



COUNTY PROFILE

wharton county

population	3
households and housing	4
economy	5
education and poverty	6
health	7
environment	8
transportation	9
data sources	10

prepared by the Houston-Galveston Area Council as part of
our great region 2040

preface

The purpose of the *County Profiles* is to provide a snapshot of existing conditions within each of the 13-counties in the Houston-Galveston region at the inception of the *Our Great Region 2040*. The county profiles will help establish baseline information that may be used to measure progress and change over time. The profiles do not provide strategies or recommendations. The profiles are a companion to the *Existing Conditions Report* that provides a regional level snapshot of the 13-county region. The *Existing Conditions Report* is available on the Our Great Region 2040 website (ourregion.org).

acknowledgements

The Houston-Galveston Area Council is working with a broad based coalition to develop a regional plan for sustainable development for the 13-county region. The *Our Great Region 2040* will be a long range plan to ensure the region is as good or better a place to live and work in the future as it is today. This plan will be build on local plans and initiatives to capitalize on opportunities and address the challenges faced by our region's urban, suburban, rural and coastal communities.

disclaimer

The work provided as the basis for this *County Profile* was supported by funding under an award from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this report. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the view of the United States Government. The content of this report has been gathered from a variety of sources that can be referenced in the data sources on the back page of this document. All maps were produced by the Houston-Galveston Area Council.



POPULATION

Map 1: Location of County

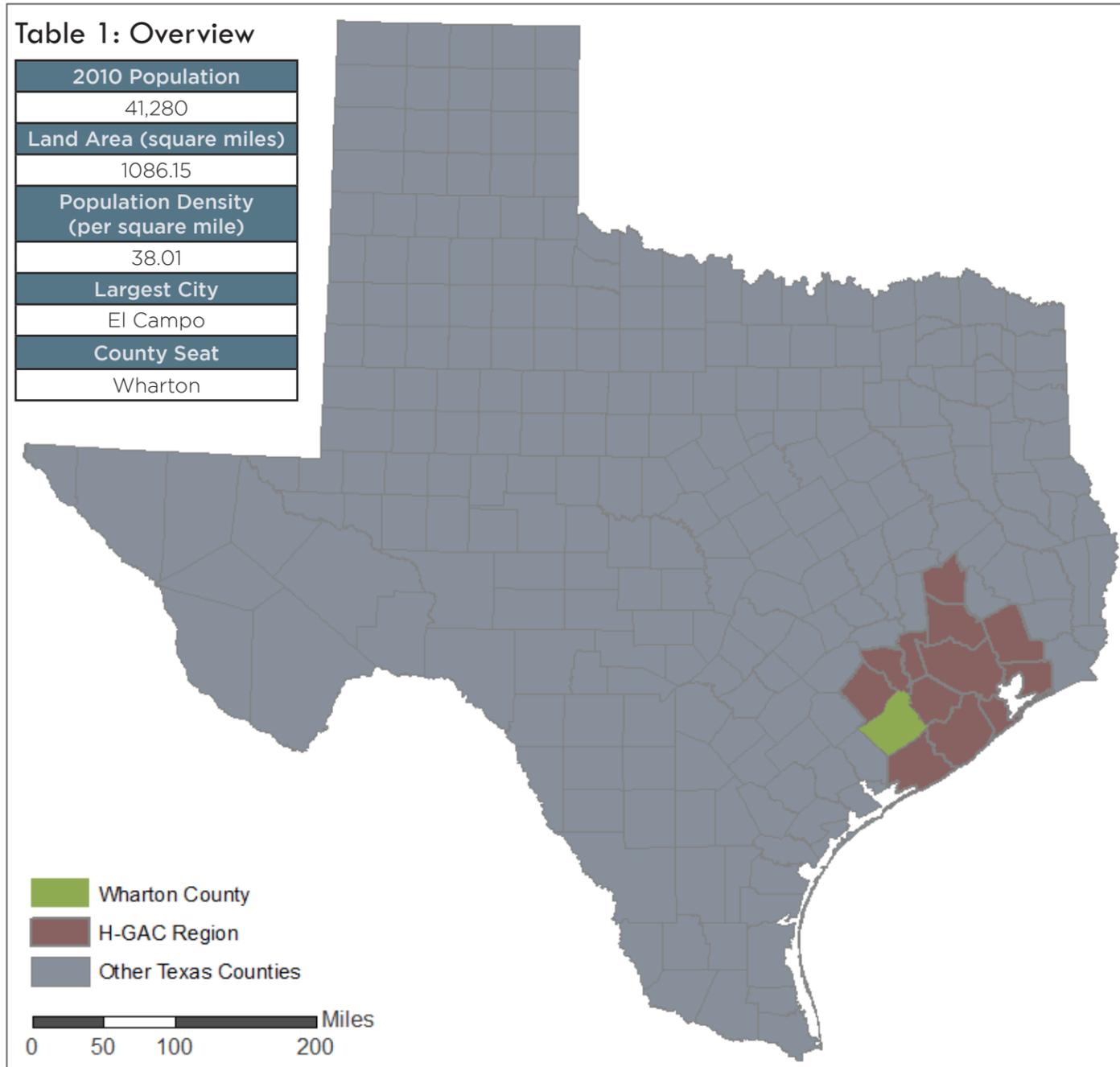


Chart 1: Population and Forecasted Growth

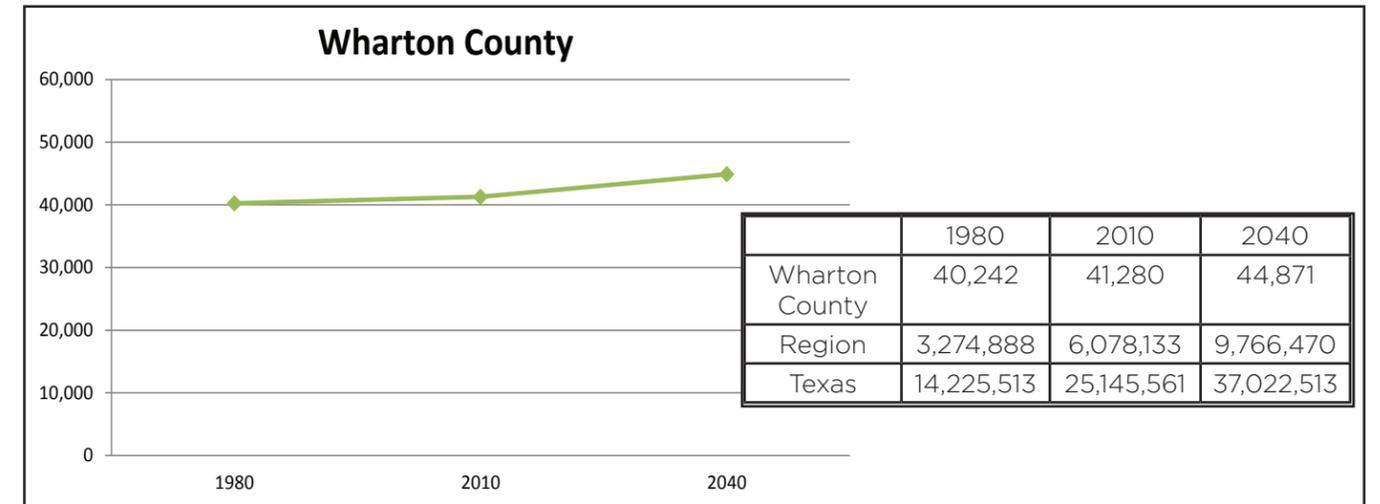


Chart 2: Population by Race

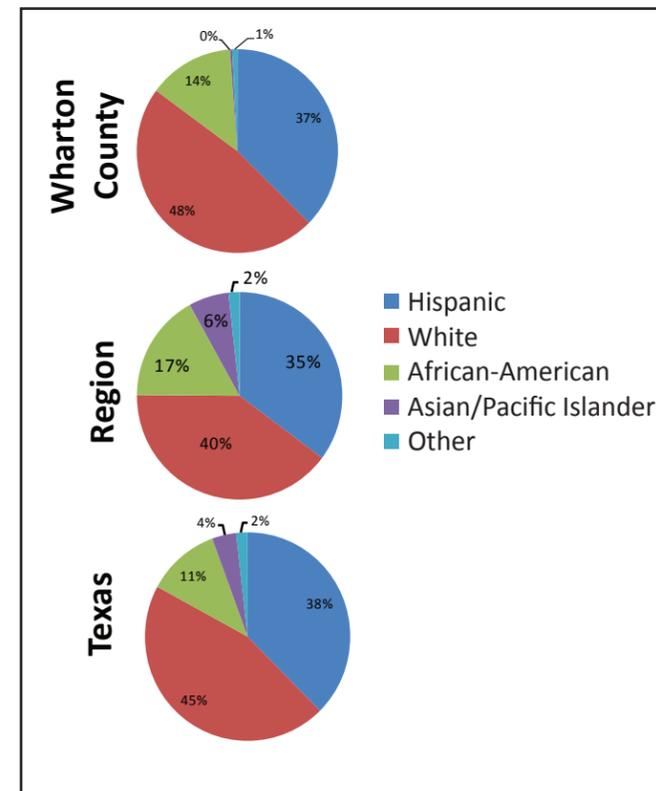
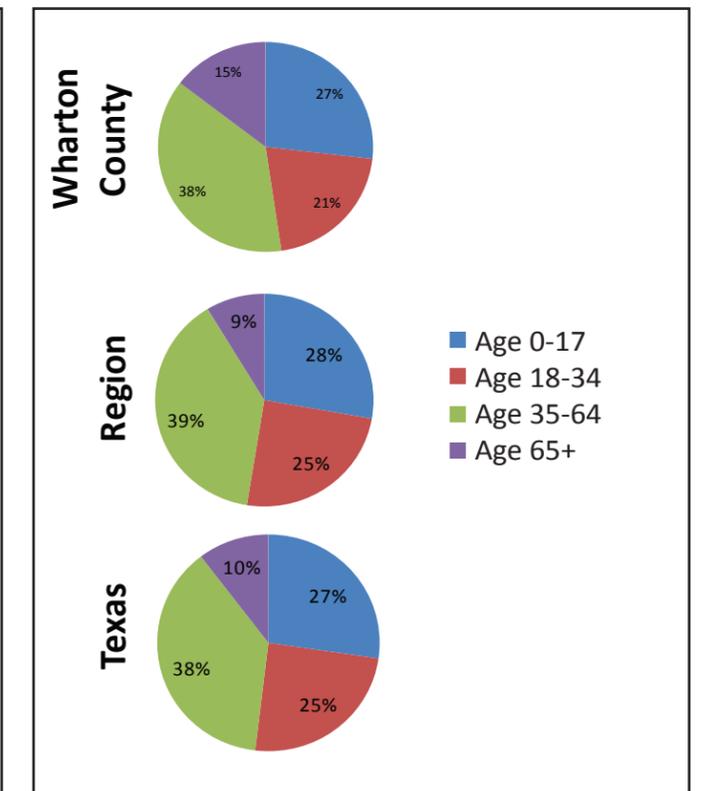


Chart 3: Population by Age



HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

Chart 1: Households by Type and Number

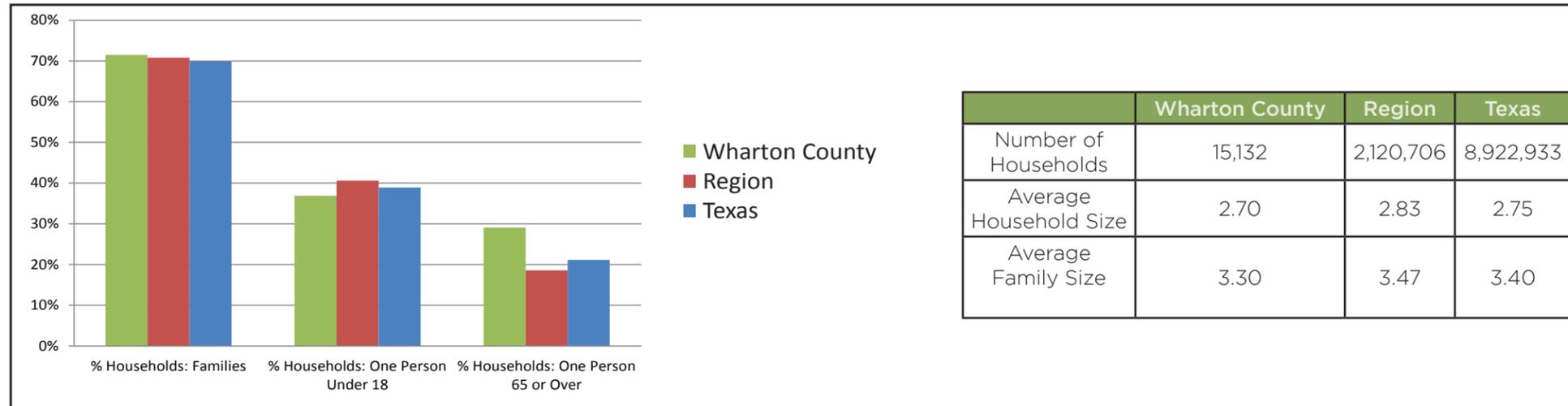


Chart 2: Household Income

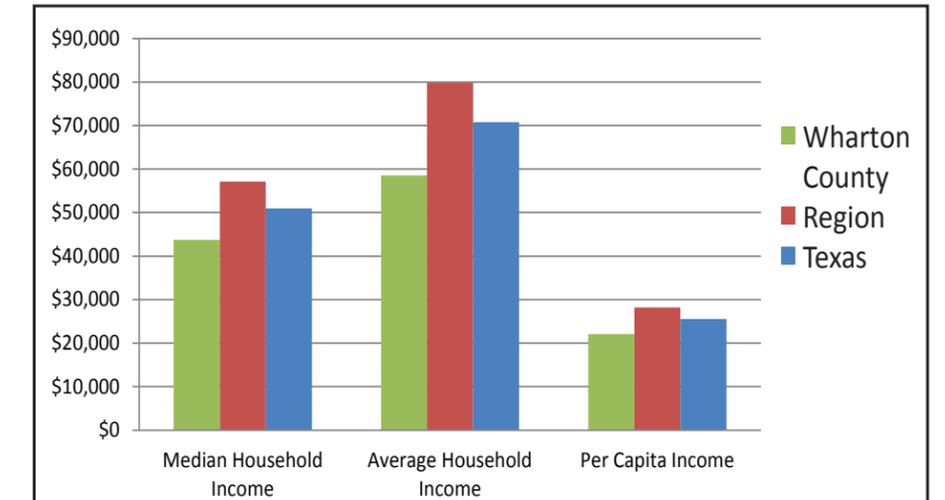


Chart 3: Housing Characteristics

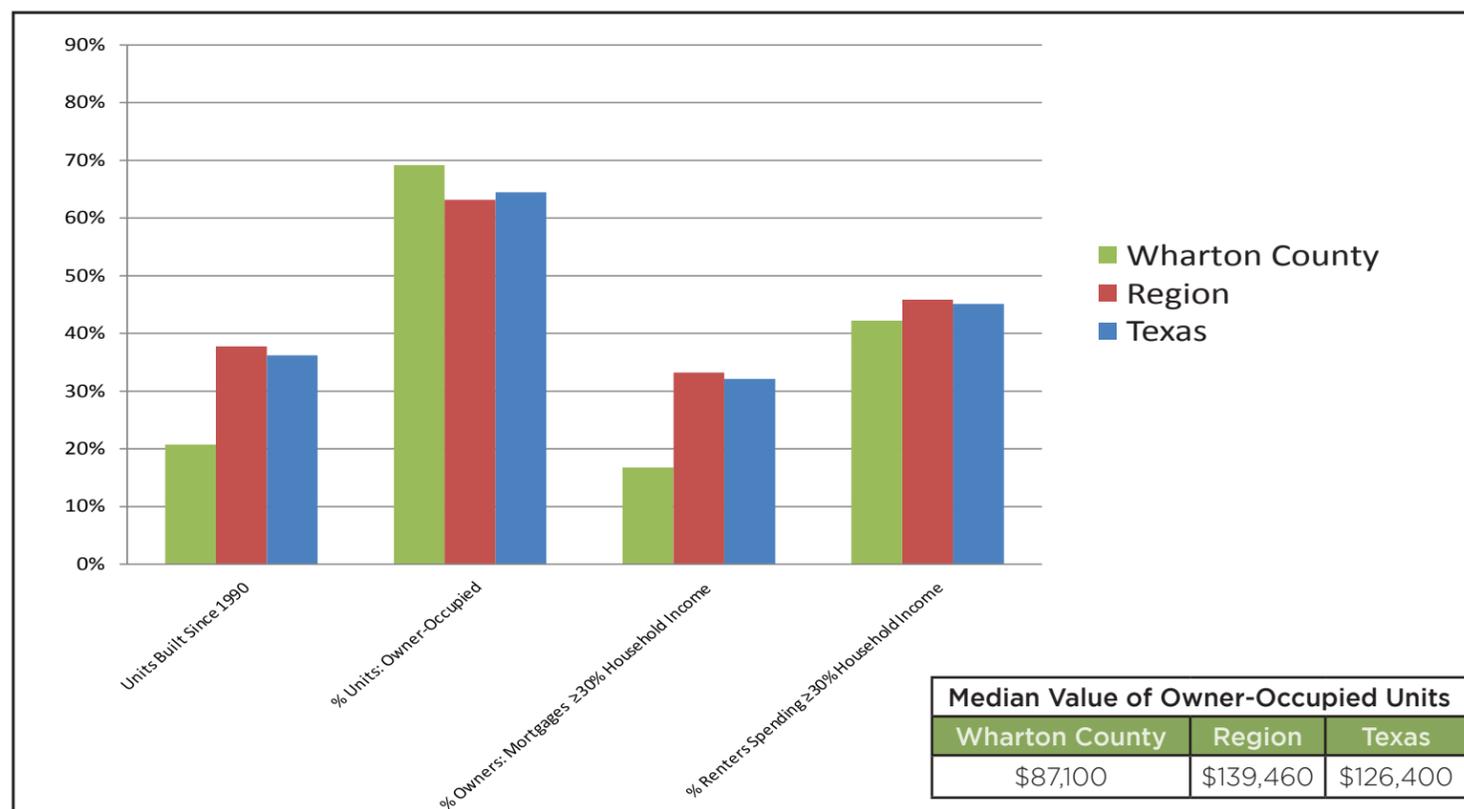


Chart 4: Housing Type

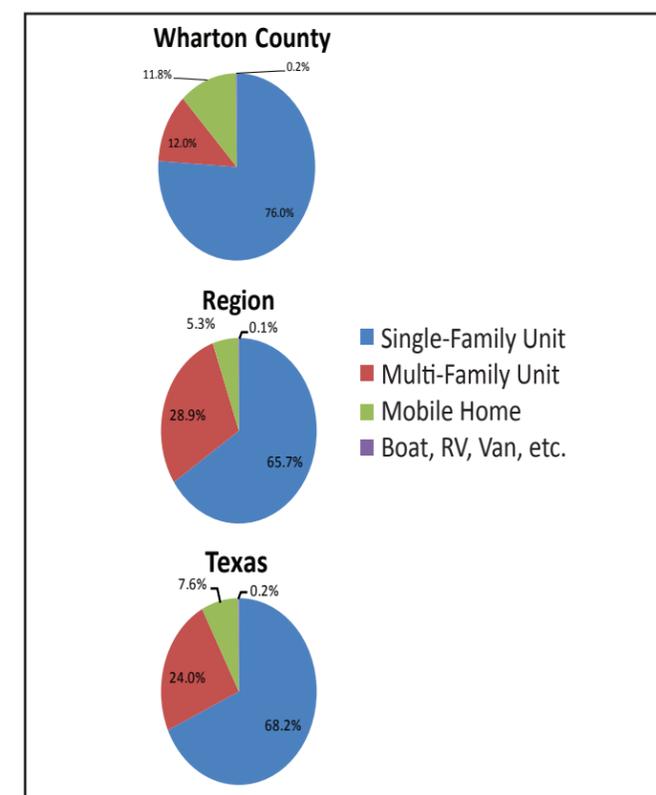
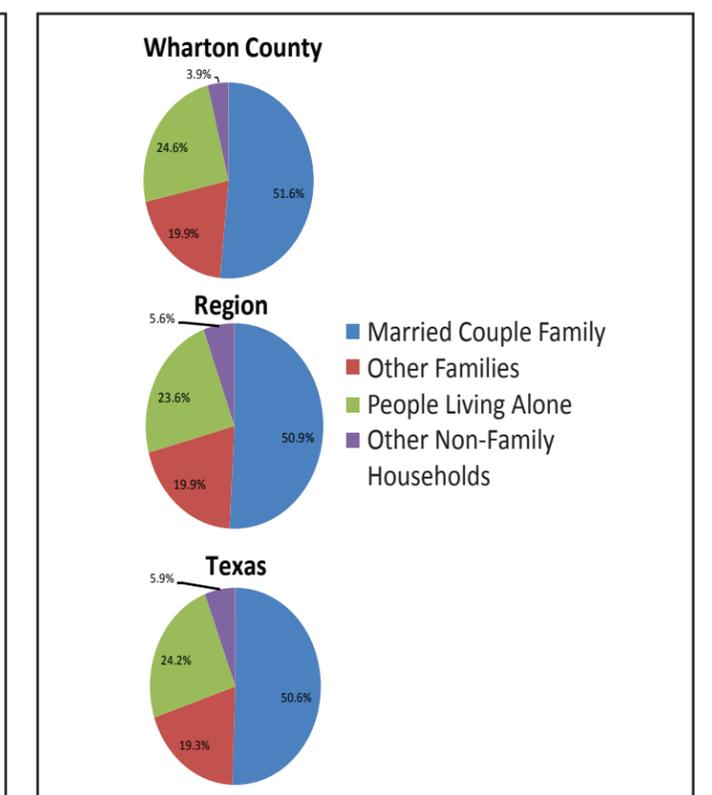


Chart 5: Household Type



ECONOMY

Chart 1: Employment

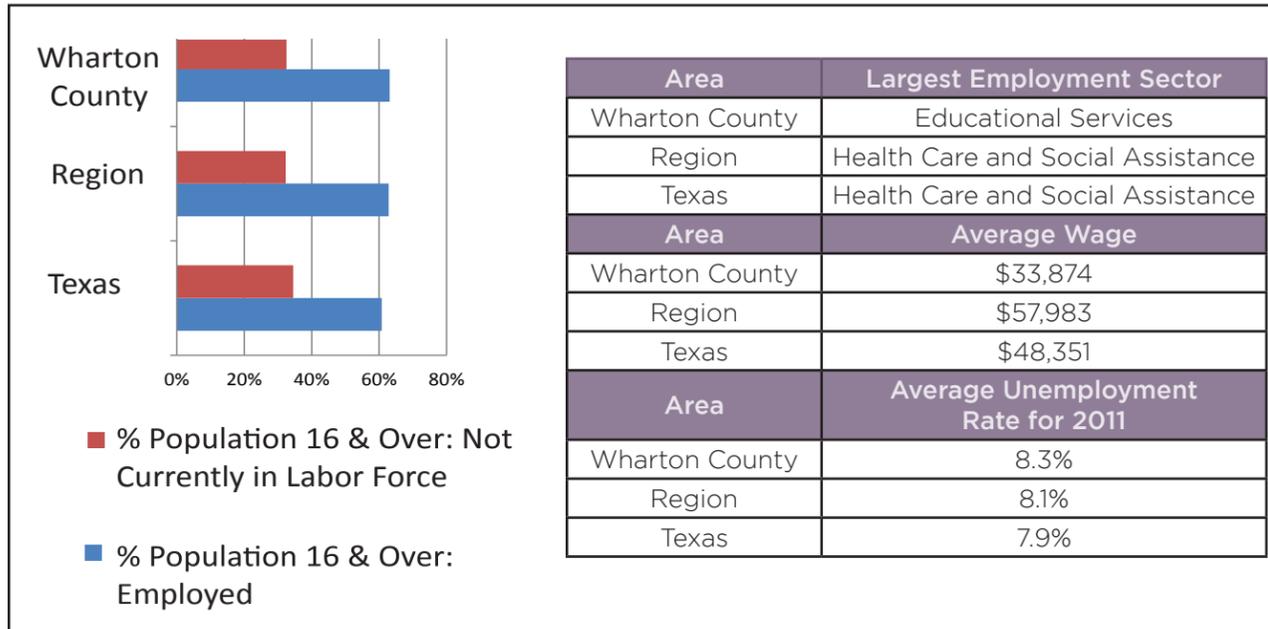


Chart 2: Top Industry and Employment by Industry in Wharton County

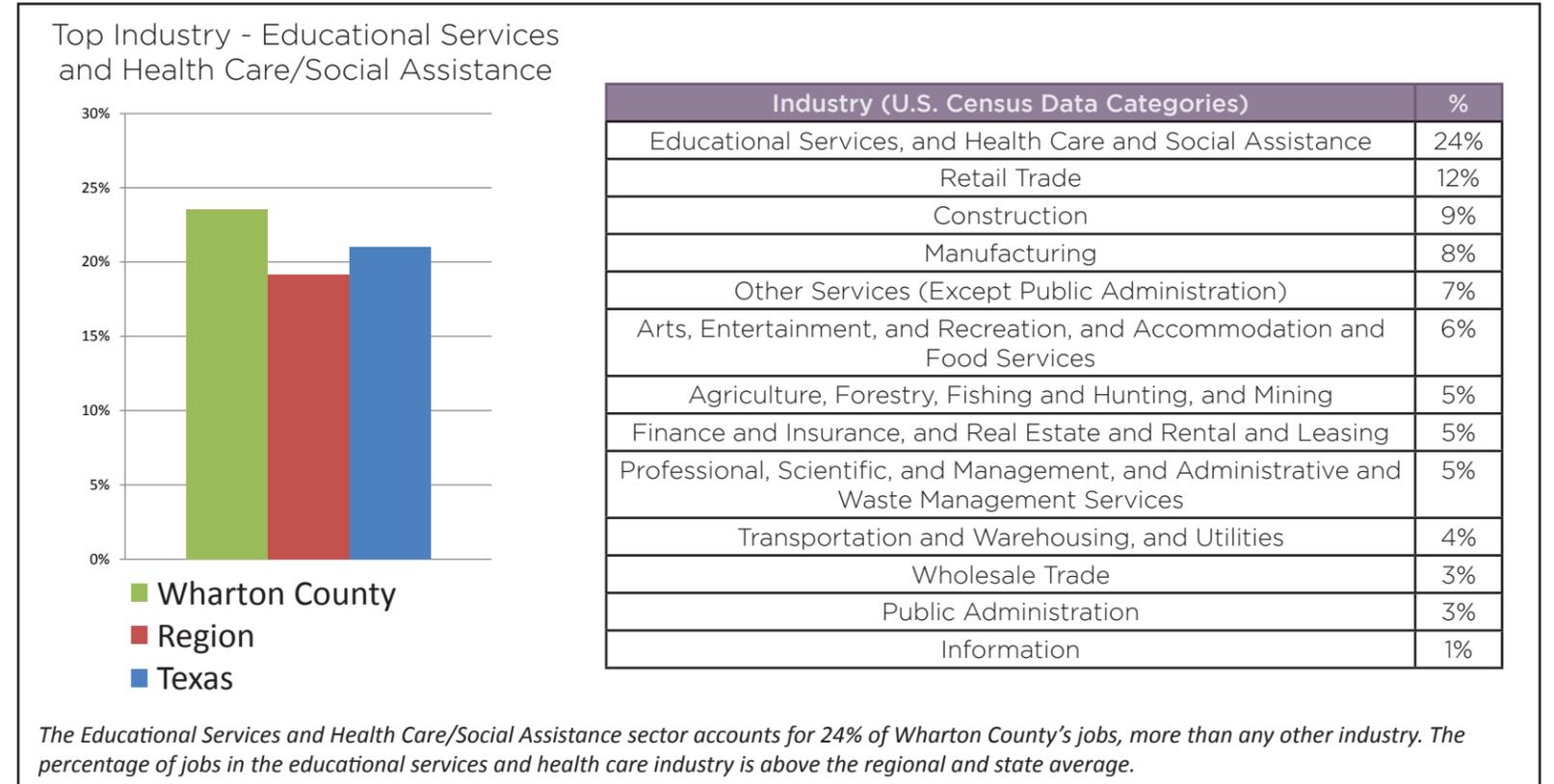


Chart 4: Income

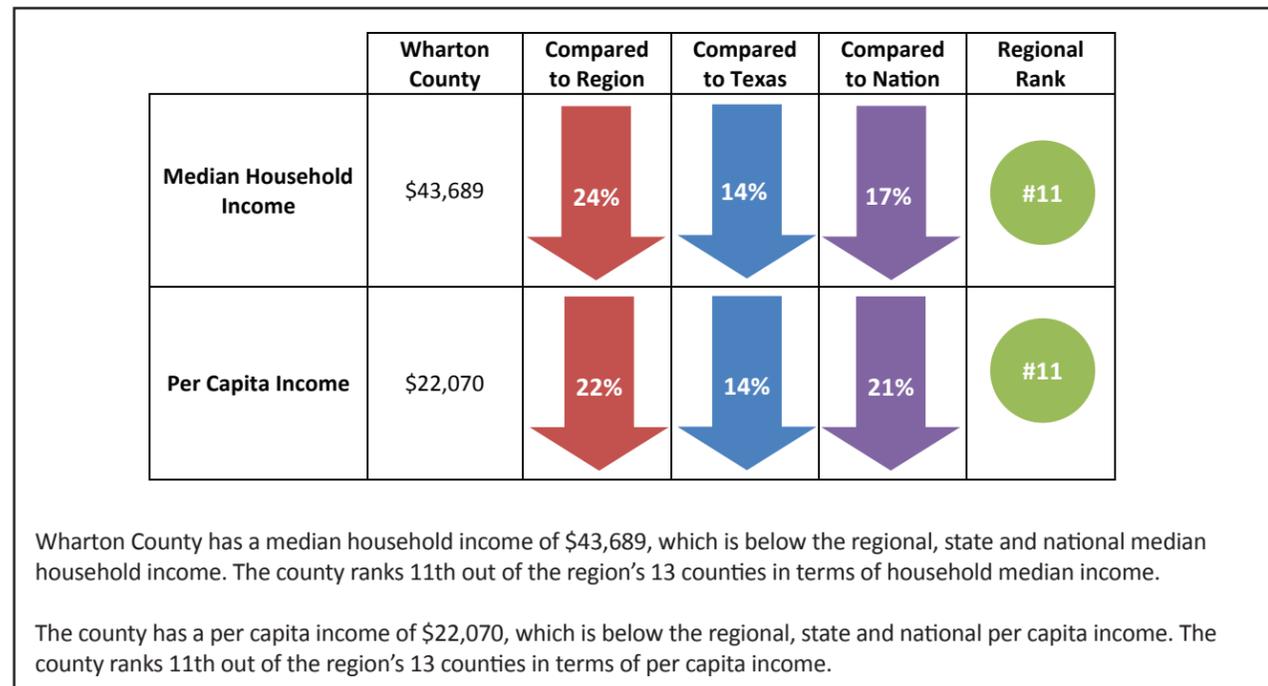
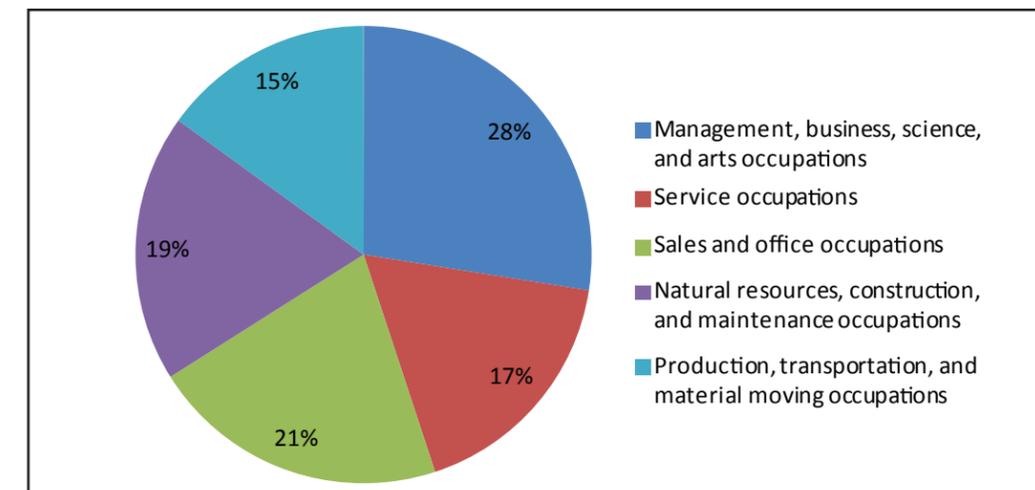


Chart 5: Occupations in Wharton County



List 1: Major Employers

- Cardell Cabinets
- El Campo ISD
- Greenleaf Nursery Company Inc.
- Leedo Manufacturing 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

EDUCATION AND POVERTY

Chart 1: Educational Attainment

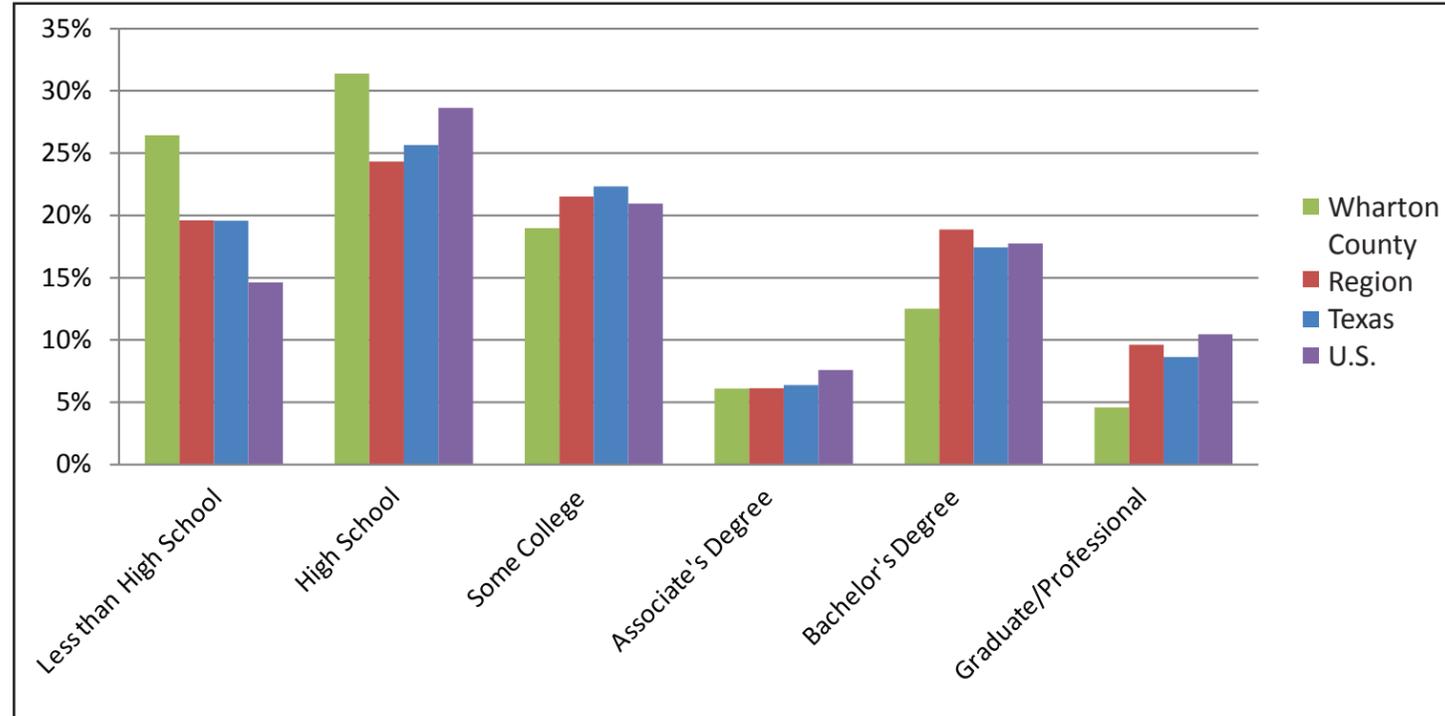


Chart 2: Graduation Rate by Race

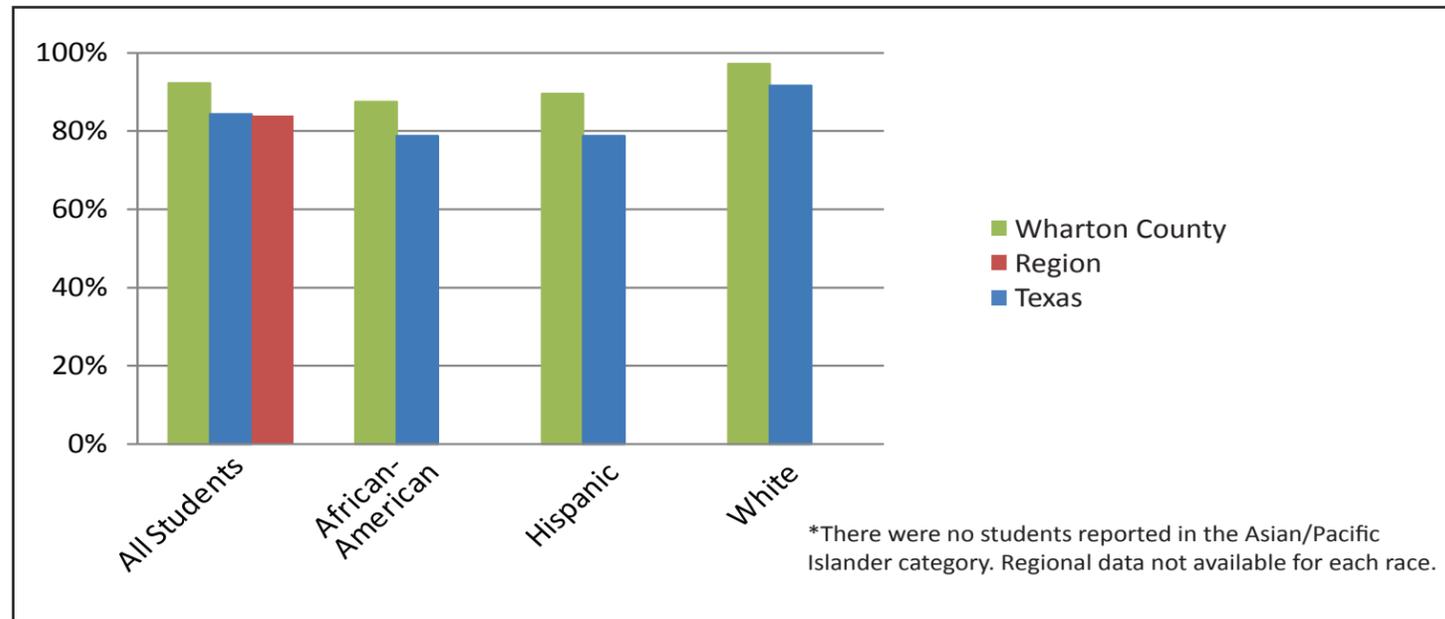
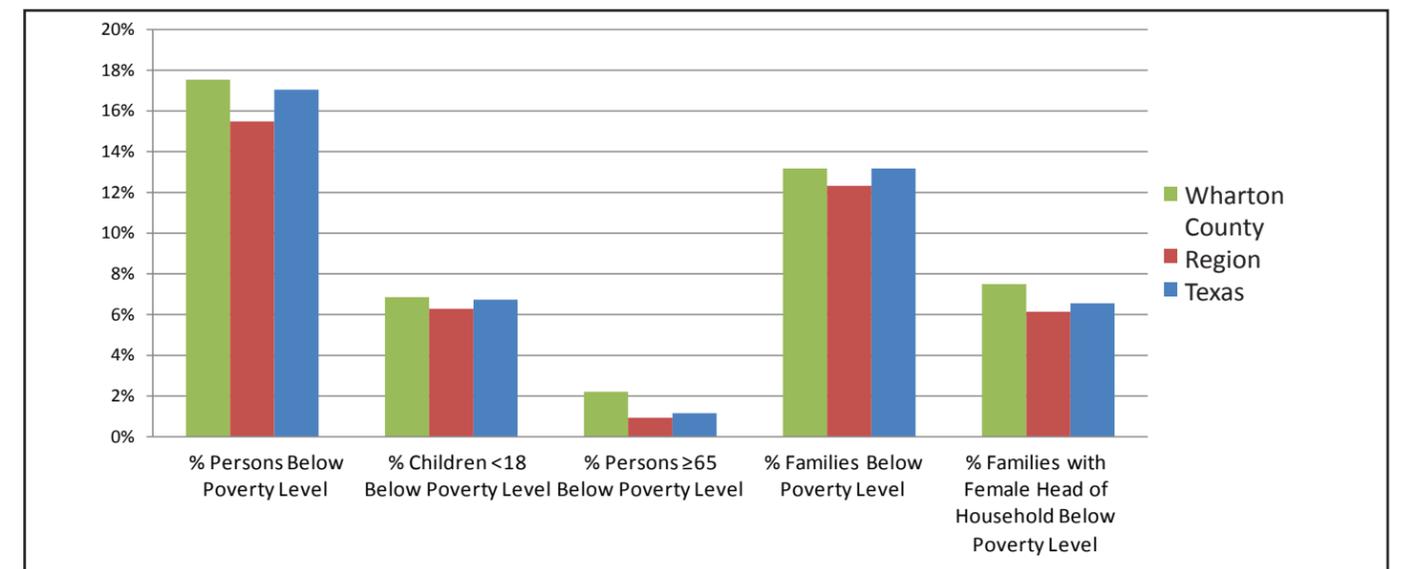


Table 1: Inventory of Educational Resources

	Wharton County	Region
# of Two-Year Public Universities	1	23
# of Four-Year Public Universities	0	17
# of Two-Year Private Universities	0	20
# of Four-Year Private Universities	0	6
# of Public Libraries	4	140



Chart 3: Poverty Levels



HEALTH

Chart 1: Insurance Coverage

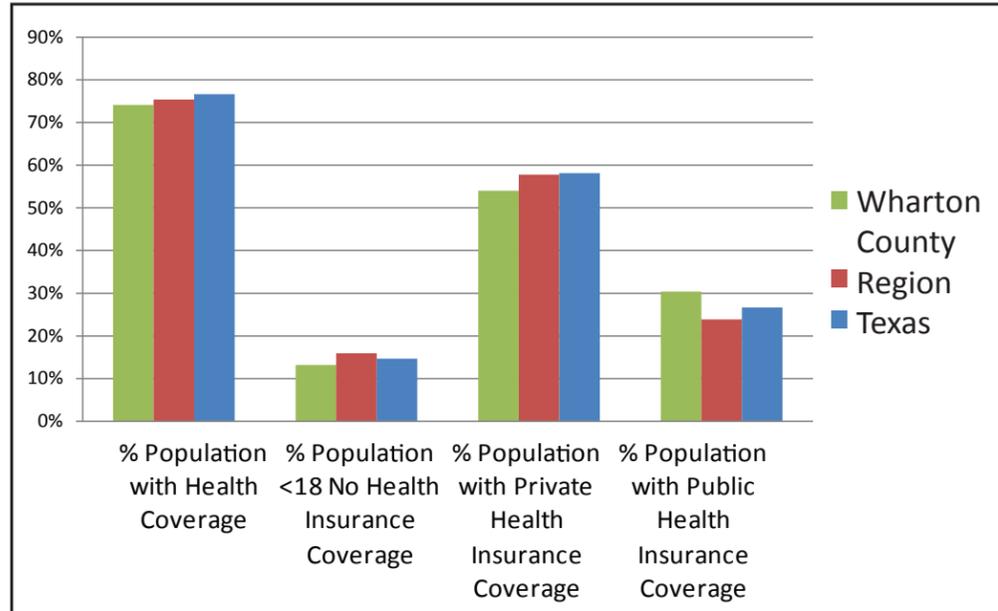


Chart 2: Causes of Deaths

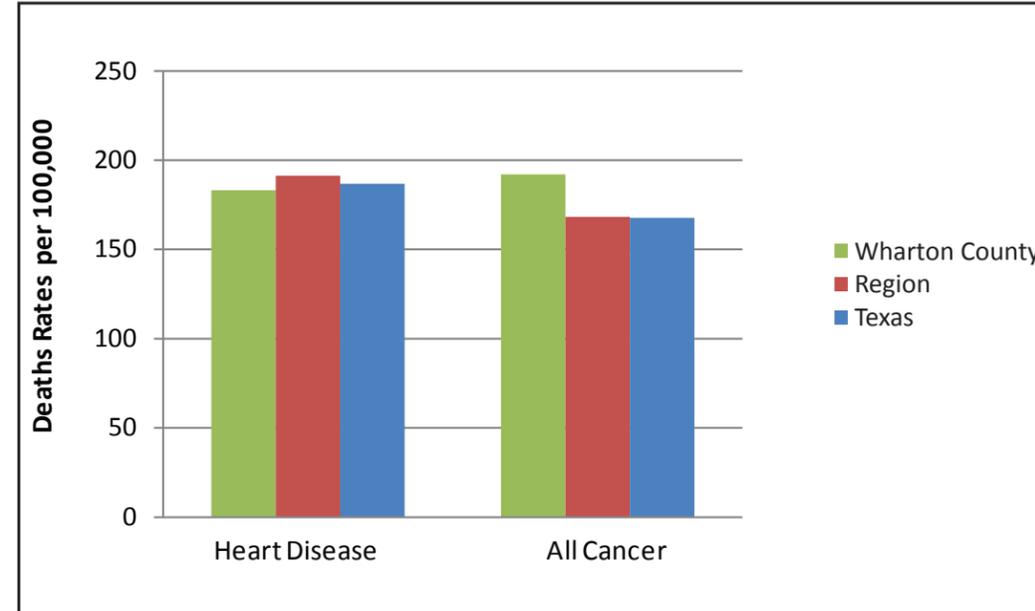


Chart 3: Obesity

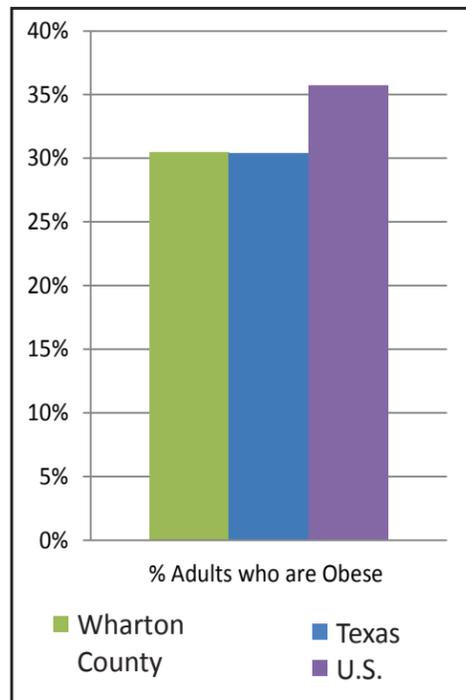


Chart 4: Diabetes Rate

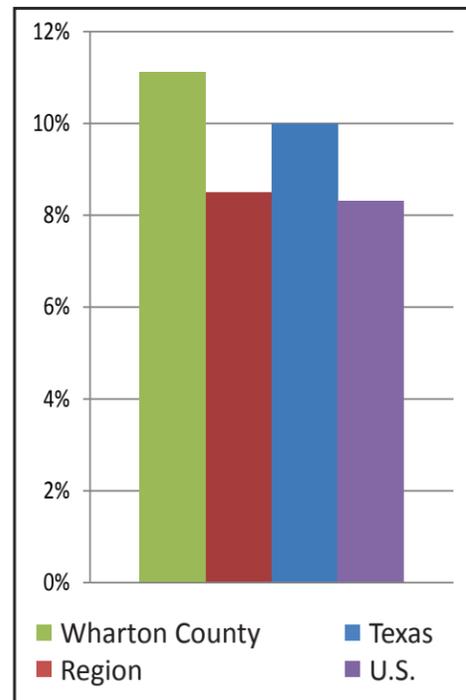


Table 1: Medical Information

	# Acute Care Hospitals	# Acute Care Beds	# Psychiatric Hospitals	Ratio* of Direct Care Physicians	Ratio* of Dentists	Ratio* of Registered Nurses	Ratio* of EMS Personnel	*Ratios are per 100,000 people
Wharton County	2	210	0	111.9	32	799.3	283.2	

Chart 5: Low Birth Rates/Prenatal Care

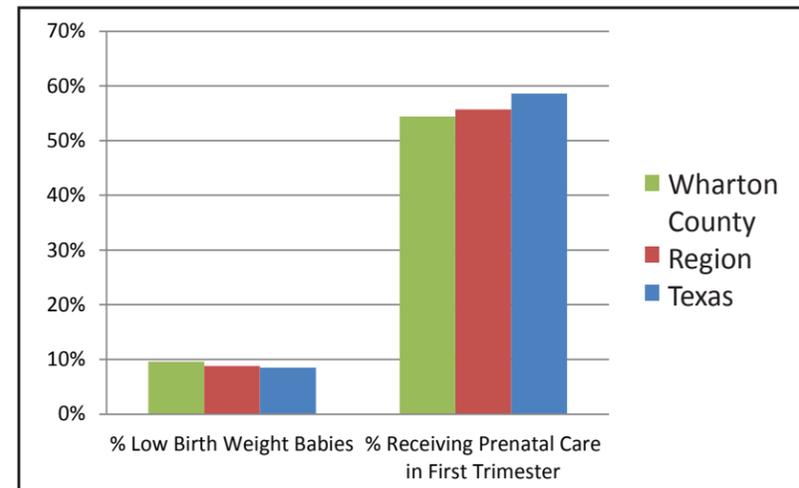
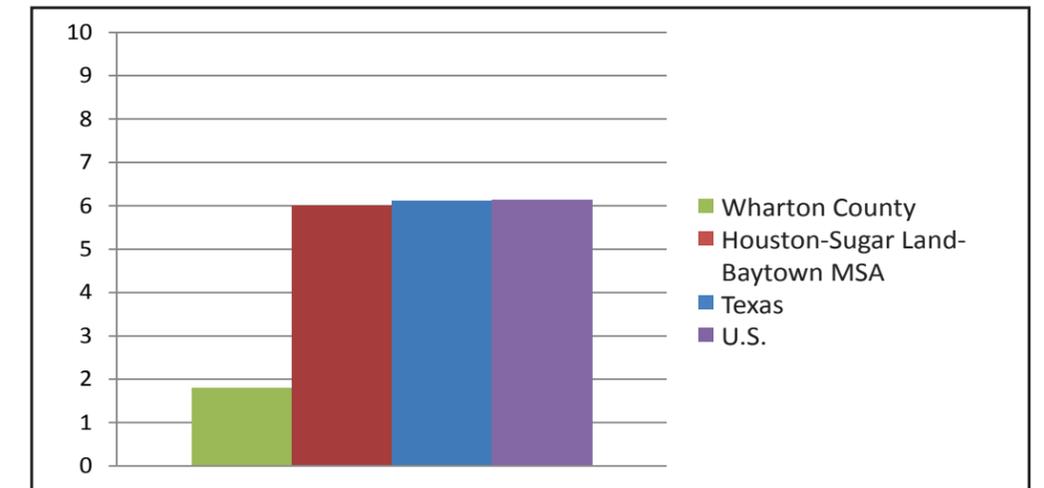
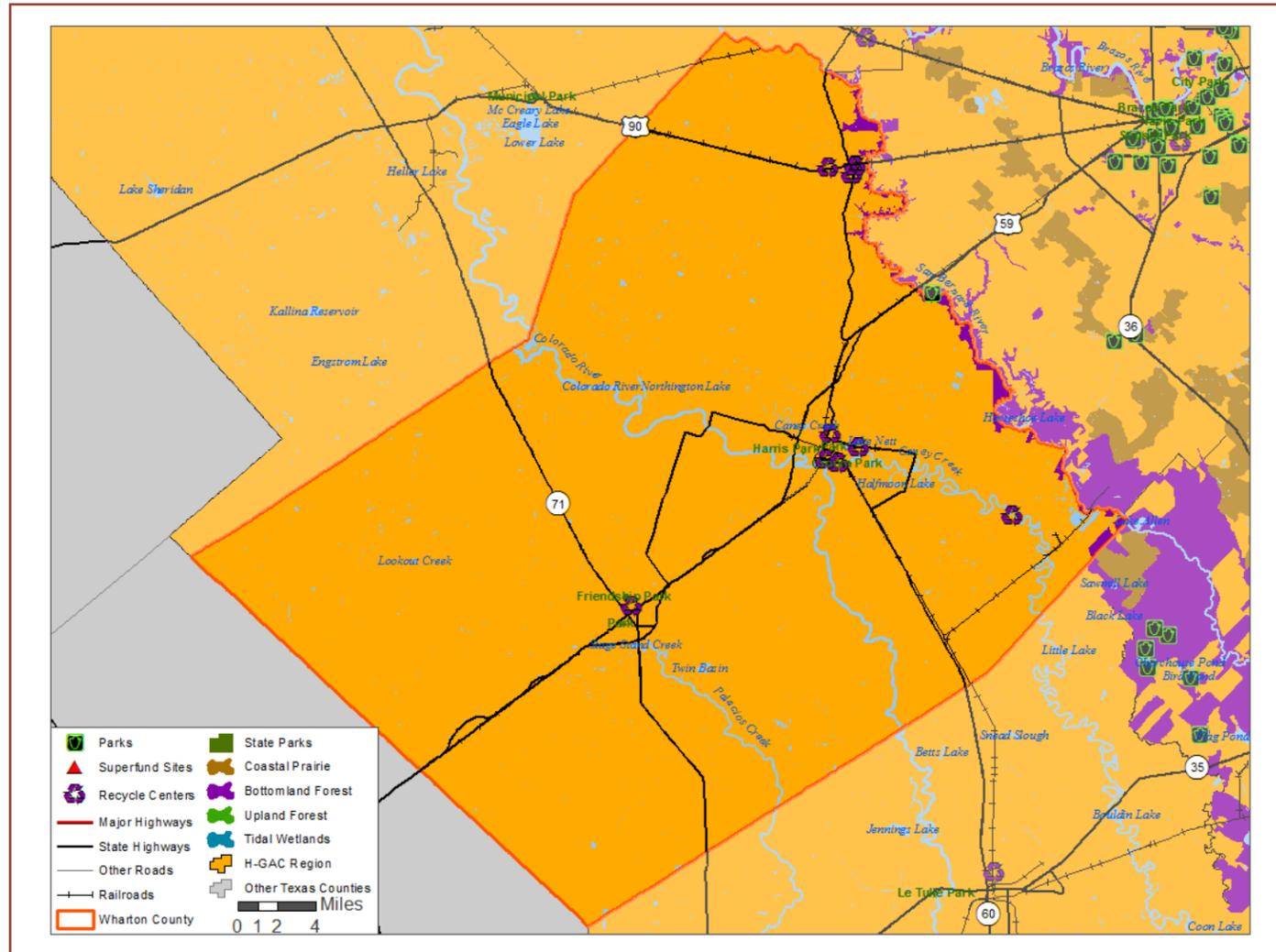


Chart 6: Infant Mortality



ENVIRONMENT

Map 1: Environmental Attributes



Map 2: Impaired Waterways

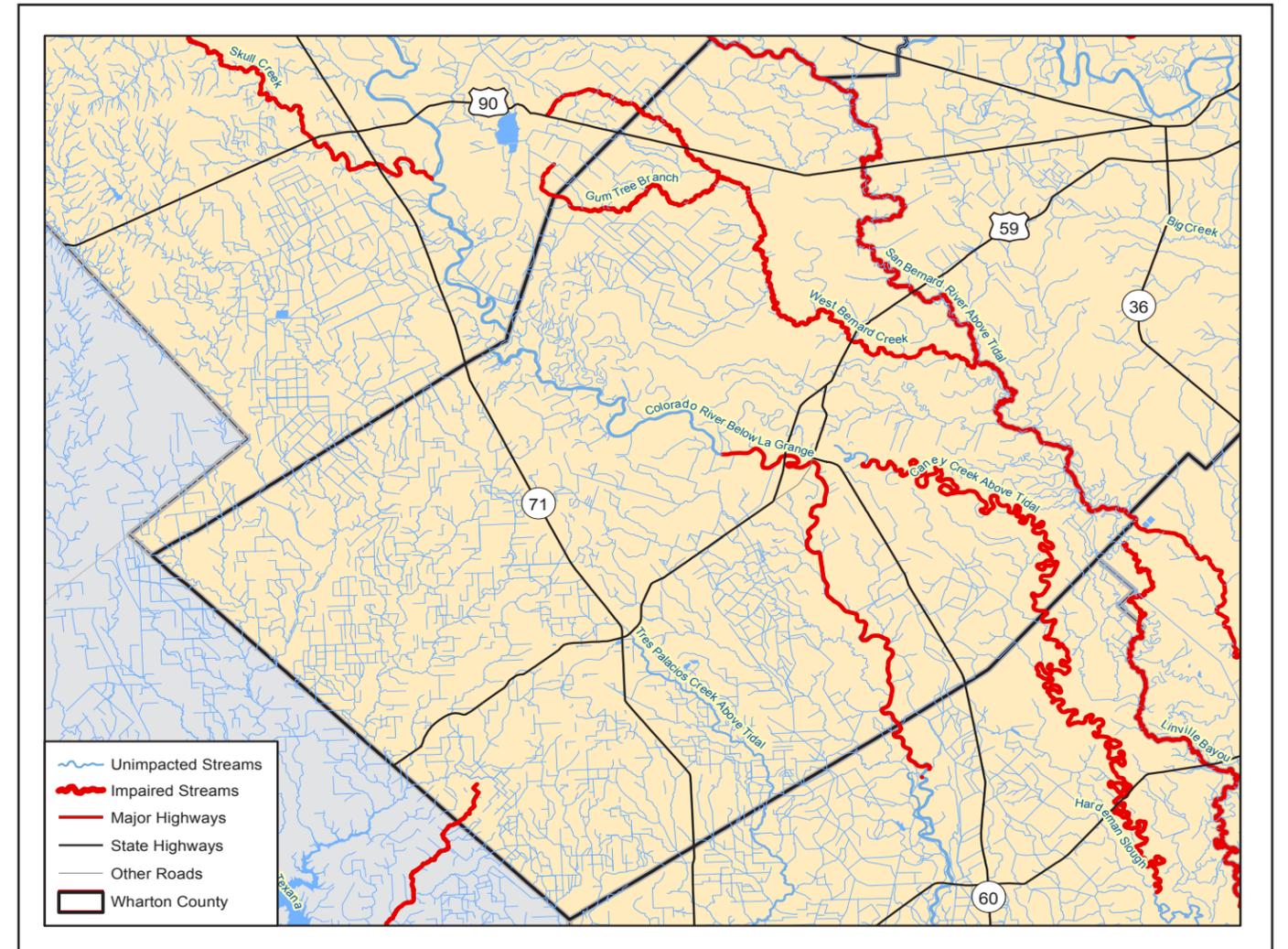


Table 1: Environmental Facts

	Wharton County		Region	
Cultivated Land	542.0 sq. mi.	50%	1,706.5 sq. mi.	12 %
High-Intensity Development	0.7 sq. mi.	0%	229.6 sq. mi.	2 %
Low-Intensity Development	7.4 sq. mi.	1%	585.2 sq. mi.	4 %
Medium-Intensity Development	2.9 sq. mi.	0%	565.1 sq. mi.	4 %
Developed Open Space	10.8 sq. mi.	1%	418.2 sq. mi.	3 %
Residents living in 100-year floodplain	32%		14%	

	Wharton County		Region	
Forest	51.6 sq. mi.	5%	1,729.0 sq. mi.	12 %
Grassland/Shrub	386.5 sq. mi.	35%	4,545.2 sq. mi.	33 %
Other	2.4 sq. mi.	0%	127.8 sq. mi.	1 %
Water	7.5 sq. mi.	1%	1,627.3 sq. mi.	12 %
Wetlands	82.6 sq. mi.	8%	2,373.5 sq. mi.	17 %
Residents living in Storm/Evacuation Zone	0%		25%	

TRANSPORTATION

Map 1: Transportation Infrastructure

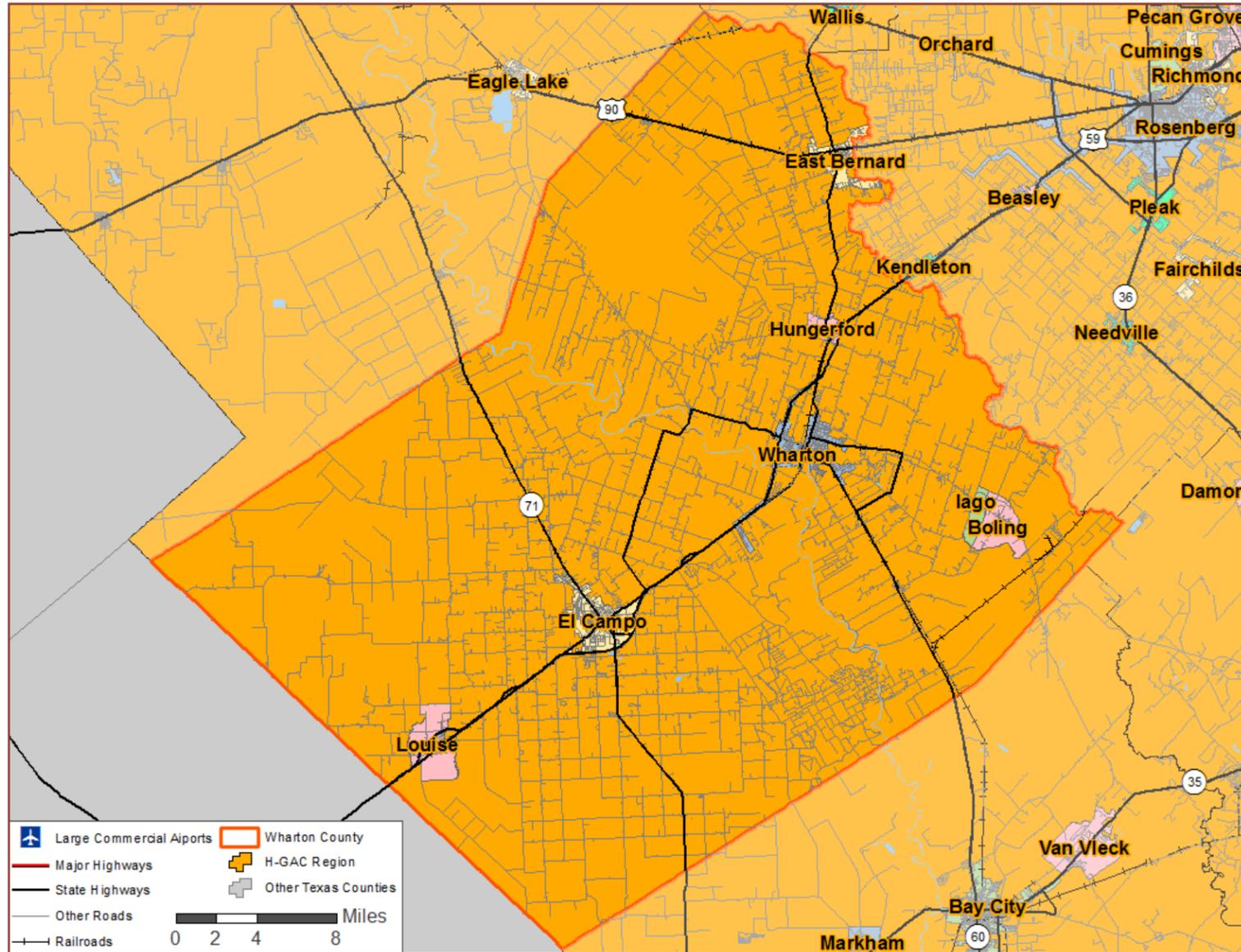


Table 1: Traffic Fatalities in Wharton County Per 100,000 Population

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
34.28	39.13	48.78	21.76	19.36

List 1: Transportation Facts

- There are 398.97 miles of state-maintained roadways in Wharton County.
- The average commute time is 24.3 minutes.
- There are 48,307 registered vehicles, with an average of 3.19 vehicles per household.
- Colorado Valley Transit is the local transit provider, offering demand response and deviated fixed route service.

Chart 1: Commute to Work

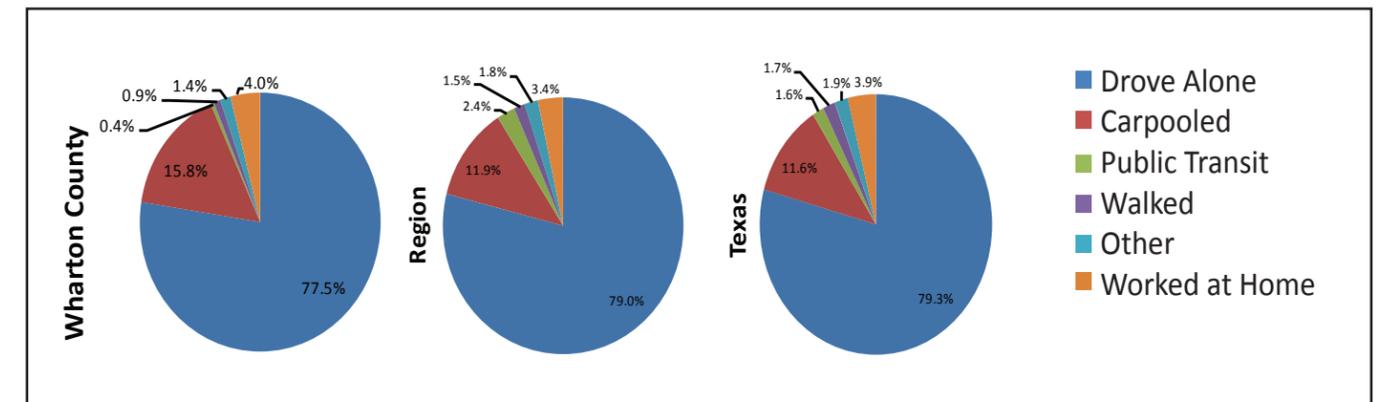
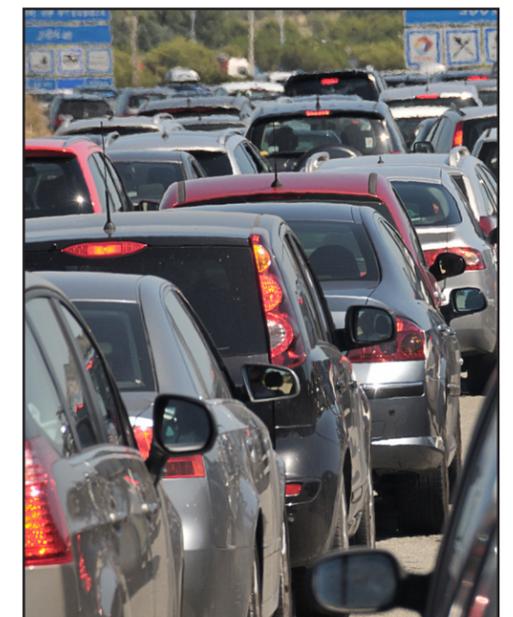
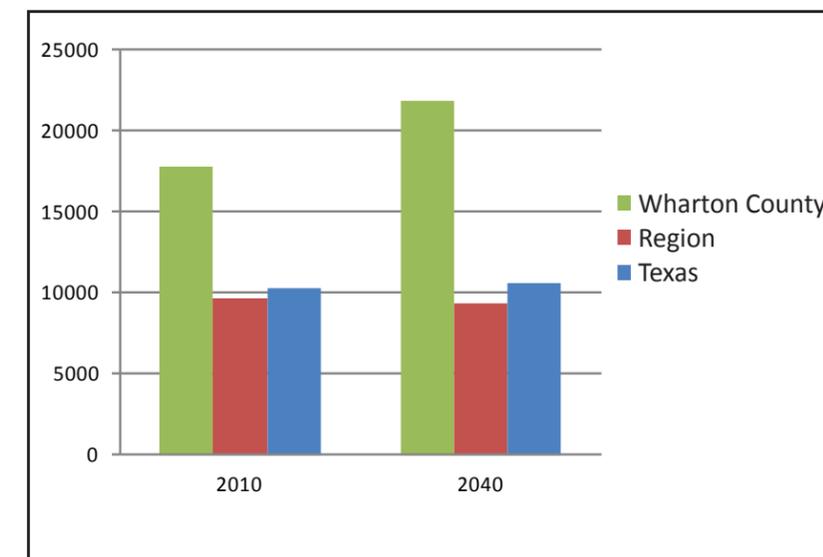


Chart 2: Vehicle Miles Traveled Per Person



DATA SOURCES

Population

Map 1: Location of County- Houston-Galveston Area Council (2013).

Table 1: Overview- Houston-Galveston Area Council (2013).

Chart 1: Population and Forecasted Growth - Houston-Galveston Area Council (2013).

Chart 2: Population by Race - U.S. Census Bureau (2010). [H-GAC analysis and survey of municipalities and Census Data].

Chart 3: Population by Age - U.S. Census Bureau (2010). [H-GAC analysis and survey of municipalities and Census Data].

Households and Housing

Chart 1: Households by Type and Number- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). American Community Survey. [H-GAC analysis of American Community Survey for the region.] Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

Chart 2: Household Income- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). American Community Survey. [H-GAC analysis of American Community Survey for the region.] Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

Chart 3: Housing Characteristics- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). [H-GAC analysis and survey of municipalities and Census Data].

Chart 4: Housing Type- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). American Community Survey. [H-GAC analysis of American Community Survey for the region.] Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

Chart 5: Household Type- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). [H-GAC analysis and survey of municipalities and Census Data].

Economy

Chart 1: Employment- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). American Community Survey. [H-GAC analysis of American Community Survey for the region.] Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

Chart 2: Top Industry and Employment by Industry in Wharton County- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). American Community Survey. [H-GAC analysis of American Community Survey for the region.] Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

Chart 3: Income- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). American Community Survey. [H-GAC analysis of American Community Survey for the region.] Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

Chart 4: Occupations in Wharton County- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). American Community Survey. [H-GAC analysis of American Community Survey for the region.] Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

List 1: Major Employers- Workforce Solutions. (2012) *Labor Market Information-Economic Profiles*. Retrieved from <http://www.wrksolutions.com/employer/lmi/profile.html>.

Education

Chart 1: Educational Attainment- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). American Community Survey. [H-GAC analysis of American Community Survey for the region.] Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

Chart 2: Graduation Rate by Race- "Four-Year Graduation, Completion, and Dropout Data: Class of 2010." Texas Education Agency. Texas Education Agency, 2 Aug. 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/acctres/completion/2010/level.html>

Chart 3: Poverty Levels- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). American Community Survey. [H-GAC analysis of American Community Survey for the region.] Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

Table 1: Inventory of Educational Resources- Libraries: "Public Library Directory and Statistics." Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Texas State Library and Archives Commission, 2 Jan. 2013. Retrieved from <https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/pls/index.html>. Colleges: College Navigator. Institute of Education Sciences: National Center for Education Statistics. 2013. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/default.aspx?s=TX&xp=1>.

Health

Chart 1: Insurance Coverage- Center to Eliminate Health Disparities. University of Texas: Medical Branch at Galveston, n.d. Retrieved from <http://www.utmb.edu/CEHD/Default.asp>.

Chart 2: Causes of Death- "2009 Health Facts Profiles for Texas." Center for Health Statistics. Texas Department of State Health Services, 5 Feb. 2013. Retrieved from <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/cfs/Texas-Health-Facts-Profiles.doc>.

Chart 3: Obesity - Local Data: "County Level Estimates of Obesity: U.S. Maps." Diabetes Data and Trends. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009. Retrieved from http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/DDT_STRS2/NationalDiabetesPrevalenceEstimates.aspx?mode=OBS. State/National Data: "Adult Obesity Facts." Overweight and Obesity. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 13 Aug. 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html>.

Chart 4: Diabetes Rate- Local Data: "County Level Estimates of Diagnosed Diabetes: State Maps." Diabetes Data and Trends: County Level Estimates. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Diabetes Surveillance System, 2009. Retrieved from http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/DDT_STRS2/CountyPrevalenceData.aspx?mode=DBT. Regional Data: "Diabetes Public Health Resource: Diabetes Interactive Atlases." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/atlas/obesityrisk/atlas.html>. National Data: "2011 National Diabetes Fact Sheet." Diabetes Public Health Resource. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 23 May 2011. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/estimates11.htm>.

Chart 5: Low Birth Rates/Prenatal Care- "2009 Health Facts Profiles for Texas." Center for Health Statistics. Texas Department of State Health Services, 5 Feb. 2013. Retrieved from <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/cfs/Texas-Health-Facts-Profiles.doc>.

Chart 6: Infant Mortality- *Healthy Texas Babies: Infant and Maternal Health Data* (2010). Rep. Austin, TX: Texas Department of State Health Services: Healthy Texas Babies, 2010. Healthy Texas Babies: Texas Data. Texas Department of State Health Services, July 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/healthytexasbabies/data.aspx>.

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Environment

Map 1: Environmental Attributes- Houston-Galveston Area Council (2013).

Map 2: Impaired Waterways- Houston-Galveston Area Council (2013).

Table 1: Environmental Facts- Houston-Galveston Area Council (2013).

Transportation

Map 1: Transportation Infrastructure- Houston-Galveston Area Council (2013).

Chart 1: Commute to Work- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). American Community Survey. [H-GAC analysis of American Community Survey for the region.] Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

Chart 2: Vehicle Miles Traveled Per Person- Schrank, David, Bill Eisele, and Tim Lomax. 2012 Urban Mobility Report. Rep. Houston, TX: Texas Transportation Institute, 2012. 2012 Urban Mobility Report and Appendices. Texas Transportation Institute, Dec. 2012. Retrieved from <http://mobility.tamu.edu/ums/report/>.

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Table 1: Traffic Fatalities in Wharton County Per 100,000 Population- "Traffic Safety Performance (Cour Outcome) Measures for Texas." National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2011. Web. 21 Feb. 2013. <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/nca/STSI/48_TX/2011/48_TX_2011.htm>.