


Partnering with Public Health Teamwork makes the Dream Work

Leigh Riggins, BSN, RN
TB Program Manager
Texas Department of State Health Services, PHR 4/5

Screening and Treating Tuberculosis Infection
August 28, 2025
Tyler, Texas

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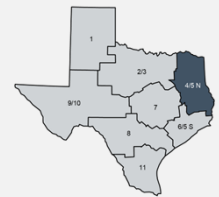
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Public Health Region 4/5 N Serving You

Objectives

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- Identify the role of DSHS and local public health departments in Tuberculosis (TB) prevention and treatment.
- Examine TB data for Public Health Region 4/5 (PHR 4/5).
- Identify strategies for collaboration between health departments, corrections, and community providers.



Public Health Role in TB Prevention & Care

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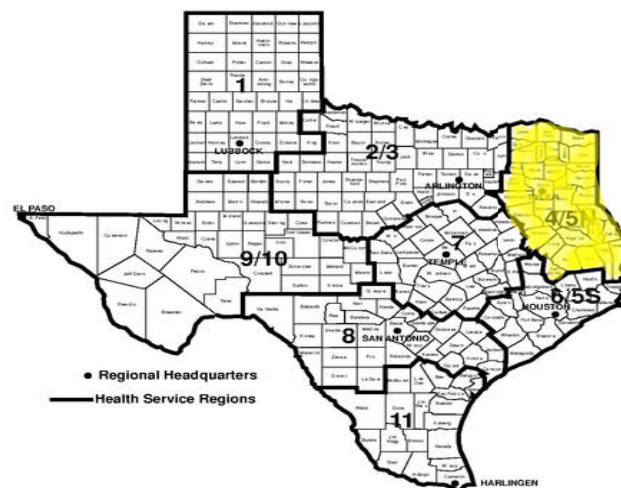
- Evaluate, diagnose, and treat patients with active TB disease and TB infection.
- Perform contact investigations. Interview patients with TB disease to identify individuals who may have been exposed to TB.
- Locate, test, and treat individuals who have been exposed to TB. Includes TB infections and/or TB disease.
- Collaborate TB care and follow up with entities outside of health department. Entities include hospitals, health care providers, schools, and correctional facilities (jails, ICE detention facilities).

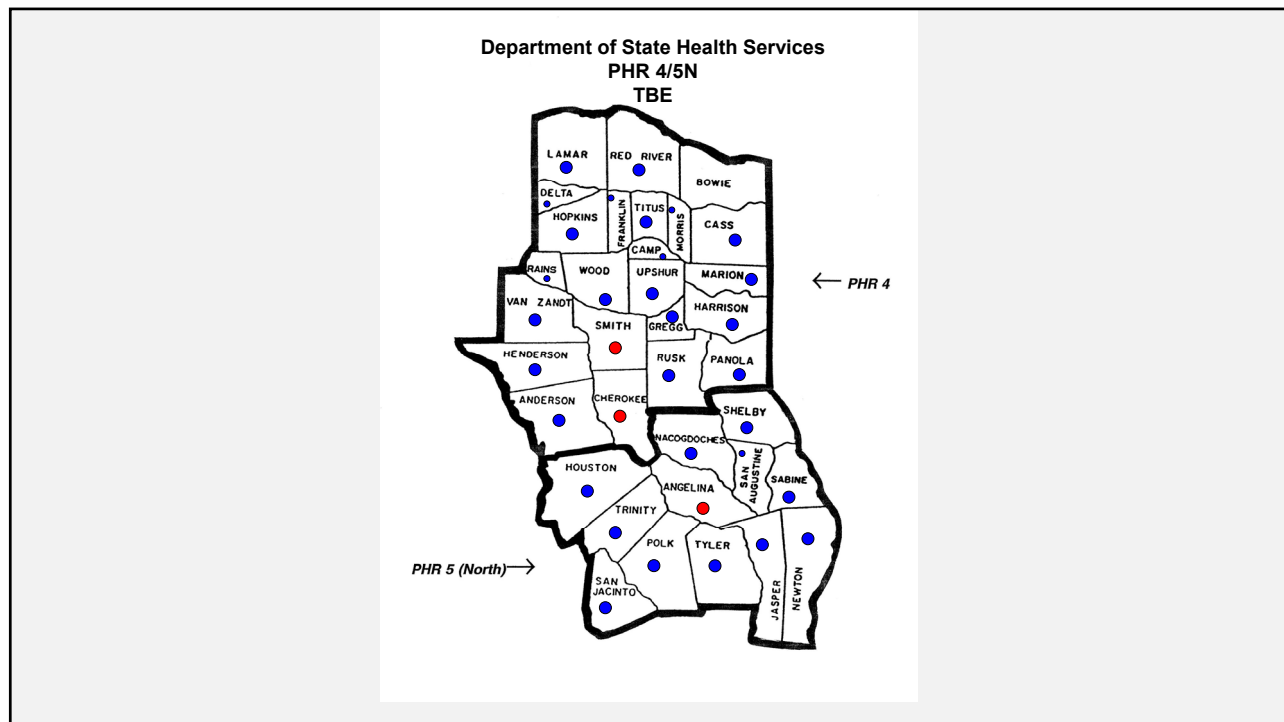
Public Health Role in TB Prevention & Care

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- Evaluate patients referred through the CDC's Electronic Disease Notification (EDN) system.
- Evaluate status adjusters referred through eMedical.
- Screen, test, and treat those in our community who have entered the US on humanitarian VISAs.
- Educate communities and healthcare providers about TB disease and TB infection.
- Conduct passive and active surveillance activities for identifying TB cases.
- Real time reporting of suspected and confirmed TB cases.





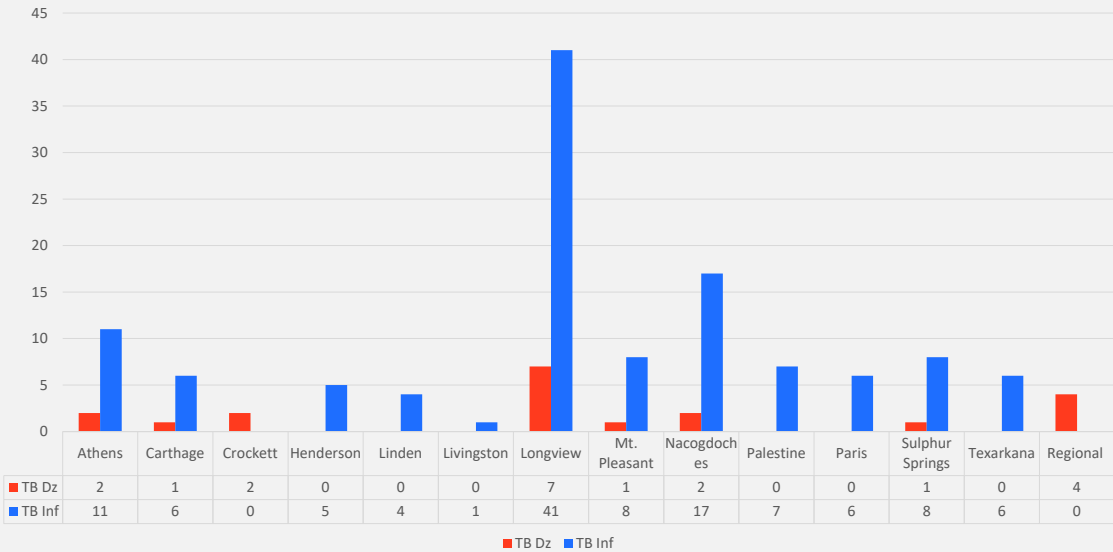
Public Health Region 4/5- TB Coverage

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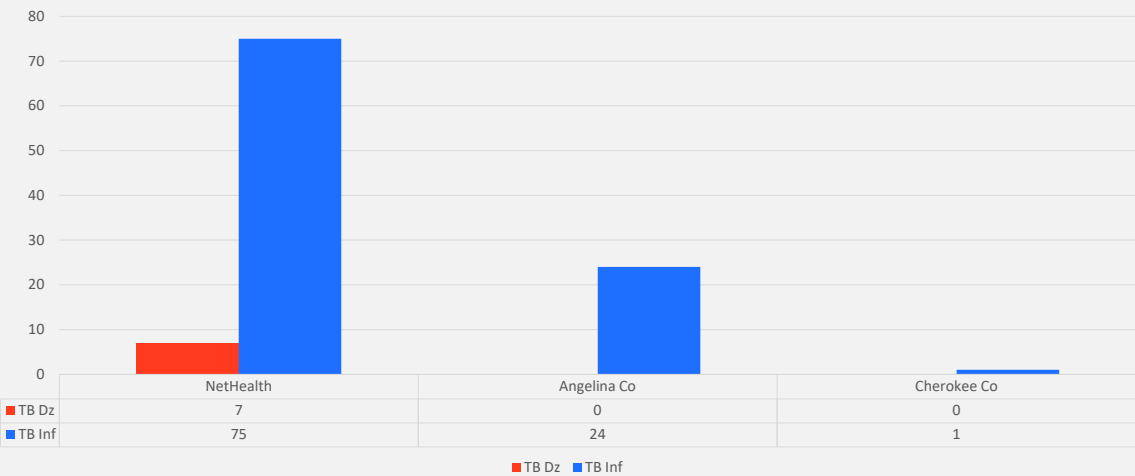
Public Health Region 4/5 N Serving You

- 35 Counties
- 16 Regional Clinics- Dr. Sharon Huff/Dr. Megan Devine/Dr. Rodolfo Amaro
 - North- Texarkana, Paris, Sulphur Springs, Mt. Pleasant
 - Central- Longview, Athens, Henderson, Carthage
 - South- Palestine, Crockett, Nacogdoches, Livingston
- 3 Local Health Departments
 - Smith Co- Northeast Texas Public Health District, Dr. Devine/Dr. Amaro
 - Cherokee Co- Cherokee County Public Health Department, Dr. Low
 - Angelina Co- Angelina County & Cities Health District, Dr. Devine/Dr. Amaro

PHR 4/5- 2024 Regional Clinic TB Counts



PHR 4/5- 2024 Local Health Dept TB Counts



Electronic Disease Notification (EDN)

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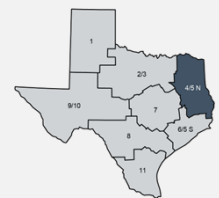
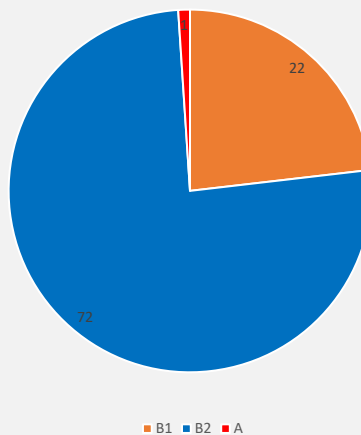
• Definitions:

- Class A- TB disease, actively infectious (requires waiver)
- Class B1- TB disease dx or suspected, infectiousness needs to be assessed
- Class B2- TB infection, needs treatment
- Class B3- TB contact

PHR 4/5 2024 EDN TB Referrals

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EDN Referrals



Opportunities For Collaboration

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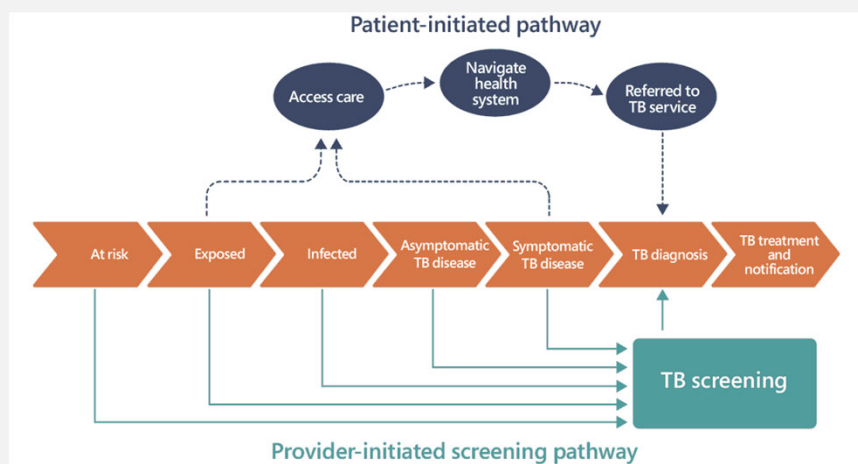
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- Early Detection and Screening
- TB Testing and Diagnosis
- Treatment & Medication Adherence
- Medical Consultation Needs
- Surveillance and Reporting
- Community Education and Awareness
- Emergency Response and Outbreak Management

Early Detection and Screening

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<https://tbksp.who.int/en/node/1372>

Referral Process

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- Reporting of TB disease and TB infection is required by state statutes.
 - Confirmed TB disease- report within 1 working day
 - Suspected TB disease- report within 1 working day
 - TB infection (LTBI)- report within 1 week
- **Be sure to TB test and CXR/CT reports.
- **PHR 4/5 TB team is a great resource- use us! If unsure what to send with referral, reach out and we will list exactly what's needed!
- **PHR 4/5 Secure TB Fax- 903-533-9502**

TB Treatment & Continuity of Care

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- A patient diagnosed with TB disease will need medical management in the community.
 - Patient's PCP remains medical "home" and manages other chronic conditions.
 - Health Department staff manages the patient's course of TB treatment, daily, until regimen is complete and reassessment concludes condition fully treated.
 - Health department staff educates patient regarding their diagnoses, the needed treatment, continued assessment during treatment, and the importance of adherence to TB treatment.
 - Monitoring movement of patients- if a patient being treated for TB disease or TB infection moves, the health department notifies receiving jurisdiction to ensure continuity of care.

Medical Consultation Needs

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- Labs are confusing!
 - Assist with lab collection/review and case management, if needed
- Managing TB treatment can be challenging.
 - Assist with medication regiment interactions
 - Direction to online resources/websites.
 - Coordinate consultation with TB experts
- Regional and local health departments can assist with diagnostics.
 - Sputum Collection & access to specialized TB labs
- Regional and local health departments may be able to assist with unclear history of treatment for TB infection or TB disease.

Contact Investigations

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- Contact investigations (CI) are an essential aspect of TB control and directly limit the spread of TB.
- Health department staff:
 - Interview the patient (source case).
 - Contact named individuals to arrange for screening and testing.
 - Perform home visits and determine who have been exposed to TB and who is at risk for developing infection and/or disease.
 - Provide treatment for those contacts with TB infection or TB disease.
 - **All information shared is confidential-** source case identity is never revealed to contacts and named contact's results are never shared with source case.

Community Education and Training

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- For new health partners: health departments act as a consistent resource to discuss diagnostic process, infection prevention practices, and reporting procedures.
- Community outreach: health departments work with community leaders and other members to provide adequate and factual information, especially when the “rumor mill” is active.
- Presentations/Education: health departments provide presentations and educational workshops with hospital or clinic staff. This measure ensures improved reporting practices, increased understanding of TB diagnosis and treatment, and helps decrease stigma in the community.

Emergency Response/Outbreak Management

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- Health department emergency response activities:
 - Rapidly isolate suspected infectious TB cases.
 - Conduct thorough contact investigation
 - Provide immediate access to testing and treatment.
 - Raise awareness about transmission prevention.
 - Coordinate community education

What Health Departments Don't Do!

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- Take patients away from their PCP.
- Treat other medical ailments that are discovered during TB treatment.
- Assist with home health needs or activities of daily living.
- Arbitrarily test individuals for TB.
- Require patients to take TB infection (LTBI) treatment.
- Take patients to “TB jail” to force them to take TB medication.

How Can you Help Us?

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- THINK TB!!!!!!
- Inform your patient you are referring them to the health department and that they will be contacted. Many think we are scammers.
- Ensure patient's contact information is sent with referral. We have to be able to call or visit patient to help them.
- Explain what TB infection is to your patient, that treatment is available, and reinforce why treatment is important.

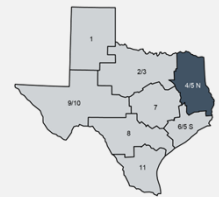
Conclusion

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The TB program of your regional or local health department is here:

- To help you manage your patients diagnosed with TB disease or TB infection.
- To act as a resource for TB related questions and/or problems.
- To build foundation for public and private health partnership.



How to Reach Us

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Leigh Riggins, BSN, RN- PHR 4/5 TB Program Manager

leigh.riggins@dshs.Texas.gov, 903-944-9954

Kim Pogue, BSN, RN- PHR 4/5 TB Nurse Consultant

kimberly.pogue@dshs.Texas.gov, 903-330-5589

Leasa Robinson, MPH- PHR 4/5 Case Registrar

leasa.Robinson@dshs.Texas.gov, 903-221-7540

Christine Gomez, LVN- PHR 4/5 Regional TB LVN

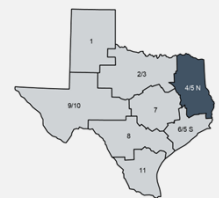
christine.gomez@dshs.Texas.gov, 903-948-2025

Sherdan Price- PHR 4/5 Congregate Setting Coordinator

sherdan.price@dshs.Texas.gov, 903-520-7324

Daniel Plasencia- PHR 4/5 TB Infection Coordinator

daniel.plasencia@dshs.Texas.gov, 903-312-6287



Thank you!

Partnering with Public Health: Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

Public Health Region 4/5, Tuberculosis Elimination

2521 W. Front St, Tyler, TX 75702

903-533-5200



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