



2014 TARRANT COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Because Health Matters

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Where and how we live, learn, work, and play affects our health. Understanding how these factors influence health is critical for developing the best strategies to address them. To accomplish these goals, Tarrant County Public Health in collaboration with representatives from social services, health care organizations, neighborhoods, businesses, schools, faith-based organizations and local government – led a comprehensive community health planning effort to measurably improve the health of Tarrant County, TX residents. This effort, which progressed with no formal funding, includes two major phases:

1. A community health assessment (CHA) to identify the health related needs and strengths of Tarrant County.
2. A community health improvement plan (CHIP) to determine major health priorities, overarching goals, and specific objectives and strategies that can be implemented in a coordinated way across Tarrant County.

In addition to guiding future services, programs, and policies for these agencies and the area overall, the CHA and CHIP are also required prerequisites for the health department to earn accreditation, which indicates that the agency is meeting national standards.

The 2014 Tarrant County CHIP was developed over the period February 2013 – January 2014, using the key findings from the CHA, which included qualitative data from focus groups, listening sessions and community-wide meetings that were conducted locally, as well as quantitative data from local, state and national indicators to inform discussions and determine health priority areas. The CHA is accessible at <http://www.tarrantcounty.com/ehealth/site/default.asp>.

To develop a shared vision, plan for improved community health, and help sustain implementation efforts, the Tarrant County assessment and planning process engaged community members and Local Public Health System (LPHS) partners through different avenues:

- the **Mobilizing for Action Through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Steering Committee** was responsible for overseeing the community health assessment, identifying the health priorities, and overseeing the development of the community health improvement plan,
- the **MAPP Core Support Team** was the overall management of the process,
- the **Subcommittees**, which represented broad and diverse sectors of the community, were formed around each of the four MAPP assessments to ensure comprehensive data collection and analysis, and
- the **Workgroups**, which represented broad and diverse sectors of the community, were formed around each health priority area to develop the goals, objectives and strategies for the CHIP.

The MAPP Steering Committee and the MAPP Core Support Team recognized that it was important to outline an inspirational vision and to identify a set of shared values that would support the planning process and the CHIP itself. The Steering Committee and Core Support Team participated in several brainstorming activities and developed the following vision and shared values for the CHA and CHIP:

Vision

Empowered people living healthy in a vibrant and safe community.

Shared Values

- **Trust:** We value a community where trust is fostered, barriers removed and participation increased.
- **Respect:** We value a community where the right of all to enjoy a healthy and flourishing community is respected.
- **Equity:** We value a community where all people have access and opportunity abounds.
- **Health:** We value a community where all people are empowered to make healthy choices.
- **Safety:** We value a community where all people can enjoy safe and clean neighborhoods, parks and schools.
- **Education:** We value a community where health education is abundant.

The MAPP Steering Committee and MAPP Core Support Team participated in a prioritization activity and identified the following data-driven priority health issues that would be addressed in the CHIP:

Priority Area 1: Education

Goal 1: Progressively influence living and working conditions that will have a positive impact on the health and behavior of individuals and communities.

Goal 2: Develop effective learning opportunities in knowledge, attitude and skills for Tarrant County residents to live in holistic wellness.

Goal 3: Improve educational, career and vocational opportunities for adolescents.

Priority Area 2: Environment

Goal 1: Engage Tarrant County residents to increase awareness of opportunities for healthy and safe environments.

Goal 2: Improve walkability surrounding Tarrant County elementary school neighborhoods.

Goal 3: Create a more livable community for all throughout Tarrant County.

Priority Area 3: Health Care Access

Goal 1: Enhance access to high quality health care through health literacy.

Priority Area 4: Partnerships

Goal 1: Develop collaborative tools to share critical knowledge among key stakeholders and partnerships to assure a comprehensive approach to improving public health.

Goal 2: Foster effective community partnerships and strategic alliances across the Tarrant County community.

Goal 3: Increase access to resources across Tarrant County through engagement of key stakeholders in the Tarrant County community to create collective impact.
