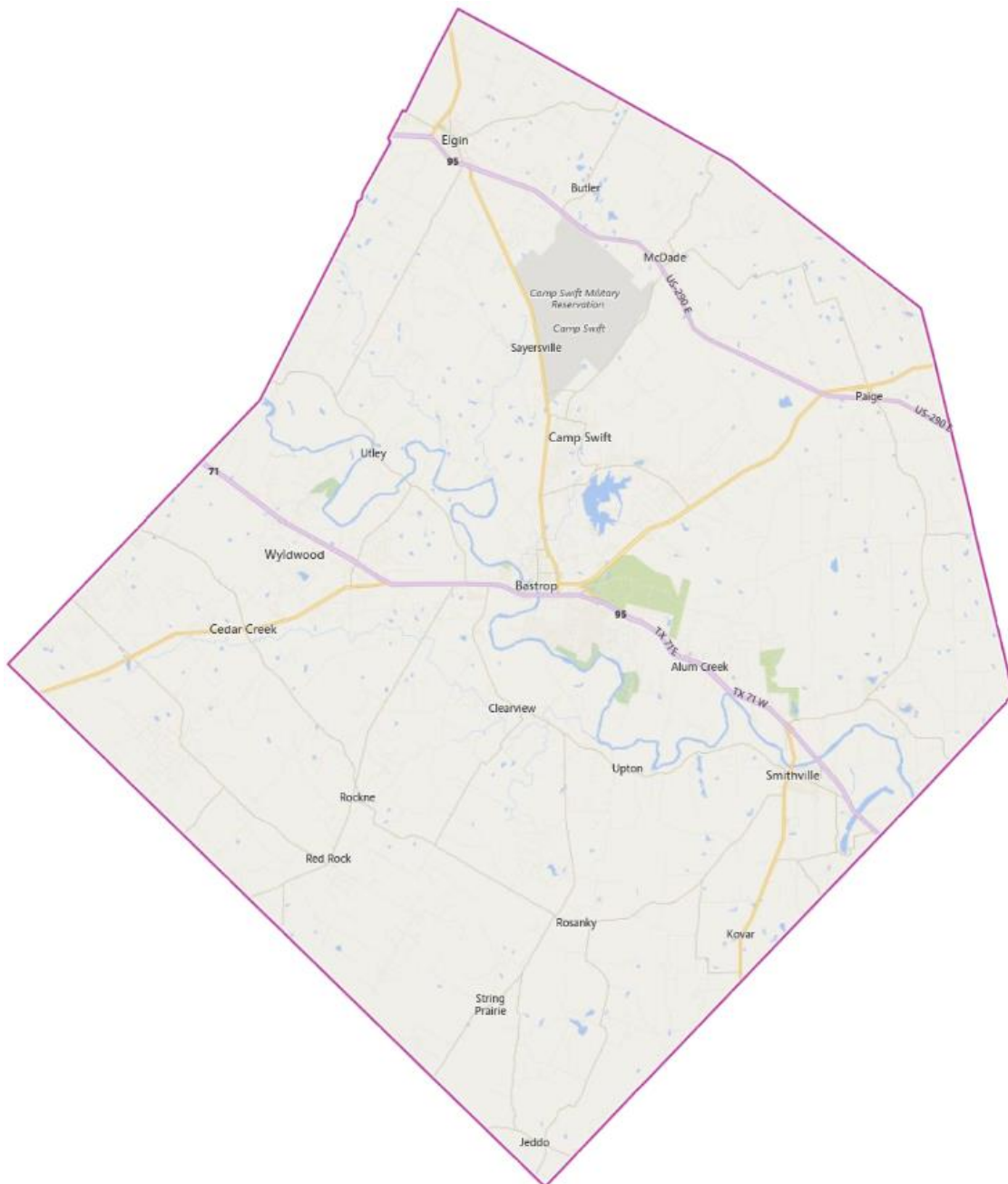
Texas is the second largest state in the United States by both area and population. Geographically located in the south-central region of the country, Texas shares borders with the states of Louisiana to the east; Arkansas to the northeast; Oklahoma to the north; New Mexico to the west; the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas to the southwest; and the Gulf of Mexico to the southeast. Texas is part of the western United States and is one of the Mountain States. The most recent population of Texas is estimated at 28.3 million residents.



## BASTROP COUNTY

Bastrop County is on the upper Gulf Coastal Plains of Central Texas and is part of the Greater Austin metropolitan area. The county is bordered to the northwest by Travis County; to the north by Williamson County; to the northeast by Lee County; to the southeast by Fayette County; and to the southwest by Caldwell County.

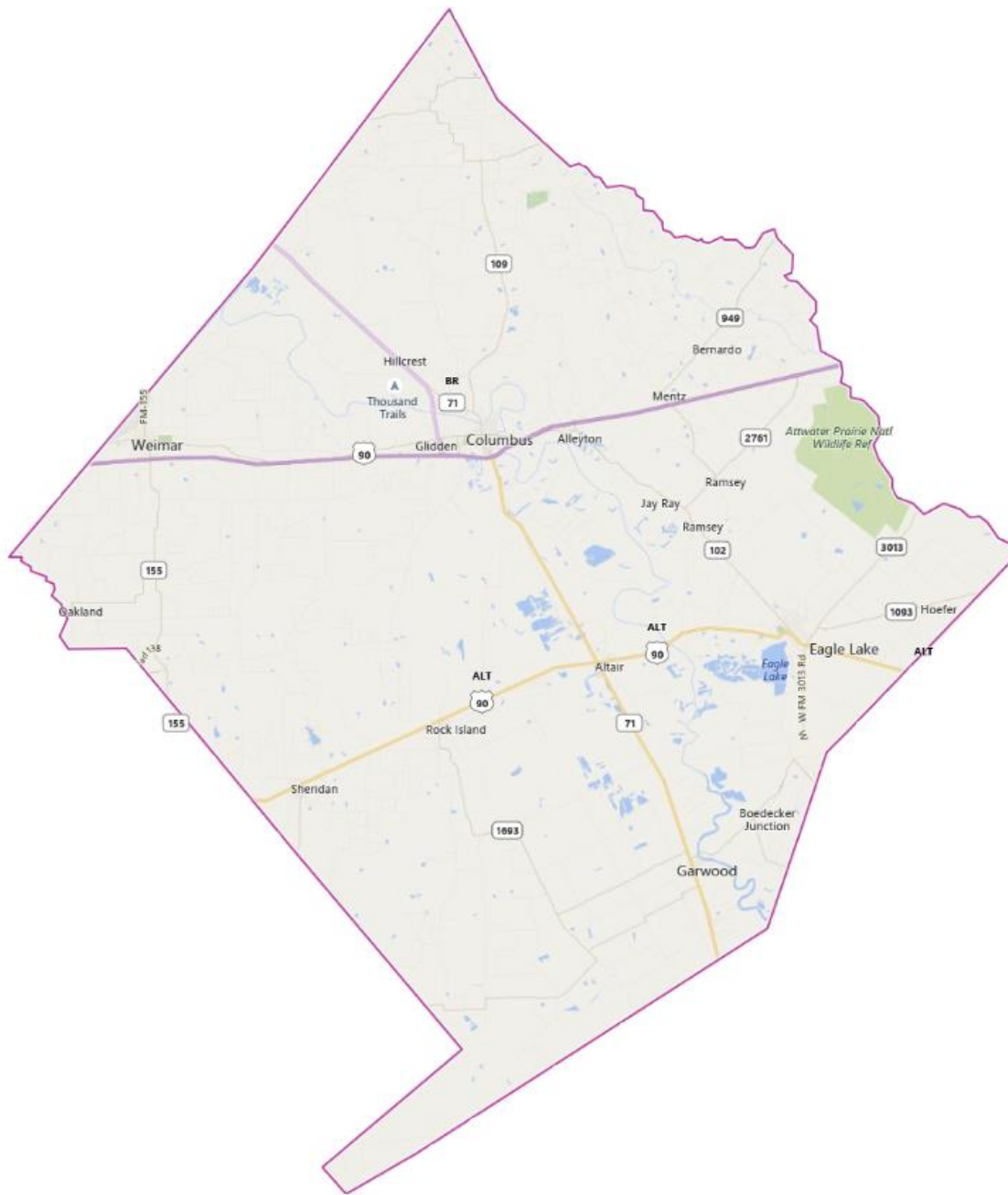
Bastrop County covers 896 square miles, of which just 7.4 square miles are water. The county seat is Bastrop, which is located approximately thirty miles southeast of downtown Austin, and the most populous city is Elgin. The most recent population estimate of Bastrop County is 78,286.



## COLORADO COUNTY

Colorado County, located approximately sixty miles above the Gulf of Mexico in south central Texas, is bordered to the northeast by Austin County; to the northwest by Fayette County; to the southeast by Wharton County; to the south by Jackson County; and to the southwest by Lavaca County.

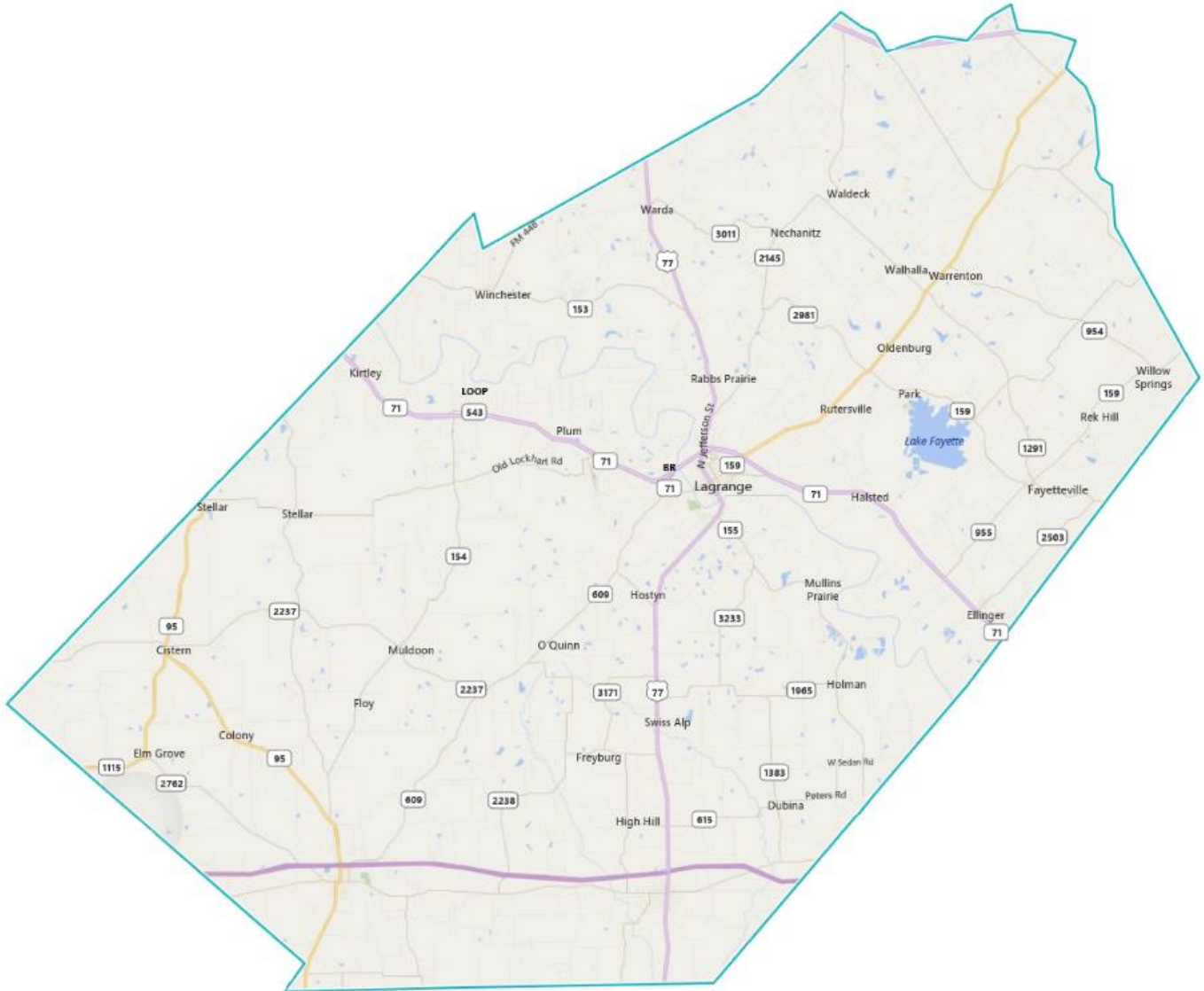
Colorado County covers 974 square miles, of which 12 square miles are water. The county was named for the Colorado River, which bisects it northwest to southeast. Columbus is the county seat; Columbus and Eagle Lake are the most populous cities. The most recent population estimate of Colorado County is 20,792.



## FAYETTE COUNTY

Fayette County is sixty miles southeast of Austin in the Blackland Prairies region of south central Texas. The Colorado River bisects the county from northwest to southeast. The county is bordered to the northwest by Bastrop County; to the north by Lee County; to the northeast by Washington County; to the east by Austin County; to the southeast by Colorado County; to the south by Lavaca County; to the southwest by Gonzales County; and to the west by Caldwell County.

Fayette County covers 950 square miles, of which just 9.8 square miles are water. La Grange is the county seat and largest community. The most recent population estimate of Fayette County is 24,909.

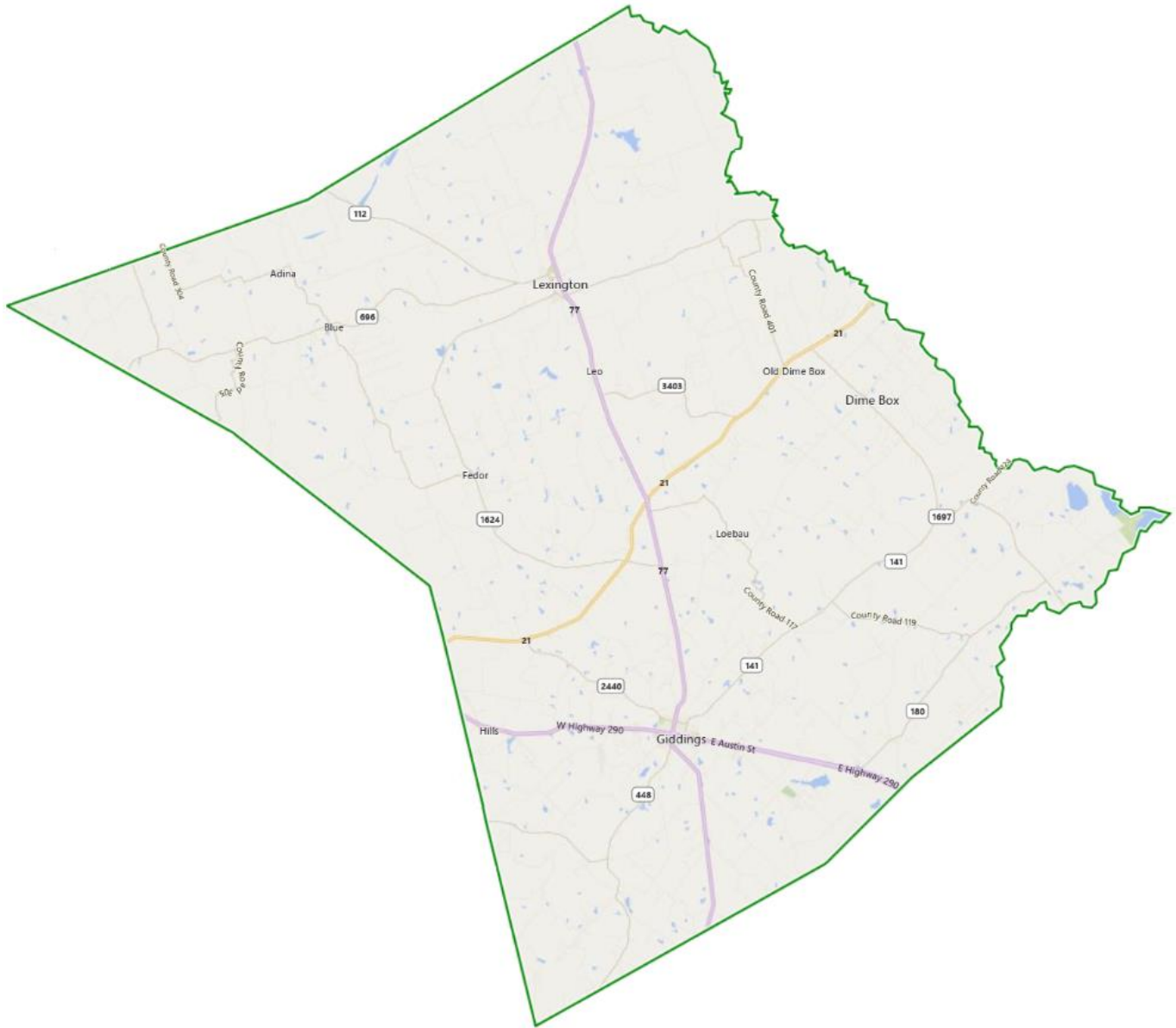




## LEE COUNTY

Lee County is in southeast central Texas, east of Austin. The county is bordered to Milam County to the north; Burleson County to the northeast; Washington County to the east; Fayette County to the southeast; Bastrop County to the southwest; and Williamson County to the northwest.

Lee County covers 634 square miles, of which 5.1 square miles are water. Giddings, the largest town and county seat, is sixty miles east of Austin. The most recent population estimate of Lee County is 16,754.



## HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded programs that began in 1965 and 1995 respectively; these programs are based on the premise that all children share certain needs and can benefit from a comprehensive developmental program designed to meet those needs.

Children from low-income households or on public assistance, as well as those in foster care or experiencing homelessness are given priority for enrollment. Head Start and Early Head Start support children's growth and development in a positive learning environment through services, including:

### Head Start and Early Head Start Locations

#### **Bastrop County\***

##### **Bastrop:**

Bastrop Child Development Center  
Emile Head Start Center  
Lost Pines Head Start Center  
Wee Care Learning Center\*\*

##### **Cedar Creek:**

Cedar Creek Head Start Center

##### **Del Valle:**

Stoney Point Center

##### **Elgin:**

Elgin Child Development Center

##### **Smithville:**

Smithville Head Start Center

#### **Colorado County\***

##### **Eagle Lake:**

Eagle Lake Child Development Center  
New Beginnings Child Development Center\*\*

#### **Fayette County\***

#### **Lee County\***

##### **Giddings:**

Jeff Dock Child Development Center

\*Home-based services available.

\*\*EHS-Child Care Partnership Sites

**Early learning:** Children's readiness for school and beyond is fostered through individualized learning experiences. Through relationships with adults, play, and planned and spontaneous instruction, children grow in many aspects of development. Children progress in gaining social skills and emotional well-being, along with language/literacy learning, and concept development.

**Health:** Each child's perceptual, motor, and physical development is supported to permit them to fully explore and function in their environment. Children receive health and development screenings, nutritious meals, oral health, and mental health support. Programs connect families with medical, dental, and mental health services to ensure that children are receiving the services they need.

**Family well-being:** Parents and families are supported in achieving their own goals, such as housing stability, continued education, and financial security. Programs support and strengthen parent-child relationships and engage families around children's learning and development.<sup>3</sup>

Cen-Tex Family Services, Inc. provides 137 part-day and 170 full-day center-based Head Start enrollment slots to 307 children ages 3-5 in eight locations; EHS full-day center-based services to 189 infants and toddlers in seven locations; and EHS home-based services to 42 expectant mothers, infants and toddlers. Families enrolled in the home-based program receive weekly home visits and are provided the opportunity to attend socializations.

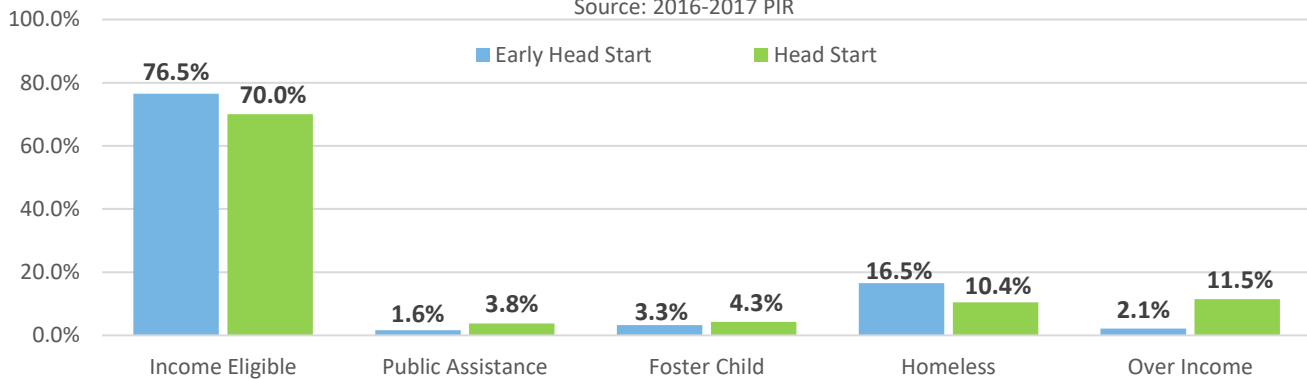
Early Head Start Center-Based Funding Slots by County			
Current Locations	Bastrop County	Colorado County	Lee County
Bastrop	72*	0	0
Del Valle	16	0	0
Eagle Lake	0	45*	0
Elgin	24	0	0
Giddings	0	0	32
<b>County Totals</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>32</b>

\* Through EHS-CCP funding, 40 children are served at Wee Care Learning Center in Bastrop and 23 children are served at New Beginnings Child Development Center in Eagle Lake.

Head Start Center-Based Funding Slots by County			
Current Locations	Bastrop County	Colorado County	Lee County
Bastrop	91	0	0
Cedar Creek	37	0	0
Del Valle	37	0	0
Eagle Lake	0	34	0
Elgin	34	0	0
Giddings	0	0	37
Smithville	37	0	0
<b>County Totals</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>

Head Start/Early Head Start Enrollment by Eligibility

Source: 2016-2017 PIR



During 2016-2017, children in Early Head Start were eligible for enrollment as follows: 76.5% Income Eligible; 1.6% receiving Public Assistance; 3.3% in Foster Care; 16.5% experiencing Homelessness per the McKinney Vento Act; and 2.1% of children from families considered Over Income. Children in Head Start were eligible as follows: 70% Income Eligible; 3.8% receiving Public Assistance; 4.3% in Foster Care; 10.4% experiencing Homelessness; and 11.5% of children from families considered Over Income.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### POPULATION AND GROWTH

#### BASTROP COUNTY

As of 2016, the population of Bastrop County was estimated at 78,286, an increase of 5.5% between 2010 and 2016. The county continues to grow as Austin area residents move further from the city to seek affordable housing. East Austin, in particular, has experienced gentrification; the price of rental units has doubled, and housing prices have nearly tripled. As indicated below, Bastrop (9.6%), Elgin (7.5%), McDade (17.5%), Smithville (5%), and Wyldwood (41.2%) all saw significant population growth between 2010 and 2016. Camp Swift (2.6%) and Circle D-KC Estates (.3%) saw slight increases in population.

#### Town/City Population Estimates

Source: US Census Bureau (2010), American Community Survey (2016)

*Census Designated Place	2010 Population	2016 Population (Estimate)	Estimated Population Change 2010-2016		2010 Population	2016 Population (Estimate)	Estimated Population Change 2010-2016
<b>Bastrop</b>	7,218	7,909	9.6%	McDade*	685	805	17.5%
Camp Swift*	6,383	6,550	2.6%	<b>Smithville</b>	3,817	4,008	5.0%
Circle D-KC Estates*	2,393	2,457	.3%	Wyldwood*	2,505	3,536	41.2%
<b>Elgin</b>	8,135	8,756	7.5%				
<b>Bastrop County</b>	<b>74,171</b>	<b>78,286</b>	<b>5.5%</b>				

#### COLORADO COUNTY

As of 2016, the total population of Colorado County is estimated at 21,019, an increase of just .7% between 2010 and 2016. As indicated below, Columbus (1.4%) and Eagle Lake (.3%) had very small population increases between 2010 and 2016. Weimar saw the greatest population growth (16.1%). Glidden's population decreased by 40% between 2010 and 2016.

*Census Designated Place	2010 Population	2016 Population (Estimate)	Population Change 2010-2016		2010 Population	2016 Population (Estimate)	Population Change 2010-2016
Columbus	3,655	3,604	1.4%	Glidden*	661	397	-40.0%
<b>Eagle Lake</b>	3,639	3,651	.3%	Weimar	2,151	2,498	16.1%
<b>Colorado County</b>	<b>20,874</b>	<b>21,019</b>	<b>.7%</b>				

## FAYETTE COUNTY

As of 2016, the total population of Fayette County was estimated at 24,554, an increase of just 1.5% between 2010 and 2016. As indicated below, Flatonia (7.6%), La Grange (.7%), and Schulenburg (1.7%) experienced population increases between 2010 and 2016. Carmine City (-37.6%), Fayetteville (-14.3%), and Round Top (-8.9%) lost population between 2010 and 2016.

	2010 Population	2016 Population (Estimate)	Population Change 2010-2016		2010 Population	2016 Population (Estimate)	Population Change 2010-2016
Carmine City	250	156	-37.6%	La Grange	4,641	4,673	.7%
Fayetteville	258	221	-14.3%	Round Top	90	82	-8.9%
Flatonia	1,383	1,488	7.6%	Schulenburg	2,852	2,901	1.7%
<b>Fayette County</b>	<b>24,554</b>	<b>24,909</b>	<b>1.5%</b>				

## LEE COUNTY

As of 2016, the population of Lee County was estimated at 16,754, an increase of just .9% between 2010 and 2016. As indicated below, both Giddings (2.4%) and Lexington (.7%) had small increases in population.

	2010 Population	2016 Population (Estimate)	Estimated Population Change 2010-2016		2010 Population	2016 Population (Estimate)	Estimated Population Change 2010-2016
Giddings	4,881	5,000	2.4%	Lexington	1,177	1,185	.7%
<b>Lee County</b>	<b>16,612</b>	<b>16,754</b>	<b>.9%</b>				

## AGE AND GENDER

In Cen-Tex's four-county service area, the age group 0-4 constitutes 6.3% of the population in Bastrop County; 6.26% of the population in Colorado County; 5.01% of the population in Fayette County; and 5.16% of the population in Lee County. The age 5-17 group makes up the largest percentages of the population in Bastrop County (19.4%) and Lee County (17.9%). The 65 or older age group makes up the largest percentages of the population in Colorado County (20.4%) and Fayette County (23.67%).

**Population by Age Groups**

	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+
<b>Bastrop County</b>	6.30%	19.38%	8.07%	11.74%	12.71%	14.28%	14.11%	13.41%
<b>Colorado County</b>	6.26%	16.88%	8.07%	9.68%	9.88%	13.61%	15.25%	20.38%
<b>Fayette County</b>	5.01%	16.1%	7.42%	8.77%	9.85%	13.55%	15.64%	23.67%
<b>Lee County</b>	5.16%	17.88%	9.6%	9.73%	12.26%	13.35%	15.08%	16.93%
Texas	7.31%	19.15%	10.16%	14.53%	13.51%	12.88%	10.98%	11.49%
United States	6.24%	16.87%	9.82%	13.62%	12.73%	13.64%	12.58%	14.50%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

**Population 0-4 by Gender**

	Male	Female
<b>Bastrop County</b>	6.45%	6.13%
<b>Colorado County</b>	6.69%	5.85%
<b>Fayette County</b>	5.52%	4.51%
<b>Lee County</b>	4.33%	6.01%
Texas	7.52%	7.1%
United States	6.48%	6.0%

Source: American Community Survey. 2012-16.

## RACE AND ETHNICITY

The chart below reflects the racial composition of each county of Cen-Tex' service area.

- The majority race in each county is White; Fayette County has the highest rate (90.2%) and Colorado County has the lowest rate (74.9%).
- The African-American population is the highest in Colorado County (13.8%) and the lowest in Fayette County (6.4%).
- The Asian and Native American populations are less than 1% in all counties.
- The Other population is 10.7% in Bastrop County; 10.3% in Colorado County; 1.9% in Fayette County; and 6.7% in Lee County; much of the population in this classification identify their race as Hispanic.

Population by Race

	White	Black	Asian	Native American Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Other	Multiple Races
<b>Bastrop County</b>	77.72%	8.00%	0.94%	0.65%	0%	10.71%	1.98%
<b>Colorado County</b>	74.91%	13.77%	0.1%	0.54%	0%	10.25%	0.41%
<b>Fayette County</b>	90.2%	6.42%	0.68%	0.04%	0.03%	1.87%	0.74%
<b>Lee County</b>	80.1%	11.54%	0.51%	0.05%	0%	6.69%	1.1%
Texas	74.84%	11.95%	4.36%	0.48%	0.08%	5.79%	2.5%
United States	73.35%	12.63%	5.22%	0.82%	0.18%	4.75%	3.06%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16

Ethnicity by County

	Hispanic or Latino (of any Race)	Not Hispanic or Latino
<b>Bastrop County</b>	35.16%	64.84%
<b>Colorado County</b>	28.16%	71.84%
<b>Fayette County</b>	19.88%	80.12%
<b>Lee County</b>	23.12%	76.88%
Texas	38.63%	61.37%
United States	17.33%	82.67%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16

The Hispanic population in each county is as follows: Bastrop County (35.2%); Colorado County (28.2%); Fayette County (19.9%); and Lee County (23.1%).

During 2016-2017, enrolled children identified as the following races: White (77.6%); Black/African American (16.4%); Asian (.15%); Native American (.5%); Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (.15%); and Multi-Racial (5.2%). Of all families, 28.2% identified their children's ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino.

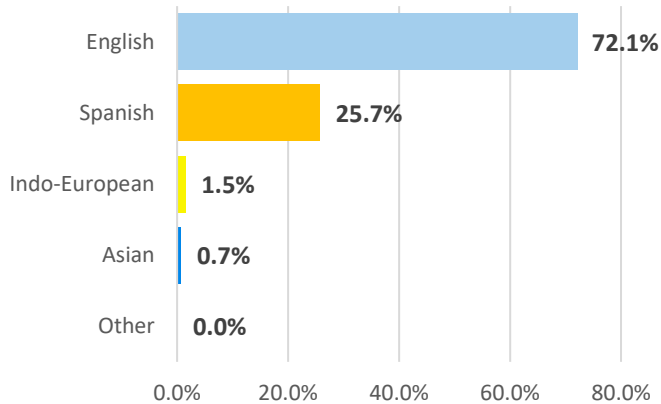
## PRIMARY LANGUAGE

The charts below reflect the languages spoken in each county of the program's service area.

- The majority language in each county is English; Lee County has the highest rate at 81.3%.
- Spanish is spoken in each county as follows: Bastrop County (25.7%); Colorado County (21.2%); Fayette County (16.6%); and Lee County (16.4%).

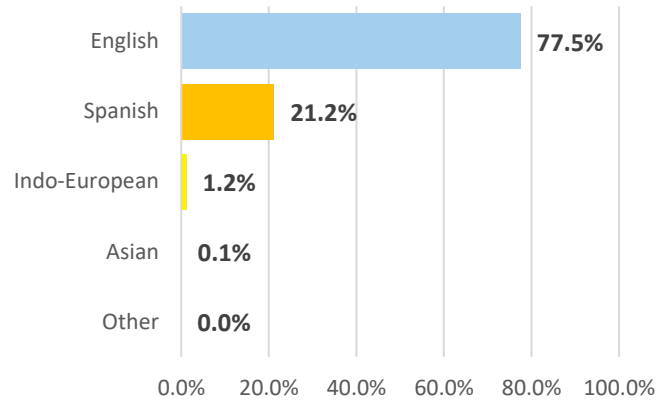
### Languages Spoken in Bastrop County

Source: American Community Survey, 2012-2016



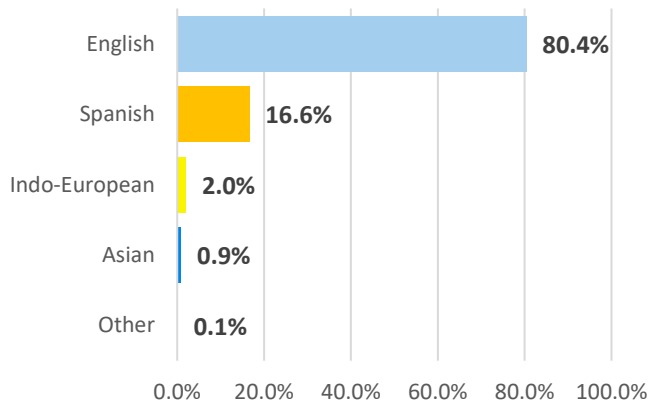
### Languages Spoken in Colorado County

Source: American Community Survey, 2012-2016



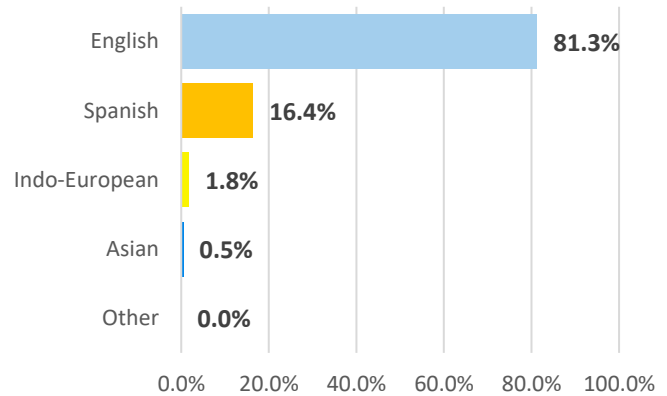
### Languages Spoken in Fayette County

Source: American Community Survey, 2012-2016



### Languages Spoken in Lee County

Source: American Community Survey, 2012-2016



During the 2016-2017 program year, 67.5% of Early Head Start and Head Start families identified their primary home language as English; 32.5% of families identified their home language as Spanish.



## FAMILY STRUCTURE

### Children Under Age 18 in Single Parent Households

	Count	Percent
<b>Bastrop County</b>	3,882	23.5%
<b>Colorado County</b>	1,178	27.4%
<b>Fayette County</b>	817	17.0%
<b>Lee County</b>	858	26.2%
<b>Texas</b>	1,897,521	30.7%

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-16

As defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, a family household is any housing unit in which the householder is living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption.

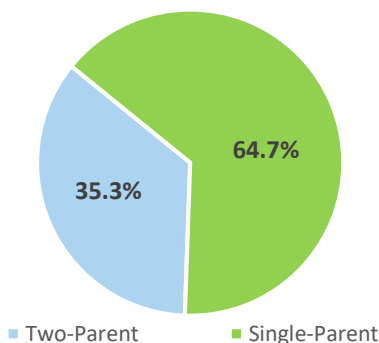
The connection between single parenting and lower outcomes is clear in a growing number of studies, showing strong correlations between father-absent families and poverty, juvenile delinquency, reduced school performance, and numerous other outcomes that can negatively impact children's futures.

The highest rates of children in single-parent households are in Bastrop County (23.5%); Colorado County (27.4%); and Lee County (26.2%). Fayette County has the lowest rate at 17%. All counties have fewer single-parent households than the state of Texas at 30.7%.

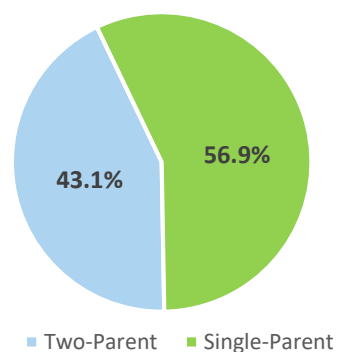
314,137 grandparents are householders responsible for their grandchildren who live with them. Of these, 98,001 (31.2%) do not have parents present<sup>4</sup>. During 2016-2017, 1% of Early Head Start children and 1% of Head Start children were being raised by a grandparent or another relative, due to a parent's absence. Mental health issues, substance abuse, incarceration, and neglect often play a factor.

During the 2016-2017 program year, 35.3% of Early Head Start families were two-parent households and 64.7% were single-parent families. 43.1% of Head Start families were two-parent households and 56.9% were single-parent families.

2016-2017 Early Head Start  
Family Structure



2016-2017 Head Start  
Family Structure



## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

### EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY

An estimated 30 million Americans hold low-wage jobs, struggle to cover their day-to-day expenses, and are unable to save for the future. Challenges for low-wage earners include lack of full-time work and paid leave, difficulty arranging child care due to irregular work schedules, and few or no health care benefits.

The 2018 minimum wage in Texas is \$7.25 per hour, the same as the current federal minimum wage. Following are living wages per hour needed to support a single adult and one child: Bastrop County (\$24.62); Colorado County (\$21.24); Fayette County (\$21.43); and Lee County (\$22.04).<sup>5</sup> The living wage is the hourly rate that an individual must earn to adequately support the family and cover day-to-day expenses if the person is the sole provider and is working full-time (2080 hours per year). A single adult with one child who is earning minimum wage makes only 29.5% of the living wage in Bastrop County; 34.1% in Colorado County; 33.8% in Fayette County; and 32.9% in Lee County.

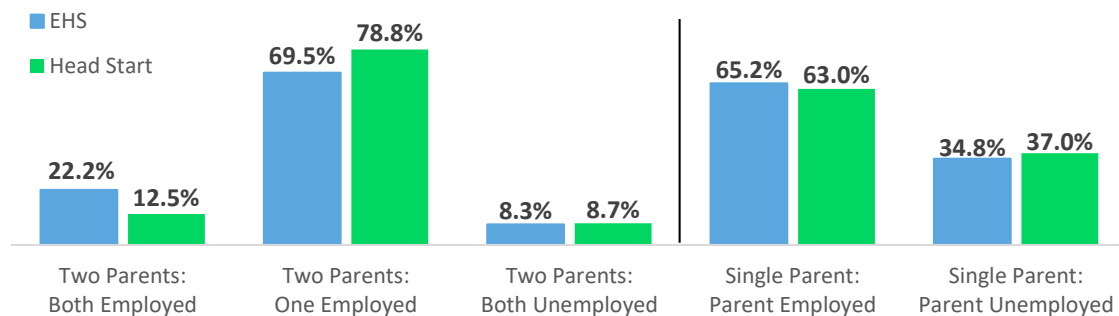
#### Living Wage

	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children	2 Adults 2 Children	2 Adults (1 Working) 1 Child	2 Adults (1 Working) 2 Children
<b>Bastrop County</b>	\$24.62	\$27.69	\$15.32	\$23.27	\$26.12
<b>Colorado County</b>	\$21.24	\$24.31	\$13.63	\$19.89	\$22.74
<b>Fayette County</b>	\$21.43	\$24.50	\$13.73	\$20.08	\$22.93
<b>Lee County</b>	\$22.04	\$25.11	\$14.03	\$20.68	\$23.53

Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

#### Parent Employment Status

Source: 2016-2017 PIR



During 2016-2017, 91.7% of Early Head Start two-parent families and 91.3% of Head Start two-parent families had one or more parents employed. In single-parent homes, 65.2% of EHS parents and 63.0% of Head Start parents were employed.

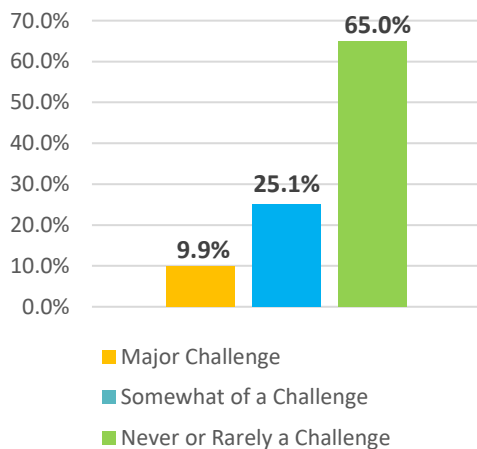
The February 2018 unemployment rate was 3.4 in Bastrop County; 3.5 in Colorado County; 3.1 in Fayette County; and 3.5 in Lee County, compared to both Texas' unemployment rate and the federal unemployment rate of 4.1. "Unemployment" refers to people in the labor force who are not working, according to the Department of Labor's official definition. People may be available for work but would not be considered in the labor force if they do not have a job and have not actively looked for a job in the last 4 weeks.

**2017 Unemployment Rates**  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Bastrop County</b>	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.2	3.3	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.3	3.0	3.1	3.0
<b>Colorado County</b>	4.9	4.8	4.3	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.3
<b>Fayette County</b>	4.0	3.7	3.3	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.9
<b>Lee County</b>	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.6	3.0	2.9
Texas	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.7
United States	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1

**Finding a Job**

Source: 2018 Family Survey



Of the respondents to the 2018 Family Survey, 36% of households have two working parents; 57.2% have one parent working; and 6.8% of households have no parents who are working. The survey findings show that "Finding a Job" is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> as a "major challenge" with 9.9% of respondents identifying it as such; another 25.1% of respondents identify "Finding a Job" as "somewhat of a challenge."

## **BASTROP COUNTY**

The economy of Bastrop County employs 32,589 people and is specialized in Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting; and Utilities. The largest employment sectors are Construction (4,843), Retail Trade (3,850), and Healthcare and Social Assistance (3,180). The highest paying industries are Utilities (\$46,331), Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction (\$45,729) and Professional, Scientific, Tech Services (\$40,975).

## **COLORADO COUNTY**

The economy of Colorado County employs 9,067 people and is specialized in Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting; and Utilities. Agriculture is the leading industry with \$30-\$40 million dollars gross sales by agricultural producers. The largest employment sectors are Retail trade (1,330), Healthcare and Social Assistance (1,155), and Educational Services (939). The highest paying industries are Utilities (\$44,737), Educational Services (\$38,428), and Transportation and Warehousing (\$37,500).

## **FAYETTE COUNTY**

The economy of Fayette County employs 11,484 people and is specialized in Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting; and Utilities. The largest employment industries are Retail trade (1,417), Manufacturing (1,393), and Healthcare and Social Assistance (1,168). The highest paying industries are Utilities (\$65,766), Transportation and Warehousing (\$53,750), and Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction (\$39,199).

## **LEE COUNTY**

The economy of Lee County, TX employs 7,645 people and is specialized in Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction; Construction; and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting. The largest employment industries are Construction (934), Healthcare & Social Assistance (792), and Manufacturing (742). The highest paying industries are Utilities (\$60,417), Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction (\$50,382), and Transportation and Warehousing (\$44,828).

Families across the four-county area are employed in a variety of these industries, particularly large retailers such as Wal-Mart and H-E-B, fast food establishments and restaurants, and hotel employment. The days and hours that parents work vary according to the needs of the specific industry and/or employer.

## INCOME

Of family households, the median family income is \$67,559 in Bastrop County; \$56,831 in Colorado County; \$64,773 in Fayette County; and \$66,419 in Lee County; Texas' median income is \$64,585.

Per capita income includes wages, public assistance, self-employment, interest, and all other income sources. Per capita income is the average income for every adult and child. Per capita income of Fayette County is the highest at \$28,664, while Bastrop (\$25,252), Colorado (\$26,160), and Lee (\$25,548) counties are all lower than Texas (\$27,828).<sup>6</sup>

### Household Income

	Total Family Households	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
<b>Bastrop County</b>	18,665	\$67,559	\$25,252
<b>Colorado County</b>	5,470	\$56,831	\$26,160
<b>Fayette County</b>	6,624	\$64,773	\$28,664
<b>Lee County</b>	4,363	\$66,419	\$25,548
Texas		\$64,585	\$27,828
United States		\$67,871	\$29,829

### Per Capita Income by Race/Ethnicity

	White	Black or African American	Native American	Asian	Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic/Latino
<b>Bastrop County</b>	\$27,525	\$22,289	\$26,638	\$18,047	\$15,588	\$30,478
<b>Colorado County</b>	\$28,644	\$20,829	\$30,476	\$0 (N/A)	\$17,793	\$29,440
<b>Fayette County</b>	\$29,768	\$15,257	\$61,316	\$34,255	\$15,237	\$31,997
<b>Lee County</b>	\$27,584	\$21,057	\$0 (N/A)	\$0 (N/A)	\$13,889	\$29,055
Texas	\$29,749	\$21,325	\$34,299	\$22,507	\$16,640	\$34,871
United States	\$32,770	\$20,087	\$34,318	\$17,917	\$17,323	\$32,450

Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey

### Median Family Income by Family Composition

	Married without Children	Married with Children	Singles without Children	Singles with Children
<b>Bastrop County</b>	\$78,357	\$74,336	\$54,525	\$25,383
<b>Colorado County</b>	\$62,054	\$70,948	\$50,028	\$32,431
<b>Fayette County</b>	\$62,162	\$81,573	\$43,438	\$22,406
<b>Lee County</b>	\$73,406	\$90,110	\$33,403	\$17,237
Texas	\$78,630	\$81,385	\$42,607	\$25,006
United States	\$78,162	\$87,757	\$44,636	\$25,130

Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey

As indicated above, per capita income of African-Americans (\$15,000-22,000) and the Hispanic population (14,000-18,000) are significantly lower than the non-Hispanic, White population (\$26,000-\$30,000) in all four counties.

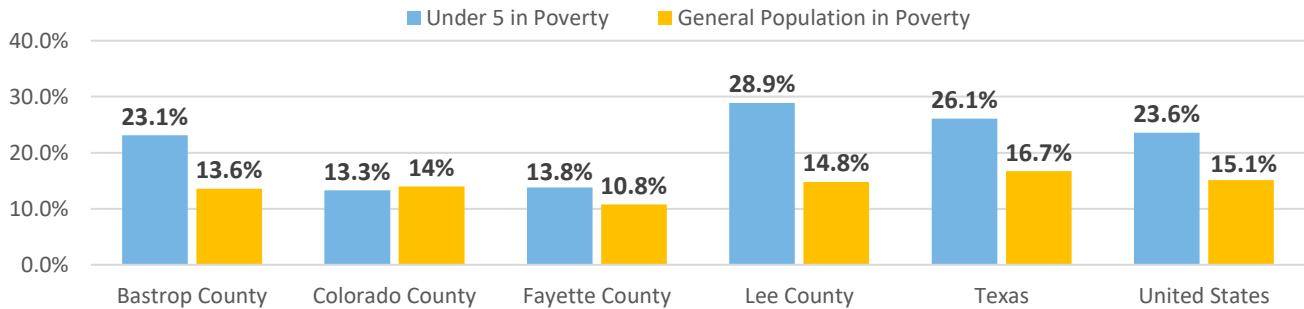
Across the four-county service area, single parents with children have the lowest median family income (\$17,000-\$32,000), compared to married couples with children (\$62,000-\$78,000).

## POVERTY

The most recent poverty rates for children under 5 years old are 23.1% in Bastrop County; 13.3% in Colorado County; 13.8% in Fayette County; and 28.9% in Lee County. Lee County's poverty rate for children under 5 years of age is higher than both the state of Texas (26.1%) and the nation (23.6%). An estimated 9,159 children under age 5 reside within the four-county area, with approximately 1929 (21.1%) of these children experiencing poverty. 5,629 of these children are infants/toddlers, with 1,186 living in poverty. In addition, there are 3,530 preschoolers, with 742 children experiencing poverty.

### Poverty by County

Source: American Community Survey, 2012-2016



	Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	Native American/ Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
<b>Bastrop County</b>	23.98%	26.37%	25.54%	18.69%	no data	37.96%	26.21%
	14,589	1,652	129	137	0	3,183	407
<b>Colorado County</b>	21.56%	28%	no data	no data	no data	30.02%	12.79%
	3,358	802	0	0	0	640	11
<b>Fayette County</b>	20.33%	30.88%	9.09%	23.08%	no data	22.06%	28.11%
	4,568	494	1	39	0	103	52
<b>Lee County</b>	22.08%	20.99%	no data	50%	no data	31.04%	54.59%
	2,963	406	0	43	0	348	101

Source: American Community Survey, 2012-2016

## BASTROP COUNTY

The population of children living in poverty under age 5 in Bastrop County was estimated at 1,277 (23.1%) as of 2016. The table below includes populations for specific towns and cities; it should be noted that data may not include unincorporated areas.

The towns/cities in Bastrop County with the highest child poverty under age 5 are: Bastrop (23.2%); Camp Swift (32%); Elgin (55.4%); McDade (35.3%) and Smithville (26.8%). The highest numbers of children under age 5 living in poverty are in Bastrop (149) and Elgin (489).

### Children Under 5 and Rates of Children in Poverty (2016 Estimates)

Source: American Community Survey, 2016

	2016 Children Under 5	Children Under 5 in Poverty	% of Children Under 5 in Poverty		2016 Children Under 5	Children Under 5 in Poverty	% of Children Under 5 in Poverty
<b>Bastrop</b>	642	149	23.2%	McDade	34	12	35.3%
Camp Swift*	247	79	32.0%	<b>Smithville</b>	198	53	26.8%
Circle D-KC Estates*	132	14	10.4%	Wylldwood*	263	25	9.5%
<b>Elgin</b>	882	489	55.4%				
<b>Bastrop County</b>	<b>5,527</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>23.1%</b>				

## COLORADO COUNTY

The population of children living in poverty under age 5 in Colorado County was estimated at 1,320 (13.3%) as of 2016. The towns/cities in Colorado County with the highest child poverty are: Eagle Lake (34.3%) and Weimar (12.2%). Eagle Lake has the highest number of children (79) under age 5 living in poverty in Colorado County.

	2016 Children Under 5	Children Under 5 in Poverty	% of Children Under 5 in Poverty		2016 Children Under 5	Children Under 5 in Poverty	% of Children Under 5 in Poverty
Columbus	183	9	5.4%	Glidden	128	11	8.6%
<b>Eagle Lake</b>	230	79	34.3%	Weimar	115	14	12.2%
<b>Colorado County</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>13.3%</b>				

## FAYETTE COUNTY

The population of children living in poverty under age 5 in Fayette County was estimated at 176 (13.8%) as of 2016. La Grange has a high poverty rate (29.7%) of children under age five in poverty; an estimated 108 children are living in poverty.

	2016 Children Under 5	Children Under 5 in Poverty	% of Children Under 5 in Poverty		2016 Children Under 5	Children Under 5 in Poverty	% of Children Under 5 in Poverty
Carmin City	4	0	7.7%	La Grange	364	108	29.7%
Fayetteville	4	0	5.9%	Round Top	0	0	1.2%
Flatonia	42	7	17.1%	Schulenburg	201	21	10.4%
<b>Fayette County</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>13.8%</b>				

## LEE COUNTY

The population of children living in poverty under age 5 in Lee County was estimated at 1,034 (28.9%) as of 2016. Giddings has a very high poverty rate (64.6%) of children under age 5; an estimated 184 children are living in poverty.

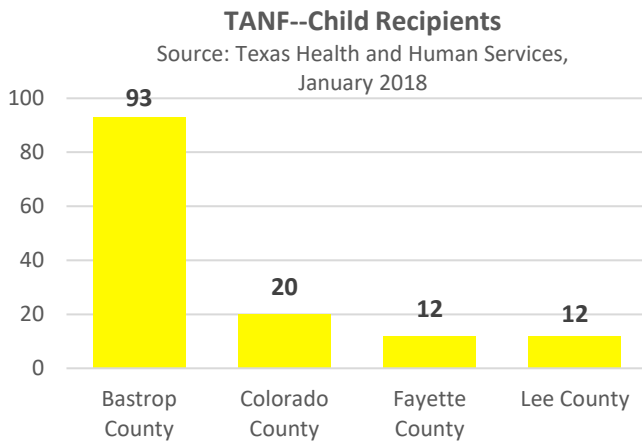
	2016 Children Under 5	Children Under 5 in Poverty	% of Children Under 5 in Poverty		2016 Children Under 5	Children Under 5 in Poverty	% of Children Under 5 in Poverty
<b>Giddings</b>	285	184	64.6%	Lexington	128	15	11.7%
<b>Lee County</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>28.9%</b>				



## FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

### TANF

Texas Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federal program that provides cash assistance to needy families with dependent children. To qualify, the applicant must be either pregnant or responsible for a child under 19 years of age. Also, the applicant must be a U.S. citizen or legal immigrant; have low or very low income; and be under-employed (working for very low wages), unemployed or about to become unemployed. A family can be parents and their children, or relatives caring for related children.



The following are reviewed to determine eligibility: amount of money the family has, the value of items the family is paying for or owns, and the amount the family pays for child care and child support.

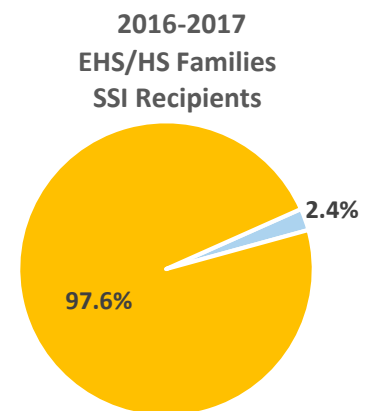
If a child's parent or relative receive TANF, the parent or relative must agree to gain or maintain employment or attend job training, as well as attend parenting classes.

The average payment per recipient in 2018 is between \$66 and \$96 in the four-county area.

The number of Texas children receiving TANF decreased from 87,384 in 2012 to 53,883 in 2017, a -38.3% change.

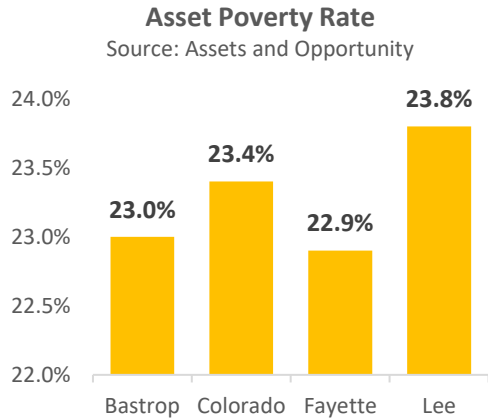
### SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INSURANCE

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) pays monthly benefits to people with limited income and resources, including those who are disabled, blind, or age 65 or older. Children who are disabled may also get SSI. Effective January 1, 2018, the federal benefit rate is \$750 for an individual and \$1,125 for a couple.<sup>7</sup> Of Early Head Start and Head Start families, 2.4% received SSI benefits during 2016-2017.



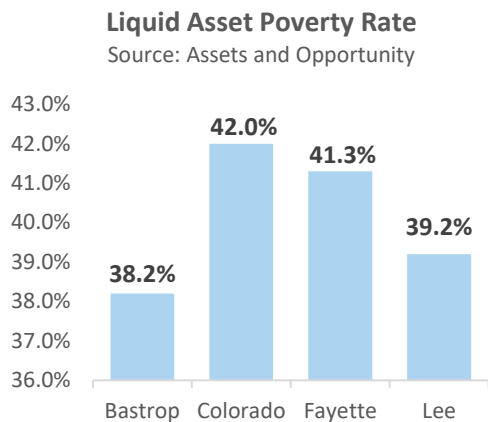
## FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

### ASSET POVERTY



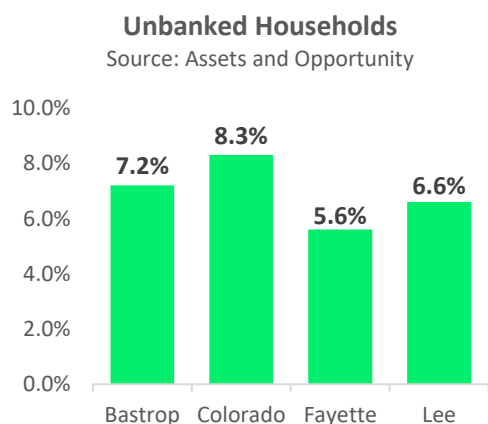
The Asset Poverty Rate is the percentage of households without at least three months of living expenses at poverty level; a financial cushion is needed if a family loses its income due to a crisis such as job loss, medical emergency, or a needed car repair. The estimation of asset poverty is based on a household's net worth and includes durable assets, such as a home, car or a business that would need to be liquidated to help cover day-to-day expenses. Asset poverty exceeds income poverty in almost all states, including Texas (23.8%). The most recent asset poverty rates are as follows: Bastrop County (23%); Colorado County (23.4%); Fayette County (22.9%); and Lee County (23.8%).<sup>8</sup>

### LIQUID ASSET POVERTY



Liquid Asset Poverty is a measure of liquid savings (i.e. cash, retirement savings, checking) that a household needs to cover basic expenses for three months in a crisis that leads to the loss of stable income. Nearly half of U.S. households do not have a basic safety net to weather emergencies or prepare for future needs, such as a child's college education or home ownership. Research has found that households with assets are much less likely to suffer serious hardships in the event of a financial emergency. Compared to Texas (49.8%), the liquid asset poverty rates in the four-county service area are: Bastrop County (38.2%); Colorado County (42%); Fayette County (41.3%); and Lee County (39.2%).<sup>9</sup>

### UNBANKED

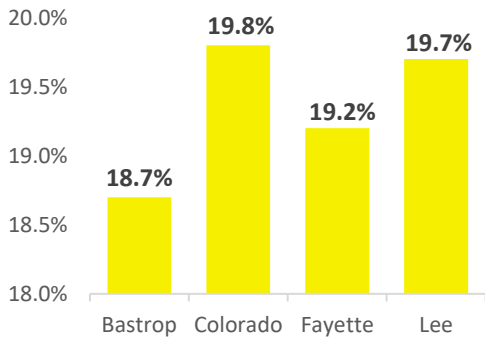


Unbanked refers to households with neither a checking nor savings account. A bank or credit union account are often the first step in saving, future planning and building credit, yet almost 10 million households do not have a bank account. Households without a bank account may spend a significant amount of money on financial services and do not have a way to save. The most recent data shows that 7.2% of households in Bastrop County; 8.3% in Colorado County; 5.6% in Fayette County; and 6.6% of households in Lee County are unbanked, compared to the state of Texas with 10.4% of unbanked households.<sup>10</sup>

## UNDERBANKED

### Underbanked Households

Source: Assets and Opportunity

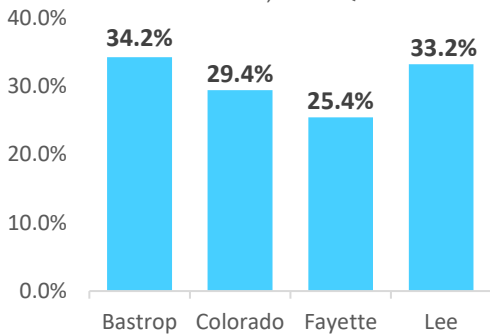


Underbanked refers to households that have a checking and/or a savings account and have used non-bank money orders, non-bank check-cashing services, non-bank remittances, payday loans, rent-to-own services, pawn shops or refund anticipation loans in the past 12 months. The most recent data shows that between 18.7% and 19.7% of households in the four-county service area are underbanked, lower than the state of Texas (27.4%). Per the 2018 Family Survey, 5.8% of parents indicate that “access to banking services” is a ‘major challenge” and 13% indicate that it is “somewhat of a challenge.”<sup>11</sup>

## SUBPRIME CREDIT

### Subprime Credit

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2017: Q4

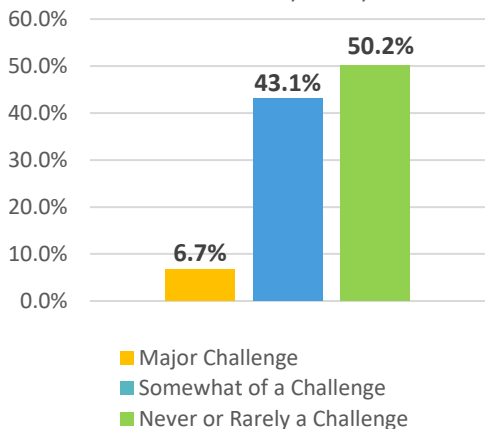


Many families have poor credit due to a combination of late payments and not having enough available credit. This prevents some families from getting a credit card, a car loan, or a home loan. Without prime, or good, credit scores, consumers pay higher interest rates than other consumers on credit cards, auto loans, and mortgages. Credit scores also play a major role in setting home and auto insurance premiums. Often families resort to “payday loans” which can exceed 300% interest, putting families further in debt. 2017 data shows that the population with subprime credit is 34.2% in Bastrop County; 29.4% in Colorado County; 25.4% in Fayette County; and 33.2% in Lee County.<sup>12</sup>

## MONEY MANAGEMENT

### Money Management

Source: 2018 Family Survey



Per the 2018 Family Survey, 6.7% of parents indicated that “money management” is a “major challenge” and 43.1% indicated that it is “somewhat of a challenge.”

## HOUSING

Cost burdened households are those where housing costs exceed 30% of total household income. Data (right) includes the cost of monthly housing expenses for both owners and renters.

Cost burdened households in the area are as follows: Bastrop County (26.9%); Colorado County (19.7%); Fayette County (20.7%); and Lee County (24.4%). Each of the four counties has fewer cost burdened households than Texas (30%) and the U.S. (32.9%).

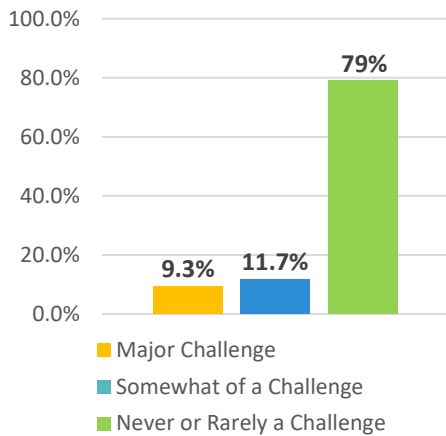
### Cost Burdened Households

	Total Households	# of Cost Burdened Households	% of Cost Burdened Households
<b>Bastrop County</b>	25,822	6,934	26.85%
<b>Colorado County</b>	7,624	1,502	19.7%
<b>Fayette County</b>	9,553	1,976	20.68%
<b>Lee County</b>	6,014	1,470	24.44%
Texas			30.01%
United States			32.89%

Source: American Community Survey, 2012-2016

### Affordable Housing

Source: 2018 Family Survey



Per the 2018 Family Survey, “Affordable and Safe Housing” was the 3rd greatest concern. Of families, 11.7% identify housing as a “major challenge” and 19.3% identify it as “somewhat of a challenge.” The population in Bastrop County has grown due to Austin area residents moving further from the city. The availability of affordable housing has become increasingly difficult; waitlists for subsidized housing are more than one year. The majority of new construction is unaffordable for families living in poverty.

Fair Market Rent for a modest two-bedroom apartment is \$1,251 per month in Bastrop County, much higher than \$697 in Colorado County; \$727 in Fayette County; and \$767 in Lee County. To afford a modest two-bedroom apartment a family needs to earn \$22.98/hour or work 127 hours at minimum wage in Bastrop County; earn \$13.10/hour or work 72 hours at minimum wage in Colorado County; earn \$13.65/hour or work 75 hours at minimum wage in Fayette County; and earn \$15.42/hour or work 85 hours at minimum wage in Lee County.

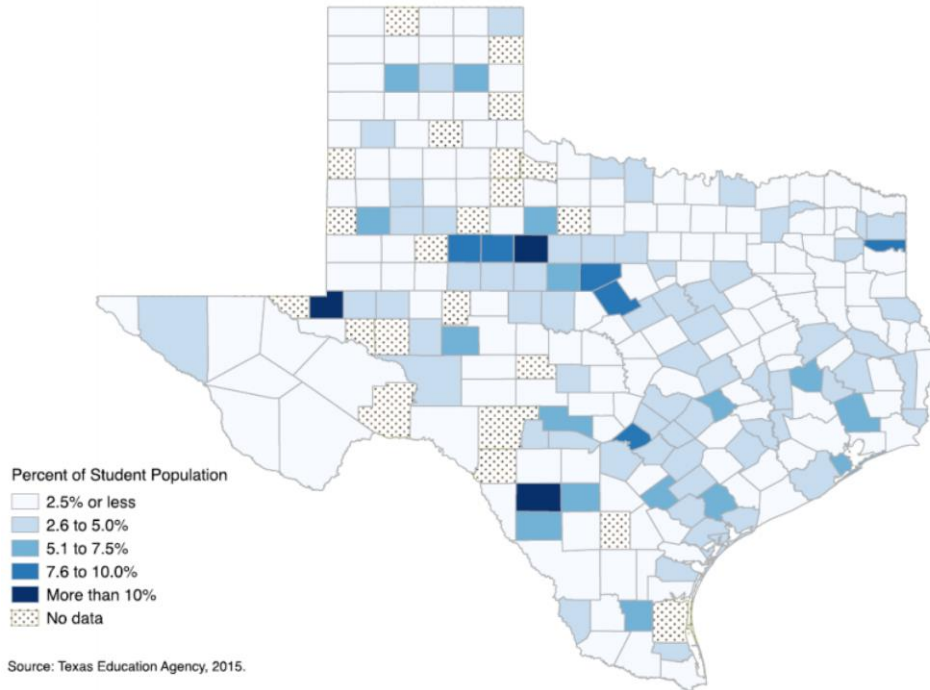
### 2018 Fair Market Rent

	Efficiency	One-Bedroom	Two-Bedroom	Three-Bedroom	Four-Bedroom
<b>Bastrop County</b>	\$860	\$1,023	\$1,251	\$1,679	\$2,018
<b>Colorado County</b>	\$527	\$546	\$697	\$1014	\$1,228
<b>Fayette County</b>	\$550	\$562	\$727	\$1057	\$1,137
<b>Lee County</b>	\$580	\$609	\$767	\$1,085	\$1,200

Source: Economic Market Analysis Division, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2018

## HOMELESSNESS

In 2015, the percent of students identified as homeless (per the McKinney-Vento Act) in Bastrop and Colorado counties was between 2.6% and 5%. Less than 2.5% of students in Fayette and Lee counties were identified as homeless.



### Mc-Kinney Vento Act

The Head Start Program Performance Standards mandate that children considered homeless per section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act are eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start.

“Homeless” includes children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes children and families who:

- ◆ Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- ◆ Are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations;
- ◆ Are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals;
- ◆ Are awaiting foster care placement;
- ◆ Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- ◆ Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- ◆ Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances, as described above.

## EDUCATION

In all four counties, adults age 25 and older without a high school diploma are greater than the state of Texas (17.65%) and the United States (13%). The percent of those without a H.S. diploma are as follows: Bastrop County (19.4%), Colorado County (18.1%), Fayette County (18.3%), and Lee County (17.7%).

### Population without a High School Diploma

	Population Age 25+	No High School Diploma	No High School Diploma
<b>Bastrop County</b>	51,873	10,076	19.42%
<b>Colorado County</b>	14,303	2,599	18.17%
<b>Fayette County</b>	17,803	3,262	18.32%
<b>Lee County</b>	11,285	2,002	17.74%
Texas			17.65%
United States			13.02%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-16

### Educational Levels of Adults 25 and Older

	High School Diploma or Higher	A.A. Degree or Higher	Bachelors/Advanced Degree
<b>Bastrop County</b>	80.58%	24.61%	18.36%
<b>Colorado County</b>	81.83%	25.61%	18.39%
<b>Fayette County</b>	81.68%	24.28%	17.09%
<b>Lee County</b>	82.26%	23.50%	17.03%
Texas	82.35%	34.89%	28.10%
United States	86.98%	38.49%	30.32%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-16

### Population with No High School Diploma by Race

	White	African American	Native American	Asian	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
<b>Bastrop County</b>	7,043 (16.8%)	608 (15.2%)	107 (15.2%)	84 (29.6%)	0 (0.0%)	1,908 (45.8%)	326 (34.7%)
<b>Colorado County</b>	1,728 (15.7%)	388 (21.6%)	4 (3.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	445 (34.5%)	34 (64.2%)
<b>Fayette County</b>	2,723 (16.8%)	242 (24.7%)	2 (20.0%)	25 (19.2%)	0 (0.0%)	211 (69.0%)	59 (52.7%)
<b>Lee County</b>	1,499 (15.9%)	298 (23.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	187 (39.2%)	18 (25.4%)
Texas	17.18%	12.01%	22.82%	12.75%	10.98%	42.01%	14.3%
United States	11.06%	15.66%	20.69%	13.73%	13.61%	39.83%	13.31%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-16

### Hispanics with No High School Diploma

	Population	Percent
<b>Bastrop County</b>	6,919	48.1%
<b>Colorado County</b>	1,111	35.9%
<b>Fayette County</b>	1,272	51.0%
<b>Lee County</b>	877	49.0%
Texas		36.8%

Between 15.7% and 16.8% of Whites in the four-county area do not have diplomas, compared to 15.2% - 24.7% of African-Americans. Hispanic adults without a High School diploma are even higher: Bastrop County (48.1%); Colorado County (35.9%); Fayette County (51%) and Lee County (49%).

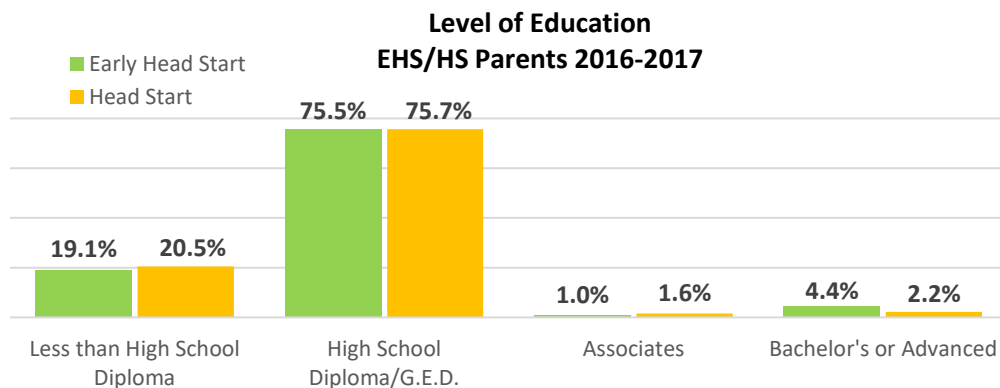
### State Targets/School District Outcomes

School District	*Reading / Writing STAAR Scores Grade 4	H.S. Dropout Rate Target: <=2.1%	Graduation Rate Target: >=88.0%	School District	Reading & Writing STAAR Scores Grade 4	H.S. Dropout Rate Target: <=2.1%	Graduation Rate Target: >=88.0%
<b>Bastrop County</b>							
Bastrop ISD	57% / 54%	2.5%	85.9%	McDade ISD	88% / 66%	0.0%	-----
Elgin ISD (partial)	49% / 36%	1.9%	79.4%	Smithville ISD	72% / 75%	1.1%	93.8%
<b>Colorado County</b>							
Columbus ISD	57% / 51%	1.2%	100.0%	Weimar ISD	64% / 62%	0.0%	100.0%
Rice Consolidated ISD	55% / 46%	0.0%	100.0%				
<b>Fayette County</b>							
Fayetteville ISD	71% / 86%	0.0%	100.0%	Round Top-Carmine ISD	67% / 56%	0.0%	100.0%
Flatonia ISD	78% / 59%	0.0%	100.0%	Schulenberg ISD	79% / 61%	0.0%	100.0%
La Grange ISD	75% / 63%	2.4%	66.7%				
<b>Lee County</b>							
Dime Box ISD	50% / *	0.0%	66.7%	Lexington ISD	67% / 46%	1.9%	71.4%
Giddings ISD	49% / 36%	2.4%	91.7%				
<b>Texas</b>	<b>70% / 65%</b>	<b>78.2%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>				

Sources: TX Academic Performance Report 16-17; District Profile of State Performance Plan Indicators Report 2015-2016

\*Scores reflect 2017 STAAR Percent at Approaches Grade Level or Above

In 2016-2017, just 1% of EHS parents had an A.A. degree and 4.4% had a bachelor's or advanced degree. 1.6% of Head Start parents had an A.A. degree and 2.2% had a bachelor's or advanced degree.



## DISABILITIES

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) is a statewide program within the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Part C services under IDEA are provided for families and children birth up to age 3 who have:

- A medical disability that is likely to cause a developmental delay;
- An auditory or visual impairment as defined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA); or
- A developmental delay of at least 25% in one or more areas of development –social emotional, self-help, communication, motor functions or cognitive skills. If the only delay is expressive language development, there must be a 33% delay to qualify.

**Early Childhood Intervention Services**

	Birth-Three Population	Children Served	Percent Served
<b>Bastrop County</b>	4,261	167	3.9%
<b>Colorado County</b>	1,072	82	7.7%
<b>Fayette County</b>	1,069	29	2.7%
<b>Lee County</b>	840	31	3.7%

Source: Texas Kids Intervention Data System, 2016

In 2016, infants and toddlers up to age three received early intervention services as follows:

- 167 children (3.9%) in Bastrop County;
- 82 children (7.7%) in Colorado County;
- 29 children (2.7%) in Fayette County; and
- 31 children (3.7%) in Lee County.

**Population with Disabilities**

	Under 18	18 - 64	65 +
<b>Bastrop County</b>	5.1%	13.6%	36.1%
<b>Colorado County</b>	5.2%	12.3%	33.1%
<b>Fayette County</b>	4.8%	10.8%	30.9%
<b>Lee County</b>	2.6%	14.0%	39.5%
Texas	4.2%	9.8%	39.1%
United States	4.1%	10.3%	35.8%

Source: American Community Survey, 2012-2016

Texas' Local Education Agencies (LEAs) provide Part B services under IDEA to students ages 3 through 21. The table (left) contains data about children ages 3-21 years who have been diagnosed with disabilities:

- 5.1% of children in Bastrop County;
- 5.2% of children in Colorado County;
- 4.8% of children in Fayette County; and
- Just 2.6% of children in Lee County.

During 2016-2017, Cen-Tex served 36 (16.2%) Early Head Start children and 37 (9.4%) Head Start children with disabilities, for a total of 73 (11.9%) children with disabilities. Nearly 87% of Head Start children with disabilities were diagnosed with speech or language impairments; 8.1% of children had developmental delays; and the remaining 4.9% of children were diagnosed with various disabilities such as an orthopedic or other health impairment.



## EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE: BIRTH – FIVE

### OVERVIEW

An estimated 9,159 children under age 5 reside within the four-county area, with approximately 1929 (21.1%) of these children experiencing poverty. 5,629 of these children are infants/toddlers, with 1,186 living in poverty. In addition, there are 3,530 preschoolers, with 742 children living in poverty.

**Estimated Child Population Under 5 in Poverty**

	Children Under 5	Population Under 5 in Poverty*	Infants and Toddlers	Infants and Toddlers in Poverty	3 and 4 Year Olds	3 and 4 Year Olds in Poverty
<b>Bastrop County</b>	5,527	1,277 (23.1%)*	3,410	788	2,117	489
<b>Colorado County</b>	1,320	176 (13.3%)*	795	106	525	70
<b>Fayette County</b>	1,278	176 (13.8%)*	790	109	488	67
<b>Lee County</b>	1,034	299 (28.9%)*	634	183	400	116

Source: American Community Survey, 2012-2016 \*Child poverty rates per county

- An estimated 5,527 children reside in Bastrop County, with approximately 1,277 (23.1%) of these children living in poverty. It is estimated that 3,410 children are infants/toddlers, with 788 children in poverty. There are approximately 2,112 preschoolers, with 489 of these children experiencing poverty.
- An estimated 1,320 children reside in Colorado County, with approximately 176 (13.3%) of these children living in poverty. It is estimated 795 children are infants/toddlers, with 106 in poverty. There are approximately 525 preschoolers, with 70 of these children experiencing poverty.
- An estimated 1,278 children reside in Fayette County, with approximately 176 (13.8%) of these children living in poverty. It is estimated that 790 children are infants/toddlers, with 109 in poverty. There are approximately 488 preschoolers, with 67 of these children experiencing poverty.
- An estimated 1,034 children reside in Lee County, with approximately 299 (28.9%) of these children living in poverty. It is estimated 634 children are infants/toddlers, with 183 in poverty. There are approximately 400 preschoolers, with 116 of these children experiencing poverty.

In 2015, 1048 children were born in Bastrop County; 265 in Colorado County, 282 in Fayette County; and 208 in Lee County. A total of 1,803 babies were born in the four-county service area, representing the current, approximate number of expectant mothers.<sup>13</sup>

In the four-county service area there are several early childhood options with only EHS and Head Start, and pre-k provided at no cost, without child care subsidy. Only 10% of eligible children receive child care subsidy. The estimated underserved birth-five child population is as follows: 598 children in Bastrop County; 50 children in Colorado County, 98 children in Fayette County, and 133 children in Lee County.

### Estimated Underserved Children Birth - Five

	Bastrop County	Colorado County	Fayette County	Lee County
Children in Poverty	1,277	176	176	299
EHS Center-Based Enrollment	112	45	0	32
Head Start Center-Based Enrollment	236	34	0	37
Subsidized Children (10%)	128	18	18	30
Pre-K	684	157	145	106
<b>Underserved Children 0-3</b>	598	50	98	133
<b>Underserved Children 3-4</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## HOME VISITATION PROGRAMS

*Family Connects* is a new, evidence-based home visiting program overseen by the Department of Family and Protective Services using federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) funding. In Bastrop County, Bastrop County Cares has partnered with Lone Star Circle of Care, a community health center offering medical care to kids and families. Because the county does not have a hospital or birthing center, St. David's Medical Center in Central Austin is where the majority of the residents give birth. Bastrop is rolling out the program to WIC and Lone Star Circle of Care clients. Family Connects is available to all interested families with newborns, regardless of their circumstances.

Registered nurses visit families three weeks after the baby's birth. During the visit, the nurse gauges what health or other needs the family has, and shares resources and discusses with the family topics such as safe sleep practices, breastfeeding, or the schedule for the mother's and baby's upcoming doctor appointments. The nurse also connects the family to community resources that can address their individual needs, such as help for postpartum depression or anxiety or how to access affordable, high-quality child care. In certain cases, a second or third follow up visit by the nurse may be needed. Additionally, all families receive a follow-up call four weeks after their last visit to ensure the family has been connected to services and is satisfied with the care they received from the program.<sup>14</sup>

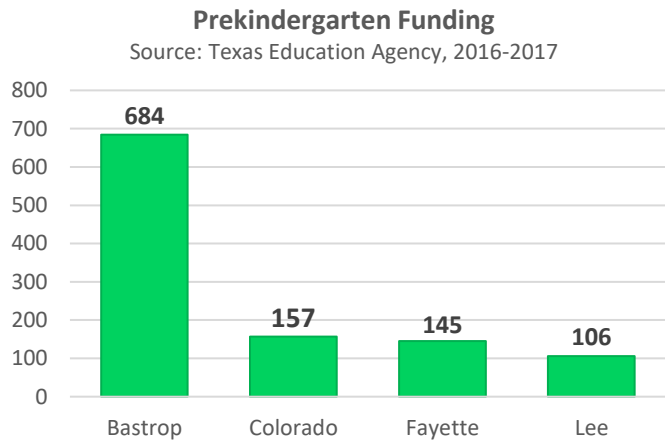
Besides Cen-Tex's EHS home-based services to 42 expectant mothers, infants and toddlers, there are no other on-going home visitation programs for children and families under the age of five in the four-county service area.

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The Texas Legislature established free, public prekindergarten to provide early learning experiences to students who are most at risk for school failure. Therefore, eligibility is limited. A district must have a prekindergarten program if it identifies 15 or more eligible children who are at least four years of age by September 1 of the current school year. A district may offer prekindergarten classes if the district identifies 15 or more eligible children who are at least three years of age.

To be eligible for prekindergarten enrollment, a child must be at least three years of age and:

- is unable to speak and comprehend English; or
- is educationally disadvantaged; or
- is considered homeless;
- is the child of an active duty member (or member killed on active duty) of the U.S. armed forces; or
- is or ever has been in foster care.



### Pre-K Enrollment Funding

Source: Texas Education Agency, 2016-2017

School District	Pre-K Enrollment		School District	Pre-K Enrollment	
<b>Bastrop County Total: 684</b>					
Bastrop ISD	357	Half-Day	McDade ISD	30	Half-Day
	0	Full-Day		18	Full-Day
Elgin ISD (partial)	8	Half-Day	Smithville ISD (partial)	81	Half-Day
	190	Full-Day		0	Full-Day
<b>Colorado County Total: 157</b>					
Columbus ISD	0	Half-Day	Weimar ISD	0	Half-Day
	60	Full-Day		31	Full-Day
Rice Consolidated ISD	0	Half-Day			
	66	Full-Day			
<b>Fayette County Total: 145</b>					
Fayetteville ISD	0	Half-Day	Round Top Carmine ISD	0	Half-Day
	8	Full-Day		11	Full-Day
Flatonia ISD	0	Half-Day	Schulenberg ISD	7	Half-Day
	25	Full-Day		30	Full-Day
La Grange ISD	0	Half-Day			
	64	Full-Day			
<b>Lee County Total: 106</b>					
Dime Box ISD	0	Half-Day	Lexington ISD	16	Half-Day
	11	Full-Day		0	Full-Day
Giddings ISD	79	N/A			

During 2016-2017, there were a total of 1,092 Pre-K funded slots in the service area: Bastrop County (684); Colorado County (157); Fayette County (145); and Lee County (106).

## CHILD CARE

There are 11 Family Child Care (FCC) home and 132 FCC enrollment slots in the four-county service area:

- Bastrop County has only 3 FCC homes and 36 enrollment slots.
- Colorado County has just 1 FCC home and 12 enrollment slots.
- Fayette County has the most FCC homes in the service area, 5 homes and 60 enrollment slots.
- Lee County has just 2 FCC homes and 24 enrollment slots.

There are a reported 3,400 center-based child care enrollment slots in the four-county service area; however, an unidentified number of these slots are designated for school-aged children.

### Child Care Overview

	Family Child Care Homes/ Enrollment	Child Care Centers/ Enrollment	Locations Accepting Child Care Subsidy	Texas Rising Star: 2 Stars	Texas Rising Star: 3 Stars	Texas Rising Star: 4 Stars
<b>Bastrop County</b>	<b>3 (36 slots)</b>	<b>19 (1809 slots)</b>	<b>Child Care: 16</b>			
Bastrop	1 (12 slots)	10 (956 slots)	<b>FCC: 1</b>	0	4	2
Cedar Creek	1 (12 slots)	3 (201 slots)				
Elgin	1 (12 slots)	4 (454 slots)				
Smithville	0 (0 slots)	2 (198 slots)				
<b>Colorado County</b>	<b>1 (12 slots)</b>	<b>8 (566 slots)</b>	<b>Child Care: 7</b>			
Columbus	0 (0 slots)	4 (266 slots)	<b>FCC: 0</b>	1	0	0
Eagle Lake	0 (0 slots)	2 (170 slots)				
Weimer	1 (12 slots)	2 (130)				
<b>Fayette County</b>	<b>5 (60 slots)</b>	<b>7 (436 slots)</b>	<b>Child Care: 4</b>			
Fayetteville	0 (0 slots)	1 (14 slots)	<b>FCC: 0</b>	1	0	1
Flatonia	0 (0 slots)	1 (34 slots)				
La Grange	2 (24 slots)	4 (324 slots)				
Schulenburg	3 (36 slots)	1 (64 slots)				
<b>Lee County</b>	<b>2 (24 slots)</b>	<b>7 (589 slots)</b>	<b>Child Care: 7</b>			
Giddings	2 (24 slots)	5 (442 slots)	<b>FCC: 0</b>	1	0	1
Lexington	0 (0 slots)	2 (147 slots)				

Source: Texas Health and Human Services, April 2018

A Texas Rising Star (TRS) provider is a child care provider that has an agreement to serve Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)-subsidized children and that voluntarily meets requirements that exceed the State's Minimum Child Care Licensing (CCL) Standards. The TRS Provider certification system offers three levels of certification (Two- Three- and Four-Star) to encourage providers to attain progressively higher certification requirements leading to a Four-Star level. The Texas Rising Star program organizes measures into five categories: Director and Staff Qualifications; Training; Caregiver-Child Interactions; Curriculum, Nutrition and Indoor/Outdoor Activities; and Parent Education and Involvement. Of all providers, only 6 in Bastrop County, 1 in Colorado County, 2 in Fayette County, and 2 in Lee County have Star Ratings.<sup>15</sup>

## CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

Child Care Services are funded through the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), which is overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Child Care. The Texas Workforce Commission administers the child care program that subsidizes child care for low-income families, promoting long-term self-sufficiency by enabling parents to work or attend workforce training or education activities. Eligible families of children under the age of 13 may receive child care financial assistance so that parents can work, attend school, or participate in training. Eligible families may choose from the following providers that meet local and state requirements: licensed child care centers, licensed or registered child care homes, relative (i.e., family member) providers.

The average yearly cost of full-time child care in Texas is between \$7,000 to \$9,000, depending on the age of the child. Due to Texas' state budget, child care subsidy has been frozen many times. Waitlists for child care subsidy are long and only 10% of eligible children receive child care subsidy. In 2015, only 478 children ages 0-12 in Bastrop County, 96 children in Colorado County, 71 children in Fayette County, and 74 children in Lee County received child care subsidy. In addition, some child care providers do not accept child care subsidy (see previous page).

Without child care subsidy, Early Head Start and Head Start are the only no cost early childhood options provided to low-income parents within the four-county service area. All other early childhood options require that parents pay a fee for infants, toddlers, or preschoolers to attend; pre-kindergarten programs at local public schools often charge a sliding-scale fee. The lack of center-based affordable child care makes it difficult for low-income families to work without child care subsidies, especially for parents of infants and toddlers.

## CHILD WELFARE

### CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Nearly 700,000 children are abused in the U.S annually; an estimated 676,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in 2016. Children in their first year of life have the highest rate of victimization at 24.8 per 1,000 children. Of the children who experienced maltreatment or abuse, 74.8% suffered from neglect; 18.2% suffered physical abuse; and 8.5% suffered sexual abuse. For all victims younger than 1 year, percentages of victims with an alcohol abuse risk factor increased from 3.1% in 2012 to 4.8% in 2016, and victims with a drug abuse child risk factor increased from 3.1% to 4.8%.<sup>16</sup>

Substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect under age 5 changed between 2012 and 2017 as follows:

- Bastrop County: 425 in 2012 to 449 in 2017, an increase of 5.7%.
- Colorado County: 81 in 2012 to 60 in 2017, a decrease of -26.3%.
- Fayette County: 80 in 2012 to 95 in 2017, an increase of 18.8%.
- Lee County: 63 in 2012 to 85 in 2017, an increase of 34.9%.<sup>17</sup>

Accepted reports of abuse or neglect with less immediate safety risks are routed to *Alternative Response* (AR). AR differs from traditional investigations because there is no final case disposition or designation of a perpetrator and work with families is more collaborative. An AR case can change to a traditional investigation if new information prompts higher safety concerns. Between 2016 and 2017, AR cases increased as follows: Bastrop County—391 to 933 (138.6%); Colorado County—0 to 9; Fayette County—69 to 337 (388.4%); and Lee County—70 to 120 (71.4%).

#### Confirmed Abuse/Neglect Cases

Age	0 - 11 Months		1 Year Old		2 Years Old		3 Years Old		4 Years Old		Total	
	Count	Per 100k	Count	Per 100k	Count	Per 100k	Count	Per 100k	Count	Per 100k	Count	Per 100k
<b>Bastrop County</b>	132	5.87	88	3.91	85	3.77	76	3.38	68	3.02	<b>449</b>	<b>19.95</b>
<b>Colorado County</b>	15	3.02	14	2.82	12	2.41	8	1.61	11	2.21	<b>60</b>	<b>12.07</b>
<b>Fayette County</b>	31	5.74	17	3.14	17	3.15	20	3.70	10	1.85	<b>95</b>	<b>17.58</b>
<b>Lee County</b>	23	5.64	17	4.17	16	3.93	14	3.43	15	3.68	<b>85</b>	<b>20.85</b>

Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2017

## SUBSTITUTE CARE

Substitute care is the temporary placement of children outside of their homes due to abuse, neglect or dependency and can include foster care, home-of-relative care, group homes or institutions. Substitute care is not intended as a permanent living arrangement, but to protect the child with the goal of returning the child to the parents once they can provide a safe and stable home. In 2017, the rates of children under the age of five placed in in substitute care were: 36.8% (82) in Bastrop County; 38.5% (5) in Colorado County; 39.6% (21) in Fayette County; and 56% (14) in Lee County. Between 2015 and 2017, the number of children placed in substitute care decreased in all counties.

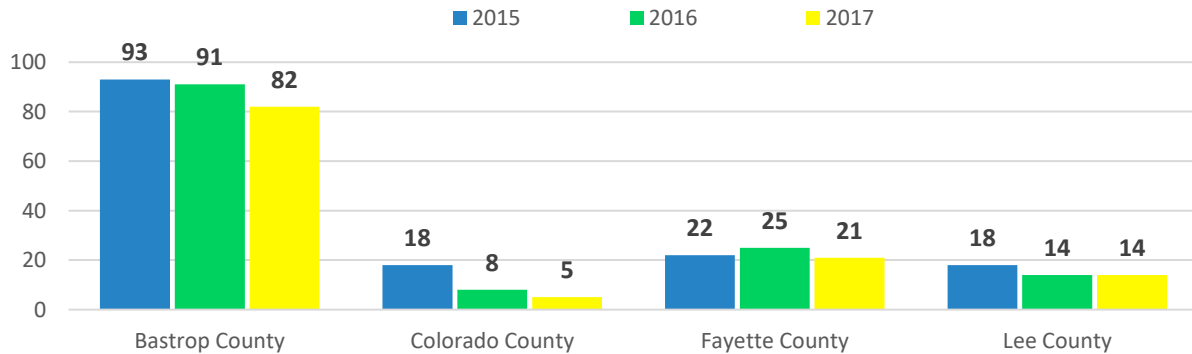
### Substitute Care Placements--2017

Age	0 - 11 Months	1 Year Old	2 Years Old	3 Years Old	4 Years Old	5-18 Years Old	Total 0-18
<b>Bastrop County</b>	15 (7.0%)	17 (7.9%)	21 (9.8%)	14 (6.5%)	12 (5.6%)	135 (63.2%)	<b>214</b>
<b>Colorado County</b>	0 (0.0%)	1 (7.7%)	1 (7.7%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (23.1%)	8 (61.5%)	<b>13</b>
<b>Fayette County</b>	0 (0.0%)	3 (5.7%)	5 (9.4%)	9 (17.0%)	4 (7.5%)	32 (60.4%)	<b>53</b>
<b>Lee County</b>	3 (12.0%)	5 (20.0%)	2 (8.0%)	2 (8.0%)	2 (8.0%)	11 (44%)	<b>25</b>

Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2017

### Substitute Care Placements Under Age Five

Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2015-2017



During 2016-2017, 8 (3.3%) Early Head Start children and 17 (4.3%) Head Start children were in foster care at some point during the program year. One percent of Early Head Start children and 1% of Head Start children were being raised by a grandparent or another relative, due to a parent's absence.

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

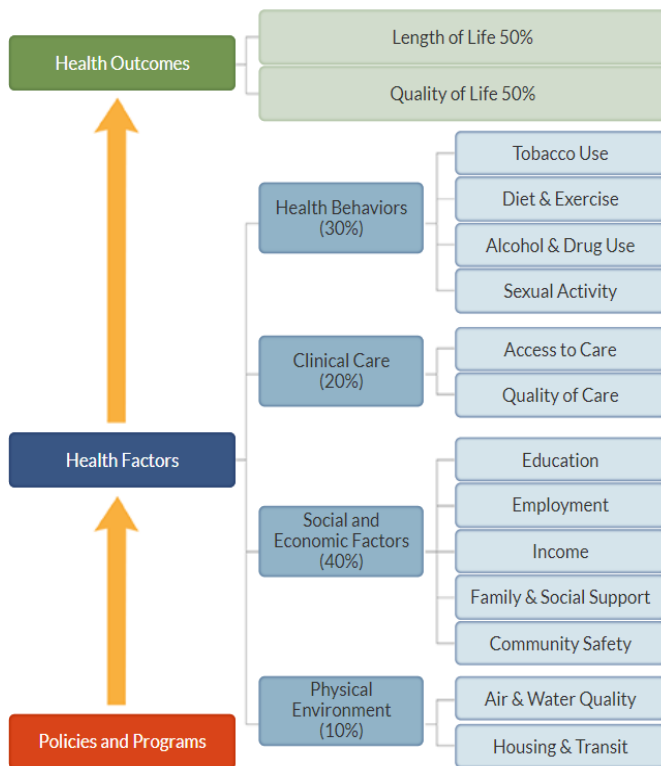
## COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

The 254 Texas counties are ranked against one another across the state, as well as across 34 measures of health behaviors, clinical care, physical environment, and health outcomes. Health Outcomes represent measures of how long people live and how healthy people feel. Health Factors represent the focus areas that drive how long and how well we live, including health behaviors.<sup>18</sup>

County Health Rankings

	Bastrop County		Colorado County		Fayette County		Lee County	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
<b>Overall Health Outcomes</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>62</b>
Length of Life	89	93	171	138	43	41	76	92
Quality of Life	59	95	70	106	8	15	33	59
<b>Health Factors</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>72</b>
Health Behaviors	190	207	69	32	25	12	45	105
Clinical Care	113	117	84	124	48	64	57	79
Social & Economic Factors	100	75	91	98	43	38	67	85
Physical Environment	137	191	111	175	143	151	65	59

Source: [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)



As of 2018, the counties in the service area are ranked as follows: Bastrop County (80<sup>th</sup>); Colorado County (125<sup>th</sup>); Fayette County (17<sup>th</sup>); and Lee County (62<sup>nd</sup>).



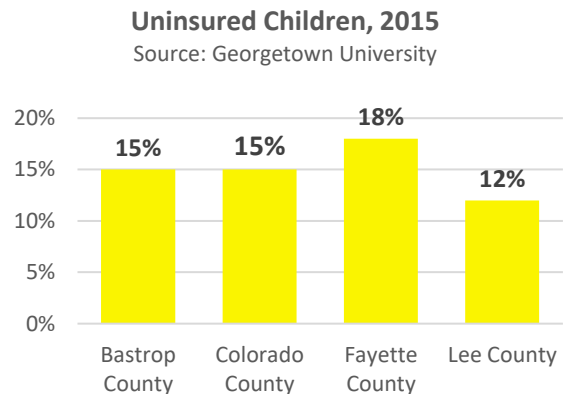
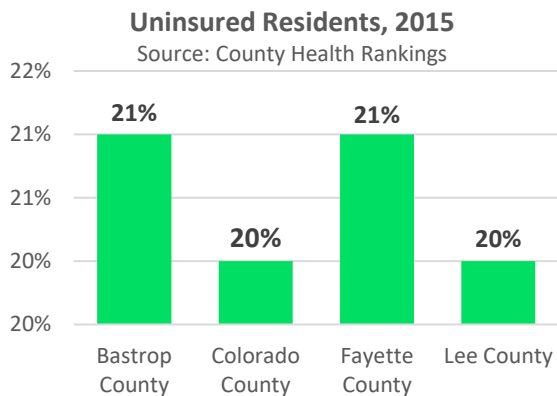
## HEALTH INSURANCE

Children without health insurance coverage are less likely than insured children to have a regular health care provider and to receive care when needed. Instead, they are likely to begin receiving treatment after their condition has worsened, putting them at greater risk of hospitalization. Having health insurance can protect families from financial devastation and can help children remain healthy, active and in school.<sup>19</sup>

*STAR* is Texas's Medicaid program for children, newborns and expectant women. *STAR* provides no-cost health coverage to eligible children and expectant mothers for routine check-ups, immunizations, and dental care to keep them healthy.

CHIP is designed for families who earn too much to qualify for *STAR*, but not enough to pay for private health insurance. To qualify, an applicant must: be a child age 18 and under or a pregnant woman age 19 and over; be a Texas resident; be income eligible; and not have other health insurance. Enrollment fees and co-pays are based on the family's income. Enrollment fees are \$50 or less per family, per year. Co-pays for doctor visits and prescriptions range from \$3 to \$5 for lower-income families and \$20 to \$35 for higher-income families.

The 2010 Affordable Care Act brought an increase of people with health insurance; however, some children and families are still uninsured. As of 2015, between 20% and 21% of all residents in the four-county area are uninsured; between 12% and 18% of children are uninsured. In January 2018, Congress passed reauthorization of CHIP, renewing the program for another six years.



## OBESITY

Overweight is defined as a Body Mass Index (BMI) at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile and below the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for children and teens of the same age and gender. Obesity is defined as a BMI at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for children and teens of the same age and gender.<sup>20</sup>

Texas has the eighth highest obesity rate in the nation, according to *The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America* released in August 2017. As of 2016, Texas's adult obesity rate was 33.7%, up from 30.1% in 2010, from 21.7% in 2000 and from 10.7% in 1990. Obesity among African-Americans is highest at 42.4% and the second highest among Latinos at 37.4%, both significantly higher than the 29.2% obesity rate of Whites in Texas.<sup>21</sup>

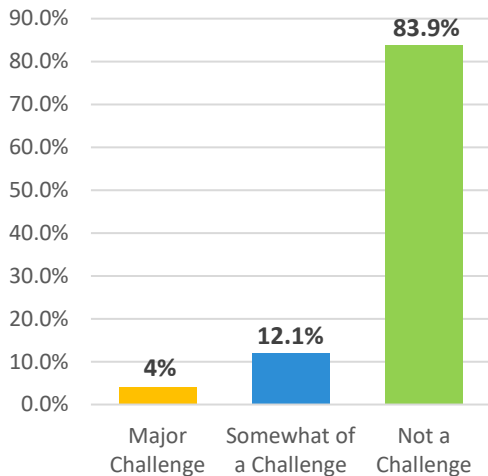
In Texas, obesity rates declined among 2- to 4-year-olds enrolled in WIC from 2010 to 2014. Childhood obesity in Texas is ranked as the 16<sup>th</sup> highest state, despite the rate dropping from 16.9% to 14.9%.<sup>22</sup>

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

One in six U.S. adults (44.7 million in 2016) lives with a mental illness; in 2016, 19.2 million (43.1%) received mental health services. In 2016, there were an estimated 10.4 million (4.2%) U.S. adults aged 18 or older who experienced a serious mental illness that substantially interfered with or limited one or more major life activities; 6.7 million (64.8%) received mental health treatment.<sup>23</sup> Mental illness can have devastating effects on children and families in Texas, particularly when individuals go undiagnosed or untreated.

### Depression in the Home

Source: 2018 Family Survey



The 2018 Family Survey reveals that 4% of respondents feel that “Depression in the Home” is a “major challenge” and 12.1% of respondents feel it is “somewhat of a challenge.”

Following are the rates of mental health providers per 100,000 people: Bastrop County (64.0); Colorado County (14.4); Fayette County (20.1); and Lee County (47.7)<sup>24</sup>, significantly lower than the state of Texas (102.3) and the United States (202.8). While Bastrop County has approximately 50 mental health providers, Colorado County has just 3; Fayette County has just 5; and Lee County has just 8 mental health providers. Fewer providers result in longer waiting periods for residents in need of mental health services.

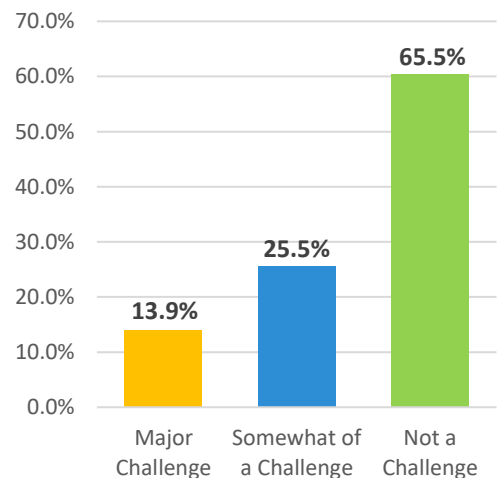
## ORAL HEALTH SERVICES

While Medicaid covers oral health services for children living below poverty, coverage for adults is unaffordable for many families, especially those without employment benefits. Of families surveyed, 13.9% expressed that affordable dental care is a “major challenge” and 25.5% find it to be “somewhat of a concern.”

Rates of dentists per 100,000 people in Bastrop (28.6), Colorado (28.8), and Lee (29.6) counties are much lower than Texas (54.1) and the U.S. (65.6). Fayette County has a higher rate of dentists (51.8).<sup>25</sup> Lack of affordable dental care and access to dentists may result in reduced dental care utilization and poor oral health. Tooth and gum infections are associated with heart disease, depression, and increased health concerns for people with diabetes.

### Affordable Dental Care

Source: 2018 Family Survey



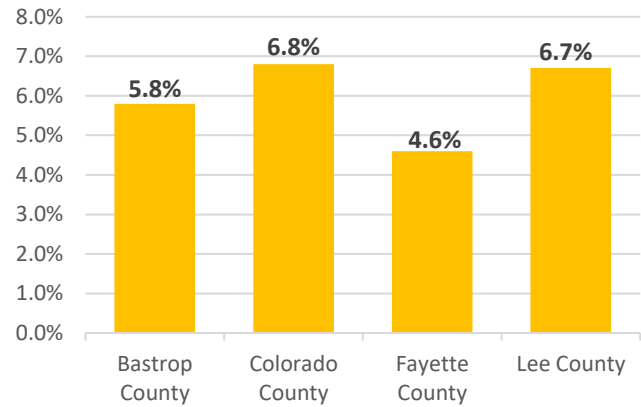
## BIRTH OUTCOMES

### PRENATAL CARE

In 2015, 5.8% of expectant mothers in Bastrop County; 6.8% in Colorado County; 4.6% in Fayette County; and 6.7% in Lee County received no prenatal care or no prenatal care until the third trimester.

### Lack of Prenatal Care

Source: Texas Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2015

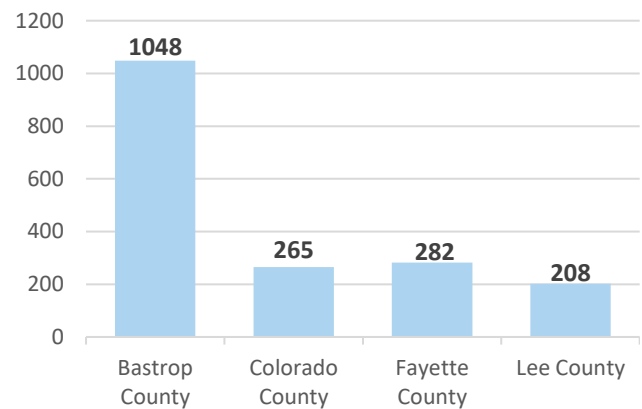


### LIVE BIRTHS

In 2015, 1048 children were born in Bastrop County; 265 in Colorado County, 282 in Fayette County; and 208 in Lee County. A total of 1,803 babies were born in the four-county service area, representing the current, approximate number of expectant mothers.<sup>26</sup>

### Live Births

Source: Texas Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2015

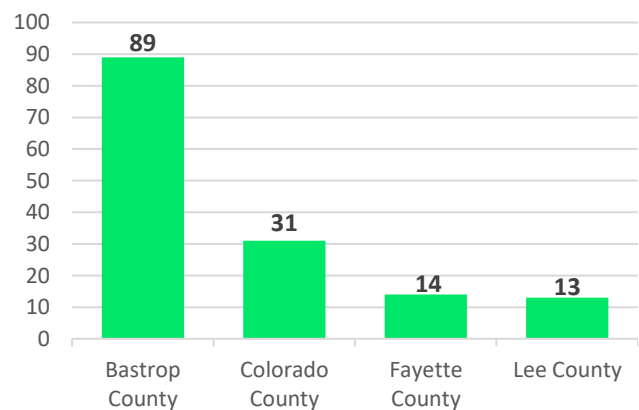


### LOW BIRTH WEIGHTS

Rates of babies born with a low birth weight (under 5.5 lbs.) are as follows: Bastrop County 8.5% (13); Colorado County 11.7% (31); Fayette County 5% (14); and Lee County 6.3 (13%). Low birth weights can cause serious health problems for babies. The goal of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Healthy People 2020) is to have low birth weight rates to 7.8% or less by 2020.

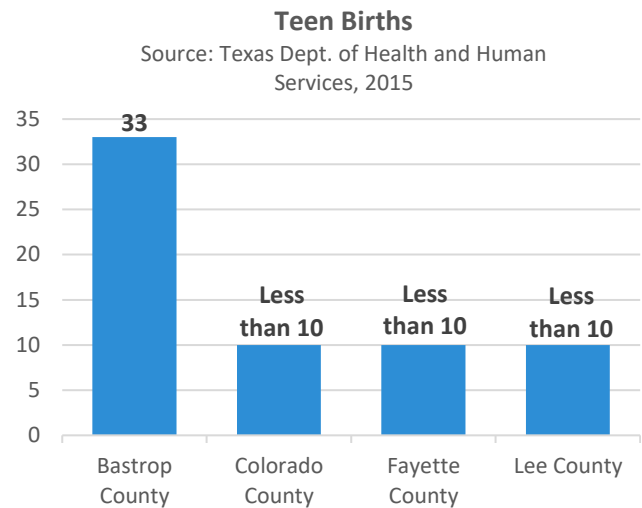
### Low Birth Weights

Source: Texas Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2015



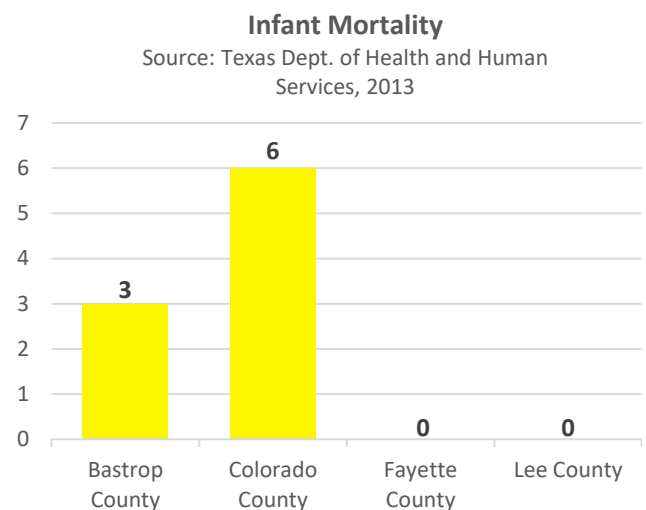
## TEENS BIRTHS

In 2015, the numbers of babies born to teens under the age of 17 were as follows: 33 in Bastrop County and less than 10 in Colorado, Fayette, and Lee counties.



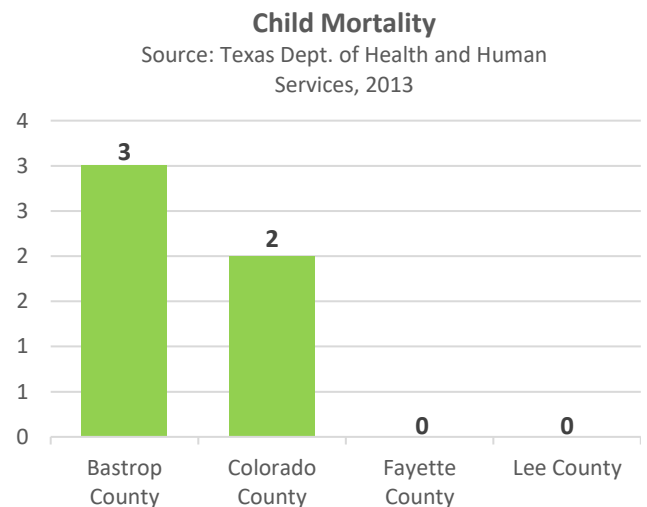
## INFANT MORTALITY

The infant mortality rate (number of deaths before an infant's first birthday per 1,000 births) provides insight into the health of infants, mothers, and the larger community. Since 2012, Texas overall has met the Healthy People 2020 target for infant mortality (6 or fewer deaths for every 1000 live births) and has an infant mortality rate lower than the national rate.<sup>27</sup> In 2013, Bastrop County had 3 infant deaths and Colorado County had 6 infant deaths.



## CHILD MORTALITY

In 2013, there were 3 child deaths (ages 1-12) in Bastrop County and 2 child deaths in Colorado County.



## FOOD AND NUTRITION

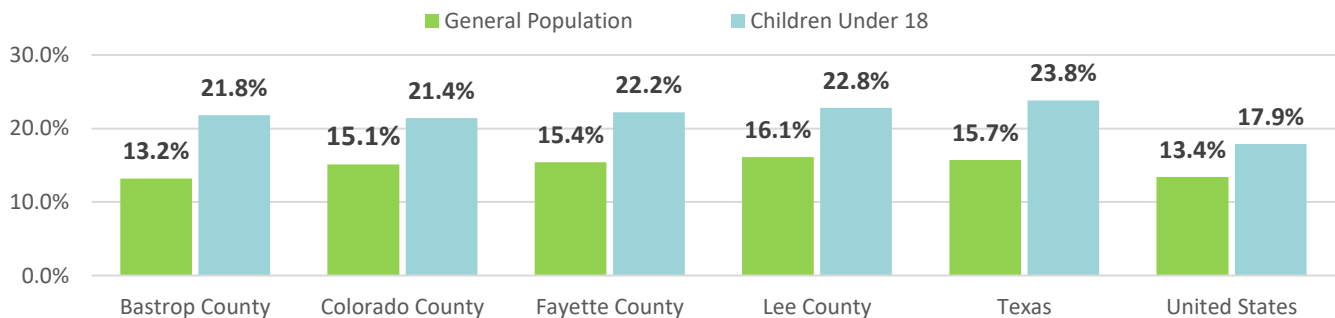
### FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity refers to the USDA's measure of lack of access to a sufficient amount of food for an active, healthy life for all household members, and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods. Families may intentionally keep their food insecurity hidden due to shame or embarrassment that they are unable to adequately feed their children. The first three years of a child's life are a period of rapid brain development; too little energy, protein and nutrients can lead to lasting deficits in cognitive, social, and emotional development. Hunger reduces a child's motor skills, activity level and motivation to explore the environment.<sup>28</sup>

Texas's household food insecurity rate fell from 17% in 2014 to 15.7% in 2015; the child insecurity rate fell from 25.6% in 2014 to 23.8% in 2015. While the child food insecurity rate has dropped, 1 in 4 children in Texas are still food insecure. As of 2015, child food insecurity rates were as follows: Bastrop County (21.8%); Colorado County (21.4%); Fayette County (22.2%); and Lee County (22.8%).

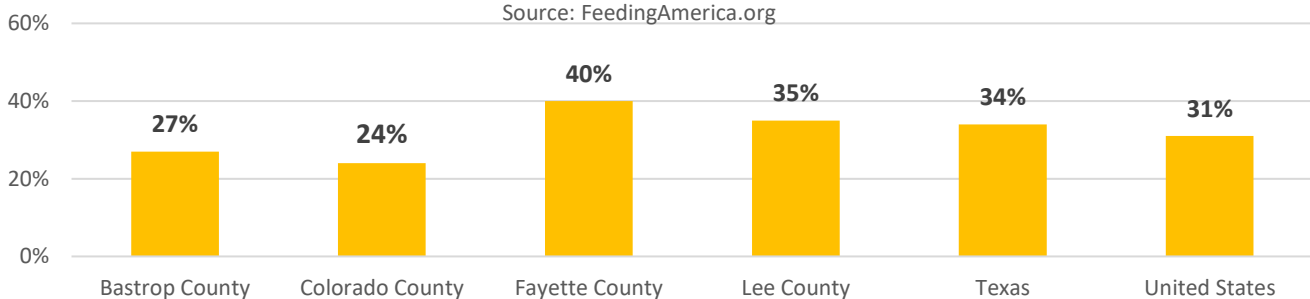
#### Population with Food Insecurity

Source: FeedingAmerica.org



#### Children with Food Insecurity Ineligible for Assistance

Source: FeedingAmerica.org



Within the area 16,064 public school students or 63.2% are eligible for Free/Reduced Price lunch out of 25,403 total students enrolled. Following are the percentages of eligible children: Bastrop County (66.6%); Colorado County (61.9%); Fayette County (51.7%); and Lee County (62.9%).

## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps low income individuals and families buy healthy, nutritious food. The Texas Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system uses the Lone Star Card to provide access to SNAP food benefits. EBT cards can be used at most grocery stores to buy food, ensuring that families have access to a healthy diet. Most individuals age 16 to 59 must follow work rules to get SNAP benefits, meaning a person must look for a job or be in an approved work program. An employed person cannot quit a job without an acceptable reason.

### Maximum Monthly SNAP Amount

Family size	Monthly SNAP amount
1	\$192
2	\$352
3	\$504
4	\$640
5	\$760

For each additional person, add: \$144

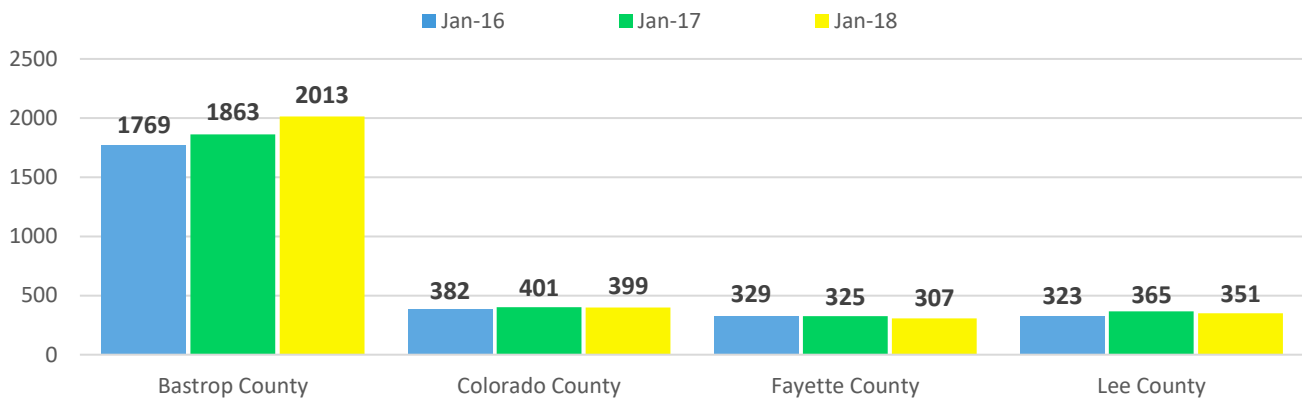
### Average Monthly SNAP Benefit Per Case

	January 2016	January 2017	January 2018
<b>Bastrop County</b>	\$248	\$274	\$244
<b>Colorado County</b>	\$300	\$243	\$283
<b>Fayette County</b>	\$250	\$238	\$246
<b>Lee County</b>	\$235	\$262	\$250

Source: Texas Health and Human Services, 2016-2018

### Children Under 5 Receiving SNAP

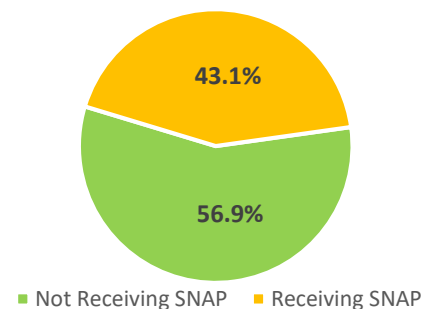
Source: Texas Health and Human Services, 2016-2018



Between 2014 and 2016, the percent of SNAP recipients under age five increased by 13.8% in Bastrop County; 4.5% in Colorado County; and 8.7% in Lee County. SNAP Recipients under age five decreased by -6.7% in Fayette County.

During 2016-2017, 43.1% of EHS/HS families received SNAP.

### 2016-2017 EHS/HS Families Receiving SNAP



## WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

WIC (Women, Infants and Children) is a supplemental nutrition program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered locally by the Texas Department of State Health Services. The program provides education on making nutritious choices, building positive eating habits, and improving health. Eligible participants are provided a Texas WIC card (EBT card) to purchase WIC-approved foods at authorized WIC grocery stores.

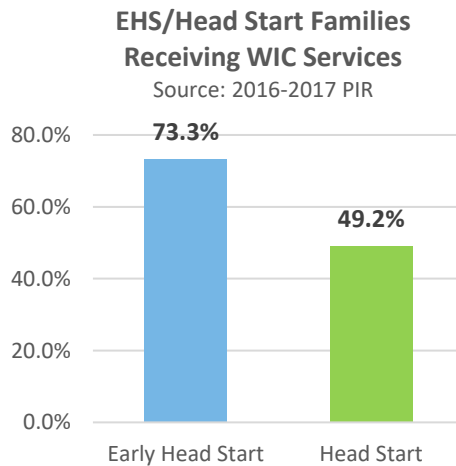
Eligible recipients must live in Texas; be pregnant or breastfeeding a baby under 1 year of age; have had a baby within the past six months; and/or have a child younger than 5 years and have a gross household income not exceeding 185% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. The average monthly benefit per person in fiscal year 2017 is \$27.08.

### Children Under 5 Enrolled in WIC

	2013	2014	2015
<b>Bastrop County</b>	1,681	1,686	1,664
<b>Colorado County</b>	481	483	464
<b>Fayette County</b>	359	346	323
<b>Lee County</b>	364	339	309

Between 2013 and 2015, the percent of children under age five enrolled in WIC decreased in all four counties: Bastrop County (-1.0%); Colorado County (-3.5%); Fayette County (-10.0%); and Lee County (-15.1%).

Source: Texas Department of Public Health and Environment



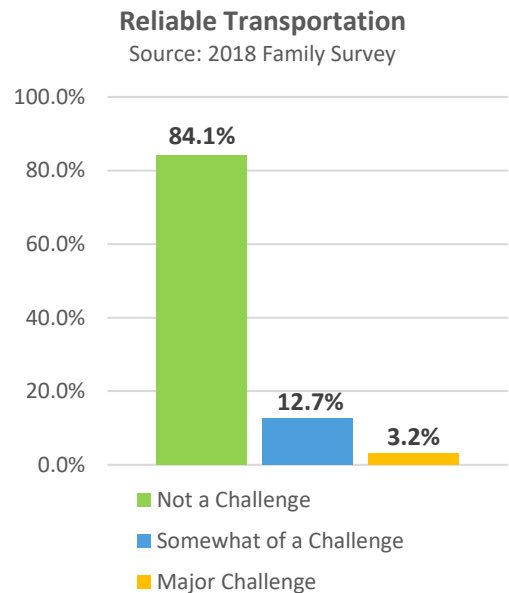
During the 2016-2017 program year, 73.3% (129) of Early Head Start families received WIC services. In comparison, only 49.2% (186) of Head Start families received WIC services.



## TRANSPORTATION

For families living in poverty without a reliable personal vehicle and limited public transit, the lack of transportation can be a significant barrier to achieving self-sufficiency. Lack of transportation is a barrier for families to: gain employment opportunities, attend health care appointments, refill prescriptions in a timely manner and to shop for groceries and necessities. For those families with a vehicle, some must share one car and coordinate schedules. Car repairs are another challenge, sometimes forcing a family to spend a whole month's salary that the family likely does not have in savings.

- It is estimated that the following households do not have a vehicle: 4.6% in Bastrop County; 4.8% in Colorado County; 4.3% in Fayette County; and 3.7% in Lee County.
- Of families who responded to the 2018 Family Survey, 90.8% indicate that they have reliable transportation; 6.4% do not have transportation; and 2.8% have a car needing repair.
- Of survey respondents to the 2018 Family Parent Survey, 3.2% indicate that access to reliable transportation is a “major challenge” and 12.7% indicate that it is “somewhat of a challenge.”



Public transportation is available in Bastrop County through the Bastrop Municipal Bus Service which offers regular fix/flex route service connecting neighborhoods with downtown businesses, the Marketplace, Wal-Mart Center, HEB, Burleson Crossing, Home Depot, the Courthouse, Justice Center, Bluebonnet Trails and the CARTS Station. However, routes are limited, and transit runs only Monday-Friday, 7:30-5:30. It is difficult for families to utilize public transportation to travel to work or to travel with young children. With frequent stops and the need to transfer routes, it can take over an hour for a person to reach a destination using public transit.

In other counties, rides are available through the Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS), however, rides are scheduled Monday-Friday from 8:00-4:00. A 24-hour advance notice is recommended, making it difficult to access transportation for immediate, unplanned needs.

Taxis are extremely limited and transportation such as Uber is non-existent throughout the four-county service area.

## CRIME AND VIOLENCE

More than 15 million children in the United States live in homes in which domestic violence has occurred at least once.<sup>29</sup> These children are at greater risk for repeating the cycle as adults by entering abusive relationships or becoming abusers themselves. Children who witness or are victims of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse are at higher risk for health problems as adults. These risks can include mental health conditions, such as depression and anxiety.<sup>30</sup> Family violence incidents involving law enforcement in 2016 were as follows: Bastrop County (662); Colorado County (64); Fayette County (35); and Lee County (85).

### Family Violence

	Incidents Involving Law Enforcement
<b>Bastrop County</b>	662
<b>Colorado County</b>	64
<b>Fayette County</b>	35
<b>Lee County</b>	85

Source: Texas Dept. of Public Safety, 2016

### Crimes per 100,000 Population

	Bastrop County		Colorado County		Fayette County		Lee County	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Murder/Manslaughter*	5.0	10.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
Rape*	62.4	70.2	24.1	33.6	20.0	31.8	53.5	35.5
Robbery*	41.2	63.0	19.3	38.5	12.0	31.8	35.7	47.3
Assault*	230.7	310.0	183.4	182.6	200.3	186.9	136.8	153.8
Burglary	482.7	435.9	352.2	302.8	404.6	361.8	196.3	248.4
Larceny/Theft	1348.2	1466.3	892.6	644	817.3	731.5	1088.4	1117.8
Motor Vehicle Theft	138.4	180.3	115.8	139.4	64.1	51.7	59.5	59.1
<b>Total Crimes per 100,000</b>	<b>2308.5</b>	<b>2536.7</b>	<b>1587.5</b>	<b>1341.0</b>	<b>1518.4</b>	<b>1399.4</b>	<b>1570.1</b>	<b>1661.9</b>
<b>*Violent Crimes per 100,000</b>	<b>339.3</b>	<b>454.1</b>	<b>226.8</b>	<b>254.7</b>	<b>232.8</b>	<b>254.5</b>	<b>226.0</b>	<b>236.6</b>

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety, 2015-2016

The FBI defines violent crimes as offenses involving force or threat of force. Violent crime includes four offenses: murder/manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Following are the changes in the total of crimes and violent crimes per 100,000 people between 2015 and 2016:

- Bastrop County: Total crime offenses increased by 9.9%; violent crimes increased by 33.8%.
- Colorado County: Total crime offenses decreased by -15.5%; violent crimes increased by 12.3%.
- Fayette County: Total crime offenses decreased by -7.8%; violent crimes increased by 9.3%.
- Lee County: Total crime offenses increased by 5.9%; violent crimes increased by 4.4%.

Of respondents to the 2018 Family Survey, 2.2% indicate that community violence is a “major challenge” and 5.8% indicate that it is “sometimes a challenge.”

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Nationally and in Texas, substance abuse is a growing and significant public health concern. In 2016, there were 1,375 opioid-related overdose deaths in Texas, a rate of 4.9 deaths per 100,000 persons compared to the national rate of 13.3 deaths per 100,000 persons. Since 2010, the number of heroin-related deaths steadily increased from 260 to 530 deaths, and deaths attributed to synthetic opioids (mainly fentanyl) rose from 156 to 250.<sup>31</sup>

In 2016, the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office reactivated its Narcotics unit to fight drug cartels and gangs; this was in response to heightened drug crimes, violence and nine homicides during a three-month period along the Bastrop and Travis County line. In 2015, Bastrop, Colorado and Lee counties had less than ten opioid-related deaths; exact data is unavailable. Fayette County reported zero opioid-related deaths.<sup>32</sup>

In 2016, the Texas Department of State Health Services, in conjunction with the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University, conducted its fifteenth biennial Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use (TSS).<sup>33</sup> The TSS was first implemented in 1988. The study finds:

- Alcohol remains the most commonly used substance among Texas students. In 2014, 50.5% of students reported that they had used alcohol at some point in their lives. In 2016, 52.7% of students reported that they had used alcohol at some point in their lives. Past-month alcohol use also increased from 21.2% in 2014 to 28.6% in 2016.
- Binge drinking, defined as having five or more drinks at one time in the past month, was reported by 11.5% of students in 2016, down from 13.8% of students in 2014.
- Tobacco use among students increased. Lifetime use of any tobacco product increased from 22.4% in 2014 to 30.4% in 2016. Past-month use of tobacco was 8.4% in 2014 and 14.5% in 2016.

Of respondents to the 2018 Head Start/Early Head Start Family Survey, 2.7% express that drug or alcohol abuse in the home is a "major challenge" and 1.4% express that it is "somewhat of a challenge." Due to stigma and fears of police involvement or having their children removed, many families do not reveal drug or alcohol abuse in their homes.

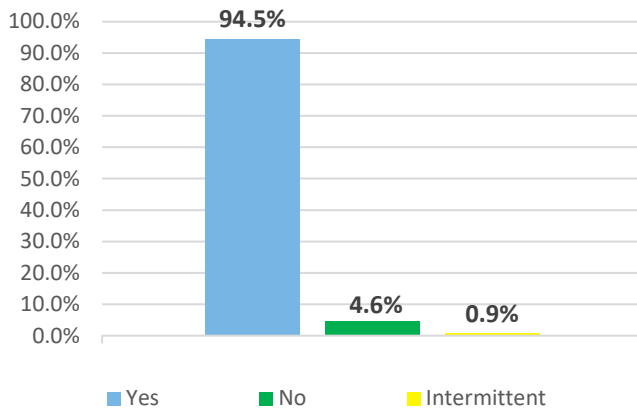
## COMMUNICATION

Online services and the need to access a computer or a smart phone is becoming increasingly important due to readily available information via online websites and mobile applications. Especially in areas where transportation is difficult to access, the lack of internet access greatly limits families from easily: searching for jobs, filling out online job applications, paying bills, banking, helping school-age children with homework, finding community resources, looking for housing, and accessing general information.

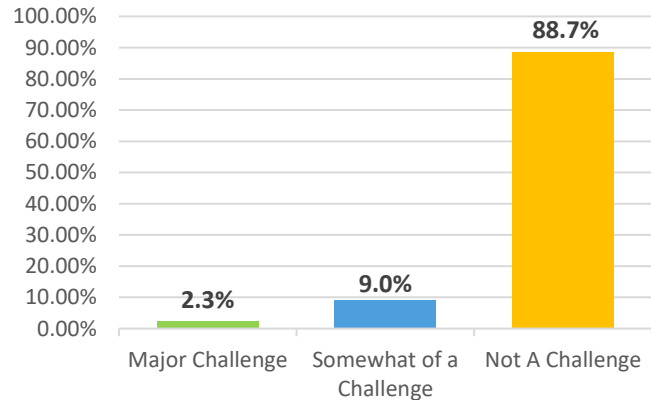
The 2018 Head Start/Early Head Start Family Survey data indicates that 94.5% of respondents have a computer, or a smartphone or iPad/tablet with internet access; 4.6% do not have access and .9% have intermittent access.

Of survey respondents, 88.7% have phone access; 2.3% indicate that access to phone service is a “major challenge” and 9% of respondents find access to be “somewhat of a challenge.”

**Families Owning Technology with Internet Access**  
Source: 2018 Family Survey



**Phone Access**  
Source: 2018 Family Survey

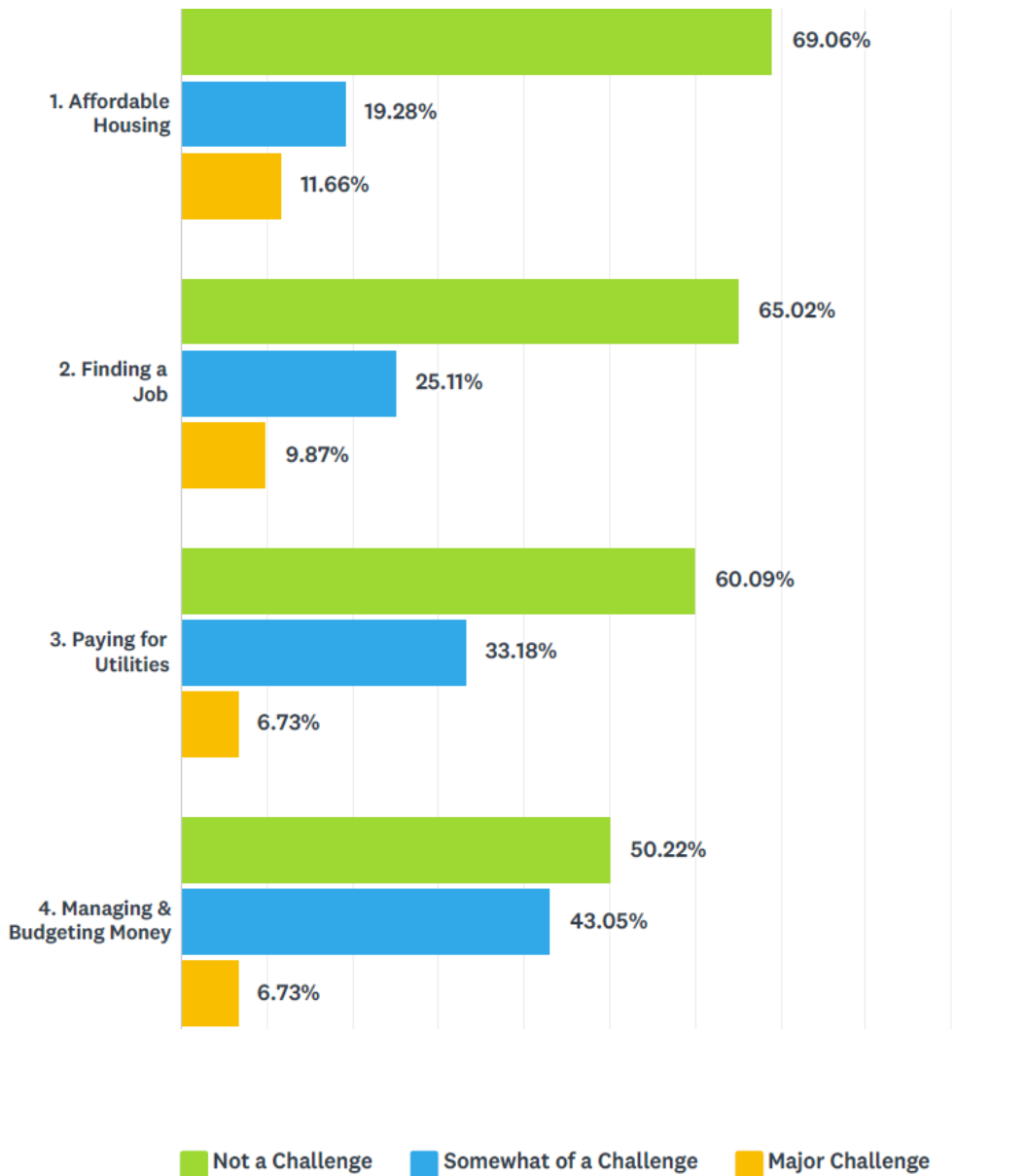


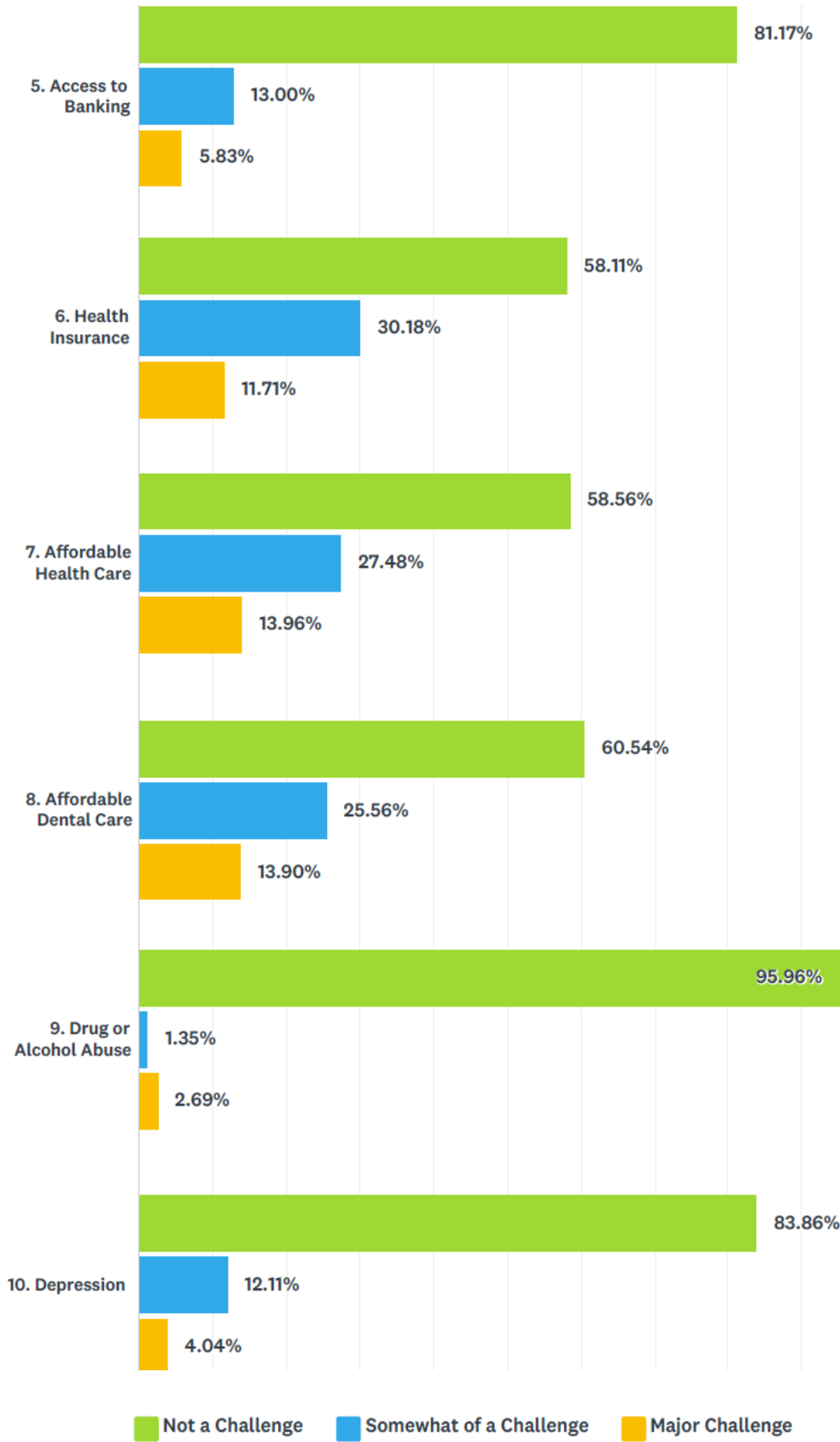
# SURVEYS

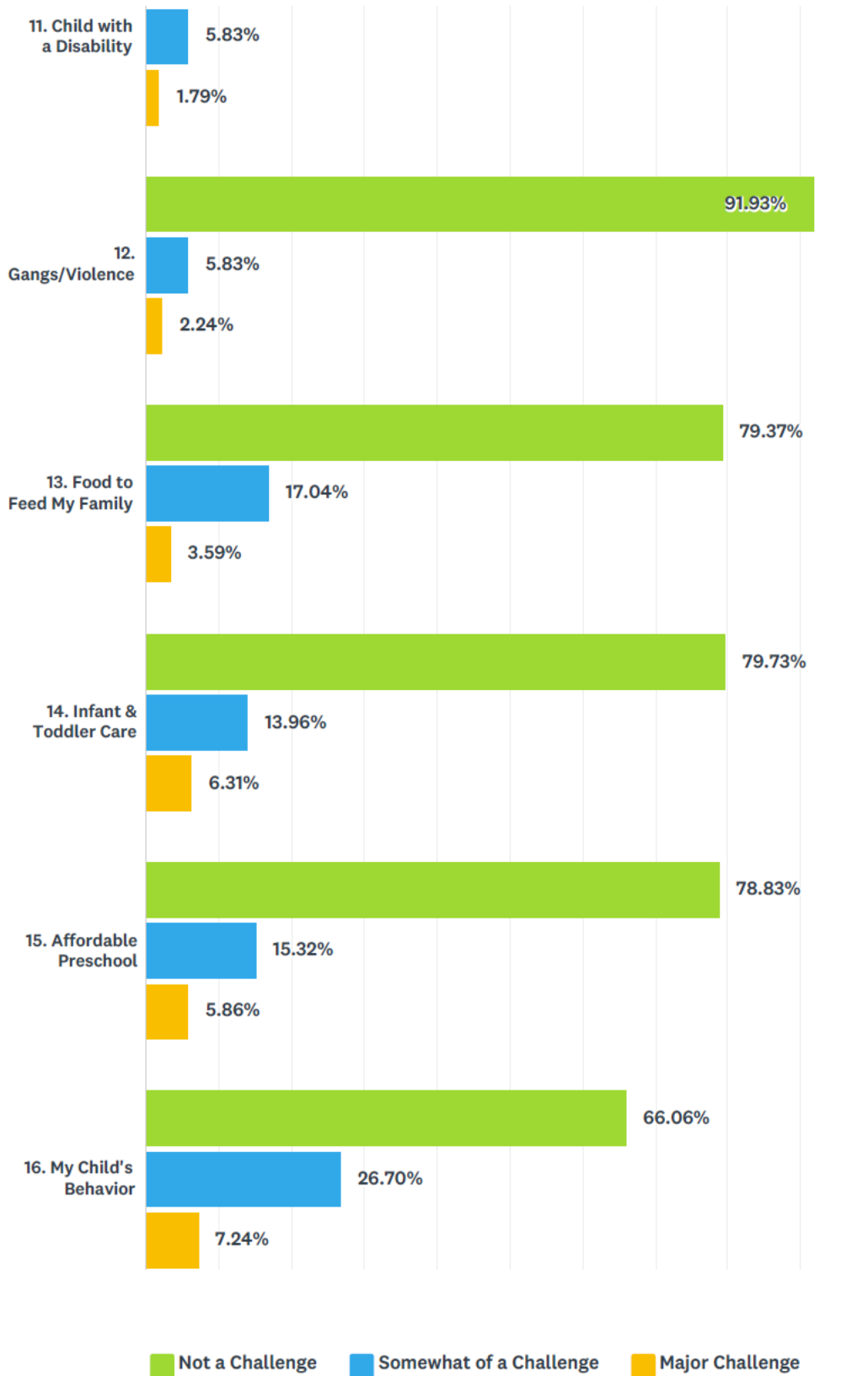
## FAMILY SURVEY

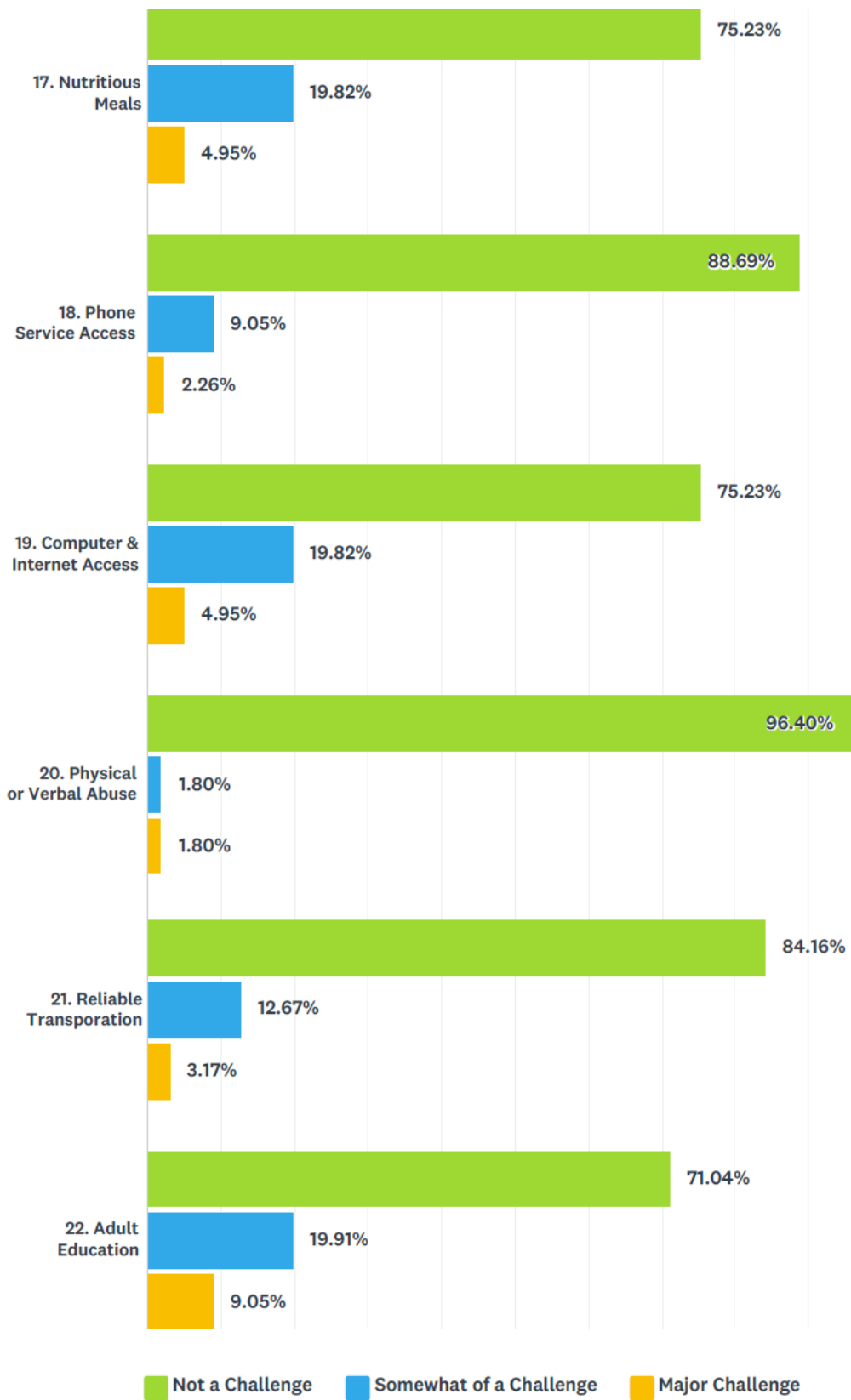
As part of the Community Assessment process, a survey was given to all Early Head Start and Head Start families. A total of 223 families responded, many who have multiple children enrolled in the program. Of respondents, 81.9% (181) are from Bastrop County, 7.2% (16) are from Colorado County, less than 1% (1) are from Fayette County, and 10.4% (23) are from Lee County.

*Please choose to what extent each issue is, or is not, a challenge for your family.*

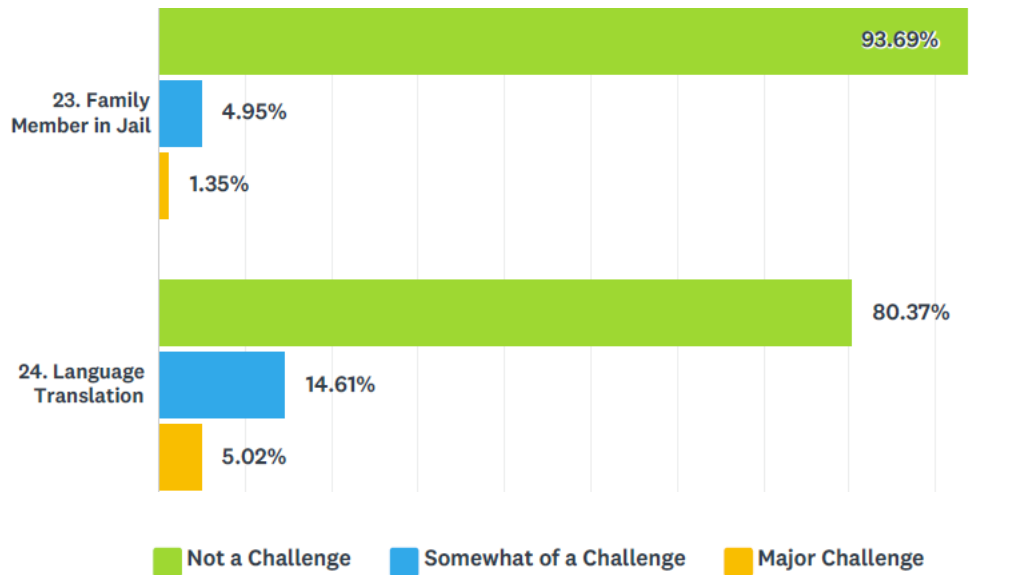












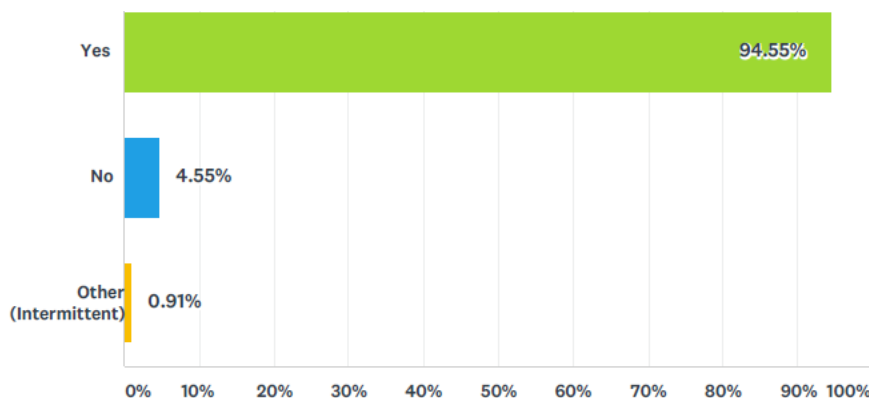
**Which of the following are the 3 MOST challenging for your family? Choose only 3.**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1. Affordable Housing	23.32%	52
2. Finding a Job	17.49%	39
3. Utilities	16.59%	37
4. Budgeting Money	26.91%	60
5. Banking Services	2.69%	6
6. Health Insurance	19.28%	43
7. Affordable Health Care	15.70%	35
8. Affordable Dental Care	15.25%	34
9. Drug/Alcohol Abuse	0.90%	2
10. Depression	6.73%	15
11. Child with Disabilities	4.93%	11
12. Gangs/Violence	2.24%	5
13. Adequate Food	6.28%	14
14. Quality Care for Infant/Toddler	5.83%	13
15. Quality Care for Preschooler	2.69%	6
16. Children's Behaviors	15.70%	35
17. Nutritious Meals	12.56%	28
18. Phone Service	0.90%	2
19. Computer/Internet	12.56%	28
20. Physical/Verbal Abuse	0.45%	1
21. Reliable Transportation	2.69%	6
22. Adult Education and Training	14.35%	32
23. Family Member in Jail	3.14%	7
24. Language Translation	8.52%	19
Other (please specify)	16.14%	36
Total Respondents: 223		

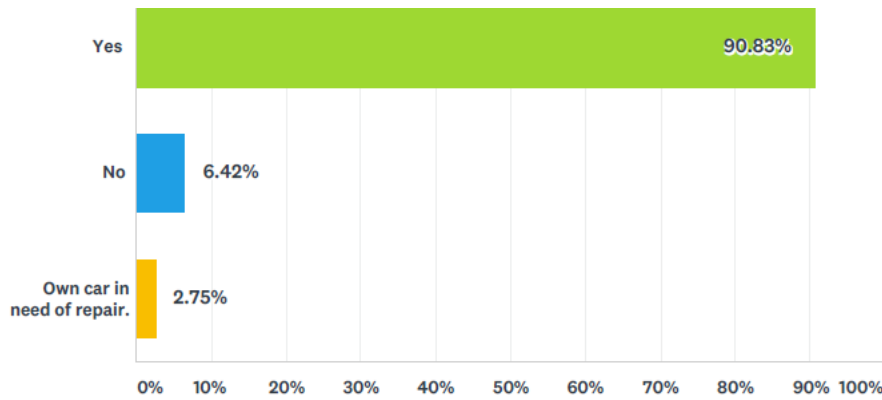
**Regarding your experience at Head Start/Early Head Start (EHS), please choose to what extent you agree or disagree.**

	AGREE STRONGLY	AGREE SOMEWHAT	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE SOMEWHAT	DISAGREE STRONGLY	TOTAL
1. My child and my family are treated with respect.	95.45% 210	3.18% 7	0.00% 0	1.36% 3	0.00% 0	220
2. The program hours of operation meet my needs.	81.98% 182	10.81% 24	2.25% 5	3.60% 8	1.35% 3	222
3. I have been encouraged to set and obtain goals for self or family.	88.74% 197	9.46% 21	0.90% 2	0.45% 1	0.45% 1	222
4. Information is provided in my family's home language.	95.48% 211	3.62% 8	0.00% 0	0.45% 1	0.45% 1	221
5. The hours for parent meetings/socializations are convenient for me.	74.77% 166	13.06% 29	4.50% 10	5.41% 12	2.25% 5	222
6. I regularly receive information about my child's development.	88.29% 196	8.11% 18	1.35% 3	0.90% 2	1.35% 3	222
7. My child is cared for in a safe and clean environment.	94.57% 209	4.07% 9	0.45% 1	0.90% 2	0.00% 0	221

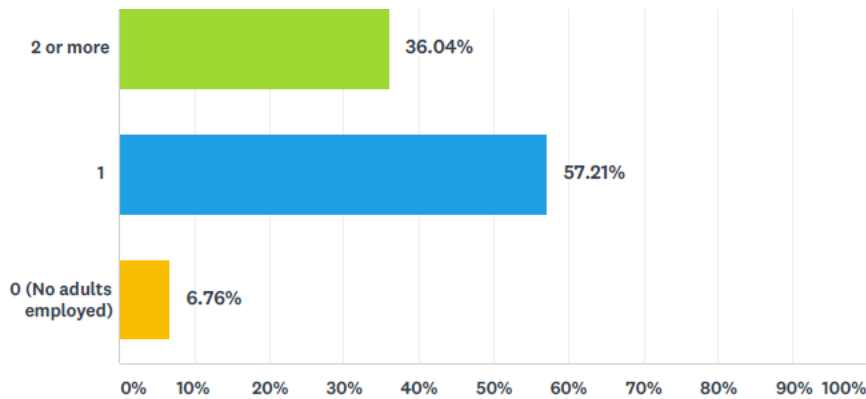
**Do you have a computer, or a Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with internet access?**



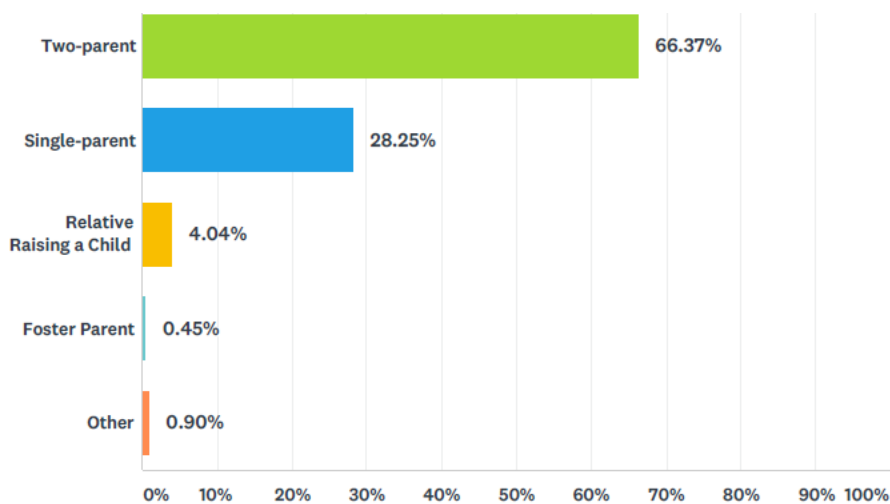
***Do you own a reliable vehicle?***



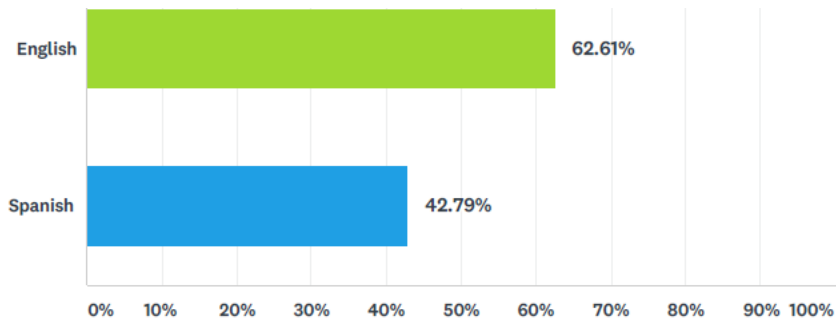
***Including yourself, how many adults in your home are currently employed?***



***Which best describes your family?***



***In which language do you speak most often?***



***Which race/ethnicity best describes you?***

American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.00%	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.45%	1
Black or African American	13.45%	30
White, Hispanic	64.13%	143
White, Non-Hispanic	14.80%	33
Multiple Races/Ethnicities	3.59%	8
Prefer not to answer	3.59%	8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>223</b>

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

As part of the Community Assessment process, a survey was sent to Community Agencies; forty-one agencies completed the survey. Of respondents, 84.2% provide services in Bastrop County, 23.7% in Colorado County, 34.2% in Fayette County, and 36.8% provide services in Lee County (Note: Some respondents provide services in multiple counties.)

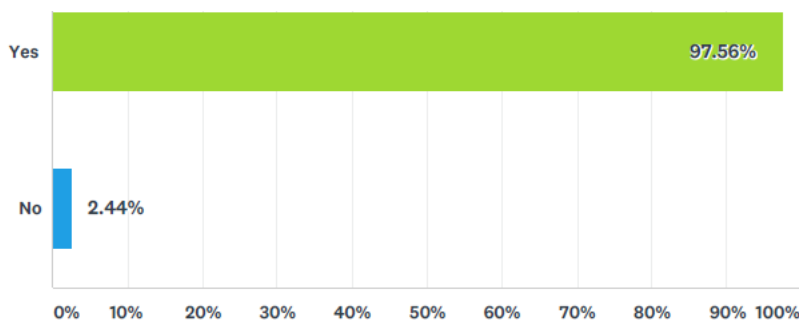
***Consider the families living in poverty within your community and select the response that best describes to what extent each item is, or is not, a problem for families.***

	NEVER OR SELDOM A CHALLENGE	SOMETIMES A CHALLENGE	OFTEN OR CONSISTENTLY A CHALLENGE
Affordable Housing	0.00% 0	17.07% 7	82.93% 34
Availability of Jobs which pay a "Living Wage"	2.44% 1	21.95% 9	75.61% 31
Access to Public Transportation	0.00% 0	29.27% 12	70.73% 29
Adult Education Opportunities (i.e. GED, ESL, College Classes)	4.88% 2	60.98% 25	34.15% 14
Availability of Job Training	7.32% 3	41.46% 17	51.22% 21
Affordable Health Insurance	0.00% 0	26.83% 11	73.17% 30
Affordable Health Care	2.44% 1	41.46% 17	56.10% 23
Access to Mental Health Services	12.20% 5	65.85% 27	21.95% 9
Affordable Dental Providers	4.88% 2	41.46% 17	53.66% 22
Illegal Drug or Prescription Drug Abuse	2.44% 1	34.15% 14	63.41% 26
Access to Local Grocery Stores or Farmers Markets	29.27% 12	58.54% 24	12.20% 5
Availability of Services for Children with Disabilities	12.20% 5	60.98% 25	26.83% 11
Availability of Child Care for Infants and Toddlers	4.88% 2	43.90% 18	51.22% 21
Availability of Preschool or Child Care for Children Ages 3-5	9.76% 4	60.98% 25	29.27% 12
Availability of After School Care for School Aged Children	21.95% 9	48.78% 20	29.27% 12
Affordable Child Care Costs or use of Child Care Subsidy	4.88% 2	29.27% 12	65.85% 27
Community Violence	29.27% 12	60.98% 25	9.76% 4

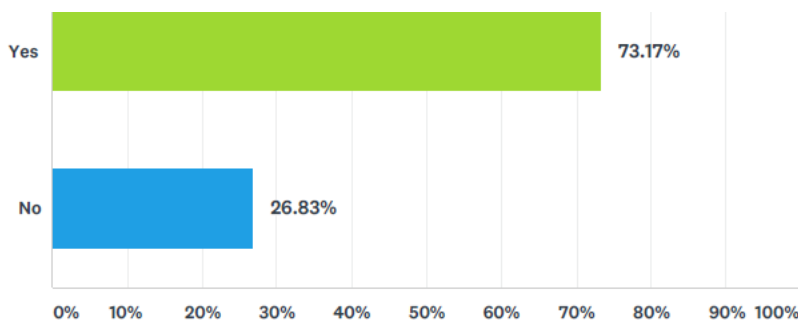
**Barriers to Self-Sufficiency: In your opinion, what are the top three community conditions that most often prevent families from moving from poverty to self-sufficiency in your community?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1. Lack of Available Jobs	24.39%	10
2. Low Wage Jobs	56.10%	23
3. Lack of Job Skills	21.95%	9
4. Low Educational Attainment	14.63%	6
5. Cost of Child Care	31.71%	13
6. Reliable Transportation	36.59%	15
7. Poor Credit History	2.44%	1
8. Burden of High Debt	0.00%	0
9. Costs of Health Care/Insurance	7.32%	3
10. Illegal Immigration Status	19.51%	8
10. Undiagnosed/Untreated Mental Health Issues	4.88%	2
11. Increased Costs of Housing	53.66%	22
12. History of Dependence on Public Assistance	17.07%	7
13. Substance Abuse	9.76%	4
Total Respondents: 41		

**Are you familiar with Cen Tex’s Head Start/Early Head Start program?**



**Have you referred a parent or family to Cen-Tex in the past year?**



**Please choose the response that BEST describes your current relationship with Cen-Tex.**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Collaboration: Formal and interdependent system of working together for a common purpose; decision-making is shared; roles and responsibilities are formalized.	17.07%	7
Partnership: Actively working together, (and possibly with another organization) toward one or more common community goals, which each member maintains an individual organizational agenda.	29.27%	12
Networking: Engaged in informal ways such as community meetings, events and/or referrals for the common purpose of community action.	43.90%	18
None: Would like to explore and develop a relationship.	4.88%	2
Other (please specify)	4.88%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>41</b>

**Select the type of industry that best describes your organization.**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Chamber of Commerce	0.00%	0
Church/Faith Community	0.00%	0
Child Care/Early Childhood	7.89%	3
Financial Institution	0.00%	0
Government	2.63%	1
Health Department	0.00%	0
Institution of Higher Education	2.63%	1
Medical or Dental Provider	5.26%	2
Non-profit/Social Service Agency	36.84%	14
Public School	13.16%	5
Public Safety (Police, Fire)	5.26%	2
Volunteer/Community Member	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	26.32%	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>38</b>

**Indicate the age groups that your organization serves.**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-2	50.00%	19
3-5	65.79%	25
6-18	71.05%	27
19-24	60.53%	23
25-44	57.89%	22
45-54	57.89%	22
55-64	57.89%	22
65+	50.00%	19
None/Not Applicable	7.89%	3
<b>Total Respondents: 38</b>		

**Indicate the direct services your organization provides to at-risk, low income families in the community.**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Adult Education	31.58%	12
Alcohol/Drug Treatment	2.63%	1
Child Advocacy	15.79%	6
Child Care (Infants/Toddlers)	10.53%	4
Early Childhood or Child Care (Preschool)	26.32%	10
Child Care (School Age)	18.42%	7
Child Welfare	2.63%	1
Disabilities	18.42%	7
Domestic Violence	5.26%	2
ESL	13.16%	5
Financial Health/Literacy	18.42%	7
Food Pantry	13.16%	5
Foster Care	5.26%	2
GED	7.89%	3
Health Care	18.42%	7
Housing/Section 8	2.63%	1
Homelessness	13.16%	5
Legal	5.26%	2
Literacy	18.42%	7
Mental Health	15.79%	6
Nutrition	31.58%	12
Parenting Education	31.58%	12
Public School Education	15.79%	6
Public Protection/Safety	5.26%	2
Public Transportation	2.63%	1
Religious Ministries	2.63%	1
Unemployment	5.26%	2
Workforce Development	5.26%	2
Vocational Services	5.26%	2
Volunteerism	5.26%	2
None/Not Applicable	2.63%	1
Other (please specify)	23.68%	9
Total Respondents: 38		



## STAFF SURVEY

As part of the Community Assessment process, a survey was sent to Cen-Tex staff; 73 staff members completed the survey.

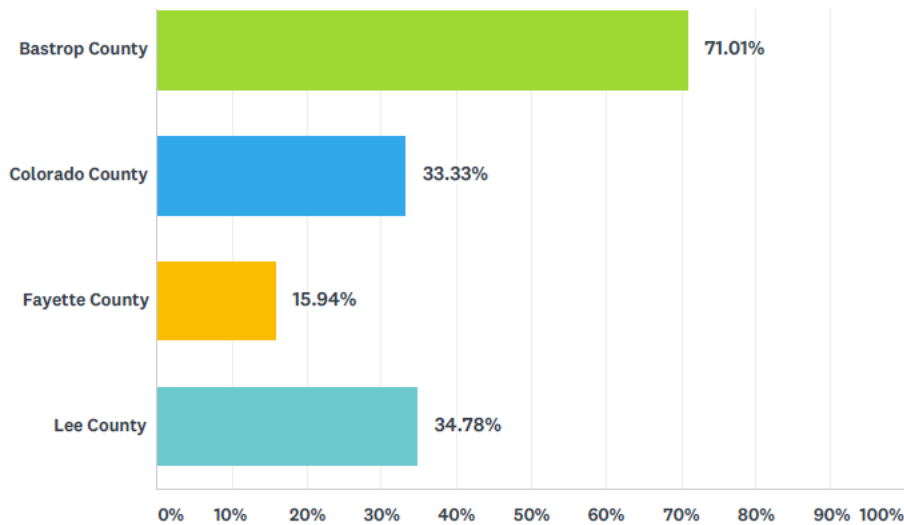
***Consider the families living in poverty within your community and select the response that best describes to what extent each item is, or is not, a problem for families.***

	NEVER OR SELDOM A CHALLENGE	SOMETIMES A CHALLENGE	OFTEN OR CONSISTENTLY A CHALLENGE	TOTAL
Affordable Housing	11.11% 8	38.89% 28	50.00% 36	72
Availability of Jobs which pay a "Living Wage"	6.94% 5	50.00% 36	43.06% 31	72
Access to Public Transportation	15.28% 11	33.33% 24	51.39% 37	72
Adult Education Opportunities (i.e. GED, ESL, College Classes)	23.61% 17	50.00% 36	26.39% 19	72
Availability of Job Training	25.00% 18	59.72% 43	15.28% 11	72
Affordable Health Insurance	13.89% 10	37.50% 27	48.61% 35	72
Affordable Health Care	16.67% 12	40.28% 29	43.06% 31	72
Access to Mental Health Services	22.22% 16	54.17% 39	23.61% 17	72
Affordable Dental Providers	30.56% 22	45.83% 33	23.61% 17	72
Illegal Drug or Prescription Drug Abuse	30.56% 22	43.06% 31	26.39% 19	72
Access to Local Grocery Stores or Farmers Markets	66.67% 48	26.39% 19	6.94% 5	72
Availability of Services for Children with Disabilities	38.89% 28	54.17% 39	6.94% 5	72
Availability of Child Care for Infants and Toddlers	26.39% 19	43.06% 31	30.56% 22	72
Availability of Preschool or Child Care for Children Ages 3-5	36.11% 26	43.06% 31	20.83% 15	72
Availability of After School Care for School Aged Children	26.39% 19	50.00% 36	23.61% 17	72
Affordable Child Care Costs or use of Child Care Subsidy	13.89% 10	50.00% 36	36.11% 26	72
Community Violence	33.33% 24	51.39% 37	15.28% 11	72

**Barriers to Self-Sufficiency: In your opinion, what are the top three community conditions that most often prevent families from moving from poverty to self-sufficiency in your community?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1. Lack of Available Jobs	14.29%	10
2. Low Wage Jobs	44.29%	31
3. Lack of Job Skills	15.71%	11
4. Low Educational Attainment	28.57%	20
5. Cost of Child Care	38.57%	27
6. Reliable Transportation	32.86%	23
7. Poor Credit History	5.71%	4
8. Burden of High Debt	4.29%	3
9. Costs of Health Care/Insurance	8.57%	6
10. Illegal Immigration Status	37.14%	26
10. Undiagnosed/Untreated Mental Health Issues	4.29%	3
11. Increased Costs of Housing	44.29%	31
12. History of Dependence on Public Assistance	12.86%	9
13. Substance Abuse	8.57%	6
Total Respondents: 70		

**In which county or counties do you work or provide services? (Select all that apply.)**



**Indicate the title which best reflects your current position within the Cen-Tex organization.**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Home Visitor	4.35%	3
Teacher/Assistant Teacher	44.93%	31
Family Services Staff (i.e. Family Advocate)	14.49%	10
Support Staff (i.e. transportation, clerical, cook)	2.90%	2
Administration (i.e. Director, Coordinator, HR)	28.99%	20
Other (please specify)	7.25%	5
Total Respondents: 69		

**Which Cen-Tex program do you work for? (Select all that apply.)**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Early Head Start Home-Based	23.19%	16
Early Head Start Center Based	47.83%	33
Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships	21.74%	15
Head Start	60.87%	42
Other (please specify)	4.35%	3
Total Respondents: 69		

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

For current community resource information for all counties served, visit [www.211Texas.org](http://www.211Texas.org).

## REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau. "ACS Information Guide". [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). p. 8. Retrieved 2015-07-31.
- <sup>2</sup> <http://livingwage.mit.edu>
- <sup>3</sup> <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/about>
- <sup>4</sup> Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2016 American Community Survey.
- <sup>5</sup> <http://livingwage.mit.edu>
- <sup>6</sup> US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16
- <sup>7</sup> <https://www.ssa.gov>
- <sup>8</sup> <http://localdata.assetsandopportunity.org/map>
- <sup>9</sup> <http://localdata.assetsandopportunity.org/map>
- <sup>10</sup> <http://localdata.assetsandopportunity.org/map>
- <sup>11</sup> <http://localdata.assetsandopportunity.org/map>
- <sup>12</sup> <https://fred.stlouisfed.org>
- <sup>13</sup> Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Vital Statistics, Live Births, 2015.
- <sup>14</sup> Texans Care for Children, May 2018
- <sup>15</sup> <https://texasrisingstar.org/>
- <sup>16</sup> <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2016>
- <sup>17</sup> [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About\\_DFPS/Data\\_Book/Child\\_Protective\\_Services/Investigations/Victims.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data_Book/Child_Protective_Services/Investigations/Victims.asp)
- <sup>18</sup> (2018). America's Health Rankings. United Health Foundation.
- <sup>19</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2016). Kids Count Data Book: State Trends in Child Well-Being.
- <sup>20</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html>
- <sup>21</sup> <https://stateofobesity.org/files/stateofobesity2017.pdf>
- <sup>22</sup> <https://stateofobesity.org/files/stateofobesity2017.pdf>
- <sup>23</sup> <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness.shtml>
- <sup>24</sup> University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings. 2018.
- <sup>25</sup> Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Area Health Resource File. 2015
- <sup>26</sup> Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Vital Statistics, Live Births, 2015.
- <sup>27</sup> <http://www.utsystempophealth.org/imr-texas/>
- <sup>28</sup> <http://www.apa.org/pi/families/poverty.aspx>
- <sup>29</sup> McDonald, R., Jouriles, E.N., Ramisetty-Mikler, S., Caetano, R., Green, C.E. (2006). ). Estimating the Number of American Children Living in Partner-Violent Families (link is external). *Journal of Family Psychology*; 20(1): 137-142.
- <sup>30</sup> Monnat, S.M., Chandler, R.F. (2015), Long Term Physical Health Consequences of Adverse Childhood Experiences. *The Sociologist Quarterly*; 56(4): 723-752.
- <sup>31</sup> <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-summaries-by-state/texas-opioid-summary>
- <sup>32</sup> <http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/Opioids/Deaths>
- <sup>33</sup> Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use, [www.texaschoolsurvey.org/Report](http://www.texaschoolsurvey.org/Report)