

Texas HSEES and the Texas LEPCs

Overview

In 2000, Texas HSEES made presentations to 3 LEPCS:

- Harris County (Houston)
- Dallas County (Dallas)
- Nueces County (Corpus Christi)

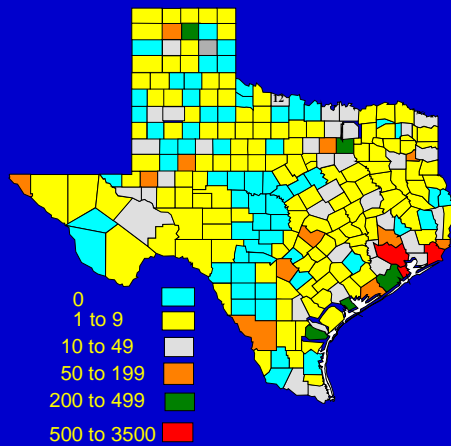
Presentations covered information specifically related to each area of the state.

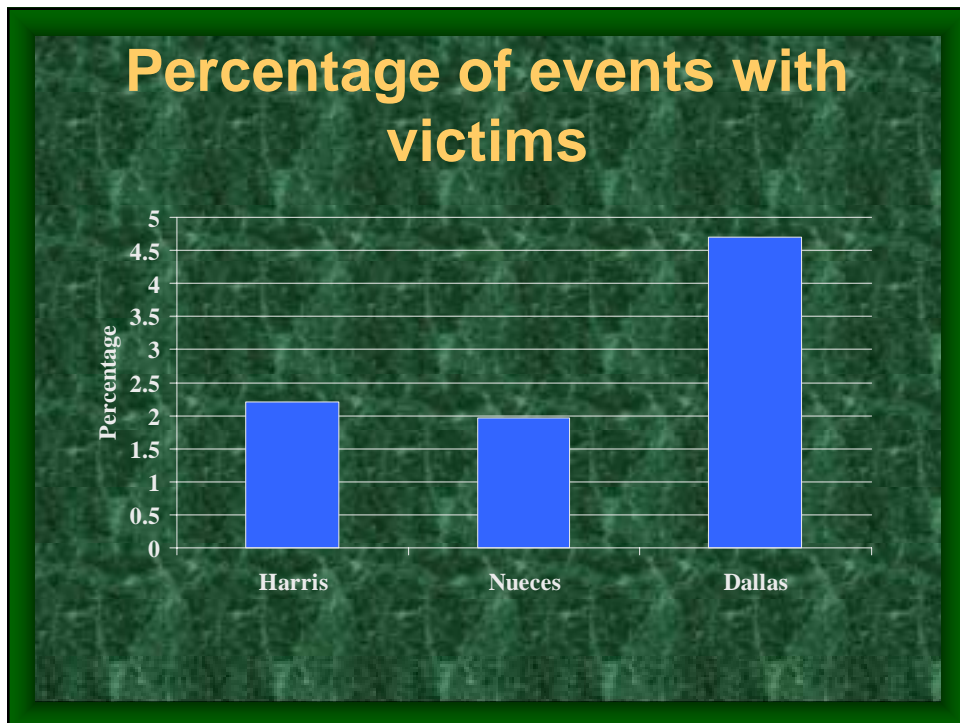
Overview

Slide presentations included information on:

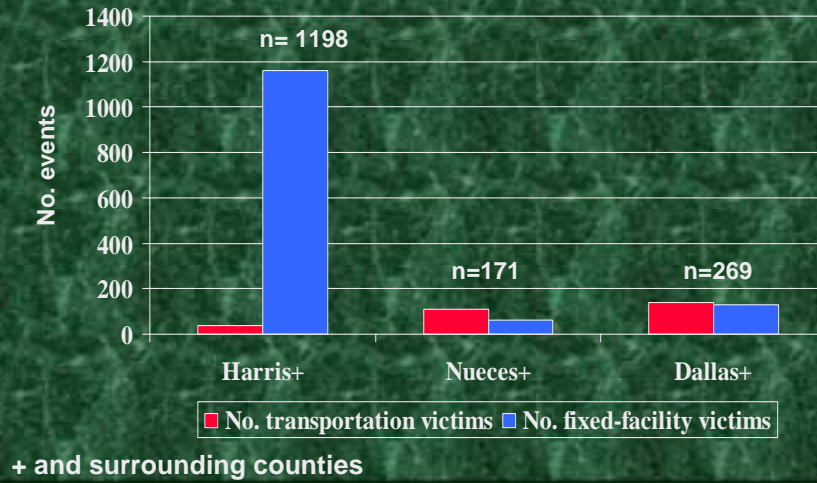
- number of fixed-facility and transportation events
- comparison to statewide numbers
- zip code maps to show geographic patterns
- number of events involving victims
- victim information
- chemical information
- type of industries in the area

Number of reported events by county,
Texas HSEES 1993 - 1997

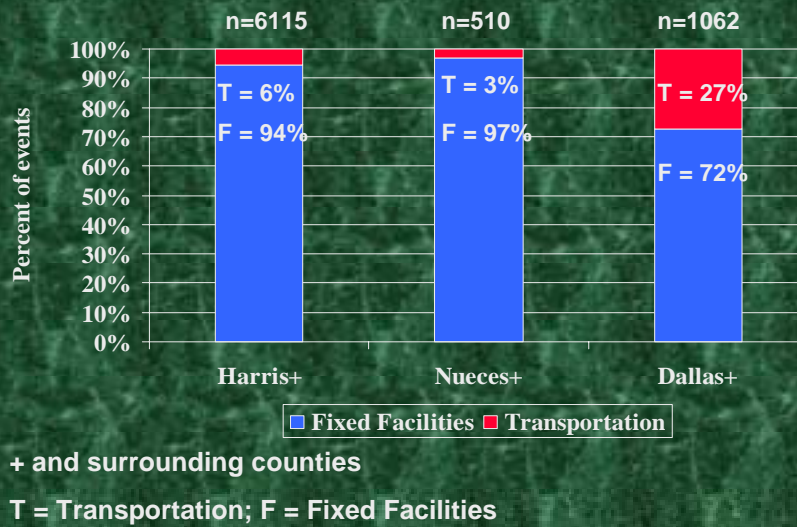




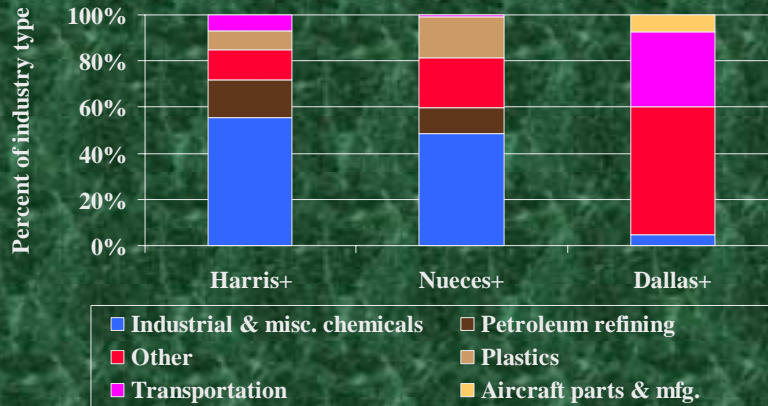
Number of victims by event type



Type of event by percent



Comparison of events by industry type



+ and surrounding counties

Harris County (Houston) LEPC

In January 2000, approximately 25 people attended:

- **50% local industry and industry hazmat teams;** and
- 50% other, including local government, Houston Fire Department Hazmat team, health care community, academia, and members of the general public.

Harris County (Houston) LEPC

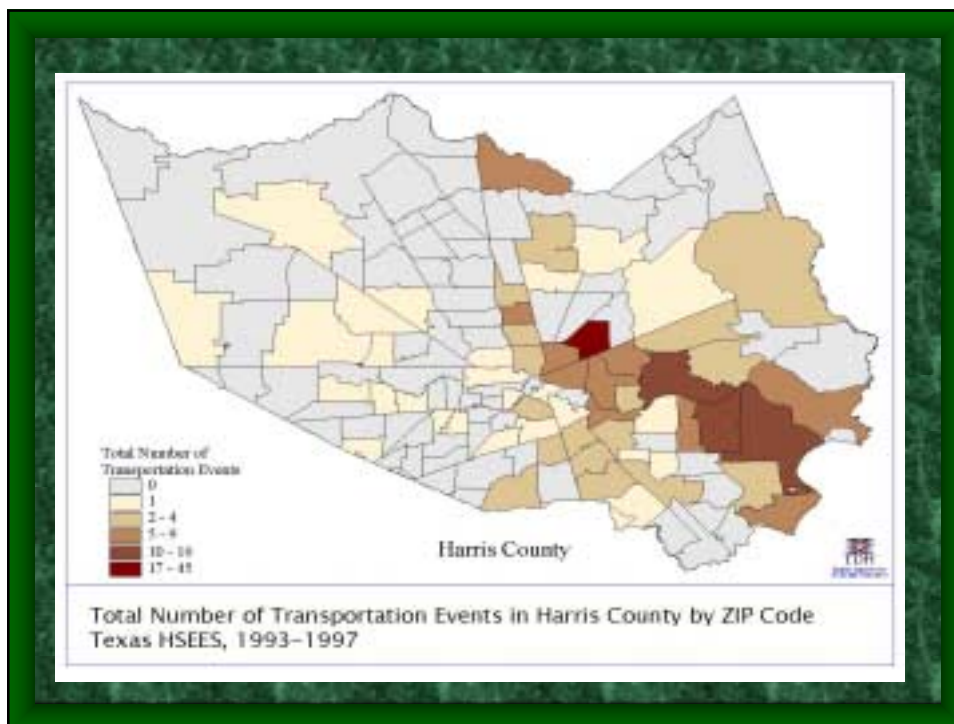
Targeted area because:

- From 1993 – 1997, 62% of all events occurred in Harris and surrounding counties.
- Harris County, alone, had 3396 events with 110 events involving 502 victims.
- Other counties surrounding Harris had 2719 events with 25 events involving 696 victims.
- Houston metropolitan area is the largest in Texas.

Harris County (Houston) LEPC

This is the most highly industrialized area of Texas.

This area also has a large volume and variety of transportation events, including ground, water, rail, and air transportation events.



Harris County (Houston) LEPC

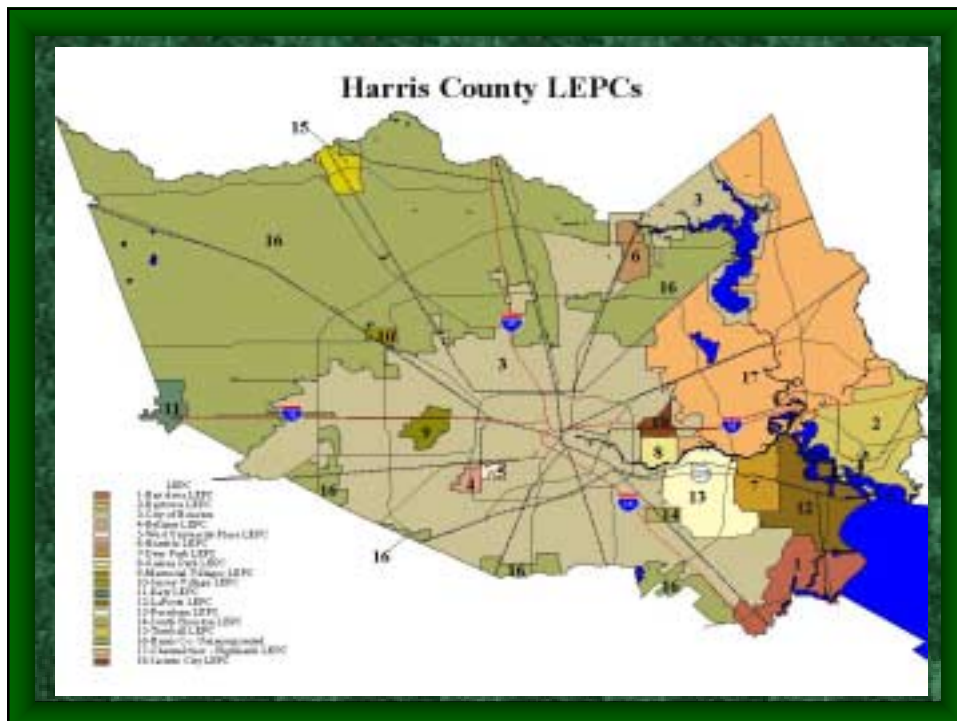
Presentation included four zip code maps to show total transportation patterns and specific transportation patterns (ground, water, and rail). The medical community wanted data to support the need for more decontamination facilities.

This presentation also was given to the Hazmat 2000 conference in St. Louis and to the TNRCC in Austin to show how HSEES data is utilized and to show TNRCC the importance of their contributions to the study.

Harris County (Houston) LEPC

After making the Harris County presentations, Texas HSEES was invited to speak at the November 2000 EPA Region 6 LEPC conference, which included LEPCs from Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. This has led to additional networking and contacts.

There are 18 LEPCs in Harris County. The opportunity to present HSEES data continues in this area.



Dallas County LEPC

In July 2000, approximately 50 people attended . The audience consisted of

-50% local industry and industry hazmat teams; and

-50% other, including **environmental clean-up companies**, local government, the **health care community**, and members of the general public.

Dallas County LEPC

This area was targeted because:

- From 1993 – 1997, Dallas and surrounding counties had the fourth largest number of events.

- Dallas County, alone, had 242 events with 13 events involving 223 victims.

- Other counties surrounding Dallas had 268 events with 11 events involving 46 victims.

- Dallas is the second largest metropolitan area in Texas.

Dallas County LEPC

**Dallas is a major transportation center;
27% of the releases in this area are due to
transportation events.**

Dallas County LEPC

**Presentation included three zip code maps
showing all events in Dallas, Denton, and
Tarrant counties.**

**The medical community wanted data to
support the need for more decontamination
facilities.**

**The LEPC also was looking at data to
determine the best location for placing
additional fire department hazmat units.**

Dallas County LEPC

This audience expressed great concern that HSEES data were incomplete since HSEES does not include petroleum, diesel, gasoline, and natural gas releases in the study.

The Dallas LEPC was referred to EPA Region 6 (Dallas) for additional data related to petroleum releases. It was also referred to DOT-HMIS for additional information regarding transportation releases.

Nueces County (Corpus Christi) LEPC

In August 2000, approximately 20 people attended:

- 50% local industry and industry hazmat teams;
- **40% first responders**, mostly the Corpus Christi Fire Department; and
- 10% other, local government, state government (TNRCC), and members of the general public.

Nueces County (Corpus Christi) LEPC

This LEPC was targeted because:

- From 1993 – 1997, Nueces and surrounding counties had the third largest number of events.
- Nueces County, alone, had 550 events with 15 events involving 157 victims.
- Other counties surrounding Nueces had 67 events with 2 events involving 9 victims.
- This area has the 10th largest population in Texas.

Nueces County (Corpus Christi) LEPC

Presentation included two zip code maps showing all events in multiple counties.

The first responders in the committee were interested in the geographical distribution of events, so they could better determine staffing numbers and training at local fire departments.

Nueces County (Corpus Christi) LEPC

This audience also expressed concern that HSEES data were incomplete since our study does not capture petroleum, diesel, gasoline, and natural gas releases in the study. And because, in Texas, small releases are not included in the data.

This LEPC was referred to EPA Region 6 (Dallas) for additional data related to petroleum releases. It was also referred to DOT-HMIS for additional information regarding transportation releases.

Effectiveness Measures

- Count the number in attendance.
- Count the number and type of materials distributed.
- Count the number of requests for the PowerPoint presentation.
- Count the number and type of publications requested as a result of the presentation.
- Count the number of data analyses requested as a result of the presentation.

Lessons Learned

- Networking with other state agencies (TNRCC) results in more contacts leading to additional future presentations.
- A quiet audience does not necessarily mean a disinterested audience.
- Partial data can still be valuable.
- Computers can and do fail so it is wise to have a backup plan with overhead slides!
- Pre-tests and post-tests to evaluate presentations were not feasible due to time and cooperation constraints.