

# TEXANS' VIEWS ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Findings from the Episcopal Health Foundation  
Texas Health Tracking Survey

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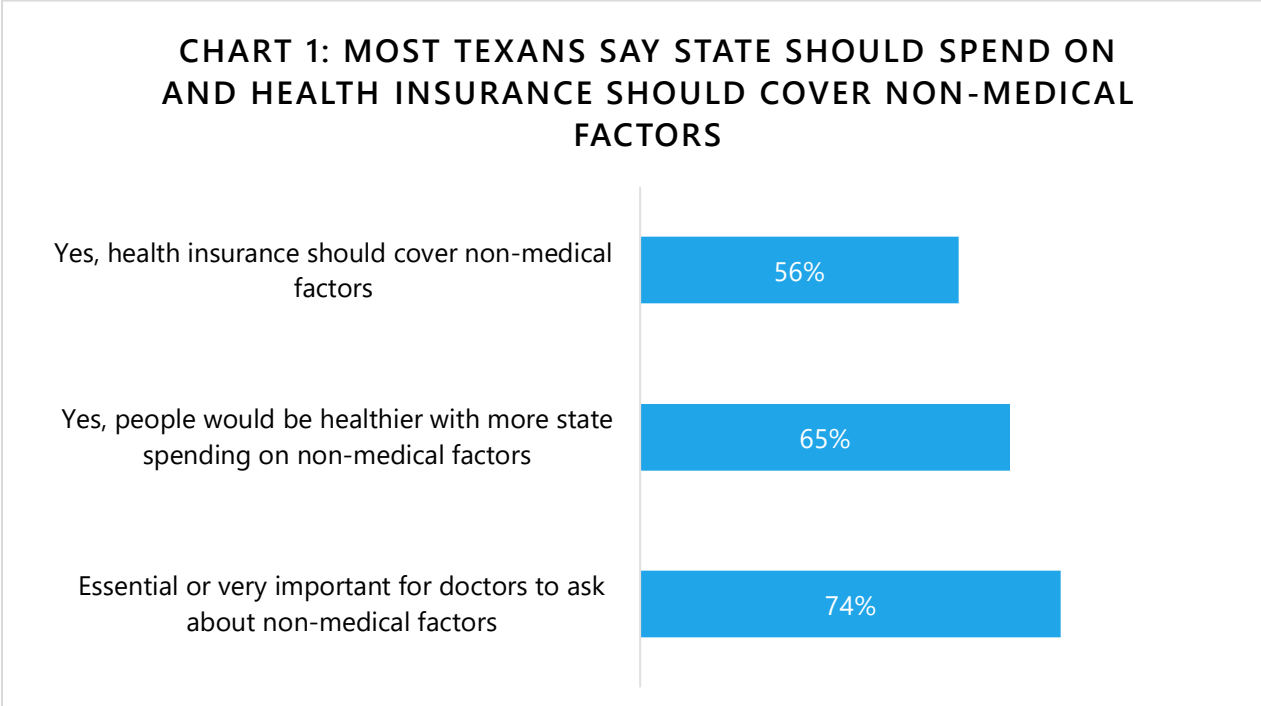
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# STATE SPENDING ON NON-MEDICAL FACTORS

Most Texans recognize the need to address the non-medical factors that might affect someone’s health such as access to clean drinking water, healthy affordable food, safe housing, air pollution, quality education, or crime and public safety. These are often referred to as the social determinants of health. Nearly two-thirds of Texans say people would be healthier if the state spent more money on these non-medical factors (65%) (Chart 1). The majority of residents also see the importance of health insurance covering non-medical factors that may affect people’s health (56%). Additionally, nearly three-quarters of Texans say it is essential (39%) or very important (36%) for doctors to ask their patients about non-medical factors that might affect their health.

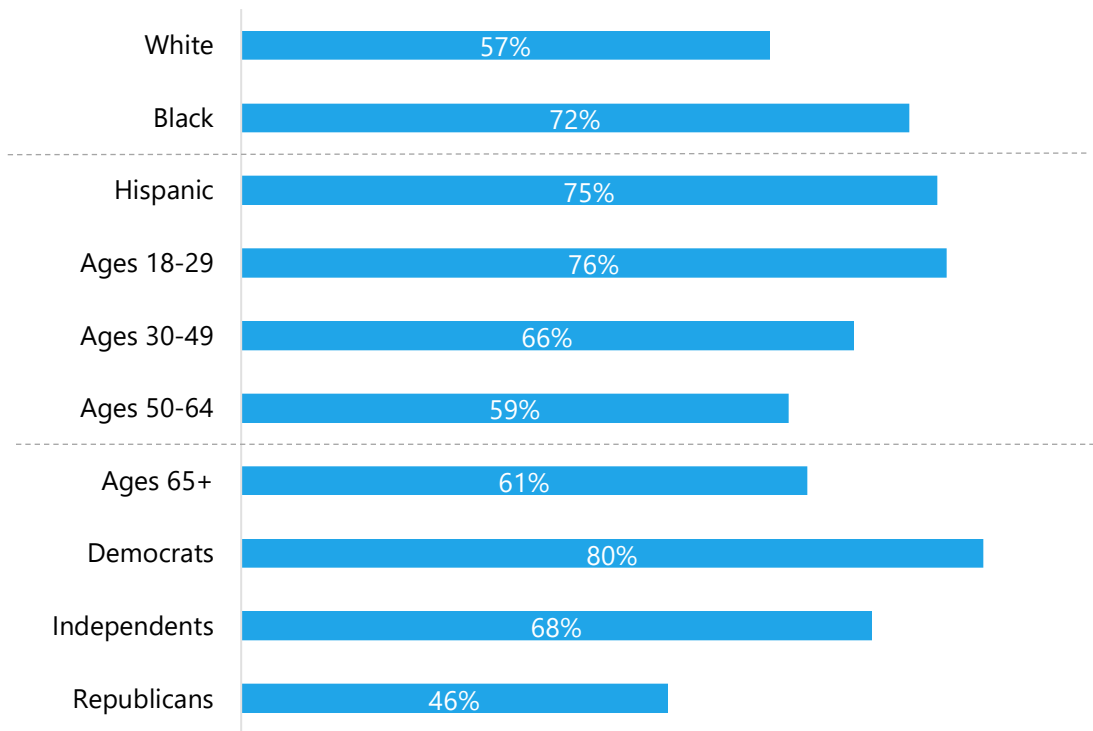


Black (72%) and Hispanic (75%) Texans are more likely to think that people would be healthier if the state spent more on non-medical factors compared to White Texans (57%). Those under age 30 are also more likely to think people would be healthier if the state spent more on non-medical factors (76%).

Democrats are more likely to agree that people would be healthier with state spending on non-medical factors (80%) than Independents (68%) and Republicans (46%).

## CHART 2: SUPPORT FOR SPENDING ON NON-MEDICAL FACTORS HIGHEST AMONG YOUNGER AND NON-WHITE TEXANS AS WELL AS DEMOCRATS

Percent who say people would be healthier with state spending on non-medical factors



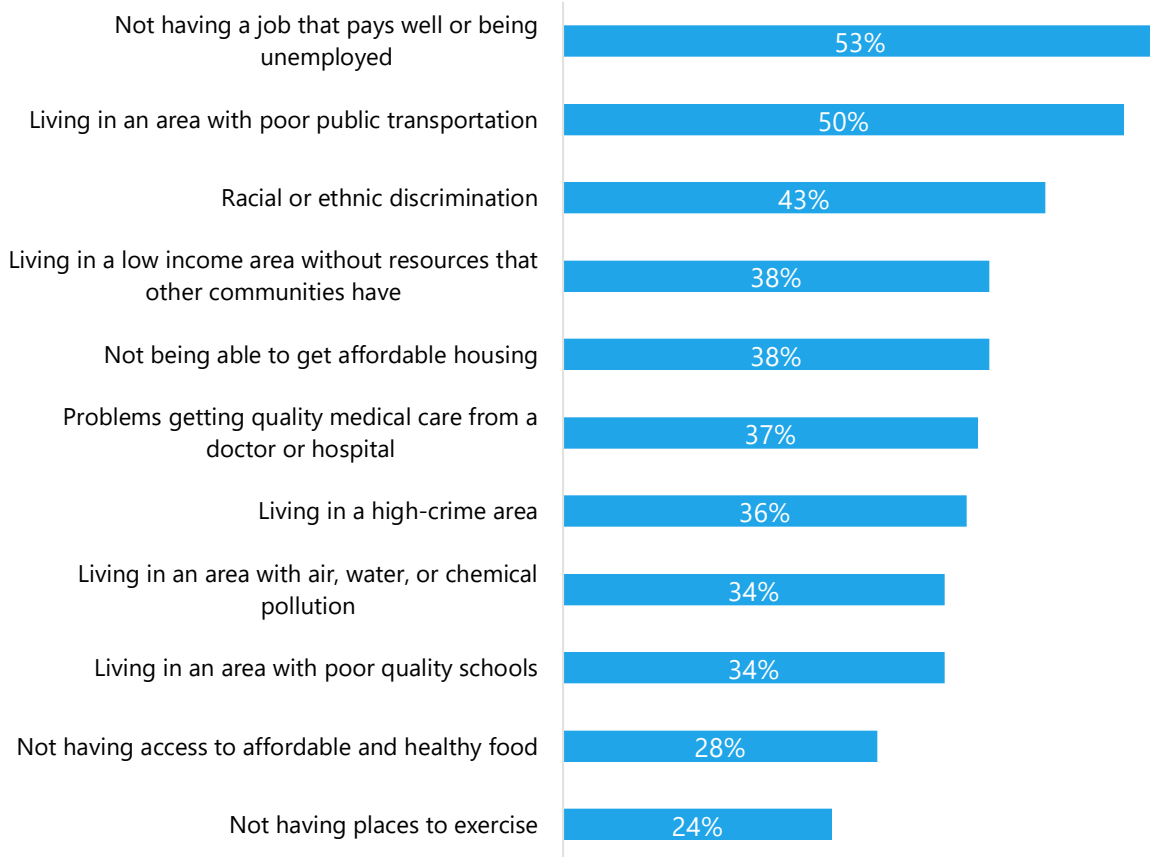
## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH NON-MEDICAL FACTORS

Many Texans also have personal experiences with non-medical factors that may affect their health. More than half have had a job that does not pay well or experienced unemployment (53%). Half have also lived in an area with poor public transportation (50%). About four in ten have also experienced racial or ethnic discrimination (43%), not been able to get affordable housing (38%) lived in an area without the same resources as other communities (38%), or had problems getting quality medical care (37%). Finally, about one quarter have not had access to affordable and healthy food as an adult (28%) or not had a place to exercise (24%) (Chart 3).

### CHART 3: MOST TEXANS HAVE EXPERIENCED A NON-MEDICAL FACTOR THAT MAY AFFECT THEIR HEALTH

Q: For each of the following, please tell me whether or not you have experienced this problem as an adult?

#### PERCENT SAYING YES



## METHODOLOGY

SSRS conducted the *2021 Texas Health Tracking Survey* on behalf of Episcopal Health Foundation (EHF) from October 20 through November 18, 2021. The goal of this survey was to understand the perspectives and experiences of Texas adults regarding their health care and health care policies in the state. SSRS interviewed a representative sample of 1,203 Texas adults (age 18 or older), reached via landline (n=352) and cell phone (n=851; including n= 705 who could not be reaching via landline) random digit dialing (RDD). Interviews were conducted by live professional telephone interviewers in English or Spanish based on the respondent's language preference.

Weighting is generally used in survey analysis to compensate for sample designs and patterns of non-response that might bias results. The survey data are weighted to balance the sample demographics to match estimates for the Texas adult population. The margin of sampling error for this study is +/- 3.5 percentage points for results based on the total sample.

## ABOUT EHF

[Episcopal Health Foundation \(EHF\)](#) is committed to transforming the health of our communities by going beyond the doctor's office. By providing millions of dollars in grants, working with congregations and community partners, and providing important research, we're supporting solutions that address the underlying causes of poor health in Texas. EHF was established in 2013, is based in Houston, and has more than \$1.2 billion in estimated assets. **#HealthNotJustHealthCare**

## ABOUT SSRS

SSRS is a full-service market and survey research firm managed by a core of dedicated professionals with advanced degrees in the social sciences. Service offerings include the Omnibus Survey, Probability Panel and other Online Solutions as well as custom research programs – all driven by a central commitment to methodological rigor. The SSRS team is renowned for its multimodal approach, as well as its sophisticated and proprietary sample designs. Typical projects for the company include complex strategic, tactical and public opinion initiatives in the U.S. and in more than 40 countries worldwide. SSRS is research, refined. Visit [www.ssrs.com](http://www.ssrs.com) for more information.