

Prophetic City: The Houston Region on the Cusp of a Changing America

Tracking Responses to the Economic and Demographic Transformations through 39 Years of Houston Surveys

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Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg | Fort Bend Economic Development Council, 20 August 2020.



The Kinder Houston Area Survey (1982-Present)

These 39 years of systematic interviews with successive representative samples of Harris County residents have explored the way the general public is responding to three fundamental new realities:



■ ■ ■ The Epic Demographic Transition

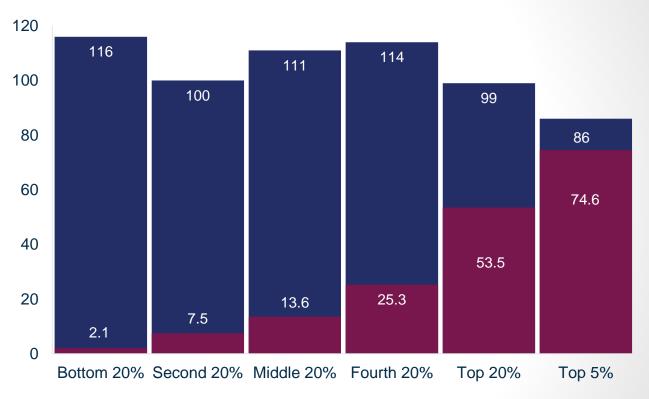
The New Salience of Quality of Place



Two contrasting economic eras (1949 to 1979; and 1980 to the present)

The 30 years after World War II were a period of broad-based prosperity.

The past 35 years have seen increasing inequalities in income and wealth.



Percent increase in before-tax income

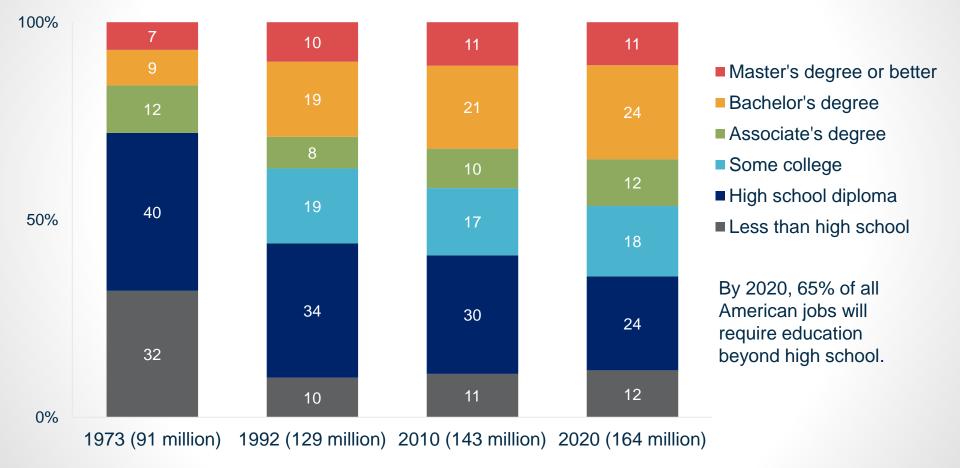
The 30 years after World War II (1949-1979)

The most recent 35 years (1980-2015)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements. Mean Household Income Received by Each Fifth and by the Top 5 Percent, Inflation Adjusted to 2014 dollars.

The educational requirements for jobs across America (1970-2020)

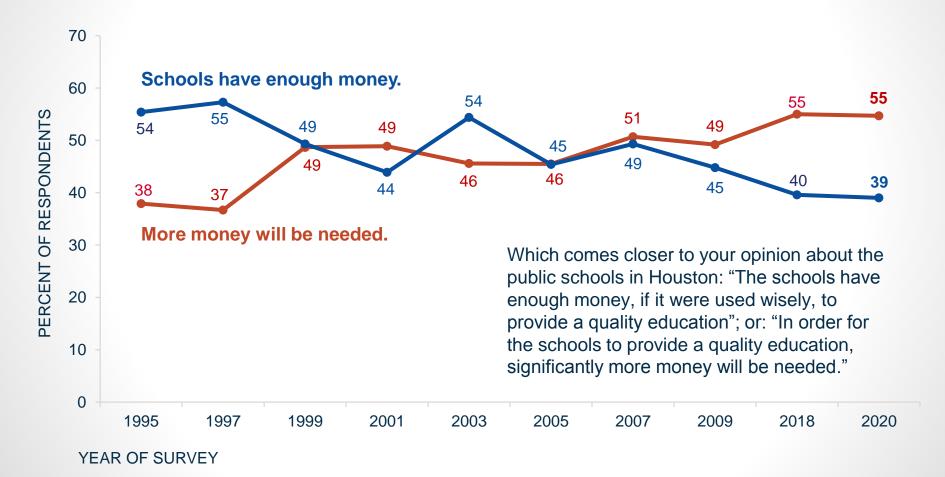


Year (Number of Available Jobs)



Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 2014. "Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements through 2020." Retrieved from cew.georgetown.edu/recovery2020, on July 27, 2015.

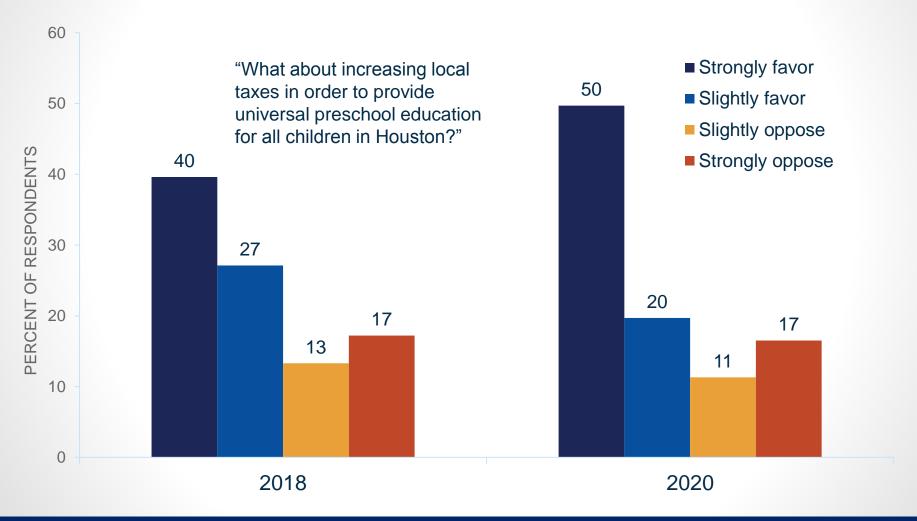
The adequacy of funding for the Houston public schools (KHAS, 1995-2020)





Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (1995-2020)

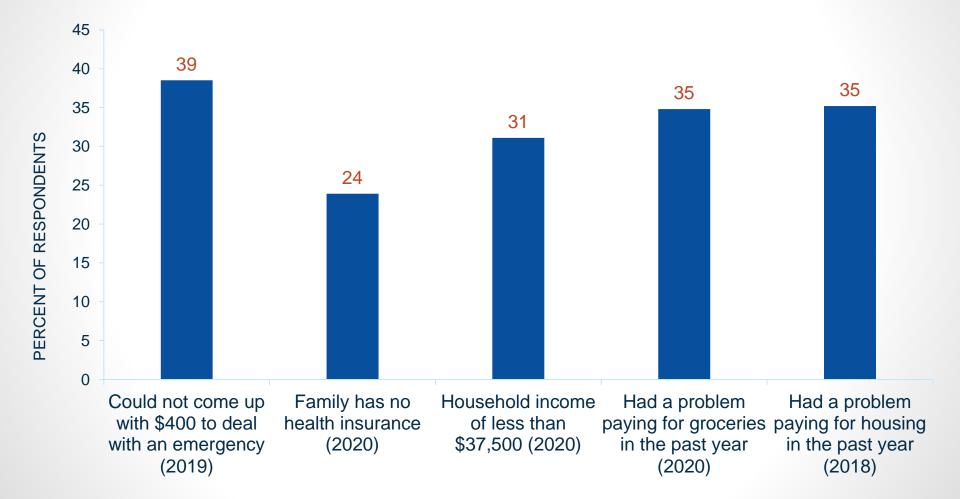
Support for more taxes to provide preschool education for all children in Houston (2018, 2020)





Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2018, 2020)

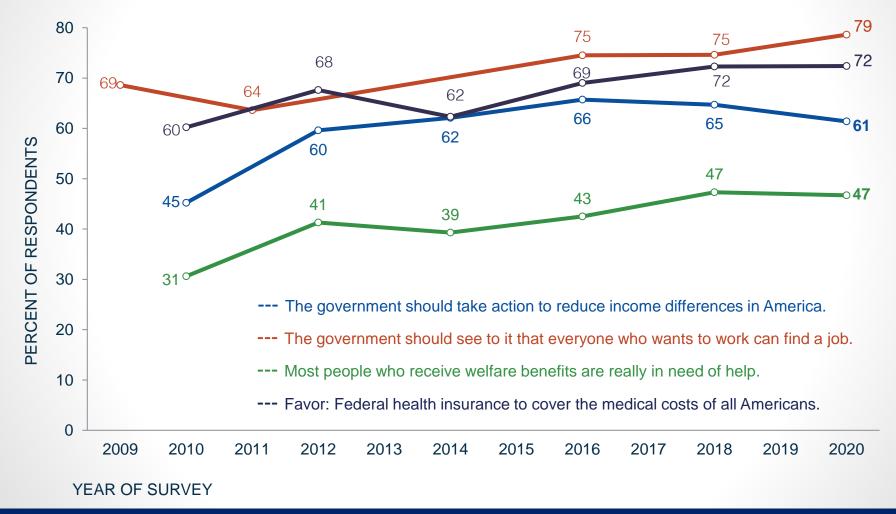
The prevalence of economic hardship among Harris County residents (KHAS, 2018-2020)





Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2018-2020)

Support for government programs to reduce the inequalities in American society (2009-2020)



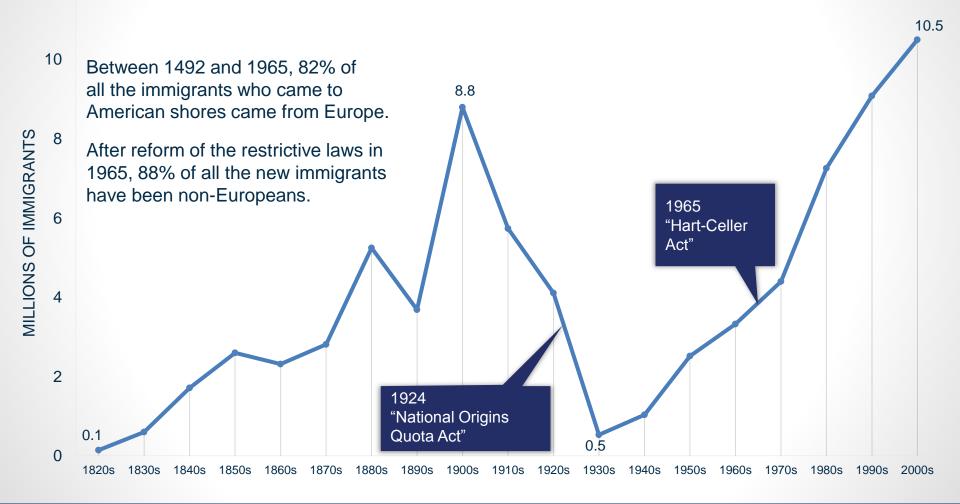


Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2009-2020)





The number of documented U.S. immigrants, by decade (1820-2010)

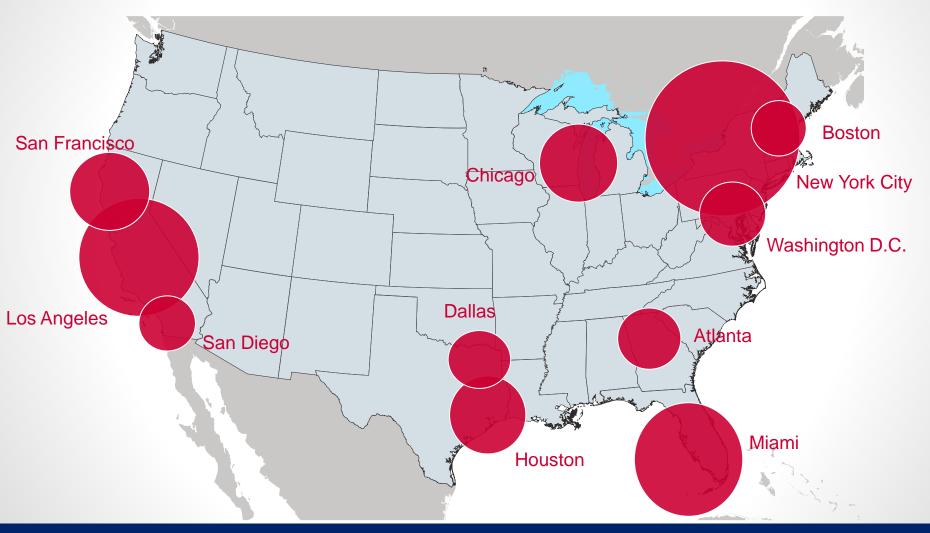




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Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Office of Immigration Statistics. © Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research.

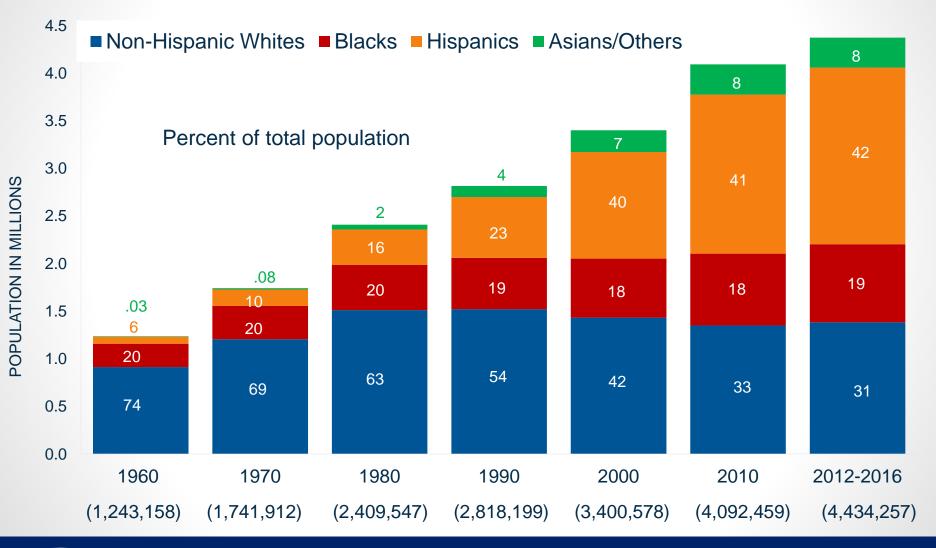
Cities with the largest numbers of foreign-born residents (2010-2014)





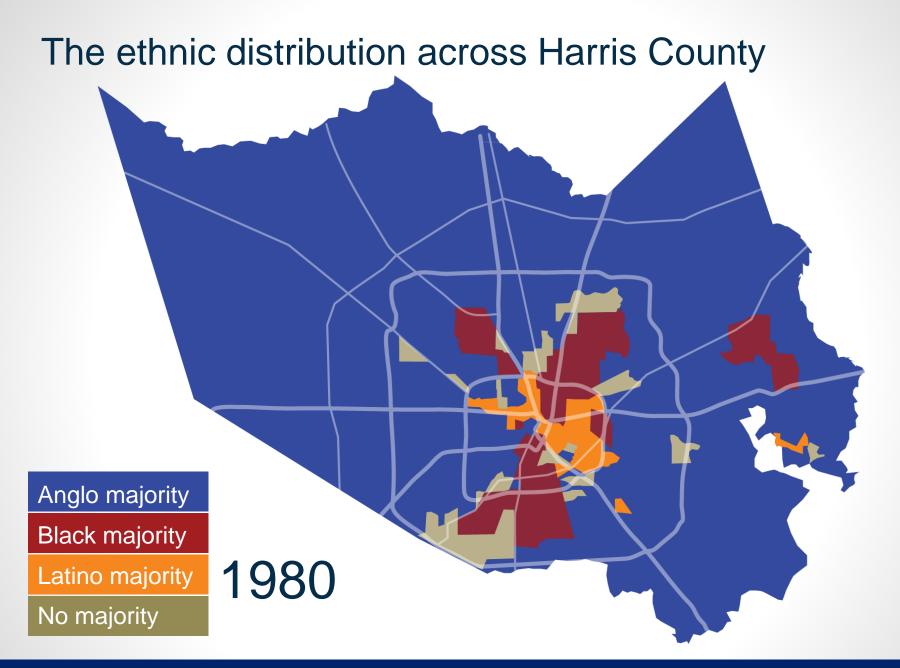
Source: ACS 2010-2014 Five-Year Estimates. U.S. Census Bureau © Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research

Demographic changes in Harris County by decade (1960-2010) and the ACS estimates for 2012-2016



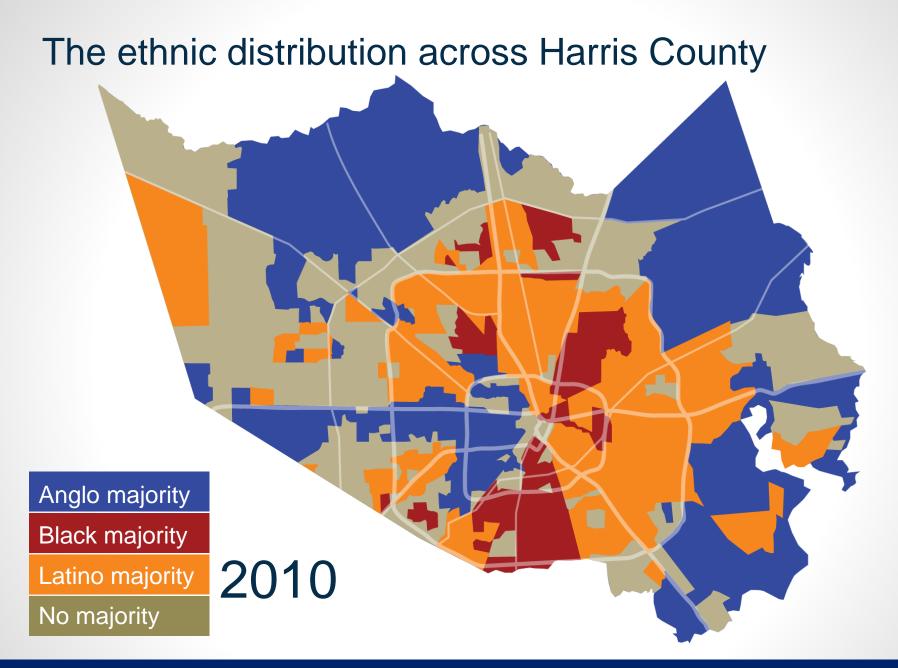
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Source: U.S. Census. Classifications based on Texas State Data Center Conventions





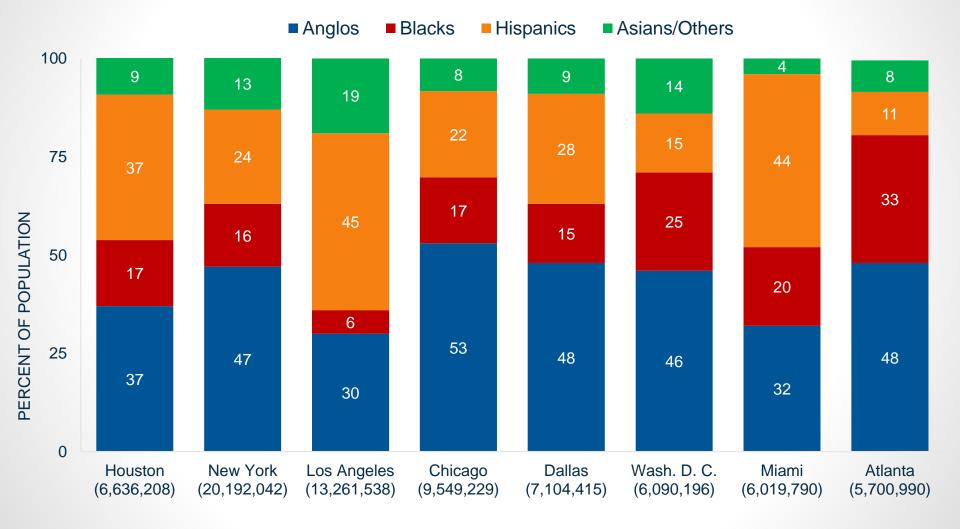
Source: Outreach Strategists, LLC. Color represents demographic group being a majority in that census tract. © Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research





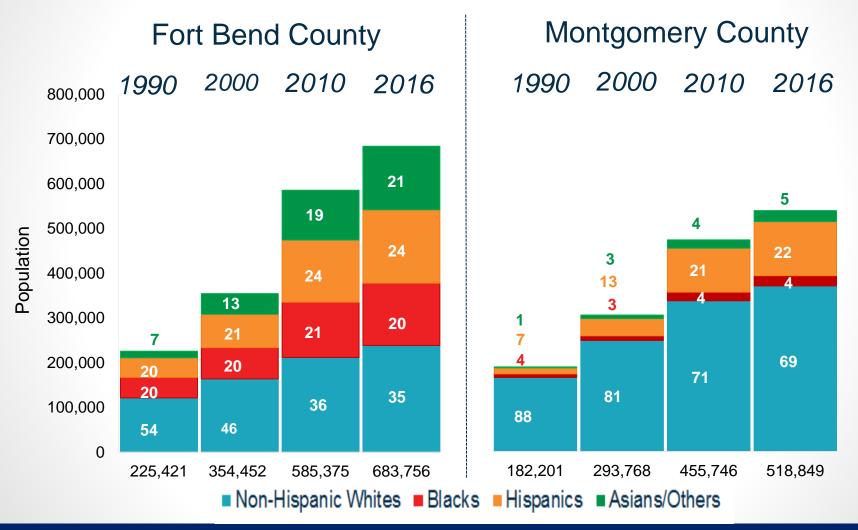
Source: Outreach Strategists, LLC. Color represents demographic group being a majority in that census tract. © Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research

The demographics of the eight most diverse large metro areas in America (ACS, 2013-2017)



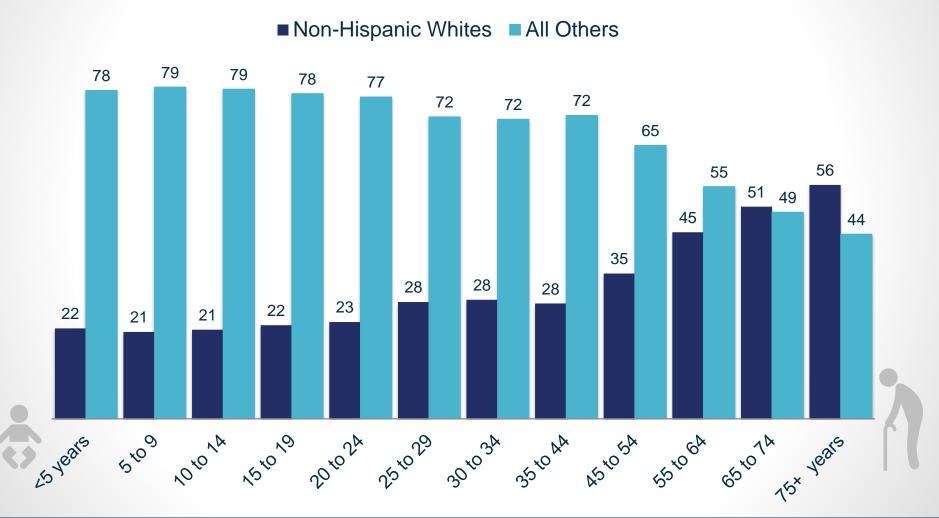


The demographics of Fort Bend and Montgomery Counties (U.S. Census, 1990-2016)



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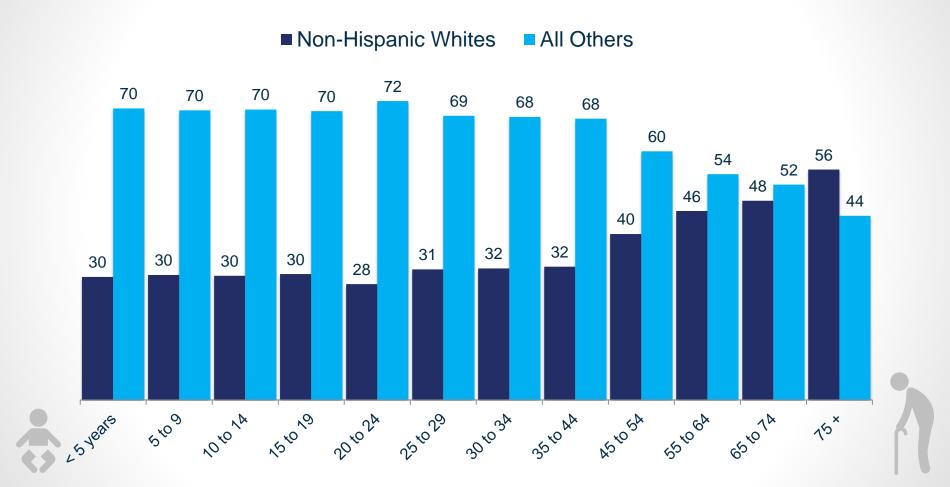
Source: U.S. Census data. Classifications based on Texas State Data Center Conventions The current population of Harris County by age group and ethnicity (ACS, 2013-2017)



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Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017)

The current population of Fort Bend County by age group and ethnicity (ACS, 2013-2017)

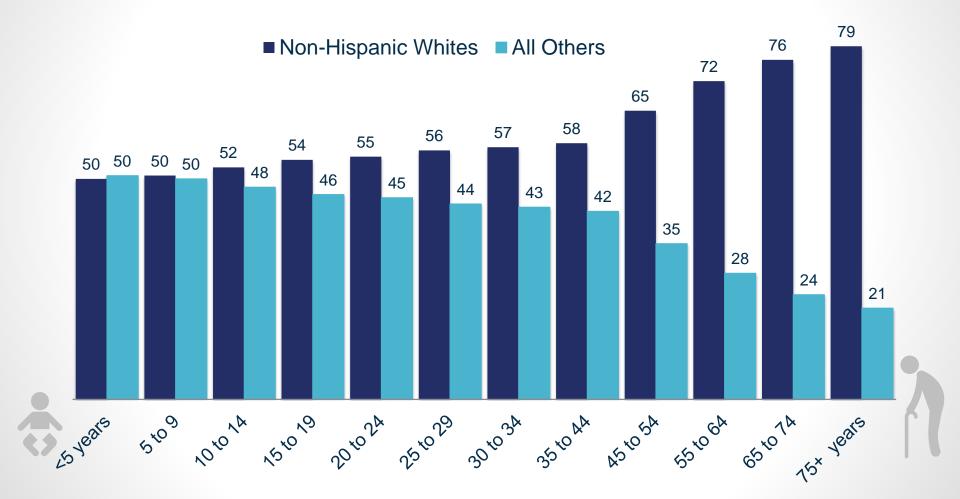


Total Population: 632,946



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2009-2013 ACS 5-year estimates Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research

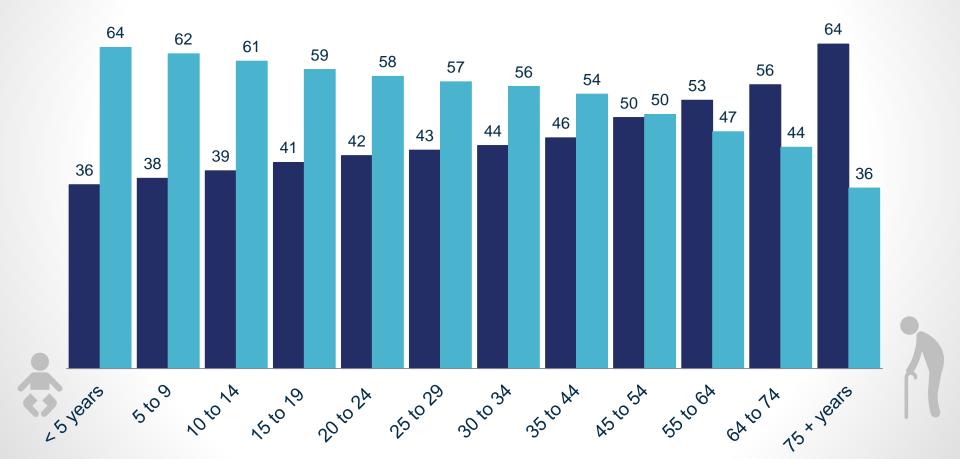
The current population of the United States by age group and ethnicity (ACS, 2013-2017)





Source: American Community Survey (2013-2017)

The projected population of U.S. by age group and ethnicity in 2050, assuming no change in immigration

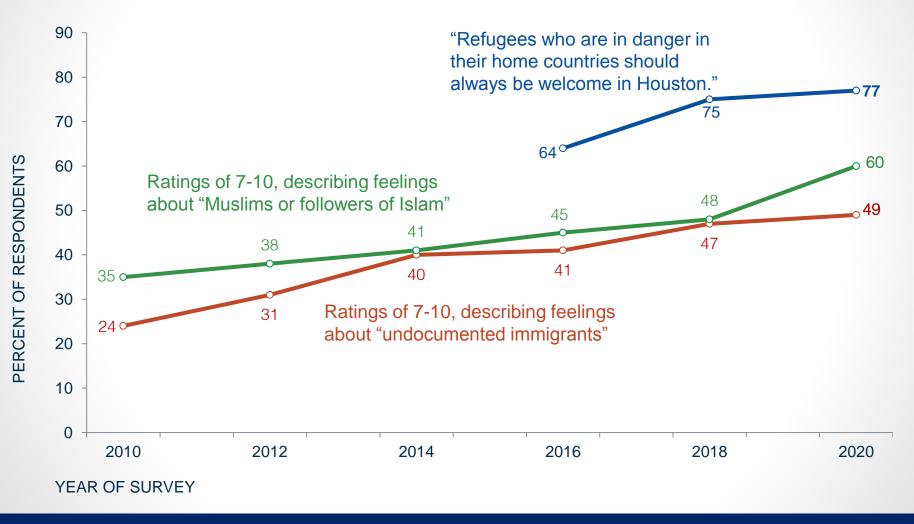


■ Non-Hispanic Whites ■ All others



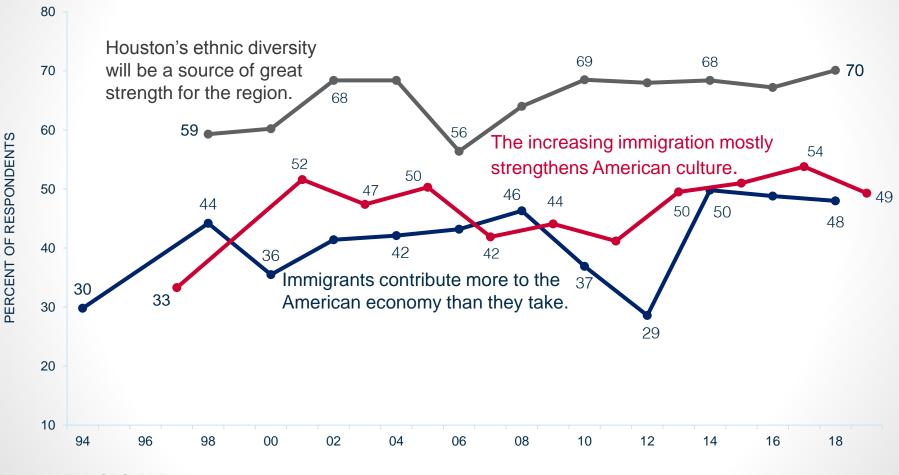
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2012 National Population Projections, Alternative Net International Migration Series (Constant Series). © Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research.

Favorable feelings toward immigrant communities (KHAS, 2010-2020)





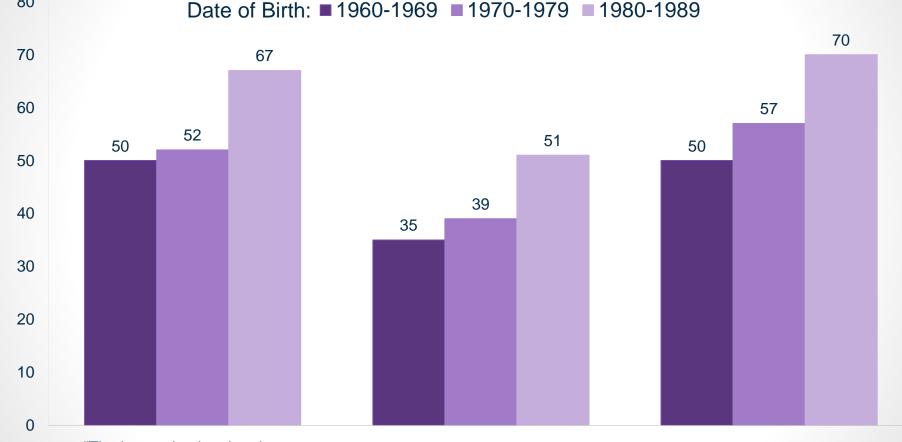
Attitudes toward immigrants among U.S.-born Anglos in Harris County (KHAS, 1994-2019)



YEAR OF SURVEY



Attitudes toward immigration among three cohorts of Harris County Anglos, all aged 25-35



"The increasing immigration into this country today mostly *strengthens* American culture." "Immigrants to the U.S. generally *contribute* more to the American economy than they take."

"The U.S. should admit more or the same number of legal immigrants in the next ten years."

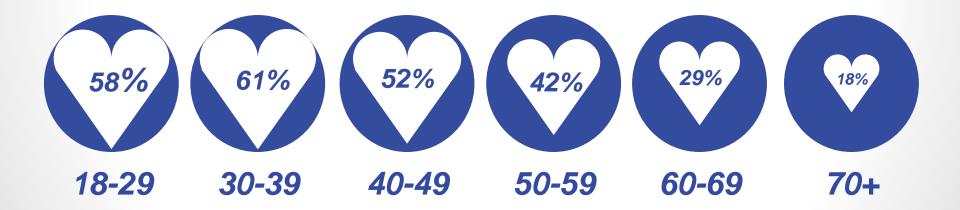


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Percent Agreeing

Source: Kinder Houston Area Surveys (1994-2017) © Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research Interethnic romantic relationships by age among Anglos (2007, 2011, 2014, 2016, 2018 combined)

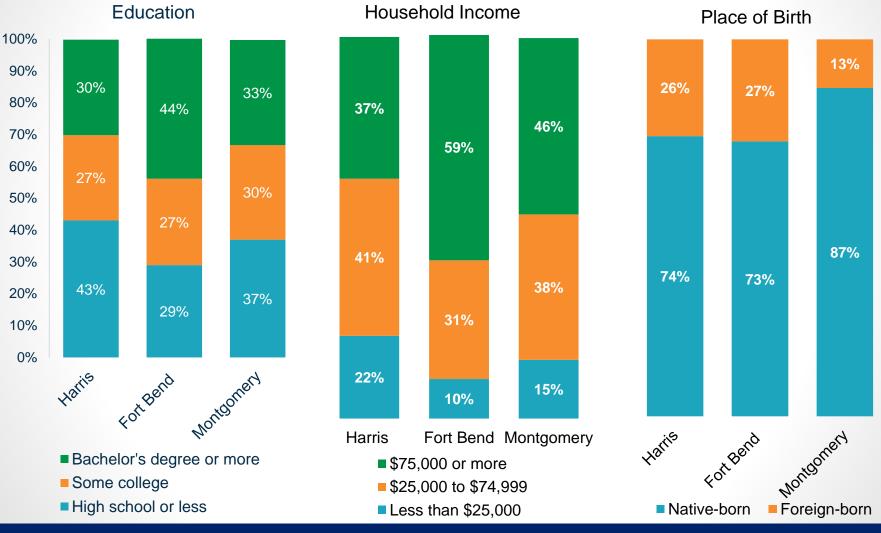
"Have you ever been in a romantic relationship with someone who was not Anglo?" (Percent saying, "Yes, I have":)





Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2007-2018) © Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research

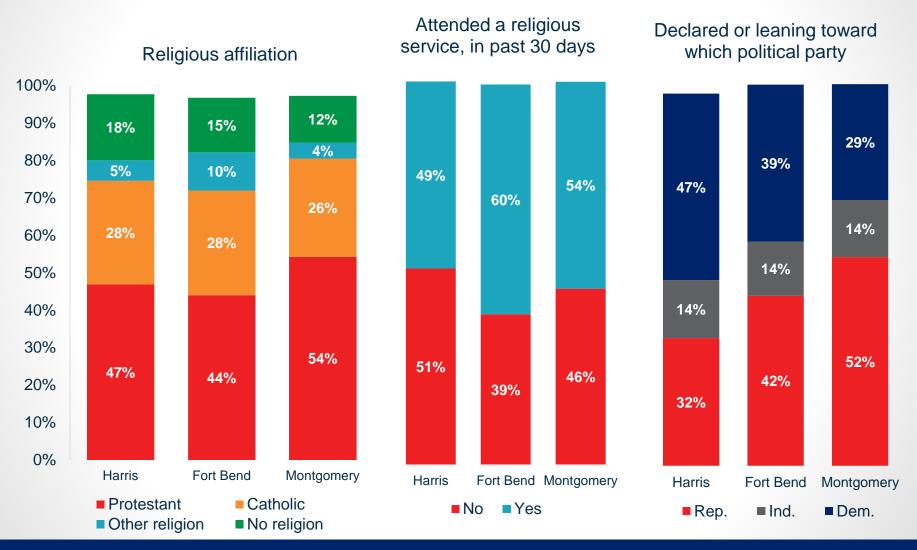
County differences in income, education, and the percent of foreign-born (KHAS, 2015-2018)





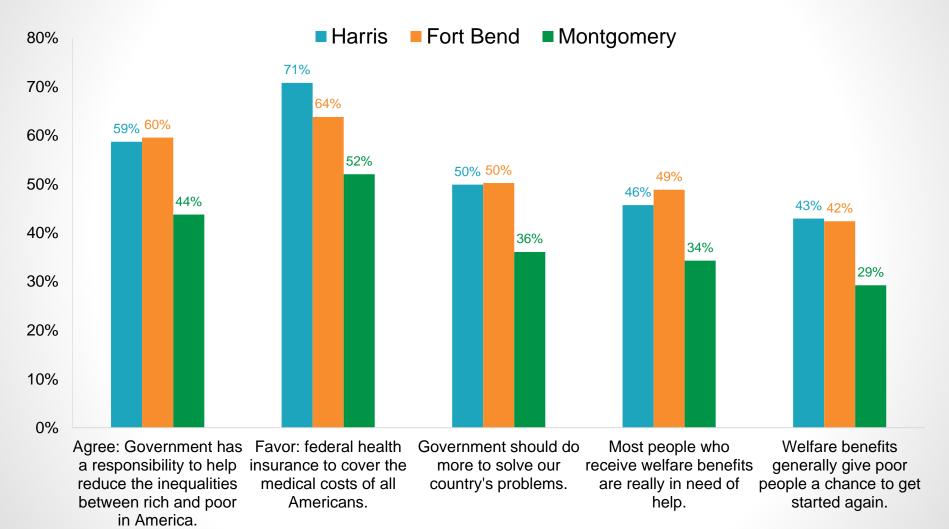
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 2012-16 5-year estimates. Educational attainment for 25 years and older.

County differences in religiosity and party affiliation (KHAS, 2015-2018)





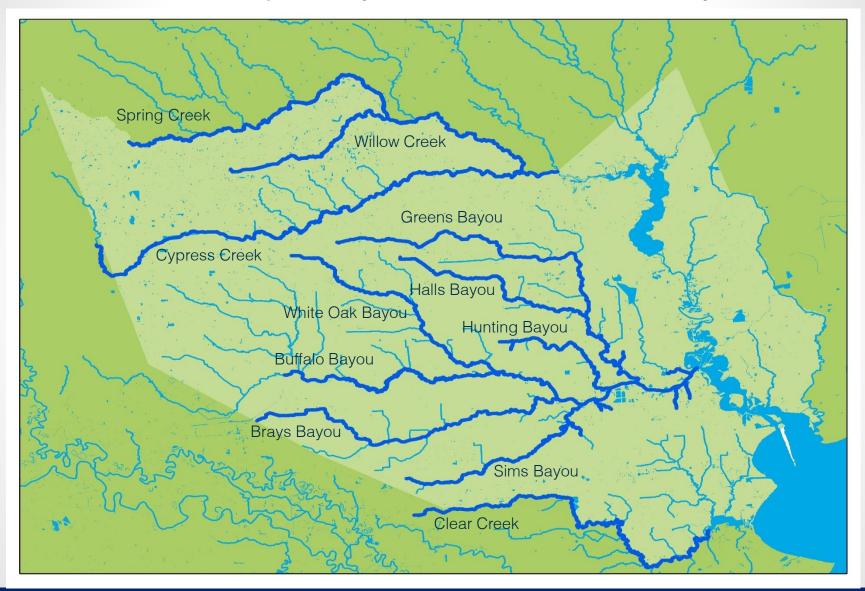
County differences in support for government programs to address the inequalities (2015-2018)





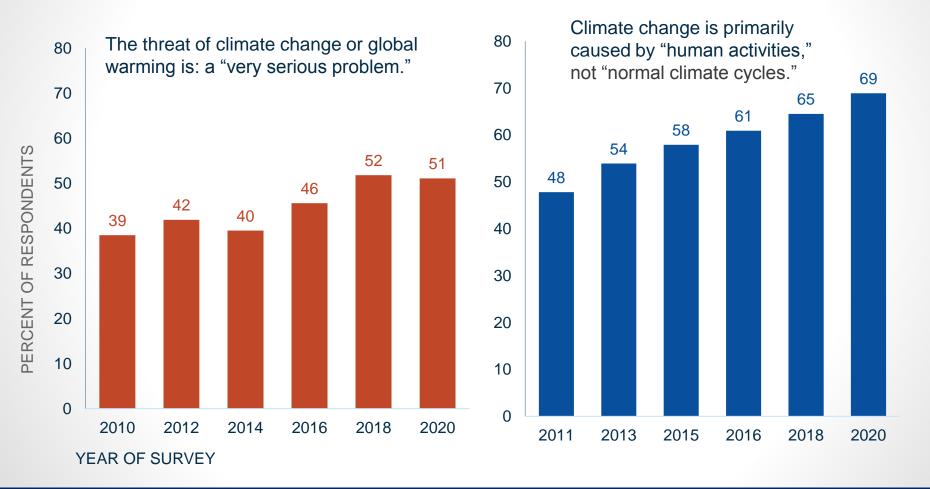


The eleven major bayous of Harris County



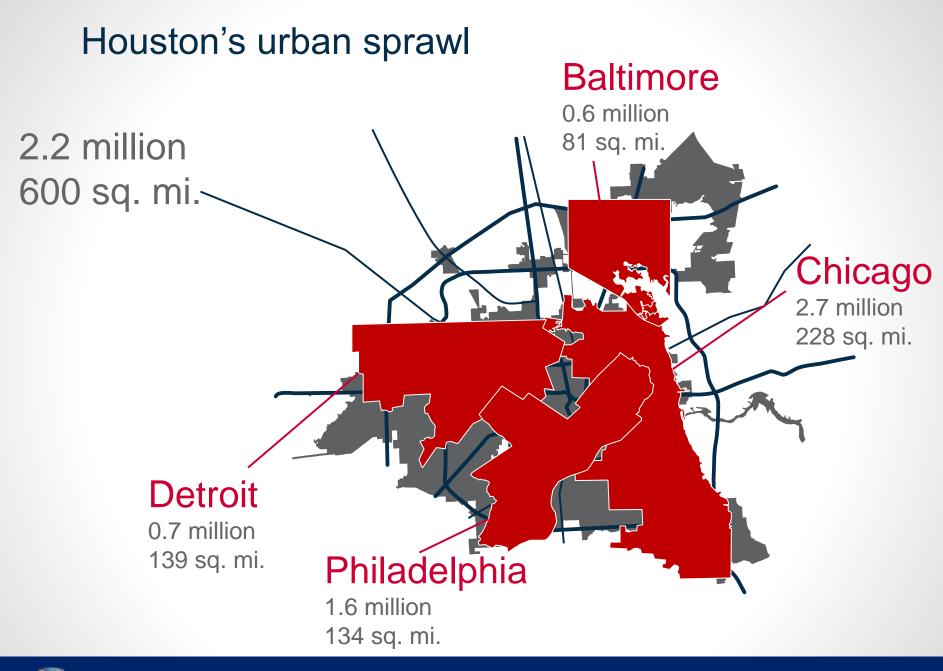


Concerns about climate change and the role of human activities (2010-2020)





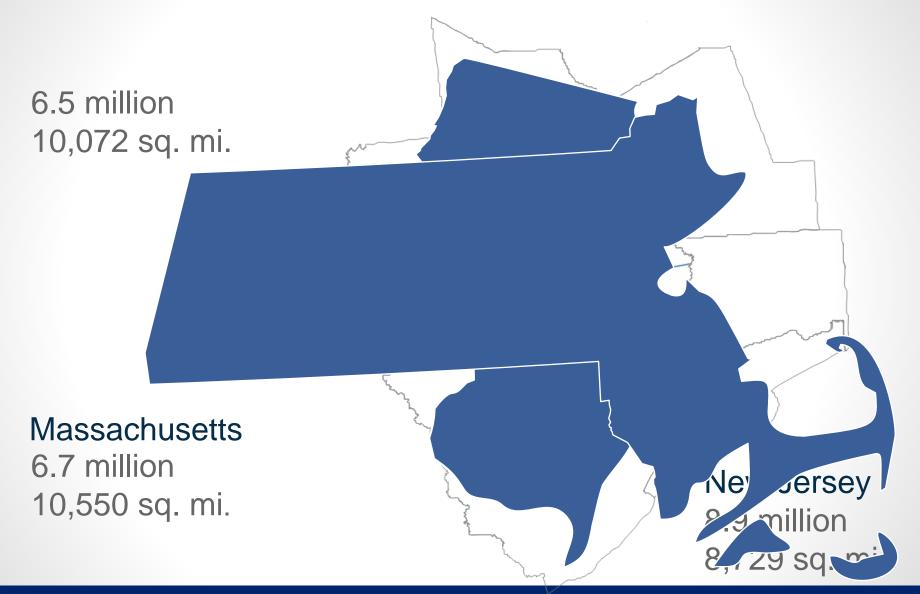
Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2010-2020)



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Source: U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey Five Year Estimates (2011-2015).

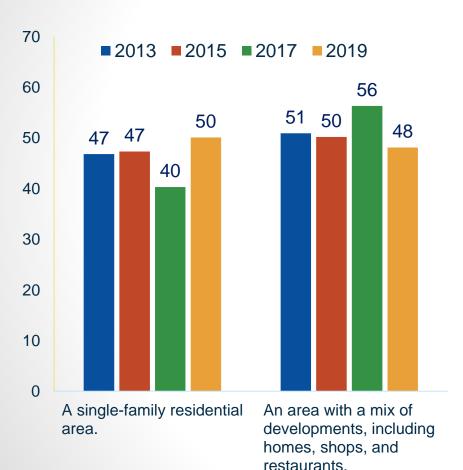
The nine-county Houston metropolitan area

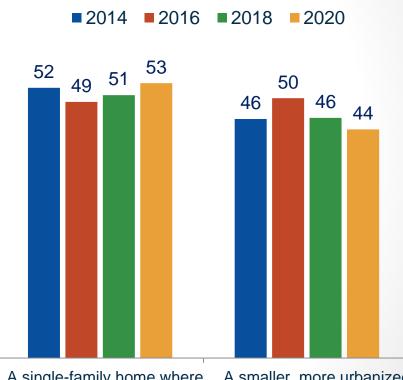




Source: U.S. Census Bureau © Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research

The preference for walkable urbanism among Harris County residents (2013-2020)



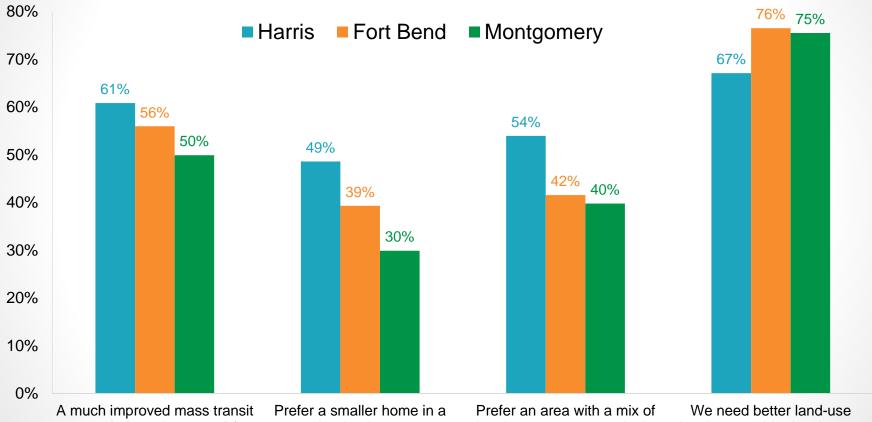


A single-family home where you would need to drive almost everywhere.

A smaller, more urbanized home within walking distance of shops and workplaces.



County differences in the perceived importance of transit, "walkability," and land-use planning (2015-18)



A much improved mass transit system is "very important" for the future success of Houston. Prefer a smaller home in a more urbanized area, over a larger home with the need to drive everywhere. Prefer an area with a mix of developments, over a single-family residential area.

We need better land-use planning to guide development in the Houston area.



Concluding Notes (1)

This research has documented significant changes over the years in area residents' responses to the major issues facing the region:

- The survey participants are calling for more investments to improve the public schools and to redress the rising inequalities.
- They are more in support of new initiatives to mitigate future storms and to develop more walkable neighborhoods.
- They are increasingly embracing Houston's diversity and feeling more comfortable with the region's continuing immigration.



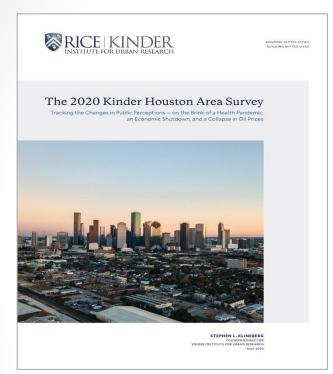
Concluding Notes (2)

- It remains to be seen whether Houston's business and civic leaders can build on these attitude changes to make the sustained commitments needed for prosperity in the new era of economic, demographic, and technological transformation.
- As the region copes with the "triple whammy" of daunting short-term challenges, it is good to be reminded of the way area residents have changed in their broader concerns and their support for the longer-term investments that will ultimately determine Houston's (and America's) future.

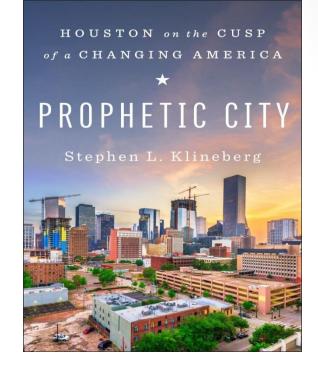
Stay tuned. Thank you very much!



For further information:



To download the 2020 report: kinder.rice.edu/ houstonsurvey2020



To purchase the new book: simonandschuster.com /books/Prophetic-City





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