

CSA #39 – West Memorial/Westheimer Executive Summary

Demographics:

The West Memorial/Westheimer CSA is a predominantly Anglo area located west of downtown Houston. Anglos make up about 58% of the population, Hispanics make up 17%, African-Americans make up 13%, and Asians make up 10%. While the median household income is only slightly higher than Greater Houston, the median home value is much larger in this CSA. The area is also much better educated than Houston as a whole. About 50% of adults have a college degree, while only 7% of the adult population has not completed high school. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, about 12% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

Satisfaction levels:

The residents of the West Memorial/Westheimer area reported levels of satisfaction slightly higher than the rest of the city. 46% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, 75% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 89% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends. 27% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, and 51% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole.

Spiritual Condition:

Residents of the West Memorial/Westheimer area show levels of spiritual awareness much lower than the rest of the city. 23% of residents attend church weekly (fourth lowest in the city), and 16% of residents never attend church. When having problems, 34% 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. 66% 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, an interesting statistic considering that only 52% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God.

Interviews with Key Leaders in the West Memorial/Westheimer CSA:

According to leaders, the West Memorial/Westheimer CSA is a generous, friendly community with a broad mix of cultures. Interviewees praised the area for its good schools, good real estate values, and neighborhood initiatives. However, crime and significant pockets of poverty afflict the area. The Church is doing its part by providing many programs for youth and families, social services for those in need, and aiding the homeless. However, leaders perceived that congregations are too inwardly focused on their own congregations at the expense of the community at large. One interviewee also commented that congregations sometimes provide too much aid to those in need, which leads to dependence rather than independence. Interviewees suggested the Church continue to teach moral values to the youth, and begin to work interdenominationally to address issues facing the community.

