

# Epidemiology in Texas

## 2006 Annual Report



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#### **Infectious Disease Control Unit Staff**

Marilyn Felkner, DrPH

Linda Gaul, PhD, MPH

Laura Tabony, MPH

Lesley Bullion

Webmaster: Michael McElwain



EpiLink Online Bulletin  
Infectious Disease Control Unit  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
1100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mail Code 1960, PO Box 14347  
Austin, Texas 78756-9347  
512-458-7676  
[www.epilink.org](http://www.epilink.org)

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The goal of the Epidemiology in Texas Annual Report is to provide a yearly summary of incidence data, outbreak reports, and case narrative that enable health professionals and the public to understand, monitor, and prevent disease, injuries, and other health conditions in Texas.

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## Foreword

This is the first edition of the Epidemiology in Texas Annual Report since the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) began operations on September 1, 2004. The DSHS now performs the duties of several former state organizations: the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation's (TDMHMR) mental health services, the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA), the Texas Health Care Information Council, and the Texas Department of Health (TDH). Over 11,500 employees now work at DSHS (over 60% work in the state hospitals) providing a wide variety of behavioral health and public health services at the state hospitals, and regional, local, and Austin offices with an annual budget of about \$2.5 billion.

Epidemiologists and other health services staff work together with their local and state partners to improve the health of all Texans. One area of work is providing information and resources for healthcare and public health professionals in Texas. This year, the DSHS *EpiLink Online Bulletin* ([www.epilink.org](http://www.epilink.org)) began publication and already has covered topics on infectious disease, substance use, environmental health and toxicology, maternal and child health, and the public health laboratory. The annual epidemiological report is another piece of this important function.

This 2006 edition provides an annual summary of certain topics, multi-year summaries of others, as well as regional outbreak investigations. The last report was published in 1999, and much has changed since then. Public health preparedness has taken an all-hazards approach and DSHS has, too. Our holistic, integrated approach to improving the health of Texans is beginning to be implemented across the agency and you should be able to track our progress across future annual reports.

To your health,

Vincent P. Fonseca, MD, MPH,  
State Epidemiologist

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## Contributors

Infectious Disease Control Unit, Susan Penfield, MD, Manager

Infectious Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology Branch, Tom Betz, MD, MPH, Manager

Leilanni Alaniz, MPH<sup>2</sup>

Mark Badeaux<sup>1</sup>

Lesley Bullion

Stacy Davlin, MPH<sup>1</sup>

Rita Espinoza, MPH

Kathryn Gardner, DrPH, RNC, CIC

Linda K. Gaul, PhD, MPH

Gary Heseltine, MD, MPH

Karen Moody, MS

Neil Pascoe, RN, CIC

Barbara Scaife, MSHP

Nivedita Seerpi, MPH

Sonya Shannon<sup>2</sup>

Zoonosis Control Branch, Tom J. Sidwa, DVM, Manager

Jim Schuermann

Pam Wilson, MEd

Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program Services  
Decision Support Unit, Karen Ruggiero, PhD, Manager

Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program,  
Michael Maples, Manager,

Martin Arocena, PhD

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Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit, Lucina Suarez, PhD,  
Manager

Environmental and Injury Epidemiology and Toxicology Branch,  
John F. Villanacci, PhD, Manager

Marcia Becker, MPH, MH(ASCP)SH

Julie Borders, MS

Carrie Bradford, PhD, MS

Brienne Brown

Tom Ellerbee

Rick Harris

John Hellsten, PhD

Susan L. Prosperie, MS, RS

L.J. Smith, MS

Laurie Wagner

Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Mark  
Canfield, PhD, Manager

Amy Case, MAHS

Cancer Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Melanie A.  
Williams, PhD, Manager<sup>3</sup>

Erin E. Fox, PhD

HIV and STD Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Sharon K.  
Melville, MD, MPH, Manager

Ed Weckerly, MS

Public Health Preparedness Unit, Dede Powell, Director

Regional and Community Coordination Branch, Beverly Ray, RN  
and Leslie Mansolo, MSN, RN, Managers

David F. Zane, MS

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Health Service Region 2/3, James A. Zoretic, MD, MPH, Medical Director

Community Preparedness, Bryan Flow, DVM, PhD, Manager

Jawaid Asghar, MBBS, MHA

Joan Schulte, DO, MPH

Health Service Region 7, James K. Morgan, MD, MPH, Medical Director

Carol M. Davis, MSPH

Glenna J. Teltow MS, M(ASCP)

Health Service Region 9/10, Luis Escobedo, MD, MPH, Medical Director

Epidemiology Response Team and Public Health Preparedness,  
Arthur G. Alvarado, MPH, RS, Manager

Troy W. Bradshaw, RN, MS

Health Service Region 11, Brian Smith, MD, MPH, Medical Director

Epidemiology Response Team, Barbara Adams, MPH, Manager

Vivienne Heines, MPH

<sup>1</sup>formerly

<sup>2</sup>intern

<sup>3</sup>acting

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## Acknowledgements

### *Drowning Events in Texas, 2000-2004*

A Patnaik, MPH, University of Texas School of Public Health – Houston, Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Services

### *M. mucogenicum outbreak in a hospital in South Texas, 2006*

M Jhung, MD, MPH, Medical Epidemiologist, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP), National Center for Prevention Control and Detection of Infectious Diseases (NCPCDID)

### *Wildfire-related Mortality- Panhandle, March 12-20, 2006*

J Alexander DVM, B Hernandez, T Haywood, P Raimondo, J Walker, MD, T Sidwa, DVM, S Elkins, D Johnson, A Whitley, P Tabor, C Tuttle, D McLellan, R Apodaca, M Widtfeldt, S Prosperie, B Ray, RN, D Powell, Texas Dept of State Health Services; B Woods, P Hannemann, P Schaub, C Roggenbuck, Texas Forest Service; C Rollins, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Svc; J Smith National Interagency Fire Center; Douglas Weatherwax, CDC; and, local emergency management staff members, justices of the peace, and public safety officers in the Texas Panhandle region