

COMMUNITY

STATUS REPORT

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Both Potter and Randall County public school systems consistently perform at or above regional and statewide levels.

- ▶ 3rd and 8th-grade reading and math scores are comparable to, or exceed, statewide pass rates.
- ▶ The Amarillo Independent School District (AISD) high school graduation rate has surpassed the state average in three of the past five years.
- ▶ Meanwhile, the Canyon Independent School District (CISD) high school graduation rate has outperformed the state average for the past five consecutive years.

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REASONS FOR CHILD REMOVAL

The vast majority of children are removed from their homes due to neglect.

- ▶ Neglect is five times more likely to be the cause than physical abuse.
- ▶ Neglect is sixteen times more likely to be the cause than sexual abuse.

FAMILY VIOLENCE DRAMATICALLY VARIES BY COUNTY

Potter County's family violence rate is:

- ▶ The rate is one and a half times higher than in Lubbock County.
 - ▶ It is three times higher than the state average.
 - ▶ And it is fifteen times higher than in Randall County.

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SUBSTANCE ABUSE IS STILL A SERIOUS PROBLEM

In the Panhandle and West Texas's top 41 counties, prescription opioids cost the healthcare system \$26 billion:

- ▶ They have an overall cost of \$78 billion.
- ▶ This is nearly four times less than the cost of tobacco use, which is \$300 billion.

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SUBSTANCE USE DOES NOT INCREASE THE RISK OF ABUSE OF A CHILD

Although substance abuse is extremely problematic, it does not increase the likelihood of physical or sexual abuse of a child. However:

- ▶ Parental drug abuse is the second most likely factor cited in child removal.
- ▶ Parental alcohol abuse is the seventh most likely factor cited in child removal.

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MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES ARE IRREGULARLY DISTRIBUTED

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POPULATION CHANGES

Randall and Potter counties population changes vary by age.

- ▶ Randall County's adult and child populations are rapidly growing.
- ▶ Potter County, unlike Randall County, remains relatively stable, though the child population is decreasing.
- ▶ The median age of a Randall County resident is higher than that of a Potter County resident.

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There are many types of mental health care providers; however, psychiatrists are unique in their extensive knowledge of mental health and their ability to prescribe psychiatric medications.

- ▶ Potter County has 16 licensed psychiatrists for every 7,674 people, one of the best ratios in Texas.
- ▶ Randall County has no reported licensed psychiatrists for its 142,506 residents, one of the worst ratios in Texas.

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DUI CRASHES ARE A SERIOUS ISSUE

Both Potter and Randall counties saw a dramatic spike in DUI crashes and fatalities in 2021, but both have since seen a decline.

- ▶ In 2021, Randall County saw 120 DUI crashes. ▶ In the same year, Potter County saw 201 DUI crashes.
- ▶ Potter County's number of DUI crashes is 40% higher than Randall County's, despite having a 16% smaller population.

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DRUG OVERDOSE

Drug overdose deaths in Potter County are high.

- ▶ Lubbock County had 50 overdose deaths.
- ▶ Potter County had 25 overdose deaths, despite being only roughly one-third the size of Lubbock County.
- ▶ The CDC defines overdose deaths as unintentional, suicide, homicide, and undetermined intent but does not count deaths where drug use played a factor in someone's death, such as murder where the perpetrator was under the influence of drugs or accidental drowning.

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WE WORK HARD, 'ROUND THESE PARTS!

The low cost of living and low unemployment contribute to our strong economy.

- ▶ The unemployment rate in Randall County is 2.8%.
- ▶ The unemployment rate in Potter County is 3.2%.

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