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Texas Colonias, Rio Grande Valley

Nearly 500,000 people live on small lots of agriculturally impoverished land known as *colonias*. There are over 2,300 colonias along the Texas-Mexico border. “Colonia” is defined as a residential area along the Texas-Mexico border that lacks some basic living necessities, such as potable water and sewer systems, electricity, paved roads, and safe and sanitary housing. The State of Texas classifies colonia conditions on a color code system (red, yellow, or green) based on infrastructure and its population size. The classification is determined by the infrastructure needs such as running water, waste, electricity, etc. and its immediate health risks. Adjacent cities will annex colonias in order to become eligible to receive state and federal funding, and to provide assistance in the delivery of services to its residents. The current and growing colonia population must rely on a variety of financial institutions and foundations to continue improving conditions. Click [here](#) for a great resource on more information on Texas Colonias.

Penitas, Texas

Penitas is classified as a “yellow” colonia. This classification was given due to the partial infrastructure of water and sewer. Below is a demographic overview of families Buckner directly works within this community:

- Two-Parent Households: 73%
- Married: 58%; 31.6% Common Law
- Average Age: Father - 36 / Mother - 32
- Average Household Size: 5
- English Proficiency: 32%
- Some H.S. : Father - 58% / Mother - 29%
- Attained GED: 5%
- Average household income/yr.: \$9,571