The 2019 Community Status Report is the 20th publication in the series. The report provides statistics in health, safety, education, economics, population and for the first time, information about ALICE in the Lubbock Area. The report includes comparisons to state and national statistics, along with trends over a period of years.

The featured section in the 2019 publication is information from the United Ways of Texas ALICE report, completed by the ALICE Project for the state. The included information focuses on Lubbock County. ALICE is an acronym for Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed. ALICE families live with incomes above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but not high enough to afford basic household necessities such as rent, food, transportation costs and child care. 42% of Lubbock County individuals are either living in poverty (19% compared to state average of 14%) or fall in the ALICE threshold (23% compared to 28% state average).

Access to the information included in the Community Status Report leads to better awareness and understanding of the underlying issues and problems facing the community. The report indicates progress or lack of progress that has been made in the areas of concern so that resources can be raised and invested to achieve long term, sustained community improvements.

After two decades of publishing the Community Status Report, Lubbock Area United Way continues to remain committed to bringing area-wide awareness, creating long term positive impact for Lubbock area residents and to Giving • People • Hope.
Early in 2017, Lubbock Area United Way’s Board of Directors began updating the strategic plan for the organization. The decision was made to focus on external issues, considering the priority needs and issues in the community and what United Way’s role is in addressing them. The board worked to identify issues as well as goals and outcomes, consulting with expert practitioners in a variety of fields. Over a five month period of thoughtful consideration, the board determined that United Way should move forward in addressing the following three priority areas.

It should be noted that there are some common themes that run throughout each area: awareness, advocacy, education, cooperation, collaborations and the importance of good parenting. Also, none of the solutions solely involve funding by United Way or other sources. Yet, an ongoing examination of how United Way invests donors’ contributions to best address the needs of the Lubbock area is of the utmost importance to continue a long-standing commitment of accountability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Issue</th>
<th>Areas of Emphasis</th>
<th>United Way Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| To ensure that all children are school-ready by kindergarten and are grade-level readers by 3rd grade. | • Focus on ages 0-8  
• Summer loss  
• Books in homes  
• Volunteer reading opportunities  
• Access to Pre-K  
• Adult literacy  
• Social skills | • Conduct a sustainable, long-term community-wide effort to raise awareness of the importance of parents reading to and with their children in early childhood.  
• Build awareness of the need to close the achievement gap between minority and low-income students and non-minority, more affluent students.  
• Utilize successful parents to serve as mentors and role models to other parents.  
• Target awareness efforts to reach private and home-based day care providers.  
• Continue and expand activities that promote the importance of proper social and emotional development to prepare children for school readiness. |
| To eliminate child abuse and sex trafficking in our communities. | • Prevention and awareness  
• Parenting education and empowerment  
• Mentoring of youth and adults  
• Fostering children under age 18 | • Continue current awareness and advocacy efforts aimed at child abuse prevention.  
• Provide opportunities for parents to learn proper parenting skills and the importance of those skills in breaking the cycle of abuse.  
• Build awareness of the difference between human trafficking and sex trafficking and the scope to which it now exists in the local area.  
• Advocate for more training of professionals and awareness with the general public to recognize and understand how to take action related to sex trafficking.  
• Address the lack of infrastructure of agencies and services currently available in the community that support foster children and foster parents. |
| To provide access to all persons in need of mental health services. | • Substance Abuse  
• Homelessness  
• Infant and childhood mental health  
• Substance abuse prevention for youth  
• Adult education and treatment  
• Lack of infrastructure | • Promote a community-wide conversation to build awareness and acknowledgement and to eliminate stigmas related to mental health issues.  
• Identify and address current gaps in services related to detox, medications, aftercare, outpatient rehabilitation, homeless and youth.  
• Raise the awareness of existing services in order to assist those in need to more easily gain access.  
• Facilitate the formation of a working group of service providers to collaborate on funding opportunities.  
• Advocate for more funding of youth prevention programs within public schools.  
• Continue to advocate for infant and early childhood mental health and better educate and provide skills for parents. |
### Important Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Lubbock Previous</th>
<th>Lubbock Current</th>
<th>Texas Current</th>
<th>Compared To Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Born Healthy (Lubbock County) (TDSHS)</strong></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onset of prenatal care in first trimester (per total live births)</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
<td>62.4%</td>
<td>59.7%</td>
<td>above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of babies born with low weight birth</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant death rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>School Functioning (Region 17) (TEA)</strong></td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention (1st Grade), Non-Special Education</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention (Kindergarten), Non-Special Education</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Rate 4-Year Longitudinal Completion Rate (9-12)</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
<td>above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Dropout Rate (Gr 9-12)</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College Readiness (Region 17) (TEA)</strong></td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of students at or above criterion in college entrance exams</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economics (Lubbock County)</strong></td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (Texas Workforce Commission)</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of children in poverty (U.S. Census)</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of adults in poverty (U.S. Census)</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons without health insurance (U.S. Census)</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of adults 25+ with at least high school education (U.S. Census)</td>
<td>85.1%</td>
<td>85.5%</td>
<td>82.8%</td>
<td>above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of adults 25+ with bachelor's degree or higher (U.S. Census)</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Safety (Lubbock County)</strong></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape rate (per 100,000 population) (UCR)</td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>50.6</td>
<td>above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated assault rate (per 100,000 population) (UCR)</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family violence rate (per 100,000 population) (UCR)</td>
<td>1,253</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed victims of child abuse rate (per 1,000 children) (TDPRS)</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**POPULATION**

### Social Services

In March of 2019, 38,981 individuals received SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits with 19,939 individuals being age 17 or younger. This number was down from 41,548 individuals from the same time period in 2018. The SNAP payout amount was $4,266,886.

In January of 2019, 393 individuals were receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) benefits with an average payment of $192. 84% of recipients were children.

In January of 2019, there were 3,248,065 children enrolled on Children's Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

*(Texas Health and Human Services Commission)*

### Foster Care

During the 2018 fiscal year, the Department of Family and Protective Services reported there were 52,397 children in foster care. There were 3,186 children in foster care in Region One (in blue) with 1,291 of those cases originating in Lubbock County.

*(Department of Family Protective Services)*

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**Homelessness**

The South Plains Homeless Consortium conducted its annual Point in Time count in January of 2019. The survey counted 293 people which was down from 333 the previous year. 42 of these individuals were children under the age of 18.

- 37 were chronically homeless
- 12 were military veterans, down from 27 in 2018
- 44 reported serious mental illness

*(Point In Time Survey, 2019)*

Over the past three years, the Lubbock Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team assisted 75 individuals in transitioning into housing. In 2018, Lubbock Police officers made over 180 referrals for employment, mental health, shelter, food and many others services for people in need.

In 2018, The Salvation Army of Lubbock provided 150,593 meals, 31,615 nights of shelter, and provided 14,143 hygiene kits to homeless and needy individuals. 43 clients transitioned from the shelter to permanent housing.
Millennials

“As of 2015, millennials are the largest generation in today’s workforce.” (Forbes)

“While educational attainment has steadily increased for men and women over the past five decades, the share of Millennial women with a bachelor’s degree is now higher than that of men – a reversal from the Silent Generation and Boomers. Gen X women were the first to outpace men in terms of education, with a 3-percentage-point advantage over Gen X men in 2001. Before that, late Boomer men in 1989 had a 2-point advantage over Boomer women.” (Pew Research Center)

Millennial Households

- More millennial households are in poverty than households headed by any other generation
- Millennial households dominate the ranks of the nation’s renters
- About half of cohabitating-couple households are headed by a Millennial
- In 2016, Millennials for the first time surpassed all other generations in number of household heads who were single mothers
- Among heads of household, Millennials in 2016 became the generation with the largest number identifying as multiracial (Pew Research Center)

Millennial and Voting

As of November 2016, an estimated 62 million millennials were voting-age U.S. Citizens, compared to 57 million Generation X members and 70 million Baby Boomers. Millennials represent 27% of the eligible voting population while Baby Boomers represent 31% (Pew Research Center)
Lubbock Economic Index 2018

The Lubbock economy ended 2018 with growth and an Economic Index of 154.4 in December, 2% higher than December of 2017:

- 4,500 jobs were added in 2018 for a growth rate of 2.7%.
- Retail spending was up 3.3% from 2017.
- Commercial construction permits were down 31% from 2017. However, in December 2018 alone, permits filed hit $121.6 million, which is the fourth largest monthly total on record.
- Hotel and motel spending gained 8.6% for the year.
- Number of passengers flying out of Lubbock International Airport grew 5.3% in 2018.

(Lubbock National Bank, 2019)

Lubbock had a phenomenal year in the housing market:

- 4,466: Number of homes sold in 2018. 16.4% higher than 2017.
- $165,900: Median home price in 2018. 7.4% increase compared to 2017.
- 1,081: Active home listings in 2018. 18.8% more than 2017.
- 74: Average number of days homes spent on the market. Unchanged from 2017.

(Lubbock Association of Realtors, 2018)

Hunger

Lubbock County has 47,680 individuals who are food insecure—a rate of 16.2%. According to the USDA, food insecurity may reflect a household’s need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing and medical bills, or purchasing nutritious food.

FOOD INSECURITY IN LUBBOCK COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Insecurity Rate</th>
<th>Estimated Program Eligibility Among Food Insecure People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>27% Above other nutrition program threshold of 185% poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3% Between 165% - 185% poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70% Below SNAP threshold 165% poverty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Meal Cost $2.92

Additional Money Required to Meet Food Needs $23,800,000

(Feeding America, 2018)
**Unemployment**

The Lubbock unemployment rate fell to 3.2% in 2017 compared to a rate of 3.4% in 2016. Lubbock continues to beat the state average of 4.3%.

“Employment insecurity and the accompanying income loss can disrupt daily living and relationships and limit families’ ability to invest in their children’s development, which can, in turn, diminish children’s achievement in school and chances of future success.” *(Kids Count)*

**ANNUAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

**Poverty**

22% of Lubbock County children live in poverty as compared to 21% of Texas children as a whole and 18% nationally. *(2019 County Health Rankings)*

“In 2016, one in three children lived in families who spend more than 30% of their income on housing, leaving less money for other necessities such as food, health care, transportation and childcare.” *(Kids Count, 2018)*

In 2017, over 44% of Lubbock County home renters used 35% or more of their monthly income toward rent. *(U.S. Census Bureau)*

**CHILDREN IN POVERTY**

In 2018, there were 20,764 calls in the local service area, approximately 6 per day. The top 5 needs in the area were food vouchers, utility assistance, rental assistance, food pantries and services for the aging.
ALICE IN LUBBOCK COUNTY

2016 Point-in Time Data

Population: 303,137 • Number of Households: 111,975
Median Household Income: $49,136 (state average: $56,565)
Unemployment Rate: 3.9% (state average: 5.6%)
ALICE Households: 23% (state average: 28%) • Households in Poverty: 19% (state average: 14%)

How has the number of ALICE households changed over time?

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold). Combined, the number of ALICE and poverty-level households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs. The number of households below the ALICE Threshold changes over time; households move in and out of poverty and ALICE status as their circumstances improve or worsen. The recovery, which started in 2010, has been uneven across the state. Conditions have improved for some families, but with rising costs, many still find themselves struggling.

What types of households are struggling?

The way Americans live is changing. There are more different family and living combinations than ever before, including more adults living alone, with roommates, or with their parents. Families with children are changing. There are more non-married cohabiting parents, same-sex parents, and blended families with remarried parents. The number of senior households is also increasing. Yet all types of households continue to struggle. ALICE and poverty level households exist across all of these living arrangements.
Why do so many households struggle?

The cost of living continues to increase...
The Household Survival Budget reflects the bare minimum that a household needs to live and work today. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college. In 2016, costs were well above the Federal Poverty Level of $11,880 for a single adult and $24,300 for a family of four. Family costs increased by 27 percent statewide from 2010 to 2016, compared to 9 percent inflation nationally.

### HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL BUDGET, LUBBOCK COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SINGLE ADULT</th>
<th>2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monthly Costs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$543</td>
<td>$798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>$—</td>
<td>$903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$158</td>
<td>$525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$322</td>
<td>$644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>$106</td>
<td>$726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>$55</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$146</td>
<td>$393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monthly Total</strong></td>
<td>$1,610</td>
<td>$4,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANNUAL TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$19,320</td>
<td>$51,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hourly Wage</strong></td>
<td>$9.66</td>
<td>$25.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...and wages lag behind

Employment and wages vary by location. Firms generally pay higher wages in areas with a higher cost of living, although those wages still do not always cover basic needs. Employment and wages also vary by firm size. Large firms tend to offer higher wages and more job stability; smaller businesses can account for more jobs overall, especially in rural areas, but may pay less and offer less stability. Medium-size firms pay more but typically employ the fewest workers.

### PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYMENT BY FIRM SIZE WITH AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGES, 2016

![Bar chart showing employment by firm size with average annual wages for 2016.](chart.png)

Note: Municipal-level data on this page is 5-year averages for County Subdivisions. Municipal-level data relies on 5-year averages and is not available for the smallest towns. Since there are missing geographies, totals will not match county-level numbers.
Early Childhood Literacy

In September of 2018, more than 3,500 second graders in five school districts read *The Little Red Fort* at the same time on the same day to bring awareness to the importance of reading to and with children. Lubbock Area United Way has identified that early childhood education, reading to and with children, and creating grade-level readers by third grade are priorities for community success.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) found that children who read at home have a substantial advantage over children who are not:

- 26% of children who are read to by a family member 3 to 4 times a week can recognize all the letters of the alphabet, compared to 14% of children who are read to less frequently.
- NCES has also identified that children who are read too more frequently are more likely able to count to 20 or higher, write their own names and read or pretend to read.
- Children in families with incomes below the poverty line are less likely to be read aloud to on a daily basis than children in families with incomes at or above poverty.

“Children who reach fourth grade without being able to read proficiently are more likely to struggle academically and eventually drop out of school. Low reading proficiency also reduces earning potential and chances for career success as adults.” *(Kids Count)*

Economically Disadvantaged Children

Region 17 had a slight drop in the number of economically disadvantaged children during the 2017-2018 school year, 60.1% compared to 61.5% the preceding year. Region 17 is still higher than the state average of 58.8%.

“Growing up in poverty is one of the greatest threats to healthy child development. It increases the likelihood that a child will be exposed to factors that can impair his or her brain development and lead to poor academic, cognitive and health outcomes.” *(Kids Count)*

High School Graduation

Region 17 has seen a steady increase of high school graduates over the last four years. Data shows that students who graduate on time have many more choices when they become young adults. These students are likely to pursue higher education and training programs, make healthier decisions and engage in less risky behaviors. *(Kids Count)*

“In 2016, median annual earnings for someone without a high school diploma ($21,800) were 73 percent of the earnings of a high school graduate ($30,000) and 42 percent of the earnings of someone with a bachelor’s degree ($51,700).” *(Kids Count)*
School Readiness

“High-quality preschool programs for 3-to-4-year-olds help set the stage for future skill development, well-being and learning. These programs play an important role in preparing children for success and lead to higher levels of educational attainment, career advancement and earnings.” (Kids Count)

Region 17 improved in retention rates for Kindergartners and First Graders during the 2017-2018 school year. While retention rates are dropping, Region 17 still falls behind the state average for both grade levels.

Educational Success

Across all STARR testing, Region 17 has seen improvements in the number of students who are scoring at approaching grade level, meeting grade level and above grade level. The state average has the same upward trend. Region 17 falls 3-4% behind the state average.

STAAR TEST RESULTS
Approaches Grade Level

(Meets Grade Level or Above

(Texas Education Agency)

In 2018, The Early Learning Centers of Lubbock provided care for over 3,400 children. Through their work and parental education, 93% of parents report that they are reading to their children at least once a week and have children’s books in their homes.

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(Texas Education Agency)

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SAFETY

Sex and Labor Trafficking

There are more than 25 different types of sex and labor trafficking in the United States. Human trafficking is considered modern day slavery. In 2017, the National Human Trafficking hotline received 26,884 phone calls, 2,306 texts, and 1,833 emails. (Collective Liberty, Polaris Project)

LOCATIONS OF POTENTIAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES IN THE U.S.

Sex Trafficking in the Lubbock Area

In 2018, Voice of Hope served 396 primary sexual assault survivors. Of those, 37 were confirmed cases of sex trafficking. 34% of these victims were age 17 and under. Voice of Hope volunteers donated 6,371 hours working the sexual assault/sex trafficking hotline, fielding 5,019 calls, and providing medical accompaniment.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS (as of 4/2/2018)

There are currently 9,000+ illicit massage businesses in the United States which bring in $2.5 billion in revenue each year. A large portion of the revenue is being laundered outside of the United States. (Collective Liberty)

At the time of this publication, there were eight suspected illicit massage businesses in Lubbock County. (Children at Risk)
Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2018, Lubbock County had 1,126 confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect with one victim losing their life. 95% of the victims are age 6 and under. Lubbock County is nearly double the state average at 14.48 per 1,000 children as compared to the state at 8.75. (Department of Family Protective Services)

Children’s Advocacy Center of the South Plains conducted 1,130 forensic interviews in 2018, compared to 791 cases in 2017. In 2018, there were 137 cases presented for prosecution to the Lubbock County District Attorney’s office, compared to 111 in 2017.

CASA of the South Plains assisted 237 children in closing their cases with placement in a permanent home compared to 235 in 2017. In addition, the organization recruited 111 new Volunteer Advocates in 2018 compared to 85 in 2017. CASA Volunteer Advocates serve as Guardian ad Litem on all assigned cases. Volunteers donated over 8,350 volunteer hours in 2018, saving Lubbock County taxpayers $459,000.

Domestic Violence

In 2018, Women’s Protective Services served 955 adult females and 1,015 children. The shelter hotline received 5,819 calls. 1,955 of those were from or about victims of domestic violence and 133 were for protective order referrals.
HEALTH

Mental Health

In 2015, Lubbock County had 43 cases of suicide. Lubbock County has a 14.4% rate per 100,000 people compared to the state rate of 12.3%. (Department of State Health Services)

“Deaths from youth suicide are only part of the problem. More young people survive suicide attempts than actually die. A nationwide survey of high school students in the United States found that 16% of students reported seriously considering suicide, 13% reported creating a plan, and 8% reported trying to take their own life in the 12 months preceding the survey. Each year, approximately 157,000 youth between the ages of 10 and 24 are treated at Emergency Departments across the U.S. for self-inflicted injuries.” (CDC, 2017)

Cancer

“Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, among both men and women. Lung cancer claims more lives each year than do colon, prostate, ovarian and breast cancers combined.” (Mayo Clinic)

The YWCA of Lubbock’s Women’s Health Initiative served 599 individuals in 2018. This equated to 482 mammograms, 183 ultrasounds, 322 diagnostic mammograms, 51 biopsies, 6 cancer diagnosis, 364 continued case management activities and 153 breast cancer survivors supported with patient navigation. Women served through the Women’s Health Initiative have incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

While the rate of death caused by female breast cancer has increased, Lubbock County still falls below the state rate of 10.5.
Substance Abuse
“Synthetic cannabinoids are not one drug. Hundreds of different synthetic cannabinoid chemicals are manufactured and sold. New ones with unknown health risks become available each year. Synthetic cannabinoids are popular because users often believe they are legal and relatively safe. These chemicals are called cannabinoids because they act on the same brain cell receptors as tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main active ingredient in marijuana. However, the hundreds of known synthetic cannabinoid chemicals and THC are different chemicals. In fact, synthetic cannabinoids may affect the brain in different and unpredictable ways compared to marijuana.” (Center for Disease Control)

Maternal Age
The average age of a woman giving birth has increased over the last decade. The state of Texas average maternal age is 28. Lubbock County’s average maternal age is 26-27.

“The increase in average maternal age observed over the past decade is likely due in part to a marked decrease in the teen birth rate. Texas, like the rest of the country, has reported dramatic decreases in the teen birth rate since 2008.” (Texas Department of State Health Services)

Over the last decade, Lubbock County’s teen birth rate has fallen from 70 to 33.4 per 1,000 girls ages 15-19 year old. This is reflective in both state and national trends. The state average is 29.3 while the United States average is 20.3. (The Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy)

“Although Texas has experienced a steady decrease in the teen birth rate over the past decade, as of 2016, Texas had the fourth highest teen birth rate in the United States.” (Texas Department of State Health Services)
SOURCES

2019 County Health Rankings
2-1-1 Texas South Plains
CASA of the South Plains
Center for Disease Control, 2017
Children at Risk
Children’s Advocacy Center of the South Plains
Collective Liberty
Feeding America, 2018
Forbes
Kids Count, 2018
Lubbock Association of Realtors, 2018
Lubbock National Bank, 2019
Lubbock Police Department
Mayo Clinic
Pew Research Center
Point in Time Survey, 2019
Polaris Project
Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Texas Department of Family Protective Services
Texas Department of State Health Services
Texas Education Agency
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
U.S. Census Bureau
Voice of Hope
Women’s Protective Services
YWCA of Lubbock

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American Red Cross
Serving the Texas South Plains

Catholic Charities
Diocese of Lubbock
Providing Help, Creating Hope, Serving all People

Early Learning Centers of Lubbock

Children’s Advocacy Center of the South Plains

Communities In Schools
The South Plains

Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains

Goodwill Industries of Northwest Texas

The Salvation Army
Graduate Parkview Neighborhood Centers

Lubbock Family Counseling Services

Lubbock Children’s Health Clinic

Lubbock Literacy of Lubbock, Inc.

The Parenting Cottage

Upbring - The New LSS

Volunteer Center of Lubbock

VOICE of HOPE
Women’s Protective Services

ywca
eliminating racism
empowering women