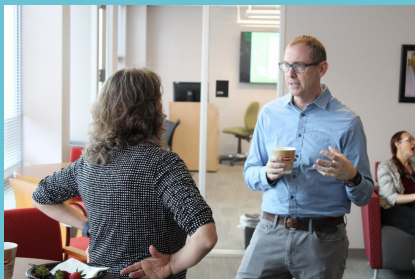


May 2023 Newsletter



Center Highlights

Michael & Susan Dell Center Lectureship in Child Health



The Center welcomed Dr. Marlene Schwartz as the 2023 Michael & Susan Dell Center Lectureship in Child Health Award Recipient in April!

The webinar addressed current debates surrounding school food and highlighted the importance of public health nutrition research to guide policymakers.

CDC Science Ambassador Program

The CDC Science Ambassador Program recently partnered with UTHealth Houston School of Public Health in Austin to host a regional training workshop for Texas public high school and middle school teachers.

The event, held on March 3, 2023, included UTHealth Houston School of Public Health graduates Kelly Bloodworth (CDC) and Duncan van Dusen (CATCH Global Foundation), as well as current student Priscilla Garza (CATCH Global Foundation), among its panelists.



New Health Policy Resources

Our Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration (TX RPC) Project recently released new data-driven reports from public health experts:

- [Child Behavioral Health](#)
- [Maternal & Child Health](#)
- [Impact of Technology Use on Adolescent Health](#)

[View Health Policy Resources](#)

Child Behavioral Health
January 11, 2023

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Rates of childhood mental challenges and suicide have been rising for years, an issue that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Texas has a serious shortage of child and adolescent psychiatric care providers, leaving many children untreated.
3. With American Research Funds expiring December 2023, new award funds for Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC) programs will be critical to help bridge the gaps in child behavioral health care.

BACKGROUND

Mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, behavioral problems, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are much more common among children in the U.S. than they were previously thought to be.¹⁾

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, between 2016 and 2020 there was a 28% increase in children ages 3-17 diagnosed with anxiety and 27% increase in those diagnosed with depression.²⁾ Additionally, 1 in 6 youth will experience a mental health disorder each year.³⁾ This equates to about 7.7 million children annually.

50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14.⁴⁾

75% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 24.⁵⁾

2ND leading cause of death among young people (ages 10-19).⁶⁾

Rates of childhood mental health challenges and suicide have been rising steadily for at least a decade prior to the pandemic and have risen further due, in large part, to the pandemic. Globally, symptoms of depression and anxiety doubled among youth within the first year of the pandemic, compared to pre-pandemic estimates, between January 2020 and February 2021.⁷⁾

1 in 4 youth experienced depressive symptoms.

1 in 5 youth experienced symptoms of anxiety.

2023 Legislative Bill Tracker

Don't forget to take a look at our **2023 Legislative Bill Tracker!**


Our recently updated tracker is organized based on partner organization policy priorities and legislation relevant to Center research. These priorities include early childhood education, food policy, school/after-school care, tobacco/e-cigarettes, and more.

You can bookmark [this page](#) to find and follow Texas child health bills throughout the 88th Legislative Session in real time.

Search by title...



 Download

	Bill	Status	Status Date	Aut
1	S.B. 557: Relating to the eligibility of certain students enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.	Referred to Senate committee	02/17/2023	TX
2	H.B. 3589: Relating to the transfer of the administration of school nutrition programs from the Texas Department of Agriculture to the Texas Education Agency.	Referred to House committee	03/16/2023	TX
3	H.B. 2983: Relating to a pilot project to provide medical nutrition assistance to certain Medicaid recipients in this state.	Passed House	04/27/2023	TX
4	H.B. 1287: Relating to adjusting for inflation the maximum amount of a motor vehicle excluded in determining eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.	Referred to Senate committee	04/19/2023	TX 03
5	H.B. 4571: Relating to measures to address student hunger at postsecondary educational institutions.	Reported Favorably by Committee	04/17/2023	TX P TX F
6	H.B. 1501: Relating to the eligibility of certain students enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.	Referred to House committee	03/03/2023	TX P 140
7	H.B. 4021: Relating to the eligibility of certain students enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.	Referred to House committee	03/20/2023	TX P
8	S.B. 273: Relating to annually adjusting for inflation the maximum amount of a motor vehicle excluded in determining eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance ...	Referred to Senate committee	02/15/2023	TX
9	H.B. 3599: Relating to an exemption from certain motor fuel taxes for, and registration fees for motor vehicles owned by, certain nonprofit food banks.	Reported Favorably by Committee	04/27/2023	TX I
10	H.B. 1099: Relating to annually adjusting for inflation the maximum amount of a motor vehicle excluded in determining eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance ...	Referred to House committee	03/02/2023	TX P
	S.B. 1075: Relating to a pilot project to provide medical nutrition assistance to certain ...			TX C

[View Legislative Bill Tracker](#)

Featured Blogs



Interview with Marlene Schwartz, PhD



MICHAEL & SUSAN DELL
CENTER for HEALTHY LIVING



TX SPAN Data Explorer

Meet Marlene Schwartz, PhD
We were excited to welcome Dr. Marlene Schwartz as the 2023 Michael & Susan Dell Center Lectureship in Child Health Award

The Texas School Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey
Texas SPAN is a statewide serial cross-sectional surveillance study that measures the health

Recipient on April 27, 2023. Dr. Schwartz's keynote presentation addressed how nutrition and wellness policies implemented in schools, food banks, and local communities can improve food security, nutrition quality, and health outcomes.

status of school-aged children by collecting state-representative data about their diets, activity levels, and other related behaviors.

[Keep Reading](#)

[Keep Reading](#)

Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living in the News

Shreela Sharma, PhD, RDN, was featured in a [Collective Colorado](#) article about early childhood educators facing the highest rates of food insecurity to date.

Dolores Woods, MA, RD, LD appeared on [Univision Houston Channel 45](#) to talk about the health benefits of urban gardens. The story was posted [online](#).

Diana Guevara, MPH, RD appeared on [KPRC-TV Channel 2](#) to talk about easy ways to kick off a healthy lifestyle and what to expect when meeting with a nutritionist or dietician.

[Read more blogs >](#)

Webinars

FEATURED WEBINAR

Michael & Susan Dell Center Lectureship in Child Health keynote:
What's for Lunch? The Past, Present, and Future of School Nutrition

Each day, 30 million children participate in the National School Lunch Program, which was established in 1946 to ensure adequate nutrition for American school children. Over the past 10 years, the nutritional quality of school meals has improved substantially—despite political and commercial obstacles. This webinar will address recent and current debates surrounding school food and highlight the importance of public health nutrition research to guide policymakers.

[Watch Here!](#)

Past Webinars:

Maternal Child Health in Texas: A Continuing Crisis

Fuel for the Future: No Waste Cooking

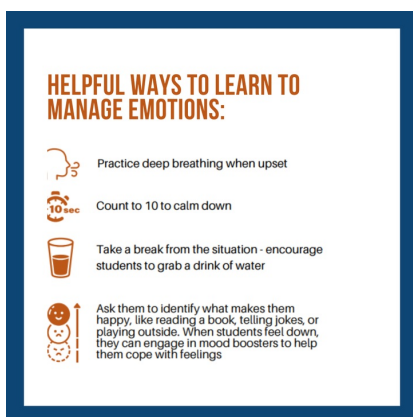
Using Digital Tools to Improve Physical Function in Cancer Patients and Survivors

Faculty Awards



Congratulations to Dr. Deanna Hoelscher on her new appointment to serve on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services **Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee**. Read more [here](#).

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The research and health promotion activities of the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living are funded by gifts from individuals, foundations or corporations and by grants from government and state agencies.

Your contribution will help support our mission of advancing health and healthy living for children and families through cutting-edge research, innovative community-based programs, and dissemination of evidence-based practices. Every donation, no matter how large or small, makes a difference in our vision of Healthy Children in a Healthy World.

[Make a Donation](#)

Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA, Director

Alexandra van den Berg, PhD, MPH, Associate Director

Tiffni Menendez, MPH, Senior Program Manager



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