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Health and Human  
Services

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Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# **Shopper Cards (or the lack thereof): The Texas Perspective**

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**Greg Leos, MPH, CPH**

**Foodborne Epidemiologist**

**Texas Department of State Health Services**

# Popular Stores in TX



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- **Dallas 2016 (similar to US)**

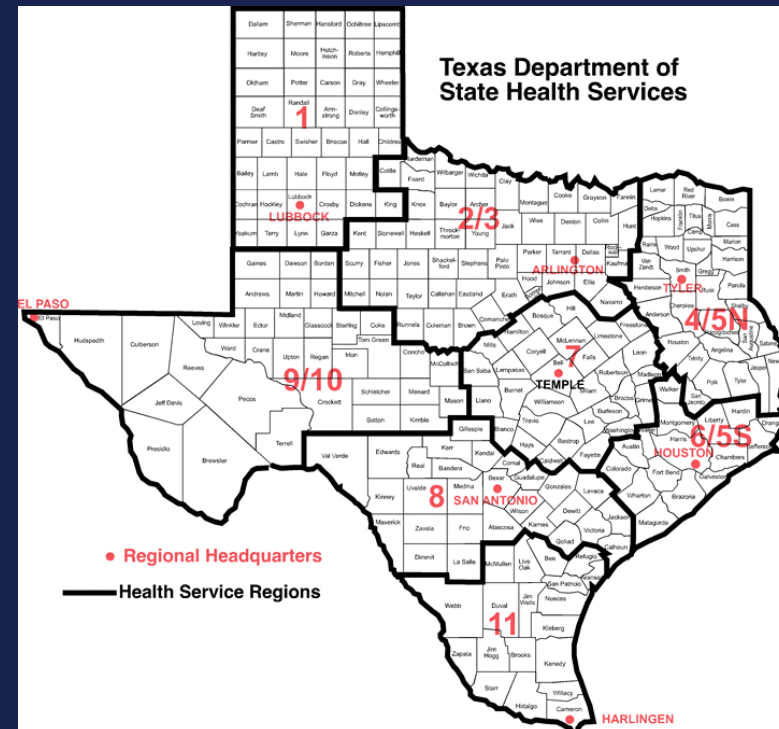
- Walmart 27.8%
- Kroger 13.2%
- Central Market 2.2%

- **Houston 2015**

- Walmart 25.5%
- HEB 25.1%
- Kroger 23.8%

- **San Antonio and Austin**

- HEB  $\geq$  40%





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# HEB

- Founded in 1905
- 332 stores in TX and 56 stores in MX
- Largest private employer in TX (>90,000)
- 2017 will add 9 in TX and 6 in MX
- Donations to charity and food banks
- Provides disaster relief



12/19/2017

I'LL SEE YOUR FEMA AND  
RED CROSS



AND RAISE YOU MY TEXAS  
GROCERY STORE CHAIN





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# *Cyclospora* 2017 (CNHGQ)

- CNHGQ
  - 5 cases shopped at the same HEB in Boerne, TX (pop. >15,000)
  - 2 of the 5 also shopped at Wal-Mart and Costco (same locations)





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# Partnering with HEB

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- **The *Dramatis Personæ***
  - Director Quality Assurance – Food Safety (HEB)
  - Food Safety Officer (TX DSHS)
  - Epidemiologists (TX DSHS)
  - Assistant General Council (DSHS)
- **The Forms**
  - From DSHS to HEB
  - From DSHS to Customer

**“All the world’s a stage  
and most of us are desperately unrehearsed.”**

**Seán O'Casey**

# Successes and Challenges



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- Success
  - Store echoed Public Health Concerns
  - Agreement on method
  - We have a process (for HEB, at least)
- Challenge
  - Privacy concerns
  - Customer buy-in (enough to overcome first challenge)







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# **Thank you**

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**On with the show...**