

2015 Community Needs Assessment Report

El Paso Community Action Program Project BRAVO, Inc.

Overview of the Needs Assessment

An assessment was conducted of the needs of low-income and vulnerable populations in the County of El Paso, Texas, by the El Paso Community Action Program Project BRAVO, Inc. (Project BRAVO). Quantitative and qualitative data were gathered to assess the needs of low-income and vulnerable people (age 65 or older, persons with disabilities, and children under the age of 5) from the community. The assessment was presented to the Project BRAVO Board of Directors on August 8, 2015, and used to direct the strategic planning process and the development of the 2016 Community Action Plan.

The following are the top five needs for low-income El Pasoans that were identified by the assessment:

1. Assistance and access to programs and services that help the household meet basic living expenses.
2. Assistance and access to programs and services that increase household income.
3. Access to affordable healthcare and health insurance.
4. Access to safe, affordable, and educational childcare and/or schools.
5. Access to environmentally safe and affordable housing.

Methods Used to Gather Information

Project BRAVO analyzed population data for the County of El Paso from the U.S. Census Bureau Fact Finder website and the Needs Assessment tool available through the Community Commons website. The census data was used to identify vulnerable populations and trends related to poverty for the population living in the County of El Paso, Texas.

In addition, Project BRAVO requested information from the City of El Paso's 2-1-1 Texas Rio Grande Area Information Center. The scope of the information requested was a data set that contained information from 92,674 residents of El Paso County that called 2-1-1 in 2014. The data set was evaluated to identify the most common unmet needs in the community per 2-1-1 callers.

Furthermore, 1,183 clients were surveyed and a random sample of 400 surveys were analyzed using quantitative and qualitative methods to assess what needs were currently being met by Project BRAVO and what needs were not being addressed with existing programs and services. Finally, the data was compiled and analyzed in order to identify the top five needs in the community.

Strengths and Limitations of the Needs Assessment

For a population of 813,015 residents in the County of El Paso, a recommended sample size is 16,256 in order to have a margin of error of 1% with a confidence level of 99%.

The data used in this assessment to identify the top needs in the community was gathered from the City of El Paso's 2-1-1 Texas Rio Grande Area Information Center 2014 report (2-1-1 Data Set). Several advantages were gained from using the 2-1-1 Data Set. First of all, the data sample of 92,674 interactions exceeded the amount needed in order to have statistically significant results. A data sample of 16,256 was needed to have a 99% confidence level for the population of El Paso County; therefore a sample size of 92,674 provided a high confidence level for this study.

Second, the people calling 2-1-1 were more likely to be from low-income households and/or vulnerable populations than if the data was gathered through a random process. If a truly random sample had been used to obtain this information, the likelihood of gathering data from households with middle or higher incomes and/or non-vulnerable populations would be more likely, thus making it difficult to assess what needs are unmet in the County of El Paso for low-income and/or vulnerable populations.

Finally, the callers contacted 2-1-1 when they had a specific problem that needed to be addressed. Even if a low-income and/or vulnerable population data sample was surveyed for this study, there is a significant likelihood that the households could have been contacted at a time when they had no unmet needs.

There were several limitations to the 2-1-1 Data Set. The most significant limitation of the 2-1-1 Data Set is that it was not devised as a survey of unmet needs. The data set is an indirect source of information on the needs of low-income and/or vulnerable people in the County of El Paso. A survey could have been developed to analyze a random sample of participants, but the sample size would have been significantly smaller due to cost limitations.

One limitation is that participants in this "survey" were individuals that were aware of the 2-1-1 information and referral service. Although 2-1-1 is a well known resource in the community, there are still individuals in the community that are unaware of this vital service.

Another limitation is that the number of callers and type of information requested was sometimes influenced by factors such as media coverage. For example, twice a year the

Extreme Weather Taskforce advertises a program where residents can request blankets or fans in order to better cope with extreme weather. During these times the number of callers with these specific needs would be higher than at other times of the year.

Finally, the 2-1-1 Data Set has information from people that called during 2014. There is a slight possibility that needs in the community may have changed, but the likelihood is very low.

Information was also gathered from Project BRAVO low-income and/or vulnerable clients to assess what needs are being met by the organization, and what needs are not being met through existing programs and services. A sample of 1,183 surveys was collected, and 400 of those surveys were randomly chosen for analysis. This survey was meant to assess the needs of Project BRAVO clients which are at a minimum 20,000 per year. A sample of 377 surveys is needed to achieve a 5% margin of error and 95% confidence level; therefore a sample of 400 surveys was more than adequate for this analysis.

The survey tool was in English and Spanish and provided the opportunity for the participant to offer qualitative data. The strength of this survey was that it was offered to all clients that came in for services at Project BRAVO. The weakness was that only data could be gathered from clients who chose to turn in their surveys. Various factors can determine why people participate in surveys such as time constraints, intense satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the service provided, and participant literacy.

The 2-1-1 Data Set was the primary source for identifying the top five unmet needs of low-income and/or vulnerable people in the County of El Paso. The Project BRAVO survey was used to assess the needs of clients that receive services from the organization. The population overview provided by the Community Commons Needs Assessment that consolidates U.S. Census Bureau data validated the unmet needs identified by 2-1-1 and the Project BRAVO data sets very well and will be discussed in the next section.

Key Findings

In the following section, all charts and graphs utilize data that was obtained from the Community Commons Needs Assessment tool. The tool gathered information from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey from 2009-2013.

General Demographic Data

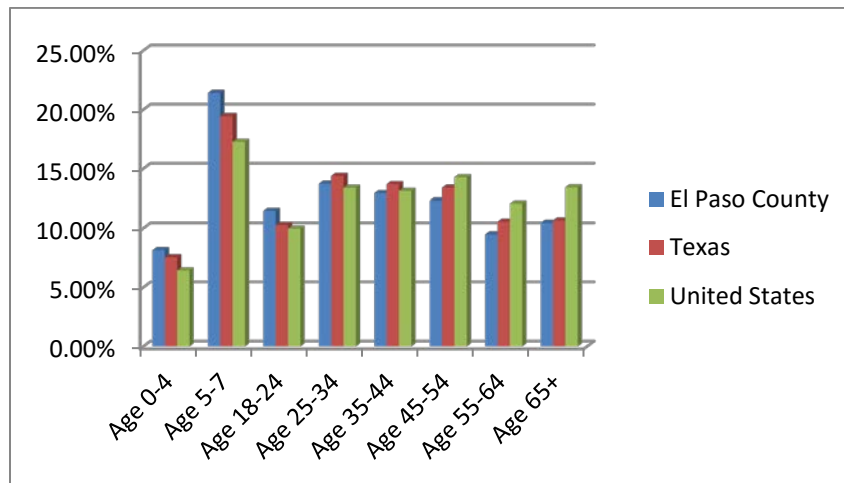
An analysis of demographic data gathered from the U.S. Census of the County of El Paso, the State of Texas, and the United States reveals that the population of El Paso is typically younger, especially in the age groups of 0 to 17. Data from the 2-1-1 Data Set and Project BRAVO client survey revealed a significant need for affordable and safe child care (Need #4). The following chart that points to households in El Paso as having more children (ages 0 to 17) with less working age adults (ages 18 to 54) in the community.

Population by Age

	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Total Population	813,015		25,639,372		311,536,591	
Age 0-4	66,290	8.15%	1,934,973	7.55%	20,052,112	6.44%
Age 5-17	174,134	21.42%	4,989,935	19.46%	53,825,346	17.28%
Age 18-24	93,350	11.48%	2,634,158	10.27%	31,071,246	9.97%
Age 25-34	111,632	13.73%	3,690,303	14.39%	41,711,276	13.39%
Age 35-44	105,163	12.93%	3,510,980	13.69%	40,874,160	13.12%
Age 45-54	100,275	12.33%	3,435,096	13.40%	44,506,268	14.29%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009-13.

Distribution Graph-Age



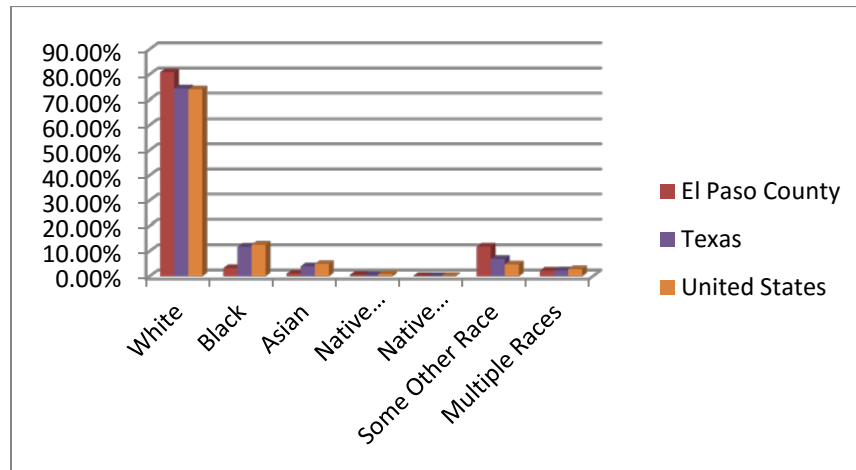
The population in the County of El Paso is predominately White and Hispanic/Latino according to U.S. Census Data. The Black and Asian populations are significantly lower in number when compared to the state of Texas and the United States. The Native American/Alaskan and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander populations in El Paso County are comparably the same as in Texas and the United States. The population that identifies as “Some Other Race” is significantly higher in the County of El Paso than in Texas and the United States. This may be due to Hispanic/Latino populations not identifying as White or individuals with heritage from more than one race. This data points to the overwhelming need to ensure programs and services provided by Project BRAVO are culturally competent for Hispanic/Latino clients. In a later section, data will be presented on the impact of having a predominantly Hispanic/Latino community (i.e. prevalence of U.S. citizenship, linguistically isolated populations).

Population by Race and Ethnicity

	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Total Population	813,015		25,639,372		311,536,591	
White	657,330	80.85%	19,075,100	74.40%	230,592,576	74.02%
Black	26,516	3.26%	3,030,970	11.82%	39,167,008	12.57%
Asian	8,741	1.08%	1,019,260	3.98%	15,231,962	4.89%
Native American/Alaska Native	4,824	0.59%	129,219	0.50%	2,540,309	0.82%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1,061	0.13%	20,974	0.08%	526,347	0.17%
Some Other Race	96,308	11.85%	1,773,524	6.92%	14,746,054	4.73%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

Distribution Graph-Race

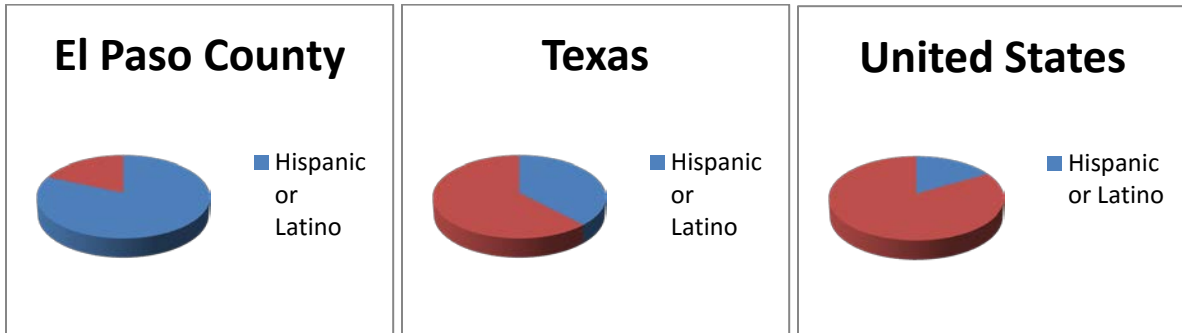


Ethnicity

	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Total Population	813,015		25,639,372		311,536,591	
Hispanic or Latino	663,256	81.58%	9,717,727	37.90%	51,786,592	16.62%
Non-Hispanic Population	149,759	18.42%	15,921,646	62.10%	259,750,000	83.38%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

Pie Graphs-Ethnicity



The population growth between 2000 and 2010 in the County of El Paso is significantly higher than that in the United States, but slightly lower than in the State of Texas. As mentioned earlier, the population in El Paso is significantly younger (ages 0-17), therefore the population should continue to grow granted that the younger population does not leave the County in significant numbers once they turn 18 and begin to start their own families. The household population data presented in the following section also points to a significantly higher number of households with children under the age of 18 which points to continued population growth.

Change in Population 2000-2010

	El Paso County	Texas	United States
Total Population 2000 Census	679,622	20,851,824	280,421,907
Total Population 2010 Census	800,647	25,145,561	307,745,539
Total Population Change, 2000-2010	121,025	4,293,737	27,323,632
%age Population Change, 2000-2010	17.81%	20.59%	9.74%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

Households

Households	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Total Households	255,573		8,886,471		115,610,216	
Family Households	192,989	75.51%	6,206,755	69.84%	76,744,360	66.38%
Children-Households with Children Under Age 18	114,857	44.94%	3,392,748	38.18%	37,741,108	32.65%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

Data on Vulnerable Populations

A careful analysis of the population revealed that the residents of the County of El Paso are significantly poorer, less educated, with lower household incomes, higher unemployment, greater numbers of people with disabilities, more food insecure, and more likely to live in homes that they cannot afford than the general population of Texas and the United States.

The charts in the next section illustrate the challenges faced by the residents of El Paso County according to data provided by the U.S. Census. The following is the color key is used to better illustrate significant findings:

Chart Color Code

The population of El Paso County has greater challenges than the State of Texas, but not the United States.	The population of El Paso County has greater challenges than the United States, but not the State of Texas.	The population of El Paso County has greater challenges than both the State of Texas and the United States.	The State of Texas and the United States have greater challenges than the County of El Paso.
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Approximately 23% of the population in El Paso County lives at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and more than 50% live at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. A significant percentage of that population is under the age of 18 (32%), which makes the challenge of increasing household income more difficult. Need #1 points to the difficulty of households face to meet basic living expenses and subsequently Need #2, the importance of increasing household incomes..

The majority of individuals living in poverty are Hispanic/Latino (94% Hispanic/Latinos vs. 82% total population) which means that programs and services must be provided in a culturally competent manner.

Surprisingly, men living in the County of El Paso were less likely to be living at or below 100% FPL when compared to men in Texas and the United States. Conversely women, especially Hispanic/Latino women, were more likely to live in poverty in the County of El Paso when compared to women in Texas and the United States. Outreach for anti-poverty programs should focus on recruiting women, especially Hispanic/Latino women in order to address the needs of this community.

The number of households receiving TANF in the County of El Paso is significantly higher than in Texas and the United States, but this may be a result of having a high percentage of people, especially women, living in poverty.

Poverty

Population	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Poverty-Population with Income Below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	186,223	22.91%	4,416,829	17.23%	46,663,432	14.98%
Poverty-Population with Income Below 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	412,709	50.76%	9,718,669	37.91%	103,964,464	33.37%
Poverty-Population Under Age 18	238,362		6,840,903		72,748,616	
Poverty-Population Under Age 18 in Poverty (%age of Population Under Age 18 in Poverty Over Total Population Under Age 18)	76,428	32.06%	1,727,801	25.26%	15,701,799	21.58%
Poverty-Hispanic/Latino Children Under Age 18 in Poverty (%age of Hispanic/Latino Children Under Age 18 in Poverty Over Children In Poverty Under Age 18)	72,598	94.99%	1,163,264	67.33%	5,526,724	35.20%
Poverty-Total Male Population with Income Below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (% of Poverty Population)	81,566	43.80%	1,984,244	44.92%	20,955,836	44.91%
Poverty-Total Female Population with Income Below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (% of Poverty Population)	104,657	56.20%	2,432,585	55.08%	25,707,598	55.09%
Poverty-Total Hispanic/Latino Population with Income Below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (% of Poverty Population)	171,205	91.94%	2,505,875	56.73%	12,507,866	26.80%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009-13.

TANF Households

Population	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Income-Households with Public Assistance Income (includes TANF)	11,108	4.35%	163,371	1.84%	3,255,213	2.82%
Income-Average Public Assistance Received for Households with Public Assistance Income	\$3,654		\$3,391		\$3,807	

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

The number of people in the County of El Paso living with a disability is slightly higher than that of Texas and the United States. This means that the challenges of finding employment for these individuals will not be significantly higher than other communities face throughout the state of Texas and the United States.

Disability Population

Population	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Total Population	813,015		25,639,372		311,536,591	
Population with a Disability ¹	96,603	12.24%	2,902,056	11.54%	37,168,876	12.13%
Population Under Age 18 with a Disability	8,421	8.72%	285,364	9.83%	2,972,823	8.00%
Population 18-24 with a Disability	50,312	52.08%	1,550,620	53.43%	19,403,946	52.20%
Population Age 65 and Over with a Disability/% of Disability Population	37,870	39.20%	1,066,072	36.74%	14,792,111	39.80%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

The unemployment rate in the County of El Paso is slightly higher than the State of Texas, but not higher than the rest of the United States. This means that the population in the County of El Paso does not face unusual challenges when seeking employment. When working towards addressing Need #2, assistance and access to programs and services that increase household income

Employment

Population	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Employment-Total Labor Force	348,618		13,162,061		158,429,642	
Employment-Number Unemployed	24,317	6.98%	714,761	5.43%	10,058,282	6.35%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

Data on food insecurity also points to Need #1, assistance and access to programs and services that help the household meet basic living expenses. Raising household income as well as creating better access to food for families living in poverty must be a priority for Project BRAVO.

Food & Nutrition

Population	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Food-Food Insecure Population	131,310	16.15%	4,773,850	18.62%	49,943,940	16.03%
Food-Low Income Population with Low Food Access	97,891	12.04%	2,569,908	10.02%	19,347,047	6.21%
Food-Total Students	181,602		5,077,507		49,936,793	
Food-Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	136,206	75.00%	3,059,657	60.26%	25,615,437	51.30%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

The following data illustrates that there is a high number of households using the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), but the data previously cited shows that there is still high food insecurity. This may be in part to the number of households that have some members without legal immigration status, thus reducing the overall benefit to the family.

Household Data on SNAP

Households	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Food-Hispanic/Latino Households Receiving SNAP Benefits (%age of Total SNAP Households)	54,862	92.28%	591,682	50.43%	2,919,437	20.36%
Food-Households Receiving SNAP Benefits	59,453	23.26%	1,173,314	13.20%	14,339,330	12.40%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

The following census data points to Need #3, access to affordable healthcare and health insurance. The County of El Paso has a high percentage of adults who are uninsured when compared to the United States for children and adults. The expansion of Medicaid in Texas is essential in order to effectively meet this need so that everyone in Texas has the same access to health insurance as the rest of the United States.

Health Insurance

Population	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Health-Total Population Under Age 19	252,544		7,248,229		76,468,844	
Health-Total Population Under Age 19 Without Medical Insurance Rate	34,516	13.67%	946,321	13.06%	5,763,259	7.54%
Health-Total Population Age 18-64	486,599		15,778,479		191,640,968	
Health-Total Population Age 18-64 Without Medical Insurance Rate	191,819	39.42%	4,860,357	30.80%	39,791,596	20.76%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

The County of El Paso faces significant challenges due to its high percentage of people that are foreign born, without U.S. citizenship, and with linguistic challenges. Programs and services must address the struggles of immigrants that need to obtain skills, such as learning English and obtaining a high school diploma or equivalent, in order to have access to jobs that pay a living wage. In addition, not having legal status, can lead to exploitation and low wage jobs.

Immigration Status

Population	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Immigration-Foreign-Born Population	210,988	25.95%	4,187,930	16.33%	40,341,900	12.95%
Immigration-Naturalized US Citizens	89,962	11.07%	1,396,701	5.45%	18,206,896	5.84%
Immigration-Population Without US Citizenship	121,026	14.89%	2,791,229	10.89%	22,135,004	7.11%
Language-Linguistically Isolated Population Over Age 5	232,322	31.11%	3,374,551	14.24%	25,148,900	8.63%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

The difference in wages is apparent when you compare income data between individuals living in the state of Texas (\$7,639 less) and the United States (\$9,775 less).

Income

Population	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Income-Income Per Capita	\$18,379.00		\$26,018.00		\$28,154.00	

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

This difference in household income between families in the County of El Paso and the State of Texas and the United States is also illustrated by the following chart that shows a significant number of families make less than \$75,000. There is one positive statistic which is that there are more Hispanic/Latino families with income above \$75,000 in El Paso than in Texas and the United States. This means that discrimination and other barriers associated with ethnicity can be overcome in this area.

Household Income

Population	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Income-Family Households with Income over \$75,000	50,251	26.04%	2,509,263	40.43%	32,858,574	42.82%
Income-Hispanic/Latino Family Households with Income over \$75,000	32,981	17.09%	474,458	7.64%	2,681,398	3.49%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

Need #5 points to the need for safe and affordable housing. Data from the 2-1-1 Data Set and the Project BRAVO survey both pointed overwhelmingly to this issue. The data below illustrates that although the County of El Paso has slightly more affordable housing than the rest of the United States, people in El Paso struggle more to meet housing needs than in the rest of the state.

Housing Burden

Households	El Paso County	%	Texas	%	United States	%
Housing-Cost Burdened Households (Housing Costs Exceed 30% of Income)	85,071	33.29%	2,809,916	31.62%	41,002,236	35.47%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13.

Conclusion

The 2015 Community Needs Assessment identified the following top five needs through analysis of data gathered through the 2-1-1 Data Set.

1. Assistance and access to programs and services that help the household meet basic living expenses.
2. Assistance and access to programs and services that increase household income.
3. Access to affordable healthcare and health insurance.
4. Access to safe, affordable, and educational childcare and/or schools.
5. Access to environmentally safe and affordable housing.

The needs were then validated through other sources, mainly the client survey conducted by Project BRAVO and statistical analysis of U.S. Census data using the Community Commons Needs Assessment tool. These top five needs will be addressed by the 3-5 year Strategic Plan and 2016 Community Action Plan as presented by Project BRAVO.