



**2017 PROFILE**

# **fort bend county**

- 
- 3 overview**
  - 5 housing & land use**
  - 7 economy & workforce**
  - 9 education & health**
  - 11 environment & transportation**
  - 13 sources**

prepared by the Houston-Galveston Area Council



# preface

In 2013, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) developed *Our Great Region 2040*, a regional plan for sustainable development. The plan lays out a long-range vision to ensure that the 13-county region is one of the world's greatest places to live, work, and succeed by 2040.

The 2017 profiles for all 13 counties in the region provide a demographic snapshot and build a baseline understanding from which local communities and H-GAC can gauge how the region has advanced the tenets of the *Our Great Region 2040* plan.

The contents of this report have been gathered from a variety of sources referenced on the last two pages. All maps were produced by H-GAC.

To read the *Our Great Region 2040* plan and all 13 county profiles, visit [ourregion.org/county-profiles.html](http://ourregion.org/county-profiles.html) or [h-gac.com/go/apps](http://h-gac.com/go/apps).



# big ideas

Strategies in the *Our Great Region 2040* plan are grouped into Big Ideas for six different topics highlighting areas of opportunity within the region. The Big Ideas serve as high-level guides when considering new projects or policies. This 2017 county profile includes a range of demographic data points that correspond with one or multiple Big Ideas.



## **Economic Development**

Strengthening our economic competitiveness through an educated and skilled workforce



## **Housing**

Providing balanced housing choices near jobs, services, and transportation options



## **Environment**

Securing a clean and ample water supply



## **Resiliency**

Increasing our resiliency to disaster and a changing environment



## **Healthy Communities**

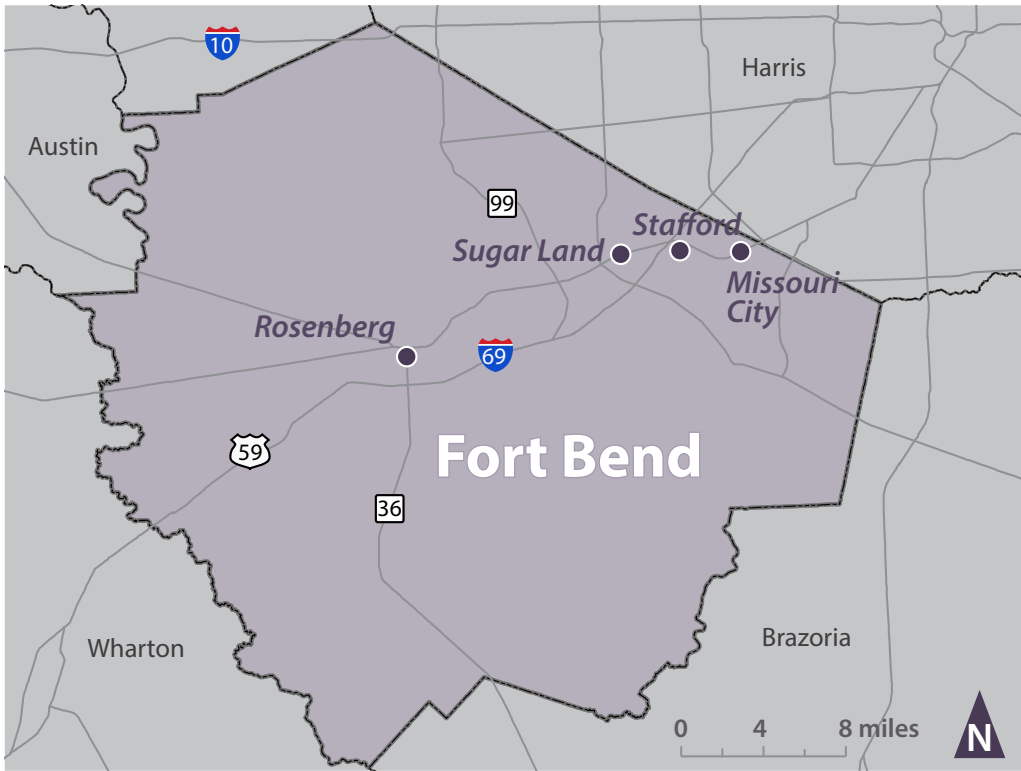
Cultivating places where people can lead active, healthy lives



## **Transportation**

Achieving a world-class transportation network

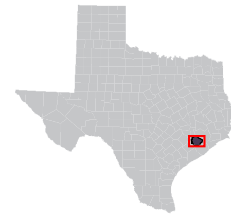
# OVERVIEW



## Fort Bend County Boundaries

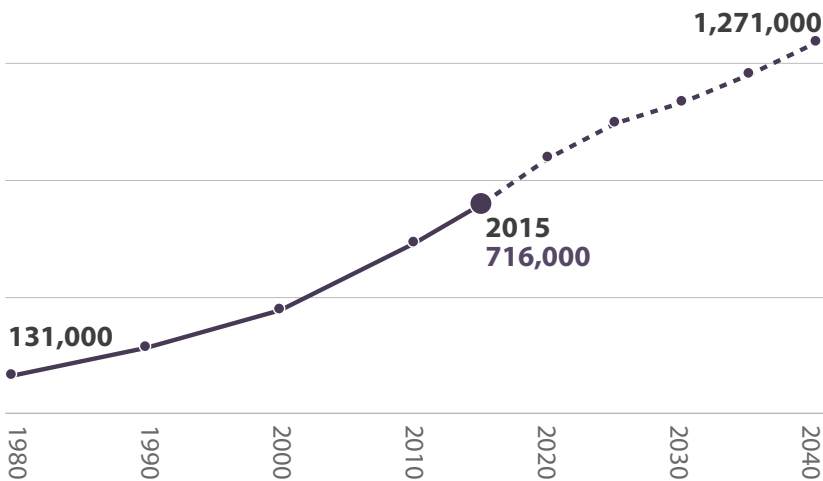
- Fort Bend County
- Other counties
- Top 4 cities
- Major roads

County Seat: Richmond  
Largest City: Sugar Land



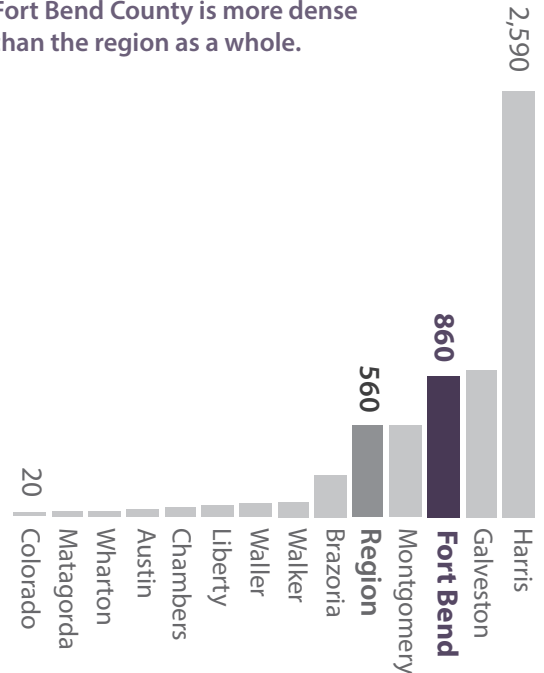
## Population Growth Forecast

Fort Bend County grew by 447% from 1980 to 2015 and is expected to reach 1,271,000 residents by 2040.



## Residents Per Square Mile

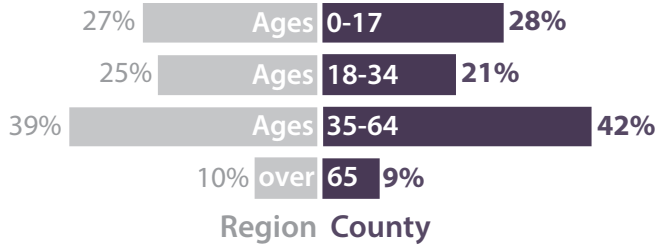
Fort Bend County is more dense than the region as a whole.





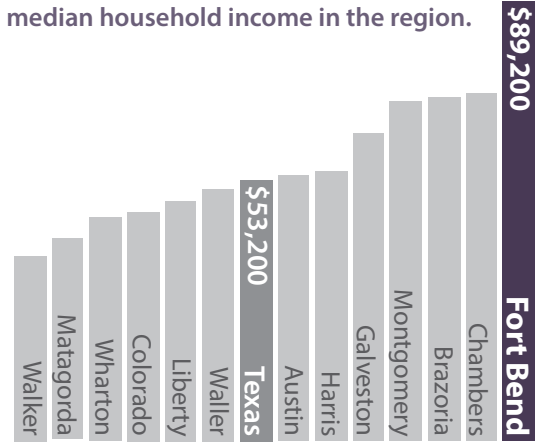
## Age

Fort Bend County has a similar age profile as the region.



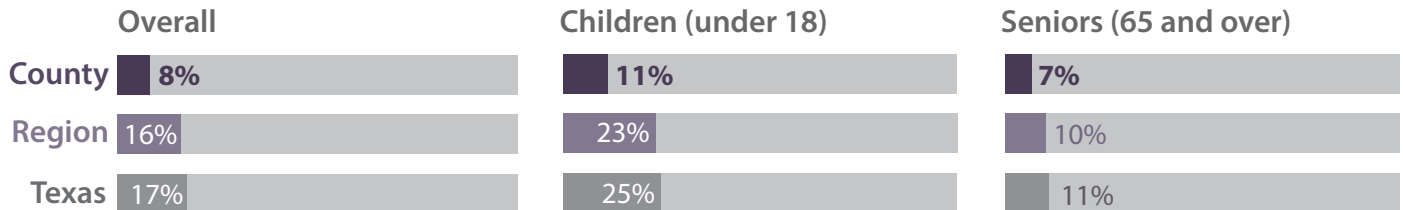
## Median Household Income

Fort Bend County has the highest median household income in the region.



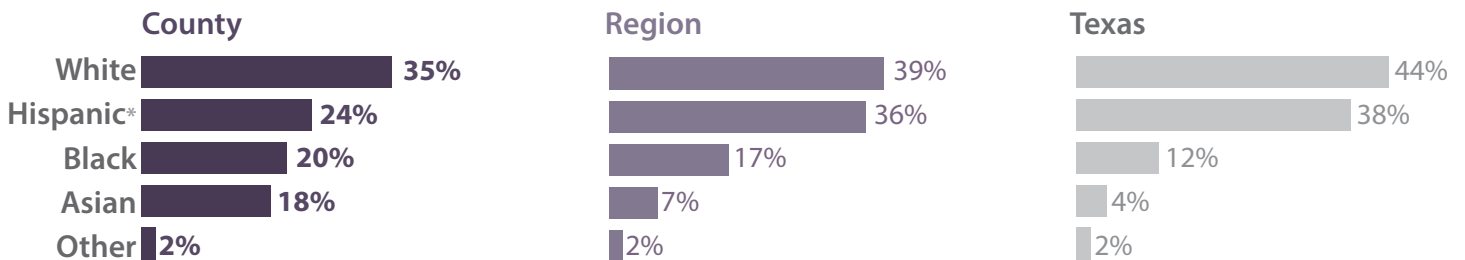
## Poverty Rate

Fort Bend County has a lower rate of poverty than the region, particularly for children.



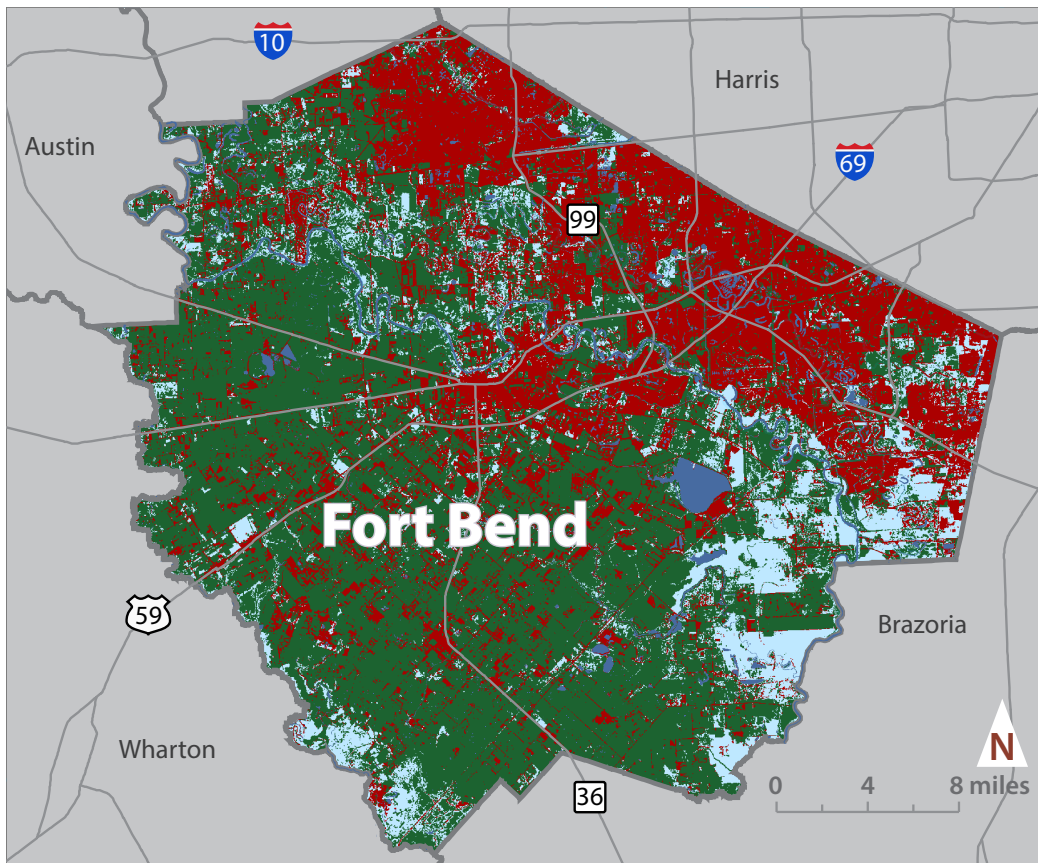
## Race and Ethnicity

Fort Bend County is more racially diverse than the region and the state.



\*As defined by the Office of Management and Budget as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.

# HOUSING & LAND USE

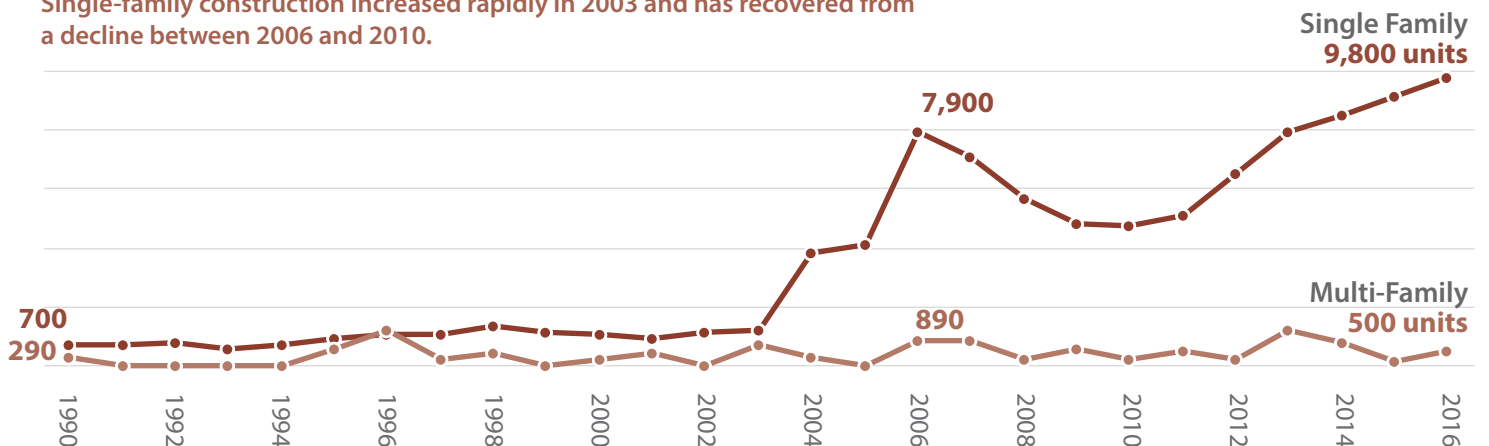


## Fort Bend County Land Use

- Other counties
- 2% Open water
- 31% Developed Land
- 12% Wetlands
- 55% Forest, shrubs, pasture, grasslands, barren lands, and cultivated crops

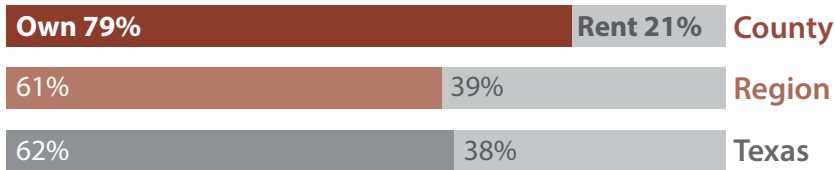
## Building Permits Issued

Single-family construction increased rapidly in 2003 and has recovered from a decline between 2006 and 2010.



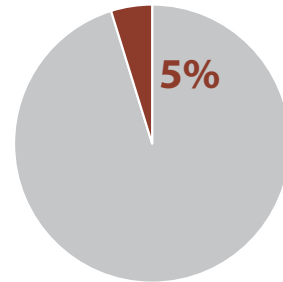
## Housing Tenure

Fort Bend County has a higher rate of homeownership than the region or the state.



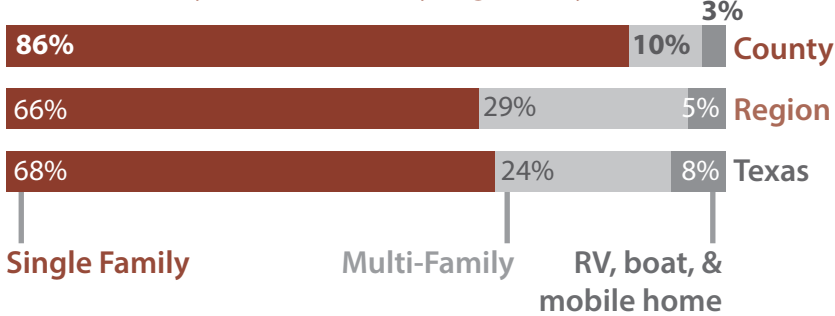
## Vacant Housing Units

Fort Bend County has the lowest rate of vacant housing in the region.



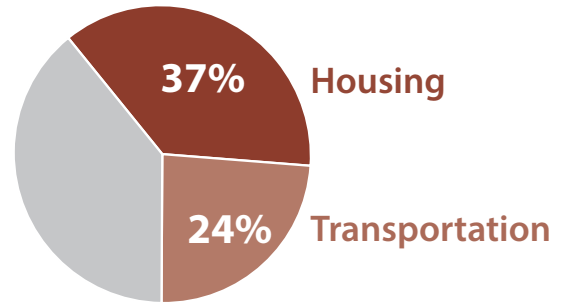
## Housing Type

Fort Bend County's homes are mostly single-family residences.



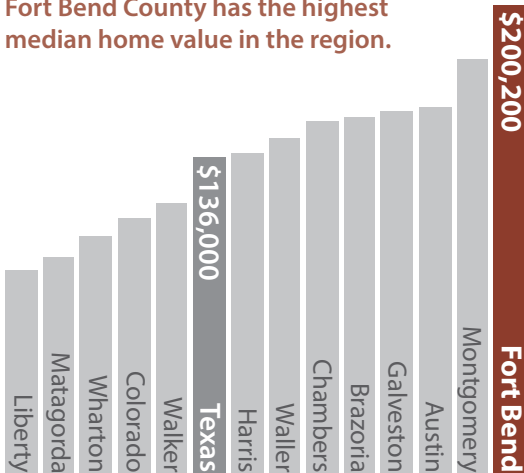
## Living Costs

Fort Bend County households spend 61% of their income on transportation and housing.



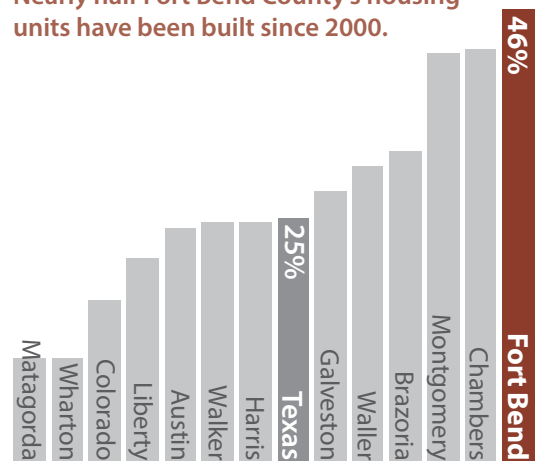
## Median Home Value

Fort Bend County has the highest median home value in the region.



## Housing Units Built Since 2000

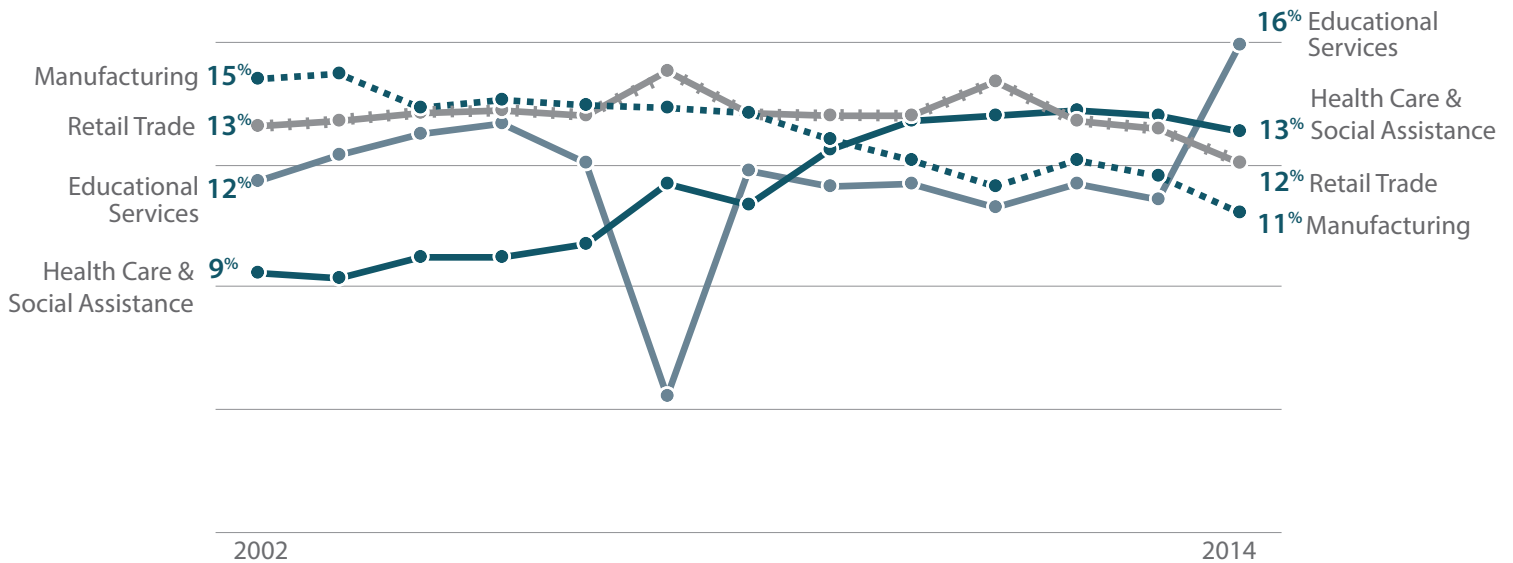
Nearly half Fort Bend County's housing units have been built since 2000.



# ECONOMY & WORKFORCE

## Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs

Employment in Fort Bend County remained diverse between 2002 and 2014, with each of the top four industries employing more people in 2014 than in 2002.



## Major Employers in Fort Bend County

- Administaff
- Fluor Corporation
- Fort Bend ISD
- Fort Bend County
- Lamar CISD
- Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
- Richmond State School
- Schlumberger Technology Corp.
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Texas Instruments, Inc.
- United Parcel Service
- Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.

\*This reflects the most up-to-date publicly available data and may not represent the current mix of major employers in the county.

## Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)

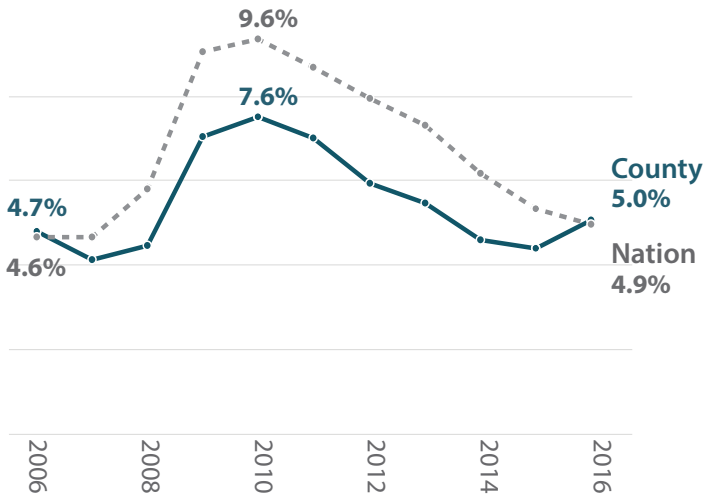
Only 6% of Fort Bend County's working-age teens are both unemployed and out of school.





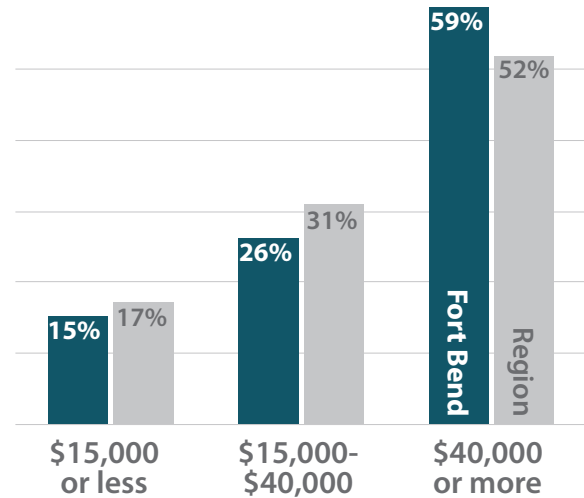
## Unemployment Rate

Fort Bend County's unemployment was lower than the nation from 2006 to 2015, but surpassed it in 2016.



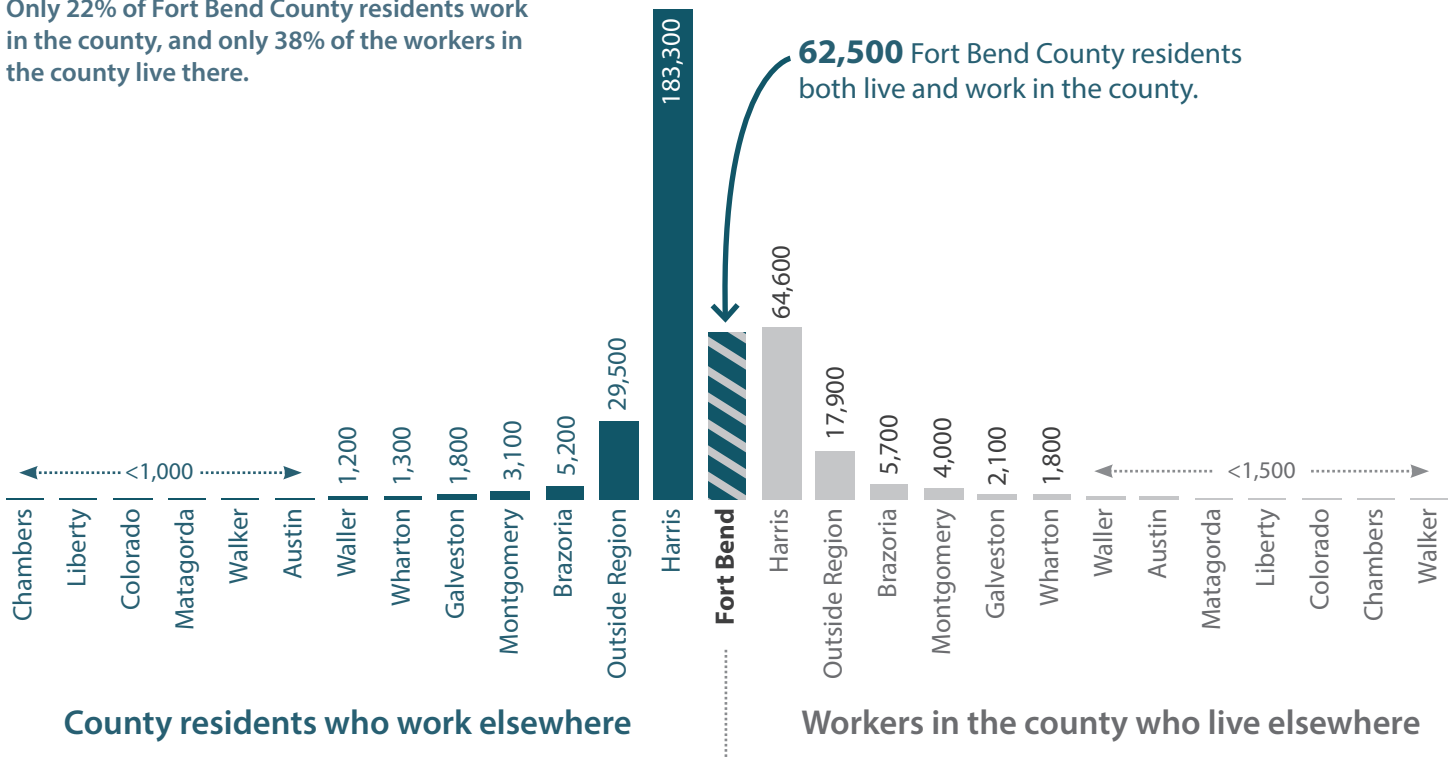
## Earnings of Residents

Nearly 60% of Fort Bend County residents earn over \$40,000 annually, a higher percentage than the region.



## Workers' Job & Home Destinations

Only 22% of Fort Bend County residents work in the county, and only 38% of the workers in the county live there.

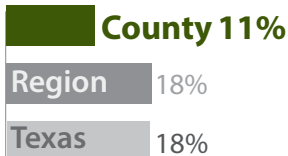


# EDUCATION

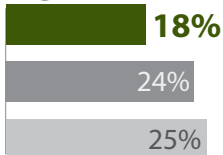
## Educational Attainment

A high percentage of Fort Bend County residents have completed a bachelor's degree or more.

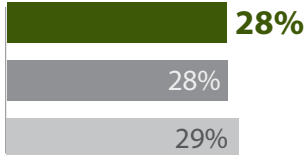
### Less than High School



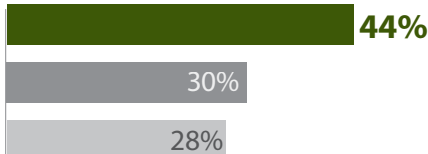
### High School or Equivalent



### Some College or Associate's



### Bachelor's Degree or More



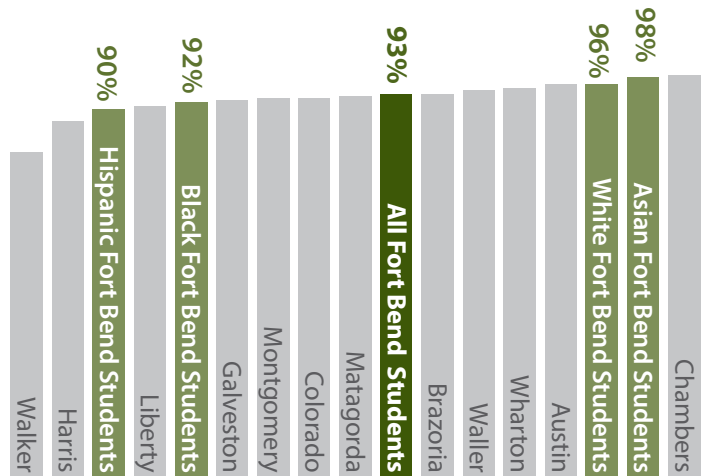
## Local Schools

Public Secondary Schools  
 Brazos ISD  
 Fort Bend ISD  
 Katy ISD  
 Lamar CISD  
 Needville ISD  
 Stafford MSD

Post-Secondary Schools  
 Houston Community College - Southwest Campus  
 University of Houston - Sugar Land & Cinco Ranch  
 Wharton County Junior College - Fort Bend Technical Center & Sugar Land Campus

## Class of 2015 Graduation Rate

Fort Bend County students graduated at a higher rate in 2015 than the students of most counties in the region.



## Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

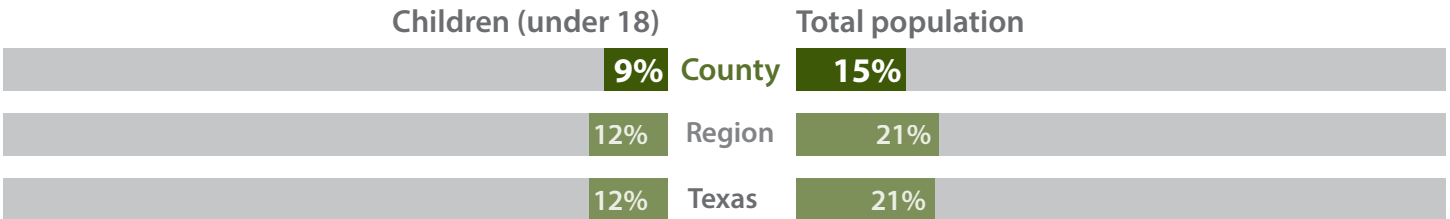
A Fort Bend County resident with a graduate or professional degree makes, on average, \$60,900 more than a resident with less than a high school education annually.



# HEALTH

## Population without Health Insurance

A lower percentage of Fort Bend County residents lack health insurance than the region or state.



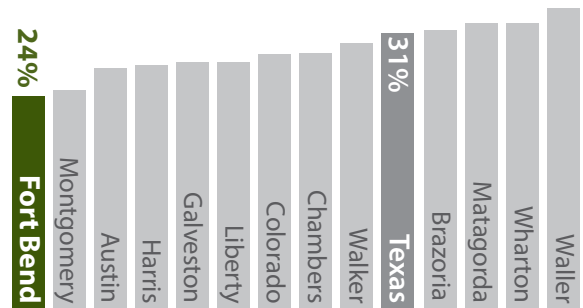
## Top Causes of Death , 2013

Per 100,000 Fort Bend County residents

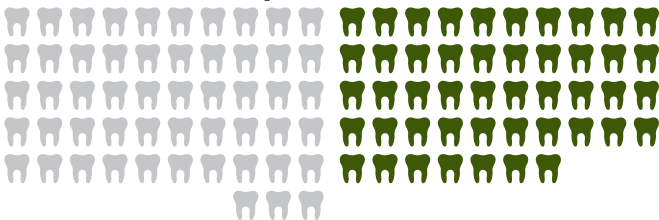
- 134 Heart disease
- 133 Cancer (all types)
- 34 Stroke
- 28 Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- 26 Accidents
- 20 Septicemia
- 16 Alzheimer's

## Adult Obesity Rate

Fort Bend County has the lowest obesity rate in the region.

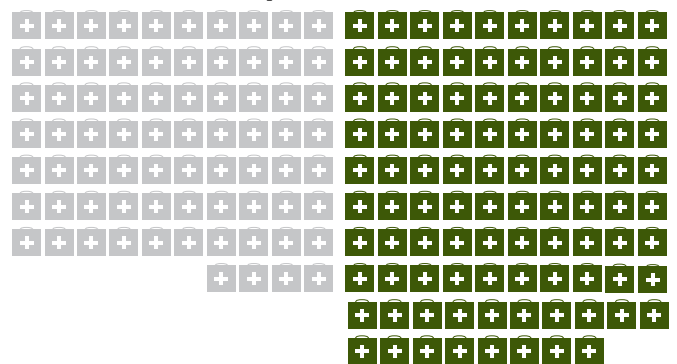


## Dentists Per Capita

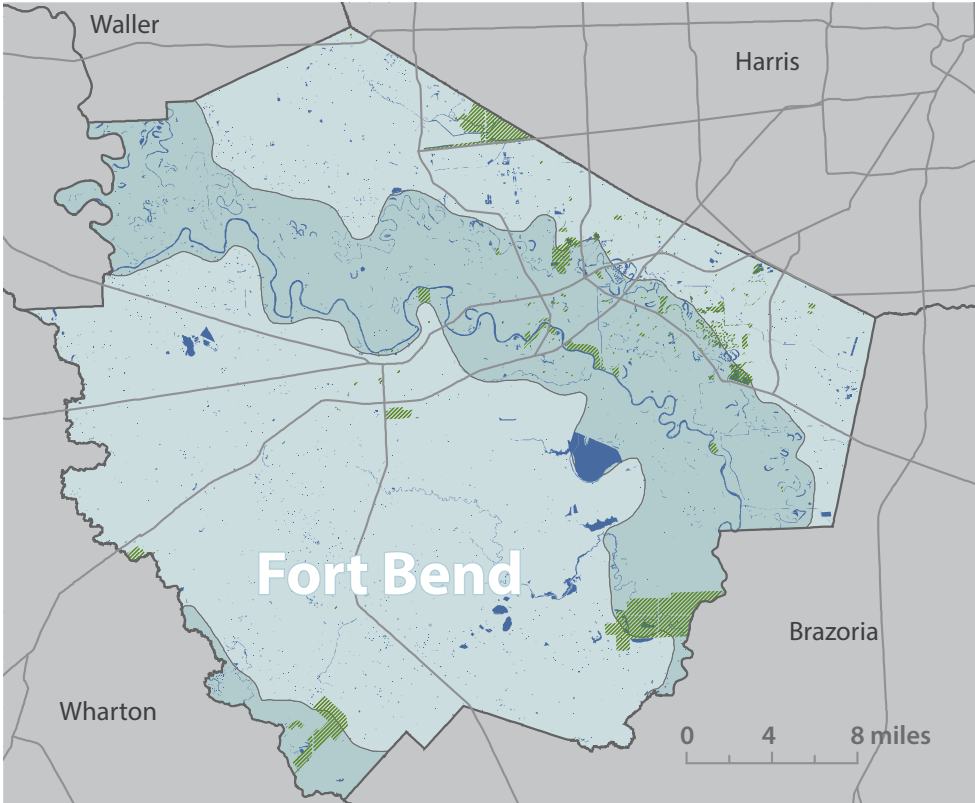


Texas 53 per 100,000  
County 47 per 100,000

## Doctors Per Capita



Texas 74 per 100,000  
County 98 per 100,000

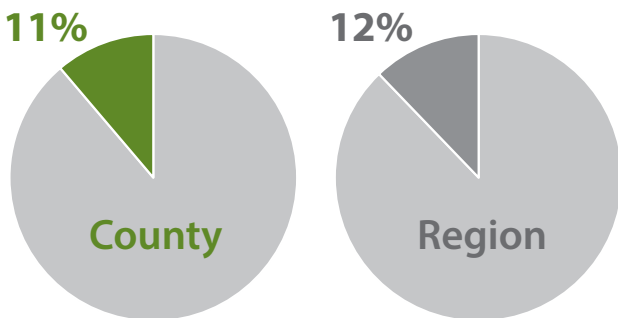


## Fort Bend County EcoRegions & Conservation Districts

- Other counties
- Northern Humid Gulf Coast Prairie
- Floodplains & Low Terraces
- Conservation and Recreation Lands

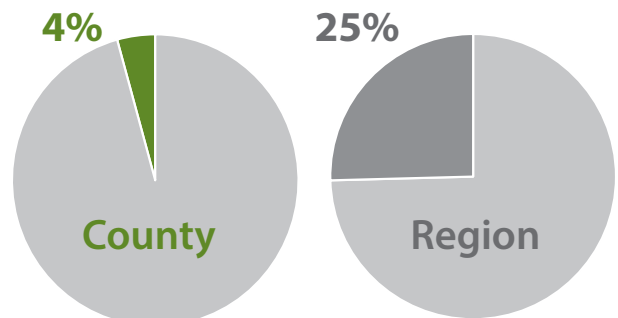
### Residents in 100-year Floodplain

About the same portion of Fort Bend County residents live in a 100-year floodplain as the region.



### Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone

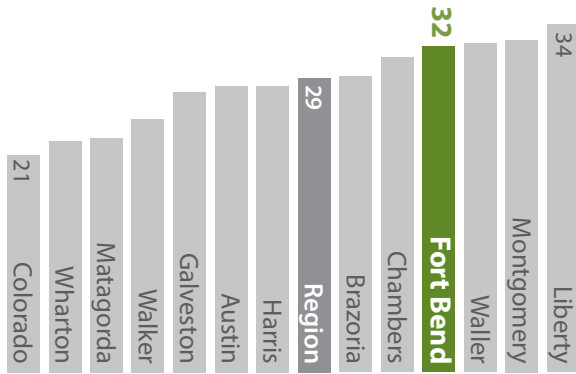
Fewer than 4% of Fort Bend County residents live in a hurricane evacuation zone, as opposed to 25% in the region.



# TRANSPORTATION

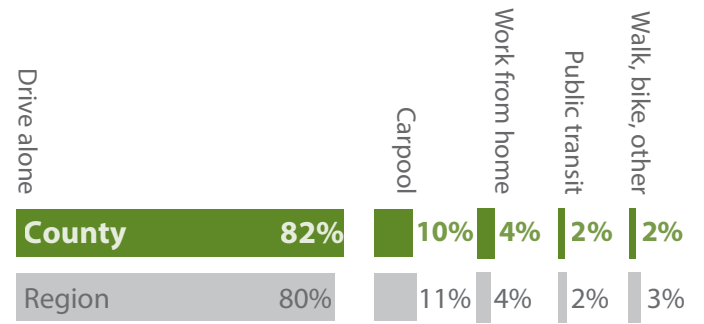
## Mean Commute to Work (minutes)

Fort Bend County workers commute for a longer amount of time than the region as a whole.



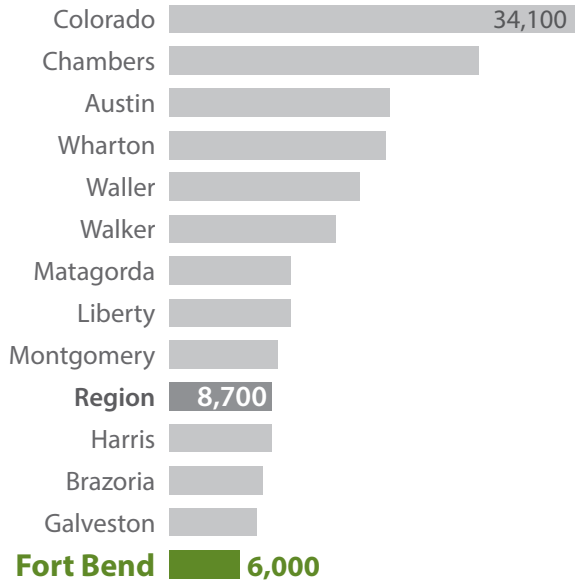
## Commute Mode to Work

Fort Bend County workers have similar commute patterns as the regional workforce.



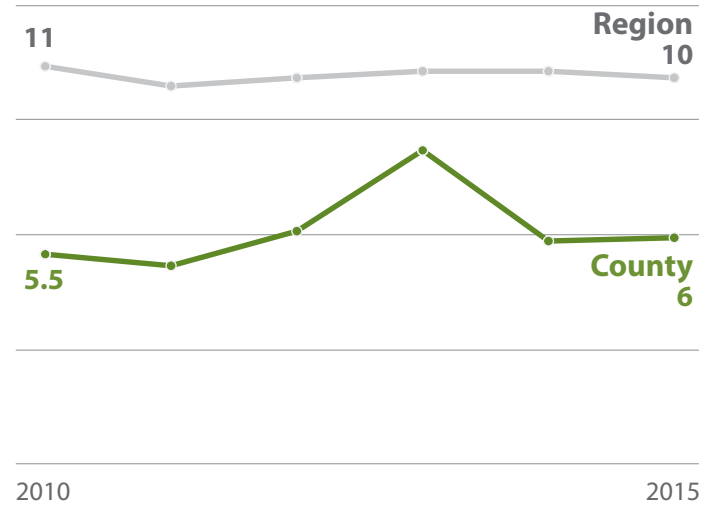
## Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person

Fort Bend County drivers travel less than any other drivers in the region.



## Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents

Fort Bend County has a lower rate of traffic fatalities than the rest of the region.



# SOURCES

## Overview

### Fort Bend County Boundaries (map)

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Population Growth Forecast

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Residents per Square Mile

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Age

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B01001

### Median Household Income

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S2503

### Poverty Rate

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701

### Race and Ethnicity

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B03002

## Housing & Land Use

### Fort Bend County Land Use (map)

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Building Permits Issued

U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permits Survey, 1990-2015

### Housing Tenure

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

### Housing Type

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

### Vacant Housing Units

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

### Living Costs

Center for Neighborhood Technology 2013 H+T® Index

### Median Home Value

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

### Housing Units Built Since 2000

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

## Economy & Workforce

### Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs

U.S. Census Bureau, 2002-2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program

### Major Employers in Fort Bend County

2016 Workforce Solutions, County Economic Profiles

### Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B14005

### Unemployment Rate

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2006-2016

### Earnings of Residents

U.S. Census Bureau, 2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program

### Workers' Job & Home Destinations

U.S. Census Bureau, 2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program

## Education & Health

### Educational Attainment

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S1501

### Local Schools

Texas Education Agency and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

### Class of 2015 Graduation Rate

Texas Education Agency, Four-Year Graduation and Dropout Data, Class of 2015

### Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B20004

### Population without Health Insurance

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S2701

### Top Causes of Death

Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Health Statistics, 2013 County Health Facts Profiles

### Adult Obesity Rate

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013 County Data Indicators

### Dentists per Capita

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resources Files

### Doctors per Capita

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resources Files

## Environment & Transportation

### Fort Bend County EcoRegions & Conservation Districts (map)

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Residents in 100-year Floodplain

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Mean Commute to Work (minutes)

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S0802

### Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person

Texas Department of Transportation, 2015 Roadway Inventory

### Commute Mode to Work

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S0802

### Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents

Texas Department of Transportation, 2010-2015, Crash Records Information System



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[www.ourregion.org](http://www.ourregion.org)

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