

Community Assessment Report for San Antonio Head Start

11/24/2009

Disclaimer

The information presented in this Community Assessment was acquired and analyzed according to the most recent and relevant data available. Interpretations, projections, and analysis are the sole, professional opinions of the author and may not reflect the views of San Antonio Head Start. Additionally, the authors arrived at all conclusions independent of the grantee to maintain a data-driven, theoretically sound, and objective assessment incorporating data from all available sources. This Community Assessment was completed and prepared by:

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Executive Summary

Current Head Start capacity is able to accommodate 39% of children who meet all age and income eligibility requirements. In 2008, nearly 10,000 eligible children were not served because of limited capacity.

The greatest demand for services is concentrated in the central and southern portions of San Antonio, inside Loop 410. The 4 school districts that operate in this high-need area of the city have 81% of all eligible children. In 2008, Head Start accommodated only 1 in 4 children in this high-need area, while providing services for 3 in 4 children living everywhere else.

Projections show that the unmet need for Head Start services in San Antonio and Bexar County will become larger each year, at least through 2013. Adding to this need for services is the expanding number of children with diagnosed disabilities. It is projected that a majority of disabled children will require services for Learning Disabilities and Speech Impairments.

Bexar County also has a significant and growing immigrant and refugee population, many of which require services in other languages, especially Spanish. In the high-need area, more than 1 in 5 children speak Spanish at home, and 1 in 6 utilizes bilingual instruction.

Data shows that Head Start families experience an array of needs, many of which are associated with low income. In 2008, over 70% of Head Start children came from single-parent families. They had an average income per person that was 12 times smaller than the national average.

Additionally, social services are used by Head Start families at a 25% to 50% higher rate than the rest of the county. These include Medicaid, WIC, and food stamps. Other programs, such as public housing and subsidized child care, are unable to meet demand due to limited funding and prohibitively long waiting lists. Families have indicated that their greatest immediate needs are related to nutrition, food, parent education, and child education.

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1 Grantee Profile

Head Start of San Antonio and Bexar County is a federally funded program, managed by the City of San Antonio through the Department of Community Initiatives. Head Start provides early learning opportunities for eligible children ages 3, 4, and 5. This educational program offers the following comprehensive services to ensure that all children in the San Antonio and Bexar County community have equal opportunities for future success in school and life: early childhood education, mental health and disability, medical and oral health, and family and community support services

To maximize the efforts to provide Head Start services, Head Start of San Antonio and Bexar County partners with the following organizations: Parent Child Incorporated, Education Service Center – Region 20, Avance- San Antonio, Family Service Association, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, University Health System, The Center for Health Care Services, San Antonio Independent School District, and Edgewood Independent School District. For the 2009-2010 school year, San Antonio Head Start will operate 64 locations within Bexar County.

Geography

The City of San Antonio is the principal city in Bexar County (see Figure 1-1). San Antonio currently is the 7th largest city in the United States and the 2nd largest in Texas (U.S. Census, 2009). The Metro Area includes over 2 million people in and around San Antonio and is one of the fastest growing cities in Texas (U.S. Census, 2009).

Bexar County has a total land area of 1,257 square miles and extends from the South Texas Plains to the Texas Hill Country (U.S. Census, 2009). The county is located about 160 miles from the Mexican border and 140 from the Gulf of Mexico.

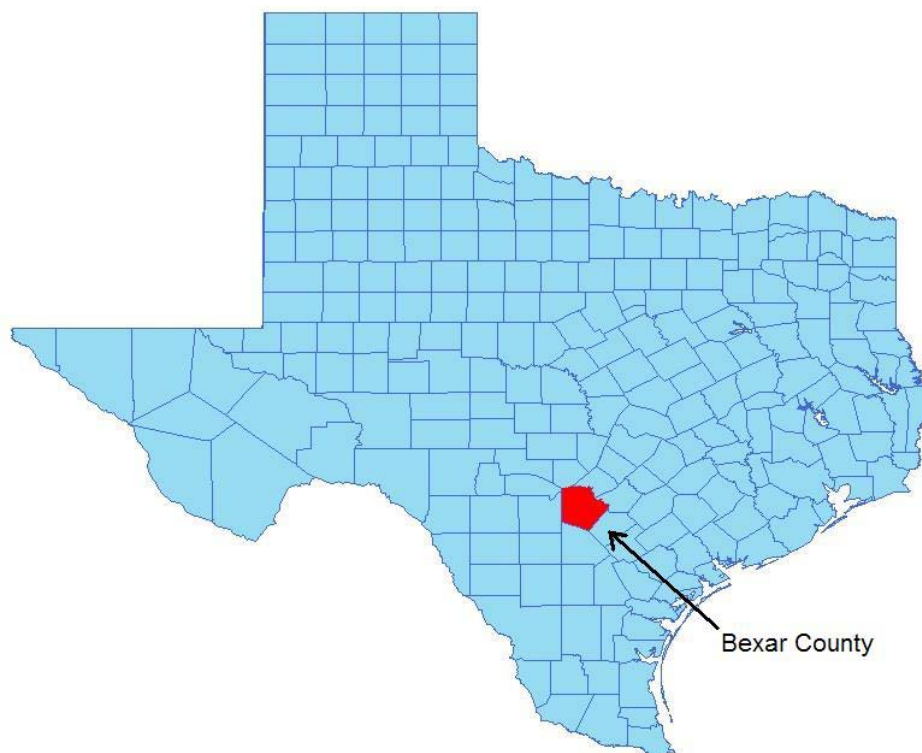


Figure 1-1: Texas Counties

The climate in Bexar County includes hot summers and mild winters. Temperatures average 50° in the winter and 85° in the summer (National Weather Service, 2009). Annual rainfall averages 32 inches per year in San Antonio.

Nationally, San Antonio is known as a popular tourist destination. Over 26 million tourists visit the city every year (Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, 2007). The city also has a strong military presence, hosting six military installations¹ and a substantial healthcare and medical research industry.

¹ Fort Sam Houston, Lackland Air Force Base, Randolph Air Force Base, Brooks City-Base, Camp Bullis and Camp Stanley.

Service Area

The Head Start of San Antonio and Bexar County Service and Recruitment Areas both consist of the City of San Antonio and its metro area within Bexar County (see Figure 1-2). This includes all of the independent municipalities within the county borders.

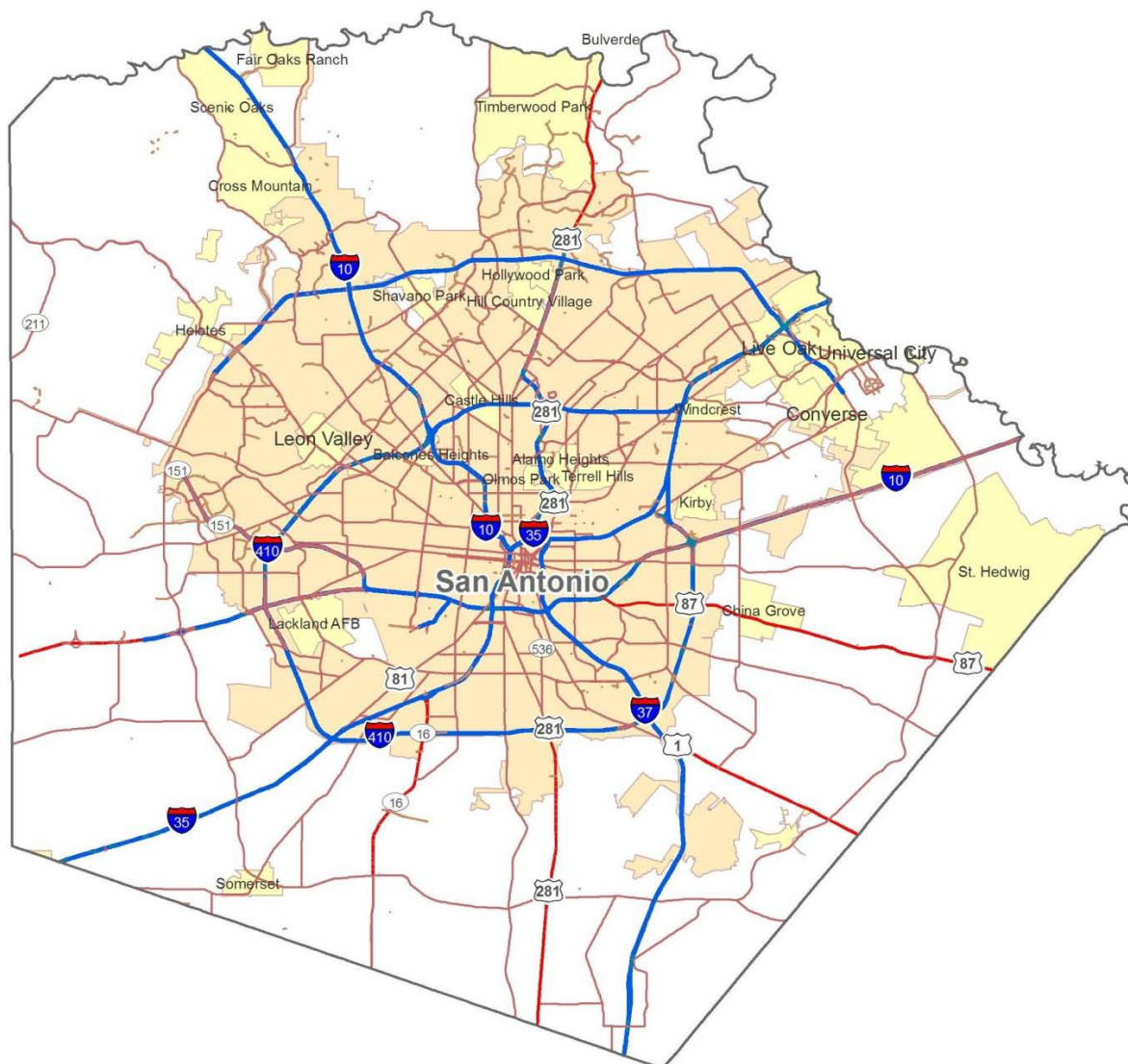


Figure 1-2: Major Highways, Municipalities and Urban Areas in Bexar County, 2008

2 Demographic Information on Children and Their Families

Bexar County Population

In 2007, Bexar County had a total population of just over 1.5 million. The demographic composition of Bexar County shows a larger proportion of minorities compared to state and national populations. Hispanics comprised 57% of the total county population (see Table 2-1). In all, minorities made up over two-thirds of the population in Bexar County (U.S. Census, 2008).

Table 2-1: Bexar County Population Characteristics, 2005-2007

	Bexar County		Texas		United States	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total	1,555,168	100.0%	23,385,340	100.0%	298,757,310	100.0%
Hispanic (any race)	886,783	57.0%	8,298,643	35.5%	44,019,880	14.7%
White (non-Hispanic)	506,957	32.6%	11,303,215	48.3%	197,971,140	66.3%
Black (non-Hispanic)	105,503	6.8%	2,648,197	11.3%	36,321,500	12.2%
Other ² (2 or more)	71,217	4.6%	1,325,685	5.7%	24,134,196	8.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Data Profiles

Overall, trends indicate that the Service Area is expected to increase its total population by 10% within the next 6 years and 20% in the next 16 years. The total population will grow³ from 1.56 million in 2007 to more than 1.68 million in 2012, adding a total of 119,000 new residents, most of which will be Hispanic and under age 5 (Texas State Data Center, 2009a).

The coming years will transform the county into one that is even more heavily populated by minorities. According to population estimates for Bexar County (under current conditions),

² This category includes all people who self-identify themselves as not being Hispanic, White, or Black, and includes all people who self-identify more than one race (such as both white and black).

³ This projection assumes the 2000-2007 Migration Scenario (Texas State Data Center, 2009b: 10). The scenario uses migration rates calculated from population trends occurring after 2000 and assumes demographic changes will follow those trends.

Anglos⁴ made up 31% of the total population in 2007 (Texas State Data Center, 2009c). By 2020 this percentage will fall to 22%, and by 2040 Anglos will comprise less than 13% of all Bexar County residents (Texas State Data Center, 2009a). Meanwhile the county's share of minorities, especially Hispanics will rise dramatically (see Figure 2-1).

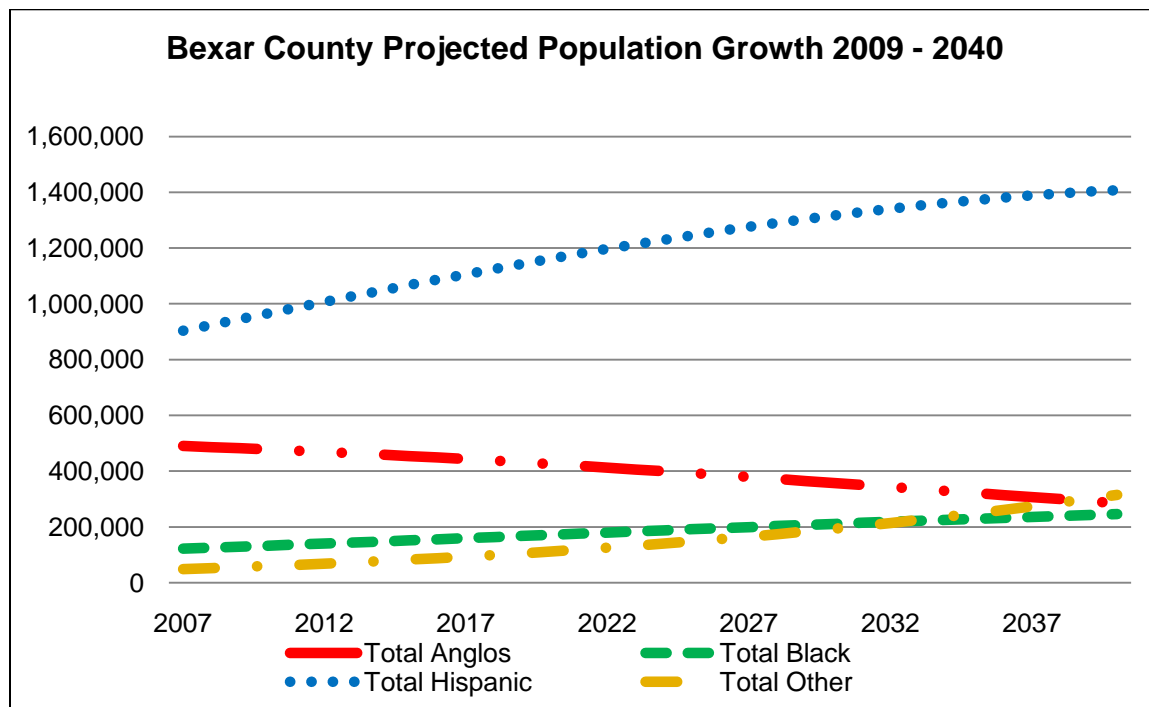


Figure 2-1: Bexar County Projected Growth⁵, 2009-2040

Source: Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer, 2009

Immigrants

Hispanics have long since comprised the largest ethnic group in the county, but in terms of recent immigration, Bexar County has a smaller percentage of foreign born Hispanics compared to other Texas Counties. In 2000, foreign born Hispanics made up 15% of all Hispanics residing in Bexar County (U.S. Census, 2003). However, Bexar County has the smallest portion of non-native Hispanics among the 10 largest counties in Texas (see Table 2-2). In fact, Travis County

⁴ The term Anglo refers to the non-Hispanic White population (Texas State Data Center, 2009b: 4).

⁵ Using the 2000-2007 Migration Scenario (see Footnote 3)

(Austin) and El Paso County have twice as many foreign born residents as San Antonio, while Dallas County and Harris County have more than three times as many. Currently, 164,827 residents of Bexar County were foreign born, making up about 13% of the entire population (Planning and Development, 2009: 28).

Table 2-2: Foreign Born as a Percentage of the Population, 2000

County	Principal City	2000 Population	Hispanic	White
Dallas County	Dallas	2,218,899	51%	21%
Harris County	Houston	3,400,578	47%	22%
Collin County	Dallas	491,675	43%	13%
Tarrant County	Dallas	1,446,219	40%	13%
Denton County	Denton	432,976	37%	9%
Travis County	Austin	812,280	33%	15%
Hidalgo County	McAllen	569,463	32%	30%
El Paso County	El Paso	679,622	32%	27%
Fort Bend County	Houston	354,452	31%	18%
Bexar County	San Antonio	1,392,931	15%	11%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Summary File 4

This is significant because most of the change in the demographic composition of the county will be the result of diverging birth patterns. In 2000, total fertility rate⁶ in Texas for Mexican-Americans was 51% higher than for non-Hispanic Whites (see Table 2-3) and 45% higher than non-Hispanic Blacks (Sutton and Matthews, 2006). A primary source of population growth for Bexar County has been through births, and since Hispanics, on average, have more children than non-Hispanics, then Bexar County's population growth will be largely driven by the number of births from the Hispanic population.

⁶ The fertility rate is the number of live births for every 1,000 women between the ages of 15 and 44 (Sutton and Matthews, 2006: 2).

Table 2-3: Texas Fertility Rate and Live Births, 2000

Race/Ethnicity	Fertility Rate	Live Births
Mexican-American	124.3	148,588
White	60.8	142,142
Black	68.4	40,657

Source: Vital Health Statistics, Series 21, Vol. 57, 2006: 31

The neighborhoods that are heavily populated by minorities are identified, as these are the areas where Head Start has traditionally been located. Most of the high density Hispanic neighborhoods are concentrated in central San Antonio and extend southwest (see Figure 2-2). Most of the high-density Black neighborhoods are clustered in the eastern and western portions of the county (see Figure 2-3). These neighborhoods are some of the most densely populated and oldest neighborhoods in San Antonio, and make up the urban core of the county.

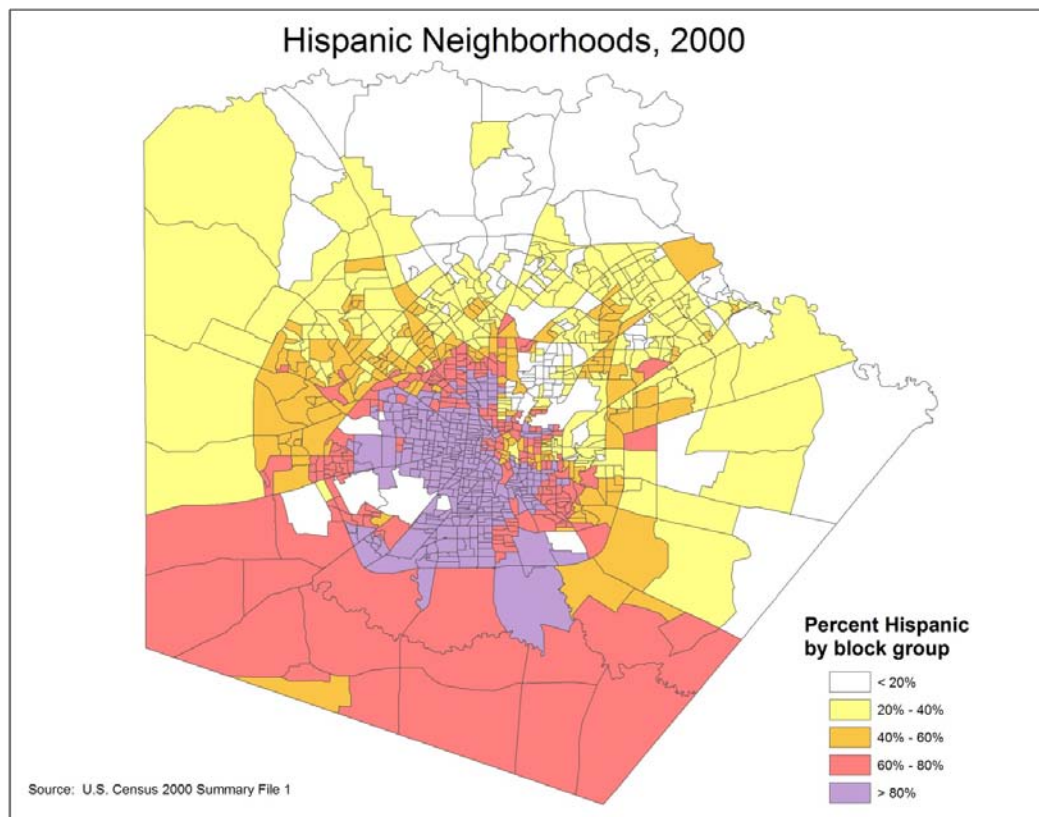


Figure 2-2: Distribution of Hispanic Neighborhoods

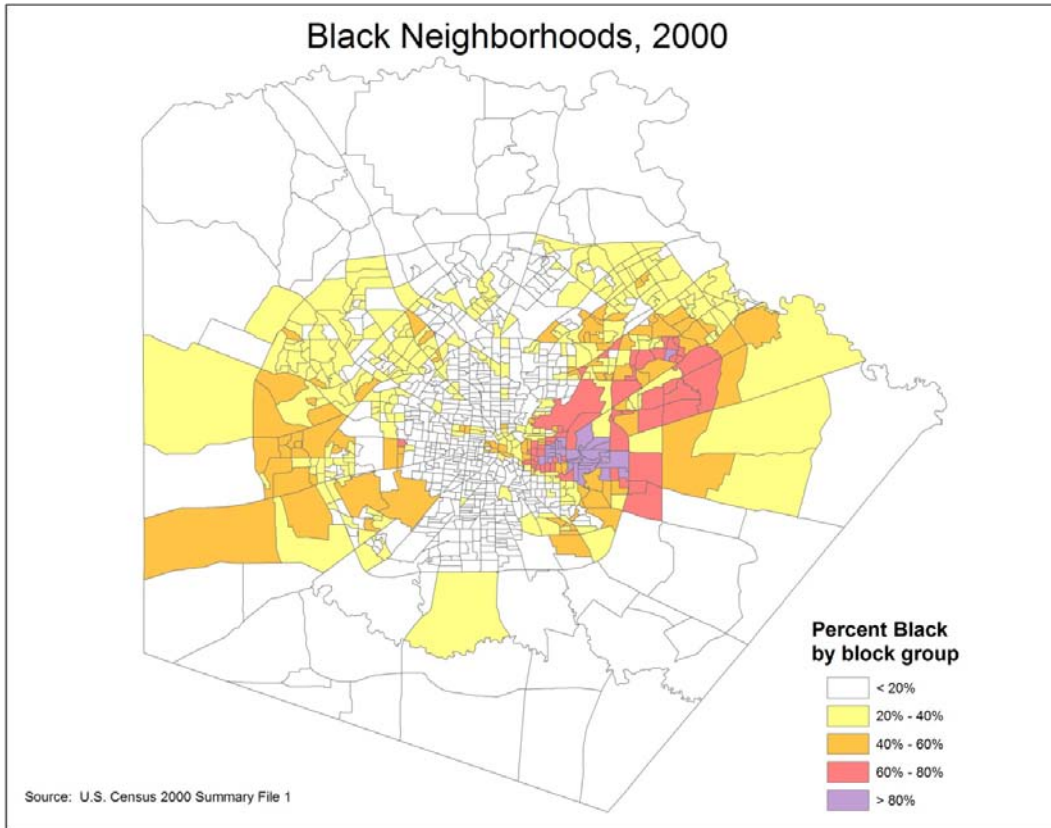


Figure 2-3: Distribution of Black Neighborhoods

The demographic breakdown of the 2008-2009 Head Start enrollees indicates that the typical Head Start child is most likely to be a member of a minority group. Hispanic children enrolled in Head Start are particularly over-represented, with 84% of all Head Start children enrolled in 2008 being Hispanic (see Table 2-4). In all, 96% of all children enrolled in Head Start in 2008, were of a minority race and ethnic group (San Antonio Head Start, 2009).

Table 2-4: Head Start Children, 2008-2009

Race / Ethnicity	Total	%
Hispanic (any Race)	5,714	84%
Black (non-Hispanic)	739	11%
White (non-Hispanic)	277	4%
Other	90	1%

Source: San Antonio Head Start, 2009

Languages

Consistent with the demographic composition of the county, Spanish is the most widely used foreign language, with nearly half of all county residents reporting they speak Spanish (see Table 2-5). Based on the U.S. Census 2005-2007 American Community Survey (ACS), 191,513 Bexar County residents reported that they spoke a foreign language and could not speak English “very well.” Of these foreign language speakers, 93% spoke Spanish.

Table 2-5: Bexar County Language Use, 2005-2007

	Bexar County		Texas		United States	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Population 5 and up	1,425,203	-	21,448,430	-	278,276,723	-
English only	810,885	56.9%	14,253,360	66.5%	223,949,581	80.5%
Language other than English	614,318	43.1%	7,195,070	33.5%	54,327,142	19.5%
Speak English less than "very well"	191,513	13.4%	3,124,927	14.6%	24,069,536	8.6%
Spanish	570,147	40.0%	6,205,378	28.9%	33,701,181	12.1%
Speak English less than "very well"	178,574	12.5%	2,776,149	12.9%	16,021,820	5.8%
Other languages	44,171	3.1%	989,692	4.6%	20,625,961	7.4%
Speak English less than "very well"	12,939	0.9%	348,778	1.6%	8,047,716	2.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005-07, Data Profiles

The remaining balance of foreign language speakers ranged from a number of different origins. Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese made up roughly half the balance of foreign language speakers other than Spanish (about 3.5%).

The percentage of Spanish speakers reporting that they cannot speak English “very well” was 12.5%, which is more than double the national rate of 5.8%. This is indicative of the strength of Spanish language use in the county. It appears that Bexar County has a particularly large portion of its population (approximately 1 out of every 8 residents) that may require at least some services in Spanish.

To identify the approximate geographic location of the Spanish speakers, Texas Education Agency enrollment data for all of Bexar County's public school districts was used (TEA 2009a). For the school year ending in 2009, over 33,000 students received education services in a language other than English, (mostly Spanish). This represents more than 10% of all students in the county, which is equivalent to the 2005-2007 ACS estimates of Spanish-speaking county residents who report that they cannot speak English “very well.”

The density of students enrolled in Bilingual Education is highest in the county center and extends southward (see Figure 2-4). The 3 independent school districts (ISDs) with the greatest proportion of students participating in Bilingual Education are Edgewood ISD, South San Antonio ISD, and San Antonio ISD. In each of these school districts, nearly 1 in every 6 students participated in bilingual studies.

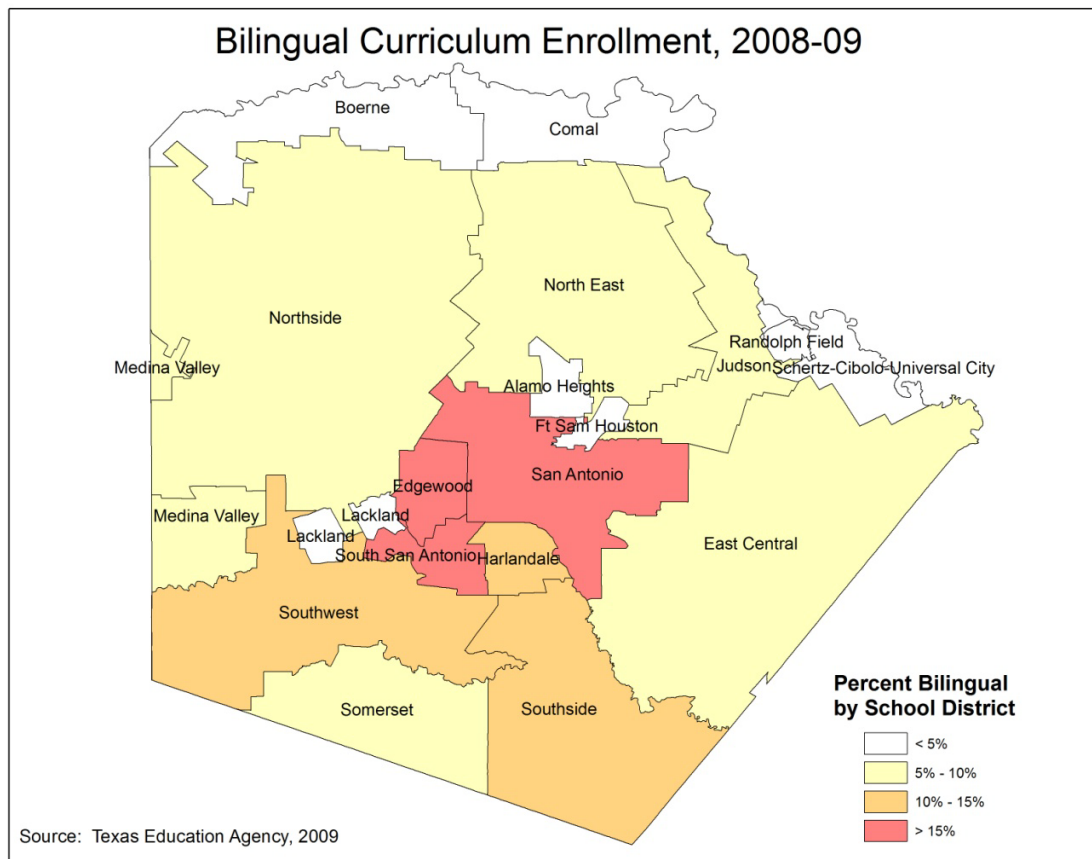


Figure 2-4: Density of Students in Bilingual Education, by School District, 2008-09

This data gives valuable information about families and Spanish language. The need for Spanish language services rises in the areas of high bilingual instruction. Because these areas coincide with heavily Hispanic neighborhoods, it is assumed that the families of bilingual students use Spanish at a very high rate.

Consistent with the profile of Head Start families, Spanish was the foreign language used most. More than 1 in every 5 Head Start children use Spanish at home, and less than 1% uses a language other than English or Spanish (see Table 2-6).

Table 2-6: Head Start Family Languages Used

Language	Number	%
English	5,371	79%
Spanish	1,393	21%
other	18	0%

Source: San Antonio Head Start, 2009

Furthermore, the English-use proficiency of Head Start families is a significantly less than for the county as a whole. For example, 13.4% of county residents who speak Spanish identify their proficiency in the language as less than "very well," whereas 36% of Head Start children assess their English language use as less than "proficient" (see Table 2-6 and Table 2-7). Although the ACS and Head Start data collection questions are not directly comparable (because of survey design) it does appear that a larger proportion of Head Start families exhibit a greater need for assistance and services in Spanish.

Table 2-7: Head Start Family English Proficiency

Proficiency	Number	%
Proficient	4,373	64%
Moderate	1,122	17%
Poor	720	11%
None/ No response	149	8%

Source: San Antonio Head Start, 2009

Families

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Bexar County had a 2008 estimated population of just over 1,555,000 people, making it the 4th most populous county in Texas (U.S. Census, 2008a). The Bexar County age structure is skewed younger than nationally, with a median county age 11% younger than the U.S. median (32.8 versus 36.4). Bexar County also has a greater proportion of its population under the age of 18 and under the age of 5, when compared to state and national populations (see Table 2-8).

Table 2-8: Bexar County Population, 2008

	Bexar County		Texas		United States	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total	1,555,168	100.0%	23,385,340	100.0%	298,757,310	100.0%
Under 5 years	129,965	8.4%	1,936,910	8.3%	20,480,587	6.9%
18 years and older	438,177	28.2%	6,482,876	27.7%	73,675,595	24.7%
Median age	32.8	-	33.1	-	36.4	-

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Data Profiles

The Service Area includes 182,680 families with children, and an average family size of 3.48. This makes the Bexar County family about 10% larger than the average U.S. family (see Table 2-9). For the 2008-2009 school year, the average Head Start family size was even larger than the average county family, with 3.94 persons (SA Head Start, 2009).

The family size is significant, in that it lowers the threshold for income eligibility. Since Hispanic families are larger, even if head of household incomes are comparable to non-Hispanics, the addition of extra family members ensures that more Hispanic families would have children eligible to participate in Head Start.

Table 2-9: Bexar County Demographic and Household Characteristics, 2005-2007

	Bexar County		Texas		United States	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total Population	1,555,168	-	23,385,340	-	298,757,310	-
Population under 5	129,965	8.4%	1,936,910	8.3%	20,480,587	6.9%
Total households	531,371	-	8,095,025	-	111,609,629	-
Total Families	365,650	-	5,679,333	-	74,625,059	-
Single Parent Families	63,147	17.3%	869,701	15.3%	10,808,933	14.5%
Average family size	3.48	-	3.40	-	3.19	-

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Data Profiles

One out of every five Head Start families has four or more children (see Table 2-10). This is consistent with the birth trends in Table 2-3. Through normal conditions, the Head Start eligible population will expand, simply because the Hispanic population is expanding. This means that a larger number of children will be eligible to be served through Head Start.

Table 2-10: Children per Head Start Family

Children	Number	%
1	1,150	17%
2	2,270	33%
3	1,981	29%
4 or more	1,87	20%

Source: San Antonio Head Start, 2009

Single parent families make up a larger proportion of the county than they do for the state or nation (see Table 2-9). Additionally, over 70% of families with children enrolled in Head Start report living in a single-parent household (see Table 2-11). This means that single parent families are four times more prevalent for Head Start families than for the average county family, and nearly five times more prevalent than the average state or national family.

Table 2-11: Head Start Family - Single Parent Homes

<u>Family Type</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Single Parent Family	71%
2 Parent Family	29%

Source: San Antonio Head Start, 2009

The significance of this statistic is that a single parent family reduces the overall household earning capacity by half. This again, facilitates the eligibility for Head Start enrollment, in that it automatically relegates the single parent into compensating for the income acquisition of what is usually expected to be accomplished by two individuals. The implications for children of single parent families are not good. Since single parent families (and female headed households in particular) are more susceptible to downward economic conditions and most Head Start children live in single-family homes, then that increases the potential need for services and increases the role that Head Start plays in the communities they serve.

Income

Working families have to struggle to make ends meet. For a single parent home, the annual income required to cover all expenses (housing, food, child care, insurance, etc.) is about \$32,000 (Dinan and Briggs, 2008). This is nearly 25% greater than the median income of the employed Bexar County worker, \$24,800 (U.S. Census, 2008). This means that the majority of single, working parents are unable to make ends meet without some sort of assistance.

Even efforts to try to pay bills are wrought with difficult choices. An analysis by the Center for Public Policy Priorities found that San Antonio residents with lower incomes utilize “fringe financial services,” including pay day lenders, and non-bank check cashers, to make ends meet (Baylor, Gutierrez, Deviney 2009: 5). The reasons cited for using these non-traditional financial services, include: paying bills, buying food, gas and paying rent. This is counterproductive, because the fringe financial services actually, “extract wealth from the community” (Baylor, Gutierrez, Deviney 2009: 1).

On average, residents within the Service Area have a smaller household income and a smaller per capita income, compared with the state or nation. Families within the Bexar County Service Area live off of household incomes that are more than 10% smaller than the typical national family (see Table 2-12). Additionally, Head Start families report household incomes that are 76% smaller than the nation-wide median. Not surprisingly, the Head Start per capita income (income per person in household) is only one-eighth of the national per capita income.

The difference in available income has far reaching consequences. Head Start families have to pay for housing, meals, and other living expenses with a mere fraction of the resources that the average person in Bexar County does (Dinan and Briggs, 2008). They would need to stretch each dollar as far as it can go, and most certainly require community assistance just to acquire sufficient food, housing, and childcare.

Table 2-12: Income Summary

Households	Head Start Families	Bexar County	Texas	United States
Median income	\$12,000	\$44,664	\$46,248	\$50,007
Per Capita income	\$3,135	\$21,777	\$23,294	\$26,178

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Data Profiles; San Antonio Head Start, 2009

Social Services

Social services play a role for a significant portion of the Bexar County population. In 2006, 2.1% of children in Bexar County received TANF benefits, 27.1% of children received food stamps, and 40.9% received WIC benefits (Annie E. Casey, 2009b). Due to the nature of eligibility requirements, many Head Start families also qualify for other social services to augment their family incomes. Head Start families receive TANF benefits at half the county rate, but they enroll in Medicaid insurance at double the county rate (see Table 2-13). Additionally, WIC use is 25% higher for Head Start families.

Table 2-13: Social Services, 2006

	Head Start Families		Bexar County	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
TANF (current and previous)	66	1.0%	8,810	2.1%
WIC	3,779	55.8%	51,454	40.9%
Medicaid	4,206	62.1%	138,472	30.7%

Source: San Antonio Head Start, 2009; Kids Count, 2009

The distribution of income and need for social services is not dispersed evenly around the Service Area. The demand for assistance and Head Start enrollment is concentrated in specific portions of the county. This pattern of need is analogous to the income distribution of Texas as a whole. Using standard measures of income and equality, the U.S. Census Bureau found that Texas is the 5th worst state in terms in income inequality (Bishaw, Alemeyehu and Samega, 2008: 11). This means that much of the wealth in Texas is concentrated in a smaller population than would be expected, leaving a greater propensity for poverty to concentrated. If these areas can be identified in Bexar County, then it would provide the ability to maximize program effectiveness.

Housing

The housing stock in Bexar County consists mostly of recently built single family homes. Just over two-thirds of all homes in Bexar County are single family residence and only about 3% are multifamily or mobile homes (U.S. Census, 2008). Nearly one-third of all homes in Bexar County were built after 1990. According to the San Antonio Board of Realtors, the median single family residential home price for 2009 was \$180,000 (SABOR, 2009)

San Antonio has experienced an increase in the number of foreclosures over the last 5 years, with over 28,000 occurring between 2005 and mid 2008 (Rex Report, 2008). Families with the lowest median incomes were found to be the most susceptible to losing their home (Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 2007). Bexar County families with median family incomes below \$60,000 had triple the foreclosure risk compared to families with incomes above \$60,000 (Garza, 2008).

There are housing assistance programs serving San Antonio and Bexar County. The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) operates Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) and affordable housing and public housing programs within Bexar County (San Antonio Housing Authority, 2008). Through income requirements, SAHA allocated 6,262 public housing units and 11,050 Section 8 housing vouchers (in 2007) to people who needed them⁷ (City of San Antonio, 2005; San Antonio Housing Authority, 2008; San Antonio Housing Authority, 2009). There is a significant waiting list for these programs. As of 2005, 14,000 people were waiting for a public housing unit, and 5,000 people were on the waiting list for Section 8 (City of San Antonio, 2005).

Homeless Population

Determining the homeless population is a difficult task. Municipal documents have reported the number of homeless persons to be 26,170, 38% of which were members of families with

⁷ Additional housing programs exist specifically for migrant workers (see page 54).

children (City of San Antonio, 2005: 71). Despite the uncertainty in the number of homeless persons, it is clear that the population appears to be increasing in size over the last 5 years. Using point-in-time⁸ counts of the unsheltered homeless combined with data from 8 homeless shelters operating in San Antonio, the total number of homeless persons increased from 1,631 in 2005 to 3,303 in 2009 (Homeless Services, 2009).

For 2009, there were 296 homeless families identified, with 603 children under 18. There were an additional 152 children that were unaccompanied by an adult. In all, 92 children age 5 and under were identified as homeless through shelters, emergency housing, and unsheltered point in time counts.

In the 2008-2009 school year, Head Start enrolled 20 families who identified themselves as homeless. This was roughly one-fifth of the enumerated homeless, age eligible children in San Antonio. Since counts of the homeless population may be significantly smaller than the actual population, it appears that homeless children may be severely underserved in this respect.

In light of these estimates, it appears that the potential to aid homeless children through Head Start is extremely large. There is a significant population that can be potentially aided through the Head Start program. Residents in San Antonio generally agree with this conclusion. In particular, the majority of west and south San Antonio residents rate the seriousness of the homeless problem as “major” (Baumann and Chance, 2008: 17).

Currently, there are 9 homeless shelters operating in San Antonio. In addition to these there are shelters for persons living with HIV and a one-stop homeless transformation center⁹ (Preyor-Johnson, 2009a; Hiller, 2009)

⁸ There are large data limitations to using point in time methods to assess the homeless population. However, the method is designed to eliminate overestimates through double-counting. As such, these counts are almost assuredly undercounts of the “true” homeless population which ebbs and flows according to any number of factors, not limited to economics and housing.

⁹ Provides housing for families, job training, and medical services.

Education

Access to higher education is available. There are 16 college degree granting institutions located within Bexar County (National Center for Education Statistics, 2009). These include 6 not-for-profit Universities and 4 accredited community colleges (Texas Higher Education Coordination Board, 2009a).

Overall, educational attainment in Bexar County is similar to the state totals, but both still lag behind the nation. High School and college graduation rates are both lower in Bexar County than nationally (see Table 2-14). Nearly 1 in every 5 Bexar County residents does not have a high school diploma. Although this is lower than the state average, it is still 18% larger than the national total. Additionally, the attrition rate was 38.0% in 2007 (Annie E. Casey, 2009a). This means that nearly 9,000 students that enrolled as freshmen in 2003 did not enroll as seniors in 2007, either because they dropped out or because they were held back. Public opinion has identified school completion as a significant problem in San Antonio. A 2007 City wide survey found that most residents report that the school dropout rate is a “major” problem in the city (Baumann and Chance, 2008: 17).

Table 2-14: Educational Attainment

People 25 and over	Bexar County		Texas		United States	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
No high school diploma	186,558	19.6%	3,098,984	21.4%	31,248,459	16.0%
High school graduate or equiv. ¹⁰	262,083	27.5%	3,910,987	27.0%	58,762,191	30.0%
Some college, no Bachelor's ¹¹	273,659	28.7%	3,888,717	26.9%	52,775,736	27.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	229,592	24.1%	3,584,154	24.7%	52,859,997	27.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Data Profiles

¹⁰ Includes people who earn a GED.

¹¹ Includes people with an Associate's degree, but not a Bachelor's degree.

Not all areas of San Antonio have the same educational attainment. Nearly half (44%) of San Antonio's west side¹² residents, over age 25 have not earned a high school diploma or GED (Annie E. Casey, 2009b). Similarly, in the city's south side¹³, 45.4% of the population over age 25 has not earned a high school diploma (City South, 2009; U.S. Census, 2003).

A useful tool in assessing education in the Service Area is by using State accountability ratings, but they often times provide confusing results. In the 2008 Texas Education Agency Accountability Ratings, all of the major¹⁴ San Antonio area school districts received an "Academically Acceptable" rating¹⁵, except for Randolph Field ISD, North East ISD, Northside ISD who achieved as "Recognized" status (Texas Education Agency, 2008). The academic ratings are based on the number of students passing standardized tests, school completion, and annual dropout rate (Texas Education Agency, 2008b).

More recent rating and reports have highlighted the poor performance of several Bexar County school districts. In 2008, 65 area schools failed to meet the federal government benchmark standards for success set forth by No Child Left Behind (Kastner and De La Rosa, 2008). In 2009, Judson, South San Antonio, and San Antonio Independent School Districts recently received an "Academically Unacceptable" rating by the Texas Education Agency, for graduating too few students (Kastner, 2009; Flinn, 2009).

Overall, the performance of students in Bexar County may depend on socioeconomic status. A difference between the number of students who pass or fail the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)¹⁶ test, based on income exists. Across all grades, 11.7% more

¹² The 24-square mile area west of IH 10 and north of US 90, inside Loop 410, with 134,000 residents in 37,000 households that occupy west San Antonio near downtown (Annie E. Casey, 2009c).

¹³ The 73 square mile area between south of Loop 410, and east of IH 37 (City South, 2009)

¹⁴ Alamo Heights ISD, Harlandale ISD, Edgewood ISD, San Antonio ISD, San Antonio ISD, East Central ISD, Southwest ISD, Fort Sam Houston ISD, Judson ISD, Southside ISD.

¹⁵ Exemplary is the highest rating, followed by Recognized, Academically Acceptable, and Academically Unacceptable (Texas Education Agency, 2008b: 34).

¹⁶ The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills is a standardized, statewide examination administered by the Texas Education Agency.

economically disadvantaged students failed the reading test than non-economically disadvantaged students, for the math test, the difference was 17.6% (Annie E. Casey, 2009a).

Health

San Antonio has a high, yet decreasing teen pregnancy rate. In 1997, 7.8% of births were to mothers age 17 and younger; by 2007 the proportion had fallen to 5% (San Antonio Metro Health, 2008). Despite the falling rate, in 2005 the birth rate for 15-17 year olds was still 45% higher in Bexar County than in the U.S. (Realini, Berlanga, et al., 2007). Many teenage births have been concentrated in the center, western and southern parts of the county (Realini, Berlanga, et al., 2007).

San Antonio's west side has a particular need for health services. The proportion of births to single mothers in west San Antonio is nearly 30% higher than it is citywide (63% versus 44%) (Nivin, Peres, Silverman, et al. 2008; San Antonio Metro Health, 2007). Similarly, the proportion of Medicaid funded births is 30% greater in west San Antonio than citywide.

More than half of all births in Bexar County are to mothers on Medicaid. The proportion of births to mothers on Medicaid has increased from 38.3% in 1999 to 50.2% in 2007 (San Antonio Metro Health 2008). This increase coincides with the overall growth of Medicaid enrollment in Bexar County. Enrollment in Medicaid increased from 124,376 children in 2003 to 138,472 in 2007 (Annie E. Casey, 2009b). About 30% of all Bexar County children are on Medicaid, yet 23.7% of the county children were still left uninsured as of 2005 (Annie E. Casey, 2009b). Additionally, more than 1 in every 4 births resulted in the child receiving late or no prenatal care (San Antonio Metro Health, 2008).

Obesity and Diabetes are two major health concerns in San Antonio. Healthy People 2010¹⁷ calculated that 69% of adults in Bexar County are either overweight¹⁸ or obese¹⁹ (Health

¹⁷ A joint effort by the several of the largest healthcare organizations in San Antonio and Bexar County to help solve critical health problems and needs (see <http://www.healthcollaborative.net/about.php>).

Collaborative, 2006). The obesity rate for Bexar County is nearly 10% larger than the state rate (Health Collaborative, 2006). Projection models of obesity prevalence indicate that it will affect a larger and larger proportion of the population, resulting in greater health costs and health problems. The proportion obese in Bexar County is projected to rise from 30% in 2010 to 33% in 2020 and eventually reach 42.7% in 2040 (Eschbach, 2009).

The proportion of Bexar County residents that have been told they have diabetes currently stands at 11% (Health Collaborative, 2006). Although this rate has not changed in 10 years, it is still nearly 10% larger than the statewide prevalence of diabetes. As with other indicators, diabetes is not distributed evenly in the county (Health Collaborative, 2006: 94). The highest rates (23%) occur in the eastern parts of the county, where there is a large concentration of Black residents. Similarly, in west San Antonio 18% of the residents have diabetes, most of whom are Hispanic. These are the two areas where diabetes prevalence is most pronounced. The balance of the county has diabetes rates of 11% or less.

Nutrition

Food and nutrition appear to be a concern for many people in Bexar County. More than 1 in 7 residents, (212,080) received food stamp assistance in July 2009 (Scharrer, 2009). This is an increase of 16.9% over July 2007. Additionally, 1 in every 4 children receives food stamps and 1 in every 3 students qualifies for free lunch through the public school system (Annie E. Casey, 2009b; Texas Education Agency, 2008c).

Another source of food for those in need is the San Antonio Food Bank. It provides food to over 40,000 people every month, through a network of 440 food distribution locations including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters (San Antonio Food Bank, 2009; Preyor-Johnson,

¹⁸ Body Mass Index (BMI) between 25 and 29.99

¹⁹ BMI greater than 30

2009). There are 165 programs operating in San Antonio distributing food and nutrition education, however 80 of these are specifically for the elderly (United Way, 2009).

Employment

San Antonio has a resilient economy and was recently ranked as one of the 20 strongest-performing metro areas in the U.S. (Brookings, 2009). However, like other cities, the recession has had an effect on many people. The unemployment rate in May 2008 reached 5.8%, which was a 10% increase over May 2007. Bexar County had a total civilian labor force of 944,000 people in 2008 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009.) 61.4% were employed in a white-collar occupation and 28.5% were blue-collar.

The military has a large impact in San Antonio and Bexar County. A 2006 study found that activities by the Department of Defense supports 195,075 jobs through direct, indirect and induced employment (Birdwell and Nivin, 2006). This is about one-fourth of the total employment in San Antonio (Birdwell and Nivin, 2006: 11). Two other important industries are Healthcare and Tourism (Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, 2008; Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, 2007). Along with the military, these three industries provide for nearly half of all of the employment in San Antonio (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009).

3 Head Start Eligibility and Estimates

Age Eligibility

According to population projections from the Texas State Data Center, there are were more than 150,000 children age 5 and under living in Bexar County in 2009 (see Table 3-1) (Texas State Data Center, 2009a). Through apportionment, the number of Head Start age-eligible²⁰ children is calculated to be between 55,000 and 60,000 for each year through 2012 (see Table 3-2).

Table 3-1: Projected Bexar County Population, by Race: Ages 0 - 5

Year	Total	Hispanic	Anglo	Black	Other
2007	150,623	100,188	36,691	10,101	3,643
2008	152,248	101,919	36,009	10,461	3,859
2009	153,523	103,318	35,313	10,837	4,055
2010	154,459	104,386	34,599	11,206	4,268
2011	155,089	105,157	33,886	11,579	4,467
2012	155,580	105,765	33,206	11,938	4,671

Source: Texas State Data Center, Texas Population and Estimates Program, 2009

Assuming that the race/ethnic distribution remains constant for projected years, Hispanic children would make up 65% to 70% of all Head Start eligible children for any given year. Additionally, the trend of increasing growth indicates that the number of age eligible children is expected to increase every year for each race except for Anglo children.

²⁰ Ages 3, 4, and 5 after September 1st

Table 3-2: Projected Age-Eligible Children by Race/Ethnicity (3-5 year old)

Year	Total	Hispanic	Anglo	Black	Other
2007	56,172	36,996	14,142	3,746	1,288
2008	57,046	33,614	12,267	3,453	1,230
2009	57,644	38,539	13,624	4,031	1,450
2010	58,064	39,021	13,351	4,164	1,528
2011	58,394	39,398	13,088	4,307	1,601
2012	58,621	39,678	12,815	4,451	1,676

Source: Texas State Data Center, Texas Population and Estimates Program, 2009

One way to approximate the location of current and future age eligible Head Start children is by examining birth data. In a density map of births by zip code that occurred during 2004, 2005, and 2006 (children age-eligible children in 2009), it is evident that the greatest density of births is located in the city's central and western portion (see Figure 3-1) (SA Metro Health, 2004; SA Metro Health, 2005; SA Metro Health, 2006; SA Metro Health, 2007). A similar pattern emerges for children born in 2005, 2006, and 2007 (children age eligible in 2010) (see Figure 3-2). These zip codes of high birth density represent the areas of the city experiencing the most recent population growth, and the areas where Head Start and child care may be most beneficial.

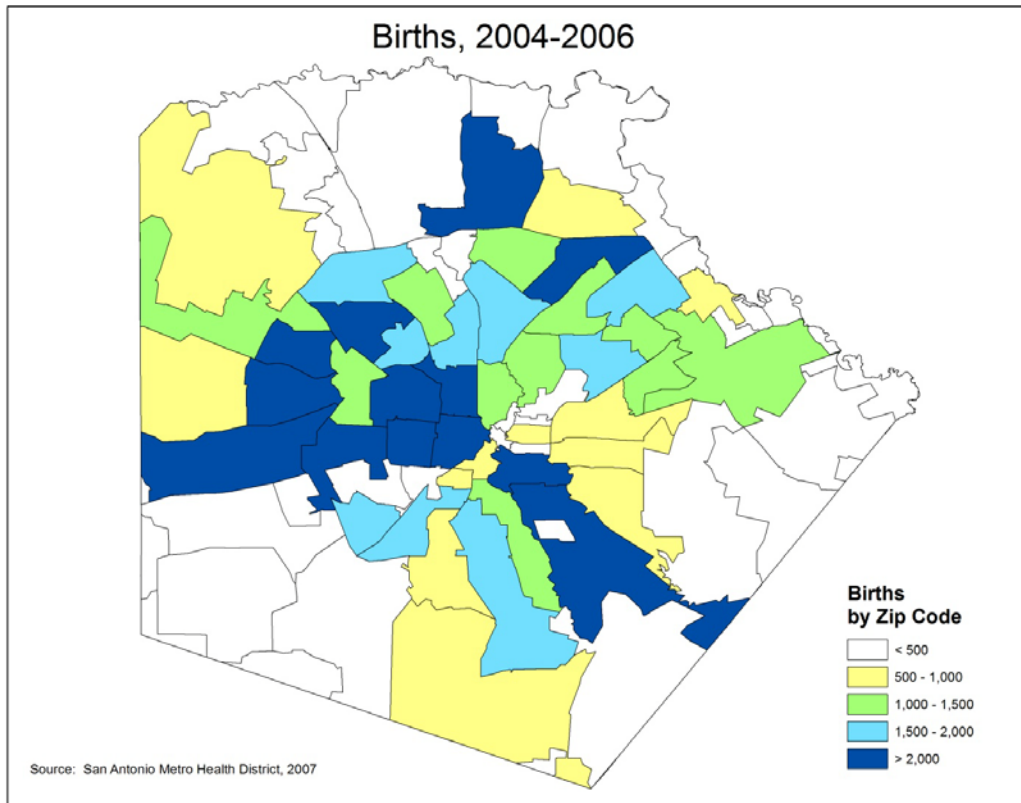


Figure 3-1: Distribution of Births, 2004-2006

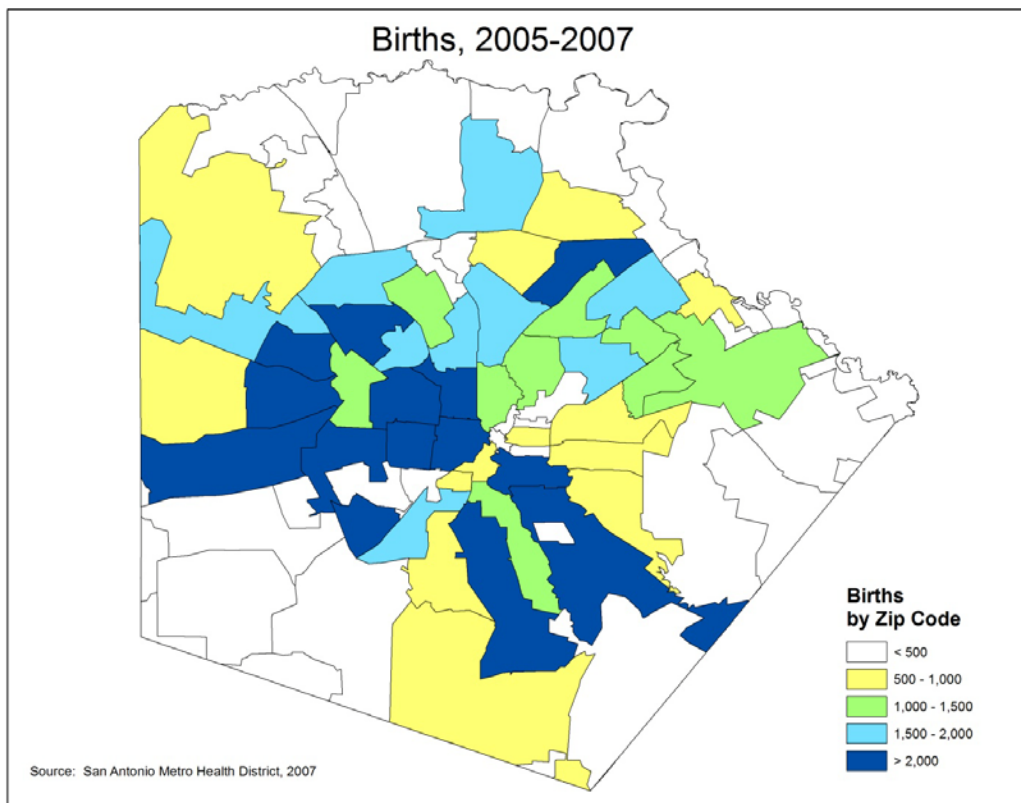


Figure 3-2: Distribution of Births, 2005-07

An estimate of the number of children that are age eligible was calculated by apportioning the total number of 3-5 year olds (from Table 3-2) according to elementary enrollment data. A weight is applied to each district, whereby the number of children that are Head Start age-eligible is assumed to be equivalent to the relative density of 5-7 year olds already attending school in each respective district. The estimated number of 3-5 year olds eligible to enroll in Head Start are in Table 3-3.

The school districts that are located near the county border: Boerne ISD, Comal ISD, Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD, and Medina Valley have little or no students actually enrolled in Bexar County (see Figure 3-3). This may be because much of these suburban areas are still under development, and have a relatively low population density. In 2008 there were some Head Start families living in these border school districts, and that data was appropriately included in this analysis.

Table 3-3: Age Eligible Children by School District 2008-2009 (est.)

District	Total Enrollment 2009	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5 (after 9/1)	Head Start Enrollment 2008-2009	Age Eligible Children 2009
Alamo Heights ISD	4,660	335	334	86	42	755
Boerne ISD	658	81	81	21	0	183
Comal ISD	831	163	162	42	4	367
East Central ISD	9,112	687	687	177	223	1,551
Edgewood ISD	11,644	1,039	1,039	268	434	2,346
Fort Sam Houston ISD	1,443	112	112	29	18	254
Harlandale ISD	14,399	1,181	1,181	305	563	2,666
Judson ISD	21,301	1,744	1,743	450	379	3,937
Lackland ISD	963	104	103	27	2	234
Medina Valley ISD	0	21	21	5	20	48
North East ISD	63,452	5,091	5,088	1,313	1,058	11,492
Northside ISD	89,000	7,415	7,411	1,913	1,285	16,738
Randolph Field ISD	1,206	104	104	27	2	235
San Antonio ISD	54,696	4,838	4,835	1,248	1,510	10,921
Schertz - Cibolo – Universal City ISD	395	71	71	18	25	161
Somerset ISD	3,495	266	266	69	93	601
South San Antonio ISD	9,976	888	888	229	277	2,005
Southside ISD	5,107	413	413	107	124	933
Southwest ISD	11,393	983	982	254	697	2,219
Total	306,959	25,536	25,521	6,587	6,756	57,644

Sources: Texas Education Agency, 2008; San Antonio Head Start, 2009; Texas State Data Center, 2009

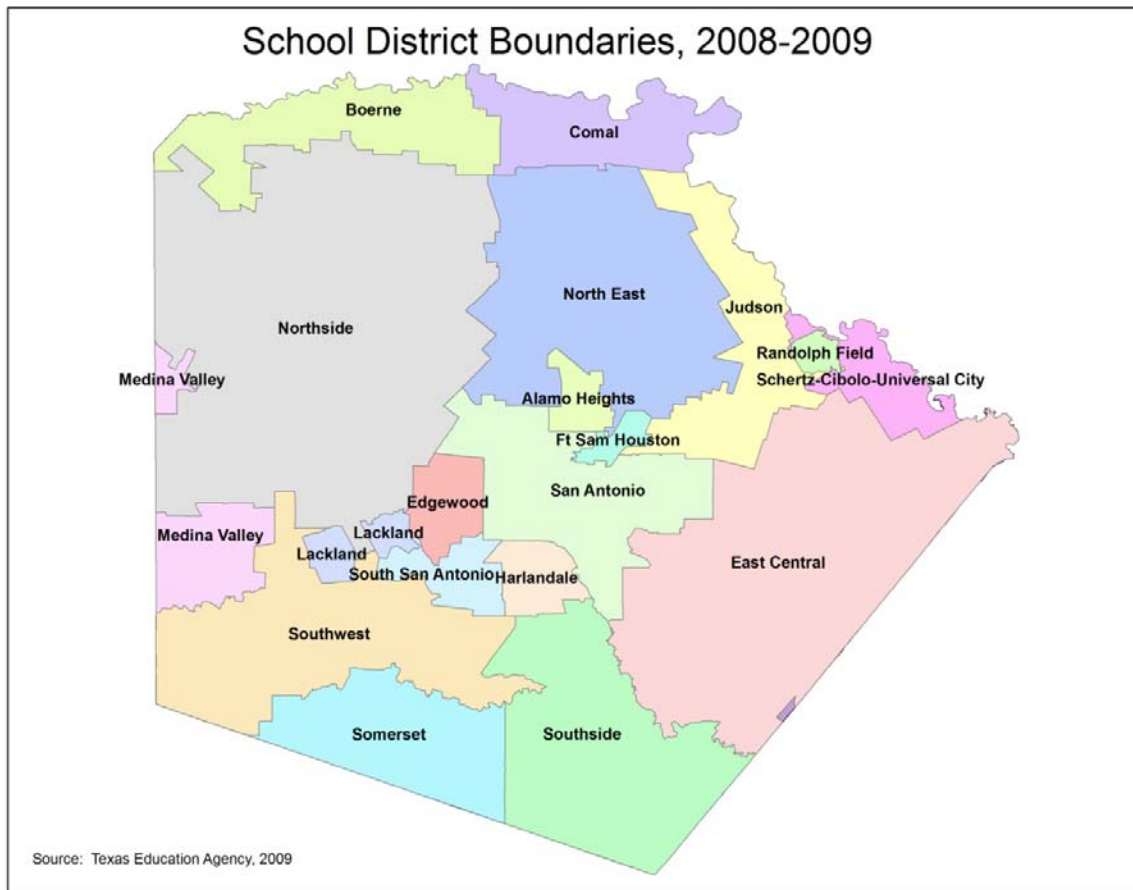


Figure 3-3: Bexar County School District Boundaries

Finally, Fort Sam Houston, Lackland and Randolph Field Independent School Districts are on or near military installations and serve many children of service members and civilian workers. These school districts each report having less than 1% of their students below the federal poverty guidelines. The low poverty rate is also verified by the small numbers of children who attended Head Start from those areas.

Table 3-4 shows the estimated number of children that will become age eligible for Head Start in 2009-2013. These estimates are based on projected population growth by the Texas State Data Center. There is an average increase in the age eligible population of about 0.5% per year.

Table 3-4: Age Eligible Children 2009-2013 (projected)

District	Age Eligible Children 2009	Age Eligible Children 2010	Age Eligible Children 2011	Age Eligible Children 2012	Age Eligible Children 2013
Alamo Heights ISD	755	761	765	768	771
Boerne ISD	183	184	185	186	187
Comal ISD	367	370	372	373	374
East Central ISD	1,551	1,562	1,571	1,577	1,582
Edgewood ISD	2,346	2,363	2,377	2,386	2,394
Fort Sam Houston ISD	254	255	257	258	259
Harlandale ISD	2,666	2,686	2,701	2,712	2,721
Judson ISD	3,937	3,965	3,988	4,003	4,017
Lackland ISD	234	235	237	238	239
Medina Valley ISD	48	48	48	48	49
North East ISD	11,492	11,575	11,641	11,686	11,725
Northside ISD	16,738	16,860	16,956	17,022	17,078
Randolph Field ISD	235	236	238	239	239
San Antonio ISD	10,921	11,001	11,063	11,106	11,143
Schertz - Cibolo – Universal City ISD	161	162	163	164	164
Somerset ISD	601	605	608	611	613
South San Antonio ISD	2,005	2,019	2,031	2,039	2,046
Southside ISD	933	939	945	948	952
Southwest ISD	2,219	2,235	2,248	2,256	2,264
Total	57,644	58,064	58,394	58,621	58,814

Sources: Texas State Data Center, Texas Population and Estimates Program, 2009

Income Eligibility

The density of neighborhoods with a high concentration of children under age 5 and in poverty, are clustered near the center of the county (U.S. Census, 2000). The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that there were 12,189 age eligible children who fell below 100% of the federal income poverty guidelines in the 2000 Census (see Figure 3-4). The pattern of high poverty neighborhood clusters in the county center is indicative of a trend of development, mirroring the county's Hispanic, Spanish-speaking, and low income population clusters.

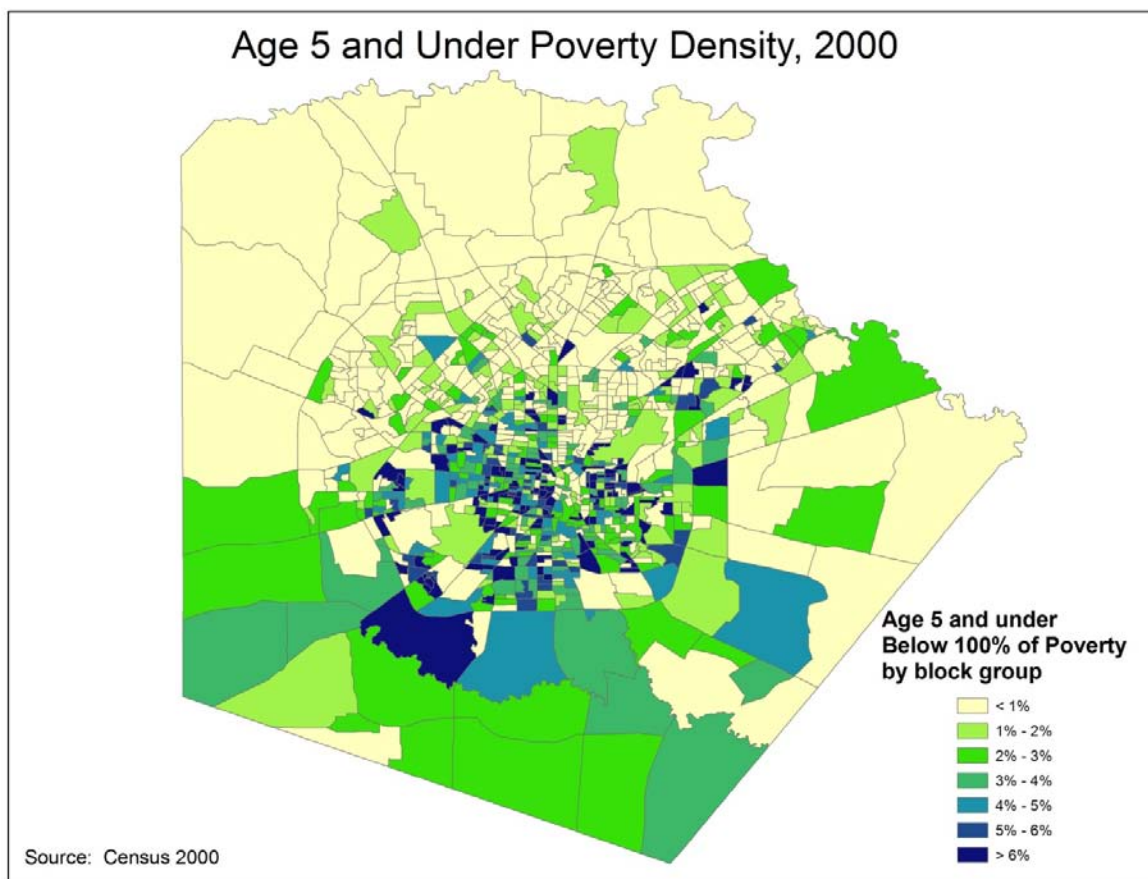


Figure 3-4: Distribution of Children Age 5 and Younger in and Below 100% of Federal Poverty Guidelines

The U.S. Census Bureau estimate²¹ for the percentage of children under 5 that fall below 100% of federal poverty guidelines was 27.9% (U.S. Census, 2008a). Since there are an estimated 57,644 children that are Head Start age eligible (see Table 3-4), then there is an estimated population of 16,082 that are also income eligible²². This is the average number of children whose family's self-reported income fell below the federal poverty guidelines in the 12 months prior to being surveyed. No estimates of poverty are available for 2008 or 2009. This means that the estimate of 16,082 age and income eligible children is likely an underestimate

²¹ This estimate was based on survey data collected by the American Community Survey program from 2005 through 2007, and represent the three year average poverty conditions in the county for those years.

²² This estimate is based on the assumption that poverty estimate (for all children ages 0 to 4) uniformly applies to children 3-5 years old.

because it fails to incorporate data from the recent economic recession and increased unemployment that occurred in 2008 and 2009. Due to the lack of recent available data and because it is extremely difficult to measure the magnitude of the underestimate, the resulting estimates of Head Start eligibility and the number of families below 100% of poverty are conservative.

To estimate the approximate geographic location of the age and income eligible children, two measures of poverty are used: family economic data collected by the Texas Education Agency, and 2008-2009 Head Start enrollments. These measures are not used to alter the U.S. Census estimate of children in poverty²³. These data sources are used to apportion the total number of children (16,082) to the appropriate region²⁴.

Using these data sources generates an approximation for the number of children in poverty for school districts within the county (Texas Education Agency, 2009b) (see Table 3-5). These estimates are not meant to be taken as an exact or a precise accounting of children requiring a Head Start slot, but rather to act as a guide to help determine the number of children that would hypothetically be eligible within each school district using standard population estimation techniques (Siegel, 2002; Smith, Tayman, and Swanson, 2001). Using these estimates is appropriate for planning purposes, but a constant, up to date accounting of the need for Head Start services should be maintained.

²³ The Census Bureau estimate of children in poverty is accepted as the “true” total in this analysis.

²⁴ The primary geographic unit of analysis is the school district (see Figure 3-3).

Table 3-5: Age and Income Eligible Children, 2009

District	Poverty Rate (est.)	Age Eligible Children	Age and Income Eligible Children	Head Start Capacity	Head Start Surplus / Deficit
Alamo Heights ISD	0.03604	755	26	17	-9
Boerne ISD	0.00000	183	0	0	0
Comal ISD	0.00824	367	3	0	-3
East Central ISD	0.10661	1,551	158	414	256
Edgewood ISD	0.80355	2,346	1,818	720	-1,098
Fort Sam Houston ISD	0.01590	254	4	90	86
Harlandale ISD	0.83615	2,666	2,149	492	-1,657
Judson ISD	0.08169	3,937	308	229	-79
Lackland ISD	0.00000	234	0	0	0
Medina Valley ISD	0.03127	48	15	71	56
North East ISD	0.07553	11,492	830	1,128	298
Northside ISD	0.06348	16,738	1,016	1,307	291
Randolph Field ISD	0.00860	235	2	0	-2
San Antonio ISD	0.74510	10,921	7,845	1,722	-6,123
Schertz - Cibolo – Universal City ISD	0.13161	161	20	0	-20
Somerset ISD	0.11581	601	67	145	78
South San Antonio ISD	0.63125	2,005	1,220	113	-1,107
Southside ISD	0.10917	933	97	156	59
Southwest ISD	0.23808	2,219	505	424	-81
Total		57,644	16,083	7,028	-9,054

Source: Texas Education Agency, 2008c; San Antonio Head Start, 2009; Texas State Data Center, 2009

For this analysis, average poverty estimates collected in school years ending 2008 and 2009 were used²⁵. School district poverty estimates are combined with income and poverty data collected for Head Start parents enrolled in the 2008-2009 school year, aggregated to the school district level. These are the basis for the estimated poverty rate for families living in each school district. Then by multiplying by the number of age eligible children, and controlling the

²⁵ Due to an alteration in data collection for San Antonio ISD, the calculated poverty rates for 2008 and 2009 are not fully complete; therefore rates were calculated using 2006 and 2007 data.

total to the ACS poverty estimate (16,082), an estimate is calculated for the number of children who would qualify for Head Start enrollment by school district.

Table 3-5 indicates that there was an estimated surplus of Head Start slots in 7 school districts. The greatest surpluses were located in North East ISD, Northside ISD, and East Central ISD. By contrasting this with the deficit in Head Start capacity of over 1,000 slots in 3 school districts plus a deficit of over 6,000 slots in San Antonio ISD, it is easy to see how such a huge deficit in overall available Head Start capacity exists. In the 2008-2009 school year, over 9,000 children who were eligible for Head Start, had no opportunity to enroll because of limited capacity. The greatest need for Head Start services was in San Antonio ISD. More than two-thirds of unmet Head Start capacity is located in San Antonio ISD.

It must be noted that school district boundaries are not like physical barriers (such as rivers or lakes). People move freely from district to district, and may enroll their child at a Head Start center near their work, outside of the district in which they actually live. In some ways it does not make much sense to view each school district as a separate entity. This makes shortages and overages within a district difficult to interpret. However, the total aggregate number representing the deficit of Head Start capacity cannot be explained away. Just over 16,000 estimated children must be served by only 7,000 spaces, leaving a shortage of over 9,000 potentially un-served children. In other words, over 56% of children who are *both* age and income eligible for Head Start, have no possibility of enrolling.

Table 3-5, displays the projected number of age and income eligible children. This projection is based on the 2005-2007 American Community Survey poverty estimate applied to the Texas State Data Center's projected appropriate age population. A poverty rate for this analysis is not forecasted. These projections assume that economic conditions that occur over the next 5 years will be similar to the economic conditions that took place between 2005-2007.

As the poverty rate changes (it is likely to increase, due to the ongoing recession), the number of eligible children will increase at a higher rate than what is projected. Currently there is an average increase of 82 additional children each year, through 2013.

Using the capacity noted in Table 3-5, it is evident that overall deficit of Head Start availability will increase. If Head Start capacity does not increase to keep pace with the expanding eligible population, then the overall shortage will be 9,382 by 2013, which is a 4.5% increase in the deficit of available Head Start capacity (see Table 3-6).

Table 3-6: Projected Number of Age and Income Eligible Children 2009-13

District	Age and Income Eligible Children 2009	Age and Income Eligible Children 2010	Age and Income Eligible Children 2011	Age and Income Eligible Children 2012	Age and Income Eligible Children 2013
Alamo Heights ISD	26	26	26	26	27
Boerne ISD	0	0	0	0	0
Comal ISD	3	3	3	3	3
East Central ISD	158	159	160	161	161
Edgewood ISD	1,818	1,831	1,841	1,848	1,854
Fort Sam Houston ISD	4	4	4	4	4
Harlandale ISD	2,149	2,165	2,177	2,186	2,193
Judson ISD	308	310	312	313	314
Lackland ISD	0	0	0	0	0
Medina Valley ISD	15	16	16	16	16
North East ISD	830	836	841	844	847
Northside ISD	1,016	1,023	1,029	1,033	1,037
Randolph Field ISD	2	2	2	2	2
San Antonio ISD	7,845	7,902	7,947	7,978	8,004
Schertz - Cibolo –					
Universal City ISD	20	20	21	21	21
Somerset ISD	67	67	67	68	68
South San Antonio ISD	1,220	1,229	1,236	1,241	1,245
Southside ISD	97	98	99	99	99
Southwest ISD	505	509	512	514	515
Total	16,083	16,200	16,293	16,357	16,410

Sources: Texas State Data Center, Texas Population and Estimates Program, 2009

The greatest need for Head Start services are located in a relatively small area. In terms of raw numbers, 13,409 of the 16,082 estimated eligible children are located in just four school districts: San Antonio ISD (7,845), Harlandale (2,149), Edgewood ISD (1,818), and South San Antonio ISD (1,220). Additionally, these four school districts are contiguously located at the geographic center of the county (see Figure 3-5). This urban area has the highest density of impoverished, Hispanic children. Nearly 8 in every 10 families with school age children living within these geographic boundaries have incomes below the federal poverty guidelines (Texas Education Agency, 2008c). This means that the majority of families living in these areas would qualify for enrollment in Head Start if they had children of the proper age.

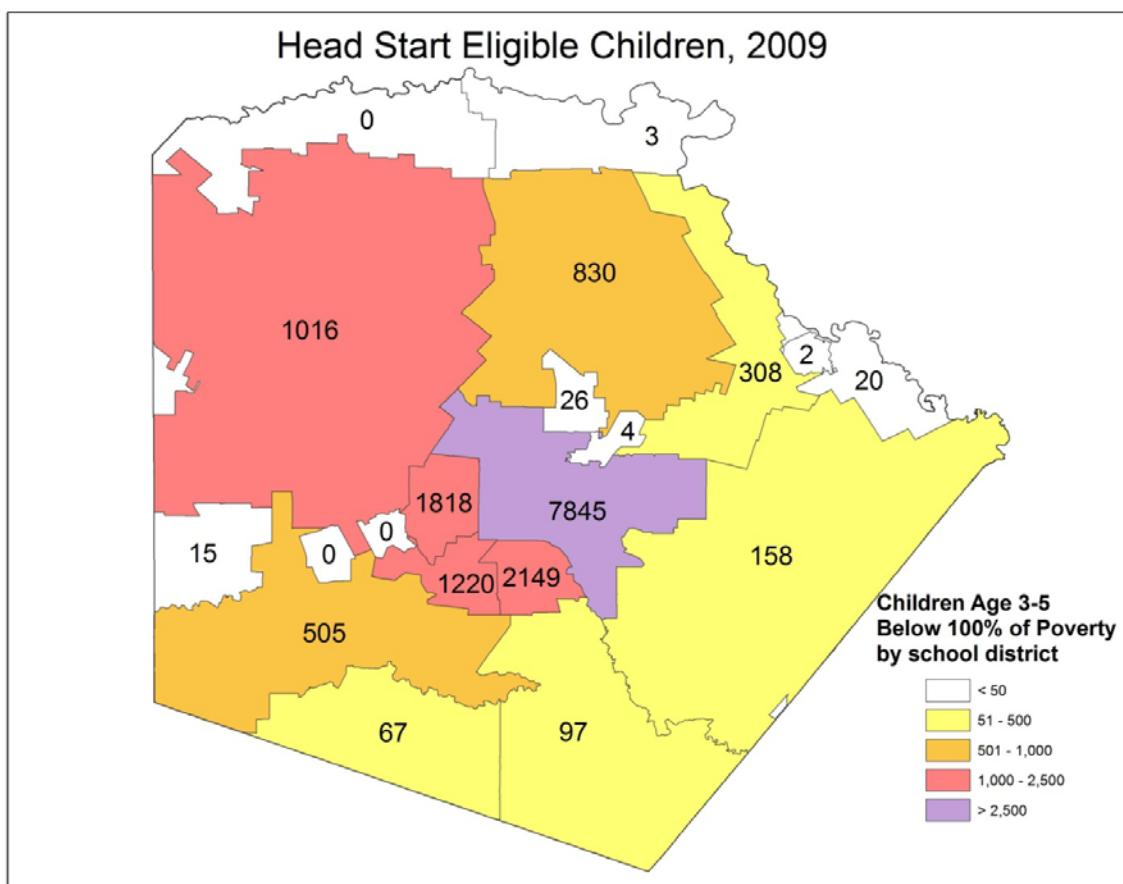


Figure 3-5: Number of Head Start Eligible Children by School District, 2009

Furthermore, the mean poverty rate (percentage of school age children below 100% federal poverty income guidelines) has increased every year since 2003 by at least 5% (Texas Education Agency, 2008c). This indicates that there is a trend of an expanding population of income eligible children and this trend extends back at least 7 years.

The county's central area directly corresponds with greatest concentration of heavily Hispanic neighborhoods, and greatest number of bilingual children (see Figure 2-2, Figure 2-4, and Figure 3-6). This area has a high concentration of high-poverty neighborhoods. However there are still significant numbers of families that fall just above the poverty line. Figure 3-7 displays the proportion of families below 130% of poverty. Many of the families living in Bexar County are borderline impoverished, and they are not confined to the city's central area, but are dispersed evenly throughout the county.

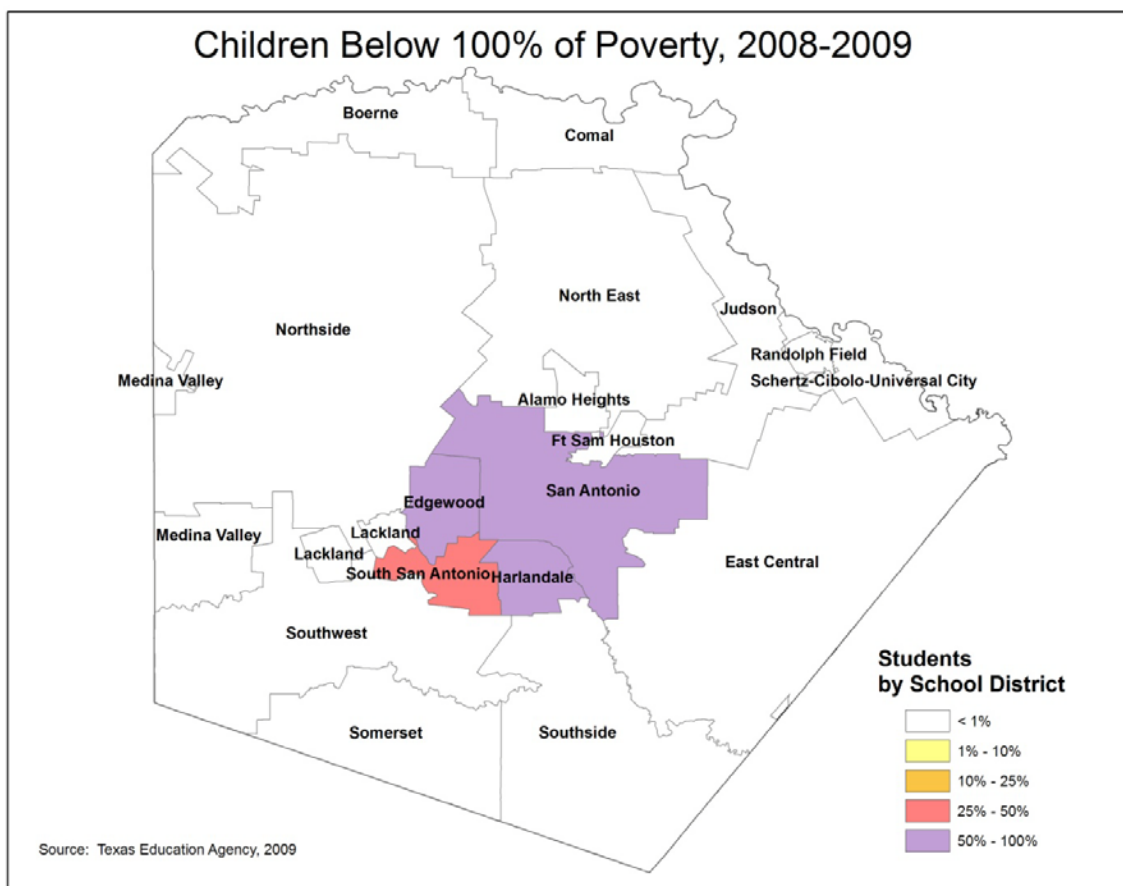


Figure 3-6: Mean Poverty Rate by School District, 2008-2009

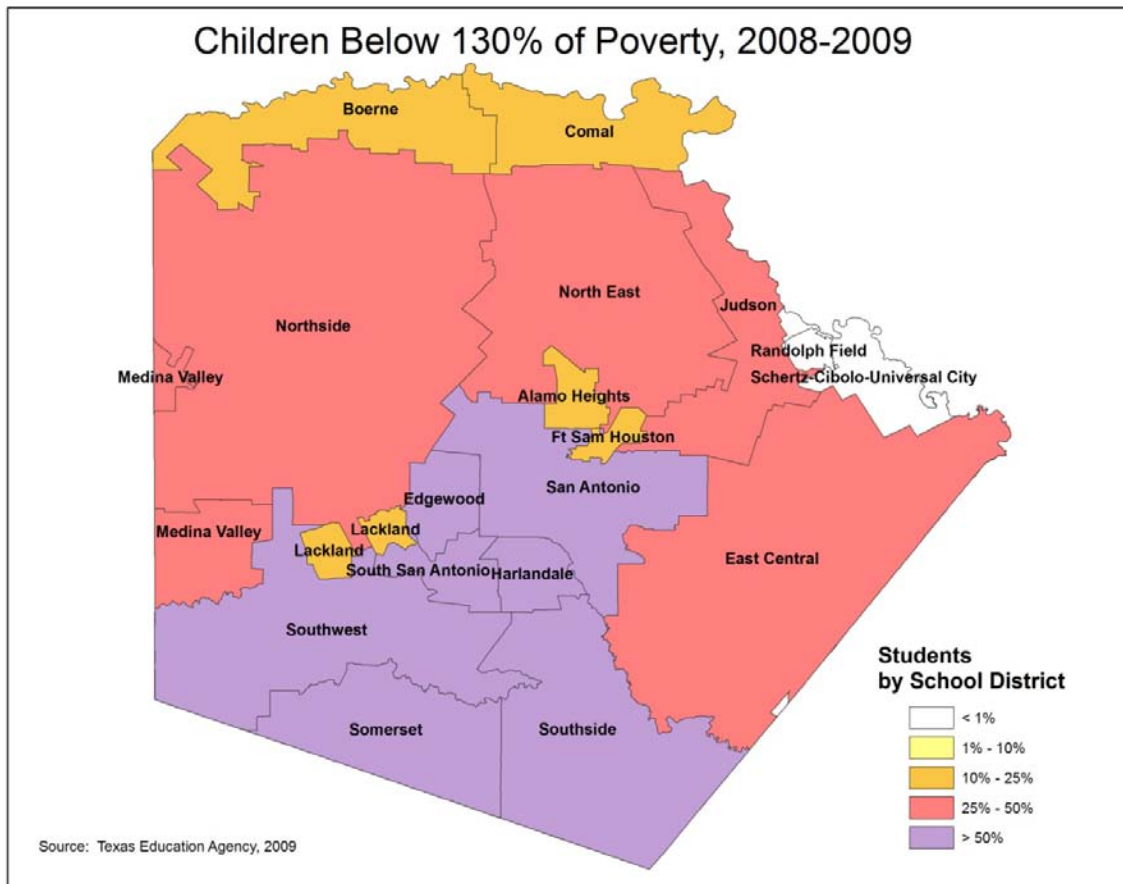


Figure 3-7: School Age Children Below 130% of Poverty, by School District, 2008-2009

This is indicative of the scope of the poverty situation in Bexar County. A significant number of children are below 100% of poverty (more than one quarter) but an even larger proportion of children live in families with an income-level between 100% and 130% of the family income poverty guidelines. In terms of real dollars, the difference between 100% and 130% of poverty for a family of four is the difference between having an income of \$22,050 or \$28,665 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2009).

Once again, these estimates do not reflect the exact number of children that are eligible in each district. In fact, it is highly likely that the number of children estimated is a significant underestimate, especially in the areas where family incomes fall just above 100% of poverty (see Figure 3-7). The reason these children may not show up in these estimates is because no

poverty rate estimate yet exists for the 2008-2009 time periods. Even income data collected by school districts for the 2008-2009 school year (which we incorporate here) was self-reported in the fall of 2008, and it asks about income over the course of the previous year.

School district data, despite being relatively recent, still may understate poverty within the Service Area, because it is known that between September 2008 and January 2009 (after school district data collection has taken place), the unemployment rate in Bexar County increased from 4.9% to 6.4% (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009). This increase in unemployment represents over 12,000 Bexar County residents who lost their jobs in just a four month span and their incomes would not be represented in the data presented here. Furthermore, their children's Head Start eligibility would not be included in these estimates.

4 Other Child Development and Childcare Programs

Public and Private Programs

As of June 2009, there were 573 licensed child care centers and 38 licensed child care homes who accept children ages 0 to 5 (Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2009). These are licensed by the State of Texas according to the Texas Administrative Code under Title 40, Part 19 (State of Texas, 2003). The total capacity at these privately operated locations is 60,637 (see Figure 4-1 and Table 4-1).

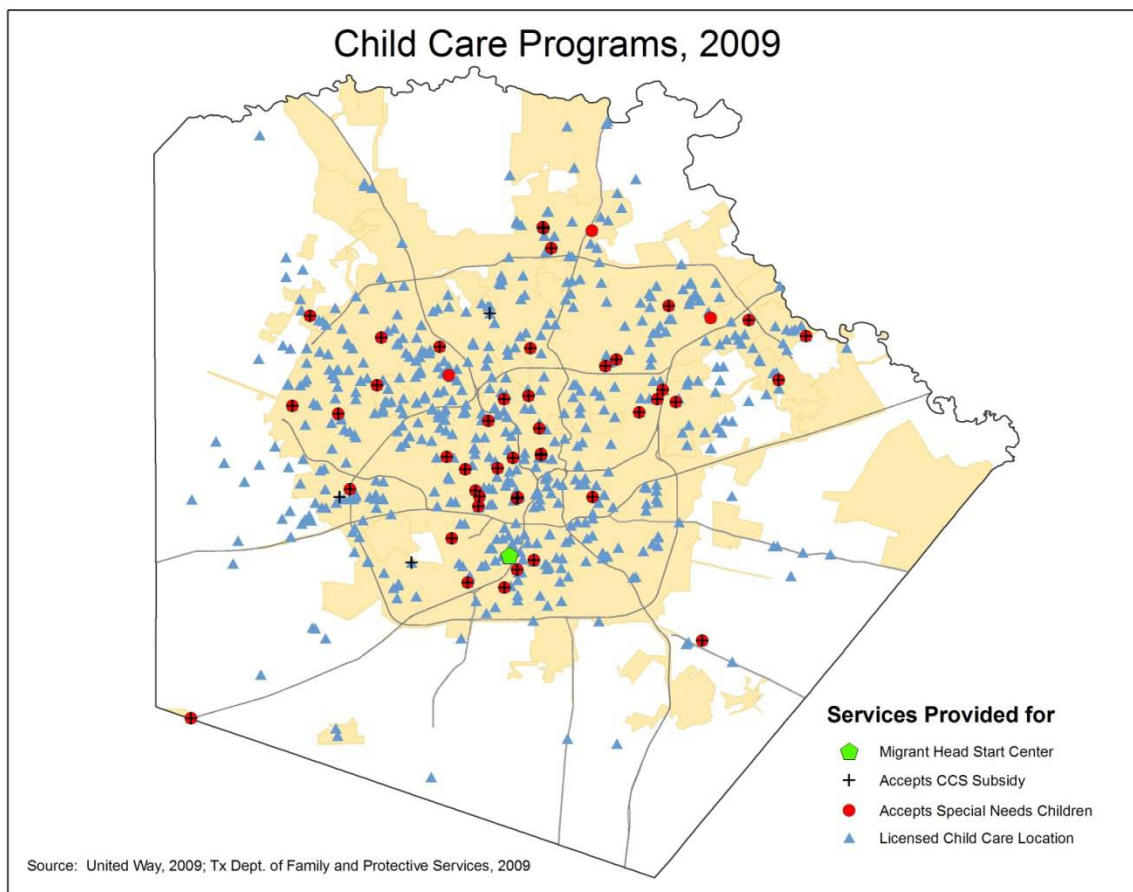


Figure 4-1: Child Care Programs by Type, 2009

Some licensed child care locations strictly provide child care services, while others provide a preschool-type environment with early education instruction. Additionally, many child care centers reported the capability to offer services in Spanish. In a sample of all community agencies operating in Bexar County, it was found that over 72% offered Spanish language or translation services to their customers (United Way, 2008).

Subsidized Child Care

There are some options available to low-income working parents in need of child care assistance. The Local Workforce Development Board for Bexar County establishes the eligibility requirements to receive subsidized Child Care Services (CCS). To be eligible, a parent must be working, in job training, or in school, and meet income eligibility requirements (Workforce Solutions Alamo, 2009). In Bexar County, only 46 licensed child care centers reported they accept subsidies for child care (see Table 4-1) (Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2009).

Subsidized child care has several limitations, including capacity shortage and availability. Less than 3% of the total county childcare capacity (see Table 4-1) is available for people seeking Child Care Services (CCS) (Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2009). In Bexar County, approximately 16,038 children ages 0-12 received some sort of state subsidized child care in 2006 (Annie E. Casey, 2009a). As of December 2007, the waiting list for child care subsidies in San Antonio was 6,000 families long (Dinan and Briggs, 2008).

Child care choices for parents of children with disabilities are also limited. Only 11% of licensed child care organizations that serve children age 0 to 5 accept children with special needs (see Figure 4-1). The bulk of these 71 child care centers operate in the northern and northwest portion of the city. The total child care capacity for the disability-accepting organizations is 5,509.

Number of Child Care Slots

The total licensed child care capacity of Bexar County for children not of school age was 61,093 (see Table 4-1) (Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2009). This includes a maximum capacity of 45,969 infants (0 to 17 months), 54,639 toddlers (18 to 24 months), and 60,879 preschoolers (3 to 4 years old). These non-mutually exclusive totals indicate that nearly all child care locations can accommodate older age children (age 3-4), but only 75% of which are equipped to care for infants.

Table 4-1: Childcare / Preschool Totals by Type

Type	Locations	Total Capacity
Licensed Child Care Center	573	60,637
Subsidized Child Care	47	1,553
Licensed child care home	38	456
Early Education	182	1,670
Pre-kindergarten programs	220	12,920
Total (Public and Private)	1,060	77,236

Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2009

State-Funded Prekindergarten Programs

There were 290 unique public (including charter schools) preschool locations operating in Bexar County in the 2008-2009 school year (Texas Education Agency, 2008c). These include both traditional pre-kindergarten classes and Early Education (see Table 4-1 and Figure 4-2). Students enrolled in Early Education (EE) include any of the following: Early Childhood Intervention (children ages with disabilities), Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD), Head Start, Title XX, Even Start, and migrant 3 and 4 year olds (Texas Education Agency, n.d.).

The exact number of children enrolled in some public schools is not published because of confidentiality. For example, 82 of the 182 Early Education locations mask²⁶ their enrollment data. Due to confidentiality constraints, the actual number of children in the Early Education (EE) category is not available, but the maximum number of children that could have been served in Bexar County school districts was approximately 1,670 preschool age children (this includes children with a disability or having a migrant status).

There appears to be an unmet need for Early Education programs in the county's central area. Although many urban and centrally located schools offered Early Education services, the majority of these masked their enrollment data, meaning that each location served very few children (between 1 and 4 at each location). Figure 4-2 differentiates between the locations that serve few children (report suppressed enrollment statistics) through Early Education and those that serve more than 4. Most of the locations with few students operate in the county's central urban area. This indicates that the centrally-located, urban schools lack the capacity, demand, or ability to serve preschool age children that have a disability or were migrants.

For the 2008-2009 school year, Pre-K was offered out of 220 locations and served approximately 12,920 children (see Table 4-1). This includes 16 charter schools which offered Pre-K instruction²⁷.

Estimates for the number of children under age 5 located within each school district were used to determine the over-shortage of preschool and childcare capacity, (see Table 3-3 and Table 4-2). Here, it is appropriate to observe shortages by school district, because the boundaries define a compulsory attendance zone.

²⁶ To protect confidentiality when enrollment is less than 5 (but not 0), no value is reported (Texas Education Agency, 2008d). Here, we assume that each of these locations had 4 students (which is the most a masked amount can be), which will result in an overestimate of capacity and an underestimate of need.

²⁷ No charter school offered Early Education-type services.

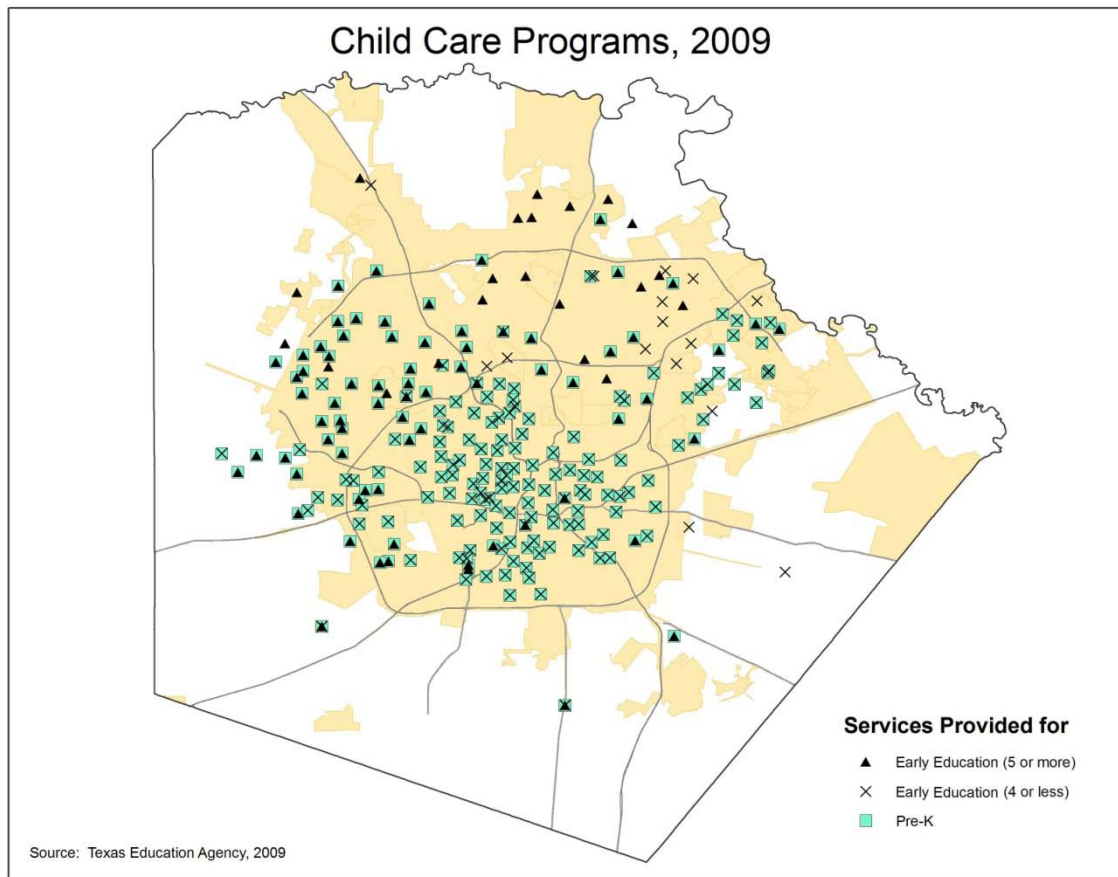


Figure 4-2: Preschool Programs, 2009

Estimated Informal Child Care

There were 141,390 children, Head Start age and younger, living in Bexar County in 2009 (Texas State Data Center, 2009c). The total capacity for Head Start, public preschool, and all private Child Care centers was 82,709 in 2009 (see Table 4-2). This means 58,681 Bexar County children who have not reached compulsory school age, have no access to childcare. This represents the number of children who *must* be served through unlicensed and informal child care arrangements. At least 41.5% of all children in Bexar County (not of compulsory school age) must be cared for through these informal arrangements, because no center-based care (child care center, Head Start, or preschool program) is available for them. Care for these children must be provided by stay at home parents, relatives, or other caretakers.

The estimated number of children cared for through informal arrangements (58,681) is the lowest possible estimate because it assumes that all childcare centers serve every child they are legally allowed to²⁸. Although the proportion of childcare capacity that is actually in use²⁹ is not known, it is known that only 93% of the Head Start capacity was filled last year (San Antonio Head Start, 2009). Since full capacity was not reached for no-fee childcare services, it implies that private, pay-for childcare is probably not at full capacity either. This means that the actual number of children cared for through informal arrangements is likely much larger than 58,681.

While the exact number of children who are cared for informally is not known, if childcare capacity was at 93% (equivalent to Head Start), then the estimated number of children cared for informally increases to 62,958. At 90% capacity the estimate rises to 64,791, and at 80% capacity the estimate rises to 70,900.

Estimates from the 1997 National Survey of American Families found that child care use increases with the age of the child (Ehrle, Adams, and Touth, 2001). Researchers found that by age 3, as many as 51% of single mothers and 55% of two-parent families use informal³⁰ child care arrangements. Assuming these proportions applied to Bexar County would yield an estimate of informal care of between 58,339 and 77,765 children. Taken all together it is not unreasonable to assume that the actually number of children cared for informally is near the midpoint of this range, at about 68,000 children.

In terms of capacity shortage, preschool is only available for less than 25% of the age eligible children in the county. Additionally, it is only available for about 43% of Bexar County's children (see Table 4-2). Overall, there appears to be a significant unmet need for childcare in Bexar County, leaving nearly half of the county's children without the opportunity for care.

²⁸ Although it is implausible that every childcare center in Bexar County was filled to capacity, this assumption is used as a basis for determining the minimum number of children with unmet childcare needs.

²⁹ The number of children in daycares fluctuates from day to day and hour to hour.

³⁰ Child care that is not by a parent or relative.

Migrants and Refugees

Only one Migrant Head Start center operates in San Antonio (see Figure 4-1). San Antonio TMC Head Start, which is a fully licensed child care center, has a capacity of 56 children. In addition to TMC, there are some non-profit organizations that focus on helping migrants and refugees. The Housing Authority of Bexar County operates a 75 unit multi-family complex in south San Antonio specifically to provide housing for, “domestic farm laborers and their immediate families” (Housing Authority of Bexar County, 2009). Additionally, Northside ISD and Family Service Association recently partnered to academically prepare 65 refugee children from 26 countries through Head Start (LaCoste-Caputo, 2009). Northside ISD, Education Service Center- Region 20 and RAICES³¹ all provide educational programs specifically for migrants (United Way, 2009).

Another non-profit organization, Catholic Charities oversees refugee resettlement in San Antonio by providing housing, employment, and acculturation assistance for refugees escaping war and persecution (Catholic Charities, 2009). It settled 600 refugees in 2008 and expects to resettle 1,000 refugees in 2009 (LaCoste-Caputo, 2009).

³¹ RAICES (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services) provides legal services, advocacy, and social support, and educational opportunities to immigrants and refugees.

Table 4-2: Head Start Enrollment, Child Care Capacity, and Availability, by School District, 2008-09

District	Age 5 and under	Head Start Age Eligible Children	Head Start Capacity	Public Preschool	Child Care Capacity	Preschool Availability ³²	Child Care Availability ³³
Alamo Heights ISD	1,837	749	17	114	944	15%	51%
Boerne ISD	445	182	0	70	18	38%	4%
Comal ISD	893	364	0	153	317	42%	36%
East Central ISD	3,773	1,538	414	418	1,363	27%	36%
Edgewood ISD	5,709	2,327	720	803	1,733	34%	30%
Fort Sam Houston ISD	617	252	90	110	90	43%	15%
Harlandale ISD	6,488	2,645	492	918	2,211	34%	34%
Judson ISD	9,578	3,905	229	683	2,474	17%	26%
Lackland ISD	569	232	0	110	0	47%	0%
Medina Valley ISD	1,255	512	71	0	93	0%	7%
North East ISD	27,960	11,399	1,128	1,613	17,282	14%	62%
Northside ISD	40,725	16,603	1,307	3,496	22,153	21%	54%
Randolph Field ISD	571	233	0	29	0	12%	0%
San Antonio ISD	26,572	10,833	1,722	4,563	9,410	42%	35%
Schertz – Cibolo – Universal City ISD	391	160	0	50	571	31%	146%
Somerset ISD	1,461	596	145	246	174	41%	12%
South San Antonio ISD	4,878	1,989	113	627	1,035	31%	21%
Southside ISD	2,269	925	156	227	331	24%	15%
Southwest ISD	5,398	2,201	424	361	894	16%	17%
Total	141,390	57,644	7,028	14,588	61,093	24%	43%

Source: San Antonio Head Start, 2009; Texas Education Agency, 2008

³² Percentage of preschool slots available to children ages 3-5 (age 5 after 9/1).

³³ Percentage of child care slots available to children 5 and under.

5 Number of Children with Disabilities and their Services

This section estimates the number of children ages 0-4 with a disability, by type, and school district within Bexar County. The range of disabilities for which data is captured is governed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 (United States 2006b: 46,756). These include: mental retardation, hearing impairment, speech or language impairment, visual impairment, orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairment, specific learning disability, deaf-blindness, or multiple disabilities.

To estimate the approximate geographic location of children with disabilities the following data was used: school enrollments, Texas State Data Center Population Projections, and San Antonio Metropolitan Health District reports of district-specific disability rates. The disability rates were applied to the total number of estimated 0-4 year olds from the Texas State Data Center and apportioned according to the relative weights provided by school enrollment data (see Table 3-1). Table 5-1 provides the estimate for the number of children within each school district age 0-4 that would receive special education services due to an IDEA recognized disability. The disability rate that is applied is each school district's 2-year average rate for school years ending 2005 and 2008, reported by San Antonio Metro Health, from the Texas Education Agency (San Antonio Metro Health, 2006; San Antonio Metro Health, 2008).

Estimated Number of Children with a Disability, by Type

Of the 128,216 children age 0-4 living in Bexar County, 15,639 are estimated to have 1 of 10 disabilities that specific rates have been published for. Using this method, the countywide disability rate for children age 0-4 is 12.1%.

Other research found similar results. For example, an analysis for National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research found that just over 8.2% of children age 6-21 nationwide

were served through special education classes (Jans, Stoddard, and Kraus, 2004). A statewide disability estimate reported by the Centers for Disease Control for adults age 18 to 44 was 11.3% (CDC, 2009). The Texas Education Agency's percentage of school age children enrolled in special education classes yields a similar proportion of children with disabilities. For the school years ending 2005, 2006, and 2007, the percentage of Texas students requiring special education classes was 11.6%, 11.2%, and 10.8%, respectively (Texas Education Agency 2007; Texas Education Agency 2008c).

These totals represent the estimated number of children age 0 to 4 that will require disability services if recent conditions and disability rates continue into the future. Disabilities are difficult to estimate for the under 5 population for a multitude of reasons. For example, survey data is required to generate a population-wide estimate of a disability, and it is difficult to operationalize the sort of conditions that are defined as disabilities for infants and toddlers³⁴. Furthermore, some diagnoses do not present themselves until later ages, such as speech impairment.

The most prevalent disabilities estimated here are speech impairment and learning disability. These two disabilities make up nearly 62% of the estimated disabilities in the Service Area. This location-specific approach to estimating the number and location of children with disabilities yields a more detailed, albeit hypothetical estimate of the number of children that will require disability services.

³⁴ The Census Bureau provides estimates of disability, and uses the questions about a child's (under 3) ability to "move his or her arms or legs" (Brualt 2008: 9).

Table 5-1: Disability Estimates by School District, 2008

School District	Total Age 0-4	Mental Retardation	Hearing Impair- ment	Speech Impair- ment	Visual Impair- ment	Orthopedic Impair- ment	Autism	Traumatic Brain Injury	Other Health Impair- ment	Learning Disability	Emotional Disturb- ance	Total
Alamo Heights ISD	1,680	8	0	44	1	4	9	0	22	37	10	135
East Central ISD	3,449	27	4	79	2	5	13	0	43	216	65	455
Edgewood ISD	5,219	48	6	105	3	4	19	0	70	331	80	665
Fort Sam Houston ISD	564	0	0	16	0	0	7	0	11	21	4	60
Harlandale ISD	5,931	53	7	122	3	7	18	1	69	335	80	695
Judson ISD	8,756	48	18	132	8	12	39	0	95	433	104	889
Lackland ISD	520	1	0	12	0	0	4	0	7	24	8	57
North East ISD	37,231	215	84	1058	33	64	241	8	772	1893	592	4,959
Northside ISD	25,561	148	27	673	15	49	153	0	466	1337	434	3,303
Randolph Field ISD	522	3	0	9	0	0	5	0	10	25	5	57
San Antonio ISD	24,292	96	15	691	6	11	93	0	440	983	362	2,695
Somerset ISD	1,336	9	0	26	0	1	10	0	25	56	17	145
South San Antonio ISD	4,459	27	14	111	3	7	21	1	70	237	57	547
Southside ISD	2,075	17	1	36	2	2	10	0	21	105	26	220
Southwest ISD	4,935	52	2	108	3	5	19	0	62	349	62	661
County Residual ³⁵	1,687	0	0	26	0	0	5	0	17	37	11	95
Total	128,216	752	178	3,250	79	170	665	10	2,200	6,418	1,918	15,639

Source: San Antonio Metro Health, 2008; Texas Education Agency, 2008

³⁵ The County Residual is the balance of children not covered in the other school districts. These children live in school districts with very few campuses actually inside the county and represent 2.1% of the county population. Without location-specific disability rates, we use the lowest observed rate (minimized by category) for each school district to estimate the number of children that would require disability services.

Resources and Services by Children with Disabilities

The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) operates Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) programs for Texas families with children age 0-3 with disabilities and developmental delays (Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, 2009a). This program is funded through IDEA and the State of Texas and provides evaluations, assessments, and services at little or no cost to families. Children over the age of 3 are not eligible to receive services through ECI, but are referred to their local school district for assistance.

Local school districts have Early Education classes for children with a disability ages 3 and up. For the 2008-2009 school year, 1,670 children were served in this manner, although this included children qualifying through non-disability means (see Table 4-1, discussion page 48). Three ECI programs currently operate in Bexar County, and they serve between 4,000 and 5,000 children every year (see Table 5-2).

Table 5-2: Children Served through ECI Program: 2006-2008

Year	Population 0-3	Total Served	Population Served (%)
2006	99,228	4,336	4.37
2007	100,507	4,713	4.69
2008	100,761	4,972	4.93

Source: Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, 2009

Within the county, 317 community agencies provide some services for disabled individuals (see Figure 5-1) (United Way, 2008). However, less than 25% (73 total agencies) serve as a resource and provide services to young children with disabilities. Approximately half of these agencies provide outpatient services, mental health counseling, physical therapy, and corrective

surgeries. These comprehensive disability treatments focus on children beginning at birth and offer subsidized or in-kind services based on income.

The remaining community agencies provide non-health related services for disabled children. About one-fourth of all disabled child-serving agencies focus solely on providing support and education services, screening, and testing. Likewise, the final one-fourth of the agencies do not specifically address physical or mental treatments for disabled children, but rather specialize in providing medical, financial, or recreational goods and services to children with disabilities and their families at low or no cost.

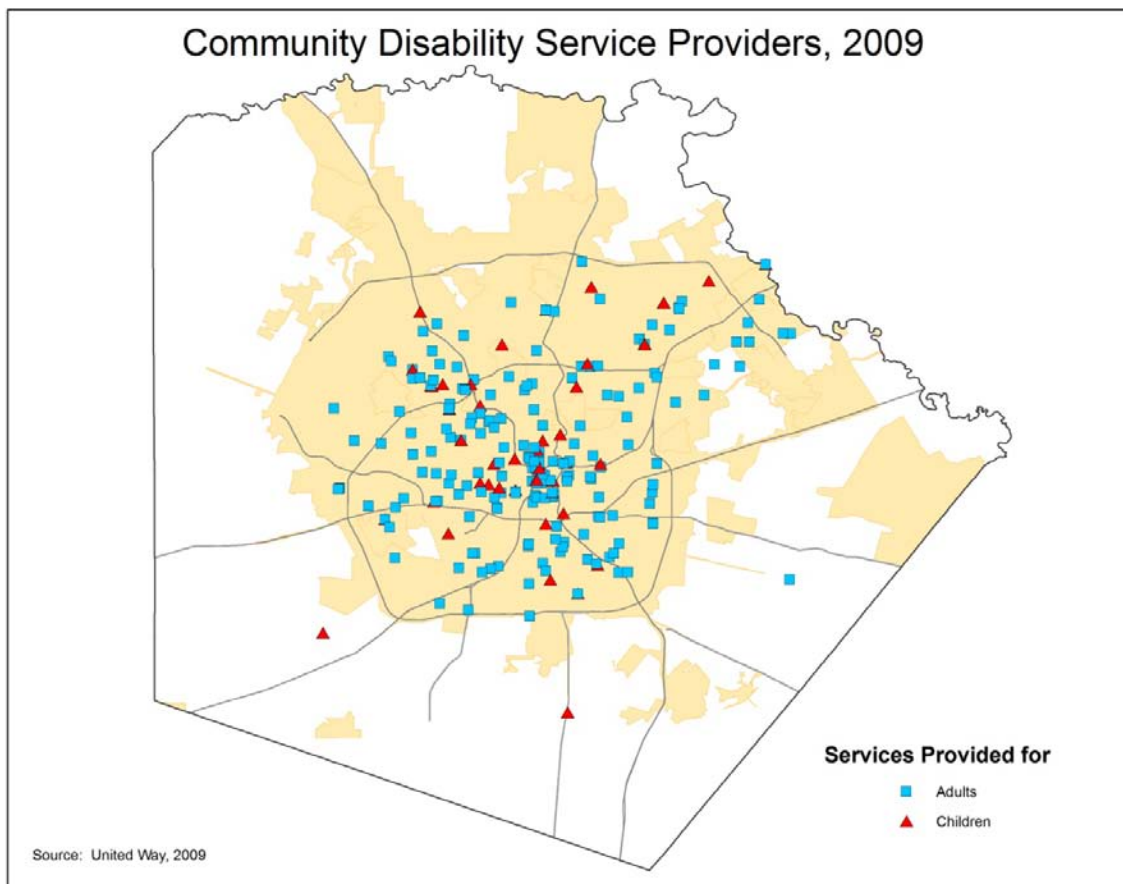


Figure 5-1: Disability Service Providers, 2009

Evaluating Head Start data from 2008-2009, it was found that 840 children (12.4% of total) were diagnosed with a disability (San Antonio Head Start, 2009). The disability with the greatest number of children was speech impairment (581). This was followed by children with multiple disabilities (122), emotional behavior (110), other disability (24), and health impairment (3).

6 Needs as Determined by Eligible Families and Providers

To assess the needs of Eligible families, survey data was collected from families enrolled the Head Start program for the 2009-2010 school year. In all, 1,782 families participated in the fall of 2009. Surveys responses were collected from more than one-quarter of all Head Start families, and the results are assumed to represent all Head Start families served during the 2009-2010 school year.

Family Profiles

The survey results are used to express the needs of the entire Head Start population, as well as four significant sub-groups that were specifically identified by the Community Assessment. The four sub-groups that are of particular interest are: families with the Poor English Skills, families with a disabled child, families with no stable home, and families with an expecting mother (see Table 6-1).

Table 6-1: Survey Participants

	All Families	Poor English skills	Disabled Child	No Stable Home	Pregnant
Participants	1,782	207	160	132	125
Parent	1,148	111	109	89	75
Guardian	84	11	8	8	8
Grandparent	72	6	6	2	6
Foster Parent	14	3	1	2	1

Source: San Antonio and Bexar County Head Start, 2009

The non-English speaking population is indicative of the emerging populations which the Community Assessment is charged with finding. This population is identified by the persons who rated their ability to use English as “Need improvement” or “Do not understand English.”

Currently, the emerging population makes up about 11.6% of Head Start families. Spanish was the language of choice for 96.6% of these families. Other languages included Arabic (1.4%), Bosnian (1.4%), German (1.4%), and American Sign Language (1.0%).

Families with a disabled child were identified by persons who reported that their child is, “age 5 or under, who has been diagnosed as having a disability of any kind” or “age 5 or younger, who you think might have a disability.” This group makes up about 9.0% of all respondents. The disabilities that were reported as most prevalent by this group were speech and physical disabilities requiring occupational therapy.

Since there is little reliable information on homeless families in San Antonio, their needs are approximated by identifying families with no stable home. These families reported that they live in one of the following: “shelter,” “doubled up with friends or family,” or “from place to place.” None of these families currently live in a traditional or multi-family dwelling. This group made up about 7.5% of all Head Start families in 2009.

Finally, expecting mothers were families that had a mother who was pregnant at the time the survey was filled out. These families made up about 7.0% of all families.

The majority of participants were the biological parents of Head Start children or other guardians. This included some grandparents (4%) and Foster parents (.8%) (see Table 6-1). Mirroring the need for Head Start services, most of the incoming families came from San Antonio ISD (25%), Edgewood ISD (19%), and Northside ISD (14%) (see Table 6-2; Table 3-3, Figure 3-3).

Table 6-2: Distribution of Survey Participants

Independent School District	All Families	Poor English skills	Disabled Child	No Stable Home	Pregnant
Alamo Heights	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%
Don't Know / Missing	6%	7%	5%	1%	3%
East Central	4%	2%	3%	2%	1%
Edgewood	19%	18%	19%	2%	14%
Fort Sam Houston	0%	0%	0%	16%	0%
Harlandale	4%	8%	3%	0%	5%
Judson	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Lackland	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%
Medina Valley	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Northeast	10%	10%	8%	0%	4%
Northside	14%	13%	18%	6%	22%
San Antonio	25%	19%	31%	19%	25%
Somerset	0%	0%	0%	39%	0%
South San	3%	4%	2%	0%	4%
South West	0%	0%	0%	3%	1%
Southside	4%	4%	3%	0%	3%
Southwest	9%	9%	6%	4%	13%

Source: San Antonio and Bexar County Head Start, 2009

Only 29% of respondents reported that they were married (see table 6-3). This is significantly less than the general population, but equivalent to data provided from Head Start families from the previous year (see Table 2-11). The highest marriage rate reported was by families with poor English skills (43%), and the lowest rate was for those with no stable home (22%). The number of respondents who report being single is highest for expecting mothers and families without a stable home. The significance of this statistic stems from the fact that income eligibility is associated with family size and parent income. If there is only one parent (which is the case for at least half of all Head Start families), then that represents a primary need for basic services associated with low income in general, especially basic needs such as food, housing, and transportation. This is evident in examining the income reported on the

survey. Only 3% of respondents reported an income greater than \$30,000, while 38% reported incomes less than \$10,000.

Table 6-3: Marital Status by Type

Marital Status	All Families	Poor English skills	Disabled Child	No Stable Home	Pregnant
Married	29%	43%	29%	22%	30%
Single	47%	39%	40%	55%	63%
Other / Missing	24%	28%	31%	22%	9%

Source: San Antonio and Bexar County Head Start, 2009

Nutrition

In terms of specific needs, the greatest single need reported is for food, followed closely by improving their child's education, parent education, and improving parental skills (see Table 6-4). The need for food was measured as the families who responded that they used a food bank more than once, or specifically identified food stamps or WIC as a, "service currently needed by your family." Nearly half of all respondents reported food as their greatest need, however families with poor English skills (emerging population) indicated that the need was far greater than for other sub-groups (58% compared to 48%).

Even though there is a need for food amongst survey respondents, there is still heavy use of social services in this regard. 54.1% of families used WIC services and 52.0% used food stamps, while 13.6% frequented a food bank. The highest use of food stamps was by pregnant women (60%). WIC use was also high for expecting mothers, at 72%. There is evidence that despite this use, WIC and food stamps may not be sufficient. 30% of pregnant mothers reported needing more food stamps or WIC benefits even though they already had it, and despite access to food stamps and WIC, pregnant women used food bank services even more than the average Head Start family (14.4% versus 13.6%).

Table 6-4: Needs as Described by Head Start Families

	Improve Child's Education	Further their Education	Help Improving Parenting Skills	Need For Transport ation	Need for Food	Needs Housing Assistance
All Families	45%	42%	42%	18%	48%	28%
Poor English skills	44%	51%	36%	24%	58%	18%
Disabled Child	57%	50%	52%	29%	47%	38%
No Stable Home	48%	50%	48%	27%	46%	35%
Pregnant	40%	49%	42%	26%	46%	28%

Source: San Antonio and Bexar County Head Start, 2009

Families expressed the least need for transportation services. Overall, less than 1 in 5 families acknowledged that this was a need. 79% of all parents owned or had access to a car. Of those that didn't, 67% got a ride from family or friends and the rest walk or take the bus. The need for transportation was greatest for families with a disabled child.

The need for housing assistance was also low among all groups, especially families with poor English skills. This is despite the fact that only 12% of all families received some sort of housing or rental assistance. The lowest rate of utilization is for families with a disabled child (1%) and families without a stable home (2%). The highest use of housing assistance was by expecting mothers (17%) and families with poor English skills (9%).

Health

Child care is a major concern for Head Start parents. The disability rate amongst survey respondents was 10.2% for parents whose child had a disability or thought they have a disability.

The most reported health problem was asthma and breathing related conditions. 57% of parents who listed a health concern cited at least one of these. Other health problems identified

were: Attention Deficit Disorder (4.6%), dental problems (4.6%), and acid reflux (3.5%). Only 4.4% of respondents reported that they had specific health needs. These included: diabetes (20%), heart problems or high blood pressure (12%), and Attention Deficit Disorder (.7%),

Child Care

Child care is also a primary concern for Head Start parents. Each family has a least one child under age 5, and over 35% have 2 or more. Overall, 21% are able to arrange care for children outside the home, 12% in a daycare, and 8.5% with a relative. Furthermore, only about 43% of respondents had a child in preschool. This means that only 774 out of 1227 age-eligible children were able to attend preschool.

Employment

Only about 1.5% of all families reported having a member in military service. The number of parents unemployed was about 6 times greater than the average county resident (see Table 6-5). The majority of families have a parent or parents that are unemployed. The ratio of full-time to part-time employees indicates the proportion of people that have meaningful full-time jobs. As the ratio falls, it is evident that the need for more meaningful full-time employment assistance exists within the sub-groups, especially for those families without a stable home. They work full-time jobs only half as frequently as the average Head Start family.

Despite the high levels of unemployment and high levels of part-time employment, only 20% of all survey respondents indicated that they needed assistance finding a job. This is less than half the number of families that reported they needed help with getting food.

Table 6-5: Employment Statistics

Head Start Family	Employed	Not Employed	Other / Missing	Full to Part-time Ratio
All Families	53%	38%	9%	2.6
Poor English Skills	47%	45%	8%	2.0
Disabled Child	43%	53%	4%	1.4
No Stable Home	48%	38%	14%	1.3
Pregnant	44%	53%	3%	2.6

Source: San Antonio and Bexar County Head Start, 2009

Education appeared to be one of the largest needs that Head Start families express through their survey responses (see Table 6-5). Overall, 25% of all respondents indicated that they did not have a High School diploma or GED. Families with poor English skills had nearly double the drop-out rate.

Despite the low incomes associated with not having a high school diploma, only 28% of all persons without a GED expressed that they wanted assistance in getting one. However, 37% of high school dropouts indicated that they wanted to improve their education in other non-specific ways, perhaps technical or trade school.

Table 6-6: Educational Attainment

Head Start Family	High School Graduate	No Diploma or GED	Other / Missing
All Families	62%	25%	13%
Poor English Skills	39%	45%	16%
Disabled Child	69%	27%	4%
No Stable Home	69%	14%	17%
Pregnant	53%	38%	10%

Source: San Antonio and Bexar County Head Start, 2009

In addition to improving formal education, Head Start parents expressed interest in acquiring more parenting skills to better care for their children. Over 40% of all parents (52% of parents with a disabled child) expressed a desire to learn about: parenting skills, sibling rivalry, parent-

child activities, or building strong relationships. In addition to parenting, Head Start parents expressed a desire for help in educating their children. Over 50% of all parents in all groups indicated that they wanted help: choosing books and play materials for children, preparing children for kindergarten, or getting information on language/speech development for children.

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