

Northwest Vista College PREP Presentation: 6/25

“Everybody can be a part
of a healthier San Antonio”



Fernando A. Guerra, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health
San Antonio Metropolitan Health District



Fernando A. Guerra, MD, MPH: Public Health Leader

- Born and Raised in San Antonio, Texas
- Early in his career in pediatrics, went to Vietnam and served as a Battalion Surgeon
- Pediatrician (Dr. for children) and Director of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
- Father and Grandfather
- Cares about all children and their families and wants to help as many people as possible

Dr. Guerra's Public Health Goals

- Making sure that everyone and anyone that needs help, gets what they need to be healthy
- Responding and helping in emergencies and disasters like Hurricane Katrina
- Working with the community to make sure we have the best health care possible
- Creating a health system that is fair for everyone
- Reducing the number of people in San Antonio who don't have a doctor and who can't pay for medicine
- Addressing social justice issues, like poverty, low quality schools, violence, and poor health care

What Helps Us Serve Others?

- Having the ability to be a good leader
- Being fair and just
- Bringing humanity into this world
- Teaching others
- Being open minded
- Putting others before self
- Being a good listener
- Being humble

Education is VERY important

- Stay in school and get as much education as you can
- Math and writing skills are very important
- Most jobs require math skills
- Do what you love to do and follow your dreams
- Try hard in school, and do your best
- We as influential adults must make sure that all students have an equal opportunity for a good education

Make a Positive Impact

What it takes

- Having a healthy mind and spirit.
- Exercising and taking care of yourself
- Reading a lot and trying not to watch too much TV
- Enjoying hobbies and doing things for others
- Engage in lifelong learning
- Be good to yourself and to others

Areas of Concern and Challenges

- Unplanned pregnancy
- Teen pregnancy
- Victims of crime
- Lack of mental health services
- Homelessness
- Substance abuse
- Child abuse, neglect & domestic violence
- Lack of health care access
- Concentrated poverty

Making Health Care for all a Priority

- Many people in San Antonio don't have health insurance and haven't seen a doctor in years.
- Many families don't receive:
 - Diabetes check ups
 - Cholesterol screenings
 - Blood pressure checks
 - Dental check ups
- Sometimes we realize that we need more Doctors, nurses, health teachers, dentists and social workers, to provide care for all the people.
- **How many of YOU want to be a Doctor or a Nurse?**

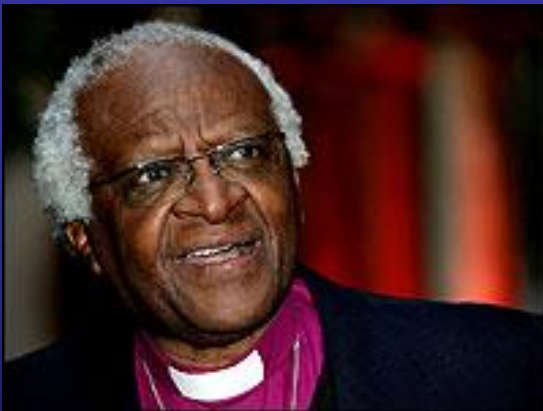
San Antonio took care of a lot of people from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and the flooding



Children, elderly, people with physical and mental disabilities, and single, non-working mothers, and people who were really poor were the ones most affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu Reclaiming Youth at Risk

“I would hope we could find creative ways to draw out of our children the good that is there in each of them.”



Archbishop Desmond Tutu, photographed in May 2005. *Getty Images* -Paul Hawthorne

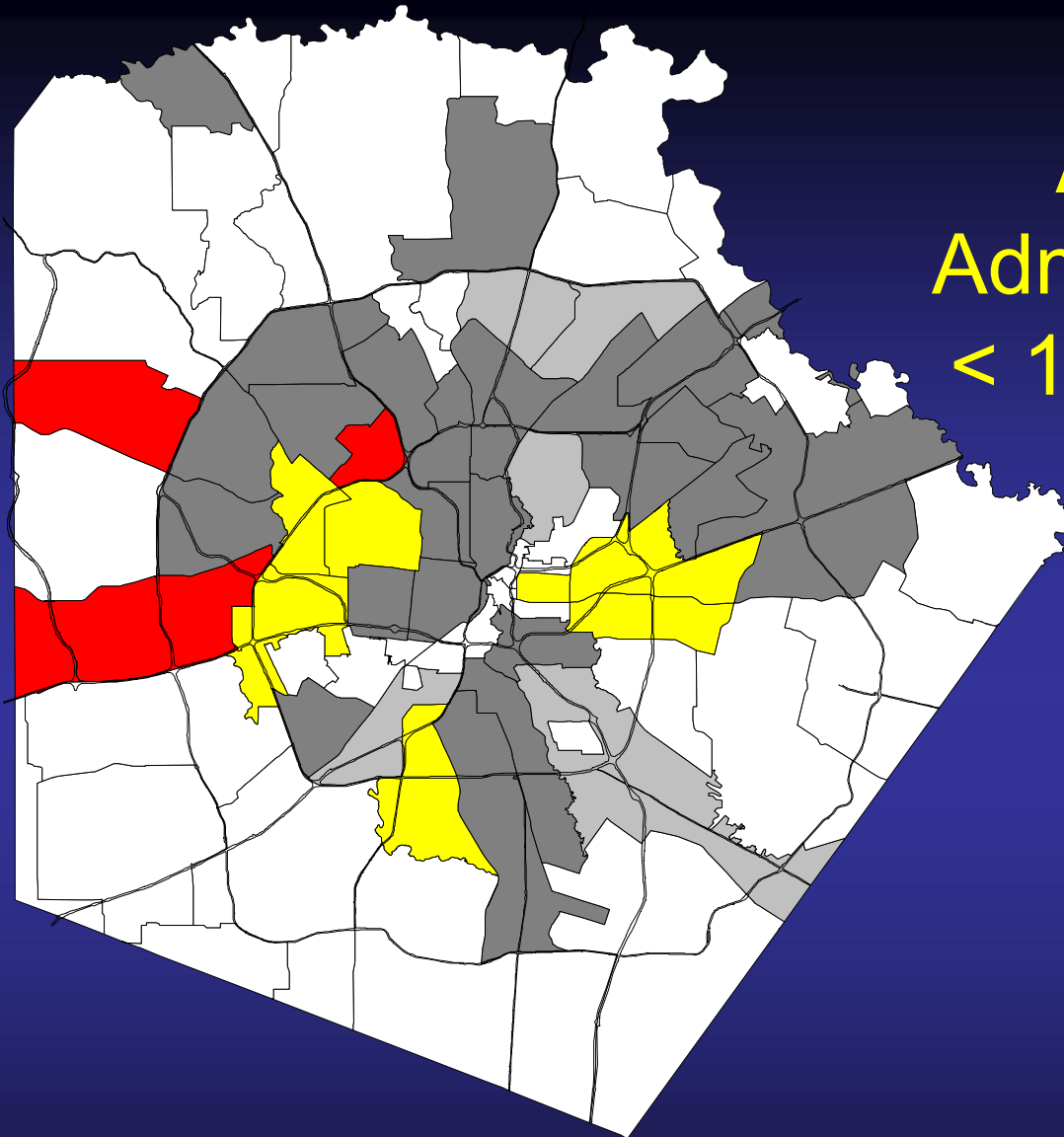
Importance Of Math, Science, Computers and Technology

- Math, Science and Computers are essential for the future.
- Math is the "gatekeeper" course for students seeking higher education of any type, or even for those seeking meaningful work.**
- Among low income high school students, 71% of those taking algebra and geometry enroll in college. Only 27% of those who don't take those courses go on to college.**
- Many health care jobs require a college education, computer skills and critical thinking. (American Medical Association)

*<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/13.04/robot.html>

**<http://www.bham.wednet.edu/WCMP/documents/ACalltoParents.pdf>

Rate of Pediatric Asthma Inpatient Admissions Patient age < 18 years by zip code



Rate per pop*1000

■	4.00 plus
■	3.00 to 3.99
■	2.00 to 2.99
■	1.00 to 1.99
■	0 to 0.99

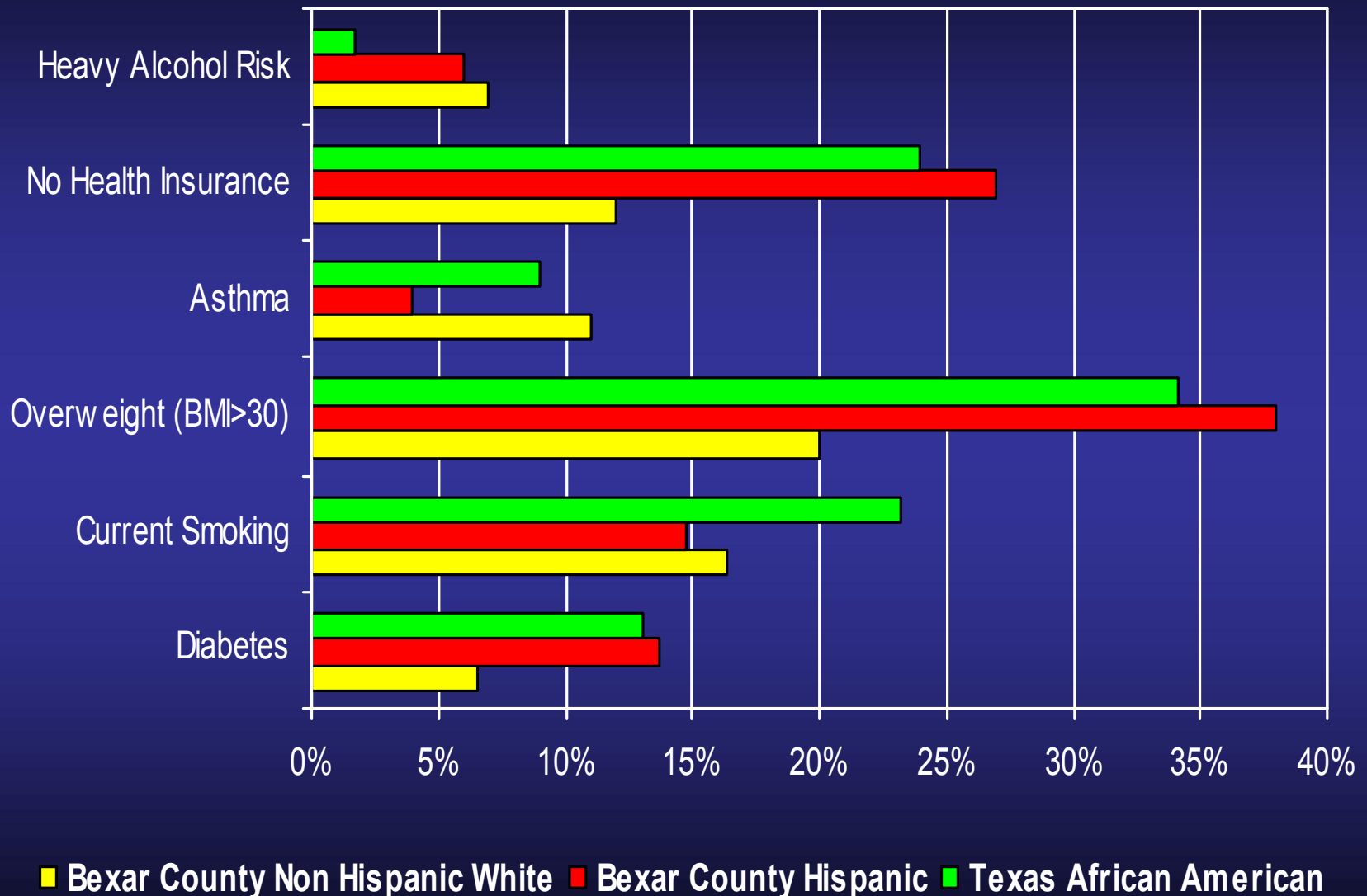
To stabilize small numbers we summed 2004, 2005, 2006 and divided by 3

2000 census population

Data provided by Thomson-Reuters hospitalization database
§ This data is limited to inpatient admissions.
§ City-wide hospitalization data (excluding military hospitals)
§ Primary Discharge diagnosis asthma: (493.00-493.99)
§ This data does not include 23 hour observation status.

San Antonio 2005 Behavioral Risk Factor Survey

Note: All respondents are ages 18 years and over.

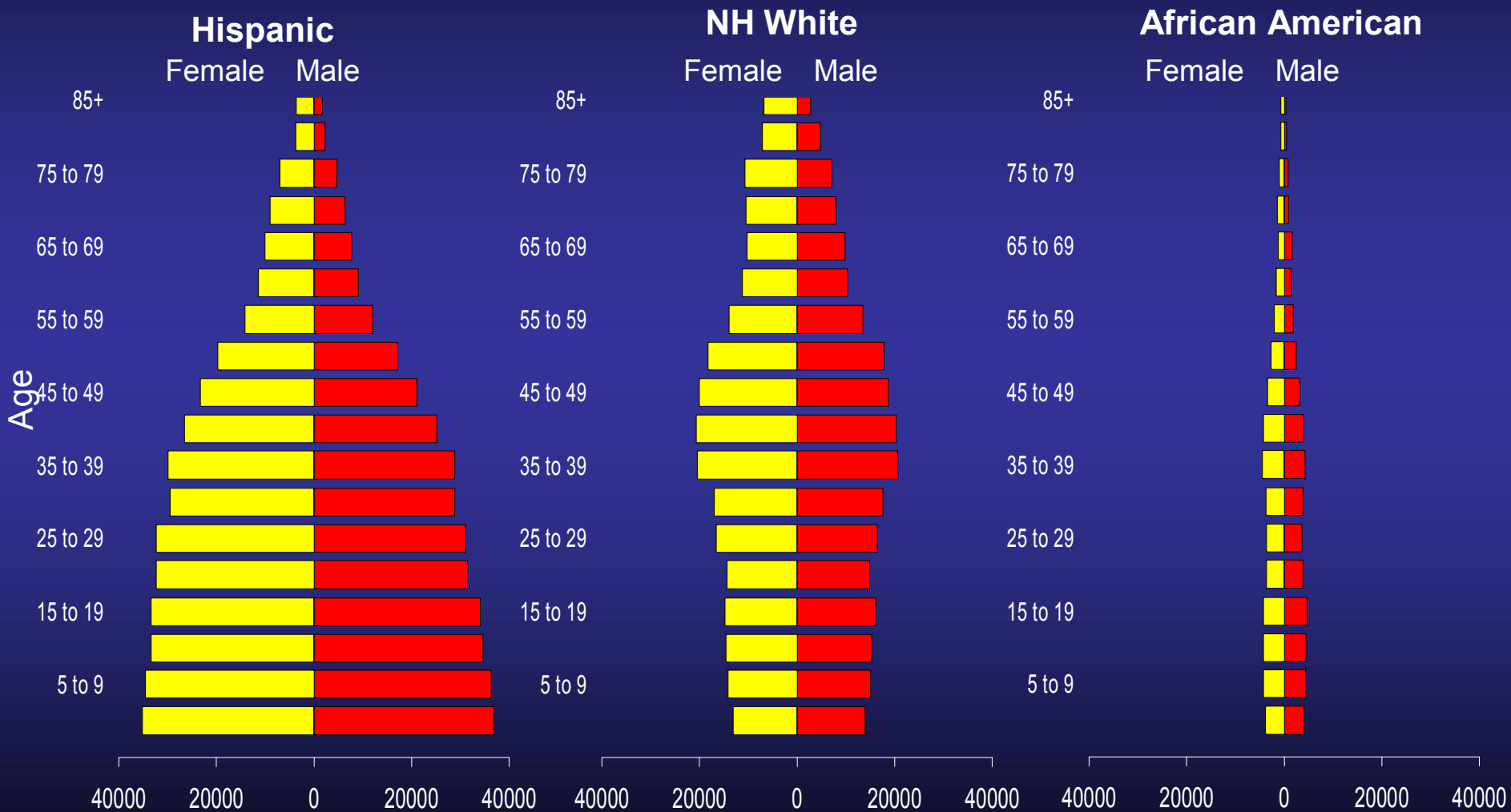


Source: Texas Department of State Health Services

Note: There were insufficient responses from the Black population in Bexar County to reliably estimate risk factors for 2005.

Bexar County Age Distribution

(Hispanic, NH White & African American)



Source: 2000 Census

Closing

Be proud of who you are and strive to be a better person every day!

Thank You!
Questions?