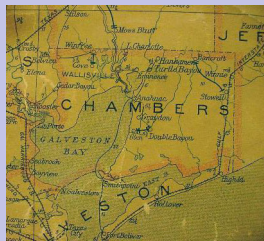
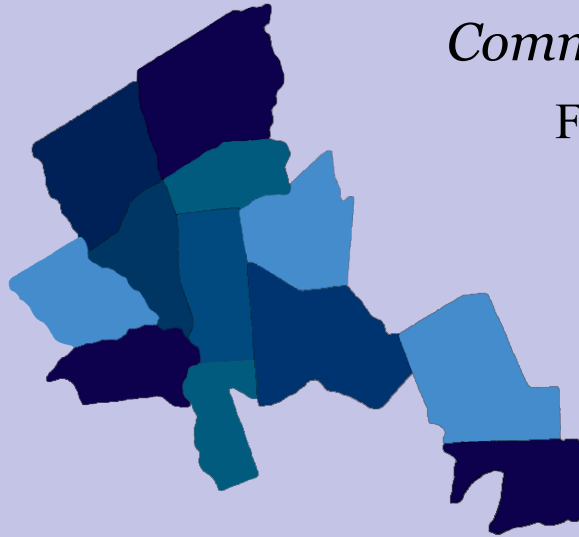


Brazos Valley Community Action Agency

Community Needs Assessment

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT

May 2015



Produced by the Center for Community Health Development.

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2015 BVCAA Community Needs Assessment

Executive Summary

For nearly a decade, the Brazos Valley Community Action Agency, Inc. (BVCAA) has leveraged its resources with other local health care and social services organizations and the Center for Community Health Development (CCHD) at the Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Public to conduct comprehensive regional community assessments in 2006, 2010, and 2013 across the Brazos Valley region and surrounding counties served by BVCAA. These assessments have served to identify community needs, gaps in services, local resources, and community priorities, and to gather advice on how to collaborate with communities to implement services locally. BVCAA has routinely supplemented this data with their own interviews, surveys, and focus groups which help the organization specifically determine how to allocate funding across programs and across communities.

The 2015 BVCAA Community Needs Assessment is a culmination of information gathered through a 2013 regional assessment conducted by CCHD and through subsequent surveys, interviews, and focus groups conducted by BVCAA and CCHD in 2015. The 2013 assessment consisted of a household survey completed by more than 5,200 people across 9 counties; 81 community discussion groups; and a thorough secondary data analysis that provided context for the household survey and community discussion groups. (The data, collection methods, and data analysis process are further described later in this document.) In 2015, BVCAA conducted interviews and surveys using the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) "Community Needs Assessment Guide" issued in April 2015. Specifically, BVCAA gathered data from responses gathered from the TDHCA's "Attachment A - Community Needs Survey for Residents", "Attachment B - Client Survey to Evaluate Services", "Attachment C - Interview of Elected Officials and Board Members", and "Attachment D - Interview of Organizations". All interview and survey data and associated results are included in each county's findings contained in this document. CCHD worked with BVCAA to conduct additional discussion groups in 2015 and to analyze and report the data gathered from the interviews and surveys conducted by BVCAA.

The 2015 BVCAA Community Needs Assessment report is formatted to include all suggested TDHCA Community Needs Assessment Report components. This report includes an executive summary, an agency description, and an overview of the assessment process which is included in the "Methods of Data Collection and Data Analyses". Findings are reported by each of the twelve counties listed in the service area beginning with the community description and demographic information followed by secondary data, quantitative data and analysis, qualitative data and analysis, needs/key findings, community strengths, barriers, and trends.

Key Findings

This report will confirm that while most of the communities in the 12-county BVCAA service area are experiencing growth, the most significant increases can be found in Montgomery County which borders Houston (Harris County) and in Brazos County which is the home to a major research institution, Texas A&M University, which annually enrolls more than 40,000 students. Montgomery County is growing at four times the rate, (over 13% from 2010 to 2014), of the United States (3.3%) while Brazos County is in line with Texas' growth rate, (over 7% from 2010 to 2014), which is more than double the United States.

All counties have also seen a significant growth in the Hispanic population which has reached nearly a quarter or more of the population in most counties, lagging behind the state of Texas which now is comprised of nearly 40 percent Hispanics.

The rapid increase in population in the more urbanized areas of the region has resulted in a greater demand for services and, as a result, most services are headquartered in these areas which creates a greater disparity for rural communities related to access to services and care. Despite the disparities in access, both the larger communities and the rural areas still identified common issues that ultimately impact the well-being of their residents.

Several themes emerged across all counties which include the following:

- *Need for Workforce Training & Education* – While the unemployment rate has generally decreased with the improvement of the economy, most communities identified computer training and technical/trades training as a priority to improve the skills of their workforce and to attract new businesses to their towns.
- *Access to Medical Care/Specialty Services* - Through BVCAA's expansion of primary care community health clinics across the region, most residents felt like there was adequate access to affordable primary care. However, depending on where the primary care was located in the community, access was an issue if the patient was dependent on public transportation services which are limited. Access to specialty care, including behavioral health care is limited across all twelve counties.
- *Assistance with Housing, Utility Assistance/Weatherization* – As noted in this assessment and previous assessments, access to affordable housing remains a critical need. Many residents are spending a significant amount of their household income on rental expenses and a regional rental assistance program is currently experiencing a two-year wait list. Additionally, residents continue to express a need for utility assistance and weatherization, needs that have been magnified as a result of area drought conditions in 2014 and flooding issues in 2015.
- *Lack of Transportation* – The limited availability of regular public transportation continues to be a primary issue across the region. The lack of transportation impacts residents' ability to access health care, supportive services, and jobs.
- *Case Management/Community Resources* – A recurring theme across the region is the need to assist residents with identifying community resources and navigating the systems which provide services. There is a general lack of knowledge about the availability of services and eligibility for services and programs.

Next Steps

In an effort to help communities address the needs and priorities that emerged through this assessment process, the BVCAA Board of Directors and the executive administrative staff will use the data contained herein as the basis to develop the agency's five year strategic plan and its corresponding annual community action plan. All plans will be available for public review and comment and will ultimately be

submitted to TDHCA to serve as guidance for the efficient allocation and utilization of Community Services Block Grant funding.

Agency Description

Mission and Service Area

BVCAA was chartered in 1972, with a mission to “assist in the empowerment of individuals, families, and communities to reach their full potential economically, educationally, health-wise, culturally, and socially.” Originally formed to pursue federal Head Start funding in the late 1960s, the agency grew as a result of newly acquired federal funding aimed at providing increased social services in communities across the nation. Over the years, the Brazos Valley Community Action Agency, Inc. expanded its service area from two to twelve counties in the easternmost part of Central Texas and into southeast Texas.

Headquartered in College Station, Texas, (about 90 miles northwest of Houston), BVCAA serves a population of 1,087,055 that ranges from small rural counties of less than 16,000 to its largest suburban service area, a county with a population of over half a million. The 12-county service area surrounds the Houston area to the south and stretches nearly 200 miles to the north. Counties served include Brazos, Burleson, Chambers, Grimes, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Montgomery, Robertson, Walker, Waller, and Washington.

Governance and Leadership Team

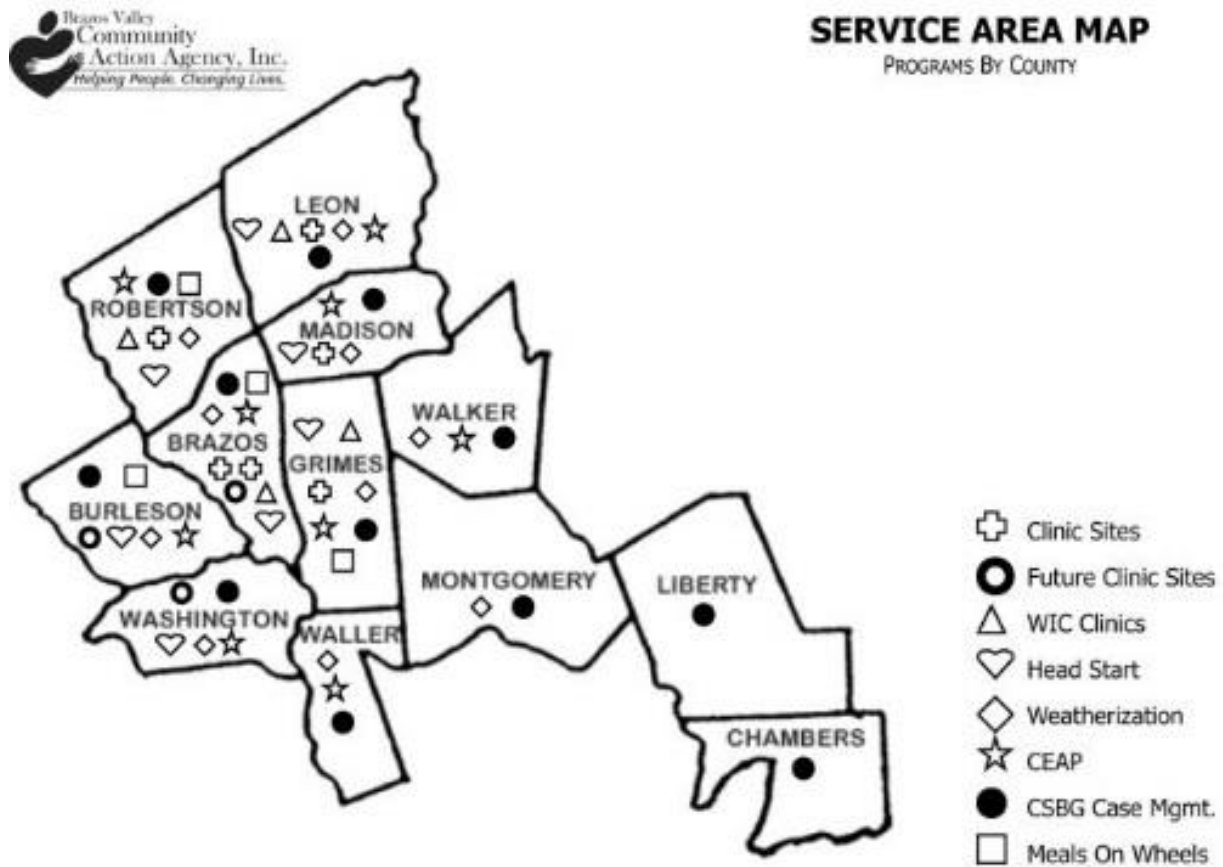
BVCAA is governed by a fifteen member tripartite board of directors which includes five members representing the public, five members who represent the community, and five representatives of low-income populations. Regular board meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month with agendas posted to the BVCAA website, www.bvcaa.org, before each meeting.

The BVCAA leadership team is comprised of its Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Administrative Assistant, the Administrator of Program Development, the Chief Information Officer, the Chief Medical Officer, the Associate Administrator for Fiscal Services, the Administrator of Human Resources, the Director of Information Technology, and the Health Services Chief Operating Officer. This leadership team has served BVCAA for a combined total of 110 years. Together, the management team oversees ten programs and 370 employees in 41 locations across the twelve counties.

Programs and Services

BVCAA provides a wide variety of programs and services that include affordable housing, behavioral health, case management, dental care, head start, early head start, federally qualified health centers, Meals on Wheels, utility assistance, weatherization, and the Women, Infant, and Children Program. See *Figure 1* below for coverage area of services.

Figure 1 – Brazos Valley Community Action Agency Service Area Map



In Fiscal Year 2013-14, BVCAA served over 52,000 unduplicated clients across their service region as indicated in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2 – Unduplicated Number of Clients Served in 2014

	County	Unduplicated Numbers with Demographics	Unduplicated Number of those without demographics	Cumulative numbers with and without demographics
1	Brazos	6,403	18,669	25,072
2	Burleson	926	1,612	2,538
3	Chambers	162	0	162
4	Grimes	1,800	2,523	4,323
5	Leon	710	1,543	2,253
6	Liberty	139	0	139
7	Madison	1,247	1,721	2,968
8	Montgomery	6,614	0	6,614
9	Robertson	1,862	1,911	3,773
10	Walker	1,957	2	1,959
11	Waller	1,089	106	1,195
12	Washington	846	582	1,428
	Totals	23,755	28,669	52,424

Following is a brief description of each of the services and programs provided by BVCAA.

Affordable Housing

BVCAA partners with the City of College Station to serve as a Community Housing Development Organization with the purpose of building affordable single family homes in the College Station area. Since the inception of this program, BVCAA has built 16 homes that have been purchased by income eligible College Station homebuyers.

Behavioral Health

Through its HealthPoint clinics located in Bryan, BVCAA offers mental health services for adults and children. Services include evaluation, medication management, and consultations. Both licensed professional counselors and psychiatrists serve patients with the following diagnoses:

- Adjustment Issues (Related to work, family, school, social, or medical concerns)
- Child/Adolescent Behavioral Issues
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Grief/Loss

- Stress Management
- Self-esteem
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)/Trauma Intervention

Case Management

BVCAA provides case management as a supplemental service to its Utility Assistance program which is described below. Case managers seek to identify needs related to an individual's or family's quality of life which may affect their available resources to pay for basic needs. Once case managers have determined a client's needs, efforts are then made to connect the individuals and/or families to internal programs and/or external agencies that can provide assistance such as continued education and training, counseling, and support for basic needs including food, housing, and clothing. As indicated in *Figure 1* above, BVCAA provides case management services in all 12 counties served by the agency.

Dental Services

As part of BVCAA's HealthPoint Clinics, BVCAA offers comprehensive dental care including oral exams and cleaning, x-rays, extractions, fillings and sealants. BVCAA operates two dental clinics which are located in the cities of Bryan and Hearne.

Head Start/Early Head Start

The very first program offered by BVCAA, Head Start, continues to offer early childhood education to children in seven locations across six counties including Brazos, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington. Parents of Head Start and Early Head Start are encouraged to be highly involved in their child's educational journey. Also considered two of BVCAA's most successful programs, the Head Start programs are strongly supported in the communities, as evidenced by the many volunteers that provide their time and talents each year.

Health Centers

Over the past decade, BVCAA has progressively developed a system of community health centers, known as HealthPoint, across seven counties including Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Waller. The clinics accept private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Uninsured individuals are assessed on a sliding scale fee based on their income level and family size. Services provided at HealthPoint clinics include family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, women's health, obstetrics, gynecology, psychiatry, psychology, dental care, pharmacy, and Medicaid eligibility assistance. The array of services may vary by location.

Food Services

BVCAA's Food Services program include Meals on Wheels, Private Pay Meals, and Home Delivered Meals which serve seniors in in Brazos, Burleson, Robertson, and Grimes Counties. The Meals on Wheels program serves persons living at or below the federal poverty level who are disabled and cannot prepare their own meal. Private Pay Meals are hot meals delivered at lunchtime to homes in which an individual has the means to pay for the service. The Home Delivered Meals program is available to individuals 60 years of age or older who are homebound and unable to prepare their own meals.

Utility Assistance/Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program

This service is comprised of three programs: the Crisis Program, the Elderly/Disabled Program, and the Case Management Program. Counties served under these programs include Brazos, Burleson, Grimes,

Leon, Madison, Robertson, Waller, Walker, and Washington. The Crisis Program provides immediate assistance to individuals and families who are unable to pay for their electric, natural gas, or propane bills. The Elderly/Disabled Program assists seniors who are 60 years of age or older and disabled individuals over 18 years old with assistance in paying their utilities. Finally, the Case Management Program, described earlier, aims to improve the quality of life of those accessing services through the Utility Assistance program by connecting individuals and families to additional supportive and educational services.

Weatherization

This program is available to low income residents whose homes need to be modified to help control energy costs. BVCAA first conducts an energy audit of the home to determine where energy inefficiencies are located. Services such as sealing windows, installing insulation, repairing or replacing energy inefficient heat and cooling systems, and eliminating structural holes may be provided through the Weatherization program. Counties served include all of the BVCAA service area with the exception of Liberty and Chambers Counties.

Women, Infant, and Children's (WIC) Program

The WIC Program provides nutrition assistance and education and additional supportive services to women, infants, and children in Brazos, Grimes, Leon, and Madison Counties who are earning at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. Specifically, the program serves pregnant women; women who are breastfeeding a baby under 1 year of age; women who have had a baby in the past six months and not breastfeeding; and children under the age of 5. Food vouchers are provided to purchase a limited list of food which includes dairy, protein, grains, and fruits and vegetables. Educational services include information on the importance of breastfeeding; how to breastfeed; nutritional information for babies, toddlers, and young children; and self-care during and post pregnancy, including ways to stay physically active.

Methods of Data Collection

This assessment consisted of three components: secondary data analysis, qualitative data collected from community discussion groups and interviews, and quantitative data from a series of household surveys.

Secondary Data Analysis

Existing data previously collected for other purposes, called secondary data, were compiled from a variety of credible local, state, and federal sources to provide a context for analyzing and interpreting the survey data collected specifically for this assessment. Sources of secondary data include the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the 2010 Census and more recent Census estimates, the Texas State Data Center, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Community Discussion Groups and Interviews

Community discussion groups, much like town hall meetings, were organized by the staff of the Center for Community Health Development (CCHD) at the Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Public Health with assistance from local contacts in many communities across the region. Staff members

contacted local intermediaries to convene discussion groups with clinical and other service providers, community leaders, and general “consumers” in each of the counties.

Community discussion groups were held in ten of the twelve counties and key informant interviews with key leaders, community residents, and health and social service providers were conducted in the remaining two counties.

The primary questions asked during community discussion groups were as follows:

- Describe your community.
- What are the most important issues or challenges your community is facing?
- What are the key resources in your community?
- How has your community come together in the past to address important issues?
- If a group were to try to address the issues you have identified, what advice would you have to help them be successful?

Key informant interviews asked specifically about the Brazos Valley Community Action Agency, Inc. (BVCAA) and the services provided by the organization. They also asked about the needs of low-income individuals, suggestions about how to address needs, what areas of community revitalization are needed, and how the community could work together to address revitalization needs.

Together, these individual and group meetings served to gain perspective of the community and to provide context for analysis of the survey data. It also allowed access to sectors of the population that were underrepresented in the household survey.

Household and Community Surveys

Three household surveys were used to inform the results of this report. The first instrument was a population health survey conducted in 2013, called the Regional Healthcare Partnership (RHP) 17 survey. This survey was conducted in a nine-county area including: Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Montgomery, Robertson, Walker, and Washington Counties. It was developed as part of the 2013 Regional Health Assessment, which was conducted by the Center for Community Health Development at the Texas A&M School of Public Health. The second instrument was the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs “Community Needs Survey for Residents”, which was conducted in 2015 in all twelve counties. The Community Needs survey was distributed and collected by BVCAA staff. Both of these instruments were used to collect data from local residents about their health status and health-related issues in their community.

The third quantitative instrument used in this report was the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs “Client Survey to Evaluate Services” completed by the BVCAA clients at their community health centers to evaluate all services provided by BVCAA. Clients were first asked to report whether they had received the following services: utility assistance, weatherization, food, other emergency assistance, employment-related assistance, rent assistance, education-related assistance, case management services, referrals, or other services. The clients were also asked to rate their satisfaction regarding staff treatment, timeliness of assistance, staff follow-through, and overall experience. The total number of surveys completed is listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Surveys completed by county

County	2013 RHP Survey	Client Needs Survey	BVCAA Service Evaluation Survey
Brazos	1,622	43	126
Burleson	239	2	16
Chambers	N/A	3	4
Grimes	252	4	29
Leon	241	4	8
Liberty	N/A	3	3
Madison	161	2	3
Montgomery	1,522	66	63
Robertson	231	0	23
Walker	396	2	2
Waller	N/A	4	3
Washington	566	0	5
TOTAL	5,230	133	286

Methods of Data Analysis

Thematic Analysis of Community Discussion Groups and Interviews

As community discussion groups and interviews were conducted, facilitators recorded participant responses using a standardized note taking template. The note taking template was pilot tested prior to the study to see how much information it was capable of collecting. This testing period revealed that the results generated with the note taking template were comparable to data collected using audio recordings and transcriptions; thus, the note taking template was determined to be a good fit for the study due to its utilization ease, time constraints, and the comprehensive data that it captured.

To evaluate the data collected during discussion groups and interview, three CCHD staff, trained in research methods, conducted a thematic analysis. During the thematic analysis, staff identified the salient themes in the discussion groups and interviews, then organized them into relevant categories. The analyses took place in three steps: first, the data were coded to dissect the information into manageable, meaningful segments using a coding framework; second, themes were identified from the coded segments; and third, a network of themes was constructed that arranged text into meaningful groupings. The three staff members independently coded and analyzed each of the interviews for common themes and compared their findings.

Quantitative Analysis of Household Surveys

To analyze data collected in the three household surveys, CCHD staff members developed a survey coding key, then transformed the survey questions into variables and numerical responses. Data were

compiled in a Microsoft Excel spread sheet, then uploaded into SPSS® software for analysis. Data from all three surveys were cleaned by trained members of CCHD staff, then analyzed for descriptive statistics.

It is important to note, that as typical in survey research, those who actually responded to the surveys disproportionately represented women, older residents, Caucasians, and those more educated and more affluent. To deal with some of this bias, the analysis was performed on scientifically weighted data, weighting the responses to match the age and gender distribution by county. Even with the weighting, however, it is known that by comparison to Census estimates that the current sample underrepresents low-income residents. This should be considered when interpreting the results; what the survey analysis indicates is a more positive reflection of the community than actually exists. Regardless, the data provides us a useful snapshot of what residents are currently experiencing.

Brazos County Findings

Description of Brazos County

Brazos County covers 585 square miles of land area and is comprised of the two adjacent cities of Bryan and College Station, as well as two small rural cities near the eastern boundary of the county. Bryan is the county seat and the oldest of the incorporated communities, having organized as a city in 1871. The City of College Station, home to Texas A&M University, incorporated in 1939, sixty-three years after the university was established. The rural communities of Wixon Valley and Kurten incorporated in the late 1980s and 2000s respectively.

Population Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 population estimates indicate that 204,621 people were living in Brazos County, up 5.0% from the 2010 population of 194,851. Population estimates for 2013 list Bryan as having 78,709 residents and College Station having 100,050 residents. Wixon Valley has 253 residents and the population of Kurten was 399. As of 2013, the county's population density is 333 people per square mile. The 2014 population estimates indicate that growth in the Brazos Valley reflects the growth in Texas which has increased its population by 7% since 2010 which is more than twice the growth rate of the United States. The total population of Brazos County from the 2010 U.S. Census and comparative population estimates for 2013 and 2014 are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Total Population – Brazos County

	2010	2013 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2013	2014 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2014
Brazos County	194,851	204,621	5.0	209,152	7.3
Texas	25,146,104	26,505,637	5.4	26,956,958	7.2
United States	308,758,105	316,497,531	2.5	318,857,056	3.3

Age and Gender

About half of Brazos County's population is male and half is female which is in line with the state and the nation. Table 3 shows the county's population numbers by gender.

Table 3. Brazos County 2013 Percent of Population by Gender

	Male	% Male	Female	% Female
Brazos County	103,538	50.6	101,082	49.4
Texas	13,173,301	49.7	13,332,335	50.3
United States	155,716,785	49.2	160,780,745	50.8

Brazos County has a lower percentage of seniors when compared to the state and national percentage. This is likely due to the 40,000 plus Texas A&M University students living in Bryan and College Station. Brazos County's population by age is shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Brazos County 2013 Percent of Population by Age Group

	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	65 and over
Brazos County	6.3	14.3	71.3	8.1
Texas	7.3	26.6	54.9	11.2
United States	6.3	23.3	56.3	14.1

Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2013 Census estimates, the majority (57.7%) of Brazos County residents were White/Caucasian. The next largest race/ethnicity group is Hispanic or Latino, making up nearly a quarter of the population. Just over ten percent of the population is Black/African American and the Asian population is estimated to be 5.5%. Brazos County's population by race/ethnicity is shown in Table 5.

Table 5. 2013 Brazos County Population by Race/Ethnicity by Percent

Race/Ethnicity	Brazos	Texas	United States
White/Caucasian	57.7	44.0	62.6
Black or African American	11.3	12.4	13.2
Asian	5.5	4.3	5.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	24.5	38.4	17.1

Housing

According to the 2013 Census estimates, there were 81,739 housing units in Brazos County. Approximately 70,239, (88.9%), were occupied housing units with an average of 2.61 people per household. The housing vacancy rate is 11.1 percent or 8,797 units.

Per the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, the home ownership rate is 46 percent, (approximately 32,331 units), and the median value of owner occupied homes is \$151,400.

Rental Housing Units

In Brazos County, 54%, (37,908 units) of the housing units were renter-occupied, with many occupied by college students attending either Texas A&M University or Blinn Junior College located in Bryan. Nearly half of all renters pay rent in between \$500 to \$999 per month. More than half of all renters pay more than a third of their household income in rent. Table 6 shows rental payments by percent of population in Brazos County and Table 7 illustrates the percent of household income used for rental payments.

Table 6. Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Brazos County Population

Monthly Rental Cost	\$499 or less	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 or more
Percent of Population	7.0	29.0	29.7	22.4	11.8

Table 7. Gross Rental Payment as a Percentage of Household Income in Brazos County

Percent of Household Income Paid in Rent	19.9% or less	20 to 24.9%	25 to 29.9%	30 to 34.9%	35% or more
Percent of Population	17.8	9.8	7.9	6.1	58.5

Housing Assistance

The seven-county region of Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington Counties comprises the service area for the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher Program which is managed by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG). According to BVCOG officials, the program is authorized to provide approximately 1,900 rental assistance vouchers across the region but funding is only available to support about 1,725 vouchers. There is currently a two-year wait list of nearly 1,000 individuals wanting to apply for rental assistance through this program. Of those, it is estimated that about 60% will end up qualifying for the program once they have been screened for eligibility. Clearly, the need for rental assistance is outpacing the available resources.

Education

More than 40 percent (43.9%) of Brazos County residents have obtained an associate's degree or higher. One fifth (20.9%) of county residents obtained their high school diploma and 15 percent have less than a high school education. Table 8 shows educational attainment by percentage of the county.

Table 8. Educational Attainment of Brazos County Residents Aged 25 and over

Level of Educational Attainment	Less than HS	HS Diploma	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's	Graduate Degree
Percentage of Population	15	20.9	20.2	5.1	20.9	17.9

School Districts

There are two independent school districts within Brazos County - Bryan ISD and College Station ISD. According to TEA, in 2013 Bryan ISD had 15,624 students enrolled of which 73.2% of were identified as economically disadvantaged. College Station ISD had 11,022 students with 36.9% identified as economically disadvantaged.

District Dropout Rates

According to the TEA, the annual dropout rate is based on the number of students who dropped out of grades 7–12 during the 2012–13 school year. The annual dropout rate formula is:

$$\text{Annual dropout rate} = \frac{\text{Number of students who dropped out during the school year}}{\text{Number of students enrolled during the school year}} \times 100$$

Table 9 shows the student dropout rate by district in Brazos County.

Table 9. 2012-2013 7th to 12th Grade Student Population and Dropout Information by District

School Districts	Total Number of 7 th through 12 th Grade Students	Dropout Number	Dropout Rate (Percent)	Female Dropouts	Male Dropouts	Economically Disadvantaged Dropouts
Bryan ISD	6,581	202	3.1%	81	121	157
College Station ISD	4,910	42	0.9%	16	26	21

Employment

According to April 2015 TWC estimates, the Brazos County labor force consisted of 102,833 individuals. Of those, 99,706 individuals were currently employed and 3,127 were unemployed, resulting in a 3% unemployment rate.

Community Safety

There are four major crime reporting agencies in Brazos County – Brazos County Sheriff's Office, Bryan Police Department, College Station Police Department and Texas A&M University Police Department. In a "2013 Crime in Texas by Jurisdiction" report produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety, larceny was the leading crime reported for Brazos County (4,062), followed by burglary (1,133) and aggravated assault (597). Crime rates in Brazos County are shown in Table 10.

Table 10. 2013 Texas Department of Public Safety Report: Brazos County (number of offenses)

Reporting Entity	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Brazos Co. SO	0	4	3	35	146	259	30
Bryan PD	2	31	75	250	539	1,683	89
College Station PD	0	34	37	308	432	1,750	48
Texas A&M University PD	0	2	1	4	16	370	8
Total	2	71	116	597	1,133	4,062	175

Persons Living in Poverty

According to the 2009-2013 *American Community Survey*, 29.8 percent of Brazos County residents were living below poverty level. Compared to the other eleven counties in BVCAA's service area, Brazos County has the second highest rate of poverty. Nearly one-third (32.1%) of the region's total residents who were living at or below poverty level reside in Brazos County.

Sources of Primary Data

The results described in the following sections are based on primary data collected from the various sources previously described in the *Methods of Data Collection* section of this report. Three types of survey data were collected in Brazos County: the 2013 RHP survey, the Community Needs survey, and the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. In Brazos County, 1,622 residents completed the 2013 RHP survey, 43 took the Community Needs survey, and 126 completed the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. The results from these surveys were combined with contextual information gathered from discussion groups and interviews with key community leaders, health care providers, social service providers, and the general public (i.e. residents) of Brazos County. A total of ten community discussion groups were conducted in Brazos County with 218 participants. In addition to these discussion groups, 22 interviews with key informants were held in Brazos County.

The following sections describe the results from the primary data collected in Brazos County. Results are organized into seven key community health topics: assistance and case management, community, education, employment, family support, housing, and medical care.

Assistance and Case Management

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. Two of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) were related to assistance and case management. Residents reported needing both financial assistance/welfare (11.6%) and financial assistance for automobile, appliance, home repair, or weatherization (9.6%).

The Community Needs survey asked residents to describe their need for assistance and case management services. Respondents were asked to rate their needs on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed* from a list of services provided on the survey. In Brazos County, the issues rated as *needed* or a *very needed* were as follows:

- Community resources (61.8%)
- Legal services (55.6%)
- Transportation (51.7%)
- Food (50.0%)
- Case management (50.0%)
- Applying for Social Security, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), WIC, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), etc. (39.3%)
- Child care (34.6%)

To better understand why these issues occurred in Brazos County, community discussion groups were conducted throughout the county. Discussion group participants said that residents did not know how to access the available services related to assistance and case management. Inadequate communication among service providers compounded this issue and left residents not knowing where or how to find resources and reliable information.

Key informant interviews with key leaders and social service providers further identified top needs for assistance in Brazos County. Participants said that assistance related to food and nutrition, housing and utilities, clothing, and emergency services were all needed. Key informants discussed the need for comprehensive case management that would help residents become self-sufficient.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion groups identified resources in Brazos County that could be used to address the issues related to assistance and case management. Participants said that the county serves as the hub for health and human services in the region, with numerous organizations and programs available. Social service organizations and programs that provided assistance in transportation and senior nutrition were also recognized as a resource in the community. Both faith-based organizations, including local churches, and community-based organizations were mentioned as assets to local residents for offering community education activities like English classes, computer classes, and technical trainings.

Interviews with social service providers identified resources in Brazos County for emergency assistance and nutrition and also confirmed that they had a case management system to help coordinate services and help people.

Trends

Issues related to assistance and case management were previously documented in a health assessment conducted in 2010; however, the rate of residents who needed services, but could not access them has decreased. In 2010, approximately 20 percent (21.8%) of Brazos County residents reported needing, but not being able to access financial assistance or welfare. This rate decreased to approximately 12 percent (11.6%) in 2013.

Community

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community characteristics can influence perceptions of safety and increase or decrease the likelihood for community members to engage in activities outside of their home. In the 2013 RHP survey, Brazos County respondents varied in their perception of how closely their fellow community members shared their values. Two-thirds (67.1%) of Brazos County respondents felt that their community had shared values. Brazos County residents reported comparatively high levels of trust among fellow community members, with only 15.6 percent saying you can't be too careful in dealing with other people. Table 11 summarizes these perceived characteristics of Brazos County, listing the percentage of respondents who reported *agree* or *strongly agree* with each statement.

Table 11. Brazos County community characteristics

Community Characteristics	Percentage of Brazos County Respondents
People are willing to help their neighbors	87.5
Most people can be trusted in the community	84.4
Neighbors would help someone who fell	81.8
Many people are physically active in local neighborhoods	81.3
This is a close knit community	67.9
Problems in neighborhoods make it hard to go outside and walk	16.7
People are concerned they will be a victim of crime if they walk/bike in their neighborhood	6.5

To better understand community needs in Brazos County, the Community Needs survey asked residents to identify areas of the community that needed improvement. The majority of residents said that their community needed neighborhood clean-up projects (54.3%), crime awareness or crime reduction (55.9%), and public parks and facilities (53.1%). More than 30 percent (34.5%) of residents also reported needing more employment opportunities in Brazos County.

Community discussion groups recognized social issues such as poverty, economic disparities, racial tension, lack of education, lack of access to care for illegal immigrants, underemployment, and lack of minority leadership as community concerns in Brazos County. Many participants said there was a lack of partnership between Bryan and College Station, which has been problematic. Community members also said that the public transportation was neither reliable nor affordable for local residents.

Common themes among interviews with key informants also identified issues with transportation as a primary community concern. Interviewees voiced the need for community development and revitalization in Brazos County.

Community Strengths and Assets

Information gathered in community discussion groups showed that overall, Brazos County residents are friendly and supportive. The area is considered a great place to raise a family with a diverse community and a growing population of both younger and older adults, however this growth has brought benefits and challenges.

Community discussion group participants note that the university has much influence on the unique character of the community through its strong sense of tradition. In addition, discussion group participants highlighted numerous recreational and arts-focused activities that were valuable to the community. Residents identified human capital in the form of local volunteers and volunteer-based organizations to be valuable resources in Brazos County.

In regard to transportation, social service providers in Brazos County said that there are some community services that can help eligible residents with transportation needs. They also said that there were services available for the homeless population within the county.

Trends

In 2010, the economy was a substantial issue in Brazos County. The 2010 assessment results indicated that the economic downturn led to concerns about unemployment, poverty, the inability to afford basic necessities like housing and food. While conditions have improved since 2010, poverty was still a concern according to the 2013 community discussion groups.

Education

Needs and Barriers Identified

The Community Needs survey asked respondents to rate their needs from a list of educational services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to *very needed*. In Brazos County, the top educational needs (rated as *needed* or *very needed*) were as follows:

- Computer skills training (62.9%)
- GED classes (25.9%)
- Assistance to attend trade or technical school or college (30.8%)
- Adult education or night school (29.6%)
- English as a second language classes (25.9%)

The primary issue voiced in community discussion groups related to education was a lack of vocational training in Brazos County. While opportunities to go to an institute of higher learning, like Blinn Junior College and Texas A&M University, are abundant, residents struggled to find options for technical training in fields like information technology.

Key informant interviews with key leaders and social service providers also revealed that educational services for adults was a concern in Brazos County. Interviewees also said residents needed community classes to gain skills in income management and training to help learn English.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion groups with Brazos County residents cited local colleges and universities as educational resources. These institutes provide transportation services, which were also seen as assets in the community. Additionally, social service organizations offer educational resources like post-secondary training, GED classes, and financial counseling.

Trends

Similar to 2010, Brazos County residents considered educational options in the county, such as Blinn Junior College and Texas A&M University, to be valuable resources. While secondary education was viewed as an asset, Brazos County still lacks options for technical training and education.

Employment

Needs and Barriers Identified

2013 RHP survey respondents were asked to rate the severity of a list of community issues, on a scale ranging from *not at all a problem* to a *very serious problem*. In Brazos County, two of the top ten issues were related to employment. Respondents cited lack of jobs for unskilled workers (18.5%) and unemployment (18.3%) as *serious problems* or *very serious problems* in their community.

Brazos County residents also reported needing help with employment on the Community Needs survey. More than one fourth of respondents said they needed help finding a job (27.6%) or help with job skills, training, or job searching (25.9%).

Interviews with key informants revealed that they believed employment was a top issue for Brazos County. Interviewees identified a need for job training to help residents pursue technical jobs. They said employers also needed to provide higher compensation for workers.

Community Strengths and Assets

Overall, community discussion groups noted that Brazos County has a relatively stable economy that has withstood the economic downturn that was felt in other areas of the country. This stable economy is largely due to local employers like Texas A&M University, Brazos County, the cities of Bryan and College Station, and local school districts.

Additionally, social service organizations in Brazos County provide residents with resources for employment. These services are a local resource that can help residents find jobs.

Trends

In 2010, rising rates of unemployment were an issue in Brazos County. This assessment also identifies employment opportunities as a community concern, however, issues are related to job training, rather than finding a job. These changes are largely due to the more stable economy.

Family Support

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey asked Brazos County residents about family support activities and services. First, the survey asked how many respondents were responsible for providing regular care or assistance to a friend or family member at home who has a long-term health problem or disability. During the past month, 8.8 percent of residents in Brazos County reported providing care for at least one person. The majority of the people being cared for were aged 65 or older (52%); 26.4 percent of respondents reported caring for someone between the ages of 18 and 64, and 21.7 percent of respondents reported caregiving for a child between the ages of one and 17. Across the county, 38.4 percent reported caring for a parent or spouse's parent. Other relationships between caregiver and charge reported included caring for a child (20.2%), spouse (15.8%), and non-relative (9.6%).

In relation to programs and classes for family support, Community Needs Survey respondents were asked to indicate their need on a scale ranging from *don't know* to *very needed*. In Brazos County, the top areas rated as *needed* or *very needed*, were associated with:

- Seniors (68.8%)
- Healthy relationships and resolving conflict (39.3%)
- Nutrition and healthy eating (53.3%)
- Mental health counseling (40.6%)
- Youth (32.1%)
- Financial, budgeting, and credit (27.6%)
- Parenting (22.2%)

Interviews with key informants cited the need for supportive family services in Brazos County, specifically for parenting and child care help. Interview participants said that additional services were needed for single parents and seniors.

Community Strengths and Assets

In regard to family support, Brazos County has some resources such as social service organizations that offer services to help single parents access healthy food for their families. These social service organizations also provide parenting support.

Trends

According to the 2013 RHP survey, a large portion of the caregiving services needed in Brazos County are for older adults. While the previous 2010 health assessment didn't specifically assess caregiving needs, discussion group participants did note the growing senior population and the gap in services for them and their caregivers.

Housing

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey asked residents about the condition of their housing. Brazos County respondents reported primarily living in a one-family home (81.2%), with less than fifteen percent combined living in a duplex, triplex, or four-plex (6.7%), an apartment building with more than four units (4.4%), or a townhome or condominium (3.5%).

When asked if their residence had experienced a severe problem in the past 12 months, survey respondents listed a range of issues as shown in Table 12. Across the county, the most reported problem with residents' homes was related to plumbing, heating/cooling, or electricity (going more than 24 hours without service).

Table 12. Severe housing problems reported in Brazos County

Housing problems	Percentage of Brazos County Respondents
Plumbing, heating/cooling, electricity	20.2
Roof problems (such as holes, leaks, or sagging)	12.4
Broken plaster or peeling paint (interior)	10.6
Mice, rats, or cockroaches	8.7
Mold	5.7
Broken windows	2.4
Holes in the floor	2.7

The Community Needs survey also asked residents about assistance needed related to housing in Brazos County. More than one half of respondents said that they needed help paying rent (51.7%) and paying utility bills (71.9%). Additionally, more than 40 percent said that Brazos County needed more affordable housing options (42.9%) and they also needed help making their homes more energy efficient (47.1%).

Infrastructure was also cited as a concern for many residents in community discussion groups. The main issues hinged on a lack of affordable housing, community expansion efforts, and a lack of economic development in aging areas of the county. Brazos County key informants also said affordable housing was a key community issue. Overall, the community needs more affordable housing options and programs that can help pay for housing and utilities when needed.

Community Strengths and Assets

Interviews with social service providers in Brazos County revealed that there are services available for housing assistance through counseling services.

Trends

Housing conditions were not previously assessed in the 2010 health assessment, so there is no information about the type of housing or problems related to housing in Brazos County. However, housing was a commonly noted issue in both the 2010 and 2013 community discussion groups.

Medical Care

Needs and Barriers Identified

According to the 2013 RHP Survey, Brazos County residents frequently reported the following chronic conditions, as diagnosed by a health care provider:

- Hypertension (29.5%)
- Depression (27.3%)
- Obesity/Overweight (26.8%)
- High Cholesterol (26.3%)
- Anxiety (24.7%)
- Asthma (19.6%)

Access to affordable medical care and prescriptions was assessed in the Community Needs survey. Approximately half of respondents said they needed prescription assistance (54.8%) and more than 60 percent (63.6%) said they needed health insurance or affordable medical care.

Many community discussion group attendees were worried about the lack of access to affordable health care. These concerns centered on eligibility for health care coverage, adequate care for the elderly population, access to affordable primary and specialty care, the need for behavioral health facilities and specialists, and limited social services. Chronic diseases related to obesity such as diabetes and high blood pressure, specifically among children, were also mentioned frequently by residents. These illnesses were attributed to unhealthy diets due to a lack of affordable, healthy food and healthy school lunch options.

Medical care was a commonly identified theme among interviews with key informants in Brazos County. Interview participants said they needed access to health services, specifically more options for specialty care and emergency services. Key informants stressed that services needed to be affordable and easily accessible for residents.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion group participants identified the local health care organizations that served the uninsured or medically indigent population in Brazos County as a valuable resource. Social service

providers who were interviewed in Brazos County said that the community has comprehensive medical services for children under the age of three with developmental disabilities. They also mentioned that there are many medical services available for residents to access locally.

Trends

Brazos County residents reported the same top chronic diseases in 2010 as 2013, according to previous assessment results and the 2013 RHP Survey. Rates for hypertension, anxiety, and asthma each increased slightly, while depression and high cholesterol both decreased. Obesity rates were not measured the same across years, but still remained as a top chronic disease.

Satisfaction with Services provided by BVCAA

Clients of BVCAA were asked to complete a *Client Survey to Evaluate Services*. Respondents of the survey ranked their experience on a scale of *poor* to *excellent*. A large majority of respondents in Brazos County reported satisfaction (rating their experience as *good* or *excellent*) with treatment by the staff (97.5%), staff follow-up (94.1%), timeliness of services (95%), and overall experience (95%).

Respondents were also asked to report whether they had received certain services (utilities assistance, weatherization, food, other emergency assistance, employment related assistance, rent assistance, education related assistance, case management, or referrals) from their local BVCAA facility. The following are services received by clients in Brazos County:

- Food: 23%
- Utilities Assistance: 22.2%
- Case Management: 11.1%
- Education Assistance: 8.7%
- Rent Assistance: 7.9%
- Referrals: 7.1%
- Employment Assistance: 6.3%
- Emergency Assistance: 5.6%
- Weatherization: 4%

BVCAA Partner Suggestions

Interviews with social service providers in Brazos County identified ways that BVCAA can partner to address community needs. Social service providers suggested collaborating on interagency activities, jointly participating on the Regional Transportation Board and working to get bilingual services for Spanish speaking patients. They also suggested partnering on community outreach activities. Additionally, it was recommended that customers be referred for adult education and literacy, workforce, and child care services in addition to supporting the development of local job skills training programs. Partnering with Head Start to provide parenting services and partnering with Meals on Wheels and WIC to get fresh produce to program participants was also suggested, as well as developing strategies to address housing issues. Finally, social service providers suggested making referrals to and from HealthPoint, developing strategies to address healthcare needs, and continuing to partner to address the needs of clients with HIV.

Burleson County Findings

Description of Burleson County

Burleson County covers 678 square miles of land area and is comprised of the three incorporated cities—Caldwell, Somerville, and Snook. Caldwell serves as the county seat.

Population Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 population estimates indicate that 17,163 people were living in Burleson County, which is down 0.1% since the 2010 population of 17,187. The Texas State Data Center's 2013 estimate indicate there were 4,218 residents in Caldwell. The City of Somerville's population was estimated at 1,343 residents and the City of Snook was estimated to have 509 residents. At the time, the county's population density was estimated at 26.1 people per square mile. The total population of Burleson County from the 2010 U.S. Census and comparative population estimates for 2013 and 2014 are listed in Table 13.

Table 13. Total Population – Burleson County

	2010	2013 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2013	2014 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2014
Burleson County	17,187	17,163	-0.1	17,253	0.4
Texas	25,146,104	26,505,637	5.4	26,956,958	7.2
United States	308,758,105	316,497,531	2.5	318,857,056	3.3

Age and Gender

About half of Burleson County's population is male and half is female which is in line with the state and the nation. Table 14 shows the county's population numbers by gender.

Table 14. Burleson County 2013 Percent of Population by Gender

	Male	% Male	Female	% Female
Burleson County	8,523	49.4	8,730	50.6
Texas	13,173,301	49.7	13,332,335	50.3
United States	155,716,785	49.2	160,780,745	50.8

Burleson County has a much lower number of individuals ages 18-64 and a larger amount of residents age 65 and over compared to the state and nation. Burleson County's population by age is shown in Table 15.

Table 15. Burleson County 2013 Percent of Population by Age Group

	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	65 and over
Burleson County	6.2	22.8	30.11	15.24
Texas	7.3	26.6	54.9	11.2
United States	6.3	23.3	56.3	14.1

Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2013 Census estimates, the majority of Burleson County residents were White/Caucasian (66.3%). The next largest race/ethnicity group were Hispanic or Latino which make up nearly one fifth of the population. Just over one tenth of the population is Black/African American and the Asian population is estimated at less than one half of one percent. Burleson County's population by race/ethnicity is shown in Table 16.

Table 16. Burleson County 2013 Percent of Population by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Burleson	Texas	United States
White/Caucasian	66.3	44.0	62.6
Black or African American	12.7	12.4	13.2
Asian	0.3	4.3	5.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	19.6	38.4	17.1

Housing

According to the 2013 Census estimates, there were 8,815 housing units in Burleson County. Approximately 6,258 were occupied housing units, (71.0%), with an average of 2.5 people per household. The housing vacancy rate is 29.0 percent or 2,557 units.

Per the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, the home ownership rate is 56.2 percent, (approximately 4,950 units) and the median value of owner occupied homes is \$87,800.

Rental Housing Units

In Burleson County, 20.9% (1,308 units) of the housing units were renter-occupied. More than half of all renters pay less than \$750 per month in rent. Over one third of the renters pay 20 percent or less of their household income in rent while nearly 40 percent pay 35 percent or more of their household income on rent. . Table 17 shows rental payments by percent of population in Burleson County and Table 18 illustrates the percent of household income used for rental payments.

Table 17. Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Burleson County Population

Monthly Rental Cost	\$499 or less	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 or more
Percent of Population	26.9	33.2	26.3	10.4	3.2

Table 18. Gross Rental Payment as a Percentage of Household Income in Burleson County

Percent of Household Income Paid in Rent	19.9% or less	20 to 24.9%	25 to 29.9%	30 to 34.9%	35% or more
Percent of Population	36.5	5.2	13.3	7.5	37.4

Housing Assistance

The seven-county region of Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington Counties comprises the service area for the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher Program which is managed by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG). According to BVCOG officials, the program is authorized to provide approximately 1,900 rental assistance vouchers across the region but funding is only available to support about 1,725 vouchers. There is currently a two-year wait list of nearly 1,000 individuals wanting to apply for rental assistance through this program. Of those, it is estimated that about 60% will end up qualifying for the program once they have been screened for eligibility. Clearly, the need for rental assistance is outpacing the available resources.

Education

More than 35 percent (38.0%) of Burleson county residents have obtained their high school diploma as noted in the 2013 Census estimates. Fifteen percent (15.5%) of Burleson County residents have obtained an associate's degree or higher while nearly one fifth have less than a high school education. Table 19 shows educational attainment by percentage of the county.

Table 19. Educational Attainment of Burleson County Residents (Persons 25 and over)

Level of Educational Attainment	Less than HS	HS Diploma	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's	Graduate Degree
Percentage of Population	22.3	38.0	24.2	3.9	8.2	3.4

School Districts

There are three independent school districts within Burleson County - Caldwell ISD, Somerville ISD, and Snook ISD. According to the Texas Education Agency, in 2013 Caldwell ISD had 1,821 students enrolled of which 54.4% were identified as economically disadvantaged. Snook ISD had 527 students with 71.3% identified as economically disadvantaged. Somerville ISD had 486 students with 69.8% identified as economically disadvantaged.

District Dropout Rates

Caldwell ISD, Somerville ISD and Snook ISD dropout data was not publicly available in order to protect student anonymity according to the TEA website. Employment

According to April 2015 TWC estimates, the Burleson County labor force consists of 7,667 individuals. 7,369 of those individuals were currently employed and 298 were unemployed, resulting in a 3.8 percent unemployment rate.

Community Safety

There are three major reporting agencies in Burleson County – Burleson County Sheriff’s Office (SO), Caldwell Police Department (PD), and Somerville Police Department. In a “2013 Crime in Texas by Jurisdiction” report produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety, larceny was the leading crime reported in 2013 for Burleson County (172), followed by burglary (87) and aggravated assault (20). Crime rates in Burleson County are shown in Table 20.

Table 20. 2013 Texas Department of Public Safety Report: Burleson County (Number of offenses)

Reporting Entity	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Burleson Co. SO	1	3	1	10	72	63	5
Caldwell PD	1	0	0	7	1	22	2
Somerville PD	0	2	1	3	14	14	1
Total	2	5	2	20	87	172	8

Persons Living in Poverty

According to the 2009-2013 *American Community Survey*, 11.5 percent of Burleson County Residents were living below poverty level. Compared to the other eleven counties in BVCAA’s service area, Burleson County has the lowest rate of poverty. One and one half percent of the region’s total residents who were living at or below poverty level reside in Burleson County.

Sources of Primary Data

The results described in the following sections are based on primary data collected from the various sources previously described in the *Methods of Data Collection* section of this report. Three types of survey data were collected in Burleson County: the 2013 RHP Survey, Community Needs survey, and BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. In Burleson County, 239 residents completed the 2013 RHP Survey, two residents took the Community Needs survey, and 16 residents completed the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. The results from these surveys were combined with contextual information gathered from discussion groups and interviews with key community leaders, health care providers, social service providers, and the general public (i.e. residents) of Burleson County. A total of six community discussion groups were conducted in Burleson County with 84 participants. In addition to these discussion groups, seven interviews with key informants were held in Burleson County.

The following sections describe the results from the primary data collected in Burleson County. Results are organized into seven key community health topics: assistance and case management, community, education, employment, family support, housing, and medical care.

Assistance and Case Management

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP Survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. Three of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) were related to assistance and case management in Burleson County. Residents reported needing financial assistance or welfare (16.0%), utility assistance (11.3%), and financial assistance for automobile, appliance, or home repair; or weatherization (10.4%).

The Community Needs survey asked residents in Burleson County to describe their need for assistance and case management services. Respondents were asked to rate their needs on a scale ranging from *don't know* to *very needed* from a list of services provided on the survey. In Burleson County, half or more of the respondents identified the following assistance needs:

- Community resources
- Transportation
- Food

To better understand issues related to assistance in Burleson County, community discussion groups were conducted throughout the county. Discussion group participants indicated that residents are often not aware of the resources available in the county due to communication barriers. This makes it difficult for residents to know what services are available throughout the community. Key informant interviews with key leaders and social service providers also identified assistance with utility and housing as issues in Burleson County.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion groups cited local civic organizations such as the Lion's Club, Masons, and Rotary Club as resources in the community. Churches, the Ministerial Alliance, and faith-based charities also provide support and assistance to residents. Social service providers such as Somerville Area Assistance Ministries House, Community Emergency Response Teams, Brazos Valley Area Agency on Aging, Mental Health, Mental Retardation of the Brazos Valley, Services to At-Risk Youth, Twin City Missions, Project Unity, and County Community Resource Coordination Group members were also listed as vital resources to Burleson County.

Social service providers cited available resources that help people become more self-sufficient such as case management to help residents access services.

Trends

Community discussion groups conducted during the 2010 health assessment indicated that the lack of communication regarding available resources in Burleson County was an issue. This concern was also noted in recent discussion groups. Another issue heard during both assessments were related to lack of assistance in finding affordable housing options.

Community

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community characteristics can influence perceptions of safety and increase or decrease the likelihood for community members to engage in activities outside their home. In the 2013 RHP Survey, Burleson County respondents varied in their perception of how closely their fellow community members shared their values. Over half (55.2%) of Burleson County residents felt that their community had shared values. Burleson County residents also reported relatively lower levels of trust among fellow community members, with 31.1 percent saying that you can't be too careful in dealing with people. Table 21 summarizes these perceived characteristics of Burleson County, listing the percentage of respondents who reported *agree* or *strongly agree* with each statement.

Table 21. Burleson County community characteristics

Community Characteristics	Percentage of Burleson County Respondents
People are willing to help their neighbors	90.2
This is a close knit community	78.0
Most people can be trusted in the community	69.0
Neighbors would help someone who fell	57.3
Many people are physically active in local neighborhoods	41.4
Problems in neighborhoods make it hard to go outside and walk	35.6
People are concerned they will be a victim of crime if they walk/bike in their neighborhood	11.3

To better understand community needs in Burleson County, the Community Needs survey asked residents to identify areas of the community that needed improvement. Half of the residents (50.0%) said that their community needed neighborhood clean-up projects, crime awareness or crime reduction, public parks and facilities, and more employment opportunities.

Both community discussion groups and key informant interviewees cited the lack of public transportation as a barrier to accessing services. Residents felt the aging community infrastructure, such as county roads, further affects local community conditions.

Community Strengths and Assets

Information gathered in community discussion groups showed that overall, residents described Burleson County as being a small, close-knit community with a friendly atmosphere. The community's close proximity to larger towns allows residents to enjoy the neighboring town's amenities, making Burleson County a prime location in the state. The location has helped the county grow into a place for retirees who want to escape the city and retreat to a small town. While the community is seeing an influx of retirees, there are also multigenerational family structures that have deep-rooted history in the community. There are three distinct communities within the county: Snook, Somerville, and Caldwell. Each of the communities is self-contained and provides support in the wake of tragedy or crisis, or whenever an opportunity to help arises. The communities were described as having a strong faith-base

and good leadership. Residents feel that their community leaders want to provide the best quality of life for residents, and that these leaders truly care about community members.

Local businesses throughout the county were noted as a great resource. Through the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce, businesses in the area are willing to help with local issues and help residents in the community. Additionally, law enforcement, fire departments, and Emergency Medical Services were cited as good resources in the community. Social service providers in Burleson County said that there are currently community services to help eligible residents with transportation needs.

Trends

Transportation continues to be an issue in Burleson County. A lack of reliable, affordable public transportation was heard frequently as an issue in 2010 and again in the most recent health assessment. However, the county has a wealth of local organizations and community members that are committed to support those in need.

Education

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey included a set of questions asking about residents' need for and their utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. Issues related to education fell in the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*). Approximately one-fifth (9.6%) of respondents said they needed work-related or employment services including job training.

The Community Needs Survey asked respondents to rate their needs from a list of educational services on a scale ranging from *don't know* to *very needed*. In Burleson County, 50 percent of residents said they needed assistance to attend trade or technical school or college.

Key leaders and social service providers in Burleson County also cited education as a key issue in Burleson County saying that the community needed adult education, specifically for financial management.

Community Strengths and Assets

Social service organizations in Burleson County were noted as educational assets to the community because they provide opportunities for residents like post-secondary training, GED classes, and financial counseling.

Trends

In 2010, education was identified as a community issue, specifically related to drop-out rates and resources for students and parents. This most recent assessment also identified issues related to education in Burleson County; however, vocational training was the most commonly voiced concern.

Employment

Needs and Barriers Identified

2013 RHP survey respondents were asked to rate the severity of a list of community issues, on a scale ranging from *not at all a problem* to a *very serious problem*. In Burleson County, two of the top ten

issues were related to employment. Respondents cited lack of jobs for unskilled workers (37.9%) and unemployment (31.6%) as *serious problems* or *very serious problems* in their community.

Burleson Valley residents also reported needing help with employment in the Community Needs survey. One half (50.0%) of respondents said they needed help finding employment opportunities.

During community discussion groups, participants noted that the lack of local job opportunities makes it difficult to retain families in Burleson County. Participants also said that many community members are forced to travel outside of the county for work. Key informants also indicated that employment was an issue in Burleson County, most specifically, the need for job training, so residents could pursue specialized employment opportunities.

Trends

Approximately one third (31.6%) of respondents said that unemployment was an issue in the 2013 RHP survey. This rate increased from the 2010 assessment in which 24.7 percent of respondents said unemployment was a concern.

Family Support

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey asked Burleson County residents about family support activities and services. First, the survey asked how many respondents were responsible for providing regular care or assistance to a friend or family member at home who has a long-term health problem or disability. During the past month, 15.7 percent of residents reported providing care for at least one person. The majority of the people being cared for were aged 65 or older (84.9%); 15.1 percent of respondents reported caring for someone between the ages of 25 and 64. No Burleson County respondents reported caregiving for a child between the ages of one and 17. Across the county, 50.2 percent reported caring for a parent or spouse's parent. Other relationships between caregiver and the person they cared for included caring for a spouse (12.3%), a grandparent (9.9%) and a non-relative (14.4%).

In relation to programs and classes for family support, Community Needs survey respondents were asked to indicate their needs on a scale ranging from *don't know* to *very needed*. In Burleson County, 50 percent of residents said they needed family support assistance related to:

- Seniors
- Youth
- Parenting

Interviews with key informants identified the need for supportive family services were in Burleson County, specifically related to local and affordable child care to help working parents.

Community Strengths and Assets

During community discussion groups, Burleson County residents noted that their geographic location has helped the county grow into a place for retirees who want to escape the city and retreat to a small town. While the community is seeing an influx of retirees, there are also multigenerational family structures that have deep-rooted history in the community. This community structure is a resource for the community because growth provides more opportunities for the rural community.

Trends

Services for seniors were an issue identified previously in the 2010 assessment and according to the recent 2013 RHP survey, they are still needed in Burleson County. Community discussion group participants said that older adults are coming into the area to retire, but the county does not have adequate resources to support them.

Housing

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey asked residents about the condition of their housing. Burleson County respondents reported primarily living in a one-family home (79.3%), followed by 14.2 percent living in a mobile home. Three percent of respondents combined reported living in a duplex, triplex, or four-plex, an apartment building with more than four units, or a townhome or condominium.

When asked if their residence had experienced a severe problem in the past 12 months, survey respondents described a range of issues which are listed in Table 22. Across the county, the most commonly reported problems with resident's homes were related to plumbing, heating/cooling, or electricity (going more than 24 hours without service).

Table 22. Severe housing problems reported in Burleson County

Housing problems	Percentage of Burleson County Respondents
Plumbing, heating/cooling, electricity	28.4
Roof problems (such as holes, leaks, or sagging)	22.2
Broken plaster or peeling paint (interior)	21.1
Mice, rats, or cockroaches	11.0
Mold	6.7
Broken windows	4.2
Holes in the floor	5.6

The Community Needs survey also asked residents about needed assistance related to housing in Burleson County. All of the respondents said that they needed help paying utility bills and making their home more energy efficient while fifty percent of residents said they needed help paying rent and that that Burleson County needed more affordable housing.

Infrastructure was also cited as a concern for many residents in community discussion groups and key informant interviews. Participants noted a lack of available housing in terms of both rental properties and home ownership. Moreover, what options were available were not always affordable.

Community Strengths and Assets

Interviews with social service providers in Burleson County revealed that there are local services available for housing assistance through counseling services that can help residents find affordable housing options.

Trends

Housing conditions were not previously assessed in the 2010 health assessment, so there is no previous information about the type of housing or problems related to housing in Burleson County. However, housing was a commonly noted issue in 2010 and 2013 community discussion groups. Discussion group participants said that the county has poor housing availability, particularly affordable housing.

Medical Care

Needs and Barriers Identified

According to the 2013 RHP survey, Burleson County residents frequently reported the following chronic conditions, as diagnosed by a health care provider:

- High Cholesterol (36.9%)
- Hypertension (35.8%)
- Overweight/obesity (34.6%)
- Anxiety (30.2%)
- Arthritis or Rheumatism (27.8%)
- Depression (20.2%)

Access to affordable medical care and prescriptions was assessed in the Community Needs survey. Half of respondents said they needed prescription assistance (5.0%).

A recurring issue across all community discussion groups was the lack of access to health care. A variety of issues were cited. First, insurance coverage limits the services that can be provided to individuals in the community. Second, the need for mental health services has also grown, but there are no affordable options for individuals who need the services. Residents also feel that there is limited access at the local health clinic in Somerville because the clinic is staffed by a physician assistant rather than a medical doctor. On the other side, even though there are dentists who have local offices in the county, residents tend to get most of their medical care in Bryan/College Station and therefore do not access local services.

Additionally there has been a rise in both illegal and prescription medication substance abuse among residents. Other health issues that concern residents include obesity and diabetes.

Medical care was a commonly identified theme among interviews with key informants in Burleson County. Interview participants said they needed access to health care, specifically more options for specialty care and emergency services. Key informants also said that the health resource center in the county needed to be expanded, so it could affect more people.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community Discussion Group participants identified several key resources including the Burleson County Hospital District, Burleson St. Joseph Health Center, the Burleson Health Resource Commission, the Senior Center in Somerville, and local emergency personnel. Social service providers who were interviewed in Burleson County said that the community also has comprehensive medical services for children zero through three years of age with developmental disabilities.

Trends

Burleson County residents reported the same top chronic diseases in 2010 as 2013, according to the 2013 RHP survey and previous assessment results. Anxiety, depression, high cholesterol, and hypertension rates increased across the county while arthritis and rheumatism rates decreased. Obesity rates were not measured the same across years, but still remained as a top chronic disease.

Satisfaction with Services provided by BVCAA

Clients were asked to complete a *Client Survey to Evaluate Services*. Respondents ranked their experience on a scale of *poor* to *excellent*. The large majority of respondents reported satisfaction (rating their experience as *good* or *excellent*) with treatment by the staff (93.8%) and staff follow-up (93.8%), while all respondents (100%) reported satisfaction with timeliness of services, and overall experience.

Respondents were also asked to report whether they had received certain services (utilities assistance, weatherization, food, other emergency assistance, employment related assistance, rent assistance, education related assistance, case management, or referrals) from their local BVCAA facility. Following are the services received by clients in Burleson County:

- Utilities Assistance: 12.5%
- Case Management: 6.3%
- Referrals: 6.3%

BVCAA Partner Suggestions

Interviews with social service providers in Burleson County identified ways that BVCAA can partner to address community needs. Social service providers suggested increasing interagency collaboration and participating in a Regional Transportation Board, as well as referring customers to services addressing adult education and literacy, workforce development, and child care. It was also suggested that BVCAA should support local agencies in providing job skills training. Additionally, providers would like to see an increased focus on developing strategies to address housing and healthcare, as well as continued collaboration through making referrals to and from HealthPoint.

Chambers County Findings

Description of Chambers County

Chambers County covers 597 square miles of land area and is comprised of the small coastal communities of Anahuac, Beach City, Cove, Mont Belvieu, Old River-Winfree, and Shoreacres ranging in population from just under 300 to just over 2300 according to the Texas State Data Center. Baytown, which is partially located in Harris County, is estimated to have 75,418 residents as of 2013 according to the Census Bureau. Anahuac is the county seat is located within 45 minutes of the metropolitan areas of Houston, Galveston, and Beaumont/Port Arthur.

Population Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau 2013 population estimates indicate that 37,215 people were living in Chambers County at the time, an increase of 6.0% from the 2010 population of 35,096. The county's population density is estimated at 58.8 people per square mile. The total population of Chambers County from the 2010 U.S. Census and comparative population estimates for 2013 and 2014 are listed in Table 23.

Table 23. Total Population – Chambers County

	2010	2013 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2013	2014 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2014
Chambers County	35,096	37,215	6.0	38,145	8.7
Texas	25,146,104	26,505,637	5.4	26,956,958	7.2
United States	308,758,105	316,497,531	2.5	318,857,056	3.3

Age and Gender

About half of Chambers County's population is male and half is female which is in line with the state and the nation. Table 24 shows the county's population numbers by gender.

Table 24. Chambers County 2013 Population by Gender

	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
Chambers County	18,756	50.4	18,458	49.6
Texas	13,173,301	49.7	13,332,335	50.3
United States	155,716,785	49.2	160,780,745	50.8

The county of Chambers' population by age closely reflects the state and national rates. Chambers County's population by age is shown in Table 25.

Table 25. Chambers County 2013 Population by Age Group by Percent

	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	65 and over
Chambers County	6.8	27.6	54.9	10.7
Texas	7.3	26.6	54.9	11.2
United States	6.3	23.3	56.3	14.1

Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2013 Census estimates, the majority of Chambers County residents were White/Caucasian (69%). The next largest race/ethnicity is Hispanic or Latino which makes up just over one fifth of the population. Black/African Americans make up less than 10% of the population and the Asian population is approximately one percent of the population. Chambers County's population by race/ethnicity is shown in Table 26.

Table 26. Chambers County 2013 Population by Race/Ethnicity by Percent

Race/Ethnicity	Chambers	Texas	United States
White/Caucasian	69.0	44.0	62.6
Black or African American	8.3	12.4	13.2
Asian	1.3	4.3	5.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	20.6	38.4	17.1

Housing

According to the 2013 Census estimates, there were 14,034 housing units in Chambers County. Approximately 12,147 were occupied housing units, (89.6%), with an average of 2.93 people per household. The housing vacancy rate is 10.4 percent or 1,414 units.

Per the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, the home ownership rate is 82.9 percent, (approximately 10,065 units) and the median value of owner occupied homes is \$144,900.

Rental Housing Units

In Chambers County, 17.1% (2,082 units) were renter-occupied. The majority of renters pay between \$500 and \$999 per month in rent. Over 60% of renters pay less than 24.9% of their household income in monthly rent. Table 27 shows rental payments by percent of population in Chambers County and Table 28 illustrates the percent of household income used for rental payments.

Table 27. Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Chambers County Population

Monthly Rental Cost	\$499 or less	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 or more
Percent of Population	8.3	29.1	29.2	14.9	18.5

Table 28. Gross Rental Payment as a Percentage of Household Income

Percent of Household Income Paid in Rent	19.9% or less	20 to 24.9%	25 to 29.9%	30 to 34.9%	35% or more
Percent of Population	44.9	16.0	20.6	3.1	15.4

Education

More than a quarter (25.2%) of Chambers County residents have obtained an associate's degree or higher. Over 30% of county residents obtained their high school diploma while 15 percent have less than a high school education. Table 29 shows educational attainment by percentage of the county.

Table 29. Educational Attainment of Chambers County Residents Aged 25 and over

Level of Educational Attainment	Less than HS	HS Diploma	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's	Graduate Degree
Percentage of Population	15.0	30.4	29.3	7.3	12.5	5.4

School Districts

There are three independent school districts within Chambers County - Anahuac ISD, Barbers Hill ISD and East Chambers ISD. According to TEA, in 2013 Anahuac ISD had students 1,202 enrolled of which 55.5% were identified as economically disadvantaged. Barbers Hill ISD had 4,533 students with 22.9% identified as economically disadvantaged. East Chambers ISD had 1,372 students with 57.6% identified as economically disadvantaged.

District Dropout Rates

Neither Anahuac ISD nor East Chamber ISD reported any dropouts for the 2012-13 school year. Barbers Hill ISD dropout data were not publicly available in order to protect student anonymity according to the TEA website.

Employment

According to April 2015 TWC estimates, the Chambers County labor force consisted of 17,700 individuals. Of those, 16,872 were currently employed and 828 were unemployed, resulting in a 4.7% unemployment rate.

Community Safety

Chambers County has three major reporting agencies – the Chambers County Sheriff's Office (SO) and Mont Belvieu Police Department (PD), and Barbers Hill ISD Police Department. In a "2013 Crime in Texas by Jurisdiction" report, produced by the Department of Public Safety, larceny (435) was the leading crime reported in 2013, followed by burglary (205) and auto theft (89). Crime rates in Chambers County are shown in Table 30.

Table 30. 2013 Texas Department of Public Safety Report: Chambers County (Number of offenses)

Reporting Entity	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Chambers County SO	1	3	7	46	193	339	64
Mont Belvieu PD	0	2	1	6	12	84	25
Barbers Hill ISD PD	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
Total	1	5	8	52	205	435	89

Persons Living in Poverty

According to the 2009-2013 *American Community Survey*, 9.7 percent of Chambers County residents were living below poverty level. Compared to the other eleven counties in BVCAA's service area, Chambers County's rate of poverty is ranked eighth. Two percent of the region's total residents who are living below poverty level reside in Chambers County.

Sources of Primary Data

The results described in the following sections are based on primary data collected from the various sources previously described in the *Methods of Data Collection* section of this report. Two types of survey data were collected in Chambers County: Community Needs survey and BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. In Chambers County, two residents took the Community Needs survey, and four residents completed the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. The results from these surveys were combined with contextual information gathered from interviews with key community leaders, health care providers, social service providers, and the general public (i.e. residents) of Chambers County. A total of two interviews with key informants were held in Chambers County.

The following sections describe the results from the primary data collected in Chambers County. Results are organized into seven key community health topics: assistance and case management, community, education, employment, family support, housing, and medical care.

Assistance and Case Management

Needs and Barriers Identified

The Community Needs survey asked residents in Chambers County set of questions to describe their need for assistance and case management services. Respondents were asked to rate their need related to a list of services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Chambers County, the issues rated as *needed* or a *very needed* were as follows:

- Community resources (33.3%)
- Legal services (33.3%)
- Transportation (33.3%)
- Food (100.0%)
- Case management (33.3%)
- Applying for Social Security, SSDI, WIC, TANF, etc. (33.3%)
- Child care (33.3%)

To better understand why these issues occurred in Chambers County, key informant interviews with key leaders and social service providers were conducted. Interviews described the top issues facing Chambers County. The top issue related to assistance was help paying utilities and obtaining child care services.

Trends

Previously assessment results identified the need for financial assistance to pay for basics such as day care and school fees. Assistance with child care was also an issue noted in this assessment. Chambers County residents said that assistance for housing and food was inadequate or non-existent in the 2010 assessment. Assistance with the needs continue to be an ongoing issue in Chambers County.

Community

Needs and Barriers Identified

To understand community needs in Chambers County, the Community Needs Survey asked residents to identify areas of community improvement. One third (33.3%) of residents said that their community needed neighborhood clean-up projects, crime awareness or crime reduction, and public parks and facilities. More than thirty percent (33.3%) of residents also reported needing more employment opportunities in Chambers County.

Common themes among interviews with key informants identified issues with transportation as a primary community concern. Key informants said they needed reliable and affordable public transportation options for residents.

Trends

In the 2010 assessment, transportation was identified as a key community issue. Little has changed as transportation was repeatedly voiced as a concern in Chambers County in recent interviews.

Education

Needs and Barriers Identified

The Community Needs survey asked respondents to rate their need related to a list of educational services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Chambers County, one third of respondents said the county had educational needs related to:

- Computer skills training
- GED classes
- Assistance to attend trade or technical school or college
- Adult education or night school
- English as a second language classes

Key informant interviews cited education as an issue in Chambers County. Specifically, interviewees said that residents needed health education and parenting classes.

Trends

Access to adult education for technical training and income management classes remain to be an issue in Chambers County. Issues related to educational needs were heard previously in 2010 and again in the most recent assessment.

Employment

Needs and Barriers Identified

Chambers Valley residents reported needing help with employment on the Community Needs Survey. One third of respondents said they needed help finding a job (33.3%) or with job skills, training, and job searching (33.3%).

Trends

2010 assessment results noted that the unemployment rate and the fate of businesses in the Chambers County were concerns. These issues continue to persist, as one third of survey respondents said they needed help finding a job or with job skills and training.

Family Support

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community Needs Survey respondents were asked to indicate their need related to programs and classes for family support, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Chambers County, the top classes rated as *needed* or a *very needed* were related to:

- Seniors (66.7%)
- Youth (66.7%)
- Healthy relationships and resolving conflict (33.3%)
- Nutrition and healthy eating (33.3%)
- Mental health counseling (33.3%)
- Financial, budgeting, and credit (33.3%)
- Parenting (33.3%)

Interviews with key informants cited the need for supportive family services in Chambers County. Interview participants said that residents needed child care assistance.

Trends

Limited social services in Chambers County was a concern in 2010. The most recent assessment notes that programs and classes for family support is still needed, specifically related to seniors and youth.

Housing

Needs and Barriers Identified

Chambers County residents were asked about housing related issues in the Community Needs survey. More than one half of respondents said that they needed help paying rent (66.7%) and finding affordable housing (66.7%). All of the respondents reported needing help paying utility bills (100.0%) and help making their home more energy efficient (100.0%).

Interviews with key informants in Chambers County identified housing as a community issue. Interview participants said that the community needed more affordable housing options and residents needed programs that could provide assistance with paying utilities.

Trends

Housing has been a major concern in Chambers County since the 2010 assessment, which noted that the 2008 Hurricane Ike left lasting damage to local communities. This assessment also found that local

residents reported needing help paying for rent and finding affordable housing in the Community Needs survey for this assessment as well.

Medical Care

Needs and Barriers Identified

Access to affordable medical care and prescriptions was assessed in the Community Needs survey. All of the survey respondents said they needed prescription assistance (100.0%) and health insurance or affordable medical care (100.0%).

Medical care was also commonly identified as a theme among interviews with key informants in Chambers County. Participants said they needed more to health services, specifically related to specialty care like vision. Participants said that residents needed help paying for prescriptions and medication.

Trends

Health insurance for middle class family was noted as a community need in 2010. Residents reported forgoing buying medication because of limited funds and needing better access to affordable specialized care. Medical care was also a commonly identified issue in this assessment. According to key informant interviews, specialty care and assistance paying for prescriptions were both needs in Chambers County.

Satisfaction with Services provided by BVCAA

Clients were asked to complete a *Client Survey to Evaluate Services*. Respondents ranked their experience on a scale of *poor* to *excellent*. All respondents (100%) reported satisfaction (rating their experience as *good* or *excellent*) with treatment by the staff, staff follow-up, timeliness of service, and overall experience.

Respondents were also asked to report whether they had received certain services (utilities assistance, weatherization, food, other emergency assistance, employment related assistance, rent assistance, education related assistance, case management, or referrals) from their local BVCAA facility. Following are the services received by clients in Chambers County:

- Food: 100%
- Utilities Assistance: 100%

BVCAA Partner Suggestions

One social service provider in Chambers County was interviewed to identify ways that BVCAA can partner to address needs. The provider suggested continuing build the current collaboration that is already in place.

Grimes County Findings

Description of Grimes County

Grimes County covers 787 square miles of land area and is comprised of the incorporated cities of Anderson, Bedias, Iola, Navasota, and Todd Mission ranging in population 114 in Todd Mission to nearly 7,600 in Navasota according to the Texas State Data Center. Additionally, five small unincorporated communities are located throughout the county. Anderson serves as the county seat.

Population Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau 2013 population estimates indicate that 26,881 people were living in Grimes County, up 1.2% from the 2010 population of 26,568. The county's population density is nearly 33.8 people per square mile. The total population of Grimes County from the 2010 U.S. Census and comparative population estimates for 2013 and 2014 are listed in Table 31.

Table 31. Total Population – Grimes County

	2010	2013 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2013	2014 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2014
Grimes County	26,568	26,881	1.2	27,172	2.3
Texas	25,146,104	26,505,637	5.4	26,956,958	7.2
United States	308,758,105	316,497,531	2.5	318,857,056	3.3

Age and Gender

About half of Grimes County's population is male and half is female which is in line with the state and the nation. Table 32 shows the county's population numbers by gender.

Table 32. Grimes County 2013 Population by Gender by Percent

	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
Grimes County	14,650	54.5	12,231	45.5
Texas	13,173,301	49.7	13,332,335	50.3
United States	155,716,785	49.2	160,780,745	50.8

Grimes County has a larger amount of residents age 65 and over compared to the state and nation. Grimes County's population by age is shown in Table 33.

Table 33. Grimes County 2013 Population by Age Group by Percent

	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	65 and over
Grimes County	5.4	22.0	57.0	15.6
Texas	7.3	26.6	54.9	11.2
United States	6.3	23.3	56.3	14.1

Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2013 Census estimates, the majority of Grimes County residents were White/Caucasian (59.5%). The next largest race/ethnicity group is Hispanic or Latino which makes up just over one fifth of the population. Black/African Americans make up just over 16 percent of the population and the Asian population is less than one half percent of the population. Grimes County's population by race/ethnicity is shown in Table 34.

Table 34. Grimes County 2013 Population by Race/Ethnicity by Percent

Race/Ethnicity	Brazos	Texas	United States
White/Caucasian	59.5	44.0	62.6
Black or African American	16.5	12.4	13.2
Asian	0.5	4.3	5.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	22.6	38.4	17.1

Housing

According to the 2013 Census estimates, there were 10,888 housing units in Grimes County. Approximately 8,848 were occupied housing units, (81.3%), with an average of 2.69 people per household. The housing vacancy rate is 18.7 percent or 2,036 units.

Per the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, the home ownership rate is 76.3 percent, (approximately 6,755 units) and the median value of owner occupied homes is \$92,900.

Rental Housing Units

In Grimes County, 23.7% (2,093 units) of the housing units were renter-occupied. The majority of renters (67%) pay between \$500 and \$749 per month in rent. Over a one-third of all renters pay 35% or more of their household income in rent. Table 35 shows rental payments by percent of population in Grimes County and Table 36 illustrates the percent of household income used for rental payments.

Table 35. Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Grimes County Population

Monthly Rental Cost	\$499 or less	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 or more
Percent of Population	32.3	34.7	25.6	5.6	1.7

Table 36. Gross Monthly Rental Payment as a Percentage of Household Income

Percent of Household Income Paid in Rent	19.9% or less	20 to 24.9	25 to 29.9	30 to 34.9	35% or more
Percent of Population	38.8	11.3	4.7	6.6	38.6

Housing Assistance

The seven-county region of Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington Counties comprises the service area for the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher Program which is managed by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG). According to BVCOG officials, the program is authorized to provide approximately 1,900 rental assistance vouchers across the region but funding is only available to support about 1,725 vouchers. There is currently a two-year wait list of nearly 1,000 individuals wanting to apply for rental assistance through this program. Of those, it is estimated that about 60% will end up qualifying for the program once they have been screened for eligibility. Clearly, the need for rental assistance is outpacing the available resources.

Education

Over 15 percent (17.7%) of Grimes County residents have obtained an associate's degree or higher. More than one-third of county residents obtained their high school diploma while about one-fifth of the population have less than a high school education. Table 37 shows educational attainment by percentage of the county.

Table 37. Educational Attainment of Grimes County Residents Aged 25 and over

Level of Educational Attainment	Less than HS	HS Diploma	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's	Graduate Degree
Percentage of Population	21.5	37.3	23.5	6.6	7.4	3.7

School Districts

There are four independent school districts within Grimes County – Anderson-Shiro CISD, Iola ISD, Navasota ISD, and Richards ISD. According to TEA, in 2013 Anderson-Shiro ISD had 729 students enrolled of which 46.0% of were identified as economically disadvantaged. Iola ISD had 466 students enrolled of which 50.2% of were identified as economically disadvantaged. Navasota ISD had 2,995 students enrolled of which 77.6% of were identified as economically disadvantaged. Richards ISD had 149 students enrolled of which 56.4% of were identified as economically disadvantaged.

District Dropout Rates

Neither Iola ISD nor Richards ISD reported any dropouts for the 2012-13 school year. Anderson-Shiro ISD and Navasota ISD dropout data were not publicly available in order to protect student anonymity according to the TEA website.

Employment

According to April 2015 TWC estimates, the Grimes County labor force consisted of 11,898 individuals. Of those, 11,314 of those individuals were currently employed and 584 unemployed, resulting in a 4.9% unemployment rate.

Community Safety

There are two major reporting agencies in Grimes County. The Grimes County Sheriff's Office (SO) and the Navasota Police Department (PD). In a "2013 Crime in Texas by Jurisdiction" report produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety, larceny was the leading crime reported in 2013 for Grimes County (172), followed by burglary (87) and aggravated assault (20). Crime rates in Brazos County are shown in Table 38.

Table 38. 2013 Texas Department of Public Safety Report: Grimes County (number of offenses)

Reporting Entity	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Grimes County SO	0	3	6	16	88	140	22
Navasota PD	0	1	2	74	53	143	23
Total	0	4	8	90	141	283	45

Persons Living in Poverty

According to the 2009-2013 *American Community Survey*, 19.1 percent of Grimes County Residents were living below poverty level. Compared to the other eleven counties in BVCAA's service area, Grimes County's rate of poverty is ranked seventh. Over two percent (2.63%) of the region's total residents who were living below poverty level reside in Grimes County.

Sources of Primary Data

The results described in the following sections are based on primary data collected from the various sources previously described in the *Methods of Data Collection* section of this report. Three types of survey data were collected in Grimes County: the 2013 RHP survey, Community Needs survey, and BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. In Grimes County, 252 residents completed the 2013 RHP survey, four residents took the Community Needs survey, and 29 residents completed the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. The results from these surveys were combined with contextual information gathered from discussion groups and interviews with key community leaders, health care providers, social service providers, and the general public (i.e. residents) of Grimes County. A total of five community discussion groups were conducted in Grimes County with 80 total participants. In addition to these discussion groups, six interviews with key informants were held in Grimes County.

The following sections describe the results from the primary data collected in Grimes County. Results are organized into seven key community health topics: assistance and case management, community, education, employment, family support, housing, and medical care.

Assistance and Case Management

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. Three of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) were related to assistance and case management. Residents reported needing financial

assistance or welfare (20.2%), utility assistance (11.1%), and assistance with food, meals, and nutrition services (8.8%).

The Community Needs survey asked residents in Grimes County to describe their need for assistance and case management services. Respondents were asked to rate their need related to a list of services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Grimes County, one third (33.3%) of respondents reported *needing* case management services.

To better understand why these issues occurred in Grimes County, community discussion groups were conducted. Residents said that there were a lack of services for the economically disadvantaged in Grimes County.

Key informant interviews with key leaders and social service providers further identified top needs for assistance in Grimes County. Among the top things needed were housing and utilities, food and nutrition, and service coordination. Overall, key informants stressed the importance of helping residents become self-sufficient.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion groups also identified resources in Grimes County that could be used to address the issues related to assistance and case management. Social service providers, specifically the Grimes Health Resource Center, were mentioned as assets to the community. Civic organizations and the faith community were also identified as resources that provided a great deal of support to residents in the county.

Interviews with social service providers identified resources available for Grimes County residents. Social service providers have case-management services to help residents become self-sufficient. These services include service coordination and help residents access a variety of services based on their needs.

Trends

Issues related to assistance and case management were previously documented in a health assessment conducted in 2010. The rate of residents who needed services, but could not access them has increased since 2010. Previously 16.1 percent of Grimes County residents reported needing, but not being able to access financial assistance or welfare. This rate decreased to approximately twenty percent (20.2%) in 2013.

Community

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community characteristics can influence perceptions of safety and the likelihood for community members to engage in activities outside their home. Grimes County respondents varied in their perception in how closely their fellow community members shared their values. Almost two-thirds (62.5%) of Grimes County residents felt that their community had shared values. In comparison to their regional neighbors, Grimes County residents reported slightly lower levels of trust among fellow community members, with 36.6 percent saying that most people can be trusted. Table 39 summarizes these perceived characteristics of Grimes County, listing the percentage of respondents who reported *agree* or *strongly agree* with each statement.

Table 39. Grimes County community characteristics

Community Characteristics	Percentage of Grimes County Respondents
People are willing to help their neighbors	89.8
This is a close knit community	77.8
Neighbors would help someone who fell	63.7
Many people are physically active in local neighborhoods	43.0
Most people can be trusted in the community	36.6
Problems in neighborhoods make it hard to go outside and walk	40.0
People are concerned they will be a victim of crime if they walk/bike in their neighborhood	6.9

Community discussion groups recognized unreliable public transportation is a key issue in the county. Also, the geography of Grimes County, which is 40 miles long and 20 miles wide, was cited by participants as a barrier to some collaborative efforts. For individuals living in the north end of the county, traveling to Navasota may take up to 45 minutes or more. The layout of the county interferes with community collaboration efforts, thus there is a disconnect between some of the cities within the county.

Common themes among interviews with key informants also identified issues with transportation as a primary community concern. Interviews also voiced the needed for community development and revitalization needs in Grimes County.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion group participants said the location of Grimes County as a positive attribute as it is centrally located with Bryan/College Station and Brenham being only a short drive away. The small, rural atmosphere makes it appealing to people who want to live outside of the hustle and bustle of city life while being close enough to commute to larger cities for work and enjoy the amenities of more suburban communities. The population is growing, especially with older adults who are retiring in the quiet community. This growth brings diversity, in terms of new transplants and long-term residents. Community organizations, leadership, and local residents collaborated well together.

Trends

In the 2010 assessment, transportation was identified as a key community issue. Little has changed as transportation was repeatedly voiced as a concern in Grimes County in recent discussion groups.

Education

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community Needs Survey asked respondents to rate their need related to a list of educational services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Grimes County, the top educational needs, rated as *needed* or a *very needed*, were as follows:

- Computer skills training (33.3%)
- Assistance to attend trade or technical school or college (33.3%)

Key informant interviews with key leaders and social service providers also revealed that educational services for adults was a concern in Grimes County. Interviewees also said residents needed classes for things like financial management.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion groups with Grimes County residents identified the quality of schools as a resource within the community. Participants said that the schools also provide after school options for children, such as sports.

Social service organizations offer educational resources like post-secondary training, GED classes, and financial counseling.

Trends

Life skills, money management, and parenting classes were identified as education needs in 2010. While education opportunities for adults are still a concern for Grimes County, residents cited need related to job training as the primary issue currently.

Employment

Needs and Barriers Identified

2013 RHP survey respondents were asked to rate the severity of a list of community issues, on a scale ranging from *not at all a problem* to a *very serious problem*. In Grimes County, two of the top 10 issues were related to employment. Respondents cited unemployment (31.2%) and lack of jobs for unskilled workers (25.1%) as *serious problems* or *very serious problems* in their community.

Grimes Valley residents also reported needing help with employment on the Community Needs Survey. More than one fourth of respondents said they needed help finding a job (66.7%) or job skills, training, and job searching (33.3%).

During community discussion groups, participants noted a lack of available jobs as a problem throughout the community. Interviews with key informants reinforced that employment was a top community issue. Interviews revealed that there was a need for job training, so residents could pursue new jobs. The County also needed better compensation for workers.

Community Strengths and Assets

During community discussion groups, participants said that economic development was a resource within the community. Local industry, which generates jobs, along with strong city- and county-level support assures that the county is forward-thinking and proactive.

Trends

Both lack of jobs for unskilled workers and unemployment continue to be a top community issue in Grimes County. Rates have continued to increase related to the perceived community need for jobs in Grimes County since the 2010 assessment.

Family Support

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey asked Grimes County residents about family support activities and services. First, the survey asked how many respondents were responsible for providing regular care or assistance to a friend or family member at home who has a long-term health problem or disability. During the past month, 19 percent of residents in Grimes County reported providing care for at least one person. The majority of the people being cared for were between the ages of 45 and 64 (70.6%); 24.6 percent of respondents reported caring for someone over the age of 65. No Grimes County respondents reported caregiving for a child between the ages of one and 17. Across the county, 68.7 percent reported caring for a parent or spouse's parent. Other relationships between caregiver and the person they cared for included caring for a spouse (16.8%), child or grandchild (4.8%), and non-relative (4.8%).

Community Discussion Group participants said a lack of recreational activities available for adults and youth in the county poses a problem in terms of risk behaviors. Grimes County residents were concerned that since youth do not have a place to spend their free time, like a community center, they are more likely have idle time to participate in risky behaviors like vandalism, substance abuse, and truancy. Interview participants voiced the need for supportive family services in Grimes County. They said that they needed parenting classes and child care help.

Trends

In 2010, concerns related to a lack of services for older adults and the disabled were voiced. Grimes County doesn't have access to adult day care services or respite programs that could alleviate stress for caregivers. According to the RHP 17, 19 percent of survey respondents said they were a caregiver to a friend or family member. Family support for older adults has been and continues to be a significant issue for Grimes County residents.

Housing

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey asked residents about the condition of their housing. Grimes County respondents reported primarily living in a one-family home (83.7%), followed by a mobile home (11.1%), and less than five percent combined living in a townhome or condominium (3.7%) or an apartment building with more than four units (0.7%).

When asked if their residence had experienced a severe problem in the past 12 months, survey respondents described a range of issues listed in Table 40. Across the county, the most reported problem with residents' homes was related to plumbing, heating/cooling, or electricity (going more than 24 hours without service).

Table 40. Severe housing problems reported in Grimes County

Housing problems	Percentage of Grimes County Respondents
Plumbing, heating/cooling, electricity	24.4
Roof problems (such as holes, leaks, or sagging)	12.7
Mice, rats, or cockroaches	10.8
Broken plaster or peeling paint (interior)	6.7
Mold	6.6
Broken windows	4.9
Holes in the floor	2.2

The Community Needs Survey also asked residents about housing related issues in Grimes County. The majority of respondents said that they needed help paying rent (75.0%) and paying utility bills (75.0%). About half of respondents also said that Grimes County needed more affordable housing (50.0) and they needed help making their home more energy efficient (33.3%).

Community discussion group participants noted homelessness as a problem. Interviews with key informants in Grimes County also identified housing as a community issue. Interview participants said that the community needed more affordable housing options. They also said that they need programs that can provide utility assistance.

Community Strengths and Assets

Interviews with social service providers in Grimes County revealed that there are services available for housing assistance. Residents can get help finding affordable housing through housing counseling.

Trends

Housing conditions were not previously assessed in the 2010 health assessment, so there is no previous information about the type of housing or problems related to housing in Grimes County. However, housing was a commonly noted issue in 2010 community discussion groups much like it was in 2013.

Medical Care

Needs and Barriers Identified

According to the 2013 RHP survey, Grimes County residents frequently reported the following chronic conditions, as diagnosed by a health care provider:

- Hypertension (39.4%)
- Overweight/obesity (38.5%)
- Arthritis or rheumatism (32.2%)
- High Cholesterol (31.2%)
- Anxiety (21.6%)
- Depression (20.4%)

Access to affordable medical care and prescriptions was assessed in the Community Needs survey. Approximately half of respondents said they needed health insurance or affordable medical care (50.0%) and one third (33.3%) of respondents said they needed prescription assistance.

Discussion group participants also noted a lack of resources, specifically related to health care, including difficulty accessing specialty care or home health for the older adult population. Lack of accessible parks,

walking trails, or bike lanes, which allow people to be physically active outside was also said to be an issue.

Medical care was a commonly identified theme among interviews with key informants in Grimes County. Interview participants said they needed access to health services, specifically more options for specialty care and emergency services. They said that services needed to be affordable and easily accessible for residents.

Community Strengths and Assets

Resources related to medical care were identified in community discussion groups. Participants said they appreciate the local hospital and clinics available for their primary care needs. Social service providers in Grimes County provide comprehensive services for children, age zero to three, who have developmental delays and disabilities.

Trends

Grimes County residents reported similar chronic diseases in 2010 as 2013, according to the 2013 RHP survey and previous assessment results. One exception is diabetes, which was in the top chronic disease in 2010 and is not in the 2013 RHP survey.

Satisfaction with Services provided by BVCAA

Clients were asked to complete a *Client Survey to Evaluate Services*. Respondents ranked their experience on a scale of *poor* to *excellent*. The large majority of respondents reported satisfaction (rating their experience as *good* or *excellent*) with treatment by the staff (93.1%), staff follow-up (96.6%), timeliness of services (93.1%), and overall experience (96.6%).

Respondents were also asked to report whether they had received certain services (utilities assistance, weatherization, food, other emergency assistance, employment related assistance, rent assistance, education related assistance, case management, or referrals) from their local BVCAA facility. Following are the services received by clients in Grimes County:

- Utilities Assistance: 31%
- Emergency Assistance: 10.3%
- Food: 6.9%

BVCAA Partner Suggestions

Interviews with social service providers in Grimes County identified ways that BVCAA can partner to address community needs. Social service providers suggested increasing interagency collaboration and participating in a Regional Transportation Board, as well as referring customers to services addressing adult education and literacy, workforce development, and child care. It was also suggested that BVCAA should support local agencies in providing job skills training. Additionally, providers would like to see an increased focus on developing strategies to address housing and healthcare, as well as continued collaboration through making referrals to and from HealthPoint.

Leon County Findings

Description of Leon County

Leon County covers 1,073 square miles of land area and is comprised of the incorporated cities of Buffalo, Centerville, Jewett, Leona, Marquez, Normangee, Oakwood, ranging in population 171 in Leona to 1,869 in Buffalo according to the Texas State Data Center. Additionally, five small unincorporated communities are located throughout the county. The county seat is located in Centerville.

Population Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau 2013 population estimates indicate that 16,694 people were living in Leon County, down 0.6% from the 2010 population of 16,801. The county's population density is 15.7 people per square mile. The total population of Leon County from the 2010 U.S. Census and comparative population estimates for 2013 and 2014 are listed in Table 41.

Table 41. Total Population – Leon County

	2010	2013 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2013	2014 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2014
Leon County	16,801	16,694	-0.6	16,861	0.4
Texas	25,146,104	26,505,637	5.4	26,956,958	7.2
United States	308,758,105	316,497,531	2.5	318,857,056	3.3

Age and Gender

About half of Leon County's population is male and half is female which is in line with the state and the nation. Table 42 shows the county's population numbers by gender.

Table 42. Leon County 2013 Population by Gender by Percent

	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
Leon County	8,330	49.9	8,363	50.1
Texas	13,173,301	49.7	13,332,335	50.3
United States	155,716,785	49.2	160,780,745	50.8

The percentage of residents aged 65 and over is much higher than both the state and nation. Leon County's population by age is shown in Table 4.

Table 43. Leon County 2013 Population by Age Group by Percent

	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	65 and over
Leon County	6.6	22.4	48.1	22.9
Texas	7.3	26.6	54.9	11.2
United States	6.3	23.3	56.3	14.1

Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2013 Census estimates, the majority (76.7%) of Leon County residents were White/Caucasian. The next largest race/ethnicity group is Hispanic/Latino which makes up just under

15% of the population. Black/African Americans make up just over five percent of the population and the Asian population is less than one percent of the population. Leon County's population by race/ethnicity is shown in Table 44.

Table 44. Leon County 2013 Population by Race/Ethnicity by Percent

Race/Ethnicity	Brazos	Texas	United States
White/Caucasian	76.7	44.0	62.6
Black or African American	7.5	12.4	13.2
Asian	0.8	4.3	5.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	14.0	38.4	17.1

Housing

According to the 2013 Census estimates, there were 9,463 housing units in Leon County. Approximately 6,349 were occupied housing units, (67.0%), with an average of 2.60 people per household. The housing vacancy rate is 33.0% percent or 3,1,31 units.

Per the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, the home ownership rate is 83.9 percent, (approximately 5,326 units) and the median value of owner occupied homes is \$90,300.

Rental Housing Units

In Leon County, 16.1% (1,023 units) of the housing units were renter-occupied. The majority of renters (45.6%) pay between \$500 and \$749 per month in rent. Over one-third of Leon County renters' gross rent is 35% or more of their household income. Table 45 shows rental payments by percent of population in Leon County and Table 46 illustrates the percent of household income used for rental payments.

Table 45. Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Leon County Population

Monthly Rental Cost	\$499 or less	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 or more
Percent of Population	30.2	45.6	16.4	7.8	0

Table 46. Gross Monthly Rental Payment as a Percentage of Household Income

Percent of Household Income Paid in Rent	19.9% or less	20 to 24.9	25 to 29.9	30 to 34.9	35% or more
Percent of Population	27.5	15.6	12.4	7.9	36.6

Housing Assistance

The seven-county region of Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington Counties comprises the service area for the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher Program which is managed by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG). According to BVCOG officials, the program is authorized to provide approximately 1,900 rental assistance vouchers across the region but funding is only available to support about 1,725 vouchers. There is currently a two-year wait list of nearly 1,000 individuals wanting to apply for rental assistance through this program. Of those, it is estimated that about 60% will end up qualifying for the program once they have been screened for eligibility. Clearly, the need for rental assistance is outpacing the available resources.

Education

Twenty percent of Leon County residents have obtained an associate's degree or higher. Over a third (35.6%) of county residents obtained their high school diploma while 17.1 percent have less than a high school education. Table 47 shows educational attainment by percentage of the county.

Table 47. Educational Attainment of Leon County Residents Aged 25 and over

Level of Educational Attainment	Less than HS	HS Diploma	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's	Graduate Degree
Percent of Population	17.1	35.6	27.3	5.2	10.3	4.5

School Districts

There are five independent school districts within Leon County which include Buffalo ISD, Centerville ISD, Leon ISD, Normangee ISD, and Oakwood ISD. According to the Texas Education Agency, in 2013 Buffalo ISD had 935 students enrolled of which 65.2% of were identified as economically disadvantaged. Centerville ISD had 668 students enrolled of which 39.4% of were identified as economically disadvantaged. Leon ISD had 715 students enrolled of which 53.0% of were identified as economically disadvantaged. Normangee ISD had 521 students enrolled of which 50.5% of were identified as economically disadvantaged. Oakwood ISD had 210 students enrolled of which 83.8% of were identified as economically disadvantaged.

District Dropout Rates

Buffalo ISD, Centerville ISD, Leon ISD, Normangee ISD, and Oakwood ISD dropout data were not publicly available in order to protect student anonymity according to the TEA website.

Employment

According to April 2015 TWC estimates, the Leon County labor force consisted of 7,125 individuals. Of those, 6,775 of those individuals were currently employed and 350 unemployed, resulting in a 4.9 percent unemployment rate.

Community Safety

Leon County has two reporting entities, the Leon County Sheriff's Office (SO) and the Jewett Police Department (PD). In a "2013 Crime in Texas by Jurisdiction" report produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety, larceny was the leading crime (142) followed by burglary (81). Crime rates in Leon County are shown in Table 48.

Table 48. 2013 Texas Department of Public Safety Report: Leon County (number of offenses)

Reporting Entity	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Leon County SO	0	2	0	21	80	141	19
Jewett PD	1	0	0	1	1	1	4
Total	1	2	0	23	81	142	23

Persons Living in Poverty

According to the 2009-2013 *American Community Survey*, 17.7 percent of Leon County Residents were living below poverty level. Compared to the other eleven counties in BVCAA's service area, Leon County's rate of poverty is ranked tenth. Just under two percent (1.73%) of the region's total residents who were living below poverty level reside in Leon County.

Sources of Primary Data

The results described in the following sections based on primary data collected from the various sources previously described in the *Methods of Data Collection* section of this report. Three types of survey data were collected in Leon County: the 2013 RHP survey, Community Needs survey, and BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. In Leon County, 241 residents completed the 2013 RHP survey, four residents took the Community Needs survey, and eight residents completed the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. The results from these surveys were combined with contextual information gathered from discussion groups and interviews with key community leaders, health care providers, social service providers, and the general public (i.e. residents) of Leon County. A total of seven community discussion groups were conducted in Leon County with 63 total participants. In addition to these discussion groups, seven interviews with key informants were held in Leon County.

The following sections describe the results from the primary data collected in Leon County. Results are organized into seven key community health topics: assistance and case management, community, education, employment, family support, housing, and medical care.

Assistance and Case Management

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. Three of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) were related to assistance and case management. Residents reported needing financial assistance for auto, appliance, or home repair; or weatherization (22.5%), utility assistance (22.5%), and information and referral services (15.9%)

The Community Needs survey asked residents in Leon County to describe their need for assistance and case management services. Respondents were asked to rate their need related to a list of services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Leon County, the issues rated as *needed* or a *very needed* were as follows:

- Legal services (50.0%)
- Transportation (50.0%)
- Food (50.0%)
- Case management (33.3%)
- Child care (33.3%)
- Community resources (33.3%)
- Applying for Social Security, SSDI, WIC, TANF, etc. (33.3%)

To better understand why these issues occurred in Leon County, community discussion groups were conducted. Discussion group participants noted the lack of transportation options which makes it difficult for many residents to access resources. Residents are also unevenly dispersed across the county, which makes centralizing resources difficult without excluding communities. Additionally, the lack of a local radio or television station contributes to the communication problems within the county. Residents mentioned that while local newspapers exist, they are not uniformly available across the county and many people still miss out on information. Other discussion group participants described the underutilization of resources within the community as an issue related to communication, stating that if there were better communication about the availability of those resources, more community members would use them.

Key informant interviews with key leaders and social service providers further identified top needs for assistance in Leon County. Participants said that assistance nutrition and accessing food was needed. They also needed case management to help coordinate services, so people could become self-reliant.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion groups also identified resources in Grimes County that could be used to address the issues related to assistance and case management. The community's emergency response organizations and outlets were mentioned as major resources. Specific organizations such as the Citizen's Emergency Response Team (CERT) and EMS crews such as the fire department, as well as the use of Amber Alerts, Senior Alerts, Reverse 911, and amateur (Ham) radio to communicate information about emergencies to residents were all seen as valuable community assets. Other organizations mentioned as assets included the Domestic Violence Advocates and Safe House, Child Protective Services, Helping Hands of Oakwood, Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Brazos Valley, Sexual Assault Resource Center, senior centers, the Leon County Community Resource Coordination Group, and the Center for Community Health Development at Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health. There was an overwhelming perception of the community's food distribution locations as being major community resources, namely Meals on Wheels, East Texas Food Bank, and the Lord's Pantry.

Interviews with social service providers identified resources available in Grimes County for case management. These services help Leon County residents coordinate care and find resources to help them become more self-sufficient.

Trends

Issues related to assistance and case management were previously documented in a health assessment conducted in 2010. Almost one in six (13.6%) Leon County residents reported needing financial assistance for auto, appliance, or home repair; or weatherization in 2010. That rate increased to one in

five residents (22.5%) in the 2013 RHP survey. Utility assistance and information and referral services were not previously noted as an issue in 2010, but emerged as concerns in the most recent assessment.

Community

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community characteristics can influence perceptions of safety and the likelihood for community members to engage in activities outside their home. Leon County respondents varied in their perception in how closely their fellow community members shared their values. Almost two-thirds (61.9%) of Leon County residents felt that their community had shared values. Table 49 summarizes these perceived characteristics of Leon County, listing the percentage of respondents who reported *agree* or *strongly agree* with each statement.

Table 49. Leon County community characteristics

Community Characteristics	Percentage of Leon County Respondents
People are willing to help their neighbors	88.5
This is a close knit community	82.7
Most people can be trusted in the community	73.3
Neighbors would help someone who fell	51.4
Problems in neighborhoods make it hard to go outside and walk	45.5
Many people are physically active in local neighborhoods	23.3
People are concerned they will be a victim of crime if they walk/bike in their neighborhood	13.4

To better understand community needs in Leon County, the Community Needs Survey asked to identify areas of community improvement. One third (33.3%) of residents said that their community needed neighborhood clean-up projects, crime awareness or crime reduction, and public parks and facilities. More than thirty percent (33.3%) of residents also reported needing more employment opportunities in Leon County.

Community discussion group participants mentioned that due to the community's deep roots and strong sense of tradition, it can be hard for new residents to penetrate existing networks and to feel connected to the rest of the community. Community infrastructure concerns were also noted as an issue. Leon County key informant interviews identified transportation was one of the biggest concerns facing the community because residents couldn't access affordable, reliable public transportation.

Community Strengths and Assets

Information gathered in community discussion groups showed that overall, Leon County is described as a rural community that, while large and spread out in land mass, is very close knit, well-connected, and filled with friendly, caring, and supportive community members. The county is traditional and rich in history, with families residing locally for many generations. It is steadily growing, with a substantial increase in the older adult population. Leon County also attracts those interested in hunting, the oil and

gas industry, and families who own property and ranches in the area. These families frequent the county on weekends and during holidays.

Residents praised local businesses for being giving, the Chamber of Commerce and economic development offices for being very active and noted *human capital* in the form of community leaders and volunteers is also a tremendous resource in Leon County. Participants said that there is a core group of volunteers that assist with almost every initiative in the community; youth volunteers are very active in the county as well. While Leon County boasts an active group of volunteers, it was mentioned that these volunteers are often over-extended. Residents inferred that there are likely more residents who want to volunteer, but who are afraid to get involved because they are not approached with the opportunity. This is an untapped resource that could be a major help for the community. Social service providers also noted that there are transportation services for eligible residents at a reduced cost.

Trends

Lack of jobs and poverty were previously identified in discussion groups as challenges in 2010. Poverty was still a concern in 2013, but conditions have improved according to community discussion groups.

Education

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community Needs survey respondents were asked to rate their need related to a list of educational services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Leon County, one third of respondents said the county had educational needs related to:

- Computer skills training
- GED classes
- Assistance to attend trade or technical school or college
- Adult education or night school
- English as a second language classes

Key informant interviews with key leaders and social service providers also revealed that educational services for adults was a concern in Leon County. Specifically, interview participants said that residents need classes on financial management.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion groups with Leon County residents cited local schools as a resource. Key informant interviews also identified resources related to education within Leon County, such as education classes to help residents get their GED and pursue post-secondary training. Classes for financial management are also available for residents.

Trends

Education is an important social factor that influences health status. Previous assessment results from 2010 identified educational needs for adult classes like life skills, money management, and/or parenting. Similar needs were identified in the Community Needs survey for the most recent assessment.

Employment

Needs and Barriers Identified

2013 RHP survey respondents were asked to rate the severity of a list of community issues, on a scale ranging from *not at all a problem* to a *very serious problem*. In Leon County, two of the top 10 issues were related to employment. Respondents cited lack of jobs for unskilled workers (62.3%) and unemployment (53.6%) as *serious problems* or *very serious problems* in their community.

Leon residents also reported needing help with employment on the Community Needs Survey. One third of respondents said they needed help finding a job (33.3%) or with job skills, training, and job searching (33.3%).

Community discussion group participants noted a decrease in the younger population and attributed this decline to the lack of available jobs in the county. Despite the presence of a younger generation of migrant workers within the county, the perception of a general decrease in the younger population overall persists. Residents said that there is a need for businesses to come into the county so that more people can become employed locally. Many Leon County citizens currently travel for work in places such as Bryan/College Station and Huntsville, but other residents do not have this option due to transportation issues. As described earlier, the lack of available jobs in the county is seen as a reason for the younger population leaving the county. This out-migration of young people was also said to create a less diverse community. Key informant interviews also identified employment as an issue in Leon County, specifically jobs that pay employees competitive wages.

Community Strengths and Assets

Leon County is agriculturally-driven and the community has many agriculture-related businesses that support local farmers. Residents said the local business community works well together and that community members in general are supportive of local businesses. In contrast, some community members feel that it can be hard for new businesses to come in due to resistance to change, even though more businesses are needed for the continued development and growth of the county.

Trends

Both unemployment and lack of jobs for unskilled workers continue to be identified as a top community issue in Leon County. In fact, rates have continued to increase since 2010, when 28.1 percent of survey respondents said that unemployment was an issue and 30.6 percent said lack of jobs for unskilled workers was a problem.

Family Support

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey Leon County residents about family support activities and services. First, the survey asked how many respondents were responsible for providing regular care or assistance to a friend or family member at home who has a long-term health problem or disability. During the past month, 18.2 percent of residents reported providing care for at least one person. The majority of the people being cared for were aged 65 or older (88.8%); 9.2 percent of respondents reported caring for someone between the ages of 45 and 64. Less than five percent of respondents (1.3%) reported caregiving for a child between the ages of one and 17. Across the county, 57.2 percent reported caring for a parent or a spouse. The other relationships between caregiver and charge most commonly reported were caring for a child (11.3%), non-relative (9.3%), or extended relative (8.9%).

Community Needs Survey respondents were asked to indicate their need related to programs and classes for family support, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Leon County, the top classes rated as *needed* or a *very needed* were related to:

- Seniors (50.0%)
- Youth (33.3%)
- Healthy relationships and resolving conflict (33.3%)
- Nutrition and healthy eating (33.3%)
- Mental health counseling (33.3%)
- Financial, budgeting, and credit (33.3%)
- Parenting (33.3%)

Participants in discussion groups noted a lack of recreational opportunities within the county. In particular, this was said to be a problem for the youth of the county who are often left with idle time. Residents perceived that the lack of recreational activity options is correlated with the teen pregnancy rate within the county. Discussion group participants said there is a need for education regarding reproductive health, parenting, nutrition, and child development. Key informant interviews identified child care as a need within Leon County. Interview participants said that the community needed more options for affordable child care for parents.

Trends

Given the large population of retirees and older adults, many discussion group participants expressed concern about the needs of this population and the lack of resources and services for them and their caregivers 2010. Services for older adults was also identified as a community issues by caregivers in Leon County in this assessment.

Housing

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey asked residents about the condition of their housing. The majority of respondents across Leon County reported living in a one-family home (65%) or a mobile home (28.6%).

When asked if their residence had experienced a severe problem in the past 12 months, survey respondents described a range of issues listed in Table 50. Across the county, the most reported problem with residents' homes was related to plumbing, heating/cooling, or electricity (going more than 24 hours without service).

Table 50. Severe housing problems reported in Leon County

Housing problems	Percentage of Leon County Respondents
Plumbing, heating/cooling, electricity	20.5
Mice, rats, or cockroaches	15.7
Broken windows	9.7
Roof problems (such as holes, leaks, or sagging)	9.3
Broken plaster or peeling paint (interior)	8.1
Holes in the floor	6.6
Mold	5.3

The Community Needs Survey also asked residents about housing related issues in Leon County. All of the respondents reported needing help paying utility bills (100.0%) and one half (50.0%) needed help making their home more energy efficient. One third of respondents said that they needed help paying rent (33.3%) and finding affordable housing (33.3%).

Community discussion groups revealed that there is a noticeable lack of affordable housing. The county also encounters connectivity issues related to technological, including television, internet, and cell phone services. Moreover, affordable housing was identified by key informant interviews as a key community concern in Leon County. Residents need more options for affordable housing locally.

Community Strengths and Assets

Interviews with social service providers in Leon County revealed that there are services available for housing assistance. Residents can get help with housing through counseling services.

Trends

Housing was identified as a serious problem in Leon County according to assessment results in 2010. Particular challenges discussed in Leon County focused primarily on the economy and its impact on other aspects of life, such as lack of jobs, poverty, and inability to afford housing and food. Similar issues were heard in community discussion groups for this assessment, which discussed the lack of affordable housing options across the county.

Medical Care

Needs and Barriers Identified

According to the 2013 RHP survey, Leon County residents frequently reported the following chronic conditions, as diagnosed by a health care provider:

- Hypertension (49.2%)
- High Cholesterol (44.4%)
- Overweight/obesity (41.2%)
- Arthritis or rheumatism (28.0%)
- Anxiety (26.3%)
- Depression (22.3%)

Access to affordable medical care and prescriptions was assessed in the Community Needs survey. One third of the survey respondents said they needed prescription assistance (33.3%) and health insurance or affordable medical care (33.3%).

Many community discussion group attendees noted the lack of a local hospital or facilities for emergency treatment and very few local physicians as an issue. People were dissatisfied with traveling far distances for services; many residents reported having difficulty accessing needed services due to the inadequacy of the current transportation system. It was also mentioned that local needs outstrip the available resources in the area. As a result, specific populations such as veterans and those with mental health conditions suffer. While many participants discussed access in the context of being physically unable to travel to needed services, others discussed affordability as a barrier to accessing care, stating that some services are just too expensive and health care coverage is too minimal.

Substance abuse, diabetes, and obesity were also mentioned multiple times across the county. Substance abuse problems were said to be exacerbated by the lack of available counseling and rehabilitation services in the county. Diabetes was attributed to the large population of obese residents, and obesity was attributed to the lack of available recreational opportunities within the county. Participants said their community as a whole lacks sufficient opportunity for physical activity; residents reported few outdoor places like parks and designated walking areas, no gyms or fitness centers, and limited structured exercise opportunities.

Medical care was a commonly identified theme among interviews with key informants in Leon County. Interview participants said they needed access to health services, specifically more options for specialty care and emergency services. They said that services needed to be affordable and easily accessible for residents.

Community Strengths and Assets

One resource identified by community discussion groups were the health care organizations that served low-income and medically indigent populations within the county. Residents mentioned the Leon County Health Resource Center as a resource for transportation and mental health services, the Leon County Community Health Center as a resource for the availability of health care services at low costs, and the Department of State Health Services for providing a clinic and public health nurse. Lastly, the nursing homes within the county were said to be great assets as well. Interviews with social service providers identified resources for children with developmental delays and disabilities in Leon County.

Trends

Leon County residents reported the same top chronic diseases in 2010 as 2013, according to the 2013 RHP survey and previous assessment results. Rates for hypertension, and high cholesterol, anxiety, depression, and arthritis/rheumatism all increased slightly. Obesity rates were not measured the same across years, but still remained as a top chronic disease.

Satisfaction with Services provided by BVCAA

Clients were asked to complete a *Client Survey to Evaluate Services*. Respondents ranked their experience on a scale of *poor* to *excellent*. The large majority of respondents (87.5%) reported satisfaction (rating their experience as *good* or *excellent*) with staff follow-up, while all respondents (100%) reported satisfaction with treatment by the staff, timeliness of services, and overall experience.

Respondents were also asked to report whether they had received certain services (utilities assistance, weatherization, food, other emergency assistance, employment related assistance, rent assistance, education related assistance, case management, or referrals) from their local BVCAA facility. Following are the services received by clients in Leon County:

- Utilities Assistance: 50%
- Food: 12.5%

BVCAA Partner Suggestions

Interviews with social service providers in Leon County identified ways that BVCAA can partner to address community needs. Social service providers suggested increasing interagency collaboration and participating in a Regional Transportation Board, as well as referring customers to services addressing adult education and literacy, workforce development, and child care. It was also suggested that BVCAA should support local agencies in providing job skills training. Additionally, providers would like to see an increased focus on developing strategies to address housing and healthcare, as well as continued collaboration through making referrals to and from HealthPoint.

Liberty County Findings

Description of Liberty County

Liberty County covers 1,158 square miles of land area and is comprised of the incorporated cities of Ames, Cleveland, Daisetta, Dayton, Dayton Lakes, Devers, Hardin, Liberty, Mont Belvieu, North Cleveland, Plum Grove ranging in population from 97 residents (Dayton Lakes) to nearly 8,900 in Liberty according to the Texas State Data Center. There are several small unincorporated communities are located throughout the county. Liberty serves as the county seat.

Population Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau 2013 population estimates indicate that 77,033 people were living in Liberty County, up 1.8% from the 2010 population of 75,643. The county's population density is nearly 65.3 people per square mile. The total population of Liberty County from the 2010 U.S. Census and comparative population estimates for 2013 and 2014 are listed in Table 51.

Table 51. Total Population – Liberty County

	2010	2013 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2013	2014 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2014
Liberty County	75,643	77,033	1.8	78,117	3.3
Texas	25,146,104	26,505,637	5.4	26,956,958	7.2
United States	308,758,105	316,497,531	2.5	318,857,056	3.3

Age and Gender

About half of Liberty County's population is male and half is female which is in line with the state and the nation. Table 52 shows the county's population numbers by gender.

Table 52. Liberty County 2013 Population by Gender by Percent

	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
Liberty County	37,823	49.1	39,209	50.9
Texas	13,173,301	49.7	13,332,335	50.3
United States	155,716,785	49.2	160,780,745	50.8

The county of Liberty's population by age closely reflects the state and national rates. Chambers County's population by age is shown in Table 53.

Table 53. Liberty County 2013 Population by Age Group by Percent

	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	65 and over
Liberty County	6.8	25.0	55.7	12.5
Texas	7.3	26.6	54.9	11.2
United States	6.3	23.3	56.3	14.1

Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2013 Census estimates, the majority (67.5%) of Liberty County residents were White/Caucasian. The next largest race/ethnicity group is Hispanic or Latino which makes up nearly one fifth of the population. Black/African Americans make up about one tenth of the population and the Asian population is less than one percent of the population. Liberty County's population by race/ethnicity is shown in Table 54.

Table 54. Liberty County 2013 Population by Race/Ethnicity by Percent

Race/Ethnicity	Liberty	Texas	United States
White/Caucasian	67.5	44.0	62.6
Black or African American	10.9	12.4	13.2
Asian	0.7	4.3	5.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	19.7	38.4	17.1

Housing

According to the 2013 Census estimates, there were 29,123 housing units in Liberty County. Approximately 24,844 were occupied housing units, (85.9%), with an average of 2.86 people per household. The housing vacancy rate is 14.1 percent or 4,066 units.

Per the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, the home ownership rate is 78.1 percent, (approximately 19,400 units) and the median value of owner occupied homes is \$84,400.

Rental Housing Units

In Liberty County, 21.9% (5,444 units) of the housing units renter-occupied. The majority of renters (32.9%) pay between \$500 and \$749 per month in rent. Over one-third of the renters' gross rent is 19.9% or less of their household income and over one-third of renters' gross rent is 35% or more of their household income. Table 55 shows rental payments by percent of population in Liberty County and Table 56 illustrates the percent of household income used for rental payments.

Table 55. Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Liberty County Population

Monthly Rental Cost	\$499 or less	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 or more
Percent of Population	21.3	32.9	26.9	17.9	1.0

Table 56. Gross Monthly Rental Payment as a Percentage of Household Income

Percent of Household Income Paid in Rent	19.9% or less	20 to 24.9	25 to 29.9	30 to 34.9	35% or more
Percent of Population	32.0	15.4	11.9	4.2	36.6

Education

Almost a quarter (24.9%) of Liberty County residents do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent. Less than 15 percent of Liberty County residents have obtained an associate's degree or higher. Just over one third of Liberty County residents have obtained a high school diploma. Table 57 shows educational attainment by percentage of the county.

Table 57. Educational Attainment of Liberty County Residents Aged 25 and over

Level of Educational Attainment	Less than HS	HS Diploma	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's	Graduate Degree
Percent of Population	24.9	37.2	24.6	4.4	6.0	2.8

School Districts

There are seven independent school districts within Liberty County - Cleveland ISD, Dayton ISD, Devers ISD, Hardin ISD, Hull-Daisetta ISD, Liberty ISD, and Tarkington ISC. According to TEA, in 2013 each districted the following enrollment and the percent of students identified as economically disadvantaged. Table 58 shows the total enrollment and the percent of the economically disadvantaged enrolled students.

Table 58. 2012-13 Enrollment and Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students

School Districts	Total Students Enrolled	Percent of Economically Disadvantaged
Cleveland ISD	3,642	76.7
Dayton ISD	5,067	61.8
Devers ISD	178	38.2
Hardin ISD	1,281	54.8
Hull-Daisetta ISD	521	70.2
Liberty ISD	2,121	59.5
Tarkington ISD	1,850	46.4

District Dropout Rates

The annual dropout rate is based on the number of students who dropped out of grades 7–12 during the 2012–13 school year. The annual dropout rate formula is:

$$\text{Annual dropout rate} = \frac{\text{Number of students who dropped out during the school year}}{\text{Number of students enrolled during the school year}} \times 100$$

Table 59 shows the student dropout rate for Cleveland ISD in Liberty County.

Table 59. 2012-2013 7th to 12th Grade Student Population and Dropout Information by District

School Districts	Total Number of 7 th through 12 th Grade Students	Dropout Number	Dropout Rate	Female Dropouts	Male Dropouts	Economically Disadvantaged Dropouts
Cleveland ISD	1,611	36	2.2	15	21	19

Devers ISD, Hardin ISD, and Hull-Daisetta ISD reported no dropouts for the 2012-13 school year. Dayton ISD, Liberty ISD and Tarkington ISD dropout data were not publicly available in order to protect student anonymity according to the TEA website. Devers ISD, Hardin ISD, and Hull-Daisetta ISD reported no dropouts.

Employment

According to April 2015 TWC estimates, the Liberty County labor force consisted of 31,310 individuals. Of those, 29,422 individuals were currently employed and 1,888 were unemployed, resulting in an unemployment rate of 6.0%.

Community Safety

Liberty County has four reporting entities – Liberty County Sheriff’s Office, Cleveland Police Department, Dayton Police Department and Liberty Police Department. In a “2013 Crime in Texas by Jurisdiction” report produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety, larceny (1,685) was the leading crime followed by burglary (566). Crime rates in Liberty County are shown in Table 60.

Table 60. 2013 Texas Department of Public Safety Report: Liberty County (number of offenses)

Reporting Entity	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Liberty Co. SO	0	7	10	164	326	548	138
Cleveland PD	0	6	6	56	93	548	46
Dayton PD	0	4	4	16	55	142	27
Liberty PD	1	10	7	28	92	447	14
Totals	1	27	27	264	566	1,685	225

Persons Living in Poverty

According to the 2009-2013 *American Community Survey*, 18.4 percent of Liberty County residents were living below poverty level. Compared to the other eleven counties in BVCAA’s service area, Liberty County has the third highest rate of poverty. Over 7.5 percent of the region’s total residents who were living below poverty level reside in Liberty County.

Sources of Primary Data

The results described in the following sections are based on primary data collected from the various sources previously described in the *Methods of Data Collection* section of this report. Two types of survey data were collected in Liberty County: Community Needs survey and BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. In Liberty County, three residents took the Community Needs survey, and three residents completed the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. No qualitative data collection was conducted in Liberty County.

The following sections describe the results from the primary data collected in Liberty County. Results are organized into seven key community health topics: assistance and case management, community, education, employment, family support, housing, and medical care.

Assistance and Case Management

Needs and Barriers Identified

The Community Needs survey asked residents in Liberty County to describe their need for assistance and case management services. Respondents were asked to rate their need related to a list of services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Liberty County, one third of respondents said they *needed* the following services:

- Transportation
- Food
- Case management
- Community resources

Trends

Assistance finding food and affordable transportation were the top 8 and 10, respectively, key issues identified by Liberty County residents in the 2010 assessment. These two needs remain top issues in Liberty County, as one third of survey respondents reported needing assistance with them in the Community Needs survey.

Community

Needs and Barriers Identified

To better understand community needs in Liberty County, the Community Needs Survey asked residents to identify areas of community improvement. Two thirds (66.7%) of residents said that their community needed neighborhood clean-up projects and crime awareness or crime reduction. One half of respondents (50.0%) said Liberty County needed more employment opportunities, as well as public parks and facilities.

Trends

In the 2010 assessment, transportation was identified as a key community issue. Little has changed as transportation was repeatedly voiced as a concern in Liberty County in recent interviews.

Education

Needs and Barriers Identified

The Community Needs survey asked respondents to rate their need for educational services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to *very needed*. In Liberty County, respondents said the county had educational needs related to:

- GED classes (100.0%)
- Computer skills training (66.7%)
- Assistance to attend trade or technical school or college (50.0%)
- Adult education or night school (50.0%)
- English as a second language classes (50.0%)

Trends

Previous assessment results do not identify issues related to adult education.

Employment

Needs and Barriers Identified

Liberty residents also reported needing help with employment on the Community Needs Survey. One half (50.0%) of respondents said they needed help finding a job or with job skills, training, and job searching.

Trends

In 2010, Liberty County exceeded the state's unemployment rate. This assessment also identified issues related to employment. Half of survey respondents said they needed help finding a job or with job skills, training, and job searching.

Family Support

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community Needs Survey respondents were asked to indicate their need related to programs and classes for family support, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Liberty County, the top classes rated as *needed* or a *very needed* were for:

- Seniors (66.7%)
- Youth (50.0%)
- Healthy relationships and resolving conflict (50.0%)
- Mental health counseling (50.0%)
- Nutrition and healthy eating (33.3%)
- Financial, budgeting, and credit (33.3%)
- Parenting (66.7%)

Trends

In 2010 a concern in Liberty County was affordable services for children and teens. This assessment also noted need for family supportive services for youth.

Housing

Needs and Barriers Identified

The Community Needs Survey asked residents about housing related issues in Liberty County. Two thirds of respondents reported needing help paying utility bills, finding affordable housing, and making their home more energy efficient. One third of respondents said that they needed help paying rent (33.3%).

Trends

In 2010, Liberty County was still dealing with damage from the 2008 Hurricane Ike. Furthermore, temporary shelter and housing assistance waiting lists were over a year long, which posed problems for residents who needed transitory aid. These needs have persisted according to the most recent assessment, which noted that two thirds of respondents needed help finding affordable housing and one third of residents needed help paying for housing.

Medical Care

Needs and Barriers Identified

Access to affordable medical care and prescriptions was assessed in the Community Needs survey. Two thirds of respondents said they needed health insurance or affordable medical care (66.6%). One third of the survey respondents said they needed prescription assistance (33.3%)

Trends

Access to affordable healthcare and social services were top issues in the 2010 assessment. Therefore, it is not surprising that two thirds of Liberty County residents also reported needing health insurance or affordable medical care in this assessment.

Satisfaction with Services provided by BVCAA

Clients were asked to complete a *Client Survey to Evaluate Services*. Respondents ranked their experience on a scale of *poor* to *excellent*. The majority of respondents (66.7%) reported satisfaction (rating their experience as *good* or *excellent*) with treatment by the staff, staff follow-up, and timeliness of services, while all respondents (100%) reported satisfaction with their overall experience.

Respondents were also asked to report whether they had received certain services (utilities assistance, weatherization, food, other emergency assistance, employment related assistance, rent assistance, education related assistance, case management, or referrals) from their local BVCAA facility. Following are the services received by clients in Liberty County:

- Utilities Assistance: 100%

Madison County Findings

Description of Madison County

Madison County covers 466 square miles of land area and is comprised of the incorporated cities of Madisonville and Midway, with populations of 4,708 and 236 respectively according to the Texas State Data Center. Madisonville serves as the county seat.

Population Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau 2013 population estimates indicate that 13,819 people were living in Madison County, up 1.1% from the 2010 population of 13,667. The county's population density was 29.3 people per square mile. The total population of Madison County from the 2010 U.S. Census and comparative population estimates for 2013 and 2014 are listed in Table 61.

Table 61. Total Population – Madison County

	2010	2013 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2013	2014 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2014
Madison County	13,667	13,819	1.0	13,861	1.4
Texas	25,146,104	26,505,637	5.4	26,956,958	7.2
United States	308,758,105	316,497,531	2.5	318,857,056	3.3

Age and Gender

The percent of Madison County's male population is higher by eight percent than the state and nation. Table 62 shows the county's population numbers by gender.

Table 62. Madison County 2013 Population by Gender by Percent

	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
Madison County	7,987	57.8	5,831	42.2
Texas	13,173,301	49.7	13,332,335	50.3
United States	155,716,785	49.2	160,780,745	50.8

Madison County's population by age closely reflects the state and national rates. The County's population by age is shown in Table 63.

Table 63. Madison County 2013 Population by Age Group by Percent

	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	65 and over
Madison County	5.7	21.3	58.2	14.8
Texas	7.3	26.6	54.9	11.2
United States	6.3	23.3	56.3	14.1

Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2013 Census estimates, the majority (56.5%) of Madison County residents identify as White/Caucasian. The next largest race/ethnicity group is Hispanic or Latino which make up just over one fifth of the population. Black/African Americans make up one fifth of the population and the Asian population is less than one percent. Madison County's population by race/ethnicity is shown in Table 64.

Table 64. Madison County 2013 Population by Race/Ethnicity by Percent

Race/Ethnicity	Madison	Texas	United States
White/Caucasian	56.5	44.0	62.6
Black or African American	20.3	12.4	13.2
Asian	0.8	4.3	5.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	21.8	38.4	17.1

Housing

According to the 2013 Census estimates, there were 5,136 housing units in Madison County. Approximately 3,743 were occupied housing units, (73.2%), with an average of 2.53 people per household. The housing vacancy rate is 26.8 percent or 1,369 units.

Per the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, the home ownership rate is 71.7 percent, (approximately 2,685 units) and the median value of owner occupied homes is \$94,200.

Rental Housing Units

In Madison County, 28.3% (1,058 units) of the housing units were renter-occupied. The majority of renters (37.7%) pay between \$500 and \$749 per month in rent. Over a one-third of the renters' gross rent is 19.9% or less of their household income. Table 65 shows rental payments by percent of population in Madison County and Table 66 illustrates the percent of household income used for rental payments.

Table 65. Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Madison County Population

Monthly Rental Cost	\$499 or less	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 or more
Percentage of Population	25.0	37.7	22.3	12.7	2.4

Table 66. Gross Monthly Rental Payment as a Percentage of Household Income

Percent of Household Income Paid in Rent	19.9% or less	20 to 24.9	25 to 29.9	30 to 34.9	35% or more
Percentage of Population	38.6	16.7	7.0	9.5	28.2

Housing Assistance

The seven-county region of Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington Counties comprises the service area for the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher Program which is managed by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG). According to BVCOG officials, the program is authorized to provide approximately 1,900 rental assistance vouchers across the region but funding is only available to support about 1,725 vouchers. There is currently a two-year wait list of nearly 1,000 individuals wanting to apply for rental assistance through this program. Of those, it is estimated that about 60 percent will end up qualifying for the program once they have been screened for eligibility. Clearly, the need for rental assistance is outpacing the available resources.

Education

Nearly twenty percent (18.5%) of Madison County residents have obtained an associate's degree or higher. Over a third (37.9%) of county residents obtained their high school diploma while over a fifth of the county's residents (21.3%) have less than a high school education. Table 67 shows educational attainment by percentage of the county.

Table 67. Educational Attainment of Madison County Residents Aged 25 and over

Level of Educational Attainment	Less than HS	HS Diploma	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's	Graduate Degree
Percentage of Population	21.3	37.9	22.3	6.1	9.2	3.2

School Districts

There are two independent school districts within Madison County, Madisonville CISD and North Zulch ISD. According to TEA, in 2013 Madisonville CISD had 2,244 students enrolled of which 72.4 percent were identified as economically disadvantaged. North Zulch ISD had 344 students enrolled of which 66.0 percent were identified as economically disadvantaged.

District Dropout Rates

Madisonville CISD dropout data were not publicly available in order to protect student anonymity according to the Texas Education Agency website. North Zulch ISD reported no dropouts.

Employment

According to April 2015 TWC estimates, the Madison County labor force consisted of 5,129 individuals. Of those, 4,932 individuals were currently employed and 197 were unemployed, resulting in an unemployment rate of 3.8%.

Community Safety

There are two major reporting agencies in Madison County. The Madison County Sheriff's Office and the Madisonville Police Department. In a "2013 Crime in Texas by Jurisdiction" report produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety, larceny was the leading crime reported in 2013 for Madison County (145), followed by burglary (56) and aggravated assault (29). Crime rates in Madison County are shown in Table 68.

Table 68. 2013 Texas Department of Public Safety Report: Madison County (number of offenses)

Reporting Entity	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Madison Co. SO	0	0	1	14	33	64	7
Madisonville PD	0	0	2	15	23	81	9
Total	0	0	3	29	56	145	16

Persons Living in Poverty

According to the 2009-2013 *American Community Survey*, 25.2 percent of Madison County residents were living below poverty level. Compared to the other eleven counties in BVCAA's service area, Madison County's rate of poverty is ranked eleventh. About one and one half percent (1.52%) of the region's total residents who are living below poverty level reside in Madison County.

Sources of Primary Data

The results described in the following sections are based on primary data collected from the various sources previously described in the *Methods of Data Collection* section of this report. Three types of survey data were collected in Madison County: the RHP 17 survey, the Community Needs survey, and the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. In Madison County, 161 residents completed the RHP 17 survey, two residents took the Community Needs survey, and three residents completed the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. The results from these surveys were combined with contextual information gathered from discussion groups and interviews with key community leaders, health care providers, social service providers, and the general public (i.e. residents) in Madison County. A total of six community discussion groups were conducted in Madison County with 73 participants. In addition to these discussion groups, six interviews with key informants were held in Madison County.

The following sections describe the results from the primary data collected in Madison County. Results are organized into seven key community health topics: assistance and case management, community, education, employment, family support, housing, and medical care.

Assistance and Case Management

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. Three of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) were related to assistance and case management. Residents reported needing financial assistance or welfare (23.5%), financial assistance for auto, appliance, home repair, or weatherization (19.4%) and utility assistance (15.9%).

The Community Needs survey asked residents in Madison County to describe their need for assistance and case management services. Respondents were asked to rate their need related to a list of services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to *very needed*. In Madison County, the issues rated as *needed* or a *very needed* were as follows:

- Applying for Social Security, SSDI, WIC, TANF, etc. (100%)
- Community resources (100%)
- Food (50.0%)
- Transportation (50%)
- Case management (0%)
- Child care (0%)
- Legal services (0%)

To better understand why these issues occurred in Madison County, community discussion groups were conducted. Community discussion group attendees said they had trouble accessing information about local events, resources, and activities. Participants indicated that language and cultural barriers for the local Hispanic population represented a communication challenge, making it more difficult for service providers to conduct outreach and disseminate information.

Key informant interviews with social service providers further identified top needs for assistance in Madison County. Providers said that coordination was needed to help residents access a wide range of assistance services.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion groups also identified resources in Madison County that could be used to address the issues related to assistance and case management. The large number of health and human service organizations that provide services to the community was identified as a resource in Madison County. Another resource identified by social service providers in key informant interviews was case the coordination that was available for local residents. Saying these services help residents become more self-sufficient.

Trends

Rates of survey respondents who need financial assistance or welfare increase by approximately 10 percent since 2010. In 2010, 11.9 of respondents identified financial assistance as a top community service needed. In the most recent assessment, more than 20 percent (23.5%) of survey respondents said it was an issue.

Community

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community characteristics can influence perceptions of safety and the likelihood for community members to engage in activities outside their home. Madison County respondents varied in their perception of how closely their fellow community members shared their values. A little more than half (51.5%) of Madison County respondents felt that their community had shared values. Table 69 summarizes these perceived characteristics of Madison County, listing the percentage of respondents who reported *agree* or *strongly agree* with each statement.

Table 69. Madison County community characteristics

Community Characteristics	Percentage of Madison County Respondents
People are willing to help their neighbors	84.2
Most people can be trusted in the community	73.7
Neighbors would help someone who fell	61.3
Many people are physically active in local neighborhoods	26.0
This is a close knit community	73.8
Problems in neighborhoods make it hard to go outside and walk	34.2
People are concerned they will be a victim of crime if they walk/bike in their neighborhood	12.4

To better understand community needs in Madison County, the Community Needs survey asked residents to identify areas of community improvement, including whether their community needed neighborhood clean-up projects, crime awareness or crime reduction, public parks and facilities, or more employment opportunities. Respondents reported no need in these areas.

Community discussion groups recognized transportation as a pressing issue in Madison County. Participants said that the area lacks an affordable, reliable public transportation system. Common themes among interviews with key informants also identified issues with transportation as a primary community concern. Discussion groups voiced concern with social issues like poverty, juvenile crime, substance abuse, and racial tension in Madison County.

Community Strengths and Assets

Information gathered in community discussion groups showed that overall, Madison County was small, friendly, and rural. The community is generous and supportive, characteristics that many attribute to the strong presence of faith-based organizations. There is also a growing older adult population within the community.

Participants mentioned that Madison County has deep-rooted history and traditions, but also struggles with change as it grows because some residents are resistant to new ideas. The faith community and civic organizations are valuable assets to the county. Discussion group participants said these groups worked well together and collaborated on community-wide activities like the Mushroom Festival. Residents also praised local businesses and leadership, complimenting their investment in the

community and its activities. Another resource identified in key informant interviews was transportation services available for eligible residents.

Trends

In 2010, a lack of jobs and underemployment were identified as contributing factors to poverty, leaving families unable to afford the necessities—housing and food. The local economy was also recently identified as an issue. In addition, transportation continues to be a critical concern to Madison County residents. Local perceptions of the public transportation system were very critical, deeming the services unreliable and inconvenient, so while there are some services available for eligible residents they are not meeting local need.

Education

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. One of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) was related to education. Residents reported needing work-related or employment assistance including job training (10.2%).

Community Needs survey respondents were asked to rate their need related to a list of educational services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to *very needed*. In Madison County, no educational needs were reported.

However, discussion group participants said there is a lack of educational opportunities locally. Key informant interviews said that residents needed educational classes related specifically to income management.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion groups with Madison County residents cited the local school districts as valuable assets to the county. Social service providers also said there were financial counseling services available in Madison County, such as post-secondary training and classes to help individuals get their GED.

Trends

Access to adult education for job training and income management classes remain to be an issue in Madison County. Issues related to educational needs were heard previously in 2010 and again in the most recent assessment. While there are some resources available to help residents with post-secondary training, they are not being accessed to their full potential according to local residents.

Employment

Needs and Barriers Identified

RHP 17 survey respondents were asked to rate the severity of a list of community issues, on a scale ranging from *not at all a problem* to a *very serious problem*. In Madison County, two of the top 10 issues were related to employment. Respondents cited lack of jobs for unskilled workers (54%) and unemployment (55.9%) as *serious problems* or *very serious problems* in their community.

Madison County residents also reported needing help with employment on the Community Needs survey. Respondents said they needed help finding a job (100%), but did not report a need for job skills, training, or job searching (0%).

Community discussion group participants expressed concerns with the status of the local economy and its impact on families. Lack of jobs worry local residents. Furthermore, the lack of transportation options affects residents' ability to travel to and from work. Social service providers also said that the community needs more employment opportunities for workers to receive adequate wages.

Trends

In 2010, job training services were a need in Madison County. This assessment did not identify job training as an issue; however, Madison County residents said they needed assistance finding jobs.

Family Support

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey asked Madison County residents about family support activities and services. First, the survey asked how many respondents were responsible for providing regular care or assistance to a friend or family member at home who has a long-term health problem or disability. During the past month, 21.9 percent of respondents reported providing care for at least one person. The majority of the people being cared for were aged 65 or older (49.8%); 48.4 percent of respondents reported caring for someone between the ages of 45 and 64. Less than two percent of respondents reported caregiving for a child between the ages of one and 17. Across the county, 29 percent reported caring for a parent or spouse's parent. The other relationships between caregiver and charge most commonly reported were caring for a spouse (29.4%), non-relative (20.2%), and grandparent (17.8%).

Community Needs survey respondents were asked to indicate their need related to programs and classes for family support, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to *very needed*. In Madison County, the Respondents reported a need for mental health counseling (100%)

Community discussion groups cited youth risk behaviors, such as underage drinking, use of illegal drugs, abuse of prescription drugs, and teenage pregnancy were major concerns within the county. Discussion group participants identified the lack of recreational opportunities for youth as one driving factor behind these issues. In addition, discussion group participants highlighted an undercurrent of racial tension and division in the community across all age groups. Social service providers also noted affordable child care is a community concern for working parents.

Trends

Previous assessment results emphasized the need for family supportive services for the large population of retirees and older adults in Madison County. Recently, the trend has changed from services for older adults to recreational opportunities for youth. This assessment identified the lack of recreational opportunities as a factor leading to risky behavior like illegal drugs use and teen pregnancy.

Housing

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey asked residents about the condition of their housing. Madison County respondents reported primarily living in a one-family home (66.9%), followed by 24.1 percent living in a mobile home.

One percent of respondents combined reported living in a duplex, triplex, or four-plex, an apartment building with more than four units, or a townhome or condominium.

When asked if their residence had experienced a severe problem in the past 12 months, survey respondents described a range of issues listed in Table X. Across the county, the most reported problem with resident's homes was related to plumbing, heating/cooling, or electricity (going more than 24 hours without service).

Table 70. Severe housing problems reported in Madison County

Housing problems	Percentage of Madison County Respondents
Plumbing, heating/cooling, electricity	32.5
Roof problems (such as holes, leaks, or sagging)	7.9
Broken plaster or peeling paint (interior)	16.5
Mice, rats, or cockroaches	17.0
Mold	8.6
Broken windows	3.4
Holes in the floor	6.0

The Community Needs survey also asked residents about housing related issues in Madison County. Respondents reported needing help with paying utility bills (100%).

Community discussion group participants cited infrastructure as an issue, in particular the limited access to affordable housing and lack of businesses such as grocery stores within some areas of the county. Key leader interviews with social service providers echoed concerns related to housing in Madison County. Provides said they see a lot of residents who need affordable housing.

Community Strengths and Assets

Interviews with social service provides in Madison County revealed that there are services available for housing assistance. Residents can get help with housing through counseling services.

Trends

In 2010, housing needs were said to be directly related to high unemployment rates in Madison County. While housing is still an issue and residents recently reported needing more options for affordable housing, they did not directly relate it to unemployment. Instead residents said it was largely due to the lack of infrastructure.

Medical Care

Needs and Barriers Identified

According to the RHP 17 survey, Madison County residents frequently reported the following chronic conditions, as diagnosed by a health care provider:

- Hypertension (45.3%)
- High Cholesterol (35.1%)
- Overweight/obesity (31.3%)
- Arthritis or rheumatism (29.8%)
- Anxiety (20.3%)
- Asthma (19.4%)

Access to affordable medical care and prescriptions was assessed in the Community Needs survey. Half of respondents (50%) said they needed health insurance or affordable medical care.

Discussion group participants in Madison County said that the lack of transportation options affects residents' access to health-related services. Furthermore, it is difficult to access health care, specifically affordable primary and specialty care in the rural area. Residents also identified chronic diseases, such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol, as health concerns. Discussion group participants attributed the high incidence of chronic disease to the growing rate of obesity among residents. Childhood obesity was mentioned a major issue within the community. The rise in childhood obesity was said to be a consequence of a lack of physical activity options and unhealthy diets among youth.

Access to specialty medical care, specifically related to pediatric services, was also discussed as an issue in key informant interviews. Social service providers said that medical care needed to be affordable and easily accessible for residents.

Community Strengths and Assets

One resource identified by community discussion groups was the Madison Health Resource Center, which is a place to access health-related services and information. Local residents also identified existing health care providers as an asset within the community, especially the Madison St. Joseph Health Center. Social service providers said that some health care organizations offer services for pediatric patients locally. These services are mostly for young children who have disabilities.

Trends

Madison County residents reported mostly the same top chronic diseases in 2010 as 2013, according to the RHP 17 survey and previous assessment results. Rates for hypertension, high cholesterol, and arthritis/rheumatism all increased slightly. Depression was previously a top issue, but was replaced with anxiety in the RHP 17 survey. In addition, inflammatory bowel disease was a top issue in 2010, but didn't reoccur in the most recent assessment. Obesity rates were not measured the same across years, but it still remained as a top chronic disease.

Satisfaction with Services provided by BVCAA

Clients were asked to complete a *Client Survey to Evaluate Services*. Respondents ranked their experience on a scale of *poor* to *excellent*. All respondents (100%) reported satisfaction (rating their

experience as *good* or *excellent*) with treatment by the staff, staff follow-up, timeliness of services, and overall experience.

Respondents were also asked to report whether they had received certain services (utilities assistance, weatherization, food, other emergency assistance, employment related assistance, rent assistance, education related assistance, case management, or referrals) from their local BVCAA facility. The following are the services received by clients in Madison County:

- Utilities Assistance: 66.7%
- Referrals: 33.3%

BVCAA Partner Suggestions

Interviews with social service providers in Madison County identified ways that BVCAA can partner to address community needs. Social service providers suggested increasing interagency collaboration and participating in a Regional Transportation Board, as well as referring customers to services addressing adult education and literacy, workforce development, and child care. It was also suggested that BVCAA should support local agencies in providing job skills training. Additionally, providers would like to see an increased focus on developing strategies to address housing and healthcare, as well as continued collaboration through making referrals to and from HealthPoint.

Montgomery County Findings

Description of Montgomery County

Montgomery County covers 1,041 square miles of land area and is comprised of the five cities including Conroe, Montgomery, Magnolia, Willis, Splendora, and Shenandoah. Conroe serves as the county seat.

Population Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau 2013 population estimates indicate that 499,818 people were living in Montgomery County, up 9.7 percent from the 2010 population of 455,764. The county's population density is nearly 437.5 people per square mile. The total population of Montgomery County from the 2010 U.S. Census and comparative population estimates for 2013 and 2014 are listed in Table 71. Population estimates for 2013 list Conroe as having 62,859 residents, Montgomery as having 676 residents, and Magnolia as having 1,548 residents. Willis has 6,030 residents, Splendora has 1,644 residents, and Shenandoah has 2,545 residents.

Table 71. Total Population – Montgomery County

	2010	2013 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2013	2014 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2014
Montgomery County	455,764	499,818	9.7	518,947	13.9
Texas	25,146,104	26,505,637	5.4	26,956,958	7.2
United States	308,758,105	316,497,531	2.5	318,857,056	3.3

Age and Gender

About half of Montgomery County's population is male and half is female which is in line with the state and the nation. Table 72 shows the county's population numbers by gender.

Table 72. Montgomery County 2013 Population by Gender by Percent

	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
Montgomery County	247,909	49.6	251,908	50.4
Texas	13,173,301	49.7	13,332,335	50.3
United States	155,716,785	49.2	160,780,745	50.8

Montgomery County's population by age closely reflects the state and national rates. The County's population by age is shown in Table 73.

Table 73. Montgomery County 2013 Population by Age Group by Percent

	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	65 and over
Montgomery County	6.9	20.1	61.3	11.4
Texas	7.3	26.6	54.9	11.2
United States	6.3	23.3	56.3	14.1

Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2013 Census estimates, the majority (69.4%) of Montgomery County residents were White/Caucasian. The next largest race/ethnicity is Hispanic or Latino which make up one fifth of the population. Nearly five percent of the population identifies as Black/African American and the Asian population is approximately two and a half percent. Montgomery County's population by race/ethnicity is shown in Table 74.

Table 74. Montgomery County 2013 Population by Race/Ethnicity by Percent

Race/Ethnicity	Montgomery	Texas	United States
White/Caucasian	69.4	44.0	62.6
Black or African American	4.7	12.4	13.2
Asian	2.6	4.3	5.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	21.9	38.4	17.1

Housing

According to the 2013 Census estimates, there were 181,294 housing units in Montgomery County. Approximately 160,462 were occupied housing units, (90.2%), with an average of 2.93 people per household. The housing vacancy rate is 9.8 percent or 17,832 units.

Per the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, the home ownership rate is 32.1 percent, (approximately 38,205 units) and the median value of owner occupied homes is \$128,900.

Rental Housing Units

In Montgomery County, 27.1% (44,336 units) of the housing units were renter-occupied. The majority of renters pay between \$750 and \$1,499 in monthly rent. Over one third pay more than thirty-five percent of their household income in rent. Table 75 shows rental payments by percent of population in Montgomery County and Table 76 illustrates the percent of household income used for rental payments.

Table 75. Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Madison County Population

Monthly Rental Cost	\$499 or less	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 or more
Percentage of Population	7.7	17.6	28.6	32.3	13.8

Table 76. Gross Monthly Rental Payment as a Percentage of Household Income

Percent of Household Income Paid in Rent	19.9% or less	20 to 24.9%	25 to 29.9%	30 to 34.9%	35% or more
Percentage of Population	28.3	14.4	11.9	9.7	35.7

Education

More than 35 percent of Montgomery County residents have obtained an associate's degree or higher. One fourth of county residents obtained their high school diploma and just under 15 percent do not have a high school education. Table 77 shows educational attainment by percentage of the county.

Table 77. Educational Attainment of Montgomery County Residents Aged 25 and over

Level of Educational Attainment	Less than HS	HS Diploma	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's	Graduate Degree
Percent of Population	13.7	24.9	23.9	6.7	21.2	9.5

School Districts

There are seven independent school districts within Montgomery County – Conroe ISD, Magnolia ISD, Montgomery ISD, New Caney ISD, Splendora ISD, Texas Serenity Academy, and Willis ISD. According to TEA, in 2013 Conroe ISD had 170,902 students enrolled of which 35.9 percent of were identified as economically disadvantaged. Magnolia ISD had 11,956 students with 41.4 percent identified as economically disadvantaged. Montgomery ISD had 7,173 students enrolled of which 26.3 percent of were identified as economically disadvantaged. New Caney ISD had 11,510 students enrolled of which 63.2 percent of were identified as economically disadvantaged. Splendora ISD had 3,488 students enrolled of which 63 percent of were identified as economically disadvantaged. Texas Serenity Academy had 427 students enrolled of which 91.3 percent of were identified as economically disadvantaged and Willis ISD had 6,536 students enrolled of which 61.6 percent of were identified as economically disadvantaged.

District Dropout Rates

The annual dropout rate is based on the number of students who dropped out of grades 7–12 during the 2012–13 school year. The annual dropout rate formula is:

$$\text{Annual dropout rate} = \frac{\text{Number of students who dropped out during the school year}}{\text{Number of students enrolled during the school year}} \times 100$$

Table 78 provides the number of dropouts and rates for 7th – 12th grades. Splendora ISD, Texas Serenity Academy dropout data were not publicly available in order to protect student anonymity according to the Texas Education Agency website.

Table 78. 2012-2013 7th to 12th Grade Student Population and Dropout Information by District

School Districts	Total Number of 7 th through 12 th Grade Students	Dropout Number	Dropout Rate (%)	Female Dropouts	Male Dropouts	Economically Disadvantaged Dropouts
Conroe ISD	24,555	202	0.8	89	113	116
Magnolia ISD	5,717	58	1.0	23	35	35
Montgomery ISD	3,501	32	0.9	--	--	19
New Caney ISD	5,120	49	1.0	29	20	26
Willis ISD	3,006	40	1.3	--	--	28

Employment

According to April 2015 TWC estimates, the Montgomery County labor force consisted of 252,133 individuals. Of those, 242,754 were currently employed and 9,379 were unemployed, resulting in a 3 percent unemployment rate.

Community Safety

There are twelve major reporting agencies in Montgomery County. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and the police departments of Conroe, Splendora, Roman Forest, Magnolia, Shenandoah, Willis, Stagecoach, Oak Ridge North, Montgomery, Wood Branch, and Conroe ISD. In a "2013 Crime in Texas by Jurisdiction" report produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety, larceny was the leading crime reported in 2013 for Montgomery County (5,877), followed by auto theft (603) and aggravated assault (505). Crime rates in Montgomery County are shown in Table 79.

Table 79. 2013 Texas Department of Public Safety Report: Montgomery County (number of offenses)

Reporting Entity	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Montgomery County SO	5	8	110	346	1,681	3,677	472
Conroe PD	1	12	61	127	418	1,559	101
Splendora PD	0	0	1	5	6	10	3
Roman Forest PD	0	0	0	0	4	34	1
Magnolia PD	0	0	4	5	9	31	3
Shenandoah PD	0	0	6	3	7	182	11
Willis PD	0	0	6	9	30	101	10
Stagecoach PD	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
Oak Ridge North PD	0	0	0	1	11	40	1
Montgomery PD	0	0	0	1	5	10	1
Wood Branch PD	0	0	0	1	1	16	0
Conroe ISD PD	0	0	0	7	4	217	0
Total	6	20	188	505	2,184	5,877	603

Persons Living in Poverty

According to the 2009-2013 *American Community Survey*, 12.4 percent of Montgomery County Residents were living below poverty level. Compared to the other eleven counties in BVCAA's service area, Montgomery County has the highest rate of poverty. More than one-third (34.2%) of the region's total residents who are living below poverty level reside in Montgomery County.

Sources of Primary Data

The results described in the following sections are based on primary data collected from the various sources previously described in the *Methods of Data Collection* section of this report. Three types of survey data were collected in Montgomery County: the RHP 17 survey, the Community Needs survey, and the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. In Montgomery County 1,522 residents completed the RHP 17 survey, 66 took the Community Needs survey, and 63 completed the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. The results from these surveys were combined with contextual information gathered from discussion groups and interviews with key community leaders, health care providers, social service providers, and the general public (i.e. residents). A total of 22 community discussion groups were conducted in Montgomery County with 237 total participants.

The following sections describe the results from the primary data collected in Montgomery County. Results are organized into seven key topics: assistance and case management, community, education, employment, family support, housing, and medical care.

Assistance and Case Management

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. One of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) were related to assistance and case management. Approximately one in seven (13.1%) residents reported needing financial assistance or welfare.

The Community Needs survey asked residents in Montgomery County to describe their need for assistance and case management services. Respondents were asked to rate their need related to a list of services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to *very needed*. In Montgomery County, the issues rated as *needed* or a *very needed* are as follows:

- Transportation (66.0%)
- Community resources (65.1%)
- Food (54.9%)
- Applying for Social Security, SSDI, WIC, TANF, etc. (44.4%)
- Legal services (43.2%)
- Case management (36.4%)
- Child care (25.5%)

To better understand why these issues occurred in Montgomery County, community discussion groups were conducted. Community discussion groups identified the inability to travel to needed services due to a lack of reliable and affordable transportation. The region-wide demand for improved public transportation options was equally evident in Montgomery County. Discussion group participants further reported that residents in the eastern region of the county face economic disparities and are extremely limited in their ability to access resources and services.

Participants also perceived a lack of resources within the community, stating that resources either do not exist for particular community issues or are consumed by those who do not live within the county. Another concern is adequate resources and services for the county's growing Spanish-speaking population. Many participants feel that there are linguistic and cultural barriers to serving this population; currently, there are minimal resources to assist with overcoming these barriers.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion groups also identified resources in Montgomery County that could be used to address the issues related to assistance and case management. Participants said there are many community based organizations and collaborations such as the Lions Club, YMCA, Friendship Center, United Way, food banks, Montgomery County Emergency Assistance, Montgomery County Women's Center, Mission Northeast, Tri-County Services, Montgomery County Youth Services, Chamber of Commerce, Family Promise, and the Homeless Coalition. These organization are an essential resources to the community. Most of these organizations are non-profit and many require volunteers. There is a strong network of churches within the community and their leadership and guidance is seen as an invaluable resource to community members.

Trends

In 2010, 18 percent of survey respondents said they needed help paying for bills and utilities. This assessment found that 13 percent of residents reported needing financial assistance or welfare. In addition, transportation continued to be seen as a community issue in Montgomery County.

Community

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community characteristics can influence perceptions of safety and the likelihood for community members to engage in activities outside their home. Montgomery County respondents varied in their perception of how closely their fellow community members shared their values. Almost two-thirds (62.8%) of Montgomery County residents felt that their community had shared values. Table 80 summarizes these perceived characteristics of Montgomery County, listing the percentage of respondents who reported *agree* or *strongly agree* with each statement.

Table 80. Montgomery County community characteristics

Community Characteristics	Percentage of Montgomery County Respondents
People in this community are willing to help their neighbors	92.5
Neighbors would help someone who fell	88.2
People in this community can be trusted	87.4
Many people are physically active in local neighborhoods	80.9
This is a close knit community	70.6
Problems in neighborhoods make it hard to go outside and walk	17.7
People are concerned they will be a victim of crime if they walk/bike in their neighborhood	5.9

To better understand community needs in Montgomery County, the Community Needs survey asked residents to identify areas of community improvement. The majority of residents said that their community needed crime awareness or crime reduction (50.0%). Approximately 40 percent (39.1%) of residents also reported needing more employment opportunities in Montgomery County. Over one fourth (28.9%) of respondents said they needed neighborhood clean-up projects and public parks and facilities (26.1%).

Community discussion group participants in Montgomery County said there is a socioeconomic divide within the community, and that more affluent regions have more resources and economic power than other areas of the county. The county lacks a vibrant middle class, creating a significant gap between wealthy and low-income residents. This socioeconomic discrepancy was perceived as causing division within the community by some discussion group members.

Many community members discussed their dissatisfaction with the concentration of the majority of services and resources in Conroe or The Woodlands. There was a consensus that community resources could be managed more carefully and that collaboration among cities would help leverage resources

and prove beneficial for the county as a whole. Though large retail businesses are moving in, small stores that have existed in the community for generations are hurting because of this development. Some residents who have lived in the community for years feel invaded because the growth has been so rapid.

Community Strengths and Assets

Overall, Montgomery County residents consider the area a growing, conservative community that is large in both population and geography. County residents further characterized their community as vibrant, unique, and a great place to live and raise a family. Discussion group members said that even as the county becomes more metropolitan, it still has a small town feel and is very close-knit and supportive.

Growth within the county emerged as a theme in community discussion groups, as residents discussed both advantages and disadvantages to rapid growth. Residents said the population is steadily increasing as people continue to relocate to the county from the Houston area and other geographical regions; many discussion group participants mentioned an increase in the Hispanic and older adult populations in particular. The county's location was ideal, offering quick commutes to cities such as Houston and Bryan/College Station. Montgomery County volunteers were described as part of the fabric of the community; they assist community based organizations and collaborative efforts to ensure services are provided to those who need them.

Trends

The majority of services and resources are concentrated in Conroe or The Woodlands, which is consistent with findings from the 2010 assessment. Conroe is the largest city in Montgomery County and as such it has access to the majority community resources. However, the most recent assessment identified a socioeconomic divide within the county, which is perceived as negative because more the affluent regions have more resources and economic power than other areas of the county.

Education

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. Two of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) as reported by survey respondents were related to education. Residents cited work-related or employment services include on the job training (12.1%) and early childhood programs (7.7%) as two types of educational services they need.

Community Needs survey respondents were asked to rate their need related to a list of educational services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to *very needed*. In Montgomery County, the top educational needs, rated as *needed* or *very needed*, were as follows:

- Computer skills training (52.2%)
- GED classes (41.3%)
- Assistance to attend trade or technical school or college (34.8%)
- Adult education or night school (37.8%)
- English as a second language classes (30.4%)

The primary issue voiced in community discussion groups related to education was a lack of vocational training in Montgomery County. Participants said the community needed more opportunities for residents to gain skills that will help them pursue jobs.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion groups with Montgomery County cited schools as a resource within the community. Residents stated that some parts of the county have excellent school districts, with superb leadership and guidance counselors. Some high schools offer college credit or vocational training to students in an effort to prepare them for life after graduation. For college-bound students, local community colleges, as well as universities such as Sam Houston State University or Texas A&M University are all within an easy commuting distance. Some residents also mentioned that Texas A&M University is a great resource for technical assistance as well.

Trends

Adult educational needs were not reported as an issue in 2010. However, this assessment identifies a need for job training, GED classes, and assistance with technical schools and colleges. While Texas A&M and Sam Houston State University are considered resource accessible to Montgomery County residents, they do not offer more technical based trainings.

Employment

Needs and Barriers Identified

RHP 17 survey respondents were asked to rate the severity of a list of community issues, on a scale ranging from *not at all a problem* to a *very serious problem*. In Montgomery County, one of the top 10 issues was related to employment. Almost one in five (16.5%) residents cited lack of jobs for unskilled workers as *serious problem* or *very serious problem* in their community.

Montgomery County residents also reported needing help with employment on the Community Needs survey. Almost one half (46.8%) of respondents said they needed help finding a job and more than forty percent (42.2%) needed job skills, training, and job searching help.

During community discussion groups, local residents stated that eastern region of Montgomery County faces economic disparities and are extremely limited in their ability to access resources and services. This lack of development makes it hard for residents to get and keep jobs, as well as access services.

Community Strengths and Assets

Resources were also identified during community discussion groups in Montgomery County. Residents discussed growth in relation to economic development, stating that growth has brought an influx of new businesses and jobs within the community. These new jobs were said to be a valuable resource for the community.

Trends

In 2010, unemployment rates in Montgomery County were slightly below the state average. However, large businesses had implemented a series of layoffs and instituted higher freezes, which posed issues in finding new jobs for residents. Almost half of respondents to the Community Needs survey conducted during this assessment reiterated the need for assistance in finding jobs and getting job skills and training. However, new businesses coming into Montgomery County were also highlight as a community strength, which may assist residents with employment in the future.

Family Support

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey asked Montgomery County residents about family support activities and services. First, the survey asked how many respondents were responsible for providing regular care or assistance to a friend or family member at home who has a long-term health problem or disability. During the past month, 13.4 percent of respondents reported providing care for at least one person. The majority of the people being cared for were aged 65 or older (59.6%); 20.6 percent of respondents reported caring for someone between the ages of 45 and 64. Less than 10 percent of respondents (7.8%) reported being a caregiver for a child between the ages of one and 17. Across Montgomery County, 46.9 percent reported caring for a parent or spouse's parent. The other most commonly reported relationship between caregiver and the person they cared for was caring for a spouse (17.9%), child (14.2%), or non-relative (9.5%).

The Community Needs survey asked respondents to indicate their need related to programs and classes for family support, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to *very needed*. In Montgomery County, the top classes rated as *needed* or a *very needed* were related to:

- Seniors (55.3%)
- Healthy relationships and resolving conflict (44.4%)
- Financial, budgeting, and credit (38.6%)
- Youth (33.3%)
- Nutrition and healthy eating (32.6%)
- Mental health counseling (31.8%)
- Parenting (23.9%)

During discussion groups, community members discussed an increase in local gang violence as well as teen pregnancy, attributing both issues to the lack of resources and services available for youth in the form of character development. Residents stated that while there are youth recreational opportunities such as sports and outdoor activities available, there are residents within the county who do not have physical or financial access to take part in these activities. Residents would also like to see more vocational training and other developmental opportunities for youth within the county, especially in low or moderate income areas. Lastly, discussion group participants mentioned the need for services for teens aging out of foster care.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion group participants mentioned resources in the strong support for youth and youth-related activities in the community, stating that residents are very collaborative and generous when it comes to youth initiatives. The faith-based community was also noted as an important sector of the community, with many active churches, good schools, and recreational activities associated with faith-based organizations, such as St. Vincent de Paul and Tomagwa Healthcare Ministries.

Trends

Adult educational needs were not reported as an issue in 2010. However, this assessment identified support for seniors as an emerging issue, in addition to the need for classes related to healthy relationships and resolving conflict. There are many resources available for youth that are supportive for families.

Housing

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey asked residents about the condition of their housing. Respondents across Montgomery County reported primarily living in a one-family home (87.5%) or a mobile home (5.7%).

When asked if their residence had experienced a severe problem in the past 12 months, survey respondents described a range of issues listed in Table 81. Across the county, the most reported problem with residents' homes was related to plumbing, heating/cooling, or electricity (going more than 24 hours without service).

Table 81. Severe housing problems reported in Montgomery County

Housing problems	Percentage of Montgomery County Respondents
Broken plaster or peeling paint (interior)	4.9
Broken windows	3.2
Holes in the floor	0.9
Mice, rats, or cockroaches	8.8
Mold	3.8
Plumbing, heating/cooling, electricity	15.7
Roof (such as holes, leaks, or sagging)	7.8

The Community Needs survey also asked residents about their need for housing related assistance in Montgomery County. Nine out of ten (87.5%) respondents said that they needed help paying utility bills. Almost three fourths (71.9%) of respondents needed help finding affordable housing and more than sixty percent (68.7%) needed help paying rent. Another 41.3 percent said they needed help making their home more energy efficient.

Participants in community discussion groups identified homelessness as a problem in Montgomery County. The demand for housing has increased as more people move into the county; cities are building more and more infrastructure as they attempt to address the influx of people. Residents stated that housing is an issue across the county because there is not enough available, especially for low to moderate income families. Residents also mentioned that rental properties are expensive, and the availability of nice, small, starter homes in decent neighborhoods are scarce. Other housing issues discussed included a lack of housing help, loan restrictions hindering affordability, and an increase in foreclosures throughout the county.

Trends

Low-income housing and increased foreclosures were identified as issues in the 2010 assessment. Community discussion groups also noted these concern in the most recent assessment. The cost of rental properties emerged as a new issue, as well as the inability to get home loans and housing help.

Medical Care

Needs and Barriers Identified

According to the RHP 17 survey, Montgomery County residents frequently reported the following chronic conditions, as diagnosed by a health care provider:

- High Cholesterol (36.2%)
- Obesity (36.0%)
- Hypertension (32.6%)
- Arthritis or rheumatism (20.3%)
- Depression (19.6%)
- Anxiety (18.9%)

Access to affordable medical care and prescriptions was assessed in the Community Needs survey. Approximately two thirds of respondents said they needed prescription assistance (66.0%) and needed health insurance or affordable medical care (66.0%).

During community discussion groups, residents discussed affordability of care as one of the main barriers to access, stating that some services are just too expensive and health care coverage too minimal. The issue of affordability affects primary care, specialty care, mental health, and dental services. Residents discussed poor dental care options for all, but singled out uninsured residents or low-income residents as facing particular difficulty in accessing dental services. Community members feel that they must travel outside the county for any cancer-related needs beyond diagnosis.

Health care providers also discussed the difficulties in working with payors, mentioning the increases in regulations and decreases in reimbursement. These payment challenges add to fiscal disparities related to health care within the community.

In describing specific health issues within the county, discussion groups mentioned drug addiction, diabetes, obesity, homelessness, cancer, and abuse of women and children on many occasions. Some residents believe that drug addiction problems are heightened by both the lack of available counseling and mental health services, as well as the location of the county's major highways for drug trafficking. When discussing cancer, many participants said that it was a major health concern for Montgomery County residents because there is a perception that local services for individuals with cancer do not exist.

Community Strengths and Assets

One community strength identified during discussion group was the county's close proximity to hospitals and health care services. Health care organizations were also mentioned as a community resource. The hospital district was said to provide quality services, good doctors, and a convenient location for community members, while community health clinics were said to be a good resource for medically indigent and low-income residents.

Trends

Access to affordable medical care and prescriptions is a persistent issue in Montgomery County, specifically for low-income populations. While the county is in close proximity to health care resources, they are not always assessable due to cost.

Satisfaction with Services provided by BVCAA

Clients were asked to complete a *Client Survey to Evaluate Services*. Respondents ranked their experience on a scale of *poor* to *excellent*. All respondents (100%) reported satisfaction (rating their experience as *good* or *excellent*) with treatment by the staff, staff follow-up, timeliness of services, and overall experience.

Respondents were also asked to report whether they had received certain services (utilities assistance, weatherization, food, other emergency assistance, employment related assistance, rent assistance, education related assistance, case management, or referrals) from their local BVCAA facility. The following are the services received by clients in Montgomery County:

- Utilities Assistance: 93.7%
- Food: 9.5%
- Rent Assistance: 7.9%
- Emergency Assistance: 6.3%
- Referrals: 4.8%
- Weatherization: 4.8%
- Case Management: 3.2%
- Education Assistance: 3.2%
- Employment Assistance: 3.2%

Robertson County Findings

Description of Robertson County

Robertson County covers 855 square miles of land area and is comprised of the four cities including Bremond, Calvert, Franklin and Hearne. Franklin serves as the county seat.

Population Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau 2013 population estimates indicate that 16,431 people were living in Robertson County, decreased by 1.0% from the 2010 population of 16,622. The county's population density is nearly 19.4 people per square mile. The total population of Robertson County from the 2010 U.S. Census and comparative population estimates for 2013 and 2014 are listed in Table 82. Population estimates for 2013 list Franklin having 1,621 residents, Hearne having 4,541 residents, Calvert having 1,071 residents, and Bremond as having 928 residents.

Table 82. Total Population – Robertson County

	2010	2013 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2013	2014 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2014
Robertson County	16,622	16,461	-1.0	16,500	-0.7
Texas	25,146,104	26,505,637	5.4	26,956,958	7.2
United States	308,758,105	316,497,531	2.5	318,857,056	3.3

Age and Gender

About half of Robertson County's population is male and half is female which is in line with the state and the nation. Table 82 shows the county's population numbers by gender.

Table 82. Robertson County 2013 Population by Gender by Percent

	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
Robertson County	8132	49.4	8329	50.6
Texas	13,173,301	49.7	13,332,335	50.3
United States	155,716,785	49.2	160,780,745	50.8

The percentage of residents aged 65 and over is higher than both the state and nation and the number of young people between ages five and 17 is substantially lower than the state. Robertson County's population by age is shown in Table 83.

Table 83. Robertson County 2013 Population by Age Group by Percent

	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	65 and over
Robertson County	6.6	17.6	57.8	18.0
Texas	7.3	26.6	54.9	11.2
United States	6.3	23.3	56.3	14.1

Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2013 Census estimates, the majority (58.3%) of Robertson County residents were White/Caucasian. The next largest race/ethnicity group is Hispanic or Latino which makes up nearly one fifth of the population. Just over one fifth of the population is comprised of Black/African Americans and the Asian population is estimated to just under one percent. Robertson County's population by race/ethnicity is shown in Table 84.

Table 84. Robertson County 2013 Population by Race/Ethnicity by Percent

Race/Ethnicity	Robertson County	Texas	United States
White/Caucasian	58.3	44.0	62.6
Black or African American	21.3	12.4	13.2
Asian	0.8	4.3	5.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	19.2	38.4	17.1

Housing

According to the 2013 Census estimates, there were 8,461 housing units in Robertson County. Approximately 5,851 were occupied housing units, (69.2%), with an average of 2.71 people per household. The housing vacancy rate is 30.8 percent or 2,610 units.

Per the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, the home ownership rate is 55.4 percent, (approximately 2,308 units) and the median value of owner occupied homes is \$128,900.

Rental Housing Units

In Robertson County, 28.8% (1,684 units) of the housing units were renter-occupied. Most renters (77%) pay less than \$749 per month in rent. However, nearly one-half of Robertson County renters pay rent which accounts for over 35 percent of their household income. Table 85 shows rental payments by percent of population in Robertson County and Table 86 illustrates the percent of household income used for rental payments.

Table 85. Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Robertson County Population

Monthly Rental Cost	\$499 or less	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 or more
Percent of Population	35.0	42.0	19.0	4.1	0.0

Table 86. Gross Monthly Rental Payment as a Percentage of Household Income

Percent of Household Income Paid in Rent	19.9% or less	20 to 24.9%	25 to 29.9%	30 to 34.9%	35% or more
Percent of Population	22.9	4.4	16.4	12.3	44.1

Housing Assistance

The seven-county region of Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington Counties comprises the service area for the Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher Program which is managed by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG). According to BVCOG officials, the program is authorized to provide approximately 1,900 rental assistance vouchers across the region but funding is only available to support about 1,725 vouchers. There is currently a two-year wait list of nearly 1,000 individuals wanting to apply for rental assistance through this program. Of those, it is estimated that about 60% will end up qualifying for the program once they have been screened for eligibility. Clearly, the need for rental assistance is outpacing the available resources.

Education

Nineteen percent of Robertson County residents have obtained an associate's degree or higher. Over one third of county residents obtained their high school diploma but almost one quarter have less than a high school education. Table 87 shows educational attainment by percentage of the county.

Table 87. Educational Attainment of Robertson County Residents Aged 25 and over

Level of Educational Attainment	Less than HS	HS Diploma	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's	Graduate Degree
Percent of Population	23.7	37.2	20.1	3.2	11.2	4.6

School Districts

There are five independent school districts within Robertson County - Bremond ISD, Calvert ISD, Hearne ISD, Franklin ISD, and Mumford ISD. According to TEA, in 2013 Bremond ISD had 433 students enrolled of which 49.2 percent of were identified as economically disadvantaged. Calvert ISD had 143 students with 90.2 percent identified as economically disadvantaged and Hearne ISD had 981 students enrolled of which 92.5 percent were identified as economically disadvantaged. Franklin ISD had 1,071 students with 36.5 percent identified as economically disadvantaged and Mumford ISD had 597 students with 75.9 percent identified as economically disadvantaged.

District Dropout Rates

Bremond ISD, Calvert ISD, Franklin ISD, and Mumford ISD dropout data were not publicly available in order to protect student anonymity according to the Texas Education Agency website.

Employment

According to April 2015 TWC estimates, the Robertson County labor force consists of 7,226 individuals. 6,908 of those individuals were currently employed and 318 were unemployed, resulting in a 4.0 percent unemployment rate.

Community Safety

Robertson County has four reporting policing agencies including Robertson County Sheriff's Office, Bremond Police Department, Calvert Police Department, and Hearne Police Department. In a "2013 Crime in Texas by Jurisdiction" report produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety, aggravated

assault (474) was the leading crime followed by larceny (208). Crime rates in Robertson County are shown in Table 88.

Table 88. 2013 Texas Department of Public Safety Report: Robertson County (number of offenses)

Reporting Entity	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Robertson County SO	1	0	0	1	38	95	12
Bremond PD	0	0	0	6	7	23	1
Calvert PD	0	1	0	4	8	9	1
Hearne PD	0	1	3	463	31	81	2
Totals	1	2	3	474	84	208	16

Persons Living in Poverty

According to the 2009-2013 *American Community Survey*, 20.7 percent of Robertson County residents were living below poverty level. Compared to the other eleven counties in BVCAA's service area, Robertson County has the fourth lowest rate of poverty. Nearly two percent (1.99%) of the region's total residents who were living below poverty level reside in Robertson County.

Sources of Primary Data

The results described in the following sections are based on primary data collected from the various sources previously described in the *Methods of Data Collection* section of this report. Two types of survey data were collected in Robertson County: the RHP 17 survey, and the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. In Robertson County, 231 residents completed the RHP 17 survey, and 23 residents completed the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. The results from these surveys were combined with contextual information gathered from discussion groups and interviews with key community leaders, health care providers, social service providers, and the general public (i.e. residents) of Robertson County. A total of 14 community discussion groups were conducted in Robertson County with 82 total participants. In addition to these discussion groups, six interviews with key informants were held in Robertson County.

The following sections describe the results from the primary data collected in Robertson County. Results are organized into seven key community health topics: assistance and case management, community, education, employment, family support, housing, and medical care.

Assistance and Case Management

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. Two of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) were related to assistance and case management. Residents reported needing financial assistance or welfare (18.3%) and financial assistance for auto, appliance, or home repair; or weatherization (12.1%).

To better understand why these issues occurred in Robertson County, key informant interviews with key leaders and social service providers were conducted. Among the top issues heard was assistance

with housing and utilities. Key informants also discussed the need for comprehensive case management that would help residents become self-sufficient and the coordination of services.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion groups identified resources available in Robertson County. Participants mentioned that churches and local ministerial alliances are important and active resources within the community. Residents also highlighted local civic and social service organizations as assets in Robertson County, especially for residents in need. Interviews with social service providers identified resources available in Robertson County for case management services to help coordinate services and help people become more self-sufficient.

Trends

A slight decrease in survey respondents who said they needed financial assistance or welfare was seen since 2010. Previously rates were 20 percent, but decreased to 18 percent according to the RHP 17 survey. Case management was an issue previously in 2010 and was heard in community discussion groups in this assessment as well.

Community

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community characteristics can influence perceptions of safety and the likelihood for community members to engage in activities outside their home. Robertson County respondents varied in their perception of how closely their fellow community members shared their values. Half of Robertson County residents (51.4%) felt that their community had shared values. Robertson County residents reported slightly lower levels of trust among fellow community members, with 26.9 percent saying you can't be too careful in dealing with other people, compared to 22.5 percent of respondents in the rural Brazos Valley counties. Table 89 summarizes these perceived characteristics of Robertson County, listing the percentage of respondents who reported *agree* or *strongly agree* with each statement.

Table 89. Robertson County community characteristics

Community Characteristics	Percentage of Robertson County Respondents
People are willing to help their neighbors	87.1
This is a close knit community	77.5
Most people can be trusted in the community	74.9
Neighbors would help someone who fell	62.7
Many people are physically active in local neighborhoods	49.3
Problems in neighborhoods make it hard to go outside and walk	33.7
People are concerned they will be a victim of crime if they walk/bike in their neighborhood	13.7

During community discussion groups, residents said that Robertson County serves as a “bedroom community” where residents live in the county but work and participate in activities elsewhere. This population growth does not necessarily result in economic growth. There is a lack of retail businesses, particularly grocery stores in the county. Businesses are content to stay in the larger Bryan/College

Station area rather than opening new locations in the smaller, rural communities, which also poses a significant access problem for Robertson County residents who do not have reliable transportation. Transportation is a persistent and substantial problem for many Robertson County residents. A common themes among interviews with key informants were issues with transportation.

Residents also gave repeated accounts of historical racial tension and socioeconomic divisions within and between Robertson County communities. While there are close-knit bonds among community members, discussion group participants across the county highlighted the distinct communities within the county and the division among them.

Community Strengths and Assets

Information gathered in community discussion groups showed that overall, Robertson County was a close knit, rural community with a small-town atmosphere. Participants said the community had access to amenities in nearby bigger cities. Social services providers in Robertson County noted that there are resource to help eligible residents with transportation needs.

Trends

Transportation services continue to top the unmet needs in Robertson County. In addition, a history of racial and socioeconomic divisions has remained a barrier in the community.

Education

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. One of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) were related to education. Residents reported needing work related or employment services including help with finding work or job training.

The primary issue voiced in community discussion participants was the need for educational opportunities for young adults. Participants stated that they wanted to see more vocational options in the county for residents who do not pursue higher education at colleges or universities. Again, due to the lack of transportation options, young adults find it challenging to access training services offered in Bryan/College Station.

Key informant interviews also suggested that education was a key issue in Robertson County. Interviewees also said residents needed education for income management.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion groups with Brazos County residents cited schools as a local resource. Discussion group participants boasted that the school districts in Robertson County were excellent. Social service organizations also said that there are educational resources for Robertson County residents like post-secondary training, GED classes, and financial counseling.

Trends

Education is an important social factor that influences health status. Job training was identified previously as a community service needed in Robertson County and continues to be a need. In addition,

early childhood programs was previously identified as a top community service that was needed in Robertson County; however, this did not emerge as an issue in the most recent assessment.

Employment

Needs and Barriers Identified

RHP 17 survey respondents were asked to rate the severity of a list of community issues, on a scale ranging from *not at all a problem* to a *very serious problem*. In Robertson County, two of the top 10 issues were related to employment. Respondents cited lack of jobs for unskilled workers (54.1%) and unemployment (49.8%) as *serious problems* or *very serious problems* in their community.

Participants in community discussion groups noted that many residents seek employment outside of Robertson County. However, those without reliable transportation have few options due to the lack of public transportation options. During key informant interviews, social service provider also said that employment was an issue in Robertson County.

Trends

This assessment identified lack of jobs for unskilled workers and unemployment as community issues. In 2010, work-related or employment services including job training were the primary concern in Robertson County.

Family Support

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey asked Robertson County residents about family support activities and services. First, the survey asked how many respondents were responsible for providing regular care or assistance to a friend or family member at home who has a long-term health problem or disability. During the past month, 23.9 percent of residents in Robertson County reported providing care for at least one person. This is the highest percentage of caregivers in the Brazos Valley, where the regional average is 11.9 percent. The majority of the people being cared for were aged 65 or older (79.4%); 14.4 percent of respondents reported caring for someone between the ages of 18 and 64. Six percent of respondents reported caregiving for a child between the ages of one and 17. Across the county, 32.1 percent reported caring for a parent. Other relationships reported between caregiver and the person they care for included caring for a spouse (24.1%), parent-in-law (18.7%), child (9.3%), and a non-relative (9.5%).

Interviews with key informants voiced the need for supportive family services in Robertson County. One specific concern was the need for affordable child care.

Community Strengths and Assets

During community discussion groups, participants said the Boys and Girls Club in Hearne was seen as especially valuable for the youth of Robertson County, particularly during the summer months. This organization provided a place for youth to go for recreational activities.

Trends

In 2010, the Boys and Girls Club had recently been established in Hearne and residents anticipated that it would be a significant asset for Robertson County. According to recent discussion group, the Boys and Girls club was seen as a community resource locally. In addition the 2010 assessment identified

concerns about lack of services for the growing older adult population. These concerns were replaced with needs related to child care and services for youth to go to for recreational activities.

Housing

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey asked residents about the condition of their housing. The majority of Robertson County respondents reported primarily living in a one-family home (71.5%), 17.5 percent reported living in a mobile home, and 2.4 percent reported living in an apartment building. Less than one percent of residents reported they lived in a duplex, triplex, or four-plex or a townhome or condominium.

When asked if their residence had experienced a severe problem in the past 12 months, survey respondents described a range of issues listed in Table 90. Across the county, the most reported problem with residents' homes was related to plumbing, heating/cooling, or electricity (going more than 24 hours without service).

Table 90. Severe housing problems reported in Robertson County

Housing problems	Percentage of Robertson County Respondents
Plumbing, heating/cooling, electricity	23.6
Mice, rats, or cockroaches	13.9
Broken plaster or peeling paint (interior)	13.6
Roof problems (such as holes, leaks, or sagging)	11.4
Broken windows	8.4
Mold	8.0
Holes in the floor	4.1

Participants in community discussion groups said that housing is an issue in Robertson County. There are few housing options for low-income or middle-income families. Interviews with key informants in Robertson County also identified housing as a community issue, specifically issues with finding affordable housing in the community.

Community Strengths and Assets

Interviews with social service providers in Robertson County identified resource related to available services. Residents can get help with housing through counseling services.

Trends

Housing was not previously identified as a community issue in 2010, however the most recent assessment cites a lack of housing available for low and middle income families. Housing conditions were not previously assessed in the 2010 health assessment, so there is no information about the type of housing or problems related to housing in Robertson County.

Medical Care

Needs and Barriers Identified

According to the RHP 17 survey, Robertson County residents frequently reported the following chronic conditions, as diagnosed by a health care provider:

- Hypertension (50.5%)
- High Cholesterol (45.9%)
- Overweight/obesity(36.3%)
- Anxiety (24.7%)
- Depression (24.2%)
- Diabetes (16.7%)

Many community discussion group participants identified poor access to health care as a major issue within Robertson County. With a limited number of physicians and no hospital or emergency room, residents are forced to travel outside of the county to access most health care services, including specialty care, mental health, and dental services.

Medical care was a commonly identified theme among interviews with key informants in Robertson County. Interview participants said they needed access to health services, specifically more options for specialty care and emergency services. They said that services needed to be affordable and easily accessible for residents.

Community Strengths and Assets

During key informant interviews, social service providers in Robertson County identified resources related to medical care. They said the community has comprehensive medical services for children zero through three years of age with developmental disabilities.

Trends

Madison County residents reported the similar top chronic diseases in 2010 as 2013, according to the RHP 17 survey and previous assessment results. Rates for hypertension, high cholesterol, anxiety, and depression all increased slightly. In addition, diabetes was cited as a top chronic disease in this assessment, but was not previously identified in 2010. Obesity rates were not measured the same across years, but still remained as a top chronic disease.

Satisfaction with Services provided by BVCAA

Clients were asked to complete a *Client Survey to Evaluate Services*. Respondents ranked their experience on a scale of *poor* to *excellent*. The large majority of respondents (95.7%) reported satisfaction (rating their experience as *good* or *excellent*) with staff follow-up and overall experience, while all respondents (100%) reported satisfaction with treatment by the staff and timeliness of services.

Respondents were also asked to report whether they had received certain services (utilities assistance, weatherization, food, other emergency assistance, employment related assistance, rent assistance, education related assistance, case management, or referrals) from their local BVCAA facility. Following are the services received by clients in Robertson County:

- Emergency Assistance: 21.7%
- Utilities Assistance: 17.4%
- Referrals: 8.7%
- Case Management: 4.3%

BVCAA Partner Suggestions

Interviews with social service providers in Robertson County identified ways that BVCAA can partner to address community needs. Social service providers suggested increasing interagency collaboration and participating in a Regional Transportation Board, as well as referring customers to services addressing adult education and literacy, workforce development, and child care. It was also suggested that BVCAA should support local providers in providing job skills training. Additionally, providers would like to see an increased focus on developing strategies to address housing and healthcare, as well as continued collaboration through making referrals to and from HealthPoint.

Walker County Findings

Description of Walker County

Walker County covers 801 square miles of land area and is comprised of the cities of Huntsville, New Waverly, Riverside, and Dodge. Huntsville is the county seat.

Population Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau 2013 population estimates indicate that 69,452 people were living in Walker County, up 2.3% from the 2010 population of 67,861. The county's population density is nearly 86.5 people per square mile. The total population of Walker County from the 2010 U.S. Census and comparative population estimates for 2013 and 2014 are listed in Table 91. Texas State Data Center population estimates for 2013 list Huntsville having 39,913 residents, New Waverly having 1,025 residents, and Riverside having 498 residents.

Table 91. Total Population – Walker County

	2010	2013 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2013	2014 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2014
Walker County	67,861	69,452	2.3	69,789	2.8
Texas	25,146,104	26,505,637	5.4	26,956,958	7.2
United States	308,758,105	316,497,531	2.5	318,857,056	3.3

Age and Gender

Walker County has a larger male population by nearly ten percent in comparison to the state and nation. Table 92 shows the county's population numbers by gender.

Table 92. Walker County 2013 Population by Gender by Percent

	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
Walker County	40,698	58.6	28,753	41.4
Texas	13,173,301	49.7	13,332,335	50.3
United States	155,716,785	49.2	160,780,745	50.8

The county of Walker has a noticeably higher number of residents between the age of 18 and 64. This is likely due to the number of students living in Huntsville. Walker County's population by age is shown in Table 93.

Table 93. Walker County 2013 Population by Age Group by Percent

	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	65 and over
Walker County	4.3	11.5	73.0	11.2
Texas	7.3	26.6	54.9	11.2
United States	6.3	23.3	56.3	14.1

Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2013 Census estimates, the majority (57.7%) of Walker County residents were White/Caucasian. The next largest race/ethnicity group is Hispanic or Latino at just over 15 percent of the population. Over one-fifth of the population is Black/African American and the Asian population comprises about one percent of the population. Walker County's population by race/ethnicity is shown in Table 94.

Table 94. Walker County 2013 Population by Race/Ethnicity by Percent

Race/Ethnicity	Walker	Texas	United States
White/Caucasian	57.7	44.0	62.6
Black or African American	22.8	12.4	13.2
Asian	1.1	4.3	5.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	17.5	38.4	17.1

Housing

According to the 2013 Census estimates, there were 24,375 housing units in Walker County. Approximately 20,558 were occupied housing units, (84.3%), with an average of 2.43 people per household. The housing vacancy rate is 15.4 percent or 3,817 units.

Per the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, the home ownership rate is 54.1 percent, (approximately 6,341 units) and the median value of owner occupied homes is \$109,900.

Rental Housing Units

In Walker County, 43.0% (8,835 units) of the housing units were renter-occupied. More than 40 percent pay between \$500 and \$749 for rent per month. A majority of renters pay more than 35 percent of their household toward rent. Table 95 shows rental payments by percent of population in Walker County and Table 96 illustrates the percent of household income used for rental payments.

Table 95. Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Walker County Population

Monthly Rental Cost	\$499 or less	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 or more
Percent of Population	13.8	40.1	26.3	10.5	9.3

Table 96. Gross Monthly Rental Payment as a Percentage of Household Income

Percent of Monthly Income Paid in Rent	19.9% or less	20 to 24.9%	25 to 29.9%	30 to 34.9%	35% or more
Percent of Population	20.6	6.0	11.2	5.4	56.9

Education

More than 20 percent (22.6%) of Walker County residents have obtained an associate's degree or higher. One third (34.9%) of county residents obtained their high school diploma while nearly one in five have less than a high school education. Table 97 shows educational attainment by percentage of the county.

Table 97. Educational Attainment of Walker County Residents Aged 25 and over

Level of Educational Attainment	Less than HS	HS Diploma	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's	Graduate Degree
Percent of Population	18.4	34.9	24.2	4.7	12.5	5.4

School Districts

There are three independent school districts within Walker County - Huntsville ISD, New Waverly ISD, and Raven School. According to TEA, in 2013 Huntsville ISD had 6,321 students enrolled of which 64.1 percent of were identified as economically disadvantaged. New Waverly ISD had 889 students with 52.5 percent identified as economically disadvantaged. Raven School had 100 students with 100 percent identified as economically disadvantaged.

District Dropout Rates

The annual dropout rate is based on the number of students who dropped out of grades 7–12 during the 2012–13 school year. The annual dropout rate formula is:

$$\text{Annual dropout rate} = \frac{\text{Number of students who dropped out during the school year}}{\text{Number of students enrolled during the school year}} \times 100$$

The total 7th – 12th grade student population for HISD in 2012-13 was 5,764 and had 21 students dropout. New Waverly ISD nor Raven School dropout data were publicly available in order to protect student anonymity according to the Texas Education Agency website

Employment

According to April 2015 TWC estimates, the Walker County labor force consists of 23,103 individuals. 22,104 of those individuals were currently employed and 999 were unemployed, resulting in a 4 percent unemployment rate.

Community Safety

There are two reporting policing agencies within Walker County. The Walker County Sheriff's Office and Huntsville Police Department. In a "2008 Crime in Texas by Jurisdiction" report produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety, larceny (962) was the leading crime committed, followed by burglary (386). Crime rates in Walker County are shown in Table 98.

Table 98. 2013 Texas Department of Public Safety Report: Walker County (number of offenses)

Reporting Entity	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Walker County SO	3	15	5	25	145	164	33
Huntsville PD	0	22	22	169	241	798	39
Total	3	37	27	194	386	962	72

Persons Living in Poverty

According to the 2009-2013 *American Community Survey*, 20.6 percent of Walker County Residents were living below poverty level. Compared to the other eleven counties in BVCAA's service area, Walker County has the fourth highest rate of poverty. Approximately 7 percent of those living in poverty in the region reside in Walker County.

Sources of Primary Data

The results described in the following sections are based on primary data collected from the various sources previously described in the *Methods of Data Collection* section of this report. Three types of survey data were collected in Walker County: the RHP 17 survey, the Community Needs survey, and the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. In Walker County, 396 residents completed the RHP 17 survey, two residents took the Community Needs survey, and two residents completed the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. The results from these surveys were combined with contextual information gathered from discussion groups and interviews with key community leaders, health care providers, social service providers, and the general public (i.e. residents) of Walker County. A total of six community discussion groups were conducted in Walker County with 69 total participants. In addition to these discussion groups, one interview with a key informant was held in Walker County.

Assistance and Case Management

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. One of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) was related to assistance and case management. Residents reported needing financial assistance or welfare (15.3%).

The Community Needs survey asked residents to describe their need for assistance and case management services. Respondents were asked to rate their need related to a list of services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Walker County, the issues rated as *needed* or a *very needed* were as follows:

- Community resources (100%)
- Legal services (100%)
- Transportation (100%)
- Food (100%)
- Case management (100%)
- Applying for Social Security, SSDI, WIC, TANF, etc. (50%)
- Child care (50%)

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion group participants noted social service and civic organizations as a resource in the community. Participants acknowledged the collaborative nature of local organizations, which often results in joint activities like food drives and the soup kitchen.

Trends

Previous assessments indicated assistance with utilities and food as priority needs. Financial assistance and food were more recently listed as needs in the 2013 RHP 17 survey and 2015 Community Needs survey respectively.

Community

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community characteristics can influence perceptions of safety and increase or decrease the likelihood for community members to engage in activities outside their home. Walker County respondents varied in their perception of how closely their fellow community members shared their values. Almost two-thirds (63.7%) of Walker County residents felt that their community had shared values. In contrast, Walker County respondents (77.7%) rated the trust among fellow community members lower than the overall RHP 17 rating (84%), though this rating was similar to the other rural RHP 17 counties (76.8%). Table 99 summarizes these perceived characteristics of Walker County, listing the percentage of respondents who reported *agree* or *strongly agree* with each statement.

Table 99. Walker County community characteristics

Community Characteristics	Percentage of Walker County Respondents
People are willing to help their neighbors	91.4
Neighbors would help someone who fell	82.0
Most people can be trusted in the community	77.7
Many people are physically active in local neighborhoods	62.5
This is a close knit community	42.1
Problems in neighborhoods make it hard to go outside and walk	27.4
People are concerned they will be a victim of crime if they walk/bike in their neighborhood	5.7

To better understand community needs in Walker County, the Community Needs survey asked residents in to identify areas of community improvement. Half of respondents said that their community needed neighborhood clean-up projects (50%), crime awareness or crime reduction (50%), public parks and facilities (50%), and more employment opportunities (50%).

Community discussion groups noted that the local population in Walker County is growing, specifically among older adults and retirees which is resulting in a widening divide between younger and older residents and between different socioeconomic groups. Discussion group participants mentioned several social issues such as poverty, racism, and poor school systems as being noticeable community challenges. An overall decline in community engagement and participation was also identified. Residents

said only a small group of people are involved in civic organizations or serve as volunteers for local causes. Key informant interviews also identified issues with outreach to rural areas as a primary concern.

Community Strengths and Assets

Discussion group participants in Walker County described their community as a small, conservative community that cares about its residents. Community members are viewed as friendly and as active supporters of local causes. Residents considered the county's natural resources, like Huntsville State Park, to be an asset as well. The State Park was identified as a source of tourism that benefits the local economy, as well as a place for community members to be active and participate in recreational activities.

Education

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. Two of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) were related to education. Residents reported needing work-related or employment services including help with finding work or job training (14.6%) and literacy training, GED, or English as a second language courses (11.1%).

The Community Needs survey asked respondents to rate their need related to a list of educational services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Walker County, the educational needs, rated as *needed* or a *very needed*, were as follows:

- Adult education or night school (50%)
- Assistance to attend trade or technical school or college (50%)
- Computer skills training (50%)
- English as a second language classes (50%)
- GED classes (50%)

Community discussion group participants also mentioned poor school systems as a community challenge.

Trends

The need for adult education and English as a second language classes was noted in a 2010 assessment. This need was also expressed in the 2015 Community Needs survey.

Employment

Needs and Barriers Identified

RHP 17 survey respondents were asked to rate the severity of a list of community issues, on a scale ranging from *not at all a problem* to a *very serious problem*. In Walker County, two of the top 10 issues were related to employment. Respondents cited lack of jobs for unskilled workers (61.5%) and unemployment (53.4%) as *serious problems* or *very serious problems* in their community.

Walker County residents also reported needing help with employment on the Community Needs survey. Half of respondents said they needed help finding a job (50%) and all respondents reported needing job skills, training, and job searching (100%).

Community discussion group participants expressed concern that leadership and few incentives for new businesses acted as barriers to economic development and contributed to a lack of jobs for local residents.

Community Strengths and Assets

Discussion group participants cited the State of Texas, through facilities such as the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Prison System in Huntsville and Sam Houston State University as the main sources of employment.

Trends

Employment was cited as a priority community issues in previous assessments. The need for continued focus on employment-related issues continues to remain prominent.

Family Support

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey asked Walker County residents about family support activities and services. First, the survey asked how many respondents were responsible for providing regular care or assistance to a friend or family member at home who has a long-term health problem or disability. During the past month, 11.1 percent of residents in Walker County reported providing care for at least one person. A majority of the people being cared for were aged 65 or older (50.4%); 38.3 percent of respondents reported caring for someone between the ages of 45 and 64. A small percentage of respondents (2.8%) reported caregiving for a child between the ages of one and 17. In Walker County, 47.5 percent reported caring for a parent or spouse's parent. The other relationships between caregiver and charge most commonly reported were caring for a spouse (26.0%), child (7.9%), and non-relative (10.9%).

Community Needs survey respondents were asked to indicate their need related to programs and classes for family support, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Brazos County, the top classes rated as *needed* or a *very needed* were related to:

- Financial, budgeting, and credit (100%)
- Healthy relationships and resolving conflict (100%)
- Seniors (100%)
- Youth (100%)
- Mental health counseling (50%)
- Nutrition and healthy eating (50%)
- Parenting (50%)

Community Strengths and Assets

Community Discussion Group participants noted social service and civic organizations as resources to the community; specifically those related to youth development such as the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club.

Trends

The need for financial education was addressed in the 2010 BVCAA assessment. This was again noted as a community need in the 2015 Community Needs survey.

Housing

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP 17 survey asked residents about the condition of their housing. Respondents across Walker County reported primarily living in a one-family home (72.8%) or a mobile home (18.3%). When asked if their residence had experienced a severe problem in the past 12 months, survey respondents listed a range of issues in Table 100. Across the county, the most reported problem with residents' homes was related to plumbing, heating/cooling, or electricity (going more than 24 hours without service).

Table 100. Severe housing problems reported in Walker County

Housing problems	Percentage of Walker County Respondents
Plumbing, heating/cooling, electricity	22.7
Broken plaster or peeling paint (interior)	15.2
Roof problems (such as holes, leaks, or sagging)	12.4
Mice, rats, or cockroaches	12.6
Mold	11.9
Holes in the floor	8.3
Broken windows	6.5

The Community Needs survey also asked residents about housing related issues in Brazos County. All respondents reported needing help paying their utility bills (100%) while half of respondents said that they needed help paying rent (50%). All respondents also said that Walker County needed more affordable housing (100%).

Community discussion group participants said that availability of affordable housing has not kept up with the population growth in the county.

Medical Care

Needs and Barriers Identified

According to the RHP 17 survey, residents frequently reported the following chronic conditions, as diagnosed by a health care provider:

- High Cholesterol (28.2%)
- Hypertension (28.2%)
- Arthritis or rheumatism (23.8%)
- Obesity/overweight (23.7%)
- Anxiety (14.4%)
- Depression (14.3%)

Access to affordable medical care and prescriptions was also assessed in the Community Needs survey. All respondents said they needed prescription assistance (100%) and health insurance or affordable medical care (100%).

Community Discussion Group participants identified chronic diseases as a health concern for many community members. Heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, and other obesity-related issues were common diagnoses within the local population. Unfortunately, residents managing these illnesses often struggle to access health services within the community. Additionally, the majority of specialty care services utilized by Walker County residents are located in Conroe or The Woodlands, which required people to travel outside the county. Consistent with other counties across the region, residents said that affordable, reliable public transportation is nonexistent within the county—making access to care even more difficult.

Medical care was also a commonly identified theme among interviews with key informants. Interview participants said they needed access to health services, specifically more options for specialty care and pediatrics.

Community Strengths and Assets

Discussion group participants cited local health care providers as an asset to Walker County; specifically the local hospital, pharmacies, and Emergency Management System. Social service providers who were interviewed in Walker County noted that the community has comprehensive medical services for children zero through three years of age with developmental disabilities.

Trends

The need for community clinics and help with Medicaid enrollment were identified as critical community issues in the 2010 assessment. The need for assistance with health insurance and affordable medical care was also reflected in more recent data.

Satisfaction with Services provided by BVCAA

Clients were asked to complete a *Client Survey to Evaluate Services*. Respondents ranked their experience on a scale of *poor* to *excellent*. All respondents (100%) reported satisfaction (rating their experience as *good* or *excellent*) with treatment by the staff, staff follow-up, timeliness of services, and overall experience.

Respondents were also asked to report whether they had received certain services (utilities assistance, weatherization, food, other emergency assistance, employment related assistance, rent assistance, education related assistance, case management, or referrals) from their local BVCAA facility. Following are the services received by clients in Walker County:

- Utilities Assistance: 100%
- Weatherization: 50%

BVCAA Partner Suggestions

One social service provider in Walker County was interviewed to identify ways that BVCAA can partner to address community needs. The provider suggested partnering to address pediatric medical care, specialized treatment needs, and care for individuals with developmental delays.

Waller County Findings

Description of Waller County

Waller County covers 518 square miles of land area and is comprised of the cities of Hempstead, Waller, Brookshire, and Prairie View, as well as smaller cities including Katy, Pattison and Pine Island.

Hempstead is the county seat. According to the Texas State Data Center 2013 population estimates for Hempstead were 6,299 residents, 14,919 in Katy residents, 4,824 residents in Brookshire, and 5,887 residents in Prairie View. The populations for Waller, Pattison, and Pine Island range from 518 to 2,418.

Population Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau 2013 population estimates indicate that 45,484 people were living in Waller County, up 5.2% from the 2010 population of 43,237. The county's population density is nearly 84.1 people per square mile. The total population of Waller County from the 2010 U.S. Census and comparative population estimates for 2013 and 2014 are listed in Table 101. According to the Texas State Data Center 2013 population estimates for Hempstead were 6,299 residents, 14,919 in Katy residents, 4,824 residents in Brookshire, and 5,887 residents in Prairie View. The populations for Waller, Pattison, and Pine Island range from 518 to 2,418.

Table 101. Total Population – Waller County

	2010	2013 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2013	2014 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2014
Waller County	43,237	45,484	5.2	46,820	8.3
Texas	25,146,104	26,505,637	5.4	26,956,958	7.2
United States	308,758,105	316,497,531	2.5	318,857,056	3.3

Age and Gender

About half of Waller County's population is male and half is female which is in line with the state and the nation. Table 102 shows the county's population numbers by gender.

Table 102. Waller County 2013 Population by Gender by Percent

	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
Waller County	21,488	49.7	21,748	50.3
Texas	13,173,301	49.7	13,332,335	50.3
United States	155,716,785	49.2	160,780,745	50.8

Waller County's population by age is shown in Table 103.

Table 103. Waller County 2013 Population by Age Group by Percent

	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	65 and over
Waller County	6.5	17.5	64.6	11.4
Texas	7.3	26.6	54.9	11.2
United States	6.3	23.3	56.3	14.1

Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2013 Census estimates, the majority (43.6%) of Waller County residents were White/Caucasian. The next largest race/ethnicity group is Hispanic or Latino with nearly 30 percent of the population. One quarter of the population is Black/African American and the Asian population is estimated to be just under one percent. Waller County's population by race/ethnicity is shown in Table 104.

Table 104. Waller County 2013 Population by Race/Ethnicity by Percent

Race/Ethnicity	Waller County	Texas	United States
White/Caucasian	43.6	44.0	62.6
Black or African American	25.8	12.4	13.2
Asian	0.7	4.3	5.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	29.5	38.4	17.1

Housing

According to the 2013 Census estimates, there were 15,834 housing units in Waller County. Approximately 13,601 were occupied housing units, (85.9%), with an average of 2.94 people per household. The housing vacancy rate is 14.1 percent or 2,233 units.

Per the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, the home ownership rate is 46.3 percent, (approximately 4,374 units) and the median value of owner occupied homes is \$133,400.

Rental Housing Units

In Waller County, 32.1 percent (4,370 units) of the housing units were renter-occupied. The majority (65.8%) of renters pay between \$500 and \$999 per month in rent. Over forty percent pay more than 35 percent of their household income in rent. Table 105 shows rental payments by percent of population in Waller County and Table 106 illustrates the percent of household income used for rental payments.

Table 105. Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Waller County Population

Monthly Rental Cost	\$499 or less	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 or more
Percent of Population	8.0	33.2	32.6	20.3	5.9

Table 106. Gross Monthly Rental Payment as a Percentage of Household Income

Percentage of Household Income	19.9% or less	20 to 24.9	25 to 29.9	30 to 34.9	35% or more
Percent of Population	28.9	8.7	14.3	6.0	42.1

Education

Almost one in four (24.5%) of Waller County residents have obtained an associate's degree or higher. One third (37.4%) of Waller County residents obtained their high school diploma and 19 percent have less than a high school education. Table 107 shows educational attainment by percentage of the county.

Table 107. Educational Attainment of Waller County Residents Aged 25 and over

Level of Educational Attainment	Less than HS	HS Diploma	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's	Graduate Degree
Percentage of Population	19.0	37.4	19.1	5.5	13.8	5.2

School Districts

There are three independent school districts within Waller County - Hempstead ISD, Royal, and Waller ISD. According to the Texas Education Agency, in 2013 Hempstead ISD had 1,525 students enrolled of which 79.9 percent of were identified as economically disadvantaged. Royal ISD had 2,088 students with 83.5 percent identified as economically disadvantaged. Waller ISD had 5,705 students enrolled of which 65.3 percent of were identified as economically disadvantaged.

District Dropout Rates

Hempstead ISD, Royal ISD, and Waller ISD dropout data were not publicly available in order to protect student anonymity according to the Texas Education Agency website.

Employment

According to April 2015 TWC estimates, the Waller County labor force consists of 21,129 individuals. 20,275 of those individuals were currently employed and 854 were unemployed, resulting in a 4 percent unemployment rate.

Community Safety

Waller County has five reporting policing agencies - Waller County Sheriff's Office, Brookshire Police Department, Waller Police Department, Hempstead Police Department, and Prairie View A&M University Police Department. In a "2013 Crime in Texas by Jurisdiction" report produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety, larceny was the leading crime (487) followed by burglary (231). Crime rates in Waller County are shown in Table 108.

Table 108. 2013 Texas Department of Public Safety Report: Waller County (number of offenses)

Reporting Entity	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Waller County SO	1	17	3	20	83	148	25
Brookshire PD	0	1	3	16	25	59	7
Waller PD	0	0	2	7	29	61	4
Hempstead PD	0	0	8	10	72	134	13
Prairie View A&M PD	0	4	3	6	22	85	8
Total	1	22	19	59	231	487	57

Persons Living in Poverty

According to the 2009-2013 *American Community Survey*, 20.4 percent of Waller County Residents were living below poverty level. Compared to the other eleven counties in BVCAA's service area, Waller County has the fifth highest rate of poverty. Nearly five percent of those living in poverty in the region reside in Waller County.

Sources of Primary Data

The results described in the following sections are based on primary data collected from the various sources previously described in the *Methods of Data Collection* section of this report. Two types of survey data were collected in Waller County: Community Needs survey, and BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. In Waller County, four residents took the Community Needs survey, and three residents completed the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. The results from these surveys were combined with contextual information gathered from discussion groups and interviews with key community leaders, health care providers, social service providers, and the general public (i.e. residents) of Waller County. A total of two community discussion groups were conducted in Waller County with 15 total participants.

Assistance and Case Management

Needs and Barriers Identified

The Community Needs survey asked residents in Waller County to describe their need for assistance and case management services. Respondents were asked to rate their need related to a list of services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to *very needed*. In Waller County, the issues rated as *needed* or a *very needed* were as follows:

- Community resources (100%)
- Case management (75%)
- Transportation (75%)
- Child care (50%)
- Applying for Social Security, SSDI, WIC, TANF, etc. (25%)
- Food (25%)
- Legal services (0%)

Community discussion groups were held to better understand the context of community issues in Waller County. Participants noted a great need for utility assistance resources.

Trends

A community assessment of Waller County was previously conducted in 2010. Two of the top seven community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) were related to assistance or case management; financial assistance or welfare (12.7%) and financial assistance for auto, appliance, or home repair or weatherization (9.3%). The Community Needs survey and community discussion groups, both conducted in 2015 also revealed a need for financial assistance including but not limited to help with utility payments.

Community

Needs and Barriers Identified

To better understand community needs in Waller County, the Community Needs survey asked residents in Waller County to identify areas of community improvement. All respondents said that their community needed more employment opportunities (100%). Half of respondents reported a need for crime awareness or crime reduction (50%), while one fourth of respondents said their community needed neighborhood clean-up projects (25%) and more public parks and facilities (25%).

Community discussion group participants specifically noted a lack of public transportation options as well as a lack of other infrastructure including grocery stores, retail stores, service stations, restaurants, hotels, financial institutions, and places for recreational activities in addition to a need for street lights and road repair. Community Discussion Group participants also identified a lack of citizen involvement in the community.

Community Strengths and Assets

Information gathered through discussion groups showed that overall, residents view their community as being a friendly environment where everyone takes care of each other. Churches and youth sports leagues were noted as great community resources in terms of for providing activities for children and youth. Residents also cited strong city and county government leadership.

Trends

Community discussion groups in 2010 and 2015 both discussed transportation issues as a significant problem throughout the community.

Education

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community Needs survey respondents were asked to rate their need related to a list of educational services, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Waller County, the top educational needs, rated as *needed* or a *very needed*, were as follows:

- Assistance to attend trade or technical school or college (100%)
- Computer skills training (100%)
- Adult education or night school (50%)
- English as a second language classes (50%)
- GED classes (50%)

The primary issue related to education voiced at community discussion groups was concern with education quality due to low testing scores in local school districts.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion group participants noted local school districts as being a great community asset.

Trends

Community discussion groups held in 2010 showed a needed focus on vocational training or technical school. This was again reflected as an issue in the Community Needs survey as all respondents reported assistance to attend trade or technical school or college as a community need.

Employment

Needs and Barriers Identified

On the Community Needs survey, Waller County residents reported needing help with employment. Half of respondents said they needed help finding a job (50%) or help with job skills, training, and job searching (50%).

Trends

Similar to the 2015 Community Needs survey results, survey respondents in the 2010 Waller County assessment cited work related or employment services including help with finding work or job training as a community need.

Family Support

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community Needs survey respondents were asked to indicate their need related to programs and classes for family support, on a scale ranging from *don't know* to a *very needed*. In Waller County, the top programs rated as *needed* or a *very needed* were related to:

- Financial, budgeting, and credit (100%)
- Nutrition and healthy eating (100%)
- Healthy relationships and resolving conflict (75%)
- Mental health counseling (75%)
- Parenting (75%)
- Youth (75%)
- Seniors (50%)

Community Discussion Group participants indicated there was a need for family involvement in early childhood years and also a need to address the high teen pregnancy rate.

Trends

In the 2010 Waller County assessment three of the top seven community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) fell in to the category of family support; mental health services (12.7%), early childhood programs (11.9%), and life skills, money management, and/or parenting classes (10.0%). The 2015 Community Needs survey (reported above) shows a continued need for family support resources in all of these areas.

Housing

Needs and Barriers Identified

The Community Needs survey also asked residents about housing related issues in Waller County. All respondents said that they needed help finding affordable housing (100%), paying rent (100%), and paying utility bills (100%) while three quarters needed help making their home more energy efficient (75%).

Through community discussion groups, residents noted a need for affordable housing and help with high utility costs. Many local homes are not energy efficient and an increased focus on home weatherization would be beneficial to address high energy usage resulting in high utility bills.

Trends

A need for housing related assistance was expressed in community discussion groups held in 2010 and 2015 indicating a continued need to address affordable housing.

Medical Care

Needs and Barriers Identified

Access to affordable medical care and prescriptions was assessed in the Community Needs survey. Three quarters of respondents said they needed prescription assistance (75%) and all respondents said they needed health insurance or affordable medical care (100%).

Community discussion group participants noted a general lack of medical services including specialty care, emergency care, and health resources for managing diabetes. Residents also felt that knowledge of available community resources was lacking.

Trends

A need for specialty care physicians and emergency care services emerged in 2010 community discussion groups. These same needs were discussed again in 2015 community discussion groups indicating a continued need.

Satisfaction with Services provided by BVCAA

Clients were asked to complete a *Client Survey to Evaluate Services*. Respondents ranked their experience on a scale of *poor* to *excellent*. All respondents reported satisfaction (rating their experience as *good* or *excellent*) with treatment by the staff (100%), staff follow-up (100%), timeliness of services (100%), and overall experience (100%).

Respondents were also asked to report whether they had received certain services (utilities assistance, weatherization, food, other emergency assistance, employment related assistance, rent assistance, education related assistance, case management, or referrals) from their local BVCAA facility. Following are the services received by clients in Waller County:

- Utilities Assistance: 33.3%

Washington County Findings

Description of Washington County

Washington County covers 603.95 square miles of land area and is comprised of the City of Brenham, as well as the rural town of Burton. Brenham serves as the county seat.

Population Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau 2013 population estimates indicate that 34,169 people were living in Washington County, up 1.4% from the 2010 population of 33,708. The county's population density is nearly 56 people per square mile. According to the Texas State Data Center, the 2013 City of Brenham population was estimated to be 16,183 and the City of Burton had 306 residents. The total population of Washington County from the 2010 U.S. Census and comparative population estimates for 2013 and 2014 are listed in Table 61.

Table 109. Total Population – Washington County

	2010	2013 Estimate	% Change 2010 to 2013	2014 Estimate	%Change 2010 to 2014
Washington County	33,708	34,169	1.4	34,438	2.2
Texas	25,146,104	26,505,637	5.4	26,956,958	7.2
United States	308,758,105	316,497,531	2.5	318,857,056	3.3

Age and Gender

About half of Washington County's population is male and half is female which is in line with the state and the nation. Table 110 shows the county's population numbers by gender.

Table 110. Washington County 2013 Population by Gender by Percent

	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
Washington County	16,880	49.4	17,289	50.6
Texas	13,173,301	49.7	13,332,335	50.3
United States	155,716,785	49.2	160,780,745	50.8

The county of Washington has a substantially higher number of residents between the age of 18 and 64. This higher rate is likely due to the number of students attending Blinn Junior College in Brenham. Washington County's population by age is shown in Table 111.

Table 111. Washington County 2013 Population by Age Group by Percent

	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	65 and over
Washington County	6.0	21.6	53.0	19.4
Texas	7.5	19.5	10.3	14.4
United States	6.4	17.3	10.0	13.4

Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2013 Census estimates, the majority (65.1%) of Washington County residents were White/Caucasian. The next largest race/ethnicity group is Black/African American which makes up nearly one-fifth of the population. Nearly 15 percent of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latino and the Asian population is estimated at almost two percent. Washington County's population by race/ethnicity is shown in Table 112.

Table 112. Washington County 2013 Population by Race/Ethnicity by Percent

Race/Ethnicity	Washington County	Texas	United States
White/Caucasian	65.1	44.0	62.6
Black or African American	18.0	12.4	13.2
Asian	1.7	4.3	5.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	14.9	38.4	17.1

Housing

According to the 2013 Census estimates, there were 15,591 housing units in Washington County. Approximately 12,244 were occupied housing units, (78.9%), with an average of 2.61 people per household. The housing vacancy rate is 21.1 percent or 3,274 units.

Per the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, the home ownership rate is 58.6 percent, (approximately 4,970 units) and the median value of owner occupied homes is \$147,800.

Rental Housing Units

In Washington County, 30.8% (3,768 units) of the housing units were renter-occupied, with many occupied by college students attending Blinn Junior College located in Brenham. Table 113 shows rental payments by percent of population in Washington County and Table 114 illustrates the percent of household income used for rental payments.

Table 113. Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Washington County Population

Monthly Rental Cost	\$499 or less	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 or more
Percent of Population	17.3	31.4	33.5	16.2	1.6

Table 114. Gross Monthly Rental Payment as a Percentage of Household Income

Percentage of Household Income	19.9% or less	20 to 24.9	25 to 29.9	30 to 34.9	35% or more
Percent of Population	28.7	10.2	14.5	8.1	38.5

Housing Assistance

The seven-county region of Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington Counties comprises the service area for the Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher Program which is managed by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG). According to BVCOG officials, the program is authorized to provide approximately 1,900 rental assistance vouchers across the region but funding is only available to support about 1,725 vouchers. There is currently a two-year wait list of nearly 1,000 individuals wanting to apply for rental assistance through this program. Of those, it is estimated that about 60% will end up qualifying for the program once they have been screened for eligibility. Clearly, the need for rental assistance is outpacing the available resources.

Education

Almost a third of Washington County residents have obtained an associate's degree or higher. About 30 percent of county residents have obtained their high school diploma while about one-fifth have less than a high school education. Table 115 shows educational attainment by percentage of the county.

Table 115. Educational Attainment of Washington County residents aged 25 and over

Level of Educational Attainment	Less than HS	HS Diploma	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's	Graduate Degree
Percent of Population	19.1	29.3	19.8	8.3	17.3	6.2

School Districts

There were two independent school districts within Washington County - Brenham ISD and Burton ISD. According to the Texas Education Agency, in 2013 Brenham ISD had 4,943 students enrolled of which 57.9% of were identified as economically disadvantaged. Burton ISD had 365 students with 50.4% identified as economically disadvantaged.

District Dropout Rates

The annual dropout rate is based on the number of students who dropped out of grades 7–12 during the 2012–13 school year. The annual dropout rate formula is:

$$\text{Annual dropout rate} = \frac{\text{Number of students who dropped out during the school year}}{\text{Number of students enrolled during the school year}} \times 100$$

The total 7th – 12th grade student population for Brenham ISD in 2012-13 was 2,239 and Burton ISD had a total population for 7th – 12th grades of less than 200. Table 116 provides the number of dropouts and rates for 7th – 12th grades.

Table 116. 2012-2013 7th to 12th Grade Student Population and Dropout Information by District

School Districts	Total Number of 7 th through 12 th Grade Students	Dropout Number	Dropout Rate (Percent)	Female Dropouts	Male Dropouts	Economically Disadvantaged Dropouts
Brenham ISD	2,239	19	0.8	-	-	-

Burton ISD dropout data were not publicly available in order to protect student anonymity according to the Texas Education Agency website.

Employment

According to April 2015 TWC estimates, the Washington County labor force consisted of 15,793 individuals. Of those, 15,236 individual were currently employed and 557 were unemployed, resulting in a 3.5 percent unemployment rate.

Community Safety

Washington County has two major reporting policing agencies - Washington County Sheriff's Office, and Brenham Police Department. In a "2013 Crime in Texas by Jurisdiction" report produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety, larceny was the leading crime (432) followed by burglary (146). Crime rates in Washington County are shown in Table 117.

Table 117. 2013 Texas Department of Public Safety Report: Washington County (number of offenses)

Reporting Entity	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Washington County SO	0	3	4	30	58	102	12
Brenham PD	1	11	10	46	88	330	12
Total	1	14	14	76	146	432	24

Persons Living in Poverty

According to the 2009-2013 *American Community Survey*, 14.9 percent of Washington County Residents were living below poverty level. Compared to the other eleven counties in BVCAA's service area, Washington County has the sixth highest rate of poverty. Less than 3 percent (2.81%) of the region's total residents who were living below poverty level reside in Washington County.

Sources of Primary Data

The results described in the following sections are based on primary data collected from the various sources previously described in the *Methods of Data Collection* section of this report. Three types of survey data were collected in Washington County: the RHP 17 survey, Community Needs survey, and BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. In Washington County, 566 residents completed the RHP 17 survey, and five residents completed the BVCAA Service Evaluation survey. The results from these surveys were combined with contextual information gathered from discussion groups and interviews with key community leaders, health care providers, social service providers, and the general public (i.e. residents) of Washington County. A total of eight community discussion groups were conducted in Washington County with 107 total participants. In addition to these discussion groups, seven interviews with key informants were held in Washington County.

Assistance and Case Management

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not*

use. Two of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) were related to assistance and case management. Residents reported needing financial assistance or welfare (9.3%) and financial assistance for auto, appliance, or home repair; or weatherization (6.2%).

To gain more context on these issues in Washington County, community discussion groups were held and key informant interviews were conducted with key leaders and social service providers to identify the top issues in Washington County. Based on the key informant interviews, assistance with food and nutrition was among the top issues heard. Key informants also discussed the need for better coordination of services and comprehensive case management that would help residents become self-sufficient.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community Discussion Group participants also identified resources in Washington County that address needs related to assistance and case management. Participants specifically cited Faith Mission, senior centers, and the Boys and Girls Club as valuable assets to the community. Local businesses were also noted as a resource through providing jobs and giving back to the community. Discussion group participants said that businesses, churches, and local leadership work well together in the interest of what was best for the county. This collaboration has resulted in community improvement efforts related to economic development, countywide communication channels, and joint planning for community outreach activities.

Additionally, interviews with social service providers identified that case management services were available to Washington County residents, resulting in better coordination of services and helping people become more self-sufficient.

Trends

Issues related to assistance and case management were previously documented in an assessment conducted in 2010. Residents needing financial assistance for auto, appliance, or home repair/weatherization was reported as one of the top five community services needed in both 2010 and 2013. However, the rate decreased from 13.2% in 2010 to 6.2% in 2013.

Community

Needs and Barriers Identified

Community characteristics can influence perceptions of safety and increase or decrease the likelihood for community members to engage in activities outside their home. In the RHP 17 survey, Washington County respondents varied in their perception of how closely their fellow community members shared their values. Almost two-thirds (62.8%) of Washington County residents felt that their community had shared values. Out of the Brazos Valley Region, Washington County residents reported the highest level of trust among fellow community members. Table 118 summarizes these perceived characteristics of Washington County, listing the percentage of respondents who reported *agree* or *strongly agree* with each statement.

Table 118. Washington County community characteristics

Community Characteristics	Percentage of Washington County Respondents
People are willing to help their neighbors	93.1
Most people can be trusted in the community	82.9
Neighbors would help someone who fell	82.2
Many people are physically active in local neighborhoods	80.1
This is a close knit community	60.5
Problems in neighborhoods make it hard to go outside and walk	23.3
People are concerned they will be a victim of crime if they walk/bike in their neighborhood	7.3

Community discussion groups recognized several concerns affecting community members throughout Washington County. Mirroring concerns raised in other Brazos Valley communities, Washington County residents said they did not have access to reliable public transportation as there are no bus or taxi services available locally. The older adult population is specifically affected by the lack of transportation options. This limitation can make accessing services outside the county impossible for some residents, and with the limited resources located in Washington County, community members without private transportation are unable to access necessary care.

Common themes among interviews with key informants in Washington County identified transportation as a primary community concern. Interviewees also voiced the need for community outreach to rural areas.

Community Strengths and Assets

Information gathered through community discussion group showed that Washington County residents view their community as a laid-back, conservative environment that is a great, safe place to live. Participants said that local residents are friendly and share a sense of community based on local history and family values. Community discussion participants also emphasized that the community is growing, and with this growth, Washington County is becoming more diverse. The growth is bringing larger populations of younger and older residents, long-term families as well as new transplants, and increased proportions of racial/ethnic minorities to the community.

Additionally, residents attributed the area's stable economy to supportive local businesses and strong leadership. They also said that residents have good communication networks and are proactive in planning to meet future needs in areas such as health care, transportation, and the economy. Social services providers in Washington County said that there are currently community services available to help eligible residents with transportation needs.

Trends

Surveys conducted in 2010 as well as in 2013 both revealed significant and persistent needs related to transportation.

Education

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey included a set of questions asking about individuals' need for and utilization of a broad range of services with response options of *did not need*, *needed and used*, and *needed but did not use*. One of the top five community services needed (this included *needed and used* and *needed but did not use*) was related to education. Residents reported needing work-related or employment services such as help with finding work or job training (6.9%).

Key informant interviews revealed that education was a key issue in Washington County. Interviewees also said residents needed education for income management.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community Discussion Group participants frequently mentioned Blinn College, Prairie View A&M University, and other local schools as resources in Washington County. Key informant interviews also revealed that local social service organizations provide educational resources for Washington County residents. These services include post-secondary training, GED classes, and financial counseling.

Trends

As in 2013, the 2010 results showed a need for educational opportunities; specifically, the need for work-related or employment services for finding work or job training. While the rate has decreased from 2010 where 13.2% of respondents listed this service as needed (including answers of *needed and used* or *needed but did not use*) to 6.9% in 2013, the need is still present.

Employment

Needs and Barriers Identified

RHP 17 survey respondents were asked to rate the severity of a list of community issues, on a scale ranging from *not at all a problem* to a *very serious problem*. In Brazos County, two of the top 10 issues were related to employment. Respondents cited lack of jobs for unskilled workers (27.3%) and unemployment (18.7%) as *serious problems* or *very serious problems* in their community.

Community discussion group participants also noted a lack of jobs, as well as other social issues as problems in the community. Interviews with key informants revealed that employment was a top issue for Washington County. Interviewees said that there was a need for job training and proper employment compensation.

Community Strengths and Assets

Community discussion group participants noted that the ample amount of education opportunities available in the area contributed to the stable economy and local job opportunities.

Trends

Survey data and community discussion groups in 2010 showed job training and employment concerns to be an issues. This issue was also reflected in the more recent surveys and discussion groups.

Family Support

Needs and Barriers Identified

The RHP 17 survey asked Washington County residents about family support activities and services. First, the survey asked how many respondents were responsible for providing regular care or assistance to a friend or family member at home who has a long-term health problem or disability. It was reported that 11.9 percent of residents in Washington County reported providing care for at least one person during the last month. The majority of the people being cared for were aged 65 or older (77.8%); 16.3% percent of respondents reported caring for someone between the ages of 45 and 64. Less than five percent of respondents (3.6%) reported caregiving for a child between the ages of one and 17. Across the region, 58.9 percent reported caring for a parent or a spouse. Among the other most commonly reported relationships listed between caregiver and the person they cared for were caring for a parent-in-law (13.7%), other relative (9.4%), or an individual who was not a related (8.3%).

Community discussion group participants noted that the community does not have many affordable recreation activities for youth or adults. Participants said some parts of the county do not feature places to be physically active, like parks or community centers. The lack of recreational opportunities, especially for youth, was said to contribute to youth risk behaviors such as substance abuse and property crime.

Interviews with key informants cited the need for supportive family services in Washington County. They said that affordable child care options were needed.

Trends

In 2010, the need for affordable after school or summer day programs for children was one of the top five community services needed with 11.5% of respondents reporting this service as needed (including *needed and used* or *needed but did not use*). This did not make the top five needed services in 2013; however, discussion group participants and interviews with key informants still cited affordable child care options and more recreation activities as needs in Washington County.

Housing

Needs and Barriers Identified

The 2013 RHP survey asked residents about the condition of their housing. Washington County respondents reported primarily living in a one-family home (85.2%), or a mobile home (8%).

When asked if their residence had experienced a severe problem in the past 12 months, survey respondents listed a range of issues as shown in Table 119. Across the county, the most reported problem with residents' homes was related to plumbing, heating/cooling, or electricity (going more than 24 hours without service) as well as issues with mice, rats, or cockroaches.

Table 119. Severe housing problems reported in Washington County

Housing problems	Percentage of Washington County Respondents
Plumbing, heating/cooling, electricity	14.3
Mice, rats, or cockroaches	13.3
Broken plaster or peeling paint (interior)	9.1
Roof problems (such as holes, leaks, or sagging)	8.5
Broken windows	4.5
Mold	3.0
Holes in the floor	1.9

The lack of affordable housing was mentioned during community discussion groups as a problem throughout Washington County. Interviews with key informants also identified affordable housing as a key community issue.

Community Strengths and Assets

Interviews with social service providers in Washington County revealed that there are services available for housing assistance. Residents can get help with housing through counseling services.

Trends

Housing conditions were not previously assessed in the 2010 health assessment, so there is no previous information about the type of housing or problems related to housing in Washington County. Affordable housing was not often mentioned in community discussion groups in 2010; however, it was raised as an issue in 2013 community discussion groups and key informant interviews indicating that this may be a growing concern.

Medical Care

Needs and Barriers Identified

According to the RHP 17 survey, Washington County residents frequently reported the following chronic conditions, as diagnosed by a health care provider:

- Hypertension (37.7%)
- High Cholesterol (35.2%)
- Obesity/overweight (25.8%)
- Arthritis/rheumatism (24.4%)
- Anxiety (17.2%)
- Depression (15.9%)

Community discussion group participants cited access to health care, in particular specialty care, as a major concern in Washington County. Residents also expressed alarm that the area lacked mental health care, dental care, and health-related services for the growing older adult population. Without adequate services located in the community, many residents are forced to travel outside the county for care. Limited public transportation options compound these difficulties.

Medical care was a commonly identified theme among interviews with key informants in Washington County as well. Interview participants said they needed access to health services, specifically more options for specialty care and pediatrics.

Community Strengths and Assets

Discussion group participants agreed that local clinics, home health agencies, and the local acute care hospital were resources to the community. They were appreciative that primary care is available locally for community members, meaning many residents do not have to travel far to see a physician. Social service providers who were interviewed in Washington County noted that the community has comprehensive medical services for children zero through three years of age with developmental disabilities.

Trends

Washington County residents reported the same top chronic diseases in 2010 as 2013, according to the RHP 17 survey and previous assessment results. The rates for hypertension, high cholesterol, and depression all decreased slightly, and the rate for arthritis/rheumatism increased slightly. The rate of anxiety remained the same. Obesity rates were not measured the same across years, but still remained as a top chronic disease.

Satisfaction with Services provided by BVCAA

Clients were asked to complete a *Client Survey to Evaluate Services*. Respondents ranked their experience on a scale of *poor* to *excellent*. All respondents reported satisfaction (rating their experience as *good* or *excellent*) with treatment by the staff (100%), staff follow-up (100%), timeliness of services (100%), and overall experience (100%).

Respondents were also asked to report whether they had received certain services (utilities assistance, weatherization, food, other emergency assistance, employment related assistance, rent assistance, education related assistance, case management, or referrals) from their local BVCAA facility. Following are the services received by clients in Washington County:

- Case Management: 20%

BVCAA Partner Suggestions

Interviews with social service providers in Washington County identified ways that BVCAA can partner to address community needs. Social service providers suggested increasing interagency collaboration and participating in a Regional Transportation Board, as well as referring customers to services addressing adult education and literacy, workforce development, and child care. It was also suggested that BVCAA should support local providers in providing job skills training. Additionally, providers would like to see an increased focus on developing strategies to address housing and healthcare, as well as continued collaboration through making referrals to and from HealthPoint.

Appendix A: Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

#	County	* Poverty Population	# of Residents Surveyed	# Clients Surveyed	# of Community Forum Held	# of Focus Group held	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Board Members Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed
1	Brazos	54,587	1665	126	10	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bryan School Board ▪ Mayor ▪ County Commissioner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Linda Parrish ▪ Kay Parker ▪ Paul Sanders ▪ Tim Ottinger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brazos Valley Food Bank ▪ City of College Station ▪ Project Unity ▪ United Way ▪ Workforce Solutions
2	Burleson	2,547	240	16	6	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ County Judge ▪ Mayor ▪ City Council 	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United Way ▪ Workforce Solutions
3	Chambers	3,410	3	4	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ County Judge 	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anahuac
4	Grimes	4,475	256	29	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mayor ▪ County Commissioner 	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United Way ▪ Workforce Solutions
5	Leon	2,944	245	8	7	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ County Judge ▪ City Council ▪ County Commissioner 	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United Way ▪ Workforce Solutions
6	Liberty	12,887	3	3	0	0	-	-	-
7	Madison	2,583	162	3	6	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ County Commissioner ▪ Mayor 	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United Way ▪ Workforce Solutions
8	Montgomery	58,261	1,588	63	22	22	-	-	-
9	Robertson	3,382	231	23	14	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ County Judge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ James McCullough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United Way ▪ Workforce Solutions
10	Walker	12,117	398	2	6	6	-	-	-
11	Waller	8,289	4	3	2	2	-	-	-
12	Washington	4,788	566	5	8	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mayor ▪ County Judge ▪ County Commissioner 	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United Way ▪ Workforce Solutions

** Poverty Population according to the numbers published by the Community Commons website*

Brazos County – Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

#	Client Surveys	Key Leader Interviews	Focus Group	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed	Quantitative Data	FINAL RANKING OF TOP NEEDS
1	Support for seniors	Assistance with utilities and housing	No reliable, public transportation	Bryan School Board	Brazos Valley Food Bank	Care of a medical specialist	Access to medical specialists
2	Access to affordable healthcare	Transportation	Lack of recreational activities for the youth and young adults	County Commissioner	City of College Station	Mental health services	Lack of youth activities
3	Computer education	Access to health services	New people in the community don't know about resources available	Mayor	Project Unity	Work-related or employment services including job training	Employment
4	Community resources	Employment	Poverty and economic disparities		United Way	Financial assistance or welfare	Education
5	Community revitalization	Education	Mental health services		Workforce Solutions	Affordable after school or summer day programs for children	Transportation

Burleson County – Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

#	Client Surveys	Key Leader Interviews	Focus Group	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed	Quantitative Data	FINAL RANKING OF TOP NEEDS
1	Utility Assistance	Assistance with utilities and housing	Lack of housing. Rental and home ownership	City Council	United Way	Care of a medical specialist	Housing Assistance
2	Transportation	Self-sufficiency training	Illegal drugs and prescription drugs	County Judge	Workforce Solutions	Financial assistance or welfare	Utility Assistance
3	Affordable housing	Employment	Lack of jobs	Mayor	-	Utility assistance	Transportation
4	Family support	Emergency Services	Lack of public transportation	-	-	Financial assistance for auto, appliance, or home repair or weatherization	Employment
5	Senior programs	Education	Mental health services	-	-	Work-related or employment services including job training	Access to Medical care

Chambers County – Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

#	Client Surveys	Key Leader Interviews	Focus Group*	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed	Quantitative Data**	FINAL RANKING OF TOP NEEDS
1	Food Assistance	Assistance with utilities and housing	-	County Judge	Anahuac	-	Utility Assistance
2	Utility assistance	Transportation	-	-	-	-	Healthcare
3	Weatherization	Access to health services	-	-	-	-	Transportation
4	Prescription assistance	Family Support	-	-	-	-	Food Assistance
5	Health insurance and affordable medical care	Education	-	-	-	-	Weatherization

**There were no participants in focus groups for this county*

***Quantitative data from the 2013 RHP survey was not collected for this county*

Grimes County – Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

#	Client Surveys	Key Leader Interviews	Focus Group	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed	Quantitative Data	FINAL RANKING OF TOP NEEDS
1	Rent assistance	Assistance with utilities and housing	Lack of public transportation	County Commissioner	United Way	Care of a medical specialist	Housing
2	Utility assistance	Community revitalization	Need bi-lingual resources and infrastructure within community for Hispanic population	Mayor	Workforce Solutions	Financial assistance or welfare	Utility Assistance
3	Help finding a job	Emergency Services	Behind on getting resources	-	-	Work-related or employment services	Employment
4	Affordable housing	Education	Lack of recreational activities	-	-	Utility assistance	Medical services
5	Affordable medical care	Job training	Lack of housing	-	-	Food, meal, and nutrition services	

Leon County – Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

#	Client Surveys	Key Leader Interviews	Focus Group	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed	Quantitative Data	FINAL RANKING OF TOP NEEDS
1	Utility assistance	Education (income management)	Healthcare	City Council	United Way	The care of a medical specialist	Utility Assistance
2	Legal services	Case-management (Becoming self- sufficient)	Transportation	County Commissioner	Workforce Solutions	Work-related or employment services	Health services
3	Transportation	Employment	Underutilization of resources	County Judge	-	Utility assistance	Transportation
4	Food Assistance	Health services	Lack of jobs	-	-	Financial assistance for auto, appliance, or home repair or weatherization	Weatherization
5	Weatherization	Transportation	No recreational activities	-	-	Information and referral services	Employment

Liberty County – Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

#	Client Surveys	Key Leader Interviews*	Focus Group**	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed	Quantitative Data***	FINAL RANKING OF TOP NEEDS
1	GED Classes	-	-	-	-	-	GED Classes
2	Neighborhood clean up	-	-	-	-	-	Neighborhood clean up
3	Computer skill training	-	-	-	-	-	Computer skill training
4	Weatherization/affordable housing/utility assistance	-	-	-	-	-	Weatherization/affordable housing/utility assistance
5	Affordable medical care	-	-	-	-	-	Affordable medical care

*There were no key leader participants for this county

**There were no participants in focus groups for this county

*** Quantitative data from the 2013 RHP survey was not collected for this county

Madison County – Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

#	Client Surveys	Key Leader Interviews	Focus Group	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed	Quantitative Data	FINAL RANKING OF TOP NEEDS
1	Applying for Social Security, SSDI, WIC, TANF, etc.	Assistance with nutrition	Lack of youth recreational activities	County Commissioner	United Way	Care of a medical specialist	Utility Assistance
2	Community resources	Education	Lack of public transportation	Mayor	Workforce Solutions	Financial assistance or welfare	Employment
3	Help finding a job	Employment	Lack of affordable housing options	-	-	Financial assistance for auto, appliance, or home repair; or weatherization	Health services
4	Mental Health Counseling	Health services	Lack of jobs	-	-	Utility assistance	Financial Assistance
5	Utility assistance	Assistance with utilities and housing	Segregation and racism	-	-	Work-related or employment services including job training	Healthcare

Montgomery County – Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

#	Client Surveys	Key Leader Interviews	Focus Group	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed	Quantitative Data	FINAL RANKING OF TOP NEEDS
1	Help with utility bills	Education (Income management)	Healthcare	-	-	Care of a medical specialist	Healthcare
2	Affordable housing	Case-management (Becoming self- sufficient)	Transportation	-	-	Financial assistance or welfare	Transportation
3	Rent assistance	Employment	Growing community but weak infrastructure	-	-	Work-related or employment services including job training	Employment
4	Transportation	Health services	Underutilization of resources	-	-	Mental health services	Resource Management
5	Affordable medical care	Transportation	Divided community	-	-	Early childhood programs	Growing community but weak infrastructure

Robertson County – Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

#	Client Surveys*	Key Leader Interview	Focus Group	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed	Quantitative Data	FINAL RANKING OF TOP NEEDS
1	-	Case-Management (becoming self-sufficient)	Transportation	County Judge	United Way	Care of a medical specialist	Employment
2	-	Employment	Medical access	-	Workforce Solutions	Financial assistance or welfare	Healthcare
3	-	Assistance with utilities and housing	Lack of education opportunities	-	-	Work-related or employment services including job training	Transportation
4	-	Emergency Services	Lack of housing	-	-	Mental health services	Utility Assistance
5	-	Transportation	Few jobs	-	-	Early childhood programs	Housing Assistance

**No client surveys were submitted for this county*

Walker County – Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

#	Client Surveys	Key Leader Interviews*	Focus Group	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed	Quantitative Data	FINAL RANKING OF TOP NEEDS
1	Community resources	-	Need affordable transportation for residents	-	-	The care of a medical specialist	Lack of medical specialists
2	Case management	-	Resources (food and medical services)	-	-	Financial assistance or welfare	Access to healthcare
3	Youth programs	-	Limited access to doctors/ medical facility	-	-	Work-related or employment services	Youth programs
4	Utility assistance	-	Need recreation options for youth	-	-	Literacy training, GED, or English as a second language courses	Community Resources
5	Affordable medical care	-	Economic model is tax based	-	-	Mental health services	-

**There were no key leader participants for this county*

Waller County – Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

#	Client Surveys	Key Leader Interviews*	Focus Group	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed	Quantitative Data**	FINAL RANKING OF TOP NEEDS
1	Utility assistance	-	Lack of utility assistance	-	-	-	Utility assistance
2	Medical services	-	Lack of medical services	-	-	-	Medical services
3	Affordable housing	-	Housing repair/ weatherization	-	-	-	Education
4	Education	-	Lack of family support	-	-	-	Affordable housing
5	Employment	-	Education	-	-	-	Housing revitalization

**There were no key leader participants for this county*

***Quantitative data from the 2013 RHP survey was not collected for this county*

Washington County – Community Needs Assessment Results Overview

#	Client Surveys*	Key Leader Interviews	Focus Group	Title of Elected Officials Interviewed	Name of Organizations Interviewed	Quantitative Data	FINAL RANKING OF TOP NEEDS
1	-	Case-Management (becoming self-sufficient)	Transportation	County Commissioner	United Way	Medical specialty care	Transportation
2	-	Employment	Specialists are always out of town	County Judge	Workforce Solutions	Financial assistance or welfare	Financial Assistance
3	-	Education	Mental health	Mayor	-	Work-related or employment services for finding work or job training	Employment
4	-	Assistance with nutrition	Alcohol & substance abuse	-	-	Home health care/hospice/homemaker services	Access to Medical specialty care
5	-	Transportation	High level of uninsured patients	-	-	Financial assistance for auto, appliance, or home repair/weatherization	Alcohol and Substance Abuse

**No client surveys were submitted for this county*

1. **Sources** utilized to obtain the **Quantitative Data** for the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) – Indicate the sources used by either checking the applicable boxes and/or providing a description: ☐

☒ The Community Commons website www.communitycommons.org

☒ Other sources. Identify the other sources that were utilized:

- Unites States Census website
- Texas Educational Agency website
- Texas Workforce recipients
- Texas Data Center
- Department of Public Safety Crime Stats

Note: *Subrecipients that need more space than what is provided in this form may develop their own forms with the same information or add additional pages of this form*