

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS & UPDATES

TEXAS RESEARCH-TO-POLICY COLLABORATION



November 30, 2022

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.

TX RPC HEALTH POLICY RESOURCES

[Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\) – NEW!](#)

Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project

Released October 27, 2022

This new report discusses adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that youth may be exposed to before they turn 18 years old. Two of the most reported ACEs are economic hardship and parental separation, two issues faced by many Texas children. **These experiences negatively impact mental and physical health outcomes both throughout childhood and into adulthood, too.**

[Produce Prescription \(Rx\) Programs](#)

Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project

Released August 24, 2022

This report outlines 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.**

TX RPC MEMBER & ORGANIZATION RESOURCES

[Child Mental Health in Texas](#)

Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

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

This TX RPC Project Lunch & Learn event presentation by Dr. Taiwo Babatope provided an overview of mental health in youth, health access and workforce shortages, and what

legislators can do to support mental health. Approximately 50% of all lifetime mental health problems begin by age 14, and around 1 in 6 U.S. youth ages 6-17 experience mental health disorders every year. Texas ranks last in the U.S. for youth access to mental health care, which has been exacerbated by the pandemic. **Recommendations for supporting youth mental health in Texas include supporting school-based mental health care, integrating mental health care in primary care pediatrics, and developing community-based systems of care that connect families to data-driven information.**

[VIEW THE LUNCH & LEARN SLIDES](#)

Partnership for a Healthy Texas Announces Priorities

Partnership for a Healthy Texas

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

Earlier this month, the Partnership for a Healthy Texas, a coalition dedicated to reducing the burden of obesity in Texas, announced policy priorities for the upcoming Texas Legislative Session. **These priorities are aimed at positively impacting the high rates of obesity in Texas, where 1 in 5 children and 1 in 3 adults live with obesity by modernizing Texas 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.**

[READ THE COALITION'S PRIORITIES](#)

Texas Obesity Awareness Week

Partnership for a Healthy Texas and Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

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

This Lunch & Learn event presentation by Drs. Deanna Hoelscher and Gregory Knell focused on facts on obesity in Texas. Topics discussed included childhood obesity and related behaviors in Texas and Covidobesity, the impact of the pandemic on obesity among adults. In 2019-2020, child obesity rates were higher in Texas than in the U.S. In regards to Covidobesity, long-term implications could exacerbate the already increasing sociodemographic disparities in health, and increase chronic diseases and healthcare expenditures. **Recommendations to help adults and children with obesity include utilizing different types of interventions based on age, including community-based interventions. Additional recommendations include policies to increase access to healthy foods, mental health care, and preventive health screenings.**

[WATCH THE LUNCH & LEARN VIDEO](#)

Policy Implications of Food Insecurity and Food Access in Texas

Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

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

This TX RPC Project Lunch & Learn event presentation by Dr. Alexandra van den Berg discussed the implications of food insecurity and food access in Texas. Food insecurity has negative health and academic outcomes, and disproportionately affects low-income families and individuals; households with children; Black and Hispanic/Latino populations; and college students. **Recommendations to assist individuals experiencing food insecurity include**

increasing geographic access to health foods and providing funding or increasing sustainability efforts for effective, proven initiatives, such as produce prescription programs.

[VIEW THE LUNCH & LEARN SLIDES](#)

TX RPC MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

[The ABC's of Safe Sleep](#)

Mary Aitken MD, MPH, FAAP- UTHealth McGovern Medical School

KPRC 2 News Today spoke with Dr. Mary Aitken about safe sleep to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), as unsafe asleep is a leading cause of infant death in the United States.

TX RPC PARTNER EVENTS

Upcoming Events

- [Maternal and Child Health: A TX RPC Project Lunch and Learn Event](#) (January 4th, 2023)

Past Events

- [TX Action for Healthy Kids Summit - Day 1](#) (November 15-16, 2022)
- [TX Action for Healthy Kids Summit - Day 2](#) (November 15-16, 2022)

Webinar Recordings

- [Cost-effectiveness Calculators for SUD: A Pilot of Peer Recovery Support Services and Bystander Naloxone Distribution](#) (October 25, 2022, @ 12:00pm CT)
- [Improving Health Through Nature](#) (November 2, 2022, @ 12:00 pm CT)

TX RPC RESEARCHER PUBLICATIONS

Featured Publication

[Who shops at their nearest grocery store? A cross-sectional exploration of disparities in geographic food access among a low-income, racially/ethnically diverse cohort in central Texas](#)

Featured Publication Key Takeaways:

- This study examined both objective as well as subjective characteristics such as race/ethnicity, urbanicity, motivations for store selections, and demographic characteristics that determine the distance participants travel for food.
- Approximately 1 in 5 people surveyed reported shopping at their nearest supermarket.
- More than 75% of people surveyed reported quality of food as the reason they chose to shop for food at a specific supermarket, regardless of location.
- Living in or near an urban area and race/ ethnicity were factors that increased the distance traveled to preferred supermarkets.

Texas Population Publications

[General Texas](#)

[Neurodevelopmental outcomes of extremely preterm infants fed an exclusive human milk-based diet versus a mixed human milk + bovine milk-based diet: a multi-center study](#)

General Publications

[The effects of parent-adolescent acculturation gaps on adolescent lifestyle behaviors: Moderating role of family communication](#)

[Comparison of Long-Term Complications of COVID-19 Illness among a Diverse Sample of Children by MIS-C Status](#)

[Needs Assessment and Best Practices for Digital Trainings for Health Professionals in Ethiopia Using the RE-AIM Framework: COVID-19, Case Study](#)

[Long-Term Outcomes after Adolescent Bariatric Surgery](#)

[Prevalence of polypharmacy and associated adverse outcomes and risk factors among children with asthma in the USA: a cross-sectional study](#)

[A Comprehensive Report on All-Terrain Vehicles and Youth: Continuing Challenges for Injury Prevention](#)

[Relationship between teacher fidelity to an early childhood obesity prevention program and the Child care center nutrition and physical activity environment](#)

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](#)

CONTACT US

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