

ROSEWOOD CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS

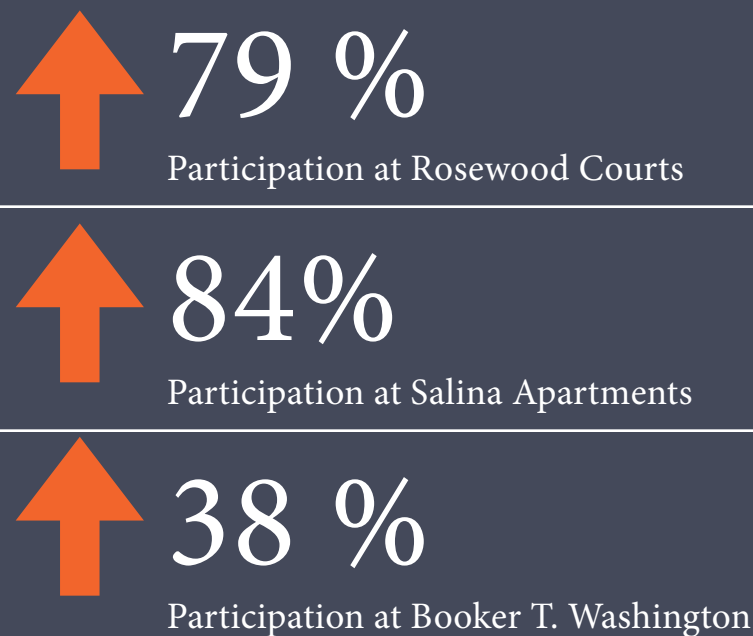
2013

Resident Needs Assessment



AUSTIN'S CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

As with many public housing authorities, the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) has encountered the challenges that occur with the operation of outdated public housing. With the goal of providing comprehensive improvements to one of its three oldest public housing properties, HACA applied for and was awarded a FY 2012 Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Planning Grant to strategize and plan for the revitalization of Rosewood Courts and to plan for and build upon current planned improvements to developmental, commercial, recreational, physical and social assets in the surrounding area. In March 2013, a needs assessment designed to engage the residents of HACA's three public housing properties in the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods planning area was conducted as part of the planning process; residents at Rosewood Courts and nearby Salina Apartments and Booker T. Washington Terraces participated in the needs assessment. The goal was to solicit resident input that would inform the planning process and to create benchmarks for ongoing measurement and service coordination per HUD grant requirements. The findings from the needs assessment survey are provided in this report.



Needs Assessment Methodology

HACA began its needs assessment process in February 2013, when it secured the support of Liza Getsinger, a graduate student at the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs, to assist with the design and development of the survey. Through her previous work at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC, Liza brought knowledge of survey development that helped HACA Choice Neighborhoods staff in selecting appropriate and useful questions that would meet both HUD's data requirements and would provide helpful data on the needs of residents. The final needs assessment

Washington residents and continued this process through early April.

In preparation for the needs assessment survey, flyers were posted on each resident's front door and in public areas at each of the three public housing properties. Door-knocking occurred on survey days to encourage residents to participate, and individuals and families with mobility issues had the option of having staff come to their unit to complete the survey. Residents were encouraged but not required to complete the survey. HACA Choice Neighborhoods

of data, as well as the resident's right to refuse participation or refuse to answer specific questions. English-speaking and Spanish-speaking HACA staff were provided training on how to conduct the survey prior to engaging with residents.

Concurrently, HACA was moving to a new web-based case management and service coordination software application – Designing Success' Tracking-At-A-Glance database. Data entry of the surveys into a specially designed module in the Tracking-At-A-Glance database was completed in May 2013. Challenges with initial database programming made extracting all necessary data difficult. HACA Choice Neighborhoods staff worked with Designing Success' staff to address this challenge and data analysis was completed in August 2013.

Door-knocking occurred on survey days to encourage residents to participate, and individuals and families with mobility issues had the option of having staff come to their unit.

survey consisted of 69 questions in the following categories: Household Information; Employment, Job Training and Education; Children and Youth; Health; Food Security; Transportation; Safety and Security; and Neighborhood Information. The survey also included two addendums applicable to disabled individuals and seniors, respectively, which focused on basic needs and supportive services. In March, HACA began surveying the Rosewood Courts, Salina and Booker T.

staff completed the majority of the surveys with residents by mid-April 2013, though outreach continued at Rosewood Courts through June 2013 to collect as many surveys as possible. As an incentive for residents to participate in the needs assessment survey, \$5 gift cards to H-E-B were offered to each household upon completion. Prior to the survey, residents were provided a comprehensive overview of their rights as a participant. This included an explanation of the confidentiality and de-identification

The number of needs assessment surveys completed is as follows:

- Rosewood Courts: **98 / 124 households, 79%.**
- Salina Apartments: **27 / 32 households, 84%.**
- Booker T. Washington Terraces: **83 / 216 households, 38%.**

Total: 208 / 372 households, 56%



With the HUD requirement that data be gathered on the highest-need individuals and families in the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods planning area, HACA Choice Neighborhoods staff also completed two focus groups with residents of three Project-Based Section 8 properties in the planning area. These properties included Marshall, Elm Ridge and Mt. Carmel Apartments. Qualitative information obtained through these focus groups is found at the end of the needs assessment survey report.



Findings

The findings from the needs assessment survey are based on responses from 208 of the 372 households in HACA's three public housing properties within the planning area, representing an overall response rate of 56%. Within the 208 households that responded, there are 549 household family members. For some of the categories and questions, information is broken down and provided for each of the participating properties, in addition to the cumulative information pertaining to survey respondents across all three properties. In other instances, cumulative data for all families at the participating properties is provided, not just families who participated in this survey. Notation is made when comprehensive property-based data is used.

According to HACA data as of October 1, 2013, the number of persons in each age range at the participating properties is as follows:

Salina Apartments	Rosewood Courts	Booker T. Washington Terraces
18-62 years old: 28	0-5 years old: 45	0-5 years old: 159
63+ years old: 4	6-17 years old: 77	6-17 years old: 367
Total Individuals: 32	18-30 years old: 49	18-30 years old: 117
Average Age: 54	31-62 years old: 77	31-62 years old: 148
*Senior / disabled designated property	63+ years old: 24	63+ years old: 12
	Total Individuals: 272	Total Individuals: 803
	Average Age: 27	Average Age: 18

RACE, ETHNICITY AND DISABILITY STATUS

As part of the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods Needs Assessment Survey, residents were asked to self-report their race, ethnicity and disability status. The following table shows the responses received at each property and cumulatively across all participating properties. Additional data on race, ethnicity and disability status, pulled from HACA's Emphasys Elite data system is provided in a separate table below.

Self-Reporting Data (Choice Neighborhoods Survey)

PROPERTY	ROSEWOOD	SALINA	BTW	TOTAL
RACE				
African-American/Black	37.8% (79/209)	51.9% (14/27)	28.8% (90/313)	33.3% (183/549)
American Indian / Alaska Native	1.4% (3/209)	3.7% (1/27)	0.9% (3/313)	1.3% (7/549)
Asian	0% (0/209)	0% (0/27)	0% (0/313)	0% (0/549)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0% (0/209)	0% (0/27)	0.6% (2/313)	0.4% (2/549)
Caucasian/White	15.3% (32/209)	22.2% (6/27)	12.8% (40/313)	14.2% (78/549)
Blank or Incorrect Value	45.5% (95/209)	22.2% (6/27)	56.9% (178/313)	50.8% (279/549)
ETHNICITY				
Hispanic	44.5% (93/209)	25.9% (7/27)	57.2% (179/313)	50.8% (279/549)
Non-Hispanic	18.7% (39/209)	29.6% (8/27)	3.2% (10/313)	10.4% (57/549)
Incorrect Value	0.5% (1/209)	14.8% (4/27)	0.31% (1/313)	1.1% (6/549)
DISABILITY STATUS				
Disabled	26.2%	100%	11.2%	21.0%
Not Disabled	73.8%	0%	88.8%	79.0%

HACA Data (Emphasys Elite)

PROPERTY	ROSEWOOD	SALINA	BTW	TOTAL
RACE*				
African-American/Black	39.2% (111/283)	50% (16/32)	29.7% (234/789)	32.7% (361/1104)
American Indian / Alaska Native	0% (0/283)	0% (0/32)	0.3% (2/789)	0.2% (2/1104)
Asian	1.8% (5/283)	0% (0/32)	1.4% (11/789)	1.4% (16/1104)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander				
Caucasian/White	9.5% (27/283)	15.6% (5/32)	5.2% (41/789)	6.6% (73/1104)
ETHNICITY				
Hispanic	49.5% (140/283)	34.4% (11/32)	66.5% (525/789)	61.2% (676/1104)
Non-Hispanic	50.5% (143/283)	65.6% (21/32)	33.5% (264/789)	38.8% (428/1104)
DISABILITY STATUS				
Disabled	25.7%	96.9%	11.1%	17.2%
Not Disabled	74.3%	3.1%	88.9%	82.8%

*For the Race category to equal 100% (283/283), Hispanic ethnicity must be included. See next page for further explanation.

When comparing the numbers gathered through survey self-report with the numbers provided by HACA's Emphasis Elite data system, the greatest difference in race reporting can be seen for Caucasian/White families. The Elite system numbers, which are based on demographics collected at a family's intake for housing, indicate far fewer Caucasian/White families than the data collected through the self-report survey. Additionally, HACA's Elite data system does not use Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander as a race category, while this category is used in the survey. Thus, the self-report survey indicates that 0.4% of the 208 survey respondents were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander while the Elite system does not classify these individuals as a separate race.

Another significant item of note is the difference in ethnicity reporting between

the self-report survey and the Elite system data. Non-Hispanic ethnicity is significantly underreported in the self-survey as compared to Elite system data, individually across all properties and cumulatively. While no assumptions can be made, it is possible that some households completing the self-report survey may have confused the categories of race and ethnicity, possibly accounting for the underrepresentation of non-Hispanic individuals and households in the survey results.

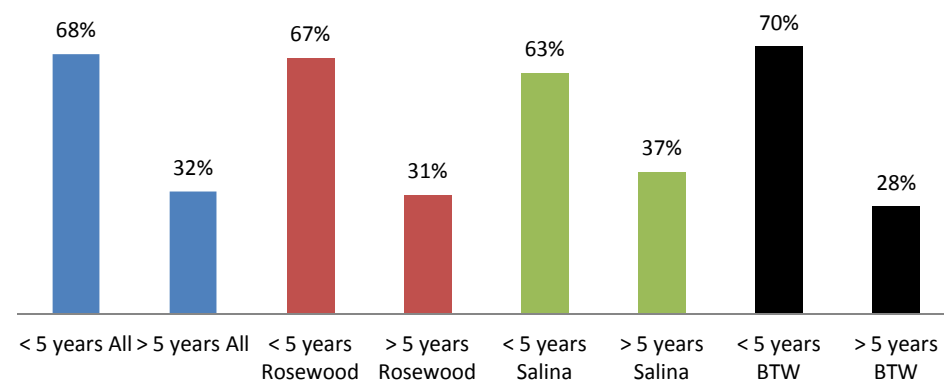
Because of ongoing confusion regarding the differences between race and ethnicity when collecting survey data, the U.S. Census Bureau is considering numerous changes to the 2020 Census including an effort to improve the responses of minorities and more accurately classify Latino, Asian, Middle Eastern and multiracial populations.

CURRENT PROPERTY

The graph to the right indicates the average length of time that survey respondents have been at their current property. As can be seen, 68% of residents have resided at their property for less than 5 years, while 32% have resided at their property for greater than 5 years. The graph also indicates residents' average length of stay at each of the individual participating properties. At Rosewood Courts, Salina Apartments and Booker T. Washington, 67%, 63% and 70% have resided at their property for less than 5 years respectively, while 31%, 37% and 28% have resided there for greater than 5 years. HACA's mission is to cultivate sustainable affordable housing communities and partnerships that inspire self-reliance, growth, and optimism. With the ideal and goal of supporting residents through programs and services that allow individuals and families to achieve economic and housing self-sufficiency, HACA is pleased to see that the majority of residents at these participating properties have resided at the property for less than five years.



Length of Time at Current Property



PREVIOUS LIVING SITUATION

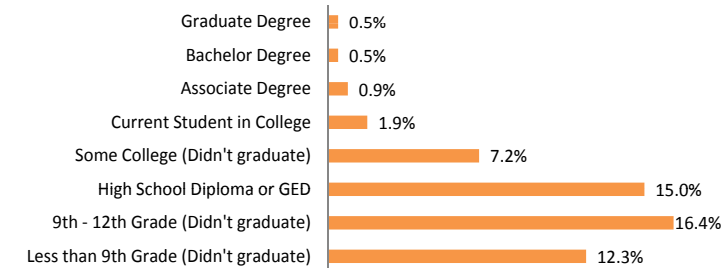
Survey respondents also revealed information regarding where they lived prior to moving to their current property. The data indicates that 39% of the residents at the three public housing properties in the Choice Neighborhoods planning area came from a previous living situation where they were living with family or friends. Twenty-seven percent indicated that they were living on their own as an individual or family in either public housing (20%), Section 8 housing (1%) or other subsidized housing (6%), and 23% indicated that they were living in rental housing in the private market. Finally, 2% indicated that they had owned a home prior to moving into one of the public housing properties, and 9% were in another type of living situation including homelessness, rehabilitation facility or transitional housing.

ADULT EDUCATION LEVELS

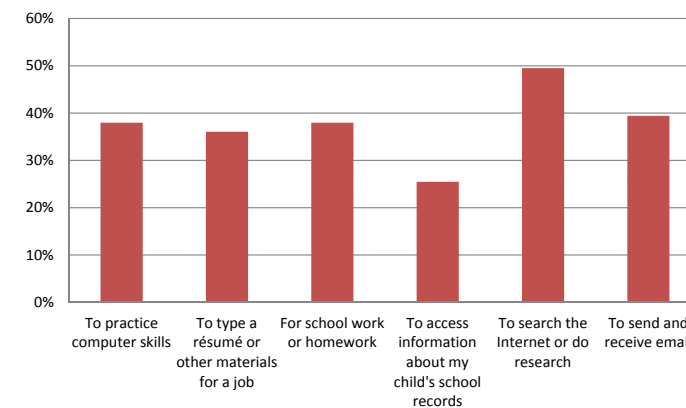
The following information on resident education levels excludes information on children and youth at the participating properties that are currently in Kindergarten through 12th grade, and references only the education level of adults living in the household. Additional information on youth and school enrollment is found later in this report.

The data indicates that on average 12.3% of adult survey respondents across all three properties have less than a 9th grade education, 16.4% have a 9th to 12th grade education but did not graduate from high school, and 15% have a high school diploma or GED. The numbers are significantly lower for those individuals that have enrolled in or completed higher education. Less than 2% of surveyed individuals have an Associate, Bachelor or Graduate degree, 7.2% have completed some college, and nearly 2% are currently enrolled in college classes or a degree program. The remaining 45.3% (not depicted) are school-aged children still enrolled in primary education.

Education Level



How Would You Use a Computer?



COMPUTER AND INTERNET ACCESS

In 2013, having access to a computer and appropriate training on its use is important. The outcome of a person's future with computer knowledge is different than a person's future without that knowledge. Not only is computer access and experience often a necessity for adults that want to progress in a career and reach higher levels of employment and earning potential, access for youth has also become critical. By the time today's youth reach high school and/or college they will be expected to complete a majority of their assignments on a computer, and many will go into workforce positions where knowledge of computers will be a requisite for satisfactory job performance.

According to this needs assessment, on average 39% of the households surveyed have a computer or iPad in their home while 58% do not; This 39% includes 38% of Rosewood Courts households, 25% of Salina and 45% of Booker T. Washington households, respectively. Of the 39% of respondents who have a computer or iPad at home, only 29% have access to the Internet in their individual unit. It should be noted that residents at all three HACA properties do have free access to a computer and internet through the Goodwill center at Rosewood Courts, the Booker T. Washington community room and Neighborhood Network, or through various other public service providers in the neighborhood including the DeWitty Job Training and Employment Center, Austin Free-Net and the Carver Library, all located within a few blocks of Rosewood Courts.

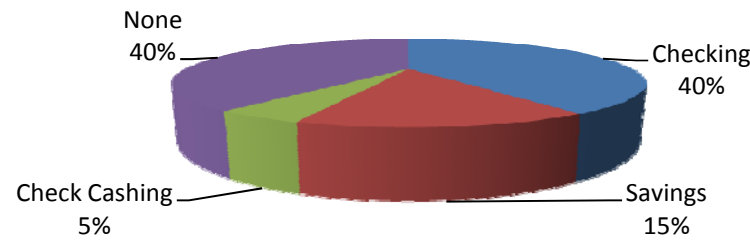
The survey also posed a question regarding how individuals and families use or would use the computer if they have or had access to one. Each respondent could choose more than one answer and their responses are shown in the graph below. Most survey respondents indicated that would use a computer to search the Internet or do research (50%).

Through a related question, eighty-nine percent of survey respondents indicated that they have a working cell phone in their household, while 9% do not. While many cellular phone providers offer data packages that provide Internet access through the phone, it cannot be assumed that survey respondents with cell phones have access to such services, particularly because the cost may be prohibitive in some cases. Even if respondents do have access to Internet service through their cellular provider, phones do not offer word processing applications and other applications that residents may need to complete résumés, type correspondence or engage in other activities that support self-sufficiency activities.

METHODS OF BANKING

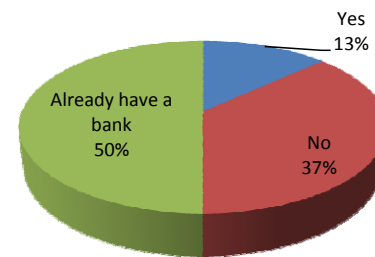
Survey respondents were asked about their methods of banking. Each household was asked if they used a checking or savings account, a check cashing service or a combination of these services. Respondents were given the option to check “None,” indicating that they did not use any of the specified banking services. The survey results indicate that on average 40% of the respondents utilizes a checking account, 15% have a savings account and 5% use a check cashing service. Forty percent did not use any of these services and primarily made purchases and payments with cash. Of those individuals that use a bank checking or savings account, 30% indicated there is a bank branch in their neighborhood that they utilize and 29% indicated that they must go outside of their neighborhood to a bank branch.

Current Methods of Banking



Overall, 50% of all survey respondents indicated that they already have a bank account. Of those that do not have a bank account, 13% indicated that they are interested in opening one, while 37% are not interested. This information is important to help connect interested residents to accessible banking and financial management services through initiatives such as Bank on Central Texas that provide bank accounts through various providers, financial education, debt management, savings calculators and other financial support services.

Interested in Banking



EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Through the process of administering the needs assessment survey, HACA found that the set-up of the employment questions was not as specific as we had hoped. This in turn impacted the ease with which the data collected for these questions was analyzed through Tracking-At-A-Glance. Because of the data challenges, HACA has provided employment information through two different sources for this report. Data is provided based on survey responses, as well as employment information that is collected through HACA’s Elite data system. Information provided through both of these means is shown in the table below. Elements indicated with * are from the Emphasys Elite software system.

Survey Data: Survey data show that on average 29% of working-age residents at the three properties in the Choice Neighborhoods planning area that responded to the survey have either part-time (13%) or full-time (16%) employment. Thirteen percent of the heads of household who responded chose not to answer questions related to employment or enrollment in education or training, and 58% of respondents indicated that they are either retired or unemployed.

When we take a deeper look at the survey data entered into Tracking-At-A-Glance, and extract data based on age and earned income, we can estimate that approximately 14% of the heads of household who responded to the survey are aged 62 or older (retired) and 69% of working-age (under age 62) heads of household are unemployed. It should be noted that Salina Apartments is one of HACA’s four senior/disabled designated public housing properties, thus most of the heads of household at this property are not working because of a permanent disability. Although there are average percentages given for the various categories of employment and education across all of the participating properties, each of the properties should also be considered individually, as the numbers for Salina’s population may skew the overall categorical percentages. If we consider only the employment data for Rosewood and Booker T. Washington, the average percentage of survey respondents who are: employed full-time is 17.7%; employed part-time is 14.9%; retired is 15%; and of working-age but unemployed is 66%.

EMPLOYMENT TYPE	ROSEWOOD	SALINA (Senior/Disabled property)	BTW	TOTAL	AVG. %
<i># Survey Respondents (Head of Household)</i>	98	27	83	208	N/A
Employed Full-Time	13%	7%	23%	34	16%
Employed Part-Time	9%	0%	22%	27	13%
Retired/Unemployed	60%	85%	46%	120	58%
Did not answer	18%	8%	10%	27	13%
EDUCATION TYPE					
Vocational / Trade School	2%	0%	0%	2	1%
Attending College	3%	0%	6%	8	4%
Other Education Program	4%	4%	5%	9	4.3%
Total # Residents at Property Under Age 63					
<i>Total # Residents at Property Under Age 63</i>	130	27	262	419	N/A
Head of Household Employed F/T or P/T at Some Point During Past Year*	29%	15%	63%	206	49%
Household Member (non-HOH) Employed*	5	0	26	31	7.4%

Survey data regarding enrollment in education and training programs indicates that very few adults at Rosewood, Salina and Booker T. Washington are participating in such programs. Data collected shows only 8.3% or 19 individuals across the participating properties enrolled in vocational/trade training, higher education/college or another education program. Two individuals are attending vocational or trade training, eight individuals are enrolled in college and nine individuals are enrolled in another education or training program. Of those that are enrolled in college 75% (6 of 8) are attending Austin Community College, whose Eastview campus is located in the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods planning area and zero are enrolled at Huston-Tillotson University – a renowned historically black university within the planning area and only two blocks from Rosewood Courts. HACA has reached out to and had discussions with Huston-Tillotson on a variety of different occasions, and has recently been discussions with a VISTA member who is working with Huston-Tillotson on its community engagement and collaboration efforts. HACA looks forward to continuing to strengthen its relationship with Huston-Tillotson to engage more residents in its programs and services.

As part of the needs assessment, HACA asked employed respondents to indicate the length of time that they had been at their current job. Of the 61 employed survey respondents, 49 (80%) answered this question. There were 12.5% of respondents that indicated that they had been at their job for less than one year, 4.3% for one to three years, 2% for three to five years, 2% for five to seven years and 3% for greater than seven years.

Forty-six of 61 employed survey respondents (75%) also indicated their employment industry or type of employment. Six percent are employed in the food industry, 5% in the health or medical field, 2% in retail/sales, 2% in the hospitality industry, 1.5% each in administrative/clerical and manufacturing services, 1% each in personal services and childcare and 0.5% in transportation. An additional 0.5% indicated that they were self-employed.

Emphasys Elite Data System: Employment and education data collected from HACA’s Emphasys Elite Software System differs from the data collected through the needs assessment survey. Elite system data indicates that 29%, 15% and 63% of eligible working-age residents at Rosewood, Salina and Booker T. Washington were employed at some point during the last year, respectively. This is compared with survey data that indicates that 22%, 7% and 45% of age-eligible individuals are employed. While these two different data sources are used for comparison purposes, it should be noted that direct comparison is not entirely equivalent. Needs assessment survey data was collected as a point-in-time count – meaning it was a snapshot of the respondent’s employment status at the time the survey was completed. In contrast, Elite system data identifies whether or not a respondent or other adult family member had gainful employment at any time during the past year through annual or interim income recertification. These differences must be acknowledged when considering the data.

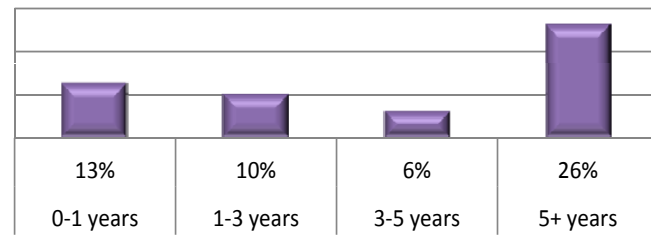
Nonetheless, the low level of employment at each of these properties, particularly at Rosewood Courts, must be examined and taken into consideration when planning for meaningful employment and education services at this property and in the surrounding neighborhood. The goal of HACA’s public housing program, and most other subsidized housing programs, is to serve as a stepping stone toward economic independence, self-sufficiency and stability. Employment and education data collected through the needs assessment survey and HACA’s database must inform the supportive services offered to HACA residents and the workforce development programs and projects that are developed as part of the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods Initiative.

EMPLOYMENT

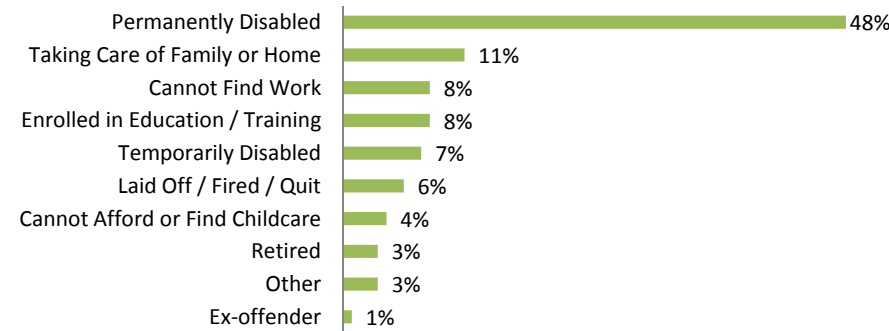
HACA asked respondents who were unemployed at the time of the survey to indicate the length of time that they had been unemployed.

Forty-six percent (95 of 208) of respondents chose not to answer this question, while 54% (113 of 208) selected a category. Of the 113 respondents that answered the question 12.5 % indicated that they had been unemployed for one year or less, 10% for one to three years, 6% for three to five years and 26% for greater than five years. It must be noted that the length of unemployment does not take into account those respondents that reached retirement age during the time period that they designated.

Length of Time Since Last Employed



REASONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT



Additionally, HACA sought information from survey respondents as to the primary reason for unemployment. Forty-one percent (86 of 208) of respondents chose not to answer this question, while 59% (122 of 208) selected a category. Of the 122 respondents that answered the question 48% indicated that they are permanently disabled and unable to work, 11% are taking care of family or home, 8% cannot find work, 8% are enrolled in education or training, 7% are temporarily disabled and unable to work and 4% cannot afford or cannot find child care. An additional 6% each indicated that they had been laid off, fired or quit, and 1% indicated that being an ex-offender impacted their ability to obtain employment. Finally, 3% indicated other reasons for being unemployed.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

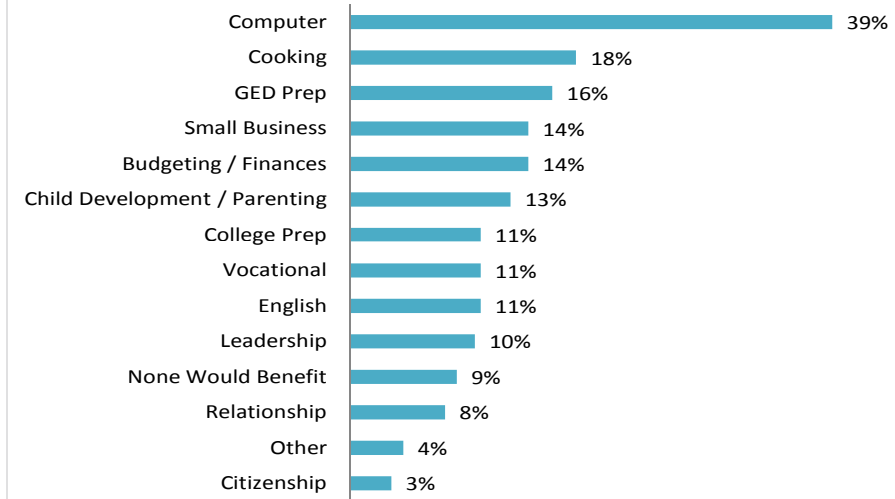
While HACA currently offers a variety of skill development and training services at its 18 public housing properties across Austin, cost precludes all training and skill development services from being offered at each property or in each area of the city. Services offered for adults at HACA properties include, but are not limited to: adult basic education; English as a Second Language (ESL) classes; GED preparation and classes; workplace competency and job readiness training; skill assessment; job search, job preparation and job placement services; computer and customer service training; job training – HVAC, LVN, Construction; small business development; financial literacy; life skills; parenting classes; and service coordination and referral for residents.

At Rosewood and Booker T. Washington, these respective services are offered:

At Rosewood Courts, Goodwill maintains a Job Source office onsite; services offered include job readiness training; skill assessment; job search, job preparation and job placement services; computer and customer service training; life skill classes; and individual case management. At Booker T. Washington, Austin Community College provides GED preparation classes; Skillpoint Alliance provides a Certified Nursing Assistant program and is preparing to provide HVAC and Construction certifications; and Christian Women’s Job Corps provides community-building and mentoring. Parenting classes and financial literacy classes are provided on a rotating basis throughout the year at HACA properties, including both Rosewood and Booker T. Washington.

Needs assessment survey respondents indicated an interest in and potential benefit from the types of training shown in the chart below. Foremost, respondents revealed a strong desire to learn how to use a computer, with 39% (81 of 208) of respondents selecting this category. Twenty-four percent of survey respondents (49 of 208) did not indicate interest in any of the categories of training provided.

Which skill development course would benefit you most?



As previously noted, free computer access is offered through the Goodwill center at Rosewood Courts, the Booker T. Washington community room and Neighborhood Network, and through the DeWitty Job Training and Employment Center, Austin Free-Net and the Carver Library – with Goodwill and Austin Free-Net offering computer training. Nonetheless, it stands to reason that the provision and design of these services must be examined to see how they might better meet the needs of HACA and community residents.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

While the words of Nelson Mandela were spoken primarily with regard to the education of young adults, a far greater tool for success is early childhood education. Studies have shown that a child’s earliest years of development are the most critical, as the most significant brain development occur between birth and age three. Since children are most receptive to information at a young age, early learning and early childhood education is very important in promoting positive intellectual, social and physical development.

There are 207 children under the age of five who reside at Rosewood Courts and Booker T. Washington. Of the 208 survey respondents, 120 have children under 18 and only 26% (31 of 120) had a child(ren) enrolled in an early childhood education program such as Early Head Start, Head Start, a state-funded preschool, local preschool or other pre-K program. This 26% was comprised of 11 Rosewood Courts families and 20 families from Booker T. Washington.

Because of the significant need for both early childhood education and adult education, HACA is interested in looking at models to provide intergenerational education opportunities in the neighborhood through the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

-Nelson Mandela



SCHOOL QUALITY

Education is a major driving force for human development. It provides students with critical-thinking and problem-solving skills and empowers them with the knowledge, skills and values they need to establish a foundation to thrive and build a better life and a better world.

Of the residents at the three participating properties in the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods planning area, 45% indicated that they were very happy with the quality of their child(ren)'s school(s). An additional 29% indicated that they were somewhat happy. Twelve percent and 6% indicated that they were somewhat unhappy and very unhappy with the quality of their child(ren)'s school(s), respectively. Eight percent of respondents indicated that they did not know how they felt about the quality of their child(ren)'s school(s).

According to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the feeder schools within the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods planning area have the following ratings. The table below indicates which feeder schools are associated with each property and the rating assigned by TEA. Please note that between 2011 and 2013 TEA changed how it assigned its performance ratings. Both 2013 and 2011 ratings are provided, as ratings were not assigned in 2012. Additional information explaining TEA Performance Ratings can be found at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2013/faq.html>.

It is important to note that in the Austin Independent School District (AISD) parents have the option to send their children to the local neighborhood school, another school in the district (called intra-district choice) or to an academic magnet school. The magnet schools each have specific admission requirements that must be met for enrollment. Through TEA's Public Education Grant Program, students who are enrolled in schools that have been rated as low performing by TEA in any of the last three years, or in which more than half of the students failed the TAAS/TAKS (now STAAR) for two of any three consecutive years, may transfer to another school or another district of their choice. Under the federal No Child Left Behind law, students attending a Title I school designated as "in need of improvement" have the right to attend a higher-performing school in the district.

AISD prioritizes its transfers as priority and non-priority transfers. Priority transfers include the scenarios listed above as well as sibling transfers, tracking transfers (when a child goes to a non-neighborhood school and as transitioning to from elementary to middle or middle to high and requests to stay with peer group), and majority-to-minority transfers. AISD non-priority transfers include curriculum transfers when a student's desired program of study is not offered at the student's school of residence, and general transfers when a child does not qualify for another type of transfer. General transfers are given the lowest priority. Finally, it is important to note that transfers to Kealing Middle School, the feeder middle school for the planning area, were frozen for the 2013 - 2014 school year. This was done either to ensure that enrollment didn't exceed capacity or to maintain school tracking patterns. Additionally, the balance of ethnic groups at Kealing Middle School has changed from no ethnic majority or minority to predominantly American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and White.

HACA has also made a best effort to examine the number of HACA youth from Rosewood Courts and Booker T. Washington that should attend their neighborhood school(s) versus those that actually do attend those schools. This is based on the most recent data regarding the families residing at the Rosewood Court and Booker T. Washington properties. Information is provided in the table to the right.

Blackshear Elementary School is rated as a "Recognized" School by TEA. It is one of the top seven schools in AISD for student performance on STAAR standardized exams and has three times the state average score for pre-kinder language development.

PROPERTY	GRADE LEVEL	NAME OF SCHOOL	2013 TEA PERFORMANCE RATING	2011 TEA ACADEMIC ACCEPTABILITY RATINGS	TOTAL ENROLLMENT
Rosewood Courts	Elementary School	Blackshear	95	Recognized	226
	Middle School	Kealing	88	Academically Acceptable	1,156
	High School	Eastside Memorial	56	Green Tech: Academically Acceptable Global Tech: Academically Unacceptable	540
Booker T. Washington	Elementary School	Oak Springs	76	Academically Acceptable	262
	Middle School	Kealing	88	Academically Acceptable	1,156
	High School	Eastside Memorial	56	Green Tech: Academically Acceptable Global Tech: Academically Unacceptable	540
Salina Apartments	N/A - No children	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PROPERTY	GRADE LEVEL	SCHOOL NAME	# OF HACA YOUTH THAT SHOULD ATTEND	# OF HACA YOUTH THAT DO ATTEND	TOTAL ENROLLMENT
Rosewood Courts	Elementary School	Blackshear	60	60	100%
	Middle School	Kealing	22	16	73%
	High School	Eastside Memorial	20	18	90%
Booker T. Washington	Elementary School	Oak Springs	242	232	96%
	Middle School	Kealing	90	70	78%
	High School	Eastside Memorial	114	72	63%

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Of the 120 survey respondents with children, 32% (38 of 120) indicated that one or more of their children receive special education services at school. Sixty one percent indicated that their children do not receive such services, and 7% made no selection. Of those respondents that had children receiving special education services in school, 60% (23 of 38) had a child with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for special education completed. Some students needing special education services may not attend their neighborhood school because the specific services they need are not offered there.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Decades of research show that when parents are involved students have: higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates; better school attendance; increased motivation; better self-esteem; lower rates of suspension; decreased use of drugs and alcohol; and fewer instances of violent behavior. Research has also shown that family participation in education is twice as predictive of students' academic success as family socioeconomic status. The more parents participate in schooling at every level - in advocacy, decision-making and oversight, and as volunteers and paraprofessionals - the better for student achievement. Unfortunately, lack of parent involvement is one of the biggest problems that continue to face public schools.

HACA posed a question in its needs assessment survey regarding whether or not parents of school-aged children participate in their child(ren)'s Parent Teacher Organization. Of the 120 respondents with children, 31% indicated that they participate in child(ren)'s Parent Teacher Organization, while 59% indicated that they do not. Ten percent chose not to answer this question. The response to this question indicates that both HACA staff and neighborhood school staff should encourage greater participation among residents in the neighborhood schools' parent-teacher organizations.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND CRIME

Young people who do not earn a high school diploma face many more problems later in life than people who graduate. Dropouts are more likely to be unemployed or underemployed, have poor health, live in poverty, receive public assistance and be single parents. "Dropping out" means leaving school without a high school diploma or equivalent credential, such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate.

National data show that students from low-income families are 2.4 times more likely to drop out of school than are children from middle-income families, and 10.5 times more likely than students from high-income families. Students with disabilities are also more likely to drop out - with as many as 35% of disabled youth dropping out of school before completion. Hispanics and African Americans are at greater risk of dropping out than whites, and Hispanics are twice as likely as African Americans to drop out. National research also indicates that academic factors are related to dropping out - students who receive poor grades, who are held back or repeat a grade, or who are over-age for their class are more likely to drop out. Absenteeism and poor attendance for non-illness related reasons is also a predictive factor.

According to HACA's public housing database, there are 134 high-school aged youth at Rosewood Courts and Booker T. Washington. Of the 120 survey respondents with children from these properties, five indicated that they had a child that had dropped out of school (4%). While 96% did not have a child that dropped out of school, 10% worried about their child dropping out.

Parents were also asked about whether any of their children, not just those of high school age, had ever been in trouble with the police. Of the 120 survey respondents with children, 93% (112 of 120) indicated that their child(ren) had never been in trouble with the police, 4% indicated that their child had been in trouble one time (5 of 120) and 2% indicated that their child had been in trouble 4 or more times (2 of 120). 1% percent chose not to answer this question.

YOUTH ENRICHMENT

Enrichment activities are a vital component in building the self-esteem of youth and dissuading youth from participating in negative or risky activities and engaging in crime. Youth enrichment programs, in many different forms, provide: physical and emotional safety for youth; supportive relationships and social connections; exposure to cultural and educational opportunities; and assistance in recognizing self-worth and positive attributes.

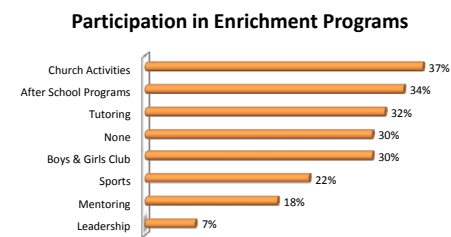
HACA's Youth Educational Success (YES) Program exists to keep kids in school and to support citywide programs for youth during school hours, after-school and in the summer. Youth success is vital in the effort to break the poverty cycle, as over half of the HACA population is under the age of 18.

Working with the community, HACA sponsors after-school tutoring programs on-site at HACA communities, in-school case management services for students, incentive programs and a higher education scholarship program. Additionally, HACA's YES Program coordinates with local providers of quality after-school non-scholastic programs to ensure public housing youth are engaged in healthy, safe and meaningful activities outside of school hours.

Of the 120 respondents with children, 35% (42 of 120) indicated that their child(ren) are engaged in some form of youth enrichment programming whether or not the program was provided by HACA. The chart above indicates the various youth enrichment programs that respondents' children are engaged in, with church activities being the most widely attended type of youth activity.

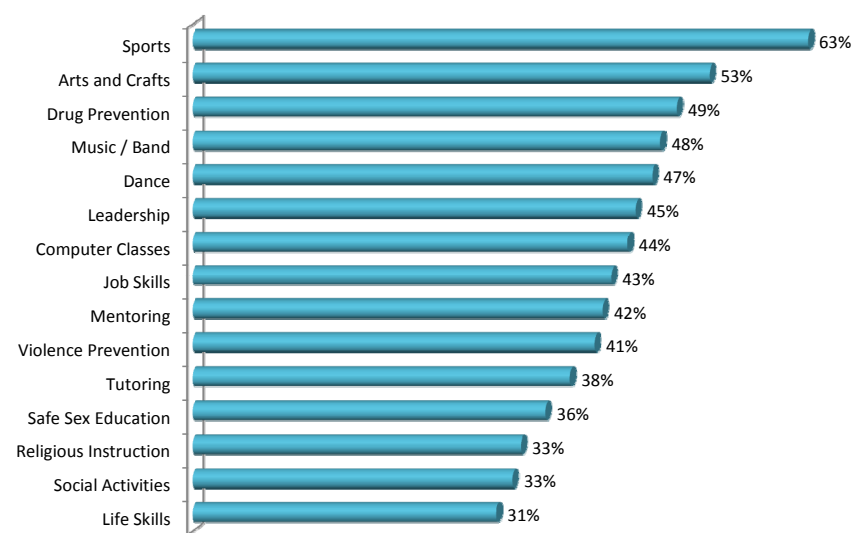
The current Youth Educational Success (YES) and youth enrichment programs offered by HACA both on property and off-site through partnerships include: CIS SmartKids in-school case management;

CIS SmartKids after school tutoring and enrichment; Boys and Girls Clubs; Boy Scouts; Girl Scouts; M.A.T.H tutoring; Crosse Pointe Church Tutoring; and Phoenix House services for young men. Currently, the only aforementioned services that are offered at Rosewood Courts is Girl Scouts one time per week. The services at Booker T. Washington include Girl Scouts, CIS SmartKids in-school case management and after school tutoring and M.A.T.H tutoring. While many youth enrichment and academic



success programs are offered through both HACA and other service providers in the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods planning area, there are a number of other activities that parents would like to see in their neighborhood for children and youth. These activities are represented in the chart below. The most frequently noted activities were sports and recreation activities (63%) and arts and crafts (53%) activities for youth.

Which Programs Would You Like to See for the Children?



Fifty-seven percent (118 of 208) respondents indicated that they would like to see additional youth programs such as those noted above, offered in the planning area – whether after school, in the summer or on the weekend.

CHILDCARE

Similar to early childhood education, high-quality childcare can provide a supportive environment for young children to learn and grow. Equally as important is the ability it provides parents to be able to work and move toward self-sufficiency. Of the 208 respondents to the survey, 8% indicated that they have childcare for their child(ren) (17 of 208), 21% indicated that they do not have childcare and they need it (44 of 208) and 27% indicated that they do not have childcare and do not need it. The types of childcare identified in this question include center-based childcare, home-based childcare and childcare provided by family or friends. While not collected directly through this survey, anecdotal and qualitative evidence collected through regular interaction with residents indicates that many residents with children rely on family and/or friends to provide childcare because of the lack of access to affordable center-based and home-based childcare and the location of the services that they can afford or meet qualifications.

HEALTH

HACA asked a number of questions related to household and family member's health – including health status, insurance coverage, dental care, routine medical care, medical conditions, smoking, pregnancy and physical activity.

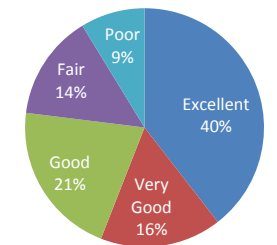
When asked about health insurance and dental care, families reported the following:

- 68% have insurance for themselves, 31% do not
- 98% have insurance for their children, 2% do not
- 33% have access to dental care for themselves, 65% do not
- 94% have access to dental care for their children, 6% do not

Respondents indicated that they have the following types of insurance:

Type of Insurance	All Respondents
Medicare (senior and/or disabled)	50%
Medicaid (low-income)	31%
State Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	14%
Private/Self-Pay Insurance	11%
Employer-based Insurance	3%
No Insurance	10%

Current State of Health



*Please note that these percentages add up to more than 100%; this is due to the fact that members of the same family may have different types of insurance – for example children may have CHIP and parents may have Medicaid.

The survey also asked where individuals and families go for routine medical care. The results were as follows:

Facility	All Respondents	Rosewood Courts Respondents
Doctor's Office – Primary Care Provider	43.3%	41.9%
Community Health Center/Clinic	29.3%	34.7%
Hospital - Emergency Room	10.6%	8.2%
Hospital – Outpatient Clinic	5.3%	6.1%
Public Health Department	1.0%	1.0%
None / No Routine Care	10.5%	8.1%

Respondents were asked to identify if someone in their household suffers from a medical condition and if they were receiving treatment. The table below indicates the percentage of the 208 respondents that indicated that either they or a family member suffers from one or more of the following conditions. The last column shows those that are not receiving appropriate treatment for their medical condition.

Condition	% of Households with a member with noted Condition	% of Households with Condition And NOT Receiving Treatment
Asthma	13.7%	20.0%
Type 1 Diabetes	03.5%	42.1%
Type 2 Diabetes	03.8%	19.0%
High Blood Pressure	12.6%	17.4%
Mental Health / Depression	11.8%	21.5%
Heart Disease	02.2%	08.3%
Arthritis	08.0%	36.4%
Weight Problem	07.3%	67.5%

PREGNANCY

Ninety-Four percent (196 of 208) of survey respondents indicated that there were no members of their household that are currently pregnant. Four percent (8 of 208) indicated that they have a pregnant family member and that she was receiving prenatal care, and one respondent indicated that they had a pregnant family member and that she was not receiving prenatal care.

SMOKING

The annual cost savings from eliminating smoking in all U.S. public housing, according to a new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is estimated to be about \$154 million a year. This includes \$101 million from health care costs related to secondhand smoke exposure, \$32 million from renovation expenses and \$21 million from smoking-attributable fire losses. Many of the more than 7 million Americans living in subsidized housing in the United States are children, elderly or disabled, and are the most sensitive to being exposed to secondhand smoke. The recent CDC report shows that there are substantial financial benefits to implementing smoke-free policies, in addition to the health benefits such policies bring. Studies have shown that people who live in multifamily housing can be particularly affected by unwanted secondhand smoke exposure, and that most people who live in subsidized housing favor smoke-free policies.

In 2012, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Lung Association and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, began providing Smoke-Free Housing Toolkits. The toolkits are a compilation of existing educational, “how-to” and resource brochures, pamphlets and other information designed to assist owners/management agents and residents of public and assisted multi-family housing who want safer and healthier homes. The contents of the two Toolkits differ based on the intended audience, but both contain information on health effects of smoking, a synopsis of the Surgeon General’s 2006 report of the harmful effects associated with exposure to secondhand smoke, Frequently Asked Questions, the HUD smoke-free housing Notices from the Offices of Public and Indian Housing and Multifamily Housing, a list of some Public Housing Authorities that have smoke-free policies and a list of resources.

HUD continues to issue guidance to PHA’s who are interested in going smoke-free. PHA’s who intend to institute smoke-free policies should ensure that there is consistent application among all projects and buildings in their housing inventory in which smoke-free policies are being implemented. Of the 208 needs assessment survey respondents, 29% (60 of 208) indicated that someone in their household is a smoker, 69% (143 of 208) indicated that they have no smokers in their household, and 2% (5 of 208) did not answer this question.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND EXERCISE

Of the 208 needs assessment survey respondents, which included a total of 549 family members, 29% of respondents indicated that they, their children and other household adults got more than 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Nineteen and twenty-four percent of participants indicated that they get approximately 60 minutes and 30 minutes of physical activity per day, respectively. Finally, 14% of survey respondents indicated that they get 15 minutes or less of physical activity per day.

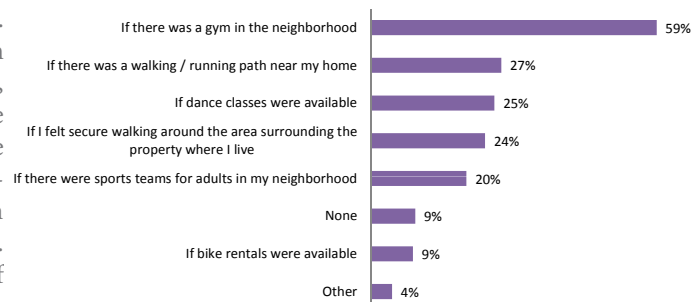
Survey respondents also provided information on what would make them more likely to exercise. Respondents were able to choose more than one selection. The following chart indicates the survey responses. This information is valuable in helping HACA to determine additional health programming that it is important to bring on-site.

Low-income families, especially women, have fewer options when it comes to making health a priority. Time, expense, transportation and childcare are barriers that often make gyms and other fitness programs prohibitive. Although HACA has offered some sports and fitness opportunities to youth through afterschool and summer programs, fitness and wellness programming has not been consistently offered to adult residents. Adult health programming is an important next step in building HACA’s resident programs.

HACA’s low income, primarily Hispanic and African American population suffers from disproportionate occurrences of obesity-related but preventable illnesses like hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Hispanic and African Americans are more likely to be obese and suffer from obesity-related diseases than non-Hispanic whites. The highest rates of obesity occur among

population groups with the highest rates of poverty and least education, and living in poverty is associated with lower fruit and vegetable consumption and a lower quality diet. The top risk factors associated with diabetes and cardiovascular disease are high blood pressure, high cholesterol and obesity, all of which are directly related to poor nutrition and exercise. With HACA’s racial and ethnic makeup, the fact that all public housing residents are living in poverty, 46% of residents lack a high school diploma or GED, and a high percentage of resident self-reported ailments associated with weight, nutrition and stress, it stands that physical activity programming can have a positive impact on residents.

What would make you more likely to exercise?



FOOD SECURITY

The HACA Choice Neighborhoods needs assessment survey looked at the food security of families at the three participating properties in the planning area. The first question that was posed to survey respondents was where they go food shopping for their household. As represented in the chart below, an overwhelming majority responded that they shop at a local grocery store, such as HEB or Fiesta. This number should not be surprising because there are no large retail stores in the neighborhood, such as a Wal-Mart or Target.

How respondents pay for groceries was reported as follows: 80% use SNAP (Food Stamps) and 45% use cash. In most cases, respondents use both cash and SNAP. Only 6% use some other form of payment or means to get groceries for their family.

Where residents shop is important to note because getting to the grocery store is a challenge. Whether out of necessity or by

choice, travel by bus is the most utilized form of transportation for HACA’s public housing families. All three public housing properties are located on main artery roads into and out of downtown Austin. Thus, bus stops are situated on streets bordering all three properties. With regard to Rosewood Courts, bus stations are situated on both sides of Rosewood Avenue as well as along Chicon Street. While Capital Metro buses frequent the stops adjacent to Rosewood Courts residents, they do not provide direct, transfer-free service to local grocery stores. Residents of Rosewood Courts have expressed their feelings regarding this to Capital Metro and HACA staff.

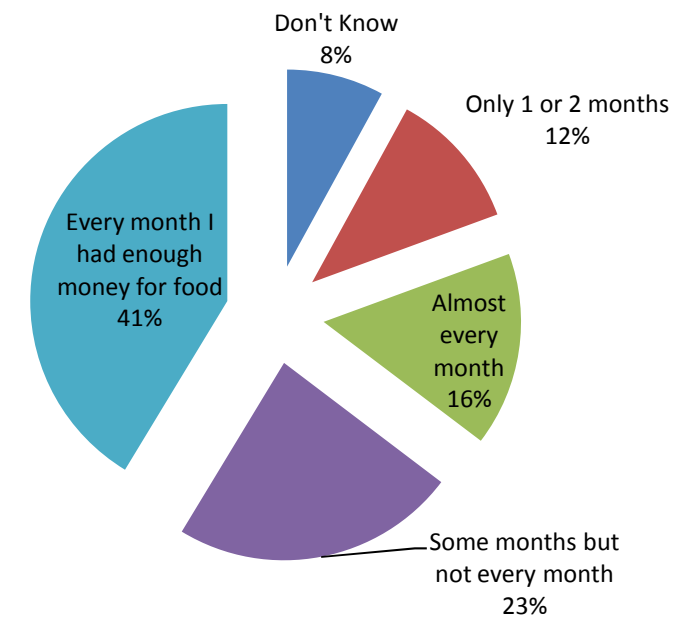
Further investigation into the ridership numbers that could necessitate a more direct, transfer-free route to the closest grocery stores is ongoing. Specifically, HACA is working with Capital Metro to determine if a shuttle to the grocery store for Rosewood Courts residents is feasible. The most recent development though a partnership with Capital Metro has been a presentation to residents on direct bus routes to other local grocery stores outside of the planning area (i.e. new Mueller HEB, Fiesta, Riverside HEB, Hancock HEB) and the associated travel times. These options

were presented as alternatives to the multi-bus, 30+ minute route to the closest HEB store at 7th and Pleasant Valley.

As it relates to both health and food security, HACA asked the question of how many nights per week the household typically cooks dinner at home. At 49%, nearly half of the households surveyed cooked dinner at home every night of the week. Seventeen percent cook at home five to six nights and 20% cook at home three to four nights per week. Only 3% percent of households indicated that they never cook at home.

What is of utmost importance is the number of families that have not had enough money for food in the last 12 months. Of the 208 survey respondents, 40% indicated that they had enough money for food every month. However, 11% indicated that there were one or two months where they did not have enough money for food for themselves and/or family. Twenty-three percent indicated that there were some months that they did not have enough money for food, and 15% indicated that they did not have enough money for food for themselves or their family most months.

How often did you not have enough money for food?

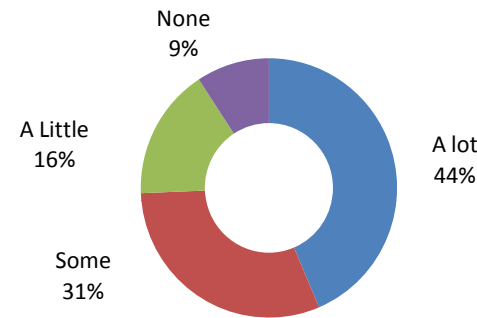


PUBLIC SAFETY

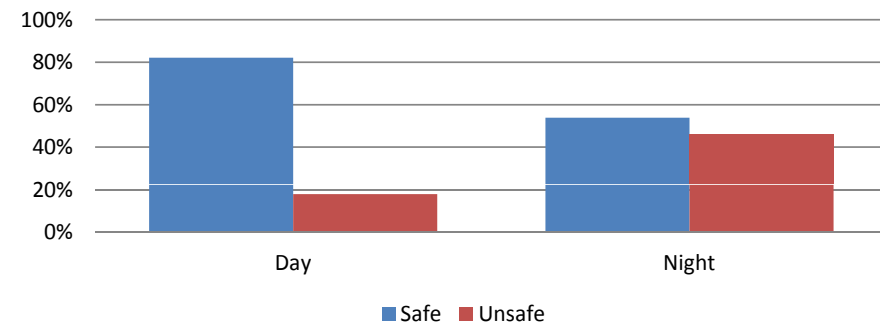
Safety and security concerns are a fact of life for all citizens. These concerns are reflected in this needs assessment. According to the chart below, HACA's area public housing families have mixed feelings of trust towards the Austin Police Department.

The extent to which families do or do not feel safe in their neighborhood was also examined in this assessment. As illustrated below, many people feel safe in the neighborhood and planning area during the daytime, yet that feeling of safety begins to flip when asked about feelings of safety at nighttime. Approximately one third of respondents who felt safe during the day feel unsafe at night. Overall the respondents feel the neighborhood is safe with a shift in feelings of safety during the daytime versus the nighttime.

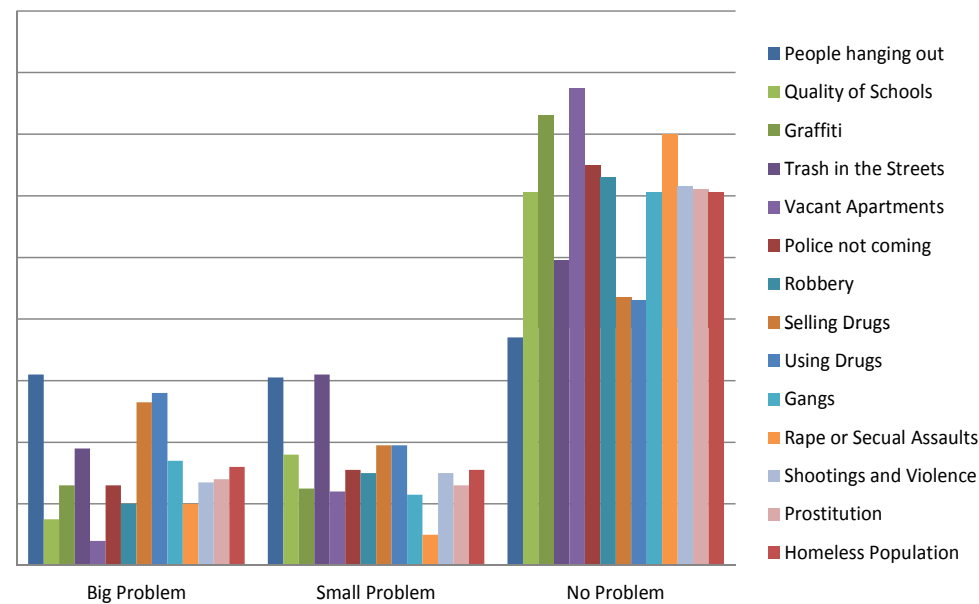
Trust in Austin Police



Do you feel safe?



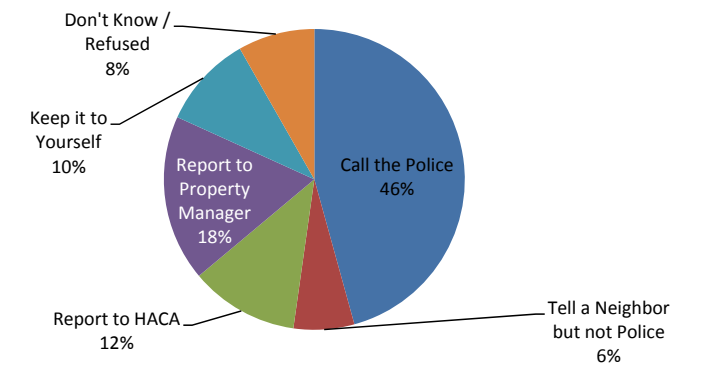
Needs assessment survey respondents were also presented various neighborhood conditions or issues and were asked if they thought that each was a big problem, small problem, or no problem from their perspective. The results of the survey are indicated in the graph to the right.



A couple of items of note can be gleaned from the chart on the previous page. First, about half of the survey respondents expressed that they did not perceive that the 14 issues presented posed a problem for their family or their neighborhood. Second, of those issues that residents identified as problematic, the greatest number of respondents saw people hanging out, and drug sales and use as the greatest problems that the neighborhood faces. This data should not be construed to mean that the survey respondents do not feel these issues exist but merely that they do not pose a problem in their view.

HACA also posed the questions to residents about what they do when they see crime. As the chart to the right indicates, the large majority (46%) reports it to the police, while 18% report it to the property manager. To combat against any form of retaliation, residents have the option of anonymously reporting crime on property to the property manager.

When You See Crime in Your Neighborhood, What Do You Do?



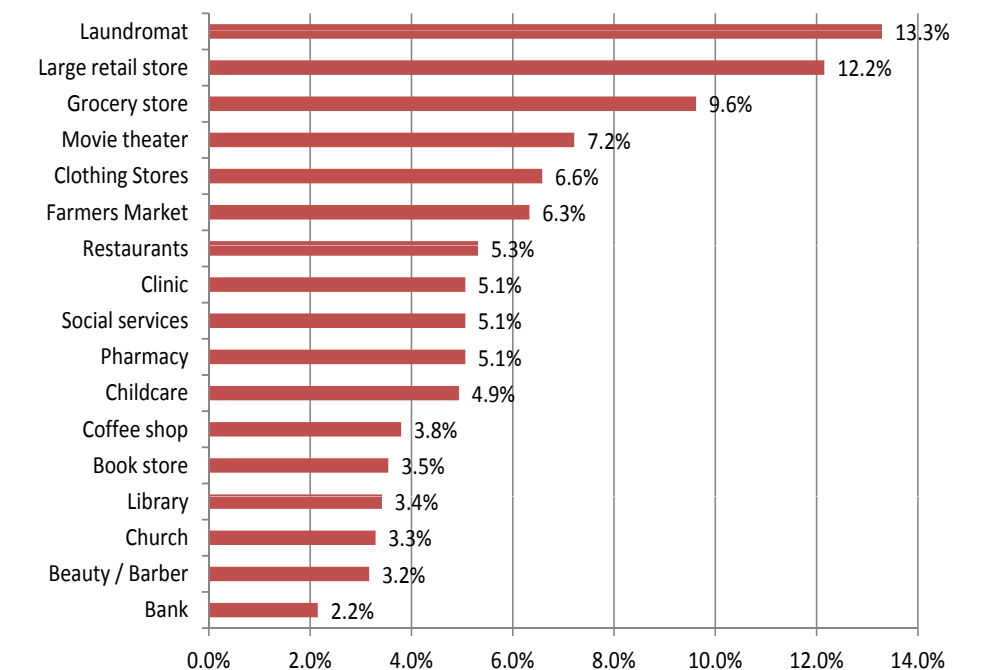
NEIGHBORHOOD

As identified on the asset map for the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods Planning Area, there is a myriad of public, social service, and cultural assets in the area (<http://rosewoodchoice.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/community-assets.pdf>). HACA posed the question to Rosewood, Salina and Booker T. Washington residents whether there were services or activities (ex. youth programs, parks, library, Goodwill, Lifeworks, etc) close to their property that they did not use. Of the 208 survey respondents, 112 of the 208 (54%) indicated that there were nearby services that they didn't use. While 34% of respondents did not indicate particular reasons for why they did not use local services or amenities, 24% indicated that they did not have the time and 8% indicated that they did not feel comfortable in the area surrounding their home.

consists only of 32 units, has a shared laundry room with three washers and dryers. Rosewood Courts residents must travel offsite to use a dryer or must hang their clothes on clotheslines outside. This

need is reflected in the survey as Rosewood Courts respondents' top three needs were Laundromat (49%), Grocery Store (45%), and Large Retail Store (43%).

What do you want to see in the neighborhood?

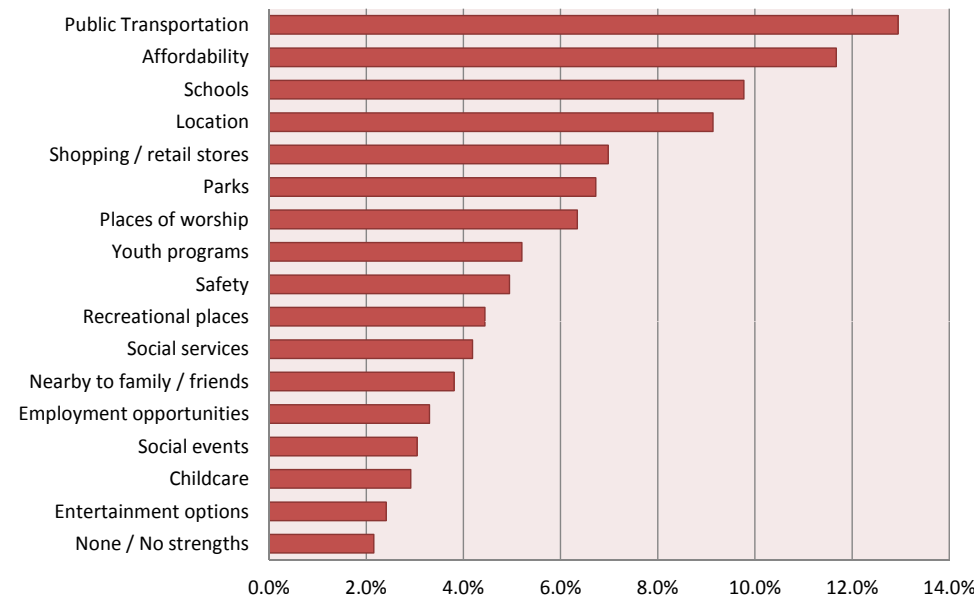


The needs assessment survey also revealed a number of services and amenities that survey respondents would like to see in the planning area. Foremost are a Laundromat and a large retail store. Families at Booker T. Washington Terraces have in-unit washer/dryer hookups whereas at Rosewood Courts, only washing machines are able to be used. Salina Apartments, which

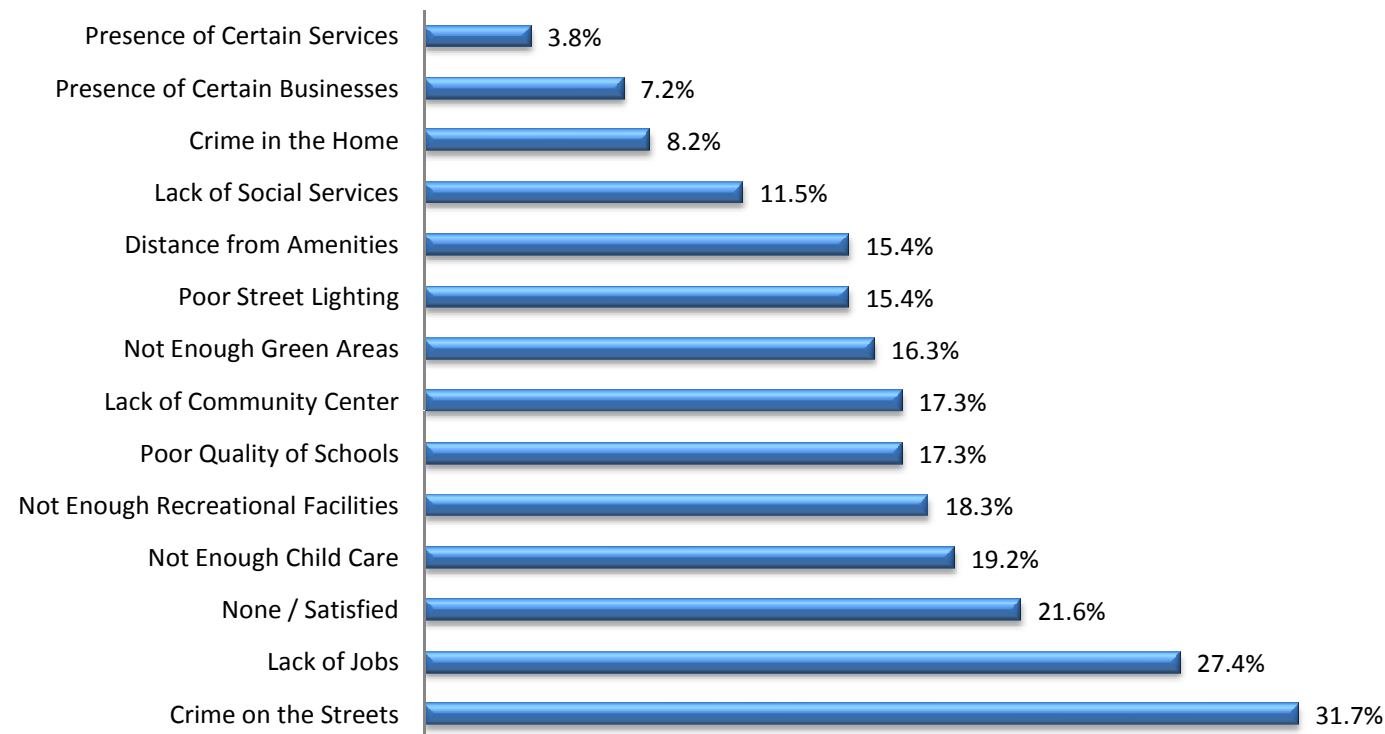
While it is important to understand what families would like to see in the neighborhood, it is equally important to understand what they feel are the strengths of the area. As the data indicates, the public transportation system, while not meeting their direct grocery store route desires, was identified as the strongest asset to the neighborhood. The second strength of the neighborhoods was its affordability. While the value of the land is rising in the area, and the property values in the 78702 zip code have increased by more than 200% between 2005 and 2012, it is important to understand the demographic of the respondents; all are families living in public housing, whereby their rent is capped at 30% of the household's adjusted monthly income.

Survey respondents were also asked to reveal what they did not like about the neighborhood – meaning what they would like to see changed or improved. The results below validate residents' concern about safety issues; nearly one-third of respondents are concerned about crime. More than one-quarter of respondents are displeased with the lack of jobs available in the neighborhood.

Strengths of the Neighborhood



What Don't You Like About the Neighborhood?



DISABILITY

Families and individuals residing at Rosewood Courts, Salina Apartments and Booker T. Washington have a range of disabilities. According to HACA data as of July 25, 2013, families with a head-of-household having a disability are as follows (number of families; percent of each property):

Salina Apartments*	28; 88% of the property
Rosewood Courts	61; 49% of the property
Booker T. Washington	50; 23% of the property
Total	139

* Senior / disabled designated property

HACA's three area public housing properties serve 1,095 individuals in 372 households. 139 of these households have a head-of-household with a disability. The high percentage noted above at Salina Apartments is attributable to that property's designation to serve individuals with disabilities and seniors. What is seen at Rosewood Courts is a population with nearly half of the heads-of-household having a disability.

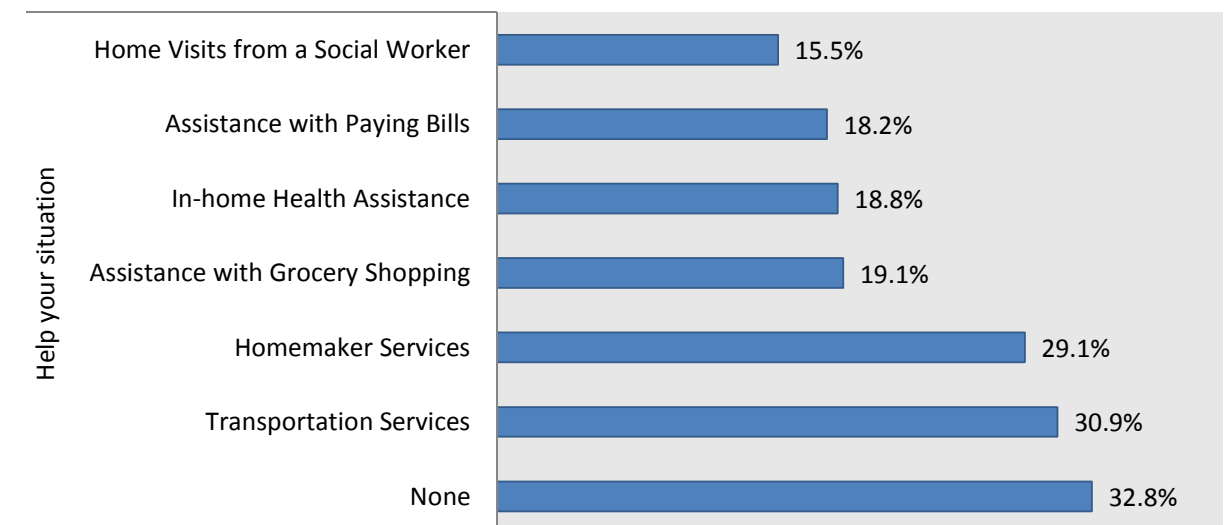
Data collected through HACA's needs assessment survey indicate that individuals may have or more disability. Of the 139 heads-of-household with a disability:

- 42.4% report a physical disability (36.6% at Rosewood Courts)
- 28.8% report an emotional disability (21.5% at Rosewood Courts)
- 15.1% report a learning disability (11.8% at Rosewood Courts)
- 12.9% report a vision disability (12.9% at Rosewood Courts)
- 8.6% report a hearing disability (7.5% at Rosewood Courts)
- 5.0% report a speech disability (4.3% at Rosewood Courts)

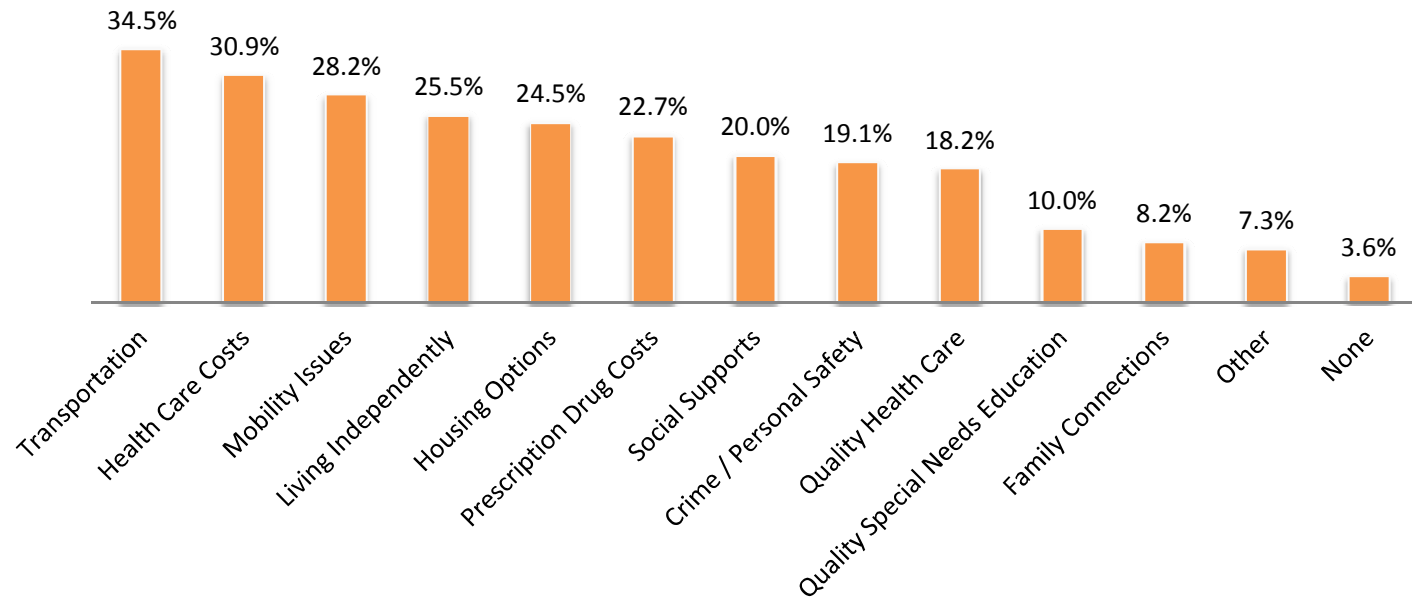
Respondents were then asked if their disability currently keeps them from fully participating in work, school, housework or any other activity. 70.0% indicated that their disability precludes them from working and impacts other activities of daily living (70.2% at Rosewood Courts).

When asked if anyone in the household has received assistance with basic needs such as getting dressed, preparing meals, or bathing, 21.8% indicated that they receive such services (24.6% at Rosewood Courts). Respondents were also asked whether there was a time in the past six months wherein someone in the household needed help with such basic needs but was not able to get it. Seventeen percent indicated that they had been unable to receive the help they needed (15.8% at Rosewood Courts).

Finally, respondents were asked if specific supportive services would help them in their current living situation. The responses are indicated in the graph below.



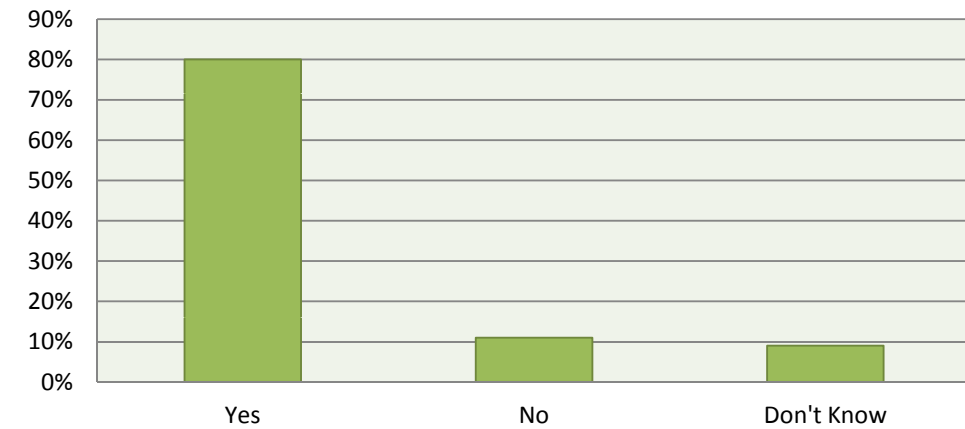
Respondents were asked to select the most important issues they see affecting themselves and other persons with disabilities:



CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

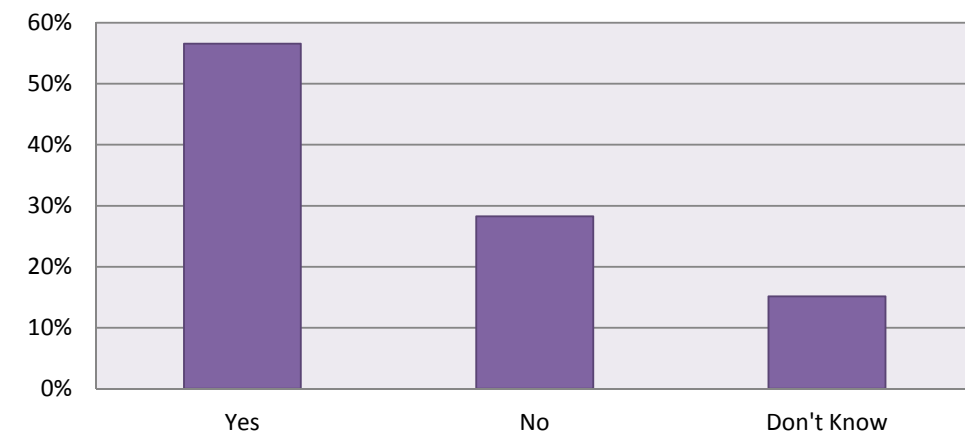
Rosewood Courts respondents were asked about the Choice Neighborhood process and their willingness to temporarily relocate if construction was necessary. As shown below, 80% of those surveyed at Rosewood Courts responded that they are willing to temporarily relocate while the property undergoes improvements.

Willing to Temporarily Relocate?



Fifty seven percent of all Rosewood Courts residents surveyed responded that they wish to remain in the same neighborhood if asked to temporarily relocate (illustrated below). The other 43% either want to leave the neighborhood or do not know at this time.

Relocate to Same Neighborhood?



OLDER ADULTS

The number of individuals at HACA's area public housing properties aged 63 years and older as of July 25, 2013 is as follows:

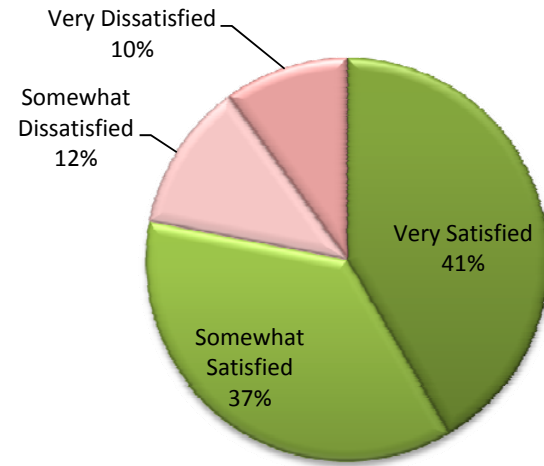
Salina Apartments	4; 13% of the property
Rosewood Courts	24; 9% of the property
Booker T. Washington	12; 2% of the property
Total	40; 4%

The data from the needs assessment illustrates, and quite surprisingly for Salina Apartments, is a relatively small senior population in the three HACA properties in the planning area, according to the HUD definition of senior. To break this down further, individuals 63 years old and over account for 4% of the total population in these three properties.

SATISFACTION

When respondents were asked about their satisfaction with living at their property, 94% of families surveyed reported as being at least somewhat satisfied with living at their current property.

Are You Satisfied at Your Property?



This high satisfaction rate is a lead-in to the results of a follow-up question as families were asked how much longer they planned to live at their current property. These results are as follows:

Plan to move within six months	7%
Plan to live here about a year more	10%
Plan to live here two or three more years	20%
Plan to live here as long as I can	50%
Refused / No selection	13%



FOCUS GROUP

During late April and early May 2013, HACA staff conducted two round table meetings with families at Project-Based Section-8 properties within the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods planning area. These two meetings were group discussions seeking to understand the opportunities and challenges of other low-income families aside from those residing at HACA properties. The items discussed at each Focus Group are presented below. Families were asked the questions below. Rather than using a strict script, the questions asked built upon the responses to previous questions.

Mt. Carmel Apartments Focus Group

What do you consider to be the strengths of your neighborhood?

- Very quiet neighborhood
- Fence around the property has helped
- The property looks clean

What are the things people like least about this neighborhood?

- No playground on the property for kids to play on
- Don't feel comfortable with kids crossing the street and playing in the park by the creek
- Many people walk through the property
- Prostitutes walking across the street and around the neighborhood
- Cannot barbeque on the property; a city ordinance regarding barbequing at the property
- Lack of laundry facilities
- People feel afraid to mingle or have people over because of a fear of a lease violation
- Daycare and grocery are hard to get to because of multiple bus transfers

What strategies or activities would make the biggest difference in the community?

- Would like to see job training closer to Mt. Carmel
- A food pantry or connection to one would be beneficial

How often does fear of crime keep you from engaging in activities in your neighborhood?

- Traffic is bad in the area, especially on Pleasant Valley
- There needs to be some programs for teens to keep them out of trouble
- A community garden would be great for residents to share
- Only interaction with neighbors is when it comes to complaints
- When people need help they usually call 2-1-1 for resources
- Feel like many of the services are far away

How do you usually get around – to work, school, the grocery store, the doctor, or other places?

- Need a couple of buses to be able to get to the grocery store

What are the barriers to employment for residents in your neighborhood?

- Daycare
- Transportation to jobs
- CCMS only pays for a limited number of hours
- Not very many child care options in the neighborhood
- Looking for a job is discouraging when you don't hear from anybody
- Background check / criminal records prevent many residents from getting jobs

Are parents involved with their children's education? In what ways? Are there any obstacles that parents face in getting more involved in their children's school or education?

- Parents aren't always involved with kid's activities often because of the cost
- Parents sometimes attend PTA meetings; don't always feel like the schools are listening

Where do people in this community go when they're sick? What about for their children?

- No community clinic with appropriate hours
- Going to Brackenridge Emergency Room because there is no clinic here
- Need an urgent care center
- End up needing to go to hospital
- Not a lot of preventative care for adults; this is also an employment barrier
- Most people don't have dental care because they don't have insurance
- Any dental place around here is for kids
- Adults can go to RBJ but it is hard to get an appointment
- There are not a lot of opportunities for exercise

Do adults in this neighborhood have access to a computer? Do adults have access to the Internet? Where/how do people access it?

What about their children?

- Go to the library
- Go to Workforce Solutions on Airport Drive, Goodwill, DeWitty Center but they're always full of people and have time limits
- Need computer training on property or a larger lab close by.



Marshall and Elm Ridge Apartments Focus Group

What do you consider to be the strengths of your neighborhood?

- Very quiet neighborhood
- Great location
- A bus stop at the property

What are the things people like least about this neighborhood?

- Need more activities for kids; more empowerment
- Frustrated with children's education
- Not all parents take good care of kids; need parenting skills / parenting classes
- Schools aren't supposed to raise kids
- HEB is close but you need to take buses
- Home health care services do not always provide the services they are supposed to

What strategies or activities would make the biggest difference in the community?

- Marshall needs a day care or after school program
- If there was a day care at Rosewood Courts or nearby, Marshall would use it
- Need chairs or benches at bus stops

How often does fear of crime keep you from engaging in activities in your neighborhood?

- Need a bigger police presence
- Management cannot afford 24/7 on-site security
- There is much trespassing at Elm Ridge
- 12th & Chicon still worrisome but it is getting better
- Need a fence around Marshall

What are the barriers to employment for residents in your neighborhood?

- People at Marshall don't work
- Laziness
- Jobs are hard to get and won't last even if the person has graduated from high school
- People can't work because of criminal background or they are on medication
- Need work-from-home jobs
- Language problems
- Need ESL classes
- Residents aren't good on the computer – they need training and assistance

Where do people in this community go when they're sick? What about for their children?

- Primary care physician
- ATCIC, East Austin clinic, CommUnity Care clinic
- ER – Brackenridge and St. David's
- Some people just don't go to the doctor
- Churches help with healthcare
- Longhorn Pediatrics
- Dr. James on MLK (for the elderly)

How do East Austin schools compare to Austin proper?

- Kids often don't enjoy school
- In other parts of Austin, they seem to like school more
- Lots of pressure on kids (STARR) with standardized tests
- Need more realistic programs / trade classes and curriculum

1124 IH-35 South
Austin, TX 78704
Tel: 512-477-4488
E: choice@hacanet.org
rosewoodchoice.com



AUSTIN'S CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

