

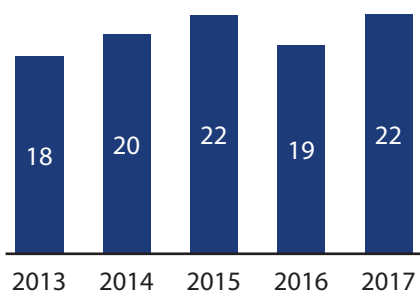
Hansen's Disease in Texas

Hansen's Disease (HD), formerly known as leprosy, is a disease affecting the skin and peripheral nerves. It is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae*, which is believed to be carried by certain animals and is thought to be transmitted by nasal secretions from persons with untreated disease. You cannot get HD from casual contact such as shaking hands or sharing a meal. HD may be transmitted with prolonged, close contact over many months with someone who has untreated disease, however 95% of the population has a natural immunity.

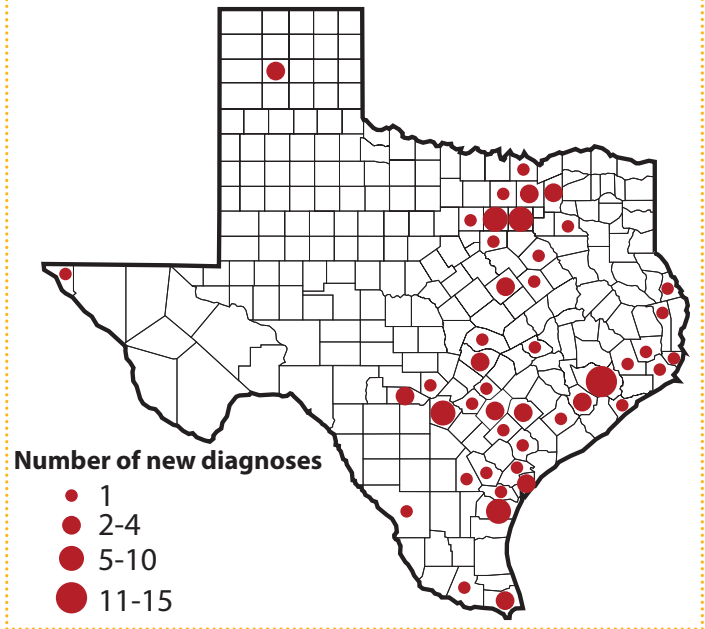
Individuals with the disease are not highly contagious and can be cured with proper treatment.

- ◆ Approximately 150 newly diagnosed cases are reported nationally each year.
- ◆ In the U.S., the states with the highest numbers of reported cases include: Arkansas, California, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, New York, and Texas.
- ◆ Texas reported 22 new cases in 2017.
- ◆ Texas annual case counts have remained steady, fluctuating by only four cases from 2013-2017.

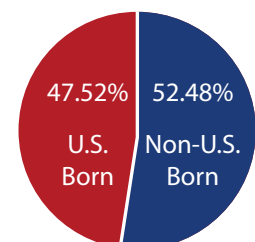
New HD Case Counts in Texas, 2013-2017



Incidence of New HD Diagnoses, 2013-2017



New HD Cases By Country of Birth, Texas, 2013-2017



From 2013-2017, Texas managed 101 cases of newly diagnosed HD:

- ◆ The distribution of cases among U.S. Born and Non-U.S. Born persons is almost equal.
- ◆ 66% of cases were men.
- ◆ 60% had lepromatous disease, a form of Hansen's disease with a higher bacteria count that takes two years to treat.

Consider Hansen's Disease when a patient presents with:

- ◆ Non-responsive patches on skin, or lesions that are raised or flat, light or pigmented
- ◆ Thickened, tender peripheral nerves
- ◆ Loss of eyebrows or blink reflex
- ◆ Nodules (growths) on skin, especially nose or earlobes
- ◆ Clawing of the hands or foot drop
- ◆ Stuffy nose, nosebleeds, or deformity of the nose
- ◆ History of armadillo contact
- ◆ History of multiple physician visits with unresolved symptoms



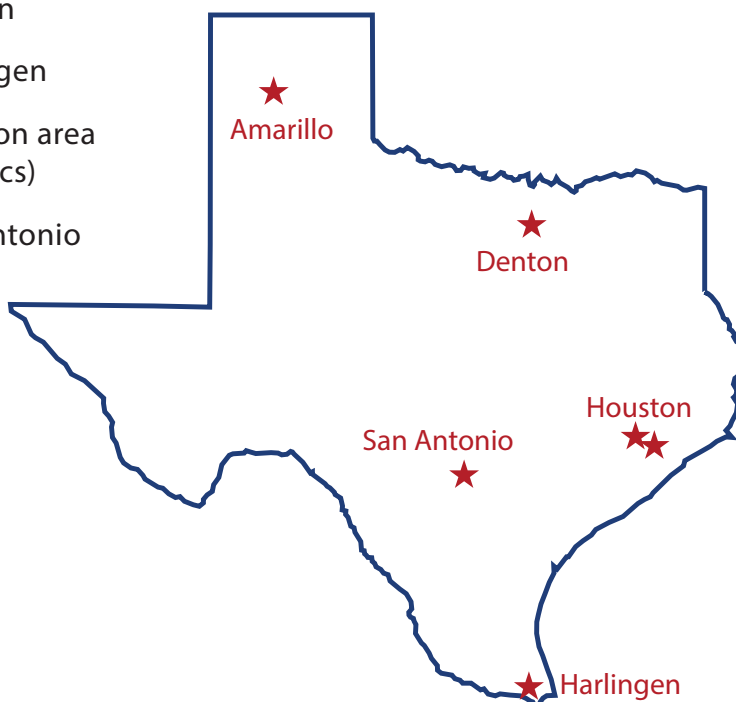
Hansen's Disease is a notifiable condition and must be reported to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) within one week of diagnosis.

For disease reporting and for Texas HD clinic information call:

1-800-705-8868 or 512-533-3000

Free treatment is available in the following areas:

- ◆ Amarillo
- ◆ Denton
- ◆ Harlingen
- ◆ Houston area (2 clinics)
- ◆ San Antonio



DSHS Hansen's Disease Program

(512) 533-3000 ext 3144
www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/hansens

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