

PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATION

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<http://www.sanantonio.gov/health/>

Essential Public Health Functions

- Monitor health status of community
- Investigate health problems in community
- Surveillance of infectious and chronic diseases
- Forge community partnerships
- Develop health policy & support planning
- Enforce health code & regulations
- Link people to appropriate health resources
- Assure a competent public health workforce
- Support public health research & innovation

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

- San Antonio has 20 large hospitals and some smaller hospitals that comprise over 6,000 beds.
- Disease surveillance activities are maintained 24/7, communicating with
 - medical clinics
 - ED's
 - local hospital labs (bacterial & viral)
 - Report unusual or clustering of pathogens to HD
 - State Health Department

Communication/Coordination

- During outbreaks the health department's surveillance activities can give local blood banks an idea of when, where and to what degree an outbreak is occurring
 - Public health surveillance system inform blood bank of beginning and end of flu season
 - Relies on our prevalence data of local HCV, HIV, STD prevalence data
- Outbreaks of infectious diseases e.g. Hep-A, CA-MRSA
- Prevalence of Rabies
 - Important in tissue donation
- Returning GIs with increase of Leishmaniasis, Malaria, and on occasion Chagas' disease
- Inform about changing patterns of diseases

Communication/Coordination (con't)

- Supply information on high risk patients and population demographics
 - SARS
 - Importations
- Assess supply and demand for blood and blood products
- Host / promote local blood drives

Communication/Coordination (con't)

- Monitor refugee population
- Our local blood bank is involved in disaster planning committees
- HD is member of RMOOC (Regional Medical Operation Center) response plan
 - RMOOC functions during emergencies:
 - Coordination center for regional hospitals
 - Monitor citywide hospital diversion
 - Monitor bed usage
 - Monitor number of medications, ventilators, staff
 - Coordinates with City EOC

Strengths

- Recent Federal Public Health Preparedness grants have helped planning efforts
 - SNS (Strategic National Stockpile)
 - Mass vaccination clinics identified
 - LRN (Laboratory Response Network)
 - Labs across the nation are now linked allowing for rapid communication of information on emerging pathogens
- Allowed funding for Level 3 bio-laboratories

Strengths

- Increased community involvement
 - Disaster planning committee meet regularly
 - Public Health now recognized as a first responder
- Communication with other agencies (Police, Fire, EMS,) during emergencies via wireless communication devices
 - Blackberry
 - City's wireless communication

Weakness

- Health departments in general have little surge capacity
- Usually working with limited local funding
- Staff turnover
- Keeping up with changing technology
 - Still lack some rapid testing technology
 - Identification of influenza
 - H5N1 vs. H2N3 etc
 - Identification of an array of diseases during “Undefined Window Period”

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATION

CASE STUDY:

- South Texas Regional Blood & Tissue Center performed about 138,000 donation in 2004 and 35,000 in 2005
- Last year 2,262 units were not used for transfusion
- There is a deferral period for some live viruses vaccines (MMR, Smallpox etc)
- CJD
 - Travelers to Europe for extended stay
 - Many of San Antonio's large military population are not eligible

South Texas Blood & Tissue Center

2004 DATA

HIV1-2	129	HCV	236
HTLV I & II	226	Syphilis	195
HBSAg	26	WNV	3
HBCab	743	ALT	704