



LA FE POLICY RESEARCH
AND EDUCATION CENTER



DATA BRIEF: LATINO IMPROVEMENT PROFILES ACROSS TEXAS' ECONOMIC REGIONS BETWEEN 2007-2011 AND 2015-2019

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REGIONAL *BIENESTAR** PROGRESS SUMMARY

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission Hearing held in San Antonio in 1968, and the 1997 publication “The New Texas Challenge: Population Change and the Future of Texas” led by Steve H. Murdock are entangled. The Hearing presented stark evidence of discriminatory human and policy injustice against Mexican Americans, and Murdock’s team demonstrate the ongoing consequences and required policy attention to change the generational impacts of inequalities that persist. His updated reports of 2003 and 2014; reinforce the absence of equitable human capital investment policies for Latino socio-economic improvements and the Texas economy.

The Texas Comptroller identifies 12 distinct economic regions, each comprising multiple counties, composite geographic and socio-economic characteristics, and contributing to the state’s economy. The following is a regional progress summary of Latino *Bienestar* indicators (see slides) between the periods 2007- 2011 and 2015-2019. While broad progress is noted, more *bienestar* indicators and detailed analyses are necessary against baselines of population growth and indicator conditions over time. Also, comparisons across racial and ethnic groups are a critically important prerequisite for developing metrics that can help demonstrate whether improvements and change are substantive.

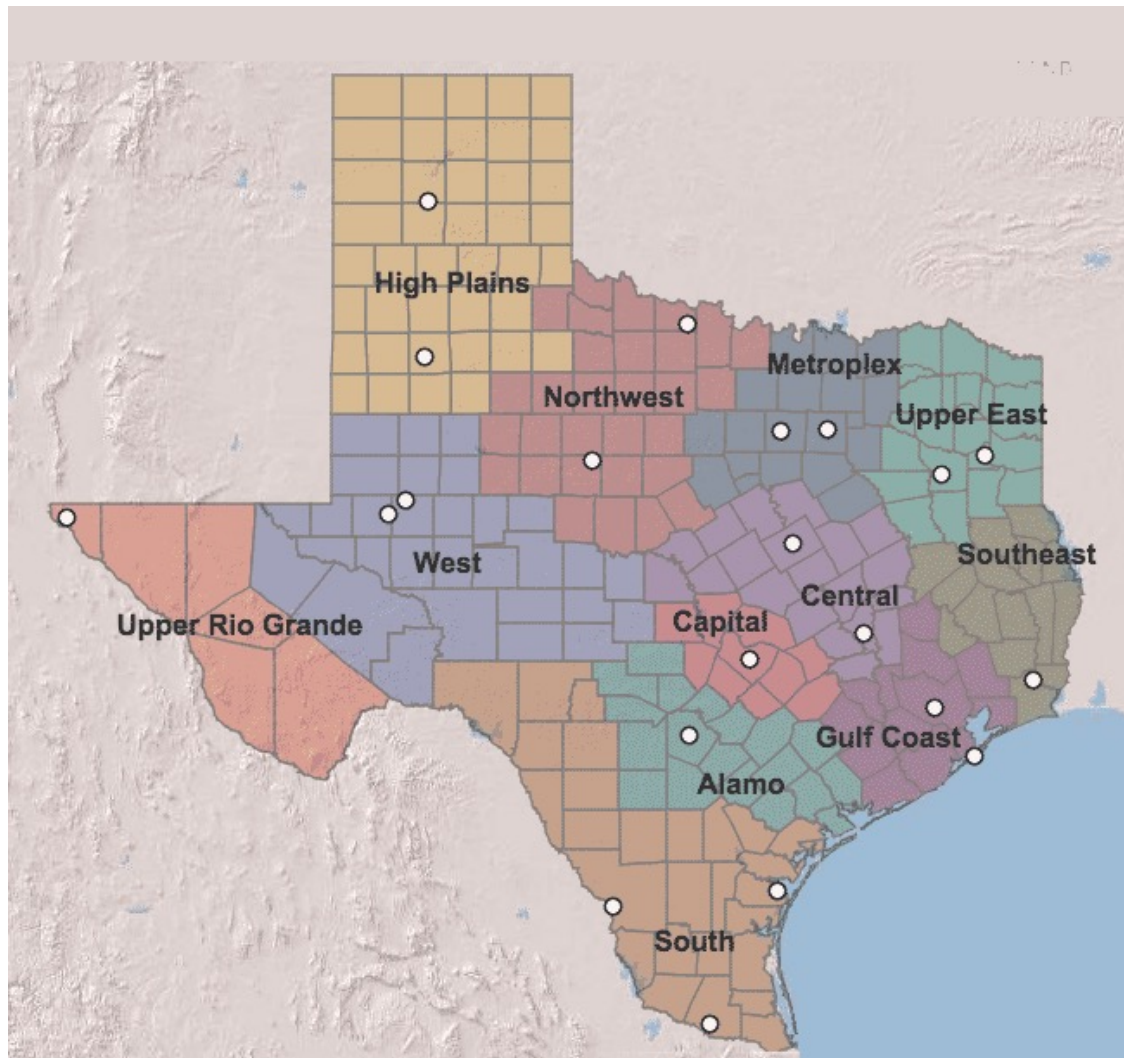
- ❑ The Latino population represents 39% (11,446,898) of the state’s total population. Numerically, the largest concentration (2,666,438) live in the Gulf Coast region, while South Texas has the largest within-region percentage (85%).
- ❑ Sixty-one percent of the state’s Latino population lives in the Gulf Coast, Metroplex, and South Texas regions.
- ❑ All 12 regions experienced Latino population growth. The West Texas and High Plains experienced the highest growth of 9% and 4.8% respectively.

**Bienestar* is defined as a perceived quality of life status among individuals, families, and communities affected by social, environmental, and systemic factors. It also embodies social justice concerns given the Latino experience with institutionalized racism and harmful public policies.

REGIONAL *BIENESTAR* PROGRESS SUMMARY

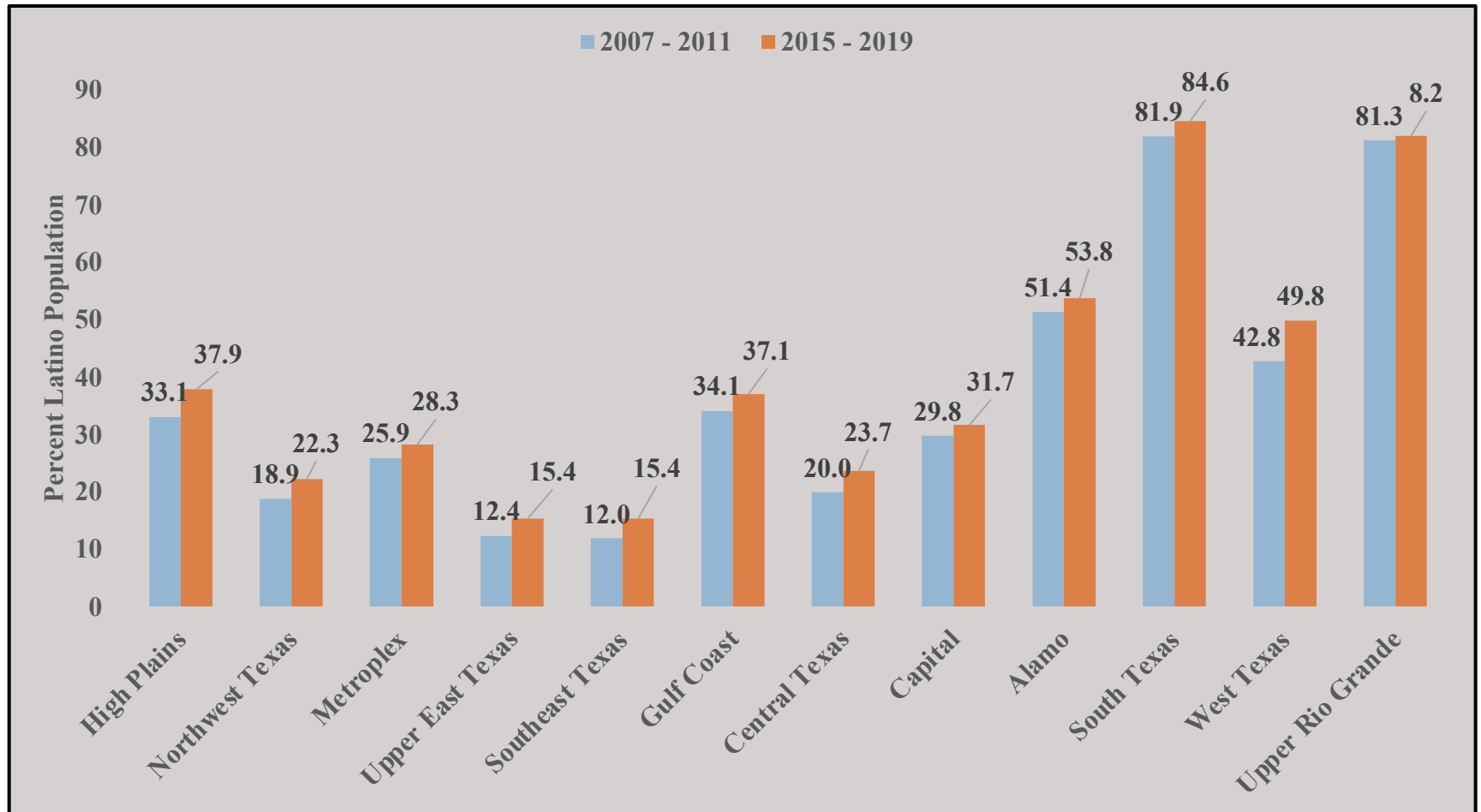
- ❑ **The percentage of Latinos who are foreign-born has decreased across all 12 regions. The Gulf Coast region retains the highest rate of foreign-born Latinos at 37.7%, and the Alamo region has the lowest rate at 15.3%.**
- ❑ **In eight regions, over 40% of all children are Latino: ranging from 43% in the Capital region to 85% in South Texas. Concurrently, the percentage of Latinos in the work productive years, ages 18-64, ranges from 32% in the Capital region to 74% in the Upper Rio Grande region.**
- ❑ **The percentage of Latinos with a BA or higher education degree increased across all 12 economic regions. The Capital region had the highest total increase of 7.1 with the lowest increase of .7% in the Upper East Texas region.**
- ❑ **All 12 regions experience an increase in Latino workers in management, business, science, and arts occupations. The Capital region had the highest total increase of 6.4% and the South Texas region with the lowest increase of 1.7%.**
- ❑ **All 12 regions experience a similar percentage increase of approximately 14% in median family income. The South Texas region had the lowest Latino median family income of \$37,994 compared to the Capital region's highest of \$51,041.**
- ❑ **The percentage of Latino homeownership decreased slightly among 6 of the 12 economic regions. Six regions experience slight increases, with Upper East Texas experiencing the largest total increase of 6.9%.**
- ❑ **All 12 regions experience a rate reduction of Latino families in poverty. The South Texas region retains the highest poverty rate at 30.2%, with the Capital region having the lowest at 13.6%.**
- ❑ **All 12 regions experience an increase in voting age population, ranging from the lowest increase of 2.9% in the Southeast Texas region to the highest of 8.5% in the West Texas region.**

TEXAS' 12 ECONOMIC REGIONS

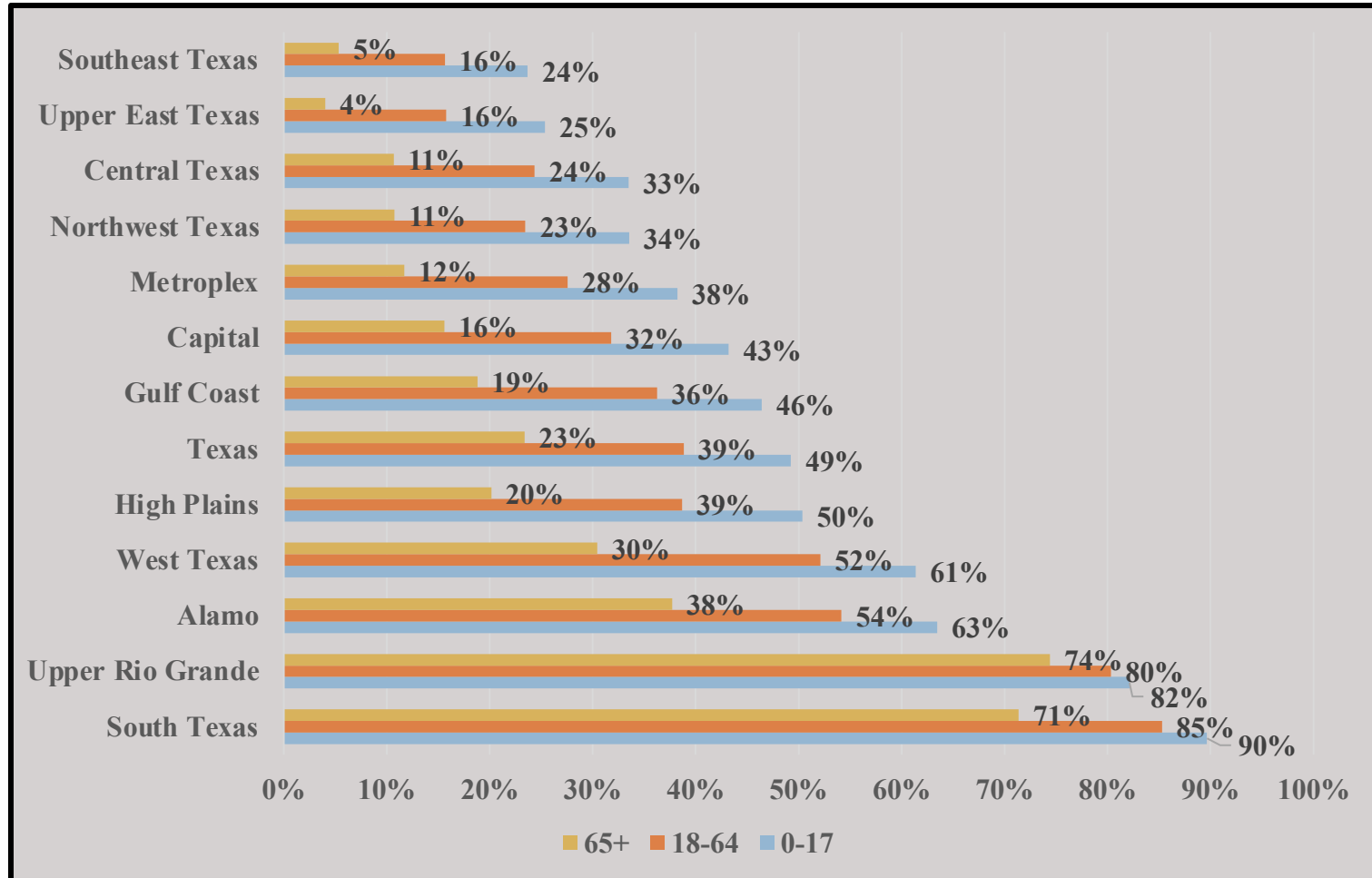


Source: Texas Comptroller

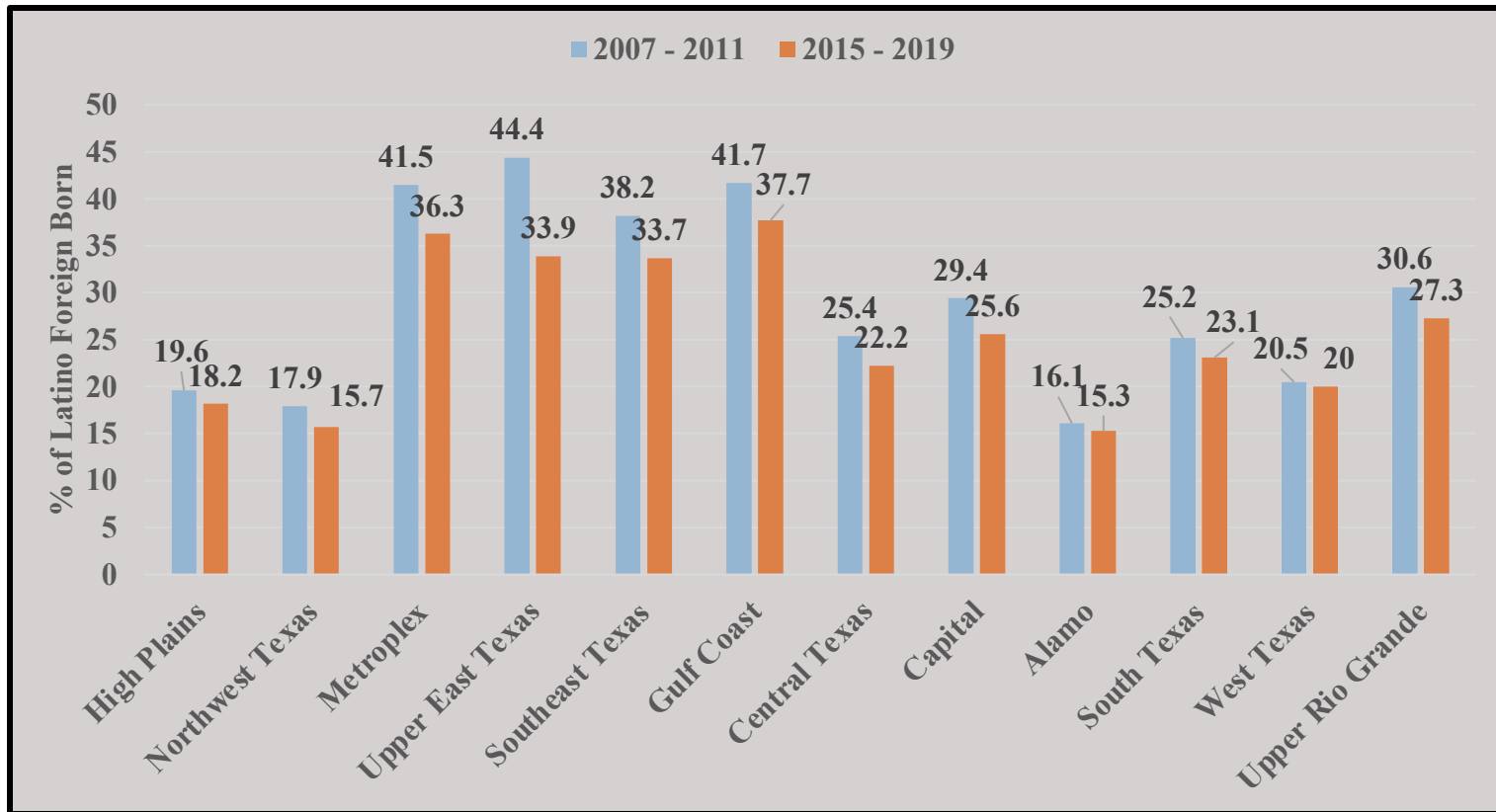
PERCENT OF THE LATINO POPULATION



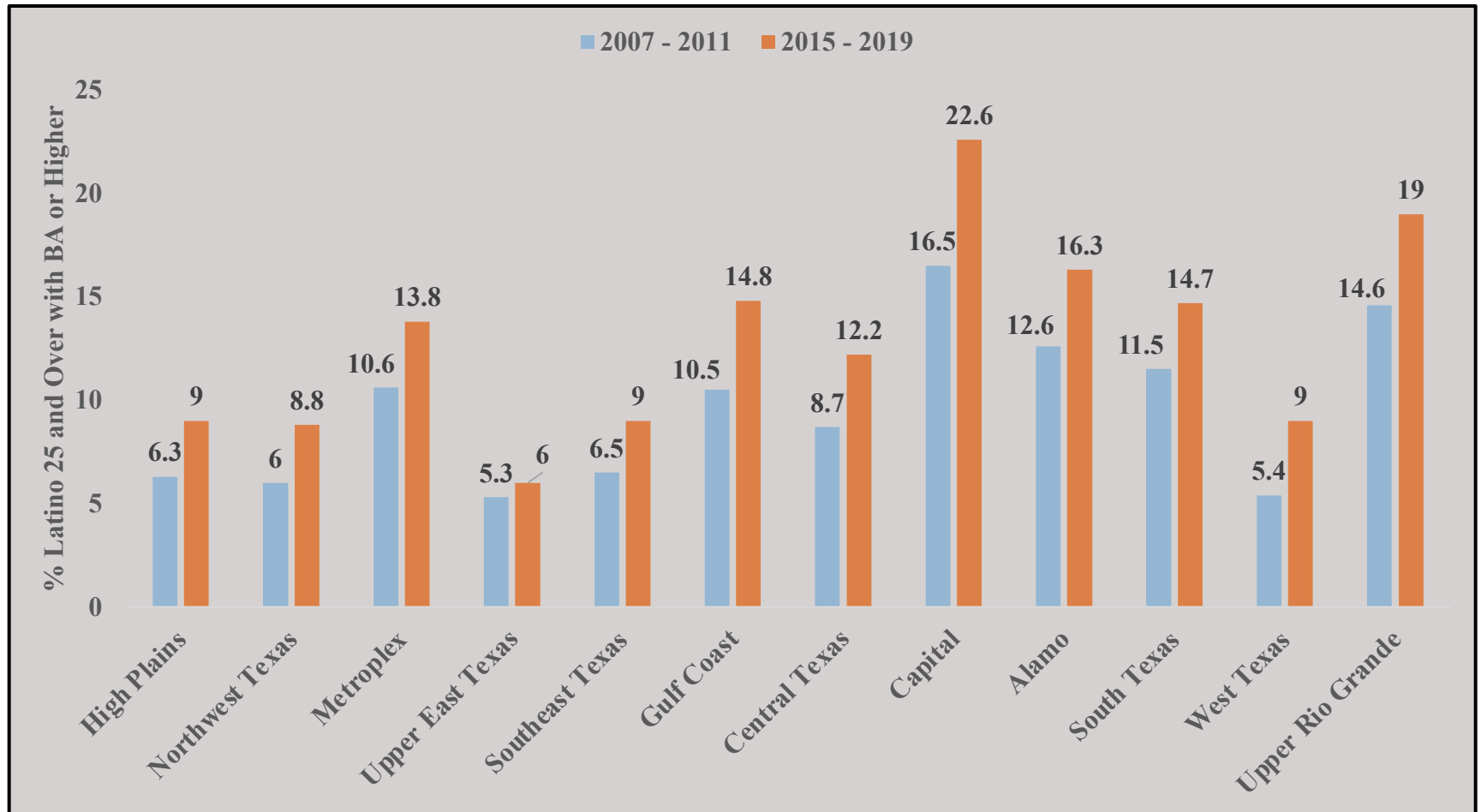
PERCENT LATINOS BY AGE GROUP 2019



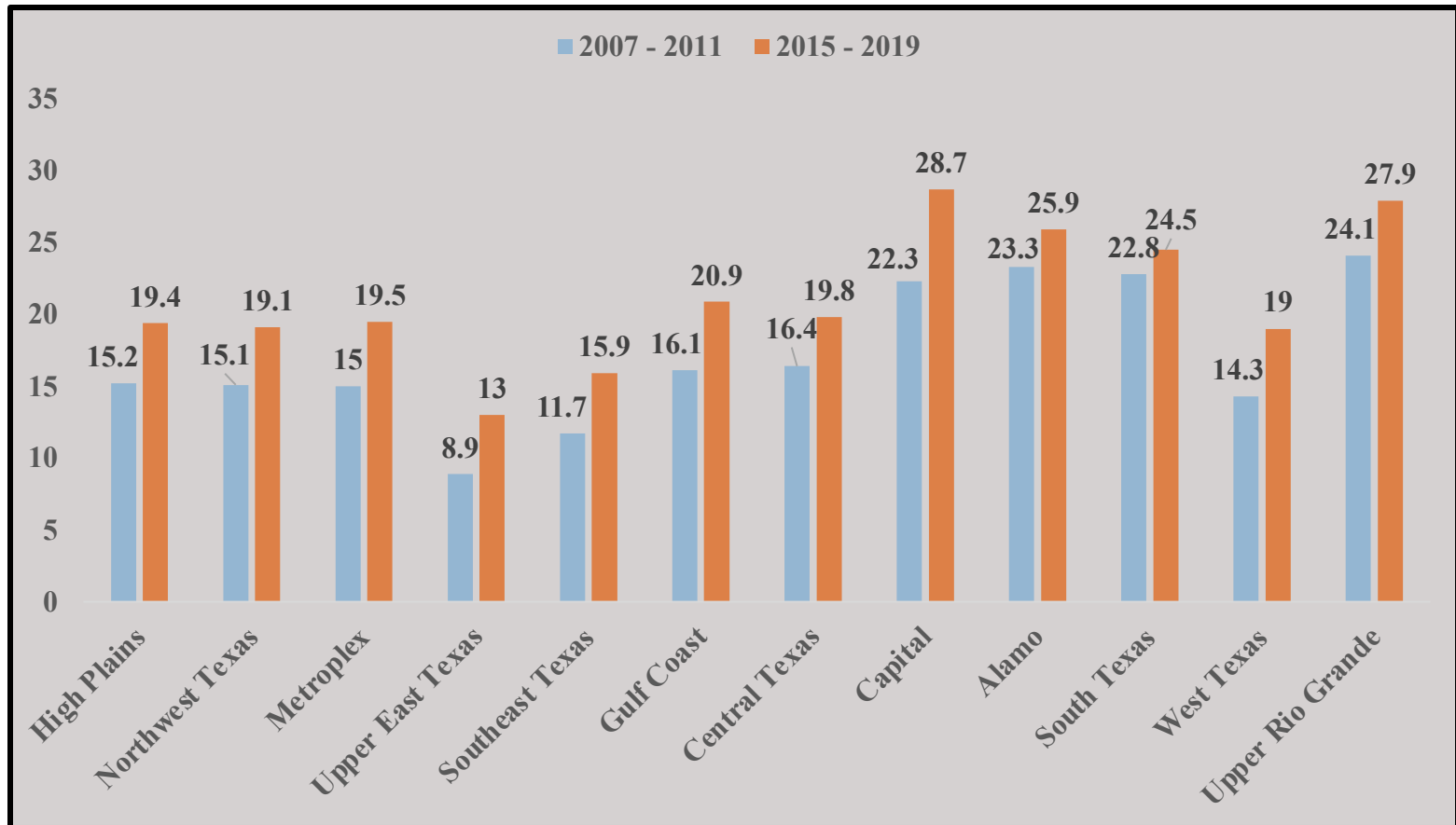
Percent Latino Foreign Born



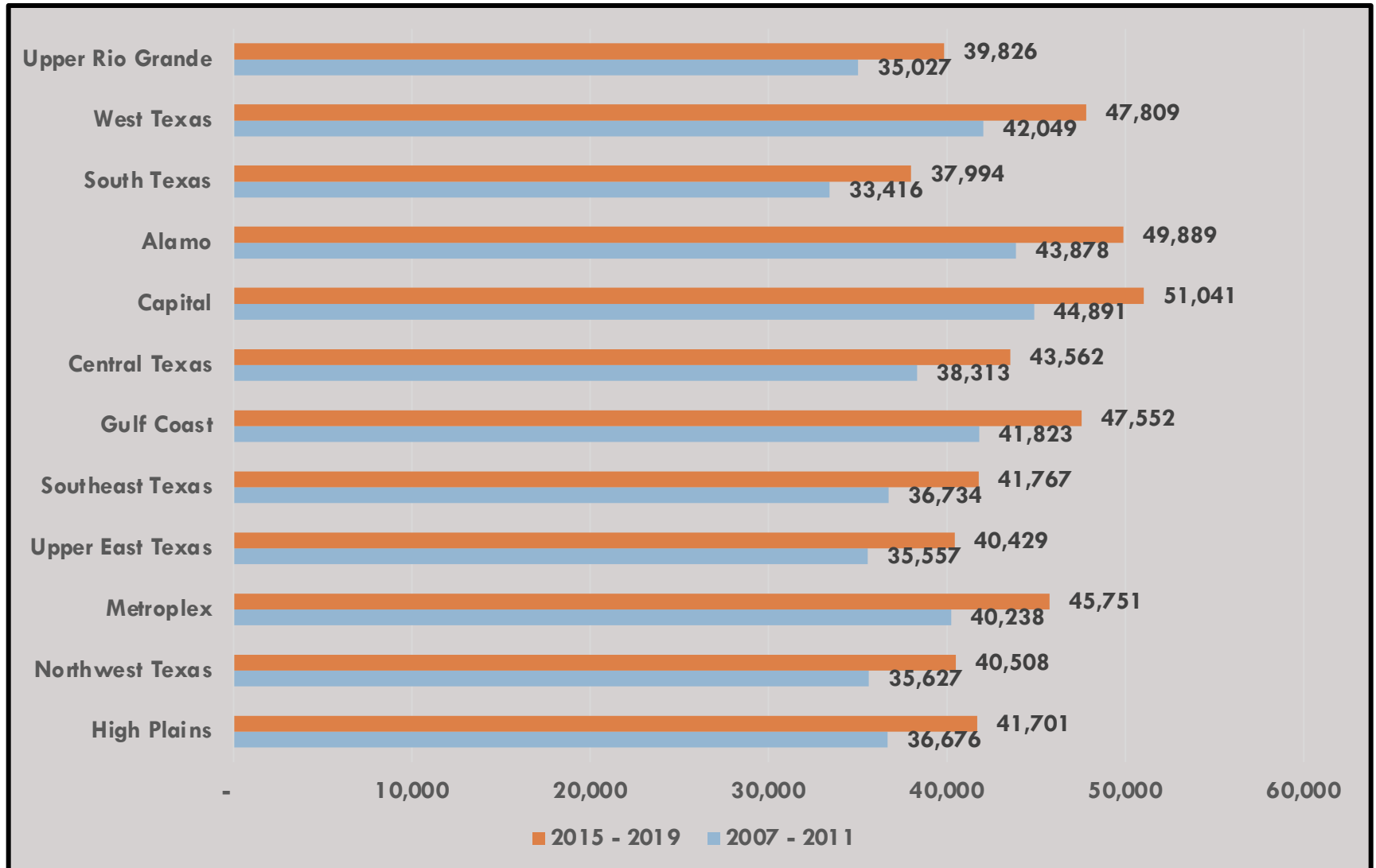
PERCENT OF LATINOS AGES 25 AND OVER WITH A BA OR HIGHER DEGREE



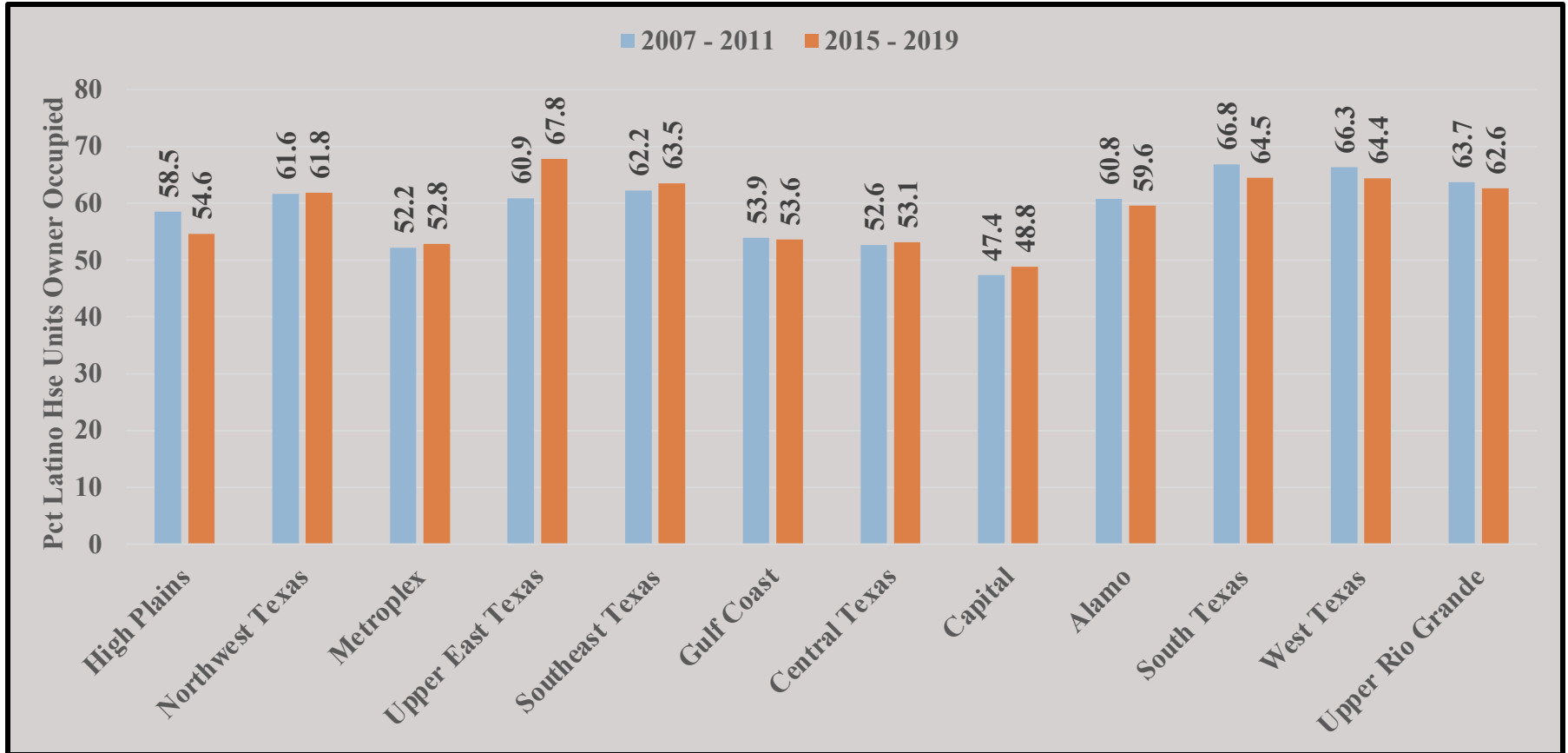
PERCENT OF LATINO WORKERS IN MANAGEMENT, BUSINESS, SCIENCE, AND ARTS OCCUPATIONS IN 12 TEXAS ECONOMIC REGIONS



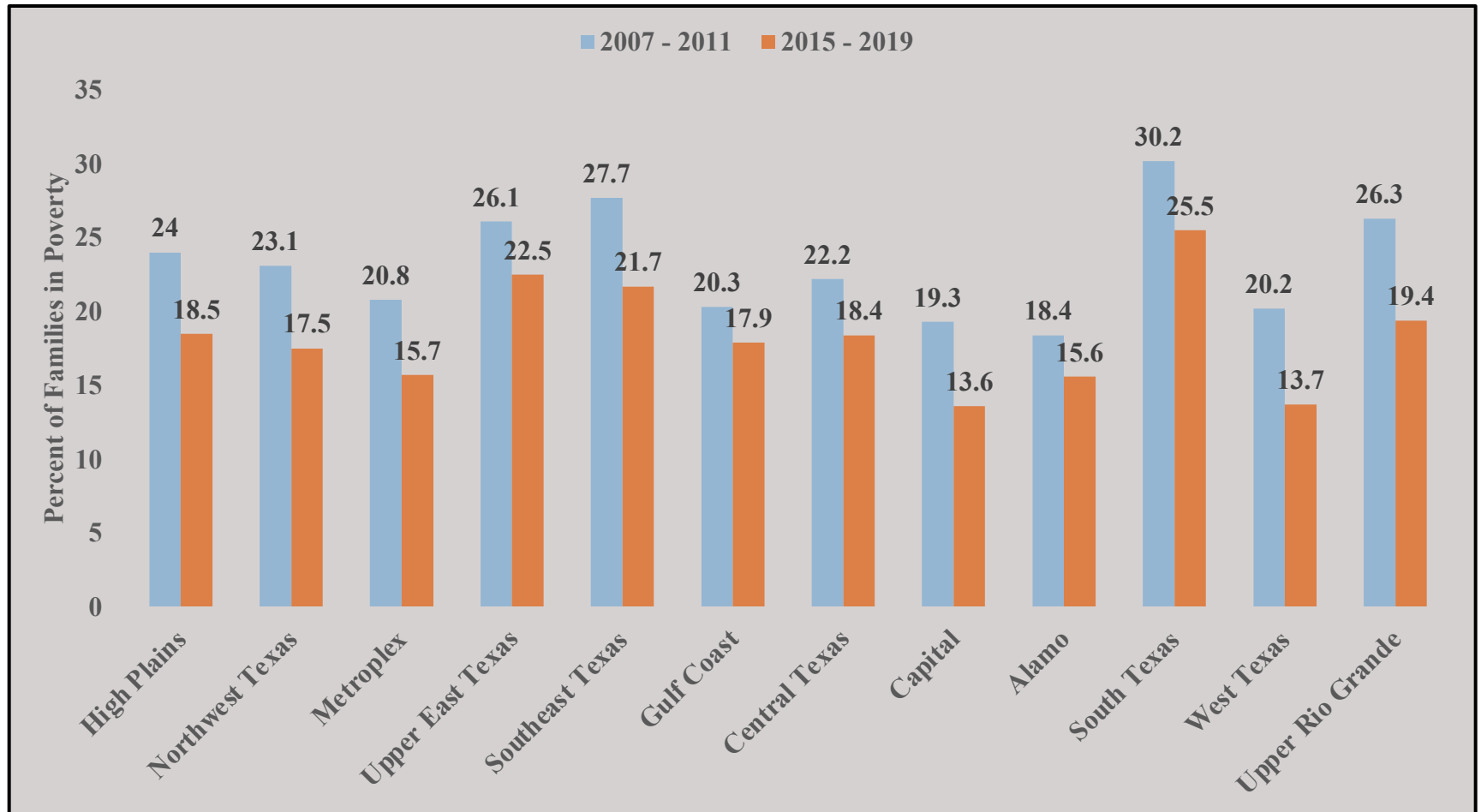
MEDIAN LATINO FAMILY INCOME



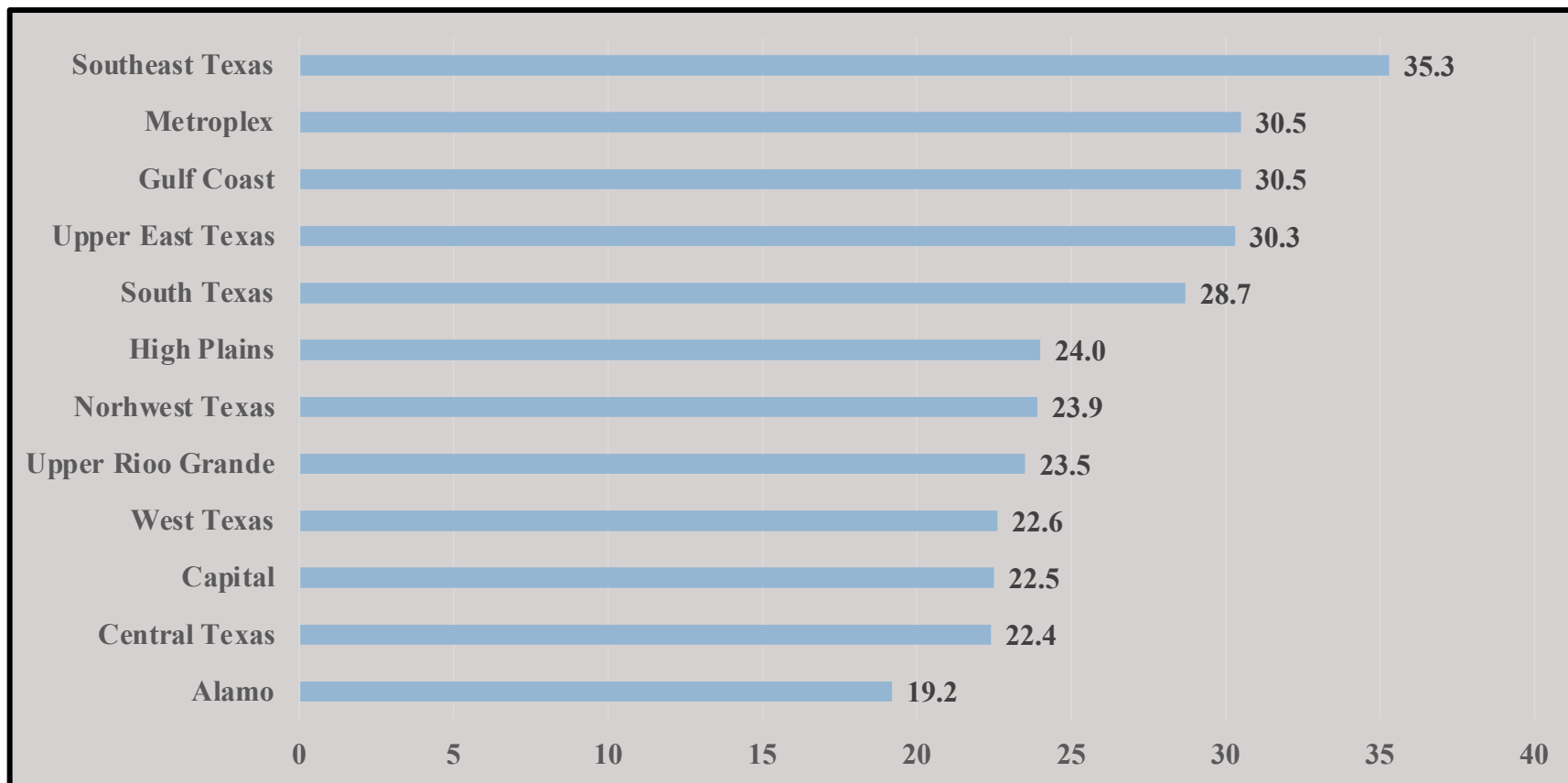
Percent of Latino Housing Units Owner Occupied



PERCENT OF LATINO FAMILIES IN POVERTY



PERCENTAGE OF LATINO UNINSURED BY ECONOMIC REGION 2021



Percent of Latino Voting Population

