



Public Health

2022 ANNUAL
REPORT

Director's Message

As we look back at 2022, we invite you to come along and read through the journey of Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH). For the past two years, public health had focused much of its efforts on the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to acknowledge the hard work the public health staff gave throughout the year and our Tarrant County elected officials, as well as, the community to continually fight against the spread of COVID-19. Our accomplishments would not be possible without these shared efforts and partnerships.

In this report, we share our efforts to show our accountability and the continual commitment to ensuring residents can achieve the highest level of health. We commend the work done to increase the quality of our services, but also the quality of life for our residents in Tarrant County. In fact, last year, our call center received and placed 92,308 phone calls. Lastly, we wanted to showcase new innovations, as well as, innovative partnerships that allowed us to meet the needs of the community.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt thank you to all of the public health staff and leadership in strengthening our ability and commitment to continually serve the Tarrant County community. I am pleased to present to you the 2022 Tarrant County Public Health Annual Report.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veerinder Taneja". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Veerinder (Vinny) Taneja MBBS, MPH
Director, Tarrant County Public Health

Tarrant County Public Health Bureaus

Clinical Services provides direct care to members of the community including testing and treatment of infectious and communicable diseases, childhood, adult, and travel immunizations, and screening of refugees. To increase access, the bureau operates a mobile clinic that goes into the community to provide clinical services.

- **Provided a total of 48,086 vaccinations.**
- **Provided 4,550 appointments for Adult Health Services.**

Disease Control and Prevention is responsible for monitoring and investigating reportable diseases in the community, preventing communicable diseases, and providing laboratory support. Examples of work include responses to Ebola, Zika, COVID-19 and many others.

- **Performed 69,828 lab tests.**
- **Investigated 250,037 communicable disease reports.**

Family Health Services strives to improve the health and well-being of women, infants, children, and families across the life span. Family Health Services provides prevention and education services focused in the areas of maternal, child, and adolescent health, chronic disease, and health equity. The bureau operates Tarrant County WIC, a nutrition program for pregnant, new mothers, infants, and children up to age 5 that teaches their participants to eat well, learn about nutrition, and stay healthy.

- **Provided COVID vaccination information to more than 57,000 county residents.**
- **Conducted 441,736 WIC visits.**

Fiscal Management provides support and assistance to all public health programs regarding funds, grants, contracts, revenue cycle management, inventory, human resources, and customer service. Fiscal services run the community health access program, which assists community members in obtaining access to health insurance and other social services/safety-net programs.

- **Screened 3,478 clients for participation in new CHA program.**
- **Managed 53 grants totaling \$33,892,153.**

Health Protection and Response which includes Environmental Health, provides inspections of food service locations such as restaurants and mobile food trucks, public and semi-public pools, and septic systems for compliance with current laws. Vector Control staff routinely trap and identify mosquitoes for surveillance of West Nile Virus. The bureau prepares plans for public health emergencies response, provides education outreach for personal preparedness, and maintains a Medical Reserve Corps of volunteers to aid in response.

- **Applied 140 larvicide applications in unincorporated areas of Tarrant County.**
- **Inspected 5,676 food establishments.**

Accountability

With the intentional effort to improve health disparities in Tarrant County, Public Health's (TCPH) newly-formed Tarrant County Unity Council kicked off 2022 with its first meeting to address those disparities. Attending that first meeting were 53 Tarrant County-based organizations representing the housing, transportation, communication, education, criminal justice and policing sectors of the county. These meetings will help push and track improvements in health disparities across the board.



In another first, TCPH began its "Mancave Talks," an annual event offering a gamut of health information critical to men's health specifically to an audience of men. The first event successfully hosted 80 men, and was featured in the Fort Worth Report. In recognition of "Mancave Talks," Tarrant County Commissioner Roy C. Brooks issued a public proclamation declaring June as Men's Health Month in Tarrant County and highlighting the need for such events.

Also in 2022 the CDC COVID-19 Disparities Grant project funded 11 sub-recipient TCPH partner organizations to help address COVID health disparities. Through these efforts and partnerships, the University of Texas at Arlington was able to create their first Spanish-language news story focused on "Long COVID," which was broadcasted on Univision. The Healthy Tarrant County Collaboration's Stop Six Community Corps members had made a total of 19,756 contacts with community members to provide information regarding COVID prevention, treatment and vaccination.

In late summer, an unexpected outbreak of monkeypox (Mpox) took place. Within a week after receiving an allocated allotment of the scarce Mpox vaccine, TCPH was able to establish a clinic to vaccinate for Mpox. It should be noted that TCPH mobilized multiple resources:

- Epidemiology set up testing for people exhibiting Mpox symptoms
- TCPH's Medical Reserve Corps provided volunteers to assist with this clinic
- Experienced Public Health nurses administered the vaccine, and
- TCPH's newly formed Call Center worked with Epidemiology to help triage high-risk community members and those who were symptomatic.

This effort was an effective show of internal team work that successfully addressed --and stopped-- a potentially high-risk infectious disease from spreading in Tarrant County.

Quality

The Disease Surveillance, Outreach, and Prevention team --one of our newest efforts to fight infectious diseases-- was one of 13 "Ending the HIV Epidemic" jurisdictions selected to participate in an 18-month cohort with the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors' inaugural Partner Services Learning Collaborative. The collaborative assists in modernizing HIV/STI disease intervention/field services.

The Nurse-Family Partnership program, which pairs new expecting mothers with experienced nurses, graduated 35 participants in 2022. The program helps prepare new mothers to better care for their personal health during their pregnancy, and to help these young mothers take care of their newborns. The nurses work with the new moms as they adjust to motherhood and help them until their babies reach age 2. Not only does this program positively improve infant mortality rates, it also bolsters better health outcomes for both newborns and their mothers.

Another program that also improves infant mortality rates is the nationally known, Woman, Infants and Children (WIC) program. The Tarrant County WIC program saw its participation steadily increase over the past year. In 2022, Tarrant County WIC provided benefits to 383,794 clients --an increase of 9,304 participants from 2021. There was also an increase of 4,038 women breastfeeding while participating in the program, bringing the total to 56,427 women breastfeeding as compared to 52,389 in 2021. Breastfeeding has been shown to be the healthiest way to improve a baby's overall development.



Sexually transmitted diseases continually plague society. TCPH specifically addresses this through free, ongoing educational outreach, low or no-cost screenings and affordable treatments available at two Adult Health Services (AHS) clinics. In 2022, these clinics handled 6,038 appointments. The North Texas Regional Laboratory (NTRL), also part of TCPH, provides STD testing services for the AHS clinics. Last year, approximately 29,634 lab specimens from the AHS clinics were given to NTRL to test. Having a laboratory as part of TCPH operations greatly improves testing speed, resulting in prompt test results reporting, which allows our clients to act quicker to protect their personal health.

Tuberculosis (TB) continues to cause more deaths worldwide than any other infectious disease. If left untreated, TB can be very infectious and fatal. TCPH's TB Elimination program continues to monitor,

test and treat incidents of TB in Tarrant County whenever they arise. Last year, our TB clinic received 5,276 visits and ran 6,864 lab tests with NTRL.

Many places around the world lack basic public health infrastructure. In cooperation with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, TCPH maintains a refugee clinic to provide displaced people from around the world who plan to settle in Tarrant County. The clinic provides these people screenings for general health --especially tuberculosis, along with nutrition education and important vaccinations. In 2022, this clinic screened 3,317 people, administered 6,007 vaccine doses and sent 11,451 specimens to the NTRL for further testing. Helping new residents adjust to their new life in Tarrant County greatly improves their chances to maintain healthy lives and adopt healthy lifestyles.

Innovation



In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic it was discovered that a significant portion of the county population had not been able to get COVID-19 vaccine because of transportation issues. Responding to this, Public Health partnered with Trinity Metro; and as a result, the TCPH VaxMobile --a vaccination clinic on wheels-- was born. This joint effort brought the COVID-19 vaccine to communities not directly served by any health agency. Previously unvaccinated community members were able to get their first, second, third and other booster COVID-19 doses at scheduled VaxMobile appearances in their respective neighborhoods. During that time, the VaxMobile visited 25

locations throughout Tarrant County, and a total of 721 adults and children were vaccinated before the 2022-2023 school year began.

Among the innovations implemented within the department in 2022, was a new laboratory testing capability. The new HIV-1 NAAT test, put into place by the NTRL, resolved previously discrepant in-house HIV-1 laboratory testing results and reduced lab testing turnaround time and costs. Globally, HIV-1 is the most common HIV disease type.

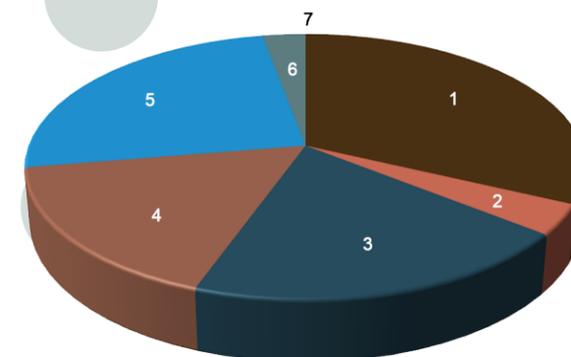
Another innovation was an inter-departmental cross-collaboration with WIC program and the new Public Health Call Center. By the end of 2022, WIC had trained four call center agents. With the help of this additional trained staff, WIC client wait times dropped from an average one - two hour wait, to 30 minutes or less.

Perhaps one of the best innovations implemented in 2022 was a multi-agency partnership between TCPH, the Fort Worth Fire Department, Refugee Services of Texas, Catholic Charities and the City of Fort Worth regarding the set-up of a one-day clinic to assist refugees and their children to receive mandatory vaccines for attending school in Texas. A total of 118 individuals were vaccinated and 69 individuals applied for Tarrant County WIC services. This was the first time such an unusual, but successful, partnership had been attempted by Public Health.

Department Measures

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--|----------|---------|----------|
| Communicable disease reports investigated | 181,151* | 259,245 | 250,037* |
| Milk and dairy lab tests performed | 15,637 | 16,419 | 14,662 |
| Water lab tests performed | 17,171 | 16,579 | 16,995 |
| Pregnancy tests & referrals | 130 | 42 | 1,049 |
| WIC - visits | 460,414 | 453,744 | 441,736 |
| Nurse-Family Partnership graduates | 36 | 49 | 35 |
| Health education - health events, presentations | 56 | 384 | 1,395 |
| Health education - referrals | 4,300 | 25,831 | 57,380 |
| Public Health Call Center - calls handled*** | --- | --- | 92,308 |
| Flu shots provided | 10,536 | 5,974 | 7,117 |
| Other Immunizations provided | 29,858 | 360,568 | 48,086 |
| Travel Health Services immunizations provided | 740 | 1,318 | 1,544 |
| New HIV cases reported | 492 | 388 | 403 |
| STD clinic visits | 4,411 | 6,038 | 4,550 |
| STD disease intervention, field investigations | 1,210 | 1,694 | 1,395* |
| Clinical lab tests performed | 38,706 | 69,828 | 86,976 |
| HIV/STD cases investigated, partners notified** | 484 | 677 | 428 |
| Preventive Medicine Clinic (PMC) HIV care caseload | 800 | 808 | 800 |
| PMC clinic visits | 5,308 | 4,464 | 6,789 |
| TB clinic visits | 4,342 | 5,276 | 5,843 |
| TB contacts screened as part of disease intervention investigation | 369 | 193 | 198 |
| TB cases in Tarrant County | 71 | 61 | 52 |
| Percent of foreign-born TB cases | 72 | 89 | 84 |
| Suspected TB cases treated preventively | 28 | 29 | 29 |
| HIV co-infections (cases only) | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| Drug-resistant cases (TB) | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Directly Observed Therapy doses administered in the field (TB) | 10,729 | 8,728 | 5,489 |
| Directly Observed Preventive Therapy doses administered (TB) | 1,802 | 1,419 | 1,054 |
| Total on therapy (TB) | 94 | 90 | 81 |
| Total with latent TB infection | 116 | 582 | 483 |
| Medical Reserve Corps volunteer hours | 3,098 | 8,378 | 154 |
| Food establishment inspections | 6,781 | 6,487 | 5,676 |
| Swimming pool inspections | 849 | 1,005 | 712 |
| Onsite sewage facilities permitted | 320 | 307 | 376 |
| Mosquito pools tested for WNV | 5,803 | 5,789 | 6,393 |

* estimate based on provisional data | ** estimated data | ***new measure



FUNDING SOURCES 2022

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. 1115 Waiver Funds | \$38,183,173 |
| 2. State Grants | \$4,388,149 |
| 3. Local Government Funds | \$23,694,390 |
| 4. 340B Funds | \$20,132,092 |
| 5. Federal Grants | \$29,504,004 |
| 6. Local Fees | \$3,453,950 |
| 7. Local Private Funds | \$797 |
| TOTAL: | \$119,356,555 |

Stay in the know with Tarrant County Public Health alerts. Choose the type of information and whether you receive alerts by text, call, and/or email. Sign up at www.tarrantcounty.com/tcph-han

The Tarrant County Public Health Call Center can help to schedule appointments, answer questions, and connect you with public health resources, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call **817-248-6299**.

For WIC appointments and applications, call **817-321-5400**.

Learn facts about COVID-19, find testing sites and vaccine locations, and learn about how to stay healthy at VaxUpTC.com

The Community Health Access program can help community members apply for insurance and other social services/safety-net programs such as housing, financial assistance, food and more. Call **817-321-4729**.

Stay connected on social media with Tarrant County Public Health:

Facebook & Instagram: [@TarrantCountyPublicHealth](https://www.facebook.com/TarrantCountyPublicHealth)

Twitter: [@TCPHTweets](https://twitter.com/TCPHTweets)

Youtube: [Tarrant County Public Health](https://www.youtube.com/TarrantCountyPublicHealth)



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