



2022 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2022 DENTON COUNTY COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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2022 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

For Denton County

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first step to improving and transforming lives in Denton County is understanding our community needs and the challenges we face. United Way of Denton County collates both primary and secondary data from many sources, including our Partner Agencies; community focus groups; client surveys; subject matter experts at the local, state, and national levels; the Texas Education Agency and the United States Census Bureau.

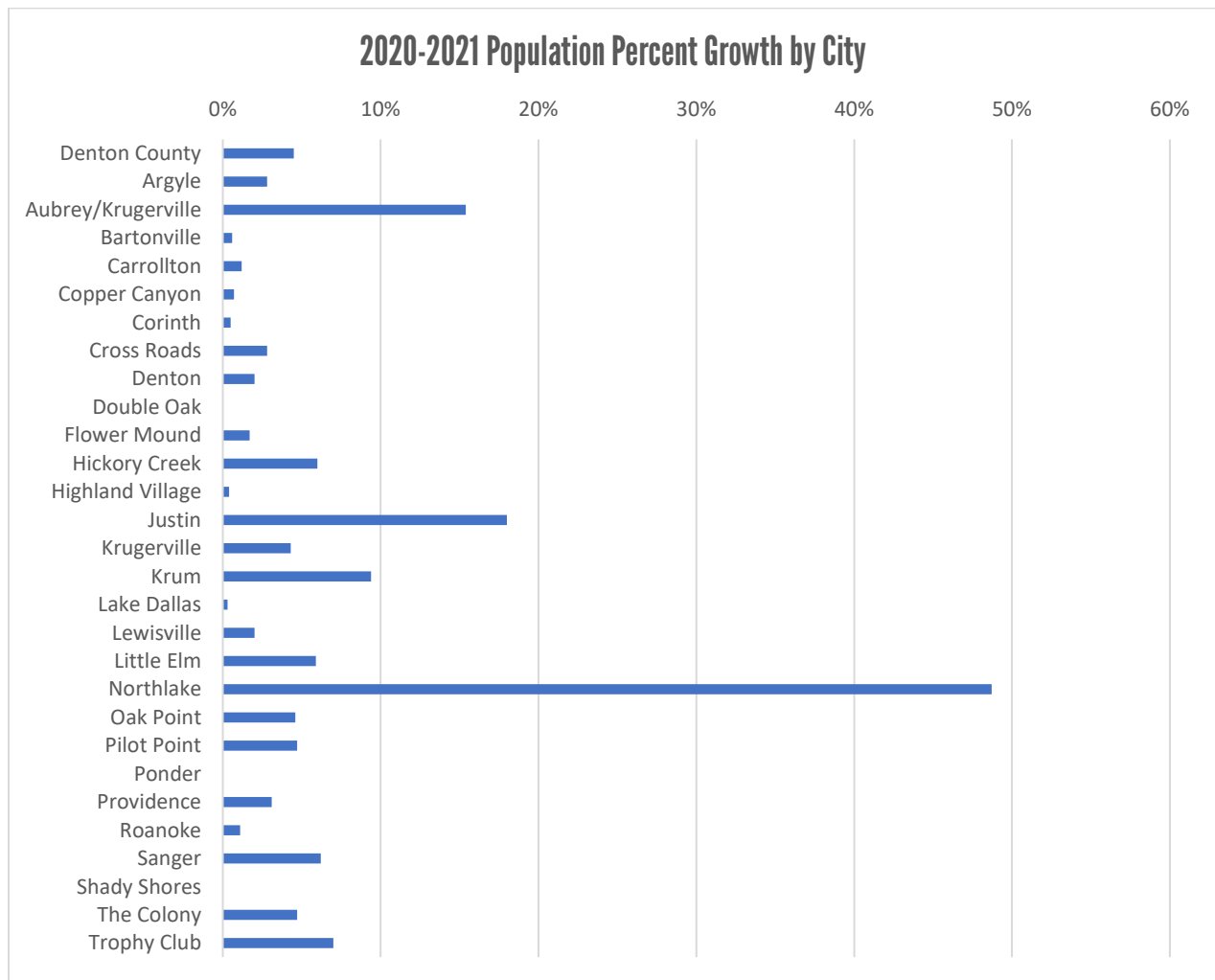
The COVID-19 pandemic era presented both unique needs and challenges, while also amplifying existing ones. As Denton County continues to be one of the fastest growing regions in the nation, the local infrastructure continues to struggle with keeping up in the areas of employment, transportation, workforce/affordable housing, childcare, and nonprofit sector service delivery capacity.

This report provides a snapshot of the most significant challenges in the areas of Children & Families, Housing & Income, Mental Health, Health, and Veterans. Additionally, the report provides a special focus on ALICE, *Asset-Limited Income-Constrained Employed*) households and expands focus beyond poverty to include Denton County households earning below a stability income level.

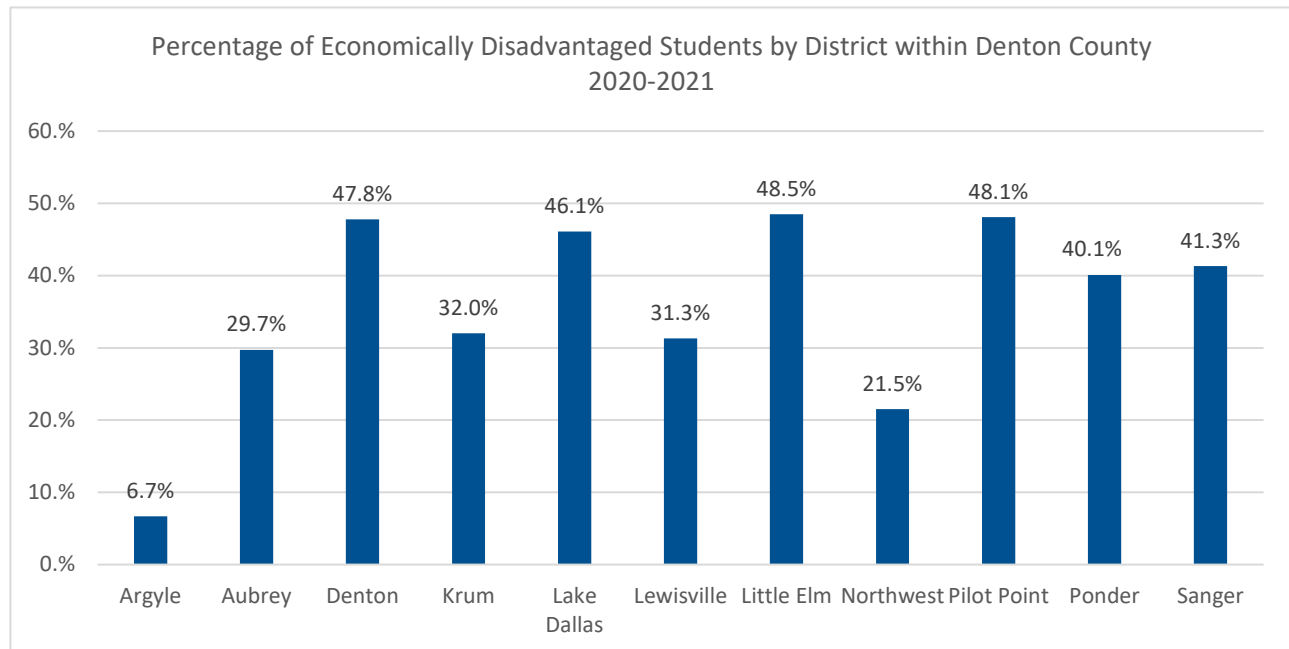
Note: A delay in the 2020 Census data has impacted some findings presented in this report. Where available, we have described how COVID-19 impacted Denton County since 2020. Because this report uses many difference sources to find the most helpful and accurate data, some terms and language used to present data may differ within each report.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Between 2010 and 2021 Denton County population increased from 662,614 to 941,647, reflecting a **42% increase in Denton County's population**.
- **Denton County grew by 117.5% from 2000 to 2021**. Denton County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the country which creates a challenge for nonprofits.
- Since 2000, Denton County's population has more than doubled. **Total Population of Denton County in 2000: 432,976. Total Population of Denton County in 2021: 941,647**
- Between 2009 and 2019, the Hispanic/Latino population in Denton County **increased 230%**



CHILDREN & FAMILIES



- In the 2020-21 school year, 46% of economically disadvantaged third graders in Denton County are not reading at a third-grade level. 32% of all third graders, regardless of household income, in Denton County are not reading at a third-grade level. (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*). In 2019, the number of economically disadvantaged third graders not at grade level was 23%.
- For 13 consecutive years, the number of economically disadvantaged students in Denton County has increased. In the 2020-21 school year, 45,173 students (34.6%) in Denton County were economically-disadvantaged. 50% of all Denton County economically disadvantaged students are in Denton ISD and Lewisville ISD. (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*)
- In Denton County the at-risk student population has decreased by 5.73% or 2,590 students in the past five years from the 2016-17 school year to the 2020-21 school year. However, across Denton County, one in three students are still considered by the Texas Education Agency to be at risk of dropping out of school (33.5%). (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*).

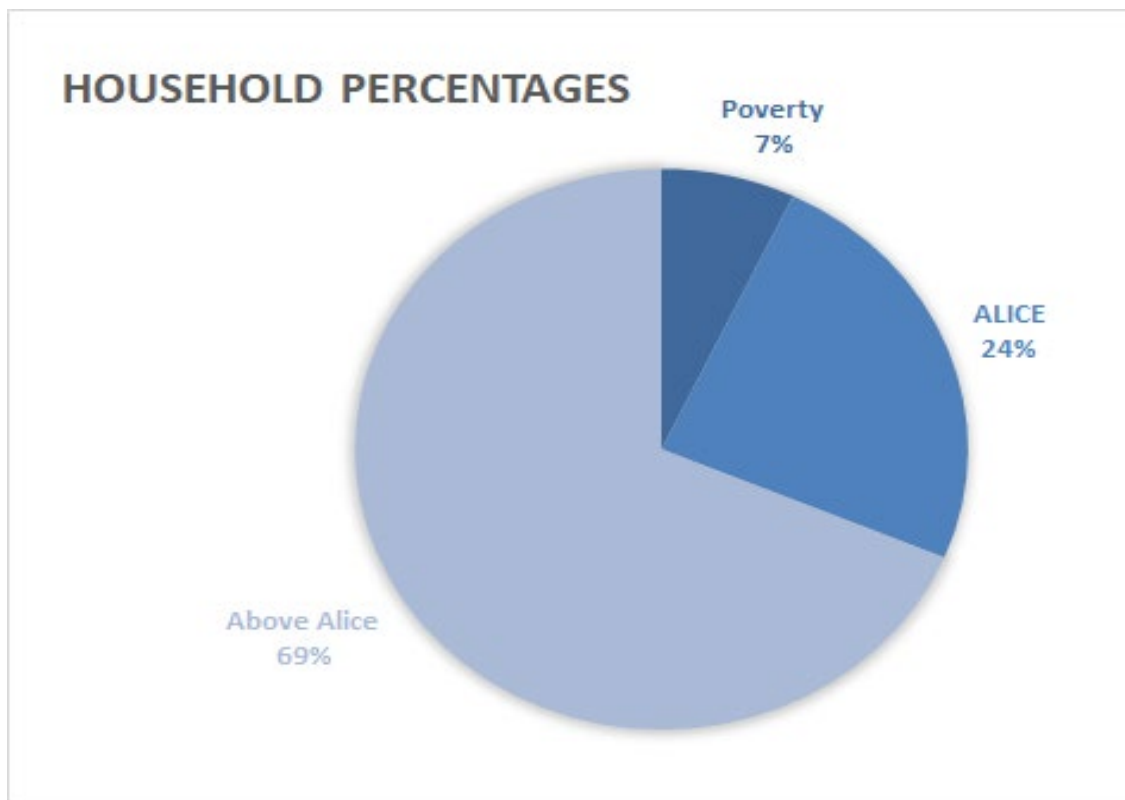
- In the 2020-21 school year related to STAAR testing:
 - 37% of Denton County economically disadvantaged students did not meet STAAR Phase-In Satisfactory Standard or Above. *(Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report)*
 - 37% of Denton County African American students did not meet STAAR Phase-In Satisfactory Standard or Above. *(Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report)*
 - 33% of Denton County Hispanic students did not meet STAAR Phase-In Satisfactory Standard or Above. *(Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report)*
 - 41% of Denton County English Language Learner (ELL) students did not meet STAAR Phase-In Satisfactory Standard or Above. *(Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report)*
- January 2021, 69.6% of children in foster care in Denton County were placed outside of the county due to the shortage of foster/adoptive homes within the county. There were 326 children in foster care in Denton County and 15 adoptive homes within the county available for placement. *(Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2021)*
- From March 2020 to September 2021, Denton County-based childcare capacity dropped 24.5%. In September 2021 in Denton County there were 645 operating childcare centers, of which 373 are in-home providers and 272 childcare centers. Only 420 of those serve infants and toddlers.
- In September 2021 the following Denton County Zip Codes qualify as “childcare deserts”: 76208, 76209, 76258, 75057. These zip codes cover Denton, Corinth, Lewisville, Shady Shores and Pilot Point.
- In school year 2020-21, Pre-K enrollment across Denton County is on a four-year upward trend but still lagging overall. 5,777 Denton County children entering Kindergarten for the 2020-21 school year did not attend a school district pre-K the previous year *(Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report)*

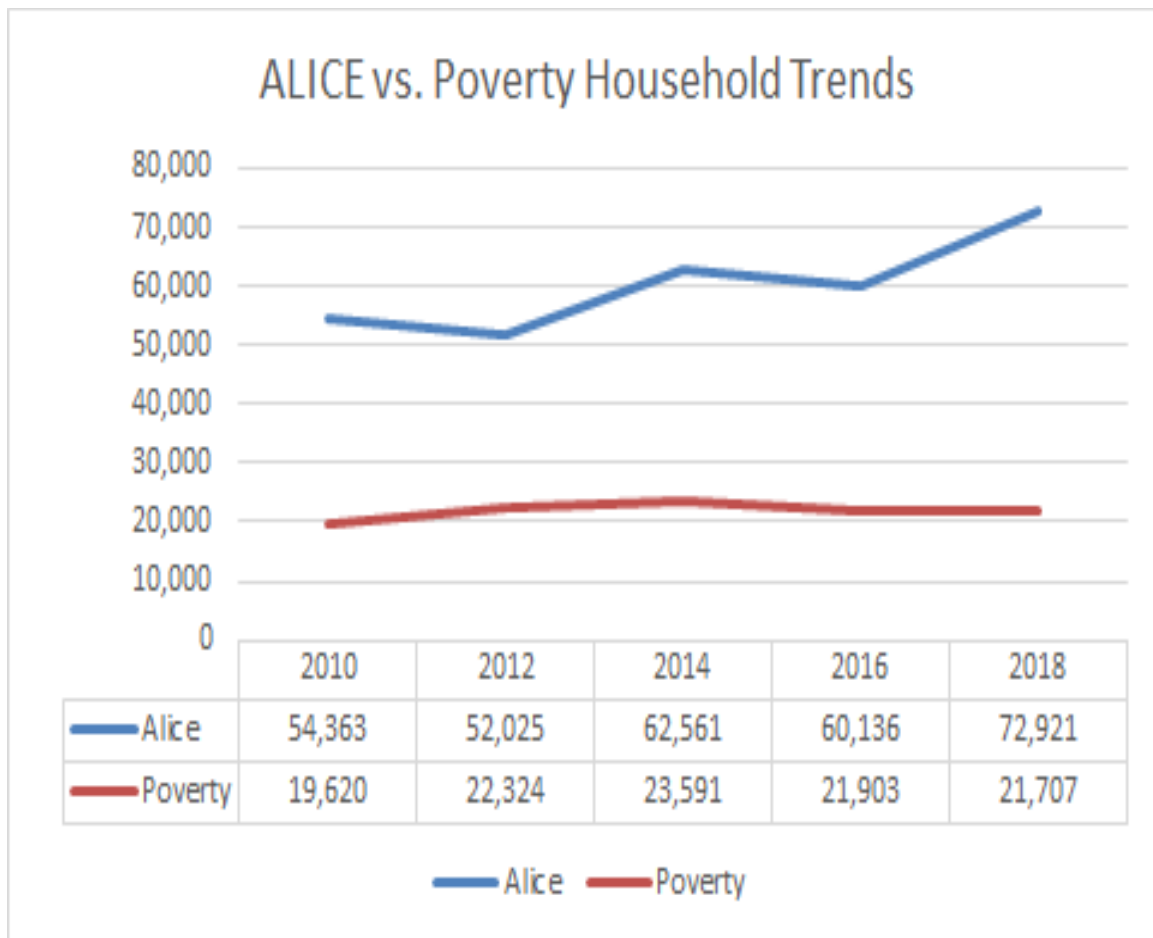
ALICE

(The following information, along with more tools and resources about ALICE can be found in the [21ALICENationalCOVIDReport.pdf](#) and at [unitedforalice.org/covid2019](#))

ALICE, an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, comprises households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level but earn less than the basic cost of living (the ALICE Household Survival Threshold).

With poverty and ALICE households combined, **nearly 100,000 Denton County households earning below the Survival Threshold. Meaning that one in three Denton County households earn below the Survival Threshold** and experience day to day financial instability. Combining households in poverty and ALICE households provides our community the most accurate measurement of all financially fragile Denton County individuals and families which translates to critical unmet gaps in housing insecurity, food insecurity due to under-employment because of a lack of adequate workforce skills.



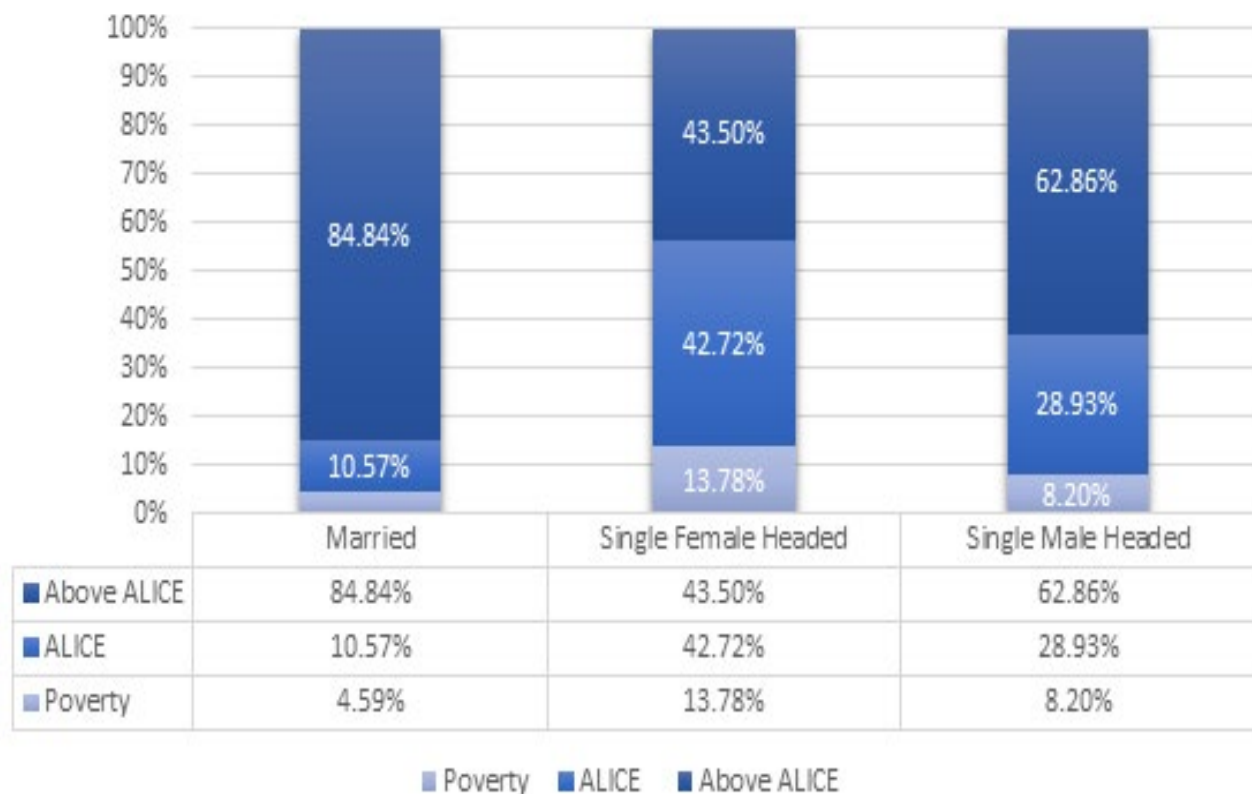


(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)

The number of ALICE households in Denton County pre-pandemic era was on the rise.

- An estimated **57% of households in Pilot Point** earn below the ALICE threshold. **Over 40% of Aubrey, Denton, Lake Dallas, Lewisville, and Sanger** households are estimated to earn below the ALICE threshold. **Over 45% of Denton** households earn below the ALICE threshold. Flower Mound has the smallest percent of households earning below the ALICE threshold at 16%.
- **38% of all families 65 years and older** are ALICE. The 2nd highest percentage of ALICE households are families 25-44 at 26%. For Households **under 25 years of age, over 70% earn at or below the ALICE threshold.**

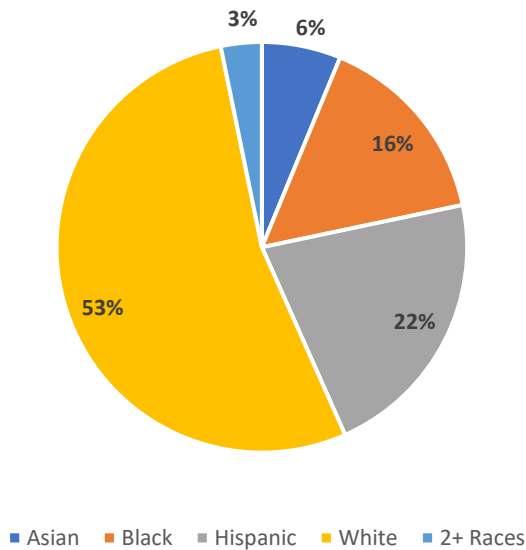
ALICE Data by Family Type Denton County, 2018



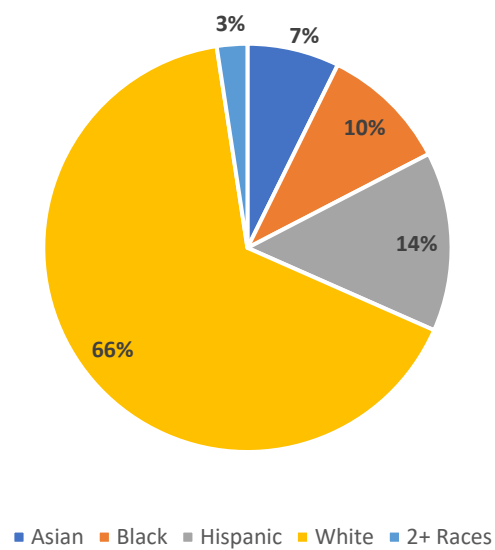
ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018

Single female headed households in Denton County have the highest combined poverty and ALICE rate. Over 55% of all single female headed households earn less than the ALICE Survival Wage.

% Families Below ALICE Wage
by Race in Denton County 2018



% Total Population by Race
in Denton County 2018



Over 40% of Black and Hispanic households earn below the ALICE Survival Wage in Denton County.

While both races have similar poverty level households, their ALICE household percentage is nearly double those of White and Asian households. Households with 2 or more races also have a high percentage increase in ALICE households compared to White and Asian households.

The COVID-19 era exposed the financial vulnerability of ALICE households.

ALICE WORKERS ARE MORE VULNERABLE

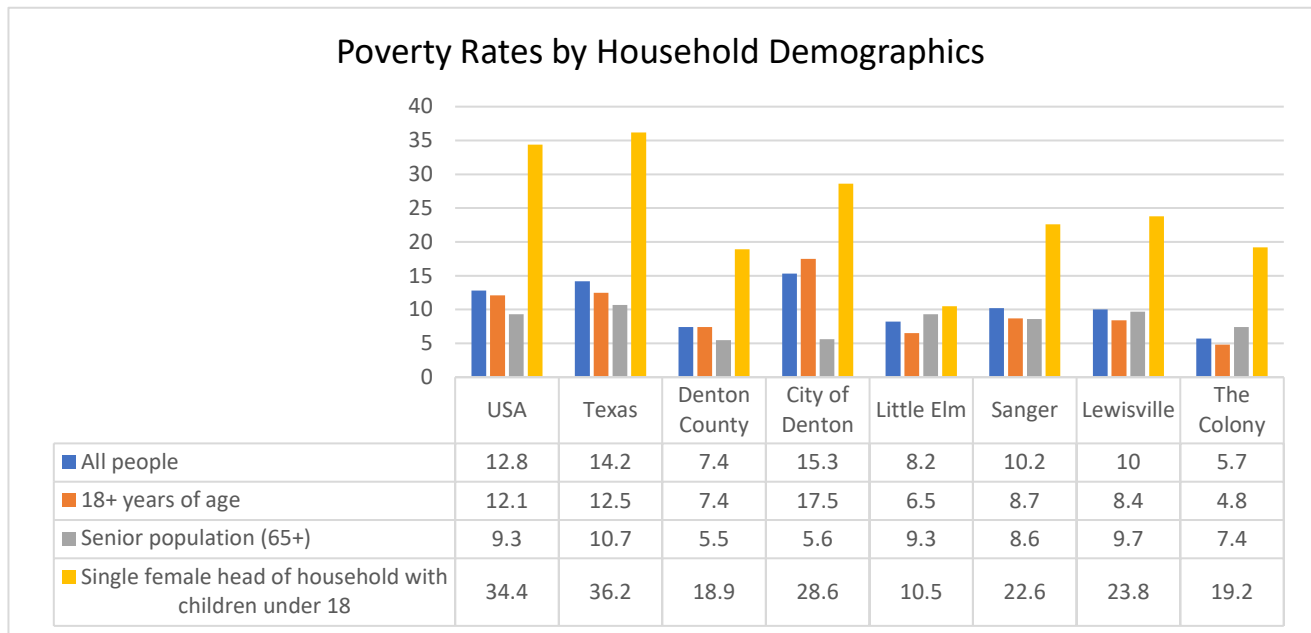
The pandemic era created two groups of ALICE workers: essential workers still working, typically on-site; and non-essential worker, who experienced employment reduction or elimination. The ALICE dominated sectors (food service, leisure, hospitality, tourism, etc.) were hit the hardest in the pandemic era, especially ALICE work roles unable to perform remote or virtually.

ALICE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN FACED ADDITIONAL HARDSHIPS

They are especially vulnerable to the disruptions that accompany childcare and school. Additionally, the pandemic era's demand on virtual work and education solutions exposed disparities in Denton County for adequate internet access and as well as broadband access deserts.

HOUSING & INCOME

- The **ALICE Survival Wage** for a family of four with two adults (both working for a total of \$27.43/hour) and two children (not including childcare costs) is \$54,852 in Denton County. With childcare included the adults must earn at least \$32.26 per hour or \$64,512 annually. *(More information on the ALICE Survival Wage and how this is different than the Living Wage is provided in the ALICE Report.)*
- Overall, families with **single female heads of household**, with children less than 18 years of age, have the **highest poverty rates**, at least double that of all other family types in several locations. *(U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2020 5-year American Community Survey)*
- Apart from the single female household, the higher poverty percentages come from Denton, Lewisville, and Sanger. *(P15. Family Type By Presence Of Own Children Under 18 Years By Age Of Own Children [20] - Summary File 3 (SF3) - Census 2020)*



(U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2020 5-year American Community Survey)

- The City of Denton has a poverty rate of 15.3%, exceeding the rate of other communities in Denton County along with the national average (12.8%) and state average (14.2%). Single female head of household with children under 18 households experience poverty in Denton

County at higher rates than all other households. In Denton, 28.6%, followed by Lewisville at 23.8% and Sanger at 22.6%. (*U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2020 5-year American Community Survey*)

- The Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard reported a 54% increase in persons experiencing homelessness from January 2020 to January 2022 following the COVID-19 pandemic era. (<https://www.unitedwaydenton.org/homelessness-data-denton-county>)
- The Denton County Annual Point In Time Homelessness Census for 2022 recorded 448 homeless individuals in Denton County on January 27, 2022. (*Denton County Homeless Coalition, 2022 Point-In-Time Homeless Count*) The Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team's Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard reported 612 actively homeless persons in Denton County including 44 Veterans, 196 chronically homeless persons and 23 persons fleeing domestic violence. (<https://www.unitedwaydenton.org/homelessness-data-denton-county>)

HEALTH

- According to the 2021 State of Mental Health in America Report, Texas ranks 50 out of 51 in terms of access to care (*Fritze et al., 2020*). This suggests that Texas has low access to both insurance and treatment/services for mental health. (*Fritze et al., 2020*)
- County Health Rankings states that there is one mental health provider for every 750 persons in Denton County. The top 10% of counties in America are 1 to 250. Texas overall is 1 to 760. (countyhealthrankings.org)
- As of April 2022, there are no pediatric psychiatric inpatient bed services in Denton County for children in need of mental health services. When a child under the age of 13 needs hospitalization, the child must be sent out of the county for treatment, placing a hardship on the parents/families, who are required to be present for treatment and planning. (*Cook Children's, 2022*)
- According to the 2021 Mental Health in America report, 16.2% of adults in Texas have a mental illness (*Fritze et al., 2020*). If statewide data is applied to Denton County, then about 152,640 out of 941,647 adults in Denton County have a mental illness.

- In Denton County in 2021, anxiety disorder has replaced major depressive disorder as the number one diagnosis of patients seen by Denton County MHMR. Three of the top five diagnoses are anxiety related.
- In 2019 in Denton County there were approximately 51,000 unduplicated **Medicaid** clients in Denton County. There are an estimated 183 service providers that accept Medicaid, down from 320 in 2012 (*Data USA*) (*Doctor.com*).
- In Denton County in 2021, cancer is the leading cause of death in Denton County (*Denton County Public Health, n.d.*). Breast Cancer has the highest incidence rate, but lung cancer has the highest death rate (*Denton County Public Health, n.d.*).
- Heart disease is the second leading cause of death in Denton County, with a death rate of 123.7 per 100,000 population (*Denton County Public Health, n.d.*).

VETERANS

- Denton County Veterans assessed through the Department of Veterans Affairs determined that one in 50 males experience Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and one in three females experience MST. (*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2020*).
- More than one in ten Veterans have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder, slightly higher than the general population" (*NIDA, 2019*).
- Veterans in Denton County make up approximately 9% of people experiencing homelessness compared to 5% of the general population, indicating that Veterans are experiencing homelessness at a slightly higher rate" (*UWDC Data Dashboard et al., 2020*).
- The COVID-19 Pandemic significantly affected the mental health of Veterans in 2020.
 - Occurrences of PTSD increased to 54%
 - 34% suffer from moderate to severe depression
 - 30% reported having suicidal thoughts
 - 51% had a mental health appointment cancelled or postponed

(2020 nyhealth.org/vets-covid)

COMMUNITY SURVEYS AND LISTENING SESSIONS

During the Spring and Summer of 2021, United Way of Denton County conducted listening sessions and online surveys with local service providers and community members to gauge what the community believes are the primary needs across Denton County. Below are the findings (ranked according to frequency of mention) from the listening sessions and surveys.

Top 5 issues/concerns in Denton County:

- 1 – Mental Health Services**
- 2 – Affordable Housing**
- 3 – Childcare/Support for At-Risk children**
- 4 – Access to youth programs
- 5 – Homelessness

Clients seeking assistance are most often referred to:

- 1 – Mental Health Services**
- 2 – Food Programs**
- 3 – Housing Services**
- 4 – Health Services
- 5 – Utility Assistance
- 6 – Homelessness Services
- 7 – Job Assistance/Adult Education
- 8 – Childcare

Most significant barriers to financial stability:

- 1 – Cost of Living**
- 2 – Affordable & Safe Housing**
- 3 – Mental Health**
- 4 – Childcare
- 5 – Inability to save/Sustainable Family Wage
- 6 – Sustainable Wages
- 7 – Transportation

Most significant mental health issues:

- 1 – Affordable mental health services**
- 2 – Education about mental health/illness**
- 3 – Access to services/treatment for children**
- 4 – Access to mental health insurance coverage
- 5 – Stigma
- 6 – Access to services/treatment for adults
- 7 – Access to outpatient/inpatient care
- 8 – Suicide Prevention

Most significant general health concerns:

- 1 – Cost/Insurance for medication and treatment**
- 2 – Access to medical care and treatment**
- 3 – Dental Care for Adults**
- 4 - Dental Care for Children
- 5 – Access to healthy foods

Most significant concerns in education:

- 1 – Entry level positions (experience needed vs. pay scale)**
- 2 – English Language Learning**
- 3 – Need more Vocational/Trade Programs**
- 4 – Financial Education
- 5 – Remote Learning (internet access, technology needs, parent/teacher availability)
- 6 – Affordable early childhood education/childcare

Most significant housing concerns:

- 1 – Access to affordable housing/Home prices/closing costs & down payments**
- 2 – Supportive housing options for people with vulnerabilities**
- 3 – Access to second-chance housing**

Most significant concerns about homelessness:

- 1 – Mental Health**
- 2 – Access to shelter**
- 3 – Substance Use**
- 4 – Access to Hygiene Services
- 5 – Need for more case management
- 6 – Veteran Homelessness

Denton County Service Providers have been affected by the pandemic and challenges of 2020 and 2021 in the following ways:

- 1 – Increase in client need/caseload**
- 2 – Decrease in donations/contributions**
- 3 – Challenges of remote officing**
- 4 – Employee layoffs/reduced hours due to funding
- 5 – Decreases in available inventory for services (shortages)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

United Way of Denton County would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to this report:

*2-1-1 / Community Council of Greater Dallas
Children's Advocacy Center for North Texas
City of Denton
City of Lewisville
Cook Children's
Denton County
Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team
Denton County Friends of the Family
Denton County Homeless Coalition
Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team
Denton County MHMR
Denton County Point In Time County Committee
Denton County Public Health
Denton County School Districts
Denton County Transportation Authority
Denton County Workforce Leadership Team
Denton Housing Authority
Health Services of North Texas
Highland Village Fire Department
Medical City Denton
Mental Health America
North Central Texas Area Agency on Aging
North Central Texas College
North Central Texas Council of Governments
North Texas Food Bank
SPAN/Meals On Wheels
Tarrant Area Food Bank
Texas Department of Family & Protective Services
Texas Dept. of State Health Services
Texas Education Agency
Texas Health Resources (Denton & Flower Mound)
Texas Woman's University
Texas Workforce Commission
U.S. Census Bureau
United Ways of Texas
University of North Texas
U.S. Treasury & IRS
United Way of Denton C Staff & Interns
Workforce Solutions of North Central Texas*

DEMOGRAPHICS

Denton County continues to be one of the fastest-growing communities in the nation with population growth averaging 22.3% per year.



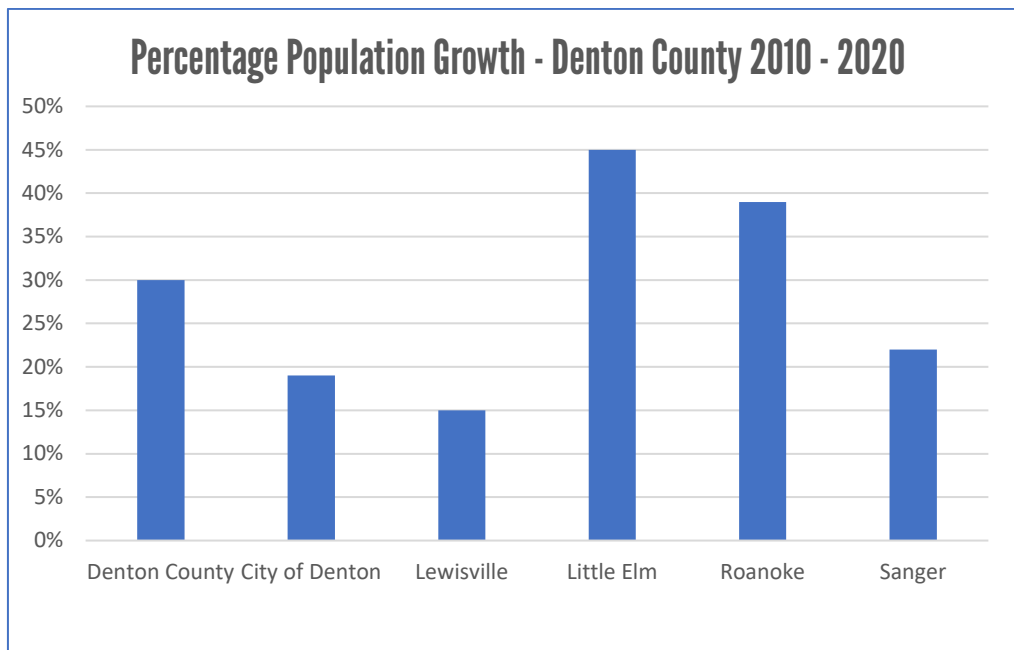
Total Population of Denton County in 2000: 432,976

Total Population of Denton County in 2021: 941,647

This represents a 117.5% increase

KEY FINDINGS

- In 2021, there was a population estimate of 941,647, which is a **41.4% increase** in Denton County's population since 2010 (665,833).
- The City of Denton is the 22nd largest city in Texas with a population of almost 140,000 (2021) which is more than double the city's population in 1990.
- Though unemployment spiked to almost 12% in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic era, as of March 2022, Denton County, Texas had an unemployment rate of 2.9% (*FRED Economic Data, US Bureau of Labor Statistics*). The absence of underemployment reporting for Denton County continues to be a gap of critical workforce data.
- Between 2009 and 2019, the Hispanic/Latino population in Denton County increased 230%.
- The Town of Northlake population **increased 48.7%** between 2020 and 2021.
- The population of Denton County is aging, showing a growth in the percent of seniors and a lower percentage of youth than in 2010.



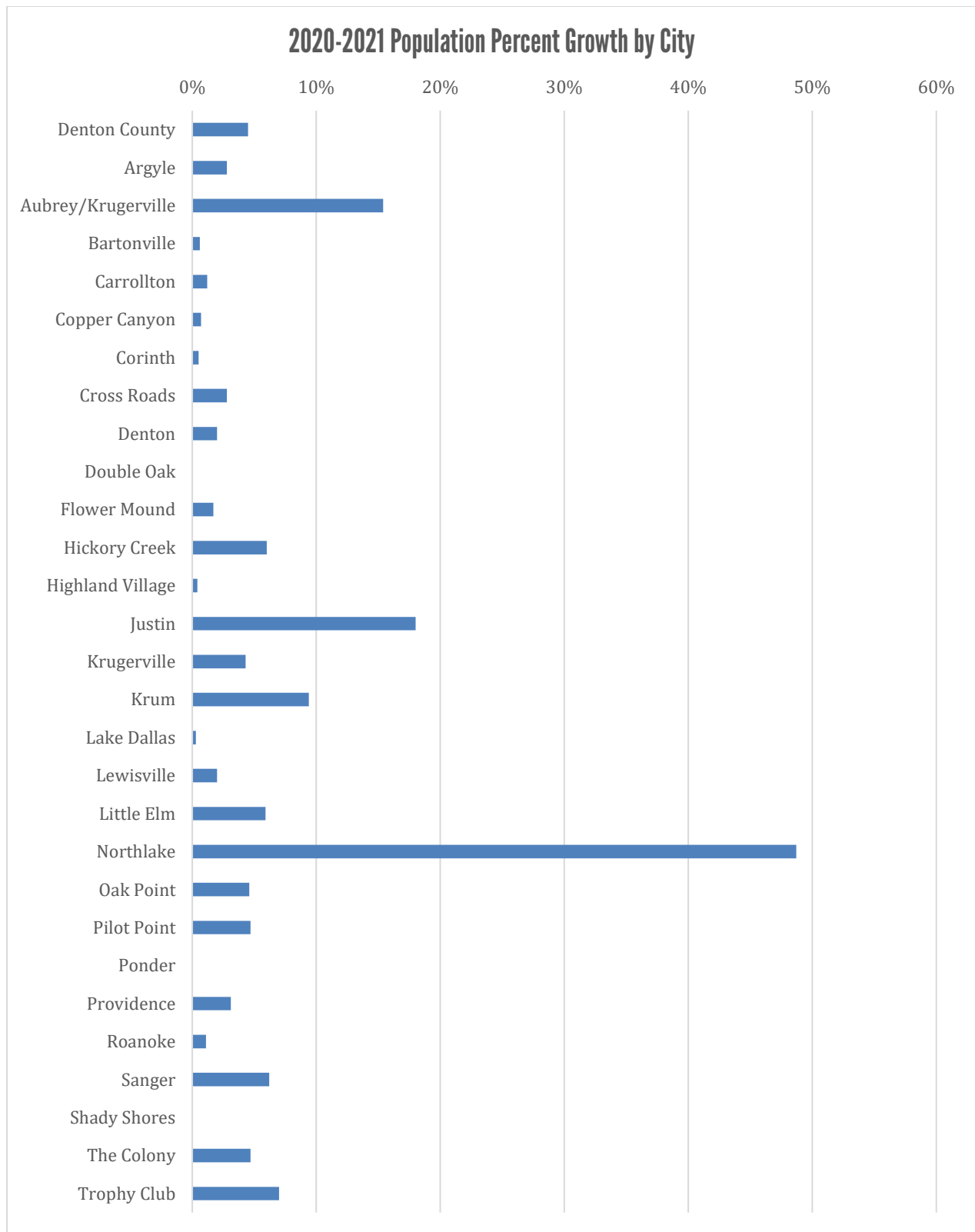
2021 DENTON COUNTY & SELECT CITIES DEMOGRAPHIC QUICKFACTS

	Denton County	Denton (City)	Lewisville	Little Elm	Roanoke	Sanger
Population Estimate	941,647	139,869	111,822	46,453	9,665	8,839
Population % Change 2010-2021	41.4%	19%	15%	45%	39%	22%
% Under 5 Years	6%	6%	7%	5%	7%	11%
% 65 Years & Older	11%	11%	8%	7%	10%	12%
Language other than English spoken at home	23%	22%	35%	27%	23%	12%
High School Graduates (age 25+)	92%	90%	87%	93%	90%	85%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (age 25+)	46%	39%	34%	4%	37%	20%
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2016-2020	65.30%	50%	43%	69%	60%	69%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2016-2020	\$297,100	\$237,700	\$232,800	\$270,600	\$341,300	\$183,000
Median Gross Rent, 2016-2020	\$1,269	\$1,121	\$1,228	\$1,660	\$1,365	\$1,179
Median Household Income (in 2020 dollars), 2016-2020	\$90,354	\$62,542	\$67,026	\$94,446	\$100,888	\$71,447
Per Capita Income (Last 12 Months, 2016-2020)	\$42,498	\$30,183	\$32,266	\$35,510	\$48,282	\$29,389
Person in Poverty, %	7%	15%	10%	8%	2%	10%
Veteran Population, 2016-2020	41,591	6,201	5,015	2,001	669	467

(United States Census Bureau, QuickFacts, July 2021 Estimates) The Denton County numbers are estimates for July of 2021. 2021 estimates have not been provided for individual cities at this time and reflect the actual Census numbers of 2020.

2021 DENTON COUNTY CITIES POPULATION ESTIMATES

	2010 Census Population April 1	2020 Estimate January 1	2021 Estimate January 1	2020-2021 Absolute Change	2020-2021 Percent Change
Denton County	662,614	902,190	933,220	31,030	4.5%
Argyle	3,282	4,310	4,430	120	2.8%
Aubrey/Krugerville	2,595 / 1,662	5,380 / 1,860	6,210 / 1,940	830 / 80	15.4% / 4.3%
Bartonville	1,469	1,740	1,750	10	.6%
Carrollton	119,097	137,650	139,350	1,700	1.2%
Copper Canyon	1,334	1,450	1,460	10	.7%
Corinth	19,935	22,160	22,280	120	.5%
Cross Roads	1,563	2,460	2,530	70	2.8%
Denton	113,383	138,250	141,000	2,750	2%
Double Oak	2,867	2,990	2,990	0	0%
Flower Mound	64,669	78,080	79,390	1,310	1.7%
Hickory Creek	3,247	4,630	4,910	280	6%
Highland Village	15,056	15,820	15,880	60	.4%
Justin	3,246	4,620	5,450	830	18%
Krum	4,157	5,120	5,600	480	9.4%
Lake Dallas	7,105	7,300	7,320	20	.3%
Lewisville	95,290	107,120	109,270	2,150	2%
Little Elm	25,898	46,200	48,910	2,710	5.9%
Northlake	1,724	4,930	7,330	2,400	48.7%
Oak Point	2,786	3,930	4,110	180	4.6%
Pilot Point	3,856	4,300	4,500	200	4.7%
Ponder	1,395	2,400	2,400	0	0%
Providence	4,786	6,700	6,910	210	3.1%
Roanoke	5,962	8,850	8,950	100	1.1%
Sanger	6,916	9,080	9,640	560	6.2%
Shady Shores	2,612	2,700	2,700	0	0%
The Colony	36,328	45,260	47,370	2,110	4.7%
Trophy Club	8,024	11,510	12,320	810	7%

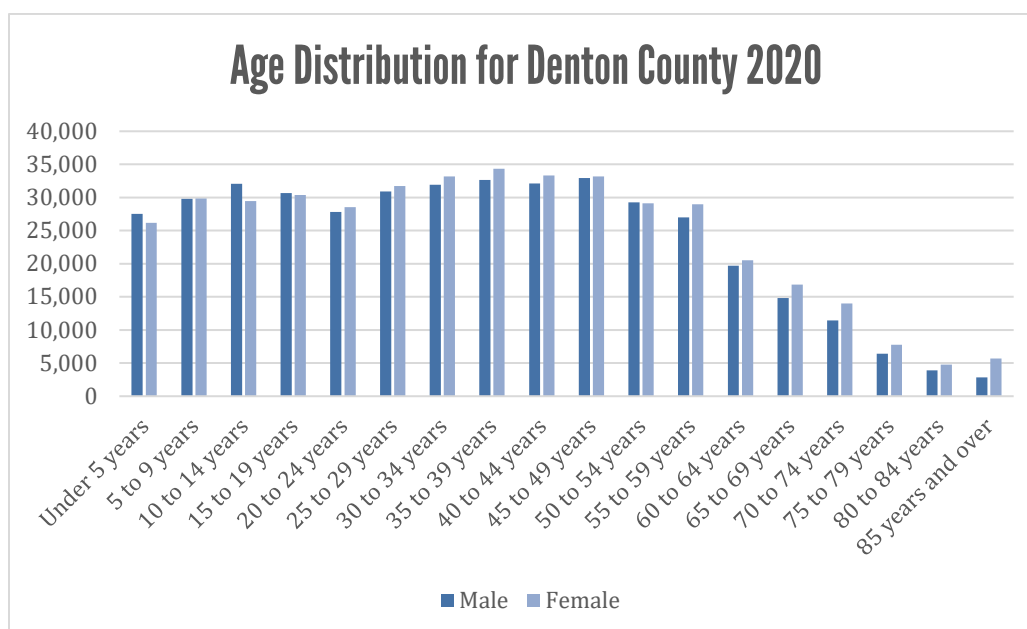


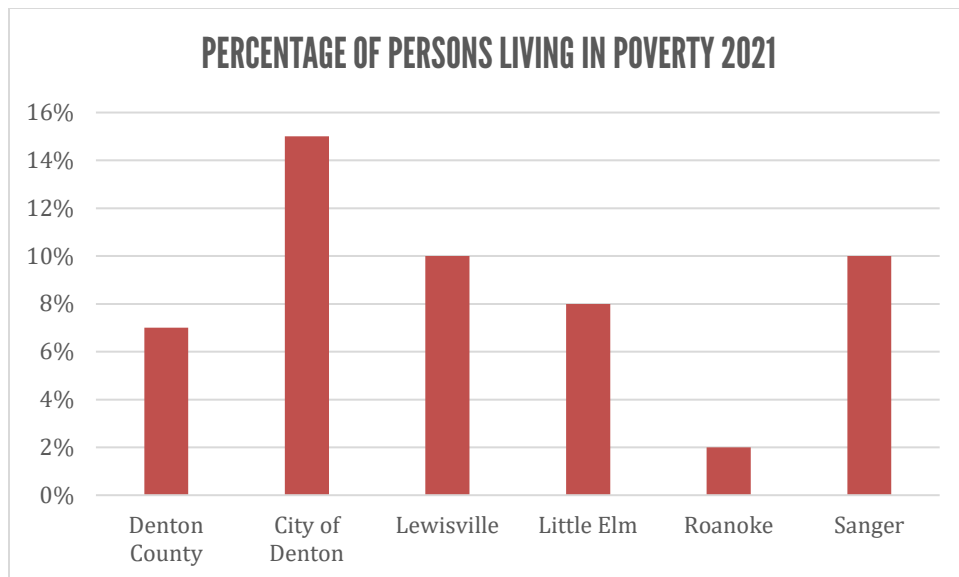
(North Central Texas Council of Governments, 2021 Population Estimates Publication)

Denton County: Population by Age and Sex, 2000-2020

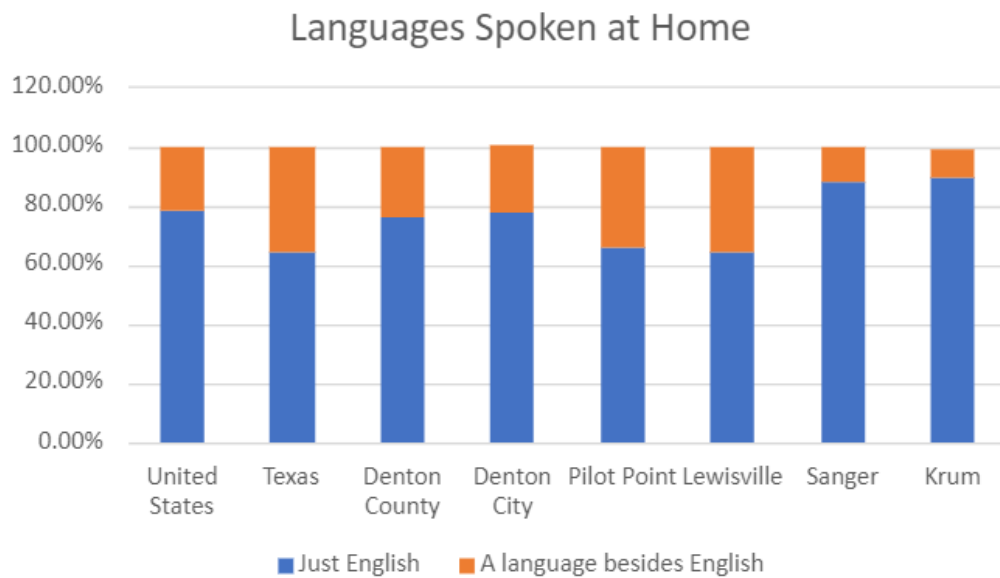
	Male		Female	
	2000 Estimate	2020 Estimate	2000 Estimate	2020 Estimate
Total population	49.7%	49.20%	50.3%	50.80%
AGE				
Under 5 years	8.4%	6.5%	7.9%	6.0%
5 to 9 years	8.1%	7.0%	7.6%	6.8%
10 to 14 years	7.6%	7.6%	7.3%	6.7%
15 to 19 years	7.4%	7.2%	7.2%	6.9%
20 to 24 years	7.9%	6.6%	8.5%	6.5%
25 to 29 years	8.9%	7.3%	8.8%	7.2%
30 to 34 years	9.2%	7.5%	9.1%	7.6%
35 to 39 years	10.1%	7.7%	10.0%	7.8%
40 to 44 years	9.0%	7.6%	8.8%	7.6%
45 to 49 years	7.0%	7.8%	6.9%	7.6%
50 to 54 years	5.8%	6.9%	5.9%	6.7%
55 to 59 years	3.9%	6.4%	3.7%	6.6%
60 to 64 years	2.4%	4.7%	2.4%	4.7%
65 to 69 years	1.6%	3.5%	1.7%	3.8%
70 to 74 years	1.1%	2.7%	1.4%	3.2%
75 to 79 years	0.7%	1.5%	1.2%	1.8%
80 to 84 years	0.4%	0.9%	0.8%	1.1%
85 years & over	0.3%	0.7%	0.8%	1.3%

(United States Census Bureau, 2000-2020 ACS Estimates)





United States Census Bureau, 2020



United States Census Bureau, 2020

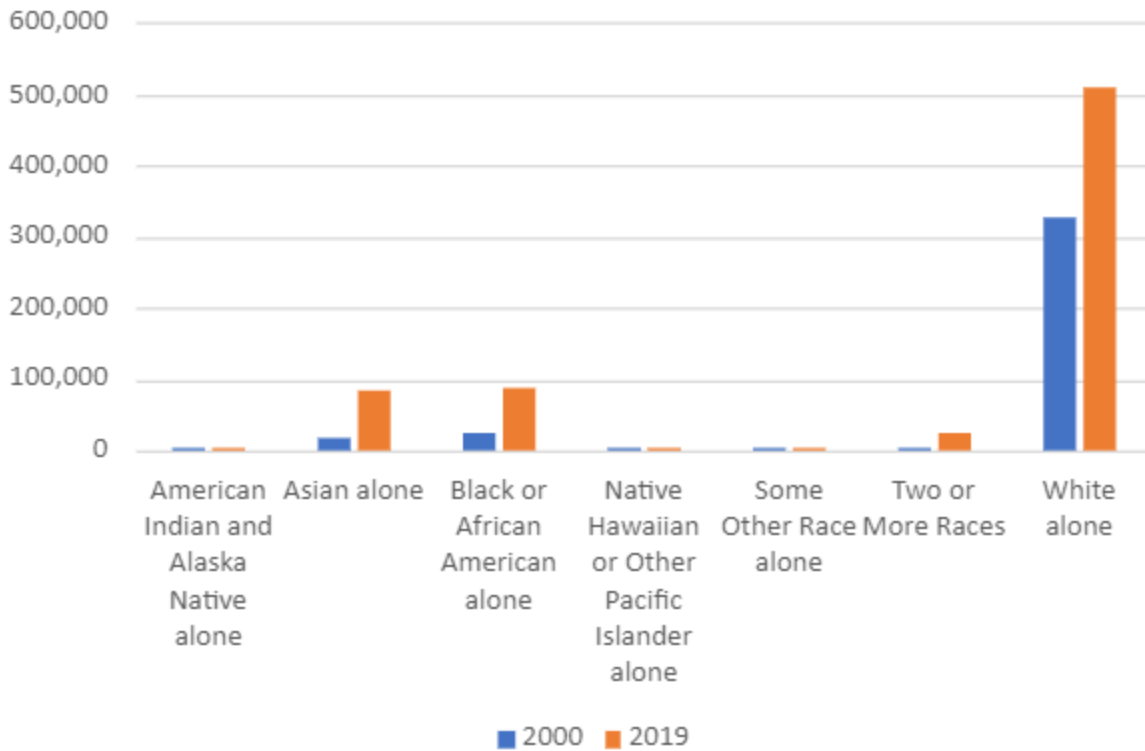
In 2020, the most common non-English language spoken in Denton County, TX was Spanish. 13.6% of the overall population of Denton County, TX are native Spanish speakers. (datausa.io (Using census data).

Denton County Racial Profile 2000 vs. 2019		
	2000 ¹	2019 ²
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2,093	2,932
Asian alone	17,327	84,759
Black or African American alone	24,980	88,021
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone	186	775
Some Other Race alone	559	1,487
Two or More Races	6,363	24,393
White alone	328,849	510,935
Denton County Ethnicity Profile 2000 vs. 2019 (Hispanic or Latino)		
2000 ¹	52,619	
2019 ²	173,905	

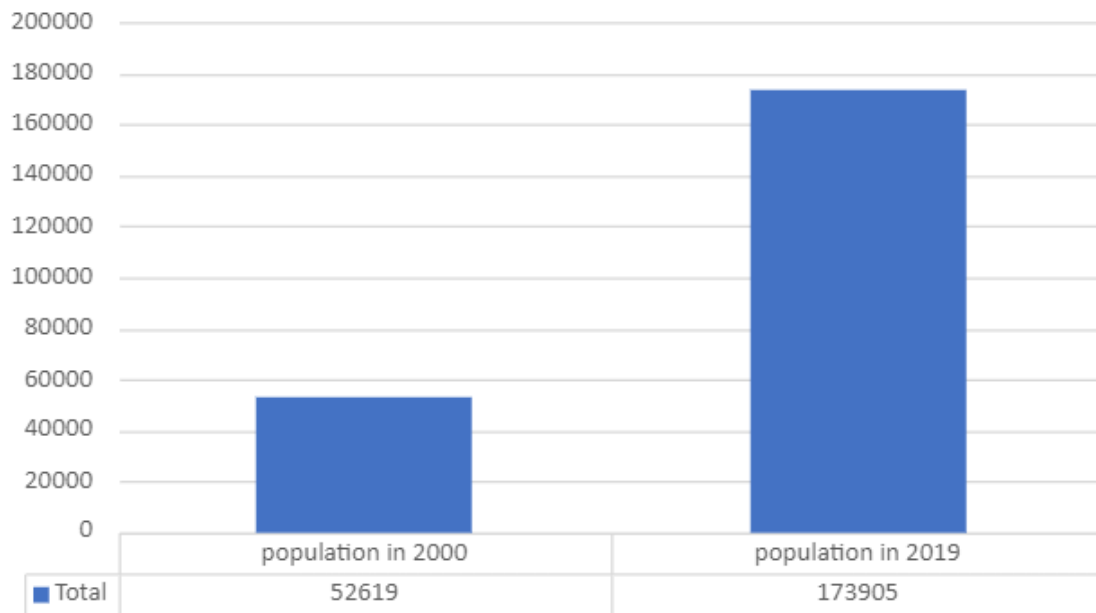
1. Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race: United States Census Bureau, 2000

2. ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: United States Census Bureau, 2019

Denton County Racial Profile 2000 vs 2019



Denton County Ethnic Profile 2000 vs. 2019 (Hispanic/Latino)



ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

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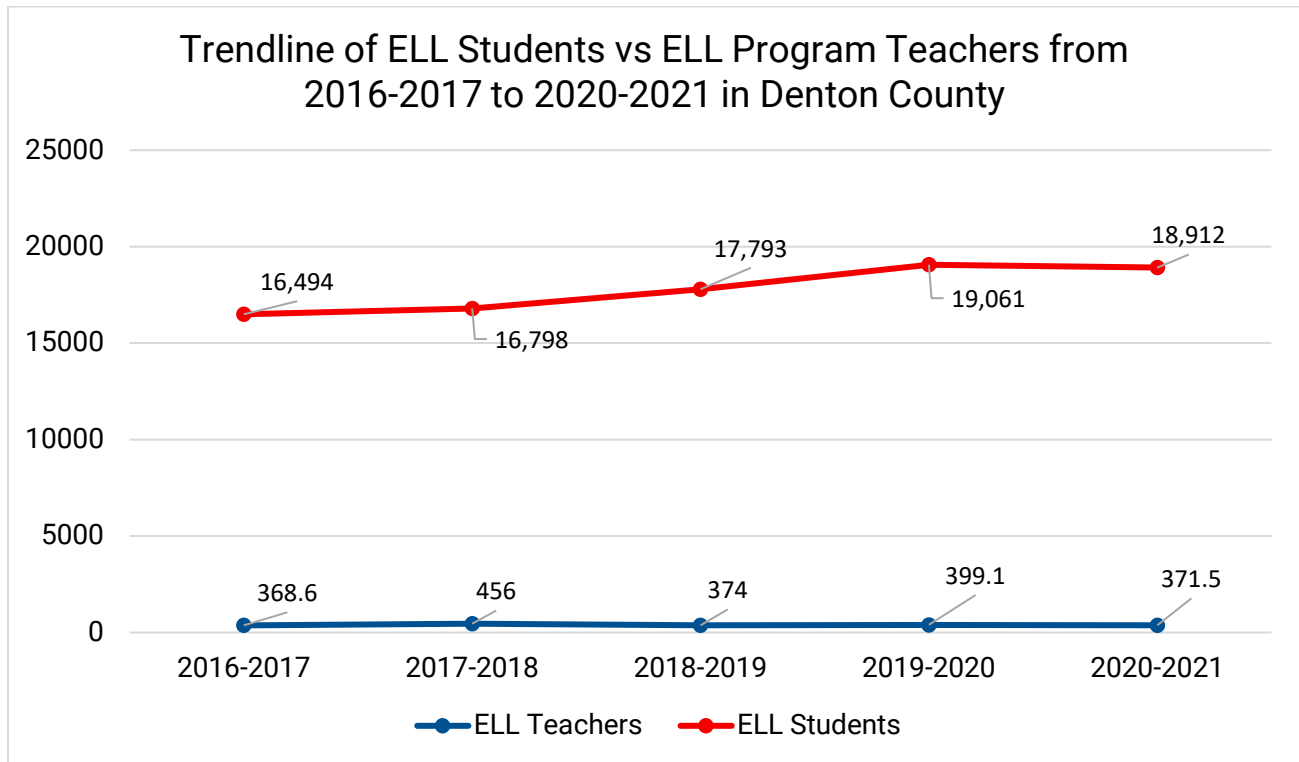
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/technical-documentation/subject-definitions.html#:~:text=A%20household%20includes%20the%20related,who%20share%20the%20housing%20unit.>

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

KEY FINDINGS

- In 2020-21, 46% of economically disadvantaged third graders in Denton County are not reading at a third-grade level and approximately 32% of all third graders in Denton County are not reading at a third-grade level. (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*). In 2019, the number of economically disadvantaged third graders not at grade level was 23%.
- For 13 consecutive years, the economically disadvantaged student population has increased in Denton County. In the 2020-21 school year, 45,173 students (34.6%) in Denton County were economically-disadvantaged, 50% of whom were either Denton ISD or Lewisville ISD. (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*)
- Northwest ISD and Little Elm ISD have seen a large growth in their economically disadvantaged student population. Northwest ISD enrolled 1,527 more economically disadvantaged students in 2020-21 than they did in 2016-17, representing a 30.5% five-year growth. Little Elm ISD enrolled 802 more economically disadvantaged students in 2020-21 than they did in 2016-17, representing a 22.1% five-year growth. (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*)
- In Denton County the at-risk student population has slightly decreased by (5.73%) 2,590 students in the past five years from 2016-17 to 2020-21. (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*). However, across Denton County, more than one in three students are still considered at risk of dropping out of school (33.5%).
- With the exception of Argyle (12.4%), Aubrey (25.8%), Northwest (28.9%), and Ponder (29.2%), all other Denton County ISD's have more than 30% of their population considered at-risk. Lewisville has the largest number (18,134) of at-risk students. (*Academic Excellence Indicator System, 2015-2021*)

- Despite an increase of 3,154 ELL students in the past five years in Denton County school districts, the English as a Second Language (ESL) program has only added 38 new teachers in the same time period. (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*)

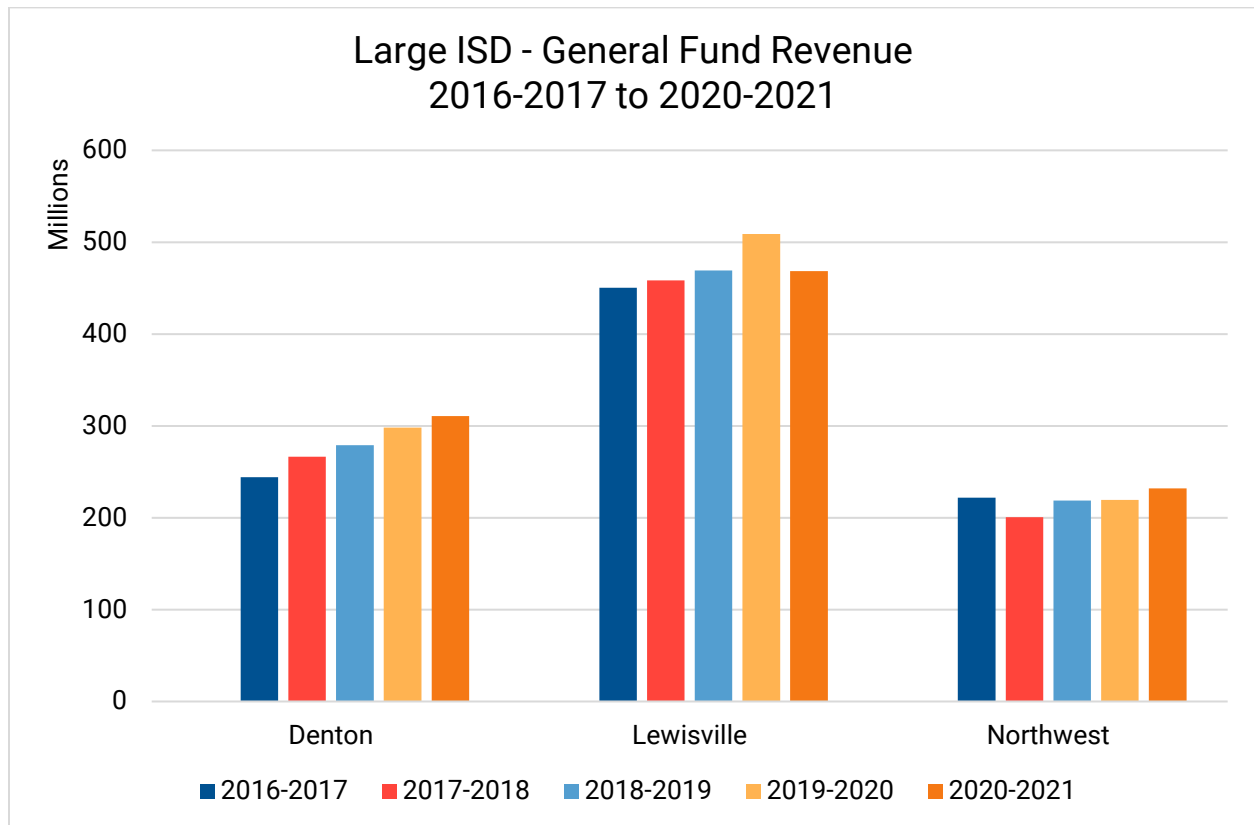


- There is an increasing need to staff more ESL teachers in Denton County schools as the ELL student population continues to increase. In the last five years, the ELL student to ESL program teacher ratio has increased from 44 ELL students to every ESL program teacher to 47.8 ELL students to every ESL program teacher. (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*)
- In the 2020-21 school year,
 - 37% of Denton County economically disadvantaged students did not meet STAAR Phase-In Satisfactory Standard or Above. (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*)
 - 37% of Denton County African American students did not meet STAAR Phase-In Satisfactory Standard or Above. (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*)

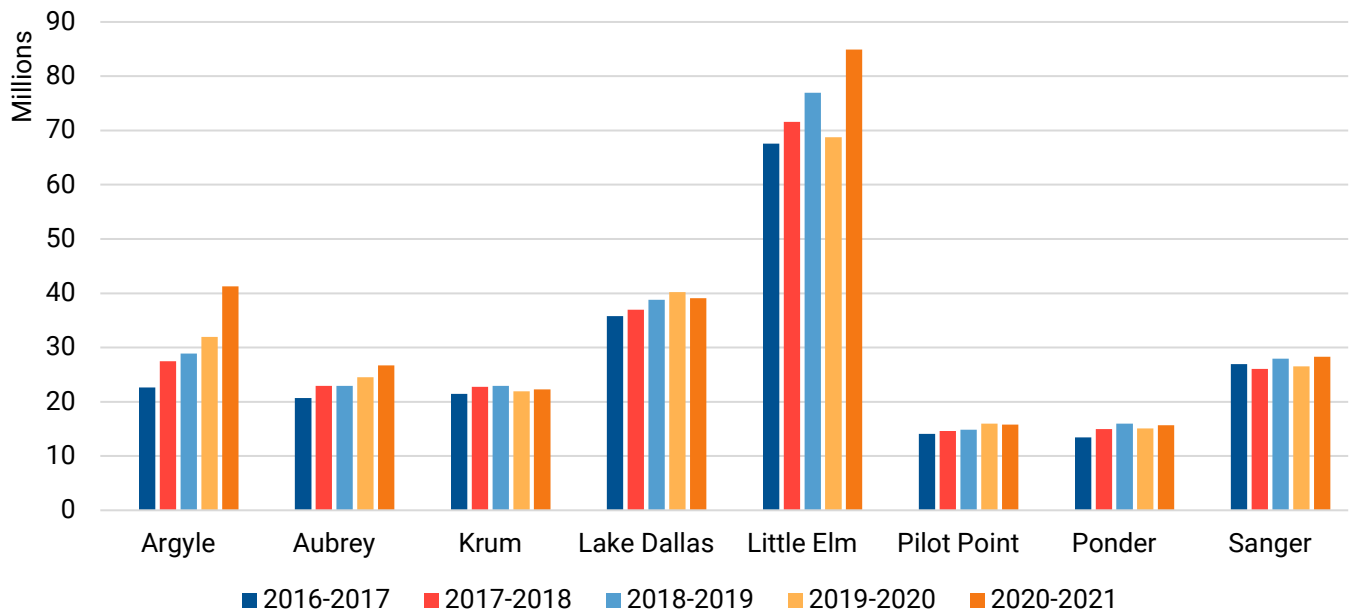
- 33% of Denton County Hispanic students did not meet STAAR Phase-In Satisfactory Standard or Above. (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*)
- 41% of Denton County English Language Learner (ELL) students did not meet STAAR Phase-In Satisfactory Standard or Above. (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*)
- As of January 2021, 69.6% of children in foster care in Denton County are placed outside of the county due to the shortage of foster/adoptive homes within the county. As of January 2021, there were 326 children in foster care in Denton County and 15 adoptive homes available within the county to place them in. (*Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2021*)
- As of August 2020, 322 children were in foster or substitute care with an average of 575.2 days in care (*Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2021*)
- From March 2020 to September 2021, Denton County-based childcare capacity dropped 24.5%. In September 2021 in Denton County there were 645 operating childcare centers, of which 373 are in-home providers and 272 childcare centers. Only 420 of those serve infants and toddlers.
- In September 2021 the following Denton County Zip Codes qualify as “childcare deserts”: 76208, 76209, 76258, 75057. These zip codes cover Denton, Corinth, Lewisville, Shady Shores and Pilot Point.
- Out of all children who fall into the low-income categories, only 18% are enrolled in childcare. This feeds the educational equity gap as these children often enter Kindergarten behind their middle-class peers.
- In the state of Texas, \$3,631 is invested into pre-K per child which is still \$2,300 below the national average. This is compared to the national average of \$10,456 invested in children K-12. This places Texas 34th in the country.

EDUCATION

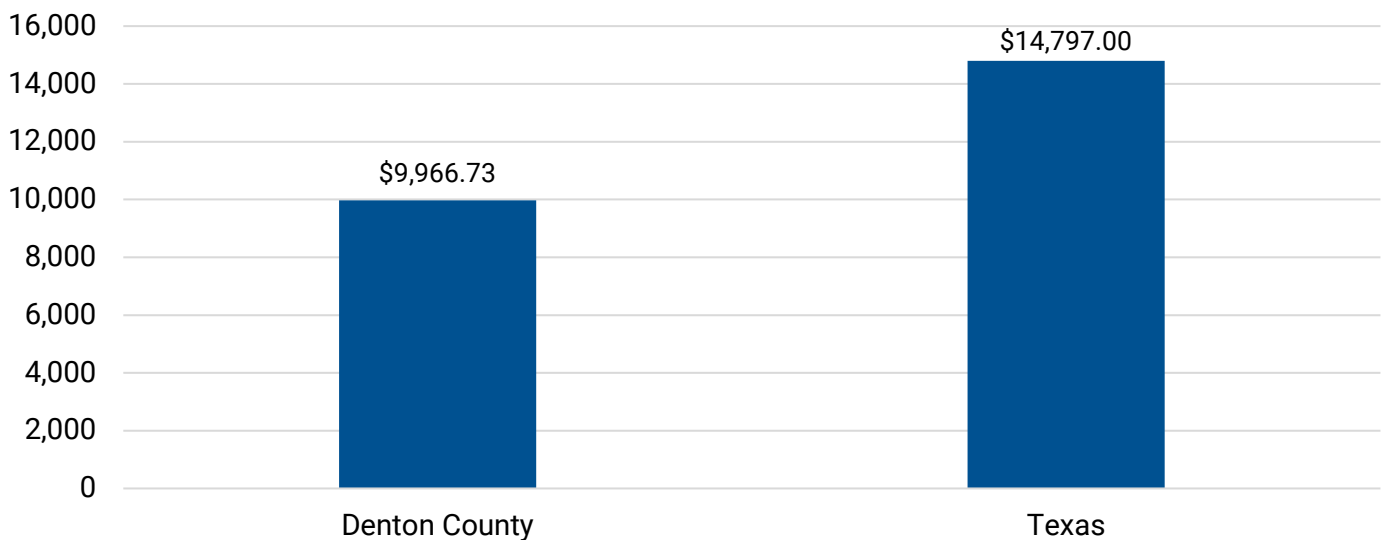
In 2011, historic statewide cuts resulted in significant general fund revenue cuts for Denton County School Districts. Now, ten years later, all 11 Denton County school districts have shown a steady increase in general fund revenue with data showing that all districts have general fund revenues at or higher than 2011 levels. Additionally, the percentage of economically disadvantaged, English Language Learners (ELL), and the at-risk student population continues to increase.



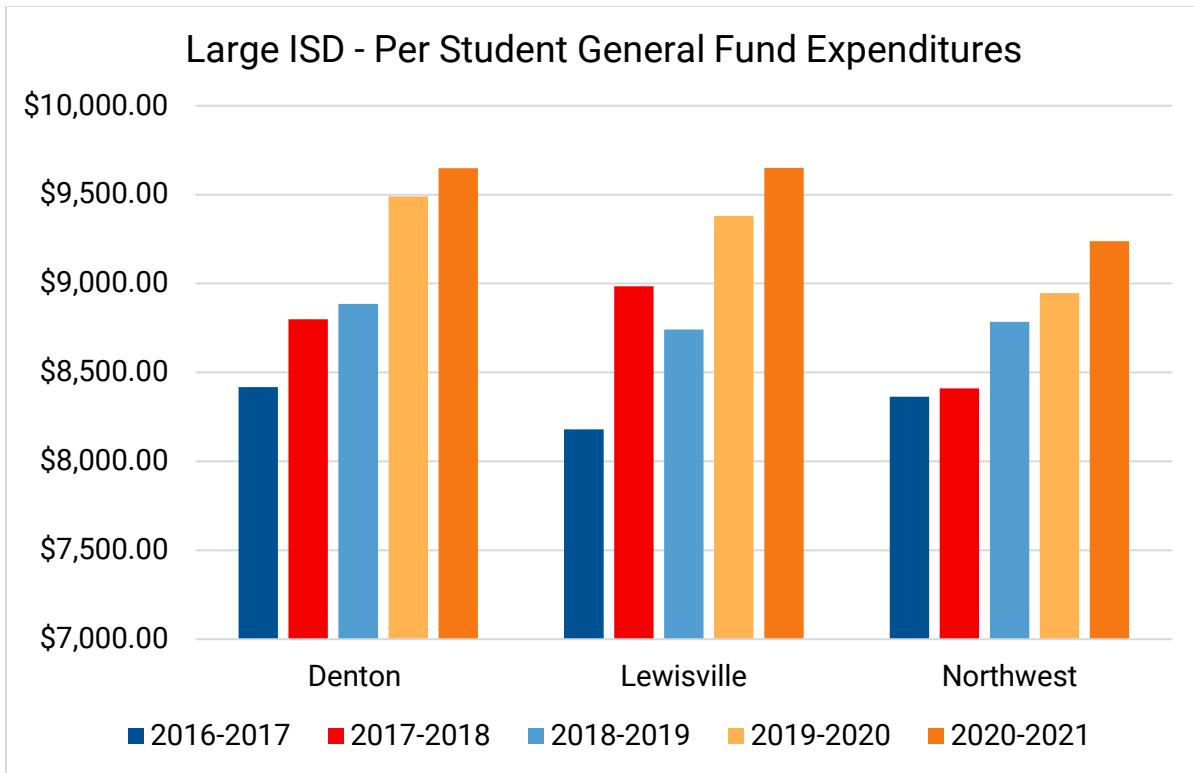
Small ISD - General Fund Revenue 2016-2017 to 2020-2021



Average of 2020-2021 Per Student Spending in Denton County compared to Per Student Spending in Texas

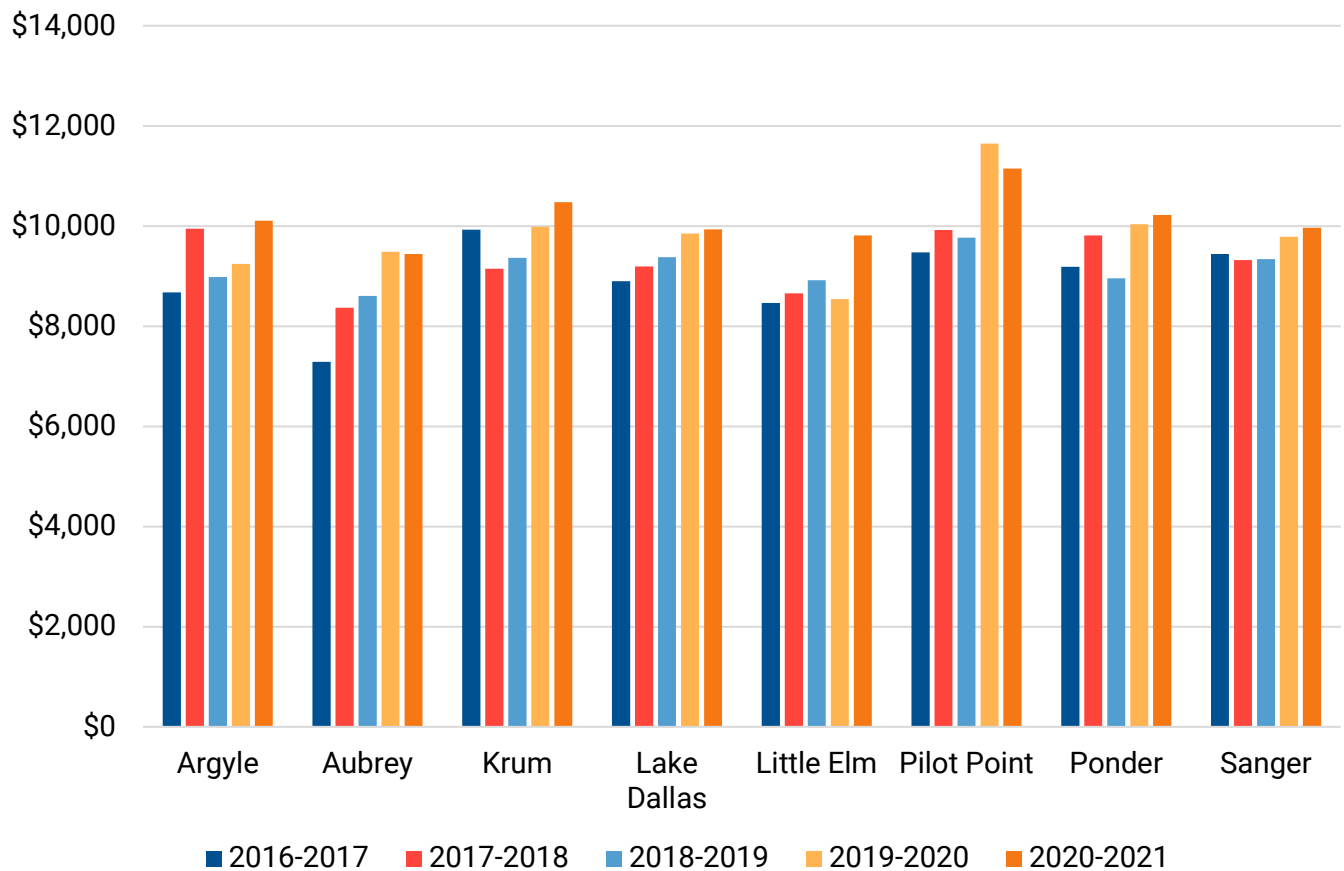


Denton County has a lower per-student-spend than the state of Texas Average. (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*)



	Denton	Lewisville	Northwest
2016-17	\$8,418	\$8,181	\$8,363
2017-18	\$8,799	\$8,984	\$8,411
2018-19	\$8,885	\$8,741	\$8,784
2019-20	\$9,491	\$9,381	\$8,947
2020-21	\$9,649	\$9,650	\$9,238

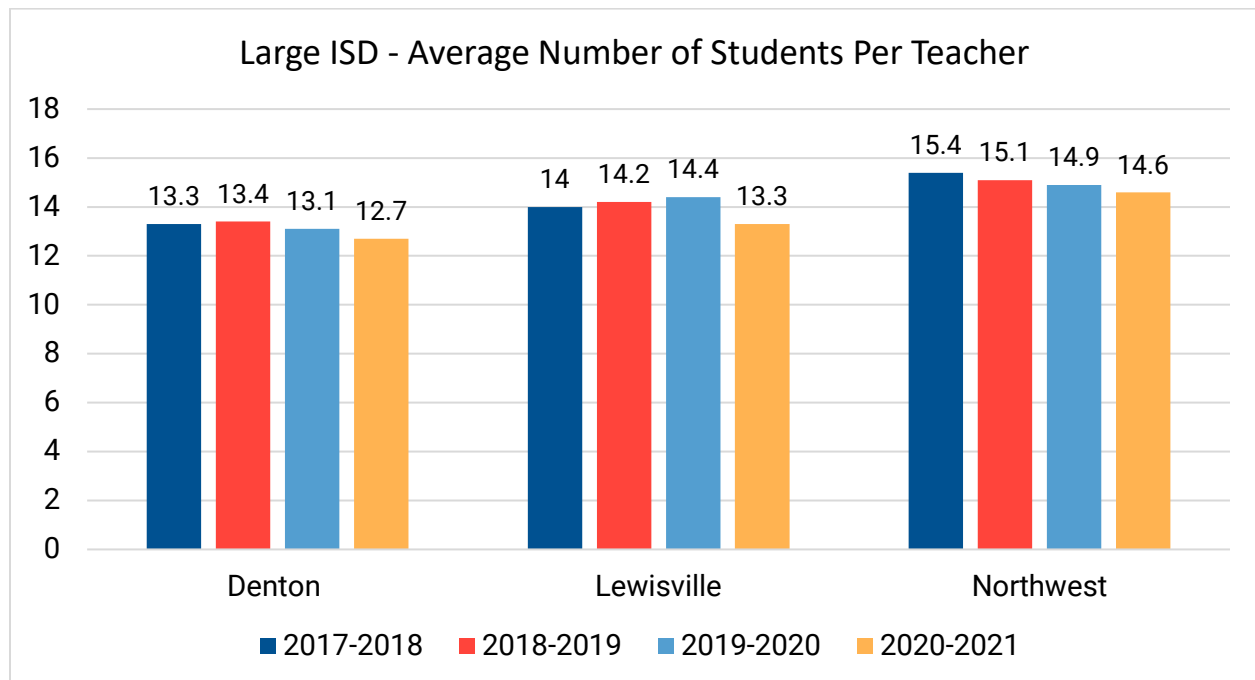
Small ISD - Per Student General Fund Expenditures



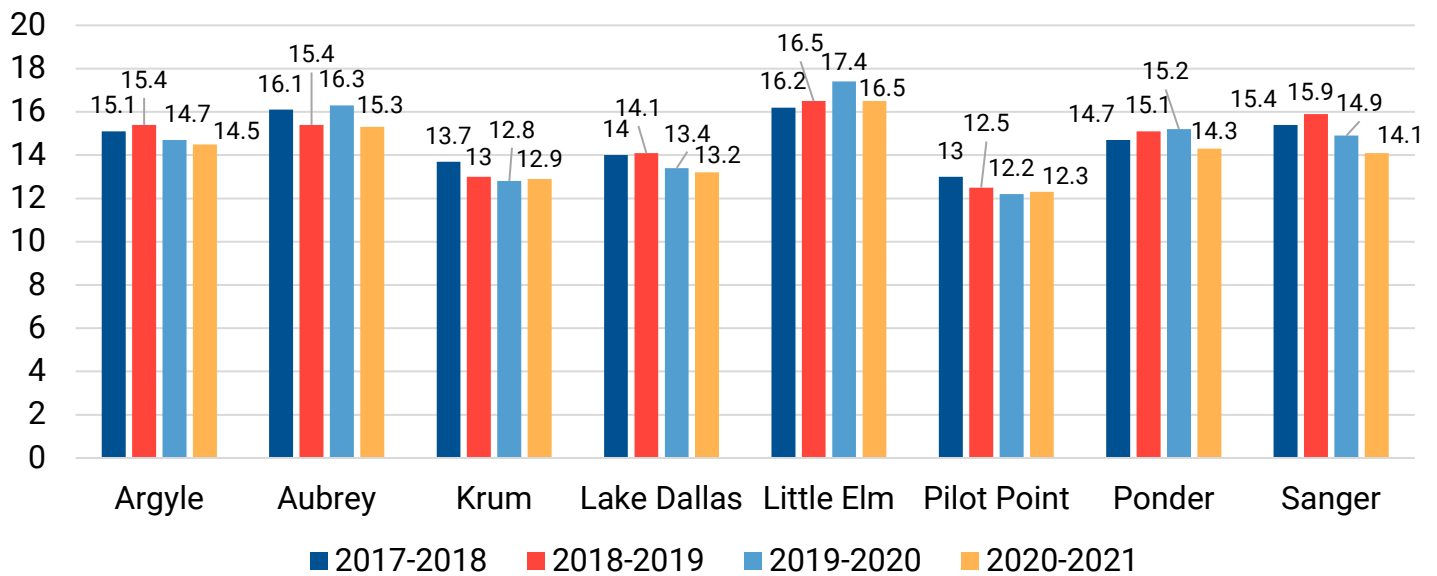
	Argyle	Aubrey	Krum	Lake Dallas	Little Elm	Pilot Point	Ponder	Sanger
2016-17	\$8,673	\$7,287	\$9,927	\$8,896	\$8,464	\$9,476	\$9,185	\$9,442
2017-18	\$9,944	\$8,370	\$9,146	\$9,190	\$8,659	\$9,919	\$9,814	\$9,321
2018-19	\$8,981	\$8,602	\$9,366	\$9,376	\$8,916	\$9,771	\$8,955	\$9,343
2019-20	\$9,242	\$9,487	\$9,985	\$9,848	\$8,542	\$11,649	\$10,038	\$9,786
2020-21	\$10,105	\$9,439	\$10,477	\$9,935	\$9,810	\$11,146	\$10,219	\$9,966

SCHOOL DISTRICT POPULATIONS

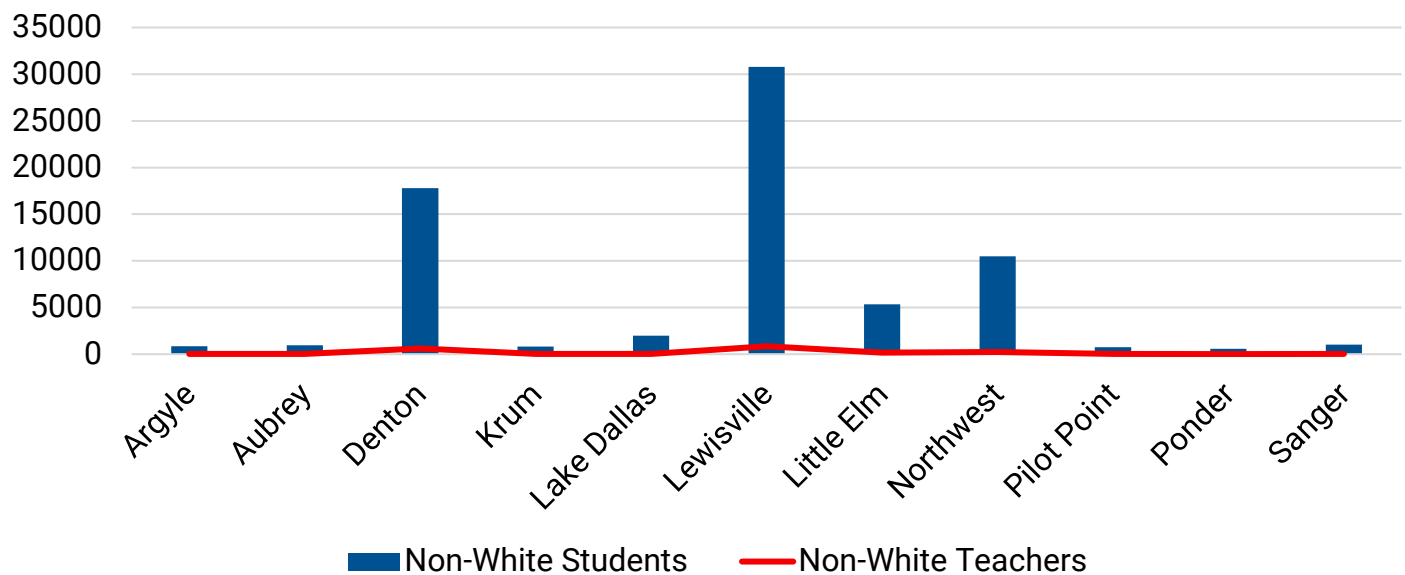
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Argyle	284.5	318.7	351.9	417.8	444.1
Aubrey	239	251	257	268.7	300.2
Denton	3,656.90	3,794.70	3,871.30	4,263.10	4,126.80
Krum	291.3	285.7	297.3	314.2	316.1
Lake Dallas	576.8	575.7	575.3	595.1	582.3
Lewisville	6,477.70	6,438.80	6,397.00	6,313.60	6,362.80
Little Elm	830.3	853.1	865.6	875.9	919.8
Northwest	2,243.40	2,335.00	2,505.00	2,631.90	2,701.90
Pilot Point	200.2	193.9	195.7	210.3	208.5
Ponder	179	190.8	197.9	197.7	214.40
Sanger	384.4	397.4	405.4	415.8	396.9
Denton County	15,363.50	15,634.80	15,919.40	16,504.10	16,573.80



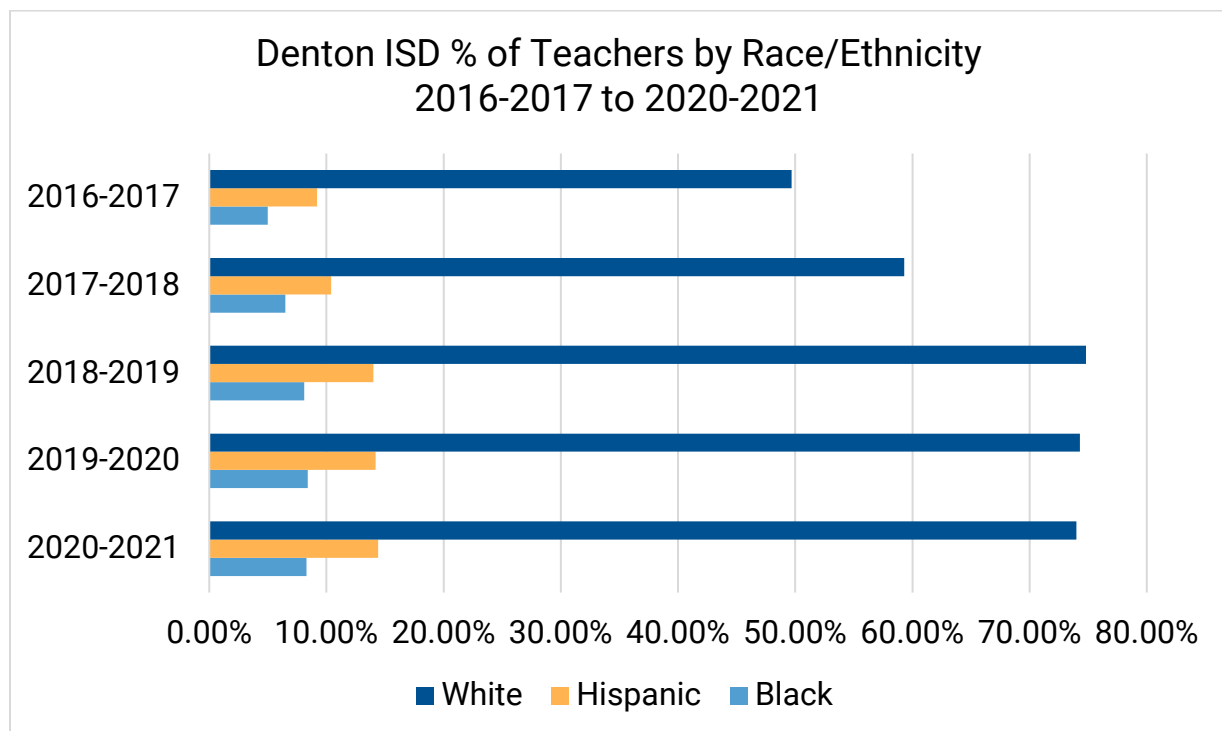
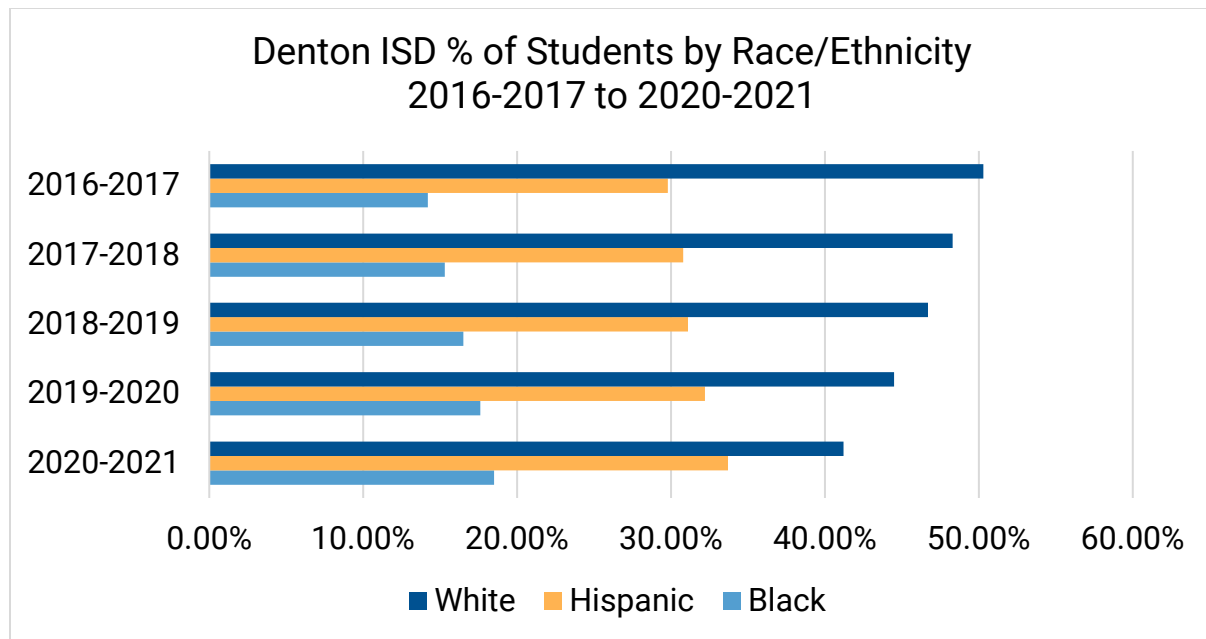
Small ISD - Average Number of Students Per Teacher



Ratio of Non-White Students to Non-White Teachers 2020-2021



	Argyle	Aubrey	Denton	Krum	Lake Dallas	Lewisville	Little Elm	Northwest	Pilot Point	Ponder	Sanger
Students	836	944	17,792	814	1,978	30,775	5,352	10,493	748	589	1,009
Teachers	14.4	13	616.9	21	28.8	848.2	150.2	229	15	10	13.5



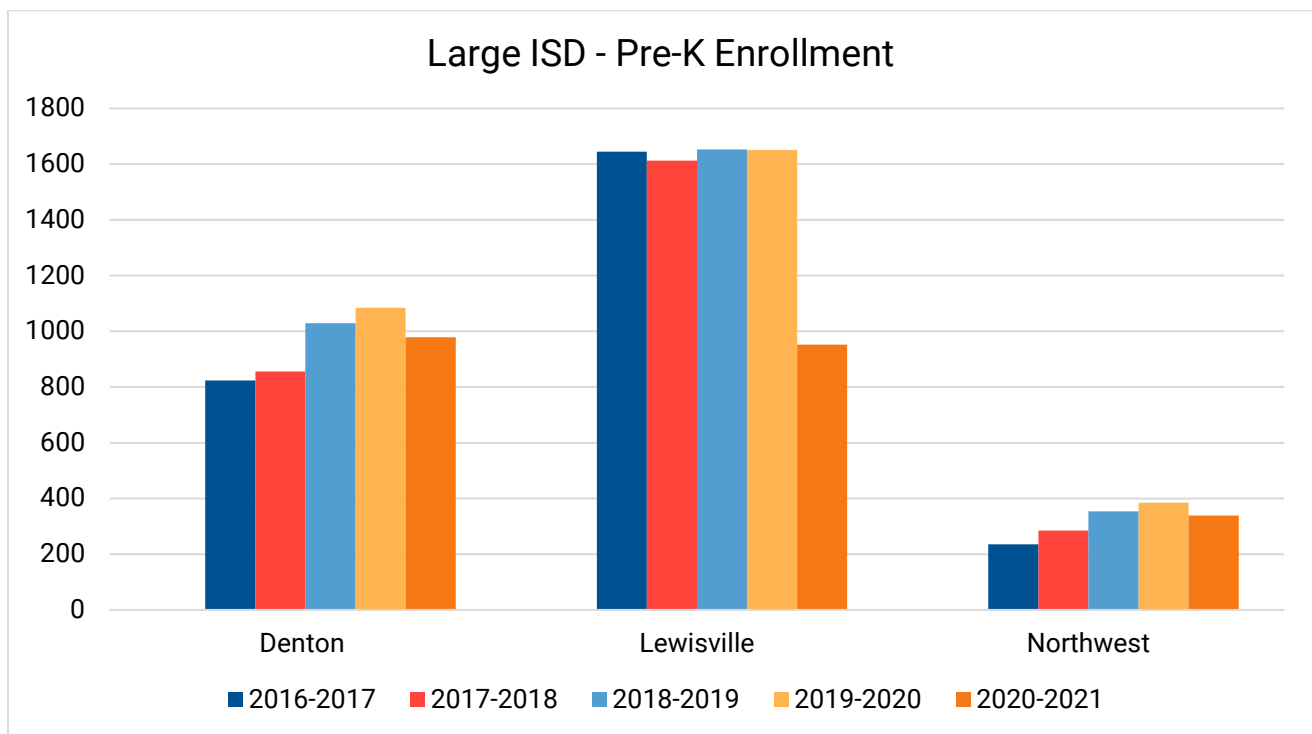
Denton County ISDs student population have grown at an average of 1.7% over the past five years from 2016-17 to 2020-21. *(Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report)*

In 2020-21, White (47.3%) and Hispanic (29.3%) students made up the largest proportion of ethnicities in Denton County school districts. *(Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report)*

Total Number of Students Enrolled by ISD												
	2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021	
Argyle	2,227		2,429		2,692		3,039		3,483		3,795	
Aubrey	2,315		2,397		2,489		2,440		2,593		2,644	
Denton	27,296		28,382		29,152		29,952		30,919		30,267	
Krum	2,055		2,090		2,116		2,045		2,062		2,101	
Lake Dallas	3,958		3,947		3,951		4,016		3,986		3,871	
Lewisville	53,396		53,182		52,368		52,104		52,189		49,361	
Little Elm	7,171		7,361		7,514		7,758		8,065		8,108	
Northwest	20,900		21,964		23,061		24,052		25,040		25,383	
Pilot Point	1,392		1,357		1,399		1,392		1,359		1,362	
Ponder	1,273		1,328		1,411		1,547		1,579		1,585	
Sanger	2,686		2,679		2,718		2,752		2,635		2,569	
Denton County	124,669		127,116		128,871		131,097		133,910		131,046	
Student Ethnic Distribution for the 2020-21 School Year												
	Black		Hispanic		White		Native American		Asian/Pacific Islander		2 or More Races	
District	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Argyle	74	1.9	502	13.2	2,959	78	19	0.5	128	3.4	113	3.0
Aubrey	266	10.1	543	20.5	1,700	64.3	11	0.4	20	0.8	104	3.9
Denton	5,590	18.5	10,188	33.7	12,475	41.2	145	0.5	1,058	3.5	811	2.7
Krum	42	2.0	673	32	1,287	61.3	13	0.6	16	0.7	70	3.3
Lake Dallas	345	8.9	1,291	33.4	1,893	48.9	29	0.7	105	2.8	208	5.4
Lewisville	5,721	11.6	15,030	30.4	18,586	37.7	185	0.4	7,692	15.6	2,147	4.3
Little Elm	1,459	18	3,143	38.8	2,756	34	31	0.4	324	4.0	395	4.9
Northwest	2,547	10	5,869	23.1	14,890	58.7	122	0.5	1,341	5.2	614	2.4
Pilot Point	38	2.8	657	48.2	614	45.1	10	0.7	4	0.3	39	2.9
Ponder	30	1.9	490	30.9	1,007	63.5	22	0.7	12	0.8	35	2.2
Sanger	101	3.9	774	30.1	1,560	60.7	15	0.6	18	0.7	101	3.9

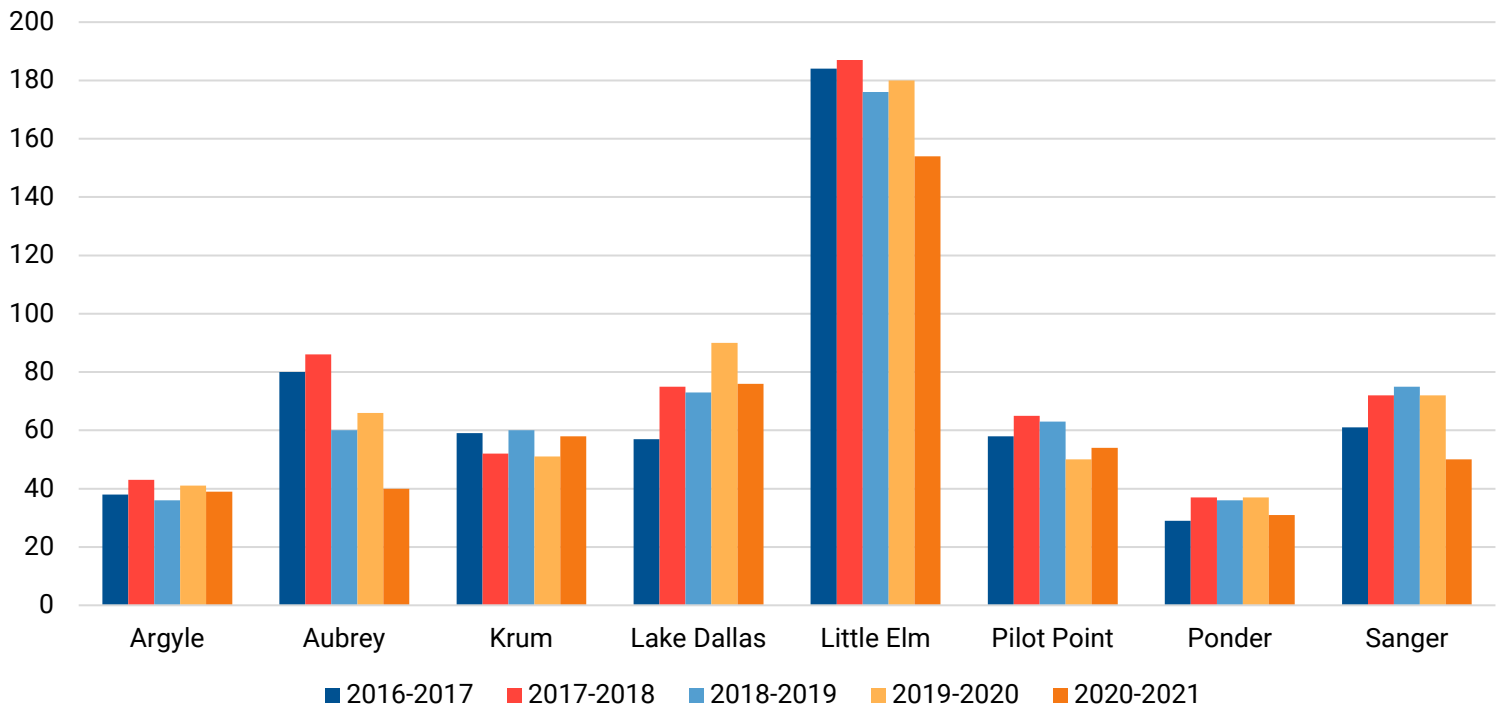
Pre-K ENROLLMENT

- Across Denton County, 5,777 kids were enrolled in kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year who did not attend school district Pre-K the previous year (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report*)
- In Texas, \$3,631 is invested into Pre-K per child which is \$2,300 below the national average. This is compared to \$10,456 that is invested annually in children K-12 in Texas. This places Texas 34th in the country as rated by the National Institute for Early Education Research based on an accredited rating scale.



(Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report)

Small ISD - Pre-K Enrollment



(Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Report)

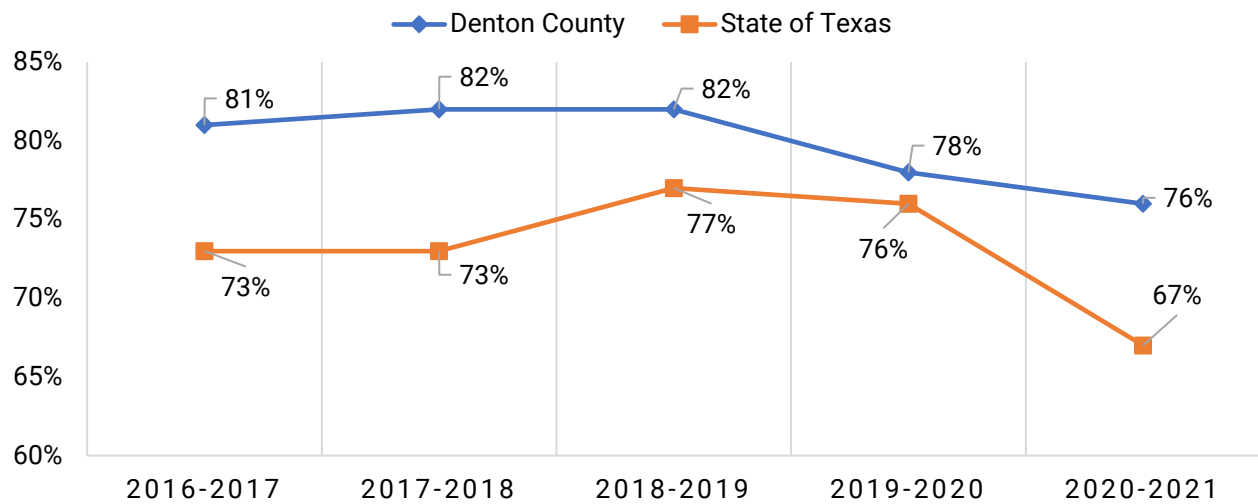
READING PROFICIENCY

- In 2020-2021, in Denton ISD, 32% of third graders were not reading at grade level, compared with 2019 when only 23% were not reading at grade level.
- In 2020-2021, in Denton ISD, 46% of economically disadvantaged third graders were not reading at a third-grade level compared to 33% in 2018-2019.

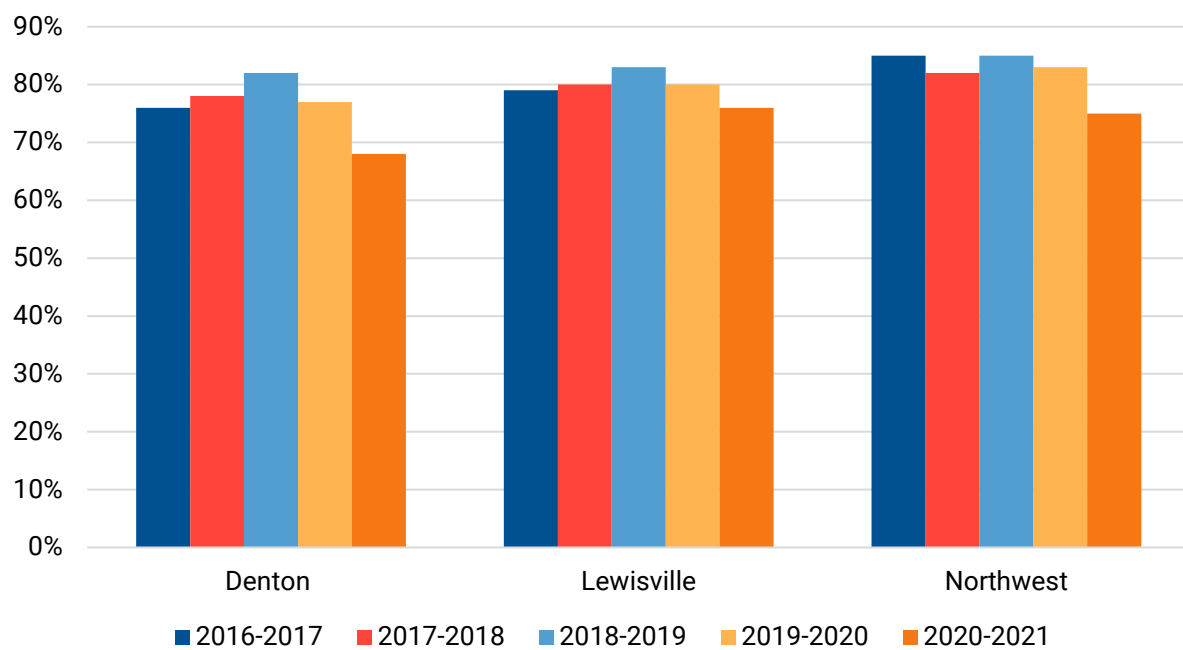
WHY IT MATTERS

“Students who do not read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to leave high school without a diploma than proficient readers.” (2022 *The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, 3rd Grade Reading Success Matters.*)

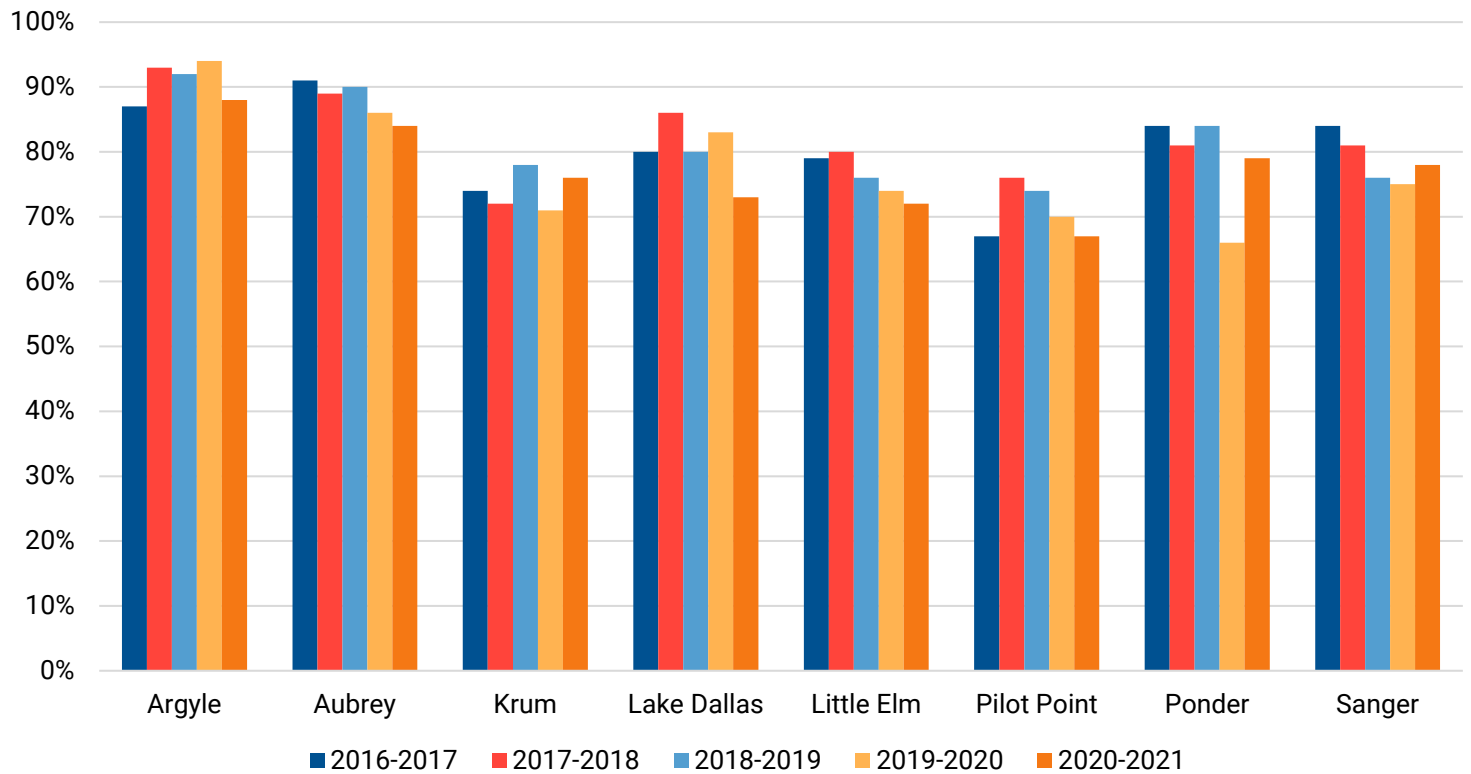
% OF ALL 3RD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: DENTON COUNTY AVERAGE VS. TEXAS



Large ISD - % of All 3rd Graders Reading at Grade Level

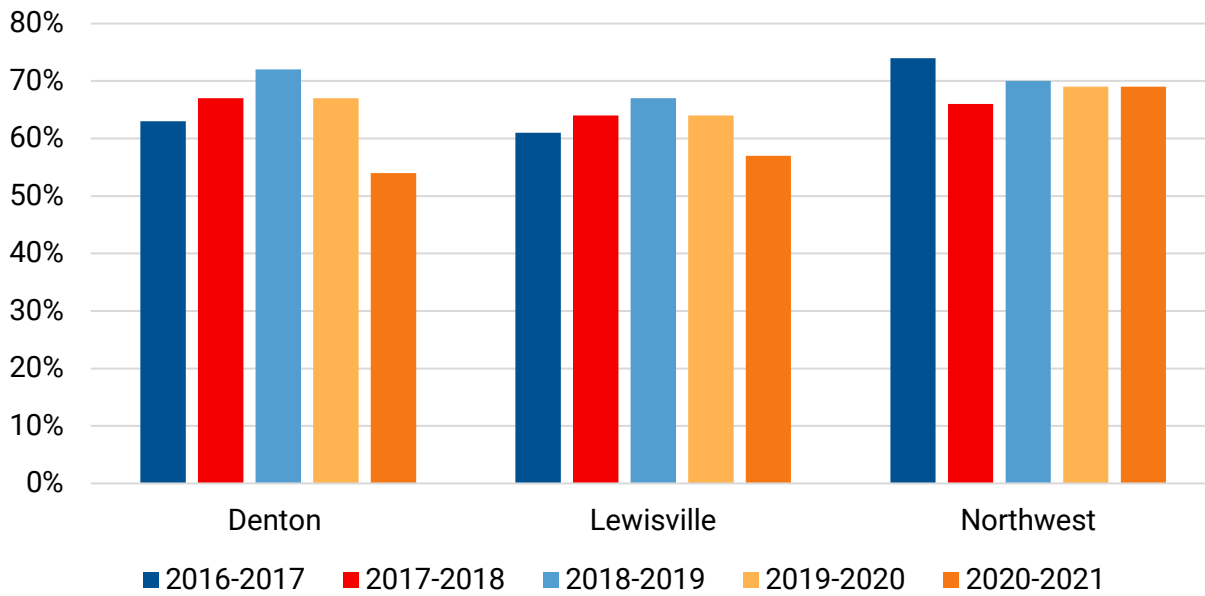


Small ISD - % of All 3rd Graders Reading at Grade Level

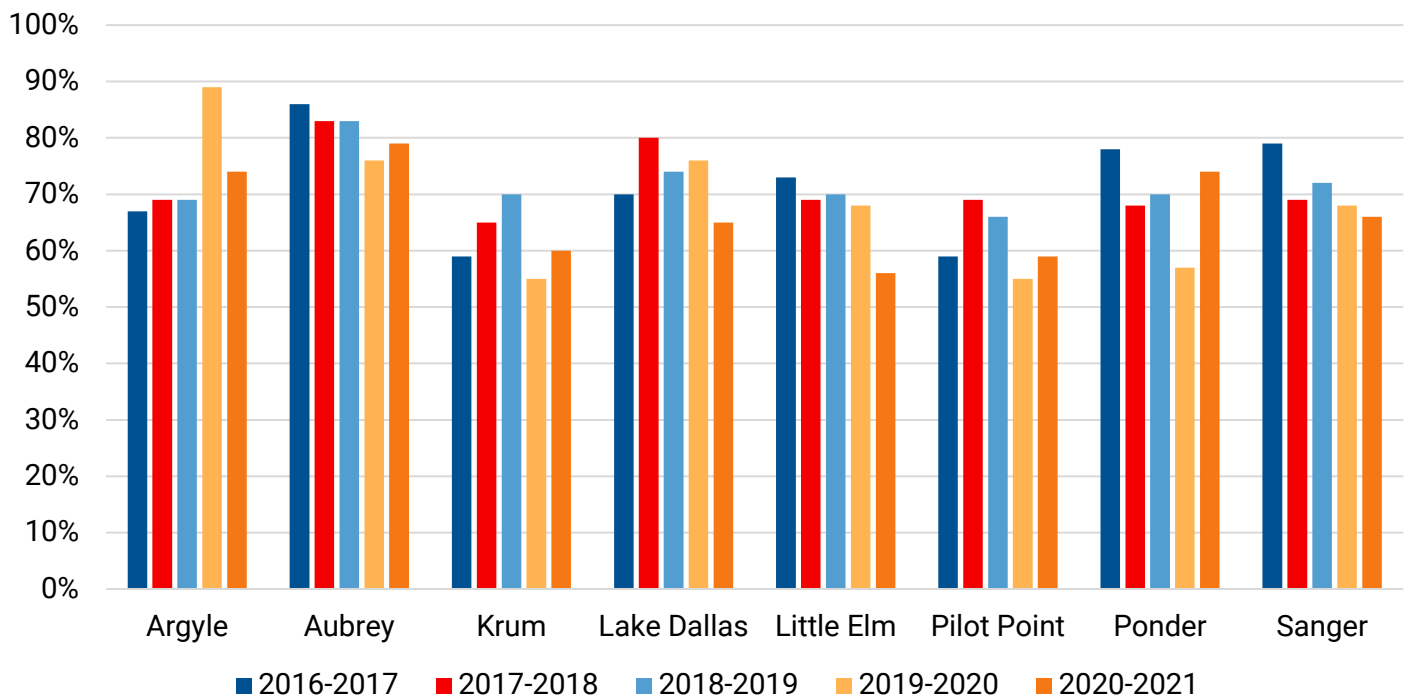


The charts above show results from the TAKS and STAAR third-grade reading tests over the last five years. The charts on the next page show those same results, but for economically disadvantaged third graders (*Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Reports*)

Large ISD - % of Economically Disadvantaged 3rd Graders Reading at Grade Level



Small ISD - % of Economically Disadvantaged 3rd Graders Reading at Grade Level

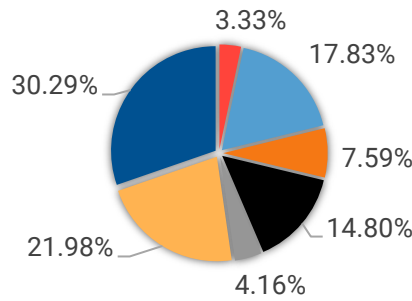


HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

According to Census Bureau estimates most Denton County residents who do not have a high school diploma fall into the 18 to 24-year age range. The number of residents without a high school diploma decreases as age increases.

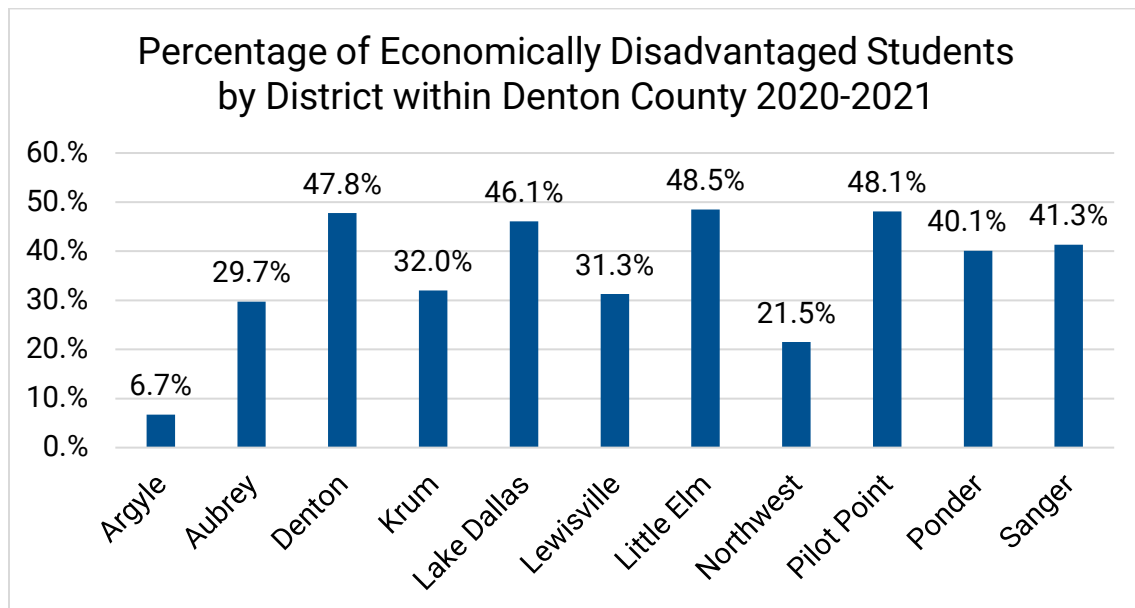
Percentage of Population Without a High School Diploma	
Population	Denton County %
18 to 24 years old	10.10%
25 years and older	7.30%
25 to 34 years	5.70%
35 to 44 years	7.90%
45 to 64 years	7.40%
65 years and over	9.90%
White	6.80%
Black	5.50%
American Indian or Alaska Native	10.20%
Asian	8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	6.70%
Two or more races	8.90%

American Community Survey Estimate 2019 Educational Attainment for Denton County



- Less than 9th Grade
- High school graduate (includes equivalency)
- Associate's Degree
- Graduate or Professional Degree
- 9th-12th grade - no diploma
- Some college - no degree
- Bachelor's degree

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS



- 45,173 students in Denton County were economically disadvantaged in the 2020-2021 school year.

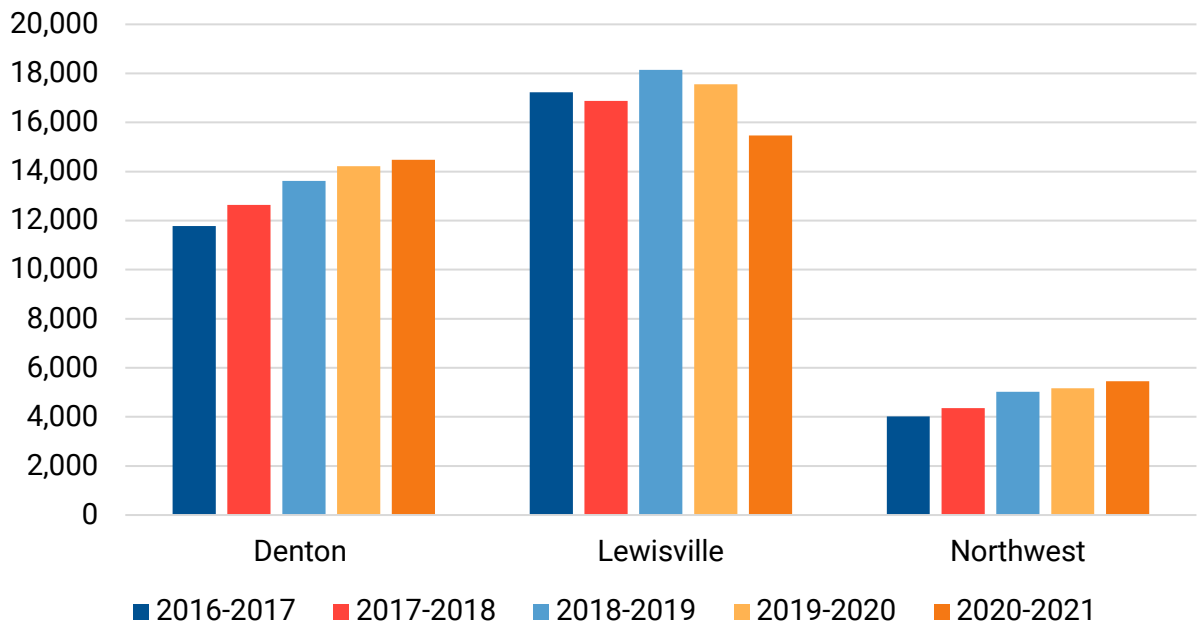
- For 13 consecutive years, the economically disadvantaged student population has increased.
- Pilot Point ISD (48.1%) and Little Elm ISD (48.5%) had the highest percentage of economically disadvantaged students in Denton County, followed closely by Denton and Lake Dallas ISDs.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) defines students as economically disadvantaged if they meet any of the below:

1. Eligible for free meals under the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program
2. Eligible for reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program
3. Other Economically Disadvantaged
 - a. Students from a family with an annual income at or below the official poverty line
 - b. Students eligible for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or other public assistance
 - c. Students that receive a Pell Grant or comparable state program of need-based financial assistance
 - d. Students eligible for programs assisted under Title II of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA)
 - e. Students eligible for benefits under the Food Stamp Act of 1977

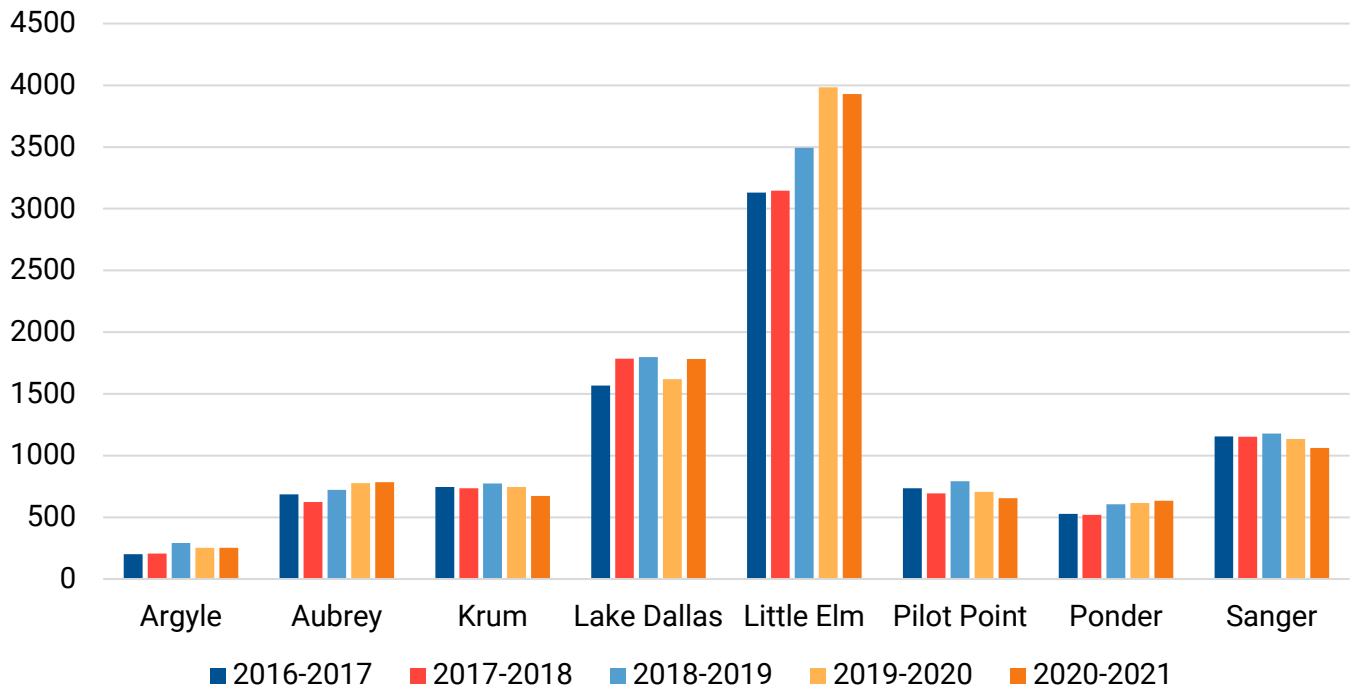
(Economically Disadvantaged Status Reports, 2019)

Large ISD - # of Economically Disadvantaged Students 2020-2021



	Denton	Lewisville	Northwest
2016-17	11,778	17,232	4,013
2017-18	12,644	16,878	4,363
2018-19	13,621	18,148	5,023
2019-20	14,216	17,553	5,167
2020-21	14,475	15,469	5,456

Small ISD - # of Economically Disadvantaged Students 2020-2021



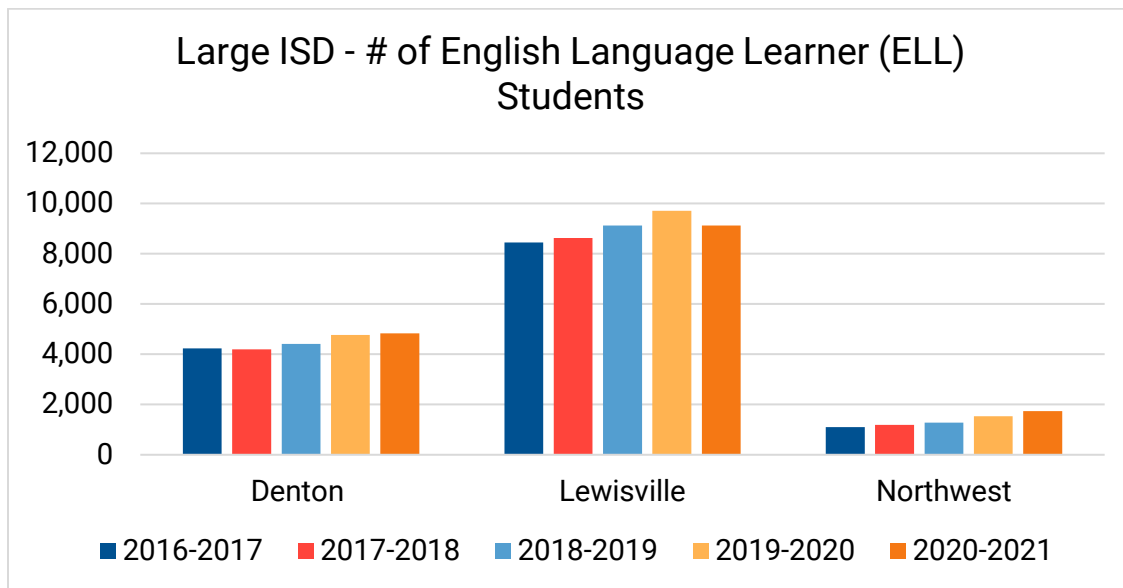
	Argyle	Aubrey	Krum	Lake Dallas	Little Elm	Pilot Point	Ponder	Sanger
2016-17	202	686	745	1,568	3,130	736	528	1,155
2017-18	207	623	735	1,785	3,147	694	521	1,153
2018-19	292	722	773	1,797	3,494	793	605	1,178
2019-20	252	777	746	1,620	3,983	706	617	1,135
2020-21	253	785	672	1,783	3,929	655	635	1,061

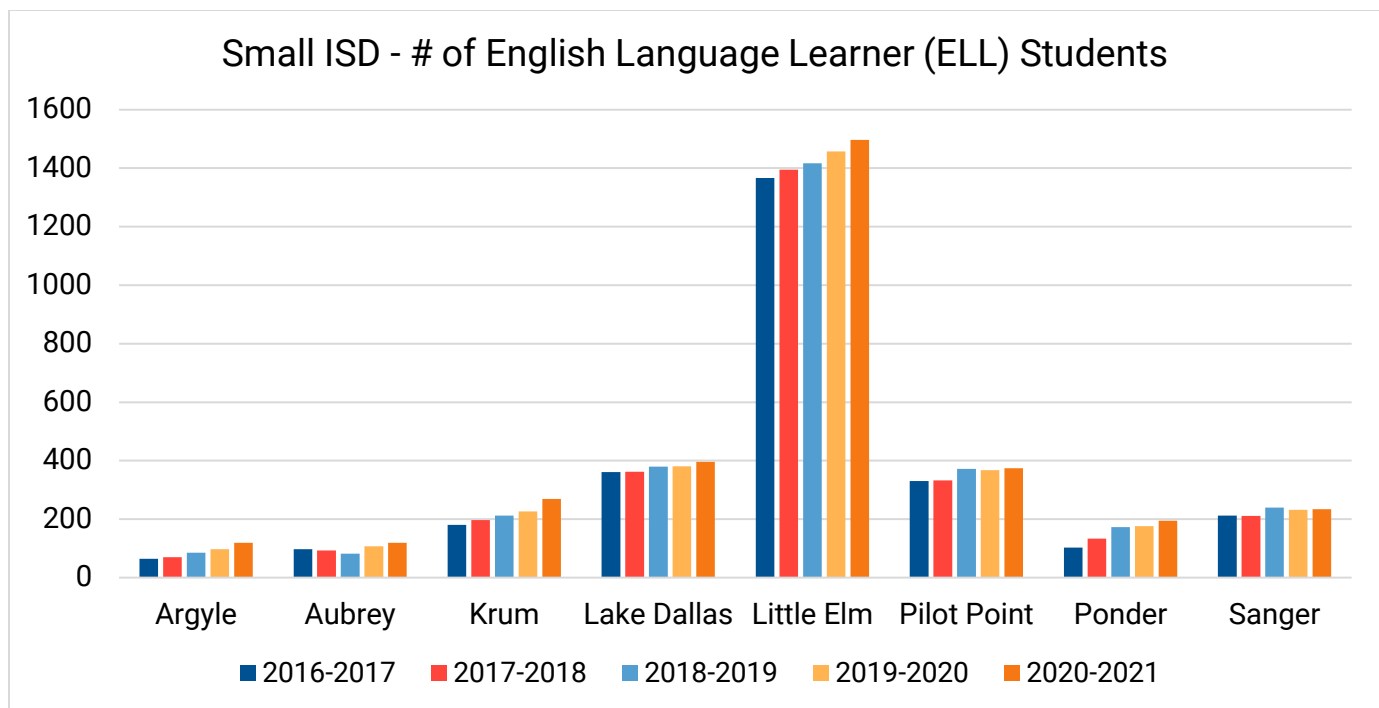
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

- In 2020-2021, there were 18,903 English Language Learners (ELL) in Denton County ISDs, which represent a consecutive 12-year increase in the ELL student population.
- Although Spanish speakers comprise most of all ELL participants, Denton County ISD's have 77 languages spoken as a first language by ELL participants

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) PROGRAMS

Most ISDs in Denton County have seen slight growth in their ELL student population over the past five years.





AT-RISK STUDENTS

- In 2020-21, there were 43,897 at-risk students across Denton County.
- In Denton County, the at-risk student population decreased by 3,271 students from the 2019-20 school year to the 2020-21 school year.

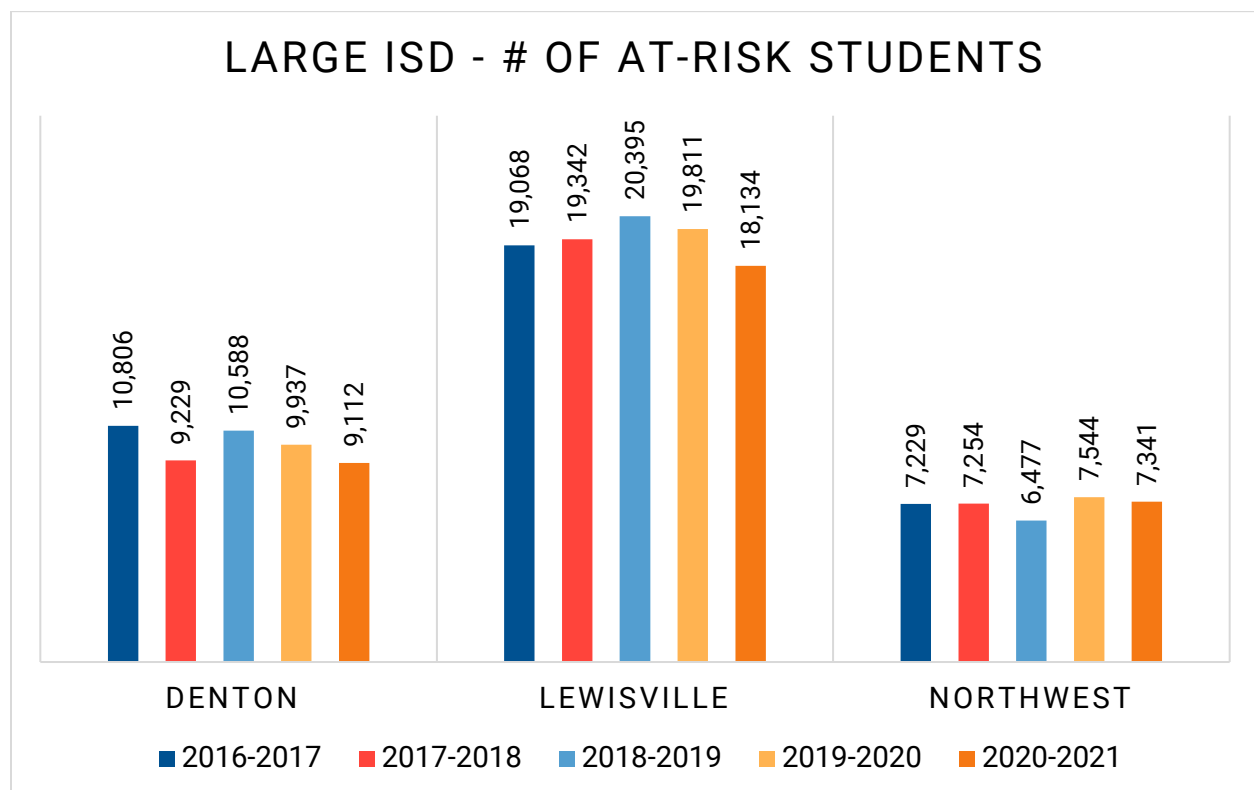
The following summary of state-defined criteria is used to determine the number of students who are considered to be at risk of dropping out of school. If a student meets any or all of these criteria, they are coded as at-risk:

1. was not advanced from one grade level to the next for one or more school years;
2. is in grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 and did not maintain an average equivalent to 70 on a scale of 100 in two or more subjects in the foundation curriculum during a semester in the preceding or current school year or is not maintaining such an average in two or more subjects in the foundation curriculum in the current semester;
3. did not perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument administered to the student, and who has not in the previous or current school year subsequently performed at a level equal to at least 110 percent of the level of satisfactory performance;
4. is in prekindergarten, kindergarten or grades 1, 2, or 3 and did not perform satisfactorily on a readiness test or assessment instrument administered during the current school year;
5. is pregnant or is a parent;

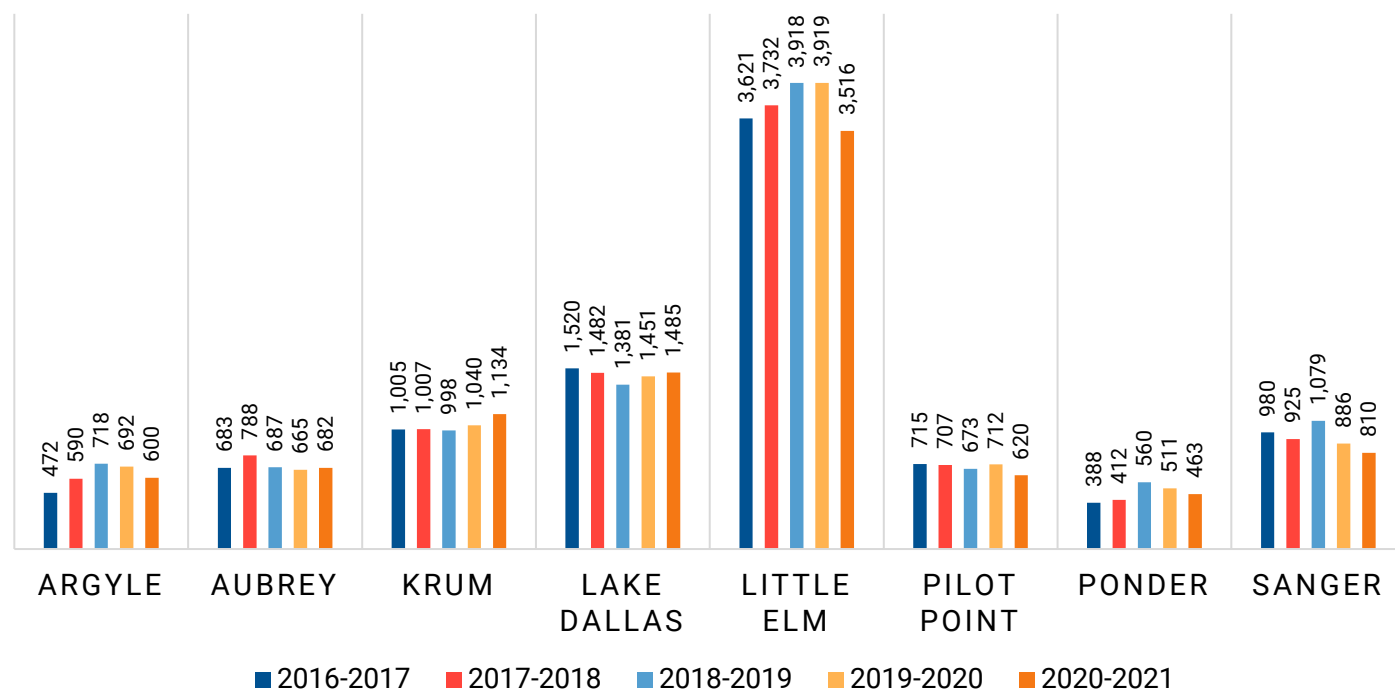
6. has been placed in an alternative education program during the preceding or current school year;
7. has been expelled during the preceding or current school year;
8. is currently on parole, probation, deferred prosecution, or other conditional release;
9. was previously reported through the PEIMS to have dropped out of school;
10. is a student of limited English proficiency;
11. is in the custody or care of the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or has, during the current school year, been referred to the department by a school official, officer of the juvenile court, or law enforcement official;
12. is homeless, or
13. resides (in the current school year) or resided (in the preceding school year) in a residential placement facility in the district, including a detention facility, substance abuse treatment facility, emergency shelter, psychiatric hospital, halfway house, or foster group home.

- Across Denton County, more than one in three students are considered at risk of dropping out of school (33.5%).
- With the exception of at-risk student populations at Argyle (12.4%), Aubrey (25.8%), Northwest (28.9%), and Ponder (29.2%), all other Denton County ISD's have more than 30% of their population considered at-risk. Lewisville has the largest number (18,134) of at-risk students.

(Academic Excellence Indicator System, 2015-2021)



SMALL ISD - # OF AT-RISK STUDENTS



STAAR ASSESSMENT

Though widely debated, the STAAR program is designed to measure to what extent a student has learned, understood, and is able to apply the concepts and skills expected at each grade level or after completing each course for which an EOC assessment exists. Each STAAR assessment is linked directly to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards. See the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills website at <http://tea.texas.gov/curriculum/teks/>. (TEA, 2021).

- 37% of Denton County economically disadvantaged students did not meet STAAR Phase-In Satisfactory Standard or Above in 2020-2021 (up from 27% in 2019-2020).
- 41% of Denton County English Language Learners (ELL) did not meet STAAR Phase-In Satisfactory Standard or Above in 2020-2021 (up from 30% in 2019-2020).
- 37% of Denton County African American students did not meet STAAR Phase-In Satisfactory Standard or Above in 2020-2021 (up from 30% in 2019-2020).

- 33% of Denton County Hispanic students did not meet STAAR Phase-In Satisfactory Standard or Above in 2020-2021 (up from 24% in 2019-2020).

STARR Results 2020-21 - Percent of Students Meeting Standards By Race

	District Average	Black	Hispanic	White	American Indian	Asian	Pacific Islander	Two or More Races
Argyle	90%	77%	81%	92%	97%	92%	N/A	89%
Aubrey	80%	62%	74%	85%	75%	67%	100%	77%
Denton	69%	55%	61%	80%	79%	85%	75%	67%
Krum	74%	64%	63%	80%	68%	86%	N/A	83%
Lake Dallas	69%	51%	62%	76%	67%	85%	N/A	68%
Lewisville	77%	59%	65%	88%	77%	89%	68%	79%
Little Elm	69%	61%	61%	80%	83%	85%	86%	76%
Northwest	79%	69%	71%	83%	73%	89%	77%	98%
Pilot Point	73%	55%	65%	82%	100%	100%	N/A	79%
Ponder	77%	81%	67%	82%	85%	100%	N/A	80%
Sanger	73%	61%	67%	77%	80%	93%	N/A	77%

STARR Results 2020-21 – Percent of Students by Other Factors

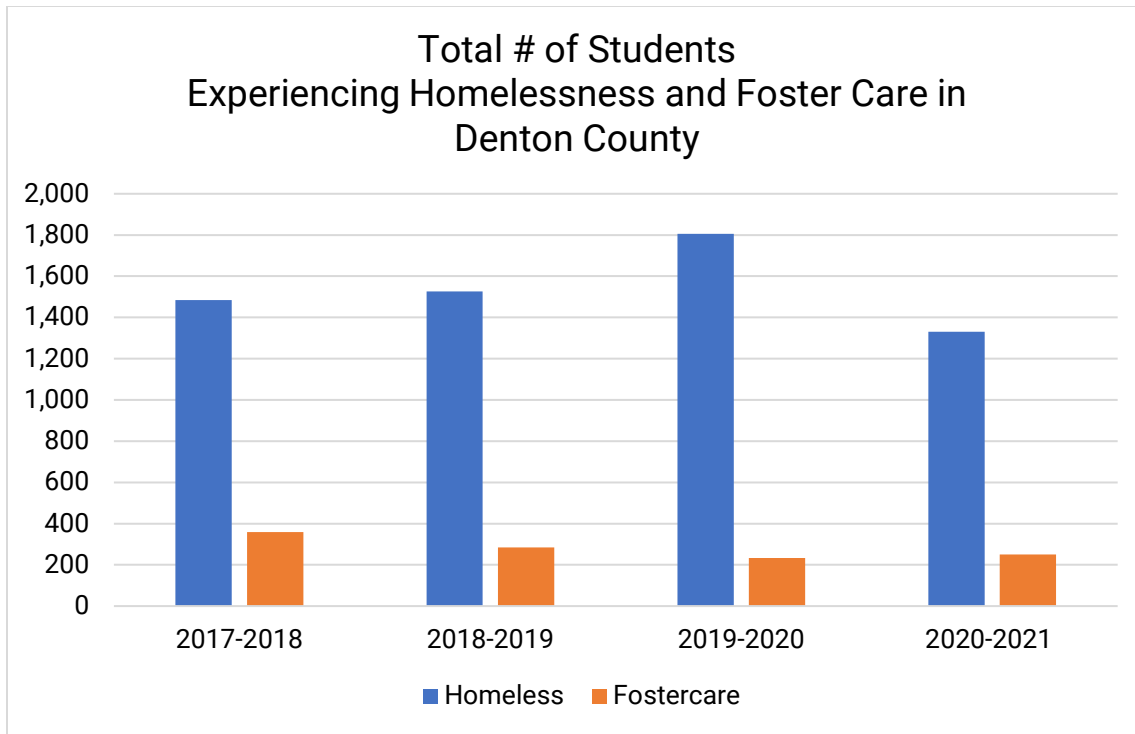
	Special Education	Economically Disadvantage	English Language Learner
Argyle	62%	69%	68%
Aubrey	45%	68%	68%
Denton	37%	56%	56%
Krum	36%	64%	56%
Lake Dallas	36%	59%	50%
Lewisville	49%	59%	58%
Little Elm	36%	58%	54%
Northwest	42%	64%	62%
Pilot Point	43%	65%	59%
Ponder	42%	67%	62%
Sanger	33%	64%	61%
Denton County	46.1%	69.3%	65.4%

HOMELESSNESS & YOUTH

The Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team in partnership with United Way of Denton County adopted the following comprehensive definition of youth homelessness for Denton County: families with children or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed and likely to continue in that state.

Homeless: Counts of students who are identified as homeless as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434(a), and including the following cases:

- Student lives temporarily doubled-up (sharing residence with a family or individual).
- Student is unsheltered (i.e., lives on the street, lives in cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailers [including FEMA trailers], or abandoned buildings).
- Student lives in motel or hotel.
- Student lives in a shelter, transitional housing.



In the past three school years, the total of students experiencing homelessness in Denton County has increased while the total number of students in foster care has decreased due to the limited availability of foster care in Denton County. *(Texas Education Agency)*

Small ISD - Student Population Experiencing Homelessness

	Argyle	Aubrey	Krum	Lake Dallas	Little Elm	Pilot Point	Ponder	Sanger
2017-18	10	23	15	9	32	52	19	62
2018-19	0	27	0	32	42	47	36	43
2019-20	0	35	7	11	51	35	3	95
2020-21	0	32	19	15	46	37	12	80

N/A (or 0) and ranges (e.g., <10 and <20) indicate counts are not available (i.e., masked) to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Masked numbers are typically small, although larger numbers may be masked to prevent imputation.

Large ISD - Student Population Experiencing Homelessness

	Denton	Lewisville	Northwest
2017-18	611	915	57
2018-19	567	672	61
2019-20	525	678	44
2020-21	481	532	77

*A student is defined as being enrolled in a Texas Public Independent School. (Source: Texas Homeless Education Office)

CHILDCARE

- From March 2020 to September 2021, Denton County-based childcare capacity dropped 24.5%. In September 2021 in Denton County, there were 645 operating childcare centers, of which 373 were in-home providers and 272 childcare centers. Only 420 of those serve infants and toddlers.
- In September 2021 the following Denton County Zip Codes qualify as “childcare deserts”: 76208, 76209, 76258, 75057. These zip codes cover Denton, Corinth, Lewisville, Shady Shores, and Pilot Point.
- Out of all children who fall into the low-income categories only 18% are enrolled in childcare. This feeds the educational equity gap.

Southern Denton County:

As of August 2020, this region had lost 195 child-care centers (permanently or temporarily closed) and 27,080 child-care seats.

This region lost four centers and 450 child-care seats in communities of color (zip codes where two-thirds of residents are Black or Latinx).

Pre-COVID counts / Lost during COVID (% decrease):

- Total providers - 1,058 / 195 (-18%)
- Subsidy providers - 372 / 51 (-14%)
- Quality providers - 51 / 25 (-49%)
- Total capacity - 88,857 / 2,026 (-2%)
- Quality seats - 11,665 / 2,911 (-25%)
- Infant seats - 356 / 166 (-47%)
- Toddler seats - 742 / 335 (-45%)

Sources: TWC data Sept. 2019 and HHSC data March-August 2020.

Eastern Denton County:

As of August 2020, this region had lost 205 child-care centers (permanently or temporarily closed) and 30,484 child-care seats.

The region lost seven centers and 849 child-care seats in communities of color (zip codes where two-thirds of residents are Black or Latinx).

Pre-COVID counts / Lost during COVID (% decrease):

- Total providers - 987 / 205 (-21%)
- Subsidy providers - 306 / 54 (-18%)
- Quality providers - 26 / 14 (-54%)
- Total capacity - 84,729 / 2,026 (-2%)
- Quality seats - 5,643 / 2,017 (-36%)
- Infant seats - 502 / 209 (-42%)
- Toddler seats - 1,041 / 384 (-37%)

Sources: TWC data Sept. 2019 and HHSC data March-August 2020.

Northern Denton County:

As of August 2020, this region had lost 208 child-care centers (permanently or temporarily closed) and 21,312 child-care seats. *(Information from TWC did not include information on communities of color for this area.)*

Pre-COVID counts / Lost during COVID (% decrease):

- Total providers - 1,080 / 208 (-19%)
- Subsidy providers - 448 / 79 (-18%)
- Quality providers - 59 / 29 (-49%)
- Total capacity - 66,555 / 2,026 (-3%)
- Quality seats - 8,932 / 2,551 (-29%)
- Infant seats - 288 / 42 (-15%)
- Toddler seats - 819 / 141 (-17%)

Sources: TWC data Sept. 2019 and HHSC data March-August 2020.

Childcare center capacity can be offset by smaller “in-home” childcare providers although actively supported by the Texas Workforce Commission some local barriers to starting an in-home child-care business include:

- Across Denton County when a special use permit is required the cost could be as high as \$635.
- In addition to the permit, renters must obtain written permission from their landlord.
- Navigating varying city mandates. While the state of Texas permits licensed providers to care for 12 children the city of Lewisville only allows for eight compromising the financial viability of an in-home childcare business.

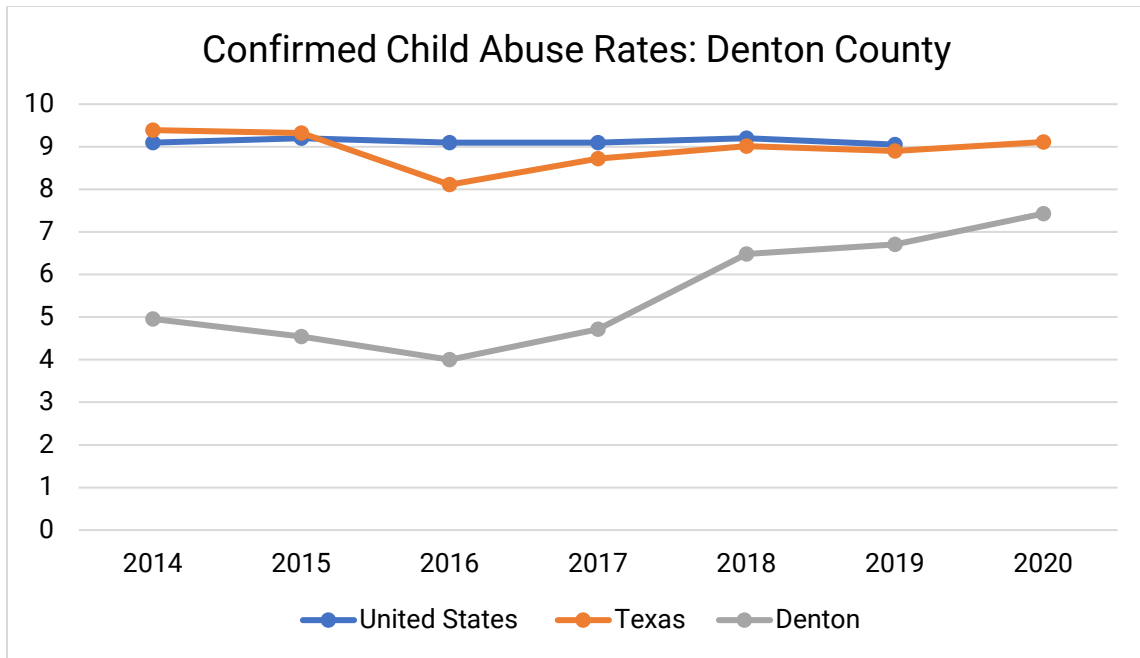
CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

According to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Annual Data Books, the number of Child Protective Services (CPS) intakes assigned for investigation, defined as an abuse allegation that meets the legal definition of child abuse and/or neglect, has *risen* since 2012. The leading type of alleged abuse is neglectful supervision, followed by physical abuse. The number of investigations is consistent but confirmed victims and removals have increased.

Abuse and Neglect Investigation Totals from DPS

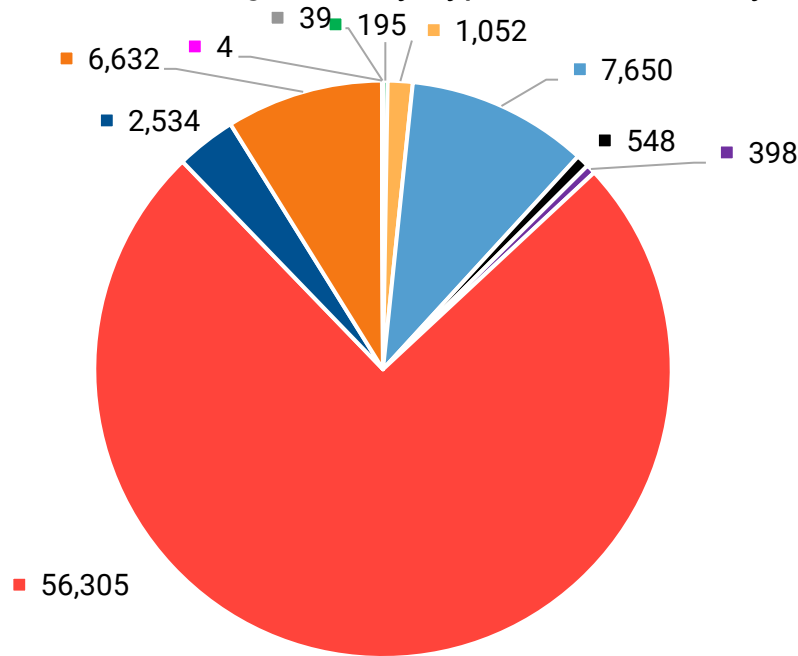
Year	Confirmation	Victims
2016	Confirmed	806
	Not Confirmed	3655
2017	Confirmed	932
	Not Confirmed	3837
2018	Confirmed	1337
	Not Confirmed	4113
2019	Confirmed	1398
	Not Confirmed	3456
2020	Confirmed	1568
	Not Confirmed	3567

(Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Data Books, 2016-2020)



(Department of Family and Protective Services, 2020 Data Book, [http:// www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data Book](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data Book))

Confirmed Allegations by Type: Denton County



- Abandonment
- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Physical Neglect
- Labour and Trafficking
- Medical Neglect
- Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibilities
- Neglectful Supervision
- Sexual Abuse
- Sex Trafficking

(Department of Family and Protective Services, 2020 Data Book, [http:// www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data Book](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data Book))

- In 2020, 18.8% of confirmed victims led to removal which was consistent with our five-county peers (Tarrant County was the lowest at 10.4 and Parker County was the highest at 20.5)
- In 2020, removal types for Denton County were largely Neglect (80%), Sexual Abuse (8%), Physical Abuse (8%), and Emotional Abuse (2%). The removal types vary largely across our five-county peers.

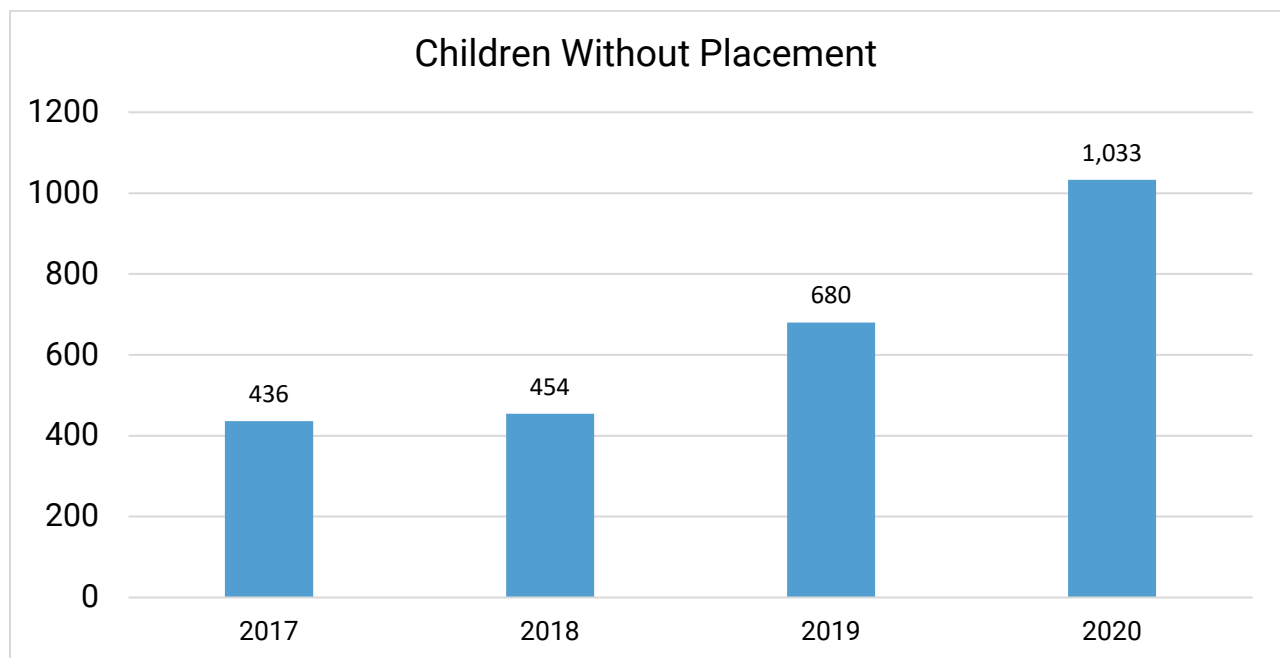
The Children's Advocacy Center for North Texas (CACNT) is a leading agency in seeking justice and providing support for victims of child abuse and their families. They provided this snapshot of what their front-line professionals are seeing:

Denton County	2019	2020	2021 (through 11/30/2021)
# Of Statewide Intakes (SWI) (Reports made to CPS Hotline	6,544	6,157	7,270
# That met Advocacy Center Criteria (Intakes That a criminal Component	1,564	1,613	1,926
% Of Investigation That Had a Positive Outcry of Abuse	59	28	64
Mental Health Sessions Conducted at the CAC	6,677	8,367	7,077
Mental Health Sessions Clients Conducted at the CAC	492	545	542
Crisis/Suicide Assessment	54	107	151
Allegation- Type	2019	2020	2021
Adult Sexual Assault	6	15	19
Child Physical Abuse/Neglect	643	834	884
Child Pornography	73	122	147
Child Sexual Abuse	2,090	2,751	3,637
Domestic or Family Violence	126	179	102
Child Sex Trafficking	62	49	25
Survivors of Homicide Victims	1	2	9
Marginalized Population (Identified at Intake)	2019	2020	2021
Deaf/Hard of hearing	15	19	30
LGBTQ	9	6	18
Victims with Disabilities	269	393	363
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	366	410	474

Children's Advocacy Center for North Texas. (2020)

FOSTER CARE

- Nearly seven out of ten foster care students are placed outside of Denton County due to a lack of placement options. Placement options have continued to reduce after the COVID-19 era. *(Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2021)*
- As of September 2021, there were 277 children in foster/adoptive care in Denton County and only 15 adoptive homes available within the county. *(Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2021)*
- As of September 2021, there were 2,714 foster homes in the North Texas area but just 313 foster homes in Denton County, according to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.



The number of children without placements began to increase toward the end of 2020 and into 2021.
(Department of Family and Protective Services)

Children in Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) custody are those for whom a court has appointed DFPS legal responsibility through temporary or permanent managing conservatorship or other court ordered legal basis. These children may be residing in substitute care or living with a parent, referred to as a return and monitor. DFPS legal responsibility terminates when a court orders DFPS custody ended or a youth turns 18, whichever comes first.

	Children in Foster Care	Children in Substitute Care	Children Waiting for adoption
2016	229	401	81
2017	222	399	63
2018	288	546	83
2019	348	621	82
2020	319	519	116

(Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Data Books, 2016-2020)

Substitute care - all children who are living in a DFPS out-of-home placement. It does not include children in DFPS custody who are living with a parent on a return and monitor. Unless otherwise noted, it does include youth over 18 who are in extended foster care but are not in DFPS custody.

Foster care - a subset of substitute care that includes all children living in a placement that has been verified to provide 24-hour residential care for a child, in accordance with Chapter 42 of the Human Resources Code and related regulations. These placements include foster homes, including kinship care where the caregiver has been verified, general residential operations (GRO), emergency shelters, residential treatment centers (RTC), and juvenile facilities.

Children waiting for adoption - An adoptive placement occurs when the child's caseworker, the family's case manager, and the adoptive family sign paperwork officially placing the child in the home for adoption. Before the paperwork can be signed, a child must be free for adoption (meaning a court has terminated parental rights), have a permanency goal of adoption and the family must have been approved for adoption through a licensed child-placing agency.

	Children in DFPS Responsibility
2016	687
2017	744
2018	867
2019	1064
2020	1010

(Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Data Books, 2016-2020)

This chart includes any child in DFPS custody at some point during the year. Children may be duplicated in the count if they were in and out of DFPS custody more than once during the fiscal year.

Foster Care in Education

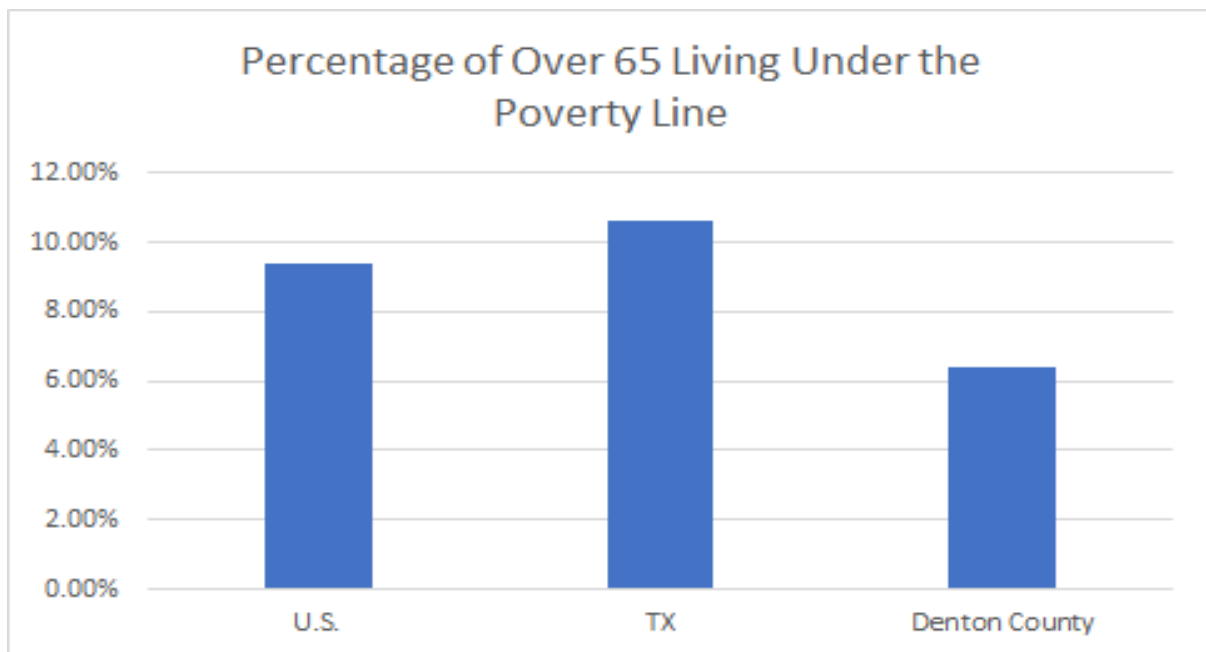
	Argyle	Aubrey	Krum	Lake Dallas	Little Elm	Pilot Point	Ponder	Sanger
2015-16	0	9	6	10	0	0	7	14
2016-17	0	12	0	7	12	0	0	15
2017-18	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	13
2018-19	0	0	0	11	13	0	0	14
2019-20	12	8	8	18	32	4	2	8

N/A (or 0) and ranges (e.g., <10 and <20) indicate counts are not available (i.e., masked) to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Masked numbers are typically small, although larger numbers may be masked to prevent imputation.

	Denton	Lewisville	Northwest
2015-16	103	28	28
2016-17	118	29	49
2017-18	123	37	44
2018-19	155	40	52
2019-20	156	64	47

SENIORS

- According to the 2020 census, there are approximately 82,137 adults over the age of 65 in Denton County. (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/dentoncountytexas>)
- Population breakdowns released by the census show residents aged 65 and older increased by 99.5% between 2010 and 2019.
- While Denton County's total population grew to 887,207 residents, a more than 33% increase, the senior population went from making up 7% of the county's population in 2010 to 10.5% in 2020. This trend is projected to continue as the Baby Boomer generation continues to age.
- Almost 12% of Texans – 3.65 million people – are 65 and older and the number is growing. By 2050, that figure for Denton County is expected to increase to almost 168.07% (185,904). An increasing number of seniors will likely mean an increase in the demand for services such as health care, home care, personal care, and long-term care.
- In the U.S. 9.4% of those over 65 are under the poverty line. In Texas, it is 10.6% and in Denton County, it is 6.4%.

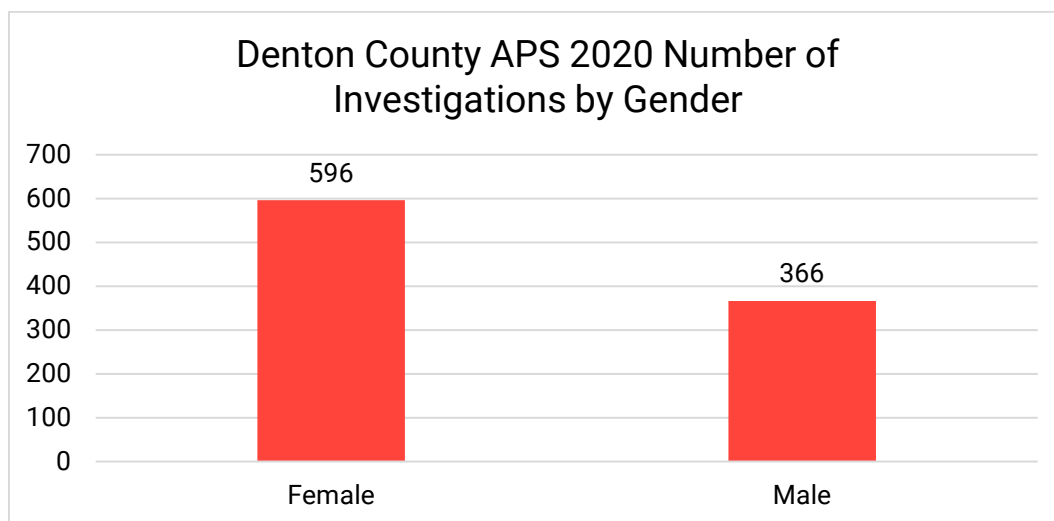


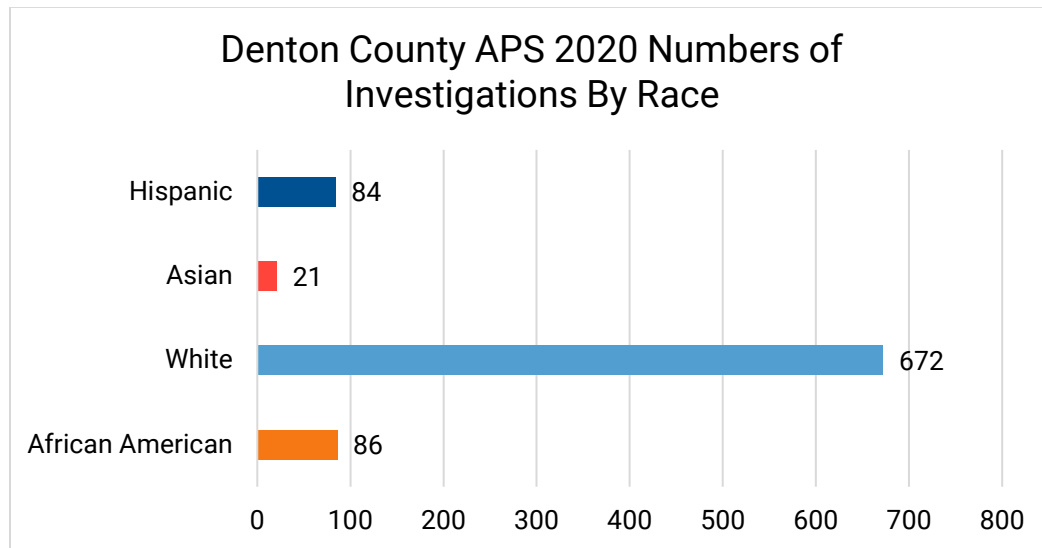
- Many seniors prefer to age in place, staying in their own homes. In fact, the cost of living in an institution is about 1/3 higher than accessing community-based care. (*Area Agency on Aging, North Central Texas*)
- 70% of older adults have limited health literacy and are at risk of being misinformed about community resources or scammed.
- Nearly two-thirds of older Texans are overweight or obese which increases the impact of chronic illnesses and the projected per-person cost of chronic disease in 2030 will be \$8,600 annually in the current trend continues.
- 23% of Texans over 65 report a diagnosis of depression and 13% report an anxiety or panic disorder. As many as 60% of nursing home residents have psychiatric diagnoses.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Adult Protective Services (APS) “protects the elderly and adults with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by investigating and providing or arranging for services necessary to alleviate or prevent further maltreatment.” (*Texas Department of Family & Protective Services 2020 Data Book*)

In Denton County for 2020, there were 1,423 intakes which resulted in 962 investigations. The most common reasons for investigations were physical abuse and emotional/verbal abuse.





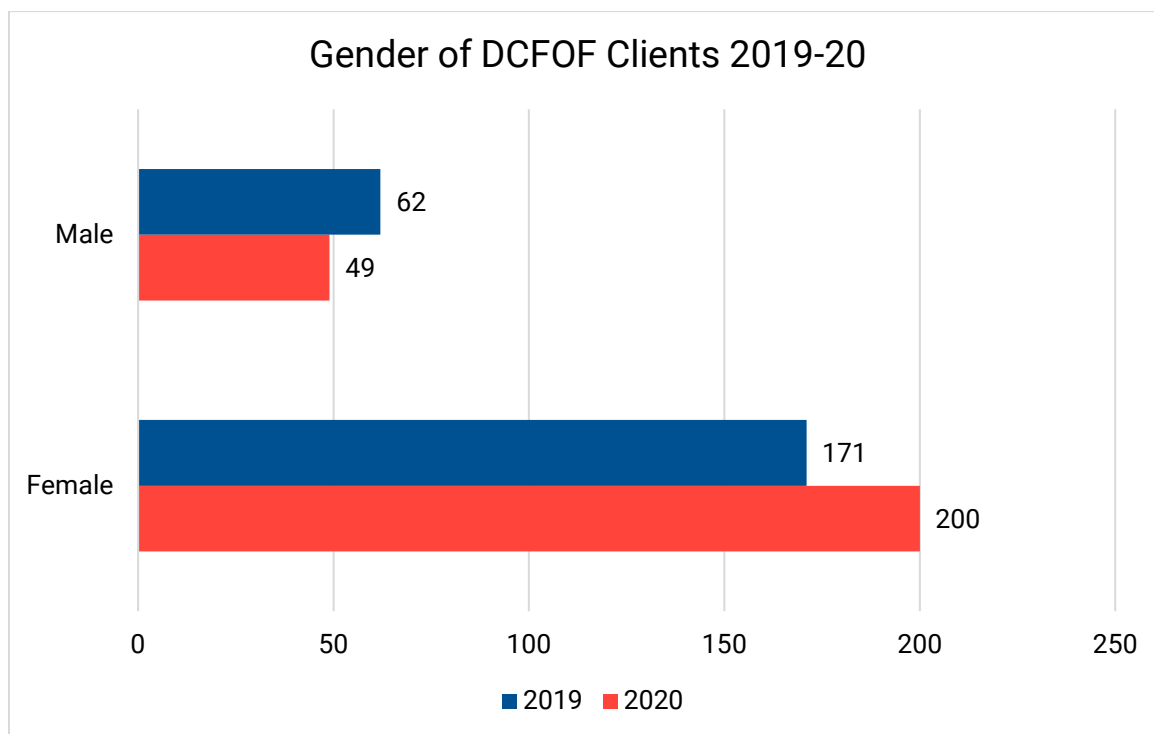
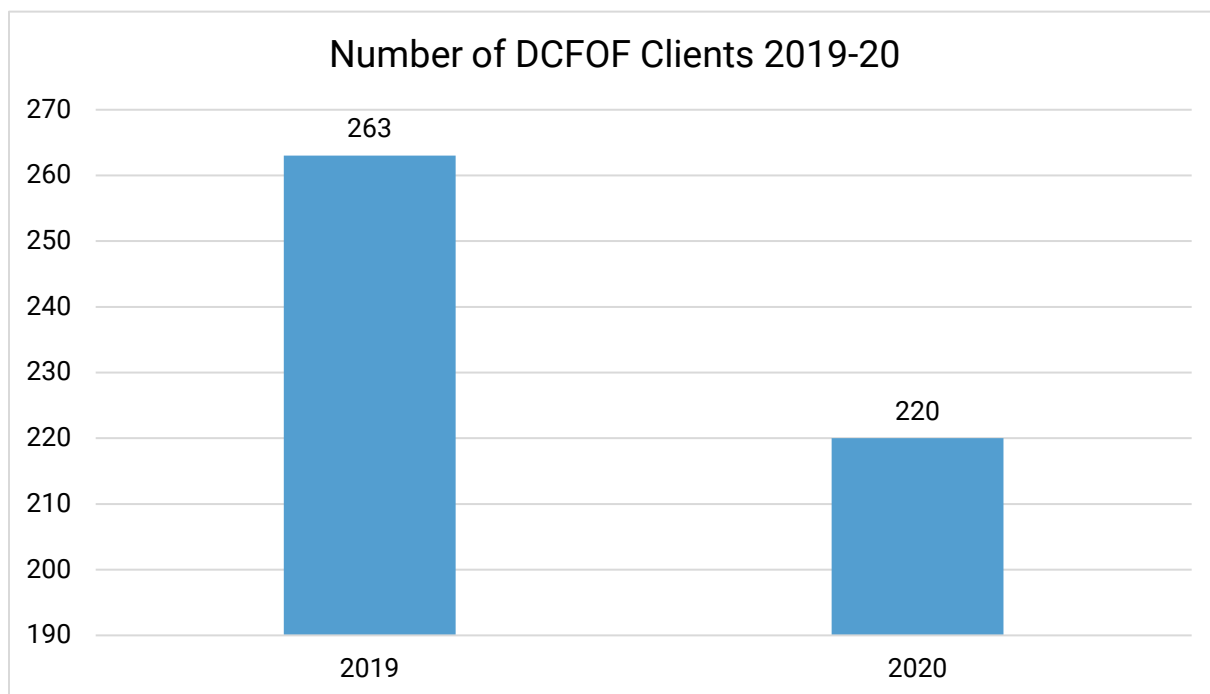
DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE

Denton County Friends of the Family (DCFOF) is a Denton County nonprofit that provides emergency shelter services for survivors of relationship violence and sexual assault.

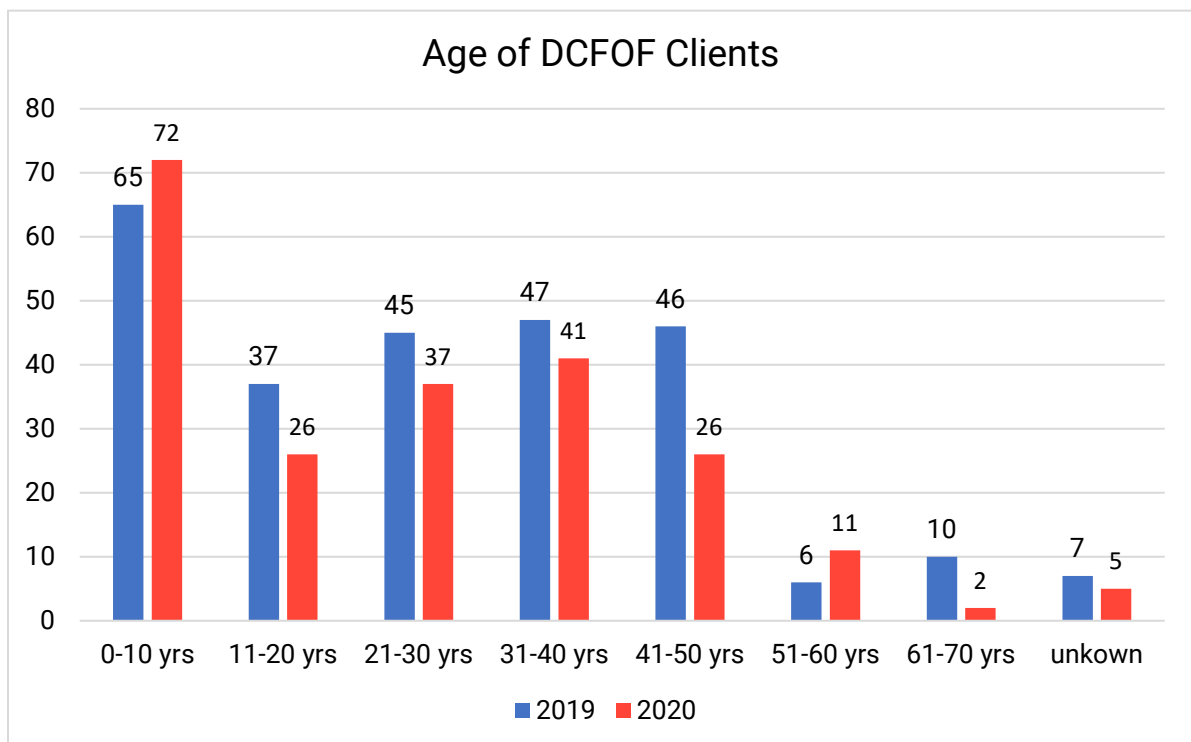
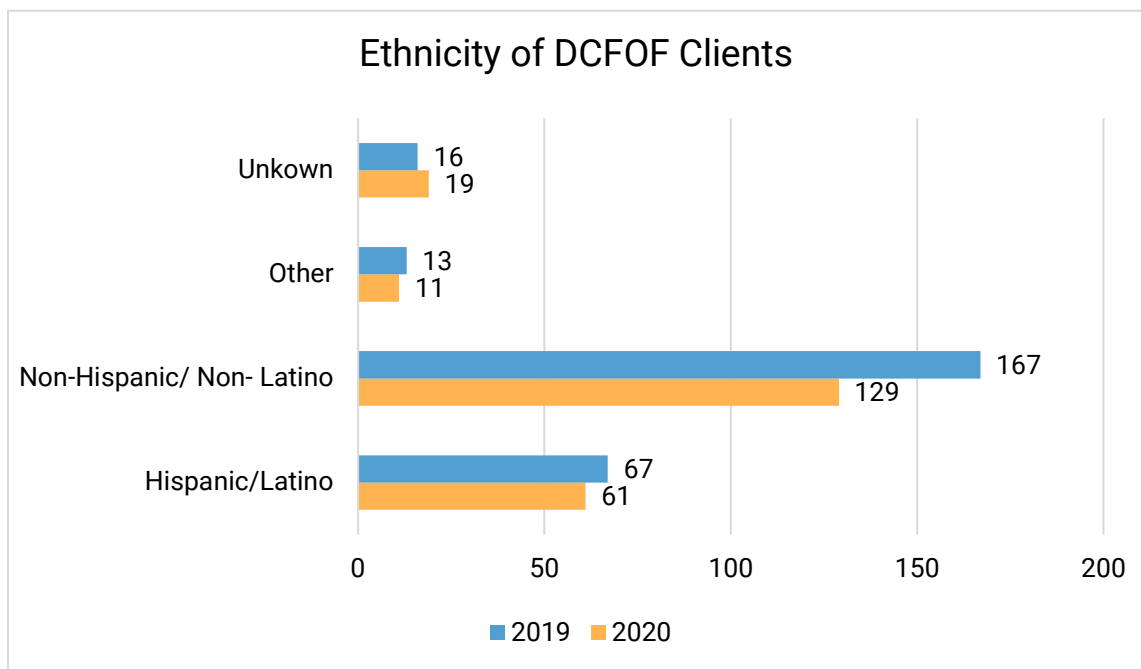
From 2019-20, DCFOF served a median of 241.5 clients per year in emergency shelters. In 2020, there was a 16% reduction in shelter clients served because of physical distancing protocols in response to the COVID-19 pandemic era.

- In 2019-20 females accessed emergency shelter services at a higher rate than any other gender.
- In 2019-20, white clients utilized emergency services at a higher rate than any other race, followed by clients identifying as black.
- In 2019 residing with family members was the highest known exit destination of clients after leaving DCFOF shelter services. In 2020 the highest reported exit destination was clients moving into their own rental with no ongoing housing subsidy.
- City of Denton residents accessed emergency shelter services more than residents from any other city in 2019-20, followed by clients from Lewisville.

Number of Clients Receiving Denton County Friends of the Family Emergency Shelter Services:



Race of DCFOF Clients								
	White	Black	Other	Multi-Racial	Asian	Native American	Unknown	Pacific Islander
2019	131	63	13	36	9	0	10	1
2020	75	82	19	28	11	0	5	0



TRANSPORTATION

Based on community listening sessions, access to reliable transportation continues to be a major issue within Denton County for poverty households and ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households.

The City of Denton's population is expected to increase in size by nearly 150% by 2040, while significant growth is anticipated in other cities as well, notably Frisco, with high population growth projected in the smaller cities of Sanger and Pilot Point. Although public transportation serves a wide range of markets, certain groups are transit-dependent because they have fewer transportation options than other groups.

The North Central Texas County of Governments' (NCTCOG's) Travel Demand Model estimates that **most individuals who live in Denton County work outside of the county, with only 37% of Denton County residents working in the county.** This points to the importance of providing transportation links from Denton County to major employment destinations, primarily in Dallas County, but also in Tarrant County. About 2.8 million trips are made each day in Denton County. Of these, about one-quarter are home-based work trips. By 2030, NCTCOG estimates that total trips will increase to more than 4.7 million. Based on the travel demand data, the highest growth in trip generation is expected to come from the area in southeast Denton County around The Colony. Areas in and around the Alliance development are also expected to see large increases in travel demand.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

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ALICE

ASSET-LIMITED INCOME-CONSTRAINED EMPLOYED

ALICE, a United Way acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, comprises households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but less than the basic cost of living for the state, defined as the ALICE Household Survival Threshold.

ALICE households earn too much to qualify as “poor” but are still unable to make ends meet because their earned income does not reach the stability, or breakeven, costs for their household. They often work as cashiers, nursing assistants, childcare workers, office clerks, servers, laborers, and security guards but as housing, childcare, and transportation costs continue to rise across Denton County they also are professionals previously not considered financially insecure. These types of jobs are vital to keeping Texas’ economy running smoothly, but they do not provide adequate wages to cover the basics of housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and technology for these ALICE workers and their families.

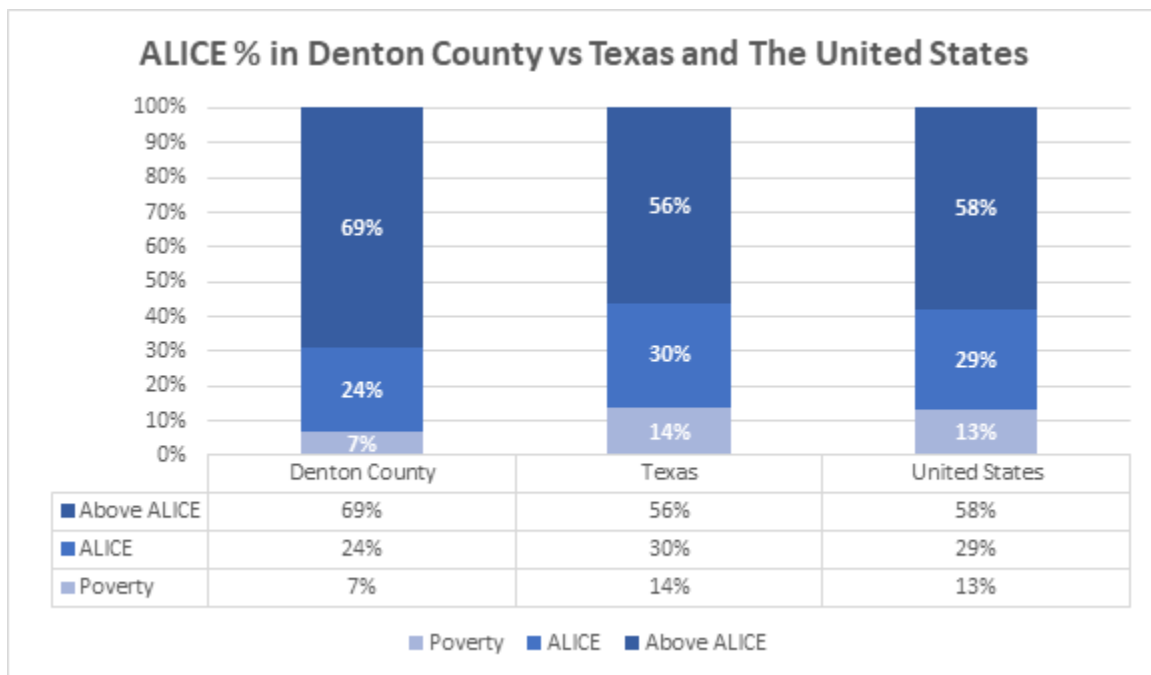
KEY FINDINGS

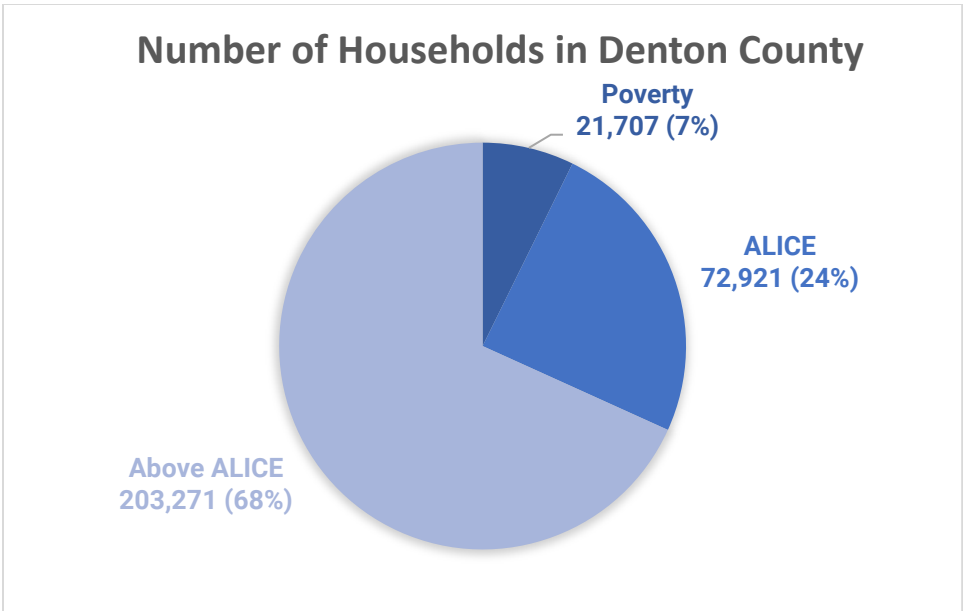
- With Poverty and ALICE households combined, nearly 100,000 Denton County households live below the Survival Wage, approximately one in three Denton County households.
- Though the percentage of households in poverty is staying approximately the same, the number of ALICE households is increasing.
- In Denton County, the City of Denton has the most households below the ALICE Threshold, closely followed by Carrollton, then Lewisville.
- Almost 40% of all households over the age of 65 are ALICE.
- Single female-headed households have the highest poverty and ALICE rate in Denton County at over 56%.
- Over 50% of Black and Hispanic households are ALICE/poverty combined (nearly double the percentage of White and Asian households).

ALICE SURVIVAL WAGE VS. LIVING WAGE

Both **ALICE Survival Wage** and **Living Wage** are methods of determining how much a household must earn to meet basic needs and not fall into poverty. They have slightly different methodologies, but both can provide valuable information in determining income gaps and challenges. ALICE and poverty households combined most accurately reflect Denton County's most financially vulnerable households.

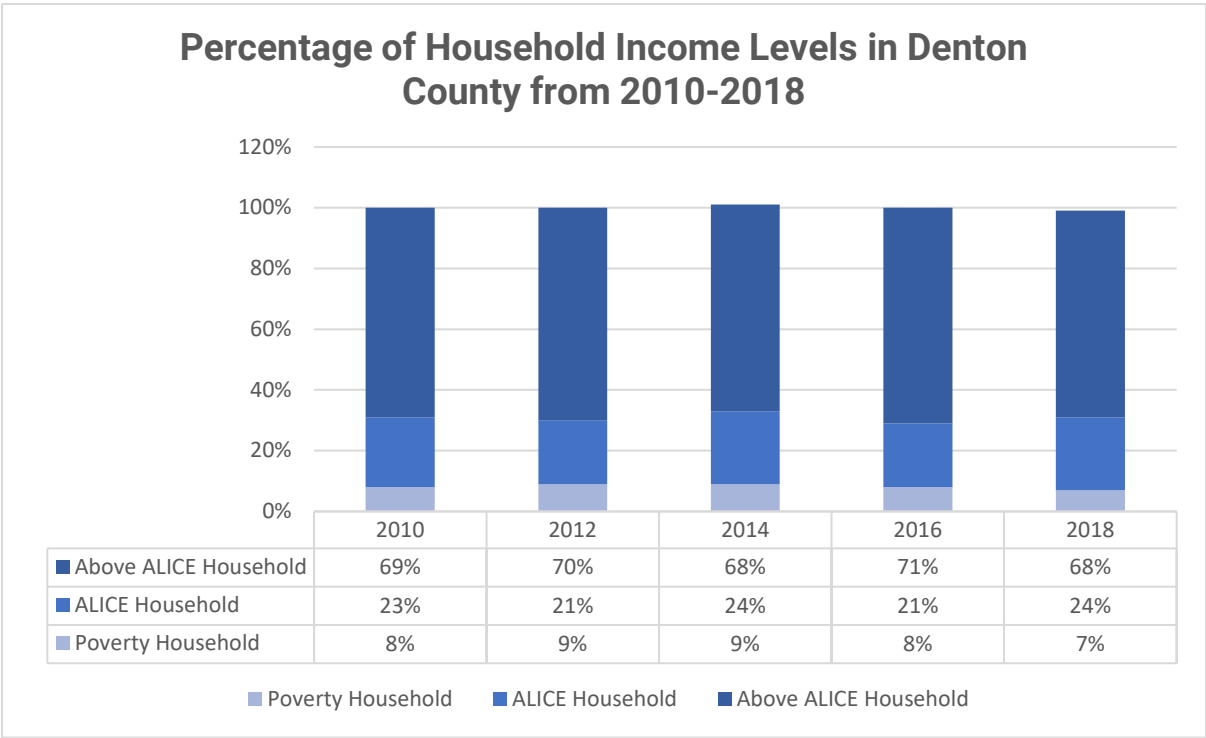
WHO IS ALICE IN DENTON COUNTY?

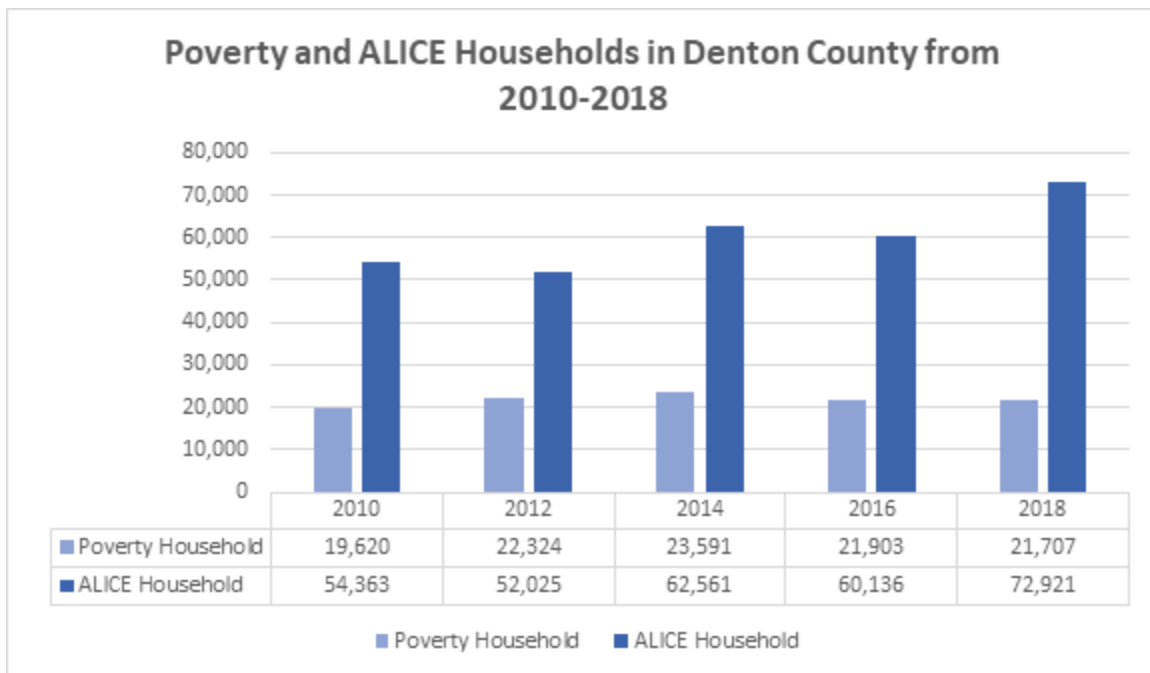




(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)

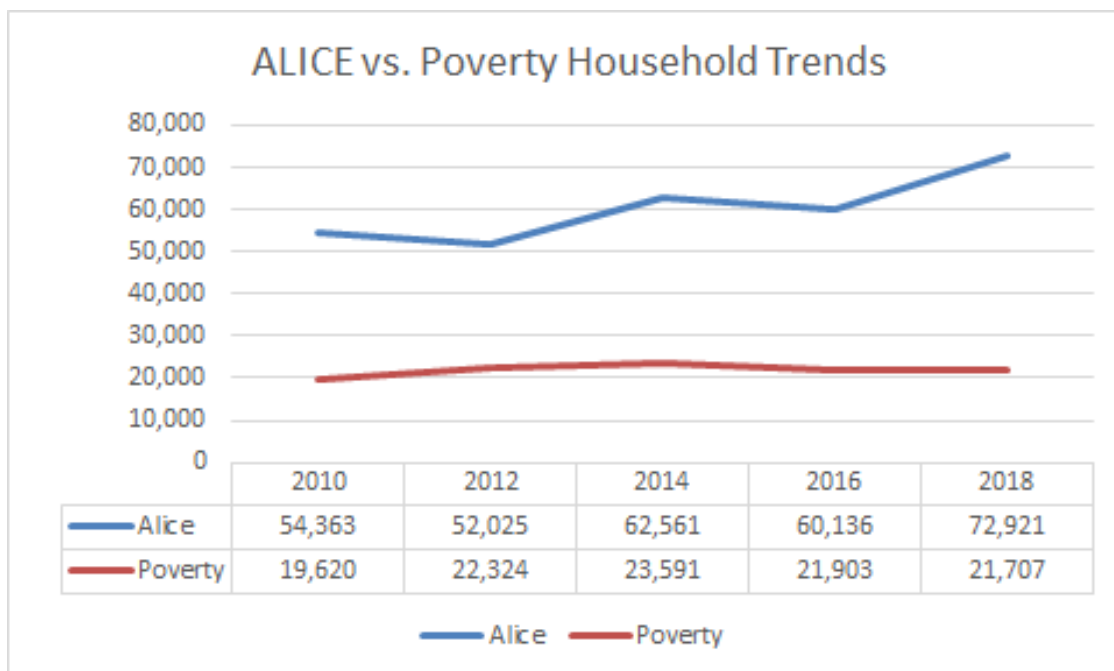
- With Poverty and ALICE households combined, nearly 100,000 Denton County households live below the Survival Threshold.



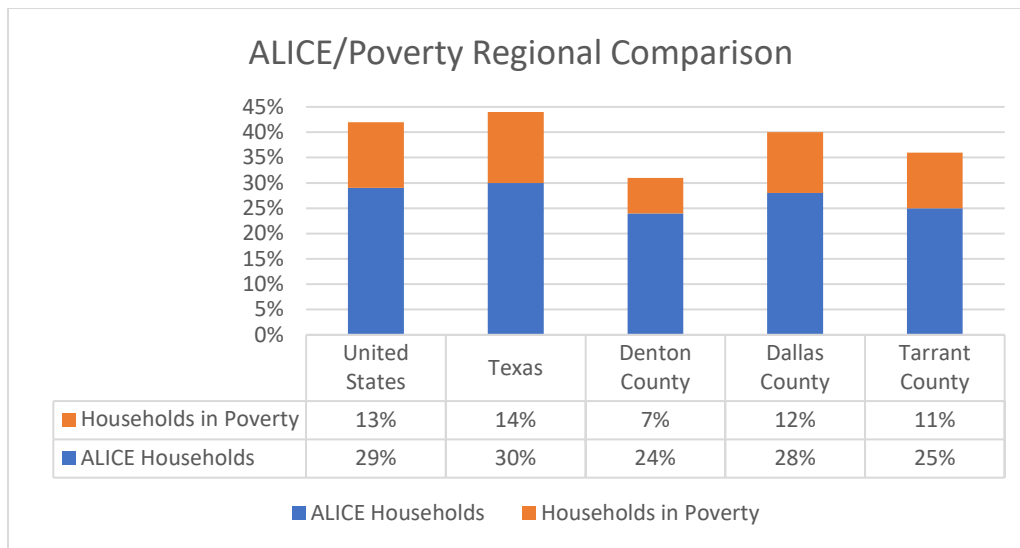


(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)

- Poverty households remained relatively flat from 2010 to 2018; however, households falling below ALICE Survival Threshold increased from 2010 to 2018 even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic era and the 2022 post-pandemic inflation era.



(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)



(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)

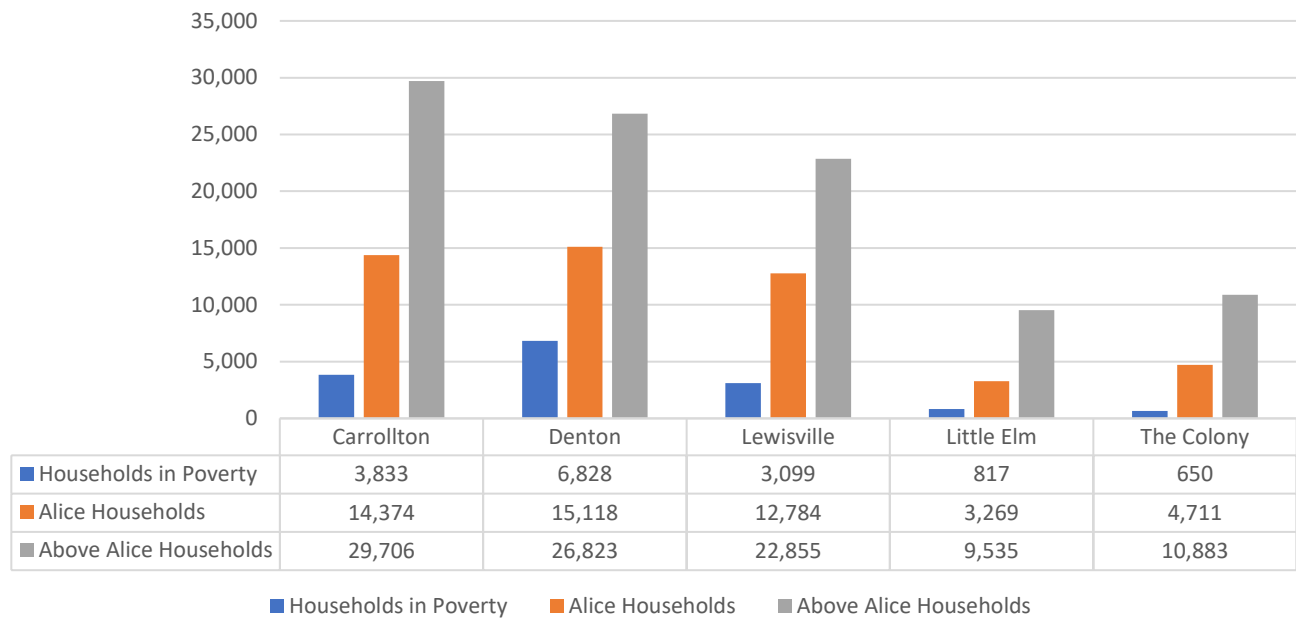
Cities where ALICE and Poverty Households exceed 30% of the Population

Cities	Total Households	% Poverty	% ALICE
Aubrey	1,202	4%	39%
Carrollton	47,913	8%	30%
Denton	48,769	14%	31%
Lake Dallas	2,843	12%	31%
Lewisville	38,738	8%	33%
Little Elm	13,622	6%	24%
North Lake	951	5%	34%
Oak Point	1,435	7%	23%
Pilot Point	1,736	8%	49%
Ponder	638	4%	33%
Roanoke	2,683	5%	28%
Sanger	2,784	7%	39%
The Colony	16,244	4%	29%

(Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2007-2018; American Community Survey, 2007-2018)

*Note: Some cities include portions that are not in Denton County.)

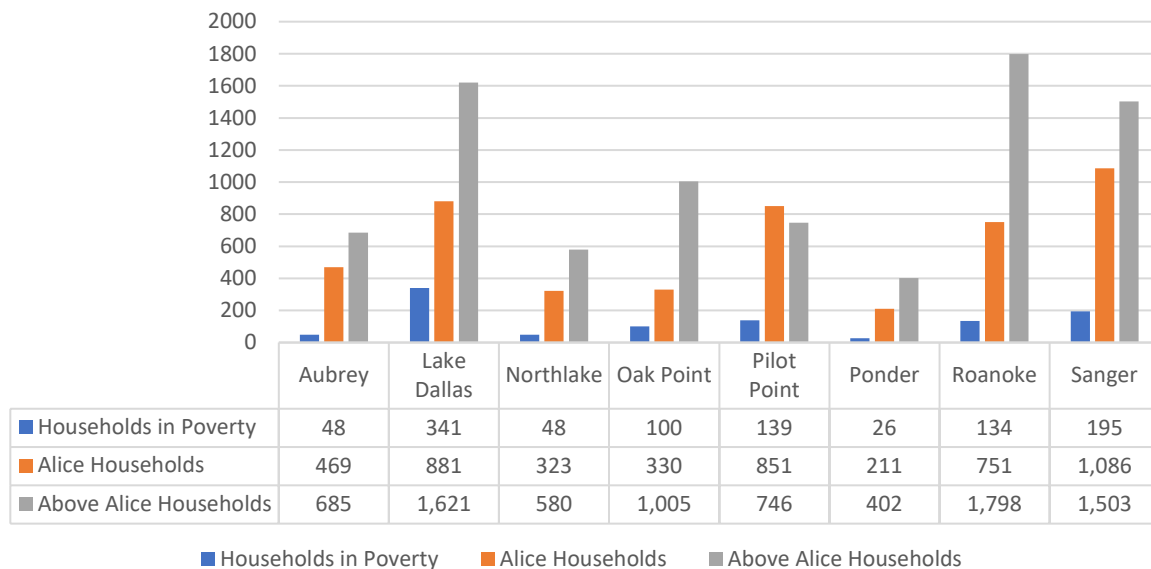
Large Denton County Cities with ALICE & Poverty Rates 30% and Above



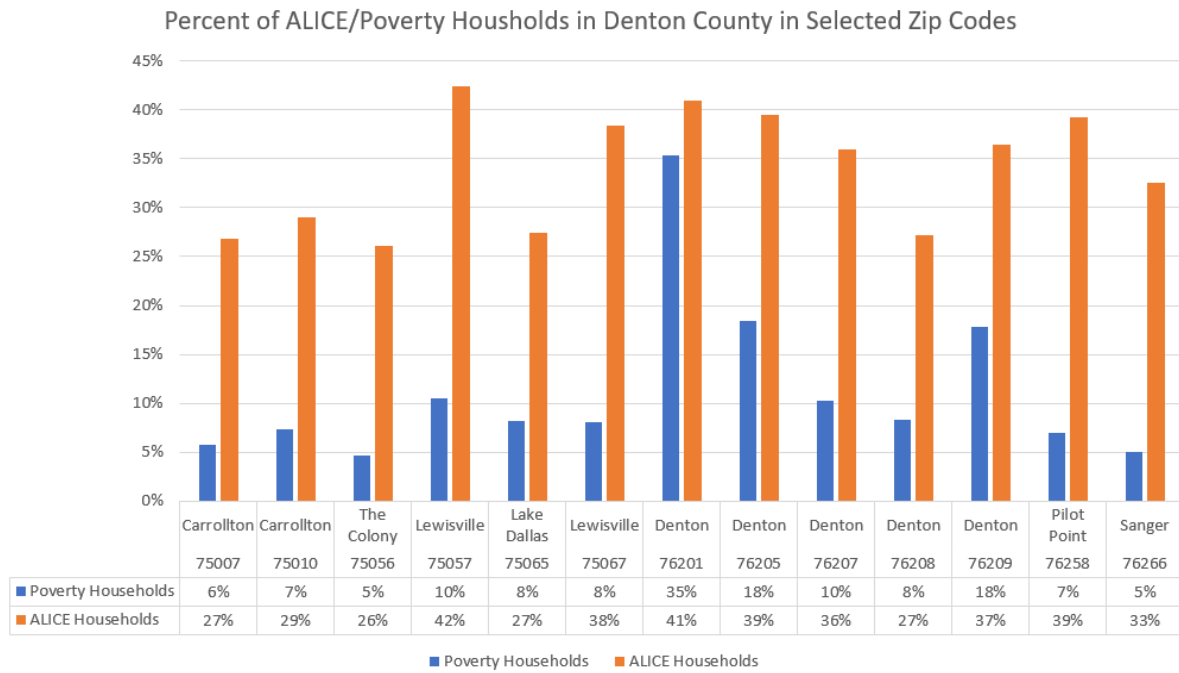
(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)

- In Denton County, the City of Denton has the most households below the ALICE Survival Threshold with over 22,029 ALICE households.

Smaller Cities with ALICE & Poverty Rates 30% and Above



(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)

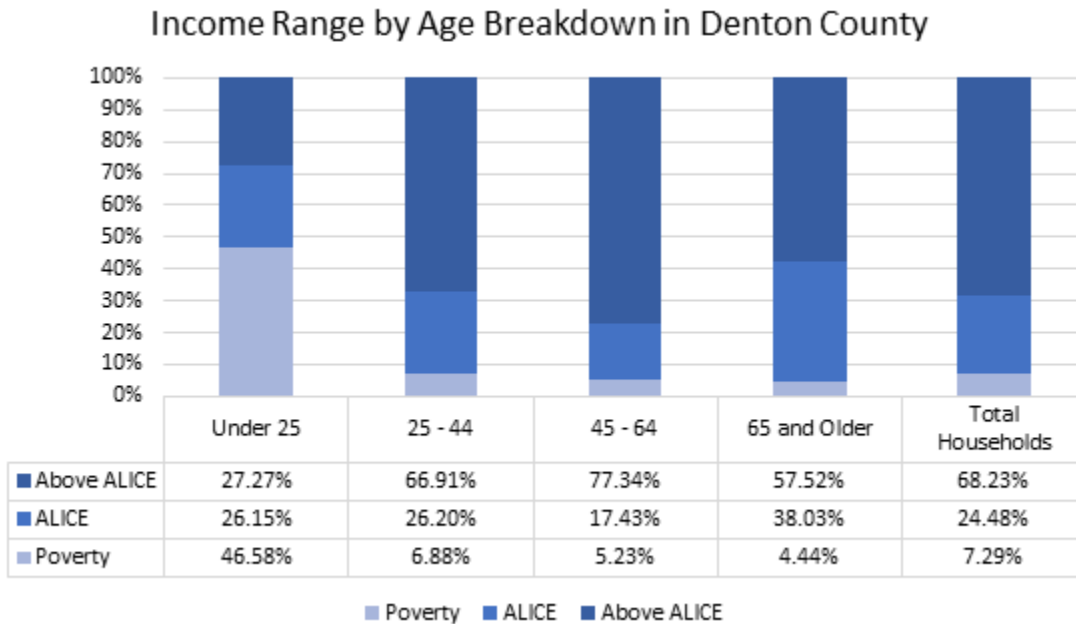


(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)

In 2008, 13 Denton County zip codes exceed the Denton County ALICE population average of 24%. *(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)*

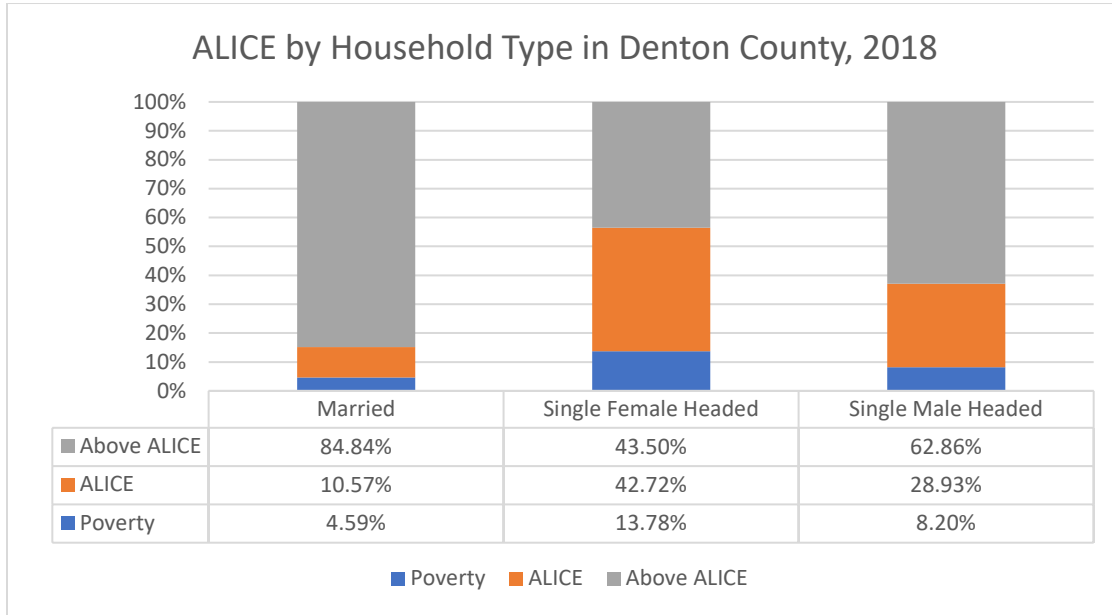
ALICE BY AGE

- 38% of all Denton County households 65 years and older are ALICE households.
- The second highest percentage of ALICE are households age 25-44 at 26.2%.



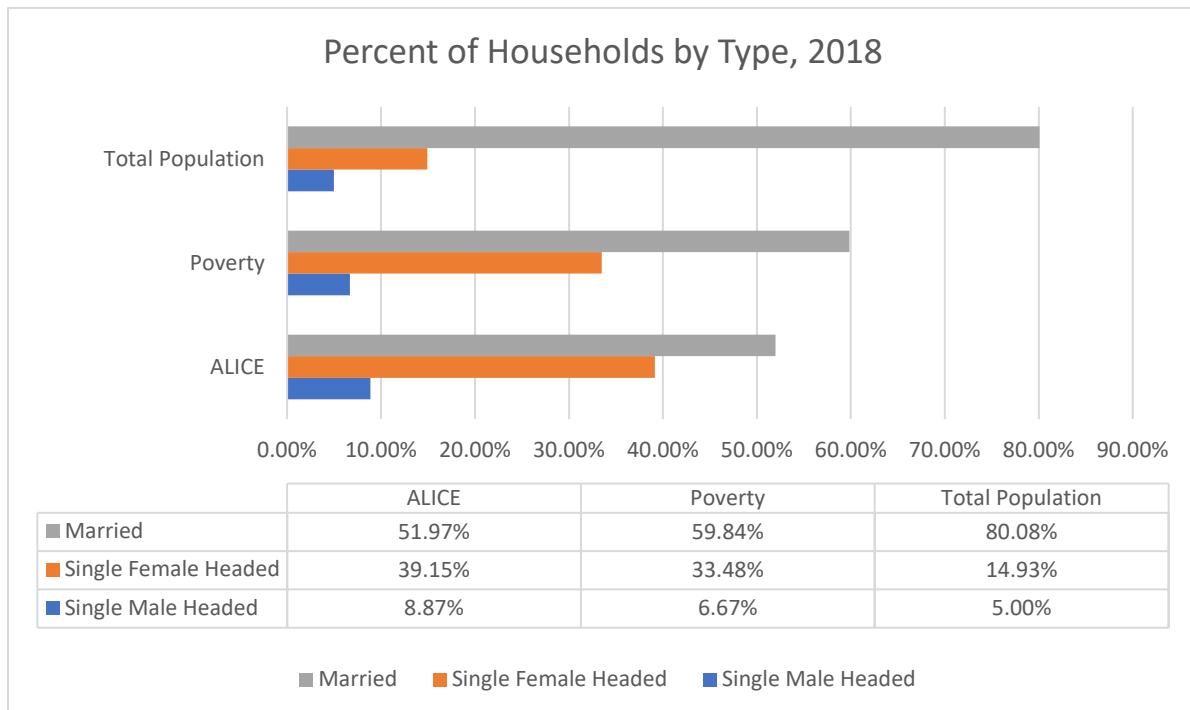
In 2008 in Denton County, the youngest and the oldest age groups have the highest percentage of ALICE households and poverty households. Over **70% of all households under 25** are ALICE households and poverty households. Over **40% of households 65 or over** are ALICE households and poverty households. (ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)

ALICE BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE



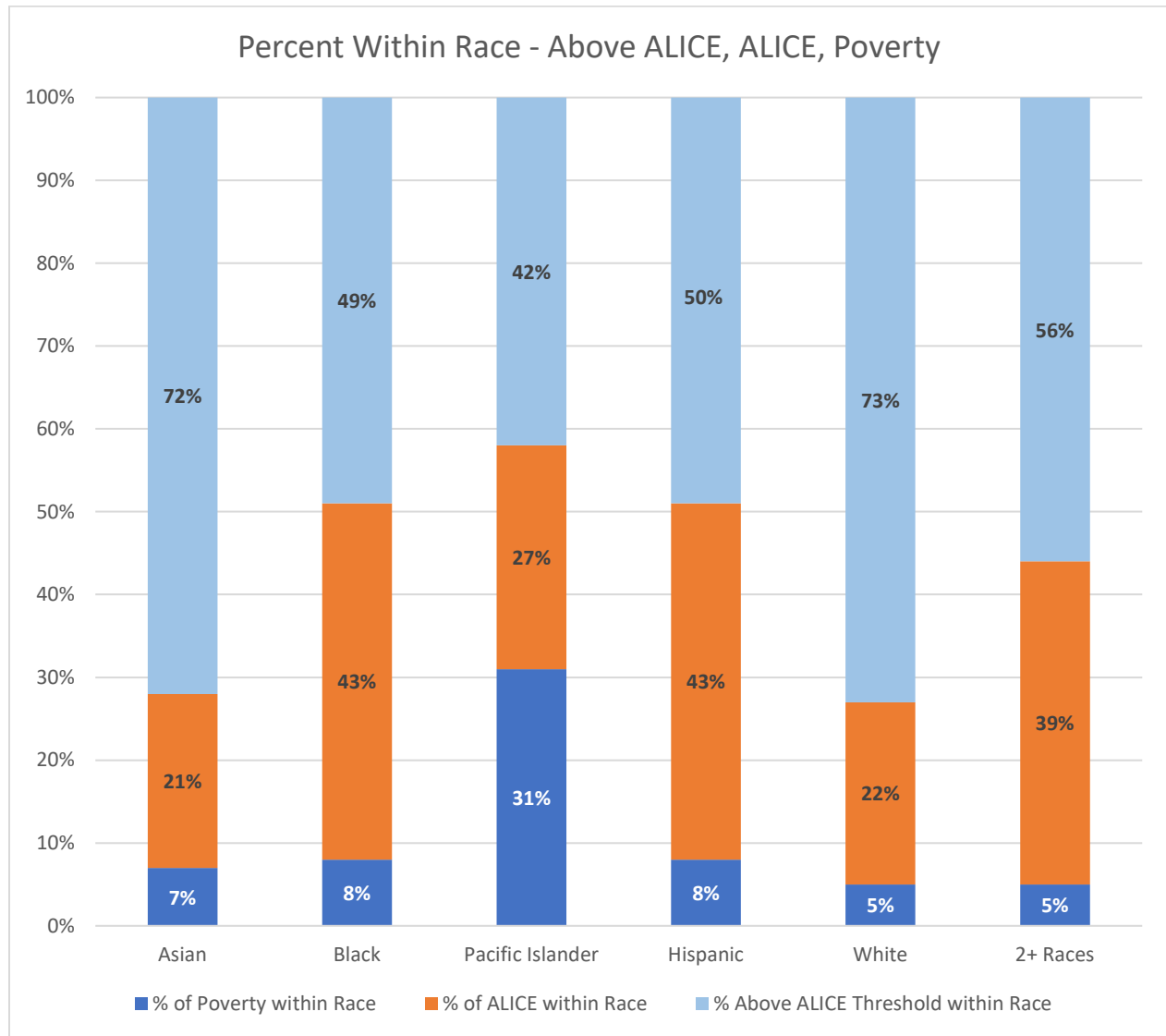
ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018

- Single female-headed households have the highest poverty and ALICE rate in Denton County at over 56%.

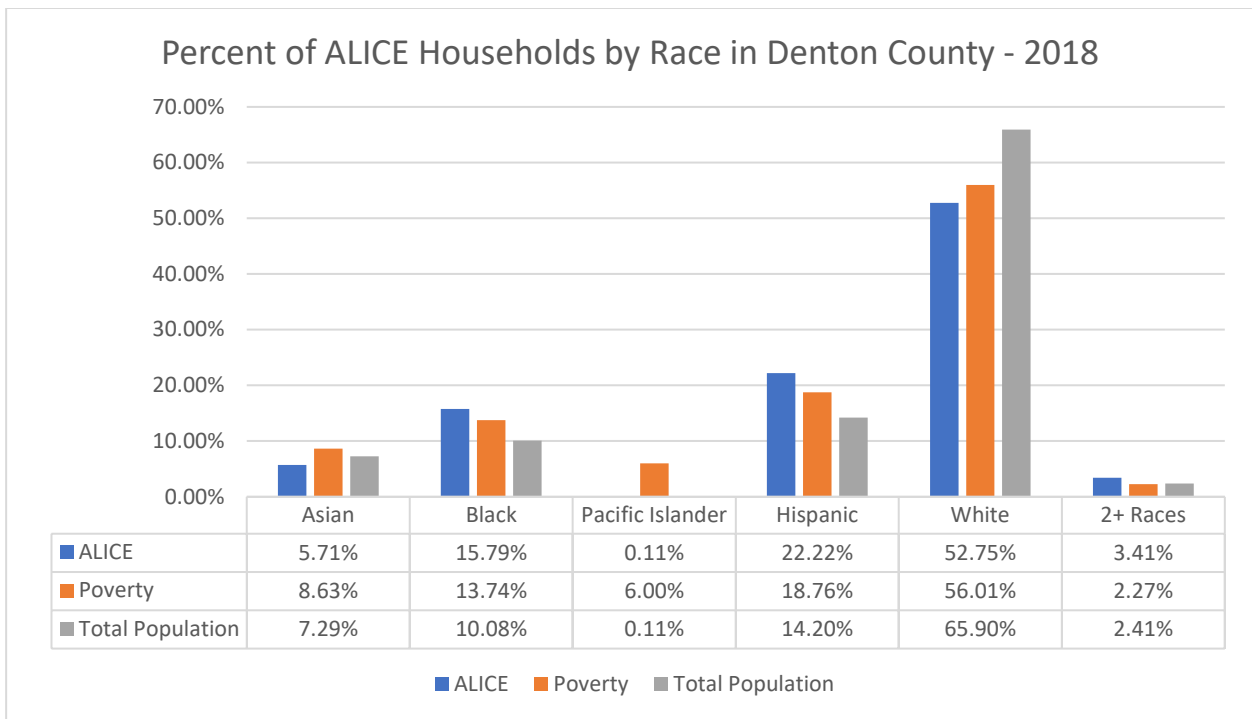


ALICE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Over 50% of Black and Hispanic households are ALICE households and poverty households combined. While both races have similar poverty-level households, their ALICE household percentage is nearly double those of White and Asian households. Households with two or more races also have a high percentage increase in ALICE households compared to White and Asian households.

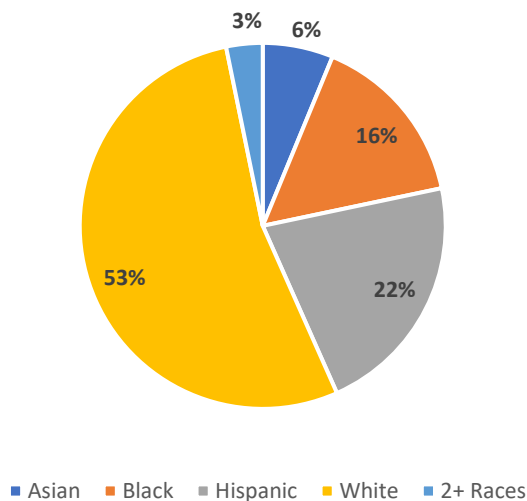


(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)

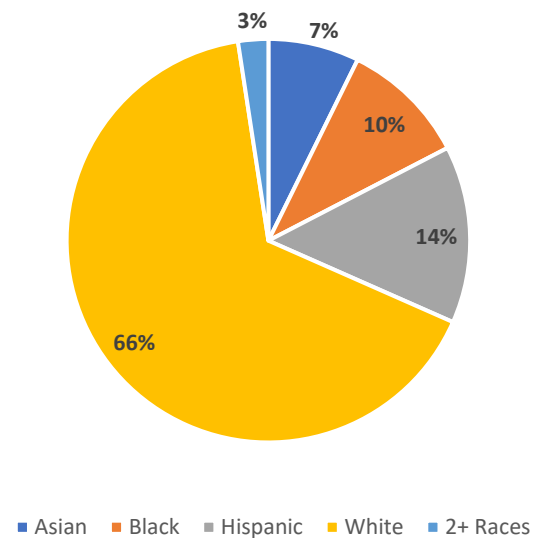


(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)

Percent of Households Below ALICE Wage by Race in Denton County - 2018

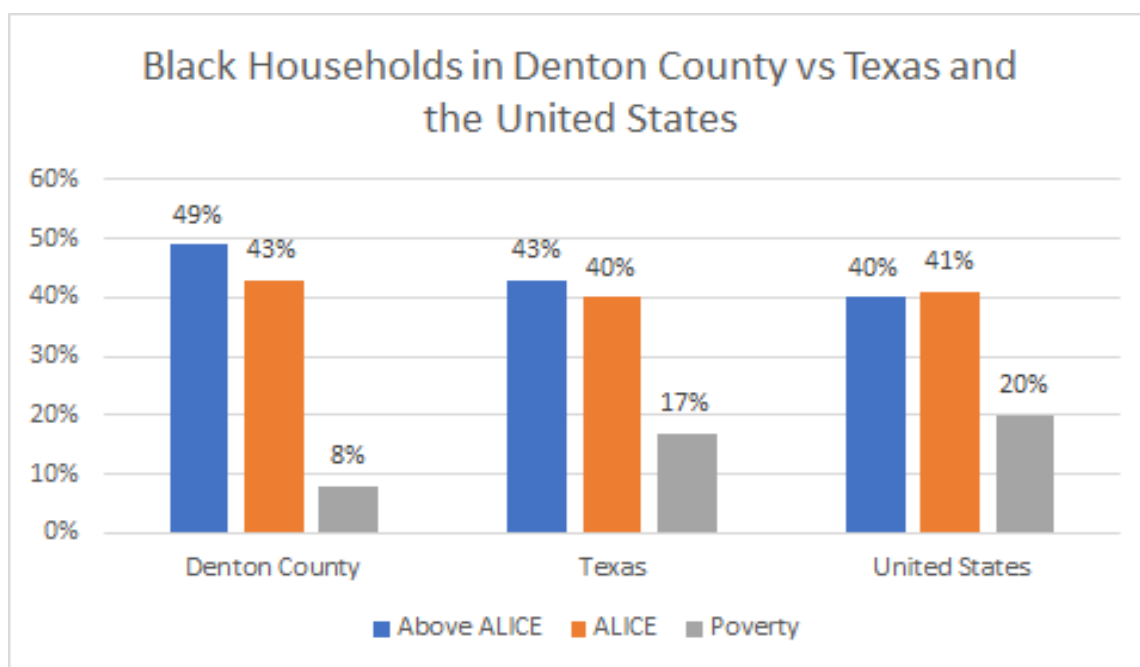


Percent of Total Population by Race in Denton County - 2018

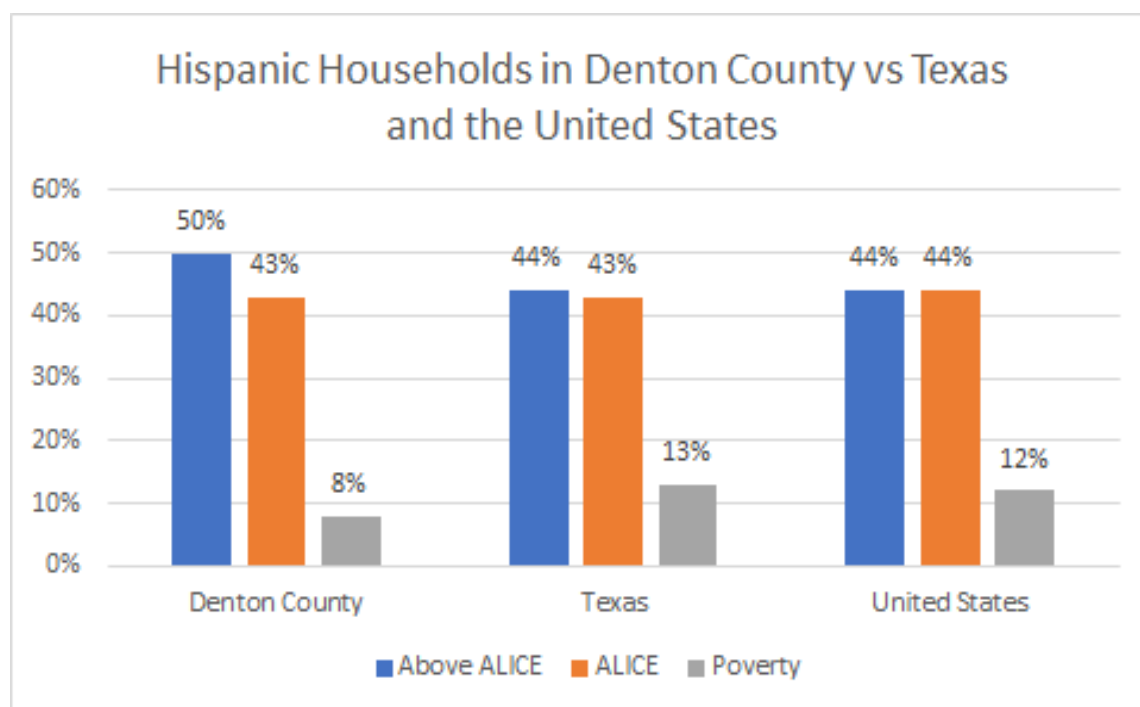


(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)

There are more White ALICE households (53%) than all other races combined in Denton County. To put that statistic in context, over 65% of all households in Denton County are White.



(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)



(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)

ALICE SURVIVAL BUDGET

Why Do So Many Households Struggle? Simply put, the cost of household basics outpaces wages.

The Household Survival Budget reflects the bare minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy and includes housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, technology (a smartphone plan), and taxes. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college or retirement. In 2018, household costs were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$12,140 for a single adult and \$25,100 for a family of four.

ALICE SURVIVAL BUDGET BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

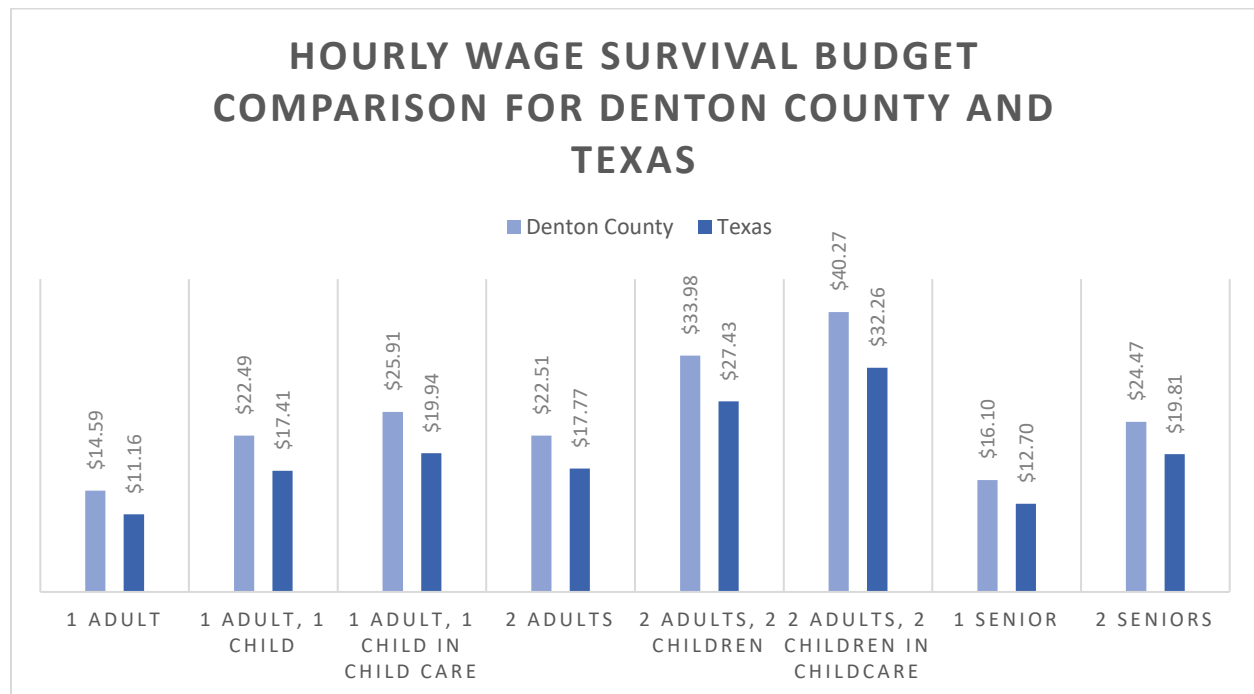
	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Single Senior
Housing	\$1,008	\$1,212	\$1,212	\$1,008
Child Care	\$0	\$234	\$721	\$0
Food	\$270	\$466	\$390	\$230
Transportation	\$358	\$516	\$516	\$312
Health Care	\$194	\$544	\$544	\$509
Technology	\$55	\$55	\$55	\$55
Miscellaneous	\$221	\$341	\$393	\$244
Taxes	\$325	\$381	\$487	\$325
Monthly Total	\$2,431	\$3,749	\$4,318	\$2,683
Annual Total	\$29,172	\$44,988	\$51,816	\$32,196
Hourly Wage	\$14.59	\$22.49	\$25.91	\$16.10

ALICE SURVIVAL BUDGET BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE (CONT.)

	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Two Seniors
Housing	\$1,212	\$1,487	\$1,487	\$1,212
Child Care	\$0	\$468	\$1,345	\$0
Food	\$561	\$937	\$818	\$478
Transportation	\$530	\$826	\$826	\$438
Health Care	\$544	\$809	\$809	\$1,017
Technology	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$341	\$515	\$610	\$371
Taxes	\$488	\$546	\$742	\$488
Monthly Total	\$3,751	\$5,663	\$6,712	\$4,079
Annual Total	\$45,012	\$67,956	\$80,544	\$48,948
Hourly Wage	\$22.51	\$33.98	\$40.27	\$24.47

Sources: ALICE Household Survival Budget, 2018; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics, 2018

For more information on the availability of affordable housing, please refer to the Housing & Income Report.

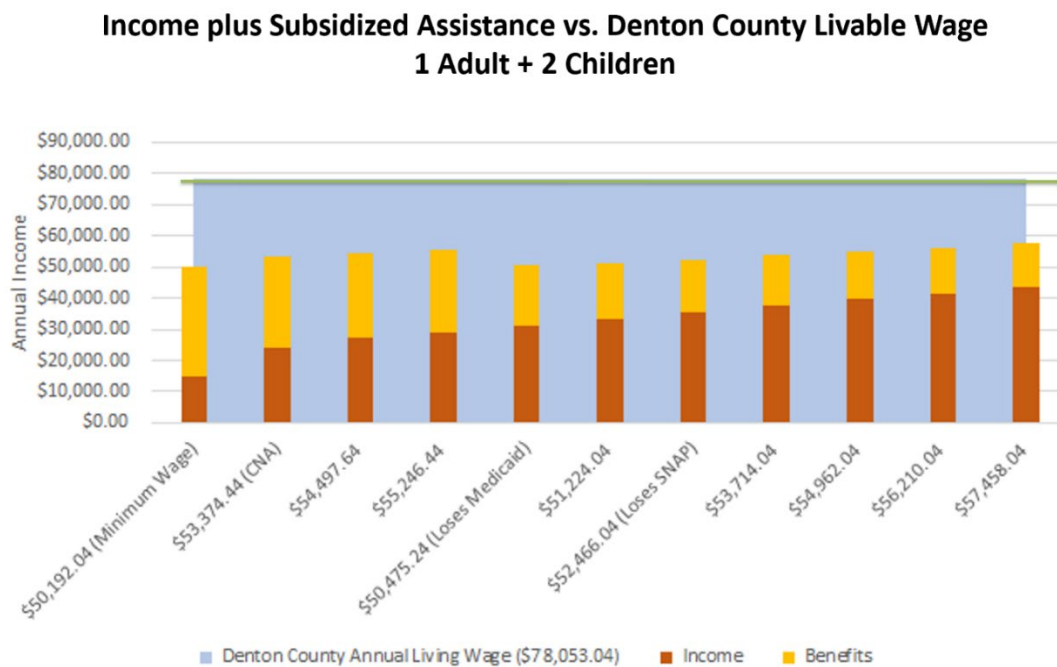


(ALICE Threshold 2018; American Community Survey, 2018)

ALICE & POVERTY INCOME – EARNED AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The chart below shows wage income and eligible public assistance that ALICE and poverty households may secure for areas such as health insurance, Medicaid for Children/CHIP, housing vouchers, Earned Income Tax Credits, SNAP, WIC, free PreK, and other local supports).

As ALICE and poverty household wage income increases, certain public assistance decreases at a rate that tethers them at the same approximate total household income level for years. This creates a benefits plateau or cliff and results in additional challenges for households striving to achieve a higher level of financial stability.



(<https://unitedforalicetx.org/cliff-dashboard>)

ALICE AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ERA

- The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that ALICE households are financially vulnerable to income disruption. (*21ALICENationalCOVIDReport.pdf* at unitedforalice.org/covid2019)

ALICE WORKERS ARE MORE VULNERABLE

The pandemic created two groups of ALICE workers: those deemed essential and continued working, typically on-site; and those considered non-essential, who worked far fewer hours or not at all.

Essential ALICE workers continued to keep our infrastructure running and took care of COVID-19 patients and others needing health care.

- Some employers stepped up to provide “hero’s pay,” but even \$2 per hour more did not bring most ALICE workers financial stability.
- Even essential ALICE workers still struggle paycheck to paycheck.

For many **non-essential ALICE workers**, the economic slowdown severely reduced employment.

- The industries where ALICE works – food service, leisure, hospitality, tourism – were hit the hardest.
- ALICE is more likely to work in small businesses, which on average offer lower wages and fewer benefits, and were hit hardest by the pandemic: The number of small businesses open in the U.S. decreased by 19.1% between January and August 2020.
- Black and Hispanic ALICE workers faced even higher rates of unemployment.
- With less access to the internet and computers, ALICE workers had more difficulty working from home.

BLACK ALICE HOUSEHOLDS ARE AT GREATER RISK:

- Black people contracted COVID-19 at higher rates and died at higher rates than their White counterparts.
- Black households are more likely to face financial hardship: 60% of Black households are unable to afford basic household essentials in their communities – nearly double the rate of White households.
- Black families remain disproportionately likely to live in substandard housing in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty – those with few grocery stores, banks, parks, or recreation facilities, with inadequate health care services and under-resourced public schools, and with high levels of violence and exposure to environmental hazards.

ALICE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN FACE ADDITIONAL HARDSHIPS:

- Almost one in four families with children in the U.S. have income below the ALICE Threshold. They are especially vulnerable to the disruptions that accompany child care, school, and university closures.
- More than one-quarter of households below the ALICE Threshold did not have adequate internet access, compromising participation in e-learning.
- Parents who needed to work could not stay at home with their children, leading to health and safety issues for unsupervised children or jeopardizing the parent's ability to work.
- ALICE families lost access to other supports, such as free or reduced-price breakfasts and lunches provided at school.

ALICE SENIORS FACE GREATER RISKS:

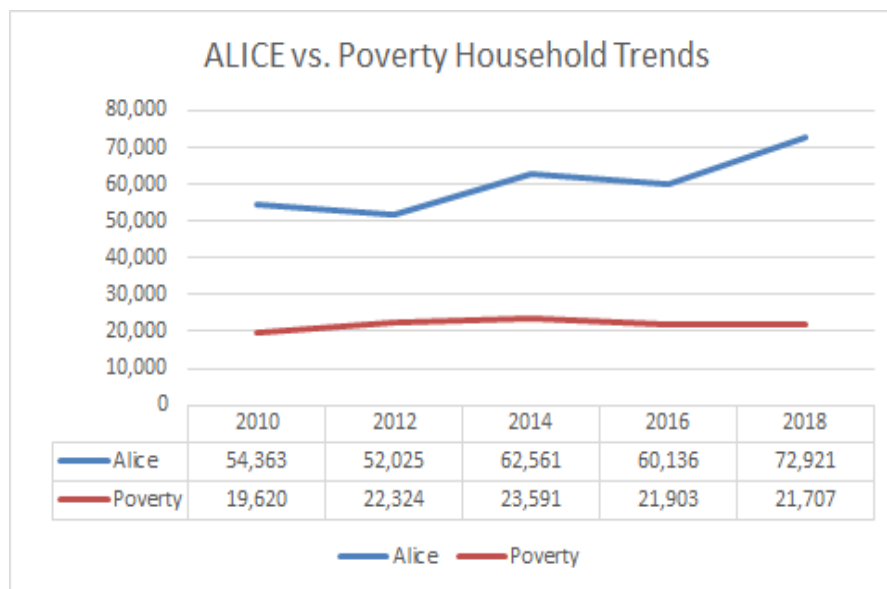
- People over the age of 60 are the age group most susceptible to serious illness from COVID-19. Half of seniors in the U.S. have income below the ALICE Threshold; they have no extra income and little or no savings to cover extra health care costs.
- More than 20% of U.S. coronavirus deaths are linked to nursing homes, which puts both ALICE seniors and ALICE health care workers at higher risk (<https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/over-200000-residents-and-staff-in-long-term-care-facilities-have-died-from-covid-19/>)
- ALICE seniors are at higher risk of loneliness and isolation, and as the pandemic lingered, they also risked declining nutrition and health as social distancing limited trips to the grocery store and preventative care visits
- When senior centers closed, ALICE seniors and their families were forced to navigate additional burdens, such as taking on caregiving responsibilities and adapting to the loss of supports like hot meals and social activity

For more information on ALICE, please visit: www.UnitedForALICETX.org.

HOUSING & INCOME

This section focuses on measurements of employment, income, food, emergency services, and housing relying on data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Internal Revenue Service as well as from state and local sources. As well as the lack of access to affordable housing and a household's ability to earn a wage that provides financial stability. These areas pose significant barriers to success for poverty households and ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households in Denton County.

KEY FINDINGS



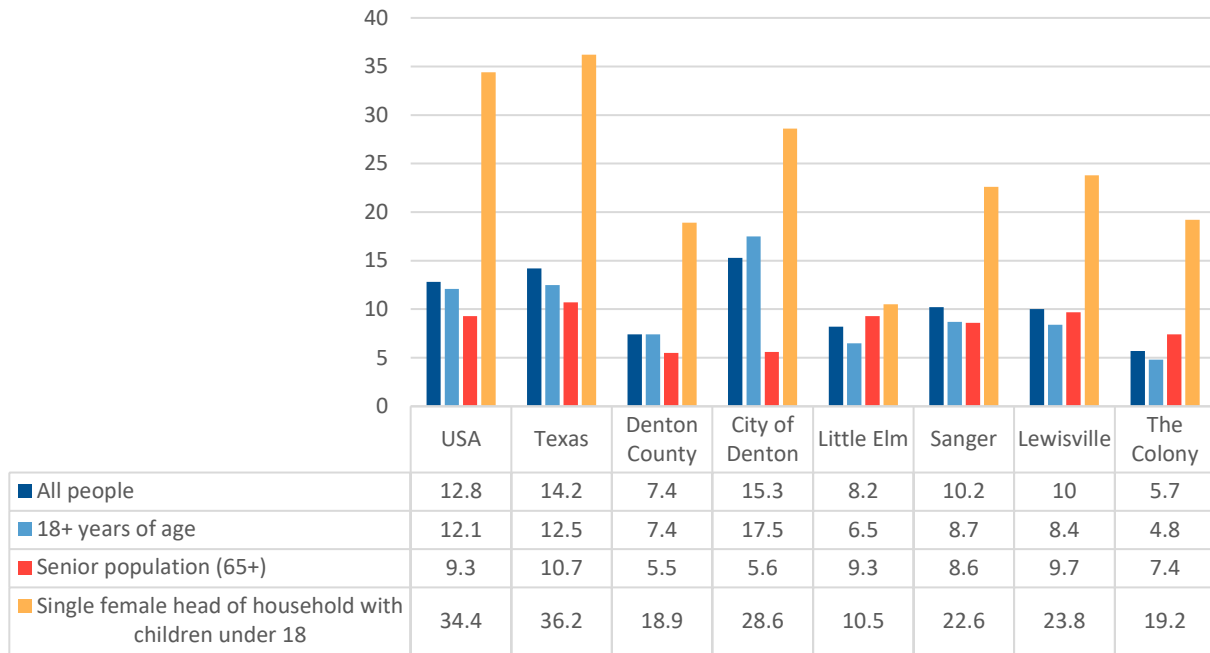
- With poverty and ALICE households combined, **nearly 100,000 Denton County households earn below the Survival Threshold. Essentially, one in three Denton County households earns below the Survival Threshold** and experiences day-to-day financial instability. Combining households in poverty and ALICE households provides the most accurate measurement of all financially fragile Denton County individuals and families. This translates to critical unmet gaps in housing insecurity and food insecurity due to under-employment stemming from a lack of adequate workforce skills.

- The **ALICE Survival Wage** for a family of four with two adults (both working for a total of \$27.43/hour) and two children (not including childcare costs) is \$54,852. With childcare included the adults must earn at least \$32.26/hour for a total of \$64,512 annually. (*More information on the ALICE Survival Wage and how this is different from the Living Wage is provided in the ALICE Report.*)

A comprehensive look at the needs and challenges of Denton County's ALICE (Asset-Limited Income-Constrained Employed) population can be found in the **ALICE Report section of the Community Needs Assessment**.

- The **Living Wage** for a family of four with two adults and two children (amount varies by family size), is \$62,691 or \$15.07/hour. To achieve the Living Wage at minimum wage, both adults would be required to hold two full-time jobs each (4,323 hours per year each) (*Living Wage Calculator, 2019*).
- Overall, families with **single female heads of household**, with children less than 18 years of age, have the **highest poverty rates**, at least double that of all other family types in several locations. (*U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2020 5-year American Community Survey*)
- Apart from the single female household, the higher poverty percentages come from Denton, Lewisville, and Sanger. (*P15. Family Type By Presence Of Own Children Under 18 Years By Age Of Own Children [20] - Summary File 3 (SF3) - Census 2020, n.d.*)

Poverty Rates by Household Demographics



- The City of Denton has a poverty rate of 15.3%, exceeding the rate of other communities in Denton County along with the national average (12.8%) and state average (14.2%). Single female head of household with children under 18 households experience poverty in Denton County at higher rates than all other households. (*U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2020 5-year American Community Survey*)
- Only one in three eligible individuals in Denton County received the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits (below the state average), indicating two-thirds of the eligible population needs assistance applying for this benefit. (*Texas Department of State Health Services, 2018*)
- The Denton County Annual Point In Time Homelessness Census for 2022 recorded 448 homeless individuals in Denton County on January 27, 2022. (*Denton County Homeless Coalition, 2022 Point-In-Time Homeless Count*) The Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team's Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard reported 612 actively homeless persons in Denton County including 44 Veterans, 196 chronically homeless persons and 23 persons fleeing domestic violence. (<https://www.unitedwaydenton.org/homelessness-data-denton-county>)

- The Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard reported at 54% increase in persons experiencing homelessness from January 2020 (397 persons) to January 2022 (612 persons) following the COVID-19 pandemic era. (<https://www.unitedwaydenton.org/homelessness-data-denton-county>)
- The leading self-reported cause of homelessness in 2020 was Family/Personal Issues followed by inability to pay rent and unemployment. (*Denton County Homeless Coalition, 2020 Point-In-Time Homeless Count*)

LABOR & UNEMPLOYMENT

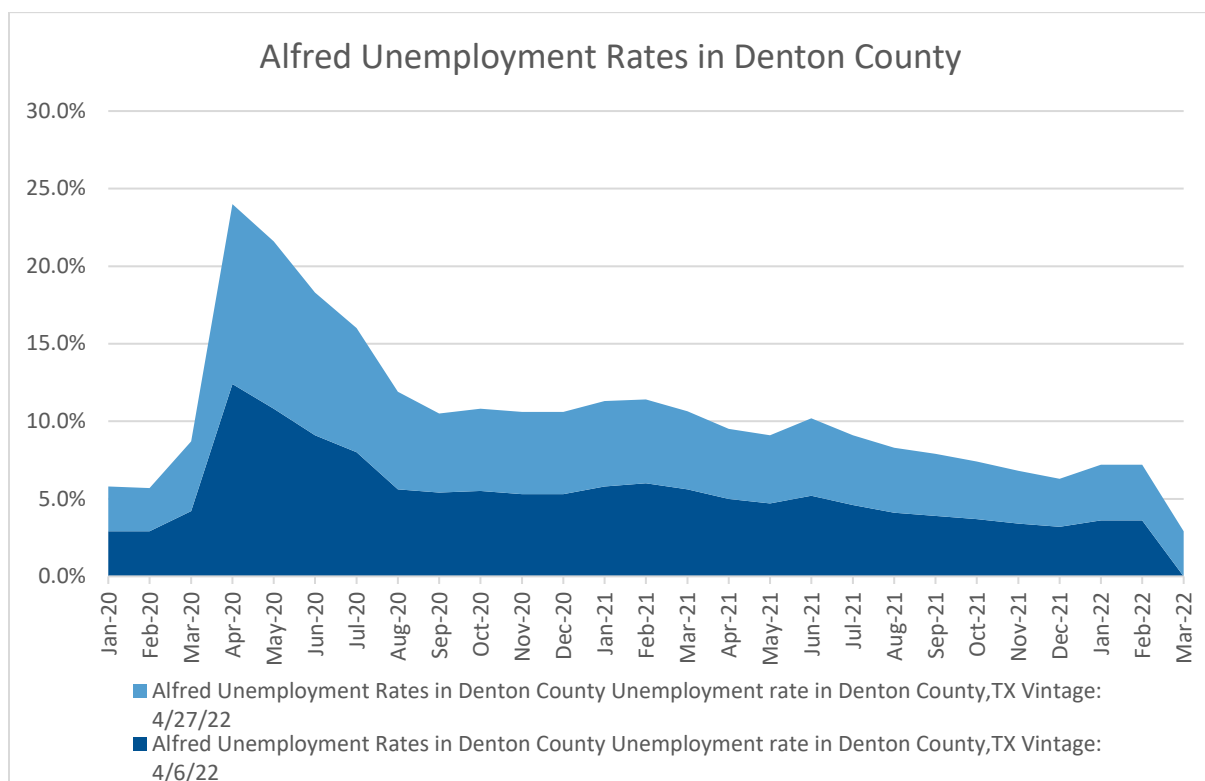
Income and employment determine not only a region's economic strength but can also have an impact on the financial stability of households in the region.

UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBERS AND RATES

Denton County, TX	2016	2017	2018	2019
Labor Force Participation (#)	456,810	467,950	489,383	509,729
Labor Force Participation (%)	73.10%	71.90%	72.70%	72.90%
Pop 16 years and over (total)	624,911	650,834	673,154	699,217

(Source: Texas Workforce Commission, 2019)

Unemployment Rate	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Race								
White alone	18,729	4.10%	15,442	3.30%	19,086	3.90%	14,782	2.90%
Black or African American alone	32890	7.20%	28,545	6.10%	18,597	3.85%	18,860	3.70%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asian alone	13,247	2.90%	14,974	3.20%	25,448	5.20%	16,311	3.20%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic or Latino of any race	15,532	3.40%	-	-	19,575	4%	12,743	2.50%
Other race alone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Two or more races	-	-	31,353	6.70%	-	-	-	-



(U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rate in Denton County, TX, 2019)

- In January of 2021, following the COVID-19 pandemic era, unemployment in Texas was 6.8%, up from January 2020 at 3.4%. By April 2022, Texas unemployment was down to 3.7%. (Novak & Freeman, 2021)
- In comparison, Denton County had an unemployment rate at 5.8% in January 2021. By April 2022, Denton County unemployment dropped to 2.7%. (Texas Workforce Commission, 2022)

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES BY INDUSTRY SECTOR MARCH 2021

Industry Sector	Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	Texas
Mining, Logging and Construction	3.4%	6.5%
Manufacturing	1.5%	-7.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2.6%	-1.1%
Information	-0.1%	-0.9%
Financial Activities	0.2%	2.2%
Professional and Business Services	0.3%	2.3%
Education and Health Services	0.4%	2.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	2.1%	3.2%
Other Services	7.3%	3.5%
Government	0.6%	0.4%

(U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Texas Economy at a Glance, Dallas-Plano-Irving, TX Economy at a Glance, 2021)

The employment changes by industry highlight the areas impacted by the COVID pandemic era.

Financial and trade activities (given the state's heavy reliance on sales tax revenue) were significantly impacted. This has had a similar impact on retail and restaurants. Educational and health services were stretched thin for workers while the changes were marginal in comparison. (Texas Economy At A Glance, 2021)

In recent years, several factors have temporarily impacted Denton County's economic situation. The winter storm in February 2021 caused prolonged outages and disturbance of commercial and private activity, while other factors related to the COVID-19 pandemic caused further disruption. These challenges included understaffed employment offices alongside an increased need for

unemployment services, a decline in state sales tax revenues, and a decline in international demand for oil which affected the state's economic recovery.

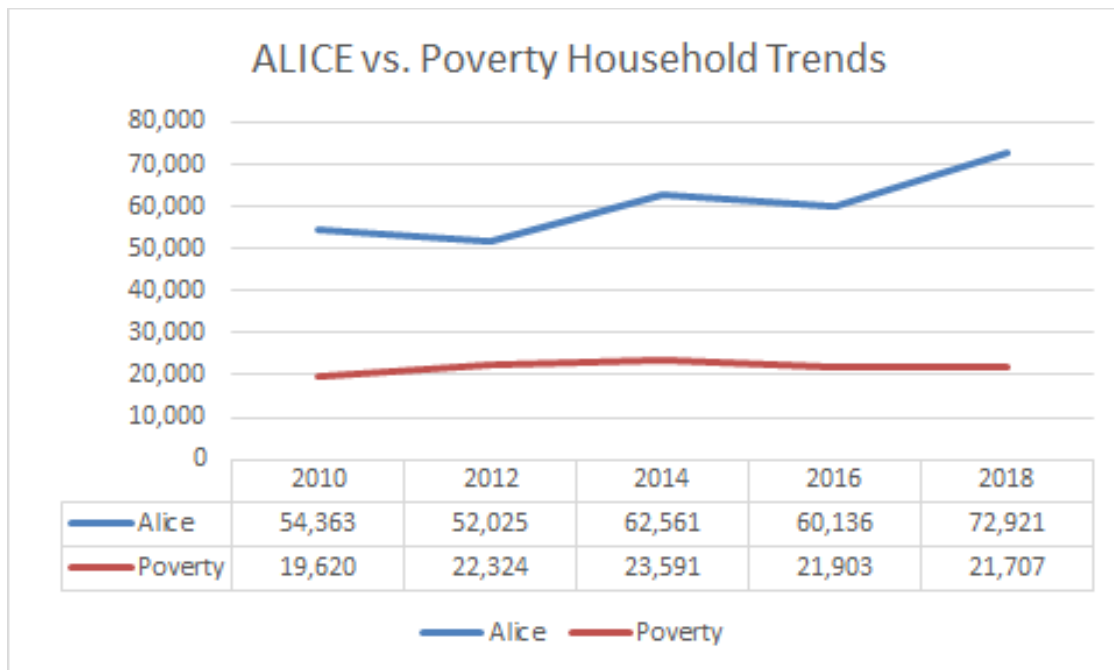
INCOME DEMOGRAPHICS

Income for Denton County (2021)

City	Per Capita Income	Median Household Income	Median Income Owner Occupied	Median Earnings Female
Argyle	\$52,120	\$127,797	\$114,722	\$36,875
Aubrey	\$24,385	\$59,063	\$59,063	\$27,217
Carrollton	\$33,248	\$70,072	\$92,381	\$32,585
Denton	\$24,721	\$50,487	\$79,196	\$17,312
Flower Mound	\$47,857	\$123,492	\$130,492	\$41,254
Krum	\$27,732	\$79,233	\$91,114	\$31,535
Lewisville	\$27,868	\$57,549	\$82,747	\$31,151
Little Elm	\$31,638	\$87,933	\$93,544	\$34,108
Pilot Point	\$21,499	\$50,898	\$56,103	\$17,786
Ponder	\$29,205	\$89,226	\$90,521	\$38,875
Sanger	\$26,589	\$57,464	\$62,107	\$23,144
The Colony	\$36,329	\$73,830	\$84,515	\$34,931
Denton County	\$30,748	\$82,495	\$60,018	\$35,613
Texas	\$27,828	\$54,830	\$84,515	\$34,931
USA	\$29,829	\$55,322	\$70,586	\$25,035

(U.S Bureau Denton Tx Employment, 2021)

Workforce skills and the lack of upskill resourced in Denton County negatively impact a household's abilities to close increasing gaps in key areas such as housing, childcare, transportation, medical care, mental health care and food needs. The table above shows the wide-ranging differences across the county regarding the per capita income, median household income, and median family income. In comparison to the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) versus Poverty Household Trends chart below, the ALICE Survival Wage (\$64,512 for a Denton County household of 4 needing childcare) is greater than the Median Household Income for Aubrey, Denton, Lewisville, Pilot Point and Sanger. (US Census Bureau, 2021; ALICE Report 2018)



Living Wage and ALICE/Survival Wage

The term ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) refers to households earning more than the Federal Poverty Level but less than the cost of living in their geographic area. The term **ALICE Survival Wage** is used to describe the level of income needed to afford the bare minimum cost of household necessities - housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and broadband access. (www.unitedforalice.org)

Because varying entities use both **Living Wage** and **ALICE Survival Wage** data, both have been included in this report. Though they each have slightly different methodologies, both can provide valuable information in determining income gaps and challenges. (*Additional information on the ALICE Survival Wage can be found in the ALICE Report.*)

The term **Living Wage** refers to a theoretical income level that allows individuals or families to afford adequate shelter, food, and other necessities. The goal of a living wage is to allow employees to earn enough income for a satisfactory standard of living and prevent them from falling into poverty. The living wage standard allows for no more than 30% of income to be spent on rent or a mortgage and is

sufficiently higher than the poverty level. As such, living wages are often substantially higher than the legal minimum wage (lowest amount of money someone can earn as mandated by law).

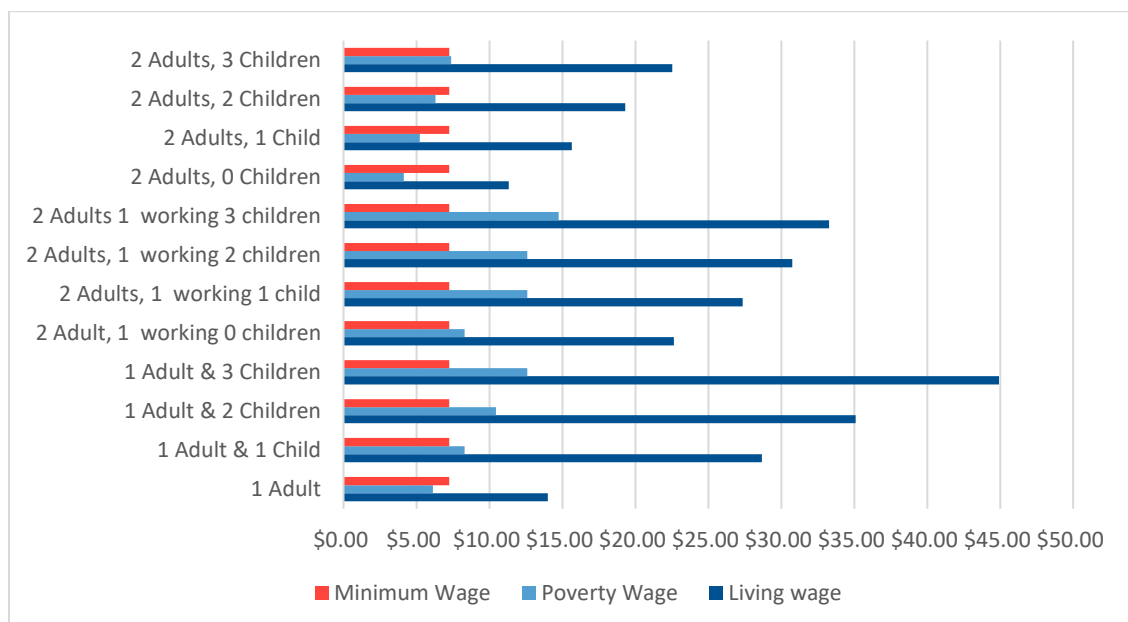
(https://www.investopedia.com/terms/l/living_wage.asp)

For example, in Denton County in 2019, the Living Wage for a family of three with **one adult and two children is \$57,391 or \$26.92/hour**. (Average Wage by Industry | Denton Economic Development Partnership, 2019, September).

To achieve the Living Wage at **minimum wage (\$7.25)**, the **adult would be required to hold four full-time minimum-wage jobs (8,320 hours per year)**. For a family of four with **two adults and two children, the living wage is \$62,691 or \$15.07/hour**. (Average Wage by Industry | Denton Economic Development Partnership, September 2019) When calculated, to achieve the living wage at **minimum wage both adults would be required to hold two full-time jobs each (4,160 hours per year each)**.

This highlights the importance of education, job training, and a diverse and expanding job market, along with affordable housing, daycare, transportation, and medical care. The table below highlights the living wage for Denton County based on the variations of family size, composition, and current location. The cost of living has outpaced the minimum wage in every state. (Emmanuel, 2020)

Denton County Living Wage 2019



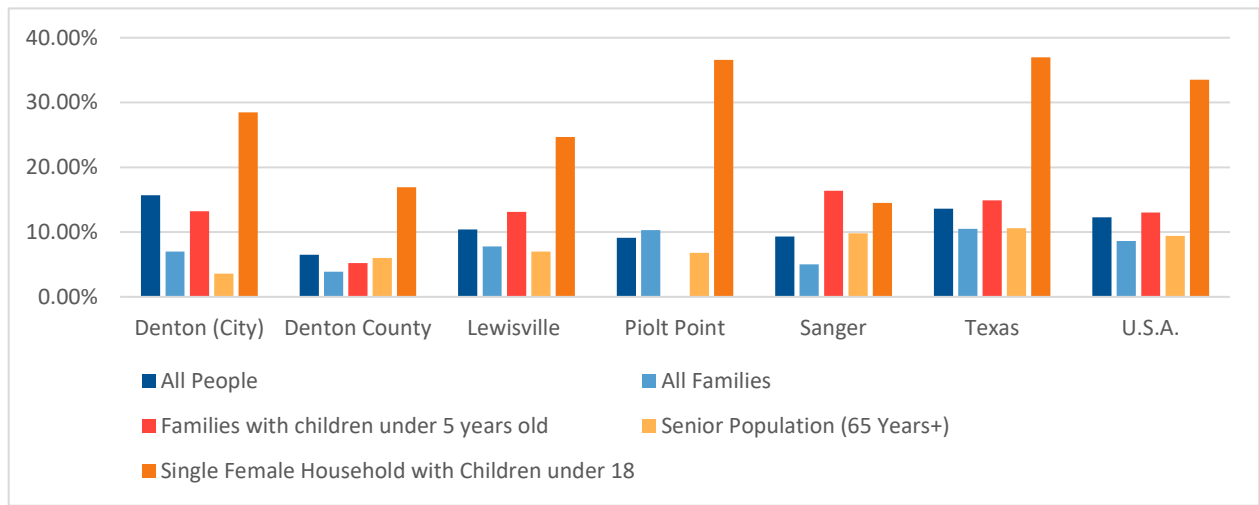
(Source: Living Wage Calculator, 2019 – Amounts are hourly wages)

Poverty

Households in poverty are the most financially disadvantaged and unstable in Denton County. Their lack of adequate earned income for their household creates a downward spiral effect that impacts housing, food, childcare, healthcare, mental health care, and transportation. As seen in the COVID-19 era, these households are hit fastest and hardest by any income disruption.

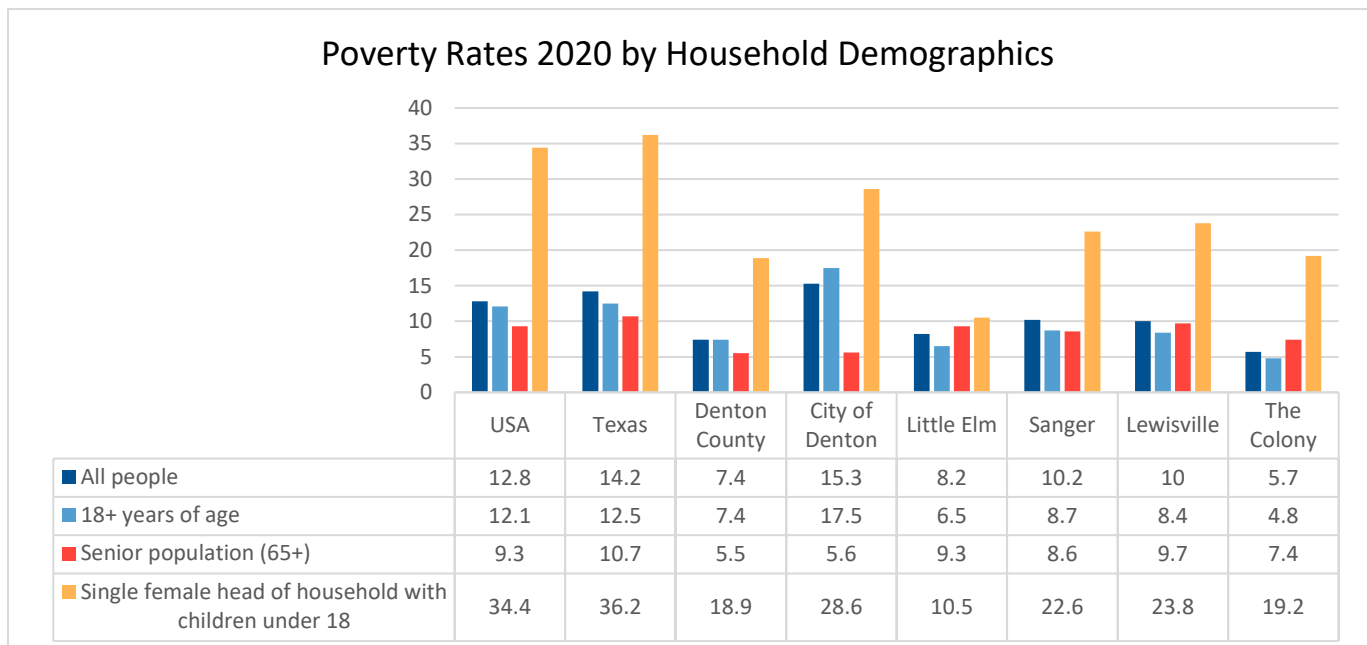
Poverty 2020 by Area:

National, State, County, and Selected Communities (2020)



(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 5-year American Community Survey)

Poverty Rates 2020 by Household Demographics



(U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2020 5-year American Community Survey)

- Single female head of household with children under 18 continue to experience the highest rates of poverty in Denton County at 18.9%. In Denton, 28.6%, followed by Lewisville at 23.8% and Sanger at 22.6%. *(U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2020 5-year American Community Survey)*
- The City of Denton has the highest poverty percentage (15.3%) in Denton County followed by Sanger (10.2%) and Lewisville (10%). *(U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2020 5-year American Community Survey)*

The demand for accessible, affordable, and flexible childcare is high, especially for infants. Shift occupations for ALICE and poverty households often requires second and third shift childcare solutions. In Denton County, residents are asked to pay anywhere between \$120-\$700 for a week's worth of childcare for an eighteen-month-old, the youngest age most facilities accept.

Poverty Status by Race:

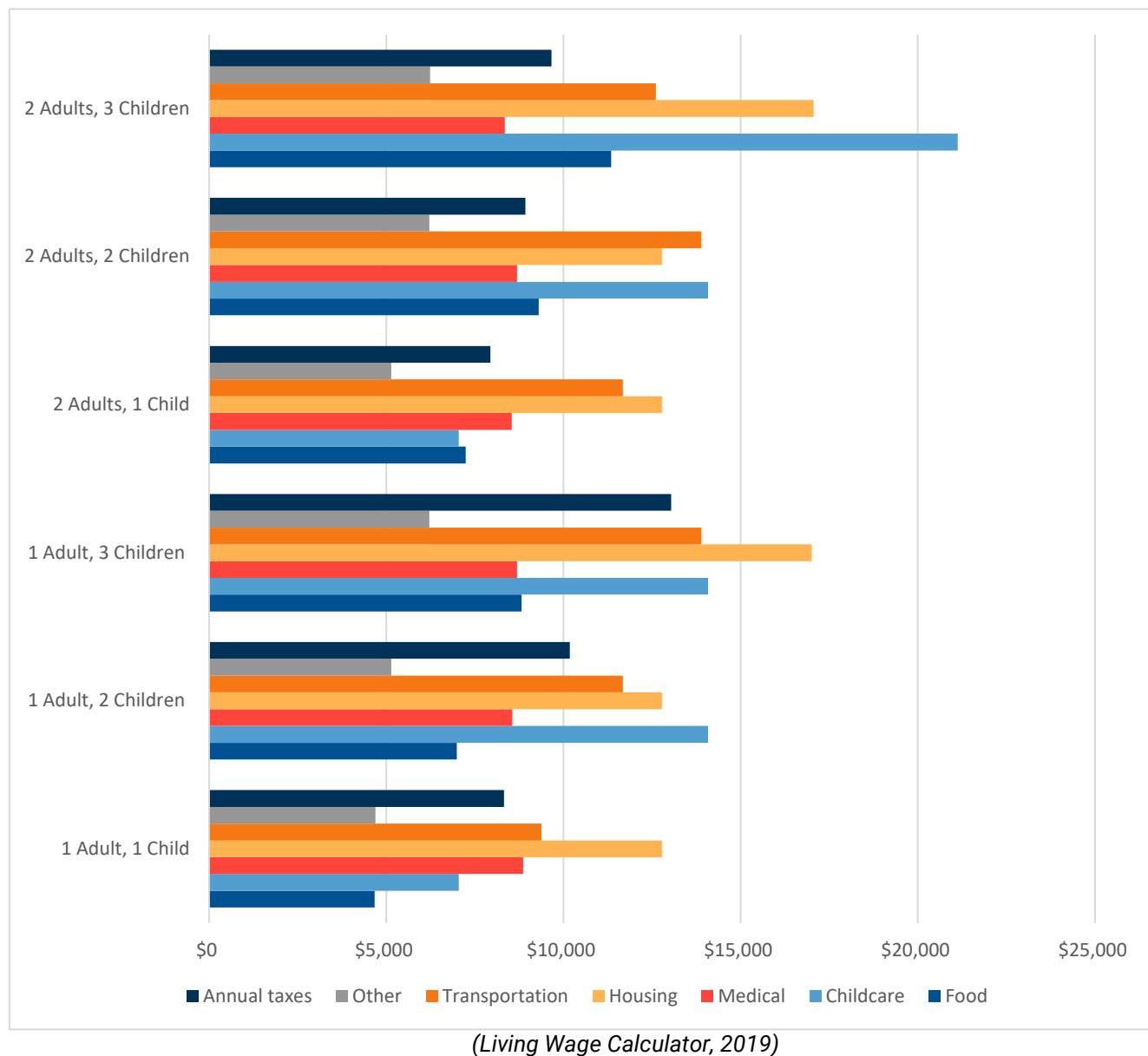
National, State, County, and Selected Communities (2020)

	White	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Another race only	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)
USA Individuals	10.6%	22.1%	24.1%	10.6%	16.8%	19.7%	15.1%	18.3%
USA Families	7%	18.3%	20%	7.6%	13%	17.5%	12.2%	5.9%
Texas Individuals	13%	18.7%	15.7%	10%	17.4%	20.3%	15.7%	19.7%
Texas Families	9.5%	15.5%	12.8%	7.6%	14.5%	18.7%	13.4%	17.5%
Denton County Individuals	7.1%	11.4%	14.6%	6.4%	9.8%	9.6%	5.6%	10.7%
Denton County Families	4.1%	7%	21.1%	3.9%	0%	7.5%	4.2%	8.1%
Pilot Point Individuals	10.8%	0%	0%	NR	NR	10.8%	65.7%	15.9%
Pilot Point Families	14.7%	0%	0%	NR	NR	0%	NR	5.5%
Denton (city) Individuals	14.6%	21.4%	8.7%	26.8%	22%	12.5%	11.1%	15.3%
Denton (city) Families	6.1%	11.1%	9.5%	12.7%	0%	3.5%	8.4%	9.3%
Sanger Individuals	11%	2.4%	NR	66.7%	NR	0%	0%	19.7%
Sanger Families	7.4%	0%	NR	31.6%	NR	0%	0%	10.8%
Lewisville Individuals	10.3%	13.6%	2.3%	6.8%	0%	9.9%	6.2%	13.3%
Lewisville Families	7.1%	11%	0%	6%	0%	11.1%	3.9%	10.8%

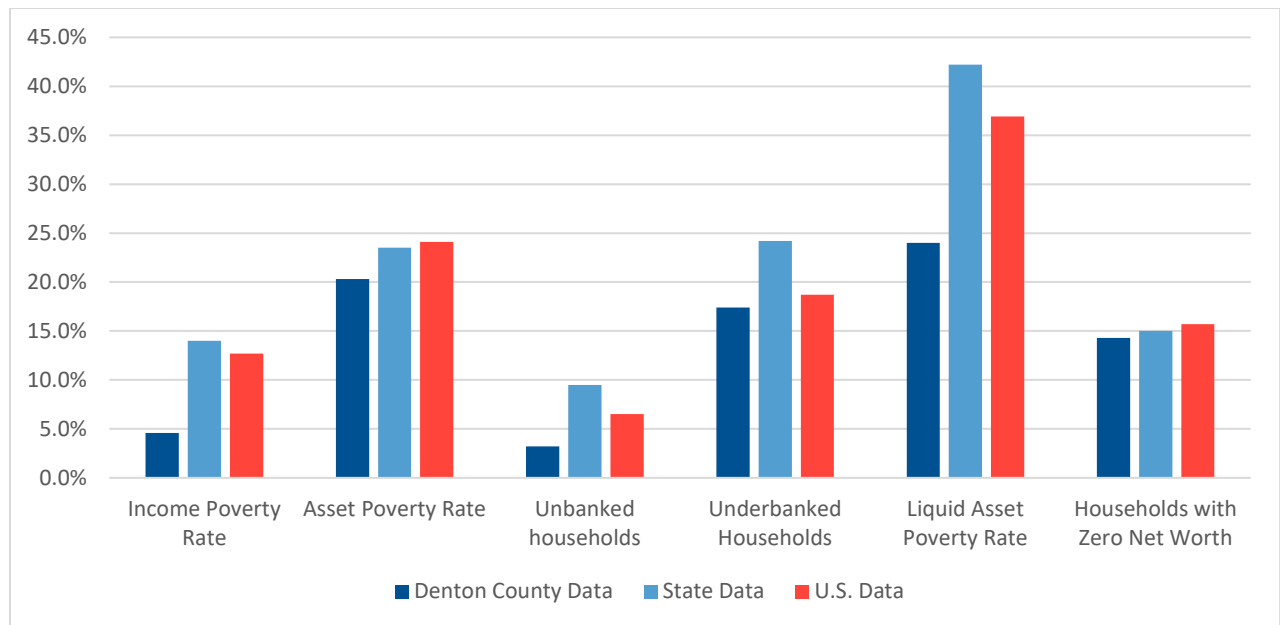
(U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2020 5-Year American Community Survey.)

The table below shows a comparison of the annual expenses of a single-parent household and a married couple household with children in Denton County. As several expenses differentiate between single and married couples, the childcare expenses are consistent.

Typical Expenses for Denton County



Overall Estimates of Household Wealth & Financial Access (2021)



(Prosperity Now Scorecard 2021)

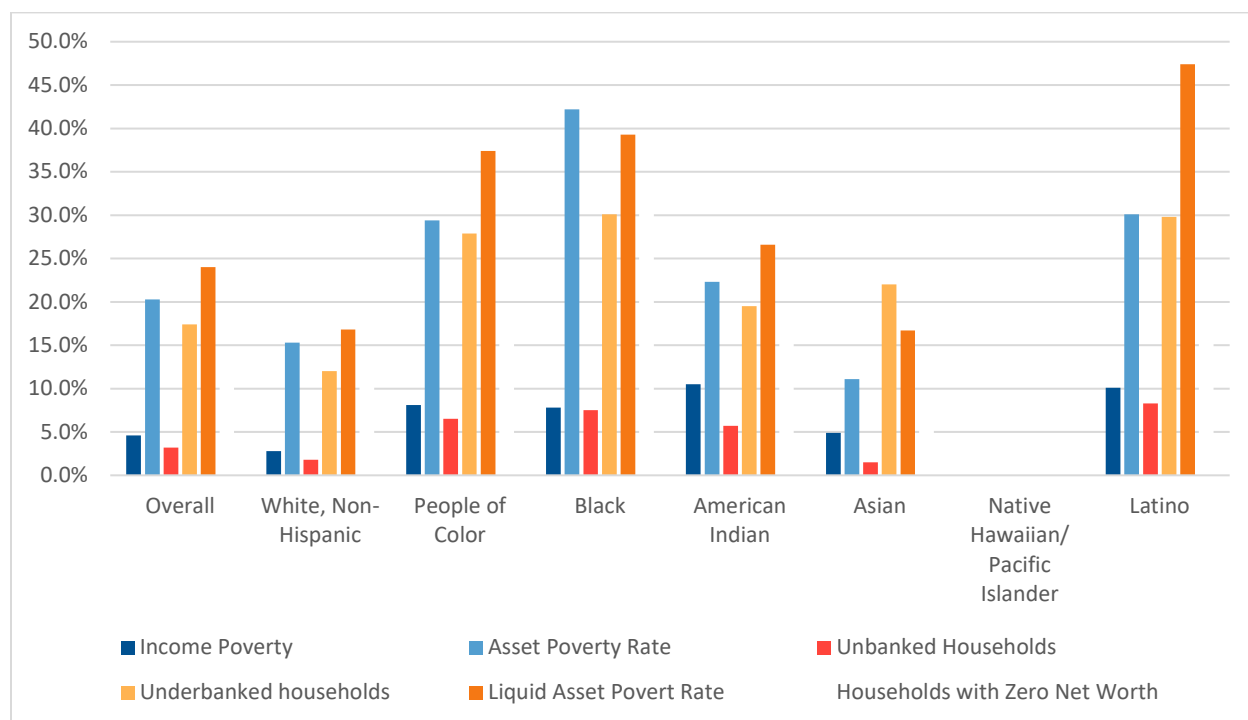
Asset Poverty: Percentage of households without sufficient net worth to subsist at the poverty level for three months in the absence of income.

Liquid Asset Poverty: Percentage of households without sufficient liquid assets to subsist at the poverty level for three months in the absence of income.

Unbanked: Percentage of households with neither a checking nor savings account.

Underbanked: Percentage of households that have a checking and/or a savings account and have used alternative financial services in the past 12 months.

Estimates of Denton County Household Wealth & Financial Access by Race & Ethnicity (2021)



(Prosperity Now Scorecard 2021)

BENEFITS/ACCESS TO SERVICES

Food

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, also known as WIC, is a nutritional program that helps pregnant women, new mothers, and young children eat well, learn about nutrition, and stay healthy. WIC provides nutrition education and counseling, nutritious foods, and help accessing health care to low-income women, infants, and children.

2018 WIC PARTICIPATION IN DENTON COUNTY (ESTIMATES)

	Number Unserved	The Portion of Eligible Population Served
Denton County	17,646	30.6%
DFW Area*	28,746	35.7%
State of Texas	1,138,341	39.6%

**DFW Area" calculated using data for the following counties: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Rockwall, Wise, Ellis, Kaufman, Johnson, Parker, and Tarrant. (Texas Department of State and Health Services, 2018)*

2019 SNAP CASES AND RECIPIENTS – DENTON COUNTY

In September 2019, Denton County had 39,563 individuals eligible for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Of those eligible for SNAP, 6,582 recipients were under five years old, 15,134 were ages five through 17 years old, and 2,806 were 65 years old and up.

SNAP PARTICIPATION VS ELIGIBILITY BY YEAR: DENTON COUNTY

Year	Estimated Eligible	Average Actual Recipients	Percent of Participation
2019	70,000	40,719	58.2%
2020	86,000	38,714	45.0%
2021	74,000	41,660	56.3%

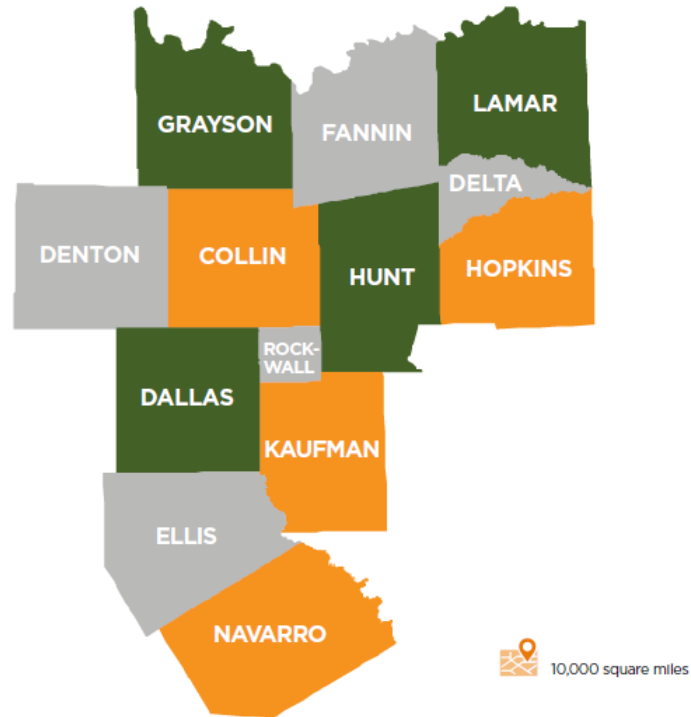
The Federal Government's 25 percent permanent increase in SNAP benefits, the largest increase in the program's history, took effect on Oct. 1, 2021. Modernizing SNAP so that it reflects rising food prices and what it costs to feed a family in 2021 will help thousands of North Texas families afford the nutritious food they need and stimulate the local economy. (*North Texas Food Bank*)

FOOD ACCESS

North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) and Tarrant Area Food Bank report that during the COVID Pandemic, the need for food across the North Texas region increased substantially:

- The NTFB provided access to 125,553,735 meals during Fiscal Year 21 (compared to almost 97 million in FY20).
- The NTFB provided access to 9,329,824 million meals in September 2021, a 30% increase from pre-pandemic September 2019 and a 6% increase from August 2021.
- In FY22 Q1, NTFB hosted 136 mobile distributions, serving almost 24K households and distributing more than 2.2M pounds.

NTFB 13-COUNTY SERVICE AREA



Number of Food-Insecure People by County*

Collin	136,260 (14.4%)	Hopkins	6,900 (19%)
Dallas	485,820 (18.8%)	Hunt	18,230 (19.8%)
Delta	1,140 (22%)	Kaufman	20,300 (17.1%)
Denton**	120,050 (14.9%)	Lamar	10,510 (21.2%)
Ellis	25,880 (15.3%)	Navarro	9,540 (19.6%)
Fannin	5,900 (17.3%)	Rockwall	12,590 (13.4%)
Grayson	24,010 (18.7%)		

*Source: Feeding America Map the Meal Gap 2020: October 2020 Release

**NTFB serves 1/2 of Denton County

**Denton County is also served by the Tarrant Area Food Bank.

Zip Code	Total Population	Percent Food Insecure 2019	Number Food Insecure 2019	Percent Food Insecure 2020	Number Food Insecure 2020	Percent Food Insecure 2021	Number Food Insecure 2021
76201*	27,965	21.7%	6,070	25.1%	7,020	-	-
76266	16,112	11.7%	1,880	13.9%	2,240	13.8%	2,220
76262	39,425	10.4%	4,090	12.7%	5,010	12.6%	4,950
76272	4,116	14.4%	590	15.4%	640	15.3%	630
75028	47,804	9.0%	4,310	11.2%	5,370	11.1%	5,300
75024	43,551	12.9%	5,610	15.0%	6,510	14.8%	6,450
75057	14,960	14.8%	2,220	16.9%	2,520	16.7%	2,500
76259	6,045	14.1%	850	16.0%	960	15.8%	960
75022	27,201	7.8%	2,120	10.0%	2,710	9.8%	2,670
76078	10,247	14.1%	1,450	16.4%	1,680	16.2%	1,660
76092	31,424	6.7%	2,100	9.6%	3,020	9.5%	2,980
75065	12,640	13.8%	1,750	14.8%	1,870	14.7%	1,850
76258	7,010	15.0%	1,050	16.0%	1,120	15.8%	1,110
75067	68,196	14.0%	9,560	16.2%	11,080	16.1%	10,980
75068	65,991	8.6%	5,650	10.6%	7,020	10.5%	6,920
76177	11,695	10.9%	1,280	12.9%	1,500	12.7%	1,490
76207	14,588	12.4%	1,810	15.1%	2,200	15.0%	2,180
76052	22,290	10.2%	2,280	12.7%	2,820	12.5%	2,790
76234	16,630	13.2%	2,200	15.5%	2,570	15.3%	2,550
76205	21,326	16.7%	3,560	18.3%	3,900	18.2%	3,870
75287	55,673	14.9%	8,290	17.3%	9,620	17.1%	9,540
75019	42,888	9.1%	3,890	12.1%	5,200	12.0%	5,140
76208	24,621	11.9%	2,940	14.1%	3,480	14.0%	3,450
76247	13,601	12.9%	1,750	13.5%	1,840	13.4%	1,820
76249	8,317	11.7%	980	14.3%	1,190	14.2%	1,180
75034	108,525	10.5%	11,350	12.7%	13,770	12.5%	13,610
76227	34,036	10.3%	3,520	12.9%	4,400	12.8%	4,350
76209	25,689	17.0%	4,360	18.7%	4,800	18.5%	4,760
75077	37,102	10.4%	3,870	12.5%	4,630	12.3%	4,580
75078	28,803	7.2%	2,090	10.1%	2,920	10.0%	2,880
76226	26,761	8.5%	2,270	11.6%	3,090	11.4%	3,060
75007	55,500	10.4%	5,760	13.0%	7,190	12.8%	7,110
75009	14,089	7.9%	1,110	11.3%	1,590	11.2%	1,570
75010	30,406	12.6%	3,830	14.8%	4,510	14.7%	4,470
75056	60,554	10.5%	6,340	13.5%	8,150	13.3%	8,060
75093	46,788	11.7%	5,500	13.8%	6,440	13.6%	6,370
76210	45,474	10.2%	4,650	12.5%	5,710	12.4%	5,640
	1,168,043		126,860		153,270		151,650

Feeding America/North Texas Food Bank - *Zip Code 76201 reflects numbers from the previous year, as Feeding America did not provide the current numbers.

SENIOR NUTRITION

Denton County SPAN, or Specific Programs for Aging Needs, is a nonprofit organization in Denton County that assists the elderly, those with disabilities, veterans, and the general public of Denton County to access food. SPAN concentrates on public transportation and senior nutrition which branches into five programs that include: transportation services, congregated lunches, nutrition education, senior paws, and Meals on Wheels. SPAN transportation services offer transportation to residents of Denton County who live outside the Denton/Lewisville area. (*Our Story | Span Transit*, n.d.)

- SPAN's transportation system makes over 35,000 trips annually and served approximately 2,145 unduplicated clients in Fiscal Year 2021. (*SPAN 2021*)

Meals on Wheels delivers hot lunch meals to homebound seniors and persons with disabilities. Delivering the meals allows an opportunity for the clients to have a nutritious meal and permits the volunteers delivering meals to check on the well-being of the clients who are homebound. Meals on Wheels also hosts congregated lunches at six senior centers throughout Denton County. This provides the opportunity of socialization among seniors. Providing meals also allows volunteers to educate clients about nutrition. Furthermore, Meals on Wheels delivers monthly pet food to homebound clients who cannot afford pet food.

- In 2021, Meals on Wheels served approximately 114,000 meals to seniors in need.

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING

Homelessness

The following are the standard categories of homelessness as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:

CATEGORY 1: Literal Homelessness

People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or
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are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.

CATEGORY 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness

People who are losing their primary nighttime residence, which may include a motel or hotel or a doubled-up situation, within 14 days.

CATEGORY 3: Homeless under other Federal Statutes

Families with children or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed and who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under related definitions, ie: families who are living in doubled-up circumstances.

CATEGORY 4: Fleeing / Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence

People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, have no other residence and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

CATEGORY ONE: LITERAL HOMELESSNESS

Fourteen different nonprofit agencies in Denton County (as of 2022) use a collective Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) and regularly collaborate with open communication, including case conferencing, to offer evidence-based services to persons experiencing homelessness in Denton County. Data is captured and reported publicly on a community homelessness data dashboard. The Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard is updated monthly by United Way of Denton County with information directly from the HMIS system.

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING LITERAL HOMELESSNESS

Date	Actively Homeless	Veterans	Chronically Homeless	Fleeing Domestic Violence
January 2020	397	35	148	11
June 2020	351	27	128	11
January 2021	284	29	88	9
June 2021	340	31	79	9
January 2022	612	44	196	23
March 2022	697	41	209	33

(United Way of Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard, 2022 - <https://www.unitedwaydenton.org/homelessness-data-denton-county>)

The number of households experiencing homelessness in Denton County has been higher in the months from September 2021 to March 2022 in the post-COVID-19 era than in the past several years, reaching a historic high of 697 households experiencing homelessness in March of 2022 according to the community dashboard. The issue of homelessness disproportionately affects Denton County's Black and African American community. According to 2020 Census data, the Black/African American community comprises 11% of Denton County, yet according to our community's dashboard, Black and African American households account for 28% of households experiencing homelessness in Denton County. Between the months of April 2021 and April 2022, 189 households first sought services in Denton County stating that this was the first time they had ever experienced homelessness before. Within that same time frame, 232 households who were experiencing homelessness in Denton County transitioned into housing also reflecting the historic outflow of persons experiencing homelessness in our housing crisis response system. *(United Way of Denton County, 2022)*

Additionally, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that all communities applying to use HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) funding to serve the homeless conduct a count of the homeless annually during the last week of January.

This annual count is referred to as the "Point-In-Time Count," and is important to all communities, providing a tally of who is homeless on a given night and producing a snapshot of who experiences homelessness throughout the year. Interviews of individuals were conducted by volunteers at various sites and social service agencies in the community. Surveys are self-reported, and respondents may refuse to answer any question and may select more than one response when a question permits.

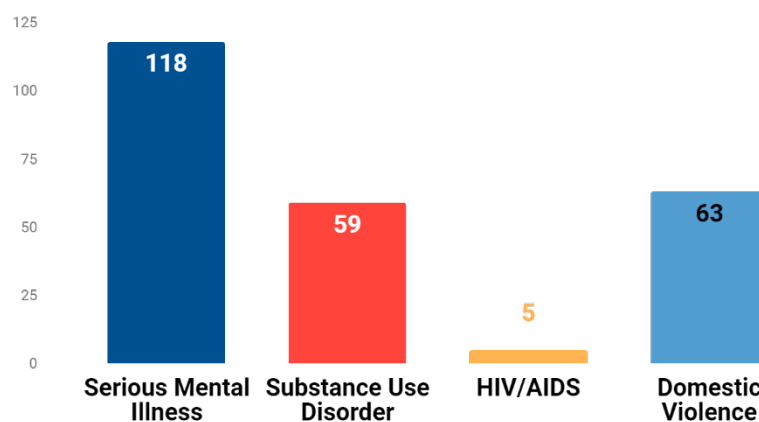
Denton County Point-In-Time (PIT) Count 2022

- The Denton County Homeless Coalition estimates that the overall number of homeless individuals in Denton County in 2022 was 448. This estimate is only from one-night data collection reporting a snapshot of the unsheltered and sheltered persons experiencing homelessness in January of 2022.

The 2021 Point in Time (PIT) count recorded 176 homeless individuals in Denton

County. Due to the Coronavirus, 2021 omits unsheltered homeless persons in an effort to promote safety during the pandemic. Sheltered count should be accurate, however many shelters reduced capacity and occupancy due to the global pandemic. In-person surveys were also shortened in 2021 to limit face to face. For these reasons, we are using the 2020 data as the most recent data for comparison. (2021 PIT Count Results - <https://www.thn.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Full-Denton-County-Report.pdf>)

- The leading self-reported cause of homelessness in 2020 was Family/Personal Issues and the inability to pay rent/utilities.
- In the 2022 PIT count, 118 homeless individuals reported serious mental health issues, while 63 reported being survivors of domestic violence, 59 reported substance abuse disorder and 5 reported they were living with HIV/AIDS.



- African American households are disproportionately impacted by homelessness. While African Americans make up 9.3% of all Denton County residents, they account for 32.4% of respondents for the 2022 PIT Count and 32.7% of households represented on the Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard as of March 2022.

The Denton County Homeless Coalition conducts the PIT Count survey and publishes a summary report. The following information includes excerpts from the 2020 and 2021 report.

Denton County Homeless Coalition Survey

Year	Total Homeless Counted	Last Night's Lodging (%)		Gender (%)		Race/Ethnicity (%)			
		Un-sheltered	Sheltered	Male	Female	White	Black	Latino	Other
2022	501	42%	58%	61%	38%	59%	32%	10%	8%
2021*	176	0%	100%	56%	44%	52%	33%	13%	15%
2020	258	69%	31%	69%	31%	70%	18%	13%	12%
2019	194	65%	35%	71%	29%	76%	18%	13%	7%
2018	255	57%	43%	64%	32%	76%	16%	22%	8%

(Denton County Homeless Coalition – Summary Results of 2020 Point-In-Time Homeless Count)

*Due to COVID-19, 2021 did not survey unsheltered homeless persons to promote safety during the pandemic. Sheltered count should be accurate, however many shelters reduced capacity and occupancy due to the global pandemic. In person surveys were also shortened in 2021 to limit face to face contact.

NOTE ON GENDER: PIT survey respects individuals of non-binary and non-conforming gender identities, hence why these percentages do not always total to 100

NOTE ON RACE/ETHNICITY: The PIT tracks Race & Ethnicity Separately. These numbers will not total to 100.

Reasons for Experiencing Homelessness

The reason for experiencing homelessness varies among the population. The 2020 PIT Count report asked survey participants about their reason for becoming homeless; participants could pick more than one response. The top five reasons for becoming homeless were family/personal issues (28.6%), inability to pay rent/mortgage (27.1%), unemployment (26.3%), lack of statistics/resources (23.6%) and physical/mental disabilities (1.6%). Source: Denton (County Homeless Coalition – Summary Results of 2020 Point-In-Time Homeless Count PIT)

Employment and Income

The PIT Count Survey results disclosed the income status of Denton County survey participants, where it reported that 36% were employed full-time and 46% part-time. 67.6% have partial income from family, panhandling, or federal assistance like Social Security or SSDI. (Denton County Homeless Coalition – Summary Results of 2020 Point-In-Time Homeless Count)

Involvement with Institutions

In the 2020 PIT Count, survey participants were asked if they had been involved in any of the following six institutions: foster care (3%), long-term hospitalization (5%), child protective services (9%), drug treatment (12%), criminal justice (31%), and mental health treatment (21%). Involvement with the criminal justice system had the highest response rate (31%). (*Denton County Homeless Coalition – Summary Results of 2020 Point-In-Time Homeless Count*)

CATEGORY 2: AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

Denton County Housing Crisis Response System does not actively track households who are at imminent risk of homelessness, separate from Homelessness Prevention-related programs created to maintain the household's housing.

CATEGORY 3: YOUTH

The McKinney-Vento Act requires public schools to educate homeless students. Children experiencing homelessness are defined as children “who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” The irregular residence is classified as living in the following: motels, hotels, cars, abandoned buildings, trailer parks, or camping groups, emergency/transitional shelters. Loss of housing or economic hardship leads to children living in a shared household or sleep in public or private places not designed for human sleeping or habitation. Families with children or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed are likely to continue in that state. (*No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 2004*). Reports of student homelessness come from the Homeless Liaison and are sent to the Texas Education Agency. Reports of student homelessness are hard to verify because data may be duplicated.

Students Experiencing Homelessness:

The table below indicates the total number of students in Denton County experiencing homelessness over three school years.

HOMELESS STUDENTS IN DENTON COUNTY

City	September 2020	June 2021
Argyle	No Data	No Data
Aubrey	25	55
Denton	516	899
Krum	17	No Data
Lake Dallas	31	No Data
Lewisville	395	795
Little Elm	34	No Data
Northwest	49	137
Pilot Point	No Data	49
Ponder	5	14
Sanger	56	83
Totals:	1,128	2,032

(Data submitted to UWDC through Data Coordinator for Data Dashboard directly from each ISD's liaison. This data is cumulative throughout the year. The June 2021 numbers reflect total number of students who had experienced homelessness throughout the 2020-2021 school year.)

CATEGORY 4: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Denton County Friends of the Family (DCFOF), a Denton County nonprofit organization, provides emergency shelter services for survivors of relationship violence and sexual assault. The DCFOF shelter provides the following crucial services to families and individuals during crisis: advocacy and case management, crisis intervention, legal assistance, mental health counseling, after-school programming, play therapy, support groups, pet shelter, and basic needs such as food, toiletries, transportation, and medication assistance.

- In 2021, DCFOF served 218 clients in their emergency shelter. In 2020, there was a 16% reduction in shelter clients served because of physical distancing protocols in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In 2021, females accessed emergency shelter services at a higher rate than any other gender.
- In 2021, White clients utilized emergency services at a higher rate than any other race, followed by clients identifying as Black or African American.

- In 2021, the clients aged between 0-10 years old utilized emergency shelter services more than any other age range.
- In 2021, residing with family members was the highest known exit destination of clients after leaving DCFOF shelter services. In 2020 the highest reported exit destination was clients moving into their own rental with no ongoing housing subsidy.
- City of Denton residents accessed emergency shelter services more than residents from any other city in 2021, followed by clients from Carrollton.

HOUSING

Denton and Lewisville city councils approved the study of workforce housing gaps in their communities. This section highlights key findings in the City of Denton report that was published in 2021. The City of Lewisville report was not yet complete at the time of this publication. (*Complete City of Denton Housing Report at: <https://www.cityofdenton.com/DocumentCenter/View/148/Affordable-Housing-Needs-and-Market-Value-Analysis-Report-PDF>.*)

The City of Denton reports the following Key Findings:

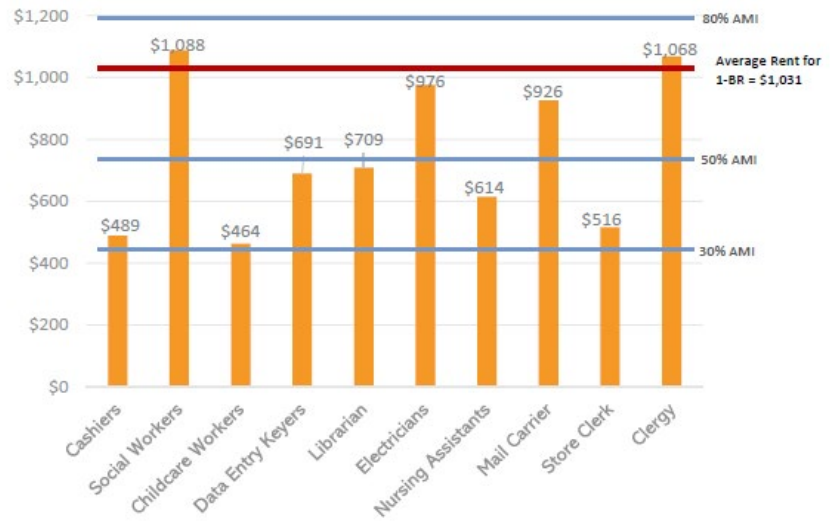
- Home prices have increased significantly in the past decade, limiting housing options for potential buyers. **Owners who earn less than 80% of the Average Median Income (AMI) (\$68,976) cannot afford to pay more than \$200,000 for a home and have few affordable options in Denton.**
 - **The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines affordable housing as accounting for less than 30% of a family's gross income.** In most communities in Denton County, a significant proportion of households exceed the affordability threshold. This is especially true of occupied units paying rent. A significant number of individuals are living in households they cannot afford.
- **Market rents are also unaffordable to many necessary workers earning less than 50% of AMI (\$43,110), who cannot afford to pay more than \$900 a month in rent.**

- Baby boomers and older households on fixed retirement incomes may also struggle with housing costs.
 - The Denton Housing Authority (DHA) reports approximately 7,000 people on the Housing Choice Voucher (formerly Section 8) program waitlist as of May 2022.
 - In 2021, DHA supported a total of 1,922 Housing Choice Vouchers (formerly Section 8) in Denton County, 594 of which being new recipients.
- Not counting current cost-burdened households, the analysis projects a demand for up to **9,494 new affordable and market-rate units by 2026**. This calls for an estimated 608 new units per year for the next five years selling for < \$200,000 or renting for < \$900/month.
 - *Cost Burdened Families*: Families who pay more than 30% of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.
- Areas in Southeast Denton had the highest risk of price-based displacement - these are not the areas with the city's biggest or most rapid price increases, but the areas where prices increased most in comparison to the incomes of longtime residents.
- The Denton Housing Authority (DHA) reports approximately 7,000 people on the Housing Choice Voucher (formerly Section 8) program waitlist as of May 2022.
- From January 1, 2019, to December 2, 2019, DHA supported 1,237 Housing Choice Vouchers (formerly Section 8) in Denton County.

Denton Economic Strengths				
Occupation Classification	Jobs	Percent of all Jobs	U.S. Percent of all Jobs	Location Quotient
Education/Training/Library	7,501	11.2%	6.4%	1.75
Arts/Design/Entertainment	1,809	2.7%	1.8%	1.5
Food Preparation/Serving	4,965	7.4%	4.4%	1.68
Building Maintenance	3,175	4.7%	3.9%	1.21
Personal Care/Service	3,048	4.5%	3.6%	1.25

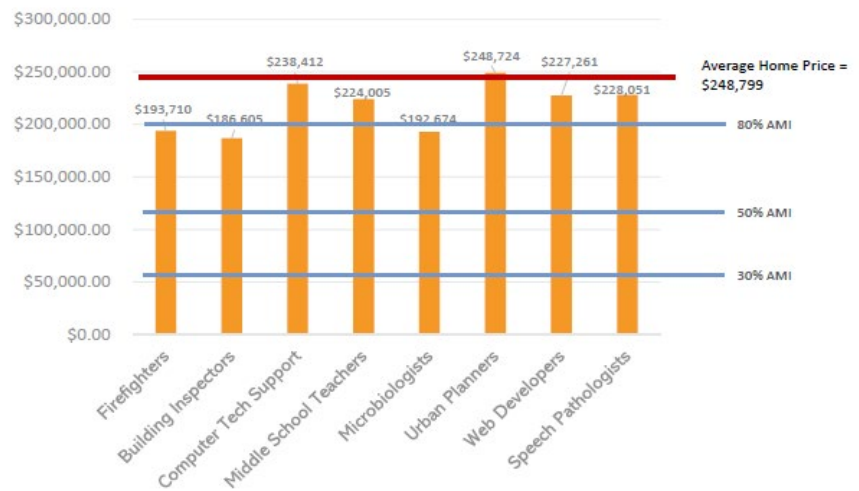
(Atria Planning 2021)

What is the maximum rent that can be considered affordable for necessary workers?



(Atria Planning 2021)

What is the maximum home price that can be considered affordable for young professionals?



(Atria Planning 2021)

HOMELESSNESS AND COVID-19

Since the COVID-19 Pandemic, the number of households experiencing homelessness in Denton County has increased drastically. In March of 2020 our county had 362+ households needing safe and stable housing. By March of 2022 our county had 697+ households facing this need.

To meet the increased need for shelter while households search for stable housing, 400+ households (March 2021-March 2022) stayed in scattered site shelters, which took the form of hotel rooms paid for by agencies through the Denton County Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

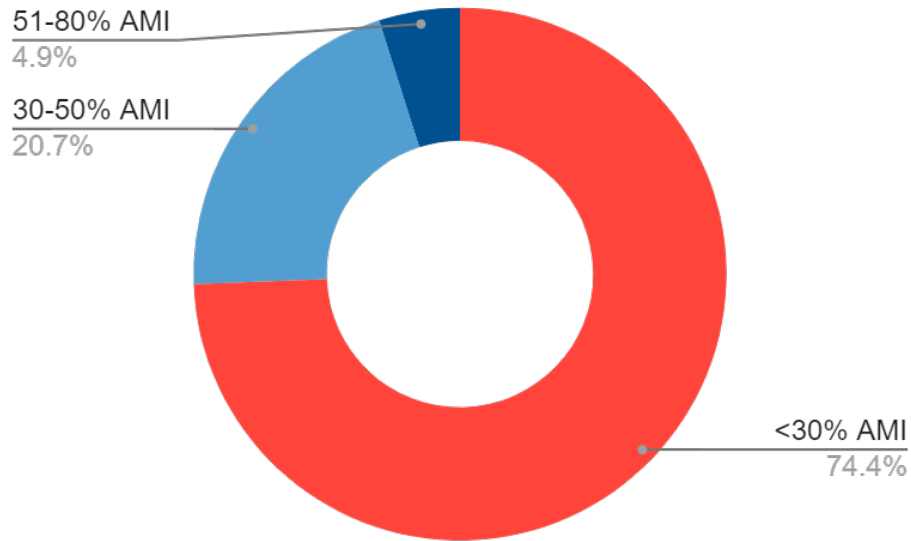
Homelessness prevention during the COVID-19 pandemic era

Denton County households began experiencing additional financial challenges beginning in the Spring of 2020 due to workplaces closing (either temporarily or permanently) and increased risk for those experiencing health conditions that put them in high-risk categories. The Eviction Prevention program created by United Way of Denton County in partnership with Denton County has both demonstrated the effectiveness of the eviction prevention model and highlighted the increased needs during 2020 and 2021.

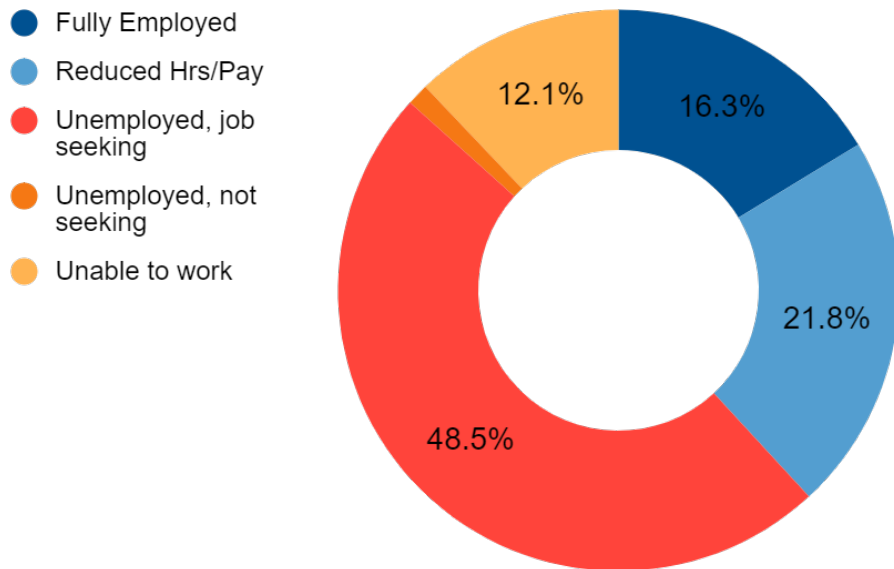
From March of 2020, 24,253 months of assistance has been provided to 8,884 households resulting in over \$27,000,000 invested in keeping families housed in Denton County. Here is a snapshot of households served from March 2021 to March 2022.

The following graphs show the populations served during the COVID-19 pandemic era eviction prevention program:

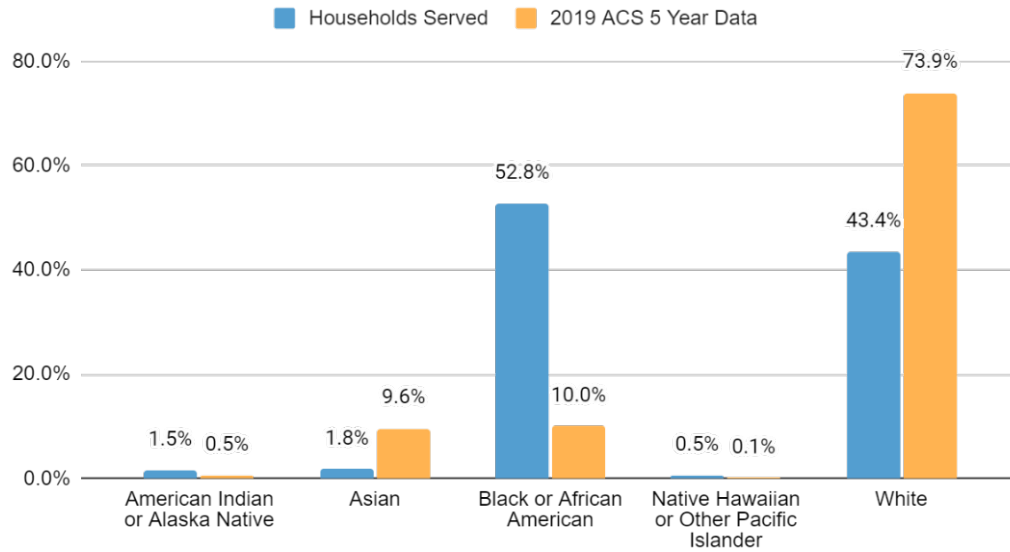
Households by % of Area Median Income



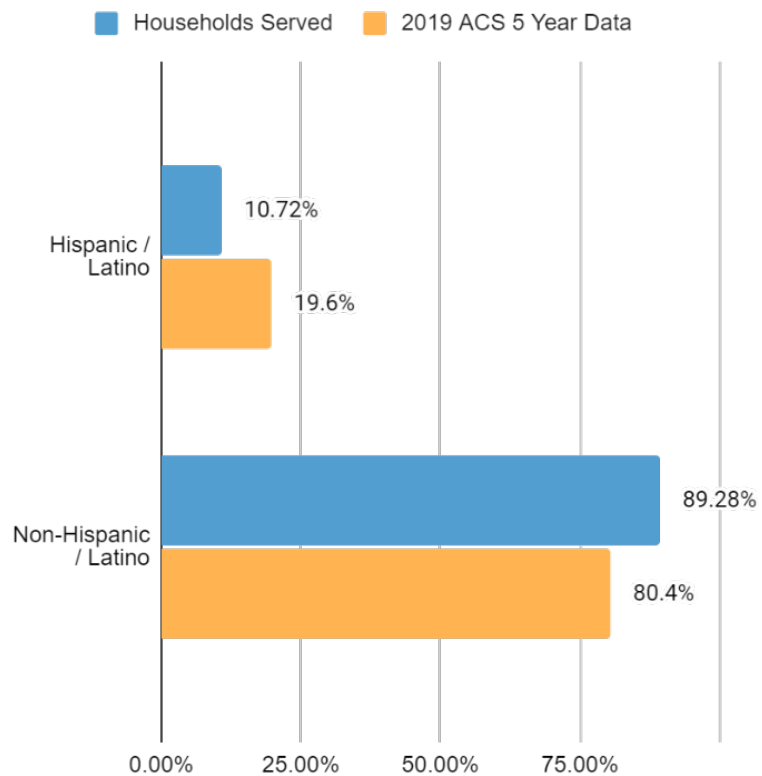
Primary Employment Status



Primary Householder Race:



Primary Householder Ethnicity



ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

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HEALTH

Although Denton County is one of the healthiest counties in Texas, women's health, family violence, mental health, and care for the elderly are growing concerns.

KEY FINDINGS

- According to the 2021 Mental Health in America report, 16.2% of adults in Texas have a mental illness. If statewide data is applied to Denton County, then about 152,640 out of 941,647 adults in Denton County have a mental illness. *(Fritze et al., 2020)*
- Of those experiencing homelessness in Denton County, 52.6% report experiencing a serious mental illness *(Denton County Homeless Coalition 2020 Point In Time Count)*.
- One in three (3,252) births in Denton County were to women who received **inadequate prenatal care** *(which is described as "pregnancy-related care beginning in the fifth month of pregnancy or later or less than 50% of the appropriate number of visits for an infant's gestational age")*. *(March of Dimes, 2017; Texas Department of State Health Services)*
- Most recent reporting (2019) states there were over 51,000 unduplicated **Medicaid** clients in Denton County. There are an estimated 183 service providers that accept Medicaid, down from 320 in 2012, *(Data USA) (Doctor.com)*
- In 2018, 13.0% of Denton County residents under the age of 65, do not have health insurance *(United States Census, 2019)*.
- According to the 2021 State of Mental Health in America Report, Texas ranks 50 out of 51 in terms of **access to mental health care**. Texas has low access to both insurance and treatment/services for mental health. *(Fritze et al., 2020)*

- Anxiety disorder has replaced major depressive disorder as the number one diagnosis of patients seen by Denton County MHMR. Three of the top five client diagnoses at Denton County MHMR are anxiety related. *(Denton County MHMR)*
- According to the 2021 Mental Health in America report, 59.6% of adults with a mental illness in Texas did not receive treatment; 67.1% of youth with major depressive episodes did not receive treatment or services. *(Fritze et al., 2020)*
- Cancer is the leading cause of death in Denton County *(Denton County Public Health, n.d.)*. Breast Cancer has the highest incidence rate, but lung cancer has the highest death rate. *(Denton County Public Health)*.
- Heart disease is the second leading cause of death in Denton County, with a death rate of 123.7 per 100,000 population *(Denton County Public Health, n.d.)*.
- As of December 2021, Denton County Public Health reported 752 deaths from COVID-19 in Denton County *(Denton County Public Health.)*
- 70% of older adults have **limited health literacy** and are at risk for being misinformed about community resources or scammed. *(Area Agency on Aging, North Central Texas)*
- 23% of older Texans report a diagnosis of **depression** and 13% report an **anxiety or panic disorder**. As many as 60% of nursing home residents have psychiatric diagnoses. *(Area Agency on Aging, North Central Texas)*

OVERALL HEALTH SNAPSHOT

MORBIDITY	SOCIAL FACTORS	HEALTH CARE ACCESS	HEALTH BEHAVIORS	PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT
Adults with Cancer ¹ = 5.7%	Families Living Below Poverty Level ¹ = 5.1%	Adults (18-64) with Health Insurance ¹ = 86.7%	Adults who Binge Drink ² = 21%	Average daily density of fine particulate matter (Air Pollution) ² = 9.4 micrograms per cubic meter
Adults 20 and Older with Diabetes ² = 7%	High School Dropout Rate ¹ = 2.2%	Adults who have had a Routine Checkup ¹ = 73.6%	Adults who Smoke ² = 13%	Individuals who drive alone to work ² = 80%
Adults with Current Asthma ¹ = 8.5%	People 25+ with a High School Degree or Higher ¹ = 92.5%	Children (0-17) with Health Insurance ¹ = 95.3%	Access to Exercise Opportunities ¹ = 94.5%	Individuals who drive alone to work, with a commute longer than 30 minutes ² = 48%
Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia-Medicare Population ¹ = 12.0%	Median Household Income ¹ = \$83,376	Primary Care Provider ¹ = 63 providers/100,000 population	Food Insecurity ² = 12%	Households that have at least one of these issues: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities, lack of plumbing facilities ² = 14%
Adults Reporting Frequent Mental Distress ² = 12%	Single-Parent Household ¹ = 22.2%	Ratio of Denton County Population to Dentists ² = 1,740:1	People with Low Access to a Grocery Store ¹ = 18.6%	Households that spend half or more than half of their income on housing ² = 11%
Preterm Births ¹ = 9.8%	Total Employment ¹ = 224,526 paid employees	Ratio of Denton County Population per Mental Health Providers ² = 840:1	Teen Births ¹ = 0.9%	Percentage of owned and occupied housing units ² = 65%

(Healthy North Texas, n.d.) (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2021)

ACCESS TO CARE

PREVENTATIVE CARE

According to the 2021 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, in Denton County there were 4,794 preventable hospital stays for every 100,000 Medicare users, up from 4,412 in 2013. The top four diagnoses for these hospitalizations include: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), bacterial pneumonia, urinary tract infection, and congestive heart failure.

In 2016, 4.8 million people under the age of 65 were uninsured in Texas; it is estimated by 2040 Texas will have 6.1 million uninsured persons. (*Price, 2019*)

Characteristics of the Uninsured in Texas 2018 report from the Urban Institute states:

- In 2018 in Denton County, an estimated 13% of those below the age of 65 were uninsured.
 - 11% were eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.
 - 23% were eligible for premium tax credits for private marketplace coverage.
- In 2018 in Denton County an additional 17,000 people would become eligible for Medicaid if Texas were to expand eligibility to those with incomes below 138% of the federal poverty level, as permitted under the Affordable Care Act.
- Among the uninsured in Denton County:
 - 49% had incomes below 138% of the federal poverty level.
 - 38% were non-Hispanic White.
 - 38% were Hispanic.
 - 9% were non-Hispanic Black.
 - 72% were in working families.
 - 54% of adults had a high school education or less.

13.0% of Denton County residents under the age of 65, do not have health insurance (*United States Census, 2019*).

HEALTH CONCERNS FOR RESIDENTS LIVING UNDER POVERTY LEVEL

The Federal Poverty Guidelines, also known as the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), are set each year by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Based on the Census Bureau population data for Denton County, it is estimated that 46,118 individuals meet the criteria for any diagnosable mental illness and live below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level in Denton County. (*Denton County Public Health, 2017*)

Between 2015 and 2020, there has been an increase in the percentage of clients served who are 100% and below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) at Health Services of North Texas (HSNT) (the Federally Qualified Health Clinic serving Denton County).

HEALTH SERVICES OF NORTH TEXAS CLIENTS SERVED AND FPL

Income as Percent of Poverty	2015 ¹	2020 ²
100% and below	39%	55%
101 – 150%	14%	13%
151 – 200%	4%	6%
Over 200%	2%	3%
Unknown	41%	23%

(*Weston-Ferrill, personal communication, 2016; T. Johnson, personal communication, March 29, 2021*)

MEDICAID

According to LongTermCare.gov (2020), “Medicaid is a joint federal and state government program that covers medical care, like doctor visits and hospital costs, long-term care services in nursing homes, and long-term care services provided at home, such as visiting nurses and assistance with personal care.”

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS FOR MEDICAID IN TEXAS (BEFORE TAXES)

Household Size*	Maximum Income Level (Per Year)
1	\$25,265
2	\$34,136
3	\$43,006
4	\$51,876
5	\$60,747
6	\$69,617
7	\$78,488
8	\$87,358

(Benefits.gov, n.d.). *If a household exceeds eight individuals, add \$8,870 for each additional person

CHIP/CHILDREN'S MEDICAID

According to the Texas Children's Health Plan:

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) offers low-cost health coverage for children from birth through age 18. CHIP is designed for families who earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford to buy private health coverage.

To qualify, an annual household income (before taxes) needs to be less than or equal to the following amounts per household:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM INCOME LEVEL (PER YEAR)
One	\$25,265
Two	\$34,136
Three	\$43,006
Four	\$51,876
Five	\$60,747
Six	\$69,617
Seven	\$78,488
Eight	\$87,358

(Benefits.gov, n.d.) *For households with more than eight people, add \$8,870 per additional person. Always check with the appropriate managing agency to ensure the most accurate guidelines.

MENTAL HEALTH

According to the 2021 State of Mental Health in America Report, **Texas ranks 50 out of 51 in terms of access to care** (Fritze et al., 2020). This suggests that Texas has low access to both insurance and treatment/services for mental health (Fritze et al., 2020). “28.7% of adults with a cognitive disability were not able to see a doctor due to costs” (Fritze et al., 2020). An estimated 47% of adults are not receiving treatment because of costs. (Fritze et al., 2017)

- County Health Rankings states that there is one mental health provider for every 750 persons in Denton County. The top 10% of counties in America are 1 to 250. Texas overall is 1 to 760. (countyhealthrankings.org)

DEFINING MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. (MentalHealth.gov, 2020)

Any mental illness (AMI) is defined as a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder. AMI can vary in impact, ranging from no impairment to mild, moderate, and even severe impairment (e.g., individuals with serious mental illness as defined below). (National Institute of Mental Health, 2021)

Serious mental illness (SMI) is defined as a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder resulting in serious functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities. The burden of mental illnesses is particularly concentrated among those who experience disability due to SMI. (National Institute of Mental Health, 2021)

MENTAL HEALTH OVERVIEW

According to the 2021 State of Mental Health in America report:

- Texas had an overall ranking of 44 out of 51 states in terms of the **rate of mental illnesses** and adult/youth measures (was previously ranked 27). Higher rankings (numbers) show an increase in mental illness rates and a decrease in access to care.

16.21% of adults in Texas have a mental illness. If statewide data is applied to Denton County, then about 152,640 out of 941,647 adults in Denton County have a mental illness. (*Fritze et al., 2020*)

In assessing mental health needs, it is important to understand the pervasiveness of mental illness in the community. However, as of 2022, there has not been a study empirically describing the prevalence and incidence of mental illness in Denton County.

According to Denton County Public Health (2017) more than one out of every five adults who have a mental illness, simultaneously experience substance use disorders.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING RATE - DENTON COUNTY MHMR

YEAR	FUNDING PER CAPITA	COUNTY RANKING OUT OF 38
2016	\$10.59	17th
2017	\$10.18	18th
2018	\$10.76	23rd
2019	\$9.97	25th

In 2019, Denton County MHMR's funding rate was set at \$9.97 per capita, 25th among all 38 Texas Local Mental Health Authorities. (LMHA) (*Hurt, personal communication, 2021*)

CO-OCCURRENCE BETWEEN MENTAL ILLNESS AND OTHER CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS:

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITION	WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS	NO MENTAL ILLNESS
High Blood Pressure	21.9%	18.8%
Smoking	36%	21%
Heart Disease	5.9%	4.2%
Diabetes	7.9%	6.6%
Obesity	42%	35%
Asthma	15.7%	10.6%

(Denton County Public Health, 2017)

DENTON COUNTY MHMR

In 2014, Denton County MHMR opened a psychiatric triage facility, integrated behavioral and primary healthcare clinic, and crisis residential facility with Texas' 1115 demonstration, entitled Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program.

- The majority of clients receiving mental health treatment at Denton County MHMR are older than 25 years of age. As of 2021, 4,163 or 74% of clients are over the age of 25.

Denton County MHMR provides mental health crisis response in Denton County through the crisis telephone line, response to law enforcement requests for psychiatric evaluation, and local provider referral. The Mobile Crisis Outreach Team provided most screenings for local police departments and the Denton County Jail.

DENTON COUNTY MHMR PSYCHIATRIC TRIAGE REFERRAL SOURCES

SOURCE	2019	2021
Hotline / Walk In / Internal Referral	165	514
Law Enforcement	27	51
Hospital	4	84
University	28	3
Grade School	0	32
Other	8	40

Of adults over the age of 18 in Denton County who were surveyed for the Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 16.% stated their mental health was not good for 14 or more days. 21.7% of adults surveyed had been told they have a depressive disorder. (*Texas Health and Human Services, 2019*)

According to the 2021 Mental Health in America report, 59.6% of adults with any mental illness in Texas did not receive treatment; 67.1% of youth with major depressive episodes did not receive treatment or services. (*Fritze et al., 2020*)

For every mental health provider in Texas, there are 880 individuals with a mental health need; this ranks Texas as 50 out of 51 states in terms of mental health workforce availability (*Fritze et al., 2020*).

AMI (ANY MENTAL ILLNESS) DIAGNOSES IN DENTON COUNTY CITIES AND TOWNS 2019-2021

	2019		2020		2021 to October	
Denton County Cities & Towns	Population	Number of Individuals Served with AMI	Population	Number of Individuals Served with AMI	Population	Number of Individuals Served with AMI
Argyle:	4,381	41	4,381	48	4,381	59
Aubrey:	4,895	155	4,895	176	4,895	187
Bartonville:	1,785	3	1,785	5	1,785	3
Carrollton (pt.):	82,412	316	82,412	324	82,412	342
Celina (pt.):	-	5	-	5	-	2
Coppell (pt.):	824	8	824	13	824	3
Copper Canyon:	1,493	1	1,493	4	1,493	2
Denton County Cities & Towns <i>(Continued)</i>	2019 Population	Number of Individuals Served with AMI	2020 Population	Number of Individuals Served with AMI	2021 Population (to Oct.)	Number of Individuals Served with AMI
Corral City:	49	0	49	0	49	0

Cross Roads:	1,516	30	1,516	34	1,516	35
Dallas (pt.):	31,056	175	31,056	192	31,056	207
Denton:	141,541	2027	141,541	2018	141,541	2,111
DISH:	439	0	439	0	439	0
Double Oak:	3,068	8	3,068	6	3,068	3
Flower Mound (pt.):	78,875	173	78,875	154	78,875	174
Fort Worth (pt.):	9,502	28	9,502	26	9,502	37
Frisco (pt.):	77,073	93	77,073	114	77,073	117
Grapevine (pt.):	-	6	-	10	-	7
Hackberry:	1,077	0	1,077	0	1,077	0
Haslet (pt.):	-	7	-	6	-	7
Hebron (pt.):	215	0	215	0	215	0
Hickory Creek:	4,795	17	4,795	20	4,795	24
Highland Village :	16,668	26	16,668	39	16,668	43
Justin:	4,279	125	4,279	110	4,279	127
Krugerville:	1,836	10	1,836	5	1,836	4
Krum:	5,018	76	5,018	82	5,018	81
Lake Dallas:	8,063	83	8,063	93	8,063	99
Lakewood Village:	964	1	964	3	964	1
Lewisville (pt.):	108,008	817	108,008	779	108,008	819
Lincoln Park:	558	0	558	0	558	0
Little Elm:	53,126	221	53,126	244	53,126	265
Northlake:	3,348	9	3,348	15	3,348	17
Oak Point:	5,762	18	5,762	22	5,762	20
Pilot Point (pt.):	4,522	56	4,522	65	4,522	61
Plano (pt.):	6,090	35	6,090	45	6,090	32
Ponder:	2,369	61	2,369	67	2,369	65
Prosper (pt.):	1,060	8	1,060	11	1,060	14
Providence Village:	7,377	22	7,377	22	7,377	28
Roanoke (pt.):	9,388	56	9,388	56	9,388	60
Sanger:	8,731	181	8,731	188	8,731	179
Shady Shores:	2,865	11	2,865	13	2,865	12
Southlake (pt.):	956	0	956	1	956	1
The Colony:	44,438	210	44,438	232	44,438	236
Trophy Club (pt.):	11,955	17	11,955	9	11,955	13
Westlake (pt.):	24	0	24	0	24	0

According to the 2021 State of Mental Health in America Report (Fritze et al., 2020):

- 10.8% of adults in America with Any Mental Illness (AMI) are uninsured.
- Texas ranked 49 out of 51 states, with 20.1% or 664,000 uninsured adults with Any Mental Illness.

- Although adults who did not have insurance coverage were less likely to receive treatment than those who did, 86% of people who did not receive mental health treatment were covered by health insurance, indicating that ensuring coverage is not the same as ensuring access to care.
- 59.6% of adults with Any Mental Illness in Texas did not receive treatment; 67.1% of youth with major depressive episodes did not receive treatment or services.
- Individuals seeking treatment but still not receiving needed services face the same barriers that contribute to the number of individuals not receiving treatment.
 - No insurance or limited coverage of services.
 - Shortfall in psychiatrists, and an overall undersized mental health workforce.
 - Lack of available treatment types (inpatient treatment, individual therapy, intensive community services).
 - Disconnect between primary care systems and behavioral health systems.
 - Insufficient finances to cover costs – including copays, uncovered treatment types, or when providers do not take insurance.

DENTON COUNTY MHMR TOP 5 DIAGNOSES

TOP 5 DIAGNOSES IN <u>2021</u>	AVERAGE CASE LOAD	PERCENT
1. Unspecified Anxiety Disorder	1,600	23.1%
2. Posttraumatic Stress disorder	856	12.3%
3. Major depressive disorder, recurrent episode, severe	843	12.2%
4. Generalized anxiety disorder	801	11.5%
5. Major depressive disorder, recurrent episode, moderate	711	10.2%

TOP 5 DIAGNOSES IN <u>2020</u>	NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED	PERCENT
1. Unspecified anxiety disorder	1,549	24.3%
2. Major depressive disorder, recurrent episode, severe	859	13.6%
3. Posttraumatic stress disorder	746	11.8%
4. Generalized anxiety disorder	685	10.9%
5. Major depressive disorder, recurrent episode, moderate	601	9.5%

TOP 5 DIAGNOSES IN <u>2019</u>	NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED	PERCENT
1. Unspecified anxiety disorder	1,586	26.1%
2. Major depressive disorder, recurrent episode, severe	822	13.5%
2. Posttraumatic stress disorder	720	11.8%
3. Major depressive disorder, recurrent episode, moderate	543	8.9%
4. Bipolar I disorder	526	8.6%

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

The U.S. National Library of Medicine, Medline Plus 2020, explains when a person has health problems directly related to alcohol or drug substance use, then the disorder is categorized as substance abuse or substance use disorder. (*Medline Plus, 2020*). Common diagnoses for people who have a substance use disorder are ADD (attention deficit disorder), depression, PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), and other mental health issues commonly found with low self-esteem or chaotic lifestyles (*Medline Plus, 2020*).

From September 2020 – August 2021, more than 2,300 individuals seen at Denton County MHMR had a dual diagnosis of mental health and substance use disorder. The overarching mental health issue is that Denton County does not have the funding or the resources to provide the proper care to those in need of mental health services.

- The single largest inpatient facility in Denton County for behavioral and mental health services is still the County Jail.

HOMELESSNESS

Of those experiencing homelessness in Denton County in 2020, 52.6% report experiencing a serious mental illness (*Denton County Homeless Coalition et al., 2020*).

Denton County MHMR data indicates 6.5% of individuals receiving services are currently experiencing homelessness. The most prevalent housing status for clients of Denton County MHMR is independent or supported housing, with 89.1% of clients within this demographic.

2020 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT VULNERABLE POPULATIONS:

	PERCENT
Domestic Violence	25.8%
HIV/AIDS	2.2%
Serious Mental Illness	52.7%
Substance Abuse Disorder	19.4%

(Denton County Homeless Coalition et al., 2020)

CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

According to the 2021 Cook Children's Community Health Needs Assessment Report, in Denton County:

- 11% of children (ages 5-15) are diagnosed with a mental illness or disorder.
- 12% of children (ages 0-15) received assistance for mental illness, behavioral, emotional, or a developmental problem.
- Two in three parents of school-aged children are not familiar with mental health services in their community.
- Of all school-aged children in Denton County that needed mental health care, over half experienced difficulty accessing care.
- 8,000 Denton County school-aged children did not receive needed mental health care during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The barriers to care included:
 - Could not afford
 - Not covered by insurance
 - Didn't know where to go
 - Long wait list/delay
 - Inconvenient hours *(Cook Children's Center for Children's Health, 2021)*

In Denton County children aged 6-17 years old, 19% are diagnosed with an anxiety disorder, 16.9 % with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and 9.8% with depression. *(2021 Cook Children's Community Health Needs Assessment Report)*

- As of April 2022, there are no pediatric psychiatric inpatient bed services in Denton County for children in need of mental health services. When a child under the age of 13 needs hospitalization, the child must be sent out of the county for treatment, placing a hardship on the parents/families, who are required to be present for treatment and planning. *(Cook Children's, 2022)*

COVID-19 PANDEMIC ERA RELATED CHANGES IN MENTAL HEALTH

- In 2021, suicide was the number one trauma death reported at Cook Children's Emergency Room.
- Texas Health Resources (THR) has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of psychiatric assessments performed in the Emergency Departments. THR had a 46% increase in the number of psych assessments performed in the Denton and Flower Mound Emergency Departments in 2020 (vs. 2019). Through April 2021, THR was on pace to exceed 2020 by 19% which would represent a 74% increase over the 2019 baseline.
 - Pre-COVID (January 2019 through February 2020), THR averaged 91 assessments per month. THR saw a significant dip in assessments during April and May 2020. Since June 2020 (through April 2021), THR have averaged 135 per month; 48% increase in the monthly average.
- THR has seen an increase in the number of encounters where the individual was identified as being at risk for suicide. Compared to a pre-COVID pandemic era, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Denton and Texas Health Flower Mound have experienced an 8% increase in the number of patients identified as being at risk for suicide.
 - From 4/16/20 through 4/15/21, THR identified moderate or high suicide risk in 1,667 encounters.

The highest growth is in the moderate risk category (11.3% increase compared to pre-COVID). Within the top 10 reasons the patient presented to the Emergency Department as shortness of breath, chest pain, leg pain, vomiting, and seizures. THR Presbyterian Hospital Denton and Texas Health Flower Mound have experienced an increase in the number of patients requiring inpatient psychiatric hospitalization related to an Emergency Department visit. Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Denton saw a 9% increase in inpatient Behavioral Health admissions vs. the 2019 baseline.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

PRIMARY CARE

In 2018, nine out of ten Denton County parents reported that their child, age 0-14, has excellent or very good health. *(Cook Children's Community-wide children's health assessment and Planning Survey, 2018)*

In 2018, Denton County parents reported that 98% of children ages 0-14 have a primary healthcare provider. *(Cook Children's Community-wide children's health assessment and Planning Survey, 2018)*

In 2018, 95% of Denton County parents reported that their child, age 0-14, has very easy access to immunizations. *(Cook Children's Community-wide children's health assessment and Planning Survey, 2018)*

In 2018, nearly 15,000 children ages 0-14 in Denton County were uninsured. Nearly 24,000 children had specialized healthcare needs. *(Cook Children's Community-wide children's health assessment and Planning Survey, 2018)*

DENTAL CARE

In 2018, Denton County parents reported that 86% of children ages 0-14 have dental insurance. *(Cook Children's Community-wide children's health assessment and Planning Survey, 2018)*

In 2018, Denton County parents reported that one-third of children had a dental problem (cavity, decayed tooth, toothache, etc.) in 2018. (*Cook Children's Community-wide children's health assessment and Planning Survey, 2018*)

In Denton County, one in eight children did not receive all necessary dental care in 2018. (*Cook Children's Community-wide children's health assessment and Planning Survey, 2018*)

ADULT HEALTH

DIABETES

People with diabetes have 2.3 times higher the medical expenses than individuals without diabetes. (*American Diabetes Association, 2018*)

According to the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps in the 2021 measures, 10% of adults in Denton County who are 20 or older have been diagnosed with diabetes. (*CountyHealthRankings.org*)

www.healthytexas.org

**Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Diabetes by Race/Ethnicity
County: Denton**



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017–2019)

HEART HEALTH

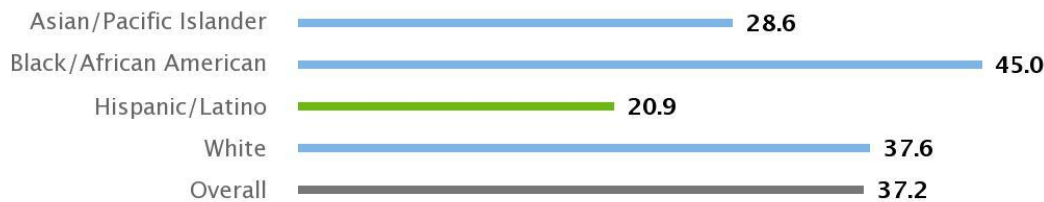
Healthy North Texas (2020) states:

- Cerebrovascular disease refers to conditions, including stroke, caused by problems with the

blood vessels supplying the brain with blood. Cerebrovascular disease is a leading cause of death in the United States, and although it is more common in older adults, it can occur at any age.

www.healthynxtexas.org

Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke) by Race/Ethnicity County: Denton



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017–2019)

Heart Disease and Stroke

Texas Department of Health Services states, in *Texas Plan to Reduce Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (n.d.)*, heart disease has been the leading cause of death in Texas since 1940 and currently accounts for approximately one in four (22.9%) deaths.

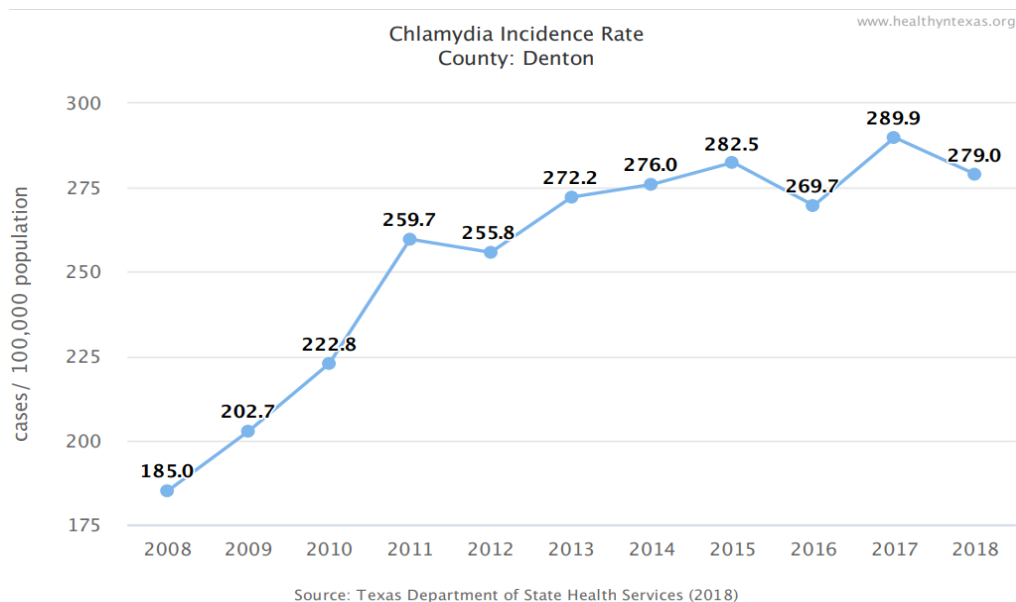
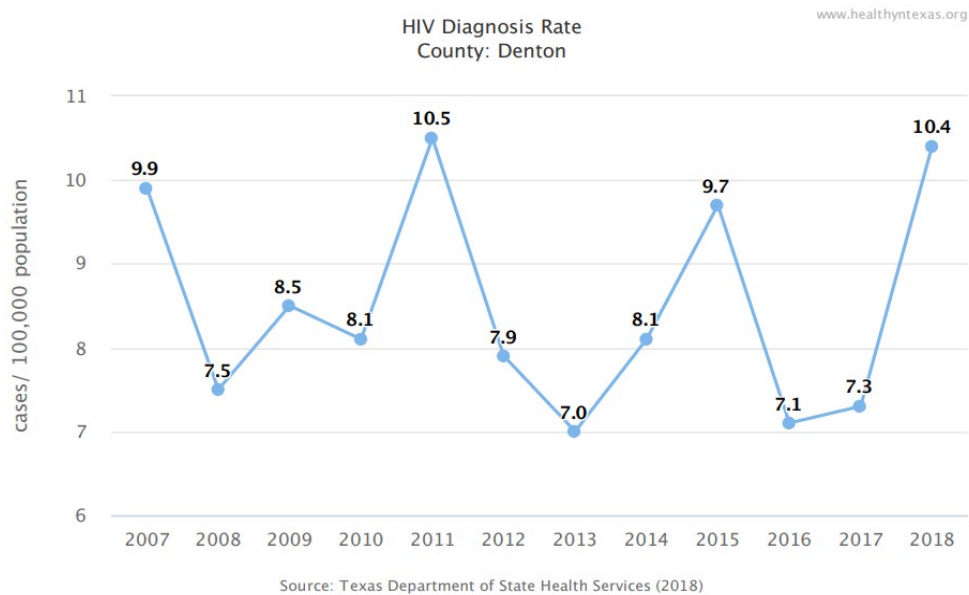
Stroke is the third leading cause of death in Texas and the fourth leading cause of death in the nation;

- Heart disease and stroke cause one in three deaths in women each year, more than all cancers combined. (*American Heart Association, 2017*)
- Between 2015-2019, the number of cardiovascular deaths in Texas increased from 253.5 to 267.7 deaths per 100,000 population. (*America's Health Rankings, 2019*)

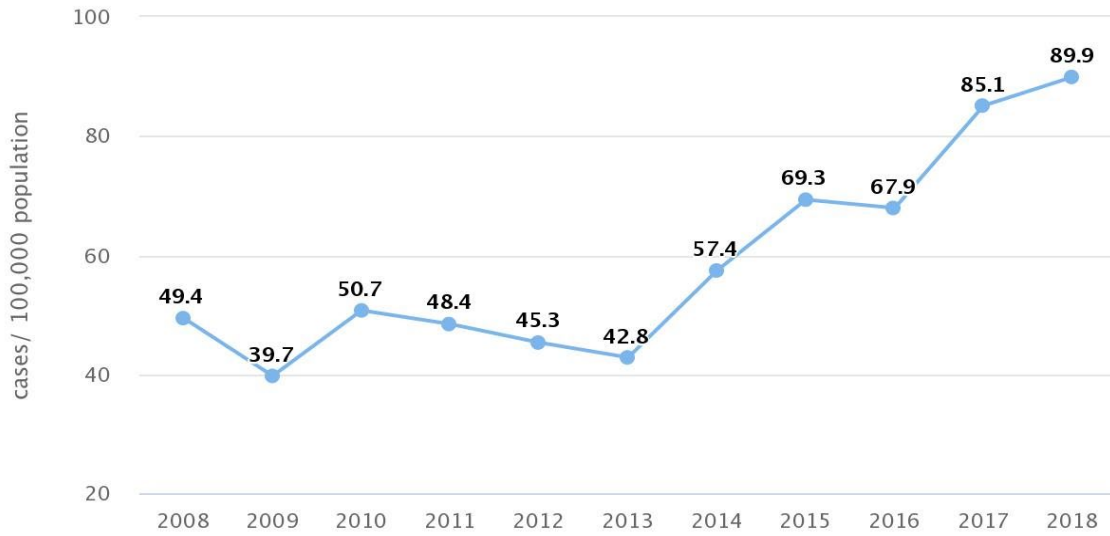
The top three risk factors for heart disease include: high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and smoking. The Mayo Clinic found that women's hearts are affected by stress and depression more than men's; that low levels of estrogen for post-menopausal women pose a risk for developing heart disease; and women who smoke or have diabetes are at a greater risk for developing heart disease than men.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) (2016) explains sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are transitioning to being called sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

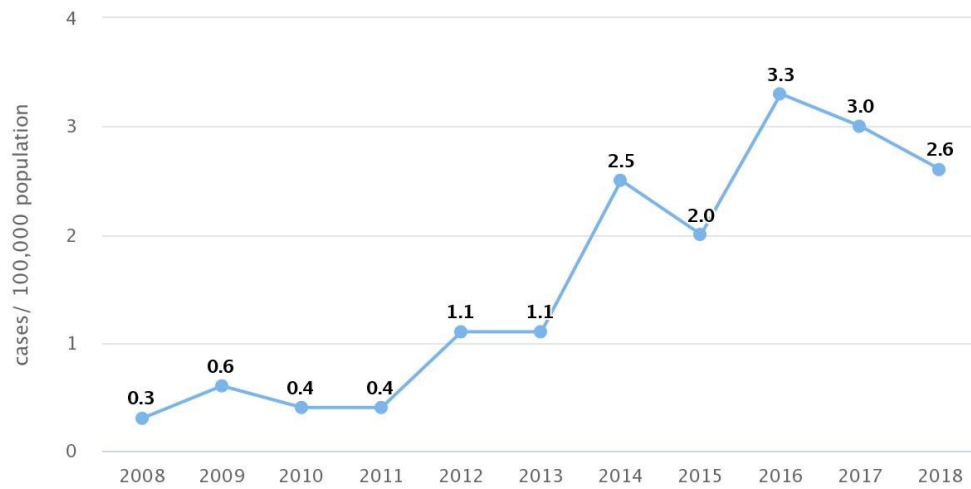


Gonorrhea Incidence Rate County: Denton



Source: Texas Department of State Health Services (2018)

Syphilis Incidence Rate County: Denton



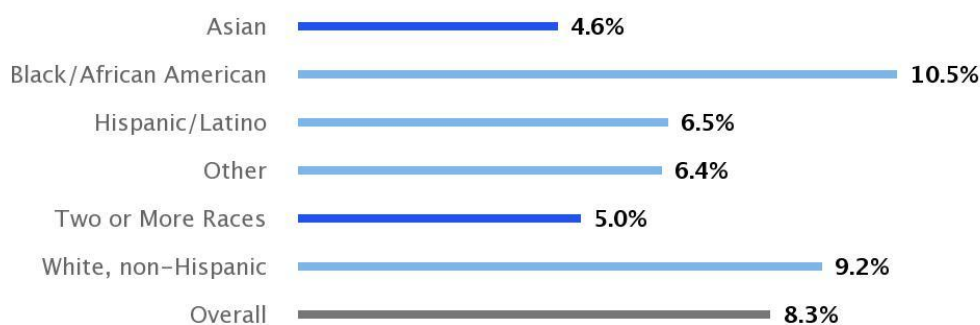
Source: Texas Department of State Health Services (2018)

Living with a Disability

For those who are completely disabled in Denton, Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income are often the best way (sometimes the only way) to maintain an income and reasonable standard of living despite their disabilities. (*Disability Benefits Center, n.d.*)

www.healthytexas.org

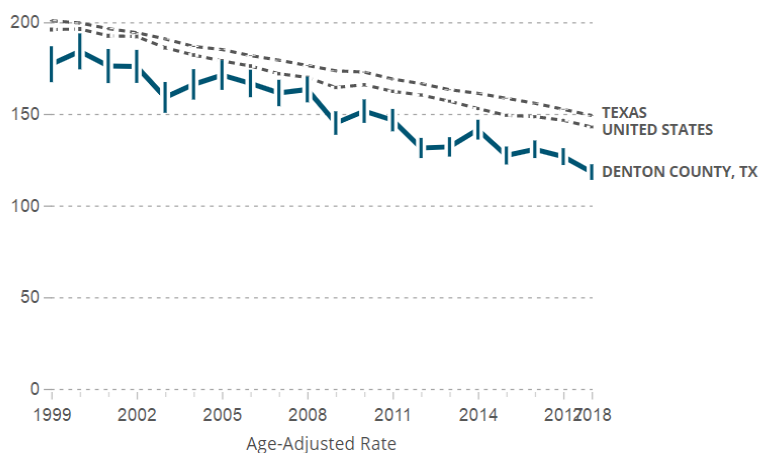
**Persons with a Disability by Race/Ethnicity
County: Denton**



Source: American Community Survey (2019)

Cancer

Cancer Deaths per 100,000 Pop.

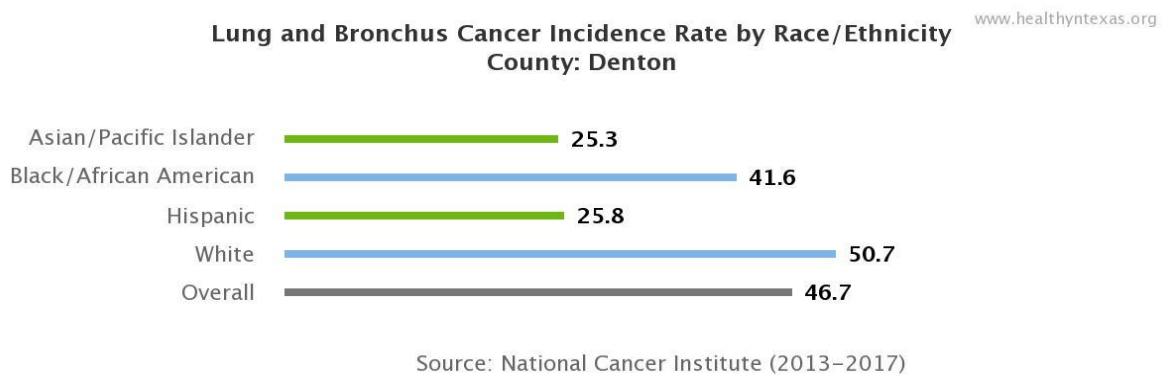
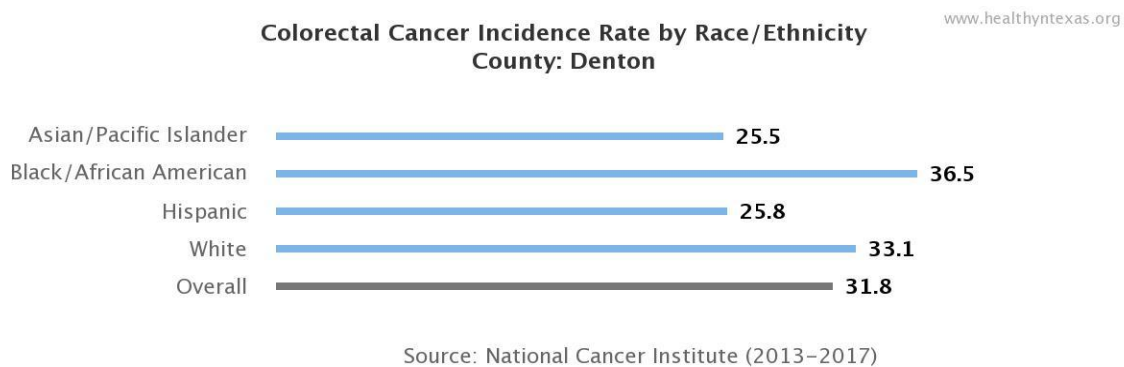
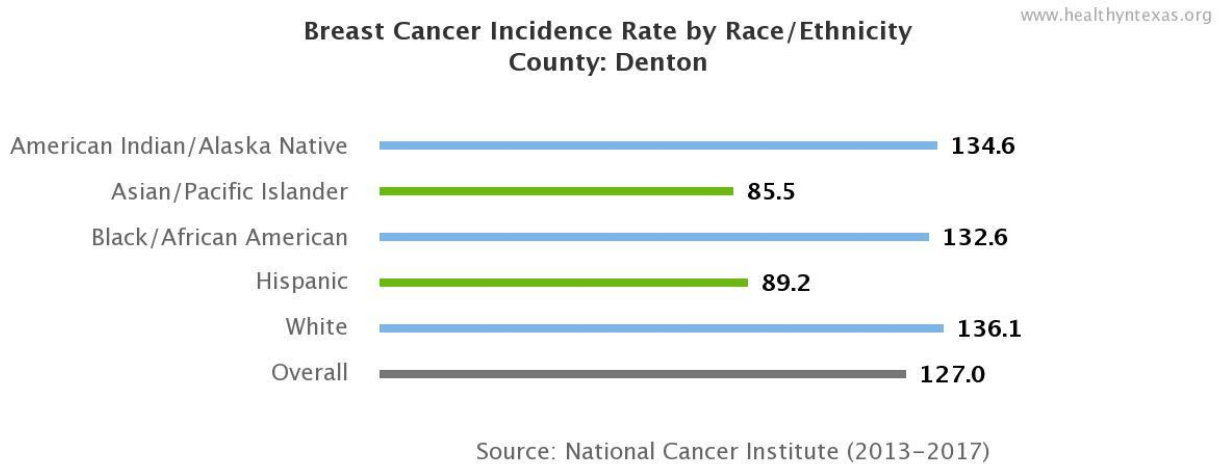


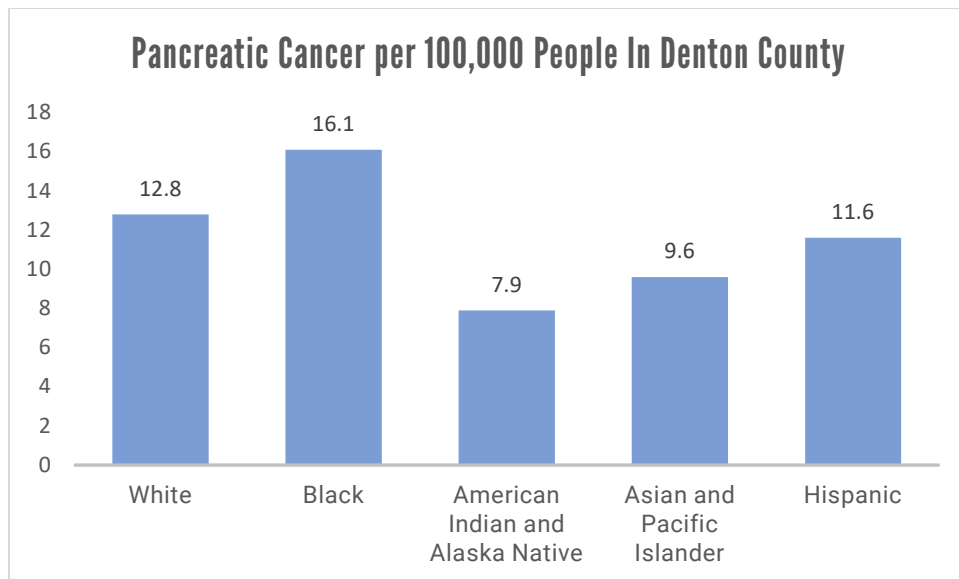
849
Deaths

Cancer
2018
Denton County, TX

(Live Stories, 2018)

- While Texas has a lower breast cancer rate than the national average, the incidence rate of breast cancer in Denton County is on the rise to 123.3 cases per 100,000 (*National Cancer Institute, 2014*).





Age-adjusted cancer incidence rate in Denton County, measurement period 2013-2017 (*Denton County Public Health, n.d.*):

- Total cancer incidence rate: 408.5 cases per 100,000 population.
- Breast cancer incidence rate: 127 cases per 100,000 females.
- Lung cancer incidence rate: 46.7 cases per 100,000 population.
- Prostate cancer incidence rate: 103.6 cases per 100,000 population.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

- One in three (3,252) births in Denton County was to a woman who received **inadequate prenatal care** which is described as “pregnancy-related care beginning in the fifth month of pregnancy or later or less than 50% of the appropriate number of visits for an infant's gestational age”. (*March of Dimes, 2017*) (*Texas Department of State of Health Services, n.d.*)

- The teen pregnancy rate in Texas in 2021 was 41.1 per 1,000 (ages 15-19). The teen pregnancy rate in Denton County was 18.1 per 1,000. The teen pregnancy rate in the United States was 26.7 per 1,000. (*March of Dimes, 2017*)
- While Texas has a lower breast cancer rate than the national average, the incidence rate of breast cancer in Denton County is on the rise to 127 cases per 100,000. (*National Cancer Institute, 2017*)

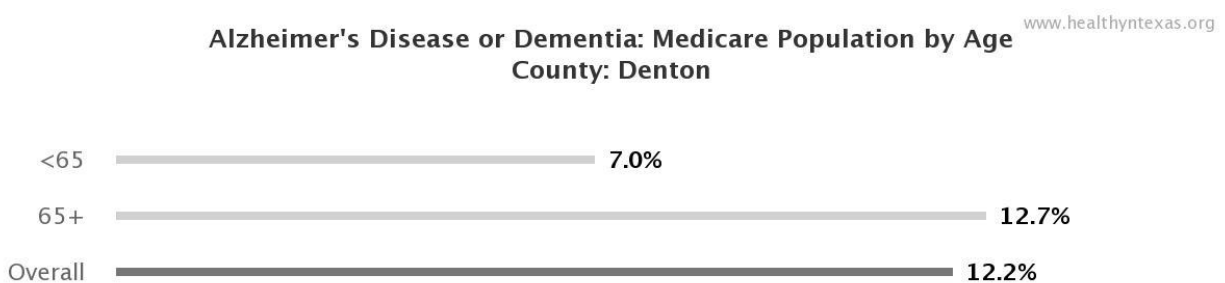
SENIOR HEALTH

- The United Health Foundation's America's Health Ranking Senior Report (2021) ranks Texas as the **41st healthiest state** for older adults.
- In 2021, persons living in Denton County have a life expectancy of 81.7 years as compared to 78.4 state-wide. (*CountyHealthRankings.org, 2022*)
- The cost of healthcare for adults over the age of 65 is **five times higher** than for those under the age of 65. While 5.1% (4086) adults over the age of 65 are living below poverty level. (*Healthy North Texas, 2021*)
- Multiple chronic diseases account for two-thirds of all health care costs and 93% Medicare spending. (*National Council On Aging, 2021*)
- Many seniors prefer to age in place, staying in their own homes. In fact, the cost of living in an institution is about **one-third higher** than accessing community-based care. (*Area Agency on Aging, North Central Texas*)
- 70% of older adults have **limited health literacy** and are at risk for being misinformed about community resources or scammed. (*Area Agency on Aging, North Central Texas*)

- 23% of older Texans report a diagnosis of **depression** and 13% report an **anxiety or panic disorder**. As many as 60% of nursing home residents have psychiatric diagnoses. (Area Agency on Aging, North Central Texas)

Alzheimer's Disease

Healthy North Texas (2019) states that Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia among the geriatric population, accounting for 50 to 80 percent of dementia cases.



Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (2018)

DENTAL HEALTH

The **need for dental care**, especially among uninsured adults, was identified in community surveys and community focus groups. Data regarding the number of individuals that do not have access to dental care was not available at the time of this report.

According to the 2021 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, there are 1,740 individuals in Denton County per one dentist.

DEATH RATES

Mortality

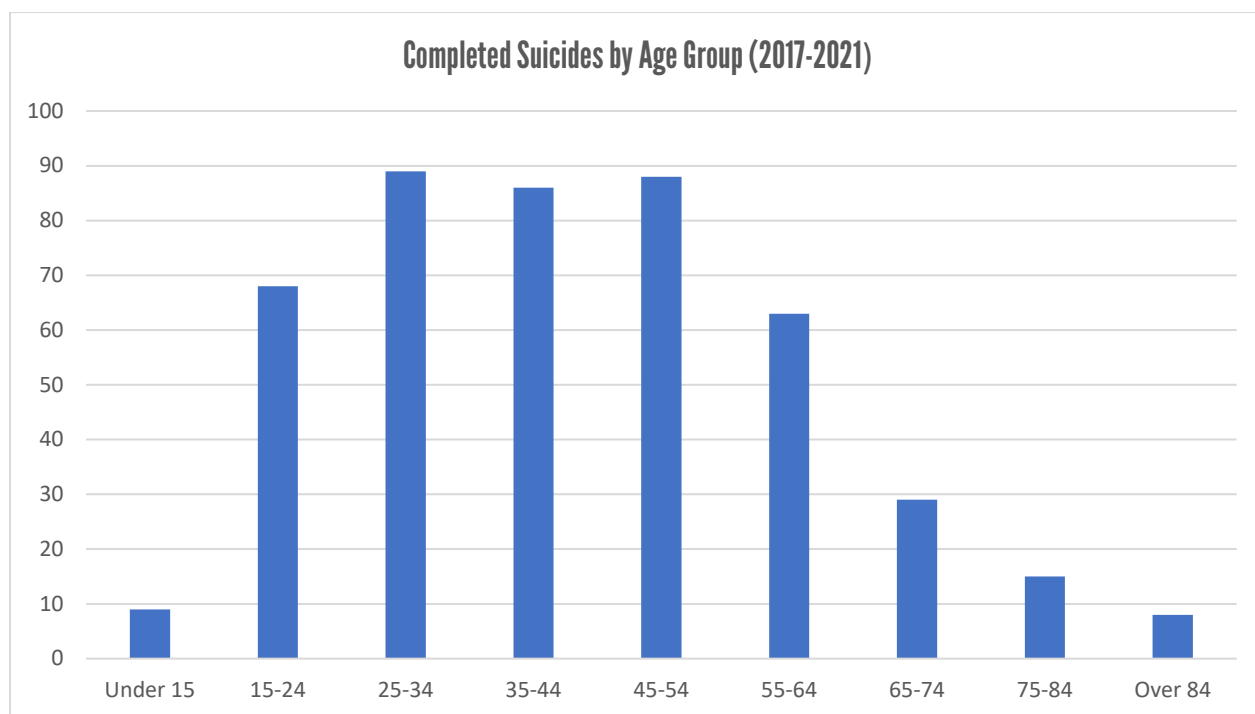
- Cancer is the leading cause of death in Denton County. Breast Cancer has the highest incidence rate, but lung cancer has the highest death rate. (*Denton County Public Health, n.d.*)
 - Age-adjusted cancer death rate in Denton County, measurement period 2013-2017 (*Denton County Public Health, n.d.*):
 - Total cancer death rate: 132.8 per 100,000 population.
 - Lung cancer death rate: 31.4 per 100,000 population.
 - Breast cancer death rate: 18.7 per 100,000 females.
 - Prostate cancer death rate: 16.9 per 100,000 males.
- Age-adjusted diabetes death rate in Denton County, measurement period 2015 (*Denton County Public Health, n.d.*):
 - 17.2 per 100,000 population.
- Heart disease is the second leading cause of death in Denton County. (*Denton County Public Health, n.d.*)
 - Age-adjusted death rate due to diseases of the heart in Denton County, measurement period 2015 (*Denton County Public Health, n.d.*):
 - 123.7 per 100,000 population
 - Heart disease and stroke cause one in three deaths in women each year. (*Go Red for Women, n.d.*)
 - Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in the United States. (*CDC, 2020.*
- Denton County rates of gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis cases have been on the rise since 2013. (*Denton County Public Health, 2017*)

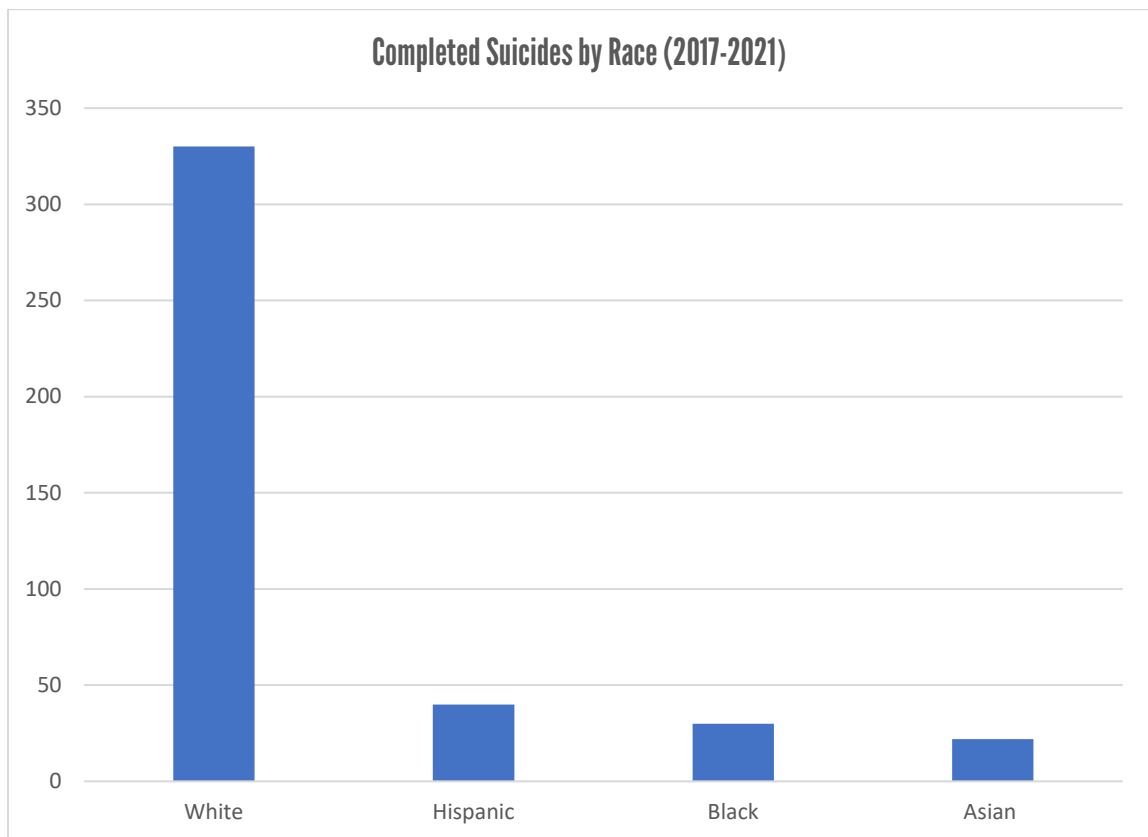
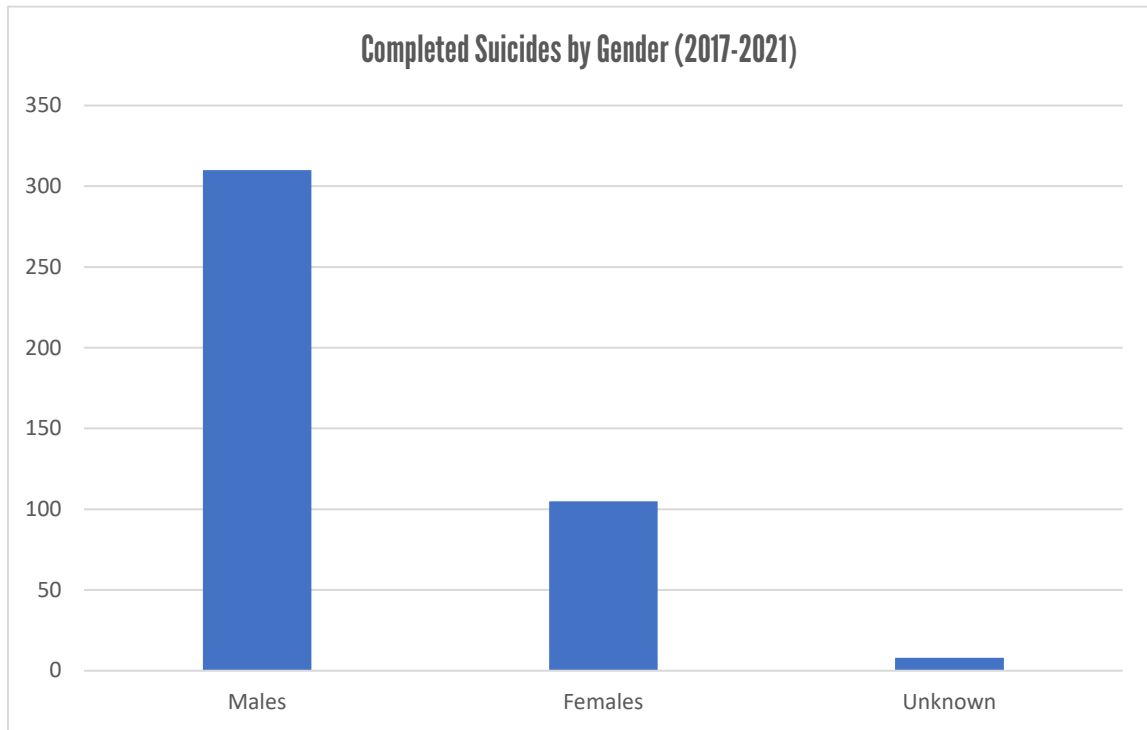
Suicide

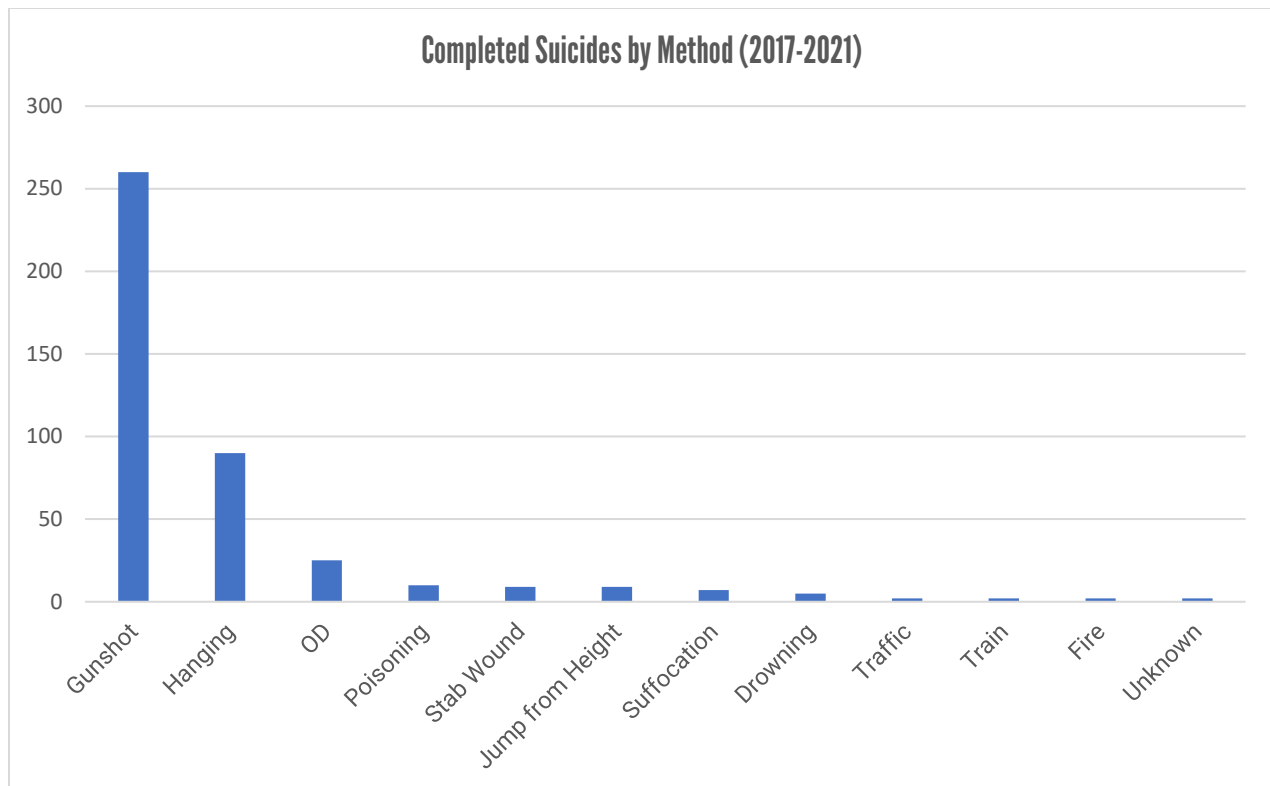
The Texas 2020 data from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention states that suicide was the 11th leading cause of death in Texas, with one individual dying by suicide every two hours in Texas (n.d.). Nationally, suicide was the 10th leading cause of death (*American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 2021*).

Healthy North Texas' (2021) age-adjusted death rate due to suicide from 2017-2019 in Denton County ranked 11.9 deaths per 100,000 population. There has been a slight increase in the death rate due to suicide for males between the measurement periods of 2016-2018 and 2017-2019 (*Healthy North Texas, 2021*). Grayson, Navarro, and Cooke County range between 22.1-27.3 deaths per 100,000 population (*Healthy North Texas, 2021*).

In Denton County, the number of completed suicides has increased over the past four years. White males have the highest number of completed suicides with gunshot wounds being the leading means of suicide. Denton County had 98 suicides by the end of 2021. (*Denton County MHMR 2021.*) **For the first time, suicide is the leading cause of trauma death at Cook Children's, surpassing accidental deaths such as traffic accidents, drownings, etc.**







According to Healthy North Texas (2021):

- Men are about four times more likely than women to die of suicide, but three times more women than men report attempting suicide. *(Healthy North Texas, 2021)*
- One of the leading causes of death in the Nation is suicide.
- An estimated 25 attempted suicides occur per every suicide death, and those who survive suicide may have serious injuries, in addition to having depression and other mental problems. *(Healthy North Texas, 2021)*
- In Denton County, White individuals have the highest age-adjusted death rate due to suicide, followed by individuals who are Black or African American and individuals who are Hispanic or Latino.

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VETERANS

The U.S. Census Bureau stated that in 2019 there were 1.6 million Veterans living in Texas and 41,197 Veterans living in Denton County.

Of the over 41,000 Veterans living in Denton County, approximately 44.8% are 54 and younger. Denton County is the second county in the DFW Region whose Veterans aged 54 or younger make up the majority of the Veterans in the county (behind Rockwall County, 48.9%). (*World Population Review, n.d.*)

KEY FINDINGS

- Veterans assessed through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) determined that one in 50 males experience Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and one in three females experience MST. (*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), 2020*)
- Approximately 30% of Veterans who served during the Vietnam War experience PTSD.
- More than one in ten Veterans have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder, slightly higher than the general population. (*NIDA, 2019*)
- From Veterans assessed through the VA it has been determined that about one in 50 males experience MST and one in three females experience MST. (*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), 2020*)
- The COVID-19 pandemic era significantly affected the mental health of Veterans:
 - Occurrences of PTSD increased to 54%.
 - 34% suffer from moderate to severe depression.
 - 30% reported having suicidal thoughts.
 - 51% had a mental health appointment cancelled or postponed.

(nyhealth.org/vets-covid)

OVERVIEW

In 2020, the service periods represented the most in Denton County including Vietnam, post-9/11 Gulf War, and the 1990's Gulf War (*Data USA, n.d.*). Research from Texas A&M University's Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) suggests that healthcare support is the greatest service needed for Texas Veterans, no matter the region. (*Chaudhuri, 2021*)

A study conducted by the VA in 2020 found that 13.4% of female Veterans reported post-traumatic stress disorder and male Veterans reported a 13.5% rate of PTSD. Male and female Veterans were more likely than civilians to use a variety of treatment sources, with male civilians being least likely to seek treatment and male Veterans exhibiting the longest delay in seeking treatment. (*Lehavot, 2020*)

MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)

- MST: experiences of sexual assault or repeated, threatening sexual harassment that a Veteran experienced during his or her military service. (*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), 2020*).
- From Veterans assessed through the VA it has been determined that about one in 50 males experience MST and one in three females experience MST.
- VA medical record data indicate that in addition to PTSD, the diagnoses most frequently associated with MST among users of VA health care are depression and other mood disorders, and substance use disorders. (*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2020*).

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)

- According to the VA (2018):
 - In any given year, around 12% of Veterans who served during the Gulf War experience PTSD.
 - At some point in their life, around 30% of Veterans who served during the Vietnam War experience PTSD.

- Women are more than twice as likely to develop PTSD than men; 10% for women and 4% for men. (*Absher, 2021*).

According to the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, one in four Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans experience PTSD (n.d.).

- According to the Department of Defense and the Defense and Veteran's Brain Injury Center (*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2019*):
 - 22% of combat casualties from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, are a result of TBIs.
 - 12% of combat casualties from the Vietnam War were a result of TBIs.
 - 18-24 months following their injury, Veterans will continue to show symptoms from mild TBIs, whereas the general public who experience a mild TBI will experience recovery within 3-6 months.
- A systematic review from the Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation showed that PTSD after TBI was more frequently observed in military samples than in civilians: 37% vs. 16% (*Loignon, 2020*).

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN VETERANS

- More than one in ten Veterans have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder, slightly higher than the general population. (*NIDA, 2019*).
- 63% of recent Veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan were diagnosed with both a substance use disorder and PTSD. (*NIDA, 2019*).
- According to SAMHSA's (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Veteran Adults, among Veterans aged 18 and older with a substance use disorder:
 - One in four struggled with illicit drugs.
 - Four in five struggled with alcohol use.
 - One in 13 struggled with illicit drugs and alcohol. (*SAMHSA, 2020*)

VETERAN SUICIDE

Decreases in Veteran suicide across multiple fronts and methods of measurement in 2019 were unprecedented compared to the last 20 years. *(2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.)*

- There were 399 fewer Veteran suicides nationwide in 2019 than in 2018. *(2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.)*
- There was a 7.2% overall decrease in the age- and sex-adjusted Veteran suicide mortality rate in 2019, as compared to 2018. *(2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.)*
- The unadjusted suicide rate for male Veterans decreased 3.6% in 2019 from 2018 while the unadjusted suicide rate for female Veterans decreased 12.8% in 2019 from 2018. *(2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention)*
- In 2019, there were 6,261 Veteran suicide deaths in the U.S., whereas in 2018 there were 6,399 and in 2017 6,435 suicide deaths in the U.S. *(U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, 2021)*
- In 2019 there were approximately 17.2 Veteran suicide deaths daily, whereas in 2018 there were 17.6 Veteran suicide deaths daily in the U.S. *(U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, 2021)*
- In 2019, the unadjusted suicide rates were highest among Veterans ages 18-34 (44.4 per 100,000). The unadjusted rate decreased 12.8% for female Veterans in 2019 compared to 2018 and decreased 3.6% for male Veterans in 2019 compared to 2018. *(2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention)*

VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

- Veterans are not unlike civilians when it comes to homelessness. They must navigate the lack of affordable housing and economic hardship that everyone faces in addition to the challenges brought on by multiple and extended deployments. Taken together, these factors create a population that deserves, but can often struggle with, housing stability. *(National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2019)*

- Research indicates that those who served in the late-Vietnam and post-Vietnam eras are at the greatest risk of becoming homeless but that Veterans from more recent wars and conflicts are also affected. Veterans returning from deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq often face invisible wounds of war, including traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, both of which correlate with homelessness. (*National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2019*)

VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IN THE U.S., TEXAS, AND DENTON COUNTY

U.S.	Texas	Denton County
Examining one night in January 2020, there were 37,252 homeless Veterans in the United States (<i>HUD Exchange Point-in-Time Count 2021</i>).	Examining one night in January 2020, there were 1,948 homeless Veterans in Texas (<i>HUD Exchange Point-in-Time Count 2021</i>).	In January 2020, there were 35 (8.8% of all homeless persons) identified homeless Veterans in Denton County (<i>UWDC Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard, 2022</i>).

Veteran Homelessness in Denton County (*Denton County Homeless Coalition et al., 2020*):

- In January 2020, Veterans in Denton County were 8.8% of people experiencing homelessness compared to 5% of Denton County's overall population, indicating that Veterans are experiencing homelessness at a slightly higher rate. (*UWDC Data Dashboard January 2020*).
- The 2022 Point-In-Time County for Denton County found that over 40 Veteran households were experiencing issues with homelessness:
 - 36 Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin
 - 4 Hispanic/Latin
 - 6 Female / 32 Male / 1 Other

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ERA ON VETERANS

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented significant challenges for Veterans, including exacerbating mental health and substance use issues that too often bring Veterans into contact with the criminal justice system. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, more than half of all justice-involved Veterans have either mental health or substance use disorders. (nyhealth.org/vets-covid)

COVID-19 IMPACT ON VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH

The Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) annually surveys post-9/11 Veterans and Service members who incurred physical, mental injury or illness while serving. A 2020 survey conducted during the pandemic found that:

54% Currently suffer from PTSD

34% Currently suffer from moderate to severe depression

52% Reported worsening mental health since social distancing

30% Reported having suicidal thoughts within the past two weeks

51% Had a mental health appointment cancelled or postponed

48% Did not receive information from the VA on how to continue mental health services

COVID-19 PANDEMIC ERA IMPACT ON VETERANS DUE TO AGE

One of the reasons Veterans may see more fatalities during the pandemic is their age. Over 50% of Veterans in Denton County are 55 or older, which puts them at greater risk of severe illness or death due to COVID-19. Additionally, many Veterans are at a higher risk of respiratory illness due to the environments and toxins they were exposed to while on active duty, which places them in a higher risk group for coronavirus. (*COVID-19's Impact on Veterans, Social Work Today, Vol 20, No 5, P.22*)

Outside of contracting COVID-19, Veterans face concerns about maintaining their health in general, particularly with a lack of in-person services.

VETERANS IN DENTON COUNTY BY AGE (18 and up)

Male	35,883	86.9%
18-34 years	3,832	9.3%
35-54 years	11,648	28.2%
55-64 years	6,236	15.1%
65-74 years	8,403	20.3%
75 years and older	5,764	14.0%
Female	5,413	13.1%
18-34 years	693	1.7%
35-54 years	2,026	4.9%
55-64 years	2,602	6.3%
65-74 years	22	0.1%
75 years and older	70	0.2%

(US Census ACS 1-Year Estimates 2019)

WE EMPOWER DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, BUSINESSES, GOVERNMENTS, NONPROFITS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS TO INVEST IN NEIGHBORS FOR A BETTER DENTON COUNTY COMMUNITY.

We LIVE UNITED to help children and families succeed, to guide & serve Veterans and their families, to advocate for overall mental health, and to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring. Working together, we identify the community's most critical needs and implement collaborative, innovative solutions to improve and transform lives in Denton County.

We LIVE UNITED 4 Denton County



1314 Teasley Lane
Denton, TX 76205
UnitedWayDentonCounty.org
940-566-5851



Denton County