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.

THE TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION RECOMMENDS:

1. No reductions to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) base budget. Restore the 5% agency-presented reductions.

2. Fully fund the DSHS Exceptional Item Requests
   - Support critical infrastructure needed to maintain infectious disease testing, surveillance, lab capacity, and support to local health departments.
   - Expand rural/frontier public health services in remote areas of the state.
   - Ensure sufficient funds to perform food safety, hemp program, and customer service functions in the DSHS Consumer Protection and Product Safety Division.

   - Assess and improve data registries that collect important information on EMS/Trauma, blood lead, birth defects, and infectious diseases.

**Annual Spending on Public Health**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Outcomes</th>
<th>Smoking</th>
<th>Premature Death</th>
<th>Obesity (child)</th>
<th>Infectious Disease Incidence</th>
<th>Obesity (adult)</th>
<th>Diabetes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ranking</strong></td>
<td>41st</td>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>36th</td>
<td>36th</td>
<td>40th</td>
<td>40th</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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
- 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
- MICHAEL AND SUSAN DELL CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING
- MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER
- Partnership for a Healthy Texas
- TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES