

Texas on the Brink

“Distant Dream”

How Texas Ranks Among the 50 States

January 2007 ~ Third Edition

Since 1836, Texas has stood as an icon of the American dream.

Blessed with land, rivers, oil, and other abundant natural resources, early Texas welcomed everyone from cattle ranchers to *braceros*, from cotton farmers to Chinese railroad workers. These pioneers built a great state, and together we fulfilled a destiny.

From humble beginnings, we built a state with the firm belief that *every* Texan might rise as high and as far as their spirit, hard work, and talent might carry them. With education and determination *every* Texan might achieve great success – home ownership, reliable healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and financial prosperity.

In Texas today, the American dream is distant. Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured children in the nation. Texas is dead last in the percentage of residents with their high school diploma and near last in SAT scores. If we do not change course, the Texas generation of tomorrow will be less prosperous than the generation of today.

Without the courage to invest in the minds of our children, and steadfast support for great schools, we face a daunting prospect. Those who value tax cuts over children and budget cuts over college have put Texas at risk in her ability to compete and succeed.

Let us not forget that the business of Texas is Texans. To ‘Close the Gap’ in Texas, we must graduate more of our best and brightest. If we invest in our greatest resource, Texas will be the state of the future. If we do not, family incomes will fall an average of \$6,000 by 2040.

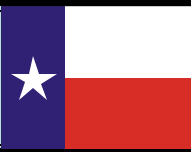
Texas is on the brink. The choice is ours.

Let us resolve now to invest in young Texans today to guarantee the prosperity of all Texans tomorrow.

State Rankings

State Government Taxes and Spending

(50th=Lowest, 1st=Highest)



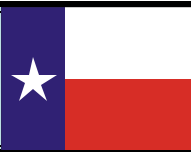
- Tax Revenue Raised Per Capita¹ 49th
- Tax Expenditures Per Capita² 50th
- Sales Tax Per Capita³ 7th
- Progressiveness of Tax Revenues⁴ 43rd

Per Capita Spending on:

- Mental Health⁵ 46th
- Medicaid⁶ 38th
- Public Health and Hospitals⁷ 20th
- Public Elementary-Secondary Education⁸ 38th
- Parks and Recreation⁹ 49th
- Police Protection¹⁰ 48th
- Environmental Protection¹¹ 45th
- Highways¹² 42nd
- State Arts Agencies¹³ 48th

Education

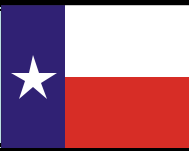
(50th=Lowest, 1st=Highest)



- Public School Enrollment¹⁴ 2nd
- Average Teacher Salary¹⁵ 32nd
- Current Expenditures Per Student¹⁶ 40th
- State Aid Per Pupil¹⁷ 46th
- Percentage of School Funding from Local Revenues¹⁸ 12th
- Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Scores¹⁹ 47th

- **Percentage of Population over 25 with a High School Diploma²⁰** 50th
- **High School Graduation Rate²¹** 35th
- **Percentage of Adults with At Least a Bachelor's Degree²²** 28th

State of the Child
(50th=Lowest, 1st=Highest)



- **Birth Rate²³** 2nd
- **Percent of Population Under 18²⁴** 4th
- **Percentage of Uninsured Children²⁵** 1st
- **Percentage of Children Living in Poverty²⁶** 5th
- **Percentage of Children Immunized²⁷** 49th

Health Care
(50th=Lowest, 1st=Highest)

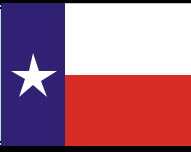


- **Percentage of Population *without* Health Insurance²⁸** 1st
- **Percentage of Young People (Non-Elderly) *without* Health Insurance²⁹** 1st
- **Percentage of Population that Lacked Access to Primary Care³⁰** 17th
- **Percentage of Uninsured Low-Income Children³¹** 3rd
- **Percentage of Poor *Not* Covered by Medicaid³²** 3rd
- **Percentage of Population with Employer-Based Health Insurance³³** 42nd
- **Rate at which Citizens Receive Treatment for Drug and Alcohol Abuse Problems³⁴** 45th

- **Percentage of Population *Not* Physically Active³⁵** 17th
- **Health Care Expenditures Per Capita³⁶** 29th
- **Hospital Beds Per 100,000 Population³⁷** 30th
- **Percentage of Total Employment in Health Care Service Sector³⁸** 33rd

Health Professionals per Capita

- **Physicians³⁹** 42nd
- **Dentists⁴⁰** 41st
- **Pharmacists⁴¹** 44th
- **Psychologists⁴²** 39th

<p align="center">Health and Well-Being (50th=Lowest, 1st=Highest)</p>	
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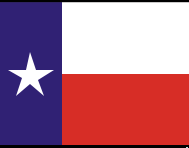
- **Percentage Living Below Federal Poverty Level⁴³** 3rd
- **Percentage of Population with Food Insecurity⁴⁴** 3rd
- **Percentage of Population that is Malnourished⁴⁵** 3rd
- **Amount of Welfare and Food Stamp Benefits Paid⁴⁶** 47th
- **Amount of Monthly Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Benefits Paid⁴⁷** 42nd
- **Minutes of Daily Care by Registered Nurses for Nursing Home Residents⁴⁸** 46th
- **Compliance with the Supreme Court Olmstead Decision Declaring that Unjustified Institutionalization of a Disabled Person is Discrimination⁴⁹** 37th

Women's Issues
(50th=Lowest, 1st=Highest)



- Overall Birth Rate⁵⁰ 2nd
- Teenage Birth Rate⁵¹ 5th
- Percent of Non-Elderly Women with Health Insurance⁵² 50th
- Access to Adequate Prenatal Care⁵³ 35th
- Percentage of Women Who Have Had a Dental Visit Within the Past Year⁵⁵ 48th
- Rate of Women Aged 40+ Who Receive Mammograms⁵⁴ 44th
- Rate of Women Aged 18+ Who Receive Pap Smears⁵⁵ 47th
- Cervical Cancer Rate⁵⁶ 5th
- Percentage of Women with High Blood Pressure⁵⁷ 15th
- Family Planning⁵⁸ 45th
- Women's Voter Registration⁵⁹ 43rd
- Women's Voter Turnout⁶⁰ 49th
- Percentage of Women with Four or More Years of College⁶¹ 30th
- Women's Median Annual Earning⁶² 28th
- Women in Managerial and Professional Occupations⁶³ 28th
- Women Business Ownership⁶⁴ 28th
- Percent of Women Above the Poverty Level⁶⁵ 44th

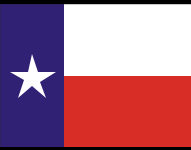
Diseases
(50th=Lowest, 1st=Highest)



- Prevalence of Obesity⁶⁶ 7th

- **Rate of Death due to Heart Disease⁶⁷** 18th
- **Rate of Infectious Diseases⁶⁸** 8th
- **Prevalence of Diagnosed Diabetes⁶⁹** 18th
- **Diabetes Death Rate⁷⁰** 5th
- **Rate of Death due to Stroke⁷¹** 15th

Access to Capital
(50th=Lowest, 1st=Highest)



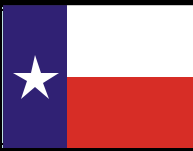
- **Percentage of Home Refinance Loans that are Subprime-Mortgage Loans (generally 3 to 4 percentage points or more higher than a comparable prime market loan)⁷²** 1st
- **Percent of Households with Savings Accounts⁷³** 42nd
- **Percent of Households with Checking Accounts⁷⁴** 43rd
- **Average Net Worth of Household Assets⁷⁵** 48th
- **Home Mortgage Delinquency Rate⁷⁶** 4th
- **Amount of Money that Banks Located in the State Collect through Deposits in Relation to the Amount of Money the Banks Re-channel Back into Communities Through Loans⁷⁷** 48th

Environment
(50th=Lowest, 1st=Highest)



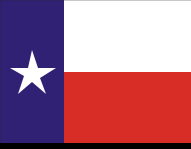
- **Air Pollution Emissions⁷⁸** 1st
- **Pollution Released by Manufacturing Plants⁷⁹** 1st

- **Amount of Green House Gases Released⁸⁰** 1st
- **Amount of Toxic Chemicals Released into Water⁸¹** 1st
- **Amount of Toxic Chemicals Released into Air⁸²** 4th
- **Amount of Recognized Cancer-Causing Carcinogens Released into Air⁸³** 1st
- **Amount of Recognized Cancer-Causing Carcinogens Released into Water⁸⁴** 7th
- **Number of Clean Water Permit Violations⁸⁵** 1st
- **Number of Environmental and Civil Rights Complaints⁸⁶** 1st
- **Number of Hazardous Waste Spills⁸⁷** 2nd
- **Amount of Hazardous Waste Generated⁸⁸** 1st
- **Number of Hazardous Waste Sites on National Priority List⁸⁹** 9th
- **Amount of Carbon Dioxide Emissions⁹⁰** 1st
- **Consumption of Energy Per Capita⁹¹** 5th
- **Consumption of Electricity Per Customer⁹²** 10th
- **Open Space Protection⁹³** 50th
- **Drinking Water Quality⁹⁴** 38th

<p>Workforce (50th=Lowest, 1st=Highest)</p>	
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- **Unemployment Rate⁹⁵** 10th
- **Average Hourly Earnings⁹⁶** 42nd
- **Income Inequality Between the Rich and the Poor⁹⁷** 2nd
- **Government Employee Wages and Salaries⁹⁸** 30th
- **Workforce Education⁹⁹** 43rd
- **Percentage of Workforce Represented**

- by a Union¹⁰⁰ 48th
- Number of Job Discrimination Lawsuits¹⁰¹ 1st

<p align="center">Cost of Living <i>(50th=Lowest, 1st=Highest)</i></p>	
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- Home Ownership Rate¹⁰² 44th
- Homeowner's Insurance Affordability¹⁰³ 50th
- Auto Insurance Affordability¹⁰⁴ 39th
- Residential Electric Bill Affordability¹⁰⁵ 50th
- Percentage of Households with Internet Access¹⁰⁶ 34th

<p align="center">Public Safety <i>(50th=Lowest, 1st=Highest)</i></p>	
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- Number of Executions¹⁰⁷ 1st
- Number of Gun Shows¹⁰⁸ 1st
- Rate of Incarceration¹⁰⁹ 3rd
- Total Crime Rate¹¹⁰ 6th
- Violent Crime Rate¹¹¹ 12th
- Murder and Rape Rate¹¹² 14th
- Rate of Firearm Deaths Per 100,000 Population¹¹³ 22nd
- Number of Registered Machine Guns¹¹⁴ 1st
- Number of Deaths Attributed to Floods (Pre-Hurricane Katrina)¹¹⁵ 1st
- Fatalities Caused by Tornadoes¹¹⁶ 1st
- Rate of Motor Vehicle Fatalities¹¹⁷ 20th
- Number of Road-Rage Traffic Fatalities¹¹⁸ 2nd

- **Number of Alcohol-Related Traffic Deaths as a Percentage of Highway Fatalities¹¹⁹** **11th**



- **Percentage of Eligible Voters that are Registered¹²⁰** **41st**
- **Percentage of Eligible Voters that Vote¹²¹** **44th**

Key Facts and Figures

Child Abuse and Neglect

- In 2005, over 61,000 Texas children were victims of abuse and neglect.¹²²
- On average in 2003, each Child Protective Services investigative caseworker had 31 cases per month,¹²³ more than twice the recommended amount of 12 cases per month according to the Child Welfare League of America.¹²⁴
- On child protection, Texas spends \$135.19 per child. The national average is \$303.95 per child.¹²⁵

Children and Families

- In 2002, 151,464 Texas children were considered “At Risk” (having a significant impairment due to a mental disorder) and eligible for services through the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. However, only 26 percent of those at risk, eligible children were served in 2002.¹²⁶

- In El Paso County, the rate of immunization in the 4:3:1 series (most basic vaccination series) for children was 71.8 percent, significantly below the national average of 83.5 percent.¹²⁷
- 49 percent of children in Texas live in low-income families, as opposed to 39 percent nationwide.¹²⁸
- 86 percent of children whose parents did not have a high school degree live in low-income families, compared to 28 percent of children whose parents had some college education.¹²⁹
- 43 percent of children in low-income families live with a single parent.¹³⁰
- In Texas, 69 percent of Latino children and 58 percent of African American children live in low-income families, compared to 25 percent of Anglo children.¹³¹
- 1 in 10 children in Texas lives in extreme poverty, a 10 percent increase since 2000. The threshold for a family of two adults and two children living in extreme poverty is \$8,731 a year.¹³²
- The average Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance for a family is \$208 per month in Texas;¹³³ the monthly national average is \$355.¹³⁴
- In 2005, the average monthly benefit for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) recipients in Texas was \$31.62, whereas the national average was \$37.42.¹³⁵
- 32 percent of poor children in Texas are uninsured as compared to 22 percent nationwide.¹³⁶

Status of Women in Texas

- In 2004, only two women in Texas were elected to statewide executive offices, and only four were elected to the U.S. Congress.¹³⁷

- Hispanic women in Texas earned 46.3 percent of what Anglo men earned in 1999.¹³⁸
- In 2000, only 42.4 percent of Anglo women, 31.2 percent of African American women, and 23.6 percent of Hispanic women were in managerial positions in Texas.¹³⁹
- The percentage of Hispanic women in Texas with an Associate's or Bachelor's degree was 12.5 percent, compared to 32.8 percent of Anglo women and 22.2 percent of African American women.¹⁴⁰
- Between 1999-2001, the ratio of female heart disease mortality per 100,000 for African American women was 306.1, compared to 182.3 for Hispanic women and 214.9 for Anglo women in Texas.¹⁴¹
- The ratio of breast cancer mortality per 100,000 between 1999-2001 for African American women was 37.0, compared to 18.5 for Hispanic women and 25.5 for Anglo women in Texas.¹⁴²
- The average annual incidence rate of AIDS among women in Texas was highest amongst African Americans at 33.9, compared to 5.1 for Hispanic women and 3.1 for Anglo women.¹⁴³
- Of the 10 largest cities in the U.S., Dallas, San Antonio, and Houston ranked among the lowest in safety, with the worst being one crime committed per 11.8 residents in Dallas.¹⁴⁴

Education

- Texas spends \$7,142 per pupil annually.¹⁴⁵ Annual expenditures per prisoner in Texas prisons is \$20,232.¹⁴⁶
- While the number of students in Texas who scored above the proficient level on national math assessment exams has increased since 1992, African American and Hispanic

students continue to score far below that of Anglo students by 18-25 points on exams.¹⁴⁷

- 47 percent of 4th graders in Texas who come from low-income families scored below proficient in national science assessment exams, while only 17 percent of students from middle to high income families scored below proficient on the exam.¹⁴⁸
- In science, only 23 percent of Texas 8th graders scored at or above proficient on the national assessment exam, as compared to 41 percent nationally.¹⁴⁹
- In reading, only 26 percent of Texas 8th graders scored at or above the national assessment exam as compared to 38 percent nationally.¹⁵⁰
- The national high school graduation rate in 2002 was 71 percent,¹⁵¹ compared to 64.2 percent in Texas in 2005, unchanged from the year before.¹⁵²
- In Texas, Hispanic students dropped out of high school at a rate three times greater than that of African American and Anglo students in Texas.¹⁵³
- In Texas, 57 percent of Hispanic students, 66 percent of African American students, and 77 percent of Anglo students graduated in 2002.¹⁵⁴
- Only 58 percent of 7th to 12th graders in Texas were taught by teachers with a major in their subject, as compared to 81 percent in top-performing states.¹⁵⁵
- 25 percent of Texas science teachers and 13 percent of math teachers in 2005 had taught classes for which they were not certified.¹⁵⁶
- In 2006, the national combined SAT score was 1021, whereas for Texas it was 997.¹⁵⁷

Higher Education

- In El Paso County, only 17 percent of the population has a bachelor's degree or higher, as opposed to 42 percent in Travis County.¹⁵⁸
- In Texas, only 26 percent of the population aged 25-65 has a bachelor's degree or higher.¹⁵⁹
- Texas funds only 34 percent of need-based financial aid, as opposed to 89 percent by the top-investing states.¹⁶⁰
- The share of Texan family income needed to pay for college expenses at four-year institutions increased from 22 percent to 30 percent between 1992 and 2006.¹⁶¹
- The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University at College Station are the only Texas public institutions of higher education that made the top 60 in U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges in the U.S., with UT-Austin at 47 and Texas A&M at 60.¹⁶²
- In Texas, only 13 percent of the Hispanic population has an Associate's Degree or higher, as compared to 40 percent of the Anglo population.¹⁶³

The Elderly

- On average in 2004, Adult Protective Services of Texas takes on 48.8 cases per investigator a month, while accreditation agencies recommend only 25 cases per worker.¹⁶⁴
- In 2002, 86 percent of nursing homes in Texas did not meet federal standards governing quality of care.¹⁶⁵
- 94 percent of nursing homes did not meet minimum staffing levels,¹⁶⁶ and 39 percent of facilities had a violation that caused actual harm to nursing home residents or placed them at risk for death or serious injury.¹⁶⁷

- The average nursing home in Texas provided just 21 minutes of daily care by registered nurses for each resident--less than half of the minimum required by the regulatory agency.¹⁶⁸
- In 2004, 84 percent of Texas nursing homes were cited for fire safety deficiencies.¹⁶⁹
- The population in Texas that is over 65 years of age will be expected to grow from 2.1 to 7.4 million, or 258 percent, by 2040.¹⁷⁰
- While Texas had more nursing home beds per 1,000 population over 65 than the national average, Texas still lagged behind in workers per nursing home and personal care facilities with 0.8 workers per bed compared to 1.02 workers per bed nationally.¹⁷¹

The Uninsured

- 46.6 million people in the U.S. are uninsured, up by 7 million since 2000.¹⁷²
- 24.6 percent of people in Texas are uninsured or 5.4 million people,¹⁷³ the largest share of uninsured in the nation.¹⁷⁴
- More than 825,000 people were added to the uninsured population in Texas between 2000 and 2004.¹⁷⁵
- 21 percent of children in Texas were uninsured in 2005, compared to 11 percent nationally.¹⁷⁶
- In Texas, 58 percent of adults between the ages of 19 and 64 living in poverty did not have health insurance.¹⁷⁷
- Of those uninsured, 59 percent, or almost 3 million, are Hispanic.¹⁷⁸
- Children and youth under the age of 17 comprise 26.6 percent of the total uninsured population, the largest portion.¹⁷⁹

- Of the 16 major metropolitan areas in Texas, El Paso had the second highest rate of uninsured residents at 33.2 percent following Laredo.¹⁸⁰
- Texas does not provide Medicaid to parents making even poverty-line incomes; therefore, a working parent of two does not qualify for coverage if he or she makes more than \$3,696 in a year.¹⁸¹

Health Professionals

- El Paso County has 486 registered nurses per 100,000 population, compared to 639 per 100,000 for the state of Texas and 798 per 100,000 nationwide.¹⁸²
- El Paso County has 21 dentists per 100,000 population, compared to the state's average of 42 per 100,000 and the national average of 48 per 100,000 population.¹⁸³
- El Paso County has 105 direct primary care physicians per 100,000 population,¹⁸⁴ while statewide there are 222 physicians per 100,000 population, and nationwide there are 279 per 100,000 population.¹⁸⁵
- Of the 65 counties that did not have acute care hospitals, 21 were located in the Border region.¹⁸⁶
- 39 of the 43 Border counties had been designated as Primary Care and Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas in 2005 by the Texas Department of State Health Services.¹⁸⁷
- The metropolitan border areas have a ratio of 145 direct primary care physicians per 100,000 people, as compared to 170 in non-Border metropolitan areas in Texas.¹⁸⁸
- Along the Border Areas, the ratio of nurses to population is 900 to 100,000 population, as opposed to 1147 to 100,000 population in non-Border areas.¹⁸⁹

- The ratio of dentists in the border region is 44.8 per 100,000 people, compared to 65.3 per 100,000 people in the non-Border regions of Texas.¹⁹⁰

Income Disparity and Employment

- Texas has the tenth largest economy in the world,¹⁹¹ and is the second largest in the nation with a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of \$982.4 billion for 2005.¹⁹²
- The per capita income for Texas in 2005 was \$30,222.¹⁹³
- 17.6 percent of people in Texas, or nearly 3.8 million, live in poverty.¹⁹⁴
- Currently, five percent of workers in Texas earn \$6.15 an hour or less, an income of \$11,808 a year.¹⁹⁵
- Only seven percent of workers are covered by a union.¹⁹⁶
- 45 percent of families in Texas earn poverty-level wages.¹⁹⁷
- The Lower Rio Grande Valley metropolitan area ranks last in the nation in per capita income, averaging only 44 percent of the U.S. per capita income.¹⁹⁸
- Starr County in South Texas has the highest poverty rate with 50.9 percent of the population at or below poverty level.¹⁹⁹
- In the early 2000s, the income gap between the richest 20 percent of families and the poorest 20 percent was 2nd largest in the nation. The income gap between the richest 20 percent of families and the middle 20 percent was 1st in the nation.²⁰⁰
- In the early 2000s, the richest five percent of families had average incomes 13.8 times greater than the poorest 20 percent. This is up from a ratio of 9.2 in the early 1980s.²⁰¹
- Middle- and low-income Texas families did not share equally in the economic boom of the eighties and nineties.²⁰²
Families that made \$36,000 and under only gained four

percent, while families who made \$84,500 or more gained 33 percent.²⁰³

- An increase in the minimum wage of just \$1 would directly effect 750,000 Texas children living in low-wage households.²⁰⁴
- Three Border regions in Texas, the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission region, the Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito region, and the El Paso region, had the highest rates of unemployment in Texas at 13.6 percent, 11.0 percent, and 9.7 percent respectively, well above the state's average of 6.7 percent.²⁰⁵

Taxation

- Texas' tax system is listed as one of the "Terrible Ten" most regressive states in the nation.²⁰⁶
- Texas requires low-income families, those in the bottom 20 percent of the income scale, to pay more than three times as great a share of their earnings in taxes as the wealthy.²⁰⁷
- Middle-income families pay more than twice as high a share of their income in taxes as the wealthiest families.²⁰⁸
- Changes in state and local taxes over the past decade have made state tax systems even more regressive. Overall, low- and middle-income taxpayers saw their burden grow, while the top-fifth highest income-earning Texans primarily received tax reductions.²⁰⁹
- Sales tax, amongst the most regressive of all taxes, forces middle- to low-income families to pay on average as much as eight times more tax than the wealthiest families in the U.S. as a percentage of their income.²¹⁰

Transportation

- Traffic delays in Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston cost each driver in those cities \$711 a year. In Austin, traffic delays cost each driver \$590 a year.²¹¹
- Houston and Dallas were ranked 5th and 6th respectively amongst 85 large metropolitan cities in the yearly number of hours delayed in traffic per traveler.²¹²
- Traffic volume in Texas is growing 16 times faster than lane miles are added.²¹³
- Every two minutes, someone is injured in a traffic accident. The resulting economic loss to Texas is \$9.3 billion annually.²¹⁴
- 725 people died on Texas highways in 2002.²¹⁵

Obesity

- In Texas, 22.4 percent of 4th graders, 19.2 percent of 8th graders and 15.5 percent of 11th graders in Texas are overweight.²¹⁶
- Overweight prevalence is highest in Texas among Hispanic boys.²¹⁷
- 70 percent of Texas youths do not attend physical education class daily.²¹⁸
- Two of the top 10 “Fattest Cities in America” are in Texas, with Houston ranked number five and El Paso ranked number eight.²¹⁹
- 27.0 percent of Texans are severely overweight, up from 24.6 percent in 2004, and higher than the national average of 24.4 percent.²²⁰
- Texas ranks 5th in the percentage of children who are obese with 19 percent.²²¹

Sex Education

- Texas does not require schools, nor does it provide state funds, to give students information on HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, or pregnancy prevention education.²²²
- In 2001, the birth rate for teens between 15 and 17 years old was 24.7 to 1,000 population in the United States and 38.9 to 1,000 in Texas.²²³
- In a statewide survey of Texas high school students, almost half have had sexual intercourse at least once in their lifetime.
- Of those interviewed, 67.6 percent of 12th graders, 57.2 percent of 11th graders, 47.2 percent of 10th graders, and 37.4 percent of 9th graders have had sexual intercourse.²²⁴
- 19.3 percent of 12th graders who had once been sexually active are now practicing abstinence.²²⁵
- Among currently sexually active students, only about half (55.4 percent) reported that they or their partner had used a condom during their last sexual intercourse. Only 10 percent reported that they or their partner had used birth control pills before their last sexual intercourse.²²⁶
- 22.6 percent of sexually active students had used drugs or alcohol at the time of their last sexual intercourse.²²⁷
- Texas has no state law or administrative rule that addresses attendance for pregnant or parenting students, nor does the state require districts to offer alternative programs for such students.²²⁸

Endnotes

¹ US Census Bureau, *States Ranked by Revenue and Expenditure Total Amount and Per Capita Total Amount: 2004*. Online. Available at <http://www.census.gov/govs/state/04rank.html>. Accessed September 19, 2006.

² *Ibid.*

³ Hovey and Hovey, *CQ's State Fact Finder 2006*, p. 157, Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2006.

⁴ Government of the District of Columbia, *Tax Rates and Tax Burdens in the District of Columbia: a Nationwide Comparison* (2004). Online. Available at <http://www.cfo.dc.gov/cfo/lib/cfo/services/studies/City04STUDY.pdf>. Accessed October 2, 2006. Data compiled by Hovey, Kendra and Hovey, Harold, *Congressional Quarterly's State Fact Finder, 2006: Rankings Across America*. (Washington, D.C: CQ Press, Inc., 2006) p.170. This category relates the amount raised from sales tax with the amounts raised from the two other major tax bases, property and income.

⁵ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, *State Health Facts Online* (March 2004). Online. Available at <http://www.statehealthfacts.kff.org/cgi-bin/healthfacts.cgi?action=compare>. Accessed September 14, 2006.

⁶ Morgan, Kathleen O'Leary and Morgan, Scott, *Health Care State Rankings: 2006 Health Care in the 50 United States* (2006). 14th Edition. Lawrence, KS: Morgan Quinto Press. Online. Available at www.statestats.com. Accessed October 6, 2006.

⁷ US Census Bureau, *State and Local Government Finance Estimates, by State* (2002). Online. Available at <http://www.census.gov/govs/www/estimate.html> Accessed October 2, 2006.

⁸ US Census Bureau, *Public Education School Finances* (March 2006). Online. Available at <http://ftp2.census.gov/govs/school/04f33pub.pdf>. Accessed October 2, 2006.

⁹ Sybert, Brian, Sierra Club of Texas, *Texas' Wide Open Spaces are Disappearing*. Online. Available at <http://www.texas.sierraclub.org/spaces/disappear.asp>. Accessed September 24, 2006.

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