The 87th Legislative Session, Interim Opportunities and Updates on the Fight Against Obesity

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Joel Romo
Chair of Legislative Committee
VP Governmental Affairs, The Cooper Institute
President, Texana Public Affairs
Mission:
To develop and promote state policies that prevent and reduce obesity

Find what works for Texans
Set priorities for the Legislature
Follow through and track success
Our History:

• The Partnership began in 2006 when key health-related organizations banded together to address the ever growing problem of obesity in Texas Communities.
• The Partnership brought together research experts to develop a statewide policy document, the Texas Obesity Policy Portfolio, which identified evidence-based policy initiatives that have proven to have a positive impact on fighting obesity.
• During the Partnership’s first session educating lawmakers, 5 of 6 legislative priorities were passed.
• The Partnership is now the most recognized and valued advocacy voice in the fight to end obesity in Texas.
Historical Accomplishments:

- Passed legislation to require minimum minutes of physical activity in schools and established Fitnessgram.
- Consistently defeated legislation to eliminate Fitnessgram and coordinated school health.
- Worked with the Texas Department of Agriculture to put nutrition policy in rule.
- Strengthened School Advisory Councils by expanding their scope to all components of coordinated school health and adding accountability.
- Supported passage of funding for evidence-based obesity prevention initiatives at the Dept. of State Health Services.
Steering Committee Organizational Members
The State of Obesity in Texas Report
Policy Priority Development Process

• Full Coalition Meeting and membership survey to discuss issues related to obesity and healthy living.
• Data from our research partners to contextualize recommended policy solutions.
• Steering Committee weighs political feasibility of policy proposals given power dynamics of the state legislature.
87th Texas Legislative Session Recap

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Context of the 87th Session

• Started amid the COVID-19 pandemic that limited access to the capitol and created uncertainty around the budget.
• One month into session, Texas was hit with Winter Storm Uri, stalling work.
• New leadership: Speaker of the House, House Appropriations Chair, House Public Health Chair, and House Public Education Chair.
• 1,074 of 6,927 filed bills or 15.5 percent finally passed. In 2019, 19.5 percent of bills passed.
Partnership Priorities for the 87th

- Recess Policies for Schools
- Increase Quality Physical and Health Education
- Fully fund the Surplus Agricultural Products Grant Program
- Encourage initiatives to address Social Determinants of Health
- Improve SNAP access for seniors
- Promote and protect the Texas Whole Child School Health Policy Approach
- Protect Health Education
- Protect Chronic Disease Prevention funding at DSHS
Recess Policies for Schools + Quality Physical Education

Objective:
• Require school districts to create or institute recess policies that reflect best practice and consider recommendations from SHACs.
• Increase middle school physical education (PE) requirements to include vigorous activity for 6 semesters, high school PE requirements to 3 semesters, and 1 semester of health education.

Outcome:
• HB 1594 (Allen) and HB 2887 (Talarico) & HB 3058 (Guerra) were filed.
• Neither priorities were given a hearing in the House Public Education Committee.
Surplus Agricultural Products Grant

**Objective:** Fully fund the Surplus Agricultural Products Grant to ensure food banks have produce to keep Texans from going hungry.

**Outcome:**
- Prior to session, the Texas Department of Agriculture proposed a $1.98 million cut to the program for FY20-21.
- In HB 2, the $1.98 million cut was fully restored for FY20-21.
- SB 1 fully funded the Surplus Agricultural Products Grant at $10.2M for FY22-23.
Objective: Encourage Medicaid Managed Care Organizations to implement initiatives to address social determinants of Health.

Outcome:
• SB 191 (Johnson) – Incorporated SDoH in the Medicaid Managed Care Program.
  • Never receive a hearing in Senate Health & Human Services.
• Rider in SB 1 was moved to Article XI and was not adopted.
• HB 4365 (Oliverson) – Created a pilot project to improve outcomes and reduce costs in Medicaid by providing enhanced case management and services including SDoH.
  • Left pending in House Human Services Committee.
• HB 4139 (Coleman) – Created an Office of Health Equity within HHSC.
  • Passed the House, failed to be referred in the Senate.
SNAP Access for Seniors

Objective: Increase access to SNAP benefits for seniors by streamlining the application process and implementing data matching with Medicaid.

Outcome:
- SB 224 (Perry/Walle) – Simplified the SNAP certification and recertification process for seniors and implemented data matching with Medicaid.
- SB 224 passed the Senate House and Human Services Committee and the full Senate unanimously.
- Passed the House 117-28
- Signed by the Governor on June 16th.
- Effective September 1st, 2021.
Whole Child School Health Policy

**Objective:** Promote and protect the efficacy of the Texas Whole Child School Health Policy Approach, School Health Advisory Councils, and the Fitnessgram tool for tracking child health and fitness.

**Outcome:**
- Funding for physical fitness assessments was maintained in the Texas Education Agency appropriation at $1.9 million in SB 1.
- SB 347 (Paxton) and HB 3089 (Hull) – Included SHACs as government bodies subject to open records laws.
- Neither bill passed the House.
- SB 442 (Hughes) – Sought to increase SHAC transparency.
- Partnership worked with office to remove provision relating to open meetings, but still included language requiring recording of meetings.
- After it stalled, the language was added to HB 1525 and passed.

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**Whole Child School Health Policy**

Promote the efficacy of the Texas Whole Child School Health Policy approach, School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs), and physical fitness assessments which play a critical part of youth fitness and the physical education curriculum.

**Issue:** COVID-19 is undoing the work the Legislature has supported for healthy kids over the past 20 years. Students attending school virtually has meant less physical activity, more screen time, and increased poor eating habits, according to research from the UT Health School of Public Health. Teachers are reporting students visibly gaining weight and having issues staying focused virtually. Steps previous Legislatures have taken to help ensure children are healthy and ready to learn must be maintained.

**Background:** The Texas Legislature requires each school district’s board to appoint a group called the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) to help districts incorporate parent and community input by researching, reviewing, and making recommendations on health topics impacting the district. SHAC’s provide a structured format for parent input while leaving local control and ultimate decision-making authority with the school district. We must keep these important advisory groups and ensure districts are able to better support their work. Research shows that fit students perform better inside and outside of the classroom. Developed by the Cooper Institute in Dallas, the FitnessGram assessment plays a critical part of the youth fitness and physical education process by providing a feedback system for students, teachers, and parents. Using this tool, schools report anonymized aggregated results to TEA annually. In many cases, the FitnessGram report may be the only health measure some families have. Fitness assessment data helps inform SHAC’s drive decisions for curriculum programming, and assists families in making healthy behavior modifications.

**Recommendation:** The recommended approach for SHACs is to have their work based on the CDC’s Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Model program which encompasses an expanded version of the eight components of a Coordinated School Health Program required for grades K-12 in Texas. We recommend the following:
1. Continue to use the Coordinated School Health Whole Child model for grades K-8
2. Preserve Fitnessgram as the tool for tracking child health through our schools.
3. Keep SHACs to maintain local control, advising on all health issues and serving as a resource to districts.

We are not asking for an expansion of these policies during this volatile time, but merely to maintain what we have and ensure these policies are in place and implemented when students return to campus. This will give them the best chance of regaining lost ground related to their health and ensure they are healthy, active, and ready to learn.
Protect Health Education

Objective: Protect and enhance current requirements around physical education and health education.

Outcome:
• There were no attempts to rollback requirements related to physical or health education.
• Legislation to expand requirements, HB 2887 (Talarico) and HB 3058 (Guerra) were never heard in committee.
Objective: Protect vital public health funding at the Department of State Health Services, including funding for health promotion and chronic disease prevention.

Outcome:
- The Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion programs were fully funded at $14 million for each fiscal year in FY22-23 in SB 1.
Coalition Successes

• SB 224 (Perry) went into effect September 1, 2021.
• Surplus Agricultural Products Grant was fully funded.
• Protected funding for Fitnessgram assessments and Chronic Disease Prevention.
• Protected the integrity of the School Health Advisory Councils.
• Continued to educate lawmakers on key chronic disease issues and elevated the issue of obesity so we are prepared for future success.

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Looking Ahead:
Interim Work & Future Activities
Interim Opportunities

• Submit interim study proposals to legislators to help inform the work of the 88th Legislative Session.
• Continue to educate policymakers and stakeholders about the issues around obesity during interim hearings.
• Cultivate legislative champions.
Interim Study Proposals

House Human Services & Senate Health and Human Services:

• Identify opportunities for Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, health care providers, and communities to partner to implement non-medical initiatives that address social determinants of health to help patients be healthier and more productive at home, work, and school, while also containing Medicaid costs.

The rising expense of obesity in Texas, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, is unsustainable — we cannot afford inaction. The Partnership for a Healthy Texas develops and promotes policies, and supports evidence-based programs, that prevent and address obesity and improve the health of Texas communities.

The prevalence of obesity in Texas was high before the COVID-19 pandemic and at over 34.8 percent in 2018 and the pandemic created an opportunity for increases due to changes in physical activity and increased food insecurity. At the same time, the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted both the importance of a strong public health infrastructure and the heightened vulnerability of those living with obesity. As children return to school and families return to work, the Partnership for a Healthy Texas believes there is an opportunity to address the obesity crisis in our state.

Obesity is chronic disease that is associated with increased disability, related chronic diseases, and death and has substantial economic and social costs. Cost-effective solutions that address access to healthy and affordable food, opportunities for physical activity, and treatment of this disease are needed now more than ever. To improve the health of our state, now is the time to connect Texans with policies that lead to such solutions in their schools and communities.

Texas legislators can lead the nation in passing policies aimed at supporting a healthy environment and ensuring access to evidence-based treatment solutions for Texans. The Partnership believes the Texas legislature should continue to strive to ensure the viability of Texas’ future workforce and create a healthy environment for “Texans.

**House Human Services and Senate Health and Human Services Committees:**

- Identify opportunities for Medicaid managed care organizations, health care providers, and communities to partner to develop and implement non-medical initiatives that address social determinants of health (SDOH) to help patients be healthier and more productive at home, school, and work, while also containing Medicaid costs.

**Rationale:** Social determinants of health (SDOH) such as access to nutritious food, transportation, and adequate housing have a direct impact on health outcomes. Research shows up to 80 percent of a person’s overall health is driven by social and environmental factors. Providers and managed care organizations (MCOs) addressing these SDOH are essential to improve overall health care outcomes and reduce costs. There are more than 4 million Texans who receive health care through the Medicaid program, almost all of whom are enrolled in a managed care organization. For Texas to make significant strides toward improving health care...
Interim Study Proposals

House Public Education and Senate Education:

• Study and assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on physical activity, physical education, dietary intake, and obesity for Texas children. Examine how school meals, physical education classes, and other opportunities for physical activity were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
House Insurance and Senate Health & Human Services:

• Identify and study the availability of obesity treatment, management, and care options not yet covered by Medicaid or the state-employee health insurance plans with a cost-neutral or cost-positive framework for the state.
Interim Hearings Have Begun

- On October 4th, we provided testimony to the House Public Health Committee during their interim hearing on access to health care in communities near the Texas-Mexico border.
- Our testimony highlighted the high burden of obesity near the border, and potential solutions to help address and prevent obesity in the region.
Continue to Cultivate Legislative Champions

Senator
Charles Perry

Representative
Armando Walle

2021 Partnership for a Healthy Texas Legislative Champions
Begin forming policy priorities for the 88th legislative session

- 88th Regular Session Convenes January 10, 2023
- Legislative Pre-filing begins Monday, Nov. 14
- Interim Hearings will begin in early 2022
Begin forming policy priorities for the 88th legislative session

Get involved by signing up for coalition emails at www.PartnershipforaHealthyTexas.org.

Apply on behalf of your organization to be on the PFHT Steering Committee.

PFHT will begin the process of crafting our policies for the 2023 session at our Full Membership meeting next June.
Tools for Translating Research to Policy and Practice: Texas RPC and the Texas Legislation Bill Tracker

November 4, 2021

Deanna M. Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA
Principal Investigator
Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration

• **Improve the health of Texans through policymaking**
  - Assist legislators and provide better use of Texas research, data, and resources

• **Engage state and local stakeholders in capacity building**
  - Link policymakers to non-partisan network of health researchers for the 2021 Texas Legislative Session

• **Respond to State Legislative Requests**
  - Facilitate researcher-policymaker connections and support requests for information to inform policy
TX RPC Project Timeline

Dec 2019 – June 2020
- Recruitment
- Policy identification needs assessment (Jan-Feb 2020 & May-June 2020)
- Baseline Interview
- Training for researchers

May 2020 – Sept 2020
- Legislator/Researcher Collaborative Meetings
- COVID-19 newsletter launched

Aug 2020 – End of 2021 Session
- COVID-19 newsletter
- Legislator/Researcher Ongoing Collaboration Meetings
- Researcher Refresher Webinars (Sept 29 & Oct 6)
- Recruitment of New Legislators and Interviews (Jan – March 2021)
- End of Session Briefing (July 2021)

Aug 2021 - Dec 2021
- Post-Evaluation Survey
- Preparing for 2023 Legislative Session
- Presentations/Publications
TX RPC Legislators (N=21)

* 18/19 won re-election in 2020
** Legislative directors, chiefs of staff, legislative assistants/aids, policy analysts, education specialist, and district director
Legislator Baseline Survey

Key Findings

• Relative high use of research in past legislative session
  – Especially for development of policy
• Perceive research to be valuable for use in their work
• Few interactions with researchers
  – Especially to identify research direction or priorities
• Often obtained policy-related information from:
  – People involved with the policy or program
  – Non-profit organizations or foundations
• Fewer offices reported obtaining information from researchers or conferences
Distribution of Researchers in Texas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Texas Region</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>33 (40.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>11 (13.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>35 (42.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>3 (3.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TX RPC Researchers Training (n=59/62)

In-person responses indicate some researchers who attended partially in-person and partially web-based.

Web-based responses indicate researchers who only attended training online.

Training Type

- In-Person*: 78
- Web-Based**: 22

In the past 2 years, how often have you interacted with policymakers and their staff?

- All the Time: 25.4
- Never: 13.6
- Occasionally: 25.4
- Often: 18.6
- Rarely: 17
Responding to Legislative Requests & Policy Priorities

• **June 2020 – September 2021:** Development and dissemination of health policy resources to state legislators and their staff
  – Developed by TX RPC staff in collaboration with network researchers

Series of health policy reports developed based on legislative requests and policy priorities

Resources posted on TX RPC webpage and distributed by email and newsletter
Health Policy Resources

28 health policy resources developed and disseminated via website, email, and e-newsletter

– Public Health Experts are Needed in Policy Work Groups, Task Forces, and Advisory Committees
– Public Health Outcomes of Healthcare Access
– SNAP (2) – work requirements and vehicle value limits
– COVID-19 (12)
  • Protecting our Children; Myth vs. Fact; Considerations for Reopening K-12 Schools; Impact of Working from Home on Mental Health; Impact of Pre-Existing Health Conditions (adult and child); Impact of Obesity on Health Outcomes (adult and child); Impact on Food Insecurity; Comparing Vaccines; Frontline Workers; Comparison of Cases and Deaths in Nursing Homes and Long-term Care Facilities
– State- and Legislative-District Level Data (4)
  • Frontline Workers; Comparison of Cases and Deaths in Nursing Homes and Long-term Care Facilities; SNAP Utilization and Eligibility; Food Access
– Texas School Physical Activity and Nutrition Project (Texas SPAN) (10)
  • Texas Child Health Status Reports
A RESOURCE FOR IMPROVING MEASURABLE IMPACT

S E P T E M B E R 7 , 2 0 2 1

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM COVID-19: How Texans can help

As the news cycle continues to focus on the imminent spread of COVID-19, it is important to remember that our children are at risk. Education and awareness on COVID-19 prevention are crucial to protecting our children's health.

Why should adults and children wear a mask?

- To protect patients with underlying medical conditions—our pre-existing conditions include chronic kidney disease, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and asthma—these individuals who contract COVID-19 have a higher risk for severe illness, including hospitalization, admission to intensive care units (ICU), and death. COVID-19 hospitalizations were up to 13% higher and deaths 12% higher among patients with pre-existing conditions compared to patients with no reported pre-existing conditions between January and May of 2021.

Pre-existing Conditions and COVID-19 Outcomes in Adult Populations:

- Different pre-existing conditions pose different risks for individuals who contract COVID-19. Based on strong evidence from multiple studies, the list of pre-existing conditions that put individuals at increased risk for severe illness includes: serious heart conditions (heart failure, coronary artery disease), chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), obesity, sickle cell disease, solid organ transplantation, and type 2 diabetes. COVID-19 hospitalizations, three most common underlying conditions are hypertension (57%), obesity (37%), and metabolic disease (30%).

- Between January 22 and March 30, 2021, the highest rates of COVID-19-related ICU admissions were among adults with underlying conditions aged 65 years and older (54% and 70-79 years (10)).

Figure 1. Reported Underlying Health Conditions among COVID-19 Hospitalizations in Adults'

Key Findings:

- Studies have found adults with underlying medical conditions pre-existing conditions such as chronic kidney disease, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and asthma—who contract COVID-19 have a higher risk for severe illness, including hospitalization, admission to intensive care units (ICU), and death. COVID-19 hospitalizations were up to 13% higher and deaths 12% higher among patients with pre-existing conditions compared to patients with no reported pre-existing conditions between January and May of 2021.

The only way to stop the spread of COVID-19 is:

- Get vaccinated
- Wear a mask
- Social distance

Since May 13, 2021, children 12 years old and older have been eligible to receive the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine in Texas. (4)

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective and has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of hospitalization and severe outcomes associated with COVID-19.

- As of September 1, 2021, only 61.3% of people 12 years or older in the U.S. and fully vaccinated, and rates of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths remain high. (5)
- COVID-19 hospitalizations are 5% lower in states with high vaccination rates.
- Children need to be immune by vaccination or natural infection. (8)
- We need vaccines to protect ourselves and reduce infection with viruses that can spread much more easily.
TX RPC Project Achievements:
87th Texas Legislative Session

1. **RAPID RESPONSE**
   TX RPC researchers and staff responded to **91 rapid response requests** from legislators over a 14-month period.

2. **BILLS FILED**
   TX RPC LEGISLATORS FILED 19 BILLS IMPACTING CHILD HEALTH
   8 of the bills passed at least one chamber of the Texas Legislature, and **3 passed into law**.

3. TX RPC researchers provided **testimony on 3 bills** and held **31 collaboration meetings** with legislators.
Evidence-Based Tools and Resources
Translated public health research into policy and practice using state-level data

• Brief, concise reports
• Collaboration
• Useful to public health advocates and legislators
TX Child Health Status Reports

10 Reports Released

- Obesity
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Screen Time
- Sleep Quality
- Sugar-Sweetened Beverage
- Teen Vaping
- Vaping Advertisements and Teens
- Vaping with Flavors
- Eating Away From Home
COVID-19 Communications
Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living

COVID-19 Webinars:
• Hosted and disseminated 23 COVID-19 specific webinars, 4/02/2020 - 10/21/2021
  – 14,938 total webinar registrants, 9,004 total webinar attendees
  – 5,749 total webinar recording YouTube views

TX RPC Project COVID-19 Newsletters:
• 20 Newsletters featuring COVID-19 news and resources, 4/27/2020 - 10/25/2021
  – Distributed to 397 Texas Legislators, 91 TX RPC Research Network Members, 23 advisory committee
• 24% email open rate (industry average is 17%)
Texas Legislative Session
Bill Tracker
### Texas Legislative Session Bill Tracker

Identify selected health policy legislative actions through an accessible organized tool for researchers and policymakers in real time

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#### Food Access and Insecurity

Bills that are relevant to food policy, hunger, food access, and food insecurity research taking place at the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living can be viewed here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill #</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCR 54</td>
<td>State Rep. Thresa Metaa</td>
<td>PASSED - Signed by the Governor - 6/18/21</td>
<td>Approving the SNAP settlement agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 209</td>
<td>State Rep. Shawn Nicole Thierry</td>
<td>Left pending in committee - 3/22/21</td>
<td>A taxable entity qualifies for credit under certain certain conditions. This taxable entity must open a grocery store or healthy corner store in a low income area or a food desert, it needs to accept WIC, and it needs to be open year round. Companion Bill: SB 358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 319</td>
<td>State Rep. Drew Springer</td>
<td>Referred to Public Education - 2/25/21</td>
<td>The commission, in conjunction with the Texas Workforce Commission, will ensure that a person who is at least 18 but younger than 50 who has SNAP benefits, who has no dependents, and who does not have a disability receives supplemental nutrition assistance program employment and training services unless the person is eligible for an individual waiver under the program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Timeline for Bill Tracker during the 2021 TX Legislative Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 9, 2020</td>
<td>Legislative Bill Pre-Filling Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 12, 2021</td>
<td>87th Texas Legislative Session Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2020</td>
<td>Deadline for unrestricted filing of bills and joint resolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 31, 2021</td>
<td>End of 87th Texas Legislative Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-October 2021</td>
<td>Potential Interim Sessions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ongoing Tracking of Bill Outcomes
Bill Tracking Process

– Tracked more than 350 bills this year, more than half of which addressed access to health care
  • First legislative session where health care access bills were included in bill tracker
– Reviewed newly filed bills each week
– Determined by consensus which bills to track
– Summarized tracked bills in plain language for Center’s website
– Followed bills throughout legislative session

Outcome

– 29 of the 352 tracked bills were passed into law this session
5 Texas Legislative Sessions tracked:

53 bills tracked in 2013 → 352 bills tracked in 2021

9 Bill Topics Tracked in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>#</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active transportation/built environment</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early childcare education</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food access and insecurity</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal and child health</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral health</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School and after-school care</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco and e-cigarettes</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care access</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparison Bill Topics: Food policy, School health, Obesity, Tobacco

- 2015: built environment included in obesity
- 2017: child care, afterschool health included in school health
- 2017: breastfeeding, built environment included in obesity
Conclusions
Texas legislators and their staff were interested in COVID-19-related and evidence-based resources that incorporate data at the state- and legislative district-level.

✓ Responding to Texas legislators’ policy interests through development and dissemination of health-related resources showed initial uptake and use.
✓ This may enhance the timeliness and usefulness of Texas data in policy decision-making.
**Summary**

**Initial Outcomes:**
- State legislators need local data and resources to create evidence-based policies
- The TX Legislative Session Bill Tracker and TX Child Health Status Reports serve as tools to promote evidence-based policies
  - Effective model to provide accessible child health research for policymakers in Texas
  - Collaboration is key factor to the success in developing these tools
- Public health advocates need to track legislative policies, especially during a short legislative session

**Recommendations:**
- Translate key research findings into usable, easy-to-read, digestible formats
- Tools such as the TX Legislative Session Bill Tracker and TX Child Health Status Report should be resources created for policymakers
  - Allow for quick evidence-based decisions to advance and impact child health policy
  - Public health advocates can use tools to support evidence-based policies
Research Team

Deanna M. Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LN, CNS, FISBNPA, Principal Investigator
Alexandra van den Berg, PhD, MPH, Co-Investigator
Tiffni Menendez, MPH, Project Director
Kathleen Manuel, MPH, Research Associate
Kate Faris, Communication Specialist
Amelia Roebuck, MPH, Dell Health Scholar
Shelby Flores-Thorpe, MEd, Dell Health Scholar
Margaret (Marnie) Moore, JD, LLM, MPH
Melissa Campos-Hernandez, MPH, Research Coordinator II
Amelia McCellan, Research Associate
Callie Evarts, Graduate Research Assistant
Emily Levin, Graduate Data Collector

Advisory Committee: 18 state and community partner organizations
Funding Agency: Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
Resources

Texas Legislative Bill Tracker [go.uth.edu/LegTracker](go.uth.edu/LegTracker)

Texas Child Health Status Report [go.uth.edu/TexasChildHealth](go.uth.edu/TexasChildHealth)

Texas SPAN Interactive Data Explorer [span-interactive.sph.uth.edu](span-interactive.sph.uth.edu)

Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project [go.uth.edu/TexasRPC](go.uth.edu/TexasRPC)

TX RPC Resources [go.uth.edu/RPCresources](go.uth.edu/RPCresources)

TX RPC Newsletter Archive [go.uth.edu/RPCnewsletter](go.uth.edu/RPCnewsletter)
Thank You!