

2017 PROFILE

wharton

county

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prepared by the Houston-Galveston Area Council



preface

In 2013, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) developed *Our Great Region 2040*, a regional plan for sustainable development. The plan lays out a long-range vision to ensure that the 13-county region is one of the world's greatest places to live, work, and succeed by 2040.

The 2017 profiles for all 13 counties in the region provide a demographic snapshot and build a baseline understanding from which local communities and H-GAC can gauge how the region has advanced the tenets of the *Our Great Region 2040* plan.

The contents of this report have been gathered from a variety of sources referenced on the last two pages. All maps were produced by H-GAC.

To read the *Our Great Region 2040* plan and all 13 county profiles, visit ourregion.org/county-profiles.html or h-gac.com/go/apps.



big ideas

Strategies in the *Our Great Region 2040* plan are grouped into Big Ideas for six different topics highlighting areas of opportunity within the region. The Big Ideas serve as high-level guides when considering new projects or policies. This 2017 county profile includes a range of demographic data points that correspond with one or multiple Big Ideas.



Economic Development

Strengthening our economic competitiveness through an educated and skilled workforce



Housing

Providing balanced housing choices near jobs, services, and transportation options



Environment

Securing a clean and ample water supply



Resiliency

Increasing our resiliency to disaster and a changing environment



Healthy Communities

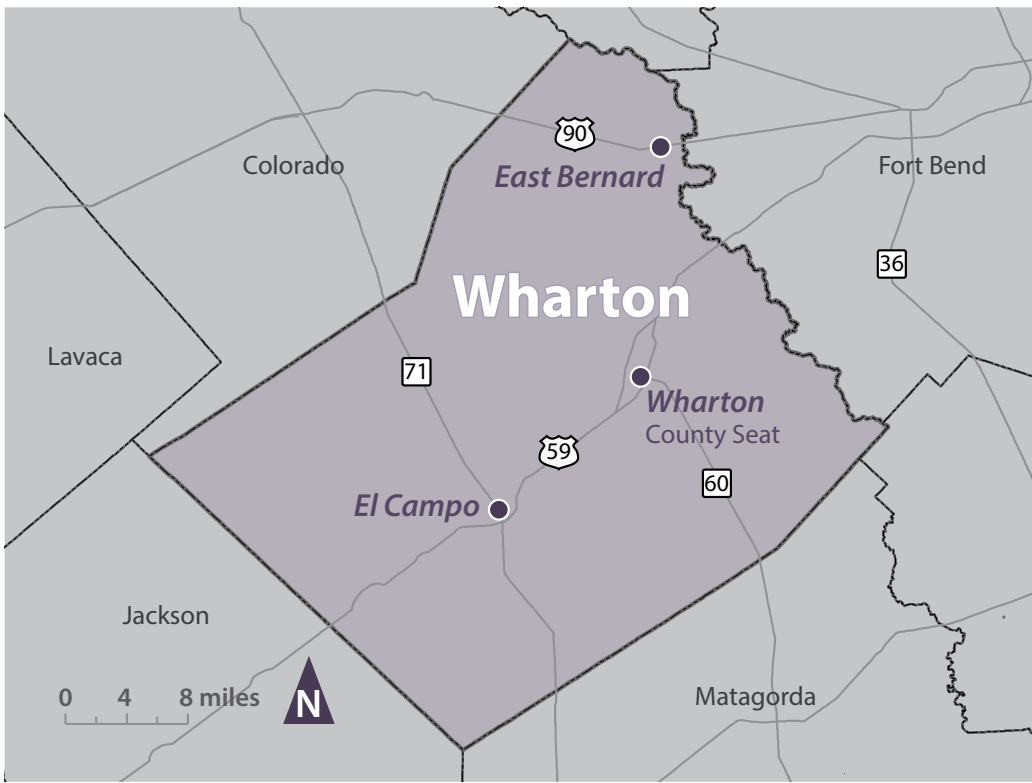
Cultivating places where people can lead active, healthy lives



Transportation

Achieving a world-class transportation network

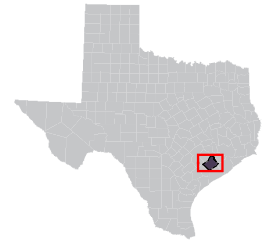
OVERVIEW



Wharton County Boundaries

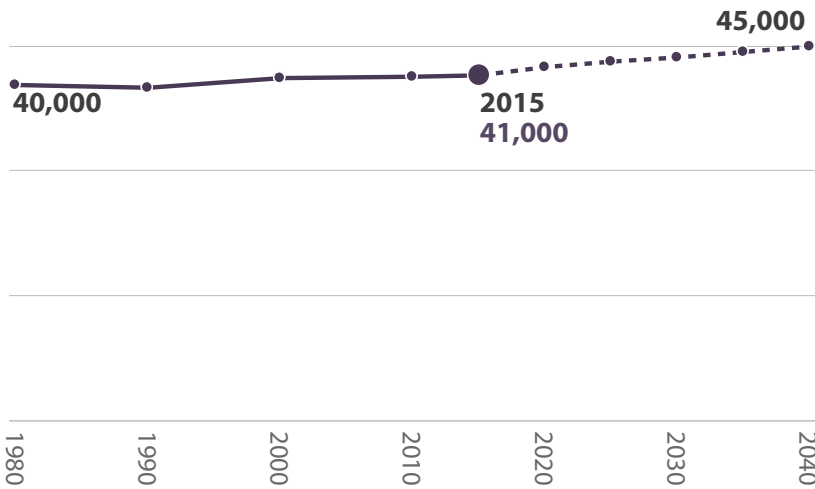
- Wharton County
- Other counties
- Top 4 cities
- Major roads

County Seat: Wharton
Largest City: El Campo



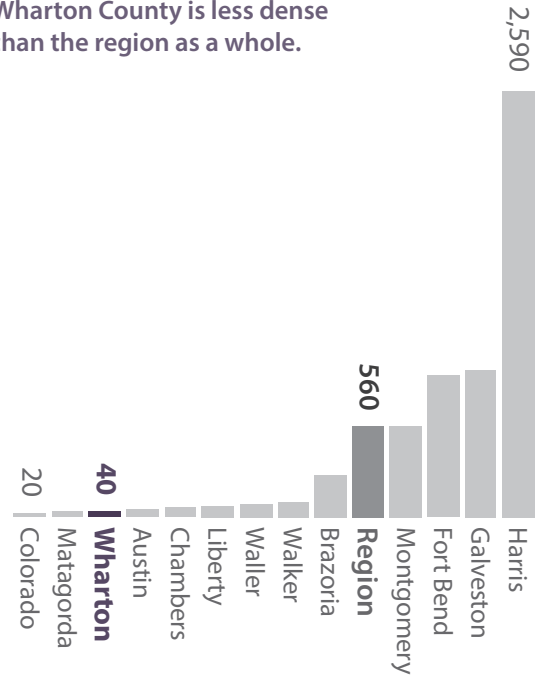
Population Growth Forecast

Wharton County grew by 3% from 1980 to 2015 and is expected to reach 45,000 residents by 2040.



Residents Per Square Mile

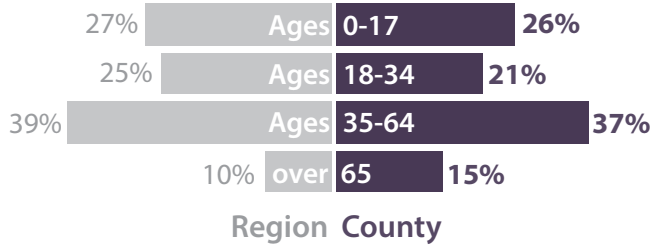
Wharton County is less dense than the region as a whole.





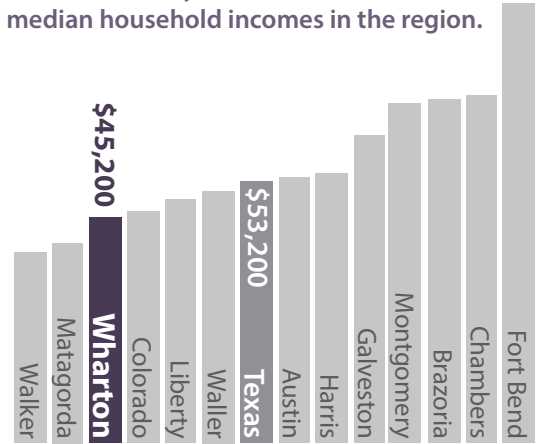
Age

Wharton County has a higher portion of residents over 65 than the region.



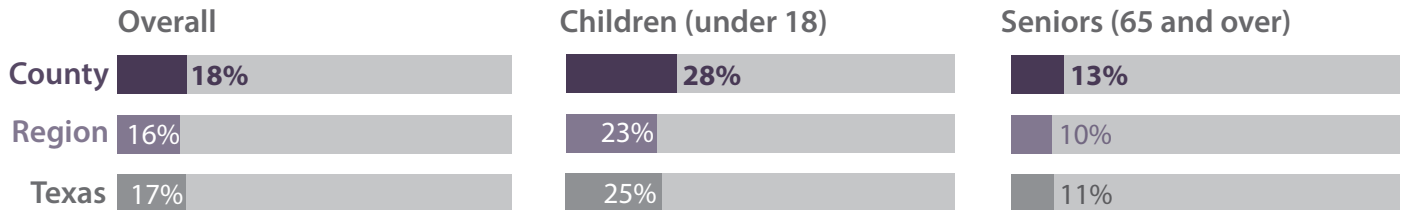
Median Household Income

Wharton County has one of the lowest median household incomes in the region.



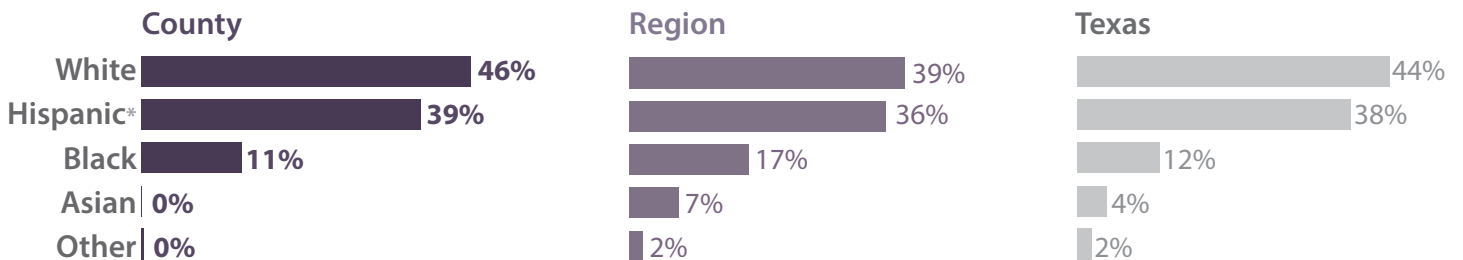
Poverty Rate

Wharton County has a higher rate of poverty than the region, particularly for children.



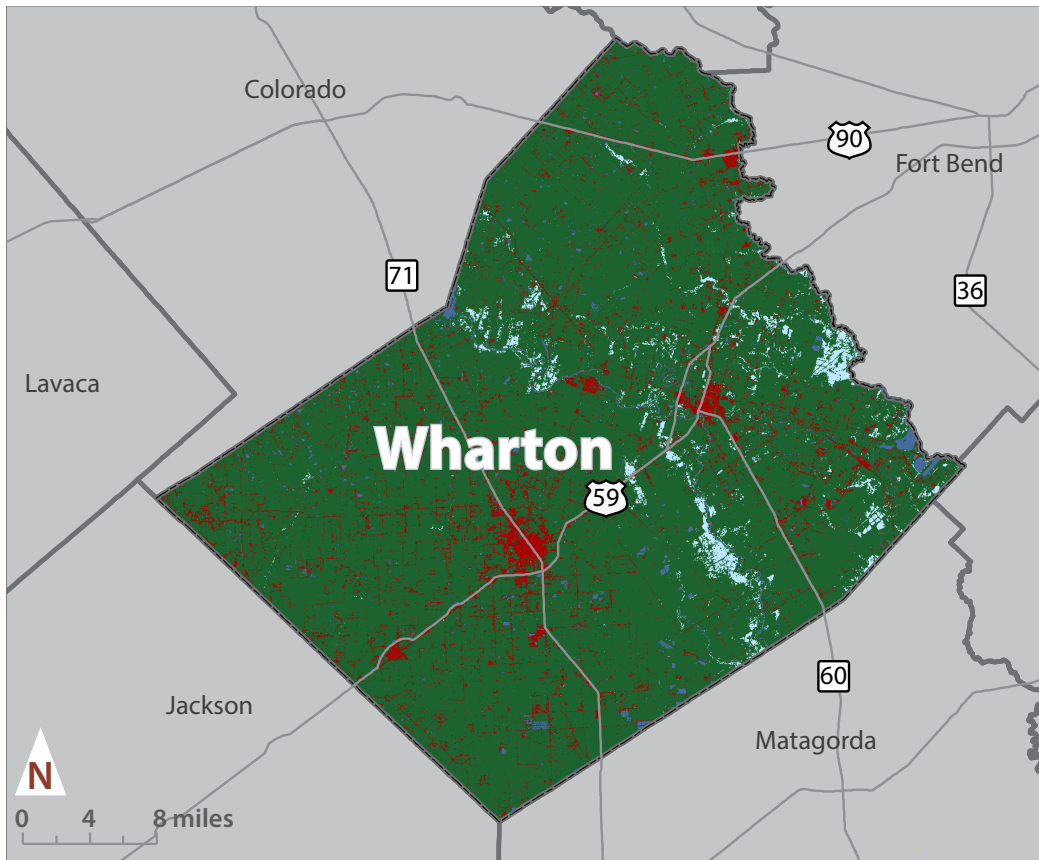
Race and Ethnicity

Wharton County has a higher percentage of White and Hispanic residents than the region and the state.



*As defined by the Office of Management and Budget as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.

HOUSING & LAND USE

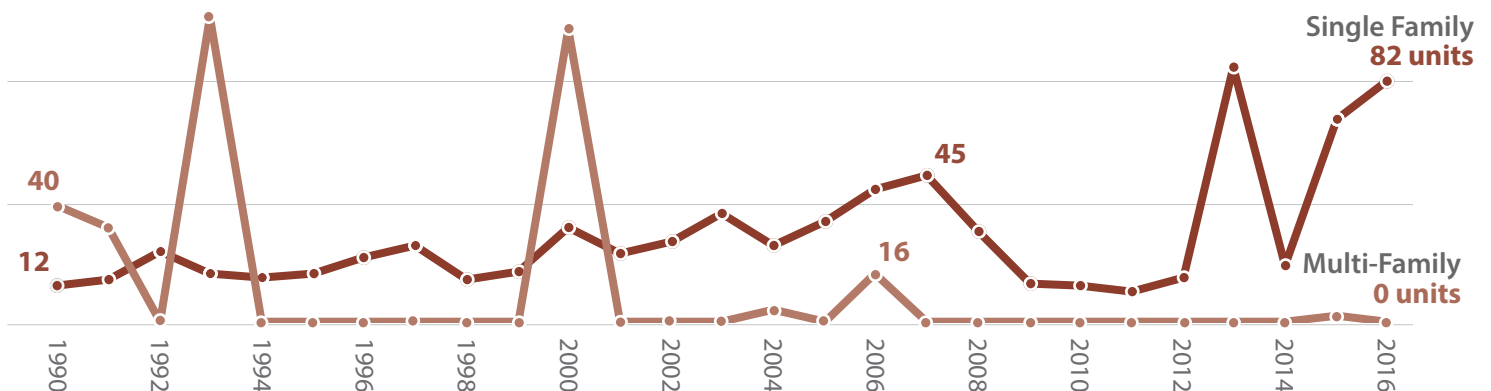


Wharton County Land Use

- Other counties
- 1% Open water
- 7% Developed Land
- 3% Wetlands
- 90% Forest, shrubs, pasture, grasslands, barren lands and cultivated crops

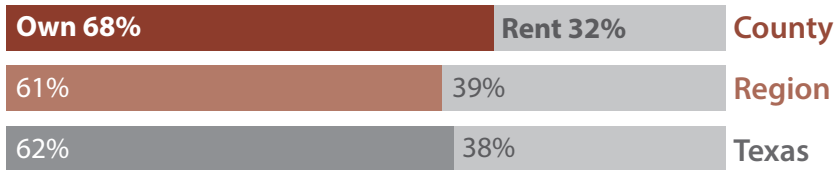
Building Permits Issued

Single-family construction is high, but volatile in comparison with previous years, while multi-family permits remain low.



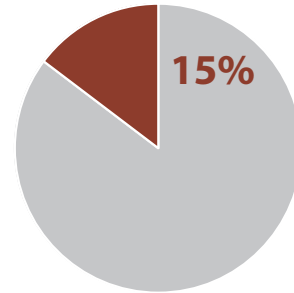
Housing Tenure

Wharton County has a higher rate of homeownership than the region or the state.



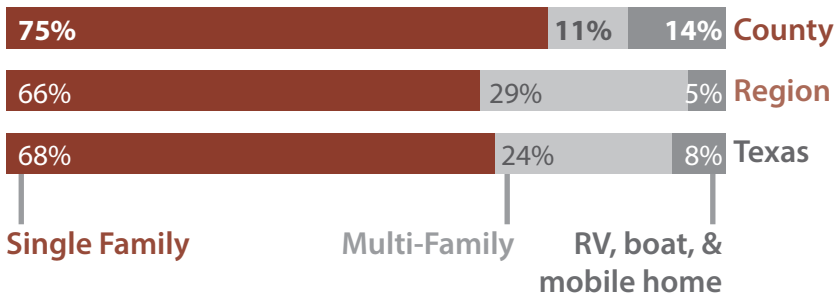
Vacant Housing Units

Around 15% of Wharton County's housing units are vacant.



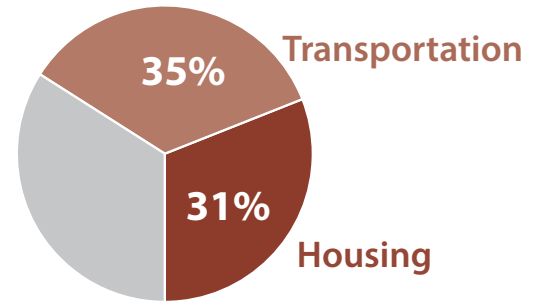
Housing Type

Wharton County's homes are mostly single-family residences.



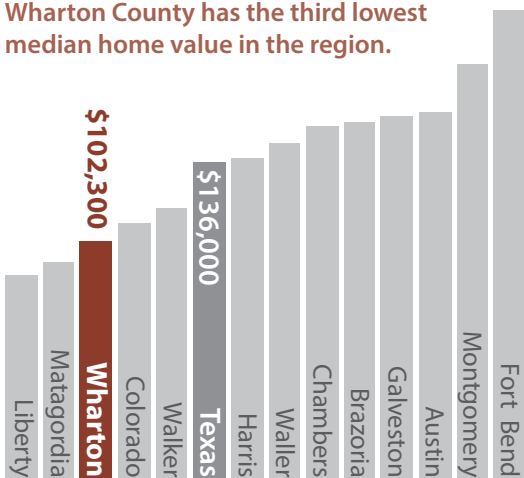
Living Costs

Wharton County households spend 66% of their income on transportation and housing.



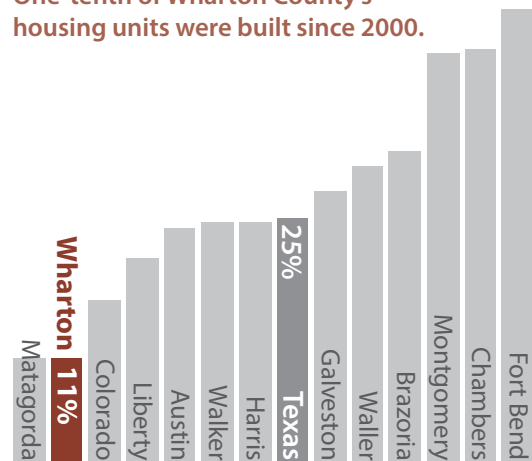
Median Home Value

Wharton County has the third lowest median home value in the region.



Housing Units Built Since 2000

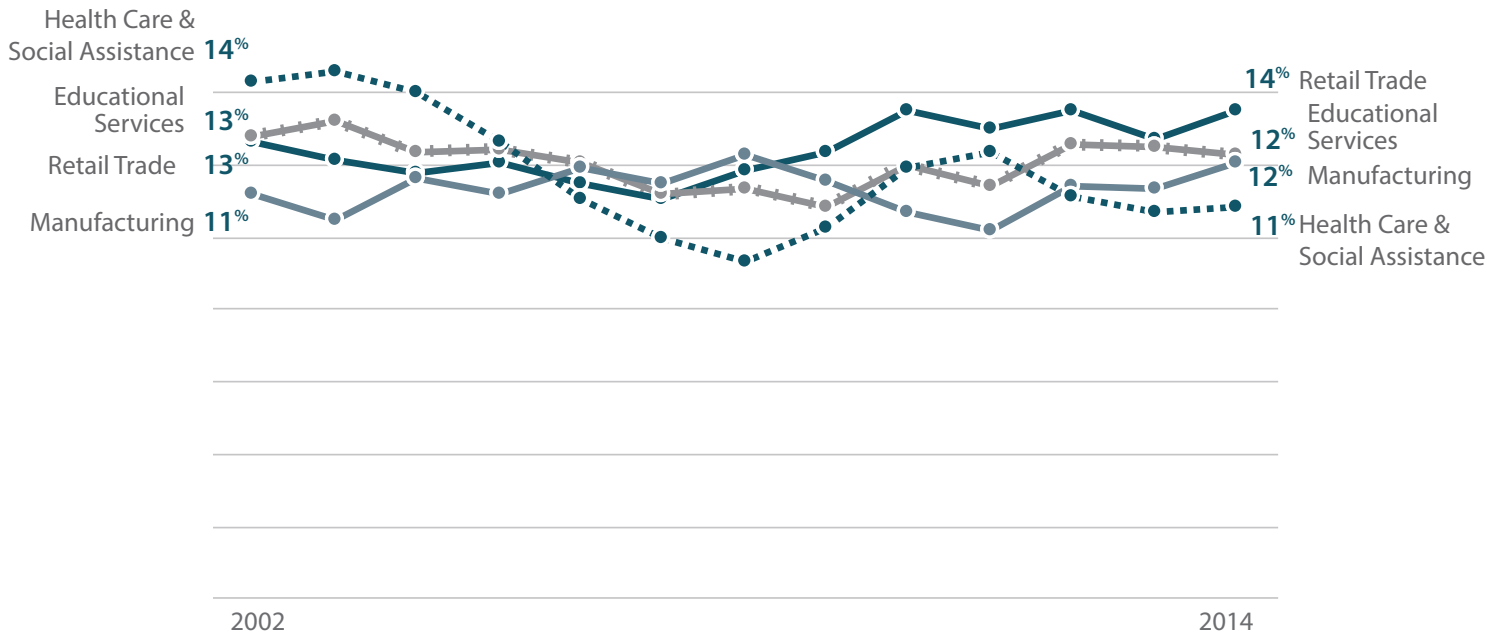
One-tenth of Wharton County's housing units were built since 2000.



ECONOMY & WORKFORCE

Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs

Employment in Wharton County between 2002 and 2014 stayed largely in four major industries: Health Care & Social Assistance, Educational Services, Retail Trade, and Manufacturing.



Top Employers in Wharton County

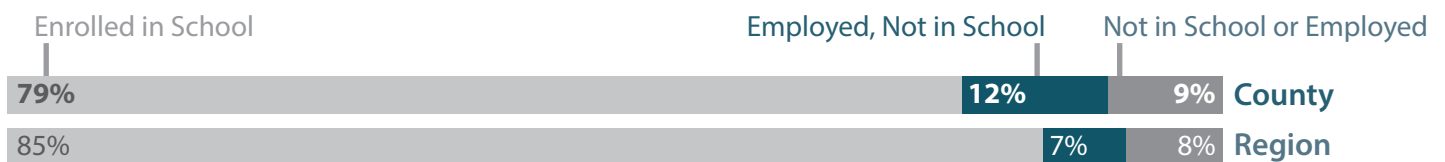
- Cardell Cabinets
- El Campo ISD
- Greenleaf Nursery Co, Inc.
- Leedo Mfg. Company, Inc.
- Nan Ya Plastics Corp.

- Signature Gulf Coast Hospital
- Texas Home Health of America, Inc.
- Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.
- Wharton County Junior College
- Wharton ISD

*This reflects the most up-to-date publicly available data and may not represent the current mix of major employers in the county.

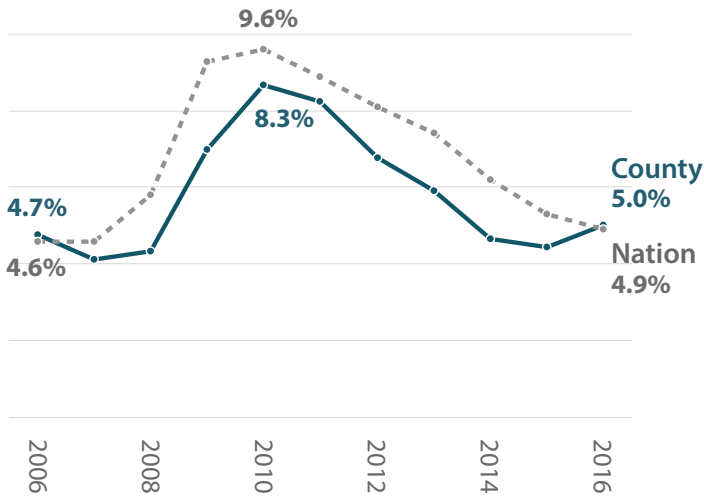
Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)

Fewer than 10% of Wharton County's working-age teens are both unemployed and out of school.



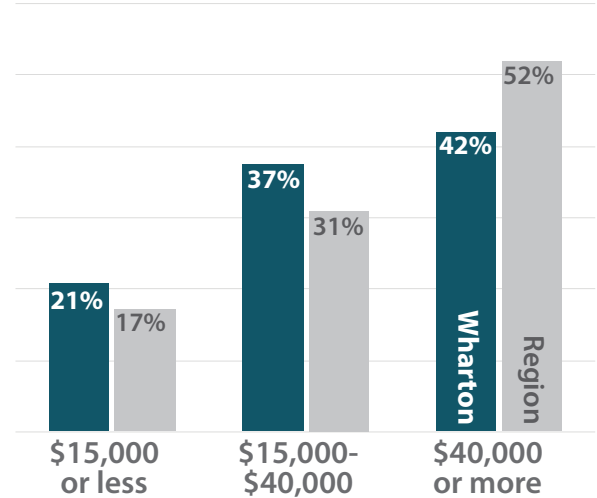
Unemployment Rate

Wharton County's unemployment mirrors national trends, and was higher than the nation in 2016.



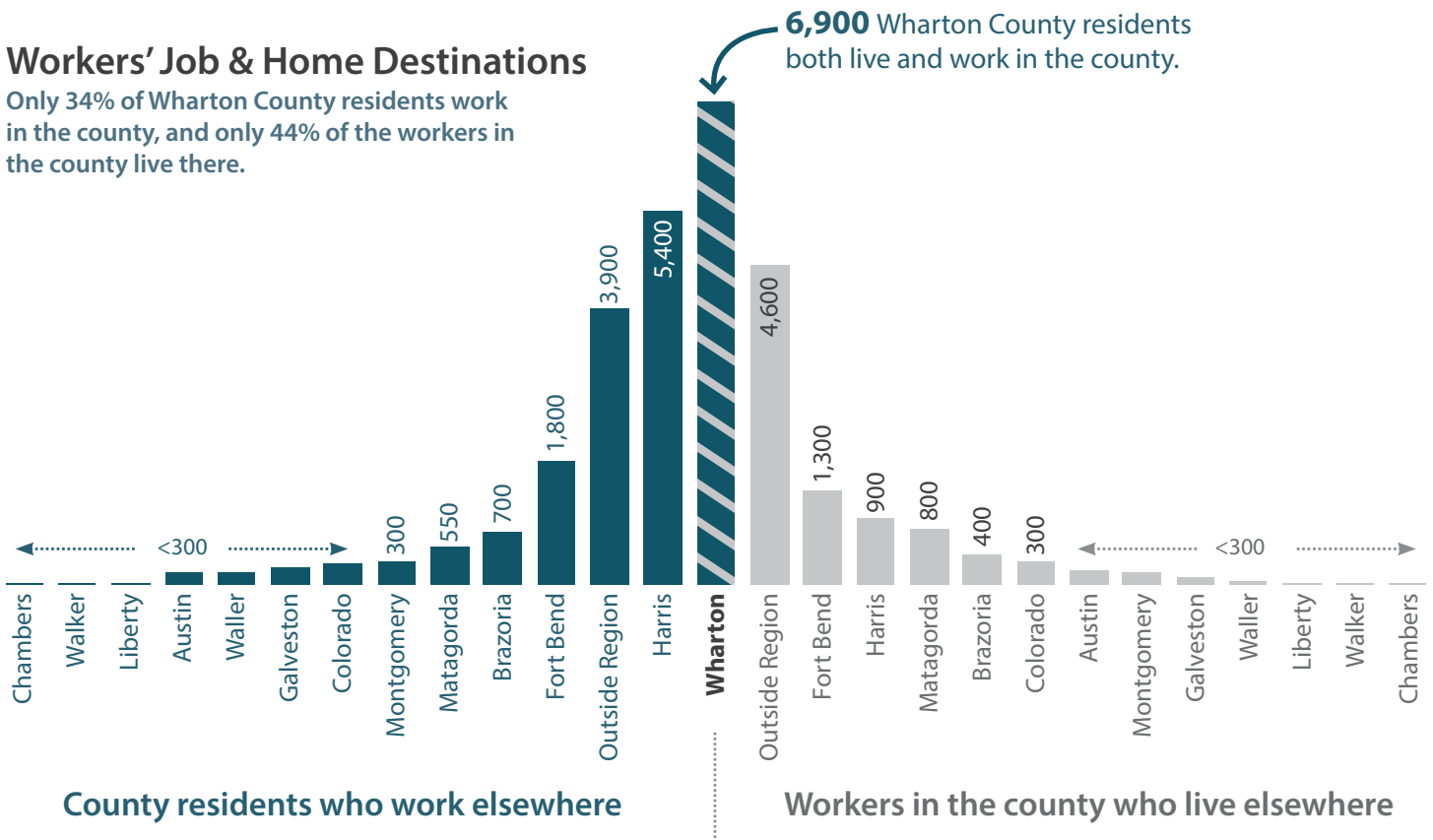
Earnings of Residents

Around 40% of Wharton County residents earn more than \$40,000 annually, a lower percentage than the region.



Workers' Job & Home Destinations

Only 34% of Wharton County residents work in the county, and only 44% of the workers in the county live there.

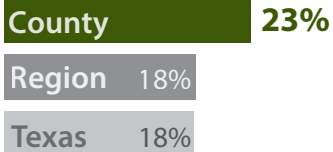


EDUCATION

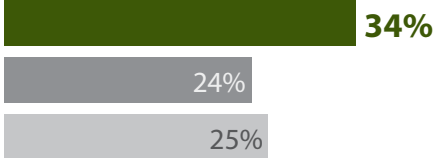
Educational Attainment

A lower percentage of Wharton County residents have completed a bachelor's degree or more than the region and state.

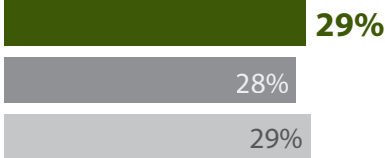
Less than High School



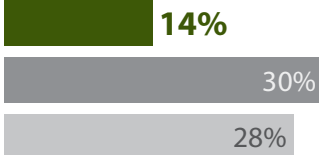
High School or Equivalency



Some College or Associate's



Bachelor's Degree or More



Local Schools

Public Secondary Schools

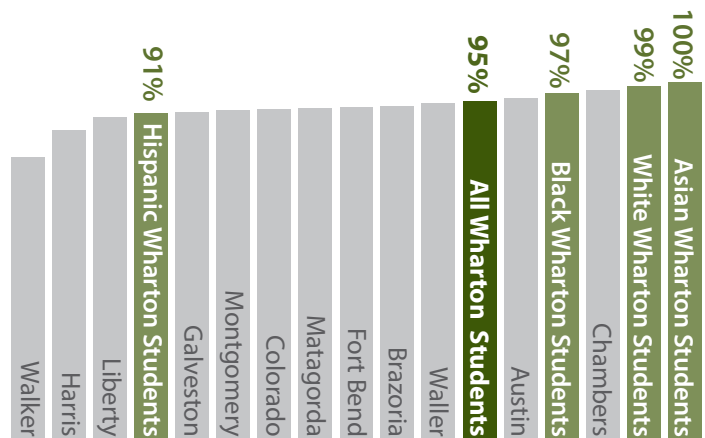
- Boling ISD
- East Bernard ISD
- El Campo ISD
- Hallettsville ISD
- Louise ISD
- Wharton ISD

Post-Secondary Schools

- Wharton County Junior College

Class of 2015 Graduation Rate

Wharton County students graduated at a higher rate in 2015 than the students of most counties in the region.



Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

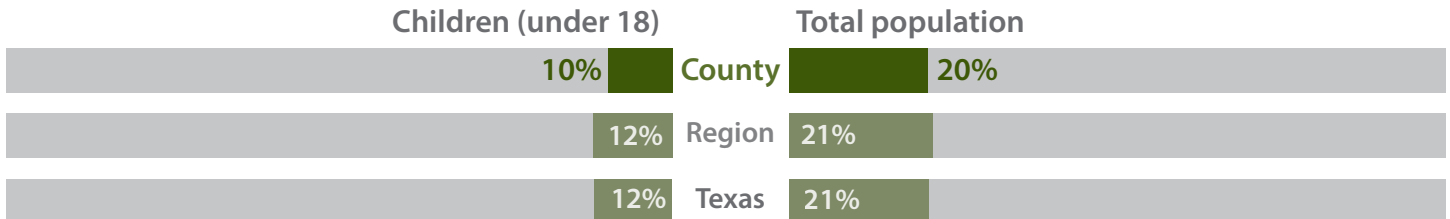
A Wharton County resident with a graduate or professional degree makes, on average, \$34,400 more than a resident with less than a high school education annually.



HEALTH

Population without Health Insurance

A lower percentage of Wharton County residents lack health insurance than the region or state.



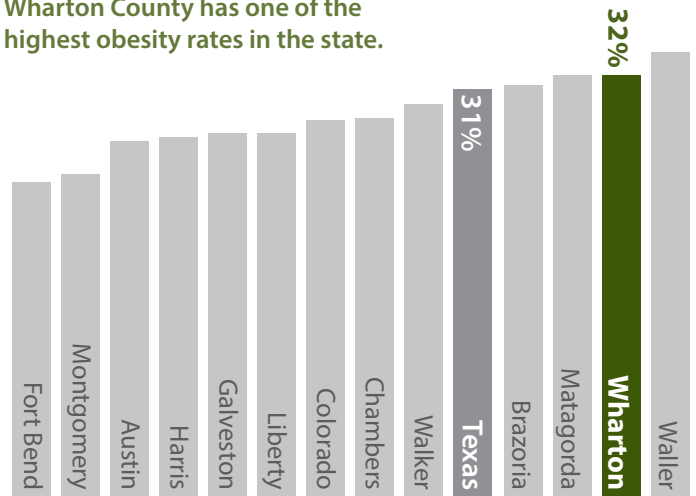
Top Causes of Death

Per 100,000 Wharton County residents

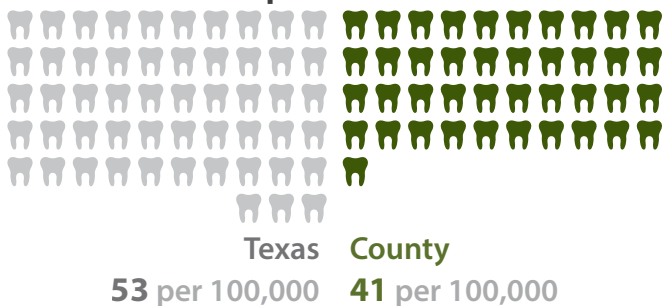
- 198** Heart disease
- 156** Cancer (all types)
- 58** Stroke
- 55** Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

Adult Obesity Rate

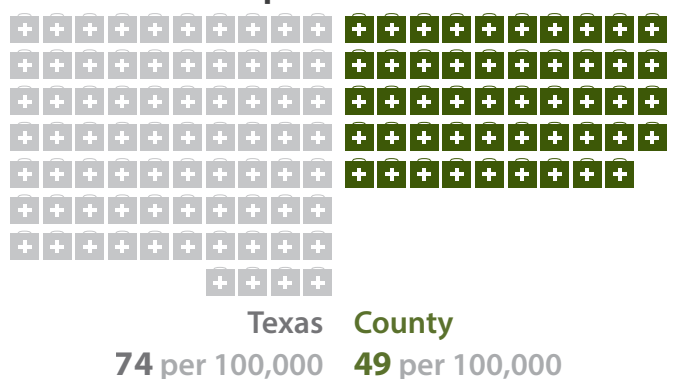
Wharton County has one of the highest obesity rates in the state.

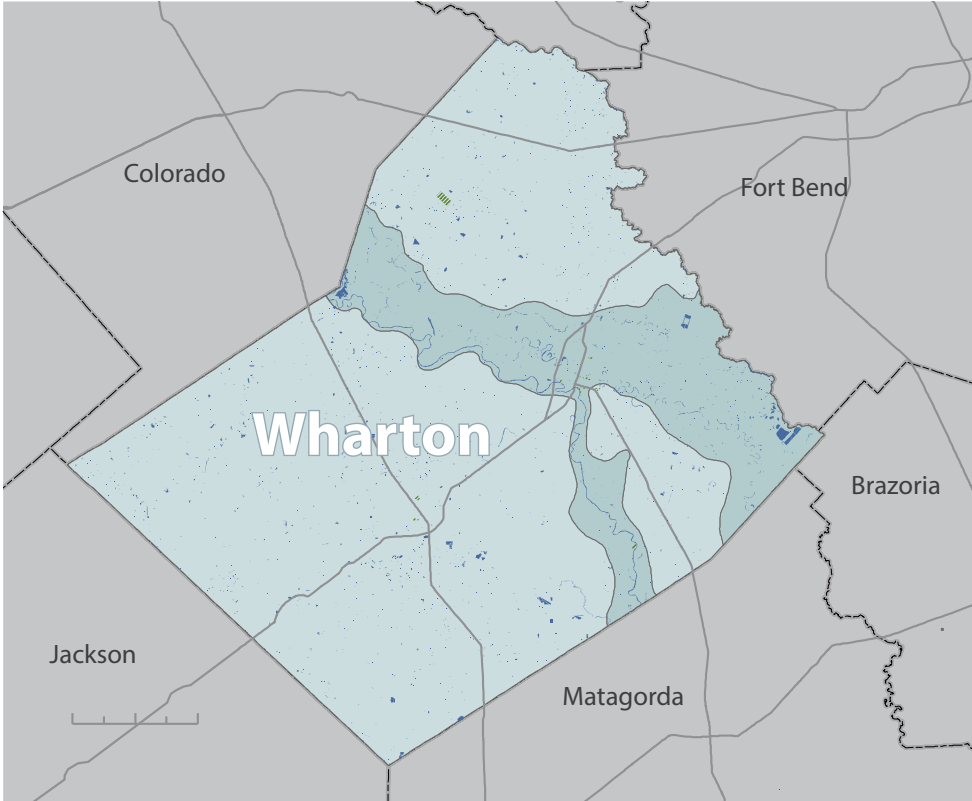


Dentists Per Capita



Doctors Per Capita



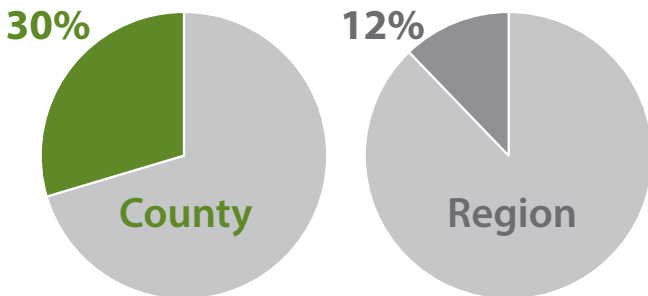


Wharton County EcoRegions & Conservation Districts

- Other counties
- Northern Humid Gulf Coast Prairie
- Floodplains & Low Terraces
- Conservation and Recreation Lands

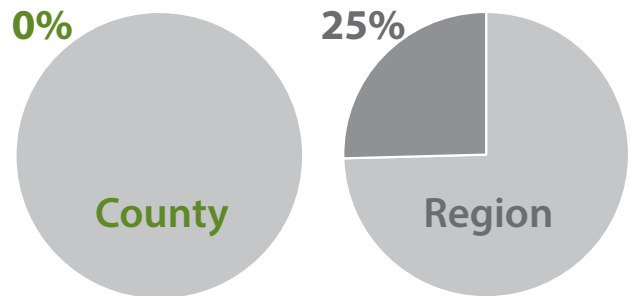
Residents in 100-year Floodplain

A larger percentage of Wharton County residents live in a 100-year floodplain than the region.



Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone

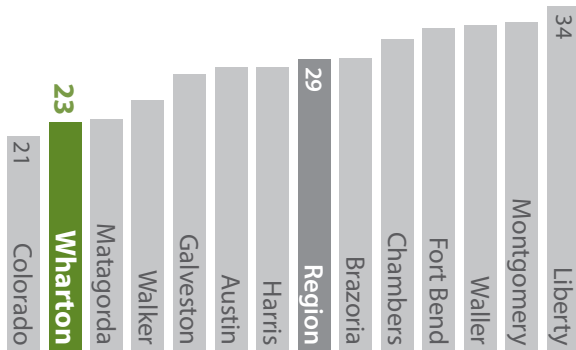
No Wharton County residents live in a hurricane evacuation zone, as opposed to 25% of the region's residents.



TRANSPORTATION

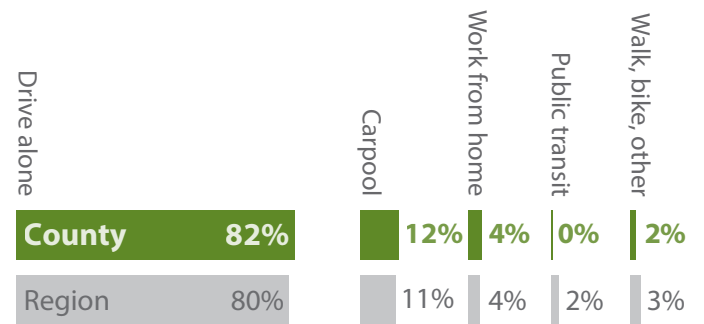
Mean Commute to Work (minutes)

Wharton County workers have a shorter average commute than the region as a whole.



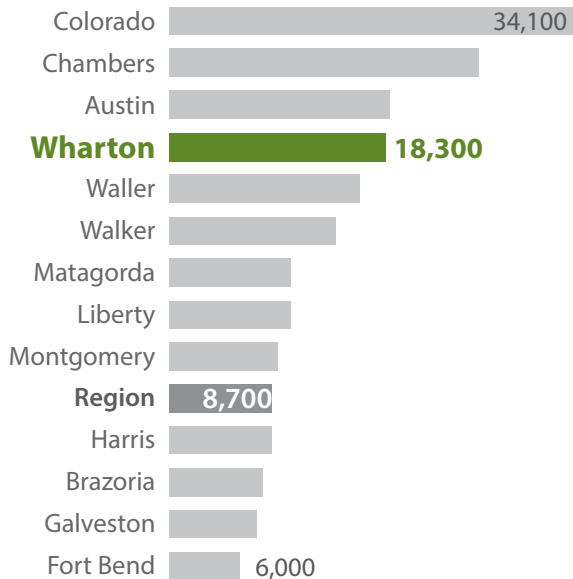
Commute Mode to Work

A higher percentage of Wharton County workers drive to work compared to the region as a whole.



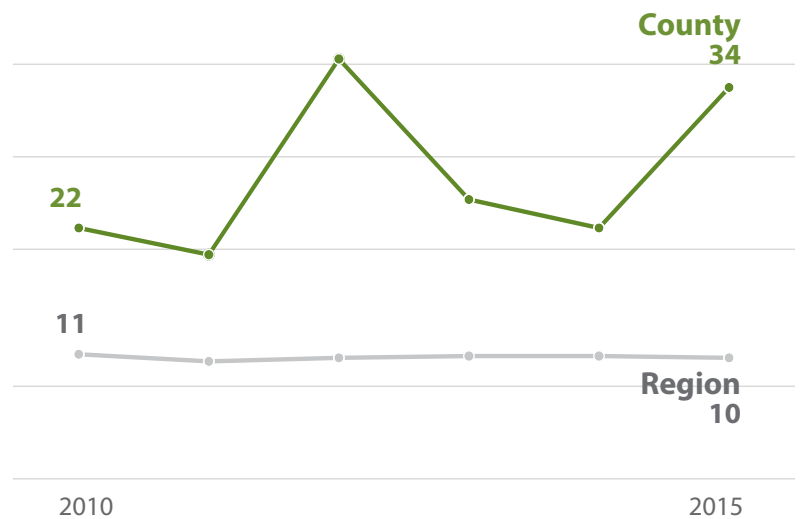
Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person

Wharton County drivers travel more annually than drivers in the region as a whole.



Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents

Wharton County has a higher rate of traffic fatalities than the rest of the region.



SOURCES

Overview

Wharton County Boundaries (map)

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Population Growth Forecast

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Residents per Square Mile

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Age

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B01001

Median Household Income

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S2503

Poverty Rate

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701

Race and Ethnicity

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B03002

Housing & Land Use

Wharton County Land Use (map)

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Building Permits Issued

U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permits Survey, 1990-2015

Housing Tenure

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Housing Type

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Vacant Housing Units

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Living Costs

Center for Neighborhood Technology 2013 H+T® Index

Median Home Value

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Housing Units Built Since 2000

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Economy & Workforce

Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs

U.S. Census Bureau, 2002-2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program

Major Employers in Wharton County

2016 Workforce Solutions, County Economic Profiles

Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B14005

Unemployment Rate

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2006-2016

Earnings of Residents

U.S. Census Bureau, 2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program

Workers' Job & Home Destinations

U.S. Census Bureau, 2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program

Education & Health

Educational Attainment

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S1501

Local Schools

Texas Education Agency and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Class of 2015 Graduation Rate

Texas Education Agency, Four-Year Graduation and Dropout Data, Class of 2015

Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B20004

Population without Health Insurance

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S2701

Top Causes of Death

Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Health Statistics, 2013 County Health Facts Profiles

Adult Obesity Rate

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013 County Data Indicators

Dentists per Capita

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resources Files

Doctors per Capita

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resources Files

Environment & Transportation

Wharton County EcoRegions & Conservation Districts (map)

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Residents in 100-year Floodplain

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

Mean Commute to Work (minutes)

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S0802

Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person

Texas Department of Transportation, 2015 Roadway Inventory

Commute Mode to Work

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S0802

Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents

Texas Department of Transportation, 2010-2015, Crash Records Information System



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