



# Table of Contents

- 1. Table of Contents**
- 2. Waco - McLennan County Public Health District Board**
- 3. Message from Director**
- 4. McLennan County Profile**
- 5. Health Fund**
- 6. Environmental Health**
- 7. Epidemiology**
- 8. Health Education**
- 9. HIV / STD & Public**
- 10. Immunizations Clinic**
- 11. Immunizations Outreach**
- 12. Preparedness**
- 13. Tuberculosis**
- 14. Vital Statistics**
- 15. WIC**

# Waco McLennan County Public Health District Board



**Bottom row from left to right:**

Sherry Williams, Candice Marecle, Monica Hendrix, Lydia Lopez, Eva Cruz-Hamby and Michelle Hicks.

**Second row from left to right:**

Dr. Jim Morrison, Kevin Evans, Dr. Roland Goertz, Mayor Malcolm Duncan Jr. and Chief Yost Zhachary

**Top Row from left to right:**

City Manager Dale Fisseler, Robert Cervenka and Council Member John Kinnaird

**Not Pictured:**

Chief Billy Hlavenka, Mary Jo Jaska, Comissioner Lester Gibson, Dr. Marc Barrett, and Al Pollard

## Thank you Toni!

We would like to thank Toni Herbert for her 3 years of service to the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District Health Board. Her dedication to the health and wellness of our community has been invaluable.



# Message from the Director

Waco-McLennan County Public Health District (Health District) is the local public health agency for McLennan County. The Health District is charged with improving the quality of life in McLennan County by promoting healthy behavior, protecting the environment, preventing disease, preparing for emergencies and making McLennan County the healthiest county in Texas where all people can live, play, work and thrive. We are fortunate to have hard working staff focused on delivering quality public health services. We also appreciate working in a community that embraces public health principles to promote everyone's health and well-being. On behalf of the management and staff of the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District, I am pleased to present your Health District's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015. As you read through this report, it is our continued hope and intent that the information shared adequately illustrates the resources and efforts that have been invested to help protect the health and safety of individuals, families, and the environment in this wonderful community.

The staff of the Health District work diligently to protect residents from public health threats, to educate residents regarding health issues, and to provide healthy solutions to advance the community's health. This report will highlight activities performed by the Health District, many of which occur behind the scenes, with the primary focus of preventing disease or conditions that may cause disease, injury or disability. However, there are two major accomplishments that we are extremely proud of. The first is the completion of the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan and the second is the approval of a Model Smoking Ordinance by the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District Board of Health and the Waco City Council. The ordinance makes the City of Waco (which adopted the ordinance in July 2015) and any other Health District member city that adopts the ordinance, a 100% smoke-free city!

The Health District also works with various partners to ensure high quality resources and services. These partnerships provide the cornerstone of successful preventive public health services to address the needs of residents of McLennan County. We are fortunate to work with partners such as local healthcare providers, schools, businesses, non-profit agencies, community-based organizations, and individuals to promote health initiatives and control disease. We are also excited about the continued work that has occurred through Prosper Waco.

I know that I speak not only for myself, but also for the Board of Health and staff when I say thank-you for entrusting us with the responsibility and opportunity of providing you with the very best public health services possible.

Sincerely,

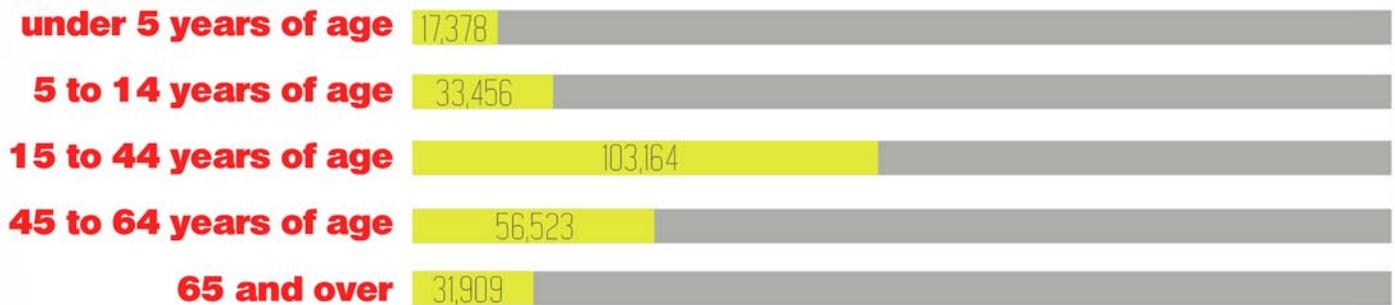
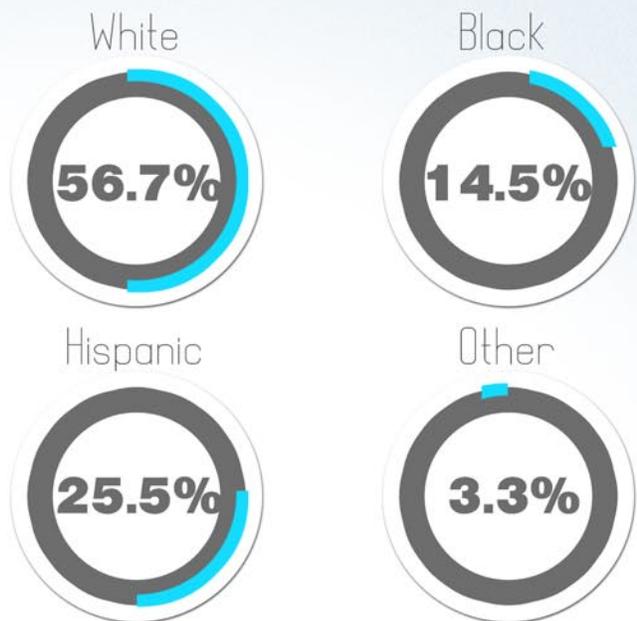
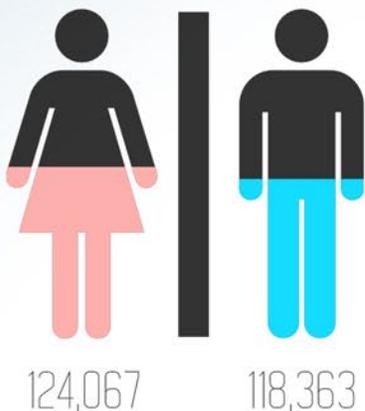
Sherry Williams, APRN  
Director  
Waco-McLennan County Public Health District



# McLennan County Profile

## Population

**242,430**



## Births



## Deaths



### Leading Causes of Death (Crude Numbers)

Heart Disease	467
Cancer	439
Stroke	144
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	121
Accidents	85
Septicemia	79
Alzheimer's	59

Diabetes	55
Liver Disease	34
Kidney Disease	32
Infant Deaths	31
Suicide	30
Influenza and Pneumonia	26
Fetal Deaths	22

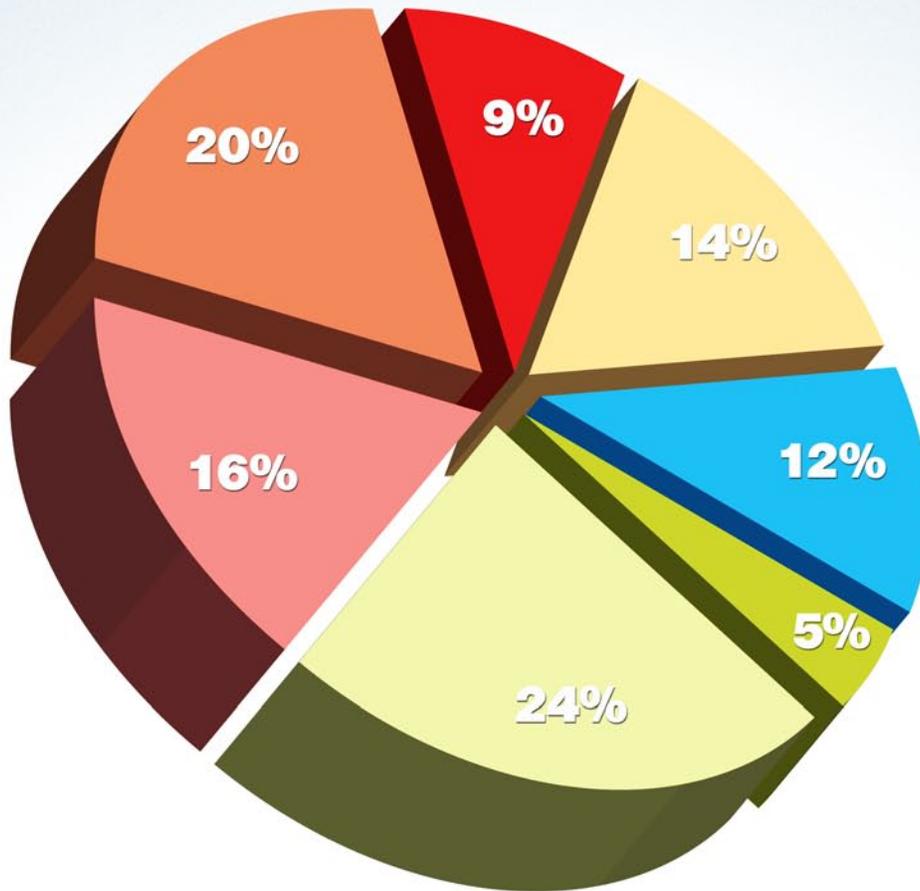
### Births

3927 in 2005	4105 in 2010
3990 in 2006	4193 in 2011
4071 in 2007	4182 in 2012
4057 in 2008	4224 in 2013
3985 in 2009	4385 in 2014

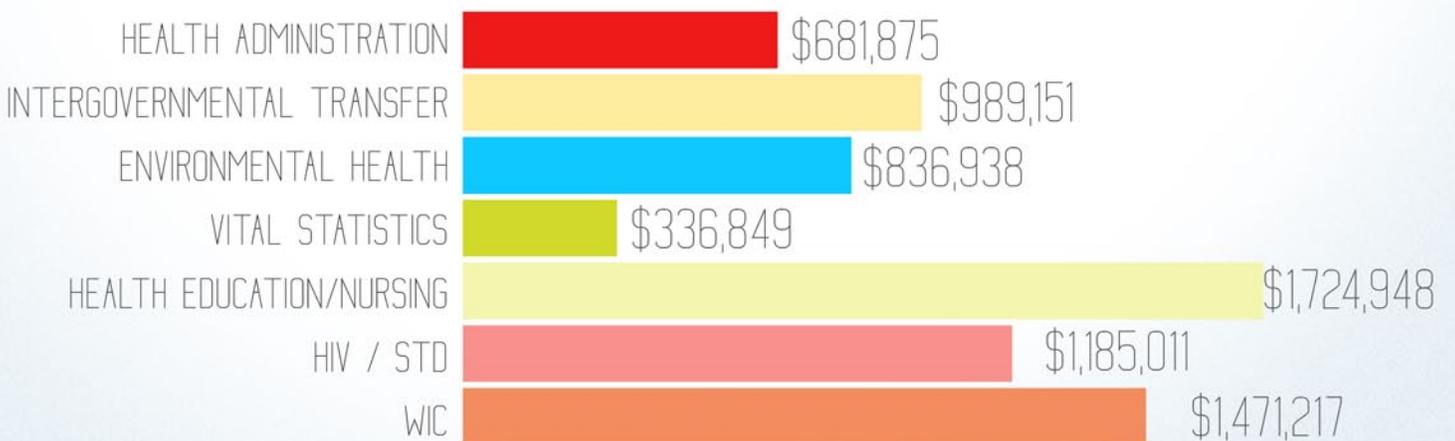
### Deaths

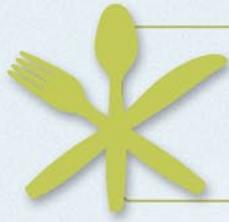
1672 in 2005	1638 in 2010
1625 in 2006	1540 in 2011
1600 in 2007	1605 in 2012
1760 in 2008	1660 in 2013
1562 in 2009	1859 in 2014

# HEALTH FUND



## Key for Pie Chart





## Environmental Health

Supporting the Health District's Mission and Vision, the Environmental Health Division identifies and corrects conditions in the natural or built environment that may affect human health or cause disease. To be as effective as possible in accomplishing this objective, comprehensive approaches are utilized which may be regulatory, consultative, academic, investigative and punitive in nature.

The term Environmental Health is broad in nature encompassing many topics including the permitting and inspection of food establishments, childcare facilities, swimming pools/spas, and on-site sewage facilities. Investigating and correcting sanitation nuisances such as fly, rat and mosquito breeding conditions, and requiring proper disposal of garbage and sewage are part of the Environmental Health component to help assure quality living standards in the community.

Mosquitoes are always a danger in that they may carry disease such as West Nile Virus and possible new emerging disease such as Chikungunya. The Mosquito Control and West Nile Virus Response Plan is in its third year and has expanded to all Health District members. Funding was secured to continue the program including providing insect repellent, mosquito dunk larvacide, and information. New videos and social media information was developed to spread the message of bite prevention and eliminating standing water which may be a breeding site for mosquitoes.

Environmental Health accomplishes its duty in several ways but primarily through inspections. Inspections are the primary method to identify and correct conditions in the environment that may cause disease or disease outbreaks. Initially a person may think the Division's responsibility in providing inspections is primarily involved with the more visible programs of food establishments and septic systems. Actually, it is much more than that.

The Environmental Health Division helps maintain compliance with the ordinances, laws and regulations below. The Division administers, enforces, provides inspections for, or assists other departments in the process of regulation. Sanitarians and inspectors are quietly in the background performing inspections to protect the public health, prevent disease, and improve the immediate environment.

Food establishments

Public/semipublic swimming pools and spas

OSSF (On Site Sewage Facilities)

Rodent Control

Mosquito Control

Smoking

Farmers market

Open Air Vending (if a mobile food vendor)

Childcare

Foster care

Adoptive homes

Adult care

Texas Health and Safety Code

Nightclubs

Indoor Amusements

Carnivals

Sexually oriented business

Waco Youth Programs (operated by the city)

Alcohol licenses

Commercial checks for new businesses

At times, other actions are necessary to protect the public health. Providing just an inspection may not always provide the desired results. Additional actions are necessary to correct identified violations and correct conditions that could contribute to an illness.

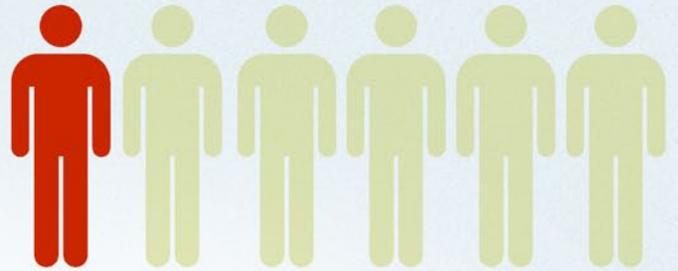
For example,



All the activities described above contribute to creating the healthiest county in Texas where all people can live, play, work, and thrive.

# FOOD BORNE ILLNESS

1 in 6



Americans get sick from eating contaminated food

## Common Food Borne diseases:

SALMONELLA

E. COLI

SHIGELLA

NOROVIRUS

LISTERIOSIS

## PROTECT

# YOURSELF AGAINST FOOD POISONING



- Wash hands and surfaces often.
- Illness-causing bacteria can survive in many places around your kitchen, including your hands, utensils, and cutting boards.



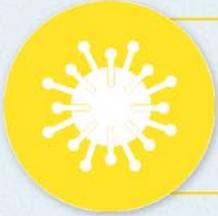
- Cook at the right temperature.
- Use a food thermometer. Make sure food reaches its safe minimum cooking.
- During meal times, while food is being served and eaten, keep it hot (140 °F or above).



- Don't cross contaminate
- Even after you've cleaned your hands and surfaces thoroughly, raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs can still spread illness-causing bacteria to ready-to-eat foods—unless you keep them separate.



- Refrigerate promptly
- Illness-causing bacteria can grow in many foods within two hours unless you refrigerate them.
- Refrigerate the foods that tend to spoil more quickly within two hours.
- Thaw or marinate food in the refrigerator, never on the counter or in the kitchen sink.

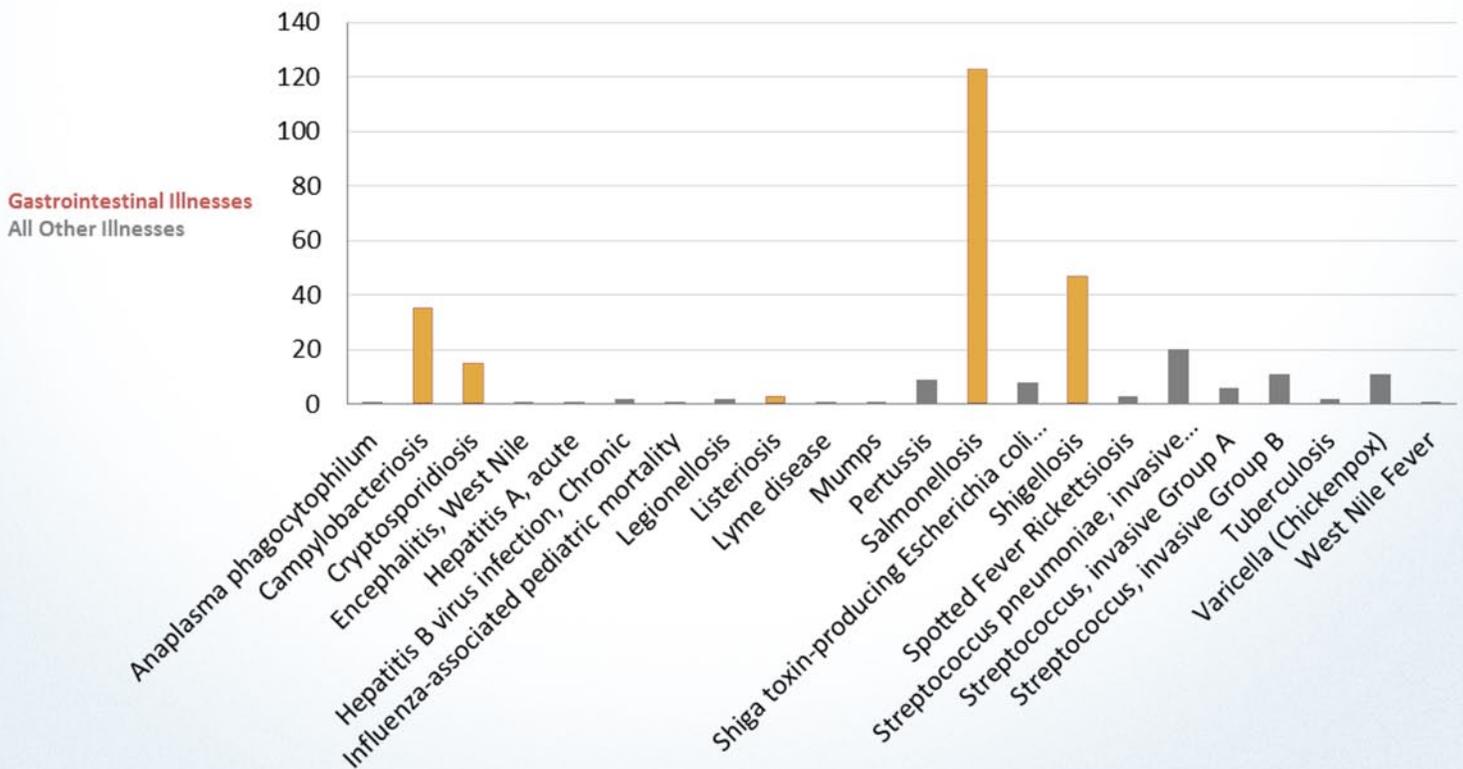


# Epidemiology

The Epidemiology Department at the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District (WMCPhD) works to protect and promote the health of the residents of McLennan County. The Epidemiology division monitors the prevalence of diseases and conditions that affect public health, provides expertise and analysis of adverse occurrences, investigates disease outbreaks, and makes recommendations pertaining to case management and control of future disease outbreaks.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 was a busy year for the Epidemiology division. A total of 304 notifiable disease reports were investigated from September 1, 2014 through September 1, 2015. During this period the Health District also investigated two viral gastrointestinal “stomach bug” outbreaks associated with a senior care facility and an early education center. In addition to the gastrointestinal outbreaks, one reported outbreak of strep throat was investigated within a school district. All outbreaks were investigated by using surveys and medical record information, and control measures were implemented at the facilities. Overall increased Salmonella or “Salmonellosis” activity has been observed during this time period as shown in the figure below.

**Number of Investigated Reportable Conditions September 2014-2015, McLennan County**



# Epidemiology continued...

On a routine basis, the quarterly reports and annual statistics were sent to over 400 McLennan County contacts. These contacts include McLennan County's health care providers, nursing homes, day cares and school district staff. The report included updates and topics on enteric diseases, vaccine preventable illnesses, flu and preparedness. The information is also available for public on WMCPHD's web page. [www.wacomclennanphd.org](http://www.wacomclennanphd.org)

The WMCPHD implements year round surveillance (tracking) of influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) from hospitals, clinics and schools. During FY2014-2015, WMCPHD staff participated in the Texas Department of State Health Services sponsored Enhanced Influenza Incidence Surveillance Project (IISP). IISP is an enhancement of influenza surveillance activities in the county. Two health care providers participated in the project. The weekly flu and epidemiological surveillance plays an important role in identifying and controlling outbreaks in the community.

In March 2015, the Epidemiology Division presented two abstracts at the Texas Public Health Association Annual Education Conference. The topics included a greater Waco food environment study and a worksite tobacco study which was a follow up study regarding electronic cigarettes.

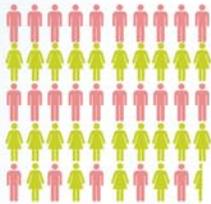
In collaboration with the Baylor School of Public Health, the Live Well Waco Coalition, and the Department of State Health Services, the Epidemiology Division conducted in March a physical activity and healthy eating assessment in East Waco. The data was collected by students and volunteers and analyzed and reported by our colleagues at Baylor. The report will be used by local stakeholders for grant writing, program evaluation, and initiative startup and can be found online at [www.wacomclennanphd.org](http://www.wacomclennanphd.org).



# Health Education

The health education program continues to serve area residents by providing health information geared toward reducing disease burden and promoting good health. The program accomplished many of its goals through work on three grants made available by the Department of State Health Services. The program also provides mentorship opportunities for university students to intern and learn more about public health.

**4,959**  
attendees



- self-management classes
- cooking classes
- support groups
- physical activity groups

The program promotes self-sufficiency in managing or preventing diabetes particularly for those at high risk for diabetes due to lifestyle factors and family history.

Provided educational materials, presentations, and the Texas Diabetes Council Diabetes Tool Kit and Algorithms for 164 healthcare professionals.



Healthcare professionals empowered & educated on diabetes treatment & protocols

**\$17,000**

raised through Diabetes Walk  
for research and education

In efforts to raise awareness for diabetes, the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District Diabetes Program teamed up with the Central Texas Diabetes Association to establish the first-ever Diabetes Walk. This event was a great success as community leaders joined forces.

The Diabetes Program provided education and resources on diabetes risk factors and management opportunities throughout the community as well as bridged the gap between education and medical care through continued implementation of referral systems that provided residents with links to community resources offered by our Diabetes Program.

Texas Healthy Communities Program recognizes cities for having environmental, and policy infrastructure and practices in place that are public health priorities for reducing cardiovascular disease, stroke, and other chronic diseases. The program assesses each participating city on the presence of policies and environments that promote health to reduce risk factors for chronic diseases and awarded McLennan County an Honorable Mention Recognition. The Texas Healthy Communities Program provided funding to conduct focus groups and household surveys within an area of high risk for chronic disease in order to

## Health Education continued...

gain an understanding of barriers to healthy living that contribute to the high rates of disease. The funds were also used to support two local partner programs, one providing an evidence-based family oriented healthy lifestyle program to 25 families including physical fitness and healthy eating activities achieved through interactive family sessions of healthy meal planning and preparation, exercise activities and behavior topics. The other program provided 180 kids the knowledge on healthy food choices achieved through hands-on lessons that teach specific nutrition knowledge and skills, as well as increase children's confidence in making food decisions.

Chaired by the Health Education Program, Live Well Waco is a coalition dedicated to improving the health of people living, working and playing in McLennan County through a collaborative effort between community businesses, organizations, and individuals who are devoted to the health of the community while focusing on area health disparities. Live Well Waco has been adopted by the Collective Impact Model of Prosper Waco Initiative as part of the city's master plan to improve financial stability, improve education and improve the health of county residents. The coalition supports efforts of the Texas Healthy Communities Program as well as supported the efforts of the Smoke Free Waco Coalition which established a comprehensive smoke free ordinance for the City of Waco to go into effect January 2016.

The Healthy Babies Coalition (HBC) continue their work to reduce preterm births in McLennan County while also working to understand the disparity which exists in populations experiencing premature births and infant loss at significant rates. The program provides education to all women of childbearing age on the importance of healthy lifestyle behaviors prior to pregnancy (preconception health) and in between pregnancies (interconception health) in an effort to reduce existing health disparities, improve birth outcomes for mothers and babies, and improve women's health throughout the life cycle. Partnering agencies' resources provided an opportunity to survey women in Waco in order to better understand the perception of women's health needs as well as learn some of the barriers that exist with accessing health care through conducting community focus groups with women, healthcare providers, & support systems. The coalition continued their support of the implementation of Centering Pregnancy, which is a model of group prenatal care, at two area clinics. Other ongoing HBC programming includes Text4Baby, Go Before you Show, and Someday Starts Now. Continued collaborations with HBC, Prosper Waco Women's Health Workgroup, and other partners provide education and resources on women's health risk factors in our community.



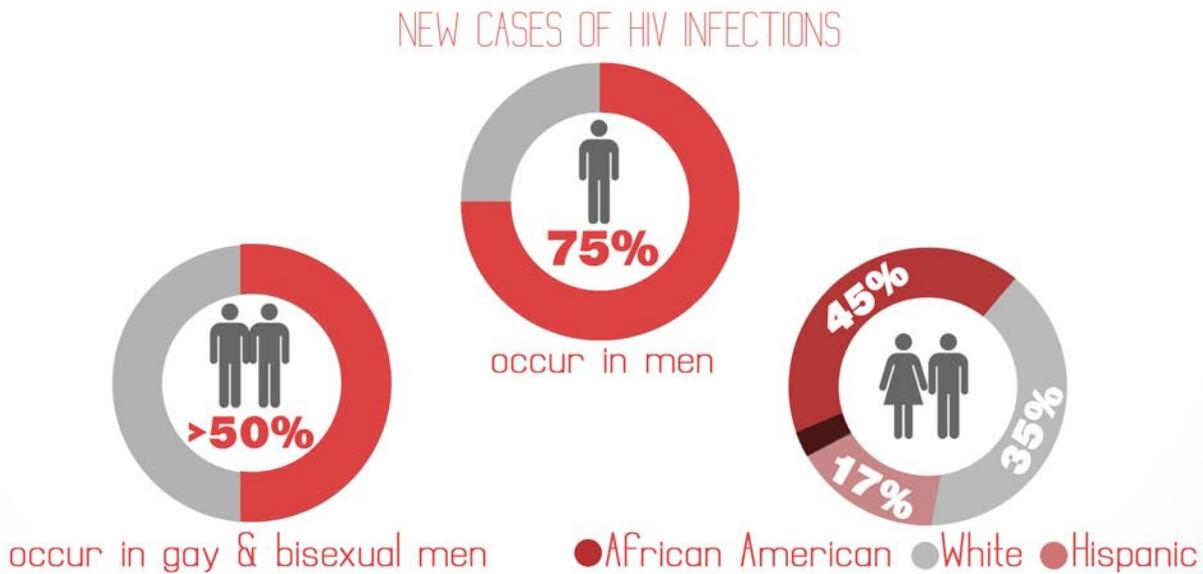
# HIV/STD & Public Health

One of the biggest misconceptions about the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States is that it's over. This belief is also part of why the disease is so dangerous.

An estimated 850,000–950,000 individuals in the United States are living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)—the virus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Approximately 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year in the United States. It is estimated that one fourth of individuals living with HIV are unaware that they have the virus. HIV transmission cannot be eliminated if individuals do not know their HIV status (i.e., whether they are HIV positive or HIV negative). An HIV test is the only way to determine if a person is living with the virus. Once an individual knows s/he is living with HIV, safer behaviors may be practiced to reduce or eliminate the likelihood of transmission

**The good news:** HIV is a preventable disease and effective public health HIV prevention interventions have been proven to reduce HIV transmission.

**The bad news:** there are gender, race, and ethnicity disparities in new HIV infections.



As the number of people living with HIV increases and more people become aware of their HIV status, public health prevention strategies that are targeted specifically for HIV-infected people are becoming more important. Prevention work with people living with HIV focuses on:

- Linking to and staying in treatment.
- Increasing the availability of ongoing HIV prevention interventions.
- Providing prevention services for their partners.

It is also important to foster wider availability of comprehensive services for people living with HIV and their partners through partnerships among health departments, community-based organizations and health care and social service providers.

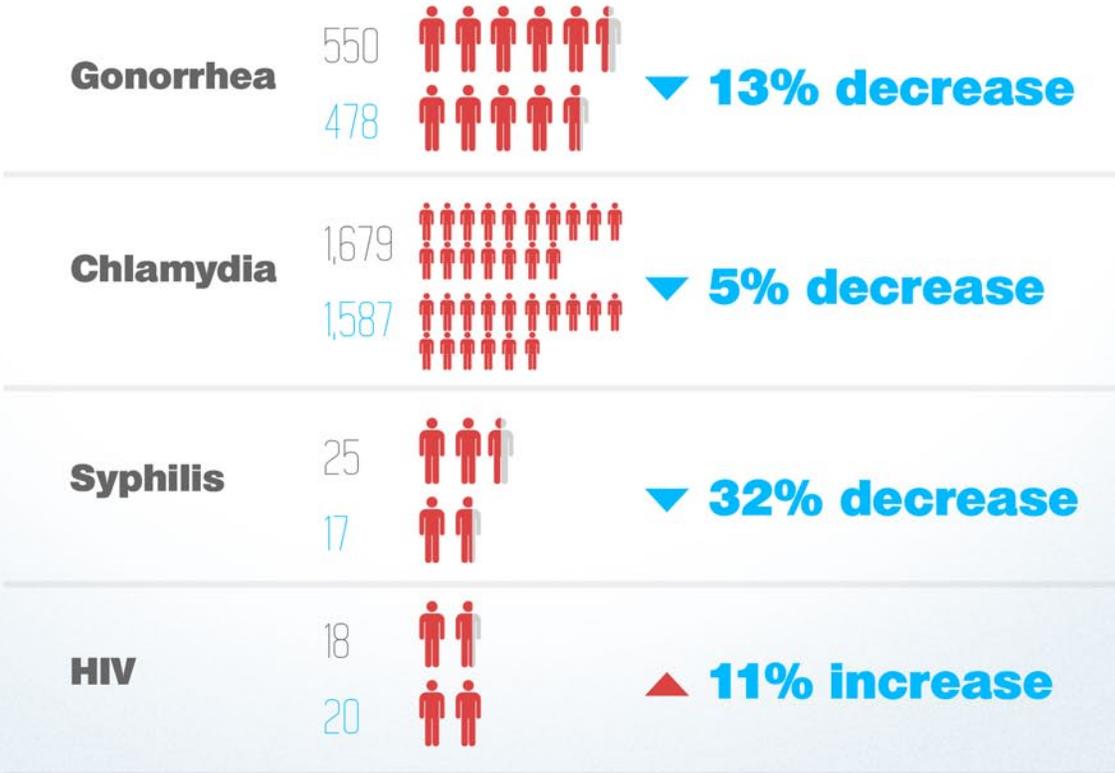
# HIV/STD & Public Health continued...

The Waco-McLennan County Public Health District's (WMCPHD) HIV department strives to meet the needs of all the citizens in our community by offering free HIV tests, prevention counseling and referral services. In 2014, the WMCPHD staff tested approximately 1,540 individuals for HIV and 20 new HIV cases were identified in McLennan County. For your free HIV test call: 254-750-5499.



The numbers below are the total number of new positive cases found in McLennan County for 2014 compared to 2013:

## TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW POSITIVE CASES - 2013 COMPARED TO 2014



# HIV CASE MANAGEMENT

The State of Texas set targets for HIV Case Management Programs across the state for 2014. Those targets were:



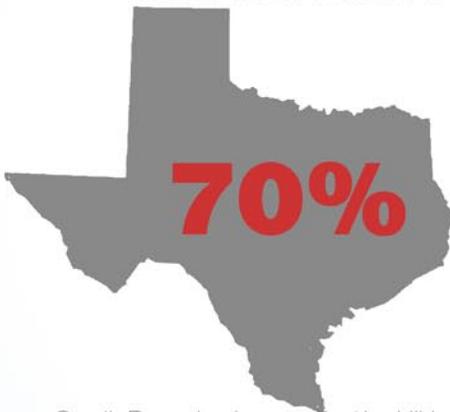
85% of all People Living with HIV will be retained in HIV Care and Treatment



of those retained will be Virally Suppressed ( the level of HIV virus in the blood is undetectable / very low making transmission of the virus less likely to occur).

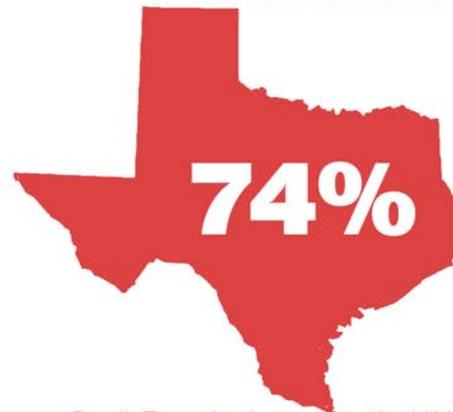
## The 2014 Statistics from DSHS for Health Service Delivery Area (HSDA)

### TEXAS HSDA RESULTS



of all People Living with HIV were Retained in Care and Treatment

### WACO HSDA RESULTS



of all People Living with HIV were Retained in Care and Treatment

of those Retained in Care and Treatment **81%** were Virally Suppressed For both TEXAS and WACO (HSDA)

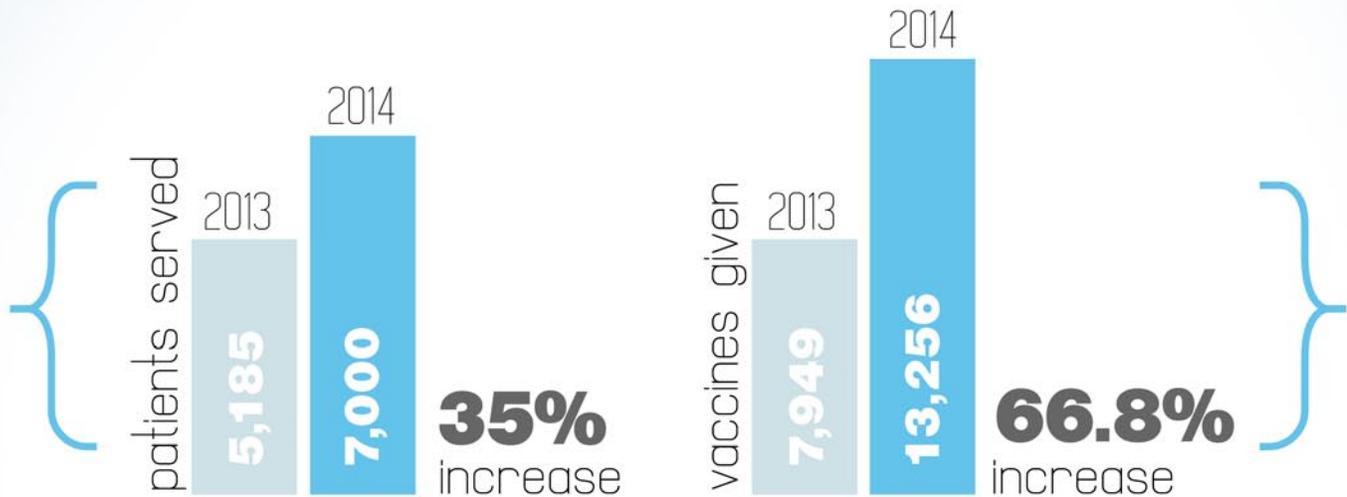
The Waco HSDA consists of these counties: McLennan, Falls, Limestone, Freestone, Hill and Bosque. The Waco- McLennan County Public Health District's Case Management Team comprises the Waco HSDA and is recognized for achievement in meeting the 81 % Viral Suppression target for 2014 . This team's rating also exceeded the State of Texas's 2014 rating for Retention in Care and Treatment .



# Immunizations Clinic

The goal of the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District Immunization Program is to immunize and educate the community. This was accomplished this year through various means.

The clinic is open daily for the administration of immunizations and Tuberculosis skin tests (not related to cases). The number of patients served this year increased by 35% (up from 5,185 last year) and the number of vaccines given increased by 66.8% (up from 7,949 last year). In addition to this data, 788 TB skin tests were also given during the fiscal year.



By stocking both private and public vaccines and staying open outside of normal business hours, the Immunization Clinic is able to serve as many citizens as possible in a manner that is convenient for them. Clinic staff also partner with many local businesses by providing flu shots and other vaccines on site at the employer's location. The Health District's Immunization Clinic is one of 36 provider offices in McLennan County enrolled in the Texas Vaccines for Children program (TVFC) and the Adult Safety Net program (ASN). These programs are funded by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and provide vaccines at low or no cost to clients who are uninsured, underinsured, or who receive Medicaid. The clinic has increased the number of privately insured clients by accepting Blue Cross Blue Shield and First Care.

When community members are preparing to travel outside of the US, it is important that they receive the recommended vaccines to protect against diseases that they may encounter. A total of 459 foreign travel vaccines were administered this year, including Yellow Fever and Typhoid vaccines. For more information, travelers should call the clinic at (254)750-5410 or visit the CDC website at [www.CDC.gov/travel](http://www.CDC.gov/travel).

# Immunization Outreach



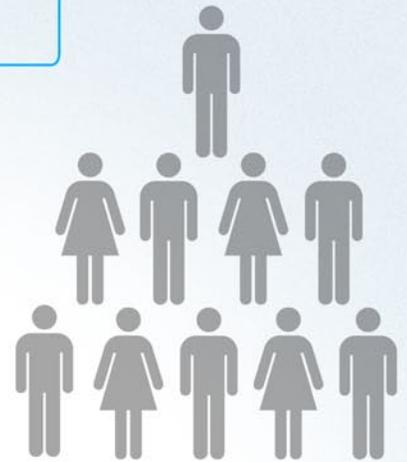
The Immunization Outreach program exists to spread awareness and educate the public regarding vaccines in an effort to ensure that citizens are fully protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. Staff participated in numerous health fairs, meetings and collaborations with community agencies, and other educational opportunities. An annual Immunization Workshop was held to offer local healthcare providers and school nurses updates and information on the current immunization recommendations.

ImmTrac is the electronic immunization registry for Texas. The system allows information access and retrieval by any enrolled provider. The Immunization Outreach staff monitors this system on a quarterly basis to ensure children are current on all recommended vaccinations. This process ensures a greater level of immunization coverage for county residents, resulting in a healthier Texas.



# Preparedness

The Preparedness Program of the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District focuses its efforts on planning for, and responding to public health emergencies such as infectious disease outbreaks, bioterrorism, and natural disasters. Throughout the year, Preparedness staff members collaborate with emergency response partners through planning meetings, as well as drills and exercises that allow us to evaluate our plans and revise them as needed.



In this past year, the Preparedness Program has focused its efforts on coordinating and hosting multiple exercises and trainings. Grant funds were awarded to conduct a Mass Fatality Site Operations training course. This course provided training and guidance to local first responders and Justices of the Peace on site management and recovery of remains in the event of a mass fatality incident. This training also supported the larger regional effort to develop and exercise mass fatality plans for both McLennan County and the Heart of Texas Region. In addition to these activities, the Preparedness Program was also awarded grant funds to conduct an exercise testing the communication and coordination between emergency management and medical partners across multiple jurisdictions. Emergency operations centers and hospitals from across a five county region came together during this exercise to ensure that if a disaster impacted multiple counties simultaneously, those responding agencies could communicate and respond in a coordinated manner.

The Strategic National Stockpile program underwent a new evaluation tool this year called the Operational Readiness Review. The Strategic National Stockpile Program is intended to prepare the county for situations where mass dispensing of medications or vaccination is required. After several successful reviews of our plans over the past few years, the Preparedness and SNS team has begun focusing our efforts on ensuring that our plans are operational. In order to do this, we will be conducting drills and exercises at our many Point of Dispensing sites across the county. These events will give us the opportunity to increase our ability to quickly and efficiently protect the people of McLennan County in the event of a public health emergency.

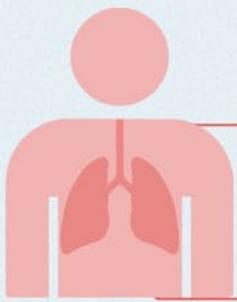
## **Medical Reserve Corps**

The Waco-McLennan County Public Health District is the sponsoring agency for the Central Texas Medical Reserve Corps (CTMRC.) The mission of the CTMRC is to recruit, specifically train, and retain volunteers to expand health and medical response capabilities, and preparedness information presentations within McLennan County.

Annual Psychosocial Intervention Team training was conducted on January 17-18, 2015.

Over 50 students were trained, and interested graduates joined with past classmates to form the CTMRC Psychosocial Intervention Teams (PIT). During real incidents or an exercise event, PIT can be activated to alleviate anxiety and refer any clients with psychosocial needs to professionals.

Individuals interested in supporting emergency response operations during a disaster in McLennan County can visit [www.wacomclennanphd.org](http://www.wacomclennanphd.org) for more information on becoming a CTMRC volunteer.



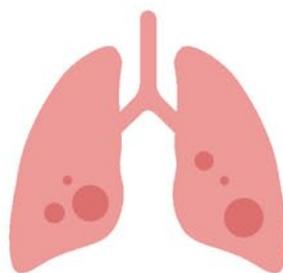
# Tuberculosis Control

The primary purpose of the Tuberculosis Control (TB) Program of the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District is to identify, educate, and treat individuals suspected or known to have tuberculosis. Services provided include: skin testing, contact investigations, appropriate referrals, monthly follow up, and tuberculosis medical evaluation by an infectious disease physician. Our specially trained staff is also available for presentations to community organizations and health care agencies since awareness is very important in halting the spread of this disease. The TB Program staff is also available to train others on the proper administration and reading of tuberculosis skin testing, proper reporting forms, and identification of signs and symptoms of tuberculosis infection and disease.

Individuals with active disease are placed on Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) as required by the Texas Department of State Health Services as a method of TB control. During fiscal year 2014-2015, the TB staff provided approximately 3,941 units of services, including 1,347 services to 86 clients, 6 of which were active cases of TB and 3 suspects cases.

Also, during this fiscal year, the TB control clinic successfully implemented the use of 12 Week Isoniazid/Rifapentine Therapy (INH/RPT), which is a preventable treatment option. This medication regimen is performed using Direct Observation Therapy. The client comes to the TB clinic once a week for 12 weeks to have medications administered by the nurse. The TB nurse

assesses the client each week for any signs of adverse reactions and/or drug toxicity. INH/RPT is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control as an option which is equal to 9 months of daily INH alone. The TB Program continues to provide education and training to the public, as well as, our local healthcare community regarding TB Disease and Infection.

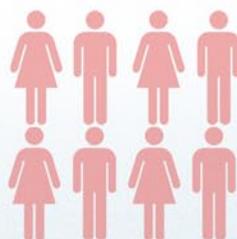


Active Cases 6

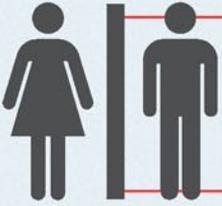
Suspects/Non-Myobacterium 3



Directly Observed Preventative Therapy (DOPT) 2



Latent Tuberculosis Infection 80



# Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics department of the Waco McLennan County Public Health District has been working on several projects this year. They are working with the Dept. of State Health Services Texas Vital Statistics on the implementation of a comprehensive vital registration system (TxEVER) for the State of Texas.

The vital events that will be included in the new system are as follows:

- Birth certificates and amendments
- Death certificates and amendments
- Fetal death certificates
- Marriage certificates
- Reports of divorce
- Adoptions
- Abortions
- Acknowledgements of Paternity

The local registrar and staff participated with local registrars across the state to review data entry screens and process flows. They are working to evaluate and select the best vital event registry product. In 2016, testing of the new system will begin. Testing will be completed and offices will be selected for pilot projects in 2017. Our office has requested to be one of the pilot projects. All users will receive training and the TxEVER is scheduled go live on January 1, 2018. The main goals of TxEVER will be to enhance data quality, increase security of records, and improve customer experience.

The Vital Statistics office is working to implement all policy and form changes in response to the June 26, 2015 Supreme Court ruling in Obergefell recognizing same-sex marriages and the July 7, 2015, U.S. District Court ruling in DeLeon. The vital events addressed by the revised policies are birth certificates, death certificates, amendments to birth and death certificates, adoptions, marriage certificates and divorce certificates.

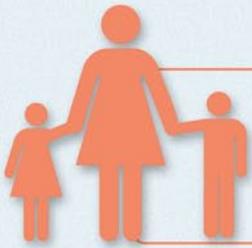
Birth certificates and birth certificate amendments will be processed and issued to same-sex couples for a child that is born in Texas when one parent is the birth mother. The same-sex couple must be legally married in Texas or another state at the time of the child's birth. A person in a same-sex marriage can choose to be listed as mother, father or parent on their child's birth certificate.

Death certificates will be processed and issued or amended to include the name of a decedent's same-sex surviving spouse when the death occurred in Texas on or after June 26, 2015. The same-sex couple would have to be legally married in Texas or another state at the time of the decedent's death.

For decedents who died in Texas prior to June 26, 2015, an amendment can be processed recognizing any legal, same-sex marriage at the time of death for the same-sex marriages that occurred in another state prior to June 26, 2015. The death certificate can be amended to show the decedent's status as "married" and to list the surviving spouse.

For any adoption on or after June 26, 2015, the birth certificate of the adopted child will be issued or amended to include the names of both persons of the same-sex couple if their names are listed on the court order or formal certificate of adoption.

For adoptions prior to June 26, 2015, amendments to birth certificates previously issued will be processed to list the names of both persons of the same-sex couple if both are named as parents in the court ordered adoption.



# WIC - Women, Infants & Children

WIC helps you make amazing kids! This is the campaign message promoting WIC throughout the state of Texas for 2015. WIC agrees – Raising amazing kids is hard; Getting amazing help is easy – when WIC is involved.

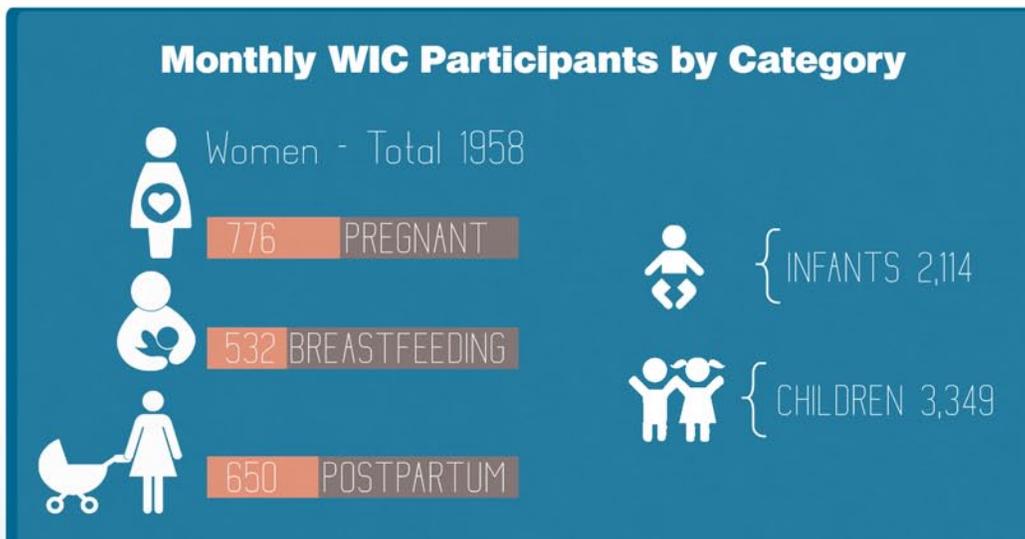
WIC is the nutrition program that helps pregnant women, new mothers, and young children eat well, learn about nutrition, and stay healthy. Nutrition education and counseling, nutritious foods, and help accessing health care are provided to qualified women, infants, and children through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program, popularly known as WIC.

Qualifications for participation include one who is:

- Pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum
- Infant or child under 5 years old
- Income eligible

Income guidelines for the WIC program are considerably higher than most other federal assistance programs. For instance, for a family of four to income qualify their total household income cannot exceed \$44,863.

An average of 7421 WIC participants receive monthly services/benefits from the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District's WIC Program's 6 locations. The chart below shows the average monthly number of participants based on category:



## WIC - continued...

Services and benefits of the WIC program include receiving monthly food benefits, nutrition education and health care resources. Children are the focus of the WIC program therefore our clinic settings and nutrition education activities are designed with them in mind.

A fun and interactive nutrition education format provided monthly this year was our WIC Carnivals. Our participants enjoyed the games, nutrition presentations, taste tests, activities such as reading a food label or a cooking demonstration, and the outside agencies/organizations attending that provided an awareness of their services. This year we had approximately 3,100 participants in attendance.

A major component of WIC's Nutrition Education program is breastfeeding. Support and education for breastfeeding is provided to all women participating in the WIC Program. This August – National Breastfeeding Month – the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District's WIC Program attended Waco's Farmers' Market promoting the benefits of breastfeeding to both mother and baby.

WIC knows when it comes to health and well being of mom and baby, breastfeeding is the best choice!

2015 marks the 41st Anniversary of the WIC Program. Over the years WIC has consistently and successfully improved health outcomes in the population it serves. To learn more about WIC please visit [TexasWIC.org](http://TexasWIC.org) or the National WIC Association at [nwica.org](http://nwica.org)

