COVID-19 & HEALTH EQUITY
EXPLORING DISPARITIES & LONG-TERM HEALTH IMPACTS

Umair A. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director & Local Health Authority
Harris County Public Health

Houston, TX
04/29/2020

#InvisibilityCrisis
Twitter: @ushahmd @HCPHTX

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Harris Cares: Focus Issues

Chronic Diseases   Family Health   Emergency Preparedness   Environmental Health   Infectious Diseases   Injury   Mental and Behavioral Health

HARRIS COUNTY: BIG DIVERSE & COMPLEX

Harris County is the third most populous county with over **4.7 million** people spread over **1,778 square miles**.

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OUR PREMISE: LLWWP

LLWWP: Health is a complex equation based on a number of inputs not limited to the clinic setting. Health takes place:

- Where people *L*ive
- Where people *L*earn
- Where people *W*ork
- Where people *W*orship
- Where people *P*lay

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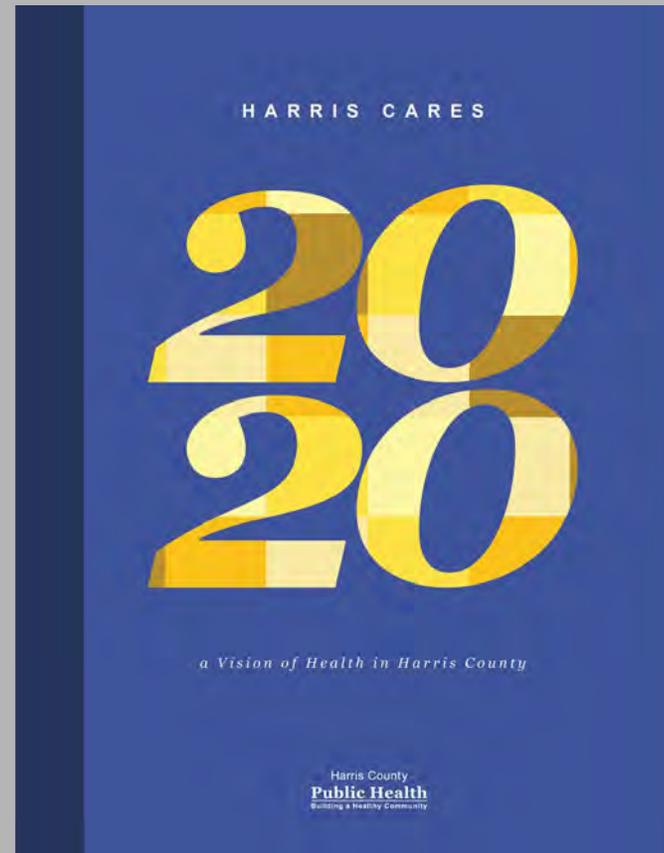
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"HARRIS CARES" - 5 KEY FINDINGS

1   Harris County average life expectancy is 78.7, however some census tracts are as low as 65 years and others as high as 89 years (**24 year difference**).
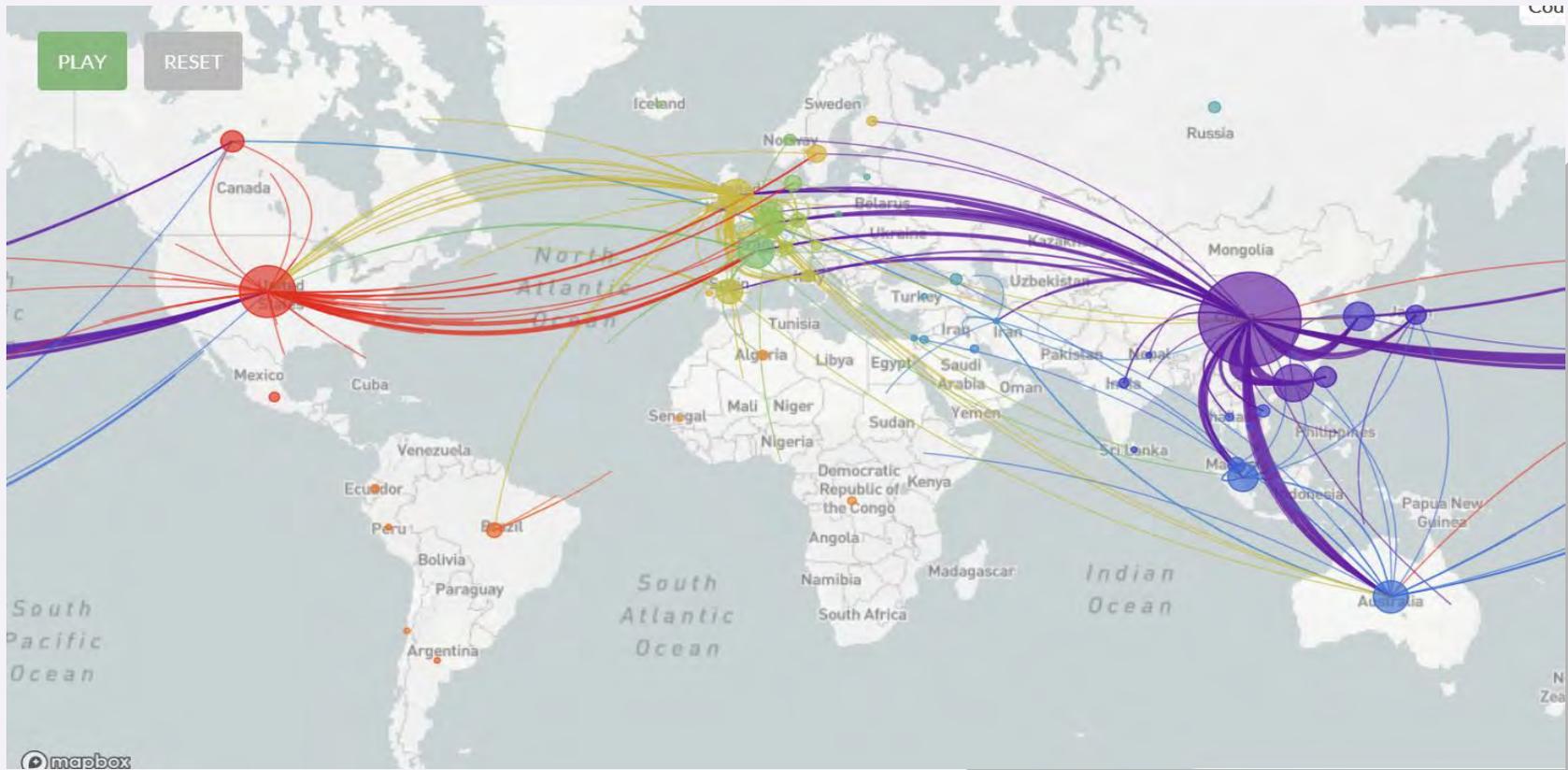
2   Several population centers live more than 15 minutes away from a Trauma Center, including those with a high Social Vulnerability Index.

3   Approximately 1 in 5 adults lacks health insurance, with some communities having more than 1 in 3 adults lacking health insurance.

4   Local experts in health overwhelmingly agree: access is the #1 challenge facing health in Harris County, and increased funding support for prevention activities is needed.

5   In Harris County, 1 in 3 youth aged 12-17 are overweight or obese. For adults, some communities have over 50% of adults classified as obese.

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HCPH NEVER A DULL MOMENT

- *Tropical Storm Allison (2001)*
- *Nation's first Biowatch hit in Houston (2003)*
- *Monkey Pox found in exotic pet market (2003)*
- *Possible Lassa Fever on cargo ship – Africa (2004)*
- *Crosby Well natural gas explosion (2005)*
- *Hurricane Katrina Response – Astrodome (2005)*
- *Hurricane Rita Evacuation (2005)*
- *Multi-State GI illness investigation – soccer (2005)*
- *Fake Flu Investigation (2005)*
- *Hydrobromic acid release – (2006)*
- *Rabies Response – teenager death (2006)*
- *Hepatitis A Response – restaurant worker (2007)*
- *Salmonella Saint Paul investigation (2008)*
- *Hurricane Ike Response (2008)*

- *Hepatitis B in nursing home (2009)*
- *nH1N1 18 month response (2009 – 2010)*
- *West Nile virus (WNV) response (2012)*
- *Cyclospora investigation (2013)*
- *Ebola readiness/response activities (2014 – 2015)*
- *Rabies in Harris County dog (2015)*
- *Memorial & Tax Day Floods (2015 & 2016)*
- *Zika Response (2016 – 2017)*
- *Hurricane Harvey (2017)*
- *Measles Resurgence (2019)*
- *Chemical Fire (2019)*
- *Tropical Storm Imelda (2019)*
- ***COVID-19 (2020- ongoing)***

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COVID-19 – A GLOBAL THREAT

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Public Health Challenges and Solutions Do not Recognize Borders

HARRIS COUNTY LOCAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

January 23, 2020
First COVID-19 in-person meeting

March 05, 2020
First 2 COVID-19 Cases in Harris County

April 28, 2020
Harris County Focus on 3 T's:
Test, Trace, Treat

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COVID-19 DASHBOARD

- The HCPH COVID-19 Dashboard provides daily updates on case counts, the public has access to information on exposure types, patient demographics as well as the number of people who have recovered.

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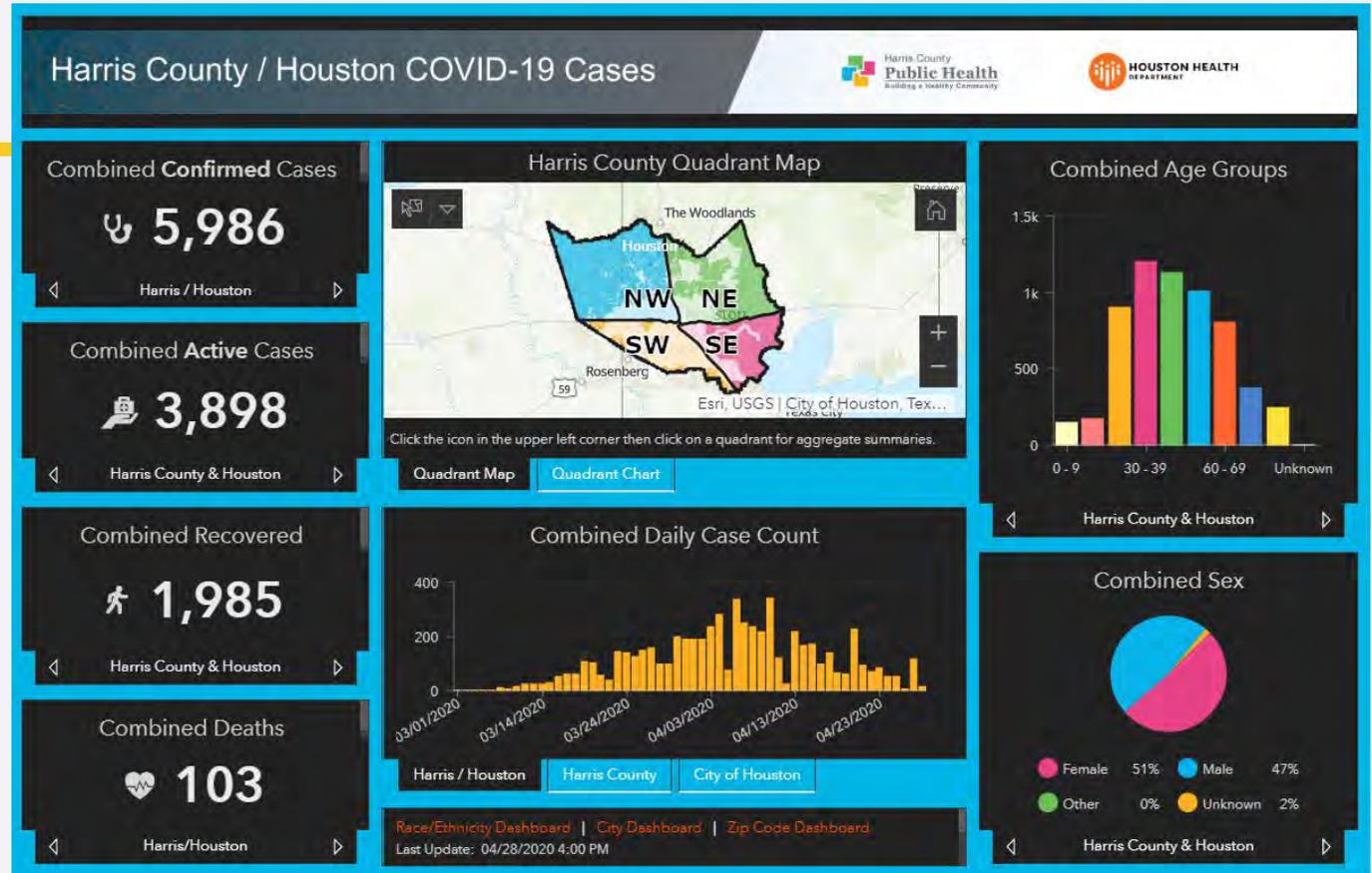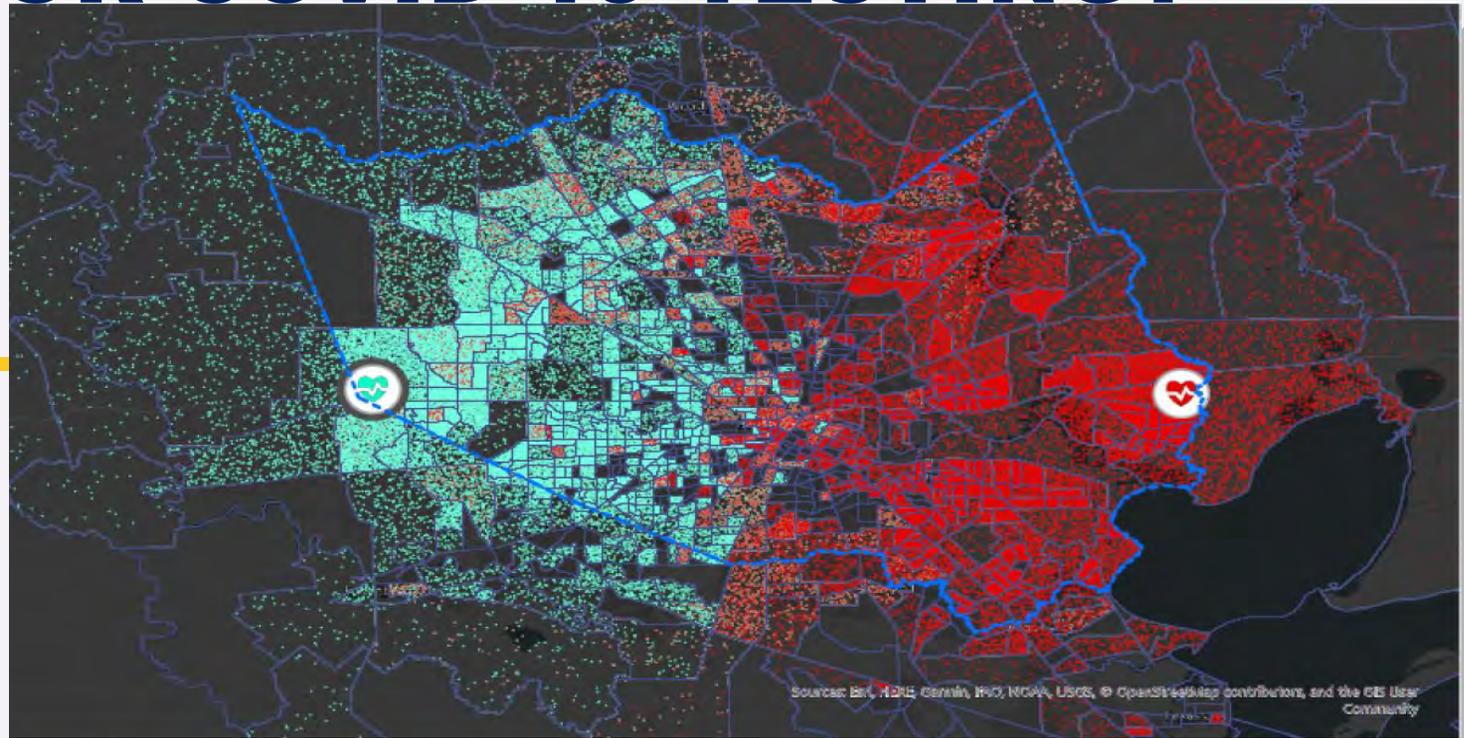
2 TESTING SITES + 4 POP-UP SITES

- Mobile units provide drive-through testing for COVID-19.

- Each pop-up site, rotate locations across the 4 precincts in Harris County (also additional testing through City of Houston).

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TESTING SITE PLACEMENT

- Using SVI, SES factors, concept of testing "deserts", etc.
- Location of Testing sites (Mobile and Federal).

WHERE ARE PEOPLE COMING FROM FOR COVID-19 TESTING?

♥ Clusters represent people that were tested at the Baytown facility (Red Heart).

💚 Clusters represent people that were tested at the Katy facility (Green Heart).

- All dots on this "dot-density" map are a randomized representation using data aggregate at census tract level and does not represent individual addresses.

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EQUITY-FOCUSED OUTREACH

- Apartment Outreach- 489
- Faith-Base Outreach- 51
- Child Care – 640
- Businesses- 107
- Over 39 PSA's
- Social Media Post- ongoing
- ASK HCPH Campaign
- Leveraging Key Partnerships

Help is available.
To report elder abuse:

Texas Adult Protective Services
Call 1 (800) 252-5400 (24/7)
Dial 711 ask for the Texas Abuse Hotline
National Elder Protection Center
Call 1 (877) ELDER.80 or 1 (800) 353-3780
Log on to elderprotectioncenter.com/contact-us/

Viruses Don't Discriminate and Neither Should We (PDF)	English	Español	Chinese	Vietnamese
Cleaning and Disinfecting (PDF)	English		Chinese	Vietnamese
Mental Health (PDF)	English	Español	Chinese	Vietnamese
Coping With Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks (PDF)	English			
Stop The Spread of COVID-19 (PDF)	English			
Guidance for Homeless Shelters (PDF)	English	Español	Chinese	Vietnamese
Guidance for Pregnant Women (PDF)	English	Español	Chinese	Vietnamese
Guidance for People at Higher Risk (PDF)	English	Español	Chinese	Vietnamese
Social Distancing and Self-Monitoring (PDF)	English	Español	Chinese	Vietnamese
Reduce Your Risk (PDF)	English	Español	Chinese	Vietnamese	Korean
Fact Sheet (PDF)	English	Español	Chinese	Vietnamese	Korean
CDC - What to do if you are sick (PDF)	English		Español	Chinese
CDC - Stop the Spread (PDF)	English		Español	Chinese

KEEP HARRIS COUNTY STRONG
Save lives. Stay home.

Coronavirus COVID-19 Video (English)
Coronavirus COVID-19 (Chinese)
Coronavirus COVID-19 (Spanish)
Hand Washing Tips
COVID-19 Sign Language
COVID-19 Stop the Spread of Germs

COVID-19 & MATERNAL HEALTH

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STRIKE TEAM CREATION FOR 3T'S

- Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) is comprised of 5 epidemiologists, 3 social workers, 1 physician's assistant (PA), 1 environmental public health investigator and a data analyst.

COVID-19 Containment Plan

TEST **TRACE** **TREAT**

» Make testing widespread, affordable and fast
» Recruit contact tracers
» Ensure hospitals have enough capacity to weather a spike in cases

VISIT WWW.READYHARRIS.ORG

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ADDRESSING INEQUITIES OF COVID-19 IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

- Long-term solutions must take into consideration where communities LLWWP.

- Use data-driven decision-making to inform strategies and solutions to mitigate long-standing health inequities in midst of an overwhelming pandemic.

- Procuring, analyzing, and visualizing data by race/ethnicity/location/age/etc. helps keep health inequities a central focus of response.

- *"This is no time for politics"* though the reality is that public health is inherently political.

- Remember it is ultimately about community trust and working together to get through this pandemic.

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RACE/ETHNICITY – UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS

Race/ethnicity	Count Deceased	% Deceased	Total Count	% of Total	Cases with underlying health conditions	% of cases with underlying health conditions	HC pop %
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0.00%	10	0.47%	7	0.74%	0.2%
Asian American/Pacific Islander	2	3.77%	122	5.71%	55	5.81%	7.1%
Black	16	30.19%	639	29.93%	339	35.80%	18.7%
Hispanic/Latino	15	28.30%	867	40.61%	306	32.31%	43.3%
Multi-racial	0	0.00%	5	0.23%	2	0.21%	1.6%
Other	1	1.89%	13	0.61%	6	0.63%	0.3%
White	19	35.85%	479	22.44%	232	24.50%	28.9%
Total	53	100.00%	2135	100.00%	947	100.00%	100.0%

Disclaimer: Category Unknown not included**.** Category Unknown may derive from the following (1) Incomplete data from lab reports that do not collect race/ethnicity. (2) Data from the beginning of case reporting, before race/ethnicity data was being collected. (3) Individuals who were contacted due to missing information on lab reports but did not consent to give the information.

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THREE V'S OF PUBLIC HEALTH

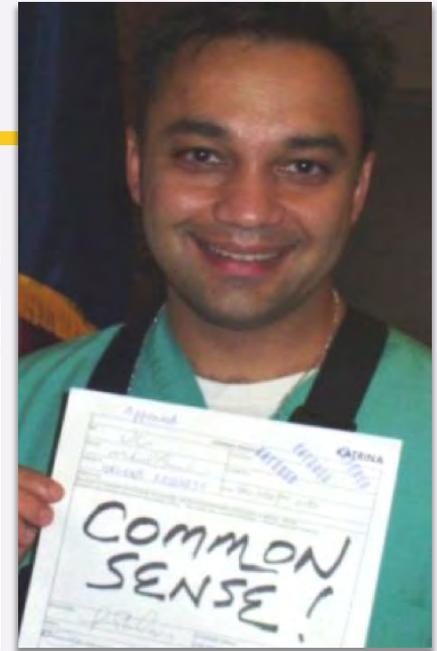Visibility • Value • Validation

PUBLIC HEALTH JUST MAKES "COMMON SENSE"

...And it takes a village...

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