



2024-2027

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc.



Prepared by:



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Executive Summary

For almost 60 years, Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. (GCCSA, Inc.), a private, nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation, has served, supported, stabilized, and sustained low-income individuals from cradle to career. As the Community Action Agency designated by the federal government to help the residents of Harris, Brazoria and Galveston Counties living at or below the federal poverty guidelines, GCCSA knows, firsthand, that communities are facing unprecedented challenges. For that reason, through a network of strategically aligned partners, volunteers, funders, and an unmatched team of dedicated employees, GCCSA offers a comprehensive array of customized support, services, and resources to help reduce poverty, create better lives, increase self-sufficiency, improve communities, and help people achieve their full potential.

Every three years, GCCSA Inc. conducts a comprehensive Community Needs Assessment (CNA) to better understand the challenges faced by low-income families and individuals in our communities and to develop strategies to empower them on their path to self-sufficiency. The 2024-2027 Community Needs Assessment delves into the complex factors contributing to poverty in our tri-county service area, shedding light on the daily struggles of our most vulnerable residents.

Through a combination of community surveys, focus groups, and in-depth data analysis, we have identified the primary barriers to economic stability and the most pressing needs of our low-income population. The assessment explores factors such as the cost of living, access to financial resources, and other potential obstacles to self-sufficiency. Our community members have ranked their five top needs, which include:



As a pillar of the Community Action network, GCCSA Inc. remains unwavering in its commitment to forging strategic partnerships, mobilizing community resources, and empowering individuals and families to break the cycle of poverty. The findings from this Community Needs Assessment will serve as a roadmap for our program planning, implementation, and evaluation over the next three years, ensuring that we remain responsive to the evolving needs of our communities and steadfast in our pursuit of creating meaningful, lasting change.

Together, we will continue to fight poverty with passion, innovation, and an unwavering dedication to the principles of Community Action. Join us as we work to build stronger, more resilient communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Level of Need & CSBG Domains

1

Pathways to Affordable and Livable Housing



- **Family Level:** Families need access to safe, affordable housing to ensure stability and security.
- **Agency Level:** GCCSA should increase affordable housing support services and resources to combat homelessness and housing insecurity.
- **Community Level:** Communities should implement policies and programs to expand affordable housing and promote housing stability.

2

Inclusive Workforce Strategies for Economic Stability



- **Family Level:** Families need job training and employment support to secure stable, well-paying jobs.
- **Agency Level:** GCCSA should provide comprehensive workforce development programs or strengthen referrals to include job training and career counseling.
- **Community Level:** Communities should foster economic development initiatives and partnerships to create support workforce growth and training.

3

Affordable and Accessible Healthcare



- **Family Level:** Families need access to affordable healthcare and mental health services to maintain overall well-being.
- **Agency Level:** GCCSA should establish a robust referral system and strengthen community partnerships to ensure comprehensive care for its clients.
- **Community Level:** Communities should implement policies to expand healthcare access and promote mental health awareness.

4

Equitable Access to Financial Stability



- **Family Level:** Families need financial assistance and education to manage expenses and build stability.
- **Agency Level:** GCCSA should provide financial assistance programs, budgeting workshops, and employment support services.
- **Community Level:** Communities should address systemic financial issues through economic development and equitable policies.

5

Enhanced Transportation Accessibility



- **Family Level:** Families need reliable transportation to access employment, education, and essential services.
- **Agency Level:** GCCSA should improve transportation services, seek additional transportation funding, and ensure accessibility.
- **Community Level:** Communities should invest in comprehensive transportation infrastructure to connect all residents to vital resources and opportunities.

Background on Community Needs Assessment

The Community Needs Assessment (CNA) is an essential process that helps Gulf Coast Community Services Association (GCCSA) better understand and respond to the needs of low-income individuals and families in our community. By gathering input from community members, partners, and stakeholders, the CNA allows us to identify the most pressing challenges faced by those we serve and develop targeted solutions to address them.

As a recipient of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Head Start funding, GCCSA is required to conduct a CNA regularly. The CSBG and Head Start programs recognize the importance of tailoring services to the unique needs of each community, and the CNA is a vital tool in ensuring that our efforts are aligned with the specific needs of the people we serve.

The CNA is also an integral part of GCCSA's strategic planning process. By using the Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) model, we incorporate the findings of the CNA into our Community Action Plan (CAP). This helps us set clear goals, develop effective strategies, and allocate resources in a way that maximizes our impact on the lives of low-income individuals and families.



Through the CNA process, we engage with our community members directly, listening to their experiences, challenges, and hopes for the future. This collaborative approach ensures that our programs and services are not only responsive to the needs of the community but also build upon the strengths and assets that already exist within it.

Ultimately, the CNA is about more than just meeting funding requirements or checking boxes. It is about building a deeper understanding of our community, fostering meaningful partnerships, and working together to create a more equitable and prosperous future for all. By investing in the CNA process, GCCSA reaffirms its commitment to its mission and to the people it serves.

Organization & Community Profile

Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. (GCCSA, Inc.) is a prominent Community Action Agency that has been serving the Greater Houston area for the past 60 years. As the Community Action Agency for Harris, Galveston, and Brazoria Counties, GCCSA is dedicated to connecting vulnerable communities to greater opportunities and empowering individuals and families in their pursuit of economic independence.



Established in the 1960s as part of the national Community Action movement, GCCSA has consistently worked to identify and address the causes and conditions of poverty in its tri-county service area. The agency engages partners and forges strategic alliances to develop and implement comprehensive programs and initiatives that focus on education, equipping, and empowering low-income individuals and families.

GCCSA offers a wide range of services designed to meet the diverse needs of the communities it serves. These programs include:

1. Head Start & Early Head Start
2. Community Food Pantry
3. Vocational Training & Scholarships
4. Adult Education
5. Financial Empowerment
6. Refugee Assistance
7. Emergency Assistance

Throughout its history, GCCSA has remained committed to the principles of Community Action, continuously adapting its programs and services to meet the evolving needs of the communities it serves. By leveraging its extensive network of partners and resources, the agency strives to create lasting, positive change in the lives of low-income individuals and families across the Greater Houston area.

As GCCSA continues to grow and evolve, it remains dedicated to its mission of fighting poverty and empowering communities through innovative, responsive, and community-driven solutions. The agency's unwavering commitment to the principles of Community Action, coupled with its strong partnerships and the tireless efforts of its staff and volunteers, positions GCCSA as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change in the region.

Internal Agency Data - 2023 Customer Satisfaction Survey

Survey Overview

Based on the information provided in the GCCSA's Customer Satisfaction Survey 2023 results, the most important data points mentioned:

1. The survey focused on understanding the financial stressors and needs of GCCSA's customers.
2. Many respondents expressed difficulties in meeting their basic needs, such as paying rent, utility bills, and buying groceries.
3. Some respondents mentioned the need for assistance in finding better-paying jobs or expanding their education to improve their financial situation.
4. Several respondents appreciated the assistance provided by GCCSA but also mentioned that the process could be streamlined or communication could be improved.
5. One respondent noted that their caseworker took a long time to process their application, causing them to miss out on funding. This indicates that GCCSA may need to improve the efficiency and timeliness of its application processing to ensure clients receive the support they need.
6. Some respondents expressed interest in more virtual appointments, suggesting that GCCSA could explore offering more remote services to accommodate clients' preferences and needs.

Biggest Need or Stressor:

The most frequently mentioned stressor for families was the inability to pay rent. Many respondents cited rent payment as their primary financial concern, with some facing eviction due to unemployment or insufficient income to cover their living expenses.

Other significant stressors included:

1. Difficulty paying utility bills, particularly electricity bills
2. Challenges in affording groceries and food for their households
3. Struggles with maintaining car payments or affording transportation
4. Inability to cover medical bills and personal expenses

In summary, the survey results indicate that the biggest need for GCCSA's customers is assistance with housing costs, particularly rent payments, followed by support for utility bills and food expenses. The data also suggests a need for programs that help individuals secure better-paying jobs or further their education to improve their financial stability.

Recommendation: To determine the overall satisfaction rate and identify specific areas for improvement, GCCSA would need to conduct a more targeted survey that explicitly asks customers about their satisfaction with various aspects of the organization's services. This would provide clearer insights into the organization's strengths and weaknesses from the perspective of its clients.

Strengths, Gaps, and Planning Ahead

Community Strengths & Assets

GCCSA leverages a strong network of support services and community partnerships to assist low-income individuals and families. Key strengths include the Head Start and Early Head Start programs, vocational training, adult education, and financial empowerment initiatives. Collaborative efforts with local organizations such as Baker Ripley, Houston Food Bank, Houston Independent School District, Catholic Charities, United Way, and government entities enhance service delivery, while a dedicated team of employees and volunteers ensures that programs are responsive and innovative, effectively addressing the community's evolving needs.

Service Gaps

Despite GCCSA's extensive services, critical gaps remain, particularly in affordable housing and mental health services. High housing costs and limited availability, coupled with inadequate public transit options, hinder access to essential services. There is also a need for greater awareness and outreach about available resources. Addressing these gaps requires targeted strategies, increased funding, and enhanced community coordination to ensure all residents can achieve economic stability and well-being.

Procedures for Measuring Progress and Data Usability

1. Methods to Review and Analyze Findings for Continuous Improvement
2. Plan to Share and Discuss Data with Stakeholders
3. Data is User-Friendly, Timely, and Meaningful for Planning and Decision-Making

GCCSA uses the Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) model to measure progress and ensure data usability. The assessment process includes surveys, focus groups, key informant interviews, and community forums to gather diverse perspectives. Collected data is analyzed for trends and priorities, with user-friendly tools employed for data visualization. Regular data reviews and updates keep the assessment relevant, aiding informed decision-making and continuous improvement.

Plan for Annual Updates and Approvals

GCCSA has a plan for annual updates and approvals to keep the Community Needs Assessment current. This involves periodic data reviews and new data collection through surveys and focus groups. Updated findings are reviewed by the board of directors and key stakeholders to ensure alignment with strategic goals. This iterative process incorporates feedback, ensuring the assessment remains a dynamic tool for guiding program planning and resource allocation, adapting to the community's evolving needs.

Methodology & Procedures

The Community Needs Assessment was conducted through a collaborative effort between GCCSA Inc. and MPOWERD, following the requirements of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Head Start (HS) programs. The process involved four main phases: 1) Project Kick-Off & Planning, 2) Data Collection, 3) Data Interpretation & Synthesis, and 4) Finalizing & Publishing the CNA Report.

Timeline & Activities

Phase	Activities	Timeline
1	Contract signing & invoicing, Kick-Off Meeting	4/8/2024 - 4/12/2024
2	Planning, Quantitative & Qualitative Data Collection	4/16/2024 - 5/3/2024
3	Data Interpretation & Synthesis, CNA Draft Review	5/6/2024 - 5/22/2024
4	Finalize CNA Report, Presentations, Publicize Results	5/28/2024

Primary & Secondary Collection Methods

In conducting the Community Needs Assessment, GCCSA collected and analyzed both primary and secondary data to gain a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs and challenges. Primary data refers to the original data collected directly through various research methods specifically designed for this assessment, such as community surveys, focus groups, virtual forums, and key informant interviews. This data is tailored to answer specific research questions and is considered more reliable and relevant to the current study.

Surveys

- Distributed three surveys between community residents/clients, staff and board members, and community partners/stakeholders
- Collected both quantitative and qualitative data through the surveys

Focus Groups:


- Conducted two focus groups: Participants included a combination of community residents and stakeholders from various sectors, such as the public sector, private sector, and health sector

Key Informant Interviews:

- Conducted interviews with key informants between 4/9/2024 and 5/1/2024. Key informants included board members, community leaders, and elected officials.

Community Forum:

- Held a virtual forum on 5/4/2024, open to all residents and stakeholders within the service area
- Identified the top 5 needs and solutions based on the input gathered during all other data collection phases



Secondary data refers to existing data that was originally collected by someone else for a different purpose but is being utilized for the current study. This data can come from a variety of sources, including government agencies, census research, 211 data, and other relevant reports. Secondary data analysis (SDA) is a research method that uses this existing data to answer new questions or validate previous findings. In this report, secondary data was obtained from sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, 211 Helpline Data, Texas Department of Health and Human Services, and county-level reports and assessments. By incorporating both primary and secondary data, we have developed a robust and well-informed CNA that provides a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the community's needs and challenges.

Outreach & Engagement

To gather comprehensive input and insights from the community, GCCSA employed a multi-pronged approach involving a diverse range of engagement methods to ensure that we captured perspectives from a wide cross-section of the population served.

Community Surveys: GCCSA developed and distributed surveys to gauge the community's needs, challenges, and priorities. These surveys were promoted on GCCSA's Facebook page to reach a broad online audience and encourage participation from community members active on social media.

Community Focus Groups: A series of community focus groups were held to facilitate in-depth discussions on key issues identified through the surveys. These sessions provided a platform for participants to share their experiences, concerns, and suggestions in an interactive setting. To maximize participation, a registration form for the focus groups was made available and promoted via GCCSA's Facebook account. Additionally, the focus groups were publicized to all clients visiting GCCSA centers, with a particular emphasis on engaging food pantry clients. Throughout the morning, both large and small group sessions were conducted at the food pantry to accommodate clients' schedules and preferences.

Virtual Forum: Recognizing the importance of digital accessibility, GCCSA hosted a virtual forum to engage community members who could not attend in-person events. The forum was promoted on GCCSA's Facebook page, and a registration form was provided to facilitate participation. This online platform allowed for a broader reach and ensured that diverse voices could contribute to the needs assessment process.

Stakeholder Interviews: GCCSA conducted a series of interviews. These stakeholders were identified based on their expertise, influence, and involvement in addressing community needs. The focus groups and forum were also circulated amongst community partners via mass email to encourage their participation and gather their valuable perspectives.

Board of Directors Engagement: GCCSA's Board members were contacted and provided with the necessary materials to share with their partners and constituents. By leveraging the Board's networks and influence, GCCSA aimed to extend the reach of the needs assessment and gather input from a broader range of stakeholders. The Board's involvement helped to ensure that the perspectives of key decision-makers and community leaders were incorporated into the assessment.

Data Prioritization & Analysis

To derive meaningful insights from the collected data, GCCSA employed a comprehensive approach that involved a mix of qualitative and quantitative analysis methods. This multi-faceted analysis allowed us to identify key patterns, trends, and priorities that emerged from the various data sources.

Quantitative Analysis

The quantitative data collected through surveys and other means were subjected to rigorous statistical procedures. This included examining changes in variables year-over-year to identify significant shifts or trends in the community's needs and perceptions. By analyzing the quantitative data, we were able to establish a baseline understanding of the community's current situation and track progress over time. Our survey instrument featured a built-in data analysis functionality that automatically grouped shared themes, words, and responses. The auto-generated insights provided a solid foundation for further in-depth analysis.

Qualitative Analysis

The qualitative data gathered through focus groups, virtual forums, stakeholder interviews, and other methods underwent a thorough analysis process. This involved a mix of techniques, including:

- 1. Identification of Patterns and Trends:** We carefully examined the qualitative data to identify recurring themes, issues, and experiences shared by participants. By comparing data across different sources and time periods, we were able to identify emerging trends and shifts in the community's needs and priorities.
- 2. Interpretation of Statements and Communication:** We analyzed participants' statements, comments, and other forms of communication to gain a deeper understanding of their perspectives, challenges, and aspirations. This interpretive analysis allowed us to capture the nuances and context behind the community's needs.
- 3. Needs Grouping:** The qualitative data collected through various methods were grouped based on the type of data collection (e.g., focus groups, interviews, forums) to facilitate comparative analysis. This grouping allowed us to identify commonalities and differences in the needs expressed by different segments of the community.

Alignment with CSBG Domains

To ensure a structured and comprehensive needs prioritization, we aligned the identified needs with the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) domains. This alignment allowed us to categorize the needs into main groups and sub-need groups, providing a clear framework for understanding the interconnected nature of the community's challenges.

Integration of Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis

We cross-analyzed the findings from both the qualitative and quantitative data. This mixed-methods approach allowed us to triangulate the results, ensuring that the identified priorities were supported by multiple sources of evidence. By integrating the insights from both types of analysis, we were able to develop a robust and nuanced picture of the community's needs and priorities. The data prioritization and analysis process employed by GCCSA ensured that the Community Needs Assessment report is grounded in a thorough and systematic examination of the collected data.

Causes & Conditions of Poverty

Poverty is a complex and pervasive issue affecting many individuals and families in the Gulf Coast region. To effectively address this problem, it is essential to understand the underlying causes and resulting conditions that perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

Causes of Poverty in the Gulf Coast Region:

- **Lack of access to living wage employment opportunities:** Many residents in the Gulf Coast region struggle to find jobs that pay a living wage, making it difficult to cover basic necessities and break the cycle of poverty.
- **High cost of living and lack of affordable housing:** The cost of utilities and housing in the region can be a significant burden for low-income families, and there is a shortage of safe, affordable housing.
- **Inadequate access to healthcare and nutrition:** Healthcare costs are often too high for low-income families, and there is limited access to nutritious food, contributing to higher rates of chronic illnesses.
- **Limited access to education and broadband:** In some areas, particularly in outlying regions, there is a lack of access to quality education and broadband internet, limiting opportunities for educational advancement and job prospects.
- **Difficulty accessing support services:** Many individuals and families in poverty struggle to navigate the complex network of social services and government programs designed to provide assistance.

Conditions of Poverty in the Gulf Coast Region:

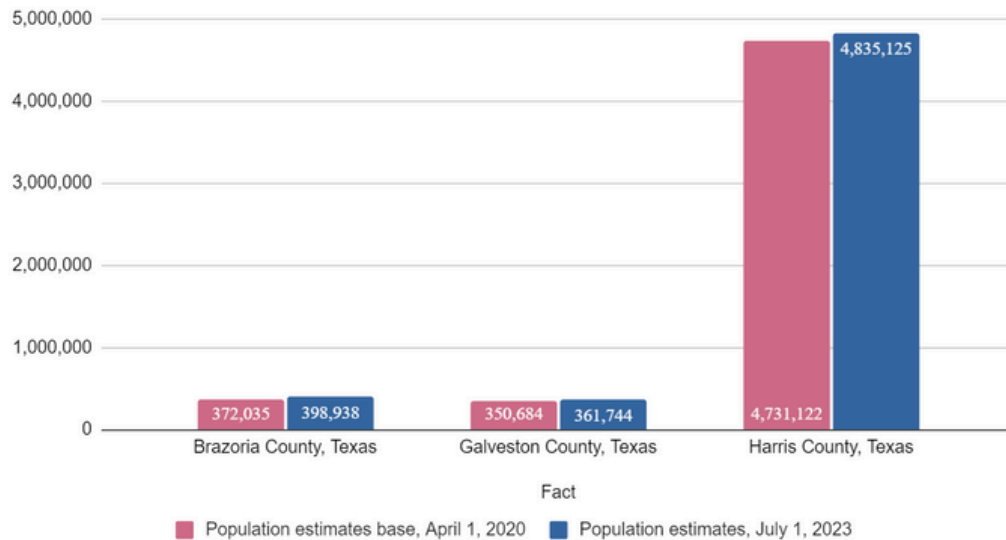
- Financial instability
- Poor health outcomes
- Housing insecurity
- Educational and skill gaps
- Social isolation and lack of support

The causes of poverty, such as lack of living wage employment, high cost of living, inadequate access to healthcare and education, and difficulty accessing support services, lead to conditions that perpetuate the cycle of poverty. Addressing poverty in the Gulf Coast region requires a comprehensive approach that prioritizes the needs of low-income communities and dismantles systemic barriers to economic mobility. By understanding and addressing these interconnected factors, we can work towards creating a more equitable future for all residents of the region.

Population Demographics

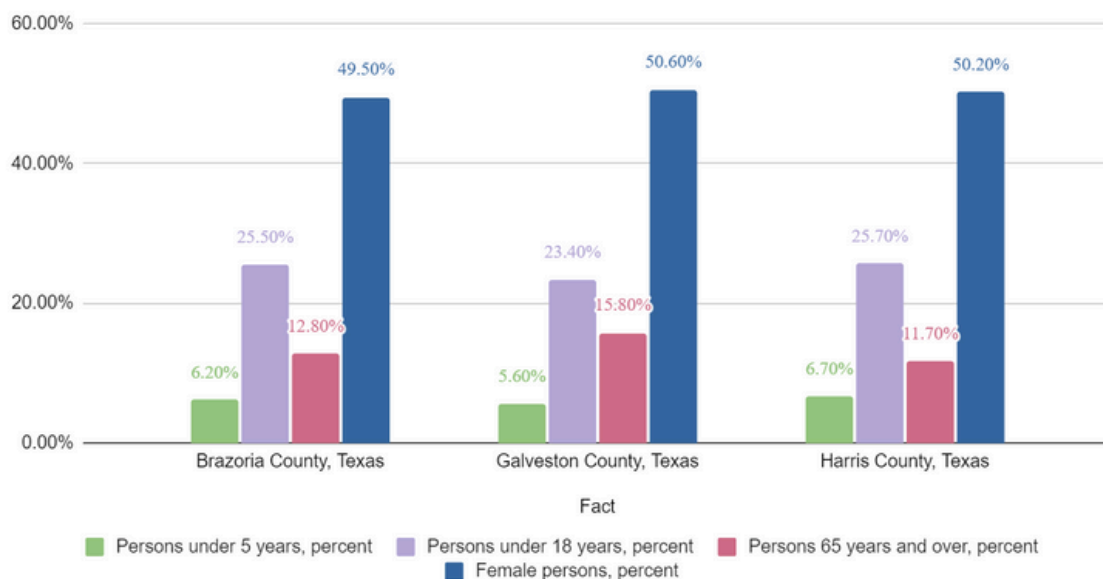
Population Estimates¹

The data indicates that all three counties in Texas have experienced population growth over the roughly three-year period between the two estimates. However, the growth in Harris County is particularly noteworthy, with the county adding over 700,000 new residents, a much larger increase in both absolute and percentage terms compared to Brazoria and Galveston Counties. These population dynamics likely reflect the differing economic, social, and geographic characteristics of each county and the broader trends shaping population growth across the state of Texas.



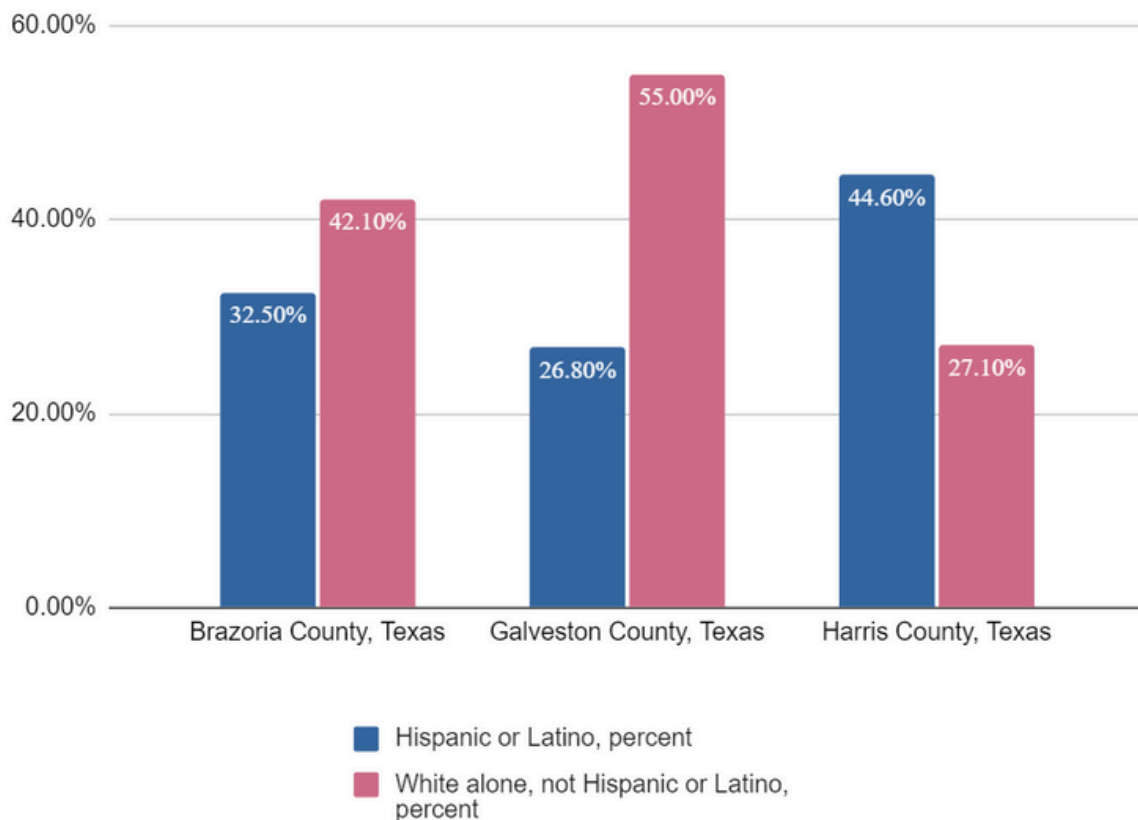
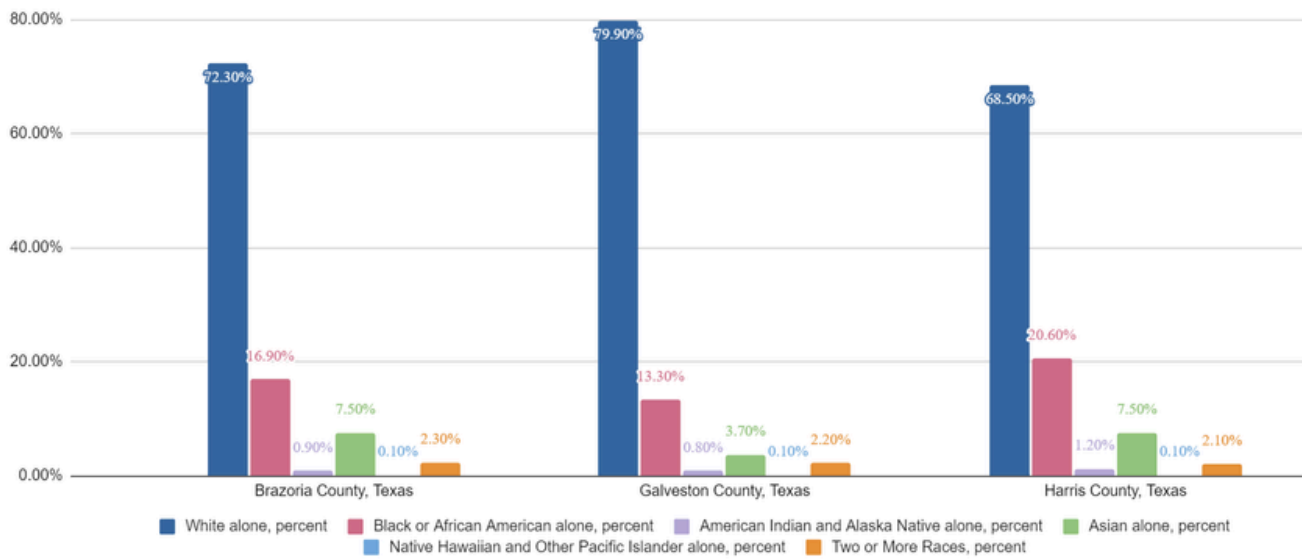
Age & Gender¹

Key takeaways from the age and gender distribution data in Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris Counties, Texas: The 65+ age group has the highest percentage in all counties (around 50%), the under-18 age group is the second largest (23-26%), the under-5 age group is the smallest (6-7%), and females make up slightly more than 50% of the population in each county.



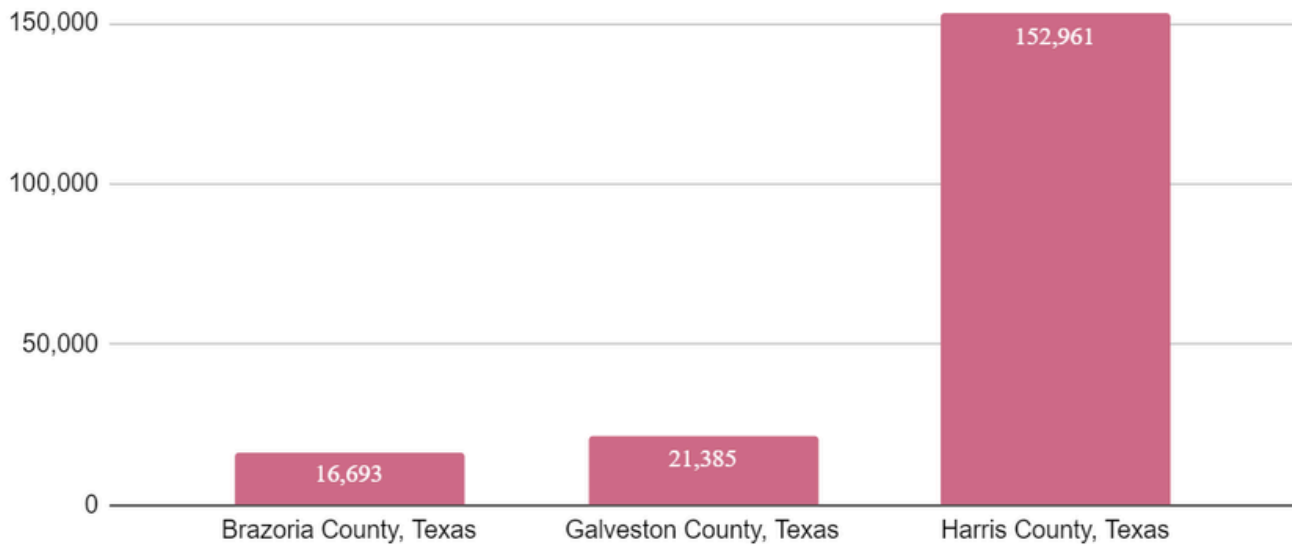
Race and Ethnicity ¹

The racial and ethnic composition varies notably across the three Texas counties. While the White alone population is the majority in each county, its proportion is significantly higher in Galveston County compared to Brazoria and Harris Counties. Conversely, Harris County has a considerably larger Hispanic or Latino population and a lower White alone percentage than the other two counties. The Black or African American alone population also differs, with Brazoria County having the highest percentage and Harris County the lowest.

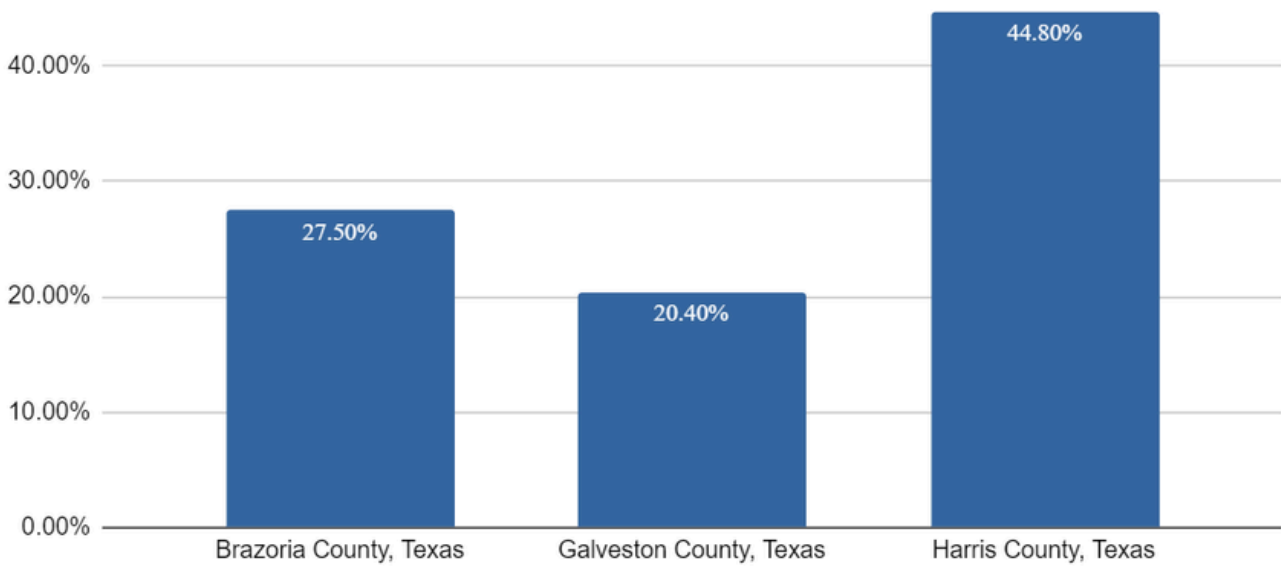


Unique Community Characteristics ¹

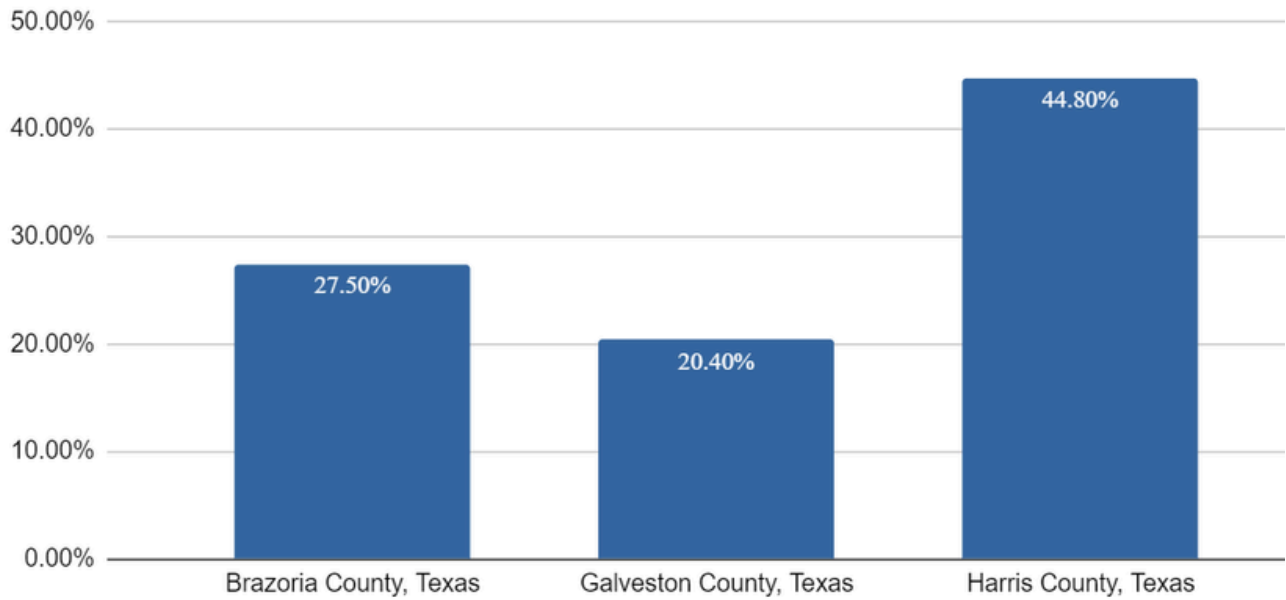
Veteran Population



Foreign-Born Population



Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+



Children in Single-Parent Households ⁵

	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris
Single or Cohabiting (no children)	32%	37%	44%
Married (with children)	15%	22%	28%
Single-Female-Headed (with children)	62%	76%	82%
Single-Male-Headed (with children)	51%	50%	62%

Poverty Data³

Age & Gender Below Poverty Level

In the U.S. and Texas, the poverty rate is highest among those under 18, particularly in the 5-17 age group. Harris County has the highest number of people in poverty across all age groups. In Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris counties, the number of females in poverty is consistently higher than males across all age groups, suggesting a gender disparity in poverty rates.

	United States			Texas		
	Total	Below poverty level	Percent below poverty level	Total	Below poverty level	Percent below poverty level
Under 5 years	18,654,535	3,369,529	18.1%	1,895,228	399,635	21.1%
5 to 17 years	53,380,823	8,632,822	16.2%	5,410,783	1,013,378	18.7%
18 to 34 years	72,787,641	10,689,150	14.7%	6,875,872	1,058,664	15.4%
35 to 64 years	125,100,086	12,520,631	10.0%	10,755,211	1,098,734	10.2%
65 years and over	53,352,363	5,309,452	10.0%	3,678,837	419,915	11.4%

Age & Gender - Male

	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris
Under 5 years	729	1,694	40,616
5 to 17 years	3323	4372	102,925
18 to 34 years	2,908	3,890	73,589
35 to 64 years	3173	4,764	85,894
65 years and over	1383	2,002	24,611

Age & Gender - Female

	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris
Under 5 years	1,240	1,251	40,758
5 to 17 years	3288	4083	99,636
18 to 34 years	4,179	5,897	111,284
35 to 64 years	5,074	6,676	119,001
65 years and over	1,974	3,358	39,367

Poverty & Race⁴

The data on poverty and ethnicity in Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris counties in Texas reveals some notable disparities. In all three counties, the Hispanic or Latino population has the highest total number of people living below the poverty line, however, when considering the proportion of each ethnic group in poverty, the Black or African American alone population has the highest poverty rates in both Galveston and Harris counties. No data was reported for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

	Brazoria County, Texas		Galveston County, Texas		Harris County, Texas	
	Total	Below Poverty	Total	Below Poverty	Total	Below Poverty
White alone	180,636	13,926	208,423	21,177	1,578,854	168,873
Black or African American alone	57,103	4,862	42,773	10,037	886,645	192,041
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	x	x	x	x	69,490	14,840
Asian alone	27,682	1,290	12,419	1,524	341,694	39,199
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	x	x	x	x	x	x
Some other race alone	23,031	5,831	23,519	4,416	790,560	192,717
Two or more races	85,393	10,882	63,346	11,144	1,067,741	172,518
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	121,607	18,232	94,721	18,131	2,120,703	431,428
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	156,947	10,753	187,984	17,214	1,251,416	101,206

Community Indicators - Health

Population with Disability and Uninsured ⁸

For the disability rate under 65, Texas (8.2%) is slightly lower than the national rate (8.9%), while the county rates are mixed - Brazoria (6.0%) is lower, Galveston (8.8%) is about the same, and Harris (7.2%) falls in between. At 18.9%, Texas has double the national rate of 9.3%. The county rates are even higher, ranging from 15.6% in Brazoria to 23.8% in Harris County, indicating regional disparities in health insurance coverage compared to state and national levels.

Region/County	United States	Texas	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent	8.9%	8.2%	6.0%	8.8%	7.2%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	9.3%	18.9%	15.6%	16.1%	23.8%

Uninsured Individuals by Age and Gender ⁹

Under 35, females had higher uninsured rates than males across all three counties, with the gap most pronounced in the 19-34 age range. However, for ages 35 and over, more males lacked coverage compared to females, with the disparity widening in older age groups, especially 65+. The data highlights diverging gender disparities, with younger females facing greater insurance gaps, potentially due to lack of affordable private coverage, while older males encounter more barriers due to historical Medicaid eligibility limitations before reforms allowed for expanded coverage.

Age Group	Health Insurance Status	Brazoria (Male)	Brazoria (Female)	Galveston (Male)	Galveston (Female)	Harris (Male)	Harris (Female)
Under 5 years	With	13,775	14,954	12,406	10,091	185,957	176,667
	Without	244	814	1,429	745	18,450	17,120
5 to 17 years	With	34,773	30,563	29,102	27,427	388,658	378,237
	Without	4,978	3,920	3,029	3,783	66,056	64,832
18 to 34 years	With	26,801	31,987	26,869	29,251	363,528	393,881
	Without	10,165	6,934	8,667	5,830	200,225	165,107
35 to 64 years	With	60,851	66,901	55,494	58,812	670,663	747,750
	Without	10,991	8,501	12,789	12,407	224,372	143,488
65 years and over	With	21,506	27,056	25,347	29,098	238,232	292,613
	Without	441	790	477	528	8,603	11,325

Clinical Care^{11, 12}

The data reveals concerning provider shortages across these counties. The high population to provider ratios for primary care physicians, dentists, and mental health professionals all exceed state levels, with mental health being the most underserved area, especially in Brazoria County. These access barriers likely contribute to the elevated rates of preventable hospital stays seen in all three counties compared to Texas overall. Lack of timely outpatient care often leads to more acute, preventable hospitalizations.

	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris	Texas
Primary Care Physicians	1,720:1	1,420:1	1,530:1	1,660:1
Dentists	1,340:1	1,930:1	1,700:1	1,590:1
Mental Health Providers	610:1	690:1	940:1	640:1
Preventable Hospital Stays	3,047	4,265	3,725	2,933
Mammography Screening	36%	39%	33%	39%
Flu Vaccinations	45%	44%	41%	43%

The data shows Harris County as having a significantly larger healthcare infrastructure compared to Brazoria and Galveston Counties, which aligns with its higher population. In contrast, Brazoria lacks any psychiatric hospitals, while Galveston only has limited psychiatric bed capacity within its general hospitals.

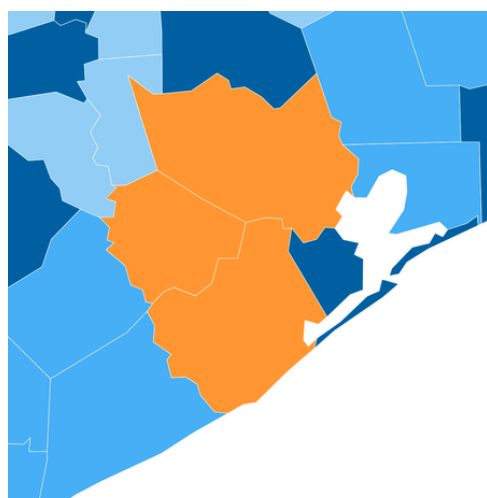
	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris
Hospitals	5	2	67
ICU beds	20	18	1,771
Psychiatric hospitals	0	1	13
Psychiatric hospital beds	0	44	1,255
Psychiatric beds in hospitals	0	35	203
Nursing facilities	13	13	102
Nursing facility beds	1,514	1,595	12,264
Freestanding emergency medical centers	4	2	37
Pharmacies	100	92	1,341

Number of Healthcare Professionals¹²

The data shows significant disparities in healthcare workforce numbers across these three counties in Texas. Harris County stands out with substantially higher counts of primary care physicians, psychiatrists, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, social workers, therapists, and physician assistants compared to Brazoria and Galveston Counties. This disparity aligns with Harris being the most populous county. Brazoria and Galveston lag far behind in their healthcare workforce capacity, likely contributing to access issues for various services in these smaller counties compared to the larger Harris County region.

	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris
Primary care physicians	217	245	4,416
Psychiatrists	16	28	549
Dentists	186	151	2,814
Pharmacists	327	294	5,445
Registered nurses	2,018	3,237	45,946
Licensed vocational nurses	692	862	9,067
Licensed clinical social workers	65	71	1,722
Marriage and family therapists	26	40	527
Physician assistants	80	111	1,753

Maternal Health Care¹³



Full access to maternity care can be defined by the availability of two or more hospitals or birth centers providing obstetric care in a given county or availability of at least 60 providers offering obstetric care.

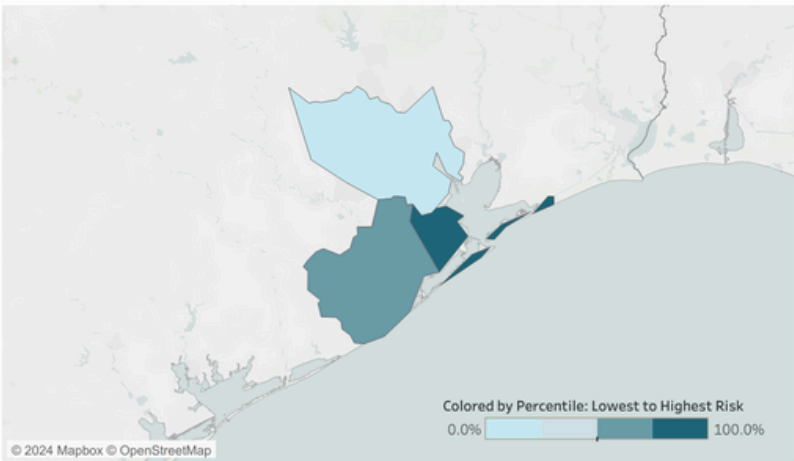
While Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris Counties have full access to maternal care services, neighboring counties like Austin, Waller, Wharton, and Matagorda face low to no access, which likely results in increased patient inflow to the available maternal healthcare facilities in Brazoria, Galveston, and the more populous Harris County to meet the regional demand.



Mental & Behavioral Health¹⁰

Depression Map | County

of People At Risk for Severe Depression per 100K of County Population



Breakdown | County

of People At Risk for Severe Depression per 100K of County Population

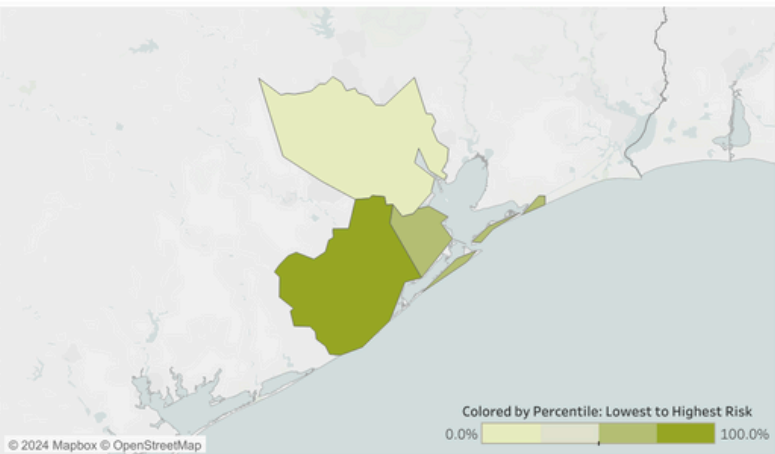


Out of 4,790 total responses to the PHQ-9 depression screen, 1,475 individuals scored as having severe depression. This equates to 26.99 per 100,000 population experiencing severe depression symptoms.

At the county level, Galveston had the highest rate of 30.435 per 100K at risk for severe depression, followed closely by Brazoria at 30.140 per 100K. Harris County had a relatively lower rate of 26.455 per 100K screening positive for severe depression.

PTSD Map | County

of People Scoring Positive for PTSD per 100K of County Population



Breakdown | County

of People Scoring Positive for PTSD per 100K of County Population



For the mental health risk assessment related to PTSD, out of 568 total PTSD screening responses, 510 individuals scored positive for PTSD. This translates to 9.3 individuals per 100,000 population screening positive for PTSD risk.

At the county level, Brazoria had the highest PTSD risk rate of 10.8 per 100K population. Galveston followed at 9.8, while Harris County had a slightly lower rate of 9.2 per 100K screening positive for PTSD.

Other Health Indicators¹¹

The health behaviors data shows Brazoria County has the highest adult obesity rate at 38%, well above Galveston (34%), Harris (37%), and the state average of 36%. Brazoria also has the lowest food environment index score among these counties. Harris County stands out with the highest rates of adult smoking at 16% and sexually transmitted infections at 620.2 per 100,000 population, exceeding Galveston, Brazoria and statewide levels. All three counties exceed the state's 18% excessive drinking rate, with Galveston and Harris at 19-20%. Alcohol-impaired driving deaths are also higher than Texas overall, especially in Galveston County at 35%. However, teen birth rates are lower than the state's 24 per 1,000 in Galveston and Brazoria Counties. Access to exercise opportunities is better than the state average in Galveston and Harris Counties as well.

Health Factors				
	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris	Texas
Adult Smoking	14%	14%	16%	13%
Adult Obesity	38%	34%	37%	36%
Food Environment Index	7.9	7.2	7.3	5.9
Physical Inactivity	25%	24%	28%	25%
Access to Exercise Opportunities	76%	85%	90%	82%
Excessive Drinking	20%	19%	20%	18%
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths	33%	35%	31%	25%
Sexually Transmitted Infections	383.7	405.8	620.2	506.8
Teen Births	18	18	24	24

Health Outcomes				
	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris	Texas
Premature Death	8,600	7,700	7,200	7,900
Poor or Fair Health	16%	20%	17%	18%
Poor Physical Health Days	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.3
Poor Mental Health Days	4.9	5.2	4.6	4.6
Low Birthweight	9%	9%	8%	8%

Community Indicators - Workforce, Employment & Income

Unemployment Statistics⁶

Texas' 3.9% unemployment rate is in the middle of the county range, showing that the state's economic performance varies among counties. The U.S. rate of 3.6% is lower than Texas' but higher than many counties, indicating a strong national labor market with significant local variations.

Area	Employment	Civilian Labor Force	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Texas	14,472,524	15,067,153	594,629	3.9%
United States	161,037,000	167,116,000	6,080,000	3.6%

Harris County has the highest unemployment rate at 3.8% of all three counties, with nearly 94,000 individuals unemployed out of a civilian labor force of over 2.4 million just trailing behind the state's average but over the national average. Brazoria County's unemployment rate is also at 3.8%, mirroring Harris County. Galveston County has the lowest unemployment rate among the three at 3.7%. These county-level differences, though subtle, underscore the importance of analyzing local labor market conditions to identify area-specific challenges and develop targeted strategies to promote employment and support job seekers.

County	Employment	Civilian Labor Force	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Brazoria	185,990	193,363	7,373	3.8
Galveston	170,621	177,190	6,569	3.7
Harris	2,363,956	2,457,730	93,774	3.8

Average Weekly Wage (September 2023)

Area	Establishment	Employment	Average Weekly (\$)
Brazoria	6,821	119,904	\$1,228
Galveston	6,954	121,350	\$1,120
Harris	125,787	2,427,721	\$1,527

Occupation Trends Ranked by highest projected number of jobs growth 2020-2030 ⁷

The data highlights the top 10 occupations in Texas that offer salaries above the state median wage of \$43,463 and are projected to have the highest number of job openings due to growth between 2020 and 2030. Among these occupations, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers are expected to have the most annual openings despite having the second-lowest annual salary of \$51,343. Registered Nurses, Software Developers, and General and Operations Managers also rank high in projected job openings, with annual salaries ranging from \$88,724 to \$119,909.

Rank	Title	Annual Salary	Projected TX Annual Openings
1	General and Operations Managers	\$118,048.00	25,450
2	Registered Nurses	\$88,724.00	16,207
3	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$51,343.00	29,081
4	Software Developers	\$119,909.00	15,324
5	Project Management Specialists	\$99,857.00	14,139
6	Accountants and Auditors	\$94,015.00	12,989
7	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	\$75,278.00	13,128
8	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$74,568.00	9,513
9	Electricians	\$57,569.00	9,221
10	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$64,594.00	5,283

Community Indicators - Food

Food Insecurity, Average Meal Cost, and Budget Shortfall¹⁴

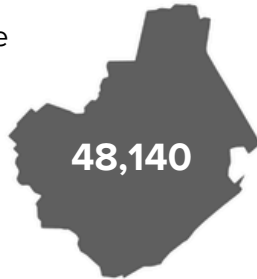
Brazoria County

48,140

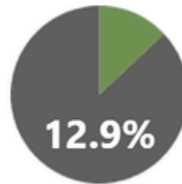
Food Insecure
Population

17,530

Food
Insecure
Children



Food
Insecurity Rate



\$3.62
Average
Meal Cost



\$32,782,000
Annual Food
Budget Shortfall

60% Above SNAP threshold

40% Below SNAP threshold of 165%

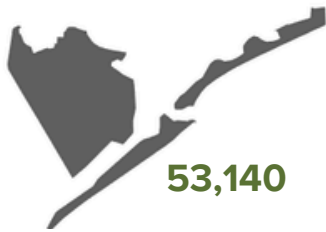
Galveston County

53,140

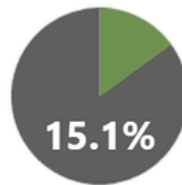
Food Insecure
Population

17,740

Food
Insecure
Children



Food
Insecurity Rate



\$3.70
Average
Meal Cost



\$36,919,000
Annual Food
Budget Shortfall

51% Above SNAP threshold

49% Below SNAP threshold of 165%

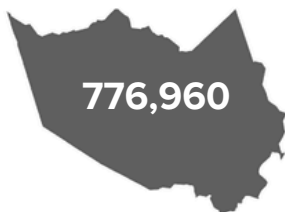
Harris County

776,960

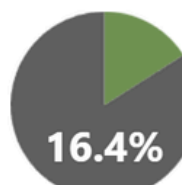
Food Insecure
Population

307,770

Food
Insecure
Children



Food
Insecurity Rate



\$3.70
Average
Meal Cost



\$540,241,000
Annual Food
Budget Shortfall

40% Above SNAP threshold

60% Below SNAP threshold of 165%

Other Food-Related Need Categories¹⁵

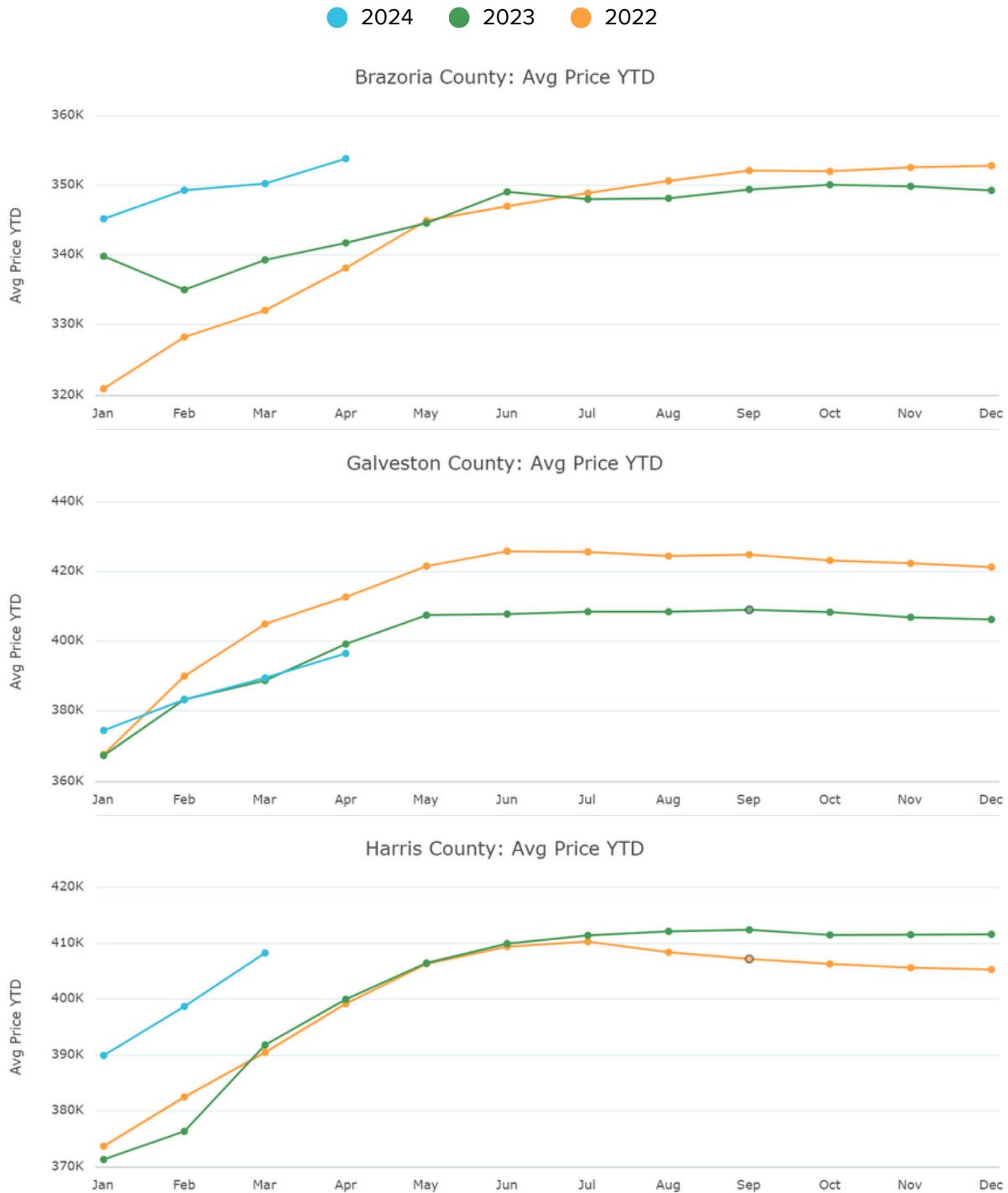
The data from 211 calls received between January 1, 2024, and May 23, 2024, reveals that Food Pantries and Home Delivered Meals are the most requested food assistance services across Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris counties. However, Harris County has a significantly higher volume of requests and a more diverse range of needs, including Emergency Food, Formula/Baby Food, Food Vouchers, and Fresh Food. This analysis highlights the need for targeted interventions and resource allocation to address food insecurity in each county, focusing on expanding food pantry services and home-delivered meals, with particular attention to Harris County's higher demand.

Needs Category	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris
Food Pantries	188	119	4,687
Home Delivered Meals	18	26	388
Grocery Ordering/Delivery	8	1	13
Formula/Baby Food	2	x	84
Child and Adult Care Food Programs	1	x	
Congregate Meals/Nutrition Sites	1	1	31
Food Vouchers	1	x	55
Soup Kitchens	1	1	110
Emergency Food	x	x	128
Fresh Food	x	x	46
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	x	x	37
Mobile Food Pantry Programs	x	x	30
Packed Lunches/Dinners	x	x	25
Food Banks/Food Distribution Warehouses	x	x	6
Food Lines	x	x	6
Summer Food Service Programs	x	x	6
Brown Bag Food Programs	x	x	3
Liquid Nutrition Supplements	x	x	3
After School Meal Programs	x	x	1
Animal Husbandry Programs	x	x	1
Home Gardening Assistance/Supplies	x	x	1

Community Indicators - Housing

Housing Cost¹⁶

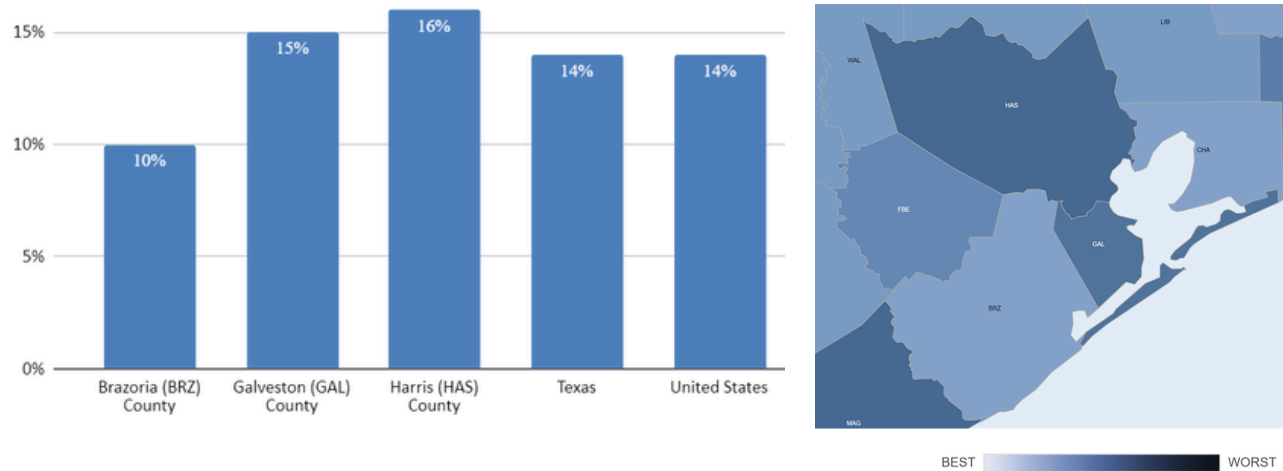
The 2022-2024 trend in average housing prices across Harris, Brazoria, and Galveston counties shows a consistent increase. Harris County's prices rise from around \$400,000 to \$420,000, Brazoria County's from \$340,000 to \$360,000, and Galveston County's from \$380,000 to over \$440,000. Galveston County exhibits the steepest price growth, while Brazoria County shows the slowest increase. These rising prices may impact housing affordability for low-income residents in these counties.



Community Indicators - Housing

Severe Cost Burden¹¹

Texas and the United States both have a 14% severe housing cost burden rate, which means households are spending over 50% of their income on housing costs. Harris County has the highest rate at 16%, indicating an even greater proportion of households facing excessive housing costs compared to the state and national levels. Galveston County and Brazoria County have rates of 15% and 10% respectively, which are higher than Texas and the U.S. overall, but lower than Harris County.



Around 20-26% of homeowners with a mortgage and 35-45% of renters face a high housing cost burden of spending 35% or more of their income on housing costs across these counties. A notable portion (8-13%) of homeowners without a mortgage also face a high housing cost burden in these areas.

Metric	Brazoria County	Galveston County	Harris County
Housing Cost Burden for Owner-Occupied Units with Mortgage (35% or more of income)	21.2%	26.4%	23.9%
Housing Cost Burden for Owner-Occupied Units without Mortgage (35% or more of income)	8.5%	10.8%	13.2%
Housing Cost Burden for Renter-Occupied Units (Gross Rent 35% or more of income)	35.8%	45.0%	43.1%
Lack Complete Plumbing Facilities	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%
Lack Complete Kitchen Facilities	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%
Single-Unit, Detached Housing Units	71.1%	72.0%	56.4%
Housing Units Built 2010-2019	19.1%	17.0%	16.6%
Median Number of Rooms	5.7	5.5	5.2

Community Indicators - Housing

Housing Units¹⁸

	Median gross rent	Total housing units	Percent of renter-occupied units	Average household size
Brazoria	\$1,300.00	143,000	23.10%	2.82
Galveston	\$1,300.00	157,000	27.80%	2.52
Harris	\$1,300.00	1.9 million	41.50%	2.73

Housing Age¹⁹

Report Area	Total Units	Median Year Built
Brazoria	142,985	1994
Galveston	156,803	1988
Harris	1,851,489	1987
Texas	11,654,971	1989
United States	140,943,613	1979

Overcrowded Housing¹⁹

Report Area	Occupied Housing Units	Percent Overcrowded
Brazoria	80,784	4.80%
Galveston	96,561	4.28%
Harris	822,339	13.09%
Texas	6,596,993	7.59%
United States	89,093,698	4.74%

Substandard Housing¹⁹

Report Area	Total Occupied Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions	Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions, Percent
Brazoria	127,264	34,939	27.45%
Galveston	135,275	40,746	30.12%
Harris	1,692,896	629,051	37.16%
Texas	10,490,553	3,446,359	32.85%
United States	125,736,353	39,858,044	31.70%

Community Indicators - Housing

Number of Unsafe, Unsanitary Homes¹⁹

Report Area	Occupied Housing Units	Housing Units without Plumbing	Percent without Plumbing
Brazoria	127,264	520	0.41%
Galveston	135,275	705	0.52%
Harris	1,692,896	6,973	0.41%
Texas	10,490,553	46,304	0.44%
United States	126,956,011	502,642	0.40%

Homelessness and Homeless Children & Youth¹⁹

Report Area	Students in Reported Districts	Homeless Students	Homeless Students, Percent	Districts Reporting	Students in Reported Districts
Brazoria	72,516	1,656	2.30%	100.00%	100.00%
Galveston	56,488	2,050	3.60%	100.00%	100.00%
Harris	855,333	19,200	2.20%	100.00%	100.00%
Texas	5,260,718	114,263	2.17%	86.99%	98.05%
United States	47,386,316	1,311,089	2.77%	86.95%	97.47%

Community Indicators - Education

Educational Attainment Overview - Age & Gender ²¹

The educational attainment data for Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris Counties in Texas reveals several notable trends across age groups and gender. Consistently, females have higher percentages of bachelor's degrees or higher compared to males in all age groups and counties. The percentage of individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher varies by age group and county, with the lowest in the 18-34 age group in Brazoria County and the highest in the 65+ age group in Galveston and Harris Counties. Conversely, Harris County has the highest percentage of individuals with less than a high school education across all age groups, while Galveston County generally has the lowest, indicating geographical disparities in educational attainment. The data also shows a trend towards higher educational attainment in younger generations, as the percentage of high school graduates is highest in the 65+ age group across all counties.

AGE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	Brazoria County	Galveston County	Harris County
Population 18 to 34 years	Male / Female	Male / Female	Male / Female
Less than high school graduate	15.20% / 13.50%	10.30% / 11.70%	19.00% / 15.80%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	38.90% / 30.50%	41.20% / 29.50%	36.70% / 31.00%
Some college or associate's degree	40.30% / 45.60%	42.20% / 44.30%	35.20% / 40.70%
Bachelor's degree or higher	22.60% / 37.70%	31.60% / 41.60%	32.60% / 39.90%
Population 35 to 64 years	Male / Female	Male / Female	Male / Female
Less than high school graduate	6.05% / 5.15%	5.70% / 4.60%	9.65% / 8.25%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	26.55% / 22.60%	23.50% / 23.35%	23.50% / 22.40%
Some college or associate's degree	33.10% / 32.50%	33.10% / 32.10%	25.00% / 27.10%
Bachelor's degree or higher	30.35% / 37.85%	30.60% / 38.55%	31.10% / 34.90%
Population 65 years and over	Male / Female	Male / Female	Male / Female
Less than high school graduate	14.50% / 15.40%	11.40% / 10.70%	20.00% / 20.20%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	56.30% / 58.60%	52.80% / 64.50%	43.20% / 52.60%
Some college or associate's degree	(X) / (X)	(X) / (X)	(X) / (X)
Bachelor's degree or higher	29.20% / 26.00%	35.80% / 24.80%	36.80% / 27.20%

(X) data not provided

Adult Education & Literacy (AEL) Services²⁷

- GED Preparation (Academic preparation toward readiness for the high school equivalency examination)
- Contextualized GED/Skills Training (Traditional GED preparation with concurrent skills training offered to also prepare the learner with occupational skills toward improved employment opportunities)
- English as a Second Language (ESL) and Civics (ESL courses teach English literacy to individuals with languages other than English as their primary language. These courses are often paired with Civics courses which inform individuals on United States history, culture, and practice in preparation for citizenship)

County	Number of Locations
Harris	149
Galveston	9
Brazoria	6

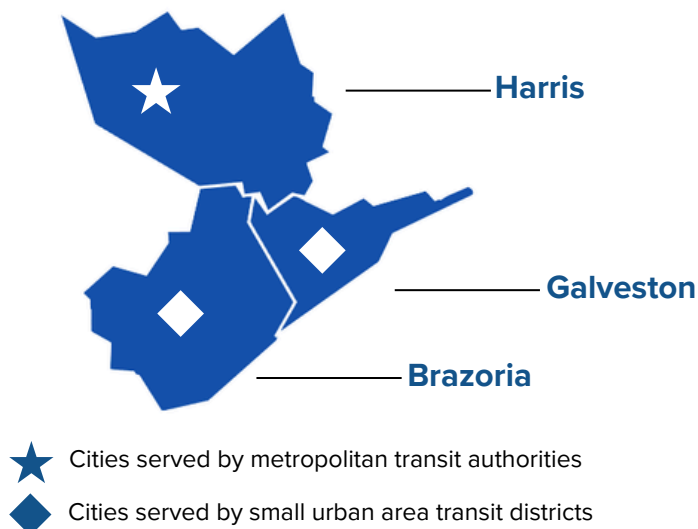
Other Educational Need Categories¹⁵

Based on the data from 211 between January 1, 2024, and May 23, 2024, here are the reported education-related needs:

- **Harris County**
 - Early Head Start: 146
 - Head Start: 86
 - GED/High School Equivalency Test Instruction: 44
 - English as a Second Language: 20
 - Educational Grants: 12
- **Brazoria County**
 - Early Head Start: 4
 - GED/High School Equivalency Test Instruction: 3
 - Head Start: 2
 - Career Entrance Examination Prep: 1
 - Educational Grants: 1
- **Galveston County**
 - Early Head Start: 8
 - Head Start: 3

Community Indicators - Transportation

Cities and Counties Served by General Public Transportation Systems²⁰



The Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT's) Public Transportation Division (PTN) administers the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5311(f) program of assistance for rural intercity bus transportation.

Harris County is served by metropolitan transit authorities while Brazoria and Galveston Counties are served by small urban area transit districts.

Commuting, Distance, Walkability^{20, 21}

Commuting Characteristics	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris	Texas	USA
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+	30.9	27.4	29	26.6	26.7
Driving alone to work	82%	79%	74%	75%	68.70%
Long commute to work	53%	41%	47%	39%	36%

Ideally, every street would have an accompanying sidewalk. The national median walkability score is 6.1 (a higher score indicates a community is better designed to encourage walking). Walkable destinations include libraries, museums or playgrounds.

Brazoria

Brazoria County is an Urban Area more than 25 miles from Texas Intercity bus stop. 50.4% of the county's population is within 0.5 miles of walkable destinations.

6.7 Walkability Index Score

Galveston

Galveston County is an Urban Area more than 25 miles from Texas Intercity bus stop. 53.9% of the county's population is within 0.5 miles of walkable destinations.

7.8 Walkability Index Score

Harris

Only 4.4% of Harris County residents live within a quarter mile of any public transit station, with only 47% of Harris County's roads having sidewalks.

10.8 Walkability Index Score

Community Indicators - Transportation

Other Transportation Indicators¹⁵

The 211 call data between January 1, 2024, and May 23, 2024, provides valuable insights into the top 10 transportation needs of residents in these counties and can guide efforts to enhance transportation equity and accessibility. Harris County consistently has higher counts in categories such as Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT), Disability Related Transportation, and Senior Ride Programs. This may be attributed to Harris County's larger population and more urban environment. However, the presence of these needs in all counties highlights the importance of comprehensive transportation services that address medical, disability, senior, financial, and general mobility needs.

Gas Money, Automobile Payment Assistance, Bus Fare, Local Transit Passes, Automobile Loans, and Automobile Insurance Payment Assistance are also common needs across all counties, indicating a demand for financial assistance related to personal vehicle expenses and affordable public transit options. To address these disparities and improve overall transportation access in the region, policymakers and transportation providers should focus on expanding NEMT services, improving accessibility for individuals with disabilities, developing targeted programs for seniors, ensuring affordable public transit options, and collaborating across counties to share best practices and resources.

Need Category	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris
Non-Emergency Medical Transportation	41	38	488
Disability Related Transportation	1	2	185
Senior Ride Programs	7	4	100
Gas Money	4	5	84
Automobile Payment Assistance	2	9	72
Bus Fare	1	1	46
Automobile Loans	1	1	33
Local Transit Passes	3	1	33
Transportation	2	2	33
General Paratransit/Community Ride Programs	1	1	30

Community Indicators - Communication

Broadband Access^{11, 23, 24}

Report Area	Total Number of Broadband Serviceable Locations	Access to DL Speeds >= 25MBPS and UL Speeds >= 3 MBPS	Access to DL Speeds >= 100MBPS and UL Speeds >= 20 MBPS
Brazoria County, TX	130,873	94.18%	91.29%
Galveston County, TX	133,660	97.24%	96.13%
Harris County, TX	1,270,786	99.29%	99.14%
Texas	9,844,791	93.64%	91.26%
United States	115,342,228	93.84%	91.20%

Statistic	Brazoria County	Galveston County	Harris County	Texas	United States
Households with a computer, percent, 2018-2022	95.9%	95.4%	95.4%	94.8%	94.0%
Total number of households enrolled for subsidized internet services*	10.9k	13.8k	236.7k	1,718,552	23,269,550

*The Affordable Connectivity Program stopped accepting new applications and enrollments on February 7, 2024. The last fully funded month of the program was April 2024.

Community Indicators - Public Benefits

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program²⁸

County	Average Monthly SNAP Cases	Average Monthly Eligible Individuals	Average Monthly Payment per Case	Average Monthly Total SNAP Payments
Harris	285,142	616,310	\$381	\$108,564,603
Galveston	17,297	35,484	\$351	\$6,069,221
Brazoria	15,048	34,032	\$382	\$5,750,440

County (Annual 2023)	Ages < 5	Ages 5-17	Ages 18-59	Ages 60-64	Ages 65+
Harris	1,104,599	2,678,124	2,532,006	258,869	716,316
Galveston	53,971	143,742	162,286	21,072	42,506
Brazoria	56,858	143,548	147,755	14,919	35,597

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)²⁸

County	Total Cases	Total Recipients	Total Children	Total Adults	Total Payments	Avg Payment per Case	Avg Payment per Recipient
Harris	10,236	23,972	19,375	4,616	\$2,151,123	\$210	\$90
Galveston	699	1,321	1,114	207	\$130,895	\$187	\$99
Brazoria	510	932	792	139	\$88,780	\$174	\$95

Healthcare Statistics²⁸

County	Avg Monthly Medicaid Caseload	Aged & Medicare Related	Disability-Related	Parents (includes TANF Adults)	Pregnant Women	Children's Medicaid
Harris	997,307	58,052	69,626	42,819	78,252	747,661
Galveston	55,681	3,711	4,594	2,845	4,485	40,958
Brazoria	61,849	3,773	4,192	3,084	5,674	45,156

Free-Reduced Lunch¹¹

	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris	Texas	United States
Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch	52%	51%	70%	61%	51%

Other Family Need Areas

Older Population & Senior Citizens¹⁵

211 call data between January 1, 2024, and May 23, 2024, identified the top needs for older populations primarily centered around housing and supportive services. In all three counties, there was a high demand for low-income/subsidized private rental housing and housing authority services, reflecting a significant need for affordable housing options. Galveston and Brazoria had similar patterns, with notable needs for transitional housing and Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. Supportive services also played a crucial role, with housing search assistance, elderly/disabled home rental listings, and low-cost home rental listings frequently requested. Aging and disability resources were consistently sought, with agencies such as Area Agencies on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Centers being pivotal. This data underscores the ongoing and multifaceted housing and support challenges faced by the senior population across these counties.

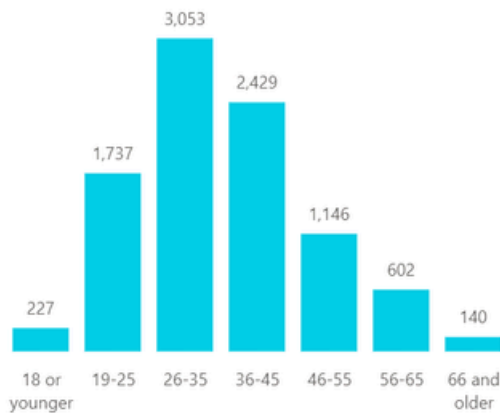
Category	Brazoria	Galveston	Harris
Housing	Low Income/Subsidized Private Rental Housing (108), Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (47), Housing Authorities (37), Transitional Housing/Shelter (38)	Low Income/Subsidized Private Rental Housing (108), Housing Authorities (48), Public Housing (13), Single Room Occupancy Housing (2), Sweat Equity Programs (2)	Low Income/Subsidized Private Rental Housing (88), Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (47), Housing Authorities (37), Public Housing (16)
Supportive Services	Elderly/Disabled Home Rental Listings (13), Housing Search Assistance (9), Low Cost Home Rental Listings (6), Moving Expense Assistance (2), Single Room Occupancy Housing (2)	Housing Search Assistance (26), Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (26), Transitional Housing/Shelter (26), Elderly/Disabled Home Rental Listings (19), Low Cost Home Rental Listings (17)	Transitional Housing/Shelter (38), Elderly/Disabled Home Rental Listings (13), Housing Search Assistance (9), Low Cost Home Rental Listings (6)
Aging/Disability	Area Agencies on Aging (31), Adult Protective Services (31), Aging and Disability Resource Centers (30), Respite Care (3), Family Caregiver Subsidies (1)	Area Agencies on Aging (52), Adult Protective Services (34), Aging and Disability Resource Centers (31)	Aging and Disability Resource Centers (49), Adult Residential Care Homes (5), Supported Living Services for Adults With Disabilities (5)
Assisted Living	Assisted Living Facilities (4)	Assisted Living Facilities (3), Adult Residential Care Homes (1)	Assisted Living Facilities (10)

Other Family Need Areas

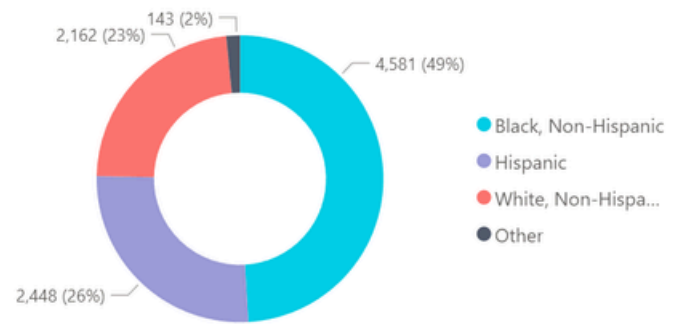
Previously Incarcerated Individuals²⁵

As of the latest data, the prison population in Harris County shows significant details regarding age, race/ethnicity, and mental health indicators. The data reveals a diverse demographic, with a noticeable representation of younger adults. Racial and ethnic disparities are evident, with a higher proportion of Black and Hispanic individuals incarcerated compared to other groups. Mental health indicators suggest a considerable number of inmates requiring mental health services. Although Brazoria and Galveston counties lack detailed data, similar patterns are observed across the Gulf Coast region.

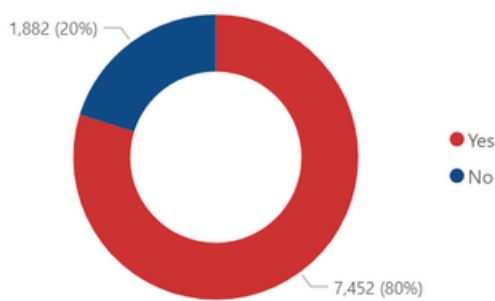
SPN Count by Age Groups



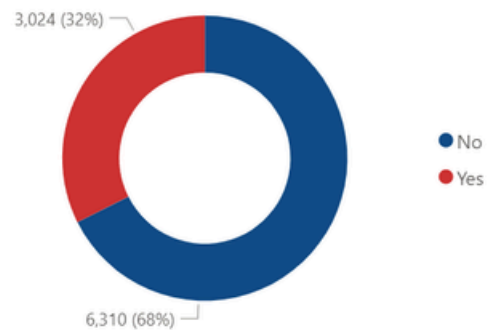
Race/Ethnicity



Mental Health Indicator



Currently on Psychotropic Medication



Other Family Need Areas

Immigration and Citizenship¹⁹

As of the latest data, the prison population in Harris County shows significant details regarding age, race/ethnicity, and mental health indicators. The data reveals a diverse demographic, with a noticeable representation of younger adults. Racial and ethnic disparities are evident, with a higher proportion of Black and Hispanic individuals incarcerated compared to other groups. Mental health indicators suggest a considerable number of inmates requiring mental health services. Although Brazoria and Galveston counties lack detailed data, similar patterns are observed across the Gulf Coast region.

Report Area	Native	Born in a US Territory	Born Abroad to US Citizens	Naturalized	Non-Citizen	Non-Citizen, Percent
Brazoria County, TX	316,700	3,042	3,906	26,824	24,128	6.44%
Galveston County, TX	308,603	1,968	4,349	17,256	18,625	5.31%
Harris County, TX	3,408,238	21,367	57,905	484,769	753,898	15.95%
Texas	23,777,904	117,343	360,240	2,037,595	2,950,260	10.09%
United States	280,288,133	2,074,396	3,453,993	23,666,167	21,614,904	6.53%

Qualitative Data Analysis - Top 5 Needs Ranked

Surveys

Needs Ranking	Community/Clients	Staff/Board	Stakeholders
1	Affordable Housing and Utility Assistance	Access to Affordable, Nutritious Food	Affordable Housing and Housing Stability
2	Financial Stability and Assistance	Job Skills Training and Employment Support	Job Skills Training and Employment Support
3	Healthcare and Mental Health Services	Affordable, Quality Childcare	Access to Education and Educational Programs
4	Childcare and Education	Transportation Services	Transportation Services
5	Employment and Job Training	Mental Health Services	Mental Health and Support Services

Focus Groups - Based on all focus groups

1. Financial stability and education
2. Affordable housing and rent assistance
3. Transportation services, especially in rural areas
4. Mental health and healthcare services
5. Access to information, resources, and supportive services

Virtual Forum

1. Affordable Housing
2. Workforce Development and Job Training
3. Utility and Financial Assistance
4. Healthcare Access and Services
5. Transportation Assistance

Key Informant Interviews

1. Training and Education
2. Employment and Economic Development
3. Basic Needs and Housing
4. Healthcare and Mental Health
5. Workforce Development

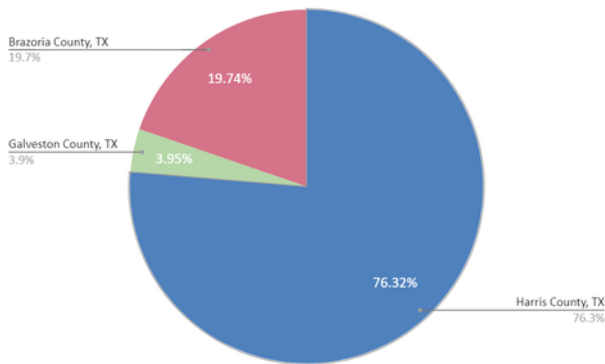
Qualitative Data Collection - Community Surveys

Demographics

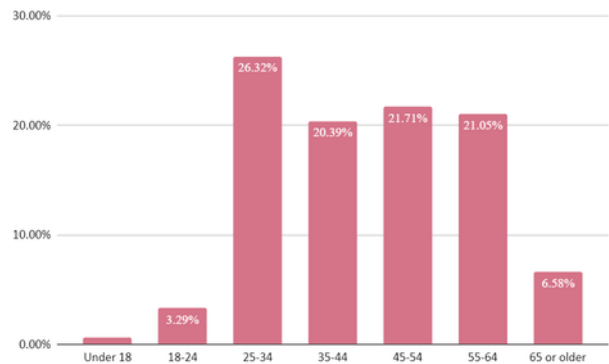
Key Findings

- 152 responses from community members and clients
 - Majority Age Group: 25-34 years
- Female Respondents: 88.2%
- Hispanic or Latino Respondents: 44.1%
- Households with Disabilities: 42.76%
- Received GCCSA Services: 35.14%

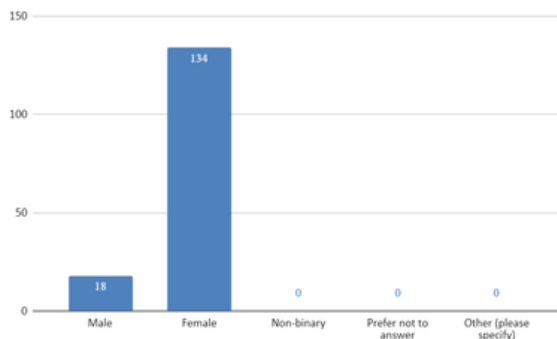
Number of Responses per County



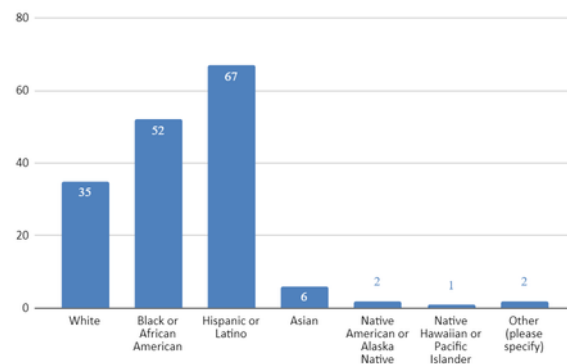
Age



Gender Identity



Race/Ethnicity



Households with an individual(s) that have a disability		
Yes	42.76%	65
No	55.92%	85
Prefer not to answer	1.32%	2

At least one (1) household member has received services from GCCSA		
Yes	35.14%	39
No	59.46%	66
Prefer not to answer	5.41%	6

GCCSA Clients (Services & Access)

GCCSA services respondents received	
Head Start & Early Head Start	38.46% (15)
Food Pantry	30.77% (12)
Career/Vocational Training & Scholarships	0.00% (0)
Adult Education (GED)	2.56% (1)
Financial Empowerment	2.56% (1)
Refugee Assistance	0.00% (0)
Emergency Assistance	12.82% (5)
Rental Assistance	38.46% (15)
Utility Assistance	28.21% (11)
Other (please specify)	7.69% (3)

Satisfaction Level of Services Received	
Head Start & Early Head Start	38.46% (15)
Food Pantry	30.77% (12)
Career/Vocational Training & Scholarships	0.00% (0)
Adult Education (GED)	2.56% (1)
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Refugee Assistance	0.00% (0)
Emergency Assistance	12.82% (5)
Rental Assistance	38.46% (15)
Utility Assistance	28.21% (11)
Other (please specify)	7.69% (3)

Ease of Access	Responses
Very easy	56.41% (22)
Easy	23.08% (9)
Neither easy nor difficult	15.38% (6)
Difficult	2.56% (1)
Very difficult	2.56% (1)

Additional Services Needed	Summary
Financial Assistance	Help with bills, utility bill assistance, scholarships, shorter wait times for assistance, assistance with first month rent and deposit
Housing Support	More affordable housing options, rental assistance, senior housing, housing repair grants
Child and Youth Programs	Child care and after-school programs, closer class accessibility, college opportunities
Information and Accessibility	More public information on services offered and eligibility, Metro gift cards
Senior Support	Senior programs, empowerment support for single working mothers, lawn care for elderly and disabled
Employment and Education	Bring back GED programs and adult education, how to become a homeowner programs, charter school
Immigration Assistance	Immigration assistance

Household Needs & Challenges

Level of need for various areas - the areas with the highest average level of need are:

Level of Need	Area of Need	Weighted Average	CSBG Domain
1	Help with the high cost of living	3.86	Income and Asset Building
2	Assistance to increase income or wages	3.74	Income and Asset Building
3	Improving my family's financial security	3.64	Income and Asset Building
4	Help with housing costs (rent, mortgage, utilities)	3.47	Housing
5	Access to healthy and affordable food options	3.16	Health
6	Access to quality healthcare	3.09	Health
7	Financial counseling and money management help	3.02	Income and Asset Building
8	More job opportunities for adults	2.93	Employment
9	Improving the health of my family	3.04	Health
10	Access to mental or behavioral health services	2.71	Health

Ranking of need categories - the top 3 most important need categories are:

Rank	Need Category	Score	CSBG Domain
1	Financial Stability and Assistance	8.43	Income and Asset Building
2	Employment and Job Training	7.86	Employment
3	Education and Childcare	7.25	Education

Household Needs & Suggestions

Category	Top Challenges	Helpful Services	Summary of Respondent Entries
Employment and Job Training	Cost of tuition or fees (81.98%) , Balancing work and education (64.86%), Quality of childcare centers (51.35%)	Scholarships or financial aid (75.68%), Before and after-school care (63.06%), Tutoring or mentoring programs (52.25%)	Weekend childcare, opportunities for high school students, access to summer camps
Financial Stability and Assistance	Insufficient income (69.37%) , Lack of savings (53.15%), High debt (50.45%)	Financial education workshops (50.45%), One-on-one financial coaching (49.55%), Debt consolidation programs (45.05%)	Increasing cost of living, steady employment, bankruptcy services
Healthcare and Mental Health	Cost of services (84.68%) , Lack of insurance coverage (52.25%), Lack of awareness about services (47.75%)	Free or low-cost health screenings (78.38%), Mental health counseling (56.76%), Prescription assistance programs (52.25%)	Even with insurance, cost of care unaffordable, single mom support groups
Housing and Utilities	High rent or mortgage payments (90.09%) , High utility bills (73.87%), Lack of affordable housing options (60.36%)	Utility bill assistance (83.78%), Rental assistance programs (67.57%), Home repair grants or loans (44.14%)	Increasing cost of living, challenge of securing affordable housing, need for middle-income housing options

Community Access

Category	Very Hard	Hard	Neither	Easy	Very Easy
Affordable places to live	29.52% (31)	27.62% (29)	34.29% (36)	4.76% (5)	3.81% (4)
Public buses, trains, etc.	16.19% (17)	15.24% (16)	45.71% (48)	13.33% (14)	9.52% (10)
Good public schools	15.24% (16)	12.38% (13)	39.05% (41)	21.90% (23)	11.43% (12)
Job training programs	16.19% (17)	29.52% (31)	42.86% (45)	8.57% (9)	2.86% (3)
Neighborhood safety	23.81% (25)	22.86% (24)	35.24% (37)	12.38% (13)	5.71% (6)
Affordable health care	29.52% (31)	24.76% (26)	33.33% (35)	11.43% (12)	0.95% (1)
Mental health/substance abuse help	18.10% (19)	24.76% (26)	43.81% (46)	8.57% (9)	4.76% (5)
Affordable, healthy food	27.62% (29)	25.71% (27)	32.38% (34)	12.38% (13)	1.90% (2)
Youth activities/programs	21.90% (23)	27.62% (29)	34.29% (36)	13.33% (14)	2.86% (3)
Help for seniors/disabilities	16.19% (17)	24.76% (26)	49.52% (52)	5.71% (6)	3.81% (4)
Environmental programs	20.00% (21)	20.95% (22)	50.48% (53)	4.76% (5)	3.81% (4)
Diversity/inclusion efforts	15.24% (16)	18.10% (19)	53.33% (56)	9.52% (10)	3.81% (4)
Support for small businesses	23.81% (25)	18.10% (19)	43.81% (46)	12.38% (13)	1.90% (2)
Affordable child care	28.57% (30)	26.67% (28)	37.14% (39)	5.71% (6)	1.90% (2)
Internet/technology access	10.48% (11)	19.05% (20)	50.48% (53)	11.43% (12)	8.57% (9)
Adult education classes	18.10% (19)	13.33% (14)	51.43% (54)	11.43% (12)	5.71% (6)
Community engagement opportunities	12.38% (13)	20.95% (22)	46.67% (49)	12.38% (13)	7.62% (8)
Homelessness prevention help	29.52% (31)	14.29% (15)	46.67% (49)	7.62% (8)	1.90% (2)
Disaster preparedness info	18.10% (19)	15.24% (16)	50.48% (53)	9.52% (10)	6.67% (7)
Cultural/community identity programs	14.29% (15)	19.05% (20)	54.29% (57)	8.57% (9)	3.81% (4)

Analysis of Open-Ended Responses

The top three need categories based on **105 open-ended responses**:

- 1.Housing and Utilities
- 2.Financial Stability and Assistance
- 3.Healthcare and Mental Health

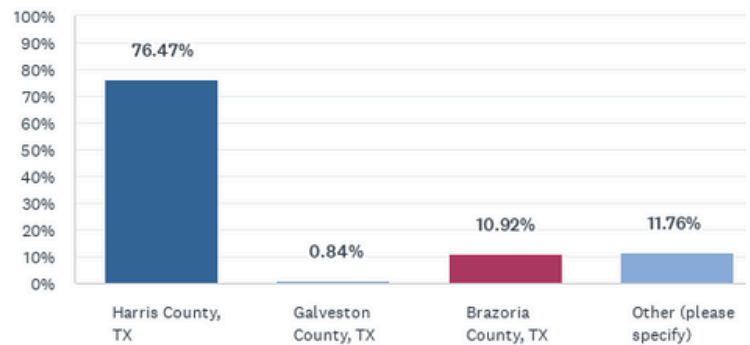
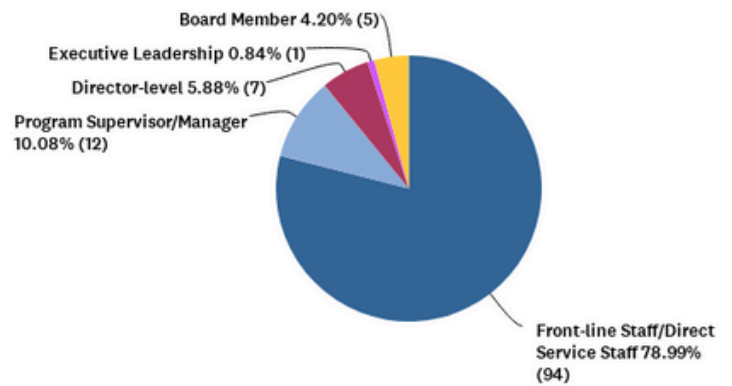
Rank	Need Category	Key Issues	Examples of Respondent Comments	Tone and Urgency
1	Housing and Utilities	High rent, lack of affordable housing, utility assistance, homelessness	"The high cost to afford somewhere to live.", "More options for affordable housing."	Frustration, desperation, critical need for immediate support
2	Financial Stability and Assistance	Insufficient income, high cost of living, managing debt, need for financial education	"Everything is going up, rent bills and other stuff. So I would love to see a raise in our checks.", "Assistance with transportation for those on disability."	Urgent need for financial assistance, better income opportunities
3	Healthcare and Mental Health	High cost of services, lack of insurance, limited mental health services, lack of awareness	"Mental health facilities and more affordable healthcare options.", "Even with decent insurance, the cost for care is unaffordable."	Significant concern over affordability and accessibility, urgent need for support

Qualitative Data Collection - Internal Surveys

Demographics

Category	Responses
Front-line Staff/ Direct Service Staff	94
Program Supervisor/Manager	12
Director-level	7
Executive Leadership	1
Board Member	5
TOTAL RESPONSES	119

County	Responses
Harris	91
Galveston	1
Brazoria	13
Other	14



Levels of Need

Need Area	No Need	Low Need	Moderate Need	High Need	Very High Need	Weighted
Assistance with living costs and expenses	0.84%	0.84%	18.49%	30.25%	49.58%	4.27
Affordable, quality childcare options	4.20%	1.68%	12.61%	38.66%	42.86%	4.14
Safe, affordable housing options	2.52%	0.00%	19.33%	32.77%	45.38%	4.18
Access to affordable, nutritious food	1.68%	2.52%	21.01%	32.77%	42.02%	4.11
Access to quality, affordable healthcare	2.52%	4.20%	15.13%	39.50%	38.66%	4.08
Financial education and asset building	2.52%	1.68%	21.01%	42.02%	32.77%	4.01
Mental/behavioral health and substance abuse services	1.68%	8.40%	15.97%	33.61%	40.34%	4.03
Education opportunities (GED, ESL, vocational, etc.)	3.36%	4.20%	19.33%	38.66%	34.45%	3.97
Reliable, affordable transportation	4.20%	2.52%	21.01%	36.97%	35.29%	3.97
Youth development and afterschool programs	3.36%	6.72%	20.17%	31.93%	37.82%	3.94
Job skills training and employment support	3.36%	5.88%	15.97%	42.86%	31.93%	3.94
Parenting skills and family supports	2.52%	5.04%	20.17%	35.29%	36.97%	3.99
Domestic violence and family crisis services	4.20%	7.56%	25.21%	28.57%	34.45%	3.82
Support for seniors and aging population	4.20%	8.40%	25.21%	24.37%	37.82%	3.83
Technology access and digital literacy	2.52%	6.72%	23.53%	43.70%	23.53%	3.79
Legal services and immigration support	4.20%	8.40%	26.05%	28.57%	32.77%	3.77
Emergency preparedness and disaster relief	0.84%	8.40%	33.61%	30.25%	26.89%	3.74
Disability services and independent living	4.20%	10.92%	29.41%	26.05%	29.41%	3.66
Support for formerly incarcerated individuals	5.04%	10.92%	31.09%	26.89%	26.05%	3.58
Home repair and weatherization assistance	4.20%	10.08%	35.29%	27.73%	22.69%	3.55

Top Critical Needs

1. Access to Affordable, Nutritious Food:

- Mentioned frequently across all rankings (#1: 6 times, #2: 6 times, #3: 7 times).

2. Job Skills/Training and Employment Support:

- Highly prioritized as the #1 critical need (8 times), with additional mentions in other rankings.

3. Affordable, Quality Childcare:

- Consistently mentioned across all rankings (#1: 7 times, #2: 5 times, #3: 5 times).

GCCSA's Ability to Meet Top Critical Needs

1. Job Skills Training and Employment Support

- a. Not at all meeting this need: 2.52% (3 respondents)
- b. Meeting this need poorly: 11.76% (14 respondents)
- c. Meeting this need moderately well: 42.86% (51 respondents)
- d. Meeting this need well: 29.41% (35 respondents)
- e. Fully meeting this need: 13.45% (16 respondents)

2. Affordable, Quality Childcare Options

- a. Not at all meeting this need: 9.24% (11 respondents)
- b. Meeting this need poorly: 8.40% (10 respondents)
- c. Meeting this need moderately well: 30.25% (36 respondents)
- d. Meeting this need well: 31.93% (38 respondents)
- e. Fully meeting this need: 20.17% (24 respondents)

3. Access to Affordable, Nutritious Food

- a. Not at all meeting this need: 1.68% (2 respondents)
- b. Meeting this need poorly: 3.36% (4 respondents)
- c. Meeting this need moderately well: 31.93% (38 respondents)
- d. Meeting this need well: 36.97% (44 respondents)
- e. Fully meeting this need: 26.05% (31 respondents)

Summary

1. Job Skills Training and Employment Support:

- a. While positively rated with a weighted average of 3.39, there is more room for improvement compared to the other two critical needs.
- b. The majority (42.86%) rated GCCSA as meeting this need moderately well.

2. Affordable, Quality Childcare Options:

- a. Also highly rated with a weighted average of 3.45, showing that a majority of respondents feel GCCSA meets this need well.
- b. A significant portion (31.93%) rated GCCSA as meeting this need well.

3. Access to Affordable, Nutritious Food:

- a. The highest-rated need with a weighted average of 3.82, indicating strong performance.
- b. The majority (36.97%) rated GCCSA as meeting this need well.

Top 5 Barriers to Accessing Services

1. Transportation

- Repeatedly mentioned as a significant barrier, with many respondents citing lack of access to transportation or the need to walk long distances to access services.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Transportation. Computer access."
 - "Transportation is a major issue that I see on a daily basis. The community offers resources, but the community members don't have a way to get to some of these resources."
 - "Transportation; Language barriers; Availability of services."

2. Lack of Awareness/Information

- Many respondents noted that community members are not aware of the services available or do not know where to go for help.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Lack of awareness of GCCSA's programs by the host communities."
 - "Some people are not aware of the services."
 - "Lack of information and awareness of the services."

3. Language Barriers

- Language difficulties, especially for non-English speakers, were frequently mentioned as a challenge to accessing services.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Language and understanding."
 - "Language barrier, lack of childcare options."
 - "Language, Legal residence, and most have utilities and deposits and lease agreements in other persons' names."

4. Eligibility/Documentation Requirements

- The complexity and strictness of eligibility criteria and documentation requirements were highlighted as obstacles.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Legal formalities and extensive paperwork."
 - "Successfully providing the necessary documentation required by CSBG, and then ultimately meeting the income guidelines."
 - "Eligibility is challenging with everything that's needed to qualify for services."

5. Access to Technology

- Limited access to technology and computer skills were noted as significant barriers, especially for completing online applications or accessing digital resources.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Computer access. Transportation."
 - "Not having enough computer skills to navigate. Not having easy access to transportation."
 - "Transportation, computer skills, and access."

Suggested New Services to Fill Gaps

1. Transportation Services

- Respondents frequently mentioned the need for better transportation options, such as bus passes, shuttle services, and transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Bus passes, partnership with Metro so people can be linked with Metro Lift services."
 - "Transportation services."
 - "Offer transportation for clients to get to their appointments."

2. Technology Access and Training

- Improved access to technology and training in digital literacy were commonly suggested to help community members navigate online services and applications.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Technology labs that offer internet access. Free bus vouchers for parents."
 - "Bring back GED classes in person after hours. Have computer classes on how to navigate."
 - "Technology programs and resources for social-emotional support for adults."

3. Job Skills Training and Employment Support

- Many respondents emphasized the importance of job readiness programs, job fairs, and employment support services to help individuals secure stable employment.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Job training, computer training, Transportation for senior and disabilities."
 - "Job skills training and employment support."
 - "More varied financial assistance. Offering more financial assistance in one area to free funds for needs we can't assist with."

4. Mental Health Services

- Enhanced mental health resources, including counseling, therapy, and support groups, were highlighted as crucial to addressing the community's needs.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Mental health resources and Addiction Support."
 - "Education and Awareness: They conduct campaigns and events to educate the community about mental health and reduce stigma."
 - "More mental health services for our families."

5. Childcare and After-School Programs

- There were numerous suggestions for expanding childcare options, including extended hours, after-school programs, and affordable daycare services.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Extended childcare hours."
 - "Resources for parents who need affordable day care, affordable legal assistance for our immigrated family, and affordable education to further the parents' education/siblings."
 - "Afterschool/summer programs."

Improving Community Outreach

1. Use of Social Media and Digital Platforms

- Many respondents suggested leveraging social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter to reach a wider audience and engage with the community.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Share information on social media."
 - "Video advertising on TikTok and social media of what we do."
 - "More media coverage, for example, postings on Facebook or TikTok."

2. Community Events and Engagements

- Hosting community fairs, town hall meetings, and participating in local events were frequently mentioned as effective ways to increase visibility and engagement.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Host fairs at different locations in the neighborhoods to provide information on services available."
 - "Community Townhall meetings to build awareness of services offered."
 - "Participate in city or community events to start letting people know about GCCSA."

3. Traditional Media Advertising

- Utilizing television, radio, newspapers, and billboards to broadcast information about available services was another common suggestion.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Press, Newscast, Media Marketing Campaign."
 - "Television, Radio, Newspaper, Billboards, and Bumper Stickers."
 - "More television and radio advertising."

4. Collaborations and Partnerships

- Partnering with other organizations, schools, churches, and community centers to distribute information and increase outreach efforts.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Partner with outside agencies by planning a community resource event."
 - "Collaborating with other non-profit organizations and making more events that cater to the community."
 - "Branch out to all churches."

5. Print and Direct Mail Advertising

- Distributing flyers, posters, and newsletters in strategic locations such as libraries, stores, and schools, and through direct mail to households.
- **Key Responses:**
 - "Print flyers and make them available to parents."
 - "Maybe putting flyers in the mail."
 - "Postings in libraries or stores."

Qualitative Data Collection - Stakeholder Surveys

Demographics

Partner Service Area	Responses
Harris County, TX	28
Galveston County, TX	11
Brazoria County, TX	18
Other (please specify)	11

Partner Type	Responses
Non-Profit/Community Organization	17
Neighborhood/Resident Association	0
Local Government/Elected Official	1
School/Educational Institution	7
Faith-Based Organization	2
Business/Corporate Entity	6
Healthcare Provider	2
Philanthropy/Funder	0
Advocacy Group	0
Other (please specify)	2
TOTAL RESPONSES	37

Partner Focus Areas	Responses
Housing/Shelter Services	8
Food Assistance/Distribution	10
Workforce Development/Employment	8
Education/Youth Programs	16
Health/Mental Health Services	10
Services for Seniors/Disabled	4
Legal Aid/Immigration Services	1
Financial Counseling/Assistance	5
Disaster Relief/Emergency Services	2
Early Childhood/Childcare Programs	7
Substance Abuse Treatment/Recovery	2
Transportation Services	4
Utility/Home Repair Assistance	4
Domestic Violence/Crisis Intervention	3
Community Development/Neighborhood Revitalization	6
Other (please specify)	13

Other Focus Areas	Responses
Financial Assistance and Education	3
Health and Wellness	3
Support Services and Community Referrals	2
Religious Organizations	2
Telecommunications and Utilities	2
Adult and Continuing Education	2

Levels of Need - Areas with the highest perceived level of community need

Area	No Need	Low Need	Moderate Need	High Need	Very High Need	Weighted Average
Safe, affordable housing options	2.70%	2.70%	10.81%	29.73%	54.05%	4.30
Job skills training and employment support	2.70%	0.00%	13.51%	45.95%	37.84%	4.16
Assistance with living costs and expenses	2.70%	8.11%	13.51%	29.73%	45.95%	4.08
Access to quality, affordable healthcare	0.00%	8.11%	21.62%	24.32%	45.95%	4.08
Reliable, affordable transportation	0.00%	5.41%	27.03%	21.62%	45.95%	4.08
Affordable, quality childcare options	0.00%	8.11%	21.62%	27.03%	43.24%	4.05
Mental/behavioral health and substance abuse services	2.70%	8.11%	16.22%	27.03%	45.95%	4.05
Financial education and asset building	5.41%	5.41%	16.22%	37.84%	35.14%	3.92
Access to affordable, nutritious food	5.41%	5.41%	16.22%	37.84%	35.14%	3.92
Parenting skills and family supports	2.70%	2.70%	29.73%	29.73%	35.14%	3.92
Youth development and afterschool programs	2.70%	10.81%	21.62%	24.32%	40.54%	3.89
Education opportunities (GED, ESL, vocational, etc.)	5.41%	0.00%	29.73%	32.43%	32.43%	3.86
Technology access and digital literacy	5.41%	5.41%	21.62%	35.14%	32.43%	3.84
Disability services and independent living	5.41%	13.51%	21.62%	29.73%	29.73%	3.65
Support for seniors and aging population	8.11%	8.11%	24.32%	29.73%	29.73%	3.65
Legal services and immigration support	5.41%	10.81%	27.03%	40.54%	16.22%	3.51
Domestic violence and family crisis services	5.41%	16.22%	32.43%	21.62%	24.32%	3.43
Emergency preparedness and disaster relief	8.11%	8.11%	35.14%	32.43%	16.22%	3.41
Home repair and weatherization assistance	8.11%	16.22%	24.32%	35.14%	16.22%	3.35
Support for formerly incarcerated individuals	5.41%	18.92%	37.84%	10.81%	27.03%	3.35

Top 3 Critical Unmet Needs

1. Safe, Affordable Housing

a. Mentioned frequently across all rankings (#1: 9 times, #2: 1 time, #3: 1 time).

2. Job Skills Training and Employment Support

a. Mentioned frequently across all rankings (#1: 7 times, #2: 2 times, #3: 1 time).

3. Mental/Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services

a. Mentioned frequently across all rankings (#1: 3 times, #2: 2 times, #3: 3 times).

Contributing Factors/Root Causes Key factors driving these needs included:

1. Lack of Education and Skills

1. Lack of education and inflation
2. Skills gap with industry needs and employees applying
3. Not knowledgeable
4. Current challenges with the economy and stresses on families
5. Technical skills and education opportunities

2. Economic Factors (Poor Economy, Inflation, High Cost of Living)

1. Poor economy
2. Rental prices have escalated
3. Economic disparities
4. Low wages
5. People need jobs

3. Housing Issues (High Rental Prices, Lack of Affordable Housing)

1. Lack of affordable housing for youth aging out of foster care
2. Lack of options, facilities at capacity, lack of funding
3. Undocumented families unable to pay for housing

4. Lack of Awareness and Access to Services

1. Lack of awareness of available services
2. Lack of services/resources for families
3. Lack of funding and community outreach involvement

5. Systemic Barriers (Discrimination, Systemic Racism)

1. Fear, systemic racism, voices of the majority not being heard
 - Discrimination, inflation

Barriers to Accessing Services

1. Lack of Transportation

- Many respondents noted transportation as a significant barrier preventing access to services.
- Tags: lack of transportation, no transportation, transportation needs

2. Lack of Awareness and Knowledge of Available Resources

- Respondents highlighted a lack of knowledge about available resources and services as a major issue.
- Tags: lack of awareness, not knowing, no knowledge of resources

3. Insufficient Resources and Services

- Many mentioned that there are not enough resources or services available in the community.
- Tags: lack of resources, insufficient services, limited availability of services

4. Financial Constraints

- Financial barriers, such as low wages and financial constraints, were noted by several respondents.
- Tags: financial constraints, low wages, no money

5. Language Barriers and Cultural Stigmas

- Language barriers and cultural stigmas were mentioned as obstacles that prevent access to services.
- Tags: language barriers, cultural stigmas

Suggested New/Expanded Services

1. Housing Support and Stability

- Need more resources that support housing stability, affordable housing options, and shelters for homeless families and youth.

2. Education and Job Training

- Expanded after-school programs, job training, workforce development opportunities, and educational programs for adults and youth.

3. Transportation Services

- Expanded bus services, transportation assistance, and drivers training.

4. Outreach and Awareness

- Increased funding and outreach in needed areas, information on programs available, and community engagement.

5. Mental Health and Support Services

- Affordable mental health clinics, mental health support services, and increased substance use disorder (SUD) treatment.

Qualitative Data Collection - Focus Groups

Focus Groups Overview

Gulf Coast Community Services Association (GCCSA) conducted focus groups in Harris, Galveston, and Brazoria counties to gather insights and perspectives from community members, stakeholders, and partners. The focus groups aimed to identify the top needs, challenges, and potential solutions in each community.

Participants were asked to share their experiences, thoughts, and ideas on various topics related to community needs. The questions focused on the following areas:

1. Positive aspects of their community
2. Initial reactions to identified top needs
3. Resonance of identified needs with personal experiences
4. Root causes and driving factors behind the needs
5. Barriers to accessing services
6. Additional critical needs
7. Current helpful resources and programs
8. Gaps that GCCSA or other organizations should fill
9. Proposed solutions and initiatives

Focus Groups Attendance

County	Focus Group 1	Focus Group 2	Focus Group 3	Focus Group 4
Harris	20	17	x	x
Galveston	x	x	x	10
Brazoria	x	x	6	x

Focus Groups - Key Findings

Initial reactions to top needs:

- Agreement with the identified financial needs and challenges (All counties)
- Need for better transportation, education, and legal services (Harris)
- Housing and rent costs vary significantly within the counties (Brazoria)
- Lack of resources and programs in rural areas (Brazoria, Galveston)

Root causes and driving factors behind the needs:

- Lack of funding and prioritization of resources (All counties)
- Disparity between the cost of living and income levels (All counties)
- Generational poverty and lack of financial education (Brazoria)
- Limited access to high-paying jobs and affordable housing (Galveston)

Barriers to accessing services:

- Lack of awareness and information about available services (All counties)
- Stringent eligibility requirements and lengthy application processes (All counties)
- Limited transportation options, especially in rural areas (Brazoria, Galveston)
- Language barriers and lack of translation services (Harris, Brazoria)

Additional critical needs:

- Mental health services and support (All counties)
- Affordable and accessible healthcare (All counties)
- Services for the elderly, veterans, and homeless individuals (Harris, Brazoria)
- Youth programs and activities (Galveston)
- Access to technology and internet (Harris, Galveston)

Top 5 Needs Identified per Focus Group

Ranking	Focus Group 1 - Harris County	Focus Group 2 - Harris County	Focus Group 3 - Brazoria	Focus Group 4 - Galveston
1	Transportation and Walkability	Housing and Shelter	Affordable Housing and Shelter	Affordable Housing and Shelter
2	Housing and Utility Assistance	Education and Job Training	Transportation	Healthcare and Health Insurance
3	Food Security	Transportation	Financial Stability and Employment	Transportation
4	Healthcare and Mental Health Services	Community Outreach and Information	Healthcare and Mental Health Services	Youth Programs and Childcare
5	Employment and Vocational Training	Food Security	Community Outreach and Information	Community Outreach and Information

Key Examples of Feedback

Need Category	Key Feedback Responses
Housing and Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programs for single parents, housing availability, rent and electricity assistance - People are going to work every day but are still struggling to meet the needs of their families - More housing and shelters needed. Issues with housing investors and inability to upgrade properties
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of public transportation in Brazoria and Galveston - Financial barriers to pay for transportation - More awareness about transportation services like Gulf Coast transit district
Healthcare and Mental Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More affordable centers for mental health services and drug rehabilitation - Long waiting periods for healthcare services - Translation services- reading and writing for those who don't speak English, understanding the programs through translation
Education and Job Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vocational trainings and programs, Dress for Success - Assistance with job interviews, clothing for jobs, and job opportunities - GED programs, legal services for undocumented immigrants
Community Outreach and Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better outreach, give out flyers, resource guide - When you go online, the website is frozen or not active - No formal outreach program for attending community fairs, kind of a program by program basis

Qualitative Data Collection - Virtual Forum

Virtual Forum Overview

This community-wide forum aims to gather input on the needs of low-income individuals and explore ways to better address these challenges. Participants are encouraged to share their feedback through various methods, including verbal contributions, chat messages, and raised hands. All input will be recorded and utilized to improve services and strategies.

Questions and Feedback:

What are some of the greatest needs faced in your community?

Category	Needs
Basic Needs	Utility assistance, Food, Car repairs, Childcare
Community Resources	More awareness of available programs, Less restrictions for services, Shared information and resources
Financial Assistance	More funding for programs, Rental assistance, Increase in income needs
Healthcare	Mental health services, Vision and dental care, Access to healthcare
Housing	Affordable housing, Safe and stable housing, Home repairs
Technology and Internet	Access to internet and technology, Technology training and support
Transportation	Improved bus routes, Transportation assistance
Workforce Development	Job training, Job coaching, Creating a training to employment pipeline

The top 5 needs identified by the attendees were:

- Affordable Housing
- Workforce Development and Job Training
- Utility and Financial Assistance
- Healthcare Access and Services
- Transportation Assistance

What are the top 3 solutions GCCSA should prioritize to meet the top 5 needs?

1. Increase Awareness and Access to Programs and Services:

- More awareness for available programs
- Less restrictions for available services
- Shared information and resources

2. Provide Financial and Utility Assistance:

- Utility assistance (more funding)
- Rental assistance
- Vouchers and increased income needs

3. Enhance Workforce Development and Job Training:

- Workforce development programs
- Job training and job coaching
- Creating a training to employment pipeline

Qualitative Data Collection - Key Informant Interviews

Format & Agenda

Key informant interviews were conducted via phone and in-person, during which each interviewee was asked a series of structured questions. This approach ensured that a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs and challenges was captured from diverse perspectives. The questions aimed to gather detailed insights into the key needs of low-income individuals, potential solutions to address these needs, and the barriers to accessing services in the community. Through these interviews, valuable information was obtained to inform the Community Needs Assessment and guide the development of effective strategies to support disadvantaged individuals.

Key Findings

Training and Education	Employment & Economic Development	Basic Needs and Housing	Workforce Development	Education and Awareness	Healthcare and Mental Health	Community Revitalization	Gaps and Barriers
Lack of education and training opportunities.	Employment opportunities.	Financial assistance.	More structured workforce development programs.	Educating the community on available services.	Access to healthcare services.	Access to jobs and quality education.	Knowledge gaps about available services.
Need for quality education and access to training programs.	Higher wages.	High cost of living.	Increased community collaboration between partners.	Use storytelling and highlighting the impact of services.	Addressing mental health needs.	Transportation solutions and improving accessibility.	Lack of will or understanding to access services.
Financial education and understanding of root causes of financial instability.	Workforce development. Economic development and family integration.	Basic needs such as food and childcare. Housing and affordable housing.	Mentorship programs and collective power in providing access to training.	Financial education to empower long-term change. Legislative efforts to secure more funding.	x	Generational change through habit formation and skill acquisition.	Barriers in transportation and access to benefits. Need for more unrestricted funding for programmatic opportunities.

Investing in Our Community.

Investing in Our Future.

The 2024-2027 Community Needs Assessment has identified the top five needs faced by the communities served by GCCSA: Pathways to Affordable and Livable Housing, Inclusive Workforce Strategies for Economic Stability, Affordable and Accessible Healthcare, Equitable Access to Financial Stability, and Enhanced Transportation Accessibility. GCCSA remains committed to addressing these needs and creating positive change.

Next Steps

The findings from this assessment will guide GCCSA's strategic planning, resource allocation, and program development efforts. We thank all who contributed to this process.

Call to Action

Join us in our mission to create a stronger, more equitable future for all. Learn more about GCCSA's programs and services at www.gccsa.org or follow us on social media.

GCCSA remains dedicated to understanding and responding to the evolving needs of our community. Together, we can build a future where all individuals and families thrive.





Appendices (Separate Attachment)

1. Survey Tools
 - a. Community, Internal, & Partners
2. Forum questions
3. Focus group questions
4. Key Informant Interview Template
5. Data Sources
6. Raw/Supplemental Data Tables/Charts
 - a. Available Upon Request (Cloud-based folder)