



WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: David Bastis, 512-248-3257

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Area Hospitals and Health Foundation recognized for their support of the 2009 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) by the Williamson County Board of Health

July 30, 2010 (Williamson County) –

The Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) Board of Health recognized Scott & White Memorial Hospital/Foundation and Scott and White Health Plan, St. David's Georgetown Hospital, St. David's Round Rock Medical Center, and St. David's Community Health Foundation for their support of the 2009 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) on July 1, 2010. The hospitals and health foundation helped fund additional surveys in Williamson County, allowing researchers to better assess the impact of risk factors contributing to the leading causes of death and chronic diseases at the county level. Information was collected on smoking, exercise and diet, access to medical care, dental health, quality of life, community/neighborhood, emergency preparedness, and other health related issues.

BRFSS data helps WCCHD and its community partners prioritize health issues and identify populations at highest risk, monitor the effectiveness of intervention strategies, inform the public and policymakers about disease prevention, and support government and private sector policies that promote health and prevent disease.

Data from the 2009 BRFSS will be used as part of an overall "community health report card" for the residents of Williamson County. WCCHD will use these data to establish baselines for tracking progress toward Year 2020 Objectives for smoking, overweight, high blood pressure, exercise, flu/pneumonia vaccination, cholesterol, seat belt use, fruit/vegetable consumption, and other risk factors so that intervention priorities can be established and the long-term impact of health promotion programs can be monitored.

Dr. Arlen Zander, Board of Health Chair, and Dr. Chip Riggins, Executive Director, presented a certificate recognizing the hospitals and foundation on their dedication to public health at the July 1st Board of Health meeting.

To learn more about the BRFSS in Texas please visit: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/brfss/>, Healthy People 2020 information can be found at: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/>, or to learn more about *your public health department* visit: www.wcchd.org.