

CSA #17 – Holcombe/Bellaire Executive Summary

Demographics:

The Holcombe/Bellaire CSA is a predominantly Anglo area located southwest of downtown Houston. Anglos make up about 67% of the population, while African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asians each make up about 10%. Both the median household income and median home value are about twice that of Greater Houston. Not surprisingly, the area is much better educated than Houston as a whole. About 65% of adults have a college degree, while only about 6% of adults have failed to complete high school. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, about 9% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

Satisfaction levels:

Compared to the rest of the Greater Houston area, the residents of the Holcombe/Bellaire area reported some of the highest levels of satisfaction in the city. 64% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods (highest in the city), 77% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 100% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends (highest in the city). While only 27% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, 56% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole (highest in the city).

Spiritual Condition:

However, residents of the Holcombe/Bellaire area are much less spiritually aware than other CSAs in the survey. 22% of residents attend church weekly (third lowest in the city), and 19% of residents never attend church. When having problems, 30% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 24% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community is more spiritually aware than these statistics might indicate. 50% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 72% of residents pray when they have problems, an interesting statistic considering that only 34% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God.

Interviews with Key Leaders in the Holcombe/Bellaire CSA:

Key leaders praised the area for its small town atmosphere, premium health care, and healthy economy as the best attributes of the community. Most of the problems that interviewees spoke of were related to high land values and property taxes, medical care for the indigent, and duplication of services. Leaders lauded the Church for providing myriad social services programs and being actively involved in the community. Some interviewees were critical of the inward focus of many congregations. When congregations become “club” oriented, the community as a whole suffers. Leaders suggested that congregations could continue help to solve problems by implementing additional after school programs and programs for the elderly. One interviewee also suggested that congregations improve their direct communications to residents and public officials in the area.

