



Article Listing by Publication Date

2011

Solving Our Problems Together, August 31, 2011. The initial *Pathways to Progress* article published by the San Angelo Standard Times. The *Pathways to Progress* series will focus on problems involving those vulnerable community members most at risk of falling through the cracks and exclusion from the benefits most of us enjoy.

Falling through the Cracks, October 5, 2011. Children living in poverty is a festering problem in San Angelo.

Truly Grand Parents, November 2, 2011. There are dramatic increases in the number of grandparents with primary caregiving responsibility and the number of children living with grandparents in San Angelo.

The Well-Being of Children in Tom Green County, November 30, 2011. The *Children's Social Health Index*, uses annual data reported by a variety of state and federal agencies. The data covers each of the Concho Valley counties and each year over the past decade.

2012

Caring about Care, January 4, 2012. The San Angelo community needs to work toward removing the barriers of access to health care.

Quality of Life Figures in Decline, February 1, 2012. A pattern exists in which the welfare of Tom Green County's vulnerable people is countercyclical to local economies.

Contributions of Immigrants Must Not be ignored, February 29, 2012. Statistical information shows that non-citizen immigrants contribute significantly, if often invisibly, to the local community.

Battle against Child Poverty Goes On, April 4, 2012. The safety net for children and families is in need of enhancement so that it can actually lift people up, rather than being merely a desperate effort to prevent a fall.

Child Abuse in our Area, May 2, 2012. The local rate of child abuse has increased by 56 percent since the year 2000. This compares to an increase of just 19 percent for all of Texas.

Not so well-being, June 6, 2012. The evidence from the Women's Index for the Concho Valley alerts hospitals, clinics, insurers, employers, county, city and regional officials, and other health partners, to work together to improve the health and wellness of women.

Vast Differences in Quality of Life across City, July 4, 2012. Increasing numbers of residents in the local community are living longer lives.

Looking for Answers, August 1, 2012. Community Development Initiative indexing projects provide research results to the public to help inform discussions and processes working to improve the community.

College Education Crucial, Not Cheap, September 5, 2012. In 2010, 57% of graduating students at Texas public universities left the hallowed halls with significant debt.

It Takes a Village to Raise Kids Right, October 3, 2012. The San Angelo ISD started the long and hard work of melting away the gaps that separate the worlds of the city's children.

Giving Thanks, Getting Checked, October 31, 2012. Tom Green County medical facilities diagnosed more than 140 women having cancer, which is an incidence rate of more than 5 cases for every 1,000 local women in the 40 and over "at-risk" age group.

Overcoming San Angelo's Housing Hurdles, December 5, 2012. Some 47% of the city's renter households have incomes below the level needed to afford the monthly estimated median rent.

2013

Taking a Balanced Approach, January 2, 2013. Signs of San Angelo's recovery from the 2008 recession were evident in the latest version of the Community Development Initiative's San Angelo Social Health Index.

Avoiding Complacency, February 6, 2013. The West Texas Violence Index (WTVI) measures and compares the level of violence in San Angelo and three comparable West Texas cities: Abilene, Midland, and Odessa.

U.S. Needs to Commit to Paying a Living Wage, March 6, 2013. Abilene, Midland, and Odessa do better than San Angelo at generating jobs that provide a living wage in their respective cities.

Inequality Imperils Us, April 10, 2013. A comparison of real estate data shows that inequality in the value of housing, the primary wealth possession for most families, continued to distance San Angelo's privileged residential areas from its other residential areas.

They worked, now it's Up to Us, May 2, 2013. A "tale of two cities" theme appears when estimating housing affordability for seniors in San Angelo's neighborhoods.

Door to Reform, June 6, 2013. The low level of education for females combines with the high local teen pregnancy rate to contribute to a higher percentage of female-headed families with children in the local community compared to Texas as a whole.

Pay Roles, July 4, 2013. the average annual median earnings for workers in the female majority job clusters are 82 percent of the median for majority male occupational groups.

Children Are All of Our Future, July 21, 2013. Small Area Health Insurance Estimates representing the combined population of children under age 19 in the outlying Concho Valley counties demonstrate an enhanced opportunity for rural families and communities to benefit from opening the Health Insurance Marketplaces.

West Texas' Wide-Open Spaces a Challenge for Health Care, September 12, 2013. Of the 29 Texas counties without a single primary care physician, a troubling 25 are in West Texas.

Area Public Transportation Must Prepare for Future Needs, October 3, 2013. Less than one-half percent of the regional workforce uses public transit to go to work. This low percentage, however, hardly means that there is a lack of demand for regional public transit services.

Driven to Live a Healthier Lifestyle, November 7, 2013. Beyond the economic and budget-driven aspects of policy, community policymakers must be mindful for the health and vitality of children, families, and the populace in general.

City Has High Levels of Elderly Abuse, Accidents; December 5, 2013. San Angelo and Tom Green County instances of abuse of elder and disabled individuals was significantly higher than neighboring counties.

2014

How Are the Children? January 2, 2014. The extreme poverty of San Angelo neighborhoods extends to the schools too.

Two Steps Forward, Two Steps Back in Measure, February 6, 2014. CDI's Social Health Index documents favorable developments and troubling patterns.

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

Hunger in the Land of Plenty, April 3, 2014. About one third of residents living in local food desert neighborhoods are low-income individuals located more than mile from a grocery store.

Index Raises Red Flags, May 1, 2014. Funding expensive social programs attempting correction often meets the ire of citizens who blame individuals for perceived "irresponsible choices" and resent paying for it.

Seeing a Pattern Here, June 5, 2014. San Angelo's City's Development Services division launched a new Development Task Force as an on-going opportunity for greater dialogue about improvements to City processes.

Texas Should Get atop the Coming Demographic Wave, July 3, 2014. Some 18% of whites were seniors age 65 and over as reported in the 2010 Census. This compared to only seven percent of Hispanics.

Blaming the Poor for Being Poor, August 7, 2014. In Tom Green County, the demographic characteristics of the population living in "severe poverty" do not match well with images of the poor resulting from the long public debate over the culture of poverty.

Income Inequality by the Numbers, September 4, 2014. In the midst of a booming economy, San Angelo experienced a 6.7% increase in median household income. However, the gains did not make it into all corners of the city.

Local Domestic and Child Abuse Levels Too High, October 2, 2014. The most recent data from The Texas Department of Public Safety indicates a higher rate of family violence for Tom Green County residents than other Texans.

GI Bill: A Success, November 6, 2014. American Community Survey data indicates that from 2008 to 2012, the median income for veterans living across San Angelo was \$35,385 compared to a median income of \$21,872 for the non-veteran populace.

The Gift of Health, December 4, 2014. The overall impact of a statewide project shows that members of the local community experienced fewer preventable hospitalizations, while avoiding hospital charges that would have amounted to about \$1.7 million.

2015

Getting with the ACA Program January 1, 2015. There are inequities of health insurance and access across the neighborhoods of San Angelo that affect the quality of life in various areas of the city.

Kid's Health Index Reveals Disparities, February 5, 2015. Children living in the city's lowest income neighborhood are more likely to experience a crime than are children living in the city's highest income neighborhood.

Many Struggle to Keep a Roof over Their Heads, March 5, 2015. Rental affordability is more difficult than ownership for the residents residing in half of San Angelo's census tracts.

Saying NO to Citizen Complacency, April 2, 2015. The CDI Violence Index tagged San Angelo as one of the most dangerous cities when compared with other West Texas cities.

Drifting Apart, May 7, 2015. The majority of high-income and extremely poor families become increasingly residentially separate and insulated.

A Community Divided, June 4, 2015. Despite valiant efforts by agencies and leaders across San Angelo to solve economic and social problems, people with skills and resources to make community change are often limited to insulated and superficial contacts with people who most need change.

Waking Up from the American Dream, July 2, 2015. Harvard's Equality of Opportunity Project shows that Tom Green County is below the average of counties in the study at helping poor children climb the income ladder.

Standard of Safety, August 6, 2015. Violence against women has far-reaching impacts that stretch beyond the atrocities suffered by individual victims.

Community Woes Linger, September 3, 2015. Despite San Angelo's economic achievements, six of ten children still experience insecure access to food.

Not All Seniors Equal, October 1, 2015. Census data reveals social-economic disparities exist for senior residents across San Angelo neighborhoods.

Figures behind Tax Burden, November 5, 2015. Local results show that the sales tax burden takes the greatest share of income from the city's lowest income neighborhood.

Let's Get Serious About Reducing Poverty, December 3, 2015. Many vulnerable groups lived in the most impoverished neighborhoods during the breakneck years of economic growth.

2016

Teen Births Cost Us All, January 7, 2016. Despite progress, the social and economic costs of teen childbearing remain staggering.

A Great Revolt, February 4, 2016. Increases in the number of cost-burdened households resulted in an eight percent increase in housing insecurity.

Abortion Rate Declining, March 3, 2016. Consistent with the intent of the Texas State Legislature, the flurry of new laws after the 2010 elections may be stimulating an accelerated pace of declines in abortions, including those provided for pregnant teenagers.

No Reason for Complacency, April 7, 2016. The CDI Violence Index showed that San Angelo and Tom Green County experienced rising levels of child abuse, sexual assault, crime, and suicides.

Solving Social Security, May 12, 2016. 68.5% of the families living in San Angelo do not receive social security benefits or any other form of federal cash assistance. The poverty rate among these families is 14.4%.

Quality of Life, June 2, 2016. A yearlong study of regional health needs consisted of more than 39,000 residents living in poverty.

White Midlife Despair, July 7, 2016. The average suicide rate for midlife whites increased by 52 percent.

Health Status of Poor, August 4, 2016. Many West Texans believe preventing major diseases from swamping the health system is beyond reach because of the lack of personal responsibility and care in the ranks of poor and minority populations.

Isolation among the Elderly, September 1, 2016. In San Angelo, more than half of the senior householders in the city lived alone.

Different Kind of Segregation Occurring, October 6, 2016. San Angelo is a city demonstrating moderate segregation in elementary schools.

Grading our Schools, November 3, 2016. The average base salary for teachers in SAISD elementary schools is 5.4% lower than averages in comparable West Texas cities.

Disconnected Youth, December 1, 2016. The minority-majority neighborhoods are no longer home to the largest numbers of disconnected youth in the San Angelo.

2017

Good News and Bad News, January 5, 2017. Positive trends in San Angelo included decreases in the elderly poverty level and the percent of persons under age 65 without health insurance. Several measures of violence such as crime, child abuse, and suicide, however, increased.

Too much violence, February 2, 2017. An important observation from the WTVI is that violence levels in this part of West Texas have generally exceeded state levels for quite some time.

Progress made in poverty fight, March 2, 2017. The realization that San Angelo's standard of living increase diminishes any celebration of the reduced poverty level for the city.

The importance of equal distribution, April 6, 2017. ACS data shows that the top households in the San Angelo metro area averaged 12 times more income than those at the bottom during the recession period preceding the oil-boom years.

Rights for disabled improve, May 4, 2017. The poverty rate among individuals with disabilities plummeted by 25% from 2009 to 2015.

Opportunity varies by neighborhood, June 1, 2017. Certain qualities of the work people do contributes to economic separation in the city's neighborhoods.

Boom and bust eras affect youth, July 6, 2017. Between the sluggish and the booming economic periods, young adult participation in San Angelo's labor force plunged nearly 10 percentage points. from an average of 72.6 to the average 63.1 percent.

Gauging women's health care, August 3, 2017. San Angelo residents experience high risk of exposure to common STDs/STIs; higher risk than average for urban areas in West Texas, and higher risk than Texans in general.

Immigration, naturalization has changed city, September 7, 2017. Naturalized citizenship in San Angelo increased by 76% from 2007 to 2013 while the number of unauthorized residents plummeted by 40 percent.

Where kids are at a disadvantage, October 5, 2017. Sharp differences separate the social and economic conditions that children experience in San Angelo neighborhoods

Income inequality growing, November 2, 2017. Changing household income patterns in San Angelo show that income differences between the city's racial and ethnic groups are closing.

Children/elders areas see less crime, December 7, 2017. Children and seniors living in low dependency areas of San Angelo face nearly two-to-one odds of being exposed to crime compared to their peers in more age dependent neighborhoods.

2018

Lending our voices to public discourse, January 11, 2018. Because local issues are more directly stamped into shared daily experiences, public discourse in the San Angelo community has trended toward greater vitality.

Gauging the oil boom's effect, February 1, 2018. The San Angelo Social Health Index reveals that the record-setting growth due to the oil boom has softened in the local economy.

County life expectancy lags, March 1, 2018. Tom Green County's unimpressive level of life expectancy improvement reveals a striking gender-based health disparity in the local community.

Violent crime rates up in city, April 5, 2018. San Angelo's increase in violent crime tops most US cities in recent years. Furthermore, death from gun violence has now climbed above the national watermark.

Minimum pay gap hurts families, May 3, 2018. Conditions in San Angelo households have slipped in recent years.

Religious activity and political affiliations, June 7, 2018. The hardening of voter support for Republican Party politics in the local community, in part via its correlation to local religious change, shows that the crumbling wall of separation is not limited to Washington.

The time for equal rights is now, July 5, 2018. The recent 12-year earnings history of Latinas in Tom Green County suggests they will see rapidly increasing inequity between their paychecks and those of other men and women in the local economy.

Region weighs in on immigration issues, August 2, 2018. Two-thirds of Texans support the idea to require immigrants to learn English with support for the requirement generally higher in most West Texas areas.

Addressing health inequalities, September 6, 2018. Addressing inequalities of health outcomes requires belief that communities can change. Above all, it requires the belief that a good community must do the right thing for all its members.

Aging in place in San Angelo, October 4, 2018. Nearly 92% of San Angelo seniors age 65 and over were what geriatric specialists describe as "aging in place."

Comparing San Angelo, November, 1, 2018. The San Angelo metro economy helped reduce family poverty from by 29%.

Earned Income tax credits help lower-income workers, December 9, 2018. Evidence shows that the *Earned Income Tax Credit* substantially supplements income in working households of all San Angelo neighborhoods.

2019

Steps to fight health crisis, January 3, 2019. A review of Tom Green County death rates in comparison to the state and nation shows the local death rate has increased slightly over recent years, despite its decline at the state and national levels.

Paying people poverty wages, February 7, 2019. San Angelo's senior poverty rate averaged 12.3% between 2013 and 2017 for seniors living in the Social Security shortage areas compared to an average poverty rate of 2.4% among those living in the surplus neighborhoods.

Local initiative looks to stem violence, March 10, 2019. San Angelo has become a more violent city in recent years. The most recent update of the West Texas Violence Index (WTVI) confirms this trend led by increases in domestic violence.

Local residents are generous, April 7, 2019. The average charitable contribution itemized by Tom Green County taxpayers was 24% higher than the average for Texas and the nation.

Comparing income inequality, May 5, 2019. A comparison of San Angelo's Gini Index for household incomes clarifies that local income inequality increased from 2008 to 2017.

How the ACA affects San Angelo, June 2, 2019. Eight of the ten vulnerable groups in the local community experienced gains in health coverage since 2013.

Undocumented migrants in West Texas, July 7, 2019. The status of non-citizen immigrants in the regional labor force is noteworthy. Their labor force participation, employment, and wage earner rates,

align with the corresponding rates for all working age members of the regional population.

Living and Retiring in San Angelo, August 4, 2019. Comparison of San Angelo's livability index to seven other major West Texas urban areas yields observations that may disappoint local advocates.

San Angelo ISD is making progress, September 1, 2019. Results on the Texas State Academic Accountability ratings show that the SAISD earned an overall grade of B for the 2018-2019 school year, which was an improvement from a grade of C on the ratings for the previous school year.

Being prepared for disaster, October 6, 2019. San Angelo has a significant number of residents living in parts of town most vulnerable to a disaster.

Examining poverty among children, November 3, 2019. The child poverty rate in San Angelo's highly concentrated poverty neighborhoods was more than 5.6 times higher than the rate in the city's low poverty neighborhoods.

Food insecurity among children in West Texas, December 8, 2019. Child food insecurity in four West Texas counties is much higher for members of vulnerable populations.

2020

Examining Life Expectancy in Tom Green County, January 5, 2020. Our community is blessed with its share of innovative leaders busily developing local coalitions that echo Healthy People 2030 planning.

Tax Cuts and Jobs Act: Broken Promises? February, 2, 2020. Tax code reform requiring wealthy Americans and corporations to pay their fair share of taxes continues to draw broad support from voters across party, gender and educational lines. But politicians are, as usual, behind their constituents on this issue. Thus, reform will not come easily.

Leadership Agenda Needed to Address Violence, March 1, 2020. State and national leaders seriously interested in preventing violence should be clamoring for comprehensive studies on the pervasive violence patterns in our communities and society.

Job Growth in San Angelo, April 5, 2020. Despite the the Great Recession and drop in oil prices that shook San Angelo during Barack Obama's presidency, the city's workforce added 2,197 workers for a 4.4% gain. Conversely, during the first three years of the Trump presidency the city has added 1,792 jobs, which is an increase of 3.4% and an annual average increase of 597 jobs.

Importance of Social Security May 10, 2020. Data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) covering the six-year period between 2013 and 2018 indicate that Social Security contributes substantial proportions to the annual incomes of numerous households and families in Tom Green County.

Reopening the Economy, Controlling COVID-19 a Dilemma June 7, 2020. Calculations of at-risk establishments in Tom Green County implied that they might have to contract thousands of jobs during a prolonged lockdown resulting in a loss of millions of dollars to our local economy.

COVID-19: Know your Demographic Risk, July 12, 2020. Analysis of statistical associations between the 35 population and housing characteristics and coronavirus cases in Texas Counties revealed 14 strong positive correlations.

Tracking the effects of the COVID-19 virus, August 2, 2020. Analysis suggests that prematurely opening the Texas economy contributed to an intensification of the coronavirus pandemic, which caused the Tom Green County economy to slow. The depressed consumer spending and small business activity is due more to the coronavirus threat than government restrictions.

Taking the Pulse of Families with Children in the Pandemic, September 6, 2020. Many local families with children approached this year's opening of school with a complex of worries and fears tied to a raging pandemic and a significantly shuttered economy.

Signs of Systemic Racism in San Angelo, October 4, 2020. Polls consistently ask respondents if they believe there is systemic racism? In the end, however, the existence of systemic racism is not a matter of belief. It is a matter of factual analysis.

Is the Great Equalizer at Work in the Local Community? November 8, 2020. It is hard for many to see that the personal flaws of some children, parents, and families do not fully account for perceived failures. In equal or greater measure, what makes them vulnerable is the failure of the social system to address their needs respectfully and equitably.

Economic Inequalities Across the Color Line, December 6, 2020. San Angelo, Texas residents are struggling to stay above water while battling COVID-19. Still, the destructive effects are unlikely to spread equally across the community. The destruction will more likely follow long established lines of economic inequality.

2021

Something to Hope for in the New Year, January 3, 2021. Like the rest of the nation, Tom Green County is in the midst of the raging pandemic as we begin 2021. Yet, local community leaders and citizen's alike imagine a full comeback in the local economy. But what will it take?

Measuring the Local Economy, February 7, 2021. The deterioration of gross sales, sales tax revenue, employment, and wages, captures the devastating influence of COVID-19 on the overall local economy between 2019 and 2020.