

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

The **Center for Community Health Development (CCHD)** increases the capacity of communities to improve population health utilizing a community health development approach.

OUR MISSION

Our Approach/Our Work

CCHD employs an approach called community health development that organizes community partnerships to engage in assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation activities aimed at addressing factors that impact health status through locally designed and sustainable solutions. In partnership with communities, CCHD's projects have focused on a broad range of issues including access to medical care, sexual violence prevention, youth development, access to mental health services, cancer screening, treatment, and survivorship, among others.

Our History

CCHD was originally established in 2001 as the Community Health Development Program (CHDP) to provide the Texas A&M University School of Public Health (School of Rural Public Health, at the time) with the infrastructure to foster research, service, and education dedicated to improving population health status in predominantly rural and underserved communities. The early success of the program provided a strong foundation for securing \$11 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as one of 37 Prevention Research Centers (PRC) nationwide. As a result of this achievement, the program received Center approval from the Texas A&M Board of Regents and was designated as the Center for Community Health Development. Beyond PRC funding, CCHD has acquired over \$50 million in grants and contracts to support health research that utilizes a community health development approach.

In 2010, CCHD established the National Community Health Worker Training Center (NCHWTC) in response to partner community needs identified in South Texas. The NCHWTC is a Department of State Health Services certified Community Health Worker (CHW) training center that provides CHW and CHW Instructor certifications and continuing education units in-person and online, in English and Spanish. In addition to training, the NCHWTC has participated as a collaborator in several research projects utilizing CHWs across the state.

Research Topics & Projects

Community Health Assessments

- Brazos Valley Health Assessments: 2002, 2006, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019

Community Health Development Strategies

- CDC Prevention Research Center 2004-2014
- Program for Rural and Minority Health Disparities Research

Community Capacity Building and Community-Based Approaches to Health Promotion & Disease Prevention

- Community Access Program: Coordinating Health Services for Rural Residents through Community Health Resource Centers (CHRCs)
- CHRC Case Study & Toolkit Development

Program Evaluation

- Rape Prevention & Education Evaluation
- Healthy Texas Babies Evaluation
- Evaluation of the Legacy Partnership for Healthier Communities
- Well-Being in Rural Communities Initiative
- Tex-TRAC: Texas Remote Access Center