



**FAMILY & COMMUNITY**

# FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Women are relational creatures, at the hub of their families and communities. Although the structures of families and communities may be changing today, the importance of women's roles within them has not. Women remain committed to their families and to providing a stable, loving foundation for all of its members. One of the biggest challenges of our times seems to be balancing the huge demands of both paid employment and family. Although some women may opt for one over the other due to choice or happenstance, the majority of women seem caught up in wanting both - and wanting to do both well.

## DISABILITY

Females with Disabilities by Age, Harris County, 2000 <sup>1</sup>	Number
5 to 15 years	11,528
16 to 20 years	16,411
21-64 years	189,277
65 to 74 years	27,938
75 years and older	36,893
Total	282,047

employed and 48.8% are unemployed. Women have fewer numbers of disabilities than men from age five until age 64, but that reverses from age 65 and older, where there are more women than men with disabilities.

The most common type of single disability is a physical disability, but almost half of all women with

Nearly one out of every six females over the age of five in Harris County has a disability: 18% of the female population. The Census defines a disability as a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition that can make it difficult for the person to participate in activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also hamper a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business. Of women between ages 16 to 64 with a disability, 51.2% are

disabilities report having more than one type of disability. Multiple disabilities add to the complexity of care and the need for resources. Girls and women with

Types of Disabilities, Females in Harris County, 2000 <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percentages
Sensory disability	14,052	5.0%
Physical disability	33,191	11.8%
Mental disability	14,632	5.2%
Self-Care disability <sup>2</sup>	1,710	0.6%
Go-outside-home disability	30,882	10.9%
Employment disability	53,261	18.9%
Two or more types of disability	134,319	47.6%

disabilities are more likely to live in poverty (21.4%) compared to girls and women without disabilities (14.1%). Also, girls and women (ages 16-64 years) with

Educational Attainment by Disability Status, Females ages 18 to 34 years, Harris County <sup>1</sup>	Percentages of Women with a Disability	Percentages of Women without a Disability
Currently enrolled in school	18.6%	22.1%
No high school diploma	35.3%	22.0%
Bachelor's Degree	6.2%	13.6%

disabilities are more likely to be unemployed (48.8%) than girls and women without disabilities (39.0%).

Data Sources:

1 Census 2000, Summary File 3 (SF 3), Harris County, Sex by Age by Types of Disabilities for the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population 5 years and over.

2 Definitions of the sub-types of disabilities are found in the Definition of Disability Items in Census 2000, extracted from Appendix B from the Summary File 3 Technical Documentation. The definitions come from the question on disability that asked if the individual had a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting six months or more that made it difficult to perform certain activities. The four activity categories were (a) learning, remembering, or concentrating (mental disability); (b) dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home (self-care disability); (c) going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office (going outside the home disability); and (d) working at a job or business (employment disability).

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## FAMILY LIFE

Women's Marital Status, Harris County, 15 years and over	Status by Percent, 1990 Census	Status by Percent, 2000 Census <sup>1</sup>
Never Married	23.8%	25.5%
Now Married	56.1%	55.5%
Widowed	8.5%	7.7%
Divorced	11.6%	11.2%

country as a whole.<sup>4</sup> Across the nation, for those over the age of 15 years, there are 86 unmarried men for every 100 unmarried women. In Texas, there are 88 single men for every 100 unmarried women. In

The Census Bureau defines family as a group of two or more people who reside together and who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. What is clear from the Census data is that people are becoming families in various combinations and in different configurations. The majority of families (74%) consist of a married couple with children, with 54.7% of couples having children under 18 years and 45.3% having no children under 18 years. The next most common living arrangement is that of a single mother, representing close to 20% of all family configurations. Single mothers are more likely than other family arrangements to have children under 18 in the home (60.8%). Only 7% of all families are headed by a single father and of those families 45.9% have children under 18 at home and 54.1% have no children under the age of 18.

the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria area there are 91 unmarried men for every 100 unmarried women.

Another interesting trend noted nationally by a

Types of Families by Presence of Children, Harris County, Census 2000 <sup>1</sup>	Numbers of Families	Percent of Families
Married Couple	622,173	74.0%
With Children	340,181	
No Children under 18	281,992	
Male Householder, no wife	57,982	6.9%
With Children	26,611	
Without Children under 18	31,371	
Female Householder, no husband	160,475	19.1%
With Children	97,611	
Without Children under 18	62,864	

According to newly released Census Bureau statistics, Texans tend to marry at higher rates than the

Census Bureau analysis is the increasing number of women ages 40 to 44 who have never had a child. In 2002, 18% of women in that age group had never had a child compared with 10 percent in 1976.<sup>5</sup> In 2002, women in that same age grouping had 1.9 children compared to the 3.1 children of the same-aged cohort in 1976.

Marriages and Divorces, Harris County	1995 <sup>2</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	Percent Change
Marriages	29,679	33,897	+ 14.2%
Divorces	16,765	14,592	- 13.0%

### Data Sources

1 Sex by Marital Status for the Population 15 years and over, Census 2000 Summary File 3, Harris County

2 Marriages and Divorces by County – Texas, 2001 Texas Vital Statistics, 2001. Texas Department of Health, Austin, TX. Note: Since the number of divorces in a year is approximately half of the number of marriages, many people assume that one half of the marriages performed in that year will end in divorce. However, statisticians from the Bureau of Vital Statistics note that the divorce/marriage ratio for a particular year tells us almost nothing about what will happen during the lifespan of those people who marry in any given year. The available data are not sufficient to develop a statistical prediction for the future of the people who marry in a single year.

3 Marriages and Divorces by County—Texas, 1995. Texas Vital Statistics, 1995. Texas Department of Health, Austin, TX. Note: Marriages by county of marriage license application and divorces by county in which divorce decree was obtained.

4 Cobb, Kim. (Tuesday, October 21, 2003). Texas catches bouquet on tying knot: census: state near top in marriage rate. Houston Chronicle. 1A-4A.

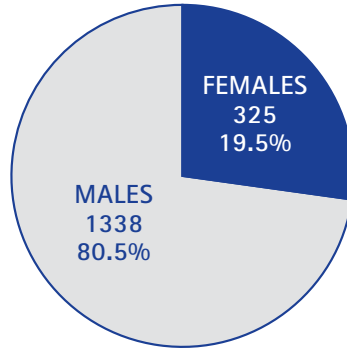
5 Percentage of Childless Women 40 to 44 Years Old Increases Since 1976, Census Bureau Report. (Thursday, October 23, 2003). Press Release. U.S. Census.

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## HOMELESSNESS

On a single night in January a survey of area shelters is conducted to assess the characteristics of Houston and Harris County's homeless population seeking emergency shelter. On that single night in 2003, January 23, there were a reported 1,996 available shelter units and an occupancy of 2,068, reflecting a 103.6% occupancy rate. The largest percentage of clients was African American (55.2%), followed by Anglo (20.9%), Hispanic/Latino (18.8%), Native American (3.6%), and Asian/Pacific Islander (1.5%). Adults composed the majority of clients (80.4%) followed by youth (3.4%), defined as between the ages of 13 to 21, and children (16.2%) aged twelve and younger.

HOMELESS ADULT SHELTER RESIDENTS, BY GENDER



HOUSTON AREA, 2003<sup>1</sup>

(23%) of the women in emergency shelter had some type of disability, with substance abuse problems being the most common. One-third of the women in the sample reported being employed: 73.8% were employed full-time while 26.2% were employed part-time.

Since the report looks at adults and youths/children separately, it is impossible to know how many clients were women with children. Although single adult men have traditionally been the most

likely to use emergency shelter services, the report notes that women and their children have been the fastest growing group of clients requesting services. The largest gap in services detailed by this report is services to families with children in the area of

The Coalition for the Homeless report identifies

those most at-risk of homelessness as persons with mental illness or addiction disorders, victims/survivors of domestic violence, and veterans. The

report indicates that approximately half of all women and children who are homeless have experienced recent domestic violence. The report also lists structural causes of homelessness including poverty, lack of affordable housing, welfare reform, and lack of community and social supports. These patterns were evident in the Houston survey as almost a quarter

emergency shelter and transitional housing.

These data only represent the number of women and their children seeking emergency shelter on a single night. It does not provide either an annual total or the number of women and their children who were also homeless on January 23rd and either on the streets or staying with friends or family members.

Adult Female Shelter Population on a Single Night by Race/Ethnicity <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percentage
Anglo	80	24.6%
African American	148	45.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7	2.2%
Latina	89	27.4%
Native American	1	0.3%
Total	325	100%

Females with Disability By Type, Single Shelter Night, 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Number of Disabilities	Percentage of All Women at the Shelter with type of Disability
Physical Disability	17	5.2%
Mental Disability	24	7.4%
Substance Abuse	34	10.5%

Data Sources:

<sup>1</sup> Homeless Service Demands, 2003: An Analysis of Trends, Services, and Demographics. Prepared for Harris County and the City of Houston, Texas, March 2003. Coalition for the Homeless for Houston/Harris County, Inc.

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## HOUSING ISSUES

Frequently when people think of a typical "women's issue," domestic violence or abortion are the topics that quickly come to mind. However, many issues that initially seem to be gender-neutral take on a decidedly gendered perspective when closely examined. Such is the case with housing. The statistics reveal that affordable housing is a women's issue. For instance, the Housing Authority of the City of Houston's Section 8 program, which provides rent subsidies through HUD, reports that 92.8% of their clients are female heads of households with an average of 2 children in the family.<sup>2</sup>

Renters comprise 45% of Harris County's total number of households.<sup>3</sup> A housing unit is generally considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of the renter's income. In Harris County, an extremely low income household can afford a monthly rent of no

City of Houston's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, November 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Number
Section 8 households	13,993
Female head of households (HOH)	12,973
Children in female HOH	24,360
Average rent paid in female HOH	\$157.12
Average subsidy in female HOH	\$544.79
Number of Households on Waiting List	11,977

more than \$443 while the fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit is \$760.<sup>4</sup> The housing wage in Harris County is \$14.62.<sup>3</sup> The housing wage is the amount of money a full-time worker must earn per hour in order to afford a two-bedroom unit at the area's fair market value. The Harris County housing wage represents 284% of the minimum wage (\$5.15 per hour) and would require a person to work 114 hours a week at the minimum wage in order to afford the rental unit.<sup>3</sup>

Data Sources:

1 City of Houston's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, November 2003.

2 Figure rounded to nearest whole number. Actual number is 1.87 children per female-headed household.

3 Out of Reach 2003: America's Housing Wage Climbs. National Low Income Housing Coalition. Washington, DC.

## IMMIGRATION

The United States is a nation of immigrants and the story of Houston cannot be told without acknowledging the contributions of our immigrant population. However, gender-specific data on this population are difficult to obtain. Few data are reported by gender, and none could be found for the local level.

In the Houston Metropolitan Statistical Area, 17,429 legal immigrants were admitted here as the site of their intended residence in 2000.<sup>2</sup> The top six countries of origin in order of greatest numbers arriving are Mexico, El Salvador, India, Vietnam, China, and Pakistan. Texas ranks second behind California in the number of estimated undocumented aliens with an estimated 1,041,000 in 2000.<sup>3</sup> In 2001, 3,798 refugees arrived in Texas with the majority coming to Texas from the Sudan, the former Yugoslavia, Cuba, Vietnam, and Iran.<sup>2</sup> Texas ranks fifth in the nation in

refugee population.

The Houston Area Survey finds two important shifts in immigration patterns.<sup>4</sup> First, recent immigration is primarily non-European. Second, the educational attainment of new immigrants varies widely, with immigrants from Asia and Africa generally arriving with higher levels of education and professional skills and Hispanic immigrants arriving with lower levels of educational attainment.

The only available numbers by gender are for legal immigrants at the national level. Although such numbers cannot give a complete picture of the immigrant status in Houston and Harris County, they may offer a gendered snapshot. In 2002, women comprised 54.3% of all legal immigrants coming into the United States.<sup>3</sup> Of those, 31.7% were single, 62.6% married, 3.6% widowed, and 1.9% divorced or

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separated. The largest cohort of women arriving was between the ages of twenty and forty, although all ages were represented

Place of Birth by Citizenship Status, Harris County, Census 2000 <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percent
Native American	2,644,030	77.8%
Foreign Born	756,548	22.2%
Totals	3,400,578	100%

from under one year to over 75 years. The occupations of the women and girls varied with the largest groups consisting of students and children (22.3%); homemakers (19.4%); professional and technical workers (4.9%); and service workers (2.7%), with a

gender-specific problems have received recent attention: trafficking and violence against women. It is estimated that 50,000 women and children, and an unknown number of men, are trafficked into the United States annually, often under the auspices of the

Foreign Born Citizenship Status, Harris County, Census 2000 <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percent
Naturalized Citizen	223,609	29.6%
Not a citizen	532,939	70.4%
Total	756,548	100%

large number of women falling into the "unknown" occupational category. Of the occupations listed, female immigrants comprised 29% of executive and managerial positions, 36% of professional and technical positions, 65% of administrative support positions, and 47% of service positions.

Immigrant populations face numerous obstacles such as learning the language, securing a job, and acclimating to American culture, often while attempting to preserve their original culture. Two

international sex trade or sweatshop labor.<sup>2</sup> Violence against immigrant women by abusive partners creates some unique problems not faced by native-born women. Immigrant women who are being battered are often more reluctant to report abusive relationships due to their often tenuous immigration status, although new provisions in the Violence Against Women Act offer some alternative methods of obtaining residency status for battered women.

Income Below the Poverty Level, Harris County, 2000 <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percent
Native American	343,256	68.2%
Foreign Born	159,978	31.8%
Naturalized citizen	26,746	(16.7%)
Not a citizen	133,232	(83.3%)

**Data Sources:**

- 1 U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000, SF3. Note: The Census defines the Native Population or Native Americans as U.S. citizens at birth, i.e. born in the U.S., Puerto Rico, or U.S. Island Areas, as well as those born in a foreign country who had at last one parent who was a U.S. citizen. Foreign born means those not U.S. citizens at birth, that is, the term describes any person born outside of the U.S. or its territories and living in the United States. This category, as it is used by the Census, may include aliens lawfully admitted to the U.S., undocumented or illegal aliens, and naturalized U.S. citizens.
- 2 New Americans in Texas: An Overview of Immigrants and Refugees, November 2002, Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs, Family Services, Texas Department of Human Services, Austin, TX.
- 3 U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2002, U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C., 2003.
- 4 Klineberg, S. (2002). Houston's Economic and Demographic Transformations: Findings from the expanded 2002 survey of Houston's ethnic communities. Houston Area Survey (1982-2002). Rice University.

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## POLITICAL PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Registered Voters by Gender in Harris County, July 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percentage
Male Voters	813,226	44.5%
Female Voters	932,324	51.0%
Gender not identified	81,405	4.5%
Total Voters	1,826,955	100%

state-by-state basis for comparison.<sup>4</sup> On the measure of women's political participation, Texas ranks 33

Women represent a potentially significant political force since they are more likely than men to be registered to vote and to actually vote. The difference in men and women's voting patterns is captured in the "gender gap" factor. This measure is calculated by assessing the gender differences in preferences for a particular candidate, party, or issue. The

mainstream press first reported the gender gap during the 1980 election of Ronald Reagan. During that

election it was noted that men were more likely to support candidate Reagan by a gender gap of 8%, with President Regan winning the votes of 55% of men compared to 47% of women. The gender gap is largely credited with the subsequent election of President Clinton.

In the 1996 election 52% of women compared to 43% of men voted for Clinton, resulting in a 9% gender gap. The gender gap in the 2002 election was even more apparent in the state of Texas, which resulted in a 15-point gender gap between men and women, with 45% of women supporting Al Gore in contrast to only 30% of men.<sup>3</sup>

The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) compiles a report on the status of women on a

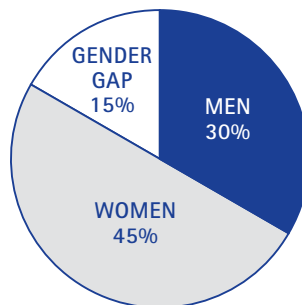
out of the 50 states, earning a grade of D. The index used to rank states was calculated using a variety of indicators, including number of women in elected office, percent of women registered to vote, percent of women who voted, and the number of institutional resources available to women in the state.

Registered Hispanic Voters by Gender in Harris County, July 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percentage
Hispanic Males (Latinos)	129,137	46.0%
Hispanic Females (Latinas)	151,887	54.0%
Total	281,024	100%

The hot-button, swing-voter demographic in the 2000 presidential election was identified as the "soccer mom." A similar demographic is captured by pundits in the 2004 election with the identification of the "security mom," whose priorities are said to "have expanded beyond

pocketbook and social concerns toward issues that favor Republicans, such as national security."<sup>5</sup> The gender gap is expected to once again be a factor in the 2004 election, even though women do not vote as a block. Although women tend to vote Democratic more than Republican, their political allegiance is viewed as more elusive with many women voters splitting ballots and switching parties.<sup>5</sup>

GENDER GAP IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2000, TEXAS<sup>1</sup>



VOTED FOR CANDIDATE AL GORE

### Data Sources:

- 1 Registered Voters by Gender in Harris County, Voter Registration Department, Office of the Secretary of State, Texas, October 6, 2003. Numbers do not include those voters with no gender information.
- 2 Registered Hispanic Voters by Gender in Harris County, Voter Registration Department, Office of the Secretary of State, Texas, July 2003. Note: Under the Voting Rights Act the office is required to send out all Constitutional Amendments translated into Spanish for any Hispanic voter. Since the Hispanic last name is more original, the office obtains information from the Census Bureau on what is considered to be a Hispanic surname. This table of names is processed against the master file of registered voters, if the last or former name fields match with one on the list, the voter is marked as possibly Hispanic. This technique results in the reported data on Hispanic voters by gender for Harris County.
- 3 Data from Voter News Service, Analyzed by Feminist Majority Foundation, <http://www.feminist.org/election2002/gendergap.asp>
- 4 The Status of Women in the States.(2002-03) (4th Ed.). Institute for Women's Policy Research, Washington, DC.
- 5 Mason, Julie. (December 17, 2003). National security a top issue among women voters for 2004. Houston Chronicle, pp. 1A, 17A.

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## SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

TANF Participants and Payments, Harris County <sup>2</sup>	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Participants	40,749	43,222	46,810
Payments	\$26,529,579	\$29,750,414	\$33,210,006

Most often social service support programs are discussed in gender-neutral terms. The word "recipient" hides the reality that most of the recipients are women and further that most of the women are mothers with children. For instance, 94.1% of families receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Family) funds and 59.6% of families receiving food stamps in Harris County are female-headed households.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a food and nutrition program whose purpose is to provide nutrition education and food assistance to categories of people who have been found to be the most vulnerable to the effects of malnutrition and to achieve optimal nutritional status for

WIC Program Potential Eligible Estimates, 2002 <sup>1</sup>	Program Participation	Program Eligibles	Number Unserved	Percent Unserved
1996	97,000	175,452	78,452	44.5%
2002	131,657	187,662	56,005	29.8%

children prior to entry into school. The target population is low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age five who are at risk for nutrition related health problems.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is a national program designed for families who earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid, yet cannot afford to buy private insurance. To qualify for CHIP a child must be a Texas resident, a US citizen or legal permanent resident, under the age of 19, be uninsured for at least 90 days, and living in a family that meets certain income requirements. As a result of legislative changes during the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, the program is undergoing revisions that include: changes income requirements from net to gross income, reduces terms of coverage from 12 months to 6 months, establishes a 90-day waiting period between eligibility determination and coverage, and discontinues dental services, hospice care services, skilled nursing facilities, tobacco cessation programs, vision benefit, including eyeglasses and exams, most behavioral health services, and chiropractic services.<sup>6</sup> Although enrollment in CHIP increased statewide in 2003, the numbers dropped in Harris County from 271,926 in August of 2003 to 257,641

Race/Ethnicity of TANF Households, Harris County, 2003 <sup>3</sup>	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total
Number	2,112	10,551	5,377	252	18,292
Percent	11.5%	57.7%	29.4%	1.4%	100%

in October 2003.<sup>7</sup> A spokesperson for the Texas Department of Human Services attributed the drop to the new, stiffer policies regarding enrollment and a staffing shortage in the Houston area.

The Food Stamp Program (FSP) permits low-income households to purchase a nutritionally adequate diet. The program is federally funded and is considered the nation's first line of defense against hunger. Low-income families

Food Stamp Participants and Value, Harris County <sup>2</sup>	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Participants	148,186	153,463	176,493
Value	\$138,809,273	\$149,214,403	\$176,429,263

with limited resources are eligible. A family's gross income must be at or below 130% of the federal poverty level. In Harris County the average benefit in FY 2002 was \$55.58 per person per month.<sup>8</sup> In 2001, Texas ranked third in the nation, behind California and New York, in the total value of food stamps issued.<sup>8</sup>

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) replaced the earlier family assistance program known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The purpose of the program is to provide financial and medical assistance to needy dependent children and the parents or relatives with whom they are living. According to the Texas Department of Human Services the most common TANF caretaker is a Black or Hispanic female who is approximately 30 years old, has 1 or 2 children

TANF Heads of Households, Harris County, July 2003 <sup>3</sup>	White Households	Black Households	Hispanic Households	Other Households	Totals
Number of Female Headed Households	1,870	10,113	5,020	212	17,215
Percent of Female Headed Households	88.5%	95.8%	93.4%	84.1%	94.1%

under age 11, is unemployed and has no other income, receives TANF grant of \$208 a month or less, and receives TANF for less than twelve continuous months.<sup>8</sup> Further, she is described as having numerous obstacles to overcome, including: she is a minority female without a high school education and without job training; she has young children who must have affordable, competent day care; and she does not have reliable transportation. In Houston, the average TANF payment in FY 2002 was \$135.81 per month

per individual in the family.<sup>8</sup> In 1999, Texas ranked 41st in the nation in total per capita welfare expenditures.<sup>8</sup>

TANF differs from AFDC in that there are higher work requirements than previously required, there is a lifetime



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limit of 60 months on TANF, and there are fewer exemptions. Under TANF there are strict work requirements and time limits with participants sanctioned, that is,

benefits are withdrawn for a certain time period, should they fail to comply with regulations. In September 2003 close to 10,000 adults and children in Harris County lost their TANF benefits because of failure to comply with program requirements, including the personal responsibility agreement.<sup>4</sup> These requirements include: school attendance, immunizations, drug abstinence, no voluntary quitting of a job, attending parenting skills training, and compliance with other program directives. An additional 2,475 adults were denied Medicaid benefits due to non-cooperation.<sup>4</sup>

As in other states, the welfare rolls are decreasing in Texas. Since 1994 the average monthly number of TANF recipients has decreased from a high of 786,400 in 1994 to a low of 358,800 in 2002.<sup>8</sup> The highest functioning, more educated women seemed to be able to obtain jobs with state support for job training and child care. With the realities of low wage work and single parenting, most TANF recipients, even employed, cannot raise their families

Recipients Denied TANF due to Non Cooperation, September 2003 <sup>4</sup>	Adults	Children	Total
Harris County	2,963	6,726	9,689
State Total	19,484	41,011	60,495

above the poverty line.<sup>9</sup> One study of TANF recipients reported numerous barriers to stable employment including child care, transportation, and health problems, along with lack of stable sources of housing and food.<sup>10</sup> Over an 18-month follow up period, the study found that 41% of families who were on TANF and left, returned to TANF at some time. Families returning to TANF were disproportionately black, young, or with several children. The report's authors concluded that some TANF program policies were helpful, such as subsidized child care, but that other policies merely confused recipients or provided obstacles difficult to overcome, such as complex paperwork, confusing eligibility requirements, and the personal responsibility agreement.

Food Stamp Households, Harris County, 2003 <sup>5</sup>	White	Black	Hispanic Americans	Native	Asians	Others	Total
Female Headed Households	18,478	69,382	63,946	566	4,402	941	157,715
Total	30,156	112,068	112,437	909	7,587	1,370	264,527
Percent of Female Headed Households	61.3%	61.9%	56.9%	62.3%	58.0%	68.7%	59.6%

## Data Sources:

- 1 Texas WIC Program Potential Eligibles Estimates. Texas Department of Health.
- 2 Harris County, Region 6 County Statistical Information. Texas Department of Human Services, Austin, TX. <http://www.dhs.state.tx.us/regions/06/countydata.cfm>
- 3 Texas Department of Human Services, TANF Caseload, Female Ethnicity Profile, For July 2003, Harris County, Data Source: RA-04C.
- 4 Number of TANF Families Who Lost their TANF Benefits Because of Noncooperation with Personal Responsibility Agreement Requirements, September 2003, Updated with Data Available on October 3rd (Does not include data from TIERS). Texas Department of Human Services.
- 5 Texas Department of Human Services, Food Stamps, Caseload Female Ethnicity Profile, for July 2003, Harris County.
- 6 CHIP Policy Changes, 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, Updated 9/11/03, see: [http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/news/post78/CHIP\\_Policy\\_Changes.html](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/news/post78/CHIP_Policy_Changes.html)
- 7 Hughes, P.R. (Thursday, November 20, 2003). Thousands of local kids lose Medicaid. Houston Chronicle, p. 29A.
- 8 2003 Reference Guide, Texas Department of Human Services, Austin, TX.
- 9 Hays, S. (2003). Flat Broke with Children: Women in the Age of Welfare Reform. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 10 Texas Families in Transition. Surviving without TANF: An Analysis of Families Diverted From or Leaving TANF. January 2002, Texas Department of Human Services.

## UNMARRIED PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS

For the first time in Census history the survey added a category concerning unmarried partners. The Census defines an unmarried partner as a person who is not related to the householder, who shares living quarters with, and who has a close personal relationship with the householder. Over 55,000 people identified as unmarried partner households in Harris County with almost 20 percent of those being same-sex partners. Same sex partner households are almost evenly split between

gay male households (53.2%) and lesbian women households (46.8%). There is no way to gauge the true number of same-sex unmarried partners since anecdotal evidence suggests that many gay and lesbian couples do not self-identify as partners due to fears about confidentiality and potential discrimination.

The Houston Area Survey, an annual survey of Harris

Unmarried Households, Harris County, Census 2000 <sup>1</sup>	Numbers	Percent
Same-Sex	9,620	17.2%
Opposite-Sex	46,301	82.8%

# FAMILY & COMMUNITY

County residents, provides documentation of changing attitudes over the years toward the gay and lesbian population in Houston. Although 51% of the respondents in the 2001 survey believed homosexuality is morally

wrong, 57% were in favor of equal civil rights for gay and lesbians. The 51% believing homosexuality to be "morally wrong" represent a decrease from previous years from 59% in 1997 to 54% in 1999. Klineberg terms the

Houston attitude one of "tolerant traditionalists."<sup>2</sup> A more controversial question has also been asked over the years: "Are you generally in favor or opposed to homosexuals being legally permitted to adopt children?" An evolution of attitudes can be observed over the years with 19% expressing approval for gay adoption in 1991, 26% in 2000, and 38% in 2002.

Unmarried-Partner Households, Harris County, Census 2000 <sup>1</sup>	Numbers	Percent
Unmarried-partner households	55,921	4.6%
Male householder and male partner	5,122	
Male householder and female partner	26,826	
Female householder and female partner	4,498	
Female householder and male partner	19,475	
All other households	1,150,502	95.4%
Total Households	1,206,423	100%

Data Sources:

- 1 U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Unmarried-Partner Households by sex of partners. Census 2000, SF3, Harris County.
- 2 Klineberg, S.L. (2002). Houston's Economic and Demographic Transformations: Findings from the expanded 2002 survey of Houston's ethnic communities. The Houston Area Survey (1982-2002). Rice University, Department of Sociology, p. 20.



## UNMET NEEDS

The 2003 Community Assessment Survey conducted by the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast asked service providers what their impressions of the area's primary unmet needs were and affordable, available health care topped the list. The United Way Helpline has fielded more than a million calls over the past decade. They describe the vast majority of calls as requests for help with basic needs including food, shelter, clothing, and financial assistance for rent or utilities.

Service Providers Identification of Unmet Client Needs, Four County Area, 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Percent
Affordable, available health care	36.2
Unemployment/Underemployment	19.7
Job Skills/Adult Literacy	19.2
Affordable, quality childcare	19.1
Transportation	18.7
Available, affordable housing	18.7
Health insurance	18.6
Affordable medication	18.2
Counseling/Mental health services	17.7

Data Source:

- 1 2003 Community Assessment Survey, United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast.