



Think Today : Thrive Tomorrow



*Community Asset Mapping Project*

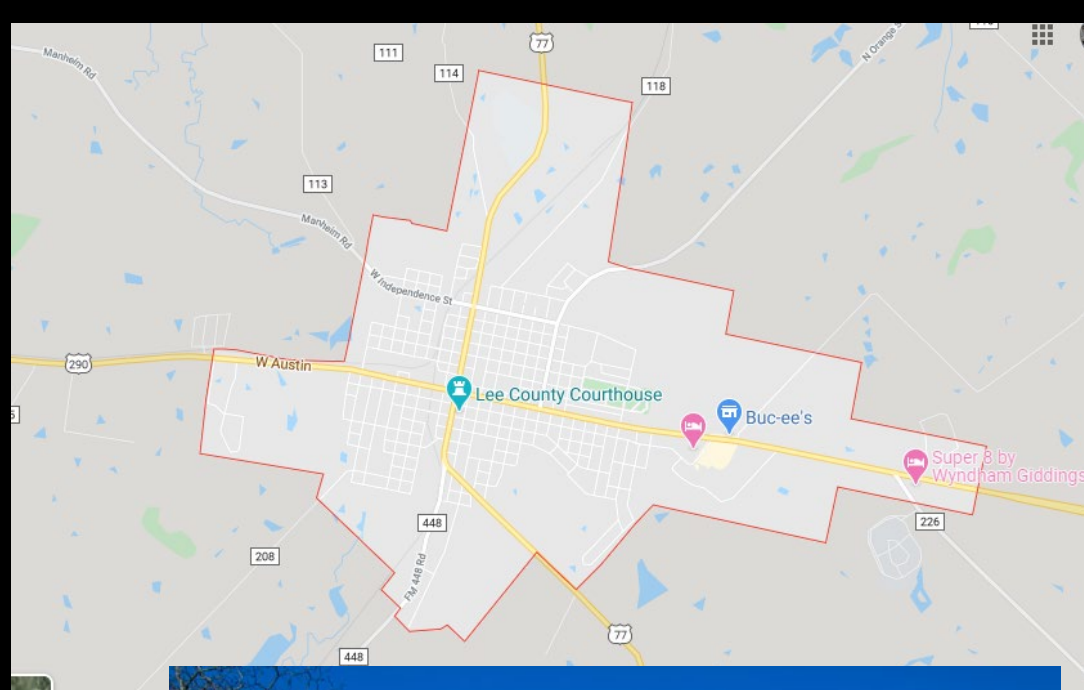
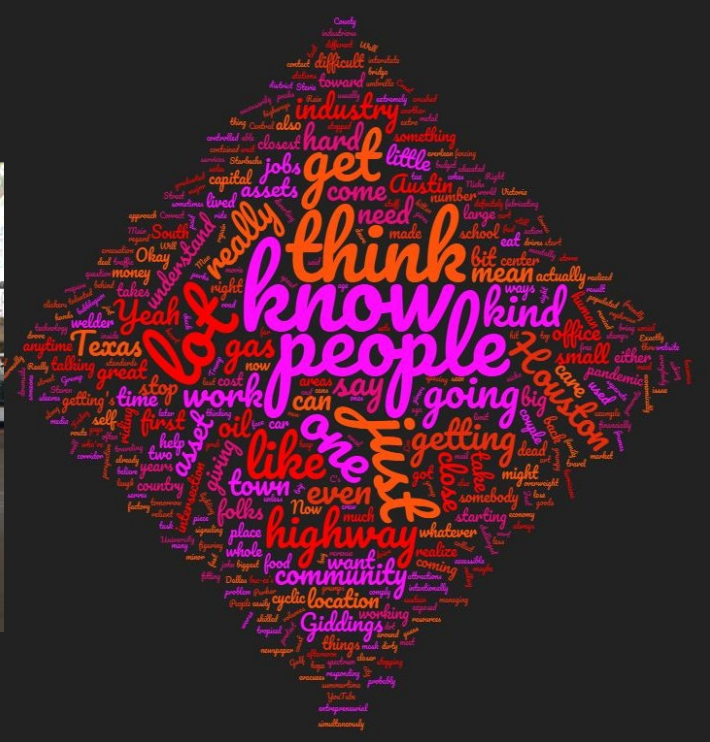


# Giddings, TX

Laisha Rangel  
07/31/2020

# My Findings

- **Community:**
  - Giddings is the best definition of a community. When there are celebrations, people come together. When there is a misfortune, people come together. In many situations, the members of the community come together for each other.
- **Its people:**
  - The people of Giddings are the heart of the community. They make their small town thrive and only continue getting better. They are extremely hard-working people. They never give up hope, even amid disaster. They constantly offer support to each other in whatever it may be.
- **Businesses:**
  - Giddings is one of the best, if not the best, places to start a business. Many new ideas stem from this small town and there is always someone to lend a hand. Small businesses are supported greatly by the EDC of Giddings, the city government and the people. The EDC director of Giddings, Tonya Britton, is the greatest supporter a small business in Giddings could have. Many unique businesses in Giddings have emerged and continue to emerge.
- **Key assets:**
  - The greatest asset of Giddings is the **people**. They have a mindset of wanting to keep the community running. They are diligent in everything they do. Another key asset is their **location**. Approximately 30,000-40,000 people pass through Giddings every day. They are located between Houston and Austin. Their highway offers an evacuation route from natural disasters occurring in South Texas. They are a quick stop for people traveling through.
- **Missing or weak assets:**
  - It is true when they say that one's strength could also be their weakness. The location of the highways in Giddings limits the growth of the community. Their downtown is located away from the main highways which prevents people from being able to see their businesses in that area.
- **Current opportunities:**
  - The biggest opportunities in Giddings at the moment would be to run **nonprofit organizations**. The EDC and the city government have offered many resources to business to keep them afloat during this pandemic. A new business in the town would not be a good idea. They are waiting to see the statistics and look at the direct impact to help who they can right now before offering help when they can't.
- **Future opportunities:**
  - There are many future opportunities for people who want to start a business in Giddings. There are people who would offer assistance in creating business plans, giving grants and scholarships, and giving the best advice for the new business owner. The support for small businesses in Giddings is unmatched. New ideas from young entrepreneurs are always welcome in the community. From the wildest ideas to the simplest, there are opportunities in Giddings to help push through.
- **Local impact of Covid-19:**
  - After interviewing several community leaders and members, I understood that Giddings wasn't affected by COVID-19 to a great extent. When it first hit Giddings, the community members did the best they could to keep their people afloat with their businesses. They offered a lot of assistance to those who needed it.
- **Agreement with or dissent from common findings in community:**
  - There are opposing opinions from people who want Giddings to grow and those who want it to stay small. One thing they can agree on is wanting to see the community thrive with their businesses and bring in more tourist. However, some people want to see Giddings receive more community members and see more businesses grow.
- **What has worked in the community:**
  - There have been many beautification projects for the buildings in Giddings. The reinvestment in buildings around the community has been a win. When they fix these buildings up they can lease it out to a potential business owner. Even if the business doesn't work out, they don't lose the building. They improve the look for the town and offer places for business to take place in.



# Historical Assets

Asset Class	Asset Summary	Learnings
<b>Historical Assets</b>	<p>Giddings was once a major oil town. The community thrived from many different oil businesses. Unfortunately, it dried up in the early 1990s. While the town has managed to expand on other businesses, the people of the community still see Giddings as partially an oil town.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Giddings founded in 1871</li><li>• Jewish and Wendish families from surrounding areas settled there</li><li>• After the civil war, freed slaves moved there</li><li>• Founded due to the Houston Central Railway that came to the area</li><li>• There was an oil boom in the 1980s and early 1990s</li><li>• There were about 300 small businesses related to the oil boom</li><li>• The town's first courthouse was built in 1878, it burned down, and a second was built in 1899</li></ul>

# Economic Assets

Asset Class	Asset Summary	Learnings
<b>Economic Assets</b>	Giddings once depended on the oil businesses for a living. When it dried up, they had a hard time bringing their economy back up. Little by little they implemented other small businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are approx. 2,407 employed people (4.79% growth rate)</li><li>• Median household income is about \$45,000</li><li>• Largest industries that employ people are:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Other services except public administration</li><li>• Manufacturing</li><li>• Accommodation and Food Services</li></ul></li><li>• They use a 4-B sales tax which means when the people pay sales tax, that money goes to the EDC which is then used for industrial development, the funding of parks and recs, museums, airports, etc.</li><li>• Property Taxes &lt; \$800</li></ul>

# People Assets

Asset Class	Asset Summary	Learnings
<b>People Assets</b>	<p>The community of Giddings is filled with self-reliant, hardworking, diverse, and proud people. They are used to working and do not mind rolling their sleeves up to do what they need to. They are a community that never gives up even when they are down.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Population of about 5,010</li><li>- One of their key assets is human capital</li><li>- Median age is 37.3 years old</li><li>- Many people who live in Giddings are proud of their little town</li><li>- Giddings is not a destination stop</li><li>- They would like to add some more beautification to the town and the buildings</li><li>- The community works well together, it is very tight knit</li><li>- The local government is very transparent and has gained the trust of the community</li><li>- Their local government is also very diverse</li></ul>

# Physical Assets

Asset Class	Asset Summary	Learnings
<b>Physical Assets</b>	<p>Giddings is located in between two major cities. It is also an easy access point to go up to Dallas or down to the coast. Two major highways run through the city. This allows for thousands of people to travel daily through Giddings. However, the city itself needs a lot of beautification. There aren't many stops for tourists to visit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Located between Austin and Houston on two major highways- Hwy 290 and Hwy 77.</li><li>• About 30,000-40,000 people drive through Giddings daily.</li><li>• Although it is a place to go through, it isn't a destination stop.</li><li>• Maintaining historical buildings is very expensive</li><li>• Some buildings leased to businesses to gain revenue to maintain buildings</li></ul>



# Educational Assets

Asset Class	Asset Summary	Learnings
<b>Educational Assets</b>	Giddings, although there is only one school campus, is very proud and giving to their students. Giddings was ranked 355 out of 2,075 schools in Texas. The graduation rate of students in Giddings High School is 98%. They invest in students through grants and scholarships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Since Giddings is located in between major cities, many students go to college in Austin, Houston, Dallas, and other surrounding areas.</li><li>• There is one independent school district, and one private school.</li><li>• Test score for mathematics are exceptional.</li><li>• They have a national percentile of 62.2% on college level exams.</li></ul>

# Quality of Life Assets

Asset Class	Asset Summary	Learnings
<b>Quality of Life Assets</b>	The community gives a lot in healthcare. They see it as a very important asset to their community. Giddings is not really a retirement town. It is also very difficult to convince students to come back to Giddings and invest into their community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The EDC gave \$30,000 to their healthcare providers.</li><li>• There is an urgent care, therapy center, dialysis testing, dentist, hospital, family care clinic, pathology lab, counseling services, etc.</li><li>• Giddings is known for their hometown hospitality.</li><li>• The people are very welcoming and self-sufficient</li><li>• They do not offer much housing in the town which is why many people live outside.</li></ul>

# Out-Bound Communication Assets

Asset Class	Asset Summary	Learnings
<b>Out-Bound Communication Assets</b>	Giddings communicates efficiently through social media and in person contact. They are a close-knit community, so word gets around fast.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The EDC is very helpful in promoting and supporting small businesses.</li><li>• The local government is as transparent as possible with their community</li><li>• There is a lot of communication through Facebook</li><li>• They have an online newspaper</li><li>• The newspaper also publishes stories on their Facebook page</li></ul>

# Community Asset Prioritization

## ❖ Strengths:

- ❖ Human Capital (self-contained, hardworking, driven)
- ❖ Local Government works well with the people, supportive of small businesses
- ❖ Diverse Community

## ❖ Weaknesses:

- ❖ Destination stops
- ❖ City Beautification
- ❖ Reinvestment into the city by past students

## ❖ Uncertain:

- ❖ Making the town larger? Is it what the people want?
- ❖ Historical Building Maintenance

# Interview Findings

- ❖ The greatest assets of Giddings are the people and the location/highways. Their people make the community thrive. They are diligent, they work together, and are a diverse community. The highways in Giddings play to both an advantage and disadvantage. They bring people in, but they don't keep them there. Unfortunately, they are located away from the downtown area and from all the unique new businesses.
- ❖ There are many people in Giddings who look forward to the growth of the community. They want to see their town thrive and their downtown busy with people. However, there are disagreements between wanting Giddings to grow in size and population. One of the arguments is that people moved to Giddings due to it being a small town and they don't want that to change.

# What makes the Giddings a community?

## ❖ Common Words

- Growth
- Community reliance
- Teamwork
- Involvement

## Relevant Quotes:

- ❖ “I have to say, for the most part, I would say definitely a hard working people, they really value hard work and work ethic work ethic, for sure. Just from being in various other locations. This facility or this particular facility all the employees here. You don't always get back in other places. And so I think that's one. I definitely mentioned that they come together and support their own so if there's some if there's someone or some organization or some group in need or trying to support a cause they, the whole community comes together so I call my generosity, I suppose. So close for a second, to me, those are the first two that come to mind. Now, the whenever there's a wedding or an event. The whole community comes out.”

- Community Leader

# Common Concepts: Values

## ❖ Community Values:

- Their people
- Being a small town
- Hospitality
- Being diligent

## ❖ Common Phrases:

- “The small-town environment is very tight knit.”
- “The people in the community value diversity.”

## ❖ Relevant Quotes:

- ❖ “So it's an interesting again, very, very diverse world Texas community. And so again, something you don't see a whole lot of, but Giddings, I think values its people.”  
- Community Leader
- ❖ “They're always on the same page and they do great stuff for the community. They were all mostly involved.”  
- Community Leader

# Common Concepts: Strengths

## ❖ Community Strengths:

- Their people
- Highways 290 and 77
- Location between major cities
- Small businesses

## ❖ Common Phrases

- “The number one asset is the people.”
- “Location is an asset.”
- “The highway brings many people through town.”

## ❖ Relevant Quotes:

- ❖ “So I think our number one asset is human capital. We have a lot of very skilled, very talented, very hard working people in the city, who I think is a result of having been in that very difficult and very cyclic oil and gas industry don't have a problem rolling up their sleeves and getting, you know, getting their hands dirty. They're used to hard work, they're used to having to work and, and having that cyclic economy so when things go down, they don't lose hope.”

- Community Leader

- ❖ I mean it's the highway. And in that highway also serves as the evacuation route. So, and I didn't, I didn't realize this until two years ago. Not only are people coming through getting from Houston, but anytime there's a tropical storm in South Texas. They take highway 77, and Giddings as the first place out of the hurricane that they can actually start stopping and getting goods and services again.”

- Outside Community Leader



# Common Concepts: Future Opportunities

## ❖ Future Opportunities:

- Community
- Involvement
- Growth
- Beautification
- Businesses
- Housing

## ❖ Common Phrases

- “More beautification to the town for tourists.”
- “A thriving downtown.”

## Relevant Quotes:

- ❖ “So I obviously I would have a thriving downtown, our buildings downtown would be full, we would have walking trails, we would have more beautification. We would have more activity downtown. So there would be that would be a destination.”  
– Community Leader
- ❖ “They're going to yield some amazing things for Giddings so right there in the sweet spot of growth and development, which is really, really a cool thing. They're, they're doing all the right things they're, they're doing some additional planning studies they're meeting with stakeholders they're getting. Nothing's being done in a silo and privately you know it's very transparent and open. I think the community is very involved in development of some of those older sites, and they've got a vision and I think that vision has already been realized, and they're running with it.”  
– Community Leader

# Common Concepts: Weaknesses

## ❖ Community Weaknesses:

- Run-down buildings
- More resources
- Small town mindset
- Opposing opinions on wanting Giddings to grow
- Highway location

## ❖ Common Phrases

- “They are afraid of growth.”
- “There isn’t enough housing in Giddings.”
- “There aren’t enough resources.”
- “Giddings isn’t a destination spot.”

## ❖ Relevant Quotes:

❖ “From a, from a business standpoint for what I think for what Giddings would really love to be, if you look at a place like Lagrange, where you have a major you have a major highway, you can slip off the highway and drop down into this picturesque downtown square where there are courthouses, right, yeah. And Giddings doesn't have because 290 still goes straight through town.”

- Community Member/ Business Owner

❖ “We could use some more housing. Because I've heard that quite a lot around town people needing places to rent people needing homes to buy and there's not a lot of housing here. That's one reason why I don't live in Giddings.”

- Community Leader

# Dissenting Opinions from Norm

- ❖ “I think they're kind of closed off to the outside. Like, I don't see growth in this county compared to some of the other counties. Yeah, and how more, I guess more open minded. I think some of our leaders are still. I don't think they're really struggling through this time being transparent about some things getting information out to people but I think they're, they're scared of change and growth.  
- Community Leader
- ❖ “I don't know that it will experience huge growth. But I think that there's the potential for a bigger, slightly bigger draw from a tourist standpoint, you know, and that's that really is, I think, that becomes more of a focus for folks because of the balance of growth versus I want to keep living in my small town. You know, yeah. And so it's, I think it's that view that keeps folks from I don't want to, I don't want to make I don't want to do stuff that makes this area grow. “  
- Community Member/ Resident



Survey Response  
Analysis  
Giddings, TX

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Laisha Rangel

07/31/2020

# Survey Distribution

- ❖ We gathered a total of **129** survey responses from the community members of **Giddings, TX**. The recorded responses were gathered between June 1, 2020 - July 27, 2020.
  - Participation by age is distributed *almost equally* between the ages of **25-64 years old**. Only **5.4%** of the sample accounts for the participants who's age ranges from **18-24 years old**. And **9.4%** of the participants were **65 years of age or older**.
  - Giddings, TX has a *total population of 5,043* (based on census data). Approximately **7.5%** of the population is **20-24 years of age** and **15.5%** of the population is **65 years of age or older**.
- ❖ In order to distribute the survey, we posted it on Facebook groups, sent it out to interviewees and asked them to circulate it. Our community contact, Tonya Britton, distributed the survey in Facebook Groups and had it published in a newspaper advertisement.
- ❖ **Challenges:**
  - ❖ Initially, obtaining survey responses was difficult. I reached out to different Facebook groups and only a handful of them agreed to let me post about our research project and the survey link. I was also limited in how many posts I could make as well as how long the post could stay up.
  - ❖ I believe another challenge I faced was people thinking the survey post was spam. Many people were afraid to interact with it. However, once they saw the post being circulated by a trusted person and community member, the responses increased quickly.

# Community Survey Data vs. Census Data

## ❖ When comparing data for....

### ❖ Gender:

- We did not see an equal representation between male and female survey takers. Based on our survey data, only **21.9%** of the participants were male, **76.6%** of the participants were female, and **1.6%** of the participants preferred not to say their gender. When looking at census data, we see that **50.62%** of residents are female and **49.38%** are male. This difference in gender distribution shows that our survey data did not obtain a balance between genders.

### ❖ Race/Ethnicity:

- Our data shows an unequal representation between race/ethnicity with 71.9% of participants being white, 21.2% being Hispanic/ Latino, 2.3% being Black, 0.8% being Asian, 2.3% being two or more races and 1.6% identifying as another race.

### ❖ Household Income Change:

- We can see a split between people whose income has changed and those who saw no change due to COVID-19. Our data shows that 55.4% of respondents reported no change in income. Only 4.5% of them received an increase in income and **40.2% of the respondents had a decrease in income.**

# Census Vs. Survey Data: Educational Attainment

## ❖ Educational Representation:

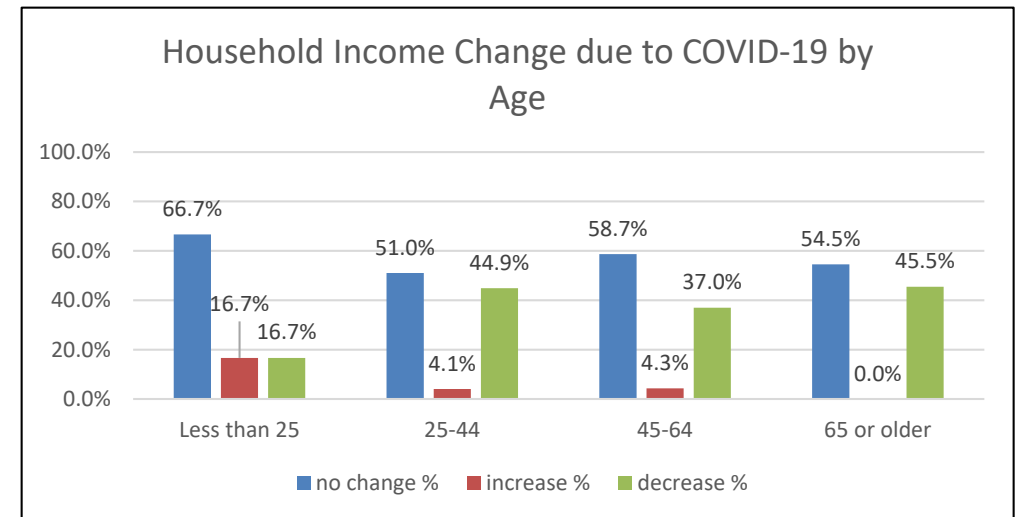
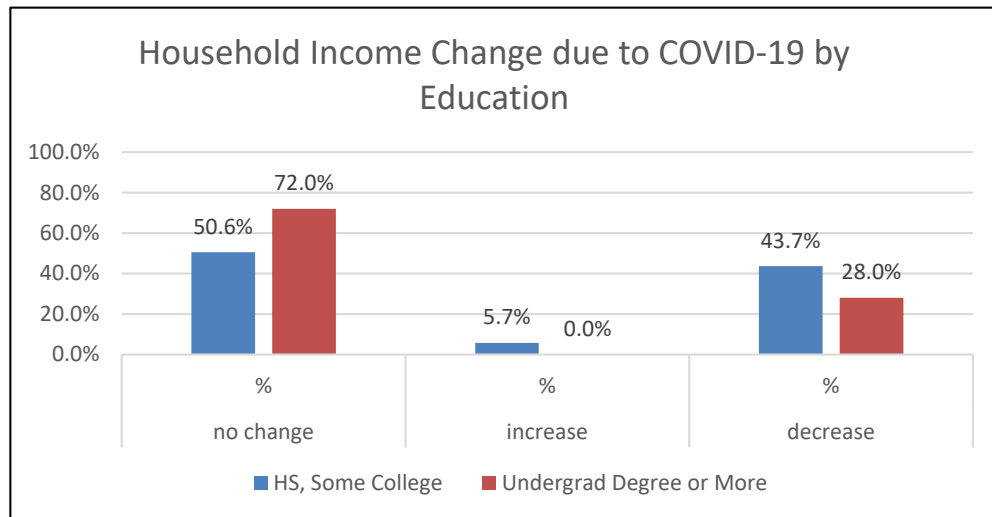
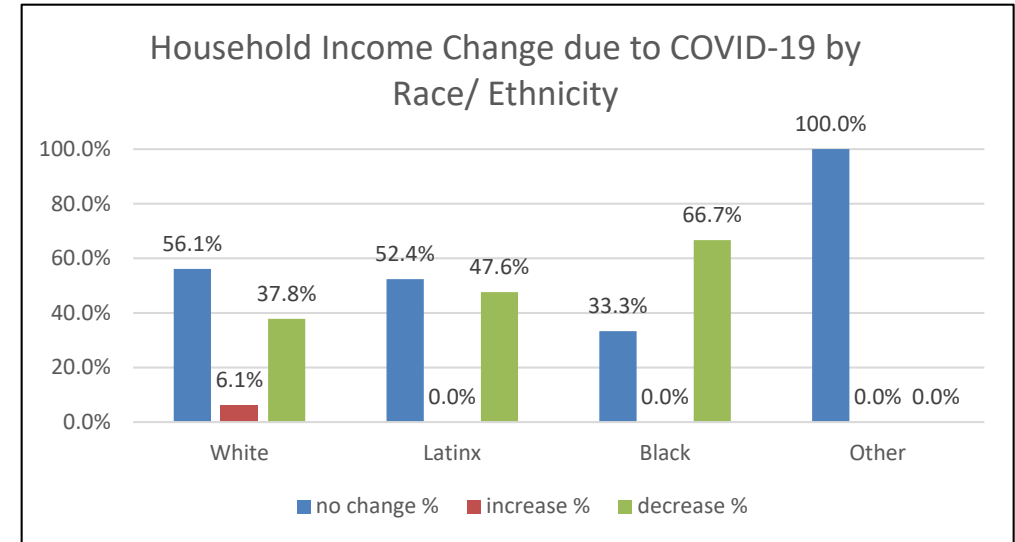
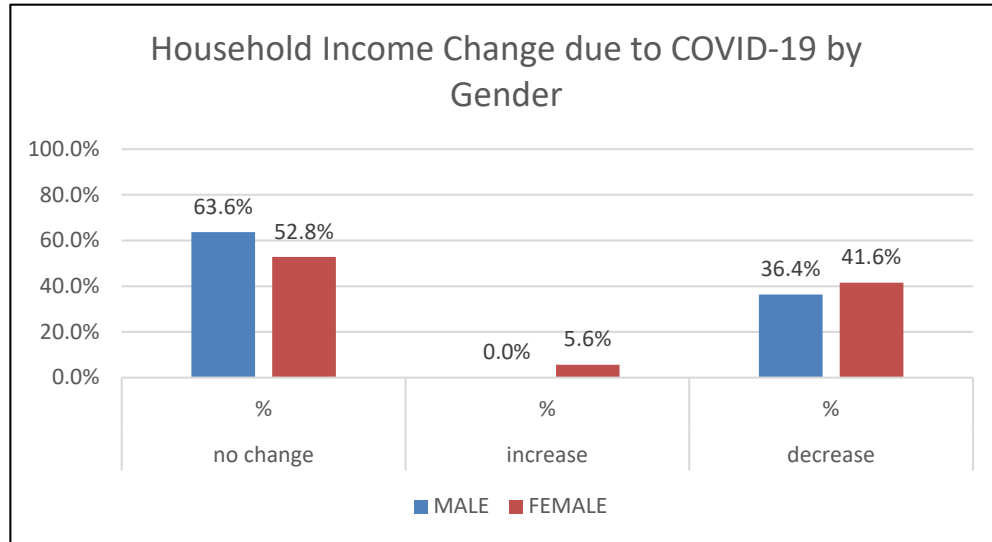
- ❖ As observed from *census data*, we see that ~63.9% of residents in Giddings have obtained a High School Diploma/ GED or received some college education but no degree. It also shows that ~21.9% received an Associate's degree or higher. *Our survey* shows that ~64.6% of participants received a High School Diploma/ GED or some college. Furthermore, ~32.2% of respondents have received an Associate's degree or higher.
  - ❖ Our data shows that the majority of residents in Giddings who obtained a High School diploma/ GED or some college education, were almost accurately represented in survey representation. We also see a fair representation of residents who obtained an Associate's degree or higher.
  - ❖ Our survey was distributed online and through local businesses. This could have influenced how the representation was distributed. It favored those who had more access to internet or technology.
  - ❖ This suggests that those who received a lower education were underrepresented in our survey sample. This underrepresentation could have been due to the lack of internet and technology accessibility.
    - From reports of the [U.S. News](#) and [Texas Tribune](#)
      - » “Giddings High School is ranked 355<sup>th</sup> (out of 2,075 high schools) within Texas. Students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement coursework and exams. The AP participation rate at Giddings High School is 42%. The total minority enrollment is 59%, and 58% of students are economically disadvantaged.”
      - » “Giddings ISD is a school district in Giddings, TX. As of the 2018-2019 school year, it had 1,854 students. The school received an accountability rating of B. 56.5% of students were considered at risk of dropping out of school.”

# Survey Data Analysis: Community Impact due to COVID-19

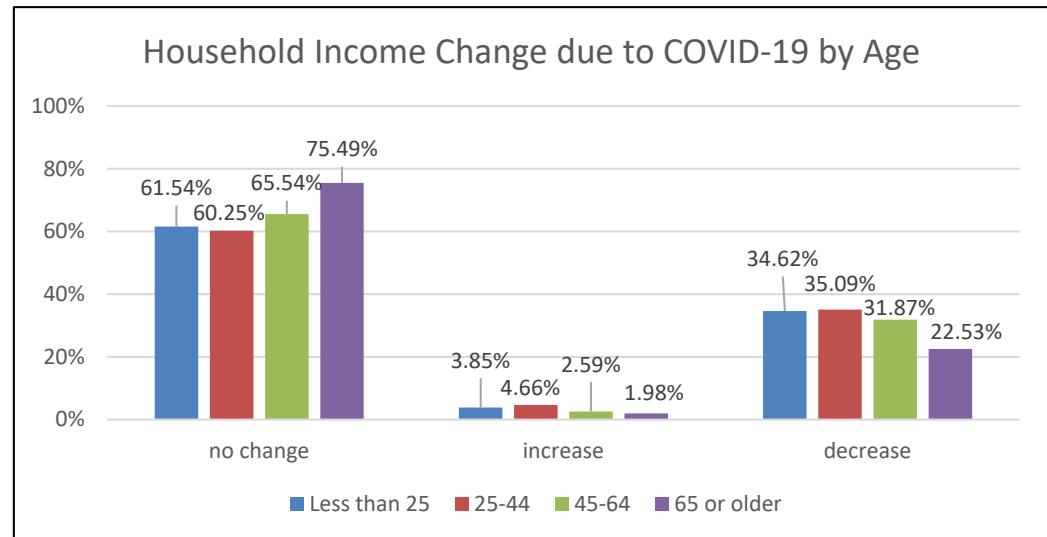
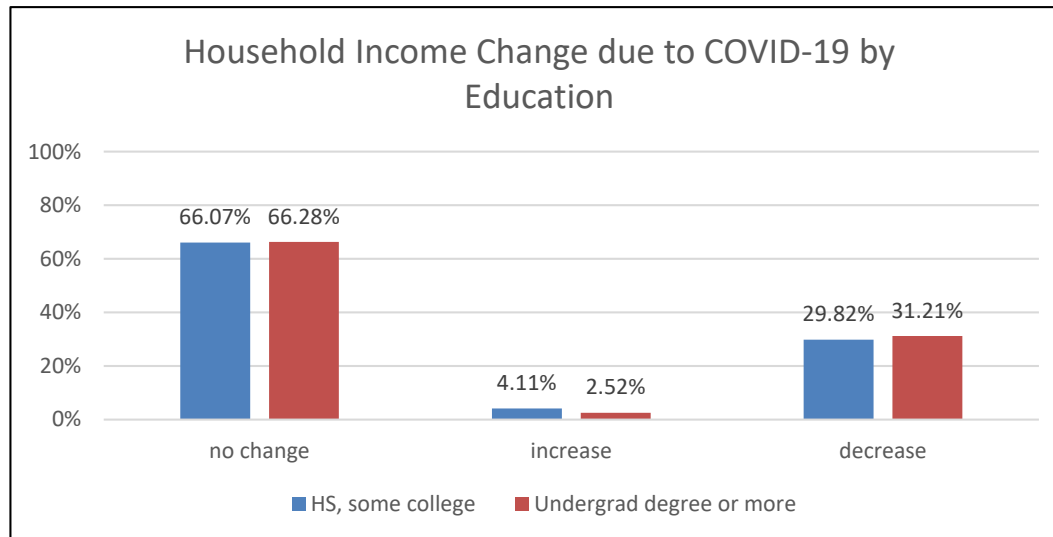
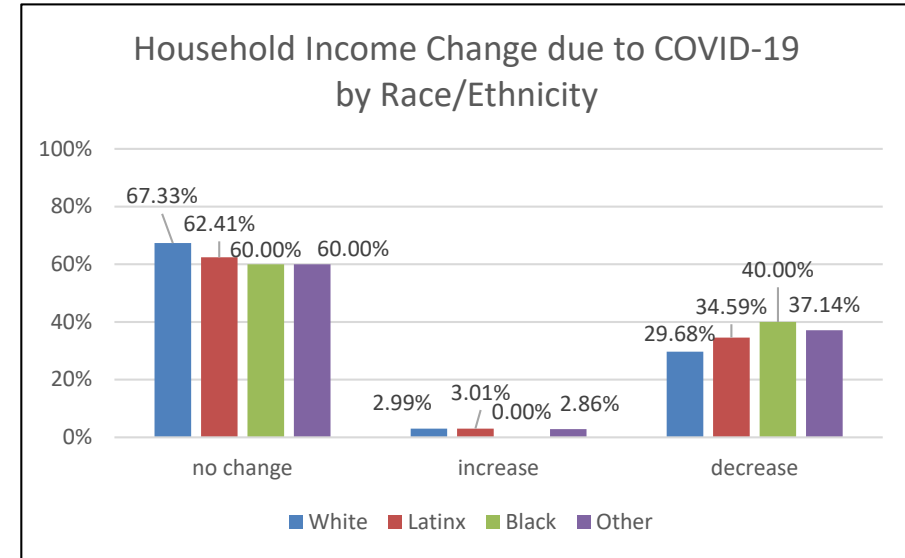
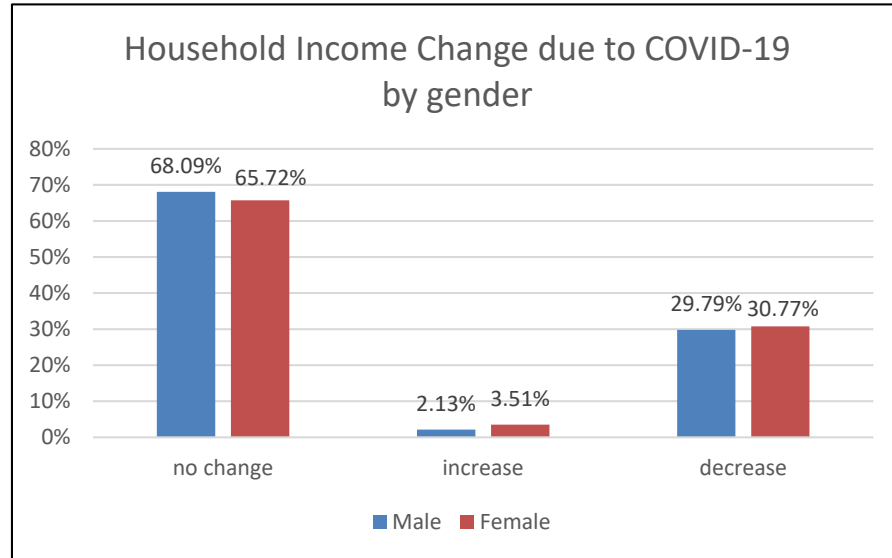
- ❖ Giddings, TX
- ❖ Central Texas Region
- ❖ Comparisons and Takeaways
- ❖ Conclusions



# Giddings, TX: Household Income Change due to COVID-19



# Central Texas Region: Household income change due to COVID-19



# Household income change due to COVID-19

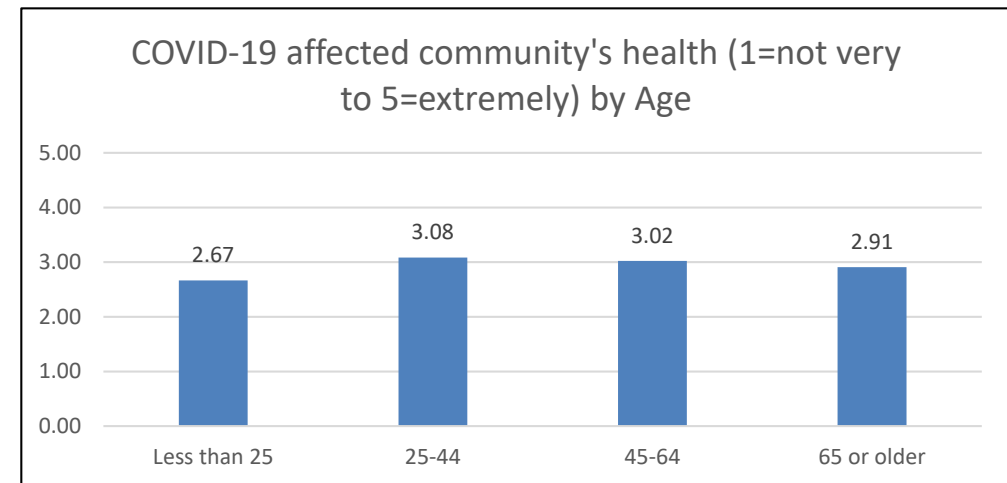
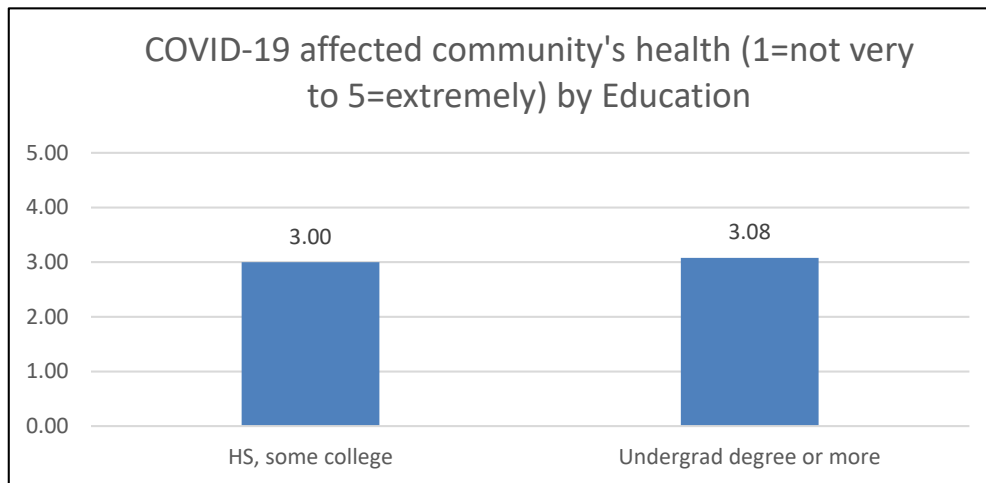
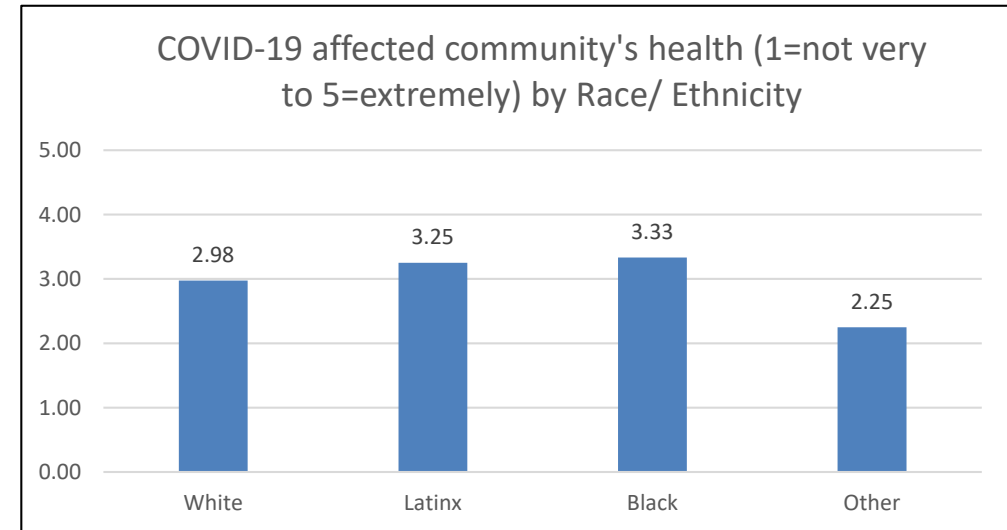
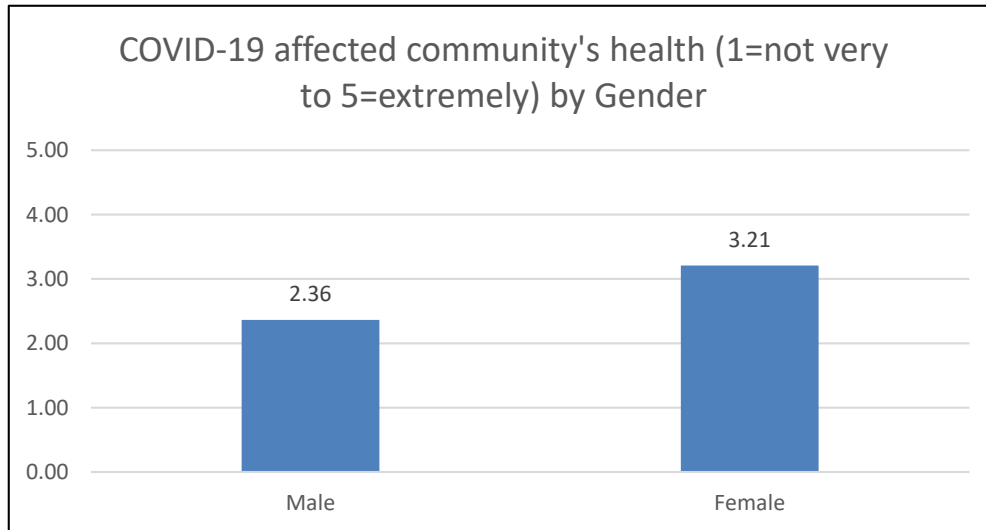
## Data Analysis Takeaways: Giddings Compared to the Central Texas Region

- ❖ Our data shows that there was almost an equal split between those who saw an income change and those who saw no change. Residents from Giddings who saw no income change accounted for **55.4%** of the respondents.
  - On the other hand, those who saw a decrease in household income made up 40.2% of all respondents.
  - We also see that **4.5%** of people reported an increase in income due to COVID-19.
  - Surprisingly, women saw an increase in income while men did not, but more women than men reported to experience a decrease in income.
- ❖ Data from the Central Texas Region shows that **66.3%** of people reported no change in income, about a 10% difference when compared to the data from Giddings.

# Giddings, TX:

## Rating of How COVID-19 Affected The Community's Health

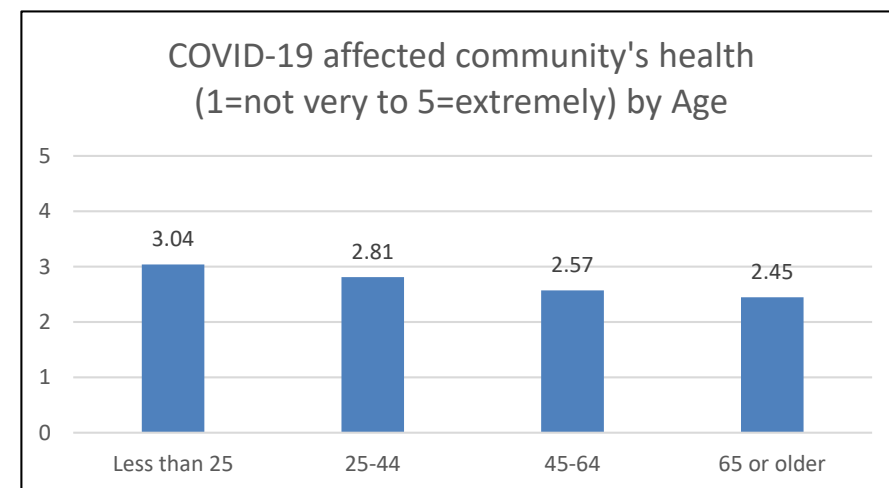
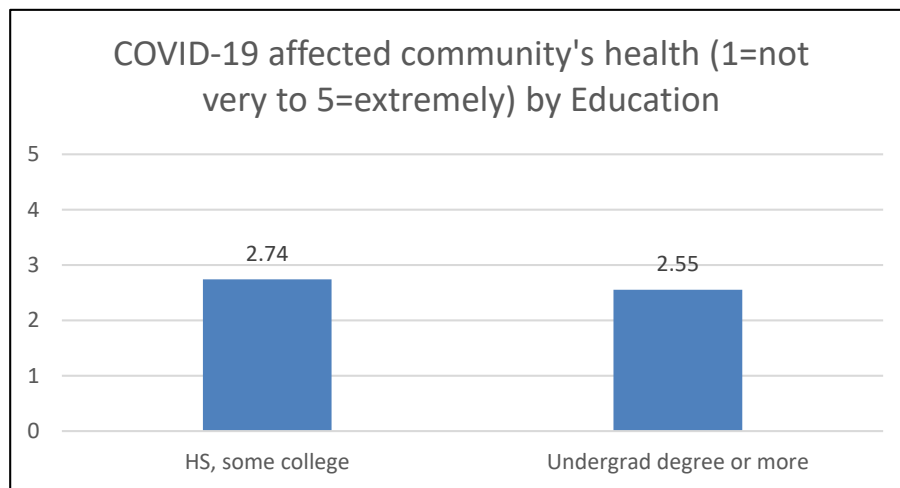
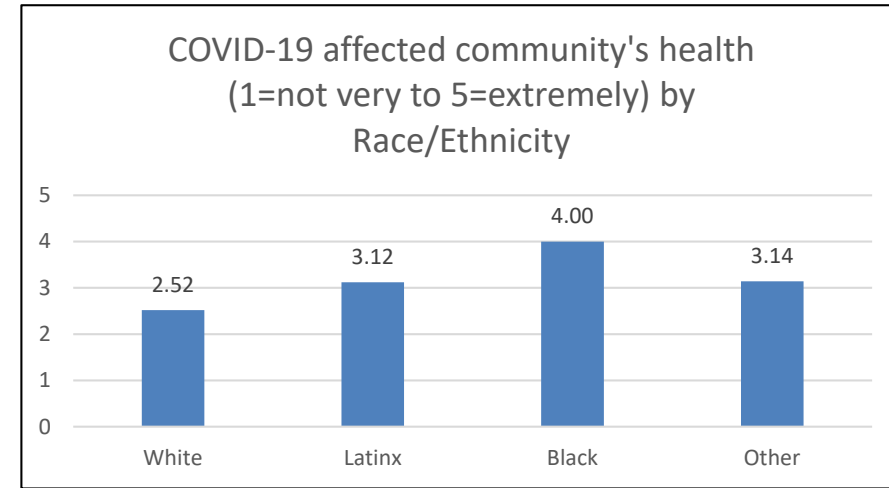
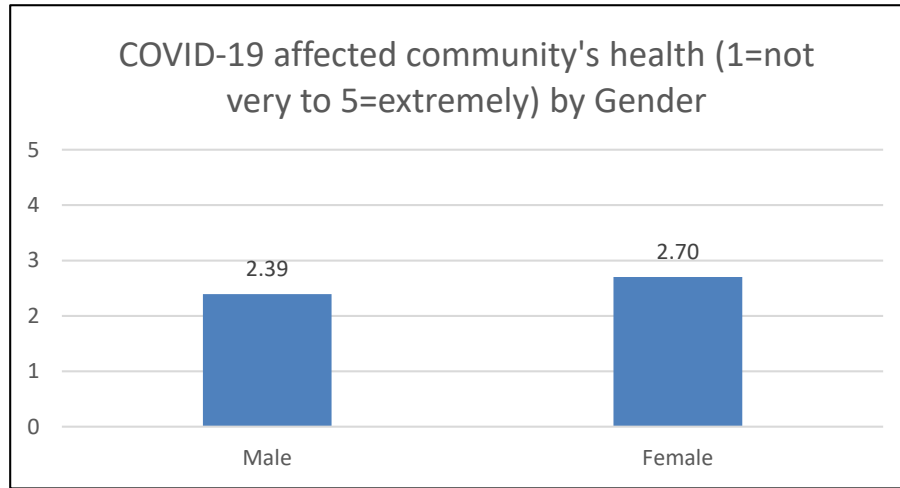
1=not very 5=extremely



# Central Texas Region:

## Rating of How COVID-19 Affected The Community's Health

1=not very 5=extremely



# Rating of How COVID-19 Affected The Community's Health

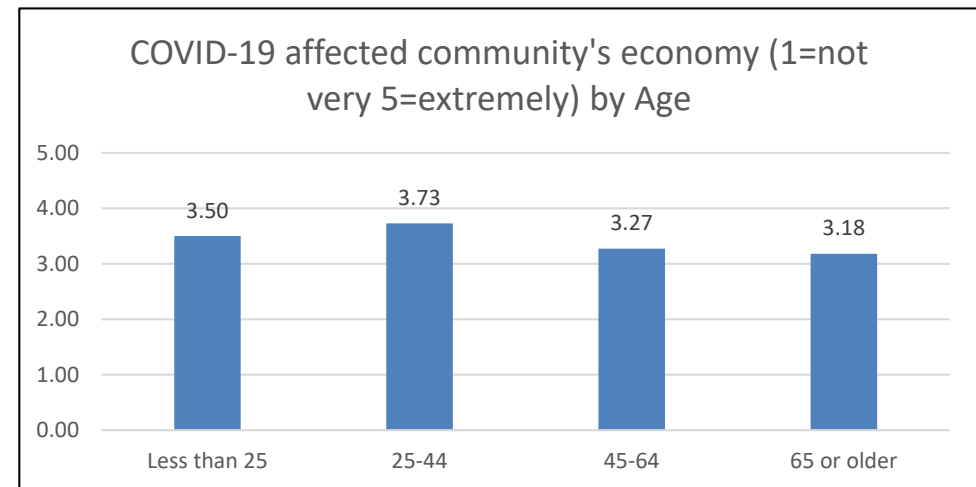
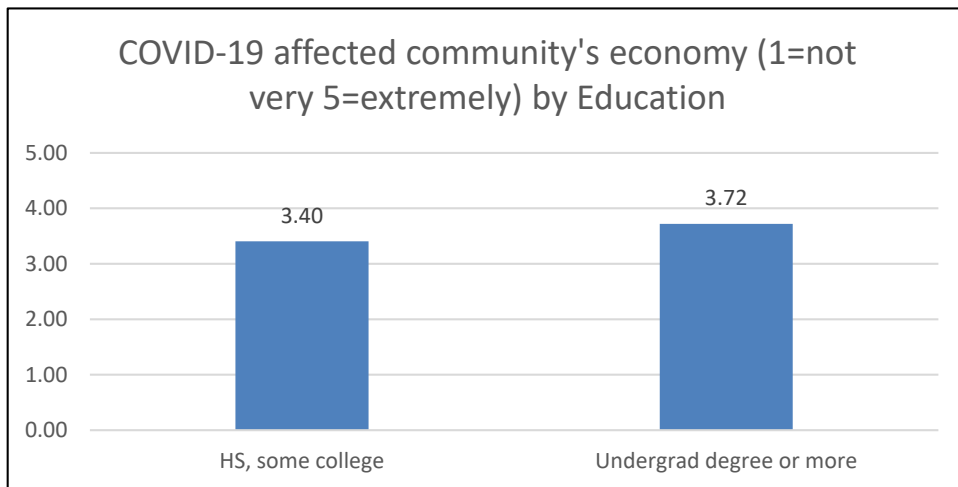
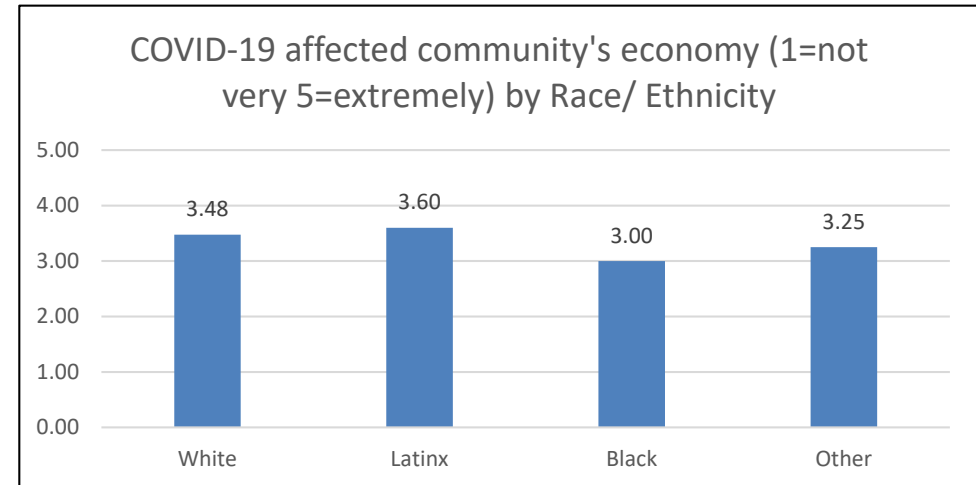
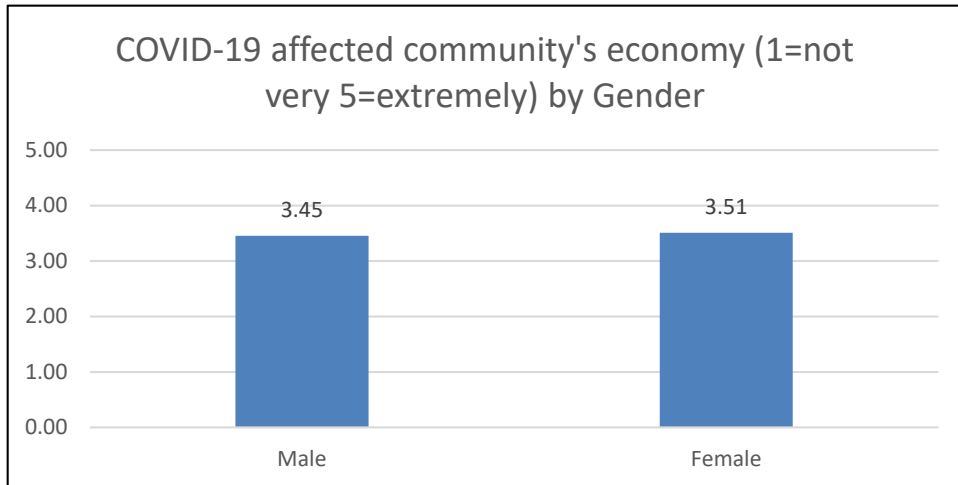
## Data Analysis Takeaways: Giddings Compared to the Central Texas Region

- ❖ Based on our data, we see that respondents from Giddings had an overall mean rating of **3.02**. This indicates that, for the most part, their community's health did not seem to be very affected by COVID-19.
  - **Some Interesting Findings:**
    - **Gender:** In Giddings women had a higher rating mean of 3.21, while men had a rating mean of 2.36. This difference in reported ratings could be influenced by outside factors such as which gender is more up to date with the news, who goes out more for errands, etc.
    - **Ethnicity:** When comparing data from Giddings and Central Texas Region, Black and Latinx survey takers had a higher mean rating than white survey takers. However, the difference in Giddings wasn't as significant as the difference in the Central Texas Region.
- ❖ In comparison to the data from the Central Texas Region, we see that their means are relatively close. The Central Texas Region reported a rating of **2.63** on all categories.

# Giddings, TX:

## Rating of How COVID-19 Affected The Community's Economy

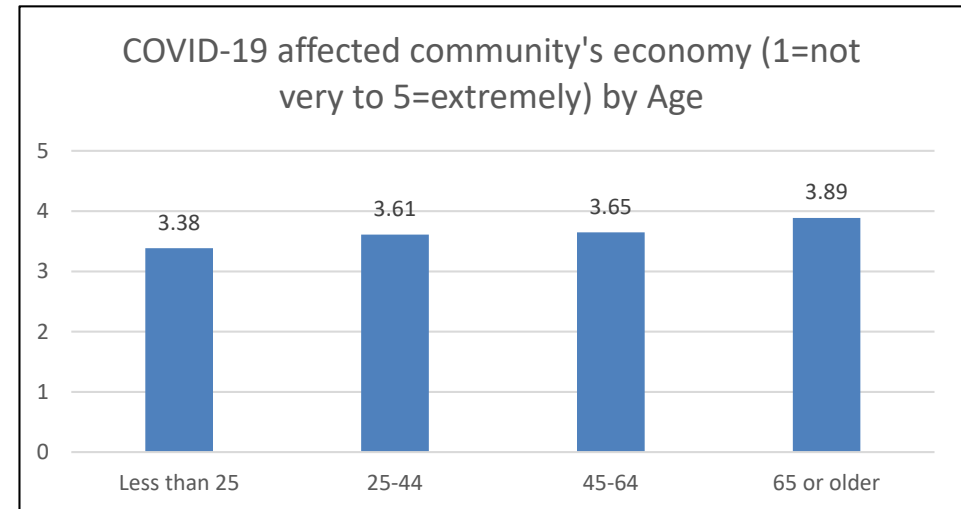
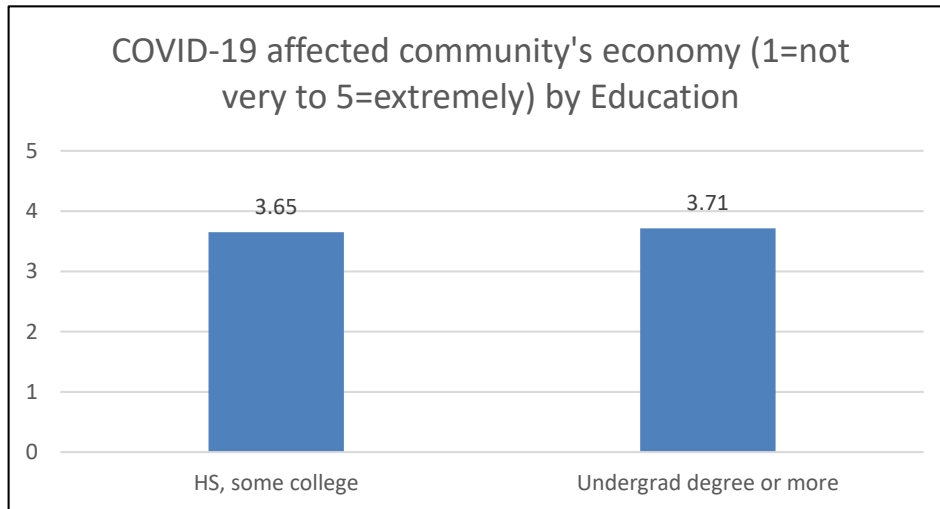
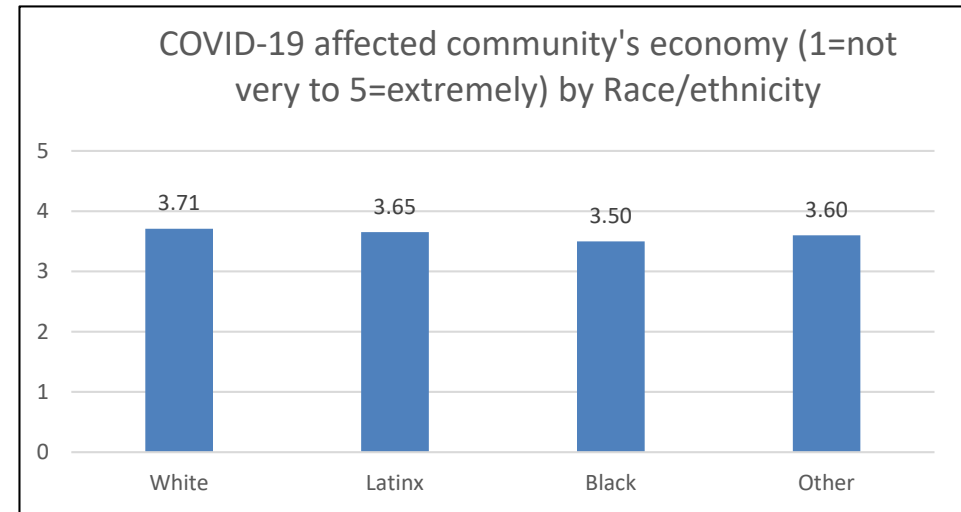
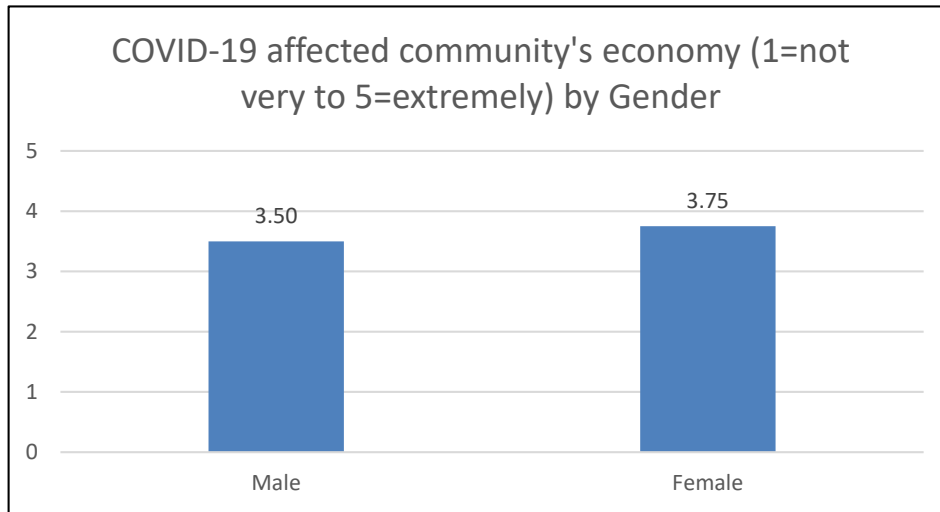
1=not very 5=extremely



# Central Texas Region:

## Rating of How COVID-19 Affected The Community's Economy

1=not very 5=extremely





# Rating of How COVID-19 Affected The Community's Economy

## Data Analysis Takeaways: Giddings Compared to the Central Texas Region

- ❖ Overall, the survey takers from Giddings reported an average rating of **3.48**. This mean edged closer to a rating of an extreme effect on the community's economy.
  - We can see in the graphs that there was not a huge difference in reported ratings amongst each category. They were all between **3.0 and 3.75**, which indicates that there were no outliers that could have skewed the mean closer to the extreme rating of 1 or 5.
- ❖ When comparing each individual category from survey data of Giddings and data from the Central Texas Region, we can see that the means are fairly close. The differences in means are not too far off from each other.

# Conclusions

- ❖ After extensive analysis over the survey data, it was surprising to have not seen a significant impact of COVID-19 on Giddings. The greatest differences were seen in Household Income Change.
  - There was a 10% difference in household income change between Giddings and the Central Texas Region. Approximately 55.4% of Survey takers in Giddings reported no change in income while 66.3% of people in the Central Texas Region reported no change. Survey takers from Giddings had a higher decrease in income (40.2%) than survey takers from the Central Texas Region (30.6%).
  - We also saw a difference in the mean ratings of how COVID-19 affected the community's health.
    - For both Giddings and the Central Texas Region, Latinx and Black people reported higher ratings than white people.
    - However, this was Race/ Ethnicity was the only category in which we saw greater difference.
  - There were no significant difference in the ratings, within and between Giddings and the Central Texas Region, of how COVID-19 impacted the community's economy.

# Community Summary Statement

- ❖ Giddings, TX offers a community that welcomes anybody and everybody. The people in the community are hard-working and are always supporting each other. The town is essential for small business owners. They offer a wide variety of resources from grants, funding, scholarships, and business plans to assist small businesses. Their hometown hospitality is always something to experience. They will help who they can and always aid their neighbor. Giddings has created an environment for the people to live a good life through the access of local businesses, major highways and through sharing the value of the people. However, the incomplete use of the major highways and lack of beautification in the town appears to hold back accomplishments of the community's future goals.

# Outstanding Questions

- ❖ What are the gaps in your understanding of your community?
  - ❖ I am unsure of what future opportunities have emerged since the release of COVID-19 social distancing. So much has changed since the pandemic and future opportunities, especially for young entrepreneurs, are difficult to specify. Many people are waiting to see how much the community has been impacted and what they could do with statistics to be able to go from there.
- ❖ If you had opportunity to go to your community for a week, what would you want to learn?
  - ❖ There are many places I would love to go to and many people I would love to meet. If I had the opportunity, I would visit as many small businesses as possible. I would also want to interview more people in person and ask about their journey in producing their businesses. Other places that I'm interested in visiting are the museum and the historic courthouse. Learning more about the history of Giddings would help me better understand many of the foundations that made the town what it is.
  - ❖ I would love to meet all the people I interviewed. I had the opportunity to speak to many great people. Everyone I spoke to was so open to helping me and I would love to be able to thank them in person. I would like to sit in on a city council meeting or a meeting with the EDC to learn about how they emerge with new ideas to help their community. Seeing that teamwork in action would be extremely motivating.

# Community Economic Development Strategies

## ❖ Strategy One: Beautification of the Town

❖ Based on the weakness of beautification in the community, Giddings has initiated a strategy to improve buildings and lease these buildings to potential new businesses. This strategy will be used to create a more eye appealing downtown and provide places for people to set up businesses.

## ❖ Strategy Two: Make Giddings a Destination Spot

❖ The highways in Giddings bring in thousands of people on a daily basis, however, they don't pass through the heart of the town where all the magic takes place. They want to implement a strategy that will bring people into the town and keep them there. They plan on doing this through housing, tourist attractions and new businesses. The small businesses in Giddings play a huge role in bringing in people. From having a distillery in a freight train to owning a tombstone making business, the ideas in Giddings do no stop. These new and innovative ideas for businesses will bring in people to see something new.

## ❖ Strategy Three: Creation of a Business Park

❖ The EDC plans on creating a business park by Highway 290. A creation of a business park will allow new or more businesses to settle near a major highway for access to people passing by. It will benefit businesses in getting attention from potential tourists. It is also about 2 miles away from Highway 77. This location will greatly benefit businesses located in the park.

# Recommendations

## ❖ Strategy One: Art Murals for Beautification

- Art murals lined against buildings on the main highways could be an eye catcher for people passing through. Beautification of the town doesn't just need to happen in the downtown area. Expanding some artwork and creating “advertisements” for the businesses with art could bring more people in. It gives them a chance to see a piece of what Giddings has to offer.

## ❖ Strategy Two: Innovative Housing

- One thing that many people saw a lack of is housing in Giddings. There isn't enough housing in the town so people choose to live outside of it. I would recommend having a housing project that would go around Giddings to pick abandoned houses and beautify them. Perhaps having an area with only tiny houses for small families would be a great housing project for the community. As generations are changing, as well as the economy, many people are looking for smaller and more affordable housing. Tiny homes in the area could be a great option for people that are looking for that. Another idea that could work is using freight stations for housing just as it was used for a business. Old freights that have been left could be fixed and made into housing for people.

# Acknowledgements

❖ I want to give a huge thanks to everyone who allowed me the time to interview them. Without your help I would not have been able to gather all these findings for your community. To Tonya Britton, the EDC Director, a special thanks to you for being beyond helpful in distributing information about this project. You have helped immensely and without your assistance, I would not have made it as far as I did. Everyone has been a key in reaching this point. No words could ever express how thankful I am.

# About the Author: LAISHA RANGEL

## PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY

**Regional Economic Recovery**– Giddings in Lee County, TX

## BACKGROUND

I was born and raised in Texas. I am from a small town south of Austin called Waelder. It can't be seen on the map unless you zoom in on the I10 sign near Gonzales.

I am a rising Junior at UT studying Psychology. I am involved in two organizations- a spirit group called Texas Angels and LHPO.

## GOALS BEYOND UT

After university I plan on taking some time for myself. I want to travel the world and volunteer with nonprofit organizations. My plan is to do volunteer work in different countries and build support where there is none. After, I hope to settle in my career and possibly work in a children's hospital.

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

I interview community leaders who owned businesses, people who work with the city government, and had a key contact with the director of the economic development corporation.

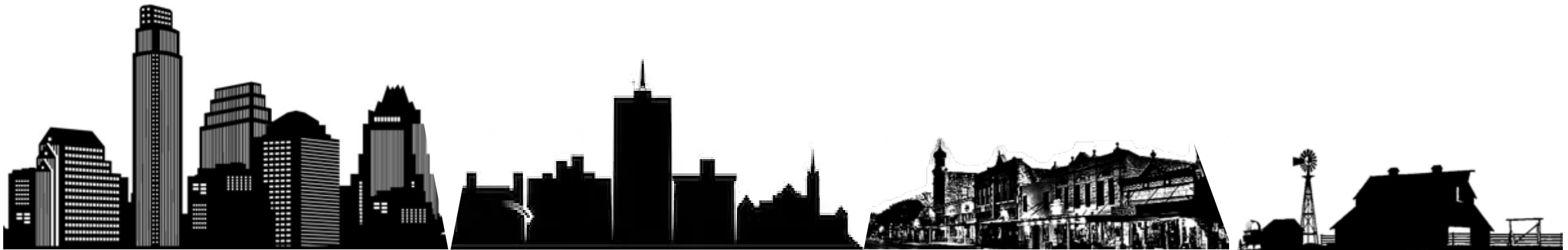






# Think Today : Grow Tomorrow

*No Community Left Behind*



Technology Cities

Remote Cities

Small Cities

Rural Communities