Executive Summary

RESIDENT MOVEMENT

An exploration of population trends in TRAVIS COUNTY



american community survey

5-year estimates
2013 - 2017

FALL 2019

About the Authors

This report was researched and written by the staff at Travis County Health and Human Services, Research & Planning Division. Lead writers were Tara Carmean, April Klein, Rochelle Olivares, and Octavio Ulloa, with support from Korey Darling (Planning Manager), Lawrence Lyman (Division Director), and Sherri Fleming (County Executive for Travis County HHS).

Travis County Health and Human Services (HHS) is a department of Travis County that serves the community under the guidance of the Commissioner's Court. Travis County HHS strives to maximize quality of life for all people in Travis County by: protecting vulnerable populations; investing in social and economic well-being; promoting healthy living: physical, behavioral, and environmental; and building a shared understanding of our community.

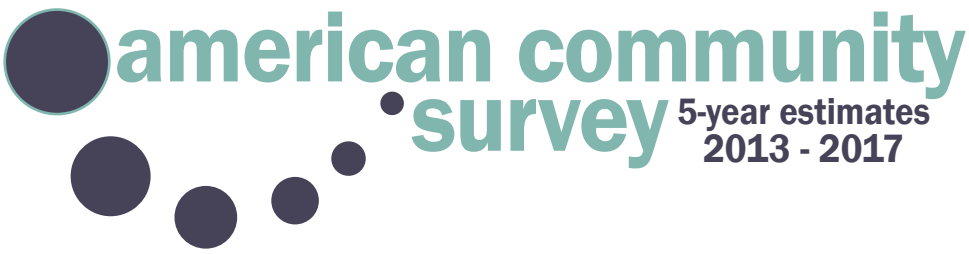
The Research & Planning Division identifies and analyzes community issues and informs stakeholders; promotes collaborative solutions to community problems; and evaluates programs, processes and outcomes to maximize impact. We serve as a resource by providing information, tools and resources; support group processes and planning efforts; and help to measure and evaluate programs and processes. To learn more about our work and for links to our other publications see: https://www.traviscountytx.gov/health-human-services/research-planning

Questions or Comments?

For questions or for more information please contact the Research & Planning Division at HHS_R&P@traviscountytx.gov.

Suggested Citations

Research & Planning Division, "Focus on Geographical Mobility in Travis County," Travis County Health and Human Services, 2019.



Executive Summary

This report is intended to help create a shared understanding of our community by examining the characteristics of persons moving into, out of, and within Travis County, as well as those not moving from their Travis County residence. This understanding is critical for government and community leaders to plan for current and future residents' needs. This report examines the changes over time of resident characteristics by comparing Travis County demographic data using estimates between two five-year periods from the American Community Survey (ACS): 2008-2012 and 2013-2017. This report adds to the overall growing interest to understand resident movement in Travis County, and how the County's demographics have shifted due to migration, or the permanent or semi-permanent movement of people from one place to another.

There are limitations to what the ACS can tell us about migration in Travis County. The data used did not allow for in depth-analysis of resident movement within Travis County, regarding movement from one neighborhood to another. Therefore, conclusions about the impacts of gentrification in Travis County could not be made.[a] The data and analysis in this report is purely descriptive, and while inferences can be made about the underlying reasons individuals move or not, answering those questions is beyond the scope of this project. Additionally, changes to population growth or decline discussed here pertain exclusively to changes due to migration, which differs from other reports on the area's population growth that include births and deaths.

Definition of Terms

Migration or geographic mobility is the permanent or semi-permanent movement of people from one location to another.

Non-movers are residents that responded living in their same home or apartment 1 year ago.

Moved within Travis County are residents that moved residence but stayed within Travis County.

In-movers refers to anyone who moved to Travis County from another county in Texas, another state, or from abroad.

Out-movers refers to anyone who moved out of Travis County to another county in Texas or to another state. There is no data for out-movers that moved abroad.

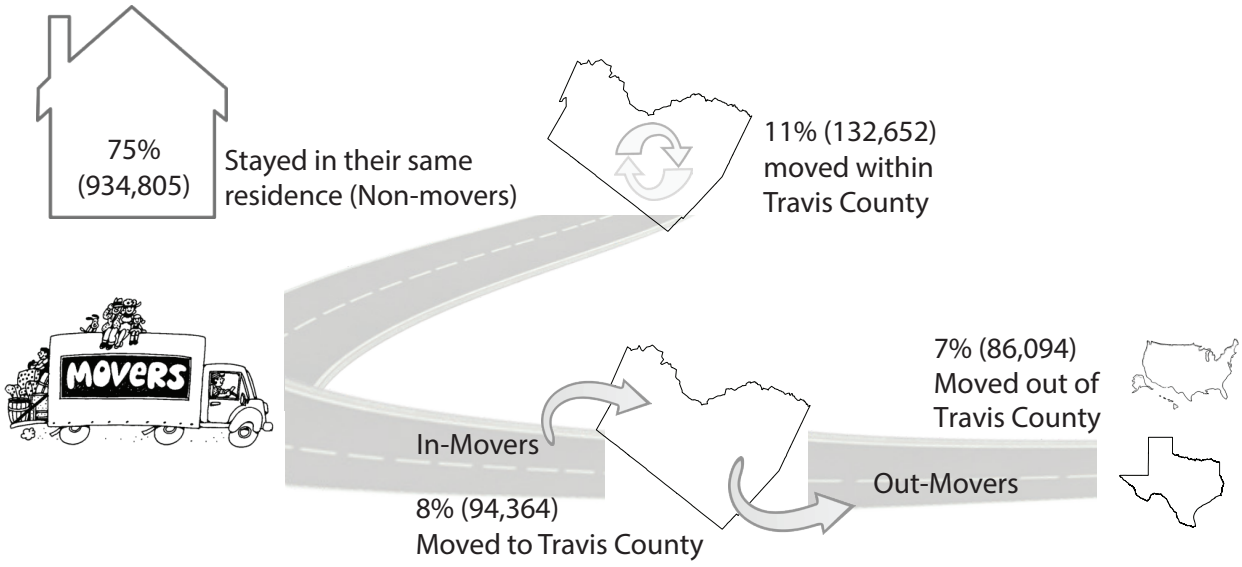
Movers refers to anyone that moved residence 1 year ago either within the County, to or from another county in Texas, to or from another state, or from abroad.

The data highlights included in this summary illustrate some of the key findings of this report. Overall, Travis County residents have been staying in their homes more than previously seen, but mobility within Travis County has been increasing for residents with higher levels of educational attainment. There has been an overall decrease in residents moving within the County, especially for those living below 150% of the poverty level.

a For more information on gentrification within the City of Austin, see Heather Way, Elizabeth Mueller, and Jake Wegmann,"Uprooted: Residential Displacement in Austin's Gentrifying Neighborhoods, and What can be Done About It". The University of Texas at Austin. 2018. https://sites.utexas.edu/gentrificationproject/ .

Data Highlights

As a County, how mobile were we in 2013-2017?



Who moved to Travis County in 2013-2017?


51% moved from a different county in Texas


36% moved from a different state


12% moved from abroad

Of the people that moved to Travis County...

- 60% are between the ages of 25-64 years
- 51% are non-Hispanic White
- 56% have a bachelor's degree or higher
- 73% are living at or above 150% of the poverty level
- 75% are Renters

Who moved out of Travis County in 2013-2017?


67% moved to a different county in Texas


33% moved to a different state

Of the people that moved out of Travis County...

- 57% are between the ages of 25-64 years
- 55% are non-Hispanic White
- 50% have a bachelor's degree or higher
- 76% are living at or above 150% of the poverty level
- 60% are Renters

How does resident movement in Travis County in 2013-2017 compare from 2008-2012?

There is an increasing trend of:

- the general population staying in their place of residence
- movers within the County have a bachelor's degree or higher and have incomes higher over $50,000
- Renters moving to Travis County from a different state
- Homeowners moving out of Travis County to another county in Texas

There is a decreasing trend of:

- residents moving within Travis County, especially people living below 150%
- people who are Black or African American and non-Hispanic White moving to Travis County from another county in Texas
- people living below 150% of poverty moving to Travis County from another county in Texas
- Renters moving to Travis County from another county in Texas