



# Strategies and Practices for Identifying and Vaccinating Uninsured Adults

James Blumenstock, Chief, Health Security

National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) Meeting, March 2019

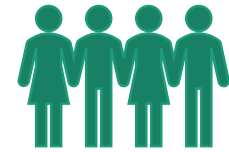
# The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

- The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.
- Strategic priorities:
  - Improve Public Health Through Capacity Building, Technical Assistance and Thought Leadership
  - Advocate for Resources and Policies that Improve the Public's Health and Well-being
  - Develop Strong and Effective State and Territorial Health Officials



# Background

- While there have been modest increases in vaccination rates among adults for some ACIP recommended vaccines, generally rates remain suboptimal
- Many immunization programs have limited resources for adult immunizations and, in some cases, limited numbers of partnerships to vaccinate adults, including those that are uninsured
- With support from a CDC cooperative agreement, ASTHO worked to identify promising practices among immunization programs that provide vaccines to uninsured adults using Section 317 and/or state funding



# The Purpose of the ASTHO Guide to Identifying and Vaccinating Uninsured Adults

- The ASTHO guide includes strategies, practices, and resources from selected state immunization programs and their partners that have implemented activities to improve access to vaccines for vulnerable adult populations.
- The guide includes information about:
  - The role the health agency and their partners play in providing vaccines to uninsured adults
  - Approaches to identifying uninsured adult populations within the community
  - Methods used to fund vaccine purchase and/or vaccine administration services
  - Recommendations for other health agencies that are considering starting or changing their adult immunization program

# Methodology

- ASTHO contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI) to conduct interviews and develop a report
- Key informant interviews were conducted by JSI between March and May 2016 with a select group of immunization program managers, adult immunization coordinators, and community partners
- The information collected provided information about current strategies and practices that improve vaccination services for uninsured populations

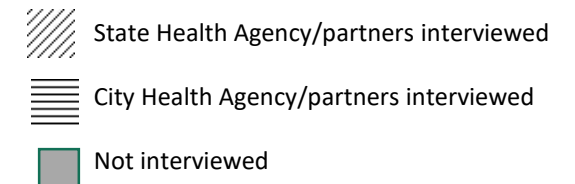
# Key Informant Interview Questions

- States that participated in interviews responded to emails/newsletters sent by the Association of Immunization Managers or the National Adult Immunization Coordinators' Partnership
- Questions included:
  - How does your agency provide vaccination services to uninsured adults?
  - Who are the community partners that assist in your efforts to provide vaccines to uninsured adults?
  - How does your agency identify uninsured adult populations within the community?
  - How does your agency monitor vaccination rates among uninsured adults?
  - How does your agency fund programs that provide services to uninsured adults?
  - What are the challenges and successes your agency has had in providing vaccinations for uninsured adults?

# State and Local Health Agencies Interviewed

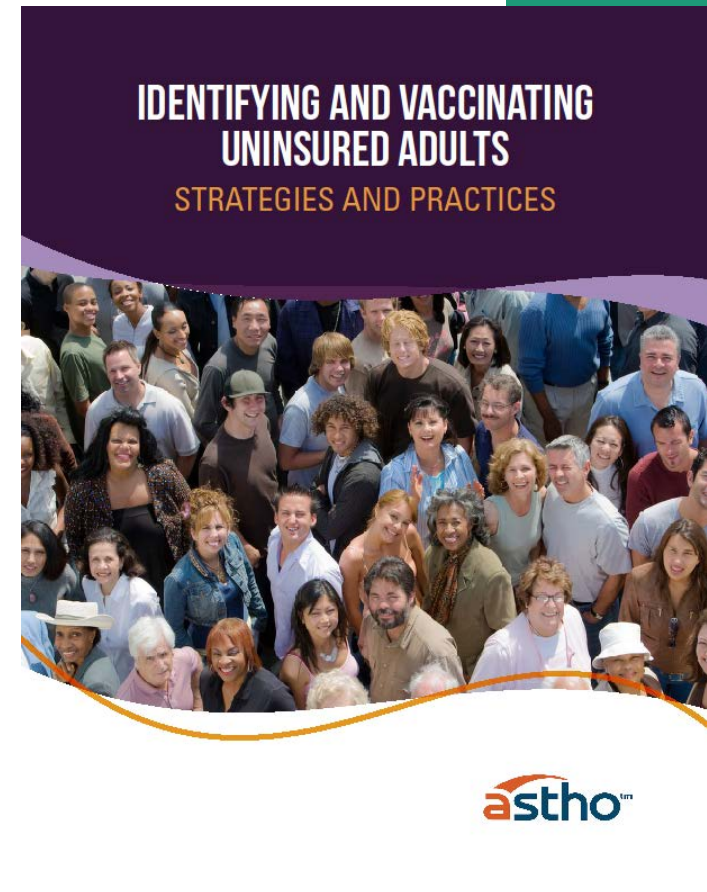


- Georgia
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- New York City
- North Carolina
- Oregon
- Philadelphia
- Rhode Island
- Texas
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington



# Key Chapters in the Report

- Background
- Key informant interview methodology
- Summary of strategies and practices identified by health departments and their partners
- State or City Stories and Lessons Learned
- Resources and links





# Theme 1: Identifying and Reaching Uninsured Adults

## *Clinical and Non-Clinical Partners*

Use partners that provide care for uninsured adults already.

Use VFC providers that have an existing infrastructure that can be adapted for adult vaccine programs.

Engage advisory committees, coalitions, and tribal councils.

Survey providers and partners to drive planning.

## *Outreach*

Develop and disseminate communication tools to promote vaccines for uninsured adults.

Put vaccine in people's path at health fairs, faith-based organizations, homeless shelters, food pantries, and adult education programs, as well as corrections facilities.

Award mini-grants to support community-level vaccination efforts.

Conduct community surveys to estimate vaccine needs for uninsured.

Use Section 317 funding to vaccinate high-risk adults during emergency preparedness exercises.

# Theme 2:

## Tools and Activities to Incorporate Adult Immunization into State Immunization Programs

<i>State IIS</i>	Use the IIS for ordering, accountability, and to assess adult vaccination status.
<i>Provider Enrollment</i>	Develop adult provider enrollment forms or online enrollment capability.
<i>Education for Providers and Partners</i>	Provide ongoing education to providers using site visits and training materials. Develop dedicated websites for adult vaccination programs with agreements, forms, and promotional materials.
<i>Staff Dedicated to the Adult Vaccine Program</i>	Dedicate staff to oversee provider outreach, training, and Section 317-program accountability.

# Theme 3:

## Clinical Practices to Facilitate Successful Incorporation of Adult Vaccination Services

### *Integrate Immunization Assessment and Screening into Clinic Flow*

Hold special immunization clinics for the uninsured.

Use pre-visit planning to identify adults due for vaccines and determine their eligibility for 317-funded vaccines and/or vaccine manufacturer patient assistance programs (PAP) vaccines.

Develop screening forms to determine eligibility for 317-funded vaccines.

Make adult immunization assessment an explicit part of a staff job description.

Incorporate standing orders into clinic flow.

### *Adult Immunization Champions*

Identify immunization champions to provide orientation and training for clinic staff.

# Theme 4: Maximizing Limited Resources

<i>Ensure Compliance with Section 317 Requirements</i>	<p>Use a pilot period to assess organizations' capabilities and capacity to comply with Section 317 requirements.</p> <p>Conduct site visits to ensure proper handling and storage of Section 317-funded vaccines, and ensure optimal use of available vaccines and minimize vaccine waste through close collaboration with partners.</p>
<i>State Funding For Adult Vaccines</i>	<p>Promote state legislation to assess health plans for the cost of vaccines for adults to allow for universal adult vaccination.</p>
<i>Pharmaceutical Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs)</i>	<p>Integrate PAPs into routine clinic operations.</p>
<i>Generate Revenue from Billing Insurers</i>	<p>Generate revenue from billing insurers to sustain public health programs for vaccinating uninsured adults.</p>

# Dissemination

- The guide was finalized in September 2016
- ASTHO shared this resource with state and territorial health agencies
- The guide can be found on-line at:  
<http://www.astho.org/Programs/Immunization>





**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

---

**Texas Department of State  
Health Services**

# **Adult Safety Net (ASN) Program**

---

**Texas Department of State  
Health Services**

**Immunization Unit**

# Texas – The Lone Star State

---

- 261,232 square miles
- Total population: 28,304,596
- Total adult population (18-64 yrs): 16,560,325
- 8 Public Health Regions (PHR)
- 2 CDC funded projects
  - San Antonio Metro Health District
  - City of Houston Health Department
- 50 Local Health Department (LHD) immunization contract



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

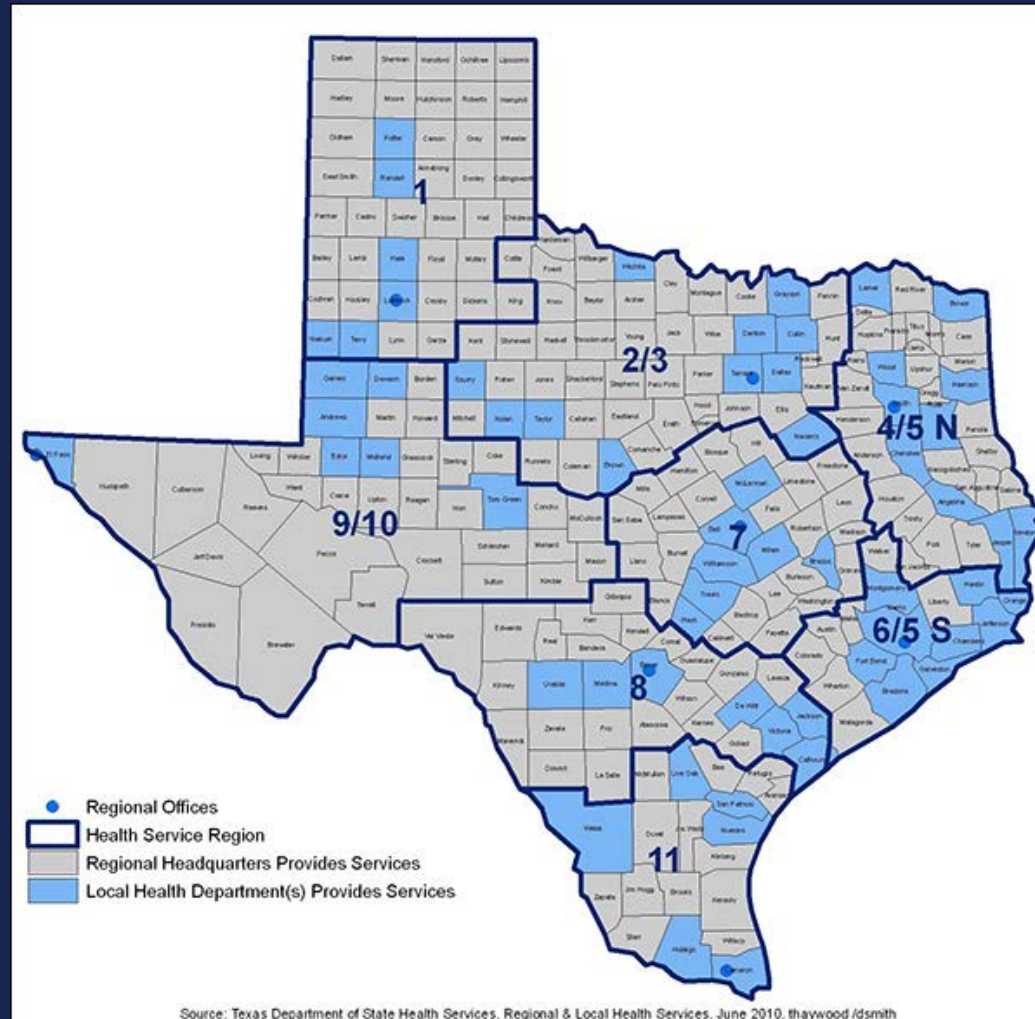


# DSHS Public Health Regions (PHR)



TEXAS  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services



Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Regional & Local Health Services, June 2010. thaywood / dsmith

# Uninsured Adults 18-64 Years of Age

Uninsured Adults 18-64 Years of Age in Texas			
PHR	Population	Uninsured	% Uninsured
1	500,500	119,658	23.9%
2/3	4,893,735	1,065,259	21.8%
4/5N	842,047	199,817	23.7%
6/5S	4,450,821	1,041,975	23.4%
7	2,045,658	386,523	18.9%
8	1,700,071	361,859	21.3%
9/10	874,240	235,446	26.9%
11	1,253,253	451,512	36.0%
<b>Texas</b>	<b>16,560,325</b>	<b>3,862,049</b>	<b>23.3%</b>

\*Source: 2015 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates Program, US Census Bureau



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# Adult Immunization Coverage Levels Texas BRFSS

Vaccine	Texas 2016 Coverage Level (%)	Texas 2017 Coverage Level (%)
Adult Flu: All Ages	33.1	31.8
Adult Flu: 65+	57.3	59.4
Any Tetanus Containing Vaccine	59.5	57.5
Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap)	22.6	18.7
Pneumococcal	32.8	37
Pneumococcal: 65+	71.3	74.2
HPV: 1 or more doses	9.1	13
HPV: All Doses	37.1	41.9
Hepatitis B	35.3	32.3



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

How is Texas working to  
increase adult  
immunization rates?

# Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

---

## DSHS Public Health Regions

- 8 Public Health Regions (PHR)
- 9 Adolescent and Adult Immunization Coordinators (AAIC)
  - 1 Lead AAIC in DSHS Central Office
  - 8 AAIC in DSHS PHR



TEXAS  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

DSSH applied for and received CDC PPHF funding for Increasing Awareness and Implementation of the Standards for Adult Immunization Practice Through Partnerships With State and Local Immunization Programs (10/2015)

- Texas is one of 10 sites chosen for CDC funding
- \$1,247,890 (for 2 years)
- Provider focused strategies to increase provider participation in ASN Program
- Education of adult providers to increase reporting of adult immunizations to ImmTrac2
- Funds for education providers on the Standards of Adult Immunizations
- Identify barriers to adult immunizations encountered by adult healthcare providers (Adult site visits)

# Adolescent and Adult Immunization Coordinator

---

## Roles and responsibilities

- Enroll eligible sites in ASN Program
- Conduct ASN adult-only site visits
  - ASN Program Compliance Visit
  - CDC Standards for Adult Immunization Practice
- Complete site visit follow-up activities
- Continue to strengthen and create partnerships



TEXAS  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

DSHS applied for and received CDC PPHF funding for Increasing Awareness and Implementation of the Standards for Adult Immunization Practice Through Partnerships With State and Local Immunization Programs (10/2015)

- Texas is one of 10 sites chosen for CDC funding
- \$1,247,890 (for 2 years)
- Provider focused strategies to increase provider participation in ASN Program
- Education of adult providers to increase reporting of adult immunizations to ImmTrac2
- Funds for education providers on the Standards of Adult Immunizations
- Identify barriers to adult immunizations encountered by adult healthcare providers (Adult site visits)



# Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

---

## DSHS Immunization Unit Central Office

- Assessment, Compliance, and Evaluation (ACE) Group
- ImmTrac2 Registry Group
- Operations Group
- Public Information, Education, and Training (PIET) Group
- Vaccine Management Group (VMG)
- Vaccine Operations Group (VOG)



TEXAS  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# Adult Safety Net (ASN) Program

---

May 2003 – Present

## Initial

- Hepatitis B initiative
- Provided vaccine for uninsured and underinsured adults

## Present

- Supplies adult vaccines to a network of **534** sites in Texas
- Provides vaccines for uninsured adults who are  $\geq 19$  years



TEXAS  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# Adult Safety Net (ASN) Program

---

## Goal

Increase access to vaccination services in Texas for uninsured adults.

- Supply vaccine to enrolled providers
- Eligible facilities:
  - Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
  - Rural Health Centers (RHC)
  - Local Health Departments (LHD)
  - Public Health Regions (PHR)



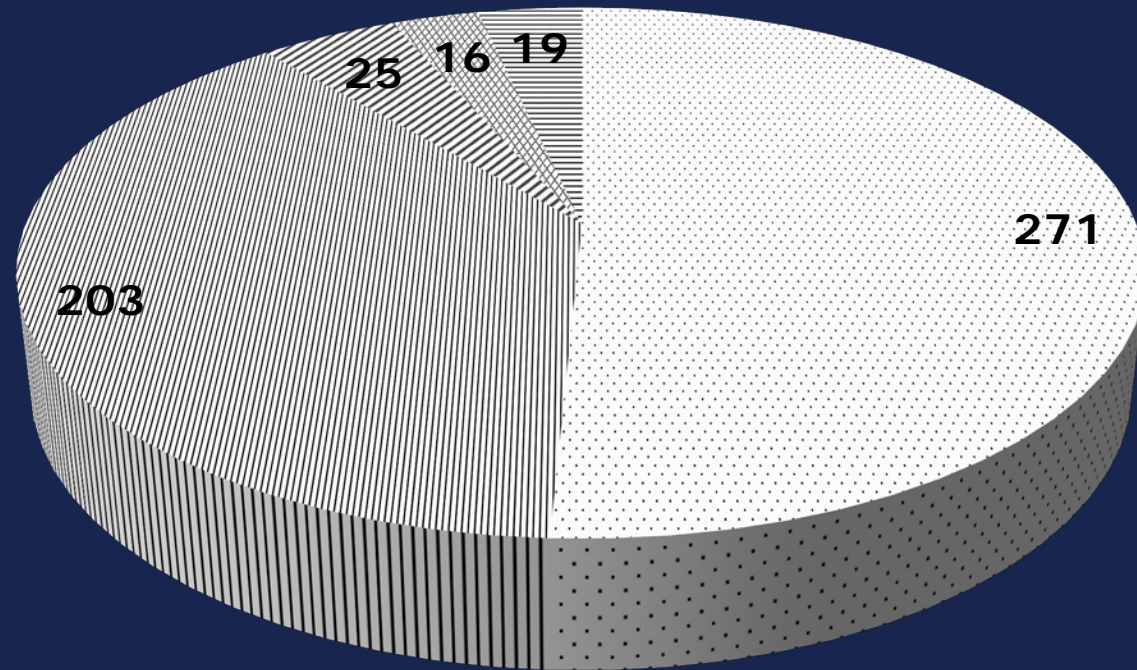
TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# ASN Provider by Type

Total = 534 (March 2019)



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human Services

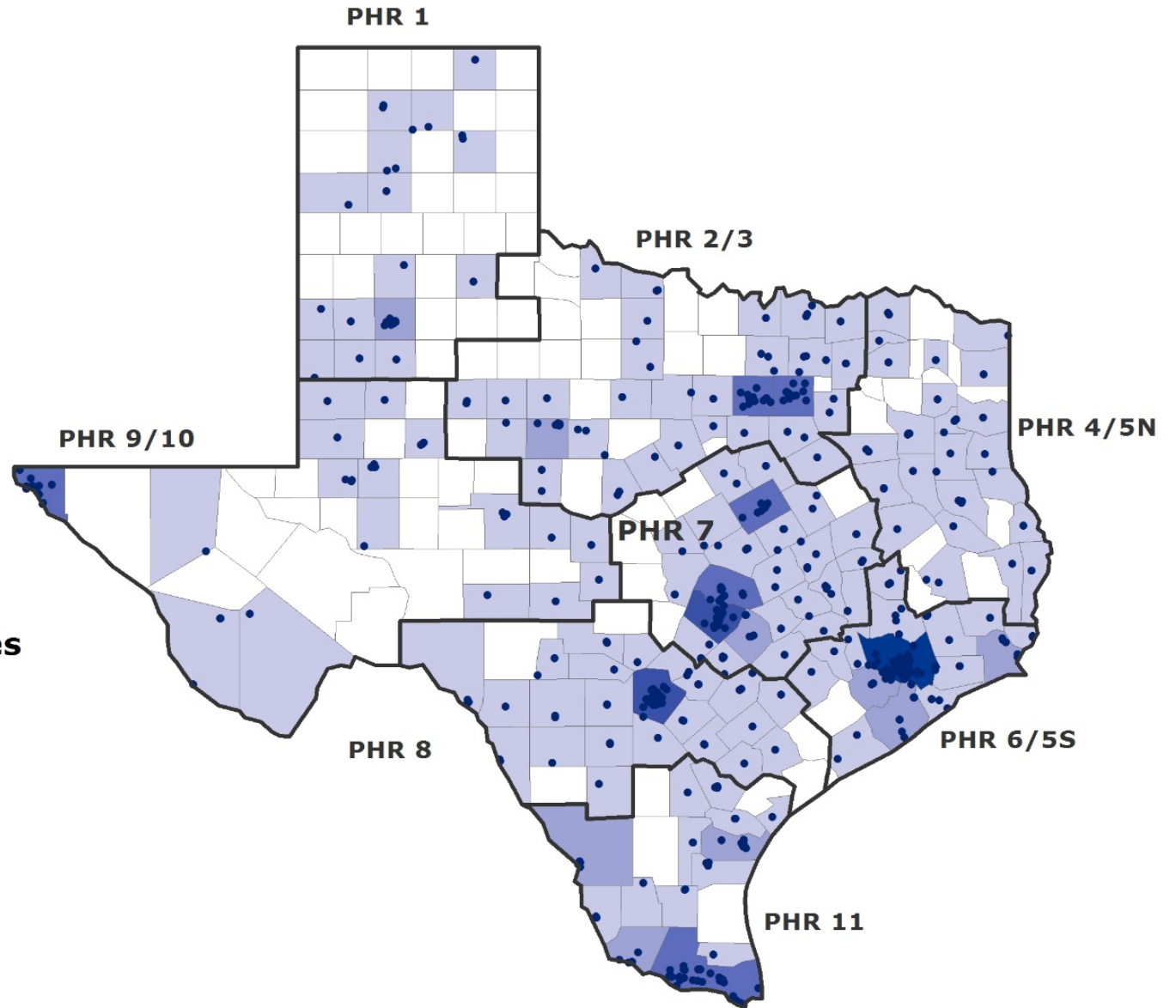
Texas Department of State  
Health Services

- FQHC/RHC
- ▨ Public Health Department
- ▧ Community Health Center
- ▩ STD/HIV
- ≡ Other

Source: DSHS Re-enrollment data 2016

Most of the ASN providers are within FQHCs and Public Health Departments.

# ASN Provider Locations



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# ASN Vaccines Currently Available

---

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis A/B
- HPV
- MCV4
- MMR
- PCV13
- PPSV23
- Td and Tdap
- Varicella
- Zoster



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# ASN Program Challenges

---

## Challenges

- Enrolled sites are inactive
- Missed opportunities
- Difference in vaccines ordered vs. vaccines in inventory = expiration and waste
  - Maximum stock levels
- ImmTrac2 adult consents
- Funding challenges



TEXAS  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services



# Emergency Response Preparedness

---

## ASN Program

Provides adult vaccines for emergency responses.

- Hurricanes
- Tornados
- VPD Outbreaks
- Floods
- Fires



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# Partnerships and Collaborations

---

- Texas Immunizers and Stakeholder Working Group (TISWG)
- Texas Medical Association
- Texas Pediatric Society
- Texas Quality Improvement Organization (TMF)
- Other State Agencies – HHSC, DADS, DFPS, DSHS Programs
- Texas Immunization Coalitions
- Adult Immunization Providers (including Pharmacies)
- Hospitals, Home Health Agencies, Nursing Homes, Senior Centers, etc.
- Vaccine Manufacturers



TEXAS  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# Adult Immunization Resources

---

## DSHS Websites:

[www.immunizetexas.com](http://www.immunizetexas.com)

[www.immtrac.com](http://www.immtrac.com)

[www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/ASN/](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/ASN/)



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

---

**Texas Department of State  
Health Services**

# Thank You!

---

**Denise Starkey, MPH, MA**

**[Denise.Starkey@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:Denise.Starkey@dshs.texas.gov)**



**TULSA HEALTH**  
Department

# Flu Vaccine Pop-Up Clinics

Innovative opportunities to provide flu vaccine to Tulsa County residents

Priscilla Haynes, Division Chief of Preventive Health

Ellen Niemitalo, Manager, Clinic Services

National Vaccine Advisory Committee Panel  
March 25, 2019

## Our Vision

We want to make Tulsa County the healthiest county in the country.

## Our Mission

To improve the health and well-being of all Tulsa County residents.

## Our Values

We're committed to a constant pursuit of a healthier Tulsa, and we do so by carrying out our core values:

**The THD Way**—Treat all people with dignity and respect.

**Community First**—Put the needs of a client ahead of anything and everything else.

Be **accountable** to each other and to the people we serve.

**Empower** residents to make healthy and safe choices.

# Tulsa County

- Population (2017 est.) 646,266
- Age
  - Under 5 7.2%
  - Under 18 25.4%
  - Age 65 and over 14.0%

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/tulsacityoklahoma,tualatincityoregon,tulsacountyoklahoma/PST045218>

# Race and Hispanic origin

White alone,	72.8%
Black or African American alone	10.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	6.8%
Asian alone	3.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone,	0.2%
Two or More Races,	6.0%
Hispanic or Latino	12.7%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	62.0%



# Income & Poverty

Median household  
income (in 2017  
dollars), 2013-  
2017 \$52,017

Per capita income  
in past 12 months  
(in 2017 dollars),  
2013-2017 \$29,797

Persons in poverty,  
percent 14.4%

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/tulsacityoklahoma,tualatincityoregon,tulsacountyoklahoma/PST045218>

# Insurance coverage

- Uninsured (2013-2017 estimate)
  - Age 19-64 20.9%
  - Age 65 and over 0.8%
  - Under age 19 7.6%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

# Flu vaccine - history

- Adequate supplies of flu vaccine were available
  - State funded
  - Federally funded VFC and 317
  - Tulsa County Funded
- THD administered flu vaccine in community
- No cost to recipients
- Drive through events
- Walk up events

# Last 10 years

- Flu vaccine funding changes
- Cost 2009  
\$7 to \$13/dose - trivalent injectable
- Cost 2019  
\$15 to \$24/dose - quadrivalent injectable

# Vaccine presentations increased

- Injectable
- Nasal
- High dose
- Egg-free
- Intradermal

# Reimbursement

- THD able to seek reimbursement for individuals with private insurance, including Medicaid and Medicare
- Decision to charge \$25 for flu vaccine
- No charge for adults with income less than 185% FPL

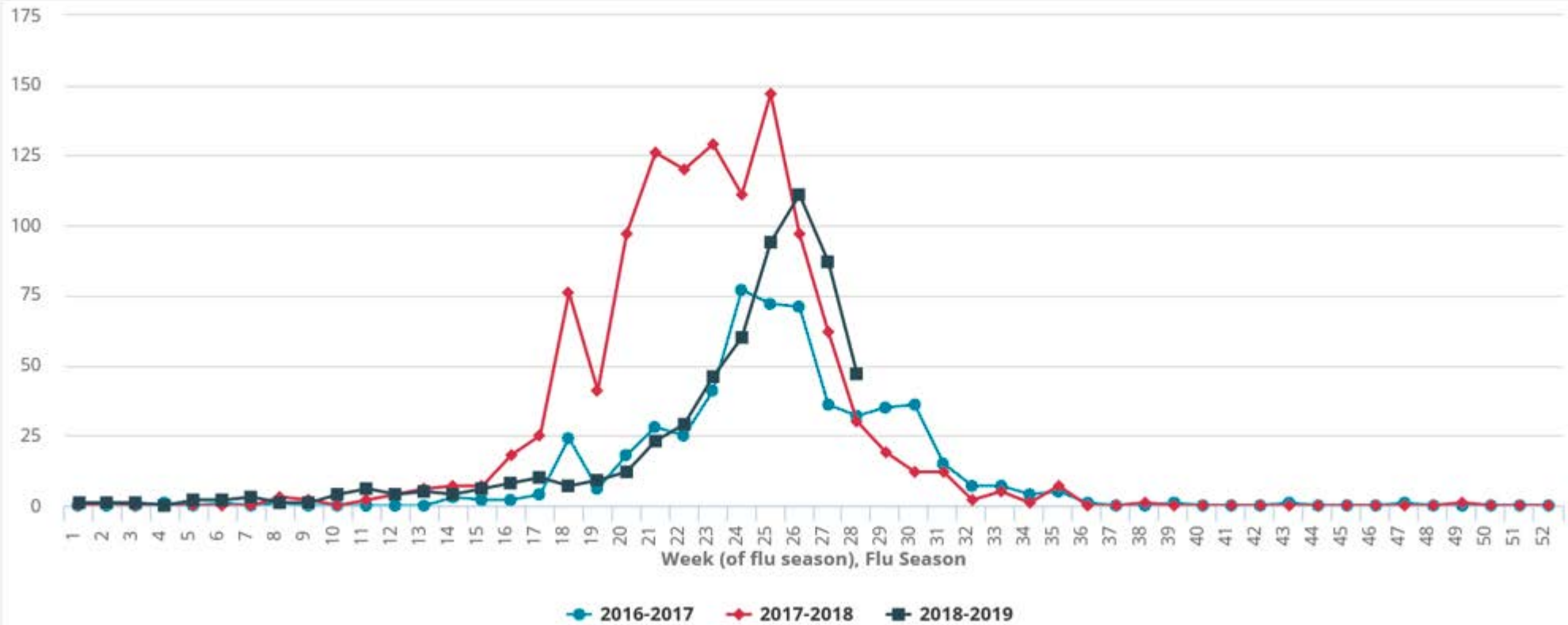
# Flu season 2017-2018

- Severe season for deaths and hospitalizations in Tulsa County

## Tulsa County hospitalizations by week of flu season

Source: Flu Live Story data - Sheet1

Filter: Hospitalizations



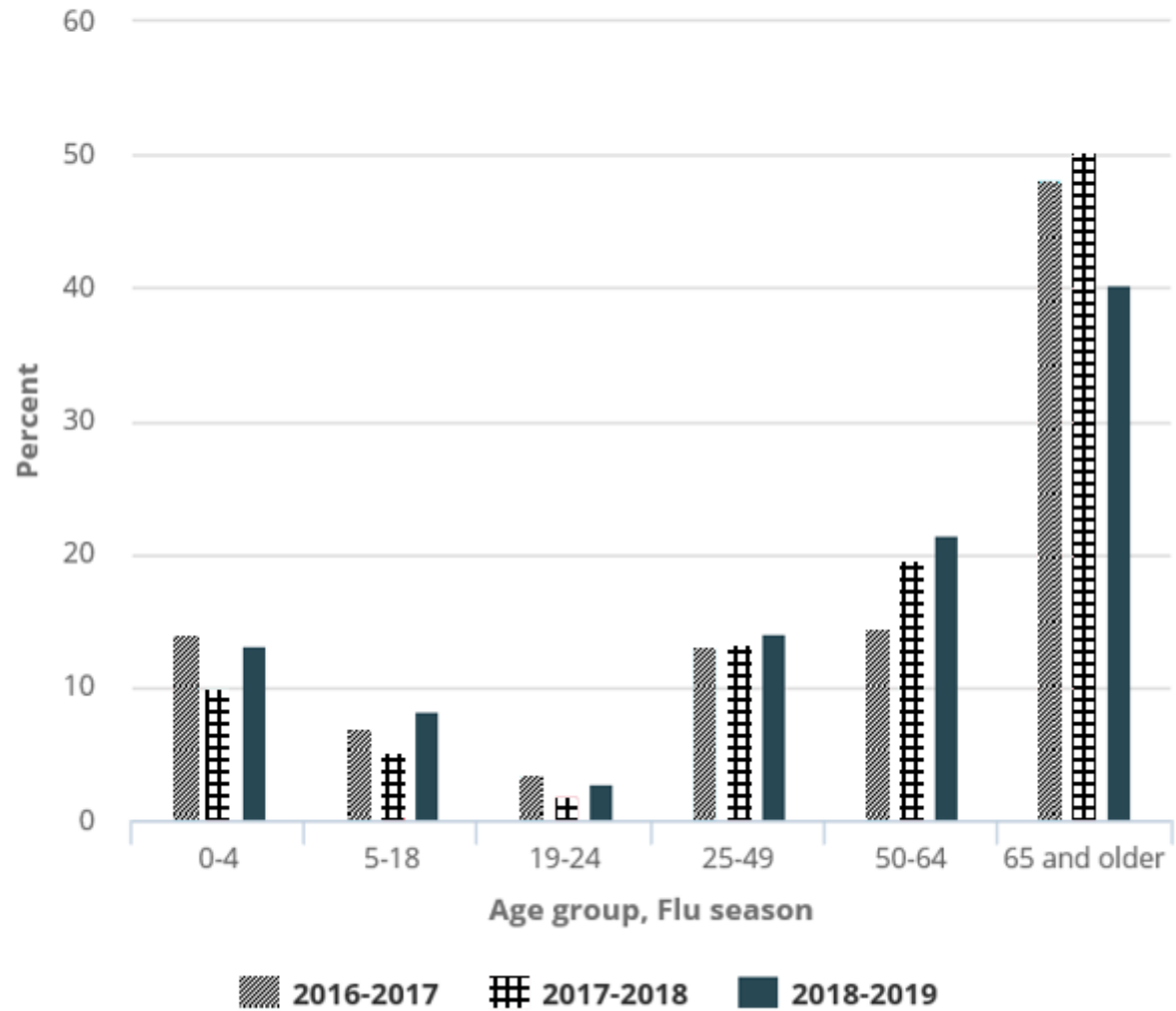
Tulsa County Flu Report.

<https://insight.livestories.com/s/v2/influenza/b43fd0fa-d57c-4043-bf80-e8bd56f9268d/>



## Tulsa County hospitalizations by age group (%) and flu season

Source: Flu Live Story data\_hospitalizations - Sheet1



Department

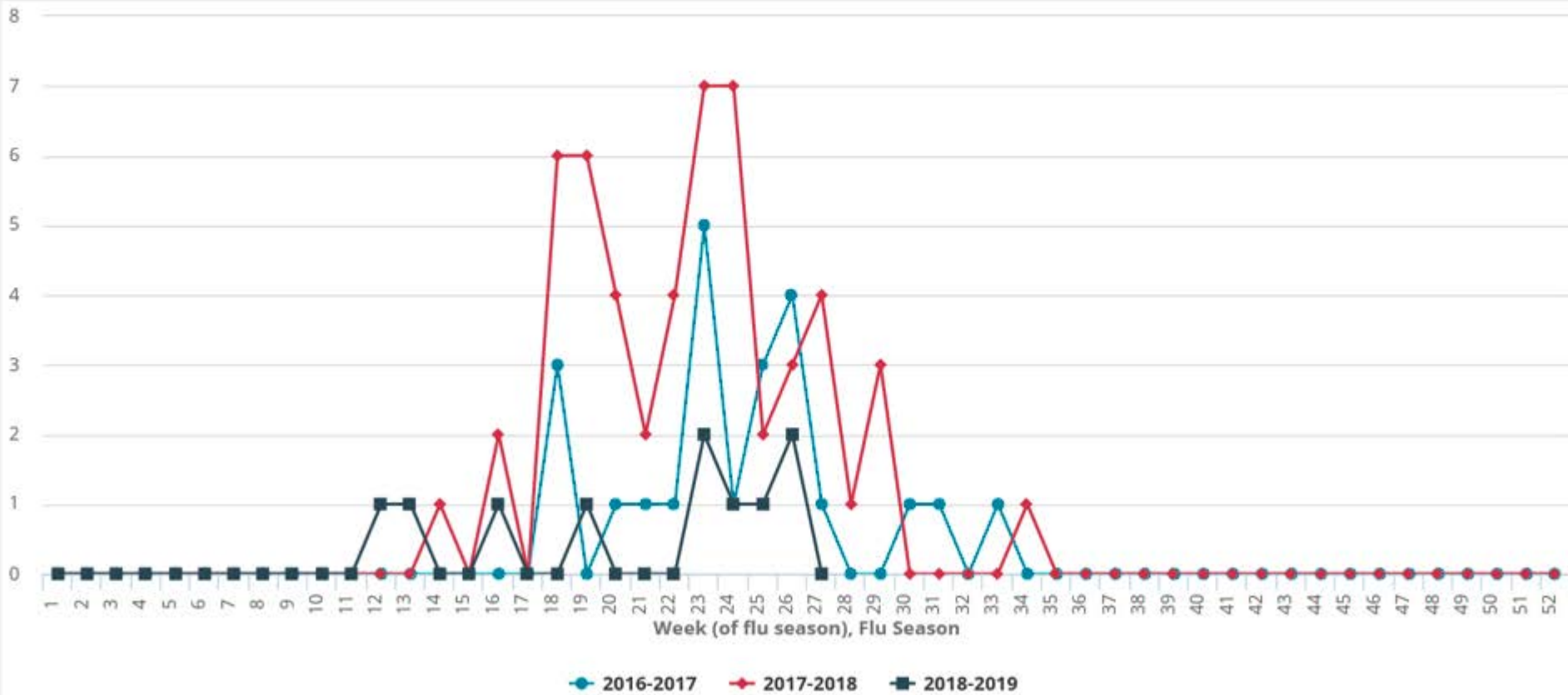
Tulsa County Flu Report

<https://insight.livestories.com/s/v2/influenza/b43fd0fa-d57c-4043-bf80-e8bd56f9268d/>

## Tulsa County deaths by week of flu season

Source: Flu Live Story data - Sheet1

Filter: Deaths

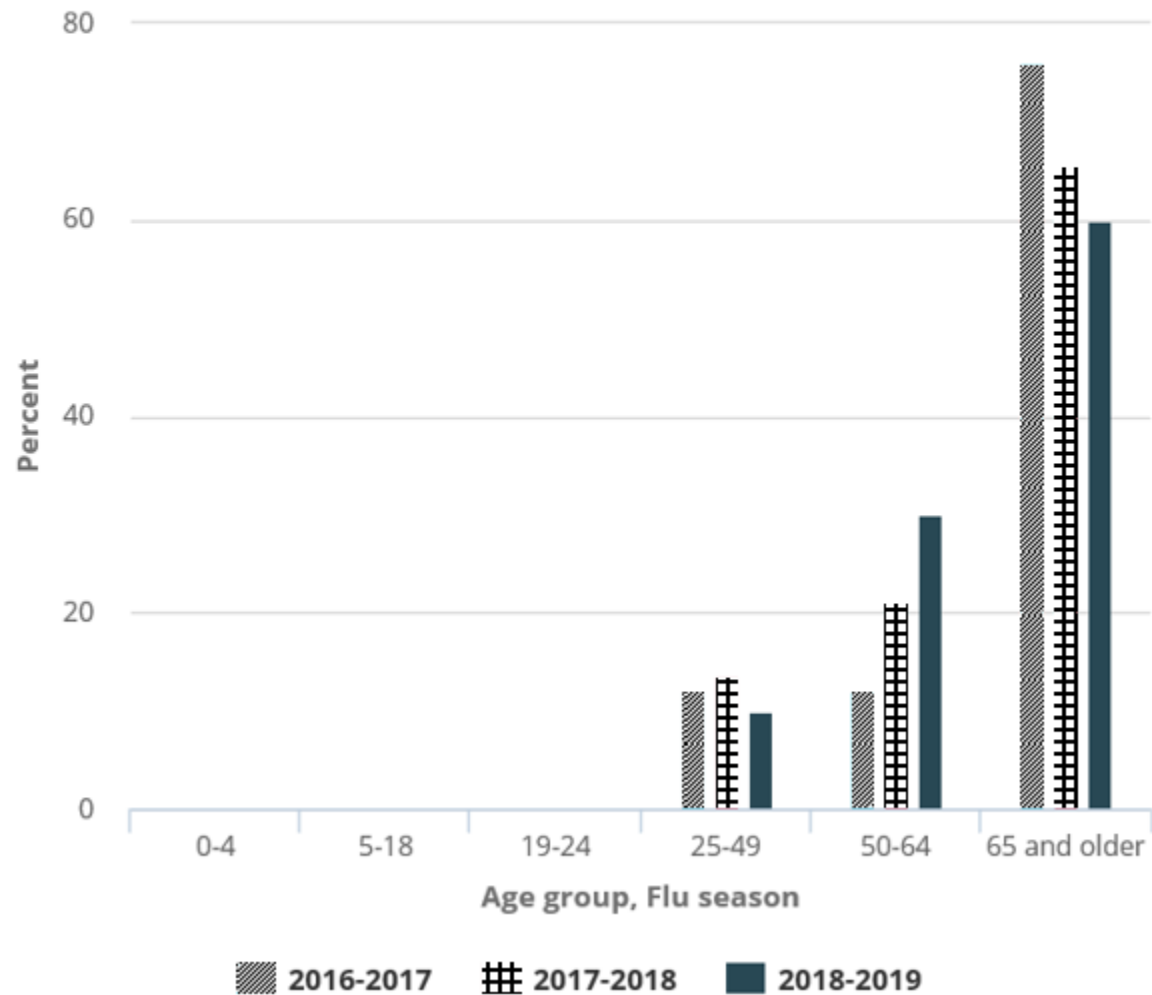


Tulsa County Flu Report

<https://insight.livestories.com/s/v2/influenza/b43fd0fa-d57c-4043-bf80-e8bd56f9268d/>

## Tulsa County deaths by age group (%) and flu season

Source: Flu Live Story data\_hospitalizations - Sheet1



Tulsa County Flu Report  
<https://insight.livestories.com/s/v2/influenza/b43fd0fa-d57c-4043-bf80-e8bd56f9268d/>

# THD response

## Pop up flu clinic

- February 2018
- Storefront in mall
- Saturday 10-2
- VFC, State and THD funded vaccine
- Administered over 300 vaccines



# Preparation for flu season 2018-2019

- Free Flu Shot Pop-Up Clinic
- October 2018
- POD Full Scale Exercise
- MIPS Plan

# Partners

- THD Emergency Preparedness and Response Program
- THD Marketing Department
- Hillcrest Medical Center Flu Campaign
- Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps
- Law enforcement

# FREE Flu Shot Pop-up Clinic

October 24 | 10<sup>am</sup> - 7<sup>pm</sup>

OSU-Tulsa, Main Hall  
700 N. Greenwood Ave. | Tulsa, OK

Conveniently located with extended hours!



hillcrest

**THD**  
TULSA HEALTH  
Department

**THD** TULSA HEALTH  
Department





# Vaccine Funding

- VFC
- 317 for uninsured adults
- THD funded
  - insured adults
  - children not qualifying for VFC



# Assessment

- Over 600 vaccines administered
- Usual throughput- less than 20 minutes

# Ongoing efforts to provide vaccines and remove barriers

- Oklahoma Caring Foundation partnership
- Oklahoma Caring Vans
  - VFC vaccine
  - Flu for caregivers/teachers
  - Schools: public, private, alternative
  - Residential Facilities
    - Tulsa Boys Home
    - Sand Springs Home and Widow's Colony
    - Women in Recovery
  - Day cares/Head Start CAP
  - WIC clinics
  - Community events
    - Mexican Consulate
  - Health Fairs

# Other THD activities to reach vulnerable populations

- Homeless pop-up resource clinic
- Community Baby Shower
- Senior Brunch- Health Information Event
- Health Fairs

# Off site flu clinics

- Salvation Army
- Day Center for Homeless
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Women's Shelters/homes
- Workplaces
- Community agencies: Neighbors Along the Line
- Tulsa Housing Authority
- City and County employees

# Future plans

- Statewide full scale preparedness exercise
- “Operation Flu Fight”
- October 2019





# Don't Bug Me Commercial

- <https://youtu.be/BTGQUIWtuFY>

# Thank You

- Priscilla Haynes MS, BSN
- Division Chief, Preventive Health Services
- [phaynes@tulsa-health.org](mailto:phaynes@tulsa-health.org)
- Ellen Niemitalo RN, BSN, MPH
- Manager, Clinic Services
- [eniemitalo@tulsa-health.org](mailto:eniemitalo@tulsa-health.org)



# TULSA HEALTH

Department

