Choices:
The Texas We Create

TEXAS KIDS COUNT

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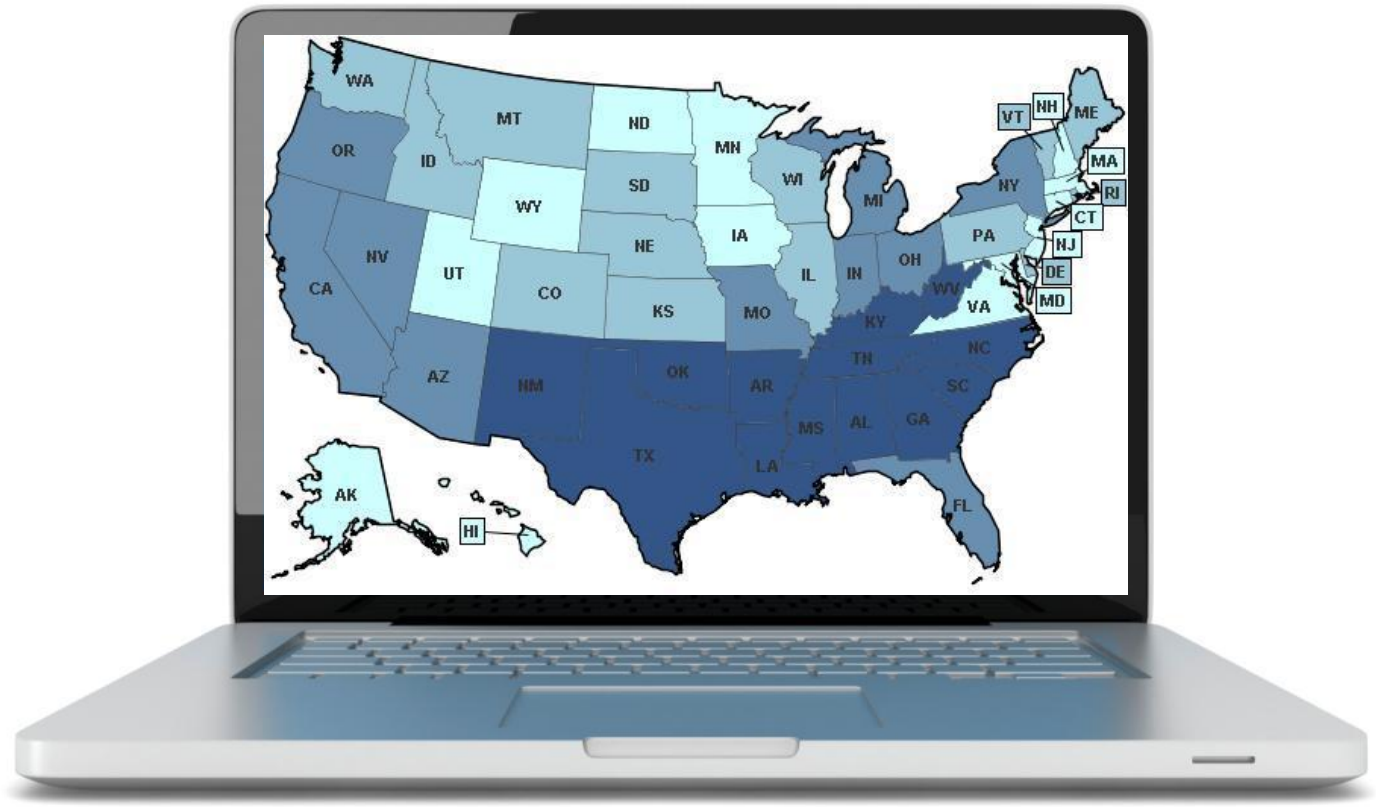
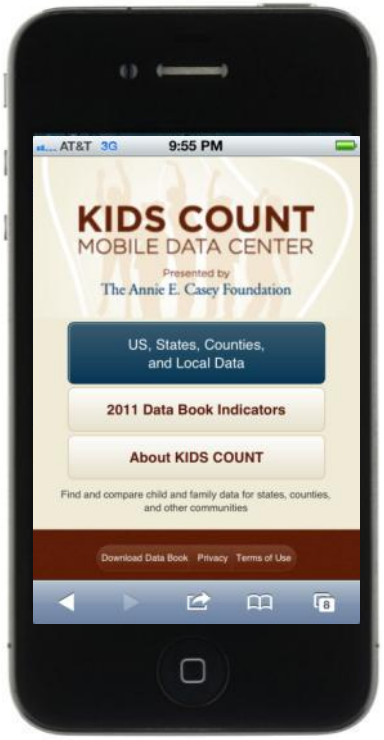
Center for Public Policy Priorities
October 10, 2012

http://datacenter.kidscount.org





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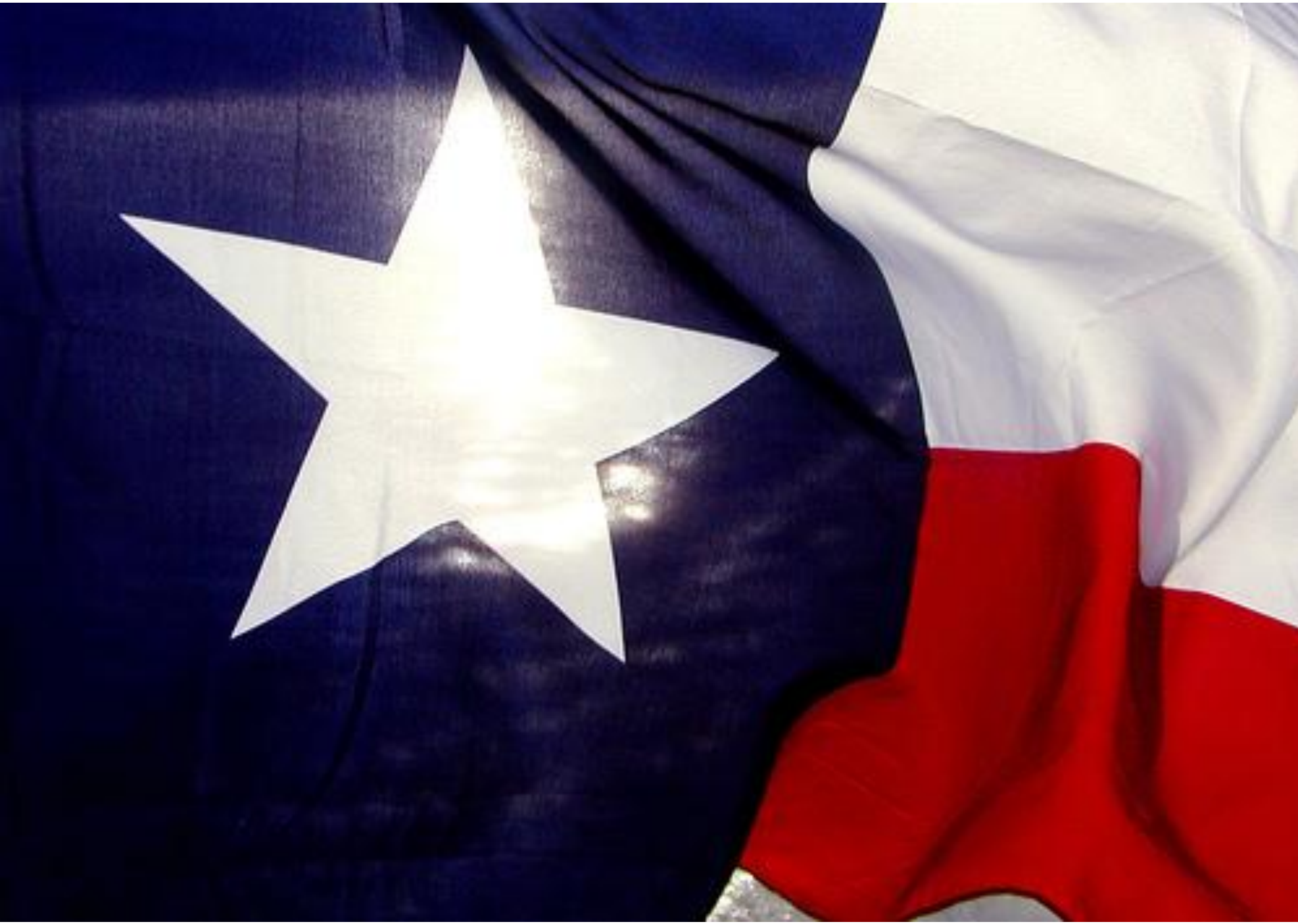

Austin American-Statesman
statesman.com
FINAL EDITION ▪ WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011 ▪ $1.00
'Texas century' will blaze trail for U.S. to follow
TEXAS
Spartan budget plan calls for broad cuts
Public school funding, financial aid, health care would take big hits
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What trail will Texas' children follow?

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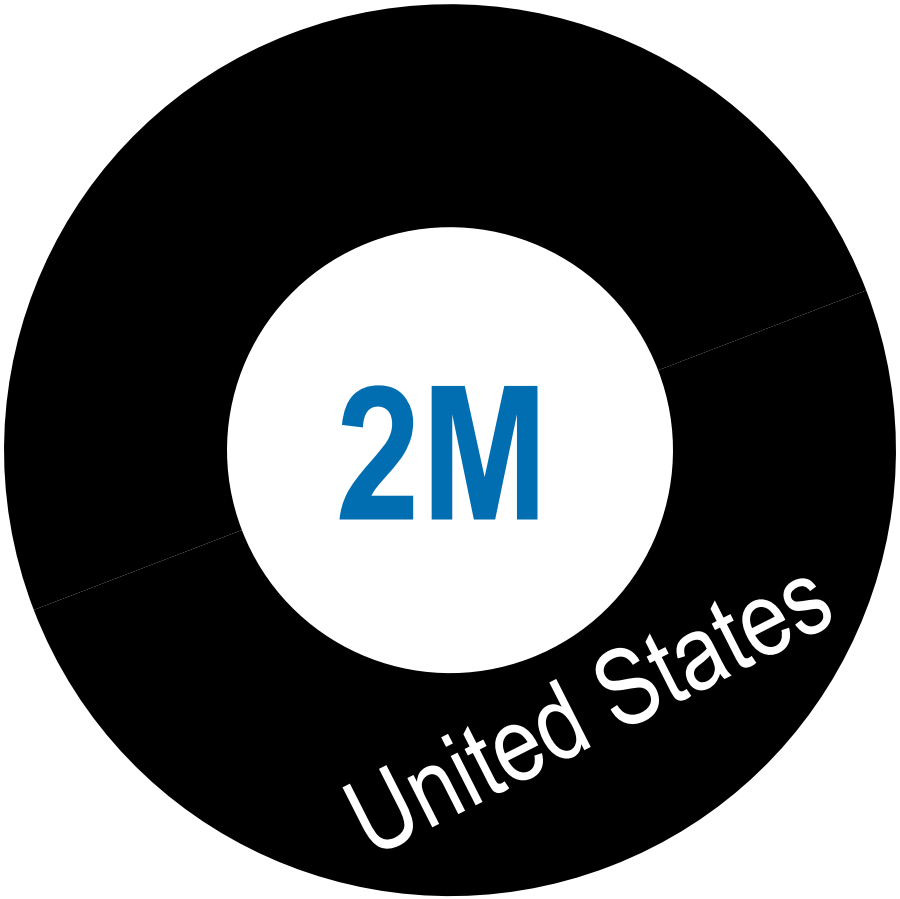
The U.S. added 2 million kids in last decade



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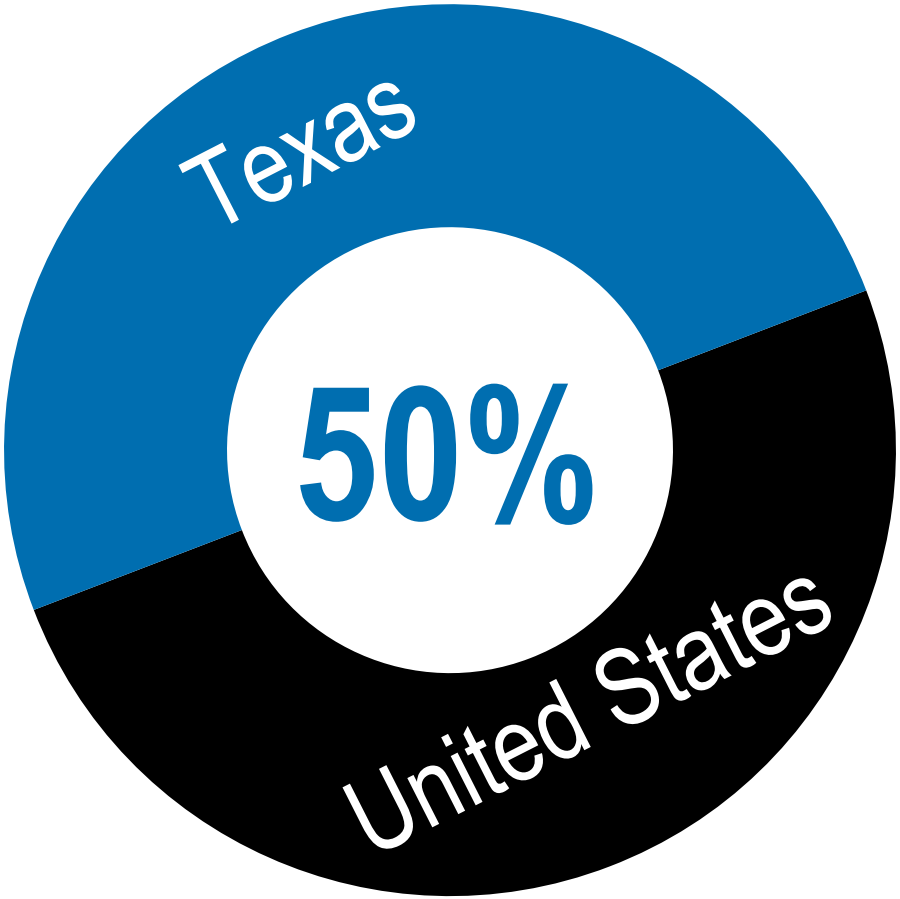
U.S. child pop grew by 2 million between 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census data, U.S. Census Bureau

Texas accounted for **half** of that growth!



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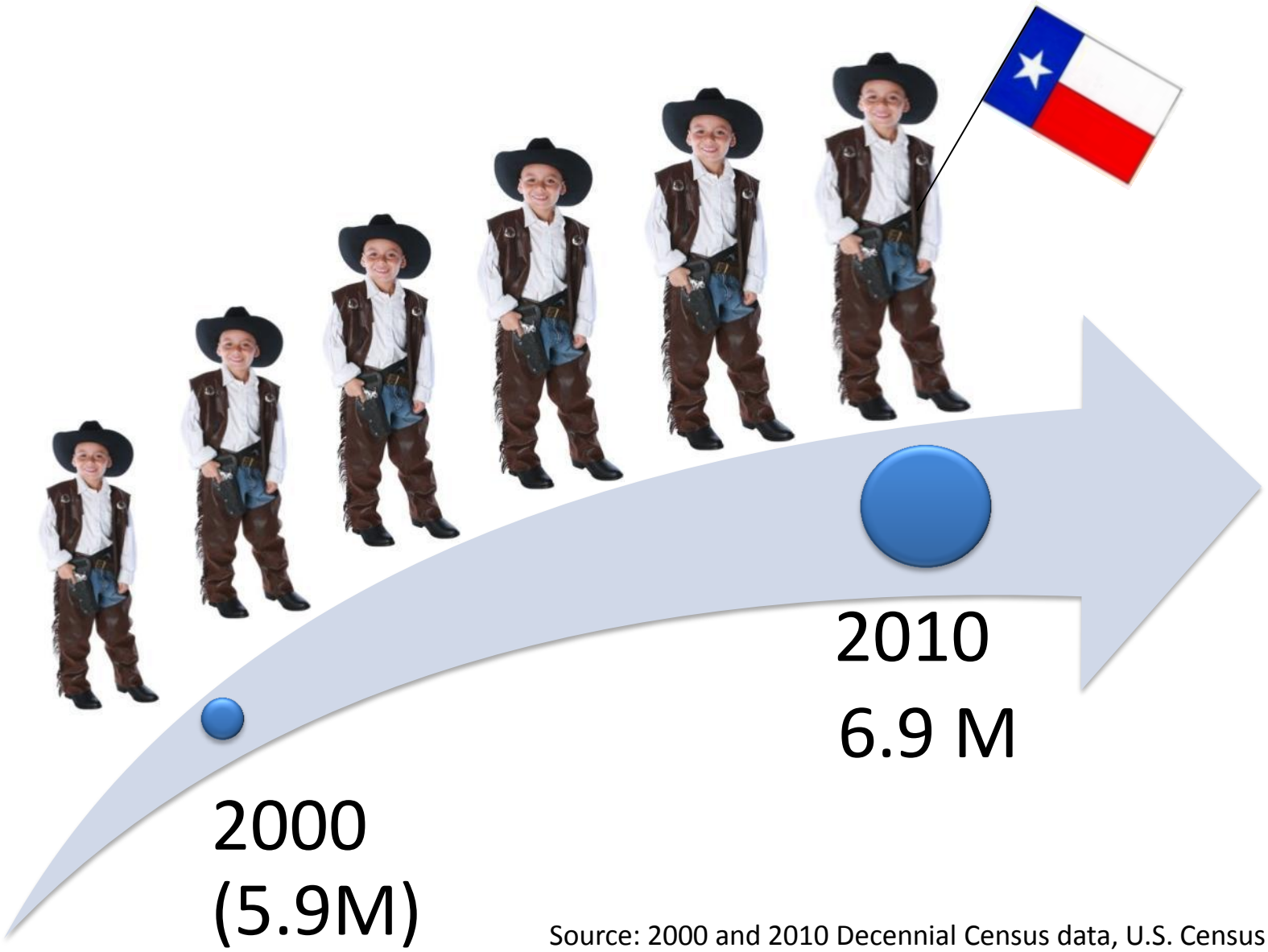
U.S. child pop grew by 2 million between 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census data, U.S. Census Bureau

Texas added nearly ONE MILLION Kids



Source: 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census data, U.S. Census Bureau

95%

OF TEXAS
KIDS ARE
CITIZENS

2010 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

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To be considered “officially poor,” a family of three has to make less than

Source: 2011 Poverty Thresholds for a family of 3 with two related children under 18 years old

Enough vs. Too Little

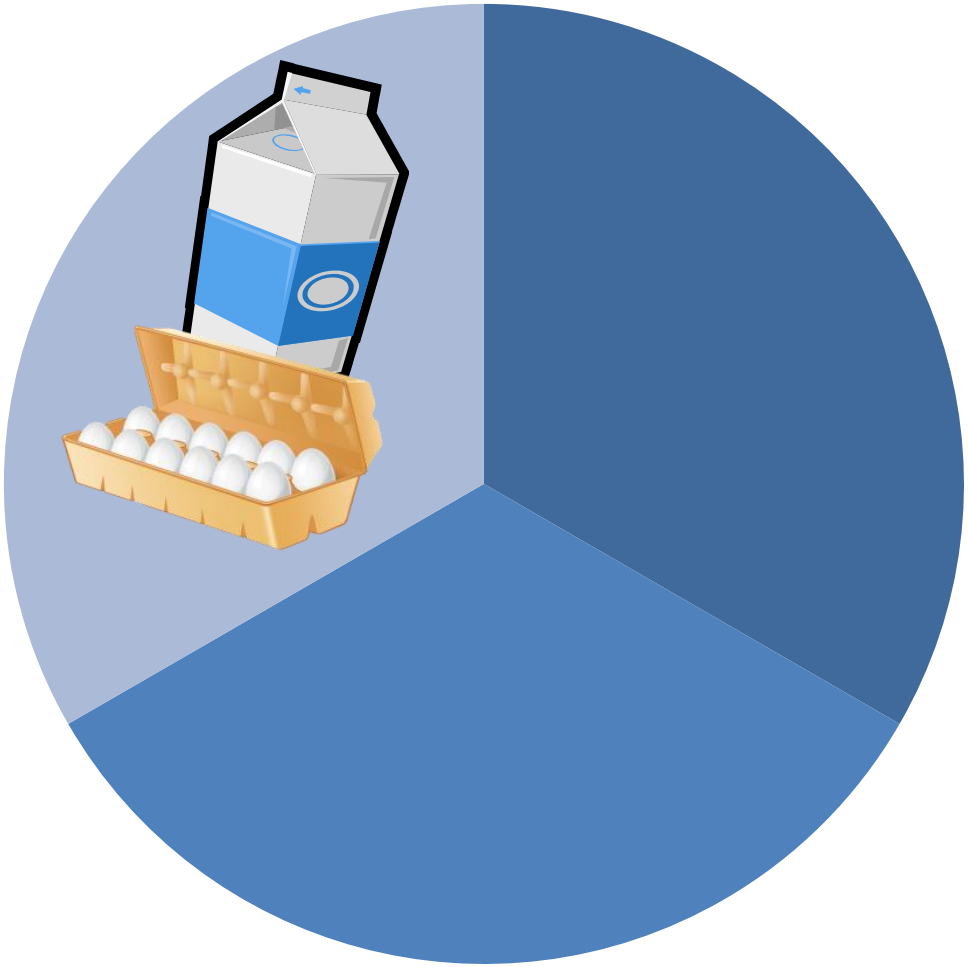
Originally a measure of income inadequacy

Mollie Orshansky:

"if it is not possible to state unequivocally 'how much is enough,' it should be possible to assert with confidence how much, on an average, is too little."

Source: Fisher, G.M. (1997), www.census.gov

1960s:
Food was about 1/3 of a family's budget



1960s:
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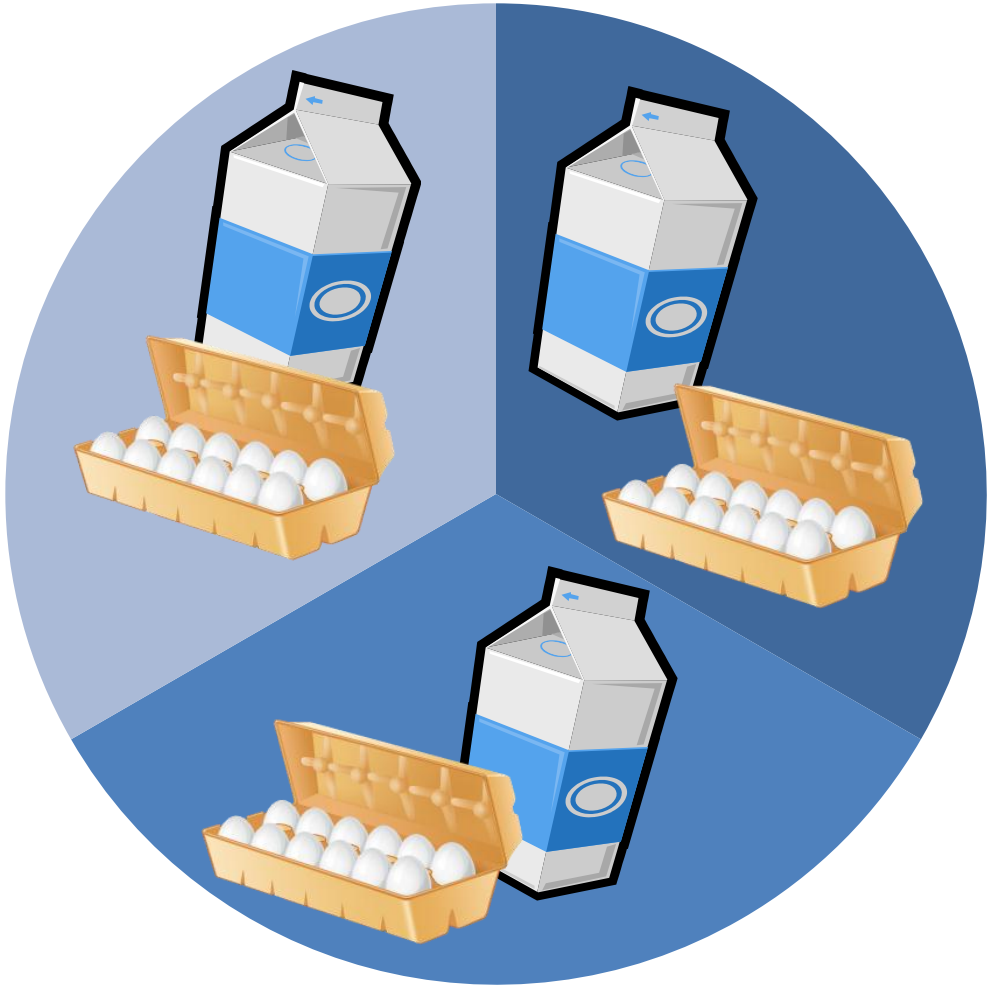
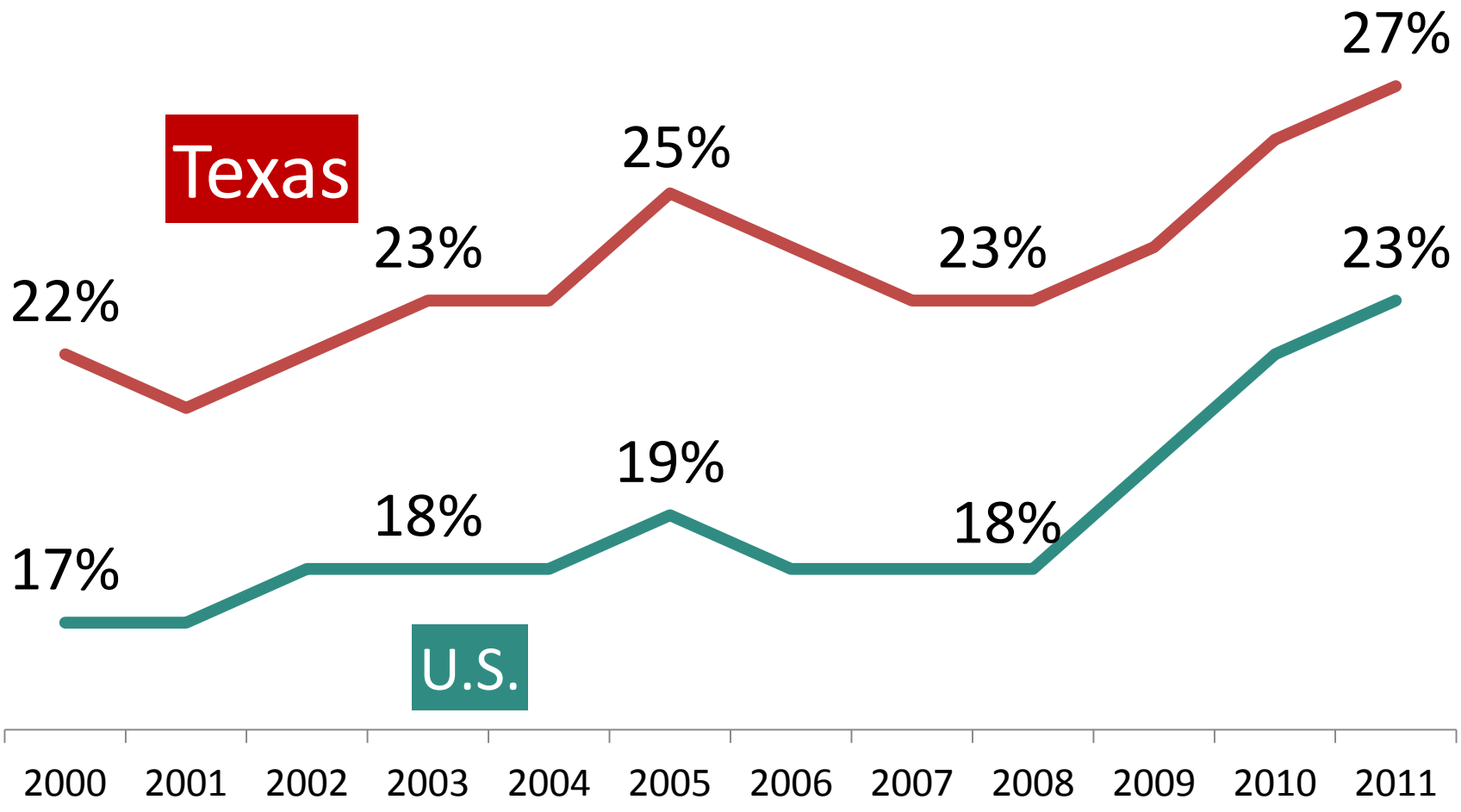


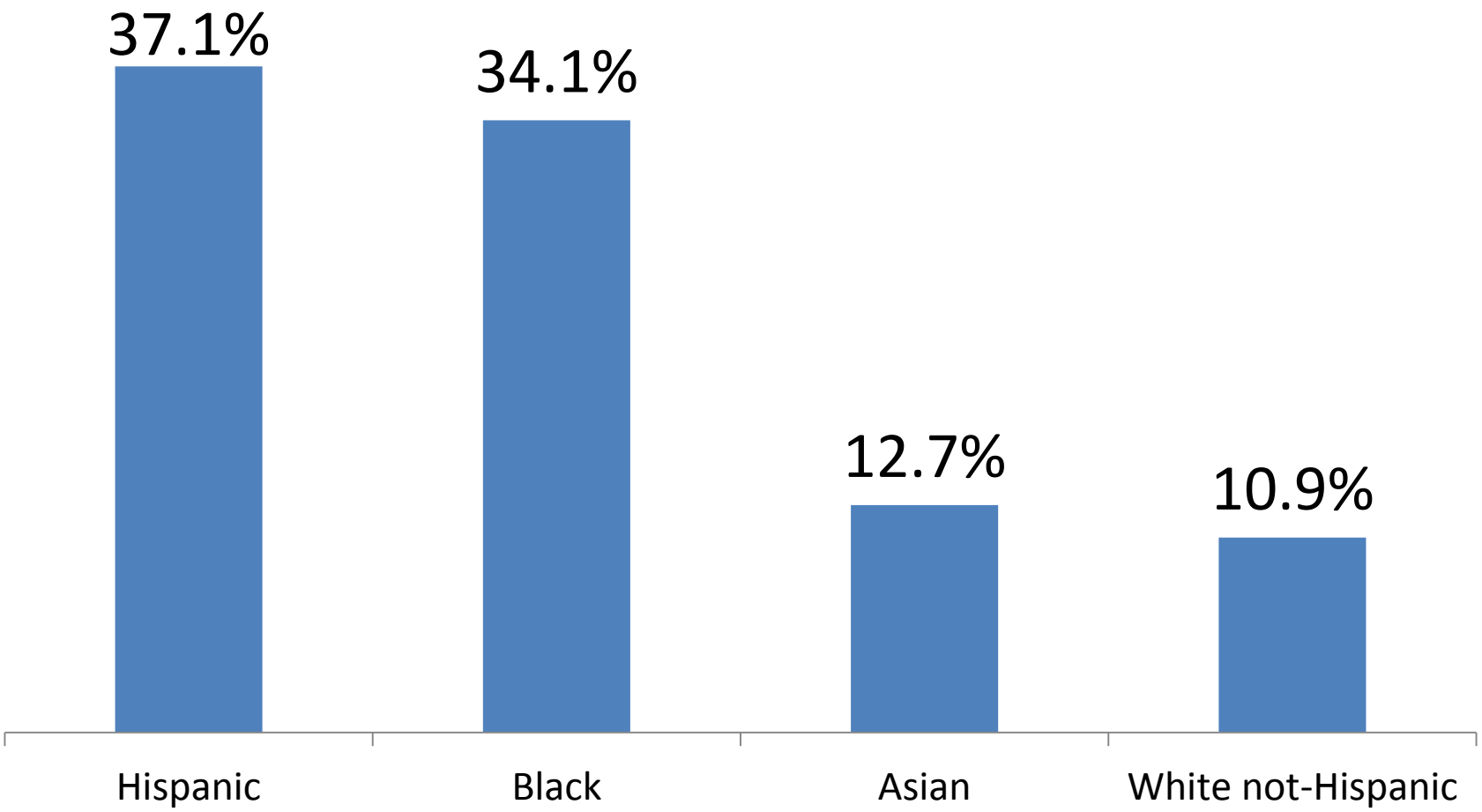
Federal Poverty Measure = Food Budget X 3

Texas child poverty remains consistently higher than U.S.



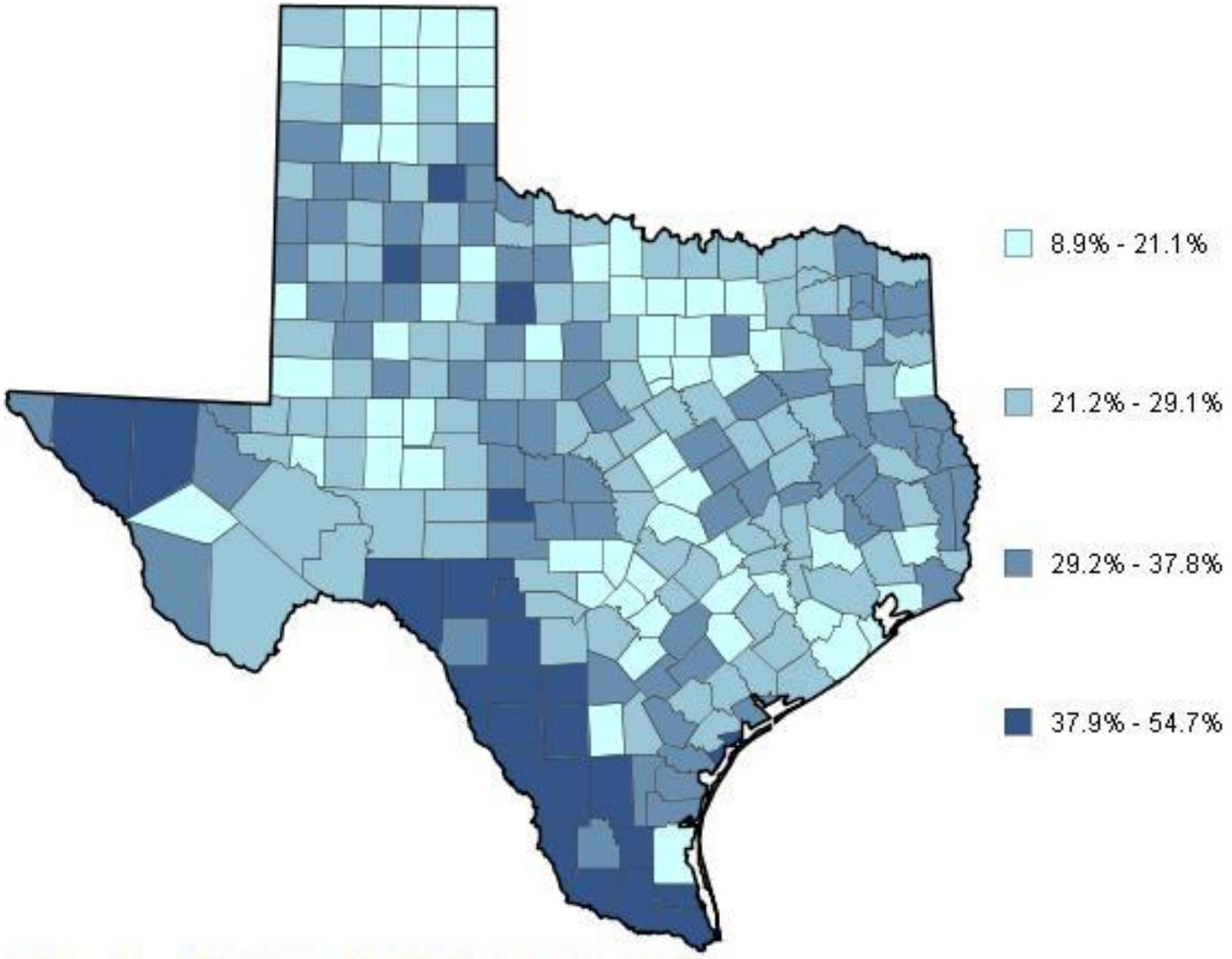
Census Bureau (Kids Count Data Center)

Texas' child poverty differs by race



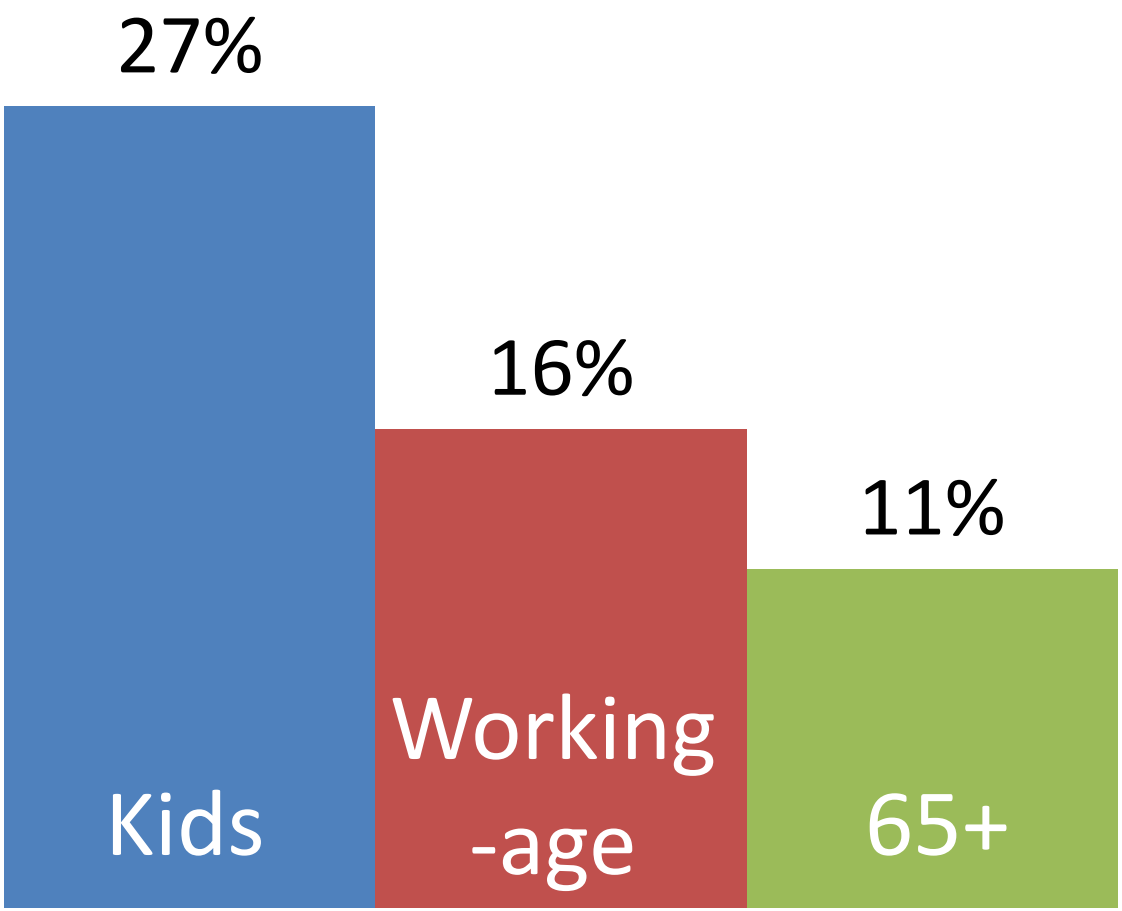
2011 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

Poverty differs by region



2010 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau (Kids Count Data Center)

Poverty differs by age



2011 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

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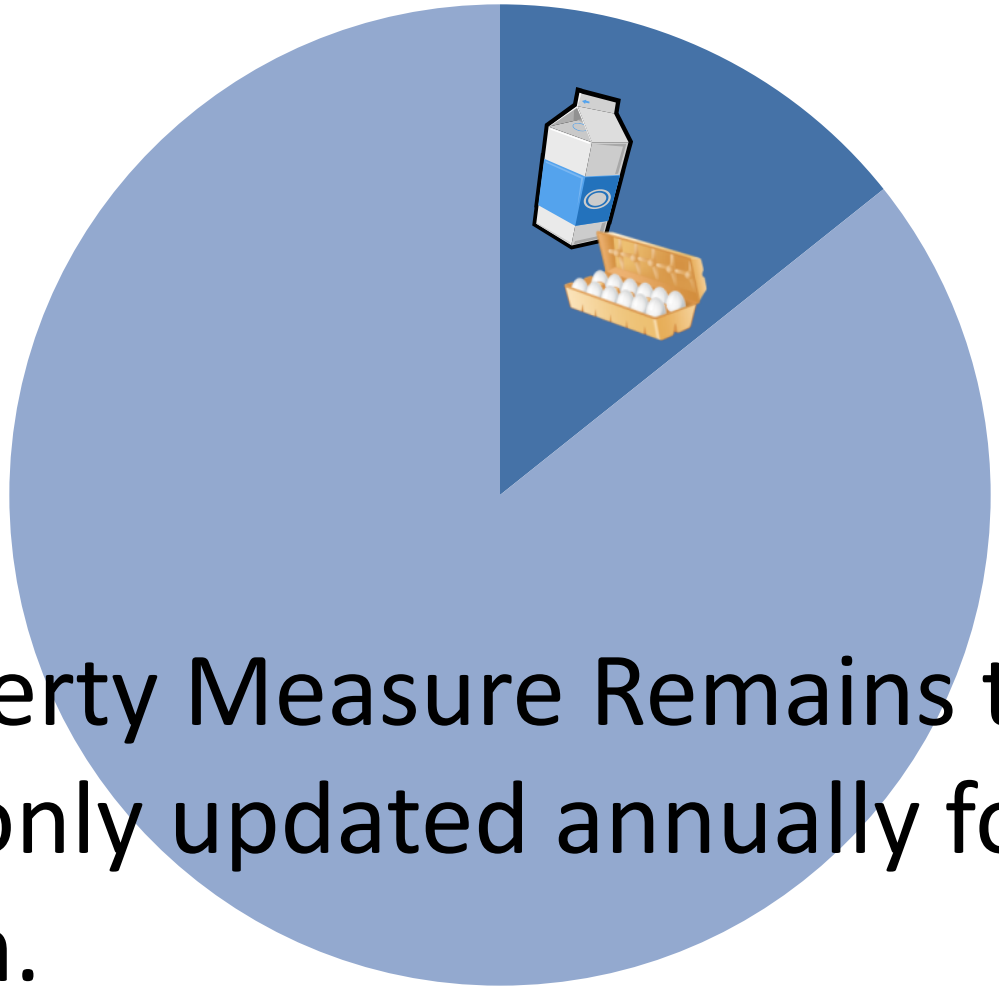
But what's missing in the current poverty measure?

Today:

Food = 1/7th Family Budget



But Poverty Measure Remains the SAME, only updated annually for inflation.

37%

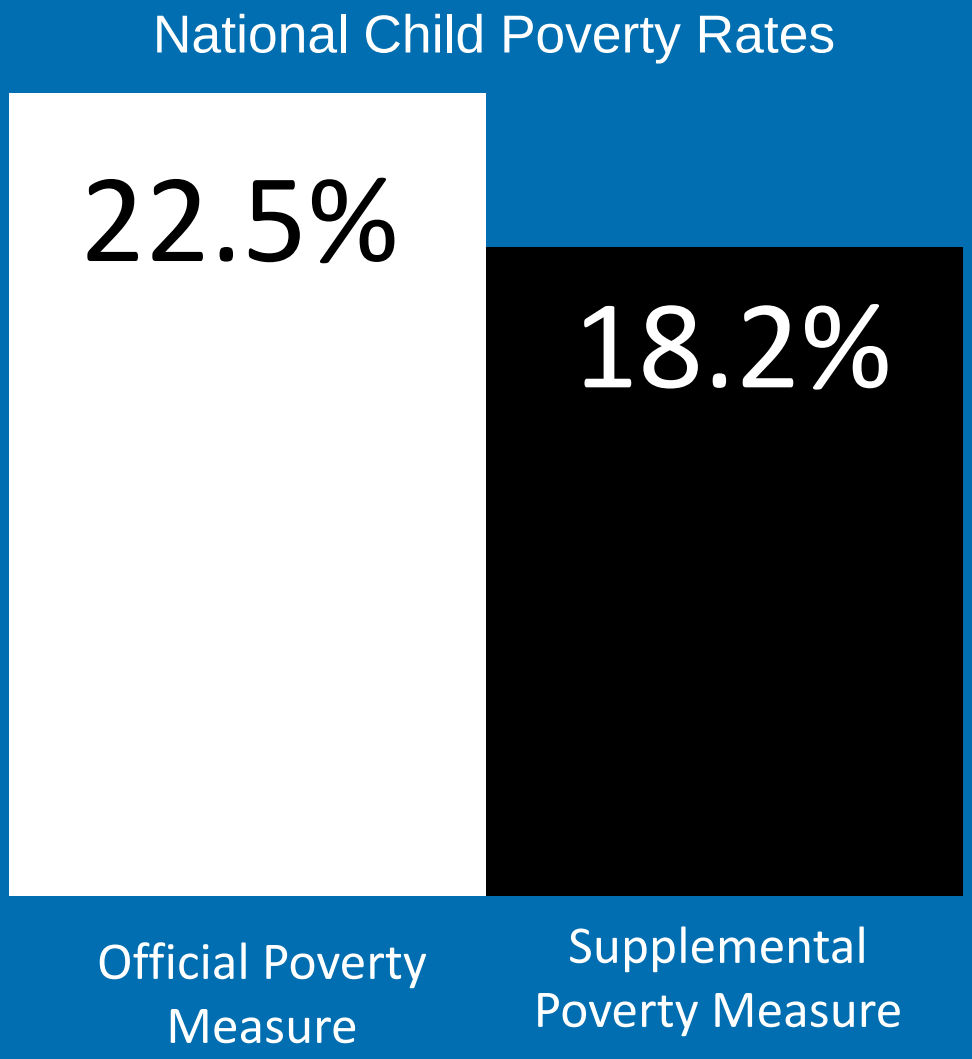
Of Texas kids live in families with a **high housing cost burden**

2010 American Community Survey (Kids Count Data Center)

It Doesn't Account for Differences in Cost of Living Across the Lower 48

It Doesn’t Account for Public Benefits

Work Supports actually do make a difference for kids!



2010 CPS and Supplemental Poverty Rates, US Census Bureau

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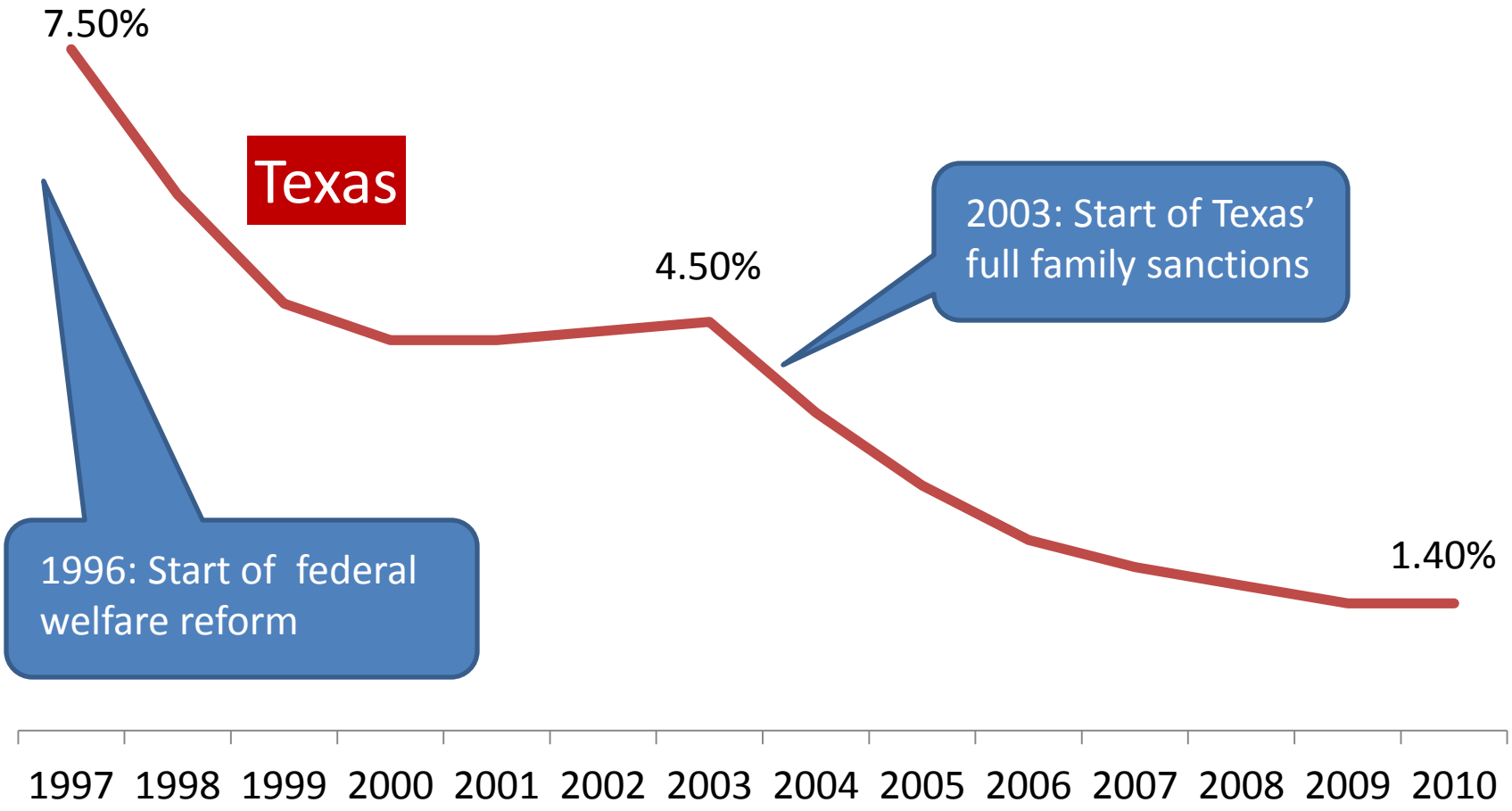
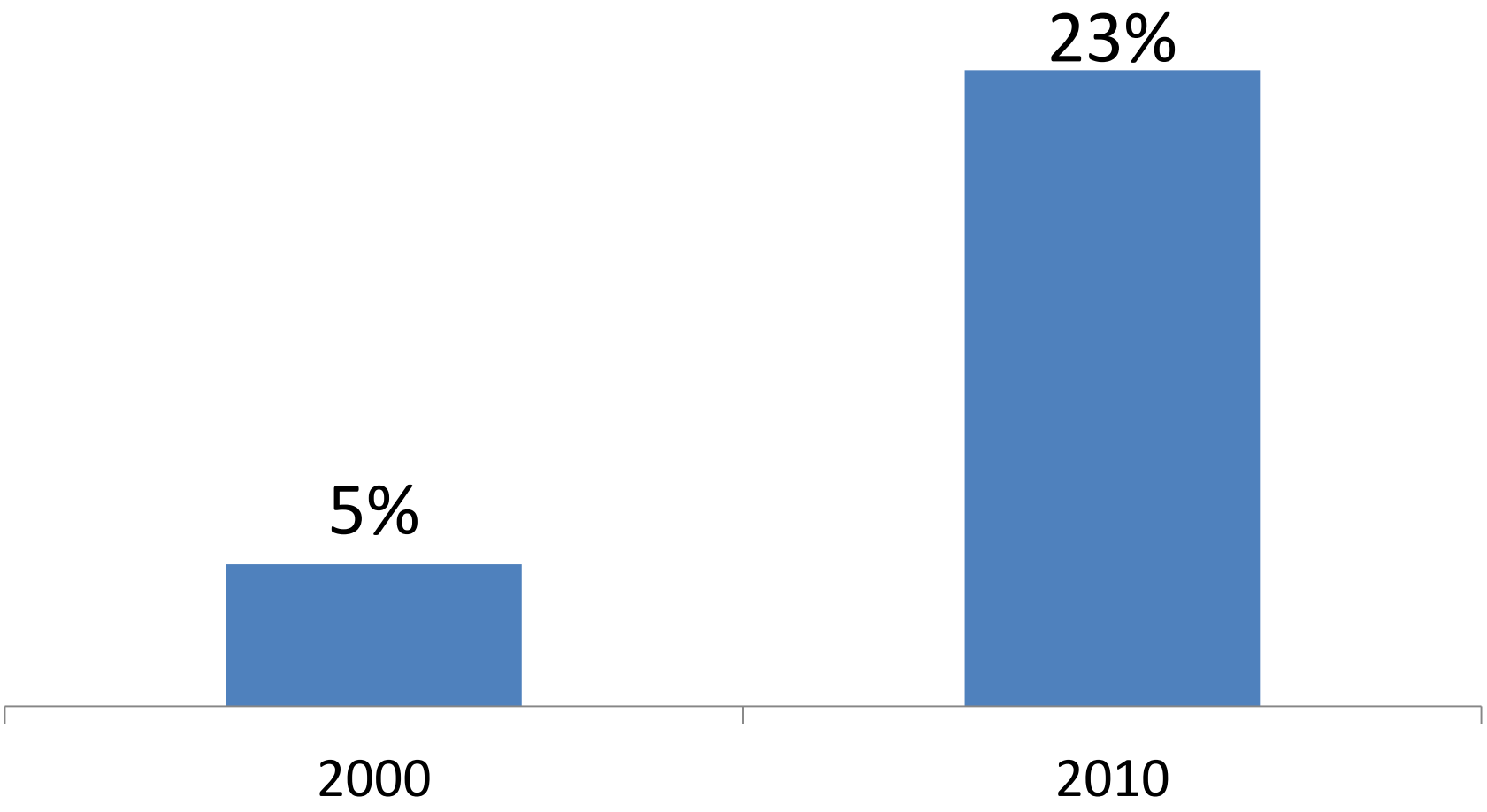
Choices: Income support for kids in the poorest families virtually eliminated



Choices: More Harris Co. kids receiving food assistance (SNAP) thanks to improved enrollment system



Texas Health and Human Services Commission

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Trends in Family and Community

31% Texas kids have parents who lack secure employment

2010 American Community Survey (Kids Count Data Center)

1 in 3

Texas kids live in single-parent families

2010 American Community Survey (Kids Count Data Center)

Struggling from the Start

Texas teens having babies at nearly twice national rate

2009 Births, Vital Stats, CDC (Kids Count Data Center)

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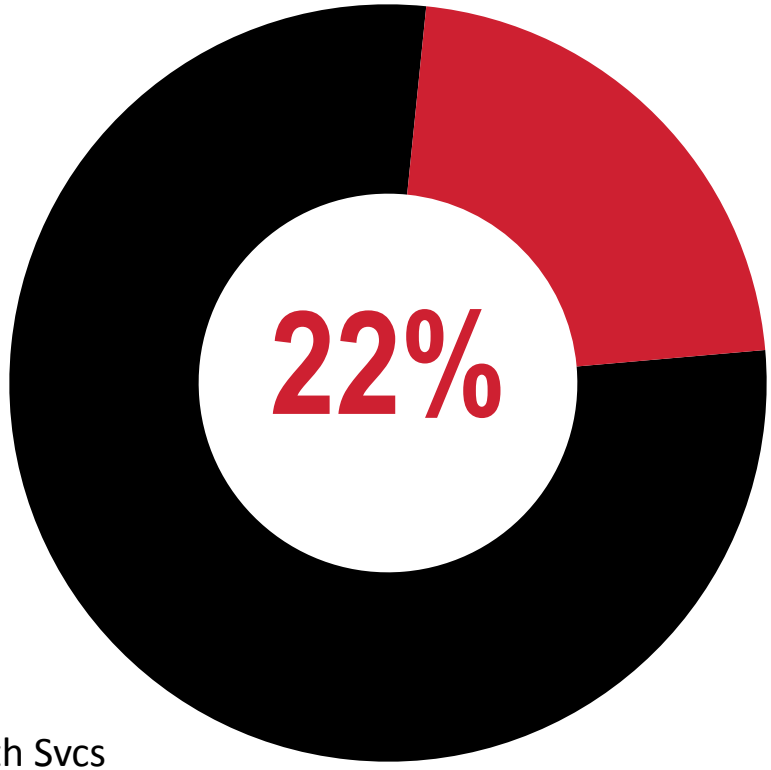
Struggling from the Start

Of Texas babies born to teens, more than **1 in 5** were born to teens who were already moms



2008, Texas Dept of State Health Svcs

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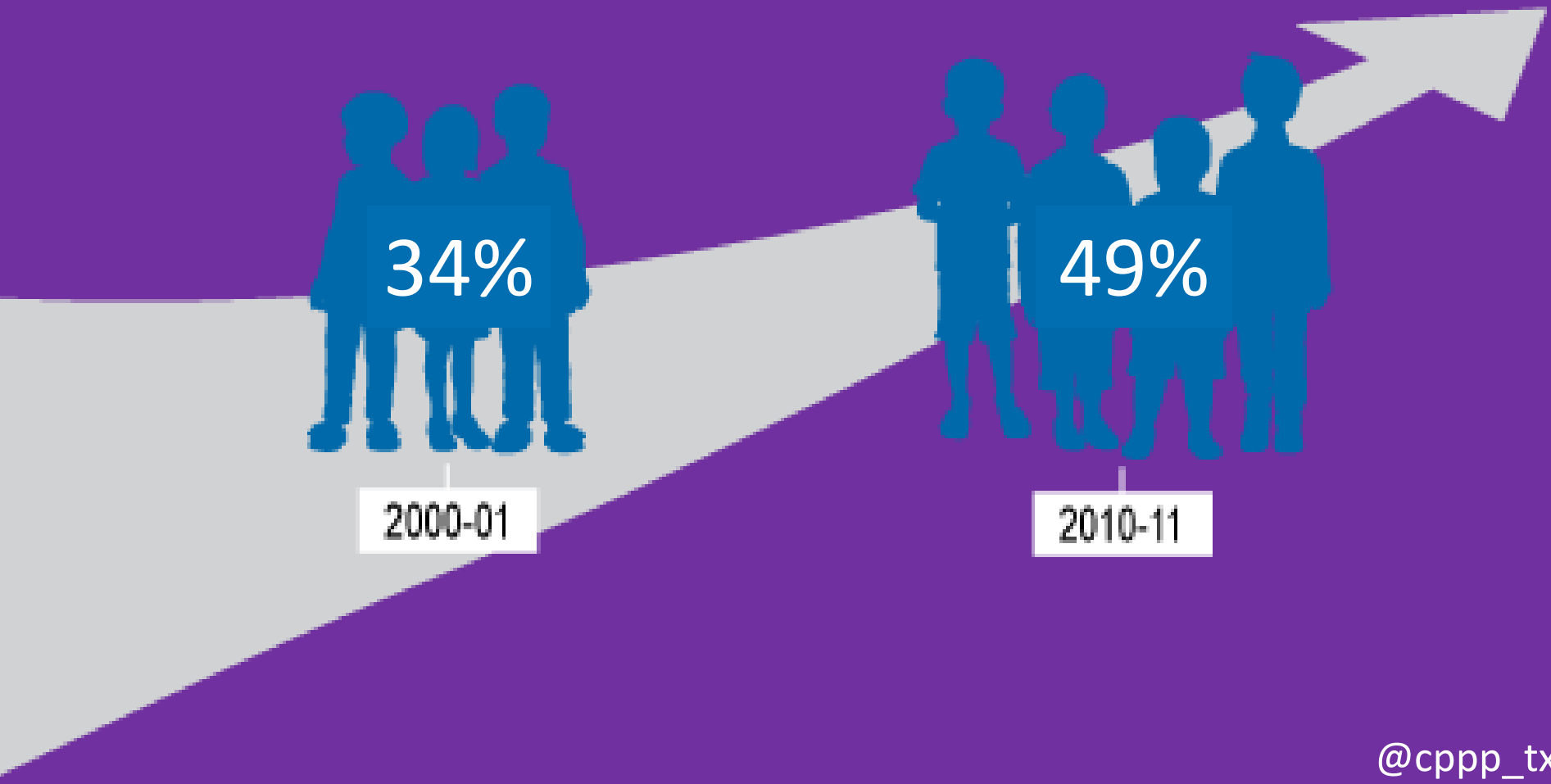
Trends in Education

Choices: Increase in Bexar Co. 4-yr-olds in pre-k due, in part, to pre-k expansion grants



Texas Education Agency

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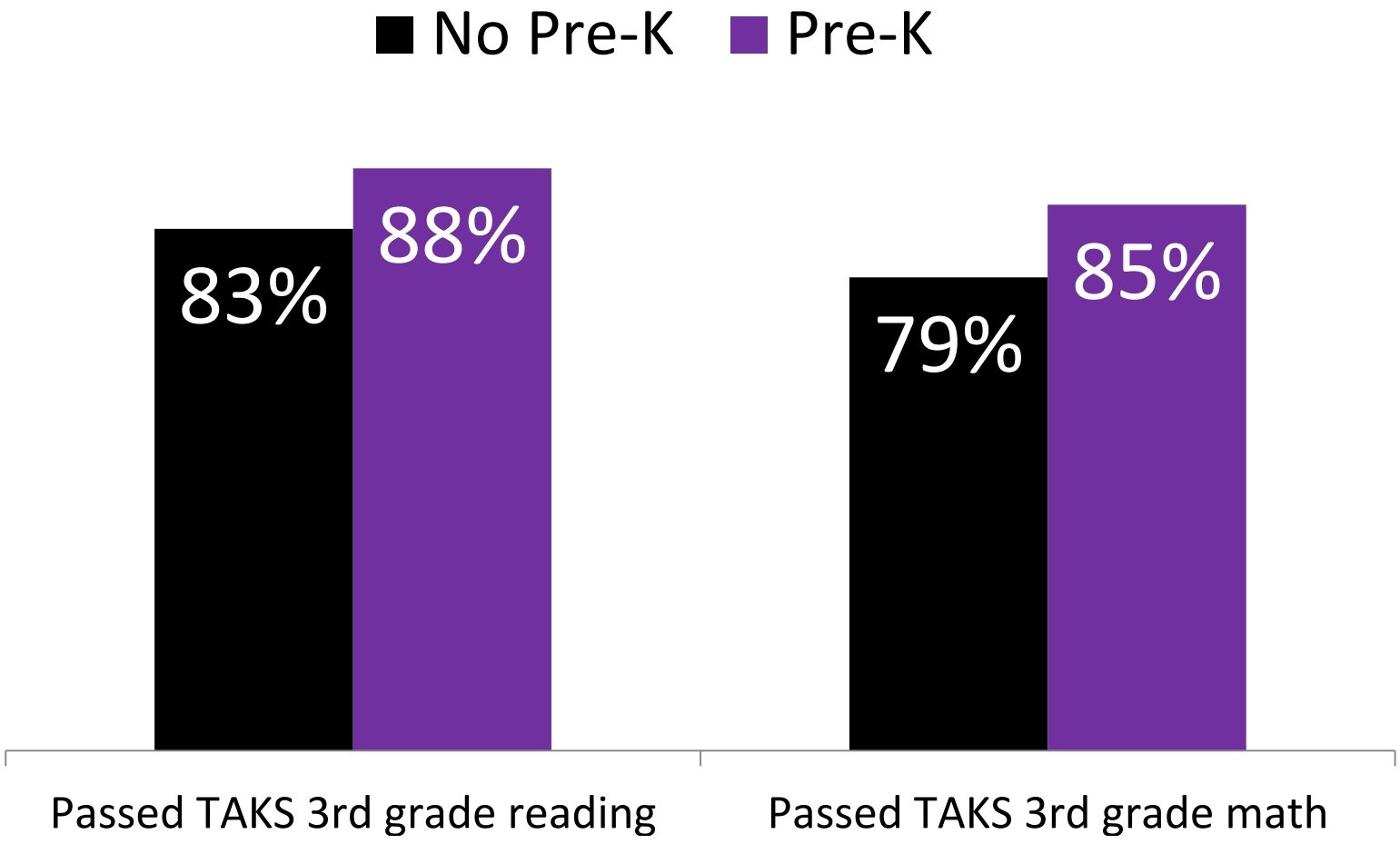
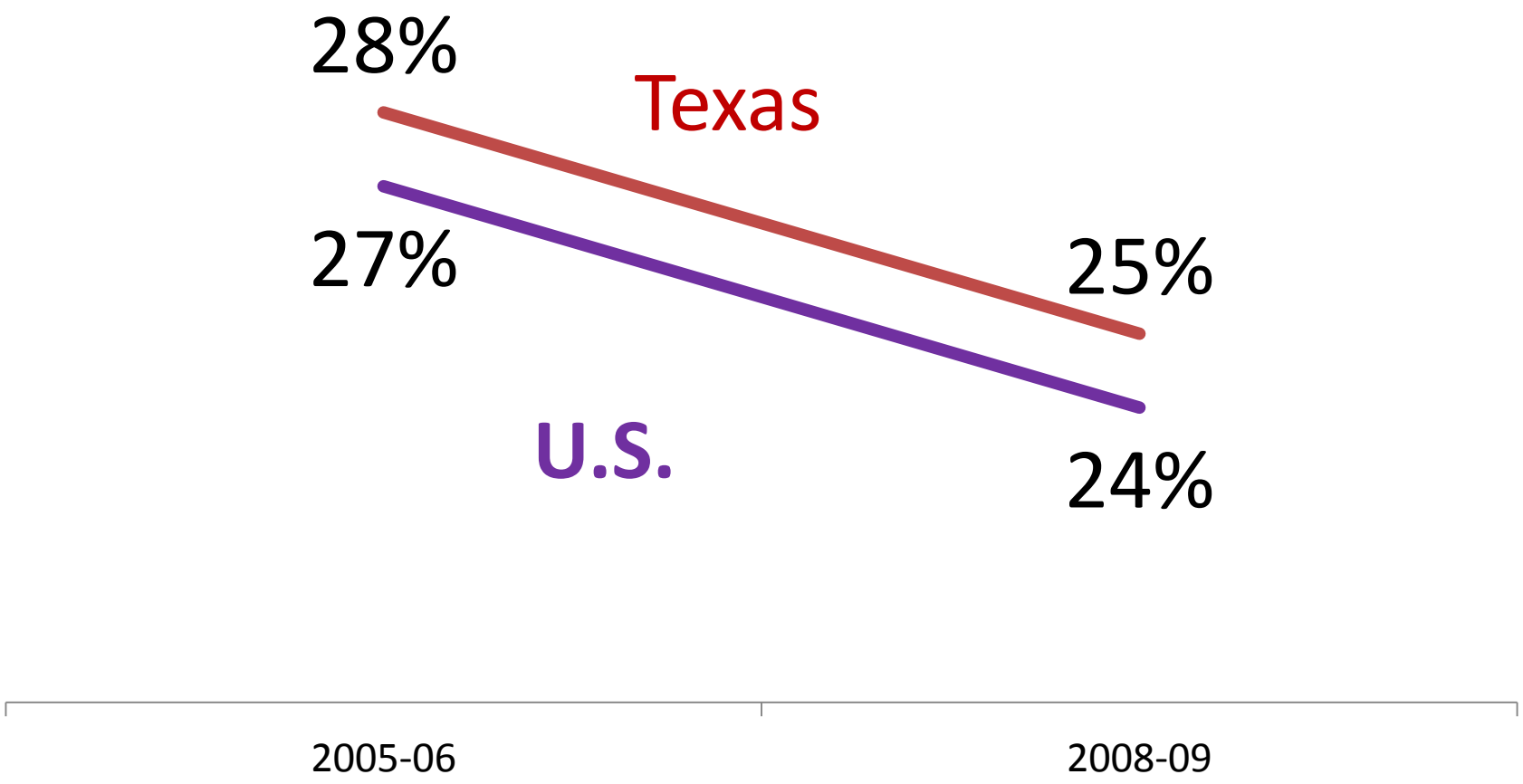
Economically Disadvantaged kids who went to pre-k did better on their state standardized tests

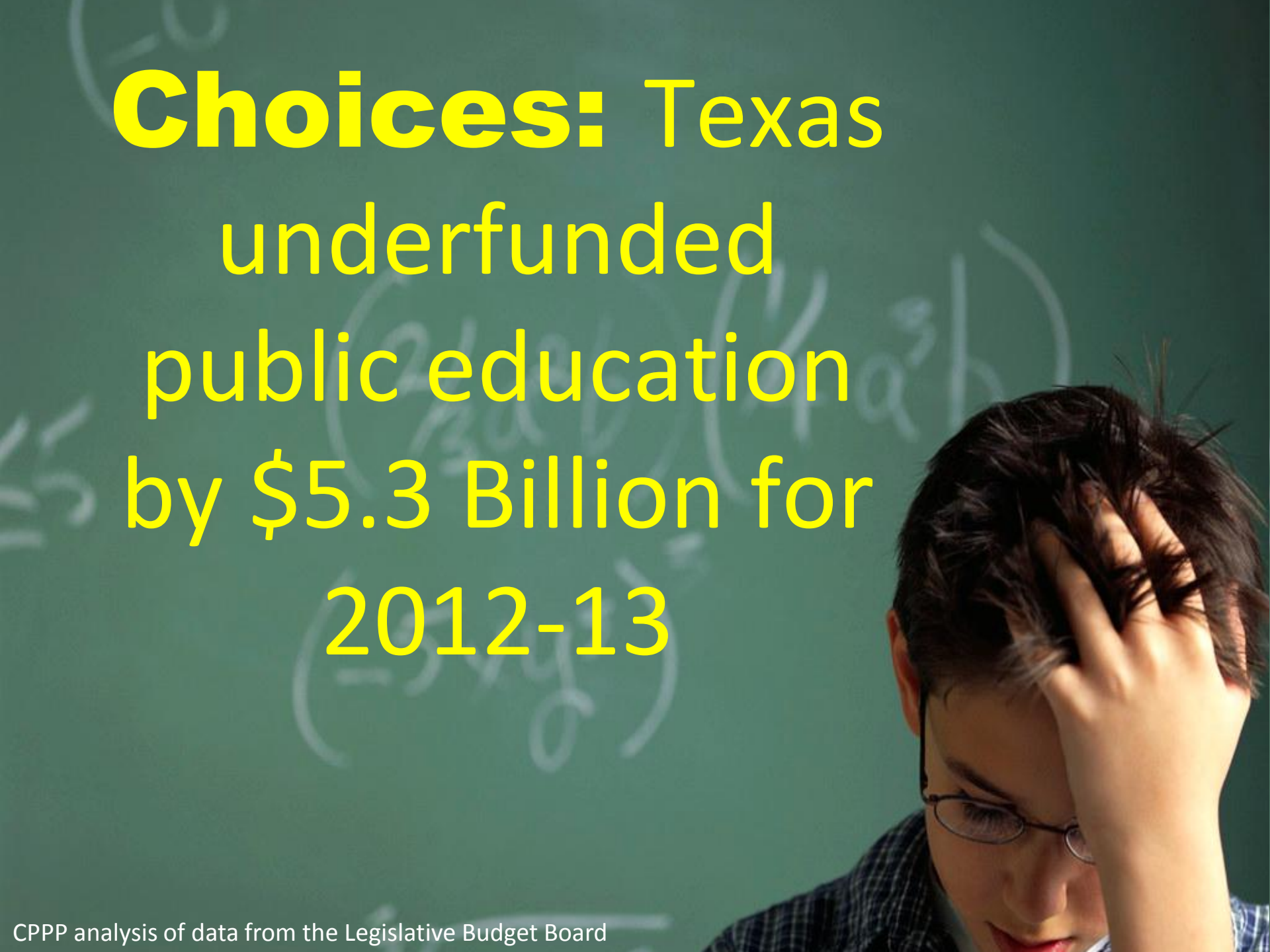


Analysis of TEA 2011 TAKS data by the Office of Rep. Mike Villarreal

High school students not graduating on time: Still Not Great, But Improving



National Center for Education Statistics
(Kids Count Data Center)


Choices: Texas underfunded public education by $5.3 Billion for 2012-13
CPPP analysis of data from the Legislative Budget Board

Choices:

Including the elimination of

CPPP analysis of data from the Legislative Budget Board

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Children with special health care needs

Family Planning Services

Texas' Cuts to Kids

Communities in Schools program

Provider rate cuts in Medicaid and CHIP

Community Mental Health services

State and community mental health hospitals

Early Childhood Intervention

Community-based obesity prevention

Foundation School Program

Financial support for Family Based Services for abused kids

Child abuse, neglect, and delinquency prevention

Initiative to improve rural health care

Newborn health screenings

Texas Century for children

Where does Texas stand?

44th

Overall child well-being

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Sustained & balanced
investment
is the key to
healthy child development and
our nation's
future prosperity.

What can we do?

Invest in a two-generation strategy

Help parents put their families on a path to economic success

Enable Children to Reach Their Full Potential

We know we can do big things.

It’s time to do the right thing.

BETTER
TEXAS™

Thank you!

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