PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS & UPDATES

TEXAS RESEARCH-TO-POLICY COLLABORATION PROJECT April 2024

National Public Health Week

Protecting, Connecting and Thriving: We Are All Public Health



National Public Health Week



Join us in celebrating the 2024 National Public Health Week, **April 1-7!** Register for the free and live **events** hosted by the American Public Health Association.

Space is limited for some live events, but all events will be recorded and freely available to the public.

Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day: 4/5/24



Get ready for the first Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day on Friday, April 5! The 2023 Texas Legislature designated the first Friday in April as Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day in public schools. The event promotes awareness of the health benefits of eating fruits and vegetables at school and the impact healthy foods have on student success. School nutrition teams can use Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) resources and their own creativity as they encourage students to eat their fruits and vegetables! Explore TDA materials here.

World Physical Activity Day: 4/6/24



Active Texas 2030: A Plan for Physical Activity as a Public Health Priority Let's get moving on World Physical Activity Day, **Saturday**, **April 6**!

The U.S. National Physical Activity Plan provides a societal sector roadmap for improving physical activity in the United States. The past Active Texas 2030 webinar series led

by Dr. Harold W. (Bill) Kohl III for the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living highlighted each societal sector's recommended strategies and tactics and provided contexts for adapting the U.S. National Physical Activity Plan to create Active Texas 2030, a state plan for all Texans.

- Community Recreation, Fitness & Parks
- Faith-Based Sector
- Public Health Sector
- Media & Communications Sector

- Healthcare Sector
- Business and Industry Sector
- Education Sector
- Military Populations Sector

Center for Healthy Living Webinars

APRIL

Tucker's Law & Best Practices in Youth Substance Misuse Prevention

Steven Kelder, PhD, MPH

Professor, Epidemiology, Human Genetics & Environmental Sciences Beth Toby Grossman Distinguished Professor of Spirituality and Healing, UTHealth Houston School of Public Health

Marcella Bianco

Director of Government Partnerships, CATCH Global Foundation®

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Tucker's Law & Best Practices in Youth Substance Misuse Prevention

April 2, 2024 1-2 PM CT

Texas and other states have recently enacted legislation mandating substance misuse prevention education in schools, due to the dangerous rise of fentanyl and other substance use among youth. This webinar will cover:

- The provisions of Tucker's Law in Texas
- Resources offered by CATCH Global Foundation to meet its requirements
- Best practices in youth substance misuse prevention drawn from behavioral theory and practice

This webinar is co-hosted by the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living at the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health in Austin and CATCH Global Foundation.

Best Practices in Youth Nutrition Education

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

John P. McGovern Professor in Health Promotion

Austin Campus Dean, Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences and Director, Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living at the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health in Austin Jenni Klufa, RD

Associate Extension Specialist, Oklahoma State University Rose Carlson, MS, RD, LDN

Director of Nutrition & Compliance, Quest Food Management Services

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Best Practices in Youth Nutrition Education

April 16, 2024 12-1 PM CT

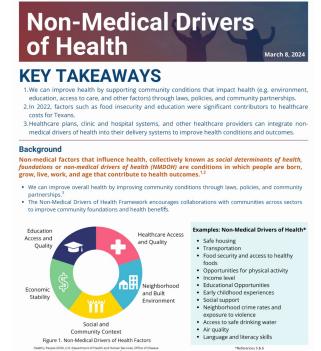
Join CATCH Global Foundation for a panel discussion with Dr. Deanna Hoelscher, a youth nutrition education expert who has led multiple CATCH scientific studies. Participants will learn about current and emerging trends and best practices shaping youth nutrition education.

This webinar is co-hosted by the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living at the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health in Austin and CATCH Global Foundation. This webinar is sponsored by Quest Food Management Services.

TX RPC Project Health Policy Resources



- The quality of a mother's pregnancy impacts the health of the mother and their children.
- The maternal mortality rate in Texas is 20.2 per 100,000 live births. But 90% of the leading causes of death are preventable.
- Expanding access to maternal healthcare, creating a broader maternal care workforce, and increasing the availability of maternal health data could support the well-being of Texas women and children.



- Non-medical drivers of health are conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age that contribute to health outcomes.
- Access to food and healthcare, income, education, and housing environment are the most crucial non-medical drivers of health contributing to Texans' healthcare costs.
- We can improve overall health by enhancing community conditions that target nonmedical drivers of health through laws, policies, and community partnerships.

TX RPC Project Researcher Publication

<u>Urban-Rural Differences in School Districts' Local Wellness Policies and Policy Implementation</u> Environments

This study compared the urban-rural differences in districts' Local Wellness Policies (LWPs) and explored the environmental supports for implementing LWPs in Texas.

- LWPs are district-level policies about physical activity and nutrition required for all districts that have the potential to improve school district health environments and, in turn, students' health behaviors and outcomes.
- Rural areas have fewer LWP goals than urban areas, suggesting the need for rural school districts to
 prioritize the selection of goals that have the strongest impact on student health outcomes.
- More resources are needed to help develop and implement LWPs in rural areas. The state-level
 organizations could facilitate the establishment of the School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs) and
 provide resources for SHACs to develop and implement LWPs in rural settings. At the local level,
 gathering additional support from a wide range of community stakeholders to ensure the school
 health.

Resource Corner

experts. If you would like to request information on a public health topic, please complete the following form:

Access the Request **Form**

See below for links to specific resource categories on our website:

- Health Policy Resources
- Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living Webinars
- TX RPC Project Newsletters Archive
- Texas Legislative Bill Tracker
- Texas Child Health Status Reports and Toolkits
- Newsletter Resource Sharing Form for Publication

About TX RPC Project

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

The TX RPC Project team and overall network are available to support Texas legislators with informational requests or resources related to health during the interim and in preparation for the 2025 Legislative Session.

If you and your legislative office are interested in collaborating with our team to receive data-driven information at state, district, and local levels, please reach out to TXRPCNetwork@uth.tmc.edu.

Contact Our Team

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

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