

# San Antonio Metropolitan Health District Department Overview



*METRO HEALTH*  
SAN ANTONIO'S PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM

## **San Antonio Metropolitan Health District**

### **Mission**

To provide leadership and services for San Antonio and Bexar County to prevent illness and injury, promote healthy behaviors, and protect against health hazards.

### **Vision**

Optimal health for our community and a healthful environment

### **Background**

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) is the single public agency charged by State Law, City Code, and County Resolution with the responsibility for public health programs in San Antonio and the unincorporated areas of Bexar County. Public Health, as defined by the U.S. Public Health Service, is charged to provide the following services:

- Prevent epidemics and the spread of disease;
- Protect against environmental hazards;
- Prevent injuries;
- Promote and encourage healthy behaviors;
- Respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery; and
- Assure the quality and accessibility of health services.

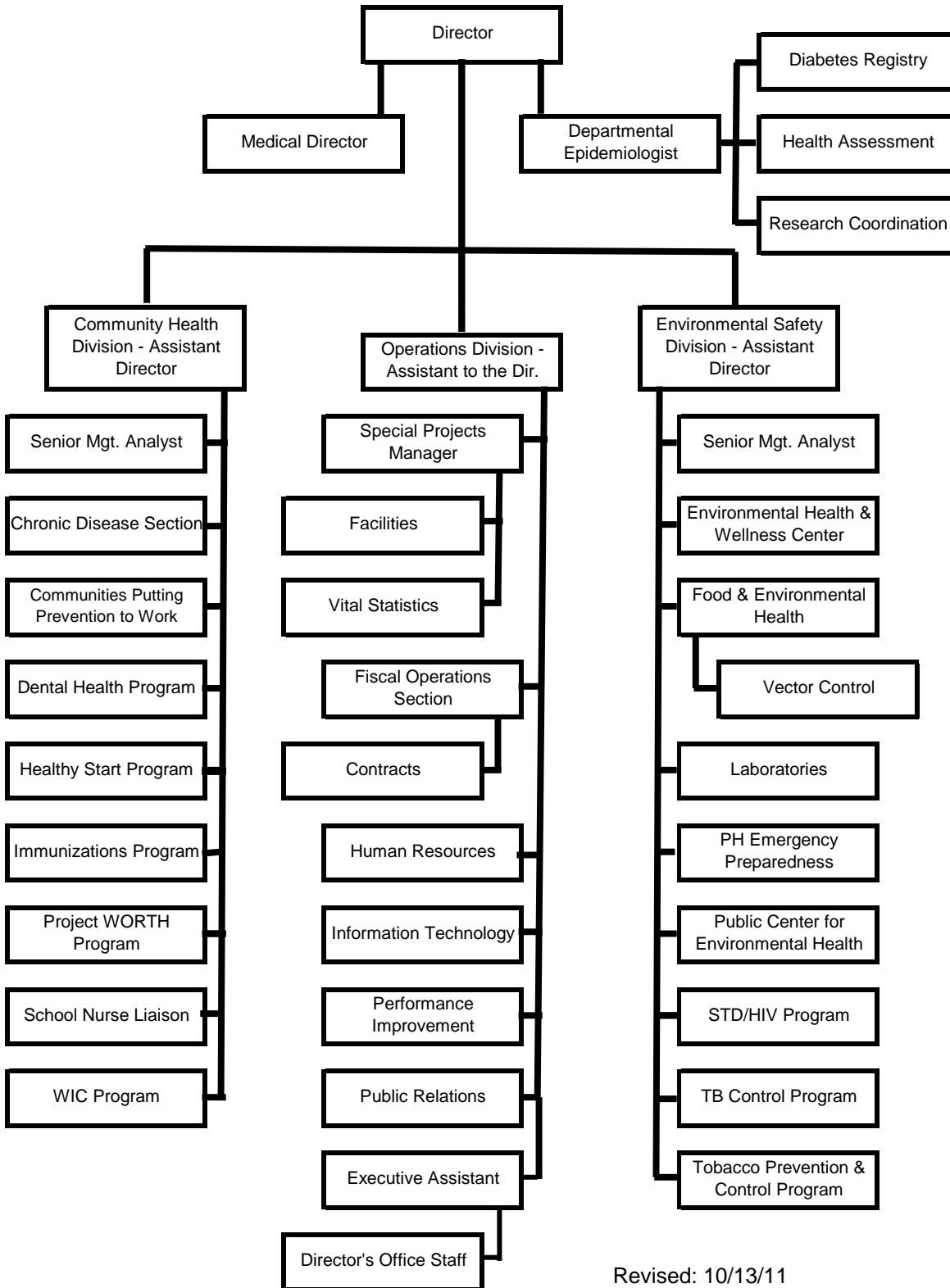
Metro Health activities include: preventive health services; health code enforcement; clinical services; environmental monitoring; disease control; health education; dental health; maintenance and sale of birth and death certificates; emergency planning and response for natural and manmade disasters; and regulatory functions. Changing needs and emerging trends require the Health District to continually rethink how to best serve the community.

### **Structure**

The Director of Health serves as the top executive employee of Metro Health and is the Health Authority for Bexar County. As Health Authority the Director is charged with administering state and local laws pertaining to public health within the district. The Director, in consultation with the City Council and City Manager, sets public health priorities, and guides the overall District activities.

Metro Health is divided into three divisions: Community Health, Administration and Operations, and Environmental Health. Each Division is led by an Assistant Director or Assistant to the Director.

**San Antonio Metropolitan Health District  
Organization Chart - FY 2012**



Revised: 10/13/11

## **Community Health**

### **Chronic Disease Programs**

The Chronic Disease Prevention Program was created in 2009 to tie together the efforts and resources of new and existing projects focused on chronic disease prevention and wellness promotion.

#### **San Antonio Community Diabetes Project**

This community focused project strives to build greater capacity for diabetes education and self-management in San Antonio. The project targets diabetics, pre-diabetics and their families/caregivers in San Antonio. The program is led by a program coordinator who works with community partners and volunteers. A major focus of this project is conducting diabetes self-management classes, using the Stanford University curriculum. Classes are offered in community-based settings and are offered in English and Spanish.

#### **Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities Project**

Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the project will increase the opportunities for physical activity and access to healthy foods for children and families in San Antonio's Westside and throughout the community. Interventions focus on policy, environmental and systems changes that include prioritized green space improvements for increased community physical activity, implementing Healthy Hubs community development concept, promoting voluntary implementation of healthier restaurant options as well as healthier options at local corner stores. Metro Health works with several organizations to leverage the resources necessary to implement the interventions.

### **Communities Putting Prevention to Work**

This CDC funded prevention and wellness initiative supports public health efforts to reduce obesity, increase physical activity, and improve nutrition—critical activities for combating chronic disease and promoting health. The program was awarded \$15.6 million over two years to boost San Antonio's efforts to become a healthier city and includes community-wide physical activity events, improving the outdoor environment, expanding access to healthy food choices in schools, and increasing opportunities for the public to use recreational and fitness facilities at no cost.

### **Dental Health**

The Dental Health Services Program offers oral health diagnosis, treatment, and counseling for economically disadvantaged children, adolescents, and adults in Bexar County. In collaboration with the San Antonio District Dental Society, the program is able to offer preventative fluoride treatment and sealant protection to a number of children through the use of a Mobile Dental Clinic throughout San Antonio who might otherwise not receive necessary dental care.

### **Healthy Start**

The San Antonio Healthy Start program is designed to provide community based services to disadvantaged pregnant women in an effort to decrease infant mortality and improve birth outcomes. Launched in March 2002, Healthy Start provides home visits which deliver case management, outreach,

health education, and depression screening referrals through a child's second birthday. Although the services of this program are available for anyone in the Metro area, the major focus for our outreach are young and economically disadvantaged families which lie within the 15 zip code areas with the highest infant mortality rates.

### **Immunizations**

This program provides vaccine to medical providers through the "Vaccines for Children" program as well as immunization clinics for children and adults to control the threat from vaccine preventable conditions in Bexar County. Additionally the Immunization Program partners with other agencies, such as, WIC, daycare centers and Head start and school districts to ensure vaccination rates remain sufficient to prevent widespread disease outbreaks. Routine immunizations are given during scheduled clinic days and mass vaccination events when necessary. The Immunization Services Program maintains an Immunization Registry for Bexar County residents and coordinates vaccine preventable disease surveillance activity using dedicated epidemiology staff to report coverage and incidence data to the State and Federal registries.

### **Project WORTH**

Project Working on Real Teen Health (WORTH) functions to help San Antonio and Bexar County young people make healthy, mature choices, especially those related postponing pregnancy. The program focuses on both parents and teens through emphasizing abstinence, parent/teen communication, STD awareness, and overall responsibility for one's own actions. Currently, Project WORTH provides annual teen conferences on STD/HIV, peer pressure and total teen issues. WORTH also develops new programs to increase awareness of the effects of pregnancy on teen lives, such as the well-received "Me Now. . . Baby Later" campaign.

### **School Nurse Liaison**

Area schools have the resources and expertise of Metro Health at their fingertips through the School Health Liaison. This public health nurse coordinates the delivery of public health updates to schools and serves as a consultant for school districts and childcare facilities. The school liaison works with educational institutions to promote positive health outcomes among students, families and staff. As a member of several local districts' School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs), the school liaison provides guidance on health and wellness issues including nutrition, physical activity and health education.

### **Tobacco Prevention & Control Project**

The San Antonio Tobacco Prevention & Control Coalition (SA-TPCC) is a multi-organization partnership funded by a grant from the Texas Department of State Health Services to deliver tobacco prevention and control programs. The target audience is youth and adults in Bexar County. In partnership with the Metro Health, SA-TPCC strives to maintain an active, diverse membership to educate the public, train health care providers, build community partnerships, promote cessation and prevent tobacco initiation, counter the tobacco industry's deceptive marketing practices, create a speakers bureau with tobacco experts. The coalition also promotes smoke-free policies and worksites. Our mission is to improve the health of all Bexar County residents by promoting a smoke-free environment and prevention and cessation of tobacco use.

## **WIC**

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutrition education, nutritious foods, breastfeeding promotion and support, and health care referrals to qualified pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children under the age of five throughout Bexar County. When needed, WIC also serves as a referral agency for other health and social agencies such as AFDC, Food Stamps, Medicaid, and other Metro Health services. In October 2009, the Texas WIC Nutrition Program underwent major revisions to allow new foods as well as to change some of those currently provided. These modifications were made to align the food packages with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and to promote the infant feeding guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

## **Administration and Operations**

### **Special Projects Manager Facilities**

Metro Health manages approximately 127,000 square feet of City owned and leased space in 27 facilities throughout San Antonio. The Health Facilities Section provides custodial and building maintenance functions for City owned structures as well as mail courier services between all Metro Health locations. Additionally the section manages building maintenance contracts and logistics for each City owned facility.

### **Vital Statistics**

This section is the official local repository of birth and death certificates for Bexar County, and compiles and forwards annual birth and death data to the State Registrar. From one central location and five Community Link Customer Service Centers, certified copies of these documents can be provided to qualified applicants. In 2010, Metro Health was recognized as a State 5-Star Award recipient for exemplary vital registry services.

### **Fiscal Operations & Contracts**

The Fiscal Operations Section provides financial, accounting, purchasing and contract support services for all Health Department programs and activities. The Health Department currently administers nearly \$29.3 million dollars in grants through 51 separate contracts with Federal, State, and private agencies.

### **Information Technology**

This section supports the department's information technology infrastructure needs including operation and maintenance of 11 proprietary database tracking systems, IT project management, as well as mobile, desktop and telecommunication support. Additionally, this unit ensures that staff is trained to operate these systems, that software is maintained and updated as revisions become available, and that hardware is serviced and replaced on a consistent and timely basis.

### **Performance Improvement**

Metro Health is one of 80 recipients nationwide selected to receive federal funding to enhance public health's infrastructure and strengthen the public health workforce. The funding makes many goals

possible, including a performance improvement program to develop department and community-wide strategic plans for health improvement. In addition, Metro Health created a public health dashboard to collect and report important health statistics, build an internal performance management process, and supplement staff training in best practices and quality assurance/improvement techniques.

## **Public Relations**

The public relations office serves as a point of contact for media outlets and the general public seeking information about the department's work and impact on San Antonio's public health. Press releases are distributed from this office to make public announcements and share information. In addition, public relations produce a bilingual monthly health show, which airs on the City's TV channel. This office also works with all SAMHD divisions and programs to craft a positive public image of the department.

## **Environmental Health**

### **Environmental Health & Wellness Center**

The EHWC Area is supported by two federal grants. The San Antonio Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (SACLPPP) which provides funds to reduce the burden of illness from childhood lead poisoning in San Antonio through education, case management and referrals. The program helps families of children with lead poisoning by identifying resources for follow-up treatment, case management, education and support. Additionally, the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) supports environmental health services in targeted communities in San Antonio. This program provides comprehensive health education classes for the community focusing on lifestyle choices as well as home based environmental screening services using the Healthy Homes approach in homes near the former Kelly AFB community.

### **Food & Environmental Health**

The activities of this section include monitoring and ensuring a healthy environment for the residents and visitors of Bexar County. Environmental Health staff inspects food establishments, mobile living parks, and public swimming pools for conditions which may lead to injury or illness. The Food Sanitation Section employees 41 sanitarians that inspect each San Antonio food establishment on an annual basis, as well as monitor and inspect mobile and temporary food establishments. The section investigates complaints such as illegal dumping, water borne illness, sewage spills, and other public health threats as well.

### **Vector Control**

Vector borne diseases, primarily spread through mosquitoes and rodents, are controlled on public property through the use of integrated pest management systems and source reduction techniques. This division also eliminates bee infestations on public property as necessary.

### **Laboratories**

The Laboratory Services Branch provides much needed analytical support for various public health programs in the greater San Antonio metro area. The laboratory is conglomeration of 10 testing areas that may serve different functions for a variety of customers and regulatory agencies in a 29 county

region and beyond. The areas are divided into five sections, including consumer microbiology and testing, infectious disease surveillance, bioterrorism /influenza surveillance operations (BSL-3 lab), rabies analysis, and food surveillance.

### **Public Health Emergency Preparedness**

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) is an all Hazards readiness section charged with coordinating the public health response to any disaster affecting Bexar County and the region. This section was formed in 2006 in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and has since coordinated major shelter events for Hurricanes Dolly, Gustav, and Ike. In addition to 24 hour emergency shelter and triage support to weather related events, the PHEP division trains and prepares for public health response to a broad range of emergency scenarios including biological, chemical, radiological, and emerging infectious disease emergencies likely to cause public panic and/or social disruption.

### **Public Center for Environmental Health**

The purpose of the Public Center for Environmental Health (PCEH) is to link environment and health. PCEH projects are planned in support of its mission, which is to conduct scientific evaluations directed toward health impacts from potential exposure to environmental contaminants. Efforts are made to consider recommendations and other input from the community. A number of projects have occurred directly as a result of the community's request. The PCEH represents Metro Health on the Air Technical Committee of the Alamo Area Council of Government, Kelly Restoration Advisory Board, Superfund Advisory Committee for Leon Valley Superfund Site, BioWatch Advisory Committee, and Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan Agency Oversight Group.

### **STD/HIV Control**

The HIV/STD Clinic program offers confidential testing and treatment for the most common sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV testing. Referral to early intervention case management programs is provided for those who need it. A segment of the staff is also dedicated to field investigations for timely partner notification and disease intervention. Patients are seen on both walk-in and appointment basis.

### **TB Control**

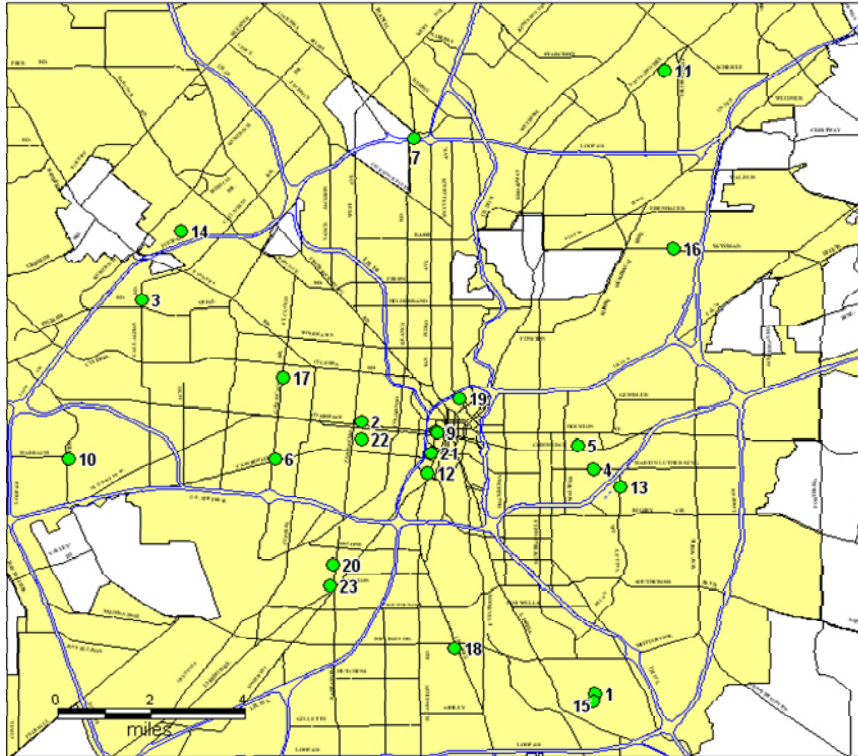
The Tuberculosis (TB) Program operates a clinic for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of tuberculosis in high risk populations. The Clinic utilizes Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) field staff, which delivers daily doses of prescribed TB medications to hard to reach patients including undocumented immigrants, methadone users, Jail inmates as well as the homeless.

## Key Staff Directory

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## Service Location Map

# San Antonio Metropolitan Health District Service Locations and Facilities



- 1 BSL3 lab
- 2 Buena Vista Clinic
- 3 Callaghan Clinic
- 4 Dorle Miller Clinic
- 5 Eastside Clinic
- 6 Env. Health & Wellness Center
- 7 Goodw II Store
- 8 Immunization Clinic
- 9 Main Health Department
- 10 Marbach Clinic
- 11 Neco-Perrin Center
- 12 One Stop Center
- 13 Pecan Valley Clinic
- 14 Popping Clinic
- 15 Public Center for Env. Health
- 16 Rittiman Clinic
- 17 Salinas Clinic
- 18 South Flores Clinic
- 19 T.B.Clinic
- 20 Vector Control
- 21 Vital Records Office
- 22 WIC Admin Bulding
- 23 Zarzamora Clinic

**San Antonio Metropolitan Health District**

Service Locations					Service Locations				
	Council District	Facility Name	Facility Location	Services Provided		Council District	Facility Name	Facility Location	Services Provided
1	5	Buena Vista WIC Clinic	2315 Buena Vista 78207	WIC	9	10	Naco-Perrin Clinic	4020 Naco-Perrin Boulevard	WIC
2	7	Callaghan WIC Clinic	4412 Callaghan 78228	WIC	10	2	Pecan Valley WIC Clinic	802 Pecan Valley Dr. 78220	WIC
3	1	City Chest Clinic	814 McCullough Ave. 78215	TB Diagnosis, Treatment, Casefinding	11	1	Popping Drive WIC Clinic	5055 Popping Drive	WIC
4	2	Dorie Miller WIC Clinic	2802 Martin L. King Dr. 78220	WIC	12	2	Rittiman WIC Clinic	4343 Rittiman Rd. 78218	WIC
5	9	Goodwill Store	727 NE Loop 410 78227	Imm	13	5	Salinas Clinic	630 S. Gen. McMullen 78237	WIC
6	1	Immunization Clinic	345 W. Commerce 78205	Imm	14	3	South Flores WIC Clinic	6723 S. Flores, Suite 106	WIC
7	1	Main Health Department	332 W. Commerce 78205	Administration, HIV, STD	15	1	Vital Statistics Office	719 S. Santa Rosa	Birth & Death Certificates
8	6	Marbach WIC Clinic	7452 Military Dr. W 78227	WIC	16	5	Zarzamora Clinic	4503 S. Zarzamora 78211	WIC