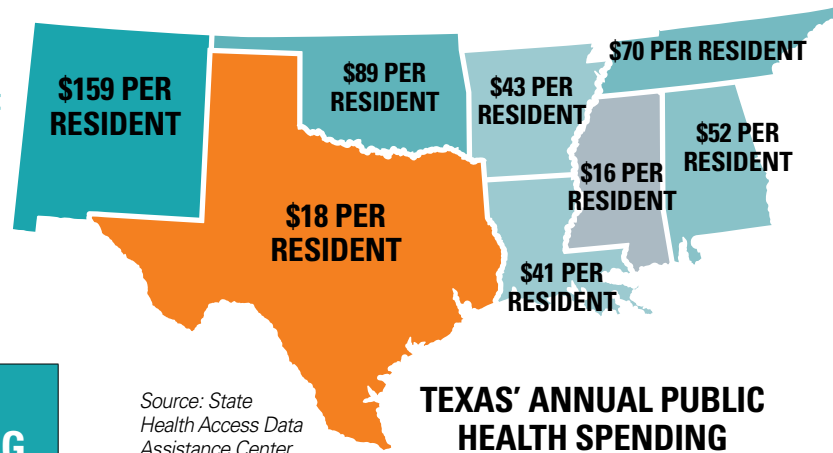




Stop Cuts to Public Health

The Texas Legislature must ensure the state's public health agencies can fulfill their lifesaving mission to prevent and eliminate disease.

Texas' low spending on public health is evident in its health outcomes. Texas spends just \$18 per resident on public health – less than half of what several other southern states spend – and ranks 41st in the nation for spending.¹ Neglecting public health over time carries a high, avoidable price tag.



Source: State Health Access Data Assistance Center

TEXAS' ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH SPENDING FALLS FAR BELOW OTHER SOUTHERN STATES'.

HEALTH BEHAVIORS, OUTCOMES IN TEXAS	STATE RANKING
Suicide	12
Smoking, tobacco use	13
Premature death	21
Mental distress	26
Infectious disease	36
Obesity	39
Diabetes	41

State rankings are based on the percentage of adults with the health outcome or behavior. Source: America's Health Rankings by United Health Foundation (2021, 2019)

When the state fails to invest in public health, Texans pay the price. For instance, years of disinvestment in basic functions amplified many of the challenges during COVID-19. And because of large gaps in local resources, the difficulty of Texas' socially and economically diverse communities to confront public health disasters also became evident.

COVID-19 will not be the state's last public health emergency. Texans depend on the state's readiness to tackle the unexpected with every tool necessary. Texas can set a new precedent of consistent investment in public health to avoid repeating the harmful cycle of neglect and repair.

The Texas Public Health Coalition Recommends:

- Maintain agency operations and infrastructure by fully funding the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) base budget.** The backbone of a strong health care system is a robust public health infrastructure. Given rising costs, appropriate budget adjustments and increases are necessary.
- Fully fund DSHS Exceptional Item Requests to:**
 - + Support businesses and economic needs
 - + Improve public health response with technology tools
 - + Ensure access to frontline public health services
 - + Reduce the impact of preventable disease

¹ State Health Access Data Assistance Center. (2020). Exploring 2021 State Public Health Funding Estimates Using State Health Compare. tma.tips/shadac2021



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

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MEMBERS

Alzheimer's Association	Texas Association of Community Health Centers
American Heart Association	Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services
American Lung Association	Texas Dental Association
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas	Texas eHealth Alliance
Children's Hospital Association of Texas	Texas Health Institute
The Cooper Institute	Texas Hospital Association
Harris County Public Health	Texas Medical Association
The Immunization Partnership	Texas Nurses Association
It's Time Texas	Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc.
March of Dimes	Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Methodist Healthcare Ministries	Texas Pediatric Society
National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First	Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
Texas Academy of Family Physicians	Texas Renal Coalition
Texas Academy of Physician Assistants	Texas School Nurses Organization
Texas Association of City & County Health Officials	Texas Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
	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
TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION