

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS & UPDATES

TEXAS RESEARCH-TO-POLICY COLLABORATION



September 6, 2023

TX RPC PROJECT SURVEY

Please take our survey below!

We are exploring options to rebrand the TX RPC Project name and tagline. We have provided potential options in the survey below and appreciate your thoughts. The brief survey below should take approximately 1 minute. We appreciate your feedback!

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

UPCOMING LUNCH & LEARN



FOOD PRESCRIPTION PROGRAMS IN TEXAS

Join the Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration (TX RPC) Project for a presentation on current research and implications of food prescription programs in Texas.

Date: October 25, 2023

Speaker: Shreela Sharma, PhD, RDN, LD - UTHealth Houston School of Public Health

11:15 a.m. | Texas Capitol - Legislative Conference Center | Lunch provided

TX RPC PROJECT HEALTH POLICY RESOURCES

Economic and Business Benefits of SNAP

Released June 13, 2023

- SNAP benefits lead to positive economic impacts at the local, state, and national levels by generating economic activity for food retailers and manufacturers and creating jobs in a variety of sectors.
- SNAP participation improves health outcomes, saving states like Texas thousands of dollars per person every year through reduced healthcare costs.

Health Benefits of SNAP

Released June 14, 2023

- Children with access to SNAP have a reduced risk of developing chronic health issues such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and diabetes as adults, are less likely to be underweight or have obesity, and are more likely to see medical professionals for regular checkups.
- Access to SNAP for pregnant mothers and in early childhood improves rates of food insecurity, birth outcomes, and long-term health as adults, which may positively impact individual healthcare cost savings across the lifespan.

SNAP Gap

Released June 13, 2023

- In 2018, Texas ranked 46th in the nation for SNAP participation, with only 75% of eligible individuals enrolled and receiving benefits.
- With a large SNAP Gap, the potential economic and health benefits seen with SNAP participation are not fully recognized.

Access the complete list of downloadable health policy resources [here](#).

TX RPC PROJECT LUNCH & LEARN EVENTS

Review past TX RPC Project Lunch & Learn Events [here](#).

Lunch & Learn Highlight

The Texas All-Payor Claims Database: A New Resource for Advancing Public Health and Transparency

Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

TX RPC Project Lunch & Learn Event - May 4, 2023

- This TX RPC Project Brunch & Learn presentation by Lee Spangler discussed Texas' All-Payor Claims Database (TX-APCD), a new resource to aid in providing a comprehensive view of healthcare utilization, payments, and quality across the healthcare system.
- An All-Payor Claims Database (APCD) collects medical, dental, and pharmacy claims from all payors in a state.
- The 87th Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 2090 to create the TX-APCD, making Texas one of 25 states that have established their own APCD. Learn more about the Texas All-Payor Claims Database and its benefits from this [downloadable fact sheet](#).

TX RPC PROJECT MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

New Initiative with Postpartum Parents: The "Food is the Best Medicine" (FBM) Program

Alexandra van den Berg, PhD, MPH, & Nalini Ranjit, PhD

UTHealth Houston School of Public Health in Austin

- Drs. Alexandra van den Berg and Nalini Ranjit are launching a program with Ascension Seton Medical Center Austin and local community partners to support new parents facing food insecurity.
- The "Food is the Best Medicine" (FBM) program is an 8-week program that includes nutritious meals and locally sourced produce during the critical postpartum period.
- FBM aims to reduce the psychological, emotional, and mental effects of stress caused by food insecurity so mothers can focus on maternal healing and caring for their newborns.
- The program will later expand to "FBM Plus," which will involve two home visits from Community Health Workers throughout the eight weeks to provide valuable cooking skills and access to community resources.

TX RPC PROJECT PARTNER EVENTS

Center Webinar Highlight

The Impact of Climate Change on Child Health

Steve Kelder, PhD

Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living - August 3, 2023

- In this informative webinar, Dr. Steve Kelder addressed the implications of climate change, extreme weather events (including extreme heat), and air pollution on children's health and well-being.
- The prenatal risks of preterm birth, low birth weight, and stillbirth, as well as early childhood risks like poor neurocognitive outcomes, elevated stress levels, mental health concerns, and respiratory illnesses, are all increased by exposure to a variety of climate change-related factors. Watch the webinar recording [here](#).

[View the full list of past Center webinar recordings here.](#)

Upcoming Webinars

- **Youth/Child Cardiovascular and Environmental Health: Perspectives from South America** - September 6, 2023, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. CT. [Register now!](#)
- **Safe Streets for Everyone? Implications of School and Municipal Policies on Safe Routes to School Implementation and Equity** - September 14, 2023, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. CT. [Register now!](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

Development and refinement of a corner-based injury prevention programme for Latino day labourers

Latino day laborers in the US are at increased risk for nonfatal and fatal occupational injuries. Dr. Andrew Springer and colleagues describe the development and refinement of an injury prevention program that is taken directly to workers. Read more about his work [here](#).

Follow us on social media to stay up-to-date on reports, resources, and events.

[X \(Twitter\)](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

Featured Publication

[Heat vulnerability of Latino and Black residents in a low-income community and their recommended adaptation strategies: A qualitative study](#)

Key Takeaways:

- Latino, Black, and economically disadvantaged individuals disproportionately live in areas characterized by urban heat islands.
- Those with diabetes, high blood pressure, and children were perceived as the most heat-sensitive.
- Participants adjusted to heat by staying home, drinking liquids, changing their schedules, and using air conditioning. Residents mentioned increased tree cover, greenspace, blue space, and drinking fountains to combat urban heat

Texas Population Publications

Central Texas

[Prenatal Weight Change Trajectories and Perinatal Outcomes among Twin Gestations](#)

West Texas

[Examining the impacts of public transit on healthy aging through a natural experiment: study protocols and lessons learned from the Active El Paso project](#)

Southeast Texas

[A coalition-driven examination of organization capacity to address food insecurity in Greater Houston: a qualitative research study](#)

General Texas

[Longitudinal Examination of ENDS Use Among Young Adult College Students: Associations with Depressive Symptoms and Sensation Seeking](#)

General Publications

[Association between diet and symptoms of anxiety and depression in college students: A systematic review](#)

[Factors associated with hospitalizations for co-occurring HIV and opioid-related diagnoses: Evidence from the national inpatient sample, 2009–2017](#)

[Travel for medical or dental care by race/ethnicity and rurality in the U.S.: Findings from the 2001, 2009 and 2017 National Household Travel Surveys](#)

[Interpersonal and Environmental Protective Factors and Their Associations With Children's Weight Status](#)

[Adolescent Polysubstance Use and Co-Occurring Weapon Carrying, Bullying Victimization, and Depressive Symptomology: Patterns and Differences in the United States](#)

2023 TX RPC LEGISLATIVE BILL TRACKER

The TX RPC Project has updated the legislative bill tracker! Since the 2013 session, the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living has hosted an online legislative bill tracker that identifies proposed bills related to child and adolescent health. The tracker is segmented into general categories such as food access and insecurity, maternal and child health, child behavioral health, healthcare access, school and after-school care, and more.

- **Bills tracked are selected based on the Center's vision/mission on child and adolescent health, research by our TX RPC researchers, and health priorities identified by TX RPC legislators during baseline interviews.**

RESOURCE REMINDERS

The TX RPC Project develops accessible and accurate public health policy-related resources from experts in the field. If you would like to request information on a public health topic, please complete the following form:

[Access Form](#)

The Texas RPC Project health policy resources are available on our website. See below for links to specific categories of resources:

- [TX RPC Health Policy Resources](#)
- [Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living Webinars](#)
- [TX RPC Newsletters Archive](#)
- [Texas Legislative Bill Tracker](#)
- [Texas Child Health Status Reports and Toolkits](#)
- [Newsletter Resource Sharing Form for Publication](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources](#)

ABOUT THE TX RPC PROJECT

The **Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration (TX RPC) Project** is a non-partisan network that aims to bridge research and policy by supporting partnerships between child health researchers and policymakers. The TX RPC 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 2023 Legislative Session.

If any legislators are interested in collaborating with us to receive state-, district-, and local-level data-driven information, please reach out to TXRPCNetwork@uth.tmc.edu.

CONTACT US

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

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Texas Research-to-Policy
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