
NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Philanthropic Solutions

Poverty Brief

Living in poverty is correlated with poor health, lower academic performance in school, and shorter life expectancy, along with many other negative outcomes.

Tarrant County's rate of poverty has remained steady for the past several years at 15.2%. While a greater percentage of children live in poverty than adults (22.1%), Tarrant County fares better in this regard than Dallas County, where the rate is 29.5%.

Food Insecurity

A quarter of Tarrant County children experience food insecurity, meaning their families consistently lack access to adequate food. Additionally, 19% of county residents live in food deserts, without access to grocery stores and healthy food options within one mile of their home. Children who suffer from chronic hunger experience developmental challenges, have poor overall health, are more likely to perform worse in school, and are at higher risk for childhood obesity.

Working Poor

Among low-income working families in Texas, 37 percent have at least one person who works. Nationally, the annual average workload of a low-income working family

equals 1.25 full time jobs. In Texas, more than 50 percent of low-income working families include a parent without health insurance.

Fifteen percent of Fort Worth's working families that include children have incomes that are below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which is \$22,040 for a family of four. Research studies have found that a family of four living in the Fort Worth-Arlington area that had employer-sponsored insurance would need to make \$45,769 to live there; in contrast, the same family that does not have employer-sponsored health care would have to make \$56,306. The median household income in Fort Worth is \$52,492.

Texas ranks 37 out of 50 among states in "asset poverty" – the ability of households to have enough assets to subsist for up to 3 months at the poverty level without income. One in four Tarrant County residents lacks assets that could sustain them for 3 months in case of loss of income and this rate is twice as high for households of color.

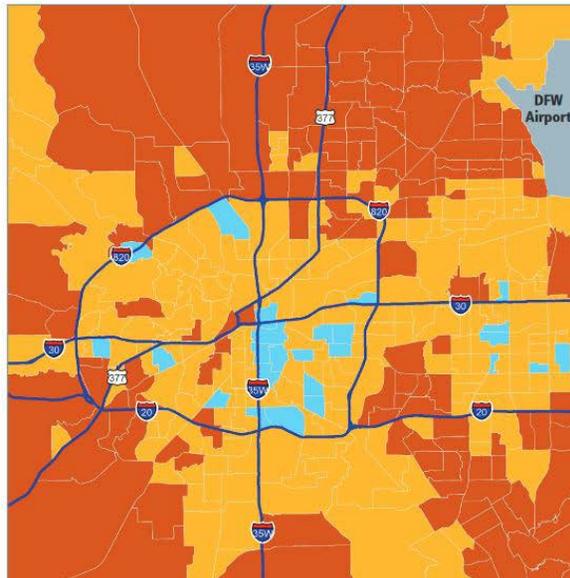
PowerPoint Slides

Trends in Poverty and Income in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas and the U.S.:

Indicator	Fort Worth	Tarrant County	Texas	United States
Working Families that are low income ¹	33.8%	-	37%	28%
Families earning less than \$22K ²	15.2%	11.9%	13.7%	11.5%
Families with Women as head of household earning less than \$22K ¹	33.5%	30.3%	36.1%	30.9%
Children living in households earning less than \$22K ²	26.5%	22.1%	25.3%	21.9%
Median Household Income ²	\$52,492	\$57,727	\$52,576	\$53,482
Per capita income ²	\$24,726	\$28,541	\$26,513	\$28,555

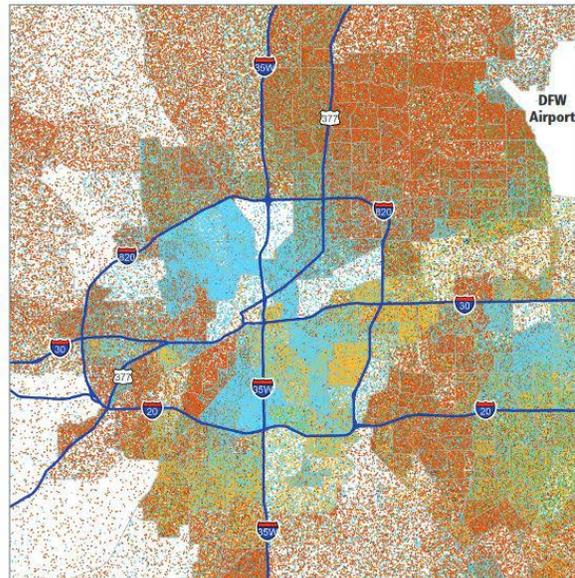
Sources: (1) *The Working Poor Families Project, Working Hard Falling Short*
 (2) 2010-2014 ACS 5-year, *Poverty Status in The Past 12 Months of Families, S1702.*

Fort Worth has areas of racial, ethnic and income diversity, but children of color are more likely to live in the highest-poverty areas.¹³



Tarrant County Total Poverty Rate by Census Tract, 2010-2014

■ No Data
■ Lower-Poverty
■ Moderate-to-High Poverty
■ Highest-Poverty



Tarrant County Child Population by Race/Ethnicity Census Tracts, 2010 (dot = 1 child)

■ Hispanic
■ White
■ Black
■ Asian/Pacific Islander
■ Multirace & Other Race/Ethnicity

Source: *State of Texas Children 2016: Race and Equity in Fort Worth.*