

2013 RHP 17 Regional Health Assessment

A Community Snapshot:

Madison County



Community Description

Madison County residents described their community as small, friendly, and rural. Discussion group participants said the community is generous and supportive, which is likely due to the strong presence of faith-based organizations. There is a growing older adult population in Madison County. However, residents also mentioned that the community struggles with change as it grows and that residents are sometimes resistant to new ideas. Discussion group participants also highlighted the county's deep-rooted history and traditions. Residents said there are a large number of health and human service organizations that deliver services within the county.

Obesity & Chronic Disease

An ongoing concern in Madison 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, anxiety, depression, and Type 2 diabetes.

The chronic disease rates in Madison County are not surprising given the proportion of obesity and older adults in Madison County. In addition to these chronic conditions, Madison County also reported the highest rate of current smokers (24.7%)

Madison County had the highest rate of current smokers (24.7%) in the Brazos Valley region.

Disease/Condition	Madison County
Overweight/Obesity	74.6%
Hypertension	45.3%
High Cholesterol	35.1%
Arthritis/Rheumatism	29.8%
Anxiety	20.3%
Depression	17.3%
Diabetes (Type 2)	14.6%

Top Community Issues

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

1. Abuse of drugs, including prescription drugs (63.2%)
2. Poor or inconvenient public transportation (62.4%)
3. Unemployment (55.9%)
4. Alcohol abuse (55.9%)
5. Lack of jobs for unskilled workers (54.0%)

Community discussion group participants also identified several community issues including:

- ⇒ Lack of jobs and educational opportunities
- ⇒ Limited access to affordable housing
- ⇒ Lack of local businesses such as grocery stores
- ⇒ Lack of affordable, reliable public transportation
- ⇒ Difficulties accessing affordable primary and specialty care
- ⇒ Social issues such as poverty, crime, substance abuse, and racial tension
- ⇒ Lack of recreational opportunities for youth, which contributes to risky behaviors, such as underage drinking, abuse of prescription drugs, and teen pregnancy



Madison County respondents reported consuming the greatest number of alcoholic drinks per week compared to the region.



Madison County reported the second highest rate of uninsured across the Brazos Valley region.

Top 5 Unmet Needs

1. Food, meal, and nutrition services (91.7%)
2. Financial assistance for auto, appliance, or home repair; or weatherization (89.5%)
3. Services for the disabled or their families (84.6%)
4. Affordable after school or summer day programs for children (75.0%)
5. Services for children with emotional problems or delinquent behavior (66.7%)