

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2008 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WHAT IS THE 2008 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT?

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas (UWMD) publishes the Community Needs Assessment as a means to guide the allocation of donor funds, influence public policy and provide a service to the community. United Way's ability to target the funds that it raises to the most compelling needs in the community is strongly supported by its knowledge of health and social welfare conditions. Accurate and reliable data on the demographic, social, and economic conditions of the communities in the Dallas area are vital for planning, resource allocation, and measuring the impact of policies and programs.

The Community Needs Assessment provides data about the people who live in the four counties served by UWMD: Collin, Dallas, Denton, and Rockwall Counties. It is intended not only for internal use and decision-making, but for use by other organizations and by the community at large. Potential users include researchers, grant writers, funding organizations, program developers, policymakers, planners, students and the general public.

The Community Needs Assessment is also intended to initiate community discussion about how the region can provide the highest quality of life for all of its residents. The information provides the community with baseline data about the state of the region, about the quality of life here, and the challenges facing our community.

HISTORICAL TRENDS

Themes and trends identified in the 2005, 2006, and 2007 Community Needs Assessments continue to shape our community and inform the delivery of health and human services. These themes include:

2005 Community Needs Assessment

1. Increasing young Hispanic population.
2. Increasing White/Anglo elderly population.
3. Equal portions of nuclear families and persons living alone.

2006 Community Needs Assessment Update

1. Twice the national rate in population growth.
2. Increase in families with barriers to success.
3. Widening dispersion of need.

2007 Community Needs Assessment Update

1. Rising economy, families left behind.
2. Families with needs on the move to suburban cities.
3. New generation gap of young Hispanic/Latinos vs. elderly white/Anglos.

Updated data suggests several additional trends that also effect residents of Collin, Dallas, Denton and Rockwall Counties.

2008 KEY THEMES AND TRENDS

NORTH TEXAS: A COMMUNITY OF CONTRASTS

CONTRASTS IN EDUCATION

In 2006, we are seeing dissimilarities between the Region served by the UWMD and the State, as well as among the major race/ethnicity groups within the Region. The differences can be seen in educational attainmentⁱ, attrition ratesⁱⁱ, and in TAKSⁱⁱⁱ testing.

Our area's residents have disproportionately higher numbers with high and low levels of education. **The Region has a higher percentage of college graduates than the State of Texas.** However, Dallas County, the most populated county in the Region, has a higher percentage of persons who did not finish high school. According to the 2006 American Community Survey, 22% of the Region's residents had Bachelors degrees and 11% had a graduate degree; whereas, 17% of the State's residents had Bachelors degrees and 8% had a graduate degree. Six percent of the population in the Region and the State had an Associates degree in 2006. On the other hand, Dallas County in 2006 was higher than the State in the percentage of persons who had less than a 12th grade education (12% vs. 11% respectively) and higher than the State in the percentage of persons who had less than a 9th grade education (Dallas County – 13% vs. Texas 10%). The Region as a whole was somewhat similar to the State in these two areas with 10% of the population indicating that they had less than a 12th grade education and 10% indicating less than a 9th grade education.

The UWMD four-county Service Region is also seeing a large disparity between the attrition rates of African Americans/Blacks and Hispanics/Latinos versus whites/Anglos. Throughout the Region, **the proportion of the minority population (except the Asian population) not completing school was substantially higher than for their white/Anglo counterparts.** In Collin, Dallas, and Denton Counties, attrition rates are double and in some cases more than triple that of the White/Anglo student population.

ATTRITION RATES FOR 2006-07 SCHOOL YEAR				
Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, www.idra.org				
	COLLIN	DALLAS	DENTON	ROCKWALL
African American/Black	40	42	48	31
Hispanic/Latino	41	54	60	30
White/Anglo	21	10	30	23
Total	26	39	38	25

Similar racial/ethnic disparities can be seen in the 11th grade TAKS test scores of African Americans/Blacks and Hispanics/Latinos versus Whites/Anglos. **Of the major school districts researched in the Community Needs Assessment, none had more than 90% of African Americans/Blacks or Hispanics/Latinos pass the 11th grade math or science TAKS test.** In fact most rates were in the low 60% to high 70% range. Some of the most glaring differences were seen in the examples that follow from the 2006-2007 School Year. In each of these instances, the White/Anglo student population passed the exam portions at rates between 86% and 97%.

- In Collin County, Allen ISD had the lowest percentage of African Americans/Blacks pass the 11th grade science portion of the TAKS exam at 67%, Hispanics/Latinos only had 79% pass, Asian/Pacific Islander had 89% pass and White/Anglos had 94% pass.
- In Dallas County, Duncanville ISD had the lowest percentage of African Americans/Blacks pass the 11th grade math portion of the exam at 61% and Hispanics/Latinos at 59%. The Asian/Pacific Islander population had 95% of the student population pass the exam and White/Anglos had 86% pass.
- In Denton County, Lewisville ISD had 87% of African Americans/Blacks, 89% of Hispanics/Latinos, 99% of Asian/Pacific Islanders and 94% of White/Anglos pass the 11th grade math portion of the exam.

- In Rockwall County, Rockwall ISD had 67% of African Americans, 72% of Hispanics, 99% of Asian/Pacific Islanders and 94% of White/Anglos pass the science portion of the exam.

CONTRASTS IN INCOME

Recently the Region has experienced a period of economic growth. **There was a general decline in unemployment from 2006 to 2007.** The year 2007 saw unemployment rates declining in each county, from Collin County, which had the lowest unemployment rate of 3.8%, to Dallas County, which had the highest unemployment rate of 4.4%. **However, while more people are working, rates of poverty also have increased.**

In the Region, **the population from 2000-2006 grew by 15.2%**; but, during this same time period, the number of **persons living in poverty increased by 49%**. Dallas County had the slowest population growth rate, with a 5.4% increase from 2000-2006, but experienced a 42% increase in the number of persons living in poverty. Denton experienced the highest increase in the number of persons living in poverty, with an 89% increase from 2000-2006 with only a 33.1% increase in population. Collin County was not far behind Denton County, with a 40% increase in population versus an 86% increase in the number of persons living in poverty.

Families living in poverty face significant challenges in caring for and meeting their children's basic needs. If, along with caring for children, a family also has to care for an elderly parent or a family member with a disability, these financial strains become even worse. Family decisions such as the provision of basic needs like food, clothing, and medicine, must be carefully weighed against the limited resources available to families living in poverty. **Recent increases in energy and food costs have only exacerbated the difficulty of making ends meet.** In 2006, Dallas County had nearly 20% of its families living in poverty. This number is comparable to the percent of families living in poverty throughout the state of Texas (19.7% in Dallas County vs. 19.3% in Texas). However, both of those rates were higher than the national average of 15%. Families in other counties in the Region are in relatively better shape, Collin had 5% of families living in poverty, Denton had 8%, and Rockwall had 2%. The Region as a whole was comparable to the nation with an average of 14.5% of families living in poverty in 2006.

Poverty rates are much higher for the state's large and growing Latino/Hispanic population and for African American/Black populations. One in five African Americans/ Blacks (21.2%) and 22% of Hispanic/Latinos were living in poverty in the Region in 2006. Dallas County had the highest percentage of persons in poverty in all ethnic/racial groups in the region in 2006. Anglo/Whites in poverty were 8 percentage points higher in Dallas than in Collin County (13.2% vs. 4.8%, respectively). For African Americans/Blacks, the poverty rate is similar in Collin and Denton Counties (17.1% and 17.2%, respectively); however in Dallas County the poverty rate for African American/Blacks is 4 percentage points higher (21.9%). The Hispanic/Latino population in poverty is much higher in Dallas versus the rest of the Region (24% versus 22%, respectively). The Asian population in poverty is 8 percentage points higher in Dallas County than in Collin County (13.2% vs. 5.2%, respectively).

In 2006, an estimated 25,121 persons aged 65 and older in the Region were living in poverty. **Although the poverty rate in 2006 for the entire population in the Region was nearly 13%, for persons 65+ it was 9.3%.** In Collin, Dallas, and Denton Counties, the percentage of children under 18 years of age living in poverty has increased from 2001 to 2005 by 24.1%, 22.9%, and 5.2% respectively. The percent of children under age 18 in poverty has increased in most counties in the Region between 2001 and 2005, with the exception of Rockwall.

CONTRASTS IN HEALTH

Significant **racial disparities exist in many of the health indicators.** Specifically, **death rates are especially high for African American/Blacks for the top three causes of death—heart disease, cancer, and cerebrovascular diseases.** While the overall death rates from these diseases have declined during the past five years, the rates among African Americans/Blacks remained high compared to other racial/ethnic groups. The death rate from heart disease for African Americans in the Region in 2004 was 326.9, compared to the average of 218.7 for all races. The death rate from cerebrovascular disease for African Americans in the

Region in 2004 was 94.3, compared to the average of 57.2 for all races (Texas Department of State Health Service, 2004). The death rate from cancer for African Americans/Blacks in the Region in 2004 was 264.6, compared to the average of 180.4 for all races. African American/Black males also have higher rates of lung cancer than both non-Hispanic whites and Hispanics. Although African American females experience a lower incidence of breast cancer than other groups, they experience a higher mortality from this disease. These outcomes suggest major disparities in early diagnosis, treatment, and access to care.

Disparities can also be seen throughout the Region among indicators of infant and maternal health care issues such as prenatal care, low birth weight infants, and infant mortality rates. **Birth and infant health outcomes are the worst for African Americans/Blacks, who have infant mortality rates twice that of non-Hispanic whites and have a high proportion of low birth weight babies (13%).** African Americans/Blacks also have the highest percentage of inadequate prenatal care. Thirty-five percent of all African American/Black mothers in the Region did not receive adequate prenatal care, compared to the average of 26.5% for all races; 13.8% of African American/Black infants weighed less than 5.5 pounds at birth, while the average was 8% for all races in the Region; and the infant mortality rate for African Americans/Blacks was 12.5 for every 1,000 live births in the Region, as opposed to 4.5 for births to Anglos and 5.8 for Hispanics.

Persons age 65 and older experience illness and disabilities at a much higher rate than their younger counterparts. **Approximately 40% of persons age 65 and older in the Region had one or more disability in 2006; while only 9.4% of persons age 16 to 64 and 5% of persons age 5 to 15 had any disability in that same year.** Disability prevalence increases rapidly with age, and women and those who are unmarried have much higher prevalence rates. Among people ages 65 and older, minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations are much more likely than other groups to experience disability and the physical, cognitive, and sensory limitations that underlie it (R.F. Schoeni, V.A. Freeman, & L.G. Martin. *Socioeconomic and Demographic Disparities in Trends in Old-age disability*. Working Paper Series: Trends: Evaluating Trends in Old-Age Disability. May 2005.).

Sixteen percent of persons aged 65 years and older reported suffering from diabetes in the Dallas Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in 2006; while only 2.3% of persons age 30 to 44 and 8.1% of persons age 45 to 64 suffered from the illness. In Texas, 17.6% of persons 65 years and older were diagnosed with diabetes in 2005, while only 0.6% of the population between the ages of 18 to 29 and 3.3% of persons between the ages of 30 to 44 were diagnosed with diabetes in the same year. (*Diabetes and Disparity: A plan to Prevent and Control Diabetes in Texas, 2008-2009*. Texas Diabetes Council. Texas Department of State Health Services.). In 2005, among the seniors aged 65 and older in Texas who had been diagnosed with diabetes, 32.5% were Black/ African American, 27.3% were Hispanic and 7.8% were white/Anglo. Nationally, among the seniors aged 65 and older in 2005 who had been diagnosed with diabetes, 13.1% were Black/ African American, 8.1% were Hispanic and 7.8% were white/Anglo (Texas Diabetes Council).

ⁱ **Educational Attainment:** Refers to the highest level of education completed in terms of the highest degree or the highest level of schooling completed.

ⁱⁱ **Attrition Rate:** This rate is calculated by the Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA). It is the rate of 9th graders who do not graduate with their class. IDRA bases this analysis on enrollment numbers at two points in time, 9th grade and then 12th grade enrollment four years later.

ⁱⁱⁱ **TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills):** The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) is a comprehensive testing program for public school students in grades 3-11. The TAKS is designed to measure to what extent a student has learned, understood, and is able to apply the important concepts and skills expected at each tested grade level.