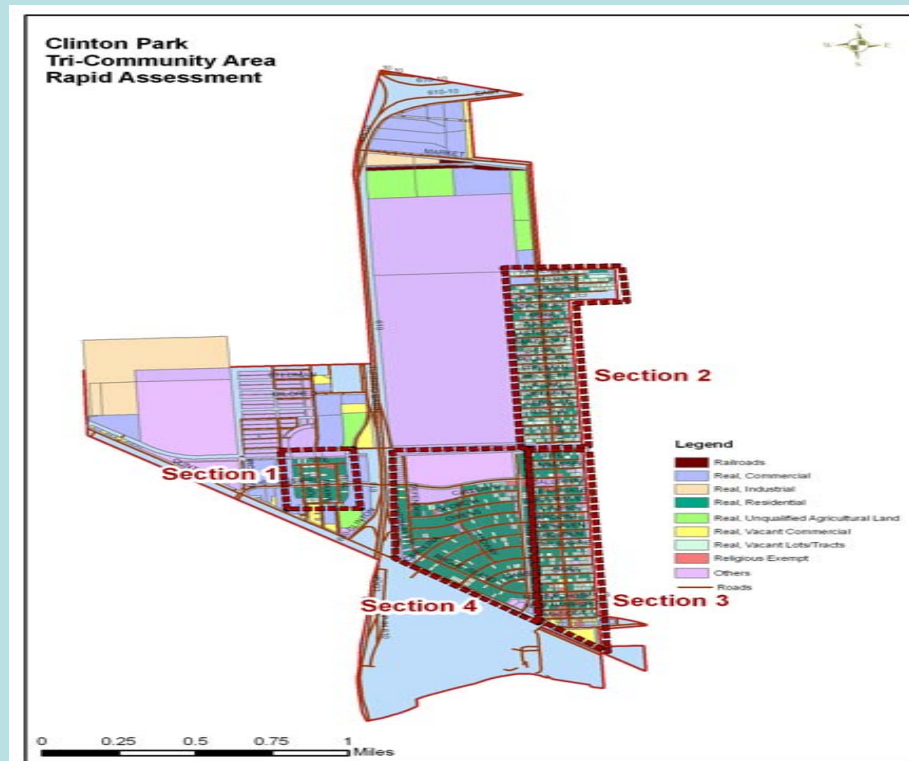
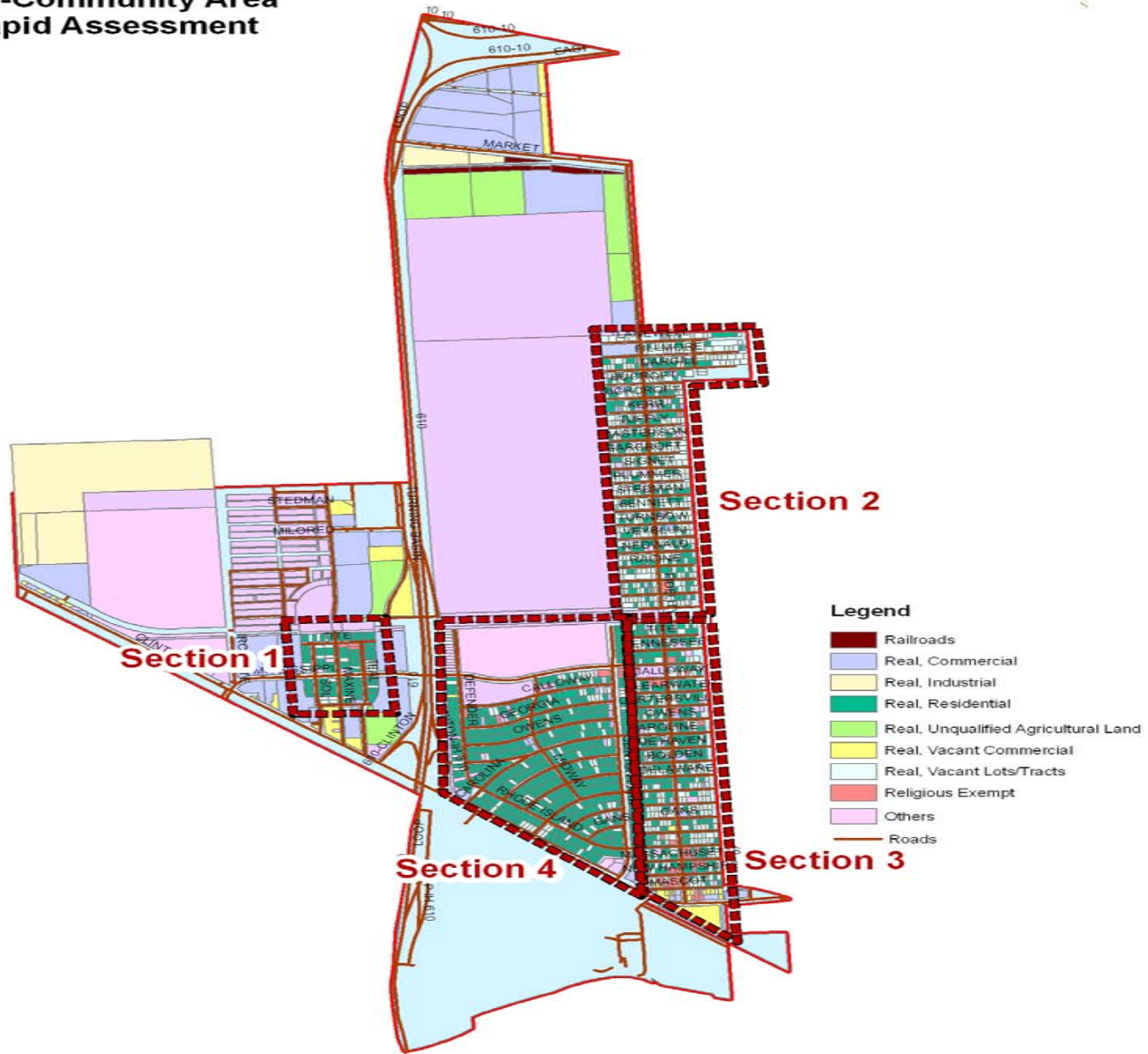


# Conducting an Assessment & Intervention in Houston's inner city

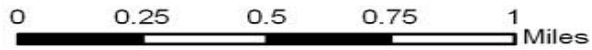


*Angela Vassallo, MPH*  
*angelavassallo@mhd.com*

# Clinton Park Tri-Community Area Rapid Assessment



- Legend**
- Railroads
  - Real, Commercial
  - Real, Industrial
  - Real, Residential
  - Real, Unqualified Agricultural Land
  - Real, Vacant Commercial
  - Real, Vacant Lots/Tracts
  - Religious Exempt
  - Others
  - Roads



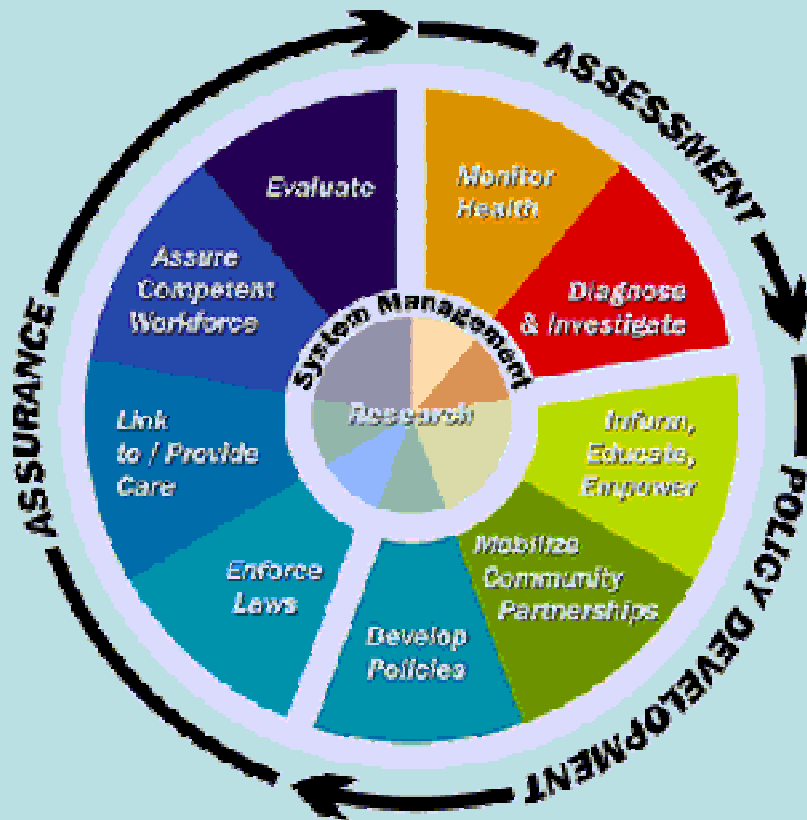
# PROJECT PURPOSE



- 1) *investigate access to health care*
- 2) *explore environmental concerns*
- 3) *serve as a safety net*
- 4) *mobilize HDHHS & the community*

# CORE FUNCTIONS

## Essential Services

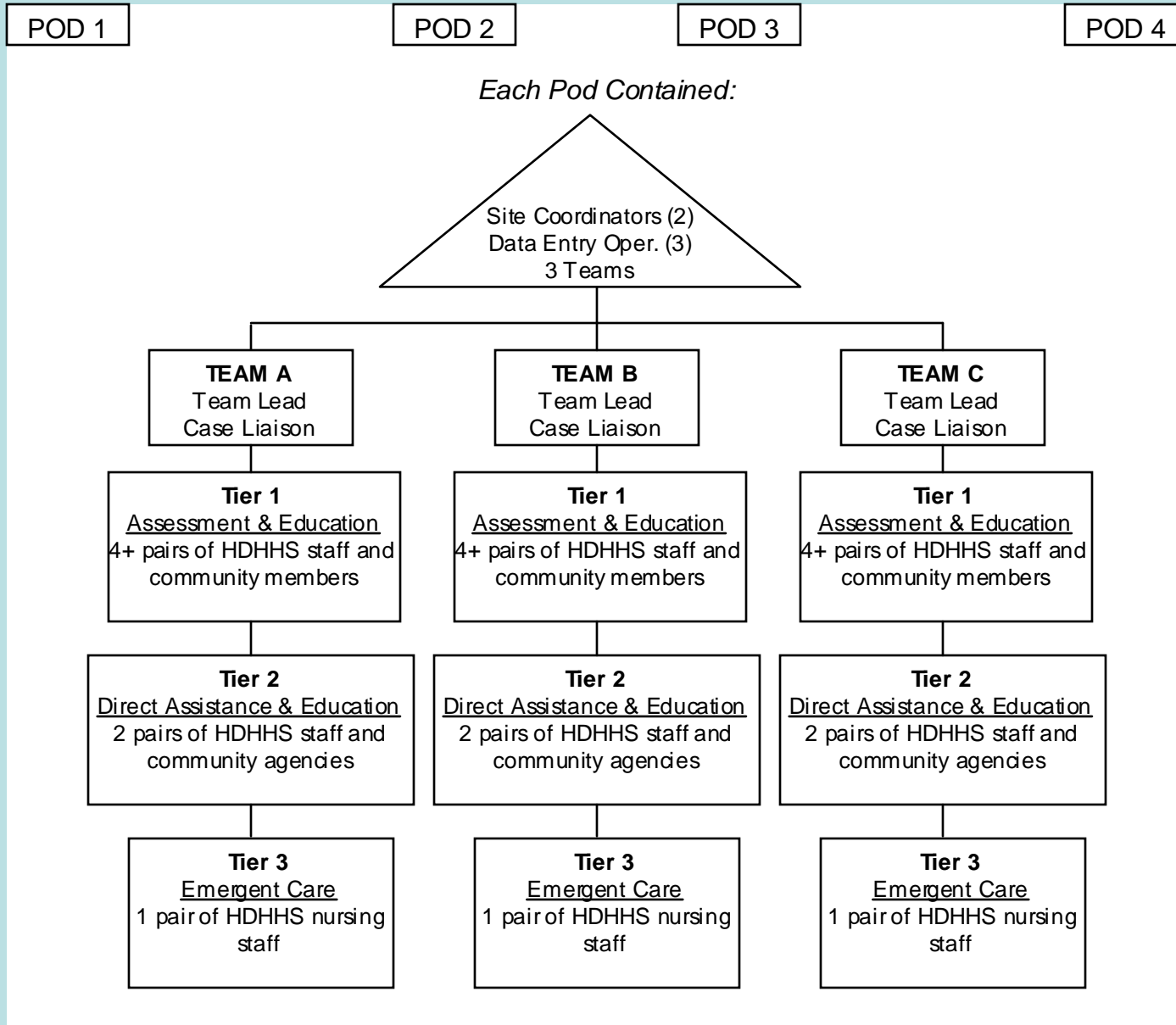


**1) Assessment**

**2) Policy Development**

**3) Assurance**

# STAFFING CHART



# **2 DAY EVENT**

**220+ people:  
Staff & Volunteers**

**15+ Community  
Partners**

**4 PODS:  
Teams A,B,C  
Tiers 1,2,3**

# ASSESSMENT Tier 1

- Questionnaire conducted in every home
- Basic informational fliers provided
- Intervention Referral Forms (for Tiers 2 or 3) completed, if requested

# QUESTIONNAIRE



## DESIGN

- 28-question descriptive survey
- Adapted from San Antonio Metropolitan Health District survey (1994)
- Assistance provided by Tri-Community Super Neighborhood Leadership



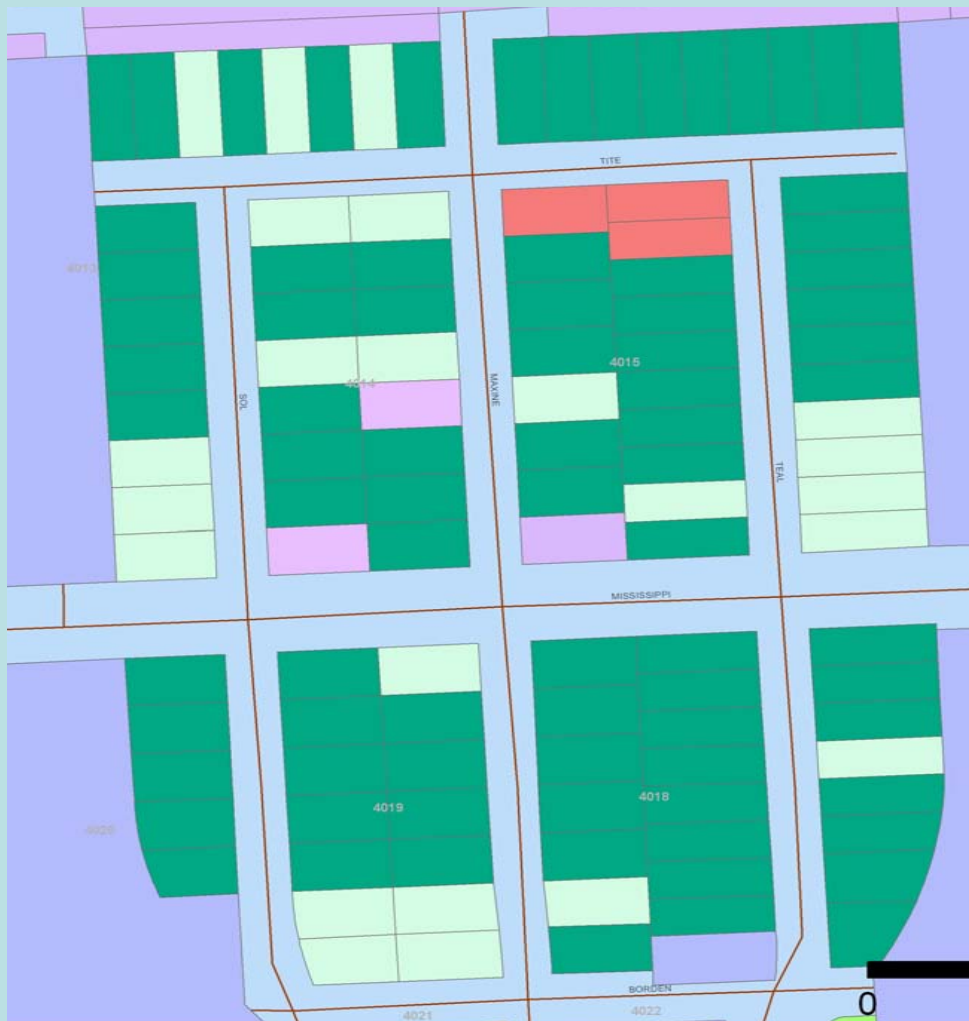
# QUESTIONNAIRE



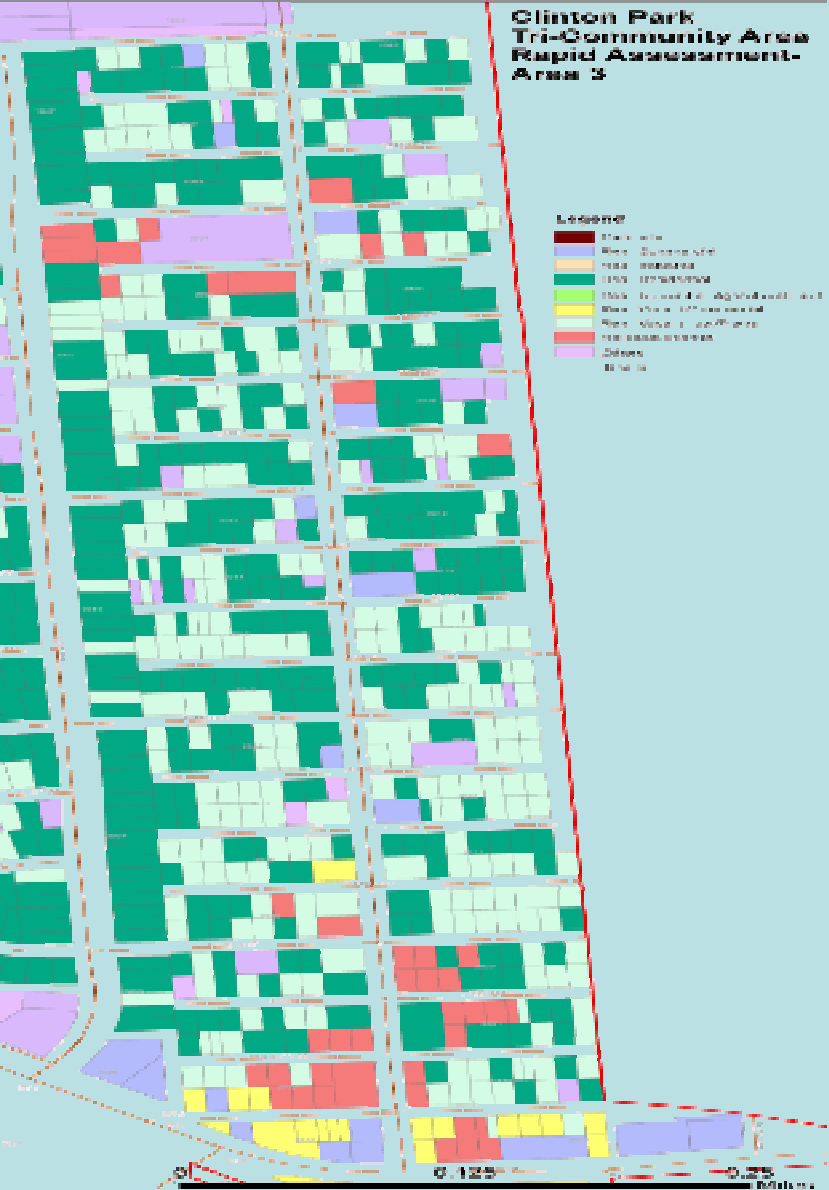
## USE

- Conducted through face-to-face interviews
- Attempts were made to visit every home in Tri-Community
- Study Unit was 'Household' = one survey for each home
- Persons aged 18 years and older were eligible

# Sections 1 (left) and 2 (right)



# Sections 3 (left) and 4 (right)

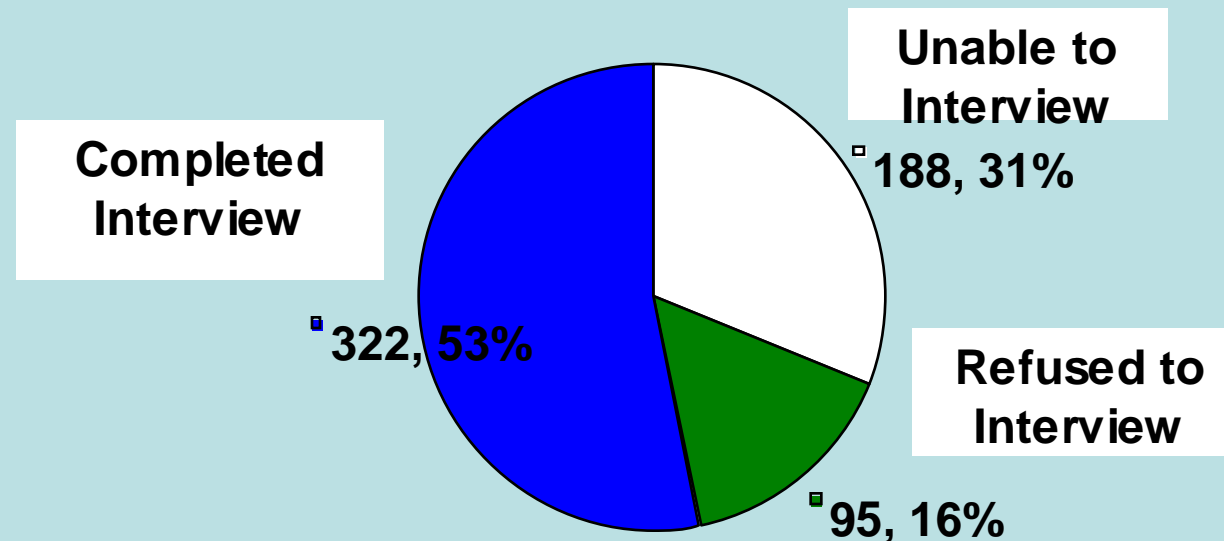


# **ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

# RESPONSE RATE

- Total Homes = 100% (605)
- Surveys Completed = 53% (322)
- Unable to Interview = 31% (188)  
*(Two attempts made)*
- Refusal = 16% (95)

HDHHS (2006)  
Response Rate (N=605)

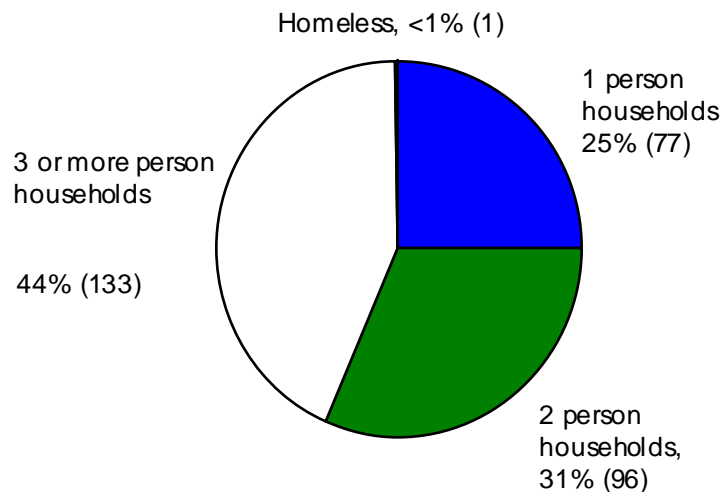


# DEMOGRAPHICS

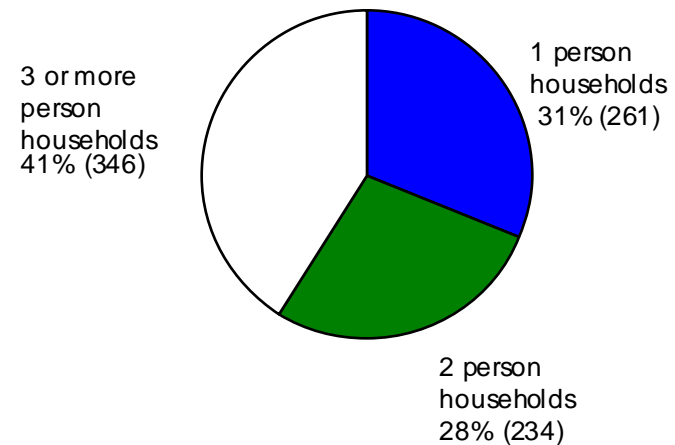
# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Total # in Household

### HDHHS (2006)



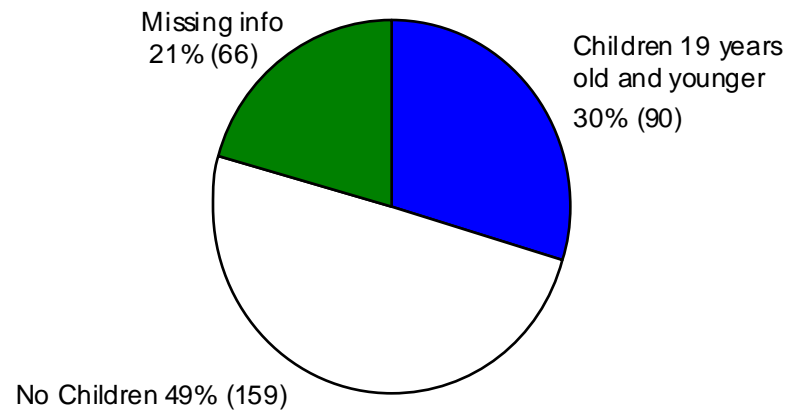
### CENSUS (2000)



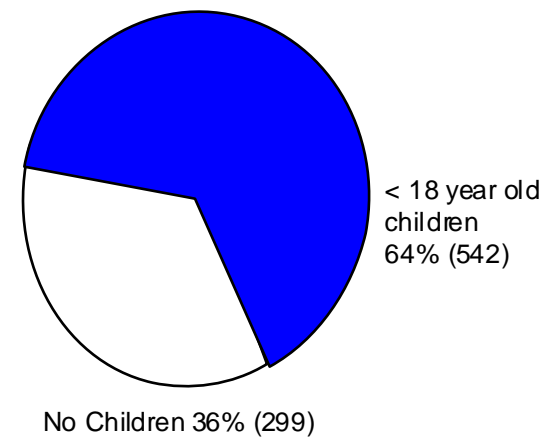
# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Children

### HDHHS (2006)



### CENSUS (2000)

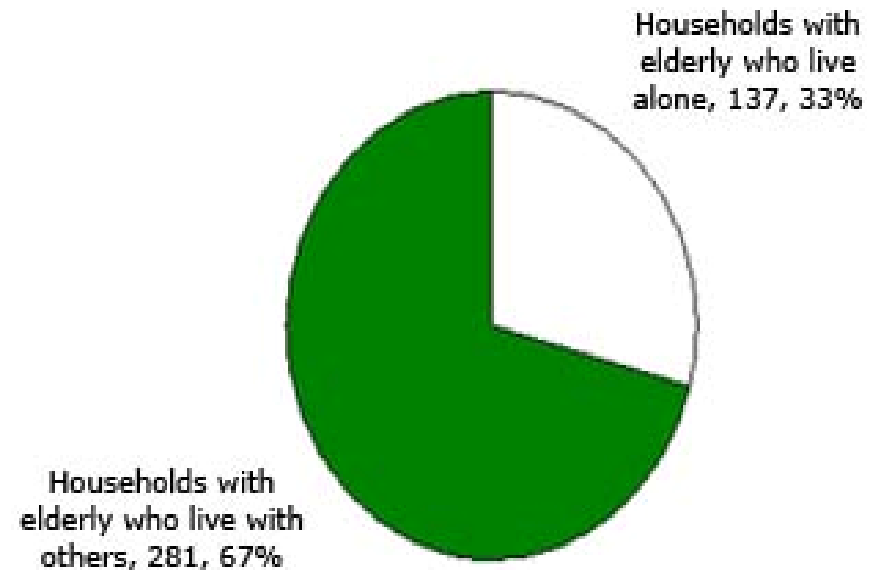
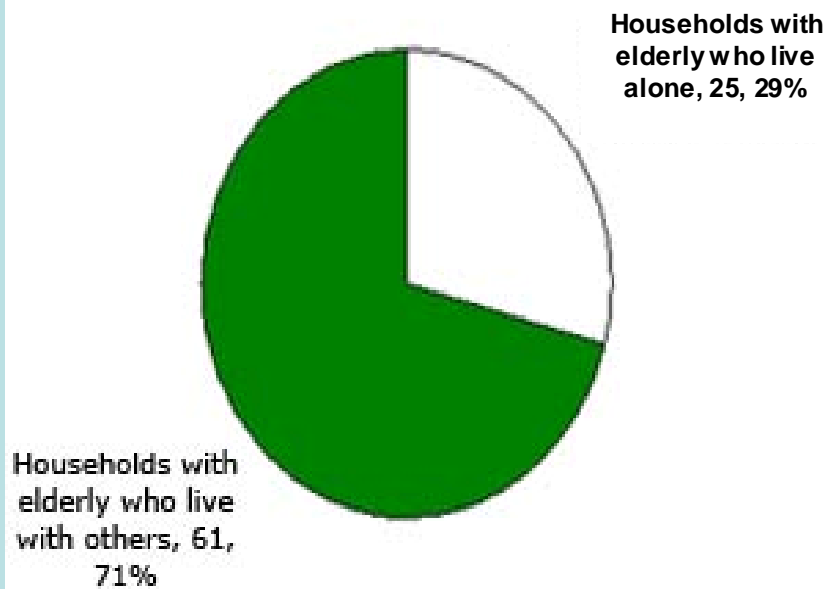




# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Elderly

### HDHHS (2006)

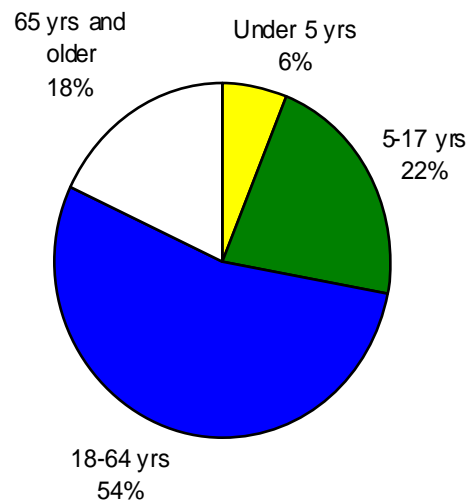


### CENSUS (2000)

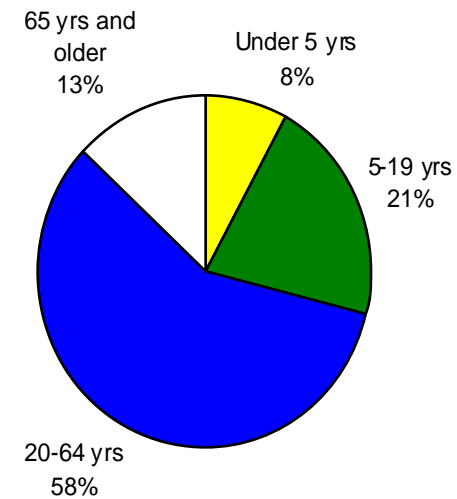
# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Age Distributions

### CENSUS (2000)



### HDHHS (2006)



# **ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

# ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE



*Most households surveyed did not report access to health care as a concern:*

- 78% already had a regular doctor or clinic;
- 78% no problems obtaining medical services;
- 82% no problems obtaining medications or supplies within the past year; and
- 82% least one form of health insurance or health care coverage.

# ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE



Reasons why access to health care might not have been a major concern on the survey:

- The persons who responded might not have a lack of access to health care.
- Perceptions may be incorrect.
- The persons who did not respond to the survey might still lack access to health care.

# ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Regardless of the reason,  
generalizations cannot be made  
about lacking or not lacking  
access to health care because  
not everyone who lives in Tri-  
Community participated in the  
survey!

# **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



**More than half of the residents expressed concern about air quality.**

*Close proximity to pollution emitting sources:*

- an active railroad track
- the Houston Port Authority and ship channel (South)
- IH-610 freeway (West)
- a dredge spoils deposit facility (Northeast)



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

In order to develop a plan to curb particulate matter emissions (road dust), the Mayor's Office is coordinating a project with:

- Bureau of Air Quality Control
- City of Houston Public Works and Engineering
- Houston Port of Authority
- Tri-Community business stakeholders

# **INTERVENTION**

## **Tiers 2 and 3**

- Direct Assistance
- Information
- Emergent Care

# INTERVENTION



**Total = 183 intervention referrals:**

- **177 = Direct Assistance / Education**
- **6 = Emergency Care**

# INTERVENTION

*recognizing multiple needs*

*Households with multiple needs:*

- 85 households (48%) had 1 – 2 needs
- 64 households (36%) had 3 – 5 needs
- 16 households (9%) had 6 – 9 needs
- 7 households (3%) had 10 or more needs

# INTERVENTION



*There are probably several reasons for the CHANGE IN NEEDS identified:*

- Handouts & Prior Utilization
- Needs identified, but actual support not always necessary
- Increased enrollment for senior activities
- Embarrassment

# INTERVENTION COMPLETION

*2 months post-event*

Five contacts (phone or home visit) necessary to close referral:

- eligibility pre-screening
- application assistance
- support coordination planning with family members
- referrals to both internal and external agencies/services
- listening/relationship building

# INTERVENTION

*70 days post-event*

## LETTERS

47 households – referrals not confirmed by agency

52 households - contact/follow-up not successful

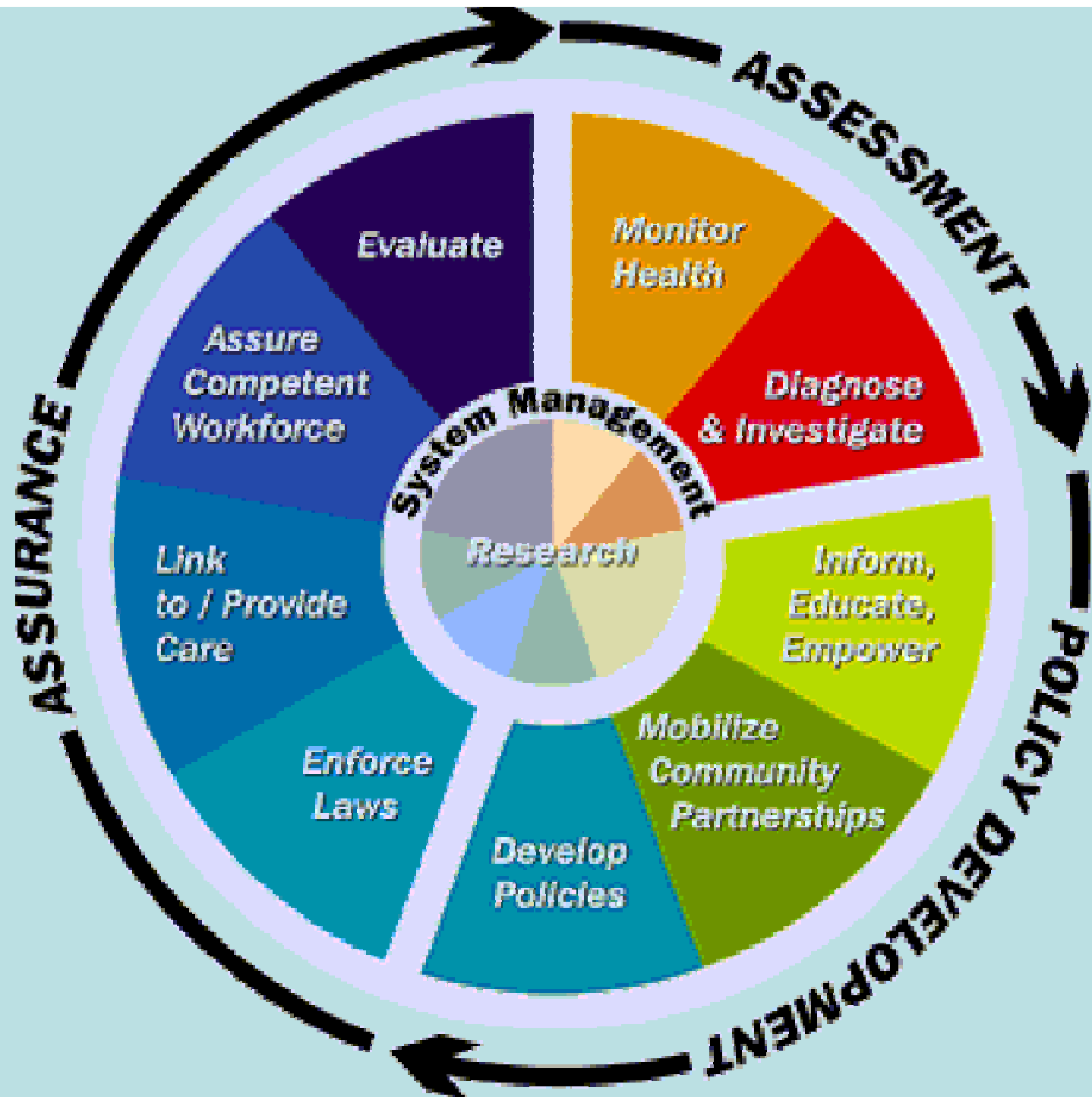
9 households - continued support through individualized case management

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

*City of Houston Neighborhood Protection officers:*

- 84 vacant/abandoned lots
- 74 property inspections
- 2 graffiti complaints
- 1 narcotic complaint
- 3 day sweep of stray animals (BARC)
- 1 Gas Leak repaired





- 1) *May 2007 - Magnolia*
- 2) *September 2007 - Sunnyside*
- 3) *October 2007- Independence Heights*

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

- 2 projects per year
- Smaller, devoted body of staff (30-40)
- More time to collect data (2 weeks)