



PREVENTION
RESOURCE CENTER
REGION 10

2021

REGIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

	2
Executive Summary	5
Methodology	6
Process	7
Prevention Resource Centers	9
Key Concepts	10
Geographical Area and Community Demographics	18
Regional Demographics	18
Overview of Region	
Demographic Information	23
Population	
Language	
Risk Factors and Protective Factors	30
Societal Domain	30
Median Household Income	
Unemployment	
TANF Recipients	
SNAP Benefits	
Free/Reduced School Lunch Recipients	
Homeless Students	
Adult Homelessness	
Community Domain	44
Educational Attainment of Community	
Community Conditions	47
Juvenile Probation Referrals	
Juvenile Alcohol Related Arrests	
Minors in Possession (MIP)	
Adult Alcohol Related Arrests	
Adult Drug/Narcotic Arrests	
Crime/ Violent Crime/ Property Crime	

Incarceration Rates: DUI and Drug Related Offenses

Uninsured Adults/Children

Teen Birth Rate

Infant Mortality Rate

Mental Health Providers

Adult/Youth SUD Treatment

Opioid Emergency Department Visits

HIV Related Data: New Diagnoses, People Living with HIV

Alcohol Retail Density

Alcohol Sales to Minors

Tobacco Retailer Density

Prescription Drugs Dispensed

School Domain **81**

Academic Achievement- TEA Data

School Conditions **83**

Substance Use Infractions

Students Who Were Offered Drugs at School

Family Domain **86**

Family Violence Crime Rate

Confirmed Child Maltreatment

Children in Foster Care

Single Parent Homes

Perceptions of Parental Attitudes

Peer Domain **92**

Perceptions of Peer Consumption

Peer Access

Presence of a Substance at Parties

Individual Domain **98**

Youth Mental Health

Adolescent Suicide Attempts/Attempts Requiring Medical Attention	
Youth Perception of Risk/Harm	
Early Initiation (Age of First Use)	
Patterns of Consumption	105
Youth Substance Use	
College Student Consumption	
Adult Substance Use	
Public Health/Safety Consequences	119
Lung Cancer Deaths	
Liver Disease Deaths	
Alcohol Related Vehicle Fatalities	
Overdose Deaths	
Suicide	
Emerging Trends	123
Region in Focus	124
Overview of Community Readiness	128
Gaps in Services	128
Gaps in Data	128
Moving Forward	129
Putting It All Together	129
Works Cited	130
Appendix A - Tables	133
Appendix B - Figures	138
<u>Glossary of Terms</u>	140

Executive Summary

What is the RNA?

The Prevention Resource Center's (PRC) Regional Needs Assessment (RNA) is a document created by the Prevention Resource Center along with Data Coordinators from PRCs across the State of Texas and supported by Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The PRC-10 serves six counties in Texas: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio.

This assessment was designed to aid PRCs, HHSC, and community stakeholders in long-term strategic prevention planning based on most current information about the unique needs of Texas' diverse communities. This document will present a summary of statistics on risk and protective factors associated with drug use, consumption patterns and consequences data, as well as offer insight on gaps in services and data.

Who writes the RNA?

A team of Data Coordinators has procured national, state, regional, and local data through collaborative partnerships with diverse agencies such as law enforcement, public health, and education, among others.

How is the RNA informed?

Qualitative data collection has been conducted, in the form of questionnaires, focus groups, and interviews with key informants. The information obtained through these partnerships has been analyzed and synthesized in the form of this RNA. PRC-10 recognizes those collaborators who contributed to the creation of this RNA. Quantitative data has been extrapolated from federal and state agencies to ensure reliability and accuracy.

Main key findings from this assessment include:

Demographics: Region 10's population is largely Hispanic and most prevalent in the age category of 0-18, while 19-24 is the smallest. As El Paso County is the largest county in the area, most of the population comes from this area. The other five counties are more rural in nature and are separated by nearly 300 miles at its furthest from El Paso County.

Substance Use Behaviors: The substance use behaviors we saw most in Region 10 centered around vaping and alcohol. Vaping was of the utmost concern because we saw an increase of THC Felony arrests, even with schools shut down much of the school year. These arrests have been increasing each year and as marijuana becomes legalized in more and more states there is greater need to educate parents and youth on the health and legal consequences of using these devices and substances.

Alcohol remains on the Region 10 radar because the TSS indicates that those numbers in students who have used alcohol and are accessing it at parties has not shifted much since the 2018 TSS. Despite Region 10 having very low incidences of DUI and other liquor violations regarding adolescents, the pandemic may have also allowed some behaviors to go unnoticed as essential workers reported in to work and supervision was forced to be lax.

Underlying Conditions: Limited community outreach and lack of health literacy has contributed to the substance use and misuse in our region. Additionally, while not a Social Determinant of Health, social media and the perception of substance use therein is a factor as we attempt to combat that with facts and education.

Behavioral Health Disparities: The behavioral health disparities in our region are the access to behavioral health care, especially in our more rural counties. El Paso County has most of the health care facilities and there are hundreds of miles that separate the other five counties in Region 10 from accessing behavioral healthcare.

Protective Factors and Community Strengths: The numerous agencies in El Paso County and the Coalitions are a huge factor in our community strength. Additionally, the mere fact that these agencies are more than willing to work together and acknowledge that the issues they see are a common issue is important because it allows more work to be done across several sectors. A few protective factors in our region are schools, families, local community engagement groups, and substance use prevention providers who go out and present data and education to parents, law enforcement, schools, doctors, and adolescents.

Methodology

This needs assessment is a review of data on substance misuse, substance use disorders, and related variables that will aid in substance misuse prevention decision making at the county, regional, and state level. In this needs assessment, the reader will find the following:

- primary focus on the state-delineated prevention priorities of alcohol (underage drinking)
- tobacco/nicotine, marijuana, prescription drugs, and other drug use among adolescents
- exploration of drug consumption trends and consequences, particularly where adolescents are concerned
- and an exploration of related risk and protective factors as defined by The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework for this report examines empirical indicators related to the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH), documented risk and protective factors, consumption patterns, and public health consequences as they associate with substance use/misuse and behavioral health challenges. The indicators are organized in the domains (or levels) of the Social Ecological Model (SEM), as described below. For the purpose of strategic prevention planning, the report attempts to identify behavioral health disparities and inequities present in the region.

Purpose/Relevance of the RNA

The regional needs assessment can serve in the following capacities to:

- determine patterns of substance use among adolescents and monitor changes in substance use trends over time
- identify gaps in data where critical substance misuse information is missing
- determine county-level differences and disparities

- identify substance use issues that are unique to specific communities
- provide a comprehensive tool for local providers to design relevant, data-driven prevention and intervention programs targeted to needs
- provide data to local providers to support their grant-writing activities and provide justification for funding requests
- assist policymakers in program planning and policy decisions regarding substance misuse prevention, intervention, and treatment at the region and state level

Process

HHSC and the Data Coordinators collected primary and secondary data at the county, regional, and state levels between September 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. Due to the global pandemic, COVID-19, the Regional Needs Assessment deadline was extended to August 31, 2021.

Between September and July, HHSC staff meets with the Data Coordinators via monthly conference calls to discuss the criteria for processing and collecting data. The information is primarily gathered through established secondary sources including federal and state government agencies. Region-specific data collected through local law enforcement, community coalitions, school districts and local-level governments are included to address the unique regional needs of the community. Additionally, qualitative data is collected through primary sources such as surveys and focus groups conducted with stakeholders and participants at the regional level.

Primary and secondary data sources are identified when developing the methodology behind this document. Readers can expect to find information from the American Community Survey, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use, and the Community Commons, among others. For the purpose of this needs assessment, adults and youth in the region were selected as primary sources.

Quantitative Data Selection

Identification of Variables

The data collected is the most recent data available within the last five years. However, older data might be provided for comparison purposes.

Criteria for Selection

The criteria used for including data sets in this document are their relevance, timeliness, methodological soundness, representativeness, and accuracy. The data arise from well-documented methodology gathered through valid and reliable data collection tools.

Qualitative Data Selection

Data Coordinators conduct focus groups, surveys, and interviews with community members about what they believe their greatest needs to be. These qualitative data collection methods often reveal additional sources of data.

Key Informant Interviews

Interviews are conducted primarily with school officials and law enforcement officers where available. Participants are randomly selected by city and then approached to participate in an interview with the Data Coordinator. Each participant is asked the following questions:

- What problems do you see in your community?
- What is the greatest problem you see in your community?
- What hard evidence do you have to support this as the greatest problem?
- What services do you lack in your community?

Other questions inevitably arise during the interviews, but these four are asked of each participant.

Focus Groups

Participants for the focus groups are invited from a wide selection of professions including law enforcement, health, community leaders, clergy, high school educators, town councils, state representatives, university professors, and local business owners. In these sessions, participants discuss their perceptions of how their communities are affected by substance use/misuse and behavioral health challenges.

Longitudinally Presented Data

To capture a richer depiction of possible trends in the data, we report multi-year data where it is available from respective sources. Most longitudinal presentations of data in this needs assessment consist of (but are not limited to) the most recently available data collected over three years in one-year intervals of data-collection, or the most recently available data collected over three data-collection intervals of more than one year (e.g., data collection for the TSS is done in two-year intervals). Efforts are also made in presenting state- and national-level data with county-level data for comparison purposes. However, when neither state-level nor national-level data are included in tables and figures, this is generally because the data was not available at the time of the data request. Such requests are made to numerous counties, state, and national-level agencies in the development of this needs assessment.

Prevention Resource Centers

PRCs are funded by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to provide data and information related to substance use and misuse and to support prevention collaboration efforts in the community. There is one PRC located in each of the eleven Texas Health Service Regions (see Figure 1) to provide support to prevention providers located in their region with substance use data, trainings, media activities, and regional workgroups.

PRCs focus on the state's overall behavioral health and the four prevention priorities:

- underage alcohol use
- underage tobacco and nicotine products use
- marijuana and other cannabinoids use
- prescription drug misuse

PRCs have four fundamental objectives:

- collect data relevant to the state's prevention priorities and share findings with community partners
- ensure sustainability of a Regional Epidemiological Workgroup focused on identifying strategies related to data collection, gaps in data, and prevention needs
- coordinate regional prevention trainings and conduct media awareness activities related to risks and consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD) use
- conduct voluntary compliance checks and education on state tobacco laws to retailers

Regions

Figure 1. Map of Health Service Regions serviced by a Prevention Resource Center:

Region 1	Panhandle and South Plains
Region 2	Northwest Texas
Region 3	Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex
Region 4	Upper East Texas
Region 5	Southeast Texas
Region 6	Gulf Coast
Region 7	Central Texas
Region 8	Upper South Texas
Region 9	West Texas
Region 10	Upper Rio Grande
Region 11	Rio Grande Valley/Lower South Texas



How PRCs Help the Community

PRCs provide technical assistance and consultation to providers, community groups, and other stakeholders to identify data related to substance use and behavioral health in general. PRCs work to promote and educate the community on substance use and misuse and associated consequences through various data products, media awareness activities, and an annual regional needs assessment. In this way,

PRCs provide stakeholders with knowledge and understanding of the local populations they serve, help guide programmatic decision making, and provide community awareness and education related to substance use and misuse. The program also helps to identify community strengths, gaps in services and areas for improvement.

Data Coordinators

The PRC Data Coordinators serve as a primary resource for substance use and behavioral health data for their region. They lead a Regional Epidemiological Workgroup (REW), compile and synthesize data, and disseminate findings to the community. The PRC Data Coordinators also engage in building collaborative partnerships with key community members who aid in securing access to information.

Key Concepts

Adolescence

The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies adolescence as a critical transition in the lifespan characterized by tremendous growth and change, second only to infancy. This period of mental and physical development poses a critical point of vulnerability where the use and misuse of substances, or other risky behaviors, can have long-lasting negative effects on future health and well-being. The focus of prevention efforts on adolescence is particularly important since approximately 90% of adults who are clinically diagnosed with SUDs, began misusing substances before the age of 18. (citation SAMSHA) Qualifiers for age-specific terms related to different data sources will be referenced in each section.

Texas School Survey

The Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use (TSS) collects self-reported tobacco, alcohol, and substance use data among students in grades 7 through 12 in Texas public schools. The survey is sponsored by HHSC and administered by the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI). PPRI actively recruits approximately 20% of Texas public schools with grades 7 through 12 to participate in the statewide assessment during the spring of even-numbered years.

Figure 2. Number of Surveys Included in State Sample for Texas School Survey

Number of Surveys Included in State Sample for TSS							
Report Year	Original Campuses Selected	Campuses Signed Up to Participate	Actual Campuses Participated	Total Non-Blank Surveys	Usable Surveys	# Rejected	% Rejected
2020*	700	224	107	28,901	27,965	936	3.2%
2018	710	228	191	62,620	60,776	1,884	2.9%
2016	600	187	140	50,143	49,070	1,073	2.1%

Texas School Survey, 2020/2018/2016. <http://www.texasschoolsurvey.org/Report>. Accessed March 4, 2021

Figure 3. Texas School Survey Distribution Comparison and Impact of Pandemic

Survey Distribution TSS 2020*			Survey Distribution TSS 2018		Difference Between 2018 and 2020* TSS
Grade	# of Usable Surveys	%	# of Usable Surveys	%	# of Usable Surveys
Grade 7	6,414	2.9%	12,445	20.5%	-6,031
Grade 8	6,472	23.1%	12,268	20.2%	-5,796
Grade 9	4,189	15.0%	9,409	15.5%	-5,220
Grade 10	4,119	14.7%	9,571	15.8%	-5,452
Grade 11	3,556	12.7%	9,163	15.1%	-5,607
Grade 12	3,215	11.5%	7,920	13.0%	-4,705
Total	27,965	100.0%	60,776	100.0%	-32,811

Texas School Survey, 2020/2018. <http://www.texasschoolsurvey.org/Report>. Accessed March 4, 2021

* “During the 2019-2020 school year, schools across Texas were closed from early March through the end of the school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to this sudden and unexpected closure, many schools that had registered for the survey were unable to complete it. Please note that both the drop in participation along with the fact that those that did complete did so before March may have impacted the data.” - **Public Policy Research Institute** Texas School Survey, 2020. <http://www.texasschoolsurvey.org/Report>. Accessed March 4, 2021

Epidemiology

Epidemiology is described as “the study of the occurrence and distribution of health-related events, states, and processes in specified populations, including the study of the determinants influencing such processes, and the application of this knowledge to control relevant health problems.”¹ This definition provides the theoretical framework that this assessment uses to discuss the overall impact of substance use and misuse. Epidemiology frames substance use and misuse as a preventable and treatable public health concern. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the main federal authority on substance use, utilizes epidemiology to identify and analyze community patterns of substance misuse and the contributing factors influencing this behavior.

1 Porta, Miquel S. A Dictionary of Epidemiology. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016, p. 95.

Strategic Prevention Framework

The Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) provided by CSAP guides many prevention activities in Texas (see Figure 4). In 2004, Texas received a state incentive grant from CSAP to implement the SPF in close collaboration with local communities to tailor services to meet local needs for substance abuse prevention. This prevention framework provides a continuum of services that target the three classifications of prevention activities under the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), which are universal, selective, and indicated.

Figure 4. Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)



Socio-Ecological Model

The Socio-Ecological Model (SEM) is a conceptual framework developed to better understand the multidimensional factors that influence health behavior and to categorize health intervention strategies. This RNA is organized using the six domains (or levels) of the SEM as described below:

- Societal Domain - social and cultural norms and socio-demographics such as the economic status of the community
- Community Domain - social and physical factors that indirectly influence youth including educational attainment of the community, community conditions, the health care/service system, and retail access to substances
- School Domain - social and physical factors that indirectly impact youth including academic achievement and the school environment
- Family Domain - social and physical factors that indirectly impact youth including family conditions and perceptions of parental attitudes
- Peer Domain - interpersonal factors including social norms and youth perceptions of peer consumption and social access

- Individual Domain - intrapersonal characteristics of youth such as knowledge, skills, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors

The SEM proposes that behavior is impacted by all levels of influence, from the intrapersonal to the societal, and that the health promotion programs become more effective when they intervene at multiple levels. Changes at the community level will create change in individuals, and the support of individuals in the population is essential for implementing environmental change.

Risk and Protective Factors

One component shared by effective prevention programs is a focus on risk and protective factors associated with adolescents. Protective factors decrease an individual's risk for a substance use disorder. Examples include strong and positive family bonds, parental monitoring of children's activities, and access to mentoring. Risk factors increase the likelihood of substance use behaviors. Examples include unstable home environments, parental use of alcohol or drugs, parental mental illness, poverty levels, and failure in school performance. Risk and protective factors can exist in any of the domains of the Socio-Ecological Model (see Figure 5).²

² Adapted from: D'Amico, EJ, Osilla, KC. *Prevention and intervention in the school setting*. Edited by KJ Sher. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. Vol. 2 of *The Oxford Handbook of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders*, p. 678.

Figure 5. Socio-Ecological Model for Substance Use, with Examples

	Risk Factors	Protective Factors
Society	• Impoverishment • Unemployment and underemployment • Discrimination • Pro-AOD-use messages in the media	• Media literacy (resistance to pro-use messages) • Decreased accessibility • Increased pricing through taxation • Raised purchasing age and enforcement • Stricter driving-under-the-influence laws
Community	• Availability of AOD • Community laws, norms favorable toward AOD • Extreme economic and social deprivation • Transition and mobility • Low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization	• Opportunities for participation as active members of the community • Decreasing AOD accessibility • Cultural norms that set high expectations for youth • Social networks and support systems within the community
School	• Academic failure beginning in elementary school • Low commitment to school	• Opportunities for prosocial involvement • Rewards/recognition for prosocial involvement • Healthy beliefs and clear standards for behavior • Caring and support from teachers and staff • Positive instructional climate
Family	• Family history of AOD use • Family management problems • Family conflict • Parental beliefs about AOD	• Bonding (positive attachments) • Healthy beliefs and clear standards for behavior • High parental expectations • A sense of basic trust • Positive family dynamics
Peer	• Association with peers who use or value AOD use • Association with peers who reject mainstream activities and pursuits • Susceptibility to negative peer pressure • Easily influenced by peers	• Association with peers who are involved in school, recreation, service, religion, or other organized activities • Resistance to negative peer pressure • Not easily influenced by peers
Individual	• Biological and psychological dispositions • Positive beliefs about AOD use • Early initiation of AOD use • Negative relationships with adults • Risk-taking propensity/impulsivity	• Opportunities for prosocial involvement • Rewards/recognition for prosocial involvement • Healthy beliefs and clear standards for behavior • Positive sense of self • Negative beliefs about AOD • Positive relationships with adults

Social Determinants of Health

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2020 defines the SDOH as the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. The SDOH are grouped into 5 domains; economic stability, education access, health care access, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context. SDOH's have a major impact on health, well-being, and quality of life, they also contribute to health disparities and inequities.

Figure 6. Social Determinants of Health



Adapted from: Healthy People 2020

health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health

Consumption Patterns

This needs assessment follows the example of the TSS, the Texas Youth Risk Surveillance System (YRBSS), and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), by organizing consumption patterns into three categories:

- lifetime use
 - has tried a substance, even if only once
- school year use
 - past year use when surveying adults or youth outside of a school setting
- current use
 - use within the past 30 days

These three consumption patterns are used in the TSS to elicit self-reports from adolescents on their use of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and illicit drugs and their misuse of prescription drugs. The TSS is used as the primary outcome measure of Texas youth substance use and misuse in this needs assessment.

A plethora of information exists on risk factors that contribute to Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) in the United States. According to SAMHSA, AUD is ranked as the most wide-reaching SUD in the U.S. for people ages 12 and older, followed by Tobacco Use Disorder, Cannabis Use Disorder, Stimulant Use Disorder, Hallucinogen Use Disorder, and Opioid Use Disorder. When evaluating alcohol consumption patterns in adolescents, more descriptive information beyond the general consumption categories is often desired. This is achieved by adding specific quantifiers (i.e., per capita sales, frequency and trends of consumption, and definitions of binge drinking and heavy drinking) and qualifiers (i.e., consequential behaviors, drinking and driving, alcohol consumption during pregnancy) to the operationalization process.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) has created very specific guidelines that are widely used in the quantitative measurement of alcohol consumption (see Figure 7).

Some alcoholic drinks contain more alcohol than others. As with all matters nutritional, you need to consider the portion size. For example, some cocktails may contain an alcohol "dose" equivalent to three standard drinks.

Figure 7. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

Percentage of Alcohol in Standard Portions



National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/> Accessed April 16, 2020

Consequences

One of the hallmarks of SUDs is the continued use of a substance despite harmful or negative consequences. SUDs have health, physical, and social consequences. The prevention of such consequences has received priority attention as Goal 2 (out of four goals) on the 2016-2020 NIDA Strategic Plan titled, *Develop new and improved strategies to prevent drug use and its consequences*.

We caution our readers against drawing firm conclusions about the consequences of SUDs from the data reported here. The secondary data we have drawn from does not necessarily show a causal relationship between SUDs and consequences for the community.

Stakeholder/Audience

Stakeholders can use the information presented in this report to contribute to program planning, evidence-based decision making, and community education.

These stakeholders come from a variety of disciplines:

- substance use prevention and treatment providers
- community coalitions; medical providers
- school districts and higher education institutions
- city, county, and state leaders
- community members interested in public health and drug consumption

The executive summary found at the beginning of this report provides highlights of the report for those seeking a brief overview. Since readers of this report will come from a variety of backgrounds, a glossary of key concepts can be found at the end of this needs assessment. The core of the report focuses on risk factors, consumption patterns, consequences, and protective factors. A list of tables and figures can be found beginning on page 133.

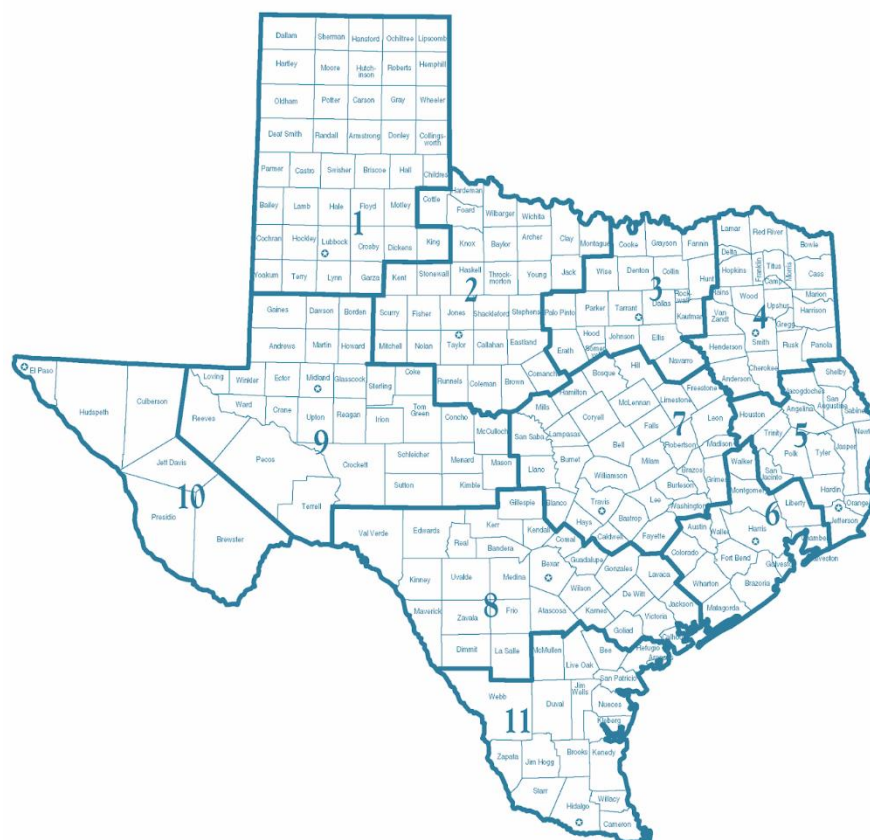
Regional Demographics

Overview of Region

In Region 10, also known as Upper Rio Grande, there is an estimated 898,917 people who live in this region as of 2020. Within this six-county region, the population has increased by nearly 7,000 from 2019 to 2020.³

Region 10 has six counties (see Figure 8): Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio.

Figure 8. Regional Boundaries



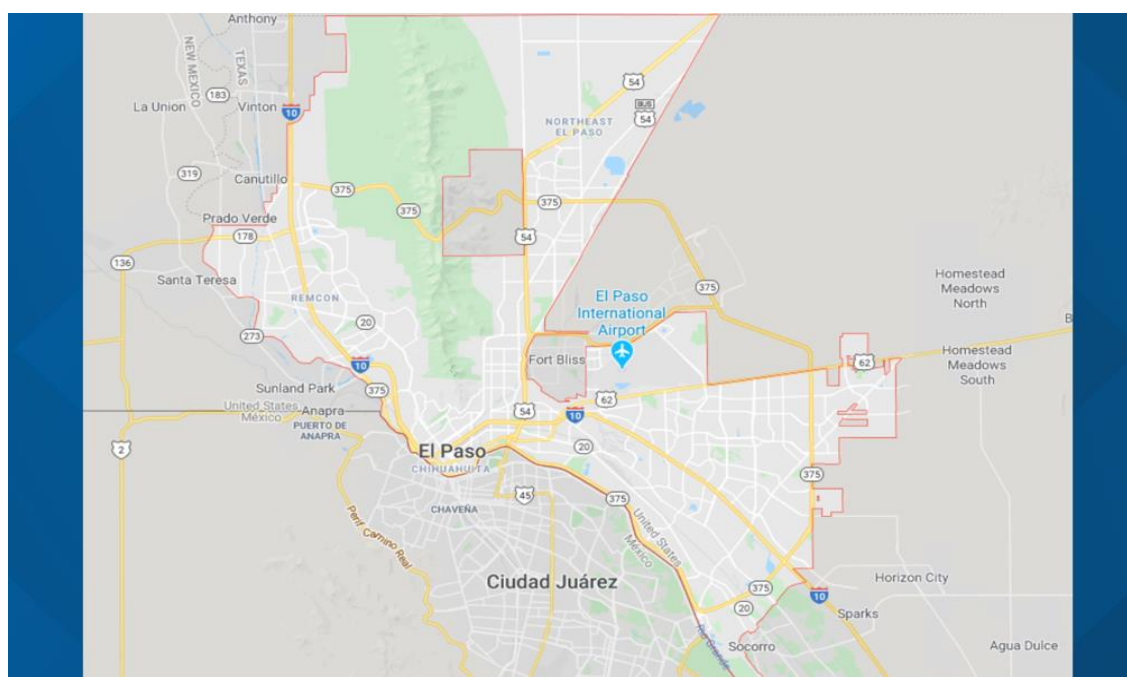
Adapted from: Department of Family Protective Services, Maps of DFPS Regions. www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/regional_map.asp.

Geographic Boundaries

³ U.S Census Bureau. American Community Survey: 5-Year Population Projections. 2020.

El Paso is the furthest west part of Texas. El Paso holds a unique spot in Texas as it borders New Mexico and the Mexican state of Chihuahua. El Paso is the only city on mountain time in the state. Separating El Paso, Texas and the Mexico is the Rio Grande River which runs 1,900 miles from the Rocky Mountains in Colorado to the Gulf of Mexico. The Binational Health Council, which was established in 1963 to encourage positive relationships between sister cities on the border and their health officials,⁴ provides the community a platform to share and exchange resources between our region (i.e., New Mexico, Mexico, and Texas). Region 10 is on the border of two countries, interacts with three states, and is neighbor to one of the largest military installations in the nation. Figure 6 below displays the intersection of El Paso, Juarez, and New Mexico. Also represented are detailed parts of the city of El Paso, such as Northeast El Paso, Fort Bliss, with a view of the cities of New Mexico such as Sunland Park, Anthony, and detailed sections of Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico.

Figure 9. Map of El Paso, New Mexico, and Juarez Intersection, 2020.



Created by: Google Maps. Image of El Paso, Tx, New Mexico and Juarez Intersection, 2020.

Zip Codes

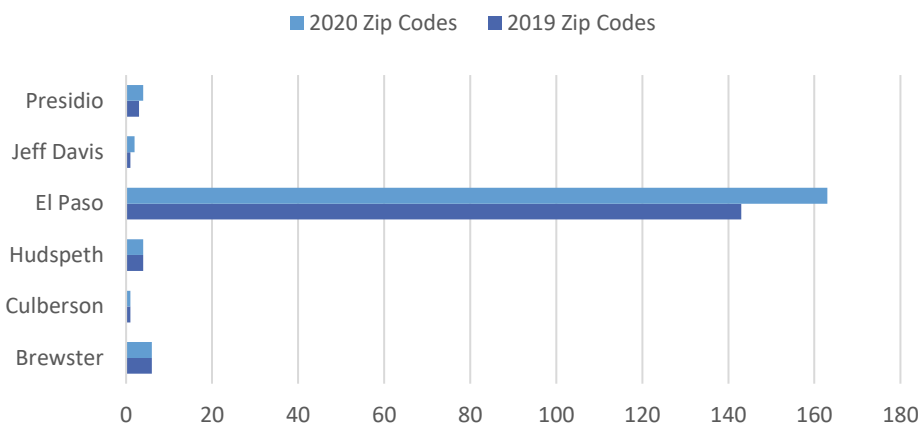
Region 10 is divided up into a large abundance of zip codes. When discussing El Paso's breakdown, it is more common to hear sides of town, such as: East, West, Central, or Northeast, rather than zip codes. Some zip codes within our region experience higher levels of poverty and thus receive more funding and support due to risk factors identified by local providers, such as the Northeast side of El Paso. While some counties like Culberson only have one zip code, other counties like El Paso, have 163 zip codes assigned to them. Despite not having the largest area of land, El Paso's number of zip codes demonstrate that they are the most populous county and have the largest amount of available and occupied housing. Table 1

⁴ Texas Department of Health Services, Border Health Binational Health Councils, 2020.

below shows the amount of zip codes in each county, as well as the available housing units in total, and the number of occupied homes in those areas.

Figure 10. Zip Codes

El Paso County has the most zip codes as the largest county in the region.



Source: United States Zip Codes. Texas Zip Codes. www.zipcodes.org. 2020.

Counties

Brewster County

Brewster County was founded in 1887 and named after Henry Percy Brewster. Historical accounts place the first European to set foot in Brewster as Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca in 1535. Brewster County is the largest county in Texas, located in the Trans-Pecos region of West Texas. It is the site of Big Bend National Park, the largest park in the state of Texas. Alpine City, the county city, is the largest town in Brewster County. Alpine is also home to Sul Ross University, which is named after former Texas Governor, Lawrence Sullivan Ross. The geographical makeup of Brewster County comprises 6,169 square miles of largely rough and mountainous terrain, with elevations ranging from 1,700 to 7,825 feet above sea level. Brewster County is made up of rural communities, with abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation including rafting, fishing, and camping. Since the county's creating, mining, the railroad, wholesale trade, construction, and commerce have been the principal economic activities.

Culberson County

Culberson County was established in 1911 and named after David B. Culberson. Van Horn city is the county seat and was organized in 1912. Ranchers settled in the county with the opening of the railways. Today, Culberson County is best known for the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. The county is comprised of 3,815 square miles varying from mountainous to nearly level elevations that range from 8,751 feet on Guadalupe Peak to 3,000 feet in its shallow, stony, calm, and sandy loams. Culberson County is also home to Blue Origin, a spacecraft launchpad and hangar founded by Jeff Bezos.

El Paso County

El Paso County was first established in 1850 but has been recognized in history books since 1598 when the Spanish explorer Don Juan de Onate celebrated a Thanksgiving mass in the county. The region of El Paso was claimed by Texas as part of a treat agreement with Mexico in 1846. El Paso County was recognized as one of the safest places to live in 2018 and continuously ranks high for the category each year. El Paso is also known for its abundance of sunshine and recognized nationally as the only county to have mined, milled, and smelted tin. El Paso County is home to Fort Bliss, Texas, and several higher education universities such as the University of Texas El Paso, Texas Tech Medical Center, and Park University. El Paso County is one of the largest cities geographically resting on the Mexico border with a population of 876,120⁵. It is predominantly Hispanic (80%) and is also home to the Fort Bliss 1st Armored Division. Fort Bliss, the second largest military installation in the U.S Armed Forces, has 31,088 active-duty military members; 2,174 active-duty National Guard; and 8,312 civilian personnel. Additionally, Fort Bliss has 38,837 dependents and 80,256 military retirees accessing station/base/post/camp facilities or resources such as hospitals, PX's, etc.⁶

Hudspeth County

Hudspeth County is located seventy miles southeast of El Paso. It is considered the Trans-Pecos region of far west Texas. It is bordered by New Mexico to the north, the Mexican state of Chihuahua to the south, and El Paso to the west. Sierra Blanca was made the county seat in 1917. The county is 4,566 square miles of mountainous terrain ranging from 3,200 to 7,500 feet above sea level. During the 1800's it was a popular watering hole stop for travelers on stagecoaches and wagons, many en route to San Antonio, Texas. With the gold rush of 1849 the trails intensified, farming and ranching were the primary sources of employment, and still are today. Many of the ranches still house thousands of cattle and sheep.

Jeff Davis County

Jeff Davis is comprised of 2,258 square mountainous miles, with numerous wildlife including mule deer, pronghorn antelope, javelin, and jacksnipe, to name a few. Jeff Davis is best known for their Davis Mountains and is considered the highest mountain range located directly with the state of Texas. Jeff Davis County also houses the legendary Fort Davis where many battles occurred during the Civil War. Much of the land is utilized by cattle ranchers who fill much of the wide-open spaces. Ranching and tourism continue to be the main industries for the county. The current population of Jeff Davis County is predominantly Hispanic.

Presidio County

Presidio County is geographically triangular and is made up of 3,857 square miles of terrain that contrasts between plateaus and mountainous ranges. The area known as La Junta de los Rios is believed to be the oldest cultivated farm in Texas. Presidio County was organized in 1875 and is the 4th largest county in Texas. Their economy is primarily based in agriculture for farms and cattle with 83 percent of their land used for that purpose. Presidio County is best known for the location of the mysterious Marfa lights.

⁵ Texas Demographics Center. TDC – Texas Populations Projections Program, 2021.

⁶ Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Fort Bliss: Economic Impact on the Texas Economy, 2017.

Data for the regional demographics came from the Texas Demographic Center.⁷ The Texas Demographic Center produces a projection report for the state of Texas. The following figures detail the population data at the regional and county level and includes various data on all ages and races from 2015 to 2020.

Major Metropolitan Areas (i.e., Concentrations of Populations)

Per Table 1, the land area in Texas is 261,231.71 square miles and has a population density of 113.61 per square mile. The state of Texas is denser than the population density for the United States. In Region 10, El Paso County has the highest population density and Brewster County has the largest land area as noted in the table. Region 10 has a population density of 41.43 per square miles of land area and a total land area of 21,700 square miles. While some population density numbers have declined in a few counties, overall, the region and the state have shown steady growth. In the table below, the abbreviation sq. mi. will be used for square miles.

Table 1. Land/Population in Square Miles

<i>Geographic Area</i>	<i>Land Area – Area in Sq. Mi.</i>	<i>Pop. Density per Sq. Mi., 2019</i>	<i>Pop. Density per Sq. Mi., 2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	6,183.73	1.48	1.47
<i>Culberson</i>	3,812.80	.57	.58
<i>El Paso</i>	1,012.69	828.72	865.14
<i>Hudspeth</i>	4,570.98	1.07	.74
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	2,264.56	1.00	.93
<i>Presidio</i>	3,855.24	1.74	1.53
<i>Region 10</i>	21,700.00	41.10	41.43
<i>Texas</i>	261,231.71	96.30	113.61
<i>United States</i>	3,531,905.43	87.40	94.11

Source: Texas Demographic Center. TDC- Texas Populations Projections Program, 2021.

⁷ Texas Demographics Center. Texas Population Projections, 2021.

Demographic Information

Total Population

The state of Texas continues its growth as demonstrated in the graph below (table 2). Based on 2020 projection data for Texas, the state has a population of 29,677,668⁸ and the United States has a population of 332,397,490⁹. These estimated projections show Texas growing by 10.17% and the United States growing by 10.12%. These estimates place Texas as the 2nd most populous state in the nation but does not outpace the United States' population growth. Figure 11 below reflects the growth of the last two years nationally and within Texas.

Table 2. Texas and U.S Population Change Projections, 2018-2020

<i>Geographic Area</i>	<i>2019 Population</i>	<i>2020 Population</i>	<i>Growth (+/-)</i>	<i>Growth Rate</i>
<i>United States</i>	328,239,523	332,397,490	4,157,967	10.12
<i>Texas</i>	29,193,268	29,677,668	484,400	10.17

Source: U.S Census Bureau. Population Division: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, 2020; Texas Demographics Center. Texas Population Projections, 2021.

Table 3 below details the ever-changing population of the six counties in Region 10 over the last five years. Presidio County has had a steadily decreasing population while El Paso County has enjoyed a steady boom. The other counties listed have maintained population numbers that are relatively like the years before.

Table 3. Region 10 – Population by County, 2016-2020

<i>County</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	9,214	9,204	9,192	9,157	9,133
<i>Culberson</i>	2,306	2,288	2,275	2,261	2,245
<i>El Paso</i>	847,036	854,479	861,806	869,040	876,120
<i>Hudspeth</i>	3,406	3,399	3,398	3,401	3,400
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	2,183	2,168	2,151	2,129	2,113
<i>Presidio</i>	6,552	6,371	6,206	6,049	5,906

Source: Texas Demographics Center. Population Projections for Texas, 2021.

⁸ Texas Demographics Center. Texas Population Projections, 2021.

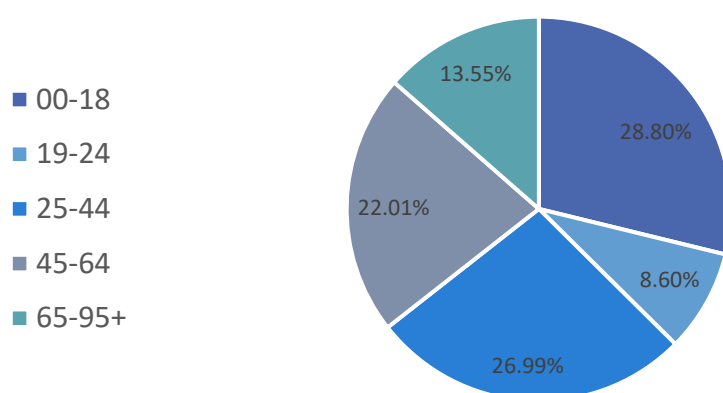
⁹ U.S Census Bureau. Population Projections, 2020.

Population by Age Group

In order to paint a clearer picture of Region 10 and the counties therein, it is important to break down the population of various age groups. Because El Paso is the largest county in the region, its numbers are often the largest and therefore overshadow other counties. However, the breakdown of those age groups is vital in learning how we can help those individual communities. In Region 10 the largest age group is the 65-95+ age group followed by the 25-44 age group. Figure 11 below breaks down the changes in age groups over a three-year period from 2018-2020.

Figure 11. Region 10 Population by Age Groups – 2020

Region 10's most populous age group is 0-18.

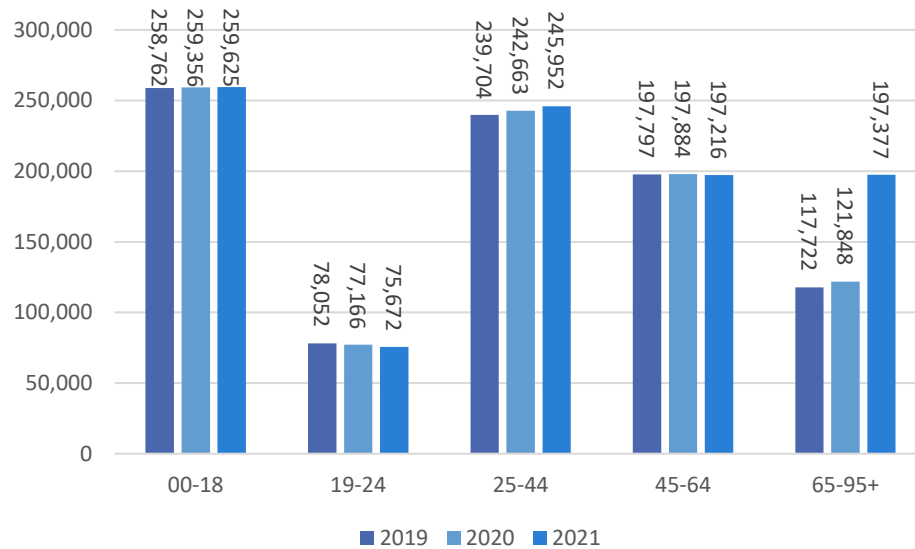


Source: Texas Demographics Center. *Population Projections for Texas, 2021*.

When we compare the age group population numbers from 2019-2020, and include the projections for 2021, we notice that the most populous age group will be the 00-18 age group. Interestingly, 2021 also finds a surge in the 65-95+ age group. This breakdown is important when we consider the age groups that need to be targeted for substance misuse prevention. The region can focus its efforts on the 00-18 age

group as we see a dramatic drop in the 19-24 age group possible due to those who may leave to attend college or enlist in the Armed Forces.

Figure 12. Region 10 Population by Age Group – 2019-2021



Source: Texas Demographics Center. Population Projections for Texas, 2021.

Population by Gender

Region 10 has a higher population of females every year for the last three years. In 2019, females outpaced males by over 17,000 then 14,000 in 2020. If these trends continue, females will outpace males in 2021 by nearly 14,000 again. These numbers become important when we consider that males are at the forefront of most arrests in the region for issues such as DUI and THC possession. Table 4 below breaks down the gender population of Region 10 by county from 2019-2020 and includes the projections for 2021.

Table 4. Region 10 Population by Gender, 2019-2021

County	2019	Male	Female	2020	Male	Female	2021	Male	Female
Brewster		4,553	4,604		4,540	4,593		4,519	4,581
Culberson		1,060	1,201		1,052	1,193		1,042	1,187
El Paso		426,557	442,483		430,725	445,395		434,897	448,263
Hudspeth		1,678	1,723		1,676	1,724		1,675	1,728
Jeff Davis		1,049	1,080		1,041	1,072		1,026	1,066
Presidio		3,042	3,007		2,984	2,922		2,917	2,841
Totals		437,939	454,098		442,018	456,899		446,076	459,666

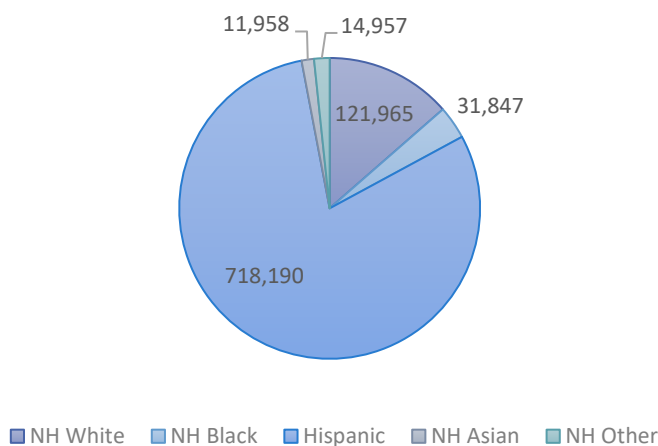
Source : Texas Demographics Center. Population Projections for Texas: Gender, 2021.

Population by Race/Ethnicity

Region 10 has consistently shown a higher population amongst Hispanics and 2020 was much the same. The figure (13) below breaks down the population of Region 10 in its totality for 2020. The largest group, Hispanics, accounted for 718,190 people while the smallest group was the Non-Hispanic Asian group at 11,958.

Figure 13. Population of Region 10 by Race/Ethnicity – 2020

The Hispanic population in Region 10 continues to be the most prevalent.



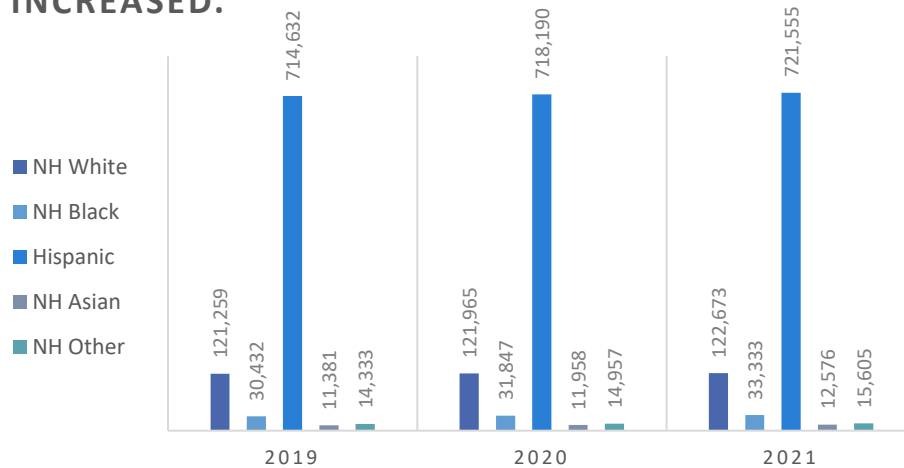
Source: Texas Demographics Center. *Population Projections for Texas: Race/Ethnicity, 2021.*

Texas' has always had a complex makeup of different races and ethnicities, especially being so close to the border with Mexico. Incidentally, the numbers for those of Hispanic descent have increased since 2019, with the projections for 2021 showing an increase in this group as well. Figure 14 below shows the

fluctuation of races and ethnicities for Region 10 from 2019-2020 and includes 2021 to show the projected changes.

Figure 14. Population for Region 10 by Race/Ethnicity, 2019-2021

HISPANICS IN REGION 10 HAVE STEADILY INCREASED.



Source: Texas Demographics Center. *Population Projections for Texas: Race/Ethnicity, 2021.*

Limited English Proficiency and Language Spoken in Home

The U.S Census Bureau conducts the American Community Survey (ACS) that makes projections of various categories that include population, language, income, etc. The information that would normally be used here would be for the year 2020, however, that year's information will not be available until January 2022. Also, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, much data that was collected during the 2020 Census has not been made available, and likely will not be, until the end of 2021. The information presented below will be from the American Community Survey for 2014-2019.

The table below breaks down the language spoken in Region 10 by number and percentage. In Region 10, there are many more people, five years of age and older, that stated they spoke a language other than English in their home. Brewster and Jeff Davis counties have the largest percentage of people who stated

they only spoke English while alternatively Hudspeth and Presidio counties had the largest percentages of people who spoke a language other than English.

Table 5. Number and Percentage of those 5 Years and Older who Speak English, or other Language in Region 10 - 2019

<i>County</i>	<i>Speak Only English</i>	<i>Speak Only English</i> %	<i>Speak Lang. Other Than</i> <i>Eng.</i>	<i>Speak Lang. Other Than Eng.</i> %
<i>Brewster</i>	5,746	65.60%	3,016	34.40%
<i>Culberson</i>	736	37.10%	1,248	62.90%
<i>El Paso</i>	226,954	29.40%	545,226	70.60%
<i>Hudspeth</i>	1,069	25.40%	3,135	74.60%
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	1,243	57.00%	937	43.00%
<i>Presidio</i>	1,279	19.70%	5,204	80.30%

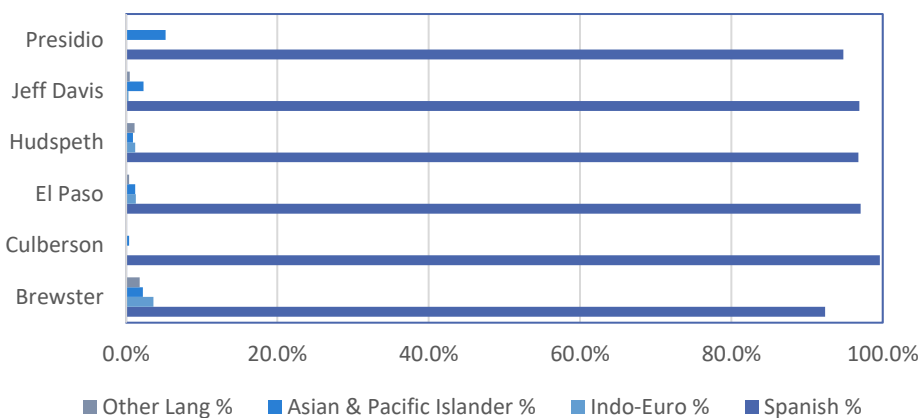
Source: U.S Census Bureau. 2014-2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate. 2020.

The previous chart recorded the number and percentage of people in each county five years of age and older that reported speaking English or a language other than English for 2019. The next figure (figure 15) represents the number and percentage of people who speak a language other than English in Region 10.

According to the ACS, the most prevalent language is Spanish with close to 550,000 people speaking it, followed by Other Indo-European languages coming in at over 7,000.

Figure 15. Number and Percentage of Languages Other than English Spoken by those 5 Years Old and Older – 2019

Spanish remains the most commonly spoken language in all counties of Region 10.



Source: U.S Census Bureau. 2014-2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate. 2020.

When the data for 2017-2019 are reviewed, the results are much the same with Spanish being the language with the highest number of speakers. The table below breaks down the data for the region on the number of English only, Spanish, and other language speakers for the years given. See Table 6 below.

Table 6. Languages Spoken in Region 10, 2017-2019

<i>Language</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>English Only</i>	226,381	231,438	237,027
<i>Spanish</i>	549,420	547,955	543,278
<i>Other Indo-European</i>	7,119	7,018	6,312
<i>Asian&Pacific Islander</i>	6,843	6,888	6,745
<i>Other Language</i>	2,457	2,629	2,431

Source: U.S Census Bureau. 2014-2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate. 2020.

In Texas, 7.7% of the population resides in a home that has limited English proficiency. That percentage translates to 749,211. In Region 10, 23% of the population resides in a home that has limited English

proficiency which equates to 63,815 in the six counties. The table below shows the data for households with limited proficiency in Texas and in Region 10 in 2020.

Table 7. Limited English Proficiency Households – 2020

Region 10		State	
Number	Percent	Number	Percent
63,815	23	749,211	7.7

Source: U.S Census Bureau. *American Community Survey, Limited English Proficiency, 2020.*

Risk Factors and Protective Factors

Societal Domain

Median Household Income

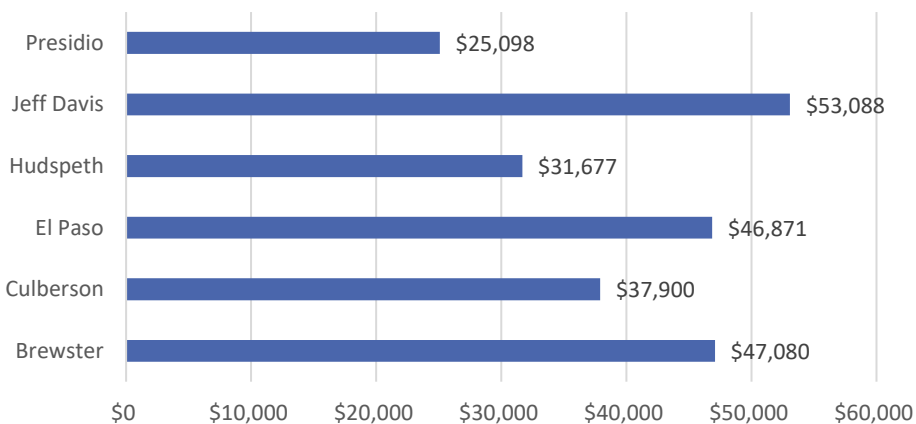
Every year the RNA's look at various economical categories to understand the prevalence of certain advantages and disadvantages that are caused by economic strife, especially in rural areas where services may be limited. The data for the median household income plays a significant role in this as how much an area earns is a great predictor of things like access to healthcare, free and reduced school lunch, access to state benefits such as SNAP and TANF.

In the six counties of Region 10 income has been broken down by county by the U.S Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). For further examination of the growth of the counties within Region 10, we refer to the ACS compilation of data from 2017 to 2019. The 2020 data is unavailable as the 2020 Census has not been fully published. The counties in Region 10 have enjoyed some growth overall, with a few counties taking a step back before rebounding. Jeff Davis County is an example of this when we notice

that their median household income is the highest of all Region 10 counties. The figure below breaks down the median household income per county according to the American Community Survey.

Figure 16. Median Household Income per County, 2017-2019

Jeff Davis County has the highest median household income in Region 10.



Source: U.S Census Bureau. American Community Survey (ACS): Median Household Income by County in Texas, 2017-2019.

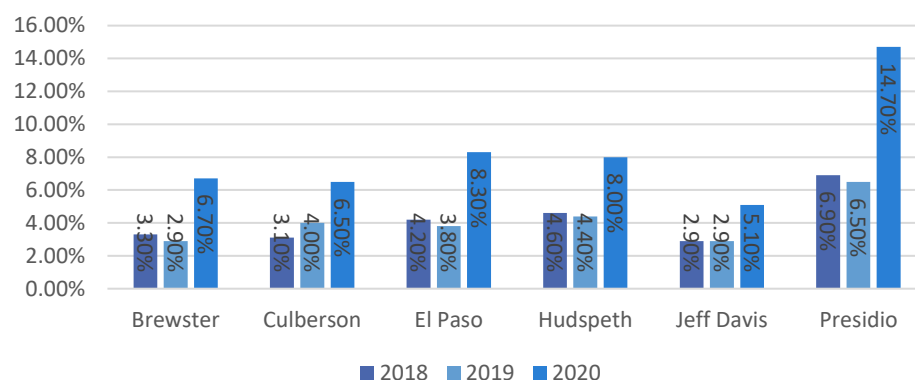
Unemployment

Unemployment in the region has usually maintained steady percentages, however, 2020 saw a large increase in some counties, most likely attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were many employees that were furloughed during the pandemic and businesses that did not survive the various lockdowns and restrictions. As a result, counties like Presidio saw an 8% increase in unemployment. Perhaps most alarming is that El Paso, as the largest county in Region 10, saw a 5% increase in 2020, and the other

smaller counties, like Hudspeth and Jeff Davis, also saw large jumps in unemployment. Figure 16 below details the unemployment percentage from 2018-2020 by county.

Figure 17. Unemployment Percentage by County, 2018-2020

Unemployment rates in Region 10 increased dramatically in 2020, possibly due to COVID-19 pandemic.



Source: U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2021.*

While percentages are most reported when it comes to unemployment rates, it is beneficial to break down how many people are part of the work force in each county. When we break it down in that way, we can see the amount of those that are employed from that eligible workforce as well as those who are not. The data shows that most counties doubled the number of unemployed persons, while El Paso county's unemployed increased nearly 17,000. Table 8 below breaks down those numbers from 2018-2020 by county in Region 10.

Table 8. Labor Force and Unemployed by County in Region 10, 2018-2020

County	2018		2019		2020	
	Labor Force	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployed
Brewster	4,044	134	4,207	123	4,083	272
Culberson	976	30	1,044	42	1,150	75
El Paso	358,355	15,025	362,582	13,870	364,085	30,094
Hudspeth	1,802	82	1,827	80	1,855	149
Jeff Davis	1,069	31	1,040	30	975	50
Presidio	3,040	209	3,104	202	3,231	476

Source: U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2021.*

TANF Recipients

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provides financial assistance to families for household expenses.¹⁰ The goal of the program is to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency. TANF recipients can receive TANF Basic or TANF State Program. The main difference between the two programs is the funding

¹⁰ U.S Department of Health and Human Services. *Office of Family Assistance: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), 2020.*

source as one is federal, and the other is through the state. El Paso County had the most recipients last year, but Jeff Davis County had the highest average payment per individual. The table below breaks down the TANF Basic for 2020 only for Region 10 and its individual counties.

Table 9. Region 10 TANF Basic Recipients and Benefits – 2020

<i>County</i>	<i>Recipients</i>	<i>Average Payment</i>	<i>Total Funds Dispensed</i>	<i>Rate/100,000</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	5	\$68.09	\$340.47	54.74
<i>Culberson</i>	1	\$14.19	\$14.41	44.54
<i>El Paso</i>	655	\$87.22	\$57,129.77	74.76
<i>Hudspeth</i>	1	\$78.56	\$78.56	29.41
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	1	\$269.00	\$269.00	47.33
<i>Presidio</i>	12	\$73.35	\$880.23	203.18
<i>Region 10</i>	675	\$86.00	\$58,712.45	75.09

Source: Texas Health and Human Services. *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: 2020, 2021.*

El Paso County was the only county to receive TANF State Program funds. There were 38 recipients in the county, and they received an average payment of \$42.78 each. Table 10 below breaks down the participants in the TANF State Program for 2020 only.

Table 10. Region 10 TANF State Program Recipients and Benefits - 2020

<i>County</i>	<i>Recipients</i>	<i>Average Payment</i>	<i>Total Funds Dispensed</i>	<i>Rate/100,000</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	38	\$42.78	\$1,625.66	4.34
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	38	\$42.00	\$1,625.66	4.22

Source: Texas Health and Human Services. *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: 2020, 2021.*

The three-year progression of TANF Basic benefits is broken down below (table 10) detailing the number of recipients and average benefits. The data shows a stark increase from 2018 to 2020 especially in El Paso County where the number of recipients jumped by almost 500 to 655 recipients. Unfortunately, the numbers in El Paso, and the region overall, were on a downward trend hinting at improvements in

economic status in the region, however, COVID-19 is most likely the reason that these numbers rose so much.

Table 11. Region 10 TANF Basic Benefits Breakdown by County, 2018-2020

County	2018		2019		2020	
	Recipients	Average Payment	Recipients	Average Payment	Recipients	Average Payment
<i>Brewster</i>	4	\$48.98	6	\$68.09	13	\$68.09
<i>Culberson</i>	2	\$29.26	1	\$14.19	3	\$14.19
<i>El Paso</i>	141	\$82.39	137	\$87.22	1,337	\$87.22
<i>Hudspeth</i>	2	\$80.49	3	\$78.56	0	\$78.56
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	\$18.31	0	\$0.00	0	\$
<i>Presidio</i>	33	\$68.51	30	\$73.35	23	\$73.35
<i>Region 10</i>	182	\$78.00	177	\$83.00	1,376	\$86.00

Source: Texas Health and Human Services. *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: 2018-2020, 2021.*

Table 12 below breaks down participation in the TANF State Program from 2018 to 2020. As with the TANF Basic program, TANF State Program saw an increase in 2020 in El Paso County. There were only three recipients in 2019, but it jumped up to 38 in 2020.

As the state slowly reopens in 2021, there are hopes that the economy will stabilize, and less people will need these services. The ramifications of COVID-19 on our state's economy, as well as our region, may be visible over the next few years, however.

Table 12. Region 10 TANF State Program Benefits Breakdown by County, 2018-2020

County	2018		2019		2020	
	Recipients	Avg. Payment	Recipients	Avg. Payment	Recipients	Avg. Payment
<i>Brewster</i>	0	0	0	0	6	0
<i>Culberson</i>	1	\$6.63	0	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	2	\$93.71	3	\$42.78	121	\$42.78
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	\$8.78	0	0	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	3	\$73.00	3	\$42.00	127	\$40.00

Source: Texas Health and Human Services. *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: 2018-2020, 2021.*

SNAP Benefits

Individuals in Region 10 receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits by placing funds on a debit-like card that they can use at stores that accept SNAP.¹¹ Based on the SNAP website, individuals are limited to the items that can be purchased with this financial assistance. SNAP is designed to help individuals who are not able to afford nutritious food for their household. The table (13) below breaks down the number of cases, recipients, average payments, and total amount distributed in 2020 alone. While El Paso County did have the highest number of recipients and cases, Presidio County had the

¹¹ Texas Health and Human Services. *SNAP Food Benefits: How to Get Help*, 2020.

second highest numbers in the region. However, El Paso County by far had the highest payout with \$19,365,120.00.

Table 13. SNAP Benefits Breakdown for Region 10 by County – 2020

County	Number of Cases	Number of Recipients	Total SNAP Payments	Avg Payment / Case	Rate/100,000
Brewster	364	704	86528.00	237.71429	7708.31
Culberson	167	334	40172.00	240.5509	14877.51
El Paso	64241	146,146	19365120.00	301.44487	16681.05
Hudspeth	351	800	101663.00	289.63818	10323.53
Jeff Davis	48	92	10402.00	216.70833	2271.65
Presidio	641	1,306	155764.00	243.00156	10853.37
Region 10	65812	149,382	19759649.00	1,529	16618

Source: Texas Health and Human Services. Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Statistics, 2021.

SNAP benefits are extremely helpful to those in need and the program is widely available and known of. The table below breaks down the number of cases and recipients for 2018 to 2020 in the six counties of Region 10. It is promising for our region that the number of cases for SNAP benefits has been on the decline even during the pandemic. The largest county in our region, El Paso, has seen a steady decline by about 10,000 cases every year. Table 14 below breaks down the number of SNAP cases and recipients in Region 10 by county from 2018 to 2020.

Table 14. SNAP Cases and Recipients in Region 10 by County, 2018-2020

County	2018		2019		2020	
	# Of Cases	# Of Recipients	# Of Cases	# Of Recipients	# Of Cases	# Of Recipients
Brewster	469	801	430	699	364	704
Culberson	206	378	186	380	167	334
El Paso	75,914	173,185	74,153	159,621	64,241	146,146
Hudspeth	377	871	384	823	351	800
Jeff Davis	65	100	52	77	48	92
Presidio	840	1,519	759	1,364	641	1,306

Source: Texas Health and Human Services. Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Statistics, 2021.

As further evidence of some economic progress in Region 10, the amounts of SNAP payments has gone down over the last three-year period. However, in some instances where we saw that the number of cases

and recipients was lower, 2020 did have a slight bump from 2019 in most counties. Table 15 below breaks down the total payments issued for the region from 2018 to 2020.

Table 15. SNAP Total Payment for Region 10 by County, 2018-2020

<i>County</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
	Total Payment	Total Payment	Total Payment
<i>Brewster</i>	\$94,118.92	\$83,592.00	\$86,528.00
<i>Culberson</i>	\$42,363.90	\$38,836.80	\$52,344.00
<i>El Paso</i>	\$19,905,409.90	\$18,914,205.70	\$19,365,120.00
<i>Hudspeth</i>	\$88,221.77	\$90,873.60	\$101,663
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	\$12,305.15	\$8,766.16	\$10,402
<i>Presidio</i>	\$170,108.40	\$146,532.54	\$155,764

Source: Texas Health and Human Services. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Statistics: 2018-2020, 2021.

While the total amount of benefits paid, as well as the number of cases and recipients is important, the age breakdown of who receives these benefits is also crucial in understanding certain risk factors like access to food. The age range with the largest number of recipients was in the 18-59 category with 54,578 recipients, while the 5-17 range was right behind it with 52,112 recipients. The table below breaks down those recipients by age in our region for 2020.

Table 16. SNAP Recipients Breakdown by Age per County and Region 10 – 2020

<i>County</i>	<i>Ages < 5</i>	<i>Ages 5- 17</i>	<i>Ages 18- 59</i>	<i>Ages 60- 64</i>	<i>Ages 65+</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	76	203	265	46	114
<i>Culberson</i>	49	96	106	18	65
<i>El Paso</i>	17,585	51,148	53,549	5,426	18,438
<i>Hudspeth</i>	100	261	267	24	148
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	10	27	34	5	16
<i>Presidio</i>	131	377	357	45	396
<i>Region 10</i>	17951	52112	54578	5564	19177

Source: Texas Health and Human Services. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Statistics, 2020.

In order to process which age groups SNAP has had the most recipients in we look at the overall region totals from 2018 to 2020. The data shows that the two age groups, 5-17 and 18-59, remain as having the

largest number of recipients, however, their numbers are trending down over the last three years as well. The table below breaks down the age group data for Region 10 over the last three years.

Table 17. Age Breakdown of SNAP Recipients in Region 10, 2018-2020

<i>Year</i>	<i>Ages < 5</i>	<i>Ages 5- 17</i>	<i>Ages 18- 59</i>	<i>Ages 60- 64</i>	<i>Ages 65+</i>
2018	24,337	63,061	63,443	6,140	18,992
2019	22,067	57,916	58,260	10,461	20,408
2020	17,951	52,112	54,578	5,564	19,177

Source: Texas Health and Human Services. *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Statistics, 2018-2020.*

Free/Reduced School Lunch Recipients

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) provides over 30 million students annually with free or reduced lunches whose household income matches NSLP criteria.¹² Researchers in education often see NSLP enrollment as a proxy for economically disadvantaged individuals.¹³ In the 2019-2020 school year, Region 10 saw Presidio County and Hudspeth County with the highest percentages of students receiving free/reduced school lunch at 90% and 86% respectively. Jeff Davis has the lowest percentage at 45%. These numbers are representative of the fact that food insecurity remains a level of concern for Region 10. Table 18 below breaks down the percentage of students who were receiving free or reduced lunch for the 2019-2020 school year.

Table 18. Percentage of Students Receiving Free or Reduced School Lunch per County, 2019-2020

<i>County</i>	<i>Total Students All Grades</i>	<i>% Of Students Receiving Free/Reduced Lunch</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	1,183	56%
<i>Culberson</i>	378	80%
<i>El Paso</i>	176,664	79%
<i>Hudspeth</i>	582	86%
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	266	45%
<i>Presidio</i>	1,528	90%

Source: U.S Department of Education: National Center for Education Statistics. *Common Core Data: ELSI – Elementary and Secondary Information System, 2021.*

The percentage of students receiving free/reduced school lunch has changed over the last few years. Unfortunately, what the data shows is that every county, apart from Jeff Davis, has had their percentages rising over the last three school years. The sharpest increase is Culberson County with a 15% increase from the 2017-18 school year to the following two school years. The table (19) below breaks down the

¹² U.S Department of Agriculture: Economic Research Service. *National School Lunch Program (NSLP), 2021.*

¹³ U.S Department of Agriculture: Economic Research Service. *National School Lunch Program (NSLP), 2021.*

percentage per county in Region 10 over the last three school years beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

Table 19. Percentage of Students Receiving Free/Reduced School Lunch, 2017-2020

<i>County</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>
	% Of Students	% Of Students	% Of Students
<i>Brewster</i>	42%	52%	56%
<i>Culberson</i>	65%	80%	80%
<i>El Paso</i>	66%	79%	79%
<i>Hudspeth</i>	82%	88%	86%
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	41%	51%	45%
<i>Presidio</i>	83%	90%	90%

Source: U.S Department of Education: National Center for Education Statistics. *Common Core Data: ELSI – Elementary and Secondary Information System, 2021.*

The numbers of students receiving free/reduced lunch in Texas is important to analyze when we put up numbers that concern counties in Region 10. The numbers of students that were eligible for free and/or reduced lunch in Texas from the 2017 school year to the 2020 school year are promising. The numbers were shown to be steadily decreasing. The number receiving free lunch was close to 5.5 million and then it dropped by 2 million over the next two school years. The table (20) below breaks down the number of students that received free/reduced lunch in Texas over the last three school years beginning in 2017.

Table 20. Number of Free/Reduced School Lunch Recipients in Texas, 2017-2020

2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
# Free Lunch	# Reduced Lunch	# Free Lunch	# Reduced Lunch	# Free Lunch	# Reduced Lunch
5,495,786	566,538	3,035,195	283,409	3,016,511	319,289

Source: U.S Department of Education: National Center for Education Statistics. *Common Core Data: ELSI – Elementary and Secondary Information System, 2021.*

Furthermore, we can examine the number of students receiving free/reduced school lunch in each county of Region 10. Those numbers show an interesting trend as the number of reduced school lunch eligible students means that there is some economic improvement in Region 10. However, those eligible for free school lunch has also risen in Region 10. While the population numbers do indicate that we have a much larger population of people aged 0-18 it serves to stand that this is a possible explanation for the numbers

rising in tandem. Table 21 below details the number of students eligible to receive free or reduced lunch from 2017 to 2020.

Table 21. Number of Free/Reduced School Lunch Recipients in Region 10 by County, 2017-2020

<i>Geo. Area</i>	<i>2017-18</i>		<i>2018-19</i>		<i>2019-20</i>	
	# Free Lunch	# Reduced Lunch	# Free Lunch	# Reduced Lunch	# Free Lunch	# Reduced Lunch
<i>Brewster</i>	538	127	532	81	553	109
<i>Culberson</i>	253	43	273	30	273	30
<i>El Paso</i>	116,916	13,650	123,548	15,535	123,548	15,535
<i>Hudspeth</i>	484	56	477	35	462	39
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	105	36	97	38	101	20
<i>Presidio</i>	1305	111	1,228	145	1,183	199
<i>Region 10</i>	119601	14023	126155	15864	126120	15932

Source: U.S Department of Education: National Center for Education Statistics. *Common Core Data: ESLI – Elementary and Secondary Information System, 2017-2020.*

Homeless Students

Homeless youth is a significant population to monitor as it relates to risk factors and misuse. Johnson and Chamberlain identified that homeless youth are at higher risk for developing substance misuse problems when compared to homeless adults.¹⁴ Given this critical factor, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has started recording the number of homeless students beginning in the 2016-17 school year. A student is considered homeless if the child does not have a permanent address, which could be the case of individuals moving from house to house or living in a shelter. Region 10 is composed of Educational Service Centers (ESC) 18 and 19. There are 20 total ESC's in Texas. These represent the various public and charter schools covered by the TEA throughout the state. The number of homeless students was added for ESC 18 and 19 to come up with a rate for Region 10. The percentage was found by dividing the number of homeless students by the total number enrolled and multiplying by 100. Texas had a 1.42% homeless student rate in the 2019-20 school year which is slightly higher than Region 10's .91% rate. Table 22 reflects the total number of students enrolled, number of homeless students, and the percentage of homeless students.

Table 22. Homeless Student Population by Number and Percentage in Region 10 per County, 2019-20

<i>County</i>	<i>Total Enrollment</i>	<i>Total Homeless Students</i>	<i>% Homeless</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	1,211	11	0.91%
<i>Culberson</i>	386	15	3.88%
<i>El Paso</i>	174,176	1,587	0.91%
<i>Hudspeth</i>	576	0	0%
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	264	0	0%
<i>Presidio</i>	1,500	0	0%
<i>Region 10</i>	178,113	1613	0.91%
<i>Texas</i>	5,493,940	78,128	1.42%

Source: Texas Education Agency. *Student Program and Special Population Report, 2021.*

¹⁴ Johnson G, Chamberlain C. "Homelessness and Substance Abuse: Which Comes First?". *Aust Soc. Work*, vol. 61, no. 4, 2008, pp. 334-356. DOI: 10.1080/03124070802428191.

Since the TEA began collecting this data in the 2016-17 school year, there have been fluctuations in the percentage and number of homeless students. In the 2019-20 school year Culberson County experienced the highest rates of student homelessness at 3.89%. The zeroes that are allotted for some counties at any given year could be because the numbers were repressed due to them being so small. That shows progress when we analyze the percentages from Presidio County especially over the last four school years. Table 23 below breaks down the percent of homeless students in Region 10 by county for the last four school years beginning in 2016. Percentages are found by dividing the number of homeless students into the number of total students enrolled.

Table 23. Homeless Student Percentage in Region 10 by County, 2016-2020

<i>County</i>	<i>2016-17</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>
	Homeless %	Homeless %	Homeless %	Homeless %
<i>Brewster</i>	0%	1.09%	0%	0.91%
<i>Culberson</i>	1.17%	0%	0%	3.89%
<i>El Paso</i>	1.28%	1.18%	1.06%	0.91%
<i>Hudspeth</i>	1.65%	0.23%	0.17%	0%
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0%	3.00%	3.84%	0%
<i>Presidio</i>	4.28%	3.53%	3.68%	0%

Source: Texas Education Agency. *Student Program and Special Population Report, 2021.*

While the percentages are helpful when determining economic growth or stagnancy, looking at actual numbers is helpful to determine how we can monitor possible risks in the counties within our region. What those numbers show is that the 2016-17 school year was especially difficult for Region 10 students as we had the highest homeless student population that year at 3,903. However, Texas showed a high rate of student homelessness in the 2017-18 school year with over 111,000 students compared to Region 10 at 3,617. What we can also infer from the data is that Region 10's homeless student population is steadily decreasing which diminishes the risk factors for this vulnerable group. Table 24 below breaks down the number of homeless students in Region 10 by county since tracking began in the 2016-17 school year. Zero indicates no homeless students to report in a given year.

Table 24. Homeless Student Population Numbers in Region 10 by County, 2016-2020

<i>Geo.</i>	<i>2016-17</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>
<i>Location</i>				
<i>Brewster</i>	0	14	0	11
<i>Culberson</i>	5	0	0	15
<i>El Paso</i>	2,291	2,100	1,875	1,587
<i>Hudspeth</i>	10	13	10	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	193	242	0
<i>Presidio</i>	1,597	1,297	1,344	0
<i>Region 10</i>	3903	3617	3471	1613
<i>Texas</i>	69,166	111,889	72,617	78,128

Source: Texas Education Agency. *Student Program and Special Population Report, 2021.*

Some counties in Region 10 do not have a large population, however, homeless students there are still an area of concern. The table below reflects the number of homeless students per 1,000 people. The data

was found by multiplying the number of homeless students by 1,000 and then dividing the result by the total number of students enrolled in each county, the region, and in Texas for the school years 2016-2020. Culberson County's homeless student population per 1,000 was alarmingly high for the 2019-20 school year at 38.86 homeless students per 1,000. When we compare the numbers for Texas with the six counties in Region 10 what we notice is that we are consistently fluctuating. In the school years 2016-17 and 2018-19 Region 10 had higher homeless student rates per 1,000 than Texas did. Additionally, during the 2019-20 school year Region 10 had less homeless students per 1,000 than Texas did which is monumental when we consider that was the first year of COVID-19 and many people experienced job loss and loss of homes. Table 25 breaks down those numbers in each county, the region, and Texas.

Table 25. Homeless Student Population per 1,000, 2016-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2016-17</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	10.9	0	9.08
<i>Culberson</i>	11.76	0	0	38.86
<i>El Paso</i>	12.84	11.83	10.62	9.11
<i>Hudspeth</i>	16.52	2.27	1.69	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	30.07	38.49	0
<i>Presidio</i>	42.85	35.34	36.87	0
<i>Region 10</i>	17.88	15.86	15.32	9.12
<i>Texas</i>	12.91	20.72	13.37	14.22

Source: Texas Education Agency. *Student Program and Special Population Report, 2021*

Adult Homelessness

While adult homelessness is not a new situation, it is a new area of record for data coordinators across the state. There is much evidence of how being homeless as a youth increases the likelihood of engaging in dangerous behaviors like illicit substance use/misuse and adult homelessness is “associated with shorter life expectancy, higher morbidity and greater usage of acute hospital services,” (Stafford and Wood). In Texas, a system has been set up called Point-in-Time Count (PIT) and it tracks a snapshot of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in a geographical area over the course of one night with survey responses being self-reported and/or observed and may not be representative of the entire homeless population.¹⁵ It is important to note that PIT is not a mandatory reporting in Texas, in fact, only 215 out of Texas' 254 counties participates in this program. As a result, the data provided herein has come from another source, The El Paso Coalition for the Homeless.

The El Paso Coalition for the Homeless collects data regarding sheltered, unsheltered, and transitioning persons in the area. Their efforts to collect data include families, single persons, and veterans. The graphic below is compiled of January 2020 Point-in-Time Data. What I would like to draw especial attention to is the definition of homeless that they provide; it states: “the condition of living in an emergency or transitional shelter or sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation,” (EP Homeless Coalition). This could include people that are fleeing abusive situations, suffer from mental health disorders, amongst many other issues we face every day in our various communities. The EP Point-in-Time indicated that at any given time we have at least 843 homeless people on our streets (this number reflects stats based on

¹⁵ Texas Homeless Network. *Homelessness in the Texas Balance of State: 2020 Point in Time Count Results, 2021.*

all adults). Please see Figure 17 below for a more detailed breakdown of some of the homeless data provided by the El Paso Coalition for the Homeless.

Figure 18. EP Coalition for the Homeless PIT Data - 2020



Source: El Paso Coalition for the Homeless. *Point in Time Homeless Data, 2020.*

The second graphic, also available on the EP Coalition for the Homeless' website, details more of who the homeless in our community are and identify some communities they belong to. One of the statistics that was most noticeable was that 89.2% of homeless persons are unemployed. When we divide the number of homeless adults by the total population of El Paso, we see that we have .097 homeless per capita in our county. As information is not more detailed, there is no way to know if any of this number originally resided in another county, only that they were counted in El Paso County. Please see Figure 18 below for a further breakdown of the complex issues facing the homeless adults in our community.

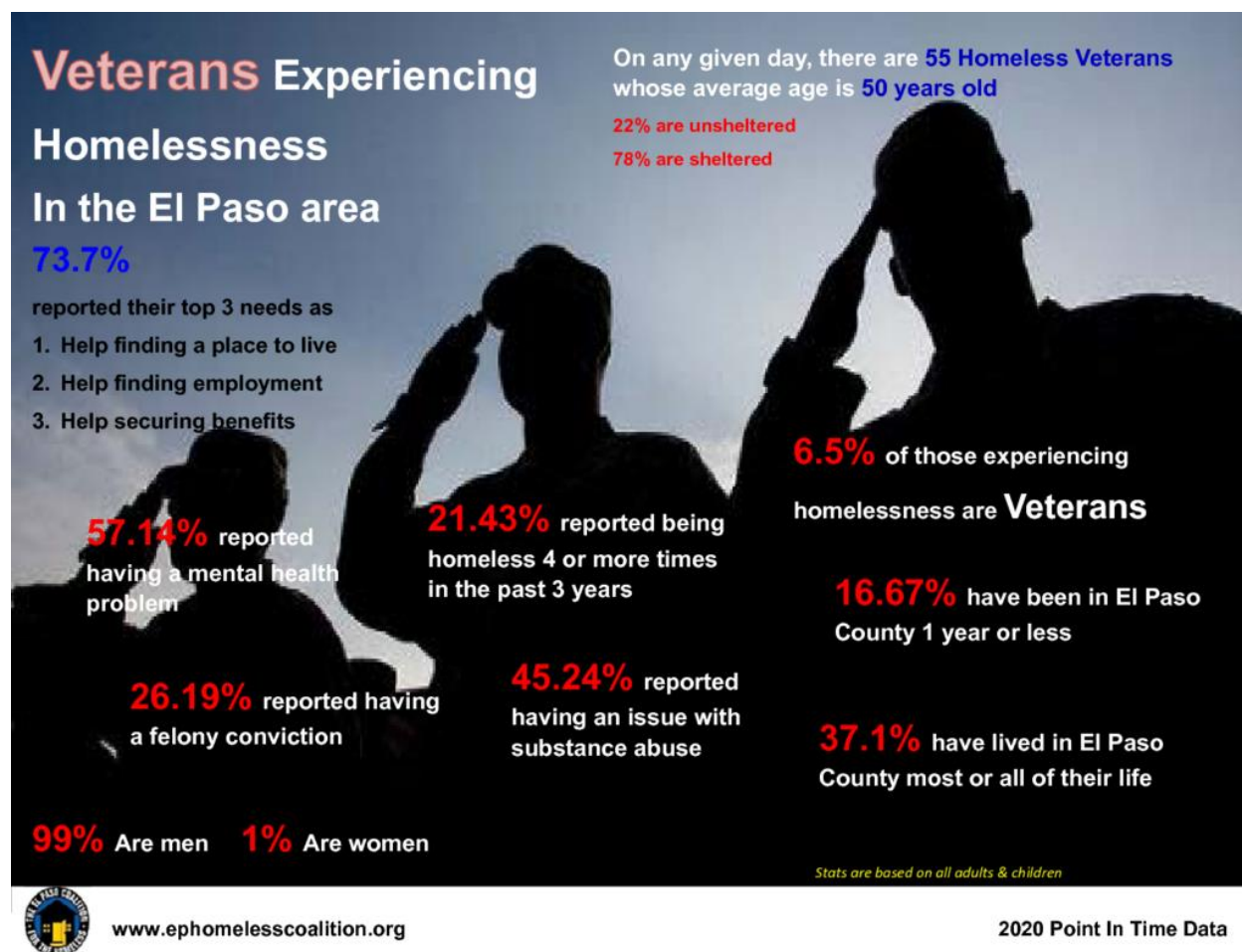
Figure 19. Homeless in El Paso, TX: Who Are the "Homeless"? – 2020



Source: El Paso Coalition for the Homeless. *Point in Time Homeless Data, 2020.*

Another group in El Paso that is impacted by homelessness is our veteran community. The figure below breaks down in more detail what the homeless veteran population looks like. 99% of the homeless veteran population are men and 1% are women. 6.5% of the total number of homeless adults reported are veterans. Additionally, 45.24% of this population reported having an issue with substance misuse. While these data sets are important and vital when it comes to our area, there is much work to be done as well, such as encouraging all six counties in Region10 to participate in the state's PIT collection.

Figure 20. Veterans Experiencing Homelessness in Texas - 2020



Source: El Paso Coalition for the Homeless. *Point in Time Homeless Data, 2020.*

Community Domain

Educational Attainment of Community

9th – 12th, No Diploma

Educational attainment is an important area to explore due to its implications of economic stability. Presidio County had the highest percentage of students who did not graduate from high school at 65.6% while El Paso County had the lowest percentage of students who did not graduate at 13%. Due to El Paso County having the largest overall population, the numbers in any category are usually higher there, and when it comes to those who did not graduate high school, the rule holds true. El Paso County saw 12,609 students not graduate in 2017 and then slightly under 12,000 not graduate over 2018 and 2019. Presidio County saw the percentage of students who did not graduate drop dramatically from 2017 at 65.6% to 50.10% in 2019. The Region 10 percentages when compared to Texas are much lower as well. In 2017, the percentage of students that did not graduate high school was 13.52% compared to Texas' 15.75%. The actual number of students who did not graduate high school in Region 10 compared to Texas is also quite significant as the region averaged between 12,000 and 13,000 students while Texas was juggling between

410,000 at the lowest to 433,000 at their highest. The table below details the number and percentage of enrolled students, aged 18-24, who do not graduate high school. The category is designated by > HS Grad # or % to indicate that the numbers given are of the student population that did not graduate from high school.

Table 26. 9th-12th, No Diploma # and % for Region 10 and Texas, 2017-2019

County	2017		2018		2019	
	> HS Grad. #	> HS Grad. %	> HS Grad. #	> HS Grad. %	> HS Grad. #	> HS Grad. %
<i>Brewster</i>	149	23.30%	114	16.20%	142	21.80%
<i>Culberson</i>	26	16.10%	16	12.90%	29	19.20%
<i>El Paso</i>	12,609	13.00%	11,817	12.20%	11,196	11.70%
<i>Hudspeth</i>	124	36.20%	121	32%	154	38.90%
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	8	13.30%	8	7.70%	9	5.40%
<i>Presidio</i>	428	65.60%	388	66.40%	378	50.10%
<i>Region 10</i>	13,344	13.52%	12,464	12.63%	11,908	12.20%
<i>Texas</i>	433,371	15.75%	421,016	15.16%	408,222	14.60%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. *American Community Survey: Educational Attainment, 2020.*

High School Graduates

While those who do not graduate from high school are an important category, so are those who do graduate high school. We know that those who graduate high school are likely to earn more than their counterparts who do not by at least \$8,000 annually.¹⁶ Region 10's graduate percentages are right in line with Texas' graduation rates. Brewster County had a 38.9% graduation rate in 2017 but dropped dramatically in 2019 to 17.9%. The region overall has increased over the three-year period, though, indicating that educational attainment has increased and keeps in line with the success that Texas is experiencing in this area as well. The table below breaks down the number and percentage of high school graduates in each county, the region, and in Texas from 2017-2019.

Table 27. High School Graduate Number and Percentage for Region 10 and Texas, 2017-2019

Geo. Location	2017		2018		2019	
	HS Grad. #	HS Grad. %	HS Grad. #	HS Grad. %	HS Grad. #	HS Grad. %
<i>Brewster</i>	249	38.90%	263	37.50%	117	17.90%
<i>Culberson</i>	66	41%	52	41.90%	39	25.80%
<i>El Paso</i>	28,641	29.60%	29,128	30.10%	29,396	30.70%
<i>Hudspeth</i>	102	29.70%	109	28.80%	98	24.70%
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	45	75%	84	80.80%	107	64.10%
<i>Presidio</i>	146	22.40%	143	24.50%	174	23.00%
<i>Region 10</i>	29,249	29.65%	29,779	30.18%	29,931	30.54%
<i>Texas</i>	876,380	31.85%	904,155	32.56%	923,858	33.10%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. *American Community Survey: Educational Attainment, 2020.*

¹⁶ Stobierski, Tim. "Average Salary by Educational Level: The Value of a College Degree." *Northeastern University, Bachelor's Degree Completion, 2020.*

Some College or associate degree

Higher education has shown to be a great game changer when we learn that college graduates earn more than high school graduates by an average of \$25,000 a year (Stobierski). All the counties in Region 10 have enjoyed success with the number and percentage of those who have some college or an associate degree. Jeff Davis County had the highest increase going from 0% in 2017 and 2018 to 24.6% in 2019. Region 10's percentages are much higher than Texas' overall numbers. Region 10 had a success rate of over 50% for each of the last three years compared to Texas' percentages which were between 43% and 44%. The table below breaks down the data of those in Texas who have some college or an associate degree by number and percentage for 2017-2019 by county.

Table 28. Number and Percentage Population with Some College or Associate Degree, 2017-2019

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2017</i>		<i>2018</i>		<i>2019</i>	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<i>Brewster</i>	184	28.80%	236	33.60%	292	44.80%
<i>Culberson</i>	65	40.40%	51	41.10%	83	55.00%
<i>El Paso</i>	50,284	52.00%	50,384	52.10%	49,429	51.60%
<i>Hudspeth</i>	117	34.10%	148	39.20%	144	36.40%
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	41	24.60%
<i>Presidio</i>	68	10.40%	44	7.50%	202	26.80%
<i>Region 10</i>	50,718	51.42%	50,863	51.55%	50,191	51.21%
<i>Texas</i>	1,212,346	44.06%	1,213,484	43.70%	1,211,300	43.40%

Source: U.S Census Bureau. American Community Survey: Educational Attainment, 2020.

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Lastly, those who obtain a bachelor's degree or a BA, will earn more than those who only have some college or an associate degree by \$18,772 more a year (Stobierski). These earnings are vastly important as they mean that those who earn more will have more access to things like food and healthcare, greatly decreasing their risk factors as they become adults. In Region 10, those numbers are steadily rising in some of the bigger counties, like Brewster and El Paso, but declining in smaller counties like Culberson and Hudspeth. Region 10 falls behind Texas by two percent overall for those that have achieved a bachelor's degree or higher over the last three years. Region 10 shows growth, however, considering that the percentage of those with a bachelor's or higher has gone from 5.4% in 2017 to 6.09% in 2019. The

table below breaks down the number and percentage of the population who have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Table 29. Number and Percentage Population with bachelor's degree or Higher, 2017-2019

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2017</i>		<i>2018</i>		<i>2019</i>	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<i>Brewster</i>	58	9.10%	89	12.70%	101	15.50%
<i>Culberson</i>	4	2.50%	5	4.00%	0	0.00%
<i>El Paso</i>	5,251	5.40%	5,453	5.60%	5,859	6.10%
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	7	11.70%	12	11.50%	10	6.00%
<i>Presidio</i>	10	1.50%	9	1.50%	1	0.10%
<i>Region 10</i>	5,330	5.40%	5,568	5.64%	5,971	6.09%
<i>Texas</i>	229,967	8.36%	238,495	8.59%	247,477	8.90%

Source: U.S Census Bureau. *American Community Survey: Educational Attainment, 2020*

Community Conditions

Juvenile Probation Referrals

The Texas juvenile justice system serves youth ages 10-16 and many of these services come from referrals. Juveniles are referred for juvenile justice involvement for several reasons, some of which include violent offenses, class A/B misdemeanors, conduct indicating a need for supervision, and delinquent conduct. In Texas, the juvenile referrals have gone up over the three-year indicated period with 53,471 referrals in 2017 and 54,137 in 2019. However, the Region 10 data has gone down over the last three years with 1,926 referrals in 2017 and 1,865 referrals in 2019. The numbers for Region 10 are promising as they have consistently gone down in each county, with numbers remaining relatively low in Culberson County. The table below breaks down the total number of referrals in Region 10 by county as well as in Texas overall.

Table 30. Total Juvenile Referrals Region 10, 2018-2019

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>Total Referrals</i>	<i>Rate/1,000</i>	<i>Total Referrals</i>	
	2019		2018	
<i>Brewster</i>	8	12.52	15	26.64
<i>Culberson</i>	3	19.48	3	19.11
<i>El Paso</i>	1,865	22.13	1,962	22.89
<i>Hudspeth</i>	1	3.66	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	1	1.74	6	9.46
<i>Region 10</i>	1,878	21.83	1,986	22.81
<i>Texas</i>	54,137	18.80	53,390	18.58

Source: Texas Juvenile Justice Department. *The State of Juvenile Probation Activity in Texas Yearly Report, 2020.*

Juvenile justice referrals are broken down into various categories including violent felony, other felony, A&B Misdemeanor, and violation of probation (VOP). Class A and B misdemeanors are arrests for things like DUI, possession of marijuana, and assault. Class A and B misdemeanors were the most prevalent reason for referrals in Region 10 and in Texas with 938 and 26,369 respectively. Violation of probation

comes in second for Region 10 with 450 referrals and 10,474 referrals for other felonies in Texas overall. The table below breaks down the total number of referrals for each county, the region, and Texas for 2019 only.

Table 31. Total Referrals by Reason - 2019

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>Violent Felony</i>	<i>Other Felony</i>	<i>A&B Misdemeanor</i>	<i>Violation of Probation</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	2	4	0
<i>Culberson</i>	0	2	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	124	356	934	450
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	1	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	1	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	124	362	938	450
<i>Texas</i>	6,503	10,474	26,369	7,368

Source: Texas Juvenile Justice Department. *The State of Juvenile Probation Activity in Texas Yearly Report, 2020.*

Region 10's juvenile referral numbers has remained at a steady rate since 2017, with a couple of areas dropping, such as A and B misdemeanors and violation of probation. However, the referrals for violent felonies have increased since 2017 each year until 2019 with the numbers going from 6,006 in 2017 to 6,503 in Texas. The referrals for other felonies have also increased from 8,329 in 2017 to 10,474 in 2019. The table below breaks down the total number of referrals for various violations from 2017 to 2019 for Region 10 and Texas.

Table 32. Total Referrals by Reason for Region 10 and Texas, 2017-2019

<i>Referral Reasons</i>	<i>2017</i>		<i>2018</i>		<i>2019</i>	
	<i>Region 10</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>Region 10</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>Region 10</i>	<i>Texas</i>
<i>Violent Felony</i>	141	6,006	148	6,338	124	6,503
<i>Other Felony</i>	224	8,329	302	8,424	362	10,474
<i>A&B Misdemeanor</i>	1,052	26,947	1,074	27,485	938	26,369
<i>VOP</i>	482	8,269	454	7,697	450	7,368

Source: Texas Juvenile Justice Department. *The State of Juvenile Probation Activity in Texas Yearly Report, 2020.*

Juvenile referral rates are calculated per 1,000 for 2017-2019. Many of the counties in Region 10 have maintained steady rates of referrals which, while not showing a decrease, have also not increased much. Region 10 overall, however, has decreased from 71 referrals per 1,000 in 2017 to 47 referrals per 1,000 in 2019. The Texas rate has stayed consistent at 19 referrals per 1,000 from 2017 to 2019. The table below breaks down the referrals per 1,000 for 2017 to 2019 in all six counties of Region 10, the region, and Texas.

Table 33. Juvenile Justice Referrals per 1,000, 2017-2019

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	15	20	11
<i>Culberson</i>	4	12	12
<i>El Paso</i>	20	21	20
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0	3
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	21	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	11	8	1
<i>Region 10</i>	71	61	47
<i>Texas</i>	19	19	19

Source: Texas Juvenile Justice Department. *The State of Juvenile Probation Activity in Texas Yearly Report, 2020.*

Juvenile Alcohol Related Arrests

Drunkenness

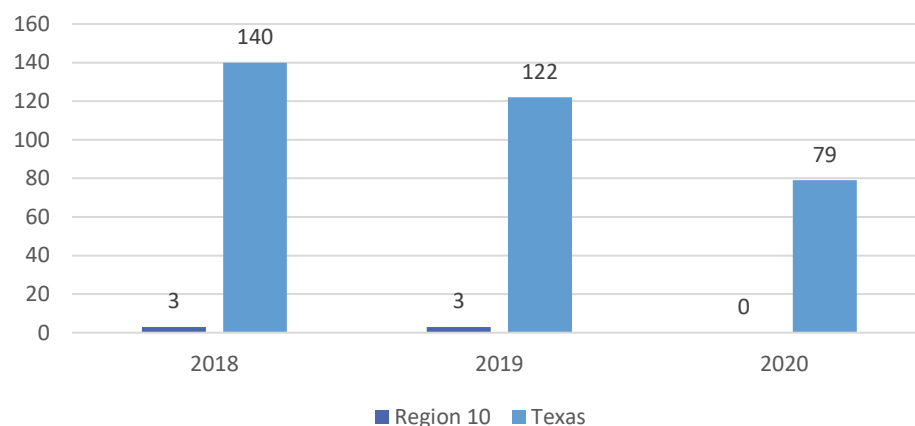
The COVID-19 pandemic caused many areas to shut down and, as a result, some of the data we pulled may seem incomplete or entirely off. This is of importance to keep in mind as data for 2020 is given and analyzed. While most of the numbers are very encouraging and hint at declines in various behaviors, it also indicates a need to be wary and to remember that 2020 found us in lockdown with little avenues open to adults or juveniles to engage in reckless behavior. Our data may be skewed for the next few years as we reopen and begin to engage in social activities.

When the data for juvenile drunkenness is looked at, the numbers for Region 10 are very positive. The region went from 3 in 2018 and 2019 to zero in 2020. Texas had a similar decline, going from 140 in 2018

to 79 in 2020. The figure below details the numbers for juvenile drunkenness in Region 10 and Texas for 2018-2020.

Figure 21. Juvenile Drunkenness Violations in Region 10 and Texas, 2018-2020

Texas' number of juvenile drunkenness violations far exceeded Region 10's.



Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Liquor Law Arrests, 2018-2020.*

The charge of drunkenness is defined as being drunk in a public space and/or posing a threat to themselves or others. Fortunately, in our region, drunkenness is not something we usually see in large numbers, so the zero charges in 2020 could be on trend as we note that there were only three charges in 2018 and three charges in 2019. The table below breaks down the number of charges in each county from 2018 to 2020.

Table 34. Juvenile Drunkenness Violations by County, 2018-2020

County	2018	2019	2020
Brewster	0	2	0
Culberson	0	0	0
El Paso	3	1	0
Hudspeth	0	0	0
Jeff Davis	0	0	0
Presidio	0	0	0

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Liquor Law Arrests, 2018-2020.*

Calculating juvenile drunkenness violations per 100,000 is an important measure to view how the region and the state are doing overall on mitigating these violations. In 2018 and 2019, Region 10 stayed steady at 3.1 violations per 100,000 juveniles. Texas, likewise, stayed steady in 2018 and 2019 with 4.9 and 4.25, respectively. The region had zero violations per 100,000 in 2020 while Texas had 2.74 violations per 100,000 in 2020. The calculations below were achieved by dividing the number of violations in each county by total juvenile population and then multiplying by 100,000. The exception to that was Brewster County which was multiplied by 1,000 as their population is under 10,000. The table below breaks down the per 100,000 violations for 2018 through 2020 in the region and Texas.

Table 35. Juvenile Drunkenness per 100,000, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	2.75	0
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	3.17	1.06	0
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	3.1	3.1	0
<i>Texas</i>	4.9	4.25	2.74

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Liquor Law Arrests, 2018-2020.*

Juvenile Driving Under the Influence

Driving under the influence in Texas is characterized by many things. One of the most obvious is being pulled over and discovering the driver is, in fact, intoxicated. However, some of the other things that can result in this charge are being intoxicated and in a non-moving vehicle with the keys in the ignition; it could also be sitting in the car with the engine running, but not necessarily driving. That said, in Region 10, there were only five of these violations in 2020, down from 17 in 2018. The table below breaks down the number of violations from 2018 to 2020 in each of the six counties of Region 10 and Texas.

Table 36. DUI Violations, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	0	0
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	17	2	5
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	17	2	5
<i>Texas</i>	124	93	109

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Liquor Law Arrests, 2018-2020.*

When we calculate these violations per 100,000, we can see how prevalent these behaviors are in our areas. For example, in Region 10 the rate of DUI's per 100,000 people was 17.5 at its highest in 2018 and 2.07 at its lowest in 2019. As the only violations were in El Paso County, the region's numbers were consistent. Texas' rates were much lower as the number of violations was relatively low considering the

juvenile population of near three million. The table below breaks down the per 100,000 for DUI's, meaning, for example, 18 violations in El Paso County for every 100,000 people.

Table 37. DUI per 100,000, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	0	0
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	18	2.12	5.3
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	17.5	2.07	5.26
<i>Texas</i>	4.34	3.24	3.79

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Liquor Law Arrests, 2018-2020.*

Liquor Law Violations

Liquor law violations come from a variety of instances, such as selling or serving alcohol to someone underage, which results in a charge for both seller and minor. It also is having an open container in a moving vehicle. Throughout 2018, 2019, and 2020, El Paso County was the only county in Region 10 with any liquor law violations. El Paso County had 71 in 2018 at their highest and 8 in 2020 at their lowest. Texas also saw a drop of about 200 violations from 2018 to 2020 going from 548 to 336 in those two years. What we do know about those low numbers for 2020 is that the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) was out in full force in all communities of Texas during the pandemic due to the permission of alcohol to be served with curbside service and the heightened popularity of drinks delivered to your door with apps like Drizly and Uber partnerships. TABC was out conducting random checks to ensure that rules were being followed regarding capacity and sales as many bars were only allowed to serve alcohol if they also served food. This heightened presence and the pandemic lockdown could have impacted the numbers and caution should be used when considering where this means our communities stand on this violation. The table below details the liquor law violations for each county, Region 10, and Texas from 2018 to 2020.

Table 38. Liquor Law Violations, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	0	0
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	71	30	8
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	71	30	8
<i>Texas</i>	548	564	336

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Liquor Law Arrests, 2018-2020.*

As with many of the other categories covered, calculating violations per 100,000 persons is important to distinguish how these violations effect our communities. Liquor law violations were the most common violations in the region and in Texas. In 2018, El Paso County had 75.22 violations per 100,000 people and

in 2020 they had only 8.42 violations per 100,000 people. The region's numbers compared to the numbers of Texas overall are low as Texas had 19.18 violations in 2018 compared to the region's 2.48 in the same year. The table below breaks down the number of liquor law violations per 100,000 people in each county of Region 10 and Texas.

Table 39. Liquor Law Violations per 100,000, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	0	0
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	75.22	31.84	8.42
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	2.48	1.04	8.24
<i>Texas</i>	19.18	19.68	11.69

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Liquor Law Arrests, 2018-2020.*

Minors in Possession (MIP)

The Texas Department of Public Safety compiles data based on arrests of juveniles in possession of illicit substances. Categories are broken down into things like possession, sale, manufacturing, and then broken down by substance. This data is important to determine what substances are in use in our region for education purposes. Because a brain does not fully develop until an individual is in their mid-twenties, cessation of illegal substances is vital to encourage healthy brain development. In addition to how hazardous to an individual's health steady use of these substances can be, there is also a legal component. Unfortunately, some students are not aware of the fact that some of the substances they are arrested for possessing can result in a felony arrest.

For 2020, El Paso County showed the highest number of arrests for sale/manufacturing and possession than any other county in Region 10. There were 7 arrests for sale/manufacturing and 197 arrests for possession of substances. The table below breaks down the arrests for each county in Region 10 for 2020 only.

Table 40. Arrests for Sale/Manufacturing and Possession - 2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>Sale/Manufacturing</i>	<i>Possession</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	0
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	7	197
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	7	197

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Crime in Texas Online: Drug Related Arrests, 2021.*

In Region 10, the numbers for sale/manufacturing and possession have seen a drastic decline from 2019 to 2020, possibly due to the pandemic. However, the numbers from 2018 to 2019 showed a stark increase in the possession category when it rose from 377 to 522. The sale/manufacturing category did see a decline in 2018 to 2019 going from 44 to 13 arrests for that charge. The table below breaks down the numbers for the two categories for juvenile arrests from 2018 to 2020.

Table 41. Juvenile Arrests for Sale/Manufacturing or Possession, 2018-2020

Geo. Location	2018		2019		2020	
	Sale/Manufacturing	Possession	Sale/Manufacturing	Possession	Sale/Manufacturing	Possession
<i>Brewster</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	44	377	13	522	7	197
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	44	377	13	523	7	197

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Crime in Texas Online: Drug Related Arrests, 2021.*

Drug related arrests for juveniles is broken down into various categories, as previously mentioned, however, there are instances where one juvenile can be charged with a number of these categories. For example, a juvenile can be arrested and charged with possession as well as sale/manufacturing if the amount of the drug in question is high enough. The data provided below breaks down only the possession charges and the substances they relate to. For 2020, El Paso County had the only charges for possession in the region. The substance that was most prevalent was marijuana with 114 arrests involving it. The table below breaks down the number of charges for each substance in Region 10 for 2020 only.

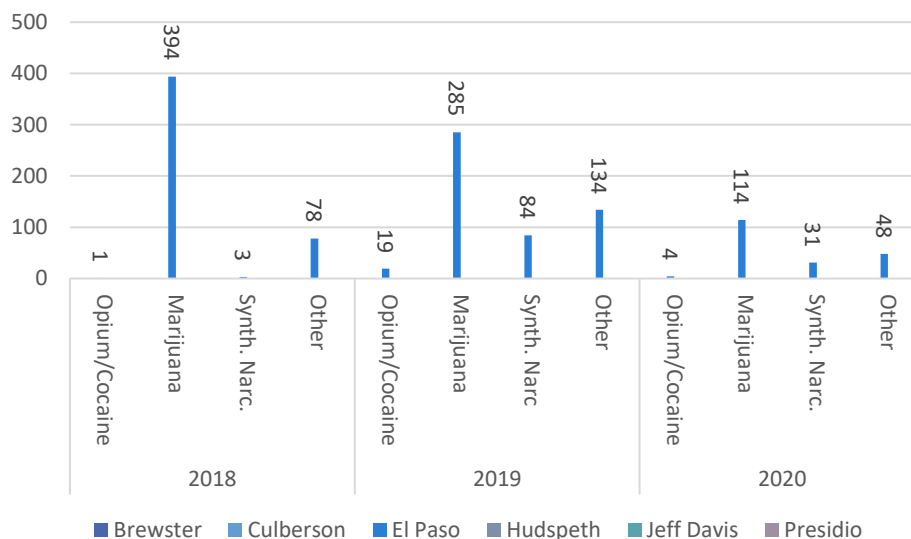
Table 42. Juvenile Arrests for Possession of Various Substances – 2020

Geo. Location	Opium/Cocaine	Marijuana	Synthetic Narcotics	Other Dangerous Non- Narcotics
<i>Brewster</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	4	114	31	48
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	4	114	31	48

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Crime in Texas Online: Drug Related Arrests, 2021.*

Beginning with 2018 the substance that was most prevalent with juvenile drug related arrests was marijuana. With the introduction of THC to vapes and more and more states legalizing marijuana it is important to educate our area's youth on the consequences of illicit substance use. The figure below breaks down juvenile drug related arrests for possession for 2018 to 2020.

Figure 22. Juvenile Drug Related Arrests for Possession of Illicit Substances, 2018-2020



Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Crime in Texas Online: Drug Related Arrests, 2021.*

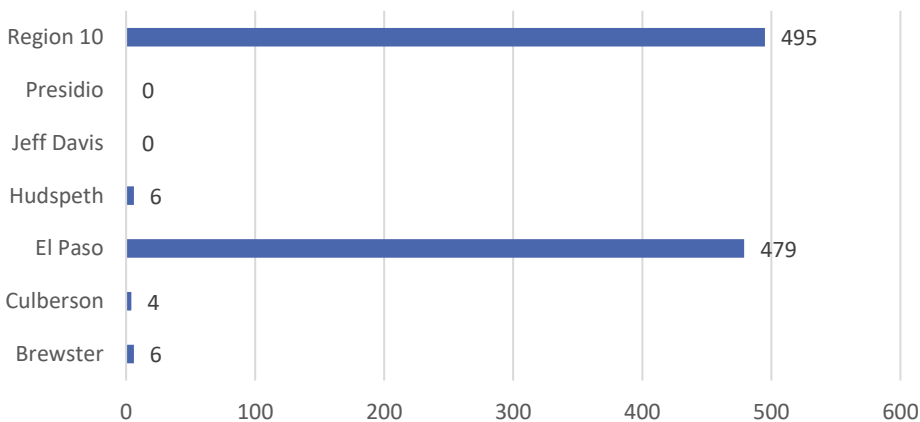
Adult Alcohol Related Arrests

Drunkenness

Public Intoxication, also known as drunkenness, is the act of being drunk in public. In Texas, one would receive the Class C misdemeanor charge, punishable by a \$500 fine, if they are intoxicated in a public place that a degree that they may endanger themselves or others.¹⁷ In Region 10, El Paso County had 479 arrests for drunkenness, which was the highest number in our region. Hudspeth and Brewster counties had the second highest with six arrests for this violation each. This is a concerning area as our numbers were still high even with the pandemic putting our area into lockdown. One factor of this, though, may be the availability of alcohol delivery and alcohol to-go services passed last June 2020. The figure below breaks down the arrests for drunkenness by county in Region 10.

Figure 23. Adult Drunkenness Arrests by County - 2020

El Paso County had the most arrests for drunkenness in 2020.



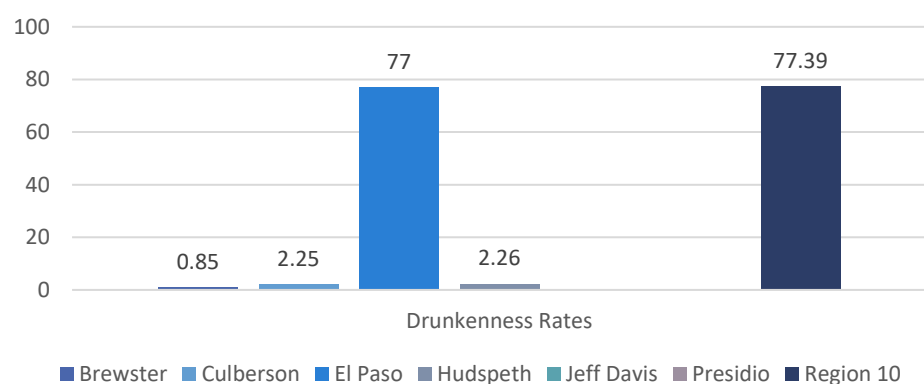
Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Liquor Law Arrests, 2020*.

¹⁷ Texas Penal Code. *Title 10 Offense Against Public Health, Safety and Morals: Chapter 49 Intoxication and Alcoholic Beverage Offenses*.

In order to develop a clearer picture of how drunkenness violations impact our community, the data has been broken down to represent how many arrests per 1,000 (the smaller populated counties) and per 100,000 (El Paso County and Region 10, overall). That said, El Paso had the highest number of arrests at 479 which translated into 77 arrests per 100,000 people. Jeff Davis and Presidio Counties had zero arrests for drunkenness which also correlate into zero arrests per 1,000 people for 2020. The figure below breaks down these arrests per 1,000 for the counties Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio, while using per 100,000 for El Paso County and Region 10.

Figure 24. Adult Drunkenness Arrests per 1,000 and 100,000 - 2020

Jeff Davis and Presidio Counties had zero violations for drunkenness per 1,000 people in 2020.



Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Liquor Law Arrests, 2020.*

Public Intoxication, or drunkenness, is an area of concern for our region, not just with the widespread availability of alcohol during the pandemic, but even in our more “normal” times. In 2019, our region had the highest number of violations for drunkenness with 792 total. Consequently, El Paso County had the highest number of violations with 756 of those arrests. Brewster and Culberson Counties saw the sharpest declines going from 21 in Brewster in 2018 and 24 in Culberson in 2018 to 6 and 4 in 2020, respectively. The table below breaks down the number of violations in each county from 2018 to 2020.

Table 43. Adult Drunkenness Arrests, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	21	23	6
<i>Culberson</i>	24	5	4
<i>El Paso</i>	613	756	479
<i>Hudspeth</i>	11	8	6
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	1	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	670	792	495

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Liquor Law Arrests, 2020.*

As with the 2020 drunkenness violations, the violations above need to be broken down to garner a better sense of what kind of obstacles we are up against in each community. Because populations in five of the counties in Region 10 are low those counties are calculated per 1,000 people; El Paso County and the region's totals are calculated at per 100,000 people. The highest numbers were from El Paso County once again with 122.82 drunkenness violations per 100,000 people in 2019 at the highest. Jeff Davis County had zero violations through all three years, therefore they had the lowest number of violations per 1,000 people. The table below breaks down the per 1,000/100,000 arrests by county and Region 10 overall for 2018 through 2020.

Table 44. Adult Drunkenness Arrests per 1,000/100,000, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	2.92	3.26	0.85
<i>Culberson</i>	13.37	2.82	2.25
<i>El Paso</i>	98.62	122.82	77
<i>Hudspeth</i>	4.16	3.04	2.26
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0.21	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	104.74	125.06	77.39

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Liquor Law Arrests, 2020*.

Adult Driving While Intoxicated

A DWI offense has a range of consequences depending on the number of crimes. For example, a third offense DWI can lead an individual to have a \$10,000 fine, two to ten years in prison, loss of driver's license, and an annual fee of \$1,000-\$2,000 for three years.¹⁸ Texas Department of Public Safety organizes juveniles starting at age 10 to age 16 and adults are those 17 and over. As such, the data herein is based on arrests for those 17 years of age and over. Jeff Davis and Presidio Counties had zero arrests for DWI from 2018 to 2020. Hudspeth County did have 18 arrests in 2018 but had zero arrests over the next two years. El Paso County did experience the largest number of arrests for DWI throughout all three years. What is notable is that from 2018 to 2019 there was a 300+ increase in arrests, but that number did drop significantly in 2020. That number does look as though progress is being made, but we must err on the side of caution here as the pandemic limited where we could go to begin with and thus may have reduced these arrests as people opted to stay home.

Table 45. Adult DWI Arrests, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	52	26	9
<i>Culberson</i>	22	20	1
<i>El Paso</i>	3,132	3,473	2,890
<i>Hudspeth</i>	18	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	3224	3519	2900

¹⁸ Texas Department of Transportation. *Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), 2020*.

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Liquor Law Arrests, 2020*

While we recognize the numbers of DWI's are high in our region, especially with regards to our largest county, El Paso, it is important to examine how many DWI's we have per 1,000/100,000 people. Again, the smaller counties like Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio will have data presented as per 1,000 people and El Paso County and the region overall will be presented as per 100,000 people. For the region overall, the year with the most arrests per people was in 2019 with 555.68 arrests per 100,000 people. Likewise, El Paso County had the highest numbers in 2019 with 564.22 arrests per 100,000 people. Jeff Davis and Presidio Counties had zero arrests per 1,000 people as they had no arrests throughout the three-year period. The table below breaks down the arrests for adult DWI from 2018 to 2020.

Table 46. Adult DWI Arrests per 1,000/100,000, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	7.24	3.69	1.28
<i>Culberson</i>	12.26	11.27	0.56
<i>El Paso</i>	503.88	564.22	464.66
<i>Hudspeth</i>	6.8	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	504	555.68	453.43

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Liquor Law Arrests, 2020*

Marijuana

As marijuana becomes legalized in more and more states for recreational use, it is important to remember when educating our community members that marijuana use is not legal in Texas. As with the juvenile category for minor in possession, adults are arrested for possession of illicit substances. The categories therein are broken down similarly to encompass sale/manufacturing and possession and then lists the various substances they are arrested and charged with. El Paso County had the highest number of arrests for possession of marijuana in the region, however, Hudspeth County also saw a high amount with around 300 for 2018 and 2019, dropping to 108 in 2020. The table below breaks down the number of arrests for possession of marijuana for each county from 2018 to 2020.

Table 47. Possession of Marijuana Arrests, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	30	15	1
<i>Culberson</i>	12	20	3
<i>El Paso</i>	1,811	1,797	975
<i>Hudspeth</i>	300	318	108
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	12	4
<i>Region 10</i>	2153	2162	1091

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Drug Arrests, 2020*.

Adult marijuana arrests proved to be an issue in our region, except for Jeff Davis County. In 2018, Hudspeth County saw 113.33 arrests per every 1,000 people for marijuana possession. This is significant when we consider that the population for Hudspeth County is usually between two and three thousand. El Paso County maintained a steady rate of arrests with 291.36 and 291.94 arrests per every 100,000 people in 2018 and 2019 but dropped to 156.76 arrests per every 100,000 people in 2020. The table below breaks down the arrests for 2018 through 2020 per every 1,000 people for Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio Counties, while calculating it at every 100,000 people for El Paso County and Region 10, overall.

Table 48. Adult Marijuana Arrests per 1,000/100,000, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	4.18	2.13	0.14
<i>Culberson</i>	6.68	11.27	1.69
<i>El Paso</i>	291.36	291.94	156.76
<i>Hudspeth</i>	113.33	120.96	40.83
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	2.66	0.9
<i>Region 10</i>	336.57	341.4	170.59

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Drug Arrests, 2020.*

Adult Drug/Narcotic Arrests

While marijuana is the most widely used substance in the United States, there are other narcotics that are defined in the category of arrests, such as cocaine and methamphetamines. The opium/cocaine category is broken down even further by including substances such as morphine, heroin, and codeine. Synthetic narcotics include substances such as Demerol and methadone. In Region 10, El Paso County had the highest number of opium/cocaine arrests of any year beginning in 2018. The number dramatically increased from 2018 to 2019 going from 82 up to 469 in that category in El Paso County. Even during the pandemic, the arrests for possession of synthetic narcotics was up, especially in El Paso County. There were only 11 arrests for synthetic narcotics in 2018 but by 2020 that number had risen to 152 in El Paso County. The table below breaks down the arrests for possession of opium/cocaine and synthetic narcotics for Region 10 by county from 2018 to 2020.

Table 49. Adult Arrests for Possession for Opium/Cocaine and Synthetic Narcotics, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>		<i>2019</i>		<i>2020</i>	
	Opium/Cocaine	Synth. Narc.	Opium/Cocaine	Synth. Narc.	Opium/Cocaine	Synth. Narc.
<i>Brewster</i>	0	15	0	3	0	0
<i>Culberson</i>	10	2	7	6	1	1
<i>El Paso</i>	82	11	469	91	198	152
<i>Hudspeth</i>	13	2	26	1	19	3
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	105	30	503	101	218	156

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Drug Arrests, 2020.*

When the above data is broken down by arrests per every 1,000 people (Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio) and per every 100,000 people (El Paso and Region 10), we get a better idea of how many violations we are seeing in each of these communities. The table below breaks down the number of arrests per each respective population for 2018 to 2020 by county and Region 10.

Table 50. Adult Arrests for Opium/Cocaine and Synthetic Narcotics per 1,000/100,000, 2018-2020

Geo. Location	2018		2019		2020	
	Opium/Cocaine	Synth. Narc.	Opium/Cocaine	Synth. Narc.	Opium/Cocaine	Synth. Narc.
<i>Brewster</i>	0	2.09	0	0.43	0	0
<i>Culberson</i>	5.57	1.11	3.38	0.56	0.14	0.14
<i>El Paso</i>	13.19	1.77	76.19	14.79	31.83	24.44
<i>Hudspeth</i>	4.91	0.76	0.38	7.22	7.18	1.13
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	16.41	4.69	79.43	15.95	34.08	24.39

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Drug Arrests, 2020.*

Crime Rate

The Texas Department of Public Safety compiles data regarding more serious crimes such as murder, rape, and assault, to name a few. In El Paso County, larceny was the crime with the highest number of offenses at 8,106 in 2020. Larceny is defined as the theft of personal property. The state totals, like the region, show the highest number of crimes in the larceny category with a total of 463,590 offenses in 2020. The crime with the smallest number of offenses in 2020 was murder in El Paso County at 33. The table below breaks down the number of each crime committed per county in Region 10 compared to Texas' totals.

Table 51. Number of Crimes Committed by County - 2020

Geo. Location	2020							
	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Overall Totals
<i>Brewster</i>	0	2	0	8	37	21	9	77
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	33	317	321	1,936	1,033	8,106	526	12272
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	1	0	1	5	6	4	17
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	2	4	5	2	13
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0	12	0	3	3	18
<i>Region 10</i>	33	320	321	1959	1079	8141	544	12397
<i>Texas</i>	1,931	13,422	26,829	88,549	108,243	463,590	83,760	786,324

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Uniform Crime Report: Index Crimes Report, 2020.*

To understand how these various crimes are affecting our communities it is necessary to calculate how many crimes per 1,000/100,000 people is occurring yearly. In 2020, El Paso County saw 3.77 murders for every 100,000 people compared to counties like Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio that had zero murders in 2020. Overall crime totals in Region 10 were 1379.1 crimes per every 100,000 people in all six counties. Texas saw 2649.55 crimes committed per every 100,000 people. The table below breaks down the number of crimes per every 1,000 people for the smaller counties and per every 100,000 for El Paso County, the region, and Texas.

Table 52. Crime Rate per 1,000/100,000 - 2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>Murder</i>	<i>Rape</i>	<i>Robbery</i>	<i>Assault</i>	<i>Burglary</i>	<i>Larceny</i>	<i>Auto Theft</i>	<i>Overall Totals</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	0.22	0	0.87	4.05	2.3	0.99	8.43
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	3.77	36.18	36.64	220.98	117.9	925.22	60.04	1400.72
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0.29	0	0.29	1.47	1.77	1.17	5
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	0.95	1.89	2.37	0.95	6.15
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0	2.03	0	0.51	0.51	3.05
<i>Region 10</i>	3.67	35.6	35.71	217.93	120.03	905.65	60.52	1379.1
<i>Texas</i>	6.51	45.23	9.04	298.37	364.73	1562.08	282.23	2649.55

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Uniform Crime Report: Index Crimes Report, 2020*

The comparison from 2018 to 2020 shows promise for crime declining overall. The number of assaults and rapes went down across the region. In 2018, there were 464 rapes and that was down in 2020 at 317. The numbers in Texas, unfortunately, appear to be increasing as we see that murders rose from 1,334 in 2018 to 1,931 in 2020. The table below breaks down the crimes by county from 2018 to 2020.

Table 53. Crimes per County, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>Brewster</i>	<i>Culberson</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Hudspeth</i>	<i>Jeff Davis</i>	<i>Presidio</i>	<i>Regio 10</i>	<i>Texas</i>
2018								
<i>Murder</i>	1	0	31	0	1	0	33	1334
<i>Rape</i>	4	0	464	0	1	0	469	15092
<i>Robbery</i>	1	0	403	0	0	0	404	28333
<i>Assault</i>	19	0	2019	3	3	6	2050	74142
<i>Burglary</i>	44	0	1369	20	1	1	1435	117434
<i>Larceny</i>	37	0	9648	4	4	3	9696	492249
<i>Auto Theft</i>	1	0	923	8	1	1	934	69890
2019								
<i>Murder</i>	1	0	41	0	0	0	42	1429
<i>Rape</i>	2	0	389	0	2	2	395	15155
<i>Robbery</i>	0	0	363	0	0	0	363	29001
<i>Assault</i>	16	0	2052	8	2	4	2082	75883
<i>Burglary</i>	31	0	1306	3	4	2	1346	113185
<i>Larceny</i>	15	0	9750	9	6	6	9786	499655
<i>Auto Theft</i>	6	0	1018	2	1	0	1027	77666
2020								
<i>Murder</i>	0	0	33	0	0	0	33	1931
<i>Rape</i>	2	0	317	1	0	0	320	13422
<i>Robbery</i>	0	0	321	0	0	0	321	26829
<i>Assault</i>	8	0	1936	1	2	12	1959	88549
<i>Burglary</i>	37	0	1033	5	4	12	1091	108243
<i>Larceny</i>	21	0	8106	6	5	3	8141	463590
<i>Auto Theft</i>	9	0	526	4	2	3	544	83760

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Uniform Crime Report: Index Crimes Report, 2020*

Violent Crime

Violent crime is classified as murder, rape, robbery, and assault in Texas. The most prevalent crime in our region is assault outnumbering rape by 1,600+ and murder by over 1,900. In Texas, assault was also the most prevalent with over 88,000 assaults occurring in 2020 alone. The table below breaks down violent crime in each county for the year 2020.

Table 54. Violent Crime by County - 2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>Murder</i>	<i>Rape</i>	<i>Robbery</i>	<i>Assault</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	2	0	8
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	33	317	321	1936
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	2
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0	12
<i>Region 10</i>	33	320	321	1959
<i>Texas</i>	1931	13422	26829	88549

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Uniform Crime Report: Index Crimes Report, 2020.*

Violent crime over the last three years has changed as well. Murder has held a constant trend going from 31 to 41 in 2019 and then down to 33 in 2020. However, assault has dropped significantly with at least a 500 decrease from 2019 to 2020. The table below breaks down violent crime in each county, the region's totals, and Texas for 2018 to 2020.

Table 55. Violent Crime in Region 10 and Texas, 2018-2020

	<i>Brewster</i>	<i>Culberson</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Hudspeth</i>	<i>Jeff Davis</i>	<i>Presidio</i>	<i>Region 10</i>	<i>Texas</i>
<i>2018</i>								
<i>Murder</i>	1	0	31	0	1	0	33	1334
<i>Rape</i>	4	0	464	0	1	0	469	15092
<i>Robbery</i>	1	0	403	0	0	0	404	28333
<i>Assault</i>	19	0	2019	3	3	6	2050	74142
<i>2019</i>								
<i>Murder</i>	1	0	41	0	0	0	42	1429
<i>Rape</i>	2	0	389	0	2	2	395	15155
<i>Robbery</i>	0	0	363	0	0	0	363	29001
<i>Assault</i>	16	0	2052	8	2	4	2082	75883
<i>2020</i>								
<i>Murder</i>	0	0	33	0	0	0	33	1931
<i>Rape</i>	2	0	317	1	0	0	320	13422
<i>Robbery</i>	0	0	321	0	0	0	321	26829
<i>Assault</i>	8	0	1936	1	2	12	1959	88549

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Uniform Crime Report: Index Crimes Report, 2020.*

Violent crime in Texas has shown much higher rates of assault than the other two categories. When we examine how many of these crimes are committed per person in each county, we notice that El Paso County had the highest rates at 220.98 assaults per 100,000 people in 2020. Culberson County saw the lowest crime rates with zero crimes per 1,000 people in each of the three categories. Texas saw 298.37 assaults per 100,000 people in 2020 and that was in line with Region 10's total of 217.93 assaults per 100,000 people. The table below breaks down the rate of violent crime per county, with five of the counties calculated at per 1,000 people and El Paso County, Region 10, and Texas calculated at per 100,000 people.

Table 56. Violent Crime Rate - 2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>Murder</i>	<i>Rape</i>	<i>Robbery</i>	<i>Assault</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	0.22	0	0.88
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	3.77	36.18	36.64	220.98
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0.29	0	0.29
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	0.95
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0	2.03
<i>Region 10</i>	3.67	35.6	35.71	217.93
<i>Texas</i>	6.51	45.23	90.4	298.37

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Uniform Crime Report: Index Crimes Report, 2020.*

Property Crime

Property crime in Texas is considered burglary, larceny, and auto theft. Larceny is defined as the theft of personal property. Larceny, by far, has the highest number of incidents at 8,106 in 2020 in El Paso County. It also has the highest number in Texas at 463,590. The table below breaks down the property crime data for Region 10.

Table 57. Property Crime Rate - 2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>Burglary</i>	<i>Larceny</i>	<i>Auto Theft</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	37	21	9
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	1033	8106	526
<i>Hudspeth</i>	5	6	4
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	4	5	2
<i>Presidio</i>	12	3	3
<i>Region 10</i>	1091	8141	544
<i>Texas</i>	108243	463590	83760

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Uniform Crime Report: Index Crimes Report, 2020.*

Over the last three years property crime rate has decreased in Region 10. Texas has also seen a decline in crimes like burglary and larceny, but it has increased in auto thefts. Larceny dropped by nearly 1,600 from 2019 to 2020 in Region 10 and Texas saw an increase in auto thefts from 2019 to 2020 going from 77,666

to 83,760. The table below breaks down property crime in each county, the region, and Texas from 2018 to 2020.

Table 58. Property Crime, 2018-2020

	<i>Brewster</i>	<i>Culberson</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Hudspeth</i>	<i>Jeff Davis</i>	<i>Presidio</i>	<i>Region 10</i>	<i>Texas</i>
<i>2018</i>								
<i>Burglary</i>	44	0	1369	20	1	1	1435	117434
<i>Larceny</i>	37	0	9648	4	4	3	9696	492249
<i>Auto Theft</i>	1	0	923	8	1	1	934	69890
<i>2019</i>								
<i>Burglary</i>	31	0	1306	3	4	2	1346	113185
<i>Larceny</i>	15	0	9750	9	6	6	9786	499655
<i>Auto Theft</i>	6	0	1018	2	1	0	1027	77666
<i>2020</i>								
<i>Burglary</i>	37	0	1033	5	4	12	1091	108243
<i>Larceny</i>	21	0	8106	6	5	3	8141	463590
<i>Auto Theft</i>	9	0	526	4	2	3	544	83760

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Uniform Crime Report: Index Crimes Report, 2020.*

The property crime rate allows us to examine how these crimes are affecting our communities and if work needs to be done to prevent these from spiraling out of control. When it comes to Region 10, larceny is the offense with the highest number per 100,000 with 905.65 crimes for every 100,000 people. Texas similarly experienced very high numbers in the larceny category at 1562.08 crimes per 100,000 people in 2020. The table below breaks down the property crime rate for 2020.

Table 59. Property Crime Rate - 2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>Burglary</i>	<i>Larceny</i>	<i>Auto Theft</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	4.05	2.3	0.99
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	1.18	925.22	60.04
<i>Hudspeth</i>	1.47	1.76	1.18
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	1.89	2.37	0.95
<i>Presidio</i>	2.03	0.51	0.51
<i>Region 10</i>	121.37	905.65	60.52
<i>Texas</i>	364.73	1562.08	282.23

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Uniform Crime Report: Index Crimes Report, 2020.*

Incarceration Rate

Drug Incarcerations

Incarceration rates are taken and broken down by race (black, Hispanic, white, other) and by male or female. Region 10 had 299 males incarcerated in 2018 with El Paso County accounting for 289 of those. Males are the predominant population of incarcerated persons in Texas with over 20,000 males incarcerated compared to 3,601 females in 2018. However, the number of individuals incarcerated for drug convictions has dropped from 2018 to 2020. The total number of drug incarcerations in 2018 was 23,965 and in 2020 it was 17,305. That difference is quite encouraging given the efforts of prevention across Texas. The table below breaks down the total number of incarcerations for drugs from 2018 to 2020.

Table 60. Drug Incarceration Rates, 2018-2020

	<i>Brewster</i>	<i>Culberson</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Hudspeth</i>	<i>Jeff Davis</i>	<i>Presidio</i>	<i>Region 10</i>	<i>Texas</i>
<i>2018</i>								
<i>Male</i>	3	0	289	5	0	2	299	20362
<i>Female</i>	0	0	48	0	0	0	48	3601
<i>Black</i>	1	0	26	2	0	0	29	6885
<i>Hispanic</i>	1	0	264	2	0	2	269	7558
<i>White</i>	1	0	47	1	0	0	49	9408
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	112
<i>2019</i>								
<i>Male</i>	2	0	325	2	0	1	330	19732
<i>Female</i>	0	0	57	0	0	0	57	3699
<i>Black</i>	1	0	39	0	0	0	40	6341
<i>Hispanic</i>	0	0	299	2	0	1	302	7372
<i>White</i>	1	0	44	0	0	0	45	9613
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105
<i>2020</i>								
<i>Male</i>	1	0	271	2	0	1	275	15005
<i>Female</i>	0	0	49	0	0	0	49	2300
<i>Black</i>	0	0	26	0	0	0	26	4805
<i>Hispanic</i>	0	0	260	2	0	1	263	5491
<i>White</i>	1	0	34	0	0	0	35	6935
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74

Source: Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Request for On Hand Population for Drug and DWI Related Offenses for 2020 by County, 2021.

DUI Related Incarcerations

As drinking and driving continues to be a behavior we see in our communities, we also see incarcerations as a result of drinking and driving and the various consequences it brings about. Throughout all the counties of Region 10 and Texas, more men are incarcerated for this offense than women are. There does appear to be some progress, however, when we note that the numbers of incarcerations have declined in the male and female columns steadily over the last three years of 2018 to 2020. The table below breaks down the number of DUI related incarcerations for Region 10 and Texas.

Table 61. DUI Related Incarcerations, 2018-2020

	<i>Brewster</i>	<i>Culberson</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Hudspeth</i>	<i>Jeff Davis</i>	<i>Presidio</i>	<i>Region 10</i>	<i>Texas</i>
2018								
<i>Male</i>	3	0	148	3	0	0	154	5565
<i>Female</i>	0	0	7	0	0	0	7	466
<i>Black</i>	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	646
<i>Hispanic</i>	1	0	144	3	0	0	148	2576
<i>White</i>	2	0	8	0	0	0	10	2788
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
2019								
<i>Male</i>	1	0	141	4	0	0	146	5035
<i>Female</i>	0	0	13	0	0	0	13	440
<i>Black</i>	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	624
<i>Hispanic</i>	0	0	139	4	0	0	143	2307
<i>White</i>	1	0	13	0	0	0	14	2515
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
2020								
<i>Male</i>	0	1	94	1	0	0	96	3655
<i>Female</i>	0	0	12	0	0	0	12	301
<i>Black</i>	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	456
<i>Hispanic</i>	0	1	95	1	0	0	97	1603
<i>White</i>	0	0	9	0	0	0	9	1878
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19

Source: Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Request for On Hand Population for Drug and DWI Related Offenses for 2020 by County, 2021.

The overall incarceration rate is important to look at when we consider how it may affect families who have a family member incarcerated and what that means for income, access to food, access to health insurance, etc. The numbers below are the total of the combined drug and DUI related incarceration rates for 2020. Overall, El Paso County and the region were relatively the same at about 4.8 incarcerations for every 10,000 people. The state total was about 7 incarcerations for every 10,000 people. The table below

breaks down the total number of incarcerations in each county calculated at per 1,000 for Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio; and at per 10,000 for El Paso, Region 10, and Texas.

Table 62. Total Incarceration Rate - 2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	
<i>Brewster</i>	0.11
<i>Culberson</i>	0.45
<i>El Paso</i>	4.86
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0.88
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0.17
<i>Region 10</i>	4.8
<i>Texas</i>	7.16

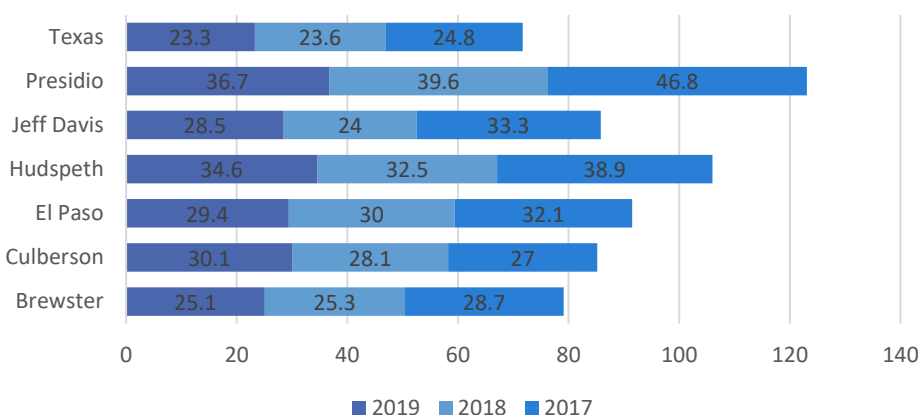
Source: Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Request for On Hand Population for Drug and DWI Related Offenses for 2020 by County, 2021.

Uninsured Adults

Health insurance is a vital part to longevity and Region 10's adult population, those over 19 but under 65, have shown improvement in this sector. In 2017, Presidio County had the highest number of uninsured adults at 46.8%, nearly half of their population. Each county since 2017 has steadily decreased the percentage of uninsured adults, however, our region is still far behind the rest of Texas. At its highest percentage, Texas had 24.8% of adults uninsured in 2017, but in 2019 that number dropped to 23.3%. The figure below details the percentage of uninsured adults in each county and Texas from 2017 to 2019.

Figure 25. Percentage of Uninsured Adults, 2017-2019

The percent of uninsured adults has steadily decreased over the last three years.



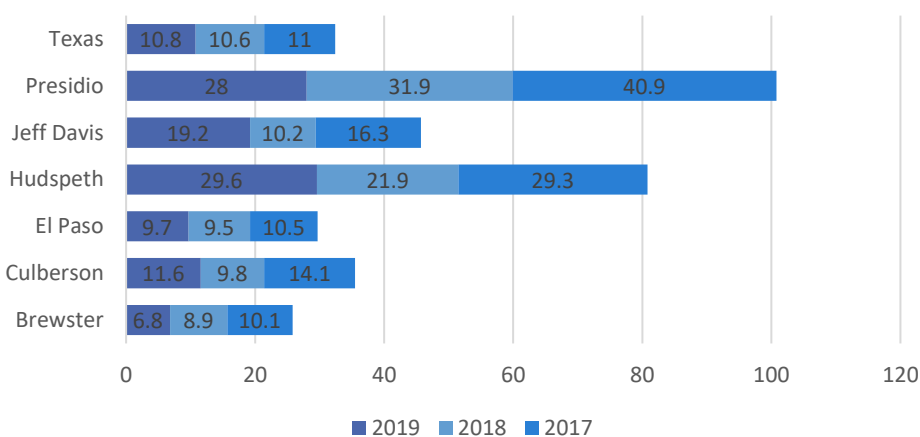
Source: U.S Census Bureau. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates: Uninsured Population, 2021.

Uninsured Children

The percentage of uninsured children has always been an area of concern as children who lack access to health care are often at risk for other issues such as food insecurity. In Region 10, the percentage of uninsured children has been decreasing each year since 2017. Of the six counties in our region only 2 have seen their percentages increase, Jeff Davis County and Hudspeth County. The state of Texas showed steady declining rates at 11% in 2017 to 10.8% in 2019. The figure below breaks down the percentage of uninsured children, aged 18 and under, in each county and Texas from 2017 to 2019.

Figure 26. Percentage of Uninsured Children, 2017-2019

The percentage of uninsured children has decreased in most counties and Texas.



Source: U.S Census Bureau. *American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates: Uninsured Population, 2021.*

Teen Birth Rate

Teen births are calculated for teens aged 15 to 19. The data used here is from 2018 to 2020. Unfortunately, much of the data from our region have been suppressed as is the practice for those births that total between one and nine. Teen birth rates are an area of concern for our region as we see that Region 10 had a higher rate of teen pregnancy than Texas overall. However, there is progress as we see that the number of teen births has been declining each year and that the rate in 2020 was .93 teen births for every 1,000 people. The table below breaks down the number and rate for the region and Texas from 2018 to 2020.

Table 63. Number and Rate of Teen Births, 2018-2020

Geo. Location	2018		2019		2020	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
<i>Brewster</i>	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
<i>Culberson</i>	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
<i>El Paso</i>	1,019	1.2	972	1.14	814	0.93
<i>Hudspeth</i>	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	Suppressed	Suppressed	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	18	2.56	18	2.75	13	2.2
<i>Region 10</i>	1,037	1.17	990	1.11	827	0.92
<i>Texas</i>	25,208	0.88	24,376	0.83	22,883	0.77

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services. *Center for Health Statistics: Texas Birth Certificate Data, 2021.*

Infant Mortality Rate

Infant mortality is an interesting category as we attempt to see what needs our community has and what areas more education is needed in. This area is interesting because we realize that perhaps there is a stronger need for prenatal care and education. Unfortunately, the data for Region 10 only came from El Paso County as any numbers one to nine will be suppressed. That said, El Paso County had an infant mortality rate of 5.45 for every 1,000 live births in 2018 and that number was lower at 3.89 in 2020. Texas' infant mortality rate in 2018 was 5.49 and in 2020 it was 5.34 indicating that the state is declining in these rates. Because there was much data suppressed no table or figure will be presented.

Mental Health Providers

Mental health providers are a vital aspect to our community as they assist in issues like substance misuse as well as in overall mental wellness. What is alarming is that our smaller counties like Culberson and Hudspeth have zero mental health providers and those numbers have not changed since 2017. Even the larger county of El Paso faces an uphill climb when we note that for every mental health provider in that county, they would serve about 1,200 people. When we compare the ration of mental health providers in our region to that of Texas, we also see that we are stretched more thinly in Region 10. For example, in 2017, Texas had 27,513 mental health providers for every 1,010 people and in 2019 they had 32,666 providers to every 880 people indicating that their efforts at expanding mental health services is working. However, in our region in 2017 we had 682 providers for every 1,287 people and 796 providers in 2019 for every 1,102 people. As a region we are far behind the state's efforts, unfortunately. The table below

breaks down the data for mental health providers (MH) and the ratio of how many people to each provider.

Table 64. Mental Health Provider Ratio, 2017-2019

	Brewster	Culberson	El Paso	Hudspeth	Jeff Davis	Presidio	Region 10	Texas
2017								
# Of MH Providers	12	0	663	0	5	2	682	27,513
Ratio	770	0	1260	0	440	3480	1287	1010
2018								
# Of MH Providers	12	0	703	0	5	3	723	29561
Ratio	780	0	1200	0	460	2390	1224	960
2019								
# Of MH Providers	12	0	776	0	5	3	796	32666
Ratio	770	0	1080	0	450	2320	1102	880

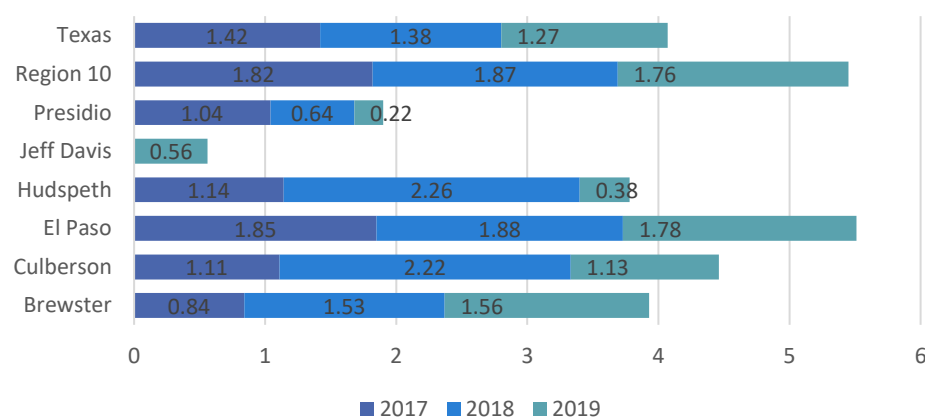
Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps. NPI Registry: 2019, 2021.

Adult SUD Treatment

Adults seeking substance use disorder treatment is tracked in Texas dividing the statistics between adults and adolescents. Adults are considered persons over 18. In Region 10, there are 1.76 adults seeking treatment for every 1,000 adults. That number is higher than the Texas total of 1.27 adults seeking treatment at the same rate. In the figure below the rates were determined by dividing the total number of adults seeking SUD treatment by the total adult population and then multiplying by 1,000. Any years not shown indicate no data available due to zero adults seeking treatment in that county. Figure 26 breaks down the rates of adults seeking treatment by county, in the region, and in Texas for 2017 to 2019.

Figure 27. Adults SUD Treatment, 2017-2019

Region 10 has more adults seeking SUD treatment than Texas.



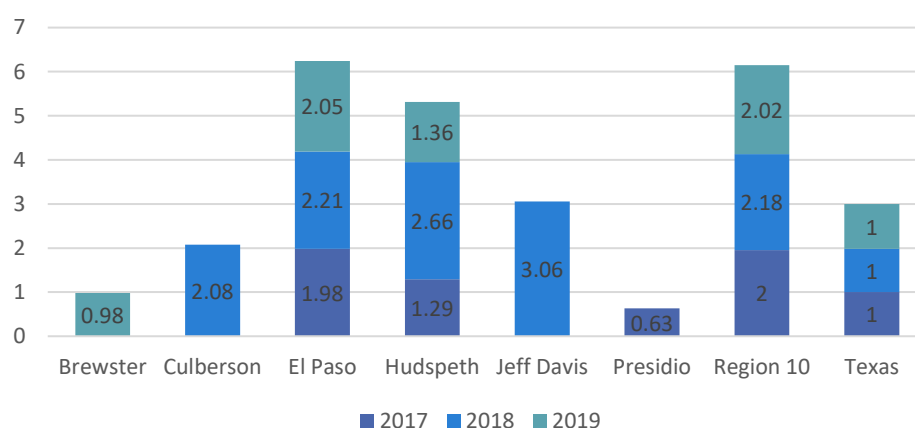
Source: Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Center for Analytics and Decision Support, 2021.

Youth SUD Treatment

There are youth seeking substance use disorder treatment throughout Texas and in Regio 10. El Paso County saw the most adolescents seeking SUD treatment at 2.05 per 1,000, which was in line with the Region at 2.02 per 1,000. However, from 2017 to 2019, Texas was at a steady 1 per 1,000 adolescents seeking treatment while the region was at a higher rate throughout that same period. The figure below breaks down the number of adolescents seeking SUD treatment per 1,000 in each county, the region, and Texas. Any year that is missing is due to a zero count for that year.

Figure 28. Youth SUD Treatment, 2017-2019

Region 10 has had more adolescents seek SUD treatment than Texas over the three-year period.



Source: Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Center for Analytics and Decision Support, 2021.

Opioid Emergency Department (ED) Visits

Opioid emergency department visit data is collected and broken down into categories such as any opioid, those that are commonly prescribed, heroin, and non-heroin opioids. Suppressed indicates that the total was less than 19 while zero means that there were absolutely no opioid related ED visits. The data is compiled on the Texas Department of State Health Services webpage and on it they break down ED admissions for opioids by gender, race, and age. From 2017 to 2019, whites represented the greatest percent of admissions at close to 60% each year. Blacks, Hispanics, and those that identify as Other saw much lower percentages with Hispanics around 20%, blacks around 8%, and other hovering around 6%. In 2018, Region 10 saw its highest opioid ED visits with 26.44 per 100,000 people for any opioid and its lowest in 2019 at 17.82 per 100,000 people. Texas experienced its highest rate in 2017 at 30.4 visits per 100,000 people for any opioid. There has been progress, however, when we note that their rate for any opioid, heroin, and those commonly prescribed opioids has steadily declined over the last three years.

The table below breaks down the number of ED visits from 2017 to 2019 by county, in the region, and Texas.

Table 65. Number of Opioid Related ED Visits, 2017-2019

	<i>Brewster</i>	<i>Culberson</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Hudspeth</i>	<i>Jeff Davis</i>	<i>Presidio</i>	<i>Region 10</i>	<i>Texas</i>
2017								
<i>Any Opioid</i>	Suppressed	Suppressed	222	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	222	8,585
<i>Commonly Prescribed</i>	0	Suppressed	125	Suppressed	Suppressed	0	125	4,805
<i>Heroin</i>	0	Suppressed	49	0	0	0	49	1,675
<i>Non-Heroin Opioid</i>	Suppressed	Suppressed	173	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	173	4,923
2018								
<i>Any Opioid</i>	Suppressed	Suppressed	234	Suppressed	Suppressed	0	234	7,767
<i>Commonly Prescribed</i>	Suppressed	0	131	Suppressed	Suppressed	0	131	4,204
<i>Heroin</i>	0	Suppressed	59	0	0	0	59	1,852
<i>Non-Heroin Opioid</i>	Suppressed	0	174	Suppressed	Suppressed	0	174	5,689
2019								
<i>Any Opioid</i>	Suppressed	0	159	Suppressed	0	Suppressed	159	5,571
<i>Commonly Prescribed</i>	Suppressed	0	89	Suppressed	0	0	89	2,923
<i>Heroin</i>	Suppressed	0	38	Suppressed	0	Suppressed	38	1,367
<i>Non-heroin Opioid</i>	Suppressed	0	121	Suppressed	0	0	121	3,977

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services. *Texas Health Data: Opioid-Related Emergency Department Visits, 2021.*

New HIV Diagnoses

HIV diagnoses are still a matter of concern as we see that the number of new diagnoses continues to rise within Region 10 as well as in Texas. However, the data that is collected is not comprehensive as there are certain data that will be suppressed, in this case, because the number of diagnoses does not exceed five. On this table, where there are blank spots, or no data given, it is because the data was suppressed. In Texas, new HIV diagnoses due to intravenous drug use has stayed consistently high over the last three years indicating more education about not using illicit substances and/or clean needles is needed. In Texas, Hispanics accounted for the newest HIV diagnoses in 2019. Also, in Texas in 2019, the newest diagnoses occurred in the age group of 25-34. Males also far outpaced females in new diagnoses with 3,440 new diagnoses for males and 763 new diagnoses for females.

In Region 10, the total number of new diagnoses, for any transmission method, translated to .12 diagnoses for every 1,000 people. While in Texas that number was .14 diagnoses for every 1,000 people. Prevention efforts in our region appear to be promising, especially in the perinatal section, as there were no births that resulted in an HIV diagnosis in 2019. In the table below, IDU stands for intravenous drug use; MMSC stands for male-to-male sexual contact; and MMSC/IDU stands for male-to-male sexual contact and

intravenous drug use. The table below breaks down the number of new diagnoses and their transmission over the last three years.

Table 66. New HIV Diagnoses and Transmission, 2017-2019

	<i>Brewster</i>	<i>Culberson</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Hudspeth</i>	<i>Jeff Davis</i>	<i>Presidio</i>	<i>Region Totals</i>	<i>Texas</i>
2017								
Heterosexual Contact			12				12	860
IDU	0		6			0	6	235
MMSC	0	0	94	0			94	3,065
MMSC/IDU			6			0	6	197
Perinatal			0				0	10
2018								
Heterosexual Contact			11	0		0	11	900
IDU	0					0	0	265
MMSC	0	0	104	0			104	3,076
MMSC/IDU			8			0	8	168
Perinatal			0				0	10
2019								
Heterosexual Contact			13	0		0	13	814
IDU	0		6			0	6	252
MMSC	0	0	87	0		0	87	2,929
MMSC/IDU						0	0	202
Perinatal			0				0	7

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services. *Texas Health Data: New HIV Diagnoses Summary, 2021.*

People Living with HIV

While the previous section discusses the number of new HIV diagnoses in our area, this section will focus on how many people in our region and Texas are already living with HIV. Jeff Davis County was the only county in Region 10 with zero people living with HIV from 2017 to 2019. El Paso County, as the most populated county, had the most people living with HIV with a total of 13,529 from 2017 to 2019. The rates of people living with HIV per 1,000 people was much higher in Region 10 than Texas from 2017 to 2019. Region 10 had a steady rate of 5 people living with HIV from 2017 to 2019, while Texas saw a rate of around 3 per 1,000 people living with HIV. The first table breaks down the number of people living with

HIV by county and Texas from 2017 to 2019. The figure following this table breaks down how many people live with HIV per 1,000 people in the region and Texas.

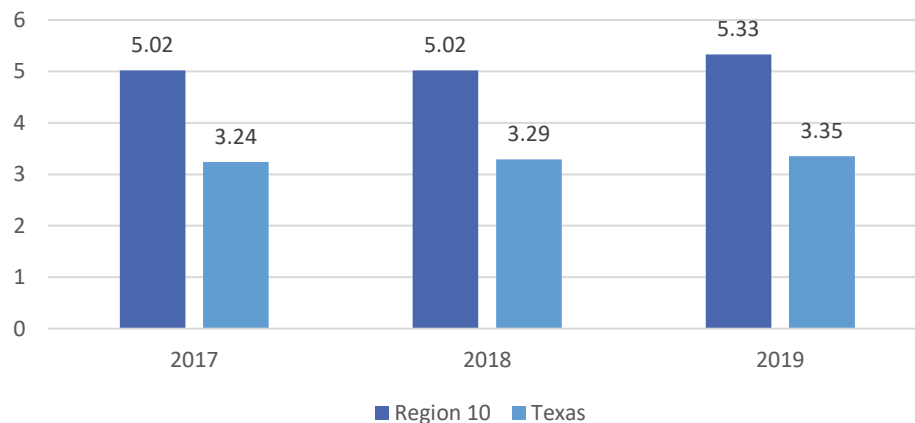
Table 67. Number of People Living with HIV, 2017-2019

<i>Year</i>	<i>Brewster</i>	<i>Culberson</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Hudspeth</i>	<i>Jeff Davis</i>	<i>Presidio</i>	<i>Region 10</i>	<i>Texas</i>
<i>2017</i>	5	0	4,388	0	0	13	4406	91,469
<i>2018</i>	8	5	4,408	10	0	11	4442	94,630
<i>2019</i>	5	5	4,733	0	0	10	4753	97,844
<i>Totals</i>	18	10	13,529	10	0	34	13,601	283,943

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services. *People Living with HIV, 2021.*

Figure 29. People Living with HIV per 1,000, 2017-2019

Region 10 had more people living with HIV per 1,000 people than Texas from 2017 to 2019.



Source: Texas Department of State Health Services. *People Living with HIV, 2021.*

Alcohol Retail Density

Region 10's retail access to alcohol products is no different from any other area as the six counties have a total of 1,734 alcohol retailers in 2020. This number is up from 1,685 in 2018. In fact, all counties in Region 10, as well as Texas, are seeing an increase in the number of licensed alcohol retailers. There is a similar increase in the number of retailers per 100,000 people in our region as we increased from 190.4 in 2018 to 193 per 100,000 people in 2020. Texas also saw an increase of about 16 going from 187.3 in 2018 to 203.3 in 2020. The table below breaks down the number of alcohol retailers in each county as well as the number of retailers per 100,000 people.

Table 68. Number and Density Rate of Alcohol Retailers, 2018-2020

	<i>Brewster</i>	<i>Culberson</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Hudspeth</i>	<i>Jeff Davis</i>	<i>Presidio</i>	<i>Region 10</i>	<i>Texas</i>
2018								
<i># Of Alcohol Permits</i>	63	21	1,546	7	5	43	1685	58,139
<i>Density Rates</i>	681.2	966	864	191	207.7	612	190.4	187.3
2019								
<i># Of Alcohol Permits</i>	65	22	1,570	9	6	43	1715	59,630
<i>Density Rates</i>	711.7	980	179.2	264.7	284	728.1	192.25	201.3
2020								
<i># Of Alcohol Permits</i>	67	23	1,583	9	6	46	1734	61,326
<i>Density Rates</i>	736.3	1031.9	179.2	264.5	286.8	798.9	193	203.3

Source: Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. *TABC: License Information, 2021.*

Alcohol Sales to Minors

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission tracks violations from alcohol retailers for a variety of reasons from selling after hours to selling to minors. Compliance checks are of vital importance to ensure that retailers do not become complacent in applying protocols such as asking for identification and learning to spot fake identifications. The punishment for making alcoholic beverages available to a minor is a Class A misdemeanor and is a fine of up to \$4,000, confinement in jail up to a year, or both.¹⁹ The number of alcohol sales to minors was at its highest in 2018 with a total of 1,204 in Texas. It was at its highest in Region 10 in 2018 with a total of 29. However, 2020 saw dramatic declines in alcohol sales to minors largely because TABC agents were out in full force conducting checks due to the ability of bars to open

¹⁹ Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. *Underage Drinking Laws, 2021.*

during the pandemic and alcohol to go services. The table below breaks down the number of alcohol sales to minors in Region 10 by county from 2017 to 2020.

Table 69. Alcohol Sales to Minors, 2017-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i># of Alcohol Sales to Minors 2017</i>	<i># of Alcohol Sales to Minors 2018</i>	<i># of Alcohol Sales to Minors 2019</i>	<i># of Alcohol Sales to Minors 2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>El Paso</i>	21	28	10	5
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	1	0	0
<i>Region 10</i>	21	29	10	5
<i>Texas</i>	914	1,204	953	185

Source: Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. *Alcohol Sales to Minors, 2021.*

Tobacco Retailer Density

The state of Texas, and the federal government, raised the legal age to possess, purchase, sell, distribute, consume, or receive tobacco products to 21 effective September 1, 2019, and December 20, 2019, respectively. In Region 10, the number of tobacco retailers has dropped slightly from 2019 to 2020. Region 10 had an average of 85.66 tobacco retailers per 100,000 people in 2019 and in 2020 that dropped to 83.65 retailers per 100,000 people. The table below breaks down the number of tobacco permits per county as well as the density rate of retailers per every 100,000 people.

Table 70. Tobacco Retailers, 2019-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>Brewster</i>	<i>Culberson</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Hudspeth</i>	<i>Jeff Davis</i>	<i>Presidio</i>	<i>Region 10</i>	<i>Texas</i>
<i>2019</i>								
<i># Of Tobacco Permits</i>	26	12	700	12	4	16	770	30,937
<i>Density Rate</i>	284.7	534.5	79.9	352.9	189.3	270.9	85.66	104.42
<i>2020</i>								
<i># Of Tobacco Permits</i>	25	11	689	8	4	15	752	30,761
<i>Density Rate</i>	274.7	493.5	78	235.1	191.2	260.5	83.65	103.65

Source: data.texas.gov. *Active Cigarette/Tobacco Retailers, 2021.*

Tobacco Sales to Minors

As with alcohol sales to minors, tobacco sales to minors are also heavily monitored and tracked in Texas. A minor caught with a tobacco product can be fined up to \$100 and will be ordered to attend an e-cigarette and tobacco awareness program.²⁰ Anyone selling tobacco products to minors will face fines up to \$500 for the first offense all the way up to \$1,000 or a 3-day permit suspension. If they have more than four violations in a year, they face having their licenses revoked for six months. The data compiled below comes from a public information request fulfilled by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Not all violations of tobacco sales to minors are reported to the comptroller and the table reflects that.

²⁰ Texas Department of State Health Services. *Texas Tobacco Laws, 2021.*

Additionally, some violations are reported to the Criminal Investigative Division (CID) which keeps reports, and the last column shows those civil penalties that resulted from CID investigations. In 2017, El Paso County had 6 sales to minors and in 2018 it saw 14. However, in 2020, that amount has gone up with 81 total violations reported in El Paso County. The table below breaks down the number of reported incidents of tobacco sales to minors in 2020.

Table 71. Tobacco Sales to Minors - 2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>Reported to Comptroller</i>	<i>CID</i>	<i>Civil Penalties from CID</i>
<i>Brewster</i>			
<i>Culberson</i>			
<i>El Paso</i>	23	44	14
<i>Hudspeth</i>			
<i>Jeff Davis</i>			
<i>Presidio</i>			
<i>Region 10</i>	23	44	14
<i>Texas</i>	320	567	163

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Open Records Request: Tobacco Sales to Minors, 2021.

Prescription Drugs Dispensed

In 2020, there were over 81,000 overdose deaths related to opioids. In Region 10, Schedule II through V drugs are on a steady decline. In 2018, there were a total of 725,460 prescriptions from Schedule II through V and in 2020 that number decreased to 652,046. Schedule II drugs are things like Fentanyl, Adderall, and Ritalin; Schedule III drugs are things like Tylenol with Codeine, anabolic steroids, testosterone; Schedule IV are things like Tramadol, Xanax, Ambien, Valium; and, finally, Schedule V are things like Lyrica and cough suppressants with Codeine.²¹ The table (72) below breaks down the number

²¹ Drug Enforcement Administration. *Campus Drug Prevention*, 2020.

of prescriptions from each schedule from 2018 to 2020. Table 73 gives the total of all prescription medication dispensed from 2018 to 2020 per 100 people.

Table 72. Schedule II-V Prescriptions in Region 10, 2018-2020

	<i>Brewster</i>	<i>Culberson</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Hudspeth</i>	<i>Jeff Davis</i>	<i>Presidio</i>	<i>Region 10</i>
<i>2018</i>							
<i>Schedule 2</i>	3,492		170,924			451	174,867
<i>Schedule 3</i>	1,777		107,607			177	109,561
<i>Schedule 4</i>	7,134		376,443			1,002	384,579
<i>Schedule 5</i>	814		55,524			115	56,453
<i>2019</i>							
<i>Schedule 2</i>	3,346		158,708			405	162,459
<i>Schedule 3</i>	1,994		104,391			148	106,533
<i>Schedule 4</i>	7,167		357,925			666	365,758
<i>Schedule 5</i>	784		54,095			79	54,958
<i>2020</i>							
<i>Schedule 2</i>	3,217		151,548			447	155,212
<i>Schedule 3</i>	1,796		94,089			177	96,062
<i>Schedule 4</i>	6,839		339,880			876	347,595
<i>Schedule 5</i>	786		52,287			104	53,177

Source: Texas State Board of Pharmacy. Prescription Monitoring Program, 2021.

Table 73. Total Number of Prescriptions Dispensed, 2018-2020

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	144	145	139
<i>Culberson</i>			
<i>El Paso</i>	82	78	73
<i>Hudspeth</i>			
<i>Jeff Davis</i>			
<i>Presidio</i>	28	21	27
<i>Region 10</i>	85	77	73
<i>Texas</i>	133	126	120

Source: Texas State Board of Pharmacy. Prescription Monitoring Program, 2021.

School Domain

Academic Achievement – TEA

3rd Grade Below Level in STAAR Math

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test is taken every year by Texas students beginning in 3rd grade. They begin with the subjects of math and reading and gradually add subjects each grade level. In Region 10, the percentage of students who were below grade level for the STAAR math test improved drastically from 2018 to 2019 in most counties, such as Brewster, Culberson, and Jeff Davis. For those students that were given the test in Spanish, there were improvements in Hudspeth County as they had no student fall below grade level, but a drastic increase in Presidio County where 3 of the 5 students (60%) fell below grade level. The data for the 2020 STAAR test will not be used since students were not mandated to take the exam. The table below breaks down the percentage of students in each county who fell below grade level in the math STAAR test for 3rd grade.

Table 74. Math STAAR “Did Not Meet Grade Level” Percentages, 2018-2019

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>		<i>2019</i>	
	English	Spanish	English	Spanish
<i>Brewster</i>	39		18	
<i>Culberson</i>	48		35	
<i>El Paso</i>	18	23	17	28
<i>Hudspeth</i>	23	20	30	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	42		31	
<i>Presidio</i>	31	0	36	60
<i>Region 10</i>	18	23	16.87	27.82

Source: Texas Education Agency. TEA Texas Assessment: STAAR Results 3rd Grade, 2021.

3rd Grade Below Level in STAAR Reading

In addition to taking the STAAR test in the subject of math, 3rd graders are required to take it in reading. This factor is of utmost importance as it gives teachers, administrators, and parents an idea of how much help a student may need to reach level so as not to fall behind later. From 2018 to 2019, Region 10 saw the percentages in the English and Spanish students increase in those that did not meet grade level. In 2018, the English students who did not meet grade level rise by one percent while the Spanish speaking students rose over four percent. On the table below the data for the reading STAAR test results is broken down. The areas that have no number listed is because they had no Spanish speaking students who took the test; if there is a zero it is because those students did meet grade level.

Table 75. Reading STAAR “Did Not Meet Grade Level” Percentages, 2018-2019

<i>Geo. Location</i>	<i>2018</i>		<i>2019</i>	
	English	Spanish	English	Spanish
<i>Brewster</i>	30		18	
<i>Culberson</i>	53		42	
<i>El Paso</i>	20	19	21	23
<i>Hudspeth</i>	48	38	36	0
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	26		44	
<i>Presidio</i>	36		31	50
<i>Region 10</i>	20.35	19.23	21.65	23.48

Source: Texas Education Agency. *TEA Texas Assessment: STAAR Results 3rd Grade, 2021.*

High School Graduation Rate

A good determination of an area’s progress in areas such as economy and access to food and healthcare is the rate of high school graduation. In Region 10, the graduation rates have maintained a steady 93% success rate indicating that at least 93% of those students in high school have graduated. The table below breaks down the percent of students who have graduated high school from 2017 to 2019 for our region.

Table 76. High School Graduation Rate for Region 10, 2017-2019

<i>Region 10</i>	
<i>2017 Graduation Rate</i>	93.3
<i>2018 Graduation Rate</i>	92.7
<i>2019 Graduation Rate</i>	93

Source: Texas Education Agency. *Completion, Graduation, and Dropouts, 2021.*

High School Dropout Rate

As we use the high school graduation rate to determine success, we use the high school dropout rate to focus our efforts on those who might need extra support. In Region 10, the dropout rate is low at about 3.9% each year. The table below breaks down the percentage of the dropout rate from 2017 to 2019.

Table 77. High School Dropout Rate for Region 10, 2017-2019

<i>Year</i>	<i>Dropout Rate</i>
2017	3.9
2018	3.9
2019	3.6

Source: Texas Education Agency. *Completion, Graduation, and Dropouts, 2021.*

School Conditions

Substance Use Infractions

Substance use and our area's adolescents have been an area of concern as we see begin to see more lax attitudes towards substances and how much harm they can cause. Unfortunately, most of the infractions were so low that the numbers were suppressed and thus the data available only reflects El Paso County. That said, El Paso County saw the largest number of substance use infractions for those students in the 9th grade. The most common discipline reason was for controlled substances/drugs. The table below breaks down the discipline action, reasons for discipline, grade level, and number of actions for the school year 2019-2020.

Table 78. Number of Disciplinary Actions for Substance Use Grades 7-12, 2019-2020

<i>Area</i>	<i>Discipline Action</i>	<i>Discipline Action Reason</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i># Of Actions</i>
<i>El Paso</i>	DAEP	Controlled Substance/Drugs	9	30
			10	15
			12	10
	In School Suspension	Alcohol Violation	8	19
	In School Suspension	Controlled Substance/Drugs	7	17
			8	53
			9	163
			10	66
			11	31
			12	32
	Mandatory Action Not Taken	Controlled Substance/Drugs	9	18

Out of School Suspension	Alcohol Violation	8	14
		9	16
Out of School Suspension	Controlled Substance/Drugs	7	19
		8	45
		9	142
		10	85
		11	35
		12	40
Part Day Out of School Suspension	Alcohol Violation	9	11
Part Day Out of School Suspension	Controlled Substance/Drugs	8	11
		9	56
		10	38
		11	17
		12	18
Placement in In/Off Campus DAEP	Alcohol Violation	7	10
		8	22
		9	22
		10	11
		12	12
Placement in In/Off Campus DAEP	Controlled Substance/Drugs	7	32
		8	72
		9	236
		10	134
		11	58
		12	63

Source: Texas Education Agency. *Discipline Report: Substance Use Infractions, 2021.*

Students Who Were Offered Drugs at School

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey asks students in grades 9-12 if they have ever been offered, sold, or given illegal drugs at school. The data for 2021 has not yet been released, however, there is data available for 2017 and 2019. Students in grades 10 and 11 saw a slight increase in this category while grades 9 and 12 saw a slight decrease. The table below gives the percentages for grades 9 through 12 for the YRBS given in 2017 and 2019 for Texas overall, no regional or county data available.

Table 79. Percentage of Students Who Were Offered Drugs at School, 2017-2019

<i>Year</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>% of Students Who Were Offered, Sold, or Given Illegal Drugs on School Property</i>
2017	9	27.6
	10	27.7
	11	24.2
	12	26.5
<i>% of Students Who Were Offered, Sold, or Given Illegal Drugs on School Property</i>		
2019	9	27.4
	10	28.3
	11	28.6
	12	25.8

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services. *High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data, 2020.*

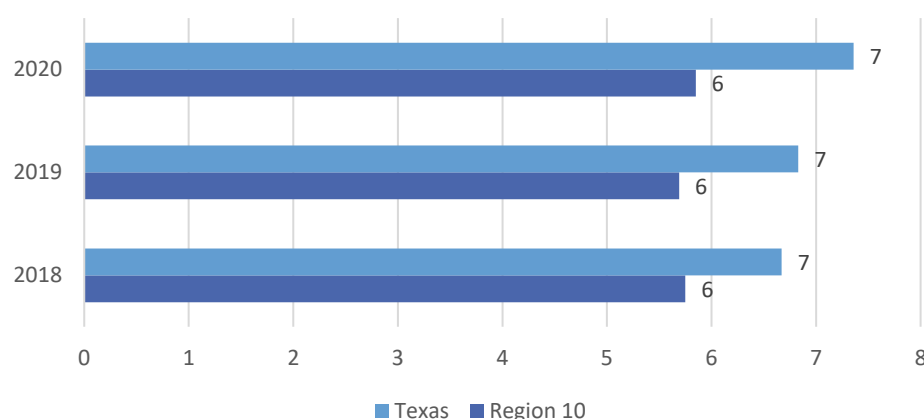
Family Domain

Family Violence Crime Rate

Family violence crime rate is a risk factor that has not been previously explored. The data compiled reflects three-year totals from 2018 to 2020 and was divided up by agency. The total of family violence incidents in Region 10 rose from 5,088 in 2018 to 5,255 in 2020. In Texas the number of incidents also rose substantially from 191,640 in 2018 to 218,644 in 2020. The incidence rate is calculated per 1,000 for Region 10 and Texas and shows that the region is only slightly lower than the state rate. The figure below breaks down that rate from 2018 to 2020.

Figure 30. Family Violence Crime Rate and Number of Incidents, 2018-2020

Region 10's incidence of family violence is only slightly lower than the state's rate.



Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. *Crime in Texas Online: Family Violence Summary Report, 2021.*

Confirmed Child Maltreatment

Child maltreatment is considered abuse and neglect of a child zero to 18 years of age. The data for this section is provided through a state open records request. In Region 10, there were 1,953 incidents in 2019 at its highest number and rate, which was at 7.94. From 2019 to 2020 there was a decline of a little over a hundred. The table below gives the number of incidents in the region for a three-year period and the rate.

Table 80. Number and Rate of Confirmed Child Maltreatment in Region 10, 2018-2020

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Rate</i>
2020	1,825	7.38
2019	1,953	7.94
2018	1,676	6.84

Source: Department of Family Protective Services. *Confirmed Maltreatment, 2021.*

Children in Foster Care

The Texas Education Agency tracks special populations such as those who are in foster care. El Paso County saw the most students in foster care of Region 10 over the last four school years, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. However, the number of students in foster care did drop from 272 in 2019-2020 to 195 in 2020-2021. The table below reflects the data of students in foster care with zeroes representing none, to suppressed representing a number lower than 5 in that county.

Child Protective Services also tracks the data of children placed in foster care and, unlike the TEA's data, provided those numbers for all children aged zero to 18. The second table (82) breaks down CPS data of children in foster care from age zero to 18. El Paso County has the only foster care placements in 2018 and 2019. Jeff Davis County had only two placements in 2020.

Table 81. Students in Foster Care, 2017-2021

<i>Area</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-2021</i>
<i>Brewster</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Culberson</i>	0	0	Suppressed	0
<i>El Paso</i>	186	235	272	195
<i>Hudspeth</i>	0	0	0	Suppressed
<i>Jeff Davis</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Presidio</i>	0	0	0	0

Source: Texas Education Agency. PEIMS Standard Report: Student Totals, 2021.

Table 82. CPS Foster Care Placements, 2018-2020

Year	Area	Type of Placement	Children in Substitute Care
2018	El Paso	Basic Child Care	1
		CPA Non-Relative Foster Home	144
		DFPS Non-Relative Foster Home	59
		DFPS Relative Foster Home	2
		Emergency Shelter	7
		Residential Treatment Center	24
		Other Foster Care	11
		Total	248
2019	El Paso	CPA Non-Relative Foster Home	136
		DFPS Non-Relative Foster Home	58
		DFPS Relative Foster Home	12
		Other Foster Care	9
		Residential Treatment Center	16
		Basic Child Care	6
		Emergency Shelter	6
		Total	243
2020	El Paso	Other Substitute Care	1
		Residential Treatment Center	22

		Emergency Shelter	15
		Basic Child Care	4
		CPA Non-Relative Foster Home	156
		CPA Relative Foster Home	2
		DFPS Non-Relative Foster Home	37
		DFPS Relative Foster Home	3
		Other Foster Care	10
	Jeff Davis	DFPS Relative Foster Home	2
		Total	252

Source: Department of Family Protective Services. CPS: Children in Substitute Care by Placement and Region, 2021.

Single-Parent Homes

Single-parent homes are something that we have seen as a risk factor for things like access to health care and food, however, the percentages have been decreasing each year. In each county of Region 10 each county has decreased the percentage of single-parent households while increasing the total number of households in each area. The table below breaks down the total number of households and gives the percentage of single-parent family homes in each county from 2017 to 2019.

Table 83. Single-Parent Family Homes, 2017-2019

	<i>Brewster</i>	<i>Culberson</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Hudspeth</i>	<i>Jeff Davis</i>	<i>Presidio</i>	<i>Texas</i>
2017							
<i>Total Households</i>	3,932	735	263,200	890	1,007	2,589	9,430,419
<i>Total Households w/ Children >18</i>	24.60%	35.50%	41.70%	31.90%	15.70%	29.50%	37.40%
2018							
<i>Total Households</i>	3,942	681	265,724	900	1,050	2,627	9,553,046
<i>Total Households w/ Children >18</i>	26.60%	28.30%	40.60%	21.40%	13.50%	25.30%	37.10%
2019							
<i>Total Households</i>	4,088	580	268,310	978	1,054	2,543	9,985,126
<i>Total Households w/ Children >18</i>	25.60%	30.70%	39.90%	30.30%	12.70%	19.10%	35.70%

Source: U.S Census Bureau. American Community Survey: Single-Parent with Children Under 18 at Home, 2021.

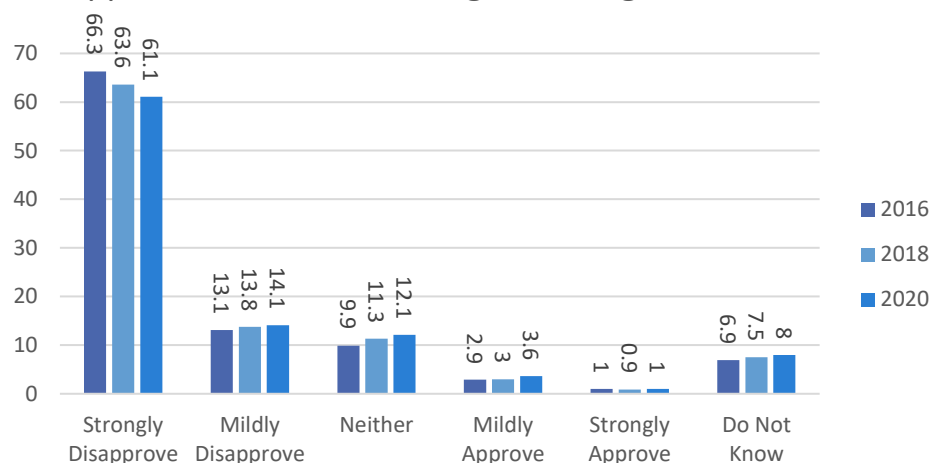
Perceptions of Parental Attitudes

Alcohol

The Texas School Survey (TSS) surveys students in grades 7 through 12 on various substances, their perceptions of them, their parent's perceptions, and their peer's perceptions. The data is compiled, and surveys reviewed before the report is released every two years. The data provided herein comes from the TSS from years 2016, 2018, and 2020. The first two years have Region 10 data alone, however, due to COVID-19 the participation for the 2020 TSS was limited and therefore has Region 9 and 10 data combined. That said, the data shows us that the parental perception for those who "strongly disapprove" of their student using alcohol has dropped over each of the three survey periods. In 2016 that perception was at 66.3% and in 2020 that had dropped to 61.1%. The decrease in perceived danger of alcohol use in Region 10 is right in line with Texas as they decreased from 64.9% in 2016 to 60.9% in 2020. This indicates that more education and outreach needs to be done to parents in our communities to inform them of the health and legal risks their students may face. The figure below breaks down the percentages for the region from 2016 to 2018 on various questions asked about the perception of alcohol use.

Figure 31. TSS Parental Perceptions Percentage: Alcohol, 2016-2020

The percentage of parents who "strongly disapprove" has been declining in our region.



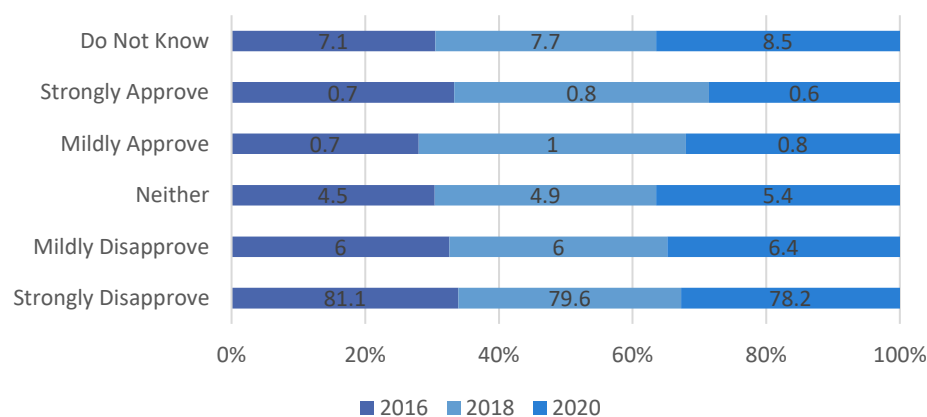
Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Tobacco

When students were asked if their parents “strongly” or “mildly” disapproved of them using tobacco, less and less strongly disapproved dropping three percent over the last three surveys. The category of “mildly disapprove” has maintained a steady six percent response rate throughout. What seems concerning, other than the decrease in those who “strongly disapprove” is the percentage of those who “do not know.” This is because there is either little knowledge of tobacco and its effects or the communication between parent and student regarding substances is lacking. The figure below breaks down parental perceptions of tobacco use over the last three survey cycles from 2016 to 2020.

Figure 32. TSS Parental Perceptions Percentages : Tobacco, 2016-2020

Less and less parents "strongly disapprove" of their students using tobacco.



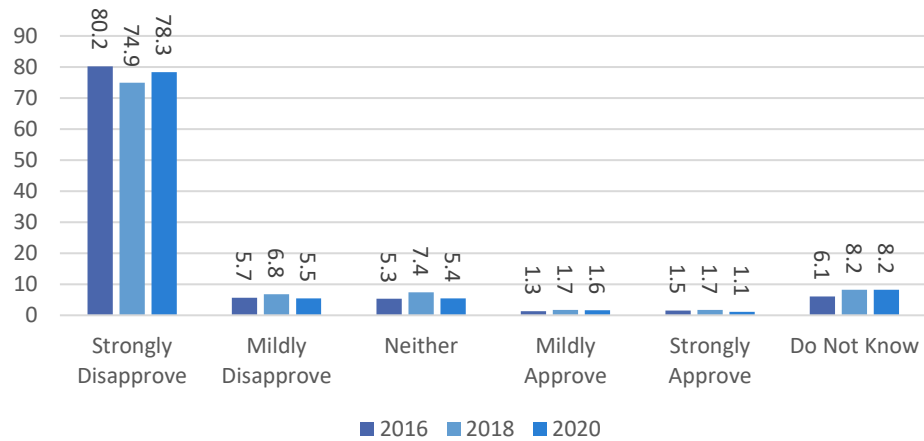
Source: Texas A&M University. Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.

Marijuana

Parents who “strongly” disapproved of their students using marijuana was at its highest in 2016 at 80.2% while dropping in 2018 and rising again to 78.3% in 2020. The percentages fluctuating could be attributed to the fact that more and more states have begun to legalize recreational marijuana, however, much more must be done to educate parents and students on the harmful effects to their health as well as the legal consequences. The figure below breaks down the parental perceptions from the last three surveys.

Figure 33. TSS Parental Perceptions Percentages : Marijuana, 2016-2020

Parents who "strongly disapprove" have fluctuated each year.



Source: Texas A&M University. Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.

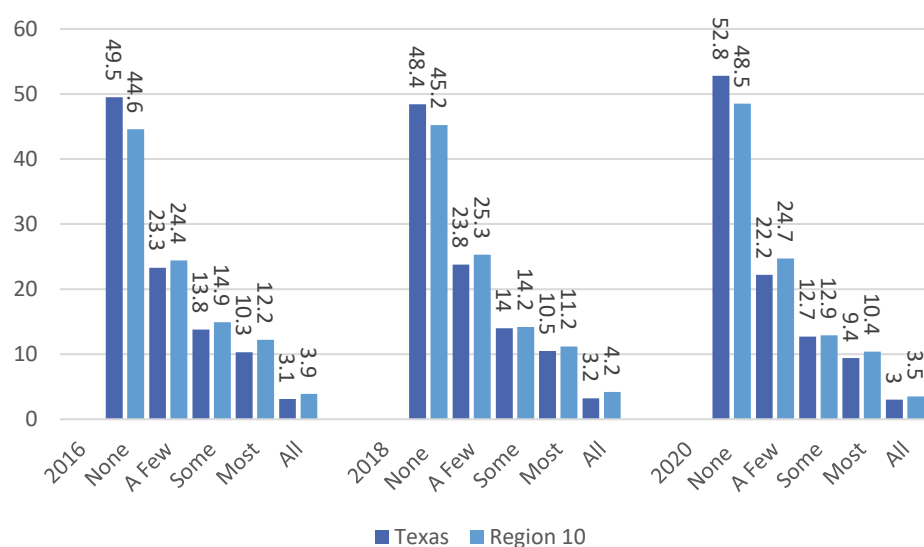
Peer Domain

Perceptions of Peer Consumption

Alcohol

The TSS asks students how many of their peers use various substances ranging from none to all. Students in grades 7-12 were asked how many of their friends used alcohol products and consistently answered “none” from 2016 to 2020. The percentage of students who said “all” was very low and only peaked at 4.2% in 2018 in Region 10. These numbers are very encouraging and demonstrate that education efforts have allowed progress to occur. The figure below breaks down the percentages of students’ answers to “About how many of your close friends use alcohol?”

Figure 34. TSS “How Many of Your Close Friends Use Alcohol?” 2016-2020



Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Tobacco

Students that participated in the TSS were asked how many of their friends used tobacco products in each of the last three surveys. The percentage of those that had no friends who had used tobacco was on a steady rise throughout each of the three survey years in Region 10 indicating progress in education and prevention efforts. Similarly, in Texas the numbers had also risen from 68.4% in 2016 to 74.2% in 2020. The table below breaks down the percentages of each answer to the question “How many of your friends use tobacco products?”

Table 84. TSS Percentages of “How Many of Your Friends Use Tobacco Products?” 2016-2020

	2016		2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
None	68.4	68.7	70.1	69.4	74.2	73.4
A Few	19.1	18.9	18.1	19	15.2	16.5
Some	7.8	7.9	7.3	7.8	6	5.6
Most	3.7	3.4	3.6	2.8	3.6	3.7
All	1	1.1	0.9	1	1.1	0.9

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Marijuana

Students were also asked how many of their friends used marijuana throughout all three surveys. Their responses were promising as the percentage of those who replied “none” had risen substantially from 2016 at 50.6% to 62.4% in 2020 for Region 10. Likewise, Texas’ numbers have increased when the replies are “none” going from 58.6% in 2016 to 61.6% in 2020. The table below breaks down the percentages to the responses for the question “How many of your friends use marijuana?”

Table 85. TSS Percentages of “How Many of Your Friends Use Marijuana?” 2016-2020

	None	A Few	Some	Most	All
2016					
Texas	58.6	19	10.9	8.5	3
Region 10	50.6	21.4	12.9	11.2	3.8
2018					
Texas	56.9	19.4	11.2	9.5	3
Region 10	49	20.7	12.9	12.5	4.9
2020					
Texas	61.6	16.9	9.9	8.9	2.7
Region 10	62.4	17.2	9.3	7.9	3.2

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Peer Access

Alcohol

In the TSS students are asked how easy it is accessing certain substances including alcohol. Texas has higher percentages than Region 10 when it comes to access being “very easy” from 2016 to the 2020 survey. What is alarming is that the percentages for answers such as “impossible” or “somewhat difficult” are relatively low for Texas and Region 10 while the percentages for “somewhat easy” and “very easy” are much higher. The table below breaks down those answers for Texas and Region 10 for the survey years 2016 to 2020.

Table 86. TSS Percentages of “If you wanted some, how difficult would it be to get alcohol?” 2016-2020

	Texas	Region 10
2016		
Never Heard of It	21.4	25.2
Impossible	14.5	12.5
Very Difficult	6.1	5.9
Somewhat Difficult	11.1	11.6
Somewhat Easy	18.3	20.4
Very Easy	28.6	24.4
2018		
Never Heard of It	23.5	30.2
Impossible	13.1	11.3
Very Difficult	5.6	5.6
Somewhat Difficult	11	11.6
Somewhat Easy	18.3	19.7
Very Easy	28.6	21.5
2020		
Never Heard of It	25.1	26.8
Impossible	13.7	13.9
Very Difficult	6.2	6.3
Somewhat Difficult	10.8	12.8
Somewhat Easy	18.1	18.3
Very Easy	26.2	22

Source: Texas A&M University. Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.

Tobacco

Tobacco use is another substance that is surveyed and the percentage of students who say accessing tobacco is “very easy” is decreasing while those that think it is “impossible” is increasing in Region 10 and

Texas. The table below breaks down the responses for how easy it is to access tobacco from the surveys for 2016 to 2020.

Table 87. TSS Percentages for “If you wanted some, how difficult would it be to get tobacco?” 2016-2020

	<i>Never Heard of It</i>	<i>Impossible</i>	<i>Very Difficult</i>	<i>Somewhat Difficult</i>	<i>Somewhat Easy</i>	<i>Very Easy</i>
2016						
<i>Texas</i>	26.2	21.8	7.4	9.8	14.1	20.7
<i>Region 10</i>	33	19	7.2	10.2	13.1	17.5
2018						
<i>Texas</i>	30.3	19.3	7	9.4	14.1	19.8
<i>Region 10</i>	39.1	16.4	5.7	9.1	12.4	17.3
2020						
<i>Texas</i>	31.9	21.4	8	10.4	13.3	15
<i>Region 10</i>	35.5	21.3	7.1	10.4	12.5	13.2

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Marijuana

Marijuana is part of the drug category and there are several questions asked about it. One of those is how difficult it would be for a student to access marijuana if they wanted some. In Region 10, the ease of access from 2016 to 2020 has steadily decreased which is an indication of education and prevention efforts working. Similarly, Texas numbers have also decreased in that students do not find it “very easy” to access marijuana. The table below breaks down the percentages for the students who were asked, “if you wanted marijuana, how difficult would it be to get?”

Table 88. TSS Percentages of “If you wanted some, how difficult would it be to get marijuana?” 2016-2020

	Texas	Region 10
2016		
Never Heard of It	25.4	29.6
Impossible	24.1	18
Very Difficult	7.7	6.3
Somewhat Difficult	9.4	9.9
Somewhat Easy	12.6	14.3
Very Easy	20.7	21.8
2018		
Never Heard of It	28.8	35
Impossible	21.2	15.3
Very Difficult	7.4	5.7
Somewhat Difficult	9.1	8.9

Somewhat Easy	12.7	13.8
Very Easy	20.8	21.3

2020		
Never Heard of It	30.7	33.2
Impossible	23.3	22.6
Very Difficult	7.6	7.3
Somewhat Difficult	8.9	9.3
Somewhat Easy	12	11.6
Very Easy	17.5	16.1

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Presence of A Substance at Parties

Alcohol

In addition to all the questions asked about access to substances, peer and parental perceptions, and how often they are used, it is also asked how often alcohol is available at parties. What the percentages from the survey tell us is that the number of parties that always have alcohol is steadily decreasing in Texas and in Region 10. Also positive is that the percentages of students who said “never” has remained high in Texas and has increased by 4% in the region. The table below breaks down responses to the question, “How often was alcohol used at parties?”

Table 89. TSS Percentages of “How often was alcohol used at parties?” 2016-2020

	Never	Seldom	Half the Time	Most of the Time	Always	Do Not Know	Did Not Attend
Texas							
2018	50.3	7.3	5.5	8.4	10.4	1.9	16.2
2020	52	7.1	5.1	8.2	8.7	2.2	16.8
Region 10							
2018	48.6	7.6	5.3	9.7	12.7	2.2	13.9
2020	52.1	7.7	5.5	8.9	9.5	2.4	13.8

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Marijuana and Other Drugs

As marijuana has become more popularized with the many ways it is used, sold, and advertised, it is important to know what our students are seeing at gatherings. The TSS asked students how often marijuana and drugs were at parties they attended. The percentages of those students who answered “never” to this question has been increasing steadily each year. Each year saw at least 2% increases in Region 10 and Texas. The table below breaks down the responses to that question from the TSS in years 2018 and 2020.

Table 90. TSS Percentages to “Thinking of Parties You Attended This School Year, How Often Were Marijuana and/or Other Drugs Used?” 2018-2020

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
Never	59.7	56.7	60.9	62.9
Seldom	5.6	5.5	5.7	6
Half the Time	4.3	4.3	3.7	4.2
Most of the Time	5.9	7.8	5.1	5.3
Always	6.1	9.1	5.3	5
Did Not Know	2.1	2.7	2.6	2.8
Did Not Attend	16.2	13.9	16.7	13.8

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Individual Domain

Youth Mental Health

Adolescent Suicide Attempts/Attempts Requiring Medical Attention

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention define self-directed violence as “anything a person does intentionally that can cause injury to self, including suicide, for example cutting.” The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) asks students in high school a multitude of questions including if they have ever attempted suicide or thought about harming themselves. What that data shows are that among adolescents 15 and younger the percentage of suicide attempts has decreased statewide from 11.6% in 2015 to 8.8% in 2019. The percentage of attempted suicide was also higher amongst 11th grade students in 2019. The table below breaks down the percentages of suicide attempts in Texas from 2015 to 2019 using the YRBS.

Table 91. Attempted Suicide Breakdown, 2015-2019

	2015	2017	2019
>15	11.6	9.8	8.8
16-17	9.6	14.2	10
18+	8.4	12.1	12.8
9th	11.9%	10.3%	7.9%
10th	11.9%	12.1%	11.9%
11th	8.1%	13.6%	10.0%
12th	6.3%	12.5%	10.2%
Black	8.7%	18.7%	12.3%
Hispanic	11.4%	11.4%	10.4%
Other	9.5%	8.2%	7.0%
White	8.0%	11.3%	9.5%
Female	11.6%	13.0%	12.4%
Male	8.6%	10.9%	7.5%

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services. 2015-2019 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data.

There are times when a suicide attempt requires medical attention for the injuries that person might have sustained. Of the attempted suicides in Texas 16–17-year-olds required medical attention at the highest percentage, 4%. While the numbers are low for those that do require medical attention, it is important to note that help in recognizing suicidal ideation and talking about it with our students and children is vital

to bringing these percentages down even further. The table below breaks down the data for those suicide attempts that required medical attention.

Table 92. Attempted Suicide Requiring Medical Attention, 2015-2019

	2015	2017	2019
>15	3.3%	4.0%	2.7%
16-17	3.9%	4.4%	4.0%
18+	2.8%	6.3%	3.1%
9th	3.8%	3.9%	2.5%
10th	4.1%	3.7%	4.7%
11th	3.5%	4.9%	4.1%
12th	1.9%	5.3%	1.9%
Black	2.7%	7.5%	6.6%
Hispanic	3.9%	3.4%	3.3%
Other	3.7%	2.7%	3.0%
White	2.9%	5.0%	2.4%
Female	3.6%	4.0%	4.1%
Male	3.4%	4.8%	2.6%

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services. 2015-2019 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data.

Youth Perception of Risk/Harm

Alcohol

In the TSS, students are asked how dangerous they think it is to use a variety of substances. Their responses range from “very dangerous” to “do not know.” In Region 10, the percentage of students who answered “very dangerous” decreased every year beginning in 2016 with 53.6% to 2020 at 47.5%. In Texas, the percentage of those who did not think using alcohol was “very dangerous” was also decreasing. More education and outreach must be done as those who answered “not very dangerous” had also increased. The table below breaks down the responses to the TSS question “How dangerous do you think it is for kids your age to use alcohol?”

Table 93. TSS Breakdown Alcohol, 2016-2020

	Texas	Region 10
2016		
Very Dangerous	53.3	53.6
Somewhat Dangerous	29.1	28.8
Not Very Dangerous	11.8	11.6
Not at All Dangerous	2.4	2.6
Do Not Know	3.3	3.4
2018		
Very Dangerous	49.2	50.8
Somewhat Dangerous	29.7	30.3
Not Very Dangerous	14.3	12.3
Not at All Dangerous	2.6	2.6
Do Not Know	4.1	3.9
2020		
Very Dangerous	47.8	47.5
Somewhat Dangerous	30.5	30.8
Not Very Dangerous	14.5	14.1
Not at All Dangerous	2.7	3.3
Do Not Know	4.5	4.4

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Tobacco

The use of tobacco has become more and more popular in our region, as well as in Texas. When we examine the data provided by the TSS regarding tobacco and how dangerous students feel it might be, we see that actualized. Over the last three survey periods, Texas and Region 10 have seen the percentages decline when they responded, “very dangerous.” The table below breaks down the percentages to the responses when asked “How dangerous do you think it is for kids your age to use alcohol?”

Table 94. TSS Breakdown Tobacco, 2016-2020

Area	Year	Very Dangerous	Somewhat Dangerous	Not Very Dangerous	Not at All Dangerous	Do Not Know
Texas	2016	63.3	22.5	8.0	1.9	4.3
Texas	2018	61.2	23.7	8.1	1.8	5.1
Texas	2020	61.5	24.7	6.7	1.6	5.5
Region 10	2016	68.2	20.4	5.8	1.4	4.2
Region 10	2018	66.8	21.1	6.2	1.2	4.7
Region 10	2020	62.9	23.3	7.0	1.8	5.0

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Electronic Vape Products

Electronic vaping products are gaining popularity throughout the United States. The TSS also asks students how dangerous they think it is for kids their age to use e-vape products. The data from that shows that perceptions are trending in the right direction as the percentages for “very dangerous” have increased steadily. However, with the popularization of e-vape products and the legalization of recreational marijuana across several states, education is of utmost importance to ensure that these numbers continue to trend upward. The table below breaks down the answers to the question, “How dangerous do you think it is for kids your age to use electronic vapor products?”

Table 95. TSS Breakdown Electronic Vapor Products, 2016-2020

Area	Year	Very Dangerous	Somewhat Dangerous	Not Very Dangerous	Not at All Dangerous	Do Not Know
Texas	2016	52.1	13.4	15.2	13.5	5.8
Texas	2018	54.7	12.4	14.6	11.8	6.5
Texas	2020	62.0	18.9	9.9	3.4	5.7
Region 10	2016	55.1	13.8	13.5	12.1	5.6
Region 10	2018	59.7	12.0	12.7	10.0	5.6
Region 10	2020	63.7	16.6	10.3	4.0	5.4

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Marijuana

The TSS also asks about marijuana use amongst students in grades 7-12. Texas has much higher percentages of students responding “very dangerous” compared to Region 10. In 2020, Texas had 62% of students respond “very dangerous” when asked how dangerous they thought it was for kids their age to use marijuana, compared to 58.8% in Region 10 in the same year. More outreach is necessary for Region 10 to be sure those numbers increase over the next few survey cycles.

Table 96. TSS Breakdown Marijuana, 2016-2020

Area	Year	Very Dangerous	Somewhat Dangerous	Not Very Dangerous	Not at All Dangerous	Do Not Know
Texas	2016	58.3	13.3	12.2	12.2	3.9
Texas	2018	54.7	12.4	14.6	11.8	6.5
Texas	2020	62.0	18.9	9.9	3.4	5.7
Region 10	2016	55.1	13.8	13.5	12.1	5.6
Region 10	2018	55.3	13.9	13.5	13.0	4.3
Region 10	2020	58.8	15.7	10.8	9.7	5.0

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Prescription Drugs

When students surveyed for the TSS were asked about prescription drugs the categories included things like Adderall, Vicodin, valium, etc. They were also asked how dangerous they thought it was for kids their age to use prescription drugs not prescribed to them. The data shows that there is a decrease in the region and Texas when it came to “very dangerous” responses. While there is much effort on substances like alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana, it is also clear that more effort in this section is needed to reinforce the real dangers of misusing prescription drugs, especially those that are not prescribed to them. The table below breaks down those responses from the TSS.

Table 97. TSS Breakdown Prescription Drugs, 2016-2020

Area	Year	Very Dangerous	Somewhat Dangerous	Not Very Dangerous	Not at All Dangerous	Do Not Know
Texas	2016	74.0	14.2	4.2	1.2	6.3
Texas	2018	75.4	12.8	3.5	1.4	6.8
Texas	2020	73.6	13.8	4.0	1.3	7.2
Region 10	2016	74.6	13.0	4.0	1.6	6.7
Region 10	2018	77.5	11.2	3.6	1.3	6.3
Region 10	2020	75.7	12.1	3.4	1.8	7.0

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Early Initiation (Age of First Use)

Alcohol

The TSS asks how old students were the first time they used certain substances, including alcohol. The survey showed that students are getting younger the first time they use alcohol products. The data presented represents how old the students were in years and months. In 2018, Region 10's age was higher at 13.4, however, in 2020 that number dropped to 12.9. Despite more students responding "very dangerous" to how dangerous it is to use alcohol; they are trying the products younger and younger. The table below breaks down the age of initiation for alcohol.

Table 98. Age of First Use: Alcohol, 2018-2020

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
ALL	13.1	13.4	12.8	12.9
GRADE 7	10.6	10.4	10.3	10.5
GRADE 8	11.3	11.5	11.2	11.3
GRADE 9	12.4	12.7	12.2	12.5
GRADE 10	13.3	13.9	13	13.5
GRADE 11	14	14.3	13.9	13.7
GRADE 12	14.8	14.8	14.7	14.9

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Tobacco

The TSS asked students how old they were when they first had tobacco products. What we notice is that the 12th graders stated that they were all roughly 14 years old when they first tried them, however, the 10th graders were much younger at around ten years old. This means that there needs to be more outreach and education earlier so that the age of initiation is not so low. The table below breaks down the age of first use for tobacco products.

Table 99. Age of First Use: Tobacco

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
<i>All</i>	13.5	13.8	13.2	12.9
<i>Grade 7</i>	10.9	10.7	10.6	10.5
<i>Grade 8</i>	11.5	11.5	11.3	11.5
<i>Grade 9</i>	12.6	12.6	12.3	12.2
<i>Grade 10</i>	13.3	14.2	13.3	13.3
<i>Grade 11</i>	14.1	14.2	13.8	13.1
<i>Grade 12</i>	14.9	15	14.7	14.5

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Marijuana

The age of first use for marijuana is becoming slightly lower which gives rise to concern as we see states legalizing recreational marijuana and the use of marijuana in electronic vape products. In 2018, the state average age of first use was 14, as was Region 10's, however, in 2020 that number dipped down to 13.9 for the state and 13.5 for the region. The table below breaks down the age of first use for marijuana from the 2018 and 2020 TSS.

Table 100. Age of First Use: Marijuana, 2018-2020

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
ALL	14	14	13.9	13.5
GRADE 7	11.5	11.5	11.3	11.4
GRADE 8	12.4	12.3	12.1	12.2
GRADE 9	13.1	12.9	13.1	12.7
GRADE 10	13.9	14	13.8	13.9
GRADE 11	14.6	14.5	14.4	14.2
GRADE 12	15.2	14.9	15.2	14.6

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Patterns of Consumption

Youth Substance Use

Last 30-Day Use of Alcohol

The TSS asks students when the last time was that they had an alcohol product. Their answers showed that in the past month Region 10 saw 31.6% of students say they had an alcohol product in the last 30 days compared to that of Texas at 29%. The table below breaks down the percentages for last 30-day use from 2018 and 2020.

Table 101. Last 30-Day Use of Alcohol, 2018-2020

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
PAST MONTH	29	32.1	27.4	31.6
SCHOOL YEAR	34.4	36.8	32.4	36.4
EVER USED	51.1	54.5	50.5	53.4
NEVER USED	48.5	45.5	49.5	46.6

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Ever Used Alcohol

As the TSS is comprehensive, they also ask students if they have ever used the substances like alcohol and tobacco. In 2018, Texas and Region 10 saw high rates of students answering the question, “How recently, if ever, have you used...?” Texas saw 51.1% answer they had “ever used” alcohol products with Region 10 answering “ever used” at 54.5%. In 2020, those numbers in Texas and Region 10 were lower indicating that outreach is beginning to work. The table below breaks down the data for “ever used” and “never used” alcohol products.

Table 102. “Ever Used” Alcohol, 2018-2020

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
Ever Used	51.1	54.5	50.5	53.4
Never Used	48.5	45.5	49.5	46.6

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Binge Drinking

The TSS asks students, “In the past 30 days, on how many days have you had five or more drinks of alcohol in a two-hour period?” Texas and Region 10 saw very positive percentages to the answer “never/none” with each staying in the upper 80 percent. Those students that answered “10+ days” were very few and only accounted for about 2% each year. The table below breaks down the data for binge drinking in the TSS.

Table 103. “Five or More Drinks in a Two-Hour Period?”, 2018-2020

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
Never/None	88.3	87	89.4	88.3
1 Day	4.4	5.3	4	4.1
2 Days	2.5	3.1	2.3	2.4
3 to 5 Days	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.6
6 to 9 Days	0.9	.7	0.7	0.7
10+ Days	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.8

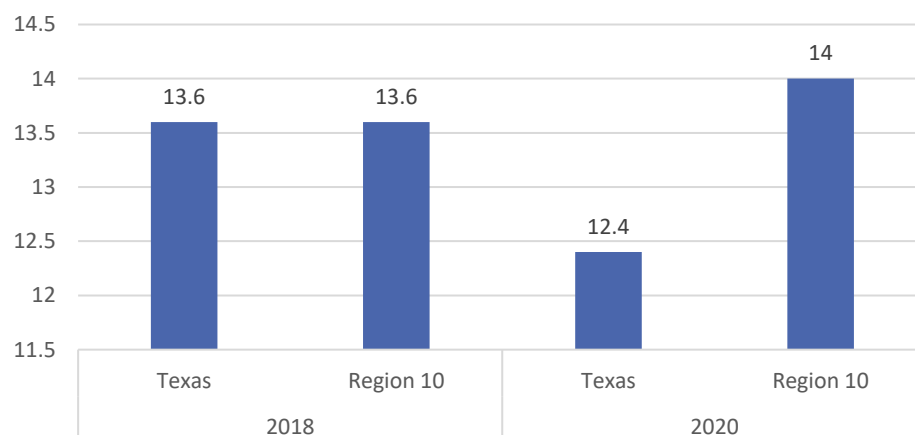
Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Last 30-Day Use of Marijuana

Students were asked if they had used marijuana in the past month and the answers for 2018 found Region 10 and Texas at an even 13.6%. However, in 2020, the region’s numbers were higher than Texas with the region at 14% and Texas at 12.4%. The figure below breaks down the past month use from the TSS from 2018 and 2020.

Figure 35. Last 30-Day Use – Marijuana, 2018-2020

Region 10 past month use of marijuana is higher than Texas' rate.



Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Ever Used Marijuana

The TSS asked students if they had ever used marijuana and the overwhelming majority in Region 10 had not. Texas and Region 10, in 2018 and 2020 surveys, had seen close to 80% of students say they had never used marijuana. However, the number of students who had “ever used” marijuana remained relatively the same. The table below breaks down those percentages.

Table 104. “Ever Used” Marijuana, 2018-2020

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
PAST MONTH	13.6	18.4	12.4	14
SCHOOL YEAR	16.3	21.1	15.1	16.3
EVER USED	22.1	27.5	20.8	22.5
NEVER USED	77.9	72.5	79.2	77.5

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Last 30-Day Use of Tobacco

Students are surveyed for their past 30-day usage of tobacco. In 2018, Texas and Region 10 were at even percentages of about 16% each. However, in 2020, the percentage in Region 10 was higher than Texas at 16.3%. The table below breaks down the past month use responses from the TSS.

Table 105. Last Month Use of Tobacco, 2018-2020

2018	Past Month Use
Texas	16.3
Region 10	16.9
2020	
Texas	14.2
Region 10	16.3

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

“Ever Used” Tobacco

When asked if they had ever used tobacco products, most students responded, “never used.” However, what Region 10 is seeing is an increase in those who responded, “ever used.” As e-vape products and other things become more popular, the use of tobacco increases as well as it can be used in vape products. The table below breaks down the percentages for 2018 and 2020.

Table 106. “Ever Used” Tobacco

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
PAST MONTH	16.3	15.4	14.2	16.9
SCHOOL YEAR	19.9	19	17.9	20.3
EVER USED	30.3	31.9	30.2	33.7
NEVER USED	69.7	68.1	69.8	66.3

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Last 30-Day Use of Electronic Vape Products

The TSS also asks about last 30-day use of electronic vape products. Texas and Region 10 were much the same rate at 12.1% in 2018. In 2020, the rates in the region were slightly higher than the rates in Texas. The table below breaks down the TSS answers to past month use from 2018 and 2020.

Table 107. Last Month Use of Electronic Vape Products, 2018-2020

	2018			2020	
	Texas	Region 10		Texas	Region 10
Past Month Use	12.1	12.1		10.9	11.6

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

“Ever Used” Electronic Vape Products

The TSS asks students in grades 7-12 if they have ever used electronic vape products. The data showed that the percentage of students who answered they had “ever used” electronic vape products is increasing with Region 10 going up nearly five percent from 25.5% to 30%. Texas also saw this percentage increase going from 25.7% to 27% in 2020. Region 10’s increase indicates more education is needed on the dangers of vaping. The table below breaks down the answers to the TSS question of if they have ever used this product and when.

Table 108. “Ever Used” Electronic Vape Products, 2018-2020

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
Past Month	12.1	10.3	10.9	11.6
School Year	16.2	14.3	15.1	16.6
Ever Used	25.7	25.5	27	30
Never Used	74.3	74.5	73	70

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Last 30-Day Use of Prescription Drugs

When surveyed about the past 30-day use of prescription drugs, Texas and Region 10 had very similar numbers at 7.1%. In 2020, however, Region 10 had a higher rate at 7.1% while Texas’ rate decreased to 6.1%. The table below shows the data for the last two survey cycles.

Table 109. Last 30-Day Use of Prescription Drugs

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
Past Month	7.1	7.1	6.1	7.1

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

“Ever Used” Prescription Drugs

The percentage of students who answered they had “ever used” prescription drugs has gone down in Texas and in Region 10 since the 2018 survey. The TSS asks this question as an indicator of students partaking in prescription medications that do not belong to them, or not following a doctor’s recommended dosage for those medicines. This is a step in the right direction, but more education is needed for parents and students to learn how to properly dispose of old or unused medicines to minimize the exposure to them. The table below breaks down the answers to the TSS question if they “ever used” prescription medicines.

Table 110. “Ever Used” Prescription Drugs, 2018-2020

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
<i>Past Month</i>	7.1	8.3	6.1	7.1
<i>School Year</i>	10.5	11.9	8.9	10
<i>Ever Used</i>	18.5	20.1	17.2	18.7
<i>Never Used</i>	81.5	79.9	82.8	81.3

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

Last 30-Day Use of Illicit Drugs

When it came to illicit drugs, which were things such as marijuana, cocaine, crack, hallucinogens, etc., Region 10 was consistently higher than Texas’ rates. In 2018, Region 10 had 19% of students say they had used illicit drugs in the last 30 days compared to Texas’ 13.9%. In 2020, though, the Region 10 rate had lowered to 14.7% while Texas went down to an even 13%. The table below breaks down the last 30-day use of illicit drugs.

Table 111. Last 30-Day Use of Illicit Drugs, 2018-2020

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
Past Month Use	13.9	19	13	14.7

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

“Ever Used” Illicit Drugs

In 2020, 24.8% of students surveyed in the TSS stated that they had “ever used” illicit drugs. This number was down from 29.3% in the 2018 survey. The positive information from this survey is that 70.7% of students in 2018 stated they had “never used” illicit drugs. While in 2020 that number was even higher at 75.2%.

Table 112. “Ever Used” Illicit Drugs, 2018-2020

	2018		2020	
	Texas	Region 10	Texas	Region 10
“Ever Used”	23.5	29.3	22.7	24.8

Source: Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: HHSC Region 10 Report, 2016-2020.*

College Student Consumption

Last 30-Day Use of Alcohol

College students are surveyed using the Texas College Survey. Freshmen through seniors participate in this voluntarily and are asked questions about the use of several substances, including alcohol, and the frequency of that use. When college students were asked if they had used alcohol products in the last 30 days their answers indicated that seniors said yes at much higher rates. However, what we do notice is that there is an uptrend of alcohol use in the last 30 days for each class, meaning that the further along in college they get the more it seems they are drinking. The state saw an overall average of 54.8% of college students say they had had alcohol products in the last 30 days. What is encouraging, though, is that the percentage of seniors using alcohol decreased at least 4% from 2015 to 2019. The table below breaks down those percentages of last 30-day use of alcohol from the Texas College Survey. No regional data is available from this survey.

Table 113. Last 30-Day Use of Alcohol, 2015-2019

	<i>Freshman</i>	<i>Sophomore</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Senior</i>
2019	40.4%	52.1%	63.0%	72.0%
2017	43.1%	53.3%	66.2%	73.9%
2015	46.7%	57.0%	69.6%	76.3%

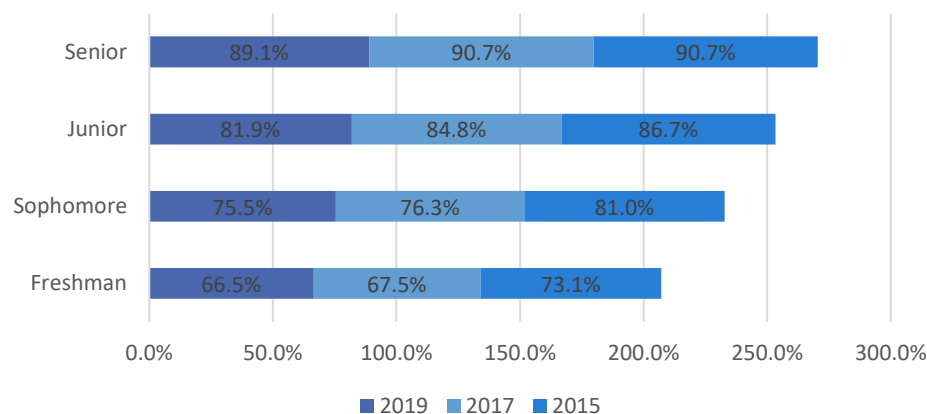
Source: Public Policy Research Institute. Reports: Texas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students, 2021.

Lifetime Use of Alcohol

The Texas College Survey also asks about lifetime use of alcohol. The data shows that while overall lifetime use of alcohol is high, the percentages have also been decreasing steadily. In 2015, seniors had the highest prevalence for lifetime use of any group at 90.7% but decreased to 89.1% in 2019. The figure below breaks down the lifetime use of alcohol for 2015 to 2019.

Figure 36. Lifetime Use of Alcohol, 2015-2019

Seniors showed the highest prevalence for lifetime use of alcohol.



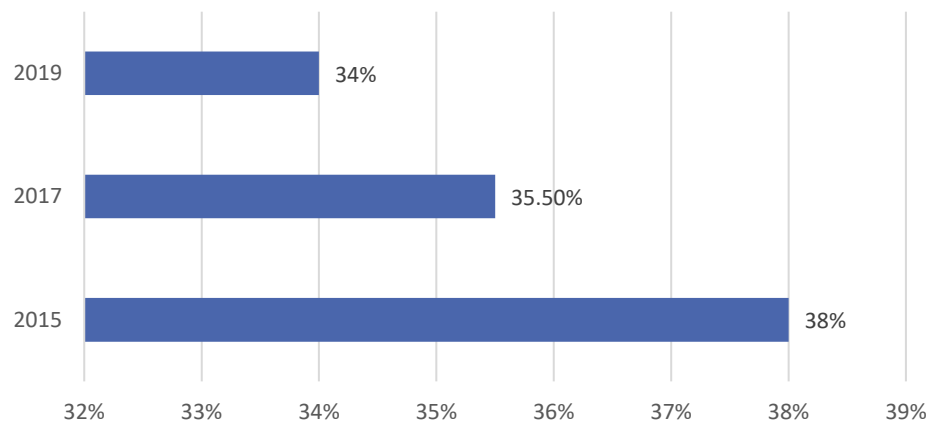
Source: Public Policy Research Institute. Reports: *Texas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students, 2021*.

Binge Drinking – Past 30 Days

When college students were surveyed about binge drinking, we saw the highest percentage in 2015 at 38%. However, that number is slowly decreasing as we note that it dropped by 4% from 2015 to 2019. The figure below shows the percentages of binge drinking over the last 30 days from the Texas College Survey from 2015-2019.

Figure 37. Binge Drinking – Past 30 Days, 2015-2019

Binge drinking rates are declining in small increments.



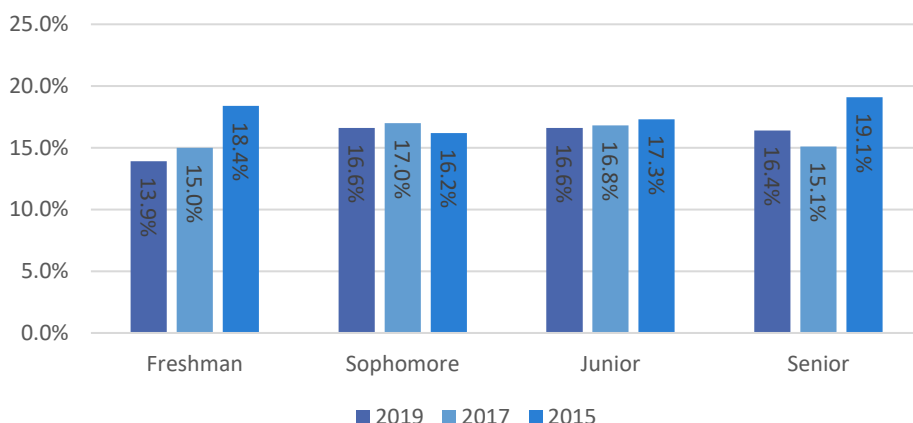
Source: Public Policy Research Institute. Reports: *Texas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students, 2021*.

Last 30-Day Use – Marijuana

The Texas College Survey asks students if they had used marijuana over the last 30 days. In 2019, freshman had the lowest use at 13.9% while the other three classes were all steady at around 16%. Freshman had the largest drop, going from 18.4% in 2015 to 13.9% in 2019. The figure below breaks down the survey answers from 2015 to 2019.

Figure 38. Last 30-Day Use - Marijuana

By 2019, three of the classes had over 16% use of alcohol over the last 30 days.



Source: Public Policy Research Institute. Reports: Texas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students, 2021.

Lifetime Use of Marijuana

When surveyed about lifetime use of marijuana, juniors and seniors had the highest percentages at 44 and 46%. When it came to college students overall, the numbers have decreased from 42.8% in 2015 to 38.5% in 2019. The table below breaks down the percentages of lifetime use of marijuana from the Texas College Survey.

Table 114. Lifetime Use of Marijuana, 2015-2019

	Texas	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
2015	42.8	39.0%	42.6%	44.0%	46.6%
2017	39.4	33.3%	39.9%	42.1%	44.3%
2019	38.5	33.0%	38.4%	41.8%	44.0%

Source: Public Policy Research Institute. Reports: Texas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students, 2021.

Last 30-Day Use – Any Tobacco Product

The Texas College Survey asks about last 30-day use of any tobacco product. By 2019, sophomores and juniors had the highest use of tobacco products over the last 30 days at 22.6% and 23.3%, respectively. While all classes, and Texas, saw a dip in 2017, that number increased again across the board in 2019. The numbers from the survey are broken down in the table below.

Table 115. Last 30-Day Use – Any Tobacco Product, 2015-2019

	<i>Texas</i>	<i>Freshman</i>	<i>Sophomore</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Senior</i>
<i>2015</i>	25.7	27.5%	25.0%	25.7%	24.7%
<i>2017</i>	18.2	17.1%	19.1%	18.4%	18.2%
<i>2019</i>	22.2	21.0%	22.6%	23.3%	22.4%

Source: Public Policy Research Institute. Reports: *Texas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students, 2021*.

Lifetime Use – Tobacco

When students were surveyed for lifetime use of tobacco, seniors had the highest prevalence of lifetime use. Seniors peaked at 62.8% in 2015 but had the largest drop in 2019 to 49.8%. Overall, the numbers do seem to be decreasing, which is encouraging, but those numbers are still high enough to cause concern. The table below breaks down the percentages for the Texas College Survey regarding lifetime use of tobacco.

Table 116. Lifetime Use of Tobacco, 2015-2019

	<i>Texas</i>	<i>Freshman</i>	<i>Sophomore</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Senior</i>
<i>2015</i>	55	49.4%	53.7%	56.5%	62.8%
<i>2017</i>	46.5	39.0%	45.9%	49.4%	54.9%
<i>2019</i>	44.6	39.2%	44.9%	47.0%	49.8%

Source: Public Policy Research Institute. Reports: *Texas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students, 2021*.

Last 30-Day Use of Illicit Drugs

The Texas College Survey breaks down the use of illicit drugs by category. As marijuana was covered in a previous section, it will not be in this chart. That said, throughout the three surveyed years hallucinogens and sedatives had the highest percentage of use. However, dextromethorphan was initially at around 3% in 2015, but had dropped by 2019 to less than 1% overall. The table below breaks down the percentage of past 30-day use of illicit drugs from 2015 to 2019.

Table 117. Last 30-Day Use of Illicit Drugs, 2015-2019

	<i>Freshman</i>	<i>Sophomore</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Senior</i>
<i>2019</i>				
<i>Inhalants</i>	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%
<i>DXM</i>	0.9%	1.1%	1.0%	1.2%
<i>Synthetic Marijuana</i>	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
<i>Cocaine</i>	0.4%	0.8%	1.2%	1.9%
<i>Stimulants</i>	0.7%	1.4%	1.6%	1.8%
<i>Sedatives</i>	2.1%	2.2%	2.2%	2.7%
<i>Hallucinogens</i>	1.2%	1.9%	2.0%	1.9%

<i>Heroin</i>	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
<i>Other Narcotics</i>	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%	1.0%
<i>Steroids</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%
<i>Bath Salts</i>	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
<i>MDMA</i>	0.4%	0.7%	1.1%	0.8%
<i>2017</i>				
<i>Inhalants</i>	0.1%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
<i>DXM</i>	0.9%	0.9%	1.3%	1.0%
<i>Synthetic Marijuana</i>	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%
<i>Cocaine</i>	0.9%	1.5%	2.0%	1.9%
<i>Stimulants</i>	1.0%	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%
<i>Sedatives</i>	2.5%	2.3%	3.0%	2.1%
<i>Hallucinogens</i>	1.7%	1.7%	1.5%	1.0%
<i>Heroin</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
<i>Other Narcotics</i>	0.9%	1.0%	1.2%	0.9%
<i>Steroids</i>	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%
<i>Bath Salts</i>	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
<i>MDMA</i>	0.8%	1.0%	1.0%	0.6%
<i>2015</i>				
<i>Inhalants</i>	0.4%	0.5%	0.1%	0.4%
<i>DXM</i>	2.8%	1.5%	1.5%	1.2%
<i>Synthetic Marijuana</i>	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%
<i>Cocaine</i>	1.9%	1.4%	3.2%	2.0%
<i>Stimulants</i>	1.9%	2.2%	3.0%	1.7%
<i>Sedatives</i>	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%
<i>Hallucinogens</i>	2.0%	1.3%	1.4%	1.7%
<i>Heroin</i>	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
<i>Other Narcotics</i>	2.7%	1.6%	2.7%	1.7%
<i>Steroids</i>	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Bath Salts</i>	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
<i>MDMA</i>	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	1.2%

Source: Public Policy Research Institute. Reports: Texas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students, 2021.

Lifetime Use of Illicit Drugs

The Texas College Survey asks students about lifetime use of illicit drugs. The survey from 2015, 2017, and 2019 show that sedatives, hallucinogens, and other narcotics were what showed the highest prevalence among college students. All three categories ranged from about 6% to 14% in all three years. The table below breaks down the lifetime use of illicit drugs from the Texas College Survey.

Table 118. Lifetime Use of Illicit Drugs, 2015-2019

	<i>Freshman</i>	<i>Sophomore</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Senior</i>
<i>2015</i>				
<i>Inhalants</i>	2.8%	3.6%	4.1%	5.4%
<i>DXM</i>	6.8%	7.9%	6.7%	8.1%
<i>Synthetic Marijuana</i>	6.2%	8.9%	10.3%	11.4%
<i>Cocaine</i>	5.8%	8.4%	10.5%	11.8%
<i>Stimulants</i>	4.6%	5.9%	8.1%	8.1%
<i>Sedatives</i>	10.6%	12.0%	12.4%	14.3%
<i>Hallucinogens</i>	7.1%	10.2%	12.6%	14.8%
<i>Heroin</i>	0.6%	1.0%	1.9%	1.4%
<i>Other Narcotics</i>	9.7%	10.4%	12.1%	13.5%
<i>Steroids</i>	1.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
<i>Bath Salts</i>	0.8%	1.2%	0.9%	1.6%
<i>MDMA</i>	6.0%	9.3%	10.8%	13.2%
<i>2017</i>				
<i>Inhalants</i>	2.1%	2.9%	3.2%	3.7%
<i>DXM</i>	5.3%	5.8%	7.5%	6.3%
<i>Synthetic Marijuana</i>	3.7%	4.6%	6.2%	6.7%
<i>Cocaine</i>	5.2%	6.6%	9.2%	9.2%
<i>Stimulants</i>	3.7%	4.5%	6.1%	6.6%
<i>Sedatives</i>	8.2%	10.4%	11.5%	11.4%
<i>Hallucinogens</i>	7.0%	8.9%	11.5%	11.0%
<i>Heroin</i>	0.7%	0.9%	1.1%	0.6%
<i>Other Narcotics</i>	6.4%	7.6%	8.0%	10.2%
<i>Steroids</i>	1.0%	0.9%	1.4%	1.0%
<i>Bath Salts</i>	1.2%	0.8%	1.1%	0.4%
<i>MDMA</i>	4.4%	6.1%	9.1%	9.7%
<i>2019</i>				
<i>Inhalants</i>	1.9%	2.4%	2.2%	3.8%
<i>DXM</i>	5.7%	5.8%	6.3%	6.7%

<i>Synthetic Marijuana</i>	2.2%	3.2%	2.5%	3.6%
<i>Cocaine</i>	3.3%	5.7%	7.2%	9.9%
<i>Stimulants</i>	2.7%	3.8%	4.3%	6.0%
<i>Sedatives</i>	7.5%	9.0%	9.7%	11.1%
<i>Hallucinogens</i>	6.0%	10.0%	10.5%	11.9%
<i>Heroin</i>	0.7%	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%
<i>Other Narcotics</i>	5.4%	7.2%	6.8%	7.3%
<i>Steroids</i>	0.7%	0.8%	1.1%	1.0%
<i>Bath Salts</i>	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%	0.7%
<i>MDMA</i>	3.4%	5.9%	6.7%	8.6%

Source: Public Policy Research Institute. Reports: Texas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students, 2021

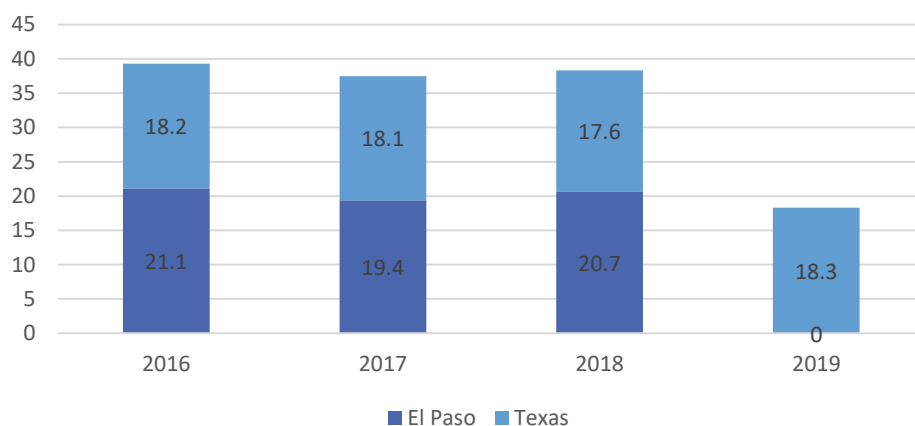
Adult Substance Use

Binge Drinking (19+)

The data for binge drinking for adults, ages 19 and over, is compiled by the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). While there is data at a statewide level for binge drinking, there is only data up to 2018 for El Paso County and for none of the other counties in Region 10. That data states that El Paso County has had a higher rate of adult binge drinking than the state of Texas. Data was not available for 2019 for El Paso County. The figure below breaks down the data for El Paso County and Texas from 2016 to 2019; all numbers are percentages.

Figure 39. Adult Binge Drinking, 2016-2019

El Paso County often has a higher adult binge drinking rate than Texas.



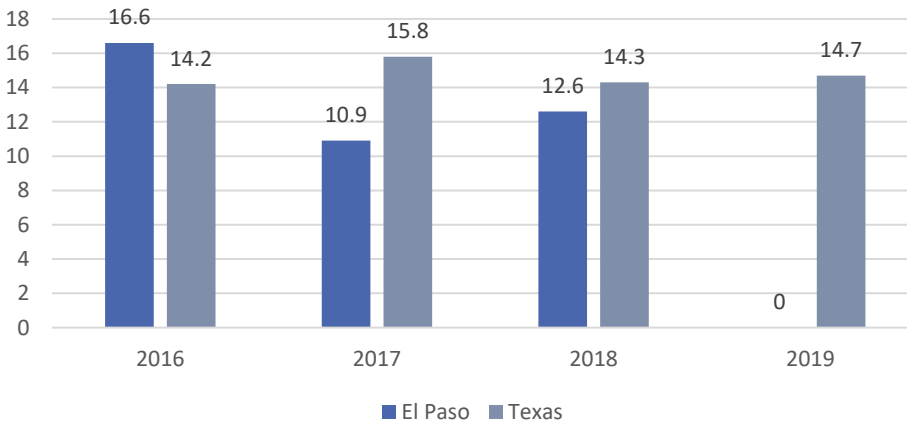
Source: Texas MSA Alcohol Prevalence, BRFSS, 2021.

Current Smoker (19+)

The BRFSS also surveys adults who are current smokers. Again, the data collected only reflects El Paso County and Texas from 2016 to 2019. While El Paso County had a higher current smoker percentage in 2016 than Texas, that number did drop in El Paso County and for the next three years Texas' numbers were much higher. There is no data available for El Paso County for 2019. The figure below breaks down the current smoker percentage.

Figure 40. Current Smoker Percentages, 2016-2019

Texas generally has higher current smoker percentages than El Paso County.



Source: Texas MSA Alcohol Prevalence, BRFSS, 2021.

Public Health/Safety Consequences

Lung Cancer Deaths

Region 10's adults who have died due to lung cancer is miniscule when compared to Texas' numbers. In 2018, Region 10 had a total of 156 people with lung cancer compared to Texas' 8,680. Region 10 did see the highest number in 2020 at 166 people who are dead as a result of lung cancer. Unfortunately, the number in Texas and Region 10 are both increasing, and more outreach is needed on the dangers of smoking and vaping. The table below breaks down those numbers of people who have died from lung cancer from 2018 to 2020. The rate shown is per 100,000 people.

Table 119. Adult Lung Cancer Deaths, 2018-2020

	25+	Male	Female
2018			
Region 10	156	93	63
Texas	8,680	4,847	3,833
Rate	24.39	30.93	18.58
2019			
Region 10	156	88	68
Texas	8,711	4,897	3,814
Rate	24.63	29.33	20.40
2020			
Region 10	166	81	85
Texas	8,755	4,854	3,901
Rate	29.52	29.98	29.09

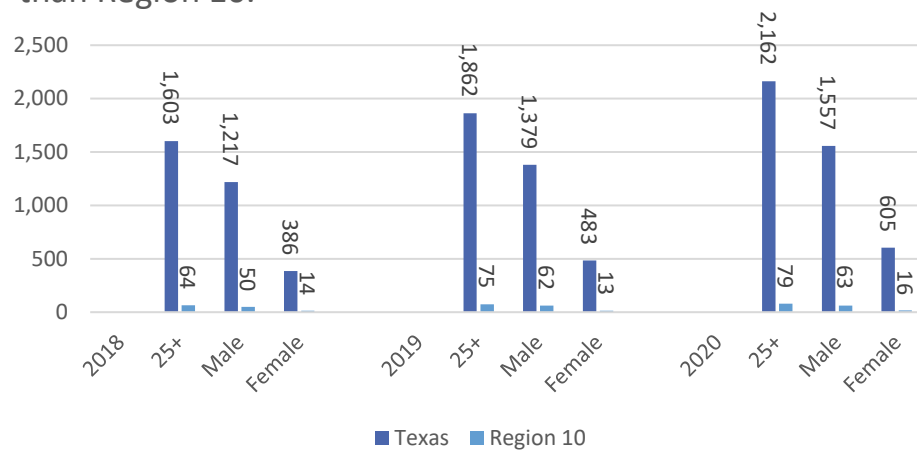
Source: Texas Department of State Health Services. Center for Health Statistics, 2021.

Alcohol-Related Liver Disease Deaths

Liver disease, such as cirrhosis, can be induced by excessive alcohol use and these diseases are often fatal. In Region 10 the number of alcohol-related liver disease deaths is significantly smaller than Texas' totals. However, the numbers for both areas are increasing each year as we saw Region 10 go from 64 in 2018 to 79 in 2020. In Texas, the numbers went up as well from 1,603 in 2018 to 2,162 in 2020. The figure below breaks down the number of liver deaths from 2018 to 2020. When calculated at a rate of per 100,000 people, we saw 384.42 people die from this cause in 2020. That number was up from the 2016 rate of 250.59 which indicates more outreach is needed before age 25 to reduce these numbers.

Figure 41. Alcohol-Related Liver Deaths, 2018-2020

Texas has had more alcohol-related liver deaths than Region 10.



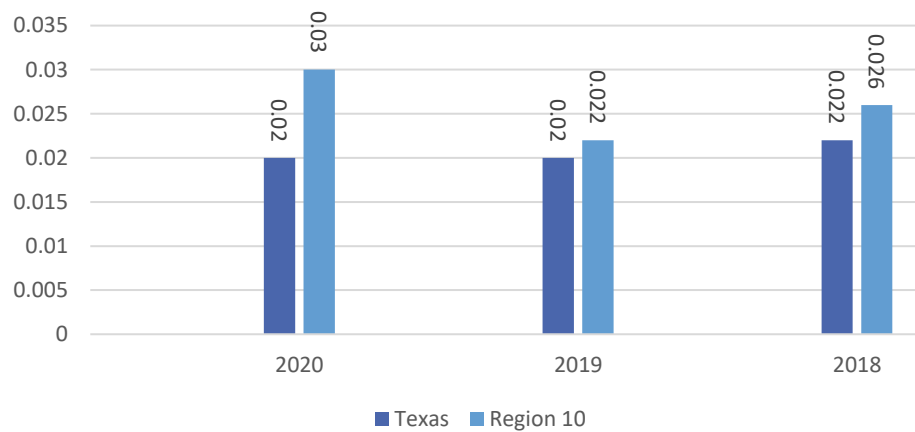
Source: Texas Department of State Health Services. Center for Health Statistics, 2021.

Alcohol-Related Vehicle Fatalities

Alcohol-related vehicle fatalities are a cause for concern in all parts of the United States. In the U.S. last year there were 38,680 according to the U.S Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). This was the highest rates since 2007 and a 7.2% increase from 2019. In Region 10, the numbers were considerably low at .016% in 2020, a drop from .026% in 2018. Texas has also seen a drop, though not as large, from .022% to .020%. The figure below breaks down the percentage of DUI related fatalities from 2018 to 2020.

Figure 42. DUI Related Fatalities, 2018-2020

Region 10's DUI fatality percentage has dropped since 2018 as has Texas'.



Source: Texas Department of Transportation. *Driving Under the Influence: Alcohol Driver Fatalities by County and Age, 2021.*

Overdose Deaths

Overdose deaths accounted for around 90,000 deaths in 2020 in the United States according to the CDC. In Region 10, we fared better with these deaths, however, we did see these numbers increase. In 2015, the region saw 36 overdose deaths, largely attributed to heroin. In 2017, that number increased to 110, this time attributed to cocaine. When we break down how many deaths there were per 100,000 people in each of these years we get: 4.17 in 2015; 8.5 in 2016; and 12.53 in 2017. The table below breaks down the number of overdose deaths according to substance.

Table 120. Overdose Deaths by Substance, 2015-2017

	2015	2016	2017
<i>Benzodiazepines</i>	0	10	10
<i>Cannabis</i>	0	0	0
<i>Cocaine</i>	13	11	25
<i>Commonly Prescribed</i>	0	16	13
<i>Opioids</i>			
<i>Heroin</i>	23	27	18
<i>Opium</i>	0	0	0
<i>Other Narcotics</i>	0	0	0
<i>Psychostimulants</i>	0	0	11
<i>Psychotropics</i>	0	0	21
<i>Synthetics</i>	0	10	12
<i>Totals</i>	36	74	110

Source: Texas DSHS Center for Health Statistics. *Texas Death Certificate Data: Overdose Deaths – Substance Related Poisoning Deaths in Texas, 2021.*

Suicide

Suicide rates in Texas have been slowly declining. In 2017, Texas had 3,305 deaths by suicide which rose to 3,446 in 2018 before dropping again to 3,380 in 2019. Region 10, however, has seen the number of deaths by suicide increase each year. When examining the data by rates of per 100,000 people Texas' totals are decreasing while Region 10 is increasing. The table below breaks down the number of deaths by suicide as well as the rates per 100,000 people.

Table 121. Deaths by Suicide, 2017-2019

	Deaths	Rate/100,000
<i>2017</i>		
<i>Region 10</i>	82	9.8
<i>Texas</i>	3,305	13.06
<i>2018</i>		
<i>Region 10</i>	96	11.4
<i>Texas</i>	3,446	13.44
<i>2019</i>		
<i>Region 10</i>	100	11.9
<i>Texas</i>	3,380	12.99

Source: CDC Wonder. *Texas Suicide by County, 2021.*

Emerging Trends

COVID-19

When the pandemic began in March of 2020, there were several shutdowns that affected access to medical care as well as behavioral health care. As cases rose and shutdowns continued, providers began to look to technology to grant access to care to those who might need it. Unfortunately, not all people were willing to use telehealth appointments to “see” their doctor. According to the “Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Services Utilization” survey conducted by the Bipartisan Policy Center, only 23% of adults surveyed answered “yes” when asked if they had used telehealth to meet with therapists, counselors, psychiatry, or primary care doctors in the past year. 74% of adults surveyed answered “no” to this question. While the COVID-19 pandemic begins to take new turns with the discovery of variants, we will need to monitor how the number of cases in each region affects the availability and willingness to seek health care of any sort, but specifically behavioral health.

For more information on how the pandemic is affecting Region 10, please refer to the following websites:

www.epstrong.org/results.php

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) \(texas.gov\)](https://www.texas.gov/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19)

Vaping

U.S youth has seen an increase in vaping rates which has led to the rise of a public health dilemma. The debate over vaping has led to, on the one hand, a potential tool to help adult smokers quit, and on the other hand, vaping can potentially grab hold of a new generation of youth users.

Within the past two years, the Prevention Resource Center (PRC), has seen an increase in requests for presentations on vaping. Schools and parents alike are wondering what is vaping, where are kids accessing it, how do they conceal it, and why is it so appealing. Manufacturers who have spent millions of dollars on advertisements have also increased the concentration of nicotine found in these devices which increases the likelihood of dependence.

The market and environmental factors have led to 3.6 million teens vaping, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The TSS indicates that 30% of 7-12 grade students have vaped at some point in their life, up from 25.5% in the 2018 TSS. With these alarming numbers, what should be the approach of public health professionals?

The short answer is that it depends on the audience. For adults, the message should be that these vaping devices are not FDA approved cessation devices. Although, there is some anecdotal evidence that smokers have been using them to quit. The second message for adults is that vaping is less harmful, in terms of carcinogens and chemicals, than traditional cigarettes, but they pose other risks.

Vaping is not recommended for youth usage under any circumstances. This message may seem stringent, but public health professionals need to consider that nicotine can lead to dependence, brain development issues, and could prime the teen for other addictions. Another risk to consider is some of the chemicals found in vaping devices have been known to cause adverse health effects. An additional risk is the legal component. As vaping, like purchasing other tobacco products, is only legal if you are 21 and over, a youth caught with a device faces a misdemeanor charge and court mandated courses. If the vape device contains

THC or marijuana, the youth would face a felony charge which could greatly alter the trajectory of their futures.

The vaping epidemic will require health service providers to unite in message and practice. The PRC invites the community to take advantage of its free services, which include data collection and distribution, information dissemination, and strengthening regional substance use services through collaborations, trainings, and other mechanisms. To contact us call 915-782-4000 ext. 1322 or visit the PRC website at www.prc10tx.org.

Region in Focus

Due to its size and location, Region 10 is secluded from the rest of Texas. The need for services in the vast and rural counties is evident when reviewing the data in the regional needs assessment. The region has found ways to be innovative in their approach to substance use prevention services out of the necessity to provide adequate services. The regional data that was collected and contained in this local needs assessment is a glimpse into the region's challenges in the prevention of substance use. Further data on Region 10 is available from each section, and additional data related to other topics outside of the realm of substance misuse is available through the PRC-10 upon request.

We hope that organizations, community stakeholders, foundations, or anyone interested in providing services in addition to the ones listed below in Region 10 will find the RNA useful in their efforts.

Community Coalitions

PRC currently collaborates with many HHSC-funded and non-funded community coalitions, agencies, individuals, and organizations working in prevention services focused on the three state priorities of underage drinking, marijuana, and prescription medication. The mobilization efforts address the needs of populations identified by each of the related sectors. Their goal is to implement evidence-based practices utilizing the Strategic Prevention Framework in promoting the activities related to substance use issues and healthy living in their communities. Many of the partnerships are mentioned below. Future collaborations can only be beneficial in promoting awareness of the substance use issues affecting the counties of Region 10.

HHSC funds Community Coalition Partnership (CCP) programs throughout the state. The coalitions address community concerns regarding the prevention and reduction of the illegal and harmful use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in target counties.²²

El Paso Advocates for Prevention Coalition is locally known as the El Paso APC. El Paso APC is a CCP serving the entire El Paso County. The El Paso APC works towards prevention and reduction of the illegal and harmful use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in El Paso County, amongst youth and adults, by promoting and conducting community-based and evidence-based prevention strategies with key stakeholders.

Community Programs and Services (YMCA, Goodwill, etc.)

The YMCA of El Paso currently serves as the backbone organization of **A Smoke Free Paso del Norte** which is an initiative of the Paso del Norte Health Foundation. The Paso del Norte Health Foundation leads,

²² Texas Department of Health Services. Substance Abuse Prevention Services: Community Coalition Program (CCP).

leverages, and invests in initiatives, programs, and policies to promote health and prevent disease in the Paso del Norte region.²³ The region is composed of two countries (USA and Mexico), three states (Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua), five counties (El Paso, Hudspeth, Dona Ana, Otero, and Luna), and includes the Municipio de Cd. Juarez. It was established in 1999, as one of the Paso del Norte Health Foundation's priority health areas and set a goal to eliminate smoking in the region.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has a mission to end drunk driving, help fight drugged driving, support the victims of these violent crimes, and prevent underage drinking. MADD can support the El Paso Advocates for Prevention Coalition by collaborating to take messages to the community about the dangers of drunk driving.

Fort Bliss Army Substance Abuse Prevention Program (ASAP) provides alcohol and other drug misuse prevention, substance misuse identification and referrals.

Paso del Norte Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) is a partnership of organizations and community members working together to promote recovery and/or mental illness.

COBINA is the Paso del Norte Bi-National Health Council and is the umbrella organization for seven committees focused on specific health issues at the border bringing together Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico. The council currently has over 75 community agency representatives that share information regarding Substance Misuse/Mental Health, Diabetes, HIV/STD, Environmental Health, Border Epidemiology Surveillance Team (BEST), Maternal Child Health, and Community Health Worker Initiative.

Northeast Legacy Network is focused on addressing identified problems that affect the northeast part of El Paso city. The focal point of the Legacy Network is to increase graduation rates, minimize truancy, drug use, and crime.

Other State/Federally Funded Prevention (HIV, violence, suicide)

The **Texas HIV** Medication Program (THMP) is the government funded AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) for the state of Texas. They provide certain prescription drugs to persons with HIV who meet income and residency requirements.

Texas has a **Suicide Prevention Resource Center** where one can obtain information if they are thinking of harming themselves. Once on this website, there are links for the state suicide prevention website which is called **Zero Suicide in Texas**, and the state coalition website which is called the **Texas Suicide Prevention Council**. Additionally, there is a Texas Suicide Hotline in which people who need assistance can speak with someone and there is one in nearly every city of Texas.

The **Family Violence Program** is funded by Texas Health and Human Services. This program promotes self-sufficiency, safety, and long-term independence of adult and child victims of family violence and victims of teen dating violence. The program can provide emergency shelter and supportive services to victims and their children, educates the public, and provides training, and support to various organizations across Texas. This is an all-free program and there is no need to prove an income-based necessity.

There is also the **Crime Victims' Compensation Program** which is ran by the Office of the Attorney General of Texas. This program helps crime victims and their immediate families with financial costs of crime. CVC

²³ Paso del Norte Health Foundation: Smoke Free.

covers crime-related costs such as counseling, medical treatment, funerals, and loss of income not paid by other sources.

SUD Treatment Providers (Treatment/Intervention providers)

Aliviane, Inc. is the largest substance misuse provider in El Paso and has an abundance of programs that serve children, adolescents, women, men, and families in the community. Aliviane provides prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, and maintenance services.

Project Vida provides a comprehensive, evidence-based cessation program middle school and high school teens and their parents.

Emergence Health Network (OSAR) provides free outreach, screening, assessment, and referral.

El Paso Behavioral Health System offers inpatient and outpatient mental health services to a wide variety of patients including children, adolescents, women, men, military, and seniors. This facility also provides substance misuse and dependency treatment.

PEAK Behavioral Health Services provides services for mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance use by making acute inpatient, residential treatment, adult partial hospitalization and recovery programs for both far east Texas and New Mexico available.

Homeward Bound Trinity offers complete substance misuse treatment with comprehensive residential and outpatient programs.

Recovery Alliance of El Paso offers assistance to people in recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction, including their families and community allies who support the recovery process.

Healthcare Providers

Project Vida continues to provide affordable low-income rental housing, low-cost healthcare, and provides prevention in homelessness and recovery services.

Centro San Vicente provides accessible and affordable medical care and social services.

Centro de Salud La Fe offers health care services, community health, and economic development to low-income families in El Paso County.

YP Programs

PRIDES (i.e., YPU) is an acronym for Prevention and Intervention of Drug Abuse through the Enhancement of Self-Esteem. The PRIDES program provides universal prevention services that promote a process of addressing health and wellness for individuals, families, and communities in El Paso County and Culberson County that increase knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for making positive life choices. PRIDES services include outreach to the community, linkages to behavioral health services throughout Far West Texas, and the use of Life Skills Training for families to increase pro-social behaviors that promote healthy and drug-free lifestyles.

With a particular focus on youth ages 12 to 16, **Strengthening Families** (i.e., YPS) is a family-based prevention program that promotes healthy living, awareness of risks related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, and community involvement through activities that are educational, fun and inspiring for

everyone in the family. Strengthening Families addresses risks related to substance misuse and other risk factors associated with school failure, delinquency, social problems and violence at home, school, or in the community, poverty, gang involvement, and other issues.

IMASTAR (i.e., YPI) stands for: I'm Motivated to learn, I'm Achieving my goals, I'm Staying drug and alcohol free, I'm Thinking about my future, I'm Active in my School, I'm Responsible for my success. IMASTAR is a prevention program that has been serving youth in El Paso County since 1994. The program addresses involvement in substance misuse and other high-risk behavior such as poor grades, excessive unexcused absenteeism, tardiness, disruptive behavior, gang activity, repeated suspensions, social problems, and family dysfunction.

Youth in IMASTAR are provided with prevention education skills training, referral support, AOD presentations, and tobacco presentations. Participants are also engaged in fun activities that are culturally relevant and offset attraction to the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. The program fosters bonding with peers, family, school, and community.

The **Ysleta Pueblo del Sur** (YDSP) Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) utilizes the Positive Action (PA) curriculum developed by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP). PA is an evidence-based program focused on character development and academic improvement. This program has demonstrated strong evidence of positive effects in prevention and intervention strategies for Native American youth, ages 6-12. When used in an intervention setting, such as counseling, it promotes intrinsic interest in becoming a better person by encouraging a positive self-concept, educational advancement, and responsible citizenship.

CHOICES Program is a drug and alcohol prevention program. The goal of the "Choices" program is the prevention of violence, alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use among the youth of El Paso, specifically the CIS targeted areas. CIS provides the Choices program weekly in 8 schools in the Ysleta and Socorro Independent School Districts. CIS Choices provides services for other CIS campuses every month through a presentation, information dissemination, alternative drug-free activities, and career/health fairs.

Students Talking to Parents about ATOD

According to the TSS, when students were asked if they would seek help from their parents, 69.7% of students answered "yes." This is down from 71.9% in the 2018 TSS. Additionally, the Tobacco Control Network recently created an excellent resource on how youth can talk with parents about substances. You can find the website at smokefreepdn.com. YP programs located in El Paso also place heavy emphasis on developing stronger parent-child relationships (e.g., Strengthening Families).

Students Receiving Education about ATOD

Many prevention programs in the El Paso community offer free substance use and misuse presentations. For example, the Advocates for Prevention Coalition offers free presentations on ATOD to schools. Individuals can contact Claudia Galindo via email (cgalindo@aliviane.org) to request a presentation. Depending on specific criteria, some presentations may be referred to local YP programs depending on the type of presentation needed.

Life Skills Learned in YP Programs (pre and posttests)

Youth enrolled in the PRIDES program participate in groups twice a week for 45 minutes for a total of 8 weeks that utilize a curriculum that focuses on building life skills. The staff also hosts fun and engaging activities for the participants to enjoy in a safe, drug-free environment. They also share information with the community to change attitudes on substance use and mental health disorders.

Overview of Community Readiness

There are many programs available throughout Region 10, but most specifically in El Paso County. Many of these programs focus on outreach to youth and provide not only life skills training, but also substance use/misuse education and intervention. There are several programs for adults as well that offer much the same thing, and at outpatient capabilities. There are also several treatment facilities and hospitals that are ready to assist in the mental health care and substance use/misuse care. Because El Paso is the largest city in the region it has the most, if not all, the access to care facilities, which leaves other counties at a disadvantage.

Gaps in Services

The most significant barrier to receiving services is our lack of transportation throughout the region. El Paso County provides many of the services that are available to the region, yet travel from areas such as Presidio or Marfa, takes hours. Furthermore, our colonias in Region 10 suffer from deplorable road conditions where in some cases the roadways are unpaved and flood with even small amounts of rain.

Areas in the region, such as Presidio County, have expressed to the PRC-10 that services for substance misuse prevention are needed. Rural community stakeholders expressed the need for treatment services for substance misuse because the nearest facility is in El Paso County, which is 250 miles away. This situation is the case for most of Region 10 when seeking out services for family members for substance misuse and mental health services in the rural communities.

Gaps in Data

While this assessment is considered comprehensive, the reporting and selection of the measures cannot represent all aspects of health in the community, nor do we serve all populations of interest. As a community we must recognize the data gaps, in some ways, limit the ability to assess a community's health needs.

For example, we recognize that certain population groups were not identified in the assessment by survey data. It is often difficult to locate other populations by independent analysis such as pregnant women, the LGBTQIA community, and undocumented residents. In terms of content, the Regional Needs Assessment was designed to provide a comprehensive picture of the community's health, however, there are certainly a significant number of behavioral health conditions that were not explicitly addressed.

Our targets for data collection are in the areas of drug misuse treatment, and prevention/intervention programs, local hospitals, county and local health departments, medical examiner's office, poison control centers, drug helplines, mental health centers, HIV/STD outreach programs, pharmaceutical associations, county forensic labs, criminal justice/police reports, drug seizures-drug cost/purity, education/school districts, recreation centers, and university researchers.

Moving Forward

The Prevention Resource Center 10 is continuously seeking new and up to date data that is relevant to the region as well as the state. The RNA is filled with data that individuals, organizations, and agencies may like to examine more in-depth. Data requests or submissions can be made by contacting:

Michelle Millen, M.A.

Data Coordinator

mmillen@aliviane.org

915.782.4000 ext. 1322

1-844-PRC-TX10 (1-844-772-8910)

@PRCRegion10

www.prc10tx.org

Putting it All Together

The RNA has identified alcohol, vaping, and marijuana (THC) to be the most pressing substance use behaviors that need to be addressed. In El Paso County, THC Felony arrests have been increasing, with 2020 seeing 239 arrests of those under 21 in possession of THC, whether through vape products or other forms of THC.

I believe that limited community outreach and lack of health literacy has contributed to the substance use and misuse in our region. Additionally, while not a SDoH, social media and the perception of substance use therein is a factor as we attempt to combat that with facts and education.

The behavioral health disparities in our region are the access to behavioral health care, especially in our more rural counties. El Paso County has most of the health care facilities and there are hundreds of miles that separate the other five counties in Region 10 from accessing these.

Regional Contributors

Since 2014 the Prevention Resource Center for Region 10 has published a Regional Needs Assessment report. Each year the report becomes more inclusive as to the type of data the community needs for prevention programming. HHS supports the required assessment and the completion of the report, but local county data for several indicators are difficult to acquire each year. Given the unique landscape of Region 10 with its urban, rural, and farming communities, and shared demographics, the PRC still needs data for much of the counties for an accurate snapshot of health and outcome behaviors. If you would be interested in contributing to the Regional Needs Assessment, please contact the Data Coordinator at 915.782.4000 ext. 1322 to learn what information would be most helpful for the next report. The PRC for Region 10 is committed to a unified and strategic way of using data to address population needs in the region to ultimately achieve health equity. Regional contributors to the RNA include the PRC-10 Data Coordinator, Michelle Millen; Program Director, Claudia Galindo; and Divisional Director, Julie Priego.

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Appendix A – List of Tables

TABLE 1. Land/Population in Square Miles

TABLE 2. Texas and U.S Population Change Projections, 2018-2020

TABLE 3. Region 10 – Population by County, 2016-2020

TABLE 4. Region 10 Population by Gender, 2019-2021

TABLE 5. Number and Percentage of those 5 Years and Older who Speak English, or other Language in Region 10 – 2019

TABLE 6. Languages Spoken in Region 10, 2017-2019

TABLE 7. Limited English Proficiency Households – 2020

TABLE 8. Labor Force and Unemployed by County in Region 10, 2018-2020

TABLE 9. Region 10 TANF Basic Recipients and Benefits – 2020

TABLE 10. Region 10 TANF State Program Recipients and Benefits - 2020

TABLE 11. Region 10 TANF Basic Benefits Breakdown by County, 2018-2020

TABLE 12. Region 10 TANF State Program Benefits Breakdown by County, 2018-2020

TABLE 13. SNAP Benefits Breakdown for Region 10 by County – 2020

TABLE 14. SNAP Cases and Recipients in Region 10 by County, 2018-2020

TABLE 15. SNAP Total Payment for Region 10 by County, 2018-2020

TABLE 16. SNAP Recipients Breakdown by Age per County and Region 10 – 2020

TABLE 17. Age Breakdown of SNAP Recipients in Region 10, 2018-2020

TABLE 18. Percentage of Students Receiving Free or Reduced School Lunch per County, 2019-2020

TABLE 19. Percentage of Students Receiving Free/Reduced School Lunch, 2017-2020

TABLE 20. Number of Free/Reduced School Lunch Recipients in Texas, 2017-2020

TABLE 21. Number of Free/Reduced School Lunch Recipients in Region 10 by County, 2017-2020

TABLE 22. Homeless Student Population by Number and Percentage in Region 10 per County, 2019-20

TABLE 23. Homeless Student Percentage in Region 10 by County, 2016-2020

TABLE 24. Homeless Student Population Numbers in Region 10 by County, 2016-2020

TABLE 25. Homeless Student Population per 1,000, 2016-2020

TABLE 26. 9th – 12th, No Diploma # and % for Region 10 and Texas, 2017-2019

TABLE 27. High School Graduate Number and Percentage for Region 10 and Texas, 2017-2019

TABLE 28. Number and Percentage Population with Some College or Associate Degree, 2017-2019

TABLE 29. Number and Percentage Population with bachelor's degree or Higher, 2017-2019

TABLE 30. Total Juvenile Referrals Region 10, 2017-2019

TABLE 31. Total Referrals by Reason – 2019

TABLE 32. Total Referrals by Reason for Region 10 and Texas, 2017-2019

TABLE 33. Juvenile Justice Referrals per 1,000, 2017-2019

TABLE 34. Juvenile Drunkenness Violations by County, 2018-2020

TABLE 35. Juvenile Drunkenness per 100,000, 2018-2020

TABLE 36. DUI Violations, 2018-2020

TABLE 37. DUI per 100,000, 2018-2020

TABLE 38. Liquor Law Violations, 2018-2020

TABLE 39. Liquor Law Violations per 100,000, 2018-2020

TABLE 40. Arrests for Sale/Manufacturing and Possession – 2020

TABLE 41. Juvenile Arrests for Sale/Manufacturing or Possession, 2018-2020

TABLE 42. Juvenile Arrests for Possession of Various Substances – 2020

TABLE 43. Adult Drunkenness Arrests, 2018-2020

TABLE 44. Adult Drunkenness Arrests per 1,000/100,000, 2018-2020

TABLE 45. Adult DWI Arrests, 2018-2020

TABLE 46. Adult DWI Arrests per 1,000/100,000, 2018-2020

TABLE 47. Possession of Marijuana Arrests, 2018-2020

TABLE 48. Adult Marijuana Arrests per 1,000/100,000, 2018-2020

TABLE 49. Adult Arrests for Possession for Opium/Cocaine and Synthetic Narcotics, 2018-2020

TABLE 50. Adult Arrests for Opium/Cocaine and Synthetic Narcotics per 1,000/100,000, 2018-2020

TABLE 51. Number of Crimes Committed by County – 2020

TABLE 52. Crime Rate per 1,000/100,000 – 2020

TABLE 53. Crimes per County, 2018-2020

TABLE 54. Violent Crime by County – 2020

TABLE 55. Violent Crime in Region 10 and Texas, 2018-2020

TABLE 56. Violent Crime Rate – 2020

TABLE 57. Property Crime Rate – 2020

TABLE 58. Property Crime, 2018-2020

TABLE 59. Property Crime Rate – 2020

TABLE 60. Drug Incarceration Rates, 2018-2020

TABLE 61. DUI Related Incarcerations, 2018-2020

TABLE 62. Total Incarceration Rate – 2020

TABLE 63. Number and Rate of Teen Births, 2018-2020

TABLE 64. Mental Health Provider Ratio, 2017-2019

TABLE 65. Number of Opioid Related ED Visits, 2017-2019

TABLE 66. New HIV Diagnoses and Transmission, 2017-2019

TABLE 67. Number of People Living with HIV, 2017-2019

TABLE 68. Number and Density Rate of Alcohol Retailers, 2018-2020

TABLE 69. Alcohol Sales to Minors, 2017-2020

TABLE 70. Tobacco Retailers, 2019-2020

TABLE 71. Tobacco Sales to Minors – 2020

TABLE 72. Schedule II-V Prescriptions in Region 10, 2018-2020

TABLE 73. Total Number of Prescriptions Dispensed, 2018-2020

TABLE 74. Math STAAR “Did Not Meet Grade Level” Percentages, 2018-2019

TABLE 75. Reading STAAR “Did Not Meet Grade Level” Percentages, 2018-2019

TABLE 76. High School Graduation Rate for Region 10, 2017-2019

TABLE 77. High School Dropout Rate for Region 10, 2017-2019

TABLE 78. Number of Disciplinary Actions for Substance Use Grades 7-12, 2019-2020

TABLE 79. Percentage of Students Who Were Offered Drugs at School, 2017-2019

TABLE 80. Number and Rate of Confirmed Child Maltreatment in Region 10, 2018-2020

TABLE 81. Students in Foster Care, 2017-2021

TABLE 82. CPS Foster Care Placements, 2018-2020

TABLE 83. Single-Parent Family Homes, 2017-2019

TABLE 84. TSS Percentages of “How Many of Your Friends Use Tobacco Products?” 2016-2020

TABLE 85. TSS Percentages of “How Many of Your Friends Use Marijuana?” 2016-2020

TABLE 86. TSS Percentages of “If you wanted some, how difficult would it be to get alcohol?” 2016-2020

TABLE 87. TSS Percentages for “If you wanted some, how difficult would it be to get tobacco?” 2016-2020

TABLE 88. TSS Percentages of “If you wanted some, how difficult would it be to get marijuana?” 2016-2020

TABLE 89. TSS Percentages of “How often was alcohol used at parties?” 2016-2020

TABLE 90. TSS Percentages to “Thinking of Parties You Attended This School Year, How Often Were Marijuana and/or Other Drugs Used?” 2018-2020

TABLE 91. Attempted Suicide Breakdown, 2015-2019

TABLE 92. Attempted Suicide Requiring Medical Attention, 2015-2019

TABLE 93. TSS Breakdown Alcohol, 2016-2020

TABLE 94. TSS Breakdown Tobacco, 2016-2020

TABLE 95. TSS Breakdown Electronic Vapor Products, 2016-2020

TABLE 96. TSS Breakdown Marijuana, 2016-2020

TABLE 97. TSS Breakdown Prescription Drugs, 2016-2020

TABLE 98. Age of First Use: Alcohol, 2018-2020

TABLE 99. Age of First Use: Tobacco

TABLE 100. Age of First Use: Marijuana, 2018-2020

TABLE 101. Last 30-Day Use of Alcohol, 2018-2020

TABLE 102. “Ever Used” Alcohol, 2018-2020

TABLE 103. “Five or More Drinks in a Two-Hour Period?”, 2018-2020

TABLE 104. “Ever Used” Marijuana, 2018-2020

TABLE 105. Last Month Use of Tobacco, 2018-2020

TABLE 106. “Ever Used” Tobacco

TABLE 107. Last Month Use of Electronic Vape Products, 2018-2020

TABLE 108. “Ever Used” Electronic Vape Products, 2018-2020

TABLE 109. Last 30-Day Use of Prescription Drugs

TABLE 110. “Ever Used” Prescription Drugs, 2018-2020

TABLE 111. Last 30-Day Use of Illicit Drugs, 2018-2020

TABLE 112. “Ever Used” Illicit Drugs, 2018-2020

TABLE 113. Last 30-Day Use of Alcohol, 2015-2019

TABLE 114. Lifetime Use of Marijuana, 2015-2019

TABLE 115. Last 30-Day Use – Any Tobacco Product, 2015-2019

TABLE 116. Lifetime Use of Tobacco, 2015-2019

TABLE 117. Last 30-Day Use of Illicit Drugs, 2015-2019

TABLE 118. Lifetime Use of Illicit Drugs, 2015-2019

TABLE 119. Adult Lung Cancer Deaths, 2018-2020

TABLE 120. Overdose Deaths by Substance, 2015-2017

TABLE 121. Deaths by Suicide, 2017-2019

Appendix B – List of Figures

FIGURE 1. Map of Health Service Regions serviced by a Prevention Resource Center

FIGURE 2. Number of Surveys Included in State Sample for Texas School Survey

FIGURE 3. Texas School Survey Distribution Comparison and Impact of Pandemic

FIGURE 4. Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)

FIGURE 5. Socio-Ecological Model for Substance Use, with Examples

FIGURE 6. Social Determinants of Health

FIGURE 7. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

FIGURE 8. Regional Boundaries

FIGURE 9. Map of El Paso, New Mexico, and Juarez Intersection, 2020.

FIGURE 10. Zip Codes

FIGURE 11. Region 10 Population by Age Groups – 2020

FIGURE 12. Region 10 Population by Age Group – 2019-2021

FIGURE 13. Population of Region 10 by Race/Ethnicity – 2020

FIGURE 14. Population for Region 10 by Race/Ethnicity, 2019-2021

FIGURE 15. Number and Percentage of Languages Other than English Spoken by those 5 Years Old and Older – 2019

FIGURE 16. Median Household Income per County, 2017-2019

FIGURE 17. Unemployment Percentage by County, 2018-2020

FIGURE 18. EP Coalition for the Homeless PIT Data – 2020

FIGURE 19. Homeless in El Paso, TX: Who Are the “Homeless”? – 2020

FIGURE 20. Veterans Experiencing Homelessness in Texas – 2020

FIGURE 21. Juvenile Drunkenness Violations in Region 10 and Texas, 2018-2020

FIGURE 22. Juvenile Drug Related Arrests for Possession of Illicit Substances, 2018-2020

FIGURE 23. Adult Drunkenness Arrests by County - 2020

FIGURE 24. Adult Drunkenness Arrests per 1,000 and 100,000 – 2020

FIGURE 25. Percentage of Uninsured Adults, 2017-2019

FIGURE 26. Percentage of Uninsured Children, 2017-2019

FIGURE 27. Adults SUD Treatment, 2017-2019

FIGURE 28. Youth SUD Treatment, 2017-2019

FIGURE 29. People Living with HIV per 1,000, 2017-2019

FIGURE 30. Family Violence Crime Rate and Number of Incidents, 2018-2020

FIGURE 31. TSS Parental Perceptions Percentage: Alcohol, 2016-2020

FIGURE 32. TSS Parental Perceptions Percentages : Tobacco, 2016-2020

FIGURE 33. TSS Parental Perceptions Percentages : Marijuana, 2016-2020

FIGURE 34. TSS “How Many of Your Close Friends Use Alcohol?” 2016-2020

FIGURE 35. Last 30-Day Use – Marijuana, 2018-2020

FIGURE 36. Lifetime Use of Alcohol, 2015-2019

FIGURE 37. Binge Drinking – Past 30 Days, 2015-2019

FIGURE 38. Last 30-Day Use – Marijuana

FIGURE 39. Adult Binge Drinking, 2016-2019

FIGURE 40. Current Smoker Percentages, 2016-2019

FIGURE 41. Alcohol-Related Liver Deaths, 2018-2020

FIGURE 42. DUI Related Fatalities, 2018-2020

Glossary of Terms

<i>30 Day Use</i>	The percentage of people who have used a substance in the 30 days before they participated in the survey.
<i>ACES</i>	Adverse Childhood Experiences. Potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years) such as experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect; witnessing violence in the home; and having a family member attempt or die by suicide. Also included are aspects of the child's environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding such as growing up in a household with substance misuse, mental health problems, or instability due to parental separation or incarceration of a parent, sibling, or other member of the household.
<i>Adolescent</i>	An individual between the ages of 12 and 17 years.
<i>ATOD</i>	Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.
<i>BRFSS</i>	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Health-related telephone survey that collects state data about U.S. residents regarding their health-related behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventive services.
<i>Counterfeit Drug</i>	A medication or pharmaceutical item which is fraudulently produced and/or mislabeled then sold with the intent to deceptively represent its origin, authenticity, or effectiveness. Counterfeit drugs include drugs that contain no active pharmaceutical ingredient (API), an incorrect amount of API, an inferior-quality API, a wrong API, contaminants, or repackaged expired products.
<i>DSHS</i>	Department of State Health Services. A state agency of Texas that assists Texans who need services or help. The agency's mission is to improve the health, safety, and well-being of

	Texans through good stewardship of public resources and a focus on core public health functions.
<i>Drug</i>	A medicine or other substance which has a physiological effect when ingested or otherwise introduced into the body. Drugs can affect how the brain and the rest of the body work and cause changes in mood, awareness, thoughts, feelings, or behavior.
<i>Epidemiology</i>	The study (scientific, systematic, and data driven) and analysis of the distribution (who, when, and where), patterns, and determinants of health and disease conditions in defined populations.
<i>Evaluation</i>	Systematic application of scientific and statistical procedures for measuring program conceptualization, design, implementation, and utility, making comparisons based on these measurements, and the use of the resulting information to optimize program outcomes. The primary purpose is to gain insight to assist in future change.
<i>HHS</i>	Health and Human Services. The mission of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is to enhance the health and well-being of all Americans, by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services.
<i>Incidence</i>	The occurrence, rate, or frequency of a disease, crime, or something else undesirable. A measure of the risk for new substance abuse cases within a region.
<i>LGBTQIA+</i>	An inclusive term covering people of all genders and sexualities, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer, intersex, asexual, pansexual, and allies.
<i>MAT</i>	

	Medication-Assisted Treatment. The use of medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders.
<i>Neurotoxin</i>	Synthetic or naturally occurring substances that damage, destroy, or impair nerve tissue and the function of the nervous system. They inhibit communication between neurons across a synapse.
<i>Person-Centered Language</i>	Language that puts people first. A person’s identity and self-image are closely linked to the words used to describe them. Using person-centered language is about respecting the dignity, worth, unique qualities, and strengths of every individual. It reinforces the idea that people are so much more than their substance use disorder, mental illness, or disability.
<i>PRC</i>	Prevention Resource Center. Prevention Resource Centers provide information about substance use to the general community and help track substance use problems. They provide trainings, support community programs and tobacco prevention activities, and connect people with community resources related to drug and alcohol use.
<i>Prevalence</i>	The proportion of the population within the region found to already have a certain substance abuse problem.
<i>Protective Factor</i>	Conditions or attributes (skills, strengths, resources, supports or coping strategies) in individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that help people deal more effectively with stressful events and mitigate or eliminate risk in families and communities.
<i>Recovery</i>	A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

<i>Risk Factor</i>	Conditions, behaviors, or attributes in individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that contribute to or increase the risk in families and communities.
<i>Self-Directed Violence</i>	Anything a person does intentionally that can cause injury to self, including death.
<i>SPF</i>	Strategic Prevention Framework. The idea behind the SPF is to use findings from public health research along with evidence-based prevention programs to build capacity and sustainable prevention. This, in turn, promotes resilience and decreases risk factors in individuals, families, and communities.
<i>Stigma</i>	The stigma of addiction—the mark of disgrace or infamy associated with the disease—stems from behavioral symptoms and aspects of substance use disorder. The concept of stigma describes the powerful, negative perceptions commonly associated with substance abuse and addiction. Stigma has the potential to negatively affect a person’s self-esteem, damage relationships with loved ones, and prevent those suffering from addiction from accessing treatment.
<i>SDoH</i>	Social Determinants of Health. The economic and social conditions that influence individual and group differences in health status.
<i>Substance Abuse</i>	When alcohol or drug use adversely affects the health of the user or when the use of a substance imposes social and personal costs.
<i>Substance Dependence</i>	An adaptive state that develops from repeated drug administration, and which results in withdrawal upon cessation of drug use.

<i>Substance Misuse</i>	The use of a substance for a purpose not consistent with legal or medical guidelines. This term often describes the use of a prescription drug in a way that varies from the medical direction, such as taking more than the prescribed amount of a drug or using someone else's prescribed drug for medical or recreational use.
<i>Substance Use</i>	The consumption of low and/or infrequent doses of alcohol and other drugs such that damaging consequences may be rare or minor. Substance use might include an occasional glass of wine or beer with dinner, or the legal use of prescription medication as directed by a doctor to relieve pain or to treat a behavioral health disorder.
<i>SUD</i>	Substance Use Disorder. A condition in which there is uncontrolled use of a substance despite harmful consequences. SUDs occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes clinically significant impairment, including health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home.
<i>Telehealth</i>	The use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support and promote long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health, and health administration. Technologies include videoconferencing, the internet, store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, and terrestrial and wireless communications.
<i>TCS</i>	Texas College Survey of Substance Use. A biennial collection of self-reported data related to alcohol and drug use, mental health status, risk behaviors, and perceived attitudes and beliefs among college students in Texas.
<i>TSS</i>	Texas School Survey. Collection of self-reported tobacco, alcohol, and substance use data among students in grades 7

	through 12 in Texas public schools. The survey is sponsored by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and administered by the Public Policy Research Institute.
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey. an American biennial survey of adolescent health risk and health protective behaviors such as smoking, drinking, drug use, diet, and physical activity conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It surveys students in grades 9–12.



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