

CSA #30 – Pearland Executive Summary

Demographics:

The Pearland CSA is a predominantly Anglo area located south of downtown Houston. Anglos make up about 68% of the population, Hispanics make up 18%, and African-Americans and Asians both make up less than 10% each. Median household income and median home values are both substantially higher than those in Greater Houston. The area is also much better educated than Houston as a whole. About 34% of adults have a college degree, and only 12% of the adult population has not completed high school. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, about 8% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

Satisfaction levels:

Compared to the rest of the Greater Houston area, the residents of Pearland reported levels of satisfaction higher than the rest of the city. 53% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, 80% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 78% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends. 29% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, and 50% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole.

Spiritual Condition:

However, residents of Pearland show levels of spiritual awareness slightly lower than the rest of the city. 31% of residents attend church weekly, and 13% of residents never attend church. When having problems, 36% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 30% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community is more spiritually aware than these statistics might indicate. 70% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 85% of residents pray when they have problems, and 72% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God.

Interviews with Key Leaders in the Pearland CSA:

According to leaders, the Pearland area is a diverse and economically successful community. Interviewees praised the area for its caring people, its strong educational system, and thriving business climate. Most of the problems that interviewees spoke of were related to this rapid growth: the growth has contributed to traffic problems, strained the infrastructure, and reduced the availability of low-income housing. In addition, leaders also mentioned a number of times that there is a lack of parental guidance and mentoring among youth in the community. The church is doing its part by appealing to different people groups, promoting an image of respect, and reach out to those in need. However, leaders also perceived that congregations seem very closed minded by being judgmental of secular people, campaigning negatively during election season, and not making attempts to understand political and social issues at hand. Leaders suggested a number of improvements for the area. Additional social services, such as a homeless shelter, are needed for the area. The Church can continue to reach out to the Hispanic community. Finally, interviewees mentioned that youth in the area need activities to pursue and adults (whether parents or neighbors) to mentor them.

