TexProtects’ ZipRisk Project

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Abstract
TexProtects has analyzed ZIP code level data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and the Texas Department of State Health Services to develop a comprehensive child abuse and neglect risk assessment and ranking for all Texas zip codes through the use of substantiated child maltreatment, child abuse and neglect related fatalities, teen birth, substance abuse, and child poverty rates. This interactive tool is meant to be a resource to community providers, decision makers, advocates, and the public-at-large to demonstrate the quantifiable need for more targeted investments in child abuse and neglect prevention services in Texas and to bring about more data-driven policies.

Results
TexProtects has developed a comprehensive child abuse and neglect risk assessment and ranking for all Texas zip codes through the use of substantiated child maltreatment, child abuse and neglect related fatalities, teen birth, substance abuse, and child poverty rates. This interactive tool is meant to be a resource to community providers, decision makers, advocates, and the public-at-large to demonstrate the quantifiable need for more targeted investments in child abuse and neglect prevention services in Texas and to bring about more data-driven policies.

Architecture
This interactive tool was created using Tableau Public software that allows high data visualization and data analyses. It includes several interactive maps showing overall risk rankings and services available to the public. It also includes graphs comparing risk rankings. Java code was used to filter data in the excel files. The mapping tool will be displayed on a web page that is linked to TexProtects’ existing website for public use and will be hosted on a server owned by TexProtects’ existing webpage provider.

Impact
This interactive tool will allow users to visualize and compare existing TexProtects data. It will also provide a list of available services that can be filtered by zip codes. Thus, this tool is meant to be used not only by policymakers that would like to see the the high-risk areas throughout the state, but also by regular users that are looking for additional information. Furthermore, this project will support the development of public policies based on data collected statewide, resulting in a more targeted and efficient system to benefit the families of Texas.

Summary
The value of this project is that it provides rich visualization of TexProtects databases that benefit both the architects and beneficiaries of these State programs. This interactive tool will provide policymakers, administrators, advocates, funders, and regular users with clear data and demonstrate a quantifiable need for more targeted investment in child and neglect prevention services in the state of Texas.