

# 2013 RHP 17 Regional Health Assessment

## A Community Snapshot:

# Leon County



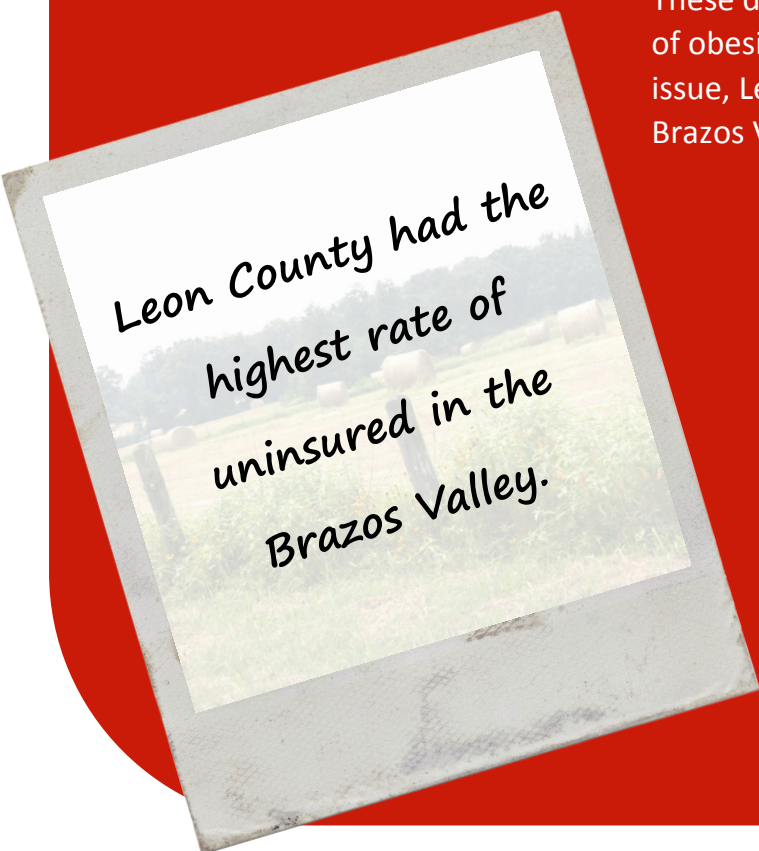
## Community Description

Leon County was described by residents as a rural community, that while large and spread out in land mass, is very close knit, well-connected, and filled with friendly, caring, supportive community members. The community is traditional and rich in history with many families residing locally for generations. Leon County is supportive of local businesses and has many businesses that support local farmers. The community is steadily growing, especially the older adult population because the county is attractive for retirees who want a relaxed environment with lower crime rates. It also attracts individuals interested in hunting and the oil and gas industry.

## Obesity & Chronic Disease

An ongoing concern in Leon County is the growing number of people struggling with overweight and obesity and the chronic diseases often linked to these conditions. In addition to overweight/obesity, local residents most frequently reported being diagnosed with hypertension, high cholesterol, arthritis/rheumatism, depression, anxiety, and asthma.

These diseases rates are not surprising given the proportion of obesity and older adults in Leon County. To compound the issue, Leon County had the highest rate of uninsured in the Brazos Valley.



Disease/Condition	Leon County
Overweight/Obesity	68.2%
Hypertension	49.2%
High Cholesterol	44.4%
Arthritis/Rheumatism	28.0%
Depression	26.3%
Anxiety	22.3%
Asthma	13.1%

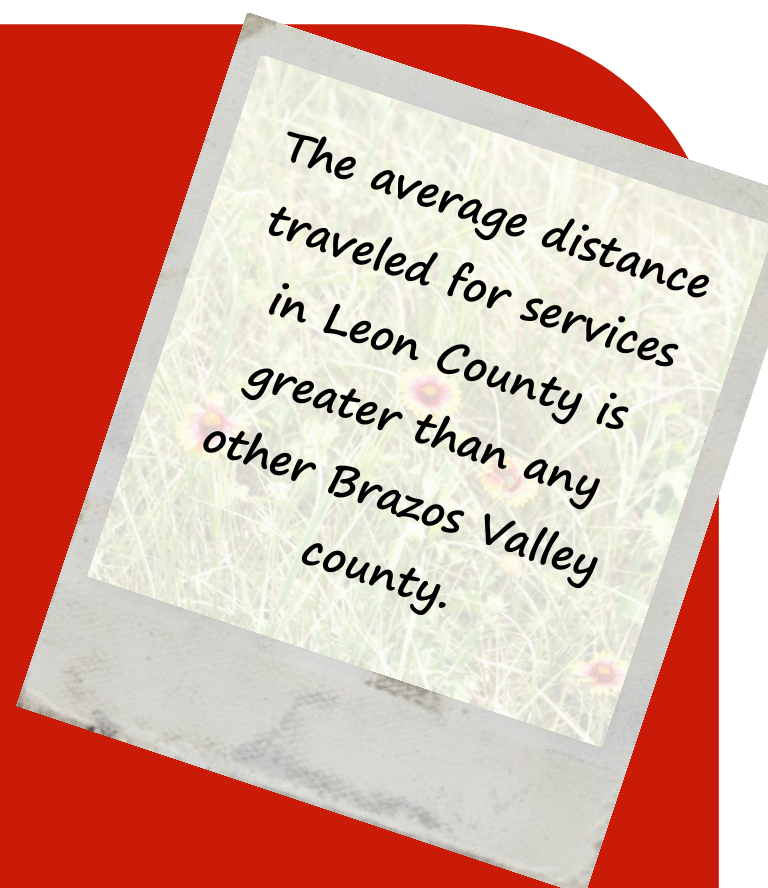
## Top Community Issues

The community survey asked residents about what they perceived to be serious community issues. In Leon County, the top 5 issues that emerged were:

1. Poor or inconvenient public transportation (75.7%)
2. Lack of jobs for unskilled workers (62.3%)
3. Lack of recreational and cultural activities (54.6%)
4. Illegal drug use (53.9%)
5. Unemployment (53.6%)

Community discussion group participants also identified several community issues including:

- ⇒ Need for further economic development
- ⇒ Difficulty in centralizing resources do to geography of county
- ⇒ Poor community infrastructure (roads, police force, technology services, etc.)
- ⇒ Lack of affordable housing
- ⇒ Lack of access to local health care services
- ⇒ Lack of services for the aging population
- ⇒ Lack of opportunities for physical activity



## Top 5 Unmet Needs

1. Childcare assistance services (86.7%)
2. Utility assistance (78.4%)
3. Food, meal, and nutrition services (76.9%)
4. Financial assistance for auto, appliance, or home repair; or weatherization (75.0%)
5. Work-related or employment services (47.4%)