AUSTIN COUNTY. CHAMBERS COUNTY. HARDIN COUNTY. LIBERTY COUNTY. MONTGOMERY COUNTY. NORTHEAST HARRIS COUNTY. WALLER COUNTY. SAN JACINTO COUNTY

2017 Community
Assessment Update

Contents

INTRODUCTION

Motivation, Education and Training, Inc. (MET) is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization funded by a variety of public and private grants including the National Farmworker Jobs Program, Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships, the HOPE home visiting program, Youthbuild, Housing programs, and the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

Mission Statement

The organization was founded for the purpose of providing academic and vocational training to migrant and seasonal farmworkers with the objective of furthering economic self –sufficiency for MET participants. While serving farmworkers is the cornerstone of the agency mission, over the years, MET has expanded its scope to include initiatives that target low-income disadvantaged groups throughout the agency's service area.

Head Start Vision

To provide comprehensive programming, through a parent embedded approach, centered on relationships which drives success in school and life.

Head Start and Early Head Start

Project Head Start, launched as an eight-week summer program by the Office of Economic Opportunity in 1965, was designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological needs. Recruiting children age three to school entry, Head Start was enthusiastically received by education, child development specialists, community leaders and parents across the nation.

In 1969, Head Start was transferred from the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Office of Child Development in the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and has now become a program within the Administration on Children, Youth and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services. A well-established, though still an innovative program, Head Start has had a strong impact on communities and early childhood programs across the country.

Head Start programs are operated by over 1500 community-based organizations. Grantees include school districts, universities, community health centers, tribal governments, Alaska Native Corporations, city and county governments, Community Action Agencies, and other profit and nonprofit organizations.

The Cause of Poverty

A major force shaping low income neighborhoods has been the transformation of the urban economy, which for the past fifty years and most rapidly, in the past two decades, has become more decentralized, global, and heavily reliant on finance, services, and technology rather than on its once larger and more powerful manufacturing base (Abramson, Tobin, & Vander Goot, 1995; Massey & Eggers, 1993). As a result, these macroeconomic changes have fueled a concentration of poverty and joblessness in the service area. The primary industries in most parts of the service area are retail, manufacturing, agriculture, oil, gas, and mineral extraction. Jobs in these industries are often low-paying and do not offer benefits or retirement options, which contributes to long- term, generational poverty.

Poverty is manifested differently for certain segments of the population. The economy and the large concentration of children under 5 living below the poverty level in the service area. The concentration of single parent families is also an important predictor of poverty in the service area. Families with children in poverty tend to have unstable housing arrangements and increased food insecurity, inadequate transportation, as well as suffer adverse health outcomes. One causal factor may be the cost of childcare and the difficulty single-female householders have in earning enough income to support a family. Female incomes are lower than found among males in the service area due to a gender- pay gap, as well as a tendency of women to leave the workforce to care for small children, which can limit their occupational mobility. For families that do receive governmental assistance, the eligibility cliff is a disincentive to increasing their earnings because as earnings increase, other government assistance is reduced. Research by Shipler (2004) echoes this trend among low income groups.

Populations of color, across all ethnicities, in the service area also are disproportionally in poverty. The disparity could be due to lack of educational attainment and other systemic barriers that limit the ability of populations of color to access health care and postsecondary education. In turn, the ability of populations of color to enter into occupational roles that pay a living wage is limited. Data from the community assessment indicates that Hispanics and Blacks have the lowest educational attainment rates, lowest rates of access to health care, and lowest incomes when compared to their white peers.

Poverty among all groups can be attributed in part to a local social and economic system that creates and reproduces poverty. If poverty were caused as a result of one's independent actions, we would anticipate a much smaller population impacted by poverty. Because the service area population in poverty exceeds more than 5 million individuals, it can be assumed that there are systemic forces at work in perpetuating generational and situational poverty. Data collected for the community assessment indicates the largest drivers of poverty are depressed wages for people of color, with few employment opportunities that can improve mobility for low income residents. Inadequate transportation also makes access to jobs, childcare, and social services costly and difficult, exerting a strain on the service delivery system. Lack of transportation jeopardizes the health of rural towns in the service area as individuals cannot reach grocery stores, retail outlets, or health service agencies without an undue burden.

The Conditions of Poverty

The term "neighborhood effects" is used to describe the simultaneous presence of neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage with other social problems, including high rates of unemployment, crime, adolescent delinquency, teenage childbearing, social and physical disorders, single-parent households, child maltreatment, high levels of mobility, poor child and adult health and mental health, and poor developmental outcomes for children and adolescents (Coulton, Korbin, Su & Chow, 1995; Policy Link, 2002; Roosa et al., 2003, Sampson, 2001, Sampson , Morenoff, & Gannon-Rowley, 2002). A review of the data for the service area shows that the population experiences the following:

- Socioeconomic disadvantages that exceed the rates found at the state and nationally, as evidenced by the following poverty rates for individuals – Service area: 14.9%; Texas 16.7%; and nationally, 15.1% of the population lives in poverty. The counties with the highest rates of child poverty are Austin, Harris, Liberty, San Jacinto, and Waller. The counties with the highest poverty rate among all ages are Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, and Waller.
- The rate of unemployment in the service area at 5.0% is higher than the rate found at the state and nationally. The rate of employment in the service area did not improve at the same pace as nationally. The counties with the highest rates of unemployment are Chambers, Hardin, Liberty, and San Jacinto. These counties also tend to have the lowest rates of educational attainment.
- The service area crime rates are higher than the state rate per 100,000 population and the national rate at 638.1/100,000 (service area), compared to 406.2/100,000 for Texas, and 379.7/100,000 for the nation. The highest incidence of crime is found in Harris County.
- Risk-taking among adolescents and early parenthood also impact the wellbeing of the service area population and the life chances of young adults and their children. The service area has a lower incidence than the state in the percent of babies born to mothers under 18-years (53.85/1,000 versus 55/1,000 for Texas), low birth weight babies (8.7% versus 8.4% for Texas), births to mothers without a high school diploma (17.9% in the service area equal to 17.9% in Texas), and the percent of mothers who smoke while pregnant (6.0% in service area versus 3.5% in Texas). Liberty County has the highest rate of teen birth (66.3/1,000) followed by San Jacinto (59.3/1,000) and Harris (55.7/1,000) Counties. Hardin far exceeds the other counties in the percent of pregnant mothers who smoke at 14%. Waller has the highest rate of infant mortality at 7.2/1,000 of all babies. This is partially due to a more diverse population and the impact of high infant mortality rates among women of color. The percent of babies born to single-mothers is highest in Hardin County (40%), followed by San Jacinto at (37.8%) and Harris County (35.9%).
- Factors that demonstrate a concerning trend in the mental health status of the population in the service area include: a higher than average rate of the population that reports they experience a lack of emotional support when compared to the state (24.5% in service area versus 23.1% in Texas), higher rates of drinking excessively in the service area (16.6% in service area versus 16% in Texas) and lower mental health provider ratios throughout the service area counties. The service area also has a significant number of Veterans, which are more likely to experience mental health and substance abuse issues. In Head Start, 4% of the Head Start child population experienced mental health or behavioral challenges that warranted a mental health consultation.
- Educational attainment rates for adults impact their ability to get and maintain a job with a living wage. In the service area, 19.1% of the population does not have a high school

diploma, compared to 17.6% of the Texas population and 13.3% of the U.S. population over 25 years of age. The percent of the population that has a postsecondary degree in the service area is also lower than found at the state-level and across the nation. In the service area, 20.5% of the population has attained an associates or a bachelor degree compared to 25.3% of the Texas population and 26.9% of the population nationwide. Educational disparities begin early in life and are complicated by lack of literacy and limited English proficiency. Within the service area 15.2% of the population lacks literacy skills and 10.8% of the population lives in a home that is linguistically isolated. The counties with the highest percentage of the population that have not received a high school diploma are Waller and Liberty.

- Food security is an "invisible" need in the service area. Harris County has access to grocery stores due to its urban nature and serves as the service area's center for food distribution. The data from Harris inflates the total service area food security statistics. In the rural areas, food is less accessible and several counties have census tracts identified as food deserts (Waller, Montgomery, and Hardin). In addition, the rural areas are served by food pantries as opposed to a food bank, which limits the quantity of food delivered to those in need of additional food assistance.

- Substandard housing is a critical need in the service area. In several counties, more than 34.7% of all occupied housing units have one or more substandard conditions, which exceed Texas at 32.3%. Using this measure, the worst housing conditions are found in Harris County (36% of homes substandard) and Waller County (34.48% of homes substandard). In regard to affordable housing, Harris and Waller county have the most residents that experience a housing burden when compared to the income levels found among the population.

2018 Data Highlights

Population and Family Composition: The service area is comprised of 8 urban and rural counties that range in population from 27,172 (San Jacinto) to 4,434,257 (Harris). In total, the region is home to 5,228,728 residents. Over the past five years, all of the service area counties have experienced population growth. Montgomery, had the greatest increase in population at 25%, followed by Chambers and Waller Counties. The trend of increased population size represents individuals moving from rural areas to county cities to take advantage of the available jobs, affordable housing, and increasing suburbanization.

According to population estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS) whites comprised 89.1% of the service area population, the black population represented 11.4%, other races combined were 3.7% of residents were mixed races. Hispanic/Latinos comprised 38.7% of the total service area population. The rate of Hispanic representation in the service area population is equal to that found across the state of Texas, with Hispanic/Latinos comprising more than 20% of the population in all counties except Hardin and San Jacinto Counties. Of total Hispanics, 37% are children. The child population is more diverse than the population as a whole. Among children, Whites comprise 24.9% of the child population compared to 89.1% of whites in the general population aged 0-65 years+.

According to the ACS the population is comprised of both females and males equally in all counties (49-50%). The largest age cohort is children age 5-17 years, which represent 19.4% of the total population. Children aged 0-4 years represent 7.7% (401,328) of the population in the service area. There is a smaller representation of children aged 0-4 years than found for the state where children aged 0-4 years comprise 7.3% of the population. The decreased representation of 0-4 yr. olds for the service area is due to a less diverse population in the service area. Across the state there is a larger proportion of Hispanics and births among Hispanics are a driver of population growth. Since the service area is diversifying at a slower rate than Texas, the population comprised of children is smaller, although it is anticipated to increase over the next five years. The rate of population change for whites is anticipated to be <1% by 2021 compared to a projected growth of 9% for Hispanic/Latinos.

A growing number of children live in single-parent families. There are 101,287 children aged 0-5 years that live in a family headed by a single-parent. Additionally, more children under three (57,137) live in single-parent households than children aged 3 and 4 years (44,150). Of all children under five, 25.9% live in a single-parent household. According to data from the U.S. Census, there is a racial discrepancy in family type in six of the eight service area counties where families headed by a Hispanic/Latino are more likely to be headed by a single-parent. For example, 43% of Hispanic/Latino families in San Jacinto are headed by a single-parent compared to just 23% of all white families. There is also a large number of grandparents that are raising their grandchildren. It is estimated 147,234 children in the service area live with their grandparents.

Socioeconomic Status: The service area economy is heavily dependent on oil and gas to aerospace, agriculture, and ranching. Over the last decade, there has been population growth in the area. There has been a corresponding increase in the median income in the service area. This illustrates the fact that the discrepancy between those living above and those living below the poverty level. Since Harris County is more urban there are additional opportunities to obtain jobs that offer a living wage when the labor market is compared to more isolated rural communities. The region has a moderate-income disparity and significant disparities for sub-populations such as single-female parents and Hispanic/Latino families.

The job market offers a range of opportunities aligned with the educational attainment rates of the population. The unemployment rate for all service area counties but three, is higher than the state unemployment rate of 4.1%. Over the next decade, there are several industries slated for growth that can offer residents viable entry level career pathways that lead to jobs that pay a living wage. Employment opportunities in occupations such as nurse practitioners, sonographers, cooks, EMS workers, and web developers are expected to experience the largest increase. Head Start can help families prepare for new jobs that are becoming available by partnering with postsecondary education programs that offer training in fields such as medical assisting, certified nursing assistant, web designer, and other career and technical education programs.

In the service area 16.0% of the population lives in poverty. However, the distribution of poverty is uneven. San Jacinto County has the highest poverty rate, exceeding 17.7% (4,876 individuals). Among children, poverty rates are higher. The rate of poverty for children under 18 years is 23.6%, representing 334,245 children. In the past 15 years, poverty has increased slightly in four of the counties increasing from 12.3% in 2000 to 14.5% in 2016. Concentrated areas of poverty are located in Liberty, Harris, San Jacinto, and Waller Counties. Harris experienced the highest increases in poverty over the 15-year period. The racial disparity in income also is revealed in higher rates of poverty among Hispanic/Latinos and black/ African American population cohorts which demonstrate a poverty rate of 22.6% (black) and 23.7% (Hispanic/Latino), compared to a poverty rate of 12.9% for whites, and a general poverty rate of 14.7% for the service area.

Children Eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start: Children Eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start: The Head Start program targets children in poverty and children experiencing other disadvantages such as homelessness, involvement in the child welfare system, and children with disabilities. In the service area there is a total of 62,040 children eligible for Early Head Start and 44,987 eligible for Head Start. The trend in which there is more children eligible for Early Head Start than Head Start is similar to that found in other communities in the nation. There is also estimated to be 11,395 pregnant mothers eligible for Early Head Start.

Of children eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start, 20,204 (11,722 EHS/ 8,482 HS) are estimated to be dual language learners (DLLs). Of these children, 99% speak Spanish. The number of children experiencing homelessness is increasing slightly in the service area, however most children are considered

homeless because they are living in doubled-up or shared housing arrangements. It is estimated there are 229 children eligible for Head Start that are homeless. Based on data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, ChildTrends, and foster care population metrics from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, it is estimated that there are 1,705 infants/toddlers and 1,364 children aged 3-5 years in foster care eligible for Early Head Start and Head Start.

Education: In the service area, 80.9% of the population has obtained at least a high school diploma. When compared to the Texas population, fewer residents have attained a high school diploma and more residents have attained a bachelor or graduate degree as their highest level of education. The percent of residents in the service area without a high school diploma is lower than the state at 19.1% versus a rate of 17.6% of Texas adults without a high school diploma.

Among Head Start parents, 53% have a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment compared to 24% of the service area residents. Head Start families have a higher rate of parents without a high school diploma than found in the service area communities among both low-income residents and the general population. The rate of degree attainment in Head Start is just 19.6% (AA and/or BA) compared to 25.3% of area residents. For individuals in poverty rates of degree attainment are lower and a larger share of the population has achieved only a high school diploma or has not achieved a high school diploma at all. Data from the U.S. census shows that among all families, 19% of service area residents have less than a high school diploma compared to between 22.4% and 26.8% of service area residents in poverty that have less than a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment. Head Start parents have even lower rates of educational attainment than individuals in poverty in the service area.

Despite lower levels of educational attainment Early Head Start and Head Start parents do not access job training, adult education, or other services at a rate sufficient to move out of poverty. In Head Start, among two-parent families, just 3% of enrolled families had both parents participating in job training. Twenty - two percent of single-parents participated in job training. Other education data for Head Start families shows that 22 completed a grade level during the program year, 24 obtained a GED, 5 completed an associate's degree and 1 completed a bachelor degree. In total, 32.9% of families participated in education and/or career training activities while their child attended Head Start. The rate of participation in work activities indicates that many families could benefit from programs that link them to career pathways and improved employment and income prospects. These programs must be supported with additional resources such as child care, transportation, and training to achieve the greatest impact.

Health: Health problems that impact children and families include lack of access to health services, the impacts of poverty and environmental factors on child health, and an uneven distribution of health resources. The service area counties have a ratio of dentists and mental health care providers to residents that exceeds the ratios for other counties in Texas.

In the current Head Start program, 93% of enrolled children received a dental exam and 14% received dental treatment. Treatment and care rates are higher when Head Start and Early Head Start dental outcomes are compared to the outcomes for Head Start Region 6 in which 85% of children completed a dental exam and equal to the 14% that needed dental treatment. This data shows that children in the service area fare better in regard to dental health than their peers in Texas.

Oral health outcomes for children are a challenging aspect of health services due to providers that do not see infants and toddlers and families that are not aware of the importance of good oral health and its link to school readiness. Pregnant mothers are also at-risk of poor oral health and the percent of mothers that had a dental cleaning before or during pregnancy was lower than found for the state and nation. In Texas, 30% of pregnant women participating in Early Head Start completed a dental exam.

Mental health resource barriers are underscored by high rates of abuse and neglect in the service area. Rates of child abuse in Hardin ad Liberty counties exceed the rates found for the state of Texas. When compared to previous years, rates of confirmed victims of child abuse have increased 4% in Liberty county. Current abuse statistics demonstrate a different trend than the state where rates of abuse fell between 2014 and 2015. Despite increasing rates of abuse the rate of children in foster care has remained consistent over the past several years. Texas has recently revised its foster care system and protocols which may be contributing to lack of oversight as the system is fully implemented.

Maternal and Child Health: Birth outcomes in the service area are concerning. Hardin, Harris, Liberty, and San Jacinto Counties demonstrate higher rates of babies born to mothers without a high school diploma than found nationally and across Texas. The rates for Austin, Harris, Montgomery, and San Jacinto counties also exceed the percent of mothers that received late or no prenatal care in the state. In regard to smoking during pregnancy, all counties except Harris, exceed the state rates. Families throughout the service area could benefit from additional Early Head Start services that offer comprehensive programming to support child and family health.

Texas, like the rest of the country, has experienced a decline in teen births. However, there is a persistent gap by race/ethnicity. The percent of births to teens in service area counties except Harris, Liberty, and San Jacinto Counties meets or is lower than the rate of teen birth for the state of Texas. According to the Regional Health Assessment for Health Services Region-5/6, teen birth rates for Hispanic and black teens still are twice as high as among white teens. The rate of teen birth in Liberty county is significantly higher than the rate found for the state of Texas.

Nutrition: Nutrition and access to food is another primary concern in the service area. Approximately 17.4% of the population in the service area experiences food insecurity compared to 17% for Texas. Among children, 26.6% are food insecure which is comparable to the Texas rate of child food insecurity (26.2%). In elementary schools, 61.9% of students receive Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRP). The availably of healthy food is limited for some residents. In total, 22.2% of the population has low food access and more than 2,218,002 service area Texans live in a food desert.

The rate of food access has led to high rates of obesity among adults and children as families are forced to eat unhealthy food. For example, when families live further from a grocery store, they are more likely to eat fast food or food purchased at convenience stores which is less healthy. Additionally, food insecurity impacts poor families most because food is more expensive when it is purchased from outlets other than grocery stores. Within Head Start, 33% of children are overweight or obese and 5 out of the 8 service area counties demonstrate rates of adult obesity that meet or exceed the rate for adults in Texas.

Housing: Housing costs in the area are moderate when compared to the nation and state. The rural nature of the service area lends itself to lower housing and rental prices and higher vacancy rates than more urban areas. As a result, there is a rise in affordable housing for middle-income families. Family median income is higher in the service area which impacts the share of earnings that individuals spend on housing. When the percentage of the population experiencing a housing cost burden is examined, 32.4% of residents pay more than 30% of their income towards housing. The service area also lacks and adequate supply of affordable housing for families in poverty. The vacancy rates are much lower than the state and national vacancy rates. However, the waiting list for affordable housing assistance is an average of 24 months.

Childcare Needs and Early Care and Education Programs: Employment rates among North Texas families are high. A significant percent of single-mothers with children work in all counties, ranging from 35.1% to 64.4%. Additionally, between 35% and 64% of families with children under six have all parents in the labor force. The number of families that have no working parents is small comprising 10% of all families with children under six years. Based on the rate of Head Start and Early Head Start parents in the workforce and the number of children that receive a childcare subsidy, in the workforce and the number of children that receive a childcare subsidy, it is estimated that 215,761 low-income children aged birth-to-five years in poverty need child care.

The capacity of the child care system is lacking in for some populations. According to data related to the licensed capacity of regulated and unregulated center-based and child care homes, there are 1,731 licensed childcare facilities that have 196,004 slots available to serve 411,765 children aged 0-4 years. Among children aged birth-to-six, there are 141,440 children in need of care because all parents are working, which far outstrips the number of childcare slots and the number of childcare subsidies currently available. In the Head Start program, parent employment rates are lower than found among families in the community but there is still a need for full-day early learning programs.

Texas State Pre-K provides half-day and full-day preschool to children aged 3-4 years with educational disadvantages such as a low family income, homelessness, parents who are active duty military personnel, and involvement in the child welfare system. In some school districts, other funding streams are utilized to expand part-day programs to full-day services. In the service area, local school districts provide 5,263 Pre-K slots to children, who in most cases have eligibility levels similar to Head Start children. In the service area, in 2016-2017, local school districts provided 5,263 pre-k slots to children, who in most cases have eligibility levels similar to Head Start children

METHODOLOGY

The Comprehensive Community-Wide Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment

The purpose of the community-wide strategic planning and needs assessment is to provide a current snapshot of the well-being of families and children in the Motivation, Education, and Training, Inc. (MET, Inc.) service area comprised of eight counties that include: Austin, Chambers, Hardin, Liberty, Montgomery, Northeast Harris, Waller, and San Jacinto County, Texas. The community-wide strategic planning and needs assessment (community assessment) assists the agency in designing a program that meets community needs and builds on the strengths and resources in the community. This document is prepared in accordance with 45 CFR 1302.11 and is an updated from the original community assessment conducted in 2016-2017. It provides information compiled from various national, state, and local sources and identifies community trends, the conditions in the service area that impact children and families, the demographic make-up, and other resources in the community. The table below shows the ways in which the community assessment is used by the agency governing board, policy council, and program staff.

Purpose of the Community Assessment
To guide and solidify the overall vision and direction of the agency
To inform decision-making and program planning, including coordinated approaches
To educate staff and stakeholders
To establish the program goals and long and short-term program objectives
To address changing priorities and policies and to respond to trends and changes
To mobilize community resource and maximize community relationships
To identify the service and recruitment area served by Head Start and Early Head Start
The number of Head Start eligible children and families in the service area and appropriate locations for services
To identify community partners

Table 1 - Purpose of the Community Assessment

Throughout the community assessment process, the staff, board and policy council worked collaboratively to determine the information to collect, data collection methods, the anticipated process timelines, and monitoring activities to assure the accuracy of data. The community assessment was prepared by Heartland Solutions, a Colorado consulting firm. As part of the assessment process, the governing bodies and agency leadership provided oversight and feedback, monitored the process towards tasks and milestones in the community assessment development plan, and conducted tasks to ensure the completion of the community needs assessment and its linkage to the strategic planning process.
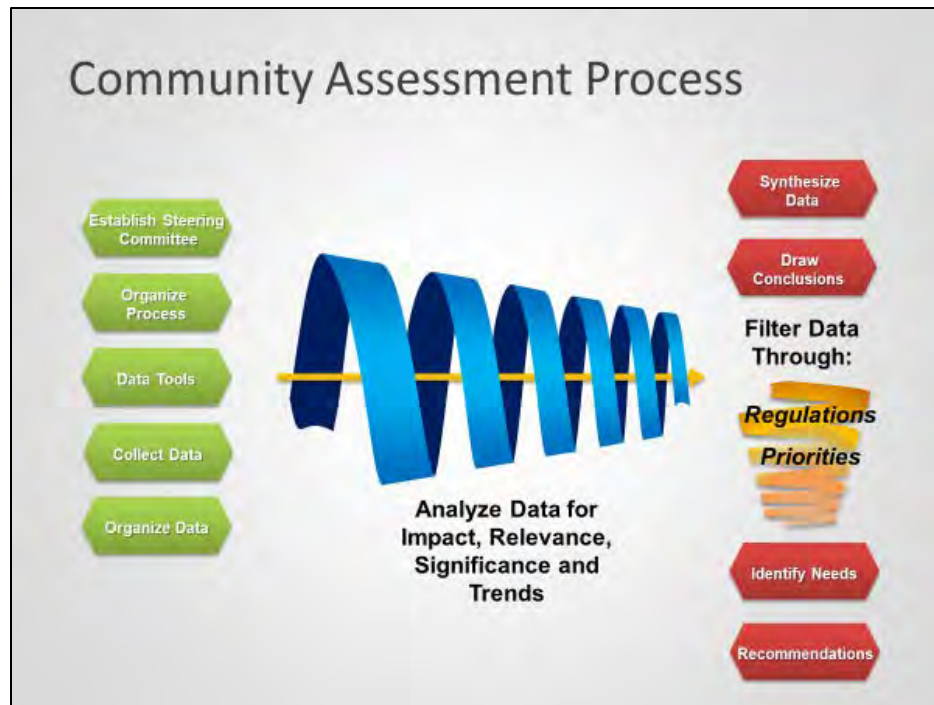
Figure 1 - Community Assessment Process

The community assessment update includes the following information:
- *Overview of the Head Start Service Area.* An overview of the service area including the economy and trends in the community, children, and families.
- *A Complete Analysis of the Community-Wide Conditions.* An internal and external analysis of quantitative and qualitative data in order to address verified urgent and local needs.
- *A Description and Analysis of the Needs of Low-Income Families in the Service Area.* The agency staff worked with the Heartland demographer and research team to discover the needs of low-income individuals using a variety of sources.
- *A Description of the Head Start Eligible Population.* A profile of the service area's Head Start and Early Head start eligible families based on authoritative information sources, including the number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers, along with their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and spoken languages.
- *Special Populations.* An analysis of children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Educational Agency Liaisons and an estimate of the number of children in foster care.
- *Early Childhood Education Programs.* A review of other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly-funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served.
- *Children with Disabilities.* A description of the number of children with disabilities, including the types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies such as IDEA Part C and B providers.
- *Employment, Education, Housing, Health, Nutrition, Transportation, Social Service Needs, and Family Economics.* A description of the needs of Head Start/Early Head Start eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being.

- *Parent Needs.* Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children.
- *Community Resources and Strengths.* A review of community resources available to Head Start eligible families in the service area and low-income individuals.

The community assessment will serve as the MET, Inc. resource document for identifying community needs and trends that have emerged in the service area counties since the last community assessment. It will aid the agency in designing new plans, choosing community partners, developing strategic collaborations, evaluating the effectiveness and progress of prior strategies and interventions for serving low-income families and children in the community, and for making decisions about the program that can accelerate outcomes for children and families. The community assessment is also used to assess and identify the program recruitment and service area, develop goals and objectives, select program options and calendar, and to establish the annual selection criteria and program priorities.
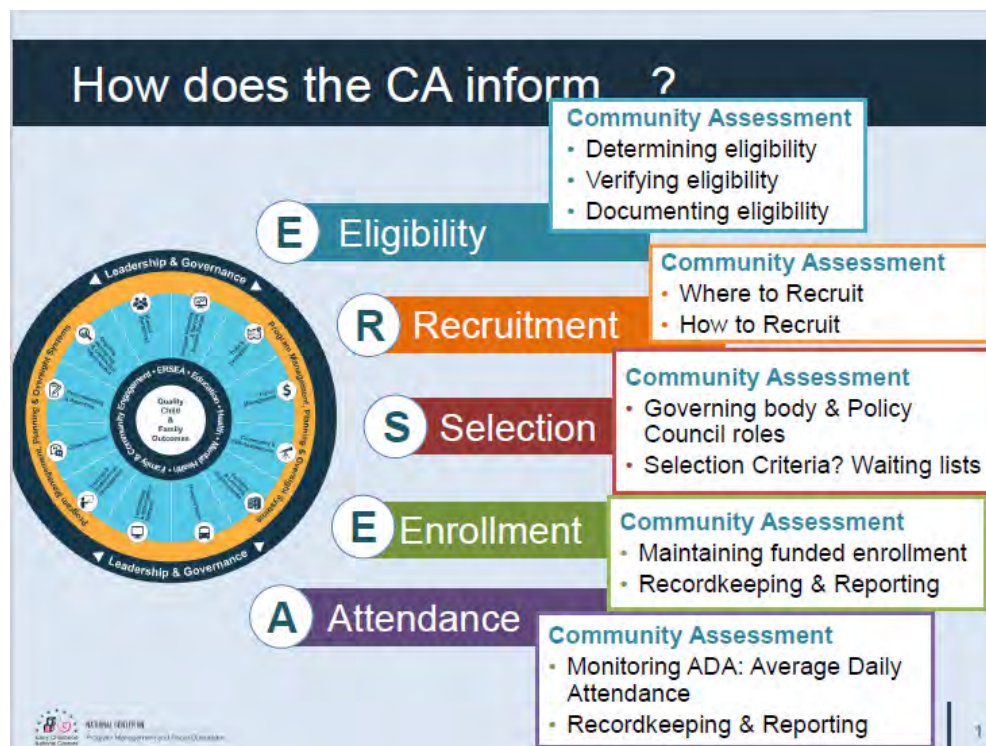
Figure 2 - Community Assessment Information

Community Assessment Process	
Description	**Activity**
Project activities begin.	May 2018
Needs assessment workgroup created, assessment coordinator identified within MET, Inc. and Heartland, appointed the agency team, and created a data map, including quantitative and qualitative data and sources.	May 2018
Implement data collection plan (qualitative and quantitative data), timelines monitored, defined roles of staff, board members, agency partners, consultants	May 2018
Data analysis and key findings are identified.	June 2018
1st draft is submitted for review. Board reviews mission and vision statements, both staff and board review data and identify critical community issues, resources, and service gaps	July 2018
Final draft is submitted for approval.	July 2018
Presentation to Board and Policy Council and approval of CNA.	July 2018

Table 2 - Community Assessment Process

Sources of Data and Data Collection Methods

Numerous primary and secondary data sources were used to describe the demographics of the service area and the physical, social, and economic well-being of the area's low-income population. Sources of data included population datasets such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the Community Commons website, Texas Education Agency, the Kids Count Data Center, Texas State Vital Statistics, Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2020, and the County Health Ranking reports. These sources are cited throughout the document. In addition, the assessment includes information garnered from other secondary sources such as community health and needs assessments published by other agencies in the service area.

Internal data included information necessary to create a profile of children and families, services received, and services for children with disabilities. These sources included the Head Start/Early Head Start Program Information Report.

Distinguishing Features of ACS 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year estimates		
1-year estimates	**3-year estimates**	**5-year estimates**
12 months of collected data	36 months of collected data	60 months of collected data
Data for areas with populations of 65,000+	Data for areas with populations of 20,000+	Data for all areas
Smallest sample size	Larger sample size than 1 year	Largest sample size
Less reliable than 3 year or 5 year	More reliable than 1 year; less reliable than 5 year	Most reliable
Most current data	Less current than 1 year estimates; more current than 5 year estimates	Least current
Best Used When	**Best Used When**	**Best Used When**
Currency is more important than precision	More precise than 1 year, more current than 5 year	Precision is more important than currency
Analyzing large populations	Analyzing smaller populations and geographies	Analyzing very small populations and tracts for which 1 year data is not available

Table 3 - Use of Data

Summary of Data Sources	
Quantitative Data	
Source	**Topics**
U.S. Census; American Community Survey	Demographics, Education, Income, Healthcare/Insurance, Employment, Housing, Nutrition, Maternal and Child Health, Basic Assistance, Economics,
U.S Department of Labor; Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Texas Workforce Commission	Employment, Income and Wages, Industry, Workforce
Texas Department of State and Health Services	Behavioral Risk Factors, Health, Immunizations, Oral Health, Birth Defects, Health Workforce, Nutrition
U.S. Center for Disease Control	Oral Health
Texas Department of Public Safety	Crime and Delinquency
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services	Child Population Demographics
Annie E. Casey Foundation. Kids Count Data Center	Dual Language Learners, Maternal and Child Health, Child Abuse, WIC Enrollment
United Health Foundation	Health Rankings
Mental Health America	Mental Health
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	HUD and housing information
Texas Demographic Center	Population Demographics
Community Commons	Population Density, Demographics, Education, Student Achievement, English Language Proficiency, Health,

Summary of Data Sources	
Quantitative Data	
Source	**Topics**
	Neighborhood and Environment, Housing, Veterans, Insurance, Health Professional Shortage Areas, Immunization Data, Elderly Population Demographics, Nutrition
Texas Education Agency	Education, Student Achievement, Disabilities, English Language Learners, Economically Disadvantaged Students
Head Start Program Information Report	Head Start Demographics, Enrollment, and Services

Table 4 - Summary of Data Sources

Methods for Data Analysis

Initial data analysis was completed by Heartland Solutions and the MET, Inc. management team. Conclusions and recommendations were formulated from these reviews and were considered by the board of directors and the Head Start policy council. These conclusions and recommendations will form the basis for planning and guide the agency vision for the next several years. Heartland utilized the following process to analyze the community assessment data:

Data Analysis Strategies	
Analysis Task	**Purpose**
Data was organized and combined according to information about each indicator that was assessed.	Although data differs slightly combining the data allows the assessment team to analyze the multiple dimensions of a single issue.
Closely related information was grouped together and organized into domains.	Issues were analyzed in order to connect conditions to the different statistical, programmatic, and opinion indicators that facilitate a complete understanding of issues.
The data was analyzed to identify similarities in findings across data sources.	The thematic analysis allows the assessment team to rank needs present in the service area.
Needs are ranked and categorized.	Classification of the needs assists in developing strategies to address each need.
Determine how current programs address identified needs.	The comparison of data allows SPCAA to assess how effectively the community is meeting the needs identified in the community assessment.

Table 5 - Data Analysis Strategies

1302.11 (b) **Community wide strategic planning and needs assessment (community assessment)**. *(1) To design a program that meets community needs, and builds on strengths and resources, a program must conduct a community assessment at least once over the five-year grant period. The community assessment must use data that describes community strengths, needs, and resources and include, at a minimum:*

(i) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers including their geographic location, race, ethnicity and languages they speak, including: (A) children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A); (B) children in foster care; and (C) children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies.

AREA DESCRIPTION

The service area has a population of 5,228,728. The area is comprised of rural counties that range in population size from 4,434,257 (Harris) to 27,172 (San Jacinto). The population density for the service area is estimated at 734.16 persons per square mile which is greater than the national average of 90.19 persons per square mile. In many of the data summaries throughout the narrative, portions of Harris County have been omitted due to the MET service area in which just a part of the county is served. The major industries in the area range from oil and gas to aerospace, agriculture, and ranching which creates a diverse economy.

Population, Density (Persons per Sq Mile) by Tract, ACS 2012-16

- Over 5,000
- 1,001 - 5,000
- 501 - 1,000
- 51 - 500
- Under 51
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Area
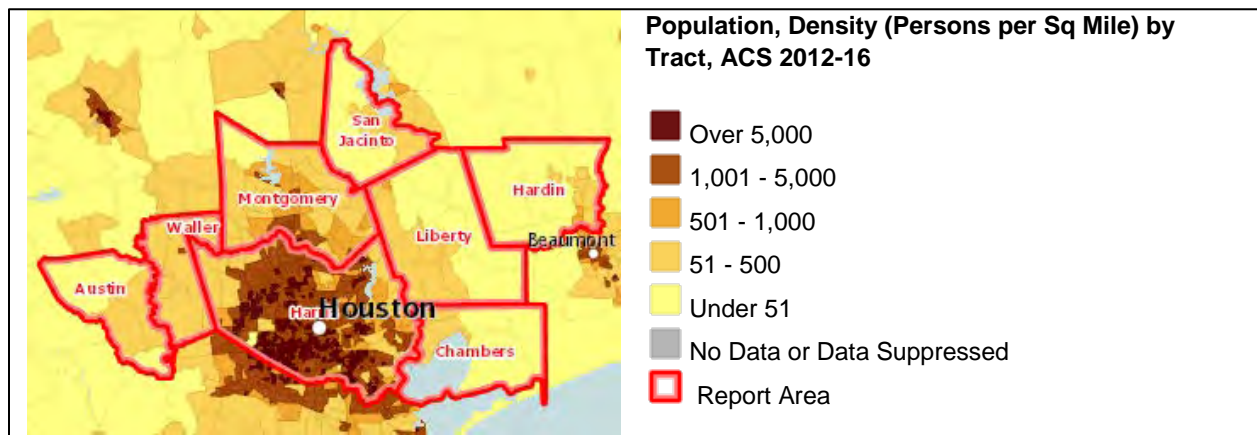
Figure 3 - Population Density

County Descriptions
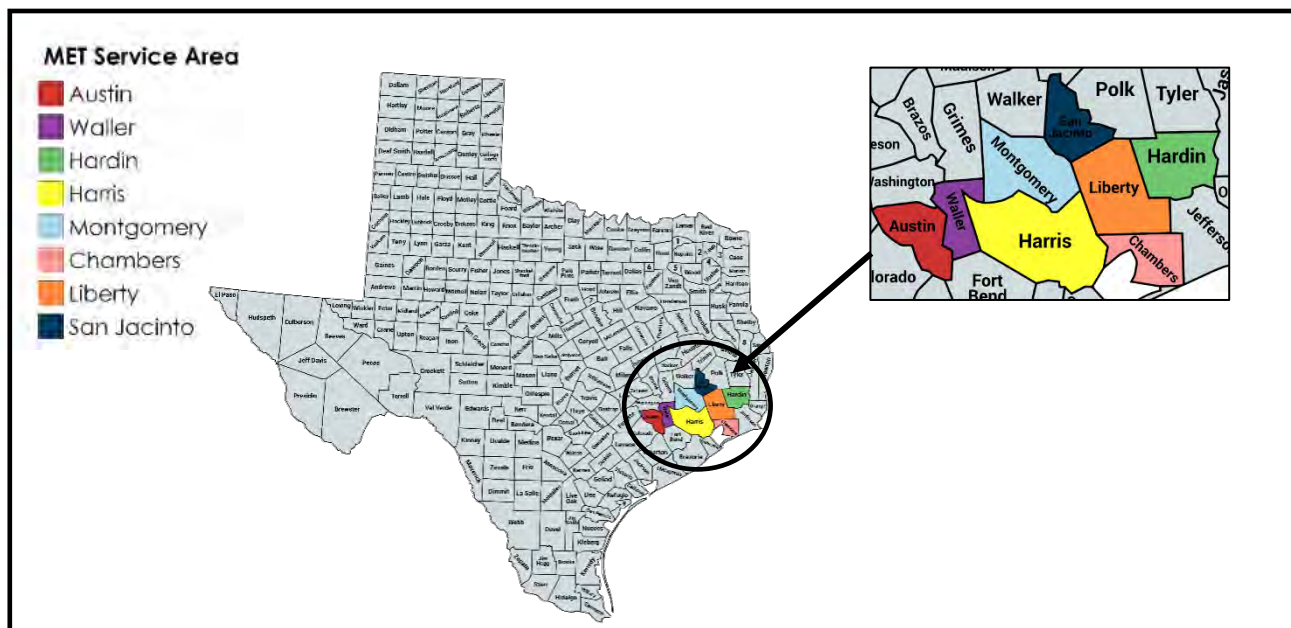
Figure 4 - Service Area Counties

Austin County: Austin County is a county in the state of Texas. The current population is 29,107. Its seat is Bellville. The county has experienced a 4.8% growth since 2010 and the median household income is $55,973.

Waller County: The current population of Waller County is 47,049. Its county seat is Hempstead. The county has experienced a growth of 18.8% since 2010 which outpaces the state of Texas and many other places in the service area. The median household income is $56,407.

Hardin County: Hardin County has a population of 57,139. Since 2010, the county has experienced 4.6% growth. The county seat is Kountze and the primary occupations are Health Care and Social Assistance. The median household income is $60,692.

Northeast Harris County: Harris County is a county located in the state of Texas. The current population is 4,434,257, making it the most populous county in Texas and the third-most populous county in the United States. Its county seat is Houston, the largest city in Texas and fourth-largest city in the United States. MET serves northeast Harris County primarily families in the City of Humble which has a population of 15,569. Humble has experienced a slight growth in population since 2010 when the population was 14,969.

Montgomery County: The current population of Montgomery County is 570,934. The county seat is Conroe. The County has experienced growth exceeding 25% since 2010 and the median income is $72,506.

Chambers County: The current population of Chambers County is 41,441. The county seat is Anahuac. The population has grown by 18% since 2010 and the median household income is high at $80,279.

Liberty County: Liberty County has a population of 83,658 and has experienced at 10.6% growth rate since 2010. The county was created in 1831 as a municipality in Mexico and organized as a county in 1837 leading to a diverse population due to its proximity to the Mexico – U.S. border. The area has a median household income of $48,592.

San Jacinto County: In 2015, MET began to serve part of San Jacinto County. The current population is 27,172 and its growth rate since 2010 is 7.1%. The median household income is $45,794.

Population Data

Population change within the report area from 2000-2016 is shown below. During the fourteen-year period, total population estimates for the report area grew by 33%, increasing from 3,917,103 persons in 2000 to 5,228,728 persons in 2016. Montgomery County experienced a higher rate of growth than all other areas, almost doubling in size of the past decade. The lowest rate of growth was in Hardin County.

Population Characteristics			
County	**Population 2016**	**Population 2000**	**Percent Change**
Total Area	5,228,728	3,917,103	33.5%
Austin	29,107	23,590	23.4%
Chambers	38,072	26,031	46.3%
Hardin	55,624	48,073	15.7%
Harris	4,434,257	3,400,578	30.4%
Liberty	78,598	70,154	12.0%
Montgomery	518,849	293,768	76.6%
San Jacinto	27,172	22,246	22.1%
Waller	47,049	32,663	44.0%
Texas	26,956,435	20,851,820	29.2%
Texas County Profiles. http://www.txcip.org/tac/census/CountyProfiles.php and Community Commons			

Table 6 - Population Characteristics
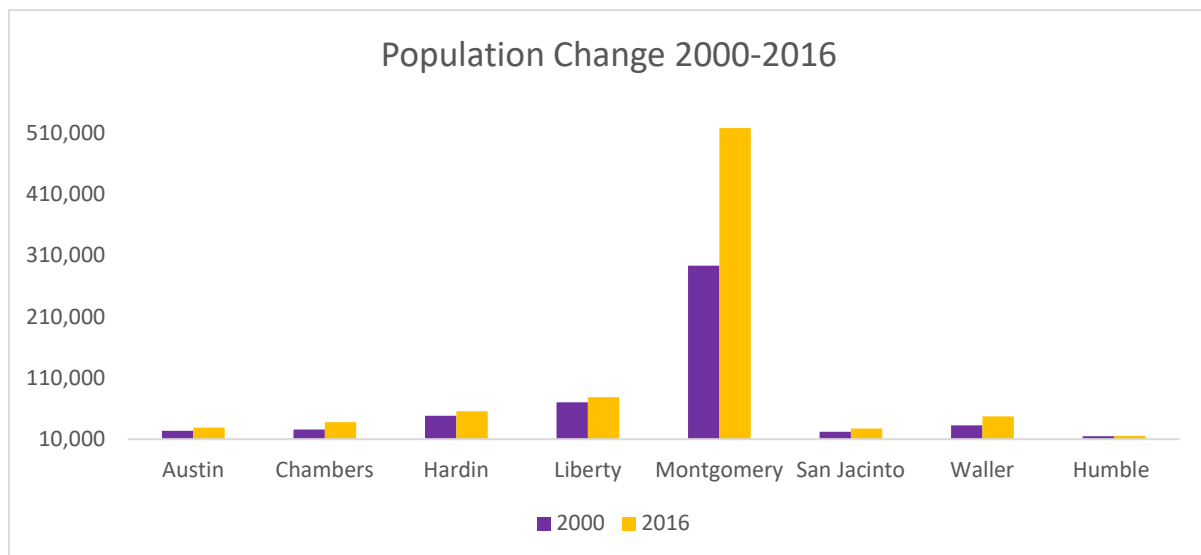
Figure 5 - Population Change 2000-2016

Racial and Ethnic Composition

According to census 2012-2016 five-year population estimates, the white, non-Hispanic population comprised the most residents in the MET, Inc. service area. However, in the service area remains diverse with almost 40% of the population comprised of non-whites when the population data for all counties is aggregated. When compared to Texas the white population is a larger cohort than other racial-ethnic groups. As a result, more limited diversification in some of the counties can result in service gaps due to lack of Spanish language services available in the communities. Harris county (Humble) is the most diverse and Hardin is the least diverse.

County	White	Black	Asian	Native American / Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Isl.	Some Other Race	Multiple Races
Racial Composition of Service Area							
Austin	82.9%	8.7%	0.05%	0.03%	0%	5.4%	3%
Chambers	86.7%	8.0%	1.4%	0.15%	0%	2.4%	1.3%
Hardin	92.1%	5.6%	0.58%	0.13%	0.04%	0.24%	1.3%
Harris	63.3%	18.9%	6.7%	0.44%	0.07%	8.4%	2.3%
Liberty	81.6%	10.4%	0.65%	0.33%	0.02%	5.4%	1.7%
Montgomery	86.4%	4.4%	2.6%	0.42%	0.08%	3.5%	2.6%
San Jacinto	86.3%	10.5%	0.66%	0.6%	0%	0.52%	1.5%
Waller	67.1%	25.4%	0.85%	0.29%	0.04%	3.9%	2.4%
Texas	74.8%	11.9%	4.4%	<1%	<1%	5.7%	2.5%
United States	73.3%	12.6%	5.2%	<1%	<1%	4.7%	3.1%

Table 7 - Race and Ethnic Composition
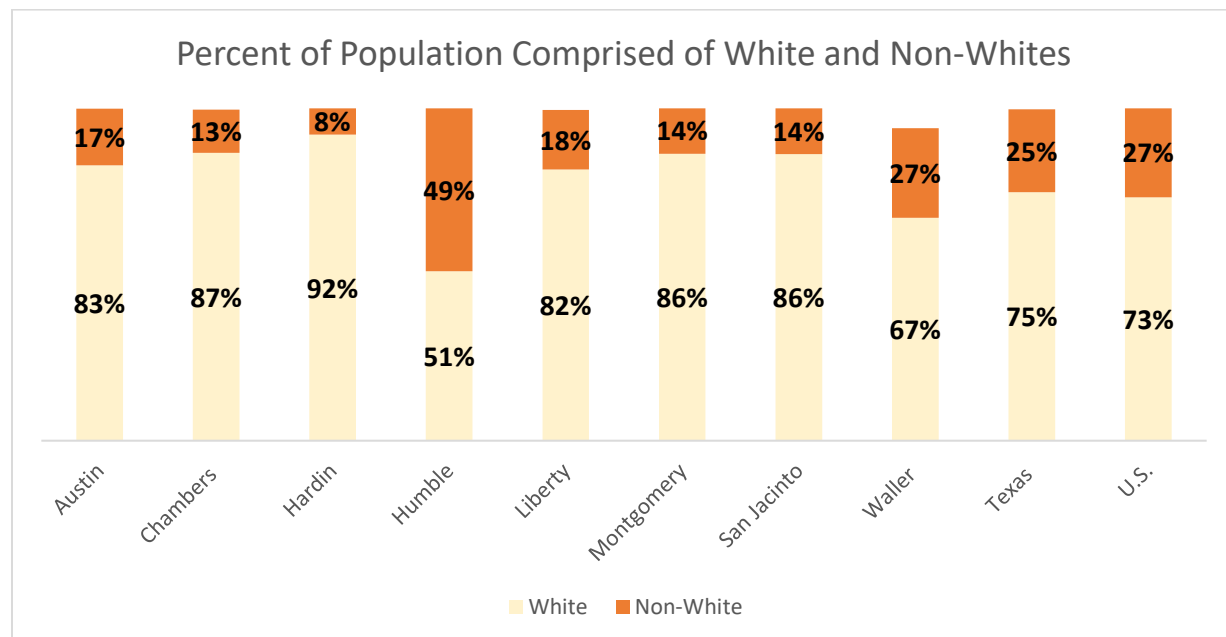
Figure 6 – Service Area Race Demographics

Of the total population in the service area, 38.7% (2,023,662) are Hispanic/Latino. When data is analyzed by ethnicity, 693,988 children are Hispanic/Latino. The service area on average has a lower representation of Hispanics than the state of Texas as a whole, except for Harris which has a concentration of Hispanics in the metro areas (which are not served by MET). Children aged 0-4 years make up 10% (200,987) of the Hispanic population in the service area. It should be noted that MET demographics do not reflect the demographics in Montgomery County. This is likely due to the large population of Hispanics that are living in poverty when compared to whites.

Service Area Hispanic /Latino Population					
County	Population	Hispanic or Latino Population	Percent Population Hispanic or Latino	Non-Hispanic Population	Percent Population Non-Hispanic
Austin	29,107	7,423	25.5%	21,684	74.5%
Chambers	38,072	8,047	21.1%	30,025	78.9%
Hardin	55,624	2,879	5.2%	52,745	94.8%
Harris	4,434,257	1,855,604	41.9%	2,578,653	58.2%
Liberty	78,598	16,282	20.7%	62,316	79.3%
Montgomery	518,849	116,429	22.4%	402,420	77.6%
San Jacinto	27,172	3,341	12.3%	23,831	87.7%
Waller	47,049	13,657	29.0%	33,392	70.9%
Texas	26,956,435	10,413,150	38.6%	16,543,285	61.3%
United States	318,558,162	55,199,107	17.3%	263,359,055	82.6%
Community Commons					

Table 8 – Percent of Population Hispanic/Latino

Service Area Child Race Age 0-18 Yrs.					
County	Total Children	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Austin	1,784	90.7%	9.9%	40.7%	3.9%
Chambers	2,549	59.4%	6.3%	30.6%	3.7%
Hardin	3,609	82.6%	5.8%	7.9%	3.7%
Harris	347,531	20.8%	17.9%	53.2%	8.1%
Liberty	5,350	57.0%	8.2%	30.9%	3.2%
Montgomery	35,878	55.9%	4.5%	33.6%	6.0%
San Jacinto	1,475	64.9%	9.4%	22.0%	3.7%
Waller	3,152	31.1%	16.1%	50.4%	2.4%
Texas	1,970,686	31.3%	11.5%	49.9%	7.4%
Annie E. Casey Foundation. Kids Count Data Center					

Table 9 – Service Area Child Race

The child population is more diverse than the population as a whole with white children comprising less than 30% of the child population in all counties compared to whites comprising 80% of the general population in all counties when data is viewed without being disaggregated by age. In all counties, black and Hispanic children comprise the majority of the population, with Hispanics representing the greatest share of the child population. Based on current trends it is anticipated that poverty rates will continue to increase in these counties as will the child population[1].

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[1] http://txsdc.utsa.edu/Data/TPEPP/Projections/
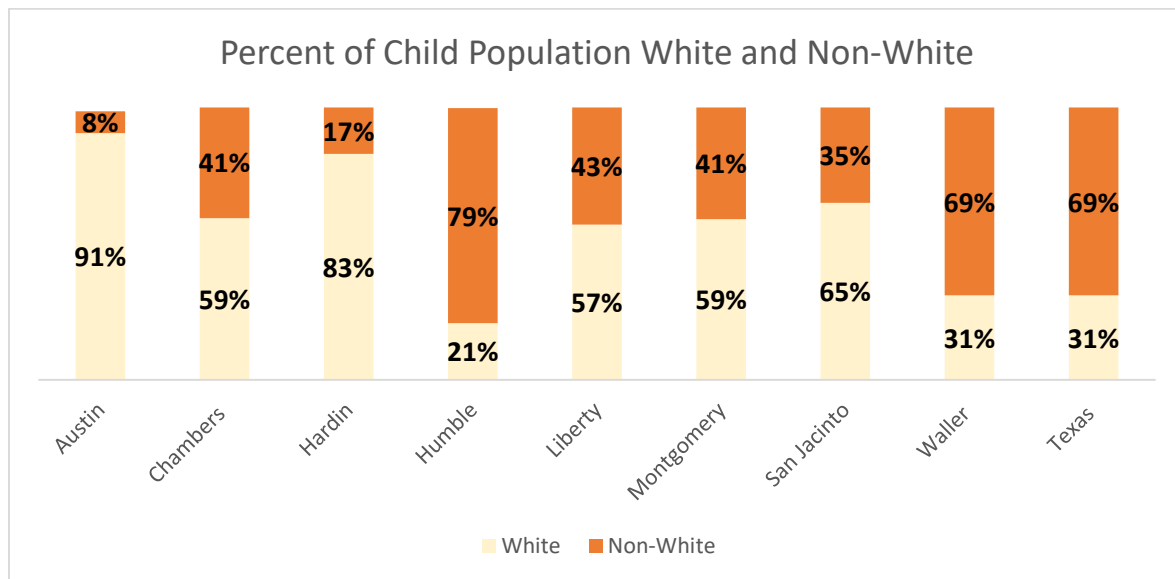
Figure 7 - Percent of Child Population White and Non-White

Service Area Hispanic /Latino Population Age 0-4 yrs.			
County	Population	Hispanic or Latino Population	Percent Population Hispanic or Latino
Service Area	**401,328**	**200,987**	**50.0%**
Rural Pop.	**53,797**	**16,937**	**31.4%**
Austin	1,784	764	42.8%
Chambers	2,549	757	29.7%
Hardin	3,609	276	7.6%
Harris	347,531	184,050	52.9%
Liberty	5,350	1,686	31.5%
Montgomery	35,878	11,627	32.4%
San Jacinto	1,475	312	21.1%
Waller	3,152	1,515	48.0%
Total			

Table 10 - Hispanic/Latinos Age 0-4 yrs.

Service Area Diversification Trends 2016-2021								
County	Total White 2016	Total White 2021	Change	% Change	Total Hispanic 2016	Total Hispanic 2021	Change	% Change
Service Area	1,880,201	1,885,019	4,818	0%	2,006,001	2,162,577	156,576	8%
Austin	18,390	18,213	-177	-1%	7,463	8,192	729	10%
Chambers	25,244	25,675	431	2%	7,281	7,877	596	8%
Hardin	49,067	49,758	691	1%	2,581	2757	176	7%
Harris	1,363,903	1,363,349	-554	0%	1,852,178	1,996,350	144,172	8%
Liberty	53,831	54,970	1,139	2%	15,152	16,444	1,292	9%
Montgomery	330,309	333,653	3,344	1%	104,288	112,521	8,233	8%
San Jacinto	20,141	20,054	-87	0%	3,121	3,357	236	8%
Waller	19,316	19,347	31	0%	13,937	15,079	1,142	8%

Table 11 - Diversity Trends

Hispanic Population Increase in Service Area Rural Counties
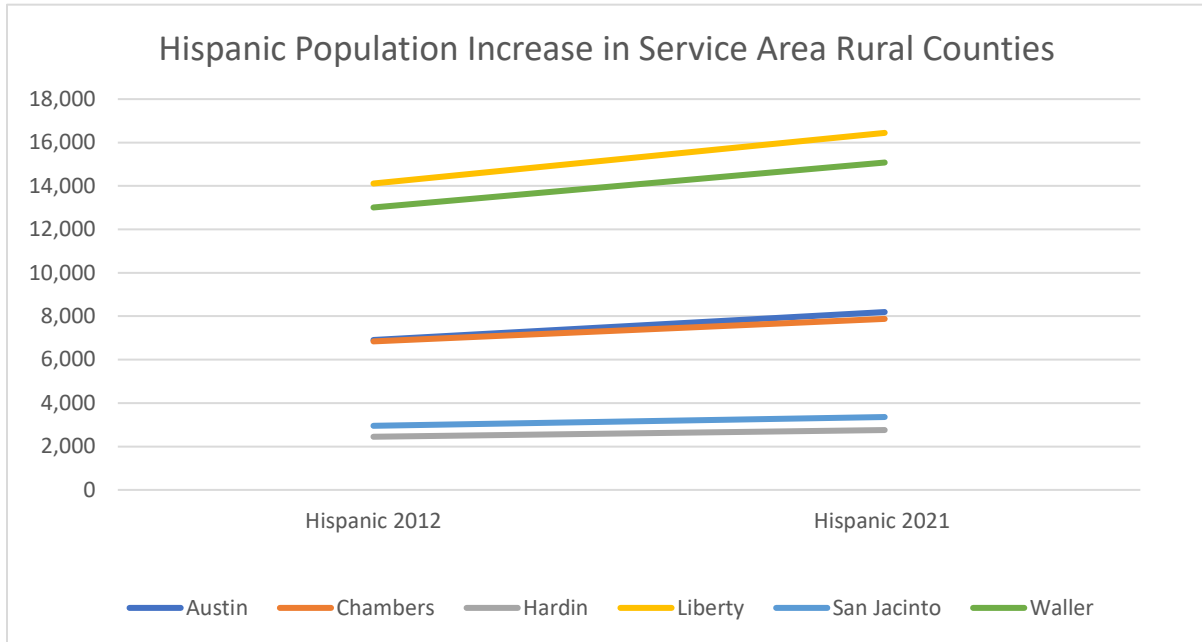
Figure 8 - Hispanic Population Increase

Head Start/Early Head Start Enrollment Racial Trends
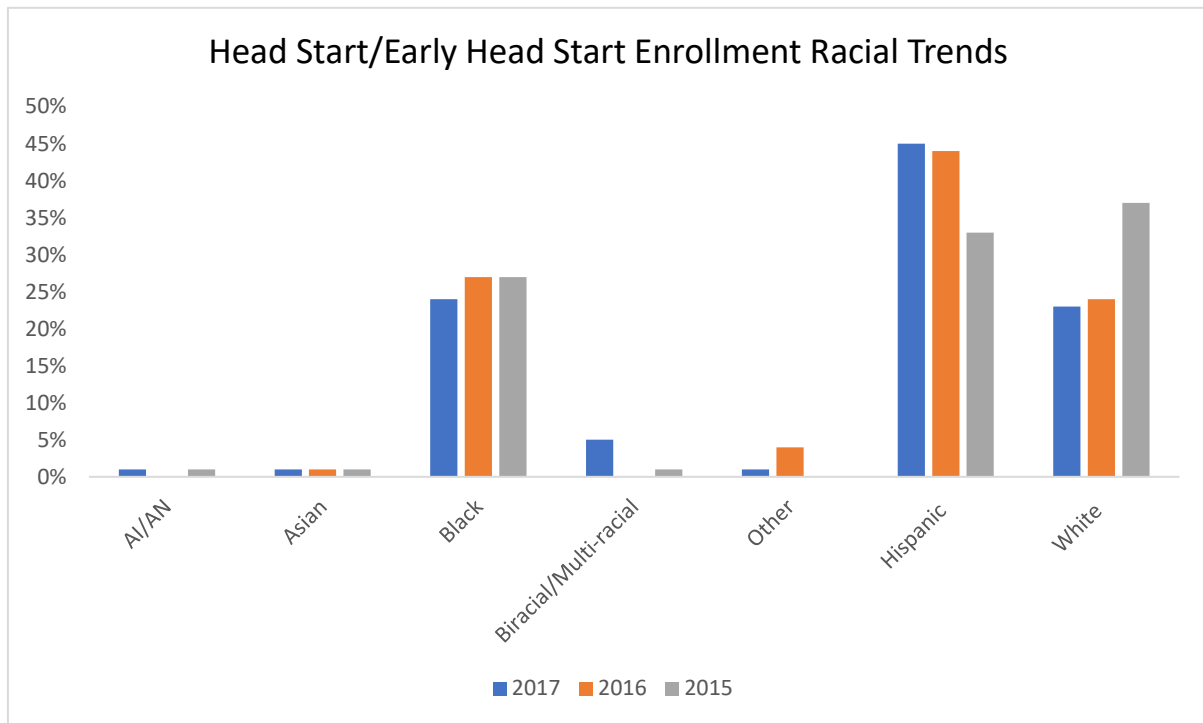
Figure 9 - Head Start Enrollment Trends

Findings that remained consistent from the last community assessment update:
- Greater concentrations of non-Hispanic whites than the State of Texas.
- Humble (Harris County) has a higher proportion of black residents than other areas of the state and locations in the service area.
- Waller County is more diverse than the state.
- Hardin County experienced an increase in whites.
- Montgomery County shows a larger concentration of whites and is the largest county in the service area. The county also has a larger number of minority residents.
- Racial and ethnic poverty rates are high and increasing and younger children live in poverty more often than those in other age cohorts. As a result, Head Start and Early Head Start enrollment should be comprised of more diverse children than represented across the state population.
- There were non-significant slight changes in the racial-ethnicity of enrolled families between 2013 and 2014. The same pattern was prevalent in 2017-2018.
- Enrollment trends indicate an increase in the number of Spanish speaking children as well as an increase in families receiving public assistance, except for WIC participants which decreased by 3.8%.
- In 2017, the number of black children enrolled in the program decreased and the number of Hispanic children increased. There was a slight decline in whites which is consistent with year-over-year trends.

Age and Gender

The gender distribution in the service area counties is similar to that of the nation and the population of males/females is almost equal in all counties ranging from 49% to 50% male and 49% to 50% female. In regard to age, children aged 0-4 years comprise between 5.4% (San Jacinto County) and 7.8% of the population (Harris), compared to Texas where children aged 0-4 years comprise 7.3% of the population.

Distribution of the Population by Age								
County	0-4 yrs.	5-17 yrs.	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	55-64 yrs.	Age 65 yrs.
Austin	1,784	5,341	2,317	2,978	3,492	3,875	4,139	5,181
Chambers	2,549	8,039	3,278	4,866	5,127	5,656	4,565	3,992
Hardin	3,609	10,248	4,505	6,966	7,088	7,369	7,327	8,512
Harris	347,531	859,868	434,268	718,046	633,095	565,231	467,400	408,818
Humble	1,280	2,991	2,940	2,333	3,359	3,164	2,491	1,401
Liberty	5,350	14,446	7,428	10,771	10,157	10,760	9,607	10,079
Montgomery	35,878	103,228	43,273	65,426	71,498	73,404	63,544	62,598
San Jacinto	1,475	4,694	2,033	2,682	3,199	3,432	4,413	5,244
Waller	3,152	8,154	10,397	4,728	4,650	5,481	5,106	5,381

Table 12 - Population Distribution by Age

Distribution of Population Percent by Age								
County	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65
Service Area	7.7%	19.4%	9.7%	15.6%	14.1%	12.9%	10.8%	9.8%
Austin	6.1%	18.4%	7.9%	10.2%	12%	13.3%	14.2%	17.8%
Chambers	6.7%	21.1%	8.6%	12.8%	13.5%	14.9%	11.9%	10.5%
Hardin	6.5%	18.4%	8.1%	12.5%	12.7%	13.3%	13.2%	15.3%
Harris	7.8%	19.4%	9.8%	16.2%	14.3%	12.8%	10.5%	9.2%
Liberty	6.8%	18.4%	9.5%	13.7%	12.9%	13.7%	12.2%	12.8%
Montgomery	6.9%	19.9%	8.3%	12.6%	13.8%	14.2%	12.3%	12.1%
San Jacinto	5.4%	17.3%	7.5%	9.9%	11.8%	12.6%	16.2%	19.3%
Waller	6.7%	17.3%	22.1%	10.1%	9.9%	11.7%	10.9%	11.4%
Texas	7.3%	19.1%	10.1%	14.5%	13.5%	12.8%	10.9%	11.4%
United States	6.2%	16.8%	9.8%	13.6%	12.7%	13.6%	12.5%	14.5%

Table 13 - Population by Age/Percent
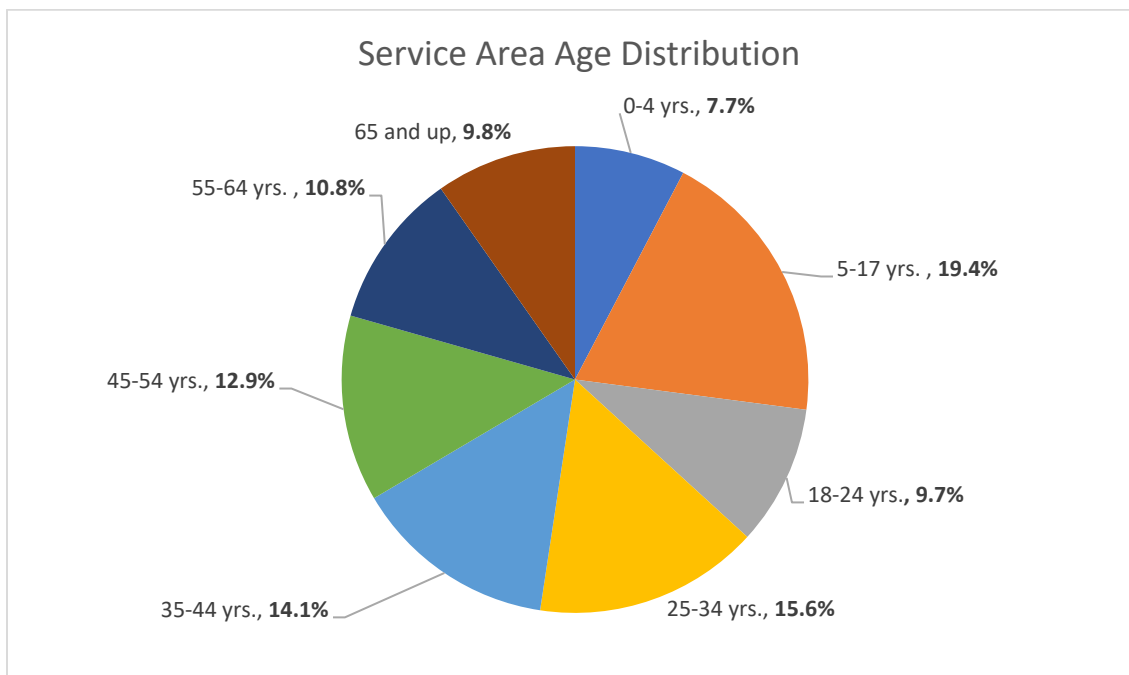
Figure 10 - Age Distribution

Population by Age and Gender								
	0-4 yrs.		5-17 yrs.		18-64 yrs.		Over 65 yrs.	
County	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Service Area	204,528	196,800	516,601	497,417	1,651,942	1,651,635	207,240	284,180
Austin	843	941	2,706	2,635	8,464	8,337	2,150	2,836
Chambers	1,142	1,407	4,036	4,003	11,854	11,638	1,719	2,070
Hardin	1,820	1,789	5,389	4,859	16,441	16,814	3,456	4,678
Harris	176,949	170,582	438,116	421,752	1,410,756	1,407,284	164,358	229,297
Liberty	2,951	2,399	7,342	7,104	24,024	24,699	4,363	5,426
Montgomery	18,270	17,608	52,737	50,491	157,581	159,564	26,324	34,378
San Jacinto	813	662	2,085	2,609	7,776	7,983	2,485	2,658
Waller	1,740	1,412	4,190	3,964	15,046	15,316	2,385	2,837
Texas	1,006,680	964,006	2,632,451	2,529,339	8,369,723	8,357,669	1,414,319	1,324,512
United States	10,154,024	9,712,936	27,455,869	26,289,609	98,851,301	99,913,791	16,044,240	15,252,337
US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2011-15.								

Table 14 - Age and Gender

The median age of the service area is illustrated in the following table. As indicated, in most counties the median age is younger that of the nation's population, likely due to the large number of Hispanics which demonstrate higher birthrates than whites. The oldest population is in San Jacinto County, as opposed to Waller County which has the youngest population. The percentage of the population comprised of children is higher than the state in Chambers, Harris and Montgomery County.

Median Age of North Texas Counties			
County	Total Population	Median Age 2010	Median Age 2016
Austin	29,107	40.0	40.8
Chambers	38,072	35.8	35.5
Hardin	55,624	38.0	39.1
Harris	4,434,257	32.0	32.9
Liberty	78,598	35.9	36.2
Montgomery	518,849	35.8	36.6
San Jacinto	27,172	42.2	43.4
Waller	47,049	32.3	28.8
Texas Population	26,956,435	33.4	34.2
United States	318,558,162	36.9	37.7
U.S. Census American Community Survey, Table B01002			

Table 15 - Median Age of Population

Percent of Population Comprised of Children

Austin 24.5%	Chambers 27.8%	Hardin 24.9%	Harris 27.2%	Liberty 25.2%	Montgomery 26.8%	San Jacinto 22.7%	Waller 24.0%	Texas 26.4%

Legend: Austin, Chambers, Hardin, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Waller, Texas
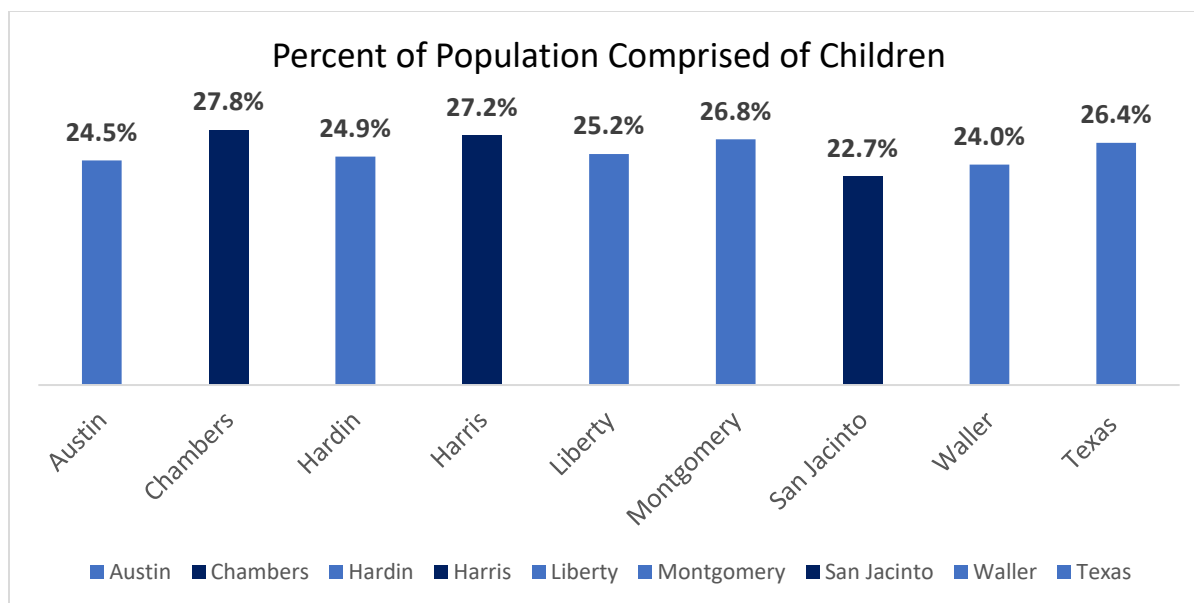
Figure 11 - Percent of Population Comprised of Children

Household Composition

On average, 66% of households in the U.S. are family households which is slightly lower than the rate of family households found in Texas.

Household Composition		
Household Composition	**U.S.**	**Texas**
Total Households	117,716,237	9,289,554
Family Households (families)	65.9%	69.4%
Nonfamily Households	34.1%	30.6%
U.S. Census American Fact Finder. Occupancy Characteristics 2012-2016 Table S2501		

Table 16 - Households

Family and Nonfamily Households

	Austin	Chambers	Hardin	Harris	Liberty	Montgomery	Waller	Humble	Texas	United States
Nonfamily households	26%	22%	27%	32%	27%	26%	28%	36%	31%	32%
Family Households	74%	78%	73%	68%	73%	74%	72%	64%	69%	66%

■ Family Households   ■ Nonfamily houeholds
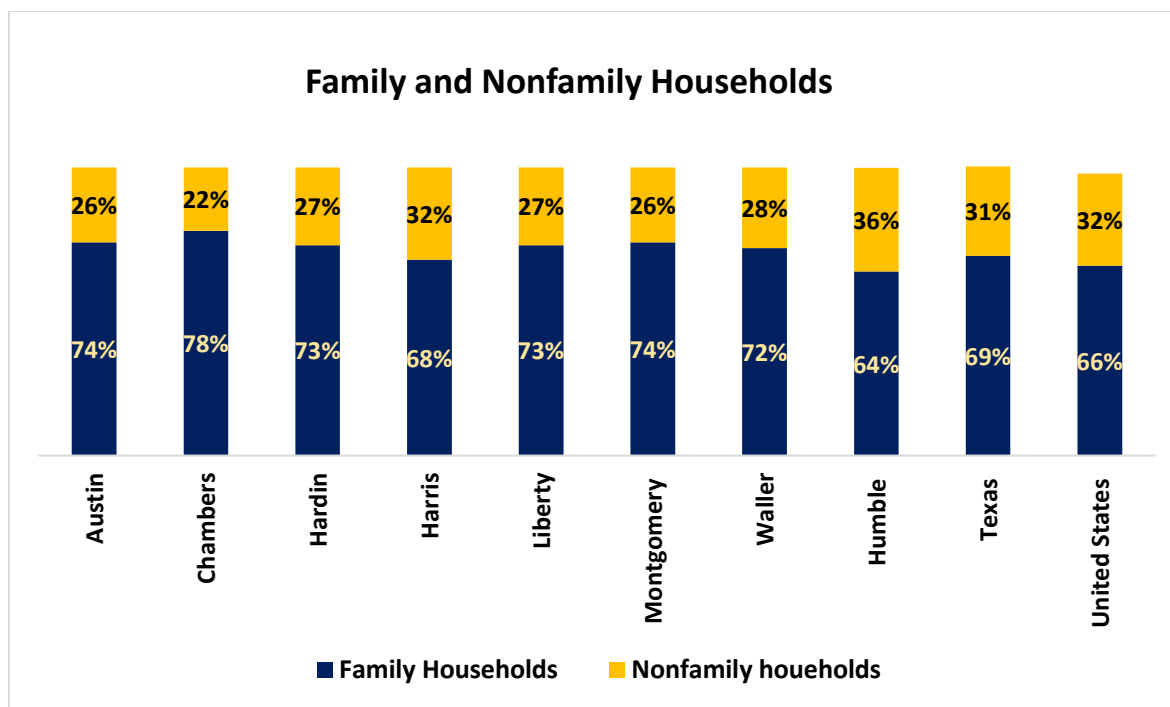
Figure 12 - Family and Non-Family Households

Most service area households with children are comprised of married-couples (879,393). However, there are a significant number of single-parents in the service area. In the U.S. approximately 32% of households include children, while in Texas 37% of households have children under 18 years. In the service area, female householders with children total 267,965 households while male-headed households total 101,012 households.

Household Type		
% Indicator	**U.S.**	**Texas**
Total Households	***117,716,237***	***9,289,554***
Households with related Children of householder under 18	33,567,476	3,087,392
Married – Couple Family	56,781,405	4,657,767
Male Householder, no wife present	5,681,312	475,487
Female Householder, no husband present	15,146,112	1,316,795
Grandparents living with own grandchildren under 18 years	5,722,997	648,988
Grandparents raising grandchildren under six years	2,627,933	310,723
U.S. Census American Fact Finder. Occupancy Characteristics 2012-2016 Table S1101 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: U.S. Census American Fact Finder. Grandchildren under 18 years living with a grandparent household by age of grandchild 2012-2016 Table B10001 and B10002		

Table 17 - Household Type
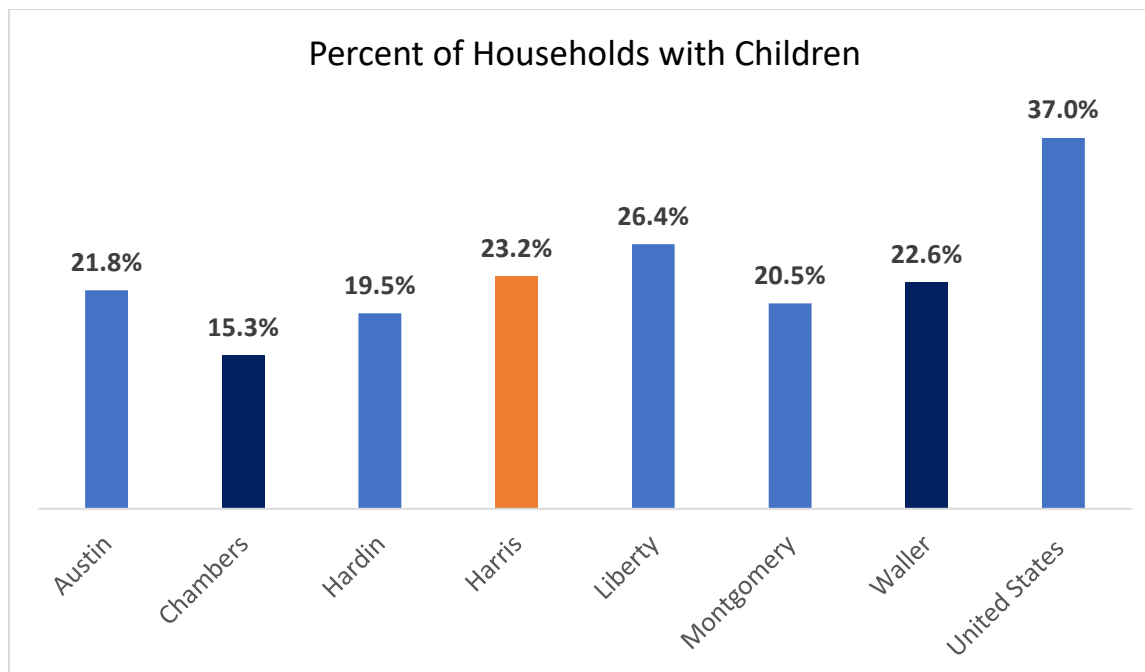
Figure 13 - Percent of Households by Type

Households by Type					
County	Total Households	Married-Couple	Male - Householder	Female-Householder	Grandparents living with Grandchildren < 6 yrs.
Austin	11,222	6,607	382	1,266	173
Chambers	12,967	8,575	614	902	301
Hardin	20,408	11,825	807	2,203	566
Harris	1,536,259	718,333	88,073	239,462	52,168
Liberty	25,611	14,437	1,371	2,881	1,176
Montgomery	179,587	106,724	8,062	18,636	3,795
San Jacinto	9,631	5,443	803	775	465
Waller	14,082	7,449	900	1,840	433
U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table S1101; B10001					

Table 18 - Households by Type

Percent of Households With Children <6 yrs.

County	Percent
Austin	14%
Chambers	19%
Hardin	20%
Harris	22%
Liberty	18%
Montgomery	21%
San Jacinto	15%
Waller	26%
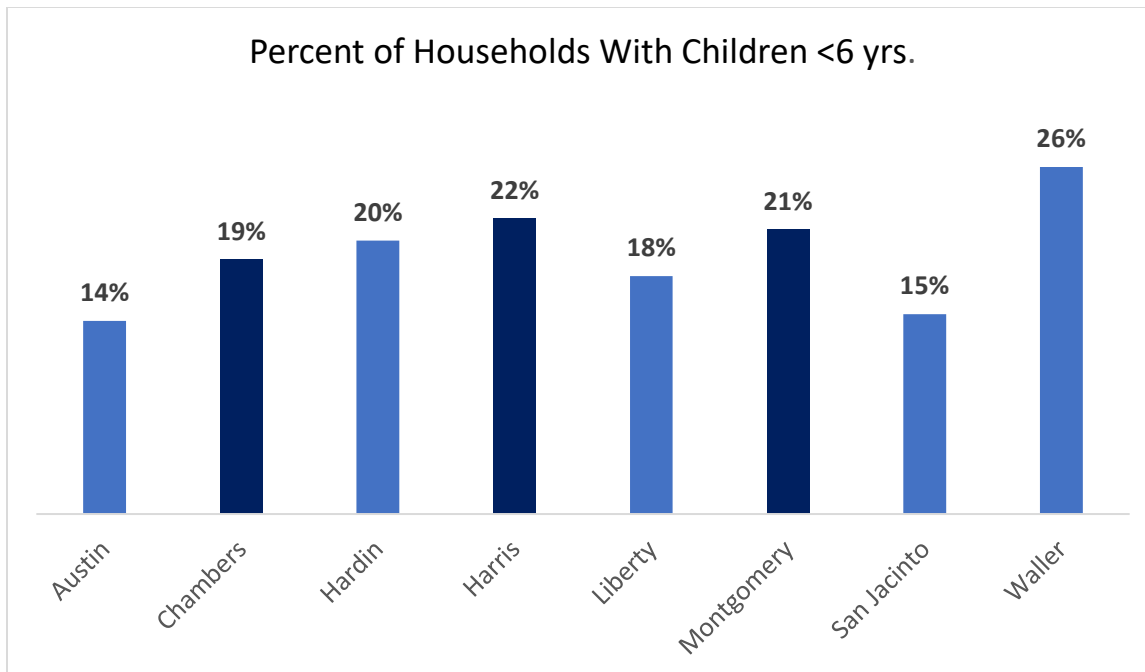
Figure 14 - Percent of Households with Children < 6 yrs.

Percent of Single-Female Households with Children < 6 yrs.

County	Percent
Austin	10.4%
Chambers	12.9%
Hardin	11.7%
Harris	18.9%
Liberty	19.1%
Montgomery	20.8%
San Jacinto	9.0%
Waller	19.3%
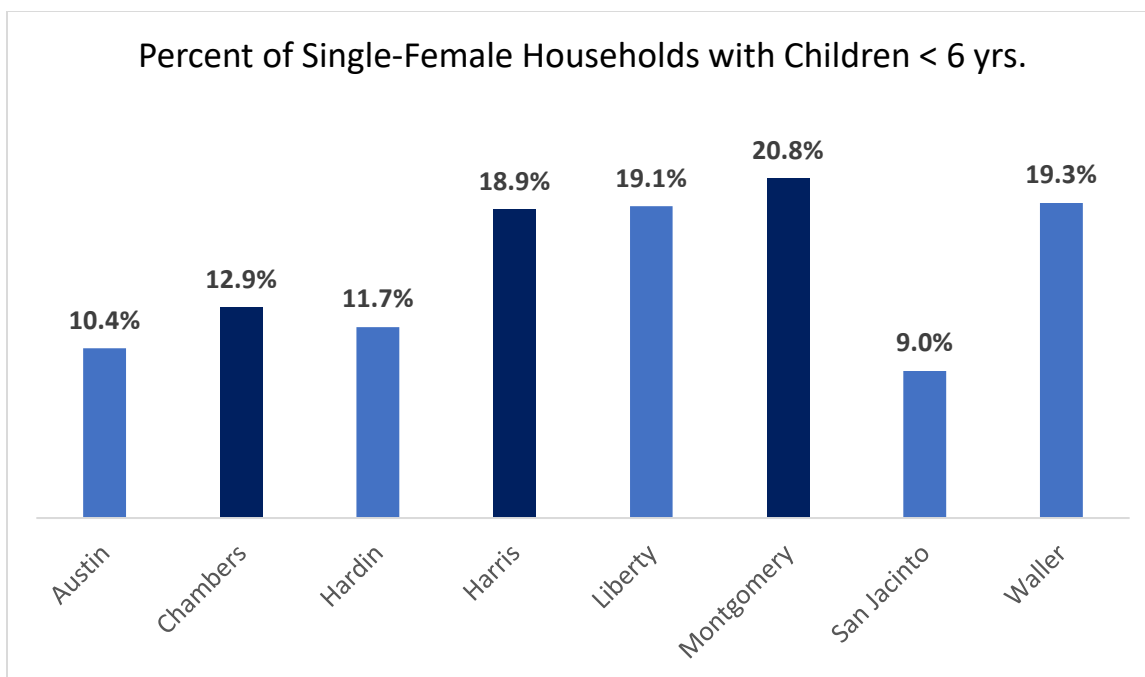
Figure 15 - Percent of Single-Female Household with Children < 6 yrs.
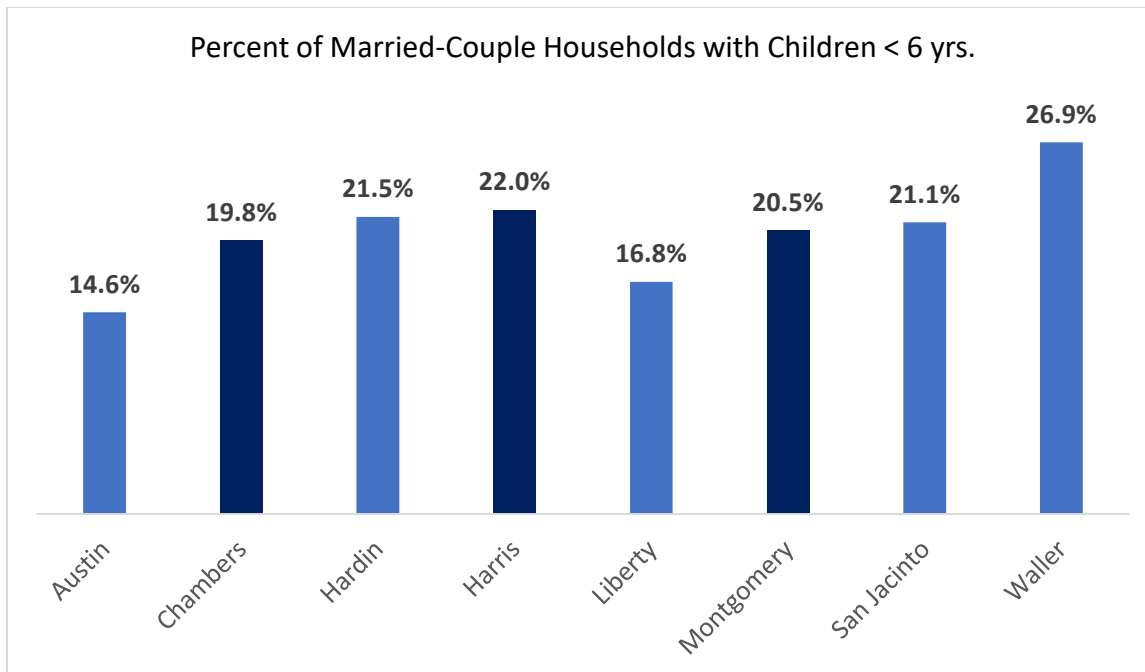
Figure 16 - Percent of Married-Couple Households with Children < 6 yrs.

According to the U.S. Census there are differences when family type is compared across racial-ethnic cohorts. As shown in the following charts, families headed by a Hispanic householder (the most dominant ethnicity/race other than white in the service area) are more likely to be headed by single parents than families of other races Austin, Liberty, and San Jacinto Counties[2].
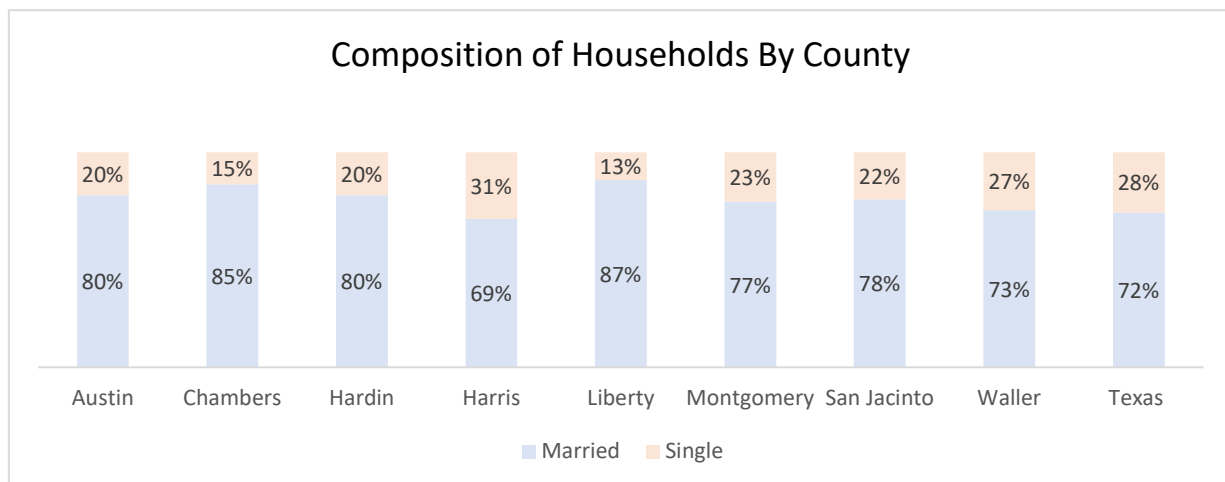
Figure 17 - Composition of Households by County

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[2] U.S. Census American Fact Finder. Households and Families. 2012-2016. Table S1101 Total. Table B11002I Household Type by Relatives and Nonrelatives for Population in Households (Hispanic or Latino). Imputed.

Composition of Family Households by Hispanic Race
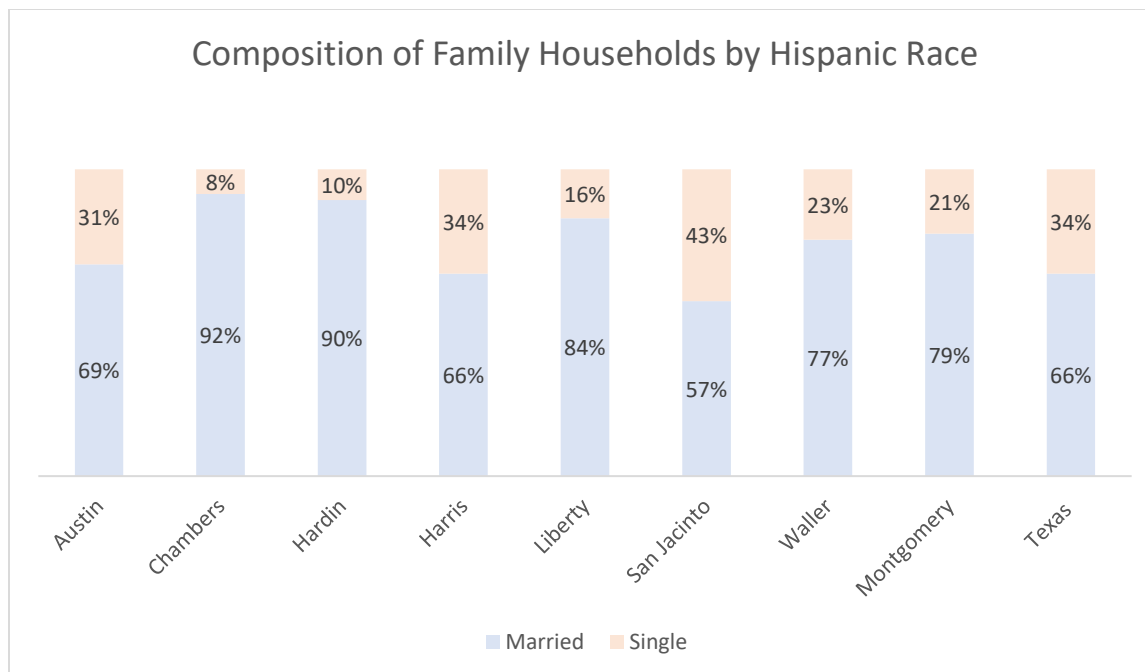
Figure 18 - Composition of Family Households by Hispanic Ethnicit

There is a total of 57,137 children aged 0-3 years living in single parent families and 44,150 children aged 3-5 years living in single parent families in the service area.

Age/Family Type	Austin	Chambers	Hardin	Harris	Liberty	Montgomery	San Jacinto	Waller
Children by Family Type and Age								
Married-Couple Families								
Total	4,732	8,207	9,628	698,832	12,503	99,542	3,421	7,176
Under 3 years	506	1,115	1,221	113,257	1,636	14,562	493	976
3 and 4 years	408	739	1,290	82,809	1,512	10,562	385	924
Single-Parent Families								
Total	1,754	1,300	2,045	349,795	4,061	27,451	1,717	2,771
Under 3 years	293	214	168	51,592	686	3,678	27	479
3 and 4 years	344	142	213	40,074	416	2559	68	334
U.S. Census. Table B09002 Own Children by Family Type and Age								

Table 19 - Children by Family Type and Age

Grandparents

An increasing number of children in the United States live in households headed by a grandparent. Children may live with their grandparents as the result of an increasing numbers of single parent families; the high rate of divorce; teenage pregnancies; incarceration of parents, substance abuse by parents; illness; disability or death of parents; or parental abuse or neglect. In many of these homes neither of the child's biological parents is present. In most cases, children taken care of by grandparents move in with them as infants or preschoolers and remain with them for five years or more. These grandparents are a diverse group ranging in ages from

their thirties to their seventies. Many grandparents are ready to simplify their lives and slow down. Giving that up and taking over the responsibilities of being a primary caregiver again can stir up many feelings including grief, anger, loss, resentment, and possibly guilt. The transition can be very stressful and the emotional and financial burdens can be significant. Culture shock at having to deal with children and adolescents of a different generation can be great. Grandparent-headed households also have a significantly higher poverty rate than other kinds of family units[3].

Grandparents Caring for Their Grandchildren and Poverty Status				
Family Status	**Austin**	**Chambers**	**Hardin**	**Harris**
Grandparents living with grandchildren <18 yrs.	478	823	1,527	128,803
Responsible for grandchildren, no parent present	225	416	634	45,101
Poverty rate for grandparents living with grandchildren	46.2%	3.1%	18.3%	22.4%
Grandparents responsible for their children for five yrs. +	54	188	417	18,453
U.S. Census. Grandparents 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table S1002. U.S. Census. Grandparents Table B10050. 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates				

Table 20 - Grandparents Caring for their Grandchildren

Grandparents Caring for Their Grandchildren and Poverty Status				
Family Status	**Liberty**	**Montgomery**	**San Jacinto**	**Waller**
Grandparents living with grandchildren <18 yrs.	2,486	10,931	1,207	988
Responsible for grandchildren, no parent present	1,422	3,990	328	511
Poverty rate for grandparents living with grandchildren	15.7%	19.5%	13.4%	31.1%
Grandparents responsible for their children for five yrs. +	567	1,643	103	190
U.S. Census. Grandparents 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table S1002. U.S. Census. Grandparents Table B10050. 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates				

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[3] American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Economic Activities and Future Trends

Since 2010, all counties in the service area have experienced growth in the median income earned by families. The greatest growth has occurred in Montgomery County, while Harris and San Jacinto counties have experienced the least amount of growth.
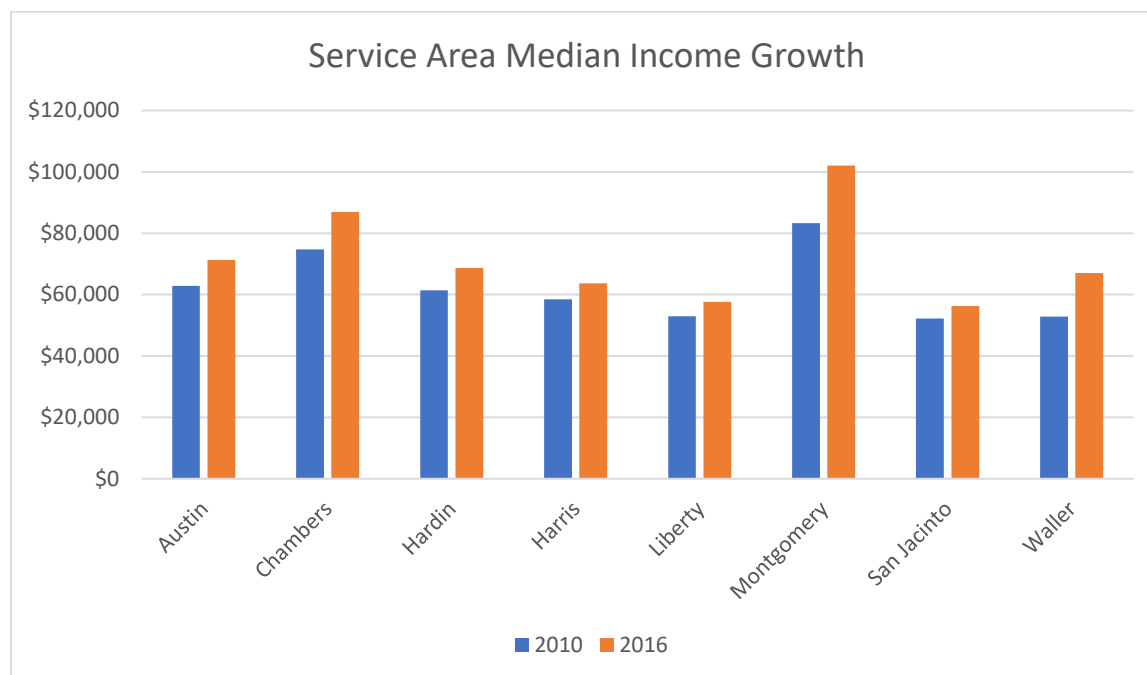
Figure 19 - Median Household Income Comparison

County Industry Trends[4]

Austin County: The economy of Austin County, TX employs 13,410 people. The area is specialized in Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting; and Utilities, which employ respectively 4.41; 2.58; and 1.81 times more people than what would be expected in a location of this size. The largest industries in Austin County are Manufacturing (1,813), Retail trade (1,797), and Healthcare & Social Assistance (1,407), and the highest paying industries are Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction ($71,250), Real Estate, Rental & Leasing ($44,453), and Finance & Insurance ($44,219).

Median household income in Austin County is $56,681. Males in Austin County have an average income that is 1.41 times higher than the average income of females, which is $38,878. The income inequality of Austin County is 0.435 which is lower than the national average.

Chambers County: The economy of Chambers County employs 15,947 people. The area is specialized in Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction; Construction; and Wholesale trade, which employ respectively 2.48; 2.26; and 1.83 times more people than what would be expected in a location of this size. The largest industries in Chambers County are Manufacturing (2,896), Construction (2,248), and Educational Services (2,236), and the highest paying industries are Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction ($80,313), Utilities ($80,239), and Professional, Scientific, Tech Services ($52,174).

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[4] https://datausa.io/profile/geo/austin-county-tx/

Median household income in Chambers County is $70,396. Males in Chambers County have an average income that is 1.62 times higher than the average income of females, which is $41,464. The income inequality of Chambers County is 0.44 which is lower than the national average.

Hardin County: The economy of Hardin County employs 24,149 people. The area is specialized in Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction; Construction; and Utilities, which employ respectively 4.77; 1.94; and 1.78 times more people than what would be expected in a location of this size. The largest industries in Hardin County are Manufacturing (3,218), Construction (2,927), and Retail trade (2,857), and the highest paying industries are Real Estate, Rental & Leasing ($57,500), Professional, Scientific, Tech Services ($56,667), and Transportation & Warehousing ($52,479).

Median household income in Hardin County is $54,352. Males in Hardin County have an average income that is 1.54 times higher than the average income of females, which is $43,143. The income inequality of Hardin County is 0.445 which is lower than the national average.

Harris County: The economy of Harris County employs 2.2M people. The area is specialized in Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction; Construction; and Wholesale trade, which employ respectively 8.98; 1.59; and 1.39 times more people than what would be expected in a location of this size. The largest industries in Harris County are Retail trade (234,589), Healthcare & Social Assistance (230,987), and Construction (218,444), and the highest paying industries are Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction ($80,087), Management of Companies & Enterprises ($74,680), and Utilities ($62,143).

Median household income in Harris County is $56,377. Males in Harris County have an average income that is 1.4 times higher than the average income of females, which is $45,764. The income inequality of Harris County is 0.486 which is higher than the national average.

Liberty County: The economy of Liberty County employs 28,442 people. area is specialized in Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction; Construction; and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, which employ respectively 7.21; 2.07; and 1.78 times more people than what would be expected in a location of this size. The largest industries in Liberty County are Manufacturing (4,535), Construction (3,682), and Educational Services (2,851), and the highest paying industries are Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction ($60,000), Utilities ($43,553), and Professional, Scientific, Tech Services ($41,279).

Median household income in Liberty County is $49,655. Males in Liberty County have an average income that is 1.62 times higher than the average income of females, which is $41,464. The income inequality of Liberty County is 0.44 which is lower than the national average.

Montgomery County: The economy of Montgomery County employs 257,678 people. The area is specialized in Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction; Utilities; and Construction, which employ respectively 13.25; 1.92; and 1.59 times more people than what would be expected in a location of this size. The largest industries in Montgomery County are Retail trade (29,696), Construction (25,590), and Healthcare & Social Assistance (24,708), and the highest paying industries are Management of Companies & Enterprises ($125,313), Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction ($95,884), and Utilities ($63,236).

Median household income in Montgomery County is $71,123. Males in Montgomery County have an average income that is 1.4 times higher than the average income of females, which is

$45,764. The income inequality of Montgomery County is 0.486 which is higher than the national average.

San Jacinto County: The economy of San Jacinto County employs 10,514 people. The area is specialized in Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction; Construction; and Public Admin., which employ respectively 5.73; 2.81; and 2.07 times more people than what would be expected in a location of this size. The largest industries in San Jacinto County are Construction (1,844), Retail trade (1,264), and Public Admin. (1,030), and the highest paying industries are Professional, Scientific, Tech Services ($77,629), Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction ($60,976), and Utilities ($53,827).

Median household income in San Jacinto County is $44,878. Males in San Jacinto County have an average income that is 1.19 times higher than the average income of females, which is $40,997. The income inequality of San Jacinto County is 0.486 which is higher than the national average.

Waller County: The economy of Waller County employs 20,418 people. The area is specialized in Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting; and Utilities, which employ respectively 5.59; 2.05; and 1.96 times more people than what would be expected in a location of this size. The largest industries in Waller County are Retail trade (2,611), Educational Services (2,451), and Manufacturing (2,187), and the highest paying industries are Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction ($50,523), Utilities ($44,750), and Transportation & Warehousing ($44,569).

Median household income in Waller County is $53,508. Males in Waller County have an average income that is 1.41 times higher than the average income of females, which is $38,878. The income inequality of Waller County is 0.435 which is lower than the national average.

Employment Resources
Workforce Solutions for Houston-Galveston operates 24 full-time career offices and 10 part-time workforce centers located throughout the service area. The Workforce Solutions centers provide services to job seekers, employers and young adults. Specific Workforce Centers in each county include the Sealy Workforce Center (Austin County), Anahuac Workforce Center (Chambers County), Liberty Workforce Center (Liberty County) and Conroe Workforce Center (Montgomery County), Waller Workforce Center (Waller County), and several locations in Harris county[5].

Unemployment
As shown in the following chart, the unemployment rate in serval counties in the service area (Chambers, Hardin, Harris, Liberty, San Jacinto and Waller) is higher than for Texas and the nation. The rate of unemployment in the service area ranges from 3.9% in Austin to 6.3% in Liberty County.

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[5] http://www.wrksolutions.com/find-a-location

Employment and Labor Force				
Economic Indicator	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Austin	14,325	13,772	553	3.9%
Chambers	18,806	17,699	1,107	5.9%
Hardin	25,323	23,871	1,452	5.7%
Harris	2,315,833	2,207,758	108,075	4.7%
Liberty	32,251	30,213	2,038	6.3%
Montgomery	273,150	262,163	10,987	4.0%
San Jacinto	11,722	11,122	600	5.1%
Waller	22,682	21,676	1,006	4.4%
Texas	13,834,783	13,265,346	569,437	4.1%
United States	162,635,301	155,857,594	6,777,707	4.2%
Community Commons. US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2018 - March.				

Table 21 - Employment and Labor Force

2018 Community Assessment Update

Findings from the last community assessment consistent with current trends:
- Consistent with the state and nation, the service area's unemployment rate almost doubled in every county between 2007 and 2011. Collectively, the service area reported an average of 8.6 percent, which is down almost one point from the 2010 Community Assessment. This is .7 percent higher than the state average. In 2017, the unemployment rate continued to decline.
- Historically speaking, Chambers, Hardin, Liberty, and Waller counties have reported the highest unemployment rates in the service area that also exceeded the state rate for five straight years. This trend continues in 2017.
- Liberty County reported a higher rate of unemployment than any other county. Chambers County followed closely behind. This trend is consistent between 2015 and 2017.
- Insufficient or incomplete education, lack of essential workplace skills, limited access to reliable transportation, inadequate resources for proper clothing or other work-related expenses and poor job search and communication skills are just a few of the challenges experienced by families in the service area. This trend has remained consistent since 2010.

Median Income Level and Principal Sources of Income
The family income in the service area counties is below that of the State of Texas in three counties and higher than the state median income in Austin, Chambers, Hardin, Montgomery and Waller Counties.

Median Family Income			
County	**Total Family Households**	**Average Family Income**	**Median Family Income**
Austin	8,255	$85,880	$71,293
Chambers	10,091	$96,683	$86,994
Hardin	14,835	$86,829	$68,750
Harris	1,045,868	$93,275	$63,720
Liberty	18,689	$71,643	$57,633
Montgomery	133,422	$114,452	$82,606
San Jacinto	7,021	$69,193	$56,282
Waller	10,189	$83,150	$67,044
Texas	6,450,049	$88,231	$64,585
United States	77,608,829	$90,960	$67,871
Community Commons.org			

Table 22 - Median Family Income

Findings from prior community assessments that are prevalent:

- The average poverty threshold for a family of four is $23,550 in 2013. Because of education and career experience requirements, the majority of unemployed parents would not qualify for jobs holding the greatest economic promise initially. Therefore, parents would likely be forced to accept lower-wage positions and develop skills and experience that will lead to increased opportunities at some point in the future.
- 2010 Median Household Income in the seven-county area was $54,919, compared to the state figure of $50,920. Service area families averaged more than $3,500 per year more than most other Texans, illustrating the plurality that exists within the service area of the rich being very rich and the poor experience extreme poverty. Very seldom is there a middle ground. In 2017, the median income has grown in-step with a healthy economy. The average median income is almost $20,000 higher in 2017 than in 2010.
- The Median Income has risen in seven counties at a higher amount than the state of Texas, with the exception of Liberty County.

Temporary Aid to Needy Families

The primary source of income for families is from work activities. However, a significant number of families receive Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) cash aid. In order to qualify for this benefit program, individuals must be a resident of Texas; either pregnant or responsible for a child under 19 years of age; a U.S. national; citizen; legal alien; or permanent resident; have low or very low income; and be either under-employed (working for very low wages); unemployed, or about to become unemployed.

In Texas, the TANF program is called *Texas Works*. During the certification process, individuals are expected to sign a Personal Responsibility Agreement and to participate in a Workforce Orientation Session. At the same time as TANF enrollment occurs, the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS) enrolls participants in the Medicaid and Food Stamps programs. After families are enrolled in TANF, they must participate in employment services through their local workforce development program (under the authority of their local Workforce Development board) and must cooperative with the Attorney General Office's Child Support staff to collect child support. If a TANF recipient does not meet the requirements of the employment services program or does not cooperate in the child support enforcement process, the respective agency recommends that they be sanctioned. TDHS is responsible for imposing sanctions, which are deductions from the family's monthly cash payment.

Though Texas' poverty rates have remained mostly consistent, the state has significantly curtailed the amount of traditional welfare it provides to poor Texans through cash assistance over the last two decades, instead putting more of its federal anti-poverty dollars toward funding core state services, plugging budget holes, or funding other programs that provide services to residents with higher incomes than those who qualify for cash welfare. The reduction in aid could be one reason for stubborn poverty rates. Assistance is allowing people to remain above water but is not an adequate tool for helping families move out of poverty. The table that follows details the number of TANF recipients in each county and the average payment. There is a higher percentage of the population that receives cash aid than found across the state in Hardin, Liberty, and San Jacinto Counties.

Public Assistance Income[6]				
County	TANF Recipients		Average Payment	% Population with Cash Public Assistance
	Adults	Children		
Austin	6	24	$189	1.5%
Chambers	4	19	$190	0.9%
Hardin	6	29	$174	1.7%
Harris	1012	4238	$185	1.5%
Liberty	28	102	$175	1.9%
Montgomery	74	275	$186	1.1%
San Jacinto	3	26	$168	1.8%
Waller	7	37	$172	0.9%
Texas	43,766	50,239	$182	1.6%
Texas Department of Health and Human Services. TANF Enrollment by County, April 2018 U.S. Census American Community Survey 2012-2016. Selected Economic Characteristics Table DP03				

Table 23 - Public Assistance Income

Supplemental Security Income

Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, provides monthly financial payments to low-income adults that are blind, disabled, or age 65 and older. Disabled or blind children are also eligible to receive SSI benefits. Families receiving SSI are categorically eligible for Head Start services, providing the family an additional benefit and supportive resource. In 2016, 137,549 children under age 18 received SSI benefits in Texas, of which 26,649 lived in the service area[7].

SSI Recipients			
County	Under 18 yrs.	18-64 years	65 or older
Austin	130	293	136
Chambers	85	328	97
Hardin	226	829	186
Harris	24,056	51,107	30,704
Liberty	416	1,731	467
Montgomery	1,458	4,360	1,462
San Jacinto	79	501	159
Waller	199	530	189
Texas	137,549	342,024	178,329
https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi_sc/2016/tx.html			

Table 24 - SSI Recipients

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[6] https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/records-statistics/data-statistics/temporary-assistance-needy-families-tanf-statistics
[7] https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi_sc/2016/tx.html

Poverty

2016 poverty estimates show a total of 850,588 service area residents have an income below the poverty threshold. The poverty rate among the general population is on average 16.2%, compared to a rate of 15.8% in Texas. Among children, the poverty rate is 24%, which exceeds the national child poverty rate of 19%. The service area poverty rate for children is higher than the rate for Texas, which is 23%.

The highest rate of poverty among the population and among children is in San Jacinto County. The greatest number of children in poverty is in Harris County, however MET only serves a small portion of the county. Thus, Montgomery County has the greatest number of children and adults in the service area living in poverty.

All Ages Poverty Rate
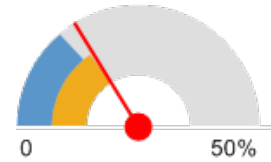
■ Service Area (16.2%)
■ Texas (15.8%)
■ United States (13.9%)

County	All Ages No of Persons	All Ages Poverty Rate	Age 0-17 No of Persons	Age 0-17 Poverty Rate
Report Area	850,588	16.3%	334,245	23.6%
Austin	4,213	14.3%	1,562	22.0%
Chambers	3,646	9.2%	1,388	12.6%
Hardin	6,001	10.8%	2,098	15.3%
Harris	752,261	16.6%	299,330	24.4%
Liberty	12,164	15.9%	4,705	22.9%
Montgomery	59,836	10.9%	20,772	14.2%
San Jacinto	4,876	17.7%	1,600	26.7%
Waller	7,591	16.5%	2,790	23.3%
Texas	8,522,584	15.8%	3,232,172	22.7%
United States	44,268,996	13.9%	14,115,713	19.2%

Table 25 - Number in Poverty by Age
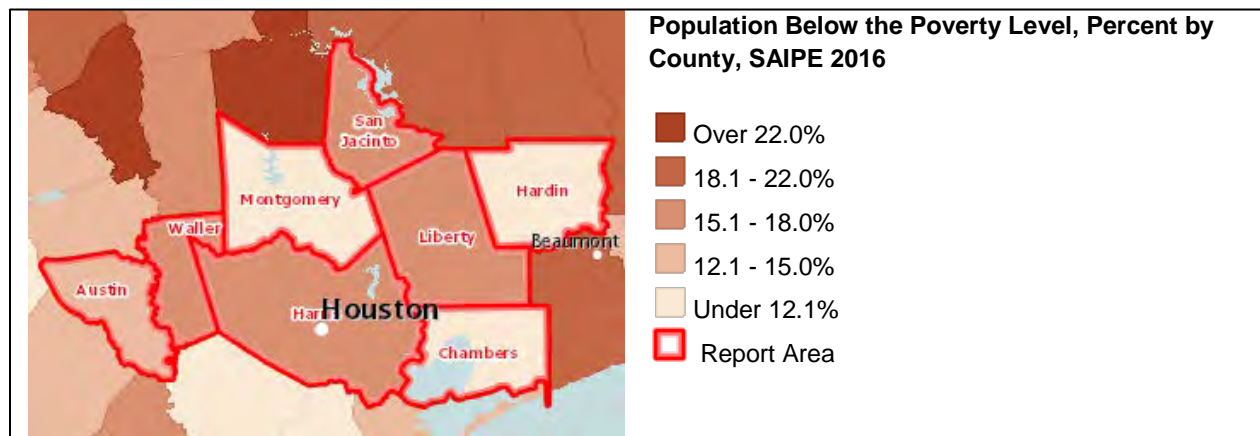
Figure 20 - Population Below Poverty by County
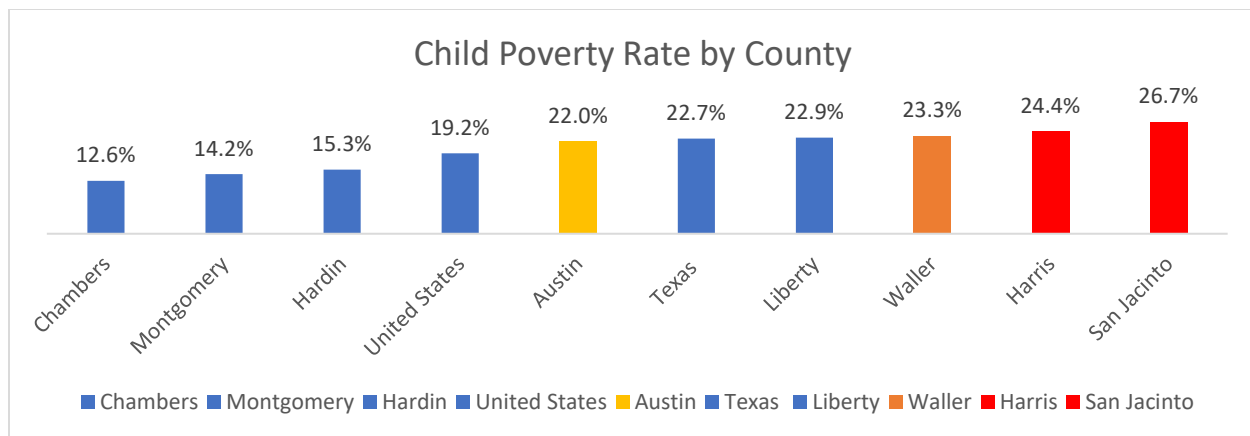
Figure 21 - Child Poverty Rate by County

Between 2000 and 2016 the poverty rate increased slightly in the following counties: Austin, Harris, Montgomery, and Waller. Poverty rates were more stable in less populated parts of the service area.

Child Poverty Rate

■ Service Area (24.6%)
■ Texas (23.9%)
■ United States (21.2%)

Key factors that impact poverty rates include family structure, immigration, and labor market opportunities. Because family structure is highly correlated with poverty, lack of change in the poverty rate can be partly attributed to an increase in the number of single-parent families in the area. Also, immigration trends are at play. A growing percentage of the population in the service area are first-generation Americans. Increases in the share of the population that has moved from other countries (Mexico, Europe, Latin America, etc.) together with increases in their likelihood of being poor has also contributed to the increase in the poverty rate. Together, these factors have outstripped the decreases in poverty expected with the increasing job opportunities and the economic boom/bust cycles associated with oil and gas industries that dominate the area.
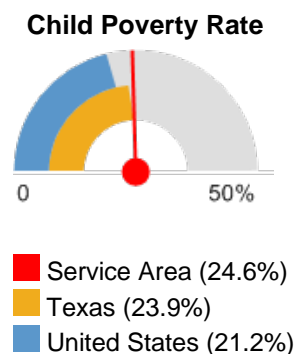
Poverty Rate Change 2000-2016					
County	Persons in Poverty 2000	Poverty Rate 2000	Persons in Poverty 2016	Poverty Rate 2016	Change in Poverty Rate 2000-2016
Austin	2,563	10.7%	4,213	**14.3%**	3.6%
Chambers	2,671	10.1%	3,646	**9.2%**	-0.9%
Hardin	5,674	11.8%	6,001	**10.8%**	-1%
Harris	461,488	13.4%	752,261	**16.6%**	3.2%
Liberty	10,782	16.1%	12,164	**15.9%**	-0.2%
Montgomery	29,153	9.4%	59,836	**10.9%**	1.5%
San Jacinto	4,190	18.5%	4,876	**17.7%**	-0.8%
Waller	4,858	16%	7,591	**16.5%**	0.5%
Texas	6,082,224	14.6%	8,522,584	**15.6%**	1.3%
United States	31,581,086	11.3%	44,268,996	**14%**	2.7%

Table 26 - Poverty Rate Change 2000-2016

Households in Poverty			
County	Total Households	Households in Poverty	% Households in Poverty
Service Area	1,809,767	265,864	14.7%
Austin	11,222	1,531	13.6%
Chambers	12,967	1,455	11.2%
Hardin	20,408	2,613	12.8%
Harris	1,536,259	234,656	15.3%
Liberty	25,611	4,185	16.3%
Montgomery	179,587	17,588	9.8%
San Jacinto	9,631	1,472	15.3%
Waller	14,082	2,364	16.8%
Texas	9,289,554	1,406,910	15.2%
United States	117,716,237	16,652,240	14.2%
US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.			

Table 27 - Households in Poverty
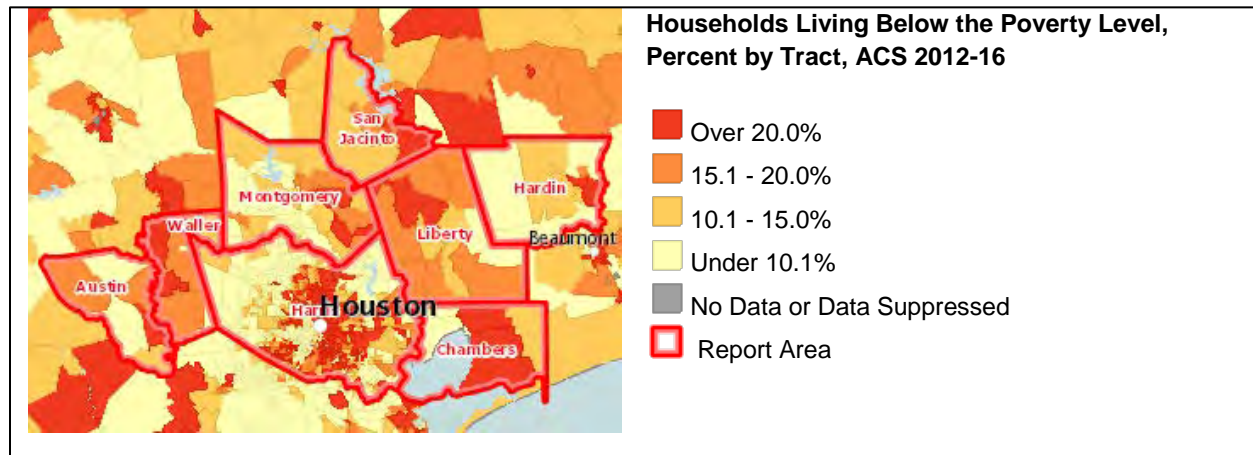
Figure 22 - Households Living Below Poverty by Tract

Poverty Rate by County			
County	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Percent Population in Poverty
Service Area	5,166,266	860,375	16.7%
Austin	28,783	4,163	14.5%
Chambers	37,855	4,411	11.7%
Hardin	55,046	6,480	11.8%
Harris	4,389,358	763,456	17.4%
Liberty	71,756	12,448	17.4%
Montgomery	514,604	56,804	11.0%
San Jacinto	26,920	4,627	17.2%
Waller	41,944	7,986	19.0%
Texas	26,334,005	4,397,307	16.7%
United States	310,629,645	46,932,225	15.1%

Table 28 - Poverty Rate by County

Population in Poverty by Ethnicity
There is a racial disparity in poverty. Of the total Hispanic/Latino population in the service area, 474,842 live in poverty, indicating a Hispanic/Latino poverty rate of 23% compared to a poverty

rate of 15% for whites. At 23% the poverty rate for black/African Americans is comparable to Hispanic/Latinos. However, African American/blacks do not comprise a significant portion of the population in the service area counties.

County	Total Hispanic / Latino	Total Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Hispanic / Latino	Percent Not Hispanic / Latino
Service Area	474,842	385,533	23.7%	12.2%
Austin	2,090	2,073	28.5%	9.7%
Chambers	1,585	2,826	19.8%	9.5%
Hardin	539	5,941	18.8%	11.4%
Harris	434,613	328,843	23.6%	12.9%
Liberty	4,496	7,952	31.6%	13.8%
Montgomery	27,115	29,689	23.5%	7.4%
San Jacinto	793	3,834	24.4%	16.2%
Waller	3,611	4,375	27.6%	15.2%
Texas	2,468,927	1,928,380	24.1%	11.9%
United States	12,653,597	34,278,628	23.4%	13.4%

Representation of Hispanics among Population in Poverty

Table 29 - Hispanic Percentage of Population in Poverty

County	White	Black	NA/AN	Asian	NH/PI	Other Races	Multiple Race
Service Area	14.7%	22.6%	21.9%	12.3%	17.2%	24.0%	15.5%
Austin	10.1%	33.4%	0%	0%	no data	45.6%	27.5%
Chambers	10.5%	12.5%	48.2%	17.4%	no data	51.3%	3.1%
Hardin	10.4%	34.5%	47.3%	0%	0%	0%	14.7%
Harris	15.5%	22.6%	24.1%	12.5%	14.9%	23.9%	15.6%
Liberty	16.8%	18.8%	18.9%	24.1%	100%	18.9%	27.3%
Montgomery	10.3%	16.1%	1.8%	7.5%	32.6%	25.9%	12.8%
San Jacinto	16.2%	23.6%	0%	92.7%	no data	0%	6.1%
Waller	14.8%	33.6%	25.4%	6.8%	no data	19.2%	30.2%
Texas	15.4%	22.6%	21.1%	11.1%	13.9%	24.3%	17.1%
United States	12.4%	26.2%	27.5%	12.3%	20.0%	25.3%	19.2%

Percent of Population in Poverty by Race by County

Table 30 - Impoverished Population Percent in Poverty by Race

Total Population in Poverty by Race by County							
County	White	Black	NA/AN	Asian	NH/PI	Other Races	Multiple Race
Service Area	506,753	197,010	4,910	37,942	606	95,036	18,118
Austin	2,415	819	0	0	0	690	239
Chambers	3,436	376	27	89	0	468	15
Hardin	5,280	1,058	35	0	0	0	107
Harris	431,823	186,476	4,728	36,539	455	88,021	15,414
Liberty	9,915	1,199	46	121	13	807	347
Montgomery	45,601	3,627	39	1,007	138	4,717	1,675
San Jacinto	3,771	667	0	165	0	0	24
Waller	4,512	2,788	35	21	0	333	297
Texas	3,054,970	697,386	26,264	129,228	3,024	373,974	112,461
United States	28M	10M	692,998	2M	108,956	3.7M	1.8M

Table 31 – Total Population in Poverty by Race
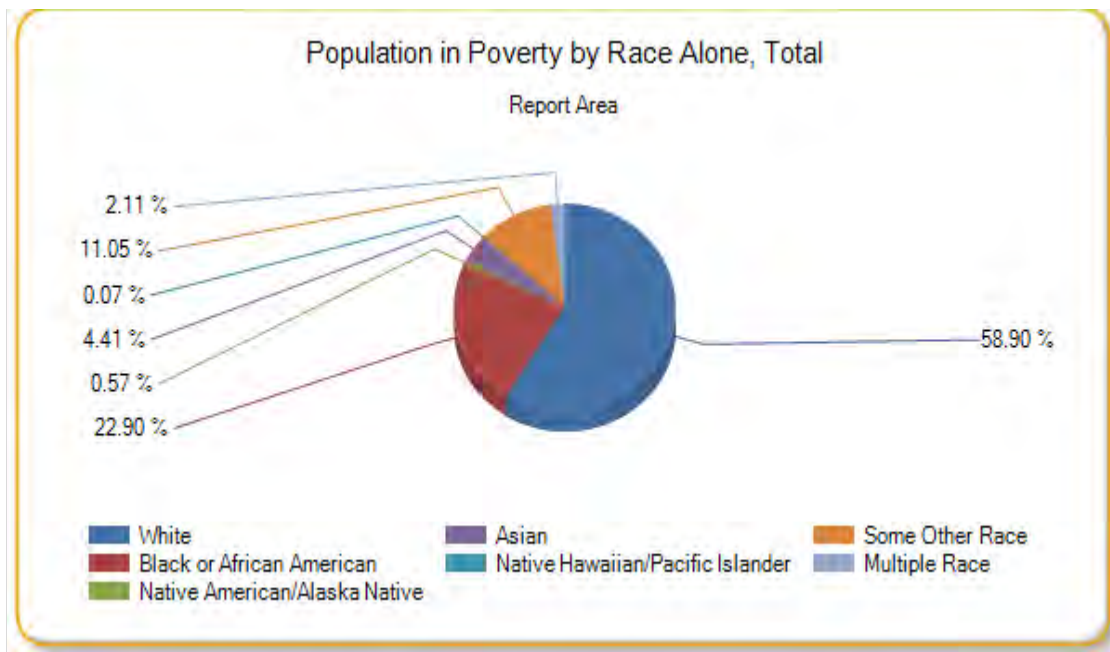
Figure 23. Population in Poverty by Race

Poverty by Family Type

According to the U.S. Census, there were 169,559 families living in poverty in the service area in 2016. Among families, married couples were less likely to be in poverty, while female-householders were most likely to have an income below poverty. Male householders were also likely to live in poverty but comprised a much smaller share of households.

County	Total Families	Families in Poverty Total	Families in Poverty Married Couples	Families in Poverty Male Householder	Families in Poverty Female Householder
Service Area	1,248,370	169,559	68,778	15,142	85,639
Austin	8,255	923	393	0	530
Chambers	10,091	778	499	61	218
Hardin	14,835	1,423	598	72	753
Harris	1,045,868	151,000	60,001	13,943	77,056
Liberty	18,689	2,322	1,075	163	1,084
Montgomery	133,422	11,068	5,118	799	5,151
San Jacinto	7,021	819	461	65	293
Waller	10,189	1,226	633	39	554
Texas	6,450,049	835,775	340,658	74,880	420,237
United States	77,608,829	8,543,087	3,104,359	914,985	4,523,743

Table 32 - Number of Families in Poverty by Family Type
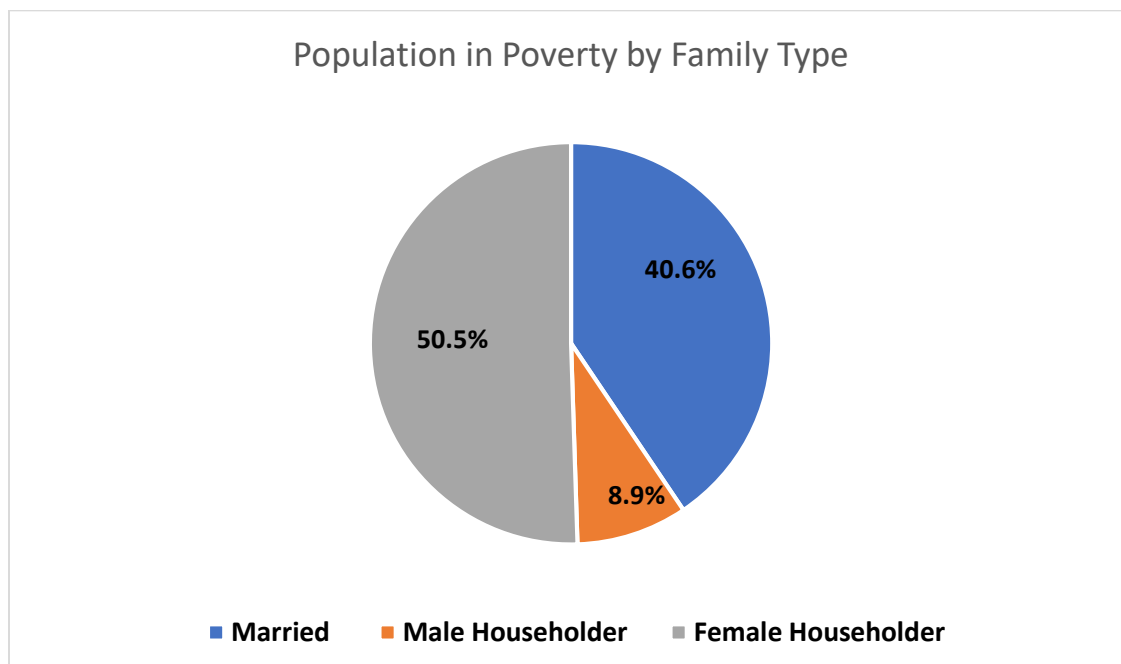
Figure 24 - Population in Poverty by Family Type

Families in Poverty by Type					
County	Total Families	% Families in Poverty Total	% Families in Poverty children < 18 yrs.	Families in Poverty Married-Couples w/ children < 5 yrs.	Families in Poverty Female Householder children < 5
Austin	8,255	11.2%	20.4%	5.9%	92.4%
Chambers	10,091	7.7%	9.0%	0%	38.9%
Hardin	14,835	9.6%	14.6%	13.7%	50.4%
Harris	1,045,868	14.4%	20.9%	8.4%	42.3%
Liberty	18,689	12.4%	18.5%	9.6%	49.0%
Montgomery	133,422	8.3%	12.4%	3.7%	44.1%
San Jacinto	7,021	11.7%	17.9%	20.3%	19.2%
Waller	10,189	12.0%	18.3%	12.4%	24.9%
U.S. Census American Fact Finder. Poverty Status in the last 12 Months of Families Table S1702					

Table 33 - Families in Poverty by Type

Single Parent Households 1990 - 2016
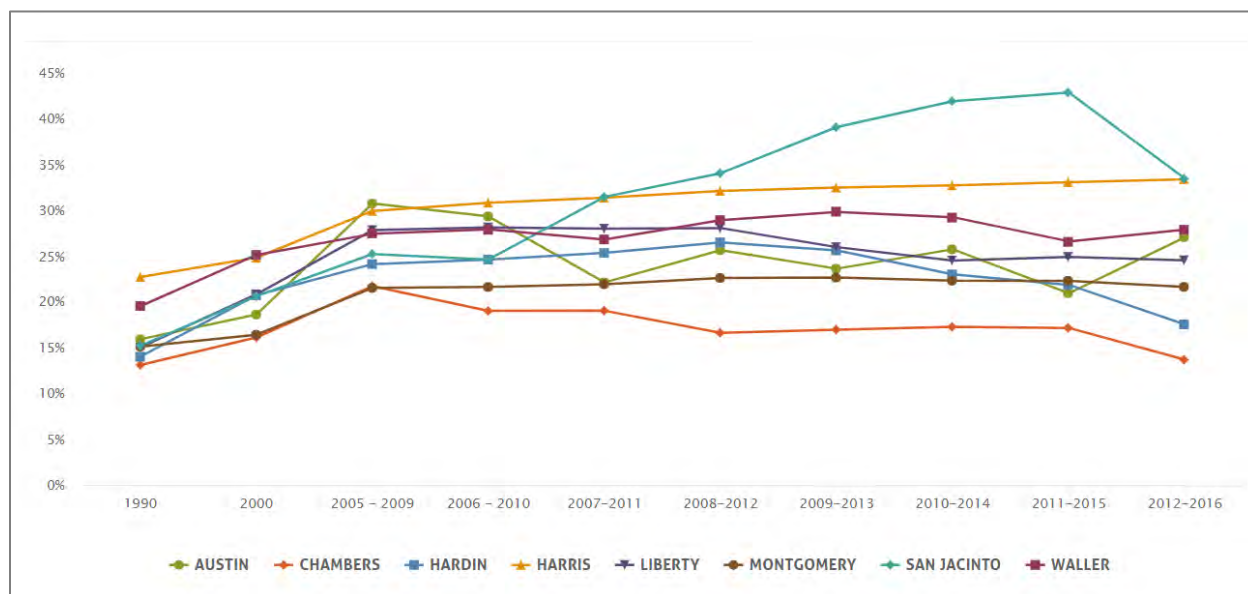
Figure 25 - Percent of Families that are Single-Parent Trend

Poverty Among Single Mothers

There are several areas throughout the service area where the proportion of single mothers that live in poverty is over 37% as shown in the chart below. Additionally, the percent of families comprised of single-female headed households has increased over time in all of the service area counties except for Harris. San Jacinto has recently experienced a drop in single-parent families but the rate is still higher than in 1990. Another factor exacerbating the poverty level of single-female headed households is the gender pay gap that is prevalent throughout the area.
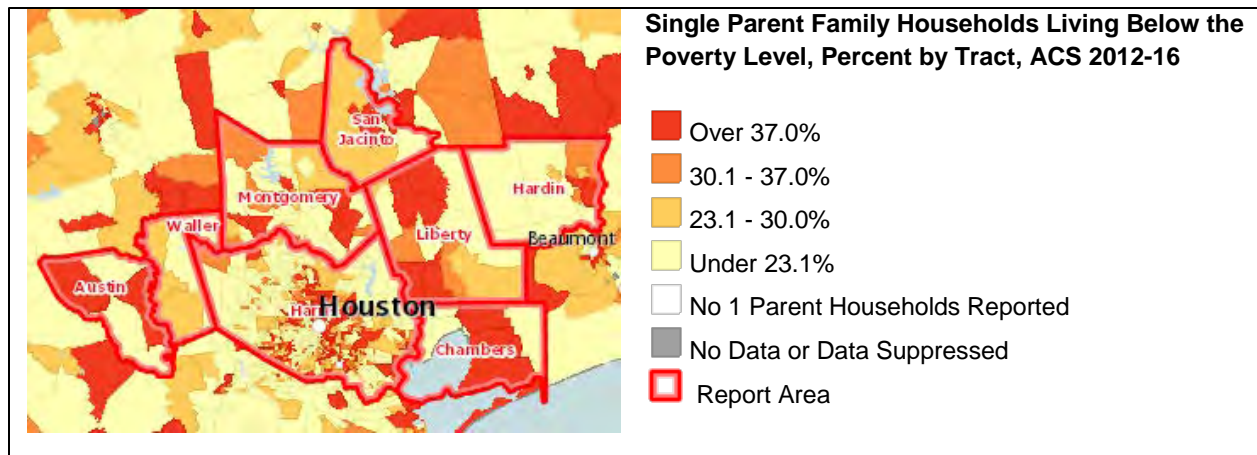
Figure 26 - Single Parent Households Living in Poverty by Tract

Child Poverty

According to the American Community Survey 5-year data, an average of 24.6% percent of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The highest rates of child poverty are found in Harris, Austin, and Waller Counties.

Child Poverty Rate Ages 0-17 years			
County	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Service Area	1,399,807	344,202	24.6%
Austin	7,026	1,777	25.3%
Chambers	10,534	1,439	13.7%
Hardin	13,709	2,054	15.0%
Harris	1,194,157	309,991	26.0%
Liberty	19,600	4,560	23.3%
Montgomery	137,687	20,426	14.8%
San Jacinto	6,061	1,191	19.7%
Waller	11,033	2,764	25.1%
Texas	7,048,643	1,685,859	23.9%
United States	72,456,096	15,335,783	21.2%

Table 34 - Child Poverty Rate
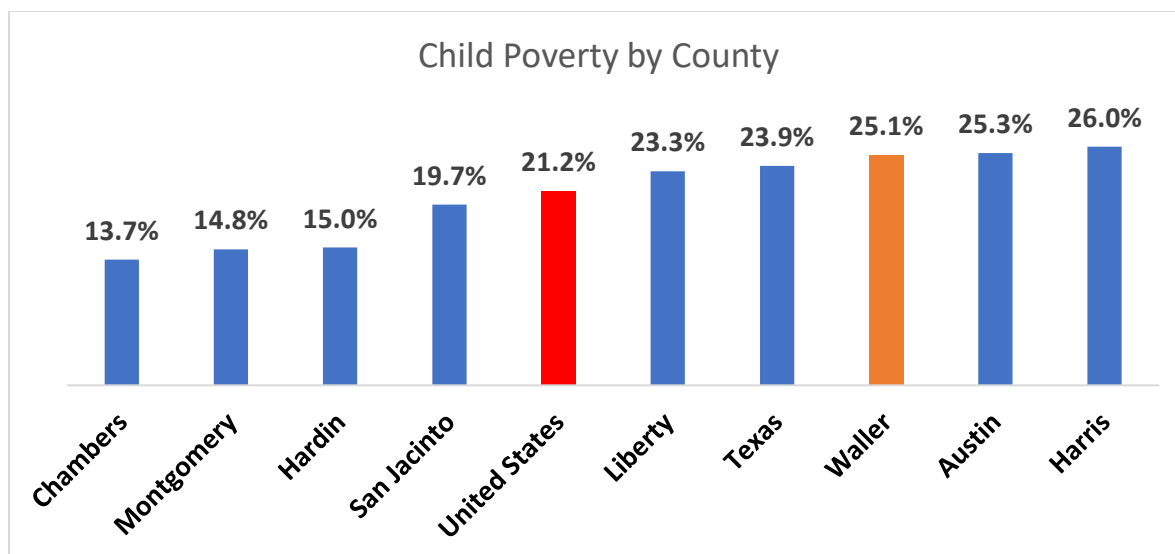
Figure 27 - Child Poverty by County

Child Poverty Age 0-4 Years

According to the American Community Survey 5-year data, an average of 26.3% of children in the service area aged 0-4 years lived in poverty during 2016. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is greater than the national average of 23.6% for children aged 0-4 years.

Child Poverty Rate 0-4 yrs.
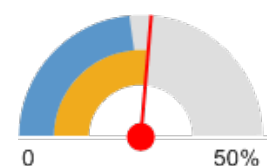
■ Service Area (26.3%)
■ Texas (26.1%)
■ United States (23.6%)

Poverty Rate for Children Aged 0-4 Years			
County	Ages 0-4 Total Population	Ages 0-4 In Poverty	Ages 0-4 Poverty Rate
Report Area	396,126	104,208	26.3%
Austin	1,777	640	36%
Chambers	2,538	285	11.2%
Hardin	3,582	464	13%
Harris	343,197	94,601	27.6%
Liberty	5,342	1,336	25%
Montgomery	35,150	5,642	16.1%
San Jacinto	1,422	321	22.6%
Waller	3,118	919	29.5%
Texas	1,946,154	508,487	26.1%
United States	19,554,400	4,614,933	23.6%
U.S. Census American Community Survey. 2012-2016 Poverty Status in Past 12 Months Table S1701			

Table 35 - Poverty Rate Children aged 0-4 Years
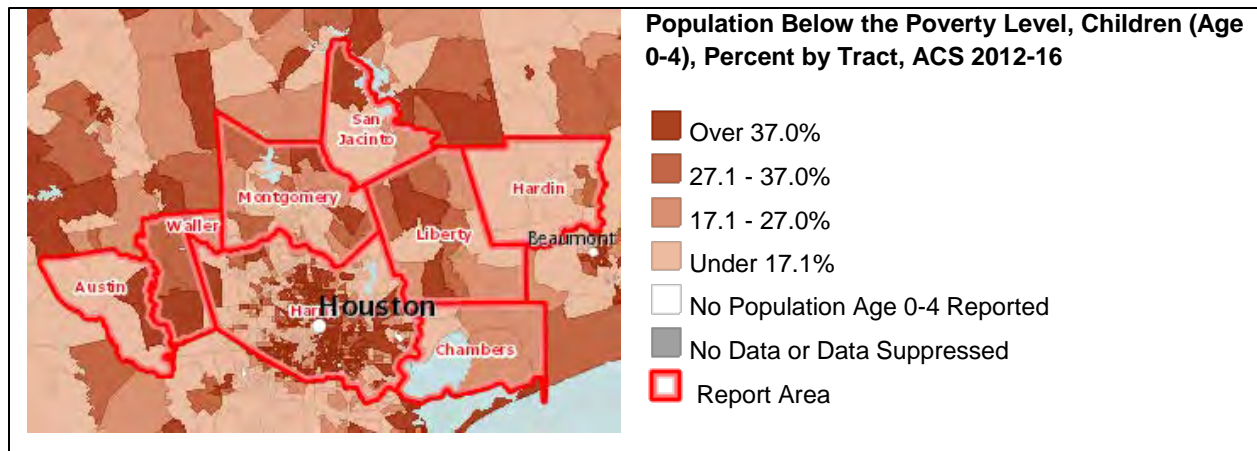
Figure 28 - Population Below Poverty by Census Tract Age 0-4 yrs.

Child Poverty by Race

According to the U.S. Census, there are 200,987 Hispanic/Latino children aged 0-4 years in the service area. Of these children, 68,815 are living in poverty. The rate of poverty among Hispanic children aged 0-4 years is 34% compared to a rate of 8% for Non-Hispanic white children aged 0-4 years, and 36% for black/African American Children aged 0-4 years. In total, Hispanic/Latinos comprise 35% of the population of children in poverty aged 0-4 years.

Total Population Age 0-4 in Poverty by Race							
County	White	Black	NA/AN	Asian	NH/PI	Other Races	Multiple Race
Report Area	8,622	23,204	938	2,383	10	12,387	3,369
Austin	166	77	0	0	0	106	187
Chambers	96	18	0	0	0	73	0
Hardin	341	17	0	0	0	0	67
Harris	5,650	22,453	912	2,297	10	11,756	2,656
Liberty	649	105	8	0	0	73	33
Montgomery	1,338	355	18	66	0	369	274
San Jacinto	287	14	0	20	0	0	0
Waller	95	165	0	0	0	10	152
Texas	67,736	81,425	2,459	8,256	404	45,855	21,603
United States	1,401,761	1,155,002	72,736	109,909	11,309	464,274	342,157

Table 36. Population in Poverty aged 0-4 by Race

In the last community assessment, the following population findings were noted and still remain consistent in 2018-2019:

- Greater concentrations of non-Hispanic whites than state
- Humble (Harris County) has a higher proportion of black residents than other areas of the state and locations in the service area.
- Waller County is more diverse than the state.
- Hardin County experienced an increase in whites.
- Montgomery County shows a larger concentration of whites and is the largest county in the service area. The county also has a larger number of minority residents.
- Racial and ethnic poverty rates are high and increasing. Younger children are more likely to live in poverty than those in other age cohorts. As a result, Head Start and Early Head Start enrollment should be comprised of more diverse children than represented across the state population.

HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Number of Eligible Children and Expectant Mothers
The chart below shows the number of children by age and estimates the number of children eligible for HS and EHS in the service area. There is a total of 62,040 children eligible for EHS and 44,987 eligible for HS. There are 80,911 pregnant mothers eligible for EHS, based on the number of births to low-income women in the past 12 months . Since MET serves a small portion of Harris County, the EHS eligibles without Harris County but with the City of Humble included is 6,076. Using the same formula, the number of HS eligibles is 4,390 for a total of 10,466 HS/EHS eligible children. The number of pregnant women eligible based on births in Humble and without Harris County included is 11,395.

Head Start Eligibles							
County	0-2 years	Poverty Rate <5 yrs.	Total EHS Eligible	3 and 4 years	Poverty Rate <5 yrs.	Total HS Eligibles	Total Eligible HS/EHS
Austin	891	36%	321	893	36%	321	642
Chambers	1,541	11%	169	1,008	11%	111	280
Hardin	1,953	13%	254	1,656	13%	215	469
Harris	201,776	28%	56,497	145,641	28%	40,779	97,276
Liberty	2,913	25%	728	2,437	25%	609	1,337
Montgomery	21,207	16%	3,393	14,662	16%	2,346	5,739
San Jacinto	774	23%	178	701	23%	161	339
Waller	1,667	30%	500	1,485	30%	445	945
Humble	1,054	32%	533	569	32%	182	715
Total	232,722		62,040	168,483		44,987	107,027
U.S. Census American Fact Finder. 2012-2016 Population Under 18 Years by Age Table B09001							
U.S. Census American Fact Finder.2012-2016 Selected Economic Characteristics Table DP03							

Table 37. Head Start Eligibles

Service Area Number of Pregnant Mothers Eligible for EHS	
County	Pregnant Mothers
Austin	304
Chambers	508
Hardin	694
Harris	69,651
Liberty	1,068
Montgomery	7,929
San Jacinto	259
Waller	498
Humble	135
Total	80,911
U.S. Census American Fact Finder.2012-2016 Fertility Table S1301	

Table 38 - Pregnant Women Eligible for Early Head Start

Children Eligible for Childcare Subsidies

Service Area Number of Children Potentially Eligible for Child Care Subsidies			
County	% Families with income < 200% of poverty	# of children < 6 all parents in labor force	Potential children eligible for subsidies
Austin	31.8%	535	170
Chambers	28.3%	743	210
Hardin	27.9%	1,638	457
Harris	38.5%	120,058	4,622
Liberty	39.5%	1,851	731
Montgomery	27.1%	14,891	4,035
San Jacinto	42.5%	503	213
Waller	40.7%	1,221	496
Total		141,440	10,934
U.S. Census American Fact Finder STT118. Ratio of Income to Poverty Level			

Table 39. Children Eligible for Child Care Subsidies

Race and Ethnicity

Diversity is most pronounced among the child population. Awareness of students' cultural identities will allow MET, Inc to understand the extent to which dual language learners are present in the community and the number of children that experience disparities due to cultural and linguistic barriers to service access. Disparities can be magnified for children of color and children living in families where their caregivers have limited English proficiency. The U.S. Census indicates there are 68,815 children aged 0-4 years that are Hispanic/Latino in the service area living in poverty. The following table calculates the number of children that are dual language learners (DLLs) based on the percentage of children over age five years in the service area counties that are living in households where they speak a language other than English at home and speak English "less than very well". According to the data there is a total of 11,722 DLLs eligible for EHS and 8,482 HS eligibles that are DLLs. When data is disaggregated and includes the City of Humble rather than the entire Harris County the number of DLLS eligible for HS is 30 and there are 87 DLLs eligible for EHS. There is a total of 356 DLLs eligible for HS/EHS.

Dual Language Learners Eligible for HS/EHS					
County	% Pop. over 5 yrs. with Limited English Proficiency	0-2 yrs. old and Eligible for EHS	# DLLs EHS Eligible	3-5 yrs. old and Eligible for HS	# DLLs HS Eligible
Austin	8.0%	321	26	321	26
Chambers	10.4%	169	17	111	11
Hardin	1.5%	254	4	215	3
Harris	20.3%	56,497	11,299	40,779	8,156
Liberty	6.9%	728	50	609	43
Montgomery	7.7%	3,393	261	2,346	188
San Jacinto	4.2%	178	7	161	6
Waller	11.6%	500	58	445	49
Humble	16.5%	533	87	182	30
Total		62,040	**11,722**	44,987	**8,482**

Table 40 - Dual Language Learners Eligible for HS/EHS

Within the current Head Start program, in 2017 the cumulative enrollment was 1,189 of which 928 participants were served in HS and 261 were served in EHS. The racial/ethnic composition of program enrollment was 24% black / African American, 26% white, 45% Hispanic/Latino and 6% Other[8].
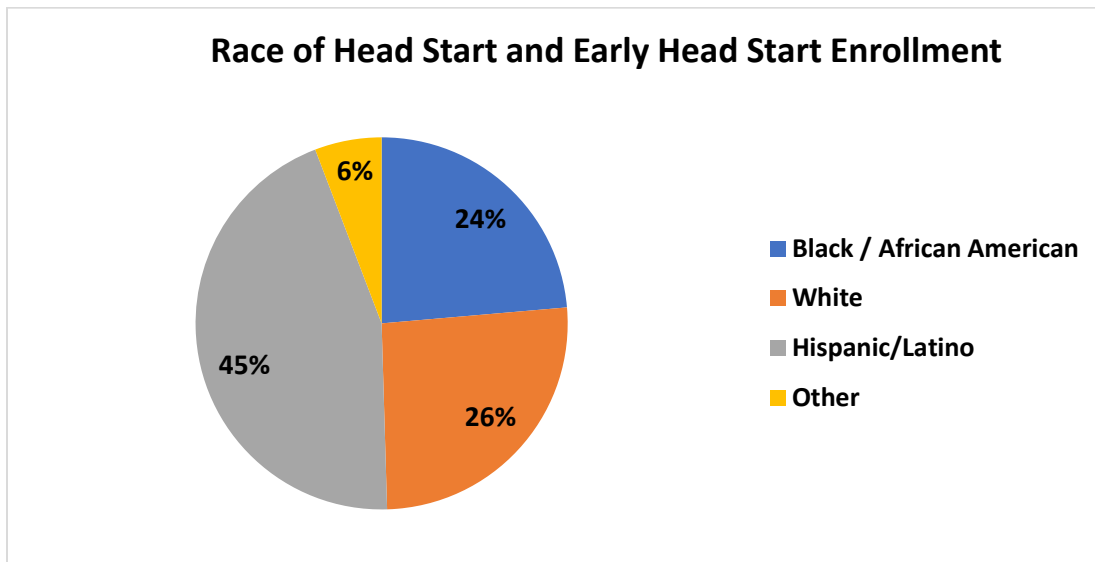
Figure 29 - Race of HS Enrollment

Languages Spoken and Dual Language Learners
The U.S. census indicates that of the population of individuals that speak a language other than English at home 99% of individuals in all counties that speak a language other than English speak Spanish.

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[8] Head Start Program Information Report 2016-2017.

Percent of Population Over Age Five in Linguistically Isolated Home			
County	Total Population Age 5 and Over	Linguistically Isolated Population	Percent Linguistically Isolated Population
Service Area	4,827,400	522,570	10.8%
Austin	27,323	846	3.1%
Chambers	35,523	2,736	7.7%
Hardin	52,015	615	1.2%
Harris	4,086,726	493,600	12.1%
Liberty	73,248	2,362	3.2%
Montgomery	482,971	19,369	4.0%
San Jacinto	25,697	394	1.5%
Waller	43,897	2,648	6.0%
U.S. Census. American Community Survey 2012-2016 Language Spoken at Home Table S1601			

Table 41 - Percentage of Population in Linguistically Isolated Homes
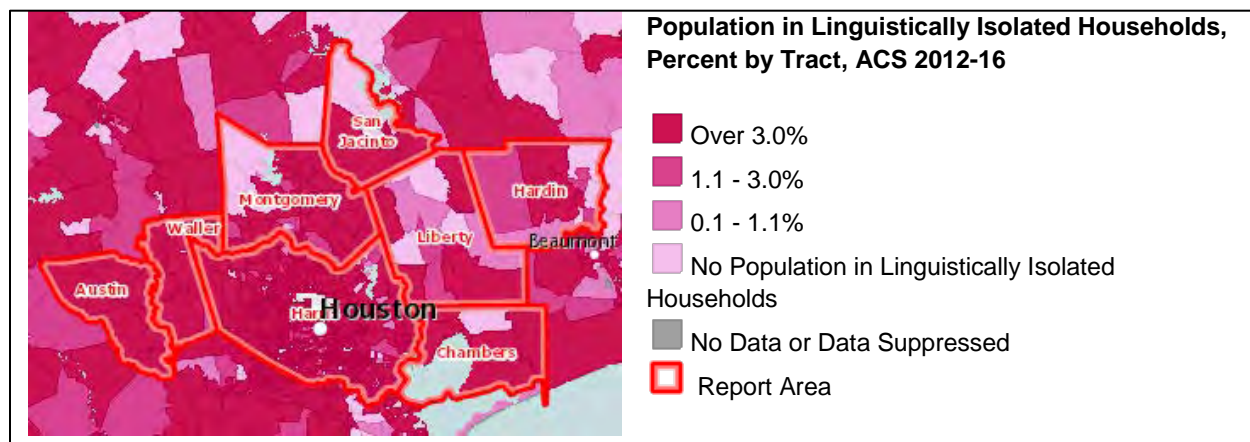
Figure 30 - Population in Linguistically Isolated Households by Census Tract

Children Experiencing Homelessness

MET Inc. Head Start served 7 homeless families during the 2016-2017 enrollment year, of which 2 were children enrolled due to eligibility as a result of homelessness. In the EHS program 3 homeless children were served and in Head Start, the program served 4 homeless children. Of homeless families 2 acquired housing during the program year. Based on the Point-in-Time housing count for the service area counties it is estimated there are 587 homeless children (0-18 years)[9]. ChildTrends estimates that 39% of the homeless population is comprised of children between one and five years. Using these data sources, it is estimated that there are 229 children under five that are homeless in the service area[10].

Children in Foster Care

Children that are in foster care represent a high-risk population whose negative life circumstances necessitated their placement in the child welfare system. Some of the challenges they may face that impact their chances for success in school include:

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[9] Balance of State Continuum of Care (Chambers, Hardin, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto). COC Austin/Waller Counties; https://www.thn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Combined-Austin-Waller-Counties.pdf https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/reportmanagement/published/CoC_Dash_CoC_TX-607-2016_TX_2016.pdf

[10] https://www.childtrends.org/indicators/homeless-children-and-youth/

- Low birth weight
- Abusive homes
- Increased hunger and poor nutrition
- Frequently changing schools, high mobility
- Exposure to environmental hazards such as drugs, alcohol, and violence
- Lack of home support in reading and language development
- Single-parent homes
- Less involved home and school connections[11]

Consequently, children and youth in foster care are more likely than their peers to have lower test scores, repeat grades, require special education services, exhibit behavior problems, have lower attendance, and drop out of school. Children in foster care are categorically eligible for HS programs and qualify for priority enrollment in the program.

To estimate the number of children in foster care that are eligible for HS and EHS data was collected on the total number of children in foster care for the service area counties. According to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, the service area had a total of 3,069 children aged 0-5 years in foster care that would be eligible for HS/EHS[12]. Of children in placement, 1,705 were aged 0-2 years (eligible for EHS) and 1,364 were aged 3-5 years (eligible for HS). During the 2016-2017 program year, MET, enrolled 16 foster children in EHS and served 25 children in HS. The program received referrals from child welfare services for 18 children and served at total of 41 children that were in foster care during the program year.

Children in Foster Care			
County	Ages 0-2	Ages 3-5	Total
Service Area	1,705	1,364	3,069
Austin	4	8	12
Chambers	14	10	24
Hardin	23	22	45
Harris	1,410	1,159	2,569
Liberty	46	33	79
Montgomery	174	110	284
San Jacinto	19	13	32
Waller	15	9	24
Texas Department of Health and Human Services https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data_Book/Child_Protective_Services/Placements /Substitute_Care_During_Fiscal_Year.asp			

Table 42 - Children Eligible for HS/EHS in Foster Care

[11] Zetlin, A. (2013). Placed at Risk by the System. The Educational Vulnerability of Children and Youth in Foster Care. Nova Science Publishers, Inc.
[12]https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data_Book/Child_Protective_Services/Placements/Substit381ute_Care_During_Fiscal_Year.asp

Household Composition

According to the service area grantee Program Information Report (PIR), HS/EHS served 1,084 families. Of families, most were single-parent families which aligns community data indicating that single-parent families are more likely to live in poverty than married–couple families. The U.S. census indicates that in the service area 5,911 children aged 0-2 years and 4,368 children aged 3 and 4 years live in single-parent families which is in contrast to Head Start enrollment in which more children live in single-parent families.

Family Type of HS/EHS Children

36% Married - Couple
64% Single-Parent
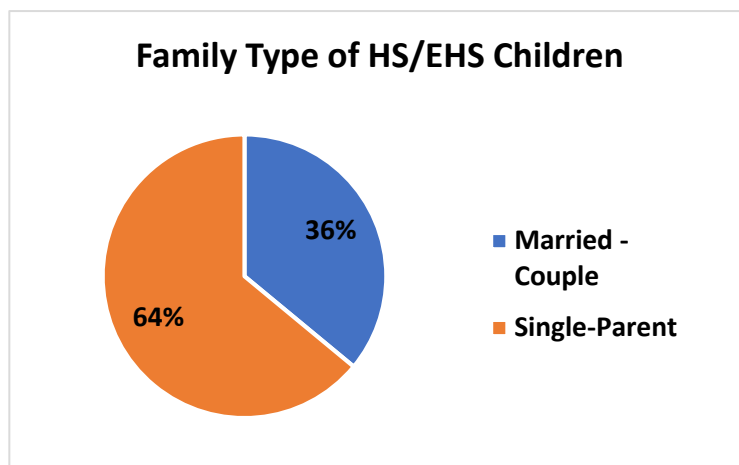
Figure 31 - HS Children by Family Type

Children in Single Parent Families			
County	Under 3 yrs.	Ages 3-5	Total
Service Area	5,911	4,368	10,279
Austin	293	344	637
Chambers	214	142	356
Hardin	168	213	381
Humble	366	292	658
Liberty	686	416	1,102
Montgomery	3,678	2,559	6,237
San Jacinto	27	68	95
Waller	479	334	813
American Fact Finder Table B09002			

Table 43 - Children in Single Parent Families

Principal Source of Income

While the principal source of income for most families in the service area is from work activities, families that have a low-income are less likely to be employed full-time and frequently work part-time in low-wage positions. According to PIR data from the current grantee in the service area, 9 families received TANF (<1%) and 57 families received SSI (5.3%).

Income Characteristics for Families and Individuals in Poverty			
County	Received TANF/SSI/% received SSI/TANF	Worked Full-Time or Part-Time	Did not Work
Austin	173/1.5%	No Data	No Data
Chambers	115/<1%	No Data	No Data
Hardin	342/1.7%	16.2%	23.9%
Harris	23,528/1.5%	26.3%	30.7%
Liberty	483/1.9%	23.1%	32.2%
Montgomery	1,973/1.1%	17.2%	20.2%
San Jacinto	175/1.8%	25.1%	37.4%
Waller	128/<1%	32.2%	37.2%
U.S Census American Community Survey 2012-2016 Selected Characteristics of People at Specified Levels of Poverty in Last 12 Months Table S1703; Community Commons			

Table 44 - Income Characteristics for Families and Individuals in Poverty

Median Income Level

Despite a relatively high median income when data is examined by gender and family type disparities are revealed. For example, the lowest median income is found among single-mother headed households. Among male-headed households, median income is lower than married-couple families, however it is higher than the per-capita income while single-female headed household income falls far below the per-capita income.

Median Income by Family Type				
Indicator	**U.S.**	**Texas**	**Austin**	**Chambers**
Household	$55,322	$54,727	$56,681	$70,396
Family	$67,871	$64,585	$71,293	$86,994
Per-Capita	$29,829	$27,828	$28,351	$29,729
Married-Couple Families	$87,757	$81,385	$92,295	$100,196
Single-female headed household	$25,130	$25,006	$21,951	$27,055
Male-headed household	$39,618	$39,700	no data	$57,230
U.S. Census American Fact Finder. Selected Economic Characteristics 2012-2016 Table DP03; S1901; B19126				

Table 45 - Median Income by Family Type

Median Income by Family Type					
Indicator	**Hardin**	**Harris**	**Liberty**	**Montgomery**	**San Jacinto**	**Waller**
Household	$54,352	$55,584	$49,655	$70,805	$44,878	$53,508
Family	$68,750	$63,720	$57,633	$82,606	$56,282	$67,044
Per-Capita	$28,321	$29,850	$22,065	$35,912	$22,563	$23,338
Married-Couple Families	$83,281	$77,774	$69,670	$103,723	$63,051	$74,839
Single-female headed household	$18,281	$24,573	$20,362	$28,138	$10,807	$21,204
Male-headed household	$42,311	$40,532	$41,488	$54,963	$77,598	$68,454
U.S. Census American Fact Finder. Selected Economic Characteristics 2012-2016 Table DP03; S1901; B19126					
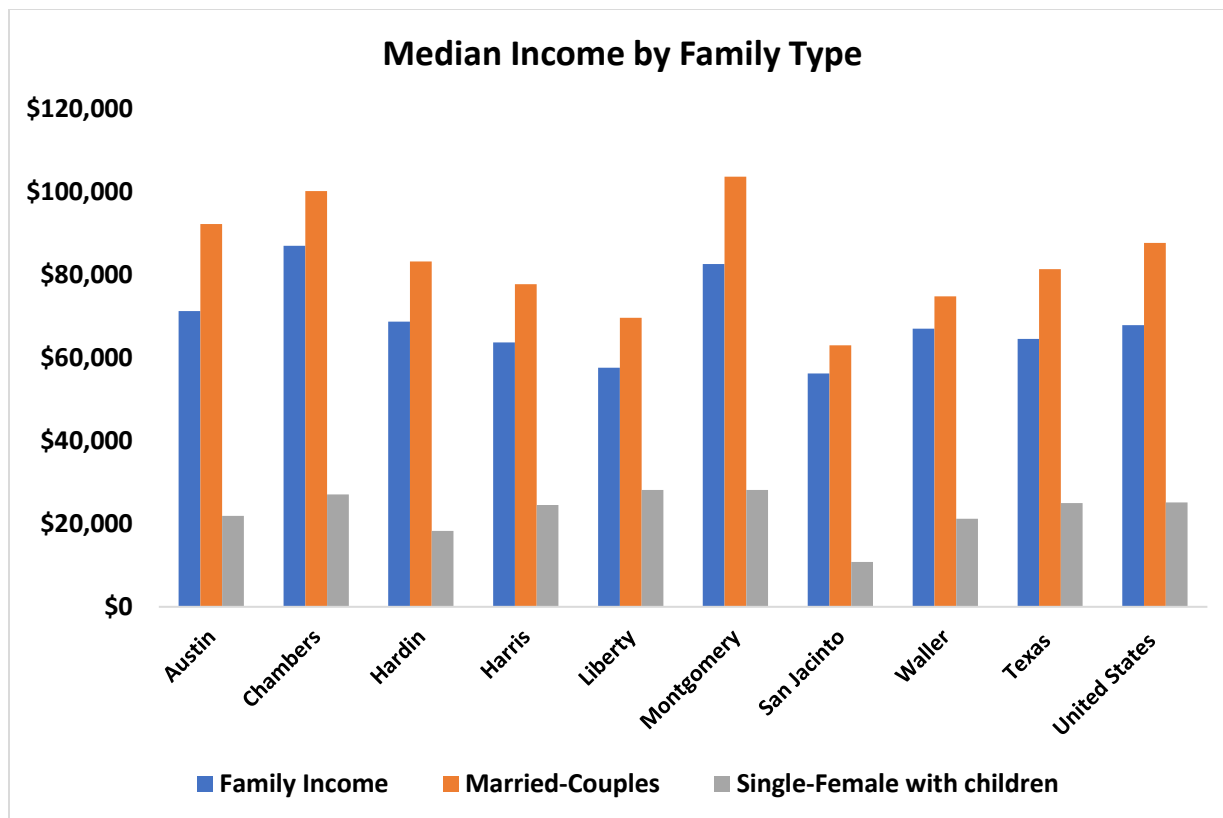
Figure 32 - Income by Family Type

Employment

Parental employment rates differ according to family structure. In the service area counties, slightly less than half of all married couples with children under six had all parents in the labor force. When data was disaggregated for single-mothers, rates of employment were higher than for married – couple families with children under six in all counties except for Austin.

Employment Characteristics of Families				
County	Percent Married-Couple Families all Parents in Workforce	Percent Female-Householder in Labor Force	% Married-Couples with children <6 all parents in Labor Force	%Single-Mothers with children <6 yrs. in Labor Force
Austin	69.8%	58.3%	43.4%	33.0%
Chambers	58.3%	44.0%	32.0%	64.9%
Hardin	59.0%	58.1%	49.7%	64.4%
Harris	56.0%	64.4%	48.9%	70.1%
Liberty	46.5%	52.6%	45.1%	61.3%
Montgomery	53.1%	58.4%	47.6%	65.9%
San Jacinto	52.1%	38.2%	36.1%	60.8%
Waller	57.6%	60.4%	47.9%	64.4%
U.S. Census. 20012-2016 Employment Characteristics of Families. Table S2302; B23008 (imputed)				

Table 46 - Employment Characteristics of Families

Number of Children Living Below Poverty Level
According to the PIR for MET, Inc. Head Start, 77.1% (917) of children enrolled in HS/EHS had an income below the federal poverty line, 3.8% (45) were categorically eligible for HS/EHS due to receipt of public assistance, TANF, or SSI, <1%% (2) were eligible due to homelessness, and 2.8% were eligible because placement in foster care. There were 76 children that were over-income enrolled in the program. There are estimated to be 4,390 HS eligible children of which MET is funded to serve 801 which indicates the program reaching 18% of all HS eligible 3-5 yr. olds in the service area. There is estimated to be 10,466 infants and toddlers eligible for EHS of which MET is funded to serve 184 resulting in a program reach of less than 1% of all EHS eligible children.

Number of Public Assistance Recipients
The HS/EHS PIR indicates that 66 (6%) families received TANF/SSI and 503 (46%) families received WIC, while 520 (48%) families received SNAP during the program year.

EDUCATION

Education Needs of Eligible Families

This section of the community assessment provides information about the service needs of Head Start families and children and examines the resources in the community available to meet these needs. It also provides data that allows the program to compare the education, health, and wellbeing of Head Start families to those residing in the service area and throughout Texas. This data includes information about: 1) The education levels of Head Start parents and adults in the community, 2) The extent to which children experience and achievement gap, and 3) data that uncovers disparities in health and wellbeing for low-income families that could emerge due to limited educational attainment.

Educational Attainment

Education is a strong determinant of socio-economic status and health outcomes. Steps taken to increase the educational level in a population can decrease poverty and improve population health. It is known that those with more than 12 years of education have a higher life expectancy and higher incomes on average than those with 12 or fewer years of education. Individuals with less education often have less income and reduced access to health insurance and health services due to lack of access to employer-provided insurance. In the U.S., 87% of the population has obtained a high school diploma. However, in Texas, just 82% of the adult population over age 25 years has obtained at least a high school diploma as their highest level of education.

Percent Population with No High School Diploma

- Report Area (19.11%)
- Texas (17.65%)
- United States (13.02%)
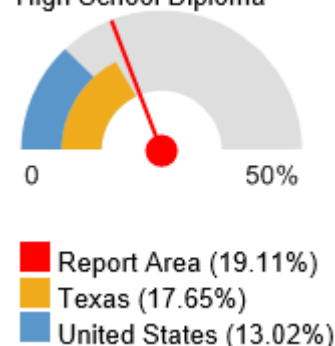
In the service area 81% of the population has obtained at least a high school diploma. The percent of residents in the service area with a high school diploma is comparable to the state, but slightly lower and significantly lower than the rate of attainment of a high school diploma found for the nation's population. Head Start families also demonstrate low educational attainment that are similar to rates of educational attainment for populations with an income at or near the poverty threshold. Head Start families have a higher rate of parents without a high school diploma than found in the service area communities for members of both the low-income and general population.

Educational Attainment

County	Percent No High School Diploma	Percent High School Only	Percent Some College	Percent Associates Degree	Percent Bachelor's Degree	Percent Graduate or Professional Degree
Service Area	19.1%	24.0%	21.1%	6.2%	19.1%	10.5%
Austin	17.6%	29.2%	23.7%	8.5%	14.8%	6.2%
Chambers	16.2%	29.2%	25.3%	8.2%	14.5%	6.7%
Hardin	13.1%	38.0%	24.0%	8.8%	11.3%	4.8%
Harris	19.8%	23.3%	20.8%	6.0%	19.3%	10.8%
Liberty	23.8%	39.1%	21.9%	5.2%	7.3%	2.7%
Montgomery	13.2%	24.1%	22.7%	7.0%	21.8%	11.1%
San Jacinto	17.3%	45.6%	22.9%	4.2%	7.4%	2.6%
Waller	21.6%	30.5%	22.6%	6.5%	13.5%	5.2%
Texas	17.6%	25.1%	22.4%	6.8%	18.5%	9.6%
United States	13.0%	27.5%	21%	8.2%	18.8%	11.5%

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Educational Attainment. National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data. 2015-16

Table 47 - Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment Population in Poverty

County	No High School Diploma	High School Only	AA Degree or Some College	BA or Higher
Austin	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Chambers	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Hardin	22.4%	12.3%	8.1%	2.6%
Harris	26.8%	16.2%	10.5%	4.6%
Liberty	24.1%	12.4%	12.1%	3.0%
Montgomery	25.3%	11.2%	6.7%	2.7%
San Jacinto	24.0%	14.3%	11.9%	8.7%
Waller	25.3%	15.2%	7.1%	3.6%

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Selected Characteristics of Individuals in Poverty Table S1703

Table 48 - Educational Attainment Population in Poverty

Educational Attainment of Head Start Families

Highest Educational Attainment	Total Parents	%Enrolled Families (1,084 Total)
Advanced or baccalaureate	39	3.6%
An associate's degree, vocational school, or some college	173	16%
A high school graduate or GED	572	52.8%
Less than high school graduate	305	28.1%

Table 49 - Educational Attainment of Head Start Families

Within the current HS program, 28% of families have less than a high school diploma. Other education data for Head Start families shows that 22 completed a grade level during the program year, 24 obtained a GED, 5 completed an associate's degree, and 1 completed a

bachelor degree. In total, 4.3% of families participated in education and/or career training activities while their child attended Head Start.

Work/Job Training Activities of Head Start Families		
Highest Educational Attainment	Total Parents	% Enrolled Families (1,084 Total)
Children with all parents in job training/school	164	15.1%
Children with one parent in job training/school	100	9.2%
Parents that completed a grade level prior to high school during enrollment year	22	2.1%
Parents that completed high school or that were awarded a GED during program year	24	2.2%
Parents that completed an associate degree during program year	5	<1%
Parents that completed a baccalaureate or advanced degree during the program year	1	<1%
Parents that completed a career training program during year	47	4.3%

Table 50 - Work / Training Activities of Head Start Families

Student Characteristics

The race of students in local schools is more diverse than found among the general population. While most counties have a predominantly white child enrollment in schools, Austin and Waller Counties have schools with a more diverse population. Race plays a large role in student achievement due to language gaps and disadvantages experienced by students in racial-ethnic groups that are more likely to live in poverty. Student achievement in the area is lower than found for students across Texas in several service area counties. The largest gaps are in San Jacinto, Liberty and Waller Counties where children in where students pass the STARR at a much lower rate than their statewide peers in both Reading and Math. These counties also demonstrate high rates of poverty.

Independent School District (ISD) Student Race				
District	Hispanic	White	Black	Other
Austin	41.1%	46.9%	9.4%	2.7%
Chambers	26.9%	63.8%	5.7%	3.6%
Hardin	7.5%	81.2%	8.0%	3.3%
Harris	55.1%	18.1%	19.1%	7.7%
Liberty	36.0%	52.6%	8.5%	2.9%
Montgomery	36.1%	52.8%	5.4%	5.7%
San Jacinto	20.3%	63.4%	12.8%	3.6%
Waller	56.7%	26.0%	14.6%	2.6%
Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center				

Table 51 – Service Area ISDs Student Race

Texas Academic Performance Dropout and 3rd Grade Achievement			
County	Dropout Rate 2015	% Grade 3 students Passing STAAR Reading (2015)	% Grade 3 students passing STAAR Math (2015)
Austin	3.3%	41%	36%
Chambers	0.2%	52%	56%
Hardin	3.2%	46%	46%
Harris	7.8%	39%	42%
Liberty	5.5%	34%	37%
Montgomery	3.5%	49%	53%
San Jacinto	5.8%	25%	23%
Waller	2.9%	32%	34%
Texas	6.3%	40%	41%
https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/tapr/2017/srch.html?srch=D			
Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center			

Table 52 - Texas APR – 3rd Grade Testing and Dropout Rate for Service Area ISDs

When dropout rates are compared according to race, whites have lower dropout rates in all counties than found among black/African American students. Hispanic Students demonstrate higher dropout rates in all counties where data was collected except for in Waller County.

Drop Out Rates by Race & Ethnicity Class of 2015				
County	Black/Af. Am	White	Hispanic	Multi-Racial
Austin	5.6%	1.4%	2.2%	16.7%
Chambers	0%	0.3%	0%	0%
Hardin	1.4%	2.6%	0%	12.5%
Harris	12.2%	3.8%	8.9%	5.7%
Liberty	6.6%	3.5%	3.6%	15.4%
Montgomery	6.6%	3.6%	5.4%	4.6%
San Jacinto	2.6%	2.5%	0%	0%
Waller	4.9%	3.0%	1.9%	0%
Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center				

Table 53 - Dropout Rates by Race and Ethnicity

Grade 3 math and reading scores are a predictor of future achievement. As shown in the tables that follow, there is a significant disparity in achievement between non-economically disadvantaged students and students with a socioeconomic disadvantage.

% Grade 3 Students performing satisfactory on STAAR Reading 2015 by Race & Ethnicity and SE Disadvantage							
County	No Economic Disadvantage	All	Black	Asian	Hispanic	White	Economically Disadvantaged
Austin	56%	41%	8%	LNE	35%	50%	29%
Chambers	61%	52%	41%	LNE	42%	57%	32%
Hardin	53%	46%	34%	LNE	38%	48%	37%
Harris	57%	39%	28%	66%	33%	59%	28%
Liberty	44%	34%	14%	67%	32%	37%	27%
Montgomery	62%	49%	38%	74%	37%	56%	30%
San Jacinto	41%	25%	29%	LNE	17%	26%	17%
Waller	49%	32%	16%	LNE	27%	52%	26%
Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center (LNE= Low Number Event)							

Table 54 - Third Grade Student Achievement in Reading

% Grade 3 Students performing satisfactory on STAAR Math 2015 by Race & Ethnicity							
County	No-Economic Disadvantage	All Students	Black	Asian	Hispanic	White	Economically Disadvantaged
Austin	50%	36%	11%	LNE	25%	48%	23%
Chambers	66%	56%	26%	LNE	47%	62%	34%
Hardin	53%	46%	36%	LNE	45%	48%	37%
Harris	59%	42%	26%	79%	37%	62%	32%
Liberty	44%	37%	22%	80%	35%	40%	33%
Montgomery	65%	53%	41%	79%	44%	59%	36%
San Jacinto	37%	23%	17%	LNE	17%	27%	16%
Waller	52%	34%	16%	LNE	27%	58%	27%

Table 55 - Third Grade Student Achievement in Math by Race and Disadvantage

Adult Functional Literacy

The service area has several counties in which there is a larger percentage of the population lacking literacy skills than found nationally. These areas include: Harris, Liberty, and Waller Counties.

Adult Literacy and Functional Literacy		
County	Estimated Population over 16	Percent Lacking Literacy Skills
Service Area	3,018,031	20%
Austin	19,026	15%
Chambers	20,676	12%
Hardin	37,445	12%
Harris	2,592,216	21%
Liberty	51,788	16%
Montgomery	254,492	11%
San Jacinto	18,480	15%
Waller	23,908	20%
Texas	15,936,279	19%
United States	219,016,209	15%
National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Estimates of Low Literacy.		

Table 56 - Adult Literacy Rates

2018 Community Assessment Update

Findings from the last community assessments that are persistent in the service area:

- Statewide, the rate of students who are kept in first grade for a second year is 4.7 percent in 2011-2012. In 2017, the state has stopped reporting this data.
- Within the seven-county service area, dropout rates have remained somewhat stagnant with a slight decrease over the last few years. 2017 data indicates the dropout rates are continuing to decline.
- The school districts with the highest and lowest drop-out rates examined in 2013 have remained relatively unchanged in 2014 and unchanged in 2018.

- In general, a significantly higher percentage of entry-level students in the 3rd Grade met all testing standards than did students in the 10th Grade.
- Eighteen local school districts exceeded the state average of 83 percent in 3rd graders who met all standards.
- West Hardin and Hull-Daisetta ISDs managed to achieve the lowest passing rates in the service area, at 52 and 47 percent, respectively, or 36 and 31 percentage points below the state average.
- Chambers, Hardin, and Montgomery counties were the only counties that had students that passed standardized tests in reading and math at a higher rate than student achievement across Texas.
- Adults have lower educational attainment for bachelor and associate degrees than found for their Texas peers.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS

Access to Health Services

Service area residents lack access to adequate health services. The socioeconomic status and other factors also present increased health risks. For example, it is well documented that people with a lower income experience a greater degree of disease and mortality, especially infants and children. The disparate use of health service and lack of access to health insurance also result in disproportionate health issues as children grow older. Education and income typically result in a higher use of health care such as preventive visits which also contributes to better health outcomes throughout life. Biological influences also impact children's health. For example, the role and effect of toxins in substandard housing, agricultural pesticides, and structural racism in which those of underrepresented groups receive a lower quality of health care also affects health services.

Rate of Primary Care Physicians Per 100,000

- Service Area (66.7)
- Texas (68.7)
- United States (87.8)
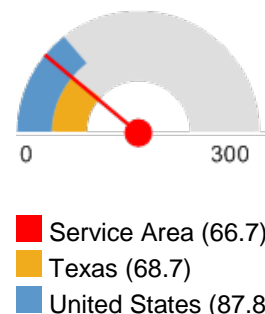
Within the service areas there are 80 Federally Qualified Health Centers. San Jacinto and Hardin County each have one qualified health center while Austin County has no Federally Qualified Health Centers, making these areas the most underserved. The presence of Federally Qualified Health Centers is an important indicator of access to health care because they are designed to provide comprehensive health care (often physical, mental, and oral health services) to low income populations. Federally Qualified Health Centers also receive additional funding to promote care in medically underserved areas.

■ **Federally Qualified Health Centers, POS March 2018**

☐ Report Area
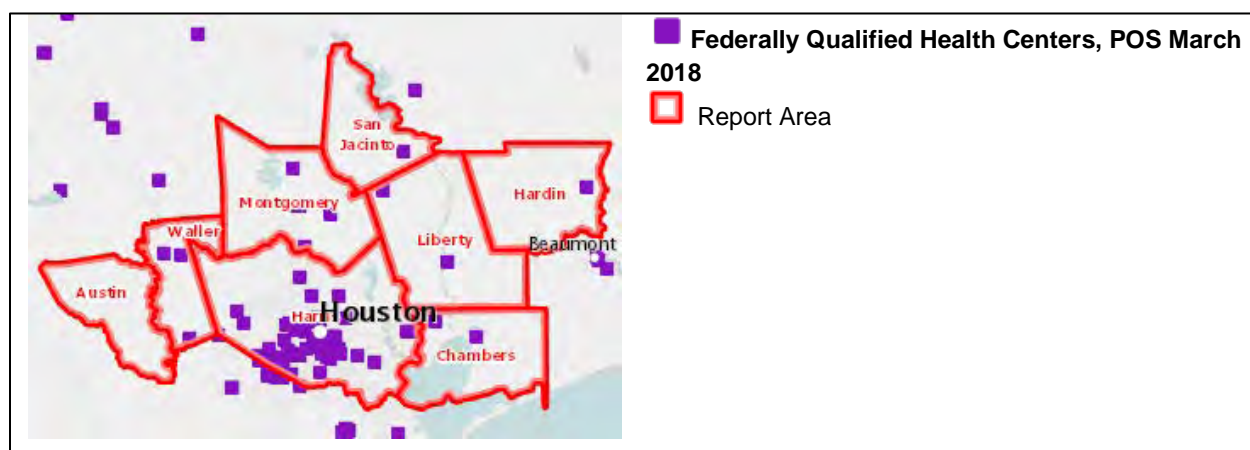
Figure 33 - Federally Qualified Health Centers

The Health Resources Services Association (HRSA) designates areas within counties as shortage areas for physical, mental, and oral health services. The designations can be based on the ratio of the population size to low-income residents or based on geographic shortages in which there are not a sufficient number of providers to serve all residents. To determine the extent of a shortage the HRSA assigns areas a HPSA score that ranges from 0 (no shortage) to 26 (highest priority). The following table notes the type of providers that are lacking in the area by indicating core health areas identified by HRSA in which each county experiences a health care provider shortage. All the service area counties have been designated as having a mental health care provider shortage.

Health Professional Shortage Area Designation			
County	Mental Health	Dental	Primary
Austin	X		X
Chambers	X	X	X
Hardin	X		
Harris	X	X	X
Liberty	X	X	X
Montgomery	X	X	X
San Jacinto	X	X	X
Waller	X		X
https://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/tools/analyzers/HpsaFindResults.aspx			

Table 57 - Health Professional Shortage Area Designations
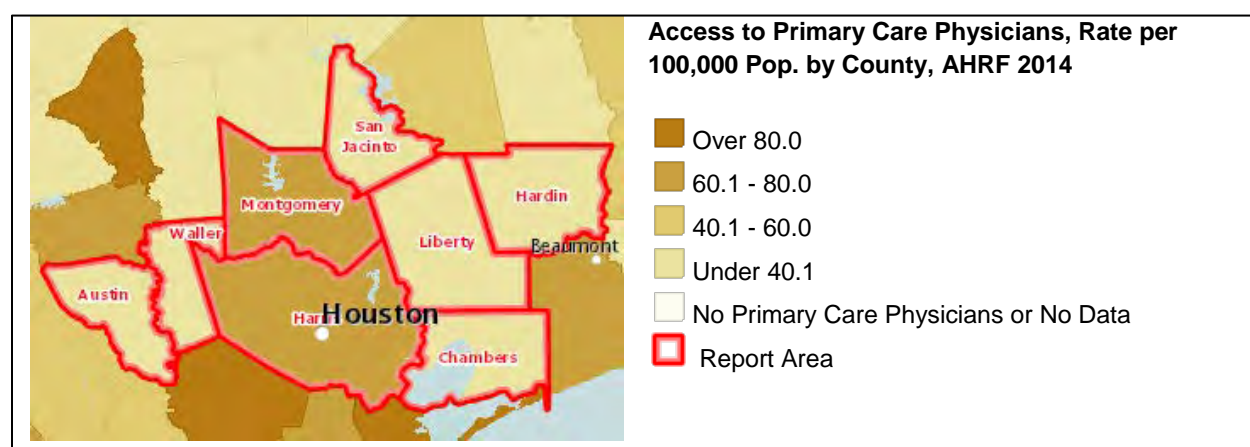
Figure 34 - Access to Primary Care Physicians Rate

Insurance Coverage

At 23% percent, Texas led the nation in the percentage of the population without health insurance coverage in 2008-2012. The national average of the population without health insurance for the same time period was 14.9%. The high rate of uninsured individuals places a burden on public health services. The uninsured are less likely to have a regular source of medical care and are more likely to delay or forgo needed health care services. The largest cohorts of uninsured populations in Texas include Hispanic women, black women, and individuals along the Mexico-Texas border. These groups also have the highest poverty rates and the lowest levels of educational attainment.

Percent of Population Without Health Insurance

Service Area (24.7%)
Texas (22.6%)
United States (12.08%)

Lack of insurance and limited numbers of providers that do not accept public insurance programs also result in lack of access to health services. In the service area counties, 62% of the population that receives Medicaid is comprised of children under 18 years. Over 25% of the child population in all counties receives Medicaid as their primary health insurance.
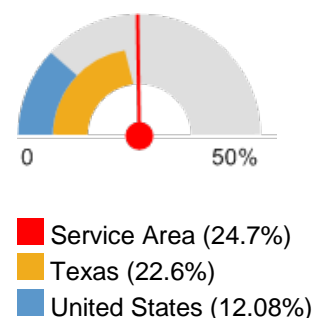
Percent of Population without Medical Insurance					
County	Total Population Age 18 - 64	Population with Medical Insurance	Percent Population with Medical Insurance	Population Without Medical Insurance	Percent Population Without Medical Insurance
Service Area	3,365,902	2,534,444	75.3%	831,458	24.7%
Austin	17,034	13,334	78.3%	3,700	21.7%
Chambers	24,187	19,725	81.6%	4,462	18.5%
Hardin	33,284	27,377	82.3%	5,907	17.8%
Harris	2,867,051	2,141,046	74.7%	726,005	25.3%
Liberty	45,510	34,153	75.1%	11,357	25.0%
Montgomery	334,865	266,882	79.7%	67,983	20.3%
San Jacinto	15,854	11,821	74.6%	4,033	25.4%
Waller	28,117	20,106	71.5%	8,011	28.5%
Texas	16,743,634	12,959,711	77.4%	3,783,923	22.6%
United States	194,808,251	171,274,851	87.9%	23,533,400	12.1%

Table 58 - Percent of Population without Medical Insurance

Percent Insured that Receive Medicaid				
County	Total Population (For Whom Insurance Status is Determined)	Population with Any Health Insurance	Population Receiving Medicaid	Percent of Insured Population Receiving Medicaid
Service Area	5,196,921	4,088,345	956,896	23.4%
Austin	28,847	24,098	3,567	14.8%
Chambers	37,872	31,625	5,104	16.1%
Hardin	55,144	45,419	6,632	14.6%
Harris	4,413,550	3,434,729	855,861	24.9%
Liberty	71,930	56,809	13,881	24.4%
Montgomery	515,754	436,984	57,251	13.1%
San Jacinto	27,028	21,709	6,112	28.2%
Waller	46,796	36,972	8,488	23.0%
Texas	26,478,868	21,364,057	4,598,018	21.5%
United States	313,576,137	276,875,891	59,874,221	21.6%

Table 59 - Percent Insured that Received Medicaid

Percent of Population Receiving Medicaid by Age			
County	**Under Age 18**	**Age 18 - 64**	**Age 65**
Service Area	42.4%	8.7%	14.5%
Austin	30.7%	6.3%	6.9%
Chambers	30.1%	6.9%	7.7%
Hardin	25.3%	7.6%	7.5%
Harris	44.6%	9.1%	15.8%
Liberty	44.6%	8.9%	13.1%
Montgomery	25.5%	5.2%	9.1%
San Jacinto	54.9%	12.6%	14.4%
Waller	45.4%	9.2%	11.0%
Texas	40.2%	7.9%	15.0%
United States	38.5%	13.0%	14.0%

Table 60 - Percent of Population Receiving Medicaid by Age
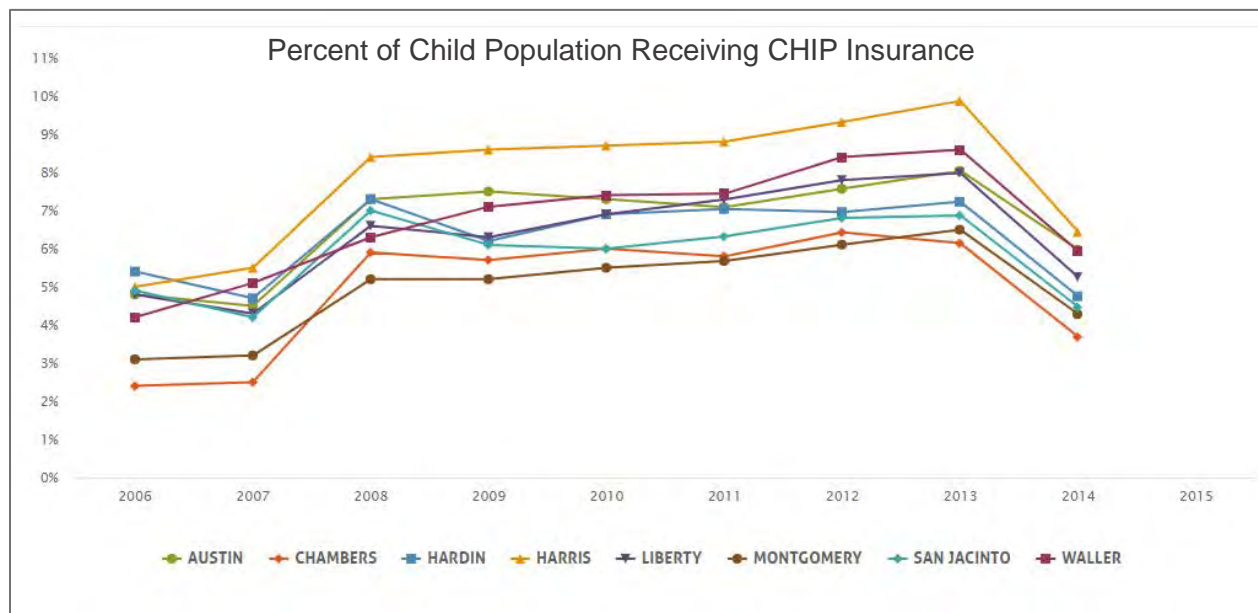
Figure 35 - Percent of Child Population Receiving CHIP
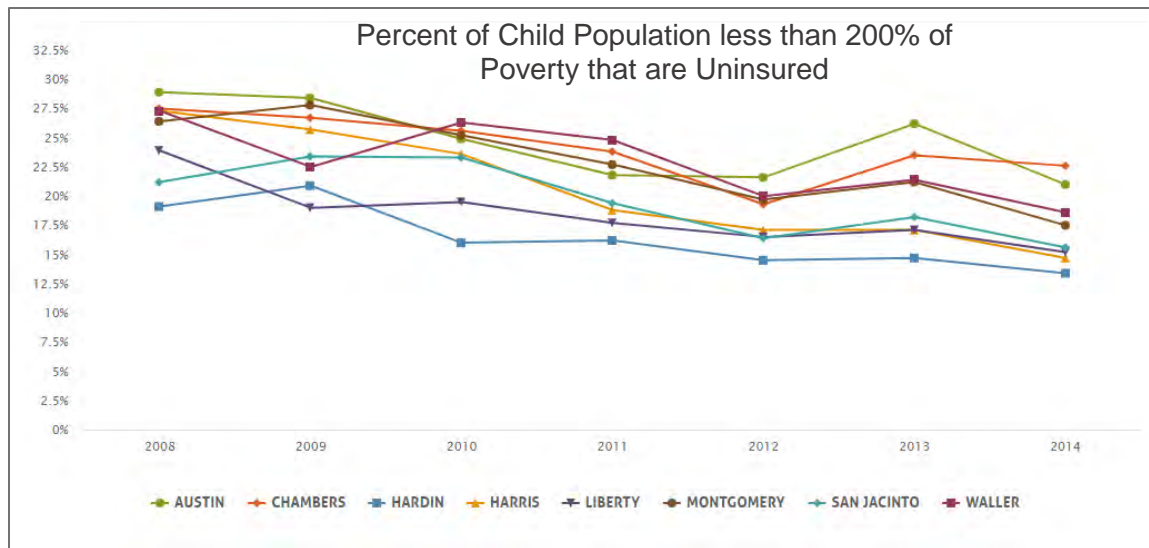
Figure 36 - Percent of Child Population Uninsured

Percent of Child Population Uninsured and Receiving CHIP				
County	**Uninsured at 200% of Poverty**	**% Children Receiving CHIP**	**Medicaid Enrollment Child Population**	
			#	**%**
Austin	30.7%	6%	2,785	38%
Chambers	22.6%	3.7%	2,952	28%
Hardin	13.4%	4.8%	4,555	32%
Harris	14.7%	6.4%	566,841	47%
Liberty	15.2%	5.3%	9,795	50%
Montgomery	17.5%	4.3%	42,296	31%
San Jacinto	15.6%	4.5%	2,921	48%
Waller	18.6%	5.9%	5,238	44%

*Table 61 - Use of Public Health Insurance by Children***Head Start Health Status**

According to the PIR rates of children in Head Start and Early Head Start with insurance at the end of the year exceeded 98% which demonstrates that a lower percentage of children are uninsured than found at the county level for children living in a family with an income below 200% of poverty level.

Head Start Health Status				
Health Indicator	**EHS %**	**EHS #**	**HS %**	**HS #**
Children with health insurance at end of program year	99%	259	98%	908
Children with a medical home at end of program year	99%	258	100%	928
Children with up-to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations or exempt	82%	214	95%	881
Children with a dental home	99%	259	99.8%	926
Children up-to-date on EPSDT	71%	185	87%	804
Children diagnosed with a chronic condition	1%	3	1%	13
Children receiving dental exams	N/A	0	93%	862
Children needing additional dental treatment	N/A	0	14%	126
Children that received dental treatment as needed	N/A	0	10%	92

Table 62 - Head Start Health Status

Oral Health

According to the Wood Rodgers Foundation, the ratio of residents to dentists in the counties in the service area is lower than found for the state and the nation in all counties. Although Harris has a higher rate of dentists than Texas, the parts of Harris County served by MET are rural and lack access to services. This data indicates a lower access to oral health services. Dental issues that impact the oral health status of Texans include birth defects involving the mouth, dental disease among adults, children, and pregnant women, cancers of the mouth and throat, community water fluoridation, smoking, the dental workforce, and access to dental services[13]. The state also does not have an adequate public health surveillance system to track access to dental services for children. In the absence of county-level data, state data has been used to demonstrate the extent of oral health issues present in the service area.

Dentists, Rate Per 100,000

- Service Area (60.2)
- Texas (54.1)
- United States (65.6)
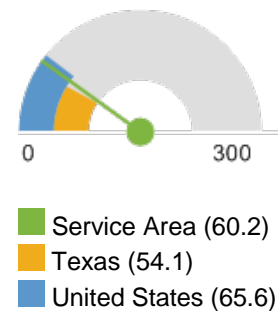
Dentists to Population Ratio			
County	**Total Population, 2015**	**Dentists, 2015**	**Dentists, Rate per 100,000 Pop.**
Austin	29,563	11	37.2
Chambers	38,863	2	5.2
Hardin	55,865	15	26.9
Harris	4,538,028	2,928	64.5
Liberty	79,654	21	26.4
Montgomery	537,559	239	44.5
San Jacinto	27,413	1	3.7
Waller	48,656	7	14.4
Texas	27,469,114	14,857	54.1
United States	321,418,820	210,832	65.6

Table 63 - Dentists to Population Ratio

For children, good oral health sets the stage for health, wellbeing, school readiness, and healthy lifestyles. Unfortunately, oral health is often negatively impacted by a lack of knowledge of healthy routines and good nutrition. Kids Count data shows that just 78% of children in Texas received preventive dental care in the past year. As a result, 66% of children have teen in excellent or very good condition. Overall, 28% of children lack access to fluoridated water. Head Start is one of just a few programs in the state that provides oral health services, education, and follow-up for low income children. Oral health trends include:

- Birth defects are a leading cause of death among Texas babies. Babies born with a cleft palate cannot eat as needed and may starve. Club foot and cleft lip occur approximately 50% more frequently in boys than in girls, whereas the prevalence of cleft palate is higher in girls (prevalence=6.9 cases per 10,000 live births) than in boys (prevalence=5.2 per 10,000 live births)[14]. Oral cleft defects are highest among Hispanics at 11.6/10,000, versus 10.9/10,000 for Whites.
- Dental disease is impacting children. According to the National Survey of Children's Health, 4.7% of Texas children aged 1-17 years had bleeding gums in the past six months[13]. Among children, 21.5% had a cavity in the past six months, and 10.2% had at

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[13] Texas Oral Health Surveillance Book.
file:///C:/Users/Andrea%20Abbott/Downloads/Texas%20Oral%20Health%20Surveillance%20Chart%20Book.pdf
[14] The Texas Birth Defects Monitor Volume 21. file:///C:/Users/Andrea%20Abbott/Downloads/Monitor-Dec2015-Vol21e.pdf

least one broken tooth indicating the presence of dental disease.

Dental Disease
Dental disease is measured by the percent of tooth loss reported due to tooth decay or gum disease among adults age 18 years and over. According to the Texas DSHS, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 12.3% of all adults had lost all of their teeth due to decay or gum disease and 21.1% had lost six or more teeth. Smoking is also linked to tooth loss. According to state-level data, 15.8% of the population in Texas are current smokers. Dental visits among adults may stop or slow down tooth decay and gum disease. The number of visits to the dentists within a year can often predict health in the mouth. Among adults in Texas, 58.2% reported visiting the dentist in the past year.

Oral Health and Pregnancy
According to the Texas Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), 43.9% of pregnant women had a pre-pregnancy dental cleaning. Rates of cleaning were diminished among Hispanics, of which 31.8% reported having a dental cleaning. Only 34.5% of pregnant mothers had a cleaning during pregnancy. The rate of cleaning differed for mothers of color, at 30.4% for black pregnant mothers and 27.2% for Hispanics, compared to 39.9% of whites[15].

Incidence of Child Abuse and Neglect
Rates of child abuse in the service area are increasing in Chambers, Harris, and San Jacinto Counties and exceed the rates found for the State of Texas. Hardin, Austin, Waller, and Montgomery Counties demonstrate a decrease in child abuse. The increase in child abuse in some counties is a different trend than the state, in which rates of abuse fell between 2014 and 2015.

Rate of Abuse (per 1,000)

	Austin	Chambers	Hardin	Harris	Liberty	Montgomery	San Jacinto	Waller	Texas
2013	9.6	5.0	8.7	5.0	16.7	4.6	15.4	9.3	9.3
2014	6.2	8.2	10.6	5.1	15.5	4.1	12.6	6.8	9.2
2015	4.7	10.1	9.9	5.3	14.9	3.6	15.2	6.1	9.1
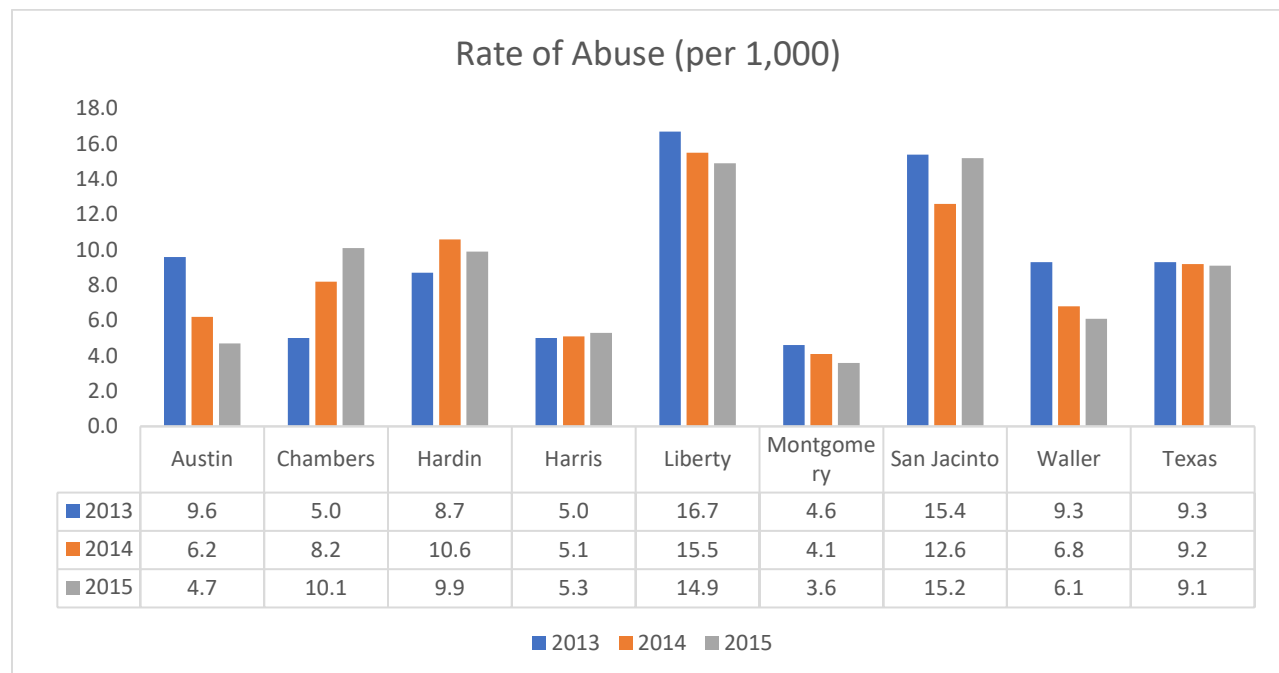
Figure 37 - Rate of Child Abuse by County

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15 file:///C:/Users/Andrea%20Abbott/Downloads/2015_PRAMS_DATABOOK_SUMMARY_9-1-17_acessible.pdf

The rate of children in foster care has remained consistent over the past several years with a decline in Chambers, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller County. An increase in the number of children in placement has occurred in Hardin and San Jacinto counties.

Foster Care Placements (per 1,000)

	Austin	Chambers	Hardin	Harris	Liberty	Montgomery	San Jacinto	Waller	Texas
2013	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.6	7.8	3.5	8.9	4.8	4.3
2014	3.5	3.1	2.8	3.5	7.9	3.0	5.1	3.0	4.2
2015	1.0	2.7	3.3	3.3	7.3	2.6	6.9	2.9	4.2
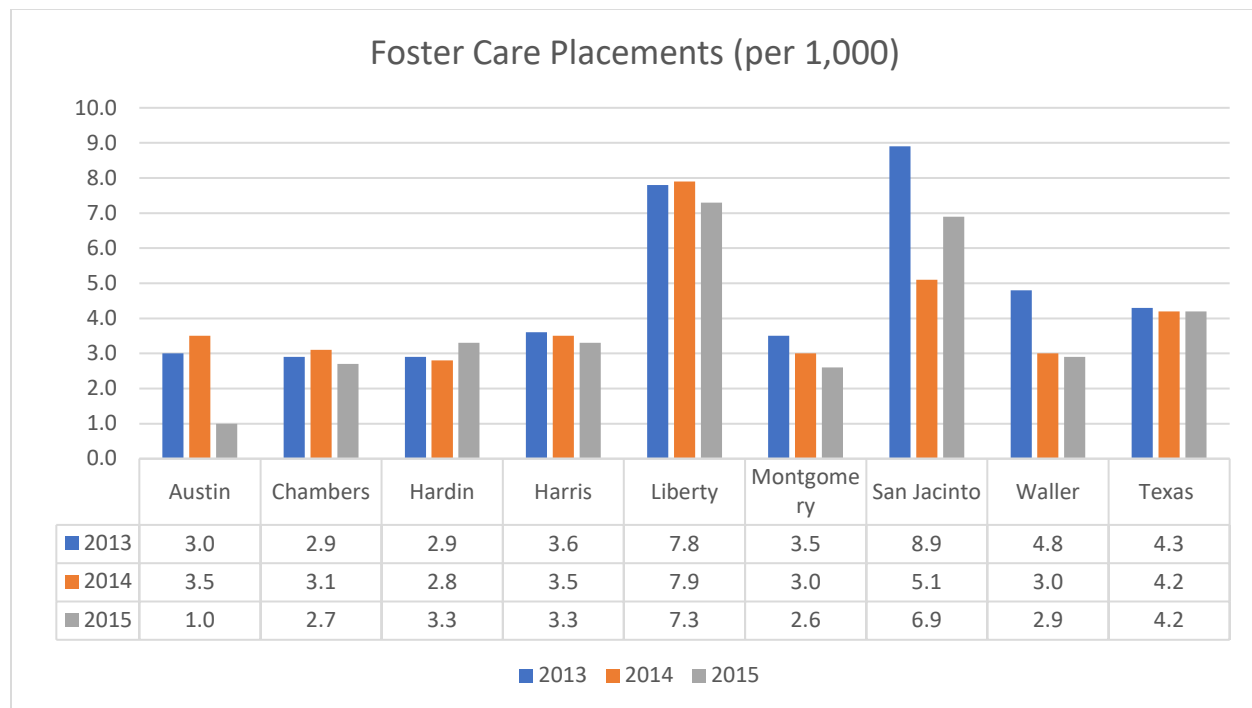
Figure 38 - Foster Care Placement by County

Reports of Spousal Abuse

Texas experienced a slight rise in family violence incidents between 2016 and 2015 (.9%)[16]. The incidence of family violence is concerning due to the lack of mental health professionals in the service area. Family violence is closely linked to substance abuse and child abuse, which is increasing in several service area counties.

Family Violence Incidents	
County	**2016 Number of Incidents**
Austin	38
Chambers	165
Hardin	131
Harris	13,908
Liberty	185
Montgomery	1,692
San Jacinto	74
Waller	51
2016 Crime in Texas. http://www.dps.texas.gov/crimereports/16/citCh5.pdf	

Table 64 - Family Violence Incidents

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[16] Crime in Texas (2016) Texas Department of Public Services.
http://www.dps.texas.gov/crimereports/16/citCh5.pdf

Number of Children with Disabilities Including Types of Disabilities
The nation's special education law is called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA. IDEA defines the term "child with a disability" in order to make special education and related services available to children with disabilities in public schools and Head Start programs. That definition includes specific disability terms, which are also defined by IDEA. Disabilities services are provided in each Lead Educational Agency through the ISD Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) and through the Texas Early Childhood Intervention Program. These agencies in collaboration with Head Start offer a range of services and resources for children with disabilities and their families such as speech therapy, adaptive equipment, physical therapy and other needs.

The Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program provides Part C disabilities services throughout the state of Texas. Disabilities services include developmental therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy. Because children are not formally diagnosed with a disability until they are in elementary school, children's disabilities are identified as non-categorical delays.

Based on the number of children served by ECI and data on the number of children under five years with disabilities it is estimated that there are 7,269 children with disabilities in the service area eligible for EHS and 366 children with disabilities eligible for HS. The MET Head Start served 29 children in EHS with a disability (15% of enrollment) and 71 children in HS with a disability (9% of enrollment). The school districts' Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) in each county in the area served a total of 366 children in schools that Head Start children will transition into. The rate of disabilities in the population far exceeds the number of children with disabilities served in HS and in the PPCD programs. HS and EHS should continue to seek out and enroll children with disabilities and prioritize them for enrollment. Since 2014, the program demonstrates they are serving and increased number of children with disabilities. Of these children most have a speech and language disorder.

Children with Disabilities			
County	**ECI**	**Children 3-5 yrs. served in PPCD Programs**	**Children with Disabilities <5yrs.**
Austin	55	22	77
Chambers	27	14	41
Hardin	101	36	137
Harris/Humble	6,125	71	6,196
Liberty	163	26	189
Montgomery	701	137	838
San Jacinto	17	9	26
Waller	80	15	95
MET Children with disabilities	73	71	144
Total	7,342	401	7,743
Texas Department of Health and Human Services ECI Served by County FY 2016. https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/assistive-services-providers/early-childhood-intervention-eci-programs/eci-data-reports U.S. Census Sex by Age by Disability Status 2012-2016. Table B18101 Texas Education Agency			

Table 65 - Children with Disabilities

Head Start Enrollment by Disability Status		
Type of Disability	**2014**	**2017**
Autism	1	3
Deaf-Blindness	0	0
Hearing Deafness	0	0
Developmental Delay	2	7
Emotional Disturbance	0	0
Intellectual Disability	0	0
Learning Disability	0	0
Orthopedic Impairment	1	0
Health Impairment	1	0
Speech Language Impairment	48	58
Traumatic Brain Injury	0	0
Visual Impairment	1	0
Multiple Disabilities	0	0
TOTAL	54	65

Table 66 - Head Start Enrollment by Disability Status

Drug and Alcohol Abuse
The incidence of drug and alcohol abuse is monitored by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System as well as by the Wood Rodgers Health Foundation, County Health Rankings. Data is reported at the Health Service Region level. All counties in the North Texas service area are located in Health Services Region 5 or 6 (HSR 6/5S). The following key trends are noted in regard to substance abuse.
- The rate of kidney and liver disease in the area is lower than for the state at 12.3/1,000 compared to 15.9 for the state.
- In regard to the rate of binge drinking in the past month, 17.7% of adults in the service area reported binge drinking compared to a state rate of 17.9% of all adults.
- On average rates of tobacco use are lower in the service area counties than found for the state of Texas at 15.5% of all adults compared to 16.5% of Texas residents.

Deaths and Substance Abuse		
County	Accidental Poisoning Deaths with Opioids Involved	Estimated Percent of Adults that report Excessive Drinking
Austin	0	18.7%
Chambers	0	Not available
Hardin	0	Not available
Harris	239	16.5%
Liberty	0	Not available
Montgomery	25	17.0%
San Jacinto	0	Not available
Waller	0	Not available
Total	264	N/A
http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/Opioids/Deaths Community Commons – Excessive Drinking Rates		

Table 67 - Deaths and Substance Abuse
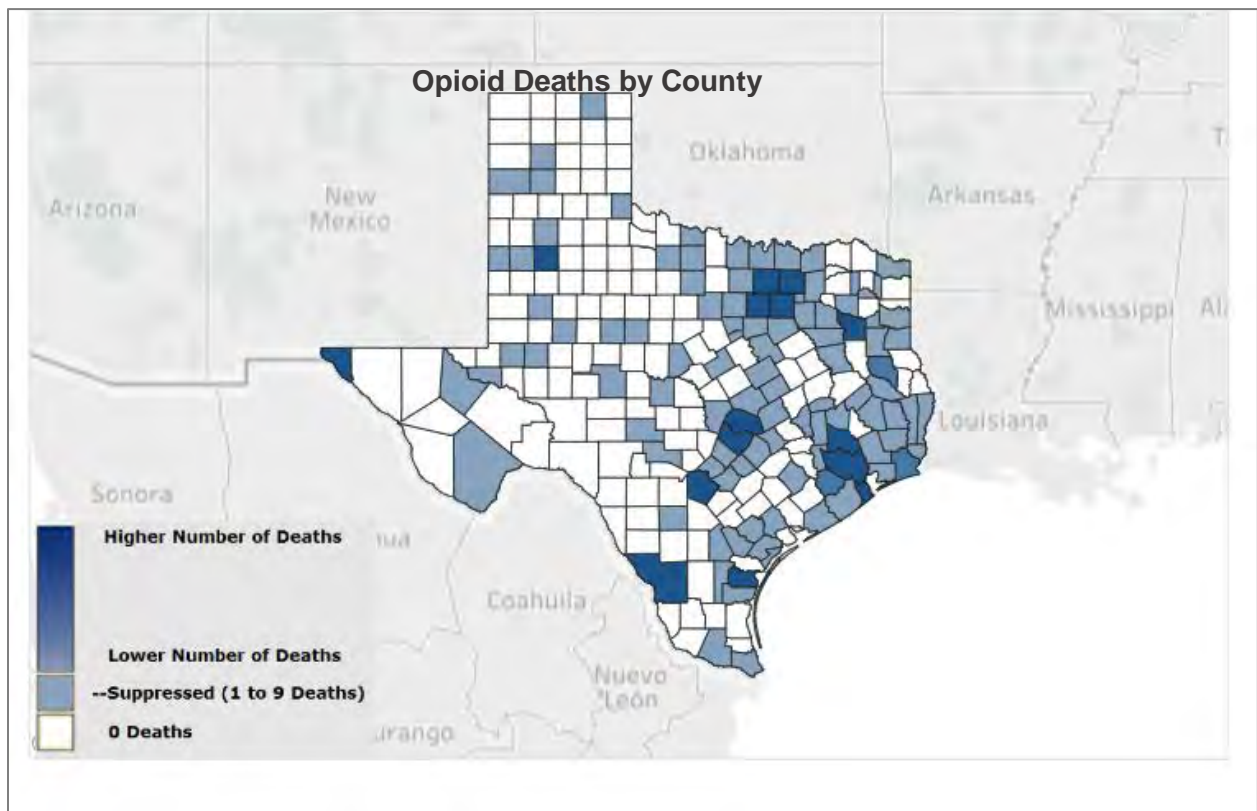
Figure 39 - Number of Opioid Deaths by County

Maternal and Child Health

The United States Health and Human Services Agency notes that early and continuous prenatal care helps identify conditions and behaviors that can result in low birth weight babies such as poor nutrition, smoking, drug and alcohol abuse, inadequate weight gain during pregnancy and repeat pregnancy in six months or less. They report that babies born to mothers who received no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born with a low birth weight and five times more likely to die than those whose mothers received prenatal care. Women with unplanned pregnancies, without a regular health care provider prior to pregnancy, or without a high school diploma are also least likely to receive prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy. Barriers to early or inadequate prenatal care include language or cultural differences, fear of the medical system, lack of awareness of the pregnancy, lack of money or insurance, absence of services within the community, and problems related to transportation.[17]

Teen Birth Rate

■ Service Area (53.85)
■ Texas (55)
■ United States (36.6)
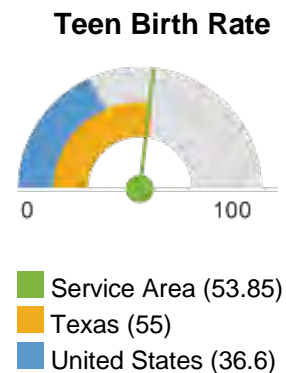
The following tables present information on the timing and adequacy of prenatal care pregnant women receive. Often early prenatal care, maternal health, and early experiences impact child development over the long term. As shown in the tables that follow, many counties in the service area exceed the rate for the state in the percent of births to teens (San Jacinto, Liberty, and Harris) and Hardin County demonstrates a comparable rate. All counties have a greater percentage of women that received late or no prenatal care than found for the nation and several counties have rates that exceed the state rate for women that did not receive prenatal care (Austin, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and San Jacinto). Babies experience the most risk in San Jacinto and Harris Counties as indicated in red text illustrating that the counties fare worse than the state on multiple indicators of maternal and child health.

Maternal and Child Health				
County	Total Births	Mothers with Late or No Prenatal Care	Teen Birth Rate (Per 1,000)	Low Birth Weight
Service Area	309,313	43%	53.9	8.7%
Austin	no data	38%	43.2	7.3%
Chambers	no data	31%	37.9	7.6%
Hardin	no data	28%	53.3	8.4%
Harris	283,651	39%	55.7	8.8%
Liberty	no data	45%	66.3	8.3%
Montgomery	25,662	38%	39.7	7.7%
San Jacinto	no data	39%	59.3	9.1%
Waller	no data	28%	33.8	8.0%
Texas	1,601,274	36%	55.0	8.4%
United States	16,693,978	17%	36.6	8.2%

Table 68 - Maternal Child Health Indicators

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[17] U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, *From Data to Action: CDC's Public Health Surveillance for Women, Infants, and Children,* http://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/11354/

Birth outcomes in the service area are concerning. In regard to births to mothers without a high school diploma, the counties that exceed the state rate for this indicator include Austin, Hardin, Harris, and Waller. In regard to smoking during pregnancy all counties except for Harris exceed the state in the rate of mothers that smoked during pregnancy.

Birth Outcomes					
County	Births to Unmarried Women	Births to mothers < high school diploma	Smoking during pregnancy	Preterm Births	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)
Austin	25.0%	26.0%	4.3%	14.8%	8
Chambers	27.0%	1.0%	4.4%	11.5%	4.8
Hardin	40.2%	22.5%	14.0%	10.3%	5.3
Harris	35.9%	21.0%	1.4%	11.8%	6.2
Liberty	40.3%	15.9%	9.7%	13.5%	6.3
Montgomery	27.9%	13.6%	5.1%	10.4%	5.5
San Jacinto	37.8%	17.0%	5.2%	12.7%	6.2
Waller	20.5%	26.3%	4.2%	9.1%	7.2
Texas	34.6%	17.9%	3.5%	12.0%	6.2
Annie E. Casey Foundation. Kids Count Data Center; US Department of Health Human Services, Health Indicators Warehouse. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System. http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/VitalStatistics/Birth - Smoking – All births/# births to mothers that smoked imputed http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/HealthFactsProfiles http://www.dshs.texas.gov/chs/vstat/vs11/data.shtm#techapp					

Table 69 - Birth Outcomes

Immunization Rates

Immunizations protect against serious and potentially fatal diseases, including polio; diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis; measles, mumps, and rubella; hepatitis B; and chicken pox. These immunizations are important for the protection of the individual child and for the public's health, as many of these diseases are highly contagious. Under-vaccination can result in preventable childhood illness, hospitalization, and death. According to the Texas Department of Health Services Immunization Branch, individual vaccination rates for children in childcare aged birth – four years varies by Health Region. Data indicates the following coverage rates and immunization compliance levels for Texas and HSR-6/5S which covers the entire service area. HSR – 6/5S has higher rates than the state immunization rate of 78.9% of children up-to-date on all possible immunizations, having a rate of 81.7%. The service area has lower immunization rates for the vaccination Hep A[18].

Service Area Immunization Rates								
Area	DTAP	Polio	MMR11	Var	Hep B	Hib	PCV	Hep A
HSR 6/5S	92.5%	97.0%	95.7%	95.8%	94.8%	97.2%	89.8%	71.9%
State of Texas	90.5%	97.0%	95.2%	94.9%	93.4%	97.1%	88.2%	73.5%

Table 70 - Service Area Immunization Rates

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[18] 2013 Texas Childcare Immunization Assessment Results
https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/coverage/childcare.shtm

Prevalent Health Problems

The County Health Rankings rank 242 counties in Texas (1st is the best and 241st is the worst) in regard to indicators of health and quality of life[19]. When compared to Texas, prevalent health problems in the service area, as determined by at least half of all counties faring worse than the state, are poor physical health days, poor mental health days, smoking, poor food environment, teen births, uninsured adults, access to physicians, dentists, and mental health care providers, social associations, and air and water quality.

County Health Rankings – Quality of Life			
Quality of Life	Texas	# counties that fare worse than state	Counties faring worse than Texas
Poor or fair health	18%	1	Waller
Poor physical health days	3.5	4	Harris, Liberty, San Jacinto, Waller
Poor mental health days	3.4	7	Austin, Chambers, Hardin, Harris, Liberty, San Jacinto, Waller

County Health Rankings – Quality of Life				
Quality of Life	Austin	Chambers	Hardin	Harris
Poor or fair health	17%	15%	13%	18%
Poor physical health days	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.6
Poor mental health days	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6
Quality of Life	Liberty	Montgomery	San Jacinto	Waller
Poor or fair health	18%	14%	18%	19%
Poor physical health days	3.8	3.3	3.9	3.8
Poor mental health days	3.8	3.3	3.9	3.5

County Health Rankings – Health Factors			
Health Factors	Texas	# counties that fare worse than state	Counties faring worse than Texas
Adult smoking	14%	5	Chambers, Hardin, Liberty, San Jacinto, Waller
Adult obesity	28%	3	Austin, Hardin, Waller
Food environment index	6.0	8	Austin, Chambers, Hardin, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Waller
Teen births	41	3	Hardin, Liberty, San Jacinto
Uninsured adults	19%	4	Harris, Liberty, San Jacinto, Waller
Primary care physician ratio	1,670:1	7	Austin, Chambers, Hardin, Harris, Liberty, San Jacinto, Waller
Dentists ratio	1,790:1	7	Austin, Chambers, Hardin, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Waller
Mental health providers	1,010:1	7	Austin, Chambers, Hardin, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Waller

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[19] http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/texas/2018/overview

County Health Rankings – Health Factors				
Health Factors	**Austin**	**Chambers**	**Hardin**	**Harris**
Adult smoking	14%	15%	15%	13%
Adult obesity	29%	27%	31%	27%
Food environment index	7.7	7.6	6.4	7.2
Teen births	36	29	46	41
Clinical Care				
Uninsured adults	18%	16%	15%	21%
Primary care physician ratio	4,220:1	9,720:1	3,990:1	1,750:1
Dentists ratio	2,710:1	19,950:1	3,520:1	1,510:1
Mental health providers	3,720:1	5,700:1	3,310:1	960:1

County Health Rankings – Health Factors				
Health Factors	**Liberty**	**Montgomery**	**San Jacinto**	**Waller**
Adult smoking	17%	14%	17%	18%
Adult obesity	28%	26%	28%	36%
Food environment index	6.6	7.5	6.9	6.3
Teen births	55	30	50	26
Clinical Care				
Uninsured adults	21%	16%	22%	23%
Primary care physician ratio	4,190:1	1,620:1	6,850:1	9,730:1
Dentists ratio	3,710:1	2,200:1	27,710:1	6,260:1
Mental health providers	6,810:1	1,440:1	13,850:1	2,950:1

County Health Rankings – Socio Economic Factors			
Social and Economic Factors	**Texas**	**# counties that fare worse than state**	**Counties faring worse than Texas**
Income inequality	4.9	2	Chambers, Harris
Social associations	7.6	5	Chambers, Harris, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Waller
Violent crime	408	2	Harris, Liberty
Air pollution	8.0	8	Austin, Chambers, Hardin, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Waller
Severe housing problems	18%	2	Harris, Waller
Drinking Water Violations	Yes	6	Austin, Chambers, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Waller

County Health Rankings – Socio Economic Factors				
Social and Economic Factors	Austin	Chambers	Hardin	Harris
Income inequality	4.8	5.5	4.8	5.0
Social associations	12.9	6.4	12.2	5.4
Violent crime	240	256	155	714
Physical Environment				
Air pollution	9.3	9.9	9.6	12.0
Drinking water violations	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Severe housing problems	12%	11%	12%	21%

County Health Rankings – Socio Economic Factors				
Social and Economic Factors	Liberty	Montgomery	San Jacinto	Waller
Income inequality	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.9
Social associations	9.4	6.0	3.6	6.6
Violent crime	433	171	247	273
Physical Environment				
Air pollution	10.5	11.4	9.7	10.3
Drinking water violations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Severe housing problems	18%	16%	15%	22%

Table 71 - County Health Problems

Air and Water Quality
The air quality in the service area is slightly worse than in other areas across Texas and the nation. According to the CDC, there were 4.4 days that exceeded the emission standard of 75 ppb in the service area, which means that the population was exposed to high levels of Ozone. During the last year, all service area counties also had drinking water violations.

Mental Health
According to Mental Health America, Texas is ranked 39th in overall mental health[20]. The ranking indicates a lower prevalence of mental health and substance abuse problems when compared to other nearby states.

Adult Ranking
The seven measures that comprise the adult mental health ranking for a particular state include:
1. Adults with any mental illness (AMI).
2. Adults with dependence or abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol.
3. Adults with serious thoughts of suicide.
4. Adults with AMI who did not receive treatment.
5. Adults with AMI reporting an unmet need.
6. Adults with AMI who are uninsured.
7. Adults with a disability who could not see a doctor due to costs.

Texas is ranked 18th out of 51 in adult mental health.

Youth Ranking
The factors that are used to rank the status of a state in regard to youth mental health include:

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[20] http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/issues/ranking-states

1. Youth with at least one past year major depressive episode (MDE).
2. Youth with dependence or abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol.
3. Youth with severe MDE.
4. Youth with MDE who did not receive mental health services.
5. Youth with severe MDE who received some consistent treatment.
6. Children with private insurance that did not cover mental or emotional problems.
7. Students identified with emotional disturbance for Individualized Education Program.

Texas is ranked 44th *in youth mental health and wellbeing.*

Prevalence Ranking
The prevalence ranking is comprised of six measures:
1. Adults with any mental illness (AMI).
2. Adults with dependence or abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol.
3. Adults with serious thoughts of suicide.
4. Youth with at least one past year major depressive episode (MDE).
5. Youth with dependence or abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol.
6. Youth with serve MDE.

Texas is ranked 5th in the prevalence of mental health issues.

The state of mental health in Texas is also complicated by limited access to mental health services. The nine measures that make up the access ranking for mental health include:
1. Adults with AMI who did not receive treatment.
2. Adults with AMI reporting unmet need.
3. Adults with AMI who are uninsured.
4. Adults with a disability who could not see a doctor due to costs.
5. Youth with MDE who did not receive mental health services.
6. Youth with severe MDE who received some consistent treatment.
7. Children with private insurance that did not cover mental or emotional problems.
8. Students identified with emotional disturbance for an Individualized Education Program.
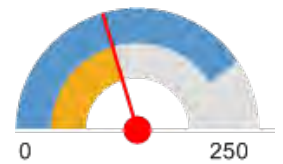9. Mental health workforce availability.

The access raking for Texas is 49th.

Lack of Social and Emotional Support

The service area residents have a lower rate of social and emotional support than other areas in Texas. Social and emotional support is critical for navigating the challenges of daily life as well as for good mental health. Social and emotional support is also linked to educational achievement and economic stability and access to mental health care providers. Within the service area the rate of mental health care providers is fewer than found across Texas and in the U.S. Other indicators of social and emotional needs include the following data for HSR-S6/5:

- 12.3% of the population reported they have a depressive disorder which is comparable to Texas which is 12.5%.
- The region suicide rate is 12.0 with a total of 3,368 suicide deaths compared to a state rate of 12.5. Montgomery and Harris County have the highest suicide rates of all service area counties at 16.5 and 10.2, respectively.
- All of the counties in the service area have a lower provider ratio for mental health professionals than found across the state.

Mental Health Provider Ratio (per 100,000 pop)

■ Service Area (102.1)
■ Texas (102.3)
■ United States (202.8)

Social and Emotional Health			
County	**Population Without Adequate Social / Emotional Support**	**Professionally Licensed Counselors**	**Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors**
Austin	8,463	10	2
Chambers	no data	9	10
Hardin	9,108	18	9
Harris	706,067	2,732	1,539
Liberty	20,658	14	15
Montgomery	75,958	373	161
San Jacinto	no data	6	4
Waller	no data	17	9
Texas Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/HealthcareWorkforceSupply			

Table 72 - Population Mental Health Status

Children's Mental Health

In order for children to have the best chance for success in life and school, they need to be healthy in all facets. Mental health is an important component of overall health. Children who are mentally healthy have "a positive quality of life and can function well at home, in school, and in their communities"[21]. Children's mental disorders can affect children of all ages, gender, and ethnic and racial backgrounds. Common mental health disorders with a childhood and adolescent onset include:

- Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADD)
- Behavior disorders
- Mood and anxiety disorders

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[21] Division of Human Development and Disabilities, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015, November 6). Child Development; Children's Mental Health. Retrieved from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/mentalhealth.html.

- Substance abuse disorders
- Eating disorders
- Elimination disorders
- Learning and communication disorders
- Schizophrenia
- Tic disorders

Several factors can contribute to the development of mental disorders in children including family history and living circumstances, biological factors, toxic stress, and adverse childhood experiences, such as exposure to violence or substance abuse. Mental health professionals have developed effective treatments and programs for most mental health conditions; however, individuals with a mental disorder often do not seek treatment because they either do not have access to care, or do not want help for one reason or another. Since many mental disorders have onsets during childhood that follow them into adulthood it is imperative that providers are able to identify, provide access, and treat disorders in their early stages. Health services must also provide adequate and easy access to mental health care. Stabilizing or increasing funding for mental health services, particularly at community and non-clinical settings can provide increased and easier access to youth-friendly treatment for mental disorders.

Infant and early childhood mental health refers to how well a child develops socially and emotionally[22]. Understanding infant mental health is the key to preventing and treating the mental health problems of very young children and their families. It also helps guide the development of healthy social and emotional behaviors. Head Start programs are required to implement mental health consultation models that support families and children. The following data details mental health services offered to HS children during 2016-2017 by the service area grantee.

Mental Health Services to HS Enrolled Children and Families	
Hours Per Month the Mental Health Professional is On Site	10
Children with Staff Consultations	32
Children with 3 or More Consultations	2
Children that received an individual mental health assessment	29
Children that received a referral for mental health services	18

Table 73 - Head Start Mental Health Services

2018 Community Assessment Update

Findings that remain consistent:
- Identifying pediatric dentists who accept Medicaid is one of the most problematic health care issues the program faces. The limited number of pediatric dentists in the service area, combined with a general lack of education regarding proper dental practices and health have resulted in fairly severe dental problems among the Head Start and Early Head Start child population.

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[22] Zero to Three. www.zerotothree.org

- Ten water supply facilities closest to our Head Start families were checked, and only two in Liberty and Waller counties were within the optimal fluoride level.[23] Six of eight counties have had drinking water violations.
- Three counties have teen birth rates higher than that found for the state. Harris and San Jacinto counties fares worst for indicators of maternal and child health.
- In 2014, the program saw a decrease of 26 in the number of children served with disabilities. In 2017, the number of children with disabilities increased from 2014.
- HSR – 6/5S has higher rates than the state immunization rate of 78.9% of children up-to-date on all possible immunizations, having a rate of 81.7%. The service area has lower immunization rates for the vaccination Hep A.
- Texas experienced a slight rise in family violence incidents between 2016 and 2015 (.9%). The incidence of family violence is concerning due to the lack of mental health professionals in the service area.
- Hardin and Liberty counties have a higher rate of child abuse than found at the state level and in other service area counties.
- Liberty County's child abuse rate increased 4% between 2010 and 2011 but has declined in 2017.
- Rates of child abuse in the service area are increasing in Chambers, Harris, and San Jacinto Counties and exceed the rates found for the State of Texas. Hardin, Austin, Waller, and Montgomery Counties demonstrate a decrease in child abuse. The increase in child abuse in some counties is a different trend than the state, in which rates of abuse fell between 2014 and 2015.
- Five of the seven counties in MET's service area are currently designated as Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) by the Texas Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), with Harris and Montgomery counties classified as partially underserved.
- No counties are identified as Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas. In 2017, the designation for core health areas has been updated and every county has at least one designation for either mental health (all counties), dental health, or primary health care providers.
- All seven service area counties increased the enrollment number of CHIP and Medicaid between 2010-2012. The most drastic increases were in the largest populated counties, Harris and Montgomery, which experienced a total of 8,856 and 1,017 respectively. In total, the service area increased CHIP enrollments by a staggering 10,519 children. In 2017, there are a significant number of children that receive CHIP and Medicaid. The rates have been decreasing over the past five years along with the rate of children that are uninsured.

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[23] Center for Disease Control. *Oral Health Resources. My Water's Fluoride.*
http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/MWF/CountyDataV.asp

NUTRITION

Children in food-insecure households or households that struggle to afford food for their families are at an increased risk for numerous health problems and added emotional stress that impacts school readiness and ongoing school success.

Food Insecurity Rate

The rate of food insecurity is the estimated percentage of the population that experienced food insecurity at some point during the report year. Food insecurity is an indicator of the household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. When compared to the state, the population in the service area has comparable rate of food insecurity for both adults and children.

% of Total Population with food Insecurity
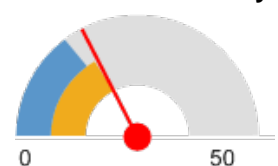
- Service Area (17.35)
- Texas (17)
- United States (14.91)

Food Insecure Population			
County	**Population**	**Food Insecure Population**	**Food Insecurity Rate**
Service Area	5,025,488	871,680	17.4%
Austin	28,724	4,400	15.3%
Chambers	36,550	5,540	15.2%
Hardin	55,215	10,350	18.7%
Harris	4,269,608	749,260	17.6%
Liberty	76,707	14,430	18.8%
Montgomery	487,028	73,980	15.2%
San Jacinto	26,831	5,200	19.4%
Waller	44,825	8,520	19.0%
Texas	26,956,958	4,578,670	17%
United States	318,198,163	47,448,890	14.9%

Table 74 - Food Insecurity

Child Rate of Food Insecurity			
County	Population Under Age 18	Food Insecure Children,	Child Food Insecurity Rate
Service Area	1,357,574	355,370	26.2%
Austin	7,136	1,670	23.4%
Chambers	9,909	2,320	23.4%
Hardin	14,054	3,800	27.0%
Harris	1,160,790	305,480	26.3%
Liberty	19,217	5,440	28.3%
Montgomery	129,539	31,940	24.7%
San Jacinto	6,322	1,820	28.8%
Waller	10,607	2,900	27.3%
Texas	7,040,918	1,899,310	26.9%
United States	73,580,326	17,284,530	23.5%

Table 75 - Child Food Insecurity

Food Insecurity - Food Insecure Population Ineligible for Assistance
The following table reports the estimated percentage of the total population and the population under age 18 that experienced food insecurity at some point during the report year but are ineligible for State or Federal nutrition assistance. Assistance eligibility is determined based on household income of the food insecure households relative to the maximum income-to-poverty ratio for assistance programs (SNAP, WIC, school meals, CSFP and TEFAP).

Food Insecure Population Not Eligible for Assistance				
County	Food Insecure Population	Percentage of Food Insecure Population Ineligible for Assistance	Food Insecure Children	Percentage of Food Insecure Children Ineligible for Assistance
Service Area	878,960	27%	355,370	29%
Austin	4,560	38%	1,670	41%
Chambers	5,610	45%	2,320	46%
Hardin	10,690	40%	3,800	39%
Harris	753,640	25%	305,480	28%
Liberty	14,810	31%	5,440	30%
Montgomery	75,700	42%	31,940	41%
San Jacinto	5,330	31%	1,820	27%
Waller	8,620	25%	2,900	21%
Texas	4,653,290	30%	1,899,310	30%
United States	48,770,990	29%	17,284,530	31%

Table 76 - Food Insecure Population Not Eligible for Assistance
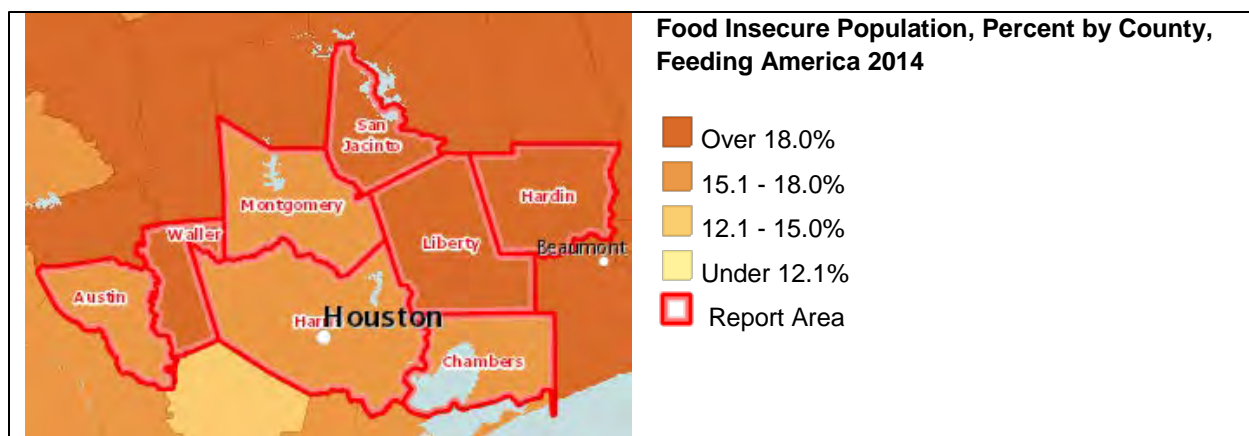
Figure 40 - Food Insecure Population by County

Food Access - Food Desert Census Tracts

Access to nutritious food impacts a moderate number of families in the service area. Food deserts are defined as urban neighborhoods and rural towns without ready access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food. Instead of supermarkets and grocery stores, these communities may have no food access or are served only by fast food restaurants and convenience stores that offer few healthy affordable food options. The lack of access contributes to a poor diet and can lead to higher levels of obesity and other diet-related diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease. In the following figure, orange shading indicates that the closest grocery store is five miles or more from home and that the area is a food desert.
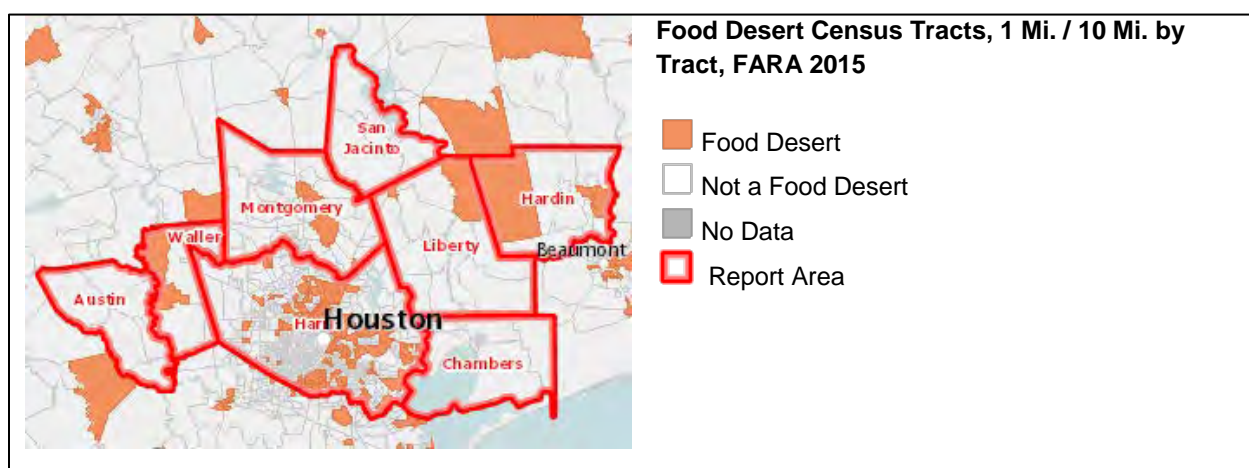
Figure 41 - Food Deserts in Service Area

Food Desert Census Tracts					
County	Total Population (2010)	Food Desert Census Tracts	Other Census Tracts	Food Desert Population	Other Population
Service Area	4,811,585	344	548	2,218,002	2,593,583
Austin	28,417	1	5	3,660	24,757
Chambers	35,096	1	5	6,274	28,822
Hardin	54,635	8	3	43,351	11,284
Harris	4,092,459	291	495	1,814,695	2,277,764
Liberty	75,643	7	7	27,772	47,871
Montgomery	455,746	33	26	299,729	156,017
San Jacinto	26,384	1	3	10,069	16,315
Waller	43,205	2	4	12,452	30,753
Texas	25,145,561	2,445	2,813	12,948,821	12,196,740
United States	308,745,538	27,527	45,337	129,885,212	178,860,326

Table 77 - Food Desert Census Tracts

Food Access - Grocery Stores

The following table shows the number of grocery stores per 100,000 population. Access to grocery stores is relevant to the health and wellbeing of a population because it provides a measure of healthy food access and environmental influences on dietary behaviors.

Grocery Stores, Rate (Per 100,000 Population)
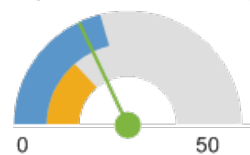
- Service Area (17.83)
- Texas (13.75)
- United States (21.18)

Rate of Grocery Stores			
County	Total Population	Number of Establishments	Establishments, Rate per 100,000 Population
Service Area	4,811,585	858	17.83
Austin	28,417	5	17.60
Chambers	35,096	5	14.25
Hardin	54,635	7	12.81
Harris	4,092,459	766	18.72
Liberty	75,643	12	15.86
Montgomery	455,746	55	12.07
San Jacinto	26,384	4	15.16
Waller	43,205	4	9.26
Texas	25,145,561	3,457	13.75
United States	308,745,538	65,399	21.18

US Census Bureau, County Business Patterns. Additional data analysis by CARES. 2015.

Table 78 - Food Outlets

Food Access - Low Food Access

In the service area, the percent of the population with low food access is slightly lower than found in the U.S. but not as high as the percent of the population that has low food access in Texas.

County	Total Population	Population with Low Food Access	Percent Population with Low Food Access
Service Area	4,811,585	1,066,683	22.2%
Austin	28,417	2,281	8.0%
Chambers	35,096	4,096	11.7%
Hardin	54,635	18,508	33.9%
Harris	4,092,459	854,830	20.9%
Liberty	75,643	7,389	9.8%
Montgomery	455,746	169,783	37.3%
San Jacinto	26,384	2,149	8.2%
Waller	43,205	7,647	17.7%
Texas	25,145,561	6,807,728	27.1%
United States	308,745,538	69,266,771	22.4%

Population with Low Food Access (table header)

US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, USDA - Food Access Research Atlas. 2015.

Table 79 - Population with Low Food Access
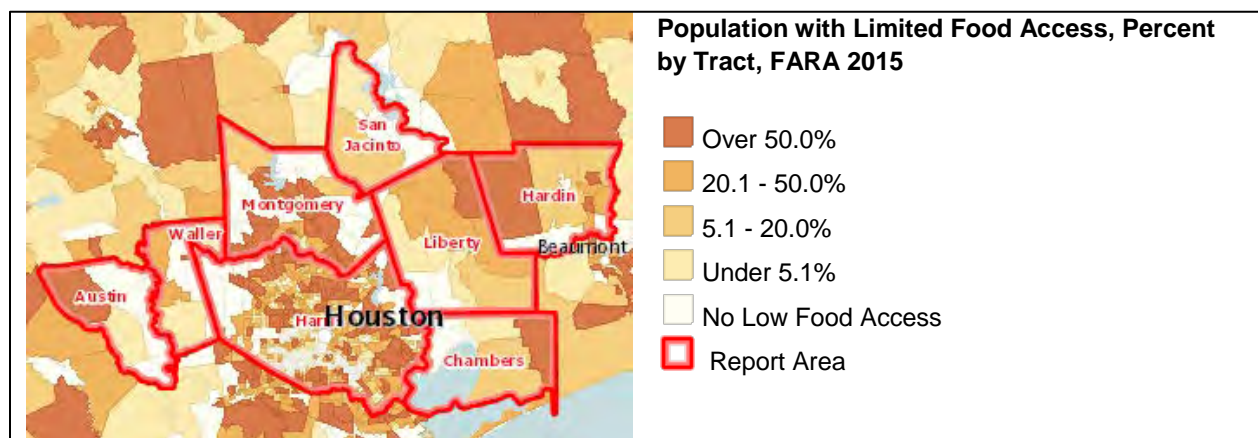
Figure 42 - Population with Limited Food Access by Tract

Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status

The table that follows shows that 227,700 households (5% of households receiving SNAP were in poverty) received SNAP payments during 2016. The highest rates of SNAP use are in San Jacinto County where more than 19% of all households receive SNAP compared to 11.2% of Texas households. The lowest rates of SNAP use are in Chambers County.

County	Households Receiving SNAP Total	Households Receiving SNAP Percent	Households Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty	Households Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty
Service Area	227,700	12.6%	113,366	114,334
Austin	1,137	10.1%	584	553
Chambers	731	5.6%	216	515
Hardin	2,189	10.7%	1,021	1,168
Harris	203,096	13.2%	101,760	101,336
Liberty	4,312	16.8%	2,228	2,084
Montgomery	12,001	6.7%	5,559	6,442
San Jacinto	1,765	18.3%	1,017	748
Waller	2,469	17.5%	981	1,488
Texas	1,220,336	13.1%	620,671	599,665
United States	15,360,951	13.1%	7,727,684	7,633,267

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16

Table 80 - Households Receiving SNAP
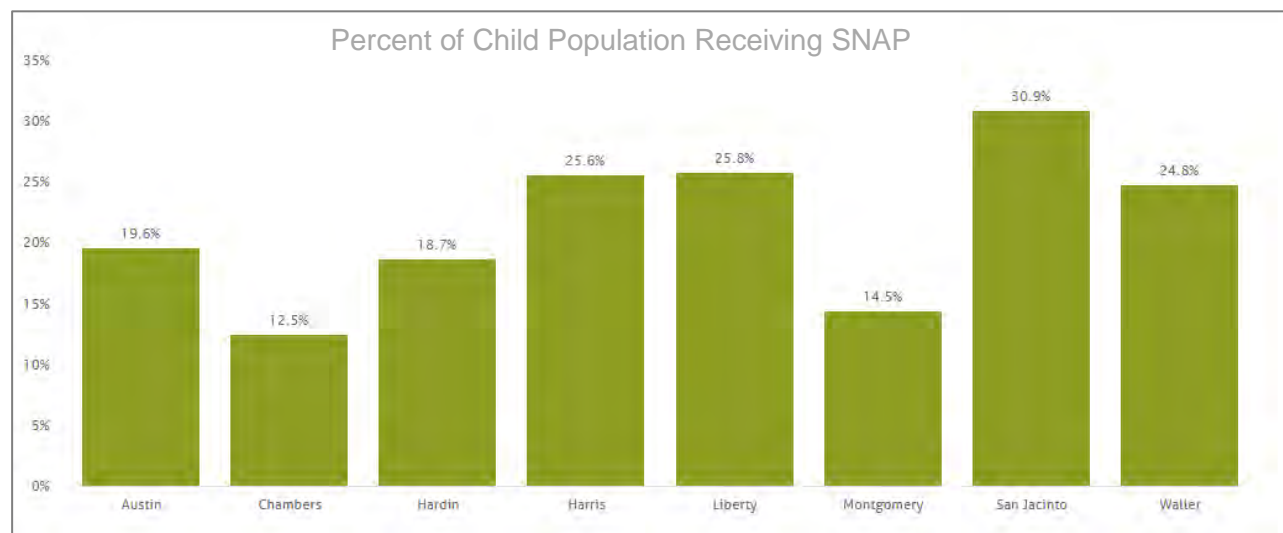
Figure 43 - Percent of Child Population Receiving SNAP
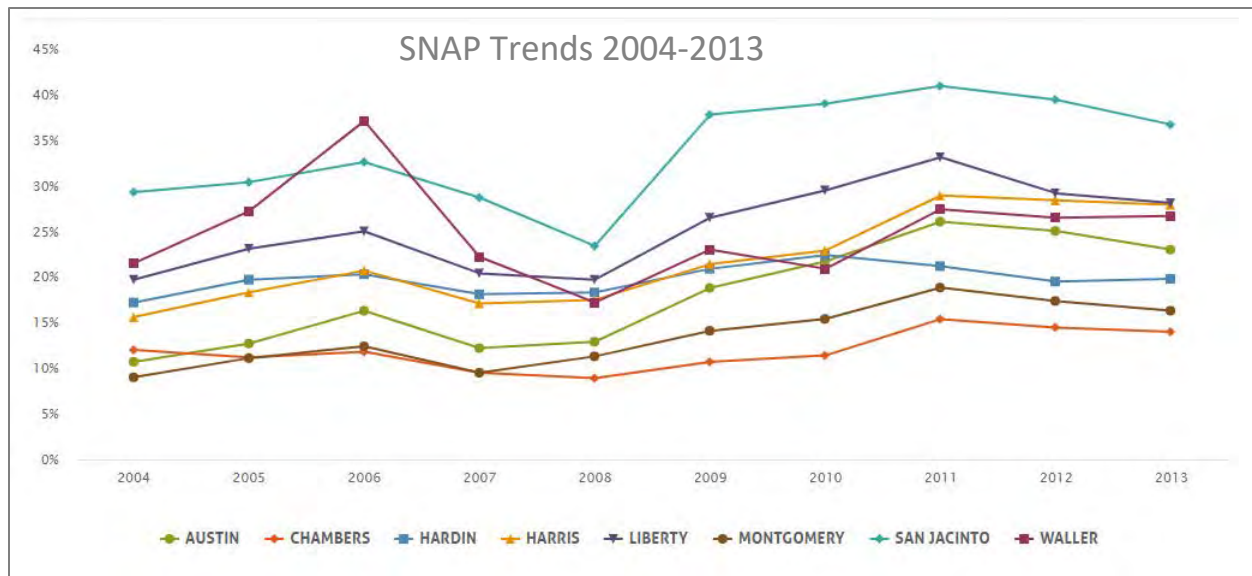
Figure 44 - SNAP Use Trends 2004-2013

Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) serves to safeguard the health of low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk. WIC provides nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, including breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to health care. To be eligible for WIC services, an applicants' gross income must fall at or below 185% of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines. In the service area there were 90,874 WIC recipients aged 1-4 years, 46,354 infants that received WIC, and 50,868 pregnant women that received WIC[24].

WIC Recipients			
County	WIC Recipients Age 1-4 yrs.	WIC Recipients under 1 yr.	Women Receiving WIC
Service Area	90,874	46,354	50,868
Austin	436	218	223
Chambers	292	171	148
Hardin	491	317	305
Harris	81,087	41,428	45,405
Liberty	1,823	865	951
Montgomery	5,639	2,842	3,280
San Jacinto	279	132	161
Waller	827	381	395
Annie E. Casey Foundation KidsCount.org			

Table 81 - WIC Recipients

Among families enrolled in the Head Start program in the service area, 503 (46%) families received WIC and 520 (48%) families received SNAP at some point during the program year.

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[24] Annie E. Casey Foundation KidsCount.org. WIC 2015

Children Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch (FRP)

Throughout the service area 645,235 public school students or 62% of students are eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch. When compared to the state, fewer students in the service area are eligible for Free/Reduced- Priced Lunch in three counties (Chambers, Hardin, and Montgomery). When compared to the nation more students are eligible than national trends in Austin, Harris, Liberty, San Jacinto and Waller Counties. The highest rates of Free/Reduced-Price Lunch eligibility are in Harris, Waller, San Jacinto, and Liberty Counties.

Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch			
County	Total Students	Number Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible	Percent Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible
Service Area	1,042,423	645,235	61.9%
Austin	5,531	2,798	50.6%
Chambers	8,507	2,711	31.9%
Hardin	10,234	4,021	39.3%
Harris	887,259	576,417	65.0%
Liberty	15,648	9,656	61.7%
Montgomery	105,351	42,569	40.4%
San Jacinto	3,419	2,304	67.4%
Waller	6,474	4,759	73.5%
Texas	5,300,635	3,123,844	58.9%
United States	50,611,787	25,893,504	52.6%
National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data. 2015-16.			

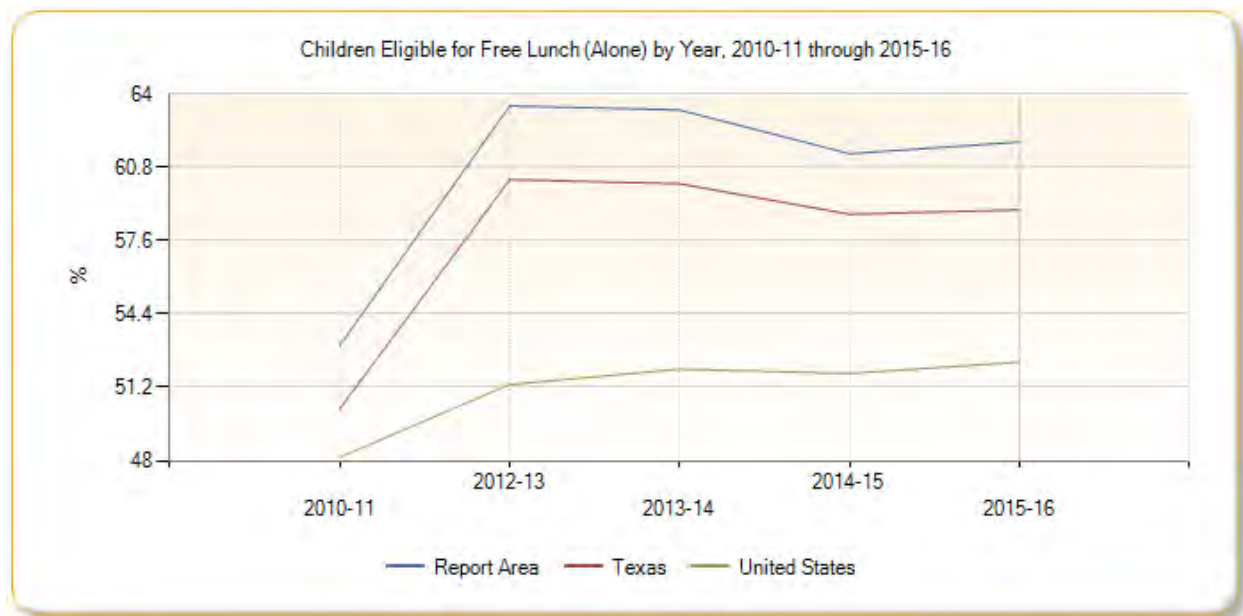*Table 82 - Students Eligible for Free and Reduced-Priced Lunch*

Figure 45- Free and Reduced Priced Lunch Eligibility Trend

Obesity

In Head Start, 309 children are overweight or obese which represents 33% of program enrollment. This data indicates that Head Start children can benefit from increased programs related to nutrition, healthy food choices and active lifestyles.

HOUSING

Neighborhood and The Community Environment

A child's healthy growth and development are dependent on many factors, including the immediate environment in which they live. Research has demonstrated that children's life chances (the factors that affect their current and future well-being) are affected by the standard of their housing. This "housing effect" is especially pronounced in relation to health. Children living in poor or overcrowded conditions are more likely to have respiratory problems, to be at risk of infections, and have mental health problems. Housing that is in poor condition or overcrowded also threatens children's safety. The impact on children's development is both immediate and long term; growing up in poor or overcrowded housing has been found to have a lasting impact on a child's health and well-being throughout their life. Further, neighborhood conditions have a major impact on health, birth outcomes, and exposure to risk factors such as injury, violence, and hazards. The town we live in can also limit the choices and resources available. For example, children's physical and motor development can be constrained by living in an urban area without access to safe places to play such as public parks. Children in rural areas may have little access to recreation or other opportunities for development.

Growing up in poor housing conditions also has a long-term impact on children's life chances because of the effect it has on a child's learning and education. Homeless children are particularly disadvantaged because of the disruption to their schooling caused by homelessness. Furthermore, the roots of later problems – such as offending and behavior problems in adulthood – may be traceable to behavioral problems that emerge when children are growing up in substandard housing and poor neighborhood conditions.

Housing - Substandard Housing

Substandard housing is considered to be housing that is: 1) lacking complete plumbing facilities, 2) lacking complete kitchen facilities, 3) with 1.01 or more occupants per room, 4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income are greater than 30%, and 5) gross rent as a percentage of household income is greater than 30%. Selected conditions provide information that can be used to assess the quality of the housing inventory and its occupants. This data is used to easily identify homes where the quality of living and housing can be considered substandard. In the service area counties of Austin, Chambers, Hardin, Liberty, Montgomery, and San Jacinto fewer homes have at least one substandard housing condition than found in Texas and in the U.S. In the service area, Harris and Waller have the most blighted housing conditions and exceed the state in the percent of occupied housing units with one or more substandard conditions.

Owner and Renter-Occupied Housing Units with Substandard Conditions			
County	Total Occupied Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions	Percent Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions
Service Area	1,809,767	627,558	34.7%
Austin	11,222	3,091	27.5%
Chambers	12,967	2,750	21.2%
Hardin	20,408	4,467	21.9%
Harris	1,536,259	553,103	36.0%
Liberty	25,611	6,872	26.8%
Montgomery	179,587	49,844	27.8%
San Jacinto	9,631	2,576	26.8%
Waller	14,082	4,855	34.5%
Texas	9,289,554	3,002,430	32.3%
United States	117,716,237	39,729,263	33.8%

Table 83 - Substandard Housing Conditions
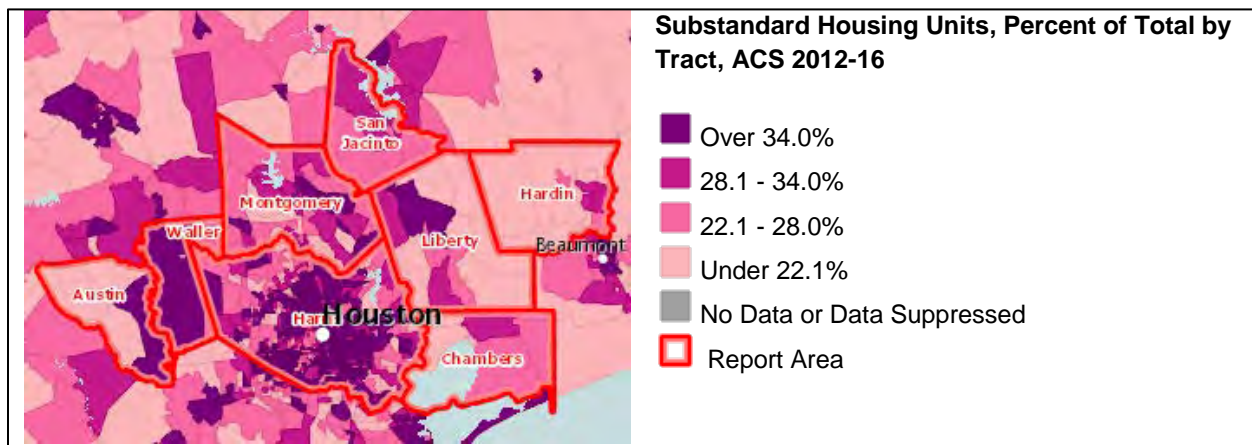
Figure 46 - Substandard Housing Units by Census Tract

Housing - Overcrowded Housing

Data on overcrowded housing indicates the service area has a higher percentage of housing units that are overcrowded. However, Chambers, Hardin and San Jacinto Counties have much lower rates of overcrowding than the state and nation.

% Housing Units Overcrowded

Service Area (7.93%)
Texas (6.38%)
United States (4.32%)
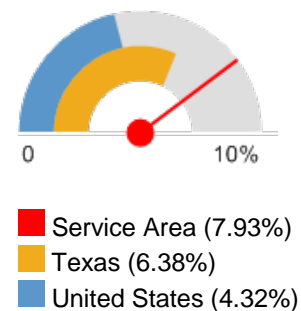
Overcrowded Housing			
County	Total Occupied Housing Units	Overcrowded Housing Units	Percentage of Housing Units Overcrowded
Service Area	1,223,865	97,038	7.9%
Austin	9,634	472	4.9%
Chambers	11,355	173	1.5%
Hardin	18,891	261	1.4%
Harris	984,295	86,997	8.8%
Liberty	21,683	968	4.5%
Montgomery	159,427	6,976	4.4%
San Jacinto	8,238	317	3.9%
Waller	10,342	874	8.5%
Texas	7,107,134	453,135	6.4%
United States	90,970,439	3,932,606	4.3%
US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16 Occupancy Characteristics			

Table 84 - Overcrowded Housing

Housing – Availability & Affordability

Housing is readily available in the area both due to the rural nature of the service area and the space available for building and the development of communities. Within the service area counties, the lowest vacancy rates are Harris and Montgomery Counties, which are also home to the largest cities in the service area. The highest vacancy rates are in San Jacinto, Hardin and Austin Counties. In 2016, 9% of families payed more than 30% of their income towards housing. This data indicates that the cost of housing is rising out-of-step with rates of income.

% Housing Units Vacant

0   20%

- Service Area (9.23%)
- Texas (11.03%)
- United States (12.19%)
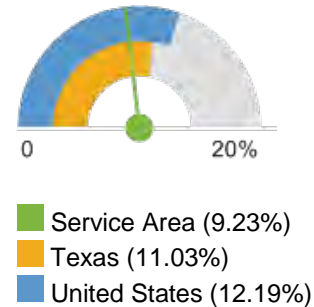
Housing Vacancies			
County	Total Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units, Percent
Service Area	1,993,760	183,993	9.2%
Austin	13,005	1,783	13.7%
Chambers	14,440	1,473	10.2%
Hardin	23,523	3,115	13.2%
Harris	1,687,657	151,398	9.0%
Liberty	29,609	3,998	13.5%
Montgomery	196,210	16,623	8.5%
San Jacinto	13,168	3,537	26.9%
Waller	16,148	2,066	12.8%
Texas	10,441,643	1,152,089	11.0%
United States	134,054,899	16,338,662	12.2%
U.S. Census. Selected Housing Characteristics 2012-2016. Table DP04			

Table 85 - Housing Vacancies

Cost Burdened Households			
County	Total Households	Cost Burdened Households (Housing Costs Exceed 30% of Income)	Percentage of Cost Burdened Households (Over 30% of Income)
Service Area	1,809,767	585,440	32.4%
Austin	11,222	2,800	25.0%
Chambers	12,967	2,595	20.0%
Hardin	20,408	3,974	19.5%
Harris	1,536,259	517,473	33.7%
Liberty	25,611	5,933	23.2%
Montgomery	179,587	46,180	25.7%
San Jacinto	9,631	2,358	24.5%
Waller	14,082	4,127	29.3%
Texas	9,289,554	2,787,590	30.0%
United States	117,716,237	38,719,430	32.9%

Table 86 - Cost Burdened Households

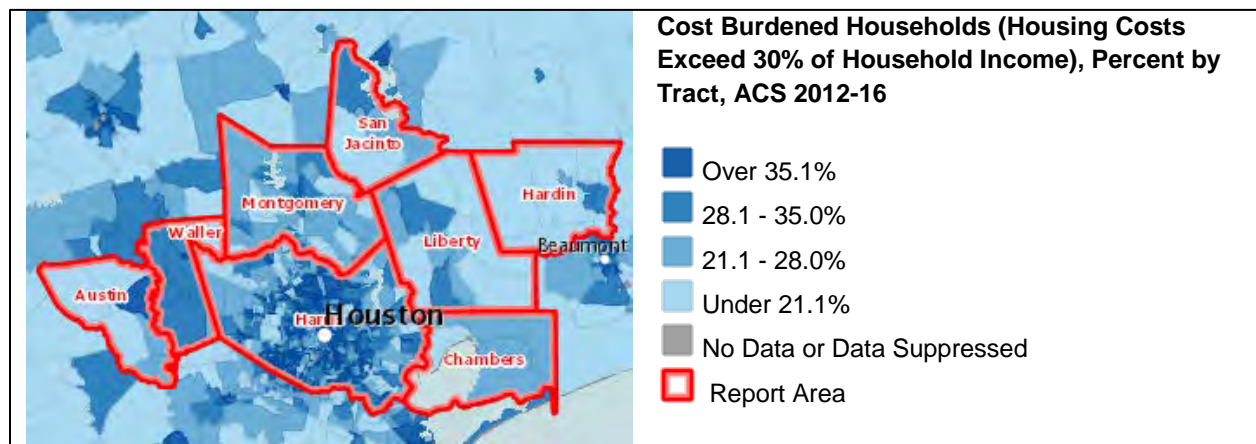*Figure 47 – Cost Burdened Households by Tract*

Assisted Housing Units - HUD Programs - by Assistance Program

Housing programs are administered by the housing authority in each county. Although there is a significant number of units the waiting list for housing is long and families must wait up to two years to access affordable housing in some areas. The least housing is available in the most populated cities.

Affordable Housing Stock							
County	Housing Choice Voucher Units	Project-Based Section 8 Units	Section 236 Units	Public Housing Units	Section 202 Units	Section 811 Units	Other Multi-Family Program Units
Service Area	23,939	9,889	23	3,650	1,972	290	274
Austin	42	89	0	34	0	0	0
Chambers	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hardin	202	3	0	0	0	0	0
Harris	22,717	8,317	0	3,446	1,792	242	274
Liberty	270	60	0	170	38	12	0
Mont.	389	1,376	23	0	132	36	0
San Jacinto	20	0	0	0	10	0	0
Waller	286	44	0	0	0	0	0
Texas	164,657	51,702	333	51,706	6,210	1,290	784

Table 87 - HUD Housing Stock

Housing - LIHTC

The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program gives State and local LIHTC-allocating agencies the equivalent of nearly $8 billion in annual budget authority to issue tax credits for the acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction of rental housing targeted to lower-income households. The table that follows shows the number of LIHTC units in the service area.

LITHC Housing Units		
County	LIHTC Properties	LIHTC Units
Service Area	376	56,459
Austin	4	150
Chambers	2	86
Hardin	5	278
Harris	305	50,599
Liberty	9	426
Montgomery	32	4,132
San Jacinto	5	176
Waller	14	612
Texas	2,373	242,359
United States	43,092	2,784,155

Table 88 - LIHTC Housing Units

Homelessness

The U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines homelessness according to two different classifications: 1) an individual resides in a place not meant for human habitation, such as a car, park, sidewalk, abandoned building, or on the street; or 2) an individual who resides in an emergency shelter or transitional housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters. The majority of the service area counties below to the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care as follows: Austin, Chambers, Liberty, Hardin, Waller, and San Jacinto. Harris and Montgomery are served by the Houston/Harris County Homeless Coalition and the Way Home Continuum of Care. The Way Home encompasses Houston, Pasadena, and Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery Counties,

Texas.According to the Texas Balance of Care COC report there were 4,757 homeless individuals in the Balance of State CoC. Of these, 612 were children[25]. According to the Harris County Coalition for the Homeless 2018 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count there were a total of 4,143 homeless individuals in the PIT area. In Montgomery County there were 277 homeless individuals and in Harris County there were 3,799 homeless individuals[26].

McKinney Vento Act
According to the most recent publicly available statistics, in 2014-2015, 3,506 homeless students attended service area schools. It is estimated that 1,591 (45%) were living in doubled-up housing arrangements.

Homeless Students[27]		
County	**District**	**Number of Homeless Students**
Austin	Bellville ISD (27) Brazos ISD (105) Sealy ISD (0)	132
Chambers	Anahuac ISD (23) Barbers Hill ISD (15) East Chambers ISD (0)	38
Hardin	Hardin-Jefferson ISD (14) Kountze ISD (0) Lumberton ISD (93) Silsbee ISD (51) West-Hardin County ISD (0)	158
Harris	Humble ISD (980)	980
Liberty	Cleveland ISD (242) Dayton ISD (257) Devers ISD (0) Hardin ISD (0) Hull-Daisetta ISD (143) Liberty ISD (92) Tarkington ISD (0)	734
Montgomery	Conroe ISD (597) Magnolia ISD (35) Montgomery ISD (21) New Caney ISD (246) Splendora ISD (51) Texas Serenity Academy (0) Willis ISD (159)	1,109
San Jacinto	Coldspring-Oakhurst (55) Shepard (59)	114
Waller	Hempstead ISD (121) Royal ISD (10) Waller ISD (140)	271

Table 89 - Homeless Students by District

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[25] https://www.thn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Combined-TX-BoS-CoC.pdf

[26] http://www.homelesshouston.org/local-data-and-research/

[27] Texas Education Agency Student Data Reports by Campus https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/cgi/sas/broker. PEIMS Reports Student Program and Special Population Reports

Population Mobility

The mobility of the population in the service area consists primarily of internal migration. In 2016, 862,168 individuals moved within the last year. When data is disaggregated without Harris County but with the City of Humble, 117,081 individuals moved. Among children aged 0-4 years, most children moved from out of state or the county than internally from within the county, except for in Harris County.

Population In-Migration			
County	Population	Population In-Migration	% In-Migration
Service Area	5,153,422	290,733	5.6%
Austin	28,933	1,943	6.7%
Chambers	37,692	3,026	8.0%
Hardin	54,982	2,684	4.9%
Harris	4,369,423	226,172	5.2%
Liberty	77,465	9,398	12.1%
Montgomery	511,576	40,026	7.8%
San Jacinto	26,889	3,036	11.3%
Waller	46,462	4,448	9.6%
Texas	26,586,083	1,801,847	6.8%
United States	314,813,229	19,417,258	6.1%

Table 90 - Population Migration

Population In-Migration Children aged 0-4 yrs[28].				
County	Total Population 1-4 yrs.	Lived in Same House One Year Ago	Moved within Same County	Moved from out of county, state, or country
Austin	1,610	1,354	80	176
Chambers	2,169	1,676	90	940
Hardin	2,967	2,479	294	194
Harris	282,697	218,120	47,476	17,101
Humble	1,088	896	198	92
Liberty	4,217	3,037	578	602
Montgomery	28,605	23,186	2,700	2,719
San Jacinto	1,192	826	170	196
Waller	2,565	2,308	46	211

Table 91 - Population Migration Children Aged 0-4 Yrs.

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[28] U.S. Census. American Fact Finder. 2012-2016 5 – Year Estimates. Geographical Mobility in the Past Year by Age Table B07001.

CHILDCARE AVAILABILITY

Head Start Program Performance Standard

1302.11 (b)(iv) Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served;

This section of the community assessment provides data about early education and the extent to which low income children have access to high-quality comprehensive early education opportunities. It also shows the supply of child care programs in the service area. This data is used to assess the effectiveness of the Head Start program design.

Importance of Early Education and Child Care

During the early years of children's development rapid brain growth occurs and important bonds with caregivers are formed. Supporting children's learning and health during this time influences the degree to which they will be prepared for kindergarten and a lifetime of success. Children who fall behind in this stage of development often fail to catch up as they move through the K-12 education system. To mediate these discrepancies, early care and education needs to be of the highest quality possible. Effective early care and education supports children in reaching their potential and sets the stage for lifelong success. Unfortunately, the lack of early education can serve as an insurmountable barrier for parents and children. The table below details the early care and education landscape in the service area.

Head Start Programs Rate (Per 10,000 Children Under Age 5)

■ Service Area (2.19)
■ Texas (5.02)
■ United States (7.18)
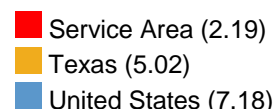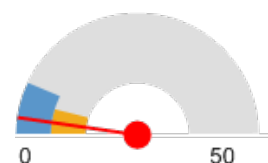
Service Area Child Care Portfolio[29]	
# of Head Start Slots in Service Area	(184 EHS/ 801 HS)
# of EHS CCP Slots in Service Area	104
# of Texas State Pre-K Slots	5,781
# of Licensed Child Care Centers	1,505
Legal Capacity of Child Care Centers	193,323
# of Licensed Child Care Homes	226
Legal Capacity	2,681
Children Receiving a Child Care Subsidy[30]	32,549

Table 92 - Childcare Portfolio

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[29] Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data_Book/Child_Care_Licensing/Day_Care/Operations_on_August_31.asp

[30] Annie Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center

State Prek Slots by County				
Number of Prek Slots	**2011**	**2014**	**2016**	**Increase/Decrease**
Austin County (175 slots)	40	40	43	+3
- Bellville				
- Brazos	32	32	26	-6
- Sealy	97	97	106	+9
Chambers County (214 slots)				
- Anahuac ISD	29	29	51	+22
- Barbers Hill	71	71	86	+15
- East Chambers	53	53	77	+24
Hardin County (239 slots)				
- Hardin - Jefferson	54	54	63	+9
- Kountze	36	36	29	-7
- Lumberton	70	70	35	-35
- Silsbee	58	58	85	+33
- West-Hardin County	26	26	27	+1
North East Harris County (737 slots)				
- Humble	685	685	737	+52
Liberty County (590 slots)				
- Cleveland	124	124	161	+37
- Dayton	182	182	203	21
- Devers	178	178	14	-164
- Hardin	1,195	1,195	56	-1,139
- Hull – Daisetta	511	511	24	-487
- Liberty	99	99	98	-1
- Tarkington	42	42	34	-8
Montgomery County (3,089)				
- Conroe	1,420	1,420	1,290	-130
- Magnolia	386	386	358	-28
- Montgomery	102	102	100	-2
- New Caney	522	522	570	+48
- Splendora	132	132	165	+33
- Texas Serenity Academy	412	412	412	0
- Willis	219	219	194	-25
San Jacinto County (162 slots)				
- Shepherd	80	91	97	+6
- Coldspring-Oakhurst	60	55	65	+10
Waller County (575)				
- Hempstead	80	80	155	+75
- Royal	250	250	182	-68
- Waller	250	250	238	-12

Table 93 - State Prek Slots by County

In total, there are 1,731 licensed childcare facilities that have 196,004 slots available to serve 411,765 children aged 0-4 years.

Childcare Landscape				
County	Total Population 0-4 yrs.	Licensed Childcare Centers & Family Childcare Homes	Capacity	Children Receiving Childcare Subsidies
Austin	2,068	10	890	151
Chambers	2,458	12	1,639	33
Hardin	3,445	14	1,607	107
Harris	357,520	1,506	168,434	29,835
Liberty	5,631	21	1,734	227
Montgomery	35,579	147	20,493	1,781
San Jacinto	1,567	4	236	39
Waller	3,497	17	971	376
Total	**411,765**	**1,731**	**196,004**	**32,549**

Table 94 - Children Receiving Childcare Subsidies

State Preschool

Texas State Pre-K provides half-day and full-day preschool to children aged 3-4 years with educational disadvantages such as a low family income, homelessness, parents who are active duty military personnel, or involvement in the child welfare system. In some school districts, other funding streams are utilized to expand part-day programs to full-day services. In the service area, in 2016-2017, local school districts provided 5,263 pre-k slots to children, who in most cases have eligibility levels similar to Head Start children.

District Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment 2016-2017					
Type of Program	Full Day Age 3	Full-Day Age 4	Half-Day Age 3	Half-Day Age 4	Total
Anahuac	0	51	0	0	51
Barbers Hill	0	44	0	42	86
Bellville	0	*	0	*	43
Brazos	0	0	0	26	26
Cleveland	0	0	0	161	161
Conroe	0	0	0	1,290	1,290
Dayton	0	23	0	180	203
Devers	0	0	0	14	14
East Chambers	0	*	0	*	77
Hardin	0	56	0	0	56
Hardin-Jefferson	0	0	14	49	63
Hempstead	67	88	0	0	155
Hull-Daisetta	0	24	0	0	24
Humble	6	562	0	169	737
Kountze	0	0	*	*	29
Liberty	0	36	0	62	98
Lumberton	0	0	0	35	35
Magnolia	0	36	0	322	358

District Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment 2016-2017					
Type of Program	Full Day Age 3	Full-Day Age 4	Half-Day Age 3	Half-Day Age 4	Total
Montgomery	0	0	0	100	100
New Caney	0	*	*	543	570
Royal	0	182	0	0	182
Silsbee	0	85	0	0	85
Splendora	0	165	0	0	165
Tarkington	0	34	0	0	34
Waller	0	0	0	238	238
West Hardin	*	*	0	0	27
Willis	0	0	14	180	194
Shepherd	0	97	0	0	97
Coldspring-Oakhurst	10	55	0	0	65
Total	**83**	**1,538**	**28**	**3,411**	**5,263**
Tpeir Education Reports. http://www.texaseducationinfo.org/ViewReport.aspx.					

Table 95 - Prek Enrollment in Schools Served by Districts Served by Head Start

Number and Percent of Working Mothers

Employment rates among families are high in the service area. In the service area, there is significant percent of single mothers with children that work in all counties. Additionally, most families with children under six have all parents in the labor force[31]. In total, between 35% and 64% of families with children under six have all parents employed. The number of families that have no working parents is small comprising 10% of all families with children under six years.

Parental Work Status					
County	Total <6 yrs.	All Parents in Labor Force (2 parent families)	Parent in Labor Force (single-parent)	No parents working	% Female Householder in Labor force
Austin	2,160	535	368	558	58.3%
Chambers	2,865	743	445	128	35.1%
Hardin	4,242	1,638	640	306	58.1%
Harris	402,293	120,058	117,924	42,023	64.4%
Liberty	6,471	1,851	1,631	835	52.6%
Montgomery	42,345	14,891	8,232	3,018	58.4%
San Jacinto	2,014	503	425	216	38.2%
Waller	3,789	1,221	866	385	60.4%
Total	**466,179**	**141,440**	**130,531**	**47,469**	

Table 96 - Work Status of Parents

Typical Work, School or Training Schedules

Access to childcare subsidies is limited in the service area due to lack of providers that accept them and lack of funding for subsidized care indicating the need for a high quality, developmentally appropriate programs like HS/EHS. According to the Texas Child Care Desert Map all of the counties in the service area except Chambers County have areas considered to be a subsidized child care desert[32]. Based on the rate of HS/EHS parents in the workforce and the number of children that receive a childcare subsidy (48% X 32,549) it is estimated that

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[31] U.S. Census 2012-2016 Employment Status by Age of Child B23008 and S2302

[32] http://childrenatrisk.org/childcaredesertmap/

15,623 low-income children aged birth-to-five years in poverty need child care. It should be noted this is likely overestimated as MET serves only Humble in Harris County and a significant number of children receiving childcare subsidies are in Harris County. When data is disaggregated without Harris County, the number of children likely eligible for EHS/HS receiving childcare subsidies is 1,301.

The capacity of child care is lacking in the service area for some populations. According to data related to the licensed capacity of regulated center-based and child care homes, there are 27,570 childcare slots available to serve all children aged 0-12 years (excluding Harris County. When Harris is included there are 196,004 slots). Among children aged birth-to-six alone, there are 21,382 (Harris excluded) children in need of care because all parents are working, which outstrips the number of childcare slots and the number of childcare subsidies currently available. In the Head Start program, employment rates were lower than found among families in the community.

The Cost of Child Care
A new report from Child Care Aware of America found that Texas is ranked the 36th in the least affordable center-based childcare for infants/toddlers and 39th in childcare affordability for preschoolers[33]. The cost of care is also a major expense for families in the area who have a low income. The average cost for infant childcare in Texas for a center-based program is $8,880 and family childcare costs on average $6,276. The average cost for an infant and a four-year old together would be $15,703 for center-based care and $11,998 for family childcare. For a single, working mother, earning the median income for the state, this would comprise 49.5% of their total income. The US Department of Health and Human Services recommends parents spend no more than 10% of their family income on child care. The high cost of childcare negatively impacts the ability of families struggling to survive on a daily basis and to become self-sufficient.
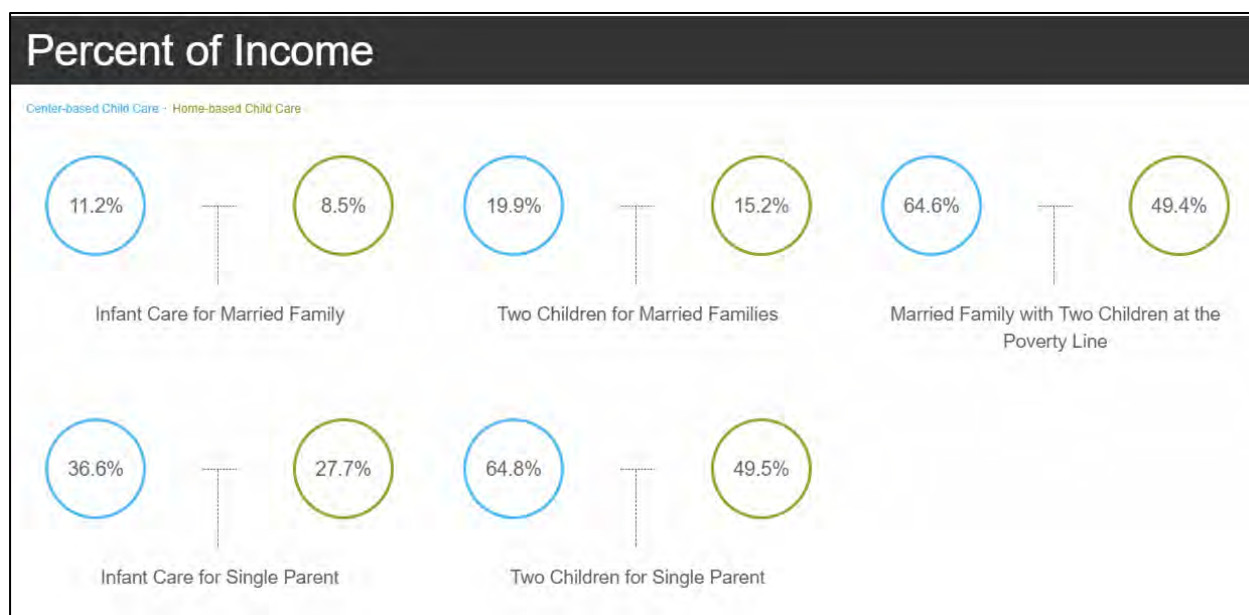

Figure 48. Cost of Child Care

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[33]http://www.inman.com/2016/04/19/the-cost-of-child-care-in-every-state/

The Quality of Childcare
The quality of childcare in Texas is lacking. According to the Department of Family and Protective Services the most frequently cited violation is lack of supervision of a child. In 2017, more than 1,254 centers were cited for this violation[34].

Greatest need for Care
The community assessment data indicates that the greatest need for child care expansion is among programs serving children aged 0-3 years. Childcare Aware estimates that approximately 11% of childcare slots are available to infants and toddlers[35]. The population of infants and toddlers is also greater than that of children who are 3-5 years. In addition, the number of slots available for low income infants and toddlers is limited due to the low ratios and financial burden associated with providing care for these children. Most infants and toddlers are placed in family childcare programs which may offer a lower standard of care than center-based environments. Factors impacting the early care and education options for families include:

> "Child care at most centers in the United States is poor to mediocre, with almost half of the infants and toddlers in rooms having less than minimal quality," according to a four-state study. Fully 40 percent of rooms in centers serving infants and toddlers provided care of less than minimal quality and only one in 12 (8%) provided good quality care for infants and toddlers".
> *Children's Defense Fund*

- The locations of childcare programs favor employment centers of the service area and rural childcare options are limited to family childcare homes or unregulated care.
- The at-risk population is concentrated in Montgomery County which has the most children eligible for MET HS/EHS and Austin and San Jacinto Counties which have smaller populations of eligible children but the highest poverty rates for children under five years and limited numbers of early learning slots.
- When the HS/EHS enrollment for 2016-2017 is considered along with the Texas Pre-K slots available, there is a slot oversupply of 873 slots[36]. However, it should be noted that the Texas Prek program serves children that exceed the income eligibility criteria for HS so the population of eligible children is greater than 4,390 which is reported for HS.
- Children in the area can benefit from additional full-day HS slots that align with research on improved and accelerated child outcomes for children in poverty.
- Family childcare programs are further away from the centers of employment which poses an additional burden on families seeking to use family childcare due to cost or other preferences.

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[34]www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data_Book/Child_Care_Licensing/Day_Care/Top_Deficiencies_in_Operations.asp

[35] http://usa.childcareaware.org/2018/05/mapping-gaps-infant-toddler-care-supply-demand/

[36] 645 of HS slots + 1,219 of state prek slots – total # of HS eligible (2,696)

Parent Work and Training Schedules

A significant percent of HS families are working, however the rate of working parents is below that of families that have children under six in which all parents work in most of the service area counties. According to the PIR data, 524 HS/EHS children had all parents in the workforce (48%).

Work and Training Schedules of Head Start Parents		
Work Status	**Number**	**Enrollment**
Total Number of Families = 1,084		
Work Activities		
Of 387 *two-parent* families:		
Both parents are employed	81	21%
One parent is employed	276	71%
Both parents are not working	30	8%
Job Training and School Participation		
Both parents are in job training/school	13	3%
One parent is in job training/school	100	26%
Neither parent is in job training/school	274	71%
Work Activities		
Of 697 *single-parent* families:		
The parent / guardian is employed	443	64%
The parent or guardian is not working	254	36%
Job Training and School Participation		
The parent / guardian is in job training or school	151	22%
The parent or guardian is not in job training or school	546	78%

Table 97 - Work and Training Schedules of Head Start Parents

Home Visiting Programs

Texas Home Visiting operates across the state in communities identified through the state needs assessment. Currently, there are 13 home visiting programs operating in Texas, which span across 68 of Texas' 254 counties. Families in Montgomery, are served through the Texas Home Visiting Program and HOPES. The MET HOPE program provides 96 slots and HS/EHS home-base serves 84 children.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Vehicle Ownership

The ability to travel offers the means to reach essential opportunities such as jobs, education, shops and friends, which impact the quality of life. Providing transport facilities or reducing financial (and other) barriers to travel can offer ways to address poverty, through for example widening the range of opportunities for employment and education that can be reached. When compared to the State of Texas and the nation residents of the service area are less likely to have a motor vehicle in most counties (Austin, Chambers, Hardin, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller). This is likely due to the rural nature of the service area. As a result, families are more isolated than in other areas. There are transportation options in the service area but these resources are not offered in the areas near the MET HS/EHS centers, thus they are not an option for HS families.

| Vehicle Ownership			
County	Total Occupied Households	Households with No Motor Vehicle	Percentage of Households with No Motor Vehicle
Service Area	1,809,767	108,779	6.0%
Austin	11,222	445	3.9%
Chambers	12,967	343	2.7%
Hardin	20,408	601	2.9%
Harris	1,536,259	98,353	6.4%
Liberty	25,611	1,420	5.5%
Montgomery	179,587	6,460	3.6%
San Jacinto	9,631	495	5.1%
Waller	14,082	662	4.7%
Texas	9,289,554	523,186	5.6%
United States	117,716,237	10,562,847	8.9%

Table 98 - Vehicle Ownership
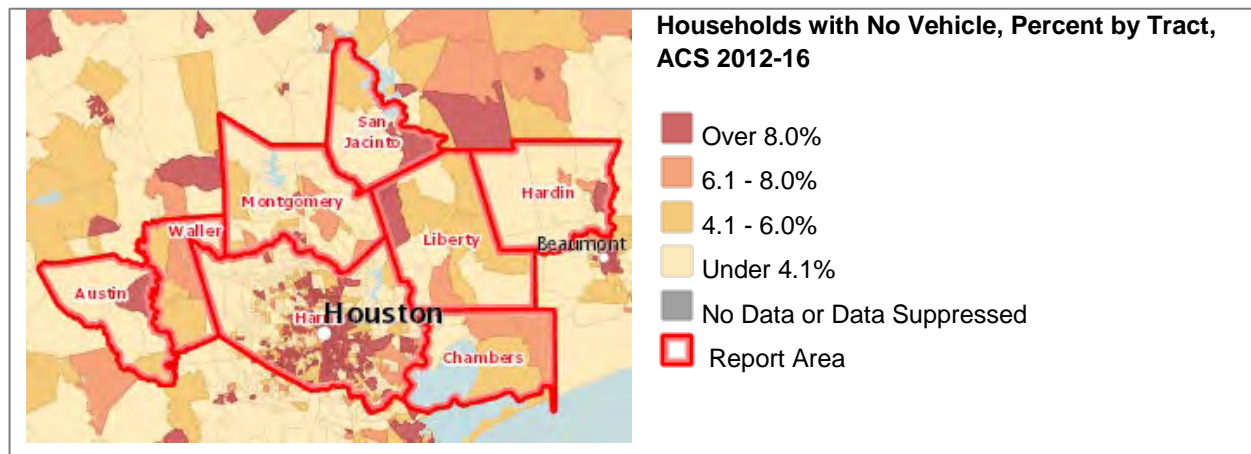
Figure 49.Households with No Vehicle By Tract

Roads and Infrastructure and Public Transportation[37]

According to the U.S. Census 2.5% of residents in the service area report they used public transportation as their primary means of commute to work. Chambers county does not have a public transportation provider.

- Austin and Waller counties public transportation are provided by Colorado Valley Transit[38].
- Hardin County public transportation is provided by South East Texas Transit
- Harris County public transportation is provided by Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (MTAHC)
- Liberty, Montgomery, and San Jacinto counties public transportation is provided by Brazos Transit District

The transportation systems in the areas are not adequate nor are the roads in the service area. Unlike urban areas, rural areas have less congestion so roads are often neglected in favor of more congested areas. However, from a safety perspective, rural highways are a major problem due to single lane passing and lack of protective barriers. In regard to transportation access, most families own a vehicle but for those using public transportation, barriers experienced include lack of services during the evenings and on weekends, requirements for advance notice of trips, and the limitations of county provided services that do not connect to other transfer areas that enable residents to travel to multiple counties. The ability to leave the county is often required to access medical, health, or other recreational opportunities.

Proportion of the population with telephones, cell phones, televisions, computers

Data for the State of Texas indicates that 90% of homes have at least one type of computer and 80.9% of households use a cell phone. In regard to internet access, 80% of Texas households have access to broadband internet. As household income increases, the likelihood that a household will have access to internet increases.[39].
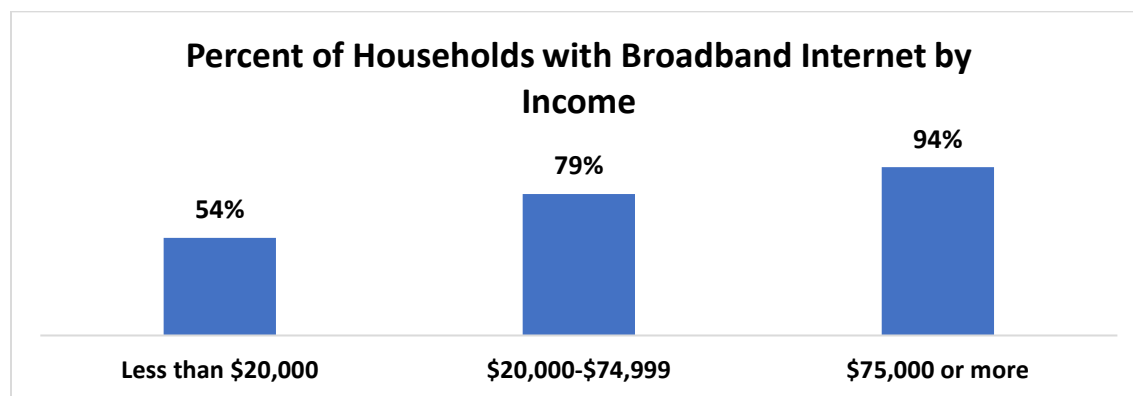
Figure 50. Broadband Internet by Income

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[37] http://www.apta.com/resources/links/unitedstates/Pages/TexasTransitLinks.aspx#a13

[38] https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/public-transportation/find-ride.html

[39] U.S. Census. Types of Computers and Internet Subscriptions. Table S2801

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Head Start Program Performance Standard

1302.11 (b)(v)(vi): Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and strengths of the community.

No updates to the community resources

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1: Despite some parents having obtained employment, many are preoccupied on a daily basis managing their limited resources and providing for their basic needs. Often, parents are not accessing the benefits and programs available that could help them improve their economic security and enter into career pathways that pay a self-sufficient wage. The program also has a significant number of families headed by single-mothers that earn far less than their married counterparts. Gender differences in income are also prevalent throughout the service area. Combined with an overrepresentation of mothers of color among the single-parent population, gender and race intersect placing many children in deeper levels of poverty from which they will never transcend without early intervention programs.

Recommendation: Encourage broader workforce participation among Head Start families with less than two family members that are working. This could include sharing poverty statistics by the number of workers in the family and by educational attainment levels. Information could be disseminated by family workers or during parent meetings. Other program strategies might be encouraging the use of job centers, helping parents to obtain financial assistance with career training fees, involving Head Start parents with local business development organizations, and setting career development goals through the Family Partnership Agreement. Families are also using fewer support benefits and services such as SNAP, TANF, and adult education. Because the state has cut back on safety net programs over the years, it would be beneficial to focus additional resources on assisting families in maintaining eligibility for supplemental programs when needed. To increase information about services, the program could circulate key information through the parent newsletter, inform parents about community events, and train family workers to effectively connect families with benefits and programs that provide financial relief using evidence-based models and key agency partnerships.

Finding 2: Food Insecurity and Healthy Food Choices: Children in all parts of the service area live without access to enough food and nutritious food. In total, there is an estimated 300,000 children (26.2%) that are food insecure. In addition, program-wide, 48% of families relied on SNAP at some point during the program year. The increase in obesity and diet-related diseases are major public health problems. These problems may be worse because access to affordable and nutritious foods is difficult. Some households have easier access to fast food restaurants and convenience stores but limited access to supermarkets. Limited access to nutritious food and relatively easier access to less nutritious food may be linked to poor diets, obesity and diet-related diseases. Easy access to all food, rather than lack of access to specific healthy foods, may be a more important influence in explaining increases in obesity.

Recommendation: Food insecurity and program data on the health of children and families must be used as a tool for nutrition education and possible development of program partnerships with agencies and/or programs that offer education and promote the development of projects like farmers' markets, community gardens, promotion of culturally specific foods for ethnic minorities, local food production and promotion. This is also an opportunity to find grant programs that fund such programs. This is an opportunity to partner with the local Cooperative Extension Program and others interested in focusing on this situation.

Finding 3: There is a gap in all types of early learning programs.

Recommendation: MET, Inc is uniquely positioned to address childcare needs, both due to the agency's experience operating a high – quality early childhood program and experience developing workforce programming that has made the agency familiar with the needs of families. To support childcare access, MET, Inc. can expand full-day/full-year programming

options in both Head Start and Early Head Start to meet the needs of families. Because of the increased number of infants and toddlers in the service area and due to the increased cost of care, a priority should be the expansion of Early Head Start programming. This option could include additional Early Head Start Childcare Partnerships or even a home-based program to meet the stated needs of families and to address transportation issues. The program can also work through community-level committees to support childcare initiatives that reduce the cost of care for example, public tax initiatives that offset the costs of paying for or providing high-quality childcare programs.

PROFILE OF HEAD START ENROLLED CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Recruitment Area

Service Area

Head Start Eligibles							
County	0-2 years	Poverty Rate <5 yrs.	Total EHS Eligible	3 and 4 years	Poverty Rate <5 yrs.	Total HS Eligibles	Total Eligible HS/EHS
Austin	891	36%	321	893	36%	321	642
Chambers	1,541	11%	169	1,008	11%	111	280
Hardin	1,953	13%	254	1,656	13%	215	469
Harris	201,776	28%	56,497	145,641	28%	40,779	97,276
Liberty	2,913	25%	728	2,437	25%	609	1,337
Montgomery	21,207	16%	3,393	14,662	16%	2,346	5,739
San Jacinto	774	23%	178	701	23%	161	339
Waller	1,667	30%	500	1,485	30%	445	945
Total	232,722		62,040	168,483		44,987	107,027
U.S. Census American Fact Finder. 2012-2016 Population Under 18 Years by Age Table B09001 U.S. Census American Fact Finder.2012-2016 Selected Economic Characteristics Table DP03							

Service Area Number of Pregnant Mothers Eligible for EHS	
County	Pregnant Mothers, 2016
Austin	304
Chambers	508
Hardin	694
Harris	69,651
Liberty	1,068
Montgomery	7,929
San Jacinto	259
Waller	498
Total	80,911
U.S. Census American Fact Finder.2012-2016 Fertility Table S1301	

Austin County Recruitment Map

Population Below the Poverty Level, Children 0-4), Percent by Tract, ACS 2012-16

- Over 37.0%
- 27.1 - 37.0%
- 17.1 - 27.0%
- Under 17.1%
- No Population Age 0-4 Reported
- No Data or Data Suppressed
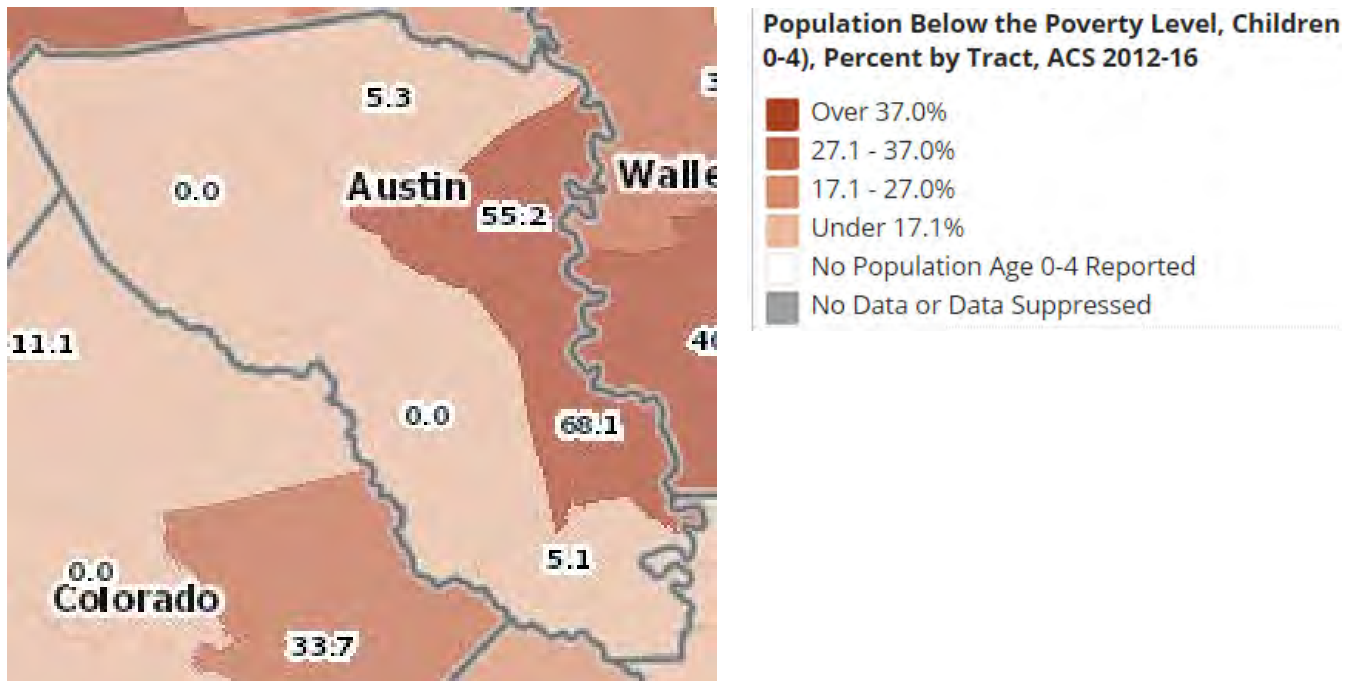
Figure 51 - Recruitment Maps

Chambers County Recruitment Map
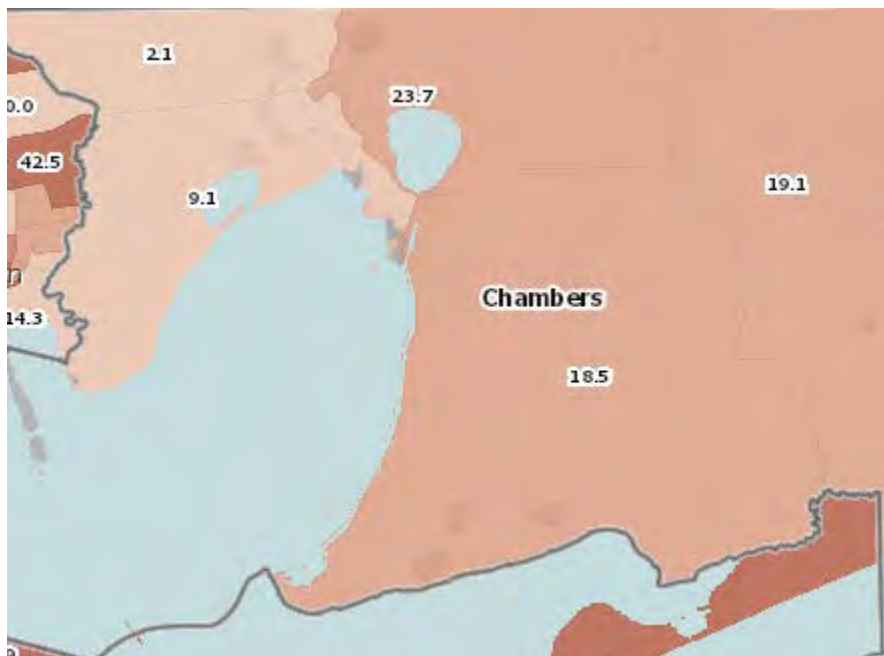
Hardin, Harris, and Waller County Recruitment Map

Hardin County

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Jeffe32.1

Population Below the Poverty Level, Children 0-4), Percent by Tract, ACS 2012-16

- Over 37.0%
- 27.1 - 37.0%
- 17.1 - 27.0%
- Under 17.1%
- No Population Age 0-4 Reported
- No Data or Data Suppressed

Waller County

Harris County

The Woodlands

Waller
29.5

Harr 27.6

Houston

Baytown

Pasadena

Sugar Land
Missouri City

F12:0

Ros Bend g

Pearland

38:2 n
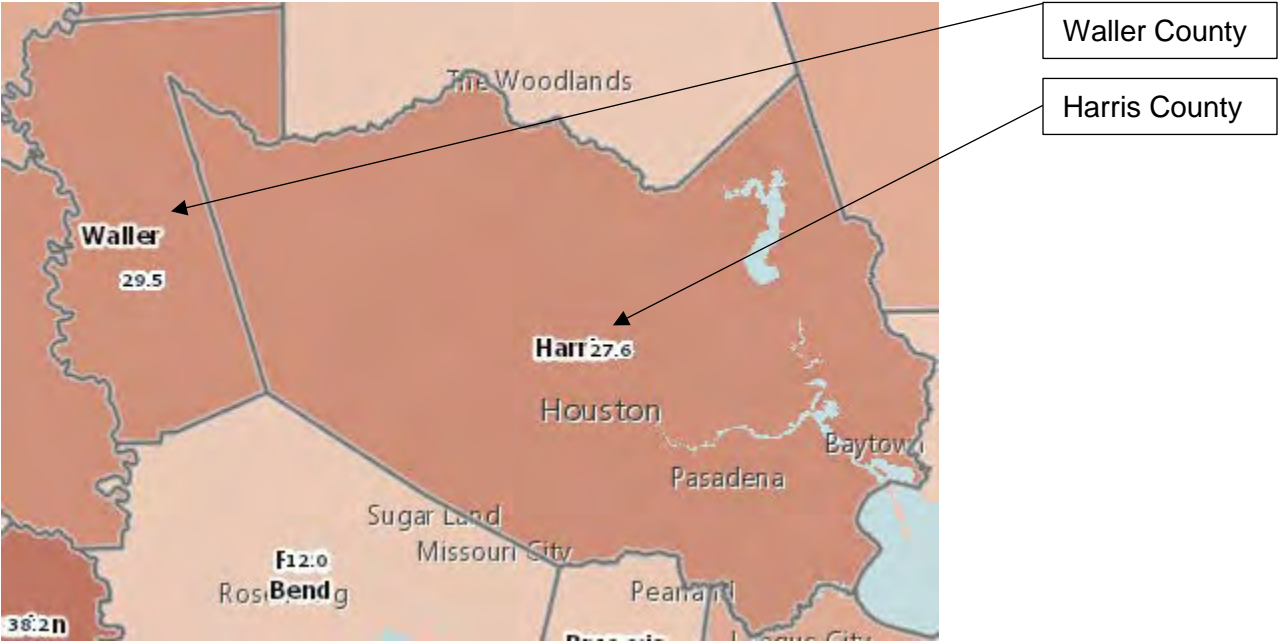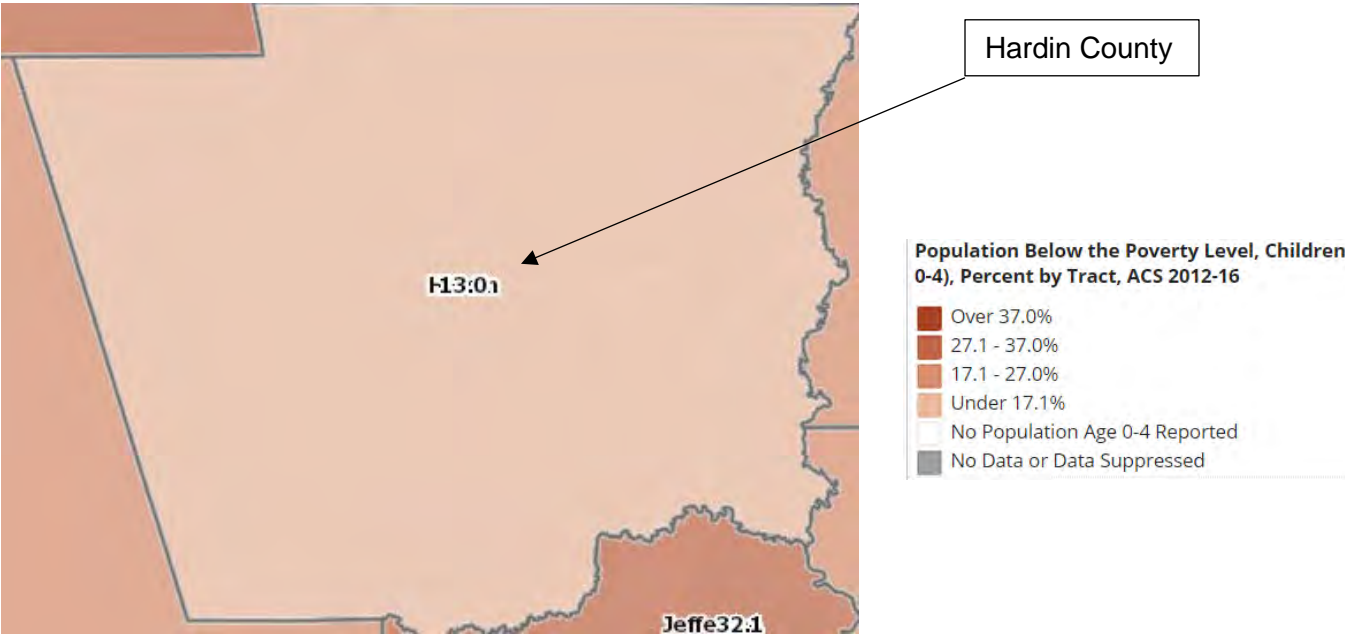
Liberty, San Jacinto, and Montgomery County Recruitment Map

Population Below the Poverty Level, Children 0-4), Percent by Tract, ACS 2012-16

- Over 37.0%
- 27.1 - 37.0%
- 17.1 - 27.0%
- Under 17.1%
- No Population Age 0-4 Reported
- No Data or Data Suppressed
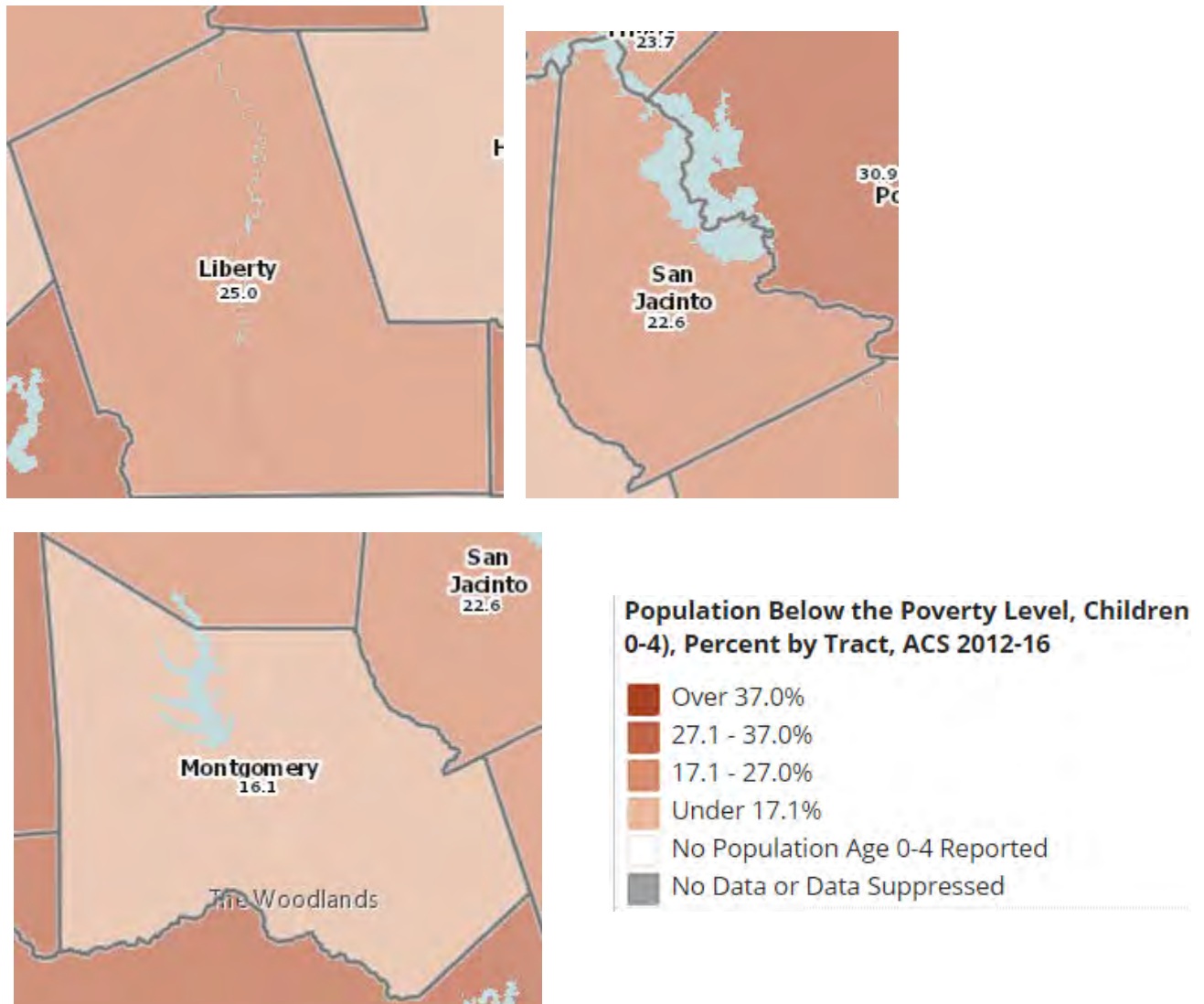
Number and Location of Enrolled Children

During the 2016-2017 program year, MET, Inc. was funded to serve 985 children but had a cumulative enrollment of 1,189 children. The enrollment was comprised of 340 children in EHS (28.6% of enrollment) and 849 children in Head Start (71.4% of enrollment). There were 104 children aged birth to three also provided care in the EHS-CCP programs.

HS/EHS Enrollment of Children by Age		
Age	# of Children	% of Enrollment
Under 1 year	149	10%
1 year old	189	12.9%
2 years old	278	18.9%
3 years old	508	34.6%
4 years old	341	23.2%

Table 99 - Head Start Enrollment by Age

The race of children in Head Start reflects that of Texas in regard to the percentage of children that are White but is less diverse in regard to the number of children that are Asian.
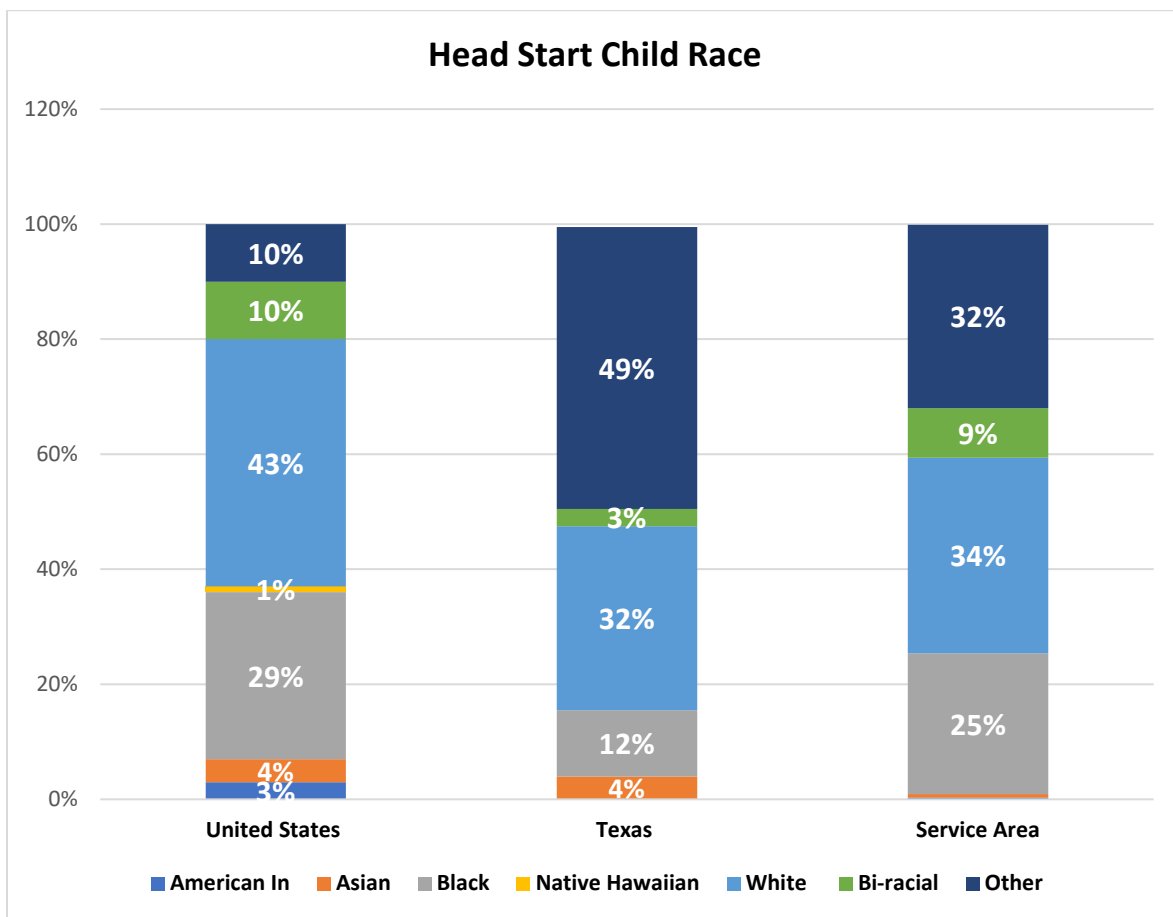
Figure 52 - Head Start Child Race

The program serves a smaller percentage of Hispanic children than other Head Start programs in Texas and more Hispanic children that in Head Start programs nationwide.

Head Start Hispanic/Latino Enrollment

	United States	Texas	Service Area
Not Hispanic	63%	29%	55%
Hispanic	37%	71%	45%

Legend: ■ Hispanic ■ Not Hispanic
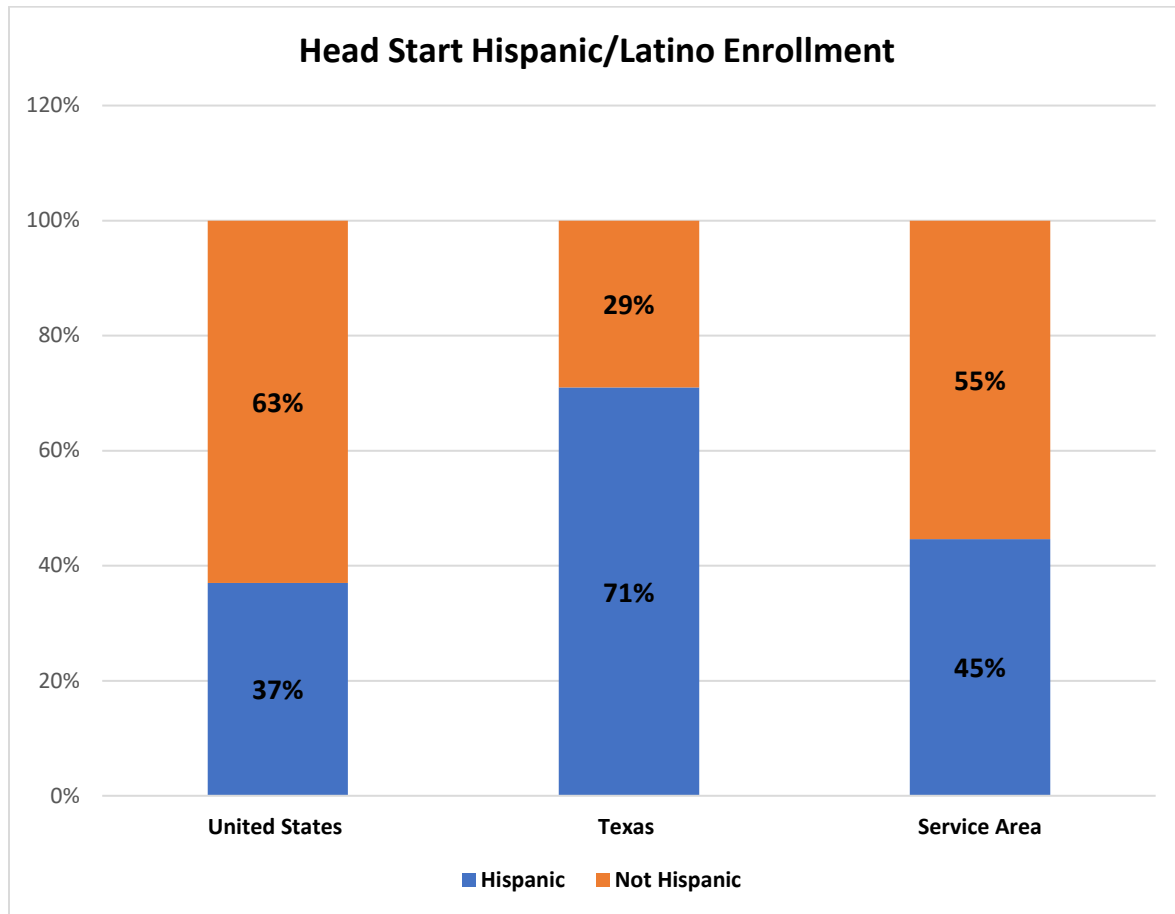
Figure 53 - Head Start Enrollment Ethnicity

2016-2017 Head Start Primary Language of Family At Home

	United States	Texas	Service Area
English	71%	66%	74%
Spanish	23%	31%	26%
Middle Eastern	1%	1%	0%
Native Central American or Mexican	1%	1%	0%
Other	4%	1%	0%

Other   Native Central American or Mexican   Middle Eastern   Spanish   English
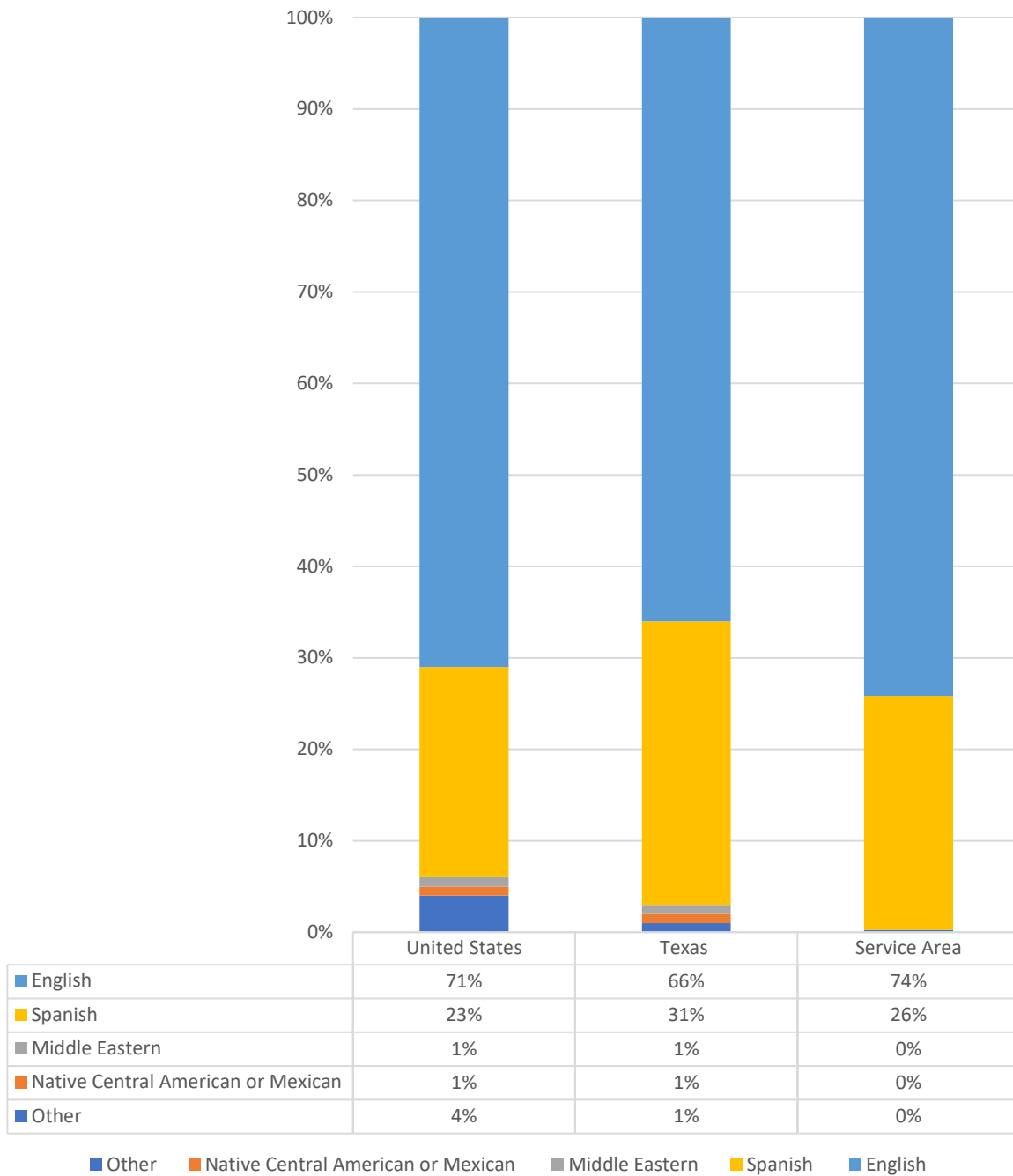
Figure 54 - Head Start Primary Language

2016-2017 Head Start Program Eligibility
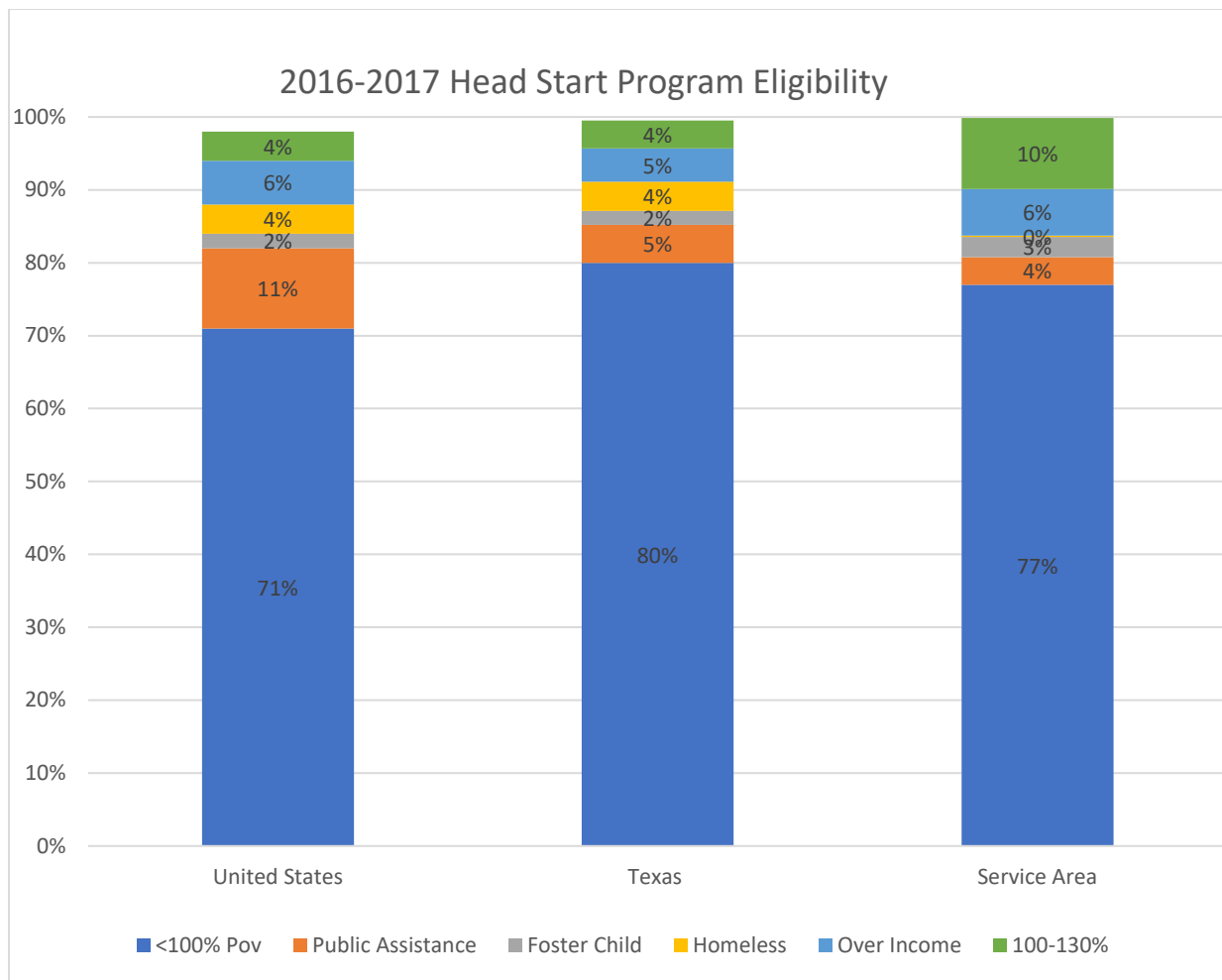
Figure 55 - Head Start Program Eligibility

Family and Fatherhood Involvement		
Total Families = 1,084	**Number**	**Percent**
Families received at least one family service	539	50%
Fathers who engaged in family assessment	159	15%
Fathers who engaged in family goal setting	185	17%
Child's HS experiences	265	24%
Program governance	27	2%
Parenting education	76	7%

Table 100 - Head Start Family Engagement and Fatherhood Involvement

Targeted Populations

The current program is underserving targeted populations. In EHS, the program served 73 children with disabilities which comprised 19% of EHS program enrollment. In HS, the program served 71 children with disabilities which comprised 10% of HS enrollment. In regard to children that were homeless, 2 children were served in HS (<1% of enrollment). Both of these percentages fall below that of the estimated number of homeless children and children with disabilities in the service area. The program also did not serve a large number of foster children. Program-wide, 33 children were served which comprised 12 children in EHS (4.6% of enrollment) and 21 children in HS (2.2% of enrollment).

Program Enrollment of Targeted Populations		
Targeted Population	**Number**	**% of Enrollment**
Foster Children	33	2.8%
Homeless Children	2	<1%
Children with Disabilities	144	12.1%

Table 101 - Enrollment of Targeted Populations

HEAD START STAFF

2016-2017 HEAD START STAFF RACE

Legend: American In | Asian | Black | Native HI | White | Biracial | Other

UNITED STATES
- Other: 12%
- Biracial: 10%
- White: 43%
- Native HI: 1%
- Black: 29%
- Asian: 2%
- American In: 3%

TEXAS
- Other: 59%
- Biracial: 1%
- White: 18%
- Native HI: 1%
- Black: 19%
- Asian: 1%
- American In: 2%

SERVICE AREA
- Other: 27%
- Biracial: 4%
- White: 54%
- Black: 15%
- Asian: 1%
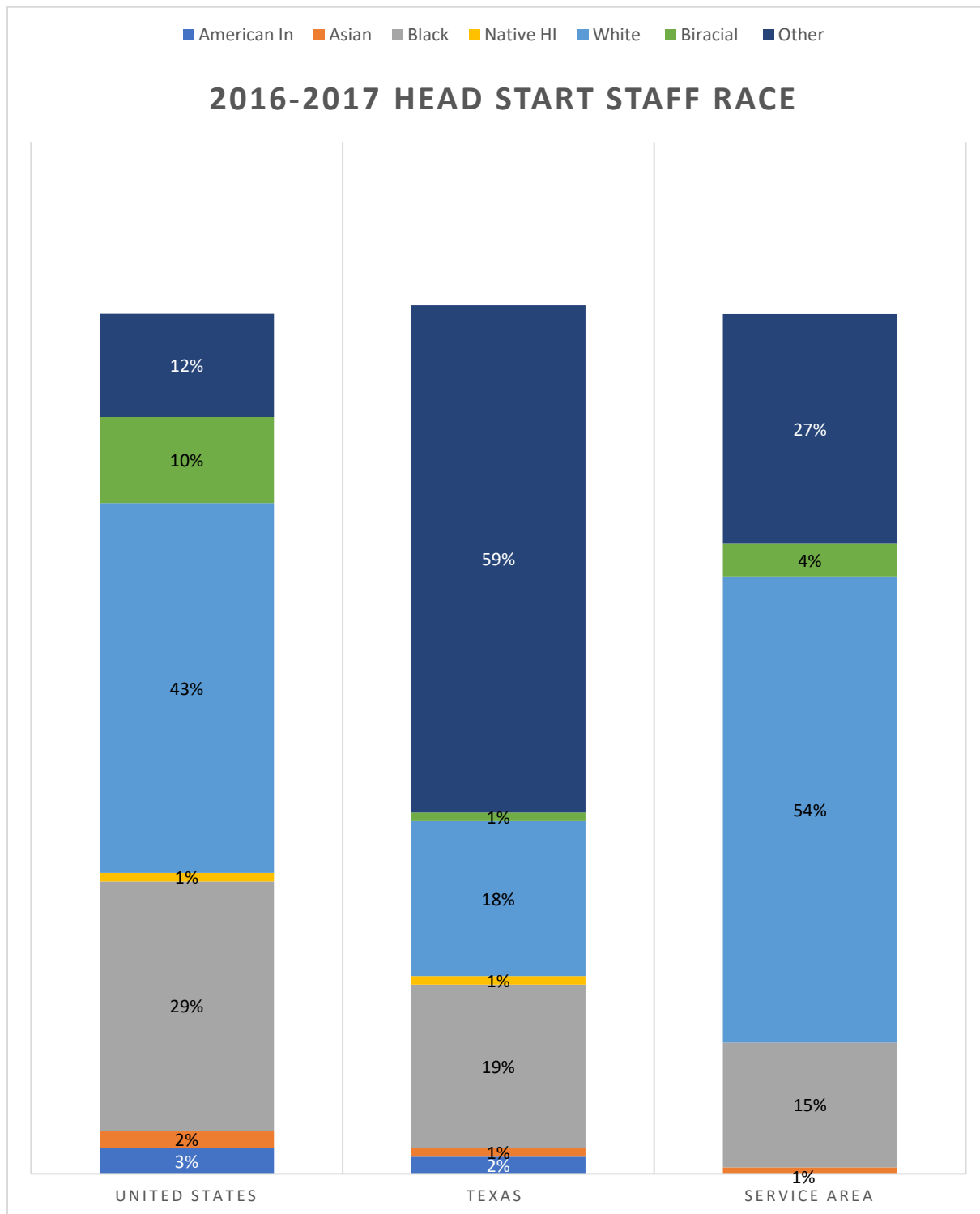
Figure 56 - Race of Head Start Staff

2016-2017 Head Start Child Development Staff Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic
Hispanic

United States: 74% Non-Hispanic, 26% Hispanic
Texas: 41% Non-Hispanic, 59% Hispanic
Service Area: 73% Non-Hispanic, 27% Hispanic
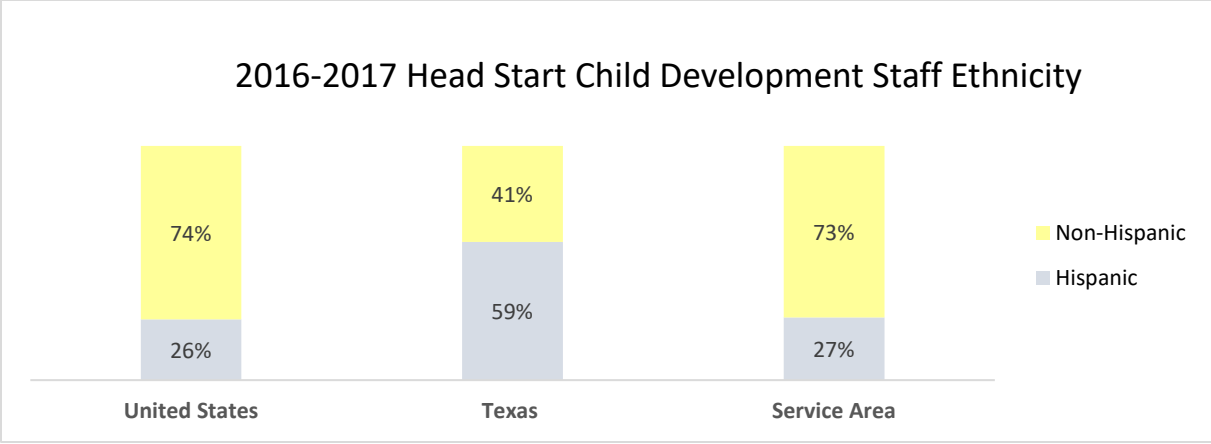
Figure 57 - Ethnicity of Head Start Staff

2016-2017 Head Start Child Development Staff Language

Other
Spanish
English

United States: 5% Other, 23% Spanish, 72% English
Texas: 5% Other, 42% Spanish, 53% English
Service Area: 1% Other, 26% Spanish, 73% English
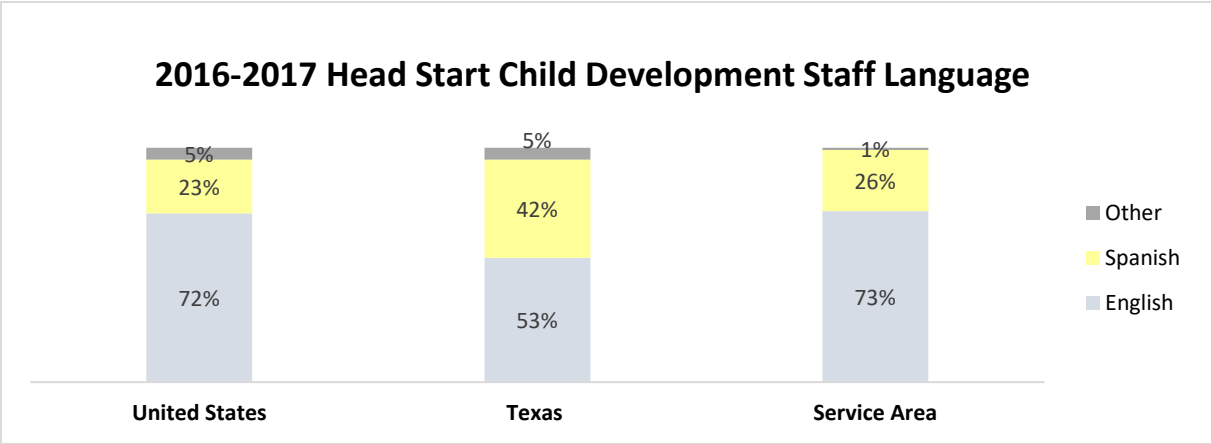
Figure 58 - Head Start Staff Language

Educational Attainment of Preschool Teachers

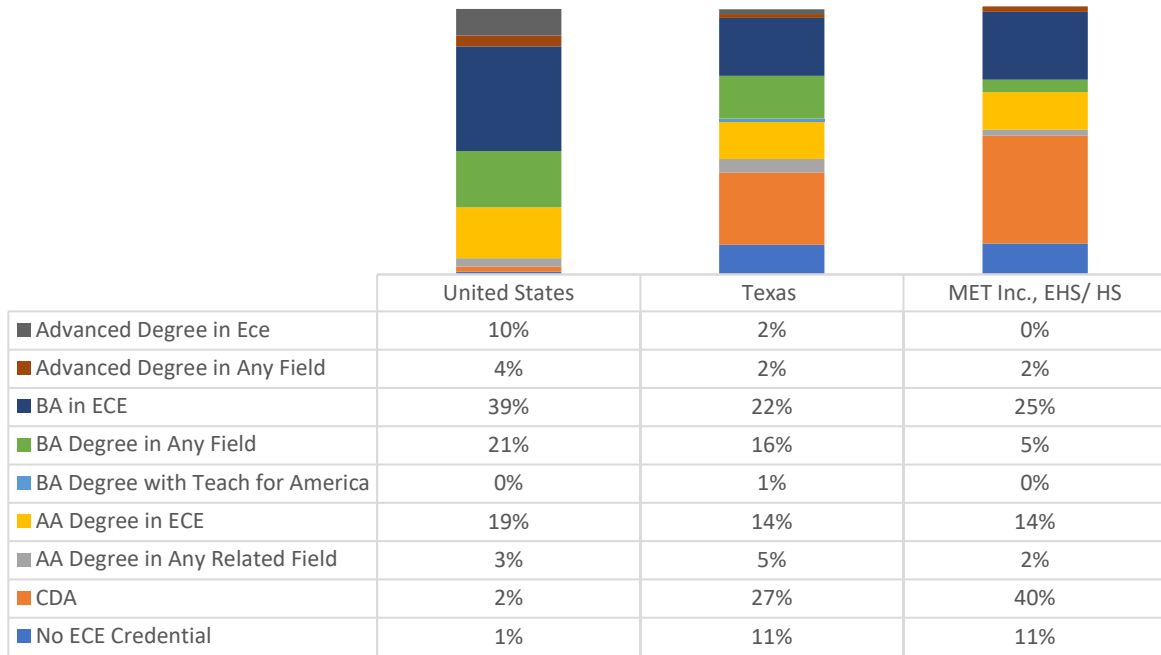|	United States	Texas	MET Inc., EHS/ HS
Advanced Degree in Ece	10%	2%	0%
Advanced Degree in Any Field	4%	2%	2%
BA in ECE	39%	22%	25%
BA Degree in Any Field	21%	16%	5%
BA Degree with Teach for America	0%	1%	0%
AA Degree in ECE	19%	14%	14%
AA Degree in Any Related Field	3%	5%	2%
CDA	2%	27%	40%
No ECE Credential	1%	11%	11%

Figure 59 - Educational Attainment of Preschool Teachers