STOP CUTS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

The Texas Legislature must ensure our state’s public health agencies can fulfill their lifesaving mission of preventing and eliminating disease.

TEXAS’ LOW SPENDING ON PUBLIC HEALTH IS APPARENT IN OUR HEALTH OUTCOMES. Texas spends just $17 per resident on public health – less than half of other southern states like Alabama ($54), Tennessee ($51), and Oklahoma ($44).¹

In some areas, Texas gets high value for a low investment. But to achieve a healthier Texas, we must raise the floor.

WHEN WE FAIL TO INVEST IN PUBLIC HEALTH, TEXANS PAY THE PRICE. Texas can set a new precedent of consistent investment in public health and avoid repeating the harmful cycle of neglect and repair. COVID-19 will not be the last public health emergency we face. As we have seen, many of Texas’ socially and economically diverse communities confront public health disasters with large local resource gaps. All Texans depend on our state’s readiness to tackle the unexpected with every tool necessary.

ANNUAL SPENDING ON PUBLIC HEALTH RANKING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH OUTCOMES</th>
<th>RANKING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>12th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premature death</td>
<td>22nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity (child)</td>
<td>36th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infectious disease incidence</td>
<td>36th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity (adult)</td>
<td>40th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>40th</td>
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</tbody>
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Neglecting public health over time carries a high, avoidable price tag. Many challenges during COVID-19 can be traced back to years of disinvestment in basic functions. Repairing major problems with emergency spending during a crisis hands the taxpayer an even bigger bill later on.


The Texas Public Health Coalition is a coalition of health professional organizations and health-focused organizations dedicated to disease prevention and health promotion.

MEMBERS

Alzheimer’s Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
Children’s Hospital Association of Texas
The Cooper Institute
Harris County Public Health
The Immunization Partnership
It’s Time Texas
March of Dimes
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Texas Academy of Family Physicians
Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Texas Academy of Physician Assistants
Texas Association of City & County Health Officials
Texas Association of Community Health Centers
Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services
Texas eHealth Alliance
Texas Health Institute
Texas Hospital Association
Texas Medical Association
Texas Nurses Association
Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc.
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Texas Pediatric Society
Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
Texas Public Health Association
Texas Renal Coalition
Texas School Nurses Organization
Texas State Alliance of YMCAs
United Ways of Texas

RESOURCES

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS
MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER
MICHAEL AND SUSAN DELL CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING
PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY TEXAS
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES