

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS & UPDATES

TEXAS RESEARCH-TO-POLICY COLLABORATION



October 2023

TX RPC PROJECT SURVEY

Please take our public health topics survey below!

We want to learn more about the health topics your legislative office is interested in! Please take our brief survey (~1 minute) below. We appreciate your thoughts on how we can best support your office's legislative needs during the interim and 2025 Legislative Session.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

UPCOMING LUNCH & LEARN EVENTS



FOOD PRESCRIPTION PROGRAMS IN TEXAS

Join the TX RPC Project for a presentation on current research and implications of food prescription programs in Texas.

Date: October 25, 2023

Speaker: Shreela Sharma, PhD, RDN, LD - UTHealth Houston School of Public Health

RSVP to Lunch!

Save the Date!



The final Lunch & Learn of the year will be held on
December 7, 2023.

Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

Review all past TX RPC Project Lunch & Learn Events [here](#).

TX RPC PROJECT HEALTH POLICY RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

Produce Prescription (Rx) Programs

Released August 24, 2022

- Produce Prescription Programs allow healthcare providers to write prescriptions for free or subsidized produce for patients experiencing food insecurity or patients with diet-related health conditions.
- Produce prescription programs improve the affordability of fresh fruits and vegetables for families in low-income communities, thereby decreasing food insecurity.
- Produce prescription programs can partner with Texas farmers to promote locally-grown fruits and vegetables to support Texas agriculture.

Grocery Gap

Released June 14, 2023

- The "Grocery Gap" refers to the lack of access to nutritious, affordable, higher-quality foods in many low-income communities due to a lack of grocery stores in the area.
- When kids live in households that do not have adequate access to grocery stores or other food retailers that offer nutritious foods, they are more likely to get sick and miss school, which could lower academic performance and test scores.
- Introducing healthy food retailers into food deserts can help revitalize neighborhoods and their surrounding communities by spurring economic growth and creating jobs.

Access the complete list of downloadable health policy resources [here](#).

TX RPC PROJECT MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Kevin Lanza, PhD

UTHealth Houston School of Public Health in Austin



"This summer's extreme heat could keep impacting Houstonians long into the winter."

Kevin Lanza, PhD, spoke with Houston Landing about his new study that found heat has wide-ranging repercussions on household wellbeing that could last for months to years - even when temperatures drop back down.



"Are heat days the new snow days? Schools are canceling class as temperatures soar."

An intense, late-summer heat wave puts pressure on schools, students, and the education system. Temperatures climbed into the triple digits in parts of the Northeast and Midwest -- record-breaking highs for early September in some places. **Dr. Lanza** spoke to CNN about the need for schools to prepare for extreme weather on both ends of the spectrum.

TX RPC PROJECT WEBINARS AND EVENTS

Center Webinar Highlight

Safe Streets for Everyone? Implications of School and Municipal Policies on Safe Routes to School Implementation and Equity

Sarah S. Bentley, MPH & Leigh Ann Ganzar, DrPH, MPH

Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living - September 14, 2023

- Access to safe and healthy physical activity opportunities for children, including active commuting to school (ACS), is an important public health issue.
- **This webinar** presents data from the Safe TRavel Environment Evaluation in Texas Schools (STREETS) Study, a natural experiment evaluating infrastructure changes to ACS and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) due to new municipal policies in the City of Austin.
- The City's 2016 SRTS mobility bond has funded the allocation, prioritization, and implementation processes necessary to facilitate ACS and SRTS throughout Austin.
- Sarah Bentley, MPH and Dr. Leigh Ann Ganzar also describe the equity implications of municipal policies that create access to safe ACS and the potential for school-based policy interventions to promote physical activity through ACS.

View the complete list of past Center webinar recordings [here](#).

Upcoming Webinars



Community-Engaged Research in Nutrition



Promoting Healthy Choices and Support for Vaping Cessation Among Youth &



2023 Philip R. Nader Legacy of Health Lectureship:

Jayna Markand Dave, PhD
USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition
Research Center
Baylor College of Medicine

Thursday, October 12 12-1pm
[Registration link](#) now open!

Families

Shanaz Ikonne, LPC, NCC,
RPT

Tuesday, October 17 12-1pm
[Registration link coming soon!](#)

Effective State-Level Policies to Strengthen the Early Years

Cynthia Osborne, PhD, MPP,
MA
Peabody College of Education
and Human Development
Vanderbilt University

Thursday, November 2 12-1pm
[Registration link coming soon!](#)

TX RPC RESEARCHER PUBLICATIONS

Featured Publication

[Examining associations between school-level determinants and the implementation of physical activity opportunities](#)

Key Takeaways:

- No evidence of an association between school-level determinants (e.g. culture, leadership, and priority) and the number of physical activity programs implemented was found
- A supportive implementation climate and access to knowledge and information were identified as key drivers of success for school-based physical activity programs

General Publications

[Family-based pediatric weight management interventions in US primary care settings targeting children ages 6–12 years old: A systematic review guided by the RE-AIM framework](#)

[Assessing changes in adolescent girls' and young women's sexual and reproductive health service utilisation following a COVID-19 lockdown in eSwatini](#)

[Comparing weight-related behaviors of young children with autism spectrum disorder during summer versus school months: Preliminary evidence](#)

[Autism Spectrum Disorder and Parental Depression](#)

[Firearm Injury Prevention](#)

[Lifetime Traumatic Brain Injury and Risk of Post-Concussive Symptoms in the Millennium Cohort Study](#)

[The longitudinal association between sexual violence victimization and sexual risk behavior in adolescence](#)

2023 TX RPC LEGISLATIVE BILL TRACKER

The TX RPC Project has updated the legislative bill tracker! Since the 2013 session, the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living has hosted an online legislative bill tracker that identifies proposed bills related to child and adolescent health. The tracker is segmented into general categories such as food access and insecurity, maternal and child health, child behavioral health, healthcare access, school and after-school care, and more.

- **Bills tracked are selected based on the Center's vision/mission on child and adolescent health, research by our TX RPC researchers, and health priorities identified by TX RPC legislators during baseline interviews.**

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](#)
- [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](#)

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.

CONTACT US

For more information, email TXRPCNetwork@uth.tmc.edu.

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Texas Research-to-Policy
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