

COMMUNITY STATUS REPORT 2019



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If you ask anyone who lives in Amarillo or Canyon why they love where they live, you'll almost always hear "it's because of the people" as one of the top answers.

Living in a remote area of the Great Plains, we've had to depend on one another throughout our history, and the bonds created from this dependence are strong. This is evident by the large numbers of residents in Amarillo and Canyon who volunteer their time and give of their treasure to help their neighbors in times of need.

At the United Way of Amarillo & Canyon, our mission is to ensure these community efforts are focused and effective, and that together, we can attack the root causes of problems that prevent so many of our neighbors from thriving. To make this happen, we must be armed with facts and willing to share our findings, even

when they make us uncomfortable. Shaping the future of Amarillo and Canyon is too important of a task to rush in without fully understanding what stands in the way of our success.

This Community Status Report takes the guesswork out of our planning efforts. It is a summary of volumes of data we have compiled about the health of our communities that highlights the many things we have done right. You will also find information about areas where our efforts are beginning to make a difference. But most importantly, we take a hard look at the challenges that still need to be met.

By bringing these challenges to light in an objective manner that is backed by solid research and analysis, we can not only do more for those in need but help our community advocates do their jobs even better. This is your United Way at its best and your community at its best – optimizing our resources to grow our greatest asset, the people of Amarillo and Canyon.

Sincerely,

David Hudson

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David T. Hudson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Potter and Randall Counties are the representations of two competing and converging realities occurring in the United States. Potter County is a “majority minority” county with a younger, poorer population that faces many challenges in the areas of health, education, and general wellbeing. Randall County is a predominantly White affluent county with strong educational attainment that faces fewer well-being challenges. However, the two counties are becoming more alike, converging in most areas of community life.

Common Strengths and Challenges

Both counties boast of strong K-12 educational outcomes, often outperforming the region and the state on many performance measures. Both counties have a resilient economy with low unemployment and either high or growing median income. The local economy generates many job opportunities that pay a living wage, even for people without advanced degrees. The economy proved itself resilient even with a growing labor force. As a result, the poverty rate in Potter County in 2017 dropped to a decade-low level of 17.5%, while the poverty rate in Randall County remains below the state average at 8.7%.

The most important common challenges are high rates of uninsured, high (or growing) rates of chronic illness (heart disease, cancer, and diabetes), and elevated (or growing) rates of STIs. Child abuse and neglect remain high in both counties, despite their improving economic conditions. Homelessness is on the rise in the Amarillo Metropolitan Area, especially unsheltered homelessness.

Unique Challenges

Potter County’s unique challenges are an elevated rate of school suspension in Amarillo ISD, high STIs rates, significant (albeit shrinking) levels of poverty, and distressingly high rates of child abuse, child neglect, and intimate partner violence.

Randall County faces a few, yet significant, unique challenges in the forms of a high and growing poverty rate among the elderly and a consistently high and growing rate of suicide.

Spotlight on Homelessness

Homelessness was highlighted in the 2019 Community Status Report as a special issue. Successful strategies against homelessness have been carried out in Abilene and Fort Worth, TX. Abilene relocated homeless individuals from an outdoor encampment to a housing facility in 100 days by finding safe dwelling arrangements. Fort Worth hired sheltered homeless individuals and paid them fair wages to clean up city streets. Another successful intervention against homelessness has been developed by the 3e Restoration initiative. It addresses social isolation by providing each homeless individual with a circle of support friends, who help the homeless find housing, access physical and mental health services, and gain employment. All three interventions focus on restoring human dignity and hope as a catalyst for long-term independent living.

MISSION STATEMENT



**UNITING COMMUNITY
IDEAS AND RESOURCES
TO FIGHT POVERTY AND
CREATE OPPORTUNITY
FOR ALL**








INTRODUCTION

United Way of Amarillo & Canyon empowers local community organizations to deliver services to the residents of Potter and Randall Counties in the areas of education, income, and health, and meet their basic needs.

The 2019 Community Status Report is an annual publication commissioned by the United Way of Amarillo & Canyon, and delivered by Evaluation Essentials, to provide local, state, and national data on the most important community issues and create an analytical framework for understanding them. The topics of the report cover the areas of education, income, and health and highlight important issues encountered by vulnerable populations of Potter and Randall Counties. The report begins with an overview of the demographic trends in the community, which have a strong influence on community outcomes, and then proceeds to address each of the areas of interest: education, income, health, and vulnerable populations.

This report is based on data for the five most recent years available. Most of the trends reflect data from 2013 to 2017, yet some of the trends represent data collected over a slightly different time frame. When possible, data for the United States, Texas, and Lubbock County are included for comparison.

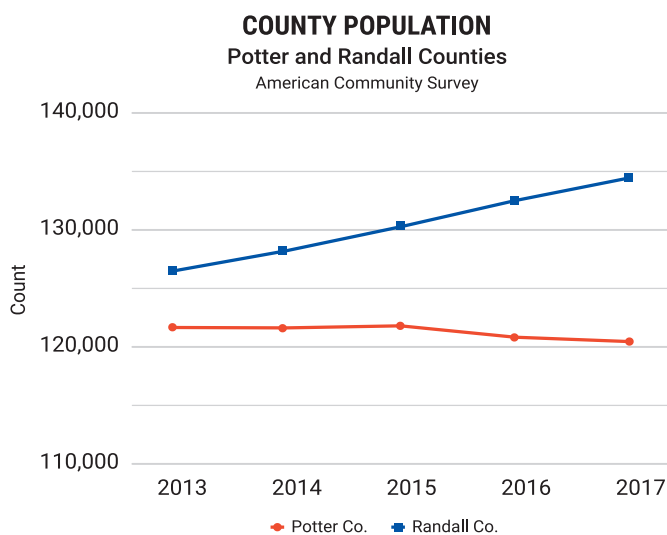
The 2019 Community Status Report brings in new insightful local data:

-  **New data on economically disadvantaged students in Texas, Region 16, Amarillo ISD, and Canyon ISD**
-  **New data on school suspensions in Texas, Region 16, Amarillo ISD, and Canyon ISD**
-  **New College, Career, and Military Readiness indicators from Texas Education Agency for Texas, Region 16, Amarillo ISD, and Canyon ISD**
-  **New data on jobs that require only a high school diploma or an associate degree and pay over \$50,000 in Amarillo**
-  **New data on substance use and mental illness among adults and children for Texas, Region 1 (Amarillo, Canyon, and Lubbock), Region 4 (Longview and Paris), and Region 9 (Midland and Odessa)**
-  **New data on homelessness in Amarillo, Abilene, and Texas**
-  **New data on birth to adolescence and unmarried mothers in Texas, Lubbock County, Potter County, and Randall County**

DEMOGRAPHICS

Like people, communities experience constant social changes. Some of these changes are positive and welcomed; others raise apprehension and are met with resistance. More often than not, at the core of both positive and negative changes lie demographic trends that occur in the community. The most basic demographic trends include the number, the age distribution, and the racial composition of community residents. Understanding these trends can help community leaders comprehend the context surrounding the social dynamics they aspire to influence.

The first notable trend of the past decade in the Amarillo and Canyon communities is the steady increase in the number of residents in Randall County. Since 2008, the population of Randall County has increased at an average rate of 2% per year. From 2016 to 2017, the population of Randall County grew by 1.5%, reaching 134,442 residents. This number is 11.6% higher than the 120,458 population of Potter County. The substantial difference took place over 7 years, since 2010, when the populations of both counties were the same.



The second important trend of the past decade is the slow but consistent aging of the population in Randall County. The proportion of residents 65 years or older grew by 5.8% from 2016 to 2017, increasing the proportion of that population in Randall County from 13.9%

to 14.7%. In comparison, the proportion of elderly residents in Randall County in 2008 was only 10.3%. This constitutes a 42.7% increase in the proportion of the elderly over a span of 9 years. In Potter County, the proportion of residents 65 years or older was 11.6% in 2017, 4.9% lower than in 2016. The proportion of elderly in the county decreased by 1.6% from 2008 to 2017.

Since 2008, the population of Randall County increased at an average rate of 2% per year, reaching 134,442 residents in 2017.

The proportion of adults of working age (18–64 years of age) in Potter County in 2017 was 60.9%, a 1.0% increase from the prior year. In Randall County, the proportion of this same demographic was slightly larger, 61.5%, although it decreased by 0.6% compared to that of 2016. The proportion of children in Potter County was 27.4% in 2017, a 0.4% decrease from the previous year. In Randall County, the proportion of children was 23.9% in 2017, a 1.2% decrease from 2016. With the aging of the population of Randall County, the number of elderly is likely to surpass the number of children in the near future.

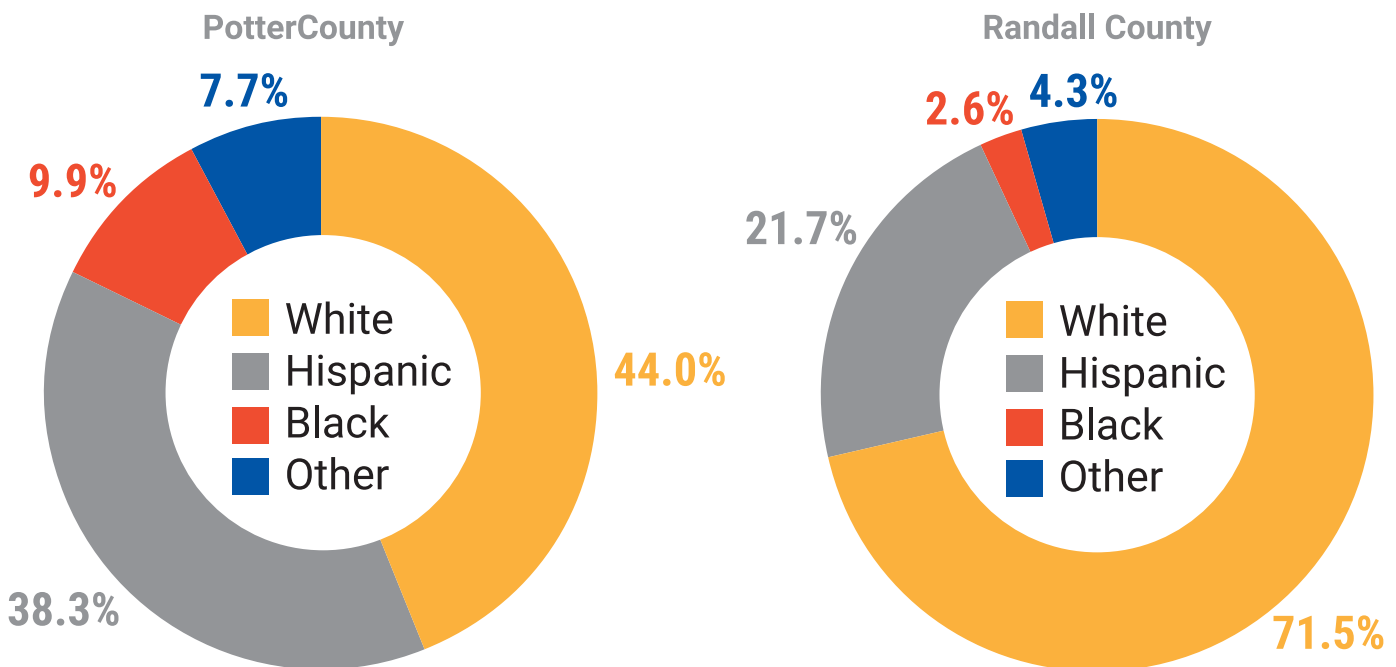
The third persistent trend in the Amarillo and Canyon communities has been the expansion in the number of minorities. In Potter County, where minority residents have comprised a majority of the population since 2010, the 2017 changes were more subtle. In 2017, 56.0% of the population was non-White. The proportion of Hispanic residents was 38.3%, only a 1.1% increase from 2016. The proportion of Black residents stayed the same as that in 2016, 9.9%. The fastest growing minority population was comprised of people of Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, and Middle Eastern descent, labeled as “Other” in this report. Their combined proportion in the total population of Potter County grew by 5.5% in 2017, reaching 7.7% of the total county population.

In Randall County, minorities comprised 28.5% of the population in 2017, which represented a 2.9% increase from the prior year. The proportion of Hispanic residents was 21.7%, a 3.3% increase from 2016. The proportion of Black residents was 2.6%, a 3.7% decline from 2016. Similar to Potter County, the most substan-

tial growth occurred among the residents of Asian, Indian American, Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern descent. The collective representation of these minorities in the total population of Randall County increased by 7.5% between 2016 and 2017 and reached 4.3% of the total population.

RACIAL COMPOSITION IN 2017

American Community Survey



EDUCATION

Education is a vital part of community health. Beginning with preschool, education builds a firm foundation for success and happiness in adulthood. Research shows that a good education not only has a positive impact on an individual's career but also improves health, strengthens relationships, and reduces criminal activity (Heckman et al., 2010).

Preschool

The data on preschool enrollment of 3- and 4-year-olds is not routinely collected by any state or federal agency. The only consistent source of county-level data on preschool enrollment is the KIDS COUNT report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT reports data

from publicly subsidized early childhood education programs, which serve predominantly low-income families. The data, therefore, does not reflect the overall enrollment among families of all income tiers. Unfortunately, since 2018, KIDS COUNT has not released any new data on preschool enrollment among 3- and 4-year-olds. Table 1 below contains the most recent data available.

Pre-School Enrollment for Children Ages 3 and 4 Years				
	Texas	Lubbock	Potter	Randall
2013 - 2014	29.7%	24.9%	53.1%	4.6%
2014 - 2015	28.2%	24.0%	49.7%	4.2%
2015 - 2016	28.2%	22.1%	51.0%	4.1%

Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center from the Annie E. Casey Foundation

K-12 Performance

Between 2014 and 2016, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) introduced a new measure of academic success called the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness—the STAAR tests. The test is first administered in third grade and then, again, every year until eighth grade.

Grade 3 STAAR Reading and Math

Research demonstrates that third grade is a critical time in a student’s life, as the reading level attained in the third grade predicts subsequent school success (Lesnick et al., 2010). Predictably, Canyon ISD’s third graders had the highest reading performance (86.0%), followed by their peers in Amarillo ISD (81.0%), Region 16 (80.0%), and the state (77.0%). Reading performance improved in the 2017–2018 school year across the board in Texas, Region 16, Amarillo ISD, and Canyon ISD. In Texas, reading performance grew by 5.5%, from 73.0% to 77.0%. In Region 16, it grew even more, by 8.1%, from 74.0% to 80.0%. In Amarillo

ISD and Canyon ISD, reading performance increased by 6.6% and 4.9%, respectively.

Reading performance improved in the 2017–2018 school year in Texas, Region 16, and in Amarillo and Canyon ISDs.

Third-grade math performance has also generally improved in the 2017–2018 school year, except in Amarillo ISD. In Texas and Region 16 it grew by 1.3%. In Canyon ISD, the improvement was even greater: 4.7% growth between the 2016–2017 and the 2017–2018 school years, from 86.0% to 90.0%. By contrast, in Amarillo ISD third graders in the 2017–2018 school year performed worse on math than their peers from the year before. Their performance was represented by an 81.0% passing rate, which was 2.4% lower than the 83.0% passing rate achieved in 2016–2017. Despite the decline, Amarillo ISD still had higher math performance than that reported in Texas (78.0%) and in Region 16 (80.0%).

STAAR Performance Among Students in Grades 3 and 8					
	Year	Texas	Region 16	Amarillo ISD	Canyon ISD
3rd Grade Reading	2016-2017	73.0%	74.0%	76.0%	82.0%
	2017-2018	77.0%	80.0%	81.0%	86.0%
3rd Grade Math	2016-2017	77.0%	79.0%	83.0%	86.0%
	2017-2018	78.0%	80.0%	81.0%	90.0%
8th Grade ELA*	2016-2017	86.0%	86.0%	85.0%	89.0%
	2017-2018	85.0%	86.0%	84.0%	88.0%
8th Grade Math	2016-2017	85.0%	88.0%	92.0%	92.0%
	2017-2018	90.0%	94.0%	95.0%	90.0%

*ELA - English Language Arts

Source: Texas Academic Performance Report 2017-2018, Texas Education Agency

Grade 8 STAAR English Language Arts and Math

STAAR performance scores of eighth graders are important indicators of educational achievement in the district. First, performance in the eighth grade demonstrates the degree to which the students are ready for high school. Second, eighth-grade performance mea-

sures include students who will subsequently drop out of school. Research shows that the majority of students who drop out of school do so in the ninth grade¹. Therefore, eighth-grade performance measures deliver a more accurate representation of educational achievement of the entire cohort of students, including future dropouts.

In the 2017–2018 school year, performance in English Language Arts (ELA) was the highest in Canyon ISD (88.0%), followed by Region 16 (86.0%), the state (85.0%), and finally by Amarillo ISD (84.0%). Compared to that of the previous 2016–2017 school year, ELA performance fell by roughly 1% in Texas, Amarillo ISD, and Canyon ISD, and remained the same in Region 16.

In math the passing rate for the 2017–2018 school year for eighth-graders was 95.0% in Amarillo ISD, 94.0% in Region 16, and 90.0% in Canyon ISD and the state. Compared to that of the previous year, eighth-grade math performance improved in Region 16 by 6.8%, in Texas by 5.9%, and in Amarillo ISD by 3.3%. In Canyon ISD, on the other hand, math performance fell by 2.2%. In the 2017–2018 school year, Amarillo ISD eighth graders actually outperformed their Canyon ISD peers by 5.6%, with passing rates of 95.0% and 90.0%, respectively. Unfortunately, the typically high-performing Canyon ISD scored worse in math than Region 16 (at 94.0%) and at the same level as the state (at 90.0%).

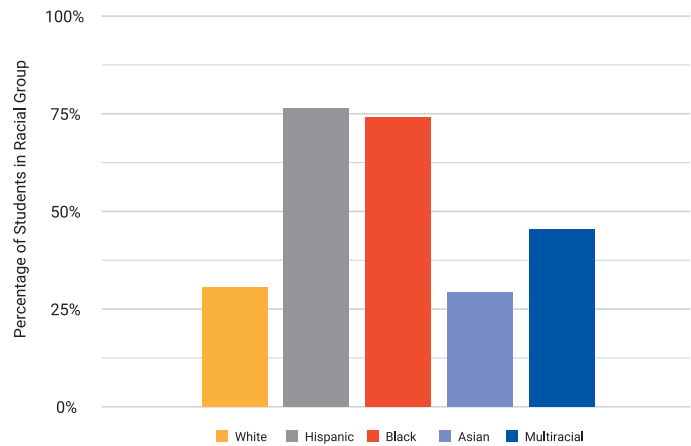
Economically Disadvantaged Students

According to TEA, students are considered “economically disadvantaged” if they qualify for free or reduced school lunches under the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program². Therefore, the proportions of economically disadvantaged students in each district are expected to be closely related to the poverty rate in the area. Predictably, among the four comparison areas, Amarillo ISD had the highest proportion of economically disadvantaged students, 68.4% in the 2017–2018 school year, and Canyon ISD had the lowest, 29.3%. The proportion of economically disadvantaged students in Region 16 was 59.3% and in Texas it was 58.8%. The proportion of economically disadvantaged students in Amarillo ISD was 133.4% greater than that in Canyon ISD in the 2017–2018 academic year. Likewise, the childhood poverty rate in Potter County was 190.1% greater than that in Randall County.

The data on the distribution of economically disadvantaged students by race was only available for the state

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS BY RACE

Texas, 2018
Texas Education Agency



of Texas and not for Region 16 or the two school districts³. For the state of Texas, this indicator was calculated as the proportion of economically disadvantaged students of a certain race among all students of that race during a particular school year. Hispanic and African American students had the largest proportions of economically disadvantaged children in the 2018–2019 school year, 76.3% and 74.0% respectively. Of the other racial groups, 45.5% of Multiracial students, 30.7% of White students, and 29.3% of Asian students were reported as economically disadvantaged in Texas in the 2018–2019 school year.

Economically Disadvantaged Students				
Year	Texas	Region 16	Amarillo ISD	Canyon ISD
2014	60.2%	59.0%	67.0%	28.5%
2015	58.8%	58.6%	67.3%	26.3%
2016	59.0%	59.4%	67.7%	27.6%
2017	59.0%	59.7%	68.1%	30.8%
2018	58.8%	59.3%	68.4%	29.3%

Disciplinary Actions in Schools

In Amarillo ISD in the 2018–2019 school year, 13.1% of students were suspended, compared to 10.6% in Texas and 10.5% in Region 16. When broken down by suspension type, 11.3% of all students spent time in in-school suspension, 6.5% were placed in out-of-school suspension, and 2.1% were placed into a Discretionary Alternative Education Program (DAEP). In Canyon ISD in the same school year, a total of 9.0%

of all students were suspended. When considered by suspension type, 8.5% of all students were disciplined with inschool suspension, 1.3% were assigned out-of-school suspension, and 1.7% were placed into a DAEP.

Students Suspended in the 2018-2019 School Year				
	Texas	Region 16	Amarillo ISD	Canyon ISD
Total number of students	5 574 620	88 274	34 452	10 874
Number of suspended students	591 447	9 299	4 521	975
Percent of suspended students	10.6%	10.5%	13.1%	9.0%

In Amarillo ISD in the 2018–2019 school year, 11.3% of students spent some time in in-school suspension, 6.5% were placed in out-of-school suspension, and 2.1% were placed into a Discretionary Alternative Education Program (DAEP). In Canyon ISD in the same school year, 8.5% of students were disciplined with in-school suspension, 1.3% were assigned out-of-school suspension, and 1.7% were placed into a DAEP.

In and Out-of-School Suspensions by Race in Amarillo and Canyon ISDs 2017-2018				
	In-School Suspensions		Out-of-School Suspensions	
	Amarillo ISD	Canyon ISD	Amarillo ISD	Canyon ISD
All Students	11.3%	8.5%	6.5%	1.3%
White	8.8%	8.5%	4.4%	1.2%
Black Or African American	22.0%	11.5%	13.3%	3.5%
Hispanic/Latino	11.2%	9.8%	6.7%	1.2%
Other*	8.8%	4.3%	N/A	N/A

Note: *Other: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, two or more races; Not reported for out-of-school suspensions

Source: Discipline Report, Texas Education Agency

Students of color were suspended at disproportionately higher rates in both Amarillo and Canyon ISDs. African American students were the most suspended group for all suspension types. For example, 22.0% of African American students were assigned in-school suspension, whereas only 8.8% of White students received in-school suspension in Amarillo ISD in the 2018–2019 school year. In Canyon ISD, 11.5% of African American

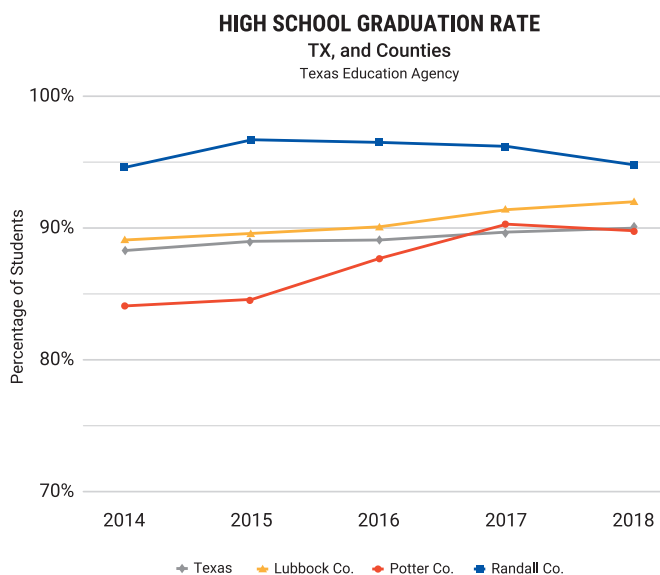
In Amarillo ISD 22.0% of African American students vs. 8.8% of White students were assigned in-school suspension.

students received in-school suspension, whereas 8.5% of White students were assigned in-school suspension in the same year. After African American students,

Hispanic students were the second most suspended racial group in both ISDs of all suspension types. In Amarillo ISD, 11.2% of Hispanic students received in-school suspensions; however, only 8.8% of White students were assigned the same suspension. In Canyon ISD, the in-school suspension rates for Hispanic and White students were 9.8% and 8.5%, respectively. Research shows that African American students are suspended from school at exceptionally higher rates than the rates of students of other races, without committing offenses at higher rates. A 2015 study conducted by the William T. Grant Foundation found that school characteristics, including the principal's perspective on discipline, could be stronger predictors of suspension than the individual students' characteristics⁴.

High School Graduation

Graduation from high school is a major developmental milestone towards adulthood. In the 2017–2018 school year, Potter County's graduation rate was 89.8%, which was 0.6% lower than the rate of the previous year. The graduation rate of Randall County was 94.8%, a 1.5% drop from the previous year.



In the neighboring Lubbock County, the graduation rate was 92.0%, while the state of Texas on average reported a 90.0% graduation rate. Over the past several years, the graduation gap between Potter and Randall Counties has narrowed. This narrowing is attributed to both an increase in the graduation rate in Potter County and a decrease in the graduation rate in Ran-

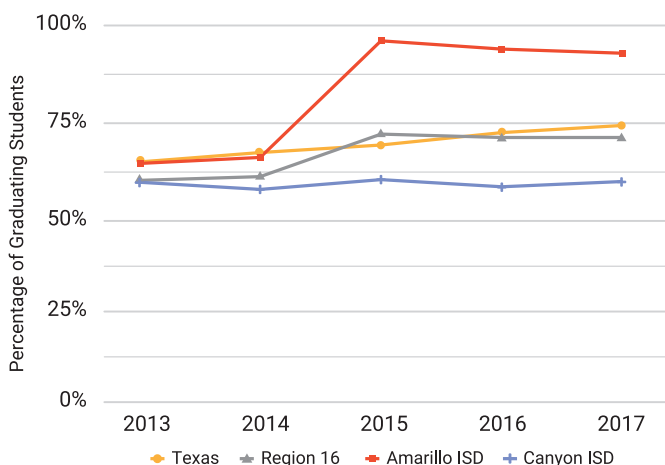
dall County. Even though Potter County’s rate declined slightly in the 2017–2018 school year, the gap in graduation rate between the two counties continued to shrink. It declined from a 6.1% in the 2016–2017 school year to a 5.3% in the 2017–2018 school year. Overall high school graduation rates in both counties remained promising in the 2017–2018 school year with Potter County’s rate approaching the state average graduation rate of 90.0% and Randall County’s rate exceeding it.

SAT/ACT Participation

The SAT/ACT participation rate approximates the proportion of students in their final year of high school who intend to pursue college. Since 2013, Amarillo ISD has covered the cost of college entrance exams for all students who took them. This policy has driven up the SAT/ACT participation rate in Amarillo ISD far above that of Canyon ISD, Region 16, and the state. In the 2016–2017 school year, the latest year for which these data were available, the SAT/ACT participation rate in Amarillo ISD was 92.7%, a stark contrast to 73.5% in the state, 70.3% in Region 16, and only 58.6% in Canyon ISD. Compared to those of the year before, the 2016–2017 SAT/ACT participation rate declined by 1.2% in Amarillo ISD and increased by 2.4% in Canyon ISD. Despite these converging trends, the participation gap between Amarillo ISD and Canyon ISD remained large, 58.2%.

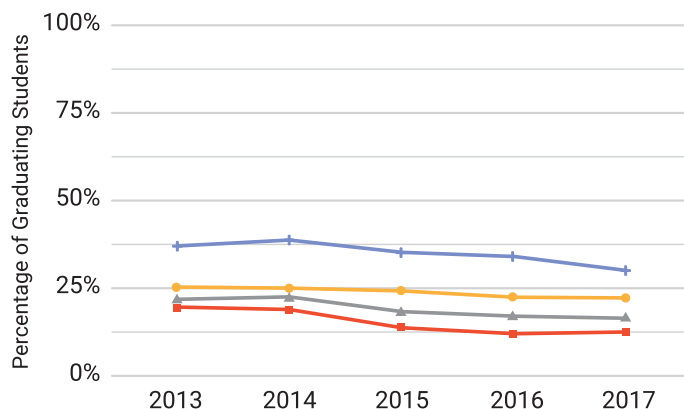
SAT/ACT PARTICIPATION AMONG GRADE 12 STUDENTS

TX, Region 16, Amarillo ISD, and Canyon ISD
Texas Education Agency



GRADUATES WHO SCORED AT OR ABOVE CRITERIA ON SAT/ACT

TX, Region 16, Amarillo ISD, and Canyon ISD
Texas Education Agency



SAT/ACT Performance

In Amarillo ISD in the 2016–2017 school year, 12.6% of the students who took either the SAT or the ACT passed at least one of the college entrance exams. The passing rates for the 2016–2017 school year for these exams were set by TEA at 1180 combined score on the evidence-based reading and writing and mathematics sections on the SAT and at 24 for the composite score on the ACT.

In the 2016–2017 academic year, 11.7% of high school seniors in Amarillo ISD and 17.6% in Canyon ISD passed at least one of the college entrance exams.

In Canyon ISD, 30.1% of students who took at least one of the exams passed at least one of the exams. Passing rates in Region 16 and the state of Texas were 16.5% and 22.3%, respectively. The passing rate declined in 2016–2017 school year by 0.9% in Texas, by 3.5% in Region 16, and by 11.7% in Canyon ISD, while it improved by 4.1% in Amarillo ISD.

Participation and performance on the SAT/ACT are usually inversely related: high participation rates are associated with low performance and vice versa. When an exam is free and thus readily accessible, all students could take it, regardless of ability or level of preparation. When a larger pool of students takes the test, there is likely to be a larger variation in academic ability among

them. When the student (or parent) must bear the cost of the exam, participation rates are smaller, and the pool of students tends to be academically stronger.

This pattern was relevant for Amarillo ISD and Canyon ISD in the 2016–2017 school year: Amarillo ISD had high participation and low performance, and Canyon ISD had comparatively lower participation and higher performance.

The targeted outcome is to maximize the proportion of high school seniors who score at or above the criteria on the SAT/ACT. The criteria score for the SAT is 1180, and that for the ACT is 24. For the 2016–2017 academic year, this proportion of seniors who met or exceeded the criteria was 11.7% for Amarillo ISD and 17.6% for Canyon ISD. Compared to those of the year before, these constitute a 3.5% increase for Amarillo ISD and a 9.7% decline for Canyon ISD.

Postsecondary Readiness

In the 2017–2018 school year, TEA redesigned all postsecondary readiness indicators in the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). The newly redesigned indicators reflect greater emphasis on completion rather than participation and are, therefore, considerably more accurate in describing postsecondary readiness than the 2016–2017 indicators were. The new indicators also incorporate previously overlooked aspects of postsecondary readiness, including associate degrees, industry certifications, and military service. As of 2019, the new readiness indicators were only available for high school graduates of the 2016–2017 school year.

College readiness is defined by TEA as any of the following:

- passing the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) criteria in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math, or passing SAT/ACT at or above criteria, or successfully completing college prep courses in ELA and Math; or
- passing the Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate (AP/IB) requirements for college

readiness. This requirement was increased in the 2017–2018 TAPR from 2 to 3 courses for AP and from 2 to 4 courses for IB; or

- earning 3 dual course credits (as compared to the previous requirement of 2 dual course credits); or
- earning an associate degree (new requirement).

Career readiness indicators have been redesigned to include any of the following:

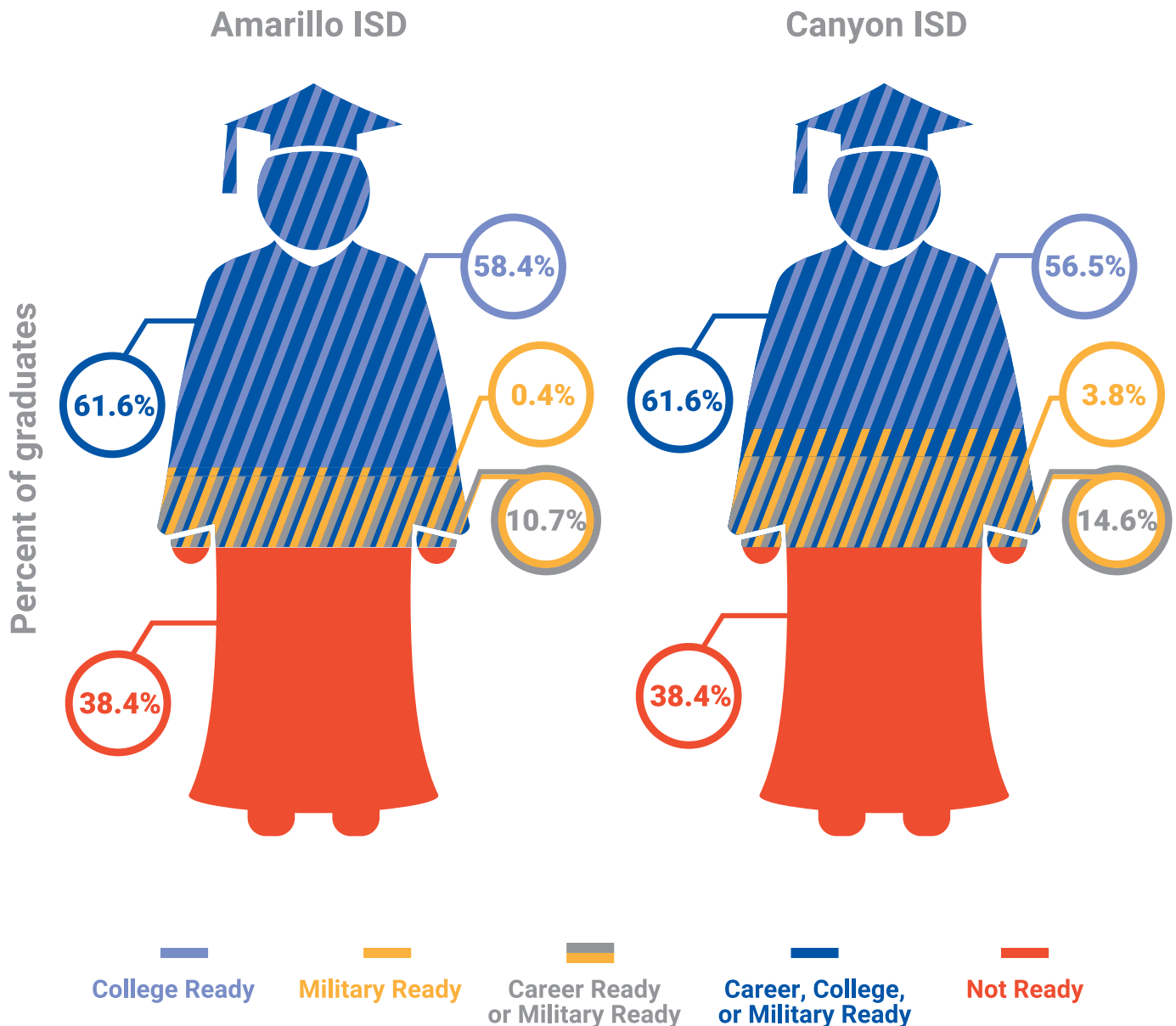
- an industry-based certification (new requirement); or
- a completion of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and a Workforce Readiness program (new requirement). These programs are designed for special education students and require them to demonstrate “self-employment with self-help skills to maintain employment” or “mastery of specific employability and self-help skills that do not require public school services”⁵; or
- a completion of a coherent Career and Technical Education (CTE) sequence coursework aligned with an industry-based certification. This new requirement is more rigorous than the 2016–2017 requirement to be enrolled in at least one CTE course.



In addition to College Readiness and Career Readiness, the 2017–2018 TAPR introduced Military Readiness. The report defined Military Readiness as enlistment in the U.S. Armed Forces.

College Readiness, Career Readiness, and Military Readiness are not mutually exclusive. A graduate

POSTSECONDARY READINESS



could be ready for one, two, or all three of the postsecondary paths. The only exclusive category in the postsecondary readiness section of this report is that of “Not Ready.” Not-ready refers to graduates who have not met any of the criteria for postsecondary readiness (college, career, or military) presented above. The infographic below illustrates the proportions of 2016–2017 graduates who were College Ready, Career Ready, or Military Ready in Amarillo and Canyon ISDs.

Overall, 61.6% of the graduates from both Amarillo and Canyon ISDs were ready for at least one of the postsecondary paths: College, Career, or the Military. Conversely, 38.4% of Amarillo and Canyon ISD graduates in the 2016–2017 school year were not ready for any of the postsecondary paths. In the larger population, the percentage of young adults not ready for life after high school could actually be 1% to 3% higher, because students who had dropped out of school before graduation were not included in the measures

of postsecondary readiness. Even though the proportions of not-ready graduates in Amarillo and Canyon ISDs appeared to be quite high, with over one third of young adults not ready for any of the postsecondary paths, the 2016-2017 graduates in the two ISDs appeared to be better prepared for life after high school than the graduates in Region 16 and the state of Texas. In Region 16, 42.4% of graduates were not ready for any of the postsecondary paths, and in the state the proportion was even higher: an alarmingly 45.8% were considered not ready for either college, career, or the military. With the 2.0% dropout rate, nearly half of the young adults of graduating age in the 2016–2017 school year in Texas were not ready for postsecondary life.

In Amarillo and Canyon ISDs 38.4% of graduates were not ready for postsecondary life compared to 42.4% in Region 16 and 45.8% in Texas.

When broken down by career path, 58.4% of Amarillo ISD graduates of 2017 were considered ready for college, despite only 11.7% of them passing at least one of the college entrance exams. This discrepancy resulted from the broad definition of “college readiness” espoused by TEA. Another 0.4% of graduates were considered ready for the military, and 10.7% were considered ready for both a career and the military. Unfortunately, TAPR did not report career readiness as a free-standing indicator, making it impossible to determine how many Texas graduates of 2017 were only ready for a career. There was a 6.0% overlap of the three postsecondary paths, indicating that 6.0% of Amarillo ISD graduates of 2017 were ready for more than one.

In Canyon ISD in 2017, 56.5% of graduates were considered “college ready” according to TEA’s broad definition of “college readiness”, even though only 17.6% of them passed at least one of the college entrance exams.

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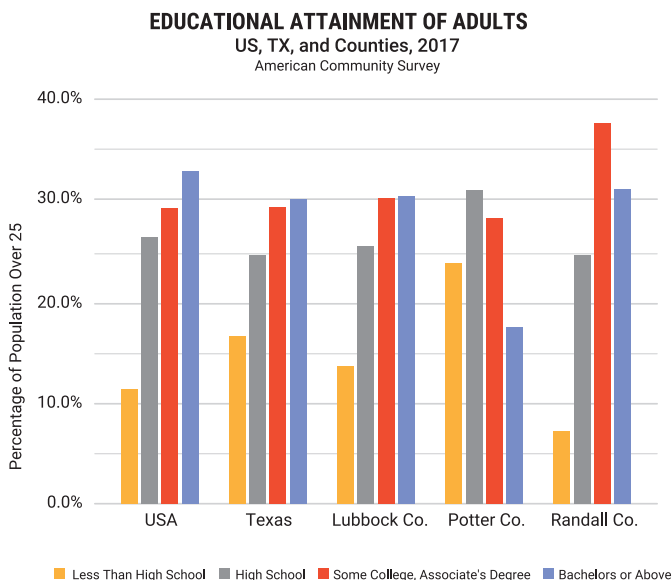
exams. Another 3.8% were ready for the military, and 14.6% were ready for a career or the military. Based on these numbers, high school seniors of Canyon ISD, in the 2016–2017 academic year, appeared to have a stronger preference for the military or a career and a weaker preference for college than did Amarillo ISD students. The degree of overlap, in Canyon ISD, of the three postsecondary readiness categories was 9.5%, suggesting that 9.5% of 2017 graduates were ready for more than one path.

Educational Attainment

The educational attainment indicator reflects the highest level of education attained by the adult population (aged 25 years or older) of the county. Historically, educational attainment in Potter County has been lower than that in the neighboring Lubbock and Randall Counties, and lower than that in Texas, overall. In 2017, 23.9% of Potter County’s adult residents did not have a high school diploma, compared to 16.1% in Texas, 13.6% in Lubbock County, 11.8% in the United States, and 6.8% in Randall County. Over time, the proportion of adults without a high school diploma increased only slightly, by 0.4% from 2016 to 2017. Over the same time period, the proportion of adults with a high school diploma increased from 30.6% to 31.0%, while the proportion of adults with an associate degree or some college dropped from 29.9% to 27.8%. The greatest positive change in educational attainment occurred in Potter County among adults with a bachelor’s degree or higher: the proportion of adult residents who had attained a bachelor’s degree or higher increased by 10.2% (from 15.7% in 2016 to 17.3% in 2017).

Educational attainment among the residents of Randall County remained superior to that of the adults of the neighboring counties and the state and similar to that of the nation. In 2017, in addition to having a low proportion of adults without a high school diploma (only 6.8%), Randall County had a high proportion of adults with an associate degree or some college (37.1%). The county also had a substantial proportion of adults with a bachelor’s degree or higher. Among the adult population of Randall County, 31.2% had a bachelor’s degree

or higher compared to 17.3% in Potter County, 30.0% in Texas, 30.3% in Lubbock County, and 32.4% in the United States.



INCOME

Economic well-being is one of the foundational components of community health. Economic well-being can be measured in various ways, and in the current Community Status report, it is gauged by earning potential, annual earnings, economic distribution, employment, and labor market participation.

In 2017, the national poverty threshold in the Amarillo area for a family of four was \$24,858 and the cost of living was \$32,878.

The Poverty Threshold and The Cost of Living

The earnings and income indicators are better understood when compared to two important economic benchmarks: the national poverty threshold and the cost of living in the Amarillo area. Both of these indicators vary by family size. Considering that the most common family structure in the Amarillo area is a family of two adults and two children, the report uses this exact family type to determine the poverty thresh-

old and the cost of living. In 2017, the national poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children under the age of 18 was \$24,858⁶, and the cost of living in the Amarillo area for the same type of family was \$32,878⁷.

Earnings by Educational Attainment

In the past 20 years, the U.S. economy has transitioned from a manufacturing economy to a “knowledge economy”. A knowledge economy is fueled by technological and scientific innovation and heavily dependent upon intellectual capital, a highly skilled labor force capable of responding to new technological demands. Workers in a knowledge economy are expected to be educated and to continue their education, both on the job and in the classroom, throughout their professional careers. Consequently, in the context of a knowledge economy, education is the key component to building a capable labor force in the local community.

Depending on the structure of the local economy, certain types of education can yield greater financial rewards and a greater demand for labor than others. Previous community status reports showed that the Amarillo economy rewarded basic postsecondary education, such as associate degrees, and also generated demands for certain college and professional degrees, predominantly in engineering and health care. Individuals without education, on the other hand, struggled to succeed in the local economy.



Earnings Without a High School Diploma

The average earnings for households without a high school diploma in 2017 were \$27,037 in Potter Coun-

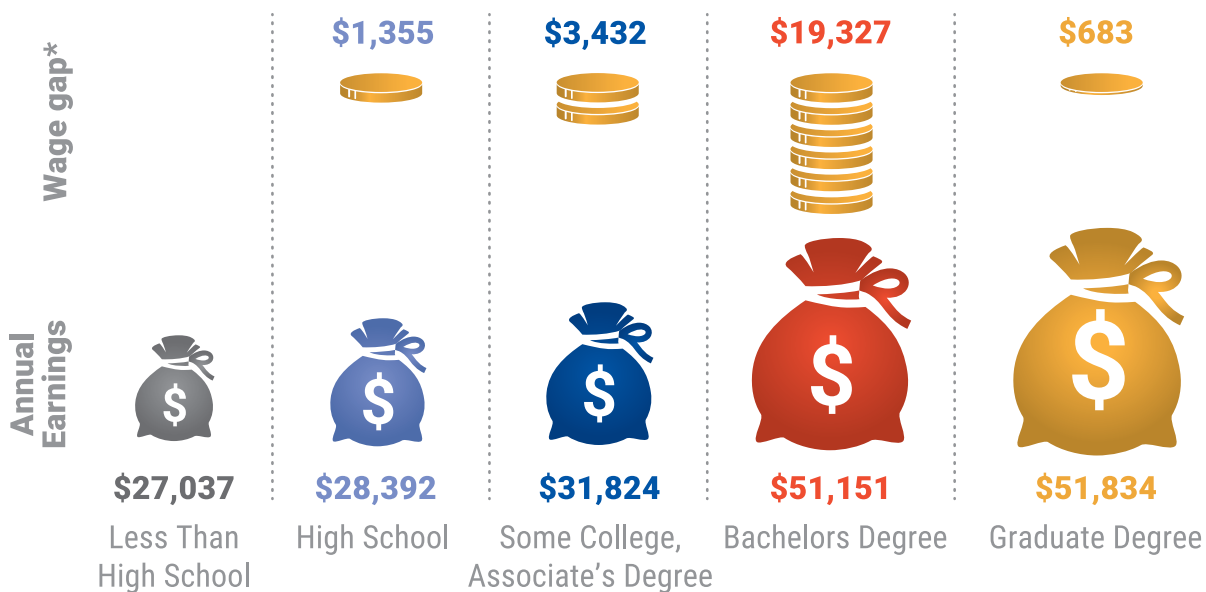
National Poverty Threshold**



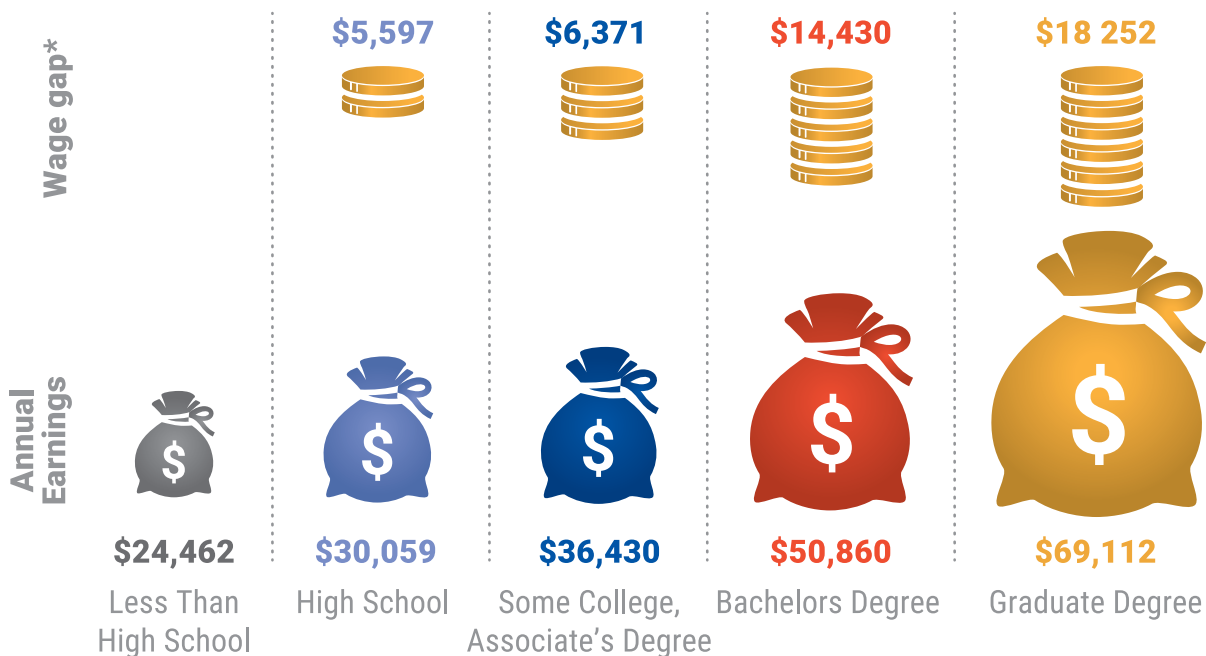
Cost of Living in Amarillo**



Potter County, 2017



Randall County, 2017



* Wage gap is the monetary difference in median annual earning between the current level of educational attainment and the previous one.

**Reported for a family of two adults and two children under the age of 18

ty, \$24,462 in Randall County, and \$20,745 in Lubbock County. Non-degree holders, who comprised 23.9% of the adult population in Potter County in 2017, fared better than in their neighbors in Lubbock and Randall Counties. In addition to earning higher wages, their inflation-adjusted earnings increased in 2017 compared to those in 2016 by \$2,688. This wage gain pushed the average household earnings of non-degree holders in Potter County over the \$24,858 poverty threshold by \$2,179 but was not large enough to reach the \$32,878 cost of living in the Amarillo area.

High school graduates in both Potter and Randall Counties earned more than the poverty threshold but less than the cost of living in the Amarillo area.

In Randall County, households with no high school diploma comprised only 6.8% of the adult population and earned \$24,462. These earnings were \$396 below the poverty threshold and \$8,416 below the cost of living in the Amarillo area. Unlike Potter County, from 2016 to 2017 Randall County experienced a \$30 drop in the average earnings of residents with no high school diploma. Therefore, earning a high school diploma remains an important prerequisite for economic well-being in the Amarillo area.

Earnings With Only a High School Diploma

High school graduates in both Potter and Randall Counties, which made up 31.0% and 24.9% of the adult population, respectively, earned more than the poverty threshold but less than the cost of living in the Amarillo area. The average annual earnings were \$28,392 in Potter County and \$30,059 in Randall County. In Potter County, a high school diploma provided, on average, an additional \$1,355 in annual earnings, and in Randall County it provided an additional \$5,597.

Earnings With an Associate Degree or Some College

Individuals with an associate degree or “some college” (an incomplete bachelor’s degree) comprised 27.8% and 37.1% of the adult population in Potter and Randall Counties in 2017 and earned \$31,824 and \$36,430, respectively. These earnings approached or

exceeded the 2017 cost of living in the Amarillo area. Compared to the high school diploma holders, individuals with an associate degree or “some college” earned an additional \$3,432 in Potter County and an additional \$6,371 in Randall County.

Earnings With a Bachelor’s Degree

Bachelor’s degree holders earned, average, \$51,151 in Potter County and \$50,860 in Randall County. These earnings substantially exceeded the \$32,878 cost of living in the Amarillo area. The wage gap between a bachelor’s degree and an associate degree or “some college” was much more significant in Potter County (\$19,327) than in Randall County (\$14,430).

Earnings With a Graduate Degree or Above

Finally, in both counties graduate degree holders earned more than individuals with a bachelor’s degree, but the gain in wages was considerably greater in Randall County than in Potter County. In Potter County, graduate degree holders earned, on average, \$51,834, only \$683 more than the earnings of individuals with a bachelor’s degree in the same county. In Randall County, on the other hand, graduate degree holders earned, on average, \$69,112, which was \$18,252 more than the earnings of bachelor’s degree holders. The top two educational categories made up 17.3% of the adult population in Potter County and 31.2% of the adult population in Randall County.



Local Well-Paying Jobs Without a Bachelor’s Degree

Increase in earnings afforded by higher education is but one side of the career equation. In the United States, postsecondary education can carry substan-

Occupations that Pay Over 50,000 in the Amarillo Area in 2018			
Occupation	Annual Wages in Amarillo	Growth in Texas	Min Degree Required
Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technicians	\$ 72 680	11%	Associates
Dental Hygienist	\$ 72 000	22%	Associates
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$ 66 500	16%	High School
Hazardous Materials Removal Workers	\$ 66 500	21%	High School
Physical Therapist Assistant	\$ 65 020	37%	Associates
Occupational Therapy Assistant	\$ 64 620	36%	Associates
Firefighter	\$ 62 750	17%	Associates
Detective and Criminal Investigator	\$ 60 410	10%	Associates
Sales Representative Wholesale	\$ 59 050	16%	High School
MRI Technician	\$ 58 590	24%	Associates
Insurance Sales Agent	\$ 58 450	15%	High School
Cardiovascular Technologist	\$ 57 810	21%	Associates
Sheet Metal Worker	\$ 57 790	19%	High School
Electrician	\$ 55 880	17%	High School
Radiology Technician	\$ 54 580	28%	Associates
Machinist	\$ 53 660	17%	High School
Chefs and Head Cooks	\$ 53 520	22%	High School
Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, and Processing Machine Operators	\$ 50 600	11%	High School

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics and ONETOnline

tial costs both in educational expenses and in time away from employment. In previous years, community status reports highlighted the investment of time and money necessary to complete postsecondary degrees. Depending on the degree and the type of educational institution (private vs. public, 2-year college vs. 4-year university), the cost of additional schooling may not outweigh the wage benefits the degree provides in the context of the local economy. The Amarillo economy is geared toward manufacturing and service industries, especially health care. These industries employ many people with advanced specialized degrees, such as engineers and pharmacists. At the same time, they also generate a large number of paraprofessional jobs, which typically require associate degrees or certifications but sometimes can accept high school diplomas for entry-level positions. Associate degrees and certifications may very well be a potential solu-

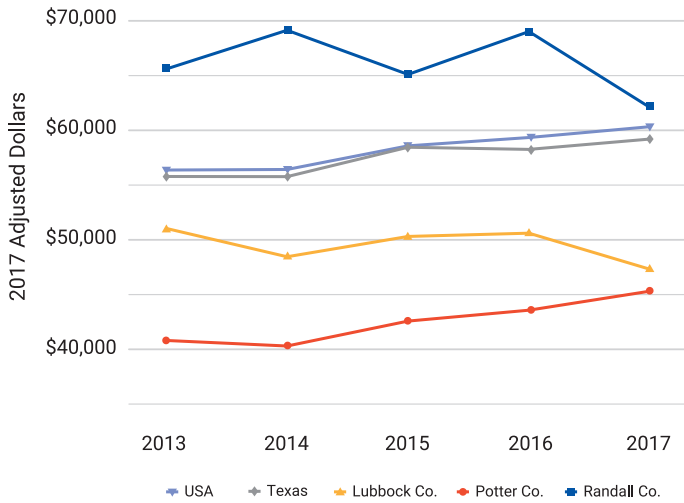
tion for Amarillo area residents who cannot afford to invest substantial resources upfront to advance their careers. The table above contains a list of well-paying jobs in the Amarillo area that boast of optimistic job growth trends and require either a high school diploma or an associate degree. As expected, the majority of these jobs are in manufacturing and health care. However, protective services (firefighting and police) also add a fair share of well-paying jobs.

Median Household Income

In 2017, the median household income in Potter County was \$45,312, which was 4.0% higher than that of the year before (all income values in this section are reported in the inflation-adjusted 2017 dollars for all years). The year 2017 was the third consecutive year in which the median household income in Potter County increased. In Randall County, the median household

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

US, TX, and Counties
American Community Survey



income was \$62,098. This value was 10.0% lower than the income of the year before and 37.0% higher than the median household income in the neighboring Potter County. Among the five geographic areas compared in this report—the United States, Texas, Lubbock County, Potter County, and Randall County—Potter County had the lowest median household

income and Randall County the highest. In 2017, the United States and Texas had remarkably similar median household incomes, \$60,336 and \$59,206 respectively, and remarkably similar median income growth between 2016 and 2017, 1.6% and 1.7% respectively.

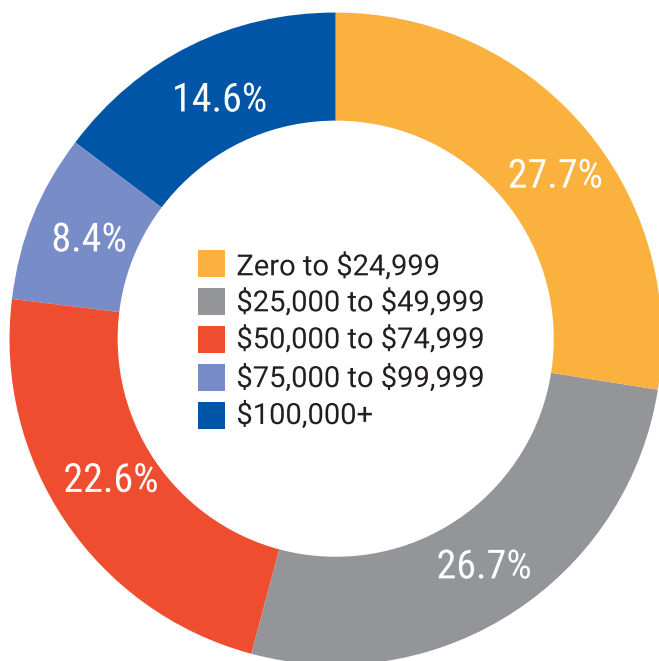
Household Income Distribution

In Potter County in 2017, the majority of households, 54.4%, earned less than \$50,000 a year. Of these households, 27.7% earned less than \$24,999 a year. As a side note, the national poverty threshold for a family of four in 2017 was \$24,858, but only 17.5% of Potter County individuals met the official poverty status. In the next income bracket, 26.7% made somewhere between \$25,000 and \$49,999. The 2017 cost of living in the Amarillo area, \$32,878, fell into this income bracket. The next 22.6% of households made between \$50,000 and \$74,999, and another 8.4% of Potter County households made between \$75,000 and \$100,000. The top 4.6% earned over \$100,000. Those in the last two brackets, those earning over \$75,000, could be labeled as “wealthy.” When combined, they comprise 23.0% of the households of Potter County.

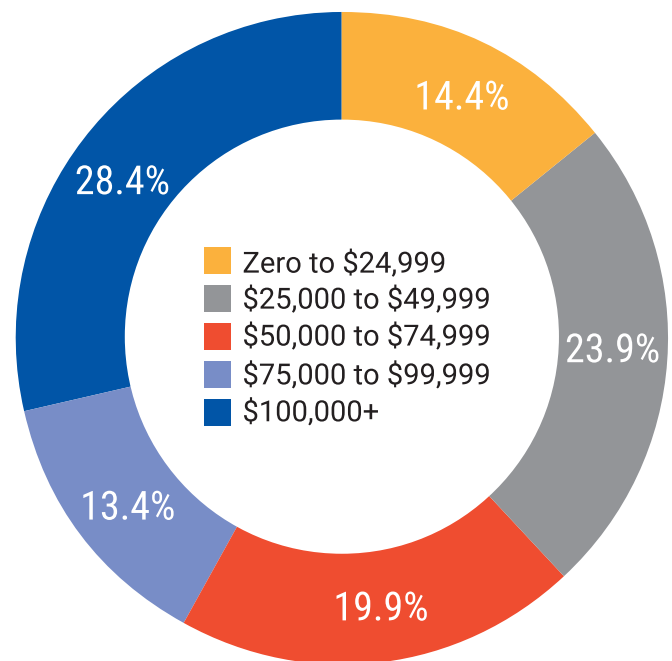
HOUSEHOLD INCOME DISTRIBUTION

American Community Survey

Potter County, 2017



Randall County, 2017



In Randall County, the 2017 income distribution was much more uneven: on the wealthy end of the income distribution, 28.4% of Randall County households earned over \$100,000, and another 13.4% earned between \$75,000 and \$99,999. Together, the two “wealthy” income brackets comprised 41.8% of Randall County’s households, while only 23.0% of Potter County’s households were in the top two income brackets. In examining the top three income brackets combined, those earning over \$50,000 comprised 61.7% of Randall County’s households. The remaining 38.8% were in either the \$25,000–\$49,999 income bracket (23.9%) or in the bottom income bracket (14.4%). The official poverty rate for individual residents in Randall County, however, was only 8.7%. These income statistics indicate that quite a substantial proportion of households in both counties hover right above the national poverty threshold.

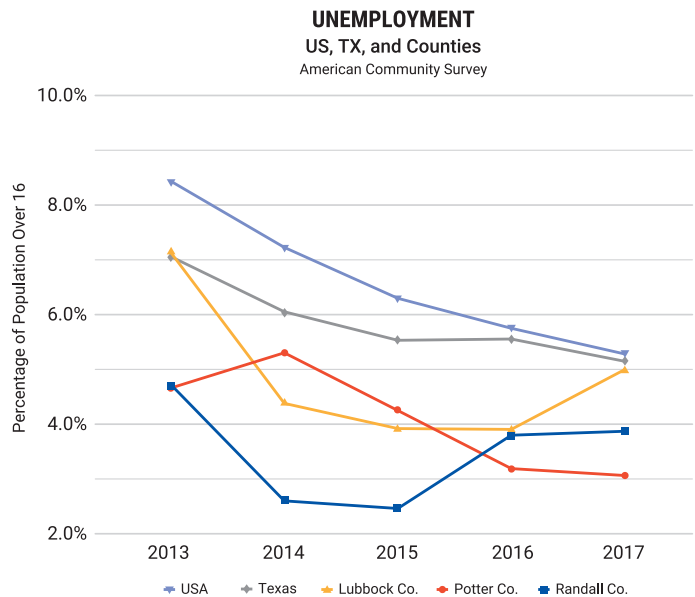
The differences in income distributions between the two counties become even more pronounced when the counties are compared side-by-side.

In Potter County, 27.7% of households were in “low-income” brackets (under \$24,999) in 2017 compared to 14.4% in Randall County. On the wealthy end of the distribution, only 23.0% of Potter County’s households made over \$75,000 vs. 41.8% of households in Randall County (the top two income brackets combined). It is worthy to note that in 2017 the proportion of households in the top two income categories in Randall County decreased by 9.5% and 2.1%, respectively. In Potter County, the proportion of households earning between \$75,000 and \$99,000 remained the same, while the proportion of households earning over \$100,000 increased by 1.4%. The gap in earnings between the two counties slightly narrowed in 2017.

Unemployment

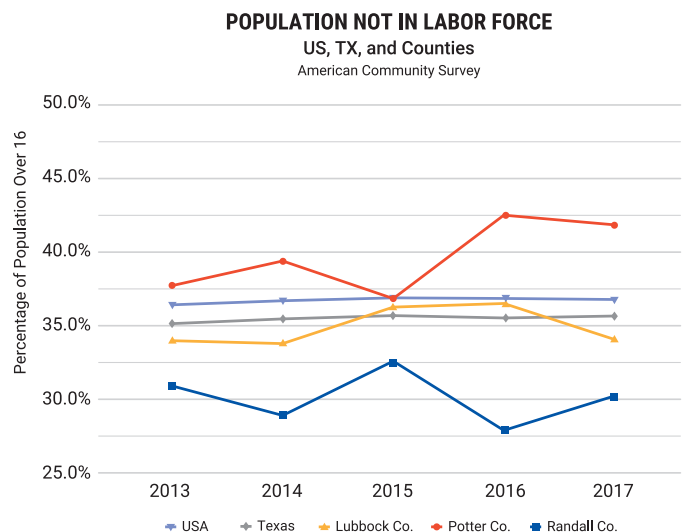
Despite the rapid population growth in Randall County, the unemployment rate remained low in 2017, 3.1% in Potter County and 3.9% in Randall County. These rates were substantially lower than the 5.3% unemployment rate in the United States and the 5.1% unemployment

rate in the state of Texas. Compared to the year before, the unemployment rate in both Potter and Randall Counties remained largely unchanged in 2017, which pointed towards persistent resiliency of the Amarillo economy in the face of the growing population.



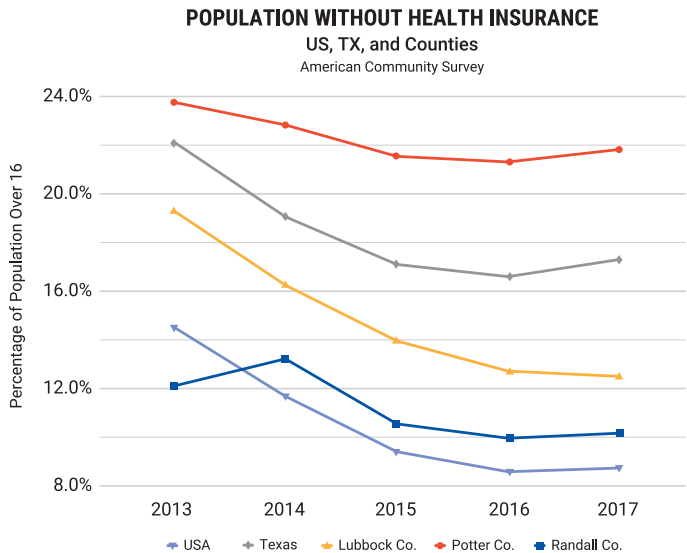
Labor Force Participation

Another encouraging indicator of the strength of the Amarillo economy is the diminishing proportion of the population not in the labor force. The “labor force” is defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as all the individuals 16 years of age or older who are either employed (including the self-employed, business owners, etc.) or looking for work. Conversely, individuals not in the labor force are those 16 years of age or older



who are not working or looking for work. This includes students, retired individuals, disabled individuals, those with full-time home responsibilities (such as caring for children or sick relatives), and those who could not find employment and stopped looking⁸. Typically, the unemployment rate and the labor force participation rate move in opposite directions: as new employees enter the labor force (thereby reducing the proportion of the population not in the labor force) they generate additional demand for employment. If the market cannot absorb this new demand for employment by providing new jobs, unemployment increases. Not so in the Amarillo area. The proportion of the population not in the labor force decreased in Potter County by 6.6% and in Randall County by 1.4%, which indicated that additional workers entered the labor force. At the same time the unemployment remained low, indicating that the economy was able to absorb the inflow of new workers.

Considering the low unemployment rates in 2017 in Potter and Randall Counties, one would expect the proportion of people without health insurance in the community to be very low.



HEALTH

Access to quality health care greatly enhances the overall health of a community. In the United States, access to health care is largely governed by the health insurance industry, which contains both private and public health care insurers. According to the US Census Bureau⁹ between 2017 and 2018, 67.3% of Americans maintained private health insurance: 55.1% acquired it through their employer, 10.8% purchased it directly on the marketplace, and 2.6% had access to TRICARE (formerly known as Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services). Another 34.4% had access to public health insurance through either Medicare (17.8%), Medicaid (17.9%), or Civilian Health Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPA) or the Department of Veterans Affairs (1% in total). The remaining 8.7% of the population of the United States did not have health insurance between 2017 and 2018.

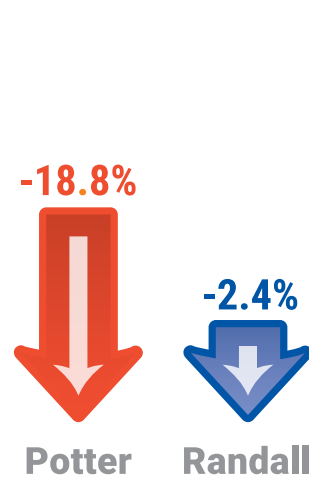
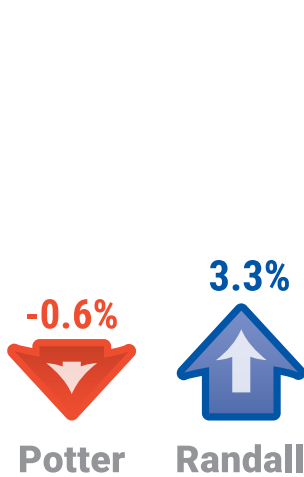
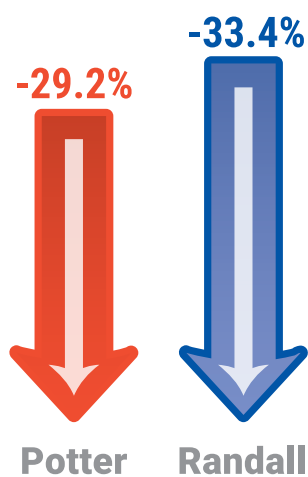
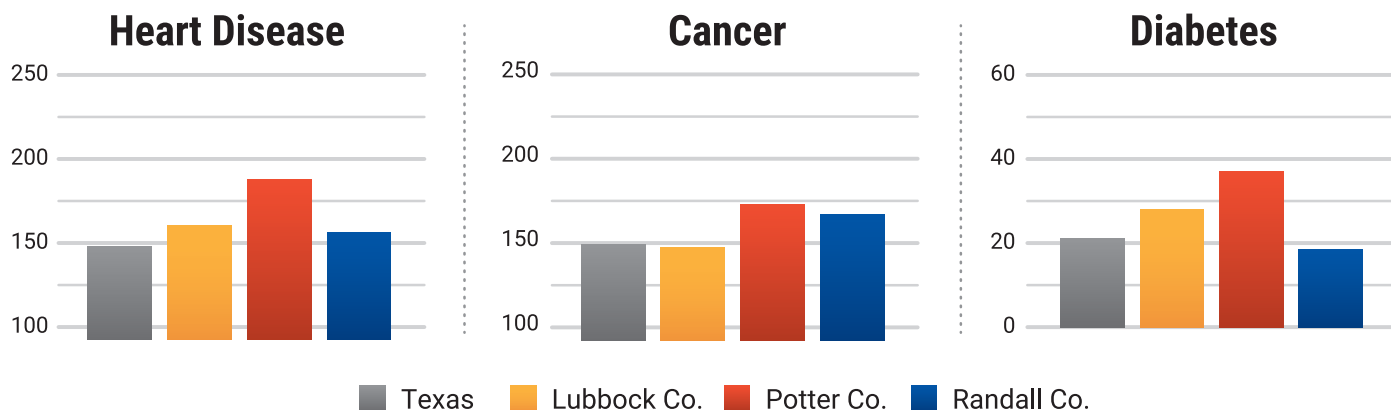
On the contrary, while 8.7% of the U.S. population did not have health insurance in 2017, 21.8% did not have health insurance in Potter County, 2.5 times the national rate. With its low unemployment rate and high median income, 10.2% of Randall County's residents did not have health insurance either, 17.0% more than the national rate. In Texas, the uninsured rate was also higher than that in the United States, with 17.3% of Texas's population living without health insurance, almost twice the rate in the United States. Furthermore, in 2017 both Potter and Randall Counties experienced a slight increase in the proportion of uninsured by 2.3% and 2.0%, respectively, breaking a 4-year downward trend for Potter County and a 3-year downward trend in Randall County. Attainment of health insurance, therefore, remained a serious issue for the Amarillo community in 2017.

Chronic Illnesses

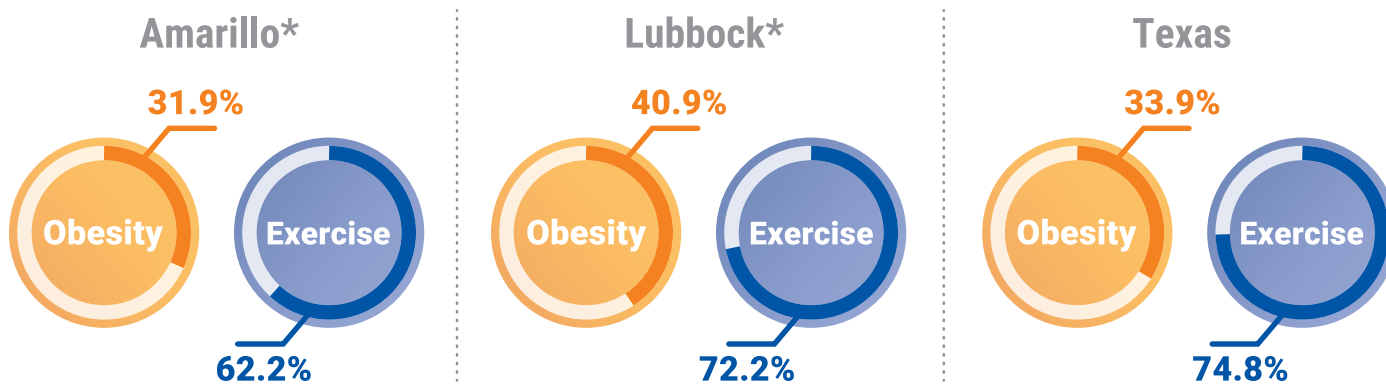
Chronic illnesses (heart disease, diabetes, and cancer) continued to remain a serious issue in the Amarillo and Canyon communities in 2017, but not without hope for improvement. Previous community status reports highlighted the interconnectedness of chronic illnesses in America. All three of the illnesses—heart disease, diabetes, and cancer—are related to diet,

21.8% of the population in Potter County and 10.2% in Randall County did not have health insurance in 2017 compared to 8.7% in the United States.

CHRONIC ILLNESS IN 2017



Obesity and Exercise in 2016



*Note: Obesity and Exercise Statistics are reported for the Amarillo Metropolitan Area, the Lubbock Metropolitan Area, and the state of Texas.

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Texas Department of State Health Services
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/Obesity/Data/>

physical activity, and body weight, as well as to access to prevention- and treatment-oriented medical care.

In 2017 the rates of death from heart disease in Potter and Randall Counties were 28.3% and 5.8% higher than in the state.

Deaths from heart disease in 2017 were more prevalent in both Potter and Randall Counties than in Texas. In Potter County the rate was 188.8 deaths per 100,000 residents, which was 28.3% higher than the state rate of 147.2. In Randall County the rate was 155.8, which was 5.8% higher than the state rate. A very encouraging development in 2017 was the decline in the rate of death from heart disease in both Potter and Randall Counties by 29.2% and 33.4%, respectively. The rate dropped across the board in 2017 in all four regions compared in this report, including Lubbock County (by 12.5%) and Texas (by 6.2%).

Cancer-related deaths were also more prevalent in Potter and Randall Counties than they were in the state of Texas overall. Potter County had a rate of death from cancer of 172.7 per 100,000 population, which was 15.9% higher than that in the state. Randall County had a 166.9 rate of death from cancer, which was 12.0% higher than that in the state. Between 2016 and 2017, the rate remained largely unchanged in Potter County and increased by 3.3% in Randall County.

Diabetes deaths were elevated above the state average in Potter County, but not in Randall County. Potter County's rate of death from diabetes, 37.0 per 100,000 population, was 75.5% higher than the state rate of 21.1 per 100,000. Randall County's 18.4 rate, on the other hand, was 12.5% lower than the state's rate. In 2017, both Potter and Randall Counties experienced a decrease in the rate of death from diabetes by 18.8% and 2.4%, respectively.

Overall, the situation with chronic illness remains quite grim in the area, though some small improvements are evident. Potter County's elevated rates are somewhat expected, considering that the county has high poverty and uninsured rates. Randall County's el-

evated death rates, on the other hand, are quite puzzling, considering that the county has many protective factors against chronic illness such as high educational attainment, good access to health care, and financial affluence.



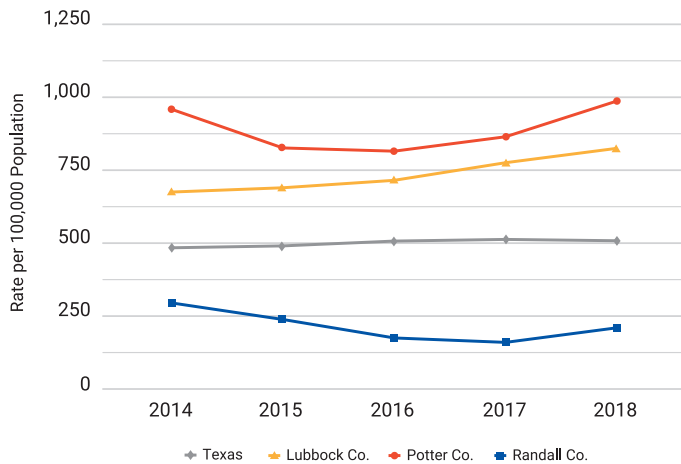
Obesity and physical activity play an important role in chronic illness. According to the 2016 report¹⁰ by the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had a lower obesity rate than that for the Lubbock MSA and the state (31.9% obese residents vs. 40.9% in Lubbock MSA and 33.9% in the state) but had lower levels of physical activity (62.2% of residents were exercising vs. 72.2% in Lubbock MSA and 74.8% in the state). Physical activity, therefore, could be a factor worth exploring in the prevention of chronic illness.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

The next cluster of illnesses that cause persistent concern in the Amarillo area are sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Historically, Potter County has had high rates of STIs, especially chlamydia and gonorrhea. Unfortunately, in 2018 STIs became a serious issue in Randall County as well. In Potter County in 2018, the chlamydia rate jumped from 865.9 to 987.1 cases per 100,000 population, a 14.0% increase from the year before. Potter County's rate was 94.2%, higher than the state rate of 508.2. In Randall County, the chlamydia

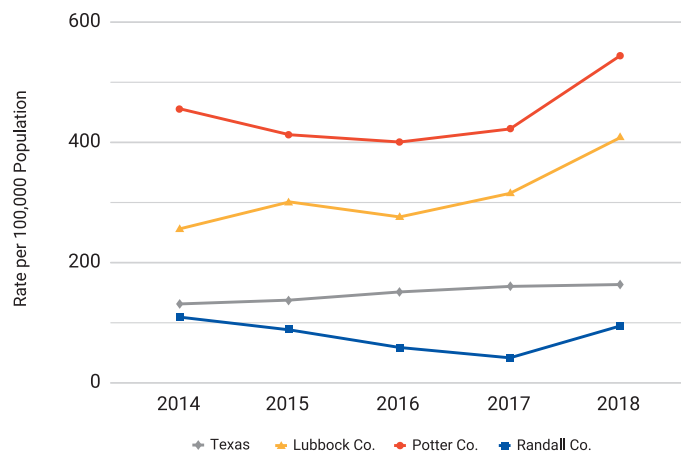
rate increased by 33.8% in 2017, reaching 209.9 cases per 100,000 population. However, despite the increase, this rate was still 58.7% lower than the state rate. Gon-

CHLAMYDIA RATES
TX, and Counties
Department of State Health Services



orrhoea rates have also increased in both counties in 2018. In Potter County, the already elevated rate increased by an additional 28.5%, reaching 544.1 cases per 100,000 population. Potter County's rate was more than three times higher than the Texas rate. In Randall County, the gonorrhoea rate reversed a 3-year trend of decline in 2018, and increased by 140.4%, reaching 94.7 cases per 100,000 population. Yet again, despite the increase, Randall County's gonorrhoea rate remained 42.1% below the state average.

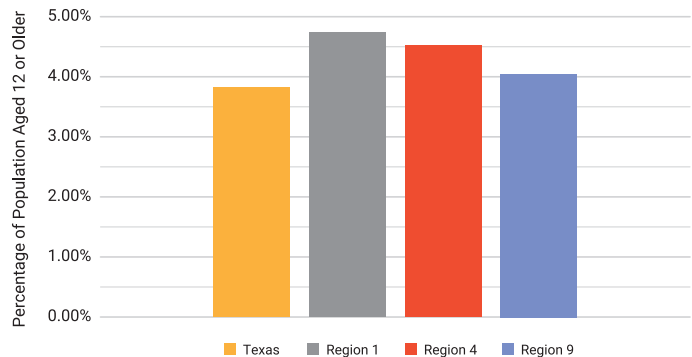
GONORRHEA RATES
TX, and Counties
Department of State Health Services



Mental Health

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health¹¹, between 2012 and 2014 various regions of Texas had similar rates of serious and persistent mental illness among residents 12 years old and older. In Region 1, which contains the cities of Amarillo, Canyon, and Lubbock, 4.7% of residents had serious and persistent mental illness. In comparison, in Region 4, containing the cities of Longview and Paris, 4.5% of residents had serious and persistent mental illness; in Region 9, containing the cities of Midland and Odessa, 4.0% of the population was seriously mentally ill, and in Texas overall 3.8% were in this category.

SERIOUS AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
2012-2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health



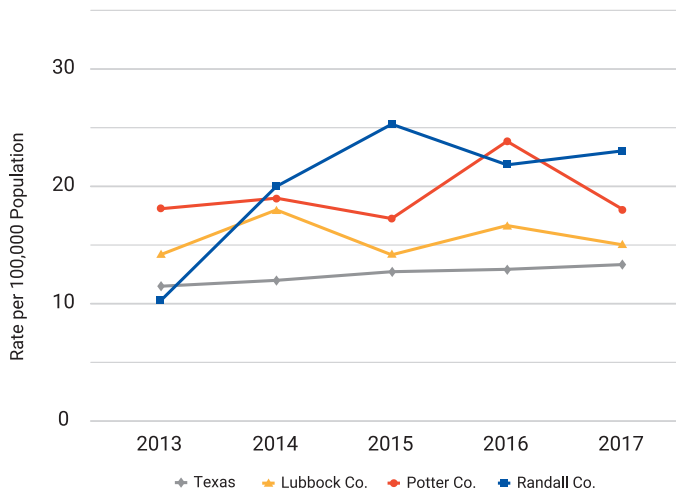
Another important indicator of community mental health is the rate of death from suicide. The rate declined in 2017 in Potter County by 24.8%, dropping from a very high rate of 24.0 per 100,000 population back to a more moderate 18.1 deaths per 100,000 population in 1 year. In 2017, Potter County's rate of suicide was lower than that of Randall County. Unfortunately, in 2017 Randall County experienced a 9.0% increase in the rate of death from suicide, pushing the already elevated rate (21.1 deaths per 100,000 in 2016) to 23.0 deaths per 100,000 residents. Both Potter and Randall Counties had higher suicide rates than did the state: Potter County's rate was 35.4% higher than the average Texas rate, and Randall County's rate was an alarming 72.6% higher than the state rate. The potential causes of high suicide rate in Randall County remain a mystery. Previous community status reports highlighted Randall County's many protective factors against suicide such as high

median income, low unemployment, high educational attainment. Potential hazardous factors contributing to the elevated rates of suicide in Potter and Randall Counties could be ready access to firearms and cultural, economic, and institutional barriers to mental health care. The elevated suicide rate deserves an in-depth investigation by community advocates, public health officials, and protective organizations.

DEATH FROM SUICIDE

TX, and Counties

Texas Department of State Health Services

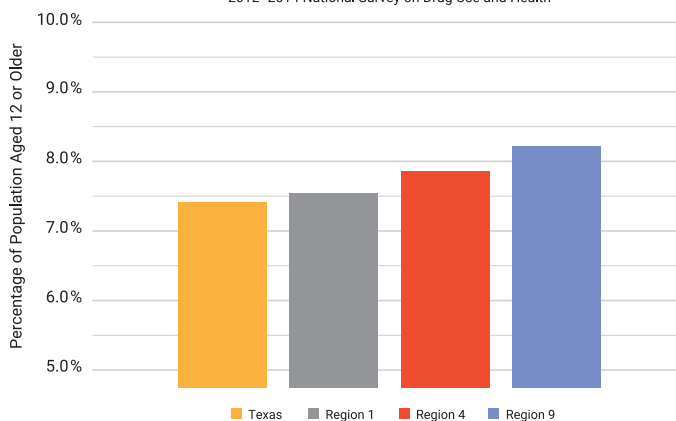


Substance Use

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 7.6% of the Region 1 population, ages 12 and over, used marijuana between 2012 and 2014. Marijuana use was similar in Region 4 (7.9%) and Texas (7.4%), but slightly higher in Region 9 (8.2%).

MARIJUANA USE

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
2012-2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health



Alcohol use was the highest in Region 1 (48.0%), followed by Texas (47.0%), Region 9 (46.0%), and Region 4 (45.0%). Binge drinking of alcohol, defined as five or more drinks for men and four or more drinks for women¹², was practiced by 22.6% of the population in Region 1. Region 4 and Texas had very similar rates of binge drinking (22.4% and 22.3%, respectively), and Region 9 had a slightly higher rate of use (24.0%).

ALCOHOL USE

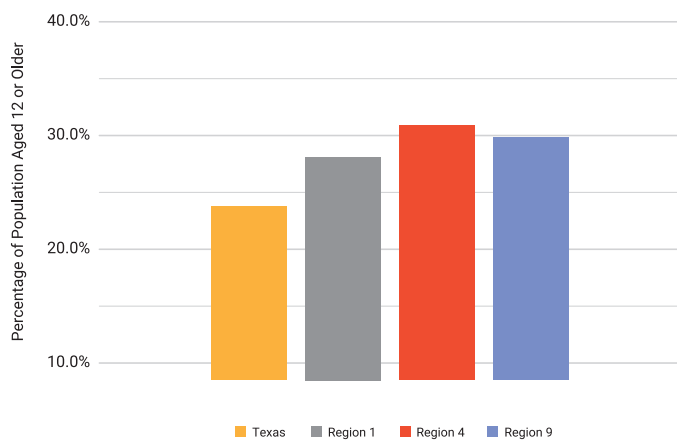
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
2012-2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health



Tobacco products were used by 28.1% of the population in Region 1, compared to 30.9% in Region 4, 29.8% in Region 9, and 23.8% in Texas. Finally, illicit drug use created dependence among 1.6% of the population in Region 1, compared to 1.7% in Region 4 and 1.5% in Region 9 and Texas.

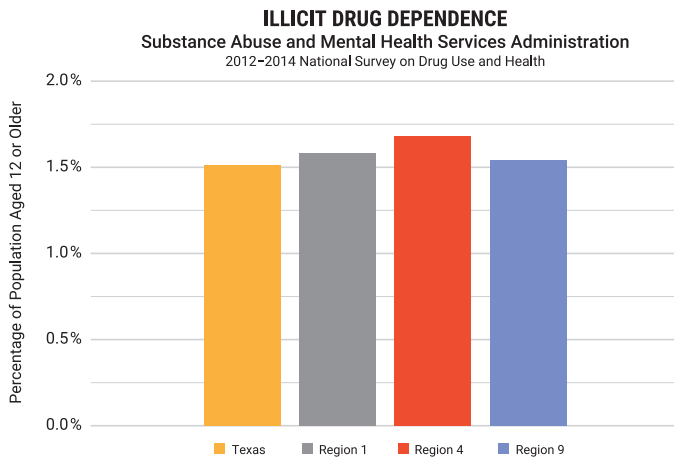
TOBACCO PRODUCT USE

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
2012-2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health



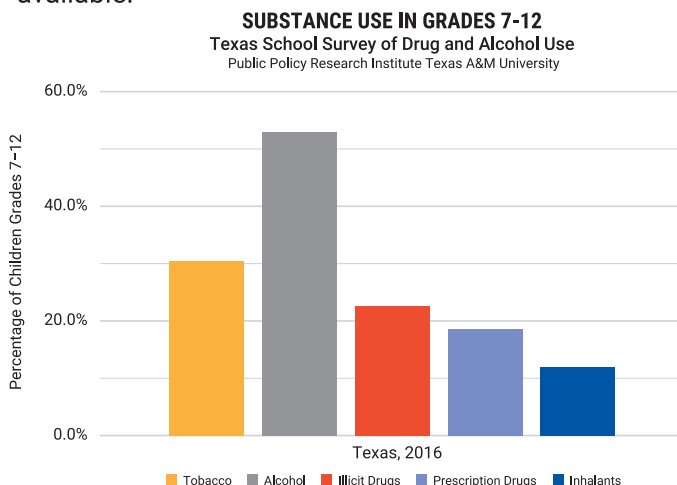
In summary, between 2012 and 2014, alcohol was the only substance used more frequently in Region 1 compared to the other two regions and the state. Region 4

had elevated tobacco use and illicit drug dependence, and Region 9 had high marijuana use and binge drinking. Texas, overall, had lower rates of substance use than did Region 1 for all the above-mentioned substances.



Substance Use in Middle and High School

Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use collected data on the use of various substances among children in Grades 7 through 12 in 2016. Due to privacy concerns, only state totals were reported. The most commonly used substance among children in this age group was alcohol. The majority of children in Grades 7–12, 53.0%, had tried alcohol at some point in their lives. Tobacco products were used at least once by 30.5% of children. Illicit drugs were experimented with by 22.6% of students. Prescription drugs were taken at least once by 18.5% of children, and inhalants were used by 11.9%. It appears peculiar and alarming that more children had taken illicit drugs than prescription drugs or inhalants, which are legal and more readily available.



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

With an increased median income and a decreased rate of unemployment, Potter County had the lowest poverty rate in 2017 in nearly a decade. The poverty rate among the county residents was 17.5%; it fell by 21.9% in a single year, from 22.4% in 2016. This was the lowest poverty rate since 2008, the first year Community Status Reports began reporting local statistics.

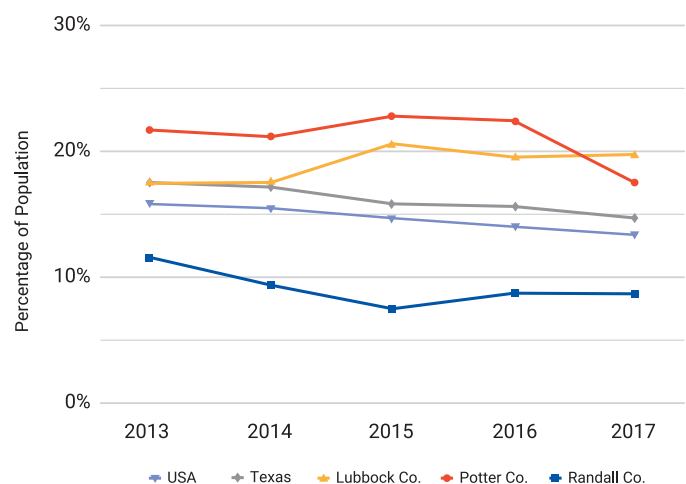
The 17.5% poverty rate in Potter County in 2017 was the lowest in nearly a decade.

This rate was still 30.6% higher than the Texas poverty rate (14.7%) and twice as high as Randall County's poverty rate (8.7%). However, for the first time since 2008 (the first year of reporting), it fell below the poverty rate in the neighboring Lubbock County. Potter County's poverty rate was, in fact, 11.2% lower than the 19.7% poverty rate in Lubbock County.

The poverty rate in Randall County changed only slightly, from 8.8% in 2016 to 8.7% in 2017 (a 1.1% decrease). Randall County's rate was 35.7% lower than the Texas rate and 55.8% lower than Lubbock County's rate.

INDIVIDUALS IN POVERTY

US, TX, and Counties
American Community Survey



Poverty by Age

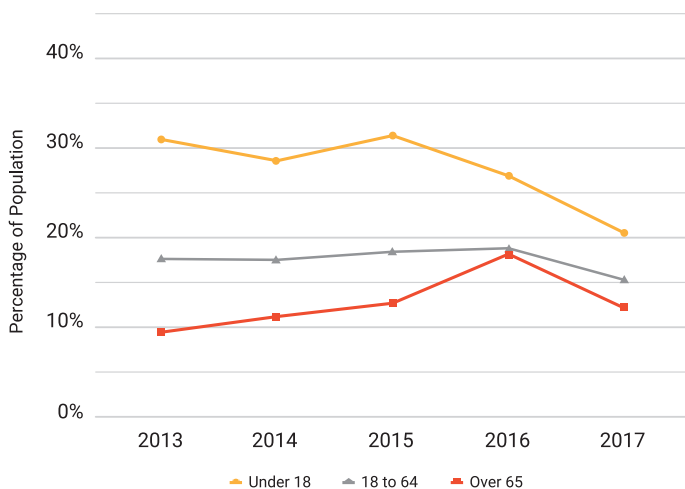
In Potter County, the poverty rate dropped across the board for all age groups. Among children under 18 years of age, the poverty rate decreased by 23.7%, from 27.0% in 2016 to 20.6% in 2017. Among the adults of working age, 18 to 64 years old, the poverty rate decreased by 18.5%, from 18.9% in 2016 to 15.4% in 2017. Among the elderly, the poverty rate had the greatest decrease, 32.8%, from 18.3% in 2016 to 12.3% in 2017.

Despite the aforementioned decreases, the poverty rates in Potter County for the various age groups were still higher in 2017 than the rates in Texas and the United States, except the poverty rate among children. For the first time since 2008, the poverty rate among children in Potter County fell slightly below the state rate (20.6% in Potter County vs. 20.7% in Texas).

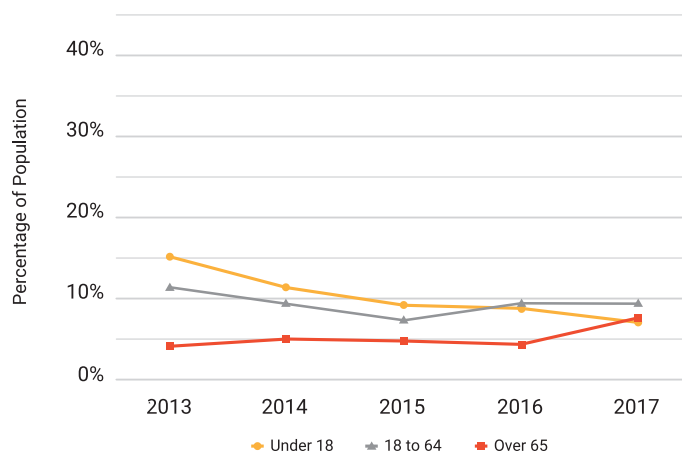
In Randall County, the poverty rate had different dynamics for different age groups. Among the children of Randall County, the poverty rate decreased from 8.8% in 2016 to 7.1% in 2019. Among the adults of working age, the rate remained the same, 9.4% in 2016 and 2017. Among the elderly the poverty rate in the county increased by an alarming 72.7% from 4.4% in 2016 to 7.6% in 2017.

Still, Randall County's poverty rates for all age groups were significantly below state and national averages.

POVERTY BY AGE
Potter County
American Community Survey



POVERTY BY AGE
Randall County
American Community Survey



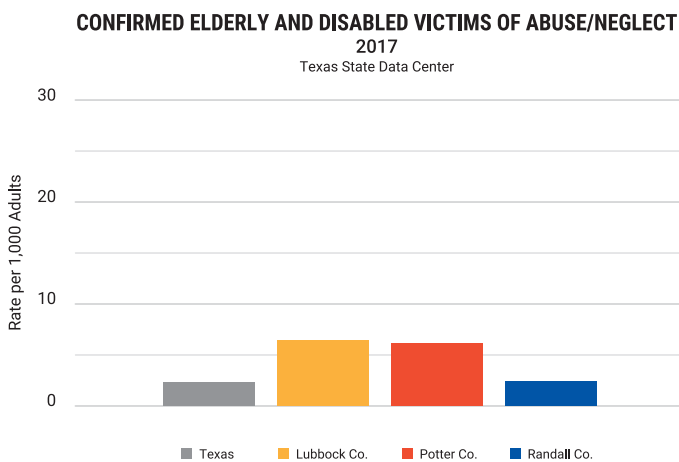
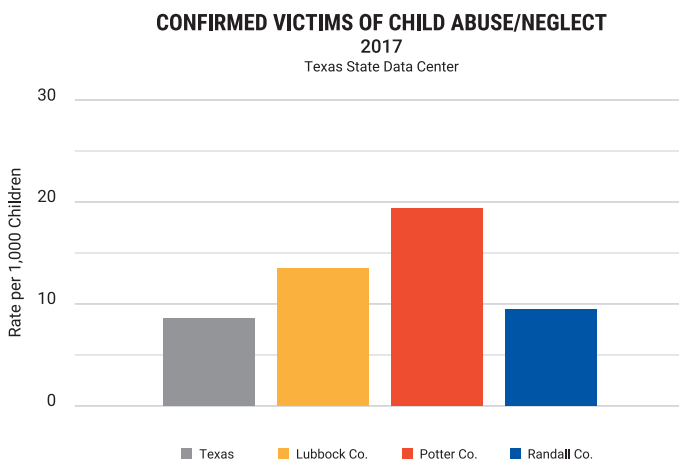
Abuse and Neglect of Children, Disabled Adults, and the Elderly

In 2017, the Texas 85th legislative session produced a handful of bills that dramatically changed the structure of the Texas Department of Health and Human Services and its subdivision, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), which, among other functions, collects data on abuse and neglect of children, disabled adults, and the elderly highlighted in this report. These changes came as a result of multiple lawsuits and reports of low performance and gross violations of standards of care brought to light by former clients and advocacy groups. The Texas Legislature separated DFPS from the Texas Department of Health and Human Services and established it into an independent agency¹³. Furthermore, the Legislature mandated that DFPS privatize most of its functions through the Community Based Care initiative. In accordance with this transition, the Legislature also mandated major changes in structure and services delivery, as well as in data collection and the reporting of abuse and neglect.

Due to these major changes in all aspects of child and adult protective services, the data on the abuse of children and disabled and elderly adults for 2017 cannot be compared to that of previous years and can only be considered for a single year. Any comparisons to other years would be misleading due to evolving definitions, data management systems, and reporting standards.

In 2017, Potter County's rate of child abuse or neglect was 2.3 times higher than that in Texas.

In 2017, Potter County had 697 confirmed victims of child abuse or neglect, which translated into a rate of 19.4 per 1,000 children. In Randall County, 316 children were confirmed to be victims of child abuse or neglect in 2017, a rate of 9.5 per 1,000 children. Potter County's child abuse or neglect rate was 103.9% higher than Randall County's. At the same time, both Potter and Randall Counties had elevated rates of child abuse or neglect compared to the state rate. Potter County's child abuse or neglect rate was 128.4% higher than the Texas rate of 8.5 cases per 1,000 children, and Randall County's rate was 12.0% higher than the state rate.



Among elderly and disabled adults, 6.1 per 1,000 were confirmed as victims of abuse or neglect in 2017 in Potter County and 2.4 per 1,000 were victims of abuse or

neglect in Randall County, as compared to 6.4 per 1,000 in Lubbock County and 2.3 per 1,000 in Texas. The adult abuse or neglect rate in Potter County was alarmingly higher than the state's rate by 165.2%. The adult abuse or neglect rate in Randall County was 4.3% higher than the state rate. Predictably, Potter County's adult abuse or neglect rate was 154.2% higher than Randall County's. The elevated abuse or neglect rates among children and adults in both Potter and Randall Counties, as compared to that of the state, warrant further investigation by community leaders and advocates.

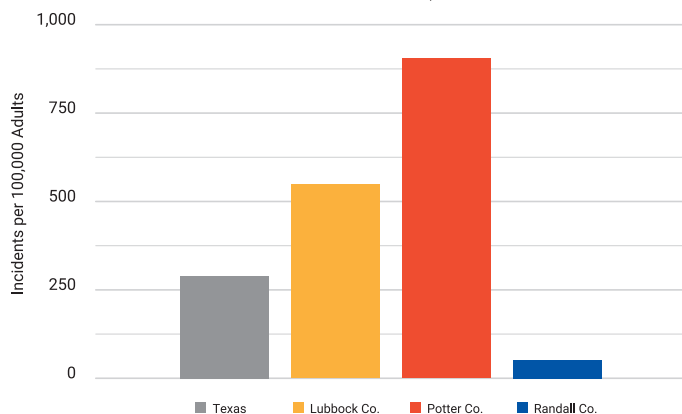
Intimate Partner Violence

Data on intimate partner violence fluctuate considerably from year to year, which may lead to inaccurate inferences regarding the overall trend trajectory. Therefore, instead of reporting annual changes, Community Status Reports provide data on what is called a "moving average." A moving average rate for each year is calculated by adding together the rates for the most recent years and dividing by the number of years. For the subsequent year, the oldest rate is taken out of the calculation and the most recent rate is added in. For example, the 2018 Community Status Report included the 5-year average rate for the 2012–2016 time period. The current 2019 Community Status Report includes the average rate for the next 5-year time period, 2013–2017. Next year, the moving average rate will cover the time period of 2014–2018. A moving average rate represents a smoothed-out trajectory of change in rate over a period that may have experienced drastic annual fluctuations.

Intimate partner violence continued to remain high in Potter County in 2017, though some promising changes did occur. Potter County had the highest rate of violence against women among the four regions, 904.0 cases per 100,000 population, followed by Lubbock County at 548.4 per 100,000, Texas at 289.0 per 100,000 and, finally, Randall County at 50.9 per 100,000. Potter County's rate of violence against women was more than 3 times greater than the state rate, while Randall County's rate was 82.4% lower. Fortunately, for the current 2013–2017 time period,

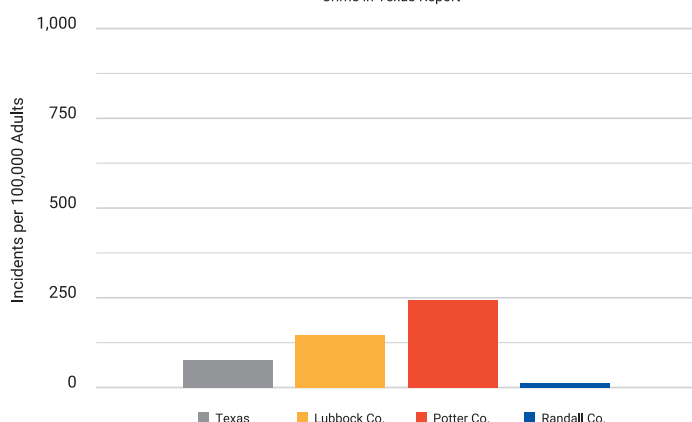
the moving average rate of violence against women dropped across the board in Texas (by 2.5%), Lubbock County (by 2.1%), Potter County (by 1.3%), and Randall County (by 0.8%).

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
TX, and Counties, 2013–2017 Average
Crime in Texas Report



Intimate partner violence against men had more diverse patterns of change in each of the regions. Potter County still had the highest rate of violence against men during the 2013–2017 time period, 242.5 cases per 100,000 population, followed again by Lubbock County at 146.8 cases per 100,000, Texas at 77.5 cases per 100,000 and, finally, Randall County at 13.7 cases per 100,000. Potter County’s rate of violence against men was again more than three times larger than the state rate, while Randall County’s rate was 17.7% lower than in Texas. The moving average for the current time period decreased by 0.2% in Texas, remained unchanged in Lubbock County and, unfortunately, increased in Potter and Randall Counties by 1.2% and 1.3%, respectively. In both Potter and Randall Counties, violence against women was 3.7 times more prevalent than violence against men.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN
TX, and Counties, 2013–2017 Average
Crime in Texas Report



Public Assistance

In the United States, assistance to families in need is provided by a large variety of programs, some private and some public. Community Status Reports focus on the most prominent public assistance programs: publicly subsidized health insurance for adults (Medicaid), Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Food Stamps program (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP]), and the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). In addition to these programs the Education section of the report highlights data on publicly subsidized childcare.

Enrollment in public assistance programs is affected by many factors such as state and federal budgets, participation criteria, legislation, availability of programs in the area, as well as the local demand for the program. Public assistance programs are usually based on income and need, and, naturally, the enrollment rates in these programs tend to be the highest in poorer areas where the need is greater, as it is in Potter County.

Enrollment in Public Assistance Programs in 2017				
Program	Texas	Lubbock	Potter	Randall
Medicaid	14.6%	14.0%	19.9%	8.1%
CHIP	1.4%	1.2%	1.5%	0.9%
SNAP	14.1%	13.9%	20.1%	7.3%
Cash Assistance*	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%

* also known as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Source: Texas Department of Health and Human Services

As expected, of the four geographic areas compared in this report (Texas, Lubbock County, Potter County, and Randall County), Potter County had both the highest poverty rate and the highest rates of enrollment in all four public assistance programs. SNAP (Food Stamps) was the most utilized program in all geographic regions (except in Randall County). In 2017 in Potter County, 20.1% of residents benefited from the program. This rate was 44.6% higher than the state rate. Medicaid served 19.9% of Potter County’s population, which was 42.1% higher than the Texas rate. CHIP was utilized by 1.5% of Potter County resi-

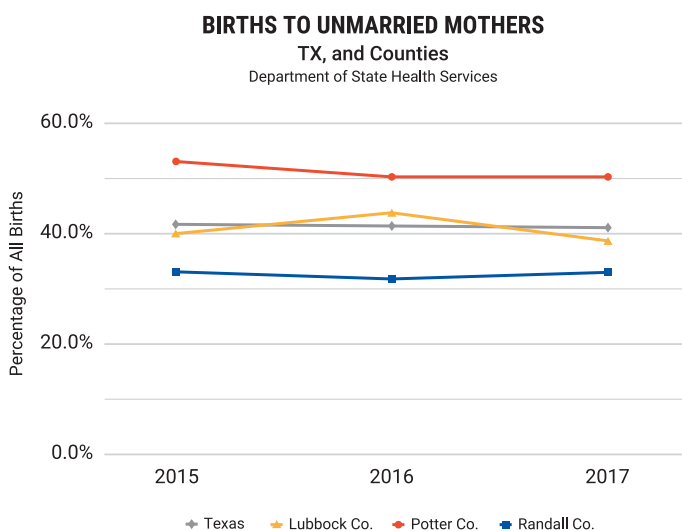
dents, and the enrollment rate was 25.0% higher than the 1.4% Texas rate. Finally, TANF (cash assistance) was provided to 0.3% of Potter County's residents compared to 0.2% of Texas residents (a 50.0% difference). In Randall County, the enrollment rates in all four public assistance programs were quite low, with only 8.1% obtaining Medicaid, 7.3% of residents utilizing SNAP, 0.9% enrolled in CHIP, and 0.1% receiving cash assistance.

None of the programs experienced dramatic changes in enrollment in 2017, with the exception of Food Stamps (SNAP), which dropped by 3.4% in Potter County, from 20.8% to 20.1%, and increased by 2.8% in Randall County, from 7.1% to 7.3%.

Unmarried and Adolescent Mothers

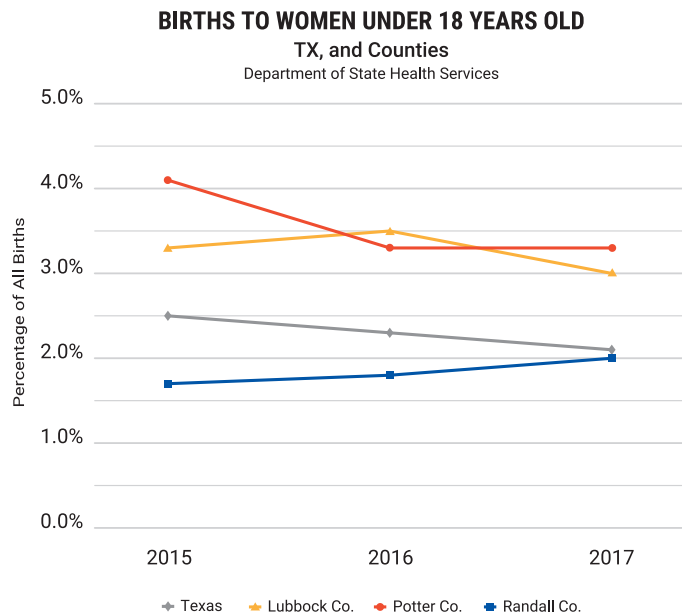
The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) tracks birth data and has experienced some changes in data reporting standards in recent years. Due to this, the methodology for calculating unmarried and adolescent mothers has changed and is now calculated as a proportion of total births.

Among the four geographic areas compared in the report (Potter County, Randall County, Lubbock County, and Texas State) Potter County had the highest rate of births from unmarried mothers in all three years. In 2017, the majority of babies born in Potter County (50.3%) were born to unmarried mothers, compared to 41.1% in Texas, 38.7% in Lubbock County,



ty, and 33.0% in Randall County. Potter County's rate was 22.4% higher than the state rate. However, between 2015 and 2017 the proportion of babies born to unmarried mothers decreased in Potter County by 5.3%. Similar declines happened in Lubbock County (a 3.3% decline in three years), in Texas (a 1.4% decline in three years), and in Randall County (a 0.3% overall decline between 2015 and 2017).

Similar trends were evident among adolescent mothers. Among the four geographic areas Potter County had the highest rate of birth to adolescent mothers. In 2017, 3.3% of all births in Potter County were to adolescent mothers, compared to 3.0% in Lubbock, 2.1% in Texas, and 2.0% in Randall County. Between 2015 and 2017, Potter County experienced a 19.5% decline in births to adolescent mothers. The rate has also decreased in Texas (by 16.0%) and in Lubbock County (by 9.1%). Unfortunately, in Randall County the rate increased from 1.7% to 2.0% (by 17.6%) in Randall County between 2015 and 2017, but still remained below the state rate.



Homelessness

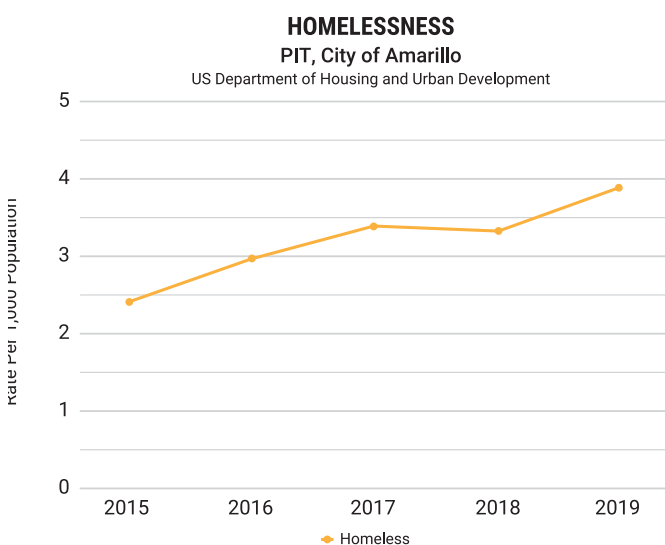
Homelessness increased by 18.2% in 2019.

Homelessness is on the rise in Amarillo. According to the Point-in-Time (PIT) count, the total homeless population in the city of Amarillo in January on 2019

was 777 individuals, compared to 665 in 2018. When the population growth is taken into account, the rate of homelessness increased from 3.3 per 1,000 residents in 2018 to 3.9 per 1,000 residents in 2019, an 18.2% increase.

The rate of unsheltered homelessness increased more than 3 times in just one year.

The increase was driven by the growing rate of homelessness among the individuals who did have a place to stay (shelter) at the time of the PIT count. The rate of homelessness in the city of Amarillo among the unsheltered individuals increased more than 3 times in just one year. Unfortunately, for the first time in nearly a decade there were two children among the unsheltered homeless.



The majority of the unsheltered homeless were single males (75.1%), people over the age of 24 (95.1%), and White (69.0%). Among sheltered homeless, the majority were in households without children (63.2%). The majority of sheltered homeless (68.0%) were over the age of 24 and White (71.7%).

Programs that Alleviate Homelessness

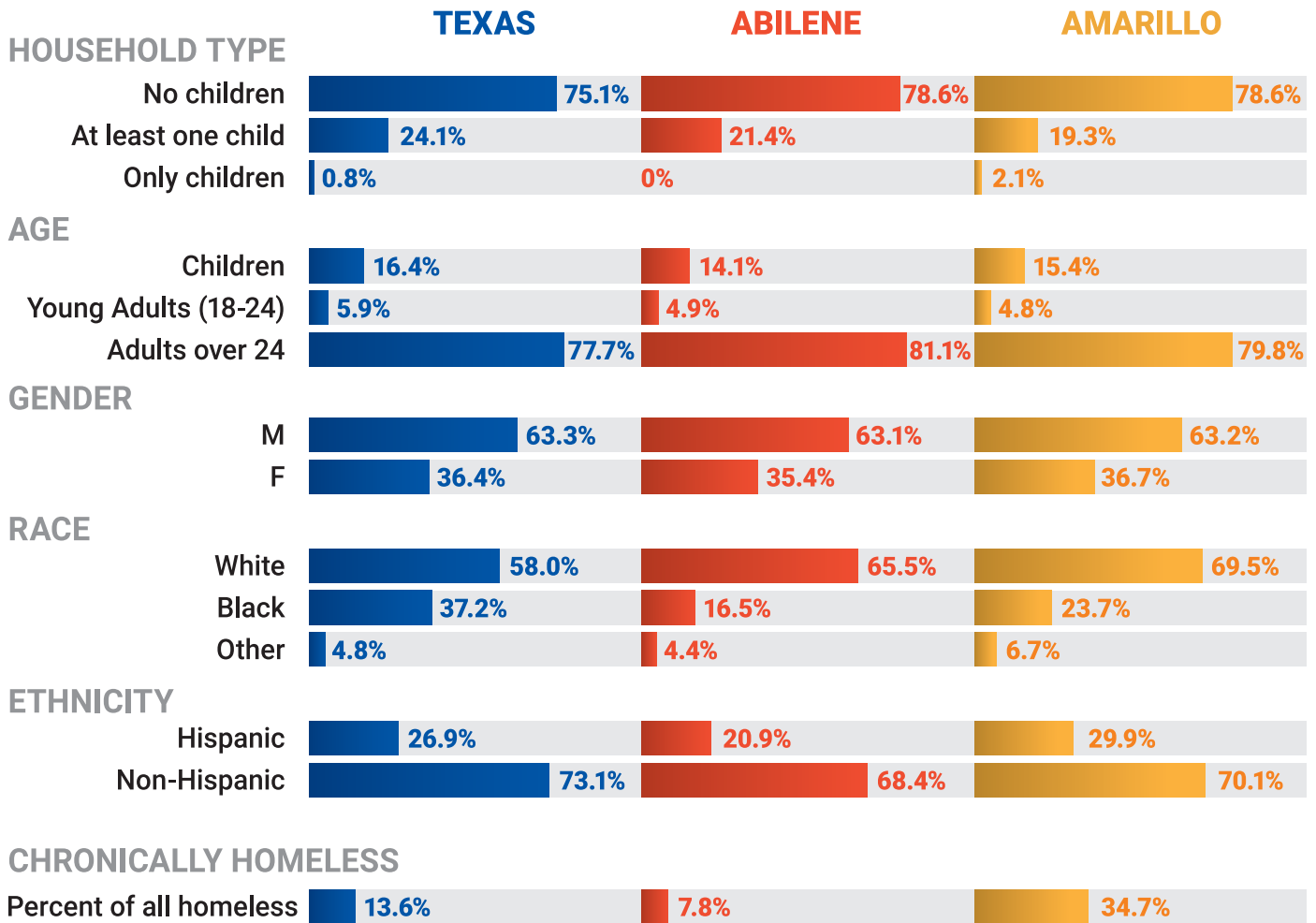
Homelessness presents a significant challenge for many metropolitan areas of Texas. In 2019 there were 25,848 individuals in Texas who experienced homelessness (0.1% of the population). According to the 2019 PIT estimate for Texas, 18.8% of the homeless suffered from a severe mental illness, 13.2% had a substance abuse disorder, and 9.7% were survivors of domestic violence.

Homelessness is a complicated bundle of interrelated issues such as physical and mental illness, substance use, struggles with employment and housing, victimization, and incarceration. Many cities in Texas have experimented with localized approaches to address homelessness on their streets and experienced varying degrees of success.

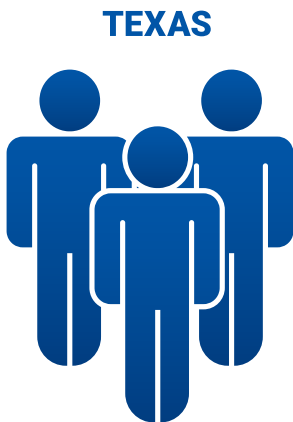
Among the most successful initiatives in Texas is the homeless rehousing initiative in the city of Abilene. Organized by the West Texas Homeless Network, a 100-day homeless challenge that began on October 23rd, 2018, obliterated the homeless encampment on 1st Street in Abilene by rehousing homeless people into permanent supportive housing. The majority of homeless residents moved into project Hope Haven; others found alternative housing arrangements. Hope Haven, in addition to housing homeless individuals, provides financial assistance and case management services¹⁴. Hope Haven’s model is part of a larger Housing First Initiative that prioritizes a safe and stable dwelling as the number one goal of transition out of homelessness. The program does not demand that participants comply with any other requirements, such as employment or mental health treatment. Housing First emphasizes respect for personal autonomy and choice as the key components of rehabilitation. Ad-

HOMELESSNESS

in Texas, Abilene, and Amarillo, 2019

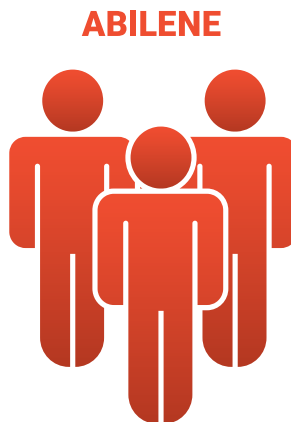


VULNERABLE GROUPS



TEXAS

Veterans	7.0%
Severely Mentally Ill	18.8%
Substance Use Disorder	13.2%
Survivor of Domestic Violence	9.7%
HIV/AIDS	1.2%



ABILENE

Veterans	3.4%
Severely Mentally Ill	8.7%
Substance Use Disorder	4.4%
Survivor of Domestic Violence	12.1%
HIV/AIDS	0.5%

Notes:

*Point-in-Time estimate for Abilene covers the entire Taylor County, not just the city of Abilene.

Some percentages do not add up to 100% due to incomplete data (examples are race and gender).

Data on Vulnerable Groups is not collected for the City of Amarillo.

Sources:

For Texas, HUD Exchange, https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_PopSub_State_TX_2019.pdf

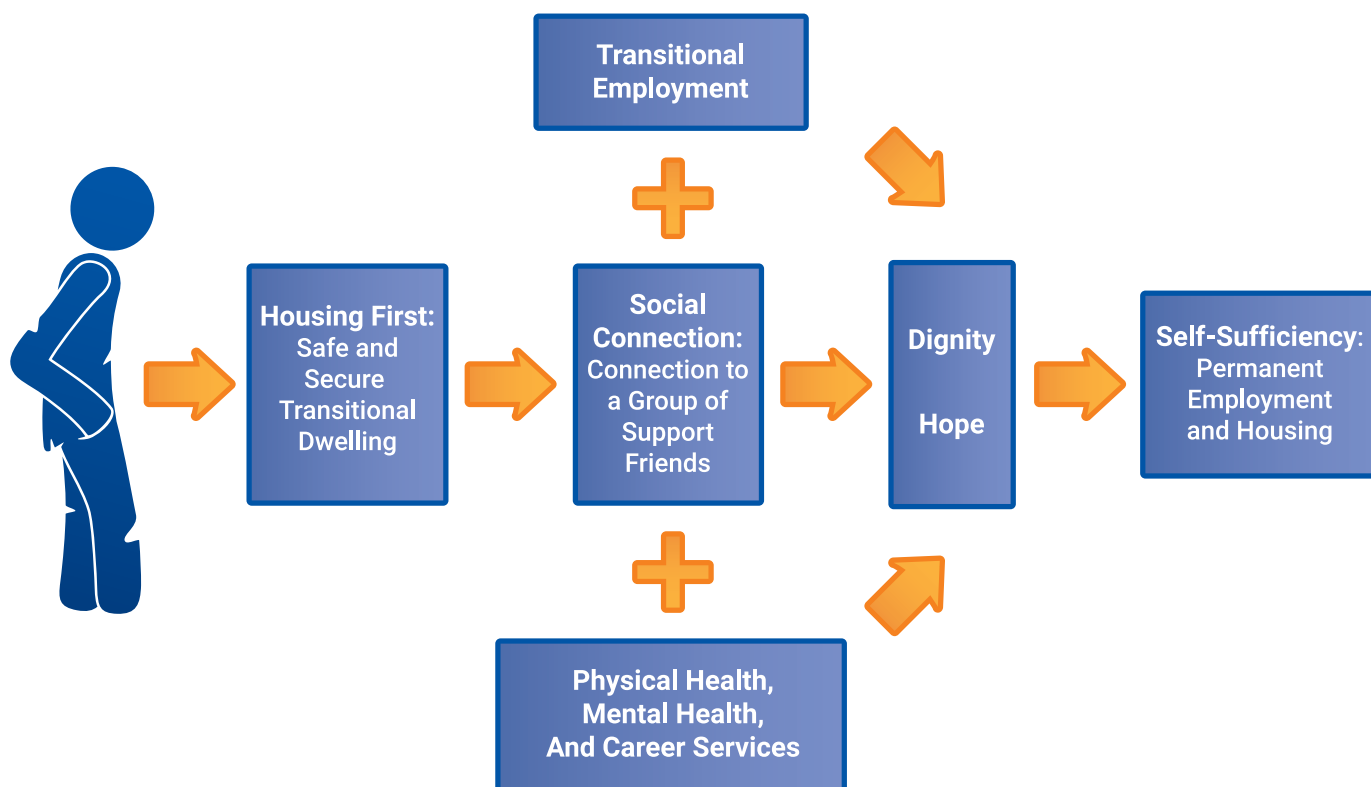
For Abilene, Home Again West Texas <https://www.homeagainwtx.com/pointintime-data>

For Amarillo, City of Amarillo Community Development, <http://comdev.amarillo.gov/home/showdocument?id=22774>

ditional services are offered to program participants only on a voluntary basis¹⁵.

Once the homeless individuals have a proper shelter, other successful programs can be implemented to help them make a permanent transition out of homelessness. Another successful example of transition out of homelessness can be seen in Fort Worth. Initiated by the city of Fort Worth, in collaboration with the Presbyterian Night Shelter, the Clean Slate Pro-

gram¹⁶ offers the sheltered homeless employment cleaning up the city streets. The program pays a fair wage (\$10 an hour), provides paid vacation and other employment benefits, and offers other services to help employees' health and well-being. The program philosophy considers employment not only as a way to establish financial independence, but also as a chance to restore human dignity and hope. The former homeless earn a livable wage by supplying an important public good: clean and beautiful streets.



The third, and perhaps most important, step towards permanent transition out of homelessness is the establishment of a social support network around the homeless individual. Research shows that fragmentation of social support networks can lead to chronic homelessness¹⁷. The 3e Restoration program that originated in Williamsburg, VA, focuses on social aspects of homelessness. The goal of the program is to empower local churches to create groups of people who serve as support friends and mentors to a lonely homeless individual. Each group walks alongside the homeless person for an extended period of time (often 2–3 years) and helps them

to find safe housing, improve personal hygiene, connect to financial resources and mental health services, and remediate educational and career gaps. The goal of the program is to integrate the formerly homeless individual into a community of supportive friends and achieve stable employment and permanent housing. Many of the formerly homeless people eventually start helping other homeless individuals and become support friends and mentors in the 3e Restoration program¹⁸. All three of the programs mentioned above work to disrupt the cycle of homelessness and restore the homeless individual to independent social living.

CONCLUSIONS

Potter and Randall Counties continue to represent two competing and converging realities of America. Potter County is a younger, poorer, “majority minority” county with many economic, health, and educational challenges. Randall County, on the other hand, is older, wealthier, and predominantly White; boasting of better health, education, and economic outcomes. Located side by side, these two counties are becoming more alike over the years in both positive and negative ways. For Potter County this means a growing median income, lower unemployment and poverty rates, and stronger educational outcomes. For Randall County this represents a decreasing median income (albeit still much higher than in Potter County), a slightly higher unemployment rate, and mildly deteriorating educational outcomes.

Common Strengths and Challenges

As a combined community, Potter and Randall Counties remain economically strong, with low unemployment and high (or growing) income even in the face of a growing population and labor force. The counties also show consistently strong educational outcomes in the K-12 school system, often surpassing those of the region and the state. The Amarillo economy creates a strong demand and pays a living wage for high school graduates and associate degree holders (as well as certain types of advanced degrees) in manufacturing, healthcare, and protective services (police and firefighting). Due to these opportunities, the poverty rate in Potter County in 2017 was the lowest since 2008 (the first year of reporting) and even fell below the rate of neighboring Lubbock County. At the same time, while Randall County’s poverty rate somewhat increased, it stayed well below state and national rates. This achievement is a big victory for the entire Amarillo and Canyon community.

Among the largest common challenges for both counties are the areas of health problems, abuse, and growing homelessness. Both counties struggle with high uninsured rates, high (or growing) rates of chronic illness (heart disease, cancer, and diabetes), and elevated (or growing) rates of STIs. Child abuse and neglect remain a significant challenge in both counties despite their improving economic conditions, which typically tend to alleviate abuse and neglect. Finally, homelessness is on the rise in the Amarillo Metropolitan Area, with an alarmingly growing number of unsheltered homeless.

Unique Challenges

Potter County faces numerous challenges, especially in the areas of health and safety. The most notable among them are high rates of school suspension in Amarillo ISD, elevated STI rates (nearly double state averages), a high (albeit falling) poverty rate, high rates of child abuse and neglect (double state rates), and intimate partner violence (triple state rates).

Randall County does not face as many unique challenges, but a few that deserve attention are the high and growing poverty rate among the elderly (in the face of the growing elderly population) and a persistently high and growing rate of suicide in the county.

Spotlight on Homelessness

The 2019 Community Status Report highlights the issue of homelessness and successful interventions against it. With rising homelessness in many Texas metropolitan areas, cities are looking for long-term solutions to this complicated issue. Abilene implemented a successful strategy of relocating homeless individuals from an outdoor encampment to a housing facility in 100 days. The city put safe dwelling as the number one priority for the homeless. The city of Fort Worth hired sheltered homeless individuals and paid them fair wages to clean up city streets. The 3e Restoration Initiative created a novice approach to long-term rehabilitation of homeless by addressing the issue of social isolation. 3e provides each homeless individual with a circle of support friends who help them find housing, access physical and mental health services, and gain employment. At the heart of all three interventions is the goal of restoring human dignity and hope as using them as a catalyst for long-term independent living.

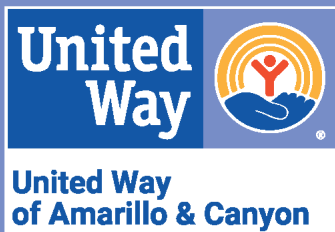
FOOTNOTES

- ¹ 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/>
- ² 2017-2018 Texas Academic Performance Report, Texas Education Agency, <https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/tapr/2018/glossary.pdf>
- ³ Enrollment in Texas Public School, 2018-2019, Texas Education Agency, https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/enroll_2018-19.pdf
- ⁴ Skiba, R. J., Chung, C. G., Trachok, M., Baker, T. L., Sheya, A., & Hughes, R. L. (2014). *Parsing disciplinary disproportionality: Contributions of infraction, student, and school characteristics to out-of-school suspension and expulsion*. *American Educational Research Journal*, 51(4), 640-670.
Summary available at <http://wtgrantfoundation.org/disparities-in-school-discipline-the-complex-face-of-in-equality-in-education>
- ⁵ TSDS PEIMS 40203 https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/TAPR%20Glossary_2017_October.pdf
- ⁶ United States Census Bureau, Poverty Thresholds, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>
- ⁷ Center for Public Policy Priorities, Texas Family Budgets data tool <http://familybudgets.org/>
- ⁸ 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>
- ⁹ US Census Bureau (2018). "Health insurance coverage in the United States: 2018". <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-267.html>
- ¹⁰ Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2016, Texas Department of State Health Services, <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/Obesity/Data/>
- ¹¹ 2012-2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHsaeShortTermCHG2014/NSDUHsaeShortTermCHG2014.pdf>
- ¹² Binge Drinking Fact Sheet (2018), Alcohol Use and Public Health, Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- ¹³ Texas House Bill 5, 85th Regular Legislative Session, 2017, <https://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/85R/bill-text/pdf/HB00005F.pdf#navpanes=0>
- ¹⁴ Hope Haven, <https://www.abilenehopehaven.org/hhs>
- ¹⁵ Housing First, <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/housing-first/>¹⁶ Efficient Gov, <https://efficientgov.com/blog/2018/01/30/city-of-fort-worth-funds-homeless-work-program-jobs/>
- ¹⁷ Green, H. D., Tucker, J. S., Golinelli, D., & Wenzel, S. L. (2013). *Social networks, time homeless, and social support: A study of men on Skid Row*. *Network Science*, 1(3), 305-320;
- Hwang, S. W., Kirst, M. J., Chiu, S., Tolomiczenko, G., Kiss, A., Cowan, L., & Levinson, W. (2009). *Multidimensional social support and the health of homeless individuals*. *Journal of Urban Health*, 86(5), 791-803.
- ¹⁸ 3E Restoration, <https://3erestoration.org/about-us/our-three-branches/>

Area	County	2017 Value	Trend	Better Than	Worse Than
Median Income	Potter Co.	\$45,312	↑		US, TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
Unemployment	Randall Co.	\$62,098	↓	US, TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	
	Potter Co.	3.1%	↓	US, TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.	
Graduation Rate	Randall Co.	3.9%	↓	US, TX, Lubbock Co.	
	Potter Co.	89.8%	↓		TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
SAT/ACT Passing	Randall Co.	94.8%	↓	TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	
	Amarillo ISD	12.6%	↑		TX, Region 16, Canyon ISD
Uninsured	Canyon ISD	30.1%	↓	TX, Region 16, Canyon ISD	
	Potter Co.	21.8%	↓		US, TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
Heart Disease*	Randall Co.	10.2%	↓	TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	US
	Potter Co.	188.8 per 100,000	↓		TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
Suicide	Randall Co.	155.8 per 100,000	↓	Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	TX
	Potter Co.	18.1 per 100,000	↓	Randall Co.	TX, Lubbock Co.
Chlamydia (2018)	Randall Co.	23.0 per 100,000	↓		TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.
	Potter Co.	987.1 per 100,000	↓		TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
Poverty	Randall Co.	209.9 per 100,000	↓	TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	
	Potter Co.	17.5%	↓	Lubbock Co.	US, TX, Randall Co.
SNAP	Randall Co.	8.7%	↓	US, TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	
	Potter Co.	20.1%	↓		US, TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
Child Abuse	Randall Co.	7.3%	↓	US, TX, Lubbock Co., Potter Co.	
	Potter Co.	19.4 per 1,000			TX, Lubbock Co., Randall Co.
	Randall Co.	9.5 per 1,000		Potter Co., Lubbock Co.	TX



**United Way
of Amarillo & Canyon**



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