The San Angelo Social Health and Social Capital Index

2009 Edition

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The San Angelo Social Health and Social Capital Index

Executive Summary

Community Development Initiatives is pleased to present the 2009 Edition of *The San Angelo Social Health and Social Capital Index*. We offer the publication annually to the local community as a means of tracking various dimensions of social progress.

We use a 100-point rating scale to assess progress in San Angelo. Our *Social Health Index* uses the point system to summarize 18 different indicators on quality of life conditions that typically challenge social progress in communities. On the other hand, the *Social Capital Index* sums up 10 factors affecting social networks used in communities to find solutions to challenges. Higher scores on our 100-point scales for the *Social Health* and *Social Capital* indexes represent better conditions for the community.

Last year's results on the *Social Health Index* revealed a community with a glass half-full outlook at the end of 2007. The summary score of the 18 social health indicators was 52 on our 100-point rating scale.

The 2009 Edition of the *Social Health Index* includes data updates and small changes that improve accuracy from the previous year. The following sections detail these up-dates. Overall, the index shows improving quality of life conditions for San Angelo. Using the same 100-point rating system from 2007, the community rated 56 at the end of 2008.

The San Angelo Social Capital Index incorporates a new module of informative data with this year's publication. In studies of community development, the idea of social capital refers to the social networks that community members give their trust, time and energy in anticipation of contributing to the well-being of themselves and other residents. Churches, voluntary associations, service clubs, civic, neighborhood, non-profit and faith-based organizations embody social capital.

The *San Angelo Social Capital Index* tracks the standing of San Angelo on 10 items that facilitate access by community members to social capital. In the midst of positive community gains, San Angelo may be raising some obstacles that tend to isolate citizens from participation in the social capital networks that help communities solve problems. The community's social capital score at the end of 2008 was 47 on the 100 point scoring system. This was down from a score of 65 in 2005.

The 2009 Edition of *The San Angelo Social Health and Social Capital Index* details the indicators that follow the quality of life in San Angelo. It also assesses the opportunities that citizens have to tap the store of social capital to help make further progress. We hope the report proves useful to citizens and leaders engaging everyday in tasks and decisions on the pathway to community progress.

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY
Community Development Initiatives

To create *The San Angelo Social Health Index*, we collect available data on 18 indicators of the social quality of life for each year since 2000. Figures on 10 different indicators dating back to 2005 create *The San Angelo Social Capital Index.*

The raw data for our indicators comes from reports published routinely by state and federal agencies. We collect local (county or city) and state level numbers for the 18 indicators in the *Social Health Index*. In contrast, for the 10 *Social Capital Index* items we gather figures for San Angelo and the other metropolitan areas of Texas. Consequently, our indicators allow for different comparisons. The *Social Health Index* enables comparison of the local quality of life with the statewide level. The *Social Capital Index,* compares San Angelo to other Texas cities on factors affecting people's access to social networks. When data is not available for a given year on any indicator, we use statistical regression techniques to estimate missing numbers.

Problems of interpretation and comparison arise when agencies do not report numbers in the form of rates or ratios. For example, if Child Protective Services tells us there were 373 child abuse incidents in Tom Green County for 2008, how should we compare this to the 70,589 incidents in Texas that year? The local number seems very small compared to the state overall.

However, the fact that 26,050 children lived in the county and 6,442,738 were in Texas enables more accurate comparison and interpretation. Based on these results, we can calculate that 14.3 of every 1,000 children were abused in the county. This compares to only 11 of 1,000 abused children statewide. Where the number of abuse incidents in the county is small compared to the state, the ratio (or rate) tells us that children are more vulnerable in the county than across the state as a whole.

Because ratios or rates provide a more valid picture, we convert all raw data in our social health and social capital indicators into ratios or rates.

After gathering and converting data, we use a 100-point scoring system to yield our annual measurements of social health and social capital. The first step in this system is to develop a historical index score. We derive this by first calculating the difference between the indicator for a given year and the best result over the years. Then we scale the historical score as a percentage of the difference between the worst yearly result on the indicator and the best year. This assigns the best outcome over the study period a score of 100, and the worst result gets a zero. A score of 55 for a

given year means the historical score is 55 percent above the worst outcome in the study period, and 45 percent below the best. A lower score reflects a deteriorating condition in the community and a higher score shows improvement.

We use a similar method to develop the second score which compares an indicator's local result with the statewide outcome. The comparison yields a result of 100 for the best local-to-state comparison over the years of the study, and the worst comparison receives a zero. If the comparison score is 60 for a particular year, the local-to-state comparison is 60 percent above the worst comparison, and 40 percent below the best comparison. Like the historical index score, the comparison score shows declining conditions when it is lower. A higher score indicates community improvement as compared to the state.

The last step in the 100-point scoring system calculates averages from the historical and comparison scores. This begins by merely averaging the historical and comparison score on each indicator for each of the years in the study. For example, the historical score on the child abuse indicator for 2008 was 21, and the comparison score was 31. By averaging the two, we arrive at a child abuse indicator score of 26 for 2008. By repeating the calculation for the other social health indicators, we arrive at 18 different indicator scores for 2008. We then average these 18 different results to arrive at the score of 43 on the *San Angelo Social Health Index* for 2008. The same averaging process using 10 indicators leads to the *San Angelo Social Capital Index* score of 71 for 2008.
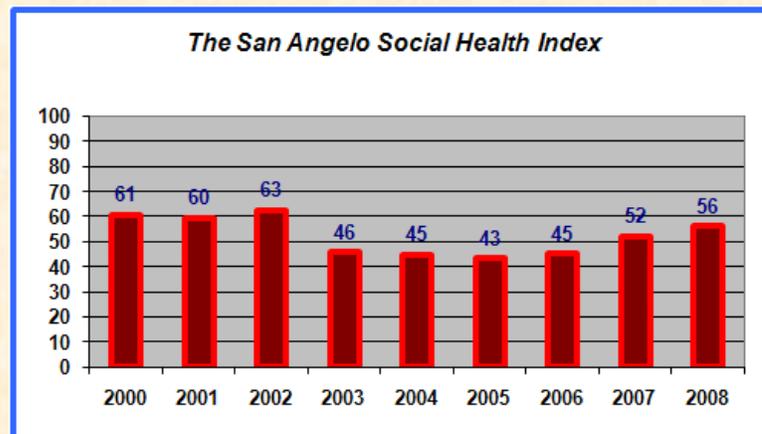
The San Angelo Social Health Index

Introduction

The San Angelo Social Health Index is a custom-built set of 18 indicators to help follow the progress of local social living conditions. The Community Development Initiatives developed the index with the support of Angelo State University.

The index avoids the tendency to think about the quality of communities in a manner too narrowly loaded with economic factors. The economic dimension of community development is fundamental and important, but it is, leaves out much of what makes the social life of citizens worthwhile as they raise children, care for elders, and engage with their marriages and families, households, schools, and neighborhoods. The *Social Health Index* includes some economic factors in its 18 indicators, but it also folds in numerous factors on other important community domains.

The San Angelo Social Health Index summarizes the quality of community conditions in a single score for each year beginning with 2000. The scoring is on a range from zero to 100 where a higher score reflects better overall conditions.

San Angelo's *Social Health Index* ranged from a high of 63 in 2002 to a low of 43 in 2005. For three years beginning in 2000, the community managed slight improvements, rising from a score of 61 to 63 in 2002. Beginning in 2003, the index started sliding into a "social recession," falling to scores in the 40s through 2006. In 2007-2008, local social conditions improved, rising to 56 in 2008.

The San Angelo Social Health Index

A noteworthy lesson of the *Social Health Index* study is that changes in economic indicators do not always synchronize with trends in other domains of social life. Some of San Angelo's economic factors (unemployment, for example) are surely moving in a negative direction for 2009. However, the impact that these changes have on other community conditions is a topic that must wait for next year's *Social Health Index* report. The following sections of this edition depict how conditions changed across the community through 2008.

Historical Vs. State Comparisons

The *San Angelo Social Health Index* wraps together two different types of comparisons. First, the index compares the local community to itself from year-to-year. Then, it compares the community to the state as a whole. Separating these shows the historical comparisons falling more sharply during the "social recession" of 2003-2006, and recovering more slowly through 2008.

The San Angelo Social Health Index
Historical Comparisons
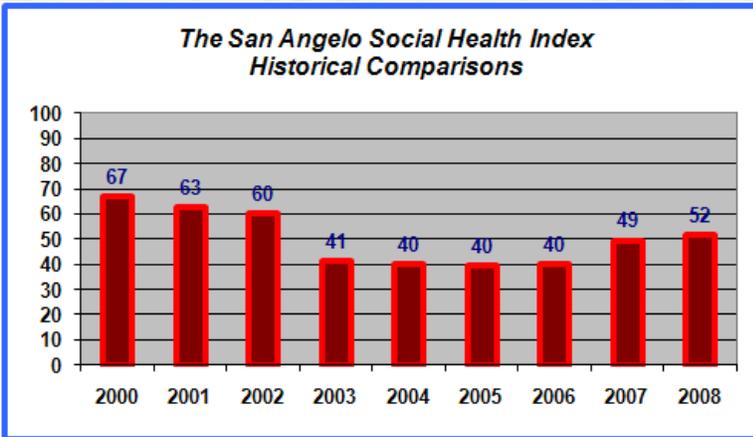
Comparing San Angelo to itself from year-to-year on the 18 indicators of the *Social Health Index* shows the community maintaining a high quality of life with scores in the sixties through 2002. Things began slipping in 2003 when the city's score fell to 41. It finally bounced back in 2007 and ended with a score of 52 for 2008.

Comparison of the local community to the state on the 18 indicators reveals a different pattern. From 2000 to 2002, San Angelo gained ground relative to the state. There was a 10 point increase from 55 to 65 on the 100-point scale over those years. Then, the "social recession" set in beginning in 2003, but the decline was not as sharp as the fall in scores comparing the community to itself.

The San Angelo Social Health Index
State Comparisons

By 2008, the local comparison to the state had rebounded to 61 on the 100-point scale.
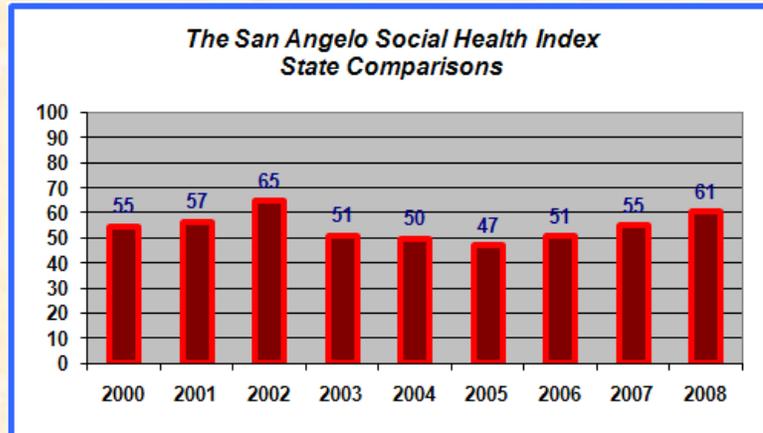
Observations about San Angelo are often framed in terms of comparisons to other places. More than once, the city's low cost-of-living is touted, just as it is said that the area has low wages, compared to other places in the state. It is true, of course, that San Angelo shines in ways, and dims in others, compared to other places in Texas.

Nevertheless, the *Social Health Index* shows that the "social recession" beginning in 2003 was more an internal to the community's quality of life. What contributed most to the slide *was* change in the local community from year-to-year. Changes in the way San Angelo compares to the rest of Texas were less important.

Domain Comparisons

The San Angelo Social Health Index uses indicators to focus on changing conditions in three different domains of community social life. One group of six measurements centers on conditions affecting children and elders. This group yields the *Dependent Populations Index.* Another category of six factors focuses on households and families, and provides the *Households Index.* A third set of six indicators looks at general factors that affect most community residents. These compose the *Community Index.*

A breakout of these categories reveals important facets about the quality of social life in San Angelo. First, it confirms the point made earlier that changes in economic conditions do not correlate with trends in other community domains. Four of the six indicators in the *Community Index,* tracked in the white-colored line of the chart below, measure aspects of jobs and wages in San Angelo. As the chart shows, declines in these indicators often occur in combination with up-ticks in factors affecting households and dependent populations.
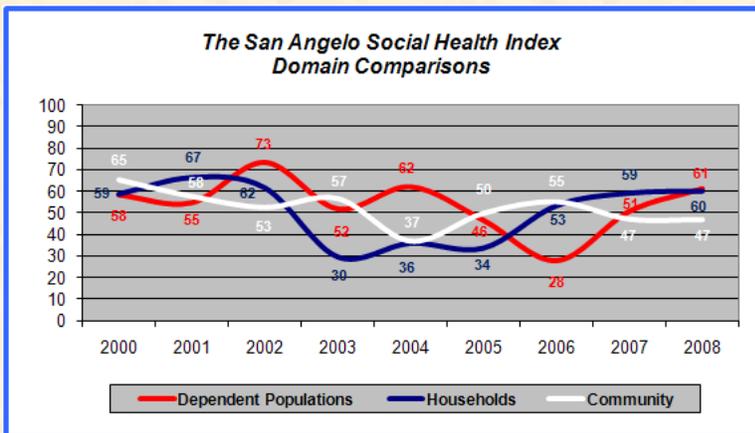
The breakout of domains also shows that households, families and dependent populations (children and elders) felt the brunt of San Angelo's "social recession" from 2003 to 2006. The group of indicators centered on households fell from a score of 62 in 2002 to 30 in 2003, and then remained in the 30s range through 2005. Since then, household conditions have rebounded to a score of 60 in 2008.

The six indicators on dependent populations also dropped sharply from a score of 73 to 52 between 2002 and 2003. Later, there was another steep decline from 46 in 2005 to 28 in 2006. Like household conditions, the *Dependent Populations Index* has rebounded to a score of 61 in 2008.

When people think about the health of communities, a tendency is to focus — sometimes exclusively — on economic factors. To be sure, these have a presence in the general community domain indicators. However, the *San Angelo Social Health Index* strives to gauge the community across domains that reach beyond billfolds into matters that uplift hearts, and sometimes break them.

Interestingly, and unfortunately in many ways, the comparison of community domains shows that the "social recession" mostly effected qualities of life that capture hearts more than billfolds. Economic trends, while challenging for the community, did not weigh most on its downturn in social health. The most challenging negative trends since the new century began involve conditions affecting the city's households, children, and elders.

The Dependent Populations Indicators

The six indicators covering Dependent Populations in the *San Angelo Social Health Index* reflect conditions affecting children and the elderly. Between 2004 and 2006, these indicators declined dismally from 62 on the 100-point scale to a score of 28. The elderly and children took a hard hit in the community's "social recession" for those years. The *Dependent Populations Index* rebounded in recent years to a score of 61 in 2008.

San Angelo Dependent Populations Index

Year	Value
2000	58
2001	55
2002	73
2003	52
2004	62
2005	46
2006	28
2007	51
2008	61
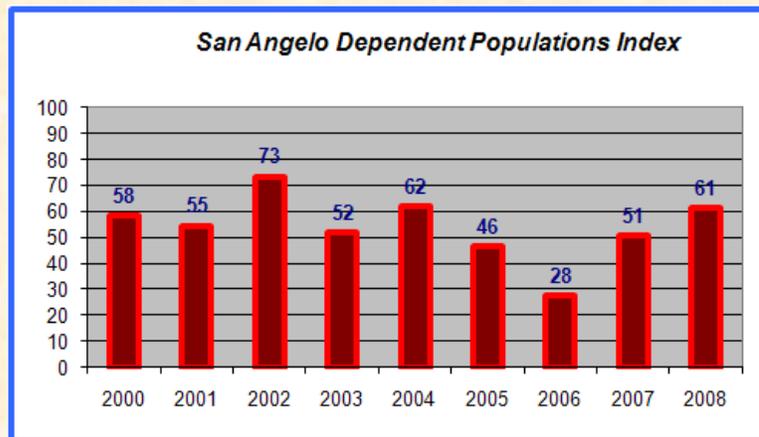
Three of the six indicators in this category — Infant Mortality, Annual Dropouts, and Elder Poverty — show positive current trends. The six factors are below with notations summarizing the trend for each.

Indicator	Trend
Infant Mortality	Positive (since 2000)
Economically Disadvantaged Students	Negative (since 2000)
Child Abuse	Negative (since 2005)
Annual Dropouts	Positive (since 2007)
Elder Poverty	Positive (since 2007)
Elder and Disabled Abuse	Negative (since 2005)

This section of the report provides detail on each of the six Dependent Populations indicators.
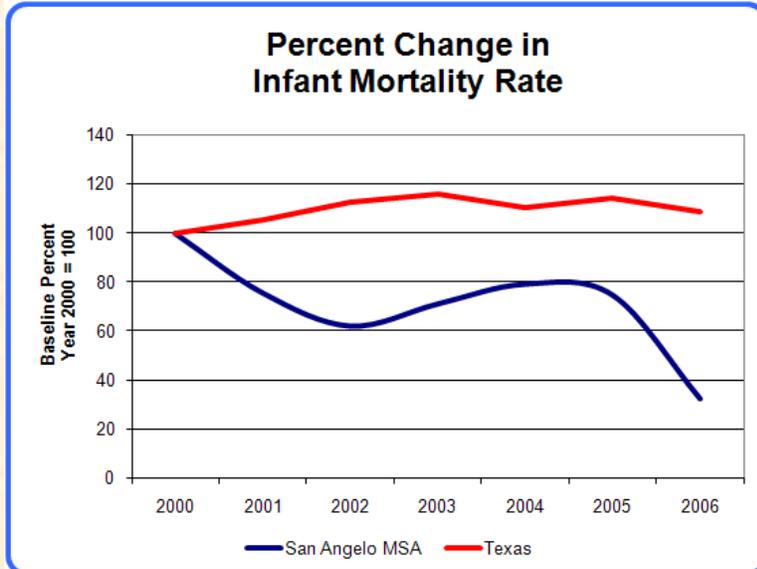
Infant Mortality

The Infant Mortality Rate divides the number of infants under the age of one who die during a given year by the number of live births for the same year. Multiplying the result by 1,000 yields a rate expressing the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

The table below reports the most recent infant mortality rates for San Angelo and the State of Texas. It gives the best and worst rates since 2000, and provides the best and worst comparisons between San Angelo and the state.

Trend: Positive (since 2000)	Year	Local Rate	State Rate
Most Recent	2006	3.6	6.2
Worst Local Rate Since 2000	2000	11.1	5.7
Best Local Rate Since 2000	2006	3.6	6.2
Worst Local/State Comparison	2000	11.1	5.7
Best Local/State Comparison	2006	3.6	6.2

The benchmark chart below traces change in the Infant Mortality Rate. The local and state rates for the year 2000 are fixed at 100 percent to set the benchmark. The chart then follows the percentage of increase or decrease from the year 2000 level. The blue line for San Angelo starts at 100 percent (the benchmark) and then falls to 62 percent in 2002. This means San Angelo saw a 38 percent (100 minus 62) decline in infant mortality over those years. The city's 2006 rate of 3.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births was a dramatic change. That decline brought the local Infant Mortality Rate to a level that was 68 percent lower than the year 2000 benchmark. Meantime, the rate for Texas was 9 percent higher in 2006 than in 2000. Beginning the century with an extremely high Infant Mortality Rate, San Angelo has made excellent progress at reducing infant deaths.

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/datalist.shtm.

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Economically Disadvantaged Students

The federal government classifies students as Economically Disadvantaged if they live in households that qualify for free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program. This indicator reflects the percent of students who qualify.

The table shows the most recent percentages of economically disadvantaged students in the San Angelo Independent School District (SAISD) and in school districts across the State of Texas. It gives the best and worst percentages since 2000, and provides the best and worst comparisons between SAISD and the state. The table also shows that the SAISD has a slightly lower percent of disadvantaged students than the overall state for most years.

Trend: Negative (since 2000)	Year	Local Percent	State Percent
Most Recent	2008	53.8	55.3
Worst Local Percent Since 2000	2007	54.3	55.5
Best Local Percent Since 2000	2000	47.6	49.0
Worst Local/State Comparison	2001	50.2	49.3
Best Local/State Comparison	2003	49.6	51.9

The benchmark chart shows the percentage change in Economically Disadvantaged students. SAISD and state levels for the year 2000 are fixed at 100 percent to set the benchmark. The chart follows the increase or decrease from the benchmark level. The blue line for SAISD starts at the benchmark (100 percent) and increases over the years by 13 percent to its 2008 level. The number of disadvantaged students in Texas school districts also increased by 13 percent between 2000 and 2008. Even though SAISD has a slightly lower percentage of disadvantaged students than other districts, the local increase over time has matched the state-wide trend.

Percent Change in Economically Disadvantaged Students
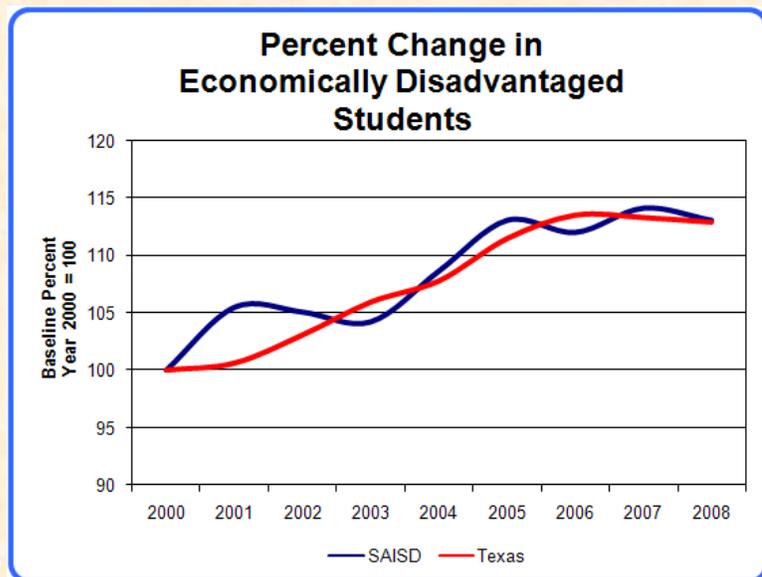
Source: Texas Education Agency, www.tea.state.tx.us/data.html .

Child Abuse

The Child Abuse Rate divides the number of confirmed cases of child abuse during a given year by the estimated number of children aged under age 18 for the same year. Multiplying the result by 1,000 arrives at a rate expressing the number of victims per 1,000 children.

The table below reports the most recent Child Abuse Rates for Tom Green County and the State of Texas. It also reports the best and worst rates for the county since 2000, and it provides the best and worst comparisons between Tom Green County and the state.   The table also indicates that, in the years after 2004, the local rate of child abuse was significantly higher than the state overall.

Trend: Negative (since 2005)	Year	Local Rate	State Rate
Most Recent	2008	14.3	11.0
Worst Local Rate Since 2000	2006	16.4	10.8
Best Local Rate Since 2000	2004	6.4	8.2
Worst Local/State Comparison	2006	16.4	10.8
Best Local/State Comparison	2004	6.4	8.2

The benchmark chart indicates change in the Child Abuse Rate. The local and state rates for the year 2000 are fixed at 100 percent to set the benchmark. The chart then tracks the increase or decrease of the rate from the year 2000 level.

Percent Change in Child Abuse Rate
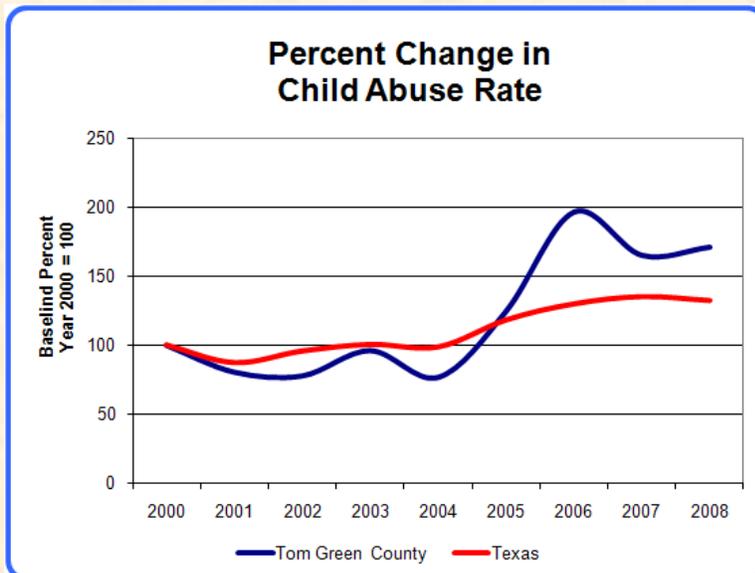
The blue line for Tom Green County begins at 100 (the benchmark) and remains fairly stable through 2004. The local rate then sharply increased in 2006 to a peak that was 97 percent over the 2000 benchmark. The local child abuse rate for 2008 was down from the peak, but remained 71 percent higher than the benchmark-level of 2000.

The rate for Texas was 32 percent higher in 2008 than in 2000.

Tom Green County had a dramatic growth in child abuse during a time when the increases across the state were much more moderate.

Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, www.dfps.state.tx.us/ About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/default.asp.

Annual Dropouts

The Annual Dropout Rate is the percent of students in grades 7 through 12 who dropped out of school in a given school year.
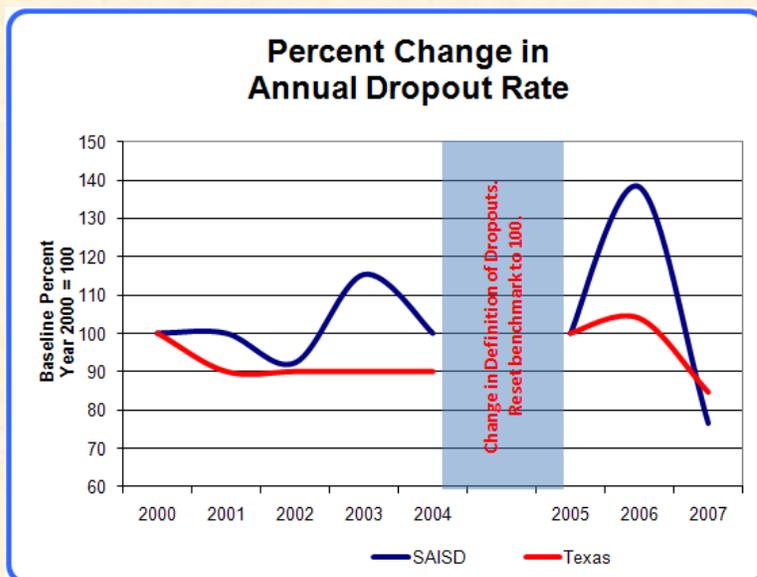
The table below reports the most recent Annual Dropout Rates for SAISD and the State of Texas. It also reports the best and worst rates for SAISD since 2000, and it provides the best and worst comparisons between SAISD and the state.

Under mandate from the legislature, the Texas Education Agency changed the definition of a dropout in 2005. The change substantially increased the number of youth counted as dropouts after 2004. Still, as the table indicates, SAISD generally has a somewhat higher Annual Dropout Rate than the overall state.

Trend: Positive (since 2007)	Year	Local Percent	State Percent
Most Recent	2007	2.6	2.2
Worst Local Percent Since 2000	2006	4.7	2.7
Best Local Percent Since 2000	2007	2.6	2.2
Worst Local/State Comparison	2006	4.7	2.7
Best Local/State Comparison	2007	2.6	2.2

The benchmark chart is split because of the 2005 mandate (marked by the blue-shaded area) that changed the definition of a dropout. The left side shows the period for the old definition (2000-2004). It tracks change in Dropout Rates using the year 2000 as the benchmark (set to 100). SAISD first saw some decrease, then increase, but ended in 2004 with a rate equal to its year 2000 benchmark. The state, in contrast, saw a 10 percent decrease from its 2000 benchmark, and maintained the lower rate through 2004.

The right side of the chart tracks rates after the official change of definition. The benchmark is reset for 2005. The SAISD rate first increased and then declined sharply, ending in 2007 at a level 24 percent below the 2005 rate. The state followed a similar pattern ending in 2007 with a rate 15 percent below the 2005 level. SAISD, while still above the state dropout level, has made strong progress.

Percent Change in Annual Dropout Rate

Source: Texas Education Agency, www.tea.state.tx.us/data.html.

Elder Poverty

The Elder Poverty Rate is the percent of population aged 65 and over living in poverty.

The table below reports the most recent Elder Poverty Rates for Tom Green County and the State of Texas. It also reports the best and worst rates for the county since 2000, and it provides the best and worst comparisons between the county and the state. The table also shows the local Elder Poverty Rate is generally lower than the state as a whole.

Trend: Positive (since 2007)	Year	Local Percent	State Percent
Most Recent	2008	9.5	12.2
Worst Local Percent Since 2000	2005	11.9	12.7
Best Local Percent Since 2000	2008	9.5	12.2
Worst Local/State Comparison	2006	11.9	11.8
Best Local/State Comparison	2008	9.5	12.2

The benchmark chart below shows change in the Elder Poverty Rate. The local and state levels for the year 2000 are fixed at 100 percent, and the chart tracks the increase or decrease from that benchmark level. Tom Green County saw a 10 percent increase in poverty among elders between 2000 and 2005, but recent declines have brought the county rate down to a level that is 13 percent lower than the 2000 benchmark.

Percent Change in Elder Poverty Rate
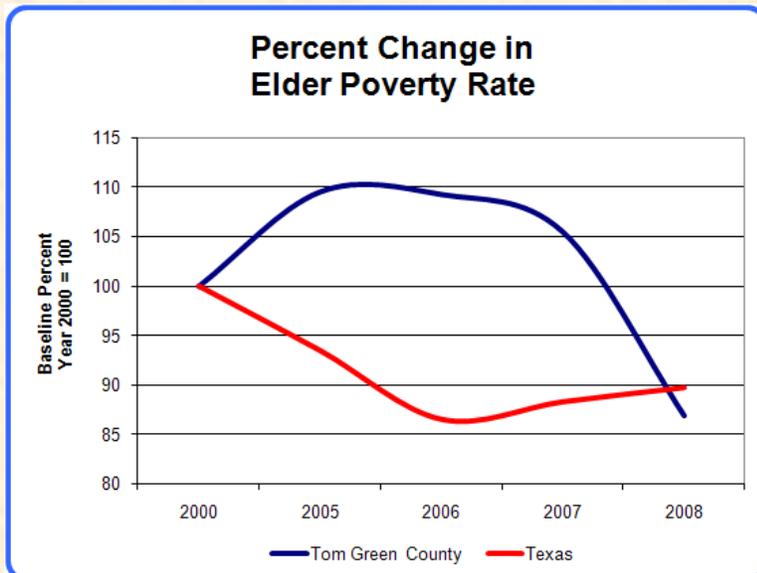
The Elder Poverty Rate for Texas also shows a declining trend from its year 2000 benchmark level. The statewide rate in 2007 was 12 percent lower then in 2000.

The level of Elder Poverty is one of the conditions that spiked in Tom Green County during the community's "social recession" years, but a strong positive reduction of poverty among elders has followed in more recent years.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Elder and Disabled Abuse

The Elder and Disabled Abuse Rate divides the number of confirmed incidents of abuse by the total population of disabled and elderly persons for a given year. Multiplying the result by 1,000 produces a rate expressing the number of victims per 1,000 disabled and elder adults.

The table below reports the most recent Elder and Disabled Abuse Rates for Tom Green County and the State of Texas. It also reports the best and worst county rates since 2000, and provides the best and worst comparisons between the county and the state. The table also shows that the local rates are significantly higher than statewide levels of Elder and Disabled Abuse.

Trend: Negative (since 2005)	Year	Local Rate	State Rate
Most Recent	2008	37.4	11.1
Worst Local Since 2000	2006	37.5	12.8
Best Local Since 2000	2004	27.4	11.3
Worst Local/State Comparison	2008	37.4	11.1
Best Local/State Comparison	2004	27.4	11.3

The benchmark chart traces change in the Elder and Disabled Abuse Rate. The local and state rates for the year 2000 are fixed at the 100 percent benchmark. The chart then follows the change from the year 2000 level. Tom Green County opened the new century with a high abuse rate, but on a downward trend. The county saw an 18 percent decrease between 2000 and 2004. After that, the trend reversed. Increases in abuse of elder and disabled persons gave the county a 37.4 per 1,000 rate by 2008, leaving a level of abuse that was 12 percent higher than the 2000 benchmark.

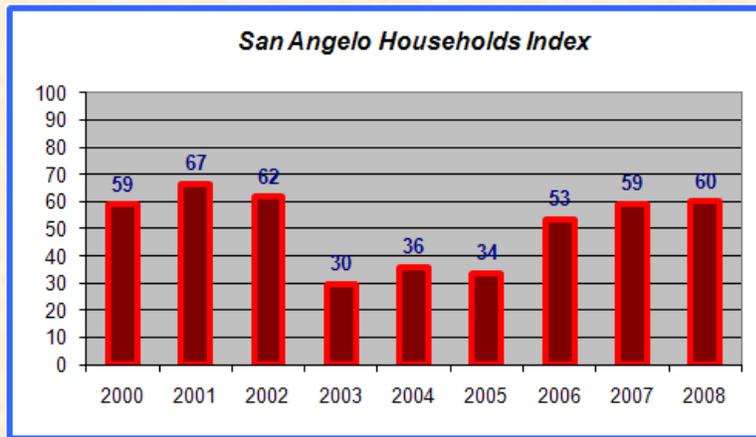Percent Change in Elder and Disabled Abuse Rate
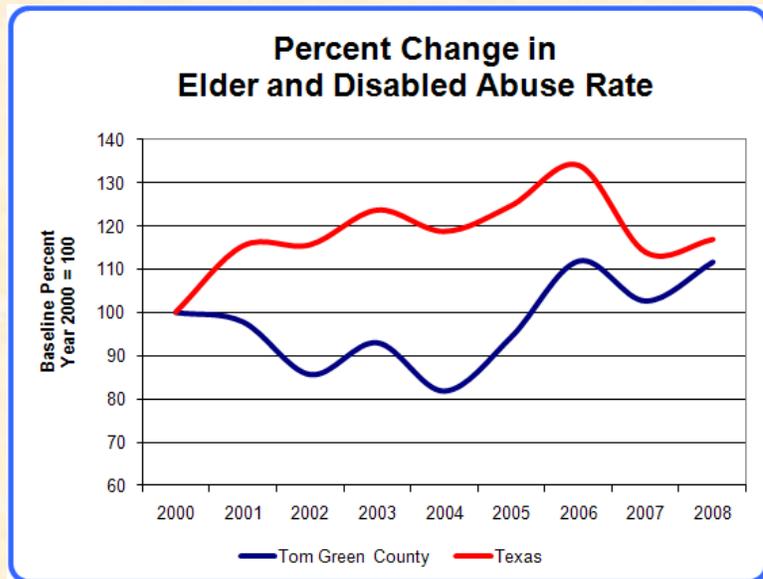
The Texas rate is also on a trend in the upward direction. The statewide abuse rate in 2008 was 17 percent higher than in 2000.

Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/default.asp.

The Households Indicators

San Angelo Households Index

The six indicators covering households in the *San Angelo Social Health Index* show significant deterioration of conditions over the three-year period from 2003-2005. In recent years, conditions affecting the community's households and families have rebounded significantly. The 2008 index score of 60 for households shows real community improvement.

The six indicators for this domain are listed below with notations summarizing the trend for each. One of the indicators — Family Violence — is new to this year's edition of the *San Angelo Social Health Index.* The previous edition used the rate of arrest for drug abuse violations as an indicator. The rate of Family Violence replaces the drug arrest rate in this year's index for two reasons: 1) incidents of family violence are a more appropriate measure of household conditions, and 2) reporting practices of law enforcement agencies are more standardized and reliable in the area of family violence.

Four of the six households indicators show a positive trend and two are moving in a negative direction:

Indicator	Trend
Suicide	Positive (since 2004)
Family Violence	Negative (since 2003)
College Costs	Negative (since 2003)
Divorce	Positive (since 2005)
Food Stamp Utilization	Positive (since 2005)
Cost Burdened Households	Positive (since 2007)

This following pages provide detail on each of the six households indicators.

Suicide Rates

The Suicide Rate is calculated by dividing the number of deaths due to self-harm in a given year by the total population for the same given year. The result is then multiplied by 100,000 to arrive at a rate expressing the number of suicides per 100,000 population.

The table below reports the most recent Suicide Rates for Tom Green County and the State of Texas.   It also reports the best and worst rates for the county since 2000, and it provides the best and worst comparisons between the county and the state. Suicide Rates for Tom Green County generally are higher than statewide levels.

Trend: Positive (since 2004)	Year	Local Rate	State Rate
Most Recent	2006	11.6	9.9
Worst Local Rate Since 2000	2003	18.3	10.6
Best Local Rate Since 2000	2006	11.6	9.9
Worst Local/State Comparison	2003	18.3	10.6
Best Local/State Comparison	2006	11.6	9.9

The benchmark chart below tracks change in Suicide Rates. T he local and state rates for the year 2000 are fixed at 100 percent to set the benchmark. The chart follows the rise and fall from that benchmark.

Tom Green County entered the new century trending toward a lower rate of suicide. Then, in 2002 the rate shot up, reaching a peak in 2003 that was 19 percent higher than the year 2000 benchmark level. Since that peak, the local rate has fallen just as sharply, winding down to a level 25 percent below the 2000 benchmark by 2006.

The local Suicide Rate generally comes in higher than the statewide rate. The level across the state has been fairly stable over time, decreasing only 1 percent between the year 2000 and 2006. The county's recent reductions show impressive positive change, but the local rate of suicide is still higher than the statewide rate.
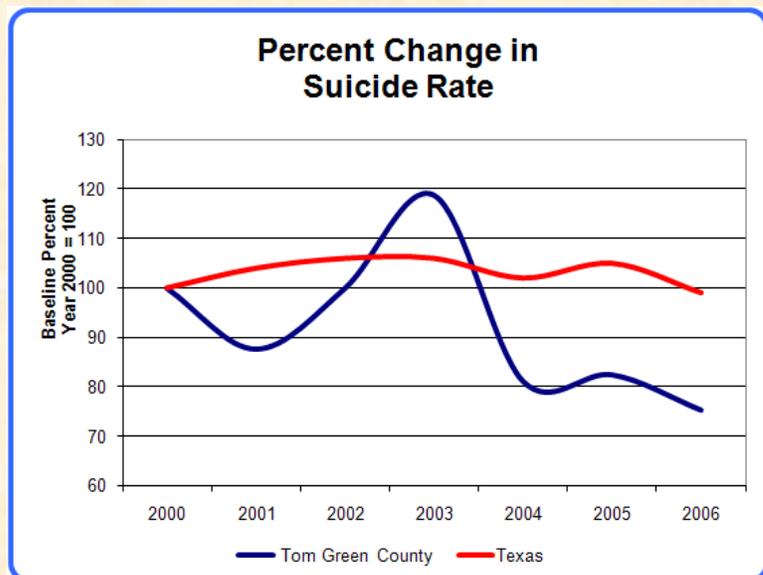
Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/datalist.shtm.
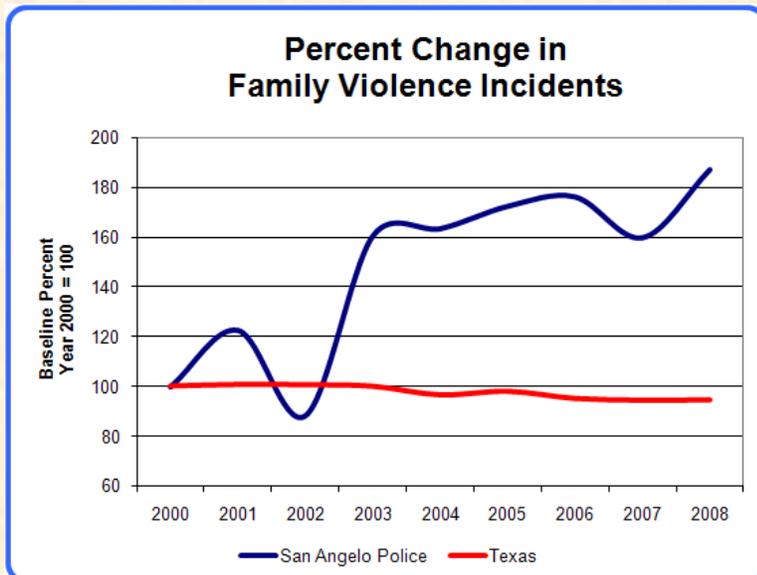
Family Violence

Police agencies respond to incidents of family violence in the communities they serve. The rate of Family Violence is calculated by dividing the number police reports of family violence incidents by the total population of the community for a given year. The result is then multiplied by 100,000 to arrive at a rate expressing the number of incidents per 100,000 population.

The table below reports the most recent Family Violence rate for San Angelo and the State of Texas. It also reports the best and worst rates for San Angelo since 2000, and it provides the best and worst comparisons between San Angelo and the state. San Angelo generally has a Family Violence rate that is considerably higher than the state overall.

Trend: Negative (since 2003)	Year	Local Rate	State Rate
Most Recent	2008	1,689	795
Worst Local Rate Since 2000	2008	1,689	795
Best Local Rate Since 2000	2002	799	845
Worst Local/State Comparison	2008	1,689	795
Best Local/State Comparison	2002	799	845

The benchmark chart traces change in the rate of Family Violence. The local and state rates for the year 2000 are fixed at 100 percent to set the benchmark, and the chart follows the change from the benchmark level.

Percent Change in Family Violence Incidents

With the exception of a sharp downward move in 2002, San Angelo Police reports show a strong upward trend. By 2008, incidents of Family Violence in San Angelo rose 87 percent over the benchmark year of 2000.

The statewide trend stands in contrast. While Family Violence increased substantially in San Angelo, incidents were static across the state. Texas saw a 5 percent decline in the rate of Family Violence between 2000 and 2008.

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety, Crime in Texas, www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/crime_records/pages/crimestatistics.htm.

College Costs

College Costs take the tuition and fee charges for 15 hours of school credit as a percentage of the average wage per job in the geographical locale of universities. In the local community, charges at ASU are counted as a percent of the average wage per job in the San Angelo MSA. In comparison, charges at Texas Public Universities count as a percent of the average wage per job across Texas.

The table below reports the most recent College Costs for ASU and for Texas Public Universities. It also reports the best and worst local costs since 2000, and it provides the best and worst comparisons between ASU and Texas Public Universities. Despite relatively low tuition and fee charges at ASU, the cost takes a higher percent of the average wage than across the state as a whole.

Trend: Negative (since 2003)	Year	Local Percent	State Percent
Most Recent	2007	8.1	6.7
Worst Local Percent Since 2000	2007	8.1	6.7
Best Local Percent Since 2000	2001	4.8	4.2
Worst Local/State Comparison	2007	8.1	6.7
Best Local/State Comparison	2002	5.0	4.6

The benchmark chart tracks the change in College Costs. The local and state costs for the year 2000 set the benchmark at 100 percent, and the chart follows the yearly change from that level. In dollars, ASU tuition and fees more than doubled between 2000 and 2007 from $1,250 to $2,705. The increase took 58 percent more from the local average wage per job to cover costs at ASU.

Across Texas the story is similar. The average charges at Texas Public Universities rose from $1,417 in 2000 to $2,951 in 2007. This increase took 62 percent more from the average wage per job in Texas. Rising College Costs are a negative trend for Texas and for the local community.

Percent Change in College Costs
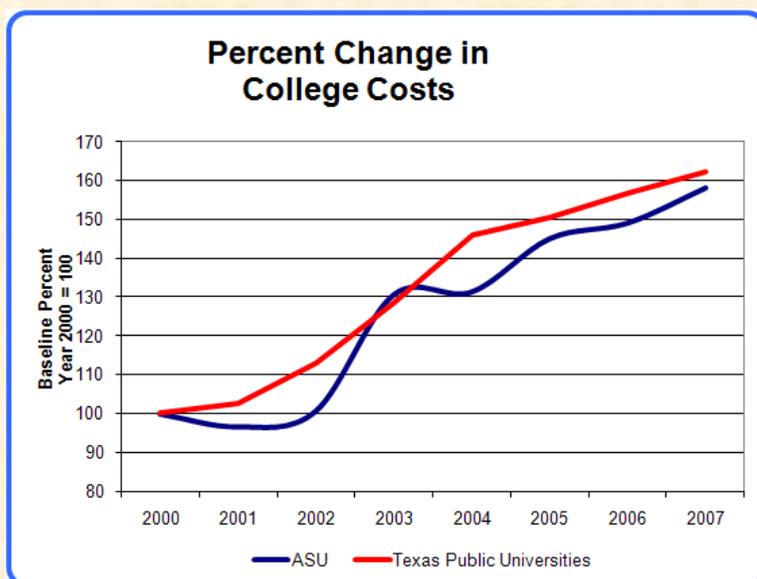
Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Higher Education Data, www.txhighereddata.org/Reports/.
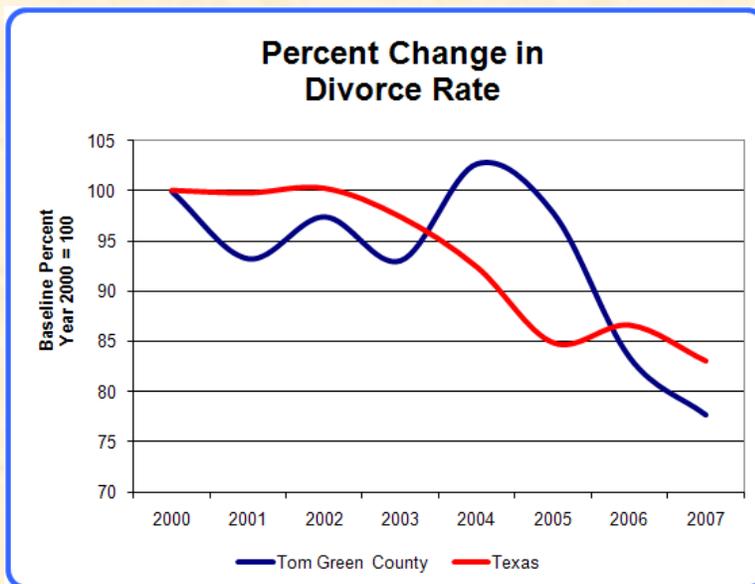
Divorce

The Divorce rate is the number of divorces in a given year divided by the total population. Multiply the result by 1,000 to arrive at a rate expressing the number of divorces per 1,000 population.

The table below reports the most recent Divorce rates for Tom Green County and the State of Texas. It also reports the best and worst rates for the county since 2000, and it provides the best and worst comparisons between the county and the state. The Divorce rate generally is slightly higher in Tom Green County than across the state, but recently, the county turned in its best result for the new century.

Trend: Positive (since 2005)	Year	Local Rate	State Rate
Most Recent	2007	3.9	3.3
Worst Local Rate Since 2000	2004	5.2	3.6
Best Local Rate Since 2000	2007	3.9	3.3
Worst Local/State Comparison	2005	4.9	3.3
Best Local/State Comparison	2007	3.9	3.3

The benchmark chart traces changes in the divorce rate. The local and state rates for the year 2000 fix the benchmark at 100 percent. Then, the chart follows changes from the year 2000 level.

Percent Change in Divorce Rate

Tom Green County saw a divorce spike in 2004 when the rate jumped to 5.2 per 1,000 people, 3 percent over the year 2000 benchmark. The rate fell steeply from there, reaching 3.9 per 1,000 in 2007, or 22 percent below the year 2000 level.

Divorce declined across the state as well, but the fall-off has not been as steep as it was locally. By 2007, the statewide rate was 17 percent below the benchmark level of 2000. The more rapid decrease in divorces locally has brought the county rate nearly into line with lower statewide levels. Decreasing The declining Divorce rate is a positive sign for households and families in the local community.

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/datalist.shtm.

Food Stamp Utilization

The Food Stamp Utilization rate is the percent of the population receiving food stamps during the month of July for each year.

The table reports the most recent Food Stamp Utilization rate for Tom Green County and the State of Texas. It shows the best and worst rates for Tom Green County since 2000, and it provides the best and worst comparisons between the county and the state. The local percent of food stamp recipients generally runs slightly higher than for the state overall.

Trend: Positive (since 2005)	Year	Local Percent	State Percent
Most Recent	2008	10.6	10.1
Worst Local Rate Since 2000	2004	13.2	10.7
Best Local Rate Since 2000	2000	8.4	6.4
Worst Local/State Comparison	2005	12.5	9.9
Best Local/State Comparison	2008	10.6	10.1

The benchmark chart shows change in the Food Stamp Utilization rate. The local and state levels for the year 2000 are used to set the benchmark at 100 percent, and change from that level is tracked for the following years.

Texas saw a sharp rise in Food Stamp Utilization beginning in the year 2000. The increase in utilization reached 67 percent by 2004. From there, food stamp recipients decreased slightly and then stabilized. In 2008, the rate across the state was 57 percent higher than the benchmark level of 2000.

Tom Green County followed a similar pattern. However, the county's increase in recipients by 2008 was only 25 percent higher than the year 2000 level compared to the state's 57 percent increase over the benchmark. Increased use of food stamps since 2000 is not good, but the smaller local increase compared to the state is a positive sign for the community.

Percent Change in Food Stamp Utilization Rate
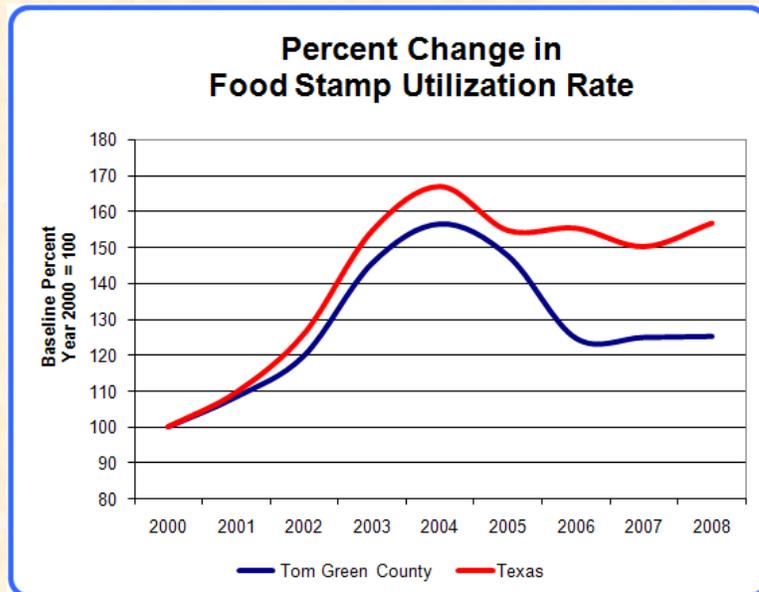
Source: Texas Health & Human Services Commission, www.hhsc.state.tx.us/research/index.html.
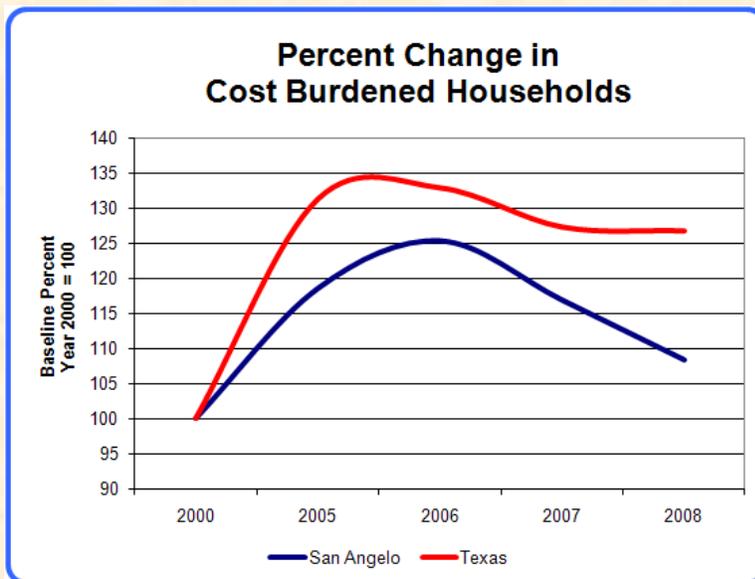
Cost Burdened Households

A standard in the housing industry is to consider a household Cost Burdened when housing expenses take up 30 percent or more of household income. The indicator for Cost Burdened Households is the percent of households that meet this standard.

The chart shows the most recent percent of Cost Burdened Households for San Angelo compared to the state . It reports the best and worst percentages for San Angelo since 2000, and it provides the best and worst comparisons between the city and the state. The number of local Cost Burdened Households is lower than across the state.

Trend: Positive (since 2007)	Year	Local Percent	State Percent
Most Recent	2008	26.5	31.7
Worst Local Percent Since 2000	2006	30.6	33.2
Best Local Percent Since 2000	2000	24.4	25.0
Worst Local/State Comparison	2000	24.4	25.0
Best Local/State Comparison	2008	26.5	31.7

The benchmark chart follows changes in Cost Burdened Households. The local and state rates for the year 2000 are fixed at 100 percent to set the benchmark, and the changes from the year 2000 level are traced.

Percent Change in Cost Burdened Households

Across Texas, and in San Angelo, there was a sharp increase after the year 2000 in the percent of Cost Burdened Households. The increase was more pronounced across the state however.

San Angelo saw an increase of 25 percent over the 2000 level by 2006, but the state rate climbed by 33 percent for the same period. The number of Cost Burdened Households declined beginning in 2007.

By 2008, Cost Burdened Households in San Angelo numbered 8 percent over the year 2000 level. Statewide, they were 27 percent over the benchmark. It is a positive sign for the community that the number of Cost Burdened Households is falling.

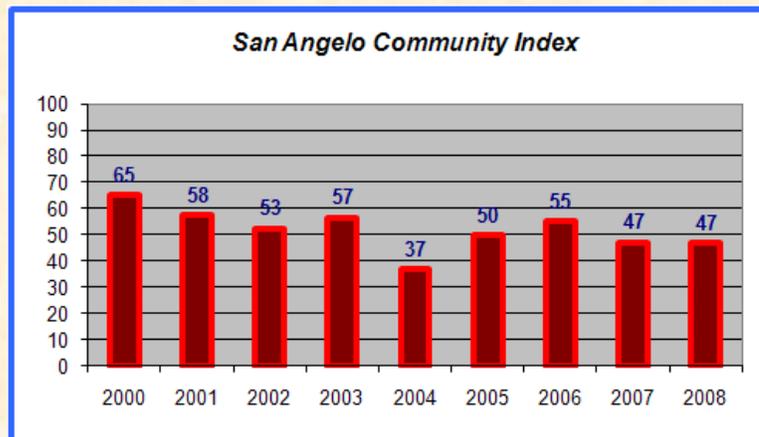Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, http:// factfinder.census.gov/.

The Community Indicators

Six indicators n the *San Angelo Social Health Index* track conditions that affect the quality of the general community environment. Four of these touch on economic factors.

The community indicators started on strong footing at the turn-of-the-century. They slipped only slightly through 2003, then dipped in 2004. The rebound to a 2008 score of 47 has not returned to the same strength-level as the earlier years before 2004.

San Angelo Community Index

Year	Value
2000	65
2001	58
2002	53
2003	57
2004	37
2005	50
2006	55
2007	47
2008	47

Two of the six indicators in this group — Healthcare Cost and Employment Increase — show negative trends that represent challenges for the community, especially in the face of current uncertainties in the national economic and healthcare picture.

The six community indicators are below with notations summarizing the trend for each.

Indicator	Trend
Healthcare Cost	Negative (since 2000)
Unemployment	Positive (since 2004)
Wage Increase	Positive (since 2000)
Employment Increase	Negative (since 2004)
Crime Rate	Positive (since 2004)
Wage Inequality	Positive (since 2003)

Detail on each of the six community indicators follows.

Healthcare Cost

The calculation of the Healthcare Cost indicator divides uncompensated charges at acute care hospitals by the total population for a given year. The result expresses uncompensated healthcare charges per capita.

The table below reports the most recent per capita cost for Tom Green County and the State of Texas. It also reports the best and worst cost-levels for the county since the year 2000, and it gives the best and worst comparisons between the county and the state. In recent years, per capita uncompensated charges at local acute care hospitals were significantly higher than across the state.

Trend: Negative (since 2000)	Year	Local Cost	State Cost
Most Recent	2007	617	489
Worst Local Cost Since 2000	2007	617	489
Best Local Cost Since 2000	2000	272	240
Worst Local/State Comparison	2007	617	489
Best Local/State Comparison	2003	311	345

The benchmark chart follows changes in the Healthcare Cost indicator. The local and state costs for the year 2000 are fixed at 100 percent to set the benchmark. The chart then traces the changes from the year 2000 level.

Percent Change in per Capita Uncompensated Healthcare Cost
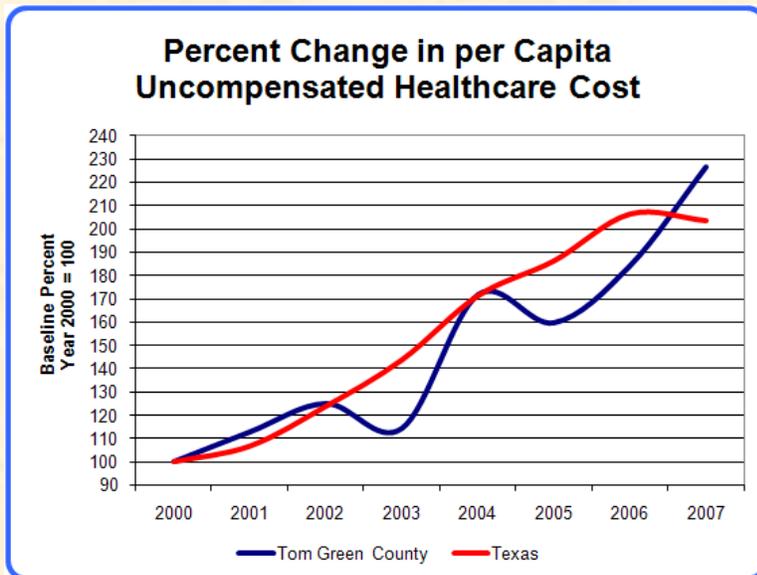
In Tom Green County, the $617 per capita uncompensated charges at local hospitals in 2007 was 126 percent over the year 2000 amount. Across Texas, the increase between 2000 and 2007 was 104 percent.

Both locally and statewide, per capita uncompensated charges at hospitals more than doubled since the turn-of-the-century. This aggressive upward trend is cutting more deeply into the local and state healthcare system. It is a cost surge that threatens the future progress of the local community and the state.

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/datalist.shtm.

Unemployment

The annual Unemployment rate is the percent of the civilian labor force that is unemployed during a given year.

The table below reports the most recent annual Unemployment rate for Tom Green County and the State of Texas. It also reports the best and worst county rates since 2000, and provides the best and worst local–to-state comparisons. The table reflects a generally lower local Unemployment rate when compared to the state.

Trend: Positive (since 2004)	Year	Local Rate	State Rate
Most Recent	2008	4.1	4.9
Worst Local Rate Since 2000	2003	5.1	6.7
Best Local Rate Since 2000	2007	3.7	4.3
Worst Local/State Comparison	2000	3.9	4.4
Best Local/State Comparison	2003	5.1	6.7

The benchmark chart traces change in Unemployment. The benchmark is set for the year 2000 by fixing the local and state rates at 100 percent. The chart then follows the percent of increase or decrease from the year 2000 level.

Economic recession in the early years of the new century drove Unemployment rates higher. The impact cut deeper statewide than in Tom Green County. Across Texas, the increase of unemployment from 4.4 to 6.7 percent between 2000 and 2003 was a sharp 54 percent rise. The local rate, by contrast, spiked only 30 percent from 3.9 to 5.1 percent.

Percent Change in Unemployment Rate

Beginning in 2004, the trend was positive both statewide and locally. Tom Green County's rate dipped to 3.7 percent in 2007, the lowest of the new century.

Although the unemployment trend of the recent past was positive for the local community, an uptick of the local rate to 4.1 percent in 2008 signaled a return of economic recession. Current local unemployment is substantially higher, moving toward a negative community impact for the near future.

Source: Texas Workforce Commission, Labor Market and Career Information, www.tracer2.com/.
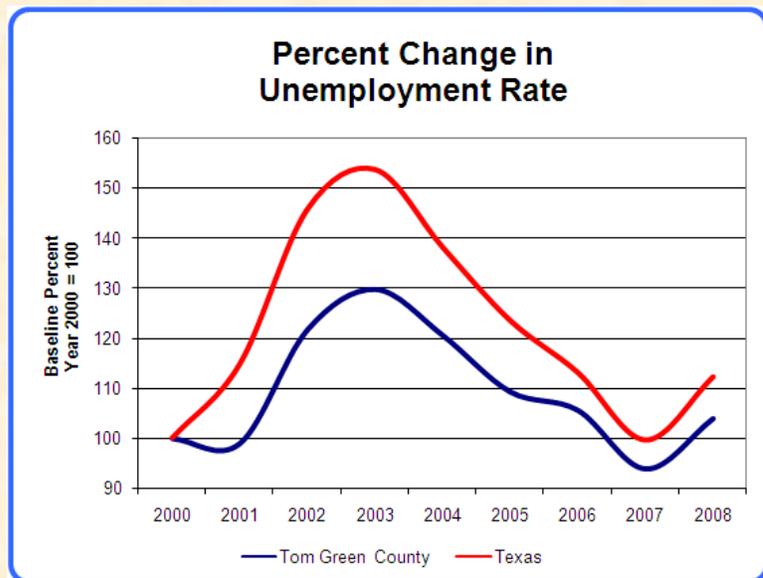
Wage Increase

Wage Increase (or decrease) is calculated by subtracting the average wage per job for a given year from the average wage for the prior year. The difference is then taken as a year-to year percentage increase (or decrease) in the average wage.

The table reports the most recent year-to-year increase in the average wage per job for the San Angelo MSA and the State of Texas. It also reports the best and worst percent change for San Angelo since 2000, and provides the best and worst comparisons between San Angelo and the state.

Trend: Positive (since 2000)	Year	Local Percent	State Percent
Most Recent	2007	2.7	5.2
Worst Local Percent Since 2000	2002	1.7	0.7
Best Local Percent Since 2000	2004	6.2	4.3
Worst Local/State Comparison	2006	2.2	5.7
Best Local/State Comparison	2004	6.2	4.3

The benchmark chart tracks the increase of the average wage per job from the year 2000 wage levels. Local and state average wages for the year 2000 are fixed at 100 percent to set the benchmark. The chart then traces increases.

Percent Increase in Average Annual Wage per Job
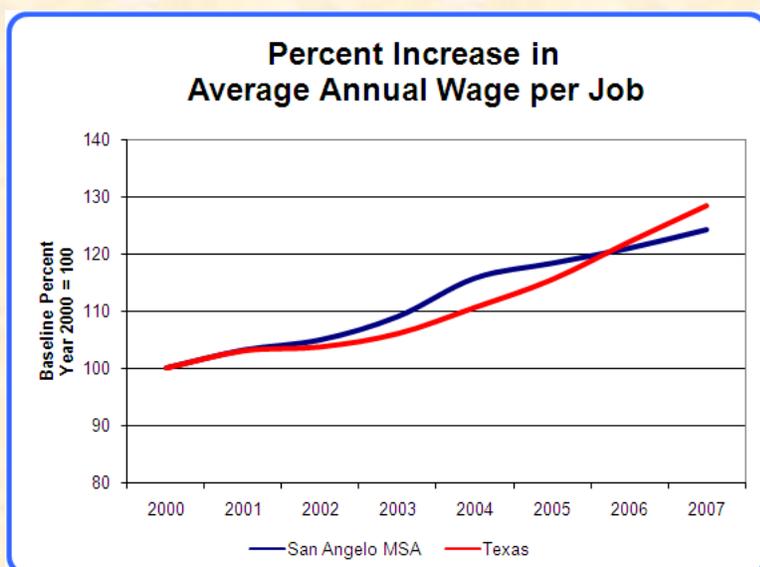
Interestingly, during the years bracketing the last economic recession (2001-2004), local wage increases outpaced the state. In 2004, local workers saw a 6.2 percent increase in the average wage per job. This set the local average 16 percent higher than the average wage for the year 2000.

Recently, however, local wage increases fell behind the state as a whole. In 2007, a low 2.7 percent local increase brought the average wage to a level 24 percent over year 2000 wages. Statewide, a 5.2 percent increase set the Texas average 28 percent higher than the 2000 level. The trend of local wage increase is positive, but there are signs of it slowing.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov/regional/reis/.

Employment Increase

Employment Increase is calculated by subtracting the size of the annually employed civilian labor force for a given year from its size in the prior year. The difference is then taken as a year-to year percentage increase or decrease in annual employment.

The table below shows the most recent year-to-year changes in annual employment for Tom Green County and the state. It also reports the best and worst changes for the county since the year 2000, and provides the best and worst comparisons between the county and the state.

Trend: Negative (since 2004)	Year	Local Percent	State Percent
Most Recent	2008	-0.50	1.41
Worst Local Percent Since 2000	2004	-0.86	1.53
Best Local Percent Since 2000	2002	1.36	1.23
Worst Local/State Comparison	2004	-0.86	1.53
Best Local/State Comparison	2001	1.30	0.97

The benchmark chart follows change in local and state employment. The benchmark is set by fixing the local and state employment levels for the year 2000 at 100 percent.. The chart then follows employment increases and decreases from the benchmark.

Local Employment Increase kept pace with statewide annual employment growth through 2003. Both Tom Green County and the State of Texas saw employment expand by 3 percent between 2000 and 2003.

Beginning in 2004, local employment stagnated while the state continued to expand. By 2008, the 49,712 employed persons in Tom Green County numbered only 2 percent more than in the year 2000. The state expanded employment to more than 11 million workers in 2008, a level that was 12 percent higher than in 2000. Stagnant employment opportunities are a significant challenge to social progress in the local community.
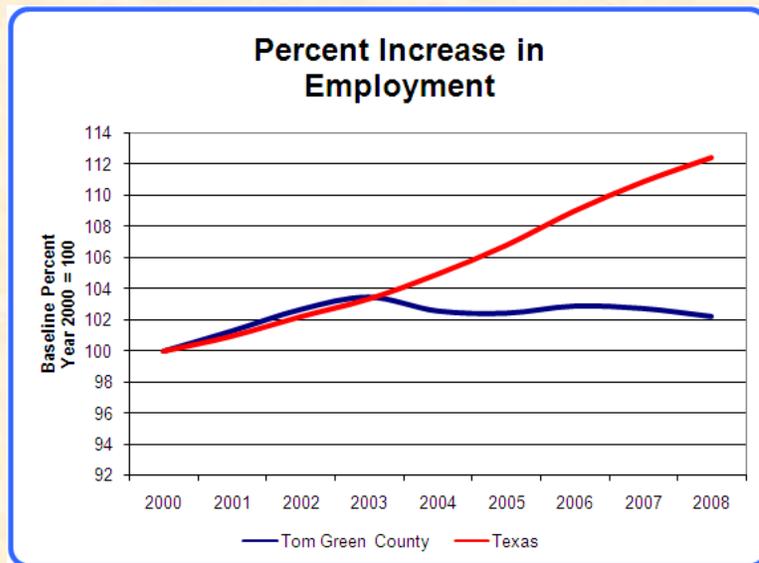
Source: Texas Workforce Commission, Labor Market and Career Information, www.tracer2.com/.
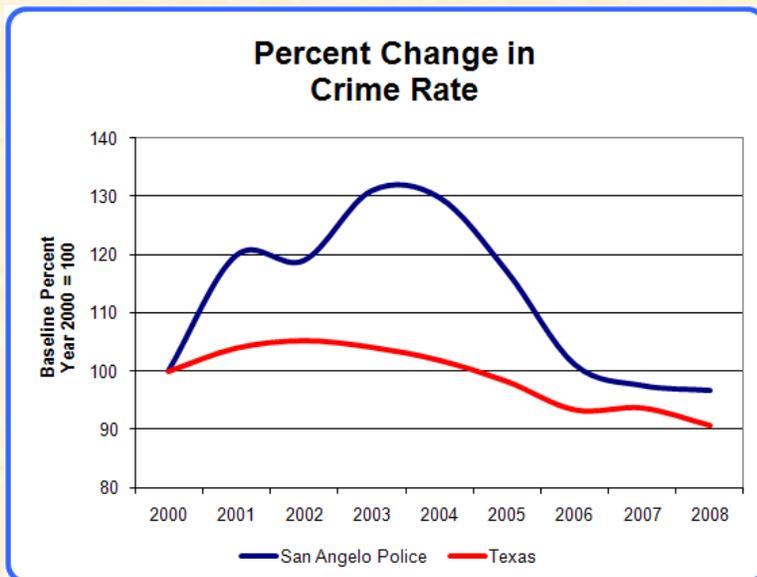
Crime Rate

The Crime Rate divides the number of Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Index Crimes by the total population for a given year. Multiplying the result by 100,000 establishes a rate expressing the number of crimes per 100,000 people. The UCR Index Crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft.

The table below reports the most recent Crime Rates for the San Angelo Police jurisdiction and for the State of Texas. It also reports the best and worst rates for San Angelo since 2000, and provides the best and worst comparisons between San Angelo and the state. The local Crime Rate is higher than the state overall.

Trend: Positive (since 2003)	Year	Local Rate	State Rate
Most Recent	2008	5,273	4,494
Worst Local Rate Since 2000	2003	7,100	5,157
Best Local Rate Since 2000	2008	5,273	4,494
Worst Local/State Comparison	2004	7,037	5,047
Best Local/State Comparison	2000	5,418	4,952

The benchmark chart traces change in the Crime Rate. The local and state rates for the year 2000 are fixed at 100 percent to set the benchmark, and the chart follows changes from the benchmark level.

Percent Change in Crime Rate

Early in the new century, San Angelo experienced a steep increase in crime. The local 2003 Crime Rate of 7,100 incidents per 100,000 residents was not only the highest level for the city, it was 31 percent higher than the year 2000 benchmark. While Texas also saw increased crime in the early years, it was only a modest rise of 5 percent over the 2000 level.

Positive trends took hold in 2004. San Angelo's crime reductions brought its 2008 Crime Rate down by 34 percent from the peak of 2003. San Angelo's rate remains higher than statewide, but recent crime reductions are moving the community in the right direction.

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety, Crime in Texas, www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/crime_records/pages/crimestatistics.htm.

Wage Inequality

The Wage Inequality indicator measures the level of concentration in wages for 11 major industry sectors in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Fourth-quarter wages each year are used to assess inequality. A standard statistic, the Gini Coefficient, estimates the degree of pay inequality between work sectors. The Gini Coefficient varies from a value of zero to one. A higher value shows greater inequality.

The table reports the most recent Gini estimates for the San Angelo MSA and the State of Texas. It also gives the best and worst local estimates since the year 2000, and provides the best and worst comparisons with the state. San Angelo has achieved greater wage equality in recent years.

Trend: Positive (since 2003)	Year	Local Gini	State Gini
Most Recent	2008	0.376	0.376
Worst Local Gini Since 2000	2002	0.406	0.384
Best Local Gini Since 2000	2006	0.372	0.382
Worst Local/State Comparison	2002	0.406	0.384
Best Local/State Comparison	2006	0.372	0.382

The chart tracks change in wage inequality. The local and state Gini values for year 2000 are fixed at 100 percent to set the benchmark, and the chart follows changes from there.

After spiking toward greater inequality in 2002, the community moved toward more equitable pay levels in 2003. This resulted from increases in four local industry sectors. Workers in professional and business services, natural resources, construction, and information saw bigger pay checks in 2003 that helped equalize the local wage distribution. In 2008, pay levels were 5 percent more equitable than in 2000.

Percent Change in Wage Inequality
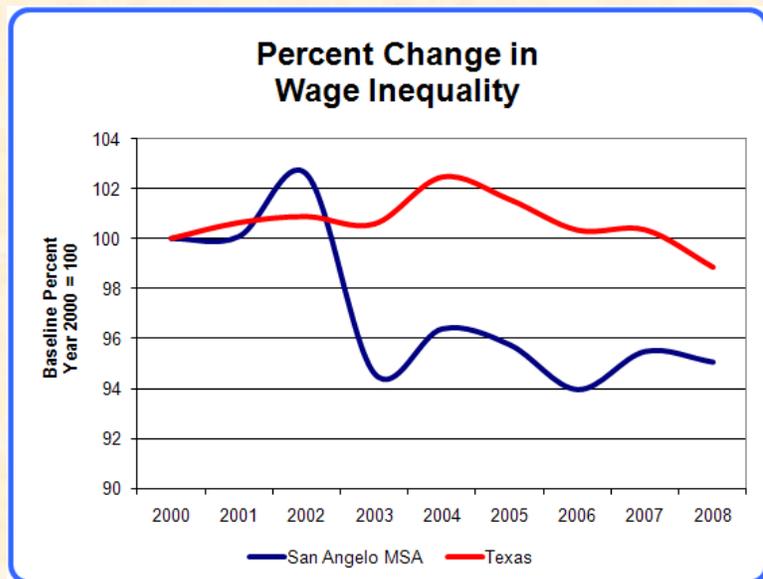
Source: Texas Workforce Commission, Labor Market and Career Information, www.tracer2.com/.

The San Angelo
Social Capital Index

Introduction

The San Angelo Social Capital Index is new to this year's publication of local indicators. Angelo State University provided support during 2009 to enable Community Development Initiatives to build on its previous social health indexing work to include measures of social capital.

Who hasn't heard the refrain that project X or Y is a really good idea for solving a community problem, *if only the resources were available*? This catch usually is offered with regrets over the scarcity of funding or personnel to support a good idea. Yet, recent studies in community development show that innovative ideas can succeed and even attract scarce resources. Social capital is critical.

The idea that "networking" is an essential ingredient to individual success — for everything from landing a great job to support in overcoming personal problems — is standard fare these days. The parallel understanding that social networks stretching across neighborhoods are necessary for community progress is gaining traction as advocates, agencies, and funders turn more-and-more to approaches based on formation of coalitions and partnerships to solve problems at local levels.

The *San Angelo Social Capital Index* is rooted in the knowledge that communities thrive when strong social capital networks are guided toward change and improvement. Using the indexing methodology of Community Development Initiatives, the index tracks 10 indicators to measure factors that facilitate the creation of problem solving networks stretching across neighborhoods and the community.

This section details findings that show some hurdles exist for social capital formation in San Angelo. For local leaders hoping to move on community problems by building broad consensus that reaches across factions, this trend might bring challenges in times ahead.

The Social Capital Trend:
Historical and State Comparisons

Community Development Initiatives uses its 100-point scoring system to track 18 indicators on the community's social health. It uses the same system for a *Social Capital Index* covering the years since 2005. This index includes 10 indicators on factors that effect the potential for creating social networks across communities. Each indicator is scored on the basis of historical comparison of the local community to itself and on how San Angelo compares to twenty-four other metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in Texas. The higher the score, the greater the potential for forming social capital.
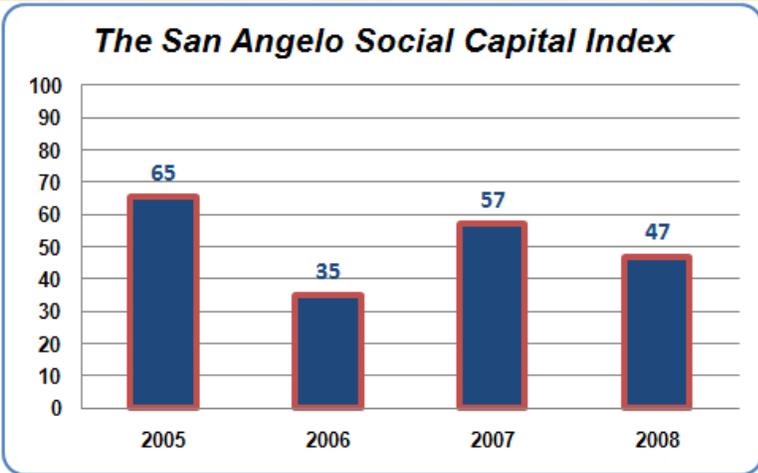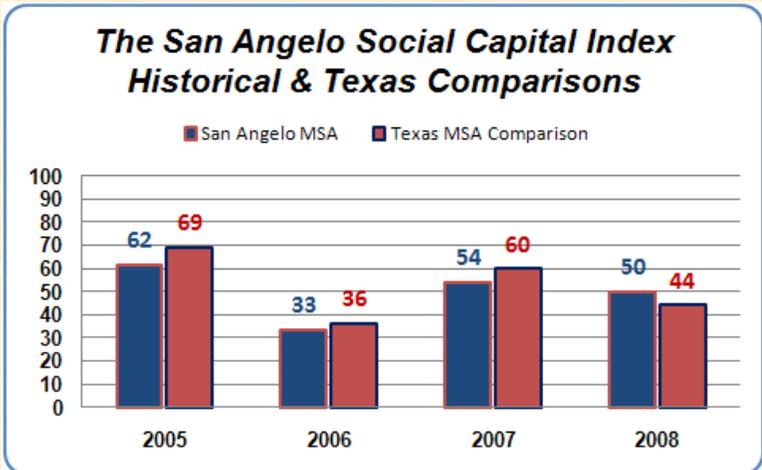

The *San Angelo Social Capital Index* reveals a recent trend toward increased difficulty for organizing networks across the local community. At the beginning of the study period in 2005, the *Social Capital Index* score was 68. It fell to a low of 35 in 2006, and then seesawed up-and-down to 57 in 2007 and 47 tor 2008.

Both trends within the local community and changes in the ways the city compares to other Texas cities are contributing to the hurdles for building consensus across the community. The blue columns in the chart below track San Angelo internally compared to itself on the social capital indicators since 2005. The red columns show San Angelo's situation in comparison to all Texas MSAs on the 10 indicators.

Both comparisons follow the seesaw pattern of the overall social capital trend. However, separating the two types of comparisons reveals that changes within the community resulted in a 12 point drop in the historical score from 62 in 2005 to 50 in 2008. The scores based on comparison of San Angelo to other cities dropped even more from 69 to 44. Changes internal to the city itself indicate higher hurdles to solving local problems by applying social capital and consensus building. In addition, the city has lost some of its "comparative advantage" relative to other Texas cities.

The Social Capital Indicators

The 10 indicators in the *San Angelo Social Capital Index* point to a local environment making it more difficult for leaders to form coalitions or networks across the community that build strong consensus and action toward solving local problems.

The 10 social capital indicators are below with notations to summarize the trend for each. Six of the indicators currently show negative trends for consensus building in the community.

Indicator	Trend
Commute Time to Work	Negative (since 2008)
Poverty Rate	Positive (since 2007)
TANF Recipients	Positive (since 2005)
Female-Headed Households	Negative (since 2005)
Movers	Negative (since 2005)
Non-Citizens	Positive (since 2005)
Language Isolated Households	Negative (since 2005)
Civil Cases	Positive (since 2008)
Owner Occupied Housing	Negative (since 2008)
Housing Affordability	Negative (since 2005)

The remainder of this section provides detail on each of the 10 indicators.
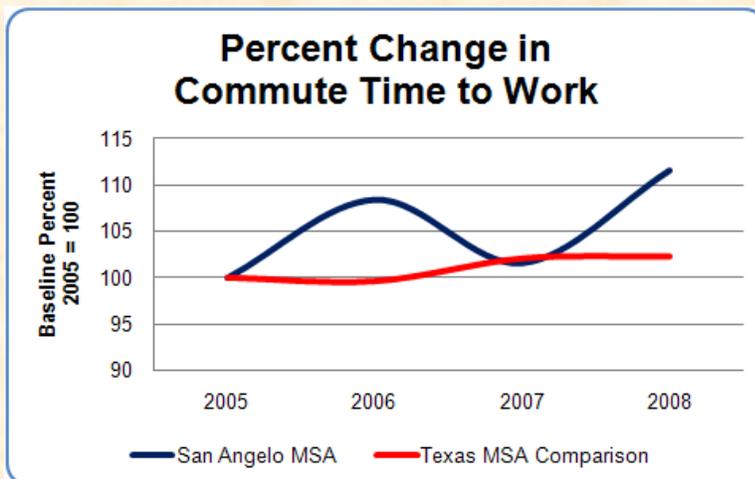
Commute Time to Work

The Census Bureau's American Community Survey asks workers each year how many minutes they spend commuting. Studies of community consensus building show that more time commuting means less participation by residents in social networks across the community.

The table shows the most recent average Commute Time reported by San Angelo workers and the average minutes given by residents of Texas cities. The table also gives the best and worst Commute Times since 2005, and provides the best and worst comparisons between San Angelo and other Texas MSAs.

Trend: Negative (since 2008)	Year	Local Minutes	MSA Average
Most Recent	2008	18.1	20.7
Worst Local Since 2005	2008	18.1	20.7
Best Local Since 2005	2005	16.2	20.3
Worst Local/MSA Comparison	2006	17.6	20.2
Best Local/MSA Comparison	2007	16.5	20.7

The benchmark chart traces changes in Commute Time. The local and state times for the year 2005 are fixed at 100 percent to set the benchmark, and the chart follows the change from the year 2005 level.

San Angelo workers saw an upward spike that increased Commute Time by 8 percent in 2006. After that, the local commute fell back in 2007, but jumped again in 2008 when the average 18.1 minute commute in the city was 12 percent more time than the 2005 level.

In the same period, average Commute Time across the state increased slowly, reaching a two percent rise in 2008 over the 2005 benchmark average for Texas cities.

While San Angelo workers still spend less time commuting than the average for cities in the state, residents are seeing increases that are closing the gap. The growth of commute time, in turn, creates a disincentive to citizen participation in community problem solving networks and partnerships.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, http://factfinder.census.gov/.
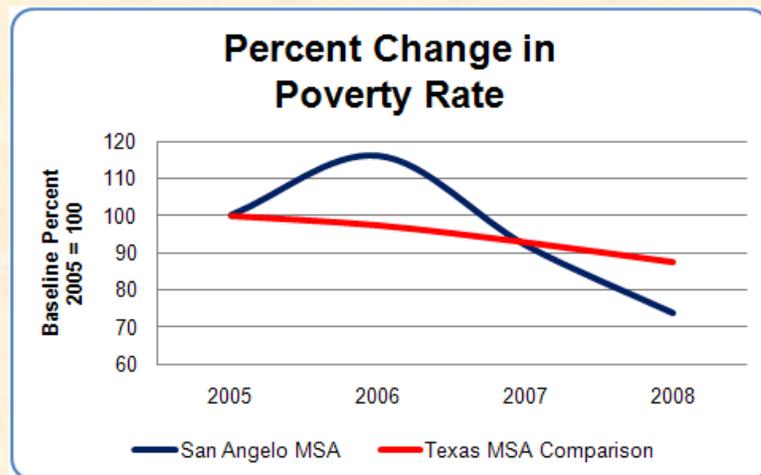
Poverty Rate

The Poverty Rate is the percent of the population with income below the federal poverty threshold in a given year. Studies of social capital show that poverty creates conditions that isolate individuals and families. The higher the Poverty Rate, the more difficult it is to form networks across communities to solve problems.

The table shows the most recent Poverty Rate for the San Angelo MSA and the average rate for all Texas MSAs. The table also gives the best and worst local levels of poverty since 2005, and provides the best and worst comparisons between San Angelo and Texas cities. Generally, San Angelo's Poverty Rate is lower than the average for cities in Texas.

Trend: Positive (since 2007)	Year	Local Rate	MSA Average
Most Recent	2008	12.3	17.3
Worst Local Since 2005	2006	19.3	19.3
Best Local Since 2005	2008	12.3	17.3
Worst Local/MSA Comparison	2006	19.3	19.3
Best Local/MSA Comparison	2008	12.3	17.3

The benchmark chart traces change in Poverty Rates. The benchmark is set by fixing the local rate and the Texas MSA average for the year 2005 at 100 percent. The chart follows change after 2005.

Although Census estimates show San Angelo spiking up during 2006, the overall trend of the city's poverty rate is downward. In 2008, local community estimated poverty rate was by 24 percent from the 2005 level. The average rate for Texas MSAs in 2007 was also down 7 percent from the 2005 benchmark.

Overall, the rate of poverty shows modest declines in cities across Texas for recent years. The fact that San Angelo usually posts a poverty rate below the average for Texas MSAs indicates that the city enjoys an advantage when it comes to possibilities for building consensus to solve problems. Involving citizens across income ranges should be somewhat easier in San Angelo than in other Texas cities.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, http://factfinder.census.gov/.
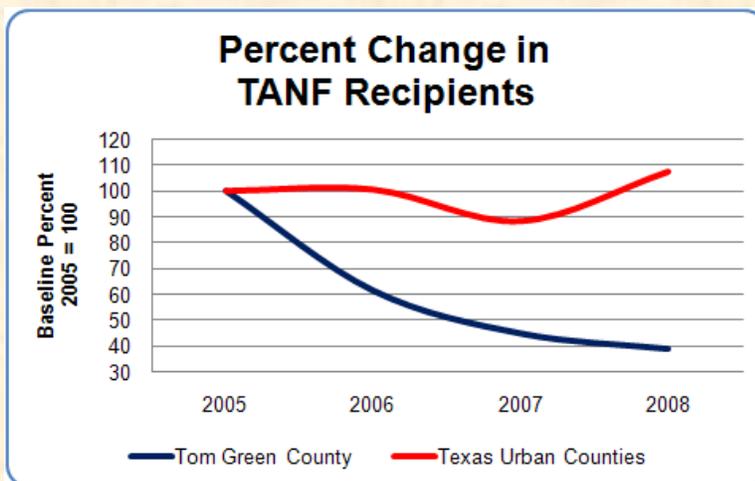
TANF Recipients

The TANF Recipients indicator tracks the number of residents per 1,000 population who received Temporary Assistant for Needy Families (TANF) benefits during December of a given year. Studies show that the stigma attached to being a public welfare recipient is an especially powerful factor in isolating individuals and families from participating in the community.

The table shows the most recent number of TANF Recipients per 1,000 residents in Tom Green County and the average recipients in urban counties of Texas . The table also gives the best and worst levels of TANF reception since 2005, and provides the best and worst comparisons between the local county and urban counties. Tom Green County has a significantly lower number of TANF Recipients than the average for urban areas across Texas.

Trend: Positive (since 2005)	Year	Local Rate	Urban County Average
Most Recent	2008	2.9	11.1
Worst Local Since 2005	2005	7.4	10.3
Best Local Since 2005	2008	2.9	11.1
Worst Local/Urban Comparison	2005	7.4	10.3
Best Local/Urban Comparison	2008	2.9	11.1

The benchmark chart traces changes in the number of TANF Recipients. The benchmark is set by fixing the local rate and urban average for the year 2005 at 100 percent. The chart follows change from 2005 on.

Tom Green County saw a 61 percent decrease in TANF Recipients between 2005 and 2008. In the state's urban regions, the number first declined, but then turned up, ending 2008 with a 7 percent increase over the 2005 level.

A falling poverty rate and an even quicker reduction in TANF Recipients means the local community is not as divided as other urban regions by the animosities associated with public welfare. This is an advantage for building consensus to solve community problems in San Angelo.

Source: Texas Health and Human Services Commission, www.hhsc.state.tx.us/research/index.html.

Female-Headed Households

The percent of Female-Headed Households in the San Angelo MSA has increased since 2005. The table shows the most recent percentage of Female-Headed Households for San Angelo and the average rate for all Texas MSAs. The table also gives the best and worst local percents since 2005, and provides the best and worst comparisons between San Angelo and Texas cities.

Trend: Negative (since 2005)	Year	Local Percent	MSA Average
Most Recent	2008	12.9	14.6
Worst Local Since 2005	2007	14.4	14.2
Best Local Since 2005	2005	11.2	14.5
Worst Local/MSA Comparison	2007	14.4	14.2
Best Local/MSA Comparison	2005	11.2	14.5

The benchmark chart traces change in the percent of Female-Headed Households. The benchmark is set by fixing the local percent and average percent for Texas cities in the year 2005 at 100. The chart then follows change from 2005 on.

Historically, a lower percentage of households in the local community were female-headed compared to the average for Texas cities. Since 2005, however, San Angelo saw a 15 percent increase in the proportion of households with female heads. While the average percent for Texas cities is generally higher than San Angelo, it has stayed steady since 2005.

Percent Change in Female-Headed Households
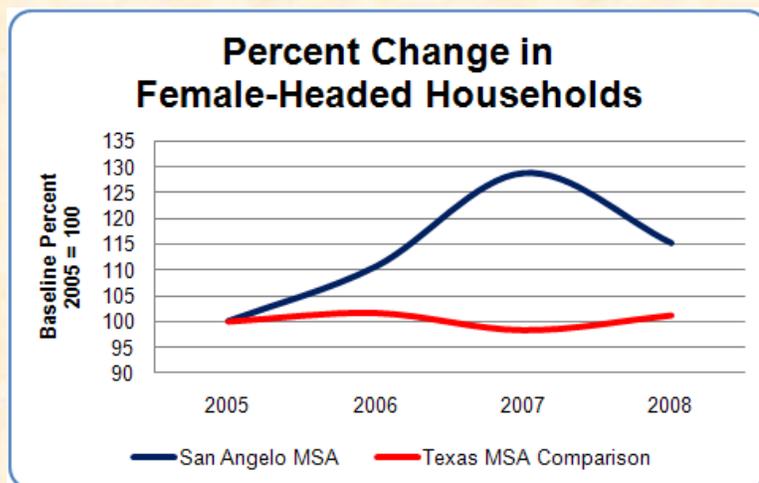
Studies of social capital show that Female-Headed Households are generally more isolated from the community, and especially from the consensus building networks that help solve problems. While the generalization certainly is not true of every household headed by a female, it does turn out that building participation and consensus is harder in communities with larger numbers of such households. A likely effect of San Angelo's trend toward more Female-Headed Households is to increase the difficulty in efforts to bridge sections of the community to build consensus and mutual action on local problems.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, http://factfinder.census.gov/.
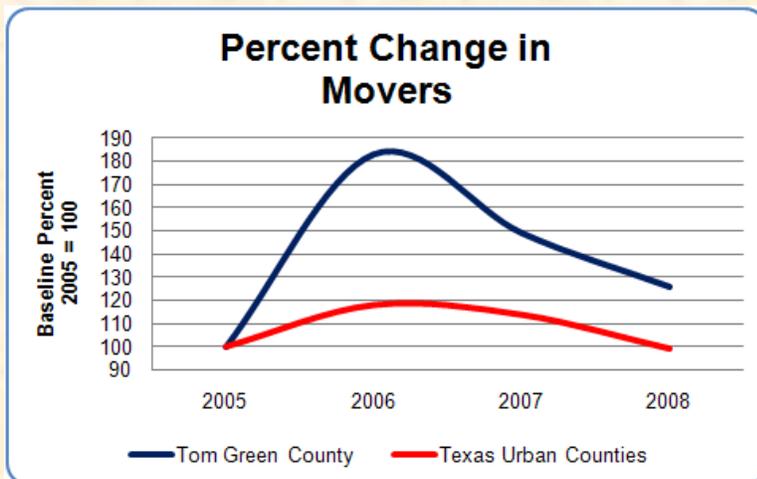
Movers

The Movers indicator is the percent of population moving into a county from the outside within the past year. New residents, in many respects, is a good thing for a community. However, it is an obstacle to consensus building across community sectors and networks if large and growing numbers of newcomers need to be assimilated.

The table shows the most recent reported percentage of Movers for Tom Green County and the average for Texas urban counties. The table also gives the best and worst local percents since 2005, and provides the best and worst comparisons between the county and the average for urban counties of Texas. In recent years, Movers to Tom Green County have trended upward comprising a higher percentage of the local population than what is average for urban counties across the state.

Trend: Negative (since 2005)	Year	Local Percent	Urban County Average
Most Recent	2008	8.0	6.9
Worst Local Since 2005	2006	11.6	8.2
Best Local Since 2005	2005	6.3	7.0
Worst Local/Urban Comparison	2006	11.6	8.2
Best Local/MSA Comparison	2005	6.3	7.0

The benchmark chart traces change in the percent of Movers. The benchmark is set by fixing the local percent and average percent for Texas urban counties in the year 2005 at 100. The chart then follows change since 2005.

Percent Change in Movers

Movers numbered 6.3 percent of the Tom Green County population in 2005. This climbed to 11.6 in 2006, and then fell back to 8 percent in 2008. Overall, the number of Movers in the county was 26 percent higher in 2008 than in 2005. The average for urban counties across the state remained relatively flat for the same time period.

Positive effects for population increase and economic growth follow from attracting new residents. Still, integrating a rising number of newcomers increases the challenge of solving community problems through networking and consensus building.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Non-Citizens

The percent of San Angelo MSA residents who are not U.S. Citizens is decreasing. In addition, the percentage of Non-Citizens in the local population generally lags behind the average for Texas.

The table below shows the most recent percentage of Non-Citizens for the San Angelo MSA and the average for all Texas MSAs. The table also gives the best and worst local percents since 2005, and provides the best and worst comparisons between San Angelo and the average for Texas cities.

Trend: Positive (since 2005)	Year	Local Percent	MSA Average
Most Recent	2008	2.9	7.7
Worst Local Since 2005	2005	3.7	7.9
Best Local Since 2005	2007	2.8	8.0
Worst Local/MSA Comparison	2005	3.7	7.9
Best Local/MSA Comparison	2007	2.8	8.0

The benchmark chart follows change in the percent of Non-Citizens. To set the benchmark, the chart fixes the local percent and average percent for Texas MSAs in the year 2005 at 100. The lines trace change from the 2005 level.

Across the cities of Texas, the average percent of Non-Citizen residents hovered around 8 percent from 2005 to 2007, but then dipped to 7.7 for 2008. San Angelo, by contrast, shows a 18 point decline in the percent of Non-Citizens from 3.7 percent in 2005 to 2.9 percent in 2008. The number of Non-Citizens in San Angelo is below the average for Texas cities, and it is declining.
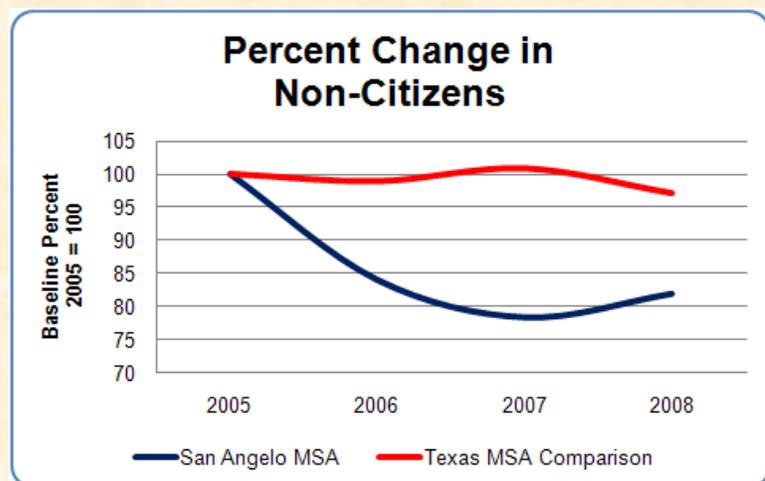
Immigration to a city can make positive impacts on economic development as well as the vibrancy of social and cultural diversity. However, when it comes to forming social networks with capacity for consensual action on community problems, large immigrant pools represent barriers that are difficult to span. San Angelo's low and falling number of Non-Citizens benefits local consensus building potential.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, http://factfinder.census.gov/.
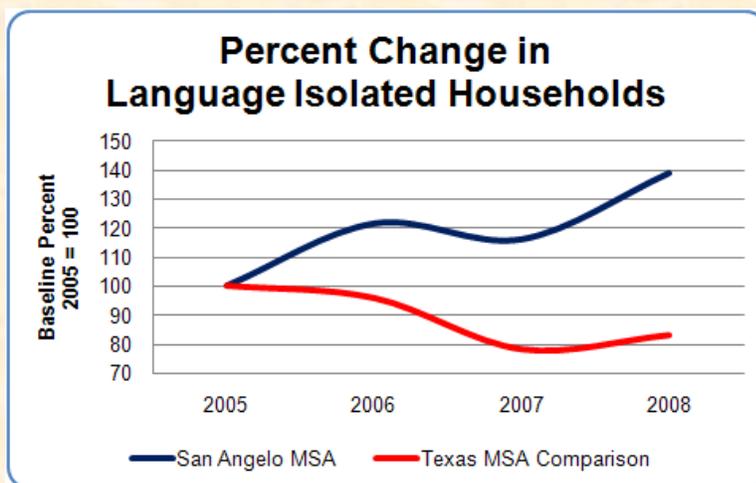
Language Isolated Households

The Census Bureau identifies Language Isolated Households when the household itself reports no member age 14 or over who speaks English "Very Well."

The table below shows the most recent percent of Language Isolated Households for the San Angelo MSA and the average for all Texas MSAs. The table also gives the best and worst local percents since 2005, and provides the best and worst comparisons between the San Angelo and the average for Texas cities.

Trend: Negative (since 2005)	Year	Local Percent	MSA Average
Most Recent	2008	4.5	7.0
Worst Local Since 2005	2008	4.5	7.0
Best Local Since 2005	2005	3.2	8.4
Worst Local/MSA Comparison	2008	4.5	7.0
Best Local/MSA Comparison	2005	3.2	8.4

The benchmark chart follows change in the percent of Language Isolated Households . The benchmark is set by fixing the local percent and average percent for Texas MSAs in the year 2005 at 100. Change from the 2005 level is tracked.

Percent Change in Language Isolated Households

San Angelo's Language Isolated Households numbered 4.5 percent in 2008. This was below the 7 percent average for Texas cities. Since 2005, however, Language Isolated Households in San Angelo have grown by 39 percent, while the average for Texas cities fell by 17 percent. San Angelo, in short, has fewer Language Isolated Households than other cities in the state, but the gap between the local community and the average for Texas cities is closing.

This trend toward a rising number of Language Isolated Households increases the difficulty of solving community problems by consensus building across neighborhoods and networks. Households that are language isolated face many obstacles to effective participation in a predominantly English-speaking community.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, http://factfinder.census.gov/.
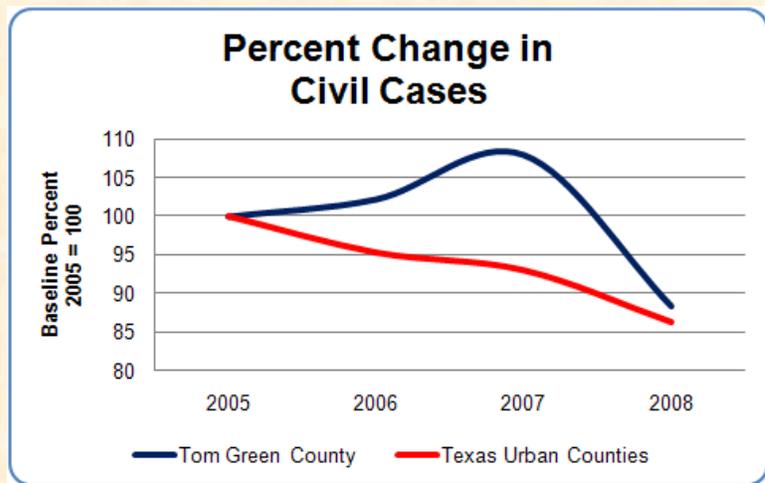
Civil Cases

The number of Civil Cases filed in the state district courts is an indicator of disputes affecting a community. This indicator measures the dispute level by computing the rate of annual Civil Case filings per 1,000 county residents.

The table shows the most recent rate of Civil Cases per 1,000 Tom Green County residents and the average rate for Texas urban counties. The table also gives the best and worst local rates since 2005, and provides the best and worst comparisons between the county and the average for urban counties of Texas. Recently, the local rate of civil case filings turned sharply downward.

Trend: Positive (since 2008)	Year	Local Rate	Urban County Average
Most Recent	2008	17.6	25.4
Worst Local Since 2005	2007	21.5	27.3
Best Local Since 2005	2008	17.6	25.4
Worst Local/Urban Comparison	2007	21.5	27.3
Best Local/MSA Comparison	2005	19.9	29.4

The benchmark chart tracks change in Civil Cases. The benchmark is set by fixing the local rate and average Texas urban county rate for the year 2005 at 100. The lines follow change since 2005.

Initially, the local rate of civil disputes spiked upward after 2005. The rate of 21.5 Civil Cases per 1,000 Tom Green County residents in 2007 was 8 percent higher than the 2005 level. In 2008, however, local Civil Case filings dropped to 17.6 per 1,000 residents, 12 points below the 2005 rate. Texas urban counties also have seen a decline of 14 percent in civil filings since 2005.

The local community is advantaged, not only by the recent downward turn of Civil Cases, but by a civil dispute level that usually falls 5 or more cases per 1,000 residents below the average for urban areas across Texas. This lower level of civil disputes positively effects the possibilities of forming networks and building consensus to address community problems.

Source: The Texas Office of Court Administration, www.dm.courts.state.tx.us/oca/reportselection.aspx.

Owner Occupied Housing

The percent of Owner Occupied Housing units in the San Angelo MSA generally runs slightly higher than the average for other Texas cities, but home ownership in San Angelo fell in 2008.

The table shows the most recent percentage of Owner Occupied Housing units for the San Angelo MSA and the average for all Texas MSAs. The table also gives the best and worst local percentages since 2005, and provides the best and worst comparisons between the San Angelo and the average for Texas cities.

Trend: Negative (since 2008)	Year	Local Percent	MSA Average
Most Recent	2008	65.4	65.3
Worst Local Since 2005	2008	65.4	65.3
Best Local Since 2005	2007	71.4	65.5
Worst Local/MSA Comparison	2008	65.4	65.3
Best Local/MSA Comparison	2007	71.4	65.5

The benchmark chart follows the trend in Owner Occupied Housing. The benchmark is set by setting the local percent and average percent for Texas MSAs in the year 2005 at 100. The lines trace change from the 2005 level.

Percent Change in Owner Occupied Housing
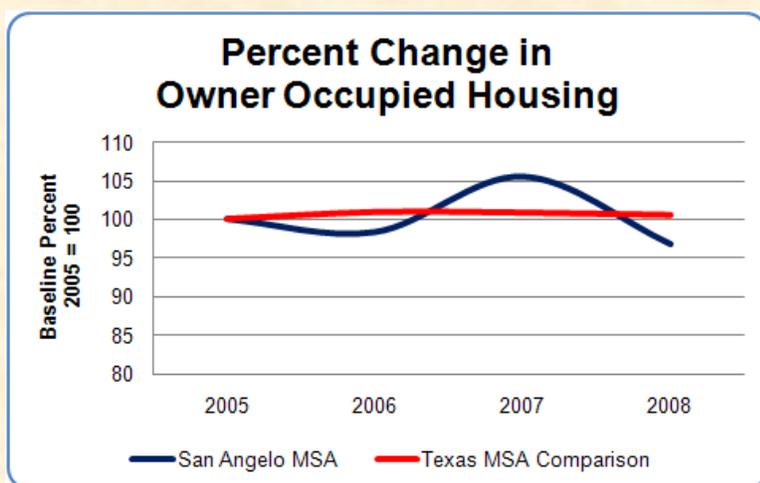
Local Owner Occupied Housing ticked up to 71.4 percent in 2007. The blue line in the benchmark chart shows how that up-tick moved home ownership in San Angelo 6 points over the level of 2005. In 2008, however, local home ownership fell to 65.4 percent, moving it to a level 3 points below 2005 and essentially equal to the average for cities across the state.

Home ownership, studies show, gives community residents "skin-in-the-game" when it comes to solving local problems. Consequently, home owners have incentives to participate in consensus building networks that take action. Recent downturn of ownership in San Angelo could challenge local problem solving efforts if it turns into a longer trend.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Housing Affordability

The Housing Affordability Index is produced annually by the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University. The index expresses the relationship between the median family income in a city and the income required to purchase a median-priced home with a conventional mortgage. A higher index number means that housing is more affordable relative to income levels.

The table shows the most recent Housing Affordability Index for the San Angelo MSA and the average number for all Texas MSAs. The table also provides the best and worst local index since 2005, and provides the best and worst comparisons between the San Angelo and the average for Texas cities.

Trend: Negative (since 2005)	Year	Local Index	MSA Average
Most Recent	2008	1.85	1.76
Worst Local Since 2005	2008	1.85	1.76
Best Local Since 2005	2005	2.18	1.93
Worst Local/MSA Comparison	2008	1.85	1.76
Best Local/MSA Comparison	2007	1.88	1.62

The benchmark chart follows the trend in the Housing Affordability Index . The benchmark is set by locking the local number and average for Texas MSAs in the year 2005 at 100. The lines trace change from the 2005 level.

It is true that housing usually is more affordable in San Angelo than the average for Texas cities. However, the Housing Affordability Index is trending downward across the state, including in San Angelo. The decline in San Angelo's index number from 2.18 in 2005 to 1.85 in 2008 means that the local median-priced home is 15 percent less affordable given local income levels. The average affordability for Texas cities also fell since 2005, but only by 9 percent.
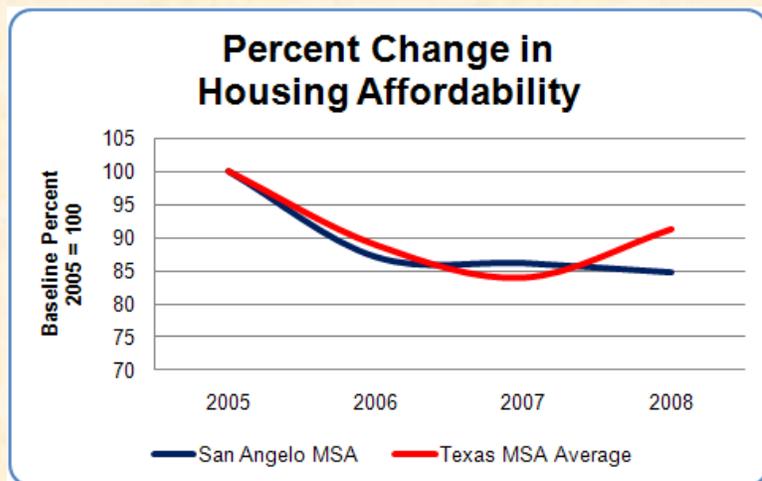
The trend is not positive for the potential to build consensus and action networks in addressing problems. Home ownership adds to that potential, but high levels of ownership are harder to achieve when housing prices are outpacing local incomes.

Source: The Real Estate Center, http://recenter.tamu.edu/.

Hundreds of reports regularly appear to track numerous aspects of the national, state, and local economy. There is careful tracking on unemployment, capital investments, debt levels, consumer purchases, tax receipts and expenditures, and many other measures of economic activity. Not only do analysts chart these meticulously; they distribute them widely in the media, and sometimes discuss them as if the progress of the community and its economic outcomes are equal. Indeed, many people see little difference between community development and economic growth.

Economic results, of course, are vitally important to the progress of any local community. However, these outcomes are not the whole story. They tell too little about how we actually live with each other in our marriages, families, and households. They provide little insight into the experiences of children, elders, and vulnerable individuals in a community. Hence, many aspects of what makes life worth living are untouched by economic tracking devices.

When addressing community problems, money and budgets are crucial, but they are not the whole story. The reason we produce *The San Angelo Social Health and Social Capital Index* at Community Development Initiatives is to help fill some of the gaps between tracking the local economy — as many other reports do — and following the development of the community.

We encourage different readers of *The San Angelo Social Health and Social Capital Index* to pick-and-choose from the results, and use them for varied purposes. Some readers may be interested in certain individual indicators — those measuring education or housing factors for instance. Thus, our individual index items can meet specific needs, and we are happy to provide a small amount of information that community members can copy and share with others.

We trust that some readers, especially community leaders, will find useful insights from a more comprehensive consideration of this report. For example, we think business leaders, who sometimes assume the previously mentioned fallacy that economic growth is the equivalent of community development, can benefit from a comprehensive view of the report. Government leaders, also, assume at times that budgetary allocations or infrastructure projects are the beginning and end of the community development story.

A key point we intend to communicate through our comprehensive look at social health and social capital indicators is that economic growth, generous budgets, and large-scale projects do not automatically "lift all boats," just as downturns do not "dry-dock" them all.

Specific takeaways from a comprehensive look at the 18 *San Angelo Social Health* indicators are:

1. San Angelo's community quality-of-life fell into a recession around 2003. Significant recovery has developed since then, but is by no means complete.

2. Most of the decline in San Angelo's quality-of-life was due to faltering conditions internal to the community over time, with less of it stemming from lost ground in comparison to the rest of Texas.

3. Community conditions focused on the experiences and quality-of-life in households and among elders and children weakened most during the social recession, while general economic and social trends contributed less to the overall decline.

4. Conditions focused on children and elders having strong negative impacts on the community quality-of-life are:
   - A steady and steep increase in the percent of public school children who live in economically disadvantaged households.
   - A sharp rise in the rate of child abuse starting in 2005 reversed a community trend toward lower child abuse levels in prior years.
   - A long-term increase in the rate of abusing elder and disabled persons in the local community at a level that is sharply higher than the rest of the state.

5. Household conditions that significantly weaken the quality-of-life in the local community are:
   - A sharp spike in the rate of family violence incidents reported to police starting in 2003, brought the local family violence rate to a vividly higher level than the rest of Texas.
   - A steady and persistent increase in the tuition and fee costs of college relative to local wage levels.

6. General community economic and social trends hindering the community quality-of-life are:
   - A steep long-term rise in per capita uncompensated costs of healthcare exists.
   - Since 2004, a stagnant employment market contributes to minimal growth in aggregate labor demand.

The ten *Social Capital* indicators tell a different story. Improvements and progress on challenging quality-of-life conditions, community leaders know, requires key intangible resources. These intangibles are among the reasons why growth of the economy and project budgets provide only starting points for community development. They involve the ability of leaders to energize the people to act in consensus on community problems.

When communities focus on the intangible resources, attention often centers on one side or the other of relationships between leaders and the people they lead. Scores of studies exist on leadership skills, styles, personality attributes, and personal attitudes or ethics. Others query motives of activists, philanthropists and volunteers, reasons for public apathy, and the lack of public knowledge on issues. We gain much

insight by concentrating on leader profiles and public traits, but this focus frequently excludes important elements about the intangible resources of a community. Studies of local social capital blossomed over the past two decades because they helped to fill-in-the-gaps about the relationships between leaders and those they lead toward community solutions. Although this body of research branches out in several interesting and different directions, the common thread is the idea that networks of social relations stretching across communities in a consensus building process are essential to the intangibles that leaders must tap for problem solving that works. Consequently, a growing set of "best practices" for forming community coalitions and bringing them to action on local problems is now emerging.

The *Social Capital Index* developed by Community Development Initiatives aims to evaluate just one aspect of these intangible resources at the San Angelo level. Some communities are nimble at forming inclusive social networks and coalitions of informed citizens that leaders can easily tie into for solutions to problems. Other communities are sluggish in this respect, and leaders find barriers and experience wasted effort when trying to form inclusive coalitions for community solutions.

The ten indicators in the *San Angelo Social Capital Index* track some of the features of communities that create barriers to consensus building and capacity to act mutually toward solutions and progress. The index methodology is similar to the one used to follow the social health of the community. The index compares San Angelo to itself, historically, and to other Texas metropolitan areas.

Since 2005, barriers to the formation of inclusive local social action coalitions have emerged. Trends that are adding to the difficulty of mobilizing the community toward problem solving and progress are:

- An increase in commuting time that is making San Angelo more similar to other Texas cities on this level.

- An increase in the percent of local female-headed households has occurred since 2005.

- An increasing percentage of the local population is comprised of newcomers who moved into the community within the past year.

- A small but increasing percentage of households are language isolated by not having an English-speaking member.

- There is a downturn in the percent of owner occupied housing units.

- Since 2005, a decline is taking place in the affordability of housing as measured in relation to the median family income.

Of course, there is more to the abilities of community leaders to forge consensus and build coalitions than having an increase of commute time or a decline of home ownership. The *Social Capital Index* says nothing about the personal abilities of leaders to gain the trust of the population, nor does it sort out or identify those individual community members that are likely to participate. Leadership skill, in other words, is essential to community progress. However, skillful leaders also need to know the

height of the fences they need to climb in order to energize citizens. That is what the social capital indicators track.

Current trends in San Angelo signal the need to move beyond old cliques and factions, and build new lines of trust across offices, organizations, and constituencies. Leaders need to form more inclusive action coalitions that break through debilitating jealousies and divisive attitudes. There is need to encourage previously uninvolved groups and neighborhoods; to listen well; to value everyone's contributions; to bring people out of isolation.

We hope the *San Angelo Social Health and Social Capital Index* helps the community move forward by using these and other inclusive means. We are anxious to follow the community's progress in next year's report!