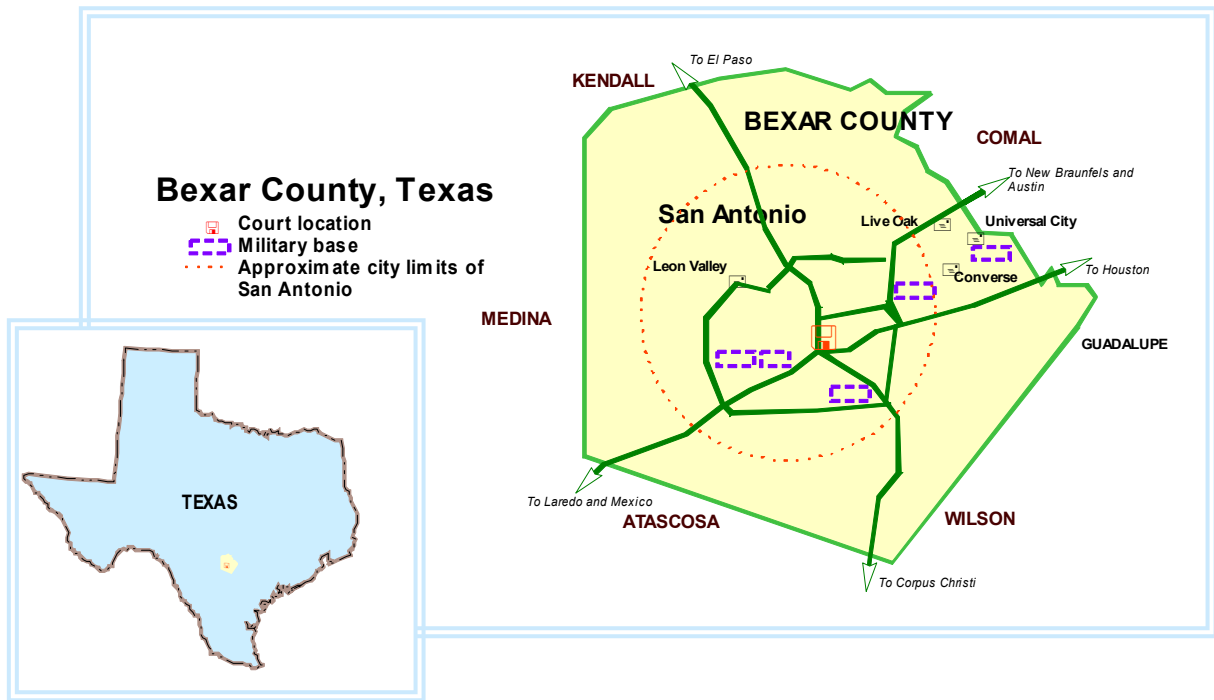


## Bexar County, Texas

Bexar (pronounced Bear) County is located in south central Texas. Its county seat and largest city, San Antonio, is now the second largest city in Texas behind only Houston and the eighth largest city in the nation. Located some 75 miles southwest of Austin (Texas' capital), 190 miles west of Houston and 150 miles north of the Mexican border at Laredo, San Antonio is an important commercial and transportation center for southern Texas and northern Mexico.



At its widest points, Bexar County measures 40 miles by 40 miles; encompassing a total of 1,250 square miles, Bexar County is large compared to some other states' counties but relatively modest by Texas standards. San Antonio, the site of the court, is located in the very center of the county; therefore, no juror will be required to travel more than about 25 miles to serve in the court.

### Population Distribution

Bexar County has 1.4 million residents. With a population of more than 1.1 million (82% of county), the city of San Antonio dominates the county. There are some twenty seven other population centers outside the city of San Antonio but all are very small by comparison to San Antonio. Some are incorporated cities, but most are simply enclaves or neighborhoods that have not been incorporated into the city limits of San Antonio. The largest of these are Universal City (population 15,000) and Converse

(population 12,000), both located east of San Antonio near Randolph Air Force Base. Together the two towns include only 2% of the county's population.

## Economy

Economically and culturally, San Antonio is one of the country's most unique cities. It is a major military center as well as a popular tourist and convention site; it has a thriving service industry, extensive healthcare facilities and a growing high-tech industry. In addition, it is home to nine institutions of higher education, including University of Texas at San Antonio, Trinity University and Our Lady of the Lake College. The nine colleges and universities together have more than 63,000 students.

A total of five separate military installations—four Air Force bases (Kelly, Lackland, Randolph and Brooks) and one Army post (Fort Sam Houston) have contributed significantly to the economic stability and growth of San Antonio. While four of the bases continue to operate today, Kelly AFB, the oldest continuously operating base in the country and at one time the city's largest single employer, was closed and its facilities converted to a business park in 2001. The 21,000 jobs that were lost as a result of the base's closure have had a negative effect on the area's employment picture; however, city officials have developed an aggressive program to replace those jobs within the next few years.

More than 26,000 military personnel are currently assigned to the four remaining bases in the area, with Lackland AFB and Fort Sam Houston being the two largest. In addition to bringing a substantial number of military personnel to the area, the bases provide jobs to another 47,000 civilians. Sources estimate that the Department of Defense contributes more than \$4 billion each year to the local economy. (Note: Military personnel are called to serve as jurors in the Bexar County court if they are permanent residents of the county, which many are not. If they are permanent residents, they are exempt from service only if they are serving duty outside of the San Antonio area.) Federal, state, city and county government employment, including military personnel, accounts for about 20% of all employment.

Because of the area's extensive military services, low cost of living and mild climate, San Antonio has become a popular retirement location for military personnel. It is estimated that some 30,000 retirees now live in the area, making San Antonio's military retiree population the largest in the nation.

Located near downtown and preserved as it was in 1836, the Alamo<sup>1</sup> has long been a favorite tourist spot. In recent years, San Antonio has added a number of significant venues to its list of tourist attractions including The Riverwalk, several theme parks (Sea World of Texas and Fiesta Texas) and the Alamodome, a large sports and

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<sup>1</sup> The Alamo symbolizes Texas' independence from Mexico. Although all 189 people who defended the Alamo including Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie were killed during a 13-day battle, their determination to hold out and the vigor of their battle inspired Sam Houston and his troops at the battle of San Jacinto a few weeks later. Houston and his troops quickly won that battle and reclaimed Texas from Mexico.

convention center. Today, tourism supported in part by a vital convention business provides billions of dollars to the local economy.

The city's medical industry, centered on the South Texas Medical Center, is increasingly significant. More than 30,000 people are employed at area hospitals and clinics. In addition, Brooke Medical Center at Ft. Sam Houston provides a large number of healthcare related jobs. Over the last two decades, the area has attracted a growing number of high-tech companies. In part, San Antonio's attraction to these companies is its proximity to Austin where high-tech companies dominate private sector employment. The 75-mile corridor between San Antonio and Austin along I-35 has seen a great deal of development by these high-tech firms and the companies that support them.

Currently, the county's largest private sector employers are Baptist Health Systems, Citicorp Data Systems, H.E. Butt Grocery Company, Labor Ready GP Company, Southwestern Bell, United Services Auto Association, USAA Federal Savings Bank, Wal-Mart and West Telemarketing Corporation.

## Demographics

San Antonio's populous is a unique blend of Anglo, Mexican and German cultures. It is the only major city in the nation with a Hispanic majority. Hispanics now represent 54% of the county's population and 59% of the city's population. Unlike other Hispanic cities, many of San Antonio's Hispanics are second and third generation; only a small portion (6%) are not U.S. citizens and therefore ineligible to serve as jurors.

The city's German influence dates back to the mid 1800s when Texas first opened its doors to immigrants and large groups of Germans were seeking refuge from a failing government and economy. Many German families settled in San Antonio as well as in Austin and for many decades were the area's only Anglos; their early and continuing influence is still apparent in the names of streets and historic buildings. Today, the area north of San Antonio, extending into the adjacent counties of Comal and Guadalupe, is called the Texas German country.

Bexar County also includes a significant African American population (8%), most of which is affiliated with the military bases in the area. County residents are overall younger than their counterparts in other venues of the country. Its median age of 32.1 years is one of the youngest of the country's major metropolitan areas.

Educational attainment of Bexar County residents echoes that of the nation as a whole. About one in five has not graduated from high school, but one in four has obtained a college degree. Over half have completed high school or obtained some college training.

Incomes in Bexar County are below the national average. Bexar County's median of \$38,000 is substantially less than the nation's median of \$42,000. As mentioned above, Bexar County has lower living costs than other comparably sized cities.

## Political Behavior

Politically, the county is slightly more conservative than the nation as a whole. In the recent presidential election, Bush supporters outnumbered Gore supporters.

## Summary

In summary then, the typical jury panel in Bexar County will include a large number of Hispanics; perhaps as many as one-third to one-half will be Hispanic. Nearly all jurors will be residents of the city of San Antonio. Some will be employed by one of the four military installations currently operating in the county. A few will be military retirees. Some will be employed in tourism; others in healthcare and the growing high-tech industry. Compared to other jurors in other large metropolitan areas, these jurors will have relatively modest incomes. Some will not have graduated from high school, but a significant share (about one in four) will be college graduates. Some jurors will have moved to San Antonio from other parts of Texas or the nation. Politically, jurors will be slightly more conservative than liberal.

## Demographics and Other Details

DEMOGRAPHICS	Bexar County	U.S.	LARGEST CITIES		
			San Antonio	Universal City	Converse
2000 Population:	1,400,000	281M	1,145,000	15,000	12,000
% of county:			82%	1%	1%
% Change 90 – 00:	19%	15%	22	15	33
Ethnicity:					
African American	8	13	7	7	13
Asian	2	4	2	4	2
Hispanic	54	13	59	22	29
Not U.S. citizen	6	7	7	2	3
Age:					
18 – 44	58	52	58	50	61
45 +	42	48	42	50	39
Median age all residents:	32.1	35.3	31.7	37.2	32.5
Education:					
Less than HS	23	20	25	9	10
High school	24	29	24	23	27
Some college	30	27	29	38	44
College graduate	14	15	14	19	13
Post graduate	8	9	8	11	6
Median Household Income:	\$38,000	\$42,000	\$36,000	\$51,000	\$48,000
Political Behavior:					
% voted Bush	52	48%	na	na	na
% voted Gore	44	48	na	na	na

Note: All demographic statistics are based on the 2000 Census; political information is from the presidential election of 2000. Prepared 7/02.

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