Using Demographic Data to Inform Texoma's *Kids Matter!* Project
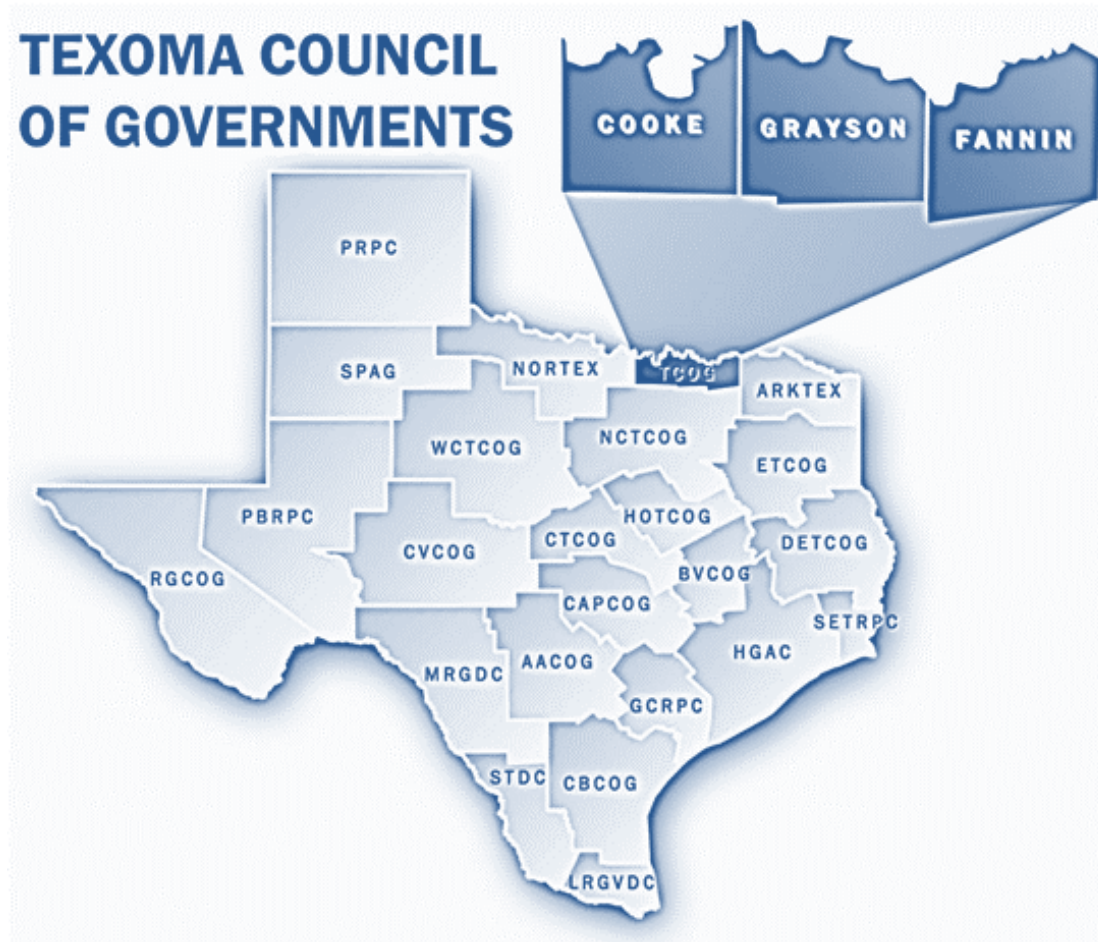
Michael Schmitz, BS GISC   **James Randy McBroom, PhD**

Kids Matter

BEYOND ABC IN TEXOMA

TCOG
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Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG)

"Beyond ABC"

- Childhood Distress Data for Six North Texas Counties
  - Dallas, Collin, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Cooke
- Sponsored and Published by Children's Hospital, Dallas, with Data Compilation by UT-Dallas
- Several Issues for Northern Three Counties
  - Variable Selection
  - Frequency/Percentage Tables Only
  - Recommendations, But no Plans to Address Issues

Why "Kids Matter – Texoma" Project

- To Address Stated Issues
    - Additional/Appropriate Variables
    - Statistical Analysis

- Increase Awareness of Childhood Distress Issues in Each County and the Region – Effect Policy

- To Facilitate Strategic Plan/Action Plan to Address One Specific Issue/Problem for Each County

"Kids Matter – Texoma" Project Steps

- **Step 1** – Recruit Steering Committee for Each County and for the Texoma Region
  - ✓ Subject Matter Experts, As Well as People "In The Fray" Already
  - ✓ Determined Data Needed for Project

- **Step 2** – Data Collection by TCOG Staff and Austin College Interns, Directed by Michael Schmitz
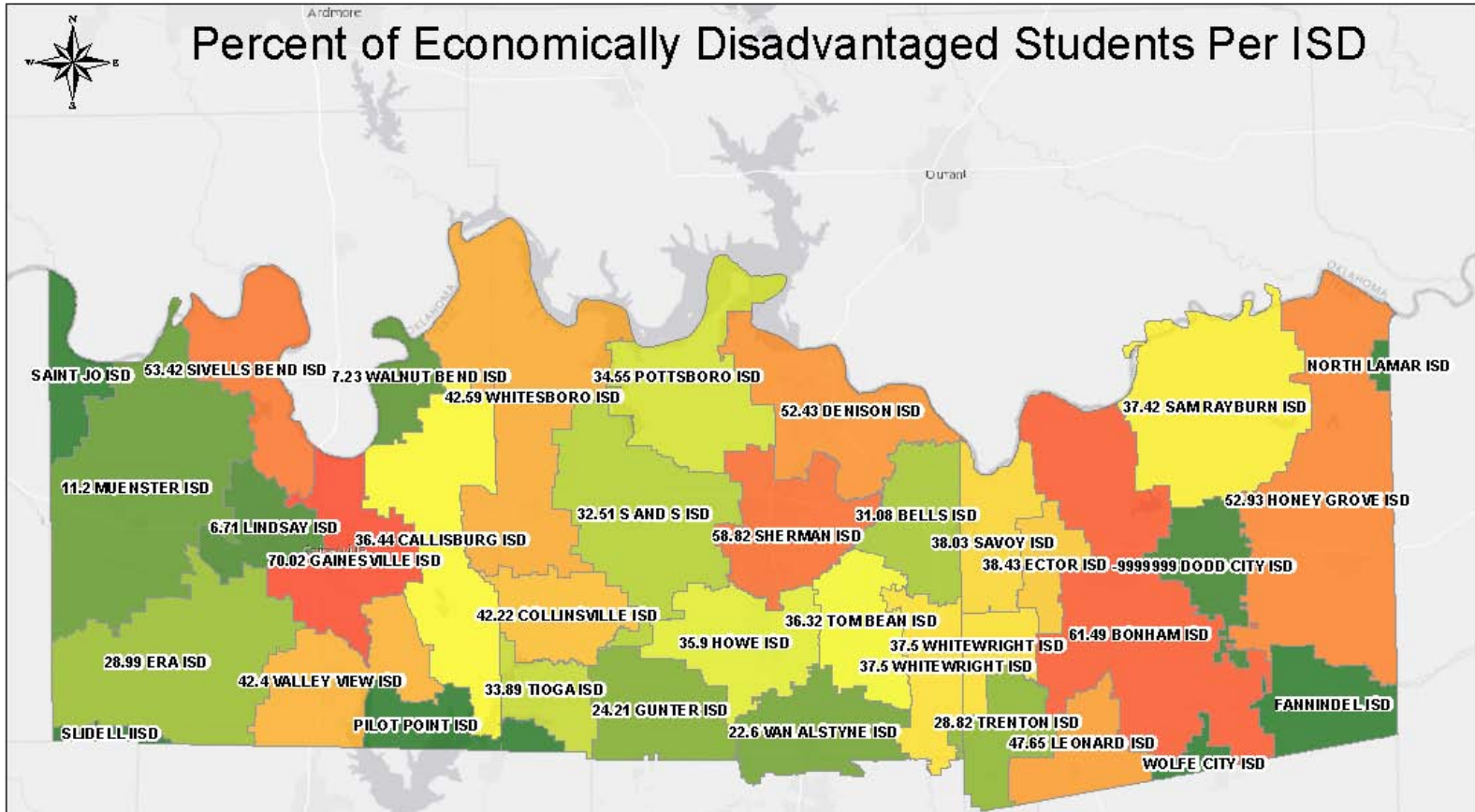 - ✓ Results – "Data Book" for Region and Each County

"Kids Matter – Texoma" Project Steps

- **Step 3** – TCOG Facilitated Regional Forum with Steering Committee from Each County, Plus Others
  - ✓ Goal – Data Informed Consensus on Two or Three Most Critical Issues for Region in Areas of Health, Safety, Education, and Economic Security
  - ✓ Modified Charrette Exercise

- **Step 4** – County Steering Committee Meetings and Public Forums
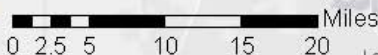 - ✓ Results – Early Childhood Education Consensus in all Three Counties

Childhood Poverty Concerns

Poverty Measures	Cooke	Fannin	Grayson
Percent Of All Children Living In Poverty	22.00%	22.40%	22.80%
All Families With related Children Of The Householder Under 18	19.90%	20.90%	20.80%
All Families With related Children Of The Householder Under 5	17.60%	26.40%	27.40%
Families with Female Householder, No Husband Present	40.40%	30.80%	32.20%
Families with Female Householder, No Husband Present, Children Under 5	51.80%	61.10%	43.50%
Families with Female Householder, No Husband Present, Children Under 18	50.90%	40.50%	40.00%
Married Couple Families	5.10%	7.10%	6.10%
Married Couple Families, Children under 5	2.20%	4.80%	10.90%
Married Couple Families, Children under 18	8.70%	9.90%	10.60%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates			

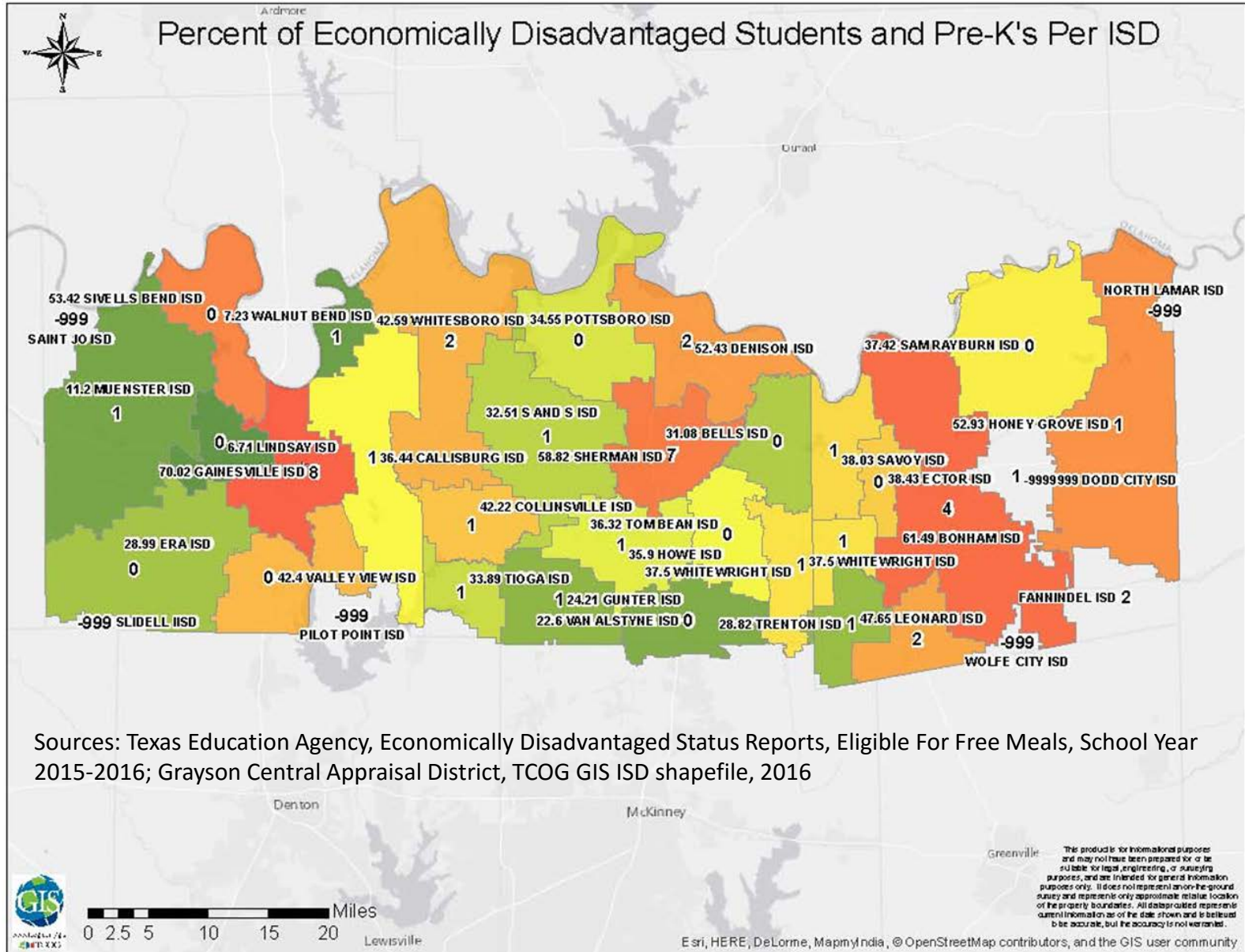Percent of Economically Disadvantaged Students Per ISD

Sources: Texas Education Agency, Economically Disadvantaged Status Reports, Eligible For Free Meals, School Year 2015-2016; Grayson Central Appraisal District, TCOG GIS ISD shapefile, 2016

Percent of Economically Disadvantaged Students and Pre-K's Per ISD

Sources: Texas Education Agency, Economically Disadvantaged Status Reports, Eligible For Free Meals, School Year 2015-2016; Grayson Central Appraisal District, TCOG GIS ISD shapefile, 2016

Early Childhood Education Gaps

2014-2015 School Enrollment

COOKE COUNTY

Grade Level	Student Count
Early Education	19
Pre-kindergarten	228
Kindergarten	496
Total	743

Population Age 5 and Under	3,104

Unserved Population	2,361

FANNIN COUNTY

Grade Level	Student Count
Early Education	15
Pre-kindergarten	353
Kindergarten	336
Total	704

Population Age 5 and Under	2,234

Unserved Population	1,530

GRAYSON COUNTY

Grade Level	Student Count
Early Education	57
Pre-kindergarten	852
Kindergarten	1,679
Total	2,588

Population Age 5 and Under	9,052

Unserved Population	6,464

TEXOMA REGION

Grade Level	Student Count
Early Education	118
Pre-kindergarten	1,349
Kindergarten	2,509
Total	3,976

Population Age 5 and Under	14,390

Unserved Population	10,414

Sources: Enrollment Data: TEA, PIMS Standard Reports
Population: Kids Count; Texas State Demography Center

Results

- ✓ Informing Educators, Policy Makers, Elected Officials

- ✓ Steering Committees Beginning Work on Strategic Plans

- ✓ Informing Program Strategies at TCOG and Elsewhere

- ✓ Broadened Regional Awareness of TCOG's Efforts

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