St. Luke's Health

Sugar Land Hospital

Community Health Needs Assessment 2022

Report adopted by the Board of Directors in May 2022.

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Executive Summary

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is to identify and prioritize significant health needs of the community served by St. Luke's Health – Sugar Land Hospital. The priorities identified in this report help to guide the hospital's community health improvement programs and community benefit activities, as well as its collaborative efforts with other organizations that share a mission to improve health. This CHNA report meets requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that nonprofit hospitals conduct a CHNA at least once every three years.

CommonSpirit Health Commitment and Mission Statement

The hospital's dedication to engaging with the community, assessing priority needs, and helping to address them with community health program activities is in keeping with its mission. As CommonSpirit Health, we make the healing presence of God known in our world by improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are vulnerable, while we advance social justice for all.

CHNA Collaborators

This CHNA was conducted in partnership with St. Luke's Health – Patients Medical Center, St. Luke's Health – The Vintage Hospital, St. Luke's Health – The Woodlands Hospital, St. Luke's Health – Springwoods Village Hospital, St. Luke's Health – Lakeside Hospital, and Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. The hospital engaged Biel Consulting, Inc. to conduct the CHNA.

Community Definition

St. Luke's Health – Sugar Land Hospital is located at 1317 Lake Pointe Parkway, Sugar Land, Texas, 77478. The population of the service area is 984,182. Children and youth, ages 0-17, make up 26.4% of the population, 63% are adults, ages 18-64, and 10.6% of the population are seniors, ages 65 and older. 32.7% of the population in the service area identifies as Hispanic/Latino, and 24.9% of the population identifies as Black/African-American. 21.8% of the population identifies as non-Hispanic White, and 18.8% are Asian. 1.4% of service area individuals identify as multiracial (two-or-more races), 0.2% as of a race/ethnicity not listed, 0.1% of residents identify as American Indian/Alaskan Natives, and 0.1% as Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders. In the service area, 50.9% of the population, 5 years and older, speak only English in the home. Among the area population, 27% speak Spanish, 11.4% speak an Asian/Pacific Islander language and 6.9% speak an Indo-European language in the home.

Among the residents in the service area, 13.5% are at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and 33.4% are at 200% of FPL or below. Those who spend more than 30% of their income on housing are said to be “cost burdened.” In the service area, 35.3% of owner and renter occupied households spend 30% or more of their income on housing. Educational attainment is a key driver of health. In the hospital service area, 16.3% of adults, ages 25 and older, lack a high school diploma. 35.1% of area adults have a Bachelor’s degree or higher degree.

Assessment Process and Methods

Secondary data were collected from local, county, and state sources to present community demographics, social determinants of health, health care access, birth indicators, leading causes of death, COVID-19, chronic disease, health behaviors, mental health, substance use and misuse and preventive practices. Where available, these data are presented in the context of City of Houston, Harris County, Fort Bend County and Texas, framing the scope of an issue as it relates to the broader community. The report includes benchmark comparison data, comparing community data findings with Healthy People 2030 objectives.

Interviews with community stakeholders were conducted to obtain input on health needs, barriers to care and resources available to address the identified health needs. Seven (7) interviews were conducted from January to April 2022. Community stakeholders identified by the hospital were contacted and asked to participate in the interviews. Interviewees included individuals who are leaders and representatives of medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations, or local health or other departments or agencies that have “current data or other information relevant to the health needs of the community served by the hospital facility.”

Process and Criteria to Identify and Prioritize Significant Health Needs

Significant health needs were identified from an analysis of the primary and secondary data sources. Interviews with community stakeholders were used to gather input and prioritize the significant health needs. The following criteria were used to prioritize the health needs:

- The perceived severity of a health or community issue as it affects the health and lives of those in the community.
- Improving or worsening of an issue in the community.
- Availability of resources to address the need.
- The level of importance the hospital should place on addressing the issue.

The key informant stakeholders were asked to prioritize the health needs according to the highest level of importance in the community.

List of Prioritized Significant Health Needs
Access to care, chronic disease and mental health were identified as priority needs by the community stakeholders.

Access to health care – Health insurance coverage is considered a key component to ensure access to health care. The Healthy People 2030 objective for health insurance is 92.1% coverage. 80.7% of the population in the service area has health insurance and 89.1% of children, ages 18 and younger, have health insurance coverage in the service area. Community stakeholders noted that the biggest challenge to accessing health care is getting medical appointments. Even with insurance, it can take up to four weeks to be seen.

Chronic disease – Leading causes of death in the service area are heart disease and cancer. 12.2% of area adults have been diagnosed with diabetes, 31.8% have high blood pressure and 8.4% of adults have been diagnosed with asthma. A stakeholder commented that the high cost of medications was a barrier for chronic disease management.

Mental health – Frequent mental distress is defined as 14 or more bad mental health days in the last month. In the hospital service area, the rate of mental distress among adults was 12.4%. Community stakeholders noted there is a stigma to talking about mental health issues. There are not enough local mental health resources to meet the needs.

Resources Potentially Available to Address Needs
Community stakeholders identified community resources potentially available to address the identified community needs. A partial list of community resources can be found in the CHNA report.

Report Adoption, Availability and Comments
This CHNA report was adopted by the Sugar Land Hospital Board of Directors in May 2022. The Sugar Land Hospital report is available to the public on the web site at https://www.stlukeshealth.org/about-st-lukes-health/healthy-communities. A paper copy of the report is available for inspection upon request at the Mission Integration and Spiritual Care Office, St. Luke's Health – Sugar Land Hospital, 1317 Lake Pointe Parkway, Sugar Land, Texas 77478. Please send comments or questions about this report to Scott Lester at ronald.lester@commonspirit.org.
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Community Definition

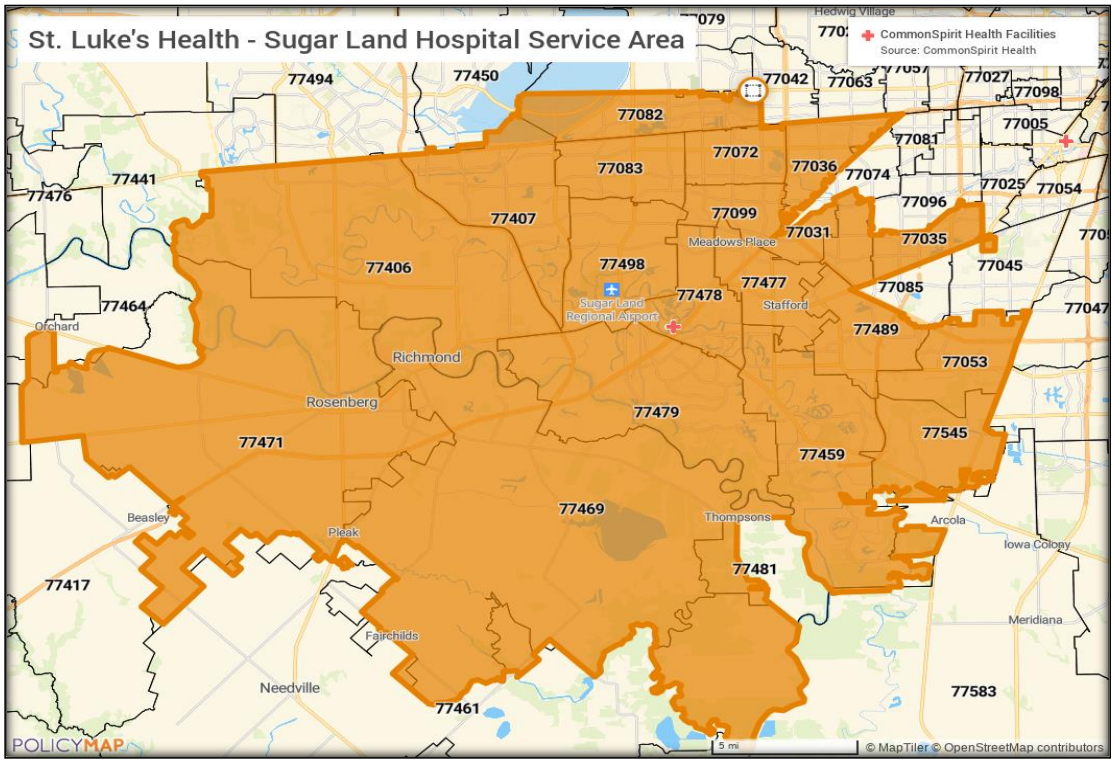
Service Area

St. Luke's Health – Sugar Land Hospital is located at 1317 Lake Pointe Parkway, Sugar Land, TX, 77478. The hospital tracks ZIP Codes of origin for all patient admissions and includes all who received care without regard to insurance coverage or eligibility for financial assistance. For the purposes of this report, the hospital defines its service area to include the following 20 ZIP Codes, in 9 cities or communities, located primarily in Fort Bend County, with portions of 9 ZIP Codes (in Houston) located in Harris County.

St. Luke's Health – Sugar Land Hospital Service Area

Place	ZIP Code	County/Counties
Clodine	77469	Fort Bend
Fresno	77545	Fort Bend
Houston	77031, 77035, 77036, 77053, 7071, 77072, 77082, 77083, 77099	Fort Bend and Harris
Missouri City	77489	Fort Bend
Richmond	77406, 77407	Fort Bend
Rosenberg	77471	Fort Bend
Sienna Plantation	77459	Fort Bend
Stafford	77477	Fort Bend
Sugar Land	77478, 77479, 77498	Fort Bend

St. Luke's Health – Sugar Land Hospital Service Area Map



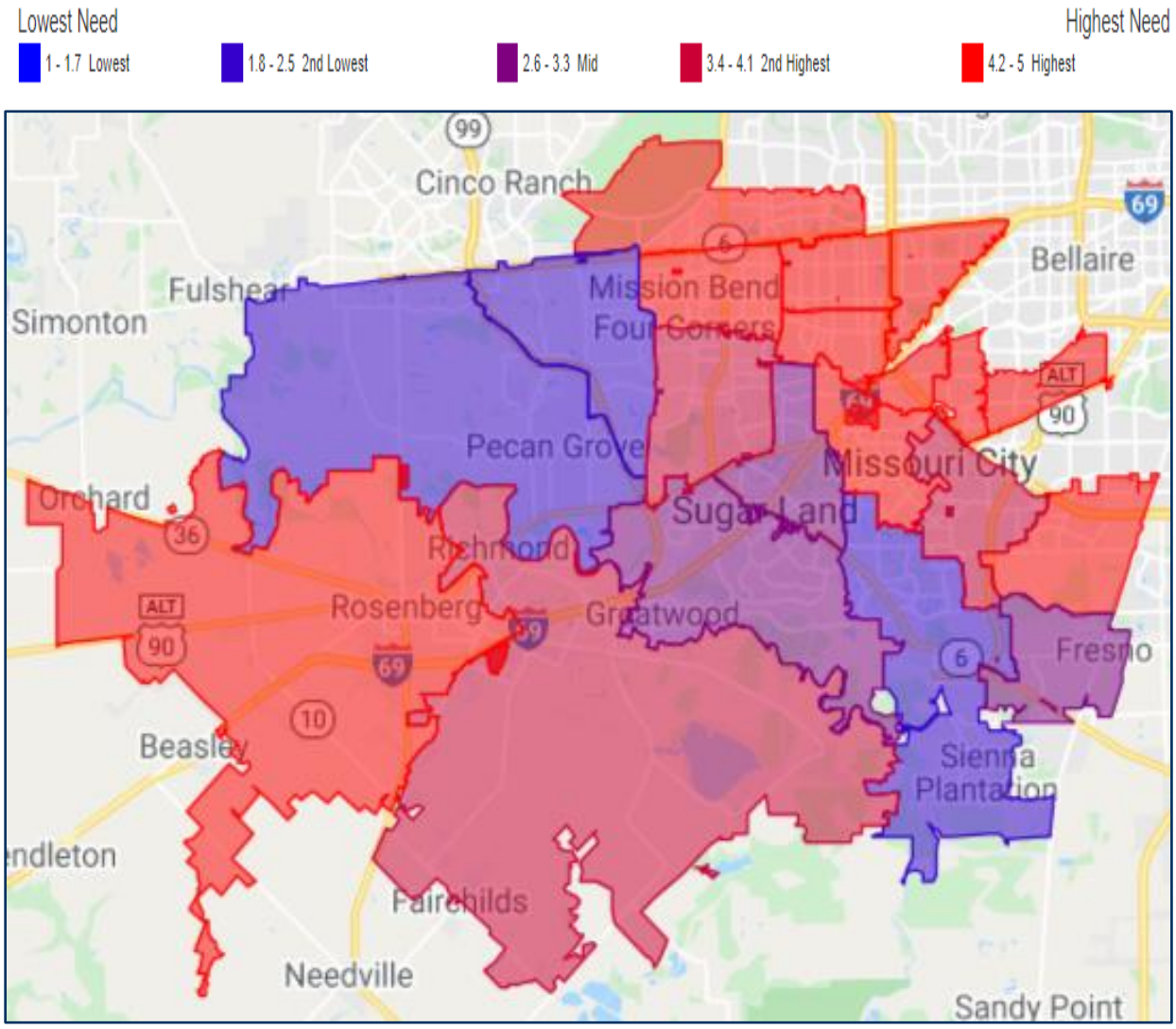
The population of the service area is 984,182. Children and youth, ages 0-17, make up 26.4% of the population, 63% are adults, ages 18-64, and 10.6% of the population are seniors, ages 65 and older. 32.7% of the population in the service area identifies as Hispanic/Latino, and 24.9% of the population identifies as Black/African-American. 21.8% of the population identifies as non-Hispanic White, and 18.8% are Asian. 1.4% of service area individuals identify as multiracial (two-or-more races), 0.2% as of a race/ethnicity not listed, 0.1% of residents identify as American Indian/Alaskan Natives, and 0.1% as Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders. In the service area, 50.9% of the population, 5 years and older, speak only English in the home. Among the area population, 27% speak Spanish, 11.4% speak an Asian/Pacific Islander language and 6.9% speak an Indo-European language in the home.

Among the residents in the service area, 13.5% are at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and 33.4% are at 200% of FPL or below. Those who spend more than 30% of their income on housing are said to be “cost burdened.” In the service area, 35.3% of owner and renter occupied households spend 30% or more of their income on housing. Educational attainment is a key driver of health. In the hospital service area, 16.3% of adults, ages 25 and older, lack a high school diploma. 35.1% of area adults have a Bachelor’s degree or higher degree.

Harris County and Houston are designated as Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) and Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) for primary care, dental health and mental health.

Community Need Index

One tool used to assess health need is the Community Need Index (CNI). The CNI analyzes data at the ZIP Code level on five factors known to contribute or be barriers to health care access: income, culture/language, education, housing status, and insurance coverage. Scores from 1.0 (lowest barriers) to 5.0 (highest barriers) for each factor are averaged to calculate a CNI score for each ZIP Code in the community. The mean CNI score for the Sugar Land Hospital service area is 3.9. Houston 77036 has the highest CNI score in the service area (5.0), and Richmond 77406 and 77407 and Missouri City 77459 have the lowest CNI scores (2.4). Research has shown that communities with the highest CNI scores (those between 4.2 and 5.0) experience twice the rate of hospital admissions for ambulatory care sensitive conditions as those with the lowest scores (1.0 to 1.7).


Lowest Need
Highest Need
1 - 1.7 Lowest
1.8 - 2.5 2nd Lowest
2.6 - 3.3 Mid
3.4 - 4.1 2nd Highest
4.2 - 5 Highest
Cinco Ranch
Fulshear
Simonton
Mission Bend
Four Corners
Bellaire
Pecan Grove
Missouri City
Orchard
Sugar Land
Richmond
Rosenberg
Greatwood
Fresno
Beasley
Sienna Plantation
Fairchilds
Needville
Sandy Point

Mean(zipcode): 3.9 / Mean(person): 3.8 CNI Score Median: 4.3 CNI Score Mode: 4.8

Zip Code	CNI Score	Population	City	County	State
77031	4.8	17069	Houston	Harris	Texas
77035	4.8	37583	Houston	Harris	Texas
77036	5	79481	Houston	Harris	Texas
77053	4.6	33362	Houston	Fort Bend	Texas
77071	4.4	29066	Houston	Harris	Texas
77072	4.8	59660	Houston	Harris	Texas
77082	4.4	60032	Houston	Harris	Texas
77083	4.4	81740	Houston	Harris	Texas
77099	4.8	52043	Houston	Harris	Texas
77406	2.4	53729	Richmond	Fort Bend	Texas
77407	2.4	61425	Richmond	Fort Bend	Texas
77459	2.4	77717	Missouri City	Fort Bend	Texas
77469	4	53301	Richmond	Fort Bend	Texas
77471	4.8	47023	Rosenberg	Fort Bend	Texas
77477	4.2	41132	Stafford	Fort Bend	Texas
77478	3.2	28118	Sugar Land	Fort Bend	Texas
77479	2.6	102503	Sugar Land	Fort Bend	Texas
77489	3.4	40932	Missouri City	Fort Bend	Texas
77498	3.4	62961	Sugar Land	Fort Bend	Texas
77545	3	27212	Fresno	Fort Bend	Texas

Assessment Process and Methods

Secondary Data Collection

Secondary data were collected from a variety of local, county, and state sources to present community demographics, social determinants of health, health care access, birth indicators, leading causes of death, COVID-19, chronic disease, health behaviors, mental health, substance use and misuse and preventive practices. Where available, these data are presented in the context of Houston, Harris County, Fort Bend County and Texas, framing the scope of an issue as it relates to the broader community.

The report includes benchmark comparison data, comparing community data findings with Healthy People 2030 objectives (Attachment 1). Texas is divided into 11 Public Health Regions, and this distinction is used in some of the data tables in this report. Harris and Fort Bend Counties are part of Health Service Region (HSR) 6, along with the following counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Galveston, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

Primary Data Collection

The hospital conducted interviews with community stakeholders to obtain input on health needs, barriers to care and resources available to address the identified health needs.

Interviews

Seven (7) telephone interviews were conducted from January through April 2022. Interview participants included a broad range of stakeholders concerned with health and wellbeing within the service area. The hospital identified stakeholders who were invited by email to participate in a phone interview. Appointments for the interviews were made on dates and times convenient to the stakeholders. At the beginning of each interview, the purpose of the interview in the context of the assessment was explained, the stakeholders were assured their responses would remain confidential, and consent to proceed was given. Attachment 2 lists the stakeholder interview respondents, their titles and organizations.

A review of health data and needs in the service area was conducted prior to the interviews in order to develop an interview framework. The interview asked questions to identify the major health issues impacting the community and the social determinants of health contributing to poor health outcomes. Interviewees were asked to identify populations least likely to receive or seek services. They were also asked to reflect on the impact that COVID-19 had on the health issues in the community. Key stakeholders shared their perspectives on the issues, challenges, and barriers relative to the

identified community needs (What makes each need a significant issue in the community? What are the challenges and barriers people face in addressing these needs?). They also identified potential resources to address the community needs, such as services, programs and/or community efforts. Stakeholder responses to the questions from the interviews are detailed in Attachment 3.

Analysis of the primary data occurred through a process that compared and combined responses to identify themes. The interviews focused on these significant health needs:

- Access to care
- Birth indicators
- Chronic diseases
- COVID-19
- Housing and homelessness
- Mental health
- Overweight and obesity
- Preventive practices
- Substance use
- Tuberculosis

Public Comment

In compliance with IRS regulations 501(r) for charitable hospitals, a hospital CHNA and Implementation Strategy are to be made widely available to the public and public comment is to be solicited. These documents are posted on the web site where they are widely available to the public. The Sugar Land Hospital report is available to the public on the hospital's web site at https://www.stlukeshealth.org/about-st-lukes-health/healthy-communities. No written comments have been received.

Project Oversight

The CHNA process was overseen by:
Rev. Scott Lester
Manager
Mission Integration and Spiritual Care
St. Luke's Health – Sugar Land Hospital

Consultants

Biel Consulting, Inc. conducted the CHNA. Melissa Biel, MSN, DPA was joined by Denise Flanagan, BA and Smruti Shah, MPH. Biel Consulting, Inc. is an independent consulting firm that works with hospitals, clinics and community-based nonprofit organizations. Biel Consulting, Inc. has over 25 years of experience conducting hospital

CHNAs and working with hospitals on developing, implementing, and evaluating community benefit programs. www.bielconsulting.com

Community Demographics

Population

The population of the St. Luke's Health – Sugar Land Hospital (SLH) service area is 984,182. From 2014 to 2019, the population increased by 12.7%, which is a higher rate of growth than Harris County (8.8%) and the state (8.3%), but lower than the Fort Bend County rate of population growth (20.9%).

Total Population and Change in Population

	SLH Service Area	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
Total population	984,182	765,394	4,646,630	28,260,856
Change in population, 2014-2019	12.7%	20.9%	8.8%	8.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014 & 2015-2019, DP05. http://data.census.gov

While data from the 2020 U.S. Census are not yet available at the city or ZIP Code level, the population for Fort Bend County shows a 40.6% increase in population over the 2010 Census.

Total Population and Change in Population, 2010-2020

	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
Total population	822,779	4,731,145	29,145,505
Change in population, 2010-2020	40.6%	15.6%	15.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Decennial Census, 2010-2020. https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/2020-population-and-housing-state-data.html

The service area population is 50.7% female and 49.3% male.

Population, by Gender

	SLH Service Area	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
Male	49.3%	49.1%	49.7%	49.7%
Female	50.7%	50.9%	50.3%	50.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP05.http://data.census.gov

Children and youth, ages 0-17, make up 26.4% of the population, 63% are adults, ages 18-64, and 10.6% of the population are seniors, ages 65 and older.

Population, by Age

	SLH Service Area		Fort Bend County		Harris County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ages 0-4	70,466	7.2%	52,818	6.9%	352,470	7.6%
Ages 5-17	189,308	19.2%	158,851	20.8%	893,422	19.2%
Ages 18-24	91,288	9.3%	63,514	8.3%	436,781	9.4%
Ages 25-44	284,048	28.9%	210,663	27.5%	1,425,905	30.5%

	SLH Service Area		Fort Bend County		Harris County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ages 45-64	244,824	24.9%	198,202	25.9%	1,075,904	23.2%
Ages 65+	104,248	10.6%	81,346	10.6%	472,148	10.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP05. http://data.census.gov/

In the service area, Richmond 77407 has the highest percentage of children and youth (30.5%) and the lowest percentage of seniors, ages 65 and older (6.1%). Sugar Land 77478 has the lowest percentage of children and youth in the service area (16.1%), and the highest percentage of seniors, ages 65 and older (21.6%).

Population, by Youth, Ages 0-17, and Seniors, Ages 65 and Older

	ZIP Code	Total Population	Youth Ages 0 – 17	Seniors Ages 65+
Clodine	77469	53,992	24.9%	11.8%
Fresno	77545	25,226	29.7%	7.4%
Houston	77031	18,058	26.3%	11.6%
Houston	77035	36,931	26.4%	10.5%
Houston	77036	74,472	28.6%	7.1%
Houston	77053	31,650	29.7%	8.9%
Houston	77071	28,888	26.5%	12.8%
Houston	77072	61,122	28.0%	10.2%
Houston	77082	55,056	21.7%	11.3%
Houston	77083	78,298	25.2%	10.1%
Houston	77099	52,294	27.7%	8.5%
Missouri City	77489	38,242	24.7%	11.9%
Richmond	77406	49,261	26.1%	11.1%
Richmond	77407	60,000	30.5%	6.1%
Rosenberg	77471	41,212	30.0%	10.6%
Sienna Plantation	77459	72,788	26.6%	12.1%
Stafford	77477	35,830	22.0%	10.3%
Sugar Land	77478	25,721	16.1%	21.6%
Sugar Land	77479	93,848	26.8%	12.3%
Sugar Land	77498	51,293	25.8%	11.2%
SLH Service Area		**984,182**	**26.4%**	**10.6%**
Fort Bend County		**765,394**	**27.7%**	**10.6%**
Harris County		**4,646,630**	**26.8%**	**10.2%**
Texas		**28,260,856**	**26.0%**	**12.3%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP05. http://data.census.gov/

Race/Ethnicity

32.7% of the population in the service area identifies as Hispanic/Latino, and 24.9% of the population identifies as Black/African-American. 21.8% of the population identifies as non-Hispanic White, and 18.8% are Asian. 1.4% of service area individuals identify as multiracial (two-or-more races), 0.2% as of a race/ethnicity not listed, 0.1% of residents identify as American Indian/Alaskan Natives, and 0.1% as Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders.

Race/Ethnicity

	SLH Service Area	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
Hispanic or Latino	32.7%	24.5%	42.9%	39.3%
Black/African American	24.9%	20.1%	18.6%	11.8%
White	21.8%	33.1%	29.6%	42.0%
Asian	18.8%	20.0%	6.9%	4.7%
Multiracial	1.4%	1.8%	1.5%	1.7%
Some other race	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
American Indian/AK Native	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
Native HI/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.08%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP05. http://data.census.gov/

When race/ethnicity is examined by ZIP Code, Houston 77036 (61.8%) has the highest percentage of the population identifying as Hispanic/Latino. Missouri City (69.9%) has the highest percentage of Blacks/African Americans. Richmond 77406 (55.8%), has the highest percentage of Whites in the service area, and Sugar Land 77479 has the highest percentage of Asians (43.9%).

Race/Ethnicity, by ZIP Code

	ZIP Code	Hispanic/Latino	Black	White	Asian
Clodine	77469	33.4%	18.9%	33.7%	11.6%
Fresno	77545	35.5%	57.7%	3.8%	1.5%
Houston	77031	50.6%	25.4%	17.8%	5.5%
Houston	77035	40.8%	27.2%	25.1%	5.4%
Houston	77036	61.8%	13.6%	8.1%	14.8%
Houston	77053	54.5%	41.3%	2.7%	0.9%
Houston	77071	31.5%	44.8%	15.5%	7.4%
Houston	77072	53.7%	17.6%	5.3%	22.8%
Houston	77082	27.3%	36.8%	18.8%	14.6%
Houston	77083	35.4%	29.1%	8.0%	25.8%
Houston	77099	50.2%	29.3%	7.8%	11.6%
Missouri City	77489	21.8%	69.9%	3.7%	2.9%
Richmond	77406	23.3%	10.4%	55.8%	8.3%
Richmond	77407	14.8%	26.4%	25.4%	32.3%
Rosenberg	77471	60.4%	13.4%	23.8%	1.4%
Sienna Plantation	77459	13.0%	26.2%	34.9%	22.5%
Stafford	77477	26.5%	27.8%	19.6%	23.4%
Sugar Land	77478	10.7%	6.0%	48.8%	32.2%
Sugar Land	77479	9.5%	7.3%	37.1%	43.9%
Sugar Land	77498	24.6%	18.7%	26.8%	27.1%
SLH Service Area		**32.7%**	**24.9%**	**21.8%**	**18.8%**
Fort Bend County		**24.5%**	**20.1%**	**33.1%**	**20.0%**
Harris County		**42.9%**	**18.6%**	**29.6%**	**6.9%**
Texas		**39.3%**	**11.8%**	**42.0%**	**4.7%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP05. http://data.census.gov/

Language

In the service area, 50.9% of the population, 5 years and older, speak only English in

the home. Among the area population, 27% speak Spanish, 11.4% speak an Asian/Pacific Islander language, and 6.9% speak an Indo-European language in the home. 3.8% of the population speak some other language.

Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Older

	SLH Service Area	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
Population, 5 years and older	913,716	712,576	4,294,160	26,261,053
English only	50.9%	60.5%	55.6%	64.5%
Speaks Spanish	27.0%	17.6%	35.0%	29.3%
Speaks Asian or Pacific Islander language	11.4%	10.4%	4.6%	3.0%
Speaks non-Spanish Indo-European language	6.9%	8.4%	3.1%	2.2%
Speaks other language	3.8%	3.0%	1.6%	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP02. http://data.census.gov/

There are two ZIP Codes within the service area where more than half of households speak Spanish in the home: Houston 77036 (59.8%) and 77053 (51.8%). Sugar Land 77479 (21.1%) and Houston 77072 (20.2%) have the highest percentage of Asian/Pacific-Islander language households. Sugar Land 77479 (18.7%) and Richmond 77407 (18.6%) have the highest percentage of Indo-European language households. Richmond 77406 has the highest percentage of English-only households (78.8%).

Language Spoken at Home, by ZIP Code

	ZIP Code	English	Spanish	Asian/Pacific Islander	Indo European
Clodine	77469	65.9%	19.9%	6.4%	5.3%
Fresno	77545	64.0%	31.3%	1.2%	0.6%
Houston	77031	46.1%	44.3%	4.9%	1.5%
Houston	77035	54.1%	37.7%	2.3%	4.3%
Houston	77036	21.4%	59.8%	12.3%	2.6%
Houston	77053	46.6%	51.8%	0.4%	0.3%
Houston	77071	57.0%	28.5%	6.0%	1.5%
Houston	77072	24.9%	49.4%	20.2%	1.8%
Houston	77082	52.9%	24.1%	10.6%	5.7%
Houston	77083	36.6%	30.5%	19.0%	6.4%
Houston	77099	34.9%	46.5%	6.5%	7.2%
Missouri City	77489	77.2%	18.4%	2.3%	0.9%
Richmond	77406	78.8%	12.6%	3.1%	4.7%
Richmond	77407	49.2%	12.2%	12.1%	18.6%
Rosenberg	77471	56.9%	40.3%	0.8%	0.7%
Sienna Plantation	77459	70.0%	7.3%	14.4%	6.5%
Stafford	77477	52.7%	20.0%	15.8%	7.3%
Sugar Land	77478	57.0%	7.9%	18.0%	13.5%
Sugar Land	77479	52.4%	5.0%	21.1%	18.7%
Sugar Land	77498	51.9%	17.1%	15.9%	10.2%
SLH Service Area		**50.9%**	**27.0%**	**10.4%**	**6.9%**
Fort Bend County		**60.5%**	**17.6%**	**11.4%**	**8.4%**
Harris County		**55.6%**	**35.0%**	**4.6%**	**3.1%**

	ZIP Code	English	Spanish	Asian/Pacific Islander	Indo European
Texas		**64.5%**	**29.3%**	**3.0%**	**2.2%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP02. http://data.census.gov/

Among area school districts, the percentage of students classified as Limited English Proficient and English Language Learners ranges from 15% in the Lamar Consolidated School District to 44.6% in the Alief Independent School District.

English Language Learner Students, by School District

	Number	Percent
Alief Independent School District	20,195	44.6%
Fort Bend Independent School District	12,334	15.9%
Houston Independent School District	71,165	34.0%
Lamar Consolidated School District	5,256	15.0%
Stafford Municipal School District	734	20.9%
Fort Bend County	**18,613**	**15.6%**
Harris County	**241,272**	**26.7%**
Texas	**1,112,588**	**20.3%**

Source: Texas Education Agency, Snapshot 2020 (2019-2020). https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/snapshot/2020/index.html

Veteran Status

In the service area, 4.2% of the civilian population, 18 years and older, are veterans.

Veteran Status, Civilian Population, Ages 18 and Older

	ZIP Code	Percent
Clodine	77469	5.5%
Fresno	77545	5.9%
Houston	77031	3.4%
Houston	77035	5.6%
Houston	77036	2.2%
Houston	77053	3.5%
Houston	77071	5.1%
Houston	77072	2.1%
Houston	77082	4.5%
Houston	77083	2.5%
Houston	77099	2.9%
Missouri City	77489	5.9%
Richmond	77406	7.9%
Richmond	77407	3.4%
Rosenberg	77471	5.5%
Sienna Plantation	77459	6.0%
Stafford	77477	3.8%
Sugar Land	77478	5.0%
Sugar Land	77479	3.6%
Sugar Land	77498	3.2%
SLH Service Area		**4.2%**
Fort Bend County		**4.7%**
Harris County		**4.7%**
Texas		**7.0%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP02. http://data.census.gov

Citizenship

In the service area, 34.4% of the population is foreign-born. Of the foreign-born in the service area, 52.4% are not citizens. It is important to note that not being a U.S. citizen does not indicate an illegal resident status within the U.S.

Foreign-Born Residents and Citizenship

	SLH Service Area	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
Foreign born	34.4%	28.9%	26.1%	17.0%
Of the foreign born, not a U.S. citizen	52.4%	45.7%	63.4%	62.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP02. http://data.census.gov

Social Determinants of Health

Social and Economic Factors Ranking

The County Health Rankings ranks counties according to health factors data. Social and economic indicators are examined as a contributor to the health of a county's residents. Texas has 254 counties, 243 of which are ranked from 1 to 243 according to social and economic factors. A ranking of 1 is the county with the best factors and a ranking of 243 is the county with the poorest factors. This ranking examines: high school graduation rates, unemployment, children in poverty, social support, and others. Harris County is ranked 160 among ranked counties in Texas, according to social and economic factors, placing it in the bottom third quartile. Fort Bend County, with a ranking of 8, is in the top 5% of ranked counties.

Social and Economic Factors Ranking

	County Ranking (out of 243)
Fort Bend County	8
Harris County	160

Source: County Health Rankings, 2021 http://www.countyhealthrankings.org

Poverty

Poverty thresholds are used for calculating official poverty population statistics. They are updated each year by the Census Bureau. For 2019, the federal poverty level (FPL) for one person was $13,011 and for a family of four $25,926. Among the residents in the service area, 13.5% are at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and 33.4% are at 200% of FPL or below. The low-income rate in the service area is 33.4. The highest poverty and low-income rates in the service area are found in Houston 77036, where 33.3% of the population lives in poverty and 64.5% qualify as low-income. Sienna Plantation has the lowest rates of residents living in poverty (3.2%) and residents who live below 200% of the FPL (10.3%).

Income below 100% and 200% of Federal Poverty Level, by ZIP Code

	ZIP Code	<100% FPL	<200% FPL
Clodine	77469	6.9%	22.9%
Fresno	77545	6.5%	27.7%
Houston	77031	21.4%	39.8%
Houston	77035	22.8%	47.8%
Houston	77036	33.3%	64.5%
Houston	77053	21.0%	49.9%
Houston	77071	14.8%	39.9%
Houston	77072	21.8%	57.0%
Houston	77082	17.1%	37.7%
Houston	77083	14.4%	42.1%
Houston	77099	22.4%	52.5%

	ZIP Code	<100% FPL	<200% FPL
Missouri City	77489	9.1%	29.8%
Richmond	77406	6.0%	13.6%
Richmond	77407	5.2%	19.0%
Rosenberg	77471	15.2%	44.4%
Sienna Plantation	77459	3.2%	10.3%
Stafford	77477	14.9%	31.7%
Sugar Land	77478	7.2%	17.4%
Sugar Land	77479	4.2%	11.2%
Sugar Land	77498	8.4%	21.1%
SLH Service Area		**13.5%**	**33.4%**
Fort Bend County		**7.4%**	**19.9%**
Harris County		**15.7%**	**36.3%**
Texas		**14.7%**	**34.3%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, S1701. http://data.census.gov/

The rate of poverty among children in the service area is 20%. The rate of poverty among seniors in the service area is 10.4%. The rate of poverty for female heads-of-household (HoH), living with their own children, under the age of 18, with no spouse or partner present, is 35.3% in the service area.

In the service area, Houston 77036 has the highest rates of poverty in the service area among children (50.2%), female heads-of-household living with children (57.7%) and among seniors (25%). Sienna Plantation has the lowest rate of poverty in children (2.4%) and among female HoH with children (3.1%). The lowest rate of poverty among seniors is in Richmond 77406 (1.2%).

Poverty Levels of Children, under Age 18; Seniors, Ages 65 and Older, and Female HoH

	ZIP Code	Children	Seniors	Female HoH with Children*
Clodine	77469	8.8%	6.9%	25.3%
Fresno	77545	6.0%	7.6%	5.3%
Houston	77031	38.5%	15.1%	48.1%
Houston	77035	35.7%	18.9%	45.6%
Houston	77036	50.2%	25.0%	57.7%
Houston	77053	34.2%	8.5%	46.3%
Houston	77071	20.6%	15.0%	44.7%
Houston	77072	32.4%	14.6%	46.6%
Houston	77082	25.2%	18.1%	40.0%
Houston	77083	22.4%	14.0%	27.1%
Houston	77099	33.6%	15.8%	38.1%
Missouri City	77489	17.7%	4.0%	18.8%
Richmond	77406	4.9%	1.2%	17.6%
Richmond	77407	5.7%	13.5%	17.6%
Rosenberg	77471	22.9%	15.8%	37.3%
Sienna Plantation	77459	2.4%	4.9%	3.1%

	ZIP Code	Children	Seniors	Female HoH with Children*
Stafford	77477	21.6%	9.0%	25.0%
Sugar Land	77478	6.0%	5.6%	16.9%
Sugar Land	77479	5.0%	4.4%	24.0%
Sugar Land	77498	13.5%	5.5%	28.6%
SLH Service Area		**20.0%**	**10.4%**	**35.3%**
Fort Bend County		**9.2%**	**7.2%**	**21.4%**
Harris County		**23.4%**	**11.3%**	**38.9%**
Texas		**20.9%**	**10.6%**	**37.6%**

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, S1701 & *S1702. http://data.census.gov/*

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in the service area, averaged over 5 years, was 5.6%. Rates ranged from 2.8% in Richmond 77406 to 9% in Houston 77053.

Employment Status for the Population, Ages 16 and Older

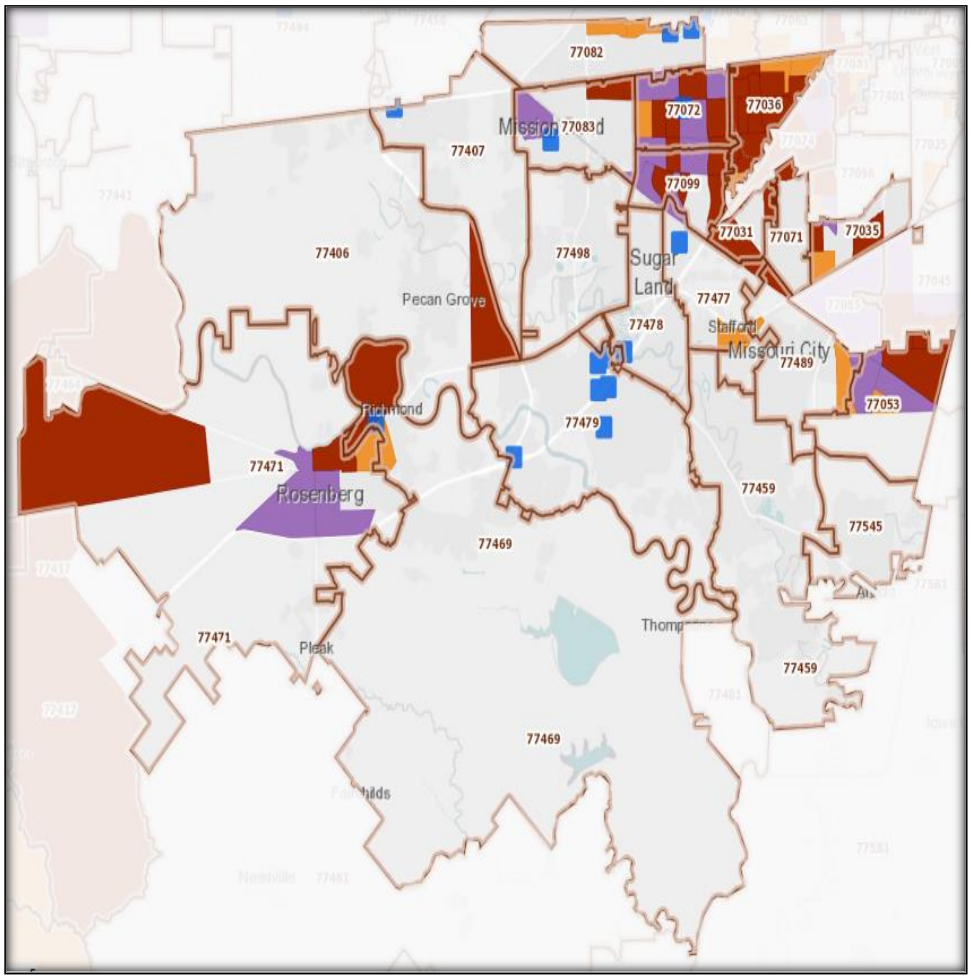
	ZIP Code	Civilian Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Clodine	77469	27,074	1,222	4.5%
Fresno	77545	13,121	483	3.7%
Houston	77031	9,694	789	8.1%
Houston	77035	19,298	1,130	5.9%
Houston	77036	38,255	2,582	6.7%
Houston	77053	15,018	1,350	9.0%
Houston	77071	14,739	836	5.7%
Houston	77072	30,639	1,683	5.5%
Houston	77082	31,265	1,746	5.6%
Houston	77083	40,083	2,148	5.4%
Houston	77099	26,244	1,809	6.9%
Missouri City	77489	20,839	1,500	7.2%
Richmond	77406	24,408	672	2.8%
Richmond	77407	30,865	1,568	5.1%
Rosenberg	77471	19,711	1,033	5.2%
Sienna Plantation	77459	38,333	2,142	5.6%
Stafford	77477	20,659	1,194	5.8%
Sugar Land	77478	13,811	658	4.8%
Sugar Land	77479	47,273	2,232	4.7%
Sugar Land	77498	26,940	1,615	6.0%
SLH Service Area		**508,269**	**28,392**	**5.6%**
Fort Bend County		**386,796**	**19,761**	**5.1%**
Harris County		**2,387,583**	**138,920**	**5.8%**
Texas		**13,962,458**	**708,827**	**5.1%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP03. http://data.census.gov/

Vulnerable Populations

When vulnerable populations in the area are mapped, pockets of poverty emerge. The map below shows the service area and surrounding areas, highlighting the percentage of each ZIP Code that has more than 20% poverty (in tan) and more than 25% of the

population with low education, defined as less than a high school education (in lavender). Areas above the vulnerable thresholds for poverty and education are noted on the map in brown. Area hospitals are represented by blue squares, and Sugar Land Hospital is located in the bottom left of ZIP Code 77478 on the map.



In the service area, parts of Houston ZIP Codes 77082 and 77036, Stafford, and to the south of Richmond, among others, show a high percentage of poverty, while parts of Houston 77053, 77072, and 77099, Rosenberg, Mission Bend, and others, show low education levels. Portions of Rosenberg, Richmond, east of Pecan Grove and Houston 77036, 77053, 77072, and 77099 contain a high percentage of vulnerable populations, with 25% or more of the population possessing less than a high school education and poverty found among 20% or more of the population.

Source: Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES), Vulnerable Populations Footprint Map.
https://careshq.org/map-room/?action=tool_map&tool=footprint

Economically Disadvantaged Students

The percentage of students determined by the Texas Education Agency to be 'Economically Disadvantaged' is another indicator of socioeconomic status. This classification is determined by eligibility for the national free and reduced-price meals program, or other public assistance. Alief ISD (83.8%), Houston ISD (79.3%) and Stafford MSD (73.6%) have the highest rates of economically disadvantaged children in the service area.

Economically Disadvantaged Students

	Percent	
	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
Alief Independent School District	84.4%	83.8%
Fort Bend Independent School District	43.2%	43.5%
Houston Independent School District	79.9%	79.3%
Lamar Consolidated School District	45.2%	45.5%
Stafford Municipal School District	72.7%	73.6%
Fort Bend County	**44.6%**	**44.9%**
Harris County	**65.5%**	**66.0%**
Texas	**60.6%**	**60.3%**

Source: Texas Education Agency, Snapshots 2019 & 2020. https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/snapshot/2020/index.html

Households

In the service area, there are 317,302 households and 341,950 housing units. Over the last five years, the population grew by 12.7%, the number of households grew at a rate of 13.6%, housing units grew at a rate of 10.7%, and vacant units decreased by 16.7%. Owner-occupied housing increased by 11.4% and renters increased by 17.1%.

Households and Housing Units, and Percent Change

	SLH Service Area			Houston		
	2014	2019	Percent Change	2014	2019	Percent Change
Households	279,408	317,302	13.6%	792,763	858,374	8.3%
Owner occ.	61.5%	60.3%	11.4%	44.5%	42.3%	2.8%
Renter occ.	38.5%	39.7%	17.1%	55.5%	57.7%	12.6%
Housing units	308,988	341,950	10.7%	913,006	968,704	6.1%
Vacant	9.6%	7.2%	-16.7%	13.2%	11.4%	-8.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014 & 2015-2019, DP04. http://data.census.gov/

Households by Type

27.8% of service area households are family households (married or cohabiting couples) with children, ages 18 and younger, and 7.8% of households are households with a female as head of household with children and no spouse or partner present. 6.1% of area households are seniors who live alone. Seniors living alone may be isolated and lack adequate support systems.

Households, by Type

	Total Households	Family Households* with Children Under Age18	Female Head of Household with own Children Under Age 18	Seniors, 65 and Older, Living Alone
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
SLH Service Area	317,302	27.8%	7.8%	6.1%
Fort Bend County	237,883	35.9%	5.4%	5.1%

	Total Households	Family Households* with Children Under Age18	Female Head of Household with own Children Under Age 18	Seniors, 65 and Older, Living Alone
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Harris County	1,605,368	25.0%	7.4%	6.9%
Texas	9,691,647	24.6%	6.5%	8.3%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP02. http://data.census.gov/ *Family Households refers to married or cohabiting couples with householder's children under 18.*

5.5% of unmarried-partner households in the service area are same-sex couples and 94.5% are heterosexual-couples.

Unmarried Partner Households, by Gender of Partner

	Total Households	Same-Gender Households		Mixed-Gender Households	
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
SLH Service Area	15,401	850	5.5%	14,551	94.5%
Fort Bend County	7,754	542	7.0%	7,212	93.0%
Harris County	95,110	6,044	6.4%	89,066	93.6%
Texas	513,894	33,857	6.6%	480,037	93.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, B11009. http://data.census.gov/

The weighted average of the median household income is $73,193. Household incomes ranged from $30,952 in Houston 77036 to $140,394 in Sugar Land 77479.

Median Household Income

	ZIP Code	Households	Median Household Income
Clodine	77469	17,216	$81,374
Fresno	77545	7,113	$80,873
Houston	77031	6,296	$48,029
Houston	77035	13,764	$44,382
Houston	77036	26,500	$30,952
Houston	77053	8,840	$50,368
Houston	77071	10,110	$48,532
Houston	77072	17,954	$41,228
Houston	77082	22,308	$51,943
Houston	77083	22,338	$54,425
Houston	77099	17,017	$40,802
Missouri City	77489	12,388	$68,646
Richmond	77406	15,422	$124,705
Richmond	77407	17,015	$101,612
Rosenberg	77471	13,099	$52,764
Sienna Plantation	77459	22,624	$112,368
Stafford	77477	12,934	$59,910
Sugar Land	77478	9,603	$92,327
Sugar Land	77479	29,475	$140,394
Sugar Land	77498	15,286	$80,748

	ZIP Code	Households	Median Household Income
SLH Service Area		**317,302**	**$73,193**
Fort Bend County		**237,883**	**$97,743**
Harris County		**1,605,368**	**$61,705**
Texas		**9,691,647**	**$61,874**

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP03. http://data.census.gov/ *Weighted average of the medians.*

According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, those who spend more than 30% of their income on housing are said to be "cost burdened." 35.3% of owner and renter occupied households in the service area spend 30% or more of their income on housing. There is one ZIP Code in the service area where more than half of households pay 30% or more of their income on housing: Houston 77036 (51.9%).

Households that Spend 30% or More of Income on Housing

	ZIP Code	Percent
Clodine	77469	30.8%
Fresno	77545	29.7%
Houston	77031	36.3%
Houston	77035	40.9%
Houston	77036	51.9%
Houston	77053	37.1%
Houston	77071	37.9%
Houston	77072	47.4%
Houston	77082	42.2%
Houston	77083	39.1%
Houston	77099	45.3%
Missouri City	77489	28.3%
Richmond	77406	24.0%
Richmond	77407	32.6%
Rosenberg	77471	36.0%
Sienna Plantation	77459	25.1%
Stafford	77477	38.5%
Sugar Land	77478	29.0%
Sugar Land	77479	23.0%
Sugar Land	77498	26.2%
SLH Service Area		**35.3%**
Fort Bend County		**27.5%**
Harris County		**34.0%**
Texas		**30.5%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP04. http://data.census.gov/

Homelessness

A point-in-time count (PIT Count) of persons experiencing homelessness is conducted annually in every state in the nation, scheduled to occur on a single night in the third week of January, unless weather does not permit. Most of the service area is covered under The Way Home Continuum of Care (CoC), which covers Harris, Fort Bend and Montgomery Counties. The 2020 PIT Count occurred on January 27, 2020 with the unsheltered portion of the county conducted over a three-day period from January 28-

30. It was organized and led by the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County in consultation with UTHealth School of Public Health.

At the time of the 2020 PIT Count, there were an estimated 3,974 homeless individuals in The Way Home CoC, most in Harris County. Over the past three years, the homeless population has risen statewide. In the local CoC, both the number and proportion of homeless who were sheltered has declined, suggesting a loss of shelter beds over that period. In the state, the proportion of homeless who were chronically homeless has declined, while in the local CoC it has risen, from 15% to 20.1%, or 800 chronically homeless persons at the start of 2020. The number and proportion of persons experiencing homeless who were veterans has declined locally and in Texas.

Homeless Point-in-Time Count, 2017 and 2020

	The Way Home (Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery Counties) CoC				Texas			
	2017		2020		2017		2020	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Homeless	**3,605**	**100%**	**3,974**	**100%**	**23,548**	**100%**	**27,229**	**100%**
Sheltered	2,477	68.7%	2,318	58.3%	15,055	63.9%	14,017	51.5%
Unsheltered	1,128	31.3%	1,656	41.7%	8,493	36.1%	13,212	48.5%
Chronically homeless	539	15.0%	800	20.1%	3,711	15.8%	4,033	14.8%
Veteran	405	11.2%	267	6.7%	2,200	9.3%	1,948	7.2%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), 2017 & 2020. https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/ahar/

Community Input – Housing and Homelessness

Stakeholder interviews identified the following issues, challenges and barriers related to housing and homelessness. Following are their comments summarized and edited for clarity:

- Quality of affordable housing is subpar due to substandard building materials and the impacts of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. There is not enough housing stock to meet the need.
- Housing insecurity includes children moving from relative to relative, having to stay in shelters, due to parents losing a job, people sleeping in cars because they can't afford rent, or students couch-surfing because they are not able to find secure housing.
- Many of the unhoused have comorbidities and chronic diseases, which require more wraparound services.

Public Program Participation

In the service area, 4.3% of residents received SSI benefits, 1.6% received cash public assistance income, and 12.9% of residents received food stamp benefits.

Household Supportive Benefits

	SLH Service Area	Fort Bend County	Harris County
Total households	**317,302**	**237,883**	**1,605,368**
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	4.3%	3.1%	4.1%
Public Assistance	1.6%	1.2%	1.4%
Food Stamps/SNAP	12.9%	6.9%	12.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP03. http://data.census.gov

Food Security

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) utilizes an 18-question Food Security Supplement module to determine food insecurity rates of households. Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, defines 'Food Insecure' as three or more affirmative responses to these questions.

In Harris County in 2019, 13.9% of residents were food insecure and in Fort Bend County the rate was 9.5%. Of those who reported being food insecure, 70% in Harris County and 45% in Fort Bend County were likely eligible for SNAP benefits due to household incomes at or below 165% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Among Harris County children, 20.1% were food insecure and in Fort Bend County 14.3% were food insecure.

Food Security

	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
Food insecure population, all ages	72,370	644,710	4,092,850
Food insecure rate, all ages	9.5%	13.9%	14.1%
Income eligible for SNAP, all ages, at or < 165% FPL	45%	70%	62%
Food insecure, children	30,210	250,600	1,448,490
Food insecure rate, children	14.3%	20.1%	19.6%
Income eligible for federal programs, children, at or <185% FPL	46%	68%	66%

Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, based on Current Population Survey data, 2019.
https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2019/overall/texas

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is a key driver of health. In the service area, 16.3% of adults, ages 25 and older, lack a high school diploma. 35.1% of area adults have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

Education Levels, Population 25 Years and Older

	SLH Service Area	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
Population 25 years and older	**633,120**	**490,211**	**2,963,957**	**18,131,554**
Less than 9th grade	9.5%	4.8%	10.4%	8.2%

	SLH Service Area	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	6.8%	4.6%	8.2%	8.1%
High school graduate	22.4%	17.9%	23.4%	25.0%
Some college, no degree	19.5%	19.3%	19.8%	21.6%
Associate's degree	6.7%	7.2%	6.7%	7.2%
Bachelor's degree	22.2%	28.1%	20.1%	19.5%
Graduate/professional degree	12.9%	18.1%	11.4%	10.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP02. http://data.census.gov/,

High School Graduation Rates

High school graduation rates are the percentage of high school students that graduate four years after starting 9th grade. The Healthy People 2030 objective for high school graduation is 90.7%. Of area school districts, only Houston ISD (81%) did not meet this objective.

High School Graduation Rates

	Percent
Alief Independent School District	91.7%
Fort Bend Independent School District	95.0%
Houston Independent School District	81.0%
Lamar Consolidated School District	95.1%
Stafford Municipal School District	94.1%
Fort Bend County	***95.1%**
Harris County	***89.1%**
Texas	***92.8%**

Source: Texas Education Agency, Snapshot 2020 (Class of 2019). https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/snapshot/2020/index.html
**County and State rates do not include Districts whose graduation rates were either suppressed or otherwise unavailable.*

Preschool Enrollment

46.7% of service area children, ages 3 and 4, were enrolled in preschool. The enrollment rates ranged from 21.2% in Richmond 77407 to 71.2% in Stafford. The Texas Public Education Information Resource website reports that among children eligible for public preschool, those who attended were more likely to graduate high school than those who did not (https://www.texaseducationinfo.org/).

Enrolled in Preschool, Children, Ages 3 and 4

	ZIP Code	Population, Ages 3 and 4	Percent Enrolled
Clodine	77469	426	45.8%
Fresno	77545	1,136	46.8%
Houston	77031	2,854	36.2%
Houston	77035	834	40.3%
Houston	77036	1,016	40.4%
Houston	77053	1,592	30.8%
Houston	77071	1,785	36.8%
Houston	77072	2,116	45.7%

	ZIP Code	Population, Ages 3 and 4	Percent Enrolled
Houston	77082	1,420	25.8%
Houston	77083	1,775	67.8%
Houston	77099	2,255	49.8%
Missouri City	77489	1,844	67.8%
Richmond	77406	1,492	51.9%
Richmond	77407	1,399	21.2%
Rosenberg	77471	771	43.5%
Sienna Plantation	77459	382	56.3%
Stafford	77477	2,506	71.2%
Sugar Land	77478	1,081	34.0%
Sugar Land	77479	1,338	49.6%
Sugar Land	77498	1,122	54.4%
SLH Service Area		**29,144**	**46.7%**
Fort Bend County		**23,381**	**56.4%**
Harris County		**140,708**	**43.0%**
Texas		**823,538**	**43.2%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, S1401. http://data.census.gov/

Crime and Violence

Crime negatively impacts communities through economic loss, reduced productivity, and disruption of social services. Violent crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crimes include arson, burglary, larceny theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Violent crime rates increased slightly from 2014 to 2019, in Harris County, the state, and three of the four area cities for which data were available. The crime rate was highest in Houston (1,086.1 violent crimes per 100,000 persons), Harris County (723.3 violent crimes per 100,000 persons) and Stafford (587.5 violent crimes per 100,000 persons).

Property crime rates decreased from 2014 to 2019 for the area cities for which data were available. Rates were highest in Houston (4,402.4 property crimes per 100,000 persons), Harris County (3,325.8 property crimes per 100,000 persons) and Stafford (3,264.4 property crimes per 100,000 persons).

Violent Crimes Rates and Property Crime Rates, per 100,000 Persons

	Violent Crimes Rate		Property Crimes Rate	
	2014	2019	2014	2019
Houston	996.3	1,086.1	4,769.1	4,402.4
Richmond	402.6	372.3	2,785.0	1,853,3
Rosenberg	273.8	380.1	2,157.8	1,759.2
Stafford	428.0	587.5	3,989.2	3,264.4
Fort Bend County	**267.4**	**236.6**	**1,591.0**	**1,345.4**

	Violent Crimes Rate		Property Crimes Rate	
	2014	2019	2014	2019
Harris County	**717.6**	**723.3**	**3,801.2**	**3,325.8**
Texas	**406.8**	**418.9**	**3,016.6**	**2,386.3**

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigations, Nationwide Crime Counts and Rates, via PolicyMap.
https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables

Health Care Access

Health Insurance Coverage

Health insurance coverage is considered a key component to ensure access to health care. 80.7% of the population in the service area has health insurance. Sugar Land 77479 (93.8%) and Sienna Plantation (93.1%) have the highest health insurance rates, and Houston 77036 (57.7%), 77031 (66.9%) and 77099 (67.3%) have the lowest rates of health insurance. The Healthy People 2030 objective is for 92.1% of the population to be covered by health insurance. The service area does not meet this objective.

89.1% of children, ages 0-18, have health insurance coverage in the service area. Sugar Land 77479 (95.6%), Sienna Plantation (94.4%) and Houston 77053 (93.7%) have the highest health insurance rates among children, and Houston 77099 (80.2%), 77031 (82%) and Houston 77036 (82.4%) have the lowest percentage of children with health insurance. Among adults, ages 19-64, 74.3% in the service area have health insurance. Sugar Land 77479 has the highest insurance rate (92.6%) and Houston 77036 (42.3%) had the lowest health insurance rates.

Health Insurance, Total Population, Children, Ages 0-18, and Adults, Ages 19-64

	ZIP Code	Total Population	Children, Ages 0-18	Adults, Ages 19-64
Clodine	77469	86.8%	91.2%	82.6%
Fresno	77545	83.6%	88.5%	79.6%
Houston	77031	66.9%	82.0%	54.8%
Houston	77035	72.2%	86.4%	62.2%
Houston	77036	57.7%	82.4%	42.3%
Houston	77053	77.1%	93.7%	65.6%
Houston	77071	81.4%	87.1%	75.7%
Houston	77072	70.8%	85.4%	59.9%
Houston	77082	81.2%	88.3%	75.9%
Houston	77083	76.0%	87.0%	68.8%
Houston	77099	67.3%	80.2%	57.4%
Missouri City	77489	85.9%	92.2%	80.7%
Richmond	77406	92.1%	93.0%	90.3%
Richmond	77407	84.9%	87.9%	83.0%
Rosenberg	77471	80.0%	92.8%	70.4%
Sienna Plantation	77459	93.1%	94.4%	91.4%
Stafford	77477	80.9%	91.2%	75.2%
Sugar Land	77478	91.9%	92.1%	89.4%
Sugar Land	77479	93.8%	95.6%	92.6%
Sugar Land	77498	85.5%	88.6%	81.8%
SLH Service Area		**80.7%**	**89.1%**	**74.3%**
Fort Bend County		**88.3%**	**93.0%**	**84.7%**
Harris County		**79.8%**	**87.9%**	**73.3%**
Texas		**82.8%**	**89.2%**	**76.7%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, DP03. http://data.census.gov/

When examined by race/ethnicity, there are differences in the rate of health insurance coverage in the service area. In every age group, health insurance coverage is lowest among either those residents who identified as some Other race than the listed races (non-Hispanic White, Hispanic, Asian, Black, AIAN, or NHPI), Hispanic residents, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander - NHPI - residents. It is important to keep in mind, however, that rates for several service area groups are based on small numbers of residents and should be interpreted with caution, particularly NHPI residents and American Indian/Alaskan Native - AIAN - residents (each representing just 0.1% of the area population) and those who identified as a race Other than those listed (0.2% of the service area population).

The lowest rate of health insurance coverage is seen among those who identify as Other race (56.8%) and NHPI residents (64.7%), followed by Hispanic residents (67.2%). Coverage among service area children is 89.1%. The lowest rate of coverage is seen in children identified as NHPI (50.8%), Other race (79.8%), and Hispanic (85.7%). Among adults, ages 19 to 64, 74.3% have health insurance. The lowest rate is seen among adults who identify as Other race (43.7%), Hispanic adults (55.2%) and NHPI adults (62.1%). The lowest rates of coverage among service area seniors, ages 65 and older, are found among seniors of Other race (81.5%) and Hispanic seniors (88.1%). Asian seniors also have a below-average rate of coverage (94.7%).

Health Insurance, by Race/Ethnicity and Age Group

	Total Population	Children, Under 19	Adults, Ages 19-64	Senior Adults, 65+
Non-Hispanic White	92.3%	93.9%	89.6%	99.4%
Multiracial	89.3%	95.2%	82.5%	96.1%
Asian	85.3%	90.3%	81.4%	94.7%
Black/African American	84.3%	89.9%	80.0%	97.3%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	82.2%	88.2%	74.9%	100.0%
Hispanic	67.2%	85.7%	55.2%	88.1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	64.7%	50.8%	62.1%	100.0%
Other race	56.8%	79.8%	43.7%	81.5%
SLH Service Area average	**80.7%**	**89.1%**	**74.3%**	**95.4%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, C27001B thru C27001I. http://data.census.gov/

Regular Source of Care

Access to a medical home and a primary care provider improve continuity of care and decrease unnecessary emergency room visits. 32.8% of adults in the service area do not have a usual primary care provider. Rates are lowest in Sugar Land 77478 (25.5%) and 77479 (26.6%) and highest in Houston 77036, where 42.5% of the population has no usual primary care provider.

No Usual Primary Care Provider

	ZIP Code	Percent
Clodine	77469	32.8%
Fresno	77545	33.4%
Houston	77031	36.3%
Houston	77035	34.3%
Houston	77036	42.5%
Houston	77053	37.0%
Houston	77071	31.0%
Houston	77072	37.9%
Houston	77082	33.7%
Houston	77083	33.8%
Houston	77099	37.8%
Missouri City	77489	30.3%
Richmond	77406	27.8%
Richmond	77407	33.4%
Rosenberg	77471	34.8%
Sienna Plantation	77459	27.5%
Stafford	77477	32.0%
Sugar Land	77478	25.5%
Sugar Land	77479	26.6%
Sugar Land	77498	30.6%
SLH Service Area*		**32.8%**
Fort Bend County		**29.7%**
Harris County		**34.9%**
Texas		**31.8%**

*Source: PolicyMap, utilizing the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2018 data, https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/ *Weighted average; calculated using 2015-2019 ACS adult population estimates.*

Unmet Medical Need

15.6% of adults in Harris County reported an unmet medical need as a result of not being able to afford care. The Healthy People 2030 objective is 3.3% of the population to have an unmet medical need.

Unmet Medical Need Due to Cost, Adults

	Percent
Harris County	15.6%
Health Service Region 6	17.9%
Texas	16.8%

Source: for Harris County: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2018. via Houston State of Health http://houstonstateofhealth.com Source for HSR6 and Texas: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Dashboard, 2018. http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system

Primary Care Physicians

The ratio of the population to primary care physicians in Harris County was 1,710:1. This equates to fewer primary care physicians per capita than the state rate (1,640:1). The rate in Fort Bend County was 1,160 persons per primary care doctor.

Primary Care Physicians, Number and Ratio

	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
Number of primary care physicians	677	2,749	17,476
Ratio of population to primary care physicians	1,160:1	1,710:1	1,640:1

Source: County Health Rankings, 2018. http://www.countyhealthrankings.org

Access to Primary Care Community Health Centers

Community Health Centers provide primary care (including medical, dental and mental health services) for uninsured and medically underserved populations. Using ZCTA (ZIP Code Tabulation Area) data for the service area and information from the Uniform Data System (UDS)[1], 33.4% of the population in the service area is low-income (200% of Federal Poverty Level) and 13.5% of the population are living in poverty.

There are many Section 330-funded grantees (Federally Qualified Health Centers – FQHCs and FQHC Look-Alikes) located in the service area. Even with Section 330 funded Community Health Centers serving the area, there are a number of low-income residents who are not served by one of these clinic providers. The FQHCs have a total of 66,944 patients in the service area, which equates to 20.5% penetration among low-income patients and 6.8% penetration among the total population. From 2018-2020, the Community Health Center providers served 2,146 fewer patients for a -3.1% decrease in patients served by Community Health Centers in the service area. With this reduction, there are now 259,068 low-income residents, 79.5% of the population at or below 200% FPL, who are not served by an FQHC.

Low-Income Patients Served and Not Served by FQHCs

Low-Income Population	Patients served by Section 330 Grantees In Service Area	Penetration among Low-Income Patients	Penetration of Total Population	Low-Income Not Served	
				Number	Percent
326,012	66,944	20.5%	6.8%	259,068	79.5%

Source: UDS Mapper, 2020, 2015-2019 population numbers. http://www.udsmapper.org

[1] The UDS is an annual reporting requirement for grantees of HRSA primary care programs:
- Community Health Center, Section 330 (e)
- Migrant Health Center, Section 330 (g)
- Health Care for the Homeless, Section 330 (h)
- Public Housing Primary Care, Section 330 (i)

Dental Care

Among Fort Bend County adults, 36.2% did not access dental care in the prior year. In Harris County, 40.9% of adults did not access dental care in the past year. Both service area counties and the state meet the Healthy People 2030 objective (among adults, ages 18 and older) of 45% of the population, ages 2 years and older, to have a dental visit within the prior 12 months.

Did Not Access Dental Care, Prior Year, Adults

	Crude Rate
Fort Bend County	36.2%
Harris County	40.9%
Texas*	42.2%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES Project 2020. 2018 data. https://chronicdata.cdc.gov/500-Cities-Places/PLACES-Local-Data-for-Better-Health-County-Data-20/swc5-untb
**Weighted average of Texas county rates.*

The ratio of residents to dentists in Harris County was 1,410:1, which was more dentists per capita than the state rate of 1,680 residents per dentist. Fort Bend County had fewer dentists with one dentist per 1,770 residents.

Dentists, Number and Ratio

	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
Number of dentists	458	3,333	17,293
Ratio of population to dentists	1,770:1	1,410:1	1,680:1

Source: County Health Rankings, 2019 http://www.countyhealthrankings.org

Mental Health Providers

Mental health providers include psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, psychiatric nurse specialists, and marriage and family therapists who meet certain qualifications and certifications. In Harris County, the ratio of residents to mental health providers was 800:1, as compared to 830 persons per mental health provider in Texas. Fort Bend County had a ratio of 1,350 residents per mental health provider.

Mental Health Providers, Number and Ratio

	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
Number of mental health providers	601	5,889	35,039
Ratio of population to mental health providers	1,350:1	800:1	830:1

Source: County Health Rankings, 2020. http://www.countyhealthrankings.org

Community Input – Access to Health Care

Stakeholder interviews identified the following issues, challenges and barriers related to access to health care. Following are their comments summarized and edited for clarity:

- We need more specialists who are willing to work with uninsured patients.
- Appointment times are during working hours for many people. More appointments need to be available after work hours or on weekends. Flexible scheduling is

necessary.

- Transportation to medical providers is not reliable.
- Many providers don’t accept some insurance coverage.
- Preexisting conditions and comorbidities aren’t covered by all insurance plans.
- Harris Health decreased the definition of the poverty threshold to be eligible for services so more people could get seen. That’s rare because Texas has stringent rules for who does/doesn’t qualify for coverage.
- The cost of medication is out of reach for many people, so they stop taking it once the first dose runs out.
- A lot of people don’t qualify for Medicaid and don’t get signed up for other insurance programs because they don’t know how or who to talk to.
- Referrals within networks are easy, but it’s harder to get good referrals out of network.
- The lack of technology and access to Internet broadband keeps many people from seeing medical messaging on social media. Providers need to think more creatively on how to reach this population.

Birth Indicators

Births

In 2020, the number of births in Harris County was 63,813 and in Fort Bend County the number of births was 8,825. The average annual births from 2016 to 2020 was 67,621 births in Harris County and 9,371 births in Fort Bend County.

Total Births

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Fort Bend County	9,976	9,627	9,375	9,052	8,825
Harris County	72,420	68,422	67,095	66,354	63,813
Texas	398,047	382,050	378,624	377,599	368,190

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2015-2019, on CDC WONDER. https://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html

From 2013 to 2017, births to mothers in the service area averaged 14,578.8 per year. The highest number of births was to mothers in Houston 77036 (1,656.6 live births per year), Sugar Land 77478 saw an average of 251.4 births per year.

Births, by ZIP Code, Five-Year Average

	ZIP Code	Average Annual Live Births
Clodine	77469	759.0
Fresno	77545	357.6
Houston	77031	286.0
Houston	77035	709.4
Houston	77036	1,656.6
Houston	77053	489.8
Houston	77071	404.6
Houston	77072	1,008.4
Houston	77082	1,036.4
Houston	77083	1,113.8
Houston	77099	913.2
Missouri City	77489	453.6
Richmond	77406	598.4
Richmond	77407	1,052.2
Rosenberg	77471	652.0
Sienna Plantation	77459	797.2
Stafford	77477	519.4
Sugar Land	77478	251.4
Sugar Land	77479	929.2
Sugar Land	77498	590.6

	ZIP Code	Average Annual Live Births
SLH Service Area		**14,578.8**
Fort Bend County		**9,465.4**
Harris County		**70,760.2**
Texas		**393,781.2**

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Health Data, Live Births Dashboard, 2013-2017.
https://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/births-and-deaths/live-births-2005-2017

The race/ethnicity of mothers in Fort Bend County was Hispanic/Latina (27.6%), White (18.9%), Black/African-American (15.5%), and Asian (15.1%). In Harris County, 50.4% of mothers were Hispanic/Latina, 15.5% were White, 13.5% Black/African-American, and 4.8% Asian. 0.1% of births in both counties were to American Indian/Alaskan Native (AIAN) mothers.

Births, by Mother's Race/Ethnicity

	Hispanic/ Latina	White	Black/African American	Asian	AIAN	Other/ Unknown
Fort Bend County	27.6%	18.9%	15.5%	15.1%	0.1%	22.8%
Harris County	50.4%	15.5%	13.5%	4.8%	0.1%	15.7%
Texas	47.6%	22.7%	8.7%	3.8%	0.1%	17.1%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data, 2018-2020, on CDC WONDER. https://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html

Teen Birth Rate

From 2013 to 2017, teen births for mothers ages 15 to 19, occurred in Harris County at a rate of 72.9 per 1,000 live births (7.3% of total births). In Fort Bend County the teen birth rate was 32.1 per 1,000 live births (3.2% of total births). The Healthy People 2030 objective is no more than 31.4 pregnancies per 1,000 teen girls, ages 15 to 19.

Teen Births, Number and Rates, per 1,000 Live Births, Ages 15-19, Five-Year Average

	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
Births to mother ages 14 and younger	3.6	68.2	431.2
Births to mothers ages 15 – 17	81.8	1,562.0	9,740.0
Births to mothers ages 18 – 19	221.6	3,593.6	22,622.4
Births to mothers ages 19 and younger	**307.0**	**5,223.8**	**32,793.6**
Rate per 1,000 live births, mothers ages 14 and younger	0.4	1.0	1.1
Rate per 1,000 live births, mothers ages 15 - 17	8.6	22.1	24.7
Rate per 1,000 live births, mothers ages18 - 19	23.4	50.8	57.4
Rate per 1,000 live births, mothers ages 15 to 19	**32.1**	**72.9**	**82.2**

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Health Data, Live Births Dashboard, 2013-2017.
https://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/births-and-deaths/live-births-2005-2017

Prenatal Care

67% of pregnant women in Fort Bend County and 60.2% in Harris County entered prenatal care on-time – during the first trimester – where time-of-entry was known.

First Trimester Prenatal Care, Three-Year Average

	Percent of Births
Fort Bend County	67.0%
Harris County	60.2%
Texas	69.3%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2019-2020, on CDC WONDER. http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-expanded-current.html

Low Birth Weight

Low birth weight is a negative birth indicator. Babies born at a low birth weight are at higher risk for disease, disability and possibly death. For this measurement, a lower rate is a better indicator. The rate of low-birth-weight babies in Harris County was 9%, and in Fort Bend County the rate was 8.4% of births.

Low Birth Weight (Under 2,500 grams), Three-Year Average

	Percent of Births
Fort Bend County	8.4%
Harris County	9.0%
Texas	8.4%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2018-2020, on CDC WONDER. https://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html

Preterm Births

Preterm births – those occurring before 37 weeks of gestation – have higher rates of death and disability. 11.7% of births in Harris County (where gestational age was known and recorded) were preterm births and 10.8% of births in Fort Bend County were before 37 weeks of gestation.

Preterm Births, Babies Born Before 37 Weeks of Gestation

	Percent of Births
Fort Bend County	10.8%
Harris County	11.7%
Texas	10.9%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2018-2020, on CDC WONDER. https://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html

Maternal Smoking During Pregnancy

Among pregnant women, 99.4% in Fort Bend County and 99% in Harris County did not smoke during pregnancy. These rates meet the Healthy People 2030 objective of 95.7% of women to abstain from cigarette smoking during pregnancy.

No Smoking during Pregnancy

	Percent of Births
Fort Bend County	99.4%
Harris County	99.0%
Texas	97.5%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2018-2020, on CDC WONDER. https://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html

Infant Mortality

For the purposes of this report, the infant mortality rate is defined as deaths to infants under 1 year of age. The infant mortality rate in Harris County, from 2016 to 2018, was 6.10 deaths per 1,000 live births and in Fort Bend County it was 4.35 deaths per 1,000 live births. Harris County did not meet the Healthy People 2030 objective of 5.0 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births, Three-Year Average

	Rate
Fort Bend County	4.35
Harris County	6.10
Texas	5.69

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Linked Birth/Infant Death Records, 2016-2018, on CDC WONDER. https://wonder.cdc.gov/lbd-current.html

Breastfeeding Initiation

Breastfeeding has been proven to have considerable benefits to baby and mother. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that babies are fed only breast milk for the first six months of life. According to data from birth certificates, 90% of infants in Harris County and 91.8% in Fort Bend County were breastfed at some point prior to discharge from the hospital.

Infants Breastfed at Some Point Prior to Discharge

	Percent of Births
Fort Bend County	91.8%
Harris County	90.0%
Texas	88.2%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2018-2020, on CDC WONDER. http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-expanded-current.html

Community Input – Birth Indicators

Stakeholder interviews identified the following issues, challenges and barriers related to birth indicators. Following are their comments summarized and edited for clarity:

- There is a lack of trust between pregnant woman and the medical providers. African American and Hispanic women have lower rates of accessing prenatal care.
- Many pregnant women have comorbidities like obesity and hypertension that aren't

addressed early enough in their pregnancies.
- Many hospitals don’t provide enough prenatal education.

Mortality/Leading Causes of Death

Life Expectancy at Birth

The life expectancy at birth in Fort Bend County was 83 years and for Harris County it was 79.9 years.

Life Expectancy at Birth

	Number of Years
Fort Bend County	83.0
Harris County	79.9
Texas	79.2

Source: County Health Rankings, 2021. Years of Data: 2017-2019. http://www.countyhealthrankings.org

While the life expectancy at birth for residents of Harris County was 79.9 years, it varied by race/ethnicity. The group with the highest expected life expectancy was American Indians/Alaskan Natives, at 103.1 years. While this estimate was based on a small population size, even the lower edge of the confidence interval for their data places them at 89.4 years of expected life. In comparison, Black/African-American residents had a life expectancy at birth of 74.8 years, and the life expectancy of White residents was 79.2 years.

Life Expectancy at Birth, Harris County, by Race/Ethnicity

	Number of Years
American Indian/Alaska Native	103.1
Asian	87.5
Hispanic	84.3
White	79.2
Black	74.8
Total Population	**79.9**

Source: County Health Rankings 2021, Data from years 2017-2019, via Houston State of Health http://houstonstateofhealth.com

Mortality Rates

Age-adjusted death rates are an important factor to examine when comparing mortality data. The crude death rate is a ratio of the number of deaths to the entire population. Age-adjusted death rates eliminate the bias of age in the makeup of the populations. The age-adjusted death rate in Harris County was 686 deaths annually per 100,000 persons. In Fort Bend County it was 549.5 deaths per 100,000 persons.

Mortality Rates, per 100,000 Persons, Three-Year Average

	Deaths	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate
Fort Bend County	3,498.7	443.9	549.5
Harris County	26,901.0	573.8	686.0
Texas	201,226.3	701.9	728.2

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Mortality public-use data 2017-2019, on CDC WONDER. https://wonder.cdc.gov/Deaths-by-Underlying-Cause.html

Leading Causes of Death

The top two leading causes of death in Harris County and Fort Bend County were heart disease and cancer. The age-adjusted heart disease mortality rate in Harris County was 156.4 deaths per 100,000 persons and in Fort Bend County it was 127.9 deaths per 100,000 persons. The Healthy People 2030 objective is specific to ischemic heart disease only: 71.1 deaths per 100,000 persons. The Fort Bend County rate of ischemic heart disease (64.9 deaths from ischemic heart disease per 100,000 persons) was lower than Harris County (85.3 deaths from ischemic heart disease per 100,000 persons). Harris County did meet the Healthy Person 2030 objective.

The cancer death rate in Harris County was 137.8 per 100,000 persons, which was higher than Fort Bend County (112.7 deaths per 100,000 persons). The Fort Bend cancer mortality rate meets the Healthy People 2030 objective for cancer mortality of 122.7 deaths per 100,000 persons.

In addition to heart disease and cancer, stroke, unintentional injury and Alzheimer's disease were among the top five causes of death in both counties. In Harris County, the causes of death, which are known to exceed state rates, were septicemia (18.9 deaths per 100,000 persons), kidney disease (17.8 deaths per 100,000 persons), and homicide (8.5 per 100,000 persons). For Fort Bend County, all of the listed causes of death occurred at a lower rate in the county than in Harris County or the state, with the exception of suicide (the two counties had the same rate, 10.6 deaths per 100,000 persons) and deaths due to pneumonia and flu (12.7 deaths per 100,000 persons).

Mortality Rates, per 100,000 Persons, Age-Adjusted, Three-Year Average

	Fort Bend County		Harris County		Texas	
	Number	Age-Adjusted	Number	Age-Adjusted	Number	Age-Adjusted
All causes	**3,498.7**	**549.5**	**26,901.0**	**686.0**	**201,226.3**	**728.2**
Heart disease	788.7	127.9	5,986.7	156.4	46,082.7	167.5
Ischemic heart disease	405.3	64.9	3,309.3	85.3	25,823.0	93.0
All Cancers	791.7	112.7	5,609.0	137.8	41,007.7	143.5
Stroke	189.3	32.3	1,497.0	40.6	10,802.3	40.2
Chronic Lower Respiratory	119.0	20.8	1,024.7	28.1	10,737.7	39.6

	Fort Bend County		Harris County		Texas	
	Number	Age-Adjusted	Number	Age-Adjusted	Number	Age-Adjusted
Disease						
Unintentional injury	166.0	23.4	1,725.7	39.2	10,931.0	38.7
Alzheimer's disease	147.3	29.0	1,018.0	30.9	9,803.0	38.5
Diabetes	99.7	14.7	826.7	20.4	6,237.3	22.0
Kidney disease	83.7	13.6	686.3	17.8	4,316.7	15.7
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	54.0	6.8	496.0	10.9	4,206.7	14.1
Septicemia	92.7	13.9	730.3	18.9	3,901.3	14.1
Suicide	83.0	10.6	493.7	10.6	3,866.3	13.5
Pneumonia and flu	76.0	12.7	453.0	12.1	3,209.3	11.8
Parkinson's disease	40.0	7.5	256.7	7.6	2,452.3	9.6
Essential hypertension & hypertensive renal disease	46.0	7.3	334.7	9.1	2,356.7	8.7
Homicide	27.0	3.6	408.0	8.5	1,634.7	5.7

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Mortality public-use data 2017-2019, on CDC WONDER. https://wonder.cdc.gov/Deaths-by-Underlying-Cause.html

Cancer Mortality

The age-adjusted death rate for female breast cancer in Harris County was 21.3 per 100,000 women and the rate for prostate cancer deaths was 19.1 per 100,000 men. The rate of death for female breast cancer in Fort Bend County was 18.9 per 100,000 women. The Fort Bend County prostate cancer death rate was 13.8 per 100,000 men.

Cancer, Crude and Age-Adjusted Death Rates, per 100,000 Persons

	Female Breast Cancer			Prostate Cancer		
	Number	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted	Number	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted
Fort Bend County	336	17.9	18.9	157	8.6	13.8
Harris County	2,287	19.8	21.3	1,342	11.7	19.1
Texas	14,585	20.8	19.7	9,214	13.3	17.5

Source: Texas State Department of Health, Texas State Cancer Registry, 2014-2018. https://www.cancer-rates.info/tx/

The age-adjusted rate of colorectal cancer deaths in Harris County was 13.7 per 100,000 persons and the rate for lung cancer deaths was 31.2 deaths per 100,000 persons. The rate of colorectal cancer mortality in Fort Bend County was 11.3 deaths per 100,000 persons. The Fort Bend County lung cancer death rate was 23 per 100,000 persons.

Cancer, Crude and Age-Adjusted Death Rates, per 100,000 Persons

	Colorectal Cancer			Lung Cancer		
	Number	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted	Number	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted
Fort Bend County	354	9.6	11.3	705	19.1	23.0
Harris County	2,656	11.5	13.7	5,805	25.2	31.2
Texas	18,758	13.4	13.9	45,514	32.6	34.0

Source: Texas State Department of Health, Texas State Cancer Registry, 2014-2018. https://www.cancer-rates.info/tx/

Drug Overdose Deaths

Rates of death by drug overdose, whether unintentional, suicide, homicide, or undetermined intent, have been rising in Harris County since 2014, and drug overdose deaths in that county have been higher than the statewide rate for most of the previous decade. The low overall number of overdose deaths in Fort Bend County make the annual rate highly variable. However, a three-year average rate shows a drug overdose rate of 6 deaths per 100,000 persons. Both area counties meet the Healthy People 2030 objective of 20.7 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 persons.

Drug Overdose Deaths, Age-Adjusted Rates, per 100,000 Persons

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2017-2019 Averaged
Fort Bend	5.6	6.5	N/A	N/A	4.9	4.8	7.2	5.3	6.7	6.0	6.0
Harris	11.0	9.2	8.6	9.8	8.9	9.9	11.2	11.2	12.4	12.8	12.1
Texas	9.6	10.1	9.4	9.3	9.7	9.4	10.1	10.5	10.4	10.8	10.6

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Mortality public-use data 2009-2019, on CDC WONDER. https://wonder.cdc.gov/Deaths-by-Underlying-Cause.html
N/A= Not Available due to statistical instability of data based on low numbers.

Opioid deaths include those from heroin, methadone, fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, and oxycodone and other natural or semi-synthetic opioids. The rate of opioid drug overdoses in Fort Bend County was 3.1 per 100,000 persons. The rate of opioid drug overdoses in Harris County was 6.3 per 100,000 persons. These rates meet the Healthy People 2030 objective of 13.1 deaths from opioids per 100,000 persons.

Fatal Opioid Overdoses, Age-Adjusted Rates, per 100,000 Persons, Three-Year Average

	Number	Rate
Fort Bend County	23.3	3.1
Harris County	300.3	6.3
Texas	1,452.3	5.0

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Multiple Cause Death public-use data 2017-2019, on CDC WONDER. https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html

In Texas, from 2015 through 2019 combined, Whites had the highest rates of drug overdose deaths (14.7 deaths per 100,000 persons), followed by Blacks (11.5 deaths per 100,000 deaths), and American Natives (8.3 deaths per 100,000 deaths). Asians had the lowest rate of drug overdose deaths (1.9 deaths per 100,000 persons).

Drug Overdoses, Age-Adjusted Death Rates, per 100,000 Persons, by Race and Ethnicity

	Number, 5 Years Combined	Rate
Asian, non-Hispanic	149	1.9
Hispanic	3,174	6.0
American Indian/Alaskan Native	44	8.3
Black, non-Hispanic	2,023	11.5
White, non-Hispanic	9,087	14.7
Texas, all races	**14,549**	**10.3**

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Mortality public-use data 2015-2019, on CDC WONDER. https://wonder.cdc.gov/Deaths-by-Underlying-Cause.html

COVID-19

In Harris County, there have been 582,713 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported as of 11/18/21. This represents a rate of 12,316.5 cases per 100,000 persons. In Fort Bend County, there have been 101,298 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported as of 11/18/21. This represents a rate of 12,311.7 cases per 100,000 persons. As of the same date, according to the Texas Department of State Health, 9,443 persons have died in Harris County due to COVID-19 complications, a rate of 199.6 deaths per 100,000 persons, and in Fort Bend County, 969 people have died for a COVID death rate of 117.8 deaths per 100,000 persons.

COVID-19, Cases and Crude Death Rates, per 100,000 Persons, as of 11/18/21

	Fort Bend County		Harris County		Texas	
	Number	Rate *	Number	Rate *	Number	Rate *
Confirmed or probable cases	101,298	12,311.7	582,713	12,316.5	4,282,152	14,692.3
Confirmed or probably deaths	969	117.8	9,443	199.6	71,982	247.0

*Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Updated November 18, 2021.*Calculated based on 2020 U.S. Census data.*
https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/

The number of total confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by Harris County and Fort Bend County Public Health Departments as of a given date varies from the number reported by the Texas Department of Health and Human Services due to timing issues related to reporting and case updates.

The discrepancies in the number of deaths in each county reported by the state's website versus those reported by the county websites (the number reported at the state level is higher) is due to a difference in how the data are compiled. The state data are an automated count utilizing death certificates, and may include 'probable' as well as confirmed COVID-19 cases, whereas those reported at the county level are only included after review and confirmation utilizing death certificates, physician notes and/or medical examiner reports.

The highest rate of infection in the service area was in Rosenberg, with 15,308.6 infections per 100,000 persons. Fort Bend County does not provide deaths by ZIP Code, but the highest rate of death from COVID among the Harris County service area ZIP Codes was in Houston 77072, with 190.9 deaths per 100,000 service area.

COVID-19, Cases and Crude Death Rates, per 100,000 Persons, as of 11/18/21

	ZIP Code	Total Reported Cases		Deaths	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Clodine*	77469	7,671	***14,207.7	N/A	N/A
Fresno*	77545	3,419	***13,553.5	N/A	N/A

	ZIP Code	Total Reported Cases		Deaths	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Houston	77031	2,008	11,450.7	23	131.2
Houston	77035	4,122	10,699.8	64	166.1
Houston	77036	8,420	10,959.1	111	144.5
Houston**	77053	4,654	***14,704.6	N/A	N/A
Houston	77071	3,369	11,797.0	34	119.1
Houston	77072	6,989	11,305.8	118	190.9
Houston	77082	5,717	10,295.9	84	151.3
Houston**	77083	8,512	***10,871.3	N/A	N/A
Houston**	77099	6,931	12,989.9	80	149.9
Missouri City**	77489	5,204	***13,608.1	N/A	N/A
Richmond*	77406	6,713	***13,627.4	N/A	N/A
Richmond**	77407	7,465	***12,441.7	N/A	N/A
Rosenberg*	77471	6,309	***15,308.6	N/A	N/A
Sienna Plantation*	77459	7,298	***10,026.4	N/A	N/A
Stafford**	77477	4,290	***11,973.2	N/A	N/A
Sugar Land*	77478	2,112	***8,211.2	N/A	N/A
Sugar Land*	77479	7,232	***7,706.1	N/A	N/A
Sugar Land**	77498	5,591	***10,900.1	N/A	N/A
SLH Service Area		**114,026**	*****11,585.9**	**N/A**	******154.7**
Fort Bend County*		**86,612**	*****11,316.0**	**992**	*****129.6**
Harris County + Houston		**580,033**	**10,392.4**	**2,657**	**114.0**

Source: Harris County Public Health, Updated November 18, 2021. https://covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/
**Source: Fort Bend County Public Health District, Updated November 18, 2021. https://www.coronavirusfortbend.gov/ **Source: Both county health departments. ***Calculated using 2015-2019 ACS Population Estimates. ****Harris County ZIP Codes only.*

The percent of Harris County residents, ages 5 and older, who received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine was 70.9%, and 93.1% of the population, ages 65 and older, have received at least one vaccine dose. In Fort Bend County, 79.7% of residents, ages 5 and older, and 100% of the population, ages 65 and older, have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccinations, Percent Partial and Full, Ages 5 and Older and Seniors, 11/18/21

	Fort Bend County		Harris County		Texas	
	Partially Vaccinated	Completed	Partially Vaccinated	Completed	Partially Vaccinated	Completed
Population 5 and older	9.3%	70.4%	9.7%	61.2%	9.4%	58.5%
Population 65 and older	5.2%	94.8%	8.8%	84.3%	8.6%	82.2%

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vaccine Dashboard. Updated November 18, 2021. https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/

While the percent of those vaccinated who were marked ‘Other’ (20.7% of all vaccinated, despite representing only 2.3% of the county population) or ‘Unknown’

(3.5% of all vaccinated) was a confounding factor, it appears that Black/African American and White residents were underrepresented in the vaccinated population of Fort Bend County.

Fort Bend County Vaccinations for COVID-19, by Race, as of 11/18/21

	Percent of Population*	Percent of People Vaccinated**
White	33.1%	30.3%
Hispanic or Latino	24.5%	26.6%
Black/African American	20.1%	18.6%
Asian	20.0%	24.5%

*Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vaccine Dashboard. Updated November 18, 2021. *per ACS 2015-2019 data. **Where ethnicity of the vaccinated was known/recorded. https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/*

As with Fort Bend County, many of the vaccinated in Harris County were marked 'Other' (17.3% of all vaccinated, despite representing only 2% of the county population) or 'Unknown' (3.8% of all vaccinated). Despite this, it appears that Black residents of Harris County were underrepresented among the vaccinated population.

Harris County Vaccinations for COVID-19, by Race, 11/18/21

	Percent of Population*	Percent of People Vaccinated**
Hispanic or Latino	42.9%	46.1%
White	29.6%	30.3%
Black/African American	18.6%	14.4%
Asian	6.9%	9.3%

*Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vaccine Dashboard. Updated November 18, 2021. *per ACS 2015-2019 data. **Where ethnicity of the vaccinated was known/recorded. https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/*

Community Input – COVID-19

Stakeholder interviews identified the following issues, challenges and barriers related to COVID-19. Following are their comments summarized and edited for clarity:

- There is a low supply of vaccines in the county.
- Health literacy to sign up for vaccine appointments and access to technology to get public health messaging was lacking in low-income communities.
- People skipped exams and stayed at home due to fear of COVID.
- Preventive visits did not occur on time.
- Health gains that had been made prior to COIVD were lost as people hunkered down at home.
- Screening numbers slipped to a bare minimum due to closure of offices and people staying away.
- People had decreased motivation to access care due to fear and uncertainty about safety.
- We see the 'worried well' coming in more often for care. They access 911 and EMS services.
- People stopped coming for dental services. Oral health has really declined during

this period.

- People had prescriptions from before COVID but they couldn't afford to refill the prescriptions due to a loss of income. So, they stopped taking the medications.
- We had difficulty getting vaccines from the state and there was a lack of vaccine clinics in the neighborhoods further from the hospitals.
- Mental health visits via telehealth increased, which improved access but it's hard to build rapport and trust.

Chronic Disease

Diabetes

12.2% of service area adults have been diagnosed with diabetes by a health professional. Rates of diabetes among adults were lowest in Richmond 77407 (9.5%) and highest in Missouri City (14.5%) and Houston 77071 (14.3%).

Diabetes Diagnoses, Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Clodine	77469	11.5%
Fresno	77545	11.1%
Houston	77031	12.8%
Houston	77035	12.2%
Houston	77036	11.6%
Houston	77053	13.8%
Houston	77071	14.3%
Houston	77072	13.0%
Houston	77082	11.2%
Houston	77083	12.8%
Houston	77099	13.3%
Missouri City	77489	14.5%
Richmond	77406	11.0%
Richmond	77407	9.5%
Rosenberg	77471	12.1%
Sienna Plantation	77459	12.7%
Stafford	77477	11.7%
Sugar Land	77478	13.6%
Sugar Land	77479	12.3%
Sugar Land	77498	11.4%
SLH Service Area*		**12.2%**
Fort Bend County		**11.8%**
Harris County		**11.7%**
Texas		**12.6%**

*Source: PolicyMap, utilizing the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2018 data, https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/ *Weighted average; calculated using 2015-2019 ACS adult population estimates*

Heart Disease and Stroke

3.2% of service area adults reported being told by a health professional they have heart disease and 2.8% of service area adults reported being told by a health professional they have had a stroke. The rate of heart disease diagnosis was highest in Sugar Land 77478 (4.5%) and lowest in Richmond 77407 (2.2%). The prevalence of stroke

diagnoses was highest in Houston 77071 (3.7%) and lowest in Richmond 77407 (2%).

Heart Disease and Stroke Prevalence, Adults

	ZIP Code	Heart Disease	Stroke
Clodine	77469	3.2%	2.7%
Fresno	77545	2.4%	2.5%
Houston	77031	3.3%	3.1%
Houston	77035	3.5%	3.3%
Houston	77036	2.9%	2.7%
Houston	77053	3.1%	3.3%
Houston	77071	3.7%	3.7%
Houston	77072	3.1%	2.8%
Houston	77082	3.0%	2.7%
Houston	77083	2.9%	2.6%
Houston	77099	3.1%	3.0%
Missouri City	77489	3.3%	3.6%
Richmond	77406	3.7%	2.7%
Richmond	77407	2.2%	2.0%
Rosenberg	77471	3.6%	2.8%
Sienna Plantation	77459	3.6%	2.9%
Stafford	77477	3.1%	2.6%
Sugar Land	77478	4.5%	3.3%
Sugar Land	77479	3.7%	2.8%
Sugar Land	77498	3.0%	2.4%
SLH Service Area*		**3.2%**	**2.8%**
Fort Bend County		**3.3%**	**2.7%**
Harris County		**3.4%**	**2.9%**
Texas		**3.8%**	**3.7%**

*Source: PolicyMap, utilizing the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2018 data, https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/ *Weighted average; calculated using 2015-2019 ACS adult population estimates*

5.4% of service area adults reported having been diagnosed with angina or coronary heart disease, or a heart attack (Myocardial Infarction). Rates were lowest in Richmond 77407 (3.7%), and highest in Sugar Land 77478 (7.1%).

Heart Disease or Heart Attack, Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Clodine	77469	5.4%
Fresno	77545	4.1%
Houston	77031	5.5%
Houston	77035	5.8%

	ZIP Code	Percent
Houston	77036	5.1%
Houston	77053	5.4%
Houston	77071	6.1%
Houston	77072	5.3%
Houston	77082	5.0%
Houston	77083	5.0%
Houston	77099	5.4%
Missouri City	77489	5.5%
Richmond	77406	5.9%
Richmond	77407	3.7%
Rosenberg	77471	6.1%
Sienna Plantation	77459	5.9%
Stafford	77477	5.1%
Sugar Land	77478	7.1%
Sugar Land	77479	5.9%
Sugar Land	77498	4.9%
SLH Service Area*		**5.4%**
Fort Bend County		**5.4%**
Harris County		**5.7%**
Texas		**6.7%**

*Source: PolicyMap, utilizing the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2018 data, https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/ *Weighted average; calculated using 2015-2019 ACS adult population estimates*

High Blood Pressure and High Cholesterol

Co-morbidity factors for diabetes and heart disease are high blood pressure (hypertension) and high blood cholesterol. The percent of adults in the service area who reported being diagnosed with high blood pressure was 31.8% and with high cholesterol was 29%. Rates of high BP diagnosis were highest in Missouri City (39.3%) and lowest in Richmond 77407 (27.2%). Rates of high cholesterol diagnosis were highest in Sugar Land 77478 (34.3%) and lowest in Fresno 77545 and Richmond 77407 (25.2%).

High Blood Pressure and High Cholesterol, Adults

	ZIP Code	Hypertension	High Cholesterol
Clodine	77469	31.0%	28.6%
Fresno	77545	32.1%	25.2%
Houston	77031	33.4%	28.5%
Houston	77035	33.1%	28.8%
Houston	77036	28.6%	26.3%
Houston	77053	34.7%	27.8%
Houston	77071	37.7%	30.7%

	ZIP Code	Hypertension	High Cholesterol
Houston	77072	30.6%	28.1%
Houston	77082	30.4%	27.1%
Houston	77083	31.5%	28.6%
Houston	77099	31.9%	28.3%
Missouri City	77489	39.3%	29.5%
Richmond	77406	32.3%	31.3%
Richmond	77407	27.2%	25.2%
Rosenberg	77471	31.2%	29.5%
Sienna Plantation	77459	34.3%	31.4%
Stafford	77477	30.9%	28.3%
Sugar Land	77478	34.6%	34.3%
Sugar Land	77479	31.8%	32.4%
Sugar Land	77498	29.7%	29.0%
SLH Service Area*		**31.8%**	**29.0%**
Fort Bend County		**31.8%**	**29.9%**
Harris County		**31.2%**	**28.6%**
Texas		**32.5%**	**34.0%**

*Source: PolicyMap, utilizing the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2017 data, https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/ *Weighted average; calculated using 2015-2019 ACS adult population estimates.*

Cancer

In Harris County, the age-adjusted rate of cancer incidence was 392.8 per 100,000 persons and in Fort Bend County it was 371.4 per 100,000 persons. These rates were below the state cancer diagnoses rate of 410.7 per 100,000 persons. Harris County has higher rates of prostate, cervix, stomach and esophageal cancer than the state. Fort Bend County has a higher rate of prostate cancer than the state.

Cancer, Age Adjusted Incidence Rates, per 100,000 Persons

	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
All sites	371.4	392.8	410.7
Breast (female)	116.6	111.0	114.1
Prostate	109.9	102.0	97.5
Lung and Bronchus	36.0	45.3	49.4
Colon and Rectum	32.4	37.1	37.8
Urinary Bladder	12.9	13.2	14.9
Leukemia	11.7	12.8	14.2
Cervix	6.3	10.3	9.3
Stomach	7.1	7.5	6.6
Esophagus	3.1	4.0	3.5

Source: Texas State Department of Health, Texas State Cancer Registry, 2014-2018. https://www.cancer-rates.info/tx/

Asthma

8.4% of adults in the service area reported being diagnosed with asthma. Rates of

diagnosis in the service area ranged from 7.6% in Sugar Land 77479 and 77498 to 10.1% in Missouri City 77489.

Asthma Prevalence, Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Clodine	77469	8.3%
Fresno	77545	9.3%
Houston	77031	9.2%
Houston	77035	9.3%
Houston	77036	8.3%
Houston	77053	9.5%
Houston	77071	9.7%
Houston	77072	8.4%
Houston	77082	8.7%
Houston	77083	8.1%
Houston	77099	8.7%
Missouri City	77489	10.1%
Richmond	77406	8.3%
Richmond	77407	8.0%
Rosenberg	77471	8.2%
Sienna Plantation	77459	8.4%
Stafford	77477	8.1%
Sugar Land	77478	7.7%
Sugar Land	77479	7.6%
Sugar Land	77498	7.%
SLH Service Area*		**8.4%**
Fort Bend County		**8.2%**
Harris County		**8.7%**
Texas		**7.4%**

*Source: PolicyMap, utilizing the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2018 data, https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/ *Weighted average; calculated using 2015-2019 ACS adult population estimates*

Asthma hospitalization in children, under age 18, occurred at a rate of 8.4 hospitalizations per 10,000 children in HSR 6. This rate was lower than the state rate of 10.9 hospitalizations per 10,000 children.

Asthma Hospitalizations, Age-Adjusted Rates, per 10,000 Children, Ages 0 to 17

	Number	Rate
Health Service Region 6	1,469	8.4
Texas	7,736	10.9

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, 2016 Child Asthma Fact Sheet, March 2016. https://www.dshs.texas.gov/asthma/data.aspx

Tuberculosis

The rate of TB was 5.6 per 100,000 persons in Harris County and the rate of TB in Fort Bend County 4.6 per 100,000 persons. The rate of TB in Fort Bend County and Harris County were higher than the state rate in 2019.

Tuberculosis, Number and Crude Rates, per 100,000 Persons

	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Fort Bend County	27	3.8	27	3.6	37	4.8	26	3.3	37	4.6
Harris County	320	7.0	277	6.0	272	5.8	274	5.9	264	5.6
Texas	1,334	4.9	1,250	4.5	1,127	4.0	1,129	3.9	1,159	4.0

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, TB Surveillance Report, 2019.
https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/tb/statistics/

Disability

In the service area, 8.2% of the non-institutionalized civilian population identified as having a disability.

Disability, Five-Year Average

	Percent
SLH Service Area	8.2%
Fort Bend County	7.2%
Harris County	9.2%
Texas	11.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019, S1810. http://data.census.gov

Community Input – Chronic Disease

Stakeholder interviews identified the following issues, challenges and barriers related to chronic disease. Following are their comments summarized and edited for clarity:

- The costs of medications for chronic disease management are too expensive for many to pay for more than one refill.
- There are appointments but not at the times people are available.
- People weigh the effort of going to an appointment vs the return of obtaining medications they can't afford or missing more work.
- Seeing a primary provider often means a long wait for appointments.
- All health insurance plans are not accepted by all providers.
- In Harris County, we see low- income and impoverished people who have TB. In Fort Bend it is mostly among the elderly.
- The Southeast Asian, East Asian and Vietnamese communities have high rates of TB. There are cultural barriers to seeking care.

Health Behaviors

Health Behaviors Ranking

The County Health Ranking examines healthy behaviors and ranks counties according to health behavior data. Texas has 254 counties, 243 of which are ranked from 1 (healthiest) to 243 (least healthy) based on indicators that include: adult smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, excessive drinking, sexually transmitted infections, and others. A ranking of 15 for Harris County and 2 for Fort Bend County puts them in the top 10% of Texas counties for healthy behaviors.

Health Behaviors Ranking

	County Ranking (out of 243)
Fort Bend County	2
Harris County	15

Source: County Health Rankings, 2021. http://www.countyhealthrankings.org

Overweight and Obesity

Over a third of adults in the service area (34.1%) were obese and another third (32.9%) were overweight. Rates of obesity in service area cities ranged from 29% in Sugar Land 77478 to 40.9% in Missouri City and 40.4% in Houston 77053. Combined rates of overweight and obesity were lowest in Sugar Land 77478 (62.6%) and 77479 (62.9%) and highest in Missouri City (72.5%) and Houston 77053 (72.4%).

Overweight and Obesity, Adults

	ZIP Code	**Overweight	Obese	Combined
Clodine	77469	33.4%	34.8%	68.2%
Fresno	77545	32.4%	39.3%	71.7%
Houston	77031	32.2%	37.6%	69.8%
Houston	77035	31.9%	36.5%	68.4%
Houston	77036	32.7%	34.3%	67.0%
Houston	77053	32.0%	40.4%	72.4%
Houston	77071	31.8%	38.2%	70.0%
Houston	77072	32.6%	34.0%	66.6%
Houston	77082	32.1%	34.1%	66.2%
Houston	77083	33.2%	33.2%	66.4%
Houston	77099	32.2%	35.4%	67.6%
Missouri City	77489	31.6%	40.9%	72.5%
Richmond	77406	33.8%	34.6%	68.4%
Richmond	77407	32.8%	32.8%	65.6%
Rosenberg	77471	33.8%	35.9%	69.7%
Sienna Plantation	77459	33.2%	33.6%	66.8%

	ZIP Code	**Overweight	Obese	Combined
Stafford	77477	32.8%	32.3%	65.1%
Sugar Land	77478	33.6%	29.0%	62.6%
Sugar Land	77479	33.7%	29.2%	62.9%
Sugar Land	77498	33.4%	30.3%	63.7%
SLH Service Area*		**32.9%**	**34.1%**	**67.0%**
Fort Bend County		**33.2%**	**33.4%**	**66.6%**
Harris County		**32.6%**	**35.5%**	**68.1%**
Texas		**34.7%**	**34.8%**	**69.5%**

*Source: PolicyMap, utilizing the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2018 data, https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/ *Weighted average; calculated using 2015-2019 ACS adult population estimates. **Calculated by subtracting percentage of those with BMI of 30 or more from the percentage of total population with a BMI over 24.9.*

34.7% of Texas high school students and 38.3% in Houston were overweight (85th percentile or above for BMI by age and sex, but below the 95th percentile) or obese (95th percentile or above for BMI by age and sex).

Overweight and Obesity, 9th - 12th Grade Youth

	Overweight	Obese	Combined
Houston	18.8%	19.5%	38.3%
Texas	17.8%	16.9%	34.7%

Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019. https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/default.aspx

Youth Body Dysmorphia and Dieting

33.1% of students surveyed in the *Texas Youth Risk Behavior Survey* described themselves as slightly or very overweight – less than the percentage who were classified as overweight or obese (34.7%). This apparent lack of self-awareness varied by gender, with 30.1% of boys viewing themselves as overweight when 34.8% were actually overweight or obese. Among females, 36.2% viewed themselves as overweight while only 34.6% of them were classified as overweight or obese. Black students were most likely to underestimate their rates of overweight: 27.5% of Black students said they were overweight versus 37.6% being classified as overweight or obese.

Despite only 33.1% of students describing themselves as overweight, and 34.7% of the total surveyed population being classified as overweight or obese, 51.3% of students described themselves as currently trying to lose weight. Girls were more likely to describe themselves as trying to lose weight (61%), despite only 34.6% being actually classified as overweight or obese and only 36.2% describing themselves as overweight. 41.8% of boys said they were trying to lose weight, despite only 34.8% of them being classified as overweight or obese and only 30.1% describing themselves as overweight. This dieting despite not being overweight or obese – and not describing themselves as

either slightly or very overweight – was most common among non-White, non-Black, non-Hispanic students, 53.9% of whom were trying to lose weight despite only 31.2% being classified as overweight or obese.

Describes Self as Overweight, and Trying to Lose Weight, 9th - 12th Grade Youth

	Describe Self as Overweight	Combined Overweight & Obese (see above chart)	Trying to Lose Weight
Texas	33.1%	34.7%	51.3%

Source: Texas Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019. http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/youth-risk-behavior-survey

Community Input – Overweight and Obesity

Stakeholder interviews identified the following issues, challenges and barriers related to overweight and obesity. Following are their comments summarized and edited for clarity:

- Nutritional counseling from pharmacy students has been available to some community-based nonprofits but it needs to be ongoing and relevant to different cultural groups.
- There is a lack of access to free or low-cost exercise equipment, safe walking trails and senior resources.
- There are identified food deserts in the surrounding communities of Fresno and Missouri City, which don't have many grocery stores and too many fast-food restaurants.
- Healthy and fresh food is more expensive than canned and processed foods. Families make a choice about what lasts longer and can feed more family members.
- People are worried about so many other things. Not worrying about the next meal by eating fast food is often one less thing to worry about.
- The community needs more nutrition and healthy lifestyle classes.
- There is a cultural normalizing of overweight being okay and that takes away the urgency of how being overweight can be detrimental to overall health.

Physical Activity

The CDC recommendation for adult physical activity is 30 minutes of moderate activity five times a week or 20 minutes of vigorous activity three times a week, and strength training exercises that work all major muscle groups at least 2 times per week. In the service area, 83.6% of adults did not meet these recommendations.

Physical Activity Recommendations Not Met, Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Clodine	77469	83.2%
Fresno	77545	82.2%

	ZIP Code	Percent
Houston	77031	84.3%
Houston	77035	83.4%
Houston	77036	84.9%
Houston	77053	84.3%
Houston	77071	83.7%
Houston	77072	84.7%
Houston	77082	82.9%
Houston	77083	84.2%
Houston	77099	85.4%
Missouri City	77489	83.4%
Richmond	77406	82.5%
Richmond	77407	82.5%
Rosenberg	77471	83.7%
Sienna Plantation	77459	83.4%
Stafford	77477	83.1%
Sugar Land	77478	83.3%
Sugar Land	77479	83.3%
Sugar Land	77498	83.8%
SLH Service Area*		**83.6%**
Fort Bend County		**83.0%**
Harris County		**83.8%**
Texas		**83.0%**

*Source: PolicyMap, utilizing the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2017 data, https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/ *Weighted average; calculated using 2015-2019 ACS adult population estimates*

36.2% of adults in the service area were sedentary and did not participate in any leisure-time physical activity in the previous month. Adults in Houston 77099 (40.5%) were the most likely to report not participating in any leisure-time physical activities, while adults in Richmond 77406 (32.8%) and 77407 (33.1%) were least likely to be sedentary.

Sedentary Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Clodine	77469	35.4%
Fresno	77545	35.2%
Houston	77031	39.0%
Houston	77035	37.3%
Houston	77036	40.1%
Houston	77053	40.2%
Houston	77071	38.2%
Houston	77072	39.3%

	ZIP Code	Percent
Houston	77082	35.4%
Houston	77083	37.2%
Houston	77099	40.5%
Missouri City	77489	38.1%
Richmond	77406	32.8%
Richmond	77407	33.1%
Rosenberg	77471	37.1%
Sienna Plantation	77459	34.7%
Stafford	77477	34.9%
Sugar Land	77478	33.9%
Sugar Land	77479	33.3%
Sugar Land	77498	33.3%
SLH Service Area*		**36.2%**
Fort Bend County		**34.1%**
Harris County		**37.1%**
Texas		**38.1%**

*Source: PolicyMap, utilizing the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2017 data, https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/ *Weighted average; calculated using 2015-2019 ACS adult population estimates*

30.4% of adults in Health Service Region 6 limited their activities for at least 5 of the prior 30 days due to poor mental or physical health, and 14.7% limited them for at least 14 of the prior 30 days.

Limited Activity Due to Poor Health, Days per Month, Adults

	> = 5 days	> = 14 days
Health Service Region 6	30.4%	14.7%
Texas	26.6%	17.0%

Source for Texas: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Dashboard, 2018. http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system

The CDC recommendation for youth physical activity is 60 minutes or more each day. Among Houston youth, 82.6% of high school students did not meet this activity recommendation, which was worse than the 77.1% seen statewide. 31.3% of student were active for at least 60 minutes on at least 5 of the past 7 days (compared to 41.8% for Texas). 23.2% of Houston's high school students surveyed indicated there was not one day in the previous week where they got at least an hour of exercise. In all categories, girls were less active than boys.

Physical Activity, 9th - 12th Grade Youth

	Houston	Texas
Active for 60+ minutes, 7 of past 7 days	17.4%	22.9%
Boys	21.8%	29.9%
Girls	13.0%	15.9%
Active for 60+ minutes, at least 5 of past 7 days	31.3%	41.8%
Boys	35.8%	49.5%
Girls	26.8%	34.0%
Active for 60+ minutes, 0 of past 7 days	23.2%	20.1%
Boys	19.3%	18.0%
Girls	27.3%	22.4%

Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019.
https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/default.aspx

Exercise Opportunities

Proximity to exercise opportunities can increase physical activity in a community. 91% of Harris County residents and 89% of Fort Bend County residents live in close proximity to exercise opportunities. These rates are higher than the state rate of 81%.

Adequate Access to Exercise Opportunities, 2010 and 2019 Combined

	Percent
Fort Bend County	89%
Harris County	91%
Texas	81%

Source: County Health Rankings, 2020 ranking, utilizing 2010 and 2019 combined data. http://www.countyhealthrankings.org

Community Walkability

WalkScore.com ranks over 2,500 cities in the United States (over 10,000 neighborhoods) with a walk score. The walk score for a location is determined by its access to amenities. Many locations are sampled within each city and an overall score is issued for the walkability of that city (scores for smaller towns, however, may be based on a single location). A higher score indicates an area is more accessible to walking while a lower score indicates a more vehicle-dependent location.

WalkScore.com has established the range of scores as follows:
0-24: Car Dependent (Almost all errands require a car)
25-49: Car Dependent (A few amenities within walking distance)
50-69: Somewhat Walkable (Some amenities within walking distance)
70-89: Very Walkable (Most errands can be accomplished on foot)
90-100: Walker's Paradise (Daily errands do not require a car)

Based on this scoring method, all but four of the 20 ZIP Codes in the service area are classified as “Car Dependent”. Houston 77072 (score of 50), 77083 (52), 77036 (60) and Stafford (score of 55) are considered “Somewhat Walkable”.

Walkability

	ZIP Code	Walk Score
Clodine	77469	0
Fresno	77545	11
Houston	77031	39
Houston	77035	41
Houston	77036	60
Houston	77053	3
Houston	77071	38
Houston	77072	50
Houston	77082	0
Houston	77083	52
Houston	77099	45
Missouri City	77489	26
Richmond	77406	11
Richmond	77407	14
Rosenberg	77471	0
Sienna Plantation	77459	1
Stafford	77477	55
Sugar Land	77478	36
Sugar Land	77479	1
Sugar Land	77498	3

Source: WalkScore.com, 2021.

Soda Consumption

Houston high school students were less likely to consume soda than students statewide. 28.4% of Houston teens drank no soda in the past week.

Daily Soda Consumption, Past Week, 9th - 12th Grade Youth

	Houston	Texas
Drank soda at least once per day, past 7 days	14.4%	19.5%
Drank soda at least twice per day, past 7 days	8.5%	10.6%
Drank no soda, past 7 days	28.4%	23.6%

Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019.
https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/default.aspx

Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

13.4% of Houston high school students said they ate no vegetables, including salads, carrots, potatoes (excluding fried potatoes, chips or fries) or other vegetables, during the 7 days prior to the survey. 8% of Houston students said they ate no fruit and drank no 100% fruit juice (such as orange, apple or grape juice but excluding all fruit-flavored or sweetened drinks) in the 7 days prior to the survey. Cost and access must be considered as factors that may affect fruit and vegetable consumption, not solely personal preference.

Consumed No Vegetables, Fruit or 100% Fruit Juice, Past Week, 9th - 12th Grade Youth

	Houston	Texas
Consumed no vegetables, past 7 days	13.4%	11.5%
Did not consume fruit or 100% fruit juice	8.0%	8.8%

Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019.
https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/default.aspx

Youth Sexual Behaviors

Among Houston high-school students surveyed in the *Texas Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 32.7% of 10th graders and 53% of 12th graders have had sex. These rates were lower than the statewide rates of sexual activity. 43.9% of Texas 10th graders who had sex during the prior three months did not use a condom during their last sexual encounter, and 54.4% of 12th graders did not use a condom during their last sexual encounter.

Sexual Behaviors, Youth

	Has had Sex		Did Not Use a Condom During Last Sexual Encounter	
	10th Grade	12th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Houston	32.7%	53.0%	N/A	53.7%
Texas	38.3%	65.7%	43.9%	54.4%

Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019.
https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/default.aspx N/A = suppressed due to sample size too small for statistical validity.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Chlamydia occurred at a rate of 583.5 cases per 100,000 persons in Harris County and 408.8 per 100,000 persons in Fort Bend County. The rate of gonorrhea was 185.8 cases per 100,000 persons in Harris County and 100.8 per 100,000 persons in Fort Bend County. Primary and Secondary syphilis occurred at a rate of 12 cases per 100,000 persons in Harris County and 3.7 per 100,000 persons in Fort Bend County. Rates of STIs were higher in Harris County and lower in Fort Bend County than in the state.

Sexually Transmitted Infections Rates, per 100,000 Persons

	Fort Bend County	Harris County	Texas
Chlamydia	408.8	583.5	508.2
Gonorrhea	100.8	185.8	163.6
Syphilis (primary & secondary)	3.7	12.0	8.8

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas STD Surveillance Report, 2018. https://www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/

HIV

The rate of newly-diagnosed cases of HIV fell from 2014 to 2019 in both area counties and the state. The Harris County rate of newly-diagnosed HIV cases fell from 28.2 per 100,000 persons in 2016, to 24.9 cases per 100,000 persons in 2019, which was higher than the state rate of 14.5 cases per 100,000 persons. The Fort Bend rate fell from 10.7 cases per 100,000 persons in 2014 to 8.6 per 100,000 persons in 2019.

Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases, Annual Counts and Rates, per 100,000 Persons

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019 Rate
Fort Bend County	73	61	73	80	81	70	8.6
Harris County	1,256	1,266	1,257	1,098	1,194	1,172	24.9
Texas	4,462	4,551	4,548	4,368	4,419	4,203	14.5

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas HIV Surveillance Report, 2019 and Interactive Data Dashboard. https://www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/

The incidence of HIV (annual new cases) in Harris County over five years was 25.8 cases per 100,000 persons and in Fort Bend it was 9.5 cases per 100,000 persons. In Texas the average incidence of HIV was 15.6 cases per 100,000 persons. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS (those living with HIV/AIDS regardless of when they might have been diagnosed or infected) was 581.2 cases per 100,000 persons in Harris County, compared to 202.8 cases per 100,000 persons in Fort Bend County.

HIV Incidence and HIV/AIDS Prevalence Rates, per 100,000 Persons

	5-Year Average Incidence Rate, 2015-2019	2019 Prevalence
Fort Bend County	9.5	202.8
Harris County	25.8	581.2
Texas	15.6	337.4

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas HIV Surveillance Report, 2019 and Interactive Data Dashboard. https://www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/

Mental Health

Frequent Mental Distress

Frequent Mental Distress is defined as 14 or more bad mental health days in the last month. In the service area, 12.4% of adults had frequent mental distress. Adults with frequent mental distress ranged from 10.9% in Sugar Land 77478 to 13.9% in Houston 77031, 77036 and 77053.

Frequent Mental Distress, Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Clodine	77469	12.3%
Fresno	77545	12.5%
Houston	77031	13.9%
Houston	77035	13.7%
Houston	77036	13.9%
Houston	77053	13.9%
Houston	77071	13.3%
Houston	77072	13.2%
Houston	77082	12.8%
Houston	77083	11.9%
Houston	77099	13.8%
Missouri City	77489	13.2%
Richmond	77406	12.1%
Richmond	77407	11.8%
Rosenberg	77471	12.5%
Sienna Plantation	77459	11.6%
Stafford	77477	11.8%
Sugar Land	77478	10.9%
Sugar Land	77479	11.0%
Sugar Land	77498	11.1%
SLH Service Area*		**12.4%**
Fort Bend County		**11.7%**
Harris County		**13.4%**
Texas		**11.7%**

*Source: PolicyMap, utilizing the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2018 data, https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/ *Weighted average; calculated using 2015-2019 ACS adult population estimates*

Youth Mental Health

Among Texas high school students, 38.3% had experienced depression in the previous year, described as 'feeling so sad or hopeless every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities'.

Depression, Past 12 Months, 9th - 12th Grade Youth

	Percent
Texas	38.3%

Source: Texas Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019. http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/youth-risk-behavior-survey

19.6% of high school students in Texas said they had considered suicide in the past year, while 10% said they had attempted suicide in the past year.

Considered and Attempted Suicide, Past 12 Months, 9th - 12th Grade Youth

	Seriously Considered Suicide	Attempted Suicide
Texas	18.9%	10.0%

Source: Texas Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019. http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/youth-risk-behavior-survey

Experiencing physical or sexual violence from someone they were dating during the prior year was a concern for youth beginning in at least the 9th grade, rising by grade level. 9.3% of Houston teens and 8.3% of Texas teens said they were physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating during the past 12 months.

6.5% of Houston teens and 15.4% of Texas teens said they were forced to do sexual things by someone they were dating during the past 12 months.

Dating Violence, in the Past 12 Months, 9th - 12th Grade Youth

	Physical Dating Violence	Sexual Dating Violence
Houston	9.3%	6.5%
Texas	8.3%	15.4%

Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019. https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/default.aspx

Community Input – Mental Health

Stakeholder interviews identified the following issues, challenges and barriers related to mental health. Following are their comments summarized and edited for clarity:

- There are some in the community who are skeptical that mental health counseling is useful and will help the patient address anxiety or depression.
- Not enough providers speak Spanish or the other languages spoken in the community.
- There are not enough mental health beds to meet both urgent and long-term needs.
- When people are brought in on holds or crisis intervention, there are not enough judges to process the backlog.
- We don't always have access to the crisis intervention team in a timely manner.
- People still feel a stigma in admitting they are experiencing depression and anxiety and are seeking mental health services.
- Mental health services are expensive and many don't have the funds to continue

seeing the providers after the first few visits are covered by insurance (if it's covered at all).

- Behavioral health issues go through criminal justice system in Fort Bend – it's a political issue.

Substance Use and Misuse

Cigarette Smoking

12.7% of Fort Bend County adults and 15.9% of Harris County adults were current smokers in 2018. The Healthy People 2030 objective is for 5% of the population to smoke cigarettes.

Smoking, Adults

	Crude Rate
Fort Bend County	12.7%
Harris County	15.9%
Texas	*16.0%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES Project 2020. 2018 data. https://chronicdata.cdc.gov/500-Cities-Places/PLACES-Local-Data-for-Better-Health-County-Data-20/swc5-untb
**Weighted average of Texas county rates.*

Vapor products are now the most common nicotine product used by youth. 3.8% of high school students surveyed in Houston smoked cigarettes in the prior 30 days, 3.1% used smokeless tobacco in the prior 30 days, and 11.1% had used vapor products. These rates were lower than the statewide rates of tobacco use.

Tobacco Use, Past 30 Days, 9th - 12th Grade Youth

	Smokes Cigarettes	Used Smokeless Tobacco	Used Vapor Products
Houston	3.8%	3.1%	11.1%
Texas	4.9%	3.4%	18.7%

Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019. https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/default.aspx

Alcohol Use

Binge drinking is defined as consuming a certain amount of alcohol within a set period of time. For males this is five or more drinks per occasion and for females it is four or more drinks per occasion. Among adults in the service area, 16.2% reported having engaged in binge drinking in the previous 30 days. Rates of binge drinking were highest in Richmond 77406 (18.5%) and lowest in Sugar Land 77478 (14.1%).

Binge Drinking, Past 30 Days, Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Clodine	77469	17.6%
Fresno	77545	17.1%
Houston	77031	16.5%
Houston	77035	16.4%
Houston	77036	17.3%

	ZIP Code	Percent
Houston	77053	16.5%
Houston	77071	14.8%
Houston	77072	15.7%
Houston	77082	16.7%
Houston	77083	15.4%
Houston	77099	15.8%
Missouri City	77489	15.0%
Richmond	77406	18.5%
Richmond	77407	17.6%
Rosenberg	77471	17.8%
Sienna Plantation	77459	15.5%
Stafford	77477	16.1%
Sugar Land	77478	14.1%
Sugar Land	77479	14.9%
Sugar Land	77498	16.0%
SLH Service Area*		**16.2%**
Fort Bend County		**16.5%**
Harris County		**17.6%**
Texas		**17.4%**

*Source: PolicyMap, utilizing the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2018 data, https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/ *Weighted average; calculated using 2015-2019 ACS adult population estimates*

Alcohol use among youth increased by age. 28.9% of 12th grade youth in Houston had consumed at least one alcoholic drink on one or more occasions in the past 30 days. Consumption of alcohol was seen in 25.9% of 11th graders, 14.7% of 10th graders and 16% of 9th graders. Rates of reported alcohol use were lower in Houston than in the state.

Alcohol Use, Past 30 Days, Youth

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Houston	16.0%	14.7%	25.9%	28.9%
Texas	16.1%	28.1%	28.6%	39.9%

Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019. https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/default.aspx

Binge drinking was described in the *Texas Youth Risk Behavior Survey* as four or more alcoholic drinks in a row for female students or five or more drinks in a row for male students, within a couple of hours, on at least one day during the previous month. Extreme binge drinking was described as ten or more alcoholic drinks in a row, within a couple of hours, regardless of gender, on at least one occasion in the prior month. Reported rates of binge drinking (not extreme) among 10th graders in Houston was 3%

and among 12th graders it was 8.8%. Extreme binge drinking among 10th graders in Houston was 1% and among 12th graders it was 2.1%.

Binge Drinking and Extreme Binge Drinking, Past 30 Days, Youth

	10th Grade		12th Grade	
	Binge Drinking	Extreme Binge Drinking	Binge Drinking	Extreme Binge Drinking
Houston	3.0%	1.0%	8.8%	2.1%
Texas	13.6%	4.0%	18.6%	6.6%

Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019.
https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/default.aspx

Youth Drug Use

40.3% of 12th grade youth, and 30.6% of the 10th grade youth in Houston indicated they had tried marijuana. These rates of marijuana usage were lower than state rates. Rates of marijuana use among 12th grade students in the past 30 days were higher in Houston (25.6%) than in the state (22%).

Marijuana Use, Ever and in Past 30 Days, Youth

	10th Grade		12th Grade	
	Ever	Past 30 Days	Ever	Past 30 Days
Houston	30.6%	13.8%	40.3%	25.6%
Texas	31.1%	15.3%	42.2%	22.0%

Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019.
https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/default.aspx

While Houston youth were less likely to have tried or currently use tobacco or alcohol, or to binge drink, they were more likely than their statewide peers to use marijuana and to have experimented with other drugs. Among Houston 9th – 12th graders, 17.5% have used prescription pain medications obtained without a prescription, 7.6% had used inhalants, 6.8% had tried ecstasy and 6% cocaine.

Other Drug Use, Ever, 9th - 12th Grade Youth

	Houston	Texas
Rx pain meds without a prescription	17.5%	16.6%
Inhalants (glue, aerosol, paints, sprays, etc.)	7.6%	6.3%
Ecstasy	6.8%	4.0%
Cocaine (any form)	6.0%	4.8%
Steroids	4.8%	2.1%
Methamphetamines	4.5%	2.2%
Heroin	3.8%	1.3%

	Houston	Texas
Injected drugs	3.8%	1.2%

Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2019.
https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/default.aspx

Community Input – Substance Use

Stakeholder interviews identified the following issues, challenges and barriers related to substance use. Following are their comments summarized and edited for clarity:

- While there is an increase in the use of street drugs like heroin and opioids, the amount of treatment facilities and providers has not kept pace with the demand.
- There are no inpatient treatment facilities for young people.
- Since COVID, there has been an increased dependence on alcohol and drugs to deal with stress and isolation.
- Substance use treatment options are expensive and have to be paid out-of-pocket.
- Many people don't access substance use education because they don't think it is relevant to them.
- Social service providers need to be aware of the community-based services and referrals points beyond their own network.
- The number of drug overdoses skyrocketed during COVID.
- There is a lack of public and private funding to support substance abuse treatment.
- There are a lack services and education for addiction management.
- Only two or three detox hospitals are available in the nearby area.

Preventive Practices

Flu and Pneumonia Vaccines

24.5% of adults in the service area received a flu shot, which falls below the Healthy People 2030 objective for 70% of all adults, 18 and older, to receive a flu shot. Adults in Sugar Land 77478 (29.9%) and 77479 (28.1%) were the most likely to be vaccinated for the flu, while those in Houston 77053 and Fresno (both 21.3%) were least likely to be vaccinated.

Flu Shots, Adults, Past 12 Months

	ZIP Code	Percent
Clodine	77469	24.0%
Fresno	77545	21.3%
Houston	77031	22.9%
Houston	77035	24.6%
Houston	77036	22.9%
Houston	77053	21.3%
Houston	77071	24.6%
Houston	77072	23.6%
Houston	77082	24.0%
Houston	77083	23.8%
Houston	77099	22.6%
Missouri City	77489	22.4%
Richmond	77406	25.5%
Richmond	77407	23.4%
Rosenberg	77471	24.3%
Sienna Plantation	77459	25.9%
Stafford	77477	24.9%
Sugar Land	77478	29.9%
Sugar Land	77479	28.1%
Sugar Land	77498	25.8%
SLH Service Area*		**24.5%**
Fort Bend County		**25.4%**
Harris County		**23.7%**
Texas		**26.4%**

*Source: PolicyMap, utilizing the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2018 data, https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/ *Weighted average; calculated using 2015-2019 ACS adult population estimates*

The state rate of pneumonia vaccination among adults, ages 65 and older, was 71.3%, which was higher than the pneumonia vaccine rate in Health Service Region 6 (70.8%).

Pneumonia Vaccine, Adults, Ages 65 and Older

	Percent
Health Service Region 6	70.8%
Texas	71.3%

Source for Texas: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Dashboard, 2018. http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system

Immunization of Children

Among area school districts, rates of vaccinations among children entering Kindergarten ranged from 93.2% (for Varicella in Houston ISD) to 99.1% (for Polio in Fort Bend ISD). In the service area, Alief and Houston ISDs had the lowest rates of vaccination across all required vaccines.

Up-to-Date Immunization Rates of Children Entering Kindergarten

	DTaP	Hep A	Hep B	MMR	Polio	Varicella
Alief ISD	98.1%	98.6%	93.7%	94.7%	93.7%	97.2%
Fort Bend ISD	98.9%	98.9%	99.0%	98.8%	99.1%	98.7%
Houston ISD	94.6%	94.1%	96.2%	94.7%	94.6%	93.2%
Lamar CSD	98.0%	97.3%	98.6%	98.4%	98.3%	97.8%
Stafford MSD	98.4%	98.0%	98.8%	98.8%	98.8%	98.8%
Fort Bend County	**98.5%**	**98.2%**	**98.7%**	**98.6%**	**98.8%**	**98.2%**
Harris County	**96.9%**	**96.3%**	**97.3%**	**96.8%**	**96.6%**	**95.9%**
Texas	**96.6%**	**96.4%**	**97.4%**	**97.0%**	**96.8%**	**96.5%**

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, 2019-2020. https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/coverage/schools/

Mammograms

The Healthy People 2030 objective for mammograms is for 77.1% of women, between the ages of 50 and 74, to have a mammogram in the past two years. This translates to a maximum of 22.9% who lack screening. Fort Bend County (25.9%), Harris County (27.6%), and Texas (28.3%) do not meet this objective.

No Mammogram, Past Two Years, Women, Ages 50-74, Five-Year Average

	Crude Rate
Fort Bend County	25.9%
Harris County	27.6%
Texas*	28.3%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES Project 2020. 2018 data. https://chronicdata.cdc.gov/500-Cities-Places/PLACES-Local-Data-for-Better-Health-County-Data-20/swc5-untb
**Weighted average of Texas county rates.*

Pap Smears

The Healthy People 2030 objective is for 84.3% of women, ages 21 to 65, to have a Pap smear in the past three years. This equates to a maximum of 15.7% of women who lack screening. Harris County and Texas (18.2%) and Fort Bend County (16.9%) do not meet this objective.

No Pap Test, Past 3 Years, Women, Ages 21-65

	Crude Rate
Fort Bend County	16.9%
Harris County	18.2%
Texas*	18.2%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES Project 2020. 2018 data. https://chronicdata.cdc.gov/500-Cities-Places/PLACES-Local-Data-for-Better-Health-County-Data-20/swc5-untb
**Weighted average of Texas county rates.*

Colorectal Cancer Screening

The Healthy People 2030 objective for adults, ages 50 to 75 years old, is for 74.4% to obtain colorectal cancer screening (defined as a blood stool test in the past year, sigmoidoscopy in the past five years plus blood test in the past three years, or colonoscopy in the past ten years). 55.4% of Harris County residents and 61.5% of Fort Bend County residents, ages 50-75, met the colorectal cancer screening guidelines. These rates of screening do not meet the Healthy People objective.

Screening for Colorectal Cancer, Adults, Ages 50-75

	Crude Rate
Fort Bend County	61.5%
Harris County	55.4%
Texas*	58.7%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES Project 2020. 2018 data. https://chronicdata.cdc.gov/500-Cities-Places/PLACES-Local-Data-for-Better-Health-County-Data-20/swc5-untb
**Weighted average of Texas county rates.*

Community Input – Preventive Practices

Stakeholder interviews identified the following issues, challenges and barriers related to preventive practices. Following are their comments summarized and edited for clarity:

- There isn't an incentive for most people to go for preventive services.
- There isn't enough education on the importance of preventive care.
- People don't perceive prevention as important.
- Preventive visits don't happen if people are undocumented. They are too afraid of being asked to produce identification, which they don't have.

Prioritized Description of Significant Health Needs

The identified significant community needs were prioritized with input from the community. Interviews with community stakeholders were used to gather input on the significant needs. The following criteria were used to prioritize the significant needs:

- The perceived severity of a health or community issue as it affects the health and lives of those in the community.
- Improving or worsening of an issue in the community.
- Availability of resources to address the need.
- The level of importance the hospital should place on addressing the issue.

Each of the stakeholder interviewees was sent a link to an electronic survey (SurveyMonkey) in advance of the interview. The stakeholders were asked to rank each identified need. The percentage of responses were noted as those that identified the need as having severe or very severe impact on the community, had worsened over time, and had a shortage or absence of resources available in the community. Not all survey respondents answered every question, therefore, the response percentages were calculated based on respondents only and not on the entire sample size. Mental health, access to care and COVID-19 had the highest scores for severe and very severe impact on the community. Mental health, chronic disease and substance were the top three needs that had worsened over time. Housing and homelessness, mental health, access to care and chronic disease had the highest scores for insufficient resources available to address the need.

Significant Health Needs	Severe and Very Severe Impact on the Community	Worsened Over Time	Insufficient or Absent Resources
Access to care	80%	20%	80%
Birth indicators	20%	20%	20%
Chronic diseases	60%	80%	80%
COVID-19	80%	40%	60%
Housing and homelessness	40%	60%	100%
Mental health	100%	100%	100%
Overweight and obesity	20%	60%	40%
Preventive practices	40%	40%	40%
Substance use	40%	80%	40%
Tuberculosis	0%	60%	20%

The interviewees were also asked to prioritize the health needs according to highest level of importance in the community. The total score for each significant need (possible score of 4) was divided by the total number of responses for which data were provided, resulting in an overall score for each significant need. Access to care, chronic disease

and mental health were ranked as the top three priority needs in the service area. Calculations resulted in the following prioritization of the significant needs:

Significant Needs	Priority Ranking (Total Possible Score of 4)
Access to care	3.80
Chronic diseases	3.80
Mental health	3.60
Birth indicators	3.25
COVID-19	3.20
Preventive practices	3.20
Substance use	3.20
Housing and homelessness	2.80
Tuberculosis	2.67
Overweight and obesity	2.60

Resources to Address Significant Health Needs

Community stakeholders identified community resources potentially available to address the identified community needs. This is not a comprehensive list of all available resources. For additional resources refer to https://www.211texas.org/

Significant Needs	Community Resources
Access to care	El Centro de Corazon (multiple locations), Harris Health, Hope Clinic, Spring Branch Community Health Center, Legacy Community Health, Christ Clinic, Fort Bend Health and Human Services Department, FQHCs, United Way, Fort Bend Transit, Second Mile Mission, Catholic Charities, Access Health, WIC, Fort Bend County Social Services, Ben Taub Hospital, Fort Bend County Social Services, Uber Health, Lunches of Love, Fort Bend Independent School Districts
Birth indicators	March of Dimes, Centering Pregnancy Program, WIC
Chronic diseases	YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, American Heart Association, FQHCs
COVID-19	Fort Bend Health and Human Services Department, Episcopal Health Center, CVS, Walgreens, Rosenberg Health Center, Helping Hands, Second Mile Mission, Fort Bend County Social Services
Housing and homelessness	HUD, Fort Bend County Health and Human Services, Rosenberg, Health Care for Homeless, Lord's Kitchen, Fort Bend Family Promise, Parks Youth Ranch, Fort Bend County Women's Center
Mental health	Texana Center, Fort Bend County Behavioral Services, Law Enforcement, IDD, NAMI-Houston
Overweight and obesity	Boys and Girls Club, Catholic Charities, YMCA, American Heart Association, East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry, Fort Bend AgriLife Extension
Preventive practices	The Rose, MD Anderson, Fort Bend Health Care Center, American Heart Association, FQHCs, Spring Branch Community Clinic
Substance use	SAMSHA, HRSA, Regional Council on Substance Abuse, The Turning Point, Juvenile Justice
Tuberculosis	Fort Bend County TB Control

Impact of Actions Taken Since the Preceding CHNA

In 2019, Sugar Land Hospital conducted the previous CHNA and significant health needs were identified from issues supported by primary and secondary data sources. The hospital's Implementation Strategy associated with the 2019 CHNA addressed: access to health care, behavioral health, human trafficking and obesity through a commitment of community benefit resources. The following activities were undertaken to address these selected significant health needs since the completion of the 2019 CHNA.

Access to Care

- Provided education for the community regarding services and cultural differences that impact bias and affect treatment.
- Collaborate with community organizations, churches, civic groups and support groups to present educational seminars.
- Fostered new relationships with primary care providers and health care service providers to assist linking hospital patients to medical homes.

Behavioral Health

- Developed resources in the emergency department to manage needs of behavioral health patients.
- Strengthened community partnerships to advocate for additional support for behavioral health specialists to work alongside caregivers.
- Provide front line responders with education sessions on behavioral health topics.

Human Trafficking

- Defined a procedure for treating and/or identifying trafficked victims in our facilities and collaborating with community partners, including law enforcement and health care providers.
- Increased prevention and treatment resources in areas of physical/sexual abuse, human trafficking and violence in schools.
- Partnered with the Houston Women's Center to educate staff on how to recognize abused patients.
- Partner with law enforcement and social service organizations to increase trauma informed care to human trafficking victims.

Obesity

Partnered with schools to provide youth with resources and educational support focused on nutrition, obesity, and healthy lifestyles.

Attachment 1: Benchmark Comparisons

Where data were available, the service area health and social indicators were compared to the Healthy People 2030 objectives. The **bolded items** are Healthy People 2030 objectives that did not meet established benchmarks; non-bolded items met or exceeded the objectives.

Indicators	Service Area Data	Healthy People 2030 Objectives
High school graduation rate	**81.0%** - 95.1%	90.7%
Child health insurance rate	**89.1%**	92.1%
Adult health insurance rate	**74.3%**	92.1%
Unable to obtain medical care	**15.6%**	3.3%
Ischemic heart disease deaths	64.9 - **85.3**	71.1 per 100,000 persons
Cancer deaths	112.7 - **137.8**	122.7 per 100,000 persons
Colon/rectum cancer deaths	**11.3 - 13.7**	8.9 per 100,000 persons
Lung cancer deaths	23.0 - **31.2**	25.1 per 100,000 persons
Female breast cancer deaths	**18.9 - 21.3**	15.3 per 100,000 persons
Prostate cancer deaths	13.8 - **19.1**	16.9 per 100,000 persons
Stroke deaths	32.3 - **40.6**	33.4 per 100,000 persons
Unintentional injury deaths	23.4 - 39.2	43.2 per 100,000 persons
Suicides	10.6	12.8 per 100,000 persons
Liver disease (cirrhosis) deaths	6.8 - 10.9	10.9 per 100,000 persons
Homicides	3.6 - **8.5**	5.5 per 100,000 persons
Drug-overdose deaths	6.0 - 12.8	20.7 per 100,000 persons
Overdose deaths involving opioids	3.1 - 6.3	13.1 per 100,000 persons
No smoking during pregnancy	99%-99.4%	95.7%
Infant death rate	4.4 - **6.1**	5.0 per 1,000 live births
Adult obesity	34.1%	36.0%, adults, ages 20+
High school student obesity	**19.5%**	15.5%, children and youth, 2 - 19
Adults engaging in binge drinking	16.2%	25.4%
Cigarette smoking by adults	**12.7% - 15.9%**	5.0%
Pap smears, ages 21-65, screened in the past 3 years	**81.8% - 83.1%**	84.3%
Mammogram, ages 50-74, screened in the past 2 years	**72.4% - 74.1%**	77.1%
Colorectal cancer screenings, ages 50-75, screened per guidelines	**55.4% - 61.5%**	74.4%
Annual adult influenza vaccination	**24.5%**	70.0%

Attachment 2: Community Stakeholder Interviewees

Community input was obtained from interviews with community stakeholders from community agencies and organizations that represent medically underserved, low-income, and/or minority populations.

Name	Title	Organization
Edmee Ahrenholtz	Director of Case Management	St. Luke's Health – Sugar Land Hospital
Maudrey Breaux	Social Worker	St. Luke's Health – Sugar Land Hospital
Vickie Coates	Executive Director	East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry
Palak Jalan	Chief Population Officer	Access Health
Dr. Jacqueline Minter	Director, Health and Human Services	Fort Bend County Health and Human Services
Maureen Sanders	President and CEO	San Jose Clinic
Graig Temple	Chief of EMS	Fort Bend County EMS

Attachment 3: Community Stakeholder Interview Responses

Community interview participants were asked to name some of the major health issues affecting individuals in the community. Responses have been grouped by category and combined where appropriate.

Access to Care

- Fort Bend County has health care deserts where there are no drug stores, pharmacies or other health services like urgent care clinics in impoverished areas. There might be small clinics (clinica medicals) that are fee for service but they can't handle larger, more complex medical issues.
- It's difficult to get access to primary care providers. The waiting time for appointments can be up to a few months.
- Many people use ER/EMS services to receive primary care services. The perception is that this is a faster path to get seen by a medical provider.
- Transportation to get to health care is very difficult. Local buses don't stop close to the services. People have to walk far to get to a clinic or for vaccines during COVID. A lot of times people say not finding a ride is a reason to not access care.
- Lack of insurance, cost of medication or being underinsured are the biggest barriers to accessing care.
- There are not a lot of free clinics that address diabetes and depression.
- There is a higher need for financial assistance for rent, utilities, food since COVID.

Chronic Disease and other Health Issues

- In Fort Bend County, there are high rates of chronic diseases and comorbidities such as diabetes, COPD, cardiac disease, respiratory disease, hypertension, high cholesterol, asthma, and emphysema.
- Undiagnosed issues related to chronic disease are on the rise due to COVID. Since people didn't come in for checkups, many health issues were unchecked and got worse over the course of a year.
- People's oral health needs have been exacerbated by chronic disease- such as cavities caused by poor diet or gum disease. It's a huge unmet need and dental insurance barely covers all the services people need.
- Ongoing stress, inability to pay for medical care and lack of access to affordable and healthy food are examples of negative impacts of poverty for Fort Bend County residents.
- Socially vulnerable individuals, especially seniors, are more at risk for depression and other mental health issues due to isolation from neighbors and lack of a support network.

- Mental health is in crisis mode among all ages and communities. It isn't limited to one group.
- We have a lack of mental health counseling for issues like anxiety and depression.

Social Determinants of Health

Interviewees were asked about the underlying systemic issues/social determinants of health that impacted health and health outcomes in the area. Responses are presented according to the five domains of Social Determinants of Health (Healthy People 2030).

Economic Stability

- More people are living in poverty in Fort Bend County and Harris County. COVID pushed people over the edge.
- Many employment opportunities are low paying jobs. Wage earners often have to take two to three part time jobs to make ends meet, none of which provide health coverage.
- Many people in debt face the exorbitant costs of paying for jail bonds and debt through the garnishing of paychecks.
- Foreign born individuals are not covered by insurance. They don't know how to sign up because they are not connecting to services.
- Richmond is rapidly gentrifying and pushing out long-term residents on fixed incomes has gentrification.
- People who are low income or the working poor can't get ahead and save.
- The costs of medication and health care is expensive and many have large amounts of medical debt.
- People are one to two paychecks away from falling into poverty.
- Because of Hurricane Harvey, more people fell below 250% of FPL.
- There are increased living expenses due to medical bills, higher electricity costs, and food.
- The price of goods is going up- everything costs more. People have to make choices about what's a necessity and what is not. Fresh and healthy food should be easily accessible and affordable for all, not a choice they have to make.

Neighborhood and Physical Environment

- Many parts of Fort Bend County are food deserts. In Missouri City 40% of the population is food insecure.
- People don't have access to healthy foods or don't have time to cook it.
- Generational groups in the Latino community still make mainly traditional foods in the home. They haven't made the shift to healthier options.

- Many people don't have a chance to exercise because they are on shift work or move between jobs daily. It's difficult to incorporate exercise in that lifestyle.
- People don't use the limited transportation options because they don't run at convenient times or locations.
- Transit buses do not exist. There are not a lot of stops except at the Texas Medical Center.
- There is no mass transit bus line, you need to make an appointment to use the county bus service.
- There are not a lot of greenspaces in Fort Bend County, especially in the urban areas. Another issue is the lack of proper sidewalks for walking.
- Areas like Fresno, Arcola and Brookshire have substandard housing with mold and other substandard building material issues.

Health Care Access and Quality

- People don't have good health literacy, especially around preventive care.
- There is a lack of access to specialists, especially for the uninsured.
- The biggest challenge is getting medical appointments. Even with insurance, it takes up to four weeks to be seen.
- There is inequity in the types and breadth of health information different groups are given.
- The faith-based community has strong ties with immigrant groups so that is a good vehicle for sharing health information
- People will choose to work and get paid over missing work and going to a health care appointment where they will have to pay for expensive medications.
- Many organizations in the community are not aware of all the health care resources that exist. A repository of information would help streamline the referral process.

Gaps in Accessing Care

Interviewees were asked to identify populations and geographies that were lacking access to regular health care and social services. The following groups and areas came up multiple times in the interviews as having the most barriers to access.

Demographic groups

- Young men between the ages of 18-30
- LGBTQ+ individuals
- Undocumented individuals, especially Hispanics
- African Americans
- Working poor

- Seniors
- Single parents
- Individuals with disabilities
- Foreign born population
- Venezuelan community (Fulshear/Katy)

Under resourced neighborhoods

- Arcola
- Fresno
- Stafford School District
- Rosenberg- Richmond downtown
- South part of Rosenberg-Richmond
- Clodine
- Missouri City

Impact of COVID-19

Interviewees were asked to reflect on how the pandemic influenced or changed the unmet health-related needs in the community.

- Loss of employment and a steady paycheck caused a lot of financial and emotional distress.
- People had to make choices on how to spend their limited savings.
- People lost jobs and couldn't keep up with expenses.
- Post COVID, hiring was supposed to return to normal, but we hear that people are still having trouble with job searches.
- The conflicting and politicized messages about vaccines reduced reliance and trust in public health services.
- Vaccine hesitancy was real. We relied on community partners to spread the word to address this issue.
- All of the community partners had to manage their own expectations of what could be done and should be done, and what actually got done related to COVID.