TRAVIS COUNTY POVERTY brief

April 2018

Travis County snapshot from the

american community survey 5-year estimates 2012 - 2016

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 Brittain Ayres, Tara Carmean, with support from Korey Darling (Planning Manager), Lawrence Lyman (Division Director), and Sherri Fleming (County Executive for Travis County HHS).

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

Suggested Citation

Research & Planning Division, "Travis County Poverty Brief," Travis County Health and Human Services, 2018.

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Poverty in Travis County	4
Geographic Concentration of Poverty	6
Appendix A: Places Map	13
Appendix B: Data Tables by ZCTA	14
Appendix C: Methodology	17

Introduction

This report is intended to give a brief update and follow-up to the 2017 Focus on Poverty in Travis County report. We use American Community Survey (ACS) data to look at a few high-level poverty indicators and explore how poverty in Travis County has changed over time by Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs). Data in this report are from the American FactFinder 5-Year Estimates.

The Data Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The American Community Survey (ACS) is conducted continuously on a yearly basis and includes questions about social, housing, and economic characteristics. ACS data sets are released as period estimates that represent the characteristics of the population and housing over a specific data collection period of 12 or 60 months. This differs from the decennial census, which is designed to measure characteristics during a narrow time period.[1]

The 5-Year Estimates were chosen because they are the most reliable and provide the largest sample size. The 5-Year data sets are also unique in that they include data for small levels of geography (e.g. Zip Code Tabulation Areas) to allow us to study poverty at the sub-county level. The 2012-2016 5-Year Estimates are used as the main data source and the 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates were used to look at trends over time. The main limitations with the 5-Year Estimates is timeliness, whereas the 1-Year Estimates provide the most current data available and a more nuanced look at trends over time.

Due to the differences stated above, poverty statistics from 5-Year Estimates and 1-Year Estimates differ. When referring to the 2012-2016 5-year data sets, the Travis County poverty rate is 15%, while the 2016 1-Year Estimates indicates the poverty rate is 12%. As a result, the poverty statistics in this report may vary from other Travis County HHS Research & Planning reports (such as the Travis County Snapshot) or other reports released by community partners.

What is poverty?

For the purpose of this report, we define poverty as residents living below 100% of the Poverty Threshold, using the 2016 Poverty Thresholds issued by the Census Bureau. This report also considers the number and rate of people living below 200% of the Poverty Threshold, which more broadly measures people living with an economic hardship. Individuals living below 200% of poverty qualify for many social service assistance programs.

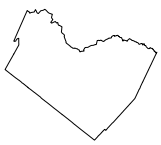
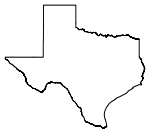
2016 Poverty Thresholds

	100% of Poverty	200% of Poverty
One person under age 65	$12,486	$24,339
Family of four, including two related children under 18	$24,972	$48,678

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

[1] A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What State and Local Governments Need to Know, U.S. Census Bureau, February 2009.

Poverty in Travis County

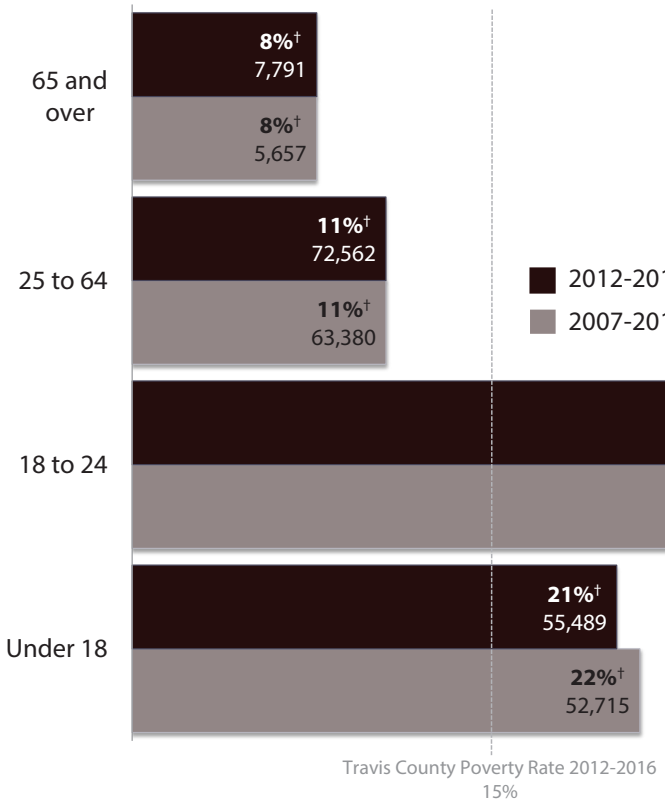

In 2012-2016, **15%** of Travis County residents lived below 100% of poverty.

Total Population	1,124,075	26,334,005	310,629,645
Number in Poverty	171,023	4,397,307	46,932,225
Poverty Rate	15%	17%	15%

Source data: 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, B17001

RATE AND NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN POVERTY BY AGE

Travis County, 2007-2011 & 2012-2016

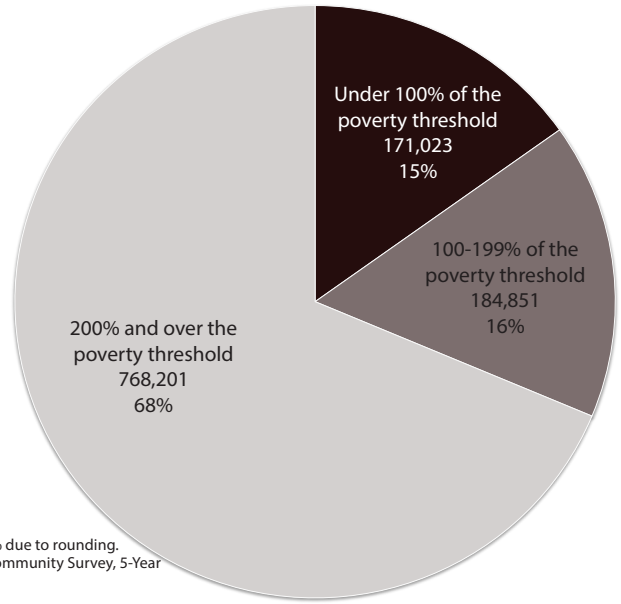


18 to 24 year olds (35%) and **children under 18 years** (21%) have higher poverty rates than the Travis County overall poverty rate.

†The difference between 2007-2011 and 2012-2016 data is not statistically significant.
Source data: 2007-2011 and 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, B17001

RATIO OF INCOME TO POVERTY

Travis County, 2012-2016



32% of Travis County residents (355,874 individuals) have income under 200% of the poverty threshold.

2016 Poverty Threshold for:
One person under age 65
100%: $12,486
200%: 24,972

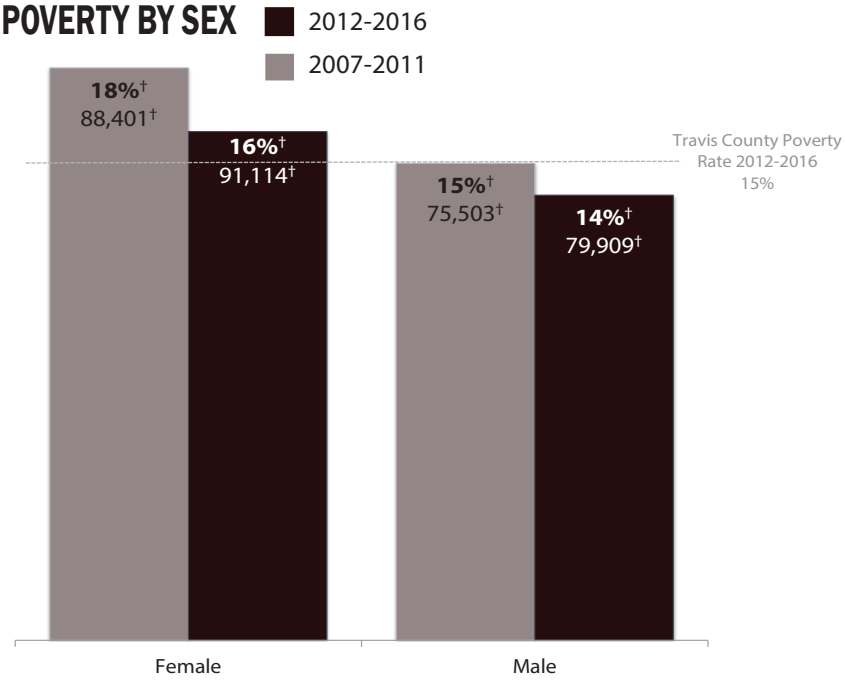
A family of four, including two children under 18
100%: 24,339
200%: 48,678

Percentage totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.
Source data: 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, C17002

RATE AND NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN POVERTY BY SEX

Travis County, 2007-2011 & 2012-2016

Females (16%) have higher poverty rate than the Travis County overall poverty rate.

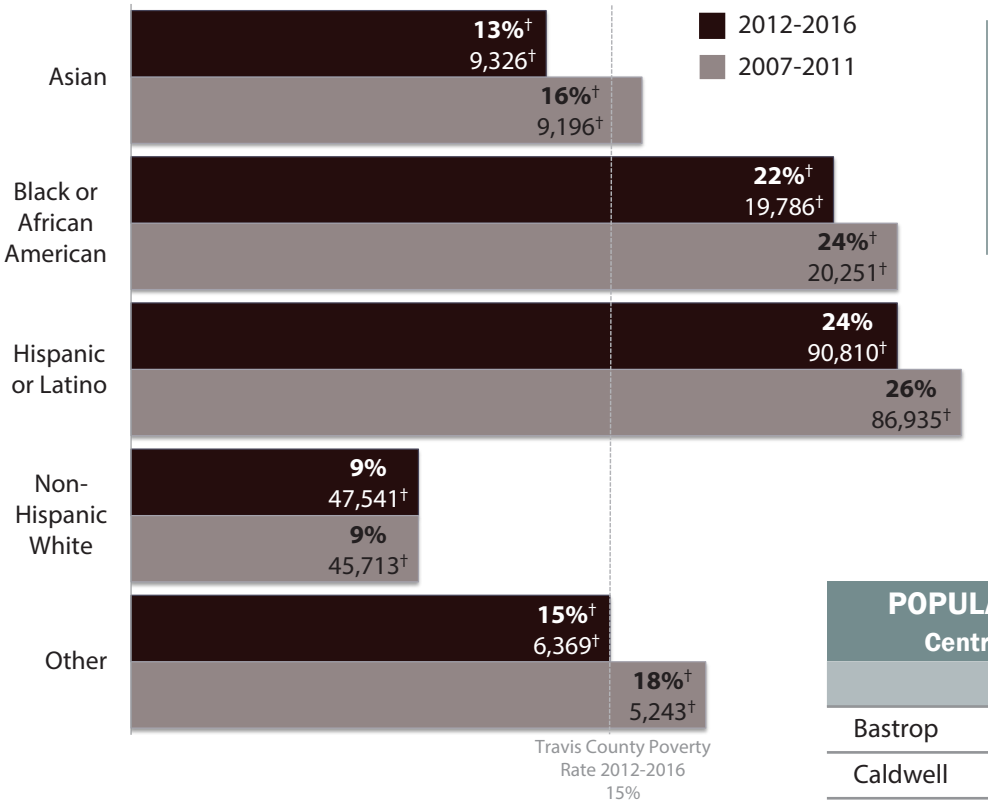


†The difference between 2007-2011 and 2012-2016 data is not statistically significant.
Source data: 2007-2011 and 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, B17001

RATE AND NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN POVERTY BY RACE

Travis County, 2007-2011 & 2012-2016

Black or African American (22%) and **Hispanic** (24%) residents have higher poverty rates than the Travis County overall poverty rate.



†The difference between 2007-2011 and 2012-2016 data is not statistically significant.
Source data: 2007-2011 and 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, B17001B, B17001C, B17001D, B17001E, B17001G, B17001H, B17001I

POPULATION AND POVERTY RATES

Central Texas Counties, 2012-2016

	Total Population	Poverty Rate
Bastrop	75,916	14%
Caldwell	37,637	19%
Hays	178,216	16%
Travis	1,124,075	15%
Williamson	485,385	7%

Source data: 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, B17001

Geographic Concentration of Poverty

To explore geographic concentration of poverty, we included maps that display the percent of individuals living below 200% of the poverty threshold by Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) for Travis County and the surrounding counties. We use 200% of poverty, which is a broader gauge of people living with an economic hardship, because the estimates are more reliable. To view changes over time, we created maps using ACS 2007-2011 and 2012-2016 5-Year Estimates.

Although we can map the data at a sub-county level there are limitations. For the purpose of this brief, we chose to use ZCTAs because they are larger and more reliable than census tracts. However, since ACS estimates are based on samples, they all have a margin of error which increases as the sample size decreases; therefore, a substantial number of the ZCTAs have high margins of error and are unreliable. Unreliable ZCTAs (CVs are greater than 30.5%) are noted in the map with red font. Maps do not note the ZCTAs with estimates that should be used with caution (CV that is between 15.5% and 30.49%) so we urge readers to use care when analyzing and comparing maps.

Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs)

The Census Bureau organizes geographic areas into statistical areas to tabulate and present census data. Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) are used for the maps included in this report.

Definition: ZCTAs are approximate area representations of USPS five-digit ZIP Code service areas that the Census Bureau creates using whole blocks to present statistical data from censuses and surveys. The U.S. Census Bureau created the ZCTAs as a statistical geographic entity to overcome more frequent changes to ZIP code areas by the USPS. ZCTAs are relatively stable over time, whereas ZIP Code areas by the USPS change more frequently to support more efficient mail delivery. ZCTAs should not be used to identify the official USPS ZIP Code for mail delivery.

Limitations: There are limitations with using ZCTAs rather than census tracts, which are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county that generally have a population between 1,200 and 8,000 people. One limitation includes losing the ability for readers to look at data within smaller, more specific geographic areas. Other limitations include ZCTAs cross County lines, whereas census tracts do not, and data by ZCTAs are only available with 5-Year Estimates, which are less timely than 1-Year Estimates.

Calculations: The rate for each ZCTA is calculated by dividing the number of people in the ZCTA who live below 200% of poverty by the total number of people in the ZCTA. Thus, the rate is the percentage of people living below 200% of Poverty. In this report, rate and percent are used interchangeably.

Overview & Highlights

Overall, 32% of Travis County residents live below 200% of the poverty threshold. The following maps show that poverty is concentrated in the central and eastern areas of Travis County. ZCTAs with more than 32% of the population living below 200% of the poverty threshold fall along the I-35 corridor and east of I-35, whereas the majority of ZCTAs on the western side of the County have rates below 32%.

The following tables summarize highlights from data used to create the maps. In Travis County, ten ZCTAs have one-half or more of the population living below 200% of poverty. The ZCTA with the highest rate (78705) is located near the University of Texas at Austin campus, which has 11,409 18-24 year olds living below 100% of poverty. The remaining nine ZCTAs are east of I-35.

ZCTAs with over 50% of Individuals Living below 200% of Poverty Travis County, 2012-2016					
ZCTA	Estimate	Percent	ZCTA	Estimate	Percent
78705 (central/UT area)	15,163	76%	78744 (southeast)	25,583	54%
78724 (east)	14,678	62%	78721 (east)	6,551	54%
78741 (southeast)	31,382	61%	78617 (southeast)	12,277	52%
78752 (northeast)	11,266	57%	78723 (east)	16,124	50%
78753 (northeast)	30,545	55%	78719 (southeast)	881*	50%*

In Travis County, five ZCTAs have over 20,000 people living below 200% of poverty, all of which are located around the I-35 corridor.

ZCTAs with over 20,000 Individuals below 200% of Poverty Travis County, 2012-2016		
ZCTA	Estimate	Percent
78741 (southwest)	31,382	61%
78753 (northeast)	30,545	55%
78744 (southwest)	25,583	54%
78745 (southwest)	20,810	34%
78758 (north)	20,683	45%

Trends: The 2007-2011 and 2012-2016 maps show some changes in the concentration of people living below 200% of poverty. ZCTAs with the highest rates of people living below 200% of poverty are located along the I-35 corridor or east of I-35, and poverty has increased in some ZCTAs within Travis County and the surrounding counties.

We tested the estimates and rates to determine if changes over time were statistically significant and included a map to show which Travis County ZCTAs had statistically significant changes. (See page 8). Our analysis found that from 2007-2011 to 2012-2016:

- Four ZCTAs (78645, 78750, 78754, and 78615) had a *statistically significant increase in both the number and rate* of people living below 200% of poverty. These ZCTAs fall outside of the urban core, north of highway 183, and in the northwest and northeast parts of the county.
- Five ZCTAS (78610, 78617, 78724, 78725, and 78748) had a *statistically significant increase in the number* of people living below 200% of poverty and are primarily located east and southeast of I-35, although one ZCTA (78748) is located in south Travis County just west of I-35.
- Ten ZCTAs had a *statistically significant decrease in the rate* of people living below 200% of poverty. These ZCTAS are scattered across the county, however 5 of these ZCTAs (78702, 78703, 78704, 78741, and 78751) are within the central region surrounding downtown Austin.
- The only ZCTA with a *statistically significant decrease in the number and rate* of people living below 200% of poverty was ZCTA 78701, located in downtown Austin. Although the total population increased by 49% (2,382 individuals) the number of people living below 200% of poverty decreased by 37% (647 individuals) and the rate of people living below 200% of poverty decreased from 36% in 2007-2011 to 15% in 2012-2016.

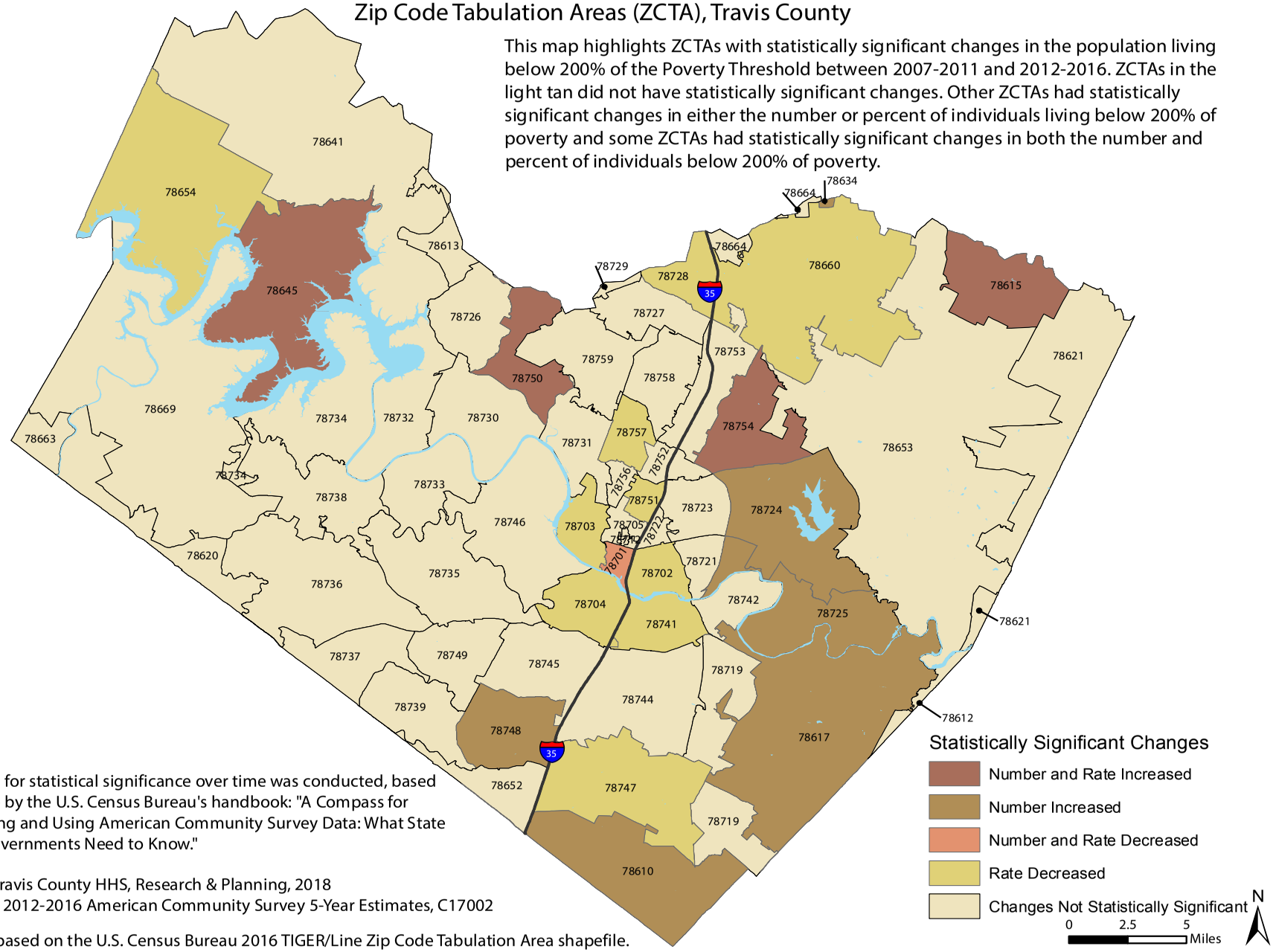
For estimates and rates by ZCTA, see the table included in Appendix B.

ZCTAs with Statistically Significant Changes between 2007-2011 & 2012-2016

Individuals Living Below 200% of the Poverty Threshold

Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA), Travis County

This map highlights ZCTAs with statistically significant changes in the population living below 200% of the Poverty Threshold between 2007-2011 and 2012-2016. ZCTAs in the light tan did not have statistically significant changes. Other ZCTAs had statistically significant changes in either the number or percent of individuals living below 200% of poverty and some ZCTAs had statistically significant changes in both the number and percent of individuals below 200% of poverty.



Note: Testing for statistical significance over time was conducted, based on guidance by the U.S. Census Bureau's handbook: "A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What State and Local Governments Need to Know."

Created by Travis County HHS, Research & Planning, 2018
Source data: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, C17002

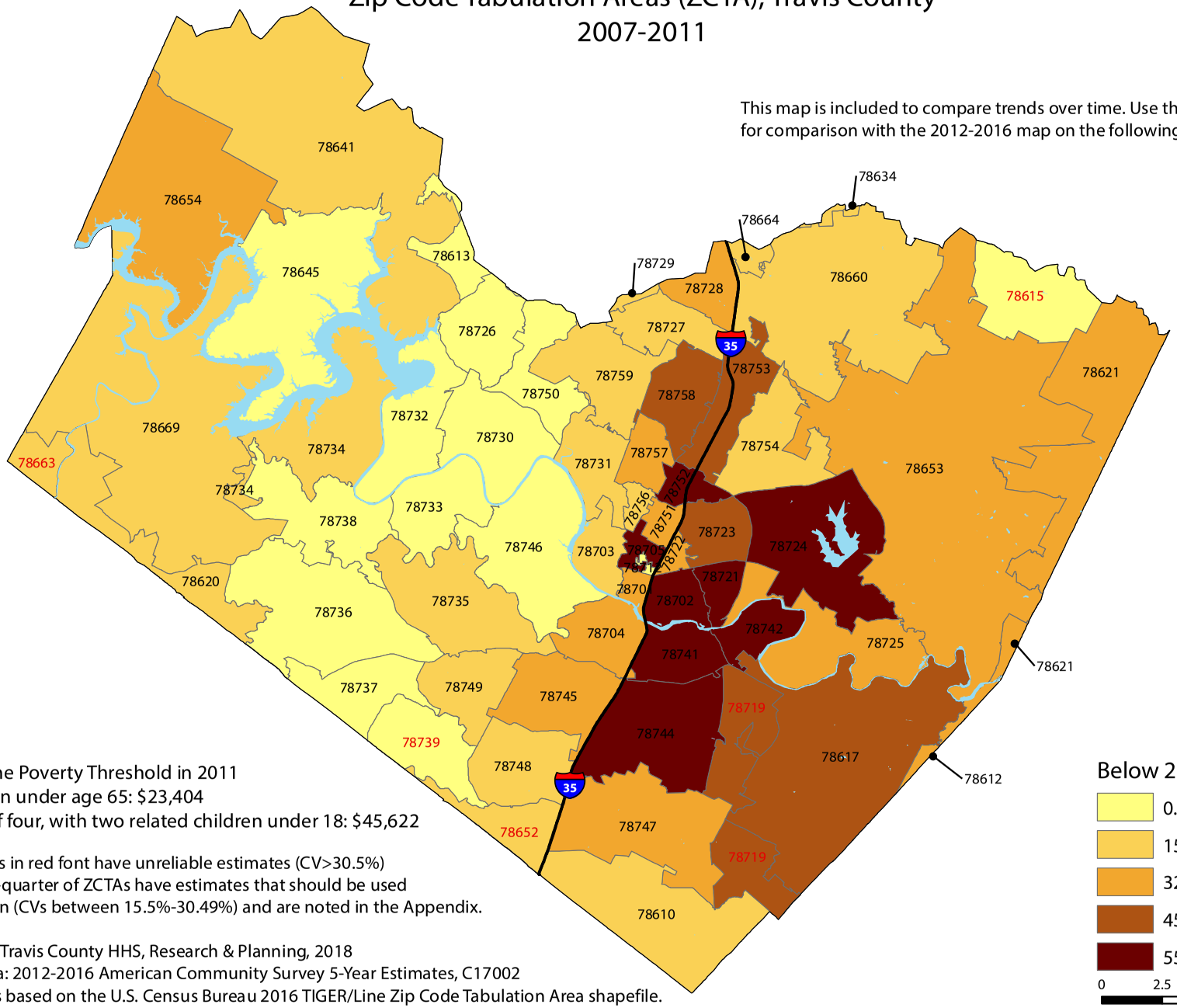
This map is based on the U.S. Census Bureau 2016 TIGER/Line Zip Code Tabulation Area shapefile.

Individuals Living Below 200% of the Poverty Threshold

Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA), Travis County

2007-2011

This map is included to compare trends over time. Use this map for comparison with the 2012-2016 map on the following page.



200% of the Poverty Threshold in 2011
One person under age 65: $23,404
A family of four, with two related children under 18: $45,622

Note: ZCTAs in red font have unreliable estimates (CV>30.5%)
About one-quarter of ZCTAs have estimates that should be used with caution (CVs between 15.5%-30.49%) and are noted in the Appendix.

Created by Travis County HHS, Research & Planning, 2018
Source data: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, C17002
This map is based on the U.S. Census Bureau 2016 TIGER/Line Zip Code Tabulation Area shapefile.

Below 200% of Poverty

- 0.0% - 15.0%
- 15.1% - 32.0%
- 32.1% - 45.0%
- 45.1% - 55.0%
- 55.1% - 77.2%

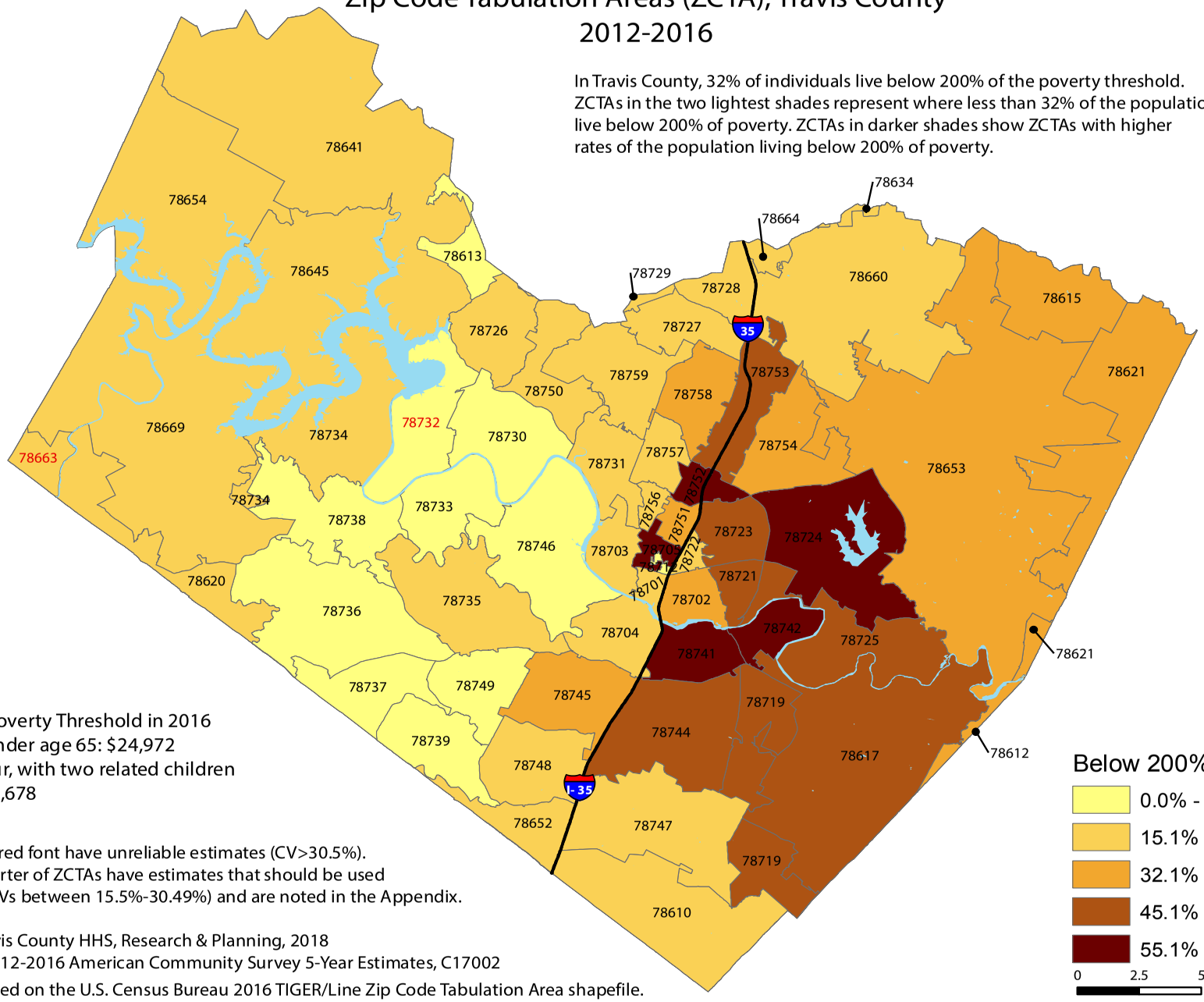
0 2.5 5 Miles

N

Individuals Living Below 200% of the Poverty Threshold

Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA), Travis County
2012-2016

In Travis County, 32% of individuals live below 200% of the poverty threshold. ZCTAs in the two lightest shades represent where less than 32% of the population live below 200% of poverty. ZCTAs in darker shades show ZCTAs with higher rates of the population living below 200% of poverty.



200% of the Poverty Threshold in 2016
One person under age 65: $24,972
A family of four, with two related children under 18: $48,678

Note: ZCTAs in red font have unreliable estimates (CV>30.5%).
About one-quarter of ZCTAs have estimates that should be used with caution (CVs between 15.5%-30.49%) and are noted in the Appendix.

Created by Travis County HHS, Research & Planning, 2018
Source data: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, C17002
This map is based on the U.S. Census Bureau 2016 TIGER/Line Zip Code Tabulation Area shapefile.

Below 200% of Poverty
- 0.0% - 15.0%
- 15.1% - 32.0%
- 32.1% - 45.0%
- 45.1% - 55.0%
- 55.1% - 75.9%

0 2.5 5 Miles

N

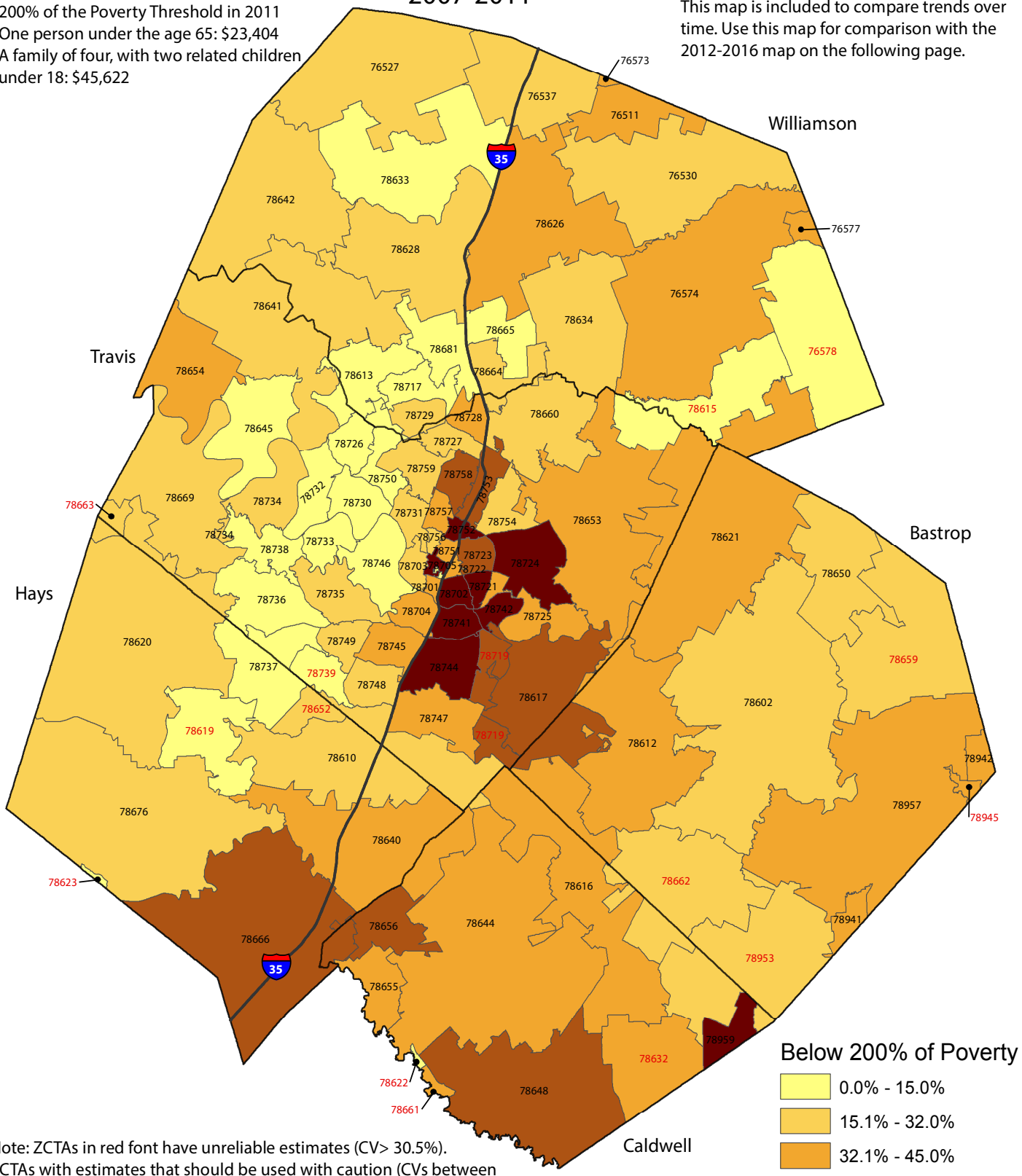
Individuals Living Below 200% of the Poverty Threshold

Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA), Central Texas Counties

2007-2011

200% of the Poverty Threshold in 2011
One person under the age 65: $23,404
A family of four, with two related children under 18: $45,622

This map is included to compare trends over time. Use this map for comparison with the 2012-2016 map on the following page.



Below 200% of Poverty

- 0.0% - 15.0%
- 15.1% - 32.0%
- 32.1% - 45.0%
- 45.1% - 55.0%
- 55.1% - 77.2%

0 5 10 Miles

N

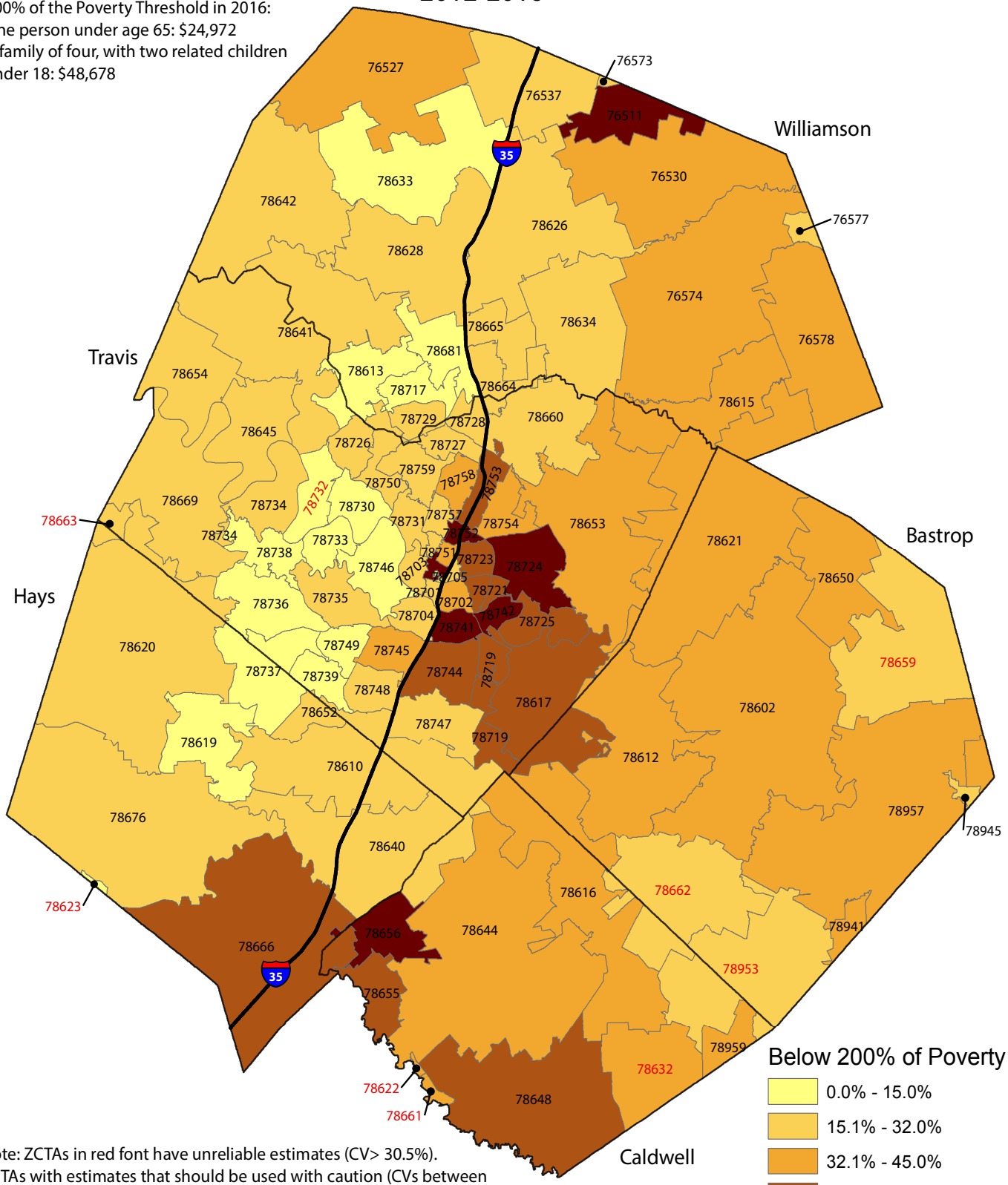
Note: ZCTAs in red font have unreliable estimates (CV> 30.5%).
ZCTAs with estimates that should be used with caution (CVs between 15.5%-30.49%) are not noted in the map but included in a table in the Appendix.
Created by Travis County HHS, Research & Planning, 2018
Source data: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, C17002
This map is based on the U.S. Census Bureau 2016 TIGER/Line Zip Code Tabulation Area shapefile.

Individuals Living Below 200% of the Poverty Threshold

Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA), Central Texas Counties

2012-2016

200% of the Poverty Threshold in 2016:
One person under age 65: $24,972
A family of four, with two related children under 18: $48,678



Below 200% of Poverty

- 0.0% - 15.0%
- 15.1% - 32.0%
- 32.1% - 45.0%
- 45.1% - 55.0%
- 55.1% - 75.9%

0 5 10 Miles

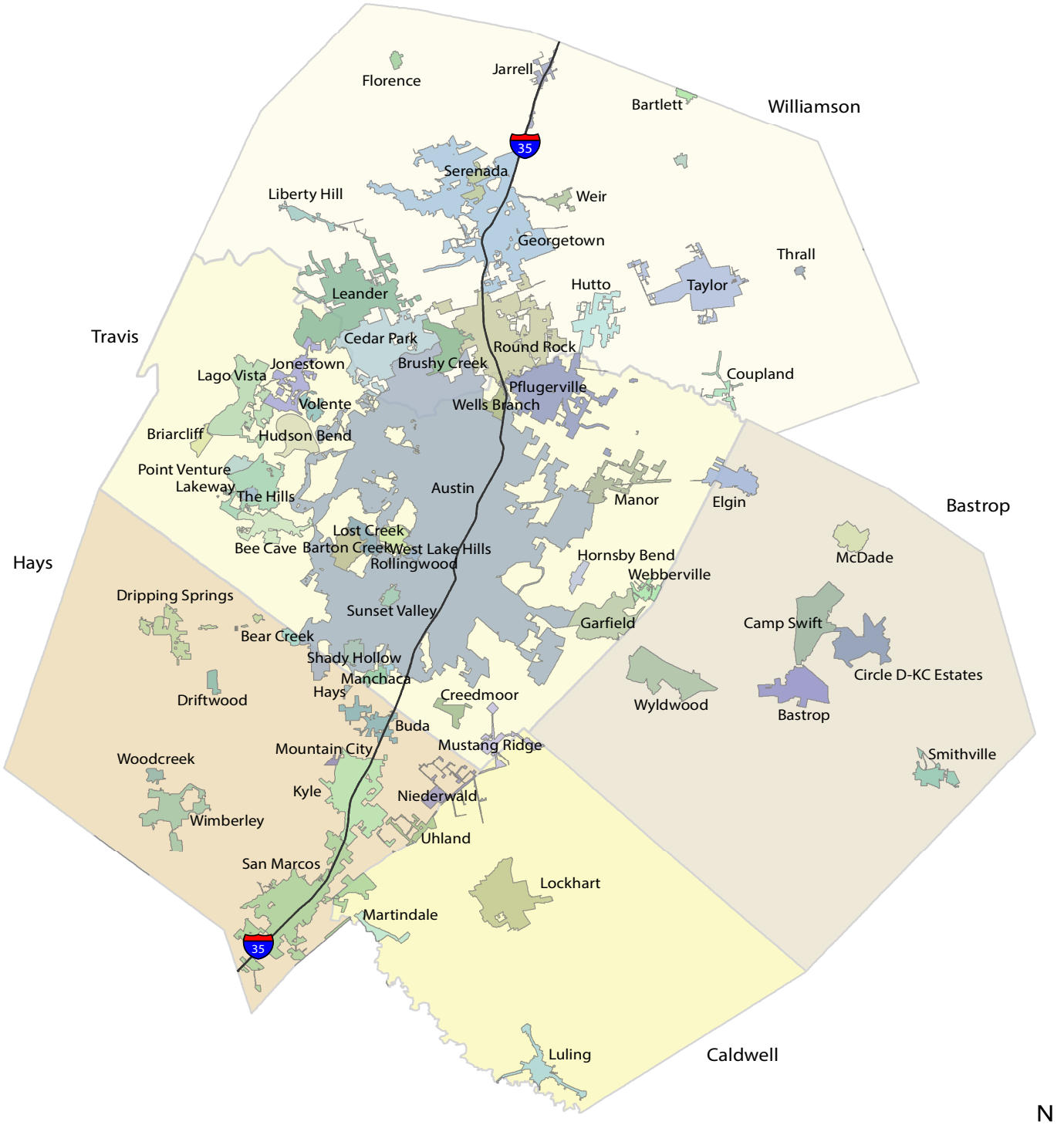
N

Note: ZCTAs in red font have unreliable estimates (CV> 30.5%).
ZCTAs with estimates that should be used with caution (CVs between 15.5%-30.49%) are not noted in the map but included in a table in the Appendix.
Created by Travis County HHS, Research & Planning, 2018
Source data: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, C17002

This map is based on the U.S. Census Bureau 2016 TIGER/Line Zip Code Tabulation Area shapefile.

Appendix A: Places Map

City and Places Reference Map
Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties



Created by Travis County HHS, Research & Planning, 2018

This map is based on the U.S. Census Bureau 2016 TIGER/Line Zip Code Tabulation Area shapefile.

Appendix B: Data Tables by ZCTA

Total Population and Population Below 200% of the Poverty Threshold Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA), Travis County, 2007-2011 & 2012-2016										
ZCTA	Total Population				Population Below 200% of the Poverty Threshold					
					2007-2011		2012-2016			
	2007-2011 Estimate	2012-2016 Estimate	Difference	Percent change between 2007-2011 & 2012-2016	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Difference	Percent change between 2007-2011 & 2012-2016
78610	22,042	30,289	8,247	37%	4,257	19%	6,879	23%	2,622	62%
78612	11,229	12,298	1,069	Not Statistically Significant	4,337	39%	5,047	41%	710	Not Statistically Significant
78613	63,670	75,059	11,389	18%	8,938	14%	10,734	14%	1,796	Not Statistically Significant
78615	840	1,035	195	Not Statistically Significant	35	4%	418	40%	383	1094%
78617	17,933	23,837	5,904	33%	8,604	48%	12,277	52%	3,673	43%
78620	14,441	14,941	500	Not Statistically Significant	2,234	15%	2,698	18%	464	Not Statistically Significant
78621	22,038	21,996	-42	Not Statistically Significant	7,343	33%	7,518	34%	175	Not Statistically Significant
78634	21,764	28,444	6,680	31%	3,868	18%	5,995	21%	2,127	55%
78641	43,497	55,743	12,246	28%	8,758	20%	10,788	19%	2,030	Not Statistically Significant
78645	10,308	10,247	-61	Not Statistically Significant	1,496	15%	2,498	24%	1,002	67%
78652	4,181	4,824	643	Not Statistically Significant	749	18%	903	19%	154	Not Statistically Significant
78653	14,467	19,315	4,848	34%	5,889	41%	7,266	38%	1,377	Not Statistically Significant
78654	16,759	18,060	1,301	8%	7,093	42%	5,607	31%	-1486	Not Statistically Significant
78660	67,301	81,239	13,938	21%	18,413	27%	16,816	21%	-1597	Not Statistically Significant
78663	720	829	109	Not Statistically Significant	144	20%	222	27%	78	Not Statistically Significant
78664	51,512	60,434	8,922	17%	14,712	29%	17,240	29%	2,528	Not Statistically Significant
78669	8,762	10,682	1,920	22%	1,532	17%	2,013	19%	481	Not Statistically Significant
78701	4,871	7,253	2,382	49%	1,745	36%	1,098	15%	-647	-37%
78702	20,108	22,117	2,009	10%	11,125	55%	9,678	44%	-1,447	Not Statistically Significant
78703	19,387	20,777	1,390	7%	3,868	20%	3,127	15%	-741	Not Statistically Significant

Use estimates highlighted in yellow with caution: CV between 15.5% - 30.49%

Estimates highlighted in red are unreliable: CV is 30.5% or higher

Created by : Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Divison, 2017

Source data: 2007-2011 & 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, C17002

Total Population and Population Below 200% of the Poverty Threshold Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA), Travis County, 2007-2011 & 2012-2016										
ZCTA	Total Population				Population Below 200% of the Poverty Threshold					
	2007-2011 Estimate	2012-2016 Estimate	Difference	Percent change between 2007-2011 & 2012-2016	2007-2011		2012-2016		Difference	Percent change between 2007-2011 & 2012-2016
78704	40,598	45,004	4,406	11%	14,448	36%	13,945	31%	-503	Not Statistically Significant
78705	19,739	19,986	247	Not Statistically Significant	15,246	77%	15,163	76%	-83	Not Statistically Significant
78712	-	-	0	Not Statistically Significant	-	0%	-	0%	0	Not Statistically Significant
78719	1,408	1,762	354	Not Statistically Significant	755	54%	881	50%	126	Not Statistically Significant
78721	11,022	12,043	1,021	Not Statistically Significant	7,033	64%	6,551	54%	-482	Not Statistically Significant
78722	5,542	7,064	1,522	27%	1,850	33%	2,256	32%	406	Not Statistically Significant
78723	29,645	32,314	2,669	9%	15,163	51%	16,124	50%	961	Not Statistically Significant
78724	19,212	23,573	4,361	23%	11,495	60%	14,678	62%	3,183	28%
78725	6,011	7,895	1,884	31%	2,119	35%	3,569	45%	1,450	68%
78726	13,145	13,590	445	Not Statistically Significant	1,864	14%	2,080	15%	216	Not Statistically Significant
78727	27,919	29,058	1,139	Not Statistically Significant	6,694	24%	6,424	22%	-270	Not Statistically Significant
78728	20,218	21,777	1,559	8%	6,748	33%	5,704	26%	-1044	Not Statistically Significant
78729	26,962	29,941	2,979	11%	6,096	23%	5,781	19%	-315	Not Statistically Significant
78730	8,231	9,038	807	Not Statistically Significant	510	6%	770	9%	260	Not Statistically Significant
78731	24,824	27,329	2,505	10%	4,111	17%	4,482	16%	371	Not Statistically Significant
78732	13,363	16,837	3,474	26%	1,042	8%	1,465	9%	423	Not Statistically Significant
78733	9,219	8,886	-333	Not Statistically Significant	1,099	12%	895	10%	-204	Not Statistically Significant
78734	16,678	18,909	2,231	13%	3,515	21%	2,913	15%	-602	Not Statistically Significant
78735	15,860	16,635	775	Not Statistically Significant	3,181	20%	2,569	15%	-612	Not Statistically Significant
78736	6,490	7,839	1,349	21%	664	10%	556	7%	-108	Not Statistically Significant
78737	12,453	14,698	2,245	18%	1,061	9%	1,218	8%	157	Not Statistically Significant
78738	11,504	14,947	3,443	30%	836	7%	1,091	7%	255	Not Statistically Significant
78739	15,926	19,549	3,623	23%	557	3%	1,015	5%	458	Not Statistically Significant
78741	46,889	51,723	4,834	10%	32,660	70%	31,382	61%	-1,278	Not Statistically Significant

Use estimates highlighted in yellow with caution: CV between 15.5% - 30.49%

Estimates highlighted in red are unreliable: CV is 30.5% or higher

Created by : Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Divison, 2017

Source data: 2007-2011 & 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, C17002

Total Population and Population Below 200% of the Poverty Threshold Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA), Travis County, 2007-2011 & 2012-2016										
ZCTA	Total Population				Population Below 200% of the Poverty Threshold					
	2007-2011 Estimate	2012-2016 Estimate	Difference	Percent change between 2007-2011 & 2012-2016	2007-2011		2012-2016		Difference	Percent change between 2007-2011 & 2012-2016
78742	780	704	-76	Not Statistically Significant	557	71%	408	58%	-149	Not Statistically Significant
78744	41,504	47,051	5,547	13%	23,557	57%	25,583	54%	2,026	Not Statistically Significant
78745	54,750	61,166	6,416	12%	19,643	36%	20,810	34%	1,167	Not Statistically Significant
78746	26,600	27,822	1,222	5%	2,413	9%	2,795	10%	382	Not Statistically Significant
78747	13,146	19,485	6,339	48%	4,939	38%	4,938	25%	-1	Not Statistically Significant
78748	37,737	47,795	10,058	27%	9,333	25%	11,756	25%	2,423	26%
78749	33,811	36,277	2,466	7%	5,355	16%	4,962	14%	-393	Not Statistically Significant
78750	26,643	29,836	3,193	12%	3,513	13%	5,700	19%	2,187	62%
78751	14,397	14,634	237	Not Statistically Significant	6,149	43%	5,256	36%	-893	Not Statistically Significant
78752	16,439	19,888	3,449	21%	9,210	56%	11,266	57%	2,056	Not Statistically Significant
78753	51,365	55,649	4,284	8%	28,234	55%	30,545	55%	2,311	Not Statistically Significant
78754	13,326	21,710	8,384	63%	3,425	26%	7,942	37%	4,517	132%
78756	7,671	8,719	1,048	14%	1,285	17%	1,618	19%	333	Not Statistically Significant
78757	22,367	23,438	1,071	Not Statistically Significant	7,212	32%	5,943	25%	-1269	Not Statistically Significant
78758	43,267	46,086	2,819	7%	20,906	48%	20,683	45%	-223	Not Statistically Significant
78759	40,339	41,168	829	Not Statistically Significant	6,717	17%	6,208	15%	-509	Not Statistically Significant

Use estimates highlighted in yellow with caution: CV between 15.5% - 30.49%

Estimates highlighted in red are unreliable: CV is 30.5% or higher

Created by : Travis County HHS, Research & Planning Divison, 2017

Source data: 2007-2011 & 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, C17002

Appendix C: Methodology

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that replaced the long form of the 10-year U.S. Census and collects information on an ongoing basis rather than once every ten years. The survey includes questions about demographic, housing, social and economic characteristics.[1] The ACS employs continuous data collection,[2] with annual results produced at the national, state, city, and county levels as well as smaller geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or greater. In 2010, data based on 5-Year Estimates became available for many small areas (state, county, city, town, place, census tracts and block groups).

ACS data was primarily retrieved from the American FactFinder. The American FactFinder is a website maintained by the U.S. Census Bureau that provides access to data from several surveys, one of which is the ACS. The American FactFinder is available at: https://factfinder.census.gov/.

Definitions of Poverty

Individuals for Whom Poverty Status is Determined: Poverty status is determined for all people except institutionalize people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 year old. (Income questions are asked of people age 15 and older so if someone under age 15 is not living with a family member the Census Bureau does not know their income.) Because people whose poverty status is undefined are excluded from Census Bureau poverty tabulations, the total population represented in poverty tables--the poverty universe--is slightly smaller than the overall population.

Income to Poverty Threshold: The ACS provides some data sets by the ratio of income to poverty threshold. The ratio of income to poverty is computed by dividing the total family income by the appropriate poverty threshold for that person's family size and composition.

For more information about how the U.S. Census Bureau measures poverty: https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html.

Data Testing

We tested all estimates presented in this supplement at a 90% confidence level for reliability. This test involves calculating the coefficient of variation (CV). The CV uses the margin of error, which gives an idea of the variability of an estimate, to measure the reliability of the estimate. To help interpret the estimates reliability, we use the following tiered reliability standards which are based on the value of the CV:

- Under 15.49%: Reliable
- 15.5% to 30.49%: Use with caution
- 30.5% and over: Unreliable

---

[1] Copies of the ACS questionnaires and instruction guides from 1996 to the present can be found at: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaire-archive.html.

[2] The ACS collects survey information continuously nearly every day of the year and then aggregates the results over the specified time period, therefore the 5-Year Estimates describe the characteristics of the population over the full 5-Year period. The data collection is spread evenly across the entire period represented so as not to over-represent any particular month or year within the period. ACS estimates do not represent average characteristics over a single calendar year or multiple calendar years.

When estimates have a CV higher than 15.5% we used asterisks to note whether estimates should be used with caution (CV is 15.5% - 30.49%) or if the estimates are unreliable (CV is 30.5% or over.) Our decision to publish estimates that are not reliable was driven by the need to 1) provide building blocks representing small subsets of the population for future trend analysis and 2) as much as possible, represent the entirety and diversity of our community. In cases where estimates are not reliable, please draw conclusions with caution.

Any comparisons explicitly highlighted in the narrative text have also been tested for statistical significance and can be assumed to be statistically significant unless stated otherwise. Some notable exceptions where statistical significance was not found or not possible to determine have been footnoted. Testing was not conducted on every possible permutation of comparisons between data presented here, so inferences about statistics and trends should be drawn with caution.

For more information and instruction on testing for reliability and statistical significance, as well as general guidance on how to use American Community Survey data, please see the Compass guides published by the U.S. Census Bureau: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance.html.