

ASSIGNMENT 3: Mapping Census Data

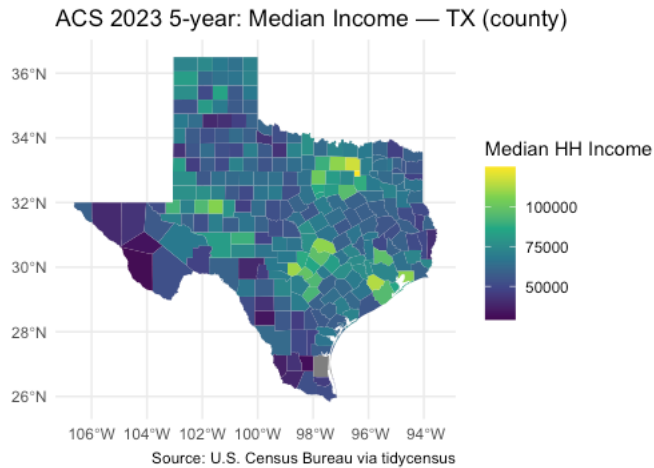


Figure 1: Choropleth map of median household income by county in Texas, ACS 2023 (5-year estimates)

The choropleth map shows strong geographic variation in median household income across Texas counties. Higher incomes cluster around major metropolitan regions such as Houston, Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio, while many rural areas, especially in West Texas and along the border, report substantially lower incomes. The visualization highlights the spatial concentration of economic advantage in urban centers compared to persistent income disparities in less populated counties.

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Table 1: Top 10 Counties in Texas by Median Household Income, ACS (5-year estimates)

Rank	County	Estimate Income (\$)	Margin of Error (\$)
1	Harris	749481	15891
2	Dallas	359950	10475
3	Bexar	294002	8323
4	Hidalgo	237121	8739
5	Tarrant	229884	7849
6	El Paso	160998	7148
7	Travis	140926	6636
8	Cameron	102583	4345
9	Collin	69846	4614
10	Denton	65649	4233

Note: Estimates are from the 2023 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates.

The highest-income counties include Harris, Dallas, Bexar, Tarrant, and Travis, reflecting the economic strength of Texas's largest metropolitan areas. These counties benefit from diverse economies, large populations, and employment opportunities that support higher household incomes. The estimates are relatively precise, with moderate margins of error.

Table 1: Top 10 Counties in Texas by Median Household Income, ACS (5-year estimates)

Rank	County	Estimate Income (\$)	Margin of Error (\$)
1	Kenedy	3	5
2	Loving	5	7
3	King	29	26
4	Borden	35	28
5	Sterling	37	25
6	Roberts	50	35
7	Kent	56	32
8	McMullen	57	47
9	Terrell	70	46
10	Glasscock	91	67

Note: Estimates are from the 2023 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates.

At the other end, counties such as Kenedy, Loving, and King show the lowest median incomes in the state. Many of these counties are sparsely populated, which explains both the very low-income figures and the relatively large margins of error. The data highlight the economic vulnerability of rural Texas, where limited labor markets and small sample sizes constrain reliable measurement.

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Conclusion

Taken together, the map and tables underscore the sharp income inequality across Texas counties. Metropolitan areas consistently report the highest incomes, while rural counties remain at the bottom, with wide confidence intervals that reflect small populations. These results demonstrate how geography and population density shape economic outcomes, pointing to persistent divides between urban prosperity and rural disadvantage.