Public Health Matters: A Local Perspective

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Harris County & HCPH

Harris County, TX:
- Third most populous county with over **4.3 million people** (ranking between Kentucky & Oregon, #27)
- Geographically spread over **1,778 square miles** (size of Rhode Island)
- Home to 4th largest city (**Houston**), world’s largest medical center, and one of world’s busiest ports.

**Harris County Public Health:**
- Local health department for Harris County with over **700** public health professionals and over **$80 million budget & growing**
- Annually, see over **100,000** patients in 16 wellness clinics/WIC sites, & remote clinical sites; inspect **7,500** food establishments, house **25,000** animals in our shelter.
- Provides refugee health screening, mosquito control, chronic disease outreach, Ryan White HIV/AIDS services for entire community.
What is Public Health?

“What we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.”

-The Future of the Public’s Health in the 21st Century, Institute of Medicine, 2003
Public Health: Behind the Scenes

The HCPH Priority Public Health Issues for 2013-2018

Chronic Disease, Food Safety, Infectious Disease, Environmental Health, Emergency Preparedness, Social, Mental, and Emotional Wellbeing
True Drivers of Health – the 4 E’s

- Economics
- Education
- Environment
- Engagement
Our Premise: LLWWP

**LLWWP:** Health is a complex equation based on a number of inputs not limited to the controlled clinical setting. Health happens:

- Where people **Live**
- Where people **Learn**
- Where people **Work**
- Where people **Worship**
- Where people **Play**
### Public Health AND Healthcare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Health</th>
<th>Medicine</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focuses on <strong>populations</strong></td>
<td>Focuses on the <strong>individual</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emphasizes prevention and health promotion for the whole community</td>
<td>Emphasizes diagnosis, treatment and care for the whole patient</td>
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<td>Employs interventions aimed at the environment, human behavior, lifestyle and medical care</td>
<td>Employs provision of medical care</td>
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<td>Stimulated by <strong>threats to the health of populations</strong></td>
<td>Stimulated by <strong>needs of patients</strong></td>
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“Public Health vs. Medicine,” Harvey Fineburg, MD, PhD, Harvard University School of Public Health, 1999.
HCPH serves the broader Harris County community through “brick and mortar” clinical sites as well as mobile service delivery in the community.

Epidemiology disease investigations

Preventive clinical service delivery

Health screening for refugees

Tuberculosis prevention & control

Harris County Public Health Issues for 2013-2018

Chronic Disease

Food Safety

Emergency Preparedness

Environmental Health

Infectious Disease

Injury

Social, Mental, and Emotional Wellbeing
Engagement/Reaching Communities
January 11, 2016 - HCPH Confirms First Texas Zika Case

Texas Woman Diagnosed With Mosquito-Borne Zika Virus

Development raises concern that health crisis in Brazil is spreading

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2016

Travel-Related Zika Virus Infection Has Been Identified in the Harris County Area

Harris County, Texas - Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) has received confirmation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that the Zika virus has been confirmed in a traveler who recently returned from Latin America. The individual developed symptoms that are often associated with the Zika virus which include fever, rash, and joint pain.

Zika virus is spread through the bite of the Aedes species mosquito. Prevention is key to reducing the risk of Zika virus infection, said Oussai A. Shih, MD MPH, Executive Director of HCPHES. "Zika virus infections occur throughout the world. We encourage individuals traveling to areas where the virus has been identified to protect themselves against mosquito bites, and to contact their healthcare provider immediately if they develop Zika virus-like symptoms."

According to CDC, there is no cure for Zika is usually mild with symptoms lasting several days to a week. Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon and deaths are rare. There is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Zika virus infection. The CDC recommends that all people, especially pregnant women, who are traveling to areas where Zika virus is found, should take precautions to avoid mosquito bites to reduce their risk of infection with Zika virus as well as other mosquito-borne viruses such as dengue and chikungunya.

HCPHES recommends before traveling abroad, individuals contact their healthcare provider who may recommend vaccines or important preventive medications for travel-related diseases.

To learn more about the Zika virus, please visit www.hcphes.org and www.cdc.gov.

First case of tropical Zika virus linked to serious birth defect found in Texas

RIDE WITH THE MOSQUITO HUNTERS PROTECTING THE US AGAINST ZIKA
“Prevent the Bite” Campaign: What **YOU** Can Do To Help

Remember:

- “Prevent and Present”
- “Dump and Drain” standing water
- “Prevent The Bite, Day and Night”
- Share our resources—both internally and externally
  - Can be found on our website: [www.hcphtx.org/Zika](http://www.hcphtx.org/Zika) or contact us for educational materials

**Mosquito Control & Prevention Starts with **YOU**

We **ALL** have a role!
The HCPH Priority Public Health Issues for 2013-2018

Chronic Disease  Food Safety  Emergency Preparedness  Environmental Health  Infectious Disease

Injury  Social, Mental, and Emotional Wellbeing

PREVENT THE BITE!

Are you raising MOSQUITOES?

HCPH Mosquito & Vector Control  (713) 440-4800
All Roads Lead to...

Building the Public Health for Tomorrow
Overall Approach: Enhanced Organizational Transformation

HCPH is transforming its public health mission by building internal capacity through staff development, operational efficiencies, facility improvements, and utilization of new ideas and technologies. This includes engaging cross-disciplinary leadership teams under the umbrella of an overall departmental strategic planning process.

Examples abound – not limited to Health Innovation, One Health, Health Equity, Chronic Disease Prevention, Built Environment – and are helping shape this very transformation. At HCPH, we know change is often not easy but it is necessary. We embrace change in building the “best health department not for yesterday or today, but for tomorrow.”
The HCPH Priority Public Health Issues for 2013-2018

- Chronic Disease
- Food Safety
- Emergency Preparedness
- Environmental Health
- Infectious Disease
- Injury
- Social, Mental, and Emotional Wellbeing
In Summary: Looking Ahead

As a field, public health must:

1. Work **hand-in-hand with other partners** including in the healthcare system to work together in addressing social determinants of health and improve the overall health of a community.

2. Embrace the values of **innovation, engagement, and equity** in forging its own unique path in advancing the community’s health.

3. Incorporate **vision, commitment, and investment of resources** to ensure forward movement in building the public health of tomorrow.
The Role of Local Public Health Just Makes “Common Sense”

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