



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

income. education. health. vulnerable populations.



United Way
of Amarillo & Canyon



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The United Way of Amarillo & Canyon 2016 Community Status Report provides data updates and analysis of issues within the United Way focus areas of Health, Education, and Income Stability. There is both good news to celebrate, while also areas of concern for focus and improvement.

Poverty is incrementing down, and high school graduation rates are slowly rising in Amarillo. But as you will see in this year's report, there are also two very significant concerns: our community struggles with poor physical health which impacts quality of life, and we are not talking enough to our youth about how to live financially stable lives.

Potter County remains the area of greatest concern. Births to unmarried mothers has risen to a staggeringly high 54%. High school graduation rates remain below 85%. Residents not in the labor force have increased to nearly 40%, and more than one in five in Potter County live in poverty.

Poverty affects individuals of course, but also impacts communities. At the household level, poor educational and health outcomes are often the result; and frequently criminal, addictive, and abusive behaviors stem from the stressors of poverty. At the community level, criminal, addictive, and abusive patterns translate into safety and economic development concerns.

We know that while we must continue to provide supports to those already in poverty and those at-risk, it is much more desirable, much more cost-effective, and yes, much more efficient to prevent poverty in the first place. For these reasons, United Way is launching a poverty prevention initiative. High school graduation, full-time employment, and delaying childbirth until marriage reduces the likelihood of living in poverty to just two percent! **ED:WORK:WED** This life sequence is critical to reducing the struggles faced by those most at-risk of poverty in our community.

You will see the **ED:WORK:WED** message growing across our community in the months ahead. This is our North Star, and we must remain laser-focused while challenging the community to join us and do the same.

Ensuring the best possible outcomes for our next generation is a job for us all—social services, city and county governments, faith-based communities, schools, businesses, and families.

Thank you for reading this important report and joining our commitment to provide this critical information to our community. Working together is how we truly **LIVE UNITED** for our future.

Mike Good

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Good". The signature is fluid and cursive, matching the printed name above it.

*President, Board of Directors
United Way of Amarillo & Canyon*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Potter and Randall Counties represent, in many ways, the two faces of America. One side is largely minority, plagued with high poverty, low educational achievement, poor health outcomes, and people in difficult circumstances. The other side is predominantly White, affluent, healthy, and educated.

Demographic trends suggest that the two counties are becoming more alike. The proportion of minority residents is growing in both counties, especially among their youngest residents. Socio-economic trends suggest that the two counties were becoming more alike between 2009 and 2012, but that in 2013 these trends reversed; the economic gap began to grow again.

Some of the positive trends shared by both counties include falling rates for poverty, adult uninsured, teenage births, and high school dropouts.

The most notable negative trends shared by the two counties include deaths from heart disease, deaths from diabetes, rising HIV and syphilis infection rates, increased accidental deaths, rising rates of adult and child abuse, increasing poverty among the elderly, and rising homelessness.

Each county also has its unique challenges. Randall County's unique challenge in 2014 was the elevated suicide rate.

Potter County on the other hand, has many pressing issues: poverty, low educational attainment, and a high birthrate to single mothers, just to name a few. This year's report reviewed three particular areas of concern for Potter County: single mothers, domestic violence victims, and refugees.

Single mothers of Potter County are economically and educationally disadvantaged. They have low educational attainment, high poverty rates, and a high rate of participation in public assistance programs. Research shows that single motherhood is associated with many adverse outcomes for children, especially boys.

Domestic violence is another significant problem in Potter County. Potter County's rate of domestic violence is 3 times as high as the Texas rate, and 13.5 times higher than Randall County's rate. Domestic violence is highly correlated with income. Both the victims and the perpetrators of domestic violence tend to be economically and educationally disadvantaged, as well as suffer from many coexisting conditions such as mental illness and drug abuse.

Finally, the city of Amarillo and Potter County in particular receive a disproportionately high number of refugees. Host communities are often concerned with what effect refugees have on local crime rates and the economy. Research shows that the crime rate among refugee populations is much lower than among native residents, while the economic impact of refugees on the local community is less clear.



MISSION STATEMENT

Improving Lives Through
The Caring Power Of
Our Community.



INTRODUCTION

The Community Status Report is designed to provide a comprehensive picture of trends for Potter and Randall Counties in United Way's key areas of interest. The United Way of Amarillo and Canyon (UWAC) focuses its efforts on three areas: Income, Education, and Health. The goal of the UWAC is to help the residents of Potter and Randall Counties, particularly their most vulnerable populations, achieve success in these areas. Trends in these key areas have been highlighted using data information from various state and federal sources.

This report includes data for the five most recent years available. For most indicators, the five-year period is 2010-2014, however actual years will vary from indicator to indicator. Whenever possible, data for the United States, Texas, and Lubbock County are included for comparison.

The Amarillo area is experiencing significant demographic changes. The population of Randall County is growing rapidly, while Potter County's remains stable. Both counties are experiencing an increase in the proportion of minorities, especially among their youngest residents.

Economic and poverty indicators have improved overall in both counties. The only exception to this trend is the increase in the unemployment rate in Potter County and the poverty rate among the elderly in both counties. Educational results are mixed. High school graduation and SAT/ACT participation are improving, while SAT/ACT performance is declining.

Poor health continues to be a major area of concern for both counties. The death rate from heart disease is elevated, deaths from accidents are on the rise, and Sexually Transmitted Infections are increasing at an alarming rate.

NEW TOPICS IN THE 2016 REPORT

- **Cost of College:** new data on the cost of college for 2-year and 4-year private and public institutions. This data is available for 1984-2014. The report also discusses the benefit of associate degrees.
- **Total Deaths from Cancer and Diabetes:** new indicators from the Department of State Health Services. This data is available for 2010-2014.
- **Community Health Initiatives:** this section considers individual and community-wide initiatives that target improvements in nutrition and exercise.
- **Single Parents:** this section reviews research literature on single parents, and presents data on single parents for Potter and Randall Counties for 2010-2014.
- **Domestic Violence:** this section reviews research literature on perpetrators and victims of domestic violence, and reports domestic violence data for Potter and Randall Counties.
- **Refugees:** this section presents information on the refugee resettlement process, and reviews research literature on the economic impact of refugees and the impact of refugees on crime. The refugee statistics for Amarillo as well as for Abilene (a comparison city) and Texas are reported and discussed.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic changes have lasting effects on all other aspects of community life. Understanding and taking into account demographic processes allows us to draw a more accurate conclusion about the nature of changes in education, health, and economics. Most often these changes happen slowly over an extended period of time. The Amarillo and Canyon communities however, defy the usually slow pattern of change.

Whereas the population of Potter County remained stable, the population of Randall County continued to grow rapidly in 2014. Just between 2013 and 2014 the population of Randall County grew by 10.1%. This is a very rapid growth compared to 0.9% for the United States and 1.9% for Texas.

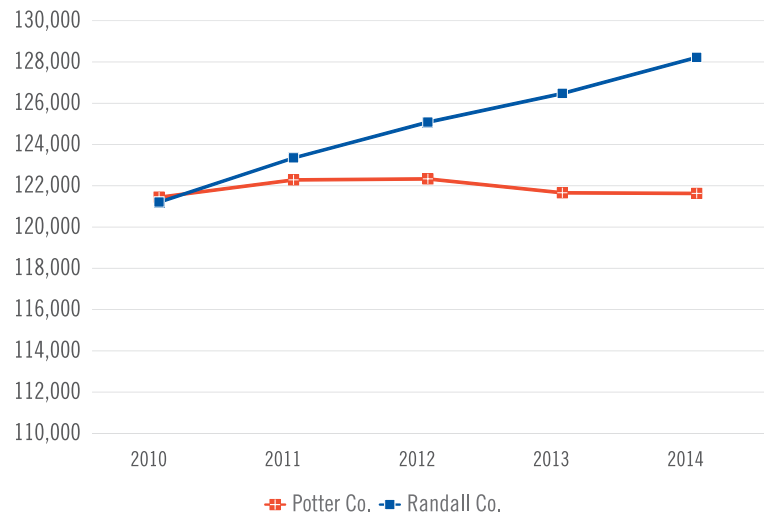
Rapid population growth is accompanied by significant changes in the racial fabric of the two counties. Potter County is predominantly minority and Randall County is predominantly White, but both communities have experienced very similar changes over time. The proportion of Hispanics and Asian residents grew, whereas the proportion of White and Black residents decreased.

These trends are especially pronounced when the population is broken down by age.

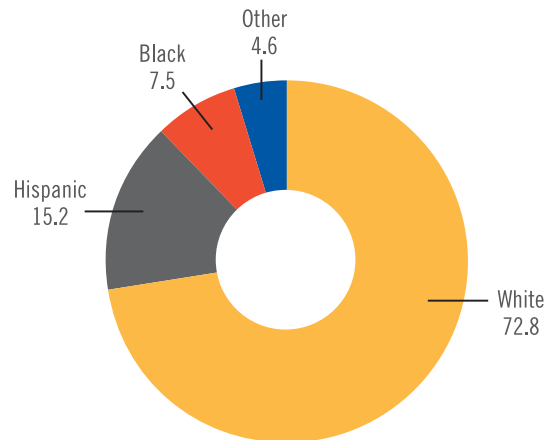
The majority of the population over 65 is White in both counties. For adults 18-64 racial composition is mixed: in Potter County, minorities constitute the majority of the population, whereas in Randall County, the White population is the majority, but the proportion of minorities is growing. Childhood trends in Potter and Randall Counties diverge. Children in Potter County are predominantly Hispanic, while the children in Randall County are predominantly White. However, this is likely to change in the coming years due to a higher birthrate rate among the Hispanic population (Brown, 2014).

Both across age groups and over time, Potter and Randall Counties are following the larger trend typical for present-day Texas. Texas has become a minority majority state. Undoubtedly, these demographic trends will have a profound impact on the culture and the economy of the state.

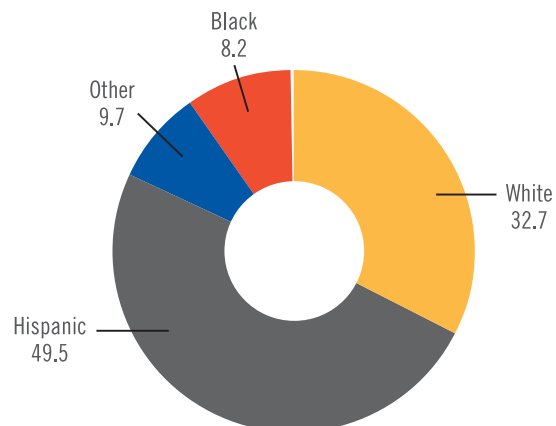
COUNTY POPULATION
Potter and Randall Counties
American Community Survey



RACIAL COMPOSITION OF POPULATION 65 AND OVER
Potter County, 2014
American Community Survey



RACIAL COMPOSITION OF POPULATION UNDER 18
Potter County, 2014
American Community Survey



EDUCATION

Better education results in a lifetime of higher earnings. Over a lifetime, a person with a Bachelor's degree will make 84% more than someone with only a high school degree (Carnevale, Rose, & Cheah, 2011). Education will gain even greater importance in the coming years. In 1973, 28% percent of all jobs required a postsecondary education. By 2020, this will increase to 65%, according to Carnevale, Smith, and Strohl (2013).

Early Childhood Education (ECE).

The KIDS COUNT report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation contains data on the percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds from low income families enrolled in public Early Childhood Education programs (see Table 1). These programs are only available to low income families, and therefore enrollment rates are closely tied to the economic well-being of a community.

As adults, ECE program participants are much more likely to graduate from high school and earn over \$20,000 a year. They are also less likely to engage in criminal behavior, more likely to raise their own children and have lower levels of drug use (Heckman, Hyeok, Pinto, Savelyev, & Yavitz, 2010).



In the school year 2014-2015, the most recent year for which data is available, a much higher percentage of Potter County children (49.7%) were enrolled in programs than in Randall County (4.2%). The difference is likely due to Potter County having a greater proportion of

By 2020, 65% of jobs will require postsecondary education.

families in poverty. All regions' enrollment rates decreased from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015. Potter County decreased by 6.4% and Randall County by 8.7%. The decreases in enrollment are closely related to increasing income and decreasing poverty rates, but may also have been driven by other factors (such as decreased funding).

Pre-K Enrollment for 3-and 4-Year Olds (KIDS COUNT)
Table 1

	Texas	Lubbock	Potter	Randall
2013 - 2014	29.7%	24.9%	53.1%	4.6%
2014 - 2015	28.2%	24.0%	49.7%	4.2%

Source: KIDS COUNT report

Kindergarten through 12th grade achievement.

The only comprehensive measure of K-12 achievement currently available is the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness- STAAR test. The performance of 3rd and 8th graders on their reading and math tests are presented in Table 2 (these are the percentages that received satisfactory or above scores for school years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015). Third grade is a critical time in the life of a student because 3rd grade reading has been shown to predict subsequent school success (Lesnick, Goerge, Smithgall, & Gwynn, 2010). Eighth grade achievement predicts high school graduation and college readiness, and is therefore an important measure of future success.

Before delving into the results, it has to be noted that the STAAR test has not been without controversy. In 2016, there were many reported problems surrounding how the tests were delivered, scored, and administered (Collier, 2016). In May of 2016, parents sued the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in an effort to keep the test results from being used to rate students (Collier, 2016). The jury is still out on how well the STAAR test scores reflect student learning. Therefore, these scores need to be interpreted with caution.

In all percentages reported in Table 2, Amarillo ISD and Region 16 students did at least as well, if not better than Texas students. The biggest contrast is in 8th grade math in the 2014-2015 school year where 11% more Amarillo ISD students received satisfactory or above scores than Texas students.



For Region 16 and Amarillo ISD, 3rd grade reading scores remained nearly the same between the years. For 8th graders, the reading scores decreased by 5.5% and 6.5% respectively. Math scores should not be compared between 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years because the TEA updated the math tests between those years to new rigorous standards (Williams, 2014). Time needs to be given for student and school performance to adapt to the transition.

High school graduation.

Graduation rates for 2014-2015 continued to improve for both Potter and Randall Counties. The improvements in Randall County have happened at a much faster pace (5.7% vs. 1.3% for Potter County).

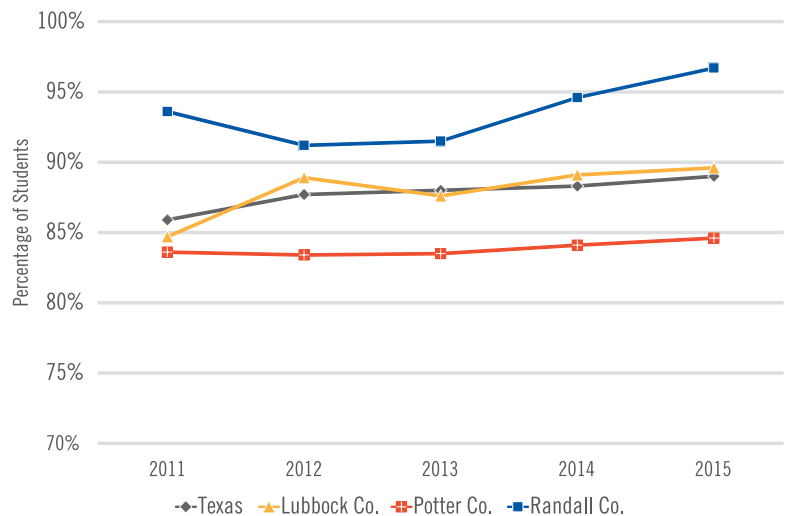


STAAR Performance Scores
Table 2

		STAAR Performance Scores		
		Texas	Region 16	Amarillo ISD
3rd Grade Reading	2013-2014	76%	78%	76%
	2014-2015	77%	78%	77%
3rd Grade Math	2013-2014	71%	73%	76%
	2014-2015	75%	76%	75%
8th Grade Reading	2013-2014	90%	91%	92%
	2014-2015	85%	86%	86%
8th Grade Math	2013-2014	86%	89%	93%
	2014-2015	72%	76%	83%

Sources: 2014-2015 Texas Academic Performance Report and Texas Reporting Performance System, Texas Education Agency

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE
TX and Counties
Texas Education Agency



Graduation rates continue to improve for Potter and Randall Counties.

SAT and ACT participation and performance.

While the percentage of students taking college entrance exams remained relatively constant in Region 16 (a 1.5% decrease from 2010 to 2014), the percentage in Amarillo ISD dramatically increased (a 27.5% increase from 2010 to 2014). The College Board initiative in Amarillo ISD started allowing all students to take college entrance exams free of charge in 2013. As a result, the participation rates increased substantially (TEA, 2015).

On the one hand, the initiative was a success. Clearly, participation rates are increasing, and a greater proportion of African-American and Hispanic students are taking the tests (TEA, 2015).

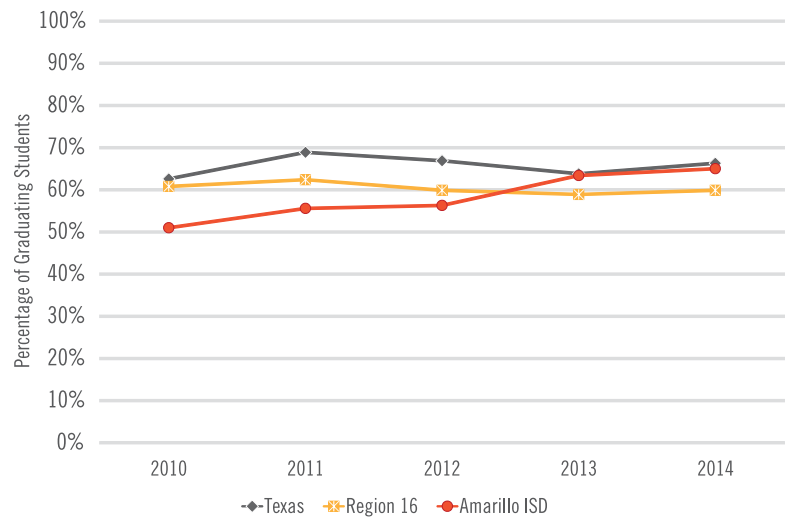
However, increases in participation have led to decreases in the percentage receiving scores at or above criteria.



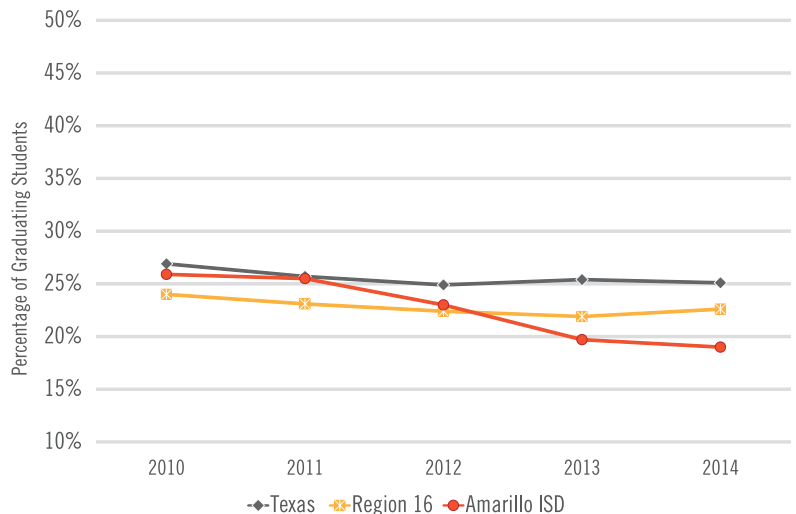
The percentage of Amarillo ISD exam takers receiving scores at or above criteria has decreased 26.6%, which is almost as much as participation has gone up. Other cities that take the SAT have had similar trends. That is, as participation increases, the average score decreases (Anderson, 2015). To attempt to rectify this, the College Board introduced a new version of the SAT in March 2016 to make it more accessible to the changing demographics of college-bound students. The College Board is also offering free study prep materials to low-income students in hopes of improving their test readiness (Adams, 2015).

A greater proportion of African-American and Hispanic students are taking the SAT and ACT tests.

STUDENTS TAKING SAT/ACT
TX, Region 16, and Amarillo ISD
Texas Education Agency



SAT/ACT AT OR ABOVE CRITERIA
TX, Region 16, and Amarillo ISD
Texas Education Agency



Educational achievement.

The American economy offers a tremendous payoff for education. Post-recession structural shifts in the economy eliminated many well-paid low-skilled jobs in manufacturing and services. At the same time, the demand for highly-educated workers continues to rise, as do their wages (Carnevale, Smith, & Strohl, 2013).

While offering great rewards, postsecondary education requires greater and greater upfront financial investment. The cost of college has increased dramatically. Between 1984 and 2014 the cost of college increased by 118% on average, from \$9,620 in 1984 to \$21,003 in 2014 (National Center for Educational Statistics, 2016, measured in constant 2014 dollars).

“For the 2013–14 academic year, annual current dollar prices for undergraduate tuition, fees, room, and board were estimated to be \$15,640 at public institutions, \$40,614 at private non-profit institutions, and \$23,135 at private for-profit institutions. Between 2003–04 and 2013–14, prices for undergraduate tuition, fees, room, and board at public institutions rose 34%, and prices at private non-profit institutions rose 25%, after adjustment for inflation. The price for undergraduate tuition, fees, room, and board at private for-profit institutions decreased 16% between 2003–04 and 2013–14, after adjustment for inflation” (National Center for Educational Statistics, 2016).

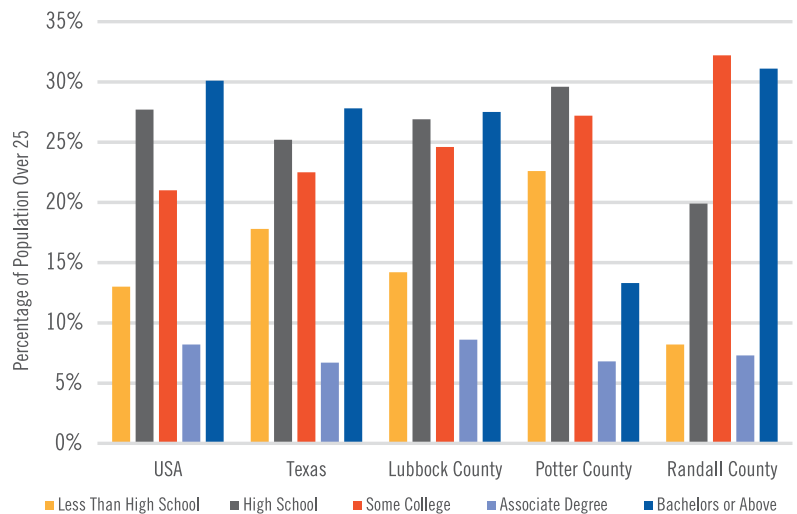
Such a dramatic increase in the cost of college makes postsecondary education cost-prohibitive for a large segment of the population.



EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS

US, TX, and Counties, 2014

American Community Survey

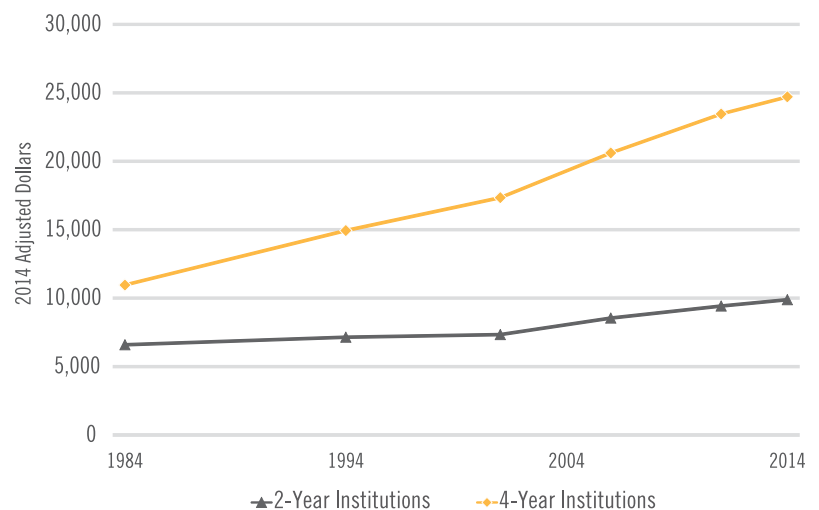


The cost of college has increased dramatically, making it cost-prohibitive for a large segment of the population.

COST OF COLLEGE

USA

National Center for Education Statistics



INCOME

The well-being of any community can never be separated from its economic life. Employment is related to a host of positive outcomes such as economic stability, improved psychological health, and greater life satisfaction (Marmot, 2002; Wadden & Barton, 2006).

The 2014 indicators of economic well-being for Potter and Randall Counties look promising.

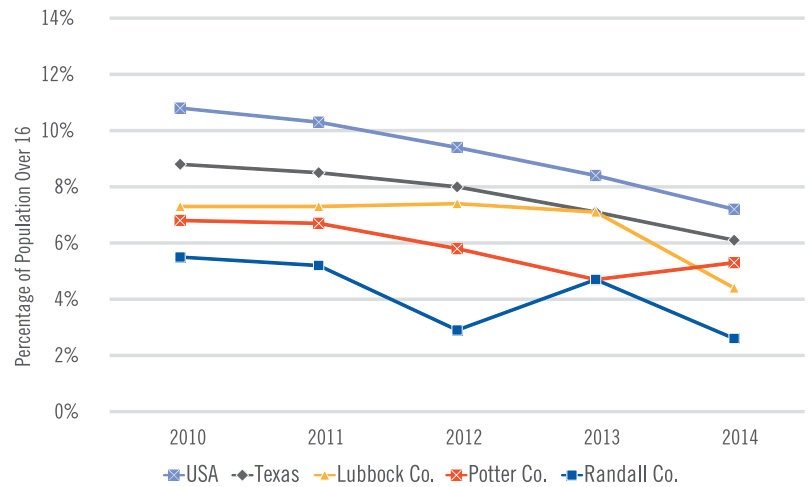
Unemployment.

According to the American Community Survey, the unemployment rates in 2014 in both counties remained below the state and national averages. However compared to the previous year, the unemployment rate in Potter County increased by 12.8%, even though it dropped in other compared regions. Whether this increase is a permanent trend for Potter County remains to be seen.

Another important indicator of economic well-being is the labor market participation rate. The labor market participation rate and the unemployment rate are not directly tied, but the unemployment rate can be affected by labor force participation. When the job market improves, it may encourage the people who previously exited the labor force to begin again to seek employment and thus increase the unemployment rate (Hornstein, A. & Rhodes, K.). The reverse can also be true. When people exit the labor force they are no longer counted as unemployed, which in turn can reduce the unemployment rate. The second scenario seems more likely for the US, where the proportion of the population not in the labor force increased while the unemployment rate decreased. Another potential explanation for these trends may be the cost of living in each county.

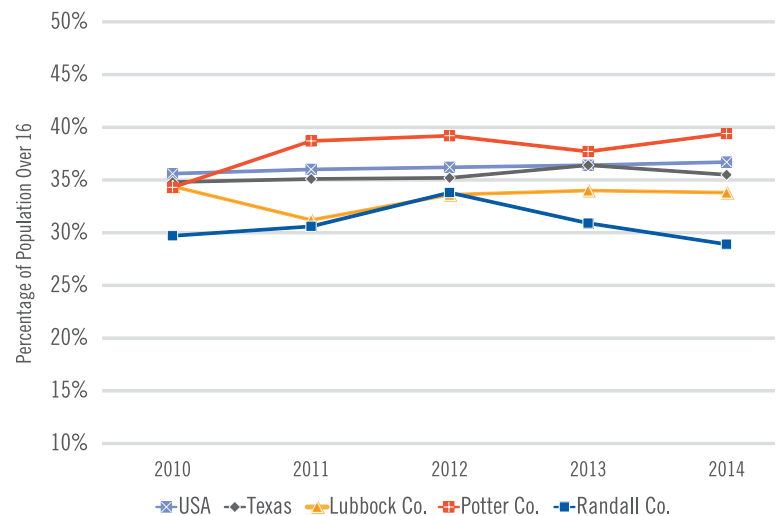
It is possible that when people lose their jobs or exit the labor force they want to decrease their spending and therefore move to the less expensive Potter County. The reverse can be true as well: when individuals acquire employment, they would be more likely to move to Randall County which has better overall academic performance and a higher quality of living. Regardless of the reasons, the unemployment gap between Potter and Randall Counties has increased in 2014 by 50.9%.

UNEMPLOYMENT
US, TX, and Counties
American Community Survey



The unemployment gap between Potter and Randall Counties has increased in 2014 by 50.9%.

POPULATION NOT IN LABOR FORCE
US, TX, and Counties
American Community Survey





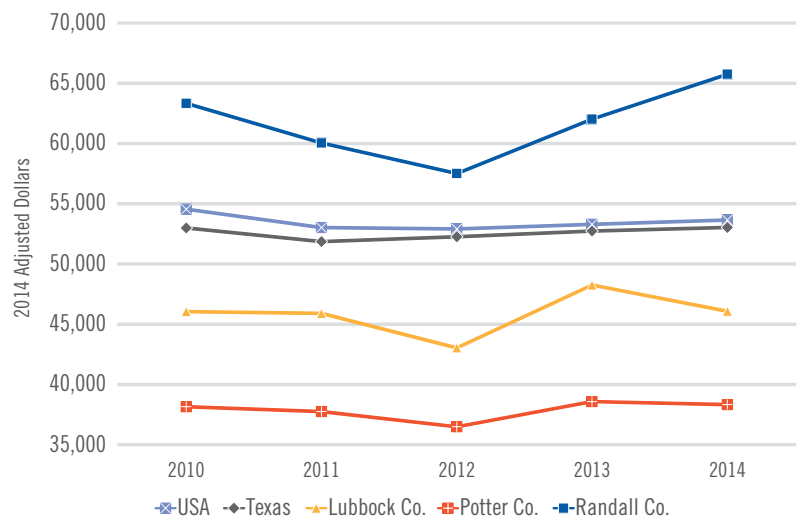
Median income.

Median income has increased in Randall County for the last two years, whereas in Potter County it remained mostly flat, and even decreased a little in 2014.

The distribution of income by levels sheds additional light into the financial well-being of the community and reveals an encouraging trend. Specifically, in both Potter and Randall Counties the proportion of households making under \$25,000 has decreased. For subsequent income categories the patterns between the counties diverged. Potter County had an increase in the proportion of people making between \$35,000-\$50,000. This income bracket had the highest proportion of people in it and included the median income for Potter County. Another notable trend for Potter County is the increase in the proportion of people who make over \$75,000. Taken together, the income trends in Potter County are very encouraging.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

US, TX, and Counties
American Community Survey



Even more encouraging are the income trends in Randall County where the fastest growing income category was over \$75,000. The well-off are earning more, and so are the poor, but at a slower pace.

The consequence of these income trends is that the income gap between Potter and Randall Counties is getting wider. Before 2012, the median income in Randall County began to drop, narrowing the income gap from 66.0% in 2010 to 57.6% in 2012. Since 2012, the income gap has been growing reaching 71.6% in 2014.

Therefore, despite positive economic changes, the overall economic gap between counties as reflected in the median income and the unemployment rate, is increasing.

HEALTH

Healthy residents make healthy communities. The issues of health affect every aspect of our lives. Health enables people to learn, grow, and achieve. The United States spends over 17% of its GDP on healthcare and has the highest healthcare expenditure rate in the world (The World Bank, 2016). Understandably, community health has gained greater attention in recent years due to the increasing cost of healthcare and the increasing number of elderly in the US population.

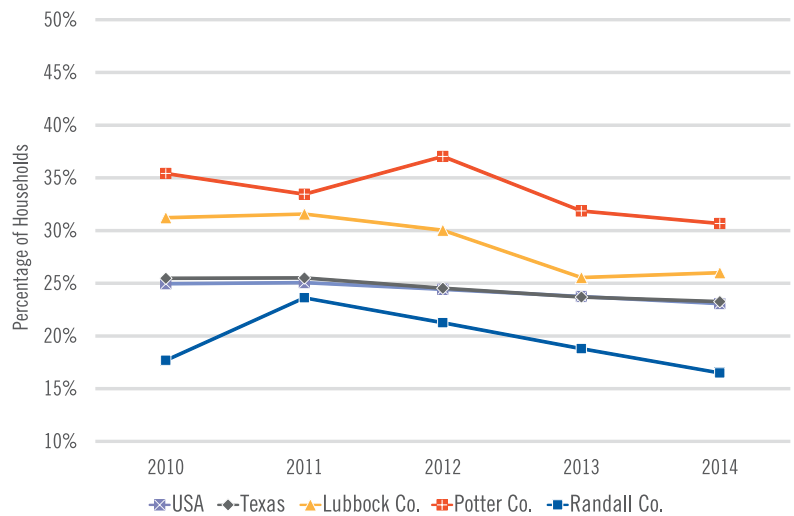


Health insurance.

Within the American healthcare system, access to quality health services is dependent upon the availability of health insurance. Lack of access to healthcare results in poor outcomes, less prevention, and a greater use of emergency medical services. All of the above subsequently leads to greater healthcare expenditures (Goldman & McGlynn, 2005).

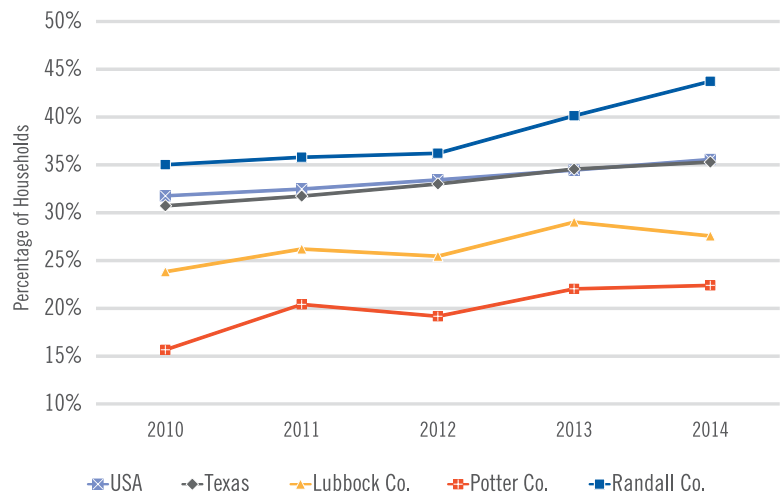
HOUSEHOLDS WITH INCOME UNDER \$25,000

US, TX, and Counties
American Community Survey



HOUSEHOLDS WITH INCOME OVER \$75,000

US, TX, and Counties
American Community Survey



The United States has the highest healthcare expenditure rate in the world.

The rollout of the Affordable Care Act in 2014 was expected to have a positive effect on enrollment in health insurance programs. Among adults, the uninsured rate fell sharply in 2014 in all regions; by 10.2% and 10.9% in Potter and Randall Counties respectively. The greatest decrease was in the US overall (19.8%), while Texas on average fell by 14.3%. Among the five regions (US, TX, and Lubbock, Potter, and Randall Counties) Potter County still had the highest adult uninsured rate in 2014, 30.9% uninsured compared to 25.8% for Texas. Randall County's uninsured rate was low, but not as low as one would expect considering the relative wealth of Randall County. The Randall County uninsured rate remained higher than the average US rate (18.0% vs.16.4%).

The uninsured rate among children has actually increased in both Potter and Randall Counties in 2014, by 0.9% and 8.4% respectively. The meaning of this increase is unclear considering that the proportion of children in poverty has decreased in Potter and Randall Counties. It is possible that higher income disqualified families from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Another plausible explanation could be due to the changes in the eligibility criteria for CHIP and Medicaid. Some of the children transitioning from CHIP to Medicaid could have 'fallen through the cracks' of the public insurance system. Finally, in 2014 Texas had trouble funding its share of public health insurance programs, which could also have had an effect on child insurance enrollment rates (Dunkelberg, 2013; Ura, 2014).

Mortality.

The five most common causes of death in Potter and Randall Counties in 2014 were: heart disease, stroke, breast cancer, cancer of lungs, throat, and trachea, and accidents. Heart disease remains the deadliest killer in 2014, by far. In Randall County, it was 4.2 times more deadly than the next highest killer (lung cancer). In Potter County, it was 5.0 times more deadly than the next highest cause (stroke).

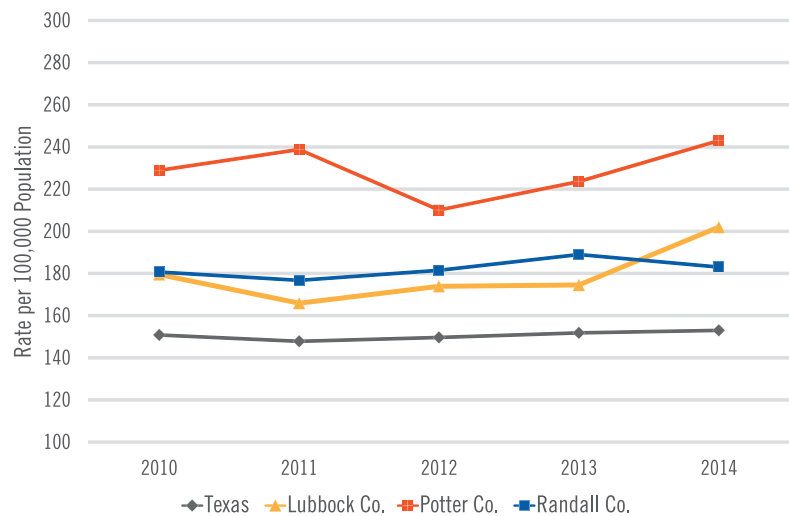
Heart Disease.

Heart disease continues to be an area of concern for both counties. Potter County's heart disease rate in 2014— 243 deaths per

DEATH FROM HEART DISEASE

TX and Counties

Texas Department of State Health Services



100,000 population— was the highest it has been since 2010. This rate is 58.8% higher than the Texas rate.

Randall County's heart disease rate (183 deaths per 100,000 population) is also an area of concern. On the one hand, it is remaining fairly stable. It increased 1.3% from 2010 to 2014 and is now less than Lubbock County's rate. However, the rate is still 19.6% higher than the Texas rate. This is unsettling because Randall County has very few community risk factors commonly associated with high levels of heart disease. It is affluent, predominantly White/non-Hispanic, has great access to quality food, and has an overall high health ranking. Heart disease continues to be an issue in the Amarillo community. Lifestyle factors, such as the level of physical activity and the quality of the local diet, are likely to play a role in the high prevalence of this illness.

Another illness that is closely related to heart disease is diabetes.

Diabetes.

The rates of death from diabetes remained stable between 2010 and 2013 in both Potter and Randall Counties. However, between 2013 and 2014 deaths from diabetes took an alarming jump in both Potter and Randall Counties. Potter County’s rate increased from 30.0 to 52.0 (73.3%). Randall County’s rate jumped from 13.0 to 19.0 (46.2%). Diabetes along with heart disease should come to the forefront of public attention in the coming years.



Heart disease and diabetes are closely related. Current research suggests that both genetic and environmental/behavioral factors play a role in the development of both illnesses. Environmental and behavioral factors can activate genes that contribute to weight gain, insulin resistance, and the development of heart disease and diabetes. Sedentary lifestyle and a diet high in processed fats are the two main behavioral factors that contribute to the disease gene activation (Elder et al., 2009; Murea, Ma, & Freedman, 2012; Shikany et al., 2015). Research further shows that the age at which a healthy lifestyle is started plays an important role in how much it benefits people with predisposition to diabetes and heart disease (Murea, Ma, & Freedman, 2012). Earlier interventions result in greater benefits. Even though people at any age can benefit from starting a healthy lifestyle, the benefits are likely to be much greater for children. Therefore, it is imperative to support programs that teach healthy lifestyles to children and promote healthy lunches in schools. Prevention of obesity is the best medicine.

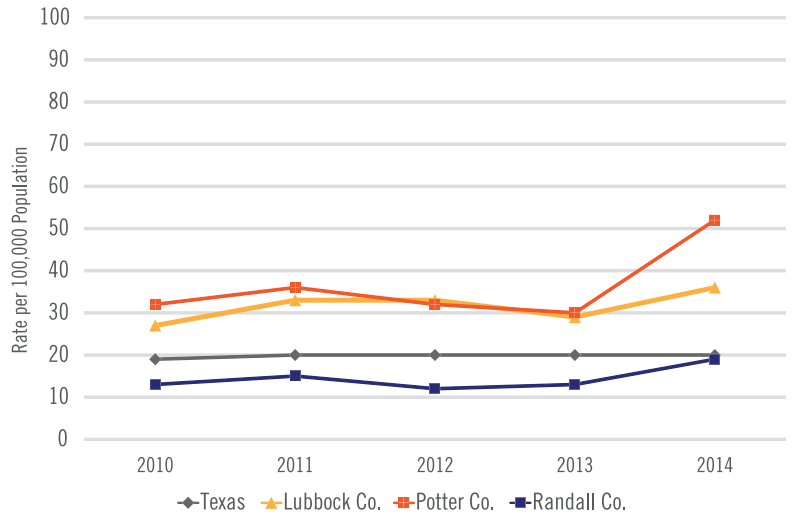
Additionally, environmental pollutants such as pesticides and herbicides can have a significant detrimental effect on the overall

quality of health and make a strong contribution to the development of diabetes and heart disease (Murea, Ma, & Freedman, 2012). Communities with a strong presence of commercial agriculture are at an increased risk of overexposure to pesticides and herbicides.

Lifestyle and environmental factors also play a role in the prevalence of other illnesses, such as stroke and cancer.

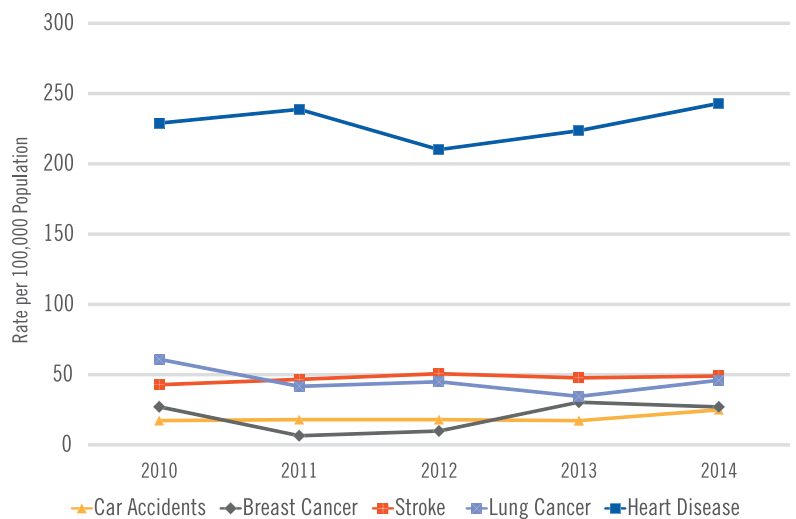
**DEATH FROM DIABETES
TX and Counties**

Texas Department of State Health Services



**TOP 5 CAUSES OF DEATH
Potter County**

Texas Department of State Health Services



Stroke.

Heart disease and stroke are highly correlated and share many of the same risk factors. Unsurprisingly, Potter County has a higher rate of stroke than Randall County: 49.0 deaths per 100,000 residents in 2014, which was 35.7% higher than the state's rate. Randall County's rate of death from stroke was at 37.0, the same as in Texas.

Cancer.

Cancers are the second most prevalent group of deadly illnesses in America. Potter and Randall Counties have very similar cancer death rates. Both are slightly higher than the Texas rate: Potter by 12.2% and Randall by 14.8%.

For a number of years, Potter County had a slightly higher number of deaths from cancer than Randall County. However since 2012, Potter County's death rate has been decreasing (by 9.4%) at the same time as Randall County's rate has been increasing (by 2.4%). In 2014, for the first time in 5 years, Randall County had a larger cancer death rate than Potter County.

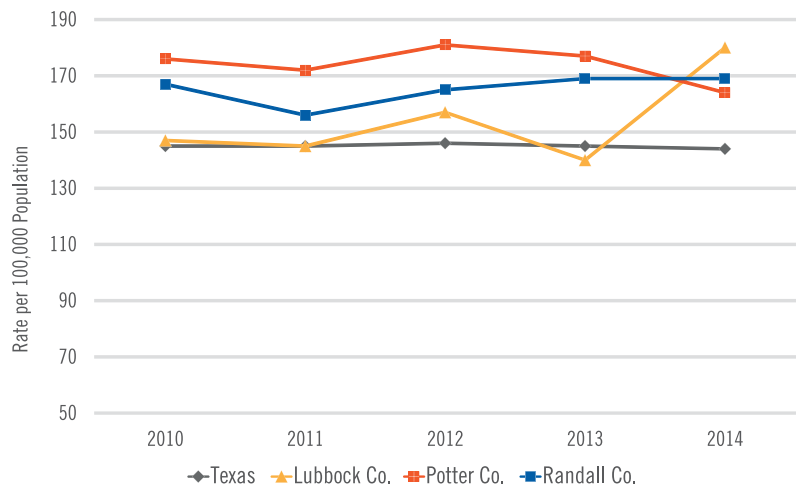
It is unclear why the trends are diverging in this way. Potter County has a higher breast cancer death rate (27.0 deaths per 100,000 women) compared to Randall County (16.0 deaths per 100,000 women). It also has a higher death rate for the cancers of lung, throat, and trachea (46.0 for Potter County and 44.0 for Randall County). Therefore, the higher total rate of death from cancer in Randall County must be attributed to other forms of cancer.

The overall poor health indicators for Potter and Randall Counties call for community-wide interventions that will promote healthy and active lifestyles among adults and children. The majority of community health initiatives in the United States focus on access to healthcare. While access to quality healthcare is important, lifestyle and environmental factors have to also be taken into account. It turns out communities can do quite a bit to support healthy lifestyles.



DEATH FROM CANCER TX and Counties

Texas Department of State Health Services



Potter County's death rate from cancer has been decreasing at the same time as Randall County's has been increasing.

Five Ideas for a Healthier Lifestyle

Backyard farming.

It doesn't take hundreds of acres of land or expensive equipment to produce nutritious food. Many people are turning to producing their own fruits, nuts, vegetables, eggs, and meat in their own homes and backyards. Gardens and animal pens can fit into any space with a little bit of creativity. Even apartment dwellers have plenty of options, including window and balcony gardens.

Experienced backyard farmers recommend starting small and producing only what you like to eat or use (Pesaturo, 2015). For more tips and ideas, visit farmingmybackyard.com, www.pinterest.com/explore/backyard-farming/, or look for homesteading books at the library.

Community exercise groups.

One popular trend in active lifestyles is involvement in community exercise groups. Most often these groups start on social media, or websites such as MeetUp.com and Nextdoor.com where people connect based on their interests and/or physical proximity.

These groups have various structures: from boot camp style training in parks, to mom's jogging stroller clubs, to senior yoga classes at the local community center. What these groups have in common is their flexibility, low cost, and use of public resources and social media. Often these groups are organized by community organizations and non-profits. Churches, libraries, community centers, and schools can open their doors outside of regular hours to encourage the residents of the neighboring communities to engage in a healthier lifestyle.

The Nutrition Challenge program.

Clark County, Nevada developed the nutrition challenge program to motivate residents to eat more fruits and vegetables. Participants tracked their daily servings of fruit and vegetables on a website. The results were displayed back to them on a graph, and each week it gave participants new nutrition information as part of the program. Of those who responded to the post-program survey, 69% reported that they had increased their daily consumption of fruits and vegetables.



Another 47% reported they were eating healthier, and an additional 20% reported initiating healthier behaviors such as losing weight and starting an exercise program (Earney, Bungum, & Bungum, 2006).

Vancouver's A Healthy City for All program.

Vancouver's A Healthy City for All program is a long-term approach to addressing health issues. Using a holistic approach, the program focuses on environmental, social, and economic needs of community residents. For example, one of the program goals is to lessen disparities in health and wellness between income classes.

One of the strengths of the program is that it involves the community in the design of the action plan. The design committee comprises 30 community leaders, including leaders in provincial and federal governments, public institutions, foundations, and the private sector. The program also creates opportunities for citizens to get involved and submit ideas through forums and the website.

Through these efforts, the residents of Vancouver came up with a list of 13 long-term goals, 1,300 ideas, 112 potential actions, and 19 high priority actions. All the actions were measurable and realistic. For example, providing 1,300 daily breakfasts for schoolchildren to ensure children are ready to learn. Some of the long-term goals included getting more people to use active transportation, embracing the sharing economy, and increasing residents' sense of safety (City of Vancouver, 2015).

Healthy Kids Healthy Communities.

The Healthy Kids Healthy Communities initiative awards grants to communities that wish to promote healthy interventions for children, especially for low-income and at-risk populations. The initiatives funded by Healthy Kids Healthy Communities include community gardens and farmers' markets, active preschool and afterschool programs for children, new recreational facilities, and many other supports.

Deaths

Accidents.

Deaths from accidents continued to rise in Potter County, specifically by 28.2% between 2013 and 2014. Among accidents, motor-vehicle accidents had an even sharper rise (a 44.8% increase in the same time period). In Randall County in 2014, accidents decreased as dramatically as they increased the year before: a 17.8% decrease in one year. At the same time, Randall County did not experience a significant change in the rate of motor-vehicle accidents. Therefore, the total decrease in the rate in this county must be attributed to other types of accidents.

Suicide.

Deaths from suicide do not occur very frequently and fluctuate greatly between years. Randall County had a sudden spike in suicides in 2014: the number of suicides went from 13 in 2013 to 26 in 2014 (a 100% increase in the death from suicide). In Potter County, the suicide rate went up only slightly, by 5.1%. Suicide rates also rose in Lubbock County (by 27.0%) and in Texas as a whole (by 4.2%). A recent article drew attention to the rising suicide rates across the country. The highest proportion of deaths from suicides are among older White males, while the group with the most attempted suicides are between the ages of 14 and 20 (Nemeroff, 2016).

The most attempted suicides are between the ages of 14 and 20.



Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

STIs continue to be a very pressing issue in the Amarillo and Canyon communities. It is important to note that the data on STIs that comes from the Texas Department of State Health Services' Annual Report shows some revisions for previous years. This is due to unreported cases that are delivered into the system late. The Department of State Health Services modifies prior years' rates to reflect the most recent, most accurate information (Emily, 2016).

From 2014 to 2015 in both Randall and Potter Counties, chlamydia and gonorrhea rates decreased, while HIV and syphilis increased. However, chlamydia and gonorrhea rates still dwarf the other two, with chlamydia being the most prevalent STI. In Randall County, the chlamydia diagnosis rate is 22.2 times higher than HIV and 23.8 times higher than syphilis. In Potter County, the chlamydia diagnosis rate is 38.7 times higher than HIV and 28.7 times higher than syphilis.

Chlamydia.

In 2015, Randall County had the lowest rate of chlamydia diagnoses (238.0 per 100,000 population) among the four Texas regions. At 825.1 diagnoses per 100,000 population, Potter County had the highest rate of chlamydia diagnoses. Between 2013 and 2015, Texas and Lubbock County's rates increased, while Randall and Potter Counties' rates decreased (by 20.4% and 32.7% respectively).

Gonorrhea.

From 2014 to 2015, Texas and Lubbock County's gonorrhea rates increased and Potter and Randall County's decreased (Potter County by 9.9% and Randall County by 19.4%). Among the four regions, Randall had the lowest rate of gonorrhea diagnoses in 2015, 88.3 per 100,000 population. Potter County's rate of gonorrhea diagnoses was the highest (411.3 per 100,000 population).

Potter County's 2015 syphilis rate is 2.9 times higher than Randall County's. It is now almost as high as the Texas rate (30.6). The syphilis diagnoses rates are rising for all regions. Since 2011, the Texas rate has increased by 27.0%.

Lubbock County's has risen by 37.5%. Potter and Randall Counties' rates exploded rising by 602.7% and 525% respectively.

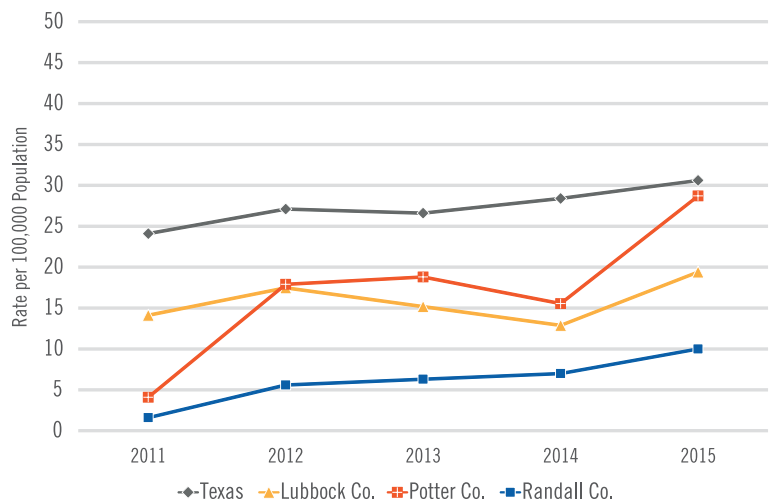
In 2015, Potter had the highest HIV rate (21.3 per 100,000 population), while Randall County had the lowest (10.7 per 100,000). HIV rates for the state of Texas have been decreasing (3% decrease from 2011 to 2015). However during this period, Randall and Potter Counties have been increasing, especially in Potter County where the rate grew by an alarming 345.8% compared to 53.2% in Randall County.

The STI issue in Potter and Randall Counties is truly worrisome: chlamydia and gonorrhea rates are trending high while syphilis and HIV rates are exploding rapidly.

SYPHILIS RATES

TX and Counties

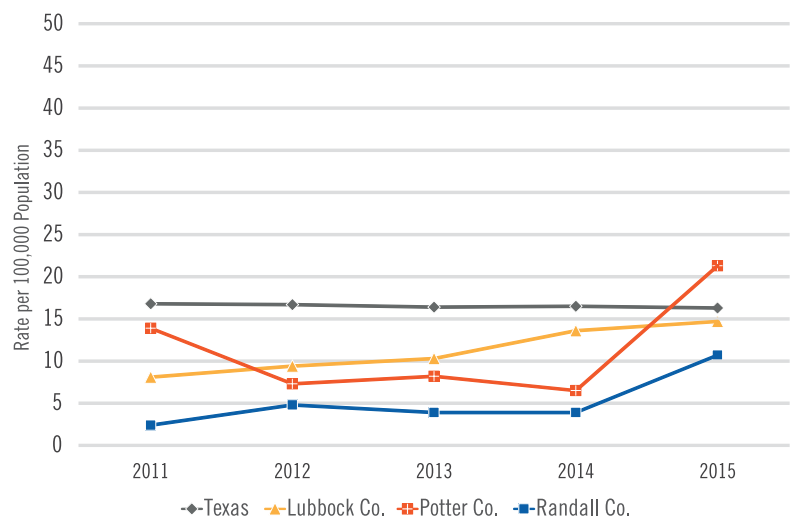
Department of State Health Services



HIV RATES

TX and Counties

Department of State Health Services



Chlamydia and gonorrhea rates are trending high while syphilis and HIV rates are exploding rapidly.

Drug abuse.

The use, manufacturing, and distribution of drugs has a profound effect on communities. Increases in property and violent crimes, child abuse and neglect, and depressed housing markets are some of the known consequences of the drug trade.

Unfortunately, there is not a good way to track the prevalence of drug use in communities. Drug users shy away from disclosing their use patterns. This means that data on the prevalence of drug use is scarce. One way to assess drug use in communities is by looking at drug treatment rates. Drug treatment data presented in this report has some severe limitations. The data comes from state-funded substance abuse treatment programs that include income as one of the major eligibility criteria. This limits the extent to which this data can be used for comparison in two ways. First, the interventions data cannot be compared between counties that vary greatly by income and poverty rates, such as Potter and Randall Counties, because poorer counties will inevitably have higher enrollment rates than wealthier counties where drug treatment is typically obtained through private rather than state-funded providers. Furthermore, the rates cannot be compared between years if the income and poverty rates changed significantly from one time point to another like they have in the past year. Therefore, the only meaningful comparison can be done between substances within each county.

In Potter County, meth clearly dominated the intervention scene (115.4 per 100,000 population), followed by alcohol (71.2). In Randall County, alcohol had the highest rate of interventions (46.7) followed by meth (38.5). However, the rate for these two substances were similar and the ordering has reversed three times since 2011.

Between 2011 and 2015, alcohol, and marijuana interventions decreased for Lubbock, Potter, and Randall Counties. Meth interventions decreased in Randall County (from 51.78 to 38.53 interventions per 100,000). In Potter County, the rate of meth interventions increased significantly in 2012 (from 110.9 to 133.1), but has been decreasing since then, almost dropping to the 2011 rate (115.4).

The rates for the remaining four substances, amphetamines, crack, cocaine, and heroin, were not available because they fell below the new reporting threshold of 10 interventions or less.

Prenatal care and low birthweight babies.

Prenatal care that begins in the early stages of pregnancy can be life-saving for both mother and baby. Women who do not receive prenatal care until late pregnancy (third trimester) are more likely to experience adverse health outcomes and give birth to low birthweight babies than those who receive earlier care (US Department of Health and Human Services).

Prenatal care in the first trimester.

The proportion of mothers beginning prenatal care in the first trimester remained stable in both Potter and Randall Counties between 2011-2014. Randall County continues to have the highest rate (74.3%) and Potter County the lowest (57.8%). The rates for Lubbock County and Texas in 2014 were 65.9% and 61.6% respectively.

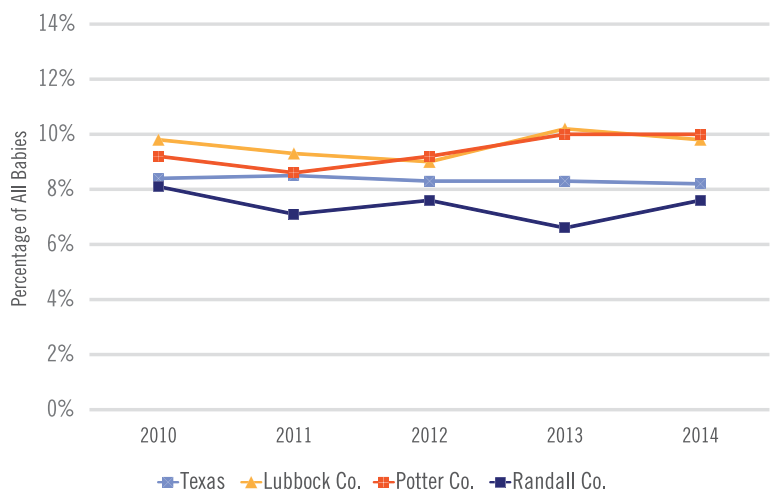
Low birthweight babies.

The birth of low birthweight babies is infrequent, and the trends are inconsistent. Potter and Lubbock Counties had the highest rates in 2014 (nearly 10% of babies had a low birthweight in each county), while the Texas and Randall County rates remained lower (8.2% and 7.6% respectively). However, Randall County had a 15.2% increase in the percentage of low birthweight babies from 2013-2014. That translates into 21 more low birthweight babies born in 2014.

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES

TX and Counties

Department of State Health Services



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

2014 brought encouraging changes into the Amarillo community. The incomes of the population at the lowest end of income distribution increased and poverty dropped. The poverty rate in Potter County fell by 2.3% and in Randall County by 19.0%. The US as a whole also experienced a slight decrease in the poverty rate (by 1.9%). Lubbock County's poverty rate did not change, whereas Texas had an increase in the poverty rate by 8.9%. United Way's 2015 Community Status Report discussed how the Texas economy began to decelerate in late 2013 due to decreasing oil prices. This slowdown had an impact on the increasing poverty rate in Texas. The oil industry employs a significant proportion of the low-skilled labor force, typically at a greater risk for poverty. According to some estimates, Texas lost 99,000 jobs directly and indirectly related to the oil industry (Cunningham, 2016). However, Potter and Randall Counties did not appear to have been greatly impacted by the state's economic trends, and continued to provide a strong economic environment for low-skilled workers in 2014.



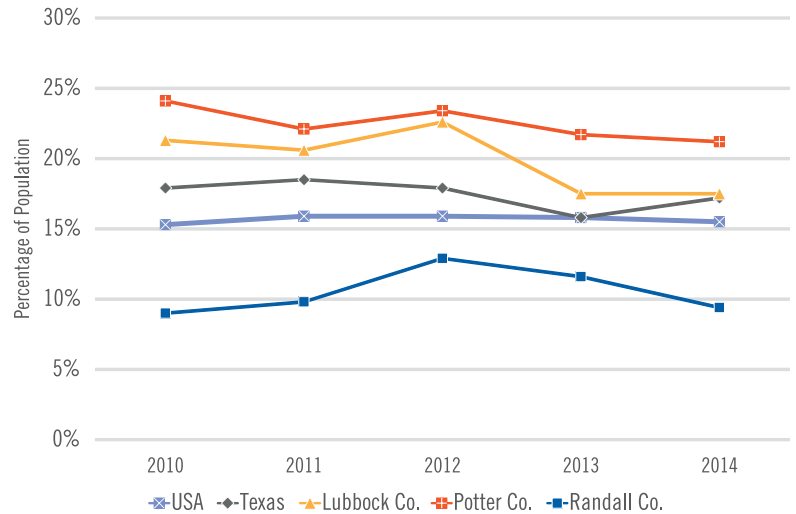
Poverty among children.

The poverty rate among children fell in all three counties and the US, but increased in Texas. In Potter and Randall Counties, the childhood poverty rate fell by 7.4% and 26.3% respectively. Just like Randall County, Lubbock County also had a big drop in the childhood poverty rate - 26.3%. The poverty rate in the US fell slightly (by 2.3%). Texas, on the other hand, saw a 10.8% increase in its childhood poverty rate.

The childhood poverty rate in Potter County fell by 7.4% and in Randall County by 26.3%.

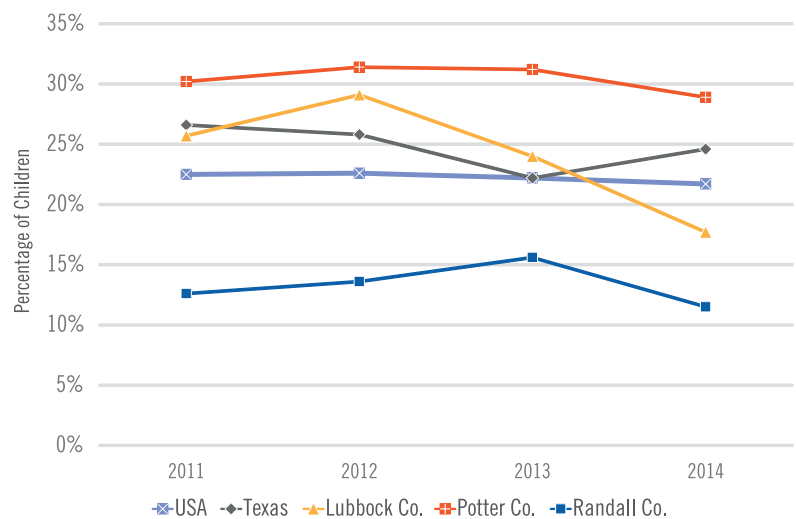
INDIVIDUALS IN POVERTY

US, TX, and Counties
American Community Survey



POVERTY AMONG CHILDREN

US, TX, and Counties
American Community Survey



Poverty among adults.

The adult poverty rates had divergent trends by region. In Potter County, adult poverty stayed roughly the same, while in Randall County it dropped by 17.9%. In Lubbock County the rate increased by 12.5%. In Texas, the adult poverty rate grew by 2%, and in the US, it shrunk by 1.4%.

Poverty rates among the elderly.

Unlike the other poverty indicators, the poverty rate among the elderly increased in 2014 in all Texas regions compared in this report. This change is peculiar considering that: a) the majority of income for the population over 65 comes from the Social Security program, b) Social Security is a federal program and the poverty rates among the elderly did not increase on average for the US, and c) Social Security payments did not change considerably in 2014.

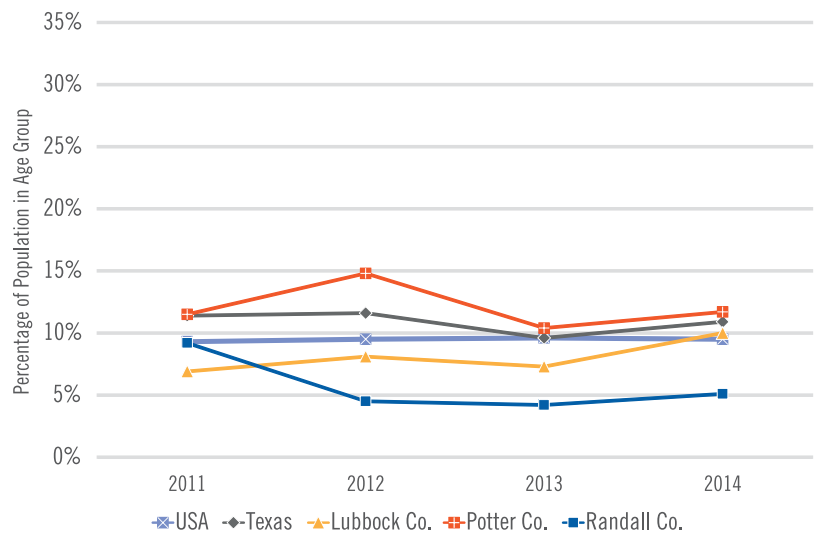
Single mothers.

The family structure of American society has undergone monumental changes in the last six decades. In the 1950s the most common family constellation included a stay-at-home mother and a father who worked full-time outside of the home. This family structure no longer dominates the American family landscape (Sawhill, 2014). The sexual revolution of the 1960s and the dramatic increase in the labor force participation among women beginning in the 1970s changed the face of the typical American family.

Since the 1950s, births to unmarried mothers have increased by over 700% (Census Bureau, 2010). Over 40% of babies born in the United States are born to unmarried mothers. For certain population subgroups the rate is even higher. For example, in 2014, 70.6% of African-American mothers had children outside of wedlock (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015). 'Single' or 'unmarried' does not mean that a parent does not have a partner in a household. Research estimates that as many as 25% of single parents live with cohabiting partners (McLanahan & Jencks, 2015). Further, many families transition in and out of marriage, and it is estimated that nearly half of American children live in a single parent household at some point in their lives (McLanahan & Jencks, 2015).

POVERTY AMONG ELDERLY

US, TX, and Counties
American Community Survey



Boys raised by single mothers are more likely to have behavioral problems, lower high school graduation rates, and greater drug abuse.



This means that children who are born to unmarried mothers will not necessarily live in a single parent household for the rest of their childhood.

McLanahan and Jencks (2015) highlight two major trends in single motherhood since the 1950s. Present-day single mothers are much less likely to ever have been married, to have children at younger ages, and are likely to have weaker ties with their children's biological fathers. Present-day single mothers are also much more likely to be educationally disadvantaged. Single motherhood has grown the fastest among women who did not complete college. These two trends contribute to economic disadvantage among the children of single parents.

Another important trend among single mothers is the increase in the age of childbearing. In the 1970s half of all unmarried births were to women under 20. In 2010, the proportion of teenage (under 20) births among all unmarried births fell to 20% (Center for Disease Control and Prevention). Teenage birth is associated with additional negative consequences for families. Teenage mothers are more likely to lag behind educationally, live in poverty, and deliver low birthweight babies, which carries long-term negative health effects for their children (Chen, 2007).

Single mothers of Potter and Randall Counties.

The percentage of births to unmarried mothers in Potter County is 54.4%, which is 36% higher than in the US on average. The rate has fluctuated between 50% and 55% between 2010 and 2014.

Births to teenage mothers, on the other hand, shows a promising trend. It has dropped by half between 2013 and 2014. The average decrease in teenage births between 2010 and 2014 has been 10% per year in Potter County. A high school diploma is the highest educational attainment for 28% of single mothers in Potter County. An alarming 28% of Potter County single mothers are high school dropouts. 39% of single mothers have some college or associate degree, but only 5% complete a Bachelor's Degree or higher.

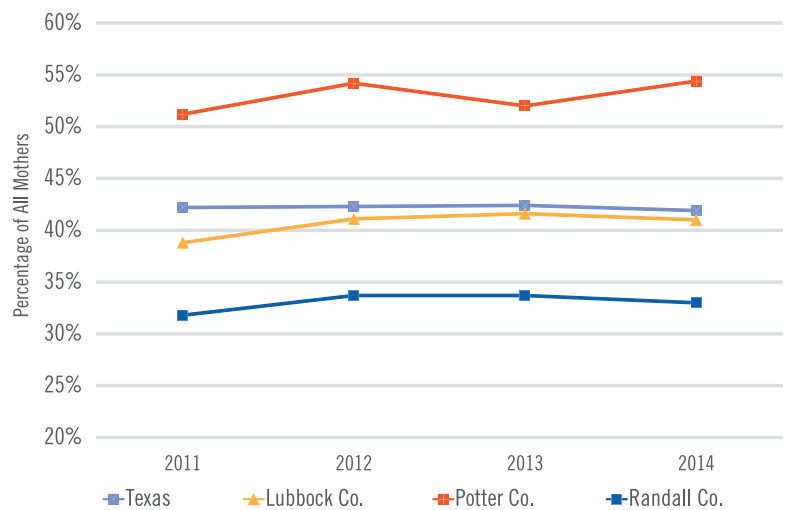
58% of single mothers in Potter County live in poverty.

28% of Potter County single mothers are high school dropouts.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS

TX and Counties

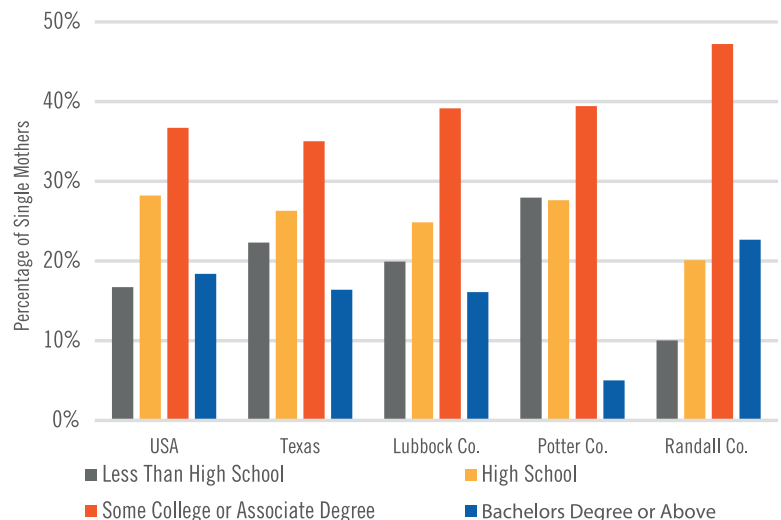
Department of State Health Services



EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF SINGLE MOTHERS

US, TX, and Counties, 2010-2014 Average

American Community Survey



Single mothers fare much worse than single fathers and married couples in terms of income. The median income for single mothers was \$18,424 compared to \$33,352 for single fathers and \$55,845 for married couples with children under 18 (Potter County, on average for 2010-2014 in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars).

It is not surprising then that 58.0% of single mothers in Potter County live in poverty, 19.4% receive Supplemental Security Income, and 43.5% are enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps).

The single mothers of Randall County have better economic and educational characteristics than in Potter County. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that Randall County has a higher cost of living. Between 2010 and 2014, the median house price in Potter County was 45% less than the median house price in Randall County (\$95,000 and \$137,500 respectively, ACS). Randall County attracts families that are better-off financially and can afford more expensive real estate.

Consequently, single mothers in Randall County are better educated (30.1% of them have a high school education or less compared to 56% in Potter County), have higher median income (\$25,028), experience slightly less poverty (55.0%), and have lower enrollment rates in SNAP (27.2%). A surprising finding is that a greater proportion of single mothers in Randall County receive Supplemental Security Income than in Potter County. One possible explanation is that being better educated, single mothers of Randall County are more capable of navigating the Social Security system and therefore end-up receiving more assistance. This finding is supported by previous research on low-income single mothers (Schweinhart, et al., 2005).

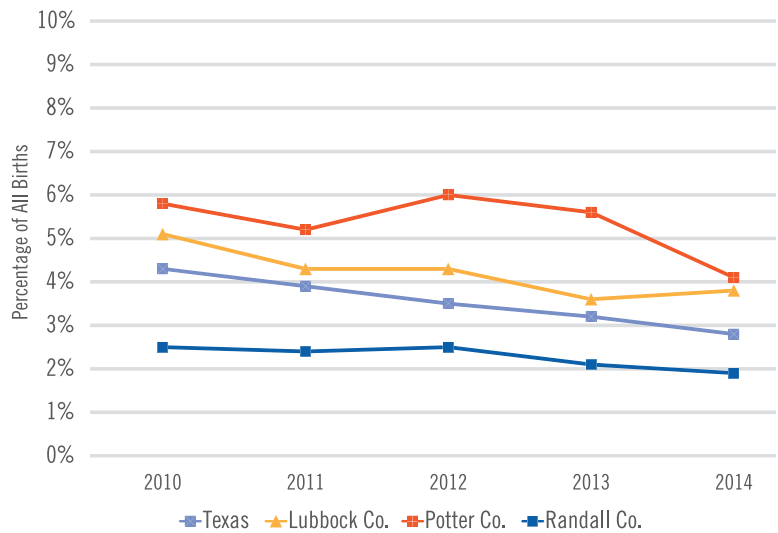
Effects of single motherhood on children.

Research shows that children who live in single-parent households are much more likely to live with half-siblings and one or more cohabiting partners throughout their childhoods, which leads to stress and tension in the family environment (McLanahan & Jencks, 2015). The negative effect of not being

raised in a two-parent home appears to be greater for boys than for girls. Boys raised by single mothers are more likely to experience behavioral problems which result in lower educational performance, lower high school graduation rates, and greater drug abuse (McLanahan, Tach & Schneider, 2013). Children who grew up without a biological father in the home are less likely to be employed and more likely to get divorced in adulthood. Daughters of single mothers are more likely to have children out of wedlock (McLanahan & Jencks, 2015).

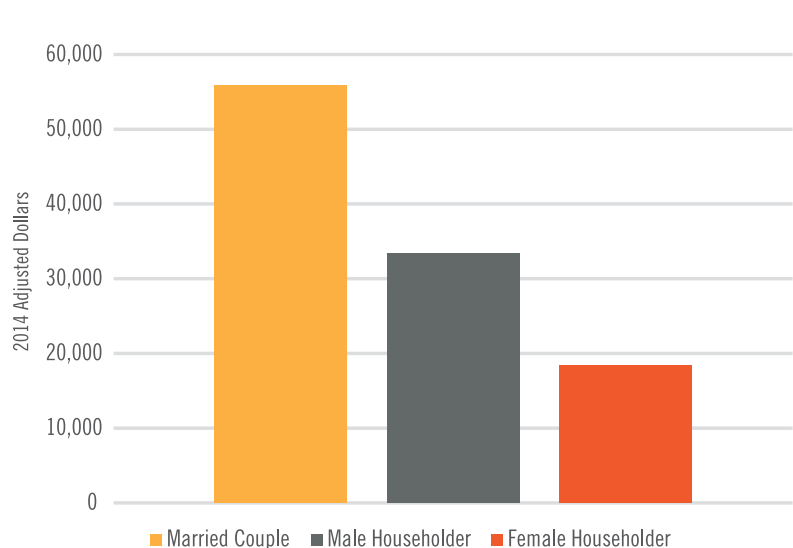
BIRTHS TO WOMEN UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

TX and Counties
Department of State Health Services



MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Potter County, Average for 2010-2014
American Community Survey



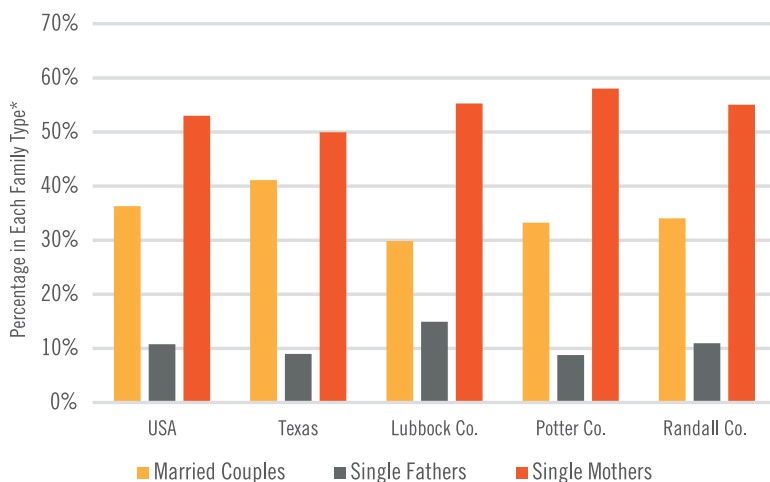
Marriage is not always the answer.

Even though single parenthood does seem to have a detrimental effect on child development, this does not necessarily mean that the children of single parents would be better off if their parent were married. These biological fathers are more likely than average to be in prison, to abuse or sell drugs, and victimize their intimate partners (McLanahan & Jencks, 2015). Living with such a father is likely to have a detrimental effect on the children.



What can be done to improve the condition of single parents? Sawhill (2014) makes a convincing argument that social policies and interventions have to: a) target the timing of childbearing to prevent unplanned pregnancies, and b) help existing single mothers raise their children. The ideal time to bear children is when both the father and the mother have a strong foothold in the job market and are financially prepared to have children. The solutions proposed in the research literature include subsidizing long-term reversible contraception (such as IUDs and implants), improving career opportunities for young women and men with lower levels of education, and allowing greater leniency in the criminal justice system toward drug-related and minor nonviolent offenses (Sawhill, 2014; McLanahan & Jencks, 2015; Lofstrom and Raphael, 2016). In addition, community interventions for low-income children, such as early childhood education, have been proven to improve long-term outcomes for at-risk children, including the children of single mothers (Heckman, Hyeok, Pinto, Savelyev, & Yavitz, 2010).

FAMILY TYPES IN POVERTY
US, TX, and Counties, 2010-2014 Average
American Community Survey



*A 'family' contains a householder and one or more person related to the householder by marriage, birth, or adoption

Single fathers.

Single fathers comprise a minority of single parent homes, but their share is rising. Single fathers increased from being 1% of families with children in 1960 to 8% of families with children in 2010 (Pew Research Center). Single fathers tend to be older and more educated than single mothers, but younger and less-educated than fathers in married couple households with children. Single fathers also fare better financially than single mothers, but again not as well as married couples.

Single fathers are also more likely to cohabit with a non-married partner: 46% of single fathers and only 16% of single mothers live in cohabiting relationships. Finally, single fathers are more likely to be White compared to single mothers, but are less likely to be White compared to fathers in married households. This trend reflects the general variability in marriage rates between racial groups. In 2010, the percentage of people married before the age of 46 was 90.4% for non-Black non-Hispanic (White, Asian, and Pacific Islander), 84.6% for Hispanics, and 68.3% for non-Hispanic Blacks (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2013).

Single fathers tend to be older and more educated than single mothers.

Abuse

Family violence is defined as “an act by a member of a family household against another member that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm” (Department of Public Safety). In family relationships, many people can be victims including spouses, ex-spouses, biological children, foster children, grandparents, and roommates. Among the four Texas regions, Potter County had the highest incidence of family violence in 2014 with 21.1 per 1,000 population, compared to 14.0 for Lubbock, 6.9 for Texas, and 1.3 for Randall County. The most common victims of family violence are wives.

Intimate partner violence against wife.

Intimate partner violence against wife includes violence against wives, ex-wives and cohabiting female partners, and is a significant problem in Potter County. The rate of violence against women in Potter County was 6.8 per 1,000 population, which is 17 times higher than in Randall County (0.4). Texas (2.3) and Lubbock County (4.3) were in the middle. The rates for domestic violence are closely related to income. Financial struggles put more pressure on the relationship and intensify conflict, while also making it more difficult for the victim to leave the relationship.



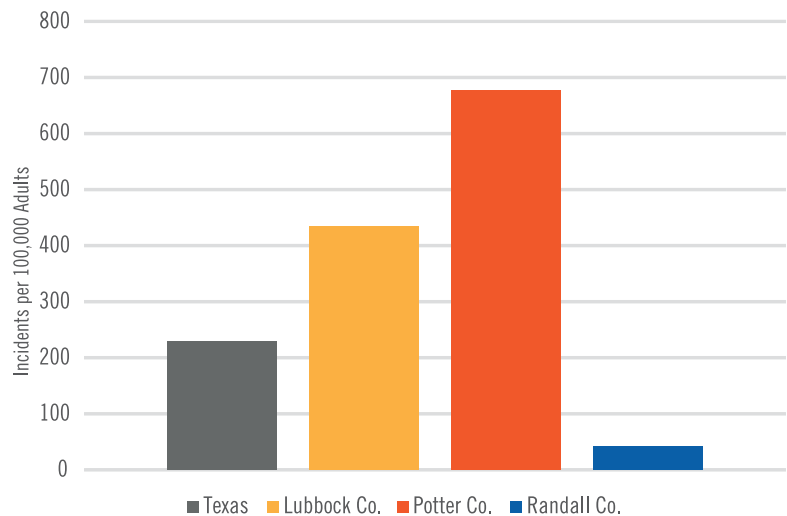
Studies on perpetrators of domestic violence show that they tend to be men of lower socioeconomic status, suffering from mental illness (depression, PTSD, and Borderline Personality Disorder), and substance abuse disorders (Alcoholism). They are also likely to have had a history of violence and traumatic head injuries (Riggs, Caulfield, & Street, 2000).

The victims of intimate partner violence tend to be women who have been victimized as children, who have a history of substance abuse and mental health issues (especially depression, anxiety, and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder), as well as women who have a previous history of intimate partner violence victimization, and women who are pregnant (Riggs, Caulfield, & Street, 2000). Immigrant women appear to be at a much greater risk for domestic violence due to greater social acceptability of such behaviors in their countries of origin (Wong & Mellor, 2014).

FAMILY VIOLENCE AGAINST WIFE

TX and Counties, 2010-2014 Average

Crime in Texas Report



Intimate partner violence creates a host of negative outcomes for the victims. PTSD and other forms of psychological trauma, eating disorders, physical injuries (including brain injuries), unwanted pregnancies, and suicide are all too common among the victims of domestic violence (Wong & Mellor, 2014).

Why do women stay in abusive relationships? Research shows that the most common reason women stay in abusive relationships is income. Women with greater financial independence are much more likely to leave abusive relationships than women of little means. Another common factor is a concept of ‘learned helplessness’ when women see themselves as weak and unable to change their circumstances (Wong & Mellor, 2014).

Escape from domestic violence is much harder in small towns and rural areas. Such areas have fewer resources for abused women, fewer police officers and first responders, higher poverty rates, and greater rates of gun ownership. Further, low population density makes it more difficult for an abused woman to hide from an abusive partner and start a new life. Women in such areas are much more likely to stay in abusive relationships and fall victims to lethal violence (Criminal Justice).

Abuse of elderly and disabled individuals.

Prior to 2014, the rate of abuse of elderly and disabled individuals had been falling in all regions. However in 2014, the trend reversed and all rates increased: Texas by 12.0%, Lubbock County by 19.2%, Potter County by 13.8%, and Randall County by 65.0%. Potter County's rate (7.4 per 1,000 adults) and Randall County's rate (3.3) are now the highest they have been since at least 2010. The increase can partially be explained by changes in the reporting system implemented by the Department of Family and Protective Services, and a successful abuse reporting campaign carried out by the agency that year (Department of Family and Protective Services).

Child Abuse.

Prior to 2014, child abuse rates had been declining across the board. From 2013 to 2014, Lubbock County and Texas continued that trend. Randall and Potter Counties however, did not. In Potter County, the child abuse rate increased by 18.1%, and in Randall County by 17.8%.

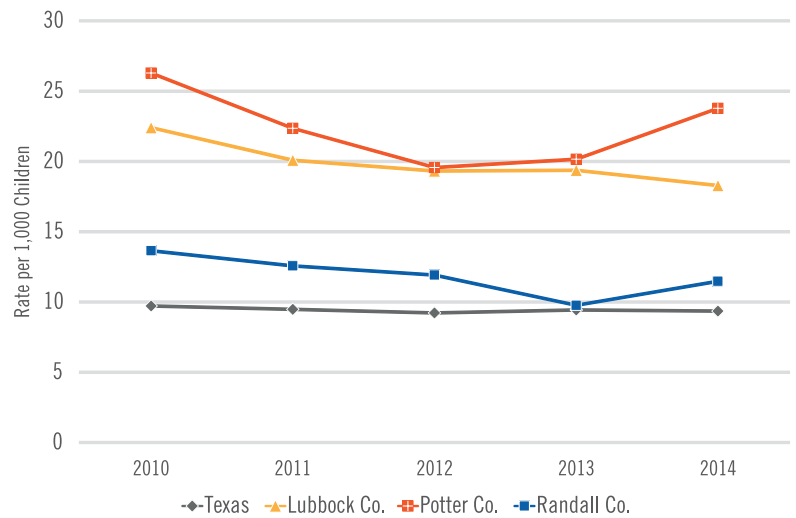
Potter County had the most confirmed child abuse cases in 2014 (23.8 per 1,000 children). Lubbock County had the second most (18.3), followed by Randall County (11.5). All three of these counties had a higher rate than Texas (9.4).

In 2013, the issue of child abuse received a lot of attention in the Amarillo community and prompted additional funding from the Department of Family and Protective Services. The increase in the number of confirmed cases could at least partially be attributed to improved reporting from this increased attention and funding.



CONFIRMED VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

TX and Counties
Texas State Data Center



Refugees

Immigration in America.

There are many things that make the United States a unique and remarkable country in the eyes of the world. Since its inception, the United States has been a place where people could come fleeing persecution in the hope of building a better future. The values of freedom and hospitality are at the heart of the American nation.

These values continue to live on and are reflected in the United States policies toward refugees. Throughout its history, the US has embraced religious and political refugees from various corners of Europe, Asia, South America, and Africa.

Many famous American leaders including Colin Powell, Barack Obama, and Steve Jobs had at least one foreign-born parent. One study found that the majority of individuals making an exceptional contribution in science and engineering are foreign-born (Stephan & Levin, 2001). Thirty percent of American Nobel Prize winners were foreign-born (Bruner, 2011).

Who are the refugees?

The US Department of State defines refugees as “someone who has fled from his or her home country and cannot return because he or she has a well-founded fear of persecution based on religion, race, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.” The majority of refugees stay in the countries where they first fled to. When refugees first enter the new country they have to register with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The UNHCR determines whether they qualify for refugee status and the best course of action: whether it is return to their home country, resettlement in the new country, or resettlement in a third country. Out of 15.4 million refugees, less than 1% get resettled in third countries. About half of the 1% are resettled in the United States (US Department of State).

Screening processes.

Before refugees arrive in the US, they go through a security process. This process includes biometric screening (iris and fingertips), background checks, and further screening by the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, the Counterterrorism/Intelligence Community, and the State Department. In addition, refugees go through several interviews with the Department of Homeland Security, and receive medical checks. The full screening process is detailed at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/11/20/infographic-screening-process-refugee-entry-united-states>

Resettlement in the US.

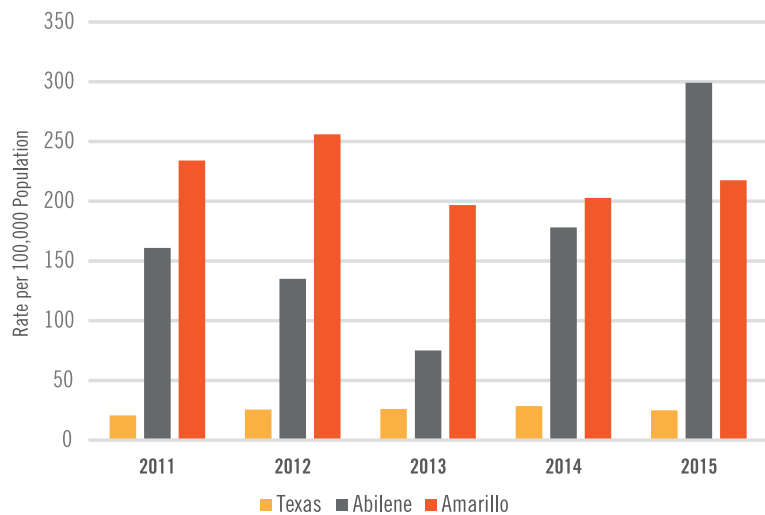
When refugees arrive in the US, they are met by one of the nine resettlement agencies and sent into one of 190 communities throughout the country. Where to resettle the refugees is decided on a case-by-case basis by the resettlement agencies. They strive to find locations that ensure the best opportunity for success. If a refugee has relatives or countrymen in a certain area, they are more likely to be resettled in that area. A strong economy and the availability of well-paid low-skilled jobs is also a factor (Lowe, 2016).

The Department of State provides refugees with cash assistance and medical insurance for the first three months, while the resettlement agencies cover the rest of the initial expenses.

The total length and extent of the assistance differs by state and by agency. Resettlement agencies provide a wide variety of services including housing, cultural orientation, job training, English language classes, local sponsorship, and other supports. As legal residents, refugees qualify for the same government assistance as native-born residents.

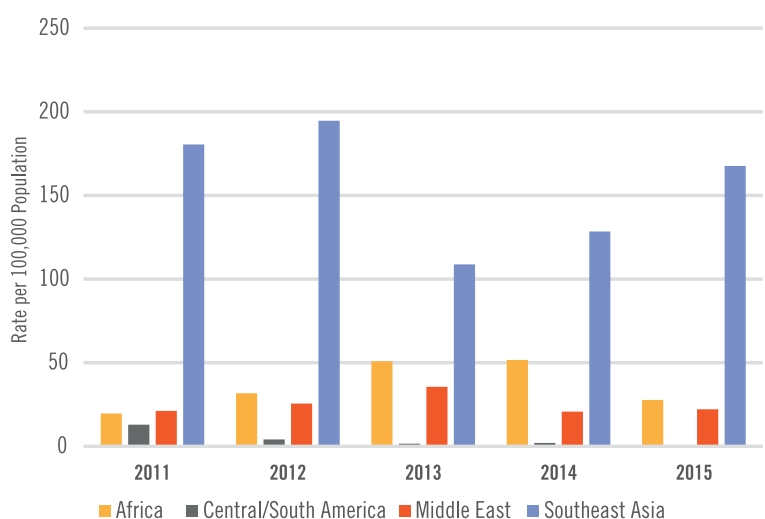
REFUGEES BY REGION OF SETTLEMENT

Texas, Abilene, Amarillo
Refugee Processing Center



REFUGEES BY REGION OF ORIGIN

Amarillo
Refugee Processing Center



Refugees in the Amarillo area.

In 2015, the United States received nearly 70,000 refugees, a rate of 21.8 refugees per 100,000 population. The majority of these refugees came from the Middle East and Africa. In the same year, Texas received 6,854 refugees, a rate of 25.0 refugees per 100,000 population. The city of Amarillo received 432 refugees in 2015, a rate of 217.5 refugees per 100,000 population, which is 8.7 times more than Texas on average. By contrast, neighboring Lubbock did not receive any refugees. A more ample comparison for Amarillo would be the city of Abilene, which received 364 refugees in 2015, a rate of 299.1.

The majority of Texas refugees come from the Middle East and Southeast Asia. In Amarillo, the majority of the refugees come from Myanmar (Burma). The conflict in Myanmar began in 1948 after Myanmar became independent from Great Britain. It has been called “the world’s longest running civil war” (Winn, 2012). The country has been torn apart by several ethnic insurgency groups fighting against each other and the military government. The military government is known for its human rights violations and crimes against ethnic minorities. In 2006 alone, over half a million people were displaced due to government military operations against minority groups (Pagnucco, R. & Peters, J., 2015).

The majority of Burmese refugees are children (45.4% are under the age of 20) and young adults (42.2% are between the ages of 21 and 40). The refugees come from many religious backgrounds, but the top three religions are Christianity (63.1%), Islam (23.2%), and Buddhism (11.1%).

In terms of education, 44.4% did not complete high school. This finding is not surprising considering that over 40% of the refugees are children. Another 29.2% have completed secondary education, and 1.7% have a postsecondary, technical, or professional education. For a quarter of the refugees, educational status is not identified.

The reason why so many refugees come to Amarillo is clear: the city has a strong manufacturing economy that offers well-paid low-skilled jobs. The two resettlement agencies

Research shows that the presence of immigrants has a positive impact on communities.

in the city, Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle and Refugee Services of Texas, provide newly arrived refugees with needed services such as housing, food assistance, employment assistance, English language classes, health insurance, childcare, and cultural assistance.

Refugees are expected to find employment within the first 30-90 days. The majority of them do find employment within that time frame, usually at one of the meat packing plants (Lowe, 2016). Refugee children are immediately enrolled in local schools, but their performance is not tracked for the first five years (TEA).

Research shows that the presence of immigrants has a positive impact on communities (Blau & Mackie eds., 2016). However, recent terrorist attacks around the world have sparked discussion on whether immigrants in general, and refugees in particular, should be welcomed. The concerns usually center around two issues: the economic and the criminal impacts of immigration.



The economic impact of immigration.

A recent review of the research literature on the economic effects of immigration revealed mixed results (Blau & Mackie eds., 2016). It is very difficult to disentangle the impact of immigration on the economy from other competing factors such as the economic cycle, local economic dynamics, and changes in supply and demand for certain kinds of labor. The general consensus is that highly-skilled immigrants have a positive effect on the American economy because they fill-in the

shortage of native-born skilled labor. The impact of low-skilled immigration depends on the structure of the local economy. In some cases, native-born workers without a high school degree do in fact suffer displacement and suppressed wages due to an increased supply of labor from low-skilled immigrants (Borjas, 2013, Blau & Mackie eds., 2016). However in other local economies, low-skilled immigrants take on the jobs that are not attractive to native-born low-skilled workers. Research further shows that immigrants are more mobile than native-born workers. They tend to gravitate toward areas with high demand for low-skilled labor (Blau & Mackie eds., 2016). Theoretically, this mobility should create economic efficiencies and benefit the economy as a whole. Practically speaking, these effects are very hard to untangle and quantify.

The majority of refugees arriving in Amarillo have low educational achievement, which means that they potentially displace native low-skilled workers. At the same time, anecdotal evidence suggests that the jobs that are occupied by the refugees are not in high demand among the native-born low-skilled workers. This issue deserves further investigation.

Immigration and crime.

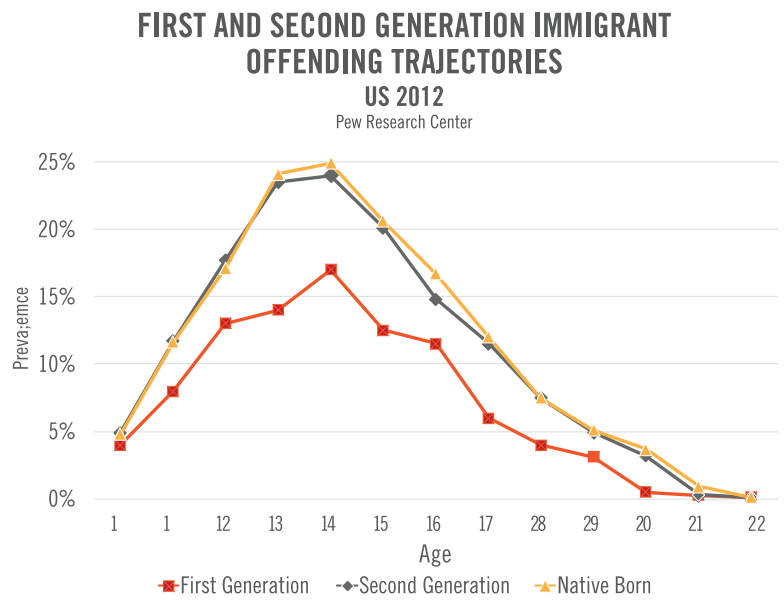
Another important issue is the influence of refugees on crime. To make accurate inferences about the relationship between the refugee status and crime rates, one has to take into account the effects of poverty and community marginalization. For example, a recent report out of Germany showed that refugees commit more crimes than native-born Germans (BKA Federal Police, 2016). However, an average German and an average refugee in Germany have very different incomes and dwell in very different neighborhoods. Therefore, it would be more appropriate to compare crime rates of refugees who tend to reside in high poverty high crime neighborhoods with native-born Germans who reside in similar neighborhoods. Studies that have taken into account the neighborhood effects tend to conclude that refugees commit less crime than comparable native-born residents, with an exception of property crimes in some European countries (Nunziata, 2015, Piopiunik, & Ruhose, 2015).

In the United States on the other hand, the research shows that immigrants in general are less likely to commit crimes than native-born residents, and actually can suppress crime rates in neighborhoods where they live. The only exception was a study that found a small but significant effect between undocumented immigrants and drug-related crimes (Pew Research Center, 2016; Martinez, Stowell, & Iwama, 2016).

The Pew Charitable Trust compared crime trajectories by age for immigrants and native-born residents and found that immigrants have a much lower propensity to crime throughout the lifespan (Pew Research Center, 2016). Second-generation immigrants however, increase their propensity to crime, but not above the native-born residents.

Unlike other immigrants, refugees obtain legal residence and undergo comprehensive background checks, which makes their propensity to crime much smaller.

Immigrants have a much lower propensity to crime throughout the lifespan. Second-generation immigrants however, increase their propensity to crime, but not above the native-born residents.



* Prevalence of each group involved in at least 1 crime in the previous 12 months

Homelessness

This report includes new information on the homeless population of Amarillo. Previous reports only included Point-In-Time (PIT) counts of homeless individuals. The PIT assessment is conducted once a year and is influenced by a host of circumstantial factors. PIT counts are susceptible to fluctuations due to the weather on the day of counting and the high mobility among the homeless population. The advantage of the PIT report is that it provides an estimate of the number of unsheltered homeless in the community. In January 2016, the city of Amarillo had 572 sheltered homeless individuals and 20 unsheltered homeless individuals. This is a 23.8% increase in the total number of homeless compared to 2015.

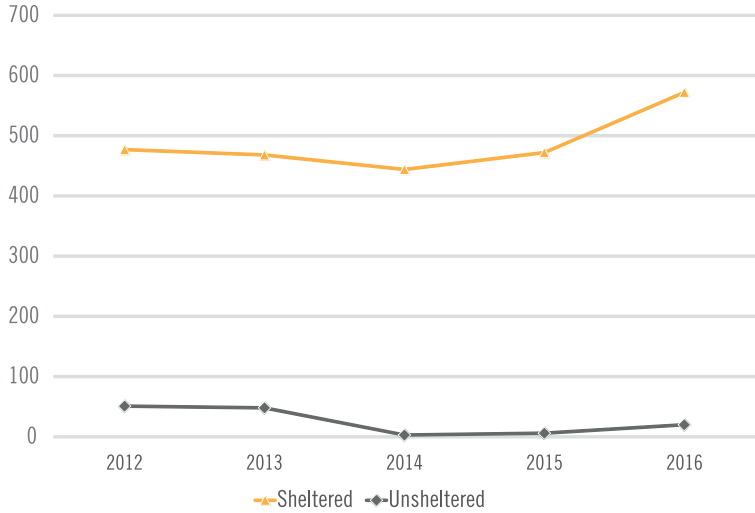
This year we have also included the average yearly statistics from the local homeless shelters. These numbers tend to be more stable and provide a more accurate picture of the number of individuals in need of housing throughout the year. They also allow us to calculate a rate of homelessness per 100,000 population. The rate is a very useful statistic because, unlike the PIT count, it takes into account the population growth in Amarillo, which happens to be quite significant. 2015 is the latest year for which these statistics are available. The rate of homelessness revealed a clear upward trend between 2011 and 2013, which has fallen slightly in 2014 and 2015.



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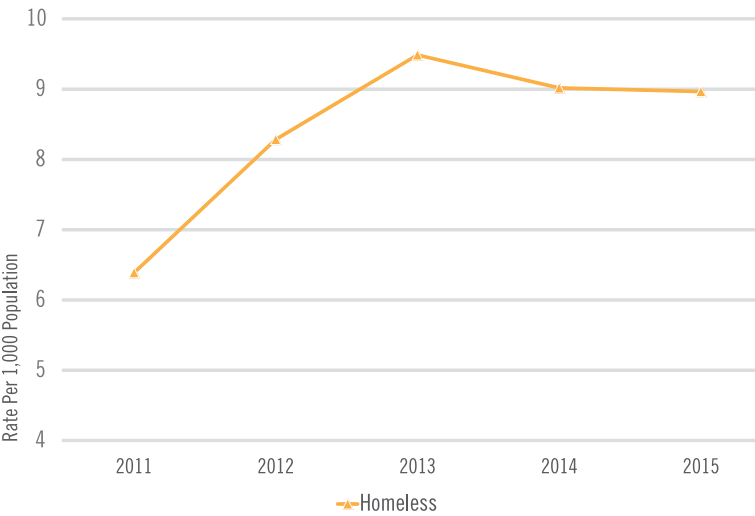
SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED HOMELESS PIT, City of Amarillo

US Department of Housing and Urban Development



HOMELESSNESS City of Amarillo

Community Development Amarillo Texas



Government Assistance

Medicaid.

Medicaid enrollment rates have increased in all regions in 2014. This is undoubtedly due to the rollout of the Affordable Care Act. The enrollment ranking for the regions also stayed the same: participation in Medicaid was the highest in Potter County (19.7%), followed by Texas (14.4%), Lubbock County (14.0%), and Randall County (7.6%). Participation rates in Randall County continued an upward trend increasing by 7.8%. This was the largest increase in the enrollment rates followed by Texas (4.4% increase), Lubbock (3.9% increase), and Potter County (2.8% increase).

Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Although CHIP enrollment rose between 2010 and 2013 in all four regions, it fell in 2014. In 2014, Potter County had the highest CHIP enrollment rate at 7.9%. Texas had a 7.6% of enrollment. Lubbock County had a 7.0% rate, and the Randall County rate was 5.0%.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP or food stamps, provides nutritional assistance to low income families. As expected, Potter County had the largest proportion of population participating in SNAP; 17.2% households. The US, Texas, and Lubbock County had slightly lower participation rates in all 5 years (between 12.1% and 13.2%). Randall County had a much lower rate of SNAP enrollment; 6.3% in 2014.

The American Community Survey data on SNAP participation pointed toward an overall decrease in the proportion of households receiving assistance. For the US, Texas, Lubbock County, and Potter County 2012 was the peak year for SNAP participation. Since 2012, the rate of enrollment in SNAP dropped by 18.3% in Lubbock County, by 8.3% in Potter County, 7.8% in Texas, by 3.1% in the US, and by 1.2% in Randall County.

An interesting picture emerges when SNAP data is broken down by poverty level. In the US, among all households receiving SNAP benefits only 51.3% live below poverty level. In Potter County, this number is somewhat higher with 54.8% of households receiving SNAP living in poverty. Randall County had the lowest proportion of SNAP households living in poverty (34.5%).

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS					
Program	Year	Texas	Lubbock	Potter	Randall
Medicaid	2014	14.4%	14.0%	19.7%	7.6%
CHIP	2014	7.6%	7.0%	7.9%	5.0%
SNAP	2014	13.1%	12.1%	17.2%	6.3%
Cash Assistance	2014	1.5%	0.9%	0.7%	1.1%

Cash Assistance.

This category includes two cash programs: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), which provides cash assistance to households with dependents, and General Assistance (GA) programs that provide assistance to households without dependents. Because these programs are highly infrequent and serve a relatively small number of households, the rates fluctuate between the years. National and state data provide a better picture of enrollment in these programs. In the US, the enrollment rate in cash assistance programs fell by 7.1% between 2010 and 2014. In Texas, it dropped by 21.1%. In 2014, the US had a program participation rate of 2.7%, and Texas had 1.5%. In Lubbock, Potter, and Randall Counties the rates of participation were even lower than in the state: 1.1% in Randall County, 0.9% in Lubbock County, and 0.7% in Potter County. Since 2012, Potter County has had lower participation rates than Randall County. This seems peculiar considering that Potter County has had much higher poverty rates and much lower median income than Randall County. One potential explanation here is that the residents of Randall County experience shorter or infrequent bouts of poverty and therefore are more likely to access temporary programs (such as TANF and GA). The poverty faced by the residents of Potter County appears to be of a longer-term fundamental nature, which may explain their higher enrollment rates in long-term assistance programs.



CONCLUSION

Potter and Randall Counties exemplify the two colliding worlds that exist in present-day United States. One world is predominantly minority, poor, less-educated, less healthy, and more vulnerable to economic upheavals. The other is predominantly White, affluent, well-educated, healthy, and economically independent.

These differences are even more striking considering that these two counties are located right next to each other and share the city of Amarillo.

Many of the trends discussed in this report are driven by the explosive growth in the population of Randall County. The population demographics of Potter County are changing as well, though the total population remains fairly constant. The majority of demographic changes in Potter County are happening in the racial fabric of the community.

Demographic trends suggest that the counties are becoming more alike. The proportion of minority residents is growing in both counties, especially among its youngest residents.

Socio-economic trends on the other hand, are not as linear as demographic trends. The two counties were becoming more alike between 2009 and 2012: income, unemployment, and poverty gaps were shrinking. This suggested that the two communities were moving toward greater economic desegregation.

In 2013 and on into 2014, Randall County began to experience steep income growth together with decreases in unemployment and poverty. In Potter County on the other hand, median income remained flat in 2013 and 2014, and the unemployment rate started to increase. The trend of the two counties reversed and the economic gap began to grow again.

Despite some diverging economic data and great gaps in educational achievement, health, and poverty, the two counties share several common trends. Some of the positive trends

shared by both counties include falling rates for poverty, the adult uninsured, teenage births, and high school dropouts.

Health remains the most notable area of concern for both counties. While Randall County is overall much healthier than Potter County, the negative trends in both communities are very similar. These trends include: elevated deaths from heart disease and diabetes, rising rates of HIV and syphilis infections, and increased accidental deaths. Further, the increasing rates of adult and child abuse, poverty among the elderly, and homelessness are also quite worrisome.

One additional negative trend in Randall County is the elevated suicide rate in 2014.

Potter County has many unique areas of concern. They include elevated poverty, poor educational attainment, and a high rate of births to single mothers.

In addition to the indicators mentioned above, the 2016 report contains more detailed information on three areas of interest for Potter County: single mothers, domestic violence victims, and refugees.

Single mothers of Potter County fare much worse than single mothers of Randall County. They are much more economically and educationally disadvantaged, which is reflected in the low median income, the high poverty rate, and low educational attainment. According to research, single motherhood is associated with many adverse outcomes for children, especially boys. These outcomes are further worsened by the economic and educational struggles of single mothers.

Domestic violence is a very pressing issue in Potter County. The rate of domestic violence in Potter County is 3 times that of Texas, and 13.5 times that of Randall County. Domestic violence and low income are highly correlated. Low income and educational attainment are common among both the victims and the perpetrators of domestic violence. Both the victims and the perpetrators of domestic violence tend to suffer from many coexisting conditions such as mental illness and drug abuse.

Refugees are very common in the city of Amarillo, especially compared to other neighboring regions such as Lubbock County. The majority of Amarillo refugees live in Potter County. The presence of refugees often raises concerns in the local community regarding their impact on the economy and on crime. According to research, the crime rates among refugees are much lower than among the native residents. The impact of refugees on the local economy is uncertain.

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Webpages:

American Community Survey

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

KIDS COUNT

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/?gclid=CMDhgf3Px8gCFZWHaQodaNkL9Q>

Medicaid.Gov

<http://www.medicaid.gov/>

Pew Research Center

<http://www.pewresearch.org/>

Texas Department of Health and Human Services:

<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/help/Food/snap.shtml>

Texas Department of Public Safety

<https://www.txdps.state.tx.us/>

Texas Educational Agency:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/taks/>

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/>

United States Census Bureau:

<http://www.census.gov/acs>

GLOSSARY

Adolescent Mothers – women under 18 who gave birth to a baby within a given year. The relationship status for adolescent mothers is not determined. Adolescent mothers can be married, divorced, widowed, or cohabiting.

American Community Survey – The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities a fresh look at how they are changing. The ACS replaced the decennial census long-form in 2010 and thereafter by collecting long-form type information every year rather than only once every 10 years. Questionnaires are mailed to a sample of addresses to obtain information about households -- that is, about each person and the housing unit itself. The American Community Survey produces demographic, social, housing, and economic estimates in the form of 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year estimates based on population thresholds. The strength of the ACS is in estimating population and housing characteristics. It produces estimates for small areas, including census tracts and population subgroups. Although the ACS produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns, and estimates of housing units for states and counties. For 2010 and other decennial census years, the Decennial Census provides the official counts of population and housing units. For more information, visit <http://www.census.gov/acs>.

CHIP – Children's Health Insurance Program. CHIP provides low-cost health coverage to children in families that earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid. In some states, CHIP covers pregnant women. Each state offers CHIP coverage, and works closely with its state Medicaid program. <https://www.healthcare.gov/medicaid-chip/childrens-health-insurance-program/>

Dropout Rate – All students who dropped out of high school in a particular year divided by the total number of students that year. Students who drop out, re-enroll, and then drop out again are counted twice.

Ethnicity – The fact or state of belonging to a social group that has a common national or cultural tradition. Ethnicity relates to cultural aspects of the group such as nationality, language, belief, and values. "Hispanic" is an ethnicity.

Family – A group of two or more people who reside together and who are related. This includes parents with children, grandparents raising children, married couples, single parents, cohabiting individuals, etc.

Family Violence – An act by a member of a family household against another member that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm. Family members include individuals related by consanguinity (blood) or affinity, marriage or former marriage, biological parents of the same child, foster children, foster parents, and members or former members of the same household (including roommates).

Graduation Rate – All students who received a high school diploma in a given year divided by the total number of students. The graduation rate does not include students who continued on to another year of high school or who received a GED. Both of these categories of students are accounted for in completion rates available from TEA.

Household – One or more people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. A household can consist of a single person and also includes all families.

Intimate Partner Violence Against Wife – An act by an intimate partner against the wife that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or a threat that reasonably places the wife in fear of imminent physical harm. Wives include current wives, ex-wives and cohabiting female partners.

Median Earnings – Median earnings divide earnings distributions into two equal groups, one having earnings above the median and the other having earnings below the median. Median earnings include income from gainful labor (such as wages and bonuses), but do not include other sources of income, such as dividends, government assistance, and inheritance.

Median Income – Median income divides income distribution into two equal groups, one having income above the median and another having income below the median. Median Income includes income from all sources, including dividends, public assistance, and other forms of non-earned income.

Medicaid – A social healthcare program for families and individuals with low income and resources. The Health Insurance Association of America describes Medicaid as a “government insurance program for persons of all ages whose income and resources are insufficient to pay for health care.” (America’s Health Insurance Plans (HIAA), pg. 232). Medicaid is a means-tested program that is jointly funded by the state and federal governments and managed by the states. Each state currently has broad leeway to determine who is eligible for its implementation of the program. <http://www.medicaid.gov/>

Race – A local geographic or global human population distinguished as a more or less distinct group by genetically transmitted physical characteristics such as skin color, eye color, hair color, and bone/jaw structure. There are three major races: Caucasian, Mongolian, and Negroid.

Single Father – a man who has children and is not married. Single fathers can be divorced, separated, never married, or cohabiting with a non-married partner. The age of children is not specified for single fathers, unless specifically noted.

Single Mother – a woman who has children and is not married. Single mothers can be divorced, separated, never married, or cohabiting with a non-married partner. The age of children is not specified for single mothers, unless specifically noted.

SNAP Food Benefits – SNAP food benefits (previously called ‘Food Stamps’) help people with low incomes and resources buy the food they need for good health. SNAP benefits are given to a single person or family who meets the program’s requirements. HHSC sends a renewal application to each family who receives SNAP benefits before the end of each benefit period. Most benefit periods last for 6 months but some can be as short as 1 month or as long as 3 years. For most adults between the ages of 18 and 50 who do not have a child in the home, SNAP benefits are limited to 3 months in a 3-year period. The benefit period can be longer if the adult works at least 20 hours a week or is in a job or training program. Some people may not have to work to get benefits, such as those who have a disability or pregnant women. The maximum monthly SNAP award is \$149 for 1 person and \$632 for 4 people. <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/help/Food/snap.shtml>

SSI – Supplemental Security Income. This program benefits disabled adults and children in families with limited income. <https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/ssi.html>

STAAR – In the spring of 2012 the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) replaced the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). The STAAR program includes annual assessments for grades 3–8 in reading and mathematics; assessments in writing at grades 4 and 7; in science at grades 5 and 8; in social studies at grade 8; and end-of-course assessments for English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S history. Additionally, STAAR EOC assessments for English III and Algebra II will be administered on a voluntary basis beginning starting spring 2016. <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/>

TAKS – The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) assessments are designed to measure the extent to which a student has learned and is able to apply the defined knowledge and skills at each tested grade level. TAKS has been phased out and replaced by the STAAR test. <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/taks/>

TANF – The Texas Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, formerly Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), is a support service providing financial and medical assistance to needy dependent children and the parents or relatives with whom they are living. Eligible TANF households receive monthly cash and Medicaid benefits. TANF uses state funds to provide cash assistance to families with two parents who both receive benefits with children deprived of parental support because of the unemployment or underemployment of a parent. <https://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1679>

Unmarried Mothers – women giving birth who are not married. These women can be divorced, widowed, never married, or cohabiting with a non-married partner.

Trends

Area	County	2014 Value	Trend	Better Than	Worse Than
Median Income	Potter Co.	\$47,010	↗		US, TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
	Randall Co.	\$77,502	↖	US, TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	
Unemployment	Potter Co.	12.8%	↗		US, TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
	Randall Co.	-44.7%	↘	US, TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	
Graduation Rate (2015)	Potter Co.	84.6%	↖		TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
	Randall Co.	96.7%	↖	TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	
SAT/ACT	Amarillo ISD	19.0%	↘	Region 16	TX
	Region 16	22.6%	↖		TX, Amarillo ISD
Uninsured Adults	Potter Co.	25.0%	↘	TX	US, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
	Randall Co.	15.7%	↘	TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	
Heart Disease*	Potter Co.	243 per 100,000	↗		TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
	Randall Co.	183 per 100,000	↘	Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	TX
Adolescent Mothers	Potter Co.	4.1%	↘		TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
	Randall Co.	1.9%	↘	TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	
Chlamydia (2015)	Potter Co.	825.1 per 100,000	↘		TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
	Randall Co.	238 per 100,000	↘	Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	TX
Meth Interventions (2015)	Potter Co.	115.4 per 100,000	↘		Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
	Randall Co.	38.5 per 100,000	↘	Potter Co., Lubbock Co.	
Poverty	Potter Co.	21.2%	↘		US, TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
	Randall Co.	9.4%	↘	US, TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	
SNAP*	Potter Co.	17.2%	↘		US, TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
	Randall Co.	6.3%	↘	US, TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	
Child Abuse	Potter Co.	23.8 per 1000	↗		TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
	Randall Co.	11.5 per 1000	↗	Potter Co., Lubbock Co.	TX

* Recalculated based on the American Community Survey population estimates

ADDITIONAL TABLES

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY FAMILY TYPE

Item	Year	Potter	Randall
Median Income: Married Couples	2010-2014	\$55,845	\$86,256
Median Income: Male Householder	2010-2014	\$33,352	\$48,202
Median Income: Female Householder	2010-2014	\$18,423	\$25,028

POPULATION 16+ UNEMPLOYED

Item	Year	USA	Texas	Lubbock	Potter	Randall
Percentage of Population 16+ Unemployed	2011	10.3%	8.5%	7.3%	6.7%	5.2%
Percentage of Population 16+ Unemployed	2012	9.4%	8.0%	7.4%	5.8%	2.9%
Percentage of Population 16+ Unemployed	2013	8.4%	7.1%	7.1%	4.7%	4.7%
Percentage of Population 16+ Unemployed	2014	7.2%	6.1%	4.4%	5.3%	2.6%
Percentage Change	2013-2014	-14.3%	-14.1%	-38.0%	12.8%	-44.7%

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Item	Year	Texas	Lubbock	Potter	Randall
Graduation Rate	2011	85.9%	84.7%	83.6%	93.6%
Graduation Rate	2015	89.0%	89.6%	84.6%	96.7%
Percentage Change	2011-2015	3.6%	5.8%	1.2%	3.3%

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL

Item	Year	USA	Texas	Lubbock	Potter	Randall
Educational Achievement: Less Than High School	2014	13.0%	17.8%	14.2%	22.6%	8.2%
Educational Achievement: High School Graduate	2014	27.7%	25.2%	26.9%	29.6%	19.9%
Educational Achievement: Associate Degree	2014	8.2%	6.7%	8.6%	6.8%	7.3%
Educational Achievement: Some College	2014	21.0%	22.5%	24.6%	27.2%	32.3%
Educational Achievement: Bachelor's Degree or Above	2014	30.1%	27.8%	27.5%	13.3%	31.1%

EARNINGS BY EDUCATION LEVEL

Item	Year	USA	Texas	Lubbock	Potter	Randall
Less Than High School	2014	\$20,542	\$20,364	\$19,200	\$21,422	\$21,606
High School	2014	\$27,809	\$27,038	\$26,831	\$25,566	\$30,205
Some College or Associate Degree	2014	\$33,175	\$34,643	\$30,025	\$30,018	\$40,982
Bachelor's Degree or Above	2014	\$50,450	\$51,491	\$44,371	\$43,993	\$50,361
Graduate or Professional	2014	\$66,175	\$66,552	\$51,248	\$59,397	\$64,475

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Item	Year	USA	Texas	Lubbock	Potter	Randall
Percentage of Population Under 18 in Poverty	2010	21.2%	25.4%	27.7%	37.1%	9.9%
Percentage of Population Under 18 in Poverty	2011	22.2%	26.3%	25.2%	29.8%	12.4%
Percentage of Population Under 18 in Poverty	2012	22.2%	25.4%	28.9%	31.2%	13.4%
Percentage of Population Under 18 in Poverty	2013	22.2%	22.2%	24.0%	31.2%	15.6%
Percentage of Population Under 18 in Poverty	2014	21.7%	24.6%	17.7%	28.9%	11.5%
Percentage Change	2010-2014	2.2%	-3.2%	-36.2%	-22.1%	15.6%

ADULTS 18 TO 64 IN POVERTY

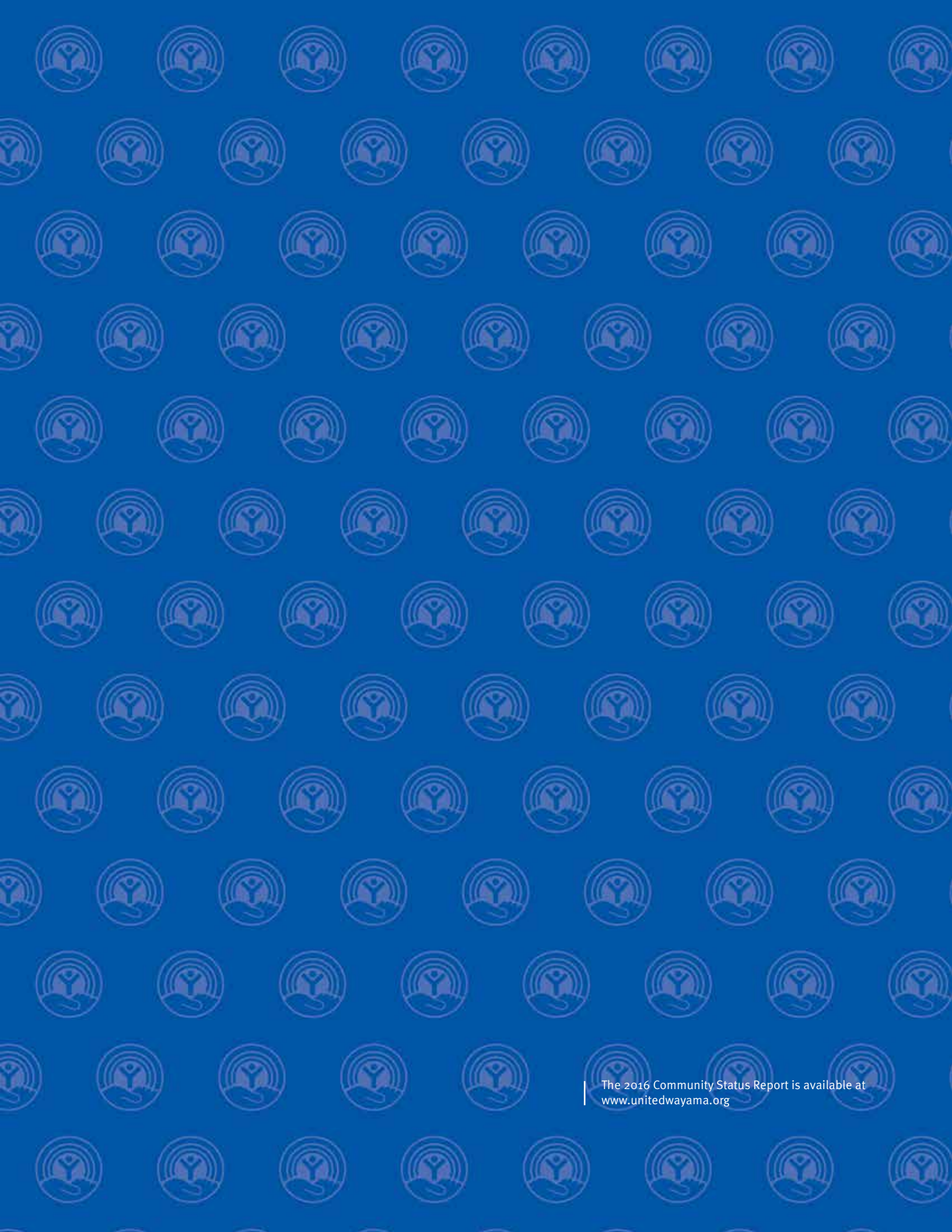
Item	Year	USA	Texas	Lubbock	Potter	Randall
Percentage of Population 18-64 in Poverty	2010	14.2%	15.6%	21.2%	19.4%	9.1%
Percentage of Population 18-64 in Poverty	2011	14.8%	16.1%	21.0%	20.1%	8.8%
Percentage of Population 18-64 in Poverty	2012	14.8%	15.6%	22.6%	21.0%	14.3%
Percentage of Population 18-64 in Poverty	2013	14.8%	14.8%	16.8%	19.2%	11.7%
Percentage of Population 18-64 in Poverty	2014	14.6%	15.1%	18.9%	19.3%	9.6%
Percentage Change	2010-2014	2.8%	-3.2%	-10.8%	-0.5%	5.5%
Percentage Change	2013-2014	-1.4%	2.0%	12.5%	0.5%	-17.9%

SINGLE MOTHERS' EDUCATION LEVEL (2010-2014 AVERAGE)

Item	USA	Texas	Lubbock	Potter	Randall
Less Than High School	16.7%	22.3%	19.9%	27.9%	10.0%
High School	28.2%	26.3%	24.8%	27.6%	20.1%
Some College or Associates Degree	36.7%	35.0%	39.2%	39.4%	47.2%
College or Above	18.4%	16.4%	16.1%	5.0%	22.7%

PERCENTAGE OF FAMILY TYPE BELOW POVERTY LEVEL (2014)

Item	USA	Texas	Lubbock	Potter	Randall
Married Couples	5.7%	7.8%	5.8%	9.4%	3.0%
Single Fathers	17.1%	16.9%	25.5%	19.4%	14.0%
Single Mothers	30.9%	33.3%	32.9%	42.4%	25.5%



The 2016 Community Status Report is available at
www.unitedwayama.org



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