

# A Report from the Texas Legislative Study Group On the State of Our State

March 2013

83<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session of the Texas Legislature

# Texas Legislative Study Group

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March 15, 2013

Fellow Texans,

In 2003, State Senator Eliot Shapleigh released the first edition of *Texas on the Brink*. The Texas Legislative Study Group has the distinct honor of continuing Senator Shapleigh's work with the publication of *Texas on the Brink: Sixth Edition*.

We hope *Texas* on the *Brink* will be a recurring resource for elected officials and the public as we work together to solve the public policy challenges facing Texas.

We invite you to download a copy of this report at <a href="https://www.texasLSG.org/TexasOnTheBrink">www.texasLSG.org/TexasOnTheBrink</a>. On that site, we will also post reports from policy organizations here in Texas and throughout the country that detail the impact our public policy decisions have on the lives of Texas families.

Thank you Senator Shapleigh for building *Texas on the Brink* and setting a high standard for public policy information.

Sincerely,

Garnet F. Coleman Chair, Texas Legislative Study Group State Representative, House District 147

# **Texas on the Brink**

# How Texas Ranks Among the 50 States March 2013 - Sixth Edition

Since 1836, Texas has stood as an icon of the American dream.

Blessed with land, rivers, oil, and other abundant natural resources, early Texas welcomed everyone from cattle ranchers to *braceros*, from cotton farmers to Chinese railroad workers. These pioneers built a great state, and together we fulfilled a destiny.

From humble beginnings, we built a state with the firm belief that every Texan might rise as high and as far as their spirit, hard work, and talent might carry them. With education and determination every Texan might achieve great success – home ownership, reliable healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and financial prosperity.

In Texas today, the American dream is distant. Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured adults in the nation. Texas is dead last in percentage of high school graduates. Our state generates more hazardous waste and carbon dioxide emissions than any other state in our nation. If we do not change course, for the first time in our history, the Texas generation of tomorrow will be less prosperous than the generation of today.

Without the courage to invest in the minds of our children and steadfast support for great schools, we face a daunting prospect. Those who value tax cuts over children and budget cuts over college have put Texas at risk in her ability to compete and succeed.

Let us not forget that the business of Texas is Texans. Improving the health and well being of our citizens will allow Texas to thrive for years to come. If we invest in our greatest resource – our children – Texas will be the state of the future. If we do not, Texas will only fall further behind.

Texas is on the brink, but Texas can do better. The choice is ours.

# **State Rankings**



## **State Taxes**

(51st=Lowest, 1st=Highest)

•	Tax Revenue Collections per Capita <sup>1</sup>	Tied 45 <sup>th</sup>
•	<b>Total State Expenditures per Capita<sup>2</sup></b>	48 <sup>th</sup>
•	Sales Tax Collections per Capita <sup>3</sup>	<b>18</b> <sup>th</sup>



## **Education**

•	Elementary and Secondary Public School	
	Enrollment <sup>4</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
•	Average Salary of Public School Teachers <sup>5</sup>	<b>31</b> <sup>st</sup>
•	<b>Current Expenditures for Public K-12 Schools</b>	
	per Student in Average Daily Attendance <sup>6</sup>	43 <sup>rd</sup>
•	Percentage of Revenue for Public K-12 Schools	
	from State Governments <sup>7</sup>	35 <sup>th</sup>
•	Average Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)	
	Combined Scores <sup>8</sup>	47 <sup>th</sup>
•	Estimated Public High School Graduation Rate <sup>9</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
•	Percentage of Population with at Least a	
	Bachelor's Degree <sup>10</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>
•	Percentage Enrollment in Public Higher Education <sup>11</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
•	Per Capita State Spending on State Arts Agencies <sup>12</sup>	48 <sup>th</sup>
•	Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Public Elementary and	
	Secondary Schools <sup>13</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
•	Percentage of Population Graduated	
	from High School <sup>14</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>



# **State of the Child**

(51st=Lowest, 1st=Highest)

•	Number of Births <sup>15</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
•	Percent of Babies Born at Low Birth Weight <sup>16</sup>	Tied 19th
•	Percent of Population Under 18 <sup>17</sup>	Tied 2 <sup>nd</sup>
•	Percent of Uninsured Children <sup>18</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
•	Percent of Children Living in Poverty <sup>19</sup>	Tied 7 <sup>th</sup>
•	Percent of Children (19-35 months),	
	Fully Immunized <sup>20</sup>	Tied 23rd



# **Health Care**

<ul> <li>Percent of Population Uninsured<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>	<b>1</b> st
• Percent of Non-Elderly Uninsured <sup>22</sup>	<b>1</b> st
Percent of Low Income Population	
Covered by Medicaid <sup>23</sup>	Tied 48th
<ul> <li>Percent of Population with</li> </ul>	
Employer-Based Health Insurance <sup>24</sup>	Tied 43 <sup>rd</sup>
<ul> <li>Health Care Expenditures per Capita<sup>25</sup></li> </ul>	46 <sup>th</sup>
• Per Capita State Spending on Mental Health <sup>26</sup>	<b>50</b> <sup>th</sup>
Medicaid Payments per Enrollee <sup>27</sup>	<b>41</b> <sup>st</sup>
<ul> <li>Percent of Adults Physically Active<sup>28</sup></li> </ul>	37 <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Hospital Beds per 1,000 Population<sup>29</sup></li> </ul>	Tied 29th
Health Care Professionals:	
• Physicians <sup>30</sup>	<b>41</b> <sup>st</sup>
• Dentists <sup>31</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
• Registered Nurses <sup>32</sup>	46 <sup>th</sup>



# **Health and Well-Being**

(51st=Lowest, 1st=Highest)

•	Percent Living Below Federal Poverty Level <sup>33</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
•	Percent of Population with Food Insecurity <sup>34</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
•	Average Monthly (WIC) Benefits per Person <sup>35</sup>	<b>51</b> <sup>st</sup>
•	Percent of Adults who are Overweight or Obese <sup>36</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
•	Rate of Death due to Heart Disease <sup>37</sup>	<b>22</b> <sup>nd</sup>
•	Prevalence of Diagnosed Diabetes <sup>38</sup>	<b>15</b> <sup>th</sup>
•	Diabetes Death Rate <sup>39</sup>	<b>17</b> <sup>th</sup>
•	Percent of Adults Who Visit the Dentist <sup>40</sup>	46 <sup>th</sup>



# Women's Issues

Overall Birth Rate <sup>41</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
• Teenage Birth Rate <sup>42</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
• Births to Unmarried Mothers <sup>43</sup>	<b>17</b> <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Percent of Women with Pre-Term Birth<sup>44</sup></li> </ul>	<b>11</b> <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Percent of Non-Elderly Women with</li> </ul>	
Health Insurance <sup>45</sup>	<b>51</b> <sup>st</sup>
<ul> <li>Percent of Women Who have had a</li> </ul>	
Dental Visit within the Past Year <sup>46</sup>	47 <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Rate of Women Aged 40+ Who Received</li> </ul>	
Mammograms <sup>47</sup>	<b>42</b> <sup>nd</sup>
<ul> <li>Rate of Women Aged 18+ Who Received</li> </ul>	
Pap Smears <sup>48</sup>	<b>41</b> <sup>st</sup>
• Breast Cancer Rate <sup>49</sup>	38 <sup>th</sup>
• Cervical Cancer Rate <sup>50</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Percent of Women with High Blood Pressure<sup>51</sup></li> </ul>	<b>17</b> <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Percent of Needs Met for Women</li> </ul>	
Seeking Contraceptives <sup>52</sup>	36 <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Percent of Pregnant Women Receiving</li> </ul>	
Prenatal Care in First Trimester <sup>53</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Women's Voter Registration<sup>54</sup></li> </ul>	47 <sup>th</sup>

• Women's Voter Turnout <sup>55</sup>	<b>51</b> <sup>st</sup>
<ul> <li>Percentage of Women Living in Poverty<sup>56</sup></li> </ul>	4 <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Percentage of Women with a</li> </ul>	
Bachelor's Degree or Higher <sup>57</sup>	<b>32</b> <sup>nd</sup>
<ul> <li>Percentage of Businesses Owned by Women<sup>58</sup></li> </ul>	<b>18</b> <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Median Income for Full Time Work<sup>59</sup></li> </ul>	<b>27</b> <sup>th</sup>



# **Access to Capital**

(51st=Lowest, 1st=Highest)

• Consumers with Subprime Credit <sup>60</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<ul> <li>Housing Cost Burden for Homeowners<sup>61</sup></li> </ul>	Tied 36 <sup>th</sup>
• Foreclosure Rates <sup>62</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
• Private Loans to Small Businesses <sup>63</sup>	<b>40</b> <sup>th</sup>
Asset Poverty Rate <sup>64</sup>	<b>21</b> <sup>st</sup>
<ul> <li>Median Net Worth of Households<sup>65</sup></li> </ul>	44 <sup>th</sup>
• Financial Capability <sup>66</sup>	39 <sup>th</sup>
• Financial Behavior <sup>67</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
• Retirement Plan Participation (Age 21-64)68	46 <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Average Credit Card Debt<sup>69</sup></li> </ul>	<b>46</b> <sup>th</sup>



# **Environment**

<ul> <li>Amount of Carbon Dioxide Emissions<sup>70</sup></li> </ul>	<b>1</b> st
• Total Amount of Toxic Releases into Water <sup>71</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Amount of Recognized Cancer-Causing Carcinogens Released into Air<sup>72</sup></li> </ul>	4 <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Amount of Hazardous Waste Generated<sup>73</sup></li> </ul>	<b>1</b> st
<ul> <li>Industrial Toxic Air Pollution<sup>74</sup></li> </ul>	<b>10</b> <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Amount of Recognized Cancer-Causing Carcinogens Released into Water<sup>75</sup></li> </ul>	5 <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Number of Hazardous Waste Sites on National Priority List<sup>76</sup></li> </ul>	<b>7</b> <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Total Energy Consumption Per Capita<sup>77</sup></li> </ul>	6 <sup>th</sup>
• Energy Efficiency <sup>78</sup>	32 <sup>nd</sup>



# Workforce

(51st=Lowest, 1st=Highest)

•	Average Hourly Earnings of Production Workers on Manufacturing Payroll <sup>79</sup>	<b>17</b> <sup>tl</sup>
•	Percent of Workforce that are Members of a Union <sup>80</sup>	43 <sup>rd</sup>
•	Workers' Compensation Premium Rate <sup>81</sup>	38 <sup>tl</sup>
•	Earnings Ratio Between Full-time Year-Round Workers by Gender <sup>82</sup>	<b>12</b> <sup>tl</sup>
•	Unemployment Rate <sup>83</sup>	36 <sup>tl</sup>
•	Median Household Income <sup>84 85</sup>	<b>29</b> <sup>tl</sup>
	<ul> <li>Median Household Income in Texas:</li> <li>3 year average: \$49,195; 1 year average: \$48,29</li> </ul>	5
	<ul> <li>Median Household Income for African Americans in Texas: \$35,438</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Median Household Income for Asians in Texas: \$63,692</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Median Household Income for Hispanics/Latinos in Texas: \$35,628</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Median Household Income for Whites in Texas: \$59,836</li> </ul>	



# **Quality of Life**

<ul> <li>Income Inequality Between the Rich and the Poor<sup>86</sup></li> </ul>	43 <sup>rd</sup>
<ul> <li>Income Inequality Between the Rich</li> </ul>	
and the Middle Class <sup>87</sup>	43 <sup>rd</sup>
• Home Ownership Rate <sup>88</sup>	<b>42</b> <sup>nd</sup>
• Affordability of Homes <sup>89</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
• Auto Insurance Cost <sup>90</sup>	<b>12</b> <sup>th</sup>
<ul> <li>Personal Bankruptcy Filings Rate, Per Capita<sup>91</sup></li> </ul>	46 <sup>th</sup>
• Percent of Households with Internet Access <sup>92</sup>	34 <sup>th</sup>



# **Public Safety**

(51st=Lowest, 1st=Highest)

• Number of Executions <sup>93</sup>	<b>1</b> st
• Rate of Incarceration <sup>94</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
• Violent Crime Rate95	<b>16</b> <sup>th</sup>
• Murder Rate <sup>96</sup>	Tied 22 <sup>nd</sup>
• Percentage of Murders Involving Firearms	97 <b>24</b> <sup>th</sup>
• Reported Rape Cases Per Capita <sup>98</sup>	<b>27</b> <sup>th</sup>
• Property Crime Rate <sup>99</sup>	<b>2</b> <sup>nd</sup>
• Larceny and Theft Rate <sup>100</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
• Deaths Due to Motor Vehicle Accidents <sup>101</sup>	<b>19</b> <sup>th</sup>



# **Democracy**

•	Percent of Voting-Age Population	
	Registered to Vote <sup>102</sup>	47 <sup>th</sup>
•	Percent of Voting-Age Population that Votes <sup>103</sup>	<b>51</b> <sup>st</sup>

# **Key Facts and Figures**

### Children and Families:

- In fiscal year 2012, there were 74,258 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect<sup>104</sup> and 64,366 confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect.<sup>105</sup>
- 246 children died due to abuse or neglect in 2011.<sup>106</sup>
- The rate of immunization in the 4:3:1 series (most basic vaccination series) for Texas children, ages 19-35 months, was 81.6 percent in 2011, below the national average of 82.6 percent.<sup>107</sup>
- 48 percent of children in Texas live in low-income families families whose household income is up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level – compared to 44 percent nationwide.<sup>108</sup>
- 86 percent of children whose parents do not have a high school diploma live in low-income families, compared to 33 percent of children whose parents have some college education.<sup>109</sup>
- In Texas, 65 percent of Hispanic children and 58 percent of black children live in low-income families, compared to 25 percent of white children.<sup>110</sup>
- 47 percent of children in urban areas and 55 percent of children in rural areas live in low-income families.<sup>111</sup>
- The maximum Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant for a single-parent family of three is \$263 per month.<sup>112</sup>
- In FY 2012, the average monthly benefits, per person, for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) recipients in Texas were \$29.30, the lowest in the nation.<sup>113</sup>
- 23 percent of children in poverty in Texas are uninsured, compared to 15 percent nationwide.<sup>114</sup>

### **Public Education:**

In the 2010-2011 school year:

- 29 percent of Texas 4<sup>th</sup> graders read at or above NAEP proficiency levels, 3 percent below national average.<sup>115</sup>
- 27 percent of Texas 8<sup>th</sup> graders read at or above NAEP proficiency levels, 5 percent below national average.
- The percentage of 4<sup>th</sup> graders scoring at or above NAEP levels for basic math was 14 percent higher than those eligible for the National School Lunch Program\*.<sup>117</sup>
- The percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> graders scoring at or above NAEP levels for basic math was 18 percent higher than those eligible for the National School Lunch Program\*.<sup>118</sup>
- In 2010, 31 percent of full-time teachers in high poverty middle schools were assigned to teach courses outside their field of expertise.<sup>119</sup>
- Teachers at Texas schools that have 97.5 percent or higher minority enrollment performed much lower on the Teacher Quality Index (TQI) rating compared to schools with the lowest minority enrollment. <sup>120</sup>
- Only 18 percent of teachers in high schools with the lowest TQI ratings graduated from high-performing college programs compared to 60 percent from the highest TQI rated high schools.<sup>121</sup>
- Based on the 2012-2013 ranking estimates, Texas expenditures per student were 27 percent less than the national average. 122

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Eligibility for free/reduced-price school lunch is an indicator of low family income, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

### **Achievement Gaps:**

These tables show average test scores and percentage of Texas students scoring satisfactory by grade and race for the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test. STAAR tests are unique; maximum scores for each grade, subject, and year are not the same.

### 4th Grade English Reading Scores 123

Race	<b>Average Score</b>	<b>Percent Satisfactory</b>
Asian	1587	89%
Black or African American	1471	66%
Hispanic / Latino	1490	72%
Native American or Alaskan Native	1518	77%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	1525	82%
White	1562	88%

### 4th Grade Math Scores 124

Race	<b>Average Score</b>	<b>Percent Satisfactory</b>
Asian	1650	91%
Black or African American	1480	52%
Hispanic / Latino	1517	64%
Native American or Alaskan Native	1529	66%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	1550	73%
White	1564	78%

### 8th Grade English Reading Scores 125

Race	<b>Average Score</b>	<b>Percent Satisfactory</b>
Asian	1748	90%
Black or African American	1641	73%
Hispanic / Latino	1643	74%
Native American or Alaskan Native	1670	80%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	1680	83%
White	1720	90%

### 8th Grade Math Scores 126

Race	<b>Average Score</b>	<b>Percent Satisfactory</b>
Asian	1786	94%
Black or African American	1620	64%
Hispanic / Latino	1641	70%
Native American or Alaskan Native	1665	77%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	1680	82%
White	1706	87%

# **Higher Education:**

- In Texas, only 31.6 percent of the population aged 25-34 has an associate's degree or higher, less than the national average of 41.1 percent.<sup>127</sup>
- Texas is ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> in residents 25-34 with an associate's degree or higher.<sup>128</sup>
- 15.7 percent of degree and certificate seeking Texas white students, attending two-year colleges, graduate within 3 years. 129
- 23 percent of degree and certificate seeking Texas Hispanic students, attending two-year colleges, graduate within 3 years.<sup>130</sup>
- 18.1 percent of degree and certificate seeking Texas African American students, attending two-year colleges, graduate within 3 years.<sup>131</sup>
- 14.4 percent of degree and certificate seeking Texas Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander students, attending two-year colleges, graduate within 3 years.<sup>132</sup>
- Texas college graduates have an average student loan debt of \$22,140.<sup>133</sup>
- Texas currently ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the number of high school graduates going to college with 56.9 percent. The national average is 63.8 percent.<sup>134</sup>
- 49.8 percent of Texas high school graduates attended an instate college or university.<sup>135</sup>
- In El Paso County, 19.8 percent of the population has a Bachelor's degree or higher, <sup>136</sup> as opposed to 44 percent in Travis County. <sup>137</sup>
- 17.2 percent of Texans have attained a Bachelor's degree.<sup>138</sup>
- Only 8.5 percent of Texans have attained a graduate or professional degree.<sup>139</sup>
- 54.6 percent of first time students at Texas two-year colleges are not college ready.<sup>140</sup>
- 15.7 percent first time students at Texas universities are not college ready.<sup>141</sup>

- The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University at College Station are the only Texas public institutions of higher education ranked in the top 100 in U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges in the U.S., with UT at #46 and Texas A&M at #65.<sup>142</sup>
- 31.5 percent of African Americans and 41.3 percent of Hispanics graduate from a four-year institution within six years, compared with 58.6 percent of Whites.<sup>143</sup>
- 50.9 percent of Texas college students earn a Bachelor's degree within six years of entering college.<sup>144</sup>

# The Elderly:

- In a 2010-2011 report, Texas had a 16 percent poverty rate among the elderly population, ages 65 and older, compared to 12 percent nationally.<sup>145</sup>
- In 2011, there were 24.6 different prescriptions filled at retail drug stores by the elderly in Texas; in the United States, there were 28 prescriptions filled by retail drug stores for the elderly.<sup>146</sup>
- The population of people over the age of 65 in Texas will be expected to grow from 2.1 to 7.4 million, or 258 percent, by 2040.<sup>147</sup>
- In 2012, Texas elderly population, ages 65 and over, was approximately 2.8 million. <sup>148</sup>
- There were 59,595 validated cases of elderly abuse in 2012 in Texas. The highest reports made to Adult Protective Services (APS) came from medical personnel followed by relatives.<sup>149</sup>

### The Uninsured:

- In 2012, 16.9 percent of Americans lacked health insurance, up from 14.8 in 2008.<sup>150</sup>
- In 2012, the rate of Texans without health insurance rose to 28.8 percent, the highest rate in the nation, widening its distance from the runner-up by 4.8 percentage points – the largest on record.<sup>151</sup>
- Full implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), with moderate enrollment, is projected to reduce the uninsured rate to almost 12 percent, adding coverage for 3 million more Texans.<sup>152</sup>
- Comparing data from 2000 and 2011, the annual family health insurance premium in Texas increased from \$6,638<sup>153</sup> to \$14,903. <sup>154</sup>
- Texas insurance premiums amounted to more than 25 percent of median incomes.<sup>155</sup>
- Under the Affordable Care Act, previously insured families will pay an average of 693 dollars less in premiums by 2019. 156
- In 2010, almost 59 percent of working Texans under age 65 had employer based health coverage, down 11 percent since 2000.<sup>157</sup>
- 17 percent of children (0-18) in Texas were uninsured in 2011, compared to 10 percent nationally.<sup>158</sup>
- In Texas, 58 percent of adults, ages 19-64 that are living in poverty, do not have health insurance, compared to 42 percent nationally.<sup>159</sup>
- Of those uninsured, 60 percent, or 3.6 million, were Hispanic, compared with 10 percent of blacks and 24 percent of whites.<sup>160</sup>
- 1.2 million Texas children, or 20 percent of the population under the age of 18, were without health insurance in 2010-2011.<sup>161</sup>
- To qualify for Medicaid benefits in Texas, a working adult must be a parent to an eligible child and must earn at or below 25 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. 162

### **Health Professionals:**

- Between 2005 and 2020, the demand for Registered Nurses in Texas will increase by 86 percent, while the supply of Registered Nurses will only increase by 53 percent, leaving Texas 71,000 full-time Registered Nurses short of its needs.<sup>163</sup>
- Approximately 18,000 primary care doctors practice in Texas, serving a population that will soon exceed 26 million.<sup>164</sup>
- Harris County, which includes Houston, Texas, has 30,857 licensed Resident Nurses, 22,015 of whom are employed as full-time nurses; 2,124 are unemployed.<sup>165</sup>
- Travis County, which includes Austin, Texas, has 9,208 licensed Resident Nurses; 5,936 of whom are employed as full-time nurses while 732 are unemployed.<sup>166</sup>
- Bexar County, which includes San Antonio, Texas, has 18,090 licensed Resident Nurses, 13,120 of whom are employed as full-time nurses; 1,301 are unemployed.<sup>167</sup>
- Dallas County, which includes Dallas, Texas, has 18,404 licensed Resident Nurses; 13,338 of whom are employed as full-time nurses while 1,216 are unemployed.<sup>168</sup>
- El Paso County, which includes El Paso, Texas, has 6,172 licensed Resident Nurses; 4,725 of whom are employed as full-time nurses; 309 are unemployed.<sup>169</sup>

# **Employment and Income Disparity:**

- The personal per capita income for Texans in 2011 was \$40,147.<sup>170</sup>
- 6.3 percent of Texas workers are members of a union.<sup>171</sup>
- 45.19 percent of the statewide civilian workforce consists of African Americans (12.14 percent) and Hispanic Americans (33.05 percent). <sup>172</sup>
- 45.72 percent of the statewide civilian workforce is female.
- Approximately 4.6 million Texans live in poverty, representing 18.5 percent of the state's population in 2011.<sup>174</sup>

- 24 percent (approximately 1.56 million) of Texas children live in low-income families.<sup>175</sup>
- Starr County led the state in 2011 with 39.3 percent of the population living in poverty.<sup>176</sup>
- The richest 5 percent of households in Texas have average incomes of \$255,800, which is 14.3 times higher than the bottom 20 percent of households (\$17,900) and 4.8 times higher than the middle 20 percent of households (\$53,200).<sup>177</sup>
- From 2010 to 2011, 53 percent of Texas residents were at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. Of that, 23 percent were below the federal poverty level, 9 percent were 100 to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, and 21 percent were 139 to 250 percent of the federal poverty level.
- 12 percent of Whites, 31 percent of African Americans and 34 percent of Hispanics in Texas live in poverty.

### **Taxation:**

- A 2013 study found that Texas's tax system is one of the most regressive state and local tax systems in the nation.<sup>180</sup>
- The poorest 20 percent of Texan Families pay 12.6 percent of their income in taxes, the fifth highest percentage in the nation, while the top 1 percent only pay 3.2 percent of their income in taxes.<sup>181</sup>
- According to the Comptroller of Public Accounts, in 2011 the Lone Star State had \$40.5 billion of outstanding state debt and \$192.7 billion of outstanding local debt.<sup>182</sup>

### **Transportation:**

- Out of the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas, Austin, TX made the Top 10 Worst Traffic Cities in the US. Austin drivers waste an average of 30 hours in traffic per year.<sup>183</sup>
- Over the next 25 years, road use in Texas will grow by 214 percent, much of it concentrated in the state's most congested metropolitan areas.<sup>184</sup>
- As of 2011, Texas has 51,277 bridges.<sup>185</sup>

- Texas ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> best nationally in terms of the overall safety and reliability of the state's bridges.<sup>186</sup>
- In 2011, there were 3.015 traffic fatalities in Texas.<sup>187</sup>

### **Sex Education:**

- In 2010, the birth rate for ages 15-19 in Texas was 52.2 per 1,000 people, compared to 34.2 in the U.S. <sup>188</sup>
- According to a 2011 study, only 25.4 percent of schools in Texas teach about abstinence plus pregnancy and STD prevention in schools. <sup>189</sup>
- 3.7 million Texas students are not taught basic information in public schools about STD prevention and unplanned pregnancies.<sup>190</sup>
- 25 percent of Texas school districts have no formal policy regulating sex education.<sup>191</sup>
- 52 percent of Texas students have had sexual intercourse, compared with 46 percent nationwide; 38 percent of Texas students are currently sexually active, compared with 34 percent nationwide; and 42 percent of Texas students did not use a condom during their last instance of sexual intercourse, compared with 39 percent nationwide.<sup>192</sup>

# **Evolving Demographics:**

- 12 percent of Texas residents are African American, 40 percent are Hispanic, 42 percent are White, and 7 percent are Other. 193
- There are 2.25 million children in immigrant families in Texas.<sup>194</sup>
- 46,401 same-sex couples live in Texas, representing 7.2% of same-sex couples identified in the United States. There are approximately 431,095 LGBT workers who live in Texas. 195
- 64.7 percent of all Texas voters support allowing gay and lesbian couples to get a civil union and 68.8 percent of all Texas voters support gays/lesbians having the same legal rights with respect to their children. 196

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