



# 2017 PROFILE

# liberty

# 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 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**

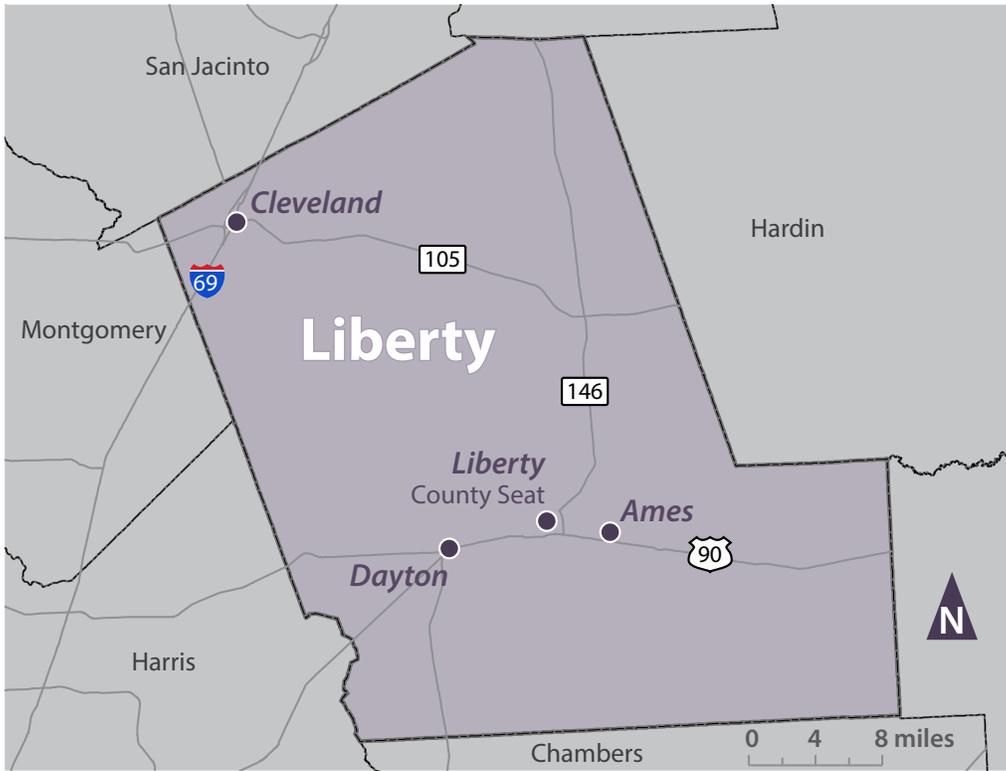
Cultivating places where people can lead active, healthy lives



## **Transportation**

Achieving a world-class transportation network

# OVERVIEW



## Liberty County Boundaries

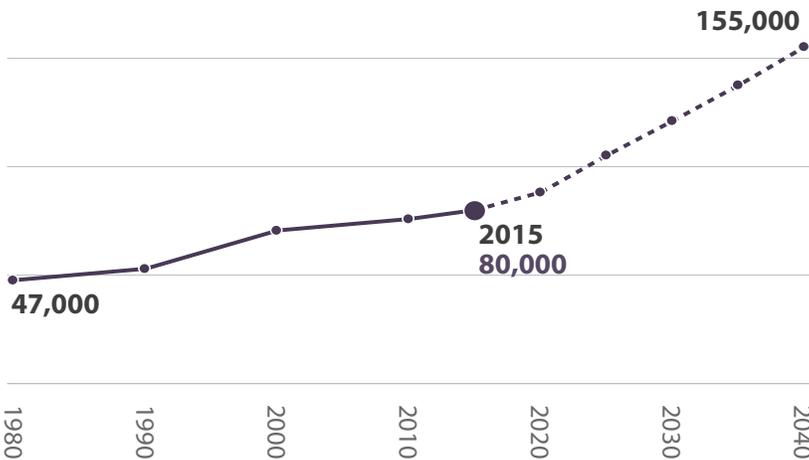
- Liberty County
- Other counties
- Top 4 cities
- Major roads

County Seat: Liberty  
Largest City: Liberty



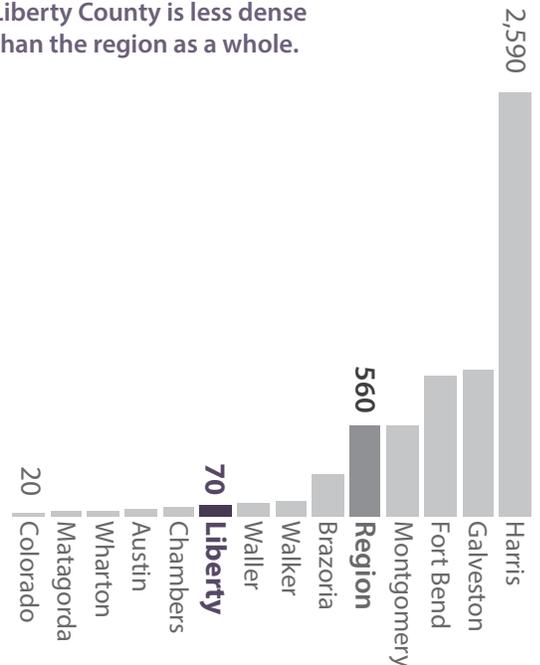
## Population Growth Forecast

Liberty County grew by 69% from 1980 to 2015 and is expected to reach 155,000 residents by 2040.



## Residents Per Square Mile

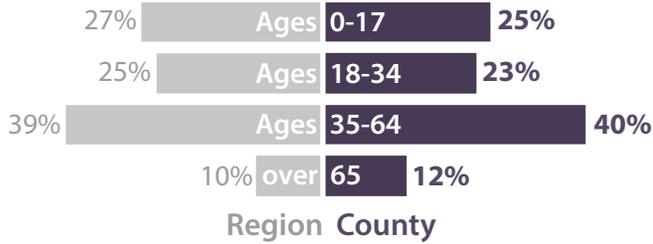
Liberty County is less dense than the region as a whole.





## Age

Liberty County has a similar age profile as the region.



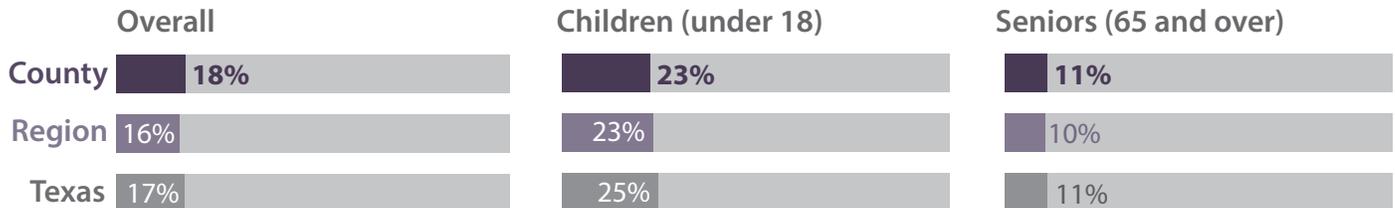
## Median Household Income

Liberty County has a lower median household income than the region.



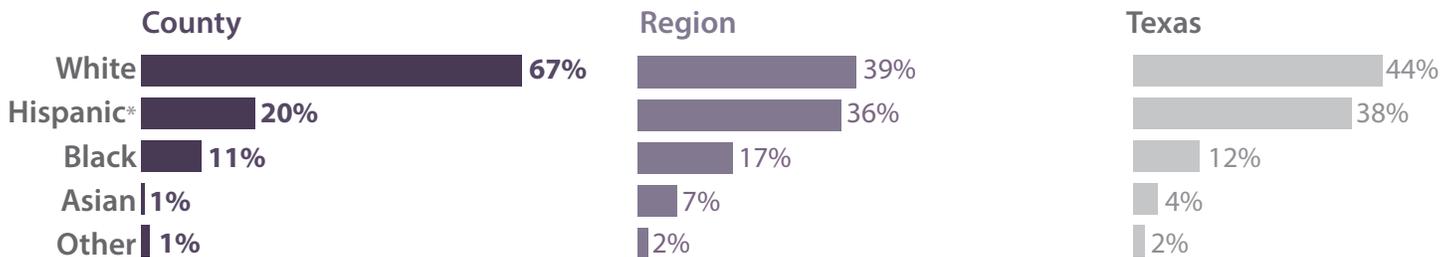
## Poverty Rate

Liberty County has a similar poverty rate as the region.



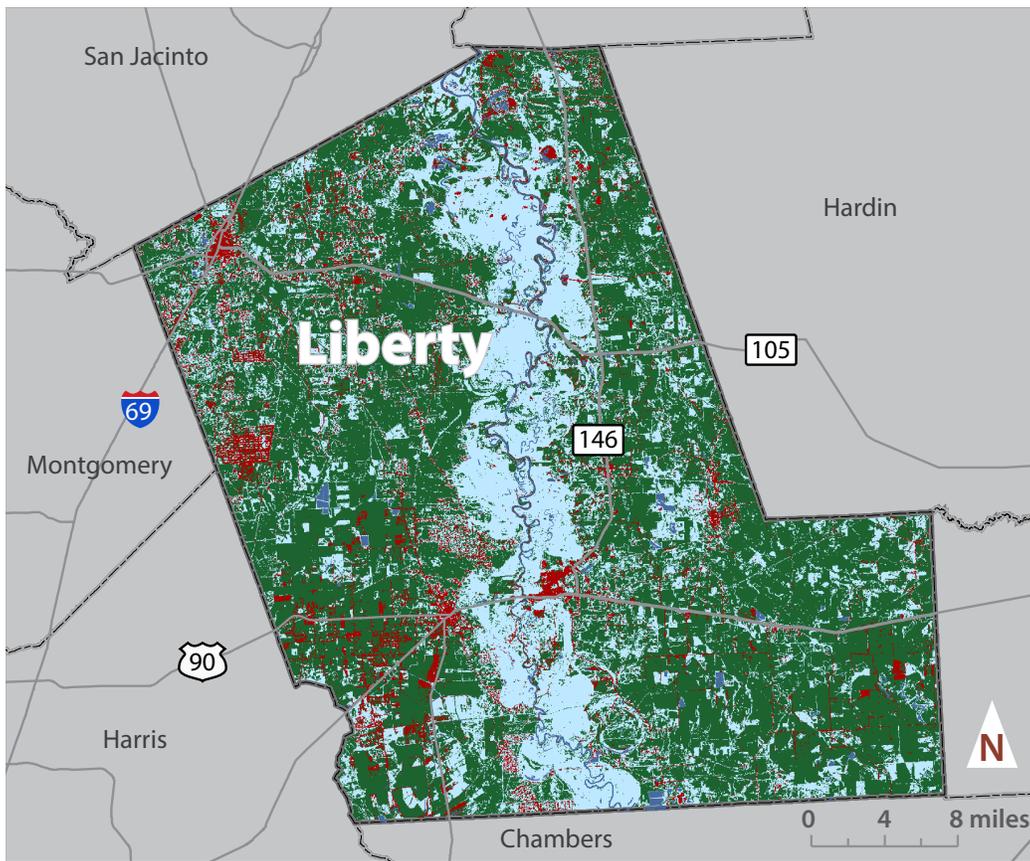
## Race and Ethnicity

Liberty County is less 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

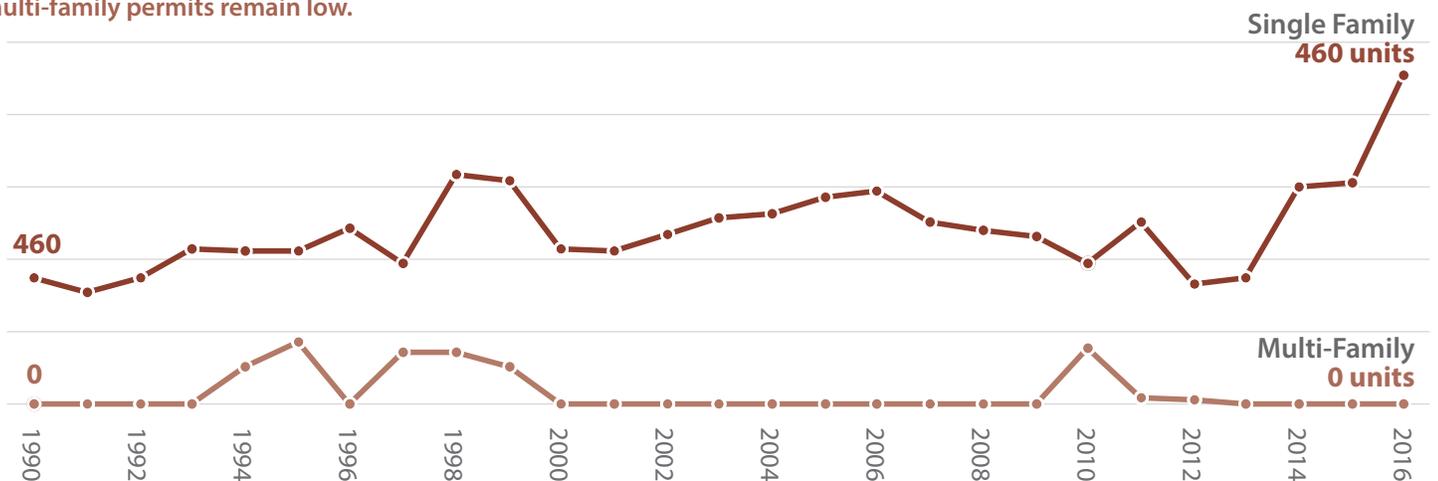


## Liberty County Land Use

- Other counties
- 1% Open water
- 8% Developed Land
- 32% Wetlands
- 60% Forest, shrubs, pasture, grasslands, barren lands and cultivated crops

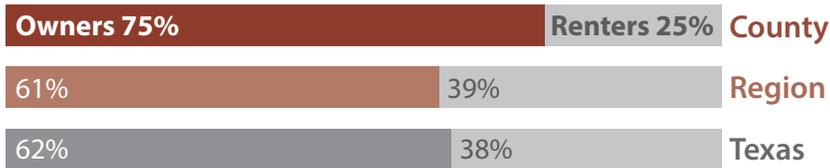
## Building Permits Issued

Single-family construction is rising rapidly, while multi-family permits remain low.



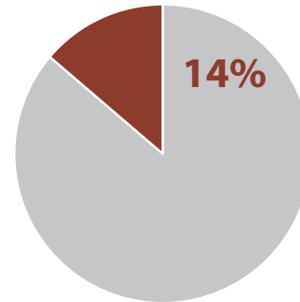
## Housing Tenure

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



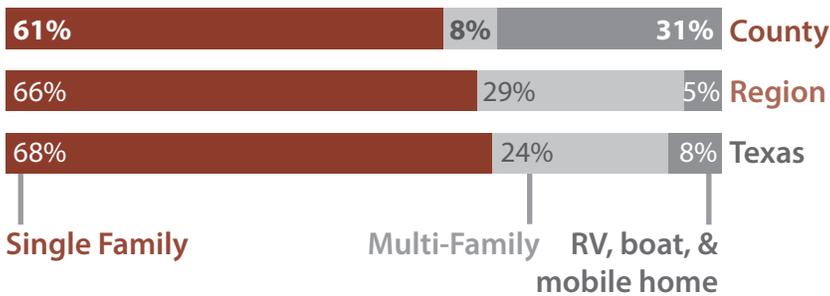
## Vacant Housing Units

Around 14% of Liberty County's housing units are vacant.



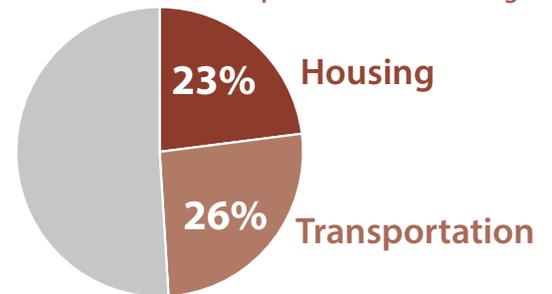
## Housing Type

Liberty County has a high rate of RV, boat and mobile homes.



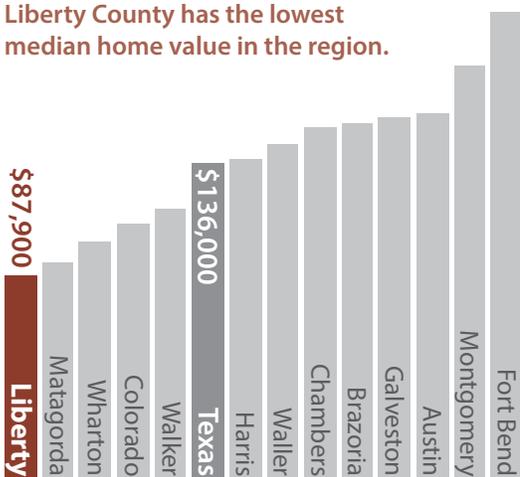
## Living Costs

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



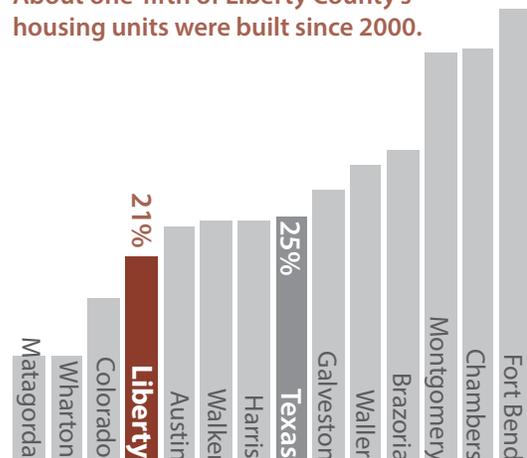
## Median Home Value

Liberty County has the lowest median home value in the region.



## Housing Units Built Since 2000

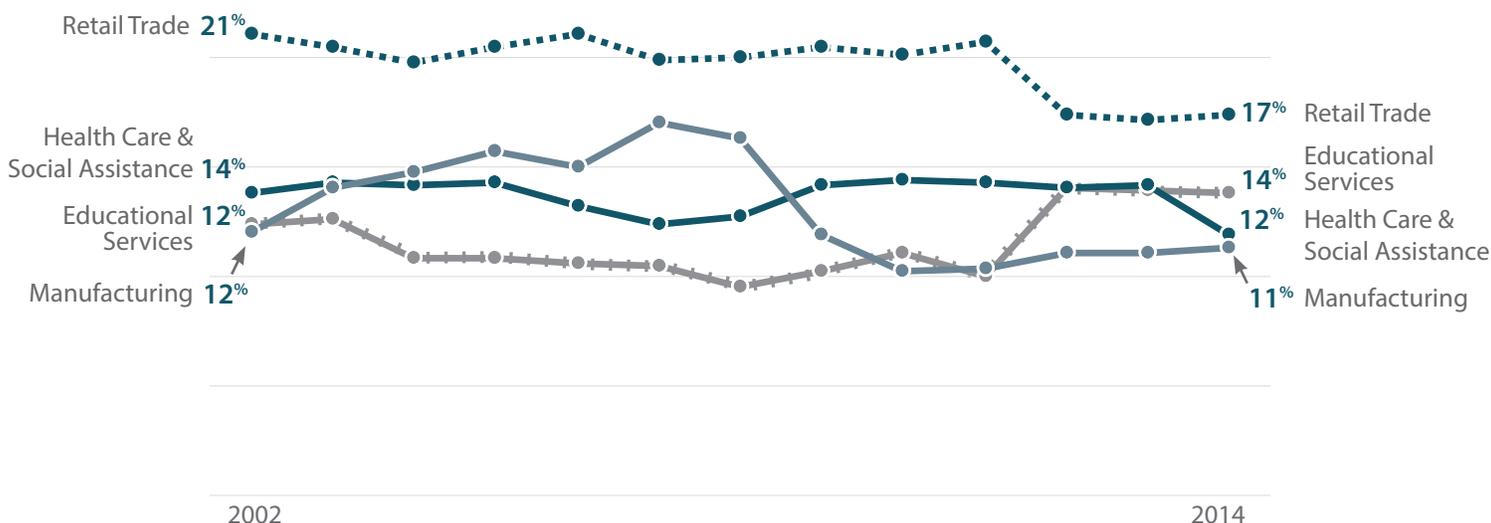
About one-fifth of Liberty County's housing units were built since 2000.



# ECONOMY & WORKFORCE

## Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs

Retail Trade has declined as a percent of overall jobs in Liberty County while other top industries retained a similar portion of employment in the county.



## Major Employers in Liberty County

Boomerang  
 Brookshire Brothers  
 Campbell Concrete & Materials  
 Cleveland ISD  
 Dayton ISD

Liberty County  
 Liberty ISD  
 Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice  
 Texas Home Health of America, Inc.  
 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.

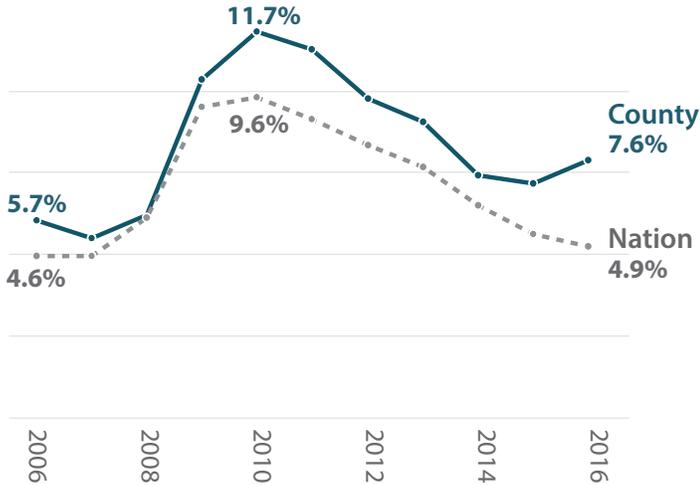
## Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)

Around 7% of Liberty County's working-age teens are both unemployed and out of school.



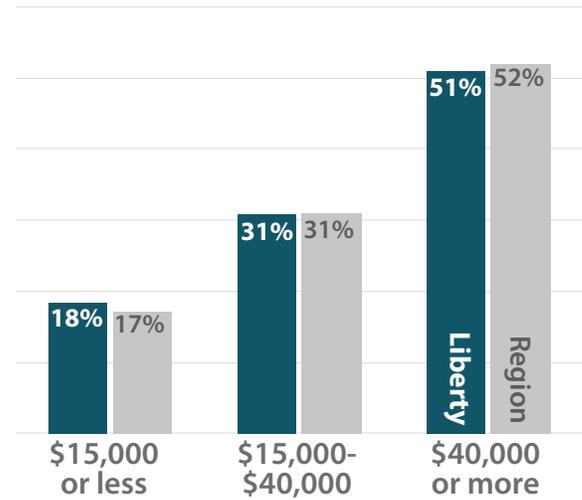
## Unemployment Rate

Liberty County's unemployment typically mirrors national trends, but is much higher in recent years.



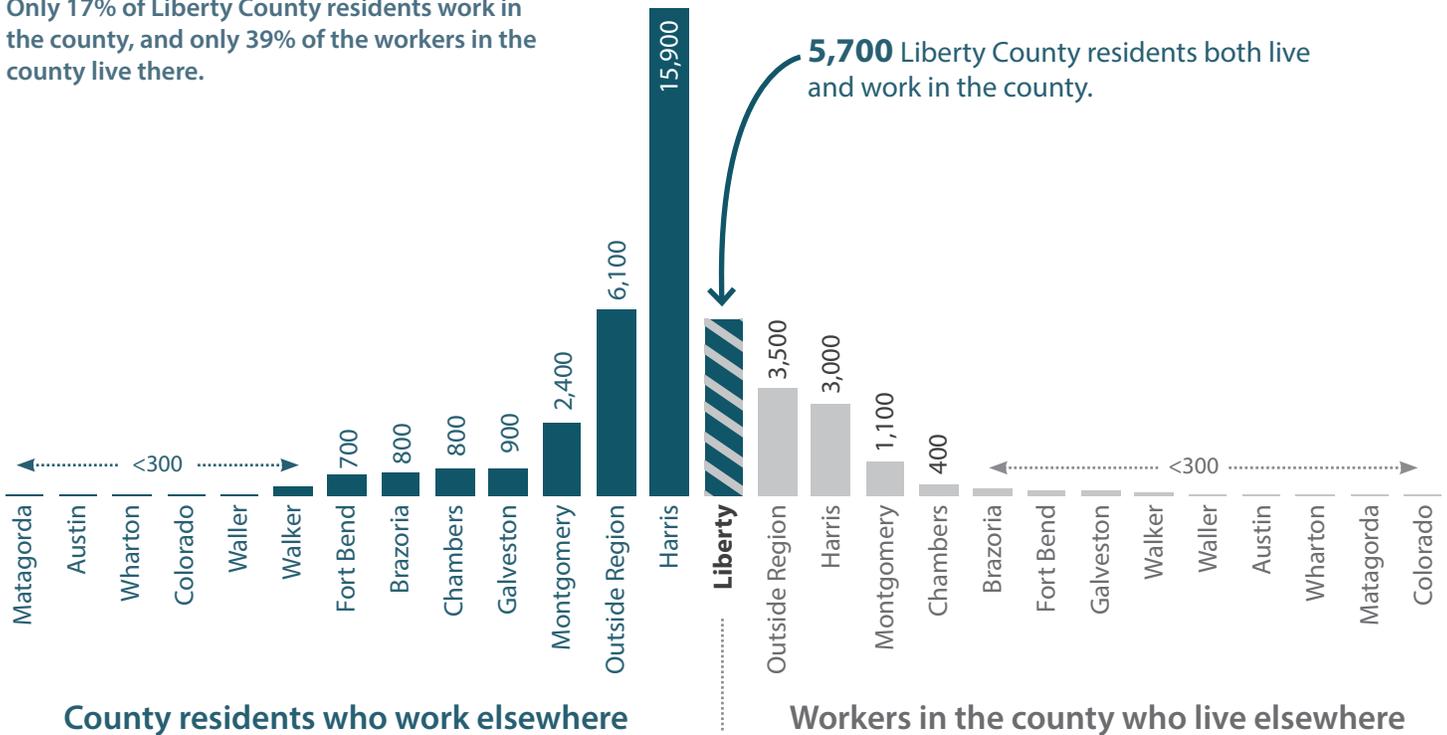
## Earnings of Residents

Half of Liberty County residents earn more than \$40,000 annually, a similar percentage as the region.



## Workers' Job & Home Destinations

Only 17% of Liberty County residents work in the county, and only 39% of the workers in the county live there.

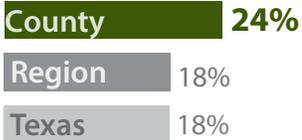


# EDUCATION

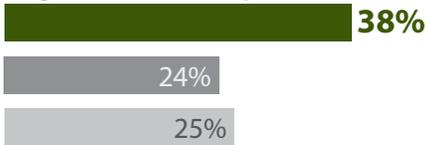
## Educational Attainment

A lower percentage of Liberty County residents have completed a bachelor's degree or more than the region and state.

### Less than High School



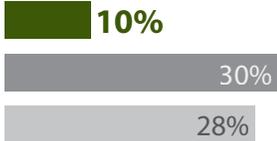
### High School or Equivalent



### Some College or Associate's



### Bachelor's Degree or More

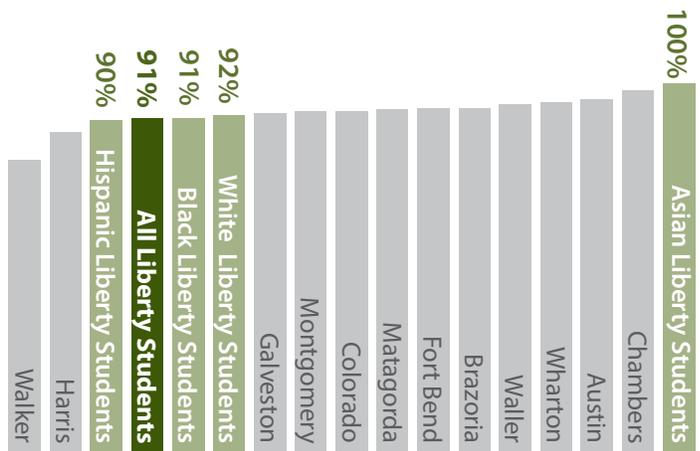


## Local Schools

- Public Secondary Schools
  - Cleveland ISD
  - Dayton ISD
  - Devers ISD
  - Hardin ISD
  - Hull-Daisetta ISD
  - Liberty ISD
  - Tarkington ISD
- Post-Secondary Schools
  - None

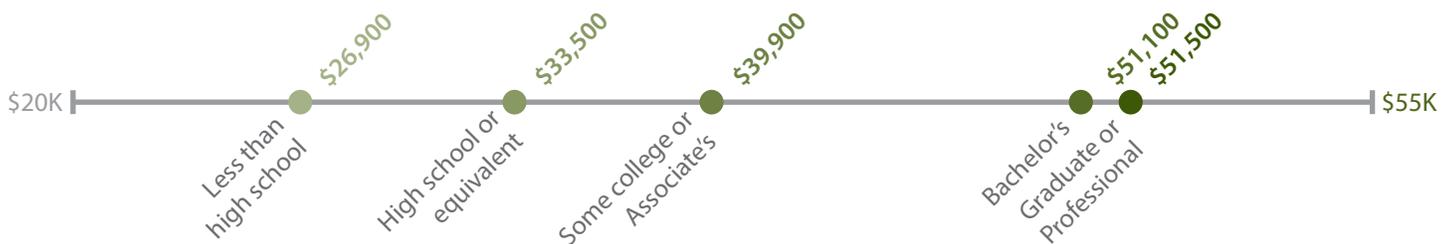
## Class of 2015 Graduation Rate

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



## Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

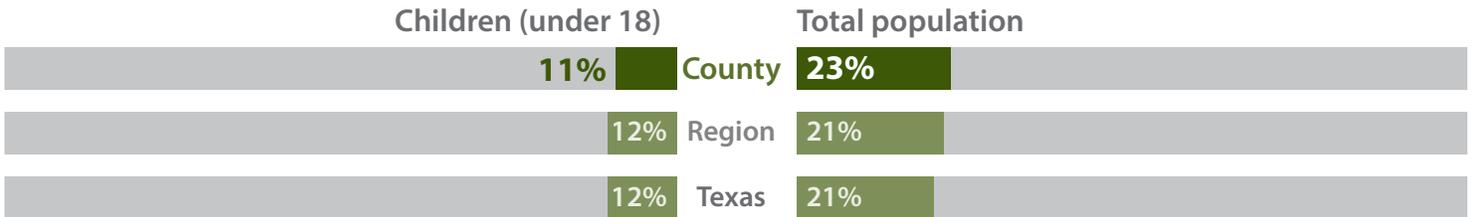
A Liberty County resident with a graduate or professional degree makes, on average, \$24,600 more than a resident with less than a high school education annually.



# HEALTH

## Population without Health Insurance

A lower percentage of Liberty County children, but a higher percentage of all residents lack health insurance than the region or state.



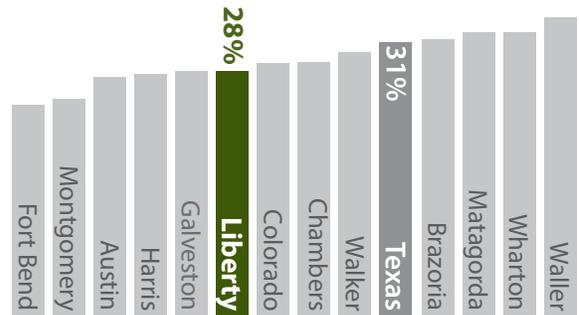
## Top Causes of Death, 2013

Per 100,000 Liberty County residents

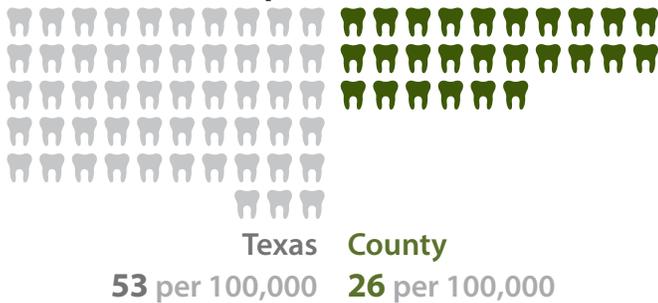
- 303 Heart disease
- 198 Cancer (all types)
- 81 Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- 61 Accidents
- 53 Alzheimer's
- 46 Stroke

## Adult Obesity Rate

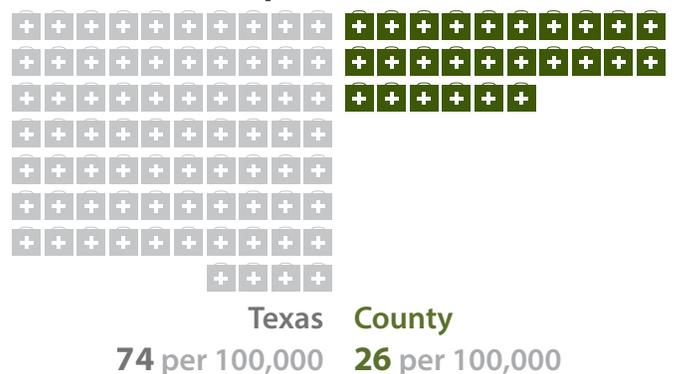
Liberty County has a lower obesity rate than the state.

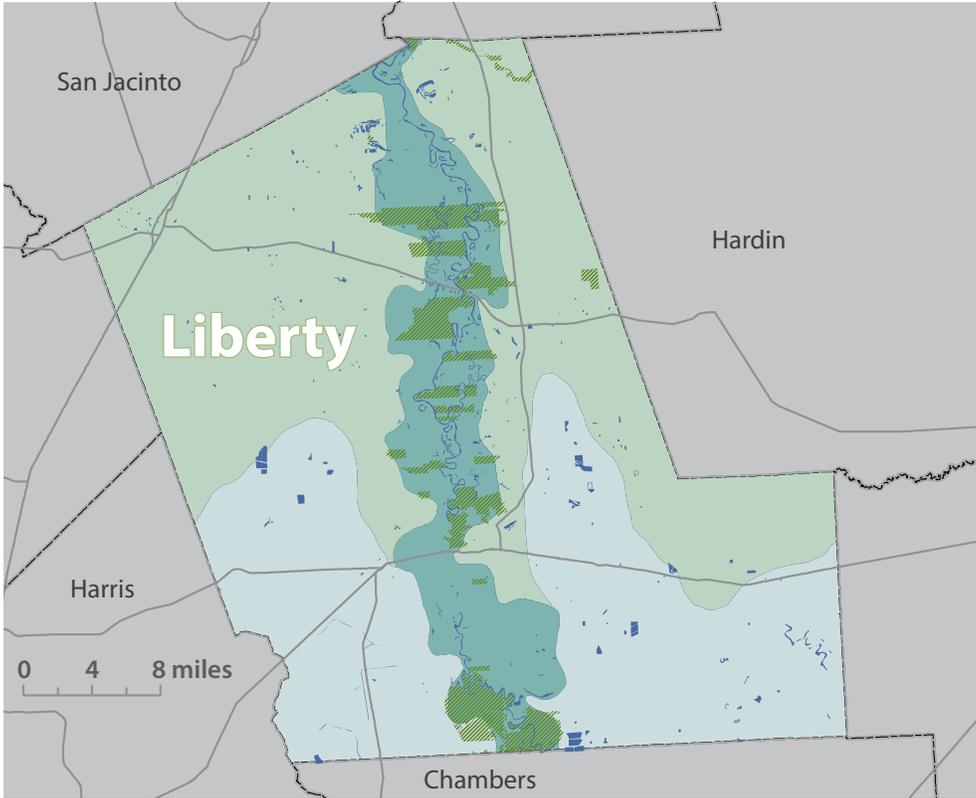


## Dentists Per Capita



## Doctors Per Capita



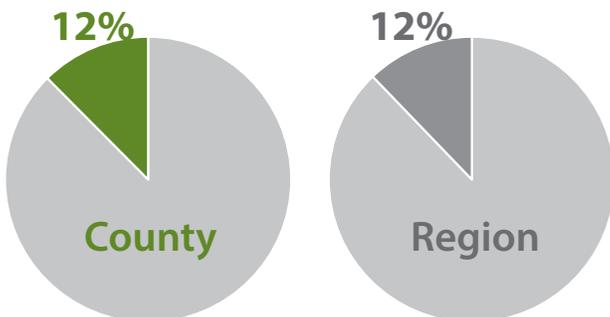


## Liberty County EcoRegions & Conservation Districts

- Other counties
- Northern Humid Gulf Coast Prairie
- Flatwoods (South Central Plains)
- Floodplains & Low Terraces (South Central Plains)
- Conservation and Recreation Lands

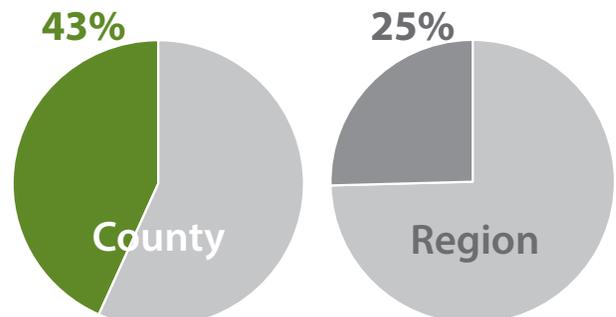
### Residents in 100-year Floodplain

A similar percentage of Liberty County residents live in a 100-year floodplain as the region.



### Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone

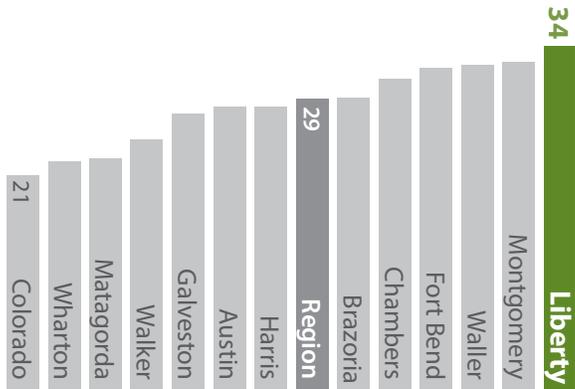
Over 40% of Liberty County residents live in a hurricane evacuation zone, as opposed to 25% of the region.



# TRANSPORTATION

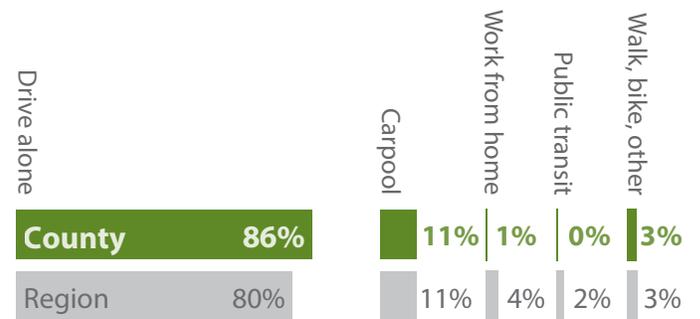
## Mean Commute to Work (minutes)

Liberty County workers have the longest average commute than any other county in the region.



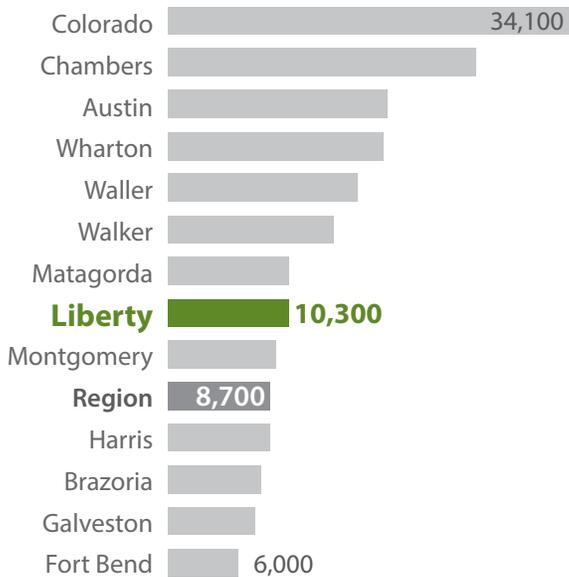
## Commute Mode to Work

A higher percentage of Liberty County workers drive to work compared to the region as a whole.



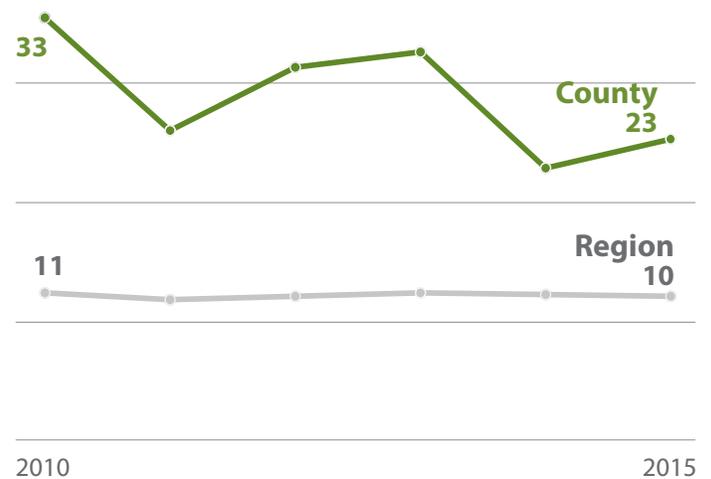
## Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person

Liberty County drivers travel more annually than drivers in the region as a whole.



## Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents

Liberty County has a higher rate of traffic fatalities than the rest of the region.



# SOURCES

## Overview

### **Liberty 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

### **Liberty 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 Liberty 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

### Liberty 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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