



The University of Texas at Austin
WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD

Child & Family Research Partnership

prenatal-to-3
policy  **IMPACT CENTER**

NATIONAL PRENATAL-TO-3 POLICY IMPACT CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

RESEARCH FOR ACTION AND OUTCOMES

Health, maternal care, family life, economic security, and early care and learning—the first three years shape the future of every child's life. The Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs translates research on the best public investments into state policy actions that produce results for young children and society. Our team of researchers and nonpartisan policy experts works with policymakers, practitioners, and advocates to navigate the evidence of what works, set priorities, act with confidence, and analyze results for continuous improvement. We help connect the complex social, economic, and health needs of families that support effective child development in the earliest years—seeking effective policies for each and looking at how all can work together for the greatest impact.

The University of Texas at Austin established the national Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at the LBJ School of Public Affairs in 2019 with initial support from the Pritzker Children's Initiative, a project of the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation, and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund. Additional investors include Ballmer Group, Esther A. and Joseph Klingenstein Fund, Hemera Foundation, and Valhalla Charitable Foundation. The Policy Impact Center is led by Dr. Cynthia Osborne, Associate Dean and Director of the Child and Family Research Partnership at the LBJ School.

WHY PRENATAL-TO-3?

The period from prenatal development to age three (PN-3) is the most sensitive period for the developing brain and body, and one that lays the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health. Limited exposure to adversity and the presence of safe, stable, loving relationships are the keys to healthy early development. Yet this period is often challenging for parents, and families can benefit from a strong early childhood system of care to help their children thrive.

States are actively working to support early development by implementing policies and programs that enhance maternal and child health, foster parenting skills and family supports, and strengthen early care environments. However, state leaders, advocates, and funders often have little access to researchers who can help define where to start when prioritizing policies that promote strong systems of care. These leaders are seeking evidence from science and evaluation research to guide their policy development so that it is cost-effective, impactful, and reduces disparities in children's health and wellbeing.

"We continually hear from policymakers that they want to know about policies that research indicates are most impactful, cost effective and reduce disparities in children's health and wellbeing. Our early investment in the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center was not only an indicator of how important we believe the work is but also of our high level of confidence in Dr. Osborne and her team's experience and expertise."

-- **Janet Froetscher**, member of Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center National Advisory Council and President of the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation



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THE PRENATAL-TO-3 STATE POLICY ROADMAP

The inaugural *Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap* was released in September 2020, designed to provide clarity for state policy actions and better outcomes in early health, maternal care, family life, economic security, and early care and learning. It goes beyond showing states how their young children and families are currently doing relative to other states and provides a baseline for where states are, guidelines for next steps, and measures state progress toward improving the health and wellbeing of infants, toddlers, and their families through a comprehensive analysis of policy adoption and implementation. The *Roadmap* is developed by the Policy Impact Center's nonpartisan research and policy experts working in collaboration with field-based policymakers, scholars, program evaluators, and advocates. The second annual *Roadmap* will be released in October 2021.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

A National Advisory Council comprised of leaders from the early childhood field guides the development of the annual *Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap* and fosters rich dialog among scholars, practitioners, state leaders, advocates, and funders. The National Advisory Council includes:

- **Christina Altmayer**, Health Management Associates
- **Joia Crear-Perry**, National Birth Equity Collaborative
- **Libby Doggett**, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Early Learning, U.S. Department of Education
- **Greg Duncan**, University of California at Irvine
- **Janet Froetscher**, J.B. & M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation
- **Janis Gonzales**, New Mexico Early Childhood Education & Care Department
- **A.J. Griffin**, former Oklahoma State Senator
- **Thomas Hedrick**, Dillon Joyce Ltd
- **Iheoma Iruka**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Brenda Jones Harden**, University of Maryland
- **Ruth Kagi**, former Washington State Representative
- **John King**, The Education Trust
- **David Lakey**, The University of Texas System
- **Joan Lombardi**, Early Opportunities LLC
- **Michael Lu**, UC Berkeley School of Public Health
- **Tammy Mann**, Campagna Center
- **Ron Mincy**, Columbia University
- **Geoff Nagle**, Tulane University
- **Jessie Rasmussen**, Buffett Early Childhood Fund
- **Jack Shonkoff**, Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University
- **Margaret Spellings**, Texas 2036
- **Jim Spurlino**, Spurlino Materials
- **David Willis**, Center for the Study of Social Policy

The Policy Impact Center also has direct access to the multidisciplinary scholarship and robust resources of Tier One research institution, The University of Texas at Austin, and the 14-institution University of Texas System.

The Policy Impact Center's signature resources are:

- **National Prenatal-to-3 Research to Policy Summit** - An annual national summit for state policymakers, scholars, practitioners, and advocates bringing together those who research early childhood and those who implement prenatal-to-3 policies and programs;
- **Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Clearinghouse** - An ongoing inventory of rigorous evidence reviews of state-level policies and strategies that impact the prenatal to age 3 developmental period;
- **Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap** - An annual policy guide grounded in evidence that provides states actionable solutions to improve outcomes for all young children;
- **Prenatal-to-3 Policy-Research Exchange** - A forum for early childhood stakeholders to exchange ideas and experiences to advance scholarship and evidence-informed policymaking;
- **Building the Evidence-Base for Prenatal-to-3** - A prioritized research agenda, developed in collaboration with scholars and practitioners, to continue to build a strong and equitable prenatal-to-3 system of care.

Learn more and sign-up for email updates at pn3policy.org.