The nationally recognized and award-winning University of Texas Prevention Research Center (UTPRC) was founded in 1986 as one of the first three of the 37 centers in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Prevention Research Center Program. It is part of The University of Texas School of Public Health in the UT Health Science Center system, located in the Texas Medical Center in Houston, and also includes researchers in Dallas, Brownsville, El Paso, Austin, and San Antonio. The UTPRC unites accomplished researchers and dedicated community leaders in a common goal: improving the health of children and adolescents in Texas. Currently, the work of the UTPRC is focused on developing and disseminating effective evidence-based programs to impact adolescent sexual health. The UTPRC also conducts innovative research programs and prevention strategies in a range of other health areas, such as chronic disease management and cancer prevention and control.

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<th>Program</th>
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| **Nationally recognized middle school sex education program that impacts abstinence** | • 30,000 youth in Texas per year  
• 7 other states | • Effective in delaying sexual initiation  
• Could decrease 54,000 teen births annually in Texas, which cost $1.2 billion per year |
| **Coordinated Approach to Child and Adolescent Health**  
**Internationally recognized obesity prevention program for children and adolescents** | • 800,000 Texas youth per year  
• 22 states  
• 320 Dept. of Defense Schools | • Effective in decreasing fat consumption, overweight and obesity; increasing physical activity  
• Could decrease the burden of childhood obesity affecting 1 in 3 Texas children, which costs Texas over $1.37 billion per year |
| **Nationally recognized smoking prevention program for high school students** | • Over 10,000 youth to-date  
• 21 states | • Effective in preventing initiation of tobacco use  
• Cost savings of over $13,300 per life year saved  
• Could decrease the estimated 503,000 premature deaths of Texas youth currently under age 18 as a result of smoking |
| **Interactive program to decrease smoking intentions of middle school students** | • 2,227 Texas youth to-date | • Decreased intentions of students to use tobacco and pro-smoking attitudes and increased confidence in ability to refuse cigarettes |
| **A school-based education program designed to prevent HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy among high school students.** | • 48 states  
• 14 countries | • Effective in increasing condom and contraceptive use  
• Every $1 spent on the program saves $2.65 in teen pregnancy and STI related medical and social costs |
The Ask:

Restore funding to maintain infrastructure of the national CDC Prevention Research Center (PRC) program, consisting of 37 independent PRCs across the United States. In Texas alone, these cuts in funding will threaten the existence of two PRCs, resulting in severe economic and public health repercussions.

Talking Points:

- 1 in 3 Texas youth are overweight or obese.
- 1 in 5 high school students in Texas are current smokers.
- Texas has the third highest teen birth rate in the nation.

The University of Texas Prevention Research Center (UTPRC) has developed innovative programs that impact childhood obesity, smoking and teen pregnancy in Texas.

Existing federal, state, and local health departments do not have the resources, time, and staff to adequately carry out the prevention efforts that the UTPRC already provides.

The UTPRC provides training and technical assistance for healthcare professionals, educators, community partners, students and parents, thus ensuring that communities have current data and best practices for improving child and adolescent health.

Eliminating the UTPRC while funding new initiatives that have not been proven to work threatens to reverse the strides that have been made to improve child and adolescent health in Texas.

Cutting funding to successful prevention research centers like the UTPRC will cost taxpayers more money in the long run. The UTPRC is an investment with excellent returns on improving health, not just for Texas, but for the nation. We strongly urge you to recognize the value of this program and support a federal budget that neither cuts nor eliminates existing national PRC funding.

For more information, please contact:

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National PRC website: www.cdc.gov/prc