

Pathways Archive

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2011

[*Solving Our Problems Together*](#), September 2011. The initial Pathways to Progress article published by the San Angelo *Standard Times*. The *Pathways to Progress* series focuses on problems involving those vulnerable community members most at risk of falling through the cracks leading to exclusion from the benefits most of us enjoy.

[*Falling through the Cracks*](#), October 2011. A sad fact is that local families in poverty include about one of every four children (25%) in San Angelo who live with their married mothers and fathers.

[*Truly Grand Parents*](#), November 2011. There are dramatic increases in the number of grandparents with primary caregiving responsibility and the number of children living with grandparents in San Angelo.

[*The Well-Being of Children in Tom Green County*](#), December 2011. A Children's Social Health Index uses annual data reported by a variety of state and federal agencies. The data covers each of the Concho Valley counties and each year over the past decade.

2012

[*Caring about Care*](#), January 2012. The San Angelo community needs to work toward removing the barriers of access to health care.

[*Quality of Life Figures in Decline*](#), February 2012. The welfare of Tom Green County's vulnerable people is countercyclical to the local economy.

[*Contributions of Immigrants Must Not be ignored*](#), March 2012. Non-citizen immigrants contribute significantly, if often invisibly, to the local community.

[*Battle against Child Poverty Goes On*](#), April 2012. The safety net for children and families needs enhancement to lift people up, rather than making desperate efforts to prevent a fall.

[*Child Abuse in our Area*](#), May 2012. The local rate of child abuse increased by 56 percent since the year 2000. Texas increased by just 19 percent for all of Texas.

[*Not so well-being*](#), June 2012. The Women's Index alerts hospitals, clinics, insurers, employers, county, city and regional officials to work together to improve the health and wellness of women.

[*Vast Differences in Quality of Life across City*](#), July 2012. Residents in the local community are living longer lives.

[*Looking for Answers*](#), August 2012. Community Development Initiative indexing projects provide research results to help inform discussions and processes working to improve the community.

[*College Education Crucial, Not Cheap*](#), September 2012. More than half of graduating students at Texas public universities left the hallowed halls with significant debt.

[*It Takes a Village to Raise Kids Right*](#), October 2012. San Angelo ISD started the long and hard work of melting away the gaps that separate the worlds of the city's children.

[*Giving Thanks, Getting Checked*](#), November 2012. Tom Green County medical facilities diagnosed more than 140 women having cancer. The incidence rate of more than 5 cases for every 1,000 local women in the 40 and over "at-risk" age group.

[*Overcoming San Angelo's Housing Hurdles*](#), December 2012. Nearly half of the city's renter households have incomes below the level needed to afford median rent payments.

2013

[*Taking a Balanced Approach*](#), January 2013. The latest version of the San Angelo Social Health Index shows signs of recovery from the 2008 recession.

[*Avoiding Complacency*](#), February 2013. The West Texas Violence Index measures and compares the level of violence in San Angelo and three comparable West Texas cities: Abilene, Midland, and Odessa.

[*U.S. Needs to Commit to Paying a Living Wage*](#), March 2013. Abilene, Midland, and Odessa do better than San Angelo at generating jobs that provide a living wage in their respective cities.

[*Inequality Imperils Us*](#), April 2013. Real estate data shows that inequality in the value of housing, the primary wealth possession for most families, continues to distance San Angelo's privileged residential areas from other neighborhoods.

[*They worked, now it's Up to Us*](#), May 2013. Housing affordability for seniors in San Angelo tells a "tale of two cities."

[*Door to Reform*](#), June 2013. Low educational attainment for females combines with a high teen pregnancy rate to contribute to a high percentage of female-headed families with children in the local community.

[*Pay Roles*](#), July 2013. Median earnings for workers in the female majority job clusters are 82 percent of the median for male occupational groups.

[*Children Are All of Our Future*](#), August 2013. The outlying Concho Valley counties have an opportunity for rural families and communities to benefit from opening the health insurance marketplaces.

[*West Texas' Wide-Open Spaces a Challenge for Health Care*](#), September 2013. Of the 29 Texas counties without a single primary care physician, a troubling 25 of them are in West Texas.

[*Area Public Transportation Must Prepare for Future Needs*](#), October 2013. Few regional workers use public transit to go to work, but this hardly means that there is a lack of demand for regional public transit services.

[*Driven to Live a Healthier Lifestyle*](#), November 2013. Local policymakers must be mindful about the health and vitality of children, families, and the populace in general.

[*City Has High Levels of Elderly Abuse, Accidents*](#), December 2013. San Angelo and Tom Green County instances of abuse of elder and disabled individuals was significantly higher than neighboring counties.

2014

[*How Are the Children?*](#) January 2014. The extreme poverty of San Angelo neighborhoods extends to the schools too.

[*Two Steps Forward, Two Steps Back in Measure*](#), February 2014. CDI's Social Health Index documents favorable developments and troubling patterns.

[*Ounces of Prevention*](#), March 6, 2014. Tom Green County gained support for action on reducing hospitalizations for three targeted conditions: Bacterial Pneumonia, Urinary Tract Infection, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, and Older Adult Asthma.

[*Hunger in the Land of Plenty*](#), April 2014. About one third of residents living in local food desert neighborhoods are low-income individuals located more than mile from a grocery store.

[*Index Raises Red Flags*](#), May 2014. Funding expensive social programs attempting correction often meets the ire of citizens who blame individuals for perceived "irresponsible choices" and resent paying for it.

[*Seeing a Pattern Here*](#), June 2014. San Angelo's City's Development Services division launched a new Development Task Force as an on-going opportunity for greater dialogue about improvements to City processes.

[*Texas Should Get atop the Coming Demographic Wave*](#), July 2014. About 71 percent of local Hispanic women have the potential to give birth now and, in the decades, to come. Only about 51 percent of non-Hispanic white women are in the child bearing age range. The difference signals the need to better educate minorities to increase their earning capacities. But few rank-and-file members of the community are getting the message.

[*Blaming the Poor for Being Poor*](#), August 2014. In Tom Green County, the demographic characteristics of the population living in "severe poverty" do not match well with images of the poor resulting from the long public debate over the culture of poverty.

[*Income Inequality by the Numbers*](#), September 2014. During a booming economy, San Angelo experienced a 6.7% increase in median household income. However, the gains did not make it into all corners of the city.

[*Local Domestic and Child Abuse Levels Too High*](#), October 2014. The most recent data from The Texas Department of Public Safety indicates a higher rate of family violence for Tom Green County residents than other Texans.

[*GI Bill: A Success*](#), November 2014. American Community Survey data indicates that from 2008 to 2012, the median income for veterans living across San Angelo was \$35,385 compared to a median income of \$21,872 for the non-veteran populace.

[*The Gift of Health*](#), December 2014. The overall impact of a statewide project shows that members of the local community experienced fewer preventable hospitalizations, while avoiding hospital charges that would have amounted to about \$1.7 million.

2015

[*Getting with the ACA Program*](#), January 2015. There are inequities of health insurance and access across the neighborhoods of San Angelo that affect the quality of life in various areas of the city.

[*Kid's Health Index Reveals Disparities*](#), February 2015. Children living in the city's lowest income neighborhood are more likely to experience a crime than are children living in the city's highest income neighborhood.

[*Many Struggle to Keep a Roof over Their Heads*](#), March 2015. Rental affordability is more difficult than ownership for the residents residing in half of San Angelo's census tracts.

[*Saying NO to Citizen Complacency*](#), April 2015. The CDI Violence Index tagged San Angelo as one of the most dangerous cities when compared with other West Texas cities.

[*Drifting Apart*](#), May 2015. Most high-income and extremely poor families become increasingly residentially separate and insulated.

[*A Community Divided*](#), June 2015. Despite valiant efforts by agencies and leaders across San Angelo to solve economic and social problems, people with skills and resources to make community change are often limited to insulated and superficial contacts with people who most need change.

[*Waking Up from the American Dream*](#), July 2015. Harvard's Equality of Opportunity Project shows that Tom Green County is below the average of counties in the study at helping poor children climb the income ladder.

[*Standard of Safety*](#), August 2015. Violence against women has far-reaching impacts that stretch beyond the atrocities suffered by individual victims.

[*Community Woes Linger*](#), September 2015. Despite San Angelo's economic achievements, six of ten children still experience insecure access to food.

[*Not All Seniors Equal*](#), October 2015. Census data reveals social-economic disparities exist for senior residents across San Angelo neighborhoods.

[*Figures behind Tax Burden*](#), November 2015. Local results show that the sales tax burden takes the greatest share of income from the city's lowest income neighborhood.

[*Let's Get Serious About Reducing Poverty*](#), December 2015. Many vulnerable groups lived in the most impoverished neighborhoods during the breakneck years of economic growth.

2016

[*Teen Births Cost Us All*](#), January 2016. Despite progress, the social and economic costs of teen childbearing remain staggering.

[*A Great Revolt*](#), February 2016. Increases in the number of cost-burdened households resulted in an eight percent increase in housing insecurity.

[*Abortion Rate Declining*](#), March 2016. Consistent with the intent of the Texas State Legislature, the flurry of new laws after the 2010 elections may be stimulating an accelerated pace of declines in abortions, including those provided for pregnant teenagers.

[*No Reason for Complacency*](#), April 2016. The CDI Violence Index showed that San Angelo and Tom Green County experienced rising levels of child abuse, sexual assault, crime, and suicides.

[*Solving Social Security*](#), May 2016. 68.5% of the families living in San Angelo do not receive social security benefits or any other form of federal cash assistance. The poverty rate among these families is 14.4%.

[*Quality of Life*](#), June 2016. A year-long study of regional health needs surveyed more than 39,000 residents living in poverty.

[*White Midlife Despair*](#), July 2016. The average suicide rate for midlife whites increased by 52 percent.

[*Health Status of Poor*](#), August 2016. Many West Texans believe preventing major diseases from swamping the health system is beyond reach because of the lack of personal responsibility in the ranks of poor. Our findings show that we are all in the same lifeboat.

[*Isolation among the Elderly*](#), September 2016. In San Angelo, more than half of the senior householders in the city lived alone.

[*Different Kind of Segregation Occurring*](#), October 2016. San Angelo is a city demonstrating moderate segregation in elementary schools.

[*Grading our Schools*](#), November 2016. The average base salary for teachers in SAISD elementary schools is 5.4% lower than averages in comparable West Texas cities.

[*Disconnected Youth*](#), December 2016. The minority-majority neighborhoods are no longer home to the largest numbers of disconnected youth in the San Angelo.

2017

[*Good News and Bad News*](#), January 2017. Positive trends in San Angelo included decreases in the elderly poverty level and the percent of persons under age 65 without health insurance. Several measures of violence such as crime, child abuse, and suicide, however, increased.

[*Too much violence*](#), February 2017. An important observation from the WTVI is that violence levels in this part of West Texas have generally exceeded state levels for quite some time.

[*Progress made in poverty fight*](#), March 2017. The realization that San Angelo's standard of living increase diminishes any celebration of the reduced poverty level for the city.

[*The importance of equal distribution*](#), April 2017. ACS data shows that the top households in the San Angelo metro area averaged 12 times more income than those at the bottom during the recession period preceding the oil-boom years.

[*Rights for disabled improve*](#), May 2017. The poverty rate among individuals with disabilities plummeted by 25% from 2009 to 2015.

[*Opportunity varies by neighborhood*](#), June 2017. Certain qualities of the work people do contribute to economic separation in the city's neighborhoods.

[*Boom and bust eras affect youth*](#), July 2017. Between the sluggish and the booming economic periods, young adult participation in San Angelo's labor force plunged nearly 10 percentage points. from an average of 72.6 to the average 63.1 percent.

[*Gauging women's health care*](#), August 2017. San Angelo residents experience high risk of exposure to common STDs/STIs; higher risk than average for urban areas in West Texas, and higher risk than Texans in general.

[*Immigration, naturalization has changed city*](#), September 2017. Naturalized citizenship in San Angelo increased by 76% from 2007 to 2013 while the number of unauthorized residents plummeted by 40 percent.

[*Where kids are at a disadvantage*](#), October 2017. Sharp differences separate the social and economic conditions that children experience in San Angelo neighborhoods

[*Income inequality growing*](#), November 2017. Changing household income patterns in San Angelo show that income differences between the city's racial and ethnic groups are closing.

[*Children/elders areas see less crime*](#), December 2017. Children and seniors living in low dependency areas of San Angelo face nearly two-to-one odds of being exposed to crime compared to their peers in more age dependent neighborhoods.

2018

[*Lending our voices to public discourse*](#), January 2018. Because local issues are more directly stamped into shared daily experiences, public discourse in the San Angelo community has trended toward greater vitality.

[*Gauging the oil boom's effect*](#), February 2018. The San Angelo Social Health Index reveals that the record-setting growth due to the oil boom has softened in the local economy.

[*County life expectancy lags*](#), March 2018. Tom Green County's unimpressive level of life expectancy improvement reveals a striking gender-based health disparity in the local community.

[*Violent crime rates up in city*](#), April 2018. San Angelo's increase in violent crime tops most US cities in recent years. Furthermore, death from gun violence has now climbed above the national watermark.

[*Minimum pay gap hurts families*](#), May 2018. Conditions in San Angelo households have slipped in recent years.

[*Religious activity and political affiliations*](#), June 2018. The hardening of voter support for Republican Party politics in the local community, in part via its correlation to local religious change, shows that the crumbling wall of separation is not limited to Washington.

[*The time for equal rights is now*](#), July 2018. The recent 12-year earnings history of Latinas in Tom Green County suggests they will see rapidly increasing inequity between their paychecks and those of other men and women in the local economy.

[*Region weighs in on immigration issues*](#), August 2018. Two-thirds of Texans support the idea to require immigrants to learn English with support for the requirement generally higher in most West Texas areas.

[*Addressing health inequalities*](#), September 2018. Addressing inequalities of health outcomes requires belief that communities can change. Above all, it requires the belief that a good community must do the right thing for all its members.

[*Aging in place in San Angelo*](#), October 2018. Nearly 92% of San Angelo seniors age 65 and over were what geriatric specialists describe as "aging in place."

[*Comparing San Angelo*](#), November 2018. The San Angelo metro economy helped reduce family poverty by 29%.

[*Earned Income tax credits help lower-income workers*](#), December 2018. Evidence shows that the *Earned Income Tax Credit* substantially supplements income in working households of all San Angelo neighborhoods.

2019

[Steps to fight health crisis](#), January 2019. A review of Tom Green County death rates in comparison to the state and nation shows the local death rate has increased slightly over recent years, despite its decline at the state and national levels.

[Paying people poverty wages](#), February 2019. San Angelo's senior poverty rate averaged 12.3% between 2013 and 2017 for seniors living in the Social Security shortage areas compared to an average poverty rate of 2.4% among those living in the surplus neighborhoods.

[Local initiative looks to stem violence](#), March 2019. San Angelo has become a more violent city in recent years. The most recent update of the West Texas Violence Index (WTVI) confirms this trend led by increases in domestic violence.

[Local residents are generous](#), April 2019. The average charitable contribution itemized by Tom Green County taxpayers was 24% higher than the average for Texas and the nation.

[Comparing income inequality](#), May 2019. A comparison of San Angelo's Gini Index for household incomes clarifies that local income inequality increased from 2008 to 2017.

[How the ACA affects San Angelo](#), June 2019. Eight of the ten vulnerable groups in the local community experienced gains in health coverage since 2013.

[Undocumented migrants in West Texas](#), July 2019. The status of non-citizen immigrants in the regional labor force is noteworthy. Their labor force participation, employment, and wage earner rates align with the corresponding rates for all working age members of the regional population.

[Living and Retiring in San Angelo](#), August 2019. Comparison of San Angelo's livability index to seven other major West Texas urban areas yields observations that may disappoint local advocates.

[San Angelo ISD is making progress](#), September 2019. Results on the Texas State Academic Accountability ratings show that the SAISD earned an overall grade of B for the 2018-2019 school year, which was an improvement from a grade of C on the ratings for the previous school year.

[Being prepared for disaster](#), October 2019. San Angelo has a significant number of residents living in parts of town most vulnerable to a disaster.

[Examining poverty among children](#), November 2019. The child poverty rate in San Angelo's highly concentrated poverty neighborhoods was more than 5.6 times higher than the rate in the city's low poverty neighborhoods.

[Food insecurity among children in West Texas](#), December 2019. Child food insecurity in four West Texas counties is much higher for members of vulnerable populations.

2020

[*Examining Life Expectancy in Tom Green County*](#), January 2020. Our community is blessed with its share of innovative leaders busily developing local coalitions that echo Healthy People 2030 planning.

[*Tax Cuts and Jobs Act: Broken Promises?*](#) February 2020. Tax code reform requiring wealthy Americans and corporations to pay their fair share of taxes continues to draw broad support from voters across party, gender, and educational lines. But politicians are, as usual, behind their constituents on this issue. Thus, reform will not come easily.

[*Leadership Agenda Needed to Address Violence*](#), March 2020. State and national leaders seriously interested in preventing violence should be clamoring for comprehensive studies on the pervasive violence patterns in our communities and society.

[*Job Growth in San Angelo*](#), April 2020. Despite the Great Recession and drop in oil prices that shook San Angelo during Barack Obama's presidency, the city's workforce added 2,197 workers for a 4.4% gain. Conversely, during the first three years of the Trump presidency the city has added 1,792 jobs, which is an increase of 3.4% and an annual average increase of 597 jobs.

[*Importance of Social Security*](#), May 2020. Data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) covering the six-year period between 2013 and 2018 indicate that Social Security contributes substantial proportions to the annual incomes of numerous households and families in Tom Green County.

[*Reopening the Economy, Controlling COVID-19 a Dilemma*](#), June 2020. Calculations of at-risk establishments in Tom Green County implied that they might have to contract thousands of jobs during a prolonged lockdown resulting in a loss of millions of dollars to our local economy.

[*COVID-19: Know your Demographic Risk*](#), July 2020. Analysis of statistical associations between 35 population and housing characteristics and coronavirus cases in Texas Counties revealed 14 strong positive correlations.

[*Tracking the effects of the COVID-19 virus*](#), August 2020. Analysis suggests that prematurely opening the Texas economy contributed to an intensification of the coronavirus pandemic, which caused the Tom Green County economy to slow. The depressed consumer spending and small business activity is due more to the coronavirus threat than government restrictions.

[*Taking the Pulse of Families with Children in the Pandemic*](#), September 2020. Many local families with children approached this year's opening of school with a complex of worries and fears tied to a raging pandemic and a significantly shuttered economy.

[*Signs of Systemic Racism in San Angelo*](#), October 2020. Polls consistently ask respondents if they believe there is systemic racism? In the end, however, the existence of systemic racism is not a matter of belief. It is a matter of factual analysis.

[*Is the Great Equalizer at Work in the Local Community?*](#) November 2020. It is hard for many to see that the personal flaws of some children, parents, and families do not fully account for perceived failures. In equal or greater measure, what makes them vulnerable is the failure of the social system to address their needs respectfully and equitably.

[*Economic Inequalities Across the Color Line*](#), December 2020. San Angelo, Texas residents are struggling to stay above water while battling COVID-19. Still, the destructive effects are unlikely to spread equally across the community. The destruction will more likely follow long established lines of economic inequality.

2021

[*Something to Hope for in the New Year*](#), January 2021. Like the rest of the nation, Tom Green County is during the raging pandemic as we begin 2021. Yet, local community leaders and citizens alike imagine a full comeback in the local economy. But what will it take?

[*Measuring the Local Economy*](#), February 2021. The deterioration of gross sales, sales tax revenue, employment, and wages, captures the devastating influence of COVID-19 on the overall local economy between 2019 and 2020.

[*The Geography of Health Inequity in the Local Community*](#), March 2021. Pre-pandemic health risk indicators for the majority white and people of color areas of the local community reveal a number of key health disparities.

[*SAPD's crime map needs better transparency*](#), April 2021. Lack of transparency in the City Crime Map illustrates needed improvements for policing after COVID-19.

[*The Gender Pay Gap is an Inequity*](#), May 2021. The inequality of women's earnings simply refers to the unequal distribution of salaries and wages. Inequity is a more vile term because it refers to unfair differences arising from cultural prejudices, unjust policies and discriminatory social practices. Why should a woman's right to an equal opportunity for financial independence and success be denied?