



annual report

fiscal year 2017-2018

Public health in San Antonio has evolved over the last 300 years and is no longer defined only by traditional measures such as immunizations, sanitation and infectious diseases. San Antonio’s rich and diverse history has changed the lens through which a community’s health is evaluated and is now broader than ever before. Metro Health’s efforts reflect these changes in the evolution of our community health programs, our priorities and the recognition Metro Health earned throughout the 2017-2018 fiscal year.



Colleen M. Bridger,
MPH, PhD

Message from the Director

I took my first job as a local health director in rural North Carolina in 1997. In the 20 years since, I’ve never been more proud of work being done by a local health department. The amazing achievements laid out in this annual report reflect Metro Health’s commitment to being the “Chief Health Strategist” for Bexar County and the City of San Antonio. As a result, every single one of these accomplishments happened through partnerships, coalitions, collaborations and incredible teamwork with thousands of people throughout the community. These accomplishments also reflect the tremendous talent, dedication, ingenuity and quite honestly tenacity of the 450+ Metro Health employees working every day to attain our vision of “healthy people thriving in a healthy community.” I am honored to be part of the Metro Health team and appreciate the opportunity to showcase just some of the things we are most proud of this year.

Accomplishments

CityHealth – An initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente, CityHealth regularly evaluates cities on the number and strength of their policies to promote public health. CityHealth awarded the City of San Antonio a Silver medal for its efforts, including Tobacco 21, high-quality universal pre-kindergarten, smoke-free indoor air, complete streets, food safety and restaurant inspection ratings.



TOBACCO 21



Tobacco 21 – The Tobacco 21 Ordinance was passed by the San Antonio City Council on January 11, 2018. San Antonio became the first city in Texas to increase the minimum legal sales age to purchase tobacco products

and e-cigarettes from 18 to 21. The Tobacco 21 ordinance became effective on October 1, 2018. San Antonio now joins more than 330 other cities, counties, and states that, in time, will see a reduction in overall tobacco use and addiction.

Continue Accomplishments on next page ▶



FAST-TRACK CITIES

► *Continued from cover*

I Know My Status Campaign – Metro Health’s STD program achieved a goal of testing 4,000 individuals during STD Awareness Month (April 2018). Designed as a friendly competition among City Council districts, the goal was accomplished by working collaboratively with community partners including the Alamo Area Resource Center, Beat AIDS Coalition, the Center for Health Care Services, San Antonio AIDS Foundation, San Antonio Fighting Back, and University Health System.

Fast-Track Cities– Metro Health led efforts that helped the City of San Antonio join Fast-Track Cities, a global initiative against HIV and AIDS, on Dec. 1, 2017. San Antonio is the first city in Texas to commit to data transparency and public accountability for goals of 90 percent of people with HIV being diagnosed, 90 percent of those diagnosed being in care, and 90 percent of those in care being virally suppressed.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize – San Antonio was a winner of the prestigious 2018 Culture of Health Prize awarded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. San Antonio was nationally recognized for pursuing innovative ideas and bringing partners together to rally around a shared vision of health. San Antonio’s winning application highlighted several citywide efforts to include all-day Pre-K, a municipal court that helped decriminalize truancy statewide, and a wealth of data-driven collaborations for education, teen pregnancy prevention and homelessness.

San Antonio



2018 All-America City Award – Metro Health’s Project Worth team helped the City of San Antonio earn the All-America City award again in 2018. The San Antonio Teen Pregnancy Prevention Collaborative was one of the projects illustrating how San Antonio leverages civic engagement, collaboration, inclusiveness and innovation to successfully address local issues.

Thinking in Broader Public Health Terms

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have a tremendous impact on lifelong health and opportunity. ACEs can be prevented, and people who experience ACEs can heal from that trauma. Metro Health increased awareness about ACEs in the community and what foundational changes can be made to prevent these experiences and increase resilience. Metro Health, in coordination with the City’s Department of Human Services, Pre-K 4 SA and other community organizations, is working to increase knowledge and understanding of trauma as a public health issue. Metro Health’s goal for the near future is for the creation of a trauma informed certification entity that will certify City departments and external organizations.

Trauma-informed Care

Metro Health, in partnership with The Children’s Shelter and Voices for Children, formed the Bexar County Trauma-Informed Care Consortium to gather community partners who are committed to addressing the impact of trauma. The consortium’s ultimate goal is a certified trauma informed Bexar County and the initial priorities included gathering data to understand community needs, connecting with existing coalitions within the community, developing community training and developing an advocacy plan.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Teen births continue to decrease for the eighth consecutive year with the collective effort of the San Antonio Teen Pregnancy Prevention Collaborative. San Antonio's teen birth rate is now lower than the State's. However, to address the high percent of repeat teen births, Metro Health increased youth access to behavioral health counseling through partnerships with Communities in Schools and University Health System resulting in more than 800 counseling sessions contributing to students' academic success, graduation and behavioral success. Project Worth continues to support youth development and healthy relationship building through the DreamSA initiative.

Oral Health

The Oral Health Program continues to provide preventative dental services and case management to school age children. During the 2017-2018 School year, the Oral Health Program evaluated more than 20,000 children across 212 schools and early education settings, and provided urgent case management to 115 children and families.



TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION – DreamSA

Baby Café

Metro Health's Baby Café was selected as a Model Practice by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). The designation was made after a rigorous peer-evaluation process, and means that Baby Café demonstrates exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need. The program reflects a strong local health department role, collaboration, innovation, and has demonstrated its value through evaluation.

Health Equity

The Health Equity Program conducted a departmental assessment, identified and trained staff to become Health Equity Trainers, and developed and implemented a Health Equity 101 Training across the department. Findings of the organizational assessment identified that the organization's stated intention to prioritize health equity must be translated into daily operations and priorities. In addition, Metro Health is working on policy development and accountability, workforce development and recruitment, and staff trainings to increase competencies to address health equity.



BABY CAFÉ

WIC

Metro Health's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program transitioned to a new software system, allowing the program to go paperless and increase flexibility for WIC participants. In addition to providing services at WIC Clinics, services can now be offered at mobile sites (community centers, day cares, Pre-K 4 SA, etc.) to improve client participation in the program.

Obesity

Metro Health continued to work on developing and implementing programs and policies that promote healthy eating and physical activities in workplaces and communities. The Viva Health nutrition education campaign was expanded to educate the community on healthy food and beverage choices, focusing this year on the message "Drink Water, Not Sugary Drinks." Metro Health has also worked to increase access to safe spaces for physical activity and active transportation such as walking and bicycling, and empowering people to advocate for healthy food choices and safe spaces for physical activity within their communities.

Diabetes

Metro Health seeks to reduce the rate of adults diagnosed with diabetes in Bexar County by 2% by 2019. This includes continued work to increase and expand the YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program in community settings with a focus on Latinos and African-Americans and expand Diabetes Prevention and Self-Management Programs to reach adults 55 years of age and under. Metro Health has also continued to serve as the backbone organization for the San Antonio Diabetes Collaborative.

Air Quality

Ozone in the air we breathe can be harmful, especially on hot sunny days when ozone can reach unhealthy levels. People most at risk include those with asthma, children, older adults, and those who are active outdoors, especially outdoor workers. Metro Health is leading the effort to improve Air Quality for the City of San Antonio. This includes working to advance an understanding of ozone formation through air quality analysis using unique innovative graphical analysis for chemical and weather data monitored in San Antonio. This also includes an awareness and education campaign, as well as supporting the implementation of air quality policies.

Bexar County, including the City of San Antonio, was declared in nonattainment for ozone by the Environmental Protection Agency on September 24, 2018. In response, Metro Health formed the “Getting to 70” Ozone Attainment Action Plan working group. The Ozone Attainment Plan will be completed by March 2019 and presented to City Council. The group is focusing on seven areas:

- 1) Ozone Attainment Master Plan
- 2) Communications
- 3) Volkswagon Beneficiary Mitigation Plan
- 4) Current Initiatives/Recommendations
- 5) ID Point Sources & Mitigation
- 6) Business Involvement
- 7) Policy/Advocacy/Funding



The stakeholders include representatives from various City of San Antonio departments, community stakeholders and business groups. The Ozone Attainment Plan will include implementing best practices to improve air quality and reduce ozone levels; developing and implementing stronger policies to reduce local ozone levels; and increasing understanding of local health and economic effects of ground level ozone.

NCAA Final Four Preparedness

In preparation for the 2018 NCAA Final Four events, federal and local coordinating organizations invited Metro Health’s Emergency Preparedness Program to join the Joint Hazardous Assessment Team (JHAT) to assist in public safety planning and response. Metro Health included Food Inspection and Air Monitoring teams to include support from Epidemiology and Laboratory staff. Metro Health assessed food delivery and storage processes at the Alamodome. During the Final Four events, Metro Health conducted 293 food inspections on permanent, temporary, and mobile food establishments within the event area. This also included water sample collections for mobile vending units that were analyzed by Metro Health’s laboratory. The Epidemiology section was on alert monitoring hospital emergency departments for contagious infections, food-borne illnesses, and heat related illnesses.



NACCHO's Promising Practice Award to Healthy Beats Program

Healthy Beats, a program focused on congenital syphilis prevention through case management for pregnant women, received the National Association of City and County Health Officials' (NACCHO) "Promising Practice" award. The program ensures that the women are receiving prenatal care services, syphilis testing early in pregnancy and again in the early third trimester and appropriate treatment prior to delivery, thereby preventing congenital syphilis. Staff also connects women to other much-needed services. To date, 1,036 pregnant women enrolled in the program, resulting in no stillbirths due to congenital syphilis.

STD Clinic Recognition

The Texas Department of State Health Services HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch awarded the "Model Program" designation to Metro Health's STD Public Health Follow-up Team, exemplifying a continuous commitment to providing excellent service through public health follow-up. This team works to prevent the spread of STDs through disease investigations, including testing and interviewing persons infected or suspected of being a sexual partner of someone infected with a STD. This recognition allows the program to serve as a training site for new staff working in public health follow-up throughout Texas.

Tuberculosis

The TB program was busy this past year, conducting nine large contact investigations involving



TB ELIMINATION CHAMPION AWARD

businesses, correctional facilities, shelters, military installations, two high schools and one middle school. The TB Program provided more than 12,200 patient care visits in the community and performed over 2,300 patient assessments at the TB clinic. Special honors in 2018 went to Metro Health's Medicaid 1115 Waiver, TB Breathe Easy South Texas (B.E.S.T.) project, which was recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on March 24, 2018 (World TB Day). The project was noted as a U.S. TB Elimination Champion in the category for expanding testing and treatment. This B.E.S.T. project was the sole recipient in this category in the nation for three years in a row. The B.E.S.T. project also received an Employee Recognition Award on May 23, 2018, for exemplifying the City's CORE Values.

Epidemiological Investigations

The epidemiology program conducted over 3,800 disease investigations for waterborne, foodborne, respiratory and vaccine-

preventable diseases. Noteworthy epidemiological investigations were:

- The largest foodborne outbreak documented in the past 20 years, with over 400 cases associated with a local food establishment.
- Bat exposures in four local schools identifying those exposed and ensured that the post-exposure prophylaxis was provided.
- Investigation to identify potential legionella sources at local gyms and hotels.

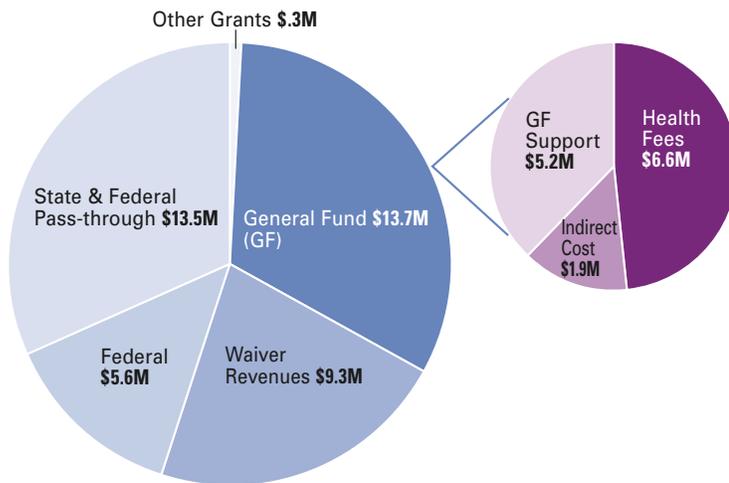
Immunizations

Vaccine-preventable diseases have a costly impact on society, resulting in doctor visits, missed time from work, hospitalizations, and premature deaths. In the past four years, Metro Health saw a 5% increase in vaccination coverage with the combined 7-vaccine series in children 19-35 months of age in Bexar County, from 66.4% in 2014 to 69.7% in 2018. This success was driven by parent and provider education, awareness of services through social media, and increased partnerships and collaborations.

FY 2018 Metro Health Revenues

(Revised Adopted Revenues \$42.3M)

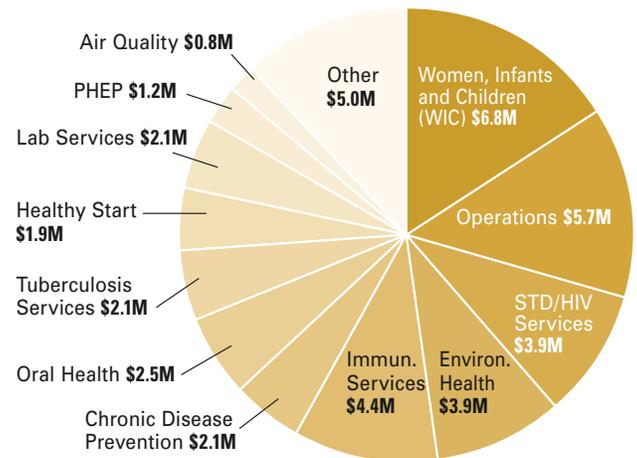
In millions of dollars



FY 2018 Metro Health Expenses

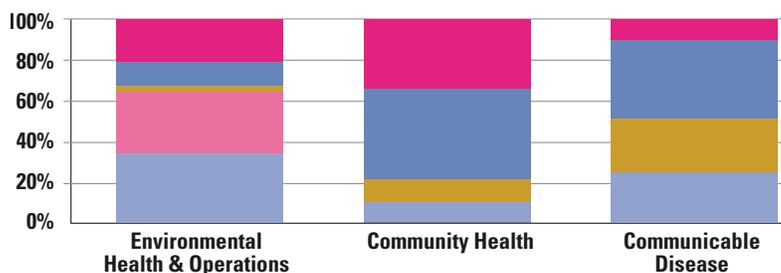
(Revised Adopted Expenses \$42.3M)

In millions of dollars



- Health Fees are generated by programs: Environmental Health, HIV/STD Services, Immunization Services, PCEH Air Quality, and TB Services. These revenues are net of Indirect Cost (1.85M) that are transferred from grants.
- The General Fund supports the Metro Health Department with \$5.2M.

- “Other Grant Funds” include programs such as Oral Health and Chronic Disease Prevention.
- “Other” Expenses include programs such as Director’s Office, Communicable Disease, Teen Pregnancy, Lab Services, Healthy Neighborhoods, Epidemiology, and Stand Up SA.



FY 2018 Metro Health Funding Sources



Leadership

- Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD**, Health Director
- Jennifer Herriott, MPH**, Assistant Director, Community Health Division
- Anita K. Kurian, MBBS, MPH, DrPH**, Assistant Director, Communicable Disease Division
- Mario Martinez, MBA**, Assistant Director, Environmental Health & Operations Division
- Junda Woo, MD, MPH**, Medical Director

Vision

“Healthy people thriving in a healthy community”

Mission

Metro Health exists to prevent illness, promote healthy behaviors, and protect against health hazards throughout our community through education, collaboration, and key services.