

Director's Update to the Board of Health

January 2025

Protecting Health – Preventing the Spread of Infectious Disease

Tuberculosis Elimination Program

The TB Elimination Program is excited to announce that mid-December 2024, **asynchronous** electronic directly observed therapy (e-DOT) commenced as a DOT option for eligible patients who are receiving treatment for TB infection or disease. The TBE Program will continue to offer **synchronous** e-DOT to eligible patients and of course will continue to offer **in-person** DOT. Electronic DOT has been shown to increase patient satisfaction (flexibility of schedule and less time off work), medication adherence, and treatment success. Other benefits of e-DOT include decrease program expense and improved efficiency of DOT and case management.

Vaccinations: Flu

Metro Public Health Department staff continue to offer flu shots to the community, surpassing last year's rate. As of December 28th, MPH had administered 2,294 flu shots, as compared to 2,029 administered through the same point in time for the 2023-2024 flu season. A highlight of this year's flu shot campaign was the 635 flu shots administered on Fight Flu Day October 15th. MPH clinics continue to offer flu shots, especially as CDC numbers show moderate flu activity both in wastewater collection and in Davidson County emergency department visits.

Ryan White Part A Program

The Ryan White Part A Program's Nashville Transitional Grant Area, which comprises Davidson and 12 other surrounding counties, will release or launch a Request For Proposal (RFP) in the coming weeks. Below is a list of the services funded in the Nashville TGA, specifically marked with an asterisk *.

This decision was made because the five-year grant cycle ends February 28, 2025, and the Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA) has announced they are moving the grant onto a three-year cycle.

Additionally, during the site visit with our Ryan White program management team last spring, the Nashville TGA Project Officer, Dr. Jonathon Fenner, Chief, Southern Branch; and HRSA consultants Mark Pepler and Jim McCarthy strongly recommended that we release a new RFP to include department or internal grantmaking. This measure, HRSA indicated, is a needed improvement based on their assessment of the Metro procurement processes during the site visit.

Funding Categories (Services)

- Part A:
- Outpatient Ambulatory
- Early Intervention Services
- Mental Health
- Medical Case Management/Case Management
- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Nutrition Services
- Housing Assistance
- Linguistics
- Transportation
- Psychosocial
- Referral

Ryan White MAI

Outpatient Ambulatory
Early Intervention Services
Mental Health
Medical Case Management
Outreach

The following is a listing of all services available through Ryan White Grant funding for Part A/MAI:

The services that are offered throughout the TGA are indicated with an *.

Core Medical Services

- ADAP Treatments
- AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance
- Early Intervention Services *
- Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance for Low-Income Individuals
- Home and Community-Based Health Services
- Home Health Care
- Hospice Services
- Medical Case Management, including Treatment Adherence Services *
- Medical Nutrition Therapy
- Mental Health Services *
- Oral Health Care
- Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services *
- Substance Abuse Outpatient Care *

Support Services

- Childcare Services
- Emergency Financial Assistance *
- Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals *
- Health Education/Risk Reduction
- Housing *
- Legal Services
- Linguistic Services *
- Medical Transportation *
- Non-Medical Case Management Services *
- Other Professional Services

Outreach Services *

Permanency Planning

Psychosocial Support Services *

Referral for Health Care and Support Services *

Rehabilitation Services

Respite Care

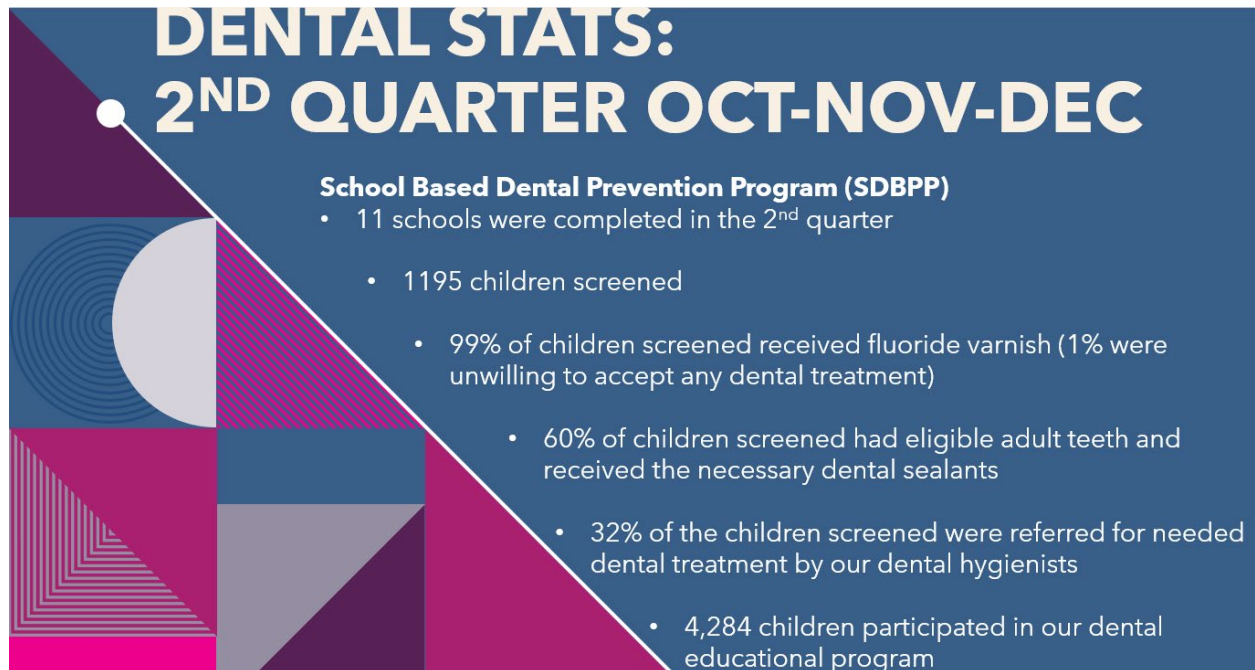
Residential Substance Abuse Disorder Services

Map of Nashville Transitional Grant Area (TGA)



Promote and Support Healthier Living

Oral Health Program



Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

MPHD clinics will observe Cervical Cancer Awareness month throughout the month of January. Due to the hard work of the Clinical Services staff, patients needing cervical cancer screening that do not qualify for family planning services can be navigated through our Tennessee Breast and Cervical Screening program at any of our preventive health clinics. Below is some more information on Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and the importance of screening.

Upcoming projects: Clinical Services

- Nursing Mentorship Program, starting early 2025- championed by Tasha Brantley, RN, Sexual Health Center Manager.
- A Breast and Cervical Screening program partnership with Nashville Healthcare Diagnostic Center- very successful first collaboration date, 17 patients attended. Next MPHD date 2/20/2025- championed by Emily Davis, NP.



CERVICAL CANCER

Awareness Month



TENNESSEE CANCER COALITION
prevention · early detection · treatment · survivorship

Cervical Cancer Awareness



Screening Recommendations

- There are two types of cervical cancer screenings to detect changes to cells or the presence of HPV.
- A person's medical history, family history of cervical cancer, and other risk factors may change how often or what types of tests are done to screen for cervical cancer.
- Screening is recommended for women ages 21 and older, so ask your provider about screening.

Risk Factors

- The three main risk factors for cervical cancer include using tobacco products, persistent HPV infection, and missing regular screenings.
- HPV (which can be contracted by both men and women) causes over 90% of all cervical cancers.
- By getting regular screenings, persistent HPV infections can be detected early.



Disparities



- The death rate among Black women and Native American women is about 65% higher than among White women.
- Non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic women have the highest rates of delayed diagnoses, so regular screenings are important to ensure early detection and treatment of cervical cancer.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Why is cervical cancer screening important?

Screening saves lives. It usually takes 3 to 7 years for high-grade changes in cervical cells to become cancer. Cervical cancer screening may detect these changes before they become cancer.

Screening is recommended for women ages 21 and older. Women with low-grade changes can be tested more frequently to see if their cells go back to normal. Women with high-grade changes can get treatment to have the cells removed.



How is cervical cancer screening done?

Cervical cancer screening is simple and fast. It includes the Pap test, an HPV test, or both.

For both tests, cells are removed from the cervix with a brush or other sampling instrument. The cells are then sent to a laboratory for testing.

For a Pap test, the sample is examined to see if abnormal cells are present. For an HPV test, the sample is tested for the presence of the most common high-risk HPV types.



How else can I protect myself from cervical cancer?

The **HPV vaccine** is an important way to help protect against the HPV infections that commonly cause cancer. Both men and women can get the HPV vaccine.

However, the HPV vaccine does not protect against all types of HPV that can cause cancer. Women who have been vaccinated against HPV should still follow the cervical cancer screening recommendations.



**HPV causes over 90% of
all cervical cancers.**



**Get your
recommended screening!**

 **Tennessee**
BREAST & CERVICAL
SCREENING PROGRAM

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**Every 3 days,
one Tennessean
dies from
cervical cancer.**

 **Tennessee**
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**Cervical cancer is
preventable.**



**Ask your provider
about the HPV vaccine.**

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**Every day,
1 Tennessean
is diagnosed with
cervical cancer.**

 **Tennessee**
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What is HPV?

The **human papillomavirus (HPV)** is a **common viral infection** that can affect the skin, genitals, and throat.

Persistent HPV infection can cause **cancer**.

In the United States, **cervical cancer** is the most common **HPV-linked cancer** in women.



However, HPV impacts **all people** and can cause:

oral cancer

anal cancer

penile cancer

vulva cancer

vaginal cancer

HPV vaccination can **prevent**

more than 90%

of HPV cancers when given at the recommended ages.

In Tennessee, HPV vaccination coverage remains **lower** than the U.S. average.



The **2022 National College Health Assessment** survey noted that only

41%

of **male**
college
students



57%

of **female**
college
students

were **up-to-date** with recommended **HPV vaccine series**.

What Can You Do?



Talk to your
provider



Educate your peers



Get screened



Consider the HPV
vaccine

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