

May 31, 2004

Community Partners,

The reports provided in paper or CD ROM form to which this document is attached provide data profiles of the twelve (12) counties of the Coastal Bend Region. These counties include: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio. This letter provides a brief description of the reports or files, a description of the data collection methodology, and the bibliography of sources for the files.

This project was completed by contract between the Social Science Research Center, Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend Work-Force Development Board, Workforce 1. The project time period was from February 1, 2004 and May 31, 2004.

Under a general mission to provide data on demographic and labor market information to Workforce 1, the SSRC was to provide profile reports of the most current statistical data for each of the 12 counties. Through discussions with Workforce 1, it was decided that an EXCEL file of data indicators, a selection of PowerPoint slides, and a descriptive report would be produced for each county. These are provided on the CD.

In consultation with Workforce 1, a set of data indicators was selected for collection. Each of these indicators was collected for each of the 12 counties for which the indicator was available. The resulting data file contains 88 data indicators with 37 also converted to percentages or rates by either 1,000 or 100,000 population group. Each data file contains an additional 17 indicators for each school district found in the county and for which data were available. The full data set for a specific county is found in the EXCEL file within the county folder in the CD. A corresponding data set for State of Texas is also provided.

The most current data available for each indicator were collected. This has resulted in data being collected for the years 1999 through 2003 varying by indicator. The SSRC staff sought the most current printed report or web-site data file for each data indicator. These were primarily U. S. government or Texas State agency web-sites. Also, used were data from major non-profit organizations or professional associations. The primary source for population data was the U. S. Census Bureau. The primary source for the data for school districts was the Texas Education Agency's AEIS reports.

For some data indicators, where the original data file did not include a rate by population, the appropriate population group (i.e. children 16 and under or persons 65

and over) was used to produce a rate or proportion for use as comparison across counties or to the State.

Many of the data sets from which data were collected are public data that may be copied. The SSRC has created paper files for each county. For many indicators, the data file from which data were collected has been printed and placed in the county folders. This permits checking the data reported for accuracy without return to the original website. Also, these data files may contain other indicators not intended for collection during this project, but potentially useful in future efforts.

Each county folder includes a descriptive report with some analytical comments. The reports cover similar data indicators for each county, but do not discuss all indicators found in the data files. A brief discussion is found at the end of the reports that provides some summary and comparisons. The pattern of the reports and discussion for the reports is the same. It is hoped that this permits better comparison of the counties by the consumers of the reports. For each report, the description of the data indicators has been organized in to topics that include:

- Demographics
- Youth Crime
- Adult Crime
- Victimization
- Education
- Economic Deprivation
- Occupational Data
- Social Services
- Health Data, and
- Quality of Life.

The choice that a specific data indicator was placed into any one topic does not mean that it is unconnected to other topics. Additional data indicators for some topics are found in the data files.

Each county folder includes a set of 60 PowerPoint slides produced from a similar selection of data indicators. Where available, data for multiple years or comparison data for Texas were included on the slide. The source of the data on the slide, corresponding to entries in the bibliography are inserted on the bottom right of each slide.

The reports, EXCEL data files, and PowerPoint slide files are intended to be used. They were designed to provide easy access and use for planning, presentations, decision making, and grant writing by individuals, agencies, government units, and non-profit organizations in the Coastal Bend Region. The model for the files has been those prepared by the SSRC over the past several years for Youth Opportunities United (YOU) in Nueces County. Non-profits, government entities, and school districts have all used the YOU data files and analytical reports in strategic and program planning efforts. These files and the slide files have been effectively used by these organizations, the YOU

Grants Development Office, and the University in grant writing to obtain significant funding.

The three types of files offer profiles for each county that may be compared to other counties in the region, the region itself, or the State. This provides for the placement into comparative contexts of needs or problem statements for planning or grant writing. The set of data indicators was selected to provide a broad profile of each county that would serve these functions across a variety of issue/topic areas. Many of the data indicators were selected from those known, from the extensive research underpinning the YOU strategic planning process, to be related to major causal mechanisms for community problems. The data indicators will support multi-causal, multi-dimensional, or multi-disciplinary theoretical constructs required by government agencies and foundations within the structure of grant applications.

The SSRC is please to provide these reports and looks forward to improving the coverage of the data sets in terms of indicators and years. The SSRC appreciates the cooperation and support received from Oscar Martinez and his staff at Workforce 1. Special thanks go to Deborah Arnold and Jan Ayliffe for their consultation over the course of the project.

The staff of the SSRC may be reached at 361-825-3206 or I may be reached at 361-825-2637 if one has questions or needs assistance with these reports.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Rhoades, Ph.D.
Professor of Criminal Justice and Regents Professor
Director, Social Science Research Center

DATA SOURCES

America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2002.

Comptroller, Texas State. *City Mixed Beverage Comparison Summary (Quarterly)*. Austin, 2001-2002.

Health, Texas Department of. HIV/STD Epidemiology Division, Surveillance Branch

Human Services, Texas Department of. *Estimates of the Texas Poverty Population by County*. Austin, various years.

Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Texas Department of, Central Office Program Statistics and Planning. Austin, 2001.

Protective and Family Services, Texas Department of. *Annual Report 2003*. Austin, 2003.

WEB SITES

<http://stats.bls.gov/blshome.htm> Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/fastats/texas.htm>. Center for Disease Control.

<http://www.cfoc/statsdropping.html>. Campaign for Our Children.

<http://www.demographicsnow.com> Demographics Now

<http://www.dhs.state.tx.us>. Texas Department of Human Services.

<http://www.fedstats.gov>

<http://www.nahb.org> National Association of Homebuilders

<http://www.tcada.state.tx.us>. Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/> Texas Department of Health

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bvs/default.htm>. Bureau of Vital Statistics, Texas Department of Health.

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hivstd/stats/surv/default.htm> HIV/STD Epidemiology Division, Surveillance Branch, Texas Department of Health

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/> Texas Department of Public Safety

<http://www.tdprs.state.tx.us>. Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us>. Texas Education Agency.

<http://www.tjpc.state.tx.us>. Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.

<http://www.twc.state.tx.us>. Texas Workforce Commission.

<http://www.window.state.tx.us/>. Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

<http://www.tyc.state.tx.us/>. Texas Youth Commission.

<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/>.

<http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/staxqtr/stxqtr13.html>. State Sales and Use Tax Analysis Report.

<http://www.mhmr.state.tx.us/CentralOffice/ProgramStatisticsPlanning/Data.html>. Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Statistical Data.

<http://www.texasworkforce.org/lmi/lfs/lfshome.html>. Texas Labor Market Information.

<http://www.aecf.org>. Texas Kids Count.

<http://www.census.gov>. United States Census Bureau.