

# A Profile of the Capital Area Community

## A Profile of the Capital Area: A Regional Summary

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## Introduction

United Way Capital Area (UWCA), Austin has been a key player in providing support to address the needs of individuals, families and communities in Central Texas, especially in the Austin/Travis County metropolitan area. UWCA conducts fundraising campaigns and currently provides funding to 44 area health and human service providers. For the 2005-2006 fiscal year, all UWCA funded agencies are non-profit organizations, and all but three are based in Travis County. Additionally, UWCA operates programs including 2-1-1 Texas and Hands on Central Texas which serve the ten-county area. UWCA has expanded its involvement in community collaborations in recent years, resulting in initiatives such as Success By 6, which focuses on early childhood.

UWCA attempts to align its program funding with a focus on outcomes measurement, requiring funded service providers to demonstrate how they address health and human service priorities. Periodically, UWCA re-assesses the priorities that guide its investment of financial and staff resources. In that pursuit, UWCA supports the Community Agenda Project with the goal of understanding and prioritizing critical health and human service issues facing the ten counties in its Central Texas service area: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson.

To assist and inform the process of developing the Community Agenda, UWCA selected the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources (RMC), a research center of the LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, to conduct research leading to a synthesis of existing information and stakeholder perspectives on the priorities in health and human services. Specifically, RMC is charged as follows:

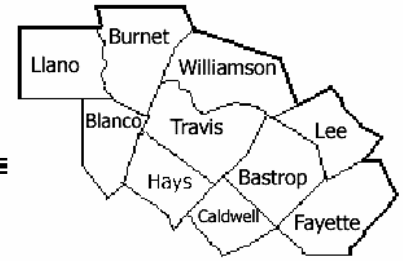
**Phase I:** Identify, collect and analyze existing regional data on the state of major health and human services issues, indicators and demographic trend; and

**Phase II:** Gauge the perspectives of major stakeholders across the ten-county area regarding major issues, root causes, solutions and prospects for health and human services.

The Ray Marshall Center's Phase I work resulted in "A Profile of the Capital Area Community: A data analysis report for the United Way Capital Area." The report consists of a regional profile and a profile for each of the ten counties under study.

This regional profile highlights special observations about the region as a whole or about a number of counties with common or individual characteristics and trends. A summary of issues shared by six or more counties is provided, based on review of previous work by others in the region. When available, further details about the issues are culled to provide additional contextual information.

# Capital Area Region



## Community Profile

Area in square miles: 12,485

Counties Included: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, Williamson

**Table 1. Regional Population Change, 1990 – 2010**

County	1990 Census	2000 Census	1990-2000 Change	2004 Census Estimate	2000-2004 Change	2010 State Data Center Projection
Bastrop	38,263	57,733	50.88%	68,608	18.84%	76,195
Blanco	5,972	8,418	40.96%	9,101	8.11%	10,044
Burnet	22,677	34,147	50.58%	40,286	17.98%	42,694
Caldwell	26,392	32,194	21.98%	36,498	13.37%	40,312
Fayette	20,095	21,804	8.50%	22,513	3.25%	23,347
Hays	65,614	97,589	48.73%	119,359	22.31%	140,173
Lee	12,854	15,657	21.81%	16,536	5.61%	18,114
Llano	11,631	17,044	46.54%	18,143	6.45%	16,608
Travis	576,407	812,280	40.92%	869,868	7.09%	963,894
Williamson	139,551	249,967	79.12%	317,938	27.19%	344,892
<b>Region</b>	<b>919,456</b>	<b>1,346,833</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>1,518,850</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>1,676,273</b>

Source: U. S. Census Bureau; Texas State Data Center

## Highlights on Statistics and Issues

### Population Change from 1990 to 2010

The Capital Area region experienced unprecedented population growth between 1990 and 2000 census, with a net gain of 427,377 people, a 46 percent increase, as shown in Table

1. Looking across the ten counties, population growth was highly uneven during that

decade: Williamson County grew by a staggering 79 percent, whereas Fayette County edged up by just about 9 percent. Six counties grew substantially, up by 41 – 51 percent, while two counties (Caldwell and Lee) gained solidly at 22 percent each.

By Census Bureau estimates, population growth slowed substantially between 2000 and 2004, but remained at 13 percent for the region as a whole. The biggest gains occurred in Hays and Williamson along the Interstate 35 corridor, at 22 and 27 percent, respectively, followed by Bastrop, Burnet and Caldwell, each between 13 to 19 percent. Travis County growth slowed substantially, and was in the group of five counties with a growth rate under 10 percent. However, the sheer size of the Travis County base means that the net gain in numbers is still quite large. The Texas State Data Center projections for the year 2010 suggest that regional population growth will continue, with similar trends during the 2000-2004 period for all the counties, except for Llano County, which may be the only county to experience a slight population decline.

Population gains between 2000 and 2005 were greatest for Hispanics across the region (Table 2). Bastrop, Burnet, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Travis and Williamson all gained between 20-28 percent in their Hispanic population, while Blanco, Caldwell and Llano gained 11-18 percent. Hispanics accounted for almost all of the net population gains in Fayette and Llano counties over this period. Hays and Williamson counties experienced robust growth in all racial and ethnic categories, but with notably more gains in African Americans compared to all the other counties.

**Table 2. County and Regional Population Change  
by Major Racial and Ethnic Groups, 2000 – 2004**

<b>County Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>2000 Census</b>	<b>Percent of County Population</b>	<b>2004 Census Estimates</b>	<b>% of County Population</b>	<b>Percentage Change, 2000-2004</b>
<b>Bastrop</b>					
Anglo	46,327	80%	60,759	89%	31%
Black	5,072	9%	6,007	9%	18%
Asian	268	0%	435	1%	62%
Hispanic/ Latino	13,845	24%	18,635	27%	35%
Total	57,733		68,608		
<b>Blanco</b>					
Anglo	7,658	91%	8,851	97%	16%
Black	62	1%	93	1%	50%
Asian	16	0%	19	0%	19%
Hispanic/ Latino	1,290	15%	1,557	17%	21%
Total	8,418		9,101		
<b>Burnet</b>					
Anglo	30,610	90%	38,780	96%	27%
Black	519	2%	677	2%	30%
Asian	95	0%	142	0%	50%
Hispanic/ Latino	5,044	15%	6,342	16%	26%
Total	34,147		40,286		
<b>Caldwell</b>					
Anglo	22,577	70%	32,738	90%	45%
Black	2,735	8%	2,973	8%	9%
Asian	108	0%	206	1%	91%
Hispanic/ Latino	13,018	40%	15,911	44%	22%
Total	32,194		36,498		
<b>Fayette</b>					
Anglo	18,442	85%	20,696	92%	12%
Black	1,528	7%	1,616	7%	6%
Asian	49	0%	57	0%	16%
Hispanic/ Latino	2,786	13%	3,397	15%	22%
Total	21,804		22,513		
<b>Hays</b>					
Anglo	77,014	79%	110,902	93%	44%
Black	3,588	4%	4,908	4%	37%
Asian	722	1%	1,196	1%	66%
Hispanic/ Latino	28,859	30%	37,297	31%	29%

<b>County Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>2000 Census</b>	<b>Percent of County Population</b>	<b>2004 Census Estimates</b>	<b>% of County Population</b>	<b>Percentage Change, 2000-2004</b>
Total	97,589	18%	119,359		
<b>Lee</b>					
Anglo	11,992	77%	14,444	87%	20%
Black	1,892	12%	1,893	11%	0%
Asian	38	0%	42	0%	11%
Hispanic/Latino	2,848	18%	3,317	20%	16%
Total	15,657		16,536		
<b>Llano</b>					
Anglo	16,408	96%	17,777	98%	8%
Black	51	0%	87	0%	71%
Asian	64	0%	74	0%	16%
Hispanic/Latino	875	5%	1,310	7%	50%
Total	17,044		18,143		
<b>Travis</b>					
Anglo	554,058	68%	725,515	83%	31%
Black	75,247	9%	78,733	9%	5%
Asian	36,286	4%	46,005	5%	27%
Hispanic/Latino	229,048	28%	272,065	31%	19%
Total	812,280		869,868		
<b>Williamson</b>					
Anglo	205,994	82%	280,069	88%	36%
Black	12,790	5%	19,616	6%	53%
Asian	6,595	3%	11,508	4%	74.5%
Hispanic/Latino	42,990	17%	61,348	19%	43%
Total	249,967		317,938		
<b>Region</b>					
Anglo	991,080	74%	1,310,531	86%	32%
Black	103,484	8%	116,603	8%	13%
Asian	44,241	3%	59,684	4%	35%
Hispanic/Latino	340,603	25%	421,179	28%	24%
Total	1,346,833		1,518,850		

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census

### ***Statistical Highlights***

The following highlights the main similarities and differences among the counties and between a county and region of the state. Table 3, “Regional, Statewide and County Indicators: A side-by-side comparison,” is provided for a quick reference.

### ***Economic Security***

The Capital Area region had a higher per capita income and median household income than the state as a whole. However, significant disparities existed among the ten counties. At the bottom, Fayette’s median household income was less than 57% of that of Williamson – the highest -- a \$17,000 gap. Williamson was also ahead of the next tier of counties -- Travis, Bastrop and Hays -- by about \$15,000.

A substantial gap in per capita income also existed among the region’s counties. Compared to the regional average of \$24,516, Travis ranked highest with \$25,883, closely followed by Williamson (\$24,547) and Llano (\$23,547). Caldwell experienced the lowest per capita income at \$15,099, with the other six counties in the range between \$17,163 for Lee and \$19,931 for Hays.

Notably, a county’s low per capita income or median household income did not always correspond with a high poverty rate, but higher scores in both indicators did match with considerably low poverty, as in the case of Williamson County. The region had a poverty rate of 11% overall and almost 15% of all children under age 18 lived in poverty, but the variation in both categories were moderate from county to county. Again with the exception of Williamson County at a significantly lower rate (4.8%), all the other nine counties varied from 10.3% in Llano to 14.3% in Hays in terms of overall poverty rate. Child poverty rate, compared to all children living in a county, ranged from 12% in Hays to 17.2% in Llano. Again, Williamson County had the lowest rate of children living in poverty, at 5.4%.

Senior poverty rate had a wider variation among the counties. In the region, 11 out of every hundred people living in poverty were seniors age 65 or above. Llano had the lowest rate (6%) of poor seniors age 65 or older, with Travis, Williamson, Burnet, Hays and Blanco ranging below ten percent, Meanwhile, 13.3% to 16.1% of all poor were seniors at age 65 or above in Bastrop, Caldwell, Fayette and Lee.

### **Education, Literacy and Early Childhood Development**

The region as a whole fared better than the state in the proportion of adults with high school diplomas. Seven counties did better than the state rate, while Caldwell, Fayette and Lee had rates somewhat lower than the state. The range varied from 71.3% for Fayette to 88.8% for Williamson.

The region had a much higher proportion (36.7%) than the state (23.2%) of people with an educational level at college graduation or above. The presence of numerous colleges and universities in Travis, Hays, and Williamson clearly made the regional rate higher, whereas the rates for the other counties fell below the statewide number, by as much as ten percentage points for Caldwell and Lee. Further, the gap between the rate of high school diploma earning and the portion of the population with bachelor's degrees or higher was significant across all counties: from a 44 percentage-point gap in college-bound Travis County, to a 55 percentage-point difference in the mostly wealthy Williamson County, to around 60 percentage-point gaps in the more rural counties of Lee, Llano, Bastrop, Blanco and Burnet.

The Capital Area regions shows a great difference in the number of children attending programs accredited by the National Association of the Education for Young Children (NAEYC) – one of the highest accreditations in the country. While five counties (Bastrop, Burnet, Fayette, Lee and Llano) did not have any NAEYC-accredited centers, one in every 15 – 51 children attended an NAEYC program during 2004 and 2005 in the other five counties (Blanco, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson).

### ***Health***

Across the Capital Area, more than one in every five – or 21.2% -- of the region's total population under age 65 had no health insurance in 2000; neither did 18.1% of all children under age 19. Health insurance coverage did not seem to correlate with income and poverty levels in the region. Each of the ten counties had about 15%--24% of adults and 14%--23% of children with no insurance. Even for the wealthiest, Williamson County, 19% of all people under age 65 and 17.5% of all children had no health insurance, higher than the more rural and poorer counties of Burnet and Llano.

Across the region, 18.1% of the population had a disability status, just shy of the statewide rate of 19.2%. Llano had the highest rate (26.9%) and Williamson was at 13.3%.

There was significant variation among counties in the rate of births to adolescent mothers out of total live births, ranging from 10.3% for Caldwell to the low of 1.9% in Fayette. The regional rate was 4.8% and the Texas rate was 5.7%.

### ***Housing***

The region's rate of home ownership (58.3%) was lower than the state's by about five percentage points. Eight counties had home ownership at 70% or more, while Travis (51.4%) and Hays (64.8%) were at the lower end of the spectrum, possibly due to the presence of a large college population. Vacant housing units, a typical measure for available housing, varied greatly among the ten counties. Llano had the highest vacancy rate at 33.4%, followed by Fayette at 21.5%, while Williamson had the lowest rate at 3.9%. Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, and Lee ranged from almost 10% to 19%; Caldwell, Travis and Hays were each below 10%.

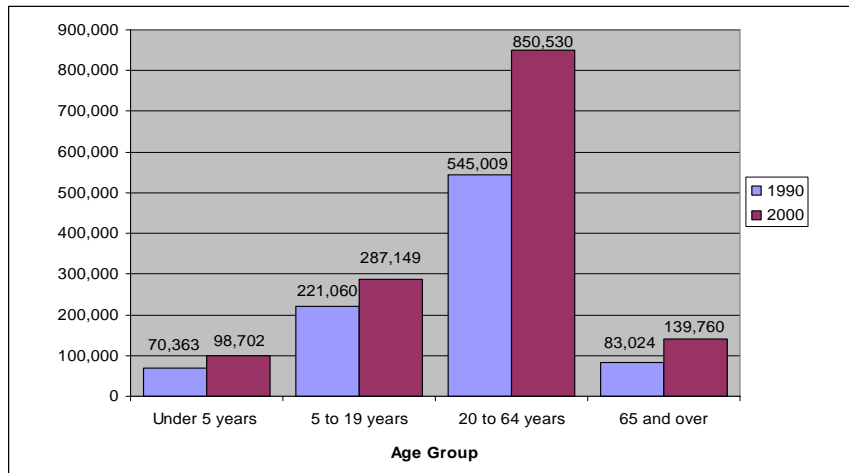
*Hurricanes Katrina and Rita contributed to a sharp spike in housing and other needs in 2005. (Community Action Network, 2005 a)*

### ***Public Safety***

Certain urban areas had substantially more incidents of reported crimes compared to rural counties. Among the 10 counties, Hays had the highest juvenile violent crime arrests, followed by Williamson County. Travis and Hays had the highest rates for violent crimes at 36.7 and 35.3 per 10,000 people, respectively, which surpassed the regional rate (21.1 per 10,000 people). Travis had a higher rate than the region in property crimes, at 494 per 10,000 people, followed by Hays at 344. Forcible rape was highest in Hays, at 5.6, followed by Travis at 4.7. Williamson and Fayette counties did not report certain data to the state's Uniform Crime Report.

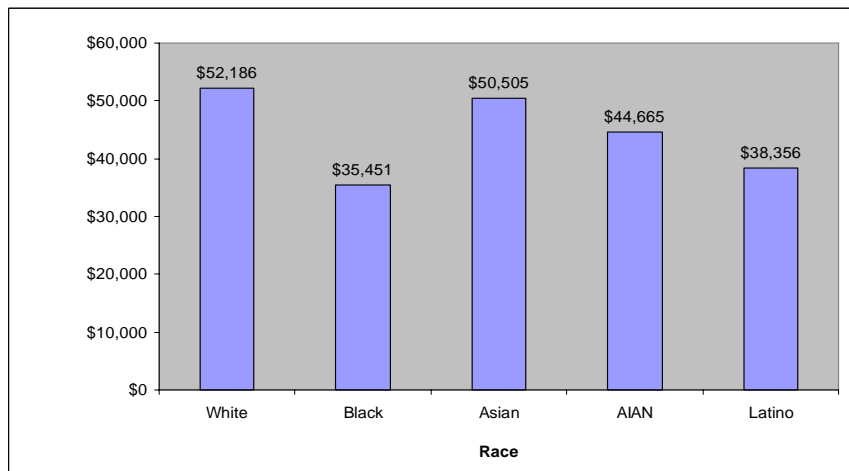
**Figure 1: Age Trends in the Capital Area**

US Census Bureau 1990 & 2000



**Figure 2: Median Household Income by Race, Capital Area**

US Census Bureau 2000



**AIAN=American Indian and Alaskan Native**

**Table 3: Regional, Statewide and County Indicators for 2000: A side-by-side comparison**

	<b>Region</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>Bastrop</b>	<b>Blanco</b>	<b>Burnet</b>	<b>Caldwell</b>	<b>Fayette</b>	<b>Hays</b>	<b>Lee</b>	<b>Llano</b>	<b>Travis</b>	<b>Williamson</b>
<b>Education &amp; Literacy</b>												
High school graduates or GED, among those 25+ years old	84.8%	75.70%	76.9%	80.6%	77.8%	71.3%	71.3%	84.7%	71.7%	83.5%	84.7%	88.8%
Bachelors, Masters or Ph. D., among those 25+ years old	36.7%	23.2%	17.0%	22.2%	17.4%	13.3%	14.6%	31.3%	13.1%	21.0%	40.6%	33.6%
Individuals who speak a language other than English at home, 5+ years old	25.8%	31.2%	22.3%	16.5%	13.5%	32.3%	20.3%	23.1%	20.1%	6.7%	28.7%	17.2%
Individuals who speak English less than "very well", 5+ years old	10.5%	13.9%	8.7%	6.0%	5.2%	10.2%	8.7%	7.1%	7.4%	2.6%	12.5%	5.8%
<b>Economic Security</b>												
Per Capita Income	\$24,516	\$19,617	\$18,146	\$19,721	\$18,850	\$15,099	\$18,888	\$19,931	\$17,163	\$23,547	\$25,883	\$24,547
Median Household Income	\$48,950	\$39,927	\$43,578	\$39,369	\$37,921	\$36,573	\$34,526	\$45,006	\$36,280	\$34,830	\$46,761	\$60,642
Individuals below poverty level, of population	11.1%	15.4%	11.6%	11.2%	10.9%	13.1%	11.4%	14.3%	11.9%	10.3%	12.5%	4.8%
Children (under 18) below poverty level, of all children	14.9%	20.2%	15.4%	14.2%	14.5%	15.1%	12.7%	12.0%	13.7%	17.2%	13.9%	5.4%
Elderly (65+ years old) below poverty, of all individuals in poverty	11.0%	12.8%	13.3%	9.8%	7.9%	15.4%	13.5%	9.7%	16.1%	6.0%	7.6%	8.4%
Average monthly TANF recipients, of population	1.1%	1.7%	1.16%	0.27%	0.8%	2.0%	1.0%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.9%	0.4%
Average monthly Food Stamp participants, of population	4.4%	6.7%	5.0%	1.2%	3.6%	7.5%	4.6%	2.8%	3.0%	2.3%	3.4%	1.6%

**Table 3: Regional, Statewide and County Indicators for 2000: A side-by-side comparison (continued)**

	Region	Texas	Bastrop	Blanco	Burnet	Caldwell	Fayette	Hays	Lee	Llano	Travis	Williamson
<b>Health and Nutrition</b>												
Individuals with disability status, 5+ years old, of population	18.1%	19.2%	19.4%	18.2%	22.5%	21.6%	21.8%	14.6%	17.9%	26.9%	14.9%	13.3%
Children in CHIP (2001), of the population	1.6%	1.8%	1.8%	1.2%	2.1%	2.1%	2.4%	1.4%	2.1%	2.2%	1.0%	1.2%
Children without health insurance, less than 19, of children	18.1%	22.3%	18.8%	16.8%	16.4%	23.6%	18.6%	17.8%	17%	14.8%	19.3%	17.5%
Persons eligible for Medicaid, of population	9.4%	12.9%	10.5%	5.8%	10.6%	15.4%	11.9%	8.0%	9.1%	8.0%	8.0%	4.7%
Persons without health insurance, less than 65 years old, of population	21.2%	22.6%	21.9%	19.1%	13.9%	27.3%	21.2%	23.3%	21.6%	14.5%	19.5%	19.0%
Births to adolescent mothers (under age 18), of all live births	4.8%	5.7%	5.0%	4.5%	4.5%	10.3%	1.9%	5.8%	4.5%	6.6%	4.5%	2.6%
Substance abuse treatment clients – adult annual admissions in TCADA-funded programs (of population)*	0.04%	0.15%	0.05%	0.00%	0.04%	0.04%	0.02%	0.06%	.03%	.08%	.09%	0.02%
Substance abuse treatment clients - youth annual admissions (of population)*	0.00%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	.00%	.00%	.03%	0.00%
<b>Household/Families</b>												
Average household size	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.1	2.5	2.8
Married-couple family w/ own children under 18 years old	25.40%	28.0%	27.9%	24.1%	23.5%	27.5%	23.9%	27.3%	30.6%	13.8%	21.9%	36.6%
Single-parent-headed households with own children under age 18	8.0%	9.5%	8.3%	6.7%	7.0%	9.9%	5.2%	7.3%	6.8%	3.8%	8.0%	7.8%

**Table 3: Regional, Statewide and County Indicators for 2000: A side-by-side comparison (continued)**

	Region	Texas	Bastrop	Blanco	Burnet	Caldwell	Fayette	Hays	Lee	Llano	Travis	Williamson
<b>Transportation</b>												
Travel time to work, workers 16+ years old	28.9 min	25.4 min	37.1 min	31.4 min	28.8 min	31.4 min	23.3 min	28 min	30 min	27.8 min	23.6 min	28 min
Individuals who use public transportation to work	2.6%	1.9%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.6%	0.0%	0%	3.7%	0.3%
<b>Early Childhood Development</b>												
Ratio of children ages 0-5 years served by NAEYC accredited programs, to those in non-NAEYC accredited programs (0 means no NAEYC Programs in the county)	1:42	1:39	0	1:16	0	1:41	0	1:33	0	0	1:15	1:51
<b>Immigration</b>												
Foreign born population	12.2%	13.9%	8.1%	5.0%	5.4%	5.1%	5.6%	5.6%	6.1%	2.0%	15.1%	7.4%
<b>Housing</b>												
Owner occupied housing units	58.3%	63.8%	80.4%	78.8%	78.3%	69.7%	78.3%	64.8%	79.3%	80.9%	51.4%	74.2%
Renter occupied housing units	31.6%	36.2%	19.6%	21.2%	21.7%	30.0%	21.7%	35.2%	20.7%	19.1%	48.6%	25.8%
Vacant housing units	4.9%	9.4%	9.7%	18.1%	17.6%	9.1%	21.5%	6.3%	17.3%	33.4%	4.5%	3.9%
Individuals receiving Section 8 housing assistance	0.2%	0.2%	0	78	101	100	10	130	0	0	2,180	320
<b>Workforce</b>												
Individuals in labor force, 16+ years old	60.7%	63.6%	61.1%	59.6%	56.1%	55.8%	57.5%	70.2%	61.7%	44.8%	69.1%	70.8%
Individuals unemployed, 16+ years old	4.0%	3.8%	2.5%	1.8%	1.7%	3.2%	2.0%	4.4%	1.6%	1.3%	2.9%	2.0%
<b>Public Safety</b>												
Juvenile (ages 10-17) violent crime arrests (per 10,000 children)	15.5	20.8	19.1	10.1	15.0	13.9	N/A	38.4	13.0	0	19.5	25.7
Violent crimes reported in Uniform Crime Report (per 10,000 people)	21.1	54.5	26.5	11.2	17.0	25.3	7.1	35.2	20.6	10.1	36.6	N/A
Property Crimes reported in Uniform Crime Report (per 10,000 people)	229.1	495.2	271.0	110.6	187.5	184.7	94.8	344.4	130.5	243.6	494.5	N/A
Forcible Rape reported in Uniform Crime Report (per 10,000 people)	3.5	3.7	3.2	3.3	4.2	2.6	0	5.6	3.2	5.0	4.7	N/A

\* These numbers may be slight underestimates. If the number of admissions for any of six substances was less than 4, the data was removed. Thus, the maximum possible number undercounted would be 18.

### ***Issues across the Region***

Research also revealed lists of issues that had been identified by stakeholders through previous community assessment and planning efforts. Issues identified by six or more Capital Area counties as being important are encapsulated below.

In addition to issues identification, the highlights below also provide brief excerpts culled from previous regional studies, needs assessments, and focus group series on specific topics. Findings from these processes do not necessarily paint a consistent picture, because they were each undertaken independently, using different research frameworks, asking different types of questions, and involving different groups of people. Rather, they enhance the understanding of certain communities in the issue areas and provide context for the regional picture.

### ***Health***

All ten counties identified *affordable healthcare* as an issue facing their communities, several specifying health care for young children, youth, adults, elders, or across all age groups. Improving the *accessibility of care* and *providing health insurance* were also issues identified in nearly every county. Additionally, the need for *more quality healthcare professionals* was voiced by six of the ten counties.

Sources: Texas Cooperative Extension: Futures Forum; CAPCOG: Bastrop/Fayette/Lee County 2002-2003 Community Plan; Huston-Tillotson University Focus Groups on African American Health Care Disparities in Central Texas; Envision Central Texas Regional Growth Survey; Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project 2004; Austin Equity Commission; Indigent Care Collaboration

In addition, the Indigent Care Collaboration (ICC) also found that, "of the 20,000 eligibility screenings of uninsured patients as of October 2003, approximately 15% were eligible for a medical assistance program (e.g., Medicaid or CHIP)." (Indigent Care Collaboration, 2003) Participants in the African American Health Care Disparity Surveys identified the lack of clear information on health care options as a big problem. (Huston-Tillotson University, 2005)

The Austin Area Comprehensive HIV Needs Assessment for 2005, with information from all ten counties, revealed that the number of residents in the Austin Health Service Delivery Area (HSDA) known to be living with HIV/AIDS increased by 44% between 1999

and 2003, from 2,315 to 3,325. Respondents with HIV/AIDS who had waited a year or more after diagnosis to access care explained that they had waited because they were “not sick” (40%), concerned about disclosure of HIV status (39%), or had active drug and alcohol use (28%). (HIV Planning Council, 2005)

LCRA noted that approximately 123,851 (15.2 %) of working age adults in the Capital Area had a disability. Of whom, approximately 66.3 % (or 82,122) were employed. (Lower Colorado River Authority, 2005)

### ***Economy/Employment***

All ten counties identified the *creation of job opportunities* as an issue for their communities.

Sources: Texas Cooperative Extension: Futures Forum; Envision Central Texas Regional Growth Survey; Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project 2004; Blanco Comprehensive Master Plan (City of Blanco)

CAPCOG’s State of the Region 2005 address highlighted positives as well as potential challenges and disparities. While the region ranked near the top of virtually every *best of list* published in national magazines, more than 70% of the new full-time, private sector jobs in our region paid less than the region’s average annual wage of \$41,280. Approximately 30% of those new jobs paid less than 50% of the average annual wage, or \$20,640 per year. CAPCOG also noted that the effect of rising prices and stagnant income growth was most noticeable in areas with large percentages of residents on fixed incomes, such as retirees or welfare recipients. Real incomes declined for residents living in the region’s top four retirement areas: Llano, Fayette, Burnet, and Lee counties. (Capital Area Council of Governments, d)

### ***Housing***

*Affordable housing* was an issue in eight of the ten counties.

Sources: Texas Cooperative Extension: Futures Forum; CAPCOG: Williamson County 2005-2006 Community Plan, Liveable City; Community Action Network FAQ on Basic Needs, 2004; Austin Equity Commission

On the other hand, CAPCOG's State of the Region Report for 2005 noted that despite the region’s upward trend in housing values, home ownership is still attainable for most residents. (Capital Area Council of Governments, d)

### ***Education, Children and Youth***

Eight of the ten counties felt that more *affordable, higher quality pre-school and childcare* was needed. *Better Healthcare for young children* was a specific issue in most counties. Nearly every county voiced concern over the *quality and equity of education available* to its students. Most counties would like to see improvements to the *vocational programs for high school students*. *Funding* is also an issue in the eyes of seven counties. All counties identified the need for *more after-school programs and recreation* for youth in their communities. Additionally, *healthcare and disease prevention* for this population were also issues raised by most counties. Nine counties identified *juvenile crime* as an issue or priority.

Sources: Texas Cooperative Extension: Futures Forum; CAPCOG: Williamson County 2005-2006 Community Plan; Envision Central Texas Regional Growth Survey; Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project 2004; Austin Equity Commission; CAPCOG: Caldwell County 2003 Community Plan; CAPCOG: Burnet, Blanco and Llano Counties 2005-2006 Community Plan.; Huston-Tillotson University, 2005; CAPCOG: Bastrop/Fayette/Lee Counties 2002-2003 Community Plan; City of Austin : African American Quality of Life Survey; Liveable City;

The Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project reported decreasing percentages of accredited childcare facilities and spaces in the five-county area. (Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project, 2004)

### ***Public Safety***

The increase in *domestic violence* and *child abuse and neglect* were issues of concern identified in nearly every county.

Sources: Texas Cooperative Extension: Futures Forum; CAPCOG: Bastrop/Fayette/Lee county 2002-2003 Community Plan, CAPCOG: Travis County 2005-2006 Plan; CAPCOG: Hays County 2005-2006 Community Plan; CAPCOG: Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties 2005-2006 Community Plan

### ***Growth, Transportation, and Quality of Life***

*Heavy traffic* and the need for either *more or better roads* were issues raised in eight counties.

Every county identified the *quantity and quality of its water supply* as an issue. Additionally, most counties also named the *preservation of land and its natural resources* as an issue.

Sources: Texas Cooperative Extension: Futures Forum; Liveable City; Envision Central Texas Regional Growth Survey; Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project 2004

LCRA cited the demographic trends in the Census projections and noted that all of the Capital Area counties, except Fayette, grew at or above the Texas rate, that ethnic/racial diversification is expected to continue, and that the Capital Area population is aging. (Lower Colorado River Authority, 2005)

The Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project showed a decline in the percentage of land classified as rural in all five of its target counties.

Through a regional growth planning process, community members indicated that the priority problems were: Traffic, 40%; Roads, 18%; Schools, 11%; Jobs, 9%; and Health Care, 9%. Findings also indicated preferences that solutions should create a balance of jobs throughout the region; maintain affordability; preserve the character of rural communities and urban neighborhoods, and other features. (Envision Central Texas, 2005)

### ***Basic Needs***

The 2-1-1 information and referral service shows that requests for assistance with basic needs already doubled from 2001 to 2004. There was a 17% increase in calls about affordable housing and a 22% increase in calls about Adult Mental Health Counseling. Top needs expressed by the callers were assistance with electric bills, rent, food, childhood immunizations, shelter for the homeless, and a variety of health care needs. The number of Spanish-speaking callers increased by 70% and there was a 37% increase in callers sixty years old, and older. The number of calls in all ten counties increased, most significantly from Williamson, Hays, and Caldwell Counties. These increases may be related to the level of need, to better awareness about 2-1-1 services, or a combination of the two. (United Way Capital Area, 2004)



**Table 5: Regional Indicators**

	<b>Region (SMA or Region 7 Data)</b>	<b>Texas</b>
<b>Education &amp; Literacy</b>		
High school graduates or GED, among those 25+ years old	84.8%	75.70%
Bachelors, Masters or Ph. D., among those 25+ years old	36.7%	23.2%
Individuals who speak a language other than English at home, 5+ years old	25.8%	31.2%
Individuals who speak English less than "very well", 5+ years old	10.5%	13.9%
<b>Economic Security</b>		
Per Capita Income	\$24,516	\$19,617
Median Household Income	\$48,950	\$39,927
Individuals below poverty level, of County population	11.1%	15.4%
Children (under 18) below poverty level, of all children	14.9%	20.2%
Elderly (65+ years old) below poverty, of all individuals in poverty	11.0%	12.8%
Average monthly TANF recipients, of County population	1.1%	1.7%
Average monthly Food Stamp participants, of County population	4.4%	6.7%
<b>Health and Nutrition</b>		
Individuals with disability status, 5+ years old, of County population	18.1%	19.2%
Children in CHIP (2001), of County population	1.6%	1.8%
Children without health insurance, under 19, of all children	18.1%	22.3%
Persons eligible for Medicaid, of County population	9.4%	12.9%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65, of all population	21.2%	22.6%
Births to Adolescent mothers (under age 18), of all live births	4.8%	5.7%
Substance abuse treatment clients – adult annual admissions in TCADA-funded programs (of County population)*	0.04%	0.15%
Substance abuse treatment clients - youth annual admissions (of County population)*	0.00%	0.02%
<b>Household/Families</b>		
Average household size	2.6	2.7
Married-couple family w/ own children under 18 years old	25.40%	28.00%
Single-parent-headed households with own children under age 18	8.0%	9.5%
<b>Early Childhood Development</b>		
Ratio of children ages 0-5 years served by NAEYC accredited programs, to those in unaccredited programs (0 means no NAEYC Programs in the county)	1:42	1:39
<b>Immigration</b>		
Foreign born population	12.2%	13.9%
<b>Housing</b>		
Owner occupied housing units	58.3%	63.8%
Renter occupied housing units	31.6%	36.2%
Vacant housing units	4.9%	9.4%
Individuals receiving Section 8 housing assistance	0.2%	0.2%
<b>Workforce</b>		
Individuals in labor force, 16+ years old	60.7%	63.6%
Individuals unemployed, 16+ years old	4.0%	3.8%
<b>Transportation</b>		
Travel time to work, workers 16+ years old	28.9 min	25.4 min
Individuals who use public transportation	2.6%	1.9%
<b>Public Safety</b>		
	Based on RMC calculation	
Juvenile (ages 10-17) violent crime arrests per 10,000 children	15.5	20.8
Violent Crimes reported for Uniform Crime Report per 10,000 people	21.1	54.5
Property Crimes reported for Uniform Crime Report per 10,000 people	229.1	495.2
Forcible Rape reported for Uniform Crime Report per 10,000 people	3.5	3.7

\* These numbers may be slight underestimates. If the number of admissions for any of six substances was less than four, the data was removed. Thus, the maximum possible number undercounted would be 18.

## *Data Sources*

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