



# 2017 PROFILE

# **harris**

# **county**

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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**

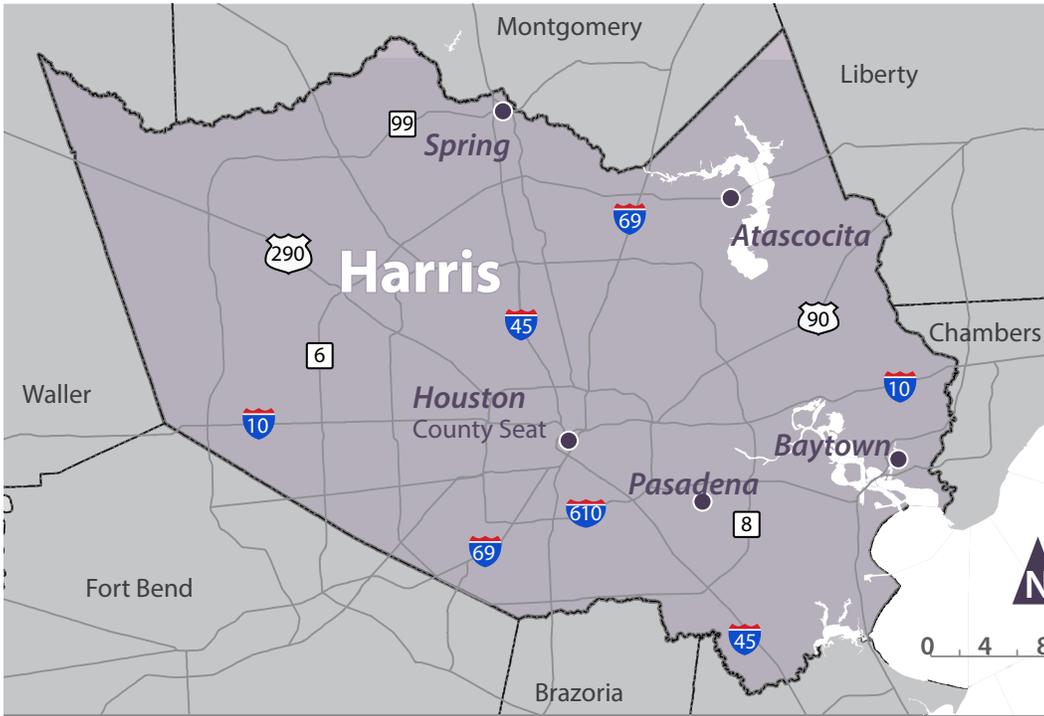
Cultivating places where people can lead active, healthy lives



## **Transportation**

Achieving a world-class transportation network

# OVERVIEW



## Harris County Boundaries

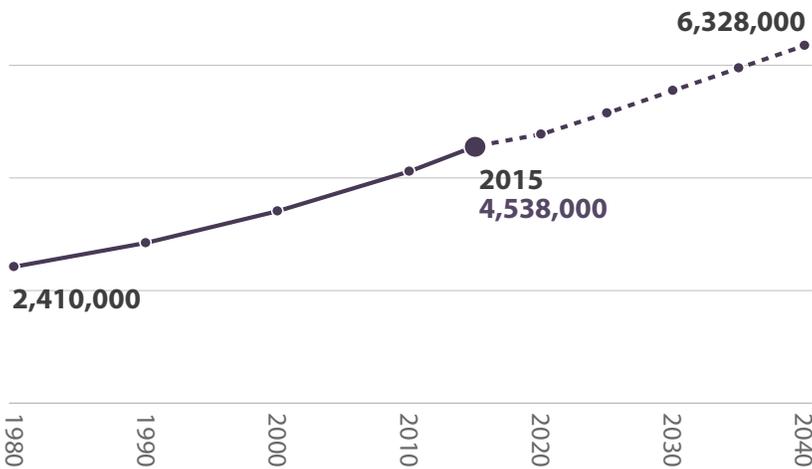
- Harris County
- Other counties
- Top 5 cities
- Major roads

County Seat: Houston  
Largest City: Houston



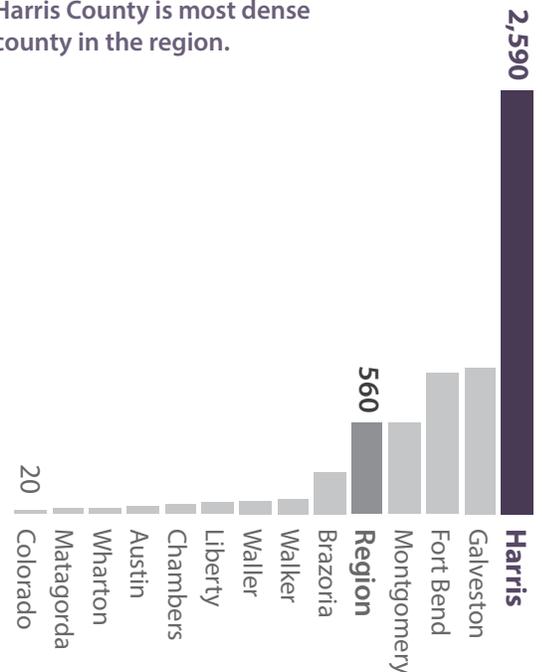
## Population Growth Forecast

Harris County grew by 88% from 1980 to 2015 and is expected to reach 6,328,000 residents by 2040.



## Residents Per Square Mile

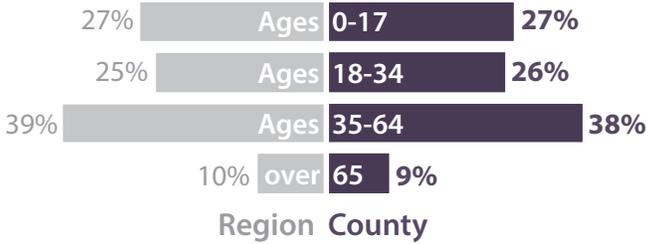
Harris County is most dense county in the region.





## Age

Harris County has a similar age profile as the region.



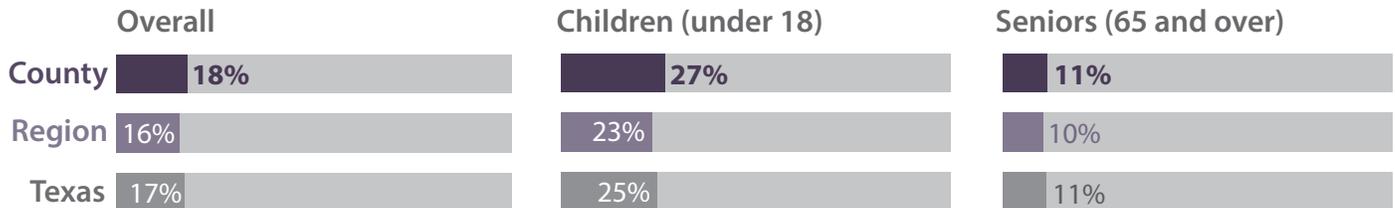
## Median Household Income

Harris County has a slightly higher median household income than the region.



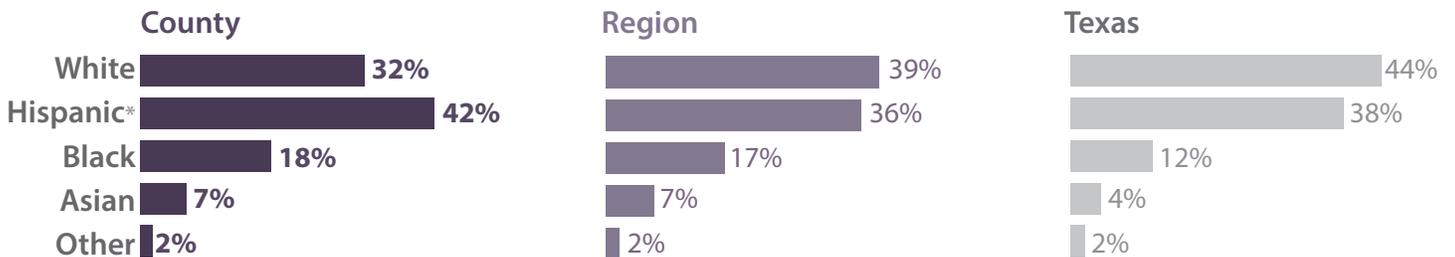
## Poverty Rate

Harris County has a higher rate of poverty than the region and state.



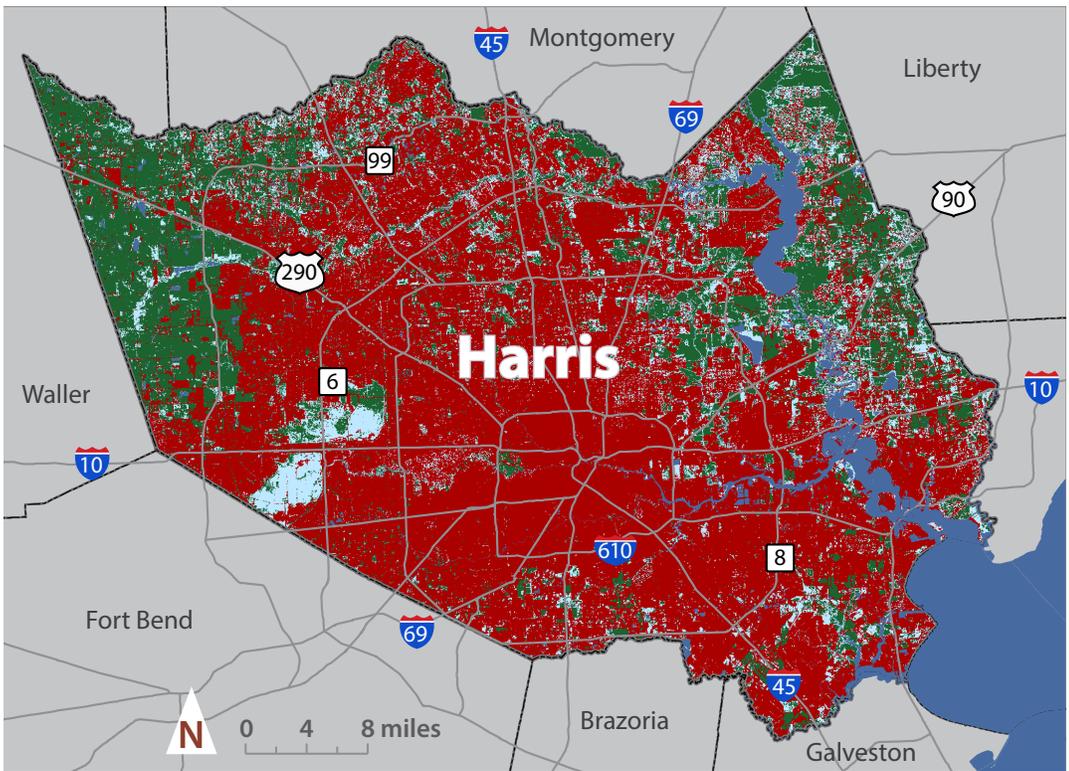
## Race and Ethnicity

Harris County is more racially diverse than the region and the state, and has more Hispanic residents than any other race or ethnicity.



\*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

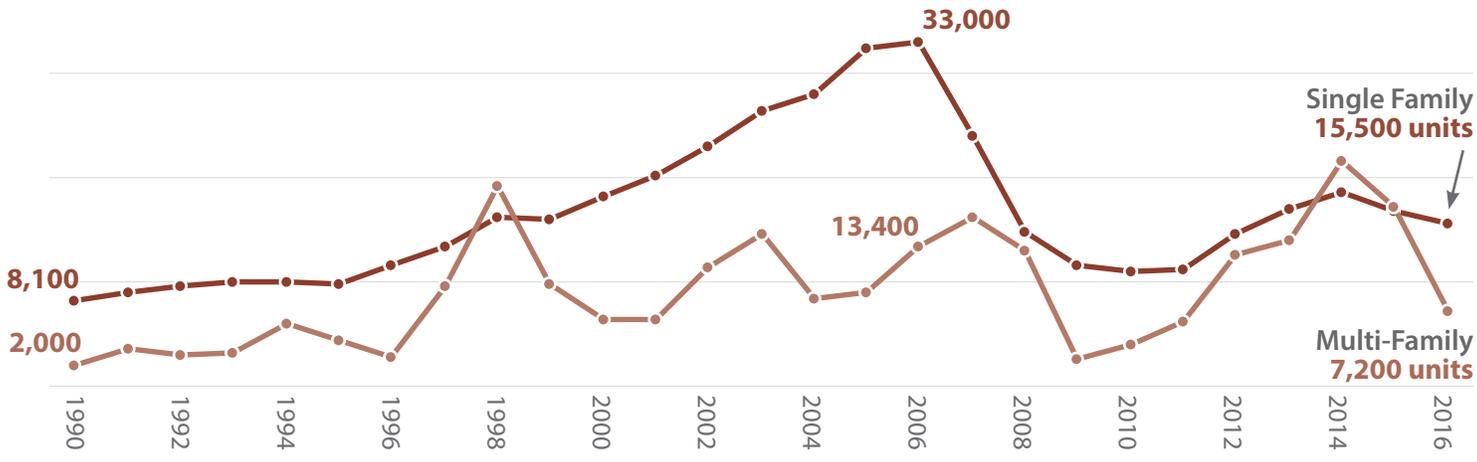


## Harris County Land Use

- Other counties
- 3% Open water
- 63% Developed Land
- 12% Wetlands
- 23% Forest, shrubs, pasture, grasslands, barren lands and cultivated crops

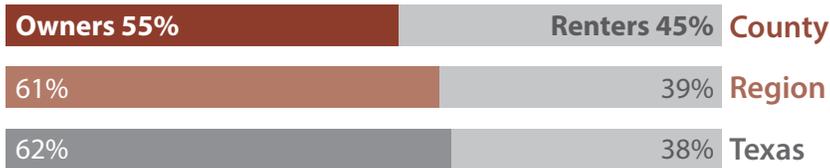
## Building Permits Issued

Single-family construction has not recovered from a peak in 2006 while multi-family permits have dropped sharply between 2014 and 2016.



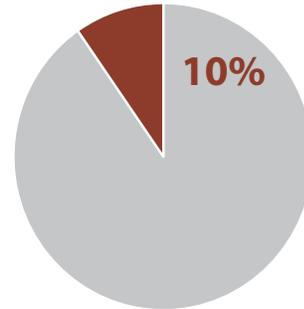
## Housing Tenure

Harris County has a lower rate of homeownership than the region or the state.



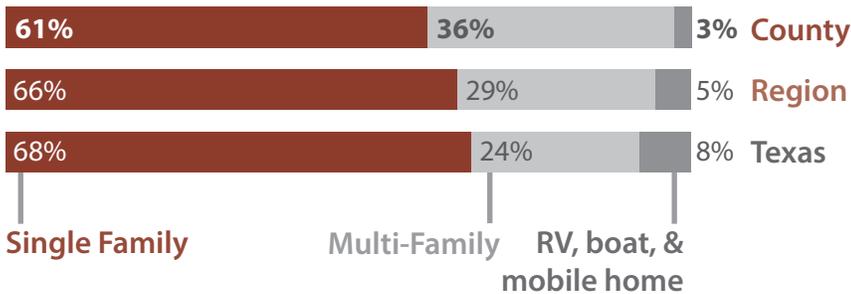
## Vacant Housing Units

Around 10% of Harris County's housing units are vacant.



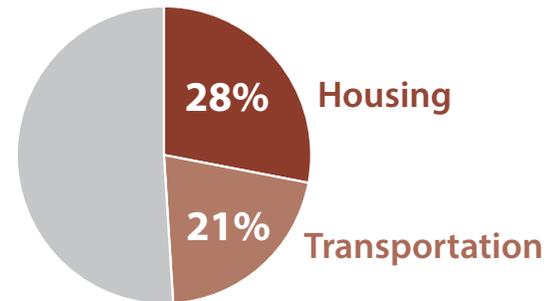
## Housing Type

Harris County has a lower portion of single family homes than the region.



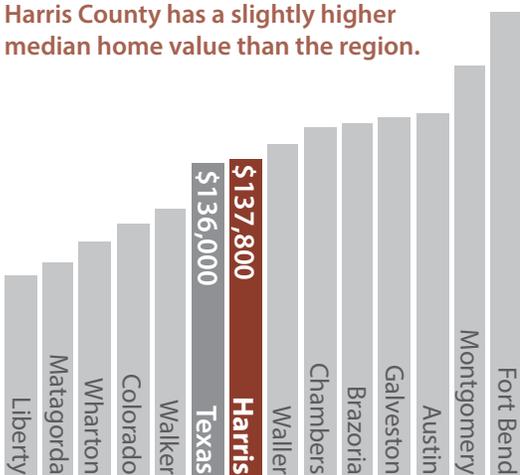
## Living Costs

Harris County households spend 49% of their income on transportation and housing.



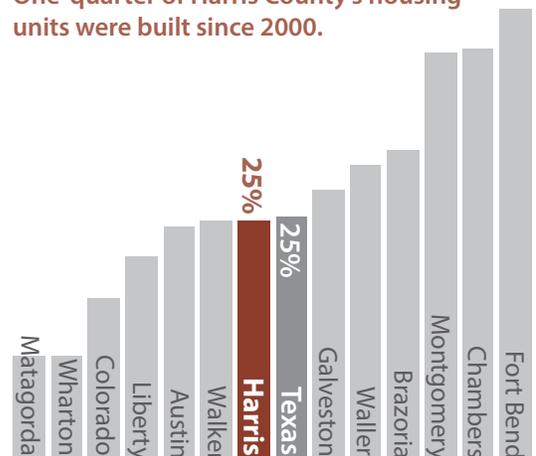
## Median Home Value

Harris County has a slightly higher median home value than the region.



## Housing Units Built Since 2000

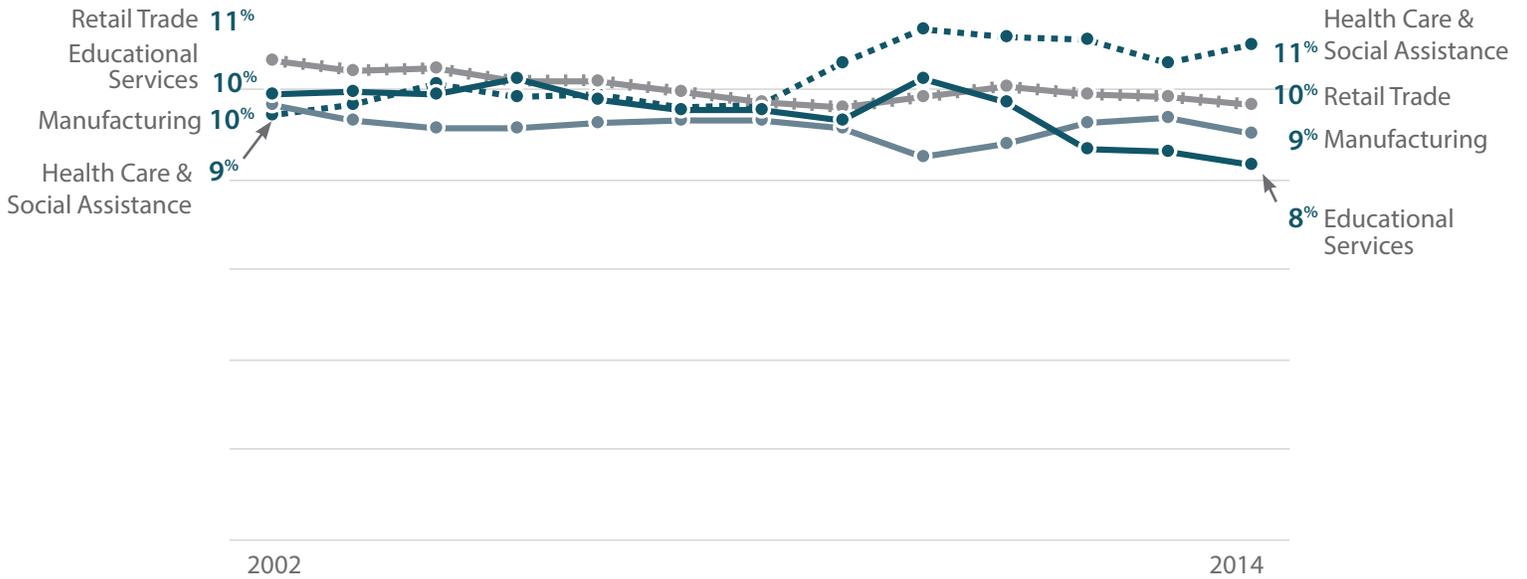
One-quarter of Harris County's housing units were built since 2000.



# ECONOMY & WORKFORCE

## Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs

Employment in Harris 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 Harris County

Administaff  
Baylor College of Medicine  
City of Houston  
Cypress Fairbanks ISD  
ExxonMobil  
Harris County

Houston ISD  
Memorial Hermann Healthcare System  
United Airlines  
University of Texas System Cancer Center  
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.

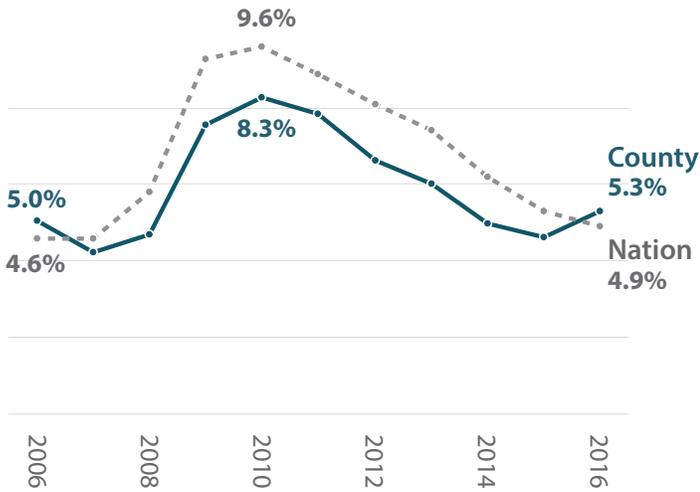
## Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)

Around 8% of Harris County's working-age teens are both unemployed and out of school.



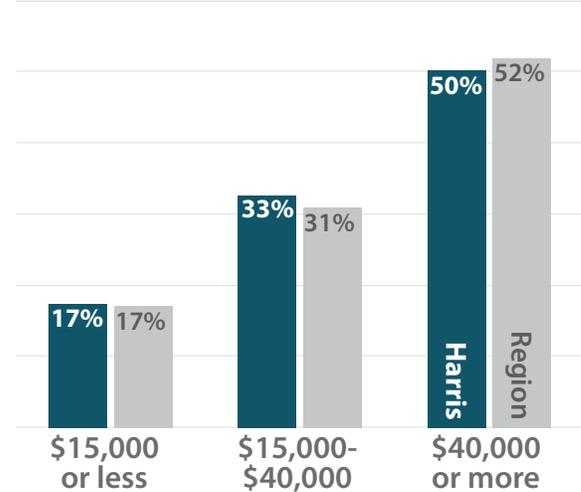
## Unemployment Rate

Harris County's unemployment mirrors national trends, and was higher than the nation in 2016.



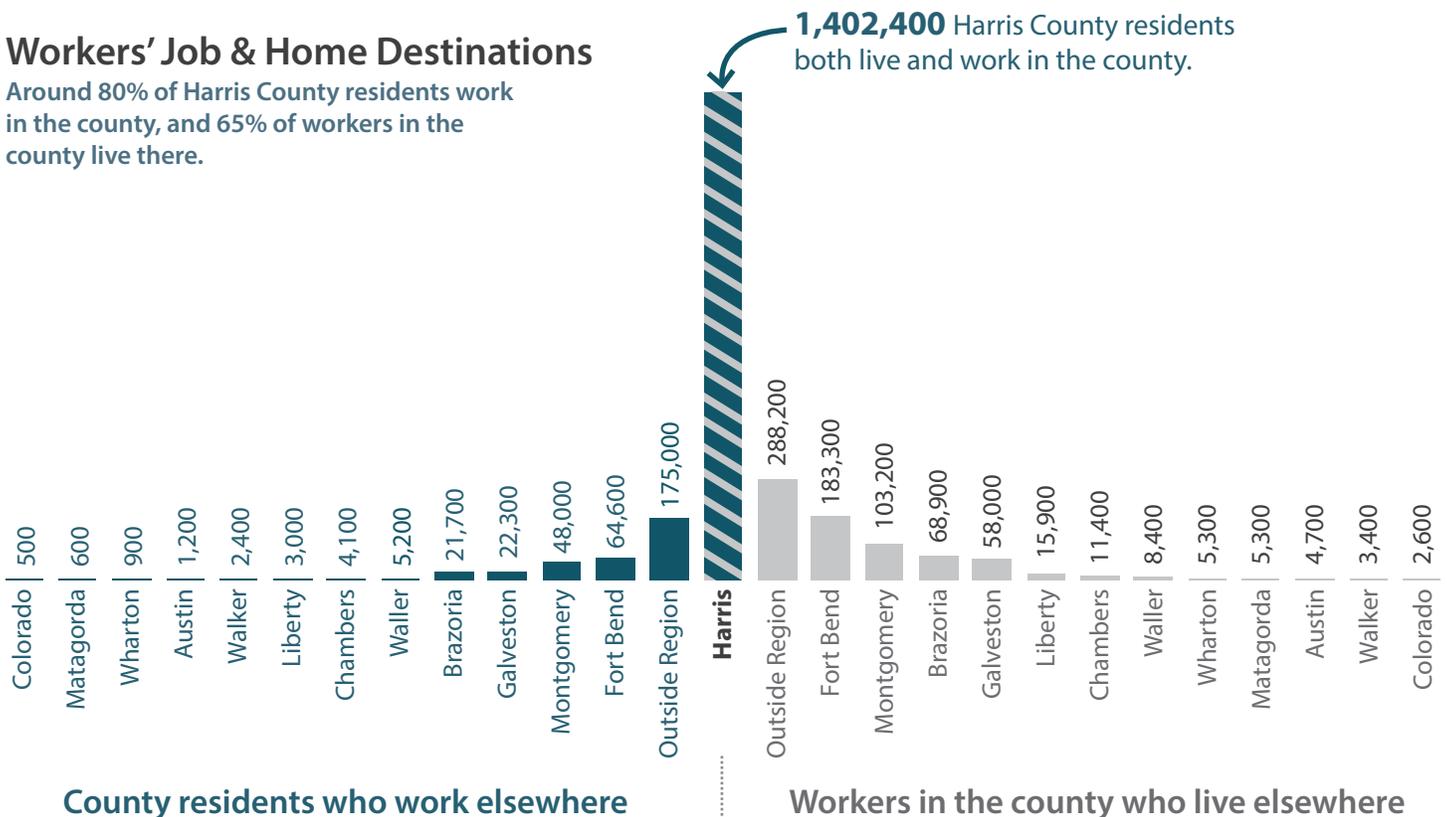
## Earnings of Residents

Half of Harris County residents earn more than \$40,000 annually, a lower percentage than the region.



## Workers' Job & Home Destinations

Around 80% of Harris County residents work in the county, and 65% of workers in the county live there.



# EDUCATION

## Educational Attainment

Harris County has a similar educational attainment split as the region and state.

### Less than High School

**County** 20%

**Region** 18%

**Texas** 18%

### High School or Equivalent

**County** 23%

**Region** 24%

**Texas** 25%

### Some College or Associate's

**County** 27%

**Region** 28%

**Texas** 29%

### Bachelor's Degree or More

**County** 29%

**Region** 30%

**Texas** 28%

## Local Schools

### Public Secondary Schools

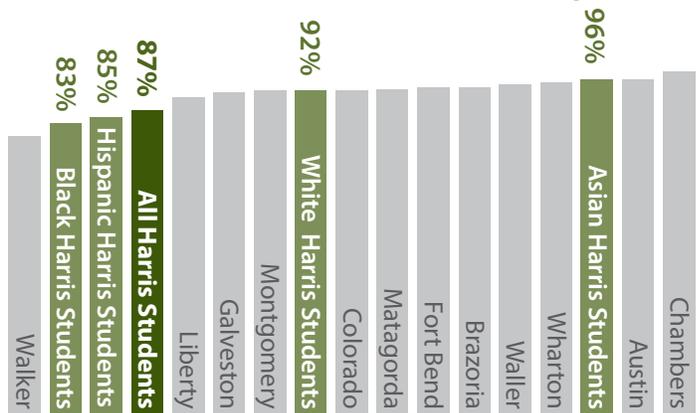
- Aldine ISD
- Aliief ISD
- Channelview ISD
- Clear Creek ISD
- Crosby ISD
- Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
- Deer Park ISD
- Galena Park ISD
- Goose Creek ISD
- Houston ISD
- Huffman ISD
- Humble ISD
- Katy ISD
- Klein ISD
- La Porte ISD
- Pasadena ISD
- Sheldon ISD
- Spring ISD
- Spring Branch ISD
- Tomball ISD
- Waller ISD

### Post-Secondary Schools

- Alvin Community College
- Baylor College of Medicine
- Houston Baptist University
- Houston Community College
- Lone Star College
- Rice University
- San Jacinto College
- Texas Women's University
- Texas Southern University
- University of Houston
- University of St. Thomas
- University of Texas

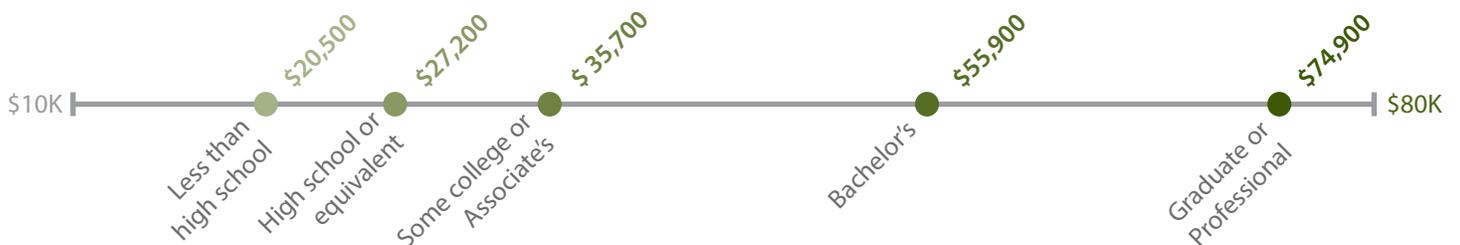
## Class of 2015 Graduation Rate

Harris County students graduated at a lower rate in 2015 than the students of most counties in the region.



## Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

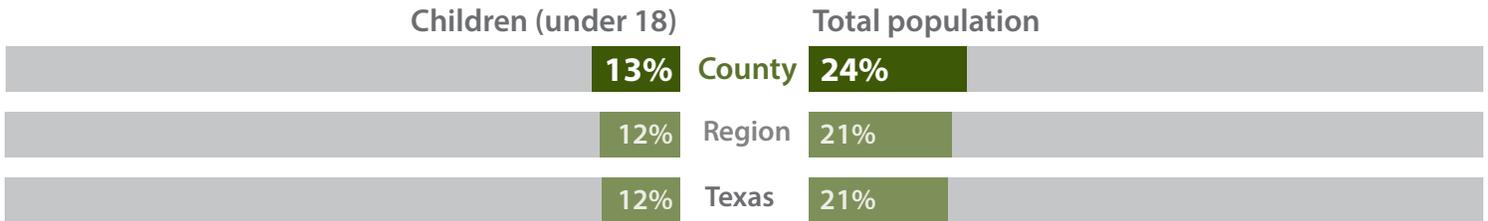
A Harris County resident with a graduate or professional degree makes, on average, \$54,400 more than a resident with less than a high school education annually.



# HEALTH

## Population without Health Insurance

A higher percentage of Harris County residents lack health insurance than the region or state.



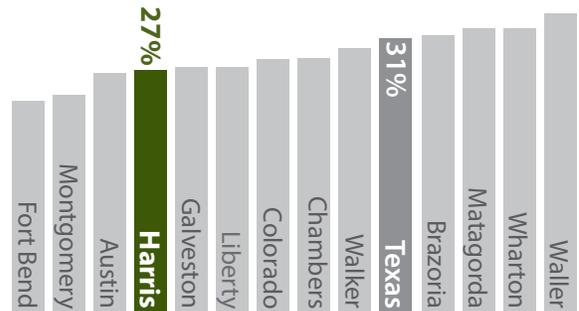
## Top Causes of Death

Per 100,000 Harris County residents

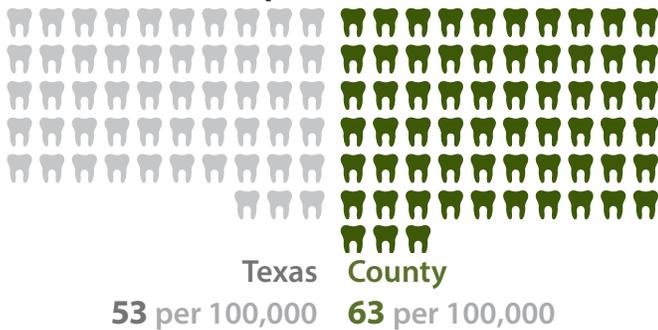
- 166 Heart disease
- 160 Cancer (all types)
- 41 Stroke
- 37 Accidents
- 32 Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- 24 Septicemia
- 20 Diabetes
- 17 Kidney Disease

## Adult Obesity Rate

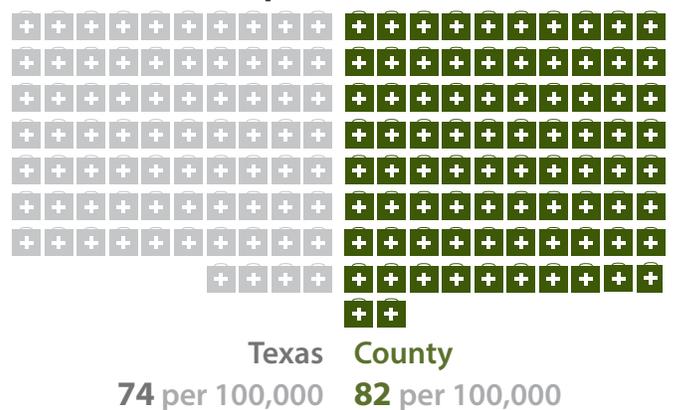
Harris County has a lower obesity rate than the state.

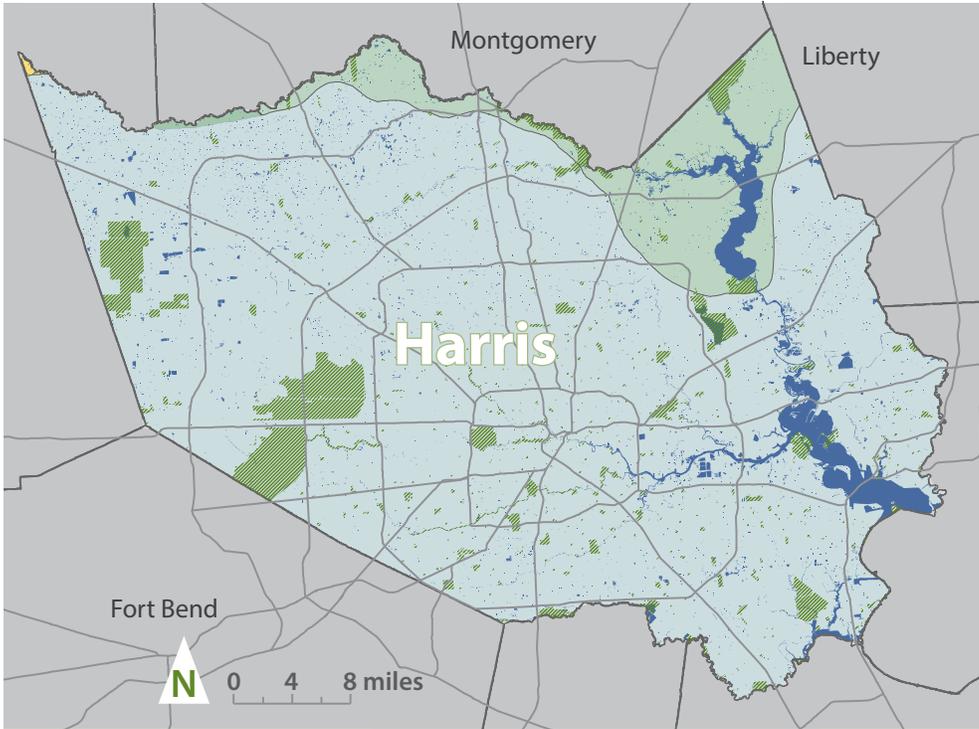


## Dentists Per Capita



## Doctors Per Capita



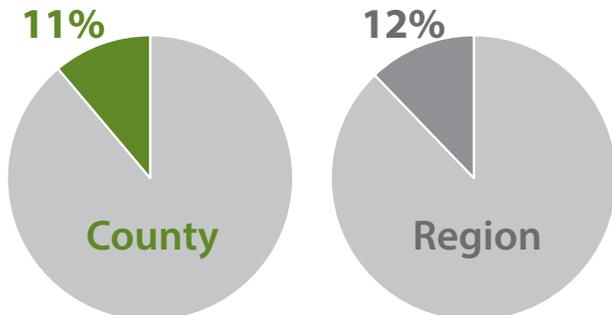


## Harris County EcoRegions & Conservation Districts

- Other counties
- Northern Humid Gulf Coast Prairie
- Flatwoods
- Southern Post Oak Savanna
- Conservation and Recreation Lands

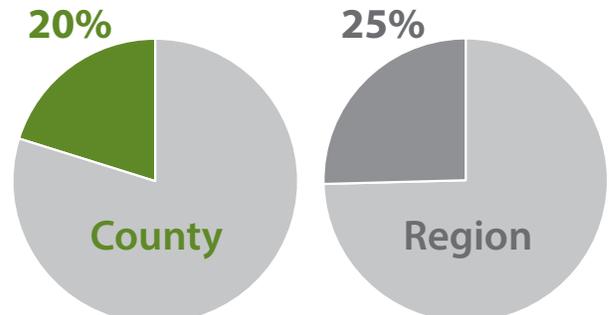
### Residents in 100-year Floodplain

About the same percentage of Harris County residents live in a 100-year floodplain as the region.



### Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone

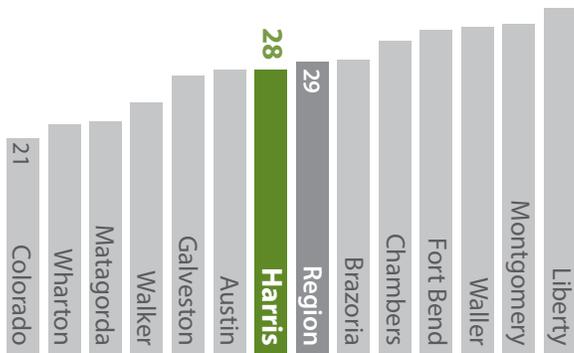
Only 20% of Harris County residents live in a hurricane evacuation zone, as opposed to 25% of the region.



# TRANSPORTATION

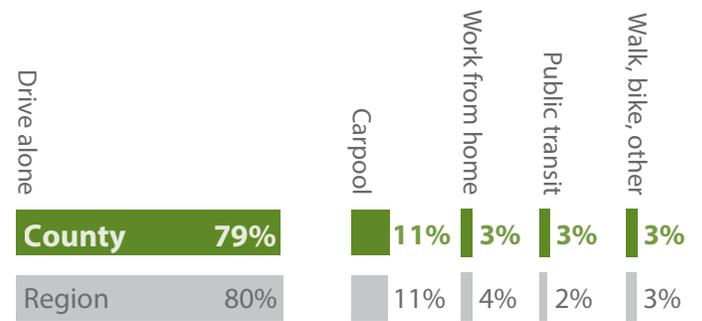
## Mean Commute to Work (minutes)

Harris County workers commute for about the same amount of time as the region as a whole.



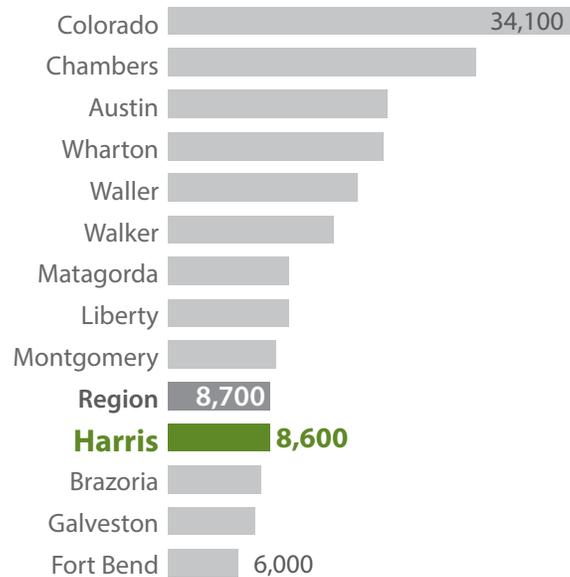
## Commute Mode to Work

A lower percentage of Harris County workers drive to work compared to the region as a whole.



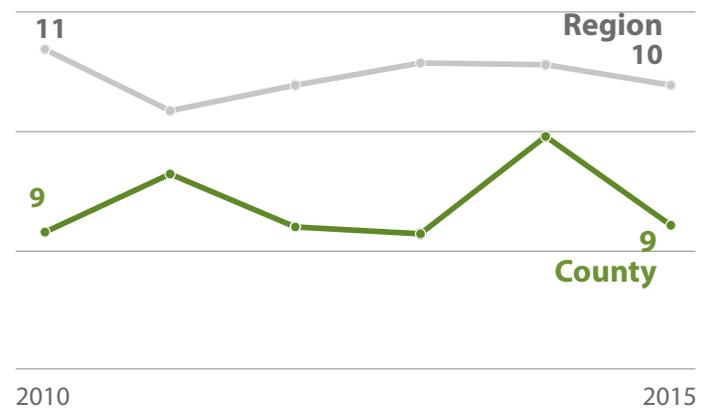
## Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person

Harris County drivers travel about the same distance annually as the average driver in the region.



## Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents

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



# SOURCES

## Overview

### Harris 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

### Harris 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 Harris 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

### Harris 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

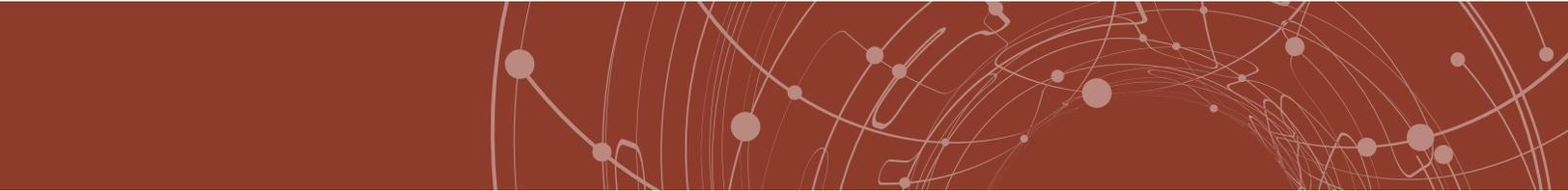
Texas Department of Transportation, 2015 Roadway Inventory

### 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



**Houston-Galveston Area Council**

PO Box 22777 Houston, Texas 77227-2777

[www.h-gac.com](http://www.h-gac.com)

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

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