

CSA #33 – Spring Branch/Oak Forest Executive Summary

Demographics:

The Spring Branch/Oak Forest CSA is a predominantly Hispanic area located west of downtown Houston. Hispanics make up about 52% of the population, Anglos make up 33%, and African-Americans make up about 9%. The median household income and median home value are relatively less than that of Greater Houston. The area is also less educated than Houston as a whole. Only about 19% of adults have a college degree, while 34% of adults do not have a high school diploma. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, about 14% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

Satisfaction levels:

The residents of the Spring Branch/Oak Forest area reported levels of satisfaction slightly lower than the rest of the city. 35% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, 74% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 58% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends. 32% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, and 46% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole.

Spiritual Condition:

Residents of the Spring Branch/Oak Forest area show levels of spiritual awareness lower than the city as whole. 32% of residents attend church weekly, while 18% of residents never attend church. When having problems, 39% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 31% 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, 89% 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 Spring Branch/Oak Forest CSA:

According to key leaders, the Spring Branch/Oak Forest area is a diverse community in a very strategic location. Low cost of living, and a recent influx of new business and home development are some of the positive attributes of the community. Many interviewees said problems in the community were related to cultural differences: there is a large amount of tension between populations of unskilled minorities who do not speak English and affluent Anglos moving to the area. Interviewees praised the Church for being supportive of many social initiatives, and for assisting in the assimilation of immigrants and minorities to civic life. Leaders, however, observed that congregations in the community tend to pay more lip service to the issue rather than actively involved. Interviewees encouraged congregations to continue to meet with civic leaders to ease the transition of the many immigrants in the area.

