

GENDER MATTERS

In Bexar County

March 2011

An analysis of the impact of fiscal policy and proposed State budget cuts on the health, safety and economic security of women and children in Bexar County, Texas....



GENDER MATTERS

In Bexar County

Published & commissioned by

Gender Matters In Bexar County Task Force

Written & conducted by

Kevin Cox, PMP, MEcon

With research assistance from

Eva DeLuna Castro, Senior Budget Analyst
Center for Public Policy Priorities

And in consultation with

Rosalie Ambrosino, Ph.D., Interim-Chair, Social Work Department
University of Texas at San Antonio

Bexar County Task Force Members

Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation - Dale Eastman
Alpha Home, Inc. - Blair Thompson
Alpha Home, Inc. - Julie Wisdom-Wild
Attorney - Rosie Gonzalez
Christus Santa Rosa - Sandra DeLeon
Communities in Schools-San Antonio - Elizabeth Kjellstrand
Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc. - Adrianna Gongora
Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc. - Marta Peláez
Hispanas Unidas - Adela Flores
La Fe Policy Research & Education Center - Amy Casso
Law Offices of Susan F. Zinn - Susan F. Zinn
Mexican American Unity Council - Olga Garza Kauffman
Office of Senator Van de Putte - Minerva Sanchez
Planned Parenthood Trust of South Texas - Yvonne Gutierrez
San Antonio Food Bank - Zuani Maria Villarreal
San Antonio Independent School District - Carmen Vazquez-Gonzalez
San Antonio Women's Chamber - Ginger Purdy
The P.E.A.C.E. Initiative - Patricia S. Castillo
The Rape Crisis Center - Lynn Blanco
Volunteer - Lila Aguirre
Volunteer - Rebecca Cervantez
Women's Global Connection - Sr. Dorothy Etting

The Task Force is indebted to Marta Peláez, President & CEO, Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc., for her leadership and coordination of this report. Questions may be directed to Linda Benjamin-Miles, Task Force Coordinator at mileslb@earthlink.net (512-568-9508) or Lupita Castrejón, Vice President of External Affairs, Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc., at lupita.castrejon@fvps.org (210-930-3669). Report available online at www.fvps.org.

GENDER MATTERS

In Bexar County

Study Overview:

GENDER MATTERS In Bexar County examines the proposed Texas State Budget (2010-11) and how it directly impacts women and children in Bexar County, compared to the impact on women and children statewide. This study is an extension of the report released last year, *GENDER MATTERS, An Analysis of the Texas State Budget* that was published and commissioned by the Dallas Women's Foundation, and conducted by the Center for Public Policy Priorities. (The statewide study is available online at www.dallaswomensfoundation.org/research).

The Bexar County Task Force published and commissioned *GENDER MATTERS in Bexar County* to raise awareness about the gravity of the impact of the proposed budgetary reductions on the health, safety and economic security of women living in Bexar County. It represents our first attempt to provide an analysis based on gender and is not intended to comprehensively address all aspects of the issues or all population groups in our community. Our goal is to establish a benchmark study this year, which can be expanded annually for years to come, helping our community to better understand and appreciate the consequences of fiscal policy.

SUMMARY STATEMENT & RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the findings in this study, the Gender Matters in Bexar County Task Force recommends that budget reductions not be made to programs affecting services to women and children because the cost of such cuts is too great to our community. Inequities already exist in the allocation of state resources that put women and children at a disadvantage, and the proposed cuts will exacerbate these inequities and create new ones. Even education and prevention programs not directly funded by the state would be adversely affected by cuts to other programs, which would increase risk factors associated with teen pregnancy and drop-out rates.

"Numbers matter, but it's the faces of women and children that should be foremost in our decision making framework. This report shows how the devastating proposed state budget cuts will impact our families in Bexar County and hurt women and children the most."

- Senator Leticia Van de Putte, R.Ph.

"In our county in particular, where more poverty already exists, the proposed budget reductions would increase the severity of this problem and take a greater toll on the lives of women and children."

- Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff

"At current funding levels, teen pregnancy and the dropout rate are already challenges bigger than most cities can handle. Cutting those precious resources would only exacerbate those challenges and dim the future prospects of our youth."

- San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro

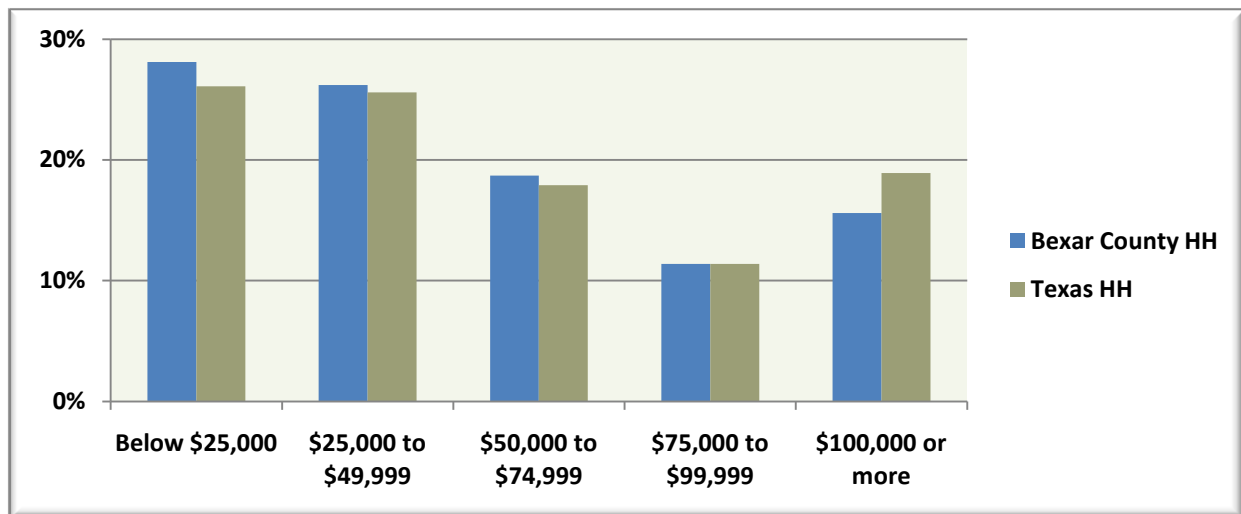
GENDER MATTERS

In Bexar County

➤ Household Income

- Almost 1.3 million or 54% of female-headed households in Texas fall into the lowest income bracket. These female-headed householders are paying twice the average tax rate of the remaining 80% of Texas households.
- When comparing Texas household data with Bexar County as noted in the below graph, Bexar County households earn less in every income range below \$75,000 a year. In other words, more households in Bexar County fall into the lowest income brackets where taxes take a much larger share of income than the average Texas Household. Conversely, in Bexar County, fewer households fall into the highest income brackets than in the rest of the state.
- Median Income of Female-headed households in Bexar County is \$28,100. (\$23,500 when female-headed households have children under 18)

Household Income Comparison Texas vs. Bexar County



Source: 2009 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

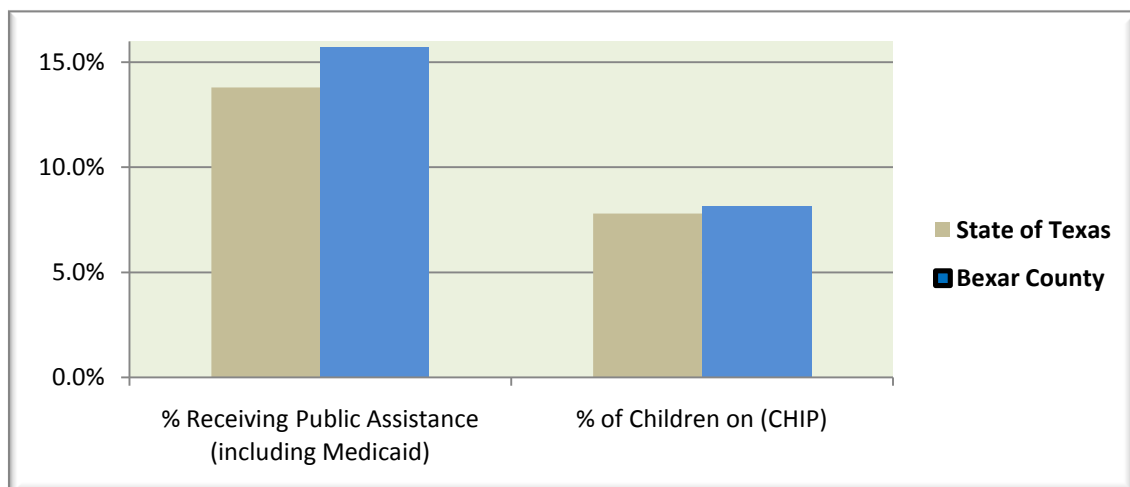
GENDER MATTERS

In Bexar County

➤ Health & Safety

- As the Gender Matters analysis for the state of Texas shows, approximately 20% of females have no health insurance. Bexar County follows this same trend, coupled with both higher percentages of individuals receiving Medicaid (serving the poorest of the poor) and children on the CHIP program as outlined below.
- Percent of people receiving Medicaid
 - As of 2010, Bexar County has a higher percentage of people receiving Medicaid than the State of Texas and is second only to El Paso County when comparing major Texas metro areas. (55% are children)
 - Bexar County: 15.6%
 - State of Texas 13.7%
- CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)
 - As of February 2011, Bexar County has a higher percentage of children on CHIP than the State of Texas with only El Paso, Houston and Dallas slightly higher when comparing major Texas metro areas.
 - Bexar County: 8.4%
 - State of Texas 8.1%

Medicaid & CHIP Comparison Texas vs. Bexar County



Source: Texas Health & Human Services Commission 2010-2011

GENDER MATTERS

In Bexar County

- Foster care expenditures for Bexar County in 2008 and also in 2009 were approximately \$44M each year, the 2nd highest county in Texas.
- The number of total confirmed victims of abuse in Bexar County was higher than ANY other county in the State of Texas in 2008 and 4th highest in 2009. (Types of abuse: 90% categorized as neglect, physical, or emotional abuse)
- In the State of Texas in 2008, .7% of the child population were in CPS care. However, Bexar County had 1.2% of its children in CPS care. This is just under DOUBLE the State average and that of any other major city in Texas as noted below. (2009 follows the same trend)

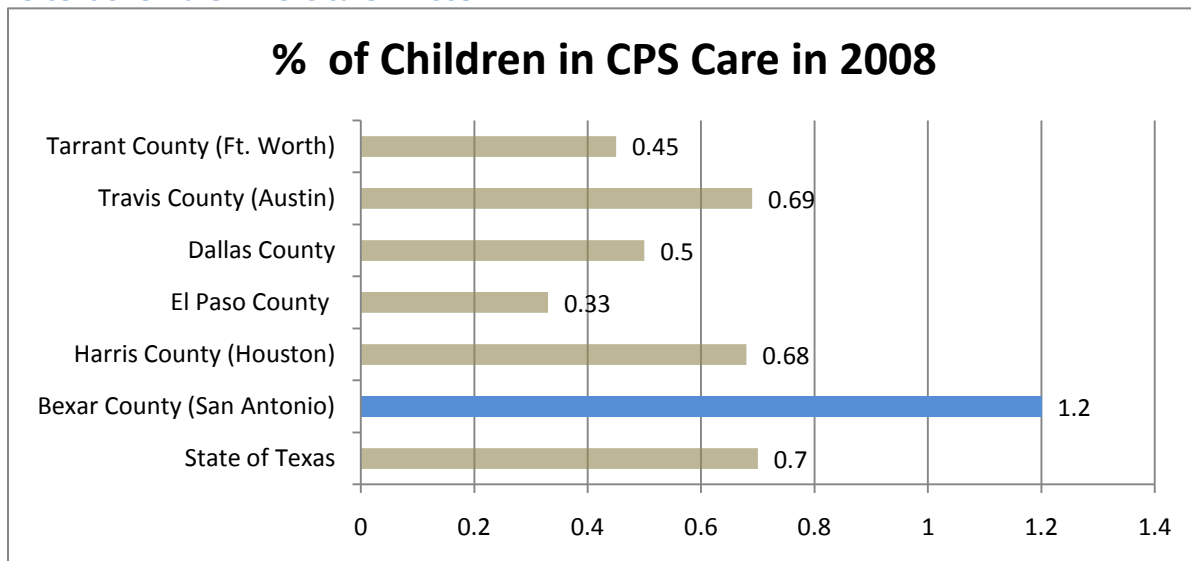
2008

- State of Texas: .7%
- Bexar County: 1.2%
- Harris County (Houston): .68%
- El Paso County (El Paso): .33%
- Dallas County (Dallas): .50%
- Travis County (Austin): .69%
- Tarrant County (Ft. Worth): .45%

2009

- State of Texas: .7%
- Bexar County: 1.2%
- Harris County (Houston): .64%
- El Paso County (El Paso): .29%
- Dallas County (Dallas): .45%
- Travis County (Austin): .56%
- Tarrant County (Ft. Worth): .41%

Percent of Children in CPS care in 2008



Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2008 and 2009 Data Books

GENDER MATTERS

In Bexar County

➤ Economic Security

- Percent of people receiving food stamps (SNAP)
 - Bexar County consistently has a higher percentage of people receiving food stamps (SNAP) than the State average. As of March 2011, for example, Bexar County had a higher percentage of people receiving food stamps (SNAP) than the State of Texas by over 2%.
 - When comparing Bexar County with the other counties containing major cities in Texas (Houston, El Paso, Dallas, Austin and Ft. Worth), San Antonio is 2nd only to El Paso in the percentage of people receiving food stamps (SNAP).
- Percent of people receiving public assistance (includes Medicaid)
 - In 2009, State per capita spending on Medicaid and public assistance in Bexar County was 20% higher than the State of Texas average. This is due to a greater number of individuals in need of health and social services in Bexar County. Therefore, any proposed cuts to public health care and other social services by the State of Texas will directly burden Bexar County's local governments and charitable organizations with an even greater share of the cost of public assistance. In other words, Bexar County will have to shoulder a higher burden due to any proposed cuts and Bexar County will have to look to local property taxes, charities and other means to close the gaps.
- Public Education
 - Average teacher salaries for Bexar County are about \$2,500 or 5% higher than the State of Texas average. On the surface, this is positive news for Bexar County. However, any cuts to the State budget will potentially cause the public schools to reduce their budgets by laying off teachers. So teachers in Bexar County, mostly women, with these higher-than-state-average paying jobs, will be disproportionately affected as these budget cuts trickle down to the local levels.
 - Under the currently proposed Texas State budget, projected cuts are estimated to result in over 3600 public ISD jobs lost in Bexar County alone.

GENDER MATTERS

In Bexar County

Task Force Impact Statements:

“According to Hunger in America 2010, the majority of adults served by the San Antonio Food Bank are women (70%) and single-parent households represent over a third of all households with children (35%). The Hunger in America data are consistent with USDA food security studies, which show that households with children are more affected by food insecurity than other households and that single mothers with children are especially vulnerable to food insecurity and hunger.”

- **Zuani Maria Villarreal** - San Antonio Food Bank

The Battered Women and Children’s Shelter provided life-saving services to 2, 200 single women, mothers and children in 2010. The comprehensive nature of services offered takes victims of abuse from indignity, pain and even possible death, to self-sufficiency and possibilities. Cuts to our resources would cause victims to be turned away, or critical services not delivered. If the cuts to resources impact us so that one woman dies because she could not be sheltered, then that is too much of a cut !! The progressive increase of domestic violence victimization in our community requires increase in funding, NOT CUTS.

- **Marta B. Peláez** - Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc.

"The most powerful tool we have to stop family violence is knowledge and awareness of it, so when it happens, we name it, confront it and stop it. Funding cuts that eliminate prevention, education and outreach programs will dramatically impede our ability to stop the root causes of family violence. The less the community knows and hears about it, the greater the risk for being lulled into a false sense of security that it's not a problem. When we hide, deny and ignore that it happens is when family violence is most deadly".

- **Patricia S. Castillo** - The P.E.A.C.E. Initiative

GENDER MATTERS

In Bexar County

"The Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation joins with the Gender Matters Task Force in order to increase the numbers urging the Texas Legislature to continue to support the Breast and Cervical Cancer Services (BCCS) program as well as support of Medicaid funding for the Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act (MBCC). These two programs need to continue to provide screening and treatment to low-income uninsured women in Texas. We ask that Texas legislators maintain and preserve the current level of funding for MBCC and the current reimbursement to providers in order to protect the viability of this life saving program."

- **Dale Eastman** - Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation

"Alpha Home, a residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment program serving indigent women in and around Bexar County, joins the Gender Matters Task Force to encourage the legislature to restore DSHS Appropriation for Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment Services to existing FY 2010/11 levels. Substance abuse is a frequently cited root cause for problems that are pervasive and touch every area of our lives, including the social and economic fabric of our culture. It contributes to chronic disease, intentional and unintentional injuries, decreased productivity, social and family disruption, lack of educational attainment, increased medical and insurance costs, and strains on the criminal justice system. Problems caused by drug and alcohol are "equal opportunists" in that they affect people of all races, socioeconomic groups, ages, geographic areas, religions, and types of employment. Unfortunately, accessibility to quality substance abuse treatment is not equally opportunistic. Many struggling with drugs and alcohol recognize their need for treatment. They simply cannot afford it. Without the availability of reputable, affordable, publicly supported treatment programs, many people wanting and needing help will be unable to get it; leaving other community service providers straining to react to the varieties of problems associated with chemical dependency."

- **Blair Thompson** - Alpha Home, Inc.

GENDER MATTERS

In Bexar County

"Communities In Schools of San Antonio joins with the Gender Matters Task Force to ask you to reconsider cutting state funding for programs that support women and girls. The mission of Communities In Schools of San Antonio (CIS-SA) is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Our Case Managers work directly on school campuses – year round, during and after school hours – providing professional, readily accessible services free of charge to students and families. CIS-SA currently serves more than 8,000 children in grades K-12 on 74 campuses and in eight Bexar County districts. Of the students we serve, 52.3% are female. With potential funding cuts to Compensatory Education funding, CIS-SA may be significantly impacted since this funding accounts for 30% of our total operating budget. This decrease in funding could result in CIS-SA closing programs in certain schools, which means students and families in these areas will lose out on services to prevent dropouts. Funding cuts mean that CIS-SA could not support single-mother families or female students in these areas, causing disparity that is outlined in our Gender Matters Report. Please do not cut state funding for programs, such as Communities In Schools, that support women and girls."

- **Elizabeth Kjellstrand** - Communities in Schools-San Antonio

The Rape Crisis Center (RCC) has been in existence for more almost 35 years implementing its mission of providing comprehensive services to victims of sexual assault and their families and conducting prevention and education programs for youth throughout San Antonio and Bexar County. An evaluation of Bexar County demographics leads experts in the community to agree more than 150,000 people are potential victims of sexual violence. According to ACE Study – Prevalence – Adverse Childhood Experiences, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will have an unwanted sexual experience prior to their 18th birthday (www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/ace/prevalence.htm). Based on these statistics, it is estimated that approximately 20% of the children in Bexar County may experience sexual abuse. Last year more than 250 children, ages 3 through 17, sought counseling services at The Rape Crisis Center, while 616 children and teens were victims of sexual assault/rape, and sought medical accompaniment/advocacy services; including infants younger than 2 months old. More than 80% of clients served at The Rape Crisis Center are women. If funding for counseling services and/or crisis intervention response is decreased at the state level, an huge negative impact will be felt by thousands of women and children in Bexar County.

- **Lynn Blanco** - The Rape Crisis Center

GENDER MATTERS

In Bexar County

"The consequences of not funding Life Skills Programs will greatly impact our communities: increase in drop outs; decrease in school attendance; decrease in graduation rate; higher probability of domestic violence and child abuse; and inadequately skilled workforce."

"The Life Skills grant provides substantial support for School Age Parenting Programs throughout the state and if it were to be cut during the next legislative session, it would cause great detriment to the students and communities served through this grant. The burden of the support would fall predominately on the community in which the students reside.

Bexar County, in particular, would have a direct impact of increased services, students dropping out of school and would experience a higher number of births from school age parents, increase rates of STIs and a faster drain on social welfare and associated resources. Students who are currently served through this grant remain in instruction with their school district and are provided with direct support in the monitoring of their grades and attendance. School districts have a current structure and streamlined process for case management of school age parents and without funding through the Life Skills Grant the connection to the school district would be lost and the burden would then be shifted to city services.

School district programs that provide services to teen parents and additional prevention activities are currently and substantially funded through the Life Skills Grant. This grant provides allocation for funding to support efforts in:

- Enhancing parenting skills
- Increasing graduation rates
- Improving attendance
- Child Care
- Assistance in obtaining Agency Referrals for assistance

Specifically, these objectives translate into career counseling, self-help programs, transportation for childcare, pre-natal/post-natal healthcare and instruction in child development/ parenting/ family living. These activities, working in conjunction with the District's prevention and Teen Parenting Instruction, assist student age parents who are at-risk of dropping out by providing direct intervention. In addition, the programs provide a continuity of instruction and care which in turn prevent students from dropping out of the school system."

- **Carmen Vazquez-Gonzalez** - San Antonio Independent School District