CITY OF
★
SAN ANTONIO
— TEXAS —
★

HUMAN SERVICES

STATUS OF POVERTY

2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- San Antonio is the seventh largest city in the country and one of the fastest growing. Based on the 2018-2022 population estimates, among the top ten most populated cities in the USA, only Phoenix (AZ) and San Antonio (TX) gained population. San Antonio is well known by its rich cultural heritage and vibrant community.

- However, almost 18% of the population live in poverty (17.7%), this percentage is significantly higher than the national average of 11.5%. Over the last decade the overall rate of poverty has barely changed in San Antonio, remaining stagnant at 18% of the total population, which implies that almost one in five individuals lack the necessary socio-economic resources to meet their basic needs.

- Although there are residents living in poverty in many areas of the city, San Antonio is still one of the nation's most economically segregated cities with extreme differences within the city limits. Therefore, some areas could be considered pockets of poverty or areas with persistent poverty, while others have a high concentration of highly educated/high income residents. The table below shows the extreme differences between the two zip codes with higher and lower rates of poverty in San Antonio in 2018-2022.

Zip Code	Median Income	% Hispanic	% African American	% College Educated	%Employment rate (18-64 y/o)
78207	$28,500	89.2%	4.1%	5.6%	59.2%
78208	$23,864	89%	18.1%	12.9%	62.6%
78259	$98,399	34.4%	7.2%	50.1%	77.6%
78248	$125,089	32.5%	3.8%	62.6%	78.8%

- These differences are also very significant between the city limits and the extended metropolitan statistical area (MSA: San Antonio New-Braunfels).

Area	Median Income	Poverty Rate	Median Home Value	% College Educated
City of San Antonio	$59,593	17.7%	$198,000	27.7%
MSA- SA New Braunfels	$70,910	13.7%	$234,900	30.8%

- Both factors combined, the stagnant rate of poverty over time, and the highly concertation of low-income residents in certain areas can be considered a strong indicator of generational poverty; a situation when two or more generations of the same family live in poverty. Generational poverty is not only an economic problem, but a complex situation where several layers of vulnerability intervene.

- While the city and local economy have experienced a significant growth over the last decade, San Antonio's median income ($59,593) is still significantly lower than the national average ($75,149); even though the employment rate is slightly higher than the national average (Civilian labor force 16 y/o+ is 64.8% in SA compared to 63% in the US). This is a clear indicator that a large proportion of the population living in poverty in San Antonio are employed but not earning enough to cover their basic needs, which is often referred as -'working poor'; confirming the significant income disparities within the city.
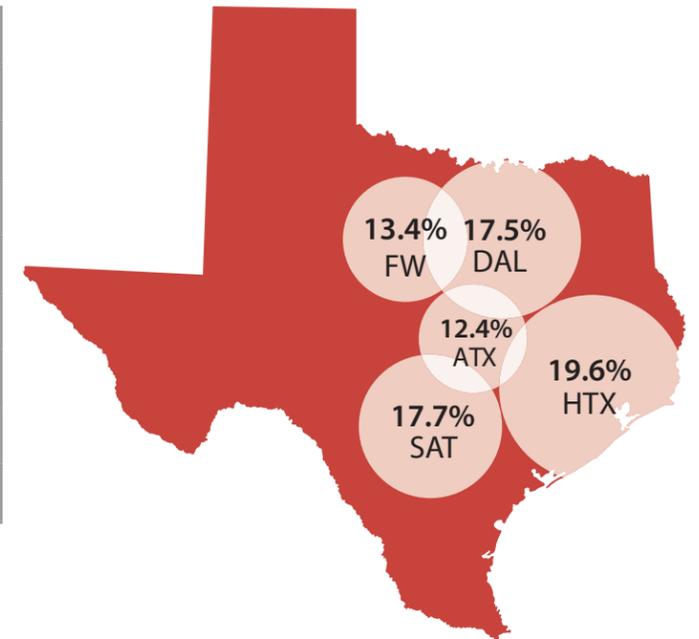
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Continued

- These income disparities are related -among other causes- to lower levels of educational attainment. While more than 34% of the nation's population has a bachelor's degree or a higher level of education, in San Antonio this percentage is less than 28%. Additionally, the city faces significant racial disparities in educational attainment, while almost 45% of non-Hispanic White have a bachelor's degree or a higher level of education, less than 25% of Black or African Americans have achieved the same educational level; this percentage is even lower among those identified as Hispanic -less than 19% have a bachelor's degree-.

- In the City of San Antonio almost 50% of renter occupied housing units (49.2%) are considered cost burdened, where the household must spend more than 30% of their total income to secure housing. Nonetheless, the 2023 Housing Gap Report prepared by the National Low Income Housing Coalition shows how the City of San Antonio is slowly creating more affordable housing units. The Gap Report tracks how many affordable housing units are available for each 100 Extreme Low Income (ELI) households, the table below shows this data for 2020 and 2021 in the four larger Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Texas; San Antonio is the only MSA that has been able to curb the negative trend, even though there is still a significant deficit of affordable housing units.

Number of available un its for each 100 ELI Residents

Year	Austin MSA	Dallas - FTW MSA	Houston	San Antonio
2020	22	20	19	31
2021	16	16	19	33

- Finally, it is important to highlight that even though San Antonio's poverty rate is higher than the national average San Antonio is not the poorest city in the State of Texas; and among the larger cities in Texas. The table below shows the percentage of people below poverty level per capita with poverty status determined (2018-2022) in the largest cities in Texas.

Brownsville, TX	26.1%	Killeen, TX	16.0%
McAllen, TX	21.0%	Amarillo, TX	15.5%
Laredo, TX	21.0%	Fort Worth, TX	13.4%
Houston, TX	19.6%	Arlington, TX	13.0%
Lubbock, TX	19.3%	Austin, TX	12.4%
El Paso, TX	18.9%	Grand Prairie, TX	11.5%
San Antonio, TX	17.7%	Plano, TX	6.9%
Dallas, TX	17.5%	McKinney, TX	6.2%
Corpus Christi, TX	17.3%	Frisco, TX	3.1%

13.4% FW 17.5% DAL

12.4% ATX

17.7% SAT

19.6% HTX

[1] Persistent poverty is a term referred to geographical locations with poverty rates of 20 percent or more for the past 30 years. Persistent poverty is different from and should not be confused with chronic poverty. Chronic poverty identifies individuals and families that are consistently in poverty over time, whereas persistent poverty refers to geographic locations that have had high poverty rates for an extended time.

2022 POVERTY THRESHOLDS

The data presented in this report is based on the 2022 Poverty Thresholds released by the U.S. Census Bureau, which accounts for the following income levels based on different family sizes.

Size of family	Poverty threshold 2022
👤	$15,225
👥	$20,172
👨‍👩‍👧	$23,556
👨‍👩‍👧‍👦	$29,678
👨‍👩‍👧‍👦‍👦	$34,926

This report contains the most current information on poverty and income for the City of San Antonio, based on 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5 Year- Estimates (2018-2022 ACS 5YE) released by the US Census Bureau on December 7th, 2023.

The ACS is an ongoing survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Unlike the Decennial Census, which are counts of the entire population, the ACS collects data from a representative sample of the population. The sample collected over a single year informs the 1-Year Estimates. The Census Bureau produces the ACS 5-Year Estimates by pooling together the results of the five previous survey years. Using multiple years of data, the 5-Year Estimates are a more accurate estimation than the 1-Year Estimates; mainly because the 5YE uses a larger sample size. Overall, 5-Year Estimates have greater statistical reliability, and the values are more stable year-to-year, which allows to identify community trends more accurately. It is often believed that the 1-Year Estimates are "newer" or "more recent" than 5-Year Estimates. However, the 5-Year Estimates are just as current as 1-Year Estimates—the sampling for the 5-Year Estimates includes the sample used for the most recent 1-Year Estimates. This report contains the most current information on poverty and income for the City of San Antonio, based on 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5 Year- Estimates (2018-2022 ACS 5YE) released by the US Census Bureau on December 7th, 2023.

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POVERTY OVERVIEW

- 17.7% of population in San Antonio live below the official poverty measure; which represents an income of $15,225 or less for a household of one; which represents an estimate of 251,801 residents (±7,626).

- Over the last decade there is a slight reduction on the percent of people living in poverty in San Antonio from 20.1% in 2012, to 18.6% in 2013-2017 to 17.7% in 2018-2022; based on the American Community Survey Five Years Estimates.

- 17.7% of San Antonians live in poverty compared to the 13.9% in Texas, and 12.5% in the U.S. overall. The percent of residents living in poverty is still significantly higher than the national average.

- San Antonio's poverty rate ranks second among the five larger cities in Texas. Houston has the highest rate of people living in poverty (19.6%) close to the 20% of their total population, while San Antonio and Dallas have similar rates between 17.5% (Dallas) and 17.7% (San Antonio). Only the City of Austin has a percentage of population living in poverty below the national average.

Table 1: Poverty Overview. Ranking of Texans Cities by Poverty Rate.

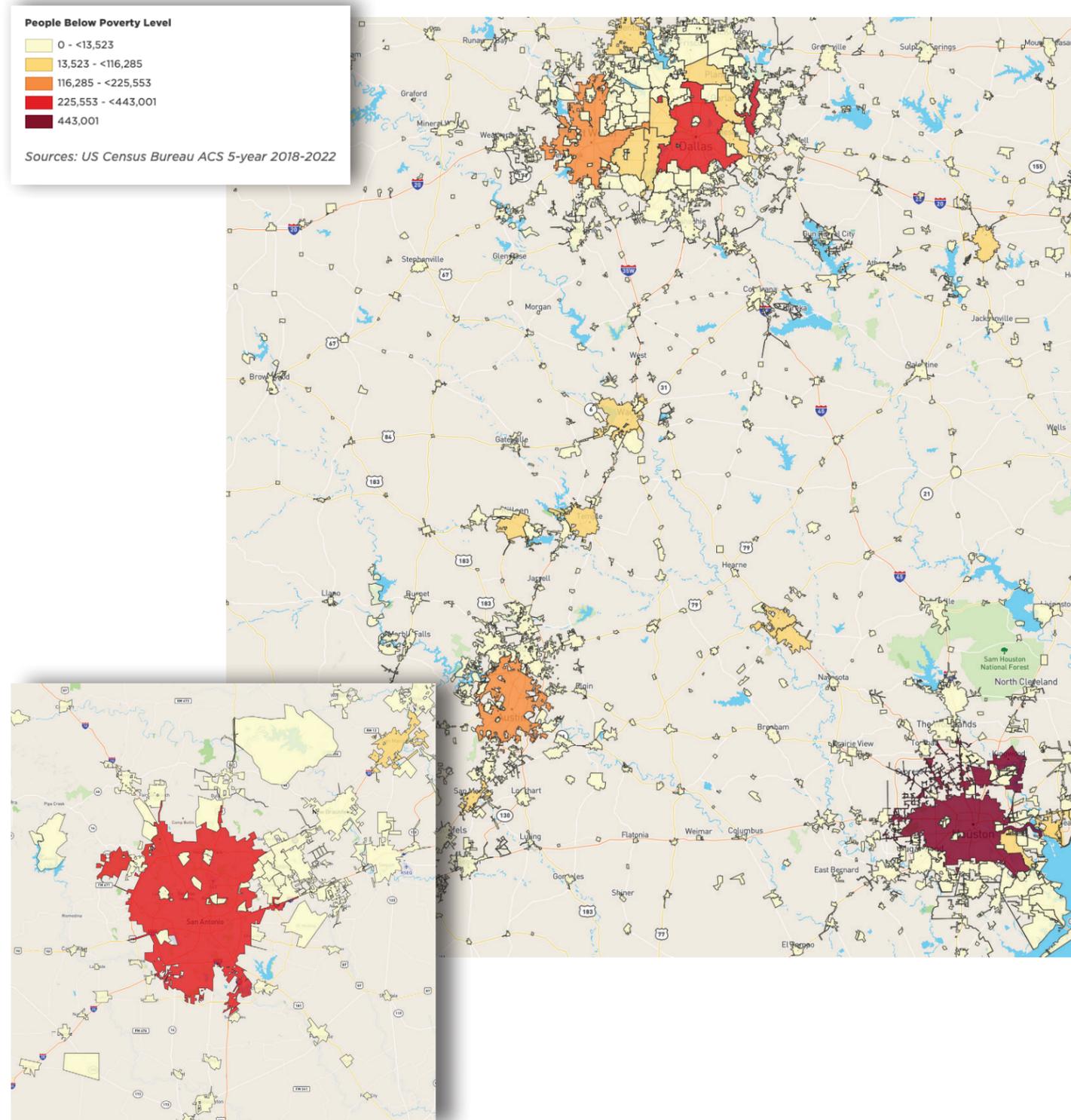Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022, 5YE (S. 1701)
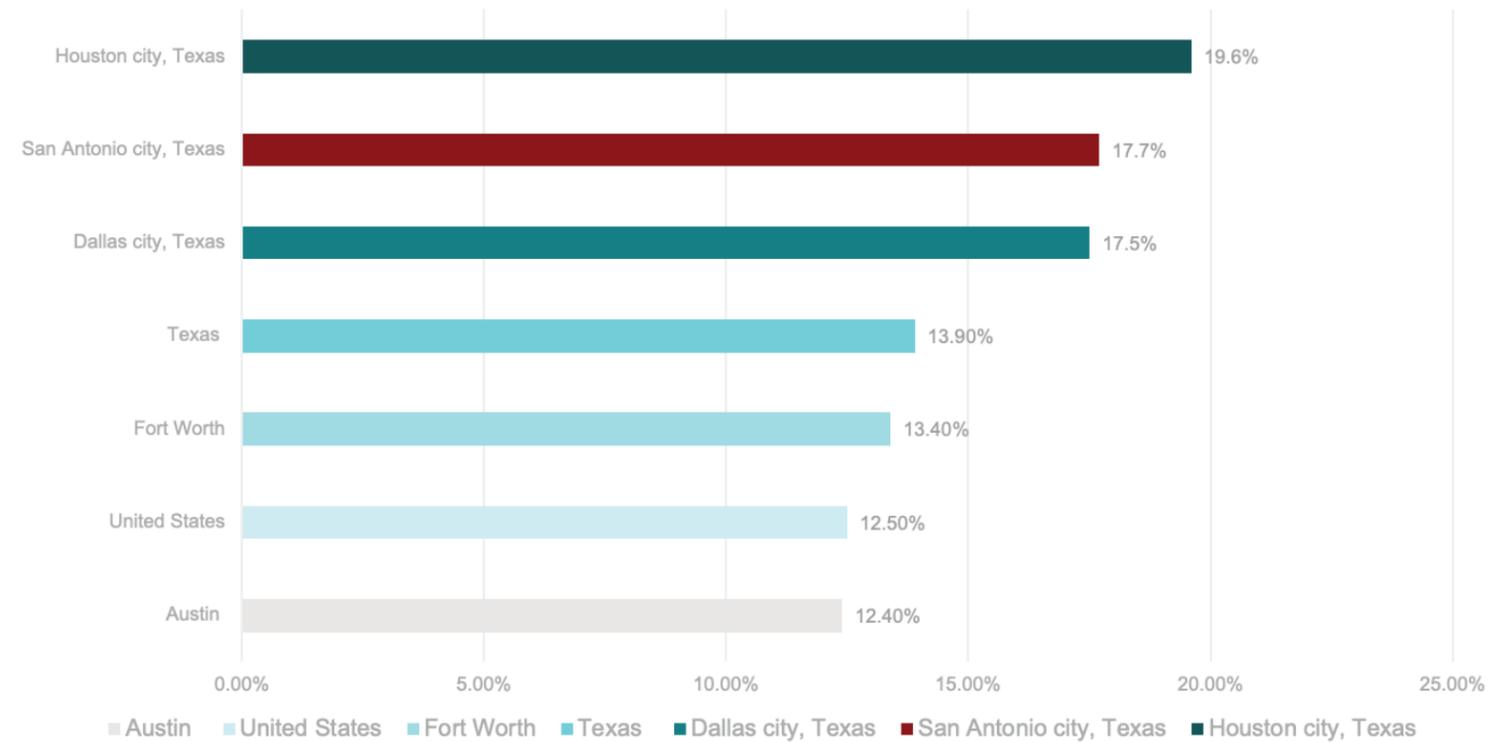
- Poverty in Texas overall has decreased from 16% in 2013-2017 to less than 14% (13.9%) in 2018-2022. From 2013 to 2017 it was estimated that 4.3 million Texans lived below poverty every year; while from 2018 to 2022 this number declined in 400,000 residents, to an annual estimate of 3.9 million Texans living below the poverty line.

POVERTY OVERVIEW Continued

Map 1: Population Living in Poverty in the State of Texas.
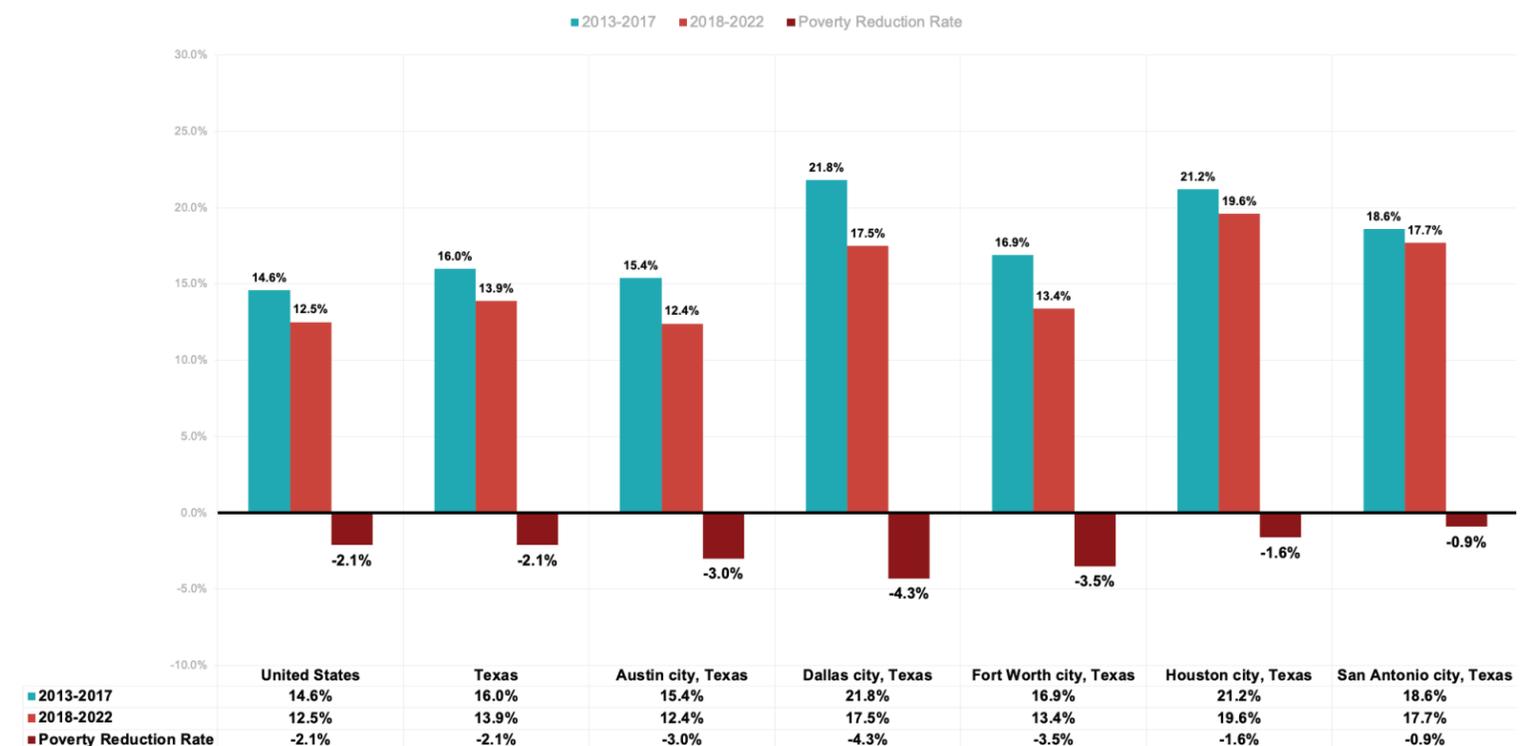Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022, 5YE (S. 1701)

People Below Poverty Level

- 0 - <13,523
- 13,523 - <116,285
- 116,285 - <225,553
- 225,553 - <443,001
- 443,001

Sources: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2018-2022

POVERTY OVERVIEW Continued

- The table below shows the poverty reduction rate over five years across various geographies in Texas, based on ACS five years estimates data from 2013-2017 to 2018-2022. Since 2017, Dallas, Fort Worth and Austin have been more successful than Houston and San Antonio in reducing poverty.

- San Antonio's poverty reduction rate is very slow in comparison with the rest of the State. **The poverty rate has remained stagnant at around 18% in San Antonio over the last decade.**

- Poverty changes in San Antonio seems to demonstrate that the population living in poverty hasn't been significantly reduced. What's more important, it seems that the same subset of population have been living in poverty for more than a decade, which probably means that San Antonio faces a systemic issue of generational poverty. Based on existing data it is not possible to determine if the reported numbers are describing the same individuals, but it is demonstrated by historic data that the number of residents living in poverty is almost the same over time. It is true that the percentage has slightly been reduced but, it can be related to the overall population growth in San Antonio, and not necessarily due to upper mobility of residents previously living in poverty.

Table 2: Change in Poverty Rate by Geography. Texas Cities

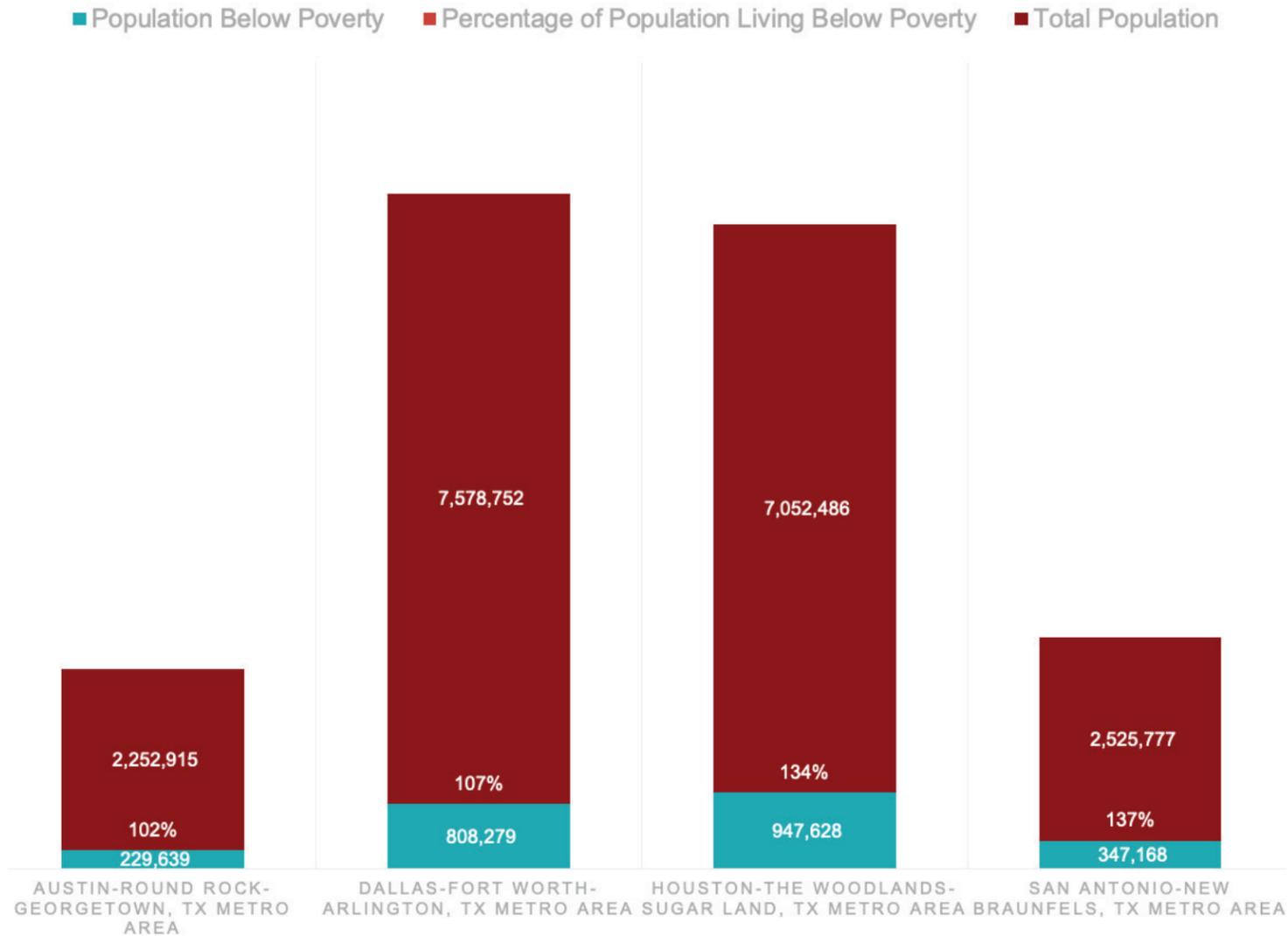Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017 & 2018-2022, 5YE (S. 1701)

	United States	Texas	Austin city, Texas	Dallas city, Texas	Fort Worth city, Texas	Houston city, Texas	San Antonio city, Texas
2013-2017	14.6%	16.0%	15.4%	21.8%	16.9%	21.2%	18.6%
2018-2022	12.5%	13.9%	12.4%	17.5%	13.4%	19.6%	17.7%
Poverty Reduction Rate	-2.1%	-2.1%	-3.0%	-4.3%	-3.5%	-1.6%	-0.9%

- Comparing poverty rates between cities and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) is important because it helps to understand the economic well-being of different areas of the same region. In the two largest Metro Areas of Texas there is a higher number of residents living in poverty overall. However, San Antonio-New Braunfels Metro Area ranks number one by percentage of people living in poverty across the four largest MSA in Texas; but with a lower percentage (13.7%) than the city of San Antonio alone (17.7%), which confirms that there is a higher concentration of people living in poverty within the city limits.

Table 3: Population living in poverty in Texas larger Metropolitan Statistical Areas 2018-2022.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022, 5YE (S. 1701)
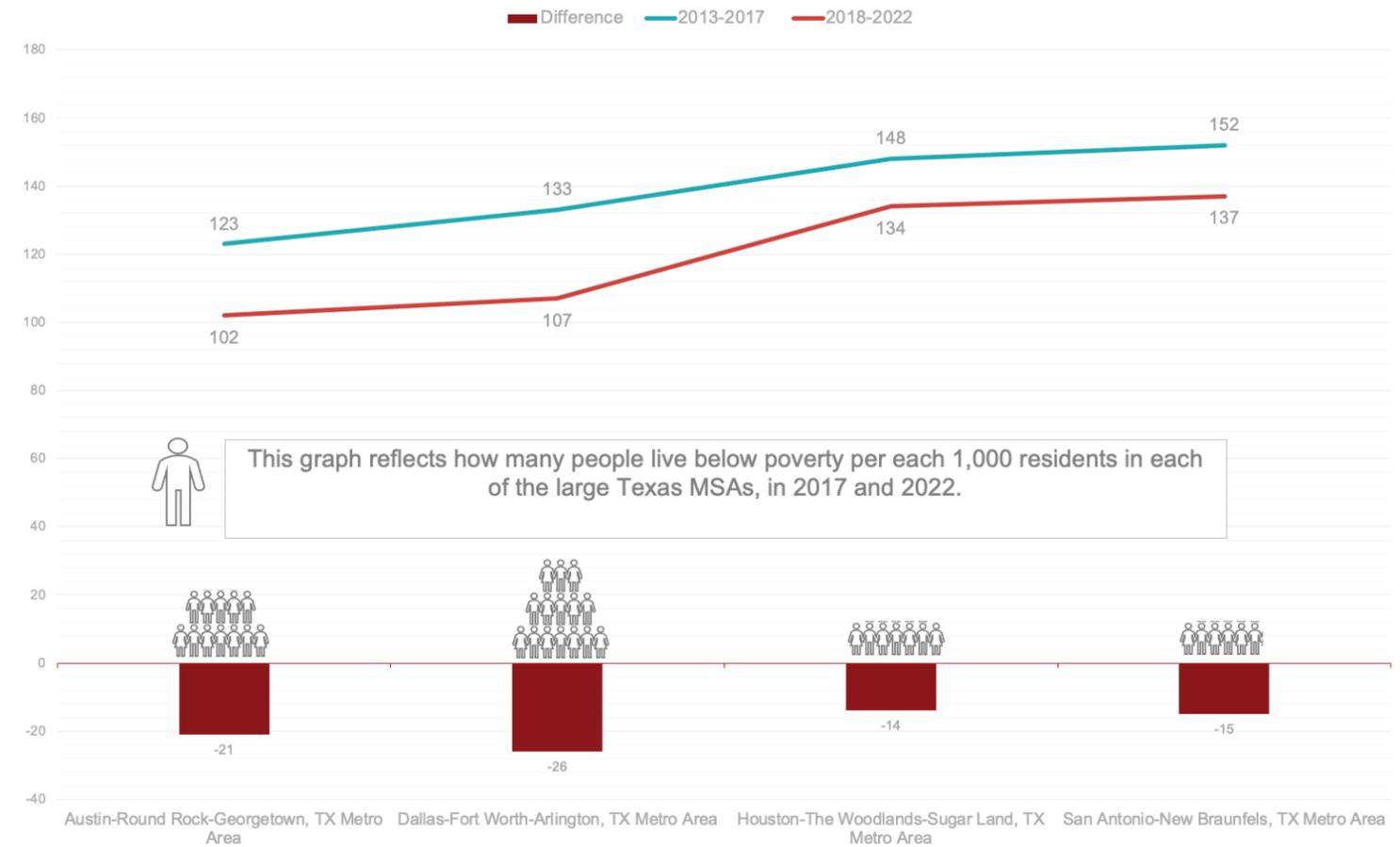
Legend: ■ Population Below Poverty ■ Percentage of Population Living Below Poverty ■ Total Population

	Population Below Poverty	Percentage	Total Population
AUSTIN-ROUND ROCK-GEORGETOWN, TX METRO AREA	229,639	102%	2,252,915
DALLAS-FORT WORTH-ARLINGTON, TX METRO AREA	808,279	107%	7,578,752
HOUSTON-THE WOODLANDS-SUGAR LAND, TX METRO AREA	947,628	134%	7,052,486
SAN ANTONIO-NEW BRAUNFELS, TX METRO AREA	347,168	137%	2,525,777

Table 4: Ratio of population below poverty in the larger MSA in Texas.
Change over time (2013-2022)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017 & 2018-2022, 5YE (S. 1701)

Legend: ■ Difference — 2013-2017 — 2018-2022

	Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, TX Metro Area	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area
2013-2017	123	133	148	152
2018-2022	102	107	134	137
Difference	-21	-26	-14	-15

This graph reflects how many people live below poverty per each 1,000 residents in each of the large Texas MSAs, in 2017 and 2022.

- This table shows a comparison of poverty reduction rates across the four larger Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the state of Texas between 2013 to 2022. While in Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown Metro Area and in Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metro Area the poverty ratio declined in 21 and 26 individuals per each 1,000 residents; in Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land Metro Area and in San Antonio-New Braunfels Metro Area the poverty ratio declined only in 14 and 15 per each 1,000 residents respectively.

POVERTY OVERVIEW Continued

- There are **extreme income disparities across the city of San Antonio** with some areas with a significant concentration of poverty. More detailed geographical information about the distribution of poverty within the city limits can be found at the San Antonio Status of Poverty dashboard, accessible from the DHS website/about section.

- Both factors combined, the stagnant rate of poverty over time, and the highly concentration of low-income residents in certain areas can be considered a strong indicator of generational poverty; a situation when two or more generations of the same family live in poverty. Generational poverty is not only an economic problem, but a complex situation where several layers of vulnerability intervene.

Map 2: Concentration of Poverty in San Antonio by census tract 2018-2022.
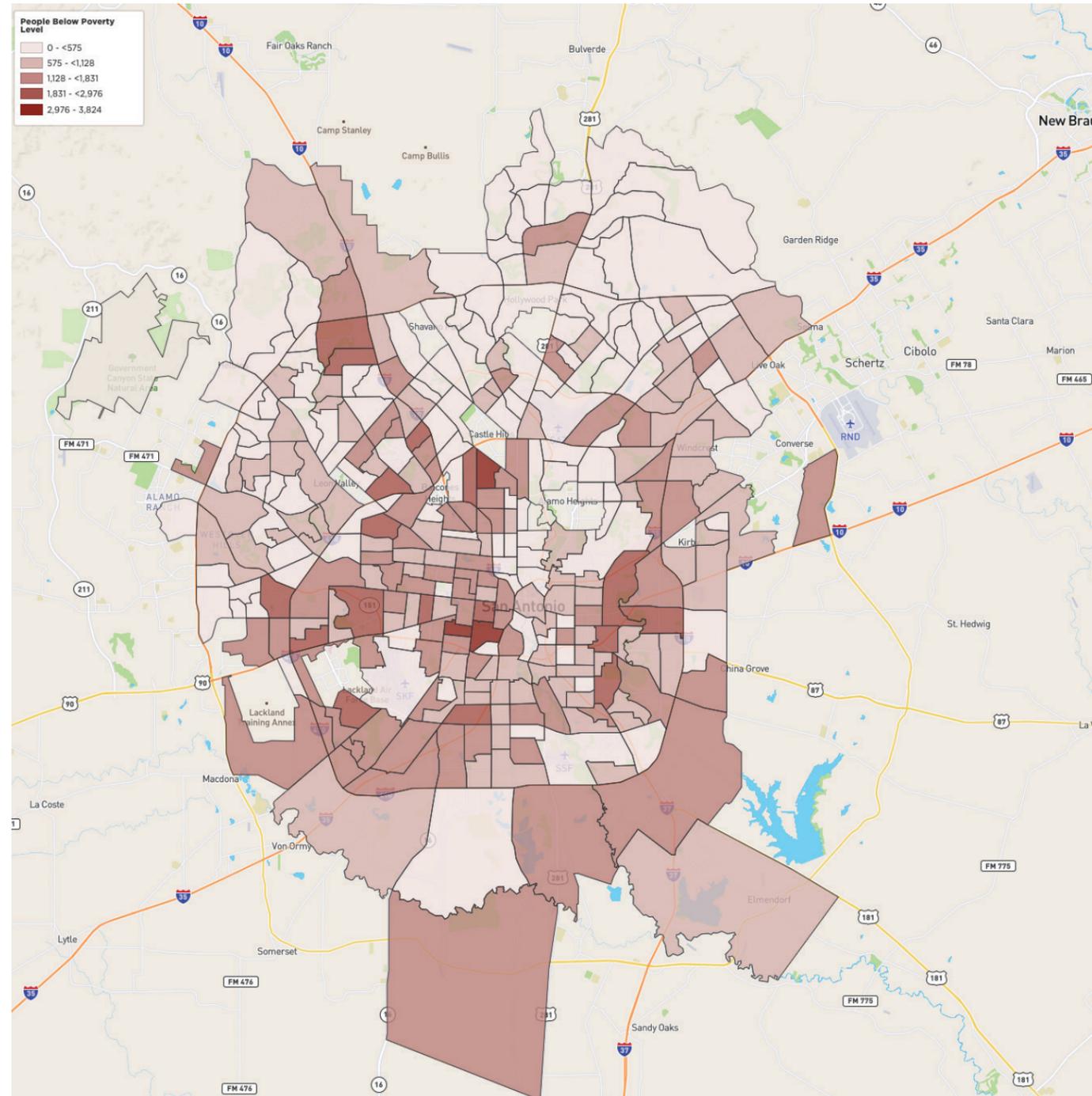
POVERTY OVERVIEW Continued

- In 2018-2022, 74.4% of all households living in poverty were families with dependents.

- 62.2% of the families living in poverty are single-parent families; most of them (up to 52.7%) are families with a single female as the head of household with no spouse present.

- Multiple variables contribute to family households experiencing poverty at a higher rate than individuals living alone, including financial constraints that are intrinsic of supporting and providing for multiple dependents; this is extreme in the case of single mothers. Single-parent families are more likely to experience poverty, mostly among single mothers.

- In San Antonio 19% of all female residents live in poverty, compared to the 16.4% of men in the same situation.

- Women are more likely to live in poverty than men. Gender inequality happens not only in San Antonio, but across the entire Nation. Gender income disparities, limited care giving supports are among others some of the contributing factor to this reality.

- As the table below shows poverty affects more women than men in all the geographies analyzed. However, it I important to highlight that the gender poverty gap in San Antonio and Austin is slightly less acute than in Dallas, Houston and Fort Worth, and very similar to the National average.

74.4% Households in poverty are families

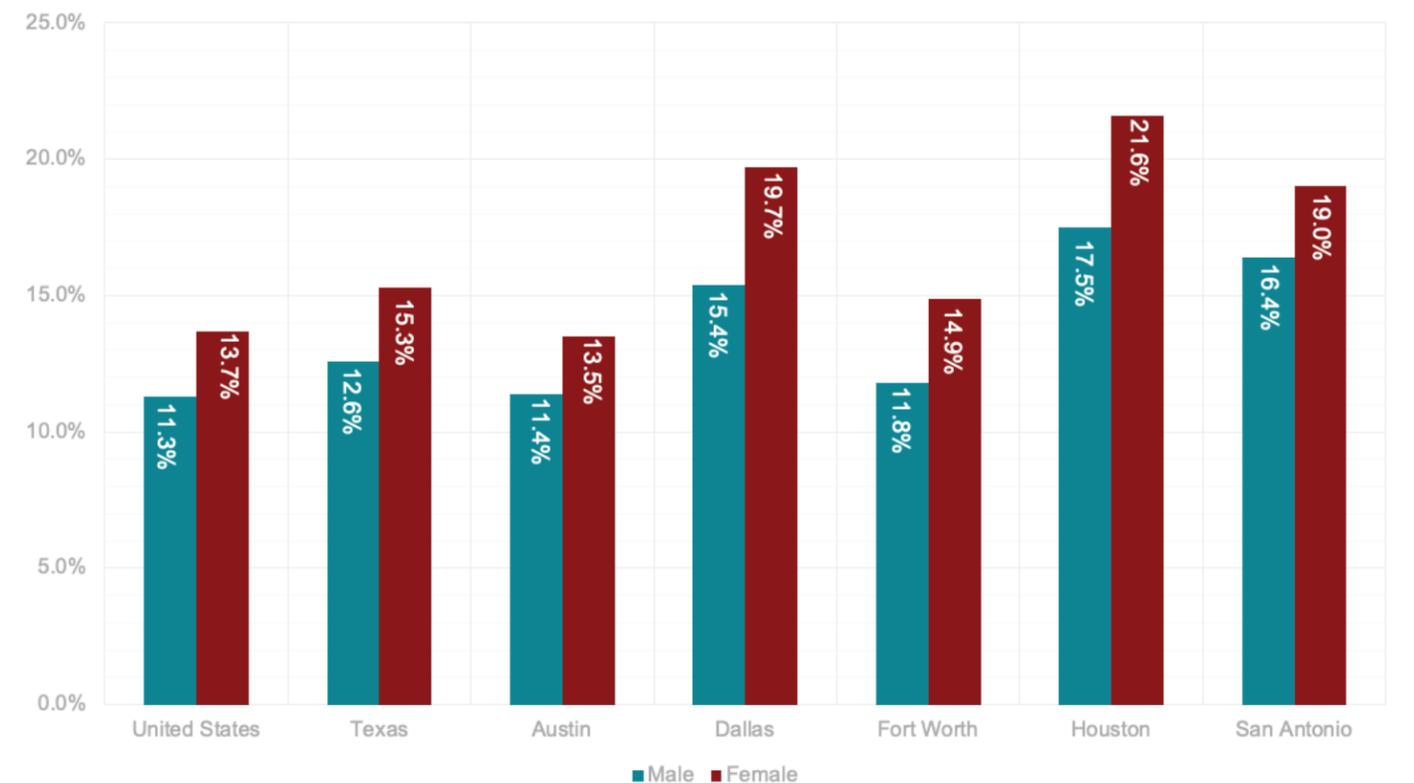**62.2%** of families in poverty are single-parent families

52.7% single mother

9.5% single father

Table 5: Percent of Population Living in Poverty by Sex. Various Geographies. 2018-2022.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022, 5YE (B17001)

Income Disparities and Poverty

- San Antonio's median income ($59,593) is significantly lower than the national average ($75,149); even though the employment rate is slightly higher than the national average (Civilian labor force 16 y/o+ is 64.8% in SA compared to 63% in the US). This is a clear indicator that a large proportion of the population living in poverty in San Antonio are employed but not earning enough to cover their basic needs, which is often referred as 'working poor'; confirming the significant income disparities within the city.

- Household income differs by location and reflects both the economy and the cost of living of every area. And while it is anticipated that income increases over time, some locations experience such increases at a higher rate. As the table below shows, among the largest cities in Texas, San Antonio has experienced the smallest median income increase between 2013 and 2022 and has the lowest median household income.

Table 6: Median Household Income by Location. Various Geographies. 2013-2017 & 2018-2022.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017 & 2018-2022, 5YE (S. 1903)

- Between 2013 and 2022, San Antonio and Houston experienced a modest median household income increase of $10,000, while other major cities in Texas increased by at least $15,000, while the Country overall has seen an even higher increase of $17,000.

- Among the 5 largest Texas cities, San Antonio, Dallas and Houston have a similar percentage of individuals making below $15,000 a year (± 11% of their total population). But the crucial difference between San Antonio and the other main cities in Texas, is that in San Antonio the group of residents earning more than $150,000 a year is significantly smaller than in Dallas (17.4%) or Houston (16.6%).

Income Disparities and Poverty Continued

Table 7: Percentage of Lowest and Highest Household Incomes by Location. 2018-2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022, 5YE (S. 1901)
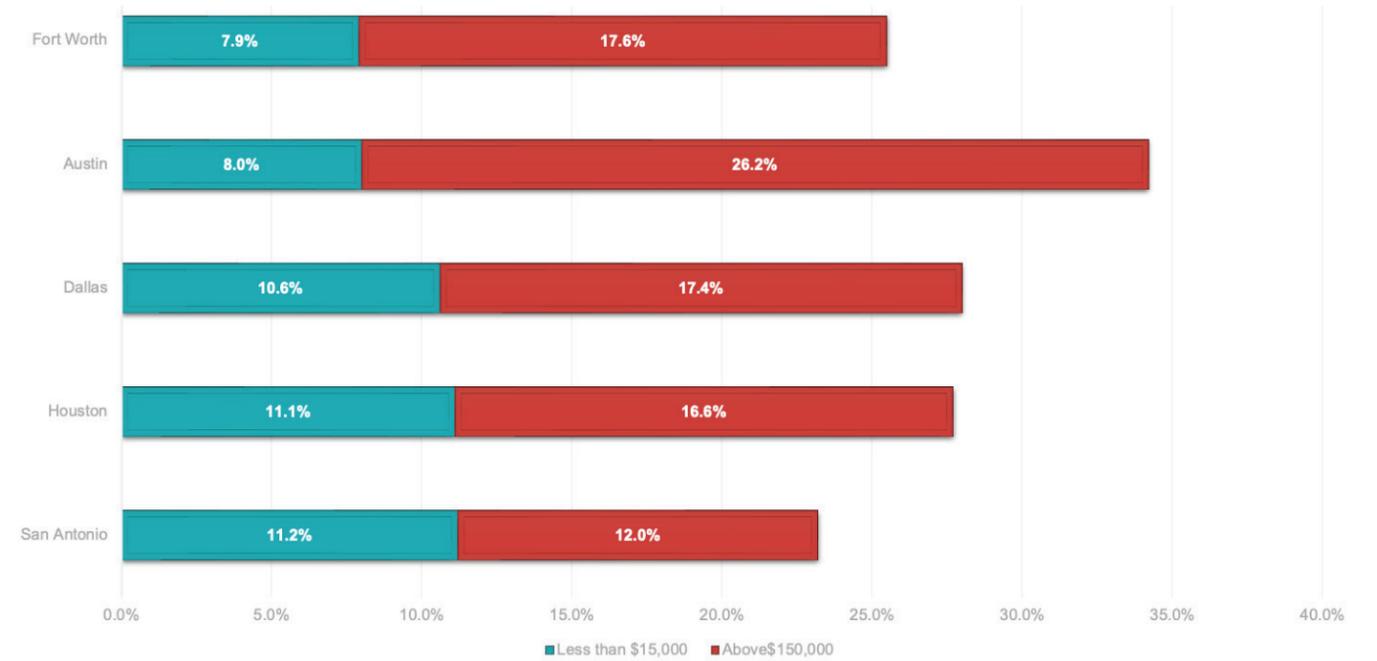
- In San Antonio there are significant income disparities by race and ethnicity, while the Asian population has the highest median income at $81,583 a year, Black or African Americans have the lowest at $44,458. The table below also shows that the Hispanic population of any race tend to earn about $10,000 less per year than White alone residents.

Table 8: Median Household Income by Race and Hispanic or Latino origin of householder

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022, 5YE (S. 1903)
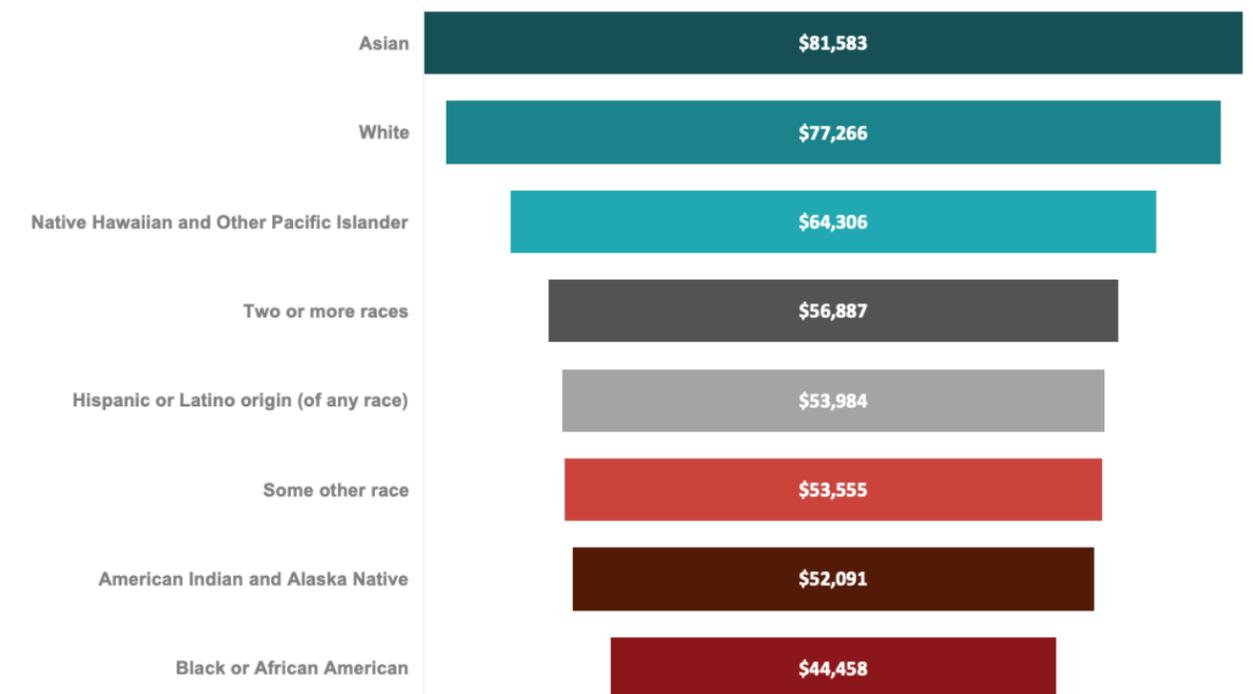
Income Disparities and Poverty Continued

- Regarding income inequalities by sex, women across the Nation have lower income earning than men. This is also the case in San Antonio, where women in average make about $7.6K less a year than men. This gender income disparity is significantly higher in other cities in Texas, such as Fort Worth where men earn $12.8K more every year than women in similar positions.

Table 9: Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months (in 2022 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) by Sex. Various Geographies.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022, 5YE (B20002)
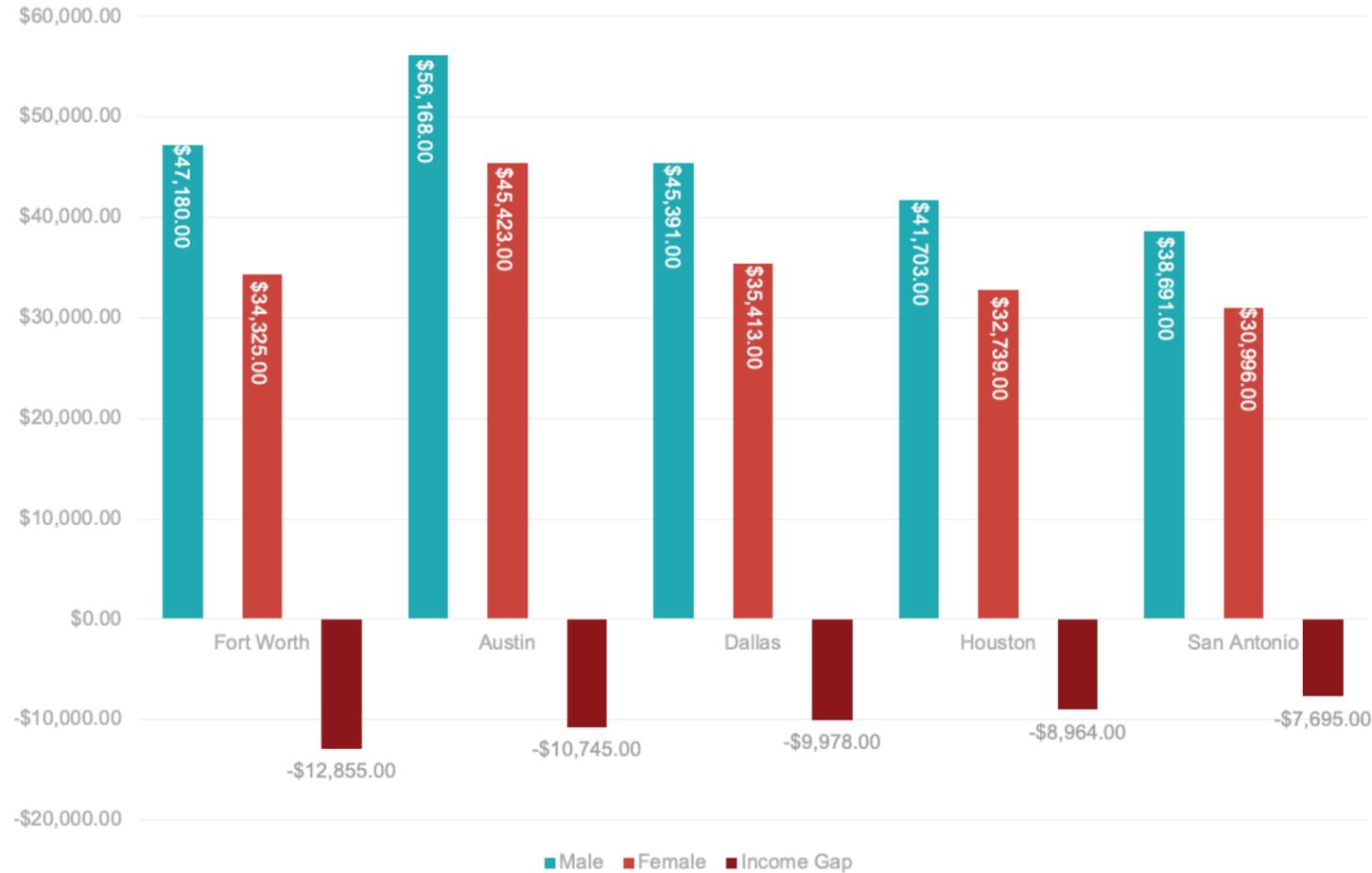
- Median earnings of both men and women rise with level of education. However, at each educational level, median earnings of men are higher than women. For example, among those who did not complete high school, women make only 62 cents for every $1 that men make. Among those with a graduate or professional degree, women make only 76 cents for every $1 that men make.


Poverty by employment status

- More than 30% of the population living in poverty in the largest cities in Texas are "employed". The "working poor" group is larger in Austin, where almost 40% of their population living in poverty are employed but with earnings below the poverty threshold. In San Antonio the working poor group represents 34% of the population living in poverty and it is higher than the national average.

- Most residents experiencing poverty do not participate in the labor force. Not in the labor force is a term that describes people who are neither employed nor unemployed. This group includes people unable to work, retired persons, students, caregivers, and others who are not working or looking for work. It also includes marginally attached workers, who want a job but don't search for one actively.

- In San Antonio almost 60% of residents living in poverty are not part of the labor force.

Table 10: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Individuals by Employment Status. Various Geographies. 2018-2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022, 5YE (B17005)
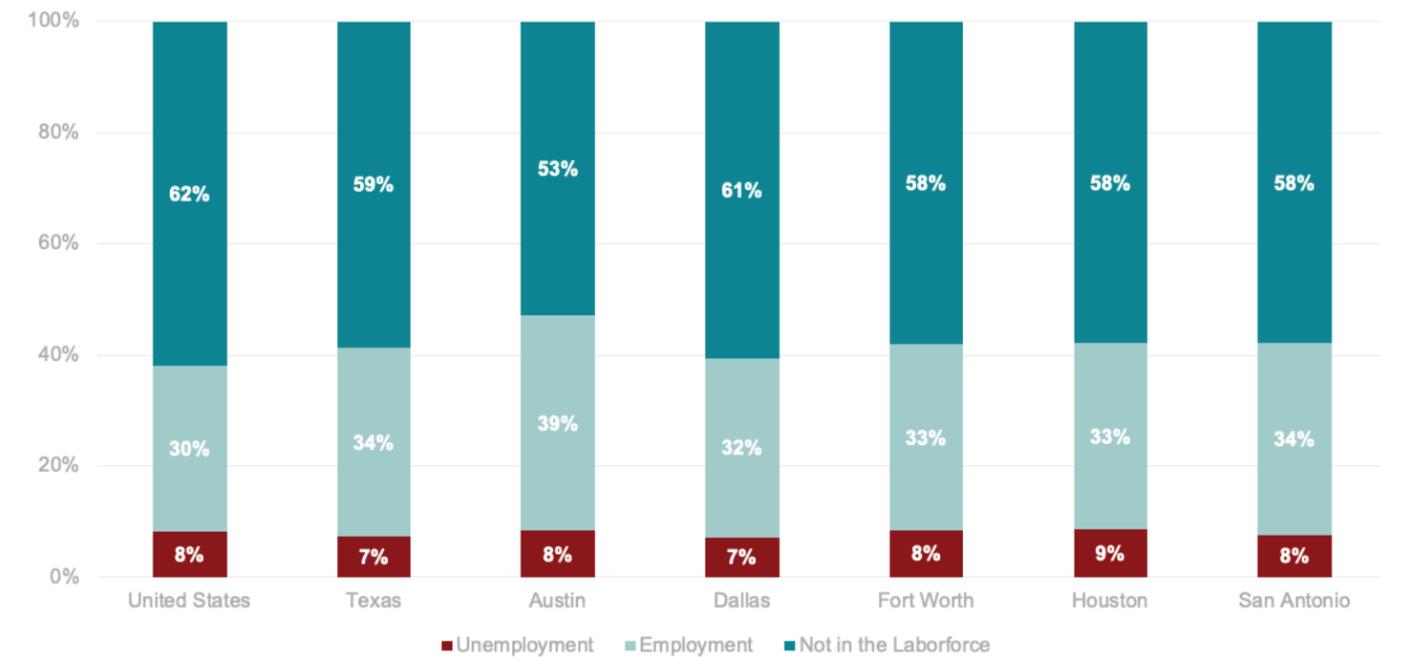
- The working status of the population in poverty by sex shows that in San Antonio there are more women than men working in low pay jobs, and are considered working poor, which is an indicator of gender income disparities. Additionally, there is significant higher percentage of women (60.2%) than men (39.8%) among those living in poverty that are not part of the labor force. In San Antonio more women than men are unable to work, probably often due to care giving duties.

Table 11: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Individuals by Employment Status. Various Geographies. 2018-2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022, 5YE (B17005)
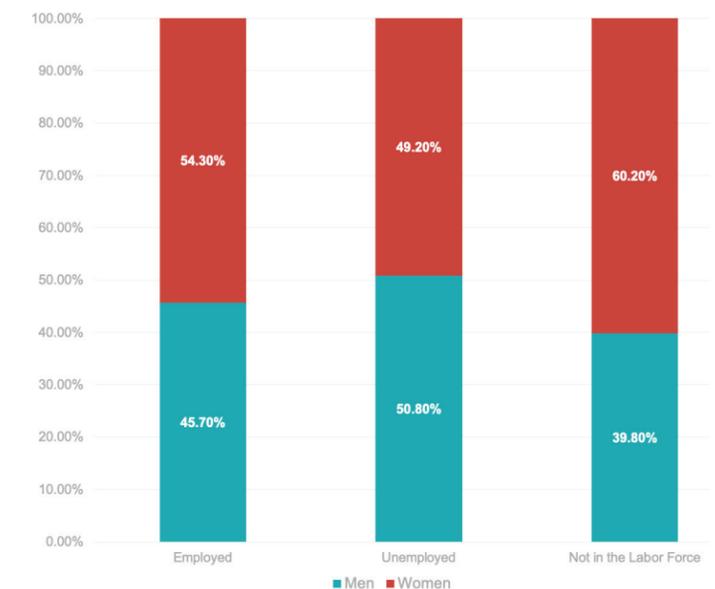
Poverty by Educational Attainment

- These tables show educational attainment for people aged 25. In San Antonio there are significant educational attainment disparities by race and ethnicity, with a large proportion of White non-Hispanic and Asian residents with highest levels of education than residents from any other race or ethnicity. Almost 58% of Asian and 45% of non-Hispanic White have a bachelor's degree or a higher level of education, while less than 25% of Black or African Americans have achieved the same educational level; this percentage is even lower among those identified as Hispanic, less than 19% have a bachelor's degree. The table below shows the different percentage of High School and Bachelor graduates the overall population (25 years and older) by race and ethnicity.

Table 12: High School versus Bachelor Graduation by Race & Ethnicity. Overall Population. San Antonio. 2018-2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022, 5YE (B17003)
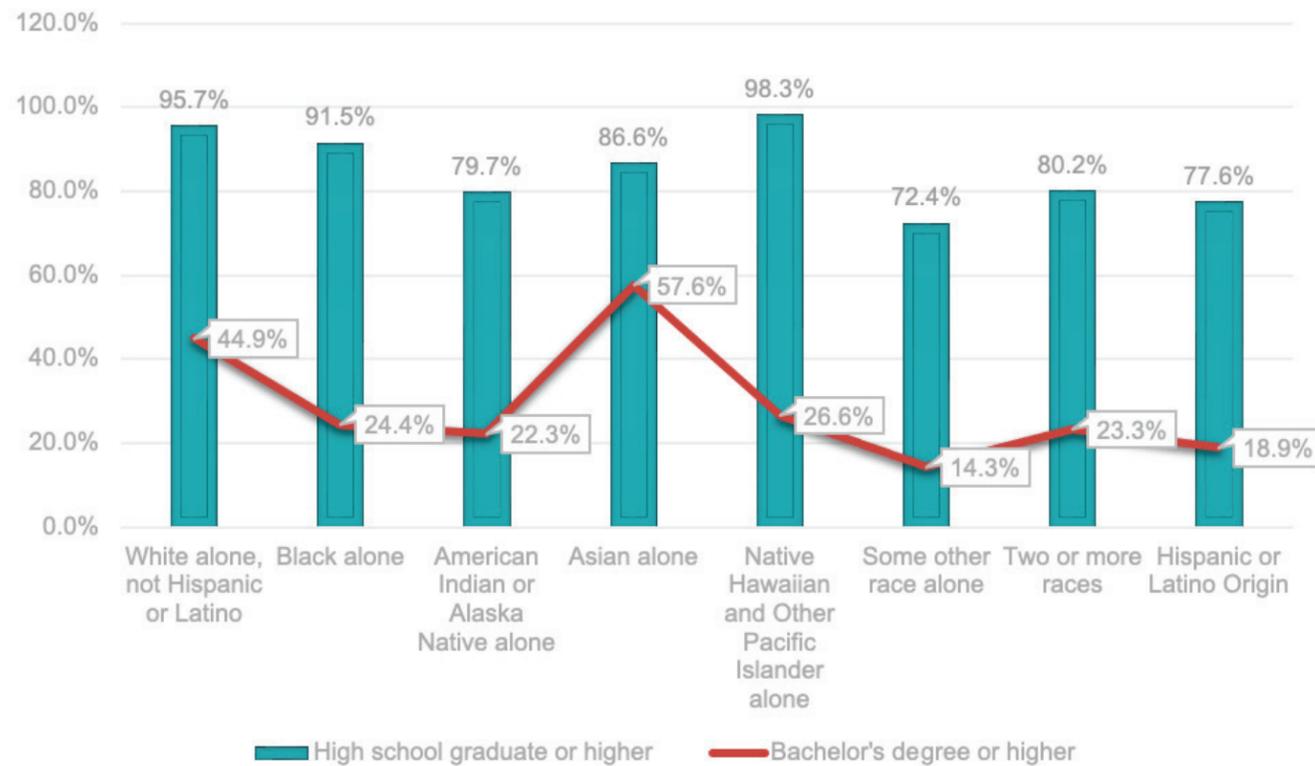
- There is a clear correlation between poverty and lack of education. As the pie chart shows, in San Antonio, one third of the population living in poverty didn't graduate high school (32.4%). And 64.6% of the residents experiencing poverty don't have any college education.

- For more detailed information related to educational attainment by census tract, please visit the online dashboard. As well as for more detailed information related to Opportunity Youth in San Antonio.

Table 13: Poverty Level by Education Attainment in San Antonio. 2018-2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022, 5YE (B17003)

Poverty Level by Educational Attainment. San Antonio. 2018-2022 ACS 5YE
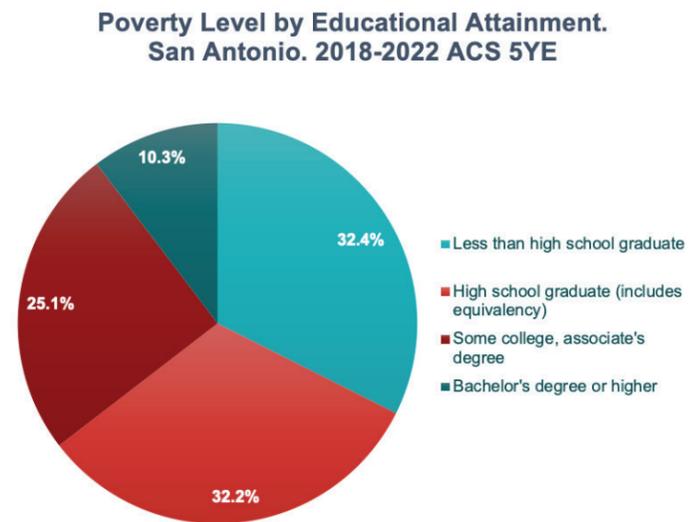
Population living in poverty by Race & Ethnicity

- 20% of the Hispanic or Latino population in San Antonio is living in poverty, representing an estimate of 187,862 individuals. From 2013 to 2022 the percentage of Hispanic population living in poverty has declined in the Country, in the State of Texas, as well as in the City of San Antonio. In San Antonio the percentage of Hispanic or Latino residents living in poverty (among their own ethic group) has declined from 21.5% to 20%.
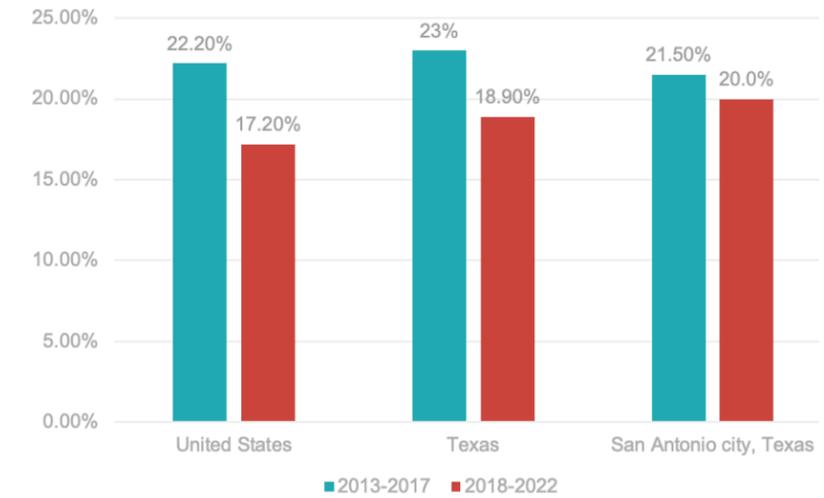
**Table 14: Percentage of Hispanic/Latino population living in poverty.**

Change over time 2013-2022. Various Geographies.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017 & 2018-2022, 5YE (S1701)

- The rate of Hispanic resident living in poverty in Houston and Dallas is higher than in San Antonio, as shown in the table below.

Table 15: Percentage of people living below poverty by ethnicity. Various Geographies. 2018-2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022, 5YE (S1701)
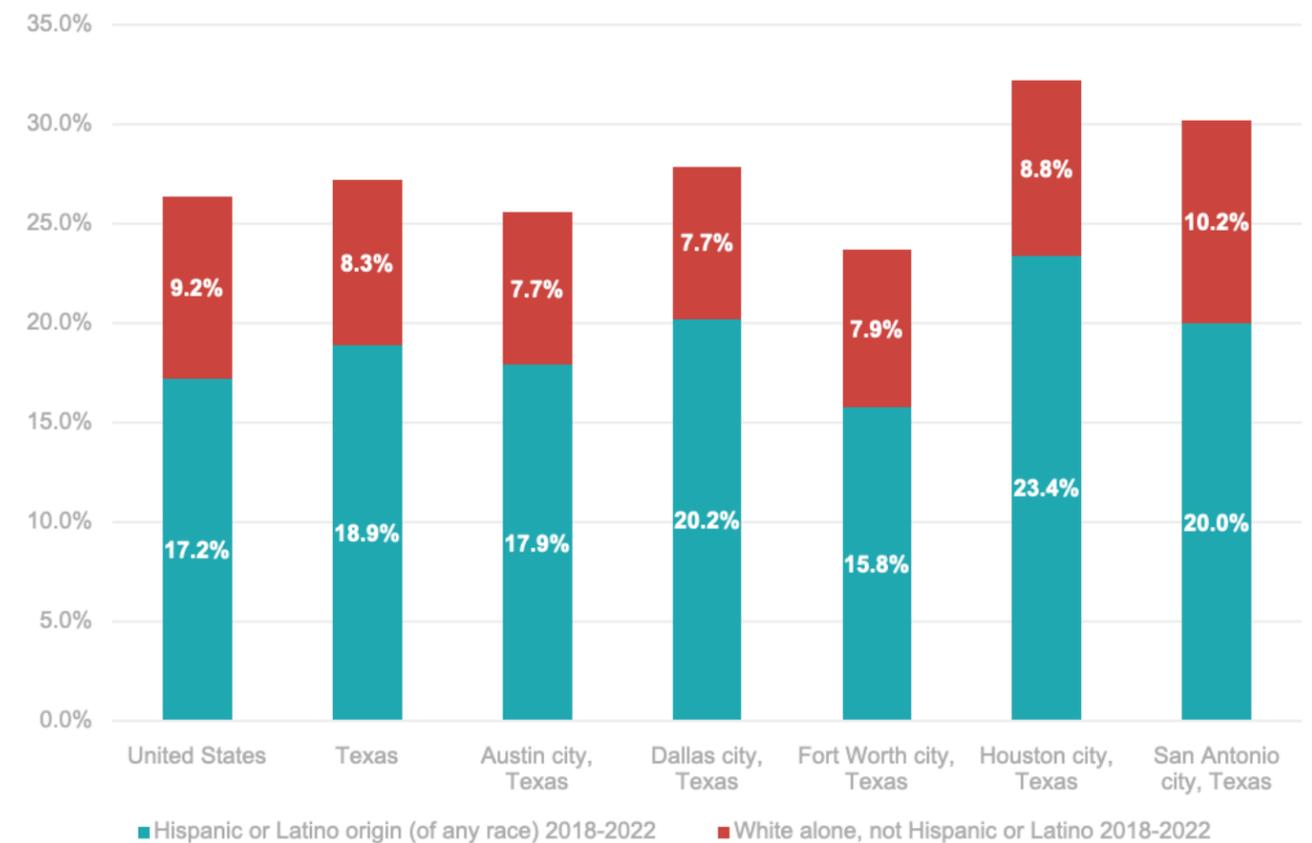
Population living in poverty by Race & Ethnicity Continued

- Population living in poverty by race is often presented as a percentage of the people within each racial group. From this perspective, Black or African Americans have the highest rate of people living in poverty (23.1%). 5.4% higher than the City average; and 6.4% higher than the White alone racial group.

- American Indians and Native Hawaiians are the two other race groups with the largest percent of people living in poverty among their own race. 21.3% in both cases, which is slightly higher than the overall city (17.7%).

Table 16: Percentage of Population Living in Poverty by Race. San Antonio. 2018-2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022, 5YE (S1701)
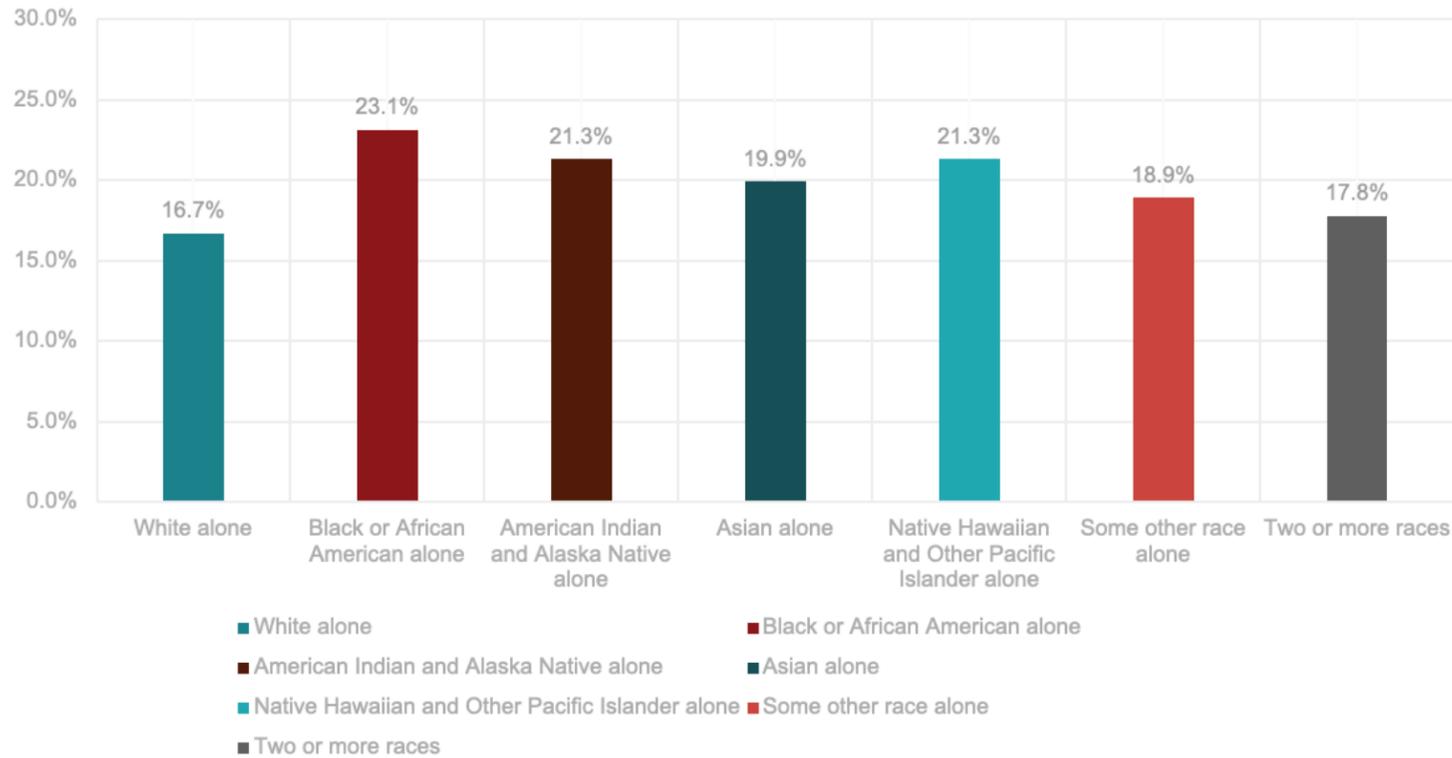
- Nonetheless, in San Antonio as well as in Texas and in the Country overall Black or African Americans are overrepresented among people living in poverty; while White only residents are underrepresented in the three geographies compared to the average percentage of people in poverty.

- American Indians also have a highest rate of people living in poverty than the average, specially across the Nation and in the City of San Antonio.

- Asian residents in the U.S. and in the State of Texas have a lowest percentage of people living in poverty than the average, however in San Antonio they are significantly overrepresented.

Population living in poverty by Race & Ethnicity Continued

Table 17: Population Living in Poverty by Race in San Antonio compared to the State of Texas. 2018-2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022, 5YE (S1701)
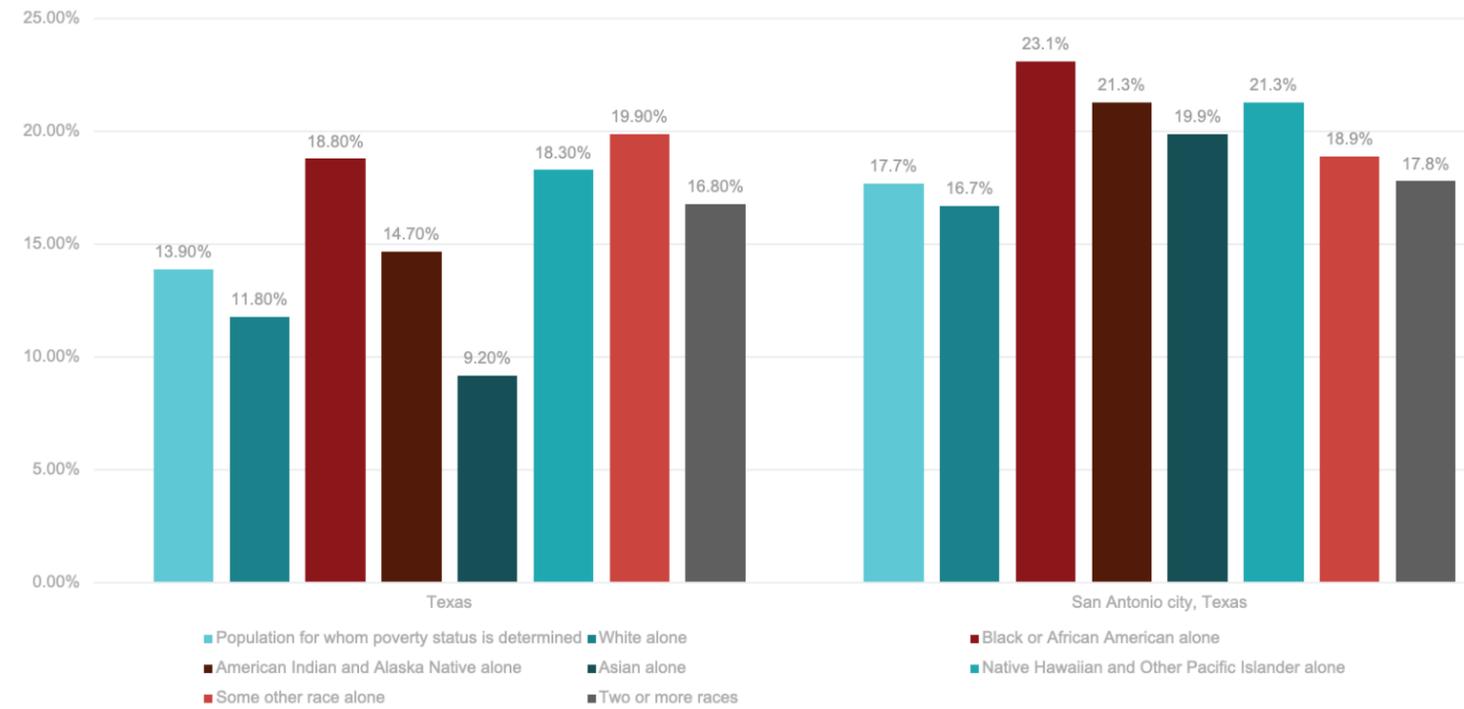
- However, it is also relevant to analyze the racial composition within the population living in poverty, and to compare it with the overall racial distribution of the community to determine if there are certain racial groups overrepresented across those in poverty.

ACS 2018-2022 5YE*	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Difference
White alone	56.60%	53.4%	-3.2%
Black or African American alone	6.60%	8.4%	1.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.90%	1.1%	0.2%
Asian alone	3%	3.4%	0.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.10%	0.1%	0.0%
Some other race alone	9.40%	10.1%	0.7%
Two or more races	23.30%	23.5%	0.2%

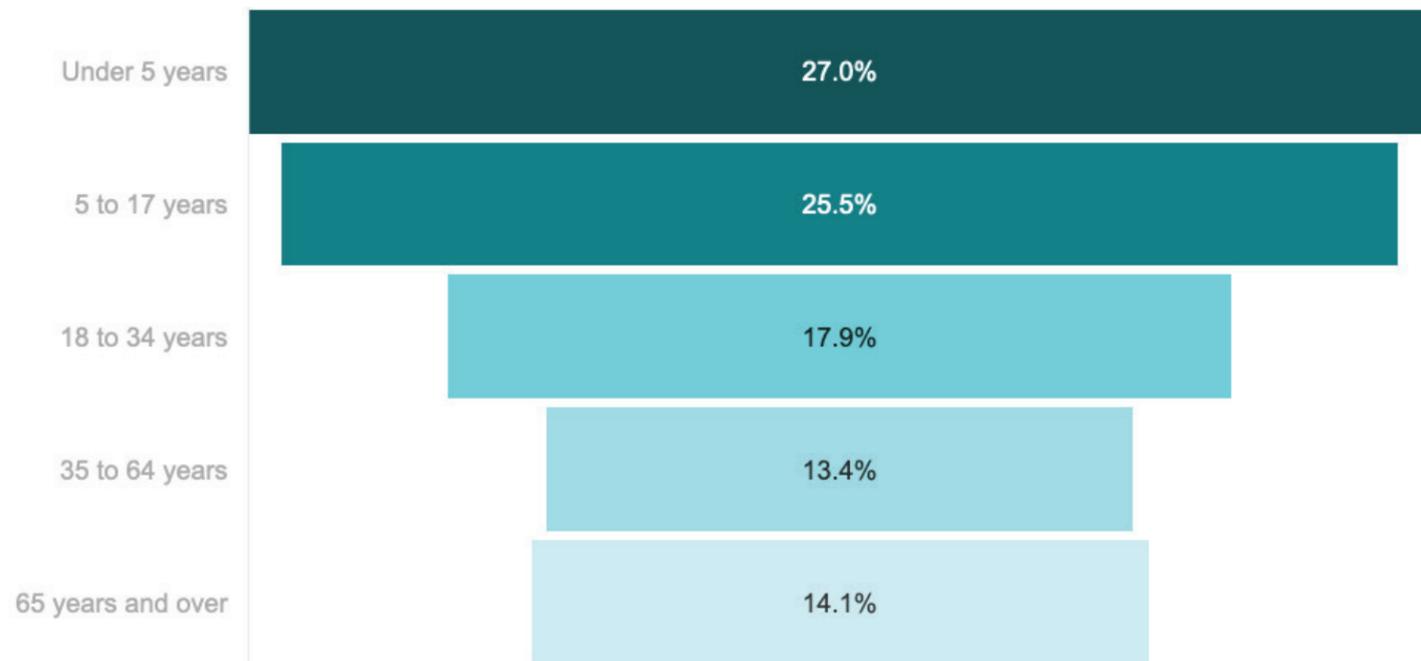# Population living in poverty by Race & Ethnicity Continued

- Black or African Americans accounts for the 8.4% of the total population living in poverty, almost 2 percent points higher than the overall representation of that race in the community overall. While, White only living in poverty represent an estimate of 3 percent point less than their overall presence in the community. Even though these numbers are an indicator of the systemic socio-economic discrimination experienced by African Americans, it is relevant to highlight that the racial disparity in San Antonio is less acute than in the State of Texas and in the Country overall.

- American Indians and Native Hawaiians represent a small percentage among the total population in poverty: 1% of the population living in poverty self-identified as American Indians; while Native Hawaiians account only for the 0.1% of the residents in poverty.

- Regarding the ethnicity, since the vast majority of San Antonio's population is Hispanic or Latino - 65.8% of the overall population-, accordingly most residents living in poverty in San Antonio self-identified themselves also as Hispanic or Latino (74.6%). Hispanic or Latino residents are slightly overrepresented among those living poverty by 8.8%.

Population living in poverty by age

- In San Antonio there are significant disparities when looking at the poverty ratio by age groups. Children under 5 years old experience poverty at a higher rate compared to other age groups (27%).

Table 18: Percentage of People Living Below Poverty by Age. San Antonio. 2018-2022

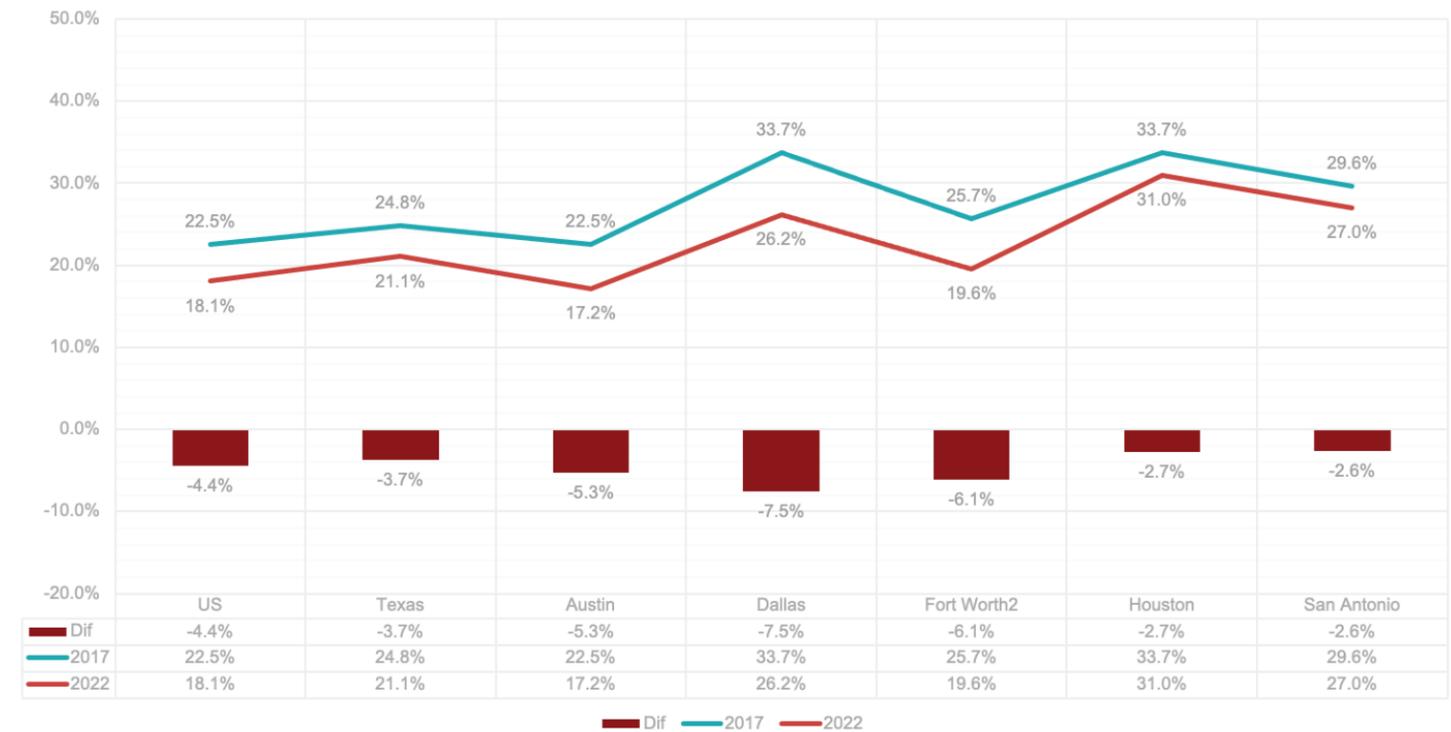Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022, 5YE (S1701)

Age group	Percentage
Under 5 years	27.0%
5 to 17 years	25.5%
18 to 34 years	17.9%
35 to 64 years	13.4%
65 years and over	14.1%

Population living in poverty by age Continued

- San Antonio ranks second among the five main cities in Texas in number of children under 5 y/o living in poverty with 27% of them in this situation, which accounts for an estimate of 24,693 children. The rate of children (5y/o and under) living in poverty in San Antonio is significantly higher than the national (18.1%). Only Houston has a higher rate of child poverty than San Antonio (31%); which represents that three out of every ten children 5 y/o or under are experiencing poverty.

- The table below shows a consistent reduction in the percentage of children under 5 years old living in poverty across the larger cities in Texas; being Dallas the city that has been more successful in reducing poverty among children, while San Antonio has experienced the smallest decrease.

Table 19: Percentage of children under 5 years old living in poverty. Change over time 2013-2022. Various geographies.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017 & 2018-2022, 5YE (S1701)

	US	Texas	Austin	Dallas	Fort Worth2	Houston	San Antonio
Dif	-4.4%	-3.7%	-5.3%	-7.5%	-6.1%	-2.7%	-2.6%
2017	22.5%	24.8%	22.5%	33.7%	25.7%	33.7%	29.6%
2022	18.1%	21.1%	17.2%	26.2%	19.6%	31.0%	27.0%

27%
Children under 5 live in poverty in San Antonio

Population living in poverty by age Continued

- In the City of San Antonio, over the last decade poverty has decrease among all age groups but older adults. Population 65 years and older face an alarming trend change. Poverty rates among older adults (60 year and older) have increased from 13.2% to more than 14% in 2018-2022. The table below show the change in poverty rates by age group from 2013 to 2022. Poverty is only increasing among older adults.

Table 20: Percentage of People Living in Poverty by Age. Change over time 2013-2022. San Antonio

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017 & 2018-2022, 5YE (S1701)
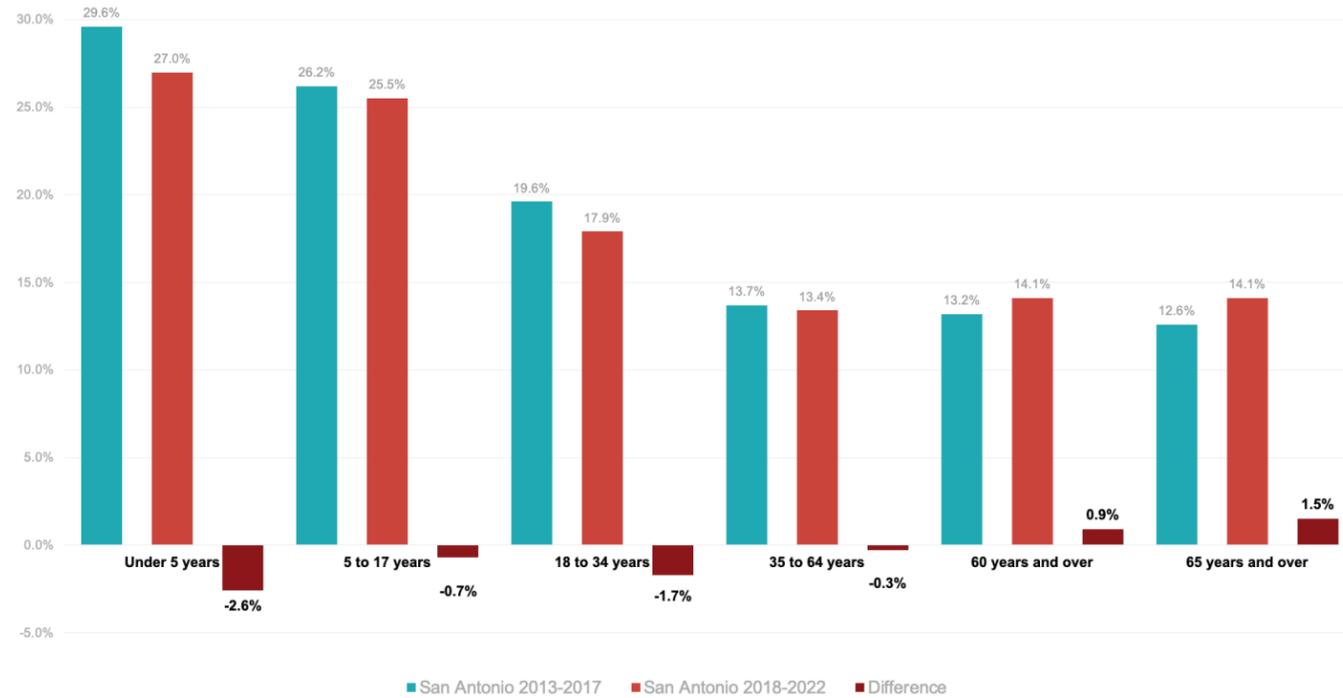
- This trend is consistent across the State of Texas and the Nation, where the percent of older adults in poverty is also growing. The table below shows that the percentage of population 60 years and older living in poverty from 2013 to 2022 has increased in every geography reported, but in Fort Worth.

Table 21: Population 60 years and older living in poverty. Change over time. Various Geographies. 2013-2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017 & 2018-2022, 5YE (S1701)
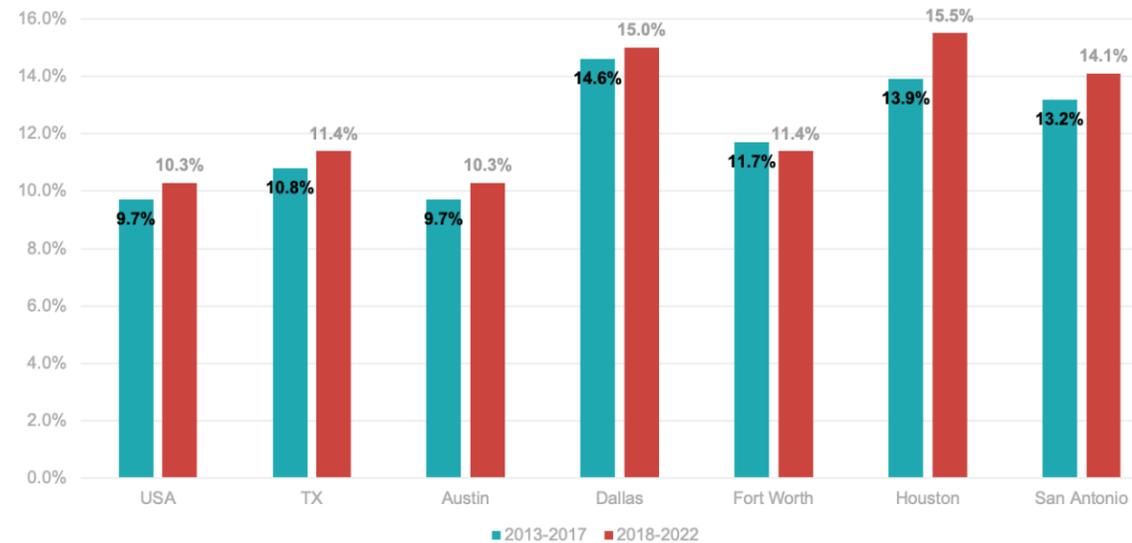

Population living in poverty by age Continued

- Poverty rates among children are almost double than among older adults; however as shown before while poverty is decreasing among children, older adults are facing the opposite trend.

Table 22: Percentage of Population Living Below Poverty by Age. Various Geographies. 2018-2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022, 5YE (S1701)
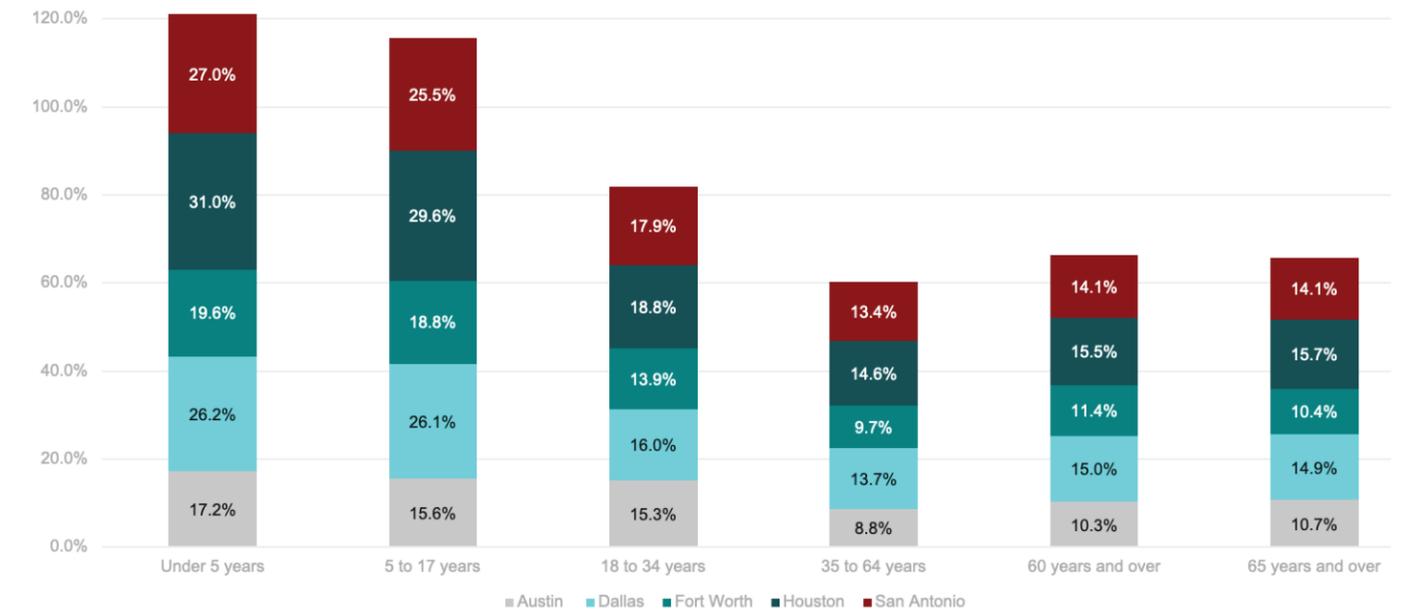
- It is relevant to relate poverty and age to account for additional vulnerabilities associated with certain age groups. Population of children under 5 years old, and individuals aged 65 and over may require additional support and care and are often referred as dependent population. The table below shows the percent of dependent population living below poverty across the main cities in Texas in 2018-2022.

Table 23: Percentage of dependent population by age living below poverty . Various Geographies. 2018-2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022, 5YE (S1701)
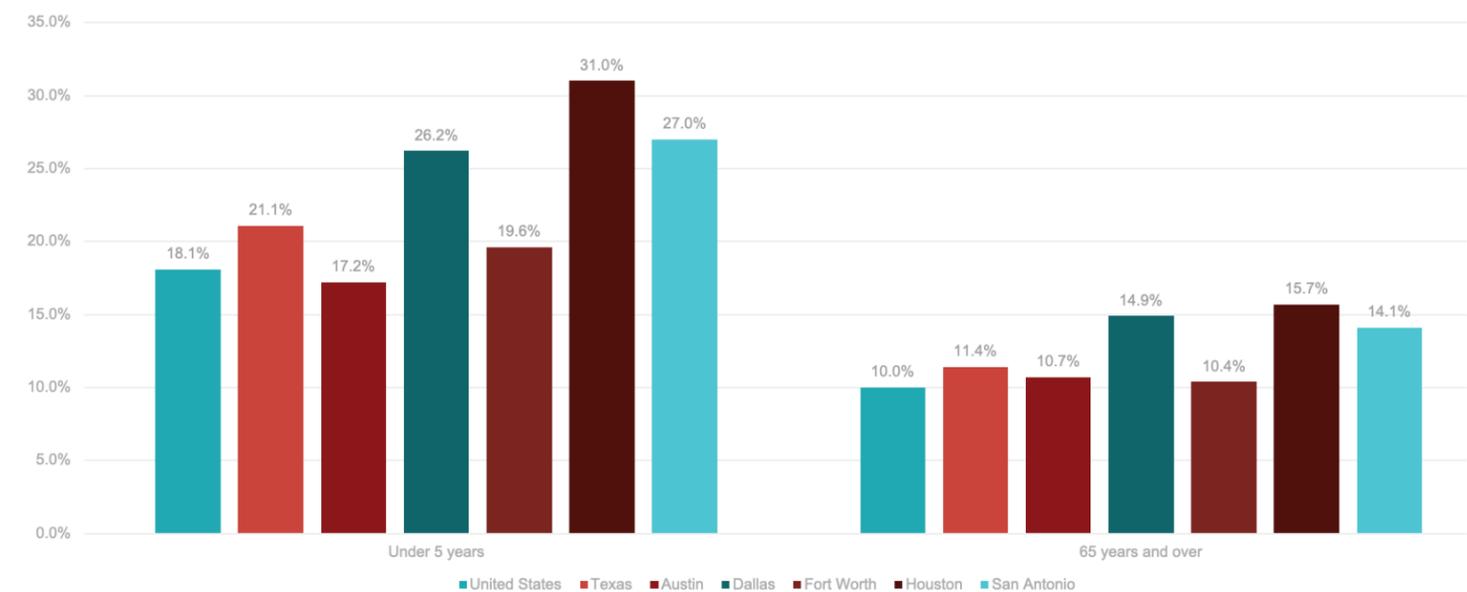
Population living below poverty by place of birth & nativity

- Regarding place of birth for those residents experiencing poverty, it is relevant to highlight that here is no significant increase in the number of foreign-born residents living in poverty over the last decade. Based on the 2022 ACS 5YE, 16.7% of San Antonio's residents living below poverty were born outside of the U.S.; only 11.9% of them haven't been naturalized as U.S. Citizens.

Table 24: Population Living in Poverty in San Antonio by Place of Birth. Change over time 2013-2022.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017 & 2018-2022, 5YE (B06012)
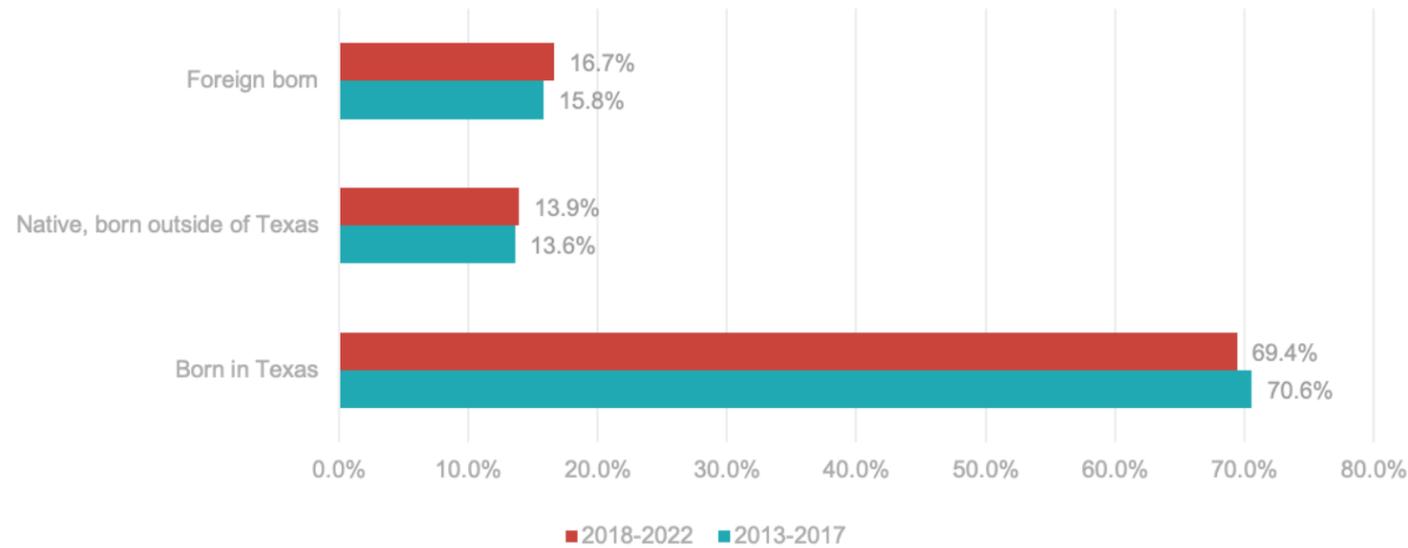
- 88% of residents living in poverty in San Antonio were either born in the United States (83.3%) or naturalized as U.S. Citizens. Only 11.9% of residents living below poverty are foreign born and not naturalized as U.S. Citizens.

- Consistently with this data, while analyzing geographical mobility of the population living below poverty within the last 12 months (1+ year old for which poverty status is determined), **only 1.2% of them moved from abroad.**[2]

Table 25: Population in Poverty by nativity. San Antonio 2018-2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017 & 2018-2022, 5YE (B06012)
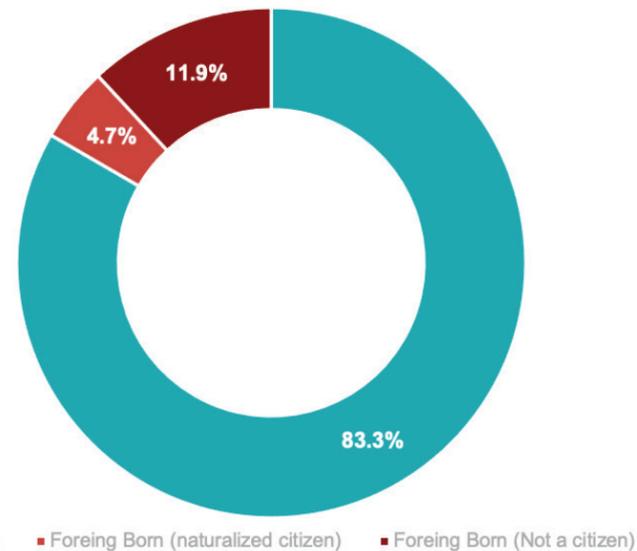
- There is no significant difference between general population and population living in poverty by place of birth. The percentage of San Antonio's residents born within the state of Texas that are living below poverty is slightly higher (69.4%) than the overall percentage of San Antonio residents (64.4%). On the contrary the percentage or San Antonio residents born outside of the state of Texas is smaller among those living in poverty (13.9%) than in the overall population (21.2%).

[2]Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Geographic Mobility by Selected Characteristics in the United States." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table S0701, 2018-2022.

Population living below poverty by place of birth & nativity Continued

- Among all San Antonio's residents 14.3% were foreign born; this percentage is slightly higher among residents experiencing poverty (16.7%).

Table 26: Population Living in Poverty by Place of Birth: total population & below poverty population. San Antonio. 2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022, 5YE (B06012)
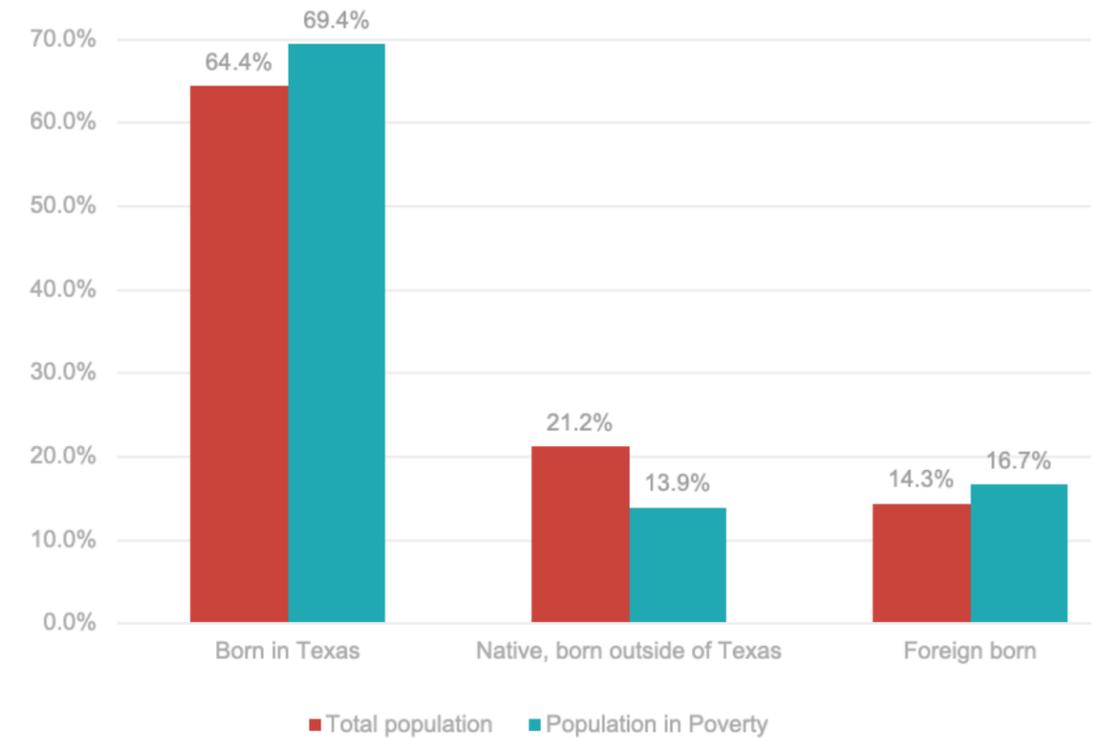
San Antonio 2018-2022 (ACS 5YE) B077007 & B17025	Total Population	Population Below Poverty Level
U.S. Citizen (Native or naturalized)	91.5%	88.10%
Not a U.S. citizen	8.5%	11.90%

Living with disabilities *socio-economic characteristics*

- Individuals living with disabilities face more barriers and are more likely to live in poverty than those without disabilities. The most recent data for San Antonio shows that in 2018-2022, 23.1% of people with disabilities live in poverty.

- In San Antonio only a third of the population 16 years and older with a declare disability is employed, while the remaining 67% is not part of the labor force.

- Among those residents with disability that are employed, almost 50% of them declared an annual income below $25,000.

23.1% of people with disabilities live in poverty in SA

67% of people with disabilities are NOT in the Labor Force

Level of Implementation

2019 Poverty Report Recommended Strategies & 2024 Update

Category: Focus on Highest Need Geographies and Populations

- **2019 Poverty Report Recommended Strategy:** Promote and invest in inclusion and equity. Consider investments that increase equitable access to asset-building services and resources. Future work on access to asset-building services should focus efforts on high-need zip codes.

- **Implementation:**

  Recommendations from the 2019 San Antonio Poverty Report helped to inform development of the COVID–19 Recovery and Resilience Plan for the Housing Security and Workforce Development Plans. These plans focused on embedding equity in decisions and the distribution of resources. Strategies identified and funded through the resiliency plan, along with other recommendations from the poverty report were also funded using American Rescue Plan Act Funding Implementation Plans related to **Nonprofit and Social Services** (addressing financial hardship of agencies, addressing decreased economic security of residents – including those who are immigrants and undocumented), **Seniors** (mitigating social isolation, food and resource insecurity, and supporting informal and unpaid caregivers), and **Youth** (supporting youth transitioning out of gangs, transitioning out of foster care, and homeless and opportunity youth). Competitive solicitations were issued to award these funds with an emphasis placed on focusing on the highest geographic need and populations, ensuring we had diverse representation on review panels, including people with lived experience, and providing priority to small nonprofit agencies. In total, 19 new nonprofit and faith-based agencies, not previously funded through Human Services solicitation processes, were funded through this effort.

  The same equity-based evaluation, scoring and funding strategies were also utilized in the **FY 2024 – FY 2025 Human Services Consolidated Funding Process.**

Category: Foster Integration of Asset-Building & Social Safety Net Services

- **2019 Poverty Report Recommended Strategies:**

- Expand investments in existing asset-building hubs (i.e., Financial Empowerment Centers) to play a greater role in coordinating access to the network of service providers and "warm hand offs" to services for families in need.

- Invest in referral system technology to streamline referral processes across asset building and safety-net service providers. The system should align with service provider capacity and prioritize efficiency and a positive end user experience.

- Nurture peer learning, knowledge and innovation. Leverage the convening power of City and philanthropy to provide ongoing learning about emerging asset-building topics, trends, and innovations. Bring asset-building organizations together with public, nonprofit, and faith-based service providers to develop a common understanding of asset-building and best practices for integrating safety-net services.

- **Implementation:**

- **AACN- SYNC platform:** The City of San Antonio (COSA) and community funders prioritized the need for a single, multi-disciplinary referral and case management platform to facilitate integration of asset-building and social safety net services. The Alamo Area Community Network (AACN) was created in 2020 as a collaborative solution to improve the health and well-being of individuals and families in the San Antonio region. The AACN is an alliance of community-based organizations, funders and government agencies to use a shared cloud-based HIPAA-compliant platform to coordinate social services. In 2023 the AACN had to replace the original platform for a new improved IT solution that has given the opportunity to re-engage with community partners and to improve the internal network management and governance systems.

- **Benefits Navigation Program:** In 2020, The Department of Human Services Financial Empowerment Center, operating as part of the COVID-19 Financial and Housing Recovery Center provided benefits navigation to connect residents in need of assistance to social services and help them completing benefits applications. The Benefits Navigation program currently serves thousands of residents every year and provides specialized support services to Older Adults in collaboration with the City of San Antonio Senior Centers.

- **Social Determinants of Health Community Consortium.** In 2023 Kronkosky Charitable Foundation in collaboration with the City of San Antonio and community-based organizations launched a community consortium to identify all collective initiatives operating in the San Antonio area within one or more of the five core SDOH domains: Economic Stability; Education; Health and Healthcare; Neighborhoods and Built Environment, and Social and Community Engagement. The consortium is aimed at promoting cross collaboration and to identify and address gaps in services.

- **Opportunity Youth Collaborative.** In 2023 the Department of Human Services created a collaborative initiative with 38 community partners serving opportunity youth (youth and young adults 16-24 who are disconnected from school and employment). The focus of the collaborative is to create a collective impact model to better measure the work supporting opportunity youth in San Antonio by developing shared core metrics.

- **San Antonio Community Resource Directory** (SACRD.org) began under the collaborative leadership of the DHS Faith Based Initiative in 2017, and became a free-standing 501c3 in 2019. SACRD is a free, comprehensive, online directory of compassionate resources offered by congregations, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and community groups in and around San Antonio.

Category: Enhance Safety-Net Low Income Families

- **2019 Poverty Report Recommended Strategies:**

- Invest in the expansion of programs that offer wrap-around financial supports for single mothers attending nonprofit job-training or higher education programs.

- Invest in workforce training supports that lead to higher-paying and in demand jobs.

- Invest in legal services for debt claim and eviction cases to ensure fair outcomes for low-income San Antonio families.

- **Implementation:**

- In 2022 the City launched San Antonio Ready to Work Program. The Department of Human Services has partnered with Ready to Work and community social programs to promote the program among eligible clients.

- The City has promoted cross organizational alignment among programs serving domestic violence victims and single mothers (Head Start, Pre-K), SAMHD programs and SA Ready to Work.

- In 2023 the City funded Phase I of the YWCA Women's Live and Learn Campus a 30-unit housing development for single mothers and their children to live at while mothers receive workforce training, navigation to post-secondary education or degree programs, mental health counseling, early childhood care and education, meals, health and wellness, financial literacy, and homeownership/rentership training.

Category: Expand Access to Products & Services that Support Asset-Building & Asset Preservation

- **2019 Poverty Report Recommended Strategies:**

- Invest in the expansion of financial coaching/counseling. Support the development of additional partnerships with financial services providers, to connect coaching clients to low-cost financial services to support long-term credit and asset building.

- Expand availability and access to low-cost financial products and services. Coordinate city services with asset-building providers to engage local banks, credit unions and Community Development Financial Institutions to expand low-cost financial products in areas dominated by high-cost sub-prime, services. These products could focus on access to low-cost short-term credit, vehicle loans, credit-building, and building emergency and long-term savings.

- Nurture the development of innovative and affordable alternatives to tax time loans. Revisit financial services connected with the free tax preparation program.

- Share City of San Antonio equity budgeting process with other funders to ensure local dollars go to highest-need communities and reap beneficial results for families.

- Engage with local affordable housing efforts, including county and federal officials, to ensure that subsidies and funding benefit those in need, including low-income working families, seniors, and single mothers.

- Work with Bexar County and Legislative contingent (State and Federal) to limit predatory market practices and increase funding and support for asset-building efforts, including down payment assistance, free tax preparation, financial coaching, and access to low-cost financial services.

- **Implementation:**

- The City of San Antonio's Department of Human Services has shared equity-based funding strategies with other local funders as well as shared funding priorities. Other local funders participate in goal setting and priority setting processes as well as serve on evaluation panels to make award recommendations. This collaboration has led to partial priority alignment with the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, San Antonio Area Foundation funding priorities for older adults, and coordination with the Close to Home and Bexar County on goal alignment regarding funding for agencies serving unhoused individual's.

- The City has prioritized bond and federal funding to focus on the city's lowest income households. In addition, the SHIP includes building and preserving 1,200 affordable homes for older adults. Since 2022, 132 have been completed, with 804 homes in progress.

Category: Offer Organizational Support to Non-Profits to Enhance Long-Term Viability and Outcomes

- **2019 Poverty Report Recommended Strategies:**

- Provide long-term funding horizons recognizing the time required to support financial health and asset-building outcomes. Foster a focus on consumer engagement; support grantees to focus on generating enthusiastic and voluntary consumer utilization of the organization's asset-building products, programs or services. Promote and endorse evidence-based shared outcome measures and metrics. Consider collaborating with other funders to identify and leverage common outcome and evaluation measures. Challenge grant seekers to engage consumers by both meeting needs and encouraging impactful change. Outcome measures should be reassessed and refined on a periodic basis to ensure relevancy.

- **Implementation:**

- The Department of Human Services Contracts Management Division provided training workshops for nonprofits looking to apply for American Rescue Plan Act Funding, as well as for the FY 2024 – FY 2025 Human Services Consolidated Funding Process, based on the Results Based Accountability framework to better measure the impact of their programs and provide evidence-based measurements.

Notes

Notes

City of San Antonio │ Status of Poverty

For the most updated information, please visit
https://dashboards.mysidewalk.com/san-antonio-poverty-dashboard/status-of-poverty-in-san-antonio#c-20046841

CITY OF
SAN ANTONIO
— TEXAS —

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