TexProtects  
Texas Child Maltreatment Interactive Risk Map  
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Abstract
TexProtects has analyzed zip code level data from the U.S. Census, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and the Texas Department of State Health Services to create a child abuse and neglect risk assessment and ranking through the use of child maltreatment, child fatality, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and teen birth rates. The research project/data thus far has aided the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (as well as other non-profit agencies) in identifying areas in the state that are most vulnerable and in need of prevention services, therefore allowing them to utilize their funding and resources in a more targeted and effective manner. This team will take TexProtects' 18-month research project, which identifies Texas' highest-risk areas for child maltreatment, and make it available and easily accessible to the public through an online interactive heat map tool.

Results
Summary
This project is worthwhile because it will make a lasting impact on the families and children of Texas. The mapping tool will provide policymakers with clear data and demonstrate a quantifiable need for more targeted investment in child and neglect prevention services, not just in Dallas but across the state, ultimately benefiting the thousands of children and families in Texas.

Architecture
The mapping tool is implemented using Google Fusion Tables, a tool that allows users to create interactive maps built on selected filters and layers. 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 TexProtect’s existing webpage provider. The data used to build the map will be exported and formatted using Microsoft Excel.

Impact
This project’s immediate impact is that allows users to visualize the existing TexProtects data on child abuse and neglect. Specifically, it will help policymakers see pockets of high-risk areas throughout the state that are often overlooked when viewing data at the county level. Practitioners, administrators, funders, advocates, and decision-makers, among others, may use this interactive heat map to quickly and easily identify need among Texas counties and make informed decisions on the best way to use limited funding for prevention programs. 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.

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