

Regional Needs Assessment

REGION VII: BRAZOS VALLEY COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL
AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE (BVCASA)
PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER 7

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Executive Summary

What is the RNA?

The Regional Needs Assessment (RNA) is a document created by the Prevention Resource Center (PRC) in Region 7 along with Data Coordinators from PRCs across the State of Texas and supported by Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse (BVCASA) and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The PRC 7 serves 30 counties in central Texas.

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

Who writes the RNA?

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

How is the RNA informed (data collections)?

Qualitative data collection has been conducted, in the form of surveys, focus groups, and interviews with key informants. The information obtained through these partnerships has been analyzed and synthesized in the form of this Regional Needs Assessment. PRC 7 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.

Region 7:

In region 7 there are 30 counties: Bastrop, Bell, Blanco, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Coryell, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Grimes, Hamilton, Hays, Hill, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Limestone, Llano, McLennan, Madison, Milam, Mills, Robertson, San Saba, Travis, Washington, and Williamson. Seated in the center of Texas it is surrounded, most notably, by regions 3 (Dallas/Fort Worth), 6 (Houston), and 8 (San Antonio). Region 7 includes one major metropolitan area, Austin, with the rest of the region being lesser urban areas and rural areas.

Main key findings from this assessment include:

Demographics

- Social support association scores for Region 7 were greater than the state average score.
- The percent of high school seniors who reported marijuana use in the last 30 days has increased from 10-20% to 20-30% in the last 10 years while lifetime use remains constant around 40%.
- The dropout rate in Mills County has greatly increased starting in 2015, with many other counties seeing a jump to above 10 in 2016, while Brazos country has stayed consistently high for the region.
- Student homelessness is a growing concern in several counties in region 7 including: Bastrop, Bosque, Caldwell, Grimes, Hamilton, Hill, and Milam.

- High rates of suicide among almost all counties in region 7.
- Most counties in region 7 have a higher rate of uninsured children than Texas as a whole.

Consumption

- Between 2013 and 2017 Region 7 has held steady as the fourth highest region in opioid related exposure calls to poison control
- There are more prescriptions than people (1.3 prescriptions per person).
- Perceptions of marijuana as harmful have decreased among college students and adolescents.
- Alcohol and Marijuana were the primary substances for which people sought DSHS treatment.
- High risk use of alcohol (5 or more drinks in a 2-hour period) by students (grades 7-12) appears to be slowly decreasing in the region though current use has stayed constant.

Consequences

- DUI Crashes are declining
- Youth involvement in juvenile justice is declining
- Llano county has high rates of both alcohol and drug related deaths

Protective Factors

- Many counties have high social association scores
- Many counties have a plethora of services available

Prevention Resource Centers

There are eleven regional Prevention Resource Centers (PRCs) servicing the State of Texas. Each PRC acts as the central data repository and substance misuse prevention training liaison for their region. Data collection efforts carried out by PRCs are focused on the state's prevention priorities of alcohol (underage drinking), marijuana, and prescription drug use, as well as other illicit drugs.

Our Purpose

Prevention Resource Centers (PRCs) are a program 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.

Prevention Resource Centers have four fundamental objectives related to services provided to partner agencies and the community in general: (1) collect data relevant to the state's prevention priorities and share findings with community partners (2) ensure the sustainability of a Regional Epidemiological Workgroup focused on identifying strategies related to data collection, gaps in data, and prevention needs, (3) coordinate regional prevention trainings and conduct media awareness activities related to risks and consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD) use, and (4) conduct voluntary compliance checks and education on state tobacco laws to retailers.

Our 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



Source: Department of State Health Services <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/IDCU/data/annual/2016-Texas-Annual-Report/2016-Annual-Report/> Accessed April 17, 2020.

What Evaluators Do

Regional PRCs are tasked with compiling and synthesizing data and disseminating findings to the community. Data collection strategies are organized around risk and protective factors, consumption data, and related consequences associated with substance use and misuse. PRCs engage in building collaborative partnerships with key community members who aid in securing access to information.

How We Help the Community

PRCs provide technical assistance and consultation to providers, community groups, and other stakeholders in identifying data and data resources related to substance use or other behavioral health indicators. 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. These resources and information 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. Additionally, the program provides a way to identify community strengths as well as gaps in services and areas of improvement.

Conceptual Framework of This Report

As one reads through this needs assessment, two guiding concepts will appear throughout the report: a focus on the youth population and the use of an empirical approach from a public health framework. For the purpose of strategic prevention planning related to drug and alcohol use among youth populations, this report is based on three main aspects: risk and protective factors, consumption patterns, and consequences of substance misuse and substance use disorders (SUDs).

Key Concepts

Adolescence

The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies adolescence as a critical transition in the life span 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. This focus of prevention efforts on adolescence is particularly important since about 90 percent of adults who are clinically diagnosed with SUDs, began misusing substances before the age of 18.¹

The information presented in this document is compiled from multiple data sources and will therefore consist of varying demographic subsets of age which generally define adolescence as ages 10 through 17-19. Some domains of youth data conclude with ages 17, 18 or 19, while others combine “adolescent” and “young adult” to conclude with age 21.

Epidemiology

The WHO describes epidemiology as the “study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events (including disease), and the application of this study to the control of diseases and other health problems.” This definition provides the theoretical framework through which this assessment discusses the overall impact of substance use and misuse. Through this lens, epidemiology frames substance use and misuse as a preventable and treatable public health concern. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) establishes epidemiology to identify and analyze community patterns of substance misuse as well as the contributing factors influencing this behavior. SAMHSA adopted an epidemiology-based framework on a national level while this needs assessment establishes this framework on a regional level.

¹ The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. 2011. *CASA analysis of the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2009* [Data file]. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

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.² Intrapersonal factors are the internal characteristics of the individual of focus and include knowledge, skills, attitudes, and beliefs. Interpersonal factors include social norms and interactions with significant others, such as family, friends, and teachers. Organizational/institutional factors are social and physical factors that indirectly impact the individual of focus (e.g., zero tolerance school policies, classroom size, mandatory workplace drug testing). Finally, community/societal factors include neighborhood connectedness, collaboration between organizations, and policy.

The SEM proposes that behavior is impacted by all levels of influence, from the intrapersonal to the societal, and that the effectiveness of health promotion programs is significantly enhanced through the coordination of interventions targeting multiple levels. For example, changes at the community level will create change in individuals and support of individuals in the population is essential for implementing environmental change.

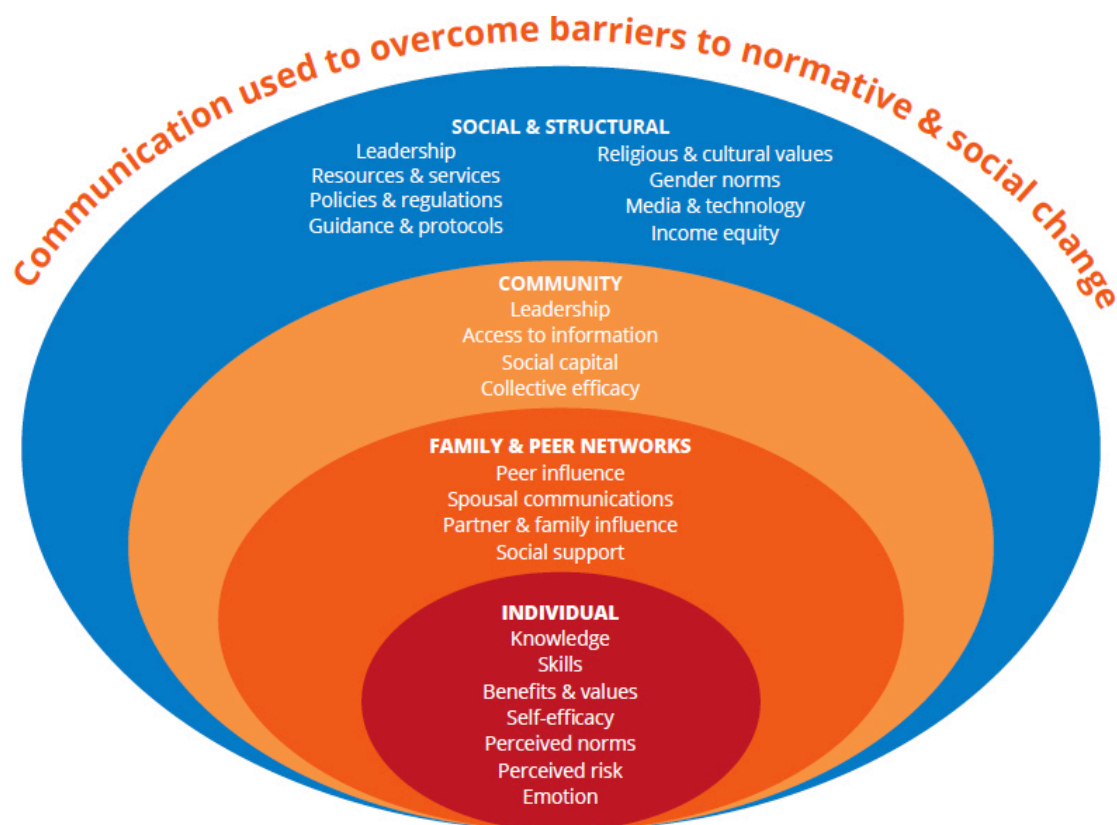
Risk and Protective Factors

Researchers have examined the characteristics of effective prevention programs for more than 20 years. One component shared by effective programs is a focus on risk and protective factors that influence substance misuse among adolescents. Protective factors are characteristics that decrease an individual's risk for a SUD. Examples may include factors such as strong and positive family bonds, parental monitoring of children's activities, and access to mentoring. Risk factors are characteristics that increase the likelihood of substance use behaviors. Examples may include unstable home environments, parental use of alcohol or drugs, parental mental illnesses, poverty levels, and failure in school performance. Risk and protective factors are classified under four main domains: societal, community, relationship, and individual (see Figure 2).³

² McLeroy, KR, Bibeau, D, Steckler, A, Glanz, K. (1988). An ecological perspective on health promotion programs. *Health Education & Behavior*, 15(4), 351-377.

³ The SBCC Capacity; Health Communication Capacity Collaborative. <https://healthcommcapacity.org/sbcc-capacity-ecosystem/> Accessed April 16, 2020

Figure 2. Examples of risk and protective factors within the domains of the Socio-Ecological Model



Source: Health Community Capacity Collaborative
<https://healthcommcapacity.org/sbcc-capacity-ecosystem/> Accessed April 16, 2020.

Consumption Patterns

For the purpose of this needs assessment, and in following with operational definitions typically included in widely used measures of substance consumption, such as the Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use (TSS)⁴, the Texas Youth Risk Surveillance System (YRBSS)⁵, and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)⁶, consumption patterns are generally operationalized into three categories: lifetime use (ever tried a substance, even once), school year use (past year use when surveying adults or youth outside of a school setting), and current use (use within the past 30 days). These three categories of consumption patterns are used in the TSS to elicit self-reports from adolescents on their use and misuse of tobacco, alcohol (underage drinking), marijuana, prescription drugs, and illicit drugs. The TSS, in turn, is used as the primary outcome measure in reporting on Texas youth substance use and misuse in this needs assessment.

⁴Texas A&M University. *Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use: 2016 State Report*. 2016.

<http://www.texasschoolsurvey.org/Documents/Reports/State/16State712.pdf>. Accessed May 30, 2018.

⁵ Texas Department of State Health Services. *2001-2017 High School Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System Data*. 2017. <http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/HealthRisks/YRBS>. Accessed April 27, 2018.

⁶ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *National Survey on Drug Use and Health*. 2016.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-Deftabs-2016/NSDUH-Deftabs-2016.pdf>. Accessed May 30, 2018.

Due to its overarching and historical hold on the United States, there exists a plethora of information on the evaluation of risk factors that contribute to Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD). According to SAMHSA, AUD is ranked as the most wide-reaching SUD in the United States, for people ages 12 and older, followed by Tobacco Use Disorder, Cannabis Use Disorder, Stimulant Use Disorder, Hallucinogen Use Disorder, and Opioid Use Disorder (presented in descending order by prevalence rates).⁷ When evaluating alcohol consumption patterns in adolescents, more descriptive information beyond the aforementioned three general consumption categories is often desired and can be tapped 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. For example, 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.⁸ See Figure 3 for the NIAAA's operational definitions of the standard drink.

Figure 3: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)



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

Source: 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. The types of consequences most commonly associated with SUDs, the most severe of SUDs being addiction, typically fall under the categories of health consequences, physical consequences,

⁷ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Substance use disorders. <https://www.samhsa.gov/disorders/substance-use>. Updated October 27, 2015. Accessed May 29, 2018.

⁸ National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. What is a "standard" drink? <https://www.rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov/How-much-is-too-much/What-counts-as-a-drink/Whats-A-Standard-Drink.aspx>. Accessed May 24, 2018.

social consequences, and consequences for adolescents. 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.⁹

The consequences associated with SUDs tend to be developmentally, culturally, and contextually dependent and the measurement and conceptualization of such associations has proven to be quite difficult for various reasons, including the fact that consequences are not always caused or worsened by substance use or misuse.¹⁰ Therefore, caution should be taken in the interpretation of the data presented in this needs assessment. Caution in inferring relationships or direction of causality should be taken, also, because only secondary data is reported out and no sophisticated analytic procedures are involved once that secondary data is obtained by the PRCs and reported out in this needs assessment, which is intended to be used as a resource.

Stakeholder/Audience

Potential readers of this document include stakeholders from a variety of disciplines: substance use prevention and treatment providers; medical providers; school districts and higher education; substance use prevention community coalitions; city, county, and state leaders; and community members interested in increasing their knowledge of public health factors related to drug consumption. The information presented in this report aims to contribute to program planning, evidence-based decision making, and community education.

The executive summary found at the beginning of this report will provide highlights of the report for those seeking a brief overview. Since readers of this report will come from a variety of professional fields, each yielding specialized genres of professional terms and concepts related to substance misuse and substance use disorders prevention, a glossary of key concepts can be found in Appendix XX 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 in Appendix XX.

⁹ National Institute on Drug Abuse. *2016-2020 NIDA Strategic Plan*. 2016.

https://d14rmgtrwzf5a.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/nida_2016strategicplan_032316.pdf. Accessed May 29, 2018.

¹⁰ Martin, CS., Langenbucher, JW, Chung, Sher, KJ. Truth or consequences in the diagnosis of substance use disorders. *Addiction*. 2014. 109(11): 1773-1778.

Introduction

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) administers approximately 225 school and community-based prevention programs across 72 different providers with federal funding from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant to prevent the use and consequences of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD) among Texas youth and families. These programs provide evidence-based curricula and effective prevention strategies identified by SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP).

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 Strategic Prevention Framework in close collaboration with local communities in order 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 Institute of Medicine (IOM), which are universal, selective, and indicated.¹¹

Figure 4. Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)

Strategic Prevention Framework



Source: *Sustainability & Cultural Competence*. 2020. AVPRIDE. <https://avpride.com/> Accessed April 29, 2020

¹¹ SAMHSA. Strategic Prevention Framework. <https://avpride.com/> Accessed April 29, 2020.

The Health and Human Services Commission Substance Abuse Services funds Prevention Resource Centers (PRCs) across the state of Texas. These centers are part of a larger network of youth prevention programs providing direct prevention education to youth in schools and the community, as well as community coalitions that focus on implementing effective environmental strategies. This network of substance abuse prevention services work to improve the welfare of Texans by the reduction of substance use and misuse.

Our Audience

Readers of this document include stakeholders from a variety of disciplines such as substance use prevention and treatment providers; medical providers; school districts and higher education; substance use prevention community coalitions; city, county, and state leaders; and community members interested in increasing their knowledge of public health factors related to drug consumption. The information presented in this report aims to contribute to program planning, evidence-based decision making, and community education.

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), 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 operationalized by CSAP.

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;
- To identify gaps in data where critical substance misuse information is missing;
- To determine county-level differences and disparities;
- To identify substance use issues that are unique to specific communities;
- To provide a comprehensive resource tool for local providers to design relevant, data-driven prevention and intervention programs targeted to needs;
- To provide data to local providers to support their grant-writing activities and provide justification for funding requests;
- To assist policy-makers in program planning and policy decisions regarding substance misuse prevention, intervention, and treatment at the region and state level.

Process

The State Evaluator and the Data Coordinators collected primary and secondary data at the county, regional, and state levels between September 1, 2019 and May 30, 2020.

Between September and July, the State Evaluator meets with the Data Coordinators via bi-weekly 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. In addition, 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

Relevant data elements were determined, and reliable data sources were identified through a collaborative process among the team of Data Coordinators.

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, the data is an accurate measure of the associated indicators.

Key Data Sources: For the purpose of this Regional Needs Assessment, the Data Coordinators and the Statewide Prevention Evaluator chose data sources for this document based on specific criteria. The data provided is a measure of substance use consumption, consequence, and related risk and protective factors. Data reflects the target population in Texas and across the eleven public health regions.

Criterion for Selection: The criterion used for this document is, relevance, timeliness, methodologically sound, representative, and accuracy. The data is well-documented methodology and valid or reliable data collection tools.

Qualitative Data Selection

During the year, focus groups, surveys and interviews are conducted by the Data Coordinator to better understand what members of the communities believe their greatest need to be. The information collected by this research serves to identify avenues for further research and provide access to any quantitative data that each participant may have access to.

Key Informant Interviews

Interviews are conducted primarily with school officials and law enforcement officers. Participants are randomly selected by city and then approached to participate in an interview with the Regional Evaluator. 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 professionals 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 alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs.

Longitudinally Presented Data

In an attempt to capture a richer depiction of possible trends in the data presented in this needs assessment, data collection and reporting efforts consist of 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, where it is the case that neither state-level nor national-level data are included in tables and figures, the assumption can be made by the reader that this data is not made 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.

Regional Demographics

Overview of Region

In general, Texas is a state of vast land area and a rapidly growing population, second only to Alaska in land mass and second in population to California. Public Health Region 7 (PHR7) sits in the center of Texas and includes 30 counties major metropolitan areas like Austin, as well as very rural counties like San Saba. In the middle of Texas, region 7 sits between region 6's major metropolitan area (Houston), region 8's major metropolitan area (San Antonio), and region 3's major metropolitan area (Dallas/Fort Worth). This leads to an interesting mix of demographics due to region 7 being a mixture of rural and urban as well as notable issues stemming from its inclusion of numerous large highways between large metropolitan areas.

Geographic Boundaries: Region 7



Zip Codes

Below is a list of all the ZIP-codes sorted by county for public health region 7.

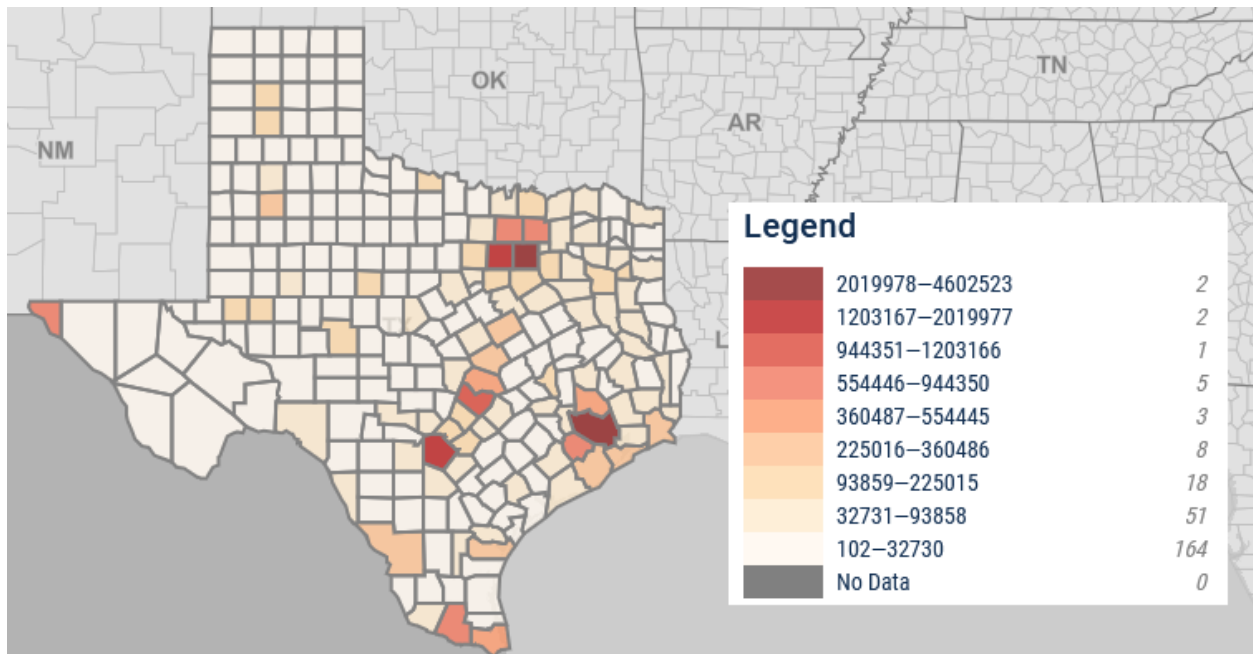
Zip-Codes by County

Zip	County	Zip	County	Zip	County	Zip	County	Zip	County	Zip	County	Zip	County	Zip	County
78602	Bastrop	76690	Bosque	76570	Falls	76621	Hill	75852	Madison	76880	Mills	78731	Travis	78788	Travis
78612	Bastrop	77801	Brazos	76632	Falls	76622	Hill	77864	Madison	76629	Robertson	78732	Travis	78789	Travis
78621	Bastrop	77802	Brazos	76656	Falls	76627	Hill	77872	Madison	77837	Robertson	78733	Travis	78798	Travis
78650	Bastrop	77803	Brazos	76661	Falls	76628	Hill	76524	McLennan	77856	Robertson	78734	Travis	78799	Travis
78659	Bastrop	77805	Brazos	76680	Falls	76631	Hill	76557	McLennan	77859	Robertson	78735	Travis	77426	Washington
78662	Bastrop	77806	Brazos	76685	Falls	76636	Hill	76624	McLennan	77867	Robertson	78736	Travis	77833	Washington
78953	Bastrop	77807	Brazos	78932	Fayette	76645	Hill	76630	McLennan	77870	Robertson	78738	Travis	77834	Washington
78957	Bastrop	77808	Brazos	78938	Fayette	76648	Hill	76633	McLennan	77882	Robertson	78739	Travis	77835	Washington
76501	Bell	77840	Brazos	78940	Fayette	76650	Hill	76638	McLennan	76824	San Saba	78741	Travis	77880	Washington
76502	Bell	77841	Brazos	78941	Fayette	76660	Hill	76640	McLennan	76832	San Saba	78742	Travis	76511	Williamson
76503	Bell	77842	Brazos	78945	Fayette	76666	Hill	76643	McLennan	76871	San Saba	78744	Travis	76527	Williamson
76504	Bell	77843	Brazos	78949	Fayette	76673	Hill	76654	McLennan	76877	San Saba	78745	Travis	76530	Williamson
76505	Bell	77844	Brazos	78952	Fayette	76676	Hill	76655	McLennan	73301	Travis	78746	Travis	76537	Williamson
76508	Bell	77845	Brazos	78954	Fayette	76692	Hill	76657	McLennan	73344	Travis	78747	Travis	76573	Williamson
76513	Bell	77862	Brazos	78956	Fayette	76539	Lampasas	76664	McLennan	78617	Travis	78748	Travis	76574	Williamson
76519	Bell	77866	Brazos	78960	Fayette	76550	Lampasas	76682	McLennan	78645	Travis	78749	Travis	76578	Williamson
76533	Bell	77881	Brazos	78961	Fayette	76853	Lampasas	76684	McLennan	78652	Travis	78750	Travis	78613	Williamson
76534	Bell	77836	Burleson	78963	Fayette	77853	Lee	76691	McLennan	78653	Travis	78751	Travis	78615	Williamson
76540	Bell	77838	Burleson	75838	Freestone	78942	Lee	76701	McLennan	78660	Travis	78752	Travis	78626	Williamson
76541	Bell	77852	Burleson	75840	Freestone	78946	Lee	76702	McLennan	78669	Travis	78753	Travis	78627	Williamson
76542	Bell	77863	Burleson	75848	Freestone	78947	Lee	76703	McLennan	78691	Travis	78754	Travis	78628	Williamson
76543	Bell	77878	Burleson	75859	Freestone	78948	Lee	76704	McLennan	78701	Travis	78755	Travis	78630	Williamson
76544	Bell	77879	Burleson	75860	Freestone	75831	Leon	76705	McLennan	78702	Travis	78756	Travis	78633	Williamson
76545	Bell	78605	Burnet	76693	Freestone	75833	Leon	76706	McLennan	78703	Travis	78757	Travis	78634	Williamson
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76547	Bell	78611	Burnet	77830	Grimes	75850	Leon	76708	McLennan	78705	Travis	78759	Travis	78642	Williamson
76548	Bell	78654	Burnet	77831	Grimes	75855	Leon	76710	McLennan	78708	Travis	78760	Travis	78646	Williamson
76549	Bell	78616	Caldwell	77861	Grimes	77850	Leon	76711	McLennan	78709	Travis	78761	Travis	78651	Williamson
76554	Bell	78622	Caldwell	77868	Grimes	77855	Leon	76712	McLennan	78710	Travis	78762	Travis	78664	Williamson
76559	Bell	78644	Caldwell	77869	Grimes	77865	Leon	76714	McLennan	78711	Travis	78763	Travis	78665	Williamson
76564	Bell	78648	Caldwell	77873	Grimes	77871	Leon	76715	McLennan	78712	Travis	78764	Travis	78673	Williamson
76569	Bell	78655	Caldwell	77875	Grimes	76635	Limestone	76716	McLennan	78713	Travis	78765	Travis	78674	Williamson
76571	Bell	78656	Caldwell	77876	Grimes	76642	Limestone	76795	McLennan	78714	Travis	78766	Travis	78680	Williamson
76579	Bell	78661	Caldwell	76436	Hamilton	76653	Limestone	76797	McLennan	78715	Travis	78767	Travis	78681	Williamson
78606	Blanco	76522	Coryell	76457	Hamilton	76667	Limestone	76798	McLennan	78716	Travis	78768	Travis	78682	Williamson
78635	Blanco	76525	Coryell	76531	Hamilton	76678	Limestone	76799	McLennan	78718	Travis	78769	Travis	78683	Williamson
78636	Blanco	76526	Coryell	76565	Hamilton	76686	Limestone	76518	Milam	78719	Travis	78772	Travis	78717	Williamson
78663	Blanco	76528	Coryell	78610	Hays	76687	Limestone	76520	Milam	78720	Travis	78773	Travis	78729	Williamson
76634	Bosque	76538	Coryell	78619	Hays	76831	Llano	76523	Milam	78721	Travis	78774	Travis		
76637	Bosque	76558	Coryell	78620	Hays	76885	Llano	76556	Milam	78722	Travis	78778	Travis		
76644	Bosque	76561	Coryell	78640	Hays	78607	Llano	76567	Milam	78723	Travis	78779	Travis		
76649	Bosque	76566	Coryell	78666	Hays	78609	Llano	76577	Milam	78724	Travis	78780	Travis		
76652	Bosque	76596	Coryell	78667	Hays	78639	Llano	77857	Milam	78725	Travis	78781	Travis		
76665	Bosque	76597	Coryell	78676	Hays	78643	Llano	76844	Mills	78726	Travis	78783	Travis		
76671	Bosque	76598	Coryell	78737	Hays	78657	Llano	76864	Mills	78727	Travis	78785	Travis		
76689	Bosque	76599	Coryell	76055	Hill	78672	Llano	76870	Mills	78728	Travis	78786	Travis		

Counties

In region 7 there are 30 counties: Bastrop, Bell, Blanco, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Coryell, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Grimes, Hamilton, Hays, Hill, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Limestone, Llano, McLennan, Madison, Milam, Mills, Robertson, San Saba, Travis, Washington, and Williamson. Of these counties the bulk of the population of this region is in Travis, Brazos, Bell, McLennan, Hays, and Williamson.

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



Total Population

The population for region 7 is focused primarily in Bell county, Hays county, Travis county, Brazos county, McLennan county, and Williamson county. Region 7 accounts for roughly 12% of the state's total population.

Population Projections for Texas 2020

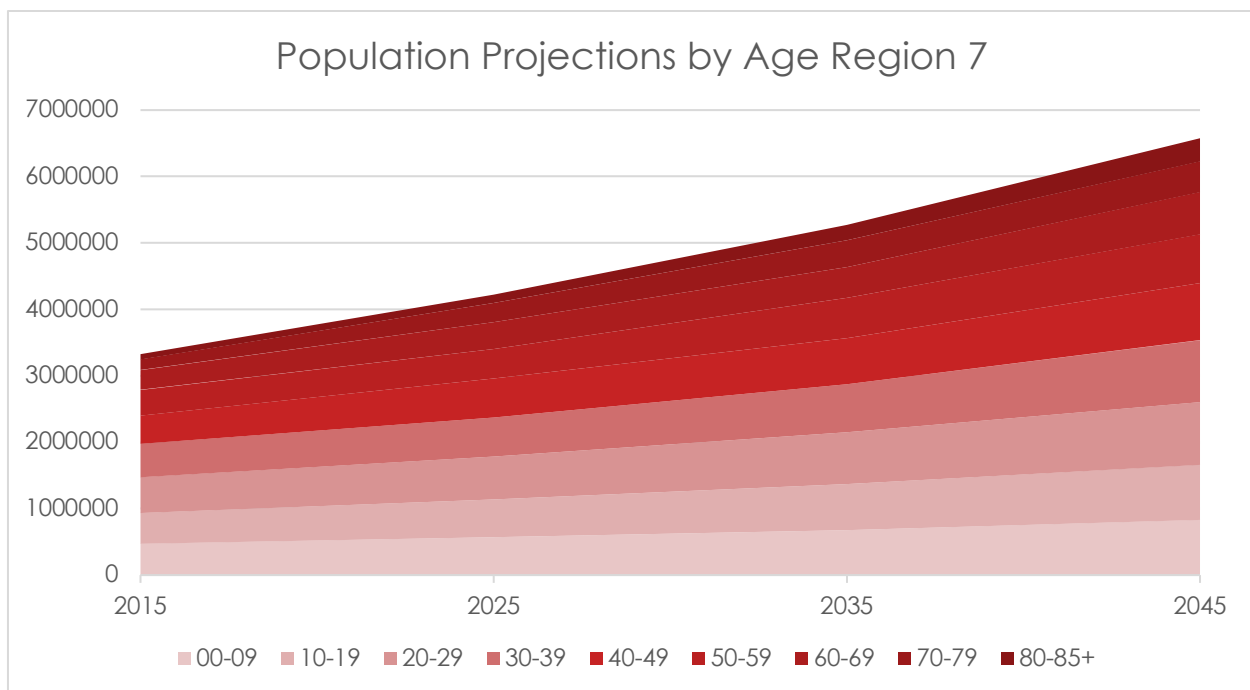
Area	Total Pop
Bastrop	86,105
Bell	353,629
Blanco	11,504
Bosque	17,765
Brazos	229,410
Burleson	17,718
Burnet	48,196
Caldwell	44,284
Coryell	78,317
Falls	16,603
Fayette	26,086
Freestone	19,860
Grimes	28,930
Hamilton	8,220
Hays	234,896
Hill	35,673

Region 7 is composed of primarily rural counties with 6 urban/suburban areas. The largest urban area is in Travis county where the state's capital, Austin, sits.

Lampasas	21,037
Lee	17,595
Leon	17,707
Limestone	23,544
Llano	19,452
McLennan	253,066
Madison	14,527
Milam	24,635
Mills	4,870
Robertson	16,888
San Saba	5,873
Travis	1,291,502
Washington	35,155
Williamson	589,914
Region 7 total	3,592,961
State total	29,677,668

Population <Age 19 including percentage

Below is a breakdown of population projections by age for region 7. Region 7 is a largely young population with over half of the people residing in region 7 being younger than 40. However, trends point towards an increase in the elderly population in the next 20 years.

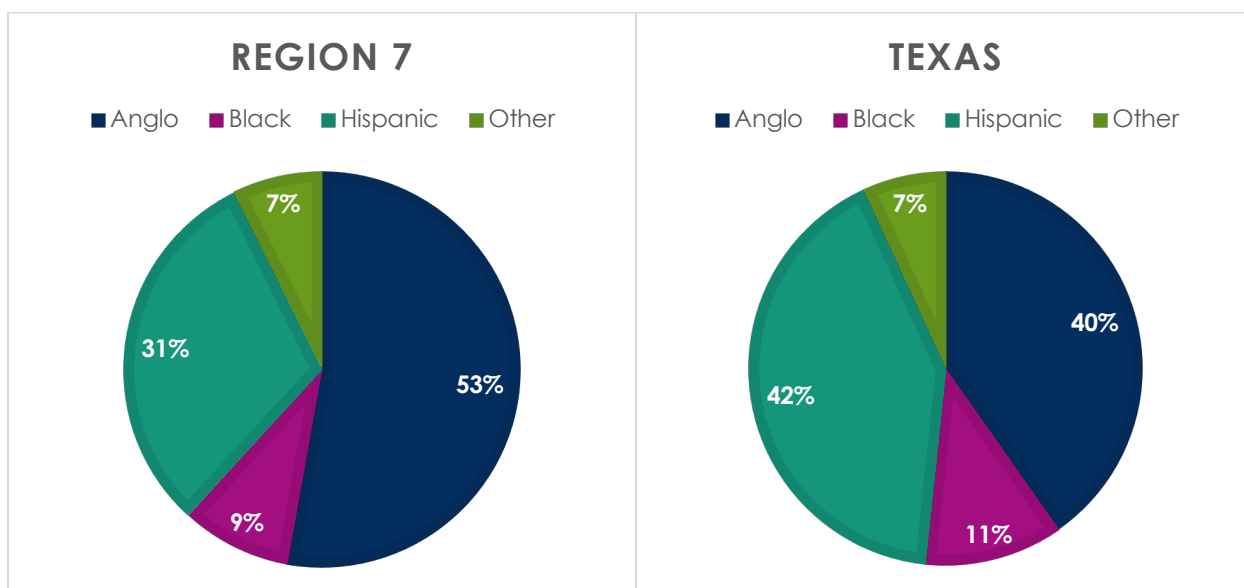


Age

Region 7 Population 2020		
Age	Estimate	Percent
00-18	902,611	25.04%
18-24	401,718	11.15%
25-44	1,049,662	29.12%
45-64	828,544	22.99%
65-85	421,514	11.70%

Region 7 has approximately 25% of its population under the age of 18 and 11% over the age of 65. This emphasized the youth of the population and need for substance abuse treatment programs as the youth are generally more vulnerable to short-term decision-making, including the use of substances.

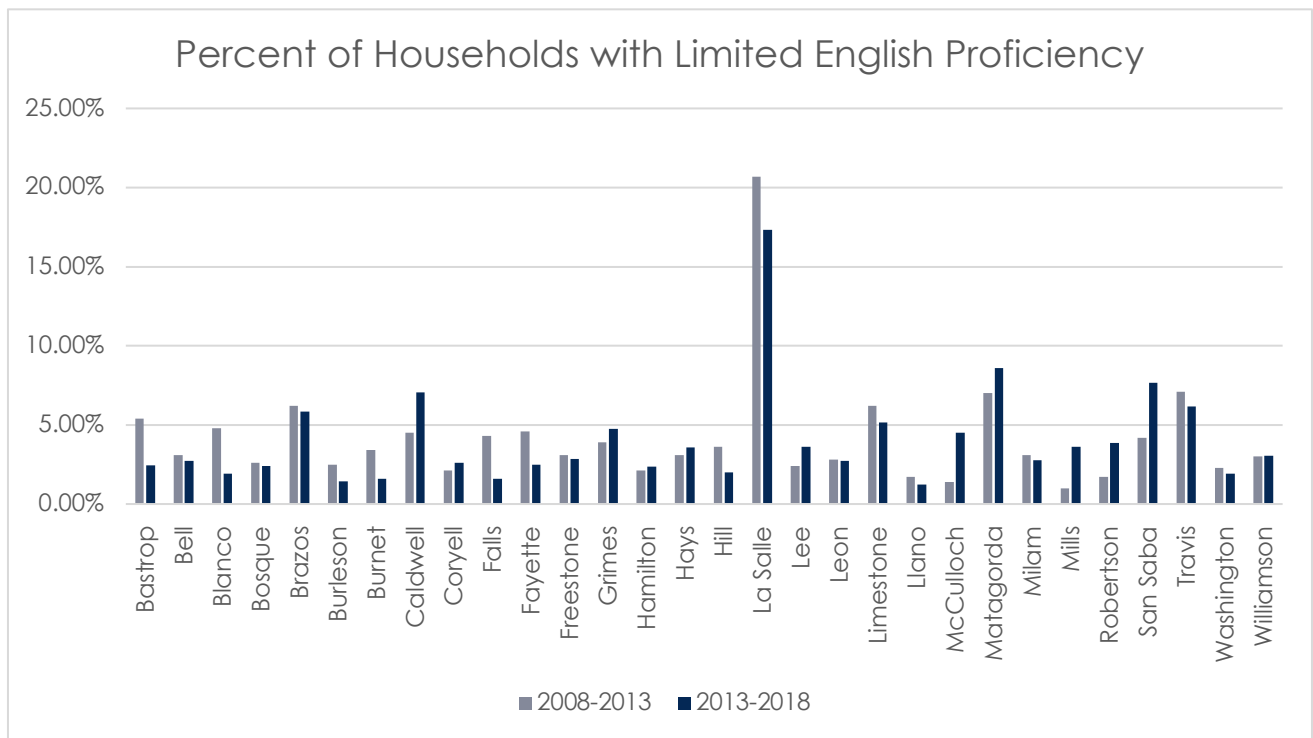
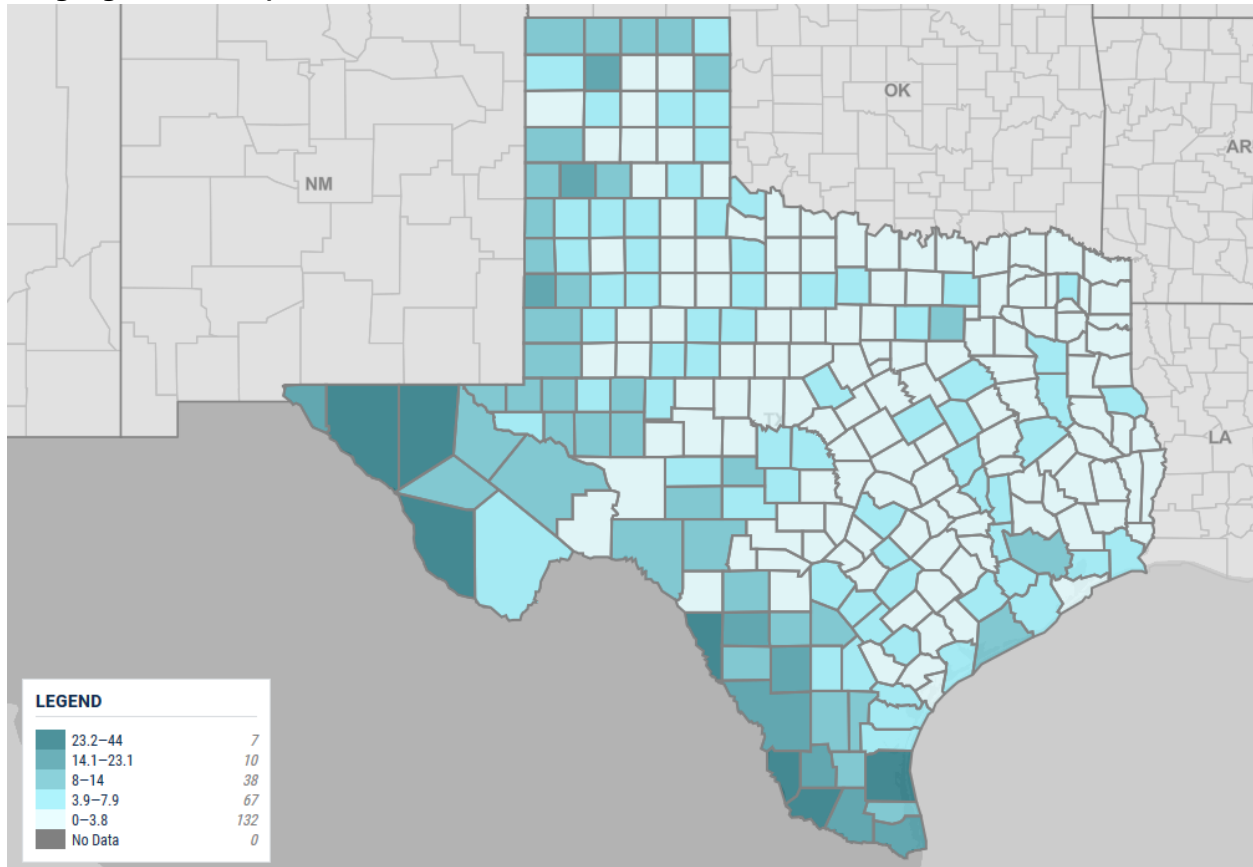
Race/Ethnicity



Languages

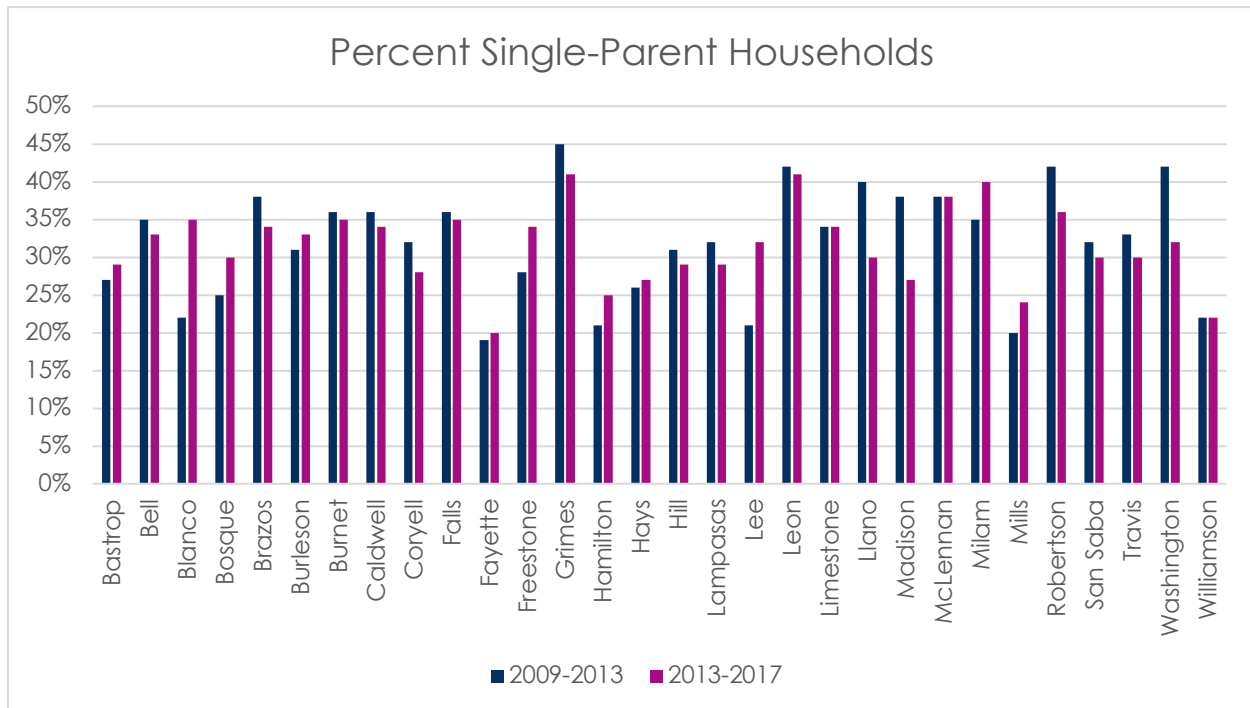
The main two languages in Central Texas are English and Spanish, as the Hispanic population increases there is expected to be a similar increase in the number of Spanish-only speakers. The rising population of English language learners (ELL) is also a concern in Central Texas because language can serve as a barrier to services. In this report, ELL population is tied to limited English proficient individuals. The inability to speak English can relate to barriers in healthcare access, provider communications, and health literacy or education. Efforts in this region to increase the services provided with Spanish-speakers in mind will be well rewarded in the next 20 years.

Language Proficiency



Single-parent households

Children in single-parent households are statistically at greater risk for adverse health outcomes such as mental health problems (including substance abuse, depression, and suicide) and unhealthy behaviors such as smoking and excessive alcohol use. Self-reported health has been shown to be worse among lone parents (male and female) than for parents living as couples, even when controlling for socioeconomic characteristics. Mortality risk is also higher among lone parents. Children in single-parent households are at greater risk of severe morbidity and all-cause mortality than their peers in two-parent households. Most counties in region 7 saw a decrease in the number of single-parent households.



Homelessness

Rate of Homeless Students Enrolled in School per 1,000

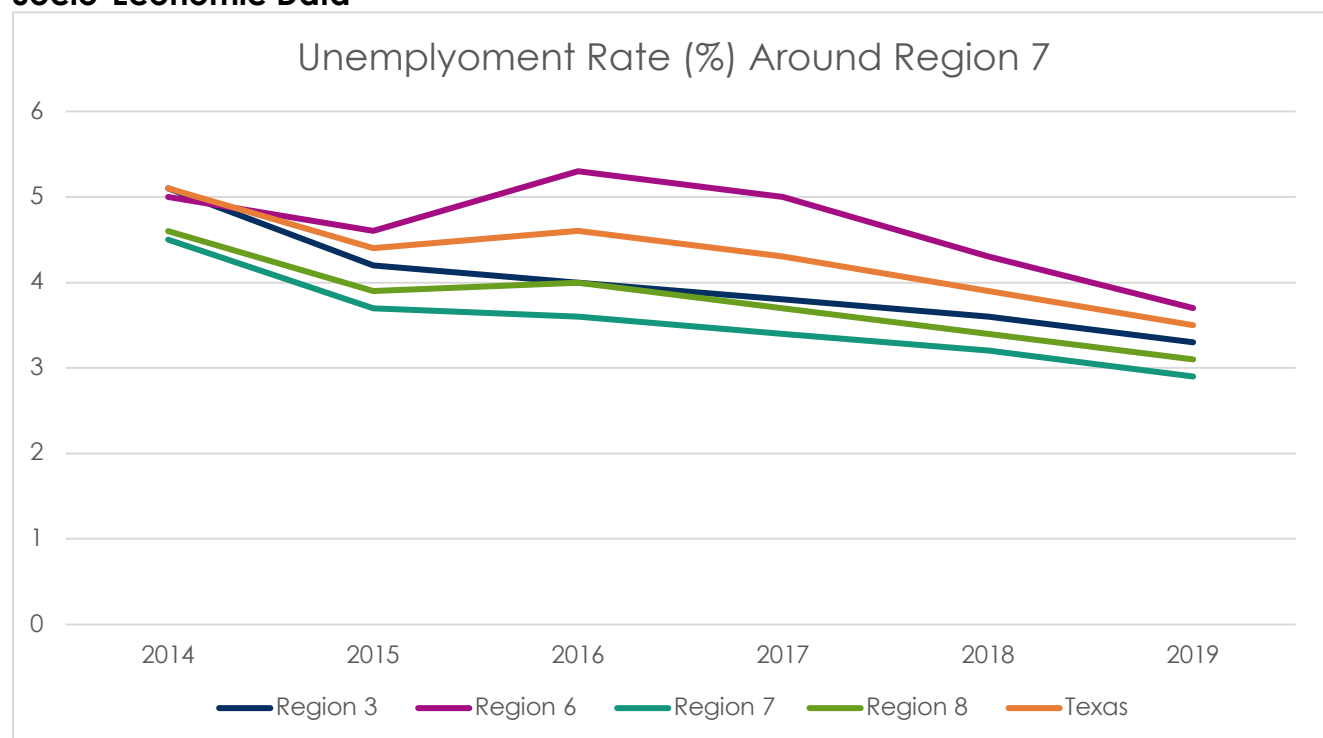
County	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
BASTROP	23.58	21.92	26.18
BELL	16.91	18.95	15.87
BLANCO	3.49	3.55	0.00
BOSQUE	21.31	23.75	30.46
BRAZOS	14.32	18.98	15.66
BURLESON	13.02	11.05	0.00
BURNET	4.46	4.57	13.39
CALDWELL	27.71	31.23	42.14
CORYELL	12.50	13.67	17.62
FALLS	0.00	12.18	10.69
FAYETTE	10.88	63.46	15.13
FREESTONE	10.53	18.30	18.72
GRIMES	39.34	50.31	45.81

Homelessness is a growing concern among several counties in region 7. This raises concern, given the expected increase in adverse childhood experiences that go along with homelessness in youth, for youth substance abuse patterns.

Homelessness is an issue that is best tackled economically and work with the city governances in the most affected areas is recommended for all coalitions in region 7.

HAMILTON	39.31	38.83	34.79
HAYS	14.49	10.98	11.17
HILL	33.36	33.88	32.87
LAMPASAS	15.09	21.49	18.92
LEE	32.40	28.45	12.13
LEON	22.07	20.94	14.28
LIMESTONE	12.91	27.32	17.75
LLANO	3.23	3.90	15.73
MADISON	1.86	7.75	3.65
MCLENNAN	21.98	20.66	14.31
MILAM	24.63	26.62	23.22
MILLS	13.94	18.63	18.00
ROBERTSON	1.79	3.82	5.10
SAN SABA	12.33	10.20	15.02
TRAVIS	11.99	12.61	10.73
WASHINGTON	13.31	13.87	2.73
WILLIAMSON	7.80	8.44	7.92
TEXAS	12.92	20.72	13.37

Socio-Economic Data



The unemployment rate in region 7, and Texas as a whole, has been slowly decreasing since around 2016. There is expected to be significant economic disruption due to shutdowns related to COVID-19 leading to an increase in unemployment for the coming year.

Unemployment/Employment

County	2019 Unemployment Rate (%)	County	2019 Unemployment Rate (%)
Bastrop	3.0	Lampasas	2.2
Bell	3.7	Lee	2.8
Blanco	2.5	Leon	4.4
Bosque	3.4	Limestone	4.0
Brazos	2.7	Llano	3.4
Burleson	3.1	Madison	4.8
Burnet	2.7	McLennan	5.6
Caldwell	3.3	Milam	5.0
Coryell	3.8	Mills	3.4
Falls	3.2	Robertson	3.5
Fayette	2.6	San Saba	2.7
Freestone	4.8	Travis	2.6
Grimes	3.9	Washington	3.4
Hamilton	3.0	Williamson	2.8
Hays	2.8	Region 7	2.9
Hill	3.3	Texas	3.5

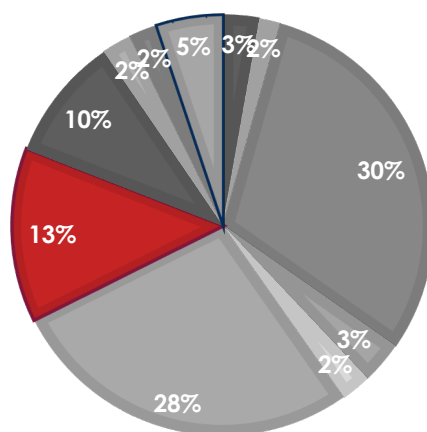
Green = lower than Region 7 Rate; Red = greater than Texas Rate

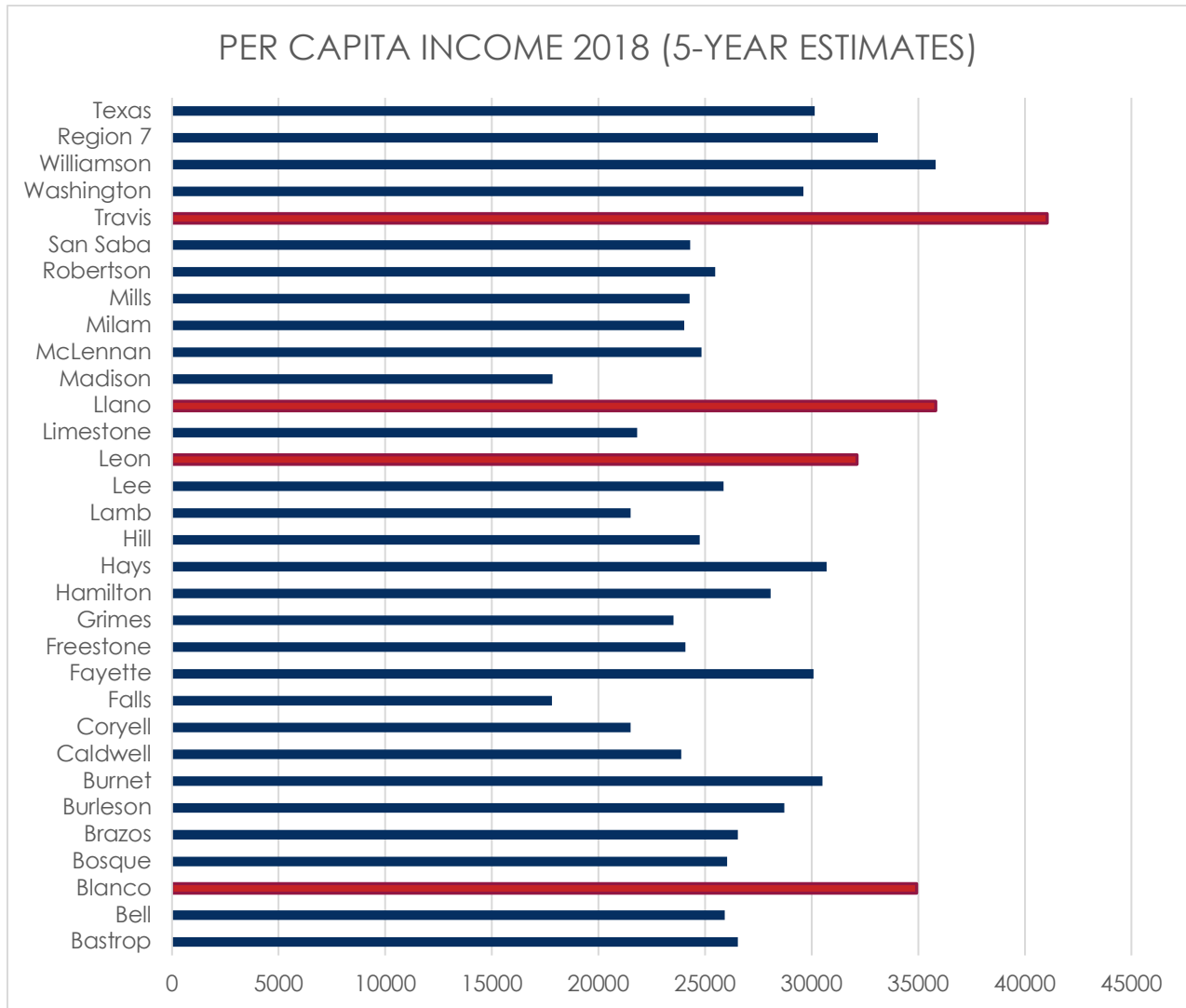
Average Salaries/wages by county/per capita by county

The areas with the highest per capita income for region 7 are Travis county, Llano county, Leon county, and Blanco county. Falls and Madison county have the lowest income per capita. In general, region 7 accounts for around 13% of the total productions in the state.

% OF TEXAS TOTAL PRODUCTION (PER CAPITA EARNINGS X POPULATION)

■ Region 1 ■ Region 2 ■ Region 3 ■ Region 4 ■ Region 5 ■ Region 6
■ Region 7 ■ Region 8 ■ Region 9 ■ Region 10 ■ Region 11





TANF recipients

This indicator reports the percentage of recipients per 100,000 populations receiving public assistance income. Public assistance income includes general assistance and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Separate payments received for hospital or other medical care (vendor payments) is excluded. This does not include Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or noncash benefits such as Food Stamps. The table below details the basic TANF and state program TANF for 2014-2019 in region 7.

Region 7	TANF BASIC			TANF STATE PROGRAM		
	Recipients	Avg Payment	Total	Recipients	Avg Payment	Total
2014	4,788	\$79.27	\$379,550.96	343	\$73.29	\$25,148.45
2015	4,027	\$79.34	\$319,465.32	276	\$71.43	\$19,685.35
2016	5,054	\$88.83	\$448,989.10	280	\$63.16	\$17,653.45
2017	4,155	\$80.86	\$335,985.95	302	\$71.80	\$21,648.88

2018	3,900	\$82.10	\$320,194.53	251	\$72.11	\$18,108.82
2019	3,451	\$84.56	\$291,820.10	205	\$71.19	\$14,626.95

SNAP recipients

Another estimate of instability in providing for basic needs is the estimated percentage of households receiving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. This indicator is relevant because it assesses vulnerable populations which are more likely to have multiple health access, health status, and social support needs; when combined with poverty data, providers can use this measure to identify gaps in eligibility and enrolment

Region 7	NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS	AVERAGE PAYMENT/CASE	Total
2015	339,715	\$263.47	\$89,505,174.56
2016	468,900	\$270.87	\$127,011,201.60
2017	345,579	\$267.21	\$92,343,527.43
2018	333,315	\$264.18	\$88,054,516.66
2019	312,094	\$258.84	\$80,781,105.47

Free, reduced school lunch recipients

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals, for which students can be charged no more than 40 cents. The table below details the number of students receiving free and reduced school lunches for Region 7 and Texas as a whole.

County	Percent Free and Reduced		
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Bastrop	66.04%	69.31%	70.67%
Bell	54.35%	55.84%	58.76%
Blanco	42.46%	39.41%	42.93%
Bosque	63.04%	62.35%	65.04%
Brazos	57.42%	56.57%	57.72%
Burleson	63.58%	61.39%	62.62%
Burnet	61.28%	60.12%	62.72%
Caldwell	69.48%	73.38%	72.30%
Coryell	54.30%	52.83%	56.06%
Falls	80.45%	82.11%	78.62%
Fayette	51.14%	54.74%	53.53%
Freestone	53.24%	54.27%	58.29%
Grimes	65.15%	66.84%	65.56%
Hamilton	53.56%	53.12%	52.24%
Hays	45.31%	44.29%	47.70%
Hill	63.70%	63.05%	65.21%
Lampasas	53.30%	50.71%	54.22%

Lee	63.14%	63.83%	60.04%
Leon	56.73%	51.47%	57.85%
Limestone	71.82%	74.54%	70.73%
Llano	65.07%	58.90%	64.42%
Madison	68.78%	69.35%	69.69%
McLennan	61.21%	61.78%	56.41%
Milam	67.70%	65.91%	70.11%
Mills	60.81%	59.02%	54.89%
Robertson	62.19%	62.30%	64.80%
San Saba	61.58%	68.53%	71.91%
Travis	49.28%	48.17%	50.17%
Washington	56.44%	54.08%	59.08%
Williamson	30.07%	29.36%	30.72%
Region 7	49.88%	49.49%	50.81%
Texas	59.22%	58.98%	60.53%

Green = lower than Region 7; Red = greater than Texas

Uninsured Children

Insurance increases the individual's ability to access treatment programs, those who are uninsured will therefore have fewer treatment programs that they can access. The number of children without insurance is a decent indicator for the rates of insurance in the population while also indicating the number of children at an increased risk.

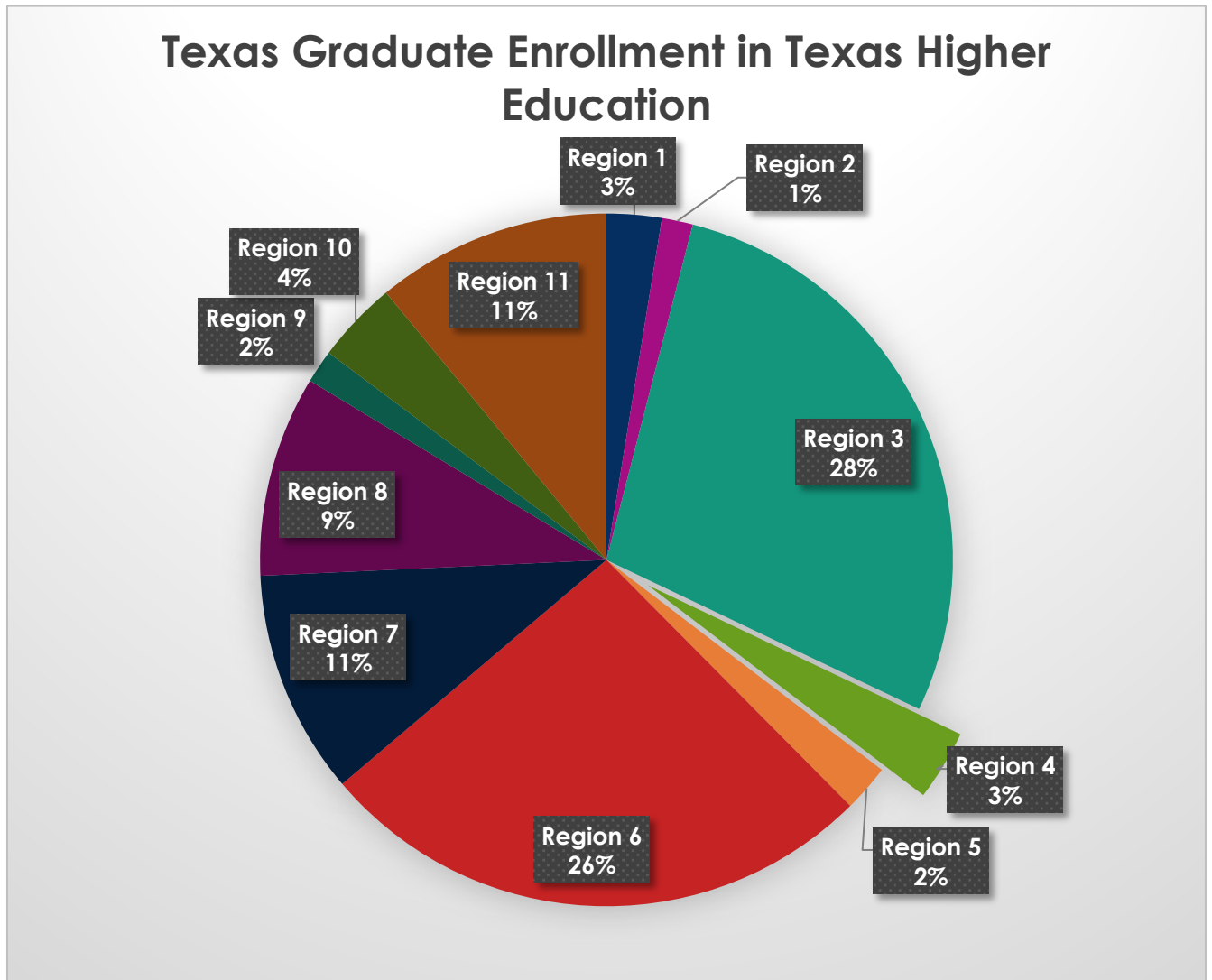
County	% of Children Uninsured							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Texas	13%	13%	12%	10%	10%	12%	10%	10%
Bastrop	16%	18%	16%	12%	12%	16%	12%	12%
Bell	10%	10%	8%	6%	7%	8%	6%	7%
Blanco	20%	23%	22%	19%	20%	22%	19%	20%
Bosque	16%	18%	19%	15%	15%	19%	15%	15%
Brazos	12%	13%	12%	10%	9%	12%	10%	9%
Burleson	17%	19%	17%	15%	13%	17%	15%	13%
Burnet	16%	17%	17%	14%	12%	17%	14%	12%
Caldwell	12%	14%	13%	14%	11%	13%	14%	11%
Coryell	10%	11%	9%	7%	7%	9%	7%	7%
Falls	14%	16%	15%	12%	11%	15%	12%	11%
Fayette	17%	20%	18%	15%	13%	18%	15%	13%
Freestone	15%	18%	15%	15%	12%	15%	15%	12%
Grimes	16%	18%	17%	14%	12%	17%	14%	12%
Hamilton	17%	18%	17%	15%	15%	17%	15%	15%
Hays	12%	13%	11%	10%	9%	11%	10%	9%
Hill	15%	16%	16%	14%	14%	16%	14%	14%
Lampasas	14%	17%	16%	14%	13%	16%	14%	13%
Lee	16%	19%	15%	13%	11%	15%	13%	11%
Leon	17%	19%	19%	16%	16%	19%	16%	16%
Limestone	14%	16%	16%	13%	12%	16%	13%	12%
Llano	16%	17%	16%	13%	13%	16%	13%	13%

Madison	16%	17%	16%	13%	13%	16%	13%	13%
McLennan	12%	12%	11%	9%	11%	11%	9%	11%
Milam	15%	15%	15%	11%	11%	15%	11%	11%
Mills	20%	24%	24%	18%	17%	24%	18%	17%
Robertson	16%	17%	16%	12%	12%	16%	12%	12%
San Saba	17%	19%	21%	17%	15%	21%	17%	15%
Travis	12%	11%	11%	9%	9%	11%	9%	9%
Washington	15%	17%	13%	13%	12%	13%	13%	12%
Williamson	10%	11%	9%	7%	7%	9%	7%	7%

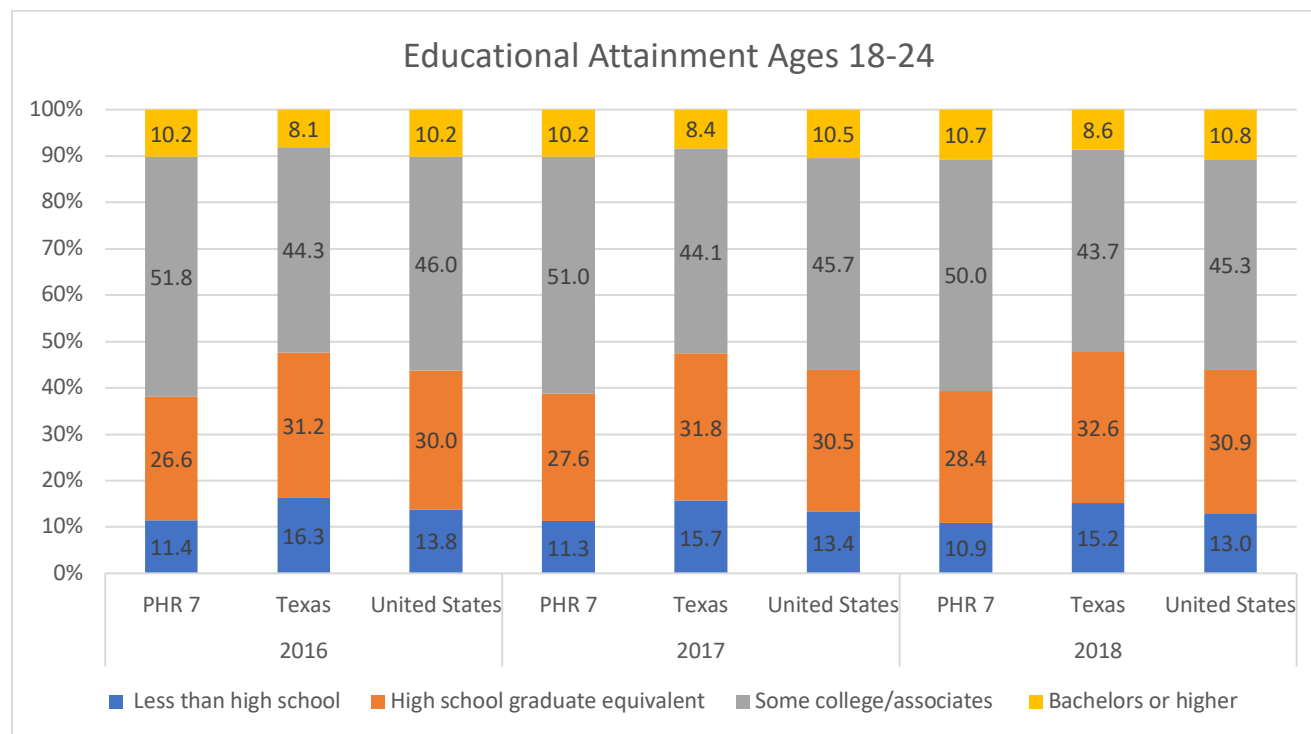
Red = greater than the State

Education

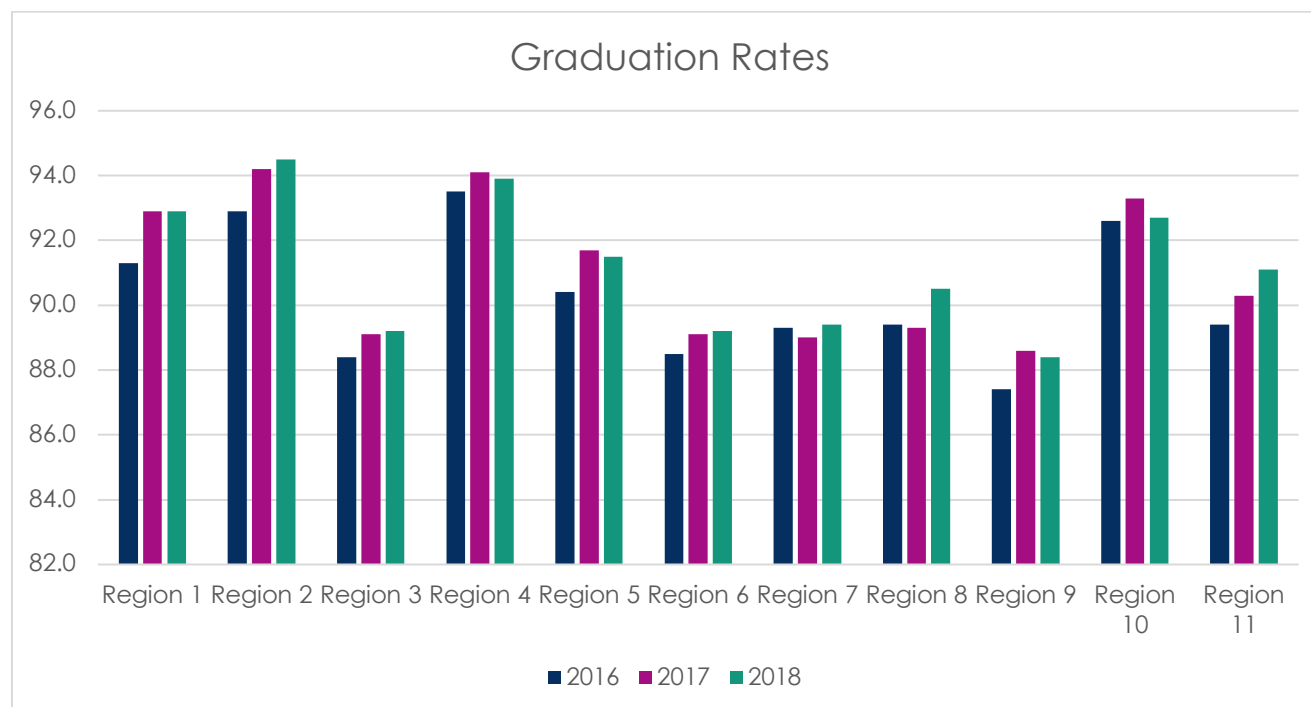
Region 7 accounts for roughly 11% of higher education enrollment in Texas colleges from Texas high schools, somewhat lower than expected from the population of region 7 (12% of Texas population).



Region 7 has a higher rate of some college/associates degrees than Texas or the US as a whole. This may be due to the large number of institutions of higher education in region 7.



Across the state graduation rates for high school have been slowly increasing. A notable exception is region 7 which shows consistently low graduation rates, similar to region 6.



Environmental Risk Factors

Environmental risk factors that will be covered in this needs assessment range from educational attainment and dropout, criminal activity, mental health influences, and perceived access and risk of harm. These risk factors will influence consumption and therefore rates of substance abuse. The ease of alcohol and drug accessibility for adolescents is of particular concern because of the potential to promote use at earlier ages.

Retail Access

Region 7 had a higher rate of alcohol and tobacco sold to minors across 2017-2019.

	# of Alcohol Sales to Minors 2017	# of Alcohol Sales to Minors 2018	# of Alcohol Sales to Minors 2019	# of Tobacco Sales to Minors 2017	# of Tobacco Sales to Minors 2018	# of Tobacco Sales to Minors 2019
Region 7	132	180	153	23	27	75
Texas	914	1204	953	230	77	270
	Density Rates per 100K 2017 Alcohol	Density Rates per 100K 2018 Alcohol	Density Rates per 100K 2019 Alcohol	Density Rates per 100K 2017 Tobacco	Density Rates per 100K 2018 Tobacco	Density Rates per 100K 2019 Tobacco
Region 7	4.06	5.51	4.59	2.25	0.83	0.71
Texas	3.17	4.19	3.25	0.80	0.27	0.92

Other Nicotine products

The use of e-cigarettes (e-cigs) is still on the rise in teens and has seen expansion from nicotine to THC vaping. This makes the detection of the illicit substance more difficult due to the lack of pungent odor associated with smoking marijuana. While the age required for the purchase of vape products has increased in Texas from 18 to 21 it is still commonly found on high schoolers.

Marijuana (law changes regarding marijuana)

Although medical marijuana is legalized in Texas only for intractable epilepsy and under the care of an authorized doctor after trying two FDA-approved drugs and the cannabis subsequently used must contain less than 10% THC. While, other states in the US have legalized medical marijuana, while other states have legalized marijuana for recreational use, recreational use in Texas still illegal. At the time of writing this Texas does allow medical cannabis oil for patients with epilepsy. Access to marijuana is mostly influenced from outside sources and will depend on law enforcement or marijuana decriminalization policies in order to reduce and control marijuana access. Outside sources now include nearby states that have legalized marijuana, like Colorado, and many police officers are finding THC products and marijuana that come from states where it is legal.

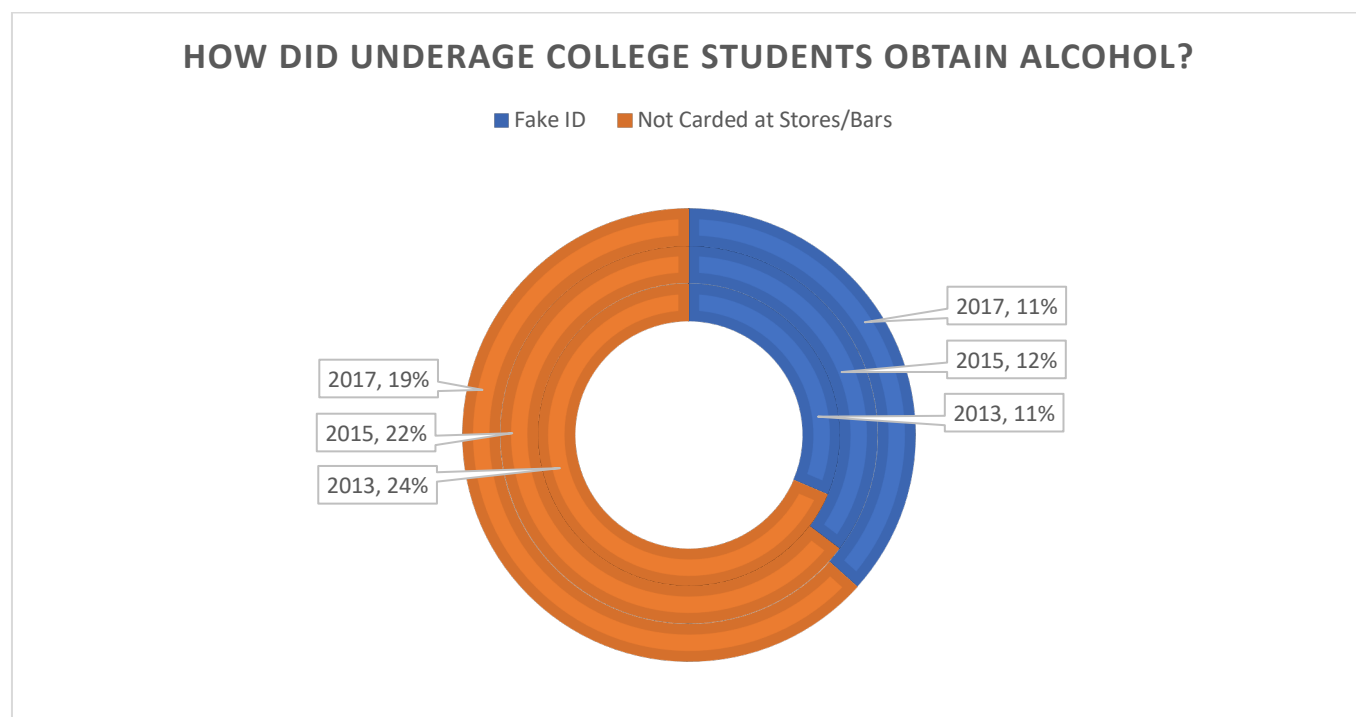
Prescription Drugs

Region 7 accounts for 12.34% of total prescribed drugs in Texas, similar to what is expected from the population of region 7 (12% of Texas population). However, region 7 accounted for 14% of the schedule 2 drugs, an unexpectedly high amount given the youthful trend of region 7's population.

		Prescription Drugs Prescribed by Schedule				
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
REGION						
7	REGION 7 TOTAL	4,027,325	4,054,037	4,894,652	4,670,907	4,546,093
	Schedule 2	1,756,214	1,747,099	1,873,094	1,791,146	1,748,613
	Schedule 3	393,744	409,990	577,613	570,590	584,156
	Schedule 4	1,866,880	1,890,371	2,172,485	2,047,644	1,963,993
	Schedule 5	10,487	6,577	269,847	258,694	244,359
	Unscheduled	0	0	1,339	1,225	3,987
	Unspecified	0	0	274	1,608	985
TEXAS	TEXAS TOTAL	32,656,558	33,153,769	39,769,436	38,099,104	36,852,951
	Schedule 2	12,671,045	12,537,374	13,383,655	12,918,910	12,474,439
	Schedule 3	3,851,998	4,230,079	5,554,214	5,397,562	5,409,135
	Schedule 4	16,017,700	16,290,855	18,478,798	17,523,431	16,819,848
	Schedule 5	115,815	95,461	2,334,380	2,232,539	2,108,327
	Unscheduled	0	0	9,319	16,588	29,843
	Unspecified	0	0	9,070	10,074	11,359

Lack of Enforcement of Existing Laws

The lack of enforcement of existent laws contributes to youths consuming alcohol and tobacco while still underage. Below is a graph demonstrating how underage college students obtained alcohol.



The lack of proper checking of IDs seems to be fueled by off campus bars, gas stations, and restaurants. There is a slight downward trend in the number of students who are not being properly carded at these locations.

Places Underage Drinkers drank without being carded					
Year	Off Campus Bars	On Campus Bars	Gas Stations	Grocery Stores	Restaurants
2017	19%	4%	19%	15%	28%
2015	23%	6%	23%	17%	30%
2013	20%	3%	19%	14%	28%

Drug Seizures/Trafficking

In region 7 the majority of drugs seized by weight were: Marijuana, Methamphetamine, and Cocaine.

Region 7 2015-2020				
Description	Solid Pounds	Liquid Ounces	Dose Units	Items
Marijuana(Packaged)	12,709.0625	0	0	0
Marijuana(Plants)	0	0	0	6,653
Marijuana(Gardens)	0	0	0	129
Marijuana(Wild Fields)	0	0	0	2
Marijuana(Cultivated Fields)	0	0	0	65
Marijuana(Green Houses)	0	0	0	136
Hashish(Liquid Oil)	0	1363	0	0
Hashish(Solid)	123.6597	0	0	0
Opiates(Morphine)	3.0812	13	2,057	0
Opiates(Heroin)	196.8781	103	2,523	0
Opiates(Codeine)	65.7444	2,255	11,467	0
Opiates(Gum Opium)	6.804	0	0	0
Cocaine(Solid)	1,695.9725	0	0	0
Cocaine(Liquid)	0	543	0	0
Hallucinogens(LSD)	2.2459	202	8912	0
Hallucinogens(PCP)	11.1168	64	147	0
Hallucinogens(Mushrooms)	50.8339	0	3	0
Hallucinogens(Peyote)	0.6179	0	0	0
Hallucinogens(Designer Drugs)	367.442	2528	30445	0
Precursor Chemicals	4.8221	212	0	0
Other Drugs(Barbiturates)	0	311	12,611	0
Other Drugs(Amphetamines)	364.7586	5,090	7,413	0
Other Drugs(Methamphetamines)	4,539.8114	1,040	6,011	0
Other Drugs(Tranquilizers)	0	176	70,196	0
Other Drugs(Synthetic Narcotics)	0	1,229	65,373	0
Clandestine Labs	0	0	0	163

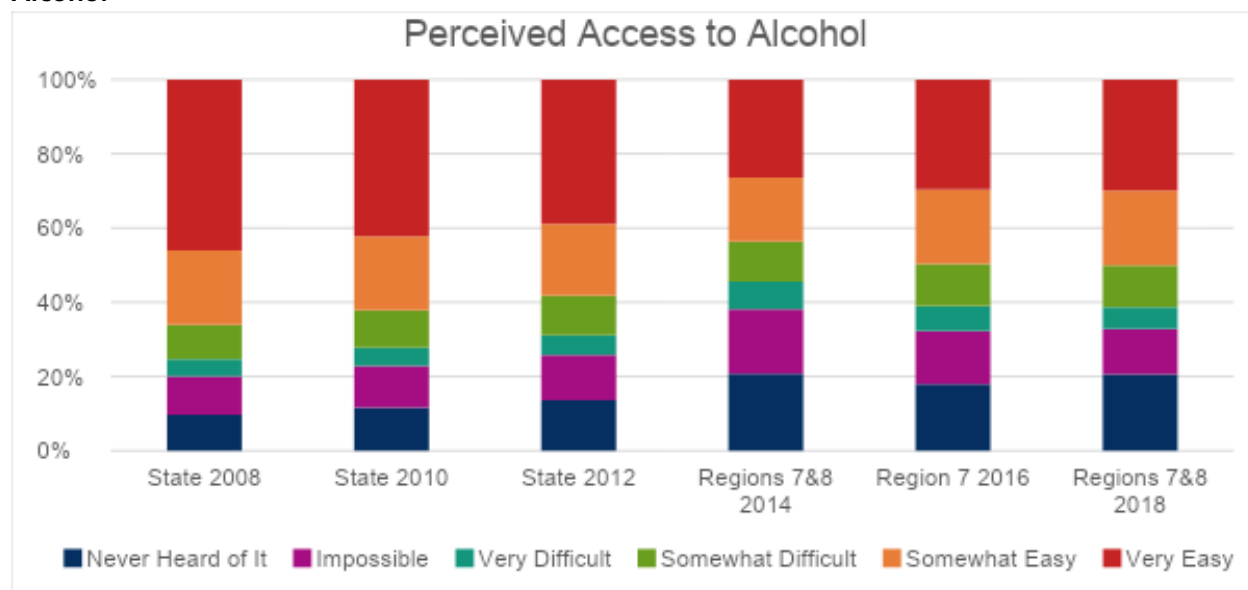
Social Access

According to the Texas College Survey in 2015 12% of underage respondents have a fake ID and 22% of underage respondents were not carded at liquor stores, bars, or restaurants. However, the predominant method was through a friend who was over 21 with 74% of underage respondents reporting that that is how they acquired alcohol. The following figures based off of the Texas School Survey provide insight into how students perceive their access to substances (TSS, 2018; TSS, 2016; TSS, 2014; TSS, 2012; TSS, 2010; TSS, 2008).

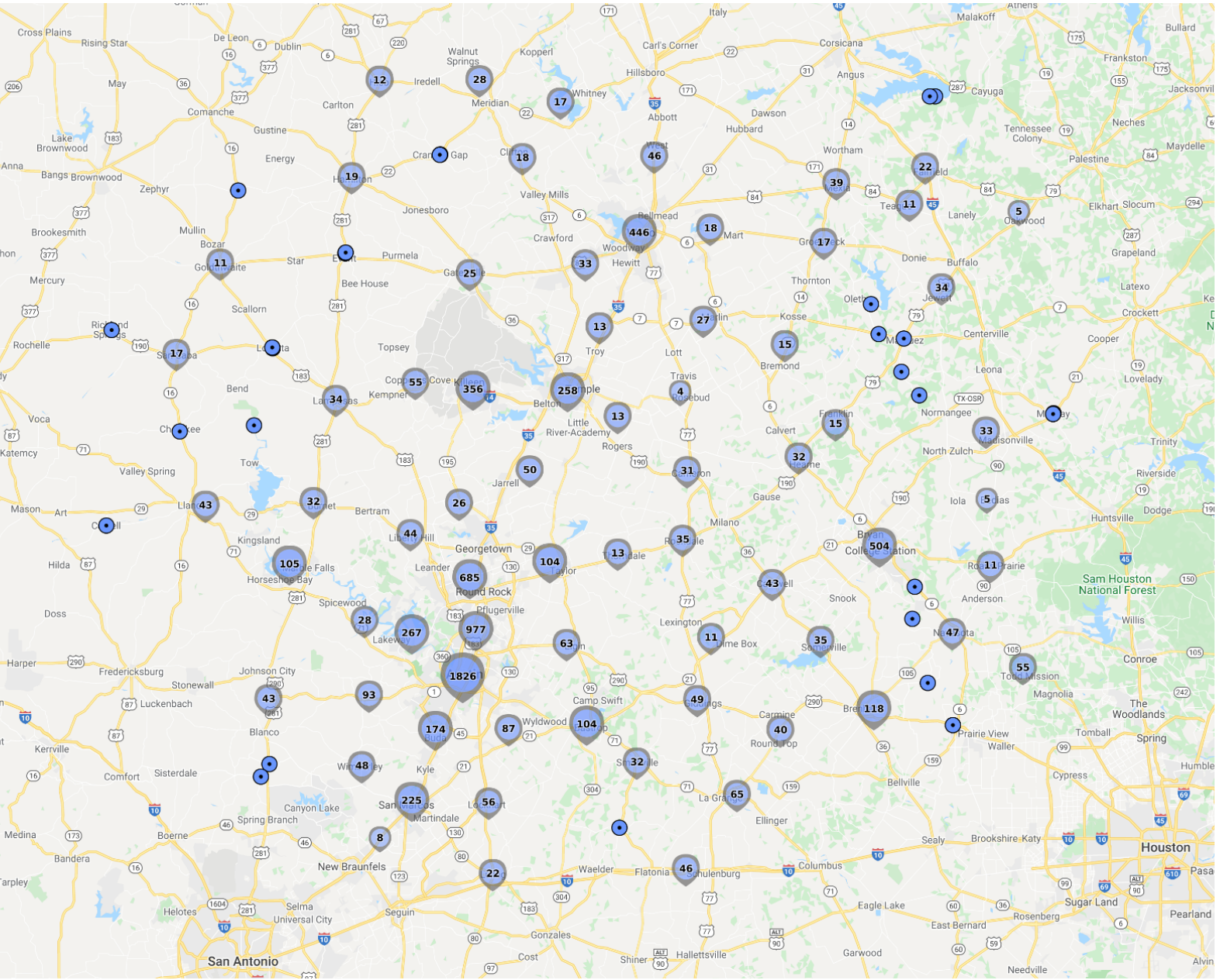
Perceived Access

This section will detail youth perceptions, risky behavior, misunderstandings, and cultural factors. Data from the Texas School Survey (TSS, 2018; TSS, 2016; TSS, 2014; TSS, 2012; TSS, 2010; TSS, 2008) for Region 7 is combined with Region 8. As a result, what follows are numbers from two regions. The data extracted from the TSS is presented below as best matching social norms of substance consumption.

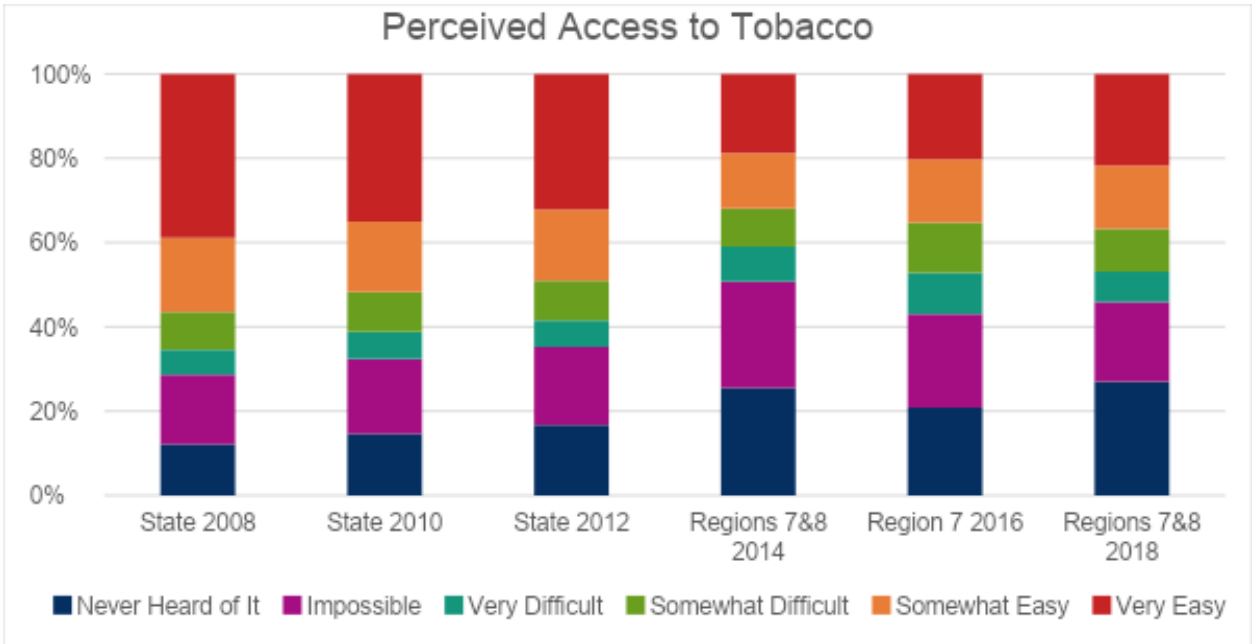
Alcohol



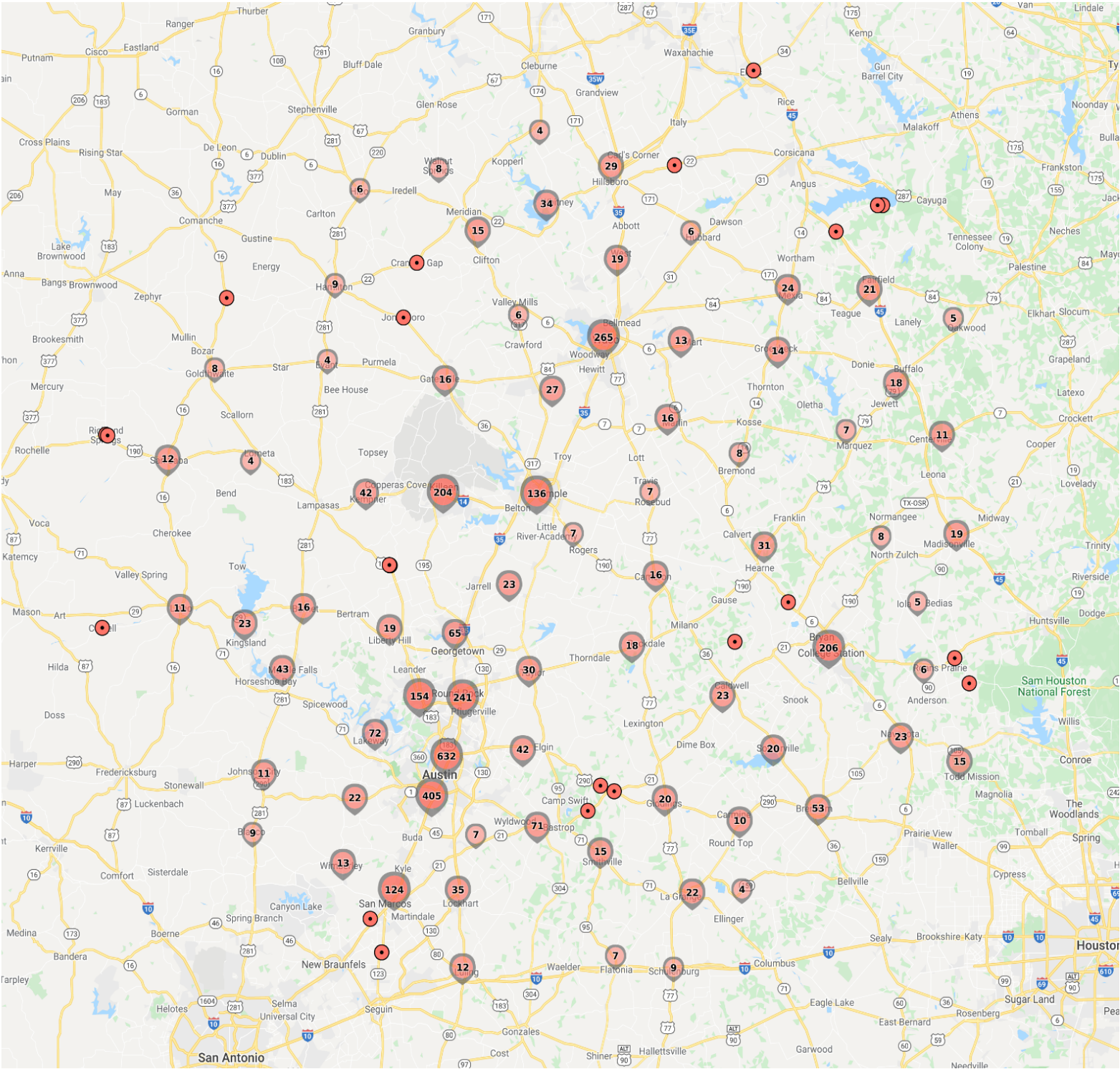
Below is a map of all the facilities with alcohol sale licenses in region 7.

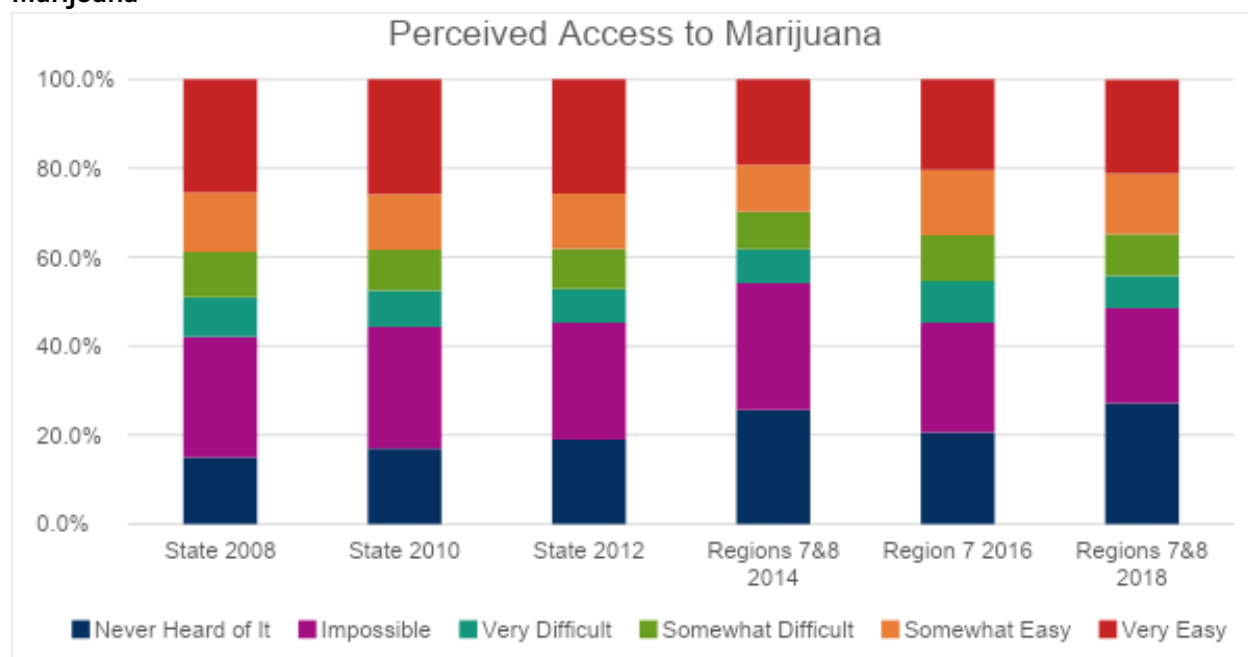
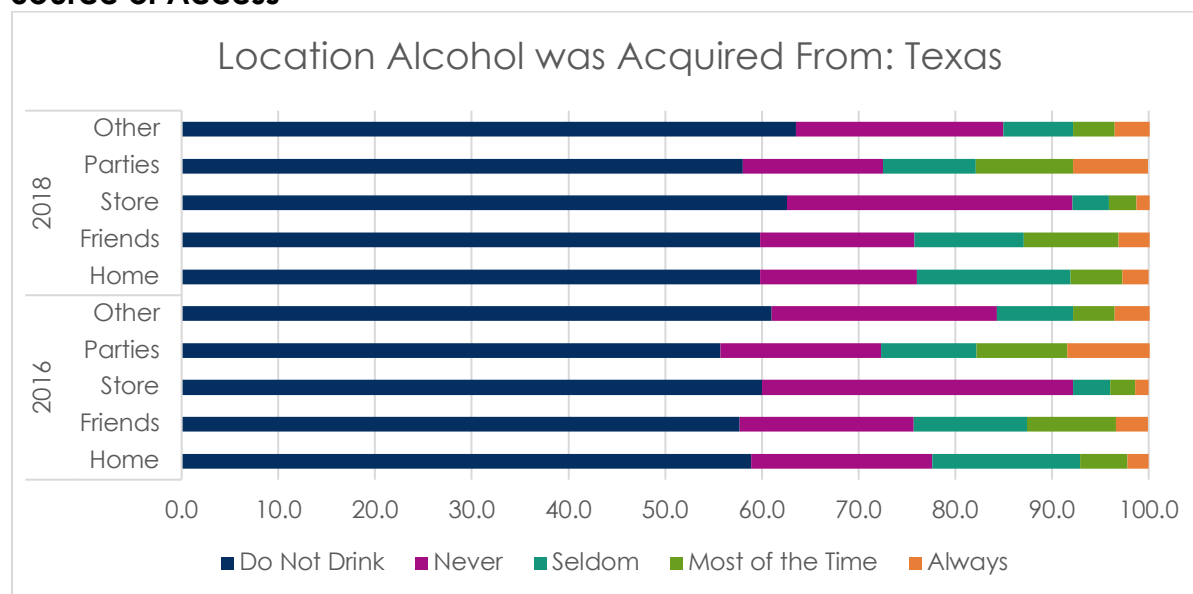


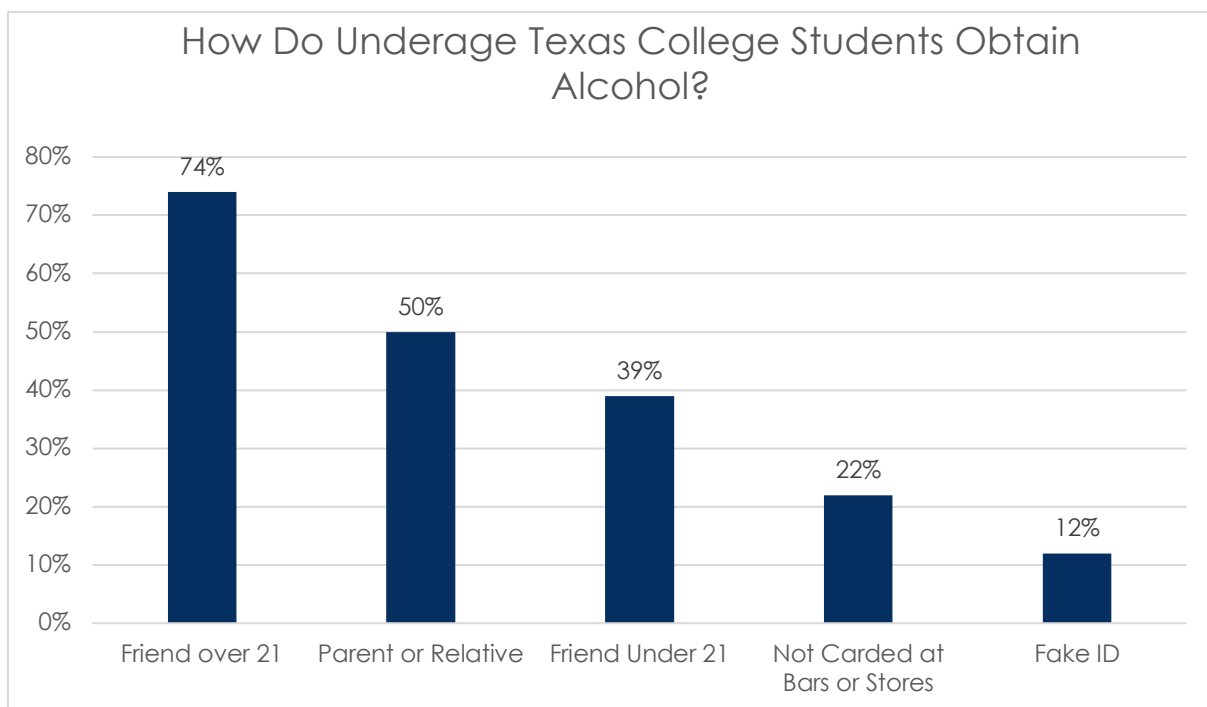
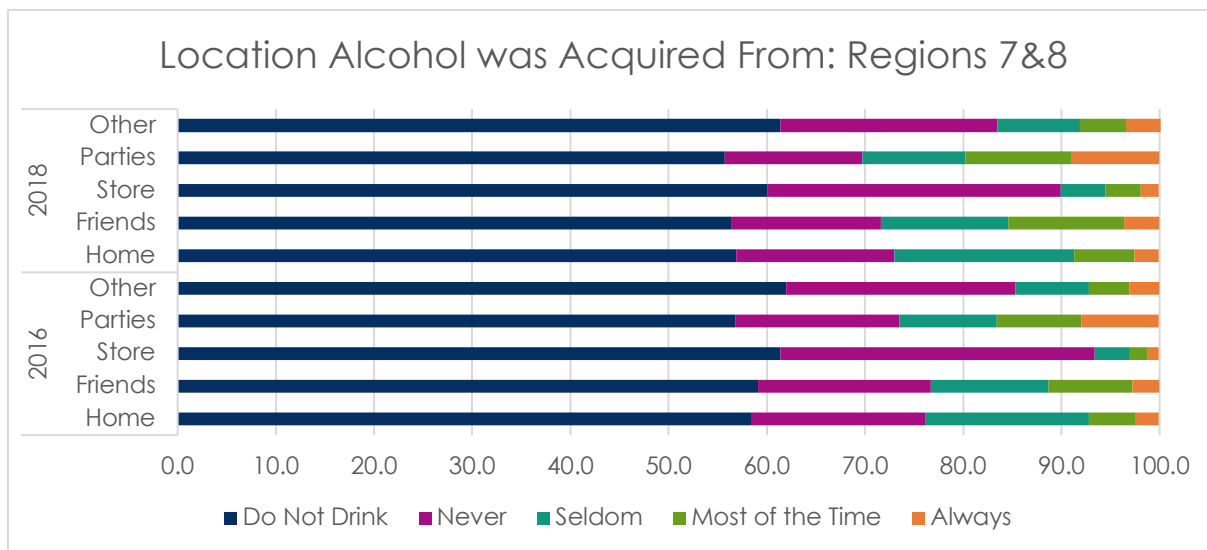
Tobacco and Other Nicotine Products



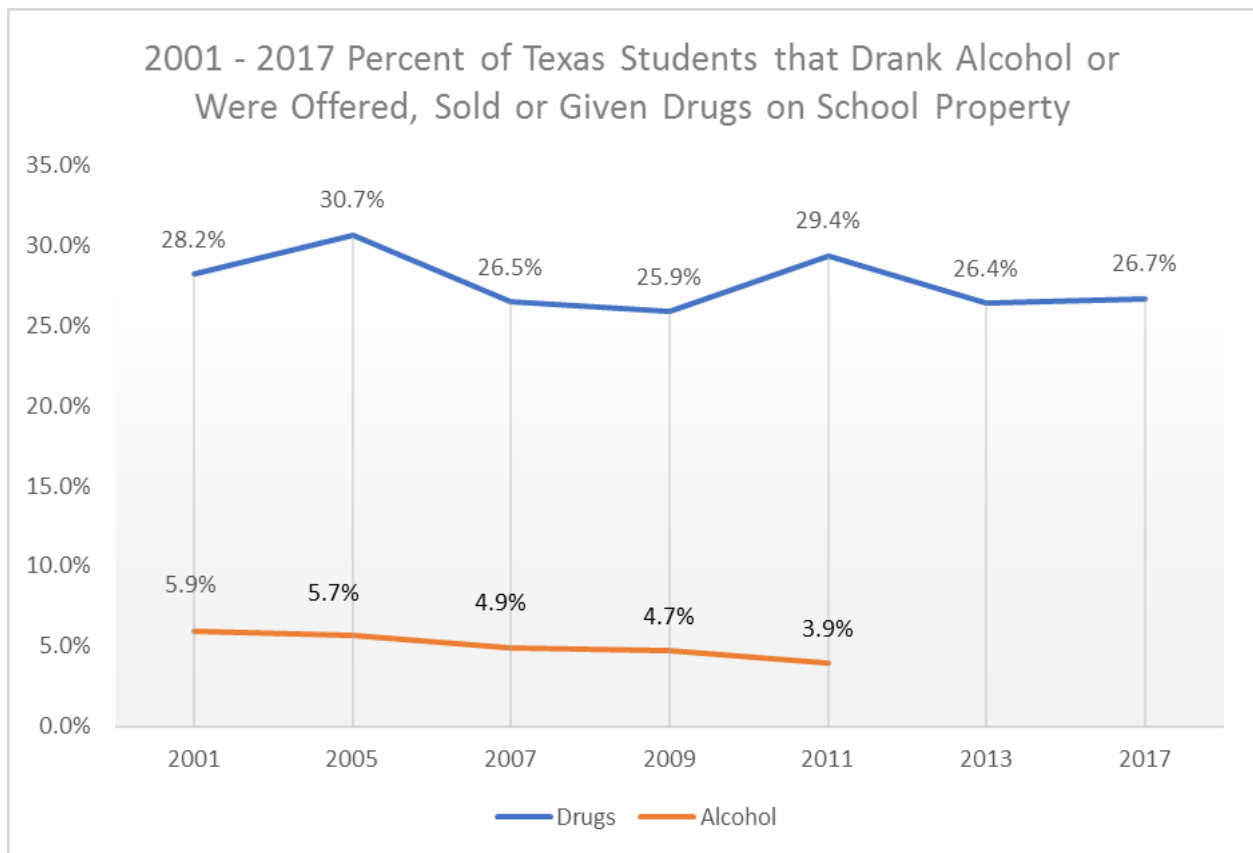
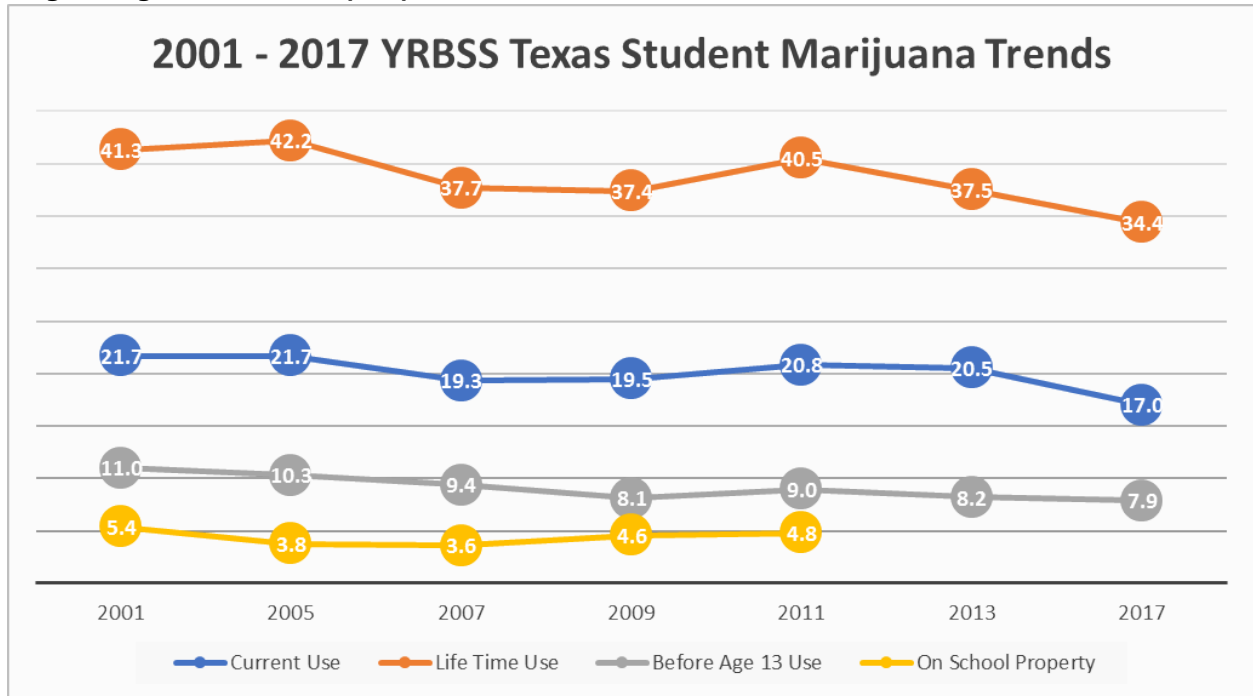
Below is a map of all the facilities with tobacco sale licenses in region 7.



Marijuana**Source of Access**



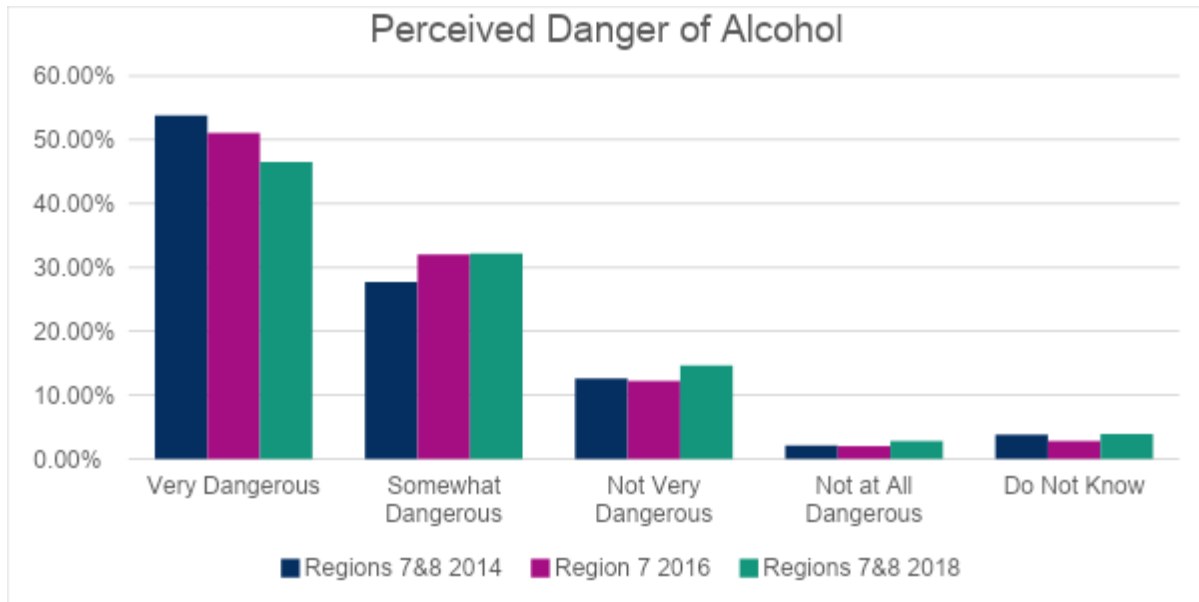
Illegal Drugs on School Property



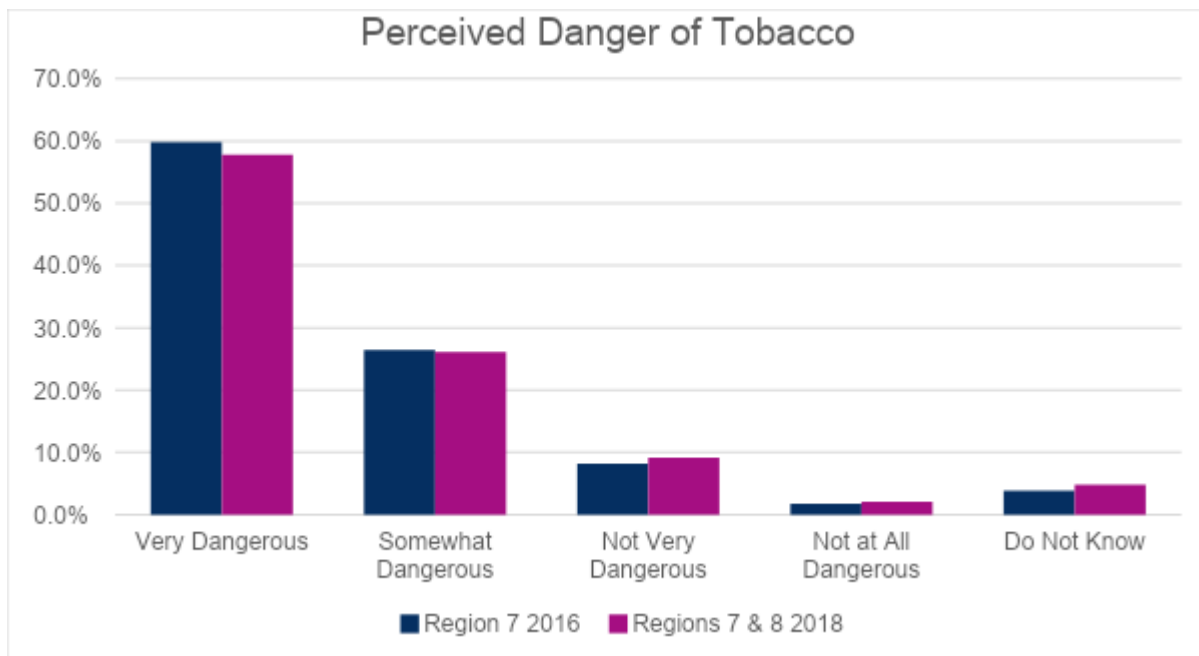
Perceived Risk of Harm

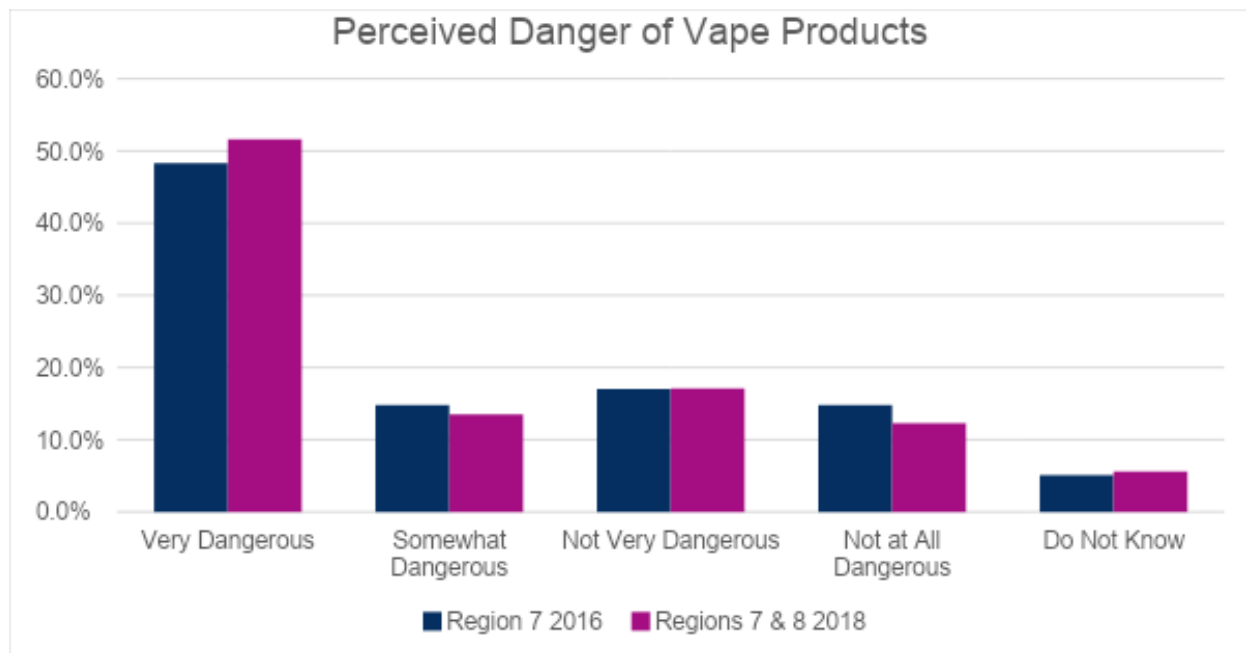
Below are graphs depicting the perceived danger of alcohol tobacco and other drugs as gathered from the Texas school surveys starting in 2014 for alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs and in 2016 for tobacco and nicotine products.

Alcohol

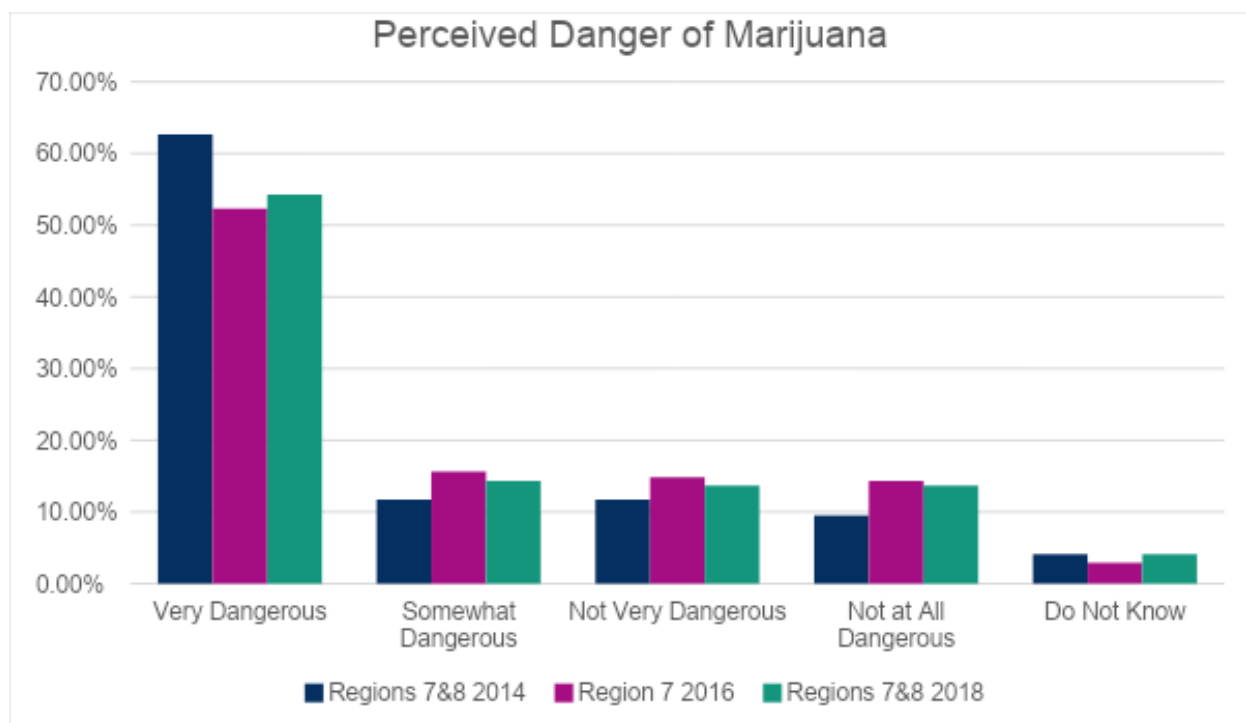


Tobacco and Other Nicotine Products

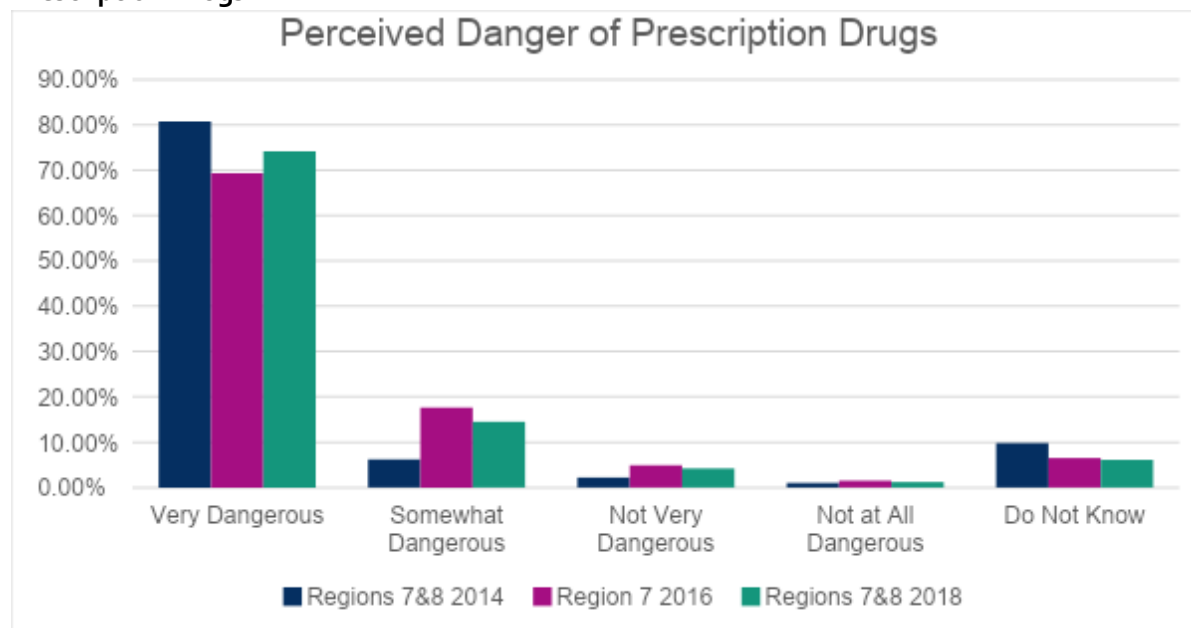




Marijuana



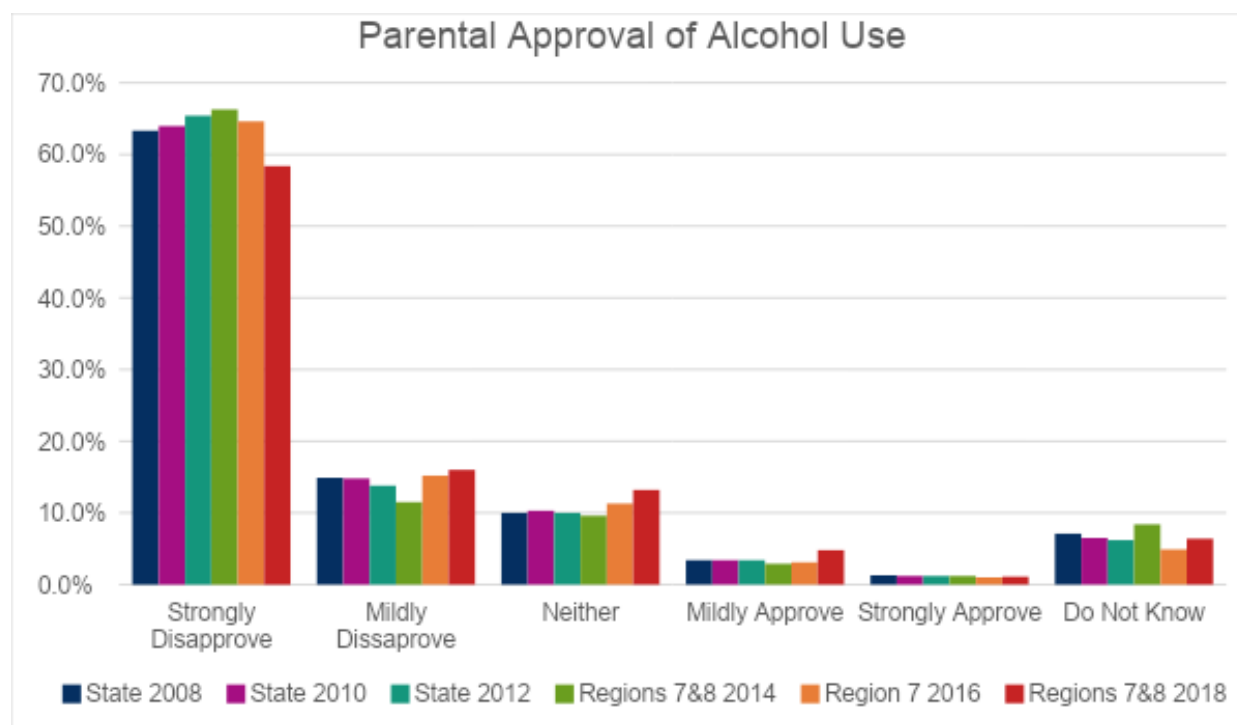
Prescription Drugs

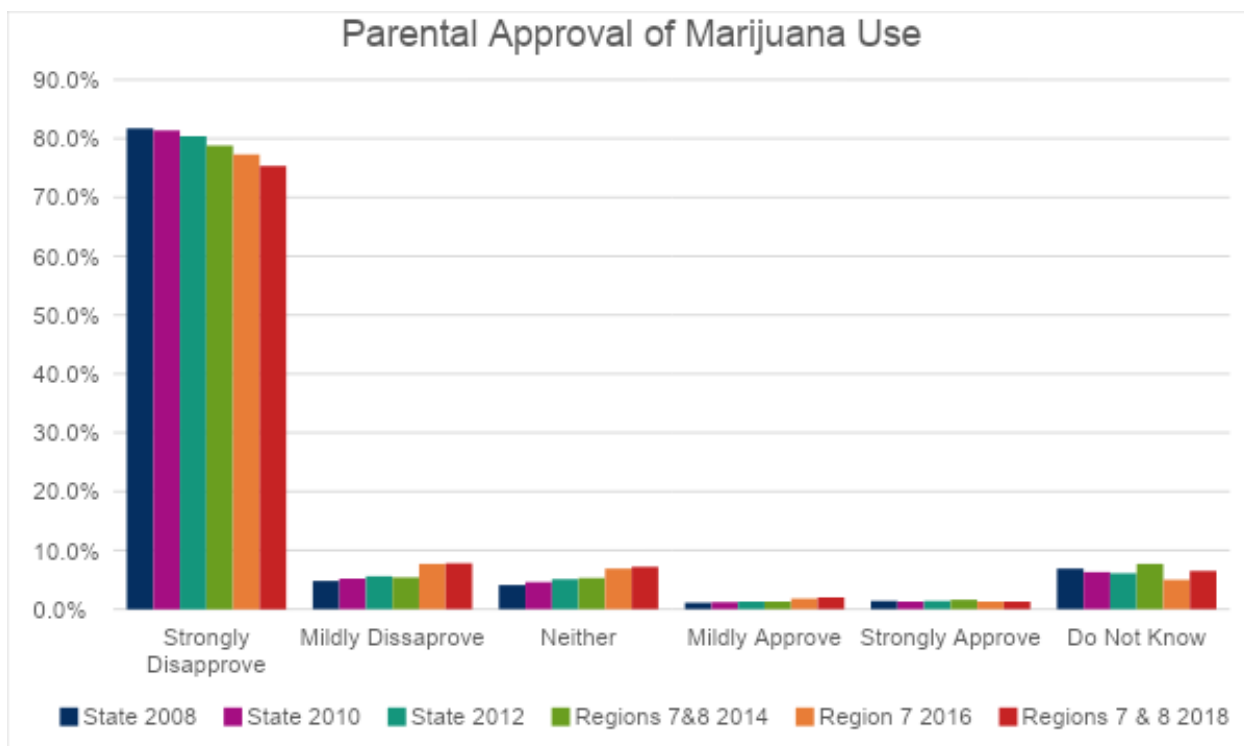
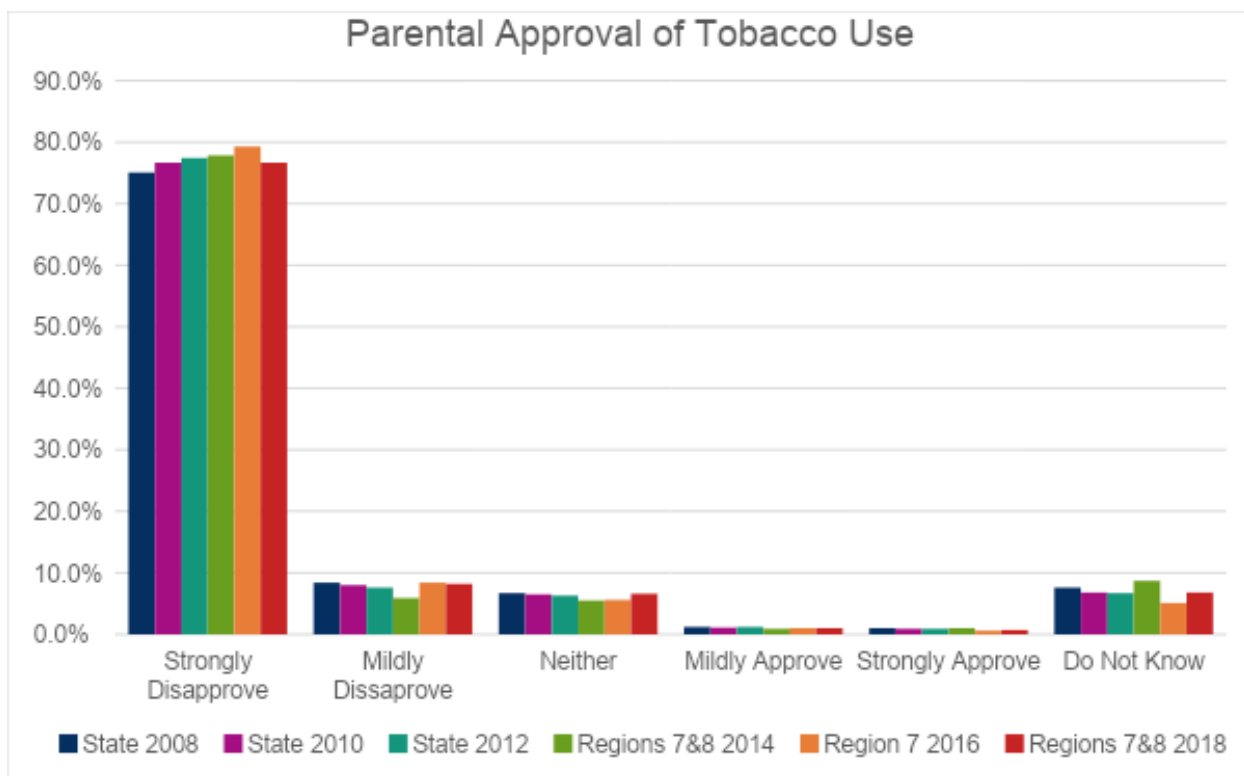


Social Norms

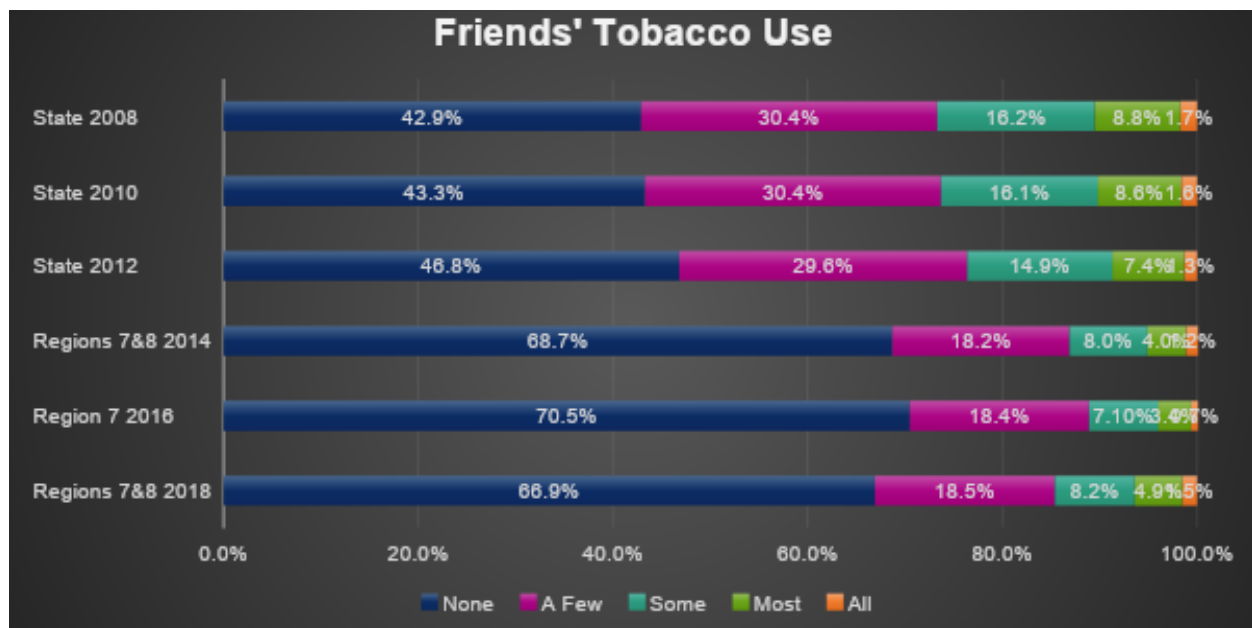
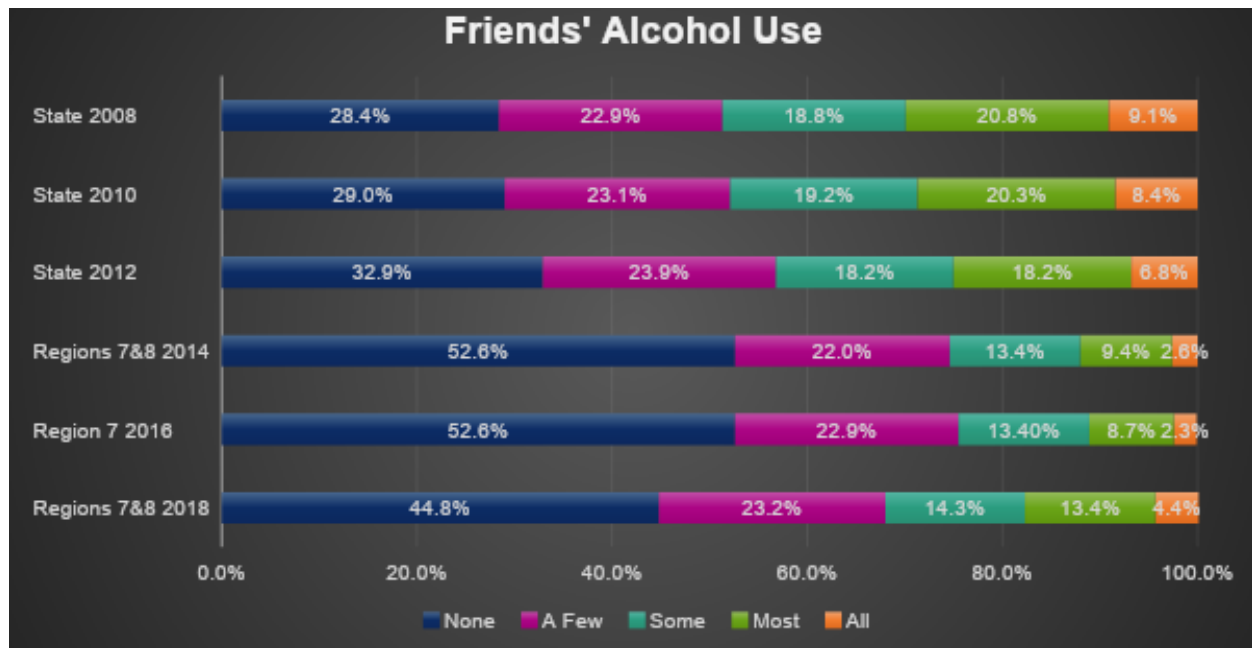
Both parental and peer approval of substance use is vital for creating the sort of social norms that youth often pick up on and incorporate into their beliefs about the world. It is important that we encourage realistic beliefs about social norms surrounding alcohol and drug use.

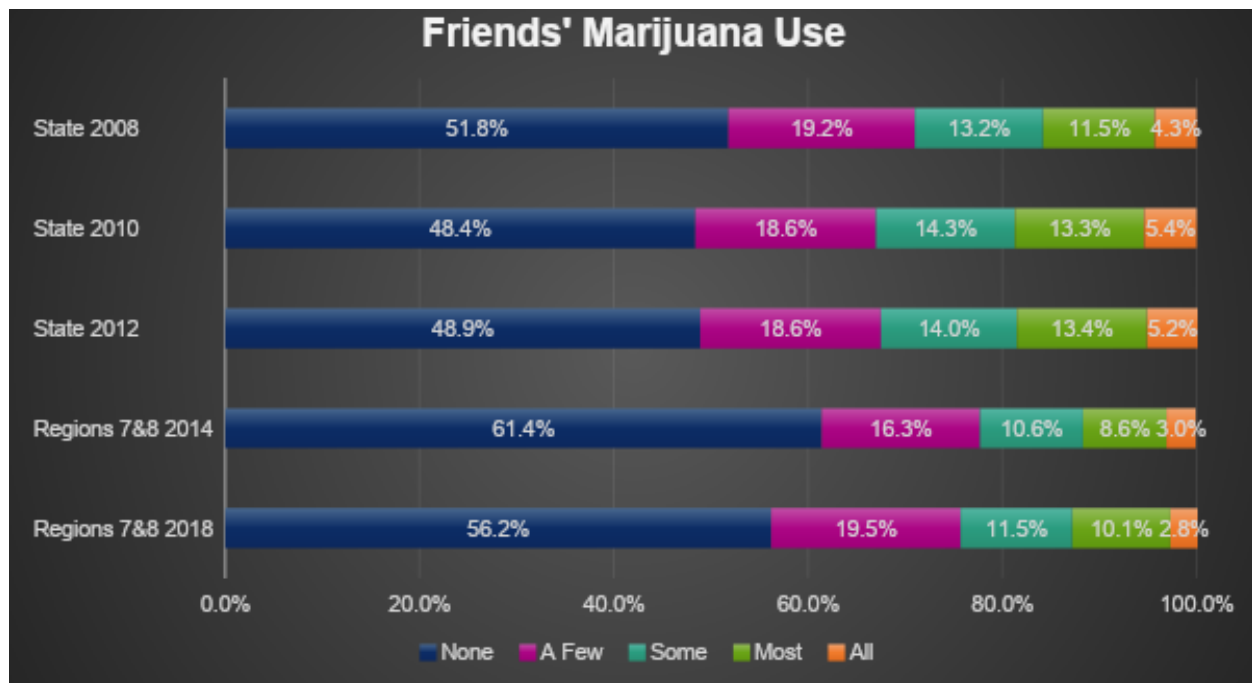
Parental Approval/Consumption





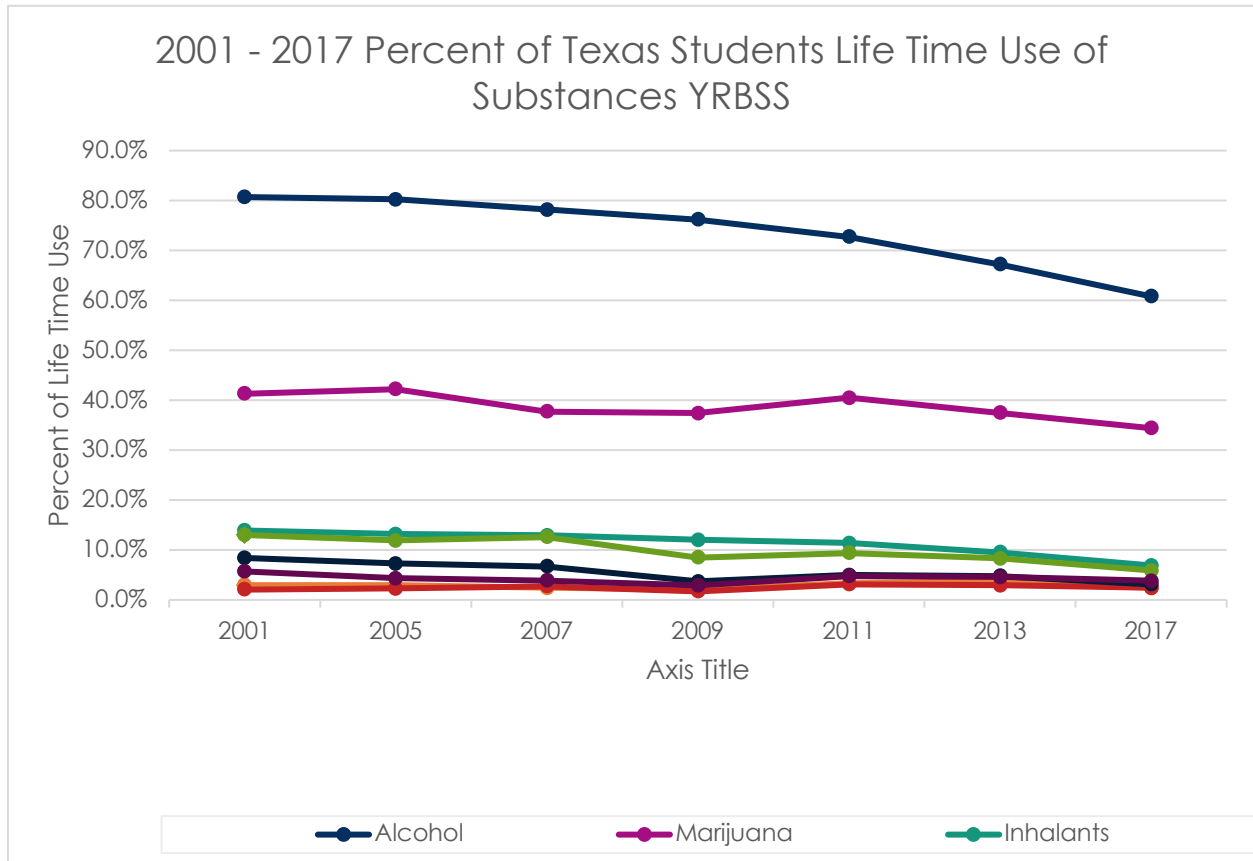
Peer Approval/Consumption



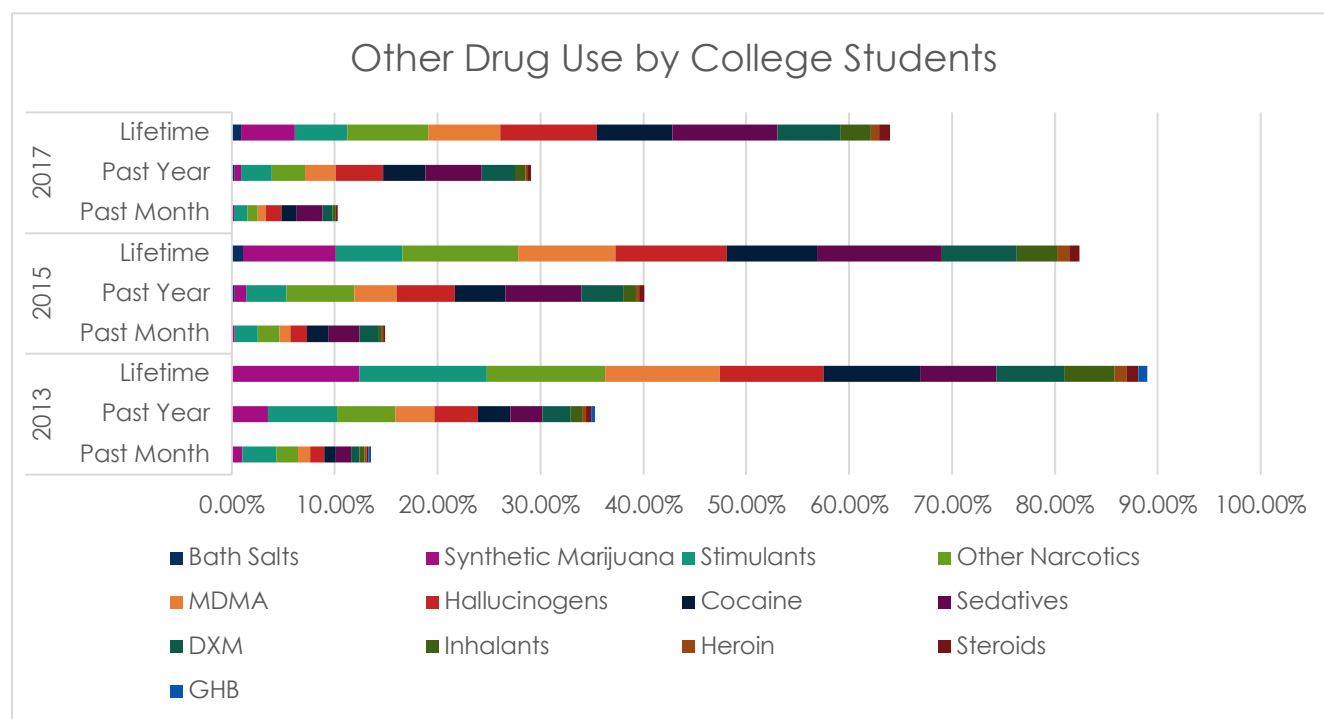
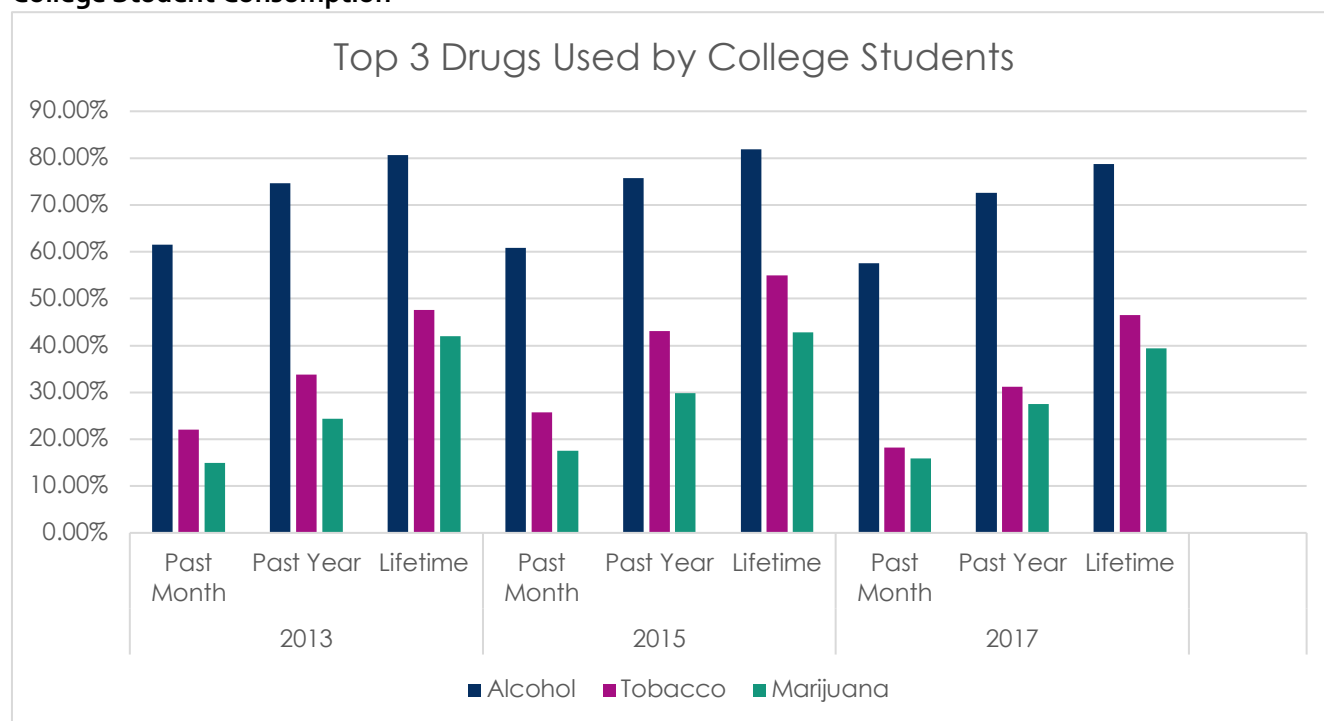


Regional Consumption

This section of the needs assessment will focus on self-reported Use and initiation for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and prescription drug use mainly gathered from the Texas School Survey (2016 is missing because it was not asked on the survey that year), Texas College Survey, and YRBSS.



College Student Consumption



Alcohol

Age of Initiation

Between 2008 and 2018 we saw age of initiation mostly stay constant and the percent of people who first tried alcohol before age 13 slowly decrease somewhat.

	Age of Initiation	Early Initiation (<13)
State 2008	12.9	42.10%
State 2010	13	40.20%
State 2012	13.1	38.50%
Regions 7&8 2014	13.2	35.70%
Regions 7&8 2018	13.1	*

	State 2008	State 2010	State 2012	Regions 7&8 2014	Region 7 2016	Regions 7&8 2018
Current Use, All Grades	30.4%	29.0%	25.1%	18.6%	25.7%	32.1%
Lifetime Use, All Grades	62.9%	61.8%	57.5%	45.7%	51.1%	55.2%
High-Risk Use*, All Grades	20.6%	20.3%	17.8%	11.3%	9.8%	14.2%
Current Use, Grade 7	16.9%	15.0%	11.5%	10.4%	10.1%	15.9%
Lifetime Use, Grade 7	44.9%	42.1%	36.2%	27.8%	31.5%	36.2%
High-Risk Use*, Grade 7	8.7%	8.7%	6.7%	5.2%	2.6%	4.8%
Current Use, Grade 12	45.2%	43.4%	40.3%	33.6%	44.6%	51.9%
Lifetime Use, Grade 12	76.0%	75.0%	72.7%	61.5%	70.3%	72.1%
High-Risk Use*, Grade 12	34.0%	33.3%	31.2%	21.0%	20.9%	7.1%

***High-risk use is current (last 30 days) binge drinking (5 or more drinks in a 2-hour period).**

The NIAAA's standard definition of binge drinking is drinking behaviors that raise an individual's Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) up to or above the level of .08gm%, which is typically five or more drinks for men and four or more drinks for women, within a two-hour time span. At-risk or heavy drinking is defined as more than four drinks a day or 14 drinks per week for men and more than three drinks a day or seven drinks per week for women. 'Benders' are considered two or more days of sustained heavy drinking.

College Student Drinking Patterns

	Binge drank in the last 30 days		Binge drank at least 6 times in the last 30 days	
Year	Males	Females	Males	Females
2013	43%	38%	14%	5%
2015	41%	35%	10%	5%
2017	37%	34%	7%	4%

Percent of Adults Who Have Consumed Alcohol in the Past 30 Days

Year	Area	% Yes	Area	% Yes	Area	% Yes
2018	U.S.	53.8	Texas	51.6	Region 7	56.4
2017	U.S.	55.1	Texas	51.3	Region 7	59.6
2016	U.S.	55	Texas	50.4	Region 7	55.9
2015	U.S.	54	Texas	49.7		
2014	U.S.	53.3	Texas	48		
2013	U.S.	54.5	Texas	49.3		
2012	U.S.	55.3	Texas	49.3		
2011	U.S.	57.1	Texas	54.3		

Percent of Adults Who Have Binge Drank in the last 30 Days

Area	Year	Percent	Area	Percent	Year	Percent
2018	U.S.	16.2	Texas	17.4	Region 7	19.30%
2017	U.S.	17.4	Texas	17.8	Region 7	21.10%
2016	U.S.	16.9	Texas	17.9	Region 7	20.30%
2015	U.S.	16.3	Texas	15.9		
2014	U.S.	16	Texas	16.3		
2013	U.S.	16.8	Texas	16.7		
2012	U.S.	16.9	Texas	16.2		
2011	U.S.	18.3	Texas	18.9		

Percent of Adults Who Met Criteria for Heavy Drinker

Area	Year	Percent	Area	Percent	Area	Percent
2018	U.S.	16.2	Texas	6.2	Region 7	7.00%
2017	U.S.	6.3	Texas	6.9	Region 7	8.70%
2016	U.S.	6.5	Texas	6.9	Region 7	7.80%
2015	U.S.	5.9	Texas	5.8		

Marijuana

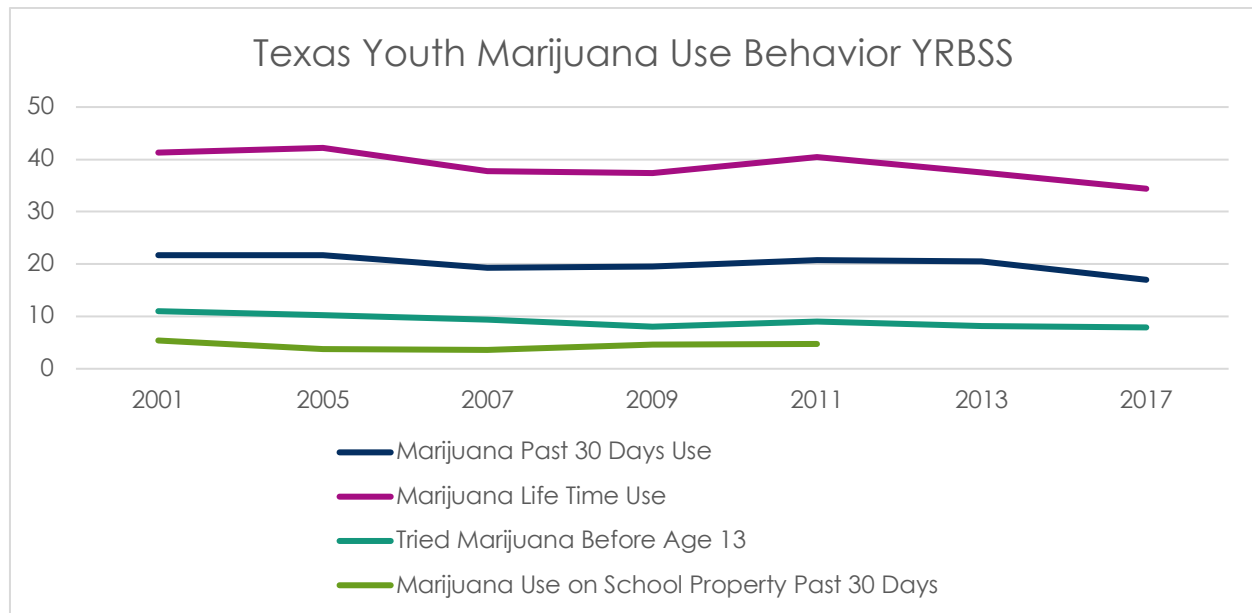
Age of Initiation

Between 2008 and 2018 the age of first marijuana use for students has increased slightly from 13.6 to 14.2.

	Age of Initiation	Early Initiation (<13)
State 2008	13.6	27.5%
State 2010	13.7	25.8%
State 2012	13.7	24.9%
Regions 7&8 2014	13.7	26.5%
Regions 7&8 2018	14.2	*

Current and Lifetime Use

	State 2008	State 2010	State 2012	Regions 7&8 2014	Region 7 2016	Regions 7&8 2018
Current Use, All Grades	10.0%	11.4%	11.1%	6.9%	10.6%	14.2%
Lifetime Use, All Grades	24.6%	26.2%	26.2%	19.2%	19.7%	23.0%
Current Use, Grade 7	4.0%	3.9%	3.2%	1.7%	1.6%	3.5%
Lifetime Use, Grade 7	9.5%	9.5%	8.7%	5.1%	4.1%	5.8%
Current Use, Grade 12	15.3%	18.4%	18.9%	11.1%	21.9%	27.1%
Lifetime Use, Grade 12	38.6%	41.5%	41.8%	35.0%	38.0%	44.2%



Tobacco

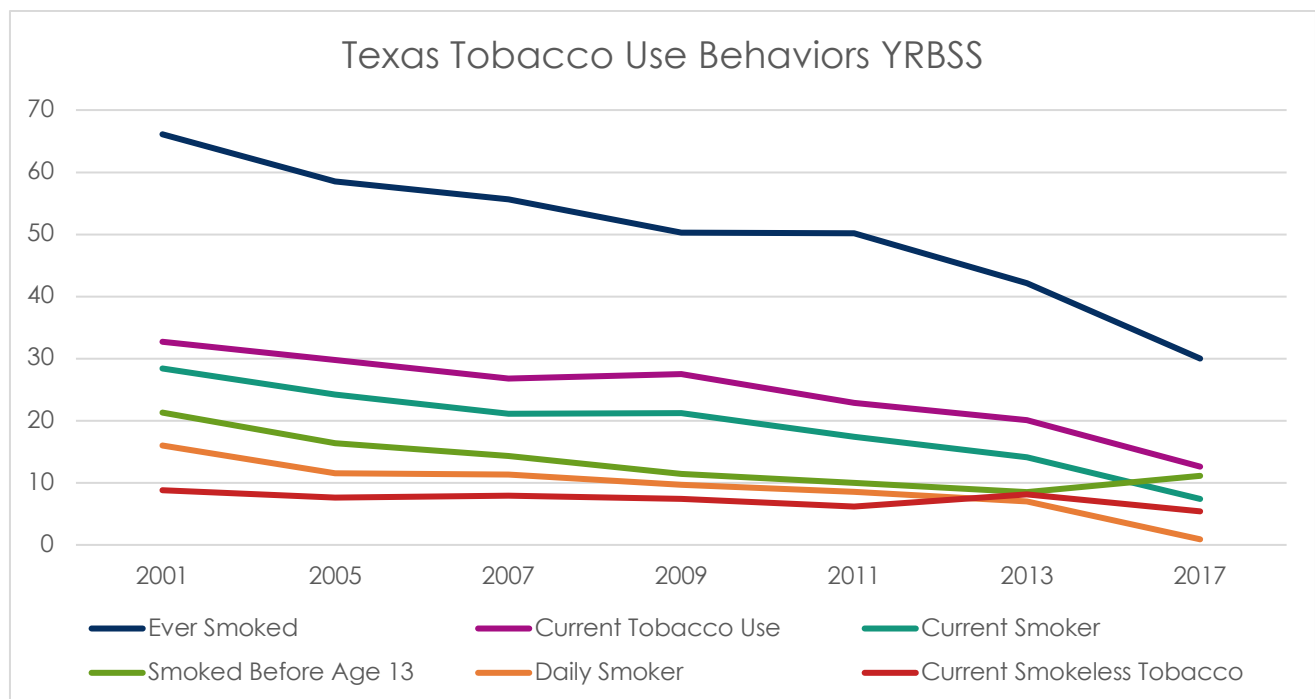
Age of Initiation

Between 2008 and 2018 the age at which students first tried tobacco increased from 12.9 to 13.7 while the percent of students who used tobacco before 13 decreased.

	Age of Initiation	Early Initiation (<13)
State 2008	12.9	42.1%
State 2010	13	40.2%
State 2012	13.1	38.5%
Regions 7&8 2014	13.2	35.7%
Regions 7&8 2018	13.7	*

Current and Lifetime Use

	State 2008	State 2010	State 2012	Regions 7&8 2014	Region 7 2016	Regions 7&8 2018
Current Use, All Grades	12.9%	12.5%	11.0%	7.4%	13.0%	19.9%
Lifetime Use, All Grades	31.7%	30.5%	27.7%	19.4%	26.5%	33.5%
Current Use, Grade 7	4.8%	4.8%	3.7%	1.9%	2.7%	5.1%
Lifetime Use, Grade 7	16.6%	15.1%	12.9%	8.8%	7.5%	14.2%
Current Use, Grade 12	24.0%	22.7%	21.3%	15.3%	26.5%	36.5%
Lifetime Use, Grade 12	47.8%	45.1%	42.3%	32.5%	46.3%	53.1%



Prescription Drugs

With the rise of the Opioid Epidemic an increasing amount of attention has been showed the misuse and abuse of prescribed drugs. The main Prescriptions of abuse are Opioids and Benzodiazepines.

	State 2008	State 2010	State 2012	Regions 7&8 2014	Region 7 2016	Regions 7&8 2018
Current Use, All Grades	6.4%	6.3%	5.9%	7.3%	10.1%	7.6%
Lifetime Use, All Grades	15.3%	14.8%	14.2%	13.1%	18.3%	19.0%
Current Use, Grade 7	3.9%	3.7%	3.5%	3.0%	8.5%	5.7%
Lifetime Use, Grade 7	8.5%	8.3%	7.9%	5.2%	15.2%	15.1%
Current Use, Grade 12	7.9%	7.7%	7.8%	10.2%	13.1%	9.1%
Lifetime Use, Grade 12	20.8%	19.8%	20.8%	22.2%	24.0%	25.7%

Illicit Drugs

The illicit drug section will focus on non-marijuana illegal drugs due to the large differences in use rate between marijuana and other illicit drugs as well as due to the slow push to legalize marijuana across the U.S.

Youth Lifetime Usage YRBSS

	2017	2013	2011	2009	2007	2005	2001
Steroids	3.8	4.6	4.8	2.9	3.9	4.3	5.7
Methamphetamine	3.1	4.8	5	3.7	6.7	7.3	8.4
Injected Drug	2.4	2.9	3.1	1.7	2.7	2.3	2.1
Heroin	2.4	3.8	3.3	2.1	2.4	3	3
Cocaine	5.9	8.3	9.4	8.5	12.6	11.9	13
Huffing	6.9	9.5	11.4	12	12.9	13.2	13.9

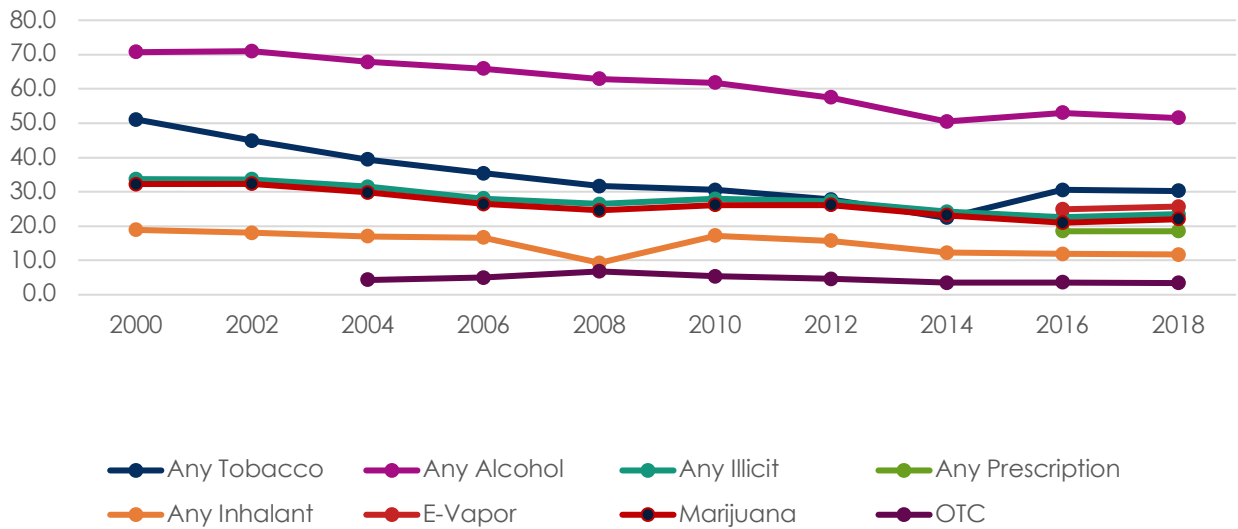
Inhalant Use by Texas Students

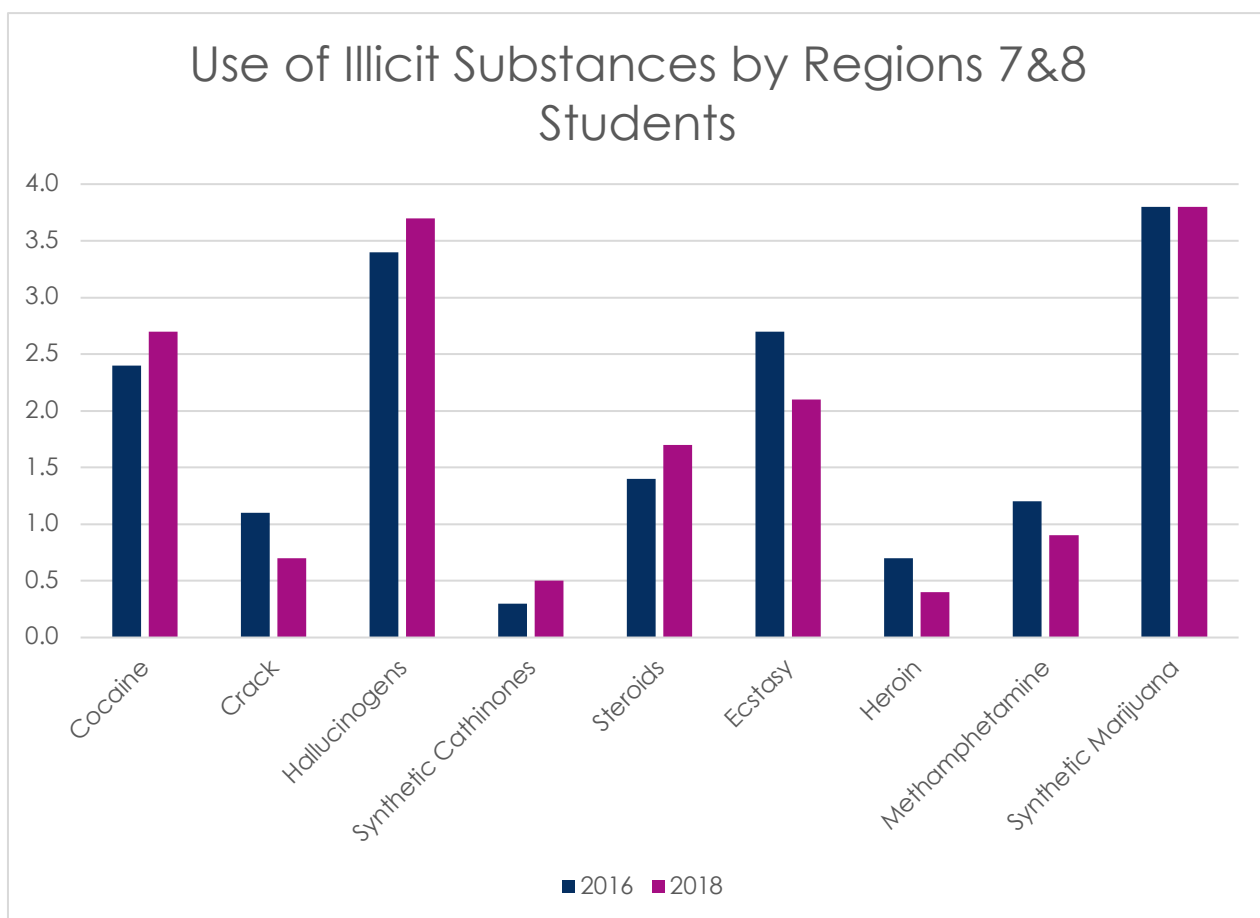
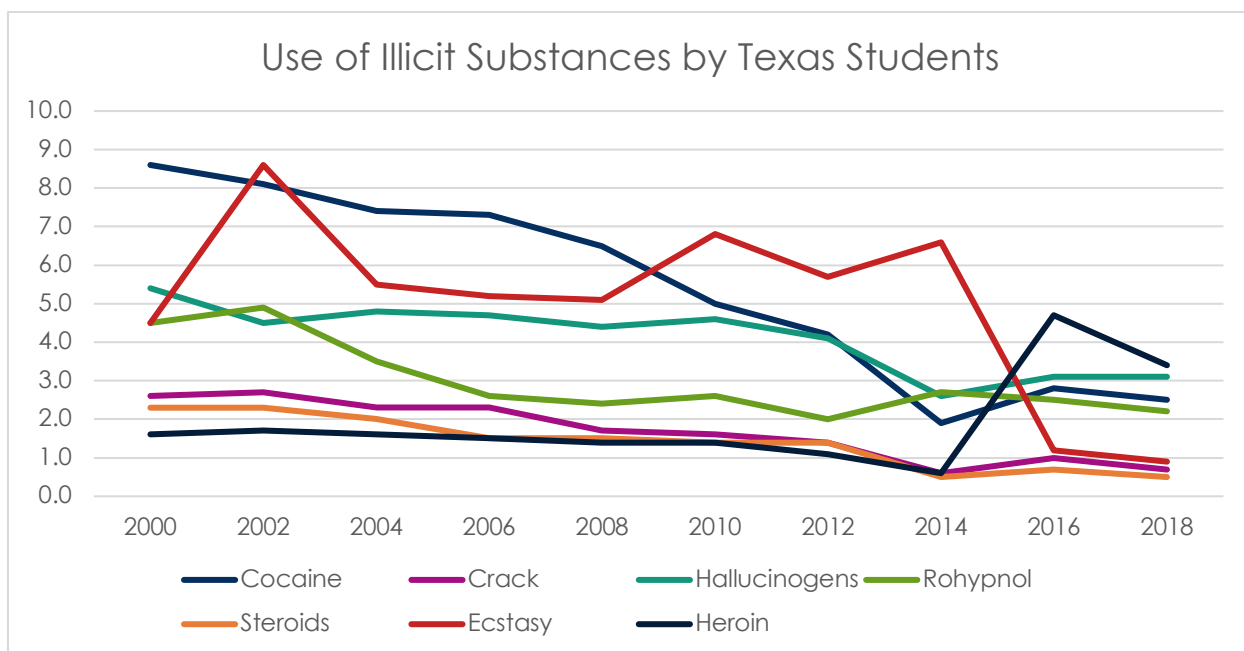
Area	Year	Past Month	School Year	Ever Used
Texas	2000	6.8	9.9	18.9
Texas	2002	6.8	9.8	18.0
Texas	2004	6.7	9.4	17.0
Texas	2006	5.9	8.6	16.6
Texas	2008	2.7	4.3	9.3
Texas	2010	6.0	8.9	17.2
Texas	2012	4.8	7.2	15.7
Texas	2014	3.9	5.2	12.3
Texas	2016	4.3	5.8	11.9
Region 7&8	2016	4.0	5.2	10.6
Texas	2018	4.2	5.8	11.7
Region 7&8	2018	4.0	5.6	11.7

Any Illicit Drug Use by Texas Students

Area	Year	Past Month	School Year	Ever Used
Texas	2000	15.4	22.2	33.7
Texas	2002	16	22.3	33.6
Texas	2004	14.4	20.3	31.5
Texas	2006	12.6	17.9	28
Texas	2008	11.7	16.6	26.4
Texas	2010	13.1	18.5	27.9
Texas	2012	12.3	17.1	27.3
Texas	2014	9.9	14	24.2
Texas	2016	12.8	16.9	22.6
Region 7&8	2016	12.3	16.6	22.5
Texas	2018	13.9	17.9	23.5
Region 7&8	2018	14.6	19.1	24.7

2000-2018 Percentage of Texas Students (Grades 7-12) Who Had Ever Used Selected Substances





Emerging Trends

The most noted emerging trends in the last few years have been the opioid epidemic and dramatic increase in vaping products. While region 7 does not seem to have been hit by the opioid epidemic as

hard as other areas have, notably the New England, it is difficult to draw many conclusions as Texas has a dearth of proper coroners to identify cause of death. Other indicators do suggest that opioid use is less predominate in the area than methamphetamine use.

Opioids

Opioid Use by Texas Students				
Area	Year	Past Month	School Year	Ever Used
Region 2	2018	1.3	2.1	4.7
Region 2	2016	2.7	3.6	5.1
Region 3	2018	1	2	3.7
Region 3	2016	2.6	4.2	5.9
Region 4&5	2018	1.2	2.1	4.4
Region 4&5	2016	3.2	4.5	6
Region 6&8	2018	1	1.9	3.7
Region 6&8	2016	2.6	3.9	5.2
Region 7&8	2018	1	2	4.4
Region 7&8	2016	2.4	3.6	5.1
Region 1&9	2016	2.1	3.3	4.8
Region 1&9	2018	0.9	1.7	4
Region 10	2016	2	3	4.6
Region 10	2018	1.4	2.2	3.7
Region 11	2018	0.6	1.2	2.3
Region 11	2016	1.6	2.1	3.2
Texas	2018	1	2	3.8
Texas	2016	2.4	3.6	5

Vaping

Another alarming trend has been the dramatic increase in vape product use by youth and young adults. While it appears to be less harmful than smoking a lack of evidence as to the long-term health consequences makes drawing full conclusions difficult. There was an outbreak of severe lung damage from vaping products linked to vitamin E acetate that cause several deaths in 2019 in Texas and across America. This seems to have been mostly limited to self-made cartridges. Another aspect of vape products is the lack of real limit on what can be used in them. As such a large increase in THC vape products has been seen by law enforcement, teachers, and substance abuse professionals.

Vapor Use by Texas Students				
	Year	Past Month	School Year	Ever Used
Region 1&9	2018	13.2	17.9	30.7
Region 1&9	2016	10.9	16.8	31.5
Region 10	2018	10.3	14.3	25.5
Region 10	2016	10.0	14.6	28.5
Region 11	2018	7.1	10.2	19.6
Region 11	2016	6.6	10.2	20.6
Region 2	2018	12.2	17.1	28.7
Region 2	2016	7.0	12.6	24.7
Region 3	2018	10.8	14.6	23.2
Region 3	2016	9.6	14.3	24.4
Region 4&5	2018	13.1	17.9	29.4
Region 4&5	2016	8.5	13.1	25.7
Region 6&8	2018	13.3	17.6	27.2
Region 6&8	2016	9.3	14.9	27.1
Region 7&8	2018	15.6	20.0	28.9
Region 7&8	2016	8.8	13.4	24.0
Texas	2018	12.1	16.2	25.7
Texas	2016	8.9	13.7	24.9

Vapor Use by Texas Students YRBSS		
Year	Indicator	Percent
2017	Current E-Vapor Product User	10.3
2017	Ever Used E-Vapor Product	41.2

Local Covid-19 Situation

In December of 2019 China announced it had discovered a new infectious disease (nCoV19), a novel coronavirus that showed some alarming infectious rates. As events unfolded the Wuhan coronavirus reached pandemic status as countries around the world reported cases. This led to a brief period of panic buying of items, mostly personal protective equipment by individual buyers and China for intended price gouging upon resale and by people panicking about the looming pandemic's effect on the market. With many shutdowns across the world the economic impact of this outbreak, subsequently named COVID-19 the economic and mental health impact of COVID-19 is not to be understated. Business-as-usual has yet to return as the Texas epidemic continues, although there appears to be a downward trend of new cases as of the writing of this document (updated 8/30/2020). There is predicted to be a heavy impact on those with mental health problems and substance abuse relapses. A rise of new users is expected among adults as many individuals are encouraged to stay home as much as possible while simultaneously many have been laid off of work or fired due to the economic shutdowns. A rise of new users is also expected among children as many are left home alone while parents return to work while schools incorporate new distance education methods in order to try and prevent outbreaks in their community.

**COVID-19 Cases and Fatalities by
County as of 8/13 at 10:45AM CST**

County	Cases	Fatalities
Bastrop	1,409	23
Bell	4,071	46
Blanco	114	5
Bosque	178	2
Brazos	4,107	50
Burleson	248	6
Burnet	577	10
Caldwell	1,171	29
Coryell	710	5
Falls	142	3
Fayette	321	14
Freestone	172	0
Grimes	918	26
Hamilton	89	3
Hays	5,083	44
Hill	336	7
Lampasas	126	4
Lee	177	11
Leon	154	3
Limestone	287	3
Llano	89	1
Marion	135	9
Mason	60	0
Milam	357	3
Mills	26	0
Robertson	238	2
San Saba	26	0
Travis	23,421	285
Washington	523	40
Williamson	7,075	99
Region 7	52,340	733
Texas	513,575	9,289

Active Covid19 Cases by Month for Region 7					
	April	May	June	July	August Through the 12th
Bastrop	743	2,778	5,855	12,756	5,632
Bell	1,826	3,317	12,328	45,444	15,839
Blanco	65	39	242	1,002	418
Bosque	33	111	153	1,271	983
Brazos	2,138	4,987	15,470	28,802	4,796
Burleson	168	442	1,041	2,505	838
Burnet	176	409	957	5,149	2,724
Caldwell	133	908	3,973	12,001	4,558
Coryell	1,442	5,762	7,691	3,650	2,517
Falls	11	126	384	1,108	608
Fayette	185	426	810	3,123	1,199
Freestone	31	162	237	1,585	765
Grimes	149	1,804	7,813	8,144	1,942
Hamilton	72	82	206	541	351
Hays	1,670	2,646	25,437	87,334	32,479
Hill	186	324	720	3,203	1,626
Lampasas	28	121	183	759	514
Lee	19	142	766	1,445	670
Leon	66	168	180	1,669	502
Limestone	151	272	624	1,662	1,326
Llano	19	0	51	1,027	413
McLennan	587	238	4,102	47,501	20,701
Madison	26	107	64	4,832	4,430
Milam	127	139	306	1,082	196
Mills	0	10	0	155	130
Robertson	11	111	435	2,476	1,054
San Saba	0	13	36	215	133
Travis	18,324	46,078	36,432	81,432	15,763
Washington	1,190	3,463	2,473	3,191	1,648
Williamson	1,855	5,186	13,374	37,684	7,752
Region 7	31,431	80,371	142,343	402,748	132,507
Texas	306,164	734,973	1,341,706	4,199,053	1,713,928

While this virus is not particularly deadly for most of the population it has shown a high fatality among certain demographics. The fatality rate is driven largely by adults over the age of 50 with the vast majority of Texas fatalities among those 65+ with comorbid conditions (obesity, diabetes, lung diseases, and heart diseases among others). This encourages the region to take extra precautions when interacting with these vulnerable populations.

**Age of Confirmed Texas
Fatalities as of 8/13 at 9:30
AM CST**

Age Groupings	Number	%
<1 year	2	0.0%
1-9 years	5	0.1%
10-19 years	9	0.1%
20-29 years	66	0.7%
30-39 years	190	2.0%
40-49 years	495	5.3%
50-59 years	1,085	11.7%
60-64 years	866	9.3%
65-69 years	1,068	11.5%
70-74 years	1,222	13.2%
75-79 years	1,141	12.3%
80+ years	3,140	33.8%
Unknown	0	0.0%
Total	9,289	100.0%

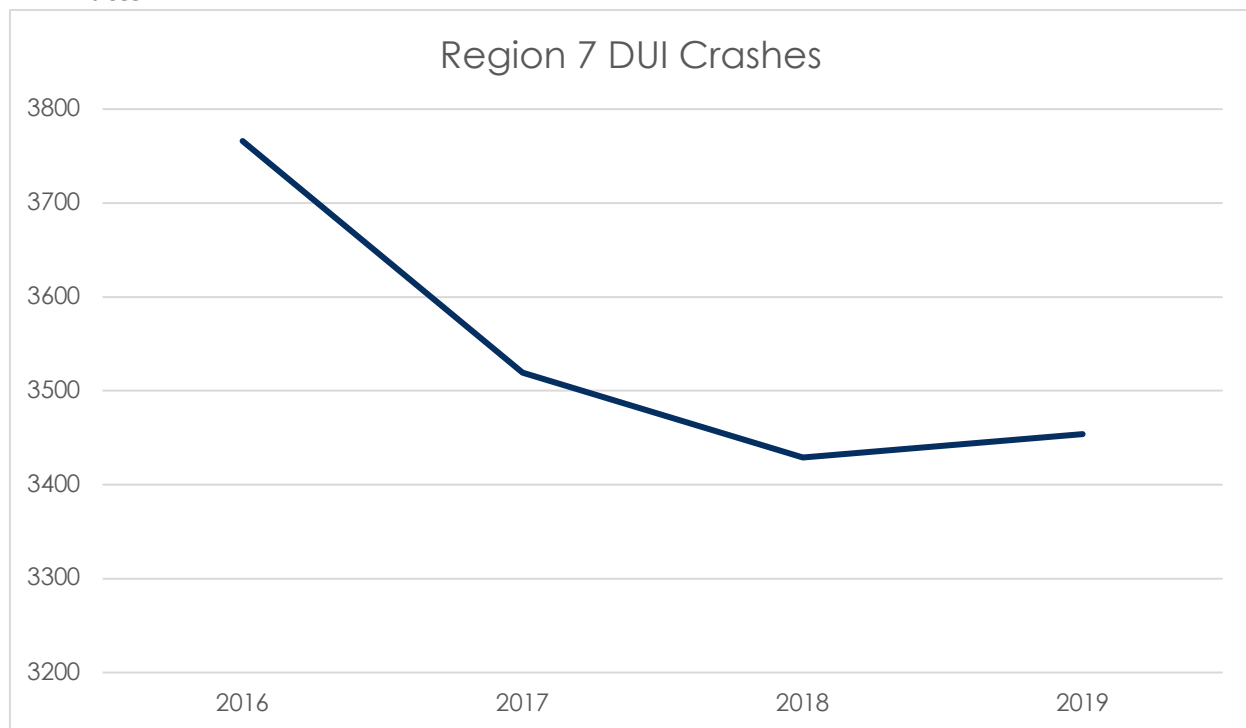
Consequences

Several consequences are associated with alcohol and drug use, including: death, incarceration, hospitalization, and lower SES status. Below is an attempt to describe consequences as a result of alcohol and substance abuse.

Legal

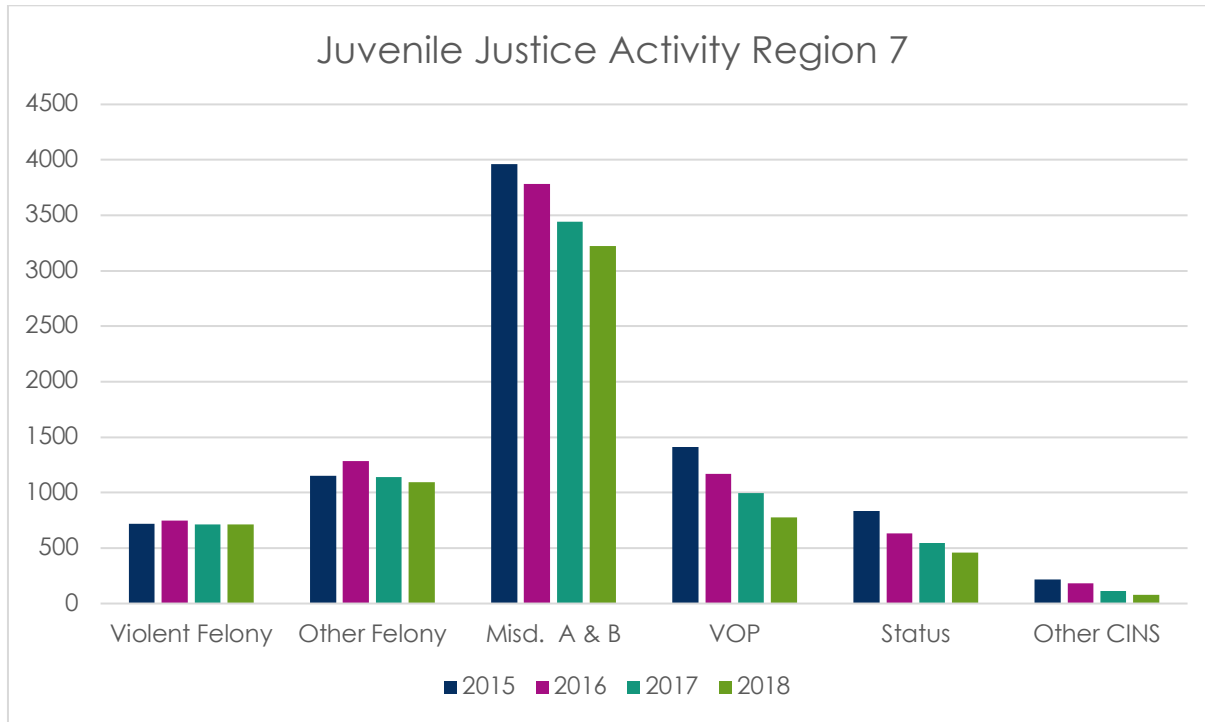
Region 7 Arrests 2015-2020		
CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES	Adult	Juvenile
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	363	24
Manslaughter by Negligence	37	14
Rape	1118	421
Robbery	3004	1250
Aggravated Assault (Return A - 4a-d)	16436	2714
Burglary - Breaking or Entering	6167	4402
Larceny-Theft (Except Motor Vehicle Theft)	43786	7749
Motor Vehicle Theft	3026	3740
Other Assaults (Return A - 4e)	51798	11018
Arson	293	124
Forgery and Counterfeiting	3215	124
Fraud	5174	270
Embezzlement	654	311
Stolen Property; Buying, Receiving, Possessing	417	242
Vandalism	5074	2029
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, etc.	6968	538
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	1119	11
Prostitution	792	3
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	278	1
Purchasing Prostitution	49	26
Sex Offenses (Except Rape and Prostitution)	1545	1450
Drug Abuse Violations - Grand Total	78220	7530
(1) Sale/Manufacturing - Subtotal	5076	1077
18a - Opium/Cocaine	1999	668
18b - Marijuana	1054	218
18c - Synthetic Narcotics - Manufactured Narcotics Which Can Cause True Drug Addiction (Demerol, Methadones)	929	117
18d - Other - Dangerous Nonnarcotic Drugs (Barbiturates, Benzedrine)	1094	917
(2) Possession - Subtotal	73144	6455
18e - Opium or Cocaine and Their Derivatives (Morphine, Heroin, Codeine)	14848	1071
18f - Marijuana	36665	4729
18g - Synthetic Narcotics - Manufactured Narcotics Which Can Cause True Drug Addiction (Demerol, Methadones)	6526	737
18h - Other - Dangerous Nonnarcotic Drugs	15105	684
Gambling - Total	190	4
Bookmaking (Horse and Sport Book)	3	0
Numbers and Lottery	10	0
All Other Gambling	157	51
Offenses Against The Family and Children	2715	179

Driving Under The Influence	54207	382
Liquor Laws	7958	967
Drunkenness	31489	340
Disorderly Conduct	5527	976
Vagrancy	466	1923
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	144387	11422
Curfew and Loitering Law Violations	0	3350
Human Trafficking/Commercial Sex Acts	148	0
Human Trafficking/Involuntary Servitude	16	9308

DWI Rates

Juvenile Justice involvement

There is a steady downward trend of most juvenile justice activity in region 7, including misdemeanors of classes A & B which include drug offences.



While region 7 has seen an increasing juvenile justice population over time, several counties have reported decreases in juvenile justice populations suggesting there may be strategies that can be learned from these areas.

Juvenile Population				
County	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bastrop	8608	8616	8672	8717
Bell	34496	35620	36700	38054
Blanco	933	926	898	889
Bosque	1700	1662	1626	1604
Brazos	15734	16078	16589	17113
Burleson	1642	1656	1670	1691
Burnet	4205	4157	4109	4081
Caldwell	4054	4101	4094	4155
Coryell	8635	9070	9443	9720
Falls	1487	1517	1513	1524
Fayette	2149	2146	2145	2123
Freestone	1890	1879	1861	1846
Grimes	2428	2438	2456	2426
Hamilton	677	691	674	663
Hays	17722	18070	18310	18419
Hill	3411	3422	3406	3397
Lampasas	1888	1878	1880	1884
Lee	1634	1606	1597	1574
Leon	1486	1498	1509	1513
Limestone	2118	2136	2139	2140

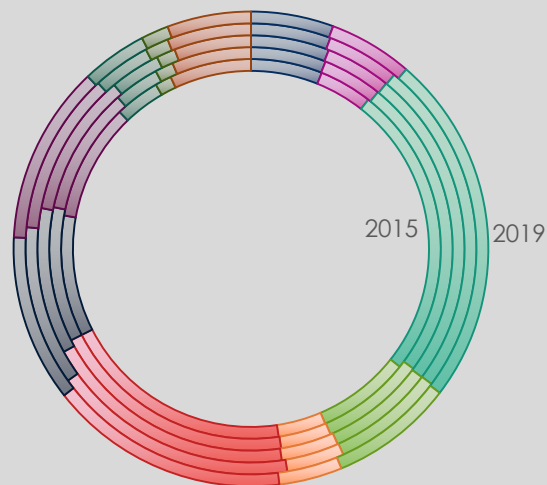
Llano	1246	1232	1246	1271
Madison	1172	1154	1153	1155
McLennan	23427	23416	23487	23585
Milam	2516	2502	2490	2472
Mills	459	450	444	436
Robertson	1628	1670	1655	1677
San Saba	439	448	451	467
Travis	98331	100726	102740	104668
Washington	2962	2974	NA	2950
Williamson	55160	56279	57145	57667
Region 7	304237	310018	312102	319881

Red = Increase over time; Green = Decrease over time

Texas Prison Incarcerations

Prison On-Hand Population						
Area	Offense	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Region 7	Drug Delivery OH Pop	870	949	984	1,032	1,025
Region 7	Drug Other OH Pop	1	1	2	2	1
Region 7	Drug Possession OH Pop	1,444	1,483	1,558	1,666	1,621
Region 7	DWI OH Pop	855	874	807	740	637
Texas	Drug Delivery OH Pop	9,514	9,686	9,686	9,825	9,663
Texas	Drug Possession OH Pop	14,008	13,841	13,917	14,116	13,750
Texas	Drug Other OH Pop	55	31	28	22	18
Texas	DWI OH Pop	7,171	7,044	6,643	6,031	5,475

Total drug related On-Hand Population by Region

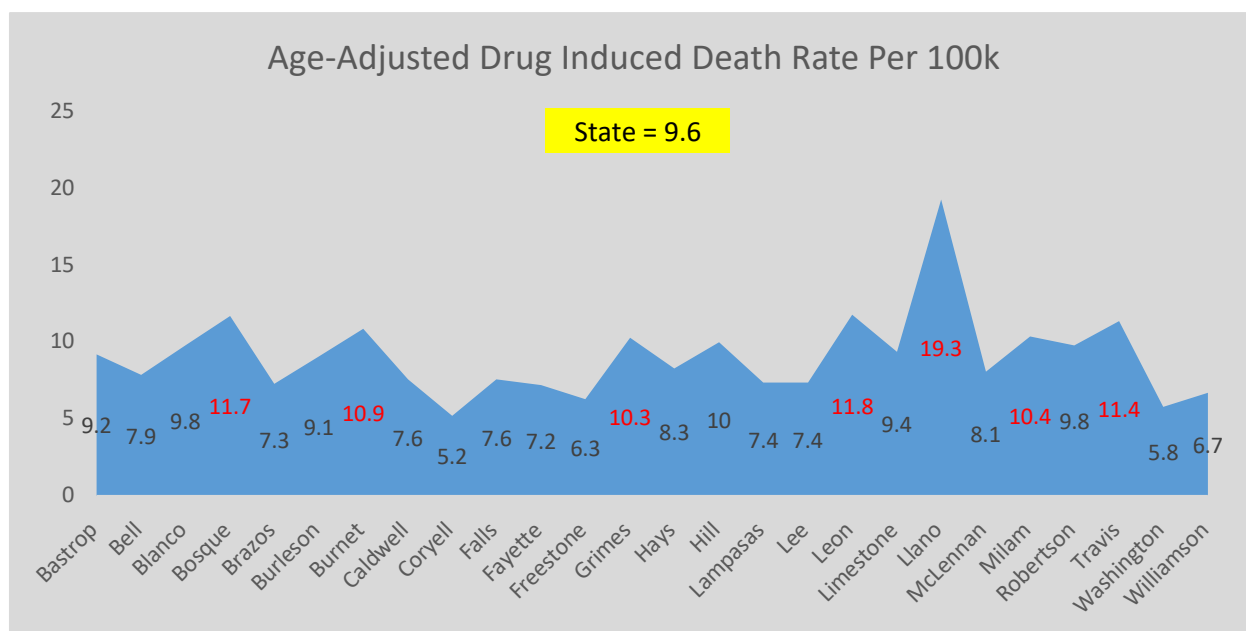
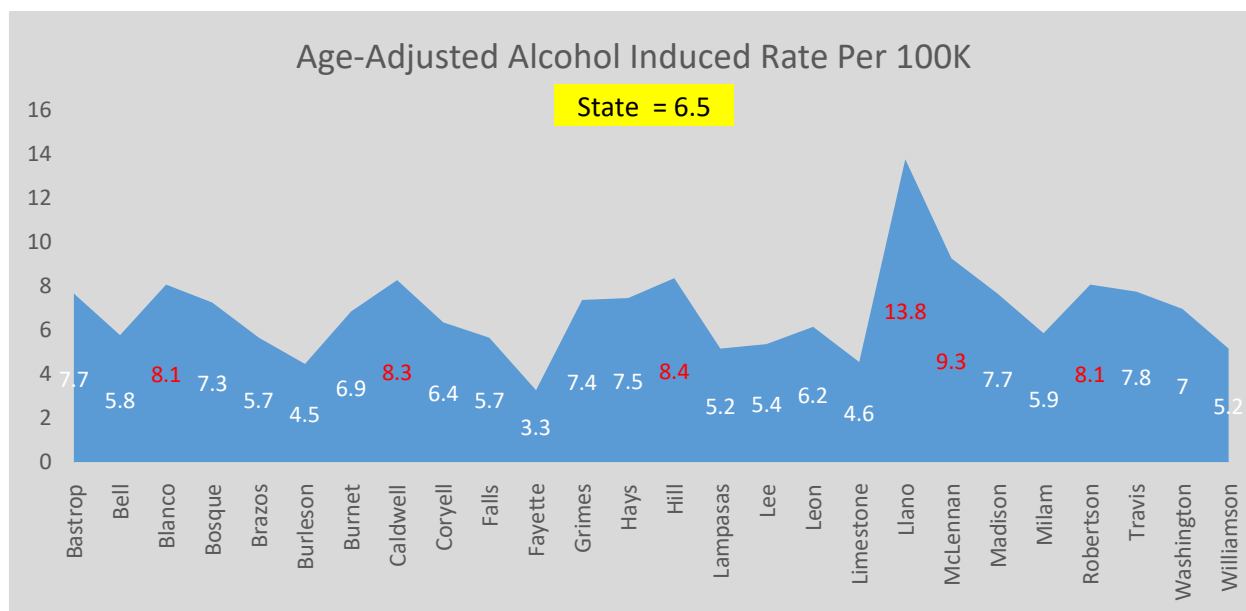


■ Region 1 ■ Region 2 ■ Region 3 ■ Region 4 ■ Region 5 ■ Region 6
 ■ Region 7 ■ Region 8 ■ Region 9 ■ Region 10 ■ Region 11

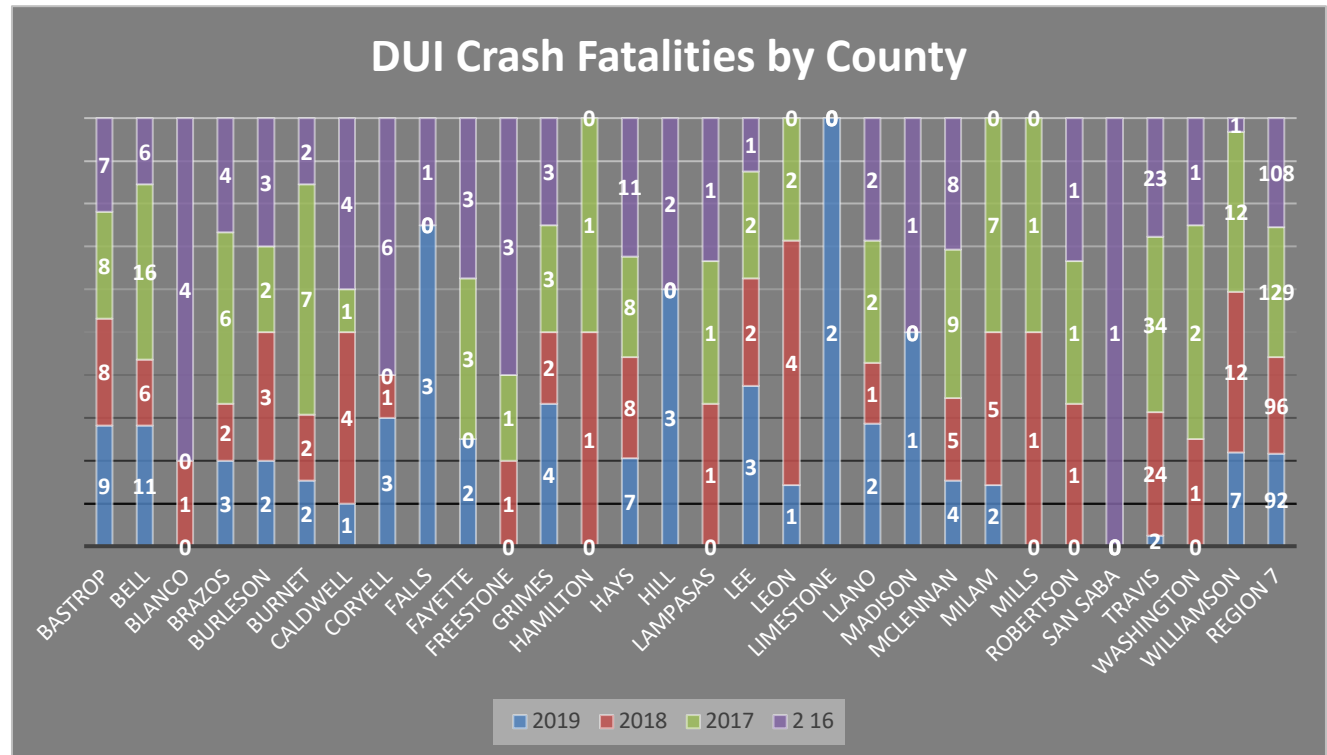
Mortality

Drug and Alcohol Induced Death Rates			
County	Crude Rate Per 100K	Age-Adjusted Rate Per 100K	% of Total Deaths
Texas	15.9	16.1	100.00%
Bastrop	18	17	0.30%
Bell	12.3	13.7	0.90%
Blanco	22.3	17.9	0.10%
Bosque	20.7	19.1	0.10%
Brazos	9.7	13	0.50%
Burleson	14.6	13.7	0.10%
Burnet	19.3	17.8	0.20%
Caldwell	15.6	15.9	0.20%
Coryell	9.7	11.6	0.20%
Falls	13.8	13.2	0.10%
Fayette	10.9	10.5	0.10%
Freestone	9.7	9.2	0.00%
Grimes	19.5	17.7	0.10%
Hamilton	16.2	15.7	0.00%
Hays	14.7	15.8	0.60%
Hill	18.3	18.4	0.20%
Lampasas	14.1	12.6	0.10%
Lee	13.7	12.8	0.10%
Leon	19.5	18	0.10%
Limestone	14.8	14	0.10%
Llano	32.5	33.1	0.20%
McLennan	16.4	17.4	1.00%
Madison	14.4	15.1	0.10%
Milam	17.6	16.3	0.10%
Mills	Unreliable	Unreliable	0.00%
Robertson	18.2	17.9	0.10%
San Saba	Unreliable	Unreliable	0.00%
Travis	18.8	19.2	4.80%
Washington	13.9	12.7	0.10%

Red = Greater than State Rate



Alcohol related vehicular fatalities



DUI Crash Fatality Rate Per 1,000

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Bastrop	93.33	80.00	78.43	79.65
Bell	21.13	55.17	23.53	38.73
Blanco	181.82	0.00	62.50	0.00
Bosque	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Brazos	16.95	30.61	11.70	18.63
Burleson	103.45	83.33	130.43	60.61
Burnet	33.90	122.81	40.00	30.30
Caldwell	75.47	20.83	68.97	12.66
Coryell	125.00	0.00	20.00	50.00
Falls	71.43	0.00	0.00	214.29
Fayette	90.91	76.92	0.00	64.52
Freestone	96.77	43.48	52.63	0.00
Grimes	88.24	65.22	42.55	75.47
Hamilton	0.00	200.00	62.50	0.00
Hays	40.15	30.42	31.01	27.34
Hill	60.61	0.00	0.00	83.33
Lampasas	71.43	55.56	71.43	0.00
Lee	47.62	83.33	76.92	157.89
Leon	0.00	90.91	181.82	52.63
Limestone	0.00	0.00	0.00	117.65
Llano	76.92	117.65	90.91	100.00
Madison	90.91	0.00	0.00	58.82
McLennan	30.77	42.06	21.28	15.04
Milam	0.00	218.75	116.28	80.00
Mills	0.00	111.11	333.33	0.00
Robertson	47.62	83.33	38.46	0.00
San Saba	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Travis	13.65	22.52	16.22	13.76
Washington	29.41	57.14	34.48	0.00
Williamson	27.55	33.33	34.58	24.14
PHR 7	28.68	36.66	28.00	26.64
State Total	36.97	38.95	35.11	32.01

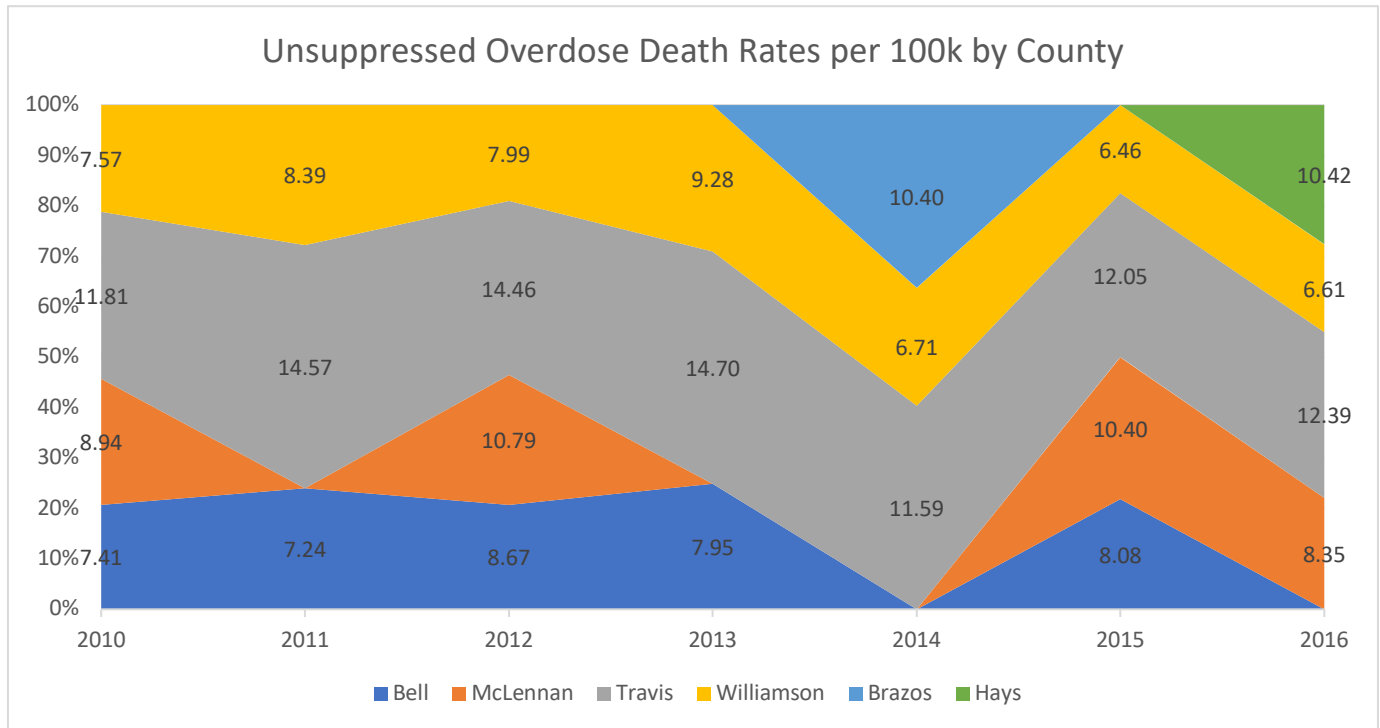
Green = lower than Region 7; Red = greater than Texas

Suicide Rates

Region 7 has very few counties with suicide rates lower than the state. Of particular concern are Blanco, Hill, Hamilton, Freestone, Leon, and Llano counties who have substantially increase suicide rates compared to the state.

Suicide Rate Region 7 1999-2018		
County	Crude Rate	Age Adjusted Rate
Bastrop	16.4	16.2
Bell	13	13.6
Blanco	19.4	20.1
Bosque	16.8	16.1
Brazos	7.8	9.3
Burleson	16	16.1
Burnet	14.5	14.5
Caldwell	12.5	12.7
Coryell	14.4	14.3
Falls	13.2	12.6
Fayette	13.6	12.5
Freestone	19.1	18
Grimes	14.2	13.7
Hamilton	20.4	21.2
Hays	11.6	12.1
Hill	17.9	18.5
Lampasas	15.6	15.4
Lee	11.8	12.1
Leon	20.1	20.9
Limestone	15.8	15.3
Llano	19.5	19.9
McLennan	11.3	11.7
Madison	14.8	14
Milam	13.6	13.8
Robertson	13.9	14
Travis	11.8	12
Washington	9.7	8.8
Williamson	10.6	10.9
Texas	11.3	11.6

Red = Greater than state rate

Overdose Deaths**Hospitalization**

While we were not able to get hospital data related to alcohol or substance abuse the chart below shows EMS runs where the primary symptom was overdose.

2018 EMS Overdose Runs

County	Frequency	Percent of Texas Total
State Total	8,872	100
Bastrop	119	1.34
Bell	281	3.17
Blanco	*	*
Bosque	0	0
Brazos	278	3.13
Burleson	9	0.1
Burnet	8	0.09
Caldwell	*	*
Coryell	148	1.67
Falls	33	0.37
Fayette	*	*
Freestone	10	0.11
Grimes	7	0.08
Hamilton	6	0.07

Hays	232	2.61
Hill	9	0.1
Lampasas	36	0.41
Lee	0	0
Leon	5	0.06
Limestone	8	0.09
Llano	*	*
Madison	*	*
McLennan	216	2.43
Milam	23	0.26
Mills	*	*
Robertson	52	0.59
San Saba	6	0.07
Travis	121	1.36
Washington	20	0.23
Williamson	42	0.47
Region 7	1679	18.92

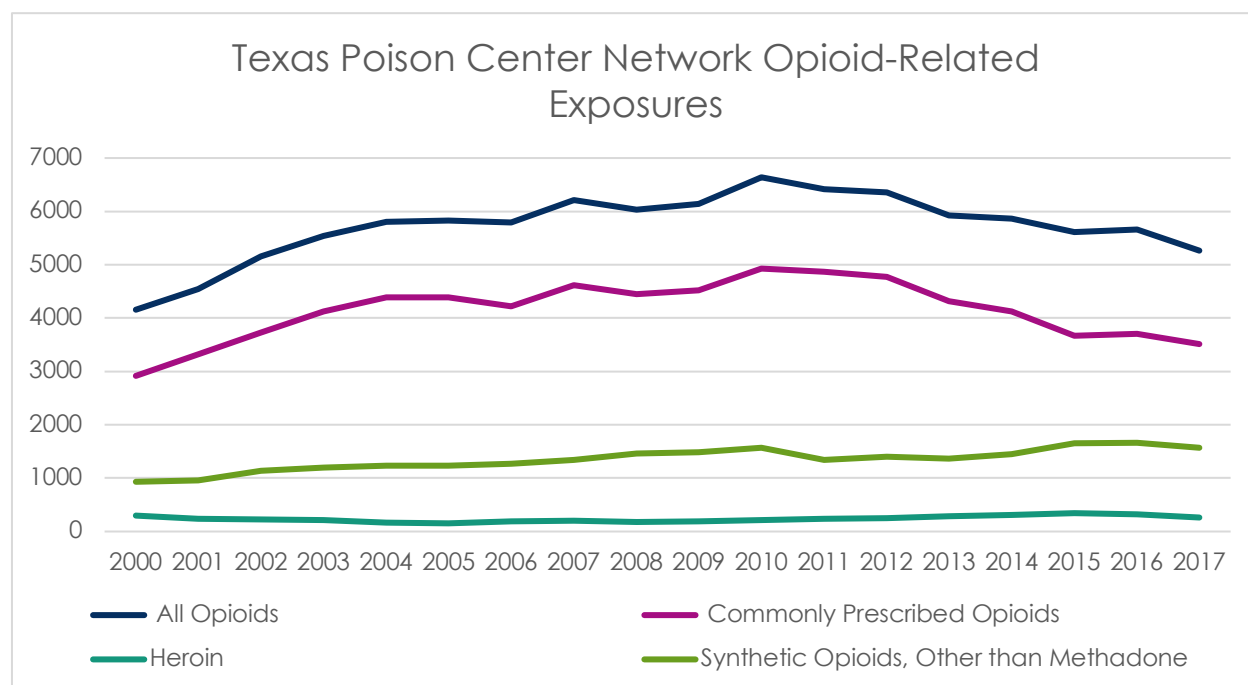
HIV infection rates

Area	People Living with HIV		
	2016 Rate	2017 Rate	2018 Rate
Texas	311.1	320.4	327.9
Region 1	125.8	134.1	140.6
Region 2	102.6	103.7	112.6
Region 3	359.1	368.8	377
Region 4	174.6	184.9	186.7
Region 5	220.7	231.5	239.4
Region 6	416.3	428.6	436.8
Region 7	236.6	244.4	249.4
Region 8	238.6	248	252.5
Region 9	105.3	114	117.3
Region 10	241.4	254	262.5
Region 11	151.6	157	164.5

Opioid Related Exposures

2013-2017 Texas Poison Center Network Opioid Related Exposures by Region					
2013	Region 3	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	State
All Opioids	1,498	1,141	659	671	5,926
Commonly Prescribed Opioids	1,026	896	492	477	4,318
Heroin	179	21	10	21	287
2014	Region 3	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	State
All Opioids	1,468	1,137	603	634	5,860

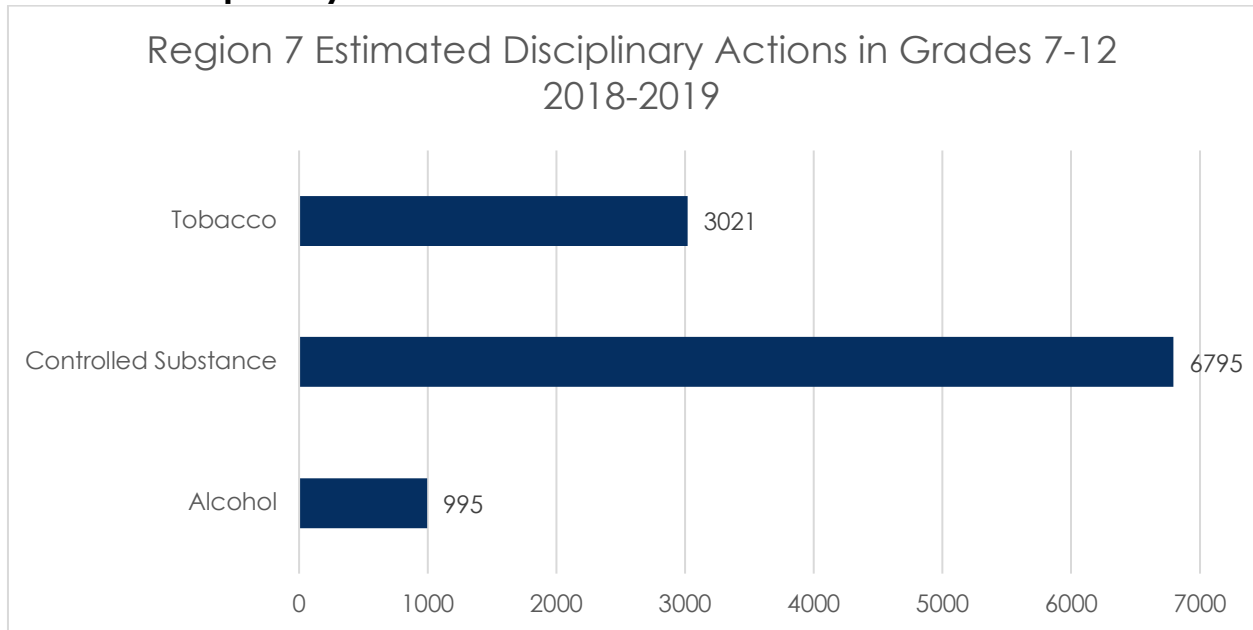
Commonly Prescribed Opioids	968	869	430	460	4,125
Heroin	186	14	15	30	315
2015	Region 3	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	State
All Opioids	1,441	1,033	611	644	5,608
Commonly Prescribed Opioids	873	720	408	416	3,666
Heroin	188	16	21	33	344
2016	Region 3	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	State
All Opioids	1,534	963	581	661	5,659
Commonly Prescribed Opioids	953	678	408	428	3,700
Heroin	181	28	10	23	317
2017	Region 3	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	State
All Opioids	1,359	961	586	596	5,265
Commonly Prescribed Opioids	887	676	388	414	3,512
Heroin	131	25	22	26	267
Source: Texas Poison Center Network Opioid-Related Exposures 2013-2017					



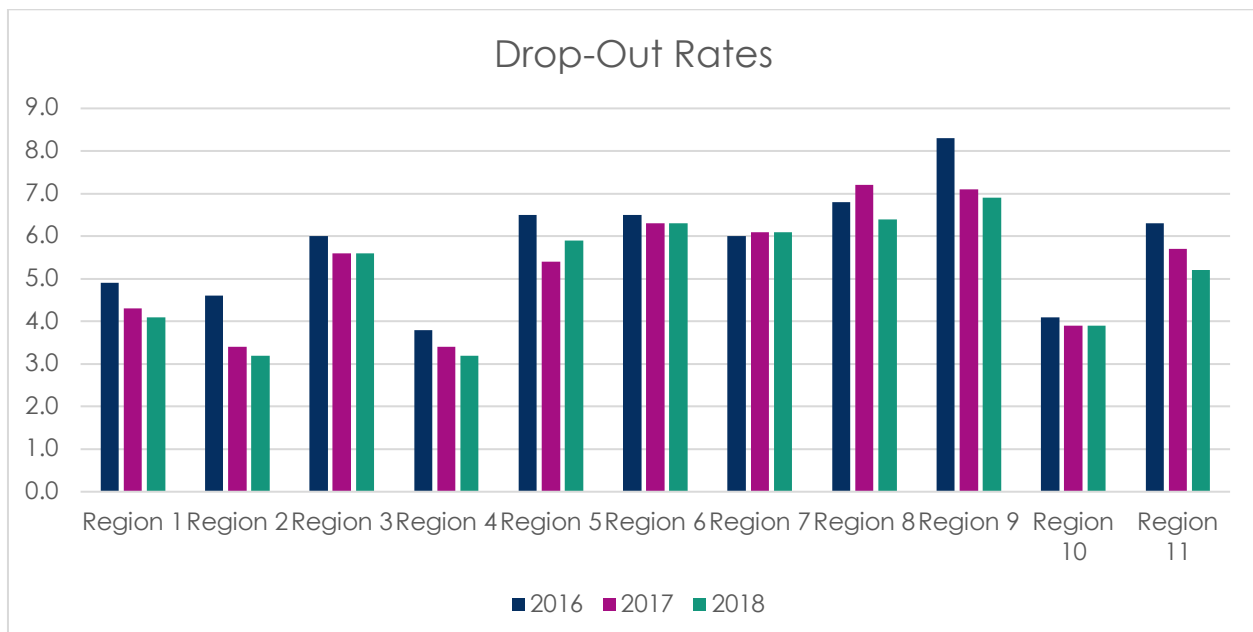
Region 7 has a significantly lower rate of calls to Texas Poison Center related to marijuana (10%) than would be expected from the population of region 7. Below is a table of marijuana calls for regions around region 7 with similar demographics.

Texas Poison Center Marijuana Calls										
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Texas Total	728	1000	810	754	1197	1167	742	634	486	567
Region 3	253	272	203	206	424	337	255	192	119	128
Region 6	143	208	157	125	164	198	97	93	81	87
Region7	45	67	47	54	69	81	60	58	47	57
Region8	88	91	72	88	113	75	49	56	50	63

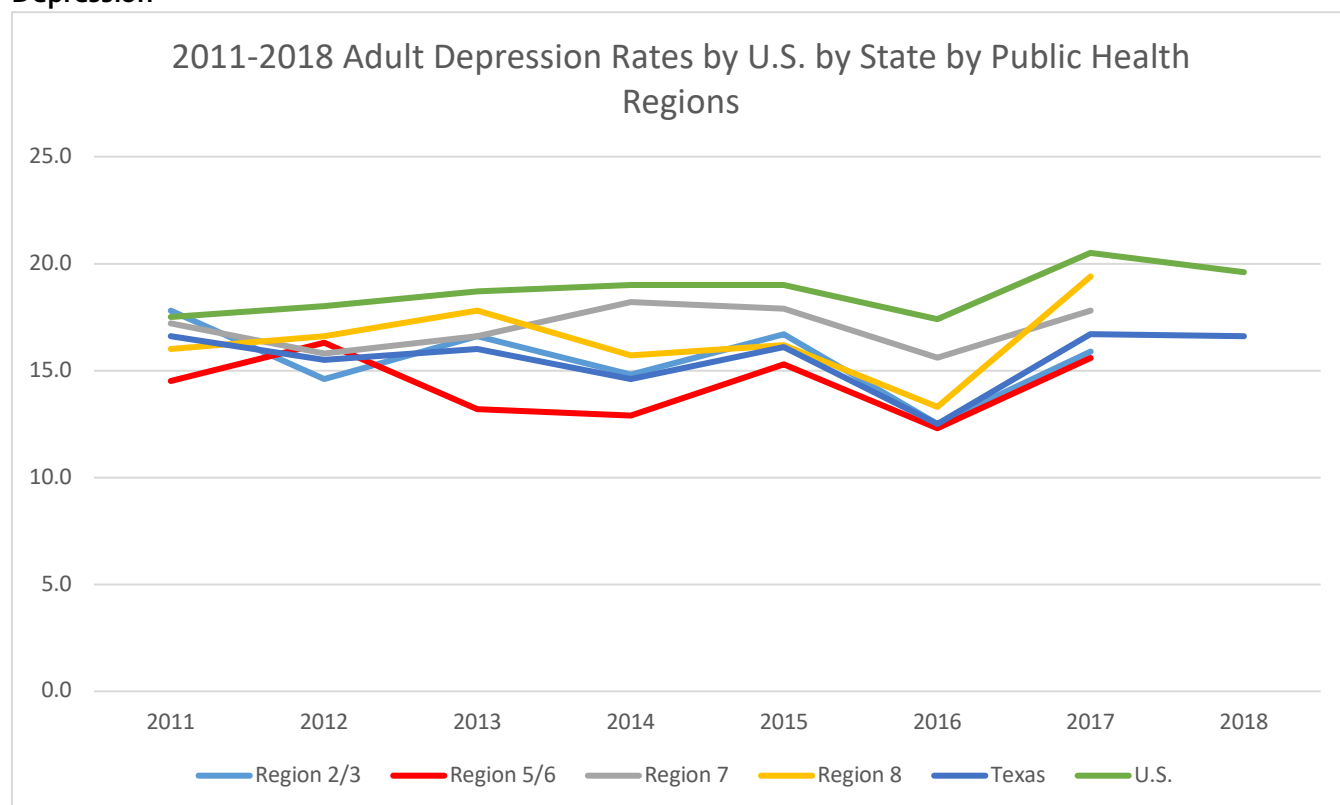
School disciplinary issues



Truancy data/drop-out rates



Depression



Economic Impacts

	Health Care	Overall	Year Estimate Based On
Tobacco	\$168 billion	\$300 billion	2010
Alcohol	\$27 billion	\$249 billion	2010
Illicit Drugs	\$11 billion	\$193 billion	2007
Prescription Opioids	\$26 billion	\$78.5 billion	2013

Underage Drinking/Drug Use

Problems related to the misuse of alcohol can cost the United States \$223.5 billion with \$18.82 billion of that coming from Texas (\$14.97 billion of that is attributed to binge drinking). That is \$1.99 per drink and \$748 per person in Texas. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that almost three-quarters of the total cost for alcohol abuse is tied to binge drinking.

Average Cost of Treatment in Region

The average cost of treatment in Region 7 varies and is subject to change over time. However, some examples in the region include the following: Austin Recovery (Austin, TX)-\$8,850 per month; Burning Tree (Kaufman and Elgin, TX)-\$33,000 for a 3 month stay; Christian Farms Treehouse Inc. (Temple, TX)-intensive treatment for \$4,500 per month and supportive treatment for \$3,000 per month. For more precise estimates, evaluators need additional information.

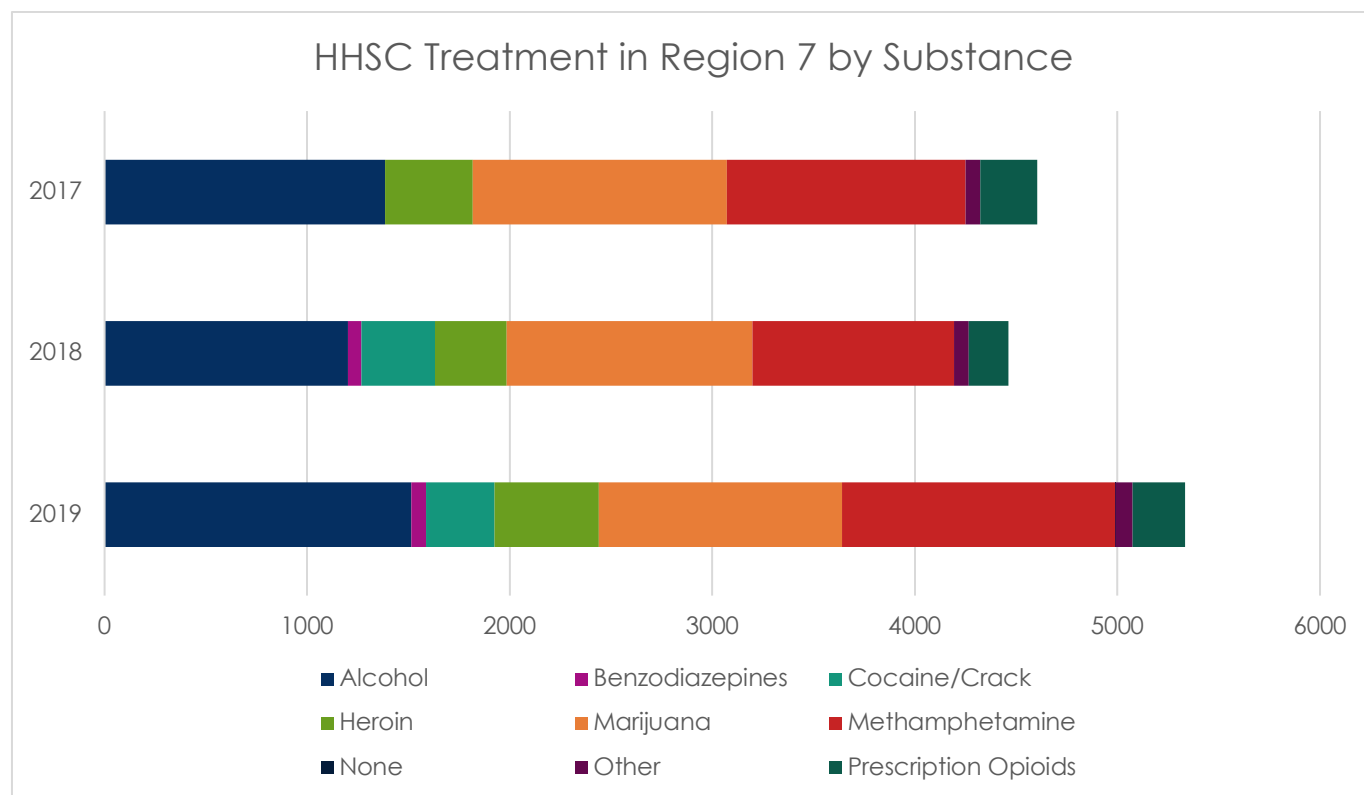
Employability and College Admissions

Two very effective means for encouraging adolescents and youth to stay away from alcohol and drugs is employment and college admissions. Today's young people are concerned about getting a job or going to college. In Region 7 a media effort was used to address these two concerns. Current estimates indicate 3 out of 5 businesses drug test employees; we know marijuana remains in the human system for long periods of time. Therefore, the notion of not keeping or not receiving employment because of drug use connects with people. Most of the media efforts were concentrated in Greater Austin and the Brazos Valley.

Treatment

Treatment episode admission data (treatment utilization)

Texas Substance Abuse Treatment Trends							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Admissions (#)	65,646	65,502	64,957	64,162	66,422	53,709	64,415
Primary Substance of Abuse (%)							
Alcohol	27.8%	26.9%	27.4%	27.0%	25.4%	24.8%	24.2%
Cocaine/Crack	10.1%	9.4%	8.6%	8.2%	7.6%	7.9%	7.5%
Heroin	10.5%	11.0%	11.3%	11.0%	10.7%	9.9%	11.9%
Prescription Opioids	6.2%	5.8%	5.1%	4.9%	4.7%	4.2%	4.6%
Methamphetamine**	11.9%	14.1%	15.0%	16.4%	16.4%	17.2%	19.2%
Marijuana	26.2%	25.8%	25.6%	25.4%	24.7%	25.6%	24.0%
Benzodiazepines	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.3%	1.5%
Synthetic Stimulants	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Synthetic Cannabinoids	0.5%	0.6%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%
Other Drugs/Unknown	1.7%	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%
None	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	3.1%
Blank	3.7%	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%	6.8%	5.0%	1.8%



Data in Outreach Screening Assessment and Referral (OSAR)

OSAR Screenings						
	2017		2018		2019	
	Unduplicated Screenings	Total Screenings	Unduplicated Screenings	Total Screenings	Unduplicated Screenings	Total Screenings
Bastrop	90	94	111	117	262	274
Bell	291	307	305	324	340	358
Blanco	6	7	10	10	7	7
Bosque	13	14	18	18	17	16
Brazos	53	59	43	46	55	56
Burleson	8	8	2	4	9	10
Burnet	68	71	73	75	168	181
Caldwell	37	37	60	63	92	99
Coryell	98	106	109	112	112	119
Falls	12	11	19	19	19	19
Fayette	21	23	19	20	29	31
Freestone	12	13	14	13	17	20
Grimes	10	11	10	11	6	6
Hamilton	7	8	5	5	7	9
Hays	105	115	124	128	156	169
Hill	27	30	33	35	31	33
Lampasas	27	27	22	25	30	30
Lee	9	8	28	31	27	27
Leon	9	8	8	8	6	6
Limestone	10	10	16	16	17	19

Llano	23	25	38	38	32	35
Madison	3	3	3	3	2	2
McLennan	320	335	287	301	412	439
Milam	22	24	25	24	36	36
Mills	6	7	2	2	6	8
Robertson	6	6	6	6	15	16
San Saba	11	10	2	2	9	9
Travis	1309	1482	1272	1352	1323	1420
Washington	8	9	5	8	11	12
Williamson	341	370	399	440	573	616

Mental Health and SUD Treatment

Region 7 Medicaid Clients with Primary Behavioral/Mental Health or Substance Abuse Disorder Diagnosis, By County, Clients Aged 12+ Years Old

	BMMH Clients		SUD Clients	
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth
2012	32451	12185	1507	145
2013	31800	12290	1515	242
2014	32100	13155	1427	249
2015	32699	14073	1827	294
2016	32457	15140	2376	305

SAMHSA Texas Treatment Episode Data Set TEDS admissions aged 12 years and older, by primary substance use

	All Substances	Alcohol Only	Alcohol with secondary drug	Heroin	Other opiates	Cocaine (smoked)	Cocaine (other route)	Marijuana
2016	36528	5251	4203	6232	2028	1576	1404	7657
2017	38819	5462	4421	6341	1833	1359	1498	9166
2018	38577	5512	4088	6107	1805	1337	1617	9291
2019	24102	3652	2424	3444	996	715	953	5913
	Amphetamines	Other stimulants	Tranquilizers	Sedatives	Hallucinogens	PCP	Inhalants	Other/Unknown
2016	7087	7	663	51	57	229	24	59
2017	7586	13	684	53	46	276	17	64
2018	7343	8	635	66	61	273	21	413
2019	4966	7	423	27	40	176	8	358

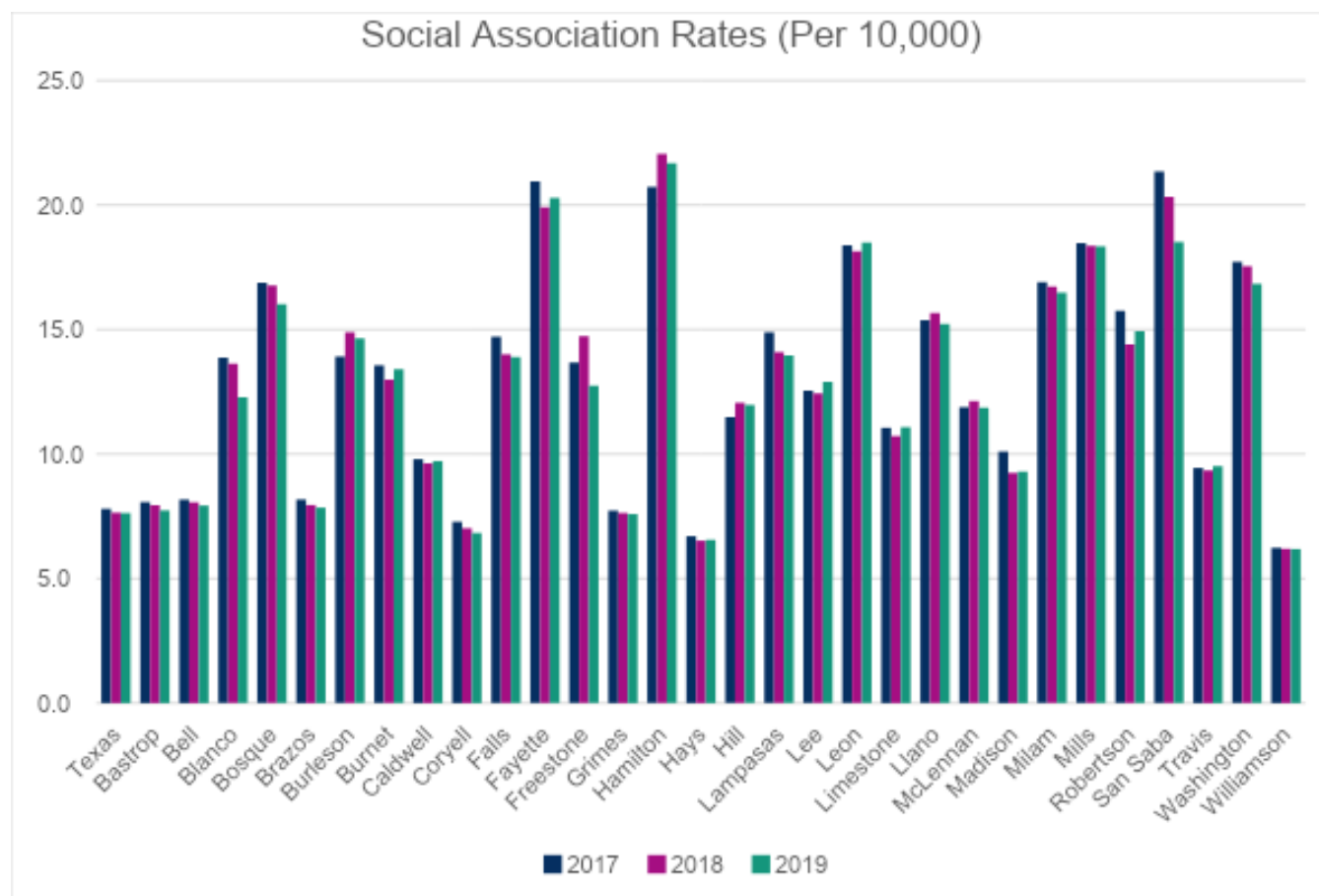
TEDS Admissions by Age and Substance of Abuse (%)

2020 Regional Needs Assessment																Region 7	
		All Substance Abuse ⁵	Alcohol	Alcohol with secondary drug	Heroin	Other opiates	Cocaine (smoked)	Cocaine (other)	Marijuana	Amphetamines	Other stimulant ⁵	Tranquilizers	Sedatives	Hallucinogens	PCP	Inhalants	Other/Unknown
2016	12-17 years	8.2	0.4	1.7	0.3	0.9	0.3	2.9	35	1.4	0	9.2	2	28.1	0	4.2	15.3
	18-30 years	36.9	18	30.3	46	36.2	11.9	38.1	44	43.3	28.6	55	43	31.6	28	46	33.9
		31-45 years	37.7	42	42.4	41	46.5	40.8	45.7	18	45.5	71.5	31	35	28	67	50
	46 years and over	17.1	40	25.7	13	16.3	47.2	13.2	3.2	9.7	0	5.6	20	12.4	5.2	0	11.9
		12-17 years	8.9	0.3	2.3	0.3	1.6	0.5	2.8	33	1.4	7.7	18	19	17.4	0	0
2017	18-30 years	36.2	18	30	41	35.7	12.3	36.7	46	40.3	46.2	47	32	41.3	25	29	43.8
	31-45 years	38.4	43	44	44	48	36.8	46.4	18	47.4	46.2	29	28	28.2	69	65	37.5
		46 years and over	16.5	38	23.6	15	14.7	50.4	14.2	3.5	10.9	0	6.4	21	13.1	5.8	5.9
	12-17 years	9.7	0.7	2.8	0.3	1.6	0.7	3.9	35	1.2	0	17	32	16.4	0	4.8	4.8
		18-30 years	34.9	19	29.3	40	29.6	14.3	39.7	43	39	12.5	44	41	39.4	21	48
2018	31-45 years	38.7	43	43.7	45	51.2	32.3	42.5	19	49	62.5	34	20	32.8	74	19	38.3
	46 years and over	16.6	38	24.1	14	17.6	52.8	13.9	3.5	10.7	25	4.7	7.5	11.5	5.5	29	16.2
		12-17 years	9.8	0.7	1.7	0.3	0.6	0.4	2.1	35	1.6	14.3	18	30	15	0.6	0
	18-30 years	34.8	20	31.9	40	27.4	11.7	39.5	43	37.1	14.3	43	30	32.5	18	38	42.5
		31-45 years	39.3	44	45	46	51.1	35.1	45.5	19	49.8	42.9	35	30	42.5	73	63
2019	46 years and over	16.2	36	21.4	14	20.8	52.7	12.8	3.3	11.7	28.6	4.7	11	10	8	0	13.1

Environmental Protective Factors

Overview of Protective Factors

A great measure of general protective factors is social association rates. Associations identified include civic organizations, bowling centers, golf clubs, fitness centers, sports organizations, religious organizations, political organizations, labor organizations, business organizations and professional organizations. Social support networks have been identified as powerful predictors of health behaviors, suggesting that individuals without a strong social network are less likely to make healthy lifestyle choices than individuals with a strong network. Social association rates per 10,000 were collected from County Health Rankings and Roadmaps and are charted below. In general Region 7 has better social association rates than Texas as a whole.



Community Coalitions

In Region 7, according to Coalitions Texas, four DSHS-funded coalitions currently operate. These coalitions include the Voice Against Substance Abuse Coalition in Waco; the Community Alcohol and Substance Awareness Partnership (CASAP) in Bryan and Brenham; the Hearne Zero Tolerance Youth Coalition in Hearne; and the LifeSteps Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition in Round Rock.

A fifth coalition working in Region 7 is the Robertson County Community Coalition (RCCC). This coalition is financially supported through a Drug-Free Communities (DFC) grant and works in

partnership with the Hearne Zero Tolerance Youth Coalition. Together, both coalitions work with partners in Robertson County to address issues of alcohol abuse and drug use in the community. There is also an Anti-Smoking coalition for Brazos County funded under HHSC.

Also, another coalition of note is the Hays Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse. This coalition is involved in education and advocacy for better conditions free of substance abuse concerns is inspiring. They are well informed on their communities and knowledgeable about specific substance abuse struggle is present.

A final noteworthy organization is Texans Standing Tall (TST). This state-wide coalition is known for being leaders in producing reports and generating activities for awareness concerning underage drinking. One such report describes how the increase of an alcohol tax by 10 cents can dramatically change the health and economic status of Texas school children. This coalition, however, is expanding to address state-wide issues related to the dangers of substance abuse.

Treatment Facilities

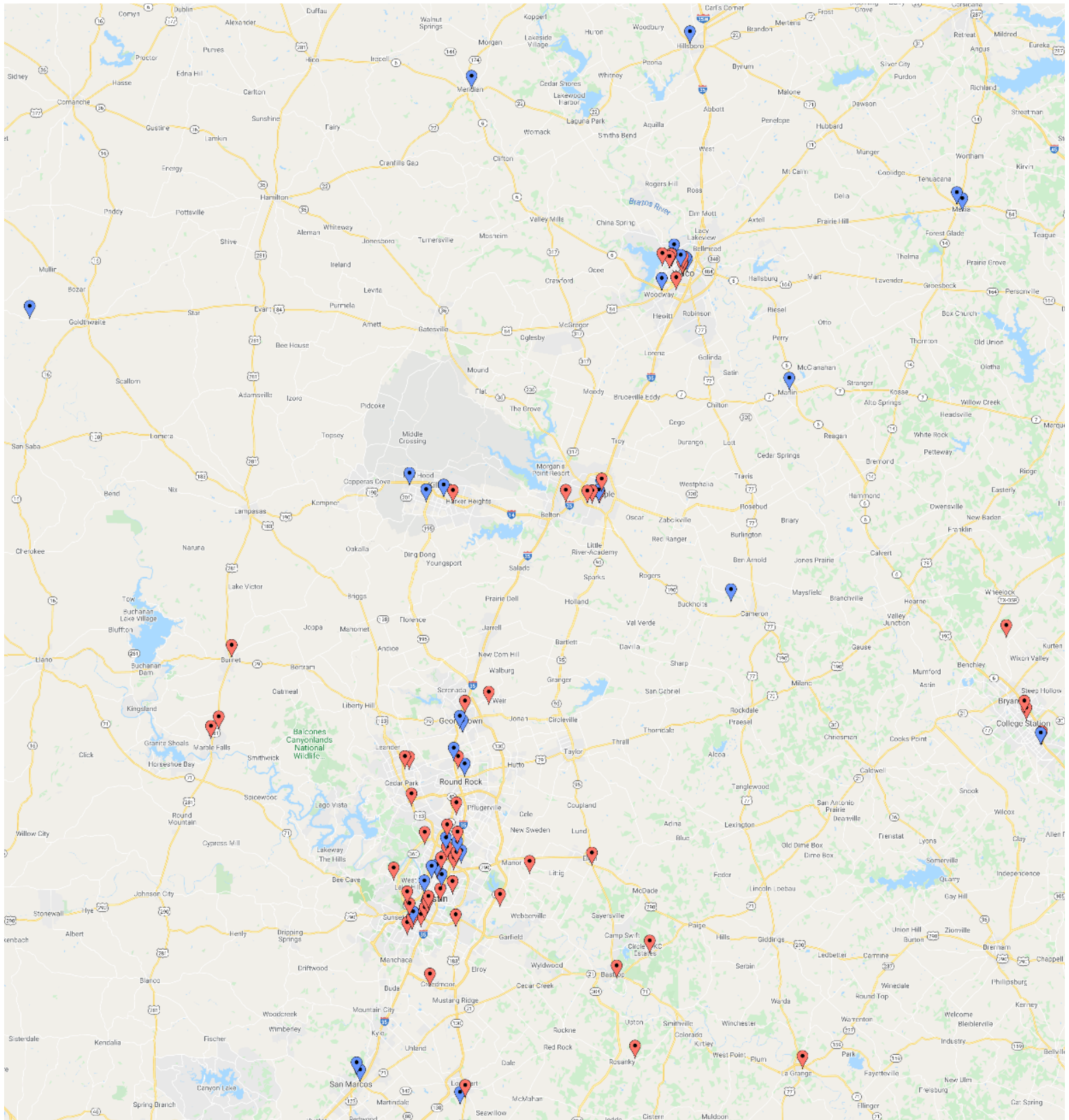
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities

County	Facility Type	Facility Name	Phone	Website
Bastrop	SA	Renewal Lodge by Burning Tree	512-285-5900	http://www.burningtree.com
	SA	Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	512-863-8968	http://bbtrails.org
	SA	Willow Springs Recovery	888-486-6717	http://www.willowspringsrecovery.com/
	SA	Last Resort Recovery Center	512-360-3600	http://www.lastresortrecovery.com
Bell	MH	Metroplex Pavilion Hospital	254-628-1000	http://www.adventhealth.com/hospital/adventhealth-central-texas
	MH	Steven A Cohen Military Fam Clinic	254-213-7847	http://www.endeavors.org
	MH	Cedar Crest Clinic	254-519-4162	http://www.cedarcresthospital.com
	SA	Care Counseling Services	254-299-2797 x2800	http://www.cenikor.org
	MH	Cedar Crest Hospital and Resid Trt Ctr	844-763-3326	http://www.cedarcresthospital.com/
	SA	Christian Farms Treehouse Inc	254-933-9400	http://www.cfth.org
	SA	West Texas Counseling and	254-742-0490	http://www.wtcr.net
	SA	Baylor Scott and White Alcohol and	254-724-2585	http://www.sw.org/psychiatry/substance-abuse
	MH	Scott and White Memorial Hospital	254-724-2585	http://www.bswhealth.com/pages/default.aspx
	SA	Cenikor Foundation	888-236-4567	http://www.cenikor.org
	MH	Central Texas VA Healthcare System	800-423-2111	http://www.centraltexas.va.gov/
	SA	Central Texas VA Healthcare Services	254-743-1271	
	MH	Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center	254-752-3451	http://www.hotrmhmr.org
	SA	Everyday Life Inc	979-589-1885	http://www.everydaylife-rtc.com
Brazos	SA	Brazos Valley Council on Alc and SA	979-846-3560	http://www.bvcasa.org
	SA	La Hacienda College Station	979-846-9500 x111	http://www.lahacienda.com
	MH	Rock Prairie Behavioral Health	979-703-8848	
	SA	Symetria Recovery	866-440-7429	http://www.symetriarecovery.com
	MH	Central Texas VA Healthcare System	979-680-0361	http://www.centraltexas.va.gov

Burnet	SA	Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	512-863-8968	http://bbtrails.org
	SA	Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	512-863-8968	http://bbtrails.org
	SA	Bluebonnet Trails Community MH/MR Ctr	512-863-8968	http://bbtrails.org
Caldwell	SA	Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	512-863-8968	http://bbtrails.org
	MH	Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	830-875-5700	http://www.bbTrails.org
	MH	Pegasus Schools Inc	512-376-2101	http://www.pegasusschool.net
Falls	MH	Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center	866-752-3451	http://www.hotrmhmr.org
Fayette	SA	Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	512-863-8968	
Freestone	MH	Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center	866-752-3451	http://www.hotrmhmr.org
Hays	SA	Austin Recovery Inc	512-697-8500	http://www.austinrecovery.org
	MH	San Marcos Treatment Center	512-396-8500 x3245	http://sanmarcostc.com
	MH	WellBridge Healthcare San Marcos	512-353-0194	http://www.wellbridghealthcare.com
Hill	MH	Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center	254-752-3451	http://www.hotrmhmr.org
Limestone	MH	Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center	866-752-3451	http://www.hotrmhmr.org
Limestone	MH	Parkview Regional Hospital	254-562-5332 x2021	http://www.parkviewregional.com/
McLennon	SA	Lake Shore Center for Behavioral Hlth	254-776-0400	http://www.lakeshorecenterwaco.com
	MH	Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center	254-752-3451	http://www.hotrmhmr.org
	MH	Depaul Center	254-776-5970	http://www.providence.net/depaul/
	SA	Care Counseling Services	254-224-8880	http://www.cenikor.org
	SA	Cenikor Foundation	254-224-8880	http://www.cenikor.org
	MH	Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center	254-752-3451	http://www.hotrmhmr.org
	MH	Waco Center for Youth	254-756-2171	http://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/state-hospitals/waco-center-youth
	SA	Doris Miller VAMC CTVHCS	254-297-3050	http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/SUD.asp
	MH	Family Counseling and Childrens Servs	254-313-4500	http://www.wacofhc.org
	SA	Manna House	254-714-1223	http://www.missionwaco.org
	SA	MedMark Treatment Centers	254-755-6411	http://www.medmark.com
	SA	Heart of Texas Regional MH/MR Center	254-297-8999	http://www.hotrmhmr.org
	MH	Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center	254-752-3451	http://www.hotrmhmr.org
Milam	MH	Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center	254-752-3451	http://www.hotrmhmr.org
Mills	MH	Resolution Ranch Academy	254-697-2422	http://www.resolutionranch.com
Travis	MH	New Horizons Ranch and Center	325-938-5518	http://www.newhorizonsinc.com/ranch/
	SA	Northwest Counseling and Wellness Ctr	512-250-9355	http://www.ncwcaustin.com
	SA	Self Recovery	512-766-4051	http://SelfRecovery.org
	SA	Sage Recovery and Wellness Center	512-306-1394	http://www.sagerecoveryaustin.com
	SA	Cenikor Foundation	737-300-2960	http://www.Cenikor.org
	SA	La Haciendas Solutions	512-835-1994 x218	http://www.lahacienda.com/outpatient/austinmap/
	MH	Settlement Home for Children	512-836-2150	http://www.settlementhome.org
	SA	Maintenance and Recovery Services Inc	512-339-9757	http://www.marsmethadone.com

Travis	SA	Austin Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program	512-454-8180	http://www.adaap.com
	MH	Ascension Seton Shoal Creek Hospital	512-324-2000	http://www.seton.net/
	SA	Austin Changes Counseling and	512-257-0066	http://www.changescounseling.com
	MH	Austin State Hospital	512-452-0381	http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhhospitals/austins h/
	SA	Lionrock Recovery	800-495-2282	http://www.lionrockrecovery.com
	MH	Integral Care	512-804-3900	http://www.integralcare.org/content/integrated care-clinics
	SA	Embracia Health	512-551-8545	http://www.embraciahealth.com
	MH	Center for Discovery	844-546-2614	http://www.austin.centerfordiscovery.com
	SA	Clean Investments Inc	512-477-6690	http://www.cleaninvestmentsinc.com
	SA	Positive Recovery Services	512-899-8300	http://www.positiverecovery.com
	SA	Arbor Intensive Outpatient	512-868-4952	http://www.thearbor.com
	MH	Cross Creek Hospital	512-215-3900	http://www.crosscreekhospital.com
	MH	Austin Lakes Hospital	512-544-5253	http://www.austinelakeshospital.com/
	MH	Austin Oaks Hospital	512-440-4800	http://austinoakshospital.com
	SA	Phoenix Academy of Austin	512-440-0613 x4733	http://www.phoenixhouse.org
	SA	Phoenix House	512-440-0613 x4705	http://www.phoenixhouse.org
	SA	Aeschbach and Associates Inc	512-444-5092	http://www.austinmethadone.com
	SA	Maintenance and Recovery Services Inc	512-899-2100	http://www.marsmethadone.com
	SA	Texas NeuroRehab Center	512-444-4835	http://www.texasstarrecovery.com
	SA	Integral Care	512-804-3380	http://www.integralcare.org
	SA	Austin Recovery Inc	512-697-8500	http://www.austinrecovery.org
	SA	Recovery Unplugged Encore	888-334-1189	http://www.recoveryunplugged.com
	SA	Integral Care	512-804-3463	http://www.integralcare.org
	SA	Integral Care	512-804-3526	http://www.atcic.org
	SA	Integral Care	512-804-3650	http://www.integralcare.org
	SA	Veterans Administration	512-823-4040	http://www.centraltexas.va.gov/
	SA	Recovery Unplugged Austin	888-343-1405	http://www.recoveryunplugged.com
	SA	BRC Recovery	866-905-4550	http://www.brcrecovery.com
Williamson	SA	Bluebonnet Trails Community MH/MR Ctr	512-863-8968	http://bbtrails.org
	SA	Medication Assisted Recovery Services	512-986-7743	http://marsmethadone.com
	SA	Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	512-863-8968	http://www.bbtrails.org
	MH	Georgetown Behavioral Health Institute	512-819-1100	http://www.georgetownbehavioral.com
	MH	Rock Springs	512-819-9400	http://www.rockspringshealth.com
	SA	Arbor Behavioral Healthcare	844-413-2690	http://www.thearbor.com
	SA	Phoenix Houses of Texas Inc	512-851-1231 x4705	http://www.phoenixhouse.org
	MH	Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	512-244-8480	http://www.bbtrails.org
SA	Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	512-863-8968	http://bbtrails.org	

Below is a map of funded mental health (blue) and substance abuse services (red) in HHSC region 7.

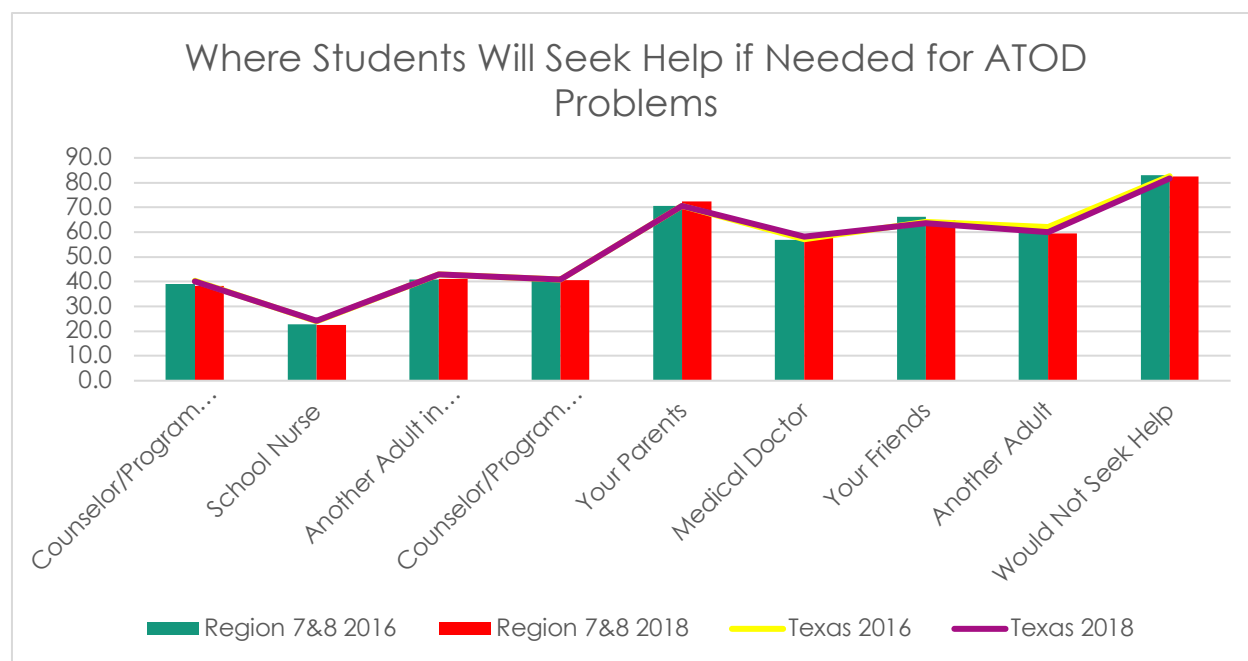


YP Programs

Agencies providing youth prevention (YP) programs are empowered by local coalitions and the Prevention Resource Center. Considering all YPs, along with coalitions and the Regional Prevention Resource Center, there are 9 agencies that contribute to youth prevention. According to HHSC, the following agencies are funded in Region 7 and work in some capacity toward youth prevention, if not directly: (1) Austin-Travis County MHMR and Austin Travis County Integral Care, (2) Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, (3) Connections Individual and Family Services Inc., (4) Hays Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, (5) Phoenix Houses of Texas, Inc., (6) Viable Options in Community Endeavors, (7) Williamson Council on Alcohol and Drugs, DBA LifeSteps, (8) Youth and Family Alliance, and (9) YWCA of Greater Austin.

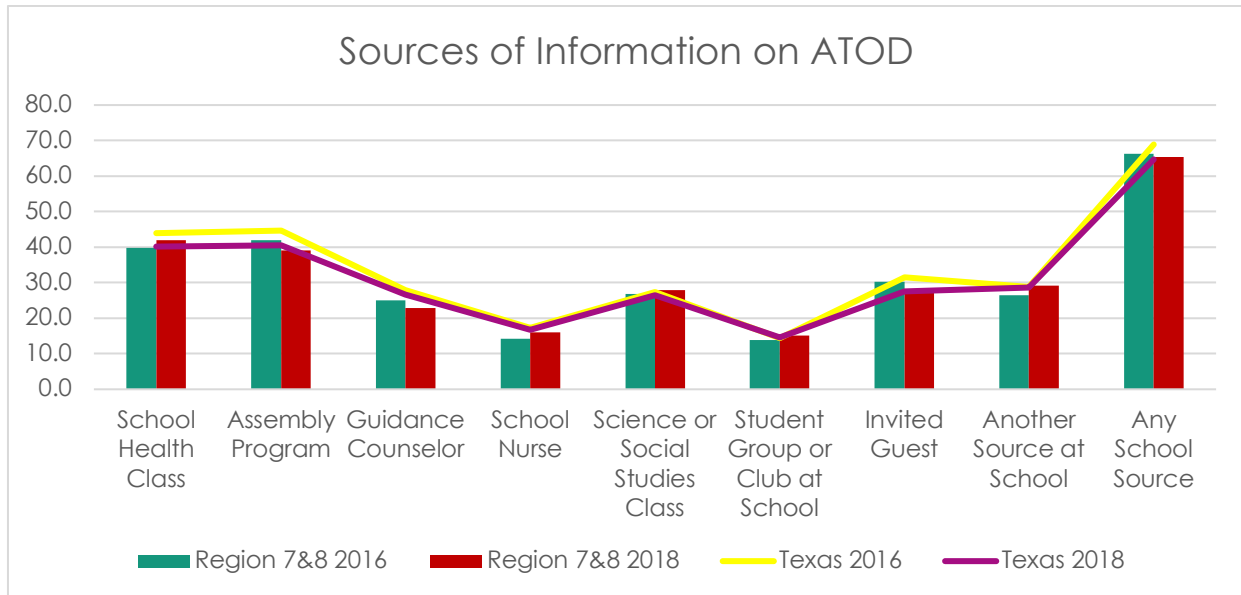
Students seeking help about ATOD

The majority of students said they would talk to their parents about ATOD problems if they arose, however, notably more students said they would not seek help on the TSS. Improving the students' communication with their parents is a notable gap.



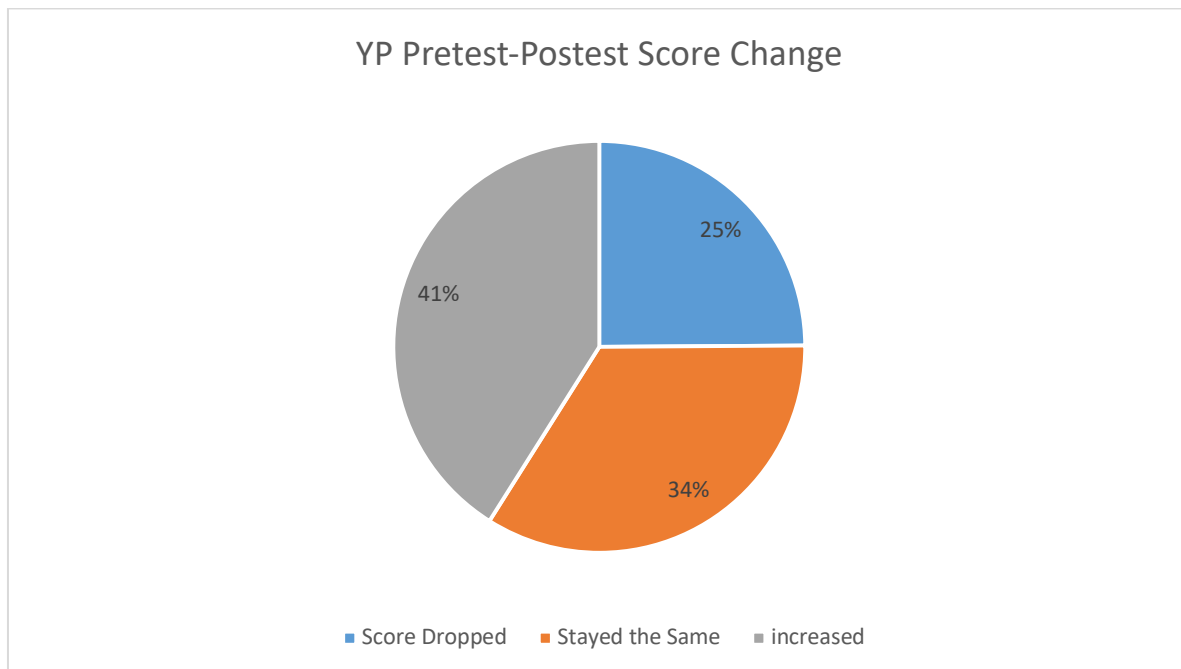
Students receiving education about ATOD

Although students across Texas and in Region 7 receive education about the dangers of alcohol and other drugs, complete data collection is still needed. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 much data about students receiving ATOD education from YP programs is incomplete. According to the Texas School Survey 65% of students in regions 7&8 received information on ATOD from any school-related source.



Life skills learned in YP Programs (pre and posttests)

The average student receiving education about ATOD in region 7 had an improved score by 0.42 suggesting a small increase in knowledge about the risks of ATOD.



ATOD Education Facilities

ATOD Education/Course Providers		
County	Course Type	Provider
Bastrop	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE OF TEXAS
	DWI Education Program	PLOWE SERVICES DWI FIRST TIME OFFENDER COURSE
	Drug Offender Education Program	BASTROP COUNTY CSCD
	DWI Education Program	PLOWE SERVICES DWI FIRST TIME OFFENDER COURSE
	DWI Education Program	BASTROP COUNTY CSCD
	DWI Intervention Program	BASTROP COUNTY CSCD
Bell	Drug Offender Education Program	A&A DRUG AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION
	Drug Offender Education Program	AFFORDABLE COURT CLASSES BY CANNON
	DWI Intervention Program	WEAVER COUNSELING & LIFE COACHING
	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	A&A TEEN ALCOHOL AWARENESS
	Drug Offender Education Program	WEAVER COUNSELING & LIFE COACHING
	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	A&A TEEN ALCOHOL AWARENESS
	DWI Intervention Program	A&A DRUG AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION
	DWI Intervention Program	A&A DRUG AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION
	DWI Intervention Program	ALCOHOL & DRUG EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
	DWI Education Program	ALCOHOL EDUCATORS OF TEXAS
	Drug Offender Education Program	ALCOHOL & DRUG EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
	DWI Education Program	ALCOHOL EDUCATORS OF TEXAS
	Drug Offender Education Program	A&A DRUG AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION
	DWI Education Program	AFFORDABLE COURT CLASSES BY CANNON
Brazos	DWI Education Program	NOBLES COUNSELING GROUP LLC
	DWI Education Program	TEXAS ALCOHOL & SAFETY EDUCATION AGENCY
	DWI Intervention Program	TASEA - TEXAS ALCOHOL AND SAFETY EDUCATION AGENCY
	DWI Intervention Program	BVCASA DWI INTERVENTION
	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	BRAZOS VALLEY COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE ABUSE
	Drug Offender Education Program	BRAZOS VALLEY ALCOHOL AND DRUG EDUCATION
	Drug Offender Education Program	BRAZOS VALLEY ALCOHOL AND DRUG EDUCATION
	Drug Offender Education Program	TASEA - TEXAS ALCOHOL AND SAFETY EDUCATION AGENCY
	DWI Intervention Program	HAMILTON UNIT IN-PRISON DWI INTERVENTION
	Drug Offender Education Program	TASEA - TEXAS ALCOHOL AND SAFETY EDUCATION AGENCY
	DWI Intervention Program	TASEA - TEXAS ALCOHOL AND SAFETY EDUCATION AGENCY
	Drug Offender Education Program	NOBLES COUNSELING GROUP LLC

	DWI Intervention Program	NOBLES COUNSELING GROUP LLC
	DWI Education Program	TEXAS ALCOHOL & SAFETY EDUCATION AGENCY
Brazos	DWI Education Program	BRAZOS VALLEY COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE (BVCASA)
Burleson	DWI Education Program	BASTROP COUNTY CSCD
	Drug Offender Education Program	BASTROP COUNTY CSCD
	DWI Intervention Program	BASTROP COUNTY CSCD
Burnet	Drug Offender Education Program	33RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT CSCD
	DWI Education Program	ALCOHOL TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
	DWI Intervention Program	HEART OF HOPE COUNSELING
	DWI Intervention Program	HEART OF HOPE COUNSELING
	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	HEART OF HOPE COUNSELING AND MEDIATION PLLC
Caldwell	DWI Intervention Program	MTC LOCKHART CORRECTIONAL FACILITY DWI PROGRAM
	DWI Education Program	CALDWELL COUNTY CSCD
	Drug Offender Education Program	CALDWELL COUNTY CSCD
	DWI Intervention Program	CALDWELL COUNTY CSCD
Coryell	DWI Education Program	NEW BEGINNINGS EDUCATION
	DWI Intervention Program	NEW BEGINNINGS EDUCATION
	Drug Offender Education Program	NEW BEGINNINGS EDUCATION
Falls	Drug Offender Education Program	FALLS COUNTY DRUG OFFENDER EDUCATION PROGRAM
Freestone	DWI Education Program	LIMESTONE COUNTY DWI EDUCATION PROGRAM
Grimes	Drug Offender Education Program	GRIMES COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES
Hamilton	Drug Offender Education Program	MOORE TO LIFE COUNSELING - BOBBY DALE MOORE
Hays	DWI Education Program	EDUCATION RESOURCE
	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	HAYS CALDWELL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE - AEPM COURSE
	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY AEPM
	DWI Intervention Program	SURRENDERING TODAY SERVICES
	Drug Offender Education Program	EDUCATION RESOURCE
	Drug Offender Education Program	CALDWELL COUNTY CSCD
	DWI Intervention Program	CALDWELL COUNTY CSCD
	Drug Offender Education Program	SURRENDERING TODAY SERVICES
	DWI Education Program	SURRENDERING TODAY SERVICES
	DWI Education Program	CALDWELL COUNTY CSCD
Hill	Drug Offender Education Program	HILL COUNTY CSCD
	DWI Intervention Program	SUBSTANCE ABUSE & DWI INTERVENTION PROGRAM (SADIP)
	DWI Education Program	66TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CSCD OF HILL COUNTY

Lee Lee	DWI Education Program	BASTROP COUNTY CSCD
	DWI Intervention Program	BASTROP COUNTY CSCD
	Drug Offender Education Program	BASTROP COUNTY CSCD
	DWI Education Program	BASTROP COUNTY CSCD
Limestone	DWI Education Program	LIMESTONE COUNTY DWI EDUCATION PROGRAM
	Drug Offender Education Program	LIMESTONE COUNTY DRUG OFFENDER EDUCATION PROGRAM
Llano	DWI Education Program	ALCOHOL TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
	Drug Offender Education Program	33RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT CSCD
	DWI Intervention Program	HEART OF HOPE COUNSELING
	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	HEART OF HOPE COUNSELING AND MEDIATION PLLC
McLennan	Drug Offender Education Program	MCLENNAN COUNTY DRUG OFFENDER EDUCATION PROGRAM
	DWI Education Program	MCLENNAN COUNTY CSCD
	DWI Education Program	ALCOHOL EDUCATION OF WACO
	Drug Offender Education Program	BAYLOR DRUG OFFENDER EDUCATION PROGRAM
	DWI Intervention Program	MCLENNAN COUNTY CSCD
	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	BAYLOR ALCOHOL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR MINORS
	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	ALCOHOL EDUCATION OF WACO
Milam	Drug Offender Education Program	MILAM COUNTY DOEP
	DWI Intervention Program	MILAM COUNTY DOEP
	DWI Education Program	MILAM COUNTY CSCD
Robertson	Drug Offender Education Program	FALLS COUNTY DRUG OFFENDER EDUCATION PROGRAM
Travis	Drug Offender Education Program	FAME PROGRAM
	DWI Intervention Program	EDUCATION RESOURCE
	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	ALCOHOL AND DRUG AWARENESS INSTITUTE
	DWI Intervention Program	TEXAS EDUCATION SERVICES/SERVICIOS EDUCATIVOS DE TEXAS LLC
	Drug Offender Education Program	ALCOHOL AND DRUG AWARENESS INSTITUTE
	DWI Education Program	ALCOHOL AND DRUG AWARENESS INSTITUTE
	DWI Education Program	ANOTHER CHANCE 4 CHANGE
	Drug Offender Education Program	ROSE COUNSELING CENTER
	DWI Education Program	FAME PROGRAM
	Drug Offender Education Program	TEXAS EDUCATION SERVICES / SERVICIOS EDUCATIVOS DE TEXAS LLC
	DWI Intervention Program	LOSS PREVENTION SYSTEMS (LPS)
	DWI Education Program	ROSE COUNSELING CENTER
	DWI Education Program	TRAVIS COUNTY COUNSELING AND EDUCATION SERVICES
	DWI Education Program	DRUGCLASS.ORG

Travis	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	TRAVIS COUNTY COUNSELING AND EDUCATION SERVICES
	Drug Offender Education Program	EDUCATION RESOURCE
	DWI Intervention Program	MANAGEMENT & TRAINING CORPORATION
	DWI Education Program	CHANGES COUNSELING SERVICES DWI EDUCATION PROGRAM
	DWI Education Program	EDUCATION RESOURCE
	Drug Offender Education Program	AUSTIN DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE PROGRAM
	Drug Offender Education Program	IMPACT EDUCATION CENTER
	DWI Education Program	PLOWE SERVICES DWI FIRST TIME OFFENDER COURSE
	DWI Intervention Program	AUSTIN DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE PROGRAM - DWI INTERVENTION PROGRAM
	DWI Education Program	IMPACT EDUCATION CENTER
	DWI Education Program	AMC INSTITUTE
	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	TRAVIS COUNTY COUNSELING AND EDUCATION SERVICES
	DWI Intervention Program	CHANGES COUNSELING SERVICES
	DWI Intervention Program	IMPACT EDUCATION CENTER
	DWI Intervention Program	TRAVIS COUNTY COUNSELING AND EDUCATION SERVICES
	DWI Education Program	TEXAS EDUCATION SERVICES / SERVICIOS EDUCATIVOS DE TEXAS LLC
	Drug Offender Education Program	DRUGCLASS.ORG
	DWI Intervention Program	CHANGING HOW I LIVE LIFE
	Drug Offender Education Program	TRAVIS COUNTY COUNSELING AND EDUCATION SERVICES
Washington	Drug Offender Education Program	BASTROP COUNTY CSCD
	DWI Intervention Program	BASTROP COUNTY CSCD
Williamson	Alcohol Education Program for Minors	LIFESTEPS
	DWI Intervention Program	AMDT DWI INTERVENTION PROGRAM
	Drug Offender Education Program	DRUG OFFENDER EDUCATION
	DWI Intervention Program	LIFESTEPS
	Drug Offender Education Program	LIFESTEPS
	DWI Intervention Program	ANOTHER CHANCE 4 CHANGE
	DWI Education Program	AMDT DWI EDUCATION PROGRAM
	DWI Education Program	LIFESTEPS

Region in Focus

Overview of Community Readiness

There are many indicators that suggest a lack of readiness in numerous areas that are required before meaningful progress can be made in reducing alcohol and substance abuse problems. These factors that must be addressed include student homelessness, low social association rates in several counties, a low number of students that would seek help if needed, high and unchanging drop-out rates, high rates of uninsured children and TANF/SNAP qualified students, and economic and social disruptions due to COVID-19. In many other areas the community appears to be ready to address ATOD issues in a more direct manner. The evidence of this readiness is the acceptance and demand for YP coalitions in schools, the small successes of YP programs in changing knowledge of ATOD issues, the high rates of use among students, and the admittance of low approval of parents and peers all suggest there is some readiness.

Gaps in Services

Notable gaps in services include:

- Lack of services in many rural counties
- Lack of insurance for children in most counties
- Economic and social disruptions due to COVID-19
- Lack of enforcement of existent laws

Gaps in Data

The gaps in data are unfortunately plentiful due to the difficult nature of gathering accurate information about ATOD use and associated data. Most importantly the following are missing from this report:

- Hospital & emergency room data
- Adult consumption rates
- Data on the impact of COVID-19 on relapse and consumption

Moving Forward

It is important to address many factors in the region including economic, housing, social associationship, medical data gaps, and lack of willingness to seek help, and lack of enforcement of existent laws, perception of marijuana as not harmful, evident demand for drugs. It is recommended that stakeholders, coalitions, and concerned individuals pursue:

- Development of economic improvements, such as bringing industry and economic opportunities to their local areas
- Increase affordable housing by improving competition in the market and showing demand for housing in their communities
- Attempt to coordinate with hospitals to gather substance use data in their area
- Encourage help-seeking behavior among students and adults alike for substance use and mental health concerns
- Improve perceptions of students to more accurately reflect the current understanding of marijuanas deleterious effects
- Increase caution among youth when it comes to vape products

- Encourage local governance to pursue the enforcement of existent laws
- Encourage local governance to create ordinances that benefit public health initiatives in their communities.
- Address the demand side of the equation that is leading to large amounts of drugs seized in the area

Conclusion

Primary substance abuse concerns based on the data in this report:

- Alcohol, marijuana, and vape product use among youth
 - Based on TSS, TCS, YRBSS, and Treatment data
- Alcohol, marijuana, and methamphetamine use among adults
 - Based on drug seizure and treatment data

Substance abuse perception & behavior concerns:

- Marijuana use acceptance and low perception of risk among students
- High risk alcohol use among college students
- Use of homemade vape products

Related concerns:

- Homelessness
- Data gaps
- Economic instability
- Low social association
- Suicide rates

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Glossary of Terms

30 Day Use	The percentage of people who have used a substance in the 30 days before they participated in the survey.
ATOD	Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.
Adolescent	An individual between the ages of 12 and 17 years.
BRFSS	Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System
DSHS	Department of State Health Services
Epidemiology	Epidemiology is concerned with the distribution and determinants of health and diseases, sickness, injuries, disabilities, and death in populations.
Evaluation	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.
Incidence	A measure of the risk for new substance abuse cases within the region.
PHR	Public Health Region
PRC	Prevention Resource Center
Prevalence	The proportion of the population within the region found to already have a certain substance abuse problem.
Protective Factor	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.
Risk Factor	Conditions, behaviors, or attributes in individuals, families, communities or the larger society that contribute to or increase the risk in families and communities.
SPF	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.
Substance Abuse	When alcohol or drug use adversely affects the health of the user or when the use of a substance imposes social and personal costs.

Abuse might be used to describe the behavior of a woman who has four glasses of wine one evening and wakes up the next day with a hangover.

Substance Misuse	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.
Substance Use	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.
SUD	Substance Use Disorder
TCS	Texas College Survey
TPII	Texas Prevention Impact Index
TSS	Texas Student Survey
VOICES	Volunteers Offering Involvement in Communities to Expand Services. Essentially, VOICES is a community coalition dedicated to create positive changes in attitudes, behaviors, and policies to prevent and reduce at-risk behavior in youth. They focus on changes in alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs.
YP	Youth Prevention
YRBSS	Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey