

Benjamin Hanna, M.P.P.

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Benjamin graduated from the Hobby School of Public Affairs (HSPA) at the University of Houston with a Master's Degree in Public Policy (MPP) with a focus on Public Opinion in May 2017. While attending the MPP program, he organized and was the founding president of the inaugural University of Houston chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA) Honor Society. Proudly born and raised in Texas, Benjamin migrated from Lampasas to Houston over a decade ago with an inexplicable passion for the University of Houston and its host city (two of Benjamin's brothers have also subsequently attended the University of Houston). Benjamin is immensely interested in the demographic potential of the Greater Houston Area (GHA) as a population "super-highway" going forward in the 21st century. Ben has built up his professional skill-set of communication, research, and outreach, with a focus on the intricacies of public opinion to address the concerns of the future. Specifically, Ben is interested in improving the reliability of opinions surveys across mediums to maintain the efficacy of communication as mode challenges are threatening the validity of research. As the GHA population explosion continues throughout the 21st century, Ben will continue to push for high quality data standards to facilitate trust and communication with the communities he will be tasked to reach out to.

Currently, Ben works for Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) in the Office of Policy & Planning (OPP) as a Community Health Data Analyst. His work focuses on leveraging the skillset gained through the HSPA MPP program to support the National Voluntary Accreditation for Public Health Departments process, data warehousing, and data partnerships throughout HCPHES. Previously, Ben has worked in the nonprofit sector as a database administrator and for various political campaigns, supporting field operations through data utilization.