### Texas Fact Sheet

**A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL**

In 2019, before the pandemic hit, 140 million Americans were living in poverty or just one emergency away from economic ruin: 60% of Black people (24 million), 64% of Hispanic/Latino people (38 million), 40% of Asian people (8 million), 60% of Indigenous and Native people (2 million) and 33% of white people (66 million).* These tens of millions of people live in every region, state and county in the country. Poverty was the fourth leading cause of death, claiming more lives than homicide, gun violence, diabetes or obesity. Long-term poverty was responsible for 295,000 deaths a year - or over 800 deaths a day.

The pandemic festered in these fissures, taking root in systemic racism, poverty, the denial of health care, ecological devastation, wealth inequality and rampant military spending. During the first two years, governments at all levels responded to the crisis by expanding access to health care, housing, water, food and utilities. These overdue changes proved that in the world’s richest country, we can ensure a dignified life for all. But these pandemic programs were temporary. When they ended abruptly, poverty and related interlocking injustices began to rise once again.

While millions of people remain without work, living wages, housing, clean water, food or health care, corporations and the wealthy are doing exceedingly well.

### Key Resources

- **Abortion Bans:** [https://translegislation.com/](https://translegislation.com/)
- **Voter Restrictions:** [https://tracker.votingrightslab.org/pending/search](https://tracker.votingrightslab.org/pending/search)
- **Immigration Detentions:** [https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/US.html](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/US.html)
- **Gun Violence Archive:** [https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/)
- **Prison Policy Initiative:** [https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/US.html](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/US.html)

### Poverty and Low Wages

- **Living Wage Calculator:** [https://livingwage.mit.edu/](https://livingwage.mit.edu/)
- **Hours of Work to Afford Housing:** [https://livingwage.mit.edu/](https://livingwage.mit.edu/)
- **Workers Earning Less than $15/Hour:** [https://www.newyorkfed.org/microeconomics/hhdc.html](https://www.newyorkfed.org/microeconomics/hhdc.html)
- **Living Wage Calculator:** [https://livingwage.mit.edu/](https://livingwage.mit.edu/)

### Health Care and the Pandemic

- **Living Wage Calculator:** [https://livingwage.mit.edu/](https://livingwage.mit.edu/)

### Militarism

- **Medicaid Coverage Gap:** [https://www.healthinsurance.org/medicaid/](https://www.healthinsurance.org/medicaid/)
- **Gun Violence Archive:** [https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/)
- **Mapping Police Violence:** [https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/](https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/)
- **Immigration Detentions:** [https://trac sqr.edu/interactivefactpdfs/immigration/quickfacts/](https://trac sqr.edu/interactivefactpdfs/immigration/quickfacts/)
- **Police Violence:** [https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/](https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/)
- **Prison Policy Initiative:** [https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/US.html](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/US.html)

### Democracy

- **Voter Restrictions:** [https://tracker.votingrightslab.org/pending/search](https://tracker.votingrightslab.org/pending/search)
- **Gun Violence Archive:** [https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/)
- **Mapping Police Violence:** [https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/](https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/)
- **Immigration Detentions:** [https://trac sqr.edu/interactivefactpdfs/immigration/quickfacts/](https://trac sqr.edu/interactivefactpdfs/immigration/quickfacts/)

### Poor People's Campaign Resources

- **The Souls of Poor Folks:** [Audiocast America](https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/the-souls-of-poor-folks-audit/)
- **Poor People’s Moral Agenda and Demands:** [https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/poor-peoples-moral-agenda/](https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/poor-peoples-moral-agenda/)
- **A Poor People’s Moral Budget:** [https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/poor-peoples-moral-budget/](https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/poor-peoples-moral-budget/)
- **A Poor People’s Pandemic Report:** [https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/pandemic-report/](https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/pandemic-report/)
- **Compilation of Fact Sheets:** [https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/factsheets/](https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/factsheets/)

For more information and resources, visit poorpeoplescampaign.org.
**IN TEXAS:**

**Poverty and Low-Wages:** Poverty is a policy choice, reflecting both low wages and high costs of living. These two conditions make it hard to meet basic needs and easy to fall into debt. In Texas:
- Between 2018-2020, there were 11,831,000 poor and low-income people, accounting for 41.1% of the population.**
- To meet their basic needs, a household with two adults and two children needs to earn over $23/hour. However, the current minimum wage is just $7.25/hour. At this wage, an individual must work 124 hours/week to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment.
- There are 5,692,294 people, or 39.8% of the workforce, earning less than $15/ hour. This includes 5,159,650 adults and 26.1% of Asian and Native workers, 48.3% of Black workers, 54.2% of Hispanic workers, 26.5% of white workers, 49.2% of working women and 60.3% of working women of color.
- Average household debt rose 9% in 2022 to an average of $54,290.
- Average student loan debt held by households was $5,330 at the end of 2022.

**Rolling Back on Basic Needs:**

**Relief policies temporarily lifted the load of poverty, but ended too soon, resulting in higher rates of economic, food and housing insecurity. In Texas:**
- In 2021, 6,600,000 children in 3,899,000 households received the expanded Child Tax Credit and 1,396,000 low-wage workers without children received the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit. The expansions contributed to a dramatic decline in poverty, but ended in 2021.
- In 2022, 3,440,700 people relied on expanded SNAP (food stamps) benefits to feed themselves and their families. However, in 2023, SNAP benefits were reduced by $90-$250/month, cutting them down to $6-$1,000/day. At least 1,337,451 people will be impacted by these cuts.
- At the beginning of 2022, more than one year after eviction protections were ended, 1,263,789 households reported being behind on their rent or housing payments.

**Health Care and the Pandemic:**

Across the country, approximately 1,000 people are still dying from Covid every week and millions of people lack access to health care. In Texas:
- During the most intense period of the pandemic, 5,202,500 people were uninsured.
- With the ending of continuous eligibility for Medicaid, 833,600 people are estimated to lose access to health care.
- Between 2019 and 2020, Texas experienced a 2.1 year decline in average life expectancy.
- Approximately 10.8 million workers, or 74% of the workforce in the state, do not have access to paid leave.

**Climate Crisis and Ecological Devastation:**

Extreme heat, storms and drought are becoming more common, with poor and low-income communities at greatest risk. In Texas:
- Over the past century, the state warmed 0.8 degrees Celsius. As this trend continues, food production, spread of diseases, and health will all be adversely impacted.
- Precipitation patterns have also changed, with increased risks of flooding, drought and water scarcity.
- The percentage of poor and low-income household income that goes towards energy costs is 6 times greater than what an average income household spends on energy.
- The percentage of poor and low-income household income that goes towards water costs is 5 times greater than what an average income household spends on water.

**Democracy:**

Across the nation, a surge of attacks on voting rights and on the rights of women and LGBTQ+ people are denying basic rights to millions of people and constraining our ability to participate in democracy. Poor and low-income people can change this:
- In 2021, 4,613 people were incarcerated. As of April 2023, 9,973 immigrants are in detention.
- From Oct 2002-June 2022, over 2,434,899 people were deported from Texas.

There is an abundance of wealth and resources to meet our basic needs and ensure we all survive and thrive.

- A proposed federal tax on the annual increase in billionaires’ wealth would generate an estimated $557 billion over 10 years. Texas has 71 billionaires with combined wealth of $584 billion. The state has zero personal income tax.
- In Texas, state taxpayer dollars are being siphoned towards militarism: state taxpayer dollars for deportations and border control could instead subsidize more than 349,725 public housing units. Taxpayer dollars going to nuclear weapons could provide health insurance for 836,118 children. Taxpayer dollars going to the biggest weapons contractor, Lockheed Martin, could hire more than 43,689 elementary school teachers.
- More than $746.74 million from Texas taxpayers that is going to federal prisons could instead power more than 1.68 million households with solar energy.
- Texas has only spent $9 billion of the $15.8 billion it was allocated under the American Rescue Plan, which could be used for housing, health care and other pressing needs. If the state and local governments do not allocate these resources by December 2024, the remaining funds will be lost.

**Military Spending:** Government spending that prioritizes war, mass incarceration, excessive policing, and anti-immigrant forces is leading to greater violence, fear and criminalization of the poor. In Texas:
- In 2023, taxpayers will contribute $79.25 billion to Pentagon spending, $2.25 billion to immigration enforcement and $2.72 billion to nuclear weapons.
- Over the past 30 years, $135 million in military equipment (tanks, drones, combat rifles and ammunition) has been transferred from the Pentagon to state and local governments.
- Between 2001-2020, 9,551 veterans committed suicide.
- In 2021, 4,613 people were killed by gun violence.
- There are 200,004 people incarcerated. As of April 2023, 9,973 immigrants are in detention.
- From Oct 2002-June 2022, over 2,434,899 people were deported from Texas.

**During the pandemic,**
- Eviction moratoria and moratoria on utility disconnections saved lives. If enacted earlier, they could have reduced Covid deaths by 40% and 15%, respectively, across the nation.
- Universal health care could have saved 330,000 lives.
- Enacting Medicare for All would save $450 billion in health care costs and 68,000 lives every year.
- Ending mass incarceration could raise average US life expectancy by five years.
- Providing permanent safe housing delivers lifelong benefits to children and families at an national average cost of $12,860 per person per year, far less than the cost of crisis services for those suffering chronic homelessness.
- Paid Family and Medical Leave improves employment, especially among women, increases child well-being and protects against poverty when health challenges arise.
- Increasing resources for the poor stimulates the economy much more than making the rich even richer, because the poor need to spend nearly everything they earn. Every dollar going to a low-wage worker adds $1.50-$1.80 in economic activity.
- Enacting paid family leave could provide health insurance for 836,118 children. Taxpayer dollars going to the biggest weapons contractor, Lockheed Martin, could hire more than 43,689 elementary school teachers.
- More than $746.74 million from Texas taxpayers that is going to federal prisons could instead power more than 1.68 million households with solar energy.

**Every dollar invested in social services yields 5 times as many returns to the US economy compared to military spending.** Enacting Medicare for All will save $1.50-$1.80 in economic activity and improve the lives of at least 2.38 million families nationwide. Every dollar invested in providing families clean water and proper sanitation yields 5 times as many returns to the US economy.

**Freedom from debt would allow more people to start small businesses and move around the country to take better jobs, strengthening our economy and workforce.**

**Ending mass incarceration could raise average US life expectancy by five years.**

**Every dollar spent on food stamps generates $1.50-$1.80 in economic activity.**

**The expanded Child Tax Credit was estimated to have a greater impact on the economy than military spending, without negative impacts on employment.**

**Overdue improvements to TANF could triple its reach and improve the lives of at least 2.38 million families nationwide.**

**Every dollar invested in providing families clean water and proper sanitation yields 5 times as many returns to the US economy.**

**Freedom from debt would allow more people to start small businesses and move around the country to take better jobs, strengthening our economy and workforce.**