

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS & UPDATES

TEXAS RESEARCH-TO-POLICY COLLABORATION



July 2023

Thank you for a productive 2023 Texas Legislative Session!

The TX RPC Project is committed to providing data-driven information to legislative offices during special sessions and the interim. If you have any questions, need information or are looking to prepare for the 2025 Texas Legislative Session, please email us at TXRPCNetwork@uth.tmc.edu.

TX RPC PROJECT HEALTH POLICY RESOURCES

Economic and Business Benefits of SNAP - NEW!

Released June 13, 2023

- SNAP is a federal nutrition and health program administered by each state. SNAP provides benefits that supplement the food budget and provide additional nutritional quality for eligible adults and children.
- 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 - NEW!

Released June 14, 2023

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps individuals and families combat hunger and assists them in affording fresh fruits and vegetables, and other healthy foods.
- 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 - NEW!

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 will not be fully realized.

TX RPC PROJECT LUNCH & LEARN EVENTS

TX RPC has hosted five Lunch & Learn events since August 2022.

There will be *two additional Lunch & Learn events* scheduled throughout the remainder of 2023. Find more information in upcoming emails and newsletters.

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

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

Opportunities to Improve Maternal and Child Health in Texas

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

Child Mental Health in Texas

TX RPC Project Lunch & Learn Event - October 27, 2022

Texas Obesity Awareness Week

TX RPC Project Lunch & Learn Event - September 15, 2022

Policy Implications of Food Insecurity and Food Access in Texas

TX RPC Project Lunch & Learn Event - August 25, 2022

TX RPC PROJECT MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

A Multi-Dimensional Evaluation of the Houston Food Bank's Food Prescription Program

Shreela Sharma, PhD, RD, MA & Henry Shelton Brown, PhD

UTHealth Houston School of Public Health & UTHealth Houston School of Public Health in Austin

Drs. Shreela Sharma and Shelton Brown collaborated with the Houston Food Bank to evaluate a Food Prescription (Food Rx) Program that took place between May 2018 and March 2021. Individuals who participated in the program were eligible if they reported experiencing food insecurity at the time of enrollment and were at high risk of diet-related diseases, such as diabetes. Read more about the Food Rx program evaluation [here](#).

Key Takeaways:

- Participants were provided food vouchers by their healthcare providers, which could be redeemed for fresh fruits and vegetables at designated pantries located across Houston.
- The evaluation found that blood glucose levels among those who redeemed their food vouchers were lower compared to participants who did not redeem food vouchers.
- Cost-effectiveness analyses found that the cost per voucher redemption did not exceed \$30, and medical savings costs were estimated at \$288.

TX RPC PROJECT PARTNER EVENTS

2023 Healthy Summer Challenge

School is out and summer is here! Summer is a great time for kids to develop healthy habits for life.

With all of the extra time, they can learn to cook their favorite dishes, explore different vegetables, and create a balanced eating pattern that will fuel them through their summer activities and beyond! Each month this summer, the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living is advocating for creating healthier habits with our Healthy Summer Challenge calendars. Learn more [here](#)!

Upcoming Webinars

- [The Impact of Climate Change on Child Health](#) (August 3, 2023, @ 12pm)

View Past Webinar Recordings

- [Improving Weight Loss Maintenance: The International Weight Control Registry](#) (May 16, 2023)
- [Importance of Outdoor Play](#) (May 10, 2023)
- [Michael & Susan Dell Center Lectureship in Child Health: What's for Lunch? The Past, Present, and Future of School Nutrition](#) (April 27, 2023)
- [Maternal and Child Health in Texas: A Continuing Crisis](#) (April 20, 2023)
- [What Changes Will This Legislative Session Have for School Health?](#) (April 13, 2023)
- [School Meals Struggles and Triumphs](#) (February 21, 2023)

See the full list of webinar recordings [here](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

[Volunteering, Health and Well-Being of Adolescents in the United States](#)

More than 180 media outlets have picked up a recent study by Center faculty members Drs. Kevin Lanza, Ethan Hunt, Dale Mantey and Steve Kelder on the positive effects of volunteering on the health and well-being of youth. Read more about their findings [here](#).

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



TX RPC RESEARCHER PUBLICATIONS

Featured Publication

[Association of walking and biking to school policies and active commuting to school in children](#)

Key Takeaways:

- Active commuting to school (ACS) is defined as children walking or biking to school. Over time, active commuting to school has decreased.
- ACS can be an important source of physical activity for children. This study examined the association between school ACS policies and rates of ACS among 3rd-5th graders in five school districts throughout Central Texas.
- Schools with higher numbers of ACS policies had significantly higher percentages of students using active travel modes, and this correlation was highest among the older students in higher grades.
- These results provide justification for the use of school-based policy interventions to promote ACS, such as Safe Route to School programs.

Texas Population Publications

[Depression and anxiety as predictors of metabolic and bariatric surgery completion among ethnically diverse patients](#)

[Dietary behaviours during COVID-19 among households at risk for food insecurity](#)

General Publications

[Use of metabolic and bariatric survey among US youth](#)

[Interactive associations of eczema with glutathione S-transferase genes in relation to autism spectrum disorder and its severity in Jamaican children](#)

[Volunteering, health, and well-being of children and adolescents in the United States](#)

[Racial-ethnic disparities in psychological distress during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States: the role of experienced discrimination and perceived racial bias](#)

[It's snowing? Keep on rolling! Individual determinants of winter cycling in Quebec](#)

[How blackouts during heat waves amplify mortality and morbidity risk](#)

[Long-Acting reversible contraception for adolescents: A review of practices to support better communication, counseling, and adherence](#)

[Association of social determinants of health, race, and ethnicity, and age of menarche among United States women over two decades](#)

2023 TX RPC LEGISLATIVE BILL TRACKER

The TX RPC Project has updated the 2023 legislative bill tracker. Since the 2013 session, the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living has hosted an online legislative bill tracker identifying 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

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 nonpartisan 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.

[Deanna M. Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA](#),
Principal Investigator

[Alexandra van den Berg, PhD, MPH](#), Co-Investigator

[Tiffni Menendez, MPH](#), Project Director

[Shelby Flores-Thorpe, PhD\(c\), M.Ed, CHES](#) Doctoral
Graduate Assistant, Editor

[Kaitlin Berns, MPH, RD](#), Doctoral Graduate Assistant, Editor

[Emily Torres](#), Graduate Data Collector, Editor

UTHealth Houston
School of Public Health



Texas Research-to-Policy
Collaboration Project



Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living | 1616 Guadalupe, Suite 6.300, Austin, TX
78701

[Unsubscribe dellhealthyliving@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:unsubscribe_dellhealthyliving@uth.tmc.edu)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent bytxrpcnetwork@uth.tmc.edu powered by



Try email marketing for free today!