



# Polk County

	<p>The Region 5 2017 Regional Needs Assessment (RNA), covers 15 counties served by the Region 5 Prevention Resource Center at the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Deep East Texas.</p>	
<p>The RNA focuses on underage consumption of alcohol and tobacco and the consumption of illicit drugs or prescription drugs not according to a doctor's orders. It contains both quantitative and qualitative data about each of the counties. Both risk and protective factors for substance use as well as descriptive statistics about the population are included.</p>		

This county summary includes numbers for the county based on its population and that can be compared directly to other counties, to the region, to the state or to the U.S.

1	<b>Older</b>	Polk County has fewer young people (under 25 years old) by percentage (28.1%) than the region (33.4%). Its "old" people (ages 45 and older) represent 48.8% compared to the region's 42.3%.
2	<b>Growing</b>	Population estimates for Polk County have grown from 2014 to 2016 by 1.9% compared to the region's estimated loss of population of -0.1%.
3	<b>Sparse</b>	Polk County is estimated to have 44.6 people in each square mile in 2015 compared to the region's 66.0 persons per square mile.
4	<b>Language Needs</b>	In 2015, it was estimated that 11.0 % of the people in Polk County speak Spanish. Of those speaking Spanish, 45.6% do not speak English well. That is, 5.0% of the county are lacking English skills.
5	<b>Low Income</b>	2015 per capita income in Polk County was \$21,009, lower than the average regional per capita income by 8.0%, and lower than the Texas average by 22.2% and the U.S. average by 27.4%.
6	<b>1 Parent</b>	Compared to the 39% of regional households headed by single parents in 2017, Polk County had 43%.
7	<b>Divorces</b>	The divorce rate per 100,000 in 2014 for Region 5 was 281.1 compared to the rate of 348.2 per 100,000 for Polk County.
8	<b>Jobs</b>	After 2 years of decline unemployment increased in the region in 2016 to 6.3%, the same as the unemployment rate in Polk County.
9	<b>Low Level Assistance</b>	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) was at a level of 173.7 per 100,000 in the region in 2016, while Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), previously known as food stamps, was given to 16.7 % in 2015. This compares to 125.9 and 16.2% for Polk County.
10	<b>Lunches</b>	64.9% of Polk County's school children received free or reduced school lunches compared to 61.2% of the children in Region 5.
11	<b>Life/Health</b>	Considering how long people live (mortality) and how healthy people are (morbidity), and ranking the 254 counties in Texas, Polk County ranks at 230 in 2017.
12	<b>Race</b>	In 2015 estimates Region 5 is 74% White and 20% Black. (Texas 75% and 12%; the U.S. 74%, 13%) Polk County is 84% White and 11% Black.

Data requests and submissions of data for next year's RNA can be addressed to the PRC Region 5.