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 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. 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.

"Science is telling us that better outcomes for very young children facing adversity can be achieved by strengthening caregiver-child relationships, building core skills in parents, and reducing stresses on families. This new center will provide a powerful platform for making those scientific insights actionable, informing new, state-level investments that produce greater impact at scale”

-- Dr. Jack Shonkoff, member of Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center National Advisory Council and founding director of Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University

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THE PRENATAL-TO-3 STATE POLICY ROADMAP

Our annual *Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap* will be 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 will provide a baseline for where states are, guidelines for next steps, and measure 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 being developed by the Policy Impact Center’s nonpartisan research and policy experts working in collaboration with field-based policymakers, scholars, program evaluators, and advocates. Together, we make sense of complex academic research and nuanced evaluations, identify gaps and point to new research necessary to achieve greater impact through prenatal-to-3 policy solutions.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

- Christina Altmayer, First 5 LA
- 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 Department of Health
- A.J. Griffin, former Oklahoma State Senator
- Thomas Hedrick, Dillon Joyce Ltd
- Iheoma Iruka, HighScope Educational Research Foundation
- 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, Campagna Center
- Geoff Nagle, Erikson Institute
- 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

A multidisciplinary UT Austin Scholars Group also connects the work of the Policy Impact Center to scholarship and resources across the premier academic institution of The University of Texas at Austin and beyond.

To facilitate the ongoing collaboration between those who research early childhood and those who implement PN-3 policies and programs, the Policy Impact Center is:

- hosting an annual national summit for state policymakers, scholars, practitioners, and advocates;
- convening learning collaboratives between scholars and practitioners;
- building a robust and rigorous Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Clearinghouse for state policies;
- developing data interactives and dashboards for policymakers and advocates to monitor state progress toward creating a strong PN-3 system of care; and
- bringing sectors together through a new Prenatal-to-3 Policy-Research Exchange for continuous advancement.

Learn more and sign-up for email updates at childandfamilyresearch.utexas.edu/pn3.