

# PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS & UPDATES

TEXAS RESEARCH-TO-POLICY COLLABORATION



September 2022

## 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. 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.

## 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](#)

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](#) (resources available to legislators to provide data-driven information on health-related topics)
- [Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living Webinars](#)
- [TX RPC Newsletters Archive](#)
- [Texas Legislative Bill Tracker](#)
- [Texas Child Health Status Reports and Toolkits](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources](#)

## TX RPC REPORTS

[Produce Prescription \(Rx\) Programs](#) – **NEW!**

Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project

*Released August 24, 2022*

This new report informs legislators on the benefits of using Produce Prescription Programs to address food insecurity in Texas. These programs allow healthcare providers to write prescriptions for patients experiencing food insecurity or patients with diet-related health conditions to receive free or subsidized produce to increase their fruit and vegetable intake. **Food prescription programs are effective in providing healthy foods and decreasing food insecurity in families.**

## **Monkeypox – **NEW!****

Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project

Updated August 22, 2022

This new report discusses Monkeypox signs and symptoms, transmission, testing and treatment, and prevention. **While there is no cure for Monkeypox at this time, there are ways to prevent the spread of Monkeypox, including an effective vaccination for anyone at risk of or exposed to the disease.**

## **SNAP: Vehicle Value Limits – **UPDATED!****

Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project

Updated August 22, 2022

This updated report emphasizes the impact of the Texas Vehicle Asset Test, especially in Texas where 'transit deserts' make having a personal car necessary to get to and from work and other activities. Recommendations for improving SNAP Vehicle Value Limits include increasing the limit on vehicle values so working households can have reliable transportation without losing their SNAP eligibility and supporting changes to eligibility guidelines to increase the number of families eligible for SNAP's federally-funded benefits. **Vehicle Asset Tests may prevent many otherwise eligible applicants from qualifying for SNAP benefits.**

## TX RPC MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

### **Deep-rooted child obesity issue in Texas and Waco area offers no quick fixes**

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

### **Synagogues collaborating to help enable food security, nutritional self-sufficiency**

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

### **Back to school: Dangers of kids and vaping**

Steven Kelder, PhD, MPH - UTHealth School of Public Health Austin Campus

## TX RPC PARTNER EVENTS

### Upcoming Events

- **Philip R. Nader Legacy of Health Lectureship** (October 6, 2022, @ 11:30 am CT)

### Upcoming Webinars

- **Navigating Mental Health in the School Environment** (October 10, 2022, @ 11:30 am CT)
- **Creating Healthier, More Resilient Kids Through Recess (Outdoor Play)** (October 13, 2022, @ 11:30 am CT)
- **Improving Health Through Nature** (November 2, 2022, @ 12:00 pm CT)

### Webinar Recordings

- **Texas Obesity Awareness Week Virtual Lunch & Learn**
- **Food Prescription Programs: The Houston Food Bank Experience and Outcomes**
- **The Age of Pandemics: First COVID, Now Monkeypox**
- **How Extreme Heat Impacts Physical Activity and What to do About It**
- **A Return to School Health: Opportunities for Prioritizing Student Health in the Upcoming School Year**
- **State-Funded Texas Programs Address Youth Mental Health Crisis**

## TX RPC RESEARCHER PUBLICATIONS

## Texas Population Publications

### General

[Perceived stress and e-cigarette use during emerging adulthood: A longitudinal study examination of initiation, progression, and continuation](#)

[Association between Prescribers' perceptions of the utilization of medication for opioid use disorder and opioid dependency treatability](#)

[Using Implementation Mapping to develop and test an implementation strategy for active learning to promote physical activity in children: a feasibility study using a hybrid type 2 design](#)

[Methodology to estimate natural- and vaccine-induced antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 in a large geographic region](#)

[Comparison of persistent symptoms following SARS-CoV-2 infection by antibody status in non-hospitalized children and adolescents](#)

### Central Texas

[Longitudinal changes in objectively-measured physical activity and sedentary time among school-age children in Central Texas, US during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[Objective and perceived barriers and facilitators of daily fruit and vegetable consumption among under-resourced communities in Central Texas](#)

## General Publications

[Women's knowledge of bladder health: What we have learned in the prevention of lower urinary tract symptoms \(PLUS\) research consortium](#)

[Cannabis prohibition – A Crime against humanity](#)

[Home smoke-free policies as children age: Urban, rural, and suburban differences](#)

[Trends in the relationship between suicide behaviors and obesity among adolescents in the United States from 1999-2019](#)

[Kratom use categories and their associations with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorder symptoms during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[Evaluation of a civic engagement approach to catalyze built environment change and promote healthy eating and physical activity among rural residents: A cluster \(community\) randomized controlled trial](#)

[Exposure to e-cigarette health claims and association with e-cigarette use and risk perceptions: A cohort study of young adults](#)

## CONTACT US

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