

News & Updates

from the Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project



February 2022

Resource Reminders

COVID-19 Rapid Response Requests

As we enter the third official year of the pandemic, the Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration (TX RPC) Project continues to develop accessible and accurate resources from health experts in the field. If you would like to request information on a public health topic, please complete the following form.

[ACCESS FORM
HERE](#)

[VIEW AVAILABLE HEALTH POLICY
REPORTS](#)

The Texas RPC Project resources are available on our website. We hope these resources are valuable to your respective offices.

- [TX RPC Health Policy Resources](#) (resources available to policymakers to provide facts and evidence on health-related topics)
- [Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living Webinars](#) (includes [COVID-19 specific webinars](#))
- [TX RPC Newsletters Archive](#)
- [Texas Legislative Bill Tracker](#)
- [Texas Child Health Status Reports and Toolkits](#)

General COVID-19 Resources

The TX RPC Project is committed to promoting optimal health for all Texans. For further information and updates on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#), [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), and [World Health Organization](#) provide masking and social distancing guidelines, as well as recommended best practices to limit transmission of the coronavirus.

[Texas Research-to-Policy Updated Reports](#)

NEWLY RELEASED REPORT: Impact of COVID-19 on Child Mental Health

Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project

During Fall 2021, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Children's Hospital Association declared a national emergency in child and adolescent mental health. As a result of altered experiences at home, school, and in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, a vast number of children have faced social, emotional, and academic challenges, increasing their risk for depression, anxiety, suicide, sleep disorders, and substance use. **This report was released on January 28, 2022.**

Key Takeaways:

- Globally, between January 2020 and mid-February 2021, symptoms of depression and anxiety doubled among youth compared to pre-pandemic estimates.
- Mental health-related emergency department visits increased 24% among U.S. children aged 5-11 years and 31% among those aged 12-17 years between mid-March and October 2020 compared to the same time period in 2019.
- Emergency department visits for suspected suicide attempts increased 51% among U.S. adolescent girls and 4% among adolescent boys in early 2021 compared to early 2019.

[VIEW THE REPORT](#)

UPDATED REPORT: Protecting our Children from COVID-19: How Texans Can Help

Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

TX RPC Project's health policy resource on *Protecting our Children COVID-19: How Texans Can Help*, was recently updated to include new evidence on the importance of vaccinations, mask adherence, and social distancing as proven methods to slow the transmission of COVID-19, especially with the presence of highly contagious variants. Current recommendations encourage everyone over the age of two to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status. Masks protect children and adults who are unable to be vaccinated from others who may carry the disease. **This report was updated on January 25, 2022**

Key Takeaways:

- Most children who are eligible for the vaccine are not vaccinated. Since May 2021, Only 26% of eligible Texas children between the ages of 12 and 17 are vaccinated.
- Evidence suggests vaccine immunity provides protection for a longer period of time than natural infection. To reach population level immunity, 80-94% of Texans need to be immune by vaccination or infection.
- **Get vaccinated.** For yourself, for your family, for those around you, and for those who cannot get vaccinated.

[VIEW THE UPDATED
REPORT](#)

UPDATED REPORT: Child Beverage Consumption Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

The Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living is developing a series of reports, *Healthy Children*, *Healthy State*, to raise awareness of child health risk factors in order to develop new programs and actions, and to build on current initiatives in Texas. The Child Sugar-Sweetened Beverage one-pager was updated with new evidence showcasing the current state of sugar-sweetened beverage consumption for children in Texas and recommendations on how to improve what Texas children drink. This report was updated on January 26, 2022 and utilizes 2019-2020 SPAN data.

Key Takeaways:

- Every day, 80.6% of 11th graders drink a sugary beverage.
- Kids who drink one sugar-sweetened beverage per day can potentially gain up to 14.5 pounds of unnecessary weight in one year.
- Every day, 31.6% of 2nd graders drink 1 or more regular sodas, while 68.9% of 2nd graders have 1 or more sugar-sweetened beverages.

[VIEW THE UPDATED
REPORT](#)

Resources from TX RPC Members and Organizations

Free Online Fitness Classes with 'Tu Salud, Si Cuenta!'

Belinda Reininger, PhD, MPH - UTHealth School of Public Health - Brownsville Campus

A Brownsville initiative, “Tu Salud, Si Cuenta!”, created to combat obesity and diabetes in the community, is offering free fitness classes to start the new year. A variety of classes are being offered, such as yoga, Zumba, bootcamp, Pilates, and total resistance exercises (TRX). The initiative is guided by UTHealth School of Public Health - Brownsville Campus and has a goal to create a “culture of health”, advocating for infrastructure changes including enhancing hike and bike trails, and access to information about healthy living. Fitness classes are being offered in Brownsville, Harlingen, Combs, La Feria, Port Isabel, Los Fresnos, San Benito, Rio Hondo, Weslaco, and Edinburg.

BROWNSVILLE | February | Febrero



	MON LUN	TUE MAR	WED MIÉ	THU JUE	FRI VIE	SAT SÁB
7:00 A.M.			CincoCinco Yoga (La Mancha Urban Farm)			Boot Camp (Monte Bella Park)
8:00 A.M.			Low Impact Chair Exercise (Gonzalez Park)			Yoga (Linear Park)
8:30 A.M.	Zumba (Pedro Pete Benavides Park Browne)	Zumba (Pedro Pete Benavides Park Browne)	Zumba (Pedro Pete Benavides Park Browne)	GROUP LIFE BALANCE (Pedro Pete Benavides Park Browne)	Zumba (Pedro Pete Benavides Park Browne)	
8:30 A.M.	Strength & Conditioning (Riverside Park)		Strength & Conditioning (Riverside Park)		Strength & Conditioning (Riverside Park)	
8:45 A.M.	Zumba (Dean Porter Park)	Zumba (Dean Porter Park)	Zumba (Dean Porter Park)	Zumba (Dean Porter Park)	Zumba (Dean Porter Park)	
10:00 A.M.			Boot Camp (Oliveira Park)	Boot Camp (Oliveira Park)	Boot Camp (Oliveira Park)	
11:30 A.M.	Zumba Toning (BISD GYM)	Zumba (BISD GYM)	Zumba Toning (BISD GYM)	Zumba (BISD GYM)		Virtual Class
5:00 P.M.					CincoCinco Yoga (La Posada Urban Farm)	In-person class
5:30 P.M.					CincoCinco Nature Walk (La Posada Urban Farm)	CARACARA
5:30 P.M.					Yoga Class (Poinsett Gardens Housing Authority)	BTX Health & Wellness
5:45 P.M.	Step Aerobics (Virtual)	Zumba (Virtual)	Step Aerobics (Virtual)	Zumba (Virtual)	Step Aerobics (Virtual)	City of Brownsville Public Health Department (956) 542-3437
6:00 P.M.	Yoga (Linear Park)		Yoga (Linear Park)		CincoCinco Stargazing (La Posada Urban Farm)	

FREE EXERCISE SCHEDULE

Key Takeaways:

- The initiative is guided by UTHealth School of Public Health - Brownsville Campus and has a goal to create a “culture of health”. The program advocates for infrastructure changes including enhancing hike and bike trails, and access to information about healthy living.
- The fitness classes can be taken from the comfort of your own home by visiting their Facebook page and livestreaming the class.

[VIEW EXERCISE CLASSES AVAILABLE](#)

[READ THE STORY](#)

Highlights from TX RPC Network Members Conducting COVID-19 Research

Free COVID-19 Tests Are On Their Way. Will They Work for Travel? Katelyn Jetelina, PhD, MPH - UTHealth School of Public Health - Dallas Campus

In January, the United States government launched a website to deliver free COVID-19 tests to households across the country. The tests will provide many with the ability to easily test for COVID-19 at home before returning to work or school. However, domestic and international airlines with testing requirements will not accept the home tests - the accepted tests must be those performed by or in front of a provider. Dr. Katelyn Jetelina, TX RPC network member, said the free tests provided by the government can be useful for breaking transmission chains locally but also before traveling to see loved ones, saying the tests are a “fantastic tool” to

take to reduce the risk of spread, even when testing is not required.” While the coronavirus tests are helpful, experts stress the importance of other safety measures: vaccinations and masking, which help to prevent infection.

Key Takeaways:

- People traveling to the United States can use at-home tests, but those tests must meet specific criteria: be a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) or antigen test), have emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and be supervised by a telehealth provider who is able to confirm test results and the identify of the person taking the test.
- For people traveling, the acceptable testing kits to use are Abbott’s BinaxNOW, COVID-19 AG Card Home test, and Ellume COVID-19 Home Test. The Abbott BinaxNOW antigen self-test is not eligible for use for traveling purposes.

[READ THE NEWS ARTICLE](#)

Obesity Increases the Risk of COVID-19 Complications in Children, Report Shows

Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RD, LD, CNS - UTHealth School of Public Health - Austin Campus

A recent CDC report found that obesity was a key determinant in COVID-19 hospitalizations among children. Six hospitals were monitored during the summer of 2021, and approximately 66% of the children admitted for COVID-19 between the ages of 12 and 17, had obesity. Children and adults who carry excess weight tend to have higher cases of respiratory diseases and asthma, putting them at higher risk for contracting COVID-19. TX RPC Principal Investigator Dr. Deanna Hoelscher says that if we want to see changes in weight, the work starts at home. Parents can be good role models for their kids by preparing more meals at home. She says “you don’t have to be a gourmet chef. You can set a few standard recipes...and prepare healthy meals and have your kids participate as well.” Behaviors such as eating well, getting enough sleep, and exercising can help beat the excess weight.

Key Takeaways:

- With food prices going up, parents tend to opt for higher calorie foods, which tend to be less costly, but also tend to be less nutritious for them and their children.
- Children who have obesity can suffer from poor cardiovascular health, a risk factor for severe COVID-19-related complications.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

[VIEW THE CHILD OBESITY REPORT](#)

VIEW THE CHILD PRE-EXISTING HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORT

The Best Masks to Wear Against Omicron

Catherine Troisi, PhD - UTHealth School of Public Health - Houston Campus

With the COVID-19 Omicron variant circulating through the United States, the CDC updated their mask guidelines to protect against COVID-19. The CDC now suggests wearing KN95 or N95 masks because cloth masks do not provide enough protection. TX RPC network member Dr. Catherine Troisi says the most important thing about masks is to wear them correctly, with the mask covering both your nose and mouth. She also says a good alternative to KN95 or N95 masks are to double-layer masks, with a surgical mask on first and the cloth mask on top to keep the surgical mask from gapping. She also says that if you work in a high risk environment for COVID-19 transmission, it is best to wear a new mask or set of masks every day. If you decide to wear a mask more than once, allow your mask to air out for a couple of days before wearing it again.

Key Takeaways:

- Have a rotation of masks so you do not have to wear the same one multiple days in a row!
- Surgical masks are okay to wear, but should be paired with a cloth mask to keep from gapping at the sides.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Has Houston Reached the Peak of Omicron?

Katelyn Jetelina, PhD, MPH - UTHealth School of Public Health - Dallas Campus

The city of Houston has been testing wastewater for signs of COVID-19 surges since July 2020. While virus transmission was still high in the community in mid-January 2022, fewer wastewater samples are showing signs of the virus, an indicator that COVID-19 cases could decrease. TX RPC network member Dr. Katelyn Jetelina says that it is just as important to look at what is happening in the hospitals as it is at the cases, since hospital admissions lag three to four weeks behind cases. Dr. Jetelina also says we need to continue to be vigilant because more mutations are likely ahead, saying “I think the big question is on what the impact of the next variant is going to have on our hospital systems.” Dr. Jetelina, and others, hope that future mutations and COVID-19 waves will not make as large of an impact on the community if immunity is high.

Key Takeaways:

- Dr. Jetelina says many experts hypothesize that because the level of community has been increasing and Omicron has infected so many people, future variants may not have as large of an impact on our hospital systems.
- Wastewater has helped experts detect COVID-19 increases and decreases in

[READ THE NEWS
ARTICLE](#)

Los Fresnos Woman Facing Long-Term Effects of COVID-19

Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD, MPH - UTHealth School of Public Health - Brownsville Campus

A resident of Los Fresnos, who contracted COVID-19 almost two years ago, is still living with the long term impacts of the virus. She is still battling post-COVID symptoms, including the way she tastes food. She says she struggles with finding food she can eat, especially as she gathers with family and friends, because most food tastes rotten. TX RPC network member Dr. Valerio Shewmaker says, “it’s really a time where we do not know what is happening and for how long, because we don’t know”. She also says it is important to protect children from the virus as they start school after the holiday since we do not yet know and understand the impact of post-COVID conditions..

Key Takeaways:

- Dr. Valerio-Shewmaker says it’s important to protect our children, and to think about how COVID and long-COVID conditions affect adults and children moving forward.
- Health experts are saying it is becoming increasingly important to study post-COVID conditions as the pandemic continues.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

TX RPC Partner Events

UPCOMING EVENT: World Obesity Day Summit 2022

Live Smart Texas and The Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

Join Live Smart Texas or a summit in observance of World Obesity Day! The summit will feature keynote speaker Ted Kyle, RPh, MBA, of ConscienHealth, along with updates from regional and organizational representatives across Texas. To close out the summit, there will be presentations from Partnership for a Healthy Texas and from the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living. **This event will take place on March 4, 2022.**

[REGISTER FOR THE
EVENT](#)

WEBINAR RECORDING: How Good Food Works From Seed to Plate: A Discussion With the Authors

Nourish Program at the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living and UTHHealth School of Public Health

How Good Food Works from Seed to Plate is a Winner in the 2021 Gourmand World Cookbook Awards in the Best of the Best cookbook category. It is filled with beautiful photography, delicious recipes and helpful tips on building your own garden as well as cooking hints. Plants do take center stage, but there are recipes such as eggplant fried rice with chicken and cashews and Swiss chard shrimp and grits that include poultry and seafood. The book offers examples of simple ways to make food taste delicious. Authors Laura S. Moore and Dr. Wesley McWhorter talk about the challenges of healthy eating and how flavor plays such a major role in changing the way people eat. **This webinar took place on February 15, 2022**

WATCH THE
WEBINAR

WEBINAR RECORDING: Learning to Live with Coronaviruses? The Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

Drs. Fisher-Hoch and McCormick from the UTHHealth School of Public Health in Brownsville discussed the new COVID-19 variants and their epidemiology in their latest webinar. They also discussed the variant's implications for the future, vaccines, and other public health measures for 2022. **This webinar took place on January 26, 2022.**

WATCH THE
WEBINAR

WEBINAR RECORDING: It's Time Texas Community Challenge: Using Competition to Activate Individual Behaviors and Build Momentum for Policy, Systems, & Environmental Change It's Time Texas and The Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

Representatives from It's Time Texas discussed how they use their statewide 8-week health competition to motivate 40,000 Texans to activate individual behavior change and create a shared value for healthy living. It's Time Texas also shared how they are using the data collected to work with community champions and leaders to leverage momentum for the planning of the health policy, systems and environmental changes in communities across Texas. **This presentation took place on January 12, 2022.**

WATCH THE
WEBINAR

WEBINAR RECORDING: Structural Racism, Unhealthy Housing, and Asthma Disparities

Dell Medical School, The University of Texas at Austin and The Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

Dr. Elizabeth Matsui from Dell Medical School discussed housing-related environmental exposures and their links to structural racism and asthma disparities. She also discussed potential interventions targeting unhealthy housing. Dr. Matsui also serves as the Director of the newly established Center for Health and Environment: Education and Research at UT Austin and introduced this new Center. **This webinar took place on January 18, 2022.**

WATCH THE
WEBINAR

WEBINAR RECORDING: Texas School Health Advisory Council Action for Healthy Kids

State and regional leaders discussed the importance of School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs), the challenges SHACs are facing and how to better support SHACs moving forward. This webinar was moderated by Dr. Deanna Hoelscher, Regional Dean of UTHealth School of Public Health - Austin Campus. School district SHACs represented include Austin, Richardson, Fort Bend, New Braunfels, and Eanes. Other organizations represented in the town hall include Texas Medical Association, Texas School Nurses Organization, Texas State SHAC, and Texans Care for Children. **This webinar took place on January 18, 2022.**

WATCH THE
WEBINAR

REPORT: Lunch is in the Bag

The Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, The University of Texas at Austin, and UTHealth School of Public Health

WHAT CAN I PACK IN MY CHILD'S LUNCH?

Mix & Match from MyPlate Food Groups

Thinking about lunches in food groups helps ensure your child gets the nutrients he or she needs.

The goal is 1 serving from all 5 food groups in each lunch:



As children return to school, help them get the nutrients they need by packing lunches. The goal is to have one serving from all five food groups in each lunch: meats/beans, grains, vegetables, fruits, and milk/dairy. View the infographic for more information.

[VIEW THE INFOGRAPHIC](#)

Recent Publications by TX RPC Researchers

COVID-19 Publications

Chen, P., Kurland, J., **Piquero, A. R.**, & Borrión, H. (2021). Correction to: Measuring the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on crime in a medium-sized city in China. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 1. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-021-09498-3>.

Jablonski, B., Casnovsky, J., Clark, J. K., Cleary, R., Feingold, B., Freedman, D., Gray, S., Romeiko, X., Olabisi, L. S., Torres, M., **van den Berg, A. E.**, Walsh, C., & Wentworth, C. (2020). Emergency Food Provision for Children and Families during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Examples from Five U.S. Cities. *Applied economic perspectives and policy*, e13096. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aapp.13096>

Texas COVID-19:

Valerio-Shewmaker, M. A., DeSantis, S., Swartz, M., Yaseen, A., Gonzalez, M. O., **Kohl, H.**, **Kelder, S. H.**, **Messiah, S. E.**, Aguillard, K. A., Breaux, C., Wu, L., Shuford, J., Pont, S., Lakey, D., & Boerwinkle, E. (2021). Strategies to Estimate Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies in a Texas Vulnerable Population: Results From Phase I of the Texas Coronavirus Antibody Response Survey. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 9, 753487. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.753487>

Case, K. R., Poentud-Fuentes, S. L., Shah, J., Tsevat, J., & Harrell, M. B. (2022). Changes in Marijuana and Nicotine Vaping Perceptions and Use Behaviors among Young Adults since the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Qualitative Study. *Addictive Behaviors Reports*, 100408. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.abrep.2022.100408>

Devaraj, S., Poventud-Fuentes, I., Giroto, M., Monroe, J., Boom, J., **Delclos, G.**, & Versalovic, J. (2022). SARSCoV-2 serostatus amongst vaccinated employees at a pediatric hospital system. *Practical Laboratory Medicine*, 28, e00261. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.plabm.2021.e00261>

Janda, K. M., Ranjit, N., Salvo, D., Nielsen, A., Lemoine, P., Casnovsky, J., & van den Berg, A. (2021). Correlates of Transitions in Food Insecurity Status during the Early Stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic among Ethnically Diverse Households in Central Texas. *Nutrients*, 13(8), 2597. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu13082597>

Szeszulski, J., Helal Salsa, G., Cuccaro, P., Markham, C. M., Martin, M., Savas, L. S., Valerio-Shewmaker, M., Walker, T. J., & Springer, A. E. (2022). Using Community-Academic Partnerships and a Creative Expression Contest to Engage Youth in the Development of Communication Materials for Promoting Behaviors That Prevent COVID-19. *Health Promotion Practice*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248399211070547>

Tortolero, G. A., Otto, M. O., Ramphul, R., Yamal, J. M., Rector, A., Brown, M., **Peskin, M. F.**, Mofleh, D., & Boerwinkle, E. (2022). Examining Social Vulnerability and the Association With COVID-19 Incidence in Harris County, Texas. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 9, 798085. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.798085>

Non-COVID-19

Balogun, T., **Troisi, C.**, Swartz, M. D., & Beyda, R. (2021). Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth: Preventive Health Services Received Prior to Detention. *Journal of correctional health care : the official journal of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care*, 27(4), 232–237. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jchc.20.01.0002>

Bangar, S., **Neumann, A.**, White, J. M., Yansane, A., Johnson, T. R., Olson, G. W., Kumar, S. V., Kookal, K. K., Kim, A., Obadan-Udoh, E., Mertz, E., Simmons, K., Mullins, J., Brandon, R., Walji, M. F., & Kalenderian, E. (2022). Caries Risk Documentation And Prevention: eMeasures For Dental Electronic Health Records. *Applied clinical informatics*, 13(1), 80–90. <https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0041-1740920>

Betts, A. C., Murphy, C. C., Shay, L. A., **Balasubramanian, B. A., Markham, C.**, & Allicock, M. (2022). Polypharmacy and prescription medication use in a population-based sample of adolescent and young adult cancer survivors. *Journal of Cancer Survivorship: Research and Practice*, 10.1007/s11764-021-01161-0. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11764-021-01161-0>

Bozlak, C. T., Brown, Q. L., Davis, R., de Long, R., Howard, M. M., Lassiter, T. E., **Perez-Patron, M. J.**, Taylor, B. D., Turchi, R., & Tissue, M. M. (2022). Developing a Public Health Maternal and Child Health Training Program: Lessons Learned from Five Schools of Public Health. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 1–8. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10995-021-03327-9>

Cardel, M. I., Newsome, F. A., Pearl, R. L., Ross, K. M., Dillard, J. R., Miller, D. R., Hayes, J. F., Wilfley, D., Keel, P. K., **Dhurandhar, E. J.**, & Balantekin, K. N. (2022). Patient-Centered Care for Obesity: How Healthcare Providers Can Treat Obesity While Actively Addressing Weight Stigma and Eating Disorder Risk. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, S2212-2672(22)00007-7. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jand.2022.01.004>

Chu, Y., **Knell, G.**, Brayton, R. P., Burkhart, S. O., Jiang, X., & Shams, S. (2022). Machine learning to predict sports-related concussion recovery using clinical data. *Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine*, 101626. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rehab.2021.101626>

Hoelscher, D. M., Brann, L. S., O'Brien, S., Handu, D., & Rozga, M. (2022). Prevention of Pediatric Overweight and Obesity: Position of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Based on an Umbrella Review of Systematic Reviews. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, 122(2), 410–423.e6. [https://www.jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672\(21\)01465-9/fulltext](https://www.jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672(21)01465-9/fulltext)

Jetelina, K. K., Lee, S. C., Booker-Nubie, Q. S., Obinwa, U. C., Zhu, H., Miller, M. E., Sadeghi, N., Dickerson, U., & **Balasubramanian, B. A.** (2022). Importance of primary care for underserved cancer patients with multiple chronic conditions. *Journal of Cancer Survivorship: Research and Practice*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11764-021-01159-8>

John, J. C., Kaleemullah, T., McPherson, H., Mahata, K., Morrow, R. B., Bujnowski, D., Johnston, A., Danho, M., Siddiqui, N., Walsh, M. T., Haley, S. A., Sirajuddin, A. M., Schauer, T., Wu, M. J., Rechis, R., Galvan, E., Correa, N., Browning, N., Ganelin, D., Gonzalez, J., Lofton, S., Banerjee, D., & **Sharma, S. V.** (2021). Building and Advancing Coalition Capacity to Promote Health Equity: Insights from the Health Equity Collective's Approach to Addressing Social Determinants of Health. *Health Equity*, 5(1), 872–878. <https://doi.org/10.1089/heq.2021.0012>

Jovanovic, C., **Hoelscher, D. M.**, Chen, B., **Ranjit, N.**, & **van den Berg, A. E.** (2022). The associations of plant-based food and metabolic syndrome using NHANES 2015-16 data. *Journal of Public Health (Oxford, England)*, fdab403. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/fdab403>

Knell, G., Burkhart, S. O., & Gabriel, K. P. (2021). Need to Clarify Mechanisms Explaining the Effect of Screen Time on Recovery From Concussion. *JAMA Pediatrics*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2021.5339>

Marino, M., Solberg, L., Springer, R., McConnell, K. J., Lindner, S., Ward, R., Edwards, S. T., Stange, K. C., Cohen, D. J., & **Balasubramanian, B. A.** (2021). Cardiovascular Disease Preventive Services Among Smaller Primary Care Practices. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, S0749-3797(21)00568-7. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2021.10.011>

Morice, C. K., Yammine, L., Yoon, J., Lane, S. D., **Schmitz, J. M.**, Kosten, T. R., De La Garza, R., 2nd, & Verrico, C. D. (2022). Comorbid alcohol use and post-traumatic stress disorders: Pharmacotherapy with aldehyde dehydrogenase 2 inhibitors versus current agents. *Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology & Biological Psychiatry*, 115, 110506. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pnpbp.2021.110506>

Taylor, B. S., Mazurek, P. H., Gutierrez, S., Tyson, J., Futrell, S., Jackson, J., Hanson, J., & **Valerio, M. A.** (2022). Educational Outcomes of a 4-Year MD-MPH Dual-Degree Program: High Completion Rates and Higher Likelihood of Primary Care Residency. *Academic Medicine : Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0000000000004603>

Webber, H. E., & **Schmitz, J. M.** (2022). The potential of brain stimulation techniques for substance use disorder treatment. *Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria (Sao Paulo, Brazil : 1999)*, S15. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1516-4446-2021-0040>

Texas Population Publications

General:

Mantey, D. S., Clendennen, S. L., **Springer, A. E.**, & **Harrell, M. B.** (2022). Perceived Parental Knowledge Reduces Risk for Initiation of Nicotine and Cannabis Vaping: A Longitudinal Study of Adolescents. *American Journal of Health Promotion: AJHP*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08901171211061941>

Tami-Maury, I., Chen, B., Sumbe, A., & **Harrell, M. B.** (2021). Timing of ENDS Uptake by Sexual Orientation among Adolescents and Young Adults in Urban Texas. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research: official Journal of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntab181>

Thomas, J. E., Pasch, K. E., Marti, C. N., Hinds, J. T., **Wilkinson, A. V.**, & Loukas, A. (2022). Trajectories of depressive symptoms among young adults in Texas 2014-2018: a multilevel growth curve analysis using an intersectional lens. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00127-022-02217-x>

Central Texas:

Salvo, D., Lemoine, P., **Janda, K. M., Ranjit, N.,** Nielsen, A., & **van den Berg, A.** (2022). Exploring the Impact of Policies to Improve Geographic and Economic Access to Vegetables among Low-Income, Predominantly Latino Urban Residents: An Agent-Based Model. *Nutrients*, 14(3), 646. <https://www.mdpi.com/2072-6643/14/3/646>

Sharma, S. V., Kelder, S., Yamal, J. M., Chuang, R. J., **Byrd-Williams, C.,** Bona, G., Bajaj, N., Brito, F., & **Neumann, A. S.** (2022). Development and Feasibility Testing of CATCH Healthy Smiles, an Oral Health Promotion Intervention for Prevention of Dental Caries Among Elementary School Children. *The Journal of School Health*, 92(1), 20–30. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josh.13100>

Sharma, S. V., McWhorter, J. W., Chow, J., Danho, M. P., Weston, S. R., Chavez, F., Moore, L. S., Almohamad, M., Gonzalez, J., Liew, E., LaRue, D. M., Galvan, E., Hoelscher, D. M., & Tseng, K. C. (2021). Impact of a Virtual Culinary Medicine Curriculum on Biometric Outcomes, Dietary Habits, and Related Psychosocial Factors among Patients with Diabetes Participating in a Food Prescription Program. *Nutrients*, 13(12), 4492. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu13124492>

Zhang, Y., **Janda, K. M., Ranjit, N.,** Salvo, D., Nielsen, A., & **van den Berg, A.** (2022). Change in Depression and Its Determinants during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Longitudinal Examination among Racially/Ethnically Diverse US Adults. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(3), 1194. <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/19/3/1194>.

North Texas:

Jetelina, K. K., Molsberry, R., Malthaner, L., Beauchamp, A., Cannell, M. B., Hall, T., Fowler, E., & Anderson, L. (2022). Acceptability of a real-time notification of stress and access to self-help therapies among law enforcement officers. *BMC Public Health*, 22(1), 32. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-12423-y>

South Texas:

John, J. C., Heredia, N. I., McNeill, L. H., **Hoelscher, D. M.,** Schembre, S., Lee, M., Opusunju, J. J., Goetz, M., Aguirre, M., **Reininger, B. M.,** & Strong, L. L. (2022). Qualitative Exploration of Family Influences on Physical Activity in Hispanic Families. *Journal of Physical Activity & Health*, 1–10. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1123/jpah.2021-0301>

About the TX RPC Project

The Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration (Texas RPC) Project is a non-partisan network that aims to bridge research and policy by supporting partnerships between child health researchers and policymakers.

Learn more online.

The Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project team and overall network are available to support Texas policymakers with informational requests or resources related to health topics, during the interim and throughout the 2021 Legislative Session.

Contact Us

For more information, email TXRPCNetwork@uth.tmc.edu.

Deanna M. Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LN, CNS, FISBNPA,
Principal Investigator
Alexandra van den Berg, PhD, MPH, Co-Investigator
Tiffni Menendez, MPH, Project Director
Kathleen Manuel, MPH, Co-Project Director
Kate Faris, Editor
Shelby Flores-Thorpe, M.Ed, CHES, Editor



