The 2017 Kinder Houston Area Survey:

Thirty-Six Years of Measuring Responses to a Changing America

Dr. Stephen Klineberg | May 1, 2017
Assessments of Life in the Houston Area
The official unemployment rates in Harris County across the thirty-six years (1982-2017)

Official unemployment rates in Harris County

Year of Survey

1982: 9.8
1984: 6.7
1986: 10.1
1988: 7.8
1990: 5.1
1992: 4.0
1994: 6.8
1996: 8.6
1998: 8.4
2000: 7.3
2002: 6.8
2004: 6.6
2006: 6.6
2008: 8.6
2010: 5.7
2012: 6.8
2014: 4.3
2016: 4.3
2017: 4.7

Positive ratings of job opportunities in the Houston area (1982-2017)

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (1982-2017)
“What would you say is the biggest problem facing people in the Houston area today?” (1982-2017)

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (1982-2017)
The fear that self or family will become the victim of a crime (1995-2017)

“How worried are you personally that you or a member of your family will become the victim of a crime?”

Perceptions of personal safety and of comfort in seeking police assistance (2017)

“How safe do you generally feel in your neighborhood?”

- Very safe: 52
- Somewhat safe: 5
- Not very safe: 2
- Not safe at all: 1
- DK/RF: 40

“If I needed assistance from the police, I would feel comfortable calling them for help.”

- Strongly agree: 69
- Slightly agree: 7
- Slightly disagree: 5
- Strongly disagree: 18
- DK/RF: 1

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2017)
Ethnic differences in feeling comfortable when seeking police assistance (2017)

“If I needed assistance from the police I would feel comfortable calling them for help.”

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2017)
Overall assessments of life in the Houston area (2013, 2016, 2017)

“Compared to most other metro areas in the country, would you say that the Houston area is a … place in which to live?” (2013)

“How would you rate the Houston area in general as a place to live?” (2016)

“If you could choose, would you stay in the Houston metro area or move away?” (2017)

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2013, 2016-2017)
The preference for “walkable urbanism” among Harris County residents (2007-2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bar Chart Description</th>
<th>PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A single-family residential area</td>
<td>50 47 47 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An area with a mix of developments</td>
<td>50 51 50 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A single-family home with need to drive everywhere</td>
<td>57 47 52 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A smaller, more urbanized home within walking distance</td>
<td>40 52 46 50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2010-2017)
Beliefs about the National Economy
Changes in the education requirements for jobs across America (1970-2020)

By 2020, 65% of all American jobs will require education beyond high school.

Year and Number of Available Jobs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1973 (91 million)</th>
<th>1992 (129 million)</th>
<th>2010 (143 million)</th>
<th>2020 (164 million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master’s degree or better</td>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>Associate’s degree</td>
<td>Some college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment in the U.S. in 2015

The fates of all eighth graders in the Houston region through their next 11 years (2004-2015)

- **8th Grade** (N=69,847): 100%
- **High School Enrollee** (N=65,511): 94%
- **High School Diploma** (N=47,539): 68%
- **Post-Secondary Enrollee** (N=37,806): 54%
- **Post-Secondary Credential** (N=14,945): 21%

The perceived importance of education beyond high school, by ethnicity (2013-2017)

"To be successful in today’s world, is it necessary to get an education beyond high school, or are there many ways to succeed with no more than a high school diploma?"

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2013-17)
Party differences in beliefs about the direction in which the country is headed (2005-2017)

“When you look ahead to the next few years, do you tend to believe that the country is headed for better times or more difficult times?”

Percent saying "better times"

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2005-2017)
Responding to the Demographic Transition

Source: Census Bureau, Classifications based on Texas State Data Center Conventions.
The demographics of the eight most diverse large metro areas in America (Census, 2010)

Source: U.S. Census 2010.
Positive ratings of the relations between Anglos and Blacks in the Houston area (1995-2017)

Positive ratings (7 to 10) on a ten-point scale

Positive ratings of the relations between Anglos and Hispanics in the Houston area (1995-2017)

Positive ratings of the relations between Blacks and Hispanics in the Houston area (1995-2017)

A neighborhood’s racial composition and the likelihood of buying a house (2016-2017)

Imagine that you are looking for a new house and you find one that you like much more than any other house. It has everything you’ve been looking for: it’s close to work, and within your price range. Checking on the neighborhood, you find that the schools are of high quality, the crime rate is low, and the neighborhood is … How likely or unlikely do you think it is that you would buy the house?

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2016-2017)
How Attitudes Have Changed and Why
Attitudes toward immigration among Harris County residents (2010-2017)

“Immigrants to the U.S. generally contribute more to the American economy than they take.”

“The U.S. should admit the same number or more legal immigrants in the next ten years as were admitted in the last ten years.”

“The increasing immigration into this country today mostly strengthens, rather than threatens, American culture.”

Favor: “Granting illegal immigrants in the U.S. a path to legal citizenship, if they speak English and have no criminal record.”

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2010-2017)
Support for gay rights among Harris County residents (2009-2017)

Homosexuality is “morally acceptable.”

“Marriages between homosexuals should be given the same legal status as heterosexual marriages.”

Favor: “Homosexuals being legally permitted to adopt children.”

“Homosexuality is something people cannot change.”

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2009-2017)
Support for gay rights among Anglo Baby Boomers (born 1946 to 1964) in four periods

Favor: “Homosexuals being legally permitted to adopt children.”
“Marriages between homosexuals should be given the same legal status as heterosexual marriages.”
Homosexuality is “morally acceptable.”

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (1982-2017)
Support for gay rights among three cohorts of Harris County Anglos, all aged 25-35

Favor: “Homosexuals being legally permitted to adopt children.”

“Marriages between homosexuals should be given the same legal status as heterosexual marriages.”

Homosexuality is “morally acceptable.”

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (1982-2017)
Attitudes toward immigration among Anglo Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) in four periods

“Immigrants to the U.S. generally contribute more to the American economy than they take.”

“The U.S. should admit the same number or more legal immigrants in the next ten years as in the last ten years.”

“The increasing immigration into this country today mostly strengthens, rather than threatens, American culture.”

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (1982-2017)
Attitudes toward immigration among three cohorts of Harris County Anglos, all aged 25-35

Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (1982-2017)

- "The increasing immigration into this country today mostly strengthens, rather than threatens, American culture."
- "Immigrants to the U.S. generally contribute more to the American economy than they take."
- "The U.S. should admit the same number or more legal immigrants in the next ten years as in the last ten years."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960-1969</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-1979</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1989</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions:

- Houston-area residents are increasingly supportive of gay rights and comfortable with the region’s burgeoning ethnic diversity.

- The ongoing processes of generational replacement will enhance this region’s evolution into the multiethnic world of the twenty-first century.

Thank you so much for your support!