

# COMMUNITY STATUS REPORT

2023







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# 1. Board Chair's Letter

**We gather community resources to advance the common good.**

To the people of Amarillo and Canyon:

United Way of Amarillo & Canyon is turning 100 years old this year! We began our work in 1924 as the "Community Chest" and later changed to the "Amarillo United Fund" in 1957. In 1974 we joined forces with 2-1-1 Texas Helpline, that is still going strong today. In 1987, we officially adopted the name "United Way of Amarillo & Canyon," and last year we joined many other Texas United Ways in beginning our work with the ALICE population (please see pages 10-12 for more information.) We are excited about who we have become and are looking forward to 100 more years!

Over the past century, we have learned that adaptation is essential in advancing the common good. As our community continues to thrive, we believe we will only keep growing stronger into the future. However, to know where we are going, we need to know where we are right now and that is the purpose of this Community Status Report.

**This edition of the Community Status Report not only delves into the latest statistics on the ALICE population and highlights our Program Providers, but you might also notice real life accounts of hard-working families, just like yours and mine, who were able to get help from one or more of the amazing nonprofit programs our great community is able to provide. These accounts are all from this past year, and although the names have been changed, they are 100% real.**

We are overjoyed that this report is in its ninth publication and are excited to provide essential information to local nonprofit agencies developing innovative programming to solve our community's most challenging issues. This report also serves as an important tool for healthcare, education, government and business entities, offering a snapshot of key sectors and vulnerable populations. It also informs our own United Way leadership when making decisions about our community impact investments. However, the most important purpose of this Community Status Report, is to inform you—a community member. We hope this report will be useful to you in your everyday life as you work to make our great community even better!

Thank you for your support, your commitment, and your friendship.



Leslie Massey

Chair, Board of Trustees

United Way of Amarillo & Canyon





## 2. Mission

### **Essence:** Who We Are

We gather community resources to advance the common good.

### **Mission:** What We Do

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

### **Vision:** Our Aspiration

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



## 3. Executive Summary

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

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

In addition to traditional indicators of demographics, education, and income, the 2023 report took a deeper look at substance use, child abuse/neglect and the foster care system.

Following are the highlights from this year's report:

### 3.1 Population

- Randall County is gaining in total population and child population, while Potter County's total population is stable but its child population is **decreasing**.
- Despite the decreasing child population in Potter County, the median age of its population is still younger than Randall County's (34.5 vs. 36.4, respectively).
- The racial distribution is also different between the two counties, with Potter County having a more diverse population: 40.4% Hispanic and 10% Black vs. 25.4% and 2.4%, respectively in Randall. The White population comprises roughly 2/3 of Randall's (64.5%) and half (50.2%) in Potter.

### 3.2 Education

State pass rates are the most appropriate means of comparison:

- K-12 performance of Amarillo Independent School District (ISD) on 2023 the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) tests:
  - In Reading, 3rd graders basically **matched** statewide pass rates (51% vs. 50%, respectively).
  - In Math, 3rd graders were **slightly higher** than statewide pass rates (48% vs. 45%, respectively).

- In Reading, 8th graders were **slightly lower** than the statewide pass rate (54% vs. 58%, respectively).
- In Math, 8th graders were **12% higher** than the statewide pass rate (58% vs. 46%, respectively).
- K-12 performance of Canyon ISD on 2023 STAAR tests:
  - 3rd graders had pass rates on Reading that were **11% higher** than the state (61% vs. 50%) and **9% higher** than the state rate on Math (54% vs. 45%)
  - 8th graders were **7% higher** on Reading than the state pass rate (65% vs. 58%) and **15% higher** on Math than the state pass rate (61% vs. 46%)

### 3.3 Health

This year's Health focus was substance use. These are the highlights:

- There is a scarcity of mental health providers across the region (highlighted by Randall County having no psychiatrists).
- The number of driving under the influence (DUI) auto crashes per year are high—Randall County had between 111 and 137 per year between 2018 and 2022, while Potter County had between 151 and 202 in that same time frame.
- Fatalities from those crashes were 1-8 per year for Randall and 3-9 per year for Potter.
- Of particular concern are the number of overdose (OD) deaths reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Potter County had between 24 and 27 OD deaths between 2020 and 2022, while Randall County had between 19 and 29 in that same 3-year period.
- **This high number of overdose deaths should ring alarm bells for the community.**

### 3.4 Income

We used two primary indicators for Income: unemployment rate and median household income (both for 2022).

- Both counties had unemployment rates lower than Lubbock County: 2.8% for Randall County, 3.2% for Potter County, and 3.4% for Lubbock County.
- Median household income reflects a stark difference between the counties: Randall County had a high level of median household income—\$78,038.
- Potter County's median household income was \$47,974.
- In comparison, Lubbock County's median household income was \$61,911.

### 3.5 Vulnerable Populations

This year's report looked deeply into the issue of child abuse/neglect and the foster care system which is supposed to protect these children.

- A major unresolved issue for child welfare relates to the reason that children are removed from their homes.
- Despite the lay perception that most children are removed for physical or sexual abuse, in fact those are a very small percentage of child removals.
- **Most children are removed from their homes due to neglect and/or parental substance use.**
- However, there is no reliable assessment of "neglect" and there is no evidence that substance use alone increases a child's risk for abuse.
- Starting in 2020, there were fewer reports for Potter, Randall, and Lubbock counties for: confirmed victims, child removals, children in Department of Family and Protective Services' responsibility, and children with either Temporary Managing Conservatorship legal status or Permanent Managing Conservatorship legal status.
- The rates of decrease in child welfare reports for Potter and Randall counties was less than the rate of decrease in Lubbock County.

- The Senior Statistician believes some percentage of these decreases are related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- However, the faster rate of decrease in Lubbock County than Potter or Randall counties suggest factors in addition to the pandemic are responsible for these decreases.

### 3.6 Community Strengths and Challenges

These are some of the identified community strengths:

- Potter and Randall counties have a low cost of living.
- They also have low unemployment (2.8% and 3.2% for Randall and Potter, respectively, in 2022).
- Randall County had a high level of median household income (in 2022 \$78,038 compared to Lubbock County's \$61,911 and Potter County's \$47,974).
- Both counties have public school systems which perform at (and usually **above**) comparison regional and statewide performance levels.
- And both counties have cohesive communities with "importance placed on family, spirituality, extracurricular activities, and athletics" (PRC RNA).

Despite these strengths, challenges remain:

- In particular we identified 2 outcomes of serious substance use: DUI crashes and overdose (OD) deaths, which should be a particular concern due to their high numbers.
- In addition there remain very high levels of family violence in Potter County, and both counties lack appropriate placements for foster care children.
- This scarcity of appropriate foster placements requires that approximately a third of foster care children from both Potter and Randall counties must be placed outside of Region 1 (a HUGE geographic area encompassing 41 counties from the Panhandle and South Plains).



# UNITED FOR ALICE



## Who is ALICE?

**ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) may be a relative or friend. As cashiers, servers, childcare providers, and other members of our essential workforce, ALICE earns just above the Federal Poverty Level but less than what it costs to make ends meet. These struggling households are forced to make impossible choices each day. While such hardship is pervasive, households of color are disproportionately ALICE.**

**ALICE also represents the data reshaping the dialogue on financial hardship, and a grassroots movement that is picking up steam across half of U.S. states - and counting.**

## ESSENTIAL. WORKING. STRUGGLING.

For a growing number of U.S. households, financial stability is nothing more than a pipe dream, no matter how hard their members work. These households are ALICE – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – earning above the Federal Poverty Level yet struggling to afford basic expenses.

ALICE may be your relative, friend, colleague, or neighbor, or maybe you qualify to be ALICE. ALICE may also be your caregiver, hotel clerk, preschool teacher, retail clerk, sanitation worker, and others. ALICE workers are the backbone of our economy, with the pandemic making it crystal clear just how much we need them.

## ALICE

- Spans all races, ages, ethnicities, and abilities, though households of color are disproportionately ALICE.
- Includes workers whose wages cannot keep up with the rising cost of goods and services.
- Often includes those who are working two or more jobs and still cannot pay their bills.
- May have family members who need care and assistance, making it harder for them to find living-wage work.
- Lives paycheck to paycheck and are forced to make impossible choices: pay the rent or buy food, receive medical care or pay for childcare, pay utility bills or put gas in the car.
- Is part of every community nationwide.



# Survival Household Budgets 2021 for Potter & Randall County

## Understanding the Consequences of Insufficient Income

Over 40 percent of U.S. households are unable to afford basics, forcing them to make impossible choices and risky trade-offs every day. See how the six essential elements of a household budget — housing, child care and education, food, transportation, health care, and technology — as well as taxes affect financial decision-making for ALICE families.

Potter County    Randall County

MONTHLY COSTS AND CREDITS	SINGLE ADULT	ONE ADULT, ONE CHILD	ONE ADULT, ONE IN CHILD CARE	TWO ADULTS	TWO ADULTS, TWO CHILDREN	TWO ADULTS, TWO IN CHILD CARE	SINGLE SENIOR	TWO SENIORS
HOUSING - RENT	\$467 \$542	\$467 \$542	\$467 \$542	\$467 \$542	\$616 \$711	\$616 \$711	\$476 \$542	\$476 \$542
HOUSING - UTILITIES	\$154 \$154	\$239 \$239	\$239 \$239	\$239 \$239	\$292 \$292	\$292 \$292	\$154 \$154	\$239 \$239
CHILD CARE	\$0 \$0	\$222 \$222	\$592 \$592	\$0 \$0	\$444 \$444	\$1,263 \$1,263	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0
FOOD	\$377 \$433	\$640 \$735	\$575 \$660	\$692 \$794	\$1,128 \$1,295	\$1,029 \$1,181	\$348 \$400	\$639 \$733
TRANSPORTATION	\$342 \$342	\$440 \$440	\$440 \$440	\$518 \$518	\$819 \$819	\$819 \$819	\$295 \$295	\$424 \$424
HEALTH CARE	\$211 \$211	\$565 \$565	\$565 \$565	\$565 \$565	\$882 \$882	\$882 \$882	\$552 \$506	\$1,103 \$1,012
TECHNOLOGY	\$75 \$75	\$75 \$75	\$75 \$75	\$110 \$110	\$110 \$110	\$110 \$110	\$75 \$75	\$110 \$110
MISCELLANEOUS	\$164 \$176	\$265 \$282	\$295 \$311	\$259 \$277	\$429 \$455	\$501 \$526	\$190 \$197	\$298 \$306
TAX PAYMENT	\$214 \$239	\$362 \$399	\$428 \$463	\$296 \$331	\$646 \$703	\$802 \$856	\$270 \$286	\$504 \$521
TAX CREDIT	\$0 \$0	(\$361) (\$361)	(\$596) (\$596)	\$0 \$0	(\$722) (\$722)	(\$1,231) (\$1,231)	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$2,013 \$2,172	\$2,914 \$3,138	\$3,080 \$3,291	\$3,146 \$3,376	\$4,644 \$4,989	\$5,083 \$5,409	\$2,360 \$2,455	\$3,784 \$3,887
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$24,156 \$26,064	\$34,968 \$37,656	\$36,960 \$39,492	\$37,752 \$40,512	\$55,728 \$59,868	\$60,996 \$64,908	\$28,320 \$29,460	\$45,408 \$46,644
HOURLY WAGE	\$12.08 \$13.03	\$17.48 \$18.83	\$18.48 \$19.75	\$18.88 \$20.26	\$27.86 \$29.93	\$30.50 \$32.45	\$14.16 \$14.73	\$22.70 \$23.32

Potter County, Texas 2021		
County Subdivision	Total Household	% Below ALICE Threshold
79101	1,195	75%
79102	4,206	51%
79103	3,731	50%
79104	2,288	45%
79106	11,800	53%
79107	10,960	68%
79108	4,350	44%
79111	457	38%
79124	4,189	20%

Randall County, Texas 2021		
County Subdivision	Total Household	% Below ALICE Threshold
79105	7,923	35%
79109	18,539	41%
79110	6,949	40%
79118	9,883	28%
79119	8,402	22%
79121	2,511	36%





**Because the problems facing ALICE families are interconnected, effective solutions must be, too. Working toward these solutions will require innovation and vision, to both recognize local factors and address as many areas of struggle as possible.**

### Housing

Housing is the cornerstone of stability, but it is also the most expensive item in most families' budgets. Without safe, affordable housing, families cannot maintain stability in other areas of life like school and work attendance, or access to health care and healthy food. They may also face long commutes to work, the inability to save for emergencies, and excessive stress.

### Childcare & Education

Childcare is essential for parents to work and children to be prepared for kindergarten, and education is one of the best predictors of financial well-being in the U.S. Yet, childcare is also the second most expensive item in the family budget, and ALICE families face challenges finding quality education at every level. Without quality childcare, children may not be ready for school and can face health and safety risks, and parents cannot work. Without quality K-12 education, students do not gain the important skills they need to advance to sustainable jobs. And without affordable higher education, students incur debt and forgo job advancement.

### Food

Food is the most basic of all needs. A healthy diet builds overall good health and fuels working and learning throughout the day. In the short term, food is the easiest place for a family to skimp on cost, but in the long term, the consequences of a poor diet or food insecurity can include developmental delays in children, compromised performance at school or work, and chronic disease in adults. ALICE families living in food deserts also face challenges in getting access to healthy foods, such as fresh fruits and vegetables.

### Transportation

Transportation is necessary to get to jobs, housing, grocery stores, childcare, school, and health care providers, as well as for social and faith-based activities. Though public transportation is cheaper than vehicle ownership, it is unavailable in much of the country, so owning a car is essential for many and a purchase most ALICE families struggle to afford. The consequences of buying less expensive vehicles include sacrificing reliability and safety, risking travel delays, and adding costs for repairs, insurance, registration, and traffic fines.

### Health Care

Health care is the hardest item to budget and is both a consequence and a cause of financial instability. Depending on age, illnesses, and overall health, costs vary widely between families. While health insurance has become more available to lower-income families since the introduction of the Affordable Care Act in 2014, there are still millions without insurance and even more who cannot access quality, regular health care due to initial cost outlays, work and family obligations, and doctor shortages, particularly in primary care and in rural areas.

### Technology

Technology has become an essential part of the current economy, so families need access to basic technology, such as smartphones and home internet, to participate. Yet smartphones and home internet add costs to ALICE's budget. Without access, ALICE families are disadvantaged in job searches and job performance, school performance, accessing public benefits, and health care. Subsidized phone and internet programs exist, but there are significant limitations to performance, eligibility, and enrollment.

### Taxes

Taxes are a necessary additional expense for working ALICE households. Because most ALICE families are not eligible for public assistance, they are net contributors and, on average, pay a higher rate of state and local taxes than households in the highest income bracket. Earned income and child tax credits provide important relief to working families, though primarily those with children under the age of 18.



## 4. Demographics

As Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2 demonstrate, the total and child populations of Potter and Randall counties have followed different trends in the past 5 years: in Randall County, the total population and the child population have both been increasing at a steady rate, while Potter County's total population has stayed at the same level, while its child population has actually **decreased**.

Although the child populations of Randall and Potter counties have gone in different directions, the median age of Randall County residents is higher

than that of Potter County residents as shown in Figure 4.3.

The racial distribution between the two counties is also different: while non-Hispanic Whites make up almost 2/3 of Randall County's population (64.5%), they make up just over half (50.2%) of Potter County's (see Figure 4.4). Potter County is more diverse racially than Randall County: Hispanics (40.4%) and Blacks (10%) make up a higher proportion in Potter than in Randall (25.4% and 2.4%, respectively).

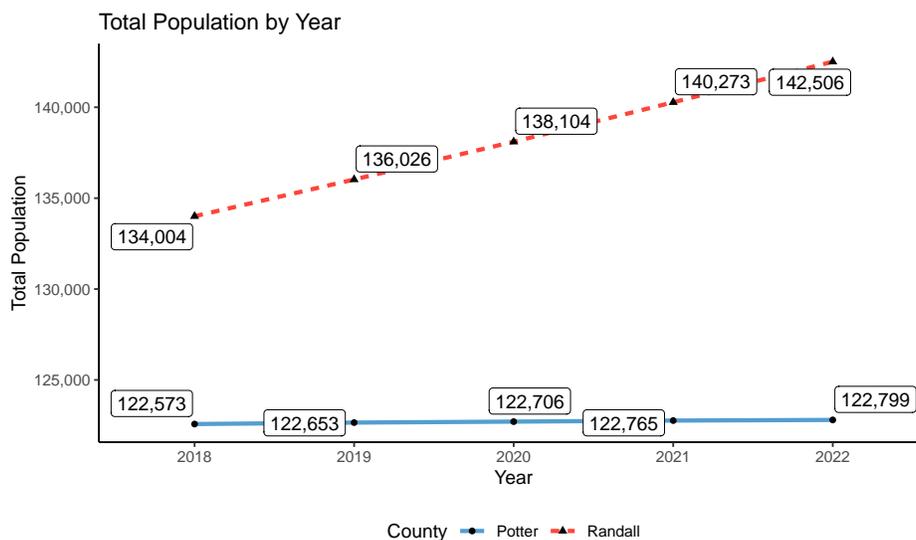


Figure 4.1: Total Population, 2018-2022

## Population Changes

Between 2018 and 2022, the total population of Potter County was static, and its child population **decreased**. In contrast, Randall County's total and child populations increased at a steady rate.

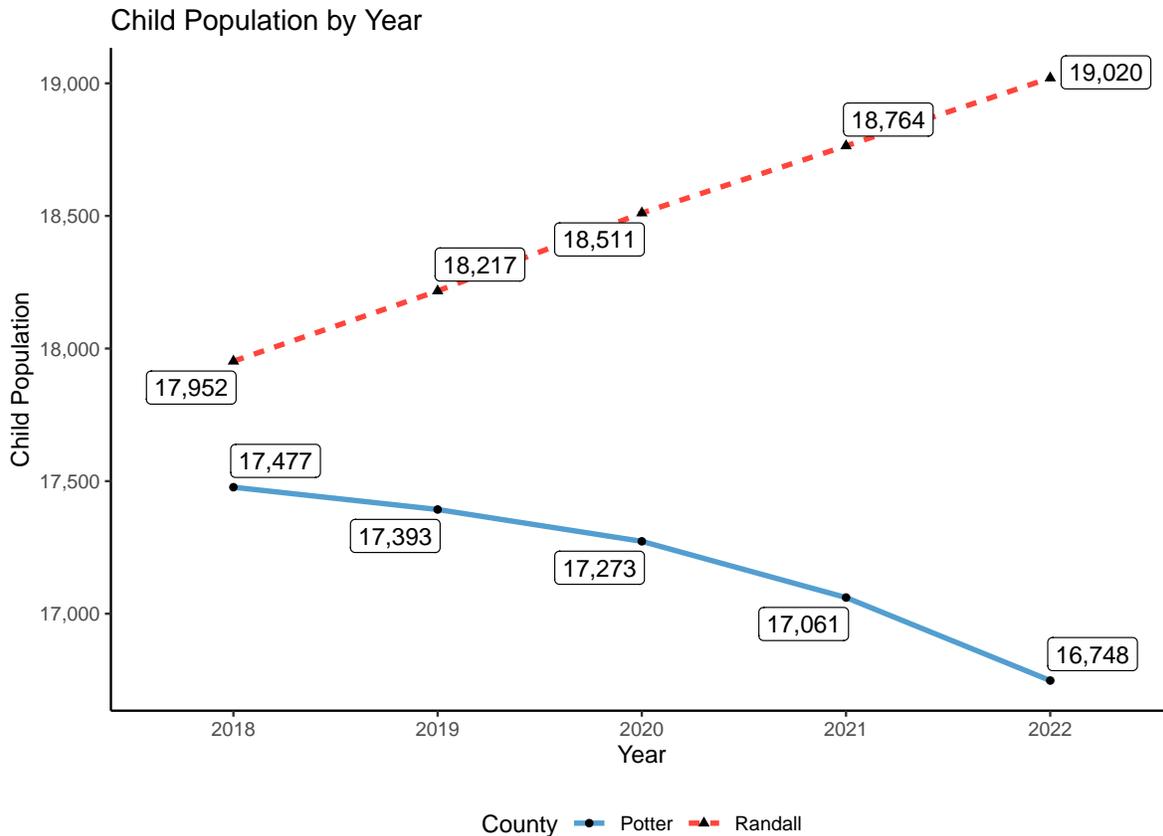


Figure 4.2: Child Population, 2018-2022

## A True Story

The Smiths are a Randall County family of four. Mom and Dad have multiple jobs between them, but their three-year-old son was born with a heart defect and their brand-new baby girl with a skull irregularity that requires a specially designed helmet that would not be covered by insurance. Making their children's health a priority, they could not afford their next mortgage payment. UWAC's Specific Aid Rent/Utility assistance program was able to pay for a month's mortgage so their family could stay in the home, and their brand-new girl can grow up in a safe and happy home.

Median Age  
American Community Survey, 2022

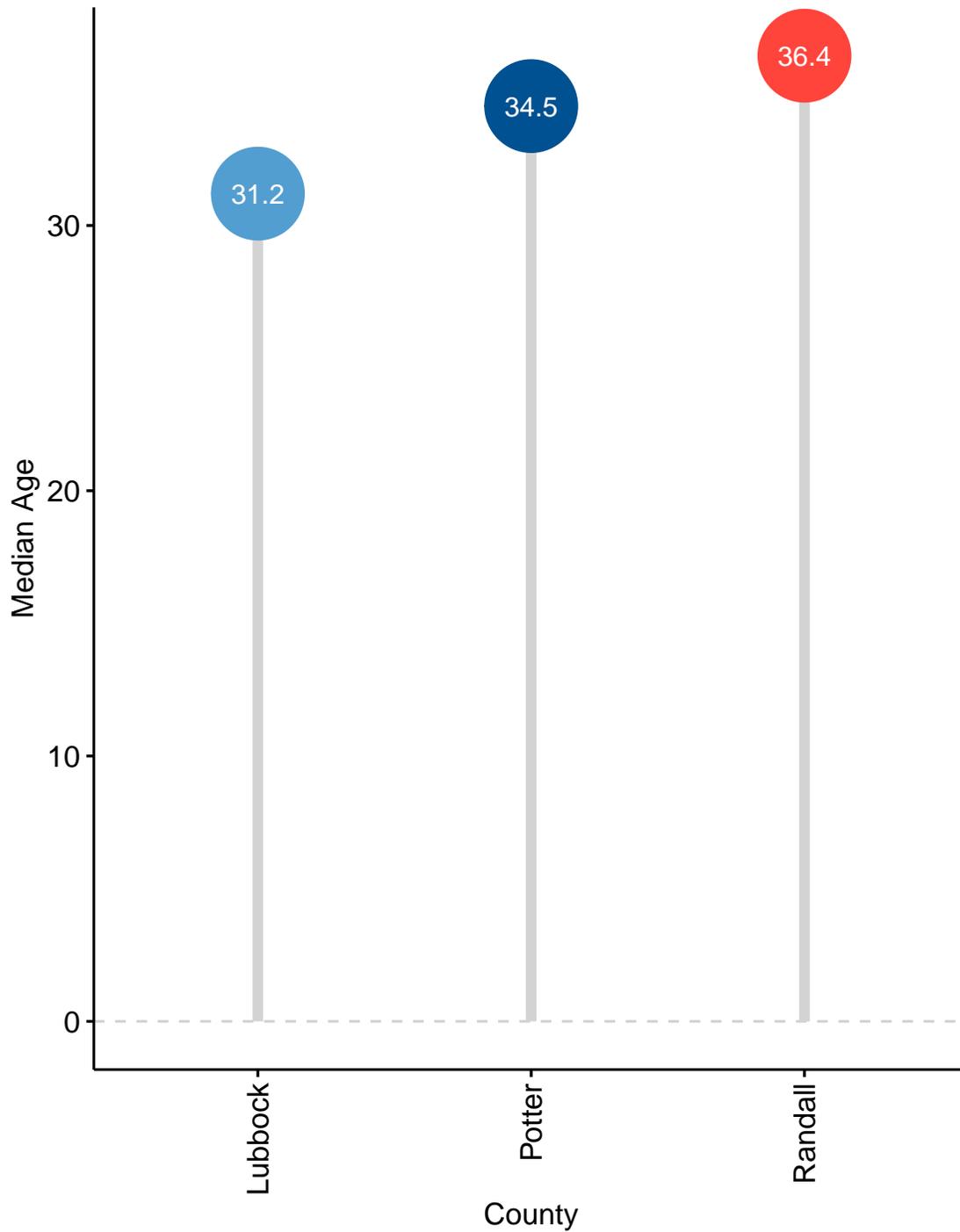


Figure 4.3: Median Age, 2022

Race by County  
American Community Survey, 2022

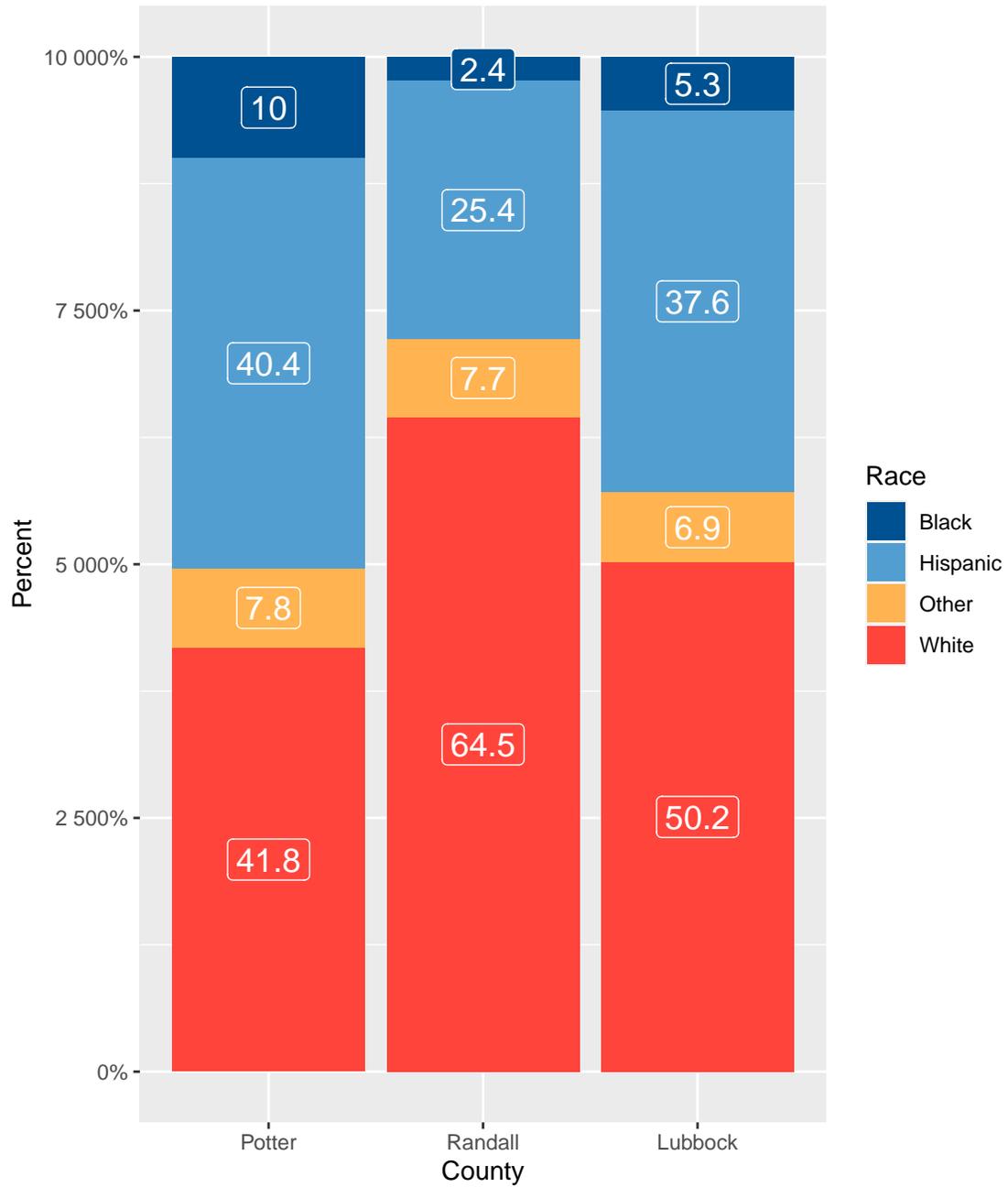


Figure 4.4: Racial Distribution, 2022

## 5. Education

### 5.1 K-12 Performance

In 2023, K-12 performance for Amarillo Independent School District (ISD) 3rd graders on Reading mirrored the Region 16 and statewide rates: 51% for Amarillo ISD compared to 51% and 50% for Region 16 and the state, respectively. [All passing rates are "At Meets Grade Level or Above"]

On Math, Amarillo ISD 3rd graders scored higher (48%) than did Region 16 and state 3rd graders (46% and 45%, respectively).

In 2023, Amarillo ISD 8th graders scored below Region 16 and state peers on Math: 54% for Amarillo ISD compared to 57% and 58% for Region 16 and state, respectively.

A higher percentage of Amarillo ISD 8th graders passed Math than either Region 16 or the state. They had a 58% pass rate compared to 53% for Region 16

and 47% for the state.

Canyon ISD also had exemplary performance on the STAAR tests, both for 3rd and 8th graders, and for Reading and Math.

In 2023, Canyon ISD's 3rd graders had a 61% in Reading and 54% in Math, compared to Region 16 and state rates of 51% and 50% for Reading and 46% and 45% for Math.

Canyon ISD's 8th graders also had the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) performances higher than either Region 16 or statewide in 2023. Their Reading scores were 65% while Region 16's overall was 57% and statewide was 58%. On Math, Canyon ISD's 8th graders were 61% while Region 16's overall was 53% and statewide was 46%.



Grade	School Year	Texas	Region 16	Amarillo ISD	Canyon ISD
<b>3rd Grade Reading</b>	2023	50%	51%	51%	61%
	2022	51%	54%	54%	65%
<b>3rd Grade Math</b>	2023	45%	46%	48%	54%
	2022	43%	47%	46%	58%
<b>8th Grade Reading</b>	2023	58%	57%	54%	65%
	2022	58%	57%	56%	70%
<b>8th Grade Math</b>	2023	46%	53%	58%	61%
	2022	40%	49%	53%	53%

Table 5.1: Percentage Passing STAAR exams "At Meets Grade Level or Above," 2022-2023

**A True Story**

At the Night Owl Program, Maverick Boys & Girls Club extends childcare services until 1:00 AM, allowing parents the opportunity to work, particularly those on the Tyson Foods B Shift. For Cody and Lauren, it has been a life-changer. Cody, a working father of two, said, "With kids, finding good childcare is beyond difficult. It's extremely expensive." The dream of owning a home felt unattainable for their family, but thanks to Tyson Foods' support and Maverick, they just bought their first house.

## 5.2 High School Graduation

Graduation rates are the most confusing indicator or metric which the Texas Education Agency (TEA) reports. It reports 4 different rates (4-Year Longitudinal Rate, a 5-Year Extended Longitudinal Rate, a 6-Year Extended Longitudinal Rate, and a 4-Year Federal Graduation Rate Without Exclusions). For each of these four rates, TEA reports graduation rates for 6 different subgroups.

It is the Senior Statistician's belief that the 6-Year Extended Longitudinal Rate for the subgroup of Graduates, the Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency (TxCHSE), and Continuers is the most

appropriate to report.

As evident in Figure 5.15.1 (next page), Amarillo ISD's rate has been equivalent to or above the state's for all graduating classes between 2016 and 2020, and Canyon ISD's has been above the state rate during the same period.

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on these graduation rates aren't noticeable for the graduating class of 2020. Any pandemic-related effects on graduation rates may show up with the graduating class of 2021, and those will be available in 2025.

**K-12 Performance**

In 2023, the STAAR performance of both Amarillo ISD and Canyon ISD was similar to, and in some cases very superior to, the statewide pass rates for 3rd and 8th grade Reading and Math. Similarly, graduation rates for graduating classes of 2016-2020 were at least as good as, and in some cases very superior to, statewide graduation rates.

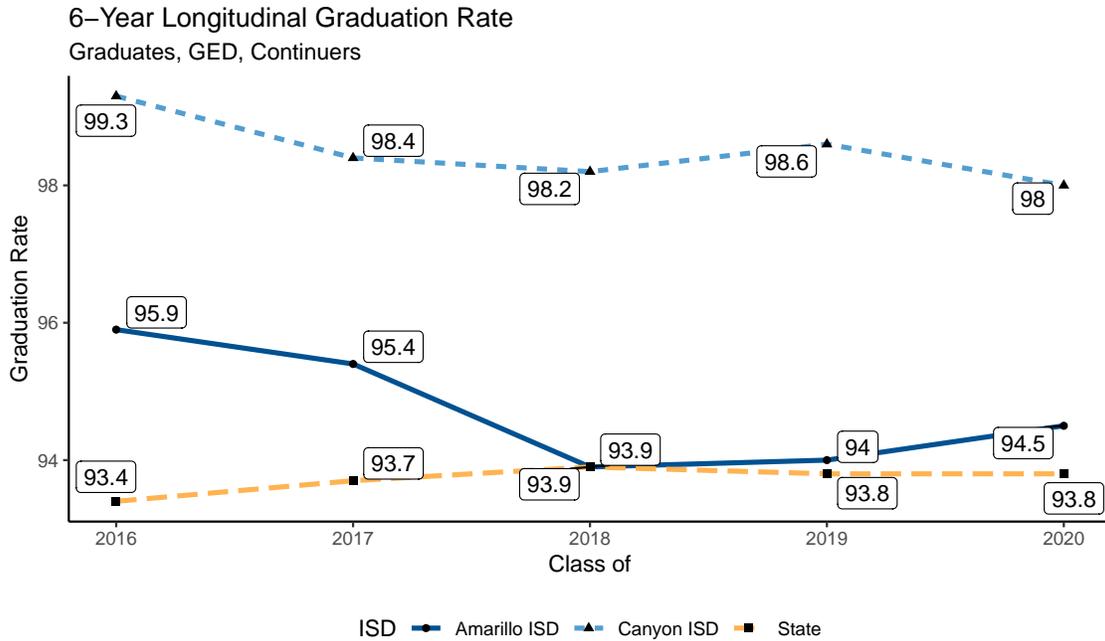


Figure 5.1: Graduation Rates, Classes of 2016-2020

#### A True Story

Mr. Strickland is a 76-year-old veteran and struggles with memory and cognition issues. His adult son and his girlfriend promised to take care of his bills, using the disability payments Mr. Strickland received from his time serving our country. Unfortunately, his son had not been paying the bills and had been pocketing the money. When it came time to pay the electric bill, his son and his girlfriend left town. Through UWAC's Specific Aid Rent/Utility assistance program, this veteran will continue to have electricity, keeping his lights and appliances on, including his mini-freezer, which is fortunate - Mr. Strickland loves popsicles!

# EDUCATION

## FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Education Division of Family Support Services provides proactive educational programs designed to prevent sexual violence, juvenile delinquency, bullying, teen dating violence, child abuse, human trafficking, substance use, and more. It provides multi-component support styles, intervention strategies, programming content tailored for specific audiences, and community consultation and education. All programs are primary prevention-focused and risk-reduction models.

Prevention programs positively impact a range of social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes. Clients of the Education Department are assisted with the knowledge, attitude, and skills they need to make healthy choices and change harmful behaviors and generational norms. The Education Department does this by providing a variety of educational programs, support groups, and specialized training.

A common phrase you will hear when wandering the halls of the Education Division is, “We aim to put ourselves out of a job.” At the heart of what they do, this sums it up.

While Family Support Services responds to a range of social issues such as sexual violence, domestic violence, and human trafficking, their programs aim to prevent these crimes from happening at all. They keep this mission at the forefront of their mind when doing the work they do.

The Department’s evidence-based programs are accompanied by a passionate team fueled by compassion, knowledge, and purpose with a deep understanding of the barriers and complex environments of their clients. Staff engage in circles of support, provide mentorship and roadmaps for healing, and provide their clients with the tools and resources they need to go from surviving to thriving.





## PROGRAMS OF THE EDUCATION DIVISION

- **Strengthening Families** – evidence-based family skills training program for families that is recognized both nationally and internationally.
- **Youth Advisory Committee** – a youth advisory board for Family Support Services.
- **Sounds of Success** – a program that teaches music production, songwriting, recording, and mixing.
- **HOPES** (Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Early Support) – a home-visitation program that helps parents understand the vital role of being a child’s first teacher.
- **Sembrando El Sueño** (Sowing the Dream) – A program that provides rural outreach for overall well-being to migrant agriculture workers and other underserved populations.
- **Love and Logic Parenting Class** – A class series dedicated to making parenting fun and rewarding instead of stressful and chaotic.
- **Parent Cafés** – Research-based proven models developed by *Be Strong Families* that engage parents/caregivers in meaningful conversations about what matters most – their family and how to strengthen that family by building protective factors.
- **Support + Empowerment Groups for Teens** – A variety of support and empowerment teen groups in various schools and community centers.

## EDUCATION PROGRAM PROVIDERS RECEIVING FUNDS FROM THE UNITED WAY OF AMARILLO & CANYON

**Amarillo Wesley Community Center** - Behind the Scenes Modeling and Mentoring, **Amarillo Wesley Community Center** - Wesley Wrestling Club, **Boy Scouts Golden Spread Council** - Cub Scouts Scoutreach, **Buckner Children & Family Services** - FYi Center, **Family Support Services** - Education and Prevention Programs, **Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains** - Girls at School, **Maverick Boys & Girls Clubs of Amarillo** - Academic Success





## 6. Health

### 6.1 Substance Use

This year's report will take a deeper look at substance use. First we will look at the primary findings from the recent Regional Needs Assessment (RNA). Then we will look closely at obvious outcomes of serious substance use: DUI auto crashes and drug overdose deaths.

#### 6.1.1 Regional Needs Assessment (RNA)

Texas Health and Human Services Commission oversees a network of Prevention Resource Centers, each serving a part of the state to advance care in the areas of mental health and substance use. The Region 1 Prevention Resource Center (PRC) covers 41 counties in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains, including Potter and Randall counties (see Figure 6.1).

The Region 1 PRC produces a Regional Needs Assessment (RNA) every two years. A needs assessment is the process of determining and

addressing the "gaps" between the current conditions and desired conditions in a set environment or demographic.

The RNA is designed to help community stakeholders with long-term strategic prevention planning based on the most current information about the unique needs of communities in Region 1. The document presents summary statistics of risk and protective factors associated with substance use, consumption patterns, and public health consequences. Following are key elements of the report.

#### Cost of Substance Misuse

Estimates of the overall cost of substance use in the United States is more than \$820 billion per year.

#### Alcohol Use and Access to Affordable Treatment

Access to affordable substance use treatment is a critical need, in part because of the shortage of behavioral health providers.



Figure 6.1: HHSC Region Map for PRC and DFPS

### 6.1.2 Regional Needs Assessment Key Findings

A major theme throughout the assessment was the need for additional data. Once there is additional qualitative and quantitative data for each county and the region as a whole, it will be easier to fully understand all of the needs of the population being served. The formation of partnerships and collaboration across the region will also serve to be beneficial and allow for additional needs assessments to be more comprehensive.

#### Substance Use Behaviors

Alcohol is the most used and misused substance in Region 1. Tobacco and electronic vapor products (vaping) are also used throughout the region. Many youth report using either tobacco or vaping and age of onset is low in the region. However, use of all substances has been decreasing since 2018.

#### Underlying Risk Factors

Region 1 has many rural counties, access to healthcare can be difficult, for both physical and mental support.

#### Behavioral Health Disparities

The ratio of behavioral healthcare providers in Region 1 is unequal to the population. Most of the providers are located in Amarillo or Lubbock. Additionally, there is a large percentage of children without health insurance, further limiting their access to care.

#### Protective Factors and Community Strengths

The authors of the RNA note that the cohesiveness of communities is strong in the region with importance placed on family, spirituality, extracurricular activities, and athletics. Furthermore, prevention and recovery communities within the region are vibrant.

Substance	Health Care	Overall	Year Estimate Based On
Tobacco	\$168 billion	\$300 billion	2010
Alcohol	\$27 billion	\$249 billion	2010
Illicit Drugs	\$11 billion	\$193 billion	2007
Prescription Opioids	\$26 billion	\$78.5 billion	2013

Table 6.1: Cost of Substance Use, U.S.

### A True Story

Carrie, a client of Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), was 16 years old, pregnant, and had just been abandoned by her parents. She was able to find a place to stay but was soon hospitalized due to violence in her temporary home, followed swiftly by post-partum depression, and then more domestic violence. Carrie had no hope and could not see a future for herself. However, through NFP's support, care, and resources, Carrie and her baby are now healthy, living in their own apartment, and Carrie just completed her first semester of nursing school, getting straight A's.

## 6.2 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Crashes

Data for DUI crashes comes from the Texas Department of Transportation Report #40 for each year.

Clearly, Potter County has significantly more DUI crashes per year. However, the trend for DUI-related fatalities is less clear with Randall County having a spike of fatalities in 2021, which declined again for 2022.

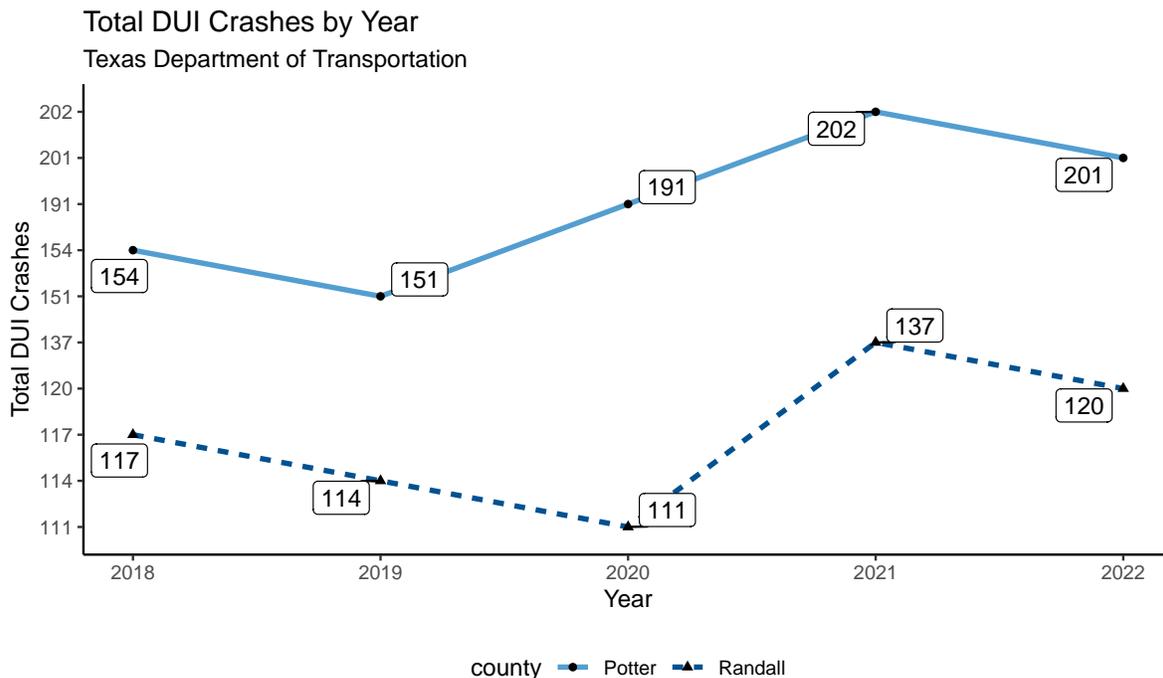


Figure 6.2: DUI Crashes, 2018-2022

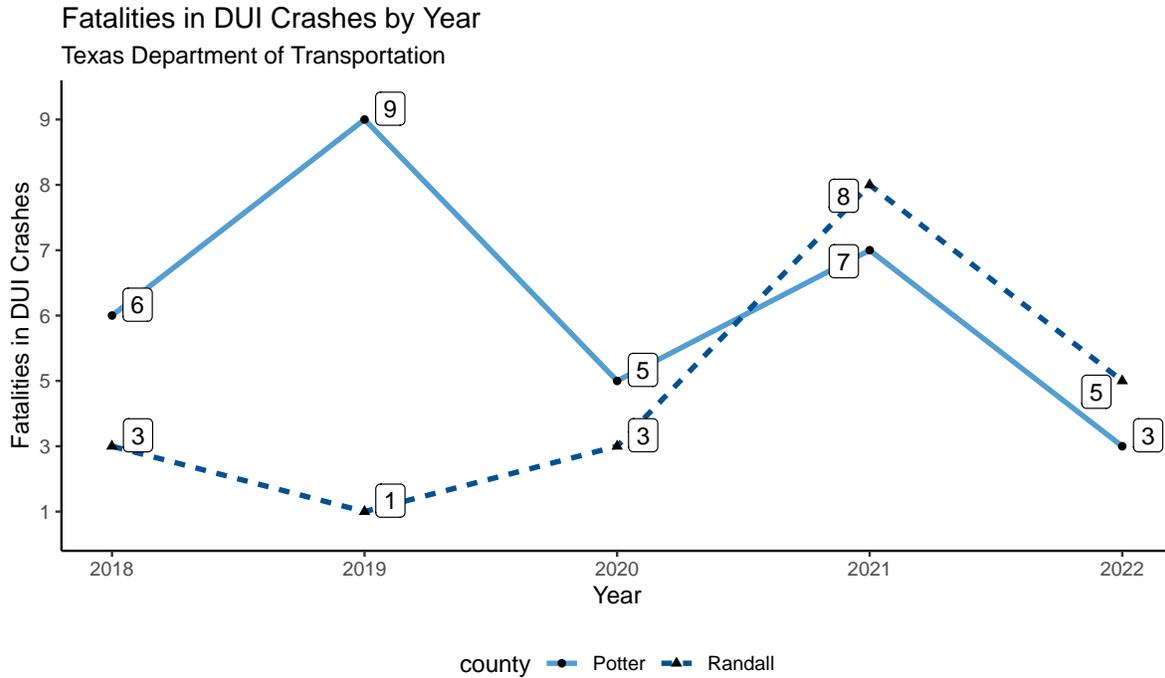


Figure 6.3: DUI Fatalities, 2018-2022

### 6.3 Overdose Deaths

Drug overdose death data are available from the CDC.

The data for all 3 counties (Potter, Randall, and Lubbock) show a large number of overdose deaths,

County	2020	2021	2022
Potter	27	24	25
Randall	21	29	19
Lubbock	35	46	50

Table 6.2: Overdose Deaths, 2020-2022

### 6.4 Mental/Behavioral Health Providers

The State of Texas recognizes and reports the number of mental/behavioral health providers by county in these categories:

1. Applied Behavior Analysts
2. Behavior Analyst
3. Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC)
4. Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker
5. Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
6. Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW)
7. Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
8. Licensed Psychological Associate
9. Licensed Psychologist
10. Licensed School Psychology Specialist
11. Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
12. Marriage and Family Therapist Associate
13. Psychiatrist

County	Population	Profession Count	Ratio Population to Profession	Ratio 100K Population to Profession	Ranking Along Table (Down)
Potter	122,799	16	7,674.9	13.0	11
Randall	142,506	0	-	-	0
Lubbock	326,611	19	17,190	5.8	34
Texas	30,667,390	2,489	12,321	8	

Table 6.3: Psychiatrists, 2022

County	Population	Profession Count	Ratio Population to Profession	Ratio 100K Population to Profession	Ranking Along Table (Down)
Potter	122,799	18	6,822.2	14.7	119
Randall	142,506	21	6,786.0	14.7	117
Lubbock	326,611	110	2,969.2	33.7	23
Texas	30,667,390	5,940	5,163	19	

Table 6.4: Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors, 2022

#### 6.4.1 Texas Health Providers by Type and County

Each discipline has both general and specialized training, and some have specialized privileges. In this section, we highlight the number of Psychiatrists because they have not only general knowledge in mental health, but as medical doctors they

also have specialized privileges to be able to prescribe psychiatric medications (e.g., prescription medications for such psychiatric disorders as anxiety, depression, ADHD, schizophrenia, etc.). We also report Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor's because of their focus on substance use.

#### A True Story

Katrina has a full-time and a part-time job. However, she was the victim of fraud. What tiny amount of funds she had been able to save, were completely drained from her account. Although theft was proven, reimbursement was taking so long that Katrina was about to be evicted from her home. Through UWAC's Specific Aid Rent/Utility assistance program, she will not be evicted and can begin to recover financially. She is even beginning to take night classes.

# HEALTH

## AMARILLO WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER'S SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM



The Amarillo Wesley Community Center's Senior Citizens Program is more than just a recreational program; the program aims to serve to help our community's seniors in any way they can. They focus on and specialize in meeting their clients' everyday needs by diligently searching for community resources and/or assistance programs from which seniors in our community may benefit. Amarillo Wesley Community Center also assists seniors in applying for low-income housing. This senior program offers a hospitable and friendly atmosphere, welcoming lower-income people ages 55 and older to gather, relax, and socialize in a safe and warm space that encourages them to learn and remain engaged in their community. Clients are provided congregate meals and transportation to and from the center, bingo every Friday, and special events such as an individual outing for each client's birthday.





## LIST OF OUTCOMES FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM

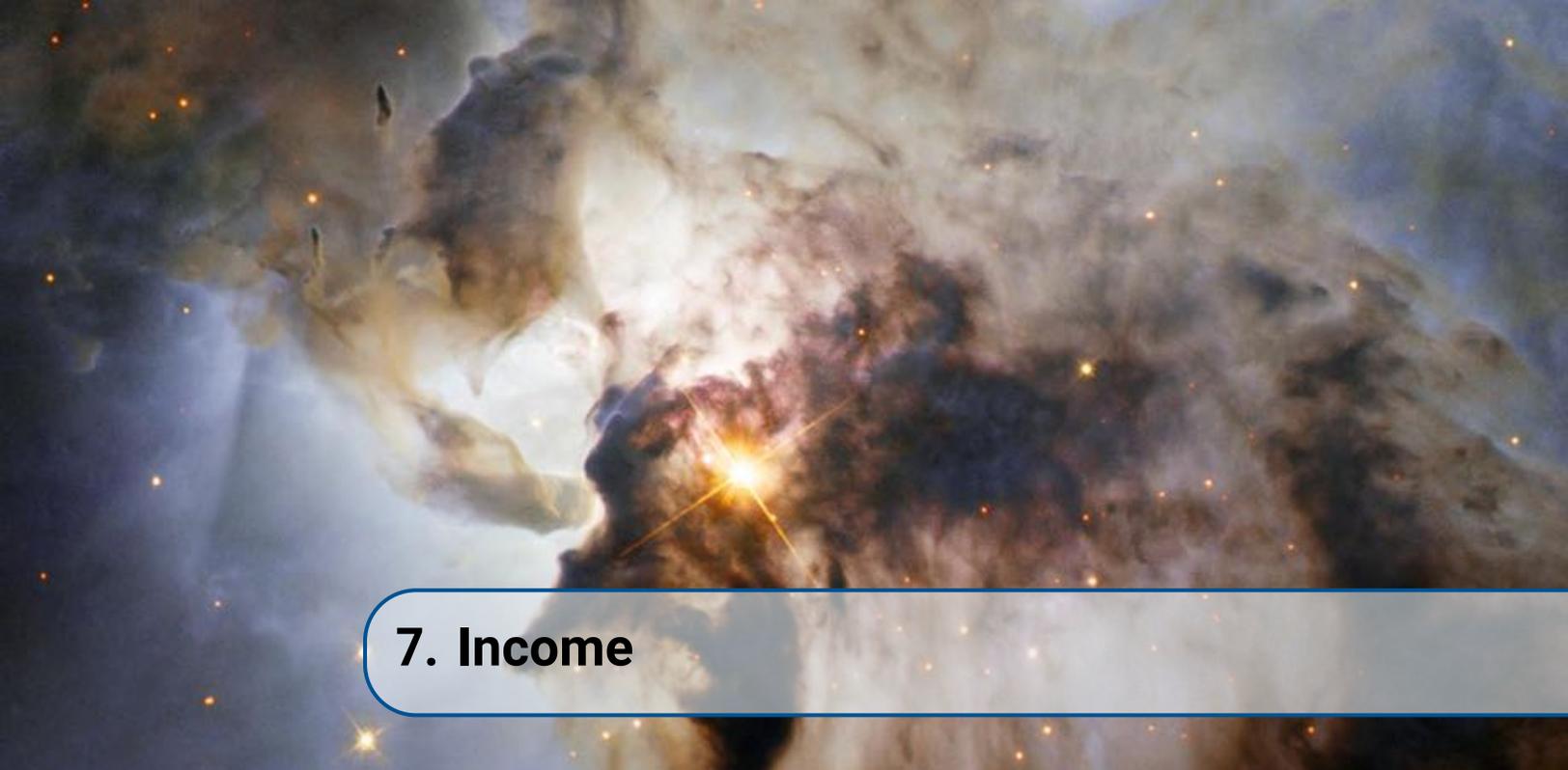
- In 2023, Amarillo Wesley Community Center assisted five seniors with their housing needs and move-in process.
- They enrolled five new registered seniors to receive Medicaid and SNAP benefits.
- They were able to take 18 seniors on a summer trip.
- This will be the fourth year Amarillo Wesley Community Center seniors have served as volunteers at Snack Pak 4 Kids to pack groceries for other seniors in our community.
- This will be the program's fifth year partnering with the Area Agency on Aging, to offer meal services at no cost for seniors.



## HEALTH PROGRAM PROVIDERS RECEIVING FUNDS FROM THE UNITED WAY OF AMARILLO & CANYON

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





## 7. Income

This year's report used 2 measures of income: unemployment rate and median household income.

With respect to unemployment, both Potter and Randall counties had very low unemployment in 2022 (2.8% and 3.2%, respectively). As a comparison, Lubbock County (which also has had historically low

unemployment rates) had a 3.4% unemployment rate in 2022.

Median household income shows a very large discrepancy between Randall County's \$78,038 and Potter County's \$47,974. Lubbock County, at \$61,911, is in between. [These values come from the Census Bureau's 2022 American Community Survey.]

### A True Story

The Rogers' family had two working parents and six young children when Dad started his own small business and Mom worked an entry-level hourly wage job. They could not afford childcare, so they applied for Child Care Services, a Texas program for subsidized childcare. They were denied because the father was considered unemployed, despite owning his own business and working 60 hours a week. They were one of those hardworking families who truly slipped through the cracks. However, Children's Learning Centers accepted them at a discounted rate, funded by the United Way of Amarillo Canyon. Flash forward one year and the family is fully sustained by their successful small business. You might see advertisements for it without ever knowing this is their backstory.

## 7.1 Unemployment

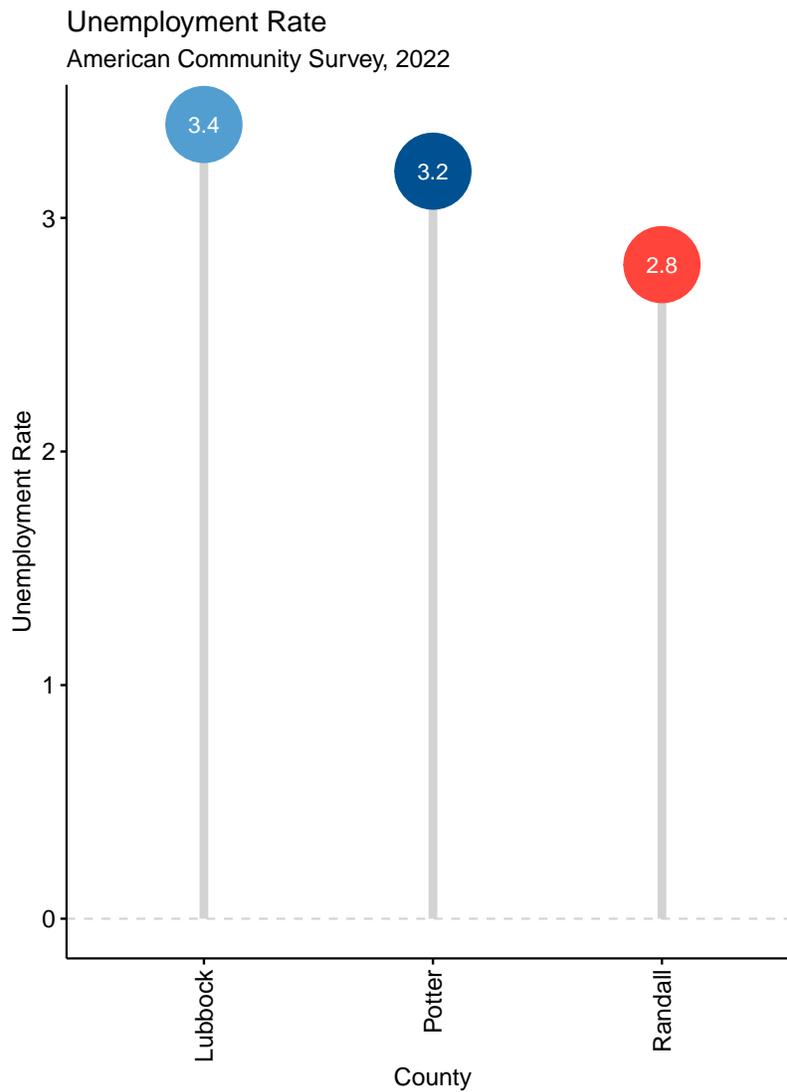


Figure 7.1: Unemployment, 2022

### Income

In 2022, Randall County had low unemployment and a high median household income, while Potter County had a low unemployment rate, but also a low median household income.

## 7.2 Median Household Income

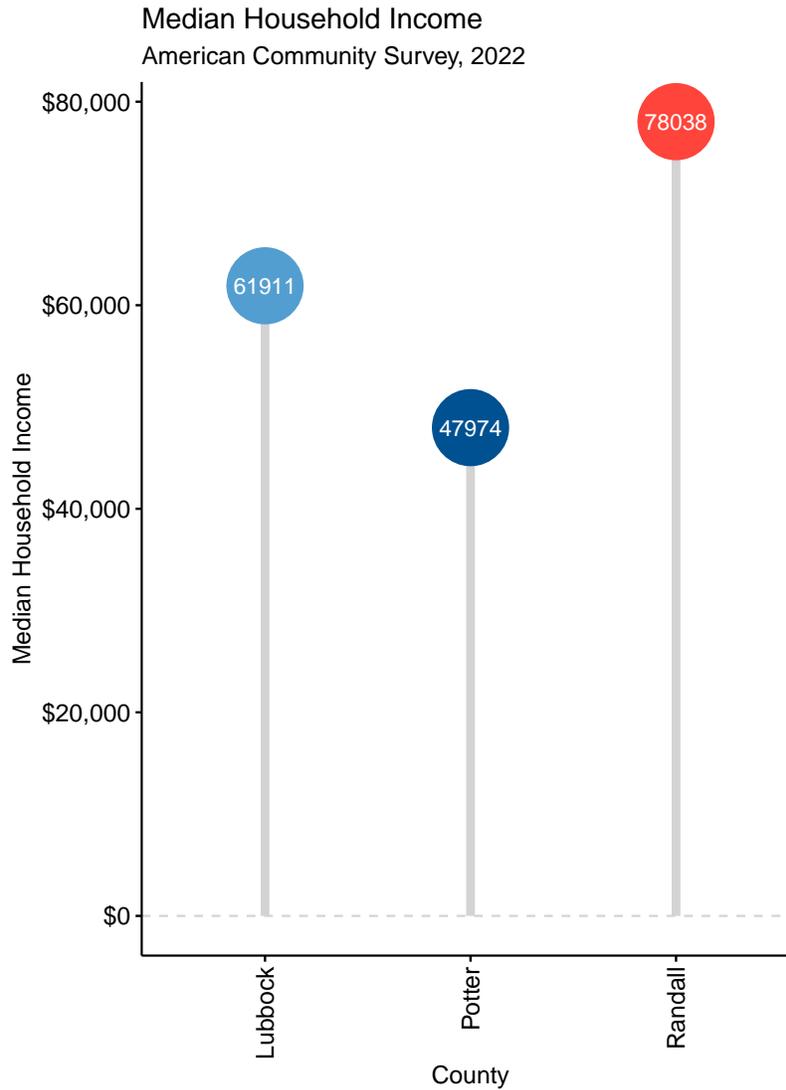


Figure 7.2: Median Household Income, 2022

### A True Story

Victoria's husband, the father of her children, left without a word and cannot be found. She had been kept in the dark about their finances. He had plunged them into debt and failed to pay their bills. Since then, Victoria found a full-time job but did not have anything in the bank to pay rent before the first few paychecks from her new job came in. Through the United Way of Amarillo and Canyon's Specific Aid Rent/Utility assistance program, Victoria and her children did not have to stay in a shelter and are now able to rebuild their lives.

# FINANCIAL STABILITY

## GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF NORTHWEST TEXAS (GINWT) CAREER RESOURCE CENTER

GINWT is a local nonprofit helping people overcome challenges, build skills, find jobs, and grow careers. GINWT serves 45 counties of the Texas Panhandle and South Plains by providing training through its Career Resources Centers (CRC) in basic, intermediate, and advanced computer skills (Microsoft Office Suite) to further participants' digital literacy, economic mobility, careers, and earning potential.

Through its mission, GINWT empowers people to secure employment with higher wages. Individuals who may have given up hope of joining or reentering the community's workforce are given a hand up to obtain and maintain employment.

**Computer Skills Training** - In partnership with South Plains College, the CRC presents continuing education credits upon completion of 6-8 week classes in Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced digital skills training. Goodwill's free online learning program, GCFLearnFree.org, is available to participants to practice typing, grammar, and math, and learn how to navigate the internet, Windows, and Microsoft Word suite.

**Employment Development and Career Enhancement** – CRC staff develops and implements new seminars to support job development and life skills as needed. The classes range from two hours to three days. A six-week financial literacy series began in January. CRC staff works one-on-one with participants in career planning, job applications, appropriate dress, recorded practice interviews to evaluate and improve upon, cover letters, resume writing, and employment-related goal setting.

**Case Management** – CRC staff assists clients by providing qualified referrals to partner agencies and other community resources that may expand their support system and enhance their ability to obtain and maintain employment.



GINWT collaborates with the following organizations in sharing resources, providing resources, networking, contributing to career events, and information sharing:

- Panhandle Community Services
- Catholic Charities
- Vocational Rehab, Texas Workforce Commission
- Another Chance House
- High Plains Food Bank
- Amarillo Public Libraries
- South Plains College
- Patsy's Place
- Canyon ISD
- St. Francis Ministries
- Region 16



## LIST OF OUTCOMES FOR THE CAREER RESOURCE CENTER

- **546** unduplicated participants served; a **21%** increase from the **453** served in **2022**.
- **119** clients received a South Plains College Continuing Education certificate, a **12%** increase from the **106** in **2022**.
- **1,277** participants took specialty training classes; a **36%** increase from the **941** participants in **2022**.
- The computer bank was utilized by clients **329** times in **2023**, an **86%** increase from the **177** times in **2022**.
- **65** practice interviews, a **103%** increase compared to **32** in **2022**.
- **659** clients completed a satisfaction survey, a **115%** increase compared to **306** clients completing a survey in **2022**.

## FINANCIAL STABILITY PROGRAM PROVIDERS RECEIVING FUNDS FROM THE UNITED WAY OF AMARILLO & CANYON

Children's Learning Centers of Amarillo - Low-Income Child Care, Family Support Services - Veterans Resource Center, Goodwill of Northwest Texas - Job Training/Placement





## 8. Vulnerable Populations

### 8.1 Children in Foster Care

In this year's report, we take a deeper look at children in foster care. In addition to looking at rates of confirmed abuse, we will examine how many children are removed from their homes and why, their legal statuses (Temporary or Permanent Managing Conservatorship), for how long, whether they are placed close to their removal home, and how they leave – or "exit" in Department of Family and Protective Services terms – the foster care system.

The foster care system in Texas is very complicated and frequently reports incorrect statistics publicly.

It is important to understand that the totality of the decisions made by Child Protective Investigations (CPI), the DFPS division that investigates allegations of abuse and neglect) and Child Protective Services (CPS), the DFPS division that deals with children after removal, is that these are fundamentally **LEGAL** decisions about who should have custody of a child and under what circumstances. Implicit (if not explicit) to these decisions is the idea of risk and welfare. If a child is deemed to be at sufficient risk that he/she cannot stay in a home, the child is

removed. But assessment of risk in child welfare is notoriously unreliable, both nationally and in Texas.

Most people might assume that children are removed from home due to risk of physical or sexual abuse—however, that is not the case. As seen in Figure 8.3, the vast majority of child removals nationally are due to neglect and/or parental substance use (the Senior Statistician can find no publicly available data which would show that Texas is any different). Thus, confirmed victims are primarily victims of neglect and/or parental substance use, and most children removed and placed in the foster care system are there for neglect or parental substance use.

It should also be noted that it is a given in child welfare that the "deeper" a child goes into the system, the less positive the long-term outcomes will be (e.g., the child stays in the system longer, is moved to multiple placements, etc.). For a good description of DFPS conservatorship phases (such as Temporary or Permanent Managing Conservatorships), see CPS Conservatorship Phases at <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/child-protective-services-conservatorship-phase>.

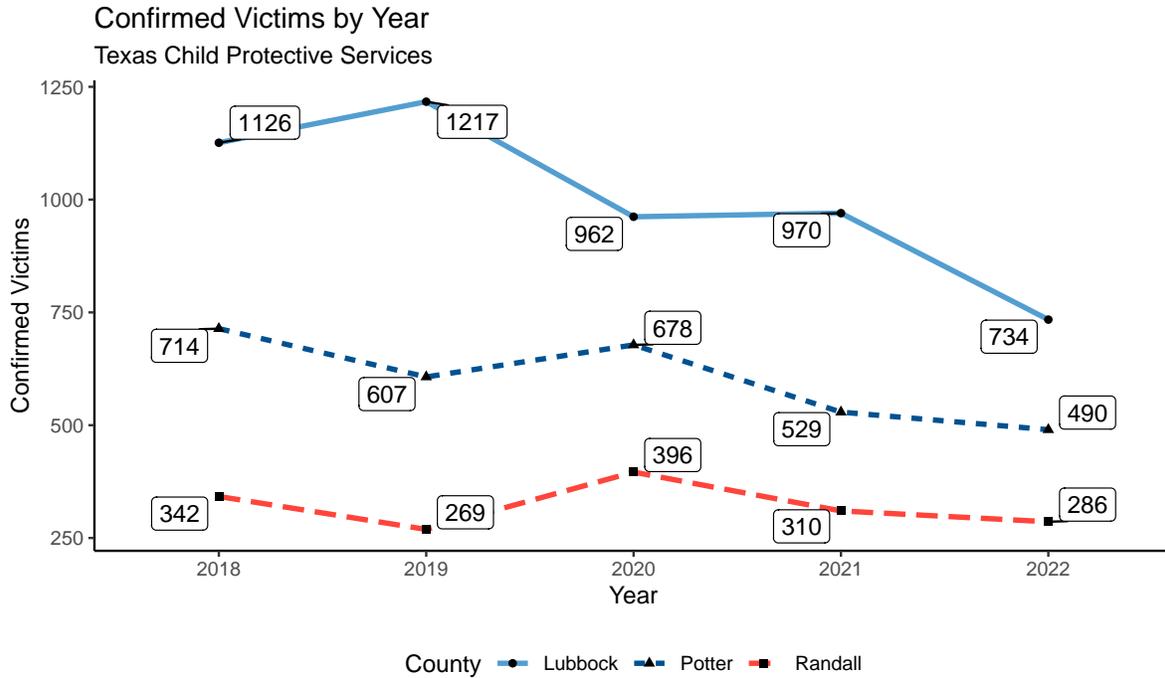


Figure 8.1: CPS Confirmed Victims, 2018-2022

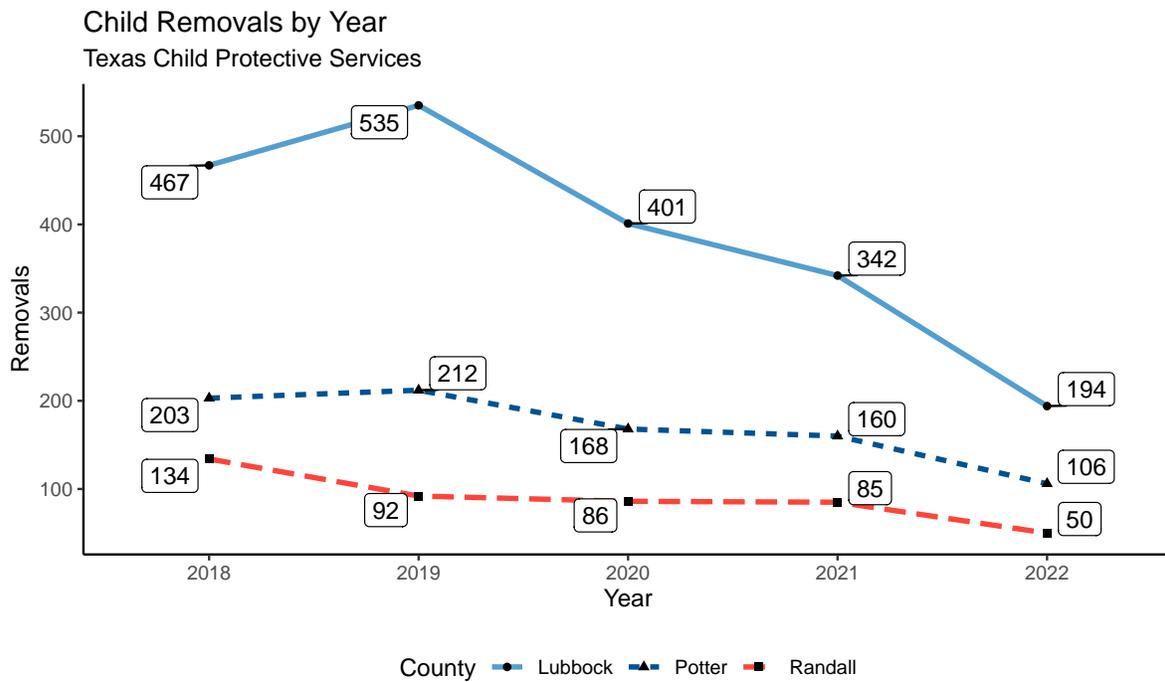


Figure 8.2: CPS Removals, 2018-2022

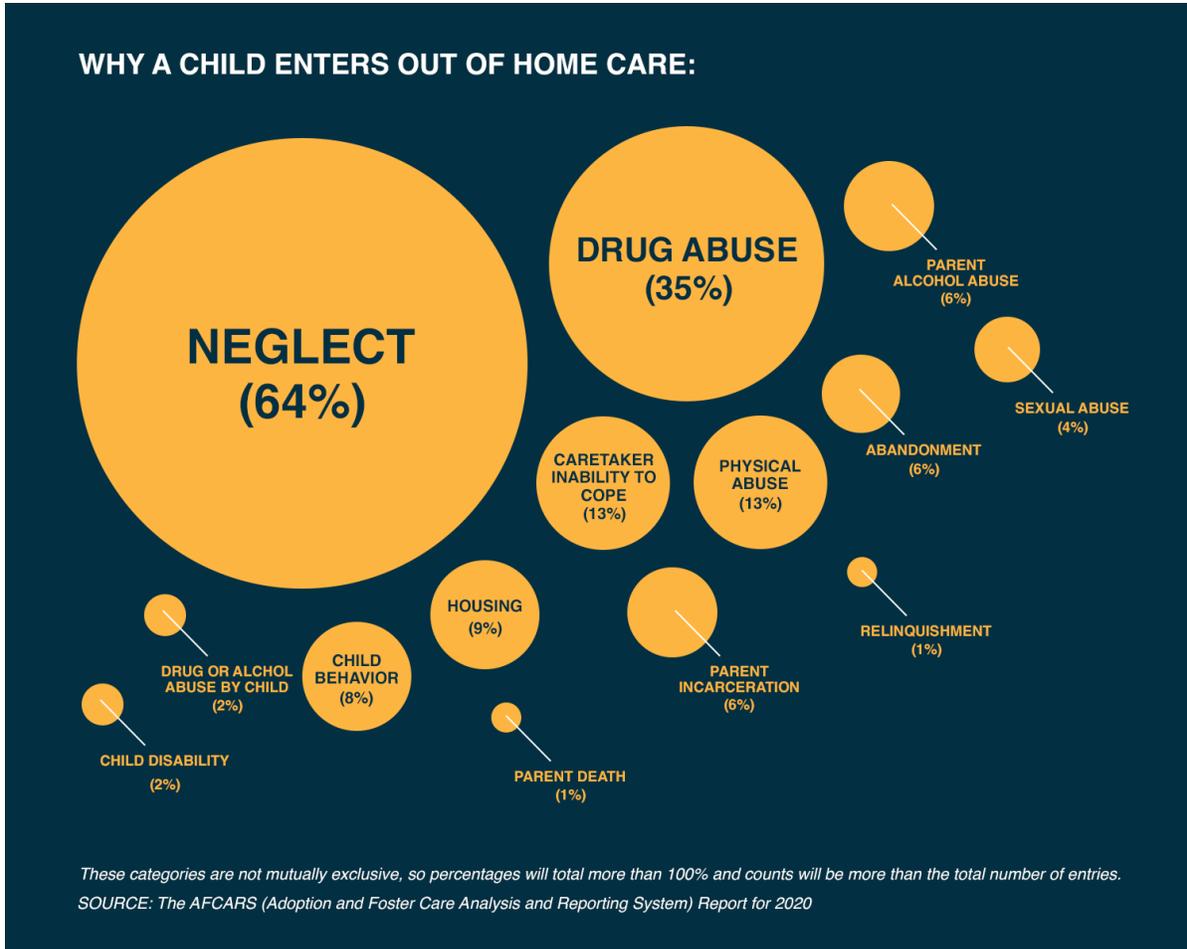


Figure 8.3: Reasons for Child Removals

**Reasons Children are Removed from Their Homes**

Nationally, most children are removed from their homes by the child welfare agency due to parental neglect or substance use, not because of physical or sexual abuse (see 8.3). [Note: percentages in Figure 8.3] are not mutually exclusive—in other words, a child can be removed for more than one reason.)

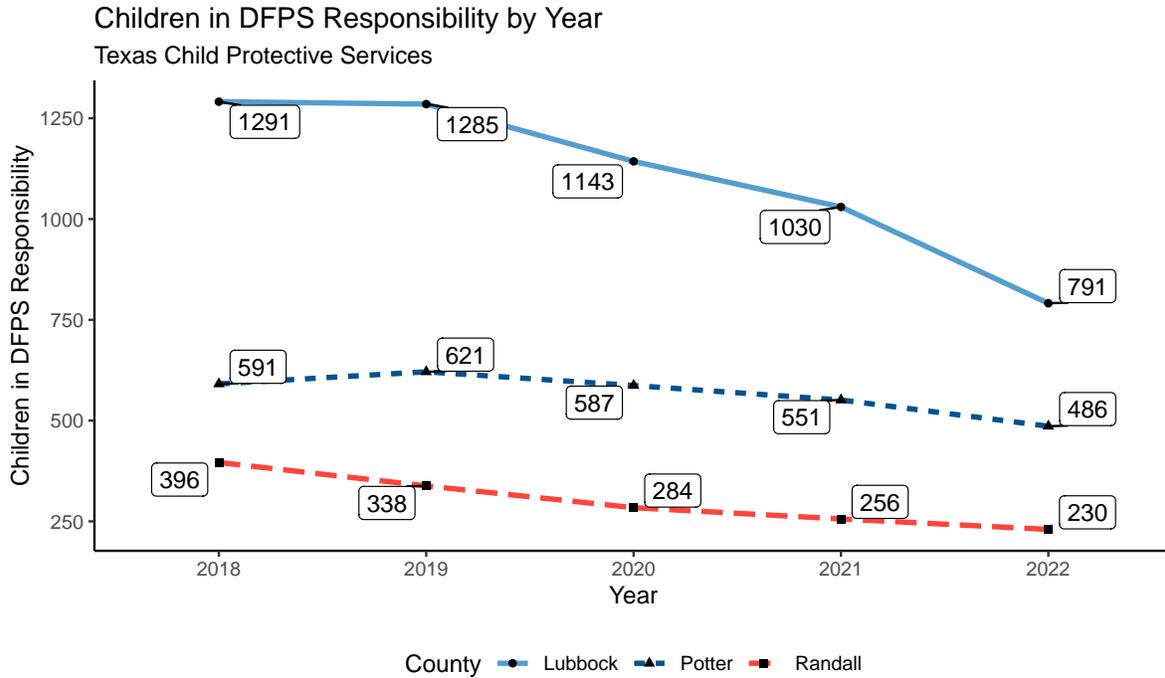


Figure 8.4: CPS Children in Custody, 2018-2022

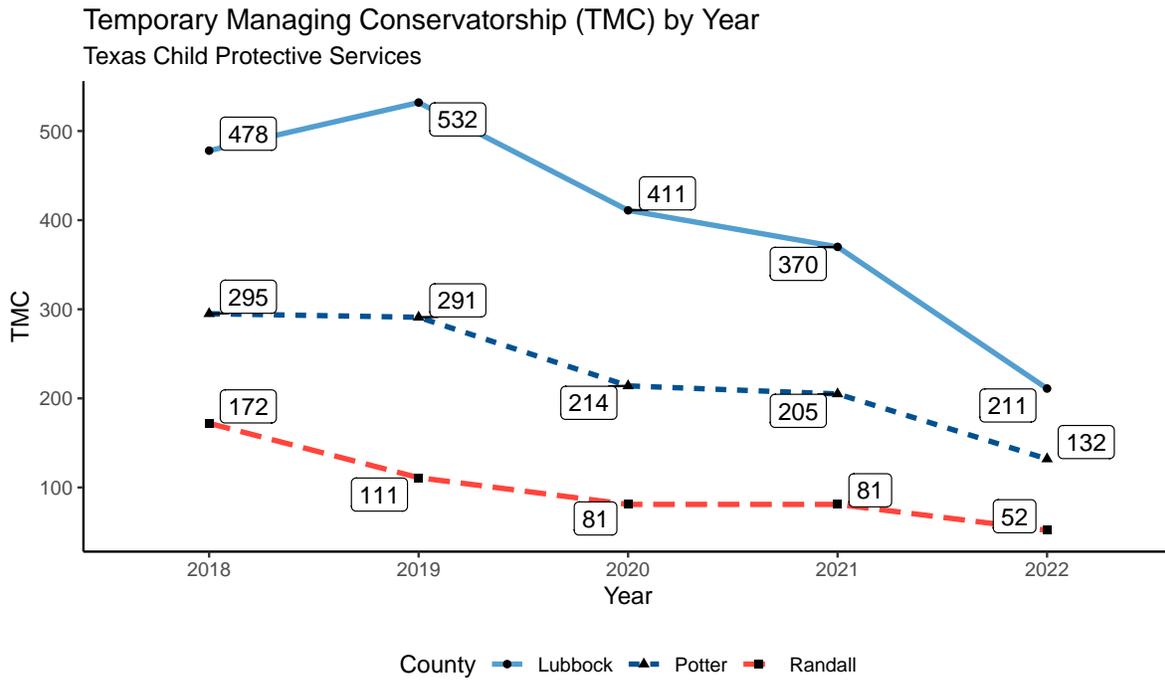


Figure 8.5: Children in Temporary Managing Conservatorship, 2018-2022

County	Children in Foster Care Nov. 2023	Placed Out of County	Placed Out of Region
Potter	182	91.2%	34.1%
Randall	80	75.0%	33.8%
Lubbock	251	53.8%	34.3%

Table 8.1: CPS Foster Care Children Placements, November 2023

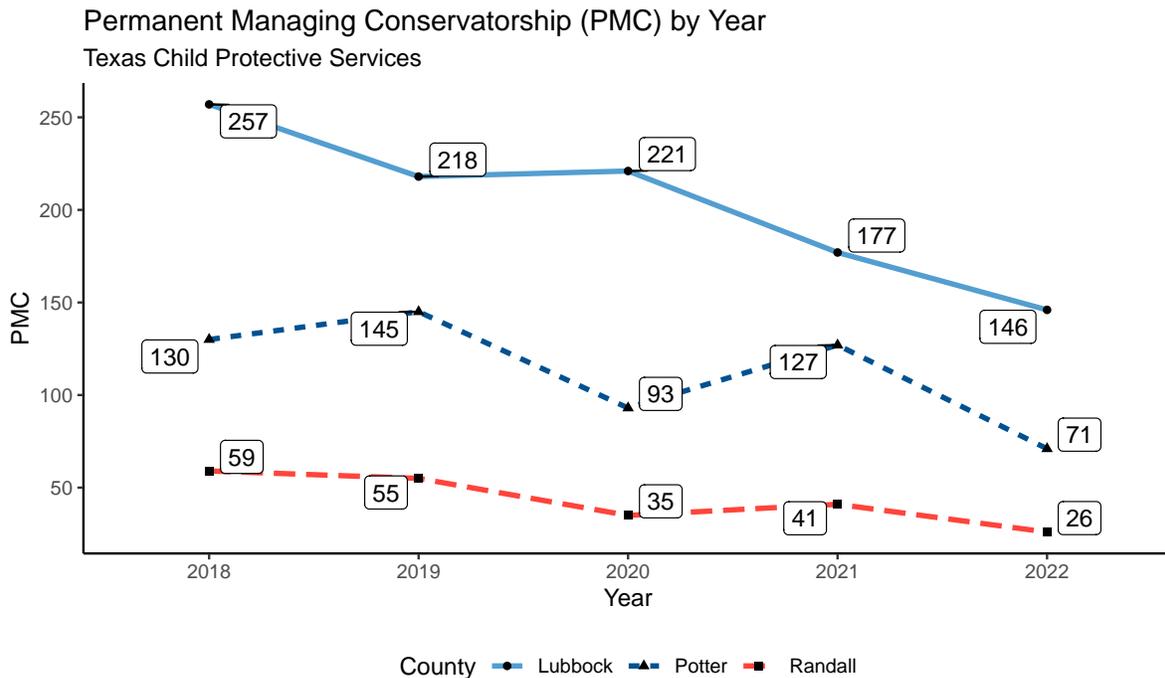


Figure 8.6: Children in Permanent Managing Conservatorship, 2018-2022

#### Placements of CPS Children

CPS children from Potter and Randall counties are predominantly placed outside of their counties (91% and 75%, respectively), with roughly a third being placed outside of Region 1 (a vast region encompassing 41 counties). See Table 8.1.

#### Children Exiting the CPS System

Table 8.2 shows the types of ways children exit the CPS system, and for each type of exit, how many average placements those children had, and the average months they were in CPS custody.

Fiscal Year	County	Type of Exit	Exits	Average Placements	Average Months in Custody
2022	Potter	Custody to Relatives with PCA*	3	3	52
2022	Potter	Custody to Relatives without *PCA	38	3	23
2022	Potter	Family Reunification	74	2	18
2022	Potter	Non-Relative Adoption Consummated	32	2	29
2022	Potter	Other	8	1	14
2022	Potter	Relative Adoption Consummated	26	3	33
2022	Potter	Youth Emancipation	17	7	45
2022	Randall	Custody to Relatives with PCA*	0	–	–
2022	Randall	Custody to Relatives without PCA*	11	2	20
2022	Randall	Family Reunification	36	2	15
2022	Randall	Non-Relative Adoption Consummated	13	2	26
2022	Randall	Other	0	–	–
2022	Randall	Relative Adoption Consummated	17	4	35
2022	Randall	Youth Emancipation	9	5	45
2022	Lubbock	Custody to Relatives with PCA*	6	1	26
2022	Lubbock	Custody to Relatives without PCA*	81	2	17
2022	Lubbock	Family Reunification	129	2	14
2022	Lubbock	Non-Relative Adoption Consummated	47	2	25
2022	Lubbock	Other	2	1	1
2022	Lubbock	Relative Adoption Consummated	47	3	24
2022	Lubbock	Youth Emancipation	17	7	40

Table 8.2: Children Exiting DFPS Custody, 2022

\*PCA : *PermanencyCareAssistance*

### Permanency Care Assistance

The Permanency Care Assistance program gives financial support to kinship caregivers who want to provide a permanent home to children who can't be reunited with their parents. In most cases, kinship caregivers are relatives such as aunts, uncles, or grandparents.

Monthly payments are \$400 - \$545 per month, depending upon the each child's needs.

To qualify, you must:

(1) Apply to become foster parents. (2) Care for the child as foster parents for at least six months. (3) Negotiate and sign a Permanency Care Agreement. (4) Go to court to get legal custody of the child.

PCA benefits continue until children turn 18 or 21 if the child is 16 years old or older when adopted. The PCA process and monthly payments are the same as those in the adoption assistance program.

### 8.1.1 Summary of the Children's Protective Services (CPS) Tables and Graphs

The totality of the previous tables and figures is that, there were fewer identified victims, fewer children starting in 2020 (when the COVID-19 pandemic hit), removed, etc.

#### A True Story

Amy, a client of Amarillo Coming Home, was homeless for 4 years, battling alcoholism and liver failure that brought her to the brink of death. She experienced medical issues, social isolation, and sexual violence while in this most challenging period of her life. However, through the Coming Home program, Amy was able to rebuild the foundations of her life—one of stability, progress, and ambition. She is housed, alcohol and drug free, and maintains an excellent GPA in college courses, hoping to enter the field of social work where she can give back.

## 8.2 Family Violence

The Texas Family Code, Chapter 71.004, defines Family Violence as "an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself." The law includes abuse, defined as physical injury that results in substantial harm or genuine threat; sexual contact, intercourse, or conduct; or compelling or encouraging the child to engage in sexual conduct. The law excludes the reasonable discipline of a child. For Family Violence Reporting, the law defines "family" to include individuals related by consanguinity (blood) or affinity, marriage or former marriage, biological parents of the same child,

foster children, foster parents, and members or former members of the same household (including roommates regardless of gender) (Department of Public Safety Crime in Texas Report, 2022).

Reported in Figure 8.7 are family violence incidents (per 1,000 population) for Potter, Randall, and Lubbock counties, as well as state rates, for 2018-2022.

In reviewing Figure 8.7, a reader is struck by two things: (1) the stability of family violence rates over time, and (2) the relative rates of Potter and Lubbock counties being above the state rate (in the case of Potter County, between three and four times the state rate), and Randall County's relatively very low rate. These historically very high rates in Potter County should be reason for alarm.

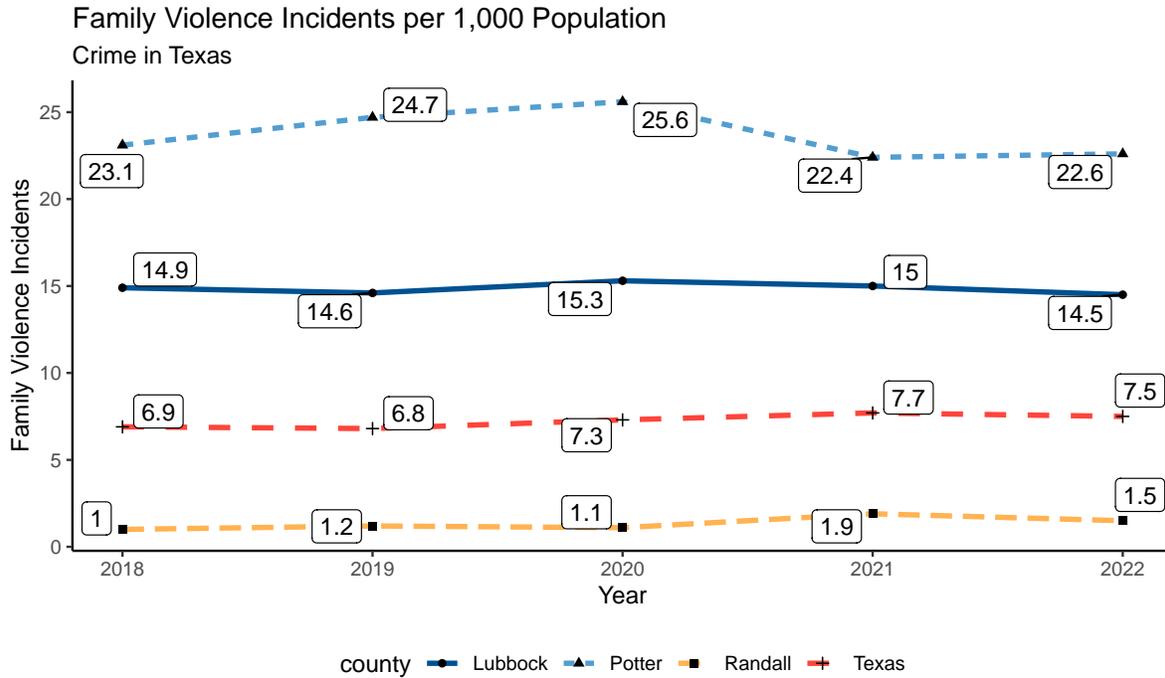


Figure 8.7: Family Violence Incidents, 2018-2022



Figure 8.8: Family Violence Infographic, Office of the Attorney General

Source:

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww2.texasattorneygeneral.gov%2Finitiatives%2Ffamily-violence%2F&psig=AOvVaw2FcFl7s7wNgEDYtH94pPGa&ust=1708437314586000&source=images&cd=vfe&opi=899784498>

Clickable Link: Texas Council on Family Violence

24-hour Family Support Services hotline

806-374-5433

# BASIC NEEDS

## Panhandle Regional Planning Commission's Area Agency on Aging: FoodNET Program



**With the goal of providing healthy, nutritious meals to reduce hunger and food insecurity in Potter and Randall Counties, FoodNET served 443 people in the calendar year of 2023.**

366 participants, or 83%, are considered to be in poverty and have a gross income of less than \$1,215 a month.

356 participants, or 80%, live alone and rely on the program as a critical social support.

285 participants, or 64%, are considered to be at a high nutrition risk, which may indicate they do not have enough food to eat or have limited access to healthy food options.



The United Way of Amarillo & Canyon has been a longtime supporter of FoodNET (Nutrition for Experienced Texans), a congregate and home-delivered meal program of the Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle.

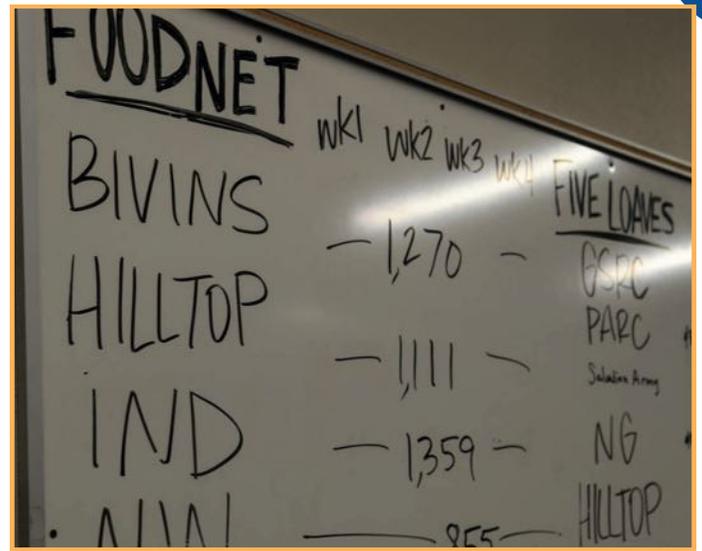
During the pandemic, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) contracted with TRIO Community Meals to provide one box of five frozen meals per week to Amarillo citizens who are over the age of 60 and/or disabled throughout the City of Amarillo. In July of 2023, the AAA returned to an in-person model to serve hot meals five days a week. This has been achieved through a collaboration with Transformation Park, a non-profit organization with the mission to connect the City of Amarillo, the church community, local businesses, and other non-profits in serving the homeless. FoodNET has become one part of its long-term vision to provide meals to underserved populations.



Transformation Park's meal service is designed to provide the nutrition necessary to improve participants' overall health, offer many participants the vital support needed to remain independent, and promote a sense of community by gathering together for a meal, lessening social isolation among older adults.

Eligible individuals either reside or are participants at the following locations:

- Bivins Village
- Hilltop Senior Citizens Association
- Independence Village
- Northwest Village



FoodNET is one of 13 nutrition programs supported by the AAA and is one aspect of the range of comprehensive and coordinated programs designed to assist older adults and their family caregivers across the top 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle. The AAA's role in the community is to advocate for older adults, connect individuals to valuable resources, and further the mission of promoting dignity, independence, and quality of life for older adults through a wide variety of services.



## BASIC PROGRAM PROVIDERS RECEIVING FUNDS FROM THE UNITED WAY OF AMARILLO & CANYON

**Amarillo Area CASA** - Volunteer Recruitment, **American Red Cross TX Panhandle** - Disaster Services, **Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle** - InterFaith Hunger Project, **City of Amarillo - Community Development** - Coming Home Project, **Family Care Foundation** - Dental Assistance, **Family Support Services** - Crisis Center/Family Domestic Violence, **Family Support Services** - Crisis Services/Sexual Assault, **Guyon Saunders Resource Center** - Community Day Room, **PRPC/Area Agency on Aging** - FoodNet, **The Salvation Army** - Emergency Shelter Services





## 9. Conclusion

### 9.1 Population

- From 2018-2022, Potter County was static in total population, but saw **declining** child population.
- On the other hand, Randall County's total and child populations are both growing at a good pace.

### 9.2 Education

- Both Amarillo ISD and Canyon ISD are performing on par with, or above, other districts throughout the state on the STAAR tests (3rd and 8th grades), and on graduation rates.

### 9.3 Health

- The substance use focus highlighted the latest Regional Needs Assessment from the Texas Region 1 Prevention Resource Center, DUI crashes and fatalities, and drug OD deaths.
- Alcohol is the most widely abused substance, leading to a high number of DUI crashes, particularly in Potter County.
- **Drug overdose deaths in both counties are at a level which should raise alarms.**

### 9.4 Income

- Both Potter and Randall counties enjoy low unemployment rates while Randall County has a high median household income compared to Randall and Lubbock counties.

### 9.5 Vulnerable Populations

- We looked in-depth into child abuse/neglect and the foster care system.
- Most Potter and Randall counties' foster care children are placed outside of their home counties—1/3 outside of the Panhandle region.
- The number of victims and children in the foster care system started declining beginning in 2020; we believe these decreases are predominantly (but not solely) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Family violence rates in Potter County deserve more attention—they are historically three to four times higher than the statewide rate.**



## 10. Sources

### 10.1 Demographics

Total and Child Population:

- URL: [https://data.texas.gov/dataset/CPI-1-1-Texas-Child-Population-ages-0-17-by-County/x5xb-idr6/about\\_data](https://data.texas.gov/dataset/CPI-1-1-Texas-Child-Population-ages-0-17-by-County/x5xb-idr6/about_data)

Median Age and Race

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

### 10.2 Education

TEA Academic Performance Reports:

- URL: <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting/texas-academic-performance-reports>

### 10.3 Health

#### 10.3.1 Substance Use

HHSC Prevention Resource Center Region 1 Regional Needs Assessment:

- URL: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6384d9a04605aa7ee07074d4/t/65b2cd350701d56bbc6474b0/1706216758790/FY23+RNA>

DUI Crashes and Injuries, TXDOT:

- URL: [https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/trf/crash\\_statistics/](https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/trf/crash_statistics/)

DUI Fatalities by County and Age, TXDOT:

- URL: [https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/trf/crash\\_statistics/2022/43.pdf](https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/trf/crash_statistics/2022/43.pdf)

Drug Overdose Deaths, CDC National Vital Statistics System:

- URL: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/prov-county-drug-overdose.htm>

## 10.4 Income

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics:

- URL: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/>

Median Household Income

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

## 10.5 Vulnerable Populations

### 10.5.1 Child Abuse/Foster Care

How Foster Care Works:

- URL: <https://theforgotteninitiative.org/how-foster-care-works/>

CPS Completed Investigations: Victims

- URL: [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About\\_DFPS/Data\\_Book/Child\\_Protective\\_Investigations/Investigations/Victims.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data_Book/Child_Protective_Investigations/Investigations/Victims.asp)

CPS Removals:

- URL: [https://www.dfps.texas.gov/About\\_DFPS/Data\\_Book/Child\\_Protective\\_Services/Conservatorship/Removals.asp](https://www.dfps.texas.gov/About_DFPS/Data_Book/Child_Protective_Services/Conservatorship/Removals.asp)

Children in Foster Care by Legal Status:

- URL: [https://www.dfps.texas.gov/About\\_DFPS/Data\\_Book/Child\\_Protective\\_Services/Conservatorship/Activity\\_on\\_August](https://www.dfps.texas.gov/About_DFPS/Data_Book/Child_Protective_Services/Conservatorship/Activity_on_August)

Foster Care Children by Type of Exit from CPS:

- URL: [https://www.dfps.texas.gov/About\\_DFPS/Data\\_Book/Child\\_Protective\\_Services/Conservatorship/Exits.asp](https://www.dfps.texas.gov/About_DFPS/Data_Book/Child_Protective_Services/Conservatorship/Exits.asp)

Foster Care Children Placements:

- URL: [https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Doing\\_Business/Regional\\_Statistics/default.asp](https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Doing_Business/Regional_Statistics/default.asp)

Texas Open Data Portal - CPS:

- URL: <https://data.texas.gov/>

### 10.5.2 Family Violence

DPS Crime in Texas Report:

- URL: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/crime-records/crime-texas>





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