

**Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Newsletter**

## Your Health Department at Work

<b>2nd Quarter</b>	Lab Services Provided: 5,064
Birth Records Filed: 686	Dental Patients Served: 79
Death Records Filed: 414	Medical Services Provided: 4,745
Immunizations Given: 1,684	Restaurant & Food Related Inspections: 586
WIC Participants Served: 10,393	Nuisance Complaint Investigations: 52

## Events & Programs

### The Mosquito Menace



Oh the fun of sorting mosquitos!

Texans are potentially at risk for contracting either West Nile or Zika Virus via mosquito bites, travel, or sexual intercourse. Both of these illnesses present with flu-like symptoms, such as: body or joint aches, rash, headache, red eyes, and fever. Zika is particularly harmful to women who are pregnant or planning to get pregnant, as it increases the chance of the fetus developing microcephaly. Although only 1 in 5 people typically display symptoms, it is a good idea to ask your doctor about testing if you suspect you may have been infected. Traveling to at-risk countries is strongly discouraged (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/world-map-areas-with-zika>).



One of several mosquito traps placed around the city

Luckily, one can protect against mosquito bites by remembering the **four D's of prevention**:

**DEET** (using an insect repellent with at least 20% DEET)

**DRESS** (wearing long shirts/pants at dawn and dusk)

**DRAIN** (draining all standing water around one's home)

**DOORS** (keeping doors shut whenever possible and inspecting screens on windows)

## MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

I attended the 2017 National Association for City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) Conference, and the theme was, Public Health Revolution: Bridging Clinical Medicine and Population Health. The conference highlighted the unique opportunity local public health has to convene discussions and efforts around population health, clinical medicine, and the management of systems that measure health and healthcare outcomes. Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District is committed to partnering and collaborating with the hospital systems, universities, local and state government, private businesses and other healthcare organizations to enhance population health in our community. After all, we are stronger together!

- Santos Navarrete, Jr.



Kay Durilla, RN, BSN, Nurse Program Mgr., retires after 20 years of service!

**The HEALTH CONNECTION**

**Employee Spotlight - Vincent Cantu, PHEP Coordinator**



Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) section. There, I utilize 15 public health preparedness capabilities to help protect the city from high consequence infectious diseases (HCID) by planning for disasters such as bio-terrorism, pandemics and arboviruses. In addition to preparing for HClDs I also plan for major accidents such as plane crashes, train derailments and many other incidents where public health may be involved. A major part of my job is implementing Strategic National Stockpile plans based on the layout and population of the city. I anticipate the types of dangers that may come our way by holding discussions and operations based exercises while including as much of the community as possible. I direct the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program, which is a volunteer organization that serves to mitigate public health disasters and assists with other public health initiatives. I also lead the Vector Control Program for

mosquito abatement.

**Q. What is your role at the health department?**

A. I am the Health Management Coordinator for the Public

**Q. What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

A. I take pride in knowing that I am responsible for keeping the citizens of Abilene safe when the unthinkable happens. A close second to the most rewarding part of being in PHEP is meeting people. PHEP requires you to make many connections so that once disaster hits, you know who does what and to what level they can perform their duties.

**Q. What are some fun facts about you?**

A. I eat a lot... like a lot... which leads me to staying in the gym a lot too. I'm from San Antonio and I love acting, singing and have been in several plays.

**Featured Program**

**Environmental Health**

Registered Sanitarians and Health Inspectors work to prevent food-borne illness outbreaks and water-borne disease contamination. We have a staff of six who monitor and educate establishments and enforce regulations to protect the public from communicable diseases.

**Major services we provide to keep the community safe:**

Food Establishment Inspections

- ◆ Full service restaurants, grocery and convenience stores (700 facilities)
- ◆ Mobile food trucks (52)
- ◆ Snow cone and seasonal concession stands (51)
- ◆ Temporary food booths
- ◆ Farmer's Market

Daycare Inspections (41)

- ◆ Food facility inspections
- ◆ Sanitary practices (bathrooms, playrooms, sleeping areas, toys)
- ◆ Safety hazards/physical facility

Commercial swimming pool / spa inspections (115)

- ◆ Safety equipment and hazards
- ◆ Water chemistry

Nuisance Complaints

- ◆ Sewage & stagnant water (commercial & residential)
- ◆ Bed bugs & insect infestation (commercial only)

Onsite Sewage Facility Inspections



Reach our Environmental Health Team at (325) 676-6291 or 633 Walnut inside Community Services.

**STD Testing**

June 27th was National HIV Testing Day and our MERCY Health Care Center hosted a free event to allow people to find out their status. A total of 33 people were tested! Another FREE event is in the works. On Friday, September 8 from 7am to 7pm., our MERCY

Health Care Center at 1902 Shelton, will be hosting a GYT (Get Yourself Tested) event which includes free STD testing. According to the CDC, 1 in 2 sexually active young people will get an STD by the age of 25. Education and prevention are key but treatment is available. Most STDs are curable and all are treatable.

**Common Myths:**

1. I've had a pap test or donated blood so I've been tested, right?
2. I don't have symptoms, so I don't need to be tested.
3. If I needed to be tested, my doctor would automatically test me.
4. I've only had one partner so I don't need to get tested.
5. I can tell if someone has an STD by looking at them.

**No appointment needed.**

Call (325) 676-6634