

# PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS & UPDATES

TEXAS RESEARCH-TO-POLICY COLLABORATION PROJECT

February 2024



## Upcoming Events



The banner features a purple-to-blue gradient background. On the left is the TCHMB logo (a circle with a stylized figure) and the text 'tchmb Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers & Babies'. Below the logo is a QR code with the text 'Register Now!'. In the center, two stylized figures are shown with large puzzle pieces. To the right, the text '2024 TCHMB SUMMIT' is prominently displayed. Further right, the dates 'Feb. 28–March 1' and the location 'AT&T Conference Center Austin, TX' are listed. At the bottom right, the theme 'Leading Change and Fostering Collaboration in Perinatal Quality Involvement' is written in a smaller font.

### [2024 Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies Summit](#)

*February 28th, 29th, and March 1st, 2024*

The Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies (TCHMB) is proud to host its annual Summit, bringing together professionals, experts, and advocates from across the state to make a significant impact on the health of mothers and babies in Texas. This year, the Summit's theme is [Leading Change and Fostering Collaboration in Perinatal Quality Involvement](#).

**[Register today!](#)**

*TCHMB is funded by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).*

## Recent Center for Healthy Living Webinar

### [Including Fathers in Pregnancy and Early Childhood Health Promotion](#)

*January 25, 2024*

In this webinar, Dr. Dorothy Mandell and Dr. Michael Mackert discussed their research and health promotion efforts, including the [Father's Playbook App](#), an app focused on promoting positive father involvement during pregnancy and the transition to parenthood.



## Including Fathers in Pregnancy and Early Childhood Health Promotion

Dorothy J. Mandell, PhD  
Associate Professor  
UTHealth Houston School of Public Health

### Key Takeaways:

- Babies cannot thrive without a family, a community, and a system of care. Fathers impact their infants' health and development and later, their mental health and school achievement.
- However, fathers are not universally included in the perinatal system and often face challenges supporting their partner and the coming baby.
- Programs for including fathers during pregnancy and early childhood can be beneficial for fathers, mothers, babies, and families overall.

*[View past Center webinar recordings here.](#)*

## Lunch & Learn Events



### 2024 Lunch & Learn sessions announced soon!

Check out our 2023 Lunch & Learns:

[Substance Use Prevention and Treatment in Texas](#) - December 7, 2023

[Food Prescription Programs in Texas](#) - October 25, 2023

[Policy and Community Health in Texas](#) - May 4, 2023

[Maternal and Child Health in Texas](#) - January 4, 2023

*[Review past Lunch & Learn topics here.](#)*

## Researcher Publications

### Featured Publication

[Using the Nutrition Facts Label to Make Food Choices Is Associated with Healthier Eating among 8th and 11th-Grade Students: An Analysis of Statewide Representative Data from the 2019–2020 Texas School Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey](#)

- Among a statewide sample of 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in Texas, 6 out of 10 indicated they never or almost never used nutrition labels to make food choices.
- Students who always or almost always used nutrition labels were more likely to consume healthy foods (eg. fresh fruits and vegetables) and less likely to consume unhealthy foods (eg. chips, cake, and soda), compared to students who never or almost never used nutrition labels to make food choices.
- Nutrition literacy education and encouraging nutrition label use among children and adolescents would be beneficial to promoting healthy eating.

### Central Texas

- [An Increase in Food Insecurity Correlated with an Increase in Plasma Triglycerides among Latinx Children](#)

### *North Texas*

- [A Qualitative Exploration of the Health Needs and Goals of Urban Women to Inform the Tailoring and Adaptation of Strong Hearts Healthy Communities: A Community-Based Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Intervention](#)

### *Southeast Texas*

- [Evaluation of a Clinic-Based, Electronic Social Determinants of Health Screening and Intervention in Primary Care Pediatrics](#)

### *Texas (General)*

- ["Being here is saving my life": Resident Experiences of Living in Recovery Residences for People Taking Medication for an Opioid Use Disorder](#)
- [Community Scientist Program Provides Bi-directional Communication and Co-learning Between Researchers and Community Members](#)

### *General*

- [Assessing the Prevalence Rates of Internalizing Symptomatology Among Multiracial Adolescents in the United States: A Systematic Review](#)
- [Symptoms of Nicotine Dependence by E-cigarette and Cigarette Use Behavior and Brand: A population-based, nationally representative cross-sectional study](#)
- [Factors Associated with the Decision to Complete Bariatric Metabolic Surgery Among a Racially and Ethnically Diverse Sample of Adults: A Classification and Regression Tree Analysis](#)
- [The Availability Between Recreational Facilities and Physical Activity of US Adolescents](#)
- [Undergraduate College Students' Awareness and Perception of Nature - A Photovoice Study](#)
- ['We are suffering. Nothing is changing.' Black Mother's Experiences, Communication, and Support in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the United States: A Qualitative Study](#)

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## Resource Corner

The TX RPC Project develops accessible and accurate public health policy-related resources from field 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 Newsletters Archive](#)
- [Texas Legislative Bill Tracker](#)
- [Texas Child Health Status Reports and Toolkits](#)
- [Newsletter Resource Sharing Form for Publication](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources](#)

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## About

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](mailto:TXRPCNetwork@uth.tmc.edu).

## Contact Our Team

For more information, email [TXRPCNetwork@uth.tmc.edu](mailto: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

[Rachel Linton, MPH](#), Project Manager

[Yuzi Zhang, PhD, MS](#), Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Editor

[Shelby Flores-Thorpe, PhD, MEd, CHES](#), Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Editor

[Kirsten Handler](#), Communication Specialist, Editor



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

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