The mission of Central Health is to provide access to health care services for those Travis County residents who need it most. As a public taxing entity, Central Health relies on public funding to work toward its goal of ensuring everyone has access to high-quality health care services. In the decade since voters created Central Health, residents have continued to support the organization’s mission. This was demonstrated once again in 2012 when voters approved a proposition to increase property taxes to support new initiatives in health care delivery for the safety net population and community-at-large.

The rapid population growth Travis County experienced during the past decade has had far-reaching effects on those Central Health serves. Affordability issues driven by skyrocketing housing prices—particularly in Central Austin—have forced low-income populations away from the city’s core. Areas such as East-Central Austin are experiencing demographic shifts as long-term residents are priced out of the housing market.

To ensure Central Health continues its mission to provide health care access for the county’s underserved population, it is important to monitor demographic trends. Tracking the movement and growth of the county’s racial/ethnic groups, age 65-plus population, and lower income families ensures Central Health can effectively respond to future challenges and opportunities. This report was developed as a tool to help guide how and where Central Health and its partners will continue to support our county’s most vulnerable residents.

In 2010, Central Health designated eight planning regions to analyze and compare the needs of the population across geographic areas of Travis County. The Central Health planning regions are roughly equivalent shares of the population (approximately 125,000 people per planning region) and align with existing transportation corridors and geographic boundaries affecting transportation. They do not align with existing political or other boundaries, as they were designed for health care planning purposes.

Central Health conducts regular analysis to track and understand overall population trends, with a focus on uninsured Travis County residents with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. This presentation covers our latest geographic analysis of Travis County and includes current and projected trends relative to age, poverty, and race/ethnicity. For additional information, or to receive a copy of this report, please contact info@centralhealth.net.
In 2010 Central Health divided Travis County into eight planning regions as a tool for data-driven decision making. When possible, the boundaries for the planning regions were established along major transportation corridors or geographic landmarks, such as bodies of water. Although Central Health designed the planning regions as an analysis tool, it was not intended for its strategies to be restricted by these boundaries—planning efforts may span multiple regions or even the entire county.

Observations of the data show:

- Travis County’s population is projected to grow 11.8 percent, or by 133,780, for a total population of 1,267,261 by 2019.
- The South Central region had the largest population in 2014 (176,861).
- The North East region is predicted to lead growth at 37 percent from 2010 to 2019.
- Five regions—East, North Central, North East, South Central and South East—house 84.8 percent of the county’s families living below the poverty level.
- Between 2014-19, all regions are projected to grow by at least 10 percent, with the North East region projected to have the largest growth at 16 percent.

The total number of Travis County families living at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level is projected to increase by 12.8 percent by 2019—outpacing the county’s overall growth in families by 0.5 percent. In five of the planning regions, the rate of increase of families in poverty closely mirrors that of the overall population growth. However, in those regions—North West, South West and West Central—the increase of families in poverty is projected to outpace overall population growth by four percent, five percent and seven percent, respectively.

Observations of the data show:

- The East region has the largest number of families below the poverty level in 2014 and 2019.
- The East region is projected to have the largest total increase by 2019 of families living below the poverty level (900).
- The three regions located east of I-35 contain 57 percent of the county’s families living below the poverty level.
- Two regions—the East and South East—contain 45.5 percent of the county’s families living below the poverty level.
- The North West region is projected to contain the smallest amount of families living below the poverty level, however, its five-year rate of increase is tied for the highest in the county.
Central Health’s Medical Access Program (MAP) offers individuals and families with incomes less than the federal poverty level (FPL) comprehensive medical coverage and integrated behavioral health care. Central Health also provides access to medical care to residents with incomes up to 200 percent FPL on a discounted, sliding fee scale basis.

Observations of the data show:
- High density of low-income families along the I-35 corridor
- Greater dispersion of families in poverty in the far North East and far East regions of the county—both of which are fast-growth regions
- Families at 100-200 percent of the poverty level follow similar location patterns as those below the poverty level

About Census Tracts
Each circle on a map represents a census tract. Census tracts vary in size and shape and are based on population and geographic boundaries. The location of the circles remains constant across the maps but vary in size and color to show population changes.

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The percentage of Travis County families living below the poverty level is expected to remain constant—around 13 percent—over the next five years. However, as the county’s population increases, so too will the total number of low income families. Eastern Travis County is projected to see the greatest increase in families living in poverty. This trend indicates a looming “suburbanization of poverty” in Travis County, particularly in and around Pflugerville, Manor and Northeast Austin.

**OBSERVATIONS OF THE DATA SHOW:**
- Travis County’s families living below the poverty level are projected to increase by 4,285 by 2019; families with children living below the poverty level are projected to increase by 3,545 by 2019.
- Families with children made up 83 percent of families living in poverty in 2014—a rate that is projected to remain constant through 2019.

**CHANGE IN FAMILIES BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL**

- **+106**
  - Second greatest increase
  - St. John, Connado Hills

- **786**
  - Largest population, 2019
  - Las Cimas, Northridge Park

- **686**
  - Largest population, 2014
  - North Austin Civic Association

- **0**
  - Smallest increase
  - Tarrytown neighborhood; Balcones Park, Highland Park Court neighborhoods

**CHANGE IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL**

- **-1**
  - Second greatest decrease
  - Chimney Corners, Balcones Woods, Mesa Park

- **+96**
  - Second greatest increase
  - St. John, Connado Hills

- **739**
  - Largest population, 2019
  - Las Cimas, Northridge Park

- **0**
  - Smallest population, 2014
  - Tarrytown

- **0**
  - Smallest population, 2019
  - Tarrytown neighborhood

**DEFINING FAMILIES**
Families are defined as households with two or more individuals. Families with children include any of those families with children under age 18 residing in the home.
According to demographic projections based on Census tract data, the county’s white population is expected to see significant growth during the next five years in Central and West Austin, as well as the western portions of the county. Conversely, the white population in almost all eastern areas of the county is expected to stagnate or decrease.

**Observations of the Data Include:**
- The white population is projected to grow 7.7 percent, or by 43,487, for a total population of 606,704 by 2019.
- White populations are expected to increase in the ethnically diverse areas of Central East Austin.
- The area of Pflugerville surrounding SH 130 is the only region of eastern Travis County where the white population is expected to increase by more than 500 residents.
- Portions of far southwest and northwest Austin will have the largest increase of white populations.

### Population Change

- **+1,914**
  - Second largest increase
  - Volente, Comanche, Grandview Hills

- **+2,413**
  - Largest increase
  - 13,614
  - Largest white population, 2014
  - 16,027
  - Largest white population, 2019
  - Steiner Ranch, River Place

- **-298**
  - Largest decrease
  - South Pflugerville, Dessau

- **-249**
  - Second largest decrease
  - Farmer Park, Parker Acres, Clear Estates

- **108**
  - Smallest white population, 2014
  - South Manor

- **99**
  - Smallest white population, 2019

The Hispanic community in Travis County is expected to have the largest increase of any racial or ethnic group during the next five years. The population trends predict the largest increases in the Hispanic population will occur away from Central Austin, primarily in the eastern half of the county.

**Observations of the Data Include:**

- The Hispanic population is projected to grow 17.6 percent, or by 69,910, for a total population of 468,314 by 2019
- Hispanic populations are projected to decrease or stagnate in Central East Austin
- The largest concentration of Hispanic population growth is projected to occur in the areas of North Austin, South Austin and Pflugerville

**Population Change**

- Largest increase: 8,862
  - Yarabee Bend South, The Bend at Nuckols Crossing
- Second largest increase: 1,685
  - Las Cimas, Northridge Park
- Largest decrease: -117
  - East Cesar Chavez
- Second largest decrease: -40
  - Hyde Park, North Loop

Source: Nielsen 2014.1 Pop-Facts Premier
The African American community in Travis County is expected to have the smallest increase in population of any major racial or ethnic group during the next five years. Increases in the African American population are projected to occur primarily in the northeast and far eastern portions of the county. The population is expected to see significant decreases in East and North Austin neighborhoods.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE DATA INCLUDE:
- The African American population is projected to grow 8.8 percent, or by 7,989, for a total population of 98,700 by 2019
- Most of East Austin, as well as sections of North and South Austin are expected to see significant decreases in the African American population
- West Austin and West Travis County are projected to experience decreases or moderate growth of the African American population
- The second largest increase in the African American population is projected to occur in South Pflugerville and the Brookfield neighborhood—the same census tract that currently houses the largest Hispanic and Asian populations in the county
- The highest concentration of population growth is projected to occur in Pflugerville, west of SH 130

POPULATION CHANGE

Source: Nielsen 2014.1 Pop-Facts Premier
The Asian population in Travis County is expected to have the second smallest increase in population of any major racial or ethnic group during the next five years, ahead of only the African American population. The increases and decreases in Asian populations are sporadic throughout the county. Each of the planning regions contains census tracts with projected increases and decreases in the Asian population.

**OBSERVATIONS OF THE DATA INCLUDE:**

- The Asian population is projected to grow 12.9 percent, or by 8,493, for a total population of 74,251 by 2019.
- The I-35 corridor from the county’s northern border to Manor Expressway/Hwy. 290 is projected to experience the largest decrease in Asian population.
- The greatest increases in the Asian population is projected to occur in areas where large numbers of Asian families currently reside, such as Northwest Austin and Pflugerville.
- The areas of Southeast and far east Travis County are projected to experience decreases or moderate growth of the Asian population.
- The census tract of South Pflugerville and the Brookfield neighborhood is projected to house the largest number of Asian and African American residents in the county by 2019.
Travis County is projected to continue rapid population growth during the next five years. By 2019, it is projected an additional 133,780 residents will call Travis County home—a 12 percent increase since 2014.

New white and Hispanic residents are projected to represent 85 percent of the county’s growth.

Observations of the data include:
- New Hispanic residents are projected to represent 52 percent of the county’s growth.
- New white residents are projected to represent 33 percent of the county’s growth.
- New Asian residents are projected to represent 6 percent of the county’s growth.
- New African American residents are projected to represent 6 percent of the county’s growth.
- The white population is projected to see large increases in downtown Austin and Central-East Austin; the same areas are projected to see decreases or only moderate increases in the Hispanic, Asian and African American populations.
- The North Austin neighborhoods located between I-35, US 183 and MoPac are projected to experience large increases in Hispanic population; the same area is projected to experience decreases or moderate growth in the white, Asian and African American populations.
- Pflugerville is projected to become one of the most diverse areas of Travis County with significant growth of the Hispanic, African American and Asian populations.
- White population growth is projected to remain high in the western half of Travis County.

Source: Nielsen 2014.1 Pop-Facts Premier
By 2019 Travis County’s population of residents age 65 and older is expected to increase 39 percent.

The age 65-plus population is projected to compromise 10.6 percent of county residents by 2019—a 2.1 percent increase from 2014.

There are no census tracts within Travis County where the age 65-plus population is expected to decrease.

Observations of the data include:

• Travis County’s age 65-plus population is projected to increase by 16,312 resident by 2019
• The greatest increases in the age 65-plus population is projected to occur in western Travis County and Pflugerville
• Central Austin—with the exception of downtown—is projected to experience only small to moderate increases in the age 65-plus population
• In 2019 it is projected the South Pflugerville and Brookfield neighborhood census tract will house the largest amount of age 65-plus residents—the same area with the largest Asian and African American populations

Source: Nielsen 2014.1 Pop-Facts Premier