Your Public Health Department
su Departamento de Salud

Williamson County & Cities Health District

2007 Annual Report
WCCHD

Healthcare Helpline
512-248-3252
or
1-800-890-6296

Clinics

Cedar Park
350 Discovery Blvd., Suite 102
Cedar Park, TX 78613
Nursing 512-260-4240
WIC 512-260-4241

Georgetown
100 West 3rd St.
Georgetown, TX 78626
Nursing 512-943-3640
WIC 512-943-3680
Communicable Disease 512-943-3660

Round Rock
211 Commerce Blvd.
Round Rock, TX 78664
Nursing 512-248-3257, Suite 109
WIC 512-248-3254, Suite 115

Taylor
115 West 6th St.
Taylor, TX 76574
Nursing 512-238-2121/512-352-4121
WIC 512-238-2109/512-352-4109

Visit your public health department online at
www.wcchd.org
Vision
Healthy People thriving in healthy communities in Williamson County

Mission
The Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD), in partnership with communities, protects and promotes the health of the people of Williamson County.

WCCHD Value Statement
WCCHD employees commit to:
• Act honestly and ethically
• Show respect toward each other and the public we serve
• Support, educate, and partner with the public we serve to achieve our mission and vision
• Promote a positive work environment through teamwork, good communication, and continuous learning

WCCHD will take reasonable steps to provide language services to participating clients with limited English proficiency and/or hearing impairments, as needed. This institution is an equal-opportunity provider.
**WCCHD Funding Sources**

WCCHD’s funding comes from a variety of sources including state contracts, Williamson County contributions, client service fees, city contributions, Medicaid Cost Claiming/United Way of Williamson County/Friends of Public Health, Inc., and other sources.

See chart below.

![Pie chart showing funding sources]

- **State Contracts** $2,265,731.00
- *Williamson County* $1,616,324.00
- **City Contributions** $341,212.00
  - Cedar Park $75,488.00
  - Georgetown $81,408.00
  - Round Rock $146,092.00
  - Taylor $28,798.00
  - **Liberty Hill** $671.00
  - **Hutto** $3,330.00
  - ***Leander*** $5,425.00
- **Client Fees** $838,654.00
  - Client Service Fees $800,459.00
  - Medicaid/Medicare $38,195.00
- **Other** $191,534.00
  - Medicaid Cost Claiming $50,274.00
  - United Way of Williamson County $13,800.00
  - Friends of Public Health, Inc $5,000.00
  - All Other Sources $122,460.00
- **Total** $5,253,455.00

* In addition to these funds, Williamson County contributes facilities, utilities, janitorial and maintenance services, payroll processing, administration of the employee benefits program, workers’ compensation insurance, vehicle insurance, and telephone/computer network support.

** The cities of Liberty Hill and Hutto both became members effective 10/1/2007, the start of their fiscal years. Their contributions were for 3 months (October, November and December 2007).

*** The city of Leander’s contribution is a voluntary contribution as a non-member government.
Health District Leadership

Your public health department has provided public health services to Williamson County since 1943. Currently 95 full time, part time, and hourly employees serve county residents through offices located in Cedar Park, Georgetown, Round Rock, and Taylor.

In 1989, what was formerly the Williamson County Health Department became the Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD)—a separate governmental entity under Texas law. The Williamson County Commissioners Court along with the governing bodies of Cedar Park, Georgetown, Round Rock, and Taylor signed a cooperative agreement which created the district. The cooperative agreement was updated in 2007 and the cities of Liberty Hill and Hutto joined the district.

Board of Health Members

The WCCHD Board of Health is the administrative authority for the health district. Member cities and the Williamson County Commissioners Court appoint citizen representatives to serve on the Board. The seven voting Board members serve without compensation for staggered three-year terms. The WCCHD Executive Director is a non-voting member of the Board. The Board meets every two months and meetings are open to the public. In 2007, Mary Faith Sterk and Robert Stluka represented Williamson County on the Board. Ms. Sterk served as Chair of the Board of Health. Katherine M. Galloway represented the city of Cedar Park. Lettie A. Lee represented the city of Georgetown. Arlen Zander represented the city of Round Rock. Pamela Sanford represented the city of Taylor. The cities of Liberty Hill and Hutto joined the Health District effective October 1, 2007, but their representative was not named before the end of 2007. According to the district’s cooperative agreement, Liberty Hill and Hutto will select one person to represent both cities since they each have a population of less than 15,000.

Mary Faith Sterk, Chair
Robert Stluka
Katherine M. Galloway
Lettie Lee
Arlen Zander
Pamela Sanford
Health District Executive Director and Local Health Authority

In October 2007, James K. Morgan, MD, MPH, was selected by the Board of Health as the Executive Director and Local Health Authority. Dr. Morgan replaced Karen Wilson, RN, MN, MPH who retired in September 2007 after 14 years as Executive Director and 20 years of service to WCCHD.

Dr. Morgan is board-certified in General Preventive Medicine/Public Health. Dr. Morgan has many years of public health experience. Most recently, he served as the Medical Director for Texas Department of State Health Services’ (DSHS) Region 7. Region 7 is one of eight DSHS health service regions and serves 30 counties in Central Texas including Williamson County. Dr. Morgan also currently serves as an assistant professor in health policy and management at the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health.

As a physician, Dr. Morgan will also serve as local health authority for Williamson County. By Texas statute, a local health authority is a physician appointed to administer the local laws relating to public health. From 2002 until Dr. Morgan assumed the duties of Local Health Authority in October 2007, Ed Sherwood, MD, FACP, had served as local health authority under contract with WCCHD. Dr. Sherwood also assisted in emergency preparedness and response activities and served as a consultant physician on communicable disease issues.

From James K. Morgan, MD, MPH --

“I am honored to have been chosen by the Board of Health to assume the duties of Executive Director and Local Health Authority at WCCHD.

“The Board’s confidence in my ability to lead this outstanding organization is both a compliment and a challenge—a challenge to continue a reputation for excellence in a time of rapid growth and in the midst of a changing health and medical environment within the county.
“In the latter part of 2007, I witnessed the outstanding efforts of WCCHD staff at all levels to accomplish the mission of protecting and promoting the health of the people of Williamson County. As DSHS Medical Director and as a resident of Williamson County for the past ten years, I developed an appreciation for the high quality of services WCCHD provides. In 2008, I intend to shepherd the district’s ongoing tradition of excellence and also address some new challenges. Williamson County is growing rapidly and meeting the demands of this growth will be a priority. In addition, there has been tremendous growth in medical care infrastructure in the county and the availability of medical-care services for under-resourced individuals and families. I will work with the Board and WCCHD leadership as well as our community partners to be innovative, effective, and efficient in this environment. I look forward to 2008.

“I would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts and superior public service of Ms. Wilson and Dr. Sherwood. I had the pleasure of working closely with them for many years in my Region 7 Medical Director position with the state health department and I know that they enjoyed a wonderful and well-deserved reputation for excellence as public health leaders.”

Ed Sherwood, MD, FACP, Karen Wilson, RN, MN, MPH
and James K. Morgan, MD, MPH
In 2006, the WCCHD Board of Health established a semi-annual employee recognition award named in memory and honor of Scott D. Evans. Mr. Evans died in 2006. He was the first chairperson of the Board of Health when the health department was reorganized as a district. Mr. Evans served almost 10 years on the Board of Health. Co-workers nominate each other for the Scott D. Evans award and the Board of Health makes the final selection.

In April 2007, Patricia (Trish) Bailey received the Scott D. Evans award. Ms. Bailey is the most senior employee at WCCHD with more than 24 years of service. For the past eight years, Ms. Bailey has been a customer service representative in the WCCHD Environmental Health Services Division. Co-worker nominations mentioned Ms. Bailey’s ability to “keep her cool” and remain calm in a busy, multi-tasking environment. Another nominator stated that Ms. Bailey, “is someone who finds the positive in everything and ignores the negative.”

WCCHD employee Dina Cavazos received the second 2007 Scott D. Evans award in October. Ms. Cavazos has worked for WCCHD for more than ten years, and she is currently part of the Community Health Education and Social Services Division. Nominators recognized Ms. Cavazos for her commitment to customer service and support of co-workers. In addition, Ms. Cavazos was recognized for her efforts to coordinate the successful transfer of client eligibility data to WCCHD’s contracted third party administrator for the County Indigent Health Care Program. This effort increased efficiency and saved resources so that clients could be better served.
Williamson County Outstanding Employee Awards

WCCHD employees can be nominated for the county’s annual Outstanding Employee award. In 2007, two of three of these Outstanding Employee Awards went to WCCHD staff—Bride Roberts, LBSW, in the WCCHD Community Health Education and Social Services Division and Jennifer Jackson, RN, BSN, WCCHD Director of Nursing and Emergency Preparedness. Both were recognized for their commitment to public health, innovative approach to the district’s work, and excellent service to protect and promote the health of the people of Williamson County.

Floodplain Manager of the Year

The Texas Colorado River Floodplain Coalition (TCRFC) named WCCHD Environmental Health Services Division Director Paulo Pinto the 2007 Floodplain Manager of the Year. Williamson County has been a member of the TCRFC for the past five years. The coalition is a partnership of 54 cities and counties in the Colorado River basin and surrounding areas. TCRFC’s goal is to reduce and mitigate flood damage by partnering with local cities and counties to strengthen floodplain programs, raise standards, and increase coordination between neighboring communities. Mr. Pinto stated that he accepted the award on behalf of all the Environmental Health Services Division employees who made winning the award possible.

National Association of County and City Health Officials

In June 2007, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) selected the WCCHD community gardening program as a Promising Practice. The selection indicates that the gardening program exhibits the potential to become a model practice for local health departments around the country. The program was one of only 19 programs nationwide that received the designation.
Introduction

The mission of the Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD), in partnership with communities, is to protect and promote the health of the people of Williamson County. WCCHD professionals work every day to:
• Engage communities to identify and solve health problems;
• Provide people information they need to make healthy choices;
• Help people receive health services, including health promotion and disease prevention services;
• Protect people from health problems and health hazards;
• Enforce public health laws and regulations; and
• Assess and monitor the health status of the residents of the county.

The public health services profiled in this report help maintain healthy communities throughout Williamson County.

Stacy Schweitzer hands out immunization information to participants at the 5th annual Children’s Health Festival.
Community Health Education and Promotion

Ninety-five WCCHD employees serve approximately 360,000 Williamson County residents. Education and community-based health promotion are crucial to maximize the efforts of staff to prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, and protect residents from health threats. Information and education about healthy living and good nutrition are more important than ever as the county, state, and nation confront trends of increasing overweight and obesity in children and adults and related increases in incidence of chronic diseases such as diabetes.

Every program at WCCHD includes education. Every WCCHD employee spends time informing county residents about health and health services. The community and individuals benefit from WCCHD education and health promotion efforts related to:

• Healthy living;
• Preventing disease through good health practices and immunizations;
• Preparing for and responding to emergencies;
• Community resources for personal health care;
• Prenatal and diabetes care;
• Behavioral health risks in the community;
• Construction practices that mitigate environmental damage; and
• Food safety.

A child receives a flu shot at a flu clinic in November.
Community-wide Health Education and Promotion 2007 Highlights

For five years running, WCCHD has hosted a well-attended free Children’s Health Festival in conjunction with the Round Rock Express at the United Heritage Center at the Dell Diamond. The February 10, 2007, festival drew more than 700 attendees. At the event families learned about resources for underinsured and uninsured children, health and safety, and good nutrition. Thirty-eight exhibitors distributed information. The vendors represented a cross-section of organizations that had participated for several years as well as new ones. Several radio stations also joined the festival and provided music and giveaways. The festival continues to grow in attendance. Exhibitor and vendor participation has also grown each year.

Throughout 2007, WCCHD staff disseminated information about services such as childhood and adult immunizations, health education classes, and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program participation at more than 25 community outreach events.

WCCHD hosted the fourth annual Williamson County School and Public Health Nurses Conference in August 2007. School nurses from every independent school district in Williamson County attended as well as WCCHD public health nurses. Nurses learned about the latest immunization requirements for children. Information on reportable communicable diseases and disease outbreaks was shared. There were also presentations about local asthma programs for children and the correlation between physical and mental health.

Darlene Grymkoski shows a Nurses Conference participant the ImmTrac system.
The WCCHD website is an excellent source for general and county-specific public health information. In 2007, the website got a new and simpler URL - www.wcchd.org. The website has information about all WCCHD programs, activities, locations, hours, and links to other state and national public health resources. The WCCHD website welcomed more than 38,428 unique visitors in 2007.

WCCHD works closely with print, radio, and television media to promote public health initiatives and to inform the public about public health threats. In 2007, WCCHD issued 28 press releases to a greatly expanded number of media and community organization contacts. From July through December 2007, WCCHD staff responded to approximately 30 media requests for information and interviews (WCCHD began systematically capturing this information in July 2007).

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT
SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Jackson 512-943-3640 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Williamson County and Cities Health District Encourages Flu Shots for Children
December 14, 2007 (Williamson County) –

Now that it is December, many adults have already gotten their flu shots. However, caregivers may not think about the need for children to receive flu shots. Influenza (flu) can strike anyone at any age. Children with flu feel miserable, often miss school, and can spread the disease to family members and others who are not vaccinated. Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) encourages caregivers to get their children vaccinated against the flu.......

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Sample Press Release
Healthy Nutrition

Women, Infants, and Children Special Supplemental Nutrition (WIC) Program

WCCHD promotes healthy nutrition in a number of ways. The WIC program, the gardening program, healthy cooking classes, and diabetes classes/support groups all offer community members information in a fun environment to make the dietary changes they may need.

The WIC program is a federally-funded program coordinated by DSHS and administered in the county by WCCHD. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, help accessing health care, and food vouchers to women who are pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding, as well as infants and children less than five years of age. Eligible clients have an income at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For example, in 2007 a family of four could have an annual gross income of up to $38,203 and meet the WIC income guidelines. The family would still need to meet residency and nutritional risk criteria to qualify.

Nutrition education is provided at each WIC client visit and through several venues including interactive cooking classes, facilitated discussions, informative videos, self-paced and internet-based nutrition modules, and one-on-one counseling with a WIC registered dietitian, nutritionist, or nurse.

The WIC program also includes a breastfeeding peer counseling program. WIC peer counselors are WIC mothers who have successfully breastfed and have gone through extensive training. The peer counselors offer services at WCCHD clinics and provide phone consultation as needed. WIC continues to have great breastfeeding success with clients. Approximately 78 percent of infants born to WCCHD WIC mothers during 2007 were breastfed at or before the time of the baby’s first WIC appointment. This percentage exceeds the DSHS performance measure of 60 percent.

Christy Melendez demonstrates the use of a breast pump during a breastfeeding peer counselor class.
Food vouchers are given to WIC participants as an incentive to receive nutrition education. Vouchers are funded by the federal government. Vouchers are redeemable at local grocery stores for healthy foods such as milk, eggs, cheese, cereal, beans, and fruit juice.

In 2007, $4,058,472.20 in food voucher redemptions were paid to Williamson County grocers. Eligible WIC recipients also receive Farmers’ Market vouchers for locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables. During 2007, 5,479 sets of Farmers’ Market vouchers (each set worth $10 in fresh fruits and vegetables) were issued to WIC program participants.

WIC provides services at WIC clinics in Cedar Park, Georgetown, Round Rock, and Taylor as well as at the Bartlett Head Start program. In 2007, WIC served 7,874 unduplicated clients—the highest number of clients on record for WCCHD WIC.

Community Gardening

Gardening and cooking programs teach the value of growing and eating fresh vegetables and fruits every day. WCCHD manages the Heritage Gardens in Georgetown and the Taylor Community Gardens, but the impact in the community goes well beyond the physical gardens. Some highlights of the WCCHD gardening program, led by the WCCHD horticulturist, include:

- Community members can adopt plots at both gardens managed by WCCHD. In 2007, all 68 plots available at the gardens were adopted. WCCHD leads monthly community gardens meetings. Gardeners with plots at the community gardens donated more than 650 pounds of fresh organic produce to the local food pantry.
- 22 Gardening 101 classes were taught with an average attendance of 13 participants in each class.
- As a result of WCCHD Expert Gardener classes, two new graduates were certified. Also, new handbooks were developed and printed.
Healthy Cooking Classes

WCCHD’s From the Garden to the Table (FTGTT) series of classes are free and teach participants how to prepare delicious, healthy, and inexpensive meals while learning about good nutrition. Classes meet once a week for 90 minutes during a six-week period. After each class, participants receive a bag of ingredients so that they can prepare at home the recipe they learned in class.

- During 2007, 71 individuals attended FTGTT classes and 64 graduated from the series.
- Twelve additional FTGTT facilitators were trained during 2007 and 225 hours were logged by FTGTT volunteers who either taught or assisted with the classes.
Communicable Disease
Reportable Conditions

Several Texas laws require that persons working in certain health related occupations having knowledge of a person suspected of having a reportable disease or condition must notify the local health authority or local health department. Health care providers, hospitals, laboratories, schools, and others are required to report patients who are suspected of having a reportable disease or condition. The state has more than 30 diseases on its list of reportable diseases. In addition, the state requires that certain other health issues must be reported and investigated such as drownings and deaths from influenza. In 2007, WCCHD processed more than 2,600 reports of disease (including sexually transmitted diseases or STDs) or other reportable conditions, resulting in 1,247 investigations.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

The Health District provides screening and treatment for three sexually transmitted diseases: gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis. Notification and treatment of partners is also available. WCCHD provides STD-related services to individuals seen in WCCHD clinics. The Health District provides HIV education for Williamson County residents and provides confidential and anonymous HIV testing and counseling through all of the Health District clinics. Those who are HIV positive are referred to a case manager to assist them in obtaining medical care and other services. In 2007, 233 clients were tested for HIV and 719 clients were tested for gonorrhea and chlamydia.

Photos top right: on page 16: Inluenza, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Public Health Image Library (PHIL), CDC/ Courtesy of Dr. F. A. Murphy. Photo Bottom left on page 16; Chlamydia, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Public Health Image Library (PHIL), CDC/ Joe Miller.
**Disease Profile—Tuberculosis (TB) and Latent TB infection (LTBI)**

People with TB disease are sick from TB germs that are active, meaning that they are multiplying and destroying tissue in the body. In most cases, people with active TB will have symptoms. People with TB disease of the lungs or throat are capable of spreading germs to others and are prescribed drugs that can cure TB disease, but they must be treated with multiple medications for a minimum of six months. WCCHD personnel meet regularly with patients who have active TB to ensure that they take their medications. This is called Directly Observed Therapy (DOT). DOT makes sure that people with TB are taking medications appropriately; ensuring adequate treatment, preventing the spread of disease, and reducing the risk of recurrence and development of drug resistant TB germs.

People with LTBI have TB germs in their bodies, but they are not sick because the germs are not actively multiplying. These people do not have symptoms of TB disease, and they cannot spread the germs to others. However, they may develop TB disease in the future. They are often prescribed treatment with one TB medication for nine months or longer to prevent them from developing TB disease. WCCHD personnel monitor LTBI patients for signs and symptoms of disease as well as possible adverse events related to their treatment regimen.

In 2007, WCCHD investigated or provided treatment services for nine cases of TB and five suspected cases of TB. All five suspect cases were ultimately ruled out. Every case of TB generates a WCCHD investigation to search for the source of the infection and for others who may have been infected by the person being treated. These investigations involve several District staff and hundreds of hours of work for every new case. Of the 139 clients receiving LTBI in 2006, 60 continued therapy in 2007. Sixty-six clients started LTBI therapy in 2007.
Immunizations

Immunizations are available to children and adults year round by appointment and on a walk-in basis. WCCHD provides 23 different types of vaccine. In 2007, 23,096 vaccinations were administered in WCCHD clinics to 8,157 clients. Demand for immunization services is highest during back-to-school clinics in August and in the Fall at the beginning of flu season. Two vaccines, Human Hapillomavirus (HPV) and Zoster (Shingles), were offered for the first time in 2007. WCCHD clinics started administering HPV in late February, while Zoster vaccinations started in the fall.

Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) is a program for improving vaccine availability for uninsured and underinsured individuals by providing vaccines to community doctors’ offices, schools, and community clinics to be administered to eligible children. In 2007, approximately 59,000 vaccinations were administered by 53 TVFC providers (excluding WCCHD sites). WCCHD provides education and technical assistance to these providers and works to recruit other providers to participate in this program.
Social Services
Information and Referral

The Healthcare Helpline is an information and referral service for Williamson County specializing in access to healthcare. Anyone may call to find out about healthcare information and resources and to be screened for public medical assistance programs. A social worker is on call during operating hours, Monday through Friday, to help answer questions and direct people to resources in the community. In 2007, the Healthcare Helpline provided integrated eligibility services to 2,385 callers in 4,304 contacts.

The Indigent Care Collaboration (ICC), insure•a•kid, Lone Star Circle of Care (LSCC), and WCCHD have partnered to allow individuals without a medical home to schedule a first appointment with a doctor by calling the WCCHD Healthcare Helpline. Individuals calling the Helpline are transferred to an insure•a•kid staff member who can provide a first appointment with LSCC. Uninsured callers are screened for Medicaid and the state’s Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility as well as other possible medical payment resources. For children and pregnant women eligible for CHIP or Medicaid, insure•a•kid will provide application assistance. Once families have health coverage, insure•a•kid helps families use and renew their children’s insurance. Two insure•a•kid staff members work out of WCCHD’s Round Rock office. Insure•a•kid staff use Medicaider, an innovative web-based eligibility tool, to quickly determine a family’s eligibility in multiple health care assistance programs.

From October through December 2007, 459 individuals were referred to an insure•a•kid worker for screening. Insure•a•kid staff also conducted follow-up calls to individuals that had been screened at LSCC clinics.

Billye Navarro gives out information to participants at the 5th annual Children's Health Festival.
Out of the approximately 2,146 Williamson County clients initially screened eligible for CHIP or Medicaid in 2007, 830 were enrolled and 155 applications were pending at the end of the year. The remaining clients may not have followed through with the application process, were ineligible for benefits, or could not be located. The immediate health or medical need for many of these clients was taken care of even though an application for assistance was not submitted.

**Healthcare Programs and Case Management**

The Wilco Care Card Program (County Indigent Health Care Program) is a state-mandated program that pays for medical care including doctor visits, hospitalization, and pharmacy needs, for uninsured Williamson County residents with very low incomes (under 25 percent of the FPL) who do not qualify for Medicaid. Case management services were provided to medically high risk clients and other clients with special needs who are eligible for the Williamson County Indigent Health Care Program. In 2007, WCCHD served 1,094 Wilco Care Card Program clients.

The Primary Health Care (PHC) Program is a State grant-funded program which contracts with a local health departments/health centers to provide access to a primary medical home for uninsured county residents. WCCHD designed a program which would target individuals with Type I and Type II diabetes whose income is at or below 150 percent of the FPL and who do not qualify for any other healthcare assistance program. Participants have access to a primary medical home as well as diabetic supplies needed to control their diabetes. Case management and education services are also provided. In 2007, WCCHD served 212 PHC clients, limiting care to those with Type I and Type II diabetes. WCCHD chose not to reapply for PHC grant funds and provided PHC services through August 31, 2007. LSCC took over care of PHC clients starting September 1, 2007.

*Billye Navarro hands out information to participants at the 4th annual School and Public Health Nurses Conference.*
Pregnant women and their families are evaluated for Medicaid, CHIP Perinatal Program, Title V (federal pass through funding for indigent pregnant women), WIC, and other programs. Eligible women are guided to prenatal care either in the community or at WCCHD clinics. Only pregnant women who are uninsured, ineligible for Medicaid, have income at or below 185 percent of the FPL, and are unable to pay for care from community providers are enrolled in WCCHD’s prenatal care program. Women who have income up to 200 percent of the FPL and who do not qualify for Medicaid may qualify for the CHIP Perinatal Program. For a family of four, 200 percent of the FPL annually is $41,184. In 2007, 458 clients were eligible (Title V or CHIP perinatal) for prenatal services. WCCHD staff assisted 428 of these clients in applying for the new CHIP perinatal program, which started in June 2007. Case Management Services were provided by social workers to high risk pregnant women who received prenatal care at WCCHD.

Case Management for Children and Pregnant Women provides services to children with a health condition/health risk, birth through 20 years of age and to high-risk pregnant women of all ages, in order to encourage the use of cost-effective health and health-related care. Together, the case manager and family assess the medical, social, educational, and other medically necessary service needs of the eligible recipient. Starting in June 2007, WCCHD provided Children and Pregnant Women case management services (paid by Medicaid) to 71 clients.

The Community Clinic Services (CCS) Program is a program administered by WCCHD that is funded by Williamson County utilizing Tobacco Settlement funds. Through this program, the community clinics - Health Center at Johns Community Hospital, Samaritan Health Ministries, and LSCC - are reimbursed on a fee-for-service visit basis for care provided to uninsured residents whose income is at or below 150 percent of the FPL. The per-visit rate covers part of the clinics’ cost of the service.
Health education services provided in 2007 included prenatal education, diabetes education and diabetes support groups. Classes are offered in the four WCCHD clinic sites to pregnant women enrolled in WCCHD programs. Williamson County residents who are diagnosed with diabetes are offered diabetes education classes and support groups in four locations across the county. Services are provided in Spanish as well as English. Diabetes testing supplies are provided free of charge to those enrolled in the WilCo Care Program. In 2007, 72 diabetes education classes were provided and 23 prenatal classes were offered.

Prenatal Care

All four Health District clinics provide prenatal care, case management and referral services for pregnant women in Williamson County with incomes at or below 185 percent of the FPL and who are not eligible for Medicaid. Clinical services are provided by Registered Nurses and an Advanced Practice Nurse with oversight by a consulting OB/GYN physician. There were 241 maternity clients entered into care in 2007, with a total of 488 women in care at some point during the calendar year.

Christina Delgado-Eberhardt
WCCHD WIC
registered dietitian
Food safety

Food Establishment and General Sanitation Inspections

The Food Inspection Team of the Environmental Health Services Division inspects food establishments throughout the county. Establishments inspected include restaurants, convenience stores, schools, daycare centers, hospitals, mobile food vendors, and other types of establishments that serve food to the public. Of the 1,270 establishments inspected in 2007, most were inspected two to three times.

The Food Inspection Team also provides general sanitation inspections for day care centers and foster/adoptive homes that are licensed through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. These inspections are conducted annually or bi-annually. In 2007, 241 general sanitation inspections were conducted.

Complaints

All complaints related to food safety are investigated. The Food Inspection Team works closely with WCCHD Communicable Disease staff to investigate any reported, suspected food borne illness complaints. The Environmental Health Services Division may also lead investigations or coordinate a response to other general sanitation or environmental complaints. In 2007, Environmental Health Services staff conducted 392 investigations.

Food Handler Education

The WCCHD Environmental Health Services staff teach food handler classes at a variety of locations and times throughout the county. Employees of food establishments and daycare centers are trained in basic sanitation and safe food handling practices. Satisfactory completion of the one-hour training is required every one to two years.

In 2007, 2,245 individuals attended 220 food handler classes offered at different WCCHD locations. Seventeen of the food handler classes were offered in Spanish; 204 individuals attended Spanish classes in 2007. Six of the courses were “train-the-trainer” food handler classes, allowing employers to teach their own classes and submit self-testing results for their employees to WCCHD. In 2007, six “train-the-trainer” classes were attended by 36 participants from all over the county. In 2007, 4,077 individuals attended food handler classes taught by non-WCCHD instructors who completed the “train-the-trainer” course.
On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF) Permitting and Inspections

The Environmental Health Services Division issues permits for On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF), commonly known as septic systems. Staff inspects the OSSF at various points during the installation process. A final inspection must be passed before the system can be used. Note that many OSSF permits and inspections take place outside of city limits, in areas lacking waste water services. In 2007, WCCHD staff issued 697 OSSF permits and conducted 3,655 inspections. Staff also address failing septic systems and other problems and regulations related to already-installed systems.

Floodplain Regulation

WCCHD administers the county’s floodplain regulation. The floodplain program seeks to minimize the public and private losses due to flood conditions and to promote the National Flood Insurance Program. Any building project or major improvement in the 100-year floodplain must have a Floodplain Development Permit before work can begin. The 100-year floodplain consists of those areas of Williamson County that have a one-percent chance of flooding in any given year as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) official floodplain maps. Other floodplain regulations apply to the placement of bridges, driveways, ponds, fill (dirt), placement of recreational vehicles, and excavation or alteration of creek channels. In 2007, WCCHD staff evaluated 2,602 floodplain construction projects. Staff also investigate unauthorized floodplain construction issues.

In 2007, FEMA began the process to update floodplain maps for the county in order to make them more accurate and easier to use. The present maps were issued in 1991. WCCHD worked with the county to notify the public that any interested party could come to the WCCHD Environmental Health Services Division office and examine the proposed new maps. Approximately 50 people visited WCCHD to view the maps. Several individuals filed complaints that new draft maps incorrectly placed their property in the 100-year floodplain. FEMA is reviewing the protests filed by land owners. FEMA will provide final updated maps when they complete the process at the federal level.
Emergency Preparedness
Exercises and Response

February 21-22, 2007: WCCHD participated in a regional functional Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) exercise. The exercise was designed to test regional plans and the ability to communicate during a disaster. During this exercise, WCCHD validated its ability to effectively manage a response to a WMD incident. All departments that would be involved in a response to such an incident were present or represented at the WCCHD Operations Center. Additionally, WCCHD had a representative at the Williamson County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

June 30, 2007 – July 2, 2007:
Almost one week of nonstop rain, including 18 inches on the morning of June 27, 2007, caused severe flooding in the area of Marble Falls. On Saturday, June 30, 2007, WCCHD received a mutual aid request to provide a public health representative to the Marble Falls EOC (Emergency Operations Center). On the morning of July 1, 2007, the WCCHD Director of Nursing reported as the public health representative to the Marble Falls EOC. During the next few days, both the WCCHD Director of Nursing and the Emergency Preparedness and Response Specialist worked in the Marble Falls EOC helping to coordinate the public health response to this disaster.
November 9, 2007: WCCHD in cooperation with Georgetown Independent School District (GISD) and St. David’s Hospital Georgetown conducted a public flu clinic. WCCHD was the primary agency in charge of this clinic where 334 residents of Williamson County received their annual influenza vaccine. This clinic allowed WCCHD to exercise some key components of the emergency plans including Dispensing Vaccination Center (DVC) design/set-up, DVC command structure, inventory management, crisis and emergency risk communication, integration/coordination with Independent School Districts, and limited analysis of client throughput.

November 14-18, 2007: WCCHD conducted its annual critical infrastructure vaccination and distribution drill. This drill is designed to test WCCHD’s ability to distribute medical supplies throughout Williamson County during a public health emergency in order to protect critical infrastructure personnel. Influenza vaccine and supplies were distributed to 12 different agencies and 680 Williamson County critical infrastructure personnel were vaccinated.

**Training**

The Health District engages with first responders and a variety of state, regional and local health/medical and emergency response agencies to plan, train and exercise for responding to natural and man-made disasters. WCCHD offers emergency preparedness and response courses specific to public health. In 2007, WCCHD staff provided three emergency preparedness classes to WCCHD staff with a total attendance of 145 for all three classes.
Friends of Public Health, Inc. (Friends) is a public non-profit organization in Williamson County that supports local public health programs by augmenting funding for innovative programs provided by WCCHD. Dean Hamilton is the President of Friends and Kathy Galloway is the Treasurer. Other Board members include: Lettie Lee, Lara Reinhard, Jewel Thompson, and Arlen Zander. In 2007, Friends provided WCCHD with $5588 in funds from outside donors and funds raised by Friends. One particularly exciting contribution was $5000 toward the purchase of a tractor for the WCCHD Heritage Gardens.

Natalie Vreeland teaches Heather Bullis how to drive the new tractor.
Volunteering at your public health department

Volunteers and interns have worked in every program at the Health District for many years. WCCHD has emergency preparedness and response opportunities for those interested in preparing for and responding to public health emergencies should they occur. In addition, WCCHD has opportunities to volunteer in health promotion activities such as projects related to community gardening, leading healthy cooking classes, assisting with large events such as the WCCHD Children’s Health Festival, office work such as assisting with mail-outs, and many other opportunities that could match particular interests of volunteers when possible.

During 2007, 72 volunteers contributed 2,701 hours to the district. Ten of these volunteers gave more than 100 hours of service to WCCHD.

The WCCHD Volunteer program received a $10,000 Capacity Building Award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to help develop the Williamson County Medical Reserve Corps (Wilco MRC) program.

For more information on volunteering, please visit the WCCHD website at www.wcchd.org.

Volunteers help at the Heritage Gardens in Georgetown.

Be a part of public health in your community!
Williamson County & Cities Health District

Make it a healthy day and please come by and see us.

your public health department

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