

**2010 Needs Assessment Survey Report
City of Houston
Housing and Community
Development Department**



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UNIVERSITY of
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HOBBY CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department contracted with the University of Houston's Hobby Center for Public Policy (CPP (www.uh.edu/hcpp)) to administer and analyze the results of a citywide Needs Assessment Survey as part of its 2010-2014 Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

The Consolidated Plan is a five year plan required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that serves as a comprehensive strategy to address the needs of low and moderate income residents in the City of Houston. The plan identifies community needs and provides a strategy to address those needs using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, ESG and HOPWA funds as well as other City and federal resources.

The community Needs Assessment surveyed 1,001 residents aged 18 years and older in the Houston metropolitan area in April of 2010. Survey questions sought to solicit feedback on several key issues covering resident satisfaction and opinions about affordable housing, homelessness, public infrastructure, economic development and social services. Respondents were also asked whether current priorities should change or stay the same. The survey responses will be used to address these critical issues, identify areas in need of improvement, and recommend funding priorities.

Highlights

The following results emerge from the survey responses:

- Most residents received various forms of income, with approximately a third of respondents residing in households with an annual income below \$40,000. Elderly respondents comprised a significant portion of the sample population – almost 30 percent of respondents were over the age of 65. Almost 80 percent of respondents reported having children, however given the large number of respondents between the ages of 45 and 64 or 65 or older, many of those children were not living in respondents' households. When Hispanics are deducted from the number of White respondents, Whites comprised only 36 percent of the survey sample. Slightly less than half of all respondents had a college degree or had completed post-graduate education. Only 7.7 percent of respondents did not complete high school or had yet to obtain their GED. Almost 1 in 12 respondents was a veteran.
- Almost 93 percent of respondents live in their own home or apartment and have done so for the last 5 years. However, due to the nature of the question, it was unclear whether respondents owned their own home or apartment or were in fact renters of the home or apartment. The average number of persons living in a respondents' households was between 2 to 3 people. Approximately 86 percent of the total respondents lived in a household with 4 or fewer people.
- More than half of respondents were covered by private forms of insurance, and almost a fourth of respondents relied on Medicare to fulfill their healthcare needs. Almost 12 percent of respondents were uninsured. Almost two-thirds of respondents took prescription medicine, and of those almost 60 percent took prescription

medication every day. Approximately 13 percent of respondents reported not taking prescription medication within some point in the past year because they could not afford them. Almost half of respondents reported being diagnosed with a health condition, with the most prevalent being high blood pressure followed by diabetes.

- Given the low response rate of homeless respondents, a more targeted follow up assessment specifically designed to address the particular needs of this hard-to-reach population is recommended. However, survey respondents provided helpful insight on the public's opinion of the reasons for homelessness and ways to prevent homelessness. The majority of respondents, 32.5 percent, felt that homelessness was the result of no jobs and the economic climate. Correspondingly, the majority of respondents, 23.4 percent, thought that more jobs and better wages were the key to preventing homelessness. Interestingly, almost 11 percent of respondents reported being afraid they might be homeless in the future.
- Almost 42 percent of respondents reported being satisfied with the overall condition in their neighborhoods, with almost a third reporting being very satisfied. Only 13.2 percent reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. More than any other category, respondents felt public improvements and infrastructure required significant or much improvement followed closely by economic development and job creation. Almost 42 percent of respondents thought the Department of Housing and Community Development's highest priority should be job creation, yet overall almost 63 (62.8) percent of respondents thought the Department's top priorities since 1995 should remain the same as the Department puts together a plan for the next five years.

I. INTRODUCTION AND METHOD OF ANALYSIS

A random survey of adult Houston residents aged 18 and older was conducted in April of 2010. The objectives were to solicit feedback on several key issues covering resident satisfaction and opinions about affordable housing, homelessness, public infrastructure, economic development and social services and compile a demographic profile of the survey respondents.

The data collection and analysis was prepared by the CPP on behalf of the City of Houston. The individuals who worked on this study are listed in alphabetical order:

Renée Cross
 Jim Granato
 Chris Mainka
 Richard Murray
 Lauren Neely

Random digit dialing (RDD) was the sampling method used because it offers the best coverage of active telephone numbers and because it reduces sample bias.

The RDD method ensures the following:

- The conceptual frame and sampling frame match;
- The sample includes unlisted telephone numbers;
- The sampling frame is current, thus maximizing the probability that new residents are included; and
- There is comparability between land line surveys and surveys of cell phone users.

The Center for Public Policy's Survey Research Institute (SRI) (www.uh.edu/cpp/sri.htm) fielded 1,001 telephone interviews. The interviews yielded a margin of error of +/- 3.0 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. The data for the survey was collected April of 2010. Note that in some cases, the subsets of samples will be small and this can create high volatility in some results in those categories. The subset proportions are an approximation of the overall population; however, the relatively small size of subsets can allow for outliers to "bias" results when using the mean. We alert the reader to the influence of outliers throughout the report.

The standard SRI survey administration and management protocols include:

- The use of trained telephone interviewers to conduct the survey.
- Each interviewer completes intensive general training. The purposes of general training are to ensure that interviewers understand and practice all of the basic skills needed to conduct interviews and that they are knowledgeable about standard interviewing conventions.
- Following the usual administration and management protocols, the interviewers also participate in a specific training session for the project.

- Interviewers practice administering the survey to become familiar with the questions.

The City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department provided the survey instrument. The Survey contained 38 multiple-choice questions and was designed to collect data on demographics, housing, health priorities, homelessness, community development, and housing discrimination in addition to garnering qualitative descriptions of experiences relating to housing needs, fair housing, homelessness, and public services in the City of Houston. The survey included residents of the City of Houston metropolitan area, including low- to moderate-income residents, and the results will be used to assess the housing and community development needs of the City of Houston. The survey instrument used by the SRI was consistent with those used in previous City of Houston Needs Assessment Surveys. The major change from surveys prior to the current one is the addition of a more targeted assessment of community health needs and priorities.

The SRI uses Voxco Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) software version 4.7 on IBM compatible personal computers. Voxco 4.7 is a Windows-based interactive computing system that allows on-line interviewing and continual data entry for each respondent. The survey questionnaire is programmed into the system. Once an interviewing session begins, and the questionnaire has been read from the file server, the system provides sample telephone numbers to each interviewing station. All phone numbers are automatically dialed by each interviewer station's modem. Phone numbers are managed and distributed by the Voxco system based upon study parameters previously programmed.

Once a respondent is contacted the interviewer then reads each question as it appears on a computer monitor and directly enters the respondent's answer into the computerized database. The software automatically takes the interviewer through any skip or branching patterns in the instrument, eliminates incorrect response codes, eliminates the need for separate data entry and allows for frequent tabulation of data as the survey proceeds.

The supervisory station can be used at any time to generate detailed reports. These reports can be generated for study totals such as cumulative frequencies for questionnaire items, or for study parameters such as quota and call disposition counts, sample status and interviewer productivity. Reports can be generated both during data collection to monitor progress and at the end of an interviewing session to indicate daily and cumulative totals for completions.

The survey instrument was translated so the survey could be conducted in Spanish or Vietnamese when needed. The English, Spanish and Vietnamese versions of the instruments are programmed into the CATI system. When a Spanish or Vietnamese-speaking interviewer encounters a Spanish or Vietnamese-speaking respondent, the interviewer will select the code for the Spanish or Vietnamese version of the instrument and proceed with the interview. If the interviewer does not speak Spanish or Vietnamese, he or she will read a short, prepared statement in Spanish or Vietnamese that informs the respondent to expect a callback in approximately 30 minutes. The interviewer then selects the code for Spanish or Vietnamese interview and the software automatically will send that respondent to a Spanish or Vietnamese-speaking interviewer in approximately 30 minutes.

The need for editing questionnaires as they are completed is minimized by the use of Voxco since the software eliminates response codes that are not in the appropriate field for individual

questions. Despite the reduced probability for error, printouts of survey responses were reviewed daily to ensure that additional editing was not necessary.

The raw data file was analyzed using the latest version of the statistical software STATA. Basic frequency distributions were prepared to detect the presence of any data errors. A sample of cases was checked for accuracy and any discrepancies were corrected. Complete protection and confidentiality of the survey database was assured during all phases of data analysis. Frequency distributions for each survey question and demographic characteristics were developed for the final report.

II. SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

The SRI fielded 1,001 telephone interviews of residents of the City of Houston. Selected questions regarding housing, health, homelessness, community needs, housing discrimination and neighborhood data were analyzed in conjunction with the following demographic categories:

- Income
- Age of respondent
- Age and number of children of respondent
- Number of children in household
- Gender of respondent
- Race/ethnicity of respondent
- Years of education
- Veteran status

An RDD sample was ordered from Survey Sampling Inc. for the City of Houston. Survey Sampling provides an extremely representative random digit sample where each working block has an equal probability of selection. Fielding efficiencies are gained with optional business number removal and optional pre-screening for disconnected numbers.

Screens were also placed in the questionnaire to ensure the respondents were indeed City of Houston residents.

III. SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Overview: The City of Houston is the county seat of Harris County and the economic center of the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA). The 10-county CMSA consists of Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Brazoria, Galveston, Liberty, Waller, Chambers, Austin and San Jacinto Counties. With a population of 2.2 million, the City of Houston is the fourth largest city in the United States. Houston comprises almost 38 percent of the CMSA's total population. Unlike some urban centers in the United States, the City of Houston has consistently grown in size and population.

To approximate a representative sample of the City of Houston's urban population, the SRI fielded 1,001 random telephone interviews of residents of the City of Houston. According to HUD, a suggested sample to determine the percentage of low and moderate income (LMI) persons in the service area of Community Development Block Grant activity is *representative* if its aggregate characteristics closely approximate those same aggregate characteristics in the population. The larger the sample, the more likely it is that its aggregate characteristics truly reflect those of the population. However, sample size is not dependent on the size of the population for large populations. This means that a random sample of 500 people is equally useful in examining the characteristics of a state of 6,000,000 as it would a city of 100,000 or 50,000. For this reason, the size of the population is irrelevant when it is large or unknown.

Analysis:

Table 1
Demographics: Summary for Income

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
None	46	4.6	4.6	4.6
\$1,000 to \$10,000	63	6.3	6.3	10.9
\$11,000 to \$20,000	78	7.8	7.8	18.7
\$21,000 to \$30,000	75	7.5	7.5	26.2
\$31,000 to \$40,000	74	7.4	7.4	33.6
\$41,000 to \$50,000	64	6.4	6.4	40
\$51,000 to \$60,000	42	4.2	4.2	44.2
\$61,000 to \$70,000	42	4.2	4.2	48.4
\$71,000 to \$80,000	29	2.9	2.9	51.2
\$81,000 to \$90,000	40	4	4	55.2
Over \$100,000	152	15.2	15.2	70.4
No Answer/Refused	296	29.6	29.6	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Less than 5 percent of respondents reported having no income at all, and approximately 15 percent of respondents reported income greater than \$100,000 a year. A third of respondents came from households with a yearly income of \$40,000 or less.

Table 2
Demographics: Summary for Age

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
18 - 24	43	4.3	4.3	4.3
25 - 34	87	8.7	8.7	13
35 - 44	105	10.5	10.5	23.5
45 - 54	218	21.8	21.8	45.3
55 - 64	217	21.7	21.7	66.9
65 and Over	289	28.9	28.9	95.8
No Answer/Refused	42	4.2	4.2	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Almost forty-three percent (42.5) of all respondents were between the ages of 45 to 64, and almost 30 percent (28.9) were over the age of 65. The average age for all respondents was 53 years.¹ Residents between the ages of 18 and 34 accounted for 13 percent of total respondents.

Table 3
Demographics: Summary for Marital Status

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Married	574	57.3	57.3	57.3
Living with a partner	23	2.3	2.3	59.6
Divorced	95	9.5	9.5	69.1
Separated	18	1.8	1.8	70.9
Single	259	25.9	25.9	96.8
No Answer/Refused	32	3.2	3.2	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Approximately sixty percent (59.6) of respondents were married or living with a partner. Slightly more than a fourth (25.9) of respondents were single adults.

Almost 80 percent of respondents reported having children (79.2). Of those that reported having children, 67 percent of respondents reported having 3 or fewer children, with the majority (29.7 percent) reporting having 2 children. As seen in the table below, only 16.7 percent of respondents reported having 4 or more children.

¹ Note that discrepancies between total sample size and various variables are due to respondents either refusing to answer or saying they did not know. Consider the "Age" variable. We have a reduction in the total sample (who reports their age) from 1001 to 959. Therefore, if those responses are excluded from the total sample when calculating the average age of respondents, the average age increases from 53 years to 55 years. For most responses, we have included those who do not answer in the total sample count. However, if nonresponsive answers comprise a significant amount of the responses, we discuss what the effect would be if this population was excluded from the total sample.

Table 4
Demographics: Summary for Number of Children

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No Children	207	20.7	20.7	20.7
1	167	16.7	16.7	37.4
2	297	29.7	29.7	67
3	163	16.3	16.3	83.3
4	79	7.9	7.9	91.2
5	42	4.2	4.2	95.4
6	20	2	2	97.4
7	12	1.2	1.2	98.6
8	5	0.5	0.5	99.1
9	5	0.5	0.5	99.6
10 or more	1	0.1	0.1	99.7
No Answer/Refused	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

It is important to note that when respondents were asked to provide the ages of their children, although 208 respondents replied yes to having children, only 207 respondents went on to provide the number of children they had. This response “attrition” is further seen when respondents are asked to provide the ages of their children. For example, although 207 respondents admit to having children, the total number of respondents with no children expands to 252, not inclusive of those who refused to answer. Although it is reasonable to assume that the total number reporting the ages of their children will decrease as the number of children increases, this number is inconsistent with the number of children originally reported, suggesting that a growing number of respondents are simply failing to provide ages for all of their children with each successive question. This is more aptly demonstrated by the fact that although almost 9 percent of respondents initially reported having more than 4 children, no respondent reports an age for their fifth child.

Also notable, although perhaps unsurprising given the large amount of respondents over the age of 65, is the number of adult children reported. As seen in the tables that follow, this category is the largest reported for each child.

Table 5
Demographics: Summary for Age of Children

Age of First Child	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No First Child	252	25.2	25.2	25.2
0 - 2	21	2.1	2.1	2.1
3 - 5	29	2.9	2.9	5
6 - 8	29	2.9	2.9	7.9
9 - 11	32	3.2	3.2	11.1
12 - 14	27	2.7	2.7	13.8
15 - 17	36	3.6	3.6	17.4
18 and Over	557	55.7	55.7	73.1
No Answer/Refused	18	1.8	1.8	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Age of Second Child	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No Second Child	452	45.2	45.2	45.2
0 - 2	13	1.3	1.3	1.3
3 - 5	15	1.5	1.5	2.8
6 - 8	29	2.9	2.9	5.7
9 - 11	21	2.1	2.1	7.8
12 - 14	28	2.8	2.8	10.6
15 - 17	16	1.6	1.6	12.2
18 and Over	427	42.7	42.7	54.9
Total	1001	100	100	100

Age of Third Child	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No Third Child	786	78.5	78.5	78.5
0 - 2	11	1.1	1.1	1.1
3 - 5	11	1.1	1.1	2.2
6 - 8	5	0.5	0.5	2.7
9 - 11	8	0.8	0.8	3.5
12 - 14	8	0.8	0.8	4.3
15 - 17	8	0.8	0.8	5.1
18 and Over	164	16.4	16.4	21.5
Total	1001	100	100	100

Age of Fourth Child	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No Fourth Child	922	92.1	92.1	92.1
0 - 2	6	0.6	0.6	0.6
3 - 5	2	0.2	0.2	0.8
6 - 8	2	0.2	0.2	1
9 - 11	4	0.4	0.4	1.4
12 - 14	4	0.4	0.4	1.8
15 - 17	1	0.1	0.1	1.9
18 and Over	60	6	6	7.9
Total	1001	100	100	100

Table 6
Demographics: Summary for Number of Children in Household

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No Children	244	24.4	24.4	24.4
0	399	39.9	39.9	64.2
1	193	19.3	19.3	83.5
2	106	10.6	10.6	94.1
3	41	4.1	4.1	98.2
4	12	1.2	1.2	99.4
5	3	0.3	0.3	99.7
7	1	0.1	0.1	99.8
No Answer/Refused	2	0.2	0.2	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

The effects of the large number of elderly respondents is also seen when the number of children in the household is examined. As seen in Table 6, almost 40 percent (39.9) of respondents who report having children do not have any children living in their household, undoubtedly attributable to the fact that their adult children have set up households away from their parents.

Table 7
Demographics: Summary for Race

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
African American	323	32.3	32.3	32.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	22	2.2	2.2	34.5
Native American	5	0.5	0.5	35
White	506	50.5	50.5	85.5
Mixed	17	1.7	1.7	87.2
Other	117	11.7	11.7	98.9
No Answer/Refused	11	1.1	1.1	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Hispanic				
Yes	146	14.6	14.6	14.6
No	852	85.1	85.1	99.7
No Answer/Refused	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Approximately half of all respondents were White, and minorities made up the other half of the respondents. However, inclusive in the number of White respondents are those who also report being of Hispanic descent. When Hispanics are deducted from the total number of White

respondents, the percentage of White respondents decreases to thirty-six (36.0) percent. Fifteen (14.6) percent of the respondents stated they were of Hispanic descent.

Table 8
Demographics: Summary for Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	458	45.8	45.8	45.8
Female	543	54.2	54.2	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

There was a slightly greater percentage of female respondents compared to male respondents. Fifty-four percent (54.2) of the respondents were female and forty-six percent (45.8) were male.

Table 9
Demographics: Summary for Education

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
8th grade or less	20	2	2	2
Some high school	57	5.7	5.7	7.7
High school graduate/GED	199	19.9	19.9	27.6
Some college	281	28.1	28.1	55.6
College graduate	290	29	29	84.6
Post-graduate	146	14.6	14.6	99.2
No answer/Refused	8	0.8	0.8	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Forty-four percent of all respondents had a college degree (29 percent) or had completed post-graduate education (14.6 percent). Seventy-seven respondents reported having an 8th grade education or less or only some high school, meaning almost 8 (7.7) percent of respondents did not complete high school or had yet to obtain their GED.

Table 10
Demographics: Summary for Veteran Status

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	125	12.5	12.5	12.5
No	875	87.4	87.4	99.9
No Answer/Refused	1	0.1	0.1	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Almost 13 (12.5) percent of respondents classified themselves as veterans.

Conclusion: Most residents received some type of income, with approximately a third of respondents residing in households with an annual income below \$40,000. Elderly respondents comprised a significant portion of the sample population – almost 30 percent of respondents were over the age of 65. Almost 80 percent of respondents reported having children, however given the large number of respondents between the ages of 45 and 64 and 65 or older, many of those children were not living in respondents' households. When Hispanics are deducted from the number of White respondents, Whites comprise only 36 percent of the survey sample. Slightly less than half of all respondents had a college degree or had completed post-graduate education. Only 7.7 percent of respondents did not complete high school or had yet to obtain their GED. Almost one in twelve respondents was a veteran.

IV. HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

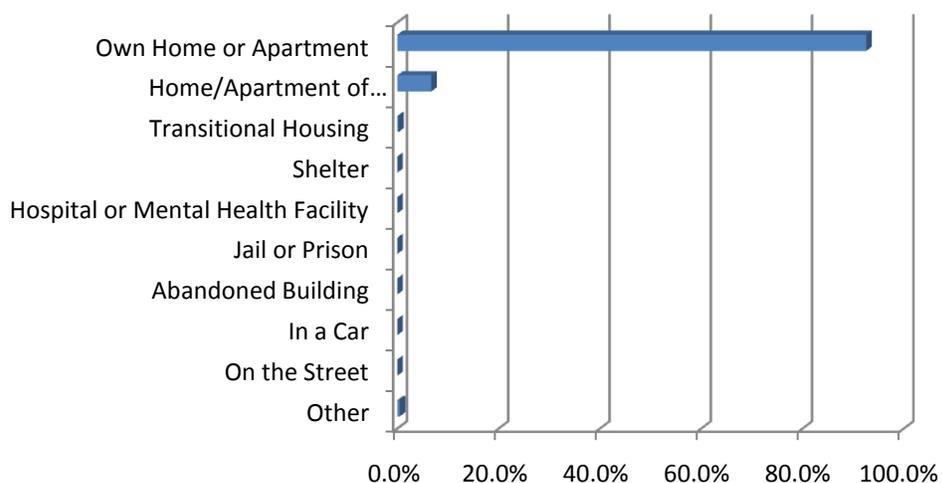
Overview: Housing costs are typically one of the largest expenses in a household. According to the 2008 American Community Survey promulgated by the US Census Bureau, approximately 47 percent residents of within the metropolitan area own their own home and approximately 53 percent of residents occupy rental housing. The responses to selected questions designed to elicit data regarding housing needs for the City of Houston are analyzed below.

Analysis:

Table 11
Current Residency

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Own home or apartment	927	92.6	92.6	92.6
Home or apartment of a friend or family member	67	6.7	6.7	99.3
Transitional housing	2	0.2	0.2	99.5
College dormitory	1	0.1	0.1	99.6
Church home	1	0.1	0.1	99.7
No Answer/Refused	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Figure 1
Current Residency

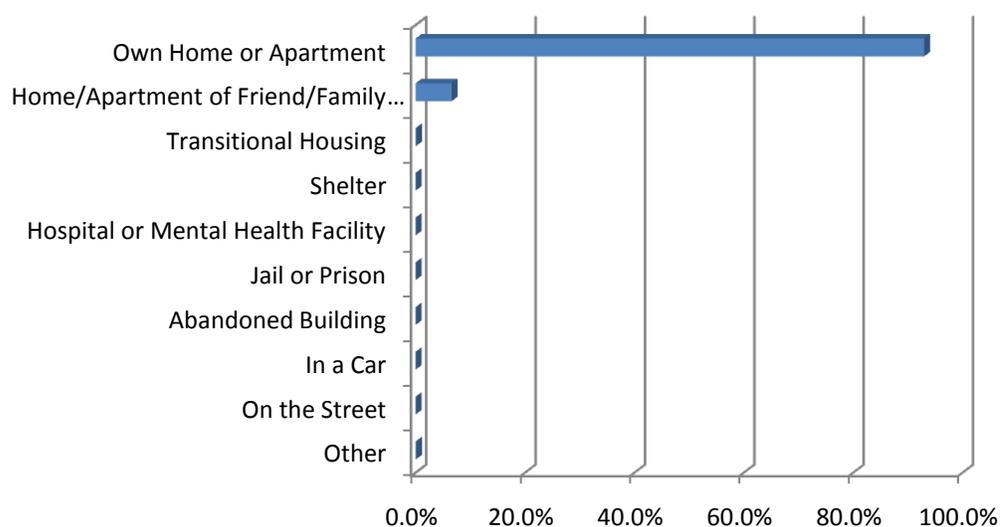


The overwhelming majority of respondents, 99.3 percent, were living in their own home or apartment (92.6 percent) or the home or apartment of a friend or family member (6.7 percent). Only 0.2 percent of respondents reported currently living in transitional housing or a shelter. Reportedly no respondents are currently housed in a hospital or mental health facility or are in jail or prison. Of the total number of respondents, none also listed their current residence as an abandoned building, in a car or on the street. Less than 1 percent of respondents (0.5) listed their place of residence as other or refused to answer, with the responses for other including college dormitory and church home.

Table 12
Residency within the Last 12 Months

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Own home or apartment	931	93	93	93
Home or apartment of a friend or family member	66	6.6	6.6	99.6
Transitional housing	1	0.1	0.1	99.7
Church home	1	0.1	0.1	99.8
No Answer/Refused	2	0.2	0.2	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Figure 2
Residency within the Last 12 Months



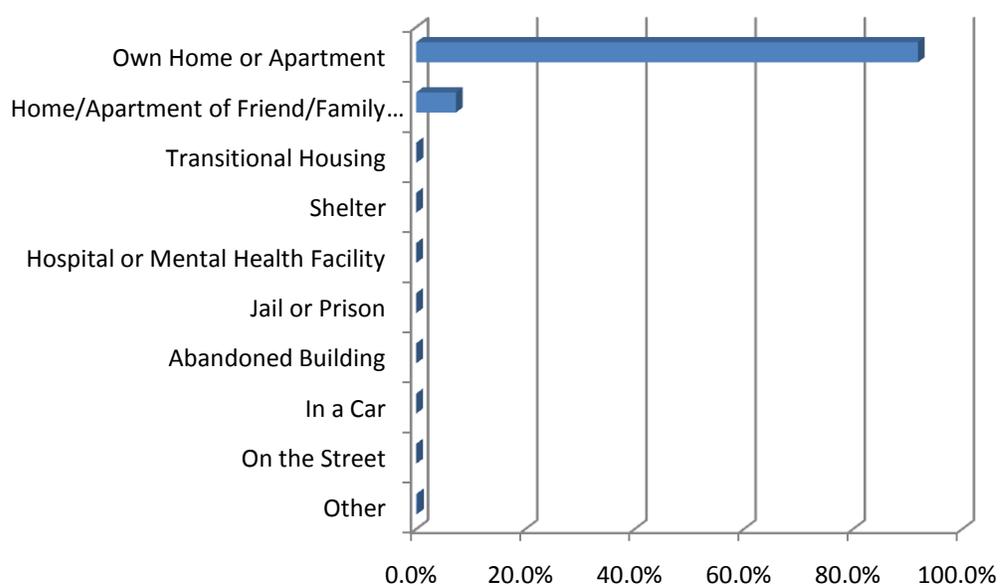
When the timeframe is expanded to the last 12 months, Table 12 and Figure 2 show that again, the overwhelming majority of respondents, 99.6 percent, were living in their own home or

apartment (93 percent) or the home or apartment of a friend or family member (6.6 percent). Only 0.1 percent of respondents reported living in transitional housing or a shelter within the last 12 months. And again, no respondents have been housed in a hospital or mental health facility or are in jail or prison, or list their residence as an abandoned building, in a car or on the street within the last 12 months. Less than 1 percent of respondents (0.4) listed their place of residence as other or refused to answer, with the sole respondent for other reporting residing in church home within the last 12 months.

Table 13
Residency within the Last 5 Years

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Own home or apartment	920	91.9	91.9	91.9
Home or apartment of a friend or family member	73	7.3	7.3	99.2
Transitional housing	1	0.1	0.1	99.3
Church home	1	0.1	0.1	99.4
Lived overseas	1	0.1	0.1	99.5
No Answer/Refused	5	0.5	0.5	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Figure 3
Residency within the Last 5 Years



When the timeframe is expanded to the last 5 years, the numbers remain consistent with those elicited for place of current residence and place of residence within the last 12 months. Almost 100 percent of respondents reported living in their own home or apartment or the home or apartment of a friend or family member. Again 0.1 percent of respondents reported living in transitional housing or a shelter within the last 5 years, and there were no respondents housed in a hospital or mental health facility or in jail or prison, or list their residence as an abandoned building, in a car or on the street within the last 5 years. Less than 1 percent of respondents (0.4) listed their place of residence as other or refused to answer, with the respondents for other reporting residing in church home or overseas within the last 5 years.

Table 14
Number in Household

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	181	18.1	18.1	18.1
2	376	37.6	37.6	55.6
3	162	16.2	16.2	71.8
4	137	13.7	13.7	85.5
5	51	5.1	5.1	90.6
6	16	1.6	1.6	92.2
7	10	1	1	93.2
8	5	0.5	0.5	93.7
9	1	0.1	0.1	93.8
10	1	0.1	0.1	93.9
11	1	0.1	0.1	94
No answer/Refused	60	6	6	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Figure 4
Number in Household

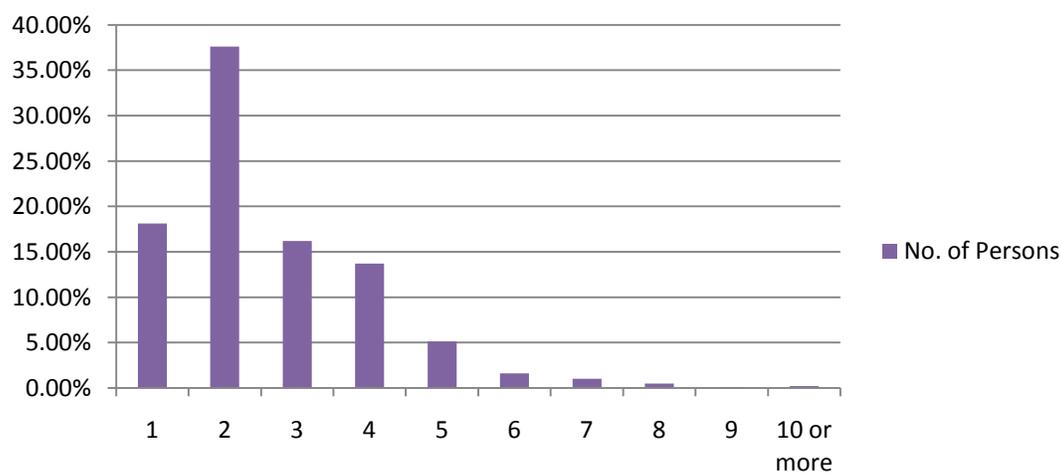


Figure 4 shows that of respondents who were not homeless, approximately 86 percent (85.5) lived with 4 or fewer people. The average number of persons in respondents' households was 2 people, although that number moves closer to 3 when the respondents who refused to answer are excluded. The average number of rooms in the apartment or home where they were living was 6.

Conclusion: Almost 93 percent of respondents live in their own home or apartment and have done so for the last 5 years. However, due to the nature of the question, it was unclear whether respondents were living in their own home or apartment or were renters. The average number of persons living within respondents' households was between 2 to 3 people and approximately 86 percent of the total respondents lived in a household with 4 or fewer people.

V. HEALTHCARE

Overview: As reported in The State of Health in Houston/Harris County 2009, Texas has the highest rate of uninsured persons in the nation. According to 2006-2008 Census data, one in four residents, or 25 percent is without any form of health insurance, compared to 15 percent of U.S. residents. In the City of Houston, data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey indicate that for the 2006 - 2008 three year average, a total of 656,253 residents under age 65, or 32.5 percent had no health insurance. In Harris County, 1,132,345 or 31.2 percent of residents under age 65 were uninsured. Among all ages, 9.9 percent were without insurance in Houston and 28.9 percent in Harris County. The homeless are one group that often is uninsured. The 2007 Enumeration and Needs Assessment of Homeless Persons in Houston/Harris County estimated 10,363 homeless persons at any point in time in the local area, and almost half of that number indicated that they did not have health insurance. Furthermore, the U.S. population of ages 65 and over is expected to double in size within the next twenty-five years. According to former US Census Bureau Director, Louis Kincannon, the social and economic implications of the aging population, and of the baby boomers in particular, are likely to be profound for both individuals and society. By 2030 almost 1 out of 5 Americans (some 72 million people) will be 65 years of age or older, and this population will require access to an integrated array of health and social supports. The responses to selected questions designed to elicit data regarding healthcare needs for the City of Houston are analyzed below.

Analysis:

Table 15
Health Insurance Plans

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Private insurance	556	55.5	55.5	55.5
Medicare	240	24	24	79.5
Medicaid or Gold Card	47	4.7	4.7	84.2
Veteran's Administration	13	1.3	1.3	85.5
CHAMPUS	2	0.2	0.2	85.7
COBRA	6	0.6	0.6	86.3
None	115	11.5	11.5	97.8
No answer/Refused	18	1.8	1.8	99.6
Government employee insurance	3	0.3	0.3	99.9
Don't know	1	0.1	0.1	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Figure 5
Health Insurance Plans

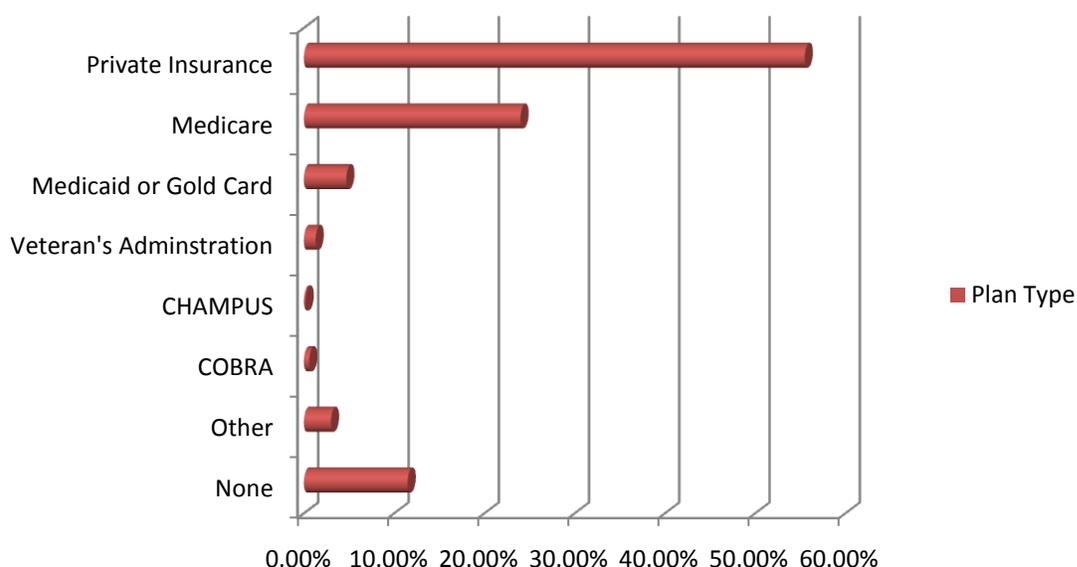


Figure 5 shows that approximately 56 (55.5) percent of respondents are covered under private insurance plans. Almost a fourth of the respondents (24 percent) rely on Medicare to fulfill their healthcare needs. Again, this is consistent with the large number of respondents who are 65 and over. Almost 12 (11.5) percent of respondents reported having no health insurance at all.

More than half (54 percent) of respondents have needed medical care within the past year. Of those, 95 percent reported being able to get the care they need and only 5 percent reported that they did not have access to the healthcare they required.

Table 16
Health Care Delivery

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Did not require medical care	459	45.9	45.9	45.9
Doctor's office	403	40.3	40.3	86.1
Clinic	32	3.2	3.2	89.3
Emergency room	60	6	6	95.3
Urgent care clinic	5	0.5	0.5	95.8
Other	33	3.3	3.3	99.1
No answer/Refused	9	0.9	0.9	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Figure 6
Health Care Delivery

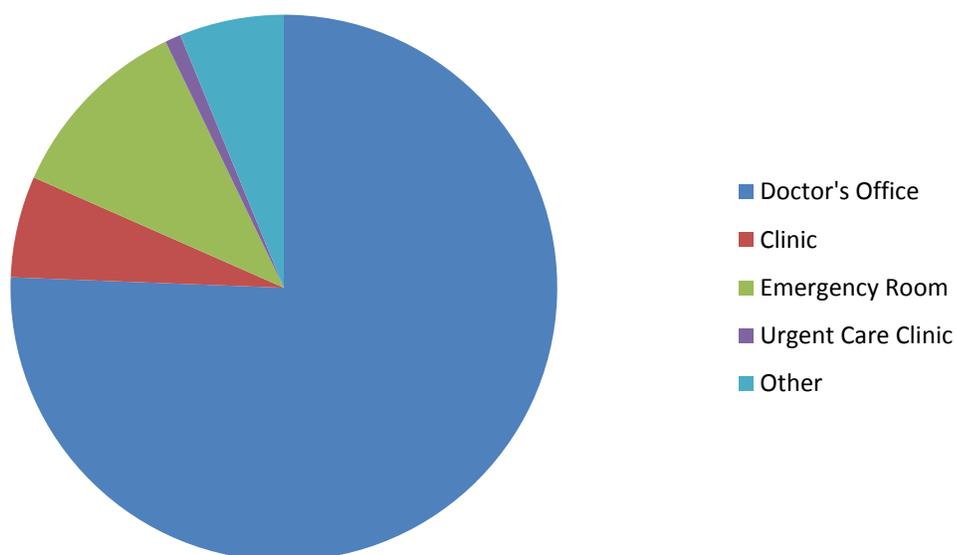


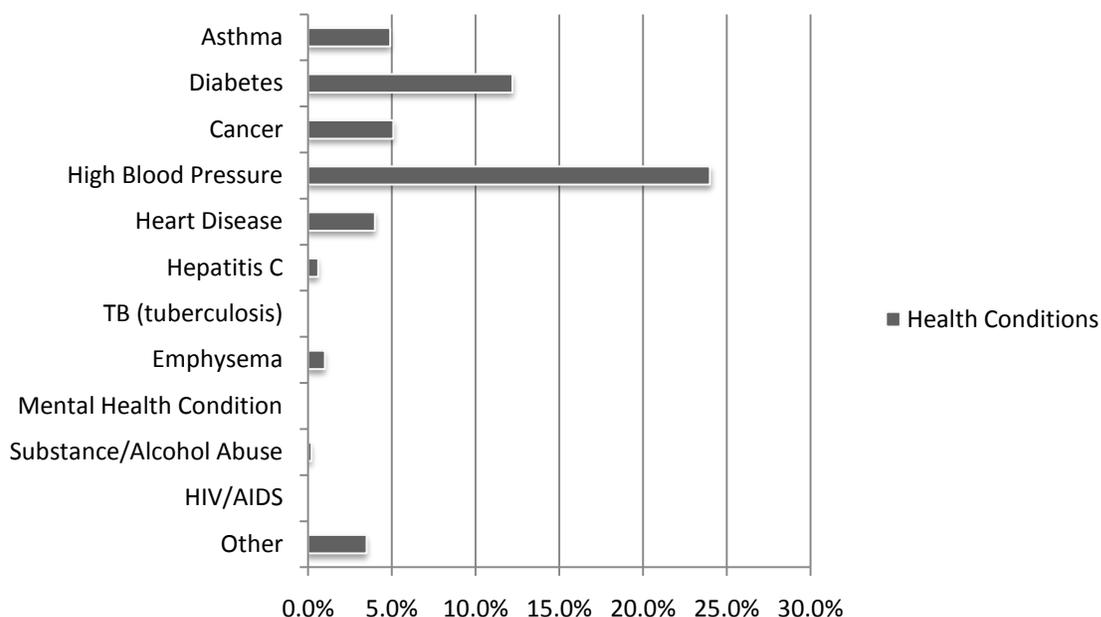
Figure 6 shows that of the respondents' that required medical care within the past year, 40.3 percent received care at a doctor's office, 3.2 percent went to the clinic, 6 percent were seen in the emergency room, 0.5 percent utilized an urgent care clinic, and 3.3 percent were seen in some other type of facility.

Table 17
Prescription Medicine

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	335	33.5	33.5	33.5
Yes, every day	593	59.2	59.2	92.7
Yes, only sometimes	56	5.6	5.6	98.3
No answer/Refused	17	1.7	1.7	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Table 17 shows that almost 65 percent of respondents take prescription medicine, with almost 60 percent of that number taking prescription medicine every day. Approximately 13 percent of total respondents reported not taking prescription medicines at some point during the past year because they could not afford to buy them.

Figure 7
Health Conditions



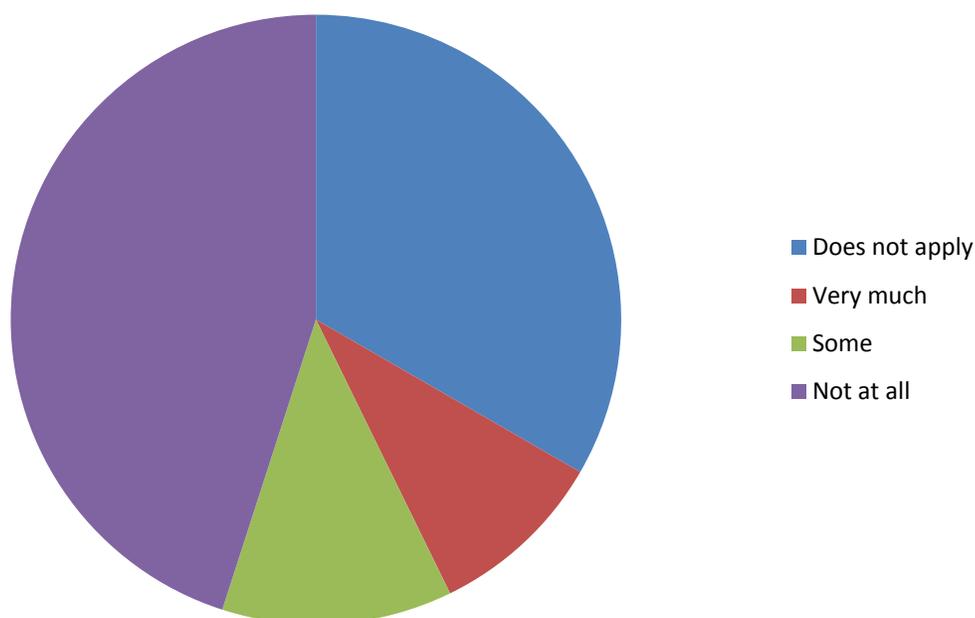
Approximately 51 (50.8) percent of the respondents reported being diagnosed with a health problem. As seen in Figure 7 above, more people had been diagnosed with high blood pressure than any other health condition. The next highest prevalence was diabetes and the third highest prevalence was cancer. No respondents among the survey sample reported being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, and only 0.2 percent reported being diagnosed with a mental health condition or suffering with substance/alcohol abuse. The most common other ailments were arthritis (0.9 percent), thyroid condition (0.6 percent) and high cholesterol (0.5 percent).

Table 18
Health Conditions

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Asthma	49	4.9	4.9	4.9
Diabetes	122	12.2	12.2	17.1
Cancer	51	5.1	5.1	22.2
High blood pressure	240	24	24	46.9
Heart disease	40	4	4	50.9
Hepatitis C	6	0.6	0.6	46.3
Emphysema	10	1	1	47.3
Substance abuse/Alcohol abuse	2	0.2	0.2	47.5
High cholesterol	5	0.5	0.5	48
Arthritis	9	0.9	0.9	48.7
Thyroid condition	6	0.6	0.6	49.3
Digestive problems	2	0.2	0.2	49.5
Lupus	1	0.1	0.1	49.6
Physical injury/disability	4	0.4	0.4	50
Sickle cell anemia	1	0.1	0.1	50
Liver failure	1	0.1	0.1	50.1
Menopause	1	0.1	0.1	50.2
Kidney disease	1	0.1	0.1	50.3
Migraine headaches	1	0.1	0.1	50.4
Vision problems	1	0.1	0.1	50.5
Allergies	2	0.2	0.2	50.7
Multiple sclerosis	1	0.1	0.1	50.8
Nothing/None of the above	19	1.9	1.9	52.7
No answer/Refused	473	47.3	47.3	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Figure 8 below illustrates that of the respondents that have a medical condition or disability, 11.8 percent stated that it interfered with their ability to do daily activities sometimes and 9.1 percent stated that their medical condition very much interfered with their ability to do their daily activities. Forty-four (43.5) percent of those with a medical condition or disability, reported that it did not interfere with their ability to do daily activities at all.

Figure 8
Health Interferes with Daily Activities



It should be noted that although approximately half of respondents (49.2 percent) either reported they had not been diagnosed with a health problem or refused to answer, when asked whether their medical condition or disability interfered with their ability to do their daily activities, only 35.7 percent reported that they did not have a medical condition or disability or refused to answer.

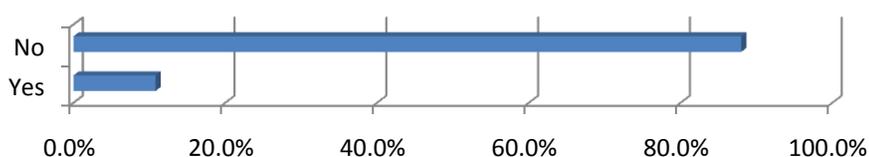
Conclusion: More than half of respondents were covered by private insurance, and almost a fourth of respondents relied on Medicare to fulfill their healthcare needs. Almost 12 percent of respondents were uninsured. Almost two-thirds of respondents took prescription medicine, and of those almost 60 percent took prescription medicines every day. Approximately 13 percent of respondents reported not taking prescription medication within some point in the past year because they could not afford them. Almost half of respondents reported being diagnosed with a health condition, with the most prevalent being high blood pressure followed by diabetes.

VI. HOMELESSNESS

Overview: As mentioned above, The 2007 Enumeration and Needs Assessment of Homeless Persons in Houston/Harris County estimated 10,363 homeless persons at any point in time in the local area. Only one respondent, or 0.1 percent of the total population, reported being currently homeless. The respondent further reported that they had been homeless for one year. In contrast, as seen in Figure 9 below, approximately 11 (10.8) percent of the total respondents reported being afraid they might be homeless in the future. Only 1.2 percent did not or refused to answer the question.

Analysis:

Figure 9
Afraid of Being Homeless in the Future



When asked why people are homeless, by far the most common response at 32.5 percent was no jobs/economic turndown, with the second most common being bad luck and mental illness, both at 9.2 percent. A summary of responses is detailed in the table that follows.

Table 19
Reasons for Homelessness

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No jobs/Economic downturn	325	32.5	32.5	32.5
Lazy/Don't want to work	68	6.8	6.8	39.3
Bad luck	92	9.2	9.2	48.5
Poor choices/lack of planning	58	5.8	5.8	54.2
Mental illness	92	9.2	9.2	63.4
Substance abuse	26	2.6	2.6	66
They choose to be	72	7.2	7.2	73.2
Lack of assistance, support for them	43	4.3	4.3	77.5
No answer/Refused	67	6.7	6.7	84.2
Lack of education	30	3	3	87.2
Multiple reasons	78	7.8	7.8	95
Lack of morals/faith	2	0.2	0.2	95.2
Taxes	2	0.2	0.2	95.4
Not sure	46	4.6	4.6	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

In addition to being asked why people are homeless, respondents were also asked to give their opinion regarding what could be done to prevent homelessness. As seen in Table 20, just as the majority of respondents thought that lack of jobs and the economic downturn was the number one cause of homelessness, correspondingly the majority of respondents, 23.4 percent, thought that more jobs and better wages were the key to preventing homelessness.

Table 20
Ways to Prevent Homelessness

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Better decisions/planning	92	9.2	9.2	9.2
Must take responsibility for themselves	35	3.5	3.5	12.7
Greater help, assistance	113	11.3	11.3	24
More jobs/Better wages	234	23.4	23.4	47.4
Education	113	11.3	11.3	58.6
Lower taxes	1	0.1	0.1	58.7
Better mental health care	50	5	5	63.7
More substance abuse treatment	8	0.8	0.8	64.5
No answer/Refused	98	9.8	9.8	74.3
More shelters	25	2.5	2.5	76.8
Many things	6	0.6	0.6	77.4
Faith in God	8	0.8	0.8	78.2
More affordable housing	42	4.2	4.2	82.4
Better care for veterans	3	0.3	0.3	82.7
Keep families together	7	0.7	0.7	83.4
Get rid of illegal immigrants	2	0.2	0.2	83.6
Nothing/Cannot be prevented	66	6.6	6.6	90.2
Don't know/Not sure	98	9.8	9.8	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Conclusion: Given the low response rate of homeless respondents, a more targeted follow up assessment specifically designed to address the particular needs of this hard-to-reach population is recommended. However, survey respondents provided helpful insight to public opinion of the reasons for homelessness and ways to prevent homelessness. The majority of respondents, 32.5 percent, felt that homelessness was the result of no jobs and the economic turndown. Correspondingly, the majority of respondents, 23.4 percent, thought that more jobs and better wages were the key to preventing homelessness. Interestingly, almost 11 percent of respondents reported being afraid they might be homeless in the future.

VII. COMMUNITY NEEDS

Overview: According to the Community Development Council, as the world grows smaller through the increased use of global communications, communities are finding their boundaries are expanding and their fortunes are directly tied to events and forces beyond their city limits. This increases the pressure on communities to focus globally and yet prepare locally. The community development process has emerged as a key factor in this local preparation, and as part of the community development process, local governments must develop a strategic vision and action plan in part through seeking feedback and commitment from the community. The responses to selected questions designed to elicit data regarding the community development needs of the City of Houston are analyzed below.

Table 21
Satisfaction with Overall Conditions of Neighborhood

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very dissatisfied	38	3.8	3.8	3.8
Dissatisfied	94	9.4	9.4	13.2
Neutral	145	14.5	14.5	27.7
Satisfied	416	41.6	41.6	69.2
Very satisfied	304	30.4	30.4	99.6
No answer/Refused	4	0.4	0.4	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

As seen in Table 21 and Figure 10 below, 41.6 percent of respondents reported being satisfied with the overall condition in their neighborhoods, with almost a third (30.4 percent) reporting being very satisfied. Only 13.2 percent reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied and only 0.4 percent did not or refused to answer.

Figure 10
Satisfaction with Overall Conditions of Neighborhood

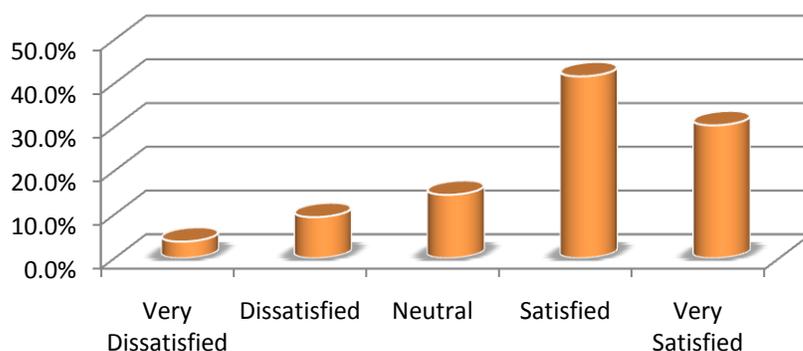


Table 22
Level of Improvement Necessary in Each of the Following
Categories in Respondents' Neighborhood

	Requires Significant Improvement	Needs Much Improvement	Needs a Little Improvement	Neutral	Needs No Improvement
Affordable housing, home ownership, affordable rental housing, housing for the elderly and disabled	8.2%	15.2%	21.7%	10.8%	38.2%
Homelessness, emergency shelters, transitional and permanent housing	8.8%	13.6%	13.9%	10.1%	41.7%
Public improvements and infrastructure, parks, streets, street lights, drainage, libraries, multi-service centers, non-profit, neighborhood facilities	17.6%	22.7%	24.2%	6.7%	27.0%
Economic development and job creation, e.g. small business development, strip mall and supermarket developments, and job training	15.6%	22.7%	17.1%	7.3%	31.8%
Social services, child care, elderly services, after-school programs, crime prevention, and juvenile delinquency prevention	14.6%	18.6%	16.5%	10.2%	29.4%

The response rates were generally high regarding community needs, with 6.0 percent refusing to answer or giving no response regarding affordable housing, 12.0 percent refusing to answer or giving no response regarding homelessness, 1.9 percent refusing to answer or giving no response regarding public improvements and infrastructure, 5.6 percent refusing to answer or giving no response regarding economic development and job creation and 10.8 percent refusing to answer or giving no response regarding social services.

When asked which of the following should be the Department of Housing and Community Development's highest priority, the survey participants responded as follows.

Table 23
What Should be the Department's Highest Priorities

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Affordable housing	135	13.5	13.5	13.5
Homelessness	93	9.3	9.3	22.8
Economic development	139	13.9	13.9	36.7
Public improvements and	70	7	7	43.7
Social services	80	8	8	51.6
Job creation	419	41.9	41.9	93.5
No answer/Refused	65	6.5	6.5	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Going forward, almost 63 (62.8) percent of respondents thought the Department's top priorities since 1995 should remain the same as the Department puts together a plan for the next five years. As detailed in Table 24, when asked their opinion of what the Department's priorities should be if they were among the 37.2 percent that thought they should change or be prioritized differently, the survey participants responded as follows.

Table 24
What Should be the Department's Highest Priorities if They Should Change or be Re-Prioritized

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Top priorities should remain the same	611	61	61	61
Current priorities are fine	25	2.5	2.5	63.5
Economic development/jobs should	190	19	19	82.5
Social services should be higher	53	5.3	5.3	87.8
All should be priorities	1	0.1	0.1	87.9
Public improvements should be higher	40	4	4	91.9
None of these	15	1.5	1.5	93.4
Don't know/Refused	66	6.6	6.6	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

It should be noted that 2.5 percent of respondents who reported that the Department's priorities should change or be in a different order, replied that they thought the current priorities were fine when asked what the new priorities should be or how the current priorities should be reordered.

Conclusion: Almost 42 percent of respondents reported being satisfied with the overall condition in their neighborhoods, with almost a third reporting being very satisfied. Only 13.2 percent reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. More than any other category, respondents felt public improvements and infrastructure required significant or much

improvement followed closely by economic development and job creation. Almost 42 percent of respondents thought the Department of Housing and Community Development's highest priority should be job creation, yet overall almost 63 (62.8) percent of respondents thought the Department's top priorities since 1995 should remain the same as the Department puts together a plan for the next five years.

VIII. HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

Overview: The Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or disability. The responses to selected questions designed to elicit data regarding respondents' experiences with housing discrimination in the City of Houston or Harris County are analyzed below.

Analysis:

Table 25
Respondents' Experiences with Housing Discrimination
in Harris County or the City of Houston

	Yes	No	Does Not Apply
Denial of a mortgage loan from a bank when in fact you have a good credit rating	6.6%	75.7%	16.5%
Denial of private mortgage insurance when trying to purchase a home	3.6%	77.6%	17.5%
Denial of property insurance when trying to buy a home	3.9%	79.0%	15.9%
Denial of an apartment or house that you were attempting to rent	4.2%	73.2%	21.3%
Differential treatment when attempting to rent (for instance, you read that an apartment was available, but when you arrived, you are told that it is not available)	4.9%	66.5%	27.4%
Being directed (steered) to particular neighborhood when you expressed interest in living in another neighborhood	5.6%	71.1%	21.6%
If you are a holder of a Section 8 voucher or certificate, have you been denied an apartment or house because the landlord did not want a Section 8 tenant	0.9%	46.5%	50.5%

The number of respondents who did not or refused to answer for each of the above categories was 1.2 percent, 1.3 percent, 1.2 percent, 1.3 percent, 1.2 percent, 1.7 percent, 2.1 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively. When asked if they had experienced any other unfair housing treatment not mentioned, 96.4 percent of respondents replied no, 3.2 percent said they had been a subjected to some manner of unfair housing that was not mentioned and 0.4 percent did not or refused to answer.

Table 26
Mortgage Interest Rates of Respondents' With Mortgages

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than 4%	10	1	1	1
4% to 6%	250	25	25	26
7% to 9%	59	5.9	5.9	31.9
10% or higher	20	2	2	33.9
Do not know	74	7.4	7.4	41.3
Does not apply, I do not have a	551	55	55	96.3
No answer/Refused	37	3.7	3.7	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Figure 11
Mortgage Interest Rates of Respondents' With Mortgages

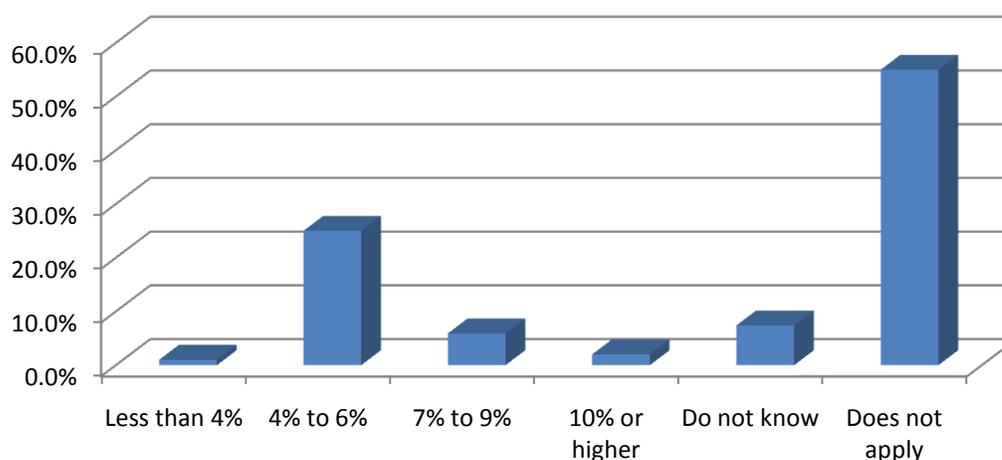


Figure 11 shows that over half (55 percent) of respondents did not have a mortgage, and of those that did, 25 percent reported an interest rate between 4 and 6 percent. Approximately 4 (3.7) percent of respondents did not or refused to answer.

Table 27
Annual Premium of Respondents' With Mortgage Insurance

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than \$500/year	20	2	2	2
\$500 to \$799/year	23	2.3	2.3	4.3
\$800 to \$999/year	32	3.2	3.2	7.5
\$1,000 to \$1,999/year	77	7.7	7.7	15.2
More than \$2,000/year	16	1.6	1.6	16.8
Do not know	157	15.7	15.7	32.5
Does not apply, I do not have	634	63.3	63.3	95.8
No answer/Refused	42	4.2	4.2	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Figure 12
Annual Premium of Respondents' With Mortgage Insurance

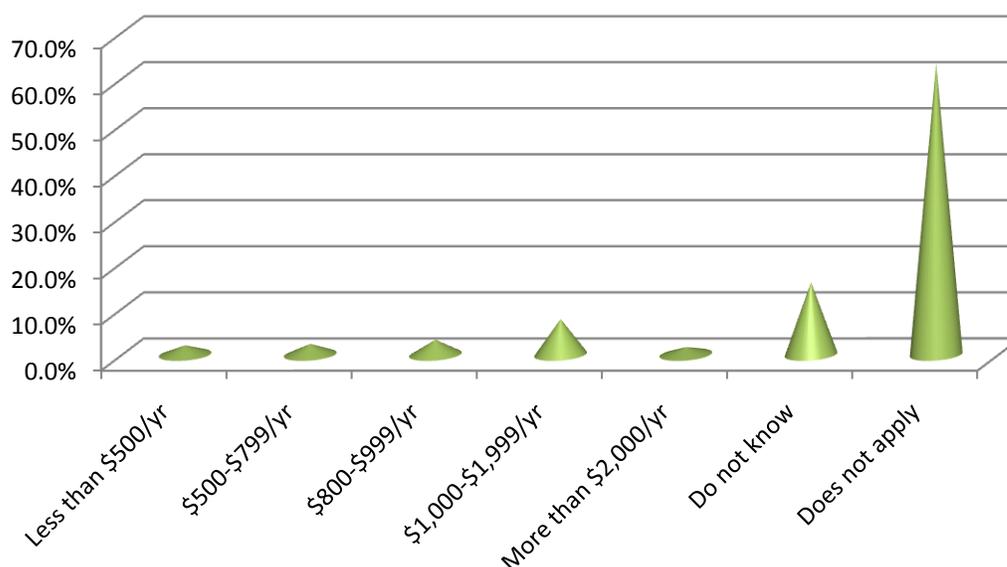


Table 27 and Figure 12 illustrate that of the respondents that reported paying mortgage insurance, 7.7 percent of the respondents had an annual premium between \$1,000 and \$1,999. Almost 16 percent (15.7) did not know how much their annual premium was and 4.2 percent did not or refused to answer. The number of respondents who replied they did not have a mortgage increased to 63.3 percent from the 55 percent who stated they did not have a mortgage when asked about their mortgage interest rate.

Table 28
Deposit Amount of Respondents' Renting an Apartment

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than \$200	31	3.1	3.1	3.1
\$200 to \$299	20	2	2	5.1
\$300 to \$399	12	1.2	1.2	6.3
\$400 to \$499	7	0.7	0.7	7
More than \$500	30	3	3	10
Do not know	30	3	3	13
Does not apply, I do not live in an	770	76.9	76.9	89.9
Does not apply, I did not pay a deposit	62	6.2	6.2	96.1
No answer/Refused	39	3.9	3.9	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Figure 13
Deposit Amount of Respondents' Renting an Apartment

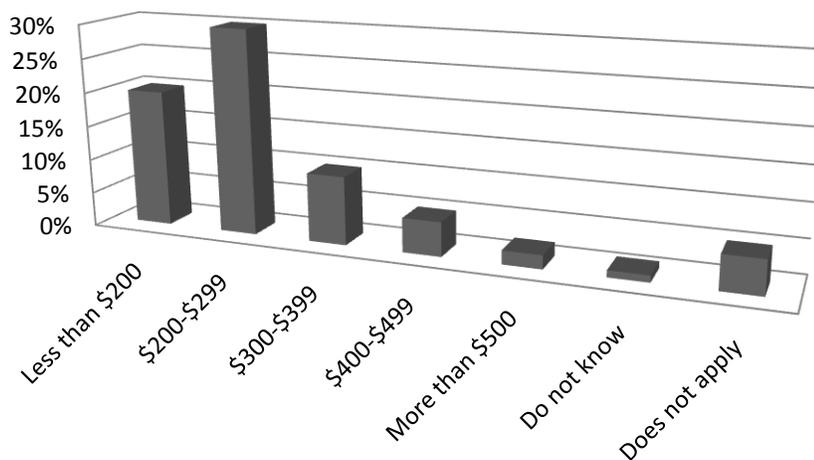


Table 28 shows that this question did not apply to the majority of respondents because 76.9 percent reported that they did not live in an apartment and 6.2 percent reported that they did not pay a deposit for their apartment. Figure 13 shows that of the respondents that reported paying a deposit to rent an apartment, the greatest number (3.1 percent) reported paying a deposit of less than \$200. Approximately 4 percent of respondents did not or refused to provide a response to the question.

Conclusion: Less than 7 percent of all respondents across all categories reported any experiences with housing discrimination in the City of Houston or Harris County. The majority of respondents (55 percent) did not have a mortgage or live in an apartment (77 percent), which is perhaps attributable to the significant proportion of respondents aged 65 or older.

IX. NEIGHBORHOOD DATA

Houston City Council has nine members that represent individual districts across the city designated by the letters A through I. Respondents were read the list of each council letter and member from that district and responded if they recognized the council member that represented their area. The responses are recorded on Table 29 that follows.

Table 29
Houston City Council Member That Represents Respondents' District

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
District A - Brenda Stardig	34	3.4	3.4	3.4
District B - Jarvis Johnson	68	6.8	6.8	10.2
District C - Anne Clutterbuck	71	7.1	7.1	17.3
District D - Wanda Adams	53	5.3	5.3	22.6
District E - Mike Sullivan	48	4.8	4.8	27.4
District F - Al Hoang	16	1.6	1.6	29
District G - Oliver Pennington	20	2	2	31
District H - Edward Gonzalez	34	3.4	3.4	34.4
District I - James Rodriguez	22	2.2	2.2	36.6
I don't know	602	60.1	60.1	96.7
No answer/Refused	33	3.3	3.3	100
Total	1001	100	100	100

Sixty (60.1) percent of respondents did not know which council member represented their district. Of those respondents that were aware of which council member represented, the most highly represented, 7.1 percent of respondents, reported living in District C – Anne Clutterbuck. The second most highly represented district was District B – Jarvis Johnson with 6.8 percent and the third highest was District D – Wanda Adams with 5.3 percent.

More than a different hundred zip codes were represented in the study sample as detailed in the data visualization component of the survey project.

X. CONCLUSIONS

On April 8, 2010, the Center for Public Policy's Institute for Regional Forecasting (IRF) released its annual long term forecast for the 10 county Houston CMSA. According to IRF's *DATABook – Houston*, Houston is:

expected to continue to expand over the long term, adding nearly 1.5 million jobs in the next 25 years and 3.7 million people. CMSA employment and population, which are now over 2.5 million and 5.1 million respectively, will increase to 3.2 and 7.4 million by 2020. That implies a growth rate of approximately 2.5% per year, the best full decade performance since the 1970s.

By 2035, the IRF estimates that employment will have reached 4.0 million and population will have soared to 9.5 million.

IRF also predicts that the same drivers that have been instrumental in Houston's growth since the energy-bust of the 1980s will continue to be present, including Houston's strategic international transportation capabilities, its low costs for both households and businesses, and those occasional spurts in the energy economy. Diversification in the regional economy is also expected to continue but not at the rapid pace of the 1990s.

The challenges of accommodating this growth over the next 25 years will be enormous, and the City of Houston must prepare for the future needs of this community. Based on the responses of the 2010 Community Needs Assessment Survey for the City of Houston, it recommended particular attention is directed toward the needs of the elderly population of the City of Houston, especially with respect to affordable housing and healthcare. Other critical issues identified were in the areas of public infrastructure and improvements and economic development and job creation; therefore these items should also continue to remain a funding priority.