





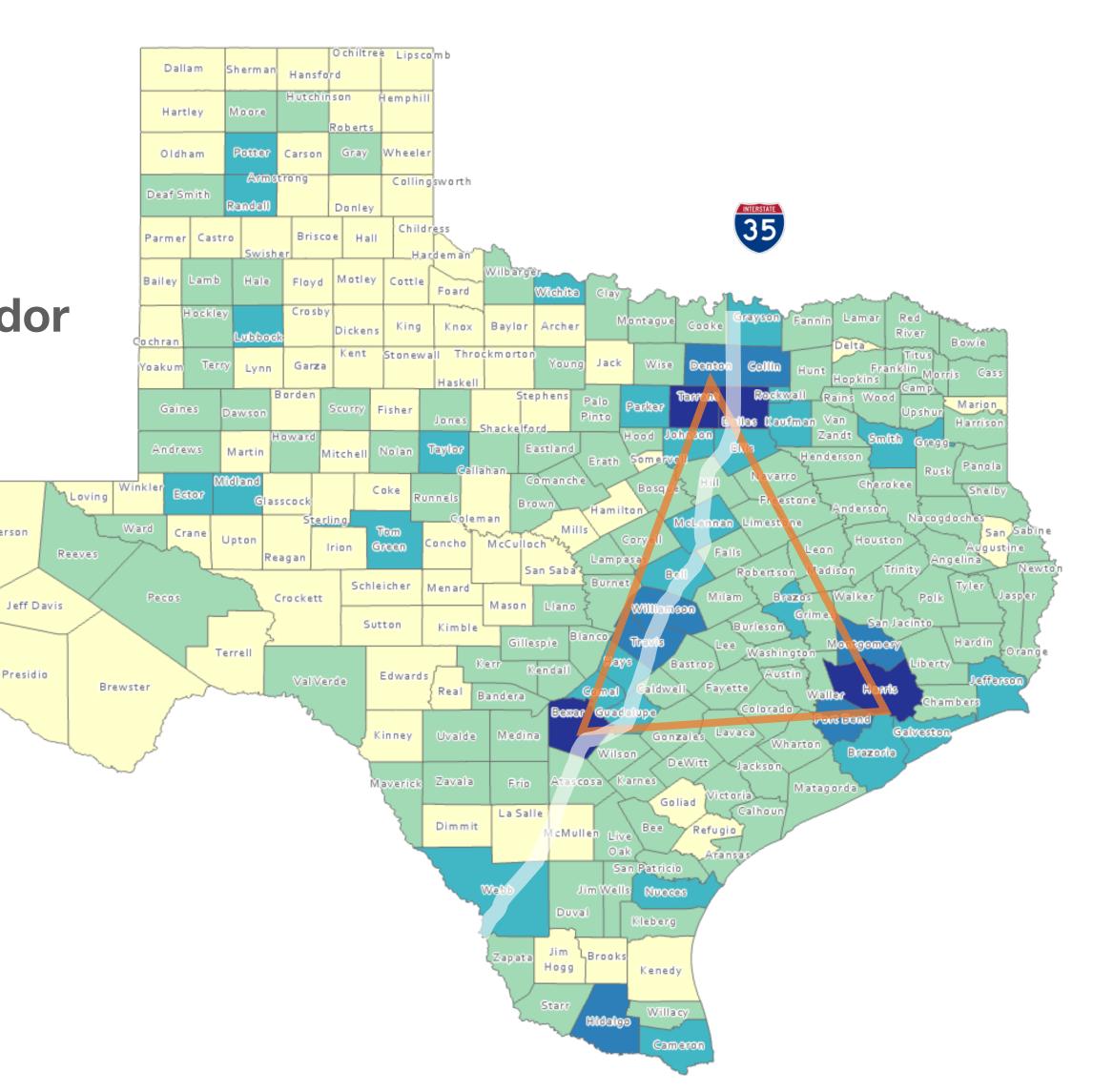
Let's start with some data...

The Alient Annual Marie I



Estimated Population by County, Texas, 2020

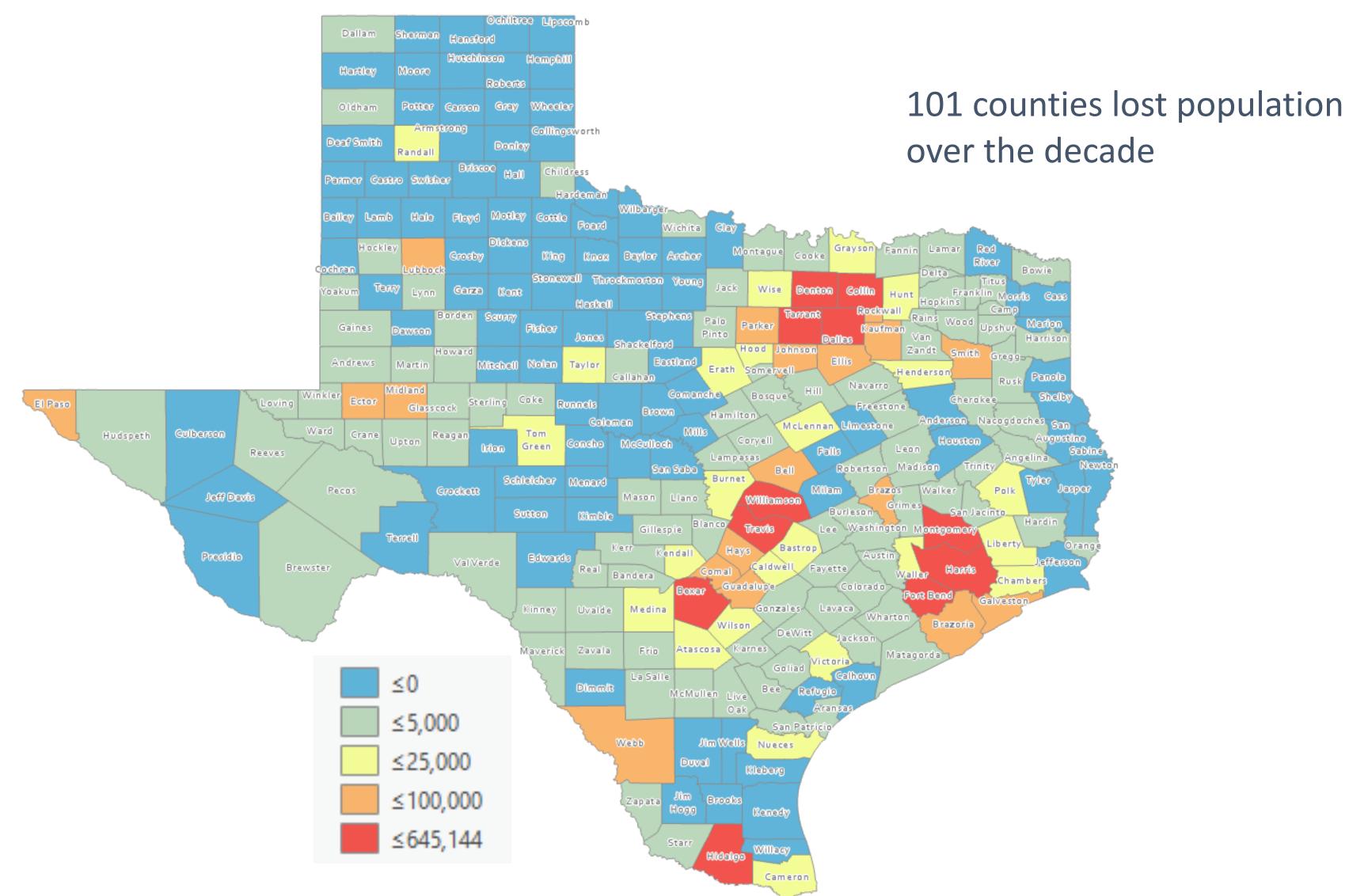
Less than 13%
of the
state's population
lives west of the I-35 corridor



Culberson



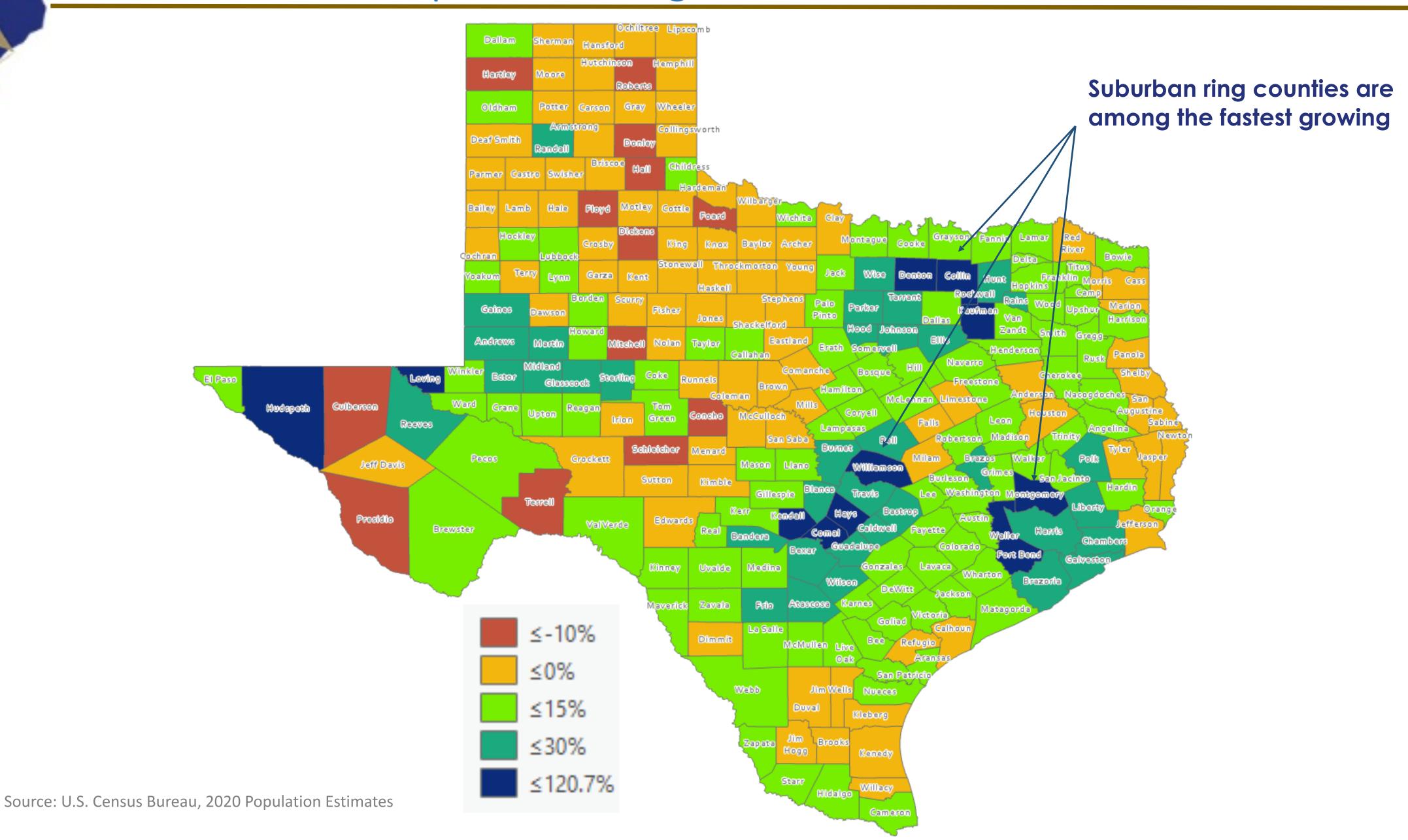
Estimated Numeric Change, Texas Counties, 2010-2020



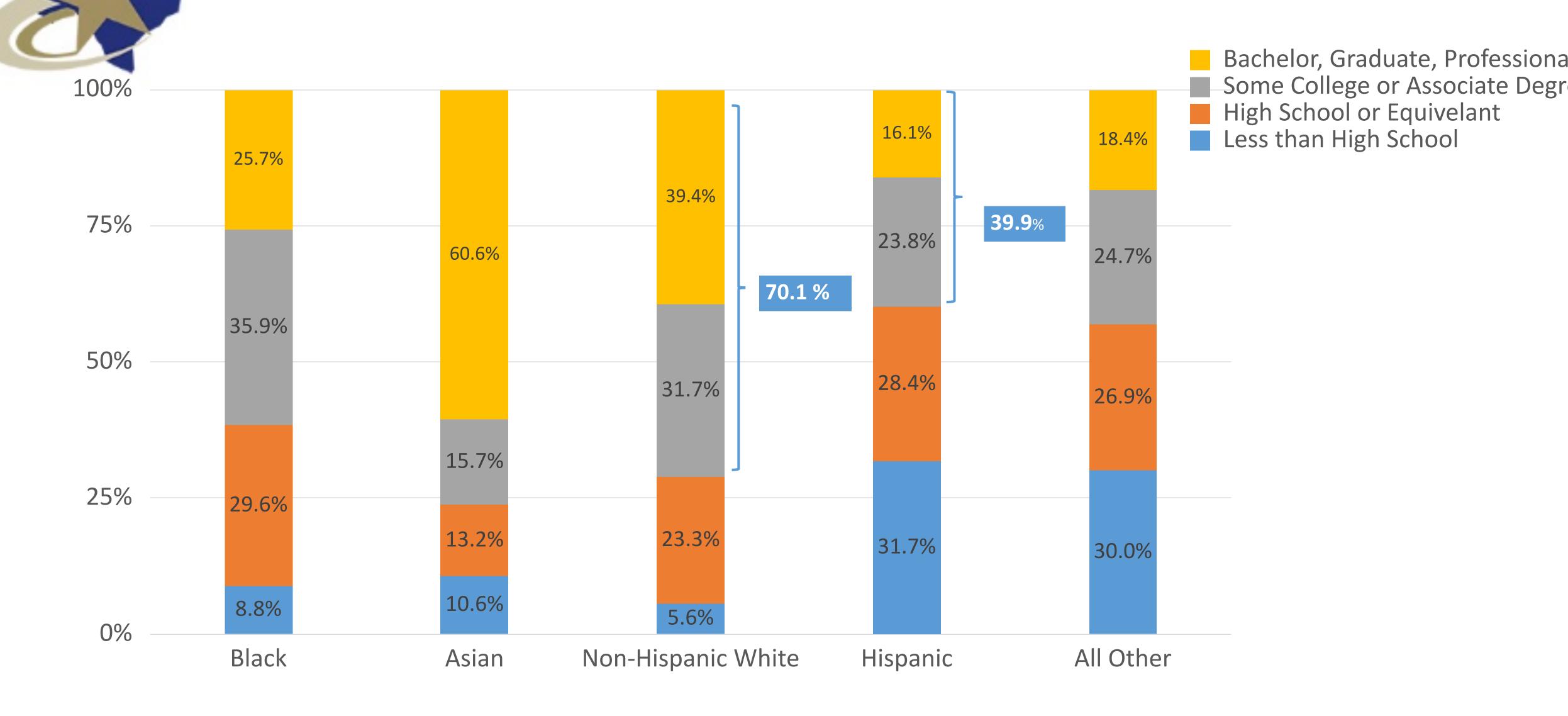
Source: US Census Bureau, 2020 Population Estimates



Estimated Percent Population Change, Texas Counties, 2010-2020

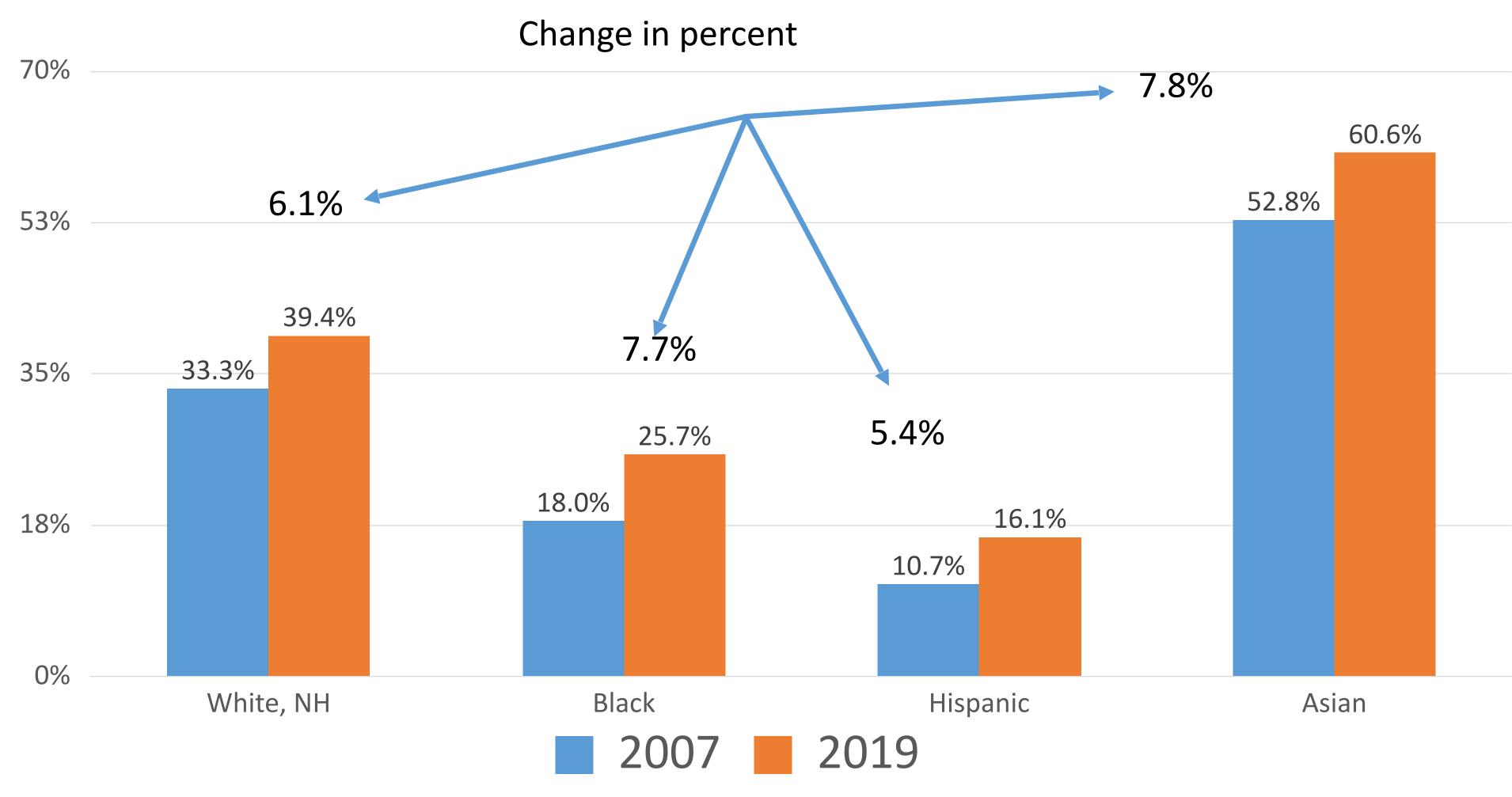


Educational Attainment of Persons Age 25 Years and Older by Race/Ethnicity, Texas, 2019



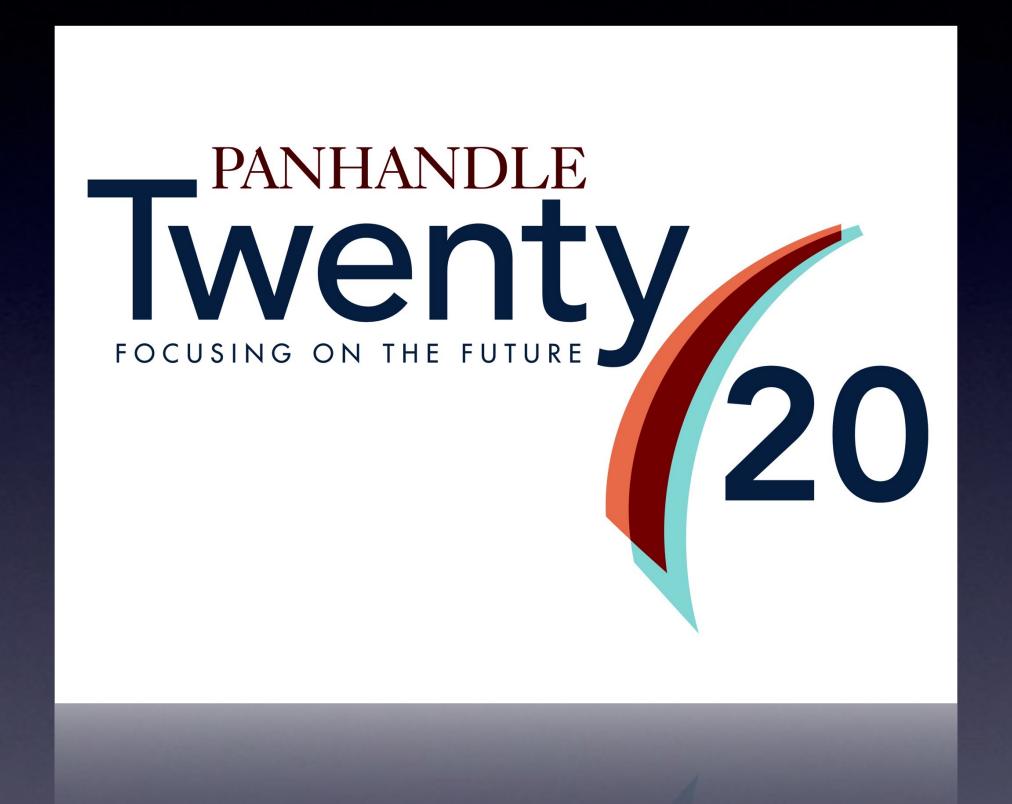


Percent of the Population Aged-25 Years and Older with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher by Race/Ethnicity, Texas, 2007 and 2019





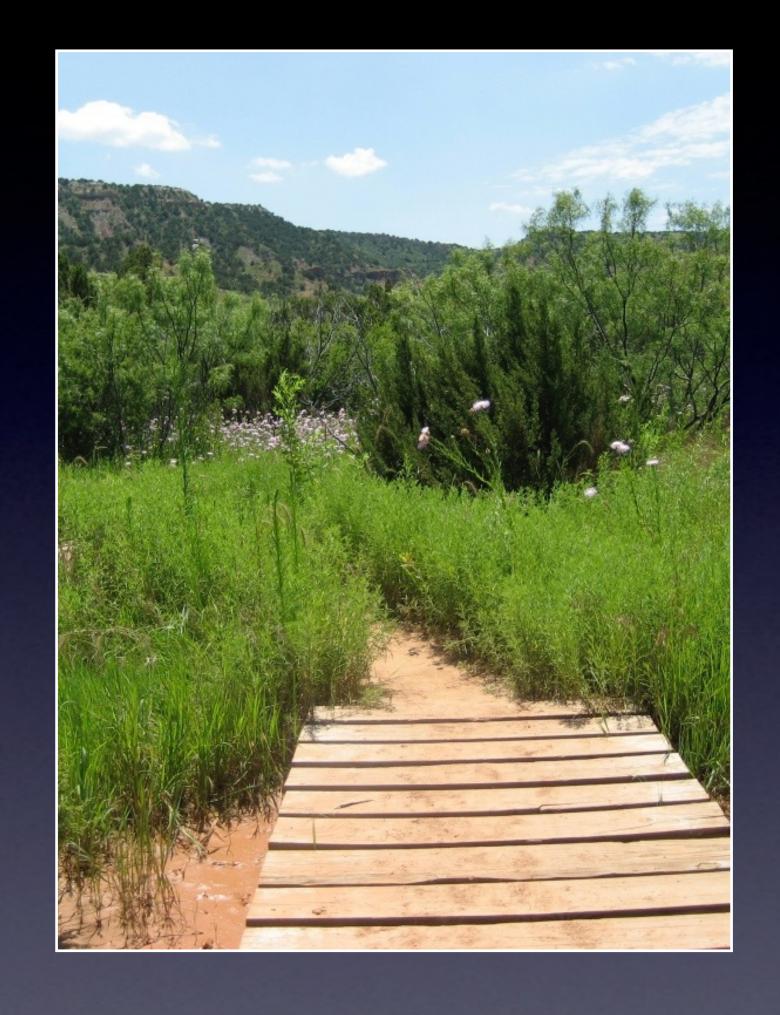




Who is planning for the future of Texas?

who is planning for the future of Texas?

whose job is it?



Mission: To be a catalyst for positive change in the Texas Panhandle.



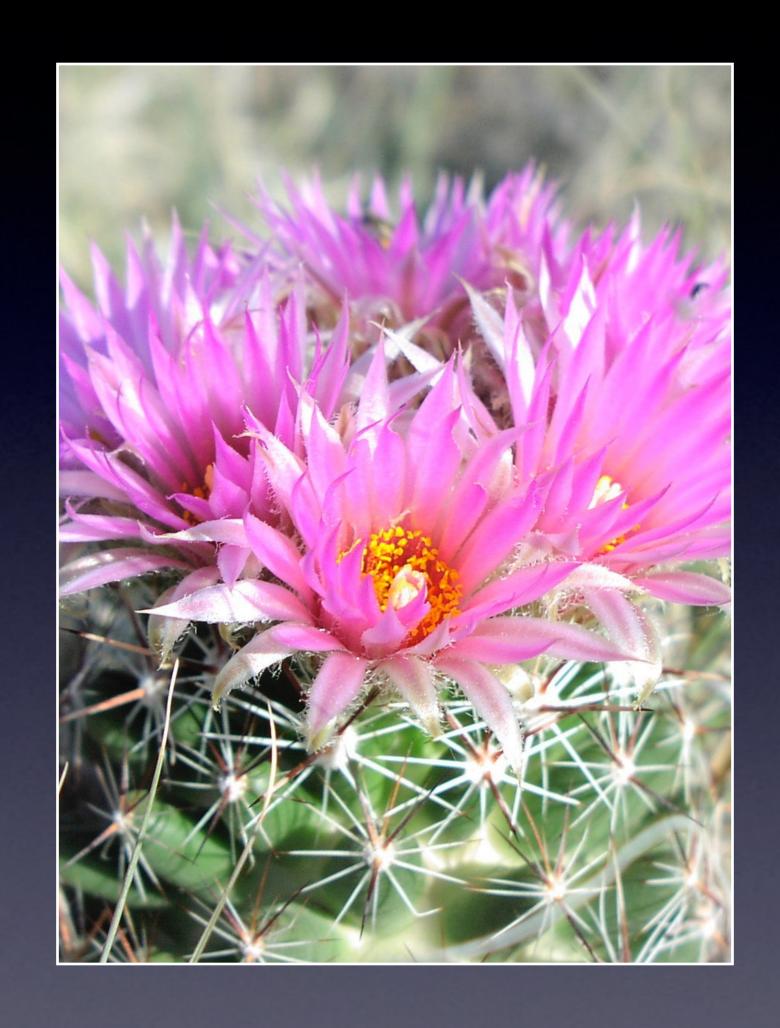
Vision: A unified community planning for a stronger future.



Role: To connect, equip, and inform.



start with the facts.





predictions?

- poorerless educated

- Launched in 2003
- Amarillo Area Foundation 2005
- Looked at data & demographics
- Focused on two key things
 - educational attainment
 - poverty

Focus on...

- systemic change
- scalability
- leverage existing resources
- Collective Impact

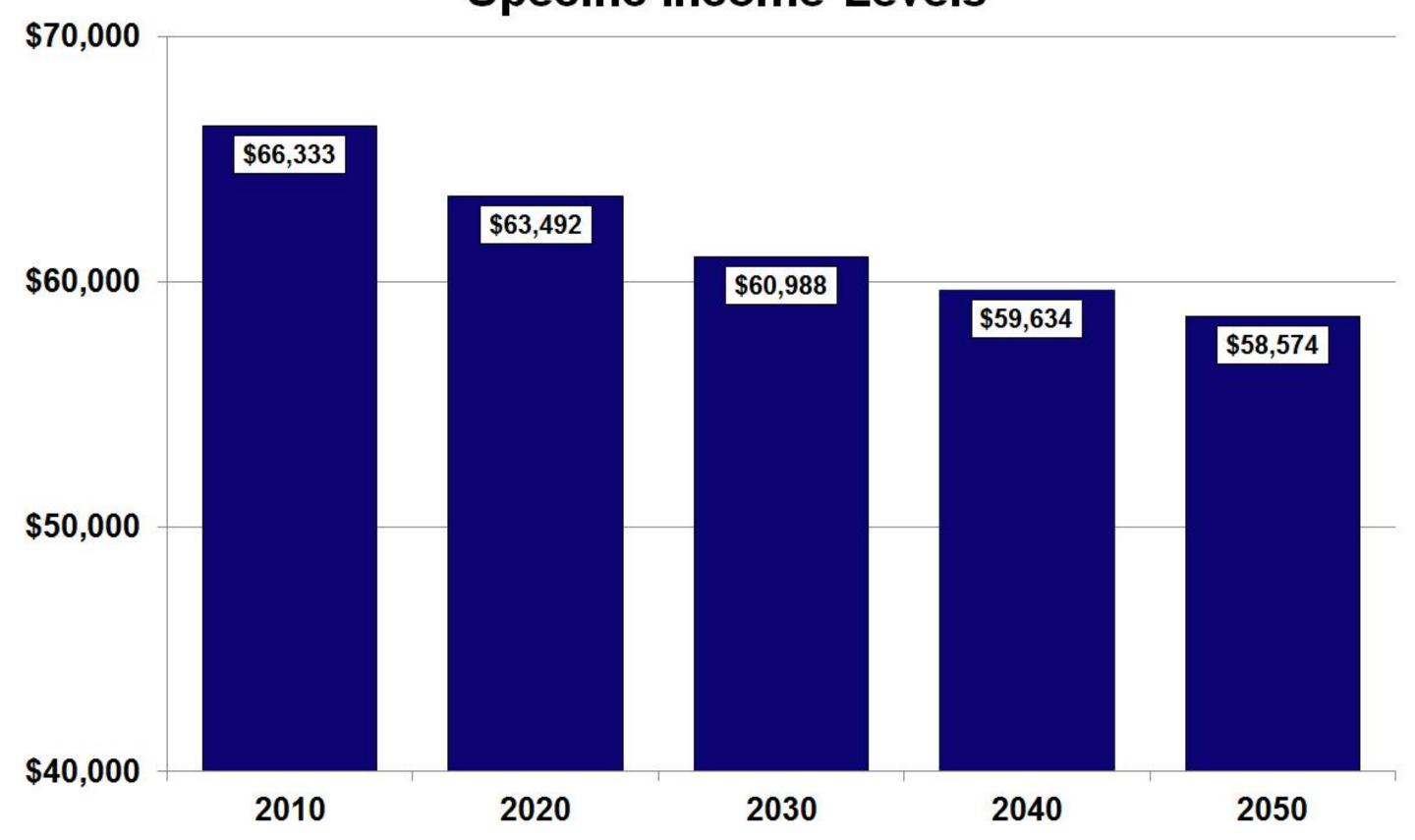


Building Community Capacity

- Use data to determine critical areas of focus
- Create awareness
- Engage communities around data and issues
- Build collaborations to address issues
- Build bridges among organizations
- Find best practices—then we hand it off

DALLAM		SHERMAN	HANSFORD	OCHILTREE	LIPSCOMB	
HARTLEY		MOORE	HUTCHINSON	ROBERTS	HEMPHILL	
OLDHAM		POTTER	CARSON	GRAY	WHEELER	
DEAF SMITH		RANDALL	ARMSTRONG	DONLEY	COLLINGSWORTH	
PARMER	CASTRO	SWISHER	BRISCOE	HALL	CHILDRESS	

Mean Annual Household Income in Texas in 2010 and Projected to 2050 Assuming 2010 Race/Ethnicity Specific Income Levels





Educational Attainment

- Texas was low; we were lower
- Year-long study focused on issue
- Hundreds of individuals and institutions involved, huge awareness growth
- Key findings —> Action Plan
- Still ongoing



What happened?

- Texas Panhandle P-16 Council
- Celebrate Education
- Pursuing Real Opportunities--PRO
- Changes within and among educational institutions: AISD/AC/WTAMU/Region 16
- CEO Input Discussions
- Bill & Melinda Gates Partners for Postsecondary Grant



What is our biggest barrier to education attainment?

poverty



think about your community

- is there poverty here?
- how extensive?
- but it doesn't impact me..., or does it?



Historical Perspectives On Poverty



- Poverty is a crime
- Worthy poor and unworthy poor
- Poverty is a character flaw
- Current model used to address poverty: Eligibility model

Media—Our #1 Teacher of Poverty



- 2 How are people in poverty portrayed in the media?
- 2 Labels used to describe people and their lives
- 2 Focus of news stories about people in poverty

Stereotypes



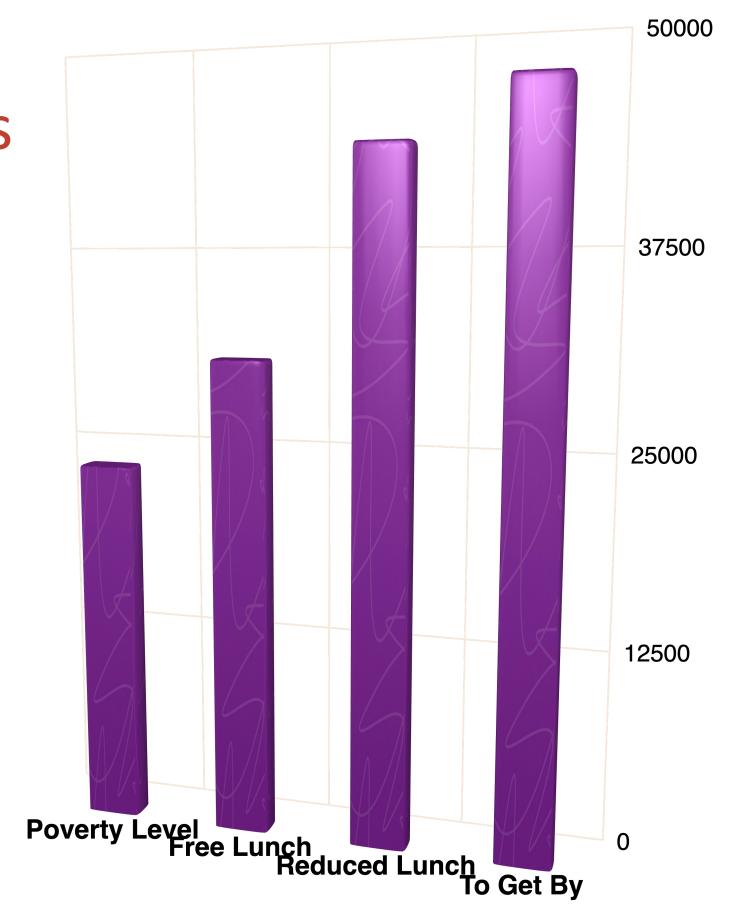
- People get rich from having babies on welfare
- People do not want to work
- Big screen TVs, Nikes, and cell phones
- 2 Smoking, drinking, drugs cause poverty



What is poverty?



- Poverty levels were set in the '60's
- Poverty for a family of 4 \$23,550
- Free Lunch \$30,615
- Reduced Lunch \$43,568
- 2X Poverty to survive \$47,100



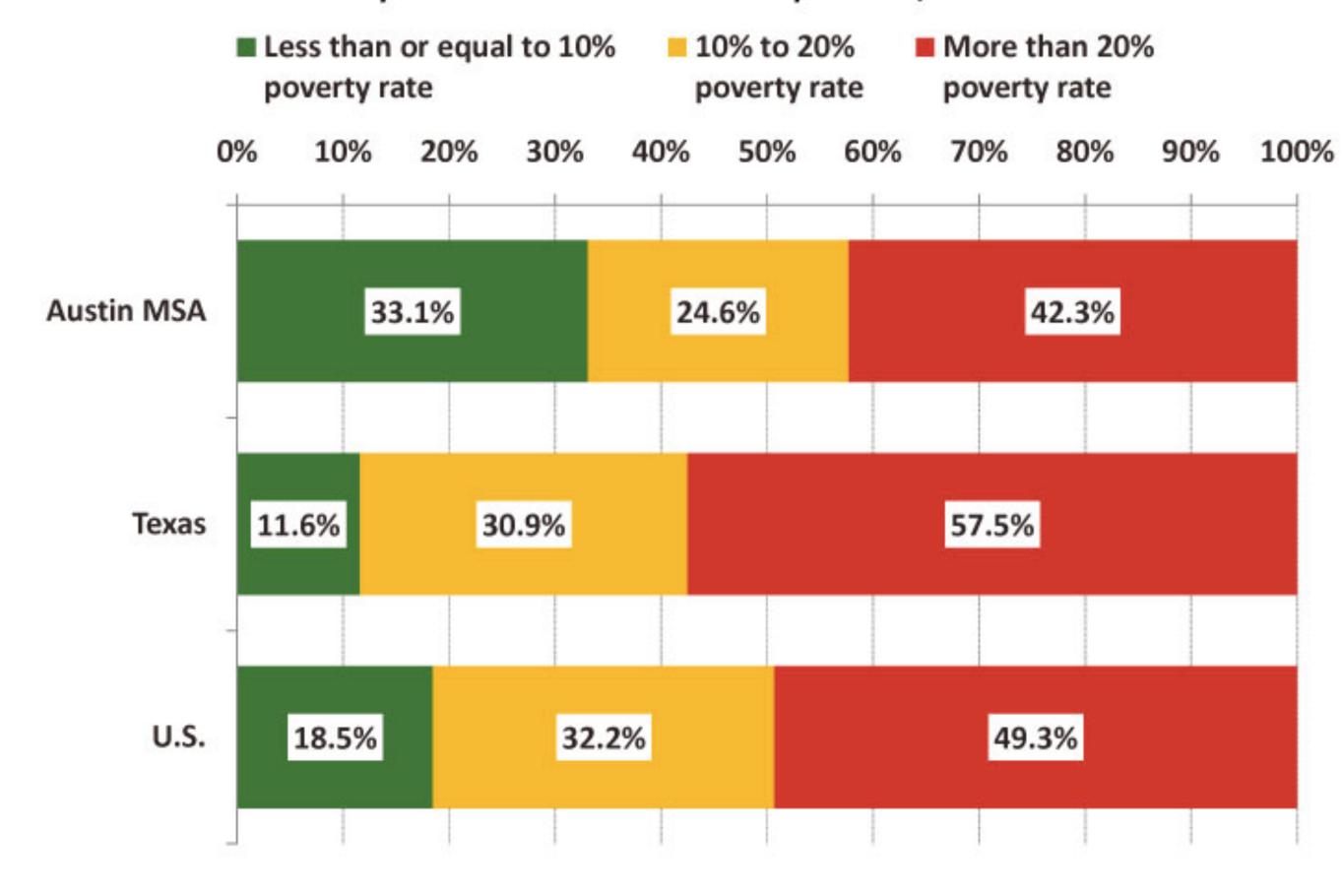
Realities and Facts About Poverty



- Inadequate pay---2/3 of people in poverty are working 1.7 jobs
- 2 Inadequately funded fragmented support systems
- 2 Policies often punish for poverty conditions
- 2 Isolation from people who have benefited from education & jobs
- 2 Lack of health care & stable housing

Distribution of School-Age Population

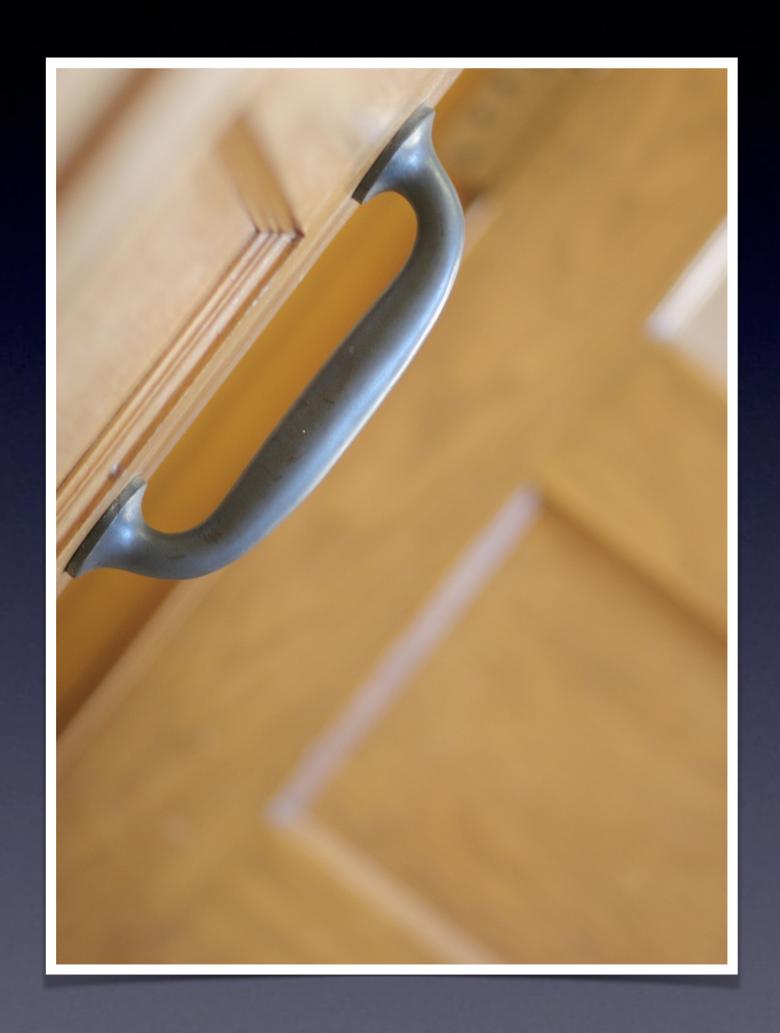
by School District Poverty Rates, 2012



Self-Reflection

- What have you been taught to believe about poverty and the people who live in it?
- 2 What is your social class background?
- What are your "taken for granted" advantages?

Education



Some Poverty Impacts

- Purpose of education/job may be unclear
- 2 May not know subjects/norms/vocabulary
- 2 Stereotypes, myths, and judgments isolate and cause hopelessness
- People are punished for poverty related barriers and for behavior that makes sense in poverty world
- Poverty is internalized as a personal deficiency
- 2 Poverty realities pull attention and demand attention
- Expectations are limited by life experiences

What Does Poverty Teach?

• No one cares about me.

• I am alone.

I don't belong.

• I am not wanted.

• I have nothing to offer.

l am not smart.

- I am in a war zone and need to survive.
- I have no control and neither do the adults in my world.

"Every pair of eyes facing you has probably experienced something you could not endure."

~Lucille Clifton

"My students, survivors of deep and debilitating trauma, have shaped the kind of teacher I am.

To be the best teacher to them, I have to remember so I can gain their trust

because

I want them to read and write their way out of where they are."

~ Shanna Peeples, Amarillo ISD, Finalist for National Secondary Teacher of the Year, 2015

types of poverty

- · Generational
- · Working Class
- · Immigrant
- Situational

generational poverty

- Family has never owned land
- Never knew anyone who benefited from education
- Never knew anyone who moved up
- or was respected in a job
- Highly mobile
- High family Illiteracy
- Focus is on making it through the day

working-class poverty

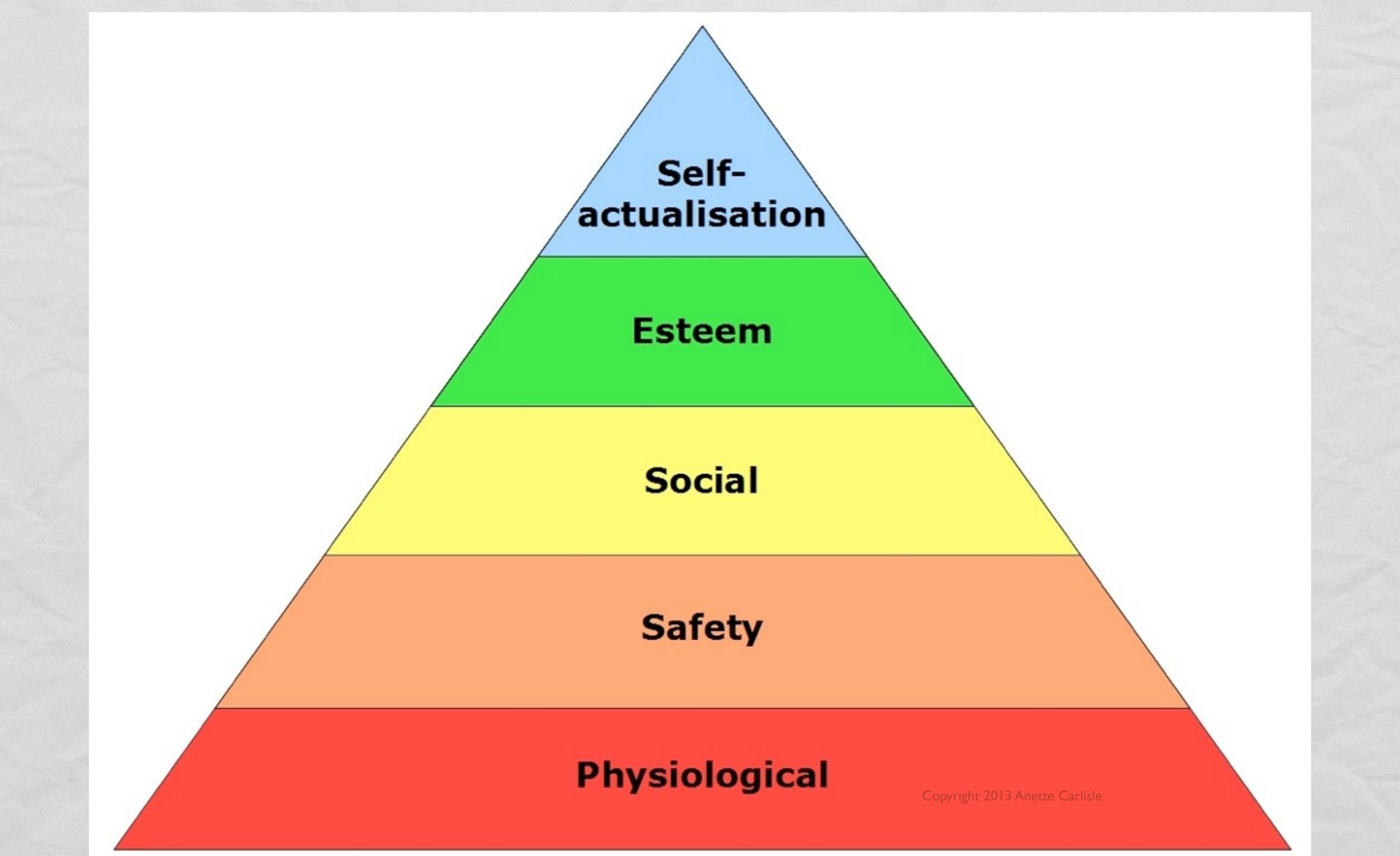
- · Working, but rarely have money for any extras
- · Most do not own property
- Live pay check to pay check
- Few have health care
- · Focus on making it two weeks or through the month
- · Poverty seen as personal deficiency

immigrant poverty

- Have little or no resources
- Face language and culture barriers
- Seem to do have a stronger sense of self
- and often do better than those born
- into poverty in America
- Poverty is viewed as a systems problem

situational poverty

- Surrounded by people who are educated or able to earn a living wage
- Attends school regularly and has health care
- Has crisis (health, divorce, etc.) and income drops
- · Generally is able to make it back to middle-class
- Has not internalized the poverty as personal problem
- Does not recognize advantages of growing up middle-class
- Can be harsh judge of those in generational and working class poverty





Educating students of poverty

- Relationships! Self-disclose to create relationships
- Build on strengths, not deficiencies--meet people where they are
- Hands-on learning
- Communicate clearly--repeat, restate, paraphrase
- Be aware of your nonverbal communication
- Teach the language of education and achievement, print culture
- Frame feedback in a positive way

"...until we embrace poverty..."

~Jacob Fraire

communication



Oral Culture

- Seek information through relationships
- Spontaneous, circular communication
- Stories are important
- Heavily non-verbal

- "Present" orientation--NOW
- More physical, touch important
- Self-disclose to build trust
- Discard unused information
 Interrupting is a way to share info



Print culture

- Take turns communicating
- Read for knowledge
- Fewer facial expressions/gestures

- Linear thought process
 Segmented use of time
 - Abstract thought
 - Less easily distracted
 - Delayed gratification

what works?



What Works: Advanced Tools for Breaking Poverty Barriers

- · Strengths Perspective Rebuild Hope. Potential is unknown.
- · Resiliency Theory Show me what makes me special and unique?
- · Asset Theory What assets do I have and what is missing?
- · Social Capital Theory Break isolation and build address books! Adult
- · Learning Theory Novelty and involvement in learning experiential, applied, and pur information.
- · Oral and Print Culture Theory Different Communication and learning styles.



Mentoring

- Believe in their potential
- Believe everyone has knowledge and skills
- Have poverty competency
- Reduce isolation-- build networks



What Works: Mentoring



- Believe in the students and families you serve.
- Believe they have knowledge and skills to contribute.
- ² Have poverty competency.
- ² Suspend judgement--Understand the structural causes of poverty and how to break barriers.
- Introduce isolated students and families to your institutional network, and assist them in building their address books!

Opportunity Conference

Our first class! 74 Neighbors 140 Navigators!







- Bus Tours
- Opportunity Conferences
- Poverty Trainings
- Navigator Trainings
- Poverty Institutes
- Navigator Neighbor Program
- Community Engagement
- Amarillo College's focus on poverty
- No Limits No Excuses Initiative
- Working with faith-based community



the WHAT

poverty is a real and growing issue in our community and in our state





And more... Amarillo College

- Poverty training
- ARC—Advocacy & Resource Center
- Social workers
- Food pantry, clothes, diapers, food bags, etc
- Emergency aid—24 hour turn-around
- Connect to community resources
- 8 week courses—helps our students
- Improved student success and completion

These trends are happening across the U.S.

They are just happening faster in Texas.

Maslow's before Bloom's

Selfactualisation

Esteem

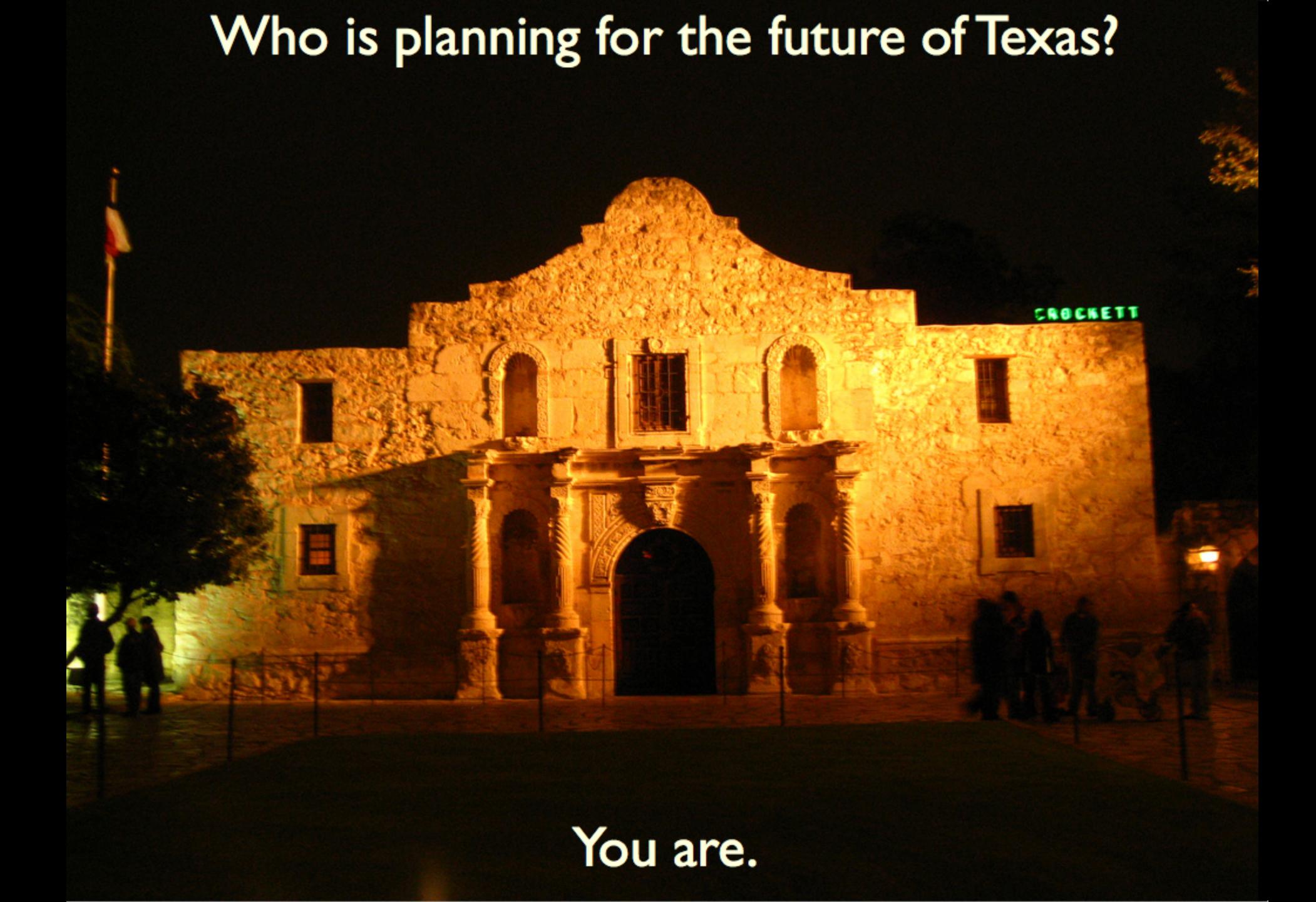
Social

Safety

Physiological

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...and maybe a few other things....

Anette Carlisle—Education Advocate

