



EARLY LEARNING ALLIANCE RACIAL EQUITY STATEMENT

Working to ensure that children before birth through age 5 have the foundation they need to succeed in school and in life.



ADVOCATES FOR
equity + justice



Vastly different experiences and outcomes of young children based on their race, ethnicity, or language exist within all sectors of the early childhood system. National and local data highlight racial disparities in health outcomes, access to critical resources, and academic achievement. **ELA cannot accomplish its mission without acknowledging the existence of these disparities and advocating for justice for historically marginalized people within the early childhood system.** Inequitable systems, policies, practices, and social conditions affecting children, their families, and the professionals who serve them must be identified and eliminated.

AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY

We are anti-racist and will work together to achieve justice and equity for all our children. We acknowledge that there are children 0-5 and their families who have experienced racism and have been negatively impacted due to their race, ethnicity, or language. Social and institutional power corrupted by racial prejudice creates inequities in our system. Although those involved in maintaining this system may not intend negative impacts, disparate outcomes occur as a consequence. **Thus, systemic racism must be dismantled in order for every child, family, and early childhood professional to receive the most effective support and services needed.**



Conversations about race and ethnicity require courage, respect, and empathy.

We believe that bias can be conscious or unconscious, implicit or explicit. Intentional dialogue and active listening are necessary to question one's assumptions and beliefs, as we move from the historical implications of racial inequities toward **equitable policies and practices that bring healing.**

THE EARLY LEARNING ALLIANCE IS COMMITTED TO

EXAMINING AND DISMANTLING

bias, inequities, and disparities in the Alliance's work and the early learning system that perpetuate advantages for some racial ethnic groups while impeding the development of other racial ethnic groups.

DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING

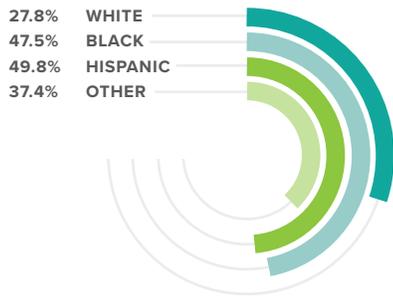
equitable early learning policies, systems, strategies, budgets, programs, and best practices in order to dismantle racial, ethnic, and linguistic oppression, and to promote healing for all.



PRENATAL CARE

(Tarrant County)

Percent of births to women who received no prenatal care, or care after the first trimester

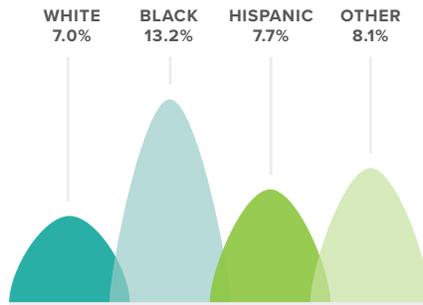


Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, 2017 findings

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

(Tarrant County)

Percent of infants born weighing under 5.5 pounds (2,500 grams), by race/ethnicity of mother



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, 2017 findings



Birth weight is an important indicator of an infant's health. Babies born at a low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds) have a high probability of experiencing developmental problems and short- and long-term disabilities.

INFANT MORTALITY

In 2016, Tarrant County had the second highest infant mortality rate among Texas counties with at least 10,000 live births.



Data trends reported by the Tarrant County Health Department show consistently higher rates of infant mortality over time for Non-Hispanic Blacks than all other race/ethnicities groups.

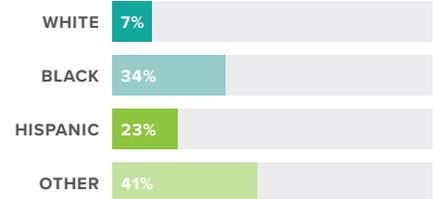
Source: Tarrant County Public Health, 2016 findings

FOOD INSECURITY

One in 4 Texas children experiences hunger.



Percent of Texas children who sometimes or often did not have enough to eat (Nov-Dec 2020):



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, 2020 findings

“Children who don't get enough to eat — especially during their first three years — begin life at a serious disadvantage. When they're hungry, children are more likely to be hospitalized, and they face higher risks of health conditions like anemia and asthma. As they grow up, kids struggling to eat are more likely to have problems in school and other social situations.”

Source: Feeding Texas, 2020 findings

INFANT MORTALITY RATES (# per 1,000 live births)

	BLACK	HISPANIC	WHITE
2011	14.3	7.9	5.4
2013	12.76	8.05	4.15
2015	9.59	6.6	4.34

Source: Tarrant County Public Health, 2016 findings

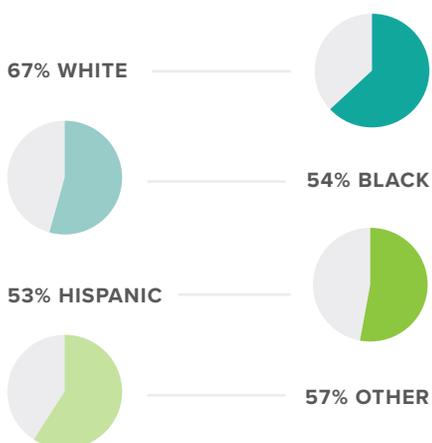
ACCESS TO CHILD CARE

“The pandemic disproportionately worsened access to quality child care for families and communities of color. Families of color experienced child care disruptions at nearly twice the rate of their white counterparts, and child care centers in these communities were overall twice as likely to have extended or permanent closures controlling for all other factors.”

Source: Children at Risk, 2021 findings

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

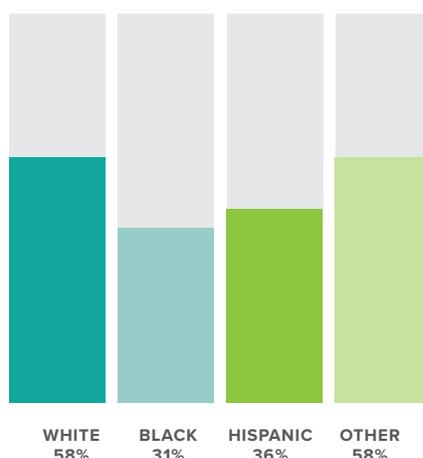
Percent of all children in Tarrant County rated as kindergarten ready



Source: Texas Education Agency, 2019 findings

3RD GRADE READING ON LEVEL

Percent of all 3rd-grade children in Tarrant County on grade level in reading



Source: Texas Education Agency, 2019 findings

OVERALL CHILD WELL-BEING

“Data suggest that we as a nation fail to provide children of color with the opportunities and support they need to thrive. States are failing to dismantle barriers that African American, American Indian and Latino children especially encounter. As a result, nearly all index measures show that children experience disparate outcomes in spite of their potential.”

Source: Texas Education Agency, 2019 findings