



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Date: February 27, 2024

In Control: Planning and Community Development Committee

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing on the Status of Poverty in San Antonio.

SUMMARY:

Briefing on the 2024 Status of Poverty in San Antonio Report, the Status of Poverty Dashboard, and the Community Wellbeing Survey Results.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Department of Human Services tracks and monitor community trends on poverty to better understand existing socio-economic disparities in San Antonio. Since 2019 DHS has produced three reports on poverty:

- 2019 Status of Poverty in San Antonio in collaboration with SAMHD
- 2022 Poverty Report

- 2024 Poverty Report

DHS has also created a public dashboard to present the most current data available about poverty, employment and income, education and skills development, wealth and assets, affordable housing, homelessness, physical and mental health, and access to transportation in San Antonio.

- Status of Poverty Dashboard

Additionally in 2023 DHS has conducted a community survey to identify factors that are limiting social mobility via a public input process to analyze the multidimensional factors of poverty and to identify the shortcomings and constraints limiting social mobility in San Antonio.

- 2023 Community Wellbeing Survey

1.- San Antonio 2024 Status of Poverty Report

The most recent poverty report provides updates on community trends related to poverty, income, wealth distribution and employment based on US Census data for 2022, released on December 2023. This report analyzes poverty by race/ethnicity, age, sex, and household characteristics among other demographics. In order to provide a long-term perspective on the effectiveness of local poverty reduction strategies, the report analyzes poverty changes between 2013 and 2022. It includes geographical comparisons among the five largest Cities in the State of Texas, and reference data to understand how poverty is measured in the United States.

2.- Status of Poverty in San Antonio Online Dashboard

This dashboard displays the most current data on poverty for the City of San Antonio (currently displays 2022 and 2023 data if available). This online platform streamlines the process of updating the San Antonio Status of Poverty annually by eliminating the need to manually compile, analyze and create a report.

The Status of Poverty Dashboard is a public accessible platform that allows to monitor community performance related to poverty reduction, based on a comprehensive framework that includes the following sections:

- Status of Poverty (data, trends, and demographic characteristics)
- Economic Stability information & financial independence
- Affordable Housing
- Homelessness
- Education, Training and Youth Inequalities
- Physical and Mental Health (link to SA Forward dashboard)
- Accessibility

3.- 2023 Community Wellbeing Survey

Poverty is a complex and difficult reality where multiple factors intervene, and it is often compounded by additional external circumstances. The extent of these accumulating circumstances can be an indicator of the extent and success of social mobility, and poverty reduction strategies. To assess the level of vulnerability of low-income residents in San Antonio, DHS has conducted a community wellbeing survey focused on low-income residents.

The survey is meant to identify how financial stability impacts households' well-being and resiliency in San Antonio. Based on the Canadian Index of Wellbeing designed by the University of Waterloo, ON (Canada), and using the Social Determinants of Health as framework, the Community Wellbeing survey covers the following sections:

1. Support Systems & Civic Engagement
2. Physical & Mental Health
3. Housing Stability & Safe Environment
4. Social & Emotional Resiliency
5. Financial Security

Collection Method

Online Survey via PublicInput/SASpeakUp portal.

Paper Copies distributed in collaboration with partner agencies, Comprehensive Senior Centers and mail distribution to 1,000 address per Council District

Data collected from 11/16/2022 at 8:00 am to 1/22/2023 at 11:59 pm.

Number of valid responses: 983

Number of participants: 1,102

Margin of error: $\pm 3.1\%$

Level of confidence: 95%

ISSUE:

Understanding the characteristics and implications of poverty is key to define (1) effective poverty reduction strategies, recommend (2) community interventions, and (3) set funding priorities.

Poverty is a multidimensional issue that encompasses the various deprivations experienced by low-income residents in their daily lives – such as poor health, lack of education, inadequate living standards, disempowerment, poor quality of work, the threat of violence, and living in areas that are environmentally hazardous, among others.

Poverty as a multidimensional issue requires to analyze not only the lack or limitation of basic needs-, but also the lack of intangible needs, as well as the existence of systemic barriers that combined are key limiting factors of social mobility and contribute to perpetuate the circle of generational poverty.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

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RECOMMENDATION:

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