

MEADOWS  
MENTAL HEALTH  
POLICY INSTITUTE



---

## Family and Youth Success Community Strengths and Needs Assessment

April 5, 2023

---

# Key Findings

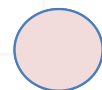
## High-priority risk factors across the service region

- Risk of child abuse and neglect
- Juvenile justice involvement and violent crime
- Domestic violence
- Poverty (including unemployment and housing)
- Behavioral health need

TPC County	SVI	Child Maltreatment Risk (Any Age)	Children in Foster Care (2021)	DV Incidents / 1,000 People	Juvenile Justice Cases per 1,000 Children/ Youth	Violent Crime (Quartile)	Teen Births (Quartile)	Female-Headed Household in Poverty	% Un-employed	Severe Housing Problems
Potter	High	High	Low	High	High	High	High	High	Low	High
Gray	Low	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	Low	Low
Hutchinson	Low	High	High	High	High	High	Low	High	High	Low
Dallam	Low	High	High	High	Low	High	Low	Low	Low	Low
Collingsworth	High	N/A	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Low
Hall	High	N/A	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	Low
Deaf Smith	High	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	High	Low	Low	Low
Moore	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	Low
Ochiltree	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High
Randall	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	High	Low	Low	Low	Low
Carson	Low	N/A	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	Low	Low
Hartley	Low	N/A	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	Low	Low
Hansford	Low	N/A	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	Low
Hemphill	Low	N/A	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	Low
Lipscomb	Low	N/A	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	Low
Sherman	Low	N/A	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Low
Wheeler	Low	N/A	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High
Donley	Low	N/A	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Armstrong	Low	N/A <sup>1</sup>	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Oldham	Low	N/A	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Roberts	Low	N/A	Low	Low	Low	N/A	N/A	Low	Low	N/A



Relative low risk



Relative high risk

# Key Counties With High Risk Factors

- Potter County
- Gray County
- Hutchinson County
- Dallam County

# Child Abuse and Neglect

- Potter, Gray, Hutchinson, and Dallam counties have high risk for child maltreatment.
  - The rate of children in foster care in the TPC region is higher than the state average.
  - The rate for the region was double the state rate in 2021 (12.4 compared to 6.2).
  - Some counties may have lower numbers of youth in foster care because of high utilization of juvenile justice placements.
- 83% of professionals surveyed reported child abuse prevention activities and awareness as a need/significant need.
  - 71% reported emergency respite care as a need/ significant need.
  - 58% identified parent/caregiver education and support as a significant need (a top 5 priority).
- 84% of community members reported wishing their community had parent support groups.
  - 80% reported a need for child abuse prevention activities and education, and 66% reported wishing their community had emergency/ respite childcare.

# Juvenile Justice Involvement and Violent Crime

- There were higher youth arrest rates for the TPC region (25 per 1,000) than the state (17).
  - Potter County has a rate more than double the state rate (38 per 1,000).
  - Twelve of 21 counties rank in the lowest 50% of all Texas counties for violent crime rates.
- The highest ranked need by professionals was for behavioral health resources for children, youth, and adults.
  - 84% reported a need/significant need for youth skill building programs.
- 78% of community members reported wanting free family and youth healthy life skills programs in their community.

# Domestic Violence (DV)

- The TPC region has a higher rate of DV (9.3 per 1,000) than the Texas average (6.7). Potter County's DV rate is nearly 4 times higher than the state average (23.8).
- Help for behavioral health needs was the top need ranked by professionals.
  - This included substance misuse assistance (ranked 7th in need).
- Parent support groups was the highest priority for community members (84%), and 80% wanted to see more resources for families of very young children (0–5 years).
  - A family resource center was the second highest priority for community members (80%).



# Poverty

- Twelve of 21 counties have higher levels of poverty than the TX average.
  - Six counties rank in the lowest half of counties in the state with severe housing problems. One of the largest counties, Potter, is in the lowest 25%.
- Resources for families struggling financially was the 2nd highest priority need ranked by professionals.
- Community members expressed a desire for a family resource center (highest priority – 84%) and more resources for parents of very young children (ages 0–5) (80%).



# Behavioral Health Need

- Prevalence data show higher need in TPC's region than the state average.
- Behavioral health was ranked as the most important priority for mental health priorities.
- Parent support groups were the top priority listed by community members (84%).

# Recommendations - FAYS

- Target FAYS services and supports—including outreach and youth and caregiver education and skills training—to areas with the highest need.
- Recruit and support staff that reside in the communities served by the FAYS program.
- Engage and support continued collaboration between communities, faith-based organizations, and community organizations to maintain and strengthen the region’s capacity to provide basic needs supports.
- Recognize that the frontier areas of the Panhandle, despite lower areas of risk, have limited to no access to prevention services and supports.
- Target the region’s obstetricians and pediatricians in the prevention and community awareness campaign.
- Expand FAYS services to parents of children 0–5.
- Continue to strengthen partnership with schools.

# Recommendations - Community

- Increase or sustain interventions that address child abuse and neglect.
- Sustain interventions that address juvenile justice involvement and violent crime.
- Sustain and strengthen access to supports that decrease domestic violence.
- Sustain basic needs support including as a part of the TPC FAYS program.
- Continue to seek behavioral health professionals to provide behavioral health services to FAYS families.

---

# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

---

MEADOWS  
MENTAL HEALTH  
POLICY INSTITUTE



---

**Thank You!**

---