

CSA #14 – Fifth Ward/Denver Harbor Executive Summary

Demographics:

The Fifth Ward/Denver Harbor CSA is an ethnically diverse area located east of downtown Houston. African-Americans and Hispanics both make up about 50% of the population each. The total per capita income is less than half that of the city, and the median value home value is one third that of the median value in Greater Houston. More than 38% of the population has a household income less than \$15,000. The area is also considerably less educated than Houston as a whole. More than half of adults do not have a high school diploma, and only about 6% of adults have a college degree. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, about 25% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

Satisfaction levels:

Compared to the rest of Houston, the residents of the Fifth Ward/Denver Harbor area reported levels of satisfaction lower than any other CSA in the city. 20% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods (lowest in the city), 74% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 31% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends (also lowest in the city). 22% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, and 39% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole.

Spiritual Condition:

However, residents of Fifth Ward/Denver Harbor are the most spiritually active CSA in the city. 50% of residents attend church weekly (most in the city), and 4% of residents never attend church (least in the city). When having problems, 56% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 48% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community is even more spiritually aware than these statistics might indicate. 91% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 98% of residents pray when they have problems, and 92% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God.

Interviews with Key Leaders in the Fifth Ward/Denver Harbor CSA:

Key leaders pointed to the rich history, sense of community pride, and hard working families as the best attributes of the community. Most of the problems that interviewees spoke of were related to economy: poverty and failing infrastructure were among the issues discussed. Leaders lauded the Church for helping with benevolence ministries. However, interviewees criticized congregations in Denver Harbor for being much less organized and focused than congregations in Fifth Ward. Leaders commented that congregations could help to solve problems by developing alliances and communications with community groups already seeking to solve problems.

