

AUSTIN COUNTY

Community Description

Residents of Austin County described their community as small, close knit, friendly and peaceful. Their community is one that is generous and family oriented with great influence from faith based-organizations. Austin County is not without issue as participants in community discussion groups expressed concern over transportation, lack of employment opportunities, safe and affordable housing and an increase in crime with new comers to the area. In addition, participants also stated that elements of discrimination and prejudice linger as well. However, seeing that faith-based organizations have a strong influence in this community, residents can form stronger community bonds and think of ways to address many of the issues they face together.



Community Issues

Top concerns expressed in Austin County Community Discussion Groups were:

- Access to health care and mental health services
- Unemployment
- Transportation
- Inadequacy of local infrastructure to support the aging and growing population
- Racial prejudice
- Lack of communication related to health and human services
- Obesity and diabetes



Findings were similar to the general trend of community health concerns in the Greater Brazos Valley for Austin County, although there was some deviation. The Community Health Status Indicators state that in terms of mortality, coronary heart disease, diabetes, and motor vehicle deaths were leading causes (174.1 per 100,000; 27.7 per 100,000; and 26.6 per 100,000 respectively). In terms of morbidity, Austin County has a lower rate of older adult depression than it's peer counties (9.2%).