



One More Reason to Shower Love on the Texas Legislature

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The Immunization Partnership

Who are We?

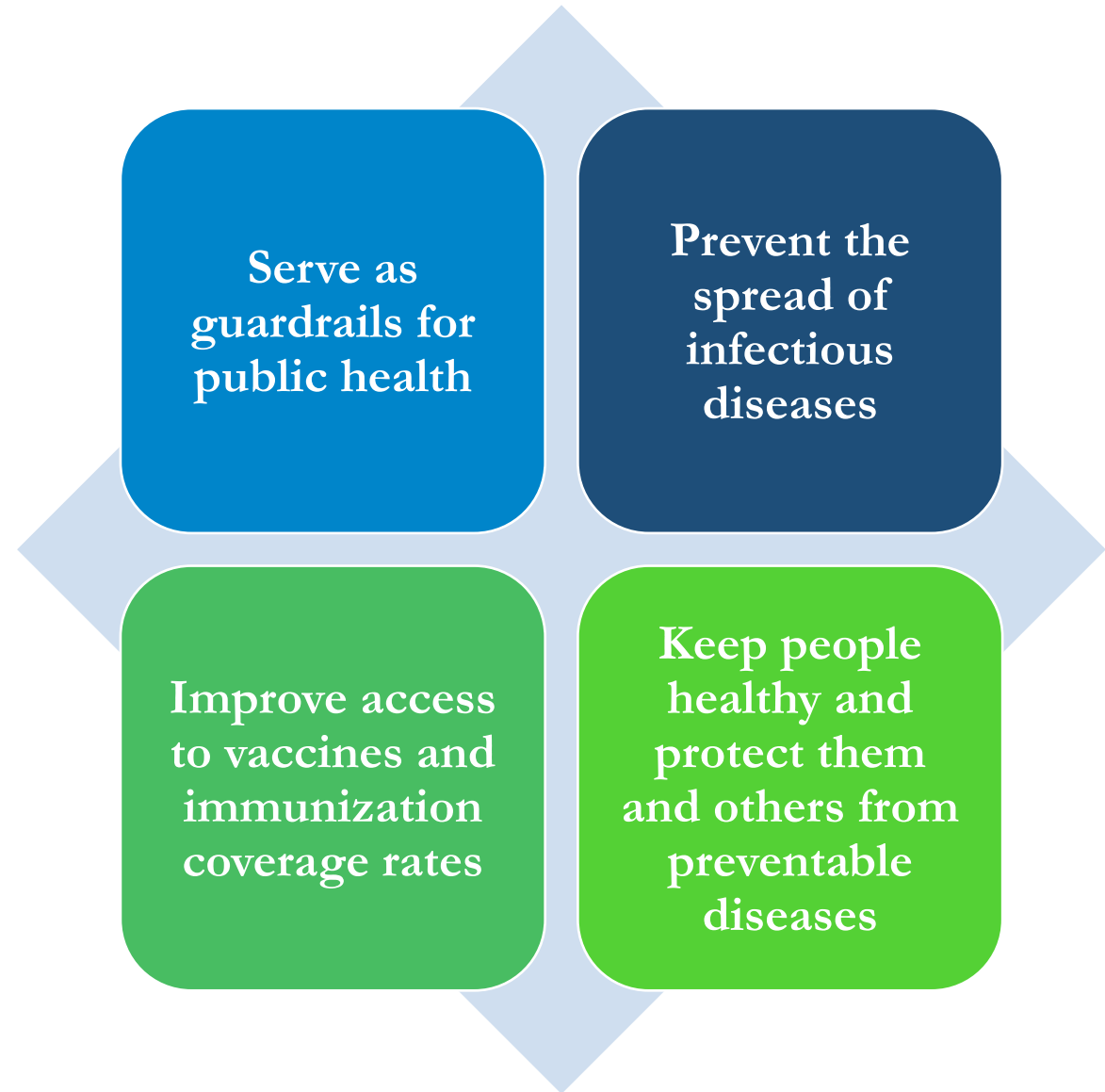
A Voice for Texans who want to prevent
disease

Who We Are

The Immunization Partnership (TIP) advocates diligently for evidenced-based public policy and inspires a network of vaccine champions by educating communities on the health benefits of childhood and adult immunizations.



Why Have Vaccination Policies?



Despite the benefits of
vaccination

Protecting millions of lives and
saving billions of dollars in
healthcare costs

Declared as one of the 10 greatest
public health achievements

Policies are politicized
and a political flashpoint

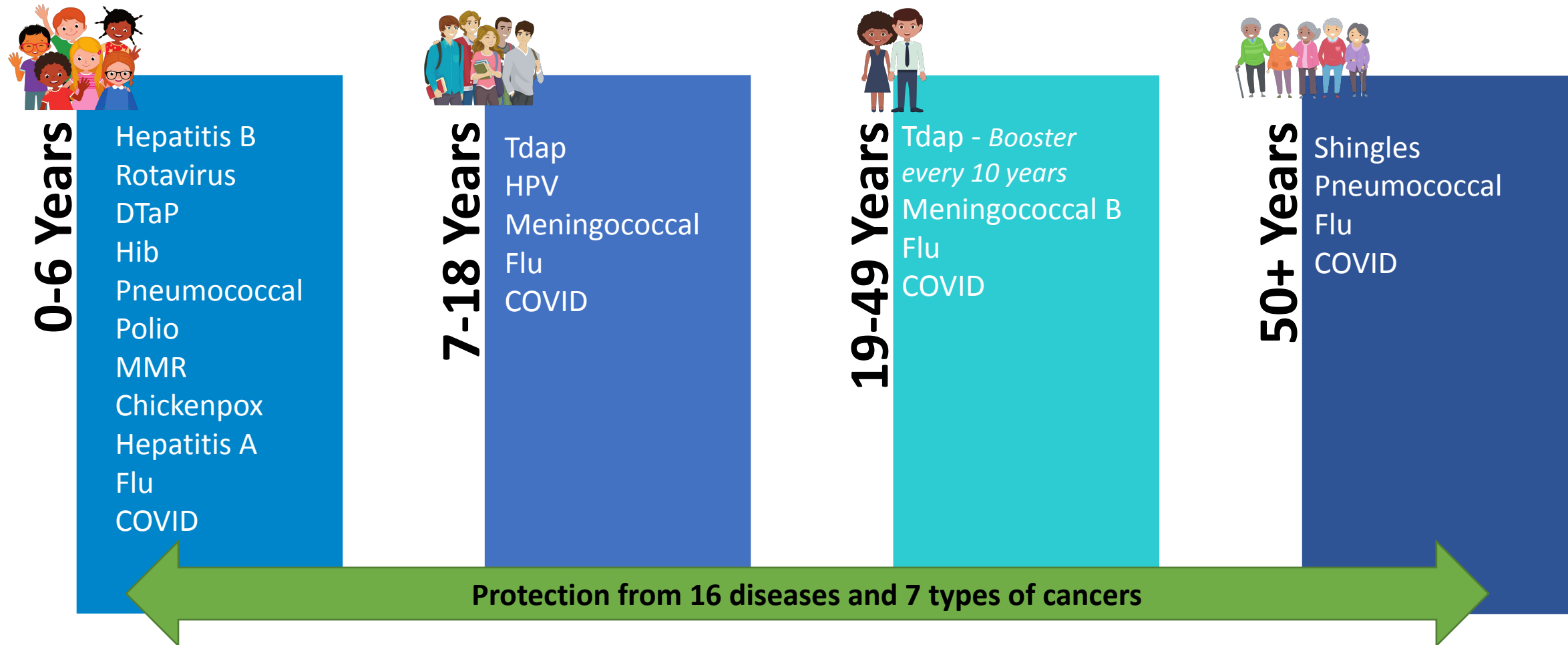
Groups are working to undermine
vaccine laws and policies by
weakening and dismantling the
public health infrastructure





Focus is on
ROUTINE
childhood
immunizations

Vaccines Across the Lifespan



“We will turn into cows!”

The Anti-vaccine movement has been around as long as vaccines have

- Throughout the 19th century, anti-vaccine sentiment made its way to the U.S.
- Smallpox outbreaks spurred vaccination mandates as well as anti-vaccine groups.
- Jacobsen vs. Massachusetts, 1905
 - Ruled the state could mandate vaccination in order to protect the public from communicable disease.



The Cow-Pock — or — the Wonderful Effects of the New Inoculation! — Vide. the Publication

Four Decades of Anti-Vaccine Movement

1980s

- DPT scare and documentary
- NVICP created

1990s-2000s

- Lancet Article (and subsequent retraction)
- “Green our vaccines movement”

2015

- CA removes personal belief exemptions
- TX attempts to duplicate CA bill
- New AV movement forms rooted in freedom and liberty

2020-present

- COVID-19 pandemic
- Anti-vaxxers align with anti-masker and anti-government groups

Goals of the Anti-Vaccine Movement

Stoke Fear. Promote doubt and discontent.
Position fringe medical professionals as scientific experts.

Disrupt systems. Dismantle states' public health infrastructure and destroy vaccine ecosystem.

Spread Misinformation. Spread misinformation as fact. Everywhere.

Elevate Individualism. Make it about rights and liberty- for some, not others.

Who is the Movement Today?

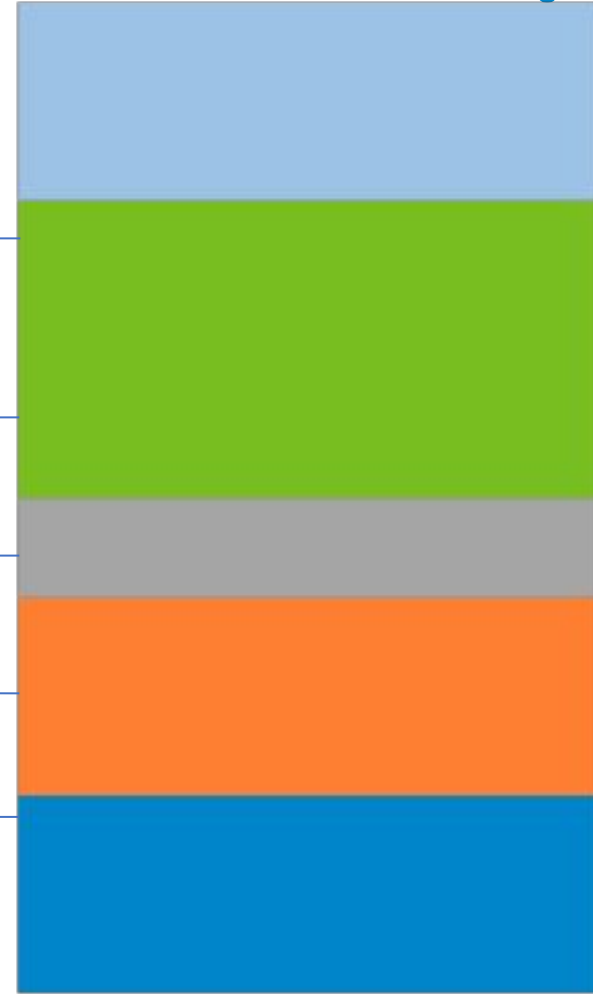
Anti-government

Alternative medicine

Right to life

Parental Rights

Liberty and medical rights



Anti-Vaccination Movement



A Well-Funded Movement

Texas Anti-vaccine groups

- Texans for Vaccine Choice – based in Keller
- Individual donations ranging from \$5/month to \$300/month
- activist parents, lawyers, homeopaths, naturalists, and even some doctors & nurses
- allied organizations and PACs

National Anti-Vaccine Groups

- Fundraising campaigns to fuel disinformation campaigns, lawsuits, and influence state vaccine policies
- Children's Health Defense
 - \$6.8 Million dollars by the end of 2020
- ICAN (based in Austin, TX)
 - \$5.5 Million by the end of 2020
- Mercola (profits through non-FDA approved supplements and other products)
 - Net worth estimated to be \$100 million*

* https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2019/10/15/fdc01078-c29c-11e9-b5e4-54aa56d5b7ce_story.html

COVID-19 Backlash at the Texas Capitol

2021 Texas Legislative Session

**One Regular and 3 Special Sessions
created multiple opportunities for
anti-vaccine legislation to be filed.**

- Over 60 anti-vaccine bills filed across a variety of issues
- Advocates, business, medical professionals STOPPED all bad bills.

Current Anti-Vaccine Agenda

- **Redefine informed consent** for vaccination
 - Fetal cells used in vaccine process
 - Excipient list
- **Penalize physicians** who dismiss unvaccinated patients
- **Eliminate vaccine requirements** for school and employment or make the exemption process easier
- Declare unvaccinated status as a **protected class**

Exemptions and Mandates

What Are We Dealing With?

- More children opted-out of school required vaccinations
- Campaigns built on misinformation
- Covid-19 pandemic amplifying anti-mandate anti-government sentiments

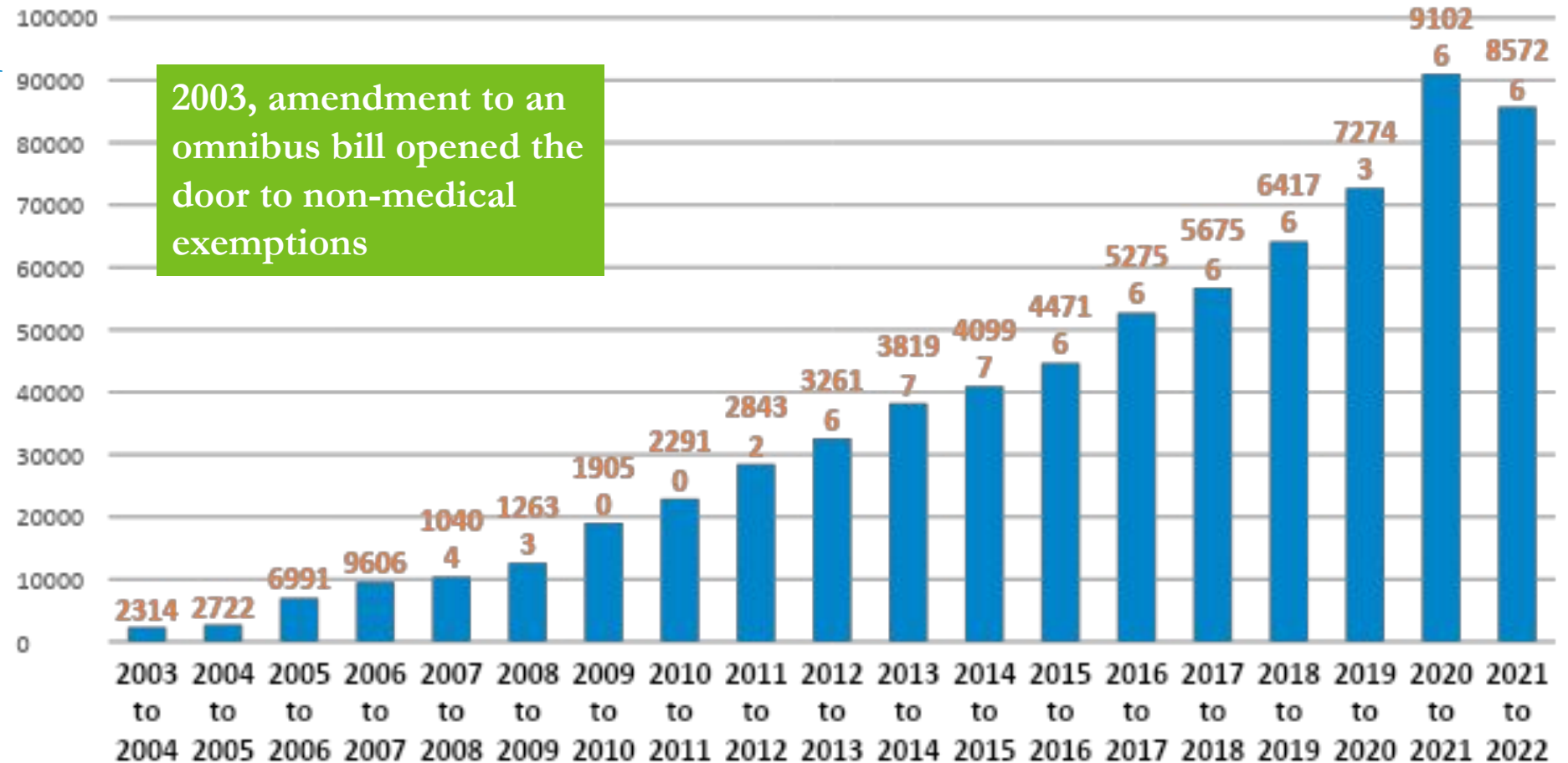
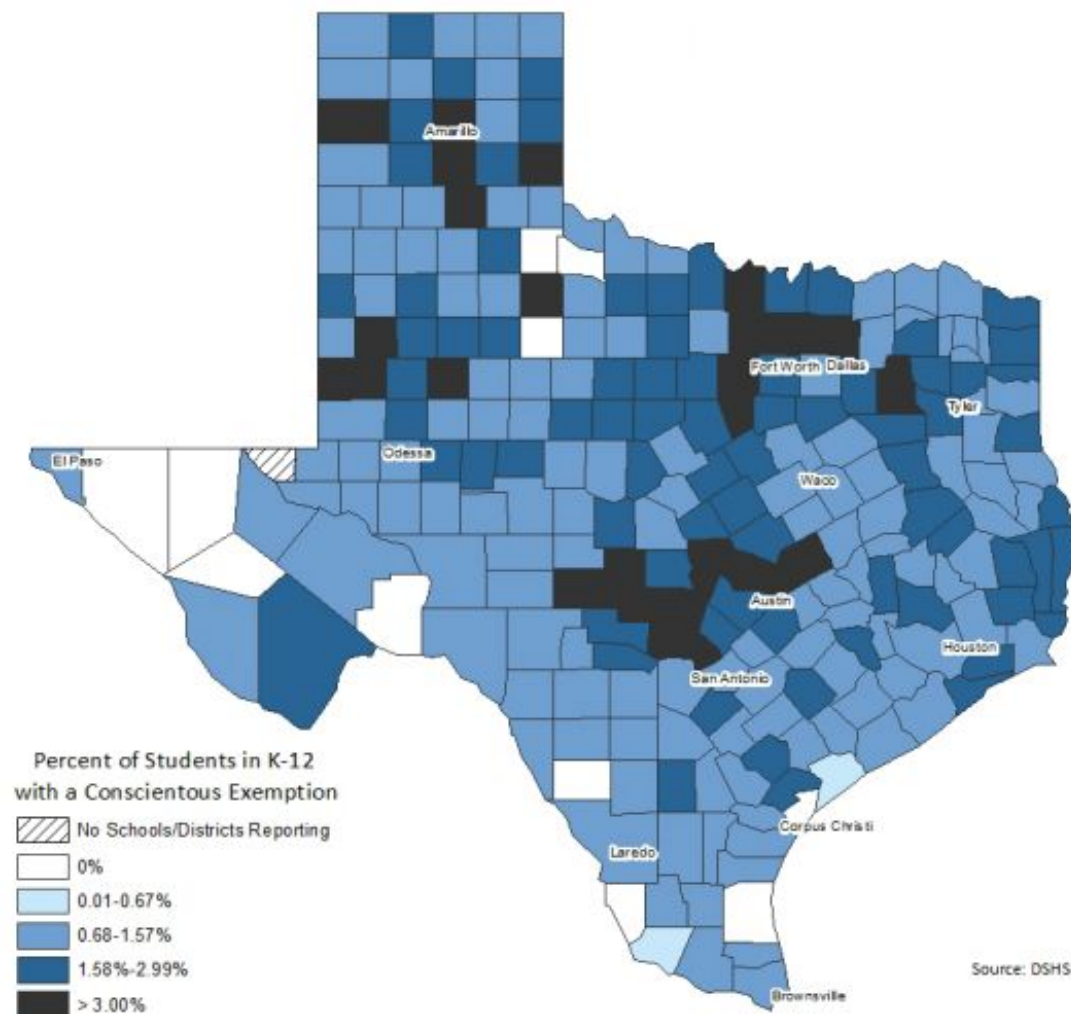


Figure 1. Percent of Students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade with a Conscientious Exemption on file for at least one vaccine, School Year 2021-2022



Source: DSHS Immunization Unit, December 2021

Central Texas Counties Non-Medical Exemptions Pre-Pandemic vs. Now

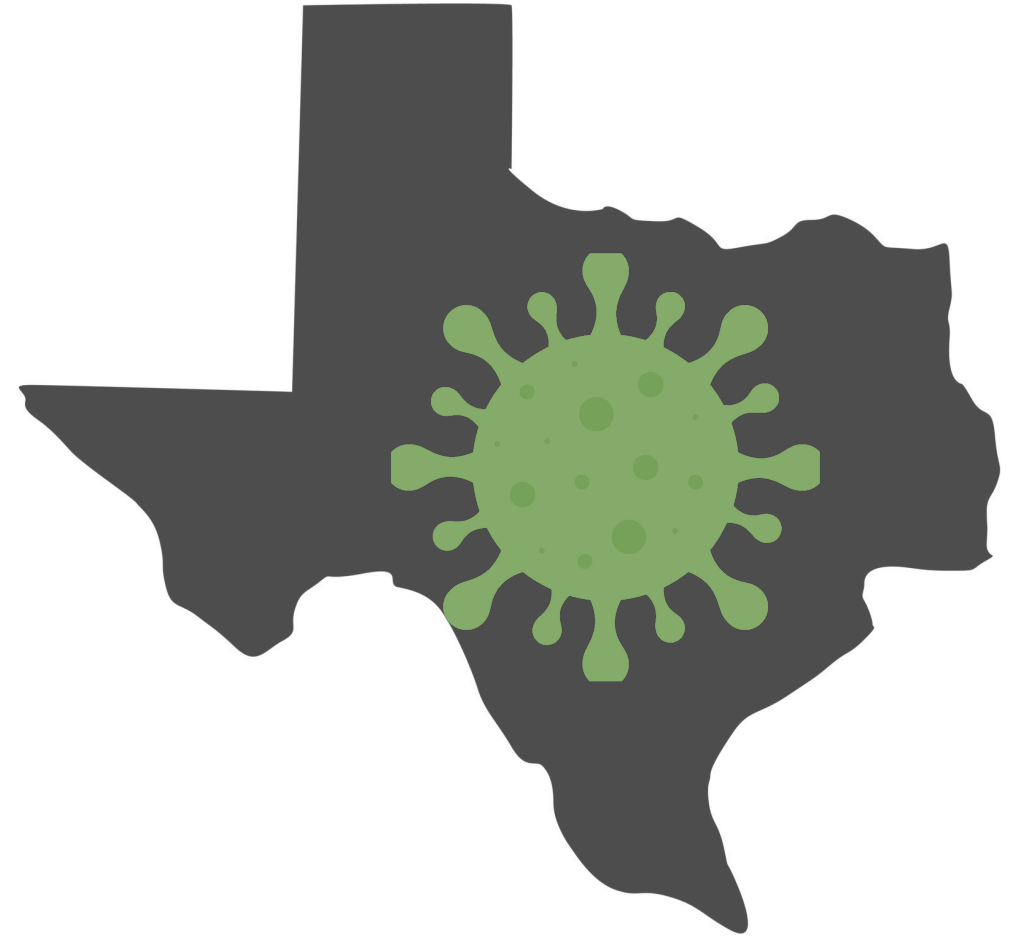
County	Percent of Students with Non-Medical Exemptions Pre-Pandemic 2019-2022 <i>*State Average: 1.35%</i>	Percent of Students with Non-Medical Exemptions 2021-2022 <i>*State Average: 1.59%</i>
Bastrop	2.73	3.41
Blanco	7.37	11.11
Burnet	5.02	7.20
Caldwell	2.21	2.01
Hays	3.49	3.75
Llano	3.76	3.05
Travis	3.13	2.44
Williamson	4.32	4.61

***Red Text**
indicates percentage
is above the state
average for that year

What We've Seen and What's Ahead

A Pandemic Legislative Year - 2021

- 230 days of session (when it is normally 140)
- More than 100 vaccine-related bills filed
- > 60% were anti-vaccination
- 25% of anti-vaccination bills had “discrimination” in the caption
- Visible presence of opposers to vaccination



Vaccine Choice – No Mandates. No Discrimination.

No one knows your individual health better than you. There should be no discrimination from government, employers, or schools based on vaccination status. We must stop all vaccine mandates and protect Texans' right to make their own healthcare decisions.

Medical Privacy.

All medical and vaccine databases should be 100% confidential. Right now, vaccine databases exist in Texas! A medical privacy bill would make the disclosure of immunization information a civil penalty in Texas. Additionally, vaccine exemption forms should not be handled by the state and instead easily accessible to everyone online to ensure identities are protected.

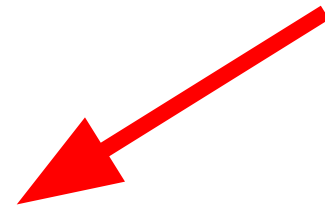


Friend,

There were not many positive things that came out of the COVID lockdowns. One of the few bright spots, though, was the growth of the vaccine choice movement!

Thousands of Texans had their eyes opened to the slippery slope of the government and employers making medical decisions for individuals. **You are the best person to make these decisions for yourself!**

TFVC is wholly and completely against all vaccine **mandates**. Texans should call the shots!



2023 Texas Legislature: It's Going to Get Worse

Legislation filed in 2021 is VERY easy to re-file. Sixty + bills could easily become 100+ unique pieces of bad vaccine legislation.

Newly elected and returning legislators are further radicalized on vaccines and all immunization issues, beyond COVID-19.

Anti-vaccine misinformation and the pandemic has already caused a drop in school vaccination rates. Educators are hesitant to ask legislature for help.

What is at Risk in 2023

SCHOOLS	WORKFORCE	VACCINES	DISCRIMINATION	ACCESS
Removing school requirements	Employee Rights Workers Comp	Constraining Emergency Use Authorization (EU) Restrictions on products using fetal cell lines in development	Civil Liberty Claims Protected Class	Limiting education and access to vaccines

TIP Legislative Positions

TIP supports the following 2023 state legislative priorities:

❖ **Safe and healthy schools and workplaces**

Protect existing vaccination requirements. Defend school vaccine entry-requirements, which have been in Texas law for over 50 years and serve as guardrails to protect public health. TIP will work to protect the ability for businesses, health care facilities, and employers to set their health and wellness policies.

Help families keep kids current on their immunization schedule. Invest in understanding barriers to vaccination leading to late or partial vaccine series completion and impacting school attendance.

❖ **Immunization access for all interested Texans, including the Texans with disabilities**

Equitable access. Advocate for high quality, transparent immunization data to ensure public health resources are targeted, deployed, and used effectively to focus on communities with greatest need for improved immunization coverage rates.

❖ **Public Health Response, Recovery, and Maintenance**

Streamline and ease the use of immunization information systems. Improve the functionality of the immunization registry to ensure Texans who choose to maintain their shot records in the system are able to do so with ease before, during, and after a public health emergency or natural disaster.



Currently Filed Immunization-Related Legislation (House)

Bill	Primary Author	Companion	Caption	Stakeholders impacted
HB 44	Swanson	SB 303	Relating to provider discrimination against a Medicaid recipient or child health plan program enrollee based on immunization status.	Children; adults; healthcare; Medicaid providers; schools; pharmacies; public health
HB 81	Harrison	SB 177	Relating to informed consent before the provision of certain medical treatments involving COVID-19 vaccination.	<u>Primary:</u> children; adults; healthcare; schools; childcare centers; higher education <u>Secondary:</u> Insurance; employers
HB 172	Howard	SB 342	Relating to the immunization data included in and excluded from the immunization registry.	Children; adults healthcare providers; healthcare institutions; public health; first responders; pharmacies
HB 280	Toth		Relating to required submission of vaccine injury reports to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System.	Children; adults; healthcare; pharmacies
HB 518	Wu		Relating to notice of the health of children attending and adults employed by a child-care facility.	<u>Primary:</u> Children; adults; childcare centers <u>Secondary:</u> Healthcare



Currently Filed Immunization-Related Legislation (House)

Bill	Primary Author	Companion	Covid-19	Caption	Stakeholders impacted
<u>HB 631**</u>	Toth			Relating to parental rights in education. (not vaccine specific, however effects information regarding exemptions)	Schools
<u>HB 777</u>	Vasut			Relating to prohibiting face covering mandates for public school students, prohibiting public schools from requiring students to provide documentation regarding certain vaccinations, and allowing public schools to screen students regarding certain infections.	Children; schools
<u>HB 807</u>	Harrison			Relating to immunization requirements.	Everyone
<u>HB 1015</u>	Vasut		X	Relating to a prohibition on receipt of state money by businesses that implement COVID-19 vaccination requirements	Businesses
<u>HB 1032</u>	Noble		X	Relating to prohibited vaccination status discrimination and requirements for COVID-19 vaccines.	Insurance; Hospitals insurance plans
<u>HB 1063</u>	Guerra			Relating to the content of certain biennial legislative reports on immunizations issued by the Department of State Health Services.	Everyone; disabilities communities
<u>HB 1105</u>	Price			Relatiing to the administration of a medication and the ordering and administration of an immunization or vaccination by a pharmacist	Pharmacists, physicians
<u>HB 1313</u>	Burrows	<u>SB 403</u>	X	Health & Human Services & Dept. State Health Services must conduct study to assess full and complete adverse reactions (including death) and effectiveness of each type of COVID 19 vaccine used in Texas	
<u>HB 1419</u>	Cain			Relating to the repeal of certain limitations on bacterial meningitis vaccination exemptions for students at institutions of higher education.	Higher education



Currently Filed Immunization-Related Legislation (Senate)

Bill	Primary Author	Companion	Covid-19	Caption	Stakeholders impacted
SB 177	Middleton	HB 81	X	Relating to informed consent before the provision of certain medical treatments involving COVID-19 vaccination.	Healthcare providers
SB 265	Perry			Relating to required reports of certain vaccine-related or drug-related injuries and adverse events.	Healthcare providers; healthcare institutions
SB 298	Hall			Relating to informed consent to immunizations for children and civil liability for failure to obtain the consent.	Healthcare providers; healthcare institutions
SB 302	Hall			Relating to employer civil liability for a vaccine requirement imposed on the employer's employees.	Employers
SB 303	Hall	HB 44		Relating to discrimination by a provider participating in Medicaid or the child health plan program against an individual based on immunization status.	Children; adults; healthcare; Medicaid providers; schools; pharmacies; public health
SB 304	Hall			Relating to prohibited immunization status discrimination and vaccine mandates; authorizing administrative penalties.	Anyone (businesses) offering goods or services; schools
SB 305	Hall			Relating to vaccine administration requirements and protection of immunization exemptions for health reasons.	Healthcare providers; pharmacists; child-care; schools; employers; long-term care
SB 308	Hall		X	Relating to prohibited vaccination status discrimination and requirements for COVID-19 vaccines; authorizing administrative penalties.	Anyone (businesses) offering goods or services; schools; long-term care
SB 314	Hall			Relating to required labeling of certain products that contain or are derived from aborted human fetal tissue	Healthcare providers; Research institutions; food industry;
SB 342	Zaffirini	HB 172		Relating to the immunization data included in and excluded from the immunization registry.	Children; adults healthcare providers; healthcare institutions; public health; first responders; pharmacies
SB 390	Hall			repealing authority to exclude non-vaccinated students from attending public school in emergency or epidemic	Public health; schools
SB 403	Springer	HB 1313	X	Relating to a study on the side effects, adverse reactions, including death, and the effectiveness of vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19) or its variants.	Public health; hospitals



Advocate for evidenced-based immunization public policy. What can you do?

Sign up for legislative updates

Alert network about activities at the legislature

Post alerts on personal social media channels and encourage network to take action

Send an email to a lawmaker

Make phone calls to lawmakers

Write an op-ed or Letter to the Editor

Attend committee hearings

Have a meeting with a lawmaker

Give expert testimony

Be part of rapid response debunking team

Attend school board meetings

Form an advocacy network e.g., #docsforvax

Thank you and Stay Informed



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