

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS & UPDATES

TEXAS RESEARCH-TO-POLICY COLLABORATION



October 2023

UPCOMING LUNCH & LEARN EVENTS



FOOD PRESCRIPTION PROGRAMS IN TEXAS

Join the 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 AM | Texas Capitol — Legislative
Conference Center | Lunch provided

RSVP to Lunch!

Save the Date!



The final Lunch & Learn of the year will be held

December 7, 2023.

Stay tuned for more details!

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

TX RPC PROJECT HEALTH POLICY RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs)

Released September 21, 2022

- This report discusses the use of School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs), how SHACs create safe and healthy learning environments, how to become a SHAC member, and how you could contribute to the community by collaborating with your local SHAC.
- SHACs can impact physical activity, nutrition, and mental health-related recommendations to improve child health outcomes.

Building Responsible and Resilient Youth

Released January 19, 2023

- Children who experience behaviors that negatively impact relationships, such as bullying, are more likely to have emotional outbursts and display anger.
- Bullying can lead to emotional dysregulation, resulting in further bullying.
- This report provides recommendations on how school districts, teachers, and family members can help students manage emotions.

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

TX RPC PROJECT WEBINARS AND EVENTS

Center Webinar Highlight

Community-Engaged Research in Nutrition

Jayna Markand Dave, PhD

Baylor College of Medicine - October 12, 2023

- Individuals in food deserts have reduced availability and accessibility of fresh produce. Barriers, such as transportation, often limit their food choices to less healthy options.
- Hydroponics is a method for growing plants in water with mineral nutrient solutions and without soil, which requires less space, water, and labor than plants grown in soil. Hydroponic farming could promote community food security by improving access to healthy foods.
- **This webinar** presents data from the Hydroponic Farming Project, a study evaluating the acceptability and implications and identifying the benefits and challenges of hydroponic farming at food pantries in urban food deserts in the Houston area.
- Dr. Dave describes the results of interviews with staff from 5 food pantries regarding the availability and accessibility of food, produce procurement, availability and variety of produce, educational resources, and opinions about hydroponic farming. Dr. Dave also discussed the best practices for conducting community-engaged research in the context of nutrition.

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

Upcoming Webinars

2023 Philip R. Nader Legacy of Health Lectureship: Effective State-Level Policies to Strengthen the Early Years

Cynthia Osborne, PhD, MPP, MA
Peabody College of Education and Human Development
Vanderbilt University

Thursday, November 2 | 12-1 PM CT

REGISTER NOW!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcoming new Family & Child Health Expertise to the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living!



Two key researchers with expertise in maternal and child health join UTHouston School of Public Health in Austin as newly appointed faculty, including **Dorothy Mandell, PhD** and **Divya Patel, PhD**. In addition to these new faculty members, the Austin Campus added 10 new staff members, with expertise ranging from neonatal nursing to project management to health equity.

TX RPC PROJECT RESEARCHER PUBLICATIONS

Featured Publication

Examining associations between school-level determinants and the implementation of physical activity opportunities

Key Takeaways:

- No evidence of an association between school-level determinants (e.g. culture, leadership, and priority), and the number of physical activity programs implemented was found.
- However, access to knowledge and information about the intervention, as well as implementation climate were positively associated with school-based physical activity opportunities.
- A supportive implementation climate and access to information about the intervention were identified as key drivers of success for school-based physical activity programs.

Texas Publications

Central Texas

Human heat health index (H3I) for holistic assessment of heat hazard and mitigation strategies beyond urban heat islands

Cross-Sector partnerships for improved cooking skills, dietary behaviors, and belonging: Findings from a produce prescription and cooking education pilot program at a federally qualified health center

South Texas

Addressing cervical cancer disparities in Texas: Expansion of a community-based prevention initiative for medically underserved populations

Perceived pubertal timing and deviant peer processes predicting substance use initiation: The moderating role of impulsiveness

Southeast Texas

Cumulative incidence of physical and Sexual Dating Violence: Insights from a long-term longitudinal study

General

[Depressive symptoms and the age of initiation of tobacco and marijuana use among adolescents and young adults](#)

[Anxiety as a predictor of the age of initiation of tobacco and cannabis use in adolescents and young adults](#)

[Racial/Ethnic differences in physical activity in a low-income sample in Texas](#)

[Benefits and concerns of expanded carrier screening: what do pregnant Latina women in Texas think?](#)

General Publications

[SNAP Participation Moderates Fruit and Vegetable Intake Among Minority Families With Low Income](#)

[How Societal Forces of Change Are Transforming Youth Physical Activity Promotion in North America](#)

[Quality of Life Among Caregivers of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: A Cross-Sectional Study](#)

[Associations Between Neighborhood Opportunity and Indicators of Physical Fitness for New York City Public School Youth](#)

[Rural libraries implementing walking groups or walking groups plus civic engagement for walkability in rural communities: a comparative effectiveness trial study protocol](#)

[Identifying Disparities in Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors Among Us Adolescents During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

[One Step Closer to Safer: Counseling Outcomes from AAP Firearm Safe Storage Education Training](#)

[Intersections of race, gender, and sexual identity attributions toward discrimination and mental health across three cohorts of lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults](#)

[Improvements in dietary intake, behaviors, and psychosocial measures in a community-randomized cardiovascular disease risk reduction intervention: Strong Hearts, Healthy Communities 2.0](#)

2023 TX RPC PROJECT 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 Project researchers, and health priorities identified by TX RPC Project legislators during baseline interviews.**

Use the Bill Tracker

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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