



Michael & Susan Dell
Center *for* Healthy Living

Projects Overview

We're all over the place. Like the kid who goes out to play and doesn't come home 'til supper.

There's not just one path to better health.
We need to explore as many paths as we can.

At the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, each step encourages us to go farther. Every project gets our juices flowing for the next. We hope our work excites you, too.

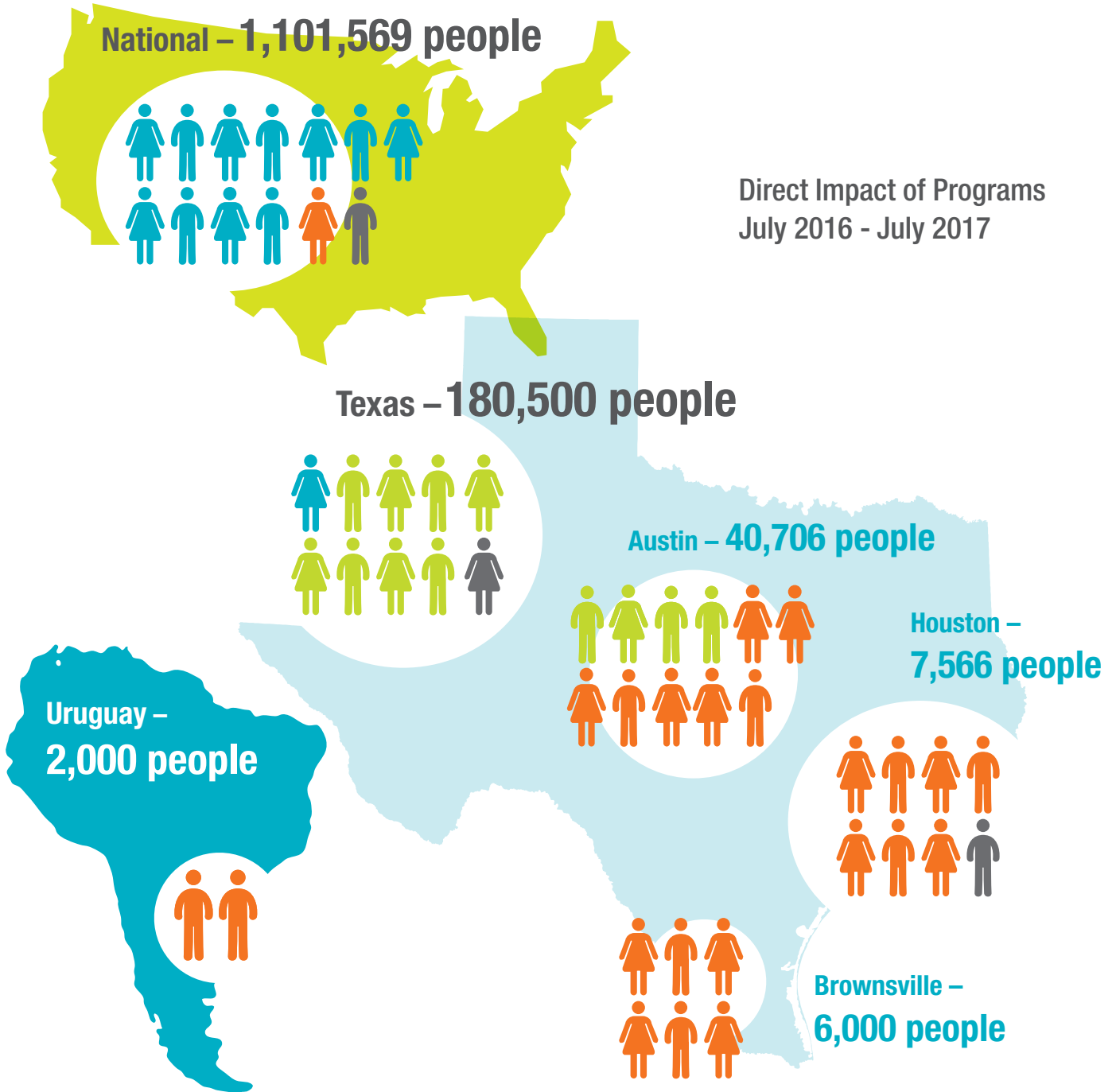
Our efforts are wide-ranging and intense. We deal with children as well as grownups. We're at work right here under the Texas sun, and we're at the table for dinner in faraway countries.

We're running on the parallel tracks of research and implementation. Our studies take us to neighborhoods in Uruguay, to firehouses across America, to kids smoking in the corner of the schoolyard.

Bringing our ideas to life means teaching and promoting. It can also involve paintbrushes and rakes and shovels, remaking playgrounds and digging family gardens.

Good health is building here.

Over 1.3 million Lives Impacted



100,000 people



10,000 people



1,000 people



500 people

Our Projects

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¡Activate Ya!

The purpose of this study is to develop and test the efficacy of a multiple-component intervention to prevent tobacco use and promote physical activity for 7th graders in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The project is meant not only to develop and test a novel, culturally appropriate intervention for youth in this setting, but also to build capacity. ¡Activate Ya! provides training opportunities for research staff, schools, and students in Uruguay to build skills in the design, implementation, and evaluation of school-based health promotion programs; and opportunities for students and faculty at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health to adapt their skills to this context.



Active Play Active Learning (APAL)

The Active Play-Active Learning Project aimed to incorporate more physical activity throughout the school day by implementing low-cost, easy to use, and fun physical activity strategies including: classroom activity breaks to enhance academic learning and to increase students' attention and time on task; playground markings to promote active play during recess and 'active learning' during class time; and a peer-led games process to increase activity during recess or structured activity time.

The APAL strategies, pilot-tested in Austin, Texas, and evaluated in Pueblo, Colorado, were shown to significantly increase elementary school students' physical activity during recess and the school day based on physical activity structured observation assessment and accelerometer assessment.



Project Team

US-BASED TEAM

Melissa Blythe Harrell, PhD – Principal Investigator; Andrew Springer, DrPH – Principal Investigator; Cheryl L. Perry, PhD – Co-Investigator; Shannon Rogers, MPH – Graduate Research Assistant

URUGUAY-BASED TEAM

Centro de Investigación para la Epidemia de Tabaquismo

Lucia Martinez – Project Director; Maria Traversa – Co-Project Director; Martina Florines – Evaluation Director; Viviana Moreno – Intervention Director

Funding Sources

Fogarty International Center

National Institute of Drug Abuse at the National Institutes of Health

Timeline

2012 - 2017

Project Team

Patricia Werner, MEd – Co-Creator, Austin ISD
Andrew Springer, DrPH – Principal Investigator

Michele Rusnak, MEd – Initial Inspiration and key school district partner, Austin ISD

Texas Research Staff

Heather Atteberry, MPH
Joey Walker, MPH
Chad Misner, MA
Kelli Lovelace, MPH

Colorado Research Staff

Pueblo City-County Health Department
Miranda Stovall, BS

Funding Sources

Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

Colorado Health Foundation

St. David's Foundation

Timeline

Phase I 2009-2011

Phase II 2010-2012

Phase III 2011-2012

Phase IV 2013-2015

Brighter Bites

Evaluation of Brighter Bites, a school and preschool-based program to improve access to fresh fruits and vegetables and nutrition education among low-income families and children.

Brighter Bites is a school and preschool-based program that provides a weekly distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables combined with nutrition education in school and at home to low-income children and their parents. The program is currently implemented across Houston, Austin and Dallas. This project assesses the impact and scalability of the program across these three cities.



brighterbites™

Project Team

Shreela Sharma, PhD – Principal Investigator

Christine Markham, PhD – Co-Investigator

Krista Patlovich, MPH – Project Coordinator

Funding Sources

Feeding Texas

Texas Health and Human Services
Commission (SNAP Ed funds)

Timeline

2015 - 2018

A Clinic and Tech-Based Diet and Fitness Intervention for Volunteer Firefighters

A cluster randomized controlled trial (CRCT) comparing the effectiveness of an occupational health clinician administered web-mobile lifestyle program, The First Twenty, to the American Heart Association Life's Simple 7 (LS7) among volunteer firefighters.

- An occupational health clinician randomly prescribed overweight or obese firefighters' to participation in either TF20 or LS7
- Assessed dietary intake, physical activity, anxiety, stress depression, smoking, occupational injuries and sociodemographic factors pre and post
- Outcomes include BMI, percent body fat, waist circumference, diet, and physical activity
- Six-month intervention including 2 treatment and two control fire departments across Long Island, New York including 150+ firefighters

Project Team

R. Sue Day, PhD – Principal Investigator

Christopher Kaipust, MPH – Research Staff

Deirdre Douglass, MS, RD – Research Staff

*National Development Research Institutes, Inc.
Investigators:*

W. Carlos Poston, PhD

C. Keith Haddock, PhD

Sara Jahnke, PhD

Funding Source

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
at the National Institutes of Health

Timeline

2015-2018

Coordinated Approach To Child Health

Supported by over 25 years of research and more than 130 peer-reviewed academic papers, CATCH has been proven to reduce overweight and obesity among children and is cost-effective. CATCH employs a holistic approach to child health promotion by targeting multiple aspects of the school environment: the classroom, Child Nutrition Services (cafeteria food), physical education (PE), parents, and the broader school community. This coordinated approach reinforces CATCH lessons and life skills, and is a big part of what makes the program highly effective.

While CATCH originated as an elementary school-based program, research projects at the Center have expanded and adapted the program for preschool through 8th grade as well as for after-school settings. A youth e-cigarette prevention program was developed by Center researchers and is the latest addition to the suite of CATCH programs.

Project Names

CATCH Elementary	CATCH Early Childhood,
CATCH Middle School	CATCH Kids Club,
CATCH My Breath	CATCH Healthy Smiles



Project Team

Steve Kelder, PhD, MPH; Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA; Cheryl Perry, PhD; Andrew Springer, DrPH; Courtney Byrd-Williams, PhD; Alexandra Evans, PhD; Shreela Sharma, PhD; Megan Grayless, MPH; Kacey Hanson, MPH; Joanne Delk, MS; Alejandra Gonzalez, Joey Walker, MPH; Peter Cribb, MEd; Carolyn Smith; Jerri Ward, MS; RD; Tiffni Menendez, MPH; University of California at San Diego, University of Minnesota, Tulane University, CATCH Global Foundation

Funding Sources

National Heart Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health, Texas Department of State Health Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Harris County Public Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, RGK Foundation

Timeline

1988-present

Encouraging Nurturing Responsiveness to Improve Child Health (ENRICH)

This is a pilot randomized controlled trial to determine the impact of a home-based intervention to improve dietary habits, activity, sleep, and screen time behaviors among toddlers (2-4 years) at risk for obesity.



Project Team

*Shreela Sharma, PhD – Principal Investigator
Susan Landry, PhD – Principal Investigator
Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA – Co-Investigator
Courtney Byrd-Williams, PhD – Co-Investigator
Ursula Johnson, PhD – Co-Investigator*

Funding Source

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health

Timeline

2015-2017

Project Names

PALS-CATCH for obesity prevention among at-risk toddlers

The First Twenty

TF20 assessed the efficacy of an internet-based firefighter tailored health and wellness program for volunteer firefighters using a cluster randomized controlled trial (CRCT)

- TF20 included nutrition, fitness, and stress management education and activities including prescribed messages, goal setting, resource materials (recipes, exercise plans, etc.), and personalized health coaching from a trained firefighter
- Assessed the dietary intake, physical activity, anxiety, stress, depression, smoking, occupational injuries and sociodemographic factors pre and post
- Outcomes include BMI, percent body fat, waist circumference, diet, and physical activity
- Six-month intervention including five treatment and five wait-list control volunteer fire departments across the nation including over 400 firefighters



Fuel 2 Fight

F2F was the first national nutrition study of firefighters. This epidemiologic study assessed the lifestyle environment, including dietary intake, physical activity, and energy balance of firefighters.

- Evaluated associations with obesity and cardiovascular disease risk factors and occupational injuries
- Longitudinal cohort study with assessments twice over six months
- 1,021 career firefighters, housed in 60 fire stations, within 20 fire departments across the US and its territories
- 10 departments were incorporating some type of department wellness activity and 10 departments had no wellness activities



Project Team

R. Sue Day, PhD – Principal Investigator
Christopher Kaipust, MPH – Research Staff
Deirdre Douglass, MS, RD – Research Staff
National Development Research Institutes, Inc.
Investigators:

W. Carlos Poston, PhD
C. Keith Haddock, PhD
Sara Jahnke, PhD

Funding Source

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Timeline

2014-2018

Project Team

R. Sue Day, PhD – Principal Investigator
Christopher Kaipust, MPH – Research Staff
Deirdre Douglass, MS, RD – Research Staff
National Development Research Institutes, Inc.
Investigators:

W. Carlos Poston, PhD
C. Keith Haddock, PhD
Sara Jahnke, PhD

Funding Source

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Timeline

2011-2013

Go! Austin/Vamos! Austin (GAVA)

The Go! Austin/Vamos! Austin (GAVA) initiative is a place-based, multi-component obesity intervention designed to synergistically target multiple community sectors and systems with an emphasis on the built environment. The environmental changes resulting from GAVA are hypothesized to lead to increases in healthy eating and physical activity among all residents of the community. GAVA uses a coalition-driven, systems approach, and its key strategy is to engage key stakeholders and community members in four sectors: healthy food, physical activity, schools and out of school time, and early childhood.

The research team from the Center is leading the evaluation of the impact of the GAVA initiative through a series of studies including a cohort study and a serial, cross sectional study. The overarching goal of the 5-year GAVA evaluation study is to measure the impact of the GAVA initiative on awareness of resources, barriers to using resources, utilization of resources, obesity-related behaviors and weight status of residents in a low-income, ethnically diverse community.



Project Team

Evaluation Team

Alexandra van den Berg, PhD – Principal Investigator

Nalini Ranjit, PhD – Co-Principal Investigator

Deborah Salvo, PhD – Co-Investigator

Aida Nielsen, MPH – Project Director

Nika Akhavan, MPH – Research Staff

Funding Source

Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

Timeline

2013-2018 in Dove Springs

2014-2018 in 78745

Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL)

This is a clinic-community based intervention to implement an early life-cycle approach to obesity prevention among pregnant women and women with infants from low-income families.



Project Team

Shreela Sharma, PhD – Principal Investigator

Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA – Co-Investigator

Courtney Byrd-Williams, PhD – Co-Investigator

Shelton Brown, PhD – Co-Investigator

Melisa Danho, MPH – Project Coordinator

Funding Sources

Delivery System Reform Incentive
Payment Projects

UTHealth Healthcare Transformations
Initiative

Timeline

2014-2017

Healthy Food Access Initiative

The Healthy Food Access Initiative is a collaboration between the city of Austin, GAVA, Farmshare, and the Sustainable Food Center (SFC) to improve access to healthy foods in Austin’s low-income communities with high rates of chronic disease risk factors. The goal of this Initiative is to increase food access points where residents could purchase affordable healthy foods, with a strong emphasis on fresh fruits and vegetables, with the intent that residents in these areas increase their fruit and vegetable purchasing and consumption. In order to accomplish this goal, 3 strategies were implemented by GAVA, Farmshare and SFC: **1)** strategic placement of farm stands at schools and public housing, **2)** stocking of fresh fruits and vegetables and healthy foods in corner stores, and **3)** placement of mobile markets at strategic locations. The Dell Center Evaluation Team is measuring the impact of this Initiative on fruit and vegetable purchasing and consumption behaviors of community residents living in the intervention communities.



Project Team

Alexandra van den Berg, PhD – Principal Investigator Evaluation
Nalini Ranjit, PhD – Co-Investigator Evaluation
Kathryn Janda, MPH – Project Director Evaluation

Funding Source

City of Austin

Timeline

2016-ongoing Corner Stores
2017-ongoing Farm Stands and Mobile Markets

Houston Travel Related Activity in Neighborhoods (TRAIN) Study

The Houston TRAIN (Transportation Related Activity in Neighborhoods) Study is a collaborative effort between The University of Texas School of Public Health and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. This study examines the short and long-term effects of a new light rail transit system on adults’ physical activity in Houston, Texas.



Project Team

Bill Kohl, PhD – Principal Investigator
Casey Durand, PhD – Co-Investigator
Ipek Sener, PhD – Co-Investigator (TAMU,TTI)
Kelley Pettee Gabriel, PhD, MS, FACS – Co-Investigator
Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA – Co-Investigator
Abiodun Oluoyomi, PhD – Consultant

Funding Source

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health

Timeline

2013-2018

Impact of Adenovirus-36 & Obesity in the Fire Service on Health & Safety

Investigated the impact of the adenovirus-36 on obesity among the F2F cohort of firefighters. The fire service was particularly suited for this investigation because of their lifestyle of shared environments as well as their high risk of cardiovascular disease and obesity coupled with inherent exposures in harsh environmental conditions (fire, smoke, heat stress, noise, and shift work).

- Assessed Ad-36, fasting lipids, glucose, insulin, leptin and adiponectin
- Evaluated relationship with obesity and epidemiologic risk factors
- Longitudinal cohort study with assessments twice over six months
- 333 career firefighters, within 9 fire departments across the US and its territories

Project Team

R. Sue Day, PhD – Principal Investigator
Christopher Kaipust, MPH – Research Staff
Deirdre Douglass, MS, RD – Research Staff
National Development Research Institutes, Inc.
Investigators:
W. Carlos Poston, PhD
C. Keith Haddock, PhD
Sara Jahnke, PhD

Funding Source

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Timeline

2011-2013

Lunch Is In the Bag (LIITB)

The purpose of this intervention was to encourage parents to increase the availability of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains in sack lunches for their preschool children in childcare centers. The goal for their research was the development of new strategies for the promotion of healthy eating practices in children through childcare centers.



Project Team

Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA
– Co-Principal Investigator
Margaret Briley, PhD – Co-Principal Investigator
UT Austin
Cindy Roberts-Gray – Co-Principal Investigator
Third Coast
Sara Sweitzer, PhD – Co-Investigator, UT Austin
Nalini Ranjit, PhD – Co-Investigator
Shreela Sharma, PhD – Co-Investigator
Courtney Byrd-Williams, PhD – Co-Investigator
Christa Potratz, MPH – Assistant Project Director
Joey Walker, MPH – Field Project Director

Funding Source

National Institutes of Health

Timeline

2010 – 2015

School Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN)

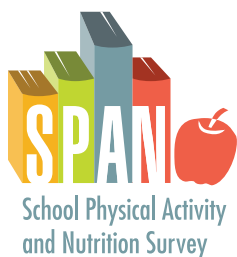
SPAN was a cross-sectional survey in Texas that allowed researchers to identify and track trends in childhood obesity at the state and regional levels. In addition, SPAN identified obesity related factors such as dietary behaviors, nutrition knowledge and attitudes, and physical activity.

Project Components

The SPAN project was conducted in 2000-2002, 2004-2005, 2009-2011 and 2015-2016.

Data collection included:

- Self-administered survey (2015-2016 only) with 4th, 8th, 11th grade students and parents of 2nd grade students about dietary behaviors and practices, food selection skills, food environment, weight perceptions, nutrition knowledge, attitudes about food and eating, and physical activity behaviors
- Height and weight measurements to determine body mass index (BMI) and the prevalence of obesity
- School health policy assessment
- Over 68,000 students and parents from 322 school districts and 1022 schools across Texas have participated in SPAN.



Project Team

Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISSNPA – Principal Investigator

Adriana Perez, PhD – Co-Investigator

Nalini Ranjit, PhD – Co-Investigator

Ramah Leith, MPH – Co-Investigator

Carolyn Smith – Project Coordinator

Alison Winters Massie, PhD – Research Staff

Funding Source

Texas Department of State Health Services

Partners

West Texas (Panhandle) Area Health Education Center

AHEC of the Plains

HSR 4/5 Department of State Health Services Community Health Program

Greater Houston AHEC -

UTHealth School of Nursing

UTHealth School of Public Health

DSHS Department of Border Health

Desert Mountain AHEC

City of El Paso Health Department

DSHS Department of Border Health

Lower Rio Grande AHEC

Timeline

Round 1: 2000 - 2002

Round 2: 2004 - 2005

Round 3: 2009 - 2011

Round 4: 2015 - 2016

SPAN 2015 - 2016 is the fourth round of this state-wide surveillance project.

Texas Adolescent Tobacco and Marketing Surveillance System (TATAMS)

TATAMS is a population-based, longitudinal study of 4,000 Texas youth (12-18 years old), representing over 450,000 youth, which stretches across the five counties surrounding the four largest cities in Texas (Houston, Dallas-Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Austin). It is designed to further the Food and Drug Administration's understanding about the diversity of tobacco products used by youth, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, little filtered cigars, hookah and smokeless tobacco, and the impact of tobacco marketing practices on them. TATAMS uses a multiple component surveillance system, comprised of a youth survey conducted once every six months and an objective measures of tobacco marketing at more than 200 point-of-sale tobacco retailers that are within a half-mile radius of the schools attended by TATAMS subjects.

TATAMS is in its fifth year and has collected six waves of the youth survey, and is currently administering the 7th wave survey with greater than 70% of the cohort participating. Additionally, four waves of point-of-sale tobacco marketing observations have been conducted. To date, this data has been used in 19 published or in-press scientific manuscripts. Among other findings, these manuscripts reinforce the impact that tobacco product flavoring, digital media, and tobacco marketing at point-of-sale has on the uptake of varied tobacco products among youth.

Project Team

Melissa Blythe Harrell, PhD, MPH – Principal Investigator

Alexandra Loukas, PhD, UT Austin – Co-Investigator

Keryn Pasch, PhD, MPH, UT Austin – Co-Investigator

Adriana Perez, PhD – Co-Investigator

Anna Wilkinson, PhD – Co-Investigator

Cheryl L. Perry, PhD – Co-Investigator

Cris Delnevo, PhD, MPH, Rutgers – Co-Investigator

Jane Lewis, PhD, MPH, Rutgers – Co-Investigator

Olivia Wacowski, PhD, MPH, Rutgers – Co-Investigator

Joanne Delk, MS – Project Coordinator

Christian Jackson, MS – Statistician

Funding Sources

FDA Center for Tobacco Products

National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health

Timeline

2013-2018



TATAMS

Texas Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration (TX CORD)

The goal of the Texas Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration (TX CORD) project was to connect the dots between families, pediatricians, school, and local youth organizations to develop community capacity for early detection and effective management of obesity using evidence-based programs like CATCH and MEND (Mind, Energy, Nutrition, Do it!).

TX CORD was focused on both primary and secondary prevention approaches.



Project Team

Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA – Principal Investigator

Nancy Butte, PhD, MPH, RD, Baylor College of Medicine – Principal Investigator

Sarah Barlow, MD, UT Southwestern Medical Center – Co-Investigator

Steve Kelder, PhD, MPH – Co-Investigator

Elizabeth Vanderwater, PhD – Co-Investigator

Stephen Pont, MD, MPH, FAAP, Dell Children's Medical Center – Co-Investigator

Shreela Sharma, PhD – Co-Investigator

Courtney Byrd-Williams, PhD – Co-Investigator

Casey Durand, PhD – Co-Investigator

Joey Walker, Project Director

Alejandra Gonzalez, Research Staff

Carolyn Smith, Research Staff

Funding Source

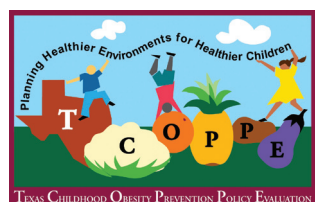
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Timeline

2012-2015

Texas Childhood Obesity Prevention Policy Evaluation (T-COPPE)

The Texas Childhood Obesity Prevention Policy Evaluation (T-COPPE) project was a collaborative effort that studied the impact of two policies: the Texas Safe Routes to School program and an important rule revision to the federal food allocation package administered by the Texas Women, Infants and Children program.



Project Team

Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA – Co-Principal Investigator

Marcia Ory, PhD, MPH, TAMU – Co-Principal Investigator

Diane Dowdy, PhD, MS, TAMU – Co-Investigator, Project Director

Alexandra Evans, PhD – Co-Investigator

Chanam Lee, PhD, MLA, TAMU – Co-Investigator

Lisako McKyer, PhD, MPH, TAMU – Co-Investigator

Suojin Wang, PhD, TAMU – Co-Investigator

Research Staff | Policy Advisors

Heather Atteberry, MPH

Tiffni Menendez, MPH

Abi Oluyomi, PhD

Carolyn Smith

Christine Tisone, PhD, TAMU

Camille Miller, MSSW, ACSW, THI

Donna Nichols, MEd, CHES

Michelle Smith, THI

Funding Source

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Timeline

2008-2016

Texas Grow! Eat! Go! (TGEG)

By leveraging a unique collaboration between Texas AgriLife Extension (a federal, state and county funded educational outreach organization) and the University of Texas School of Public Health, the Texas! Grow! Eat! Go! Study (TGEG) modeled the effectiveness of utilizing existing programs and volunteer infrastructure to disseminate an enhanced Coordinated School Health program. The five-year TGEG study was developed to assess the independent and combined impact of gardening, nutrition, and physical activity intervention(s) on the prevalence of healthy eating and physical activity and weight status among low-income elementary students.



Project Team

Judith L. Warren, PhD, TAMU – Principal Investigator

Alexandra Evans, PhD – Co-Principal Investigator

Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FIBSNPA – Co-Principal Investigator

Nalini Ranjit, PhD – Co-Principal Investigator

Carolyn Smith – Project Coordinator

Research Staff

Katherine Nikah

Christine Jovanovic

Funding Source

United States Department of Agriculture

Timeline

2009-2016

Texas SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) Evaluation

The objective of the SNAP-Ed Evaluation, conducted by the UTHSC, is to examine the short term and medium term effects of SNAP-Ed funded programs that are carrying out nutrition education and obesity prevention activities in Texas.

SNAP-Ed Texas



Evaluating Impact

Project Team

Nalini Ranjit – Principal Investigator

Deanna Hoelscher – Co-Principal Investigator

Gretchen Gemeinhardt – Co-Investigator

Alexandra Evans – Co-Investigator

Anna Wilkinson – Co-Investigator

Carolyn Smith – Project Director

Alejandra Gonzalez – Associate Project Director

Research Staff

Sarah Bentley, MPH

Sarah Macias, MPH

Claire Niday, MPH

Amanda Reat, MS, RD

Funding Source

Health & Human Services Commission

Timeline

2017-2019

Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science on Youth and Young Adults (Texas TCORS)

The overall goal of the Texas Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science on Youth and Young Adults (Texas TCORS) is to develop an integrated program of research and training to provide scientific evidence, and a career path for regulatory scientists, to support US tobacco regulation. Texas TCORS is comprised of three University of Texas (UT) sites: the UT School of Public Health in Austin, UT Austin and UT MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, each of which hosts one of 3 funded research projects. Additionally, Projects 1 and 2 include faculty from the Rutgers School of Public Health.

Our vision is to eliminate the use of nicotine and tobacco products by young people to maximize public health.

Our mission is to provide professional training and scientific research on youth and young adult use of nicotine & tobacco products, and marketing methods targeted to this population, in order to inform and support effective, evidence-based regulation of nicotine & tobacco products.

Project Components

3 Projects

- The Texas Adolescent Tobacco and Marketing Surveillance System (TATAMS) – Melissa Harrell (UT School of Public Health), Principal Investigator
- Tobacco Marketing and Alternative Tobacco Use among College Students (Project M-PACT) – Alexandra Loukas (UT Austin), Principal Investigator
- Informing and Correcting Perceptions regarding Tobacco Products among Young Adults (Project Debunk) – Alexander Prokhorov (MD Anderson Cancer Center), Principal Investigator

4 Cores

- **Administrative & Scientific Core** – Cheryl Perry & Melissa Harrell, Director and Associate Director
- **Development & Pilot Core** – Anna Wilkinson, Director
- **Statistical & Marketing Core** – Adriana Pérez & Keryn Pasch, Director and Associate Director
- **Training & Education Core** – Steve Kelder & Shelton Brown, Director and Associate Director

Project Team

Cheryl Perry, PhD – Director, Principal Investigator

Melissa Harrell, PhD, MPH – Associate Director, Principal Investigator of Project 1-TATAMS

MeLisa Creamer, PhD – Coordinator, Co-Investigator

Anna Wilkinson, PhD – Co-Investigator, Development, Pilot Core Director

Adriana Pérez, PhD – Co-Investigator, Statistical and Marketing Data Core Director

Steve Kelder, PhD, MPH – Co-Investigator, Training and Education Core Director

Henry (Shelton) Brown, III, PhD – Co-Investigator, Training and Education Core Associate Director

Joanne Delk, MS – Research Coordinator, Project 1-TATAMS

Kacey Hanson, MPH – Research Coordinator, Training and Education Core and Development and Pilot Core

Funding Sources

National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health

FDA Center for Tobacco Products

Texas TCORS is one of 14 funded Tobacco Centers of Regulatory Science.

Partners

MD Anderson Cancer Center

UT Austin

Rutgers University

Timeline

2013-2018



Texas Mother-Friendly Worksite – Technical Assistance and Support Program

The purpose of TMFW-TASP is to provide assistance, education, research, and outreach as it relates to the Texas Mother-Friendly Worksite Program (TMFW). Specifically, our staff reviews worksite lactation support policies and facilitates designation of worksites according to TMFW guidelines. This is a program of the Texas Department of State Health Services, and we assist by providing worksites with resources and tools to create a comprehensive lactation support program for their breastfeeding employees and also conduct outreach through state-wide educational forums, HR conference exhibiting, and other events as well as conducting research and evaluation around lactation support services.



Project Team

*Courtney Byrd Williams, PhD –
Principal Investigator*

Alma Carver, MS – Co-Project Director

Megan Grayless – Co-Project Director

Kelsey Herron, MPH – Research Staff

Cristell Perez, MPH – Research Staff

Josh Klaus, MPH – Outreach Coordinator

*Claire Adkins, Hannah Foster, Krystin Matthews,
MPH, Amanda Reat, MS, Riley Stoltenburg –
Graduate Research Assistants*

Funding Source

Title V Maternal and Child Health, Division
for Family and Community Health Services,
Texas Department of State Health Services

Timeline

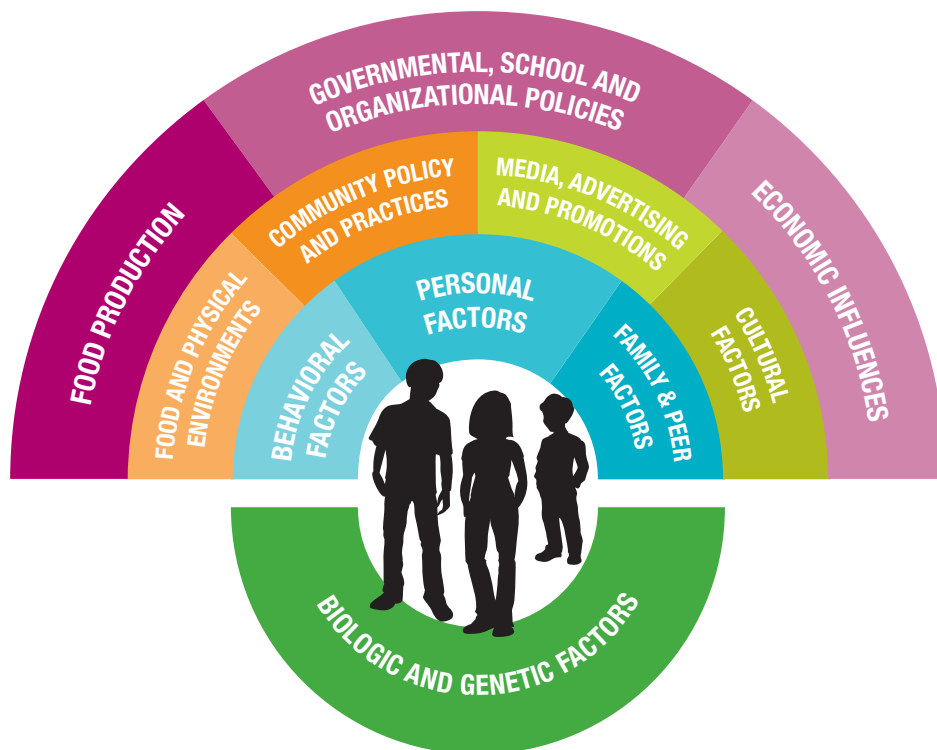
2015 – 2019

Childhood Obesity Framework

The Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living has developed a framework to characterize and organize their model of research on childhood obesity. Guided by existing public health models, this framework provides a visual organization of the factors that influence child health.

Excerpted from Perry, et al.

“At the center of the framework are the children, adolescents, and specific behaviors that are the foci of our work. The circle most proximal to the children consists of factors most closely related to the behavior of children, including factors that are non-modifiable such as genetic or biological factors, as well as those that can be changed such as personal (cognitive) factors, behavioral factors such as skills and intentions, and family/peer modeling and communications. The second layer in the semi-circle includes those factors that are influential at the school or community levels, such as the food and physical activity environments, community policies and practices, media and marketing, and other cultural influences. The most distal layer includes factors related to children’s behaviors and health at a wider population level, such as statewide or national, including methods of food production, governmental and educational policies, and economic influences. Each of these levels and types of influence are relevant to the problem of childhood obesity.”



MICHAEL & SUSAN DELL
CENTER *for* HEALTHY LIVING





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