

CITY OF EL PASO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



FY 2020



ANNUAL REPORT



**PUBLIC
HEALTH**

WELCOME



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH DIRECTOR



I am pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report of the City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH). This report reflects public health essential services DPH delivered to protect El Pasoan's health during the first year of the COVID -19 pandemic. While 2020 was one of the most intense years we have experienced, we accepted the challenge and remained focused on protecting the health of the community. Early in 2020, DPH recognized the implications of the emerging global crisis and began preparing for the possibility of an exponential growth in infections from a novel virus,

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The pandemic had a significant impact on all our programs, deploying over 75% of our workforce to support pandemic response, yet we continued to carry out our responsibilities to provide essential public health services. Even with the declaration of a Public Health Emergency, our immediate response ensured essential services continued to be available to the community. Prior to the first COVID-19 case in El Paso we deployed the Education Task Force (ETF) to all sectors of the City to establish a visible and constant community presence to inform and educate about the emerging situation and provide available guidance. Due to the deadly effects of COVID-19 experienced by the senior population, we placed special and immediate attention on our senior population by establishing open lines of communication between the DPH, senior serving facilities and partnering organizations, deploying a team of educators and infection control professionals to focus interventions and provide immediate support to continuously assess and assist in protecting the senior population from COVID-19. In addition, our workforce was imbedded in the surveillance and epidemiology response to assist COVID-19 case investigations and cluster management with hospitals, schools, nursing facilities, and businesses, to conduct case investigations and contact tracing of thousands of COVID-19 cases. Finally, through a partnership with the El Paso Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management we ensured equitable vaccine distribution utilizing mass vaccination sites, vaccination clinics, and deployment of vaccination teams to reach the most vulnerable of our population. These are just a few of the innumerable response activities of the DPH. We are very proud of our compassionate, capable, responsive, flexible, and dedicated staff of committed public health professionals and the vital role they play in protecting the health of the community and mitigating the effects of the pandemic. We also value the strong community partnerships we have made to address the challenges ahead and will continue to evaluate and improve our public health services and response efforts to create an environment that allows all El Pasoans the opportunity to continue to protect and improve their health.

Angela Mora, M.Ed.
Public Health Director
El Paso Department of Public Health

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the City of El Paso Department of Public Health is to provide public health related research, evaluation, education, prevention, intervention, and preparedness services.

CORE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS

Assess and monitor the health of communities and at-risk populations to identify health problems and priorities. Formulate public health policies with community and government leaders to address local and public health programs and priorities. Provide all populations with access and appropriate cost-effective care, including health promotion, disease prevention, and follow-up evaluation.

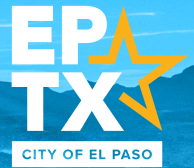
PUBLIC HEALTH 101

Public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work, and play. While a doctor treats people who are sick, those of us working in public health try to prevent people from getting sick or injured. We also promote wellness by encouraging healthy behaviors. From conducting scientific research to educating about health, people in the field of public health work to promote the conditions in which people can be healthy, including vaccinating children and adults to prevent the spread of disease, or educating people about the risks of alcohol and tobacco use. Public health works to track disease outbreaks, promote injury prevention and shed light on why some of us are more likely to suffer from poor health than others. The many facets of public health include speaking out for laws that promote and protect the public's health such as smoke free indoor air and seatbelt use, spreading the word about ways to stay healthy, and giving science-based solutions to problems.

WHY SHOULD WE INVEST IN PUBLIC HEALTH?

In 1999, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a list of the top 10 public health achievements of the 20th century. These findings show that public health advances have been largely responsible for increasing the lifespan of populations: over 25 of the 30 years of increased longevity can be credited to public health initiatives. These public health initiatives include development of antibiotics, vaccines, access to clean water, and safer food supply. Medical advances account for less than 4 years of increased longevity for the 20th century. Since 1900, findings show the average life expectancy for Americans has increased by about 30 years.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Activation and deployment of approximately 80 percent of the public health workforce to respond to the pandemic. Public health professionals were deployed from all public health programs including dentists and hygienists, sanitarians and food inspectors, nutritionists and dietitians, health prevention educators, HIV counselors, phlebotomists, laboratory scientists, nurses, medical assistants, program managers and administrative support, health sciences student interns, and other, to fulfill a variety of critical roles in support of the pandemic.



While our workforce was deployed to respond to the pandemic, the department of public health continued provision of its most public health essential services to the community to ensure an immediate response to other health threats and to continue providing needed treatment to patients suffering from communicable diseases. Our workforce ensured identification and treatment of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and syphilis, food establishments continued to be licensing and monitored to ensure COVID-19 preventive measures were in place and to prevent foodborne illnesses, our pediatric dental clinic provided urgent care for children and adults, women and men of reproductive age continued receiving essential family planning services and medication, our WIC centers continued non-stop providing nutrition counseling and education and issuing nutritional food benefits to thousand of families.

As part of our emergency response focusing on most vulnerable community members, we identified and established very close partnerships with residential and long-term care facilities serving the senior population to provide them continuous critical support throughout the pandemic. Over 200 facilities received, and continue to receive, support including delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), sanitizer, signage, educational materials, professional infection control and risk management technical assistance, on-site COVID-19 testing, influenza vaccinations, and other. This is an accomplishment we are particularly proud of, having been identified as one of the only public health departments in Texas that took such proactive approach to protect the elderly population.



DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



WOMEN, INFANT & CHILDREN (WIC)



Nutrition Education
Breastfeeding Support
+ Supplemental Foods

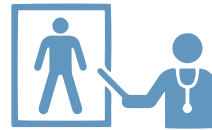


1,861 Breast
Pumps Distributed

14,769
children participate in WIC
services per month

Healthcare/Social
Services Referrals

HEALTH EDUCATION & PROMOTION



48,909
community
members reached



630
Presentations

Roll out of
Lifestyle
Coaching

RAWLINGS DENTAL CLINIC



Dental Procedures

14,186



554

New Patients

211 CALL CENTER



2020 had highest
historical call volume

99,396

total callers



Connected community to over 98,322 resources

COMMUNITY CARE CENTER



2,879

Clinical Visits/
Appointments

Family Planning
STD Clinic



FOOD SAFETY



5,402

Regulatory
inspections
conducted

Food handler
cards issued

1692



Fire/Accident
response (37)

MEDICAID WAIVER



2,210
participants

74
community
outreach
events



DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



IMMUNIZATIONS



18,518
immunizations

Texas Vaccines for
Children (TVFC)
Adult Vaccinations



Participated in
29
Health Fairs

CHEST CLINIC

1,741
Clinic Visits



1,957 DOT Visits
(Directly Observed Therapy)

NO CHARGE*
Chest X-ray Referral
Services *to qualifying
patients

SURVEILLANCE & REPORTING
(All County Medical Institutions,
Clinics, Long Term Care Programs,
and Correctional Facilities)

PUBLIC HEALTH FOLLOW UP



12,487
HIV/STD Labs Reported

Public Health Follow Up
STD & HIV Surveillance

HIV PREVENTION



748
HIV tests
conducted

**HIV/HEP C
Linkage to Care
HOPWA
CLEAR (Choosing
Life: Empowerment,
Action, Results!)
MFactor El Paso**

LABORATORY



27,007
Clinical tests
performed



2340
Dairy tests
performed

EPIDEMIOLOGY



712 Notifiable Conditions
Received

97,504
COVID-19 cases
investigated

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Visited & informed
21,813 facilities

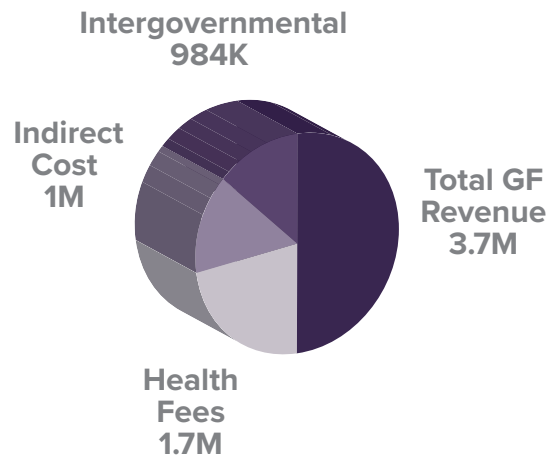
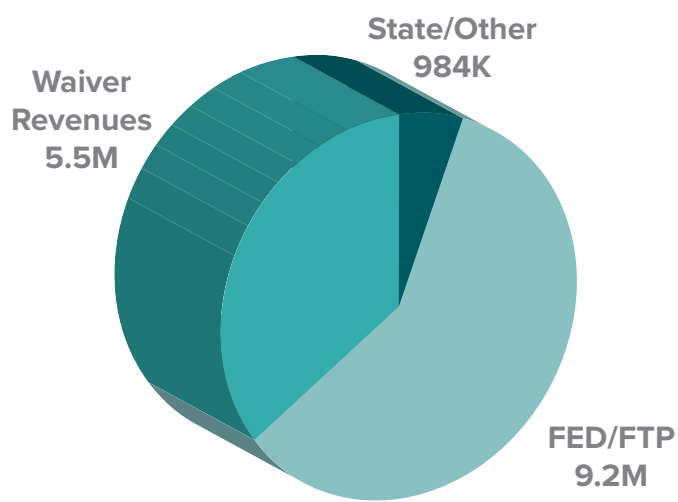
Zika
Prevention



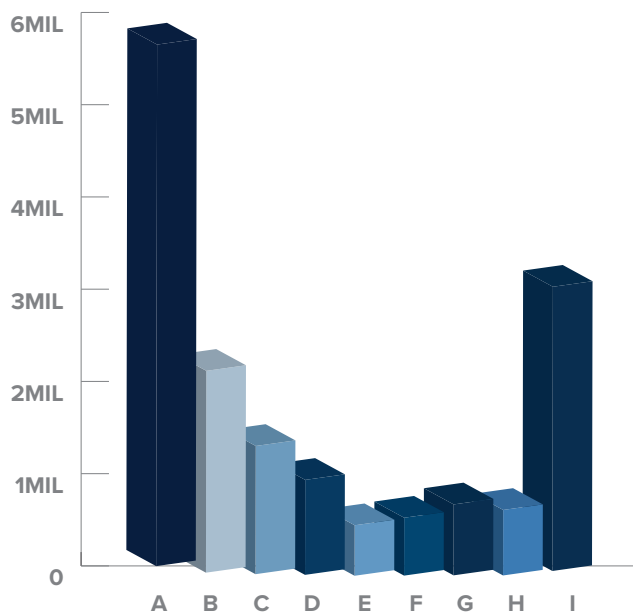
FINANCIALS



FY 2020 HEALTH REVENUES



FY 2020 HEALTH ADOPTED EXPENSES (ALL FUNDS)



- A - WIC 5.8M
- B - STD/HIV Services 2.2M
- C - Environmental Health - (Food) 1.4M
- D - Immunization Service 1M
- E - Chronic Disease prevention 569K
- F - Oral health 653K
- G - TB Services 800K
- H - Lab Services 739K
- I - Other 3.2M

LEAD DPH STAFF



Angela Mora, M.Ed.
Public Health Director
El Paso Department of Public Health



Dr. Hector Ocaranza
Medical Director &
City-County Health Authority



Soraya Ayub Palacios
Lead Public Affairs Coordinator
Strategic Communications Office



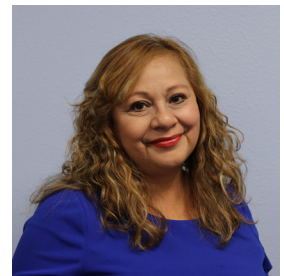
Annette Gonzalez
Nurse Practitioner
TB Clinic and Family Planning



Sara Cera
Disease Intervention
Program Manager



Semone Ben-Bani
Public Health Laboratory
Services Manager



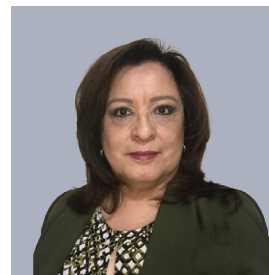
Irene Ovalle
HIV Prevention
Program Manager



Melissa Hawthorne
Sanitary Services Manager



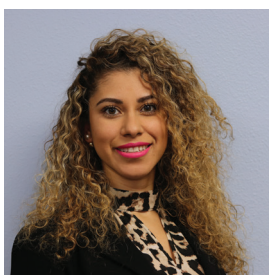
Vanessa Casner
Lead Epidemiologist



Alejandra Rodarte
Immunizations Manager



Dr. Kelley Brooks
Chief Dentist



Adriana Archer
WIC Program Manager



Joy Leos
Health Education &
Promotion Program Manager



Ruth Castillo
Public Health Emergency
Preparedness Program Manager



Claudia Lozano
Medicaid Waiver Program
Manager



PUBLIC HEALTH