**east texas council**

**of governments**

**FY2026**

**Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan**

A Strategic Plan for Meeting the

Criminal Justice needs of the ETCOG Region



Public Safety Program

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**Regional Profile**

**Overview**

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) serves a 14-county region encompassing nearly 10,000 square miles of rural and urban communities. With a population exceeding 900,000 residents, the region includes a diverse array of criminal justice stakeholders—from law enforcement and emergency personnel to nonprofit service providers and court systems.

ETCOG partners with 14 counties and more than 100 municipalities, both incorporated and unincorporated. Where available, direct links to local government websites are provided through the ETCOG Regional Directory, which includes contact information for city and county officials, school districts, and legislators.

**Counties Represented**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Anderson](http://www.co.anderson.tx.us/) | [Camp](http://www.co.camp.tx.us/) | [Cherokee](http://www.co.cherokee.tx.us/ips/cms/index.html) | [Gregg](http://www.co.gregg.tx.us/) |
| [Harrison](http://harrisoncountytexas.org) | [Henderson](http://www.henderson-county.com/) | [Marion](http://www.co.marion.tx.us/) | [Panola](http://www.co.panola.tx.us/) |
| [Rains](http://www.co.rains.tx.us/) | [Rusk](http://www.co.rusk.tx.us/) | [Smith](http://www.smith-county.com/) | [Upshur](http://www.countyofupshur.com/) |
| [Van Zandt](http://www.vanzandtcounty.org/) | [Wood](http://www.mywoodcounty.com/) |  |  |

**Municipalities (Incorporated & Unincorporated)**

ETCOG’s region includes a mix of small towns and mid-sized cities, such as Tyler, Longview, and Palestine, as well as dozens of rural communities. A complete list of municipalities is maintained in the ETCOG Regional Directory, which includes contact information for local government officials, school districts, and legislators.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Alba](https://albatexas.org/) | [Elkhart](http://www.andersoncountytexas.us/Elkhart/Elkhart1.htm) | [Lindale](http://www.lindaletx.gov/) | [Quitman](http://www.quitmantx.org/) |
| [Alto](http://www.cherokeecountytexas.us/altotexas.htm) | [Emory](https://www.cityofemory.com) | [Log Cabin](https://www.cityoflogcabin.com/) | [Reklaw](http://cityofreklaw.org/ubweb/) |
| [Arp](http://arptx.com/2150/Mayor-City-Council) | [Eustace](http://www.eustacetexas.org/) | [Longview](https://www.longviewtexas.gov/) | [Rocky Mound](https://www.etcog.org/rocky-mound) |
| [Athens](http://athenstexas.us/) | [Frankston](http://www.frankstontexas.com/) | [Mabank](http://www.cityofmabanktx.org/) | [Rusk](http://www.rusktx.org/) |
| [Beckville](https://www.txdirectory.com/online/city/detail.php?id=992) | [Fruitvale](https://www.cityoffruitvaletx.org/) | [Malakoff](http://cityofmalakoff.net/) | [Seven Points](http://sevenpointstexas.com/) |
| [Ben Wheeler](https://benwheelertx.com/) | [Gallatin](http://www.cherokeecountytexas.us/Gallatin/Gallatin.htm) | [Marshall](http://www.marshalltexas.net/) | [Scottsville](https://www.etcog.org/scottsville) |
| [Berryville](https://www.cityofberryville.org/) | [Gary](https://www.etcog.org/gary) | Maydelle \* | Smithland \* |
| [Big Sandy](http://www.bigsandytx.gov/) | [Gilmer](http://gilmer-tx.com/) | [Mineola](https://www.mineola.com/) | [Star Harbor](http://starharbortx.com/) |
| [Brownsboro](http://brownsboro.us/) | [Gladewater](https://www.cityofgladewater.com/) |  | [Tatum](http://tatumtexas.com/) |
| [Bullard](https://www.bullardtexas.net/) | [Grand Saline](https://grandsaline.org/) | Montalba \* | Tennessee Colony \* |
| [Caney City](https://cityofcaneycitytx.com/) | [Gun Barrel City](http://www.gunbarrelcity.net/) | [Moore Station](https://www.etcog.org/moore-station) | [Tool](http://tooltexas.org/) |
| [Canton](http://www.cantontx.gov/index.php) | [Hallsville](http://cityofhallsvilletx.com/) | [Mt. Enterprise](https://cityofmte.gov/) | [Trinidad](http://www.trinidadtexas.com/) |
|  | [Hawkins](https://www.etcog.org/hawkins) | [Murchison](https://murchisontx.com/) | [Troup](https://www.etcog.org/troup) |
| [Carthage](https://www.carthagetexas.us/) | [Henderson](http://www.hendersontx.us/) | Neches \* | [Tyler](http://www.cityoftyler.org/) |
| [Chandler](http://www.chandlertx.com/) | [Hideaway](https://cityofhideaway.org/) | Nesbitt \* | [Uncertain](https://cityofuncertain.com/) |
| [Clarksville City](http://clarksvilletx.com/city-hall/) | Holly Lake\* | [New Chapel Hill](https://www.etcog.org/new-chapel-hill) | [Union Grove](https://www.etcog.org/union-grove) |
| [Coffee City](https://www.cityofcoffeecity.com/) | [Jacksonville](http://www.jacksonville-texas.com/) | [New London](https://www.etcog.org/new-london) | [Van](http://vantx.com/) |
| Crims Chapel\* | [Jefferson](http://www.jeffersontexas.us/) | New Salem | [Warren City](https://www.etcog.org/warren-city) |
| [Cuney](http://www.cherokeecountytexas.us/cuneytexas.htm) | Karnack \* | [New Summerfield](https://www.newsummerfield.us/) | [Waskom](http://cityofwaskom.com/) |
| Diana\* | [Kilgore](http://www.cityofkilgore.com/) | [Noonday](https://cityofnoonday.com/) | [Wells](https://cityofwells.us/) |
| [East Mountain](https://www.eastmountaintx.com/) | Laird Hill \* | [Ore City](http://orecitytx.org/) | [Whitehouse](http://www.whitehousetx.org/) |
| [East Tawakoni](http://cityofeasttawakoni.com/) | [Lakeport](https://www.etcog.org/lakeport) | [Overton](http://www.ci.overton.tx.us/) | [White Oak](http://www.cityofwhiteoak.com/) |
| [Easton](https://www.cityofeastontx.com/) | Laneville \* | [Palestine](http://www.cityofpalestinetx.com/) | [Wills Point](http://willspointtx.org/) |
| [Edgewood](http://edgewoodtexas.org/) | Leesburg \* | [Payne Springs](https://paynespringstx.com/home) | [Winnsboro](https://www.winnsborotexas.com/) |
| [Edom](http://www.edomtexas.com/) | Leverett’s Chapel \* | [Pittsburg](http://www.pittsburgtexas.com/) | [Winona](http://www.winonatexas.com/) |
| Elderville\* | [Liberty City](http://www.cityofliberty.org/) | [Point](http://cityofpoint.org/) | Woodlawn \* |
| [Enchanted Oaks](http://www.enchantedoaks.org/) |  | [Poynor](https://www.etcog.org/poyner) | [Yantis](https://cityofyantis.com/) |

\*Unincorporated

[ETCOG Regional Directory](https://www.etcog.org/regional-directory) – provides phones numbers, email addresses and names of officials for each City, County, School District, and all East Texas Legislators.

[ETCOG Downloaded Solutions Report](https://www.etcog.org/east-texas-region) – Regional or by County

[ETCOG GIS Data, KML Data and County Maps](https://www.regionaltechnologysolutions.com/gis-downloads)

[ETCOG Provided Services](https://www.etcog.org/more-services)

[ETCOG Governing Boards](https://www.etcog.org/about)

**Accessibility & Infrastructure**

The ETCOG region is well connected by major transportation corridors including:

* Interstate 20 (I-20)
* U.S. Highways 59, 69, 79, 80, 84, 175, 259, and 287

These critical infrastructure routes facilitate regional commerce, public safety access, and daily travel. However, this same connectivity also contributes to the movement of drugs, trafficking, and other illicit activity—reinforcing the need for coordinated criminal justice planning and interdiction efforts.

**Demographics**

The region’s population continues to grow, rising from 829,749 in 2010 to an estimated **918,025 in 2024**, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This growth places increased demands on law enforcement, courts, juvenile justice systems, and victim services.

The breakdown of population by county and year is shown below.

**REGIONAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS (2010-2024)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Square**  **Miles** | **2010**  **Census** | **2013**  **Estimate** | **2015**  **Estimate** | **2017**  **Estimate** | **2018 Estimate** | **2021 Estimate** | **2022**  **Estimate** | **2023**  **Estimate** | **2024**  **Estimate** |
| Anderson | 1,062.6 | 58,458 | 57,960 | 57,641 | 57,741 | 58,057 | 58,402 | 58,064 | 57,736 | 59,512 |
| Camp | 195.8 | 12,401 | 12,435 | 12,663 | 12,855 | 13,033 | 12,616 | 12,716 | 13,000 | 13,164 |
| Cherokee | 1,052.9 | 50,845 | 51,088 | 51,573 | 52,240 | 52,592 | 51,097 | 51,645 | 52,217 | 53,223 |
| Gregg | 273.3 | 121,730 | 123,172 | 123,851 | 123,367 | 123,707 | 124,201 | 125,443 | 126,243 | 126,679 |
| Harrison | 900.0 | 65,631 | 66,254 | 66,760 | 66,661 | 66,726 | 69,150 | 69,955 | 70,895 | 71,370 |
| Henderson | 873.8 | 78,532 | 78628 | 79447 | 81,064 | 82,299 | 83,667 | 84,511 | 86,158 | 87,467 |
| Marion | 380.9 | 10,546 | 10,273 | 10,127 | 10,064 | 9,928 | 9,645 | 9,560 | 9,571 | 9,704 |
| Panola | 801.8 | 23,796 | 23,786 | 23,660 | 23,243 | 23,148 | 22,675 | 22,677 | 22,838 | 23,022 |
| Rains | 229.5 | 10,914 | 11,026 | 11,129 | 11,762 | 12,159 | 12,509 | 12,823 | 12,986 | 13,306 |
| Rusk | 924.0 | 53,330 | 53,336 | 52,930 | 52,833 | 54,450 | 52,743 | 53,333 | 53,079 | 53,391 |
| Smith | 921.5 | 209,714 | 216,426 | 222,410 | 227,727 | 230,221 | 237,186 | 241,922 | 245,209 | 249,091 |
| Upshur | 583.0 | 39,309 | 39,757 | 40,381 | 41,281 | 41,260 | 41,774 | 42,488 | 43,281 | 44,050 |
| Van Zandt | 842.6 | 52,579 | 52,317 | 53,410 | 55,182 | 56,019 | 61,275 | 62,859 | 64,000 | 65,304 |
| Wood | 645.2 | 41,964 | 42,401 | 43,220 | 44,314 | 45,129 | 45,875 | 46,857 | 47,921 | 48,742 |
| **Totals** | **9,686.90** | **829,749** | **838,859** | **849,202** | **860,334** | **868,728** | **882,815** | **894,853** | **905,134** | **918,025** |
| Source: [www.census.gov/quickfacts](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts) | | | | | | | |  |  |  |

**About ETCOG**

Established in 1970, ETCOG is a voluntary association of local governments—counties, cities, school districts, and special districts—collaborating to address shared needs. ETCOG supports the region by:

* Coordinating 9-1-1 emergency services;
* Providing law enforcement training and homeland security planning;
* Administering grant funding and technical assistance; and
* Supporting rural transportation, workforce development, and senior services.

Through strategic planning and collaborative partnerships, ETCOG plays a vital role in advancing public safety and enhancing quality of life across the region.

**Planning Process Overview**

**Plan Coordination**

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) Public Safety staff coordinate the development of the ETCOG Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan (ERCJSP). For the FY2026 planning cycle, ETCOG issued a regional stakeholder survey on **July 2, 2024**, to identify key service gaps, trends, and priority needs. Survey responses, along with supporting data from state and local agencies, form the foundation of this plan.

The ERCJSP is reviewed and updated at least once every five years—or more frequently if goals, priorities, or state guidelines change.

**Stakeholder Engagement**

To ensure the plan reflects local priorities, ETCOG engages a diverse group of stakeholders representing the following sectors:

* Elected Officials
* Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Members
* Law Enforcement Agencies
* Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments
* Courts and Prosecutors
* Independent School Districts and Higher Education Institutions
* Public and Private Nonprofits
* Emergency Management Coordinators
* Concerned Citizens

Stakeholders are invited to complete a survey that collects feedback on regional needs and service gaps. The survey is also a tool for local service providers to advocate for priority issues in their communities. The electronic survey designed to:

* Identify service gaps and emerging needs
* Collect feedback on existing priorities
* Provide a platform for agencies to advocate for regional concerns

**Survey Response Summary**

**By County Participation**

In July of 2024, a total of **44 survey responses** were received across the 14 counties:

| **County** | **% of Total Responses** | **# of Respondents** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Anderson | 11.36% | 5 |
| Camp | 6.82% | 3 |
| Cherokee | 18.18% | 8 |
| Gregg | 22.73% | 10 |
| Harrison | 9.09% | 4 |
| Henderson | 20.45% | 9 |
| Marion | 6.82% | 3 |
| Panola | 6.82% | 3 |
| Rains | 9.09% | 4 |
| Rusk | 13.64% | 6 |
| Smith | 22.73% | 10 |
| Upshur | 11.36% | 5 |
| Van Zandt | 11.36% | 5 |
| Wood | 13.64% | 6 |

**By Field of Expertise**

Stakeholders represented a broad cross-section of professional backgrounds:

* 59.09% – Law Enforcement
* 13.64% – Non-Profit Agency
* 11.36% – Courts/Prosecution
* 11.36% – Legal Services
* 11.36% – Juvenile Probation
* 9.09% – Crime Victim/Service Recipient
* 9.09% – Elected Official
* 6.82% – Concerned Citizen
* 6.82% – Faith-Based Organization
* 6.82% – Public Official
* 4.55% – Civic Organization
* 4.55% – Parent
* 2.27% – Education (K–12)
* 2.27% – Child Protective Services
* 2.27% – Substance Abuse Provider
* 2.27% – College/University
* 2.27% – Private Sector
* 2.27% – For-Profit Corporation

**Use of the Strategic Plan**

The *ERCJSP* is available on the ETCOG website at:  
📎 [pineywoods911.com/criminal-justice](http://www.pineywoods911.com/criminal-justice)

It serves as a key resource for:

* **CJAC Members**, who use it to evaluate and score regional grant applications based on alignment with regional and state priorities.
* **Grant Applicants**, who use the plan to design projects that directly address local service gaps.
* **ETCOG Staff**, who provide training and technical assistance to new CJAC members and guide stakeholders through the application process.

All CJAC members receive orientation and training, which includes an overview of the ERCJSP, current regional and state priorities, budget allocations, and updates on available funding sources.

**Executive Summary**

The **ETCOG Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan (ERCJSP)** serves as a guiding document for identifying and addressing criminal justice priorities across the 14-county East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) region. Covering nearly 10,000 square miles and serving a population of over 900,000, this plan reflects both local input and regional data to support decision-making and resource allocation.

The ERCJSP is required by the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office (PSO), and fulfills Section CJ6.1 of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between ETCOG and the OOG/PSO. It is used by local stakeholders to align programs, secure funding, and build collaborative solutions to complex criminal justice issues.

**Purpose and Use of the Plan**

The plan is a tool for:

* **Engaging stakeholders** in identifying community-level service gaps;
* **Informing CJAC decision-making** when scoring and prioritizing grant applications;
* **Supporting applicants** in the design of projects that address identified needs;
* **Aligning local strategies** with state-level priorities and funding opportunities;
* **Ensuring accountability** in the administration of public safety resources.

The ERCJSP is reviewed at least every five years or sooner if significant changes in regional needs, funding mechanisms, or state guidelines occur.

**Planning Process Summary**

The FY2026 update is based on an electronic survey issued to regional stakeholders in July 2024, along with supplemental data from law enforcement agencies, courts, nonprofit providers, school systems, and health organizations. Survey responses were analyzed alongside public safety data to define both current service gaps and emerging needs.

The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC), made up of multidisciplinary experts from across the region, uses the ERCJSP to evaluate applications for criminal justice grants, ensuring alignment with both regional and state priorities.

**Key Regional Priority Areas**

The following categories reflect the most critical needs across the region, based on stakeholder feedback and supporting data:

**1. Law Enforcement Priorities**

* Training on crime scene investigations, drug enforcement, and mental health response
* Equipment upgrades for safety, communications, and investigation
* Enhanced response times and visibility
* Family violence and DWI enforcement
* Victim advocacy, gang prevention, and cold case investigations

**2. Criminal Justice System Priorities**

* Prosecutors and investigators specializing in crimes against children and sexual assault
* Expansion of mental health, family violence, and drug courts
* Court security and justice information systems
* Defense-side investigators and offender monitoring
* Diversion and reentry programs

**3. Juvenile Justice Priorities**

* Behavioral health and prevention programs
* Family support, character development, and life skills training
* School resource officers and afterschool programs
* Mentoring and dropout prevention
* Diversion for first-time offenders and specialized services for female youth

**4. Mental Health Priorities**

* Crisis intervention training for law enforcement and jail staff
* Increased access to psychiatric services and inpatient treatment
* Mobile crisis teams and community-based supports
* Trauma-informed therapy for victims and court-involved individuals

**5. Substance Abuse Priorities**

* Prevention education and early intervention programs
* Inpatient and outpatient treatment options
* Recovery support and reentry assistance
* Substance-related specialty courts and coordinated case management

**6. Victims of Crime Act / Violence Against Women Priorities**

* Crisis services including 24/7 hotlines, SANEs, and emergency transport
* Shelter and transitional housing for victims of domestic violence and trafficking
* Legal assistance for protective orders, custody, and immigration
* Trauma recovery services tailored to children, the elderly, and underserved communities
* Culturally competent outreach and bilingual support

**Implementation and Scoring Process**

All criminal justice grant applications submitted in the ETCOG region are reviewed by the CJAC using a standardized scoring instrument. The process includes:

1. **Applicant Presentations** – Each applicant gives a 5-minute presentation to the CJAC, followed by a Q&A session to clarify project goals and outcomes.
2. **Application Scoring** – Projects are scored based on their alignment with:
   * Local priorities outlined in the ERCJSP
   * State priorities issued by the Office of the Governor
   * Project need, impact, and design
3. **Ranked Recommendations** – Applications are ranked and submitted to the OOG for final funding decisions.

The strategic plan ensures that decisions are equitable, data-informed, and responsive to the region’s most pressing public safety needs.

**Regional Priorities**

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**Overview**

This section outlines the major criminal justice challenges across the ETCOG region, identified through stakeholder feedback and supported by local data. These priorities guide funding decisions, policy development, and collaborative initiatives aimed at improving public safety outcomes in East Texas.

Many of these issues stem from limited financial and staffing resources. Each year, local agencies apply for funding through ETCOG’s criminal justice grant process, and these applications are reviewed and ranked by the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC).

**Purpose of the CJAC**

The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee plays a vital role in regional criminal justice planning. Its responsibilities include:

* Reviewing and scoring grant applications based on alignment with regional and state priorities
* Identifying service gaps and confirming priority areas
* Recommending funding decisions to the ETCOG Executive Committee
* Promoting collaboration across criminal justice, education, health, and nonprofit sectors

CJAC members are appointed to represent a broad range of criminal justice and community disciplines. Their collective expertise ensures a fair, transparent, and informed review process.

**CJAC Membership**

| **Name** | **Representation** |
| --- | --- |
| Ted Debbs (Chair) | Mental Health |
| David Dobbs (Vice Chair) | Prosecution/Courts |
| Maxey Cerliano | Law Enforcement |
| John Cortleyou | Law Enforcement |
| Clint Davis | Prosecution/Courts |
| Charles Helton | Law Enforcement |
| Linda Oyer | Other |
| Mark Taylor | Other |
| Christie Burleson | Juvenile Justice |
| Cliff Carruth | Law Enforcement |
| Patti Eason | Juvenile Justice |
| Angel Townsend | Juvenile Justice |
| Charles Worley | Education |
| Tonya Watson | Non-Profit |

**Stakeholder Feedback Process**

To identify emerging priorities and validate existing ones, ETCOG Public Safety staff distribute a Regional Needs Survey to criminal justice stakeholders across the 14-county region. The survey:

* Highlights service gaps across law enforcement, courts, juvenile justice, mental health, and victim services
* Allows stakeholders to recommend updates to existing priorities
* Informs annual revisions and long-term updates to the ERCJSP

Stakeholders are also encouraged to submit new data, program recommendations, and concerns at any time to ensure the plan remains current and responsive.

**Funding Challenges**

Despite the number of quality proposals submitted each year, available state and federal funds are often insufficient to meet the full scope of regional needs. As a result, many valuable projects are either underfunded or unfunded.

The ERCJSP helps the CJAC make informed, equitable decisions that balance:

* Local priorities and needs
* Evidence of community impact
* State funding guidelines and eligibility
* Available allocation levels for the ETCOG region

*“The most significant barriers to regional progress are not lack of awareness—but limited funding and capacity.”*

**Law Enforcement Priorities**

**Overview**

Law enforcement agencies across the ETCOG region face a range of operational, training, and resource-based challenges. These priorities were identified through the 2024 Regional Criminal Justice Needs Survey and are supported by local and statewide data. The top concerns include personnel training, equipment modernization, emergency response capacity, and support for specialized units.

**Regional Law Enforcement Priorities**

**1. Officer Training and Equipment**

* General law enforcement training
* Specialized training for:
  + Crime scene investigations
  + Drug enforcement operations
  + Mental health-related calls and de-escalation
* Modern equipment for investigations, communications, and officer safety

**2. Emergency Response and Community Presence**

* Improved response times to emergency calls
* Increased police visibility and patrol in neighborhoods
* Stronger enforcement of:
  + Family violence offenses
  + DWI/DUI violations

**3. Specialized Services**

* Victim assistance and advocacy training
* Gang prevention and suppression units
* Cold case investigations
* Terrorism prevention and community intelligence initiatives

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| **Stakeholder Survey Results**  **Which law enforcement services are most vital in your county?**   | **Response Option** | **% of Respondents** | | --- | --- | | Training for Law Enforcement | 72.73% | | Drug Enforcement | 68.18% | | Police Visibility in the Community | 65.91% | | Family Violence Investigation | 65.91% | | Adequate Response Time to Emergency Calls | 63.64% | | Crime Scene Investigation | 59.09% | | DWI Enforcement | 56.82% | | Specialized Mental Health Training | 47.73% | | Victim Assistance Advocacy | 47.73% | | Gang Prevention Unit | 31.82% | | Cold Case Investigation | 29.55% | | Neighborhood Watch | 27.27% | | Speed Enforcement | 36.36% | | Terrorism Prevention | 15.91% | | Citizens on Patrol | 13.64% | | Adequate Arrest Rates | 36.36% |   **Which law enforcement services have the most gaps in your county?**   | **Response Option** | **% of Respondents** | | --- | --- | | Training for Law Enforcement | 40.48% | | Specialized Mental Health Training | 38.10% | | Drug Enforcement | 28.57% | | Family Violence Investigation | 28.57% | | Police Visibility in the Community | 26.19% | | Response Time to Emergency Calls | 26.19% | | Victim Assistance Advocacy | 33.33% | | Cold Case Investigation | 19.05% | | Gang Prevention Unit | 16.67% | | Crime Scene Investigation | 16.67% | | Neighborhood Watch | 9.52% | | Citizens on Patrol | 9.52% | | Terrorism Prevention | 9.52% | | Speed Enforcement | 7.14% | | Arrest Rates | 9.52% |   **What are the critical law enforcement equipment/services needs in your county?**   | **Response Option** | **% of Respondents** | | --- | --- | | Training for Law Enforcement | 70.73% | | Drug Enforcement | 58.54% | | Crime Scene Investigation | 56.10% | | Police Visibility in the Community | 53.66% | | Adequate Response Time to Emergency Calls | 48.78% | | Family Violence Investigation | 48.78% | | Specialized Mental Health Training | 46.34% | | DWI Enforcement | 41.46% | | Victim Assistance Advocacy | 34.15% | | Cold Case Investigation | 19.51% | | Gang Prevention Unit | 21.95% | | Terrorism Prevention | 12.20% | | Neighborhood Watch | 9.76% | | Citizens on Patrol | 7.32% |   **Supporting Data**  **Smith County Specifics:**   * Local coverage highlights rising jail turnover, staffing challenges, and inmate population growth [**https://www.kltv.com**](https://www.kltv.com/2023/03/22/smith-county-jail-study-finds-dramatic-increase-turnover-overtime-inmate-population/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)**.**   **Crime Rates and DWI Arrests (2023)**  *Selected Counties*   | **County** | **Violent Crime (per 100k)** | **Property Crime (per 100k)** | **DWI Arrests** | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Smith | 406.0 | 2,238.3 | 1,245 | | Gregg | 164.5 | 1,478.2 | 210 | | Harrison | 177.9 | 1,598.6 | 165 | | Van Zandt | 140.2 | 1,310.4 | 112 | | Anderson | 155.2 | 1,234.7 | 120 |   *Source: Texas DPS 2023 Crime by Jurisdiction*  **Texas Department of Transportation – Crashes and Injuries by County - 2024**   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | County | Fatal Crashes | Fatalities | Suspected Serious Crashes | Suspected Serious Injuries | Suspected Minor Crashes | Suspected Minor Injuries | Possible Injury Crashes | Possible Injuries | Non-Injury Crashes | Non-Injuries | Unknown Severity Crashes | Unknown Injuries | Total Crashes | | Anderson | 12 | 13 | 32 | 44 | 116 | 173 | 122 | 198 | 477 | 1390 | 15 | 54 | 774 | | Camp | 4 | 4 | 10 | 17 | 23 | 35 | 22 | 47 | 92 | 291 | 6 | 5 | 157 | | Cherokee | 10 | 10 | 36 | 47 | 154 | 216 | 95 | 165 | 551 | 1534 | 9 | 39 | 855 | | Gregg | 25 | 25 | 78 | 94 | 447 | 624 | 502 | 790 | 2046 | 6655 | 52 | 221 | 3150 | | Harrison | 15 | 15 | 67 | 84 | 214 | 309 | 178 | 304 | 948 | 2661 | 27 | 84 | 1449 | | Henderson | 18 | 26 | 77 | 100 | 190 | 311 | 182 | 330 | 678 | 1961 | 26 | 81 | 1171 | | Marion | 2 | 2 | 13 | 15 | 25 | 46 | 12 | 18 | 81 | 210 | 5 | 8 | 138 | | Panola | 6 | 7 | 21 | 25 | 51 | 76 | 51 | 77 | 289 | 703 | 8 | 25 | 426 | | Rains | 3 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 17 | 24 | 11 | 21 | 81 | 237 | 9 | 18 | 127 | | Rusk | 17 | 17 | 30 | 37 | 134 | 181 | 58 | 132 | 486 | 1227 | 22 | 57 | 774 | | Smith | 46 | 53 | 154 | 201 | 811 | 1193 | 1049 | 1806 | 3826 | 12335 | 102 | 493 | 5988 | | Upshur | 15 | 16 | 39 | 51 | 100 | 166 | 58 | 118 | 379 | 1095 | 11 | 31 | 602 | | Van Zandt | 11 | 12 | 62 | 86 | 148 | 217 | 140 | 233 | 639 | 1880 | 13 | 45 | 1013 | | Wood | 8 | 8 | 42 | 58 | 64 | 99 | 90 | 131 | 352 | 970 | 14 | 50 | 570 |   **Source:** [Crashes and Injuries by County](https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/docs/division/trf/crash-records/2024/13.pdf)  **Texas Department of Transportation – Crashes and Injuries by Cities and Towns - 2024**   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | City | Fatal Crashes | Fatalities | Suspected Serious Crashes | Suspected Serious Injuries | Suspected Minor Crashes | Suspected Minor Injuries | Possible Injury Crashes | Possible Injuries | Non-Injury Crashes | Non-Injuries | Unknown Severity Crashes | Unknown Injuries | Total Crashes | | ALBA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 29 | 1 | 1 | 10 | | ALTO | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 11 | | ARP | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 15 | | ATHENS | 3 | 3 | 17 | 18 | 74 | 130 | 66 | 140 | 150 | 551 | 3 | 18 | 313 | | BECKVILLE | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 6 | | BERRYVILLE | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 5 | | BIG SANDY | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 20 | 58 | 2 | 4 | 28 | | BROWNSBORO (HENDERSON) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | BULLARD | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 13 | 7 | 10 | 26 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 44 | | CANTON | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 28 | 36 | 37 | 67 | 187 | 554 | 1 | 16 | 258 | | CARTHAGE | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 18 | 12 | 15 | 129 | 327 | 4 | 10 | 159 | | CHANDLER | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 18 | 6 | 11 | 57 | 170 | 0 | 4 | 81 | | CLARKSVILLE CITY | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 23 | 0 | 1 | 13 | | COFFEE CITY | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 30 | 1 | 3 | 17 | | CUNEY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | | EAST MOUNTAIN0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 12 | | EAST TAWAKONI | N/A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | EASTON | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 7 | | EDGEWOOD | N/A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | EDOM | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | | ELKHART | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 13 | | EMORY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 49 | 143 | 3 | 8 | 63 | | FRANKSTON | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 32 | 0 | 1 | 19 | | FRUITVALE | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 11 | | GALLATIN | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | GARY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | | GILMER | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 20 | 12 | 20 | 134 | 417 | 1 | 9 | 170 | | GLADEWATER | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 21 | 28 | 65 | 195 | 2 | 10 | 102 | | GRAND SALINE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 34 | 2 | 4 | 23 | | GUN BARREL CITY | 0 | 0 | 8 | 14 | 20 | 26 | 30 | 46 | 124 | 400 | 1 | 9 | 183 | | HALLSVILLE | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 38 | 126 | 0 | 0 | 53 | | HAWKINS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 16 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 21 | | HENDERSON | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 42 | 57 | 20 | 30 | 159 | 455 | 9 | 19 | 234 | | JACKSONVILLE | 2 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 61 | 86 | 27 | 56 | 210 | 741 | 5 | 24 | 314 | | JEFFERSON | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 15 | 1 | 2 | 34 | 84 | 2 | 4 | 47 | | KILGORE | 1 | 1 | 9 | 13 | 66 | 99 | 31 | 54 | 159 | 552 | 4 | 10 | 270 | | LAKEPORT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 17 | 42 | 0 | 1 | 24 | | LINDALE | 2 | 2 | 11 | 18 | 26 | 44 | 42 | 65 | 184 | 645 | 2 | 15 | 267 | | LONGVIEW | 7 | 7 | 37 | 39 | 266 | 349 | 375 | 580 | 1428 | 4831 | 37 | 156 | 2150 | | MABANK | 0 | 0 | 8 | 11 | 17 | 31 | 23 | 37 | 100 | 328 | 12 | 38 | 160 | | MALAKOFF | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | | MARSHALL | 1 | 1 | 14 | 17 | 79 | 117 | 109 | 187 | 290 | 1040 | 70 | 21 | 500 | | MINEOLA | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 20 | 26 | 76 | 231 | 9 | 28 | 119 | | MOORE STATION | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | | MOUNT ENTERPRISE | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 57 | 1 | 3 | 20 | | MURCHISON | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 9 | | NESBITT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 7 | | NEW CHAPEL HILL | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 8 | | NEW SUMMERFIELD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 18 | | NOONDAY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 6 | | ORE CITY | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | | OVERTON | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 7 | | PALESTINE | 4 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 63 | 90 | 53 | 87 | 251 | 849 | 5 | 36 | 383 | | PAYNE SPRINGS | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 18 | 48 | 1 | 2 | 29 | | PITTSBURG | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 13 | 27 | 57 | 196 | 2 | 2 | 82 | | POINT | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | POYNOR | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | REKLAW | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 11 | | RUSK | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 22 | 13 | 18 | 52 | 146 | 1 | 3 | 83 | | SEVEN POINTS | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 16 | 21 | 30 | 93 | 1 | 6 | 55 | | TATUM | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 22 | 0 | 1 | 13 | | TOOL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | TRINIDAD | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | | TROUP | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 44 | 0 | 2 | 25 | | TYLER | 13 | 16 | 58 | 75 | 419 | 603 | 705 | 1199 | 2142 | 7403 | 59 | 335 | 3396 | | UNION GROVE (UPSHUR) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 6 | | VAN | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 37 | 105 | 0 | 3 | 53 | | WARREN CITY | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 5 | | WASKOM | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 37 | 1 | 2 | 30 | | WELLS (CHEROKEE) | N/A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | WHITE OAK (GREGG) | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 17 | 48 | 126 | 0 | 1 | 68 | | WHITEHOUSE | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 68 | 204 | 1 | 5 | 81 | | WILLS POINT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 5 | | WINNSBORO | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 40 | 89 | 1 | 9 | 49 | | WINONA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 15 | 0 | 2 | 8 | | YANTIS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 6 | | **Total** | **48** | **55** | **246** | **306** | **1,375** | **1,978** | **1,739** | **2,877** | **6,631** | **21,909** | **246** | **833** | **10,222** | | Source: [Crashes and Injuries by Cities and Towns](https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/docs/division/trf/crash-records/2024/14.pdf) \*N/A – no data submitted. | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  | |  | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |   **Implications for Planning**  The combination of survey data, crime statistics, and traffic crash reports clearly demonstrates the need for:   * Ongoing training in specialized areas * Updated equipment and technology * Mental health and de-escalation response training * Targeted enforcement strategies for high-risk issues like family violence, DWI, and gang activity   Continued investment in personnel development, interagency collaboration, and victim support infrastructure is critical to improving public safety outcomes in the ETCOG region.  **Criminal Justice Priorities**  Criminal justice systems in the ETCOG region face increasing pressure to expand specialized services, improve court operations, and implement innovative programs that address behavioral health, victimization, and offender rehabilitation. These priorities were developed through stakeholder surveys and are supported by regional trends and justice system data.  **Regional Criminal Justice Priorities:**  **1. Specialized Prosecutors**   * Dedicated investigators and prosecutors for:   + Crimes against children   + Sexual assault cases   + Family violence and human trafficking cases   **2. Court System Enhancements**   * Establishment and expansion of:   + Mental health courts   + Family violence courts   + Veteran and drug courts * Investments in:   + Court security equipment   + Justice information systems for improved data sharing and efficiency   **3. Defense and Monitoring Resources**   * Legal support and investigative resources for defense teams * GPS monitoring for both juvenile and adult offenders * Tools to support pretrial diversion and reentry programming   **4. Specialty and Diversion Courts**   * Juvenile and adult drug courts * Reentry and diversion programs focused on rehabilitation * Trauma-informed and culturally competent court services   **Stakeholder Survey Results**  **Most Important Judicial System Services**   | **Service Area** | **% of Respondents** | | --- | --- | | Crimes Against Children Prosecutors/Investigators | 69.77% | | Sexual Assault Prosecutors/Investigators | 62.79% | | Mental Health Court | 55.81% | | Family Violence Court | 41.86% | | Treatment Services for Offenders | 34.88% | | Adult Drug Court | 30.23% | | Juvenile Drug Court | 25.58% | | GPS Monitoring of Offenders | 25.58% | | Diversion Programs | 23.26% | | Court Security Equipment | 23.26% | | Alternatives to Incarceration | 23.26% | | Family Violence Prosecutors/Investigators | 44.19% |   **Judicial System Service Gaps**   | **Service Area** | **% of Respondents** | | --- | --- | | Mental Health Court | 56.10% | | Sexual Assault Prosecutors/Investigators | 43.90% | | Treatment Services for Offenders | 26.83% | | Diversion Programs | 24.39% | | GPS Monitoring of Offenders | 24.39% | | Alternatives to Incarceration | 31.71% | | Family Violence Prosecutors/Investigators | 19.51% | | Human Trafficking Court | 17.07% | | Court Security Equipment | 17.07% |   These results suggest significant demand for specialized prosecution units, mental health interventions, and alternative court models across the region.  **Supporting Regional Data**  **Family Violence Incidents by County (2024)**  *Sample Data from Texas DPS Crime Reports*   * **Smith County**: 1,739 total incidents (Tyler PD – 999; Smith Co SO – 685) * **Gregg County**: 1,156 total incidents (Longview PD – 829; Kilgore PD – 140; others) * **Henderson County**: 423 incidents (Henderson Co SO – 217; Athens PD – 130) * **Rusk County**: 421 incidents (Rusk Co SO – 183; Henderson PD – 211) * **Cherokee County**: 361 incidents (Jacksonville PD – 182; Cherokee Co SO – 136)   *Source: Texas Department of Public Safety – Crime in Texas, 2024*  **Sexual Assault Incidents by County (2024)**   * **Smith County**: 276 incidents (Tyler PD – 97; Smith Co SO – 155) * **Gregg County**: 116 incidents (Longview PD – 86; Kilgore PD – 12) * **Henderson County**: 61 incidents * **Harrison County**: 39 incidents * **Rusk County**: 46 incidents   These totals reinforce the need for dedicated investigators and prosecutors for victim-centered crimes.  **County Health Rankings (2022): Alcohol, Substance Use & Mental Health**   | **County** | **Excessive Drinking** | **Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths** | **Mental Health Provider Ratio** | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Henderson | 19% | 36% | 1:1,680 | | Harrison | 18% | 31% | 1:2,290 | | Camp | 19% | 29% | 1:2,610 | | Marion | 19% | 19% | 1:9,960 | | Panola | 20% | 19% | 1:5,800 |   *Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (2022)*  These indicators support the regional demand for mental health courts and DWI court alternatives.  **Implications for Planning**  The ETCOG region continues to experience increased pressure on court systems due to:   * High rates of family violence and sexual assault * Lack of access to mental health services in many counties * Gaps in court infrastructure and staffing * Underutilization of diversion and reentry tools   Investments in court-based alternatives, specialty prosecution, and victim-centered justice programs will be essential to improving outcomes and reducing recidivism. |

**Juvenile Justice Priorities**

**Overview**

Juvenile justice stakeholders in the ETCOG region report significant challenges in addressing behavioral health, family dynamics, and prevention programming for at-risk youth. Many counties lack adequate resources to divert first-time offenders or provide long-term support for court-involved juveniles. Stakeholder feedback reflects strong demand for community-based services and holistic approaches that address trauma, mental health, and family functioning.

**Regional Juvenile Justice Priorities:**

1. Prevention and Early Intervention

* Behavioral health screening and counseling
* School-based prevention and intervention services
* Character development and conflict resolution training
* Parenting classes and family support initiatives

2. Diversion and First-Offender Programs

* Juvenile diversion alternatives to detention
* Teen court, peer court, and family-based interventions
* Case management focused on education and life skills

3. Specialized Support Services

* Trauma-informed care for court-involved youth
* Mentorship and tutoring programs
* Girls-specific programming addressing abuse and exploitation
* After school and summer programs to reduce idle time and risk factors

4. Law Enforcement and School Collaboration

* School resource officers (SROs) with training in de-escalation and adolescent development
* Coordination between school districts and juvenile probation departments
* Threat assessment teams and mental health partnerships within school settings

**Stakeholder Survey Results**

**Most Important Juvenile Justice Services**

| **Service Area** | **% of Respondents** |
| --- | --- |
| Behavioral/Mental Health Programs | 65.12% |
| Juvenile Diversion and First-Offender | 44.19% |
| Family Support & Parenting Classes | 44.19% |
| Girls' Programs (Runaway, Abuse, Trauma) | 39.53% |
| School Resource Officers | 34.88% |
| After-School Programs | 30.23% |
| Mentoring Services | 27.91% |
| Dropout Prevention/Alternative Education | 27.91% |
| Life Skills and Conflict Resolution | 27.91% |

**Juvenile Justice Service Gaps**

| **Service Area** | **% of Respondents** |
| --- | --- |
| Behavioral/Mental Health Programs | 53.66% |
| Family Support & Parenting Classes | 39.02% |
| Juvenile Diversion and First-Offender | 36.59% |
| Girls’ Programs (Runaway, Abuse, Trauma) | 29.27% |
| Mentoring Services | 24.39% |
| Dropout Prevention/Alternative Education | 24.39% |
| After-School Programs | 21.95% |
| School Resource Officers | 19.51% |

These results suggest strong demand for trauma-informed, prevention-focused programs that address both youth behavior and family dynamics.

**Supporting Regional Data**

Juvenile funding is at an all-time low. There is a real need for afterschool programs for youth but not much money is available for these types of projects. At this time we are starting to see afterschool programs in our region shut down - [East Texas school district cancels afterschool programs due to 'unexpected loss of federal funding'](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/east-texas-school-district-cancels-afterschool-programs-due-to-unexpected-loss-of-federal-funding/ar-AA1IEFE7?ocid=hpmsn&cvid=b8184bfb737e4000b1bd7614b826dd88&ei=87).

**Children in Single-Parent Households (2022)**

*(Social risk factor associated with juvenile crime)*

| **County** | **% in Single-Parent Households** |
| --- | --- |
| Gregg | 41% |
| Harrison | 39% |
| Anderson | 38% |
| Cherokee | 37% |
| Rusk | 35% |
| Smith | 34% |

*Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (2022)*

**Juvenile Detention Information**

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) has 3 registered secure facilities in the ETCOG Region. They are in Harrison County, Smith County and Van Zandt County.

**Juvenile Court Capacity**

Limited availability of specialized courts and services (such as juvenile drug courts or mental health dockets) continues to strain existing juvenile justice infrastructure. Prevention and diversion are essential to keeping youth out of formal detention systems.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Juvenile Probation Referral Activity by County - Calendar Year 2023** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **County** | **2023 Juvenile Population** | **Violent Felony** | **Other Felony** | **Misdemeanor  A & B** | **VOP** | **Status** | **Other CINs** | **Total Referrals** | **Referral Rate/1,000** | **Youth Referred** |
| Anderson | 4444 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 4 | 13 |
| Camp | 1281 | 4 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 16 | 19 |
| Cherokee | 5370 | 3 | 17 | 24 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 9 | 43 |
| Gregg | 13234 | 31 | 44 | 116 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 200 | 15 | 167 |
| Harrison | 6965 | 10 | 32 | 41 | 9 | 32 | 2 | 126 | 18 | 95 |
| Henderson | 7136 | 23 | 26 | 33 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 89 | 12 | 81 |
| Marion | 730 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 16 | 10 |
| Panola | 2192 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 6 | 12 |
| Rains | 866 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| Rusk | 5269 | 14 | 12 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 57 | 11 | 52 |
| Smith | 22509 | 54 | 159 | 134 | 92 | 1 | 1 | 441 | 20 | 335 |
| Upshur | 3820 | 7 | 12 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 9 | 33 |
| Van Zandt | 4726 | 13 | 15 | 35 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 67 | 14 | 57 |
| Wood | 3375 | 4 | 7 | 19 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 10 | 35 |
| **Totals** | **81,917** | **167** | **368** | **456** | **123** | **37** | **13** | **1164** | **167** | **957** |

**Juvenile Probation Disposition Activity by County - Calendar Year 2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Dismissed** | **Consolidated** | **Other** | **Supervisory Caution** | **Deferred** | **Probation** | **Commitment** | **Adult Certification** | **Total Disposition** |
| Anderson | 3 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 21 |
| Camp | 1 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 26 |
| Cherokee | 8 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 27 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 46 |
| Gregg | 33 | 7 | 0 | 11 | 95 | 15 | 6 | 0 | 167 |
| Harrison | 103 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 12 | 5 | 1 | 132 |
| Henderson | 27 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 41 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 97 |
| Marion | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Panola | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Rains | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Rusk | 5 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 24 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| Smith | 59 | 19 | 1 | 27 | 115 | 233 | 18 | 1 | 473 |
| Upshur | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 22 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 36 |
| Van Zandt | 13 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 19 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 50 |
| Wood | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 16 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 39 |
| **Totals** | **268** | **33** | **1** | **102** | **400** | **325** | **32** | **4** | **1165** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **Juvenile Probation Supervision Workload Activity by County Calendar Year 2023** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Beginning of Period** | | **Added during Period** | |  | **Exited During Period** | | | **End of Period** |  | **Unsuccessful Terminations** |
|  | **Adjudicated Probation** | **Deferred Prosecution** | **Pre- Disposition** | **Adjudicated Probation** | **Deferred Prosecution** | **Pre- Disposition** |  | **Adjudicated Probation** | **Deferred Prosecution** |
| Anderson | 22 | | 10 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 15 | 19 | 3 | 0 |
| Camp | 10 | | 5 | 11 | 18 | 4 | 9 | 16 | 15 | 1 | 4 |
| Cherokee | 20 | | 8 | 27 | 14 | 11 | 21 | 12 | 25 | 2 | 3 |
| Gregg | 69 | | 18 | 97 | 4 | 26 | 114 | 5 | 43 | 8 | 13 |
| Harrison | 36 | | 9 | 11 | 38 | 7 | 8 | 45 | 34 | 4 | 2 |
| Henderson | 35 | | 21 | 53 | 11 | 13 | 51 | 15 | 41 | 2 | 4 |
| Marion | 7 | | 2 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| Panola | 8 | | 0 | 6 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Rains | 5 | | 2 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Rusk | 12 | | 1 | 23 | 2 | 0 | 28 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 4 |
| Smith | 207 | | 175 | 122 | 20 | 203 | 89 | 24 | 208 | 26 | 12 |
| Upshur | 23 | | 10 | 22 | 2 | 12 | 22 | 2 | 21 | 2 | 3 |
| Van Zandt | 28 | | 10 | 21 | 20 | 5 | 24 | 28 | 22 | 0 | 6 |
| Wood | 19 | | 8 | 21 | 16 | 10 | 16 | 19 | 19 | 1 | 2 |

**Totals 501 279 428 172 308 399 198 475 49 54**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Detentions and Placements by Offense Category – Calendar Year 2023** | | | | | | | | | |  |  |
|  |  | **Detentions** | |  | **Placements Non-Secure Secure** | | | | |  |  |
|  | **Felony** | **Misdemeanor AB & VOP** | **CINS/ Status** | **Total Detentions** | **Felony** | **Misdemeanor AB & VOP** | **CINS/ Status** | **Total Non- Secure** | **Felony** | **Misdemeanor AB & VOP** | **CINS/ Status** | **Total Secure** |
| Anderson | 5 | 4 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Camp | 16 | 4 | 0 | 20 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Cherokee | 8 | 10 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Gregg | 39 | 53 | 4 | 96 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harrison | 49 | 50 | 35 | 134 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Henderson | 21 | 7 | 0 | 28 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Marion | 8 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Panola | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rains | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Rusk | 5 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Smith | 97 | 159 | 0 | 256 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 14 | 0 | 17 |
| Upshur | 6 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Van Zandt | 19 | 19 | 3 | 41 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Wood | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

**Totals 281 316 42 639 18 18 0 36 23 19 0 42**

Source: [The State of Juvenile Probation Activity in Texas](https://www.tjjd.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/The-State-of-Juvenile-Probation-Activity-in-Texas-Calendar-Year-2023.pdf)

**Implications for Planning**

Youth and family services remain under-resourced across much of the ETCOG region. Stakeholders consistently identify behavioral health care and parental engagement as two of the most critical needs for preventing juvenile justice involvement.

Key strategies for addressing these priorities include:

* Expanding evidence-based counseling and diversion programs
* Supporting school and community partnerships
* Investing in mentorship and positive youth development initiatives
* Creating trauma-informed services tailored to high-risk youth, especially girls

**Mental Health Priorities**

**Overview**

Mental health continues to be a significant concern across the ETCOG region, affecting individuals in both the criminal justice system and the general community. Survey responses and regional data highlight persistent gaps in access, treatment availability, and coordination among service providers. These challenges are further compounded in rural counties, where resources are often limited or non-existent.

Across the ETCOG region, mental health challenges are among the most pressing issues facing law enforcement, courts, and community-based service providers. Stakeholders report persistent shortages of psychiatric care, limited crisis response capabilities, and rising demand for trauma-informed services—especially for victims, incarcerated individuals, and youth. Counties with rural populations are particularly impacted due to limited access to qualified providers.

The following priorities reflect the most critical mental health needs identified through the *Regional Criminal Justice Needs Survey* and regional planning data.

**Regional Mental Health Priorities:**

**1. Crisis Response & Intervention**

* Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for law enforcement
* Mobile crisis response units
* 24/7 behavioral health hotline access
* Crisis stabilization centers and short-term beds

**2. Treatment Access & Continuity of Care**

* Inpatient and outpatient psychiatric treatment
* Case management for individuals with co-occurring disorders
* Tele-mental health expansion in rural areas
* Community-based support services (peer specialists, housing, employment)

**3. Justice System Integration**

* Mental health screenings in jails
* Mental health courts and diversion programs
* Jail-based behavioral health support and discharge planning
* Collaboration with probation, parole, and reentry programs

**4. Trauma-Informed Care**

* Trauma-specific services for victims of crime
* Counseling for children exposed to domestic violence
* Mental health support for first responders and veterans
* School-based therapy and grief counseling

**Stakeholder Survey Results**

**Most Important Mental Health Services**

| **Service Area** | **% of Respondents** |
| --- | --- |
| Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training | 59.09% |
| Psychiatric Care for Individuals in Crisis | 59.09% |
| Inpatient/Outpatient Mental Health Treatment | 54.55% |
| Case Management Services | 45.45% |
| Jail-Based Mental Health Services | 43.18% |
| Trauma Therapy for Victims | 43.18% |
| Mobile Crisis Outreach | 40.91% |
| Suicide Prevention and Awareness | 34.09% |
| Mental Health Diversion Courts | 31.82% |

**Mental Health Service Gaps**

| **Service Area** | **% of Respondents** |
| --- | --- |
| Psychiatric Care for Individuals in Crisis | 47.73% |
| Inpatient/Outpatient Mental Health Treatment | 43.18% |
| Jail-Based Mental Health Services | 40.91% |
| Mobile Crisis Outreach | 36.36% |
| Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training | 34.09% |
| Case Management Services | 31.82% |
| Trauma Therapy for Victims | 31.82% |
| Mental Health Diversion Courts | 29.55% |
| Suicide Prevention and Awareness | 29.55% |

These results highlight critical resource gaps, especially in crisis response, jail-based services, and access to licensed mental health professionals.

**Supporting Regional Data**

Many counties in the ETCOG region are federally designated as **Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (MHPSAs)**.

**Mental Health Provider Shortages (2022)**

Higher ratios indicate fewer providers per capita.

* **Marion County**: 1 provider per 9,960 residents
* **Panola County**: 1 per 5,800
* **Camp**: 1 per 2,610
* **Harrison**: 1 per 2,290
* **Henderson**: 1 per 1,680
* **Smith 1 per 430**

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (2022)

These ratios illustrate the urgent need to recruit and retain licensed mental health professionals and expand telehealth options.

**County Health Rankings (2022)**

High rates of:

* **Excessive Drinking**: Henderson (36%), Harrison (31%), Camp (29%)
* **Poor Mental Health Days**: Above state average in nearly every ETCOG county

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (2022)

These indicators correlate with increased rates of domestic violence, substance abuse, suicide, and emergency detentions.

**Mental Health-Related Jail Data (2023)**

| **County** | **% Jail Population with Diagnosed MH Condition** |
| --- | --- |
| Smith | 42% |
| Gregg | 39% |
| Henderson | 38% |
| Cherokee | 33% |
| Harrison | 29% |

*Source: Regional Jail Reports, Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs), 2023*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County-Level Courts** | | | | | | | | | |
|  |
| **Mental Health Case Activity by County** | | | | | | | | | |  |
| **September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024** | | | | | | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | **New Applications Filed** | | |  | **Hearings Held** | | |  |
|  |  |  | **Temporary Mental Health Services** | **Extended Mental Health Services** | **Order to Authorize Psychoactive Medications** |  | **Temporary Mental Health Services** | **Extended Mental Health Services** | **Order to Authorize Psychoactive Medications** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **2023** |  |  |
|  | **County** | **Population** |  |  |
|  | Anderson | 57,736 | 76 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | Camp | 13,000 | 25 | 0 | 1 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | Cherokee | 52,217 | 76 | 44 | 120 |  | 89 | 48 | 119 |  |
|  | Gregg | 126,243 | 156 | 0 | 156 |  | 302 | 0 | 141 |  |
|  | Harrison | 70,895 | 12 | 2 | 1 |  | 14 | 2 | 1 |  |
|  | Henderson | 86,158 | 111 | 0 | 6 |  | 59 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | Marion | 9,571 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | Panola | 22,838 | 2 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | Rains | 12,986 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | Rusk | 53,079 | 17 | 0 | 0 |  | 2 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | Smith | 245,209 | 117 | 17 | 31 |  | 9 | 1 | 3 |  |
|  | Upshur | 43,281 | 24 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | Van Zandt | 64,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | Wood | 47,921 | 21 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | **TOTALS** | **905,134** | **637** | **63** | **315** |  | **475** | **51** | **264** |  |
|  | **Source**: [4-mental-health-activity-by-county.xlsx](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.txcourts.gov%2Fmedia%2F1460325%2F4-mental-health-activity-by-county.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Justice Courts** | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  | | **Summary of Juvenile or Minor Activity by County** | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  | | **September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024** | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  | | **County** | **Transportation  Code** | **Non-Driving**  **Alcoholic Beverage Code** | **Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol** | **Drug Paraphernalia** | **Tobacco** | **Truancy** | **All Other Non-Traffic, Fine Only** | **Parent Contributing to Nonattendance** | **Held in Contempt** | **Warnings Administered** | **Statements Certified** | **Detention Hearings Held** | | Anderson | 31 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 38 | 5 | 18 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | Camp | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | Cherokee | 64 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | Gregg | 42 | 16 | 8 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 23 | 276 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 | | Harrison | 91 | 7 | 5 | 23 | 12 | 0 | 8 | 133 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | | Henderson | 43 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 163 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | Marion | 17 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | Panola | 20 | 26 | 6 | 0 | 36 | 1 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | Rains | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | Rusk | 31 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | Smith | 146 | 30 | 13 | 2 | 33 | 0 | 18 | 131 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | Upshur | 48 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 23 | 68 | 13 | 79 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | | Van Zandt | 51 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 57 | 124 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | Wood | 25 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 4 | | Total | **610** | **125** | **38** | **25** | **148** | **156** | **171** | **936** | **1** | **10** | **10** | **45** | | | | | | | | | |  |

**Source**: [9-justice\_court\_juvenile-minor-activity.xls](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.txcourts.gov%2Fmedia%2F1460630%2F9-justice_court_juvenile-minor-activity.xls&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).

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**STATE HOSPITAL SYSTEM**

Per the Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan Update (TSBHSP), Fiscal Years, 2022-2026 – HHSC has (9) state psychiatric hospitals, an adolescent psychiatric residential treatment center, and an outpatient primary care clinic, as shown in Figure 2 below. One of those hospitals is located within the ETCOG Region, which is the Rusk State Hospital (288 beds, including 60 maximum security beds). Five of the Nine provide “specialized care for the entire state” and Rusk State hospital is one of those.

“Each hospital provides forensic and civil inpatient psychiatric services for adults who meet admission requirements. Patients admitted to state hospitals are people with complex needs who require extended treatment and cannot be appropriately served in community beds. sites provide adult, child, or adolescent, and civil or forensic services. HHSC also contracts with inpatient psychiatric hospitals in Montgomery County, Palestine, and at UTHSC-T for additional capacity.” Two of which are also in the ETCOG region.

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Source: [Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2022–2026](https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/hb1-statewide-bh-strategic-progress-report-fy22-fy26.pdf)

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**Local Mental Health and Behavioral Health Authority Contacts**

[Community HealthCore](http://www.communityhealthcore.com/) – 800-446-8253 Gregg County Health Department – 903-237-2620

[East Texas Aging & Disability Resource Center](http://www.etxadrc.org/) – 855-937-2372 [Cherokee County Public Health Department](http://www.cctxphd.org/) – 903-586-6191

[Henderson County Health Department](http://www.hendersoncountytexas.us/PublicHealth/publichealth.htm) – 903-675-7742 [Marshall-Harrison County Health District](http://www.mhchd.org/) – 903-938-8338

[Northeast Texas Public Health](https://www.mynethealth.org/index.php) – 903-535-0030 [Rusk County Health Department](http://www.ruskcountyhealthdept.org/) – 903-657-3832

Gilmer Health Department – 903-843-3039 Canton Health Department – 903-567-5441

**Implications for Planning**

The combination of survey feedback and regional data confirms that mental health priorities are deeply interconnected with public safety, criminal justice, and victim services. Planning strategies should include:

* Expanding crisis response capacity (mobile units, stabilization beds)
* Supporting training for law enforcement and first responders
* Embedding licensed professionals in jails and courts
* Promoting tele-mental health access in underserved counties
* Increasing trauma-informed services for victims, youth, and at-risk adults

Addressing mental health as a core public safety issue will require long-term investment, interagency coordination, and culturally competent programming.

**Substance Abuse Priorities**

**Overview**

Substance abuse remains a persistent and complex issue across the ETCOG region. Stakeholders report significant needs related to prevention education, treatment access, recovery support, and the integration of services into the criminal justice system. Many counties, especially rural ones, lack affordable inpatient and outpatient options. Overdose deaths and substance-related crime continue to rise, intensifying the demand for early intervention and long-term recovery strategies.

**Regional Substance Abuse Priorities**

1. **Prevention and Early Intervention**

* School-based and community education
* Anti-drug youth campaigns and peer education
* Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) programs
* Trauma-informed prevention for children exposed to substance use

2. **Treatment Access and Capacity**

* Inpatient detox and residential treatment programs
* Outpatient programs with flexible scheduling
* Co-occurring disorder treatment (mental health + substance use)
* Transportation and financial assistance for treatment

3. **Recovery and Reentry Support**

* Recovery housing and sober living environments
* Peer-led support groups and coaching
* Recovery support for veterans and justice-involved individuals
* Employment, education, and housing assistance

4. **Criminal Justice Integration**

* Substance abuse diversion courts (DWI, drug court)
* Screening and referral in jails and court systems
* Reentry case management focused on relapse prevention
* Court-ordered treatment and compliance monitoring

**Stakeholder Survey Results**

**Most Important Substance Abuse Services**

| **Service Area** | **% of Respondents** |
| --- | --- |
| Inpatient Treatment | 60.47% |
| Prevention and Early Intervention | 48.84% |
| Outpatient Services | 46.51% |
| Substance Abuse Diversion Court | 34.88% |
| Recovery Support Services | 32.56% |
| Education and Outreach Campaigns | 30.23% |
| Reentry Case Management | 27.91% |
| Peer Coaching | 23.26% |
| Sober Living or Transitional Housing | 23.26% |
| Faith-Based Support Services | 20.93% |

**Substance Abuse Service Gaps**

| **Service Area** | **% of Respondents** |
| --- | --- |
| Inpatient Treatment | 56.10% |
| Outpatient Services | 46.34% |
| Recovery Support Services | 29.27% |
| Substance Abuse Diversion Court | 24.39% |
| Reentry Case Management | 24.39% |
| Peer Coaching | 21.95% |
| Sober Living or Transitional Housing | 21.95% |
| Prevention and Early Intervention | 21.95% |
| Education and Outreach Campaigns | 19.51% |

These results show particularly strong concern about the availability of inpatient and outpatient services, along with growing interest in integrated recovery models. These gaps are consistent across counties, with rural areas reporting the most limited access.

**Supporting Regional Data**

**Overdose Deaths by County (2022–2023)**

*Top 5 Counties in ETCOG Region*

| **County** | **2022 Deaths** | **2023 Deaths** | **% Change** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Smith** | **42** | **58** | **+38%** |
| **Gregg** | **30** | **41** | **+37%** |
| **Cherokee** | **17** | **22** | **+29%** |
| **Henderson** | **21** | **27** | **+29%** |
| **Rusk** | **12** | **15** | **+25%** |

*Source: Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Opioid Dashboard*

**Drug-Related Offenses by County (2023)**

*Top Offense Categories: Possession of Controlled Substance, Methamphetamine, Marijuana*

| **County** | **Total Drug Offenses** |
| --- | --- |
| Smith | 1,126 |
| Gregg | 978 |
| Henderson | 684 |
| Cherokee | 523 |
| Rusk | 489 |
| Harrison | 421 |

*Source: Texas Department of Public Safety – Crime in Texas, 2023*

These figures underscore the urgent need for enforcement, education, and treatment resources.

**2021 ETCADA PCR4 REGIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

Substance Use Behaviors: Region 4’s adult drug related arrests rate per 100k (524.3) is significantly higher than the state rate (389.8). The same is true for Region 4’s adult arrests for possession of drugs per 100k (481.7) compared to the state rate (328.1). The most alarming is Region 4’s incarceration rate for drugs as the offense on record per 10k population (12.3) compared to the state rate (5.8) with the majority of them being white males (20.9).” Source: PRC4, 2021 RNA, page 9.

The counties in Region 4, with the highest number of adult sale/manufacturing arrests for 2020, are Smith (97), Lamar (43), Henderson (40) and Gregg (38). There were no juvenile arrests for sale/manufacturing. Additionally, there were a total of (57) juvenile arrests for possession of drugs. Source: PRC4, 2021 RNA, page 40.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Region 4 Prescription Medication Drop Box Locations** | | |
| **County** | **Location** | **Address** |
| Anderson | CVS Pharmacy-Store #6918 | 1919 S. Loop 256 Palestine, TX 75801 |
| Cherokee | Jacksonville Police Department | 210 W. Larissa St. Jacksonville, TX 75766 |
| Gregg | Gladewater Police Department | 511 S. Tyler St. Gladewater, TX 75647 |
| Gregg | Kilgore Police Department | 909 N. Kilgore St. Kilgore, TX 75662 |
| Gregg | CVS Pharmacy- Store # 6899 | 1754 W. Loop 281 Longview, TX 75604 |
| Gregg | Longview Police Department | 302 W. Cotton St. Longview, TX 75601 |
| Gregg | Louis Morgan Drug #4 | 110 Johnston St. Longview, TX 75601 |
| Gregg | Walgreen’s Pharmacy- Store #07611 | 511 E. Marshall Ave. Longview, TX 75601 |
| Gregg | White Oak Police Department | 103 E. Old Hwy 80 White Oak, TX 75693 |
| Harrison | Hallsville Police Department | 115 W. Main St. Hallsville, TX 75650 |
| Harrison | Marshall Police Department | 2101 E. End Blvd. Marshall, TX 75670 |
| Henderson | Copeland’s Chandler Drug | 201 State Hwy 31 W. Chandler, TX 75758 |
| Henderson | Gun Barrel Police Department | 209 Municipal Dr. Gun Barrel City, TX 75156 |
| Panola | Panola County Sheriff’s Department | 314 West Wellington St. Carthage, TX 75633 |
| Rusk | Rusk County Sheriff’s Department | 210 W. Charlevoix St. Henderson, TX 75702 |
| Smith | Eagle Pharmacy | 1404 S Main St. Lindale, TX 75771 |
| Smith | Brick Street Pharmacy | 314 W. Rusk St. Tyler, TX 75701 |
| Smith | CVS Pharmacy- Store # 7446 | 2626 W. 5th St. Tyler, TX 75701 |
| Smith | Smith County Emergency Operations Center | 11325 Spur 248 Tyler, TX 75707 |
| Smith | Smith County Sheriff’s Department | 227 N. Spring Ave. Tyler, TX 75702 |

**Source:** [**https://prcfour.org/uploads/cms/nav-11-5d6547b1170c1.pdf**](https://prcfour.org/uploads/cms/nav-11-5d6547b1170c1.pdf)

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**Youth Drug Abuse - Texas**

Teenagers in Texas are 15.18% less likely to have used drugs in the last month than the average American teen.

* 177,000 or 7.07% of 12- to 17-year-olds report using drugs in the last month.
* Among them, 83.62% report using marijuana in the last month.
* 10.82% of all 12- to 17-year-olds report using marijuana in the last year.
* 0.44% report using cocaine in the last year.
* 0.12% report using methamphetamines.
* Up to 0.02% used heroin (data is limited).
* 3.91% report misusing pain relievers.
* 9.02% of all 12- to 17-year-olds used alcohol in the last month.
* They’re 1.40% less likely to use alcohol than the average American in their age group.
* 817,000 adults aged 18- to 25-years-old used drugs in the last month.
* 18- to 25-year-olds in Texas are 18.82% less likely to use drugs than the average American in the same age group.
* 2.51% of all 12- to 17-year-olds met the criteria for IDUD in the last year.
* 1.44% of all 12- to 17-year-olds met the criteria for AUD in the last year.

**Source:** [Teenage Drug Use Statistics [2023]: Data & Trends on Abuse (drugabusestatistics.org)](https://drugabusestatistics.org/teen-drug-use/#texas) Assessed – 3-6-2023.

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**Cost of Drug Rehab in Texas**

Texas ranks 18th in cheapest to most expensive state for residential drug rehabilitation services (non-hospital). Texas’ average cost of outpatient drug rehabilitation is the same as Tennessee’s. The major drug problem in Texas is methamphetamine.

* In Texas there are 550 active treatment facilities.
* 35,995 patients in Texas are serviced annually for drug rehab.
* 31,281 patients enroll in Texas’ drug rehab outpatient services annually.
* 2.30% or $53.13 million of the U.S. public’s total is spent on outpatient services in Texas.
* On average an individual patient in outpatient rehab in Texas can expect to pay $1,698.
* 4,033 patients enroll in Texas’ drug residential (non-hospital) services.
* 4.4% or $228.4 million of the U.S. public’s total is spent on residential treatment in Texas.
* On average an individual enrolled in Texas residential rehab can expect to pay $56,623.
* 681 patients are in Texas’ hospitals for drug rehab.
* 11 facilities in Texas offer free drug rehab treatment for all clients.

**Source:** [Average Cost of Drug Rehab [2023]: by Type, State & More (drugabusestatistics.org)](https://drugabusestatistics.org/cost-of-rehab/). Assessed – 3-6-2023.

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**Opioid Epidemic - Texas**

* 1,402 people die from opioid overdose in one year.
* Prescription opioids are a factor in 39% of opioid overdose deaths.
* Heroin is a factor in 47.6% of deaths.
* 25.5% of deaths involve synthetic opioids.
* Opioids are a factor in 46.7% of all overdose deaths.
* 4.8 out of every 100,000 residents die from an opioid overdose.
* That’s 67.1% below or less than half the national death rate.
* 0.25% of hospital births are cases of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome.
* Doctors write enough prescriptions for 47.2% of residents to have one.
* 205,500 cases of hepatitis C are attributed to intravenous drug use.
* 88,099 cases of HIV/AIDS are attributed to intravenous drug use.

**Source:** [Opioid Crisis Statistics [2023]: Prescription Opioid Abuse (drugabusestatistics.org)](https://drugabusestatistics.org/opioid-epidemic/). Assessed – 3-6-2023.

**Implications for Planning**

Survey results and regional data confirm that substance abuse is a top-tier public safety and public health concern. Key recommendations include:

* Expanding access to inpatient and outpatient treatment across counties
* Promoting diversion courts to reduce jail overcrowding and improve recovery outcomes
* Integrating peer-led and faith-based supports with clinical services
* Investing in youth-focused prevention and trauma-informed early intervention
* Increasing regional collaboration to build recovery housing and transportation networks

Effective intervention requires cross-sector collaboration and investment in both infrastructure and personnel capable of delivering long-term recovery outcomes.

**Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Priorities**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Overview**

Victim service providers across the ETCOG region report rising demand for trauma-informed care, legal advocacy, emergency shelter, and culturally competent services. High rates of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse continue to strain limited resources—particularly in rural counties where survivors face barriers related to distance, stigma, and service availability.

Stakeholders consistently prioritize access to crisis intervention, housing, and support for underserved and vulnerable populations.

**Regional Victim Services Priorities**

1. **Crisis Response Services**

* 24/7 hotlines for domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking
* Emergency transportation and mobile advocacy
* SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) programs
* On-scene response partnerships with law enforcement

2. **Shelter and Transitional Housing**

* Emergency housing for survivors and their children
* Transitional housing with case management
* Long-term safe housing options for trafficking victims
* Supportive services to reduce homelessness and recidivism

3. **Legal Advocacy and Navigation**

* Assistance with protective orders, custody, and divorce
* Court accompaniment and victim impact support
* Legal services for survivors with immigration concerns
* Training for prosecutors and courts on trauma-informed approaches

4. **Trauma Recovery and Support Services**

* Individual and group counseling
* Specialized services for children, seniors, and LGBTQ+ survivors
* Culturally competent care for Black, Hispanic, Native American, and immigrant communities
* School-based recovery programs for child and teen survivors

**Stakeholder Survey Results**

**Most Important Services for Victims of Crime / Violence Against Women**

| **Service Area** | **% of Respondents** |
| --- | --- |
| Emergency Shelter/Housing | 61.36% |
| Crisis Response (Hotlines, Transportation) | 54.55% |
| Legal Advocacy (POs, Custody, Immigration) | 52.27% |
| Victim Support and Trauma Counseling | 50.00% |
| Transitional Housing | 45.45% |
| Culturally Competent Outreach and Education | 31.82% |
| Services for Children Exposed to Family Violence | 31.82% |
| Mobile Advocacy Services | 29.55% |

**Victim Services Gaps**

| **Service Area** | **% of Respondents** |
| --- | --- |
| Emergency Shelter/Housing | 47.73% |
| Legal Advocacy | 38.64% |
| Crisis Response | 36.36% |
| Victim Support and Trauma Counseling | 34.09% |
| Culturally Competent Outreach and Education | 31.82% |
| Transitional Housing | 31.82% |
| Services for Children Exposed to Family Violence | 27.27% |
| Mobile Advocacy Services | 22.73% |

These results highlight the urgency of expanding core victim support systems, particularly around shelter and legal access. They also show the lack of core services in some counties and an unmet need for inclusive, specialized victim care.

**Supporting Regional Data**

**Family Violence Incidents (2023)**

*Selected Reporting Agencies*

| **Agency** | **Incidents** |
| --- | --- |
| Tyler Police Department | 999 |
| Longview Police Department | 829 |
| Smith County Sheriff | 685 |
| Gregg County Sheriff | 184 |
| Athens Police Department | 130 |
| Rusk Police Department | 122 |

*Source: Texas DPS, Family Violence Summary Report, 2023*

**Sexual Assaults Reported by County (2023)**

| **County** | **Total Incidents** |
| --- | --- |
| Smith | 276 |
| Gregg | 116 |
| Henderson | 61 |
| Rusk | 46 |
| Cherokee | 39 |

*Source: Texas DPS, Crime in Texas 2023 Report*

**Barriers Identified by Regional Providers**

* Long waitlists for trauma counseling
* Inadequate transportation and shelter capacity
* Limited access to bilingual or culturally specific services
* Lack of long-term housing for survivors exiting shelters
* Difficulty coordinating multi-county response to trafficking

**Implications for Planning**

The ETCOG region must continue strengthening its victim services network through:

* Increased investments in emergency and transitional housing
* Expansion of SANE, mobile advocacy, and trauma recovery programs
* Legal navigation and multilingual services for underserved survivors
* Cross-agency partnerships for rapid response and wraparound care
* Targeted outreach to children, seniors, and culturally marginalized groups

**Regional Providers, Agencies & General Resources**

Included below are resources identified by the ETCOG that are available to provide services that could potentially help in closing criminal justice gaps.

**Juvenile Justice**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adolescent Development & Achievement Program of Tyler | Longview Teen Court |
| Anderson County Juvenile Probation Department | Marion County Juvenile Probation Department |
| Camp County Juvenile Probation Department | Martin House Children’s Advocacy Center |
| Catholic Charities of East Texas | Panola County Juvenile Probation Department |
| Cherokee County Juvenile Probation Department | Partners in Prevention |
| Children’s Advocacy Center of Smith County | Rains County Juvenile Probation Department |
| Children’s Advocacy Center of Van Zandt County | Rusk County Juvenile Probation Department |
| Crisis Center of Anderson & Cherokee Counties | North East Texas Children’s Advocacy Center |
| East Texas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) | Next Step Community Solutions |
| Gregg County Juvenile Probation Department | Rusk and Panola County Children’s Advocacy Center |
| Harrison County Juvenile Probation Department | Smith County Juvenile Probation Department |
| Henderson County HELP Center | Upshur County Juvenile Probation Department |
| Henderson County Juvenile Probation Department | Van Zandt County Juvenile Probation Department |

**Law Enforcement**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [ALERT Academy](https://alertacademy.com/) | [Marion County Sheriff`s Office](https://www.co.marion.tx.us/page/marion.sheriff) |
| [Alba Police Department](https://easttxsoftwareservices.com/AlbaTexas2023/pages/policedept.php) | [Marion County Constable Precinct 1 and 2](https://www.co.marion.tx.us/page/marion.constable) |
| [Alto Police Department](https://cityofalto.com/) | [Marshall Police Department](https://www.marshalltexas.net/225/Police-Department) |
| [Anderson County Sheriff’s Office](https://www.co.anderson.tx.us/page/anderson.sheriff) | [Mineola Police Department](https://www.mineola.com/o/com/page/police) |
| [Anderson County Constable Precincts 1 - 4](https://www.co.anderson.tx.us/page/anderson.CountyInfo) | New London Police Department |
| [Arp Police Department](https://arptx.com/2155/Police-Department) | New Summerfield Police Department |
| [Athens Police Department](https://www.athenstx.gov/235/Police-Department) | [Ore City Police Department](https://orecitytx.org/police/) |
| [Big Sandy Police Department](https://www.bigsandytx.gov/page/Police-Home) | [Overton Police Department](https://cityofoverton.com/police-dept/) |
| [Brownsboro Police Department](https://brownsboro.municipalimpact.com/police-department) | [Palestine Police Department](https://www.cityofpalestinetx.com/159/Police-Department) |
| [Bullard Police Department](https://www.bullardtexas.net/308/Bullard-Police-Department) | [Panola County Sheriff’s Office](https://www.co.panola.tx.us/page/panola.Sheriff) |
| [Camp County Sheriff’s Office](https://www.co.camp.tx.us/page/camp.sheriff) | [Panola County Constable Precinct 1 - 4](https://www.co.panola.tx.us/page/panola.constable) |
| [Camp County – County Wide Constable](https://www.co.camp.tx.us/page/camp.constable) | Payne Springs Police Department |
| [Caney City Police Department](https://cityofcaneycitytx.com/police-department/) | [Pittsburg Police Department](https://www.pittsburgtx.gov/372/Police-Department) |
| [Canton Police Department](https://cantontx.gov/departments/police_department/index.php) |  |
| [Chandler Police Department](https://www.chandlertx.com/104/Police-Department) | [Point Police Department](https://cityofpoint.municipalimpact.com/police-department) |
| [Cherokee County Constable Precinct 1 - 4](https://www.co.cherokee.tx.us/ips/cms/countyoffices/constable.html) | [Quitman Police Department](https://www.quitmantx.org/police-department) |
| [Cherokee County Sheriff`s Office](http://cherokeecountytexas.us/index201.htm) | [Rains County Sheriff’s Office](https://www.co.rains.tx.us/page/rains.sheriff) |
| Coffee City Police Department | [Rains County Constable](https://www.co.rains.tx.us/page/rains.constable) |
| [East Mountain Police Department](https://www.eastmountaintx.com/city-hall) | [Rusk County Sheriff’s Office](https://www.ruskcountytx.gov/page/rusk.sheriff) |
| [East Tawakoni Police Department](https://cityofeasttawakoni.com/police-department) | [Rusk County Constable Precinct 1 - 5](https://www.ruskcountytx.gov/page/rusk.constable) |
| [Edgewood Police Department](https://edgewoodtexas.org/departments/police-fire/) | [Rusk Police Department](https://www.rusktx.org/?page_id=6425) |
| Emory Police Department | [Seven Points Police Department](https://sevenpointstexas.com/police-department) |
| Enchanted Oaks Police Department | [Smith County Constables](https://www.smith-county.com/government/elected-officials/constables) |
| [East Texas Police Academy](https://www.kilgore.edu/courses/east-texas-police-academy/) | Smith County Sheriff`s Office |
| Eustace Police Department | Tatum Police Department |
| Frankston Police Department | Tool Police Department |
| Gilmer Police Department | Trinidad Police Department |
| Gladewater Police Department | Troup Police Department |
| Grand Saline Police Department | Tyler Police Department |
| Gun Barrel City Police Department | Upshur County Sheriff’s Office |
| Gregg County Constables | Upshur County Constables |
| Gregg County Sheriff`s Office | Van Police Department |
| Hallsville Police Department | Van Zandt County Constables |
| Harrison County Sheriff`s Office | Van Zandt County Sheriff’s Office |
| Harrison County Constables | Waskom Police Department |
| Hawkins Police Department | Wells Police Department |
| Henderson County Sheriff`s Office | White Oak Police Department |
| Henderson County Constables | Whitehouse Police Department |
| Henderson Police Department | Wills Point Police Department |
| Jacksonville Police Department | Winnsboro Police Department |
| Jefferson Police Department | Wood County Sheriff`s Office |
| Kilgore Police Department | Wood County Constables |
| Lakeport Police Department | Yantis Police Department |
| Lindale Police Department |  |
| Log Cabin Police Department |  |
| Longview Police Department |  |
| Malakoff Police Department |  |

**ISD Police Departments**

|  |
| --- |
| [Jacksonville ISD PD](https://www.jisd.org/apps/pages/Police) |
| [Jefferson ISD PD](https://www.jeffersonisd.org/161243_2) |
| [Malakoff ISD PD](https://www.malakoffisd.org/491781_3) |
| [Winnsboro ISD PD](https://www.winnsboroisd.org/page/police-services) |

**Victim Services**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Crisis Center of Anderson & Cherokee Counties  <http://www.mycrisiscenter.com/> | Anderson County District Attorney’s Office  <http://www.co.anderson.tx.us/default.aspx?Anderson_County/District.Attorney> |
| East Texas Crisis Center  <http://etcc.org/> | Gregg County District Attorney’s Office  [Gregg County District Attorney](http://greggcounty.texas.gov/departments/district-attorney) |
| Henderson County HELP Center  <http://thehelpcenter.org/> | Upshur County District Attorney’s Office  <http://www.countyofupshur.com/page/district_attorney> |
| Van Zandt County District Attorney’s Office  <http://www.vzda.org/> |  |
| Smith County Crime Victim Services  <http://www.smith-county.com/Law/DA/Default.aspx> | Wood County District Attorney’s Office  <http://www.mywoodcounty.com/default.aspx?name=distatty> |
| Women’s Center of East Texas  <http://www.wc-et.org/> |  |

**Mental Health & Substance Abuse**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Access  <http://www.accessmhmr.org/> | Henderson County HELP Center  <http://www.thehelpcenter.org/> |
| Andrews Center Behavioral Healthcare  <http://www.andrewscenter.com> | Kirkpatrick Family Center  <http://communityhealthcore.com/> |
| Azleway Substance Abuse Program  <http://www.azleway.com> | Longview Wellness Center Inc. |
| Choices - Adolescent Treatment (Private Rehab) | Methadone Centers – East Texas Clinic Inc.  [Methadone Clinic - East Texas Clinic Inc.](https://www.methadonecenters.com/methadone-centers/east-texas-clinic-etc/) |
| East Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse  <http://www.etcada.com/> | Oceans Behavioral Hospital of Longview |
| ETMC Behavioral Health Center  [UTHealth East Texas - Behavioral Health](https://uthealtheasttexas.com/services/behavioral-health) | Palestine Regional Medical Center  <http://www.palestineregional.com/> |
| Heart Light Ministries Boarding School  <http://www.heartlightministries.org/> | Rusk State Hospital  [Rusk State Hospital](https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/state-hospitals/rusk-state-hospital) |
| Special Health Resources of East Texas, Inc.  <http://www.specialhealthresources.org> | Sundown Ranch, Inc.  <https://sundownranchinc.com/> |
| Van Zandt County Voices Project  <http://vzcjpd.com/services/voices.html> |  |

**schools**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [Alba – Golden ISD](http://www.agisd.com/) | [Malakoff ISD](https://www.malakoffisd.org/) |
| [Alto-ISD](https://www.alto.esc7.net/) | [Miller Grove ISD](https://www.mgisd.net/) |
| [Arp ISD](https://www.arpisd.org/) | [Marshall ISD](http://marshallisd.com/) |
| [Athens ISD](https://www.athensisd.net/) | [Martins Mill ISD](http://www.martinsmillisd.net/) |
| [Beckville ISD](https://www.beckvilleisd.net/) | [Mineola ISD](http://www.mineolaisd.net/) |
| [Big Sandy ISD](https://www.bigsandyisd.org/) | [Mt. Enterprise ISD](http://www.meisd.org/) |
| [Brownsboro ISD](https://www.gobearsgo.net/) | [Murchison ISD](http://www.murchisonisd.com/) |
| [Bullard ISD](https://www.bullardisd.net/) | [Neches ISD](http://www.nechesisd.com/) |
| [Carlisle ISD](https://www.carlisleisd.org/) | [New Diana ISD](http://ndisd.org/) |
| [Carthage ISD](http://carthageisd.org/) | [New Summerfield ISD](https://www.newsummerfieldisd.org/) |
| [Cayuga ISD](https://www.cayugaisd.com/) | [Ore City ISD](https://www.ocisd.net/) |
| [Chapel Hill ISD](https://www.chapelhillisd.org/) | [Overton ISD](https://www.overtonisd.org/) |
| [Cross Roads ISD](http://www.crossroadsisd.org/) | [Palestine ISD](http://www.palestineschools.org/) |
| [Cumberland Academy](https://www.cumberlandacademy.com/) | [Panola Charter School](https://www.panolaschools.net/) |
| [East Texas Charter Schools](https://www.etchs.net/) | [Pine Tree ISD](http://ptisd.org/) |
| [Edgewood ISD](http://www.edgewood-isd.net/) | [Pittsburg ISD](https://www.pittsburgisd.net/) |
| [Elkhart ISD](https://www.elkhartisd.org/) | [Quitman ISD](https://www.quitmanisd.net/) |
| [Elysian Field ISD](https://efisd.net/) | [Rains ISD](https://www.rainsisd.org/) |
| [Eustace ISD](https://www.eustaceisd.net/) | [Rusk ISD](https://www.ruskisd.net/) |
| [Frankston ISD](https://www.frankstonisd.net/) | [Sabine ISD](https://www.sabineisd.org/) |
| [Fruitvale ISD](http://www.fruitvaleisd.com/) | [Slocum ISD](http://www.slocumisd.org/) |
| [Gary ISD](https://www.garyisd.org/) | [Spring Hill ISD](https://www.shisd.net/) |
| [Gilmer ISD](https://www.gilmerisd.org/) | [Tatum ISD](http://www.tatumisd.org/) |
| [Gladewater ISD](http://www.gladewaterisd.com/) | [Trinidad ISD](http://www.trinidadisd.com/) |
| [Grand Saline ISD](http://www.grandsalineisd.net/) | [Troup ISD](https://www.troupisd.org/) |
| [Hallsville ISD](https://www.hisd.com/) | [Tyler ISD](https://www.tylerisd.org/) |
| [Harleton ISD](https://harletonisd.net/) |  |
| [Harmony ISD](https://www.harmonyisd.net/) |  |
| [Hawkins ISD](https://www.hawkinsisd.org/) |  |
| [Henderson ISD](https://www.hendersonisd.org/) |  |
| [Jacksonville ISD](https://www.jisd.org/) |  |
| [Jefferson ISD](https://www.jeffersonisd.org/) |  |
| [Karnack ISD](https://www.karnackisd.org/) |  |
| [Kilgore ISD](https://www.kisd.org/) |  |
| [La Poynor ISD](https://www.lapoynorisd.net/) |  |
| [Laneville ISD](https://www.lanevilleisd.org/) |  |
| [Leveretts Chapel ISD](https://www.leverettschapelisd.net/) |  |
| [Lindale ISD](https://www.lindaleeagles.org/) |  |
| [Longview ISD](http://w3.lisd.org/) |  |
| [Mabank ISD](https://www.mabankisd.net/) |  |

**General Resources for Review**

Texas Kids Count Profile – <https://www.aecf.org/databook>

Bureau of Justice Statistics - <https://bjs.gov/>

Center for disease control - <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Child Abuse Prevention Network - <http://www.child-abuse.com/>

Child Welfare Information Gateway - <https://www.childwelfare.gov/>

Children at Risk - <https://childrenatrisk.org/>

Coalition for Juvenile Justice - <http://www.juvjustice.org/>

Council of State Governments Justice Center - <https://csgjusticecenter.org/>

FBI Violent Crimes Against Children - <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/cac>

hogg foundation for mental health - <https://hogg.utexas.edu/>

Kids Count Data Center - <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#USA/3/0/char/0>

national alliance on mental illness - <https://www.nami.org/>

nation center for safe supportive learning Environments - <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/>

national domestic violence hotline - <https://www.thehotline.org/>

national institute of drug abuse - <https://www.drugabuse.gov/>

national institute of mental health - <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml>

national network to end domestic violence - <https://nnedv.org/>

Rape, Abuse & incest National Network - <https://www.rainn.org/about-rainn>

Texas Criminal Justice Coalition - <https://www.texascjc.org/>

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement - <http://tcole.texas.gov/>

Texas Demographic Center - <https://www.demographics.texas.gov/>

Texas Office of the Attorney General - <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/>

Texas Office of the Governor - <https://gov.texas.gov/>

**Regional Trends and supporting data**

**Overview**

The ETCOG region spans 14 counties in East Texas, encompassing both urban centers and rural areas with varying public safety, judicial, and behavioral health needs. Regional planning efforts are driven by both stakeholder input and quantitative data from state agencies. This section provides a high-level snapshot of key trends influencing criminal justice priorities, with an emphasis on crime, health, population, and system capacity.

**Demographic Overview**

| **Indicator** | **Value** |
| --- | --- |
| Total Population (2023 est.) | 932,460 |
| Rural Population (%) | 64.3% |
| Total Land Area | ~10,021 square miles |
| Counties | 14 |
| Largest Cities | Tyler, Longview, Palestine |
| Top Counties by Population | Smith, Gregg, Henderson |

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Texas Demographic Center*

**Crime Trends (2023)**

*Selected Counties – Top Offense Types*

| County | Violent Crime | Property Crime | Drug Offenses | Family Violence |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Smith | 406.0/100k | 2,238.3/100k | 1,126 | 1,739 |
| Gregg | 164.5/100k | 1,478.2/100k | 978 | 1,156 |
| Henderson | 128.4/100k | 1,264.5/100k | 684 | 423 |
| Rusk | 109.2/100k | 1,189.4/100k | 489 | 421 |
| Cherokee | 137.6/100k | 1,323.0/100k | 523 | 361 |

*Source: Texas Department of Public Safety, Crime in Texas 2023*

**Mental Health Access**

| **County** | **Mental Health Provider Ratio** |
| --- | --- |
| Smith | 1 per 430 |
| Henderson | 1 per 1,680 |
| Harrison | 1 per 2,290 |
| Camp | 1 per 2,610 |
| Marion | 1 per 9,960 |

*Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (2022)*

**Substance Abuse Indicators**

**Opioid Overdose Deaths (2022–2023)**

| **County** | **2022** | **2023** | **% Change** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Smith | 42 | 58 | +38% |
| Gregg | 30 | 41 | +37% |
| Cherokee | 17 | 22 | +29% |
| Henderson | 21 | 27 | +29% |

*Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Opioid Dashboard*

**Excessive Drinking & Driving Deaths**

| **County** | **Excessive Drinking** | **Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Henderson | 19% | 36% |
| Harrison | 18% | 31% |
| Panola | 20% | 19% |

**Juvenile Justice Indicators**

| **County** | **Juvenile Referrals (2023)** | **Top Offense Types** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Smith | 347 | Assault, Drug Possession, Theft |
| Gregg | 254 | Assault, Criminal Mischief, Runaway |
| Cherokee | 163 | Criminal Trespass, Theft, Assault |
| Henderson | 148 | Possession of Marijuana, DWI, Assault |
| Rusk | 132 | Truancy, Assault, Criminal Mischief |

*Source: Texas Juvenile Justice Department, Annual Activity Report 2023*

**Family Dynamics & Risk Factors**

| **Indicator** | **Highest Counties (%)** |
| --- | --- |
| Children in Single-Parent Households | Gregg (41%), Harrison (39%), Anderson (38%) |
| Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000 females 15–19) | Cherokee (31), Marion (29), Rusk (28) |
| Uninsured Population (%) | Anderson (23%), Marion (22%), Rains (21%) |

*Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (2022)*

**Victimization Trends**

| **County** | **Family Violence (2023)** | **Sexual Assault (2023)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Smith | 1,739 | 276 |
| Gregg | 1,156 | 116 |
| Henderson | 423 | 61 |
| Rusk | 421 | 46 |
| Cherokee | 361 | 39 |

*Source: Texas DPS, Crime in Texas Report 2023*

**Transportation and Rural Service Gaps**

Many rural counties report lack of public transportation, impacting access to:

* Courts and probation offices
* Mental health and substance abuse treatment
* Victim services and emergency shelters

Telehealth expansion is limited by broadband gaps in Marion, Rains, Camp, and Panola counties.

*Source: Regional planning surveys, 2024*

**Implications for Planning**

Regional data confirms that key public safety issues are deeply interconnected with poverty, rural access, and health disparities. Future planning efforts should:

* Address service deserts in mental health and substance use care
* Prioritize mobile and telehealth services in rural counties
* Coordinate cross-county strategies for housing, diversion, and trauma recovery
* Improve transportation, broadband, and system navigation support
* Leverage multi-sector partnerships to reduce duplication and expand reach

**Implementation & Use of the Plan**

**Purpose**

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan (ERCJSP) serves as a roadmap for identifying, prioritizing, and addressing criminal justice needs throughout the 14-county region. The plan is designed to guide funding decisions, support cross-sector collaboration, and ensure alignment with state and federal priorities.

This document is intended for use by:

* Local and regional criminal justice agencies
* Nonprofit organizations and service providers
* County and municipal leadership
* Grant applicants and program developers
* State and federal funders

The plan supports applicants in developing well-aligned projects and assists the CJAC in scoring proposals that best meet the needs of the 14-county region.

**Implementation Strategy**

**1. Grant Prioritization and Review**

The plan directly informs the scoring and prioritization of grant applications submitted to ETCOG under the following Office of the Governor funding programs:

* Criminal Justice Program (JAG)
* General Victim Assistance – Direct Services Program (VOCA)
* Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program (VAWA)
* Juvenile Justice and Truancy Prevention Program (JJDP)

The **Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC)** uses the plan as a reference when reviewing and scoring applications based on:

* Alignment with regional priorities
* Demonstrated need and service gaps
* Geographic and population-specific impact
* Feasibility and readiness of implementation

2. **Plan Updates and Stakeholder Feedback**

ETCOG staff update the ERCJSP annually based on:

* New data from state and regional sources
* Stakeholder surveys and focus groups
* Legislative changes or updates to grant program rules
* Lessons learned from funded programs and community partners

Stakeholders are encouraged to submit feedback or recommended updates at any time. A major plan revision is conducted every 3–5 years in coordination with the CJAC.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

ETCOG tracks implementation of the ERCJSP through:

* Monitoring outcomes and performance metrics from funded projects
* Annual grant impact summaries
* Ongoing communication with regional stakeholders and providers
* Identification of emerging trends, unmet needs, or duplications of service

These efforts ensure that the plan remains a living document—responsive to the evolving needs of East Texas communities.

**Promoting Collaboration**

The strategic plan serves as a tool to promote regional alignment, reduce service silos, and strengthen partnerships across systems. It encourages the development of:

* Multi-agency task forces
* Coordinated victim response teams
* Integrated mental health and substance use service models
* Shared resource strategies for rural and underserved areas

**Conclusion**

This Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan represents a collective vision for a safer, healthier, and more equitable East Texas. It reflects the voices of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victims, youth advocates, mental health professionals, and nonprofit partners—working together to ensure that every county has the tools and resources it needs to address crime, support recovery, and protect its most vulnerable residents.

**Appendices**

**Appendix A: Regional Map and Service Area Overview**

The map visually represents the ETCOG service area and helps illustrate how regional geography and infrastructure impact public safety and access to services.

**Appendix B: Key Planning Resources & Data Sources**

The following resources were referenced during the development of the strategic plan:

* **Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):** Crime in Texas reports
* **Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS):** Child abuse and neglect data
* **Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):** Crash reports and DWI data
* **County Health Rankings & Roadmaps:** Behavioral health and community health indicators
* **East Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ETCADA):** Region 4 Needs Assessment
* **U.S. Census Bureau & Texas Demographic Center:** Population and demographic data
* **WalletHub National Rankings:** Bullying and victimization trends
* **Chat GPT**

Stakeholders are encouraged to consult these resources when developing grant applications and community programs aligned with regional priorities.

**Appendix C: Criminal Justice Funding Streams Administered by ETCOG**

| **Grant Program** | **Administering Agency** | **Purpose** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| JAG – Criminal Justice Program | Office of the Governor (OOG) | Equipment, personnel, and training for law enforcement and court operations |
| VOCA – Victim Assistance Program | Office of the Governor (OOG) | Direct services for victims of crime |
| VAWA – Violence Against Women Program | Office of the Governor (OOG) | Domestic violence and sexual assault prevention |
| JJDP – Juvenile Justice and Truancy Prevention | Office of the Governor (OOG) | Early intervention and prevention for at-risk youth |

**Appendix D: Acronyms and Key Terms**

| **Acronym** | **Definition** |
| --- | --- |
| CJAC | Criminal Justice Advisory Committee |
| CJIS | Criminal Justice Information System |
| CIT | Crisis Intervention Team |
| DSHS | Department of State Health Services |
| DPS | Department of Public Safety |
| ERCJSP | East Texas Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan |
| ETCOG | East Texas Council of Governments |
| JJDP | Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention |
| LMHA | Local Mental Health Authority |
| SANE | Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner |
| SBIRT | Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment |
| VOCA | Victims of Crime Act |
| VAWA | Violence Against Women Act |