



2021

CHI St. Luke's Health Brazosport Hospital

Community Health Needs Assessment



Report adopted by the Board of Directors on May 26, 2021.

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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 CHI St. Luke's Health – Brazosport 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 not-for-profit 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 Consultant

CHI St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital engaged Biel Consulting, Inc. to conduct the CHNA.

Community Definition

CHI St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital is located at 100 Medical Drive, Lake Jackson, Texas, 77566. The population of the CHI St. Luke's Health Brazosport service area is 194,338. Children and youth, ages 0-17, make up 26.2% of the population, 61.7% are adults, ages 18-64, and 12.1% of the population are seniors, ages 65 and over. The largest portion of the population in the service area (48.4%) identifies as White/Caucasian, with 33.9% of the population identifying as Hispanic/Latino, 13.2% of the population as Black/African American, and 2.9% of the population as Asian. 1.2% of individuals identify as multiracial (two-or-more races). In the service area, 73.5% of the population, 5 years and older, speak only English in the home, 23.4% speak Spanish, 1.8% speak an Asian/Pacific Islander language, and 0.8% speak an Indo-European language in the home.

Among the residents in the service area, 11.4% are at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and 28.6% are at 200% of FPL or below. Educational attainment is a key driver of health. In the hospital service area, 15.2% of adults, 25 and older, lack a high school diploma, which is higher than the county rate (12.1%) and lower than the state rate (16.3%). 22% of area adults have a Bachelor's degree or higher college

degree, which is lower than the county (30%) and state (29.9%) rates.

Assessment Process and Methods

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, chronic disease, health behaviors, mental health, substance use and misuse and preventive practices. Where available, these data are presented in the context of Brazoria County and Texas, framing the scope of an issue as it relates to the broader community. The report includes benchmark comparison data, comparing CHI St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital community data findings with Healthy People 2030 objectives.

Brazosport Hospital conducted interviews with community stakeholders to obtain input on health needs, barriers to care and resources available to address the identified health needs. Thirteen (13) interviews were completed in February and March 2021. Community stakeholders identified by the hospital were contacted and asked to participate in the needs assessment 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.”

Brazosport Hospital also conducted surveys with community residents to obtain input on health needs, barriers to care and resources available to address the identified health needs. The surveys were available in an electronic format through a Survey Monkey link. The surveys were available in English and Spanish and were collected from February 7 – March 7, 2021. During this time, six community members completed the survey.

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 and surveys 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 interviewees and survey respondents were also asked to prioritize the health needs according to highest level of importance in the community. The total score for each significant health 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 health need.

List of Prioritized Significant Health Needs

Mental health, access to health care, chronic diseases, and COVID-19 were ranked as the top four priority needs in the service area.

Mental health – Frequent Mental Distress is defined as 14 or more bad mental health days in the last month. In the service area the rate of mental distress was 13.2% of adults, which was higher than in the county (12.9%) and the state (11.7%). Community stakeholders identified mental health issues as significant in the community. The pandemic has exacerbated the isolation, anxiety and depression felt by area residents. Seniors and teens are especially vulnerable.

Access to health care – Access to a medical home and a primary care provider improve continuity of care and decrease unnecessary emergency room visits. 31.4% of adults in the Brazosport service area do not have a usual primary care provider. There are a number of identified barriers to accessing health care, including: lack of transportation, cultural and language issues, loss of insurance coverage from job losses as a result of COVID, lack of information on available resources, and a lack of specialists.

Chronic diseases – The hospital service area has high rates of death from heart disease, stroke, liver disease and cancer. Co-morbidity factors for diabetes and heart disease are high blood pressure (hypertension) and high blood cholesterol. The percent of adults who reported being diagnosed with high blood pressure or high cholesterol were higher in the Brazosport service area than in the county.

COVID-19 – In Brazoria County, there have been 35,737 probable or confirmed cases of the Coronavirus known as COVID-19 as of April 4, 2021. This represents a rate of 9,908.3 cases per 100,000 residents. As of the same date, 454 persons have died in the county due to COVID-19 complications, a rate of 125.9 deaths per 100,000 persons. Community stakeholders noted that COVID-19 has impacted how people access health care services, making it more difficult. People are waiting until they get very sick before they come to the hospital or see a primary care provider.

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 CHI St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital community board on May 26, 2021. The report is widely available to the public on the hospital's web site, and a paper copy is available for inspection upon request at 100 Medical Drive, Lake Jackson, TX 77566. Written comments on this report can be submitted to the Mission Integration and Spiritual Care office at 100 Medical Drive, Lake Jackson, TX 77566 or by e-mail to Jerry.McDonald@brhstx.org.

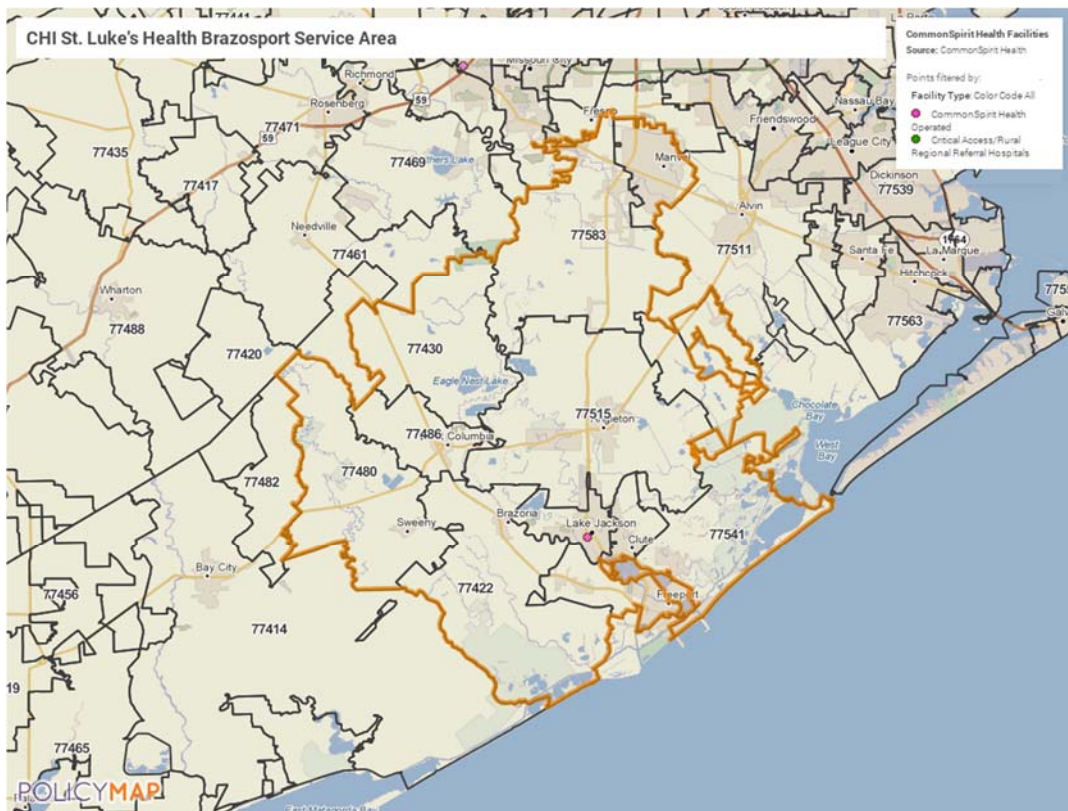
Community Definition

Service Area

CHI St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital is located at 100 Medical Drive, Lake Jackson, Texas, 77566. 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 12 ZIP Codes, all located within Brazoria County.

CHI St. Luke's Health Brazosport Service Area

Place	ZIP Code
Angleton	77515
Brazoria	77422
Clute	77531
Damon	77430
Danbury	77534
Freeport	77541
Lake Jackson	77566
Liverpool	77577
Manvel	77578
Rosharon	77583
Sweeny	77480
West Columbia	77486



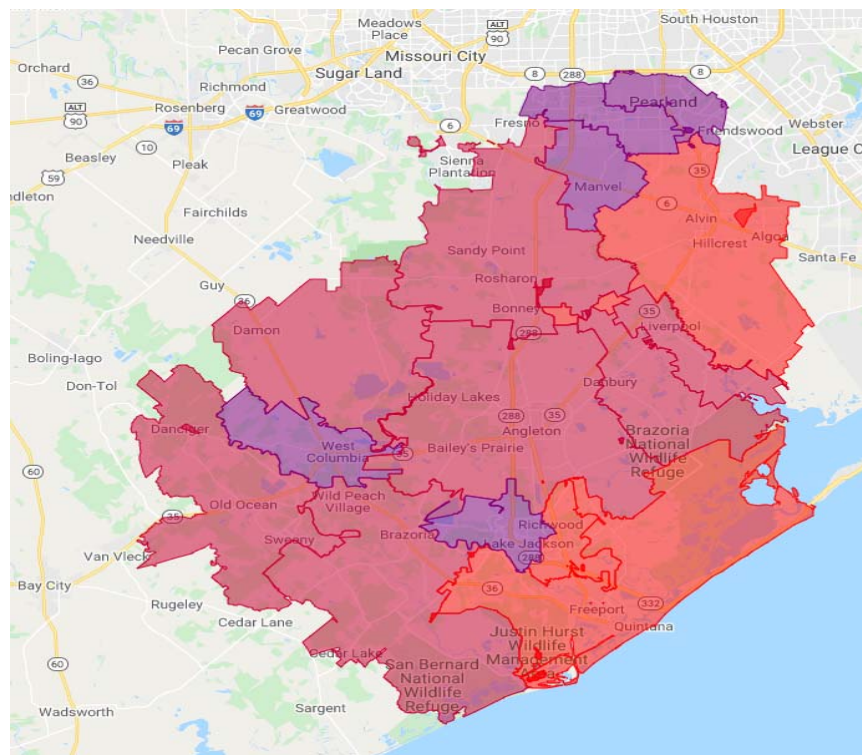


The population of the CHI St. Luke's Health Brazosport service area is 194,338. Children and youth, ages 0-17, make up 26.2% of the population, 61.7% are adults, ages 18-64, and 12.1% of the population are seniors, ages 65 and over. The largest portion of the population in the service area (48.4%) identifies as White/Caucasian, with 33.9% of the population identifying as Hispanic/Latino, 13.2% of the population as Black/African American, and 2.9% of the population as Asian. 1.2% of individuals identify as multiracial (two-or-more races). In the service area, 73.5% of the population, 5 years and older, speak only English in the home, 23.4% speak Spanish, 1.8% speak an Asian/Pacific Islander language, and 0.8% speak an Indo-European language in the home.

Among the residents in the service area, 11.4% are at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and 28.6% are at 200% of FPL or below. The unemployment rate in the service area, averaged over 5 years, was 5%. The Alvin Service Area is a designated Medically Underserved Area (MUA) and Brazoria/Angleton/Lake Jackson/Alvin Service Area is a designated Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA). Educational attainment is a key driver of health. In the hospital service area, 15.2% of adults, 25 and older, lack a high school diploma, which is higher than the county rate (12.1%) and lower than the state rate (16.3%). 22% of area adults have a Bachelor's degree or higher, which is lower than the county (30%) and state (29.9%) rates.

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 Brazosport Hospital service area is 3.6. Freeport and Clute have the highest CNI scores in the service area (4.8) and Pearland has the lowest CNI scores (2.8-3.0). Research has shown that communities with the highest CNI scores experience twice the rate of hospital admissions for ambulatory care sensitive conditions as those with the lowest scores.



Mean(zipcode): 3.6 / Mean(person): 3.5

CNI Score Median: 3.6

CNI Score Mode: 3.4

Zip Code	CNI Score	Population	City	County	State
77422	3.8	15088	Brazoria	Brazoria	Texas
77430	3.4	2548	Damon	Brazoria	Texas
77480	4	8630	Sweeny	Brazoria	Texas
77486	3.2	7674	West Columbia	Brazoria	Texas
77511	4.2	53324	Alvin	Brazoria	Texas
77515	4	33980	Angleton	Brazoria	Texas
77531	4.8	17779	Clute	Brazoria	Texas
77534	3.4	3201	Danbury	Brazoria	Texas
77541	4.8	18932	Freeport	Brazoria	Texas
77566	3.2	32033	Lake Jackson	Brazoria	Texas
77577	3.6	1481	Liverpool	Brazoria	Texas
77578	2.8	20950	Manvel	Brazoria	Texas
77581	3	52082	Pearland	Brazoria	Texas
77583	3.4	37221	Rosharon	Brazoria	Texas
77584	2.8	95963	Pearland	Brazoria	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, chronic disease, health behaviors, mental health, substance use and misuse and preventive practices. Where available, these data are presented in the context of Brazoria County and Texas, framing the scope of an issue as it relates to the broader community. The report includes benchmark comparison data, comparing CHI St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital 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. Brazoria County is part of Health Statistical Region (HSR) 6, along with the following counties: Austin, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

American Community Survey data are gathered annually by the Census Bureau and supplement data gathered in the Decennial Census. Not all ZIP Codes are tracked by the Census Bureau, often because they are too new or too few people reside in them to protect individual privacy. This is the case with 4 of the 16 ZIP Codes in Brazoria County.

Primary Data Collection

Brazosport Hospital conducted interviews with community stakeholders to obtain input on health needs, barriers to care and resources available to address the identified health needs. Thirteen (13) interviews were completed in February and March 2021. Community stakeholders identified by the hospital were contacted and asked to participate in the needs assessment 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."

The identified stakeholders were invited by email to participate in the 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.

The needs assessment interviews were structured to obtain greater depth of information and build on the secondary data review. During the interviews, participants were asked to identify the major health issues in the community and socioeconomic, behavioral, environmental or clinical factors contributing to poor health. They were asked to share their perspectives on the issues, challenges and barriers relative to the significant health needs, and identify resources to address these health needs, such as services, programs and/or community efforts

Brazosport Hospital also conducted surveys with community residents to obtain input on health needs, barriers to care and resources available to address the identified health needs. The surveys were available in an electronic format through a Survey Monkey link. The surveys were available in English and Spanish and were collected from February 7 – March 7, 2021. During this time, six community members completed the survey. Brazosport Hospital distributed the survey link through emails and social media. A written introduction explained the purpose of the survey and assured participants the survey was voluntary and their responses would be kept confidential.

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

1. Access to care
2. Chronic diseases
3. COVID-19
4. Dental care
5. Economic insecurity
6. Mental health
7. Overweight/obesity
8. Preventive practices (screenings, vaccinations)
9. Substance use

Responses and trends from the interviews and surveys are summarized in the following report.

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. Brazosport Hospital invited written comments on the most recent CHNA report and Implementation Strategy both in the documents and on the web site where they are widely available to the public at www.stlukeshhealth.org/

[locations/brazosport-hospital/community-health-needs-assessment](#). No written comments have been received.

Project Oversight

The CHNA process was overseen by:

Jerry (Kevin) McDonald

Mission Integration

CHI St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital

Consultant

Biel Consulting, Inc. conducted the CHNA. Dr. Melissa Biel was joined by Sevanne Sarkis, JD, MHA, MEd, and Denise Flanagan, BA. 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 CHI St. Luke’s Health Brazosport service area is 194,338. From 2014 to 2019, the population increased by 11.5%, which is a faster rate of growth than in the county and state.

Total Population and Change in Population

	Brazosport Service Area	Brazoria County	Texas
Total population	194,338	360,677	28,260,856
Change in population, 2014-2019	11.5%	8.3%	10.8%

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

The hospital service area population is 48.4% female and 51.6% male.

Population by Gender

	Brazosport Service Area	Brazoria County	Texas
Male	51.6%	50.6%	49.7%
Female	48.4%	49.4%	50.3%

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

Children and youth, ages 0-17, make up 26.2% of the population, 61.7% are adults, ages 18-64, and 12.1% of the population are seniors, ages 65 and over. The service area population has a breakdown fairly comparable to both the county and state.

Population by Age

	Brazosport Service Area		Brazoria County		Texas	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age 0-4	12,460	6.4%	25,023	6.9%	1,999,803	7.1%
Age 5-17	38,447	19.8%	70,596	19.6%	5,338,642	18.9%
Age 18-24	16,769	8.6%	29,658	8.2%	2,790,857	9.9%
Age 25-44	54,568	28.1%	103,449	28.7%	7,977,267	28.2%
Age 45-64	48,636	25.0%	90,206	25.0%	6,691,760	23.7%
Age 65+	23,458	12.1%	41,745	11.6%	3,462,527	12.3%

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

When the service area is examined by community, Damon has the highest percentage of children and youth (31.4%), followed closely by Freeport (31.3%). Brazoria (20.7%) has the lowest percentage of children and youth in the service area.

The percent of the service area population, ages 65 years and older, is 12.1%, which is higher than the county rate of 11.6%. Liverpool has the highest percentage of seniors in the area (19.4%), followed closely by Sweeny (19.1%). Rosharon reports a senior population of 7.4%.

Population by Youth, Ages 0-19, and Seniors, Ages 65+

	ZIP Code	Total Population	Youth Ages 0 – 17	Seniors Ages 65+
Angleton	77515	32,469	22.0%	12.8%
Brazoria	77422	13,194	20.7%	18.4%
Clute	77531	16,228	27.5%	10.0%
Damon	77430	2,078	31.4%	12.5%
Danbury	77534	2,256	24.9%	11.1%
Freeport	77541	18,609	31.3%	10.4%
Lake Jackson	77566	29,436	25.4%	14.6%
Liverpool	77577	1,481	27.8%	19.4%
Manvel	77578	22,527	30.4%	10.8%
Rosharon	77583	40,514	26.7%	7.4%
Sweeny	77480	8,055	26.1%	19.1%
West Columbia	77486	7,491	25.5%	17.0%
Brazosport Service Area		194,338	26.2%	12.1%
Brazoria County		360,677	26.5%	11.6%
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

The largest portion of the population in the service area (48.4%) identifies as White/Caucasian, with 33.9% of the population identifying as Hispanic/Latino, 13.2% of the population as Black/African American, and 2.9% of the population as Asian. 1.2% of individuals identify as multiracial (two-or-more races), 0.3% as American Indian/Alaskan Natives, and those who are of a race/ethnicity not listed represent 0.1% of the population. Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders represent 0.01% of the service area population.

Race/Ethnicity

	Brazosport Service Area	Brazoria County	Texas
White	48.4%	47.2%	42.0%
Hispanic or Latino	33.9%	30.6%	39.3%
Black/African American	13.2%	13.6%	11.8%
Asian	2.9%	6.6%	4.7%
Multiracial	1.2%	1.4%	1.7%
American Indian/AK Native	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Some other race	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Native HI/Pacific Islander	0.01%	0.01%	0.08%

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

When race/ethnicity is examined by area, Clute (53.9%) and Freeport (51%) have over half of the population identifying as Hispanic/Latino. Rosharon (23.8%) and Manvel (23.2%) have the highest percentage of Blacks/African Americans. Manvel also has the highest percentage of Asians (8.3%). Damon (87.1%) and Danbury (85.2%) have the highest percentage of Whites, and Rosharon the lowest percentage of Whites (27.9%) in the service area.

Race/Ethnicity by ZIP Code

	ZIP Code	White	Hispanic/Latino	Black	Asian
Angleton	77515	53.9%	31.3%	10.7%	2.0%
Brazoria	77422	65.9%	18.3%	14.3%	0.4%
Clute	77531	35.0%	53.9%	9.3%	0.1%
Damon	77430	87.1%	12.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Danbury	77534	85.2%	13.4%	0.5%	0.4%
Freeport	77541	35.4%	51.0%	9.6%	0.7%
Lake Jackson	77566	64.3%	28.2%	3.4%	2.8%
Liverpool	77577	66.9%	30.5%	0.8%	0.5%
Manvel	77578	44.6%	22.6%	23.2%	8.3%
Rosharon	77583	27.9%	41.9%	23.8%	5.2%
Sweeny	77480	67.8%	22.1%	9.7%	0.0%
West Columbia	77486	67.5%	24.7%	5.8%	0.2%
Brazosport Service Area		48.4%	33.9%	13.2%	2.9%
Brazoria County		47.2%	30.6%	13.6%	6.6%
Texas		42.0%	39.3%	11.8%	4.7%

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

Language

In the service area, 73.5% of the population, 5 years and older, speak only English in the home. Among the area population, 23.4% speak Spanish, 1.8% speak an Asian/Pacific Islander language, and 0.8% speak an Indo-European language in the home.

Language Spoken at Home for the Population, 5 Years and Over

	Brazosport Service Area	Brazoria County	Texas
Population, 5 years and older	181,878	335,654	26,261,053
English only	73.5%	73.5%	64.5%
Speaks Spanish	23.4%	20.0%	29.3%
Speaks Asian or Pacific Islander language	1.8%	4.3%	3.0%
Speaks non-Spanish Indo-European language	0.8%	1.5%	2.2%
Speaks other language	0.5%	0.7%	1.0%

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

The highest percentage of Spanish speakers, within the service area, can be found in Clute (40%), Freeport (35.4%) and Rosharon (33.4%). Manvel (5%) has the highest percentage of Asian/Pacific-Islander language speakers followed by Rosharon (3.1%).

Lake Jackson (1.6%) and Manvel (1.1%) have the highest percentages of non-Spanish Indo-European languages spoken at home in the service area.

Language Spoken at Home by ZIP Code

	ZIP Code	English	Spanish	Asian/Pacific Islander	Non-Spanish Indo European
Angleton	77515	77.0%	20.7%	1.8%	0.5%
Brazoria	77422	87.7%	11.6%	0.1%	0.6%
Clute	77531	59.2%	40.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Damon	77430	90.2%	9.5%	0.0%	0.4%
Danbury	77534	90.8%	8.1%	0.2%	0.9%
Freeport	77541	62.4%	35.4%	0.5%	0.2%
Lake Jackson	77566	78.9%	17.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Liverpool	77577	77.3%	22.1%	0.5%	0.1%
Manvel	77578	84.5%	9.4%	5.0%	1.1%
Rosharon	77583	61.1%	33.4%	3.1%	0.9%
Sweeny	77480	85.9%	13.5%	0.1%	0.5%
West Columbia	77486	78.9%	20.9%	0.0%	0.2%
Brazosport Service Area		73.5%	23.4%	1.8%	0.8%
Brazoria County		73.5%	20.0%	4.3%	1.5%
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 2.9% in the Sweeny Independent School District, to 19.9% in the Damon Independent School District (with a total student population of 156 for the 2018-2019 school year), and 16.3% of Alvin Independent School District students. The percentage of English Learner students in area school districts, with the exception of Damon Independent, are all lower than the state (19%).

English Language Learner Students by School District

	Number	Percent
Alvin Independent School District	4,194	16.3%
Angleton Independent School District	880	13.1%
Brazosport Independent School District	1,610	13.0%
Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District	212	7.0%
Damon Independent School District	31	19.9%
Danbury Independent School District	31	3.9%
Sweeny Independent School District	57	2.9%
Texas	968,929	19.0%

Source: Texas Education Agency, Snapshot 2019 (2018-2019). <https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/snapshot/2019/index.html>

Veteran Status

In the service area, 7.2% of the civilian population, 18 years and older, are veterans. This is higher than in the county (6.6%) and state (7.0%). Rates of former military service range from 4.9% in Danbury to 11% in Brazoria.

Veteran Status

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	7.6%
Brazoria	77422	11.0%
Clute	77531	6.5%
Damon	77430	5.0%
Danbury	77534	4.9%
Freeport	77541	6.7%
Lake Jackson	77566	7.3%
Liverpool	77577	8.6%
Manvel	77578	7.5%
Rosharon	77583	5.9%
Sweeny	77480	6.9%
West Columbia	77486	8.8%
Brazosport Service Area		7.2%
Brazoria County		6.6%
Texas		7.0%

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

Citizenship

In the service area, 11.2% of the population is foreign-born, which is lower than county (13.1%) and state (17%) rates. Of the foreign-born, 59.5% 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

	Brazosport Service Area	Brazoria County	Texas
Foreign born	11.2%	13.1%	17.0%
Of the foreign born, not a U.S. citizen	59.5%	48.0%	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, 244 of which are ranked from 1 to 244 according to social and economic factors. A ranking of 1 is the county with the best factors and a ranking of 244 is the county with the poorest factors. This ranking examines: high school graduation rates, unemployment, children in poverty, social support, and others. Brazoria County is ranked 46 among ranked counties in Texas, according to social and economic factors, placing it in the top quartile.

Social and Economic Factors Ranking

	County Ranking (out of 244)
Brazoria County	46

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

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in the service area, averaged over 5 years, was 5%. This is higher than Brazoria County (4.4%) but similar to state unemployment rates (5.1%). The highest rate of unemployment was found in Brazoria (12.5%), followed by Freeport (9.4%) and West Columbia (8.2%). The lowest unemployment rates in the service area can be found in Rosharon (3.1%), Manvel (3.2%) and Liverpool (3.4%).

Employment Status for the Population, Ages 16 and Older

	Civilian Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Angleton	14,593	579	4.0%
Brazoria	4,890	609	12.5%
Clute	8,399	426	5.1%
Damon	863	34	3.9%
Danbury	1,225	56	4.6%
Freeport	8,392	787	9.4%
Lake Jackson	15,341	644	4.2%
Liverpool	526	18	3.4%
Manvel	11,474	372	3.2%
Rosharon	16,426	509	3.1%
Sweeny	3,398	166	4.9%
West Columbia	3,426	281	8.2%
Brazosport Service Area	88,953	4,481	5.0%
Brazoria County	177,197	7,821	4.4%
Texas	13,962,458	708,827	5.1%

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

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, 11.4% are at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and 28.6% are at 200% of FPL or below. These poverty and low-income rates are higher than county rates and lower than state rates. The highest poverty and low-income rates in the service area are found in Freeport, where 22.4% of the population lives in poverty and 53.4% qualify as low-income. Danbury has the lowest rate of poverty (4.3%) and low-income residents (11.9%).

Ratio of Income to Poverty Level, by ZIP Code (<100% FPL and <200% FPL)

	ZIP Code	<100% FPL	<200% FPL
Angleton	77515	11.5%	26.7%
Brazoria	77422	12.8%	29.5%
Clute	77531	12.8%	28.6%
Damon	77430	9.3%	17.7%
Danbury	77534	4.3%	11.9%
Freeport	77541	22.4%	53.4%
Lake Jackson	77566	8.0%	18.8%
Liverpool	77577	12.7%	23.5%
Manvel	77578	5.6%	20.0%
Rosharon	77583	11.9%	32.2%
Sweeny	77480	15.9%	32.3%
West Columbia	77486	5.3%	24.8%
Brazosport Service Area		11.4%	28.6%
Brazoria County		8.7%	22.5%
Texas		14.7%	34.3%

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

Freeport has the highest rate of poverty among children (30.7%) in the service area. Liverpool (17.8%) has the highest rate of poverty among seniors. In Sweeny, 71% of female heads-of-household (HoH), living with their own children, under the age of 18, live in poverty.

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

	ZIP Code	Children	Seniors	Female HoH with Children*
Angleton	77515	17.5%	7.2%	44.9%
Brazoria	77422	17.1%	11.6%	44.7%
Clute	77531	16.0%	8.4%	38.4%
Damon	77430	11.0%	1.5%	38.2%
Danbury	77534	2.3%	4.0%	10.0%
Freeport	77541	30.7%	6.8%	50.7%
Lake Jackson	77566	10.1%	2.5%	41.6%
Liverpool	77577	12.8%	17.8%	37.8%
Manvel	77578	5.0%	8.9%	10.2%

	ZIP Code	Children	Seniors	Female HoH with Children*
Rosharon	77583	12.9%	4.2%	25.8%
Sweeny	77480	27.7%	9.1%	71.0%
West Columbia	77486	2.5%	6.1%	0.0%
Brazosport Service Area		14.7%	6.8%	39.1%
Brazoria County		10.6%	6.3%	30.7%
Texas		20.9%	10.6%	37.6%

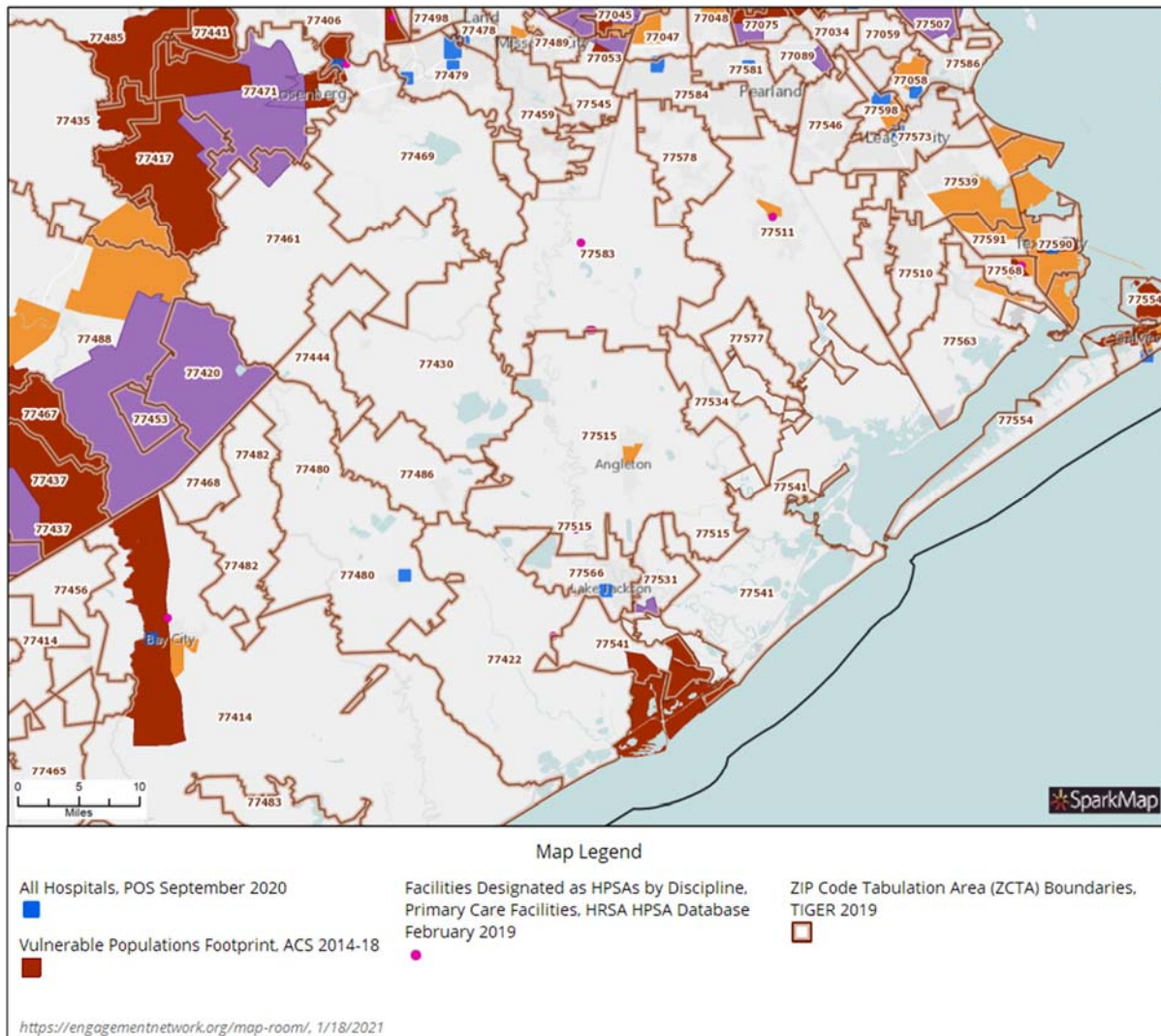
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey, S1701 & *S1702. <http://data.census.gov/>

Vulnerable Populations

When vulnerable populations in the area are mapped, pockets of poverty emerge. The map below shows the CHI St. Luke’s Health Brazosport 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.

In the service area, parts of Angleton show a high percentage of poverty and parts of Clute show a population with low education levels. Large sections of Freeport 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.

Vulnerable Populations in the CHI St. Luke's Brazosport Area



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. In the Damon Independent School District (ISD), 90.4% of the 156 students enrolled in the 2018-2019 school year were considered Economically Disadvantaged. In addition to Damon ISD, Brazosport ISD (61.7%) and Angleton ISD (62%) had rates of economic disadvantage higher than the state (60.6%). Danbury ISD had a rate lower than the county average. A number of area school districts show an increase in the percentage of disadvantaged children from the 2017-2018 school year to the 2018-2019 school year.

Economically Disadvantaged Students

	Percent of Children Classified as Economically Disadvantaged	
	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019
Alvin Independent School District	47.1%	51.7%
Angleton Independent School District	63.3%	62.0%
Brazosport Independent School District	54.0%	61.7%
Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District	60.9%	50.6%
Damon Independent School District	68.9%	90.4%
Danbury Independent School District	28.8%	38.4%
Sweeny Independent School District	49.8%	51.4%
Brazoria County	44.3%	48.2%
Texas	58.8%	60.6%

Source: Texas Education Agency, Snapshots 2018 & 2019. <https://rptsrv1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/snapshot/2019/index.html>

Households

In the service area, there are 63,988 households and 74,471 housing units. Over the last five years, the population grew by 11.5%, the number of households grew at a rate of 11.6%, housing units grew at a rate of 12.5%, and vacant units increased by 18.8%. Owner-occupied housing increased by 9.6% and renters increased by 17.1%.

Households and Housing Units, and Percent Change

	Brazosport Service Area			Brazoria County		
	2014	2019	Percent Change	2014	2019	Percent Change
Households	57,355	63,988	11.6%	109,817	121,523	10.7%
Housing units	66,180	74,471	12.5%	122,451	136,285	11.3%
Owner occ.	42,048	46,065	9.6%	80,586	87,645	8.8%
Renter occ.	15,307	17,923	17.1%	29,231	33,878	15.9%
Vacant	8,825	10,483	18.8%	12,634	14,762	16.8%

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

The weighted average of the median household income in the area is \$71,745, and ranges from \$46,039 in Freeport to \$95,890 in Danbury.

Median Household Income

	ZIP Code	Households	Median Household Income
Angleton	77515	10,831	\$64,778
Brazoria	77422	4,582	\$56,064
Clute	77531	6,108	\$62,892
Damon	77430	752	\$80,889
Danbury	77534	816	\$95,890
Freeport	77541	6,452	\$46,039
Lake Jackson	77566	11,238	\$83,782
Liverpool	77577	538	\$73,889
Manvel	77578	7,140	\$92,487
Rosharon	77583	9,920	\$78,808

	ZIP Code	Households	Median Household Income
Sweeny	77480	2,975	\$60,423
West Columbia	77486	2,636	\$79,231
Brazosport Service Area		63,988	*\$71,745
Brazoria County		121,523	\$81,447
Texas		9,691,647	\$61,874

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 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.” Those who spend 50% or more are considered “severely cost burdened.” 24.9% of owner and renter occupied households in the service area spend 30% or more of their income on housing. This is similar to the county rate (24.5%) but lower than the state rate (30.5%). The cities with the highest percentage of households spending 30% or more of their income on housing are Rosharon (31.4%), Manvel (30.5%) and Freeport (28.5%).

Households that Spend 30% or More of Income on Housing

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	22.6%
Brazoria	77422	20.2%
Clute	77531	27.4%
Damon	77430	12.5%
Danbury	77534	16.1%
Freeport	77541	28.5%
Lake Jackson	77566	20.5%
Liverpool	77577	22.2%
Manvel	77578	30.5%
Rosharon	77583	31.4%
Sweeny	77480	19.1%
West Columbia	77486	20.1%
Brazosport Service Area		24.9%
Brazoria County		24.5%
Texas		30.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates DP04. <http://data.census.gov/>

Community Input – Economic Insecurity

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

- If you do not have the money to go to the doctor, or to pay for a ride, or pay for a vehicle, that impacts your ability to seek care in a negative way.
- In the current climate with COVID, people are losing their jobs and they are unable to support their families.
- Everyone is seeing economic struggles with the pandemic. But economic insecurity was already an issue prior to the pandemic. Therefore, our homeless rate is growing because people cannot continue to make ends meet.
- We are seeing more and more people who are unemployed and living in their cars.

A lack of shelter space is a huge barrier. As a result, people are sleeping on the streets and I don't see how they can get out of their pit if we don't help them.

- It is a really broad subject that doesn't focus just on medications and access to health care. Economic insecurity is the ability to afford a proper diet and transportation to and from medical care and the ability to work and work hours that allow you to get medical care.
- Many seniors live on fixed incomes. Many retired 20-30 years ago when \$700 would go somewhere. They don't run their heat and air so they can buy their medications.
- Housing stability, financial stability, ability to purchase medications, pay for health care and purchase food, these are significant issues in our community. These concerns have increased during the pandemic especially with people losing their employment. We have a lot of people in the oil and gas and fast-food industries who has been really impacted by the pandemic. And with schools on and off, many women have had to stay at home and they lost their jobs.
- If you are uninsured, it is major issue. Even for those who have insurance but are limited with what they can receive. It plays a major factor for those with limited resources that have insurance and have to pay extra for more health care. Layoffs and downsizing from the refineries and major industries in our area, have impacted the family's bottom line and determined what they can and cannot afford. They have to decide what is needed for them at that time and what can be delayed.

Households by Type

The service area has 24.7% of family households with children under 18 years old and 5.6% of households are households with a female as head of household with children. Finally, 8.9% of area seniors live alone, which is higher than the county (7.5%) and state (8.3%) rates.

Households by Type

	Total Households	Family Households with Children Under Age 18	Female Head of Household with own Children Under Age 18	Seniors, 65+, Living Alone
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Brazosport Service Area	63,988	24.7%	5.6%	8.9%
Brazoria County	121,523	27.7%	5.1%	7.5%
Texas	9,691,647	22.4%	6.5%	8.3%

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

Homelessness

A point-in-time count of homeless people 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. 215 of 254 Texas counties were counted as part of the 'Balance of State Continuum of Care' (CoC), when reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Development, including Brazoria County. Until 2019, Brazoria County was counted as part of the Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition. At that time, Brazoria County changed to report as the Homeless Coalition of Brazoria County.

On January 23, 2020, there were an estimated 69 homeless individuals in the county. Over the past four years, the homeless population has risen statewide and in the Balance of State CoC, while both the number and proportion of homeless who are sheltered has declined. In the state and Balance of State CoC the proportion of homeless who are chronically homeless or who are veterans has declined.

Homeless Point-in-Time Count, 2015 and 2019 and *2020

	Brazoria County*	Texas Balance of State CoC				Texas			
	2020	2015		2019		2015		2019	
		Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Total Homeless	69	7,016	100%	8,072	100%	23,678	100%	25,848	100%
Sheltered	17.8%	4,090	58.3%	3,416	42.3%	16,192	68.4%	14,626	56.6%
Unsheltered	82.4%	2,926	41.7%	4,656	57.7%	7,486	31.6%	11,222	43.4%
Chronically homeless	33.3%	1,428	20.4%	597	7.4%	4,304	18.2%	3,511	13.6%
Veteran	14.5%	653	9.3%	324	4.0%	2,393	10.1%	1,806	7.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), 2015 & 2019. <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/ahar/> *Brazoria County data from Homeless Coalition of Brazoria County via Texas Homeless Network. <https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/data/pit-count-and-hic/>

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is a key driver of health. In the hospital service area, 15.2% of adults, 25 and older, lack a high school diploma, which is higher than the county rate (12.1%) and lower than the state rate (16.3%). 22% of area adults have a Bachelor's degree or higher, which is lower than the county (30%) and state (29.9%) rates.

Education Levels, Population 25 Years and Older

	Brazosport Service Area	Brazoria County	Texas
Population 25 years and older	126,662	235,400	18,131,554
Less than 9 th grade	6.5%	5.4%	8.2%
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	8.7%	6.7%	8.1%
High school graduate	30.7%	25.5%	25.0%
Some college, no degree	24.4%	23.8%	21.6%
Associate's degree	7.7%	8.5%	7.2%
Bachelor's degree	15.4%	19.6%	19.5%
Graduate/professional degree	6.6%	10.4%	10.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 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 available for analysis, Brazosport Independent School District (88.1% graduation rate) does not meet this objective.

High School Graduation Rates

	Percent
Alvin Independent School District	97.6%
Angleton Independent School District	96.7%
Brazosport Independent School District	88.1%
Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District	95.8%
Damon Independent School District	*N/A
Danbury Independent School District	100.0%
Sweeny Independent School District	97.5%
Brazoria County	**96.2%
Texas	**92.5%

Source: Texas Education Agency, Snapshot 2019 (2018-2019). <https://rptsrv1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/snapshot/2019/index.html>

*With a 2017-2018 Graduation Count of 3 students, a rate is not valid. **County and State rates do not include Districts whose graduation rates were either suppressed or otherwise unavailable.

Preschool Enrollment

46% of 3 and 4-year-olds were enrolled in preschool in the service area, which was higher than state (43.2%) and county (43.4%) rates. The enrollment rates ranged from possibly 0% in Damon and Liverpool (however, with such low populations, data may be unreliable), and 14% in West Columbia to 71.6% in Manvel. The Texas Public Education Information Resource (TPEIR) 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/>).

Children, 3 and 4 Years of Age, Enrolled in Preschool

	ZIP Code	Population, Ages 3 and 4	Percent Enrolled
Angleton	77515	406	42.9%
Brazoria	77422	313	41.5%
Clute	77531	615	56.6%
Damon	77430	4	0.0%
Danbury	77534	41	48.8%
Freeport	77541	567	43.2%
Lake Jackson	77566	759	57.7%
Liverpool	77577	17	0.0%
Manvel	77578	570	71.6%
Rosharon	77583	983	28.2%
Sweeny	77480	187	41.7%
West Columbia	77486	207	14.0%
Brazosport Service Area		4,669	46.0%

	ZIP Code	Population, Ages 3 and 4	Percent Enrolled
Brazoria County		10,439	43.4%
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. Care should be taken when interpreting the crime data, as many of these cities have small populations, and rates can vary widely based on even a single case.

Violent crime rates decreased slightly from 2014 to 2017 in Brazoria County, while rising for Texas. Crime rates were much lower in the county than for the state. The rates of violent crimes reported were higher in many service area cities than in the county, including Alvin, Angleton, Brazoria, Freeport, Missouri City, Sweeny and West Columbia, and highest in Oyster Creek.

Property crime rates decreased from 2014 to 2017 in the state, county and all area cities for which data were available, with the exception of Brazoria, Clute, Jones Creek, Lake Jackson, Oyster Creek, and Surfside Beach. In Alvin, Angleton, Brazoria, Clute, Freeport, Lake Jackson, Oyster Creek, Surfside Beach and Sweeny property crime rates were higher than the county rate.

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

	Violent Crimes		Property Crimes	
	Rate		Rate	
	2014	2017	2014	2017
Alvin	289.1	226.5	2,958.2	2,412.4
Angleton	199.7	275.6	2,560.5	1,791.2
Arcola	183.3	43.2	1,038.5	86.4
Brazoria	295.4	194.8	1,837.9	1,883.1
Clute	132.7	171.7	1,433.0	2,154.7
Damon	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Danbury	229.8	55.8	114.9	55.8
Freeport	330.5	304.0	2,470.3	1,980.3
Jones Creek	242.8	48.3	486.7	676.3
Lake Jackson	127.1	162.8	1,942.9	2,079.8
Liverpool	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Manvel	57.2	92.3	1,243.2	1,107.0
Missouri City	177.8	196.4	1,640.0	1,277.3
Oyster Creek	1,073.4	1,328.6	3,220.0	3,808.7

	Violent Crimes		Property Crimes	
	Rate		Rate	
	2014	2017	2014	2017
Richwood	108.1	176.5	1,324.3	983.6
Surfside Beach	764.8	173.9	1,912.1	3,652.2
Sweeny	455.4	397.6	2,732.4	2,438.4
West Columbia	434.6	457.1	2,581.8	1,168.1
Brazoria County	178.5	174.3	1,746.4	1,473.3
Texas	406.8	437.7	3,016.7	2,557.7

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigations, Nationwide Crime Counts and Rates, via PolicyMap.

<https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables> NOTE: Rates for several of these cities are based on very small overall populations, and therefore may vary widely based on even a single case.

Health Care Access

Health Insurance Coverage

Health insurance coverage is considered a key component to ensure access to health care. 82.8% of the population in the service area has health insurance. Danbury has the highest health insurance rate (93%) and Freeport (71.6%) and Clute (76.2%) have the lowest rates of health insurance. 87.7% of children, ages 0-18, have health insurance coverage in the service area. Danbury has the highest health insurance rate among children (97.8%), and Liverpool (79.9%) and Freeport (79.1%) have the lowest percentage of children with health insurance. Among adults, ages 19-64, 77.2% in the service area have health insurance. Damon has the highest insurance rates (90.5%), and Clute (69.4%) and Freeport (62.4%) have the lowest health insurance rates among adults, ages 19-64. Most area cities did not meet the Healthy People 2030 goal of 92.1% coverage, with the exception of children in Danbury and Manvel, and the overall rate in Danbury; however, Danbury failed to meet the goal among adults, ages 19-64.

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
Angleton	77515	82.8%	87.7%	78.0%
Brazoria	77422	82.0%	86.1%	73.8%
Clute	77531	76.2%	83.3%	69.4%
Damon	77430	90.5%	86.9%	90.5%
Danbury	77534	93.0%	97.8%	89.6%
Freeport	77541	71.6%	79.1%	62.4%
Lake Jackson	77566	86.2%	91.0%	80.7%
Liverpool	77577	81.4%	79.9%	75.1%
Manvel	77578	90.6%	92.8%	88.9%
Rosharon	77583	82.7%	90.1%	76.7%
Sweeny	77480	85.5%	86.8%	80.1%
West Columbia	77486	82.6%	82.1%	77.5%
Brazosport Service Area		82.8%	87.7%	77.2%
Brazoria County		86.0%	89.2%	82.1%
Texas		82.8%	89.6%	76.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey, DP03. <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. 31.4% of adults in the Brazosport service area do not have a usual primary care provider. At a local level, 26.7% of adults in Sweeny have no usual primary care provider.

No Usual Primary Care Provider

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	30.3%
Brazoria	77422	30.2%
Clute	77531	35.5%
Damon	77430	27.4%
Danbury	77534	29.8%
Freeport	77541	33.9%
Lake Jackson	77566	29.3%
Liverpool	77577	28.5%
Manvel	77578	31.3%
Rosharon	77583	33.8%
Sweeny	77480	26.7%
West Columbia	77486	27.1%
Brazosport Service Area		* 31.4%
Brazoria County		30.8%
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

16.8% of adults in Texas reported an unmet medical need as a result of not being able to afford care. The rate of unmet need is higher in Health Statistical Region 6 (17.9%). The Healthy People 2030 objective is 3.3% of the population. The rate is highest among women (24.3%), the uninsured (28.2%), unmarried individuals (21.1%) and those with a disability (27.4%).

Adults with Unmet Medical Need Due to Cost

	Percent
Health Statistical Region 6	17.9%
Texas	16.8%

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>

Primary Care Physicians

The ratio of the population to primary care physicians in Brazoria County is 1,550:1, which is better than the state ratio of 1,640 persons per primary care physician.

Primary Care Physicians, Number and Ratio

	Brazoria County	Texas
Number of primary care physicians	234	17,239
Ratio of population to primary care physicians	1,550:1	1,640:1

Source: County Health Rankings, 2017. <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 CHI St. Luke’s Health Brazosport service area and information from the Uniform Data System (UDS)¹, 28.9% of the population in the service area is low-income (200% of Federal Poverty Level) and 11.9% of the population are living in poverty. There are several Section 330-funded grantees (Federally Qualified Health Centers – FQHCs and FQHC Look-Alikes) located in the service area, including: Asian American Health Coalition (DBA Hope Clinic), El Centro de Corazon, Fort Bend Family Health Center, Inc., Legacy Community Health Services, Inc., Matagorda Episcopal Health Outreach Program, and the Stephen F Austin Community Health Center, Inc.

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 9,010 patients in the service area, which equates to 17.5% penetration among low-income patients and 4.8% penetration among the total population. From 2017-2019, the Community Health Center providers added 1,709 patients for a 23.4% increase in patients served by Community Health Centers in the service area. However, there remain 42,504 low-income residents, 82.5% of the population at or below 200% FPL, which 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
51,514	9,010	17.5%	4.8%	42,504	82.5%

Source: UDS Mapper, 2019, 2014-2018 population numbers. <http://www.udsmapper.org>

Dental Care

Among Brazoria County adults, 41.7% did not access dental care in the prior year. This is a slight improvement over the state rate, where 42.2% of adults did not access dental care in the prior year. Both the county and state meet the Healthy People 2030 goal (among adults and high school students) of 45% of the population, ages 2 years and older, to have a dental visit within the prior 12 months.

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)

Adults Who Did Not Access Dental Care, Prior Year

	Crude Rate
Brazoria County	41.7%
Texas*	42.2%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES Project 2020. <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 likelihood of having seen a dentist in the past year, among high school students, falls off with age and grade level. White students were the most likely to say they had seen a dentist in the previous year (73.4%), with Black/African American students the least likely (57.2%). 65.8% of Hispanic and 66.4% of other students had seen a dentist in the past year.

High School Students Who Did Not Access Dental Care, Prior Year

	Percent
Texas	33.1%

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

The ratio of residents to dentists in Brazoria County is 1,860:1, which is fewer dentists per capita than the state rate.

Dentists, Number and Ratio

	Brazoria County	Texas
Number of dentists	199	16,544
Ratio of population to dentists	1,860:1	1,730:1

Source: County Health Rankings, 2018 <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 Brazoria County, the ratio of residents to mental health providers is 1,490:1, as compared to 880 persons per mental health provider in the state of Texas.

Mental Health Providers, Number and Ratio

	Brazoria County	Texas
Number of mental health providers	249	32,666
Ratio of population to mental health providers	1,490:1	880:1

Source: County Health Rankings, 2019. <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 edited for clarity:

- Transportation is a huge issue with the size of our county and it being so rural. For the undocumented, their barriers can be language and not feeling confident to communicate in English. To access other services, there can be a lack of the necessary paperwork.
- I would say two years ago there wasn't a lot of access but today we have community centers, schools and colleges, so there is more access and organizations work on a sliding scale.
- We are a big county, we are about the size of Rhode Island, so the Community Health Network does an excellent job with access and insurance issues and having multiple locations. But part of the problem is a lack of information. People don't know what services exist. We have some real communication issues.
- We know access is an issue in the county and we try to put facilities in locations where there is a need. We know this is an issue in the west county area, we would love to put a site there west of the river. In more rural areas, people have to drive miles to get to a city.
- We see everyone regardless of legal status, but they are scared to access care because they are afraid of being deported.
- We need more specialists in our area because access to travel to Houston is time consuming and expensive, and it is a limiting factor for a lot of people.
- We have a lot of rural areas in the county, a lot of farmland and small towns in the western area of the county and some patients who do not speak English. There are some Vietnamese and Cambodian and Spanish speaking-only populations, so language is a barrier to accessing care.
- In the hospital, the uninsured get seen and we have social services to help them out. But outside of the hospital, there is no support for them unless they are proactive and get some assistance through other organizations or churches. It is very limited; it is difficult.
- People don't have money to pay for prescriptions or for transportation costs.
- If we have patients who need specialized care, we can't find many ways to get them care. One of our main goals is to help them maintain their wellness in a way that does not overburden the hospital system.

Birth Characteristics

Births

In 2019, the number of births in Brazoria County was 4,759.

Total Births

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Brazoria County	4,943	4,800	4,630	4,734	4,759
Texas	403,618	398,047	382,050	378,624	377,599

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 2,317. The highest number of births was to mothers in Angleton (407.4 live births per year), Lake Jackson (366.6 births) and Rosharon (366.4).

Births by ZIP Code, Five-Year Average, 2013-2017

	ZIP Code	Average Annual Live Births
Angleton	77515	407.4
Brazoria	77422	142.2
Clute	77531	264.6
Damon	77430	14.0
Danbury	77534	32.4
Freeport	77541	260.4
Lake Jackson	77566	366.6
Liverpool	77577	17.4
Manvel	77578	258.6
Rosharon	77583	366.4
Sweeny	77480	102.0
West Columbia	77486	85.0
Brazosport Service Area		2,317.0
Brazoria County		4,764.0
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 Brazoria County was White (39.3%), Hispanic/Latina (38.4%), Black/African-American (13.4%), and Asian (7.5%).

Births by Mother's Race/Ethnicity

	White	Hispanic/Latina	Black/African American	Asian	Other
Brazoria County	39.3%	38.4%	13.4%	7.5%	1.4%
Texas	33.1%	47.6%	12.5%	5.3%	1.5%

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

Teen Birth Rate

From 2013 to 2017, teen births occurred in Brazoria County at a rate of 65.3 per 1,000 live births (or 6.5% of total births). This rate is lower than the statewide teen birth rate (82.2 per 1,000 live births, or 8.2%), and rates fell over the five-year period. Rates for mothers aged less than 15 were suppressed for Brazoria County due to privacy concerns, and so were excluded for Texas as well.

Number of Births to Teenage Mothers and Rate per 1,000 Births, Five-Year Average

	Brazoria County	Texas
Births to mothers ages 15 - 17	81.2	9,740.0
Births to mothers ages 18 – 19	230.0	22,622.4
Births to mothers ages 15 – 19	311.2	32,362.4
Rate per 1,000 live births, mothers ages 15 - 17	17.0	24.7
Rate per 1,000 live births, mothers ages 18 - 19	48.3	57.4
Rate per 1,000 live births, mothers ages 15 - 19	65.3	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>

The rate of births among females, ages 15 to 19, in Brazoria County is 19 births per 1,000 teen girls. In Texas the rate is 25.6 births per 1,000 teen girls, ages 15 to 19. Both rates are higher than the national average of 17.6 births per 1,000 teens.

Fertility Rate in Teenage Mothers, Ages 15-19 Years Old, Three-Year Average

	Rate per 1,000 Females
Brazoria County	19.0
Texas	25.6
Nation	17.6

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

Prenatal Care

70.7% of pregnant women in Brazoria County entered prenatal care on-time – during the first trimester – where time-of-entry was known. County and state rates of on-time prenatal care did not meet the Healthy People 2020 objective of 84.8% of women receiving on-time prenatal care (the Healthy People 2030 objective is not comparable with data as currently reported by Texas or the CDC).

First Trimester Prenatal Care, Three-Year Average, 2017-2019

	Percent of Births
Brazoria County	70.7%
Texas	68.9%
Nation	77.5%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2017-2019, 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 Brazoria County is 8.6%, which did not meet the Healthy People 2020 objective of 7.8% of births being low birth weight; however, this has been eliminated from the Healthy People 2030 list of objectives.

Low Birth Weight (Under 2,500 grams), Three-Year Average, 2017-2019

	Percent of Births
Brazoria County	8.6%
Texas	8.4%
Nation	8.3%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2017-2019, 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. 11.2% of births in Brazoria County were preterm births, which is higher than state and county rates.

Preterm Births, Babies Born Before 37 Weeks of Gestation

	Percent of Births
Brazoria County	11.2%
Texas	10.8%
Nation	10.1%

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

Maternal Smoking During Pregnancy

Among pregnant women, 96.6% in Brazoria County did not smoke during pregnancy. This rate meets the Healthy People 2030 objective of 95.7% of women to abstain from cigarette smoking during pregnancy. This goal was lowered from the prior, Healthy People 2020, goal of 98.6%, which Brazoria County and Texas did not meet.

No Smoking during Pregnancy

	Percent of Births
Brazoria County	96.6%
Texas	97.3%
Nation	93.5%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2016-2018, 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 Brazoria County, from 2016 to 2018, was 4.66 deaths per 1,000 live births. This meets the Healthy People 2030 objective of 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Infant Mortality Rate, Three-Year Average

	Deaths per 1,000 Births
Brazoria County	4.66
Texas	5.69
Nation	5.78

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, 89.2% of infants in Brazoria County were breastfed at some point prior to discharge from the hospital.

Infants Breastfed at Some Point Prior to Discharge

	Percent of Births
Brazoria County	89.2%
Texas	88.2%
Nation	83.5%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2017-2019, on CDC WONDER. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-expanded-current.html>

Mortality/Leading Causes of Death

Life Expectancy at Birth

Census tracts are geographic designations containing between 1,200 and 8,000 persons (ideally 4,000 persons), set up by the Census Bureau, and do not correspond directly to cities or ZIP Codes. Therefore, the divisions among cities are only approximate.

Life expectancy in the service area ranges from 70.7 years in census tract 6642 of the Freeport area, to 81.7 years in tract 6606.02 of the Manvel area. The national average was 78.7 years of life expected at birth. Only seven of the service area's 32 census tracts are above average; 25 are below average.

Life Expectancy at Birth

	Census Tract	Number of Years
Angleton	6621	75.5
	6622	77.9
	6623	74.5
	6625	N/A
Brazoria	6629	76.5
	6630	77.3
	6645.01	76.0
Clute	6637	75.5
	6638	76.2
	6639	74.1
	6640	77.7
Damon	6620	77.5
Danbury	6624	76.3
Freeport	6641	75.3
	6642	70.7
	6643	74.0
	6644	78.1
Lake Jackson	6632	78.2
	6633	77.2
	6634	81.2
	6635	74.5
	6636	81.2
Liverpool	6617	77.2
Manvel	6615.01	75.7
	6606.02	81.7

	Census Tract	Number of Years
	6607.02	79.0
Rosharon	6618	79.1
	6619	81.0
	6745.02	80.4
Sweeny	6627	77.7
	6628	75.4
West Columbia	6626	76.8
United States		78.7

Source: CDC National Center for Health Statistics, the U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP), September 2018 covering years 2010-2015; via PolicyMap, <https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/>

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 Brazoria County is 723.8 per 100,000 persons.

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

	Deaths	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate
Brazoria County	2,408.0	652.6	723.8
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 Brazoria County are heart disease and cancer. The heart disease mortality rate in Brazoria County is 172.3 deaths per 100,000 persons, which is higher than the state rate (167.5 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 county’s rate is 100.6 deaths from ischemic heart disease per 100,000 residents, which is again higher than the state rate (93.0 per 100,000 persons) and does not meet the Healthy People goal.

The cancer death rate in Brazoria County is 157.0 per 100,000 persons, which is higher than the state rate (143.5 per 100,000 persons). This does not meet the Healthy People 2030 objective for cancer mortality of 122.7 deaths per 100,000 persons.

In addition to cancer and heart disease, Alzheimer’s disease, stroke, and unintentional injury are in the top five causes of death in Brazoria County. Deaths due to Alzheimer’s disease (42.1 per 100,000 persons) and septicemia (16.8 per 100,000 persons) are the only other rates of death in Brazoria County that exceeded state rates.

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

	Brazoria County			Texas		
	Number	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted	Number	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted
All causes	2,408.0	652.6	723.8	201,226.3	701.9	728.2
Heart disease	565.0	153.1	172.3	46,082.7	160.7	167.5
Ischemic heart disease	334.7	90.7	100.6	25,823.0	90.1	93.0
All Cancers	549.0	148.8	157.0	41,007.7	143.0	143.5
Alzheimer's disease	120.0	32.5	42.1	9,803.0	34.2	38.5
Stroke	124.7	33.8	39.7	10,802.3	37.7	40.2
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	115.0	31.2	35.4	10,737.7	37.5	39.6
Unintentional injury	126.0	34.1	35.2	10,931.0	38.1	38.7
Diabetes	60.3	16.4	17.3	6,237.3	21.8	22.0
Septicemia	57.0	15.4	16.8	3,901.3	13.6	14.1
Kidney disease	45.7	12.4	13.8	4,316.7	15.1	15.7
Suicide	49.3	13.4	13.4	3,866.3	13.5	13.5
Pneumonia and flu	36.3	9.8	11.5	3,209.3	11.2	11.8
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	43.3	11.7	11.2	4,206.7	14.7	14.1

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>

Homicide was the 15th leading cause of death in the state and county. The rate in Brazoria County (5.2 homicides per 100,000 persons) is lower than the state.

Homicide Rate, per 100,000 Persons, Age-Adjusted

	Rate
Brazoria County	5.2
Texas	5.7
Nation	6.1

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 mortality rate for female breast cancer in Brazoria County was 19.0 per 100,000 women, while the rate for prostate cancer deaths was 17.4 per 100,000 men. The rate for breast cancer deaths is slightly lower for Brazoria County than for the state (19.8 per 100,000 women).

Cancer Death Rates, 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
Brazoria County	162	19.0	19.0	104	11.9	17.4
Texas	14,237	20.6	19.8	9,005	13.2	17.8

Source: Texas State Department of Health, Texas State Cancer Registry, 2013-2017. <https://www.cancer-rates.info/tx/>

The rate of colorectal cancer deaths in Brazoria County was 15.5 per 100,000 persons, and the rate of lung cancer mortality was 41.9 per 100,000 persons. Mortality from both types of cancer was higher for the county than for the state.

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

	Colorectal Cancer			Lung Cancer		
	Number	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted	Number	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted
Brazoria County	254	14.7	15.5	659	38.1	41.9
Texas	18,447	13.4	14.1	46,256	33.7	35.7

Source: Texas State Department of Health, Texas State Cancer Registry, 2013-2017. <https://www.cancer-rates.info/tx/>

Drug Overdose Deaths

Rates of death by drug overdose, whether coded as unintentional, suicide, homicide, or undetermined intent, have been rising since 2014. Drug overdose deaths have been higher than the statewide rate for much of the previous decade. The state and county meet the Healthy People 2030 objective of 20.7 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 persons.

Deaths Caused by Drug Overdose, Rate per 100,000 Persons

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Brazoria County	12.9	8.6	13.8	12.3	9.4	5.9	8.7	9.6	10.8	10.3	11.0
Texas	9.7	9.5	10.1	9.4	9.2	9.6	9.4	10.2	10.6	10.5	10.8

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>

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 Brazoria County is 4.8 per 100,000 persons. This rate meets the Healthy People 2030 objective of 13.1 deaths from opioids per 100,000 persons.

Fatal Opioid Overdoses, Rate per 100,000 Persons, Three-Year Average

	Number	Rate
Brazoria County	17.7	4.8
Texas	1,393.7	4.9

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>

From 2015 through 2019 combined, drug overdose deaths in Texas were highest among men (64.4% of deaths). Non-Hispanics were more likely to die of overdose (13.2 deaths per 100,000 persons) than were Hispanic Whites (5.7 deaths per 100,000 persons). Non-Hispanic Whites have the highest rates of drug overdose deaths (15 deaths per 100,000 persons), followed by Blacks (11.7 deaths per 100,000 deaths), and American Natives (8.4 deaths per 100,000 deaths). Non-Hispanic Asians had the lowest rate of drug overdose deaths (2.1 deaths per 100,000 persons).

Drug Overdose Deaths, Rates per 100,000 Texas Residents, by Race and Ethnicity

	Number, 5 Years Combined	Rate
Asian, non-Hispanic	149	2.1
Hispanic	3,174	5.7
American Indian/Alaskan Native	44	8.4
Black, non-Hispanic	2,023	11.7
White, non-Hispanic	9,087	15.0
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 Brazoria County, there have been 35,737 probable or confirmed cases of the Coronavirus known as COVID-19 as of April 4, 2021. This represents a rate of 9,908.3 cases per 100,000 residents. This is slightly higher than the statewide average of 9,884.8 cases per 100,000 persons. As of the same date, 454 persons have died in the county due to COVID-19 complications, a rate of 125.9 deaths per 100,000 persons. This is lower than the statewide rate of 168.9 deaths per 100,000 residents.

COVID-19, Cases and Crude Death Rates per 100,000 Persons, as of April 4, 2021

	Brazoria County		Texas	
	Number	Rate *	Number	Rate *
Confirmed or probable cases	35,737	9,908.3	2,793,524	9,884.8
Deaths	454	125.9	47,746	168.9

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Updated April 4, 2021. * Calculated based on population from ACS 2015-2019. <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

The number of total COVID-19 cases (confirmed, probable, recovered and deceased) (34,234) and deaths (383) reported by the Brazoria County Health Department was lower than the number reported by the Texas Department of Health Services, but this is likely due to the fact that Brazoria County no longer reports the Texas Department of Criminal Justice data in their counts. Timing of updates to the sites may account for the remainder of the discrepancies. In the county, Angleton and Lake Jackson have the highest number of cases and deaths in the service area.

COVID-19, Cases and Crude Death Rates per 100,000 Persons, as of April 4, 2021

	Total Reported Cases	Deaths
	Number	Number
Angleton	3,637	43
Bailey's Prairie	106	1
Bonney	57	0
Brazoria	1,012	16
Clute	1,514	22
Damon	122	1
Danbury	316	7
Freeport	1,721	20
Holiday Lakes	134	2
Iowa Colony	991	8
Jones Creek	244	3
Lake Jackson	3,380	30
Liverpool	313	3
Manvel	2,182	19
Oyster Creek	123	0
Quintana	1	0
Richwood	666	5
Rosharon	68	0
Sandy Point	23	0
Surfside	49	0
Sweeny	704	14
West Columbia	794	6
Brazoria County	34,234	383

Source: Brazoria County Health Department, Updated April 4,, 2021. <https://www.brazoriacountytx.gov/departments/health-department/brazoria-county-coronavirus-map>

Community Input – COVID-19

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

- Because of COVID, there are people who are afraid to go to the ED or the doctor's office. People don't want to expose themselves. And there are so many people who are experiencing mental health issues related to COVID because of isolation, loss of jobs, and not being able to afford to stay in their homes.
- COVID-19 has made it incredibly more difficult to access care. We had to stop some of our public health services and focus solely on the COVID response. This has limited our vaccines because everything is focused on COVID right now.
- Around here businesses are open and we feel like having the kids in school is safer than being out in the community. We can control and mitigate risk with masking, distancing and washing hands.

- There is a lot of misinformation about vaccines and lot of distrust of the government. The resulting confusion about the message has caused a significant portion of the community to not want to get vaccinated and masked.
- We are seeing people who come to the hospital who are so sick. They waited so long to come to our facility to be seen.
- Those without insurance are not getting care. Those who were once employed and lost their insurance have increased and may not know there are services available.
- People are waiting until they get very sick and ill before they come to the hospital or see a primary care provider. Access to care is difficult for those who do not have access to a computer.

Chronic Disease

Fair or Poor Health

When asked to self-report on health status in the past 30 days, 19.5% of adults in Brazoria County indicated they were in fair or poor health. This was just slightly higher than the state rate (19.1%), but lower than in the service area (20.7%). Of area cities, Freeport had the highest rate of self-reported fair or poor health: 23.5% of adult residents and Manvel had the lowest rate (18.7%).

Fair or Poor Health, Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	21.5%
Brazoria	77422	20.4%
Clute	77531	22.1%
Damon	77430	20.1%
Danbury	77534	20.4%
Freeport	77541	23.5%
Lake Jackson	77566	20.3%
Liverpool	77577	20.4%
Manvel	77578	18.7%
Rosharon	77583	19.7%
Sweeny	77480	21.4%
West Columbia	77486	21.2%
Brazosport Service Area		*20.7%
Brazoria County		19.5%
Texas		19.1%

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

Diabetes

When asked if they had ever been diagnosed with diabetes by a health professional, 11.6% of adults in Brazoria County answered 'yes', which is lower than the state rate of 12.6%. Among area cities, Manvel had the lowest rate (10.9%) and Sweeny the highest rate of adults with diabetes (13.4%).

Adult Diabetes Diagnoses

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	12.6%
Brazoria	77422	12.1%
Clute	77531	11.5%
Damon	77430	12.5%

	ZIP Code	Percent
Danbury	77534	11.8%
Freeport	77541	13.0%
Lake Jackson	77566	11.9%
Liverpool	77577	12.1%
Manvel	77578	10.9%
Rosharon	77583	11.8%
Sweeny	77480	13.4%
West Columbia	77486	13.2%
Brazosport Service Area		*12.1%
Brazoria County		11.6%
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

3.8% of Texas and Brazoria County adults report being told by a health professional they have heart disease, compared to 4% of service area adults. The lowest rates were seen in Manvel and Rosharon (3.3%) and the highest rates were 5.1% in Sweeny and 5% in West Columbia. 2.9% of Brazoria County adults reported being told by a health professional they have had a stroke, compared to 3.7% of Texas adults. Rates ranged from a low of 2.6% in Manvel to a high of 3.8% in Sweeny and 3.7% in West Columbia.

Adult Heart Disease and Stroke Prevalence

	ZIP Code	Heart Disease	Stroke
Angleton	77515	4.4%	3.3%
Brazoria	77422	4.5%	3.3%
Clute	77531	3.6%	2.8%
Damon	77430	4.7%	3.4%
Danbury	77534	4.4%	3.2%
Freeport	77541	4.1%	3.2%
Lake Jackson	77566	4.5%	3.2%
Liverpool	77577	4.5%	3.2%
Manvel	77578	3.3%	2.6%
Rosharon	77583	3.3%	2.7%
Sweeny	77480	5.1%	3.8%
West Columbia	77486	5.0%	3.7%
Brazosport Service Area		*4.0%	*3.1%
Brazoria County		3.8%	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

6.3% of Brazoria County adults reported having been diagnosed with angina or coronary heart disease, or a heart attack (Myocardial Infarction), compared to 6.7% statewide. The lowest rates were in Manvel (5.5%) and Rosharon (5.6%) and the highest rates were found in Sweeny and West Columbia (8% of adults).

Adult Heart Disease or Heart Attack

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	7.1%
Brazoria	77422	7.1%
Clute	77531	6.1%
Damon	77430	7.4%
Danbury	77534	7.0%
Freeport	77541	6.8%
Lake Jackson	77566	7.2%
Liverpool	77577	7.2%
Manvel	77578	5.5%
Rosharon	77583	5.6%
Sweeny	77480	8.0%
West Columbia	77486	8.0%
Brazosport Service Area		*6.6%
Brazoria County		6.3%
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 who reported being diagnosed with high blood pressure or high cholesterol were higher in the Brazosport service area than in the county. The highest rates of both high blood pressure and high cholesterol were reported in Sweeny (37.6% and 34.2%, respectively) and in West Columbia (37% and 34.3%, respectively).

High Blood Pressure and High Cholesterol

	ZIP Code	Hypertension	High Cholesterol
Angleton	77515	34.7%	32.1%
Brazoria	77422	34.8%	31.8%
Clute	77531	30.8%	28.7%
Damon	77430	35.4%	33.5%
Danbury	77534	33.5%	31.7%
Freeport	77541	33.6%	31.1%

	ZIP Code	Hypertension	High Cholesterol
Lake Jackson	77566	34.1%	32.2%
Liverpool	77577	34.3%	33.3%
Manvel	77578	30.7%	29.1%
Rosharon	77583	33.0%	29.1%
Sweeny	77480	37.6%	34.2%
West Columbia	77486	37.0%	34.3%
Brazosport Service Area		*33.6%	*31.0%
Brazoria County		32.4%	30.4%
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 Brazoria County, the age-adjusted cancer incidence rate was 412.1 per 100,000 persons, which was slightly higher than the state rate of 407.7 per 100,000 persons. The incidence of prostate cancer was higher for Brazoria County than the state, but the mortality rate was lower in the county than in the state. Incidence and mortality rates were higher for lung and colorectal cancers in the county when compared to the state.

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

	Brazoria County	Texas
All sites	412.1	407.7
Breast (female)	107.1	112.8
Prostate	100.8	94.0
Lung and Bronchus	54.4	50.6
Colon and Rectum	40.6	37.6
Leukemia	13.9	14.0
Cervix	6.7	9.2

Source: Texas State Department of Health, Texas State Cancer Registry, 2013-2017. <https://www.cancer-rates.info/tx/>

Asthma

Reported rates of adult asthma in the county (8.5%) were higher than the state rate (7.4%). The cities with the highest self-reported rates were Sweeny (9.1%) and West Columbia (9%). Rosharon had the lowest rate of adult asthma in the service area (7.9%).

Adult Asthma Prevalence

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	8.8%
Brazoria	77422	8.8%
Clute	77531	8.7%
Damon	77430	8.7%

	ZIP Code	Percent
Danbury	77534	8.8%
Freeport	77541	8.7%
Lake Jackson	77566	8.7%
Liverpool	77577	8.7%
Manvel	77578	8.4%
Rosharon	77583	7.9%
Sweeny	77480	9.1%
West Columbia	77486	9.0%
Brazosport Service Area		*8.6%
Brazoria County		8.5%
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

The prevalence of asthma in children in Health Statistical Region (HSR) 6 is not available. Statewide the prevalence of asthma is 7.0% of children, ages 0 to 17. High school students surveyed for the Texas Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) reported lifetime asthma rates (having ever been told by a doctor or nurse they have asthma, versus currently having asthma) of 22.6% in 2019. Asthma hospitalization in children, under age 18, occurred at a rate of 8.4 hospitalizations per 10,000 children in HSR 6, per year, which was lower than the 10.9 hospitalizations per 10,000 children statewide.

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

	Number	Rate
Health Statistical 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

Tuberculosis rates in Brazoria County declined in 2019, continuing a downward trend. The rate of TB was 2.1 per 100,000 persons, which was less than the statewide rate of 4.0 per 100,000 persons.

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

	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Brazoria County	10	2.9	9	2.5	8	2.2	12	3.3	8	2.1
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, 10.6% of the non-institutionalized civilian population identified as having a disability. In Brazoria County, 9.3% had a disability, while the rate of disability in the state was 11.5%.

Population with a Disability, Five-Year Average

	Percent
Brazosport Service Area	10.6%
Brazoria County	9.3%
Texas	11.5%

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

Community Input – Chronic Diseases

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

- Diabetes is an epidemic here. The diabetic diet and the ability to afford medications, including insulin are contributing factors.
- We have a large number of persons with diabetes, hypertension, COPD, and cardiac disease. On top of that we see a fair amount of people with end stage renal disease who are on dialysis.
- Hypertension and diabetes are the dominating issues in our community.
- If you have insurance and transportation, you have access to world class care. If you do not, then even getting ongoing care and medications are going to be a problem.
- Families that live in low-income areas often deal with houses and apartments that may have mold and roaches. And they may not be able to afford medications, like nebulizers. The environment they live in exacerbates their asthma.
- Diabetes, cardiac disease COPD, hypertension are all issues. Some clients have multiple issues all intermixed. There definitely needs to be an emphasis on preventive care. The majority of people that become ill and need higher level care have to go to Houston.

Health Behaviors

Health Behaviors Ranking

The County Health Ranking examines healthy behaviors and ranks counties according to health behavior data. Texas has 254 counties, 244 of which are ranked from 1 (healthiest) to 244 (least healthy) based on indicators that include: adult smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, excessive drinking, sexually transmitted infections, and others. A ranking of 36 puts Brazoria County in top quartile of Texas counties for healthy behaviors.

Health Behaviors Ranking

	County Ranking (out of 244)
Brazoria County	36

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

Overweight and Obesity

Over a third of adults in the St. Luke's Brazosport service area (36.1%) are obese and another third (33%) are overweight. Rates of obesity in service area cities ranged from 34.5% in Manvel to 37.2% in Rosharon. Combined rates of overweight and obesity were lowest in Manvel (67.5%) and highest in Rosharon (71.4%).

Adult Overweight and Obesity, 2018

	ZIP Code	**Overweight	Obese	Combined
Angleton	77515	33.1%	36.4%	69.5%
Brazoria	77422	33.2%	35.7%	68.9%
Clute	77531	32.8%	36.0%	68.8%
Damon	77430	33.4%	35.4%	68.8%
Danbury	77534	32.9%	35.3%	68.2%
Freeport	77541	33.2%	37.0%	70.2%
Lake Jackson	77566	33.0%	35.1%	68.1%
Liverpool	77577	33.2%	35.7%	68.9%
Manvel	77578	33.0%	34.5%	67.5%
Rosharon	77583	34.2%	37.2%	71.4%
Sweeny	77480	32.9%	36.4%	69.3%
West Columbia	77486	33.0%	36.0%	69.0%
Brazosport Service Area		33.0%	*36.1%	*69.1%
Brazoria County		33.1%	35.1%	68.2%
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 are 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).

Being overweight was generally more likely for girls (21.6%) than for boys (14.2%) while obesity was more common for boys (20.6%) than for girls (13%). When overweight and obesity rates were combined, 34.6% of girls were either overweight or obese, while 34.8% of boys were overweight or obese.

Obesity rates were highest among Hispanic students (18.9%), and Black/African American students (17.8%) and lower in White (12.9%) and Other Race (11.2%) students. Combined rates of overweight and obesity were also highest in Hispanic (38.3%) and Black/African American students (37.6%), followed by Other (31.2%) and White (27%) students.

Youth Overweight and Obese, 9th - 12th Grades

	Overweight	Obese	Combined
Texas	17.8%	16.9%	34.7%

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

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 much 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.

Youth Describing Self as Overweight, and Trying to Lose Weight, 9th - 12th Grades

	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>

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, 84.4% of adults do not meet these recommendations. In area cities rates ranged from 83.6% in Rosharon to 85.2% in Freeport.

Physical Activity Recommendations Not Met, Adults 18 and Older

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	84.8%
Brazoria	77422	84.3%
Clute	77531	84.8%
Damon	77430	84.1%
Danbury	77534	84.6%
Freeport	77541	85.2%
Lake Jackson	77566	84.7%
Liverpool	77577	84.6%
Manvel	77578	83.9%
Rosharon	77583	83.6%
Sweeny	77480	85.0%
West Columbia	77486	84.9%
Brazosport Service Area		* 84.4%
Brazoria County		83.9%
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

35.8% of adults in Brazoria County were sedentary and did not participate in any leisure-time physical activity in the previous month. This is a lower rate of sedentary adults than the statewide reported rate of 38.1%. Rates of sedentary adults in area cities ranged from 35.3% in Manvel, to 39.4% in Freeport.

Sedentary Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	37.8%
Brazoria	77422	37.0%
Clute	77531	38.6%
Damon	77430	36.1%
Danbury	77534	36.8%
Freeport	77541	39.4%
Lake Jackson	77566	37.0%
Liverpool	77577	36.4%
Manvel	77578	35.3%
Rosharon	77583	35.8%
Sweeny	77480	37.9%
West Columbia	77486	37.6%
Brazosport Service Area		*37.1%
Brazoria County		35.8%
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 Brazoria County 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. Statewide, rates of limited activity were higher among Blacks/African Americans, increased with age, decreased with rising education and income levels, and increased among the disabled and among the unemployed.

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

	> = 5 days	> = 14 days
Health Statistical 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 Texas youth, 77.1% of high school students did not meet this activity recommendation. 41.8% of student were active for at least 60 minutes on 5 of the past 7 days. Activity drops with grade level, as does daily Physical Education, which is attended by 58.3% of 9th graders but only 16.4% of 12th grade students. 20.1% of 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 instances, girls were less active than boys.

Youth Inadequate Physical Activity, 9th - 12th Grades, Texas

	Boys	Girls	Combined
Active for 60+ minutes, 7 of past 7 days	29.9%	15.9%	22.9%
Active for 60+ minutes, 5 of past 7 days	49.5%	34.0%	41.8%
Active for 60+ minutes, 0 of past 7 days	18.0%	22.4%	20.1%

Source: Texas State Healthy Youth Survey, 2018. <http://www.askhys.net/FactSheets>

Exercise Opportunities

Proximity to exercise opportunities can increase physical activity in a community. 81% of Brazoria County residents live in close proximity to exercise opportunities, which was the same as the state rate.

Adequate Access to Exercise Opportunities, 2010 and 2019 Combined

	Percent
Brazoria County	81%
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, most communities in the service area are classified as “Car Dependent”, from a low of 7 in Liverpool and Rosharon to 57 in West Columbia and 58 in Clute.

Walkability

	Walk Score
Angleton	29
Brazoria	55

	Walk Score
Clute	58
Damon	17
Danbury	36
Freeport	48
Lake Jackson	23
Liverpool	7
Manvel	26
Rosharon	7
Sweeny	43
West Columbia	57

Source: WalkScore.com, 2020

Soda Consumption

In Texas, 19.5% of surveyed high-school students drank soda at least once per day. This was an increase from 2017, after a decline over the course of a decade.

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

	2007	2009	2011	2013	2017	2019
Texas	37.8%	32.8%	29.0%	25.0%	18.0%	19.5%

Source: Texas State Healthy Youth Survey, 2006-2018. <http://www.askhys.net/FactSheets>

Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

In Texas, 87.9% of surveyed high-school students did not eat the recommended minimum of five servings of fruits and vegetables daily. There is an increase in the percentage of children not meeting the recommendations since 2007.

Eat Fewer than Five Servings of Fruits and Vegetables Daily, 9th - 12th Grade Youth

	2007	2009	2011	2013	2017	2019
Texas	82.6%	78.7%	81.5%	83.3%	82.7%	87.9%

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 edited for clarity:

- There is plenty of obesity in our area, along with diabetes and overall poor health.
- Our rates of obesity are extremely high. People eat more fast food and there is a lack of healthy options on menus. It is difficult to find programs that work to address obesity like support groups and providers who teach about appropriate nutrition.
- Our lifestyle is conducive to overweight and obesity. The middle class has access to healthy food choices. Many people have financial barriers and information barriers and cultural issues to accessing food.

- There are a lot of cultural things come into play here. It is hard for those who live in a food desert like Freeport to get healthier, fresher foods.

Youth Sexual Behaviors

Among Texas high-school students surveyed in the *Texas Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, more than one-third of 10th graders (38.3%) have had sex, and 65.7% of 12th graders have had sex. 22% of 10th graders who had sex during the prior three months did not use a condom during their last sexual encounter, and 25.8% of 12th graders did not use a condom during their last sexual encounter. Rates of having had sex (averaged for 9th through 12th grades) were 43.1% for boys and 42.1% for girls.

Sexual Behaviors, Youth

	Has had Sex		Did Not Use a Condom During Last Sexual Encounter	
	10 th Grade	12 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Texas	38.3%	65.7%	22.0%	25.8%

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

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Chlamydia occurred at a rate of 387.1 per 100,000 persons in Brazoria County. The rate of gonorrhea was 79.7 per 100,000 persons. Primary and Secondary syphilis occurred at a rate of 3.2 per 100,000 persons in Brazoria County. Rates of STIs were lower in Brazoria County than the state.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Rates, per 100,000 Persons

	Brazoria County	Texas
Chlamydia	387.1	508.2
Gonorrhea	79.7	163.6
Syphilis (primary & secondary)	3.2	8.8

Source: *Texas Department of State Health Services, HIV-STD Program*, 2018. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/>

HPV Vaccination

The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine has been shown to reduce the risk of several types of cancer, including cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, anal and throat cancer. 30.3% of surveyed Texas high school students reported having received the HPV vaccine.

HPV Vaccination, 9th - 12th Grade Youth

	Percent
Texas	30.3%

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

HIV

The number of newly-diagnosed cases of HIV rose from 2014 to 2016 in Brazoria County and the state. The Brazoria County rate of newly-diagnosed HIV cases fell from 11.3 per 100,000 persons in 2016, to 8.4 cases per 100,000 persons in 2018.

County rates of new infection were highest among African-Americans, followed by Hispanics, then Whites. All other racial/ethnic group rates were suppressed due to privacy or statistical validity concerns. New cases by gender were approximately 25% female to 75% male, and rates were highest among persons ages 25-34.

Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases, Annual Count and Rate, per 100,000 Persons

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018 Rate
Brazoria County	26	26	40	36	31	8.4
Texas	4,460	4,552	4,543	4,365	4,520	15.7

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, HIV-STD Program, 2018. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/>

The incidence of HIV (annual new cases) in Brazoria County was 9 cases per 100,000 persons. In Texas the incidence of HIV was 16.1 cases per 100,000 persons. The prevalence of HIV (those living with HIV regardless of when they might have been diagnosed or infected) was 177.7 cases per 100,000 persons in the county, compared to 327.9 cases per 100,000 persons in the state. Prevalence among multiracial men is the highest (1,144.2 cases per 100,000 persons), followed by African-American men (609 cases per 100,000 persons), Hispanic men (214.5) and White males (196.7). Prevalence is highest among men ages 55 to 64. In 2018, for the first time, prevalence was higher among persons ages 15 to 24 (371.4 cases per 100,000) and persons ages 25 to 34 (334.5 cases per 100,000).

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

	5-Year Average Incidence Rate, 2014-2018	2018 Prevalence
Brazoria County	9.0	177.7
Texas	16.1	327.9

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, HIV-STD Program, 2018. <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 the rate of mental distress was 13.2% of adults, which was higher than in the county (12.9%) and the state (11.7%). Service area cities had rates ranging from 12% in Rosharon to 14.1% of adults in Clute with frequent mental distress.

Frequent Mental Distress, Adult

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	13.6%
Brazoria	77422	13.7%
Clute	77531	14.1%
Damon	77430	13.0%
Danbury	77534	13.7%
Freeport	77541	13.7%
Lake Jackson	77566	13.6%
Liverpool	77577	13.5%
Manvel	77578	12.8%
Rosharon	77583	12.0%
Sweeny	77480	13.5%
West Columbia	77486	13.5%
Brazosport Service Area		*13.2%
Brazoria County		12.9%
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'.

Youth 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. Rates of suicidal ideation were higher among girls (25.3%) than boys (12.6%) and among Other (non-

White, non-Black, non-Hispanic) students (25.5%) and Whites (21.5%), than among Black and Hispanic students (16.7%, each).

Reported rates of attempted suicide were higher among girls (12.4%) than boys (7.5%).

Youth 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 begins to be a concern for youth beginning in at least the 9th grade, rising by grade level. 6.7% of Texas 9th graders said they were physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating during the past 12 months, while 9.8% of 12th graders said the same. Rates were higher for females (10.3%) than for males (6.0%), and higher for Black and Hispanic students (9.9%, each) than for Whites (5.8%).

Rates of sexual dating violence were 13.1% among 9th graders who said they were forced to do sexual things by someone they were dating during the past 12 months, while 21.1% of 12th graders said the same. Rates were higher for females (22.7%) than for males (8.3%), and were higher for Other (non-White, non-Black, non-Hispanic) students (17.8%), Whites (16.7%), and Blacks (16.3%) than for Hispanic students (14.4%).

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

	Physical Dating Violence	Sexual Dating Violence
Texas	8.3%	15.4%

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

Community Input – Mental Health

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

- For a lot of kids, school is their safe place. They can depend on adults here who truly care for them. The more they are at home and isolated, the more they suffer with mental health issues. With all the public unrest and racial tensions, there is so much going on in addition to the pandemic that it is impacting kids directly.
- There are a lack of mental health providers and counselors in our community. We just don't have enough resources to address the need. Some local hospitals have tried to recruit providers and it has improved a little bit.
- Stigma related to mental health and access to services are the main issues. We now have more trained officers so they can recognize mental health. We provide timely

crisis intervention and stabilization services and referrals for long-term mental health services in the community.

- Suicide rates are going up with the stress of the current events. We have seen a huge influx of teenage suicides. Because of the pandemic, the lack of services for children has been amplified. People are going to Houston because there are no mental health facilities here in our county. We had beds designated in Galveston but with hurricane Harvey and other disasters, they are no longer available.
- At the moment, mental health services are provided via telehealth. If you are low-low income and you don't have a phone, that is a barrier.
- In the population we see, depression is a big factor many people want to do better and find a way out of their situation and it's challenging. They can't afford mental health medications. And just like there is a cycle of diabetes and obesity, there is also a cycle of depression.
- As a whole the state does not address mental health very well. We are fortunate our county has a mental health group that is very good and they are aware of the issue. But poverty is raising its head here as well.
- There are not enough resources in our county specifically geared toward seniors. For many seniors, mental health is a taboo topic. They don't talk about it and they try to keep their feeling to themselves, until it is too late. We have one of the highest rates of senior suicide.
- We have a lack of service providers. Those who do provide mental health services are expensive. They require insurance or people have to pay out of pocket. There are some nonprofits and community organizations that provide counseling, and some have limited mental health access but there is a long waiting list.
- If you do not have insurance and an advocate to assist with the barriers to obtain mental health care, it is almost impossible to get care. There are mental health hospitals in Galveston and Houston that deal with emergencies but ongoing mental health care practitioners and services are almost impossible to get to. The more serious your need and the less economic resources you have, the higher the barriers are.
- There are not a lot of resources, in fact there are almost none in this county. For the uninsured, most of the time they stay in our ED until their detainment order is expired and then they leave on their own or there is a charity bed available in Houston. Most are often already full. Often there are readmissions several times.
- Virtual schools virtual has isolated students and put them at risk. And it is increasing suicide and threat of suicide and there is a lack of inpatient beds. Everything is worse if you don't have insurance. People go outside of the county to the Harris County system that is already overburdened and people wait for days in the ED and are typically dismissed right away with a prescription that they often can't fill because

of cost. They may be admitted for up to 3 days and then they are back out on the street again.

- A referral system, a strong intermediary system where people can be assessed for outpatient care and appropriately screened and provide outpatient resources is needed. We do not have mental health care options to take care of uninsured patients for short stay admissions, that is what is missing.
- Mental health is a huge issue in our area. The lack of psychiatrists and psychologists in the area is a barrier. And we need to consider the ramifications of Covid and what it will bring down the road. We are just on the cusp of really learning what mental health problems we are going to see in the young population, not being able to go to school and learning online and all that stress on families. Family members lost multiple members and lost heads of family or the breadwinner, that also complicates things as well.
- We work with seniors and we have a lot of issues with social isolation and in terms of how that impacts their health. At the beginning of the pandemic, when we closed our congregate centers, people were homebound and at first, they were all happy and smiling but as time went on, they are not the same people that left our center a year ago. We deal with that daily with the homebound, how to get them to stay engaged. We may be their only engagement all week, other than a phone call or two. We are seeing cognitive decline and reduced overall general health and wellbeing.
- In our community we are essentially in a mental health desert. We don't have a psychiatrist within 50 miles. We do have some psychologists and counseling services, but accessing mental health services is not easy.
- Access to mental health in the ED has been extremely impacted. In our county, we've seen a severe increase in mental health issues. There are no mental health facilities in the county. And there is zero access for children.

Substance Use and Misuse

Cigarette Smoking

Among adults in Texas, 14.4% reported being current smokers. In 2018, 5.2% of Texans reported being current e-cigarette smokers.

Adult Cigarette Smoking

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Texas	19.2%	18.2%	15.9%	14.5%	15.2%	14.3%	15.7%	14.4%

Source for Texas: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Dashboard, 2011-2018. <http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system>

Vapor products are now the most common nicotine product used by youth. 4.1% of high school students surveyed in Texas smoked cigarettes in the prior 30 days, 3.4% used smokeless tobacco in the prior 30 days, and 18.7% had used vapor products.

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

	Smokes Cigarettes	Used Smokeless Tobacco	Used Vapor Products
Texas	4.9%	3.4%	18.7%

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

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, 18.2% in the service area reported having engaged in binge drinking in the previous 30 days. Rates of binge drinking ranged from 16.9% in Sweeny and West Columbia, to 19% in Rosharon.

Binge Drinking, Past 30 Days, Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	18.0%
Brazoria	77422	18.6%
Clute	77531	18.7%
Damon	77430	17.4%
Danbury	77534	18.3%
Freeport	77541	17.6%
Lake Jackson	77566	18.0%
Liverpool	77577	18.1%
Manvel	77578	17.9%
Rosharon	77583	19.0%
Sweeny	77480	16.9%

	ZIP Code	Percent
West Columbia	77486	16.9%
Brazosport Service Area		* 18.2%
Brazoria County		18.1%
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. 39.9% of 12th grade youth in Texas had consumed at least one alcoholic drink on one or more occasions in the past 30 days. Consumption of alcohol was seen in 28.6% of 11th graders, 28.1% of 10th graders and 16.1% of 9th graders.

Alcohol Use in Past 30 Days, Youth

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Texas		28.1%	28.6%	39.9%

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

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) were higher for girls (12.5%) than boys (10.4%), and were highest among White (17.6%) and Hispanic (10.6%) students compared to Black/African American (2.8%) and Other race students (9.2%). Extreme binge drinking was more likely among boys (4.9%) than girls (2.6%), and was highest among White students (5.3%), Other race (5.1%) and Hispanic students (3.6%). None of the 212 Black/African American students surveyed reported extreme binge drinking.

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

	10th Grade		12th Grade	
	Binge Drinking	Extreme Binge Drinking	Binge Drinking	Extreme Binge Drinking
Texas	13.6%	4.0%	18.6%	6.6%

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

Youth Drug Use

42.2% of 12th grade youth, and 31.1% of the 10th grade youth in Texas indicated they had tried marijuana. 6.7% of all grade levels, combined, indicated they had tried

marijuana before the age of 13. Reported rates of experimentation rose steadily with age and grade level, and were higher among girls (35.1%) than boys (32.1%). Experimentation was also higher among Black/African American (36.7%) and Hispanic students (35.8%) when compared to White (30.5%) and Other race (27.4%) students.

Marijuana, Ever and in Past 30 Days, Youth

	10 th Grade		12 th Grade	
	Ever	Past 30 Days	Ever	Past 30 Days
Texas	31.1%	15.3%	42.2%	22.0%

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

Among Texas 9th – 12th graders, 16.6% have used prescription pain medications obtained without a prescription and 6.3% had used inhalants.

Other Drugs, Ever, Texas Youth, 9th - 12th Grade

	Percent
Rx pain meds without a prescription	16.6%
Inhalants (glue, aerosol, paints, sprays, etc.)	6.3%
Cocaine (any form)	4.8%
Extasy	4.0%
Methamphetamines	2.2%
Steroids	2.1%
Heroin	1.3%
Injected drugs	1.2%

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

Community Input – Substance Use

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

- We lack resources to be able to provide families with assistance. We don't have a lot of good resources especially if people need in-treatment services.
- About two years ago vaping was so bad. Kids who wouldn't entertain smoking were turning to vaping. But with COVID that kind of went away because people were concerned about their lungs.
- There are a lot of individuals in our community who have substance use issues. A lot of times they are in denial, or they are embarrassed to seek treatment. If they can find a provider, it can take a long time, and often too long, so they give up. That and a lack of family support. Those are the biggest issues with substance use.

- For the homeless, they are quickly placed into outpatient programs and are back to being homeless and using. It is a cycle that doesn't address their real needs.
- When you drive by the local alcohol store, it is packed. When you've been at home for a long time without socialization and interaction, it can lead to alcohol and drug use.
- We have a facility here that addresses substance use among women and one in Galveston. There is a lack of services for men.
- We do random drug testing at the high school and if something come back positive, they go through counseling.
- We know many seniors have a drinking problem. And with isolation and deteriorating health and how they cope right now, sometimes when we deliver meals, they are already drinking. They can hide it from us, we are not around that often and they know when we are coming, so it is easy to mask those things. This was prior to COVID, and it is continuing now.
- Substance use goes hand in hand with mental health. We see a lot of withdrawals and overdoses among patients.
- We see a lot of methamphetamines, marijuana and alcohol abuse. Synthetics are in major use. In the hospital we see persons who are 50-to-60-years old still using methamphetamines. The challenges include limited programs available for rehabilitation; maybe there are one or two and most programs require insurance.
- I deal mostly with the rural and unemployed or underemployed. I see an increase in depression and homelessness and depression goes hand in hand with drugs, that is the pattern.

Preventive Practices

Flu and Pneumonia Vaccines

23.8% of adults in the hospital service area received a flu shot, which is lower than the county (24.3%) and state (26.4%) rates, and falls below the Healthy People 2030 objective for 70% of all adults, 18 and older, to receive a flu shot. Area rates ranged from 22.4% in the Rosharon and 22.6% in Clute, to 25.9% in Damon.

Flu Shots, Adults, Past 12 Months

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	24.1%
Brazoria	77422	24.2%
Clute	77531	22.6%
Damon	77430	25.9%
Danbury	77534	24.5%
Freeport	77541	23.3%
Lake Jackson	77566	24.7%
Liverpool	77577	24.6%
Manvel	77578	23.8%
Rosharon	77583	22.4%
Sweeny	77480	25.5%
West Columbia	77486	25.7%
Brazosport Service Area		*23.8%
Brazoria County		24.3%
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 Healthy People 2020 objective was for 90% of seniors to have a pneumonia vaccine; this objective has been removed from the list of Healthy People 2030 goals, as part of their effort to reduce the total number of objectives and prioritize the most pressing public health issues. The current statewide rate of pneumonia vaccination, among adults, ages 65 and over, was 71.3%, which did not meet the Healthy People 2020 objective. The rate in Health Statistical Region 6 was 70.8%.

Pneumonia Vaccine, Adults 65+

	Percent
Health Statistical 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 93.6% to 100% in Danbury ISD. However, Danbury ISD had a low total student population (799 K-12 students in the 2018-2019 school year), and so should be interpreted with caution. In the service area, Columbia-Brazoria ISD consistently had the lowest rates of vaccination across all six vaccines.

Up-to-Date Immunization Rates of Children Entering Kindergarten

	DTaP	Hep A	Hep B	MMR	Polio	Varicella
Alvin ISD	97.0%	97.1%	98.2%	97.9%	97.5%	97.4%
Angleton ISD	98.6%	97.7%	99.2%	98.8%	99.0%	98.3%
Brazosport ISD	98.3%	98.6%	98.9%	98.1%	98.4%	98.3%
Columbia-Brazoria ISD	97.0%	95.5%	98.0%	97.5%	97.5%	97.0%
Danbury ISD	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	93.6%	100.0%	93.6%
Sweeny ISD	98.0%	97.3%	98.7%	98.7%	98.0%	98.7%
Brazoria County	97.5%	97.4%	98.4%	97.8%	97.8%	97.4%
Texas	96.6%	96.4%	97.4%	97.0%	96.8%	96.2%

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, 2019-2020. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/coverage/schools/>
 NOTE: Damon ISD likely had fewer than 5 students in Kindergarten and this is why their rates were not reported.

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 18.9% who lack screening. The county (28.4%) and state (28.3%) do not meet this goal.

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

	Crude Rate
Brazoria County	28.4%
Texas*	28.3%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES Project 2020. <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. Brazoria County (16.8%) and Texas (18.2%) do not meet this goal.

No Pap Test Past 3 Years, Women Ages 21-65, 2018

	Crude Rate
Brazoria County	16.8%
Texas*	18.2%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES Project 2020. <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). 62.8% of Brazoria County residents, ages 50-75, met the colorectal cancer screening guidelines. The county does not meet the Healthy People objective.

Screening for Colorectal Cancer, Adults Ages 50-75, 2018

	Crude Rate
Brazoria County	62.8%
Texas*	58.7%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES Project 2020. <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 edited for clarity:

- The homeless have been disproportionately impacted. COVID has become a real barrier for them.
- There can be an issue with getting immunizations, getting to the doctor and to afford it. But most kids do get immunized. Some parents don't want to get them, so they get a state waiver. But for some families it is difficult economically to get the immunizations.
- We have a FQHC that does excellent work trying to spread access across the county. But it is not always 100% free and when you are on limited income, even those low fee services are difficult to afford.
- Many people only access health care when they are sick, and many use the ED as their doctor's office.
- It is a very big issue in health care. We must focus more on preventive care. For example, how do you order a mammogram annually on a group of people who can't afford a \$4 medication? Annual colonoscopies or diabetic ophthalmology checkups, how do you do those preventive things? These are really important. But we don't have free mammograms and pap smears in Texas.
- At the free clinic we don't ask questions. Everything is an emergency for them. Something that may have been quite simply early on, has become more serious. These people are the most underserved. The undocumented are the most underserved of the underserved.
- We have resources, but we need to get the word out that it is available.
- Getting a regular primary care provider has become somewhat difficult and getting doctors to come to our area is not always easy.

- We need preventive practices for women's health. We used to have three primary care women's health physicians in our area, and over the past three years they have all left and we've not been able to fill those positions.

Prioritized Description of Significant Health Needs

The identified significant health needs were prioritized with input from the community. Interviews and surveys with community stakeholders were used to gather input on 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.

Each of the stakeholder interviewees was sent a link to an electronic survey (Survey Monkey) in advance of the interview. The stakeholders were asked to rank each identified health 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. COVID-19, mental health and economic insecurity had the highest scores for severe impact on the community in the survey. Economic insecurity, COVID-19 and mental health had the highest rankings for worsened over time. Economic insecurity, mental health and substance use were rated highest on 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 health care	83.3%	25%	50%
Chronic diseases	66.7%	16.7%	41.7%
COVID-19	100%	66.7%	50%
Economic insecurity	91.7%	91.7%	83.3%
Mental health	100%	58.3%	83.3%
Overweight and obesity	50%	50%	33.3%
Preventive practices	41.7%	25%	33.3%
Substance use	66.7%	41.7%	75%

The interviewees and survey respondents were also asked to prioritize the health needs according to highest level of importance in the community. The total score for each significant health 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 health need. Mental health, access to health care, chronic diseases, and COVID-19 were

ranked as the top four priority needs in the service area. Calculations resulted in the following prioritization of the significant health needs:

Significant Health Needs	Priority Ranking (Total Possible Score of 4)
Mental health	3.94
Access to health care	3.77
Chronic diseases	3.66
COVID-19	3.61
Preventive practices	3.29
Substance use	3.19
Overweight and obesity	3.13
Economic insecurity	2.88

Community input on these health needs is detailed throughout the CHNA report.

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 Texas 211 at www.211Texas.com.

Access to care	Connect Transportation, Live Oak Clinic, United Way, Stephan F. Austin Community Health Center, Baylor School of Medicine Family and Community Medicine
Chronic diseases	OATH Program for medications, HEB Nutrition Services, YMCA, Texas A&M Nurse Practitioner's Diabetes Coordination Assistance, Asthma Collaborative, American Cancer Society
COVID-19	St Thomas's Center, The Food Basket, True to Life Ministries, Brazoria County's Women's Center, Salvation Army, Brazoria County Dream Center, United Way, Actions Inc., Brazosport Independent School District
Economic insecurity	Brazoria County Dream Center, True to Life Ministries, United Way of Greater Gulf Coast's Community Network, Salvation Army, Lion's Club, Salvation Army, Actions Inc., Brazosport Independent School District
Mental health	Youth and Family Counseling Services, Brazoria County Mental Health Taskforce, Brazoria County Counseling Services, Mental Health Deputies, NAMI, Homeless Coalition of Brazoria County, STOP: Stop; Talk; Overcome; Pain Prevention Suicide, Gulf Coast Mental Health Authority, Brazoria County Sheriff's Department, Stephan F. Austin Community Health Center
Overweight/obesity	YMCA, Brazosport Independent School District, Healthy South Texas, Brazosport Area Road Runners
Preventive practices	Mermaid Project of the Brazosport Health Foundation, Healthy South Texas
Substance use and misuse	CoDA, Gulf Coast Center, Freedom House, Brazos Place, Serenity Lights, ADAP Inpatient Detox, County Health Network, Stephan F. Austin Community Health Center

Impact of Actions Taken Since the Preceding CHNA

In 2018, Brazosport 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 2018 CHNA addressed: access to care, chronic disease and mental health through a commitment of community benefit programs and resources. The following activities were undertaken to address these selected significant health needs since the completion of the 2018 CHNA.

Access to Care

The hospital provided financial assistance through free and discounted care for health care services, consistent with CHI St. Luke's – Brazosport Hospital's financial assistance policy.

Healthy South Texas, a program of Texas A & M Health, provided medication assistance at a site location at CHI St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital. The program assisted uninsured and underinsured individuals find affordable access to prescription medications.

Two community health fairs were hosted by the hospital in 2019. The health fairs provided information on disease prevention and treatment, accessing needed health services and living a healthy lifestyle. Free bone density screenings were provided to health fair attendees.

The hospital provided free flu vaccines to 1,360 persons in FY20 and in FY19, 1,751 persons received flu vaccines. Flu clinics were hosted at a variety of places in the community including, churches, clinics, the Rotary Club and the Salvation Army.

Sports physicals were provided to BISD students, free of charge. Three different sports physical clinics reached over 450 student athletes.

The hospital participated in two community events focused on senior health and wellness. Over 750 people received health information and access to resources at these events.

A women's health conference reached 300 persons with important information on women's health issues.

Chronic Disease

Brazosport Hospital expanded the partnership with the Dan Duncan Cancer Center and ultimately purchased the Cancer Center. Cancer diagnosis capabilities were increased

through the addition of a CT scanner.

The hospital hosted a monthly Cancer Support Group that engaged 12 people.

A stroke support group reached 10 people on a monthly basis.

The Mermaid Project is a local initiative dedicated to transforming potential breast cancer victims into survivors. To meet this goal, the Project provides free breast cancer screening to qualifying low-income, uninsured men and women living in Southern Brazoria County. CHI St. Luke's Health Brazosport worked closely with Brazosport Medical Center in Freeport to provide a medical home for Mermaid patients. In 2018, 36 Mermaid clients received 121 screening and treatment services. In 2019, 22 Mermaid clients received 46 services and in 2020, 8 clients received 19 paid services.

A brain health fair reached 150 persons with information on Alzheimer's disease.

Monthly, a kidney class provided support and education to persons with kidney disease and their caregivers. Approximately 15 people attended each class.

A diabetes self-management education program was offered at the hospital through the Healthy South Texas initiative. A team of certified diabetes educators, nurses, dietitians and community health workers taught practical ways to manage diabetes. Quarterly follow-up consultations were provided. Face-to-face classes reached 252 participants, a virtual diabetes one-day class engaged 60 people, family night and diabetes support reached 184 persons and 45 people attended diabetes lunch and learn sessions.

Healthy resources can be found on the hospital website at <https://www.stlukeshealth.org/healthy-resources>. The education topics include: healthy eating, disease prevention and treatment, COVID-19 information, relaxation for health, screening and many more topics related to improved health and quality of life.

Mental Health

To increase access to mental health services, the hospital explored implementing telemedicine for psychiatry and partnering with the psychiatry residency program at CHI/Baylor School of Medicine.

The NAMI mental health support group met monthly and 15 people attended the group sessions.

The hospital participated in a school district event that focused on suicide awareness and prevention and anti-bullying. Over 12,000 persons were reached by this communitywide effort.

The Mental Health Collaboration Luncheon was held on 9/11/19 and provided an opportunity to engage in a community-wide mental health discussion. There were 30 participants from within the hospital and among community partners, including:

- Hospital Emergency & Care Management Staff
- Brazoria County Mental Health Division
- Gulf Coast Center
- Houston Rehab Healthcare Hospital
- NAMI Gulf Coast
- Intracare Hospital

Attachment 1. Benchmark Comparisons

Where data were available, the CHI St. Luke's Health Brazosport 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	88.1% - 100%	90.7%
Child health insurance rate	87.7%	92.1%
Adult health insurance rate	77.2%	92.1%
Unable to obtain medical care	17.9%	3.3%
Ischemic heart disease deaths	100.6	71.1 per 100,000 persons
Cancer deaths	157.0	122.7 per 100,000 persons
Colon/rectum cancer deaths	15.5	8.9 per 100,000 persons
Drug-overdose deaths	11.0	20.7 per 100,000 persons
Overdose deaths involving opioids	4.8	13.1 per 100,000 persons
Lung cancer deaths	41.9	25.1 per 100,000 persons
Female breast cancer deaths	19.0	15.3 per 100,000 persons
Prostate cancer deaths	17.4	16.9 per 100,000 persons
Stroke deaths	39.7	33.4 per 100,000 persons
Unintentional injury deaths	35.2	43.2 per 100,000 persons
Suicides	13.4	12.8 per 100,000 persons
Liver disease (cirrhosis) deaths	11.2	10.9 per 100,000 persons
Homicides	5.2	5.5 per 100,000 persons
On time prenatal care (Healthy People 2020 Objective)	70.7%	84.8% (Healthy People 2020 Objective)
Infant death rate	4.7	5.0 per 1,000 live births
Adult obesity (age range unknown)	36.1%	36.0%, adults ages 20+
High school student obesity	16.9%	15.5%, children & youth, 2 to 19
Adults engaging in binge drinking	18.2%	25.4%
Cigarette smoking by adults	15.5%	5.0%
Pap smears, ages 21-65, screened in the past 3 years	83.2%	84.3%
Mammogram, ages 50-74, screened in the past 2 years	71.6%	77.1%
Colorectal cancer screenings, ages 50-75, screened per guidelines	62.8%	74.4%
Annual adult influenza vaccination	23.8%	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
Phillip Crocco	Social Services/ Emergency Disaster Services	Salvation Army
Dr. Falcon	Former Chief Medical Officer	CHI St. Luke's Health - Brazosport Hospital
Shannon Haltom, DNP, RN, SSBB	Vice President of Patient Care Services	CHI St. Luke's Health - Brazosport Hospital
Molly James, RN	Coordinator of Health Services	Brazosport Independent School District
Allison Jasso	Director of Guidance and Counseling	Brazosport Independent School District
Vicki Kerby	Chapter Director	Refuge for Women Texas Gulf Coast
Breah Knape	Executive Director	Actions Inc
Gloria Luna	Director of Community Services	United Way
Penny Pabst M.Ed., OHCC	Chief Administrative Officer	Stephan F. Austin Community Health Center
Roland Prezas, DO, FAAFP	Chief Medical Officer	CHI St. Luke's Health - Brazosport Hospital
Cathy Sbrusch RN, BSN, CIC	Director of Public Health Services	Brazoria County Health Department
Sgt. Vandever	Sergeant	Brazoria County Sheriff's Department
Terri A. Willis, MPA	Executive Director	Brazoria County Dream Center