

CSA #22 – La Porte/Bayport Executive Summary

Demographics:

The La Porte/Bayport CSA is a predominantly Anglo area located southeast of downtown Houston. Anglos make up about 70% of the population, Hispanics make up 20%, and African-Americans make up 7%. The median household income is roughly the same as Greater Houston's, but the median home value is slightly lower in La Porte/Bayport. The area is not as well educated as Houston as a whole. Only about 15% of adults have a college degree. However, there are substantially fewer high school dropouts (as a percentage) than in the city as a whole. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, about 10% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

Satisfaction levels:

The residents of the La Porte/Bayport area reported levels of satisfaction consistent with the rest of the city. 48% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, 80% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 51% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends. 36% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, and 48% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole.

Spiritual Condition:

Residents of the La Porte/Bayport area show levels of spiritual awareness roughly consistent with the rest of the city. 32% of residents attend church weekly, while 17% of residents never attend church. When having problems, 38% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 34% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community is more spiritually aware than these statistics might indicate. 74% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 84% of residents pray when they have problems, and 82% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God.

Interviews with Key Leaders in the La Porte/Bayport CSA:

According to leaders, the La Porte/Bayport area is a small, quiet, family oriented community that relies heavily on the industry surrounding the Ship Channel. Interviewees praised the area for its small town feel and safety. However, leaders seem concerned with the lack of new growth in the area: the tax base is declining, traffic is often congested, and housing is substandard. There is also a perceived lack of involvement by parents in the lives of their children. The Church's contribution to the area is somewhat mixed. One interviewee praised congregations for participating in a local Ministerial Alliance, while another said congregations have little impact on the community. The Church has had success with the implementing programs for children; however, there seems to be few programs focused on the needs of teenagers. Interviewees suggested that congregations develop programs to reach out to teenagers and parents.

