

CSA #40 – Woodlands Executive Summary

Demographics:

The Woodlands CSA is a predominantly Anglo area located north of downtown Houston. Anglos make up about 85% of the population, Hispanics make up 9%, and African-Americans and Asians both make up about 30% each. Both the median home value and the median household income are both substantially higher than those in Greater Houston. The area is also much better educated than Houston as a whole. About 46% of adults have a college degree, and only 7% of the adult population has not completed high school. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, about 7% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

Satisfaction levels:

Compared to the rest of the Greater Houston area, the residents of the Woodlands area reported levels of satisfaction higher than the rest of the city. 56% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, 86% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families (second highest in the city), and 89% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends. 30% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, and 53% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole (third highest in the city).

Spiritual Condition:

However, residents of the Woodlands area show levels of spiritual awareness consistent with the rest of the city. 32% of residents attend church weekly, and 8% of residents never attend church. When having problems, 40% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 33% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community is more spiritually aware than these statistics might indicate. 71% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 87% of residents pray when they have problems, and 70% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God.

Interviews with Key Leaders in the Woodlands CSA:

According to leaders, the Woodlands area is a rapidly growing, family oriented community. Interviewees praised the area for its terrific sense of community, its strong educational system, and thriving business climate. Most of the problems that interviewees spoke of were related to the breakdown of the family: many youth struggle with drug alcohol abuse, parents are not involved in their children's lives, and the community is ill-equipped to deal with family struggles. The church is doing its part by contributing to the community atmosphere, providing numerous programs for the community, and reaching the needy in the community. However, leaders overwhelmingly perceived that churches seem unwilling to partner with congregations of different denominations. Because churches can be so inwardly focused, rather than focused on the community, many ministry opportunities are left undone. There is also a perception that churches are competing for members, and continually trying to outdo each other. Interviewees emphasized strongly that churches need to unite together in ministry in order to effectively reach the community.

