

# Poverty in Texas:

## 4.1 Million Texans Live in Poverty

### 14.7 Percent of All Texans Live in Poverty<sup>1</sup>

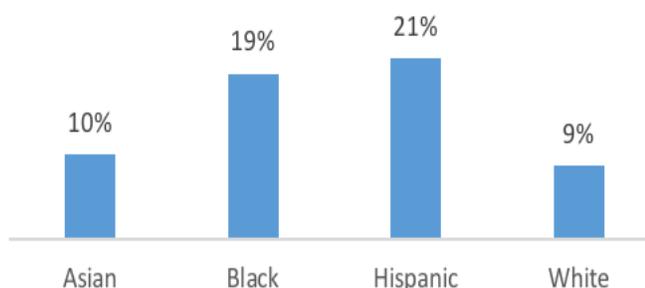
“Poverty” is an official measure defined by the U.S. Government based on family income.

A Family Is In Poverty If	1 Adult	1 Adult + 1 Child	2 Adults + 1 Child	2 Adults + 2 Children
Yearly Income for Household At or Below	\$12,752	\$16,895	\$19,749	\$24,858
Equivalent to Hourly Wage At or Below (IF ONE ADULT WORKS FULL TIME)	\$6.13	\$8.12	\$9.49	\$11.95

2017 Federal Poverty Thresholds<sup>52</sup>

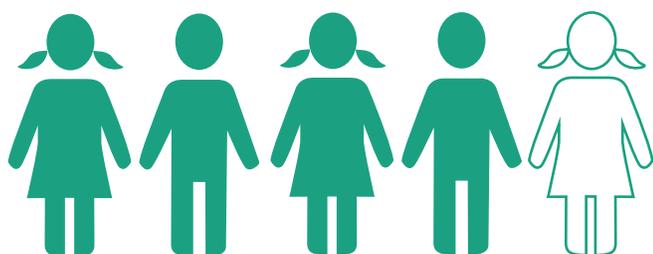
### Poverty by Race/Ethnicity in Texas<sup>2</sup>

**Black and Hispanic Texans are more than twice as likely to live below the poverty line as White and Asian Texans.<sup>3</sup>**



Historical barriers created unequal situations for families, and current policies have not done enough to undo them. A mix of federal policy, discriminatory local laws, and community practices have created and maintained deep racial divisions in economic well-being.<sup>4</sup>

### 1.5 million Texas children live in poverty (20.9 percent of all Texas children).<sup>5</sup>



**Uninsured rates in Texas are the highest in the country.** Texas children: 10.7 percent uninsured and Texas adults: 23.5 percent uninsured.<sup>6</sup>

**Nearly 4.3 million Texans are food insecure (15.4 percent).<sup>7</sup>**

**Texas ranks 42nd in per-student public education funding.<sup>8</sup>**

A family’s economic security drives a child’s access to educational opportunities, healthy food, stable housing, and health care. Children living in families with incomes above the poverty line tend to have better health outcomes, perform better on standardized tests, complete high school and attend college at higher rates, and have higher earnings as adults.<sup>9</sup> But too many jobs in Texas lack family-sustaining wages and benefits, putting economic stability out of reach for many Texas families.<sup>10</sup>

THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES is an independent public policy organization that uses research, analysis and advocacy to promote solutions that enable Texans of all backgrounds to reach their full potential. Learn more at [CPPP.org](http://CPPP.org).

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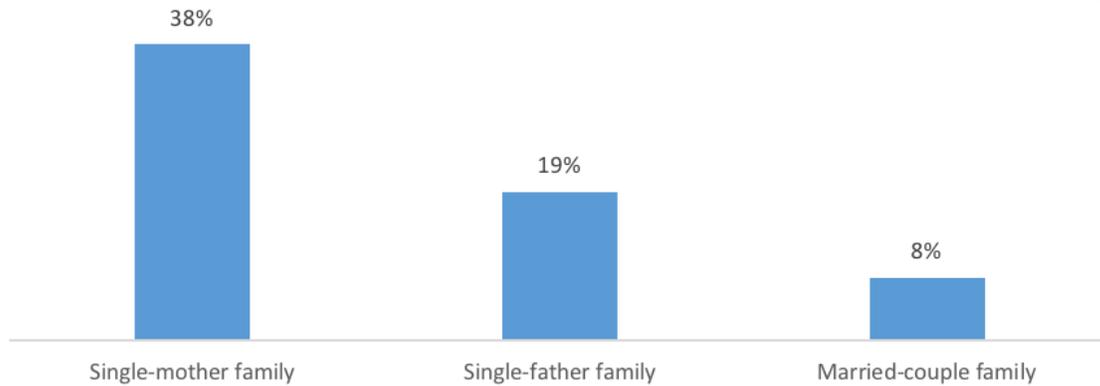


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# Single-mother families are twice as likely to live in poverty as single-father families in Texas



Poverty in Texas by family type and presence of children, 2017.<sup>11</sup>

Although Texas’ economy is booming, prosperity is not shared equitably among Texas families. Working parents struggle to make enough to stay out of poverty, and household income varies widely by family structure, race, and ethnicity. Texas’ single-parent families are more likely to live in poverty than married-couple families, and poverty rates for single parents differ dramatically by gender. One in four Texas kids lives with a single mother, and 38 percent of Texas’ single-mother families live below the poverty line (twice the poverty rate of single-father families).<sup>12</sup>

## How Many Texans Are Working But Remain Poor?<sup>13</sup>

	People in poverty	People who are low-income (2x poverty)
Annual income, family of three (two parents and one child)	\$19,749	\$39,498
Number of Texans below this income	4.1 million	9.6 million
Share of Texans below this income	14.7 percent	34.5 percent
Number of Texas families below this income	389,950	1.4 million
Share of Texas families below this income that work	63 percent	80 percent

### For More Information:

- The Kids Count Data Center provides state and county-level data on child well-being measures like family financial security, program access, and more: [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)
- The Texas Family Budgets Calculator provides regional data on what it takes for Texas families to meet their financial needs: [familybudgets.org](http://familybudgets.org)

### ENDNOTES

1. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 1-year estimates
2. See note 1
3. CPPP analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 Poverty Thresholds
4. Turner, S.E., & Bound, J. (2002). Closing the gap or widening the divide. National Bureau of Economic Research.
5. See note 1
6. Kids Count Data Center, Child and Adult Uninsured Rates, 2016
7. Kids Count Data Center, Texas Food Insecurity (all ages), 2016
8. CPPP analysis of 2016 Public Elementary Secondary Education Finance Data. U.S. Census Bureau.
9. National Center for Children in Poverty (2009). Ten important questions about child poverty and family economic hardship. Mailman School of Public Health and Columbia University
10. Texas Family Budgets. (2017). CPPP. Familybudgets.org
11. CPPP analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 1-year estimates
12. See note 11
13. See notes 2 and 11