



Community Health Needs Assessment 2024

Adopted by the Hospital's Advisory Board in April 2024.

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Executive Summary

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this community health needs assessment (CHNA) is to identify and prioritize significant health needs of the community served by St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital. The priorities identified in this report help to guide the hospital's community health improvement programs and community benefit activities, as well as its collaborative efforts with other organizations that share a mission to improve health. This CHNA report meets requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that not-for-profit hospitals conduct a community health needs assessment at least once every three years.

CommonSpirit Health Commitment and Mission Statement

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

CHNA Consultant

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

Community Definition

St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital is located at 100 Medical Drive, Lake Jackson, Texas, 77566. The population of the St. Luke's Health Brazosport service area is 198,159. Children and youth, ages 0-17, make up 24.4% of the population, 63.5% are adults, ages 18-64, and 12.1% of the population are seniors, ages 65 and over. The largest portion of the population in the service area identifies as White or Caucasian residents (46.7%). 33.4% of the population are Hispanic or Latino residents, 14.6% of the population are Black or African American residents, and 3.2% of the population are Asian residents. 1.7% of individuals identify as multiracial (two-or-more races). In the service area, 73.8% of the population, 5 years and older, speak only English in the home, 22.3% speak Spanish, 2.2% speak an Asian or Pacific Islander language, 0.9% speak some other language, and 0.8% speak an Indo-European language in the home.

Among the residents in the service area, 14% are at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and 25.2% are at 200% of FPL or below. Educational attainment is a key driver of health. In the hospital service area, 13.7% of adults, 25 and older, lack a high school diploma, which is higher than the county rate (11.2%) and lower than the

state rate (15.1%). 23.5% of area adults have a bachelor's degree or higher college degree.

83.6% of the population in the service area has health insurance and 89.3% of children, ages 0-18, have health insurance coverage. South Brazoria is designated a primary care Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA). The Alvin Service Area is a designated Medically Underserved Area (MUA).

Assessment Process and Methods

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

Brazosport Hospital conducted interviews with community stakeholders to obtain input on health needs, barriers to care and resources available to address the identified health needs. Seven (7) interviews were completed in September and October 2023. Community stakeholders identified by the hospital were contacted and asked to participate in the needs assessment interviews. Interviewees included individuals who are leaders and representatives of medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations, or local health or other departments or agencies that have “current data or other information relevant to the health needs of the community served by the hospital facility.”

Process and Criteria to Identify and Prioritize Significant Health Needs

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

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

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

List of Prioritized Significant Health Needs

Mental health, access to health care, and social determinants of health (food insecurity, housing and homelessness, and transportation) were ranked as the top three priority needs in the service area.

Mental health – 15.5% of adults in the service area reported poor mental health. Community stakeholders identified mental health issues as significant in the community. There is a huge need for mental health services and too few mental health care providers to meet the need.

Access to health care – Access to a medical home and a primary care provider improves continuity of care and decreases unnecessary emergency room visits. 26.6% of adults in the region do not have a usual primary care provider. Persons who are underinsured find it difficult to access care. Given that Brazosport is a small community, some health care services are only available in Houston.

Social determinants of health – According to Healthy People 2030, social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. Community stakeholders identified food insecurity, lack of transportation, and insufficient affordable housing as conditions impacting the community.

Resources Potentially Available to Address Needs

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

Report Adoption, Availability and Comments

This CHNA report was adopted by the St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital community board by eVote in April 2024. The report is widely available to the public on the hospital's website, and a paper copy is available for inspection upon request at 100 Medical Drive, Lake Jackson, TX 77566. Written comments on this report can be submitted to the Mission Integration and Spiritual Care office at 100 Medical Drive, Lake Jackson, TX 77566 or by e-mail to Jerry.McDonald@commonspirit.org.

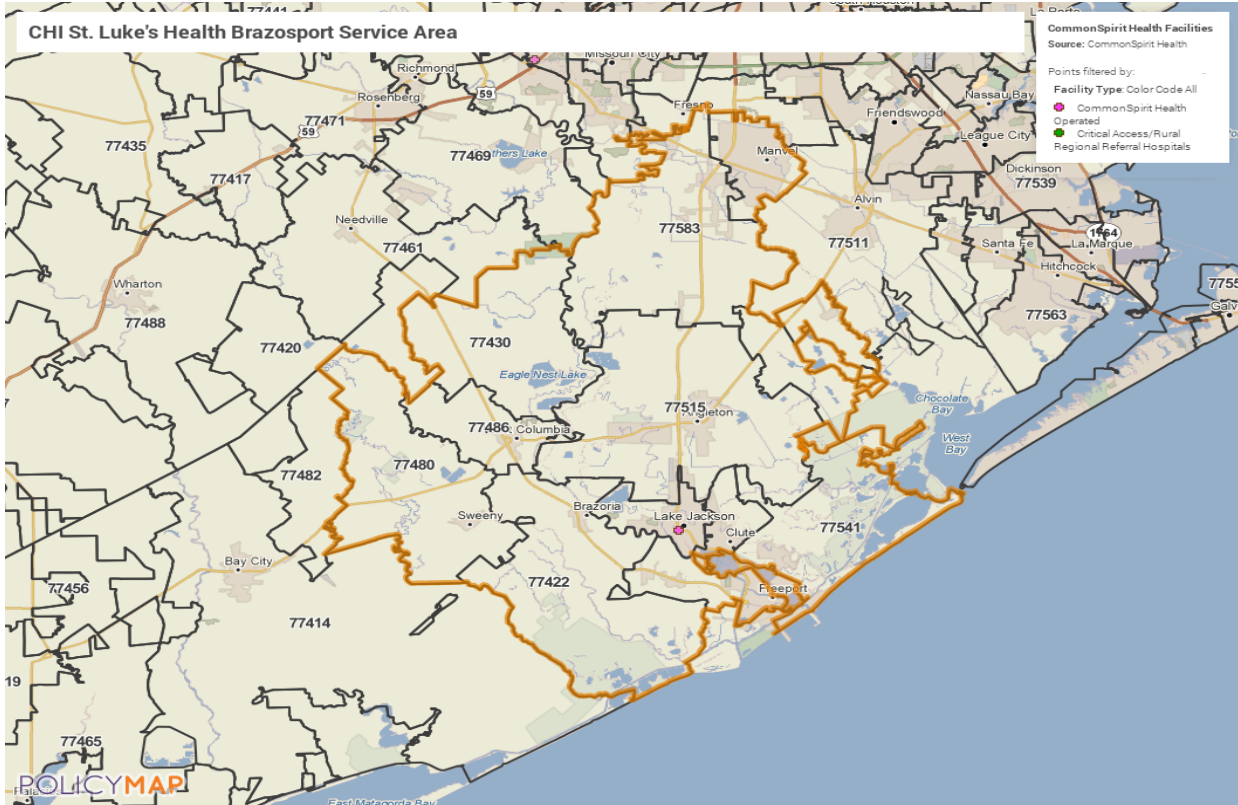
Community Definition

Service Area

St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital is located at 100 Medical Drive, Lake Jackson, Texas, 77566. The hospital tracks ZIP Codes of origin for all patient admissions and includes all who received care without regard to insurance coverage or eligibility for financial assistance. For the purposes of this report, the hospital defines its service area to include the following 12 ZIP Codes, located within Brazoria County.

St. Luke's Health Brazosport Service Area

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



Assessment Process and Methods

Secondary Data Collection

Secondary data were collected from a variety of local, county, and state sources to present community demographics, social determinants of health, health care access, birth characteristics, leading causes of death, chronic disease, health behaviors, mental health, substance use and preventive practices. Where available, these data are presented in the context of Brazoria County and Texas, framing the scope of an issue as it relates to the broader community. The report includes benchmark comparison data, comparing Brazosport Hospital community data findings with Healthy People 2030 objectives (Attachment 1). Texas is divided into 11 Public Health Regions, and this distinction is used in some of the data tables in this report. Brazoria County is part of Health Statistical Region (HSR) 6, along with the following counties: Austin, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

Primary Data Collection

Brazosport Hospital conducted interviews with community stakeholders to obtain input on health needs, barriers to care and resources available to address the identified health needs. Seven (7) interviews were completed in September and October 2023. Interview participants included stakeholders concerned with health and wellbeing in Brazoria County who spoke to issues and needs in the communities served by the hospital. Community stakeholders identified by the hospital were contacted and asked to participate in the needs assessment interviews. Interviewees included individuals who are leaders and representatives of medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations, or local health or other departments or agencies that have “current data or other information relevant to the health needs of the community served by the hospital facility.”

The identified stakeholders were invited by email to participate in the phone interview. Appointments for the interviews were made on dates and times convenient to the stakeholders. At the beginning of each interview, the purpose of the interview in the context of the assessment was explained, the stakeholders were assured their responses would remain confidential, and consent to proceed was given. Attachment 2 lists the stakeholder interview respondents, their titles, and organizational affiliations.

The interviews were structured to obtain greater depth and richness of information on health needs identified as priorities through a review of health data and needs conducted prior to the interviews. Interview participants were asked to describe some of the major health issues or needs impacting the community as well as the social

determinants of health contributing to poor health in the community (Attachment 3). Interview participants were also asked to rate the impact and importance of each health need on a brief survey prior to participating in the telephone interviews.

During the interviews, participants were asked to share their perspectives on the issues, challenges, and barriers relative to the identified health needs (i.e., What makes each health need a significant issue in the community? What are the challenges people face in addressing these needs?), along with identifying known resources to address these health needs, such as services, programs and/or community efforts. The significant health needs discussed in the interviews were:

- Access to care
- Chronic disease
- Economic insecurity
- Mental health
- Overweight and obesity
- Preventive practices (screenings, vaccines)
- Social determinants of health (food insecurity, housing and homelessness, transportation)
- Substance use

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

Public Comment

In compliance with IRS regulations 501(r) for charitable hospitals, a hospital CHNA and Implementation Strategy are to be made widely available to the public and public comment is to be solicited. Brazosport Hospital invited written comments on the most recent CHNA report and Implementation Strategy both in the documents and on the web site where they are widely available to the public at

www.stlukeshhealth.org/locations/brazosport-hospital/community-health-needs-assessm ent. No written comments have been received.

Project Oversight

The CHNA process was overseen by:

Fawn Preuss

Division Program Manager of Community Health and Benefit, Mission, St. Luke's Health
Jerry (Kevin) McDonald

Manager, Mission, St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital

Consultant

Biel Consulting, Inc. conducted the CHNA. Dr. Melissa Biel was joined by Sevanne Sarkis, JD, MHA, MEd, and Denise Flanagan, BA. Biel Consulting, Inc. is an independent consulting firm that works with hospitals, clinics and community-based nonprofit organizations. Biel Consulting, Inc. has over 25 years of experience conducting hospital CHNAs and working with hospitals on developing, implementing, and evaluating community benefit programs. www.bielconsulting.com

Community Demographics

Population

The population of the St. Luke’s Health – Brazosport (Brazosport) service area is 198,159. From 2016 to 2021, the population increased by 10.5%.

Total Population and Change in Population, 2016-2021

	Brazosport Service Area	Brazoria County	Texas
Total population	198,159	368,575	28,862,581
Change in population, 2016-2021	10.5%	8.9%	7.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016 & 2017-2021, DP05. <http://data.census.gov>

The hospital service area population is 47.6% female and 52.4% male.

Population, by Gender

	Brazosport Service Area	Brazoria County	Texas
Male	52.4%	50.7%	49.9%
Female	47.6%	49.3%	50.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP05. <http://data.census.gov>

Children and youth, ages 0-17, make up 24.4% of the population, 63.5% are adults, ages 18-64, and 12.1% of the population are senior adults, ages 65 and older. The service area population has a lower percentage of children and youth, and a higher percentage of adults, ages 45 to 64, than the county and state.

Population, by Age

	Brazosport Service Area		Brazoria County		Texas	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age 0-4	11,496	5.8%	24,546	6.7%	1,959,223	6.8%
Age 5-17	48,406	18.6%	97,191	19.7%	7,446,176	19.0%
Age 18-24	17,190	8.7%	30,807	8.4%	2,796,936	9.7%
Age 25-44	56,036	28.3%	105,424	28.6%	8,159,336	28.3%
Age 45-64	51,701	26.1%	91,501	24.8%	6,839,335	23.7%
Age 65+	24,826	12.5%	43,652	11.8%	3,620,798	12.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP05. <http://data.census.gov/>

When the service area is examined by ZIP Code, Danbury has the highest percentage of children and youth (38%) and Brazoria (21.5%) has the lowest percentage of children and youth in the service area. The percentage of the service area population, ages 65 and older, is 12.5%, which is higher than the county rate of 11.8%. West Columbia has the highest percentage of senior adults in the area (23.3%) and Rosharon (6.1%) has the lowest percentage of senior adults.

Population, by Youth, Ages 0-19, and Senior Adults, Ages 65 and Older

	ZIP Code	Total Population	Youth Ages 0 – 19	Senior Adults Ages 65 and Older
Angleton	77515	33,491	22.6%	14.7%
Brazoria	77422	14,042	21.5%	21.0%
Clute	77531	15,956	29.0%	10.1%
Damon	77430	1,780	28.3%	19.2%
Danbury	77534	3,125	38.0%	9.2%
Freeport	77541	17,989	30.4%	14.0%
Lake Jackson	77566	30,327	28.2%	13.2%
Liverpool	77577	1,303	24.3%	20.0%
Manvel	77578	23,444	29.2%	9.4%
Rosharon	77583	41,232	26.8%	6.1%
Sweeny	77480	8,243	33.7%	18.5%
West Columbia	77486	7,227	23.5%	23.3%
Brazosport Service Area		198,159	27.1%	12.5%
Brazoria County		368,575	28.8%	11.8%
Texas		28,862,581	28.6%	12.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP05. <http://data.census.gov/>

Race and Ethnicity

The largest portion of the population in the service area (46.7%) identifies as White or Caucasian residents. 33.4% of the population are Hispanic or Latino residents, 14.6% of the population are Black or African American residents, and 3.2% of the population are Asian residents. 1.7% of individuals identify as multiracial (two-or-more races), and those who are of a race or ethnicity not listed represent 0.2% of the population. 0.2% of the population identifies as American Indian or Alaskan Native residents, and those identifying as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander residents represent 0.03% of the service area population.

Race and Ethnicity

	Brazosport Service Area	Brazoria County	Texas
White	46.7%	44.7%	40.7%
Hispanic or Latino	33.4%	31.6%	39.8%
Black or African American	14.6%	14.7%	11.8%
Asian	3.2%	6.8%	5.0%
Multiracial	1.7%	1.8%	2.3%

Some other race	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
American Indian or AK Native	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Native HI or Pacific Islander	0.03%	0.02%	0.07%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP05. <http://data.census.gov/>

When race and ethnicity are examined by area, Clute (58.6%) and Freeport (49.2%) have the highest percentage of Hispanic or Latino residents. Rosharon (30.6%) and Manvel (22.6%) have the highest percentage of Black or African American residents. Manvel also has the highest percentage of Asian residents (10.6%). Damon (86.7%) and Danbury (77.3%) have the highest percentage of White residents.

Race and Ethnicity, by ZIP Code

	ZIP Code	White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	Asian
Angleton	77515	58.3%	28.5%	9.1%	2.2%
Brazoria	77422	68.3%	18.3%	9.8%	0.1%
Clute	77531	27.8%	58.6%	12.0%	0.3%
Damon	77430	86.7%	13.3%	0.1%	0.0%
Danbury	77534	77.3%	19.5%	0.0%	0.3%
Freeport	77541	37.7%	49.2%	9.9%	0.2%
Lake Jackson	77566	61.5%	29.3%	4.3%	2.5%
Liverpool	77577	65.3%	27.9%	4.6%	0.6%
Manvel	77578	39.2%	26.3%	22.6%	10.6%
Rosharon	77583	23.4%	38.6%	30.6%	5.1%
Sweeny	77480	67.2%	21.5%	6.8%	1.2%
West Columbia	77486	60.3%	26.1%	12.6%	0.0%
Brazosport Service Area		46.7%	33.4%	14.6%	3.2%
Brazoria County		44.7%	31.6%	14.7%	6.8%
Texas		40.7%	39.8%	11.8%	5.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey, DP05. <http://data.census.gov/>

Language

In the service area, 73.8% of the population, 5 years and older, speak only English in the home. Among the area population, 22.3% speak Spanish, 2.2% speak an Asian or Pacific Islander language, 0.8% speak an Indo-European language other than Spanish or English in the home, and 0.9% speak some other language.

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

	Brazosport Service Area	Brazoria County	Texas
Population, 5 years and older	186,663	344,029	26,903,358
English only	73.8%	73.0%	64.9%
Speaks Spanish	22.3%	19.9%	28.7%
Speaks Asian or Pacific Islander language	2.2%	4.4%	3.0%
Speaks other language	0.9%	0.8%	1.1%
Speaks non-Spanish Indo-European language	0.8%	2.0%	2.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP02. <http://data.census.gov/>

The highest percentage of Spanish speakers within the service area can be found in Clute (38.7%), Freeport (31.4%) and Rosharon (31.2%). Manvel (7.2%) has the highest percentage of Asian or Pacific-Islander language speakers. Manvel (1.7%) and Lake Jackson (1%) have the highest percentages of non-Spanish Indo-European languages spoken at home in the service area.

Language Spoken at Home, by ZIP Code

	ZIP Code	English	Spanish	Asian or Pacific Islander	Non-Spanish Indo European
Angleton	77515	78.3%	18.9%	2.3%	0.5%
Brazoria	77422	87.2%	11.9%	0.1%	0.7%
Clute	77531	60.6%	38.7%	0.2%	0.3%
Damon	77430	94.9%	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Danbury	77534	93.0%	6.3%	0.2%	0.6%
Freeport	77541	68.4%	31.4%	0.1%	0.2%
Lake Jackson	77566	78.2%	18.6%	1.3%	1.0%
Liverpool	77577	75.8%	23.5%	0.6%	0.0%
Manvel	77578	77.5%	13.6%	7.2%	1.7%
Rosharon	77583	61.1%	31.2%	3.4%	0.9%
Sweeny	77480	86.7%	11.6%	1.3%	0.4%
West Columbia	77486	80.6%	18.5%	0.0%	0.8%
Brazosport Service Area		73.8%	22.3%	2.2%	0.8%
Brazoria County		73.0%	19.9%	4.4%	2.0%
Texas		64.9%	28.7%	3.0%	2.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP02. <http://data.census.gov/>

Among area school districts, the percentage of students classified as Limited English Proficient and English Language Learners ranged from 3.1% in the Sweeny Independent School District, to 17.4% in the Alvin Independent School District and the Damon Independent School District.

English Language Learner Students, by School District

	Number	Percent
Alvin Independent School District	4,663	17.4%
Angleton Independent School District	956	14.0%
Brazosport Independent School District	1,368	12.0%
Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District	223	7.8%
Damon Independent School District	20	17.4%
Danbury Independent School District	36	4.8%
Sweeny Independent School District	57	3.1%
Texas	1,109,321	20.7%

Source: Texas Education Agency, Snapshot 2021 (2020-2021) https://rptsrv1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/snapshot/snapshot_srch.html

Veteran Status

In the service area, 7.2% of the civilian population, 18 years and older, are veterans. Rates of former military service range from 4.7% in Rosharon to 10.9% in Damon and 12.2% in Brazoria.

Veteran Status

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	8.3%
Brazoria	77422	12.2%
Clute	77531	5.0%
Damon	77430	10.9%
Danbury	77534	7.3%
Freeport	77541	6.6%
Lake Jackson	77566	7.0%
Liverpool	77577	9.9%
Manvel	77578	7.8%
Rosharon	77583	4.7%
Sweeny	77480	8.0%
West Columbia	77486	7.2%
Brazosport Service Area		7.2%
Brazoria County		6.4%
Texas		6.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP02. <http://data.census.gov>

Citizenship

In the service area, 11.6% of the population is foreign-born, which is lower than county (13.5%) and state (17%) rates. Of the foreign-born, 53.4% are not citizens. It is important to note that not being a U.S. citizen does not indicate an illegal resident status within the U.S.

Foreign-Born Residents and Citizenship

	Brazosport Service Area	Brazoria County	Texas
Foreign born	11.6%	13.5%	17.0%
Of the foreign born, not a U.S. citizen	53.4%	47.1%	60.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP02. <http://data.census.gov>

Social Determinants of Health

Social and Economic Factors Ranking

The County Health Rankings rank counties according to health factors data. Social and economic indicators are examined as a contributor to the health of a county’s residents. Texas has 254 counties, 244 of which are ranked from 1 to 244 according to social and economic factors. A ranking of 1 is the county with the best factors and a ranking of 244 is the county with the poorest factors. This ranking examines: high school graduation rates, unemployment, children in poverty, social support, and others. Brazoria County is ranked 38 among ranked counties in Texas, according to social and economic factors.

Social and Economic Factors Ranking

	County Ranking (out of 244)
Brazoria County	38

Source: County Health Rankings, 2023 <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in the service area, averaged over 5 years, was 5.9%. The highest rate of unemployment was found in West Columbia (13.1%), The lowest unemployment rates in the service area can be found in Manvel (2.8%).

Employment Status for the Population, Ages 16 and Older

	Civilian Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Angleton	14,920	600	4.0%
Brazoria	5,116	487	9.5%
Clute	8,603	635	7.4%
Damon	747	23	3.1%
Danbury	1,499	83	5.5%
Freeport	7,992	640	8.0%
Lake Jackson	15,700	850	5.4%
Liverpool	523	18	3.4%
Manvel	12,512	348	2.8%
Rosharon	18,325	1,172	6.4%
Sweeny	3,186	183	5.7%
West Columbia	3,399	446	13.1%
Brazosport Service Area	92,522	5,485	5.9%
Brazoria County	179,988	9,114	5.1%
Texas	14,390,216	771,586	5.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP03. <http://data.census.gov/>

Poverty

Poverty thresholds are used for calculating official poverty population statistics. They are updated each year by the Census Bureau. For 2021, the federal poverty level (FPL) for one person was \$13,788 and for a family of four it was \$27,479. Among the

residents in the service area, 14% are at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and 25.2% are at 200% of FPL or below. The highest poverty and low-income rates in the service area are found in Freeport, where 17.9% of the population lives in poverty and 49.3% qualify as low-income. Danbury has the lowest rates of poverty (1.8%) and residents living in low-income households (8.4%).

Poverty Level, <100% FPL and <200% FPL, by ZIP Code

	ZIP Code	<100% FPL	<200% FPL
Angleton	77515	11.5%	25.6%
Brazoria	77422	14.4%	30.8%
Clute	77531	8.4%	29.3%
Damon	77430	8.8%	11.1%
Danbury	77534	1.8%	8.4%
Freeport	77541	17.9%	49.3%
Lake Jackson	77566	7.4%	20.6%
Liverpool	77577	14.6%	25.9%
Manvel	77578	5.8%	17.0%
Rosharon	77583	6.3%	18.6%
Sweeny	77480	14.7%	31.1%
West Columbia	77486	5.7%	25.9%
Brazosport Service Area		9.5%	25.2%
Brazoria County		7.4%	21.3%
Texas		14.0%	32.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, S1701. <http://data.census.gov/>

Freeport has the highest rate of poverty among children in the service area (22.4%), followed by Liverpool (22.1%). Damon has the highest rate of poverty among senior adults (15.5%), followed by Liverpool (15.4%). In Sweeny, 62.6% of female heads-of-household (HoH), living with their own children, under the age of 18, live in poverty.

Poverty Levels of Children, under Age 18, Senior Adults, Ages 65+, and Female HoH

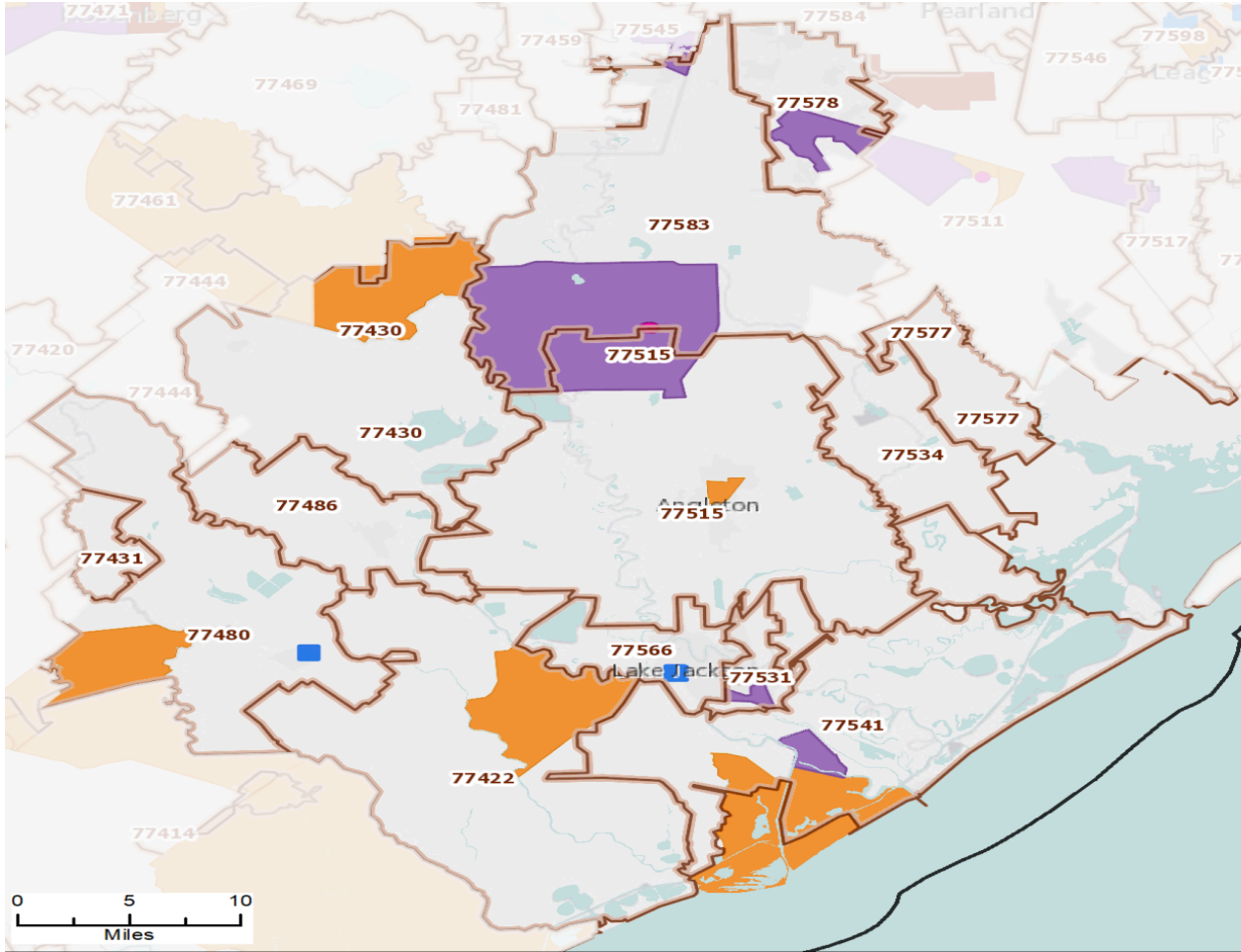
	ZIP Code	Children	Senior Adults	Female HoH with Children*
Angleton	77515	21.1%	7.6%	54.2%
Brazoria	77422	21.2%	9.1%	46.0%
Clute	77531	11.3%	9.8%	21.1%
Damon	77430	6.2%	15.5%	0.0%
Danbury	77534	1.1%	3.8%	7.9%
Freeport	77541	22.4%	4.6%	39.8%
Lake Jackson	77566	11.2%	2.6%	45.6%
Liverpool	77577	22.1%	15.4%	43.1%
Manvel	77578	5.1%	8.4%	19.2%
Rosharon	77583	6.3%	10.7%	20.9%
Sweeny	77480	19.3%	5.4%	62.6%
West Columbia	77486	8.6%	6.6%	22.2%
Brazosport Service Area		12.6%	7.1%	37.0%
Brazoria County		8.9%	6.5%	24.7%

	ZIP Code	Children	Senior Adults	Female HoH with Children*
Texas		19.6%	11.0%	35.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, S1701 & *S1702. <http://data.census.gov/>

Vulnerable Populations

When vulnerable populations in the area are mapped, pockets of poverty emerge. The map below shows the Brazosport service area, highlighting the percentage of each ZIP Code that has more than 20% poverty (in tan) and more than 25% of the population with low education, defined as less than a high school education (in lavender). Areas indicating vulnerable populations for poverty and education would be noted on the map in brown. There are none in the Brazosport service area. In the service area, parts of Freeport, Brazoria, and Angleton, as well as a region northeast of Damon and an area west of Sweeny, show high percentages of poverty. Parts of Clute, Freeport, Manvel, and east of Arcola show a population with low education levels, as does an area to the south of Rosharon and west of Bonney, which surrounds the pink dot representing an HPSA-designated facility, which is located at the prison.



All Hospitals, POS September 2020/Vulnerable Populations Footprint, ACS 2017-21
 Facilities Designated as HPSAs by Discipline, Primary Care Facilities, HRSA HPSA Database May 2021
 ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) Boundaries, TIGER 2021

https://engagementnetwork.org/map-room/?action=tool_map&tool=footprint

Economically Disadvantaged Students

The percentage of students determined by the Texas Education Agency to be ‘Economically Disadvantaged’ is an indicator of socioeconomic status. This classification is determined by eligibility for the national free and reduced-price meals program, or other public assistance. In the Damon Independent School District (ISD), 74.8% of students enrolled in the 2020-2021 school year were considered Economically Disadvantaged. In addition to Damon ISD, Angleton ISD (73.2%) and Brazosport ISD (69.7%) had rates of economic disadvantage higher than the state (60.3%). Five of the seven area school districts show an increase in the percentage of disadvantaged children from the 2019-2020 school year to the 2020-2021 school year.

Economically Disadvantaged Students

	Percent	
	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021
Alvin Independent School District	49.2%	52.9%
Angleton Independent School District	70.6%	73.2%
Brazosport Independent School District	57.7%	69.7%
Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District	58.2%	59.8%
Damon Independent School District	93.0%	74.8%
Danbury Independent School District	32.4%	30.4%
Sweeny Independent School District	52.9%	57.2%
Texas	60.3%	60.3%

Source: Texas Education Agency, Snapshot 2020 & 2021. https://rptsrv1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/snapshot/snapshot_srch.html

Community Input – Economic Insecurity

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

- Contributors are a lack of education, language barriers, an inability to find work, and single income families.
- With Covid rising again people don't want to go back to work. There is that mindset that they can't go back to work; they have a fear of catching it again.
- There is not a whole lot to help people. We have a lot of resources for those residents who experience economic hardship, but they get tapped out quickly. The food pantry cannot provide all the resources people need. So now people must go to Houston to the food bank, and they are having a shortage of food supplies as well. For those who already have economic issues and they don't have transportation and they need to get to a food bank, there is no way for them to get there. The food banks are struggling and not able to get the funds needed to cover the community's needs.
- People don't have the funds for doctor visits. Even well checks and medications. Or to get healthy foods.
- Getting proper food through the food pantry system is critical so the elderly can maintain their glucose levels. Due to food scarcity we've seen this year, it is very hard to get food in our pantries to support those who are depending on us. Our food bank does not have the purchasing power that it used to have, the way the grocery stores do. Droughts and fertilizer cost increases have contributed as well.
- We are a ranch town. We have one free clinic for the low-income, indigent and people experiencing homelessness. Ranchers don't tend to have good insurance. It is also a rural, non-urban county. The major city is Houston, which is in another county. We had small mom and pop stores that have disappeared because they were bought out or beaten out by major corporations.

- We have good employment opportunities. We are seeing more immigrant populations. They may have to rely on other people and resources for financial support.

Access to Food

Food insecurity is an economic and social indicator of the health of a community. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods or uncertain ability to acquire foods in socially acceptable ways. In Brazoria County, 10.7% of the population experienced food insecurity in 2021. Among children in Brazoria County, 14.1% lived in households that experienced food insecurity. Feeding America estimates that in 2021, 45% of those experiencing food insecurity in Brazoria County, and 50% of county children experiencing food insecurity, were income-eligible for nutritional programs such as SNAP.

Food Insecurity

	Brazoria County		Texas	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Total population experienced food insecurity during 2019	41,090	11.4%	4,092,850	14.1%
Total population experienced food insecurity during 2020	42,840	11.6%	3,720,710	13.0%
Total population experienced food insecurity during 2021	39,420	10.7%	4,057,910	13.7%
Children, under age 18, experienced food insecurity during 2019	15,070	15.8%	1,462,920	19.8%
Children, under age 18, experienced food insecurity during 2020	16,310	16.8%	1,395,890	18.9%
Children, under age 18, experienced food insecurity during 2021	13,690	14.1%	1,348,600	18.1%

Source: Feeding America, 2020 & 2021. <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2020/overall/texas/county/brazoria>

Households

Many factors impact and constrain household formation, including housing costs, income, employment, marriage and children, and other considerations. In the service area, there are 66,940 households and 77,875 housing units. Over the last five years, the population grew by 10.5% and the number of households increased by 11.9%.

Owner-occupied households increased by 17.4% and renter-households decreased by 2.1% from 2016 levels. Housing units grew by 12.9%, and vacant units increased by 19.9%, to 14% of overall housing stock (up from 13.2% in 2016). The mortgage corporation, Freddie Mac estimates the vacancy rate should be at least 13% in a well-functioning housing market.

http://www.freddiemac.com/research/insight/20181205_major_challenge_to_u.s._housing_supply.page

Households and Housing Units, and Percent Change

	2016		2021		Percent Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Housing units	68,968		77,875		12.9%
Vacant	9,121		10,935		19.9%
Households	59,847		66,940		11.9%
Owner occ.	42,689	71.3%	50,134	74.9%	17.4%
Renter occ.	17,158	28.7%	16,806	25.1%	-2.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016 & 2017-2021, DP04. <http://data.census.gov/>

The service area has 25.5% of family households with children under 18 years old and 5% of households that are households with a female as head of household with children under 18. In the service area, 7.9% of senior adults live alone.

Households, by Type

	Total Households	Family* Households with Children Under Age 18	Female Head of Household with own Children Under Age 18	Senior Adults, 65+, Living Alone
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Brazosport Service Area	66,940	25.5%	5.0%	7.9%
Brazoria County	124,284	28.9%	5.0%	7.4%
Texas	10,239,341	24.5%	6.3%	8.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP02. <http://data.census.gov/> *Includes married and unmarried couples.

The weighted average of the median household income in the area is \$83,091, and ranges from \$52,529 in Freeport to \$113,854 in Manvel.

Median Household Income

	ZIP Code	Households	Median Household Income
Angleton	77515	11,596	\$76,282
Brazoria	77422	4,955	\$66,227
Clute	77531	6,005	\$66,367
Damon	77430	665	\$86,750
Danbury	77534	902	\$103,261
Freeport	77541	6,523	\$52,529
Lake Jackson	77566	11,295	\$89,434
Liverpool	77577	480	\$59,375
Manvel	77578	8,103	\$113,854
Rosharon	77583	10,883	\$99,471
Sweeny	77480	2,851	\$70,477
West Columbia	77486	2,682	\$79,294
Brazosport Service Area		66,940	*\$83,091
Brazoria County		124,284	\$87,958

	ZIP Code	Households	Median Household Income
Texas		10,239,341	\$67,321

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP03. <http://data.census.gov/> *Weighted average of the medians.

According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, those who spend more than 30% of their income on housing are said to be “cost burdened.” 24.1% of owner and renter occupied households in the service area spend 30% or more of their income on housing. The cities with the highest percentage of households spending 30% or more of their income on housing are Freeport (30.2%), Manvel (29.7%), Liverpool (29.6%), and Clute (29.2%).

Households that Spend 30% or More of Income on Housing

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	22.0%
Brazoria	77422	22.9%
Clute	77531	29.2%
Damon	77430	8.0%
Danbury	77534	14.3%
Freeport	77541	30.2%
Lake Jackson	77566	21.9%
Liverpool	77577	29.6%
Manvel	77578	29.7%
Rosharon	77583	23.3%
Sweeny	77480	11.0%
West Columbia	77486	25.4%
Brazosport Service Area		24.1%
Brazoria County		25.3%
Texas		30.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP04. <http://data.census.gov/>

Homelessness

A point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness is conducted annually in every state in the nation, scheduled to occur on a single night in the third week of January, unless the weather does not permit. 215 of 254 Texas counties were counted as part of the Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC), when reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Development, including Brazoria County. Until 2019, Brazoria County was counted as part of the Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition. At that time, Brazoria County changed to report as the Homeless Coalition of Brazoria County.

On January 26, 2023, there were an estimated 121 unhoused individuals in the county, which represents a 75% increase in county homelessness since the 2020 count. Over the past four years, the homeless population has continued to rise in the Balance of State CoC, though the number and proportion of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered has risen. In the Balance of State CoC, the chronically homeless and

those who are veterans experiencing homelessness has increased in the past four years.

Homeless Point-in-Time Count, 2019, *2022 and 2023

	Brazoria County	Texas Balance of State CoC				Texas			
	2023	2019		2023		2019		*2022	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total persons experiencing homelessness	121	8,072	100%	9,065	100%	25,848	100%	24,432	100%
Sheltered	41.3%	3,416	42.3%	3,887	42.9%	14,626	56.6%	13,461	55.1%
Unsheltered	58.7%	4,656	57.7%	5,178	57.1%	11,222	43.4%	10,971	44.9%
Chronically homeless	20.7%	597	7.4%	1,680	18.5%	3,511	13.6%	5,360	21.9%
Veteran	28.9%	324	4.0%	584	6.4%	1,806	7.0%	1,711	7.0%

Source: 2023 data from Texas Homeless Network, including Homeless Coalition of Brazoria County data. <https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/data/pit-count-and-hic/>; 2019 & 2022 data from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/ahar/>

Transportation

Brazosport Service Area workers spend, on average, 31.3 minutes a day commuting to work. 83.4% of workers drove alone to work and 44.5% of solo drivers had a commute of 30 minutes or more (11.4% had a commute of more than an hour). Few workers commuted by walking or biking to work (0.7%) and only 0.04% commuted by public transportation.

Transportation/Commute to Work

	Brazosport Service Area	Brazoria County	Texas
Mean travel time to work (in minutes)	31.3	30.9	26.6
Workers who drive alone	83.4%	82.9%	77.0%
Workers who carpool	7.4%	7.9%	9.7%
Workers who work from home	7.5%	7.3%	9.1%
Workers who walk or bike to work	0.7%	0.7%	1.7%
Workers commuting by public transportation	0.04%	0.3%	1.1%
Solo drivers with a long (> 30 min.) commute*	44.5%	51.8%	38.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, S0801 & *S0802. <http://data.census.gov/>

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is a key driver of health. In the hospital service area, 13.7% of adults, 25 and older, lack a high school diploma. 23.5% of area adults have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Education Levels, Population 25 Years and Older

	Brazosport Service Area	Brazoria County	Texas
Population 25 years and older	132,563	240,577	18,619,469
Less than 9 th grade	5.3%	4.7%	7.6%
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	8.4%	6.5%	7.5%
High school graduate	29.4%	24.2%	24.5%
Some college, no degree	24.7%	24.4%	21.2%
Associate degree	8.7%	8.9%	7.5%
Bachelor's degree	15.3%	20.2%	20.4%
Graduate or professional degree	8.2%	11.1%	11.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP02. <http://data.census.gov/>

High School Graduation Rates

High school graduation rates are the percentage of high school students that graduate four years after starting 9th grade. The Healthy People 2030 objective for high school graduation is 90.7%. Of area school districts available for analysis, Brazosport Independent School District did not meet this objective for the 2018-2019 school year (89.7%), though it did meet it for the 2019-2020 school year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a 'State of Disaster' was declared statewide, and may have had an effect on graduation rates as part of the school year was suspended.

High School Graduation Rates

	2018-2019	2019-2020
Alvin Independent School District	96.9%	98.8%
Angleton Independent School District	96.3%	97.0%
Brazosport Independent School District	89.7%	91.3%
Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District	94.6%	97.0%
Damon Independent School District	N/A	N/A
Danbury Independent School District	96.8%	96.8%
Sweeny Independent School District	100.0%	100.0%
Texas *	90.0%	90.3%

Source: Texas Education Agency, Snapshot 2020 and 2021. https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/snapshot/snapshot_srch.html

*State rates do not include Districts whose graduation rates were either suppressed or otherwise unavailable.

Preschool Enrollment

47.6% of 3 and 4-year-olds were enrolled in preschool in the service area. The Texas Public Education Information Resource (TPEIR) website reports among children eligible

for public preschool, those who attended were more likely to graduate high school than those who did not (<https://www.texaseducationinfo.org/>).

Preschool Enrollment, Ages 3 and 4

	ZIP Code	Population, Ages 3 and 4	Percent Enrolled
Angleton	77515	557	42.9%
Brazoria	77422	154	43.5%
Clute	77531	462	47.8%
Damon	77430	0	N/A
Danbury	77534	61	60.7%
Freeport	77541	422	50.9%
Lake Jackson	77566	809	37.8%
Liverpool	77577	23	0.0%
Manvel	77578	349	74.2%
Rosharon	77583	979	51.6%
Sweeny	77480	119	33.6%
West Columbia	77486	66	24.2%
Brazosport Service Area		4,001	47.6%
Brazoria County		9,534	46.7%
Texas		817,356	41.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, S1401. <http://data.census.gov/>

Crime and Violence

Crime negatively impacts communities through economic loss, reduced productivity, and disruption of social services. Violent crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crimes include arson, burglary, larceny theft, and motor vehicle theft. Care should be taken when interpreting the crime data, as many of these cities have small populations, and rates can vary widely based on even a single case.

Violent crime rates increased from 2017 to 2020 in Brazoria County. Crime rates were lower in the county than in the state. The rates of violent crimes reported in 2020 were highest in Surfside Beach, Oyster Creek, Freeport, and Alvin. Property crime rates were highest in Surfside Beach, Alvin, Lake Jackson and Freeport.

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

	Violent Crimes		Property Crimes	
	2017	2020	2017	2020
Alvin	226.5	310.9	2,412.4	2,857.6
Angleton	275.6	205.1	1,791.1	1,553.8
Arcola	43.1	106.7	86.3	1,458.5
Brazoria	194.8	196.1	1,883.1	1,274.9
Clute	171.7	289.5	2,154.6	1,660.7
Damon	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Danbury	55.8	0.0	55.8	56.6

	Violent Crimes		Property Crimes	
	2017	2020	2017	2020
Freeport	304.0	395.2	1,980.2	1,844.5
Iowa Colony	N/A	135.6	N/A	1,112.3
Jones Creek	48.3	96.2	676.3	962.0
Lake Jackson	162.8	150.3	2,079.7	1,852.1
Liverpool	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Manvel	92.3	107.3	1,107.0	644.1
Missouri City	196.4	169.9	1,277.3	891.7
Oyster Creek	1,328.6	748.1	3,808.6	1,246.8
Richwood	176.5	148.3	983.6	642.9
Surfside Beach	173.9	1,015.2	3,652.1	4,737.7
Sweeny	397.6	215.2	2,438.3	1,776.1
West Columbia	457.1	130.7	1,168.1	496.9
Brazoria County	174.2	175.6	1,473.2	1,378.7
Texas	437.6	435.9	2,557.6	2,189.5

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigations, Nationwide Crime Counts and Rates, via PolicyMap. <https://commonspirit.policymap.com>
NOTE: Rates for several cities are based on very small overall populations, and so may vary widely based on even a single case.

Community Input – Social Determinants of Health

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

- Often there is an issue with transportation because there isn't a vehicle available in the home.
- We have a lack of affordable housing. There is no emergency shelter in Brazoria County. There hasn't been one for years. The Salvation Army has a shelter, but they have been doing remodeling for a while.
- We need transportation. That is the big, huge thing in our county, and we do not have taxis or Uber or Lyft or buses either.
- We are working on a portal that looks at the immediate needs of clients but also the root causes of their situation. So, with a click of a button, we can connect them with other resources like food resources, health care, etc. It provides referrals for them. Then the organization reaches out directly to the family, rather than relying on the family to reach out themselves. It is a warm hand-off.
- Our community could benefit from a shelter for our homeless population. The Salvation Army just recently opened but they are only able to house a certain number of people. Throughout our county, there is a need. There is no place to refer families who are being evicted. Our local agencies are good at working together but they can only do so much.
- We have families who don't own their own vehicles, so it makes it hard for them to pick up a sick kid from school.
- In this economic crisis we are going to see more and more individuals who do not

have funds to purchase food or medications so there will have to be a lot of tradeoffs, especially for those who are on fixed incomes. Costs have gone up and now those on fixed incomes are facing too many tradeoffs.

- We are seeing more and more people who do not have transportation due to the costs associated with the upkeep of a car, gas, insurance, etc. We are also seeing an increase in our homeless population. It has been an almost 50% increase. Many people are living in their cars because we have no shelters in our area. Some of the kids are going to school. We work with the school district, so they get what they need, but there are no funds available for housing and there is no affordable housing in the area.
- The resources we don't have in our community are housing and transportation.
- We have a single shelter for the homeless that is run by the Salvation Army. It is being redone. Some of the issues are political, some are mechanical, but it has been under construction for years and it is still not open. The only supports for the homeless are in Harris County. People who are experiencing homelessness are more visible in the community and maybe there is going to be more reaction. The shelter isn't supposed to open until next March, next year. And we aren't even sure about that.
- For food there are several food banks. Rent support is also an increasing problem. Our funding for housing has gone down and we need it to go up as we are in a hurricane zone.
- All social determinants of health have continued to worsen over the last few years. We have one public transport that can't meet the needs of the community. Schools and nonprofits provide food and services, but they can't keep up with the demand. Housing and rental assistance needs are increasing.

Health Care Access

Health Insurance Coverage

Health insurance coverage is considered a key component to ensure access to health care. The Healthy People 2030 objective is for 92.4% of the population to have health insurance coverage. 83.6% of the population in the service area has health insurance. Damon (92.5%) and Danbury (92.4%) have the highest health insurance rates, and Freeport (74.1%) and Clute (76.8%) have the lowest rates of health insurance. 89.3% of children, ages 0-18, have health insurance coverage in the service area. Danbury has the highest health insurance rate among children (99.6%), and Brazoria (79.9%) and Freeport (82.5%) have the lowest percentage of children with health insurance. Among adults, ages 19-64, 77.8% in the service area have health insurance. Damon has the highest adult insurance rate (88.8%) and Freeport (64%) has the lowest health insurance rate among adults, ages 19-64.

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

	ZIP Code	Total Population	Children, Ages 0-18	Adults, Ages 19-64
Angleton	77515	83.8%	91.1%	77.9%
Brazoria	77422	82.4%	79.9%	76.2%
Clute	77531	76.8%	84.4%	69.9%
Damon	77430	92.5%	94.2%	88.8%
Danbury	77534	92.4%	99.6%	86.4%
Freeport	77541	74.1%	82.5%	64.0%
Lake Jackson	77566	86.2%	92.6%	80.4%
Liverpool	77577	88.4%	94.9%	81.8%
Manvel	77578	89.9%	91.9%	87.8%
Rosharon	77583	84.9%	91.5%	80.3%
Sweeny	77480	84.6%	87.2%	77.4%
West Columbia	77486	79.1%	84.1%	67.9%
Brazosport Service Area		83.6%	89.3%	77.8%
Brazoria County		86.6%	90.8%	82.3%
Texas		82.4%	88.5%	76.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, DP03. <http://data.census.gov/>

Regular Source of Care

Access to a medical home and a primary care provider improves continuity of care and decreases unnecessary emergency room visits. In Public Health Region (PHR) 6, which includes Brazoria County along with 12 other area counties to the north and east, 26.6% do not have a primary care provider. Women in PHR 6 are less likely to have no primary care provider (21.9%) than men (31.2%), Hispanic residents are more likely not to have a usual care provider (48%) than are White residents (15.1%) or Black (15.8%) residents. The likelihood of having a usual provider rises with age, income, and

education level, and is more likely among the insured (14.2% of whom did not have a provider) than the uninsured (69.5%).

No Usual Primary Care Provider

	Percent
Public Health Region 6	26.6%
Texas	25.6%

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Dashboard, 2021. <http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system>

Unmet Medical Need

15.9% of adults in Texas reported an unmet medical need as a result of not being able to afford care. The rate of unmet need is higher in Public Health Region 6 (16.5%). The Healthy People 2030 objective is a maximum of 5.9% of the population to experience an unmet medical need. The rate of unmet medical need in PHR 6, due to cost, is highest among unmarried individuals (19.6%), women (20.1%), Black (20.1%) and Hispanic (22.6%) residents, the unemployed (23.2%), those with a disability (29.7%), and the uninsured (39.6%).

Unmet Medical Need Due to Cost, Adults

	Percent
Public Health Region 6	16.5%
Texas	15.9%

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Dashboard, 2021. <http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system>

Primary Care Physicians

The ratio of the population to primary care physicians in Brazoria County is 1,560:1, which is better than the state ratio of 1,641 persons per primary care physician.

Primary Care Physicians, Number and Ratio

	Brazoria County	Texas
Number of primary care physicians	244	17,890
Ratio of population to primary care physicians	1,560:1	1,641:1

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

Access to Primary Care Community Health Centers

Community Health Centers provide primary care (including medical, dental, and mental health services) for uninsured and medically underserved populations. Using ZCTA (ZIP Code Tabulation Area) data for the service area and information from the Uniform Data

System (UDS)¹ 26.7% of the population in the service area is low-income (200% of Federal Poverty Level) and 10.2% of the population are living in poverty. There are several Section 330-funded grantees (Federally Qualified Health Centers – FQHCs and FQHC Look-Alikes) located in the service area, including: Asian American Health Coalition (DBA Hope Clinic), Fort Bend Family Health Center, Inc., Houston Area Community Services, Inc., Legacy Community Health Services, Inc., Matagorda Episcopal Health Outreach Program, Saint Hope Foundation, and the Stephen F. Austin Community Health Center, Inc.

Even with Section 330 funded Community Health Centers serving the area, there are low-income residents who are not served by one of these clinic providers. The FQHCs have a total of 16,679 patients in the service area, which equates to 33.4% coverage among low-income patients and 8.4% coverage among the total population. From 2018-2020, the Community Health Center providers added 7,669 patients for an 85.1% increase in patients served by Community Health Centers in the service area. However, there remain 33,269 low-income residents, 66.6% of the population at or below 200% FPL, who are not served by an FQHC.

Low-Income Patients Served and Not Served by FQHCs

Low-Income Population	Patients served by Section 330 Grantees In Service Area	Penetration among Low-Income Patients	Penetration of Total Population	Low-Income Not Served	
				Number	Percent
49,948	16,679	33.4%	8.4%	33,269	66.6%

Source: UDS Mapper, 2022, 2016-2020 population numbers. <http://www.udsmapper.org>

Dental Care

Among Brazoria County adults, 42.8% did not access dental care in the prior year, meaning 57.2% did access dental care. The county and state meet the Healthy People 2030 objective of 45% of the population, ages 2 years and older, to have a dental visit within the prior 12 months.

Did Not Access Dental Care, Prior Year, Adults

	Percent
Brazoria County	42.8%
Texas*	45.8%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES Project 2022, 2020 data year. <https://chronicdata.cdc.gov/500-Cities-Places/PLACES-Local-Data-for-Better-Health-County-Data-20/swc5-untb>
*Weighted average of Texas county rates.

¹ The UDS is an annual reporting requirement for grantees of HRSA primary care programs:

- Community Health Center, Section 330 (e)
- Migrant Health Center, Section 330 (g)
- Health Care for the Homeless, Section 330 (h)
- Public Housing Primary Care, Section 330 (i)

The ratio of residents to dentists in Brazoria County is 1,718:1, which is fewer dentists per capita than the state rate of 1 per every 1,607 persons.

Dentists, Number and Ratio

	Brazoria County	Texas
Number of dentists	221	18,379
Ratio of population to dentists	1,718:1	1,607:1

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

Mental Health Providers

Mental health providers include psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, psychiatric nurse specialists, and marriage and family therapists who meet certain qualifications and certifications. In Brazoria County, the ratio of residents to mental health providers is 1,052:1, as compared to 691 persons per mental health provider in Texas.

Mental Health Providers, Number and Ratio

	Brazoria County	Texas
Number of mental health providers	361	42,749
Ratio of population to mental health providers	1,052:1	691:1

Source: County Health Rankings, 2022. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

Community Input – Access to Health Care

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

- Transportation is a huge issue. We have very limited transportation in Brazoria County. And access for services. Even when there are services available, people don't know about them.
- There is the cost factor in accessing services. It is not feasible to obtain care for some clients who don't have insurance or are underinsured.
- Being a small community, we are disadvantaged. We have a hospital but if you need a specialist, you must be transferred to Houston. This is a burden for our families.
- I think it is about people finding a place they can afford or getting assistance to get Medicaid.
- Access is better today than it was two years ago. We have a clinic next-door to our building for those who do not have insurance. They have a pharmacy too. Knowledge of services may be a barrier. They may not know what is here. But once they find out, they have access.
- Communication in the county is an issue. If you want to know what is going on, it is word of mouth. There is a news section in the newspaper that is four pages long and costs \$2 a day. That doesn't work well, and we have no broadcast station, no other

singular way to track information. If the hospital were to do a new project, it would take months or a year for the community to know what it is about. Misinformation can also be a big issue. I often find out about events after they have happened.

- If you cannot physically get somewhere because you do not have a car and must rely on someone else to get there, that is a problem. And we have financial issues and specialist issues. If you have one psychiatrist in the whole county, you don't get your needs addressed. The issue is multi-faceted. There is the physicality of getting to services, the lack of services, and the lack of providers.

Birth Characteristics

Births

In 2021, the number of births in Brazoria County was 4,672.

Total Births

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Brazoria County	4,630	4,734	4,759	4,495	4,672
Texas	382,050	378,624	377,599	368,190	373,594

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2017-2021, on CDC WONDER. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html>

From 2016 to 2020, births to mothers in the service area averaged 2,397 per year. The highest number of births was in Rosharon (432.4 live births per year), Angleton (400.2 births) and Lake Jackson (371 births).

Births, by ZIP Code, Five-Year Average

	ZIP Code	Average Annual Live Births
Angleton	77515	400.2
Brazoria	77422	136.2
Clute	77531	257.4
Damon	77430	16.2
Danbury	77534	36.4
Freeport	77541	234.0
Lake Jackson	77566	371.0
Liverpool	77577	16.2
Manvel	77578	313.4
Rosharon	77583	432.4
Sweeny	77480	91.8
West Columbia	77486	91.4
Brazosport Service Area		2,396.6
Brazoria County		4,680.4
Texas		380,251.2

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Health Data, Live Births Dashboard, 2016-2020. <https://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/births-and-deaths/live-births>

40.6% of births in Brazoria County were to White women, 37.6% were to Hispanic or Latina women, 13.3% were to Black or African American women, and 7.1% of births were to Asian women.

Births, by Mother's Race and Ethnicity, Five-Year Average

	White	Hispanic or Latina	Black or African American	Asian	Other
Brazoria County	40.6%	37.6%	13.3%	7.1%	1.4%
Texas	33.1%	47.5%	12.6%	5.3%	1.5%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data, 2017-2021, on CDC WONDER. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html>

Teen Birth Rate

Teen births occurred in Brazoria County at a rate of 46.6 per 1,000 live births (or 4.7% of total births). Birth rates for mothers, ages younger than 15, were suppressed for Brazoria County due to privacy concerns, and were also excluded for Texas.

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

	Brazoria County	Texas
Births to mothers ages 15 – 17	47.3	6,487.3
Births to mothers ages 18 – 19	170.0	17,399.0
Births to mothers ages 15 – 19	217.3	23,886.3
Rate per 1,000 live births, mothers ages 15 - 17	10.2	17.3
Rate per 1,000 live births, mothers ages 18 - 19	36.5	46.5
Rate per 1,000 live births, mothers ages 15 - 19	46.6	63.8

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Health Data, Live Births Dashboard, 2018-2020. <https://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/births-and-deaths/live-births>

The rate of births among females, ages 15 to 19, in Brazoria County is 16.5 births per 1,000 teen girls.

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

	Rate per 1,000 Females
Brazoria County	16.5
Texas	22.2

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

Prenatal Care

71.6% of pregnant women in Brazoria County entered prenatal care on-time – during the first trimester – where time-of-entry was known.

First Trimester Prenatal Care, Three-Year Average

	Percent of Births
Brazoria County	71.6%

Texas	69.8%
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Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2019-2021, on CDC WONDER. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-expanded-current.html>

Low Birth Weight

Low birth weight is a negative birth indicator. Babies born at a low birth weight are at higher risk for disease, disability, and possibly death. For this measurement, a lower rate is a better indicator.

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

	Percent of Births
Brazoria County	8.2%
Texas	8.4%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2019-2021, on CDC WONDER. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html>

Preterm Births

Preterm births – those occurring before 37 weeks of gestation – have higher rates of death and disability. 11.4% of births in Brazoria County were preterm births, which is higher than state rates.

Preterm Births, Babies Born Before 37 Weeks of Gestation

	Percent of Births
Brazoria County	11.4%
Texas	11.1%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2019-2021, on CDC WONDER. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html>

Maternal Smoking During Pregnancy

Among pregnant women in Brazoria County, 97.5% did not smoke during pregnancy. This rate meets the Healthy People 2030 objective of 95.7% of women to abstain from cigarette smoking during pregnancy.

No Smoking during Pregnancy

	Percent of Births
Brazoria County	97.5%
Texas	97.9%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2016-2018, on CDC WONDER. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html>

Infant Mortality

For the purposes of this report, the infant mortality rate is defined as deaths to infants under 1 year of age. The infant mortality rate in Brazoria County, from 2018 to 2020, was 5.72 deaths per 1,000 live births. This does not meet the Healthy People 2030 objective of 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Infant Mortality Rate, Three-Year Average

	Deaths per 1,000 Births
Brazoria County	5.72
Texas	5.42

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Linked Birth/Infant Death Records, 2018-2020, on CDC WONDER. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/lbd-current.html>

Breastfeeding Initiation

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

Infants Breastfed at Some Point Prior to Discharge

	Percent of Births
Brazoria County	90.0%
Texas	88.3%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2019-2021, on CDC WONDER. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-expanded-current.html>

Mortality/Leading Causes of Death

Life Expectancy at Birth

Life expectancy in Brazoria County is 79 years. 330 persons per 100,000 residents died before the age of 75, which is considered a premature death. The total of the years of potential life lost (the difference between the age of persons who died and the age of 75, totaled) for the county is 6,200 years. Residents of Brazoria County have a higher life-expectancy when compared to residents in the state.

Life Expectancy, Premature Mortality and Premature Death, Age-Adjusted

	Brazoria County	Texas
Life expectancy at birth in years	79.0	78.4
Premature age-adjusted mortality (number of deaths among residents under 75, per 100,000 persons)*	330	360
Premature death/Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) before age 75, per 100,000 population, age-adjusted	6,200	7,000

*Source: National Center for Health Statistics' National Statistics System (NVSS); *CDC Wonder mortality data; data accessed and calculations performed by County Health Rankings. 2018-2020. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>*

Mortality Rates

Age-adjusted death rates are an important factor to examine when comparing mortality data. The crude death rate is a ratio of the number of deaths to the entire population. Age-adjusted death rates eliminate the bias of age in the makeup of the populations.

The age-adjusted death rate in Brazoria County from 2018 to 2020 was 747.5 per 100,000 persons, while the crude rate was 683.2 deaths per 100,000 persons. The crude rate of death from 2019 to 2021 was higher at 772.3 deaths per 100,000 persons. This date range contained a second year of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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

	Deaths		Crude Rate		Age-Adjusted Rate	
	2018-2020	2019-2021	2018-2020	2019-2021	2018-2020	2019-2021
Brazoria County	2,562	2,920	683.2	772.3	747.5	N/A
Texas	218,637	240,451	753.4	820.8	771.6	840.9

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Mortality public-use data 2019-2021, on CDC WONDER. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/Deaths-by-Underlying-Cause.html>

Leading Causes of Death

The leading causes of death in Brazoria County are heart disease and cancer. The heart disease mortality rate in the county is 168.6 deaths per 100,000 persons. The Healthy People 2030 objective is specific to ischemic heart disease only at 71.1 deaths

per 100,000 persons. The county's rate is 94.6 deaths from ischemic heart disease per 100,000 persons, which does not meet the Healthy People objective.

The cancer death rate in Brazoria County is 148.6 deaths per 100,000 persons. This does not meet the Healthy People 2030 objective for cancer mortality of 122.7 deaths per 100,000 persons.

In addition to cancer and heart disease, COVID-19, unintentional injury, and Alzheimer's disease are in the top five causes of death in Brazoria County for 2019 to 2021. Deaths due to Alzheimer's disease (42.1 per 100,000 persons), suicide (14.5 per 100,000 persons), septicemia (13.3 per 100,000 persons), and pneumonia and flu (11.5 per 100,000) are the other rates of death in Brazoria County that exceeded state rates.

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

	Brazoria County		Texas	
	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate
All causes	2,920.3	772.3	240,450.7	820.8
Heart disease	637.7	168.6	49,001.3	167.3
Ischemic heart disease	357.7	94.6	27,099.0	92.5
All cancers	562.0	148.6	42,061.0	143.6
COVID-19	281.3	74.4	25,118.7	85.7
Unintentional injury	158.7	42.0	13,002.3	44.4
Alzheimer's disease	149.0	39.4	10,818.7	36.9
Stroke	137.0	36.2	11,472.7	39.2
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	112.3	29.7	10,408.3	35.5
Diabetes	72.0	19.0	7,671.7	26.2
Suicide	55.0	14.5	4,002.7	13.7
Septicemia	50.3	13.3	3,344.3	11.4
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	49.0	13.0	4,854.0	16.6
Kidney disease	46.7	12.3	4,359.3	14.9
Pneumonia and flu	43.3	11.5	3,212.3	11.0
Parkinson's disease	31.3	8.3	2,856.3	9.8
Essential hypertension/hypertensive renal disease	23.0	6.1	2,606.3	8.9

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Mortality public-use data 2019-2021, on CDC WONDER. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/Deaths-by-Underlying-Cause.html>

Cancer Mortality

The mortality rate for female breast cancer in Brazoria County was 18.7 deaths per 100,000 women. The rate for prostate cancer deaths was 16.7 per 100,000 men.

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

	Female Breast Cancer			Prostate Cancer		
	Number	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted	Number	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted
Brazoria County	171	19.2	18.7	110	12.1	16.7
Texas	14,934	21.0	19.8	9,571	13.6	17.6

Source: Texas State Department of Health, Texas State Cancer Registry, 2015-2019. <https://www.cancer-rates.info/tx/>

The rate of colorectal cancer deaths in Brazoria County was 15 deaths per 100,000 persons, and the rate of lung cancer mortality was 38.5 deaths per 100,000 persons.

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

	Colorectal Cancer			Lung Cancer		
	Number	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted	Number	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted
Brazoria County	262	14.5	15.0	645	35.7	38.5
Texas	19,194	13.6	13.8	44,696	31.6	32.4

Source: Texas State Department of Health, Texas State Cancer Registry, 2015-2019. <https://www.cancer-rates.info/tx/>

Homicide

The homicide rate in Brazoria County is 5.3 homicides per 100,000 persons, which is lower than the state rate (7.2 homicides per 100,000 persons).

Homicides, Crude Rates per 100,000 Persons

	Rate
Brazoria County	5.3
Texas	7.2

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Mortality public-use data 2019-2021, on CDC WONDER. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/Deaths-by-Underlying-Cause.html>

Drug Overdose Deaths

Rates of death by drug overdose, whether unintentional, suicide, homicide, or undetermined intent, have been rising. The state and county meet the Healthy People 2030 objective of 20.7 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 persons.

Drug Overdose Deaths, Rates per 100,000 Persons

	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Brazoria County	13.3	13.8	9.7	9.0	11.6	11.2	20.5
Texas	10.1	10.5	9.9	9.9	11.0	11.6	17.7

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Mortality public-use data 2009-2021, on CDC WONDER. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/Deaths-by-Underlying-Cause.html>

Opioid deaths include those from heroin, methadone, fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, and oxycodone and other natural or semi-synthetic opioids. The rate of opioid

drug overdoses in Brazoria County is 8.7 per 100,000 persons. This rate meets the Healthy People 2030 objective of 13.1 deaths from opioids per 100,000 persons.

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

	Number	Rate
Brazoria County	33.0	8.7
Texas	2,130.3	7.3

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Multiple Cause Death public-use data 2019-2021, on CDC WONDER.
<https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html>

Chronic Disease

Fair or Poor Health

When asked to self-report on health status in the past 30 days, 17% of adults in the service area indicated they were in fair or poor health. Of area cities, Freeport had the highest rate of self-reported fair or poor health (24.1%) among adults.

Fair or Poor Health, Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	17.6%
Brazoria	77422	18.7%
Clute	77531	18.6%
Damon	77430	16.7%
Danbury	77534	16.9%
Freeport	77541	24.1%
Lake Jackson	77566	13.9%
Liverpool	77577	18.2%
Manvel	77578	12.9%
Rosharon	77583	15.7%
Sweeny	77480	19.9%
West Columbia	77486	16.8%
Brazosport Service Area		*17.0%
Brazoria County		15.5%

*Source: The CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES small area estimates, 2020 data, via PolicyMap. <https://commonspirit.policymap.com> *Weighted average; calculated using 2017-2021 ACS adult population estimates.*

Diabetes

11.5% of adults in the service area had been diagnosed with diabetes by a health professional. Among area cities, Freeport had the highest rate of adults diagnosed with diabetes (14.7%) and Manvel had the lowest rate of adults diagnosed with diabetes (9.7%).

Diabetes, Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	11.9%
Brazoria	77422	12.6%
Clute	77531	11.3%
Damon	77430	12.0%
Danbury	77534	11.0%
Freeport	77541	14.7%
Lake Jackson	77566	10.2%

	ZIP Code	Percent
Liverpool	77577	12.2%
Manvel	77578	9.7%
Rosharon	77583	11.1%
Sweeny	77480	13.6%
West Columbia	77486	12.1%
Brazosport Service Area		*11.6%
Brazoria County		11.7%

Source: The CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES small area estimates, 2020 data, via PolicyMap. <https://commonspirit.policymap.com> *Weighted average; calculated using 2017-2021 ACS adult population estimates.

Heart Disease and Stroke

5.8% of service area adults had been told by a health professional they have heart disease. The lowest rates were seen in Manvel (4.6%) and Rosharon (4.7%), and the highest rates were 7.7% in Sweeny and 7.2% in Freeport. 2.8% of service area adults reported being told by a health professional they have had a stroke. Rates ranged from a low of 2.2% in Manvel to a high of 3.7% in Sweeny.

Heart Disease and Stroke Prevalence, Adults

	ZIP Code	Heart Disease	Stroke
Angleton	77515	6.2%	2.9%
Brazoria	77422	7.0%	3.3%
Clute	77531	5.5%	2.6%
Damon	77430	6.8%	3.0%
Danbury	77534	6.4%	2.9%
Freeport	77541	7.2%	3.5%
Lake Jackson	77566	5.8%	2.6%
Liverpool	77577	6.8%	3.1%
Manvel	77578	4.6%	2.2%
Rosharon	77583	4.7%	2.3%
Sweeny	77480	7.7%	3.7%
West Columbia	77486	7.0%	3.2%
Brazosport Service Area		*5.9%	*2.8%
Brazoria County		5.7%	2.7%

Source: The CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES small area estimates, 2020 data, via PolicyMap. <https://commonspirit.policymap.com> *Weighted average; calculated using 2017-2021 ACS adult population estimates.

High Blood Pressure and High Cholesterol

Comorbidity factors for diabetes and heart disease are high blood pressure (hypertension) and high blood cholesterol. In the service area, 34.1% of adults reported being diagnosed with high blood pressure and 32.8% had high cholesterol. The highest

rate of high blood pressure was reported in Sweeny (39.2%) and the highest rate of high cholesterol was reported in Damon (37.4%).

High Blood Pressure and High Cholesterol

	ZIP Code	Hypertension	High Cholesterol
Angleton	77515	34.9%	33.1%
Brazoria	77422	37.2%	34.4%
Clute	77531	31.4%	30.1%
Damon	77430	36.3%	37.4%
Danbury	77534	34.0%	33.3%
Freeport	77541	37.0%	34.2%
Lake Jackson	77566	32.8%	33.4%
Liverpool	77577	36.1%	34.5%
Manvel	77578	30.7%	31.1%
Rosharon	77583	32.6%	30.7%
Sweeny	77480	39.2%	36.8%
West Columbia	77486	37.0%	35.6%
Brazosport Service Area		*34.1%	*32.8%
Brazoria County		31.8%	31.5%

Source: The CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES small area estimates, 2019 data, via PolicyMap. <https://commonspirit.policymap.com> *Weighted average; calculated using 2017-2021 ACS adult population estimates.

Cancer

In Brazoria County, the age-adjusted cancer incidence rate was 425.0 per 100,000 persons. The incidence rates of prostate, lung and bronchus, colon and rectum, leukemia, and liver cancers were higher for Brazoria County than the state.

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

	Brazoria County	Texas
All sites	425.0	415.3
Prostate	117.8	102.7
Breast (female)	113.3	117.0
Lung and Bronchus	52.3	48.3
Colon and Rectum	39.5	38.0
Uterine cancer (female)	20.6	22.4
Leukemia	14.5	14.1
Liver and intrahepatic bile duct	13.8	12.1
Cervix	8.4	9.4

Source: Texas State Department of Health, Texas State Cancer Registry, 2015-2019. <https://www.cancer-rates.info/tx/>

Asthma

The reported rate of adult asthma in the service area was (8.7%). The cities with the highest self-reported rates of asthma were Freeport (9.5%), Sweeny (9.4%) and

Liverpool (9.3%). Rosharon had the lowest rate of adult asthma in the service area (8%).

Asthma Prevalence, Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	8.8%
Brazoria	77422	9.2%
Clute	77531	9.0%
Damon	77430	9.0%
Danbury	77534	9.1%
Freeport	77541	9.5%
Lake Jackson	77566	8.4%
Liverpool	77577	9.3%
Manvel	77578	8.3%
Rosharon	77583	8.0%
Sweeny	77480	9.4%
West Columbia	77486	9.0%
Brazosport Service Area		*8.7%
Brazoria County		8.5%

Source: The CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES small area estimates, 2020 data, via PolicyMap. <https://commonspirit.policymap.com> *Weighted average; calculated using 2017-2021 ACS adult population estimates.

The prevalence of asthma in children, ages 0 to 17, in Public Health Region (PHR) 6 was 4%, while statewide the prevalence of asthma among children was 6.7%.

Asthma Prevalence, Children, Ages 0 to 17, Three-Year Average

	Percent
Brazoria County	*4.7%
Public Health Region 6	4.0%
Texas	6.7%

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Report: "Prevalence of Current Asthma Among Children, by Demographic Characteristics and Place of Residence, Texas 2019-2021". By request. *Statistically unstable due to small sample size.

Asthma hospitalization in children under age 18, occurred at a rate of 4.3 hospitalizations per 10,000 children. Rates of Emergency Department (ED) visits for asthma occurred at a rate of 32.4 visits per 10,000 children.

Asthma Hospitalizations & ED Visits, Rate per 10,000 Children, Ages 0 - 17, Age-Adjusted

	Inpatient Hospitalization Discharges		Emergency Department Visits	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Brazoria County	41	4.3	315	32.4
Texas	3,596	4.9	39,343	53.1

Source: Texas DSHS, Reports prepared by Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section, using Inpatient Hospital Discharge & ED Hospital Discharge Public Use Data Files, 2021. By request.

COVID-19

In Brazoria County, there were 119,682 probable or confirmed cases of COVID-19 through May 10, 2023 (the date at which the Texas Department of State Health Services discontinued updating cumulative county-level data and switched to reporting only statewide weekly data). This represents a rate of 324.7 cases per 1,000 persons, which is higher than the statewide average of 294.8 cases per 1,000 persons. As of the same date, 1,046 persons died in the county due to COVID-19 complications, a rate of 2.84 deaths per 1,000 persons. This is lower than the statewide rate of 3.20 deaths per 1,000 persons.

COVID-19, Cases and Crude Death Rates per 1,000 Persons, through May 10, 2023

	Brazoria County		Texas	
	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*
Confirmed or probable cases	119,682	324.7	8,508,204	294.8
Deaths	1,046	2.84	92,378	3.20

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services. *Calculated based on population from ACS 2017-2021.
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/covid-19-coronavirus-disease-2019/texas-covid-19-data>

Vaccinations for COVID-19

Through May 10, 2023 (the date at which the Texas Department of State Health Services discontinued updating COVID-19 vaccination rates), 68.4% of the population of Brazoria County had received at least one dose of a vaccine and 60.3% had received a completed primary series of vaccines against the virus. A vaccination rate of 95% is the highest rate the CDC will report, due to questions related to data validity. Among Brazoria County residents, ages 65 and older, at least 95% had received at least one dose, and 87.9% had completed a primary series of vaccination.

10.7% of the county's population had received a dose of the updated (bivalent) booster for COVID-19 as of May 10. 34.1% of county residents, ages 65 or older, had received a dose of the updated (bivalent) booster. The bivalent booster became available to the public on September 2, 2022.

COVID-19 Vaccinations, through May 10, 2023

	At Least One Dose		Completed Primary Series		Bivalent Booster	
	Total Population	Population Ages 65+	Total Population	Population Ages 65+	Total Population	Population Ages 65+
Brazoria County	68.4%	95%	60.3%	87.9%	10.7%	34.1%
Texas	77.0%	95%	63.5%	89.2%	11.4%	34.4%

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services via the CDC.
<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccination-archive-landing>

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis rates in Brazoria County and Texas declined in 2020 and 2021; however, this was a result of lower levels of diagnoses due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The 2022 provisional cases have increased (rates have not been calculated yet).

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

	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022, Provisional	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Brazoria County	8	2.2	11	3.0	9	2.4	4	1.1	4	1.1	10	N/A
Texas	1,109	3.9	1,115	3.9	1,154	4.0	879	3.0	998	3.4	1,097	N/A

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, TB Surveillance Report, 2017-2021 and 2022 provisional. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/tuberculosis-tb/tb-data-statistics/tb-epidemiology-reports-fact>

Disability

In the service area, 11.6% of the non-institutionalized civilian population identified as having a disability. In Brazoria County, 9.3% had a disability, while the rate of disability in the state was 11.4%.

Disability, Five-Year Average

	Percent
Brazosport Service Area	11.6%
Brazoria County	9.3%
Texas	11.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, S1810. <http://data.census.gov>

Community Input – Chronic Disease

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

- It is about transportation and awareness of resources.
- Generally, there is a lack of resources in our community and there are only so many grants and funding opportunities available to try and fund services.
- The issue with care here is whether the hospital or doctor is covered under your insurance plan. Many people must travel to Houston for their routine medical checkups. For some insurance plans, the only available doctors are in Houston even though there are two hospitals in the area. Our local doctors used to be on the qualified list, but they aren't any longer. For Medicare part C there are no doctors in the area.

Health Behaviors

Health Behaviors Ranking

The County Health Ranking examines healthy behaviors and ranks counties according to health behavior data. Texas has 254 counties, 244 of which are ranked from 1 (healthiest) to 244 (least healthy) based on indicators that include: adult smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, excessive drinking, sexually transmitted infections, and others. Brazoria County was ranked 38 among Texas counties for healthy behaviors.

Health Behaviors Ranking

	County Ranking (out of 244)
Brazoria County	38

Source: County Health Rankings, 2023. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

Obesity

40.9% of adults in the service area were estimated to be obese. Rates of obesity in service area cities ranged from 37.8% in Lake Jackson to 45.5% in Freeport. Estimates were created using two different methodologies (by PolicyMap in 2018 using CDC data, and by the CDC itself in 2020), therefore, comparisons should be interpreted cautiously.

Obesity, Adults, 2018 and 2020

	ZIP Code	Obese 2018	Obese 2020	Change
Angleton	77515	36.4%	41.5%	5.1%
Brazoria	77422	35.7%	42.1%	6.4%
Clute	77531	36.0%	41.8%	5.8%
Damon	77430	35.4%	38.4%	3.0%
Danbury	77534	35.3%	40.3%	5.0%
Freeport	77541	37.0%	45.5%	8.5%
Lake Jackson	77566	35.1%	37.8%	2.7%
Liverpool	77577	35.7%	41.2%	5.5%
Manvel	77578	34.5%	38.0%	3.5%
Rosharon	77583	37.2%	41.5%	4.3%
Sweeny	77480	36.4%	42.3%	5.9%
West Columbia	77486	36.0%	40.0%	4.0%
Brazosport Service Area		*36.1%	*40.9%	4.8%
Brazoria County		35.1%	39.5%	4.4%

Source: PolicyMap, utilizing the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2018, and CDC PLACES small area estimates, 2020. <https://commonspirit.policymap.com/tables/> *Weighted average using 2017-2021 ACS adult population estimates.

Community Input – Overweight and Obesity

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

- We have a lot of obesity because people are not accessing healthy foods and are not focusing on healthy living and eating.
- We are struggling to get healthy foods in our pantries. As a result, people are eating more junk food to sustain themselves. Getting access to healthy foods is a big problem.
- It just continues to worsen. There is a lack of education and nutrition. We don't have enough good food options when we go out to eat. It seems the whole spectrum of our society contributes to our obesity.

Physical Activity

The CDC recommendation for adult physical activity is 30 minutes of moderate activity five times a week or 20 minutes of vigorous activity three times a week, and strength training exercises that work all major muscle groups at least 2 times per week.

27.4% of adults in the hospital service area were sedentary and did not participate in any leisure-time physical activity in the previous month. Rates of sedentary adults in area cities ranged from 22.6% in Manvel, to 35.6% in Freeport.

Sedentary Adults

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	28.3%
Brazoria	77422	29.0%
Clute	77531	30.3%
Damon	77430	25.4%
Danbury	77534	26.9%
Freeport	77541	35.6%
Lake Jackson	77566	23.6%
Liverpool	77577	27.9%
Manvel	77578	22.6%
Rosharon	77583	25.7%
Sweeny	77480	30.1%
West Columbia	77486	26.9%
Brazosport Service Area		*27.4%
Brazoria County		26.1%

Source: The CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES small area estimates, 2020 data, via PolicyMap. <https://commonspirit.policymap.com> *Weighted average; calculated using 2017-2021 ACS adult population estimates.

14.1% of adults in Public Health Region 6 limited their activities for at least five of the prior 30 days due to poor mental or physical health, and 7.4% limited them on at least 14 of the prior 30 days.

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

	> = 5 days	> = 14 days
Public Health Region 6	14.1%	7.4%
Texas	16.5%	9.3%

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

Exercise Opportunities

Proximity to exercise opportunities can increase physical activity in a community. 78% of Brazoria County residents live in close proximity to exercise opportunities, which was lower than the state rate of 82%.

Adequate Access to Exercise Opportunities, 2010 and 2019 Combined

	Percent
Brazoria County	78%
Texas	82%

Source: County Health Rankings, 2023 ranking, utilizing 2020 and 2022 combined data. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

Community Walkability

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

WalkScore.com has established the range of scores as follows:

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

Based on this scoring method, most communities in the service area are classified as 'Car Dependent', with a low of 7 in Liverpool and 15 in Rosharon. Three communities were classified as 'Somewhat Walkable', with scores of 50 in Freeport, 59 in Brazoria, and 61 in West Columbia and Clute.

Walkability

	Walk Score
Angleton	26
Brazoria	59

	Walk Score
Clute	61
Damon	24
Danbury	36
Freeport	50
Lake Jackson	27
Liverpool	7
Manvel	36
Rosharon	15
Sweeny	43
West Columbia	61

Source: [WalkScore.com](https://www.walkscore.com), 2023

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Chlamydia occurred at a rate of 375.2 cases per 100,000 persons in Brazoria County. The rate of gonorrhea was 134.3 cases per 100,000 persons. Primary and Secondary syphilis occurred at a rate of 4.1 cases per 100,000 persons. Early latent syphilis occurred at a rate of 9.8 cases per 100,000 persons. Rates of STIs were lower in Brazoria County than the state.

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

	Brazoria County	Texas
Chlamydia	375.2	462.1
Gonorrhea	134.3	198.9
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	4.1	9.4
Syphilis (early latent)	9.8	19.0

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, HIV-STD Program, 2020. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/> Rates calculated utilizing 2017-2021 ACS Population Data.

HIV

The number of newly diagnosed cases of HIV rose from 2014 to 2016 in Brazoria County. County rates of new infection were highest among African American residents. Rates of new diagnoses were highest among persons ages 15 to 24.

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019 Rate
Brazoria County	26	26	40	37	37	33	8.8
Texas	4,462	4,551	4,548	4,368	4,419	4,203	14.5

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, HIV-STD Program, 2019. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/>

The prevalence of HIV (those living with HIV regardless of when they might have been diagnosed or infected) was 182.8 cases per 100,000 persons in Brazoria County.

HIV/AIDS Prevalence, per 100,000 Persons

	Rate
Brazoria County	182.8
Texas	337.4

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, HIV-STD Program, 2019. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/>

Mental Health

Poor Mental Health

15.5% of adults in the service area reported poor mental health. Service area cities had poor mental health rates that ranged from 14.2% of the population in Manvel and Rosharon to 17.5% of adults with poor mental health in Freeport.

Poor Mental Health, Adult

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	15.8%
Brazoria	77422	16.3%
Clute	77531	16.8%
Damon	77430	15.4%
Danbury	77534	16.7%
Freeport	77541	17.5%
Lake Jackson	77566	14.7%
Liverpool	77577	16.6%
Manvel	77578	14.2%
Rosharon	77583	14.2%
Sweeny	77480	16.4%
West Columbia	77486	15.4%
Brazosport Service Area		* 15.5%
Brazoria County		14.4%

Source: The CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES small area estimates, 2020 data, via PolicyMap. <https://commonspirit.policymap.com> *Weighted average; calculated using 2017-2021 ACS adult population estimates.

The substate report of the National Survey on Drug Use & Health (NSDUH) estimated that 3.2% of adults, ages 26 and older, in Brazoria, Galveston and Matagorda Counties combined, had experienced serious mental illness. Serious mental illness is defined as 'having a diagnosable mental, behavioral or emotional disorder other than a developmental or substance use disorder, which resulted in serious functional impairment'. Prevalence was almost twice as high among adults, ages 18 to 25 (5.9%)

Serious Mental Illness, Adults, Past Year

	2016-2018		2018-2019		2021 Preliminary	
	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+
Brazoria, Galveston, and Matagorda Counties, combined	5.9%	3.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Texas	5.8%	3.3%	7.0%	3.9%	10.8%	4.8%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Survey on Drug Use & Health (NSDUH) 2016-2018 Substate and 2018-2019, and 2021 preliminary, State Reports. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/nsduh/state-reports>

2.7% of adults, ages 26 and older, in Brazoria, Galveston and Matagorda Counties combined, had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year. Prevalence was higher among adults, ages 18 to 25 (8.9%).

Serious Thoughts of Suicide, Adults, Past Year

	2016-2018		2018-2019		2021 Preliminary	
	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+
Brazoria, Galveston, and Matagorda Counties, combined	8.9%	2.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Texas	9.0%	2.7%	9.0%	3.0%	12.0%	4.2%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Survey on Drug Use & Health (NSDUH) 2016-2018 Substate and 2018-2019, and 2021 preliminary, State Reports. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/nsduh/state-reports>

The substate NSDUH report estimated that 12% of adults, ages 26 and older, in Brazoria, Galveston and Matagorda Counties combined, received mental health services. Receiving services was defined as having received inpatient or outpatient treatment/counseling or having used prescription medication for problems with emotions, nerves or mental health; respondents were not to include treatment for drug or alcohol use in the past year.

Received Mental Health Services, Adults, Past Year

	2016-2018		2018-2019		2021 Preliminary	
	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+
Brazoria, Galveston, and Matagorda Counties, combined	11.3%	12.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Texas	11.0%	11.6%	12.3%	12.0%	15.1%	13.8%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Survey on Drug Use & Health (NSDUH) 2016-2018 Substate and 2018-2019, and 2021 preliminary, State Reports. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/nsduh/state-reports>

Community Input – Mental Health

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

- There is a stigma surrounding mental health. No one wants to admit they have issues.
- With cuts in our funding, we couldn't continue to support our children with a licensed professional at the schools. Now we refer out. We have good therapists in our community but if you need psychiatric care, you need to go to Houston. And there is always a waitlist. It is cumbersome to get to those appointments as well. Unless

there is a crisis and you need hospitalization, families aren't pursuing mental health services because there are not a lot of options in this area.

- We have a huge need for mental health services.
- This economic crisis is causing a lot of fear. People are depressed and cannot cope.
- Our mental health clinic is run by people in Galveston, which is two counties away. And we have a lot of private practitioners.
- We do not have enough psychiatrists or enough counselors. Schools are overwhelmed with the needs of their students. It is a huge issue. There are not enough providers, and the wait lists are incredibly long.

Substance Use and Misuse

Smoking

Among adults Public Health Region 6 in 11.7% reported being current cigarette smokers. The Healthy People 2030 objective is for a maximum of 6.1% of adults to smoke cigarettes.

Cigarette Smoking, Adults

	2017	2019	2021
Public Health Region 6	15.6%	14.0%	11.7%
Texas	15.7%	14.7%	13.1%

Source for Texas: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Dashboard, 2017-2021. <http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system>

4.9% of adults in Public Health Region 6 report smoking e-cigarettes. This rate has, \ been rising over the past five years.

e-Cigarette Smoking, Adults

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Public Health Region 6	3.3%	N/A	3.7%	4.1%	4.9%
Texas	4.7%	5.2%	3.6%	4.7%	5.9%

Source for Texas: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Dashboard, 2017-2021. <http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system>

One of the products that can be used in e-cigarettes, or vaping, is marijuana or THC oil. In 2021, 3.5% of adults in Texas reported using an e-cigarette or vaping product containing marijuana or THC oil in the prior 30 days, up from 2.7% in 2020. Rates for PHR 6 are both unstable and unreliable, due to small sample size.

Marijuana Vaping, Adults

	2020	2021
Public Health Region 6	*2.7%	*1.4%
Texas	2.7%	3.5%

Source for Texas: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Dashboard, 2020 & 2021. <http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system> *Unstable rate due to small sample size.

Alcohol Use

Binge drinking is defined as consuming a certain amount of alcohol within a set period of time. For males this is five or more drinks per occasion and for females it is four or more drinks per occasion. Among adults, 20.1% in the service area reported having engaged in binge drinking in the previous 30 days. Rates of binge drinking ranged from 18.5% in Freeport and Sweeny, to 21.3% in Rosharon and 21.2% in Danbury.

Binge Drinking, Adults, Prior 30 Days

	ZIP Code	Percent
Angleton	77515	20.2%
Brazoria	77422	20.0%
Clute	77531	20.3%
Damon	77430	19.4%
Danbury	77534	21.2%
Freeport	77541	18.5%
Lake Jackson	77566	20.2%
Liverpool	77577	19.8%
Manvel	77578	20.2%
Rosharon	77583	21.3%
Sweeny	77480	18.5%
West Columbia	77486	19.1%
Brazosport Service Area		* 20.1%
Brazoria County		19.0%

Source: The CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES small area estimates, 2020 data, via PolicyMap. <https://commonspirit.policymap.com> *Weighted average; calculated using 2017-2021 ACS adult population estimates.

Drug Use

When comparing Texas marijuana use rates to national marijuana use rates, it is important to remember that laws have been changing swiftly in many states. By 2021, recreational use of marijuana was legal in 18 states and the District of Columbia, and medical use was legal in an additional 15 states. As of July 2023, Texas had not legalized recreational or medical use of marijuana.

The 2016-2018 NSDUH report estimated that 5.1% of adults, ages 26 and older, in Brazoria, Galveston and Matagorda Counties combined, had used marijuana in the previous 30 days. Use was more than three times as high among adults, ages 18 to 25 (15.6%).

Marijuana Use, Adults, Prior 30 Days

	2016-2018		2018-2019		2021 Preliminary	
	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+
Brazoria, Galveston, and Matagorda Counties, combined	15.6%	5.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Texas	14.6%	4.8%	15.5%	5.9%	16.4%	6.9%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Survey on Drug Use & Health (NSDUH) 2016-2018 Substate and 2018-2019, and 2021 preliminary, State Reports. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/nsduh/state-reports>

Illicit drugs other than marijuana include the misuse of prescription psychotherapeutics or the use of cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or methamphetamine. The substate data estimated that 2.4% of adults, ages 26 and older, in Brazoria, Galveston and Matagorda Counties combined, had used an illicit drug other than marijuana in the previous 30 days. Use was more than twice as high among adults, ages 18 to 25 (6.2%).

Illicit Drug Use, Other than Marijuana, Adults, Prior 30 Days

	2016-2018		2018-2019		2021 Preliminary	
	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+
Brazoria, Galveston, and Matagorda Counties, combined	6.2%	2.4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Texas	6.0%	2.4%	5.5%	2.6%	2.2%	2.2%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Survey on Drug Use & Health (NSDUH) 2016-2018 Substate and 2018-2019, and 2021 preliminary, State Reports. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/nsduh/state-reports>

Community Input – Substance Use

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

- We have youth using opioids and fentanyl.
- We don't have enough treatment facilities for those in need. With schools, we do not have a lot of resources to send kids locally who need detox. They have a program at the hospital for adults, but with our youth, there are fewer options. People have to go to Houston for that. It is about an hour away.
- We have a huge vaping issue with marijuana being found in the devices at schools. The police department can screen for it, and if kids are found with it, they get juvenile detention for 60 days. The state recently changed that, now it is automatic assignment to a local disciplinary program school district.
- With the increase in the number of people who are homeless we are seeing more mental health and substance use issues.
- It is a big problem everywhere and there is no access to care for counseling and withdrawal services. We have the Gulf Coast Center in our county, but there is a long wait list to get in. Community Health Network has new psych services, they are trying to meet the demand, but there is still an overwhelming demand for services.

Preventive Practices

Flu and Pneumonia Vaccines

29.3% of adults, ages 18 to 64, in Public Health Region (PHR) 6 received a flu shot. This falls below the Healthy People 2030 objective for 70% of all adults, ages 18 and older, to receive a flu shot. Rates improved among PHR 6 adults, ages 65 and older, with 73.6% receiving a flu vaccine.

Flu Vaccines, Adults, Past 12 Months

	Ages 18 to 64	Ages 65 and Older
Public Health Region 6	29.3%	73.6%
Texas	32.4%	66.0%

Source for Texas: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Dashboard, 2021. <http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system>

The PHR 6 rate of pneumonia vaccination, among adults, ages 65 and older, was 66.1%.

Pneumonia Vaccine, Adults, Ages 65 and Older

	Percent
Public Health Region 6	66.1%
Texas	69.0%

Source for Texas: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Dashboard, 2021. <http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system>

Immunization of Children

Among area school districts, rates of vaccinations among children entering Kindergarten ranged from 93.6% to 100% in Danbury ISD. However, Danbury ISD had a low total student population (799 K-12 students in the 2018-2019 school year), and so their rates should be interpreted with caution. In the service area, Columbia-Brazoria ISD consistently had the lowest immunization rates.

Up-to-Date Immunization Rates, Children Entering Kindergarten

	DTaP	Hep A	Hep B	MMR	Polio	Varicella
Alvin ISD	96.5%	96.4%	97.8%	96.8%	96.7%	96.6%
Angleton ISD	96.2%	96.2%	97.1%	96.2%	96.2%	96.0%
Brazosport ISD	97.1%	97.5%	97.6%	97.1%	97.4%	97.3%
Columbia-Brazoria ISD	94.7%	94.1%	95.7%	95.2%	95.2%	94.7%
Damon ISD	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Danbury ISD	97.6%	97.6%	97.6%	97.6%	97.6%	97.6%
Sweeny ISD	94.6%	95.5%	97.3%	95.5%	95.5%	94.6%
Brazoria County	96.3%	96.3%	97.3%	96.5%	96.5%	96.4%
Texas	94.3%	94.7%	95.9%	94.7%	94.6%	94.2%

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Immunization Unit, 2022-2023 Results of Annual Report of Immunization Status. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunization-unit/immunization-coverage-levels/vaccination-coverage-levels-texas>

Mammograms

The Healthy People 2030 objective for mammograms is for 80.3% of women, between the ages of 50 and 74, to have a mammogram in the past two years. This translates to a maximum of 19.7% who lack screening. The county (31.1%) and state (28.9%) do not meet this objective.

No Mammogram Past Two Years, Women, Ages 50-74

	Crude Rate
Brazoria County	31.1%
Texas*	28.9%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES Project 2022, 2020 data year. <https://chronicdata.cdc.gov/500-Cities-Places/PLACES-Local-Data-for-Better-Health-County-Data-20/swc5-untb>
 *Weighted average of Texas county rates.

Pap Smears

The Healthy People 2030 objective is for 79.2% of women, ages 21 to 65, to have a Pap smear in the past three years. This equates to a maximum of 20.8% of women who lack screening. Brazoria County (21.7%) and Texas (21.9%) do not meet this objective.

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

	Crude Rate
Brazoria County	21.7%
Texas*	21.9%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES Project 2022, 2020 data year. <https://chronicdata.cdc.gov/500-Cities-Places/PLACES-Local-Data-for-Better-Health-County-Data-20/swc5-untb>
 *Weighted average of Texas county rates.

Colorectal Cancer Screening

The Healthy People 2030 objective for adults, ages 50 to 75 years old, is for 68.3% to obtain colorectal cancer screening (defined as a blood stool test in the past year, sigmoidoscopy in the past five years plus blood test in the past three years, or colonoscopy in the past ten years). 61.7% of Brazoria County residents, ages 50-75, met the colorectal cancer screening guidelines; this is lower than the state rate (65.3%). The county and state do not meet the Healthy People objective.

Screening for Colorectal Cancer, Adults, Ages 50-75

	Crude Rate
Brazoria County	61.7%
Texas*	65.3%

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES Project 2022, 2020 data year. <https://chronicdata.cdc.gov/500-Cities-Places/PLACES-Local-Data-for-Better-Health-County-Data-20/swc5-untb>
 *Weighted average of Texas county rates.

Community Input – Preventive Practices

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

- We have seen a lot of kids transferring into our schools who may not have updated vaccines. Some are from out of state, others are foreign exchange students.
- The challenge is accessing preventive care services. Barriers include transportation. Having reliable transportation to clinics that are a distance away will always be a challenge for some people.
- People have become leery of vaccines. People need more education and convincing about how they are helpful. Most people we've asked said they would/did get Covid for their children, but they wouldn't get it for themselves.
- The key to the longevity of our community is to ensure people are getting the help they need.
- During Covid many organizations came together, and we had a pretty quick and stable response. Most people rely on the medical clinic or pharmacy to know what is going on.
- With the development of the Covid vaccine and political interventions, it seems to have really impacted people's views of vaccines. A limited number of people are getting them.

Prioritized Description of Significant Health Needs

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

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

Each of the stakeholder interviewees was sent a link to an electronic survey (Survey Monkey) in advance of the interview. The stakeholders were asked to rank each identified health need. The percentage of responses were noted as those that identified the need as having severe or very severe impact on the community, had worsened over time, and had a shortage or absence of resources available in the community. Not all survey respondents answered every question, therefore, the response percentages were calculated based on respondents only and not on the entire sample size. Mental health, access to health care and overweight and obesity had the highest scores for severe impact on the community in the survey. Mental health, access to health care, economic insecurity, social determinants of health, and substance use had the highest rankings for worsened over time. Mental health, economic insecurity, social determinants of health, and substance use were rated highest on insufficient resources available to address the need.

Significant Health Needs	Severe and Very Severe Impact on the Community	Worsened Over Time	Insufficient or Absent Resources
Access to health care	71.4%	66.7%	50.0%
Chronic diseases	42.9%	33.3%	50.0%
Economic insecurity	57.2%	66.7%	83.3%
Mental health	85.7%	100%	100%
Overweight and obesity	71.4%	50.0%	33.3%
Preventive practices	28.6%	16.7%	16.7%
Social determinants of health	57.2%	66.7%	66.7%
Substance use	57.2%	66.7%	66.7%

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

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

Significant Health Needs	Priority Ranking (Total Possible Score of 4)
Mental health	4.00
Access to health care	3.86
Social determinants of health	3.86
Economic insecurity	3.71
Substance use	3.43
Chronic diseases	3.33
Preventive practices	3.29
Overweight and obesity	3.14

Resources to Address Significant Health Needs

Community stakeholders identified community resources potentially available to address the identified community needs. This is not a comprehensive list of all available resources. For additional resources refer to Texas 211 at [www.211Texas](http://www.211Texas.com).

Needs	Community Resources
Access to care	211, BrazCo Resource Network, Brazoria County Health Department, Community Health Center, United Way Interagency Meetings
Chronic disease	BrazCo Resource Network, Brazoria County Health Department, Community Health Center, Gathering Place Brazoria
Economic insecurity	ActionS Inc, ARC of the Gulf Coast, BrazCo Resource Network, Brazoria County Housing Authority, Pearland Neighborhood Center, Salvation Army, True to Life Ministries, United Way Interagency Meetings, Warrior's Refuge
Mental health	Counseling Connections for Change, Gulf Coast Center, NAMI Gulf Coast, United Way Interagency Meetings, Youth & Family Counseling Services
Overweight and obesity	Brazoria County Health Department, Community Health Center
Preventive practices	ActionS Inc, Brazoria County Community Coalition, Brazoria County Health Department, United Way Interagency Meetings
Social determinants of health	ActionS Inc, ARC of the Gulf Coast, BrazCo Resource Network, Brazoria County Dream Center, Harvest for the Hungry, True to Life Ministries, United Way Interagency Meetings, WIC
Substance use	Bay Area Council on Drugs & Alcohol, Brazos Place, Brazoria County Community Coalition, Gulf Coast Center

Impact of Actions Taken Since the Preceding CHNA

In 2021, Brazosport Hospital conducted the previous CHNA and significant health needs were identified from issues supported by primary and secondary data sources. The hospital's Implementation Strategy associated with the 2021 CHNA addressed: access to health care, chronic disease (including overweight and obesity), mental health, and preventive practices through a commitment of community benefit programs and resources. The following activities were undertaken to address these selected significant health needs since the completion of the 2021 CHNA.

Access to Health Care and Preventive Practices

St. Luke's Health Brazosport Hospital delivers compassionate, high quality, affordable health care and advocates for members of our community who are poor and disenfranchised. In furtherance of this mission, the hospital will provide financial assistance to eligible patients who do not have the capacity to pay for medically necessary health care services, and who otherwise may not be able to receive these services. Enrollment assistance in governmental health insurance programs for low-income persons, such as CHIP and Medicaid, were provided at no charge.

Free flu shots were offered at several community venues. Hospital staff also participated in community-wide health fairs providing information on accessing health services and living a healthy lifestyle. Preventive screenings were offered at the health fairs. Reduced price sports physicals were offered to BISD students.

St. Luke's Health - Brazosport Hospital worked to support the efforts of treating and/or identifying trafficked victims in our facilities and collaborating with partners to ensure timely identification and resource connection.

An effort to engage, strengthen, and evaluate community partnerships and collaborations was undertaken. We recognize that when organizations collaborate, they gain a more comprehensive understanding of community needs and they can pool their resources and expertise to provide better care for their communities.

To shine a light on health care inequities in Houston, St. Luke's Health is producing a video series spotlighting the paradox faced by people who live near the Texas Medical Center in Houston but are unable to access most of its world-class services because they are uninsured or underinsured. The eight-part "ExamiNATION" series calls attention to the fact that many people living in and around Houston are unable to access most of the city's world-class medical services because they lack health insurance.

Chronic Disease (including Overweight and Obesity)

Community health education was offered to the community free of charge at several community-wide health fairs including Senior Fest and health education seminars. Senior Fest is a day dedicated just for seniors and active adults, ages 55 and older, to visit interactive booths and get information about their health, home care, living an active lifestyle, and chronic disease management.

The hospital addressed a variety of chronic disease-related health care topics including weight loss, high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, and mental health at these events. Free health-related screenings and flu vaccinations were also offered to the community. The hospital also donated in-kind the use of space for diabetes education for the community.

The Mermaid Project is a local initiative dedicated to transforming potential breast cancer victims into survivors. The Project provided free breast cancer screening to qualifying low-income, uninsured men and women living in Southern Brazoria County. St. Luke's Health Brazosport worked closely with Brazosport Medical Center in Freeport to provide a comprehensive medical home for Mermaid patients. Brazosport Medical Center (BMC) served as a first point of contact for patients who needed clinical breast exams and subsequent mammography.

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

Space was also provided free of charge for diabetes and Parkinson's support groups by the hospital.

Mental Health

Community health education addressed mental health care topics, including providing resources for community mental health services.

The hospital joined community efforts to increase the understanding of mental health issues and provided access to resources.

The hospital participated in the local brain fair and senior fest community activities to help deliver mental health messages.

Post Covid-19 pandemic, mental health challenges have become a large concern in the hospital's service areas. Therefore, as a part of our 8-part ExamiNation series, mental health was a specific focus. The mental health episode focused on reducing the stigma of mental health challenges, health equity, ways to improve mental health, and new telehealth technology options that increase accessibility.

Attachment 1. Benchmark Comparisons

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

Indicators	Service Area Data	Healthy People 2030 Objectives
High school graduation rate	91.3% - 100%	90.7%
Child health insurance rate	89.3%	92.4%
Adult health insurance rate	77.8%	92.4%
Unable to obtain medical care	16.5%	5.9%
Ischemic heart disease deaths	94.6	71.1 per 100,000 persons
Cancer deaths	148.6	122.7 per 100,000 persons
Colon/rectum cancer deaths	15.0	8.9 per 100,000 persons
Lung cancer deaths	38.5	25.1 per 100,000 persons
Female breast cancer deaths	18.7	15.3 per 100,000 persons
Prostate cancer deaths	16.7	16.9 per 100,000 persons
Stroke deaths	36.2	33.4 per 100,000 persons
Unintentional injury deaths	42.0	43.2 per 100,000 persons
Drug-overdose deaths	20.5	20.7 per 100,000 persons
Overdose deaths involving opioids	8.7	13.1 per 100,000 persons
Suicides	14.5	12.8 per 100,000 persons
Liver disease (cirrhosis) deaths	13.0	10.9 per 100,000 persons
Homicides	5.3	5.5 per 100,000 persons
Infant death rate	5.7	5.0 per 1,000 live births
Adult obesity (age range unknown)	40.9%	36.0%, adults ages 20+
High school student obesity	22.1%	15.5%, children & youth, 2 to 19
Adults engaging in binge drinking	20.1%	25.4%
Cigarette smoking by adults	11.7%	6.1%
Pap smears, ages 21-65, screened in the past 3 years	78.3%	79.2%
Mammogram, ages 50-74, screened in the past 2 years	68.9%	80.3%
Colorectal cancer screenings, ages 50-75, screened per guidelines	61.7%	68.3%
Annual adult influenza vaccination	29.3%	70.0%

Attachment 2. Community Stakeholder Interviewees

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

Name	Title	Organization
Phillip Crocco	Community Member	
Amanda Hemphill	Campus Nurse	Columbia High School
Molly James, RN	Health Services Coordinator	Brazosport Independent School District
Allison Jasso	Coordinator of Guidance and Counseling	Brazosport Independent School District
Gloria Luna	Director of Community Services	United Way
Cathy Sbrusch, RN, BSN, CIC	Director Public Health Services	Brazoria County Health Department
Terri A. Willis, MPA	Chief Executive Officer	Brazoria County Dream Center

Attachment 3. Community Stakeholder Interview Responses

Community interview participants were asked to name some of the major health issues affecting individuals in the community. Responses included:

- We see a lot of mental health issues in the community.
- In schools we are seeing a need for mental health resources, and we are also seeking a lack of resources to help our homeless population.
- Some of our students have a need for medical care and if they don't have insurance or their family can't find a doctor, they often go to the ED for their illness.
- Food insecurity and health issues. If you do not have proper nutrition, you can't fight off health problems. We have a lot of elderly residents who have diabetes and some of them face malnutrition.
- Economic insecurity among families is a concern.
- Transportation, access to health care and the need for psychiatric services are our top issues. We are also seeing obesity, Hep C, HIV, diabetes, colon cancer and hypertension. We also need more specialty providers, not just general practitioners, and we need more dental services. Closing Labor and Delivery Units is another issue. To deliver a baby you have to go to Houston or Galveston.

Interview participants were asked what factors or conditions contribute to those health issues (e.g., social, racial, cultural, structural, behavioral, environmental). Their responses included:

- Socially and economically, it is a financial issue. We have many kids who are in homes that are not their own. They are foster kids staying with a family other than their own family.
- A lot of it is transportation. Where can people find services? It's about having the knowledge to find resources.
- The increase in mental health issues was magnified by Covid, it just multiplied. The same with homelessness. With the increased cost of living but no increase in wages, a lot of families who seemed to be doing ok are really struggling now.
- Socioeconomic status.
- I've witnessed those who do not have income or work, and they don't have the education to get a better job.
- It is a lack of community resources. We are always recruiting but services are being closed. Labor and Delivery closed because we can't get those doctors. I think it is a recruitment issue.
- We have a lot of chemical plants in our county that are a big concern.

Who or what groups in the community are most affected by these issues (e.g., youth, older residents, racial/ethnic groups, LGBTQ, persons experiencing homelessness, veterans, specific neighborhoods). Responses included:

- Youth and those in their 20s and 30s.
- Particularly those who are low income and uninsured.
- Those who were already in poverty and low income or lower middle income.
- Hispanic residents. They are elderly, on fixed incomes.
- Uninsured, low income, underinsured, unemployed and persons experiencing homelessness.