

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS & UPDATES

TEXAS RESEARCH-TO-POLICY COLLABORATION



February 2023

2023 TX RPC LEGISLATIVE BILL TRACKER

The TX RPC Project has launched a new 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.**

USE THE BILL TRACKER

TX RPC HEALTH POLICY RESOURCES

Maternal and Child Health – NEW!

Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project

Released February 14, 2023

This report provides an overview of maternal and child health outcomes in Texas, including how the quality of a mother's pregnancy impacts the health and well-being of the mother and the baby, and policy recommendations to support maternal healthcare.

Key Takeaway

The maternal mortality crisis is compounded in Texas by the number of maternity care deserts across the state, a cause for concern since Texas has the third highest percentage of births to women who do not receive adequate prenatal care out of all 50 states.

Paid Family Leave – NEW!

Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project

Released February 2, 2023

Paid Family Leave (PFL) allows parents adequate time to bond with their infant and to receive postpartum medical care. PFL has been shown to improve the overall health for mothers, fathers, and infants.

Key Takeaways

Paid Family Leave can result in significant healthcare cost savings across the U.S. and help to reduce the labor market exit by an average of 33% within the first 5 years after birth.

Child Behavioral Health – NEW!

Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project

Released January 11, 2023

This report examines rates of childhood mental health challenges, Texas' shortage of child and adolescent psychiatric care providers, and potential solutions. To address mental health care needs of Texas youth and families, Senate Bill 11 was passed in 2019 during the 86th Texas legislature, which helped to establish the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC).

Key Takeaway

Texas ranks last among all 50 states and Washington D.C. for youth access to mental health care, with roughly 10 child and adolescent psychiatrists per 100,000 children.

Building Responsible and Resilient Youth – NEW!

Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project

Released January 19, 2021

This report provides recommendations on how teachers, school districts, and family members can learn ways to help students manage emotions. Other youth organizations can help to develop children's long term mental health and overall well-being. Children who experience behaviors that negatively impact relationships, such as bullying, manipulation, and rumor-spreading, are more likely to have emotional outbursts and display anger. Bullying can lead to emotional dysregulation, resulting in further bullying.

Key Takeaway

Teachers, school districts, and family members can learn ways to help students manage emotions.

TX RPC LUNCH & LEARN EVENTS

TX RPC has hosted four Lunch & Learn events since August 2022, including those listed below. The Lunch & Learn events [View all past TX RPC Lunch & Learn events here.](#)

Maternal and Child Health in Texas

Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

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

This TX RPC Project Lunch & Learn presentation by Dr. David Lakey provided an overview of maternal and child health in Texas and described opportunities to improve maternal and child health outcomes in Texas.

[VIEW THE LUNCH & LEARN SLIDES](#)

TX RPC MEMBER & ORGANIZATION RESOURCES

Texas School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Network - Launched!

Texas Action for Healthy Kids

Texas law requires school districts to have a School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) with board members who can review health-related issues and develop recommendations for the districts.

- **SHACs have been shown to help strengthen programs to increase academic performance and standardized testing scores and support students in making**

healthy choices as they grow into adults. View the Texas SHAC network website below and view the [flyer](#) on how SHACs can benefit students.

[VISIT THE TEXAS SHAC NETWORK WEBSITE](#)

[Texas American Heart Association Priorities for the 88th Texas Legislative Session](#)

Texas American Heart Association

Texas American Heart Association Legislative Priorities - December 8, 2022

The American Heart Association (AHA)'s Texas office has provided its 2022-2023 Texas Public Policy Agenda. The policy priorities are aimed at positively improving the health of all Texans. AHA seeks to improve school CPR training, nutrition security, maternal health, hypertension control, tobacco control, access to care, among other priorities.

[VIEW TEXAS AHA'S PRIORITIES](#)

[Priorities for the 88th Texas Legislative Session](#)

Partnership for a Healthy Texas

Partnership for a Healthy Texas Legislative Briefing - November 15, 2022

Partnership for a Healthy Texas, a coalition dedicated to reducing the burden of obesity in Texas, announced policy priorities for the 2023 Texas Legislative Session. These priorities are aimed at positively impacting the high rates of obesity in Texas, where more than 1 in 5 children and 1 in 3 adults live with obesity, by modernizing Texas Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to increase access to healthy foods, ensuring healthy school environments so students can develop healthy habits, and encouraging Texas Medicaid to cover cost-effective interventions to treat obesity.

[REVIEW THE COALITION'S PRIORITIES](#)

[Aligning Systems for Health Equity Starts in Texas](#)

Texas Health Institute

An Evaluation of Aligning Systems for Health in Texas

The Texas Health Institute announced the release of their reports to align public health, health care, and social service sectors to advance the health of all Texans. **These reports explore what works, for whom, and under what circumstances to advance health equity.**

[VIEW TEXAS HEALTH INSTITUTE'S REPORTS](#)

TX RPC SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Social media highlight, [Twitter](#): TX RPC Project discusses their newest report on child behavioral health in Texas and what policymakers can do to improve health for children in Texas.

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



TX RPC MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

[Perspectives of Health Care Staff on Predictors of Success in a Food Prescription Program: A Qualitative Study](#)

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

Dr. Shreela Sharma and colleagues were recently published in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's *Preventing Chronic Disease* journal. This article examined food prescription programs implementation from clinicians' and clinic staff's perspectives.

Key Takeaways:

- Clinician and staff perspectives in collaborative food prescription programs are essential to understanding program shortcomings to improve participation and program success.
- Clinic staff identified challenges for program success, which included food availability at food pantries.
- Improvements to future program success include ensuring there is a sufficient inventory of fresh produce, effectively managing re-stocking practices at food pantries, and minimizing patient's personal barriers, such as transportation.

The TX RPC has a health policy resource on Produce Prescription (Rx) Programs. For more information on Produce Rx programs in Texas, view the report [here](#).

TX RPC PARTNER EVENTS

Upcoming Events

- [It's Time Texas' Community Challenge](#) (January 9 - March 5, 2023)

Upcoming Webinars

- [World Obesity Day Summit 2023](#) (March 1, 2023, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. CST)
- [Food Insecurity in Texas: State Level Policies to Make an Impact](#) (March 9, 2023, @ 12:00 p.m.)
- [What Exactly Does a School Nurse Do?](#) (March 29, 2023, @ 11:30 a.m.)

Webinar Recordings

- [Food Insecurity in Texas: Clinic and Community-Based Approaches](#) (February 23, 2023)
- [School Meals Struggles and Triumphs](#) (February 21, 2023)
- [Food Insecurity in Texas: An Overview from Public Health and Pediatrician Perspectives](#) (February 16, 2023)
 - This webinar was the first in a 3-part series on food insecurity in Texas, and discussed the problem of food and nutritional security in Texas.
- [Making the Healthy Choice the Tasty Choice](#) (February 14, 2023)
 - This webinar discussed how to create and maintain sustainable health goals for the year, including tips for shopping and packing healthy lunches.
- [Analysis of Count Data in Medical and Social Sciences: An Application to Smoking Among Students](#) (January 17, 2023)
 - This webinar provided an introduction to count data regression models in the medical and social sciences

TX RPC RESEARCHER PUBLICATIONS

Featured Publication

[Five U.S. dietary patterns and their relationship to land use, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions: Implications for future food security](#)

Publication Key Takeaways:

- Omnivorous diets, including foods like beef, pork, poultry, and cow milk, contributed to the most water use, land use, and Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.
- Lower red meat and higher plant-based diets will help to reduce water, land, and GHG emissions, which can help to improve household food insecurity among Americans.

Texas Population Publications

Central Texas

[Associations between fresh fruit and vegetable consumption and purchasing behaviors, food insecurity status and geographic food access among a lower-income, racially/ethnically diverse cohort in Central Texas](#)

[Connection to nature is associated with social-emotional learning of children](#)

[Effects of a school-based nutrition, gardening, and cooking intervention on metabolic parameters in high-risk youth: A secondary analysis of a cluster randomized clinical trial](#)

Southeast Texas

[Mask adherence and social distancing in Houston, Texas from January to April 2021](#)

North Texas

[Acceptability of a real-time notification of stress and access to self-help therapies among law enforcement officers](#)

Texas Panhandle

[A socio-ecological model for collegiate recovery programs](#)

South Texas

[Criterion validity for a short food frequency questionnaire for Mexican American adults](#)

General Texas

[Effects of a school-based nutrition, gardening, and cooking intervention on metabolic parameters in high-risk youth](#)

[Remote versus in-person learning during COVID-19: Comparison of e-cigarette susceptibility and ever use among a diverse cohort of 6th-grade students in Texas](#)

General Publications

[Association of obesity, suicide behaviors, and psychosocial wellness among adolescents in the United States](#)

[Changes in physical activity outcomes in the Strong Hearts, Healthy Communities \(SHHC-2.0\) community-based randomized trial](#)

[Collateral consequences of the school-to-prison pipeline: Adolescent substance use and developmental risk](#)

[Overweight and obesity prevention for and with adolescents: The "Confronting obesity: Co-creating policy with youth" \(CO-CREATE\) project](#)

[Uncertainty, scarcity and transparency: Public health ethics and risk communication in a pandemic](#)

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](#) (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](#)
- [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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