

News & Updates

from the Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project



August 2021

Resource Reminders

COVID-19 Rapid Response Requests

Eighteen months into 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](#)

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 Newly Released Report

REPORT: Protecting our Children from COVID-19: How Texans can help
Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration

Vaccinations, mask adherence, and social distancing are 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. COVID-19 infections among children are on the rise; however, only children 12 years of age and older are eligible to receive the vaccine. As of early August, approximately 4.3 million children in the U.S. have had COVID-19, which is an 86% increase in child cases compared to early July. Getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, and social distancing help slow the spread of emerging variants of COVID-19.

Key Takeaways:

- Most children who are eligible for the vaccine are not vaccinated. Only 26% of eligible Texas children between the ages of 12 and 17 are vaccinated.
- The Delta variant is 200% more transmissible than other COVID-19 variants and has 1,000% more virus particles than the original strain of COVID-19, meaning the virus is more easily and quickly spread - especially in crowded, poorly ventilated areas among people who are not vaccinated.
- **Get vaccinated.** For yourself, for your family, for those around you, and for those who cannot get vaccinated.

[VIEW THE REPORT](#)

Resources from TX RPC Members and Organizations

Adolescent Dating Violence Prevention Program

Melissa Peskin, PhD - UTHealth School of Public Health in Houston

Christine Markham, PhD - UTHealth School of Public Health in Houston

TX RPC Network Members Drs. Peskin and Markham published a paper that shows evidence of effectiveness of a school-based dating violence and healthy relationships program in reducing dating violence. They tested the efficacy of *Me & You: Building Healthy Relationships*, a technology-enhanced dating violence prevention program for early middle-school students, in reducing dating violence perpetration and victimization among ethnic-minority early adolescent youth. Results have shown that ethnic-minority youths who are just beginning middle school are at high risk for experiencing dating violence. *Me & You* is an effective tool in reducing dating violence perpetration and decreasing some forms of dating violence victimization in early middle-school ethnic-minority students through innovative multilevel interventions that develop cognitive skills necessary for the formation of healthy dating relationships.

Key Takeaways:

- *Me & You* uses a life-skills decision-making paradigm to enhance cognitive skills that are critical for developing healthy relationships.
- *Me & You* includes activities to reduce favorable norms toward violence and to improve conflict-resolution skills.
- For other resources on violence prevention, intimate partner violence, and

READ THE
PAPER

Healthy North Texas

Katelyn Jetelina, PhD - UTHealth School of Public Health in Dallas

Healthy North Texas provides community health and population data to policymakers and community members through web-based resources. Dallas-Fort Worth Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Coalition is a subcommittee for Tarrant and Dallas counties and collects data about intimate partner screenings. Data collection results are analyzed by the coalition to determine how healthcare organizations can increase intimate partner screening rates and provide information for victims of intimate partner violence. The coalition outlines 4 steps that healthcare organizations can take to help improve the organizations' intimate partner screening rates, including determining the total number of patients who complete intake paperwork and are screened for intimate partner violence, examining HIPAA-related questions, inputting collected data through the DFW intimate partner violence site that will be de-identified and aggregated, and following up with the organization submitting the data.

Key Takeaways:

- Dallas-Fort Worth Intimate Partner Violence (DFW IPV) aims to increase intimate partner violence screening rates, including the number of positive screens.
- See the Dallas Task Force's annual report [here](#).
- For state level victim resources, visit the Texas Health and Human Services' website [here](#).
- Futures Without Violence provides evidence-based information about IPV, including webinars, papers, and other resources. Visit their [website](#).

VIEW THE HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS
WEBSITE

TX RPC Partner Events

WEBINAR: COVID Quo Vadis? Variants, Sick Kids, Vaccines and the Unvaccinated

Michael and Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

Join Drs. Fisher-Hoch and McCormick from the UTHealth School of Public Health in Brownsville as they discuss the current COVID-19 news and updates. Topics to be discussed include how variants form, the impact of the Delta variant on unvaccinated people, the delta variants and vaccinations, the delta variant's impact in children, and the new Lambda variant. The webinar occurs on **Thursday, August 26 at 12:00pm CT**.

**REGISTER FOR THE
WEBINAR**

School Health Advisory (SHAC) Network Action for Healthy Kids

Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) and other partner organizations have been working for years to support School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs), but many SHACs are not even aware of the webinars being produced or the information they share. AFHK would like to invite you and others to join their SHACs in Action network! They are building a database so they can communicate with SHAC leaders/members and others who support SHACs and are working hard to make sure their districts and campuses are healthy learning environments. If interested in being involved in SHAC, please register at the link!

JOIN THE "SHAC's IN ACTION" NETWORK

WEBINAR: Unspoken - Debunking Myths and Delivering Strategies to Foster Relationships in Vulnerable Communities Action for Healthy Kids

Families of all demographics and communities are necessary for School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs) to understand the needs and policy impact on communities, as well as to inform advocacy for change. Unspoken thoughts and practices at the core of our culture and climate often determine whether family engagement relationships in our underserved and marginalized communities fail or flourish. This webinar will be on **Thursday, August 26 at 11am CT**.

In this session participants will:

- Gain further insight on health disparities and inequities in our schools
- Discuss misconceptions towards family engagement in underserved communities
- Share key strategies on how to build long-term trusting relationships

**REGISTER FOR THE
WEBINAR**

WEBINAR: Re-Re-Opening School - What Will This Year Look Like? Action for Healthy Kids

The 2020-2021 school year brought remote learning, hybrid learning, free school meals, innovative approaches to teaching, and lots of stress! What will the 2021-2022 school year hold? How are districts approaching the upcoming school year? Join AFHK as they visit with district administrators and staff about their ideas and plans to keep kids healthy, active and ready to learn. This webinar will be on

REGISTER FOR THE
WEBINAR

WEBINAR: How Districts Are Addressing The New Physical Education and Health TEKS Action for Healthy Kids

Join AFHK as a panel of district physical education leaders share insights on how Texas school districts will be addressing new health and physical education TEKS and incorporating them into curriculum development, training, and instructional delivery. This webinar will be on **Thursday, October 14 at 11:30am CT.**

REGISTER FOR THE
WEBINAR

Recent Publications by TX RPC Researchers

COVID-19 Publications

Byrd-Williams, C., Ewing, M., Rosenthal, E. L., St John, J. A., Menking, P., Redondo, F., & Sieswerda, S. (2021). Training Needs of Community Health Workers Facing the COVID-19 Pandemic in Texas: A Cross-Sectional Study. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 9, 689946.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.689946>

Janda, K., Hood, R., Price, A., Night, S., Marty, W. E., Rohlich, A., Hanson, K., Espinoza, M., & **van den Berg, A.** (2021). Examining food insecurity and areas with unmet food needs during COVID-19. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 10(3), 1-13.

<https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2021.103.017>

Lee, R. E., Joseph, R. P., Blackman Carr, L. T., Strayhorn, S. M., Faro, J. M., Lane, H., Monroe, C., Pekmezi, D., & **Szeszulski, J.** (2021). Still striding toward social justice? Redirecting physical activity research in a post-COVID-19 world. *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, 11(6), 1205–1215.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/tbm/ibab026>

Lowe, A. E., Dineen, K. K., Herstein, J. J., Wynia, M. K., Santarpia, J. L., Lee, L. M., **Ferdinand, A. O.**, Donovan, S. K., Voo, T. C., Brett-Major, D. M., Lookadoo, R. E., & Mohapatra, S. (2021). Emerging Science, Personal Protective Equipment Guidance, and Resource Scarcity: Inaction and Inequity for Workers in Essential Industries. *Health Security*. 19(S1). Advance online publication.

Messiah, S., Valerio-Shewmaker, M. A., DeSantis, S. M., Swartz, M. D., Yaseen, A., Brito, F. A., **Kohl III, H.W.**, Aguillard, K., Omega-Njemnobi, O. S., Breaux, C., Ross, J. A., Gonzalez, M. O., Zhang, S., Wu, L., **Lakey, D.**, Shuford, J. A., Pont, S. J., & Boerwinkle, E. (2021) Estimated Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies in the Texas Pediatric Population. *The Lancet*.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3868061>

Non-COVID-19

Booker, Q. S., Austin, J. D., & **Balasubramanian, B. A.** (2021). Survey strategies to increase participant response rates in primary care research studies. *Family Practice*, Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1093/fampra/cmab070>

Dodson, R. E., Setzer, R. W., **Spengler, J. D.**, Brody, J. G., Rudel, R. A., & Cedeño Laurent, J. G. (2021). Influence of living in the same home on biomonitored levels of consumer product chemicals. *Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology*, 10.1038/s41370-021-00368-8. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41370-021-00368-8>

Giannouchos, T. V., **Ferdinand, A. O.**, Ilangovan, G., Ragan, E., Nowell, W. B., Kum, H. C., & Schmit, C. D. (2021). Identifying and prioritizing benefits and risks of using privacy-enhancing software through participatory design: a nominal group technique study with patients living with chronic conditions. *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jamia/ocab073>

Koepp, A. E., & **Gershoff, E. T.** (2021). Amount and type of physical activity as predictors of growth in executive functions, attentional control, and social self-control across 4 years of elementary school. *Developmental Science*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.13147>

Mofleh, D., Ranjit, N., Chuang, R. J., Cox, J. N., Anthony, C., & **Sharma, S. V.** (2021). Association Between Food Insecurity and Diet Quality Among Early Care and Education Providers in the Pennsylvania Head Start Program. *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 18, E60. <https://doi.org/10.5888/pcd18.200602>

Novisky, M. A., Narvey, C. S., & **Piquero, A. R.** (2021). The Keepers: Returning Citizens' Experiences With Prison Staff Misconduct. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/009385482110228895>.

Page, R. L., Murphey, C., Aras, Y., Chen, L. S., & Loftin, R. (2021). Pregnant Hispanic women's views and knowledge of prenatal genetic testing. *Journal of Genetic Counseling*, 30(3), 838–848. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jgc4.1383>

Swann, A. C., Graham, D. P., **Wilkinson, A. V.**, & Kosten, T. R. (2021). Nicotine Inhalation and Suicide: Clinical Correlates and Behavioral Mechanisms. *The American Journal on Addictions*, 30(4), 316–329. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajad.13171>

Texas Population Publications

General:

Capelouto, S., Evans, M., Shannon, J., **Jetelina, K.**, Bukulmez, O., & Carr, B. (2021). Specialist physicians' referral behavior regarding preimplantation genetic testing for single-gene disorders: Is there room to grow? *F&S Reports*, 2(2), 215-223. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xfre.2021.03.002>

Loukas, A., Marti, C. N., Pasch, K. E., **Harrell, M. B.**, **Wilkinson, A. V.**, & Perry, C. L. (2021). Rising vape pod popularity disrupted declining use of electronic nicotine delivery systems among young adults in Texas, USA from 2014 to 2019. *Addiction (Abingdon, England)*, Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.15616>

McLeigh, J. D., Tunnell, K., & Lazcano, C. (2021). Developmental Status of Young Children in Foster Care. *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*, 42(5), 389–400. <https://doi.org/10.1097/DBP.0000000000000906>

Sanchez, R., Ranjit, N., **Kelder, S. H.**, Gill, M., & **Hoelscher, D. M.** (2021). Intention to lose weight and use of electronic cigarettes among adolescents. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 23,. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2021.101406>

Central Texas:

Armstead, A. B., **Wilkerson, J. M.**, **Gemeinhardt, G.**, Nyitray, A., & Collins, D. M. (2021). Antiretroviral Therapy Adherence, Functional Independence, and Falls among People with HIV. *Occupational Therapy in Health Care*, 1–18. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07380577.2021.1938337>

Manboard, M., **Biediger-Friedman, L.**, Thornton, H., Walling, K., & Padilla, V. (2021). O36 College Students Cope to Achieve Food Security During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, 53(7), S17. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneb.2021.04.045>

North Texas:

Lairmore, S., Stone, K. E., Huang, R., & **McLeigh, J.** (2021). Infectious disease screening in a dedicated primary care clinic for children in foster care. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 117,.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105074>

South Texas:

Heredia, N. I., Xu, T., Lee, M., McNeill, L. H., & **Reininger, B. M.** (2021). The Neighborhood Environment and Hispanic/Latino Health. *American Journal of Health Promotion*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08901171211022677>

Montalvo-Liendo, N., Grogan-Kaylor, A., Nava, A., Chilton, J., Pepper, C., & Alvarado, E. D. (2021). Latinx Teens' Perspectives on Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence: A Mixed Methods Study. *Journal of Pediatric Surgical Nursing*. <https://doi:10.1097/JPS.0000000000000326>

Salcedo, M. P., Gowen, R., Rodriguez, A. M., Fisher-Hoch, S., Daheri, M., Guerra, L., Toscano, P. A., Gasca, M., Morales, J., Reyna-Rodriguez, F. E., Cavazos, B., Marin, E., Perez, C., Guerra, M., Milbourne, A., Varon, M. L., **Reininger, B.**, Fernandez, M. E., Ogburn, T., Castle, P. E., **McCormick, J.**, Baker, E., Hawk, E., Schmeler, K. M. (2021). Addressing high cervical cancer rates in the Rio Grande Valley along the Texas-Mexico border: a community-based initiative focused on education, patient navigation, and medical provider training/telementoring. *Perspectives in Public Health*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1757913921994610>

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.

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