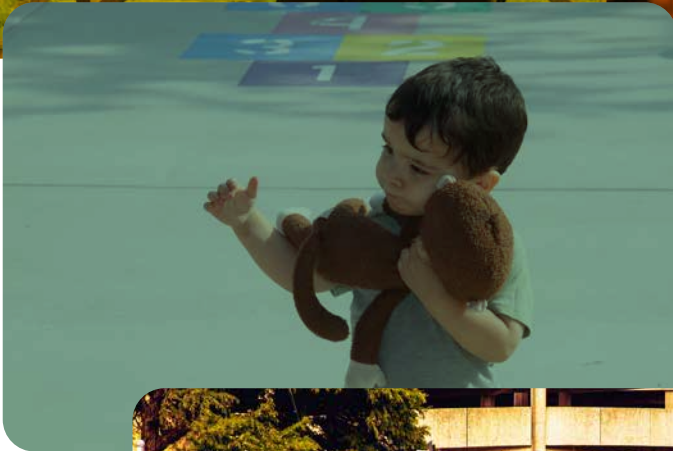
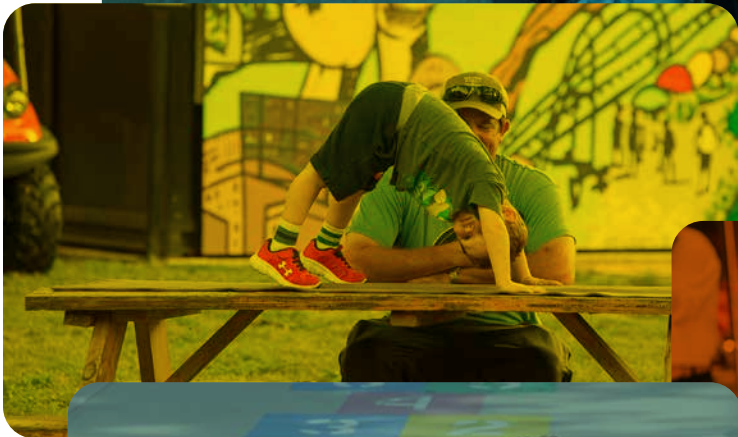


2026 STATUS OF POVERTY



**HUMAN
SERVICES**





INDEX

Status of Poverty in San Antonio	4
Understanding Poverty and Financial Instability	6
How Poverty is Measured	6
Financially Insecure Households	9
Poverty Trends	12
Overall Poverty	12
Poverty Reduction - Poverty Concentration - Persistent Poverty	14
Poverty Reduction in San Antonio	14
Poverty Concentration	15
Persistent Poverty in San Antonio	18
San Antonio Poverty Profile	20
Demographics of Poverty: Poverty by Age	20
Poverty by Sex	21
Poverty by Disability Status	21
Poverty Disparities by Race & Ethnicity	22
Poverty by Living Arrangements	23
Training, Education and Employment	24
Poverty by Educational Attainment	24
Poverty by Employment Status and Labor Force Participation	25
Vulnerable Youth Populations	26
Opportunity Youth	26
Income Disparities and Poverty	28
Geographical Income Disparities	28
Income Disparities by Race & Ethnicity	29
Income Inequality and Childcare Cost	30
Supplemental Income	31
Housing Affordability and Availability	32
Key Community Needs	36
Housing	36
Utilities	37
Food	38
Healthcare access	38
Data Disclaimer & Methodology Considerations	40

2026 STATUS OF POVERTY IN SAN ANTONIO

Poverty and financial instability are complex issues that require analysis of multiple factors. The *Status of Poverty* report approaches poverty as a multidimensional issue that identifies the lack or limitation of basic needs (tangible assets), while also considering various contributing factors or vulnerabilities that limit social mobility, perpetuating cycles of crisis and instability. Poverty remains a persistent and structural social issue in San Antonio, significantly affecting access to education, healthcare, housing, and economic opportunity. It reflects systemic inequalities and uneven regional development.

The report analyzes the demographic characteristics of the population living in poverty, but it also analyzes geographical patterns and some structural factors contributing to financial instability.

Poverty remains a persistent and structural social issue in San Antonio...

Key Findings:

44% of the population in Bexar County



experiences financial instability, including approximately 15% living in poverty. In San Antonio, approximately 17% live in poverty.

The most vulnerable groups



- Older adults, who are experiencing rising poverty rates. Single-parent households, particularly those facing high childcare costs.
- African Americans and American Indians, who show the highest poverty rates and lowest median incomes.
- Women, who are disproportionately affected by poverty, reflecting the gender income gap.
- Individuals with disabilities.

Economic instability



Housing affordability and availability are key drivers of economic instability and are closely linked to rising homelessness, largely due to a widening gap between income growth and housing costs.

Limited poverty reduction



Poverty over the past decade in San Antonio has not been meaningfully reduced, although some populations have seen meaningful improvement, such as children.

Poverty perpetuation in the urban core

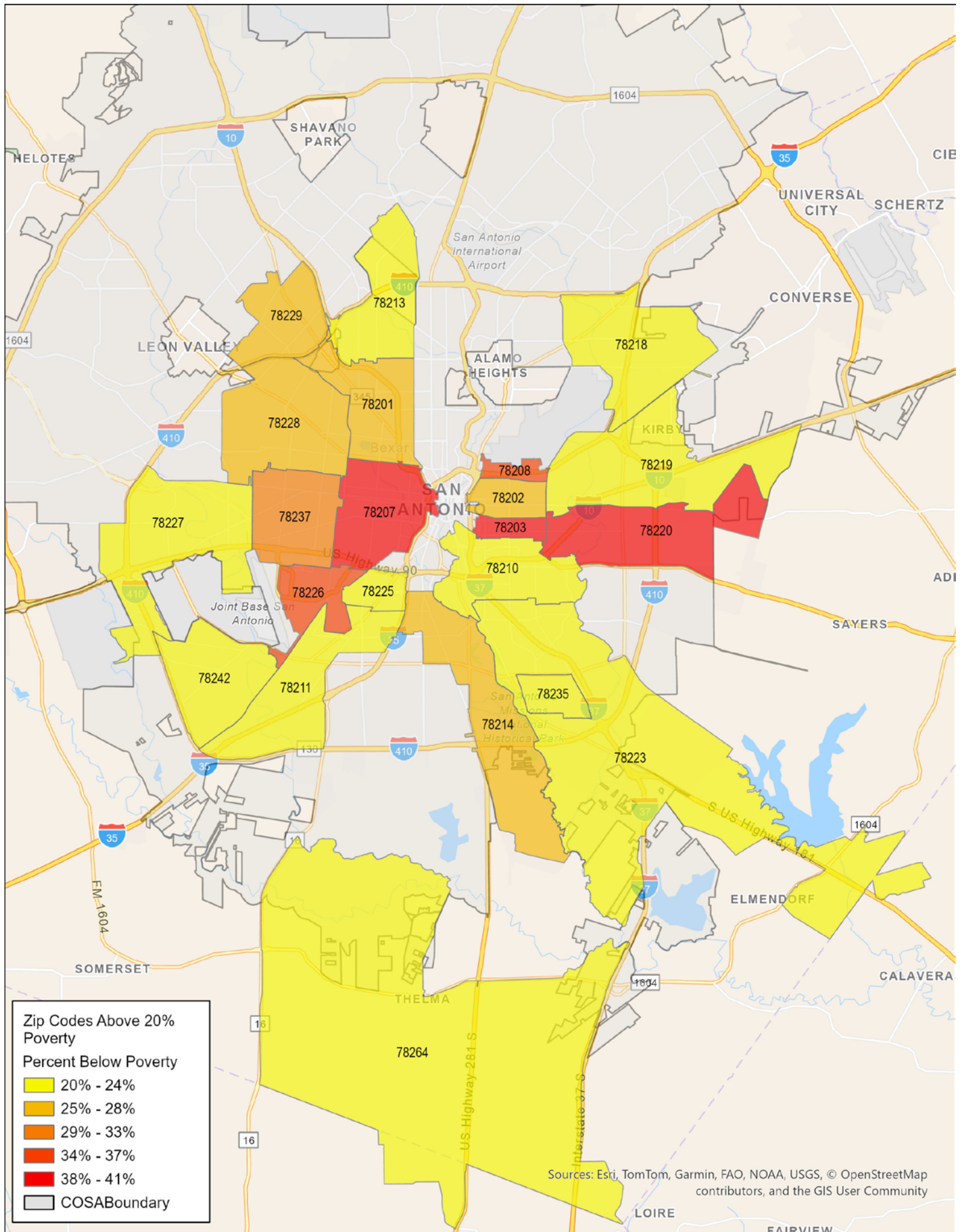


Poverty remains concentrated inside Loop 410 and southern areas of the city, while higher-income residents tend to move to the broader metropolitan area.

Persistent poverty areas



Several neighborhoods within the urban core have experienced unstained poverty over the past three decades. The zip codes with more than 20% of its population living in poverty: 78207; 78203; 78220; 78208; 78226; 78237; 78229; 78201; 78202; 78228; 78214; 78242; 78210; 78235; 78213; 78227; 78211; 78225; 78219; 78218; 78264; 78223 and 78224.



Understanding Poverty and Financial Instability

HOW POVERTY IS MEASURED UNDER U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The official poverty measure is three times the cost of minimum food diet from 1963 (in today's prices)

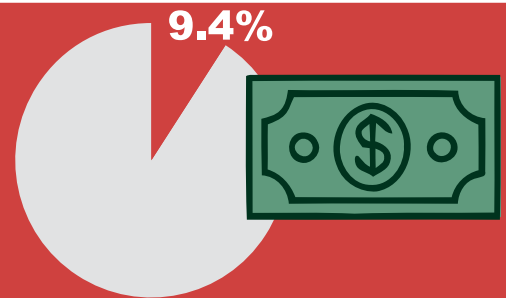


Poverty is measured in the United States by comparing a person's or family's income to a certain dollar amount considered necessary to cover basic needs. The U.S. Census Bureau is the official agency responsible to measure poverty. The U.S. Census Bureau determines poverty using an **official poverty measure or poverty threshold**¹.

The official poverty measure is originally based on a 1960s method: the cost of a minimal food diet multiplied by three, and it is adjusted every year for inflation².

However, it is important to note that prices have increased significantly over time, especially related to items other than food. In 1963, the average home value was \$12,000 and a new car could cost around \$2,300; while the cost of a melon was \$0.59 on average.

Prices in 2026 are 10.7 times higher than in 1963. \$1 buys only 9.4% of what it did then.



Prices have increased by approximately 968% since 1963. As a result, prices today are 10.7 times higher. One dollar today buys only about 9.4% of what it could have bought in 1960s³.

The U.S. Census Bureau has used this official poverty measure since the 1960s, establishing poverty thresholds based on a family's or an individual's cash income. These thresholds are uniform across the nation, depending on household size and number of children, but do not vary by local cost of living.

This report uses the U.S. Census Bureau's 2024 official poverty measure, or poverty thresholds to remain consistent with the 2024 American Community Survey 5 year-estimates used throughout the report. However, it is important to note that this approach to poverty only captures the reality of individuals and families living in extreme poverty.

This poverty measure determines the income level for an individual or a household to be counted as living in poverty. It is important to note that if a household's income exceeds the threshold by even one dollar, it is not counted as living in poverty.

¹ In 2010 the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics created the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) to give a more accurate picture of poverty in the United States. Annual estimates using the SPM have been published since 2011.

² To calculate income this measure accounts for wages, Social Security, pensions, cash public assistance, etc. But it does not account for non-cash benefits like SNAP (food stamps), housing subsidies, Medicaid/Medicare. It does not account for tax credits.

³ U.S. inflation data based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the Bureau of Labor Statistics U.S. inflation calculator: Value of \$1 in 1963. [https://www.officialdata.org/us/inflation/1963](https://www officialdata.org/us/inflation/1963)

Figure 1: Official Poverty Measure Thresholds for 2024

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2025

Size of family	Poverty threshold 2024
	\$16,320
	\$21,161
	\$25,249
	\$31,812
	\$37,436



Figure 2: Official Poverty Measure Thresholds for 2024

by size of family and number of related children under 18-years-old (in dollars) Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2025

		Related children under 18 years								
Size of family unit	Weighted average thresholds	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or More
One person (Unrelated Individual)	15,940									
Under 65 years	16,320	16,320								
65 years and over	15,050	15,045								
Two people	20,220									
Householder under 65 years	21,100	21,006	21,621							
Householder 65 years and over	18,980	18,961	21,540							
Three people	24,950	24,537	25,249	25,273						
Four people	32,130	32,355	32,884	31,812	31,922					
Five people	38,110	39,019	39,586	38,374	37,436	36,863				
Six people	43,130	44,879	45,057	44,128	43,238	41,915	41,131			
Seven people	48,970	51,638	51,961	50,849	50,075	48,631	46,948	45,100		
Eight people	54,740	57,753	58,263	57,215	56,296	54,992	53,337	51,614	51,177	
Nine people or more	64,900	69,473	69,810	68,882	68,102	66,822	65,062	63,469	63,075	60,645

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2025. Note: The source of the weighted average thresholds is the 2025 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

The official poverty measure is the baseline used by the Department of Health and Human Services to define the most popular way to refer to poverty: the federal poverty line (FPL). The FPL is used to determine eligibility for government funded programs⁴.

Despite the close relationship between the Official Poverty Measure (OPM) and the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), the two are distinct measures that serve different purposes. The Official Poverty Measure is a statistical calculation used by the U.S. Census Bureau to estimate the number of individuals and families living in poverty based on income thresholds that vary by family size and composition. In contrast, the Federal Poverty Level is a set of income guidelines issued annually by the federal government and is primarily used to determine eligibility for public assistance programs and services.

Figure 3: Difference between the OPM and the FPL

	Official Poverty Measure (OPM)	Federal Poverty Line (FPL)
Use	Measures poverty (statistical measure)	Determines eligibility for federal assistance programs
Issued by	U.S. Census Bureau	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Basis	Cash income	Based on OPM, adjusted for inflation.
Cost of living adjustments	None	Minimum, only for Alaska and Hawaii.

While the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) establishes the income thresholds used to determine eligibility for many public assistance programs, it does not fully capture the broader population experiencing financial instability. Many individuals and families earn incomes above the federal poverty line yet still struggle to meet basic needs due to rising housing costs, healthcare expenses, transportation costs, childcare, and other living expenses. As a result, the number of households facing financial hardship is often significantly larger than the number officially classified as living in poverty.



⁴Additionally, housing assistance programs determine eligibility using a different method, based on real cost of living; the area median income (AMI). The AMI is based on median family incomes for metropolitan statistical areas.

FINANCIALLY INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS

The official ways to measure poverty don't fully assess the reality of families and individuals experiencing financial instability because they do not take into consideration cost of living. To better understand the real scope of poverty and financial instability, the United Way has developed a more accurate way to measure financial instability called the ALICE threshold that refers to Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed individuals. This measure represents those households that earn more than the federal poverty line but still do not make enough to cover their basic needs, and in most of the cases they do not qualify for federal assistance programs.

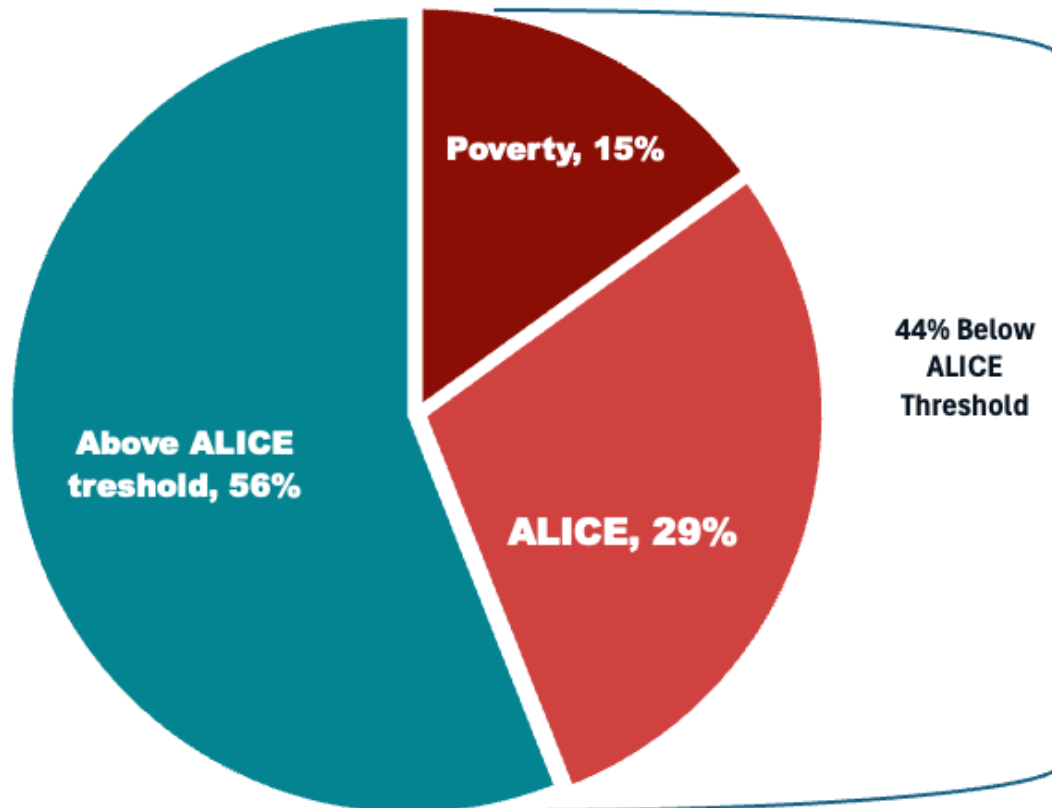
The ALICE methodology calculates a custom "ALICE Threshold" for each household type in each county, using local data for rent, childcare fees, transportation costs, and regional price indexes. This local adjustment makes ALICE far more accurate than national poverty measures, because it reflects the true cost of living in each community; and it's a better reflection of financial vulnerability.

**A family of five earning
\$37,437 A YEAR
won't be counted as
living in poverty.**

The chart below shows the percentage of residents in Bexar County living in poverty in 2024, based on the official poverty measure, but it also includes the percentage of residents who don't earn enough to pay for their basic needs (ALICE population).

Figure 4: Financial Insecure Households in Bexar County. 2024

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. 2024 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates (ACS 1YE) & United Way – ALICE Threshold for Bexar County

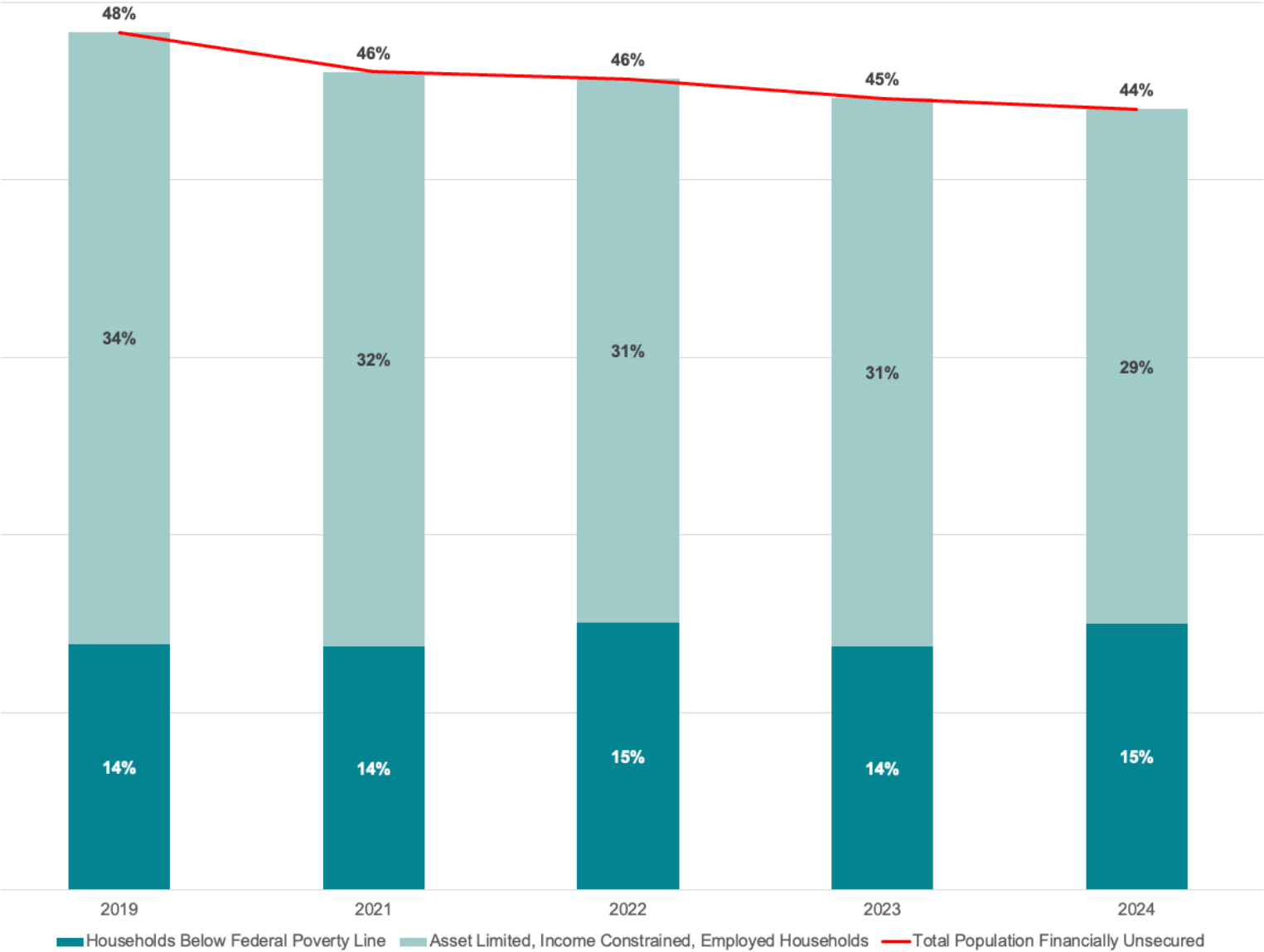


When wages increase at a slower rate than basic expenses, households cannot cover their basic needs. This is especially tough for ALICE households, who are already struggling to make ends meet without much assistance to cushion the blow.

The chart below shows the historic trend of the population living in poverty and the ALICE population in Bexar County. The red line shows the combined percentage of these two groups which represent the overall estimated population that is financially insecure in Bexar County.

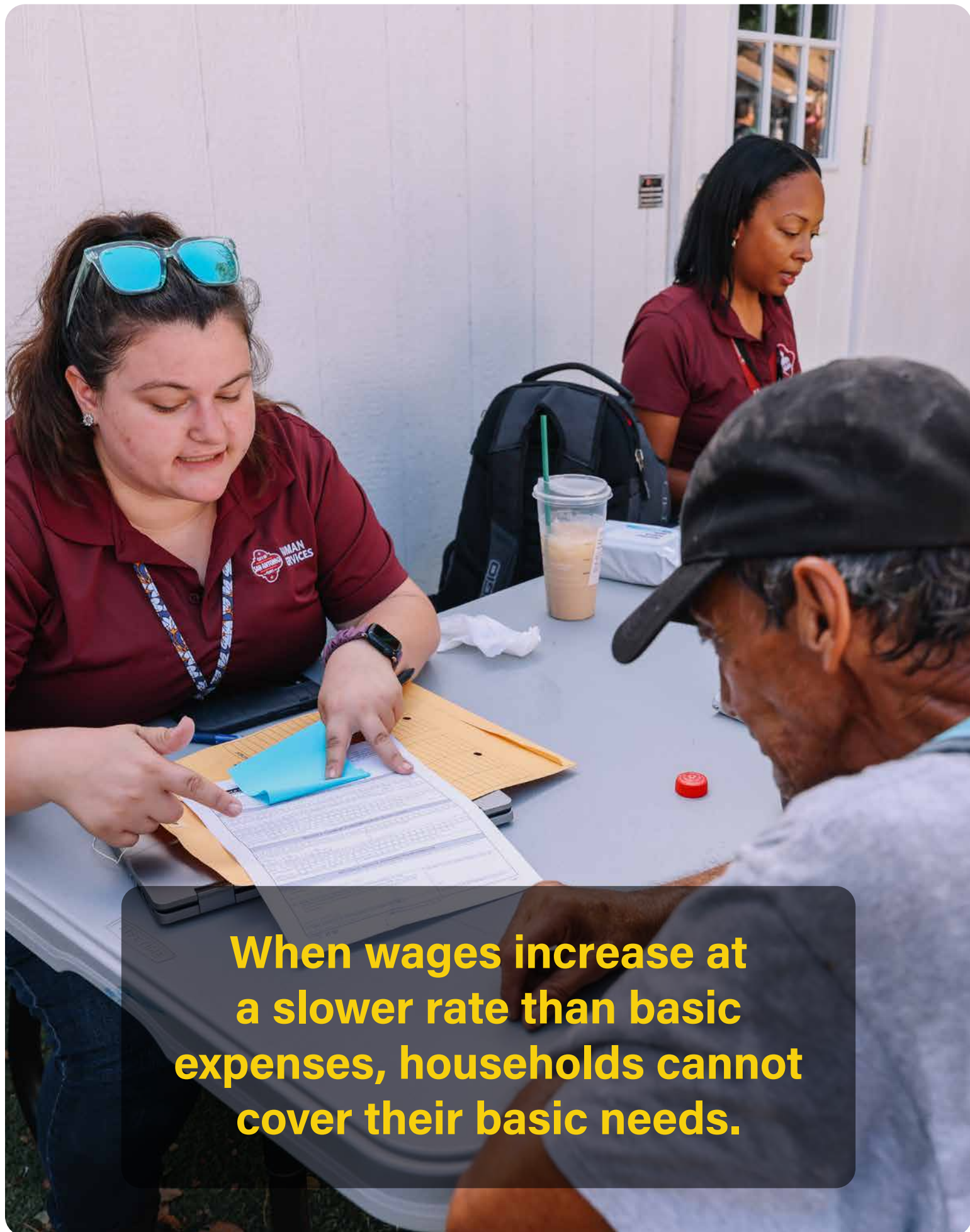
Figure 5: Financially Insecure Population in Bexar County

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates (ACS 1YE) & United Way – ALICE Threshold for Bexar County for 2010 to 2024



Note: The percentage of people living in poverty in this chart is based on the American Community Survey 1 year estimates; most of the references to poverty rates in this report are based on ACS 5 year estimates.

ALICE data identifies the level of economic need in each county by highlighting households struggling to afford necessities despite working. It provides insight into financial instability and where support systems are most needed.



When wages increase at a slower rate than basic expenses, households cannot cover their basic needs.

POVERTY TRENDS

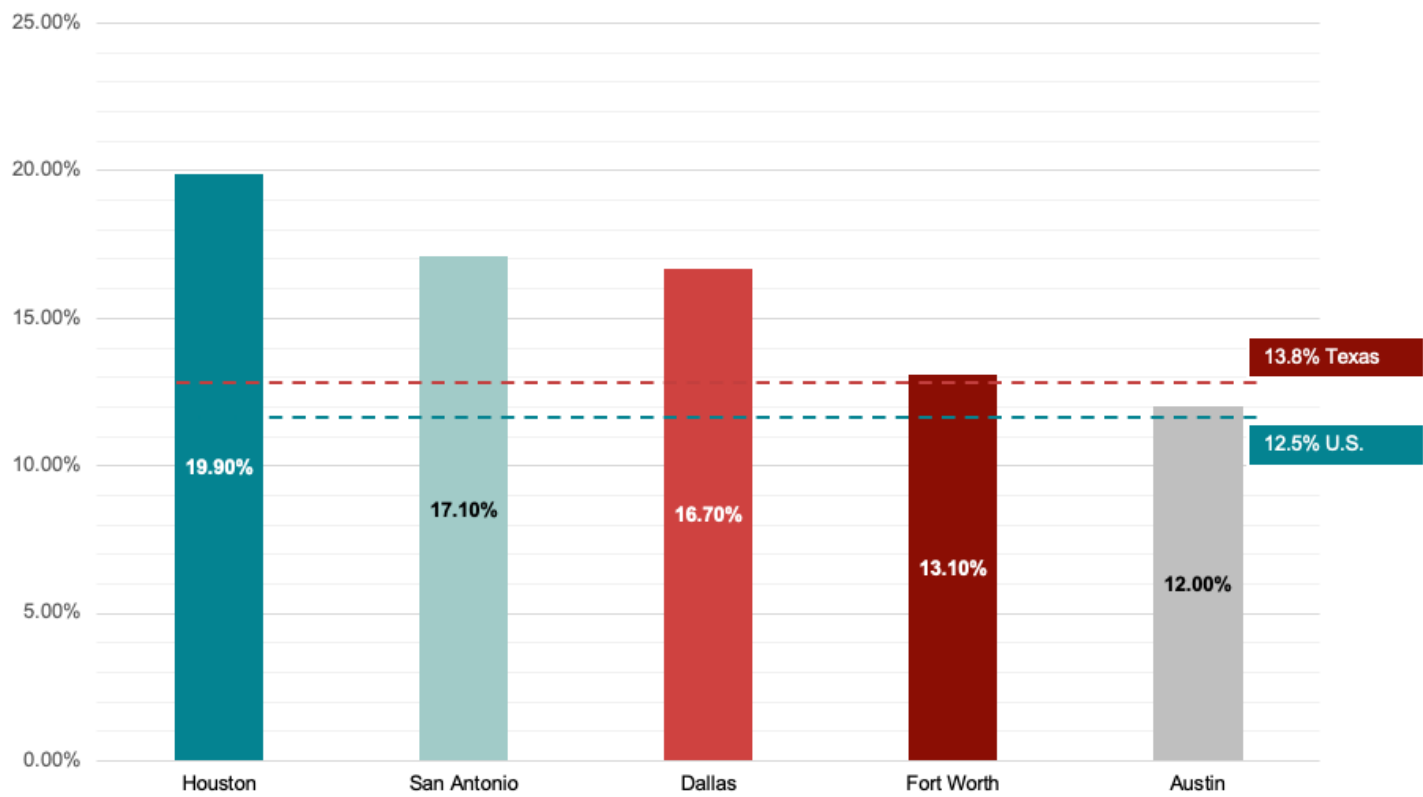
Based on the 2024 ACS 5 year-estimates, 17.1% of the population living in San Antonio experience poverty, which represents an estimate of 249,021 residents ($\pm 7,890$): with no statistically significant decrease from 2019 (17.8%). Confirming that over the last ten years covered by the 2019 & 2024 American Community Surveys, there has not been effective poverty reduction within the city of San Antonio. San Antonio's poverty rate is higher than the county rate (14.6%), the state rate (13.8%), and the national rate (12.5%).

Overall Poverty

- Based on the 2024 American Community Survey 5 year-estimates 17.1% of the population in San Antonio live below the official poverty measure, which represents around 249,021 residents⁵.
- San Antonio-New Braunfels ranks third in poverty rate among the most populous metro areas in the country with 13.4% of the total population of the metro area living below poverty; only surpassed by the Houston (13.9%) and Detroit (13.6%) metro areas⁶.
- National and State poverty rates are lower than San Antonio's 17.1%, with the U.S. estimating around 12.5% and Texas at 13.8% of the total population living in poverty.
- Among Texas most populous cities ("Texas Triangle"), San Antonio has the second highest poverty rate, with Houston having the highest at 19.9% and Austin having the lowest at 12%.

Figure 6: Poverty Overview: Ranking of Texas Cities by Poverty Rates

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2024 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates (ACS 5YE). Table S1701

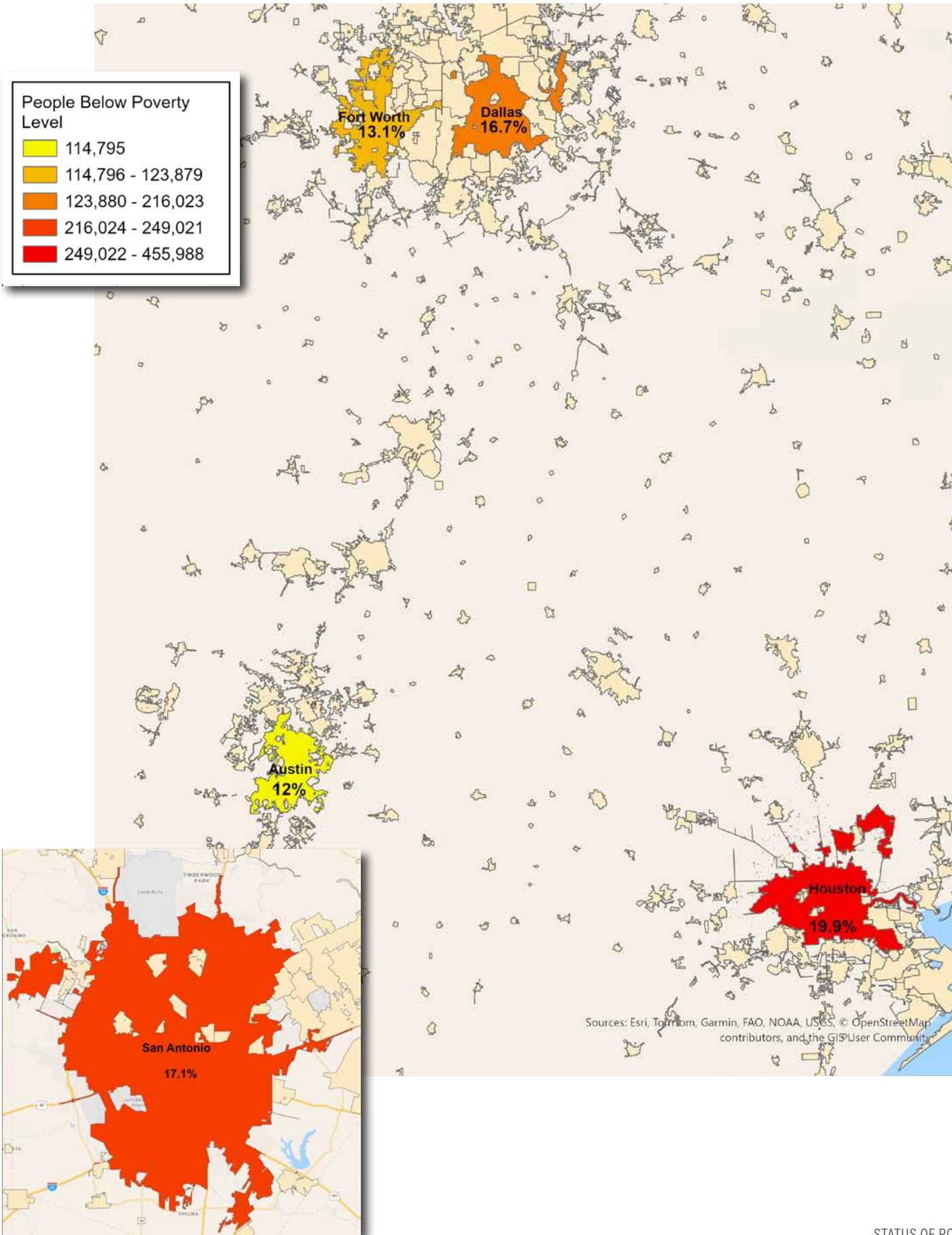


⁵ Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1701.

⁶ Based in the 2024 ACS 5YE, San Antonio-New Braunfels MSA ranks number 24 in population size, but number 3 in poverty rate.

Figure 7: Map of Poverty Rates among the Texas most populous cities

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2024 ACS 5YE. Table S1701



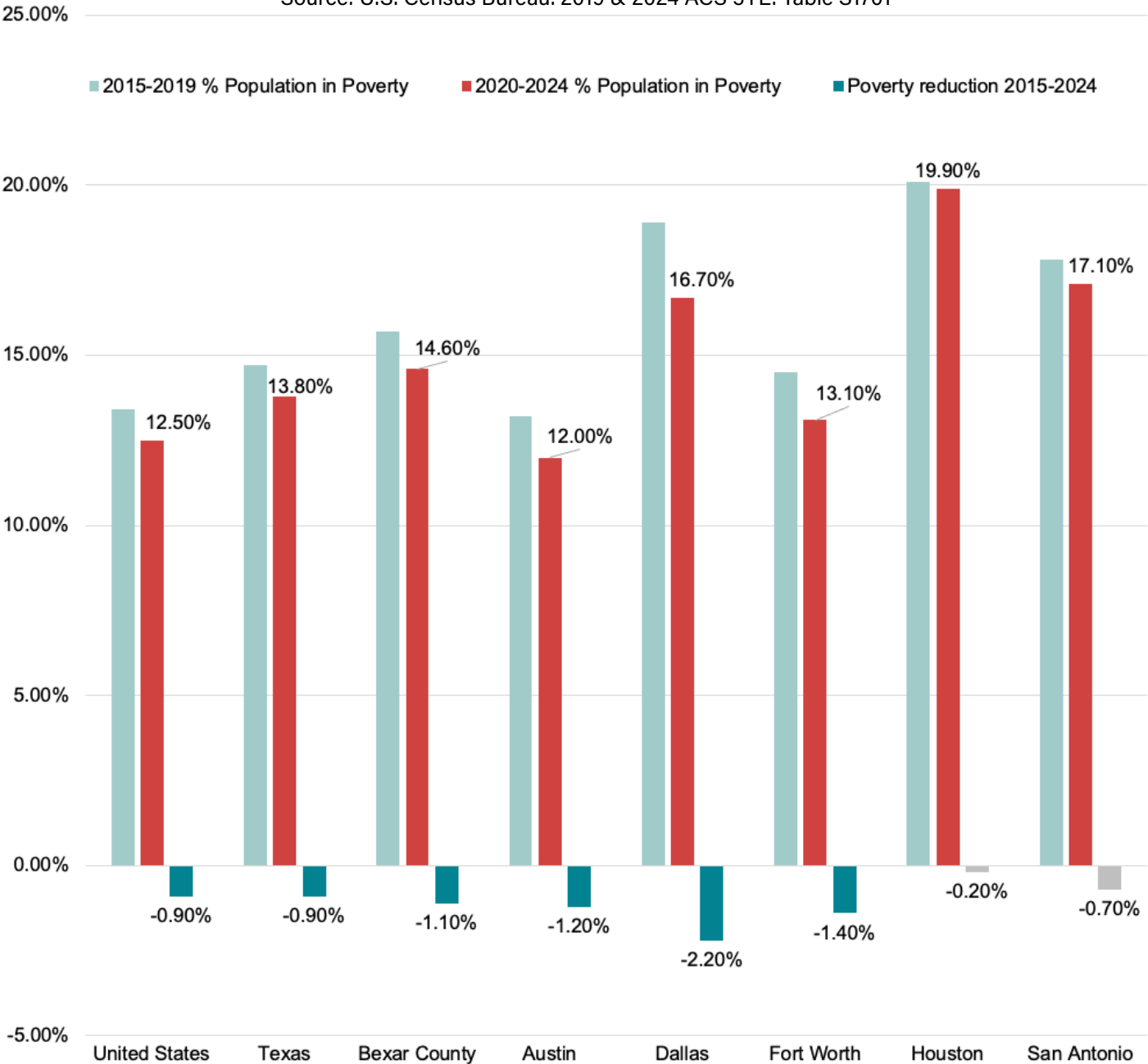
POVERTY REDUCTION - POVERTY CONCENTRATION - PERSISTENT POVERTY

Poverty Reduction in San Antonio

To better assess community progress, it’s relevant to analyze geographies across the state and in the nation that have realized significant reduction in poverty rates. The table below shows poverty rate changes across the last ten years; while there is a percentual reduction in every geography analyzed, it is necessary to highlight that the reduction in Houston and in San Antonio is not statistically significant; which means that these two cities not only have the highest poverty rates across the compared geographies, but that poverty has not been effectively reduced over the last decade.

Figure 8: Comparison of Poverty Rates by Geography (2015-2024) and percentage reduction

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2019 & 2024 ACS 5YE. Table S1701



Poverty rates presented in this chart account for changes in population size between 2015–2019 and 2020–2024. The ACS reports poverty as a percentage of the estimated population for each period. Since the data are expressed as rates rather than raw counts, they inherently reflect population growth or decline. The differences incorporate statistical significance by considering each estimate’s margin of error. Bars in light grey represent a non-statistically significant change.

While **there is no overall poverty reduction in San Antonio**, some demographic groups have experienced statistically significant changes.

There is a **positive trend in reducing child poverty**, both for children under 5 years old, as well as for people under 18 years old. Conversely, residents ages **60 and older have experienced an increase in poverty rates**.

The table below shows the changes in poverty rates for these specific demographics over the last decade.

Figure 9: Significant Poverty Rate Changes by Age in San Antonio (2015-2024)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2019 & 2024 ACS 5YE. Table S1701. The table only shows statistically significant changes.

San Antonio specific Demographics	2024 % Population in Poverty	Poverty reduction from 2015
Children under 5 years old	26.00%	-2.70%
Under 18 years old	23.90%	-2.20%
Adults over 60 years old	14.70%	+1.40%
Adults over 65 years old	14.60%	+1.80%

Poverty Concentration

Despite low unemployment rates and strong economic growth, poverty has not been significantly reduced in San Antonio. From 2023 to 2025, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the metro area has experienced a significant increase; higher than the country overall.

- National GDP from 2023 to 2025 grew around 2-3%. In San Antonio-New Braunfels metro area GDP grew 7-9%, a significantly higher rate than the nation overall.
- Unemployment rate in the metro area is notably low (3.2%) slightly below the unemployment rates for the State of Texas (3.8%), and for the Nation overall (3.9%) .

However, **economic growth seems to be concentrated toward the broader metro area** rather than in the urban core. The ACS 5YE for 2019 and for 2024 reflects that the metro-wide economic improvement is not evenly distributed into the community.

Similarly, median income growth is higher in the San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area, compared with the changes happening within San Antonio city limits.

The table below shows how the **income gap between the city and the larger metropolitan area is widening**. With inflation adjusted values the median household income gap in 2019 was \$8,871 and grew to \$11,157 in 2024.

Figure 10: Median Household Income Changes (2015-2024) in San Antonio City and Metro Area

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2019 & 2024 ACS 5YE. Table S1903.

Median Household Income	San Antonio New Braunfels MSA	San Antonio (City Limits)	Difference *
2015-2019 ACS 5YE*	\$ 67,198	\$ 58,327	-\$ 8,871
2020-2024 ACS 5YE	\$ 76,213	\$ 65,056	-\$11,157

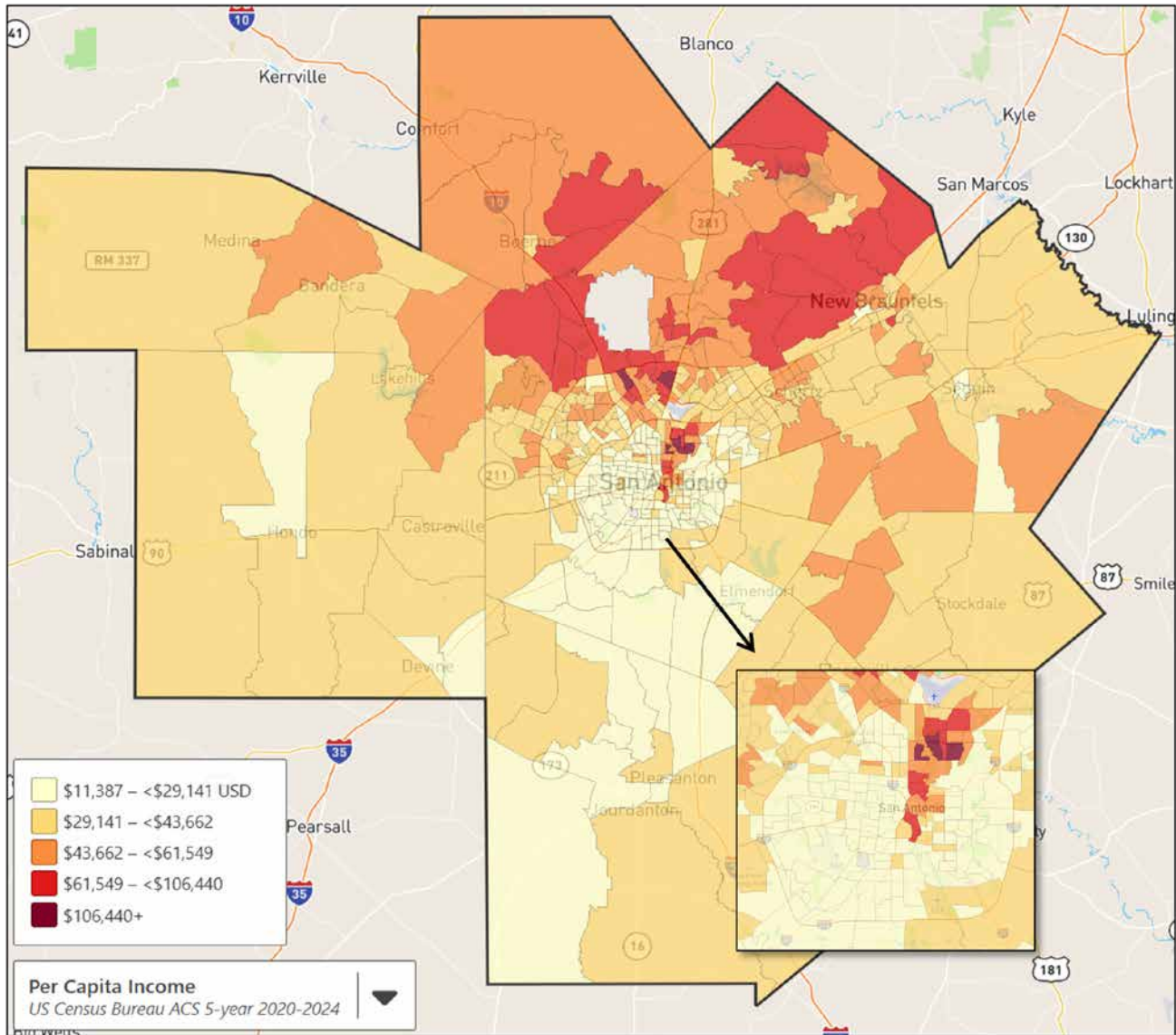
**Inflation adjusted to 2024*

Similarly, when using per capita income (average income per person, calculated by dividing total income by total population) the lowest values in the San Antonio-New Braunfels metro area are concentrated in census tracts within Interstate 410 and across the South Side, compared to the higher-income northern metropolitan area.

⁷A more comprehensive economic analysis for San Antonio can be found at the [City of San Antonio Economic Development Dashboard](#)

Figure 11: Per Capita Income by census tract in San Antonio-New Braunfels Metro Area

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2024 ACS 5YE. Table B19301

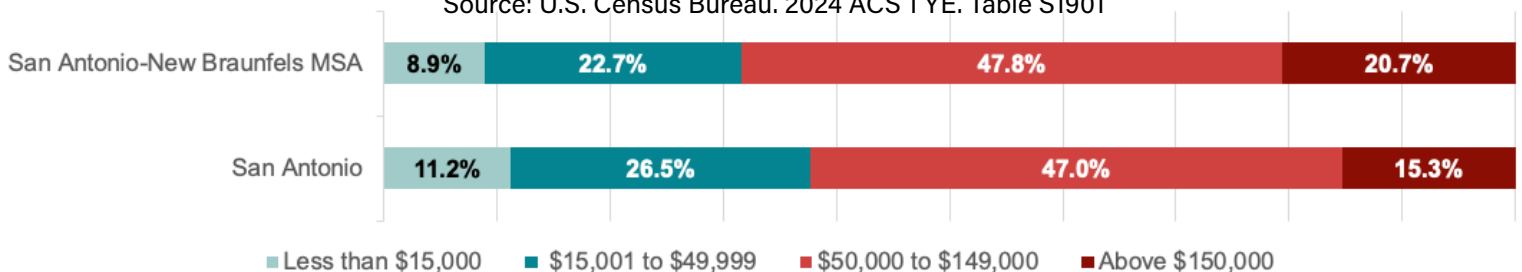


The most current data for 2024 ACS 1YE clearly shows that **this gap is even more pronounced for high-income households**. While almost 21% of metro area residents have a median income above \$150K, the percentage of San Antonio residents above that income bracket is 15.3%. The opposite trend is also true for households with lower incomes; as shown in the graphic below.

This graphic shows that there is a higher concentration of low-income residents within the city of San Antonio, compared to the metro area and the metro area has a higher rate of higher income residents.

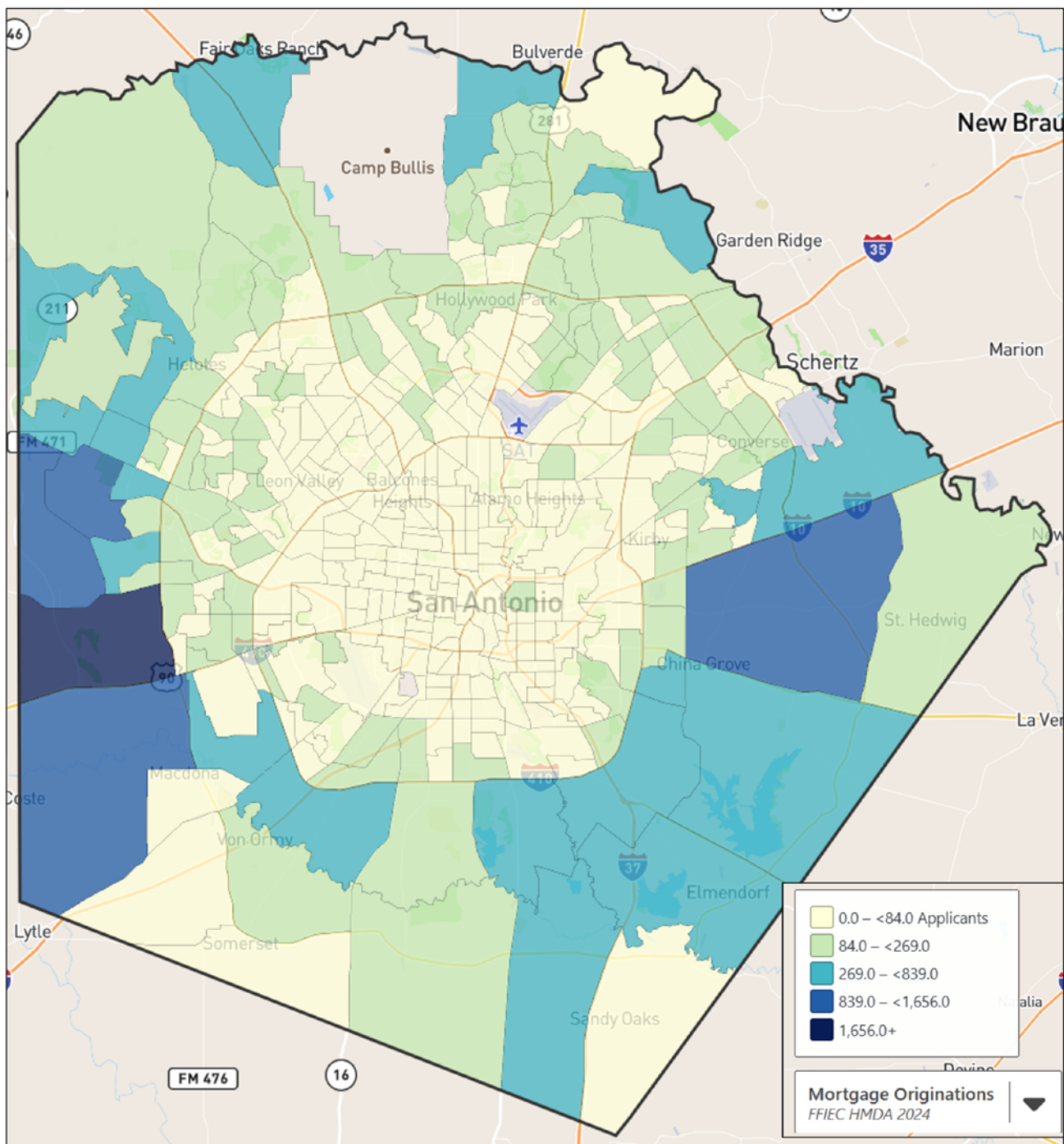
Figure 12: Household Income Distribution in San Antonio City and Metro Areas, 2024 (Income in the past 12 months)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2024 ACS 1 YE. Table S1901



The 2024 map further illustrates this disparity, showing **a clear concentration of mortgage activity in the outside area**, while central parts of the city with higher concentration of poverty are showing lower economic activity.

Source: Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC). 2024 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) Snapshot National Loan Level Dataset.



Persistent Poverty in San Antonio

This trend is supported by the identification of **persistent poverty tracts**. Persistent poverty tracts are defined as specific geographic areas within the city limits that have maintained poverty rates of **20% or higher for over 30 years**.

The U.S. Census Bureau defines **high-poverty areas** as census tracts where 20% or more of their population live in poverty.

Persistent poverty areas are tracts that have maintained 20% or higher poverty rates for three decades.

This geographic disparity highlights a growing gap between the economic prosperity of the broader metro area and the stagnant opportunities for many residents within the city.

- **32%** of census tracts within Bexar County are considered **high poverty areas**, with the majority concentrated in the urban core of San Antonio.
- **3 out of every 4 high poverty areas** are also considered areas of **persistent poverty**; this represents that 71% of the census tracts with high poverty rates have been experiencing it for the last three decades.

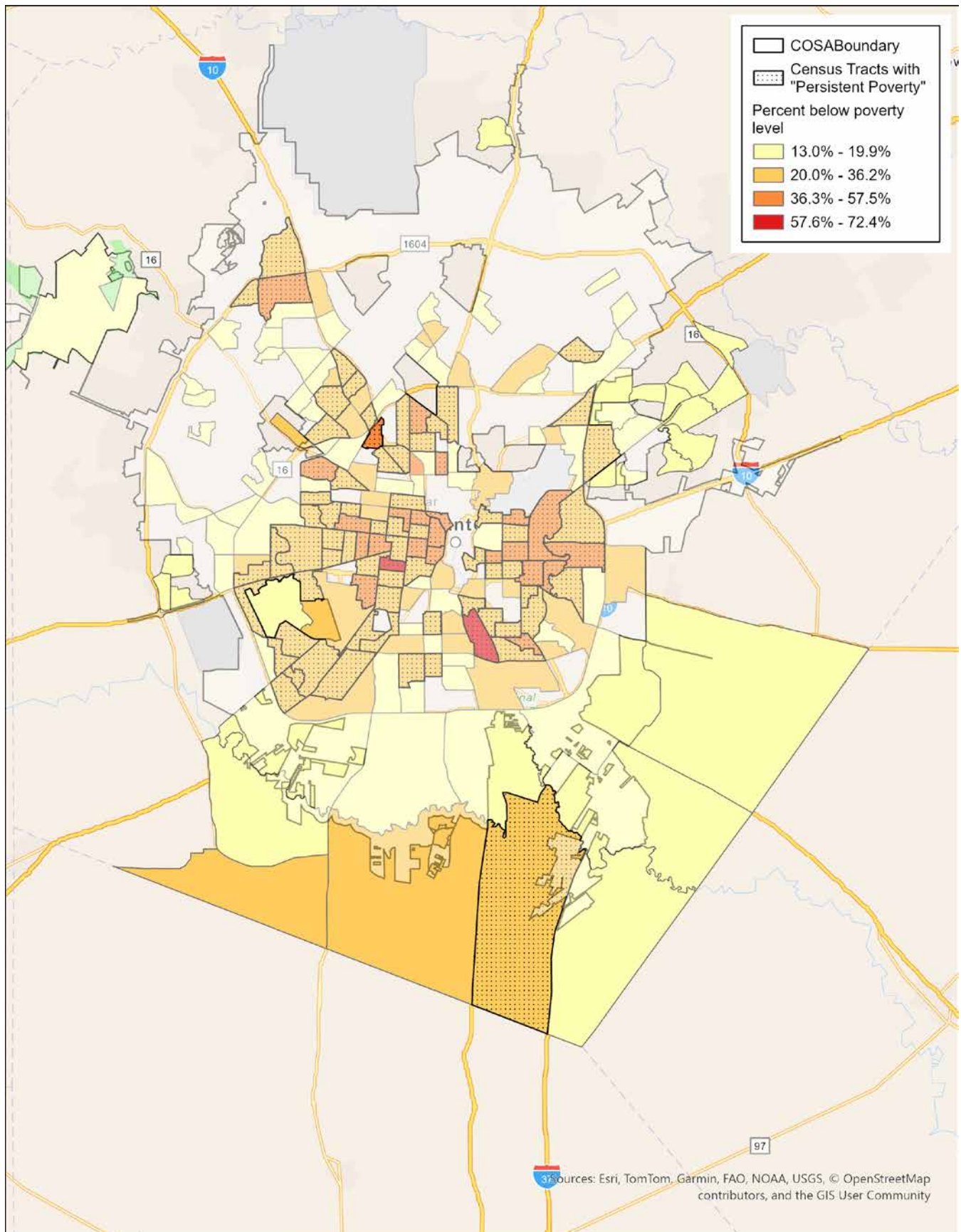
Those areas of San Antonio with the highest poverty rates have remained in that condition consistently, highlighting persistent socio-economic segregation.

The map below shows those census tracts with high poverty rates and the ones with persistent poverty, with a significant concentration in the south and central urban core of San Antonio.



Figure 14: Areas of Persistent Poverty by Census Tract

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Persistent Poverty in Bexar County by Census Tract. 1990 & 2000 Decennial Census; 2014, 2019 & 2024 ACS 5YE. Table S1701



SAN ANTONIO POVERTY PROFILE

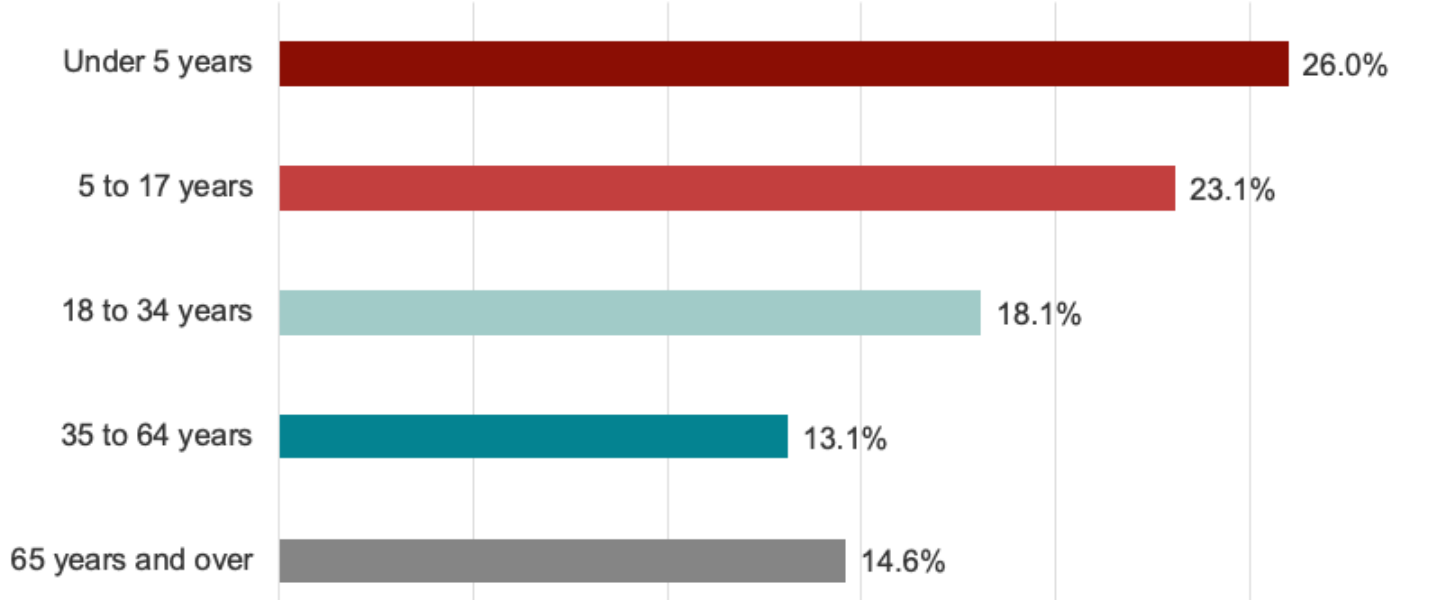
DEMOGRAPHICS OF POVERTY: POVERTY BY AGE

Poverty rates vary across age groups, reflecting distinct life-stage challenges. Children under five, who are not yet of school age, are more likely to experience poverty, due to limited household income and/or increased expenses related to childcare and healthcare. For young adults, low wages or debt may be the contributing factors to the higher poverty rate, while older adults on fixed incomes are vulnerable to inflation fluctuations.

As shown in the table below, families with small **children and young adults experience poverty at a higher rate** than the community overall.

Figure 15: Population Living in Poverty by Age San Antonio, 2024

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2024 ACS 5 YE. Table S1701



The following table shows the percentage of people living in poverty in San Antonio, comparing data from 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 by age group. In 2024, the poverty rate for children under the age of five remains significantly high, with over 26% of children in this age group experiencing poverty, which means that **approximately one in four children living in San Antonio is in poverty**.

However, it is important to highlight that over the past decade, there has been **a significant reduction in child poverty rates**, both for children under five and for children aged 5 to 17. This indicates progress for both young and school-age children.

In contrast, a different trend is observed among older adults, aged 60 and older, who experienced a statistically significant increase in poverty rates between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. This is consistent with the broader pattern observed among adults aged 60 and older in San Antonio, where a 14.7% poverty rate represents **approximately 40,000 older residents experiencing poverty** (39,572 individuals MoE ±1,970).

At the national level, poverty among adults aged 60 and older has also increased, reaching 11% in 2024. This trend confirms the **economic vulnerability among older adults**, many of whom live on fixed incomes and face rising costs of housing, healthcare, and long-term care. For those without sufficient financial resources or strong support networks, these constraints can limit their access to essential services and increase the risk of self-neglect and vulnerability to abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Older adults face unique financial and health-related challenges that can increase their risk of poverty and instability. Among residents age 65 and older, **42% live with at least one type of disability**⁸, which may create additional barriers to maintaining financial security, accessing services, and living independently.

⁸Based on the 2024 ACS 5YE, Table B18101.

Figure 16: Statistically Significant Changes in Poverty Rates by Age (2015-2024) San Antonio

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2024 ACS 5 YE. Table S1701

Poverty Rate by Age. San Antonio	2019 ACS 5YE	2024 ACS 5YE	% Reduction from 2015 to 2024	Statistically Significant Difference
Under 18 years	22.3%	23.9%	-2%	YES
Under 5 years	26.1%	26.0%	-3%	YES
5 to 17 years	20.9%	23.1%	-2%	YES
18 to 64 years	15.7%	15.2%	0%	NO
60 years and over	14.7%	14.7%	1%	YES
65 years and over	14.5%	14.6%	2%	YES

POVERTY BY SEX

Poverty rates for both men and women are higher in San Antonio than in the metropolitan area, the state of Texas, and the United States as a whole. But across all geographies analyzed, **women experience higher poverty rates than men**, and higher than the overall poverty rate. In San Antonio an estimated 17.1% of the population lives in poverty, compared to 18.4% among women.

Figure 17: Percentage of People Living in Poverty by Sex Across Various Geographies, 2024

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2024 ACS 5YE. Table S1701



POVERTY BY DISABILITY STATUS

Many people living with disability experience barriers to generate income, and to earn a livable wage, relying on public assistance programs.

In San Antonio in 2024, **50% of the population living with a declared disability are unemployed/not in the labor force**. Based on the 2024 ACS 1YE the number of individuals 16 years or older with a declared disability employed (72,833) and unemployed/not in the labor force (71,703) was roughly split 50% to 50%.

Nearly 1 in every 4 individuals living in poverty in San Antonio have a declared disability. Based on 2024 ACS 5YE an estimate of 22% of people living in poverty have a declared disability (an estimate of 55,356 residents)⁹, which has not significantly changed since 2015.

⁹2024 ACS 5YE. Tables S1701 & B18130.

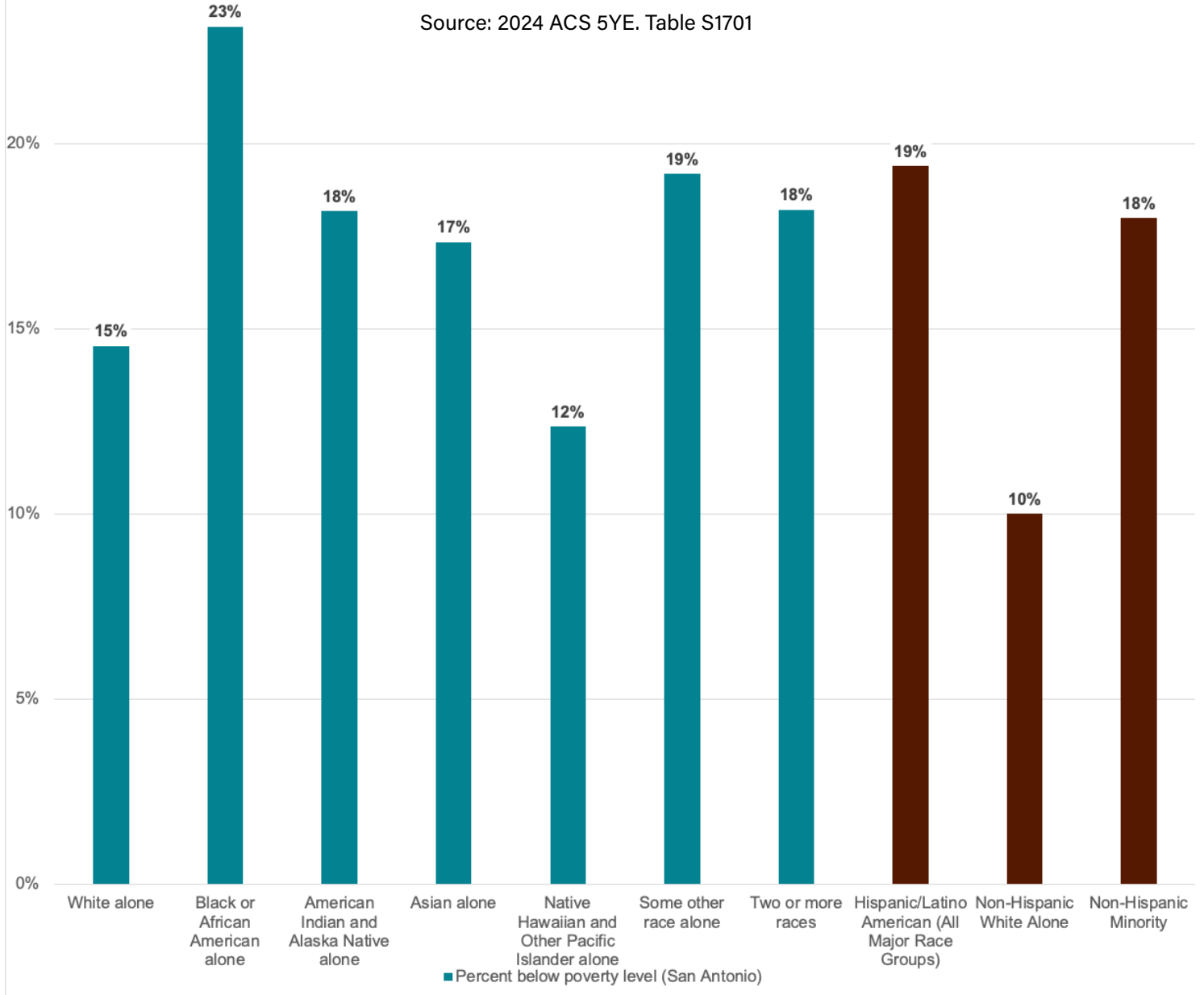
POVERTY DISPARITIES BY RACE & ETHNICITY

Poverty rates vary significantly by race groups and ethnic groups, reflecting broader social and economic inequalities that indicate disparities accessing education, employment, and resources.

San Antonio represents what is known as a “majority-minority” city, in which 77%¹⁰ of the population collectively identify as an ethnicity other than non-Hispanic White. Yet, poverty continues to affect people of color, with larger proportions of their populations experiencing poverty at higher rates.

The table below compares poverty rates within each racial group (teal) and then by their ethnic groups (maroon). The data clearly shows higher rates of poverty among people of color, and Hispanic residents compared to the White non-Hispanic population..

Figure 18: Percent of Population Below Poverty by Race and Ethnicity. San Antonio, 2024



African Americans continue to experience the highest poverty at 23.2% across San Antonio, which is not significantly different than the U.S. (21%); and nearly double that of White non-Hispanic residents (10%).

Also, while Asian alone and White alone have lower poverty rates compared to other races, it is important to note their poverty rates are statistically significantly higher than those racial groups in Texas and the United States.

¹⁰“Majority-minority” is defined when more than 50 percent of the population is represented by a race or ethnicity other than “non-Hispanic white”.

POVERTY BY LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Living arrangements are an important factor when considering poverty, as the householders' characteristics and presence of additional members may affect overall financial stability. Households with multiple members may have the ability to share resources, access support, share caregiving responsibilities or generate additional income sources.

According to the 2024 ACS 5YE official poverty measure 73% (182,234) of the population experiencing poverty are families, with approximately **52% of those being a single parent family with no spousal support¹¹**. There is a significant gender disparity among single families living in poverty, where single mothers account for 86% (19,973) of all single families living below poverty.

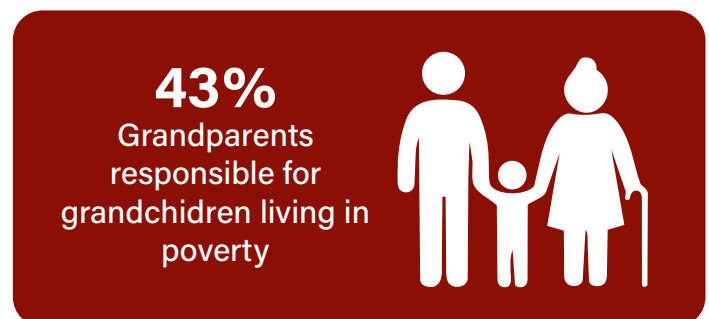
Figure 19: Poverty by Household Type

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2024 ACS 5YE. Tables B17012, B17021



In examining the unique circumstances of families in poverty, it is important to also consider the additional financial pressures for specific age groups, primary caregivers, and grandparents serving as guardians. These unique circumstances can create financial pressures, while also limiting access to resources to lift families out of poverty.

In San Antonio between 2020 and 2024, **43% of grandparents responsible for children under the age of 18 were experiencing poverty**, with represents an estimate of 2,987 households¹².



Almost 17% of multigenerational households with three generations living together are in poverty, which represents an estimate of 6,828 families.

¹¹2024 ACS 5YE-Table B17017 and B17012. This estimate includes family and non-family households. Family households are people living in the housing unit related by birth, through marriage or adoption. Non-Family households are people living in a household, not related by birth through marriage or adoption (i.e. employees, roommates/cohabitation, foster).

¹²2024 ACS 5YE- Table S1002 Grandparents.

TRAINING, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

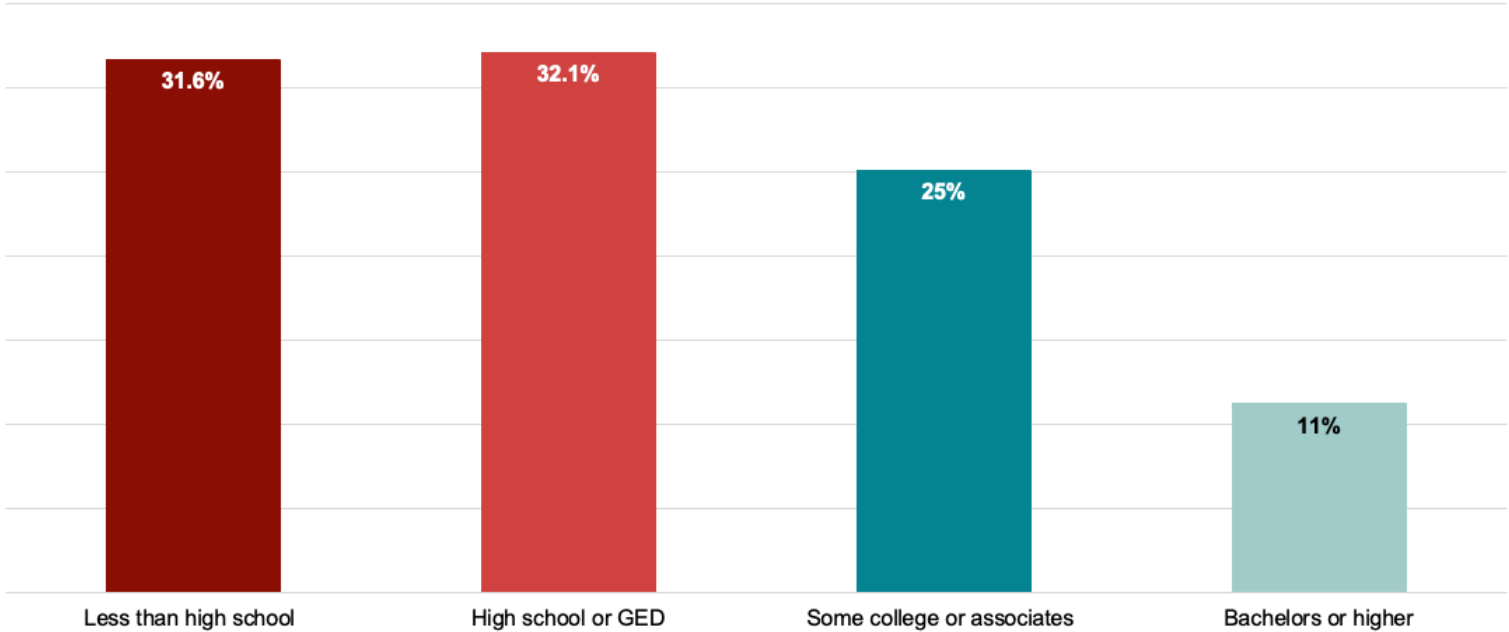
POVERTY BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Poverty, especially for young adults is also influenced by educational attainment. In San Antonio, between 2020 and 2024, 64% of the population 25 years and older experiencing poverty have only a high school degree or less. The chart below shows the different levels of educational attainments for residents living in poverty

The data clearly demonstrates that educational attainment is a key contributing factor for social mobility.

Figure 20: Percent of Population 25 years and older Living in Poverty by Educational Attainment San Antonio, 2024

Source: 2024 ACS 5YE. Table S1701

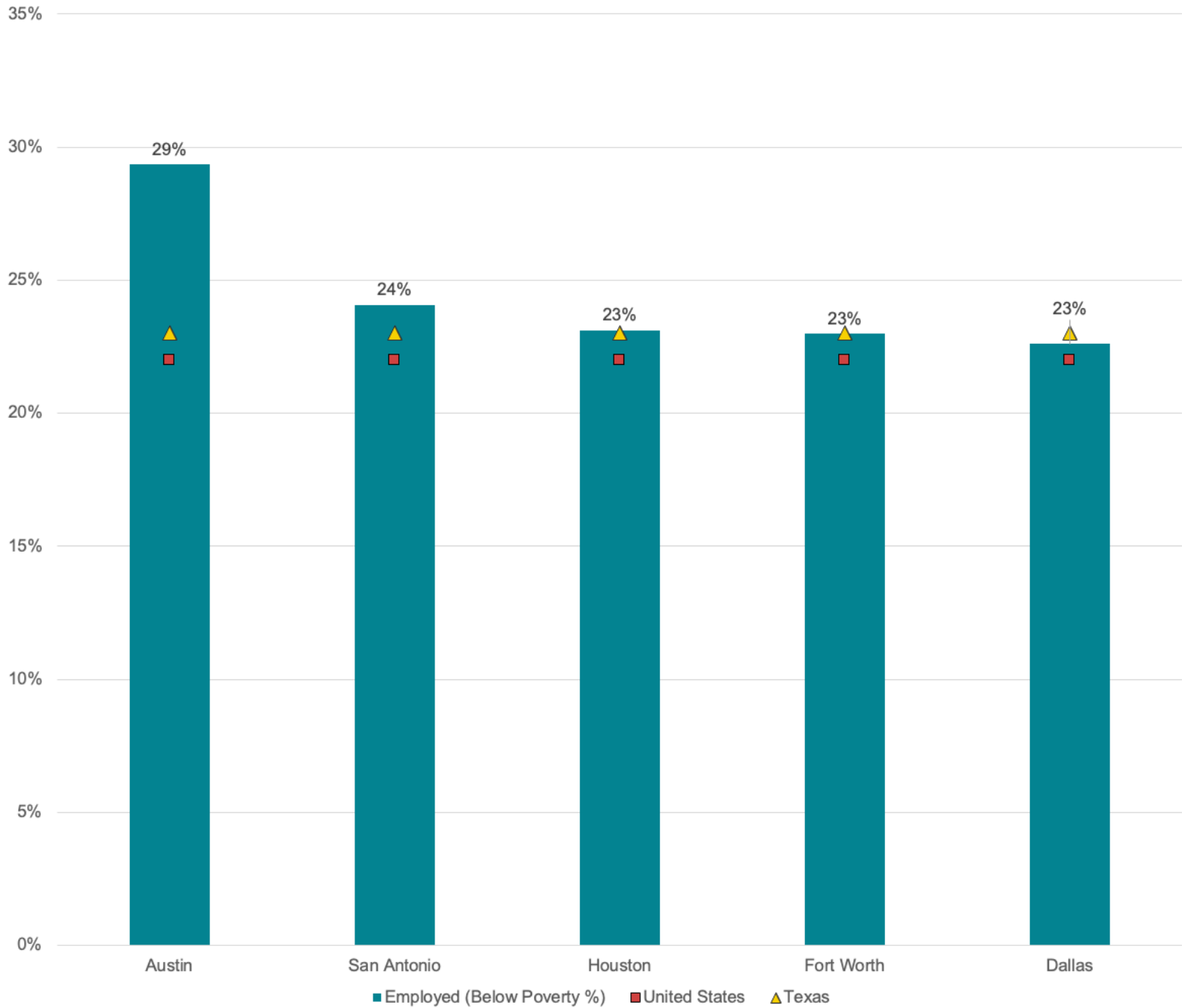


POVERTY BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Across Texas’ largest cities, approximately 24% of the population living in poverty are what are considered the “working poor”. These are people who received a steady source of employment income within the past 12 months but are still below the poverty level. Austin has the largest proportion of “working poor” at 29% among the largest cities in Texas, while other cities’ proportion of working poor are within state (23%) and national (22%) averages.

Figure 21: Percent of Employed Population Experiencing Poverty: Working Poor. Various Geographies, 2024

Source: 2024 ACS 5YE. Table S1701



VULNERABLE YOUTH POPULATIONS

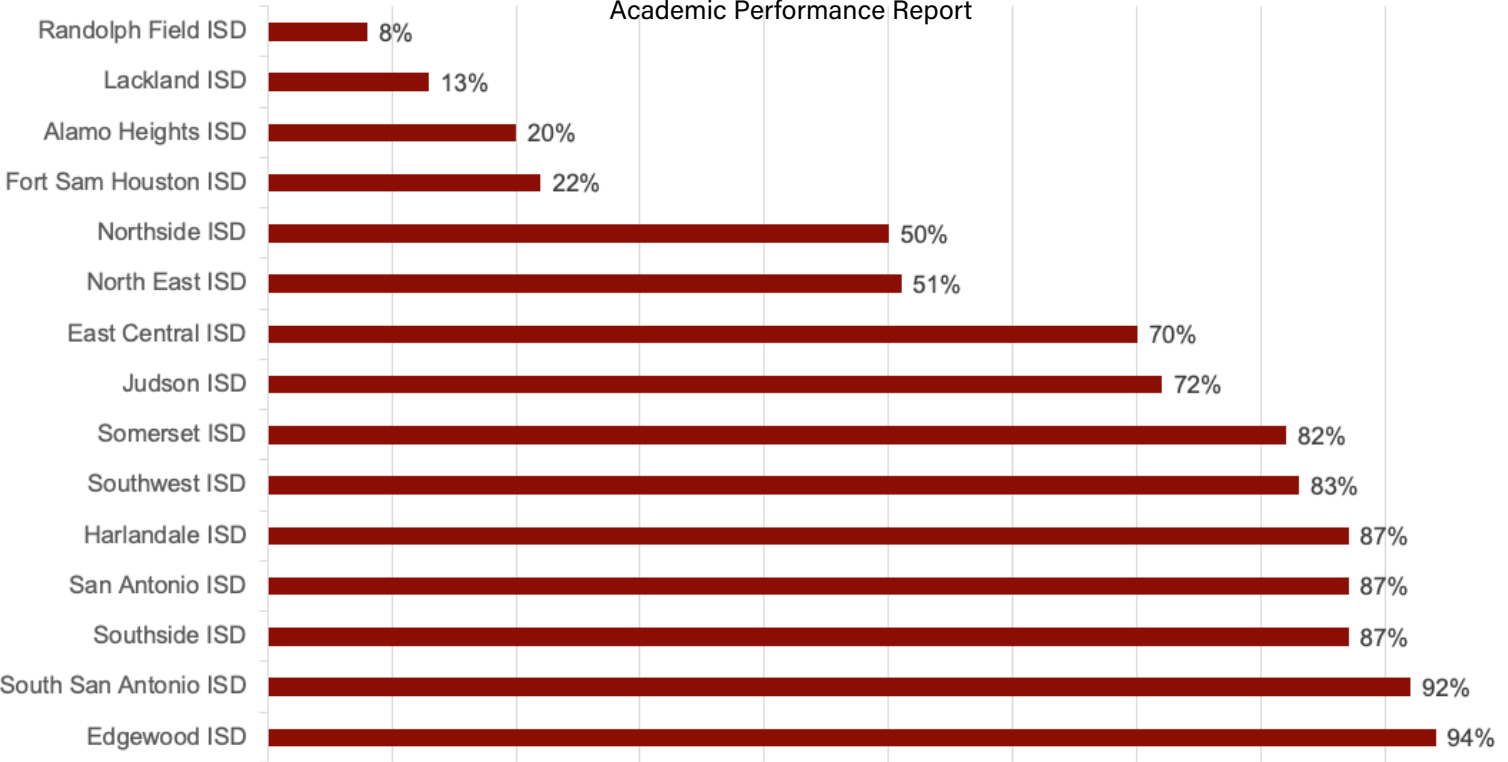
64% of Bexar County public-school students live in economically disadvantaged families based on data for 2024/25 academic year. Based on the Texas Education Agency data, during the 2024-2025 academic year, 64% of students attending public schools in Bexar County independent school districts (ISD) belong to families considered economically disadvantaged¹³.

This rate is slightly higher in Bexar County than in the state of Texas (61%). In the Education Service Center 20 (Region 20), which includes Bexar County, 58% of all public school students live in economically disadvantaged families.

However, the percentage of economically disadvantaged students varies significantly by school district, with the largest number of economically disadvantaged students found in the following nine school districts: Edgewood ISD, South San Antonio ISD, Southside ISD, San Antonio ISD, Harlandale ISD, Southwest ISD, Somerset ISD, Judson ISD and East Central ISD.

Figure 22: Percent of Economically Disadvantage Students by School District, 2024/2025

Source: Texas Education Agency, 2024-2025 Academic Year, by Bexar County Independent School Districts, Texas Academic Performance Report



OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

The consequences of poverty, unstable housing, insufficient educational opportunities, and insufficient support systems not only affect adults, but also youth ages 16 to 24, which is considered a critical development window.

Young people within this age group who are neither enrolled in school nor employed are known as Opportunity Youth.

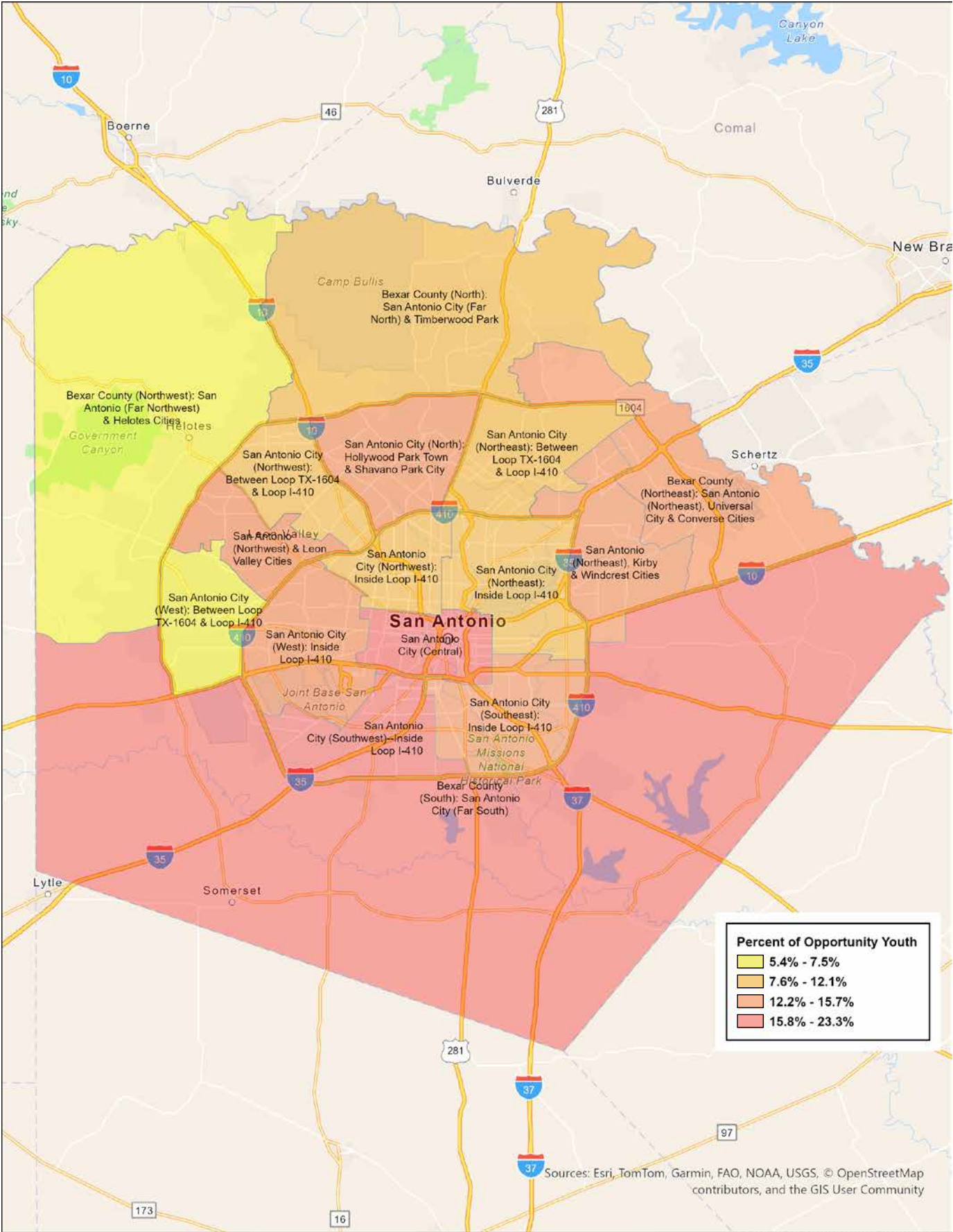
In Bexar County, the 2024 ACS 1-Year Public Use Microdata Estimate identified approximately 36,191 Opportunity Youth, representing about 13% of the county's total young adult population. The following map shows the estimated distribution of opportunity youth in Bexar County by public use microdata area PUMAs¹⁴.

Bexar County is divided in 16 public use microdata areas, seven of them have a higher percent of opportunity youth than the county overall and Southwest San Antonio inside the loop of I-410 had the highest rate at 23%.

¹³Texas Education Code (TE) §5.001(4) – Economically Disadvantaged are students that are eligible to participate in the national free or reduced lunch program. These students are in families that live below 185% of the FPL, receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and/or receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
¹⁴The U.S. Census Bureau uses the PUMAs to provide detailed statistics and demographic information at the micro-level. They are defined as non-overlapping geographic areas with a minimum population of 100,000 used for the dissemination of Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data.

Figure 23: Distribution of Opportunity Youth in Bexar County by PUMAs, 2024

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2024 ACS 1Year Public Use Microdata Estimate



INCOME DISPARITIES AND POVERTY

GEOGRAPHICAL INCOME DISPARITIES

In 2024, based on the ACS 1 year-estimates San Antonio's median household income (\$66,176) was significantly lower than the state (\$79,721) and national (\$81,604) averages.

This lower median income does not appear to be driven by higher unemployment, as the percentage of the civilian population aged 16 and older who are employed is very similar across all three geographies in that year.

2024 Civilian Employment Rate	
U.S.	60.6%
Texas	62.1%
San Antonio	60.7%

Source: 2024 ACS 1YE

The lower median household income in San Antonio may reflect lower-paying jobs compared to state and national averages, along with higher rates of underemployment. In fact, poverty among part-time workers is significantly high at 22.5%, and it has experienced an statistically significant increase over the last decade (+1.8% since 2015).

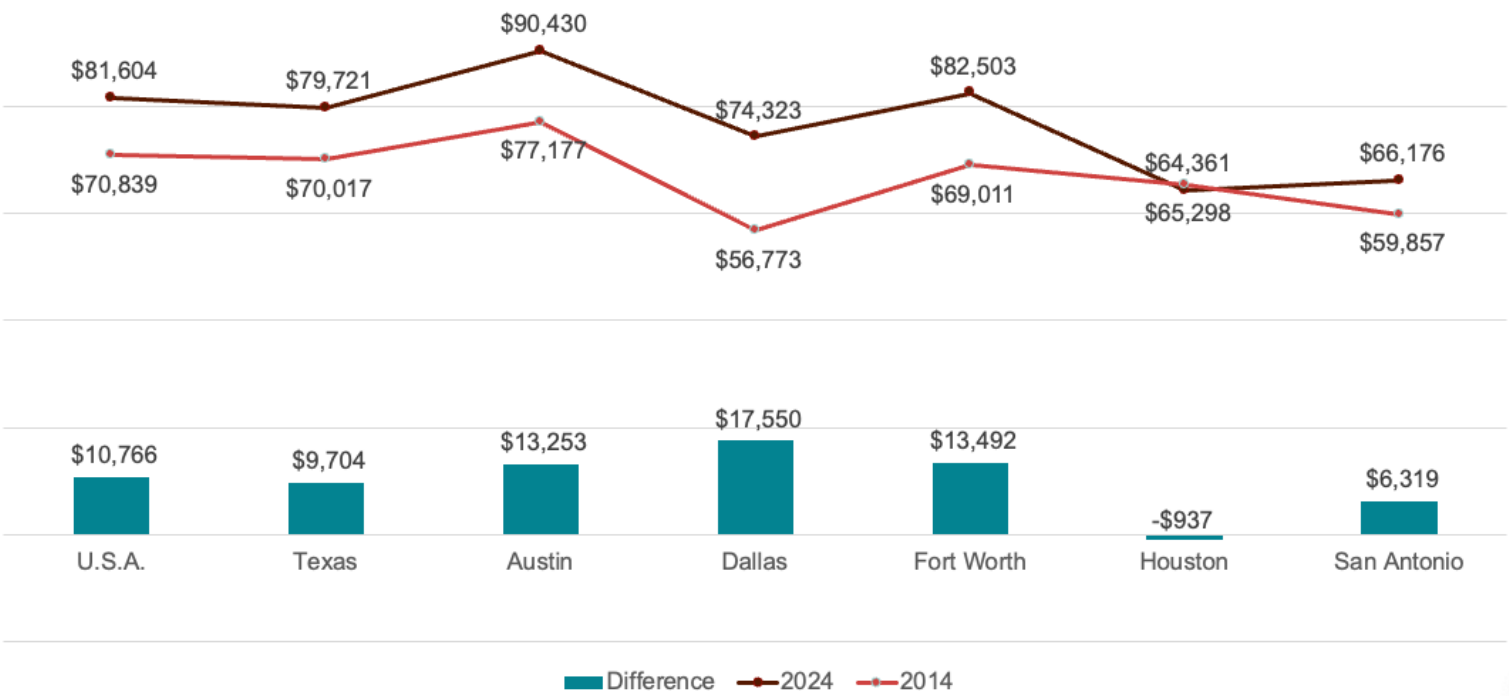
From 2014 to 2024, median household income increased notably across all geographies analyzed. However, San Antonio and Houston, the two large

cities in Texas with the highest poverty rates, experienced a smaller gain and a decrease, respectively. Based on the ACS 1 year-estimates, and adjusting the dollar amounts to 2024:

- From 2014 to 2024, households in the United States experienced a median income increase of \$10,766 dollars.
- In San Antonio median household income increased by only \$6,319 during that same time, significantly lower than the nation, state's rate increase, and far below the gains seen in Dallas and Austin.

Figure 24: Changes in Median Household Income from 2014 to 2024. Various Geographies

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2014 & 2024 ACS 1YE Table S1901. Inflation adjusted to 2024. BLS Inflation calculator



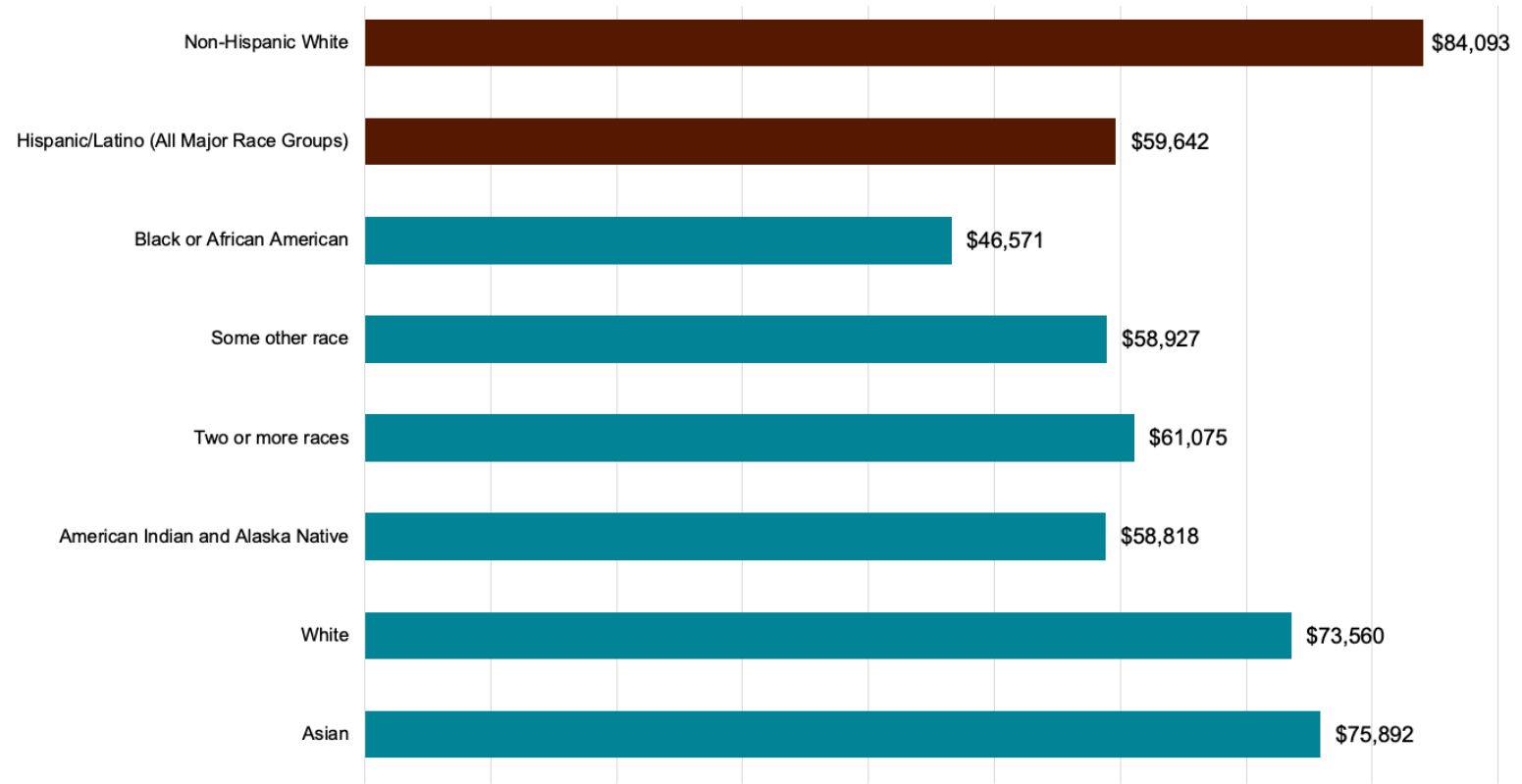
INCOME DISPARITIES BY RACE & ETHNICITY

Within the City of San Antonio there are also significant income disparities among racial and demographic groups. To better analyze these disparities, this report relies on five year-estimates from the American Community Survey.

Black or African American households, of any ethnic background, in San Antonio report a median income that is 45% lower than that of White non-Hispanic households. The chart below shows the pronounced income disparities within each racial group (teal) and then by their ethnic group (maroon).

Figure 25: Difference in Median Household Income by Race & Ethnicity in San Antonio, 2024

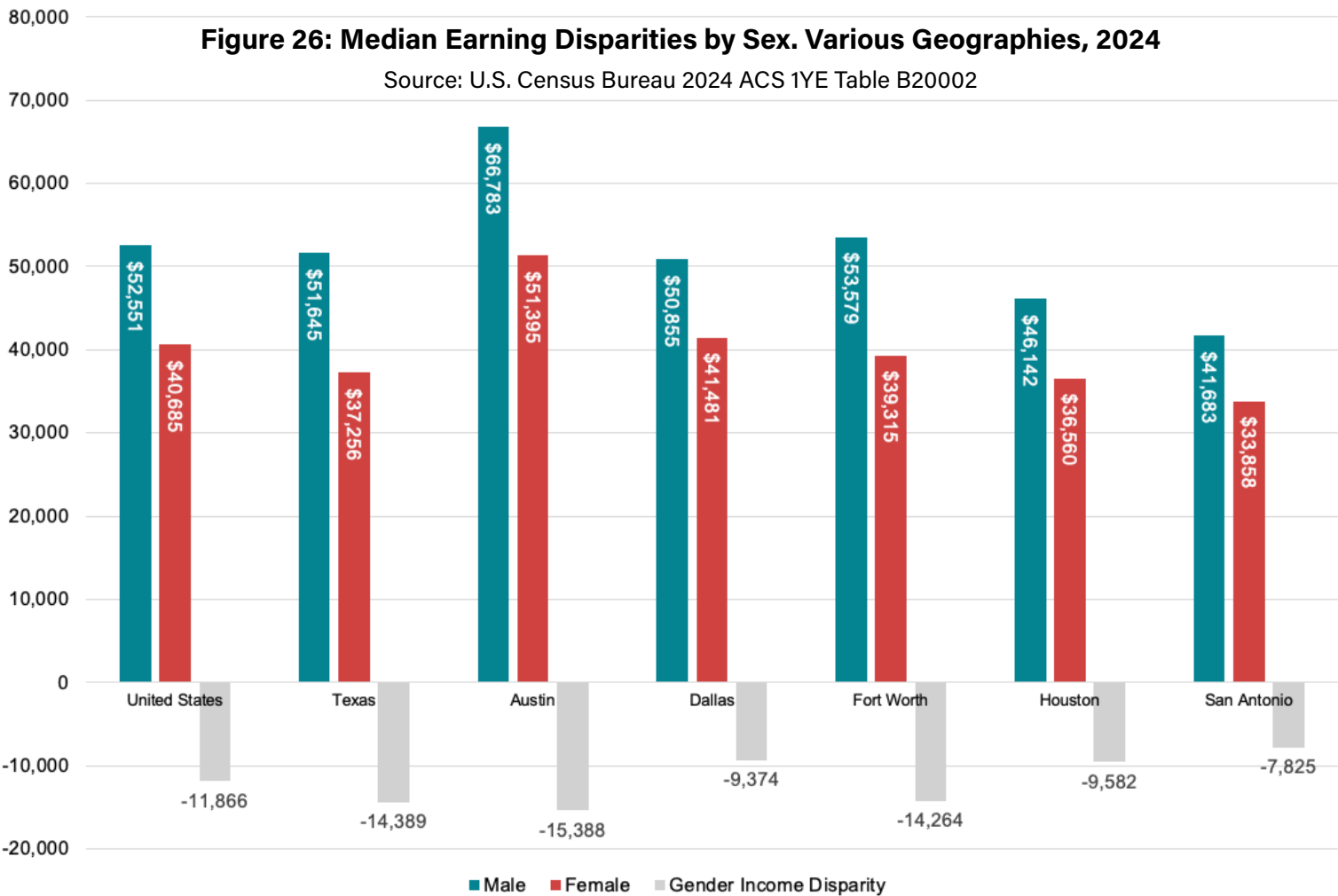
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2024 ACS 5YE Table S1903



INCOME INEQUALITY AND CHILDCARE COST

While looking at earning differences by sex, women across the nation and in Texas earn less than men. In San Antonio the gender income gap in 2024 reflected 19% less earnings for female workers, compared to males.

Women on average made 81 cents for every dollar earned by men¹⁵.



The 2024 ACS 1YE indicates substantial income disparities between male and female householders living in San Antonio even with relatively similar living arrangements, levels of education and similar occupations.

When measuring earnings by level of education, women make significantly less than their male counterparts.

- Women with a bachelor’s degree make \$0.84 for every dollar a man would make, while women with a master’s degree only make \$0.70 for every dollar a male would make.¹⁶
- For single female households with no spouse present, single mothers earned \$0.68 for every dollar a single father would earn, which represents an estimated difference of \$19,000 in median household annual income.

¹⁵U.S. Census Bureau. "Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months (in 2024 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) by Sex for the Population 16 Years and over." American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B20002. Earnings include wage or salary income, net income (gross receipts minus expenses) from nonfarm and farm self-employment, Armed Forces pay, commissions, tips, piece-rate payments, and cash bonuses. Earnings represent the amount of income received regularly before deductions for personal income taxes, Social Security, bond purchases, union dues, Medicare deductions, etc.

¹⁶Based on the U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1YE. Tables S1501 & S2411. The median income for females with a master's degree (\$68,004) is not statistically significant than the median income for males with only a bachelor's degree (\$66,995).

When analyzing median earnings in gender balanced occupations¹⁷, the income gap is even higher between male and females.

- In lower earning occupations such as food preparations and serving related jobs, women earn \$0.68 for every dollar a male would earn.
- In the higher earning occupations such as health diagnosis and treating practitioners (i.e. dentist, physicians, registered nurses), women earn only \$0.58 for every dollar a male would earn.

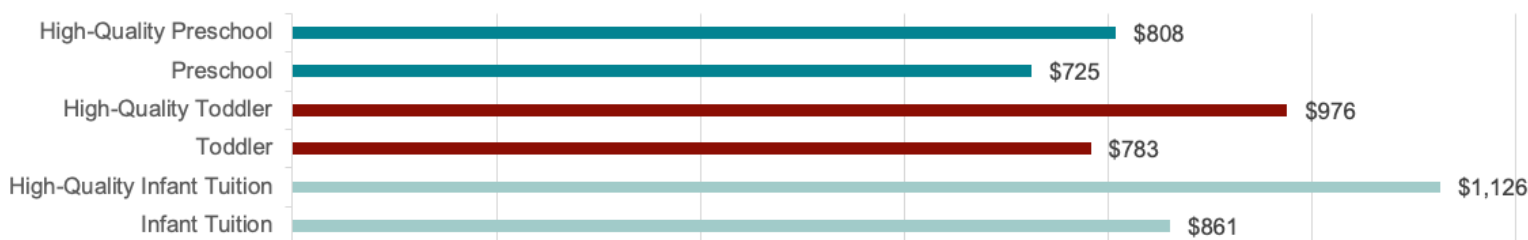
There are also notable differences in median income based on the age of the householder. In 2024, households with young householders (less than 24 years old) have an estimated median income of \$39,863, which represents almost 40% less than the overall median household income in San Antonio.

Similarly, single female householders with children under the age of 18 have a significantly low median household income at \$36,060 in 2024. This can represent a real financial constraint, especially for single mothers with small children in need of childcare.

Based on The City of San Antonio Early Learning Landscape Report¹⁸ childcare cost in 2023 for one child varies from \$725 a month to \$1,126, which represents between 28% to 40% of the median income for single head-household in 2023.

Figure 27: Average Childcare Tuition Cost. San Antonio, 2023

Source: City of San Antonio Early Learning Landscape Report



Childcare costs represent a financial burden for many families and make it difficult for college students with children to afford care while continuing their education. Last year, the San Antonio Higher Education Student Advisory Board conducted the Higher Education Student Survey to understand barriers college students are facing.

72% of respondents responsible for children in their household indicated that increased access to childcare would improve student retention, as described by the testimony of a single mother enrolled in college:

"The cost of childcare for kids under 5, along with rent and household bills, adds up quickly. Working part-time means you're short on money every month. In a single-parent household, that's especially tough. I wish there were more scholarships available to help us avoid taking on student loan debt."

SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME

In some cases, household income may not be sufficient to cover essential costs (housing, utilities, food, health care). Qualifying individuals may receive supplemental income through local, state or federal public assistance programs to assist with essential costs.

- According to the 2024 ACS 5YE, 37% (131,302) of households in San Antonio received some form of public assistance which is significantly higher than the state (25%) and national (25%) average.
- 53% of those households receiving public assistance were single female with no spousal support, while single males with no spousal support only represented approximately 9%.

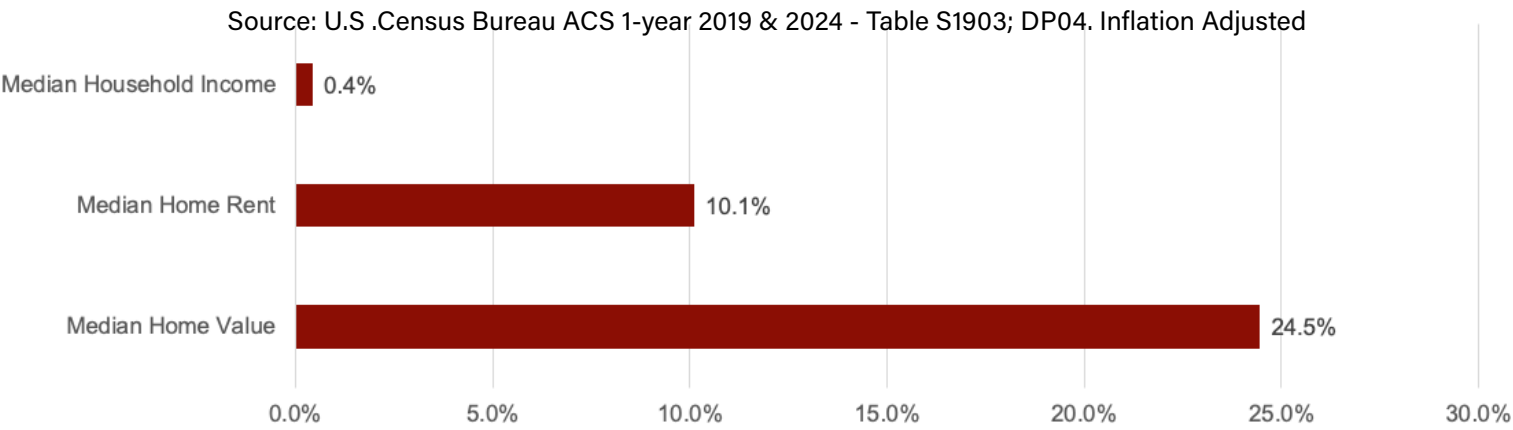
¹⁷Gender-balanced Occupations are those occupations with relatively equal proportions of male and females (44% to 54%).

¹⁸2025 City of San Antonio Early Learning Landscape Report

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND AVAILABILITY

In San Antonio, between 2019 and 2024, median household income has seen a small increase of 0.4% (inflation adjusted). However, during that same period, median home values increased by 24.5%, and rental costs rose by 10.1% as shown in the table below.

Figure 28: Five-Year Change in Median Home & Rent Values, compared with Median Household Income from 2019-2024, San Antonio



These trends show a significant gap between what people earn and what they must pay for housing. While incomes have remained mostly the same, the cost of both renting or buying a home has increased significantly. As a result, more households are spending a larger share of their income on housing related cost, becoming cost burdened.

The table below shows that many households in San Antonio are struggling to afford housing, especially renters. More than half of renters spend more than 30% of their gross income on housing, and one in four are severely cost-burdened, meaning they spend over half of their income on housing. While homeowners are less affected, a significant number still face these challenges.

Households with severe cost burden are particularly vulnerable, as they often have little financial cushion to handle unexpected expenses, increasing their risk of falling into debt or losing stable housing.

Figure 29: Excessive Housing Cost - 2024 San Antonio

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2024 ACS 5 Y-E. Tables B.25070 & B.25091

Cost Burden	A household is considered cost burdened if it spends more than 30% of its gross income on housing costs.
Homeowners	23%
Renters	51%

Severe Cost Burden	A household is considered severely cost burdened if it spends more than 50% of its gross income on housing costs.
Homeowners	10%
Renters	25%

When housing costs rise faster than income, households have less money for everyday needs like food, healthcare and transportation. Over time, this increases housing instability, including a higher risk of eviction and homelessness.

During Fiscal Year 2025, there were 15,796 eviction cases in Bexar County where the court ruled in favor of landlords, resulting in tenants being required to leave their homes. This equals an average of about 43 evictions per day. In 2019, there were approximately 13,140 such cases, or about 36 per day.

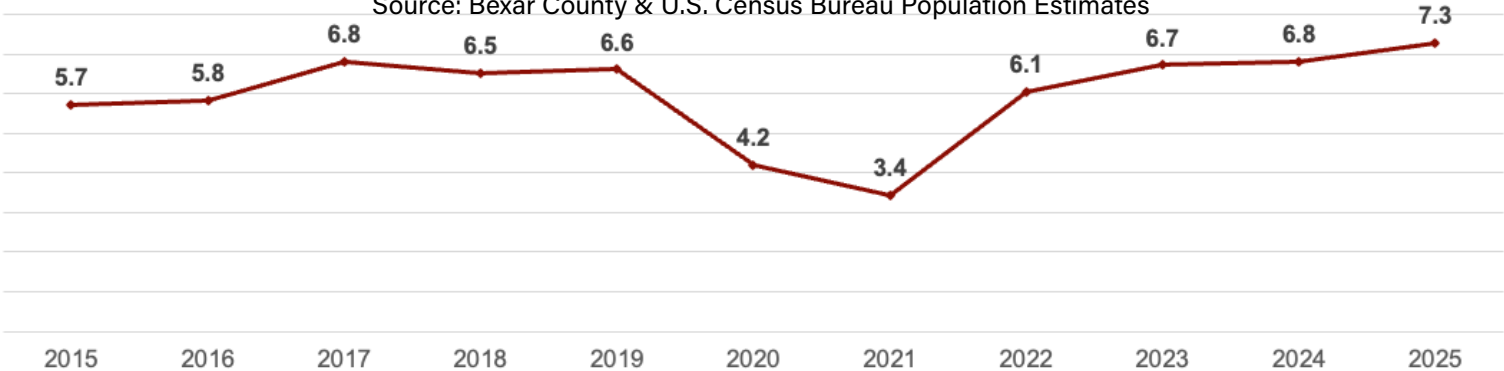
EVICTI
NOTICE

In 2025 there were
43 evictions a
day in Bexar County

The chart below shows the rate of eviction judgments granted in favor of landlords in Bexar County per every 1,000 residents.

Figure 30: Rate of Eviction Judgments in favor of Landlords per every 1K residents in Bexar County

Source: Bexar County & U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates



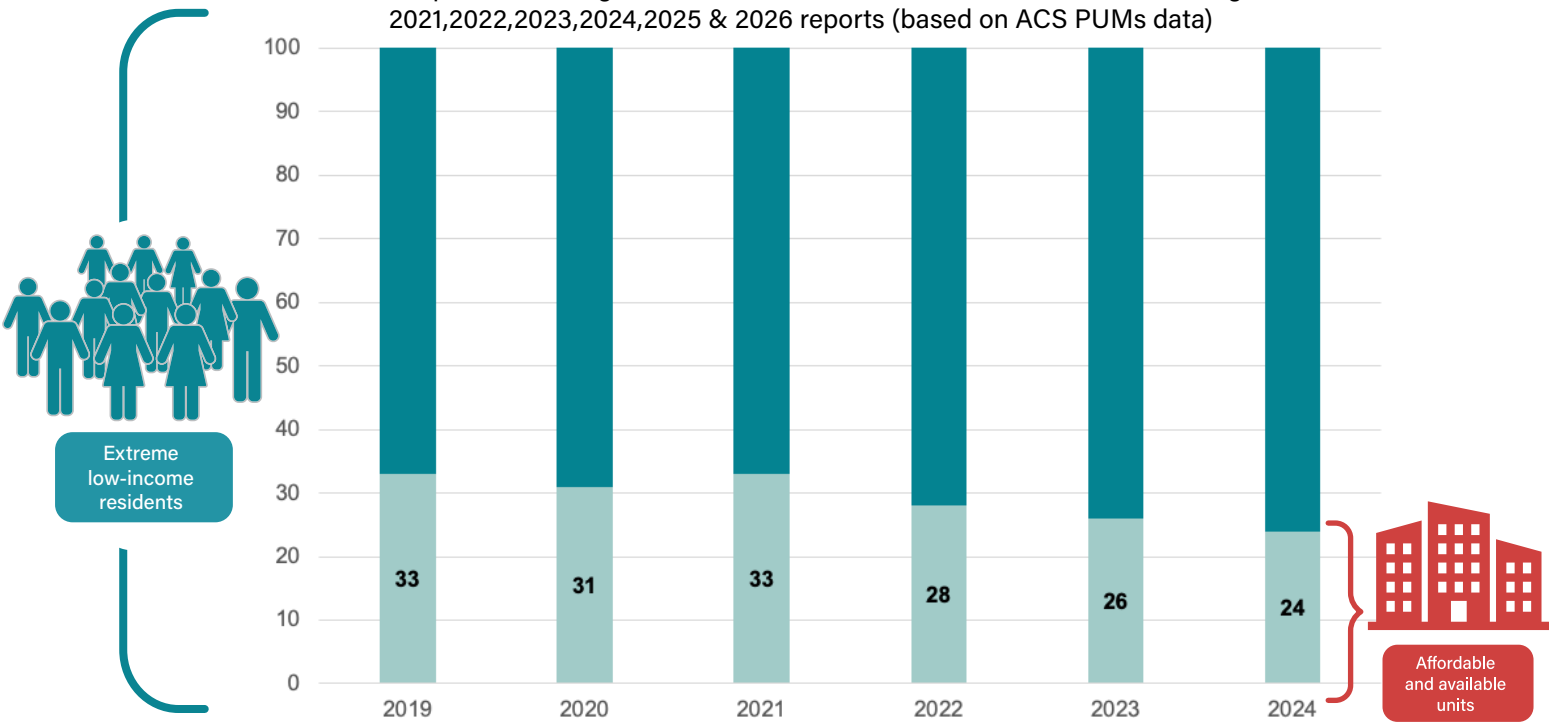
2020–2021 data have been omitted due to the eviction moratorium that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to rising housing costs, it is also important to consider the availability of housing units at affordable price levels. The National Low Income Housing Coalition publishes an annual report, The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes, which analyzes metropolitan areas across the country and estimates the number of housing units that are both affordable and available to extremely low-income households¹⁹.

The table below show the number of affordable rental units available per every 100 extreme low-income households in San Antonio metro area.

Figure 31: Affordable & Available Rental Units per 100 Households at or below Extreme Low Income, San Antonio-New Braunfels Metro Area

Source: The GAP Report. A Shortage of Affordable Homes. National Low Income Housing Coalition; 2021,2022,2023,2024,2025 & 2026 reports (based on ACS PUMs data)



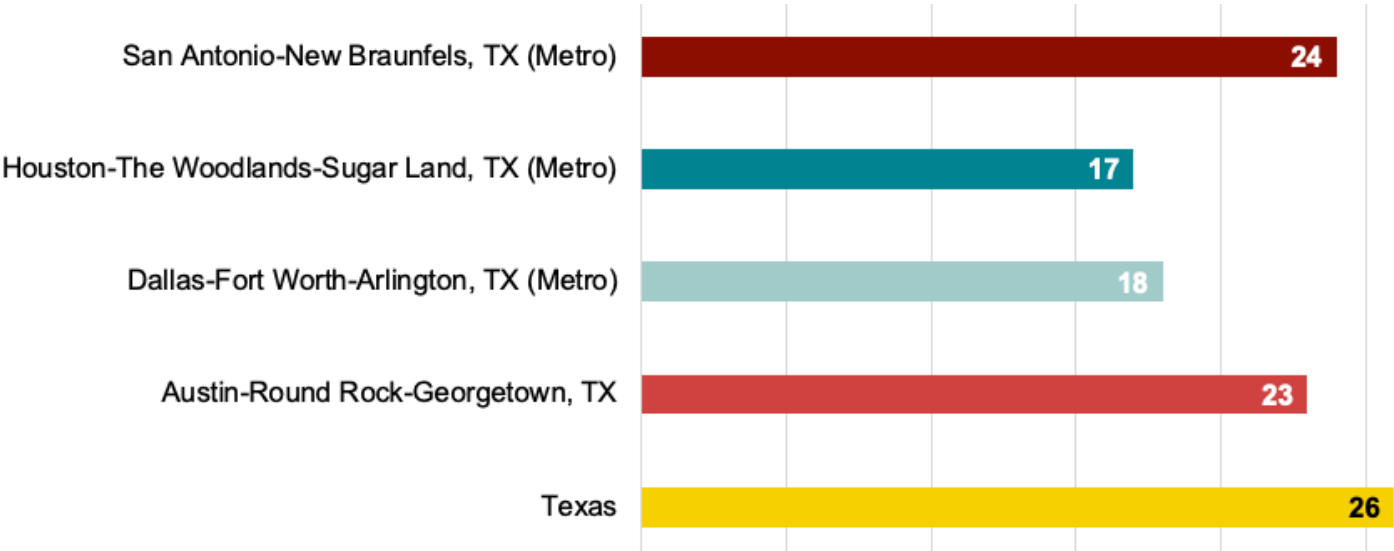
When compared with other large metropolitan areas in Texas, San Antonio still has a higher number of affordable and available housing units as shown below. However, this supply is clearly not sufficient to meet demand. Only one out of every four low-income households in San Antonio can access an affordable rental unit.

¹⁹Extremely low-income households are defined as those with incomes at or below either the federal poverty guideline or 30% of Area Median Income (AMI), whichever is higher.

The table below shows the comparison across the larger metro areas in Texas, including the state overall number of affordable and available rental units.

Figure 32: Number of Affordable & Available Rental Units per 100 Households at or below Extreme Low Income

Source: The GAP Report. A Shortage of Affordable Homes. National Low Income Housing Coalition

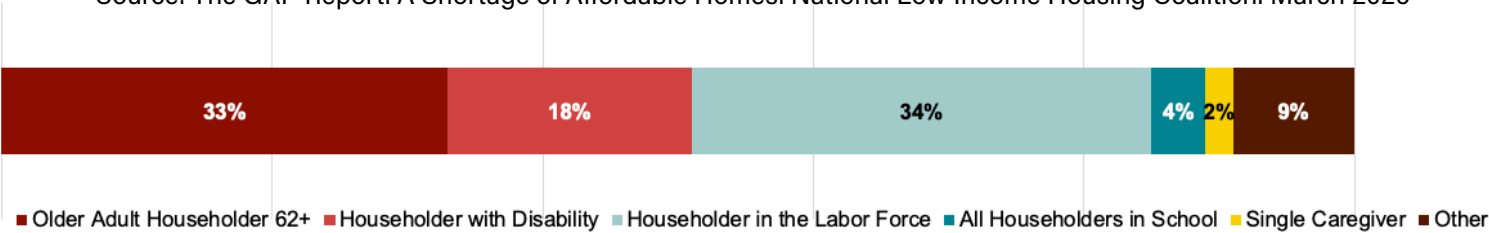


Since 2021 the City of San Antonio and partners have created or preserved 6,350 homes affordable to households with extremely low income. The National GAP analysis also identifies key demographic characteristics for extremely low income renters. In 2024

- 34% householders in the labor force are not making enough to cover basic needs.
- 33% extremely low-income renters are older adults (62 years and older).
- 18% householders have disability.

Figure 33: Householder Type among Extremely Low Income Renters in the USA, 2024

Source: The GAP Report. A Shortage of Affordable Homes. National Low Income Housing Coalition. March 2026



These are mutually exclusive categories, the “other group” represents adults under 62 who are not working nor in school in all cases it represents individuals with no disabilities and without caregiving responsibilities.

Housing affordability in San Antonio is shaped by the connection between what households earn, how much housing costs, and the availability of homes they can reasonably afford. When incomes do not keep pace with rising rents and home prices, and when there are not enough affordable units to meet demand, more families are forced to spend beyond their means, increasing financial strain and the risk of housing instability.

In Fiscal Year 2025 alone, in Bexar County, the coordinated homeless response system identified at least 1,738 individuals who experienced homelessness for the first time²⁰.

²⁰Based on data from the Continuum of Care Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), based on the following definition for new homeless: “persons with HMIS entries during the reporting period, the number of persons who did not have any HMIS evidence of an episode of homelessness in the previous 10 years”.

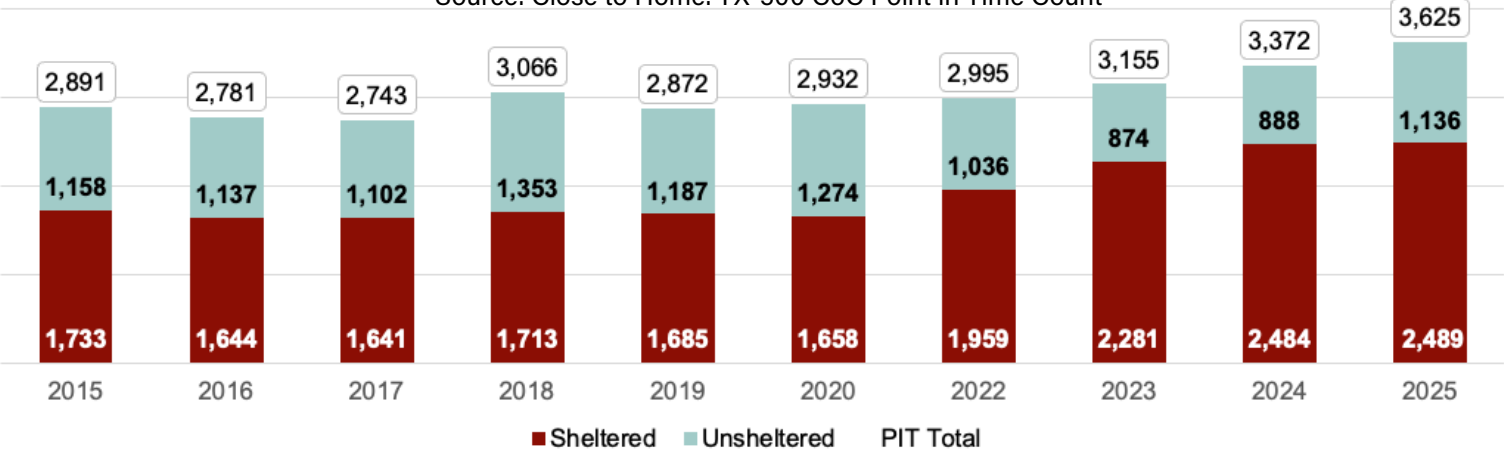
From 2024 to 2025, the population experiencing homelessness in Bexar County increased by 7.5%. This change was driven primarily by a sharp 28% rise in the unsheltered population, while the sheltered population remained relatively stable over the same period.

Over the last decade, U.S. Census Bureau Intercensal Estimates indicate that Bexar County's total population grew by approximately 14.4% between 2015 and 2025. In comparison, Point-in-Time (PiT) counts show that the overall homeless population increased at a higher rate of 25% during this period. This growth was most pronounced among sheltered individuals, who increased by 44% over the decade, suggesting that a larger share of newly homeless individuals have been able to access shelter.

In contrast, the unsheltered population remained relatively stable over the decade, declining slightly by 2% from 2015 to 2025. However, the recent 28% year-over-year increase in unsheltered homelessness from 2024 to 2025 may represent a change in this long-term pattern that requires continued monitoring.

Figure 34: Population Experiencing Homelessness in Bexar County. TX-500 CoC Point in Time Count

Source: Close to Home. TX-500 CoC Point in Time Count



In Bexar County in 2025 1 in every 5 individuals experiencing homelessness are 55 years and older. In 2025, 762 individuals encountered during the Point in Time Count (PiT) were 55 or older; which represents a 16% increase since 2023; when HUD started collecting age data for older adults. This increase is even more pronounced among those Older Adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness, in Bexar County from 2023 to 2025 there has been a 23% increase among unsheltered older adults, from 182 (PiT 2023) to 224 (PiT 2025). National data confirms this trend, nationwide 1 in every 4 homeless individuals are 55 or older.

In Fiscal Year 2025 alone, in Bexar County, the coordinated homeless response system identified at least 1,738 individuals who experienced homelessness for the first time²¹. Out of the newly homeless population in Fiscal Year 2025, 29% of them experience mental health issues, and 12% declare some sort of substance abuse; 7% of the newly homeless are foster youth aging out of the system.

²¹Based on data from the Continuum of Care Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), based on the following definition for new homeless: "persons with HMIS entries during the reporting period, the number of persons who did not have any HMIS evidence of an episode of homelessness in the previous 10 years".

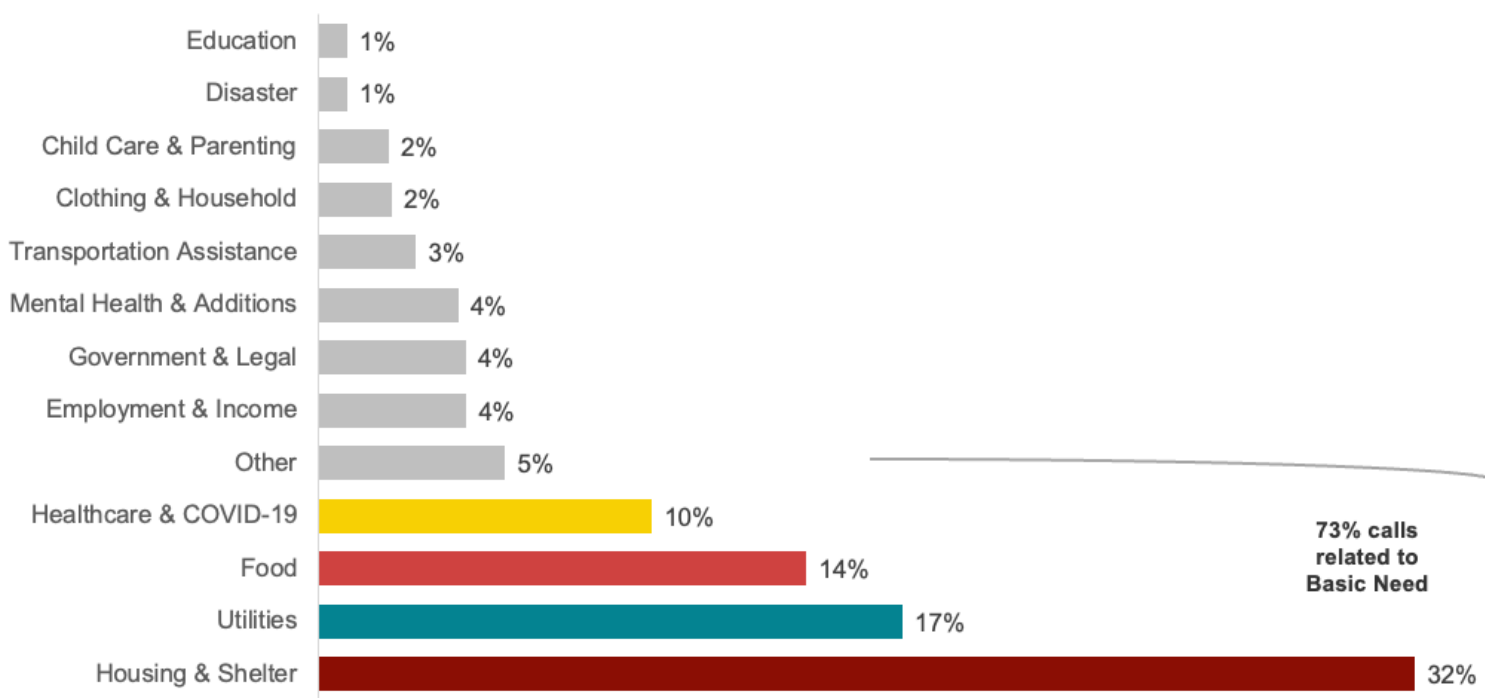
KEY COMMUNITY NEEDS

Extreme poverty and financial instability are major causes of many social challenges faced by San Antonio residents. In Bexar County, nearly 45% of the population experience financial hardship when accounting for both individuals living below poverty and those classified as ALICE population (Asset Limited, Income Constraint, Employed). When income is very low or inconsistent, families and individuals struggle to cover basic essential needs. This is especially true if the head of the family has limitations that affect their ability to work, whether due to mental or physical disabilities, underemployment, unemployment or caregiving responsibilities.

The analysis of community needs verifies that many residents in San Antonio and Bexar County don't earn enough to cover their basis needs, housing, utilities, foods and healthcare. Based on the most recent 2-1-1 data over the last 12 months, 73% of the requests were related to basic needs: housing (32%), utilities (17%), food (14%) and health care (10%).

Figure 35: 2-1-1 Service Requests May 2025-May 2026

Sources: Texas Health and Human Services. 2-1-1



The following section provides a brief overview of key community needs associated with financial hardship and poverty. While it is not intended to serve as a comprehensive needs assessment, it offers important context for understanding the broader impacts of limited income and financial instability on individuals and families throughout the community and include some testimonies from residents assisted by the City of San Antonio.

HOUSING

Financial hardship is closely linked to housing instability, which occurs when families struggle to maintain consistent and safe housing because most of their income is spent on housing-related costs, increasing their vulnerability.

A recent study conducted by the Department of Human Services, in collaboration with the Neighborhood and Housing Services, Homeless Services and Strategy, United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, and Close to Home, estimated that 1,126 households seek emergency housing assistance every month to prevent becoming homeless²².

²²Analysis on Prevention Assistance and Emergency Rental Assistance Programs conducted in collaboration with the City of San Antonio Neighborhood Services and Housing Department, the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County Homeless Continuum of Care.



As previously described during fiscal year 2025, 1,738 individuals entered homelessness for the first time: almost 145 new homeless individuals every month. Homelessness often occurs when several vulnerable situations happen at once, such as very limited income, a small or broken network of support, and one traumatic event (job loss, catastrophic accident, house fire).

Emily, a single mother of three, had recently moved from a homeless shelter into an apartment on her own. After missing work due to her child's medical needs and falling ill herself, she fell behind on rent. With no local support and still waiting for disability benefits, she faced eviction with \$3,178 in arrears.

Her landlord connected her to the City of San Antonio Housing Assistance Program, and she received the support she needed to stay housed and stabilize her situation²³.

UTILITIES

Annually, many families in San Antonio seek public assistance to prevent utility disconnection. In Fiscal Year 2025 alone, the Department of Human Services provided utility assistance to more than 13,000 families; even though the need exceeds the resources, it is relevant to understand the circumstances of those who received assistance:

- **52% of the families assisted were single mothers with children.**
- **42% of clients assisted have a declared disability.**
- **30% were unemployed.**

Mary, a DHS client, came to the Financial Empowerment Center in January 2026 shortly after retiring feeling overwhelmed to keep up with her mortgage and utility bills. Her most urgent concern was maintaining her electricity service after receiving a disconnection notice. She was helped to receive utility assistance, and additional retirement options were identified for her²⁴.

²³Based on a true testimony from the Housing Assistance Program (NHSD). Names and identifying details have been changed to protect confidentiality.

²⁴Based on a true testimony from the Financial Empowerment Center (DHS). Names and identifying details have been changed to protect confidentiality.

ACCESS TO FOOD

A recent study by Feeding American, Map the Meal Gap 2023, found that an estimated 18.6% (378,660) of Bexar County households experienced food insecurity, which is a 33% percent difference increase since 2018 when it was only at 14% (270,950). Of the households that are food insecure, around 39% (147,677) had income above the 165% poverty level, making them ineligible to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to cover the cost of groceries.

There are additional programs to offset the cost of necessary expenses, such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). TANF can be used for a variety of needs without an age limit, but WIC is specifically designed to address food insecurity among children the age of 4 and under, by supporting women that are pregnant, postpartum or breastfeeding through additional income for nutritious foods. According to recent data by the Kids Count Data Center and 2023 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, 31.9% of children in Bexar County received WIC.



Figure 36: Assistance Programs in Texas and Bexar County

	Percent Households Food Insecure	Percent of Households receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	Percent of children receiving WIC
Texas	17.6%	11.4%	29.9%
Bexar County	18.6%	13.8%	31.9%
Source:	Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2023	US. Census ACS 2020-2024	Kids Cout Data Center, 2023 Statistics on children, you and Families

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Limited income and financial hardship negatively affect overall health and make it harder to access healthcare, leading to worse health outcomes and reduced self-sufficiency. Despite data limitations, there are relevant indicators connecting income and health status. Many health indicators, such as life expectancy, infant and maternal mortality, or chronic diseases are impacted by household income, and level of education among other factors.

This is the case of two ZIP codes within Bexar County with similar populations but significant differences in median income: 78258, where median income is above \$110,000 per year, and 78207, where it is below \$33,000 per year.

The rate of adults with diabetes is more than twice as high in the lower-income area. This disparity may be influenced by several factors, including limited access to healthy foods, less time for meal preparation, higher levels of stress, lower levels of physical activity, and reduced access to nutritional education.

In contrast, the rate of women in the higher income ZIP code who receive annual preventive mammograms is significantly higher than in the lower income area, suggesting that income influences access to essential healthcare services.

Figure 37: Health care disparities by income in selected zip codes

Zip Code	Estimated Total Population	Median Household Income	Diagnosed Diabetes Among Adults	Mammography Among Women 50 to 74
78207	55,474	\$ 32,472	23%	64%
78258	52,448	\$ 117,835	10%	78%
<i>Source:</i>	<i>US Census ACS 2020-2024</i>	<i>US Census ACS 2020-2024</i>	<i>CDC - BRFSS Places 2023</i>	<i>CDC - BRFSS Places 2023</i>

While poverty affects all demographic groups, its impact becomes especially significant when combined with other vulnerable circumstances. This is the case of older adults experiencing financial instability, deteriorated health, and lacking a network of support. In these situations, limited resources clearly restrict access to essential caregiving services, including in-home caregiving or access to long-term care facilities, which increases the risk of self-neglect.

In 2025, Adult Protective Services identified 3,375 valid cases (confirmed investigations) of elder abuse and neglect in Bexar County, 92% of those involve self-neglect. To better understand the scope, it is important to note that Adult Protective Services estimates that only one out of every 24 cases of abuse and neglect is reported. While self-neglect can be due to a multitude of factors, it is often the combination of financial constraints, deteriorated health conditions, and lack of support networks²⁵.

Arthur, an older adult recovering from a hospital stay and in need of therapy, faced serious health risks when his retirement benefits stopped reaching his bank account. With support from the DHS Benefits Navigators, he resolved the banking issue and was able to access daily meals provided by his senior center, until his financial situation was sorted²⁶.

San Antonio has the opportunity to strengthen community collaboration to ensure economic prosperity reaches historically disadvantaged populations and areas, while continuing to support the basic needs of its most vulnerable residents.



²⁵Dong, X., Simon, M. A., Beck, T., Farran, C., McCann, J., Mendes de Leon, C., & Evans, D. A. (2010). Elder self-neglect and abuse and mortality risk in a community-dwelling population. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 302(5), 517-526.

²⁶Based on a true testimony from the Elder Financial Security Program (DHS). Names and identifying details have been changed to protect confidentiality.

DATA DISCLAIMER & METHODOLOGY CONSIDERATIONS

This report utilizes data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). Please note that ACS data are estimates based on a sample of the population and are subject to sampling variability.

Since the ACS data are estimates, the primary value of this report lies in the highlighted findings and overarching trends rather than any specific, concrete numerical value. The data should be interpreted as an indicator of direction and disparity rather than an exact count.

To ensure the highest level of accuracy and relevance, both 1-year and 5-year estimates were employed based on the specific metric being analyzed:

5-Year Estimates: These were primarily utilized to analyze smaller demographic groups and to evaluate long-term trends. The 5-year estimates provide a larger sample size, offering increased statistical reliability and lower margins of error for smaller populations and geographic areas.

1-Year Estimates: These were used to assess recent monetary changes and to compare earnings disparities. Because 1-year data captures the most current snapshots of the economy, they are best suited for analyzing rapid fluctuations in income.

Consumer Price Index - Inflation Adjustment: For all longitudinal analysis of financial data, dollar values have been adjusted for inflation to 2024 dollars to ensure a proper comparison. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator.



OTHER WAYS POVERTY IS MEASURED IN USA

Poverty is measured in the United States by comparing a person's or family's income to a set poverty threshold or minimum amount of income needed to cover basic needs. **The U.S. Census Bureau is the government agency in charge of measuring poverty and providing the Official Poverty Measure.** But it is important to take into consideration that there are other ways to measure poverty for specific program eligibility purposes.

The US Census Bureau calculates every year the **official poverty measure or threshold** to determine by family size the minimum dollar amount needed to cover basic needs. This method created in the 1960s does not account for differences in cost of living across different geographies, and it is mainly based on the cost of food.

This threshold is updated every year for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). These annual updates are used by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to determine program eligibility for federal program, such as Medicaid, SNAP, CHIP, etc; known as the **Federal Poverty Line**.

This report is based on the most recent ACS data available (2024), therefore for consistency it uses as a reference the official poverty measure for that same year. The American Community Survey (ACS) follows a fixed release schedule:

- The 2024 ACS 1 Year estimates (including poverty and other socio-economic data) were released in September 2025.
- The 2020–2024 ACS 5 Year estimates (covering broader geographies) were published in January 2026.
- The 2025 ACS data has not yet been released. 2025 ACS 1 Year tables are still undergoing review for compliance with a new Department of Commerce Disclosure Avoidance Order.

However, these thresholds do not account for cost differences in cost of living and are mainly based on the cost of food. This report includes information related to **the ALICE survival budget**. This term has been created by the United Way and it is based on a survival budget, adjusted to every county in the nation and takes into consideration all relevant expenses, housing, transportation, childcare, medical cost, etc. The ALICE threshold better reflects the reality of those working families that face financial instability.



Created by	Category	How it is calculated	What it's used for
 U.S. Census Bureau	Official Poverty Measure/threshold	Based on family size, updated annually for inflation. No geographical variations.	To count how many people live in poverty. Same system since 1960s; all the census surveys use this measure to determine how many people in a given geography live below poverty.
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Poverty Guideline (Federal Poverty Line)	Based on the Official Poverty Thresholds, rounded and adjusted for inflation annually.	Used to determine financial eligibility for certain programs (Medicaid, SNAP, CHIP, etc.). Often presented in percentages, such as 125% FPL; meaning that households with an income at 125% of that year guideline for their family size, are eligible for certain benefits.
 United Way	ALICE threshold	Based on the cost of essential (housing, food, transportation, healthcare, childcare) in each community.	Used by United Way and community organizations to understand how many families are working but cannot afford their basic needs (and in many cases are not eligible for federal programs).
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Area Median Income	Based on median family income of determined geographies.	Use to determine eligibility for assisted housing programs including the Public Housing, Section 8 project-based, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher, Section 202 housing for the elderly, and Section 811 housing for persons with disabilities programs. Based on Median Family Income estimates and Fair Market Rent area definitions for each metropolitan area, parts of some metropolitan areas, and each non-metropolitan county.

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



HUMAN SERVICES

100 W. Houston St. | Suite 900 | San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 207-8198 | [SA.gov/DHS](https://sa.gov/DHS)

We aim to make our 2026 Poverty Report accessible to everyone.

If you have specific concerns or need assistance, call us at (210) 207 8198. We will respond within 48 hours.



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