



2022

COMMUNITY STATUS REPORT



United Way
of Amarillo & Canyon



We gather community resources to advance the common good.

To the People of Amarillo and Canyon:

The power to advance the common good lies in understanding the community we serve.

When we share what we know and what we've learned with our community, we provide problem solvers throughout Amarillo and Canyon with powerful tools. That's why we gather, analyze and report critical data about needs and trends that affect our neighbors.

A question we sometimes hear about this report is, "Why do you only talk about the challenges? Why not solutions?"

In short, it's because you are the solution. Whether you are a nonprofit organization using this report to prepare a game-changing grant request, a government agency looking to make an informed decision, an educational institution developing research, or importantly, a difference-making member of our community, we place this report in your hands to help find ways to use our collective strengths and develop solutions to our challenges.

In this report, we recognize the work that some of our community's difference-makers are already doing. At the end of each of the four sections, we shine a spotlight on one of our Program Providers and their amazing accomplishments.

We also include another new aspect – a focus on a segment of our community we call A.L.I.C.E. (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed.) A.L.I.C.E. represents the 32% of our neighbors who work but struggle to survive. These are people who live above the poverty level but make less than what's needed to afford the essentials.

A.L.I.C.E. often earns too much to qualify for government assistance, yet there is no room in A.L.I.C.E.'s budget for emergency expenses. At our United Way, we have begun to learn about the difficulties this population faces every day and are excited to partner with you – the generous people of Amarillo and Canyon – to improve their lives.

Thank you for investing the time to read this report. I hope it will inspire you to be one of the hand-raisers energized to come together, address our challenges and continue to Live United!

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeremy Pepper". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jeremy Pepper
President, Board of Trustees
United Way of Amarillo & Canyon

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite the devastating effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, Potter and Randall Counties continue to demonstrate their resiliency and grit in the face of adversity.

Population:

▶ In 2020 the population of Potter County grew by 2,462 residents, and the population of Randall County - by 1,719 residents.

Income:

▶ Amarillo Metropolitan Area had a 2.7% rate of unemployment in 2020, 36% lower than the state unemployment rate and 25% lower than the national unemployment rate.

▶ The cost of childcare in the Amarillo area was lower than the average Texas cost: \$622 per month for full-time care in Amarillo vs \$725 on average in the state.

▶ The economic inequality is on the rise in the United States, and the global pandemic intensified this inequality by driving up the net worth of the wealthiest Americans.

Education:

▶ K-12 performance outcomes deteriorated for all school subjects, but especially so for math.

▶ The deteriorating effects were pronounced for older grades (8th graders) compared to younger grades (3rd graders) and for lower-income schools (such as Amarillo ISD) compared to middle-class and wealthy schools (such as Canyon ISD).

▶ At the same time, high school graduation rates did not suffer during the pandemic but rather improved in Amarillo and Canyon ISDs, in Region 16, and in Texas.

Health:

▶ For the health section, the 2022 Community Status Report zeroed in on mental health.

▶ The proportion of adults with serious mental illness in 2022 was 17.2% in Texas, which constituted a 7.3% increase from the year before.

▶ The prevalence of serious suicidal ideation increased in 2022 alarmingly in the nation (from 3.3% in 2021 to 4.6% in 2022) and moderately in Texas (from 3.7% in 2020 to 3.9% in 2022).

▶ Remarkably, in both Potter and Randall Counties, the rates of death by suicide declined in 2021. This is a very encouraging trend, especially for Randall County, where the rate of death by suicide has been elevated for the past several years.

Vulnerable Populations:

▶ Economic conditions among people who struggle to meet their basic needs improved in 2021: by 20.0% in the nation and by 23.8% in Texas.

▶ The rates of child maltreatment declined in 2021 in Potter and Randall Counties but sadly remained substantially higher than the state average.

▶ The rate of family violence in 2020 in Potter County was 3.5 times higher than the average state rate. The rate of family violence in Randall County remained low.

▶ Texas resettled 2,118 refugees in 2022, more than any other state except California. However, the rate of resettlement per 100,000 residents was considerably lower in Texas than in several mid-size states, most notably Kentucky.



ESSENCE *Who We Are*

We gather community resources to advance the common good.

MISSION *What We Do*

To unite community ideas and resources to fight poverty and create opportunity for all.



VISION *Our Aspiration*

A community living United: all of us helping all of us.

INTRODUCTION

For nearly 100 years, United Way of Amarillo and Canyon has been empowering local community organizations to care for the residents of Potter and Randall Counties in the areas of education, income, and health and to provide critical services to residents who found themselves on the economic and social margins of the local community.

To accomplish these important goals, United Way of Amarillo and Canyon provides local nonprofits with financial resources and equips them with guidance and reliable data on key community indicators. The annual Community Status Report, commissioned by United Way of Amarillo and Canyon and delivered by Evaluation Essentials, informs local stakeholders on the most relevant trends in education, income, and health and illuminates the areas of community life that may need additional attention.

The 2022 report diverges from the familiar format due to major data collection challenges brought about by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Because of these challenges, the lead source of data for the Community Status Report, the 2020 American Community Survey put forth by the U.S. Census Bureau, did not meet data collection quality standards and was not recommended by the U.S. Census Bureau to be used as a reliable data source in driving changes to community programs. Furthermore, many other national and state agencies were either delayed in collecting data or did not make their data available for public use. To compensate for these deficiencies, Evaluation Essentials sought alternative trustworthy data sources that meet or come close to the high standards required to maintain the high-quality reporting the Amarillo community has come to expect from the Community Status Reports throughout the years.

As a result, the 2022 CSR is shorter than usual. Here are the notable changes and additions:

- ▶ Kids Count Data Center population estimates were used in lieu of the American Community Survey; the 2020 data on racial composition in the counties were not available from Kids Count or the U.S. Census Bureau.
- ▶ Local unemployment statistics were used for 2021 and 2022.
- ▶ New data on the cost of childcare in the Amarillo area were used.
- ▶ New data on refugees in Texas were used.
- ▶ Annual estimates on median income and income distribution were not available for 2020 (2019 estimates were used).
- ▶ No new data on early childhood education were available (data from 2019-2020 were used).
- ▶ No new data on health insurance were available.
- ▶ No new data on poverty were available (2019 data were used).

DEMOGRAPHICS

The global pandemic spawned substantial demographic changes around the globe. Not a single community remained unaffected by COVID-19. As of August 1, 2022, the number of deaths due to COVID-19 was 1,025,363 in the United States and 87,695 in Texas. Potter County lost 656 residents and Randall County lost 496 residents¹.

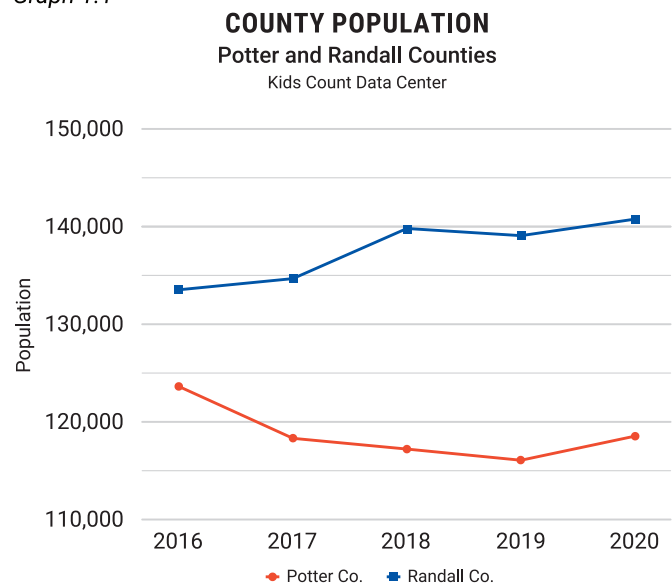
County Population

Despite the losses brought on by the pandemic, the populations in both Potter and Randall Counties have increased over the pandemic period.



The population of Potter County increased by 2,462 or 2.1% from 2020 to 2021. This was the first year since 2016 the population in the county increased.

Graph 1.1



► Pre-pandemic, the population of Potter County declined steadily from 2015 to 2019 1%-4% per year.

► In 2020, however, the population of Potter County increased by an estimated 2,462 residents or 2.1%, boasting 118,525 residents.

► In Randall County, the population increased by 6.1% between 2015 and 2019, and again by again by 1.2%, or 1,719 residents, between 2019 and 2020, reaching an estimated 140,753 residents in 2020.

Source: Kids Count Data Center. This indicator has two population sources: actual population counts from the U.S. Census Bureau (1990, 2000, 2010 & 2020), and official population estimates (all other years) from the Texas State Data Center and the Office of the State Demographer, University of Texas at San Antonio.

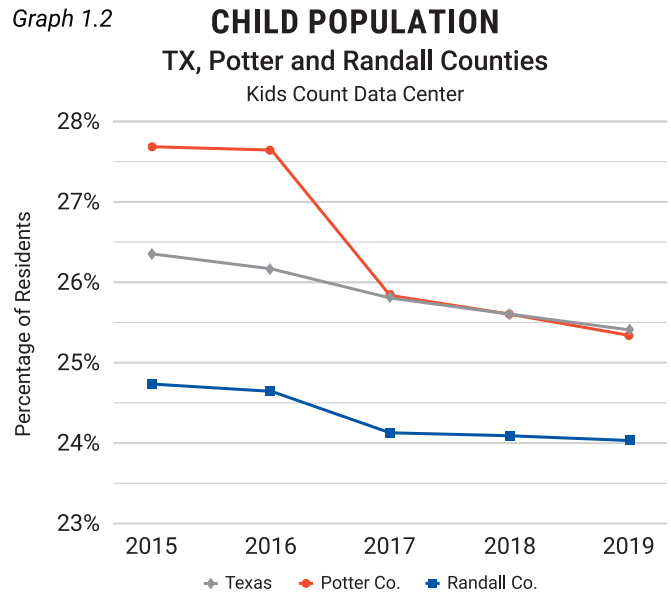
These increases could, at least partially, be attributed to the favorable economic conditions, low cost of living, and the potential for a better overall quality of life the Amarillo community offers to its residents.

Population by Age

The population in both counties continues to age gradually alongside those of the state and the nation.

- ▶ The median age in Potter County in 2020 was 34.1 years compared to 36.0 years in Randall County, according to the U.S. Census Bureau 2020 population estimates.
- ▶ Potter County has a slightly higher proportion of children than Randall County, but the gap is shrinking.
- ▶ The proportion of children (under 18 years of age) residing in Potter County has declined by 8.3%, from 27.6% in 2016 to 25.3% in 2019.
- ▶ The proportion of children in Randall County has declined by 2.4%, from 24.6% in 2016 to 24.0% in 2019.

Graph 1.2



Source: Kids Count Data Center. This indicator has two population sources: actual population counts from the U.S. Census Bureau (1990, 2000, 2010 & 2020), and official population estimates (all other years) from the Texas State Data Center and the Office of the State Demographer, University of Texas at San Antonio.

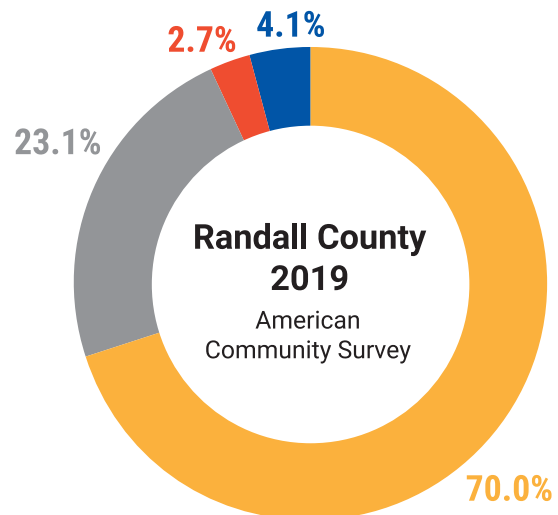
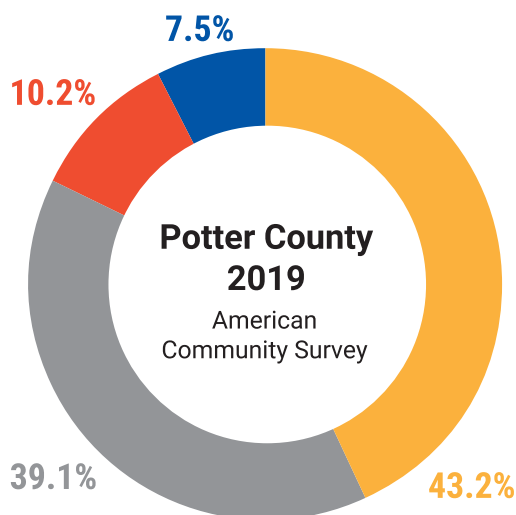
Population by Race

New data on the racial composition of populations in Potter and Randall Counties were not available. Previously reported racial compositions are presented in the pie charts below. These estimates are from 2019.

- ▶ White residents comprised 43.2% of the population in Potter County and 70.0% in Randall County in 2019.
- ▶ Hispanic residents comprised 39.1% of the population in Potter County and 23.1% in Randall County in 2019.
- ▶ In 2019, Potter County was more diverse than Randall County.

Graph 1.3

RACIAL COMPOSITION



White Hispanic Black Other

EDUCATION

Pre-School Education

One of the most important goals for community development is to increase access to high-quality affordable childhood education and childcare programs. These programs tend to be expensive and hard to find, especially for low-income families. Public preschool programs are designed to be one such alternative for low income families who are experiencing economic hardship. The 2021 Community Status Report provided enrollment data for preschools and early childhood education programs for Potter and Randall Counties for the 2019-2020 school year.

▶ During that school year, **Potter County had 54.5% of children ages 3-4 years enrolled in public preschools and early childhood education programs, while Randall County had only 3.8% of children of the same age enrolled in these programs.** Unfortunately, no new enrollment data were available for the 2020-2021 school year.

▶ As discussed in the 2021 Community Status Report, **the difference in enrollment rates between the counties is, to a large extent, driven by the differences in the poverty rates but could also be attributed to other factors such as availability of childcare facilities** that provide these programs. See the 2020-2021 Community Status Report for a more in-depth discussion of these differences.



Table 1. Pre-K Enrollment for 3- and 4-year-olds

	Texas	Lubbock Co	Potter Co	Randall Co
2015 - 2016	28.2%	22.1%	50.9%	4.1%
2016 - 2017	28.4%	21.5%	49.3%	3.9%
2017 - 2018	28.3%	27.3%	54.4%	3.4%
2018 - 2019	28.6%	27.9%	55.5%	3.3%
2019 - 2020	29.8%	28.0%	54.5%	3.8%

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Report, 2020

Subsidized Childcare

Preschoolers are not the only group of children eligible for subsidized childcare. Children ages 12 years or younger living in low-income families are eligible to receive subsidized childcare, especially in situations when the family encounters job loss or serious illness or loses their home.

Predictably, Potter County had a much higher rate of enrollment in subsidized childcare for children ages 0-12 than Randall County or the state as a whole. However, the difference in the enrollment rates was much smaller than that for public preschool programs.

▶ In 2019, **Potter County had a 10.0% subsidized childcare enrollment rate, while Randall County had a 6.1% subsidized childcare enrollment rate, which constitutes a 63.9% difference.**

▶ Comparatively, **Potter County's public pre-kindergarten enrollment rate (54.5%) was more than 13 times greater than that of Randall County (3.8%).**

▶ The difference in **the childhood poverty rates of the two counties in 2019 was 11.6%, as Potter's rate was 25.3% while Randall's rate was 13.7%.**

▶ Again, **the availability of public early-childhood education programs and preschools in the county as well as differences in access to vouchers for private childcare facilities could be partially responsible for the disparity in enrollment rates.**

► As was discussed in the 2020-2021 Community Status Report, while enrollment rates in Potter County appear to be high, **what is more surprising are the low enrollment rates in Randall County where the childhood poverty rate has been on the rise. Low-income families in Randall County may be underutilizing or have less access to subsidized and/or public childcare and preschool programs.**

Table 2. Children (0-12 years) receiving subsidized childcare in Texas

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Texas	3.5%	3.9%	3.5%	3.7%	4.2%
Potter Co., TX	8.0%	8.9%	8.7%	9.5%	10.0%
Randall Co., TX	4.8%	5.6%	4.9%	5.5%	6.1%

Source: Kids Count

K-12 Performance

For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, the data on student educational achievement have been made available for public examination. Preliminary data show that the pandemic had a devastating effect on student achievement in the United States.

- One preliminary study from the Annenberg Institute at Brown University reported that **students in Grades 3-8 suffered substantial educational losses, especially in math, and students in low-income schools were more adversely affected by the loss of learning during the pandemic² than were students in economically stable communities.**
- Another study that assessed math achievement in **California** found that on average **eighth graders performed at a fifth-grade level³.**



While the results of both studies were preliminary, they point to the tangible loss of educational achievement suffered during the pandemic. In Texas, educational achievement in schools is measured by The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®), standardized assessments that are administered to students Grades 3-8 to reflect the level of academic knowledge and skills acquired at each grade level.

The table below contains the data on the 2019 and 2021 STAAR scores for students Grades 3-8.

Table3. Pre- and Post-Pandemic STAAR Performance Scores

Pre- and Post-Pandemic STAAR Performance Scores					
	Year	Texas	Region 16	Amarillo ISD	Canyon ISD
3rd Grade Reading	2021	67.0%	74.0%	74.0%	84.0%
	2019	76.0%	78.0%	80.0%	83.0%
3rd Grade Math	2021	62.0%	74.0%	72.0%	85.0%
	2019	79.0%	80.0%	81.0%	87.0%
8th Grade Reading+	2021	73.0%	77.0%	74.0%	84.0%
	2019	86.0%	86.0%	85.0%	89.0%
8th Grade Math	2021	62.0%	79.0%	79.0%	81.0%
	2019	88.0%	92.0%	94.0%	92.0%

Source: Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Reports

▶ Consistent with the results for the nation and for California, **the post-pandemic performance in math and reading declined for all educational entities** compared in this report, with the exception of third-grade reading in Canyon ISD. This reading score improved by 1 percentage point between 2019 and 2021.

▶ Similarly, **the post-pandemic performance losses were considerably greater for math than for reading** across the board, but it appears **the magnitude of losses was not as substantial as that in California.**

▶ The majority of students in Texas (62%) still performed at “Approaches Grade Level.”

Education performance deteriorated post-pandemic for all subjects, but especially for math. The losses increased progressively with each grade level.

▶ **The performance scores were even higher in Amarillo and Canyon ISDs, where respectively 79% and 81% of students performed at Approaches Grade Level” or better in 2021.**

▶ Among the four educational entities compared in this section, **the state, on average, suffered the greatest performance losses** in math and in reading for students in Grades 3 and 8.

▶ **Amarillo ISD suffered greater losses than Canyon ISD,** which lends some credence to the observation that **schools serving low-income communities were adversely affected to a greater extent than schools in more affluent communities.**

▶ **Post-pandemic performance losses were more substantial among eighth graders than among third graders for both subjects in all educational entities.** This is consistent with the preliminary data from California, where educational losses increased progressively with each grade level, especially in math.

High School Graduation

Unlike the other educational achievement indicators, the high school graduation rates actually improved in 2020 compared to those of previous years, except in Canyon ISD.

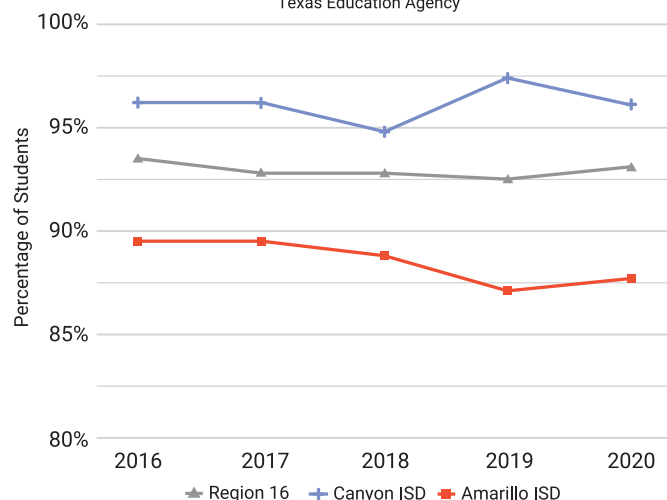
▶ **In Texas, the graduation rate increased to 98.3% in 2020, compared to 95.4% in 2019.**

▶ **In Region 16, the graduation rate grew to 93.1% in 2020, compared to 92.5% in 2019.**

▶ **In Amarillo ISD, the graduation rate increased to 87.7% in 2020, compared to 87.1% in 2019.**

▶ **In Canyon ISD, the graduation rate declined to 96.1% in 2020, compared to 97.4% in 2019.**

Graph 2.1 **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE ***
Region 16, Amarillo ISD, and Canyon ISD
Texas Education Agency



* Four year longitudinal rate

In response to all of the challenges you just read about in our Education section, this United Way of Amarillo & Canyon program is responding -

Maverick Boys & Girls Club of Amarillo, Academic Success

Five core program areas define the essence of the Boys & Girls Clubs- Character and Leadership Development, Education and Career Development, Health and Life Skills, the Arts, and Sports, Fitness and Recreation. All are critical in exerting positive impact on the life of a child and enhance the child's likelihood for academic success. The Maverick's programs are holistic in nature and impact the development of the whole child mentally, physically, socially, and emotionally.

GREAT FUTURES START **HERE!**

*Maverick serves up to **600** kids, daily.*

***89%** of the children Maverick serves are at or below poverty.*

*Maverick has been providing youth services in Amarillo for nearly **90** years.*

*Maverick serves children ages **5 - 18** at the following locations:*



Bivins Elementary
Glenwood Elementary
Hamlet Elementary

Ralph Dykeman

Rolling Hills Elementary
San Jacinto Elementary



The Maverick Boys & Girls Club of Amarillo provides a safe and affordable after-school enrichment program at six locations throughout the community. Our overarching goal is to provide high-quality programs, nutritious meals, activities, caring staff, volunteers, plus unique opportunities, and experiences for each member that walks through our doors. At Maverick Boys & Girls Club of Amarillo, we believe that poverty prevents opportunity. We aim to inspire and enable all young people to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.



United Way of Amarillo & Canyon Education Programs

Amarillo Wesley Community Center

Behind the Scenes Modeling & Mentoring

Amarillo Wesley Community Center

Wesley Wrestling Club

Boy Scouts, Golden Spread Council

Cub Scouts, Scoutreach

Buckner Children & Family Services

FYi Center

Family Support Services

Education & Prevention Programs

Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains

Girls at School

Maverick Boys & Girls Clubs of Amarillo

Academic Success



INCOME

The Amarillo community boasts a history of providing robust economic opportunities for its residents. Even during times of recession and during the pandemic, the Amarillo economy proved to be solid and resilient.

Unemployment

One indicator of such strength and resiliency is evident in the employment data. During the pandemic, the unemployment rate increased sharply throughout the nation, including in the Amarillo Metropolitan Area (AMA). However, even in the thick of the pandemic, the AMA unemployment rate was much lower than that in the state or the nation. For example, in May of 2020, the national unemployment rate was 13.2%, the state unemployment rate was 11.8%, while the local unemployment rate in AMA was only 7.6%. Since then, the unemployment rates have dropped across the nation.

▶ In 2022, the unemployment rate in the AMA dropped to nearly pre-pandemic levels: 2.7% in May of 2022 compared to 2.2% in May of 2019.

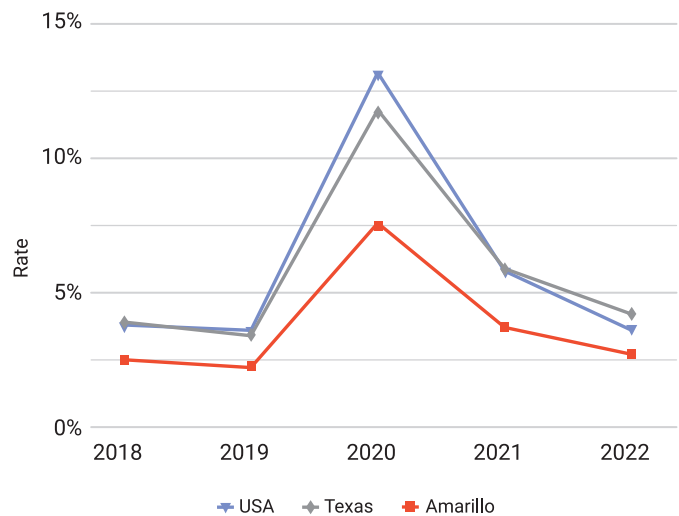
▶ The 2022 unemployment rate in the AMA was 36% lower than the state unemployment rate of 4.2% and 25% lower than the national unemployment rate of 3.6%.

▶ The combination of a strong economy and a relatively low cost of living likely made a remarkable contribution to the population growth in Potter and Randall Counties in 2020.

▶ Even during the shutdown due to the pandemic, in May 2020, the employment rate in the AMA was 36% below the state level and 42% below the national level.

Graph 3.2

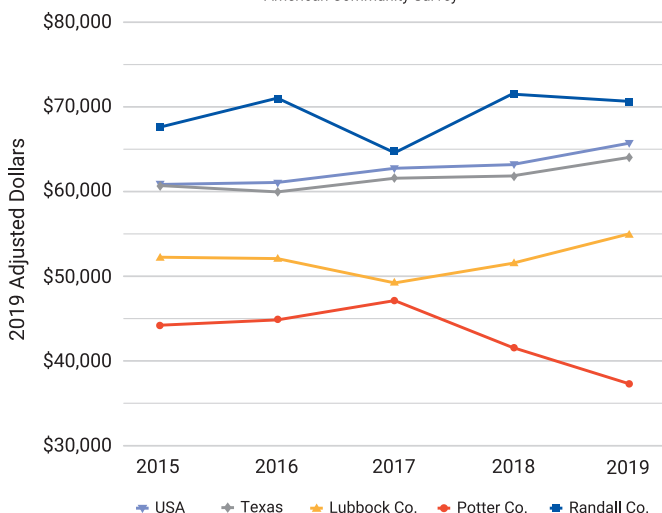
UNEMPLOYMENT US, TX, and Amarillo US Bureau of Labor Statistics



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Data Tool Reported for month of May for each year

Graph 3.1

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME US, TX, and Counties American Community Survey



Median Income and Income Distribution

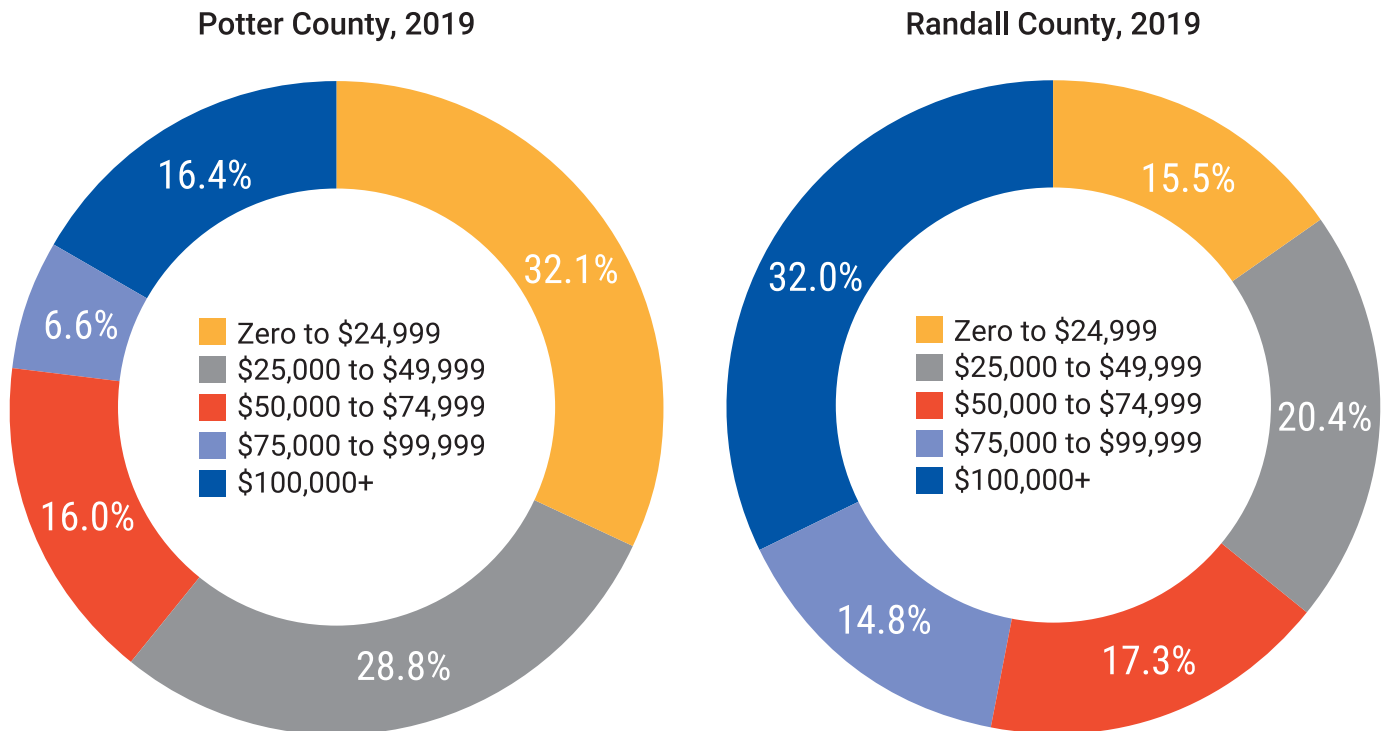
Due to data collection challenges attributed to the pandemic, which were described in detail in the introduction, no new annual data on the median income and income distribution were available at the county level. The most recent county-level data are from 2019 and are displayed in Graph 3.3.

In 2019 the median income in Potter County was \$37,297 and in Randall County \$70,651. See the 2020-2021 CSR for a more detailed discussion on the median income.

Graph 3.3

HOUSEHOLD INCOME DISTRIBUTION

American Community Survey



▶ In Potter County, most households (60.9%) earned less than \$50,000 per year, and nearly one third of households earned less than \$25,000.

▶ As a point of comparison, the national poverty threshold for a family of four in 2019 was \$25,750⁴, while the cost of living in the AMA for a family of four was \$32,878⁵ in 2022.

▶ In Randall County, on the other hand, the income distribution was nearly the opposite of that in Potter County. Only 35.9% of households in Randall County earned less than \$50,000, and 15.5% earned less than \$25,000.

▶ On the other end of the income spectrum, 32.0% of Randall County residents earned \$100,000 or more annually, compared to only half that much, 16.4%, in Potter County.

Economic Inequality in the United States

According to the recent report by the Council on Foreign Relations⁶, economic inequality in the United States, which was already greater than in the rest of the developed world, has worsened since the pandemic. While the contributors to inequality are complex and multifaceted, invariably economic inequality puts a strain on communities and can weaken democracy and lead to a growing authoritarian sentiment in society. When significant portions of society become discouraged about the poor economic mobility prospects, they may exit the labor market and withhold their talent, energy, and skills from building the economy. The decrease in financial resources and purchasing power that often follow labor market exit can further lead to lower overall economic demand and the slowing of economic growth, not to mention a greater reliance on social support programs. Furthermore, when disengaged from meaningful and productive work, people can become more susceptible to engagement in social and political unrest.

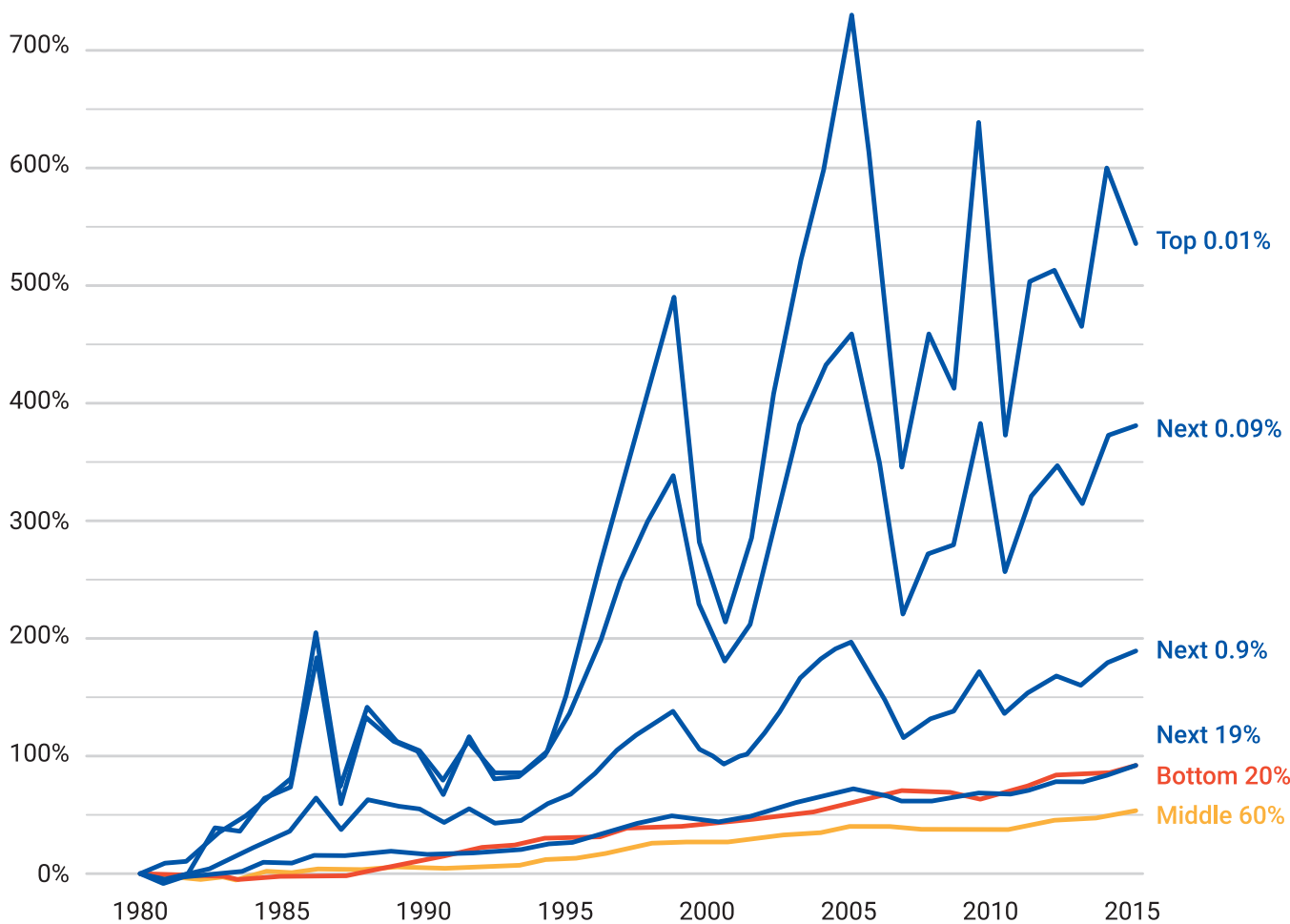
The Council on Foreign Relations reported some interesting data regarding economic mobility in the United States:

- ▶ In the last 40 years, income gains have been disproportionately skewed towards the top 1% of income earners.
- ▶ The proportion of people who earn more than their parents has declined from 90% of those born in the 1940s to 50% of those born in the 1980s.

- ▶ During the pandemic, low-wage workers were more likely to lose their jobs and less likely to get rehired afterward.
- ▶ Post-pandemic increases in stock prices and home prices disproportionately benefited wealthy Americans, while inflation wiped out wage gains for the lower and middle classes.

Graph 3.4 **INCOME GAINS SINCE 1979 HAVE SKEWED HEAVILY TOWARD THE TOP**

Cumulative growth of household income after taxes and transfers



Source: Congressional Budget Office

Cost of Childcare

One of the most significant expense categories for families with children under the age of 18 is childcare. Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing and the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources at the University of Texas at Austin survey residents to calculate the cost of childcare for Texas regions⁷.

Here are a few general takeaways from the report:

- ▶ Predictably, part-time childcare was less expensive than full-time childcare (undoubtedly, due to fewer hours of services provided).
- ▶ The cost of childcare decreased as the age of the child increased (undoubtedly due to the higher child per teacher ratio allowance).
- ▶ The cost of childcare increased as the stringency of the licensure criteria increased: licensed childcare centers were more expensive than licensed childcare homes and much more expensive than registered childcare homes.
- ▶ The availability of part-time care has decreased over time: the proportions of licensed childcare centers, licensed childcare homes, and registered childcare homes reduced the proportion of part-time childcare offerings between 2017 and 2020.
- ▶ Part-time childcare was much more available for older children (pre-school and school-age children) than for younger children (infants and toddlers).

Their report provides daily rates that we subsequently used to calculate monthly and annual rates based on 22-days-per-month and 12-month-per-year childcare need assumptions. The resulting estimates are presented in the table below.

Table 4. Monthly Cost of Childcare in the Panhandle Region and in Texas in 2020

Monthly Cost of Childcare in the Panhandle Region and in Texas in 2020								
	Panhandle		Texas		Panhandle		Texas	
	Per Month Cost		Per Month Cost		Annual Cost		Annual Cost	
	Full Day	Part Time	Full Day	Part Time	Full Day	Part Time	Full Day	Part Time
Infant	\$622	\$549	\$725	\$635	\$7,458	\$6,584	\$8,699	\$7,616
Toddler	\$581	\$514	\$653	\$581	\$6,967	\$6,172	\$7,841	\$6,978
Preschool	\$545	\$434	\$613	\$452	\$6,534	\$5,203	\$7,360	\$5,423
School-age	\$494	\$385	\$573	\$398	\$5,932	\$4,615	\$6,872	\$4,773

Source: Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing and the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources at the University of Texas at Austin (2020). 2020 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey. <https://txicfw.socialwork.utexas.edu/2020-texas-child-care-market-rate-survey/>

In 2020, the median monthly cost of full-day childcare for an infant in the Panhandle was \$622 compared to the median Texas rate of \$725⁸. This constitutes a 14.2% discount for the Panhandle compared to the state. Assuming 12 months of care per year, these estimates translate to \$7,458 annual median cost of full-day care for an infant in the Panhandle and \$8,699 annual median cost of full-day care for an infant in Texas. When superimposed on the 2019 median income estimate⁹, this constitutes approximately 20% of the median annual income in Potter County and approximately 9% of the median annual income in Randall County. For the state, the average cost of childcare constitutes approximately 15% of the average annual income.

This indicates that the residents of Potter County pay a higher proportional price for childcare than the average 15%. However, this difference could be largely offset by the fact that more than half of Potter County's children have access to subsidized childcare. Randall County's residents, on average, pay less for childcare, proportionally speaking, than would be expected based on the county's median income. Lower cost of childcare could be another important factor that attracts families to Amarillo.

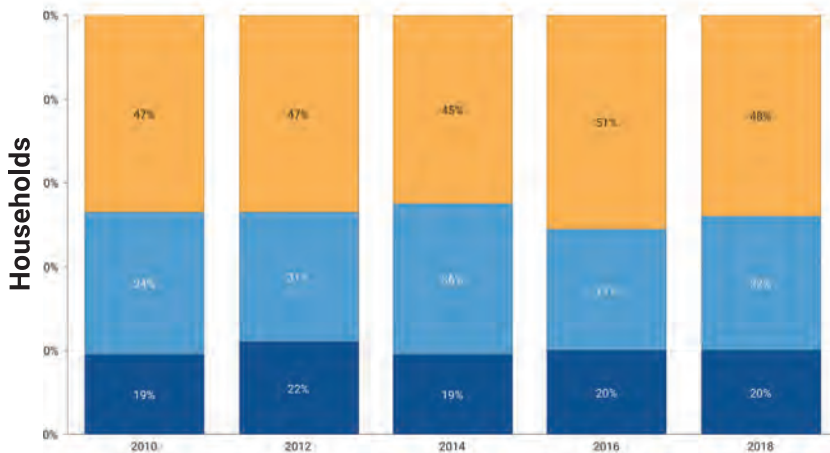
A.L.I.C.E. Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, & Employed



United Way Worldwide has recently concluded a study on a specific part of our population. A.L.I.C.E., (Asset Limited Income-Constrained, & Employed) These are people who live above the federal poverty line but below the local cost of living. These are the people who work every day to keep us healthy, educated, and safe, who must make difficult decisions no one should have to make. They may decide to skip meals to pay for childcare or sell what few possessions they have to pay the rent. These are hard-working, employed people who do not live in poverty but do not make enough income to provide the basic necessities for their families- those for

whom a failing water-pump in their vehicle causes chaos because they have to go to work but do not have anything extra for the curveballs life throws at them...and there are a lot more of them than you might think.

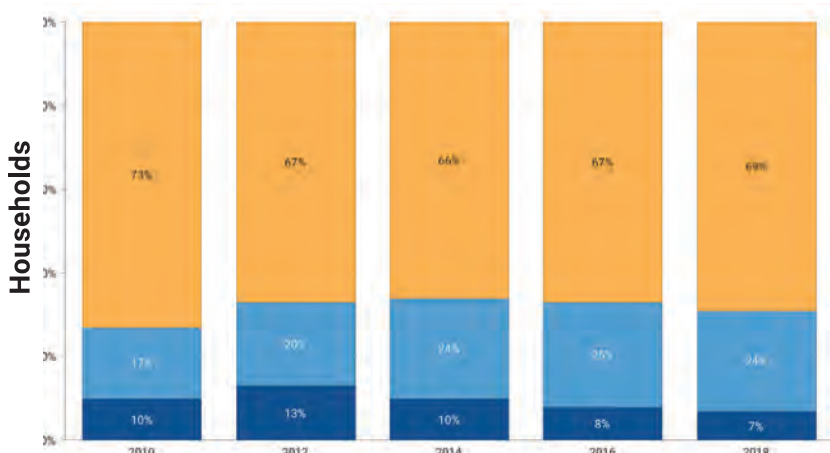
ALICE and Poverty in Randall County Over Time



**ALICE in Potter County
2018 Point-in-Time-Data**

- ▶ Population: 119,648
- ▶ Number of Households: 45,550
- ▶ Median Household Income: \$40,797
(State average: \$60,629)
- ▶ Unemployment Rate: 3.4%
(State average: 4.9%)
- ▶ ALICE Households: 32%
(State average: 30%)
- ▶ Households in Poverty: 20%
(State average: 14%)

ALICE and Poverty in Randall County Over Time



**ALICE in Randall County
2018 Point-in-Time-Data**

- ▶ Population: 136,271
- ▶ Number of Households: 49,457
- ▶ Median Household Income: \$70,108
(State average: \$60,629)
- ▶ Unemployment Rate: 3.2%
(State average: 4.9%)
- ▶ ALICE Households: 24%
(State average: 30%)
- ▶ Households in Poverty: 7%
(State average: 14%)

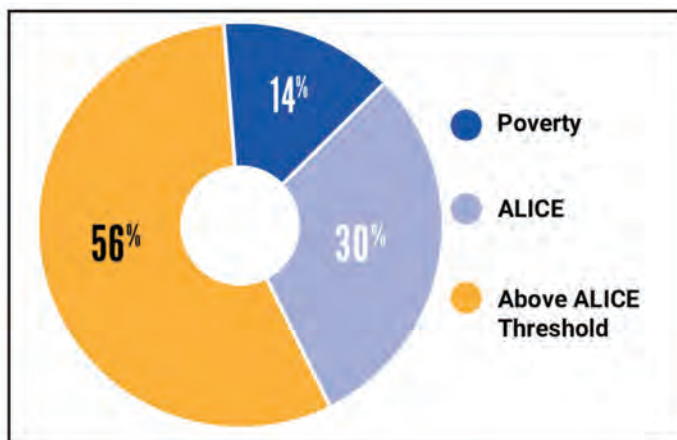
● Poverty ● ALICE ● Above ALICE Threshold



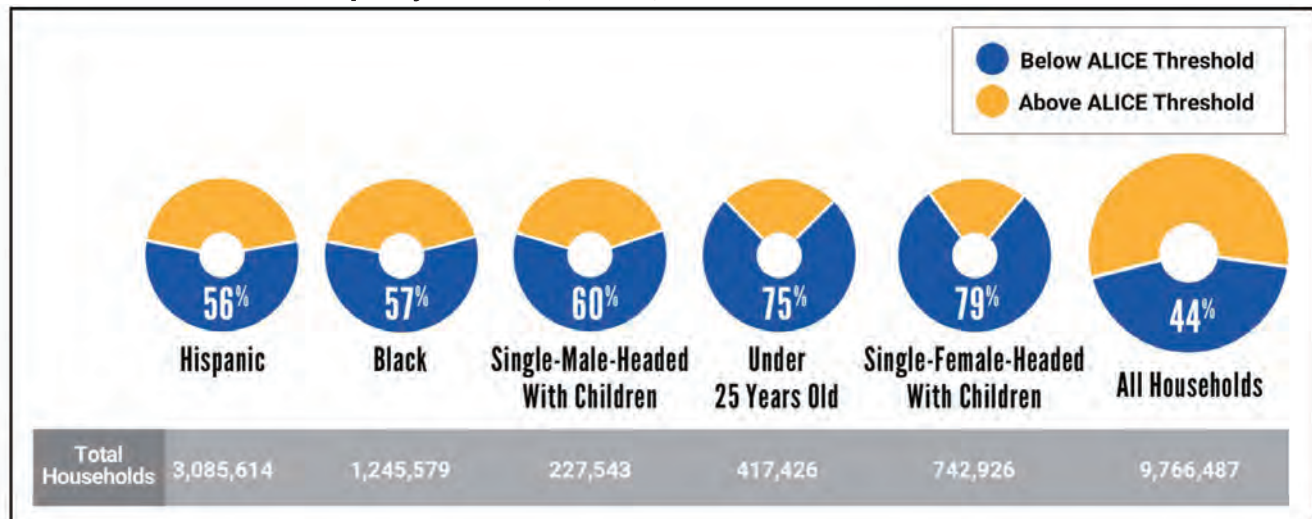
United Way of Texas is one of 23 states that has participated in studying its own A.L.I.C.E. population. Texans of this essential workforce, like childcare workers, hospitality staff, and retail employees, make up this crucial but often overlooked population. In the recent years before the pandemic, Texas saw GDP growth and shrinking unemployment rates, and yet, in 2018 nearly one-third of Texas households were A.L.I.C.E households. As time progresses, it will be as crucial as ever to work toward income stability for those who live in poverty, of all kinds. However, the growing Texas A.L.I.C.E. population must be heard, and their stability improved.

When A.L.I.C.E. wins, we all win.

State of Texas Overview, 2018



Select Household Groups by Income, Texas, 2018



In response to all of the challenges you just read about in our Financial Stability section, this United Way of Amarillo & Canyon program is responding -

Children's Learning Center of Amarillo, Low Income Child Care



Children's Learning Centers of Amarillo has been providing quality, affordable childcare in the Amarillo area for nearly 100 years, 97 to be exact. During those 97 years, CLC has been a partner with United Way of Amarillo & Canyon to provide assistance to low-income families so they are able to afford childcare to be able to work, go to school or both. Together with United Way of Amarillo & Canyon, Children's Learning Centers has served thousands of children and families in the Amarillo area.

- ***Nine Children's Learning Center centers are spread throughout the city of Amarillo.***
- ***Children's Learning Center employs over 100 people in Amarillo.***



- *Last year, United Way of Amarillo & Canyon scholarship over 200 parents, with reduced or no cost childcare.*
- *Children's Learning Centers serves roughly 600 children per day.*



Focusing on having childcare centers in neighborhoods that may not be considered by for-profit childcare businesses has been CLC's business model since its inception. CLC wants to be where the parents and children need them the most to make it easy for the parent to drop-off and pick-up their kids before and after work. CLC participates in the Texas Rising Star program through the Texas Workforce Commission to provide quality programs in their centers.



United Way of Amarillo & Canyon Financial Stability Programs

Children's Learning Centers of Amarillo

Low Income Child Care

Family Support Services

Veterans Resource Center

Goodwill of Northwest Texas

Job Training & Placement

As the global pandemic slows down, other health concerns move to the forefront of public awareness. Access to health insurance, a hot topic of public debate since the mid-2000s, remains a community priority all around the United States.

Unfortunately, due to the data collection challenges attributed to the pandemic, new data on access to health insurance is not available from the American Community Survey. The most recent numbers were reported for 2019 and are presented in the graph below.

▶ **In 2019, 23.9% of residents in Potter County did not have health insurance compared to 8.5% of residents in Randall County.**

▶ **Potter County had a disproportionately high rate of individuals without health insurance compared to other counties and the state, even when the difference in the poverty rates is taken into account. Specifically, Potter County's uninsured rate in 2019 was 159.8% higher than the average state rate, while the poverty rate in Potter County was only 54.4% higher than the average state poverty rate.**



Mental Illness Among Adults

Mental health, which was largely missing from public discourse during the pandemic, has been gaining increasing attention in the past year.

According to *The State of Mental Health in America*¹⁰ reports for 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, the prevalence of mental illness among adults in America increased between 2019 and 2022.



▶ **Nationally, the prevalence of mental illness among adults increased by 9.7% between 2019 and 2022 from 18.1% to 19.9%.**

▶ **In Texas, the prevalence of mental illness among adults increased by 7.3% between 2019 and 2022 from 16.0% to 17.2%.**

▶ **Compared to California and Florida, the other two large southern states, the prevalence of mental illness among adults in Texas (17.2%) in 2020 was lower than in California (19.5%) and the same as in Florida (17.2%).**

Serious Suicidal Ideation Among Adults

For serious suicidal ideation among adults, The State of Mental Health in America reports the following trends between 2019 and 2022:

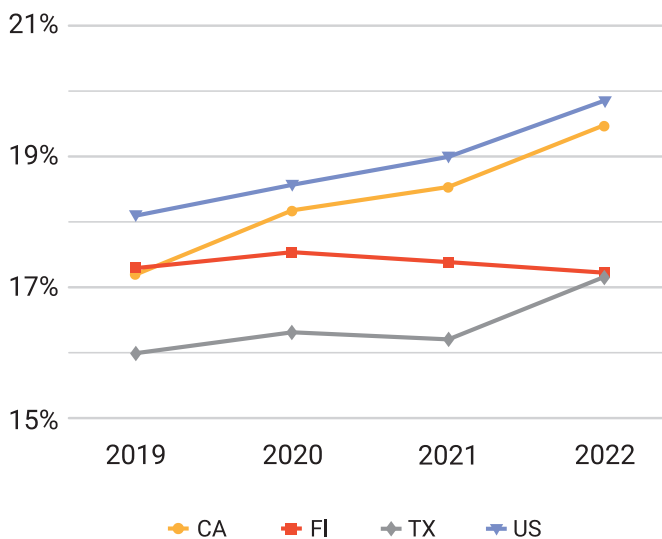
▶ **Nationally, the prevalence of serious suicidal ideation among adults increased from 4.0% in 2019 to 4.2% in 2020, then decreased to 3.3% in 2021, but in 2022 peaked again at an alarming 4.6% (which constitutes a 37% increase in serious suicidal ideation in one year).**

▶ **In Texas, the prevalence of serious suicidal ideation among adults increased between 2019 and 2020 from 3.5% to 3.7%, and again in 2022 to 3.9%.**



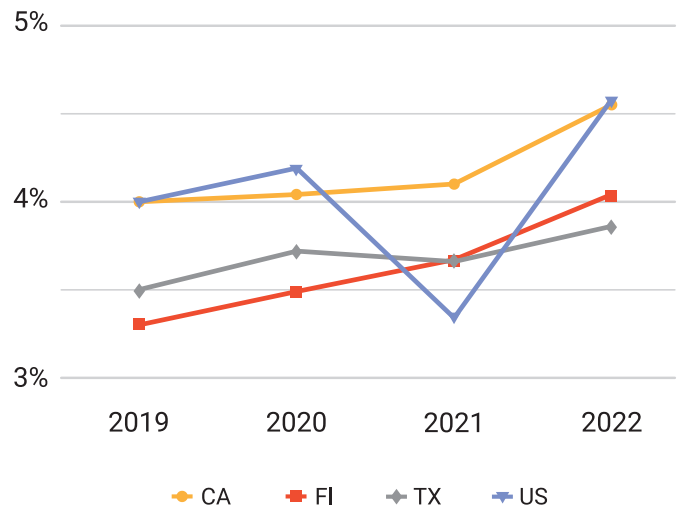
▶ **Texas had a lower prevalence of serious suicidal ideation among adults in 2022 than California (4.6%), Florida (4.0%), and the nation (4.6%).**

Graph 4.1 MENTAL ILLNESS AMONG ADULTS



Source: Mental Health American. "State of Mental Health in America", 2020, 2021, 2022

Graph 4.2 SERIOUS SUICIDAL IDEATION AMONG ADULTS



Death by Suicide

According to the local data provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services, the proportion of deaths by suicide had declined during the pandemic. The rate of deaths by suicide is reported as a number of deaths per 1,000 residents.

▶ In Potter County, the rate of death by suicide has decreased from 24.9 deaths by suicide per 100,000 population in 2019 to 18.5 deaths by suicide per 100,000 population in 2021, which constitutes a 25.7% decrease in the rate.

▶ In Randall County, the rate of death by suicide has decreased from 23.1 deaths by suicide per 100,000 population in 2019 to 16.0 deaths by suicide per 100,000 population in 2021, which constitutes a 30.6% decrease in the rate.

▶ Despite these significant decreases, the rate of death by suicide in both counties remained above the state average. Potter County's rate was 33.1% higher than the state average, and Randall County's rate was 15.1% higher than the state average.



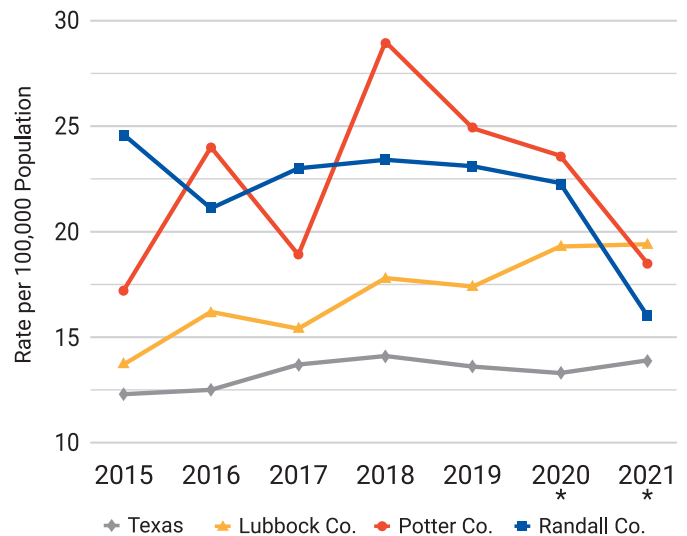
▶ These two factors seem to reinforce the finding that the decrease in suicide rates in Potter and Randall Counties was genuine. These statistics are truly good news to both counties, but especially to Randall County, which had a long history of elevated suicide deaths. The recent decreases in the rate of death from suicide in the Amarillo area are a long-awaited win for the local community.

Graph 4.3

DEATH BY SUICIDE

TX, and Counties

Texas Department of State Health Services



Note: * Death data for 2020 and 2021 are non-final. They are tabulated based on data that are not yet finalized and may be incomplete.

▶ To put things in perspective, in 2019 Potter County's rate was 83.0% higher than the state average and Randall County's rate was 69.4% higher than the state average.



If you or someone you know might be having suicidal thoughts, call
(806) 359-6699,

or the national crisis number
9-8-8.

To help in suicide prevention, visit
<https://www.facebook.com/TexasPanhandleSuicidePreventionCoalition>.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

People in Poverty

According to the most recent five-year estimates provided by the American Community Survey, the five-year average poverty rate for the 2017-2021 time period was 21.7% in Potter County and 9.2% in Randall County. The five-year average childhood poverty rate for the same time period was 30.9% in Potter County and 8.8% in Randall County. Further analysis of these data by the Census Bureau revealed that the changes in the five-year childhood poverty rate in Potter County were not statistically significant, while the decrease in the five-year childhood poverty rate in Randall County from 9.1% during the 2012-2016 five-year period to 8.8% during the 2017-2021 five-year period was statistically significant¹¹.

Economic Hardship

Table 5. *Economic Hardship in 2021*

Percent of Households				
	US		Texas	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Adults did not have enough to eat in past 7 days	11%	9%	13%	12%
Children did not have enough to eat in past 7 days	20%	12%	23%	17%
Behind on rent	18%	16%	23%	21%
Having difficulty covering expenses	35%	28%	42%	32%

Source: Household Pulse Survey by the Census Bureau, analyzed by Brynne Keith-Jennings, "Food Need Very High Compared to Pre-Pandemic Levels, Making Relief Imperative," CBPP, September 10, 2020 and 2021, <https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/8-13-20pov.pdf>

According to the analysis of the Household Pulse Survey data by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities¹², economic conditions had improved in 2021 in the United States and in Texas compared to those of the previous year.

► The proportion of families in the nation and the state who had difficulty covering their expenses declined in 2021. Nationally, this proportion declined from 35% of households to 28% of households (a 20.0% reduction). Statewide, the proportion declined from 42% of households to 32% of households (a 23.8% reduction).

► In 2021, the proportion of households in which adults had not had enough food within the past 7 days was 9% nationwide and 12% statewide, as compared to 11% and 13%, respectively, in 2020. This constitutes an 18.2% decline for the nation and a 7.7% decline for the state.

► The proportion of children who had not had enough to eat within the past 7 days declined even

The proportion of families who had difficulty covering expenses declined between 2020 and 2021 by 20.0% nationwide and by 23.8% statewide.

more rapidly between 2020 and 2021: from 20% to 12% in the nation, a 40.0% reduction, and from 23% to 17% in the state, a 26.1% reduction.

► The proportion of families who were behind on rent had also shrunk in 2021 as compared to 2020. In the United States, it decreased from 18% to 16% (an 11.1% reduction) and in the state it decreased from 23% to 21% (an 8.7% reduction).

Adolescent Mothers

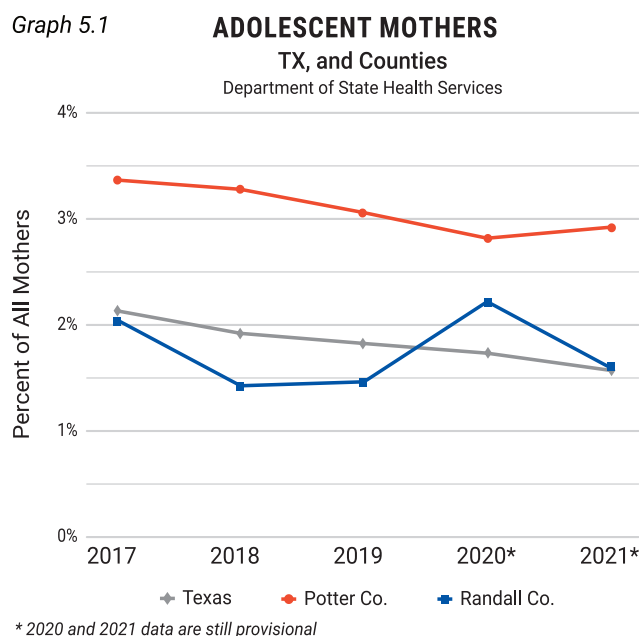
The statistic on teenage mothers is reported here as a percent of adolescent mothers among all mothers who gave birth during a given year. The Texas Department of State Health Services provided two additional years' worth of data, 2020 and 2021, **with a stipulation that the data were still provisional**. The data revealed some very encouraging trends for Potter and Randall Counties, and for the state.

► **Between 2017 and 2021, the proportion of adolescent mothers had declined across the board: in Texas - by 26.3%, in Potter County - by 13.3%, and in Randall County - by 21.8%.**

► **In 2021, the proportion of adolescent mothers was 1.6% in Texas, 2.9% in Potter County, and 1.6% in Randall County.**

► **In Randall County, the proportion of adolescent mothers “spiked” in 2020 to 2.2% compared to 1.5% the year before.**

► **In Potter County, the proportion of adolescent mothers declined steadily between 2017 and 2020, and increased only slightly, by 3.7%, in 2021.**

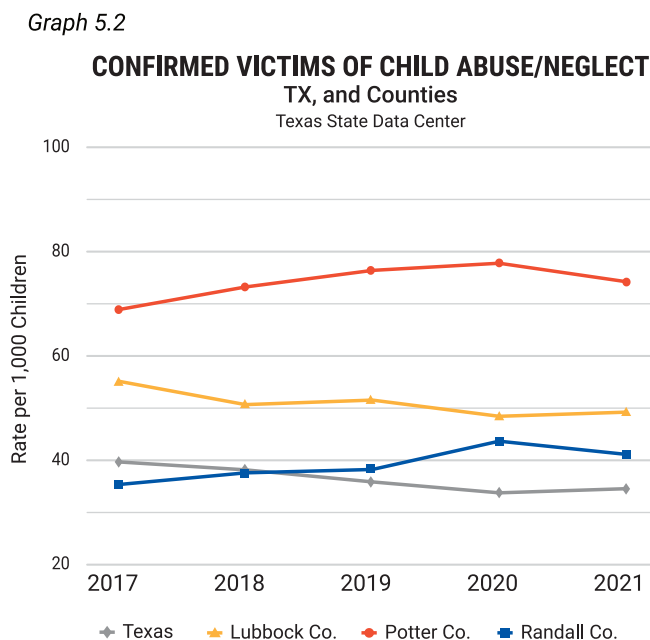


Child Abuse and Neglect

As previously reported in the 2020-2021 Community Status Report, the year 2020 was not a good year for child abuse prevention. Unfortunately, the rates of child maltreatment, which were already high in Potter and Randall Counties in 2019, increased even more in 2020. Thankfully, in 2021, child maltreatment rates decreased again in both counties.

► **In Potter County, the rate of child maltreatment fell in 2021 by 4.6% compared to the year before. There were 74.2 confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children in the county in 2021. This rate was lower than the 2019 rate of 76.4, but higher than the 2018 rate of 73.2.**

► **In Randall County, the rate fell in 2021 by 5.8% to 41.1 confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children but remained higher than the rates in previous years.**



► Unfortunately, Potter and Randall Counties' rates of child maltreatment remained well above the state level of 34.6 confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children. For Potter County, the rate of child abuse and neglect was 115% higher than the average state rate. For Randall County, the rate of child abuse and neglect was 19% higher than the average state rate. The prevention of child maltreatment, therefore, should remain a critical priority for the Amarillo community.

The rates of child abuse and neglect fell in 2021 in both Potter and Randall Counties, by 4.6% and 5.8% respectively. Unfortunately, both rates remained significantly higher than the average state rate.

Family Violence

While the shelter-in-place orders were in effect in 2020 to minimize the spread of COVID-19, family violence prevention advocates became concerned that the incidence of family violence would skyrocket due to the stress of the pandemic and the inability of both perpetrators and victims to leave their homes and prevent the escalation of abuse. The 2020 family violence data available today indicates these concerns were not unjustified yet increases were moderate, and the explosion of family violence predicted by some experts did not materialize.

► In Texas, the rate of family violence increased in 2020 compared to that in 2019 by 8.1%, from 6.8 incidents of family violence per 1,000 population in 2019 to 7.3 incidents of family violence per 1,000 population in 2020.

► In Potter County, the rate increased by 5.0% in 2020 from 24.7 incidents of family violence per 1,000 population in 2019 to 25.6 incidents of family violence per 1,000 population in 2020.

► In Randall County the rate declined by 6.4% in 2020 from 1.2 incidents of family violence per 1,000 population in 2019 to 1.1 incidents of family violence per 1,000 population in 2020.

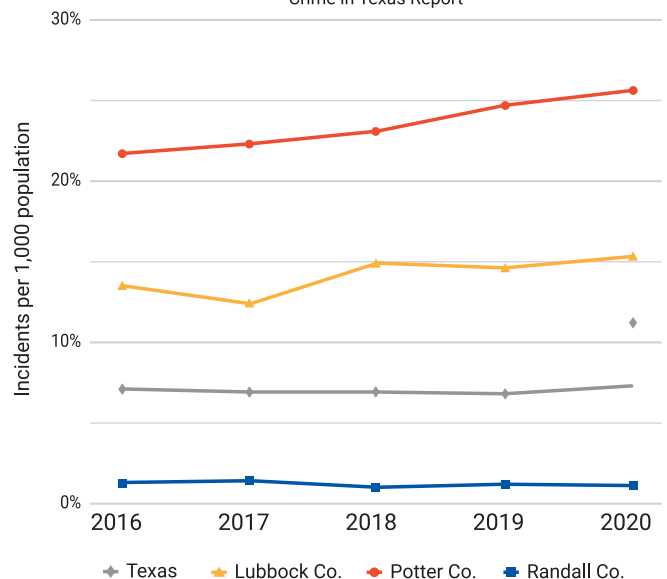
► The rate of family violence in Potter County remained significantly higher than the average state rate. In fact, in 2020 Potter County's rate of family

violence was 3.5 times that of the average state rate (25.6 vs. 7.3). This statistic indicates that the prevention of family violence should remain an important priority for Potter County.

► The rate of family violence in Randall County, on the other hand, was less than one-sixth the average state rate (1.1 vs. 7.3).

Graph 5.3

FAMILY VIOLENCE
TX, and Counties
Crime in Texas Report



In 2020 the rate of family violence in Potter County was 3.5 times higher than the average state rate.

► According to the Refugee Processing Center, Texas received 2,118 refugees between October 1, 2021, and September 30, 2022. The top five countries of origin of the incoming refugees were the Democratic Republic of Congo (791 people), Syria (358 people), Burma (212 people), Afghanistan (209 people), Guatemala (121 people), and Sudan (107 people).

► While Texas received more refugees in 2022 than any other state except California, the rate of resettlement in Texas per 100,000 population is not as high as one might think. The data on the rate of resettlement per 100,000 population for the largest U.S. states (those with populations over 7 million people) are presented in Table 6. As evident in the table, while Texas received the second greatest number of refugees, its rate of resettlement was actually in the middle of the distribution. Kentucky, a state with the largest rate of resettled refugees per 100,000 population, had a rate of resettlement nearly 4 times that of Texas (28.3 resettled refugees per

Table 6. Refugees by the Country of Origin

Top 5 Countries of Origin of Refugee Arriving to Texas in 2022	
Refugees in Texas	Number of Refugees
Afghanistan	209
Burma	212
DRC	719
Guatemala	121
Sudan	107
Syria	358
Total from All Countries	2,118

Source: 2022 refugee arrival data provided by the Refugee Processing Center

100,000 population for Kentucky vs. 7.2 for Texas).

► Interestingly, the four largest states with a population of over 20 million people – California, Texas, New York, and Florida – had relatively low rates of resettlement compared to those of smaller states such as Kentucky, Washington, Arizona, Michigan, and North Carolina.

Table 7. Refugee Arrival by State

State	Number of Refugees	Population	Rate
Kentucky	1,275	4,509,394	28.3
Washington	1,224	7,738,692	15.8
Arizona	1,033	7,276,316	14.2
Michigan	1,126	10,050,811	11.2
North Carolina	1,163	10,551,162	11.0
Ohio	1,141	11,780,017	9.7
Pennsylvania	1,109	12,964,056	8.6
Georgia	818	10,799,566	7.6
Virginia	637	8,642,274	7.4
Texas	2,118	29,527,941	7.2
Illinois	896	12,671,469	7.1
New York	1,374	21,781,128	6.3
California	2,185	39,237,836	5.6
Florida	750	21,781,128	3.4
New Jersey	246	9,267,130	2.7

Source: Calculated based on the 2022 refugee arrival data provided by the Refugee Processing Center and the 2021 population estimates provided by the Census Bureau.

Rate is calculated by 100,000 population

In response to all of the challenges you just read about in our Health section, this United Way of Amarillo & Canyon program is responding -

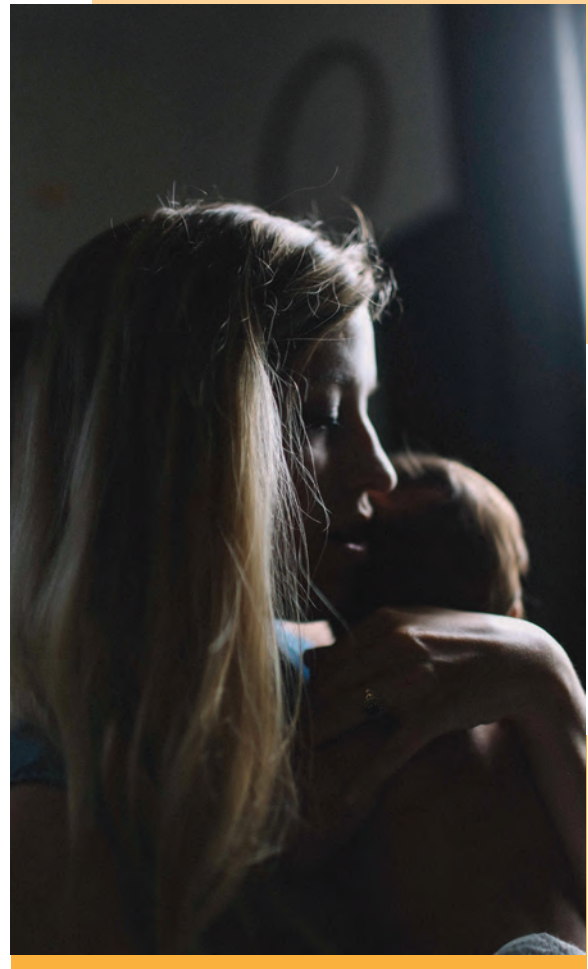
Coalition of Health Services, Nurse Family Partnership



“Nine out of 10 women in the Texas Nurse-Family Partnership program have delivered their first baby full-term and at a healthy weight. These results and others show that this proven program is helping vulnerable Texas families get off to a good start.”

The Coalition of Health Services was organized in February 1996 and incorporated as a non-profit organization in February 1997. The purpose of the Coalition is to enhance health through coordinated and collaborative efforts of the member healthcare facilities. The Coalition has systematically assessed, planned, and implemented a permanent infrastructure to support ongoing health initiatives in individual communities, including Nurse Family Partnership, a Program Partner of United Way of Amarillo & Canyon.

Nurse-Family Partnership, also funded by the Department of Family and Protective Services with the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant, is a targeted public health intervention program designed to improve child and maternal health outcomes through nurse home visiting.

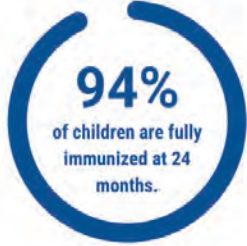


NFP is an evidenced-based program that has a rich history across the nation and has effectively demonstrated how they can equip the maternal-child population with the knowledge, tools, and support to optimize health and developmental outcomes. The program advocates for first-time mothers/families experiencing risks by equipping them with resources, mentoring, coaching, and support to improve their own and their children’s health and well-being. NFP goals are to improve pregnancy outcomes, enhance child health and development outcomes, and improve economic self-sufficiency of families. Their vision is a future where children are healthy, families thrive, communities prosper, and the cycles of poverty are broken. “Better worlds start with great mothers, and great mothers start with us.”



OVER

- *160 moms are served each year.*
- *2/3’s of moms become employed by 24 months.*



United Way of Amarillo & Canyon Health Programs

- Amarillo Wesley Community Center**
Senior Citizen Program
- Coalition of Health Services**
Nurse Family Partnership
- Family Support Services**
Counseling
- Panhandle Behavioral Health Alliance**
Access to Mental Health Care

In response to all of the challenges you just read about in our Basic Needs section, this United Way of Amarillo & Canyon program is responding -

Family Support Services, Crisis Services



The goal of this program is to provide advocacy in meaningful ways, with an understanding that survivors know what is best for them. This can mean support on the Helpline, safety from dangerous, abusive family or intimate partner relationships, accompaniment to the hospital for a sexual assault, support from advocates in accessing legal remedies, assistance with accessing benefits, providing basic need items, or items to help with healing, such as art supplies and so much more. Support groups are available in both English and Spanish.

***Texas has seen a 23% increase in intimate partner homicides as of 2020.
1 in 3 Texans will experience Domestic Violence in their lifetimes.
33% of sexual assaults are committed by a former or current intimate partner.
A victim with a protective order is 80% less likely to be re-victimized.***

390 accompaniments to *The Bridge* CAC or Hospital for sexual assault.

Over **700** support groups.

Advocacy for victims in Law Enforcement's most lethal calls.

Provided **5,740** overnight stays to **277** survivors and their children, **ALONG** with their pets.

Support to **3,500** Helpline calls.



Survivors are diverse and there is no universal response to address their trauma that works for everyone. Culture and family "norms" differ from person to person and are essential to their healing and moving forward. A holistic model to address trauma is employed to affect informed care throughout these programs, knowing that trauma intersects with many areas of one's life. These programs also work closely with partner agencies to determine ways to initiate offender accountability more quickly and effectively. Those in the Advocacy Department are the experts in Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking, in the community. They make numerous presentations to the community throughout the year and serve on various coalitions with goals to end violence in our community and support parents in creating healthy, safe communication within their families. Family Support Services of Amarillo Advocacy Services serves men, women, and child survivors and all of the advocacy services are free of charge.

United Way of Amarillo & Canyon Basic Needs Programs

2-1-1 Texas Panhandle

Specific Aid

Amarillo Area CASA

Volunteer Recruitment

American Red Cross, TX Panhandle

Disaster Services

Catholic Charities of the TX Panhandle

InterFaith Hunger Project

City of Amarillo - Community Development

Coming Home Project

Family Care Foundation

Dental Assistance

Family Support Services

Crisis Services/ Family Domestic Violence

Family Support Services

Crisis Services/Sexual Assault

Guyon Saunders Resource Center

Community Day Room

PRPC/Area Agency on Aging

FoodNet

Refugee Services of Texas

Refugee and Survivors of Trafficking Support

The Salvation Army

Emergency Shelter Services



CONCLUSIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic had devastating effects on many communities in the United States.

Remarkably, Potter and Randall Counties have emerged out of the pandemic bigger and stronger in the number of residents and in economic stability.

► Population:

- The population in both Potter and Randall Counties has increased in 2020 despite losses due to COVID-19-related deaths and economic hardship. Potter County, which has been losing residents in the past few years, gained 2,462 residents in 2020, while Randall County gained 1,719 residents during the same year.
- At the same time, the population of both counties aged and became more diverse.

► Income:

- The economy of the Amarillo Metropolitan Area remained strong in 2020. The unemployment rate in the Amarillo Metropolitan Area was 2.7% in 2020, 36% lower than the state rate and 25% lower than the national rate.
- The cost of childcare in the Amarillo area was cheaper than the average Texas cost (\$622 vs \$725 for full-time care).
- The data on economic inequality is not available for the local counties, but the analysis of the national data suggests that economic inequality has been rapidly growing in the United States since the early 2000s. Preliminary evidence suggests that inequality increased even more during the pandemic due to the growing home values and stock prices for the wealthiest Americans.

► Education:

Unfortunately, in education, the performance outcomes suffered in the aftermath of the pandemic.

- K-12 performance outcomes deteriorated for all subjects, but especially so for math. However, the losses for the local school districts were not as substantial as for the state.
- The deteriorating effects were more pronounced for older grades: 8th graders experienced much greater losses in performance for both English and math than 3rd graders in both local ISDs and in Region 16.
- The deteriorating effects were greater in low-income neighborhood schools compared to middle-class and wealthy neighborhood schools: Amarillo ISD, where the proportion of economically disadvantaged students is greater, suffered more substantial losses in educational performance than the more affluent Canyon ISD.
- These trends were not exclusive to the Amarillo area, but rather consistent for the state of Texas and for the nation.
- High school graduation rates did not suffer during the pandemic but rather improved in Amarillo and Canyon ISDs, in Region 16, and in Texas.

In addition to education performance outcomes, the 2022 Community Status Report examined and compared patterns in enrollment rates in subsidized childcare for Potter and Randall Counties.

- ▶ The enrollment rates in subsidized childcare are higher in Potter County than in Randall County for children of all ages. The differences cannot be fully explained by the difference in the poverty rates and could potentially point to the greater availability and access to subsidized childcare for the low-income residents of Potter County compared to low-income residents of Randall County.

▶ **Health:**

For the health section, the 2022 Community Status Report zeroed in on mental health:

- ▶ The prevalence of mental illness has increased in 2022 all over the nation, including in Texas. The proportion of adults with serious mental illness in 2022 was 17.2%, which constitutes a 7.3% increase from the year before.
- ▶ Texas residents on average had better rates of mental health than California residents and similar rates of mental health to that of Florida residents.
- ▶ The prevalence of serious suicidal ideation increased alarmingly in 2022 in the nation (from 3.3% in 2021 to 4.6% in 2022) and moderately in Texas (from 3.7% in 2020 to 3.9% in 2022).
- ▶ Remarkably, both Potter and Randall Counties departed from the state and national trends in major ways. In both counties, the rates of death by suicide declined in 2021 (the 2022 data was not yet available). This was a big win for Randall County where the rate of death by suicide has been historically high.

▶ **Vulnerable Populations:**

- ▶ Economic conditions among impoverished people slightly improved in the nation and the state in 2021. The proportion of families who could not cover their basic expenses declined by 20.0% in the nation and by 23.8% in Texas in 2021 as did the proportion of adults and children who did not have enough to eat.
- ▶ The rates of child maltreatment fell in 2021 in Potter and Randall Counties, by 4.6% and 5.8% respectively. Unfortunately, both rates remained significantly higher than the state rate: 74.2 victims of child abuse or neglect per 1,000 children in Potter County and 41.1 in Randall County, compared to 34.6 in the state.
- ▶ Adolescent motherhood had been generally on the decline. There was a spike in adolescent motherhood in 2020 in Randall County and a slight increase in 2021 in Potter County, however. Potter County's rate of adolescent motherhood is still significantly higher than the state rate: 2.9% of adolescent mothers among all mothers in Potter County in 2021 vs. 1.6% in the state.
- ▶ The rate of family violence in 2020 (the most recent year for which data were available) in Potter County was 3.5 times higher than the average state rate. The incidence of family violence increased during the pandemic but, thankfully, only moderately. The rate of family violence in Randall County remained low.
- ▶ Texas resettled 2,118 refugees in 2022, more than any other state except California. However, the rate of resettlement in Texas per 100,000 population was not as high as one might expect. Smaller states, such as Kentucky, settled more refugees per 100,000 people than larger states. Kentucky resettled 4 times as many refugees per 100,000 population as Texas.

▶ **Community Strengths:**

To summarize, during the past year, the Amarillo community has grown and has further developed its economic prosperity. People, including refugees, seem to be drawn to Amarillo because of its flourishing economy, affordable cost of living (including the cost of childcare), and stable educational opportunities. However, the community can benefit from improving access to economic opportunity for historically marginalized groups of people as the overall economic inequality in the United States continues to rise. Overall, in the past two years, the community appears to be moving in the right direction, which is evident in improving mental health and child safety, reduction in the rate of death by suicide and declining (but unfortunately still elevated) rates of child abuse and neglect.

▶ **Community Challenges:**

Among community challenges, the most significant are the loss of learning in Grades K-12 during the pandemic, the elevated levels of child maltreatment in both counties, and the enormously high rate of family violence in Potter County.

FOOTNOTES

¹ **Texas Department of State Health Services (2022).** *Texas COVID-19 Data. Fatalities over Time by County.* <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/AdditionalData.aspx>, reported as of August 1st 2022.

² **Kuhfeld, M., Soland, J., and Lewis, K. (2022).** *Test Score Patterns Across Three COVID-19-impacted School Years.* (*EdWorkingPaper: 22-521*). Retrieved from Annenberg Institute at Brown University: <https://doi.org/10.26300/ga82-6v47>

³ **Fensterwald, J. (2022).** *Student math scores touch off 'five-alarm fire' in California.* <https://edsources.org/2022/student-math-scores-a-five-alarm-fire-in-california/669797>

⁴ **Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.** *2019 Poverty Guidelines.* <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines/prior-hhs-poverty-guidelines-federal-register-references/2019-poverty-guidelines>

⁵ **Center for Public Poverty Priorities.** *Family Budgets.* <http://familybudgets.org/>, calculated for a household with 2 adults and 2 children where the employer pays all of one adult's premium and half of the premium for the rest of the family, and the family has some savings for emergencies/rainy days. Data were retrieved on 09/05/2022.

⁶ **The Council on Foreign Relations (2022).** *The US Inequality Debate,* <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-inequality-debate>

⁷ **Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing and the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources at the University of Texas at Austin (2020).** *2020 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey.* <https://txicfw.socialwork.utexas.edu/2020-texas-child-care-market-rate-survey/>

⁸ *Calculated based on the daily care rates multiplied by 22 days per month. Daily care rates are available in the above Report and the accompanying Supplemental Report.*

⁹ *The author cautions the readers regarding the potential caveat of these calculations. A more accurate way to approach these calculations would be to calculate the percentage of the annual childcare cost based on the 2020 median income for families with children under 18. Unfortunately, such data were not available at the time of writing.*

¹⁰ **Mental Health America (2022).** *The State of Mental Health in America,* <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/state-mental-health-america>

¹¹ **United States Census Bureau (2022).** *New 2017-2021 American Community Survey Data Show Child Poverty Declined but Remained Higher Than Overall Rate,* <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2022/09/record-drop-in-child-poverty.html>

¹² **Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (2021).** *COVID Hardship Watch.* <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/tracking-the-covid-19-economys-effects-on-food-housing-and>

REFERENCES

- American Heart Association. (2017).** *Cardiovascular disease and diabetes.*
http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Conditions/More/Diabetes/WhyDiabetesMatters/Cardiovascular-Disease-Diabetes_UCM_313865_Article.jsp#.WcQe5xMrLVo
- Bromberg, M., & Theokas, C. (2016).** *Meandering toward Graduation: Transcript Outcomes of High School Graduates.* *Education Trust.*
- Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2017).** *Employment projections: Fastest growing occupations.*
Retrieved from https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_103.htm
- Carnevale, A.P., Strohl, J., Cheah, B., & Ridley, N. (2017).** *Good jobs that pay without a BA*
Retrieved from <https://goodjobsdata.org/wp-content/uploads/Good-Jobs-wo-BA.pdf>
- Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (2021).** *COVID Hardship Watch.*
<https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/tracking-the-covid-19-economys-effects-on-food-housing-and>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016).** *Suicide rates are rising across the U.S.*
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p0607-suicide-prevention.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.** *Suicide prevention program #BeThe1To*
<https://www.bethe1to.com/bethe1to-steps-evidence/>
- Cochran, D.B. (2017).** *United Way of Amarillo & Canyon 2017 Community Status Report.*
<https://www.unitedwayama.org/sites/unitedwayama.org/files/United-Way-Community-Status-Report-2017-final.pdf>
- Fensterwald, J. (2022).** *Student math scores touch off 'five-alarm fire' in California.*
<https://edsources.org/2022/student-math-scores-a-five-alarm-fire-in-california/669797>
- Geiser, S., & Santelices, M. V. (2007).** *Validity of high-school grades in predicting student success beyond the freshman year: High-school record vs. standardized tests as indicators of four-year college outcomes.*
- Center for Public Poverty Priorities.** *Family Budgets.*
<http://familybudgets.org/>
- Heckman, J., Hyeok Moon, S., Pinto, R., Savellyev, P., & Yavitz, A. (2010).** *A new cost-benefit and rate of return analysis for the Perry Preschool Program: A summary.*
Retrieved from http://jenni.uchicago.edu/papers/Heckman_Moon_etal_2010_NBER_wp16180.pdf
- Hipple, S.F. (2015).** *People Not in Labor Force: Why aren't they working?* *Bureau of Labor Statistics,*
<https://www.bls.gov/opub/btn/volume-4/people-who-are-not-in-the-labor-force-why-arent-they-working.htm>
- Institute of Medicine (2009).** *America's uninsured crisis: Consequences for health and health care.*
[http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/~media/Files/Report Files/2009/Americas-Uninsured-Crisis-Consequences-for-Health-and-Health-Care/Americas Uninsured Crisis 2009 Report Brief.pdf](http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/~/media/Files/Report%20Files/2009/Americas-Uninsured-Crisis-Consequences-for-Health-and-Health-Care/Americas%20Uninsured%20Crisis%202009%20Report%20Brief.pdf)
- International Baccalaureate.** *Assessment fees and services.*
<https://www.ibo.org/en/become-an-ib-school/fees-and-services/assessment-fees-and-services/>
- Judson ISD.** *AP vs. IB vs. Dual Credit Information for Secondary Choices.*
<https://www.judsonisd.org/district/GuidanceAndCounseling/documents/APvsIBforParentsNight.pdf>

- Kuhfeld, M., Soland, J., and Lewis, K. (2022).** *Test Score Patterns Across Three COVID-19-impacted School Years.* (EdWorkingPaper: 22-521). Retrieved from Annenberg Institute at Brown University: <https://doi.org/10.26300/ga82-6v47>
- Lesnick, J., Goerge, R. M., Smithgall, C., & Gwynn, J. (2010).** Reading on grade level in third grade: How it is related to high school performance and college enrollment. Retrieved from http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/Reading_on_Grade_Level_111710.pdf
- Mental Health America (2022).** *The State of Mental Health in America,* <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/state-mental-health-america>
- National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships.** What is concurrent enrollment? <http://www.nacep.org/about-nacep/what-is-concurrent-enrollment/>
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.** *2019 Poverty Guidelines.* <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines/prior-hhs-poverty-guidelines-federal-register-references/2019-poverty-guidelines>
- Page, A. S., Cooper, A. R., Griew, P., & Jago, R. (2010).** *Children's screen viewing is related to psychological difficulties irrespective of physical activity.* *Pediatrics, 126(5), 1011-1017*
- Pharris-Ciurej, N., Hirschman, C., & Willhoft, J. (2012).** *The 9th grade shock and the high school dropout crisis.* *Social science research, 41(3), 709-730.* <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3461187/>
- Raikes, H., Alexander Pan, B., Luze, G., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., Brooks-Gunn, J., Constantine, J., ... & Rodriguez, E. T. (2006).** *Mother-child book reading in low-income families: Correlates and outcomes during the first three years of life.* *Child development, 77(4), 924-953.*
- Shikany, J. M., Safford, M. M., Newby, P. K., Durant, R. W., Brown, T. M., & Judd, S. E. (2015).** Southern dietary pattern is associated with hazard of acute coronary heart disease in the Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) Study. *Circulation, 132(9), 804–814.* doi:10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.114.014421
- Sola, K. (2017).** *Here are the 20 fastest growing jobs in America.* Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/katiesola/2016/04/12/here-are-the-20-fastest-growing-jobs-in-america/#fc149503f87f>
- Tarrant County College.** Success Within Reach. How does dual credit compare with advanced placement? <http://www.tccd.edu/academics/high-school-programs/dual-credit/is-dual-credit-right-for-you/dual-credit-vs-ap/>
- Texas Department of State Health Services (2022).** *Texas COVID-19 Data. Fatalities over Time by County.* <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/AdditionalData.aspx>, reported as of August 1st 2022.
- Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing and the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources at the University of Texas at Austin (2020).** *2020 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey.* <https://txicfw.socialwork.utexas.edu/2020-texas-child-care-market-rate-survey/>
- The Council on Foreign Relations (2022).** *The US Inequality Debate,* <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-inequality-debate>
- United States Census Bureau (2018).** Historical poverty thresholds. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>



**United Way
of Amarillo & Canyon**

2207 Line Avenue
Amarillo, Texas 79106
(806) 376.6359

www.unitedwayama.org