

DISASTER SERVICES CHURCH ENGAGEMENT

Community Assessment

Assessing your community's needs begins with knowing your community. The goal of this assessment is to help you start gathering data so you can become more informed about your community. It also encourages you to ask questions about your current level of engagement and to come up with ideas on how your church can be more locally engaged.

Benefits of Researching Your Community

- Builds awareness of community's identity, stakeholders, and needs
- Avoids duplication of services
- Finds gaps/service opportunities

Websites for Community Data Gathering

With the help of online tools, gathering this information has never been easier.

[Census.gov/quickfacts](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts)

This website is run by the U.S. Census Bureau. It provides statistics about population, cultural demographics, education, and housing for communities with populations over 5,000 people.

[City-Data.com](https://www.city-data.com)

City-Data provides a variety of information about a community, such as cost of rent, crime rates, school information, and religion statistics.

[ePodunk.com](https://www.epodunk.com)

ePodunk provides less in-depth information than the U.S. Census Bureau's website. However, it does have more information on smaller communities.

1. Community Demographics

Population

_____ Total Population

_____ % Urban

_____ % Suburban

_____ % Rural

Age Ratios


_____ %

_____ %

_____ %

_____ %

Gender

 % _____

 % _____

Cultural Factors

Ethnicities: _____

Religions: _____

Languages: _____

Estimated percentage of the population that speaks English as a second language: % _____

Note Space

2. Economic Factors

_____ Average income

_____ Average cost of living

_____ % of households earn near the poverty level of income or below

_____ % of working class are white collar

_____ % of working class are blue collar

_____ % are retired and financially stable

_____ % are veterans

_____ % are unemployed

2019 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States

Persons in Family/Household	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$12,490
2	\$16,910
3	\$21,330
4	\$25,750
5	\$30,170
6	\$34,590
7	\$39,010
8*	\$43,430

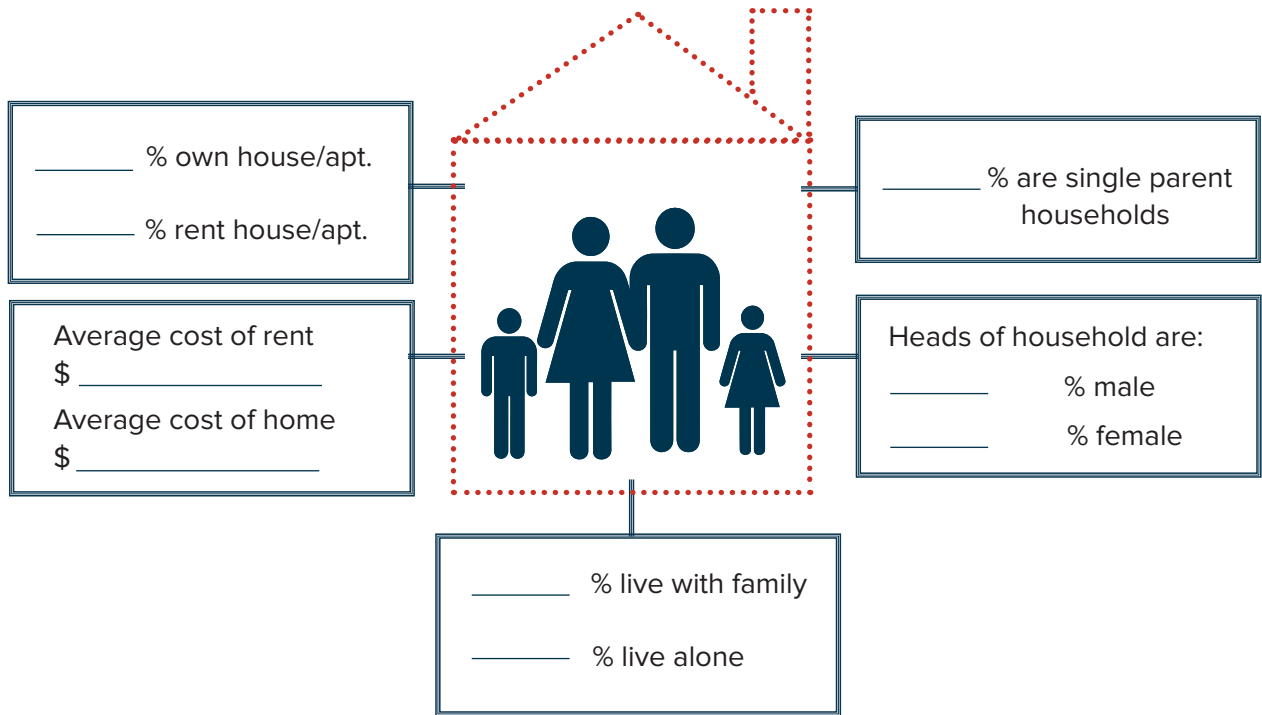
*For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,060 for each additional person.

Major Employers

Other Sources of Income

Have there been any recent major changes in the community?

3. Housing, Family Life & Other Statistics



At-risk neighborhoods:

Other notable statistics:

Divorce Rate

County: _____ State: _____

Teen Pregnancy Rate

County: _____ State: _____

Teen Substance Abuse Rate

County: _____ State: _____

Child Abuse/Neglect Rate

County: _____ State: _____

High School Dropout Rate

County: _____ State: _____

Crime Rate

County: _____ State: _____

What are some overall community values?

What are some of your community's strengths?

4. *Community Stakeholders & Leaders*

Mayor

County/City Government

City Council Members

City Management/Public Works

Fire Chief

Sheriff

Deputy

Judges

Social Workers

Local Emergency Managers

Chief of Police

Fire Marshal

Superintendent of Schools, Board Members, Principals

Pastors & Churches

Other Community Leaders

5. *Finding the Gap*

To avoid duplication of services in your community, it's important to know what services are being provided.

Is your church currently active in offering or supporting various community services? If so, list them here:

What community services are currently offered by other organizations/ministries?

Name	Services Provided
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What are some community services that are needed?

What are your church's top four strengths?

1. <hr/>	2. <hr/>
3. <hr/>	4. <hr/>

What are ways your church can tap into its natural strengths in order to meet unmet needs that still exist in the community?

What types of disasters are most likely to occur in your area?
