

CSA #8 – Clear Lake/Seabrook Executive Summary

Demographics:

The Clear Lake/Seabrook CSA is a predominantly Anglo area located southeast of downtown Houston. Over 75% of the population is Anglo, 3% is African-American, and the remainder of the population consisting of roughly equal proportions of Hispanics and Asians. Both the median household income and the median home value are considerably higher than that of Greater Houston. Not surprisingly, the area is significantly more educated than Houston as a whole. Only 5% of the adult population has no high school diploma (compared to 23% for Houston as a whole), and more than half of residents have a college degree. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, about 7% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

Satisfaction levels:

Compared to the rest of Houston, the residents of the Clear Lake/Seabrook area reported much higher than average levels of satisfaction with their lives. 56% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, third highest among all CSAs. 81% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 96% (second highest in the city) reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends. However, only 25% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, while 56% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole.

Spiritual Condition:

Relative to the rest of Greater Houston, residents of Clear Lake/Seabrook are much less spiritually receptive than other CSAs in the Greater Houston area. The CSA ranks near the middle or bottom of nearly all spiritual categories. 27% of residents attend church weekly, and 12% of residents never attend church. When having problems, 32% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 28% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community is much more spiritually aware than these statistics would indicate. 60% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 83% of residents are likely to pray when they have problems, and 62% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God.

Interviews with Key Leaders in the Clear Lake/Seabrook CSA:

Key leaders praised the area for its high quality of life, generous and progressive residents, excellent educational system, and economic prosperity within the community. Most of the problems facing the community are related to family issues such as drug and alcohol abuse among youth and a denial of parents to address problems. Community leaders also commented on the perceived importance of affluence within the community. Leaders lauded the Church for its emphasis on strong moral values, active congregations, and warning against the ills of materialism. However, a major criticism of the Church as a whole was a general lack of active support. Interviewees said that congregations are not effective in collaborating with each other to solve problems in the community, nor do they even acknowledge that the problems facing the community are of a serious magnitude. Leaders commented that congregations could help to solve problems within the community by offering mentoring programs to help mend family relationships and minister to the youth.

