THE 34TH ANNUAL KINDER HOUSTON AREA SURVEY

Perspectives on a City in Transition

Dr. Stephen Klineberg
Kinder Houston Area Survey Luncheon
April 30, 2015
Systematic interviews conducted with representative samples of the residents from Harris, Fort Bend and Montgomery counties, focused on four central topics:

- Economic Outlooks
- Interethnic Relations
- County Differences
- Social Agenda

Percent rating job opportunities as “excellent” or “good”

Source: 1982-2015 Kinder Houston Area Survey
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THE OFFICIAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN HARRIS COUNTY (FEBRUARY FIGURES, 1982-2015)

Official unemployment rates in Harris County

Negative ratings of job opportunities


Source: 1982-2015 Kinder Houston Area Survey
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"Over the past three years, has traffic in the Houston area generally gotten better, gotten worse, or has it stayed about the same?"

"Which of these proposals would be the best long-term solution to the traffic problems in the Houston area?"

Source: 2009-2015 Kinder Houston Area Survey
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“Very worried” that you or a member of your family will become the victim of a crime.

“Very concerned” about the effects of air pollution on your family’s health.

Living conditions in the Houston area have been “getting better.”
"For a person 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 education?"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total sample</th>
<th>Anglos</th>
<th>Blacks</th>
<th>Hispanics</th>
<th>Asians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend:**
- **Dark blue**: An education beyond high school is necessary
- **Red**: There are many ways to succeed with no more than a high school education
THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATIONS OF HARRIS COUNTY (1960-2010)

Source: U.S. Census. Classifications based on Texas State Data Center Conventions. © Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research
HARRIS COUNTY TOTAL POPULATION

Anglo majority
Black majority
Latino majority
No majority

1980

Source: Outreach Strategists, LLC. Color represents demographic group being a majority in that census tract.
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HARRIS COUNTY TOTAL POPULATION

1990

Source: Outreach Strategists, LLC. Color represents demographic group being a majority in that census tract.
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HARRIS COUNTY TOTAL POPULATION

Source: Outreach Strategists, LLC. Color represents demographic group being a majority in that census tract.
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HARRIS COUNTY TOTAL POPULATION

Source: Outreach Strategists, LLC. Color represents demographic group being a majority in that census tract.
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PERCENT OF THE POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND ETHNICITY IN HARRIS COUNTY (2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Non-Hispanic Whites</th>
<th>All Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;5 yrs</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9 yrs</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14 yrs</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19 yrs</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24 yrs</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29 yrs</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34 yrs</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 yrs</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 yrs</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 yrs</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74 yrs</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+ yrs</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent rating ethnic relations as “excellent” or “good”

Source: 1992-2015 Kinder Institute Houston Area Survey
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ATTITUDES TOWARD IMMIGRANTS IN HARRIS COUNTY (2009-2015)

Percent of respondents agreeing

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90%

Admit the same number or more legal immigrants.
For: granting a path to legal citizenship.
The new immigration mostly strengthens American culture.

Source: 2009-2015 Kinder Houston Area Survey
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THE THREE LARGEST COUNTIES IN THE METROPOLITAN REGION

The nine counties:
6.2 million
9,434 sq. mi.

Montgomery County
Area: 1,077 sq. mi.
Population: 485,225

Fort Bend County
Area: 885 sq. mi.
Population: 628,443

Harris County
Area: 1,777 sq. mi.
Population: 4.26 m

COUNTY DIFFERENCES

© Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research
ETHNICITY AND EDUCATION IN HOUSTON’S THREE LARGEST COUNTIES (2013)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2011-2013 ACS 3-year estimates
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THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING PEOPLE IN THREE COUNTIES (2015)

Harris

- Traffic: 21.2%
- Crime: 18.4%
- Economy: 11.4%
- All other concerns: 28.1%
- DK/RF: 20.9%

Fort Bend

- Traffic: 23.8%
- Crime: 13.0%
- Economy: 8.0%
- All other concerns: 40.4%
- DK/RF: 14.8%

Montgomery

- Traffic: 24.6%
- Crime: 20.8%
- Economy: 10.0%
- All other concerns: 27.8%
- DK/RF: 16.8%

Source: 2015 Kinder Houston Area Survey
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The increasing immigration into this country mostly strengthens American culture.
The increasing ethnic diversity brought about by immigration is a good thing.
Favor granting illegal immigrants in U.S. a path to legal citizenship.
Ratings of the relations among ethnic groups as either "good" or "excellent."
COUNTY DIFFERENCES IN THE PREFERENCE FOR “WALKABLE URBANISM” (2015)

- Prefer area with mix of developments, including homes, shops, and restaurants.
  - Harris: 49
  - Fort Bend: 39
  - Montgomery: 40

- Improving public transportation is the best solution to traffic problems.
  - Harris: 43
  - Fort Bend: 45
  - Montgomery: 45

- Percent who own a bicycle.
  - Harris: 38
  - Fort Bend: 43
  - Montgomery: 49

- Percent wishing they could ride a bicycle more often.
  - Harris: 54
  - Fort Bend: 42
  - Montgomery: 38

Source: 2015 Kinder Houston Area Survey
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COUNTY DIFFERENCES IN PARTY AFFILIATION (2015)

Source: 2015 Kinder Houston Area Survey
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COUNTY DIFFERENCES IN PERSPECTIVES ON PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES (2015)

Source: 2015 Kinder Houston Area Survey
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- Government is trying to do too much that should be left to individuals and businesses.
  - Harris: 45
  - Fort Bend: 47
  - Montgomery: 62

- "Very concerned" about environmental issues in general.
  - Harris: 40
  - Fort Bend: 37
  - Montgomery: 28

- Favor a law making it more difficult for a woman to obtain an abortion.
  - Harris: 31
  - Fort Bend: 30
  - Montgomery: 50

- Favor the death penalty for persons convicted of murder.
  - Harris: 56
  - Fort Bend: 66
  - Montgomery: 75
SOCIAL AGENDA
ANTI-ABORTION AND PRO-CHOICE IN HARRIS COUNTY (1999-2015)

Believe that “abortion is morally wrong.”

Opposed to “a law that would make it more difficult for a woman to obtain an abortion.”

- Agree: "Marriages between homosexuals should be given the same legal status as heterosexual marriages."
- Favor: "Homosexuals being legally permitted to adopt children."

PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS

YEAR OF SURVEY

Source: 1991-2015 Kinder Institute Houston Area Survey
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SUPPORT FOR THE DEATH PENALTY (1993-2015)

The death penalty, and not life imprisonment, "should generally be the penalty for persons convicted of first-degree murder."

Source: 1993-2015 Kinder Institute Houston Area Survey © Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research
CENTRAL FINDINGS FROM THE 2015 SURVEY

Economic Outlooks
Ratings of job opportunities have continued to improve, despite the recent slump in oil prices, and traffic has become the predominant concern.

Interethnic Relations
After a downturn in ratings of ethnic relations, area residents this year are more optimistic about the burgeoning diversity and more positive in their views of immigrants.

County Differences
Despite county contrasts in ethnicity, density, education and politics, there are only slight differences in assessments of diversity and in the preference for “walkable urbanism.”

Social Agenda
Area residents are personally opposed to abortion but they support the right to choose, and they are rethinking their views on same-sex marriage and the death penalty.