

WELCOME TO THE

the big picture





GREATER HOUSTON
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Strategic Themes

We deliver a preeminent donor experience

We connect you to Houston's philanthropic community and amplify your impact

We grow with and for our community

We steward your philanthropic legacy

our first 3 years

year 1: start-up

BUILD NEW TOOLS

Engage community leaders across three counties to inform the project

Aggregate credible data and build the website

Launch November 21, 2019

year 2: engage

BUILD CAPACITY AND CONVENE

Host educational opportunities across sectors

Offer nonprofit partners data capacity building

Convene to identify key focus issues for collaborative action

year 3: catalyze

TAKE ACTION AND ITERATE

Deepen learning through community engagement and discussion on focus issues

Develop and begin executing on key actions

Update website and reflect

8 Topics for Understanding Houston

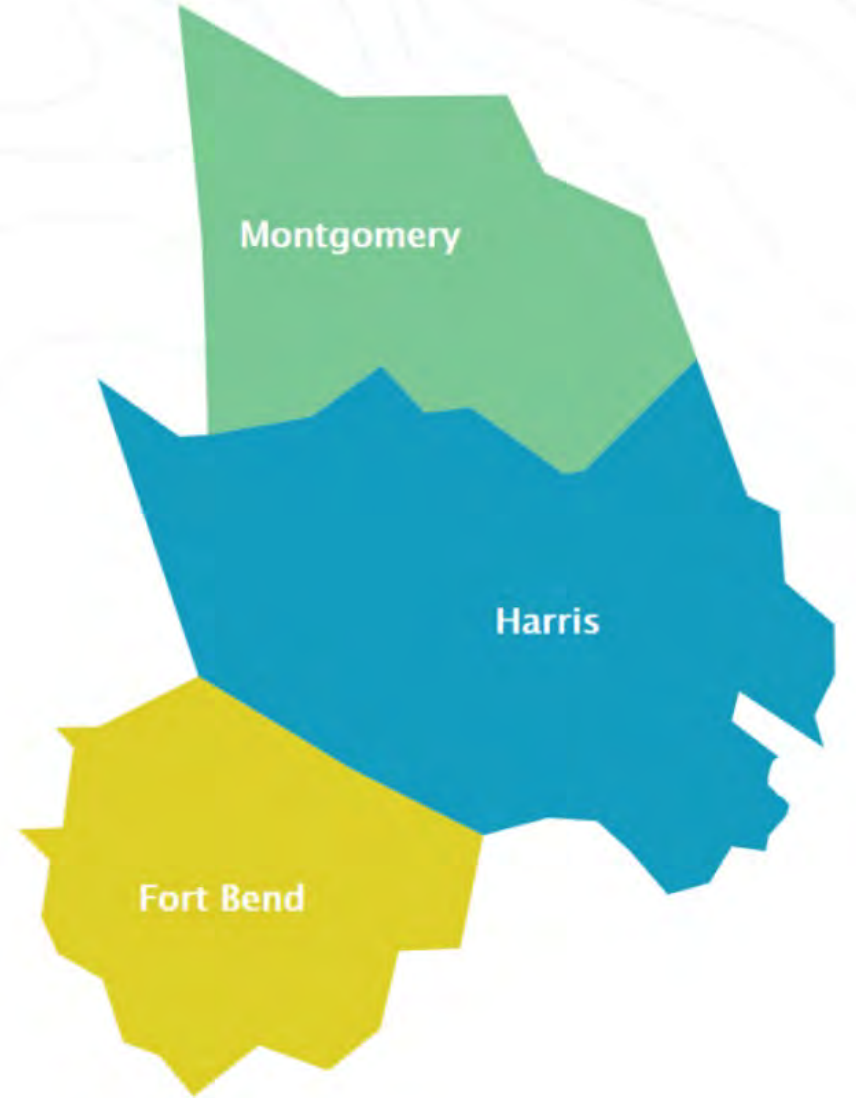


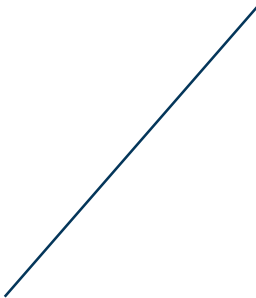
OUR SCOPE



Houston's three most populous counties

Houston is a diverse region that spans a nine-county geographic area. Understanding Houston focuses on only the three most populous counties, aggregating data from 70 data sources for over 200 indicators to provide a comprehensive view of quality of life.





Data, summaries and stories on 8 quality of life topics, 43 subtopics, and over 200 indicators from 70 data sources.

www.understandinghouston.org

visit online to access the data



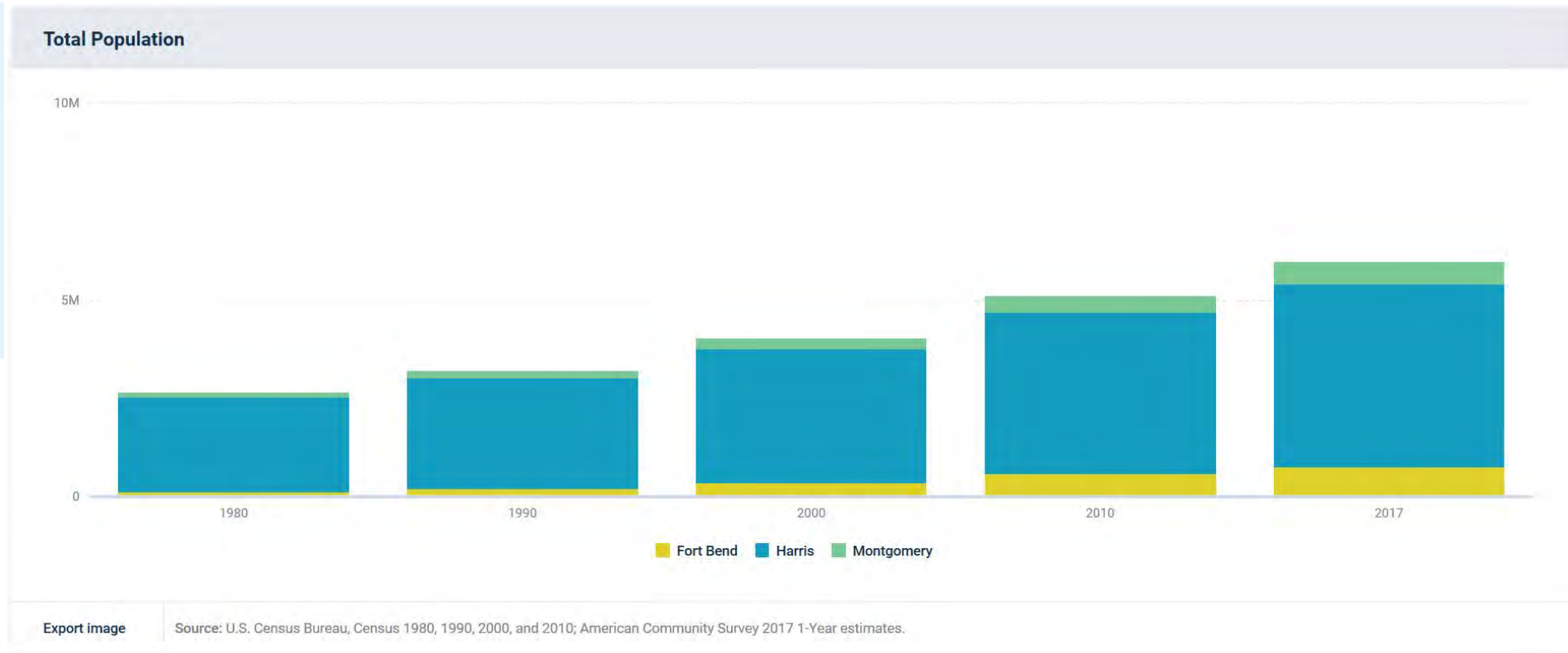
community context

HOW DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES, SAFETY, AND FAMILY DYNAMICS SHAPE OUR REGION



Of the Houston metro population resides in the three-county area

Total population has grown 124% since 1980, from 2.7 million to nearly 6 million in 2017.



Both domestic and international migration have historically fueled our population growth.

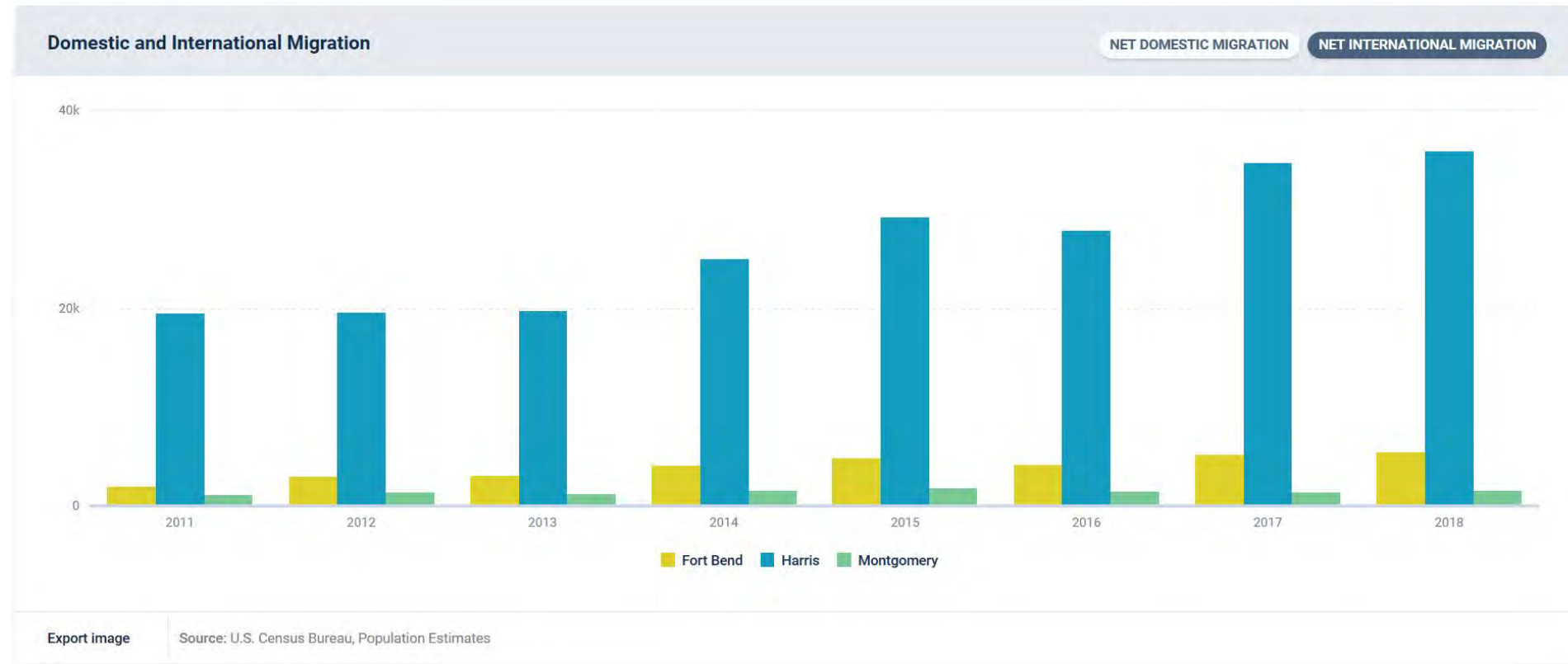
However, since 2015, domestic migration has taken a nose dive in our urban county.



A net loss of 45,000+ residents moving out

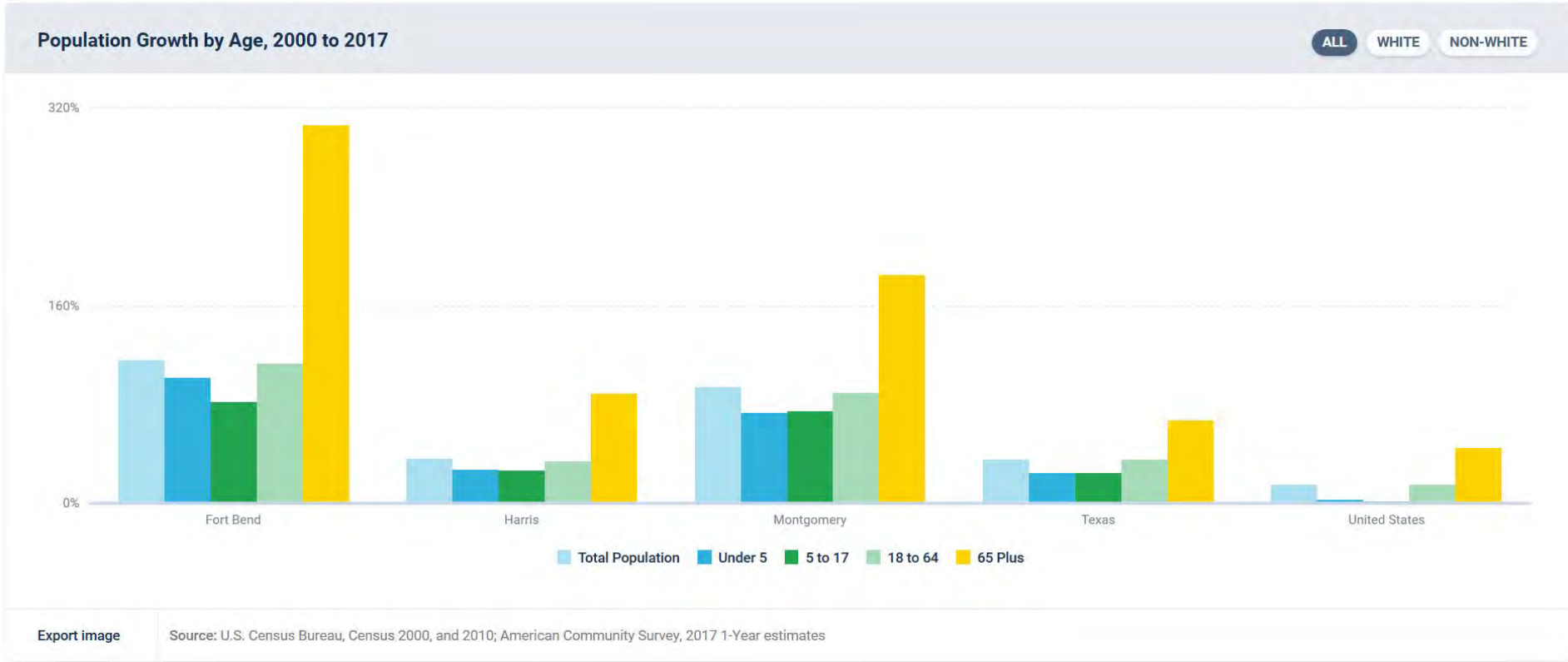
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However, since 2015, domestic migration has taken a nose dive in our urban county.





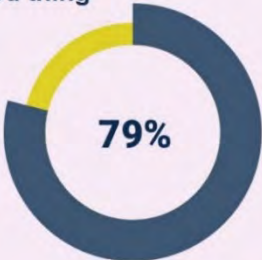
The number of residents aged 65+ living alone in the 3-county area grew at nearly twice the national rate from 2010 to 2017.



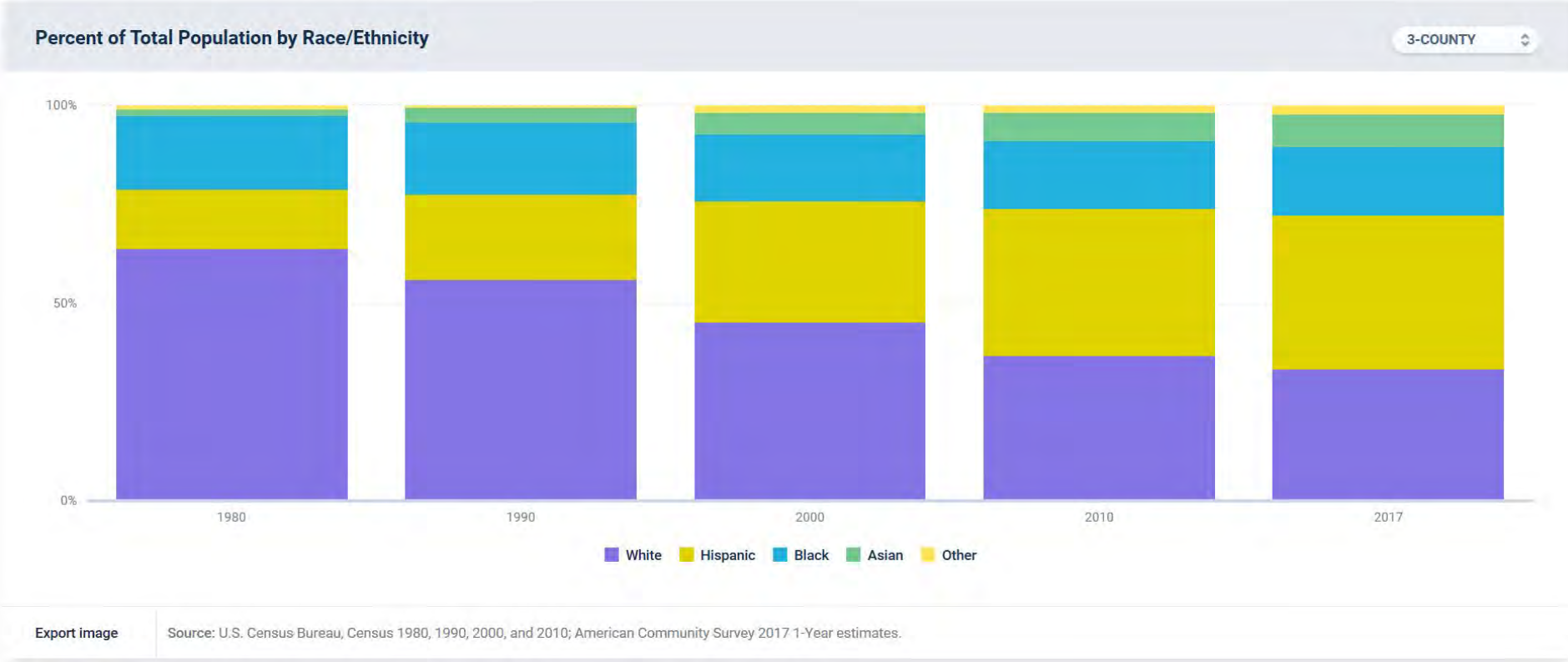
Diversity is a point of Houston pride.

2 out of 3 children under 5 are Latino, Black, Asian-American or some other race in 2017.

think diversity is a good thing



Fort Bend County



Our diversity is an asset and an opportunity to lead the country through a demographic shift that is happening now.

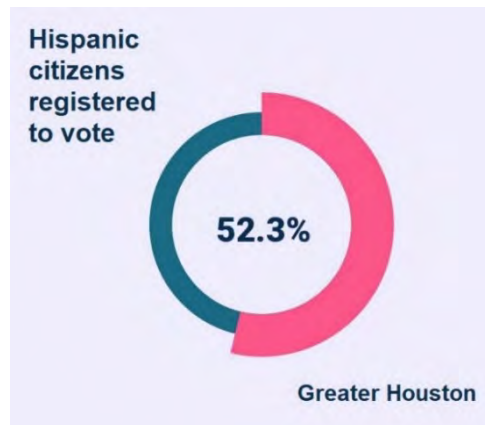




civic engagement

**HOW RESIDENTS CONNECT AND PARTICIPATE IN
HOUSTON-AREA POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS**

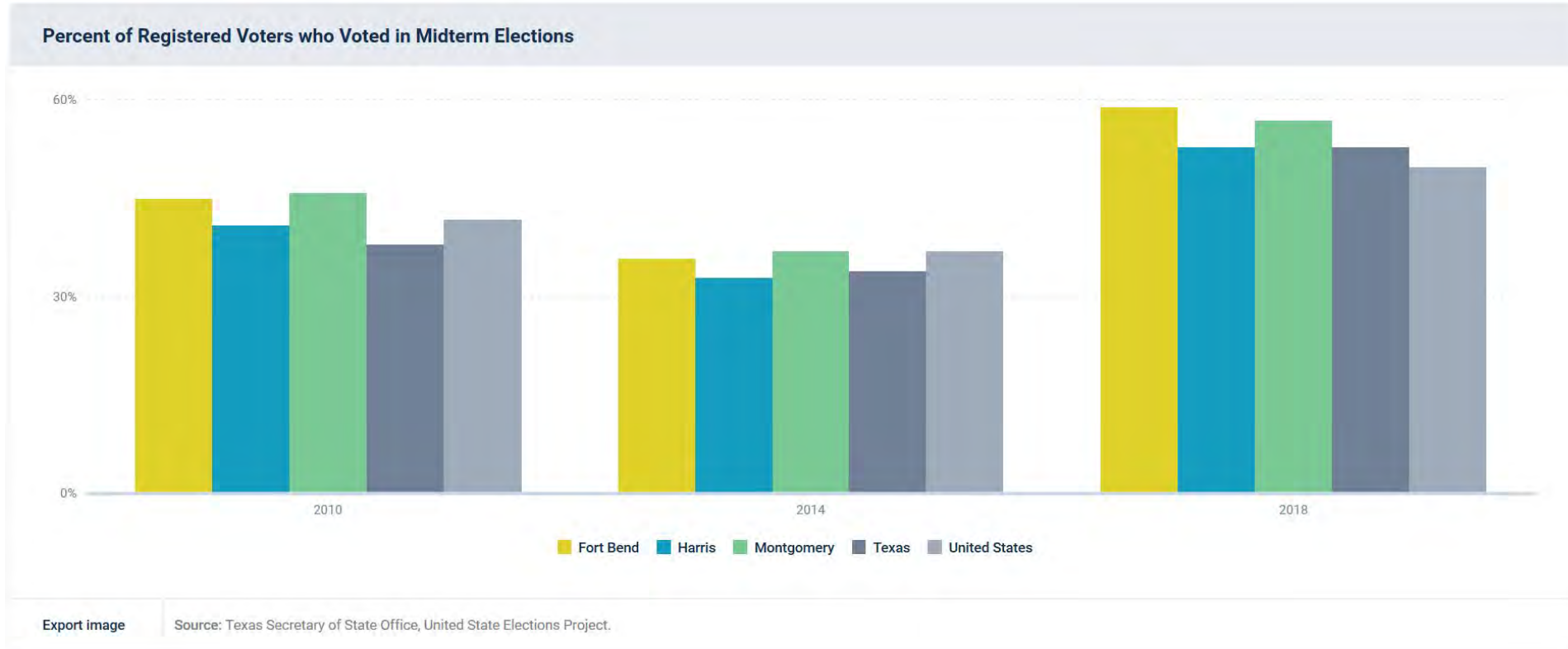
While voter registration is increasing, we see major disparities by demographic group.



Just 52% of Hispanic citizens are registered to vote

Voter turnout for the recent midterm elections is a real high point, paving the way for greater turnout in 2020.

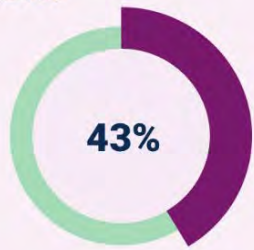
In 2018, we saw a majority of registered voters vote, outpacing national increases by significant margins.



20 percent point
increase
between 2014-
2018

**Trust remains low,
but is rising.**

Say "most people
can be trusted"



Three-county area

*"Trust
lubricates
social life."*

*-Robert
Putnam*





arts and culture

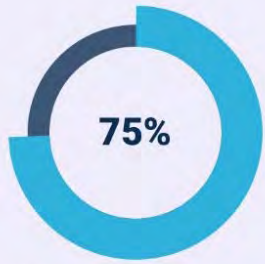
**HOW OUR REGION'S CREATIVE RESOURCES
BENEFIT RESIDENTS**

We see increasing arts spending and access to related organizations across all three counties, but slower and less consistent in suburban areas.



A doubling in access in Harris County from 1990-2015

Lagging access using this measure in Fort Bend and Montgomery County as these counties adapt to paid population growth



Of Black and Latino respondents agreed that the arts are "very important"

Just 29% of Harris County residents with reported household incomes below about \$38,000 said they attended an arts performance in the year before

Arts Performance Attendance by Household Income

Percent of Respondents Attending Arts Performances in Harris County, 2012



Export image

Source: The Houston Arts Survey, 2012

Note: Survey question: "During the past 12 months, did you attend any live performances in the arts, either professional or amateur, such as drama, dance, music or any other type of concert or performance?"

And surprisingly little variation in arts attendance by race/ethnicity.

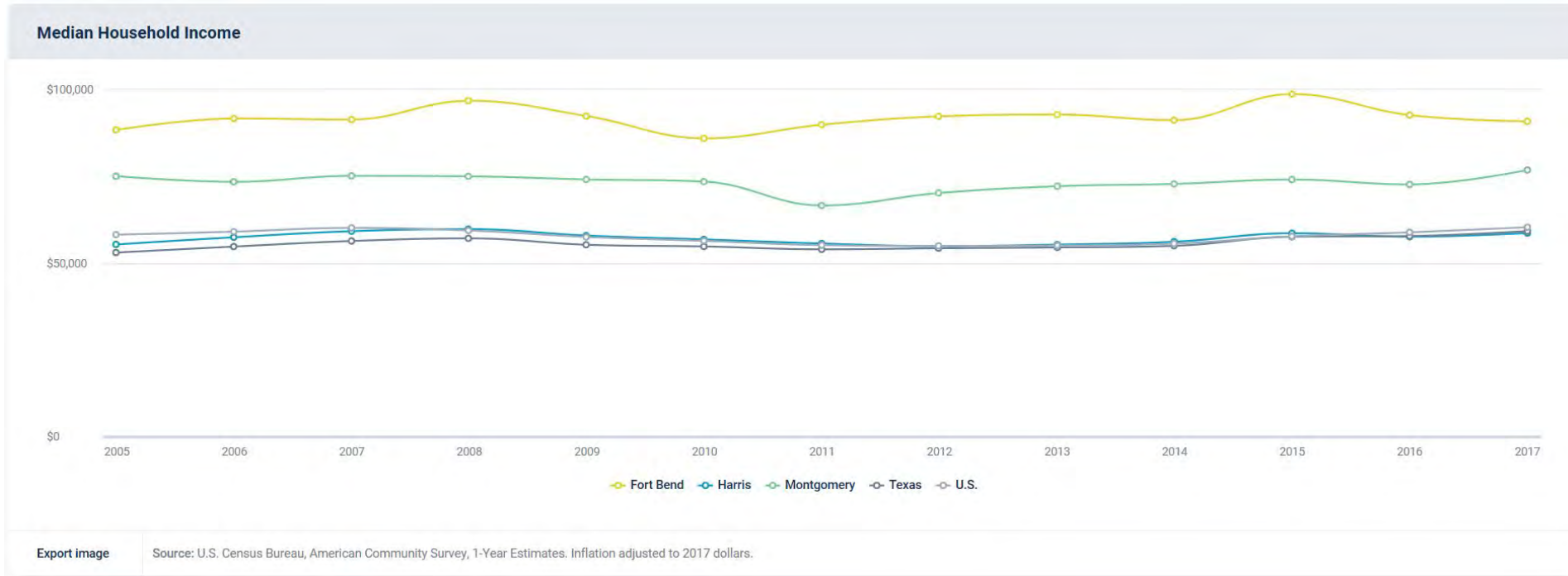
Instead, arts attendance varies by income.

A photograph of two men standing in the doorway of a store. The man on the left has a goatee and is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and dark pants. The man on the right is bald and wearing a light-colored t-shirt and jeans. They are both smiling and have their arms crossed. The store interior is visible through the doorway, showing shelves with various items like shoes and plants. The entire image has a green tint.

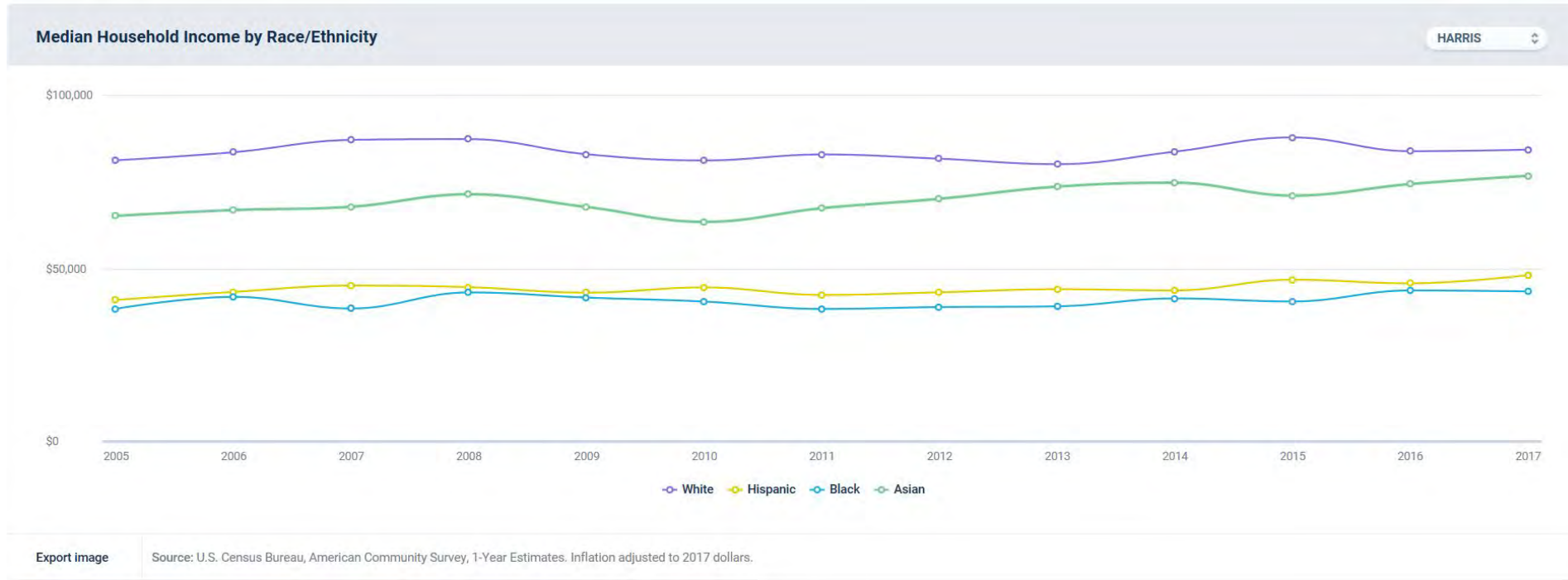
economic opportunity

**HOW OPPORTUNITY AND PROSPERITY FLOW THROUGH
OUR REGION**

Overall, we've seen modest gains in median household income in recent history.



Regionally, we see much larger disparities by race/ethnicity than the nation.



In 2017, the income gap between White and Black households in Harris County was just over \$41,000, with Black households' earning \$43,000 and White household's earning about \$84,000 a year

Gini Index shows increasing income inequality regionally between 2010 and 2017, while staying flat for the state and nation during that short period.

about $\frac{1}{2}$

of all income in each of the three counties is held by only 20% of its households.



We also see persistent earnings gaps by gender.

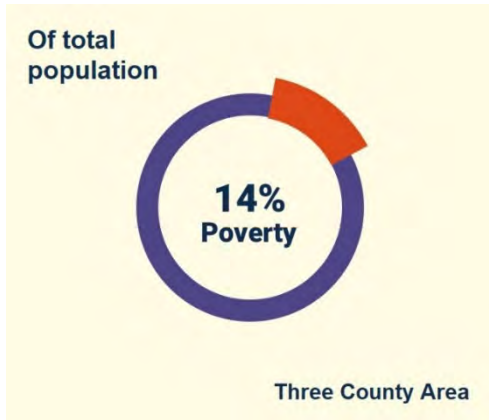
For every \$1 a man earns, a woman earns...



Harris County

In Montgomery, especially, women earn just 86 cents for every \$1 dollar earned by a man-the only county where we've seen the gender pay gap grow between 2010 and 2017



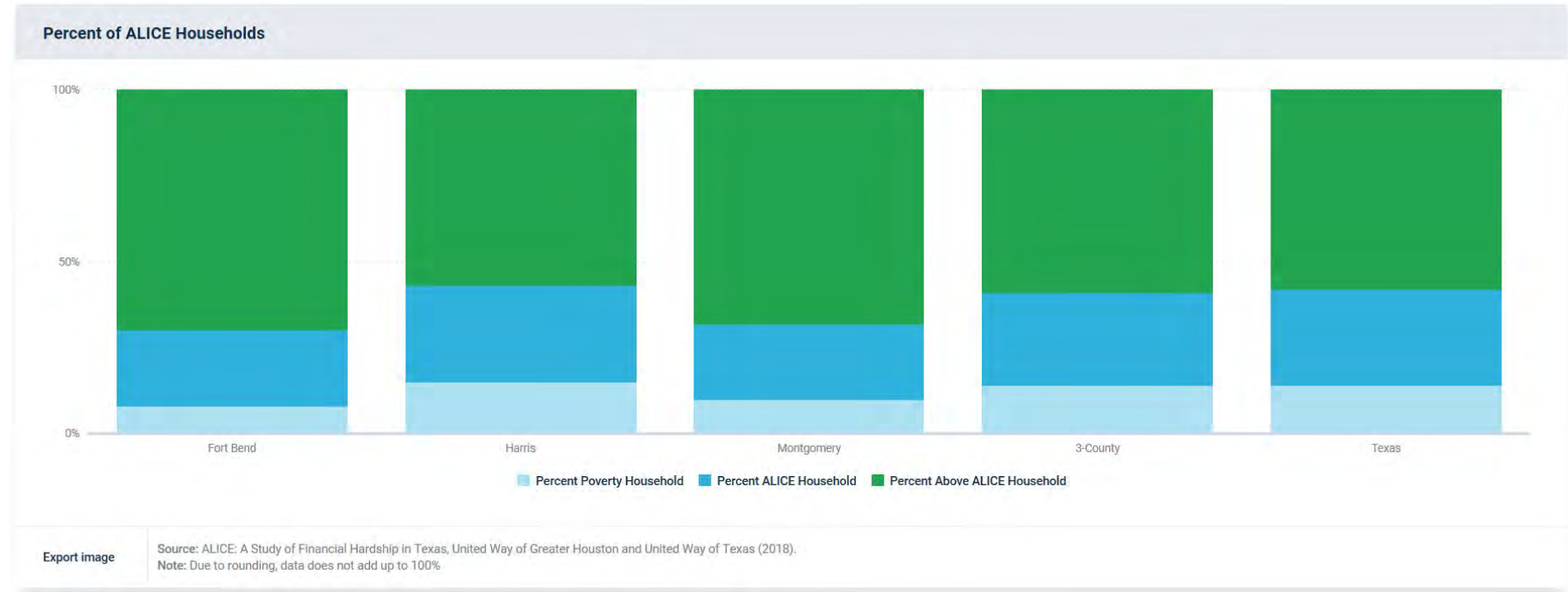


But about 1 in 5 Latino and Black people and 1 in 4 children under age 5 live in poverty.

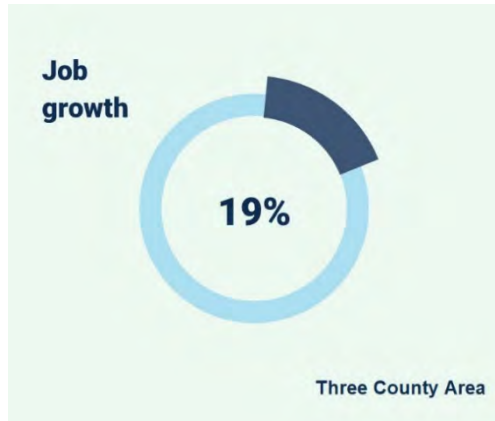
27% of total households are what they call ALICE-Asset Limited, Income Constrained and Employed

However, 1 in 4 working families struggle with basic needs.

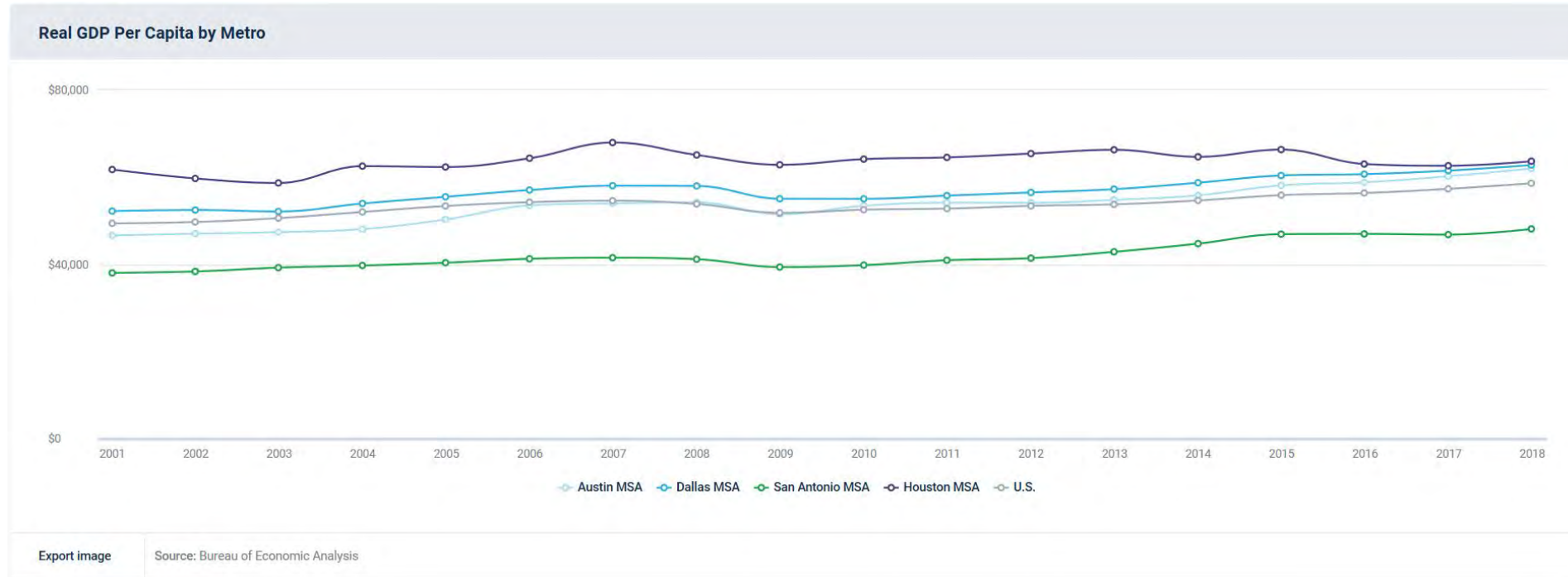
Together, with those living in poverty, that represents about 40% of total households that do not have economic security.



Poverty and slow income growth persist despite a fairly strong economy.



Job growth has been higher than the rest of country and on par with Texas.



Between 2010 and 2015, we see greatest job growth for those earning at least \$40,000/yr.

But also greater growth than the state and nation for jobs at the very bottom of the economic ladder, earning \$15,000/yr or less.



We're one of the most diverse, dynamic, and wealthiest regions in the country, yet wealth hasn't grown meaningfully for all – especially for people of color.





education

**HOW SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS, EVOLVING NEEDS, AND
DISPARATE ACADEMIC OUTCOMES AFFECT HOUSTON-AREA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

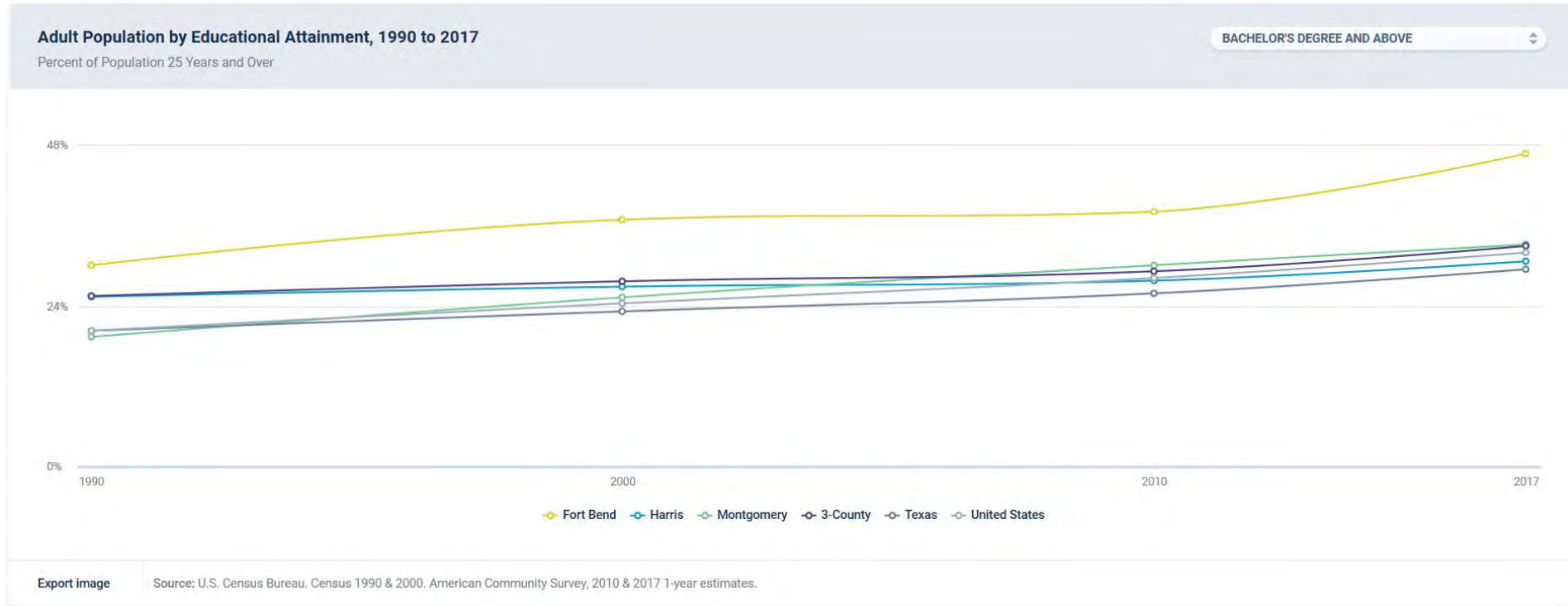
Texas and Houston are net importers of talent.

Among the 1.3 million bachelor's degree-holders in the region, only 35% were born in Texas.

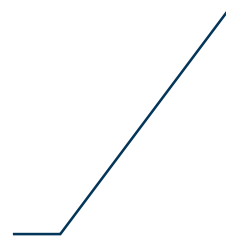


1 out of 3 adults in the three-county region has a bachelor's degree or higher.

Houston ranks 16th out of the top 20 largest metros on this measure.



One-third of adults in the three-county region has a bachelor's degree or higher



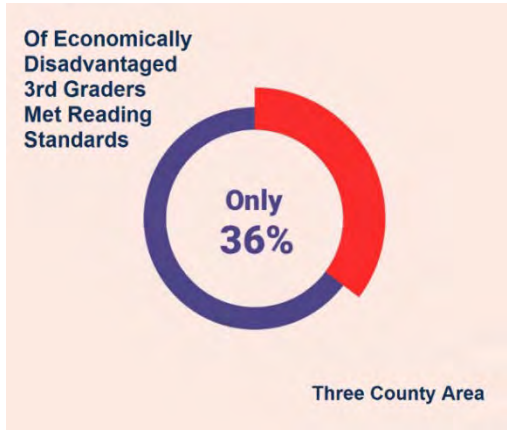
Early childhood education is linked to future academic success.



Just 47% of assessed Kindergartners are "Kinder-ready"



Research shows that third grade students who do not read proficiently are four times more likely to drop out of high school



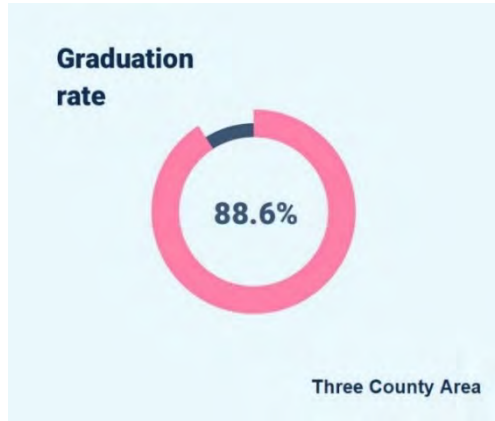
Half of third graders in the three-county region met or exceeded standards on the state reading test

56 percent of 8th graders in the region met or exceeded standards on the eighth grade math STAAR test

Just 48% of economically-disadvantaged students met standard compared to 71% of non-economically-disadvantaged students.



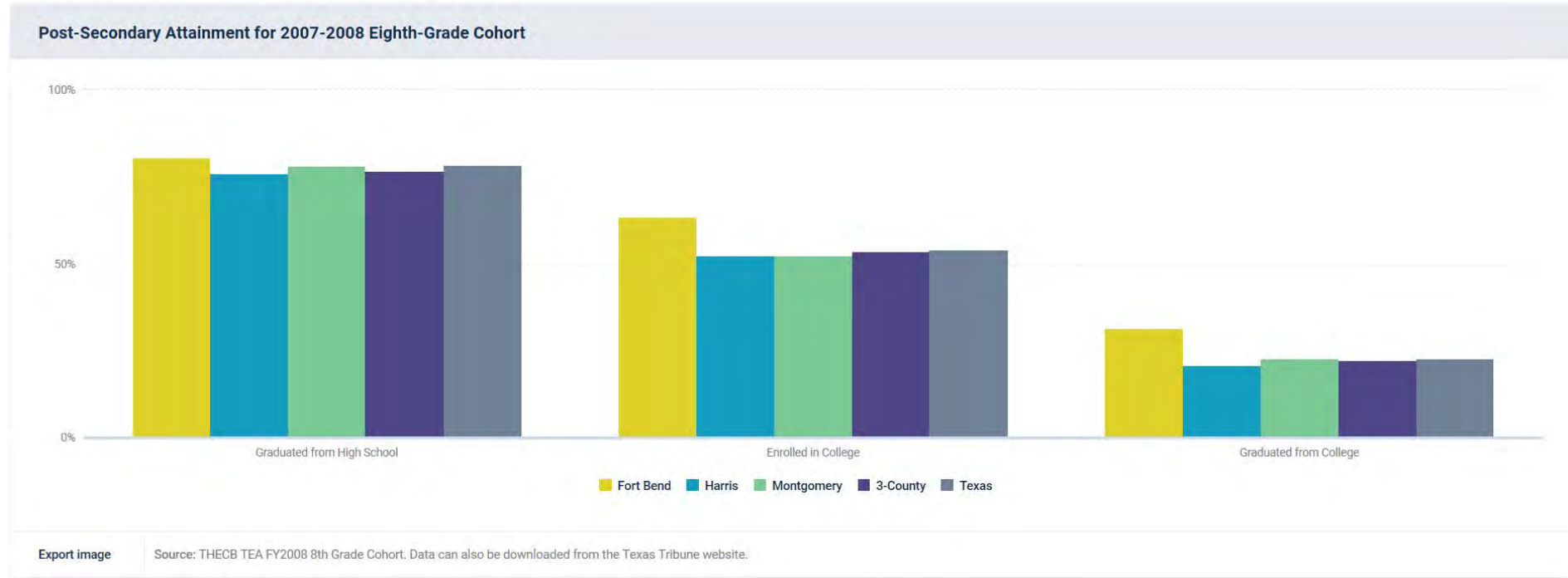
Three-county four-year high school graduation rate is 89 percent



But barely half are college-ready.

For every 100 students enrolled in 8th grade in 2007, just 22 graduated with a credential or degree in Texas.

13 economically-disadvantaged students out of 100 earned a post-secondary credential.



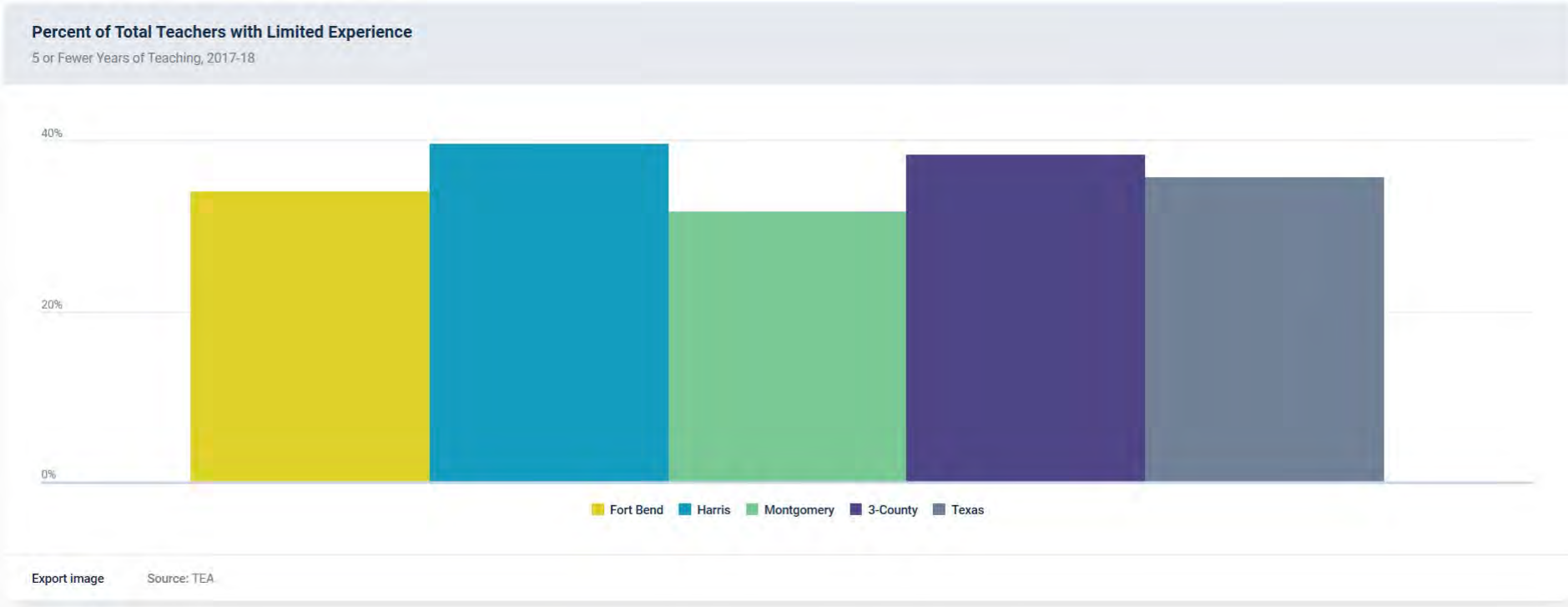
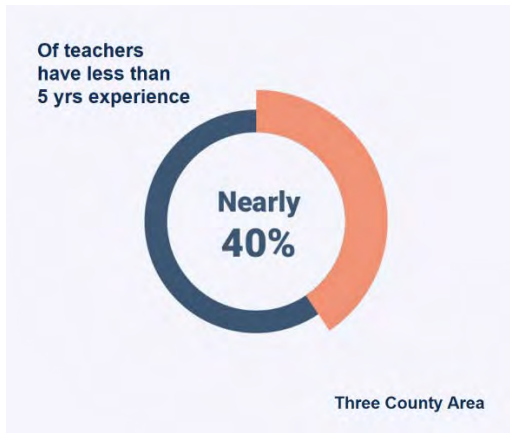
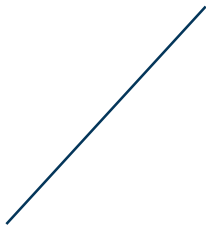
All Houstonians value education.



Texas State University



The strongest school-related factor of student success is teacher quality



**Education levels
impact prosperity,
health, civic
engagement, and
our economic
vitality.**





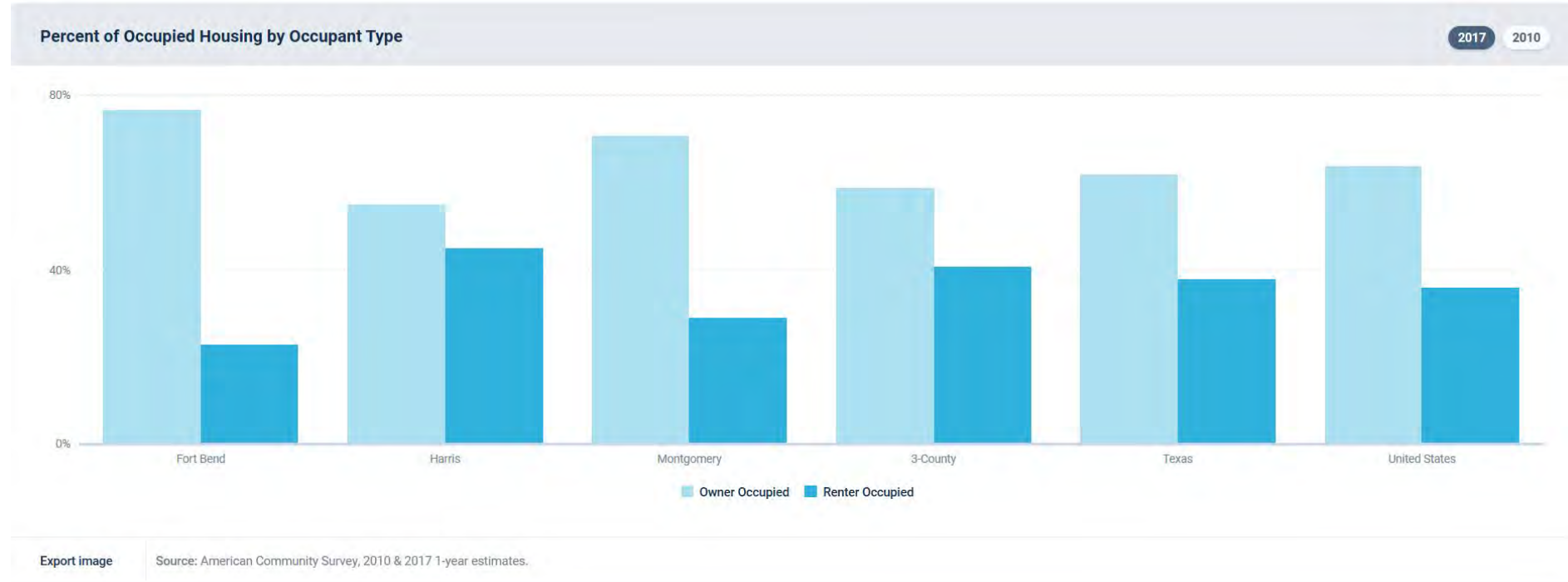
housing

**HOW RESIDENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AFFECTS OUR
REGION'S GROWTH AND PROSPERITY**

The average Houstonian is less likely to own a home today than in 2010.

Home-ownership rates for the Black population have declined five percentage points since 2010.

The overall rate of homeownership has actually declined by two percentage points from 61 percent in 2010 to 59 percent in 2017



Home ownership remains a critical part of the American Dream but is increasingly out of reach.



Nearly half of all renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing, compared to about 1 in 5 homeowners.



High housing and transportation costs means less money for other expenses, including health care, education, or savings.



40% of Houstonians do not have \$400 in savings

Fort Bend residents spent 60 percent of their income on housing and transportation alone





environment

HOW THE INTERCONNECTION OF NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS SHAPES OUR WORLD

Houston: Where car is king.

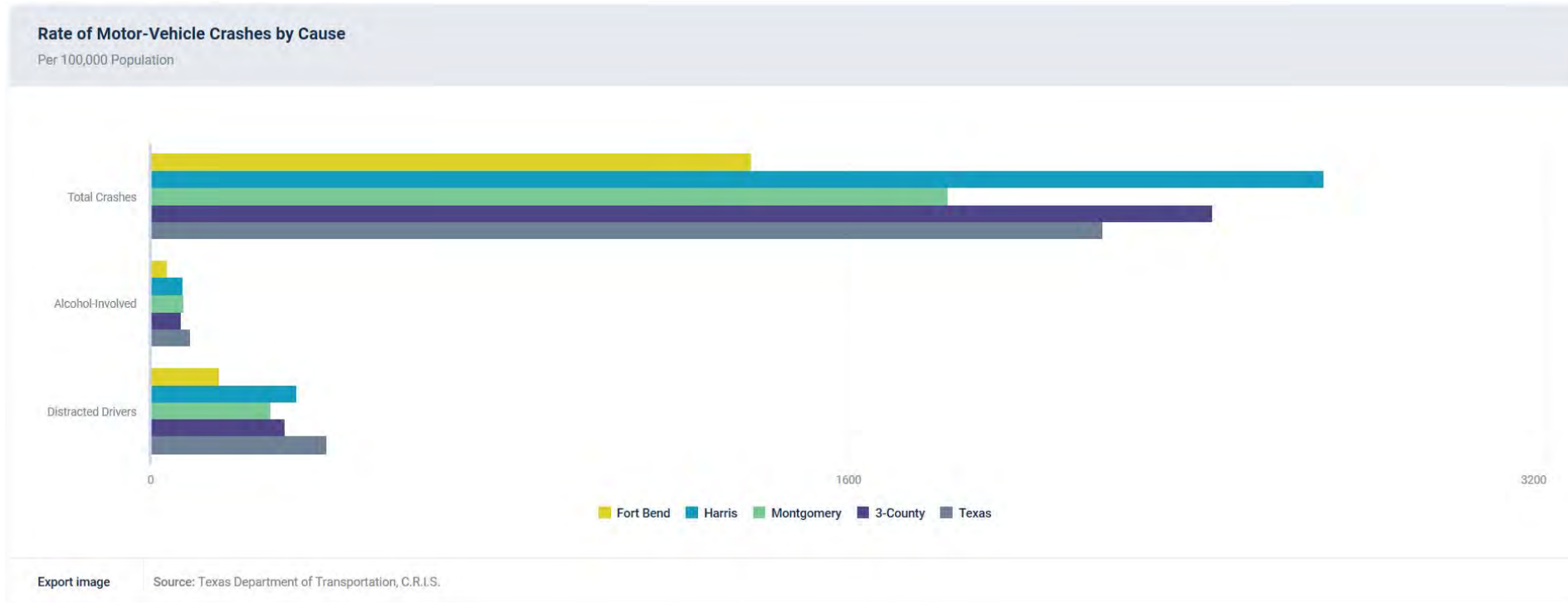


*More than 11% of us spend **an hour in the car one-way.***



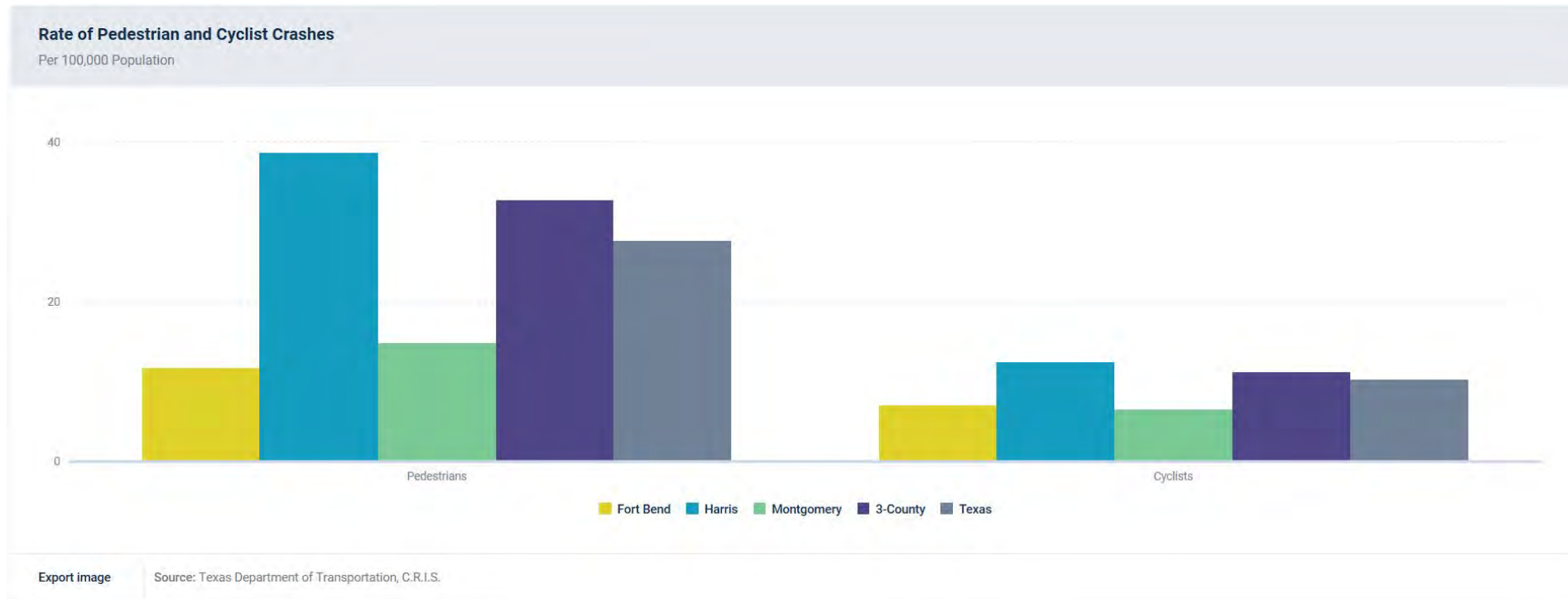
More cars on the road means increased risk.

13% of vehicular deaths in Texas occur in the Houston region.



The crash rate for incidents involving pedestrians and cyclists is higher than the state rate.

621 pedestrian and 72 cyclist deaths in Texas in 2018.



38 percent of Harris County households are within one-quarter mile of a public transit stop.

*Compared to **5%** for Fort Bend and Montgomery Counties.*

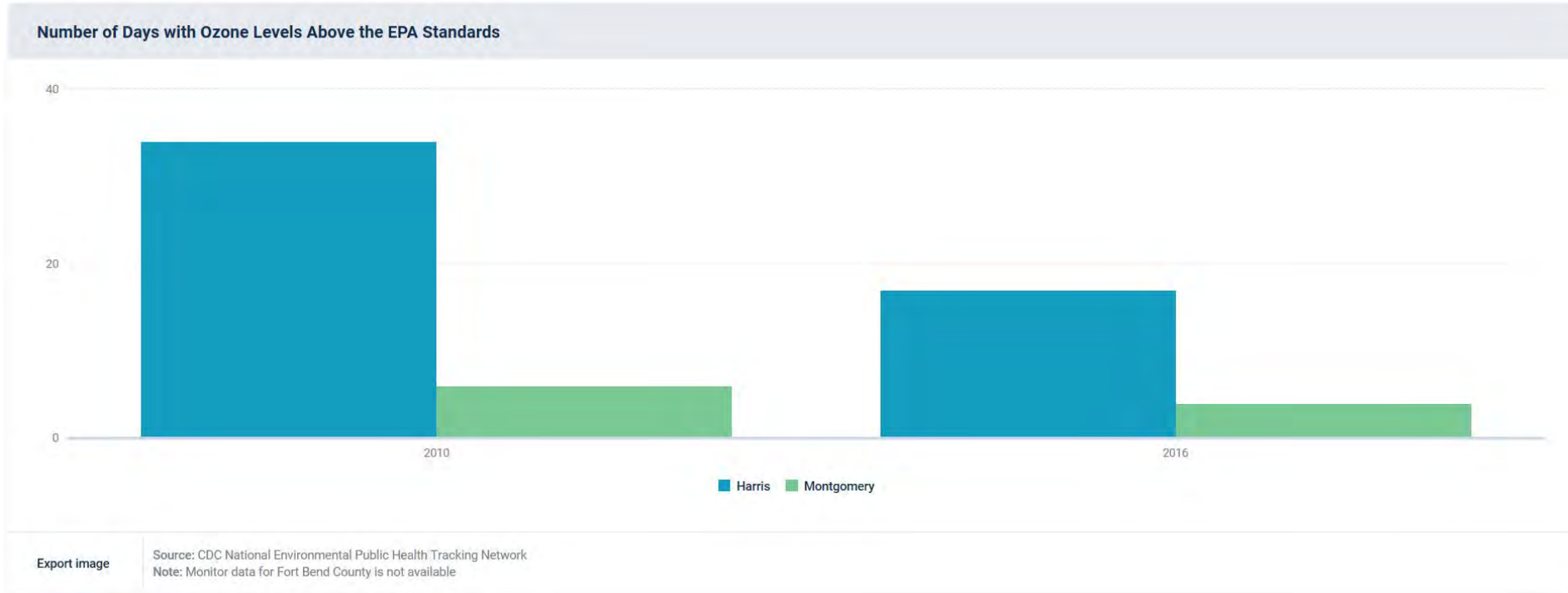


Continued growth and urbanization puts pressure on natural environments.



*The Houston region is the **9th worst** for ozone pollution.*

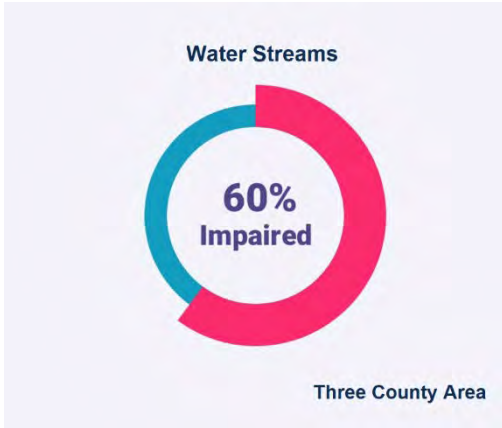
Houston still does not meet EPA ozone standards



Greenhouse Gas Emissions
2010 to 2017



Three County Area



The frequency and intensity of rainstorms has increased throughout the Houston area, and the number of extreme precipitation days is only projected to *worsen*.



A photograph of a city street in Houston, Texas, featuring a line of ambulances and a truck. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The ambulances are marked with 'M 36' and '33'. A white truck is visible in the background. The street is lined with trees and buildings.

health

**HOW CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS AND ENVIRONMENT
AFFECT HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICE NEEDS IN HOUSTON**

**Nearly 1 out of 5
Houstonians lacks
health insurance.**

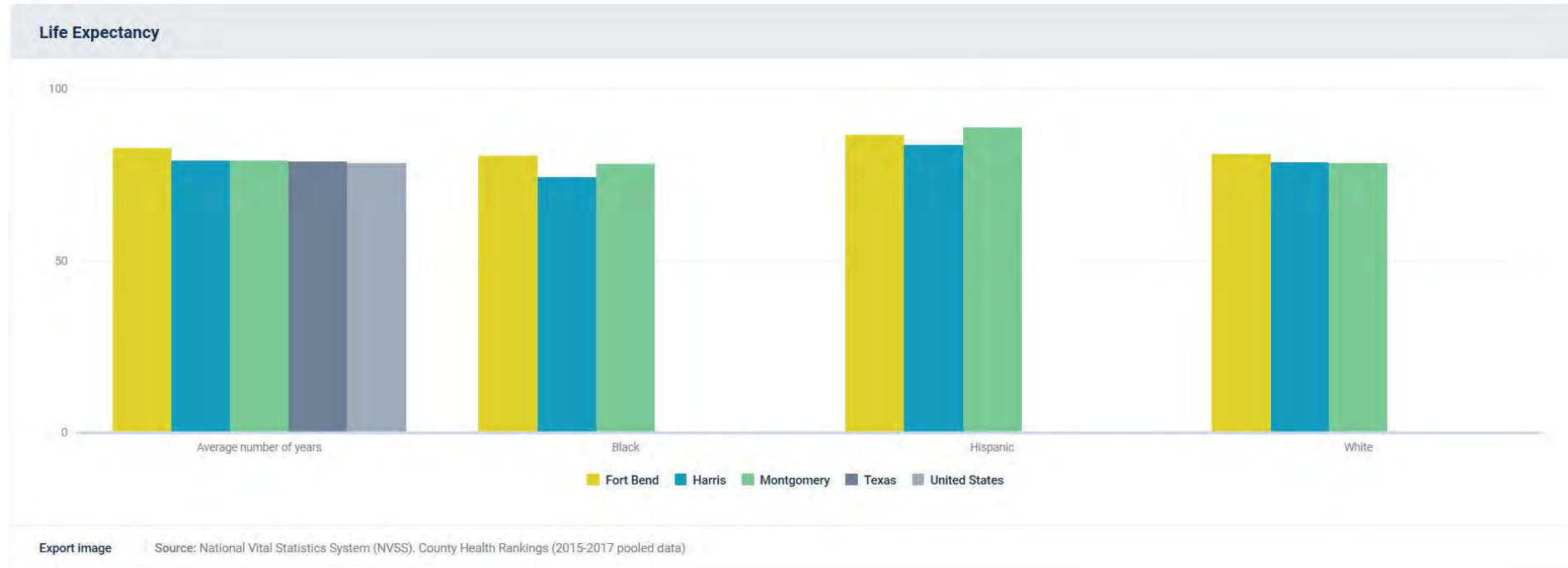
*Uninsured children
in the region is
more than 2x the
national rate.*

**Latinos are least
likely to be insured
with 43% adults and
16% of children
lacking health
insurance.**



Adults who have a primary care provider are 19% less likely to die prematurely.

The average life expectancy for Black adults in Harris County is **lower by four to five years.**



Houstonians have less access to primary care physicians than the average American.

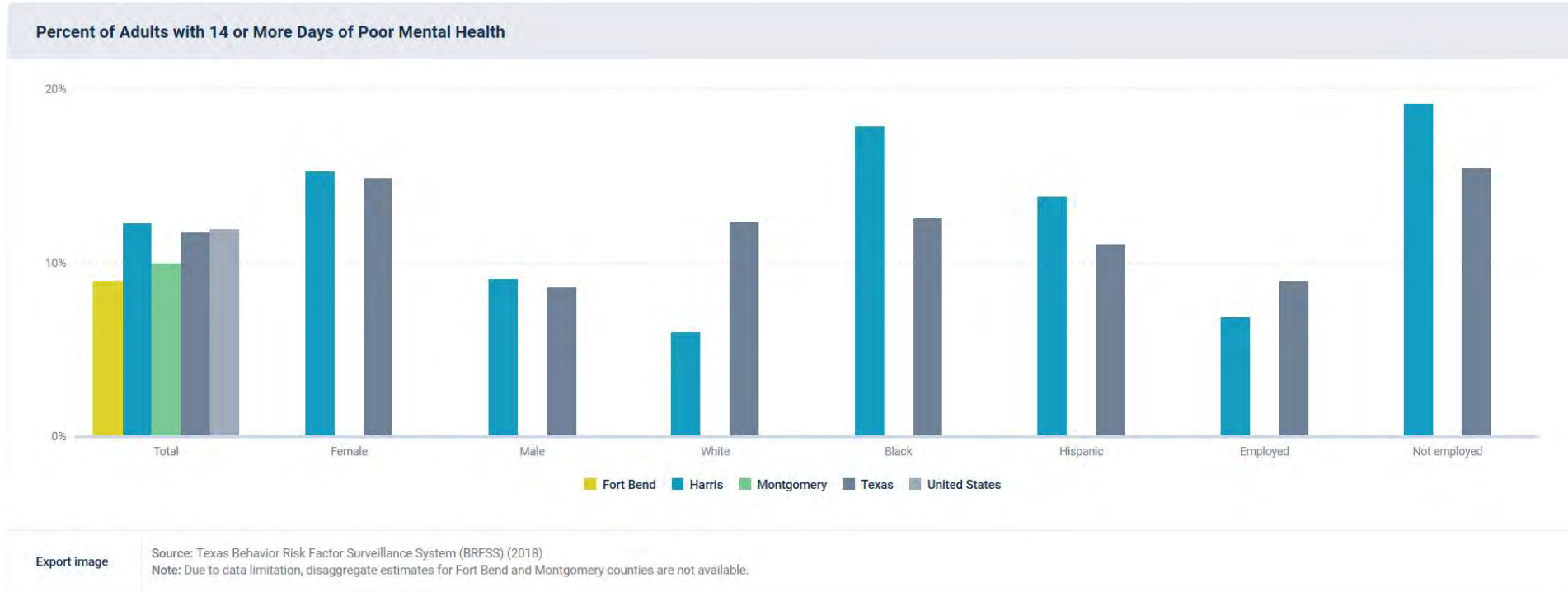
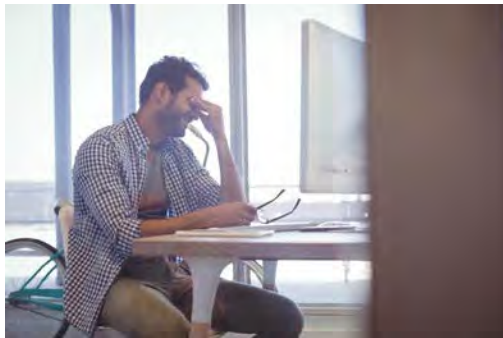
988:1

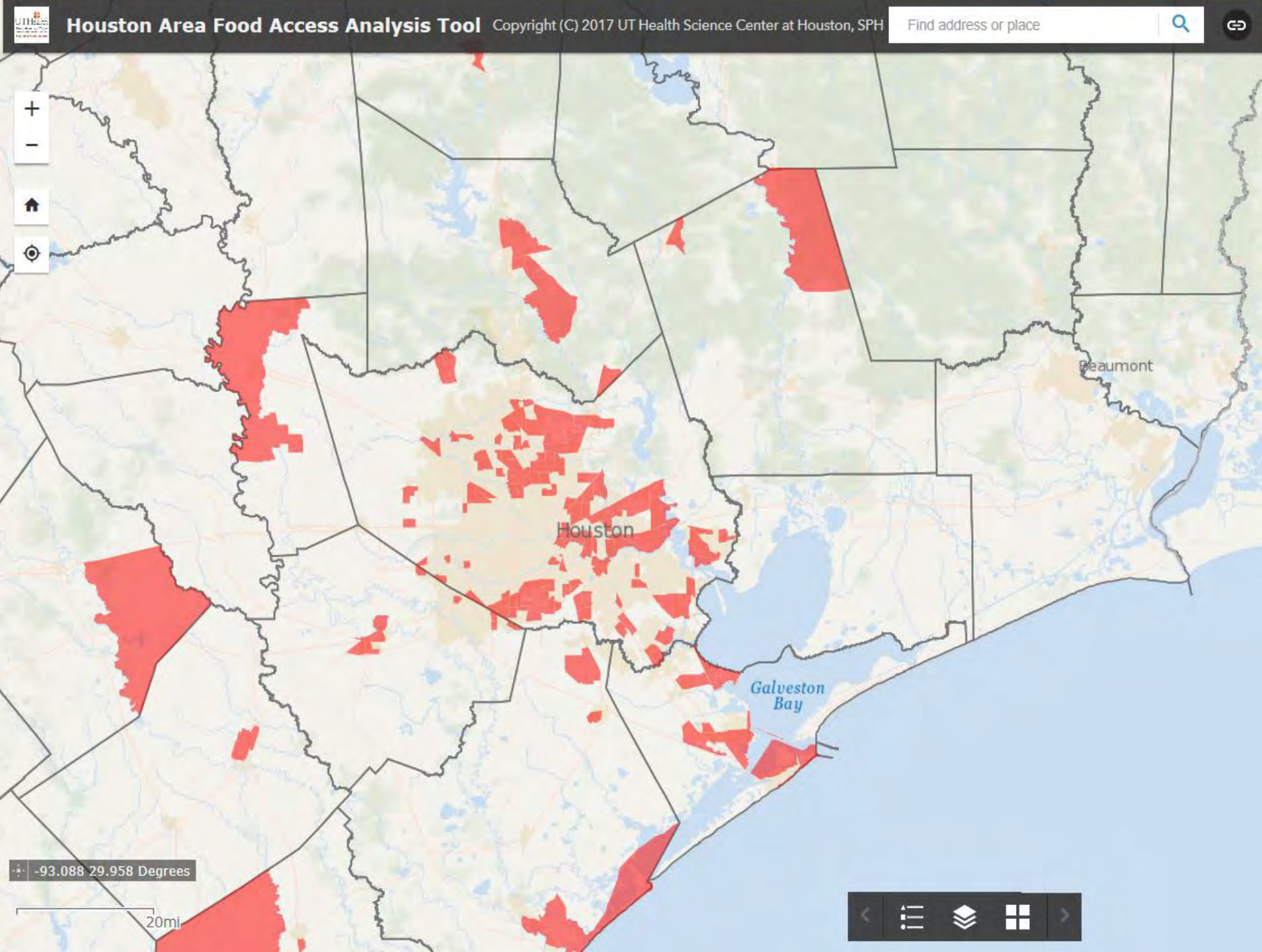
Just 1 mental health provider for every 988 residents

Three County Area



Frequent mental distress is associated with unhealthy behaviors such as drinking, smoking and physical inactivity and risk factors such as housing and food insecurity.

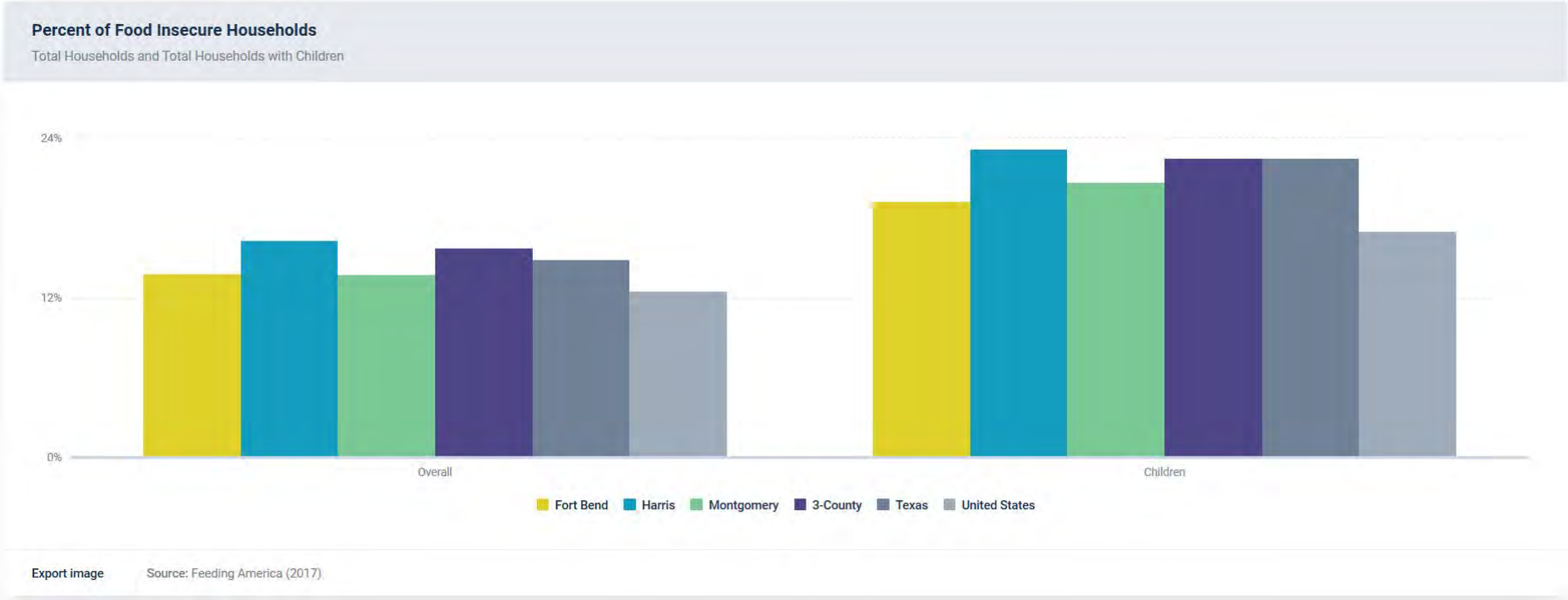




Food deserts are found predominantly in eastern and southern Harris County, but they exist in Fort Bend and Montgomery too.

Nearly one million Houstonians are food insecure.

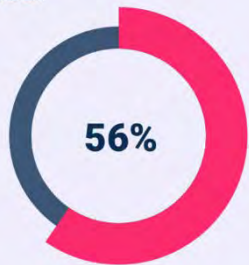
Including more than 350,000 children living in 1 out of every 5 households.



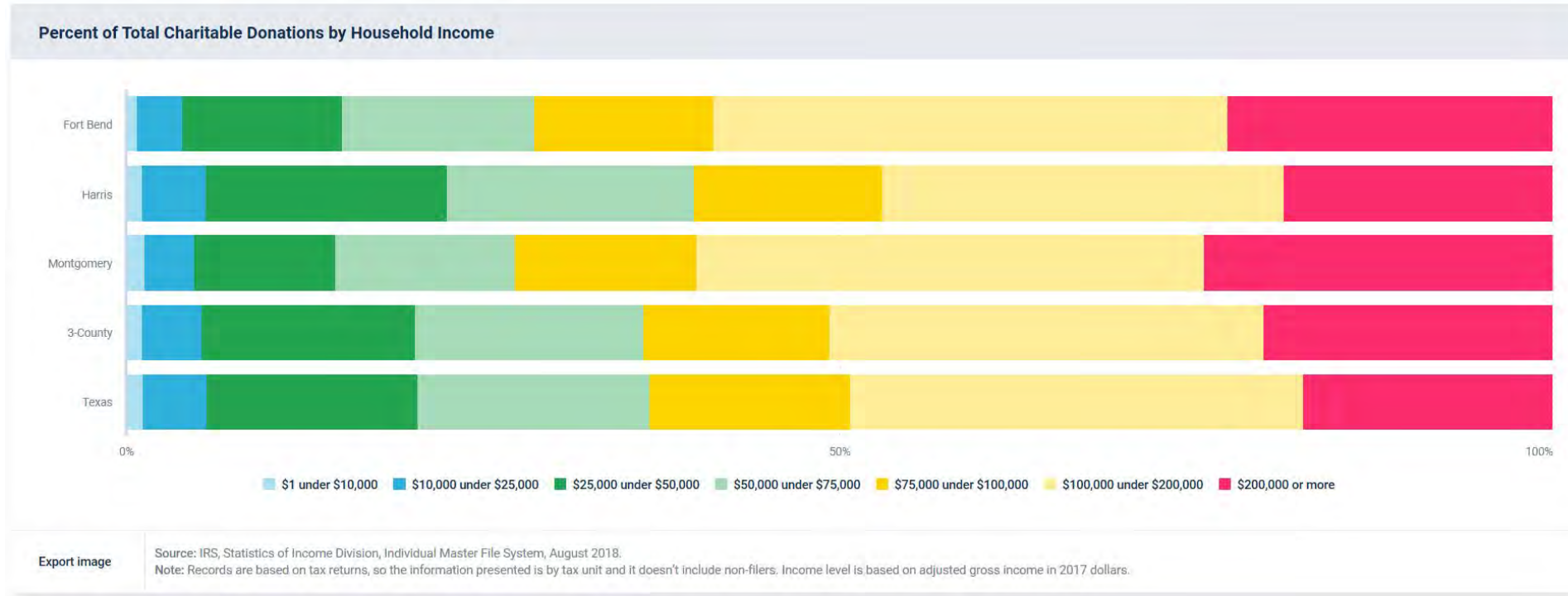
Houstonians are generous.

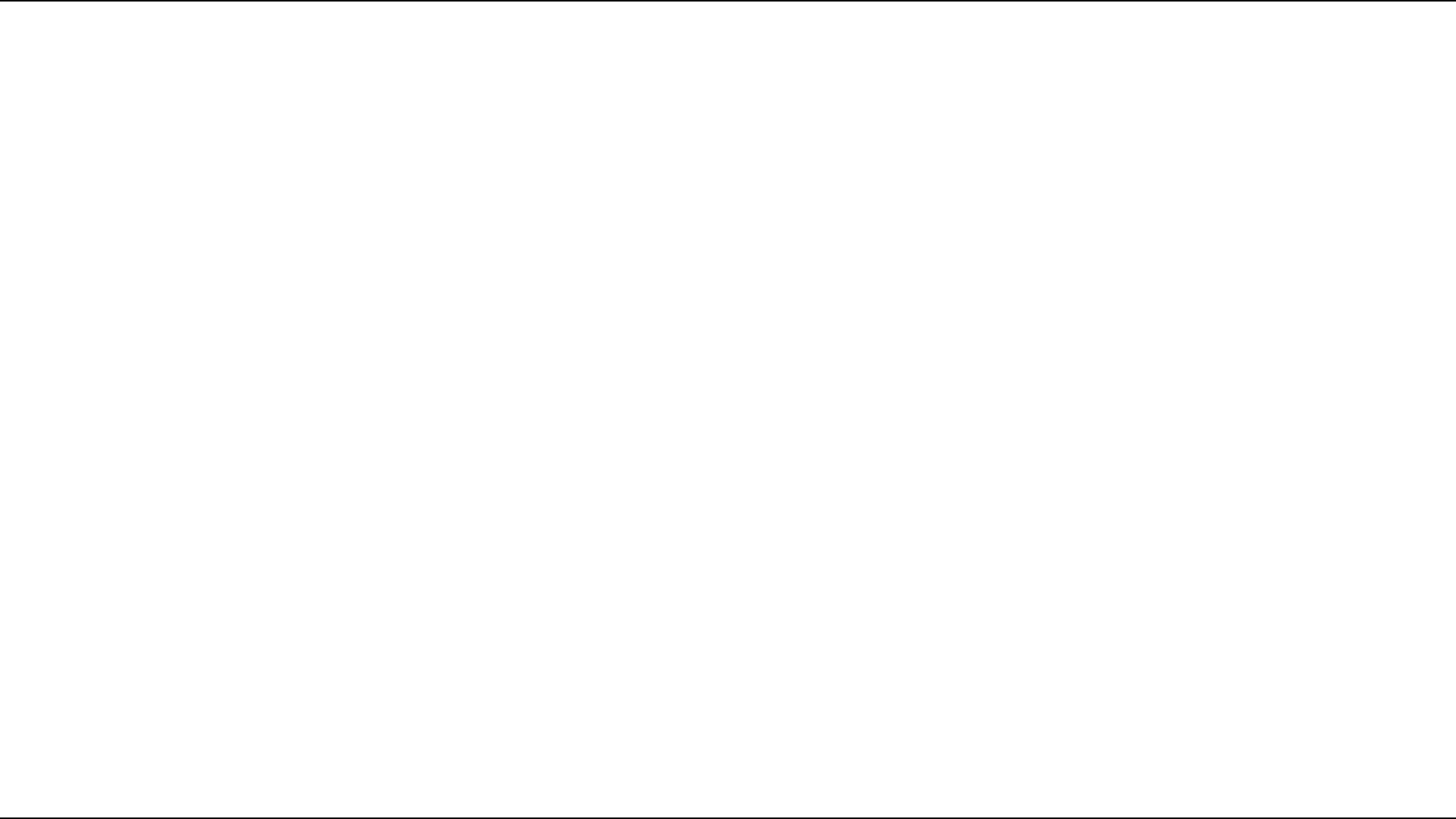
Houston ranks #1 out of 30 major metros for total contributions to the largest charities—about 40% more per charity than the national median.

Volunteer



Three County Area





*What insight were you drawn to most?
What piqued your curiosity?*



*What topic (or subtopic) do you think needs
greater discussion and potentially more
collaborative action?*

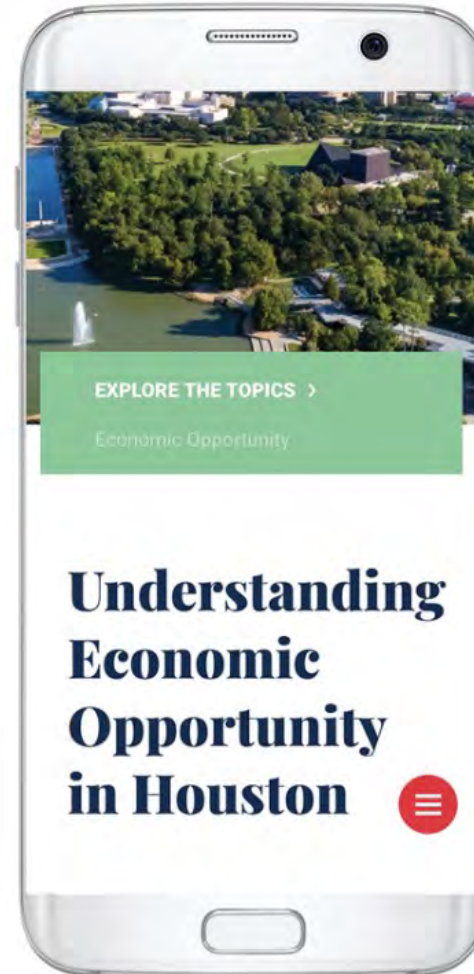
www.understandinghouston.org

Vote for what matters to you

What issues do you think need attention, resources, and collaborative action?

Vote

12 votes



get involved



explore



learn



vote



donate



share

www.understandinghouston.org



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