

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Community Description

Washington County residents describe their community as friendly, charitable, and tourist oriented. The community is situated in a good location between Houston and Austin which draws in travelers, with great locations to visit that possess history. Discussion group participants did note that the population growth in their area has caused some issues such as an increase in crime and creating a lack of certain amenities. Despite changes in the population and changes in proportions of racial and ethnic minorities, the community still prides itself on its generous and charitable foundation.



Community Issues

Top concerns expressed in Washington County Community Discussion Groups were:

- Lack of youth activities and recreational areas
- Lack of affordable housing options
- Access to adequate health care physicians, requiring residents to travel out of town for care
- Lack of specialty health care including geriatric and mental health
- Lack of transportation



Washington County had mortality down to a moderate level, and in terms of heart disease, diabetes, and stroke, it fared better than similar counties. The leading concerns pertaining to morbidity was that of Alzheimer's disease/dementia (13.0%), gonorrhea (142 per 100,000), preterm births (12.9%), and syphilis (3 per 100,000). Health care access and quality had the primary concern of an uninsured population (23.4%), a consistent trend in the Greater Brazos Valley. Health risk behaviors were reported at a moderate level, although social factors included single-parent households (40.7%), high housing costs, and inadequate social support. Physical environment was most concerned with housing stress, most likely related to high housing costs.