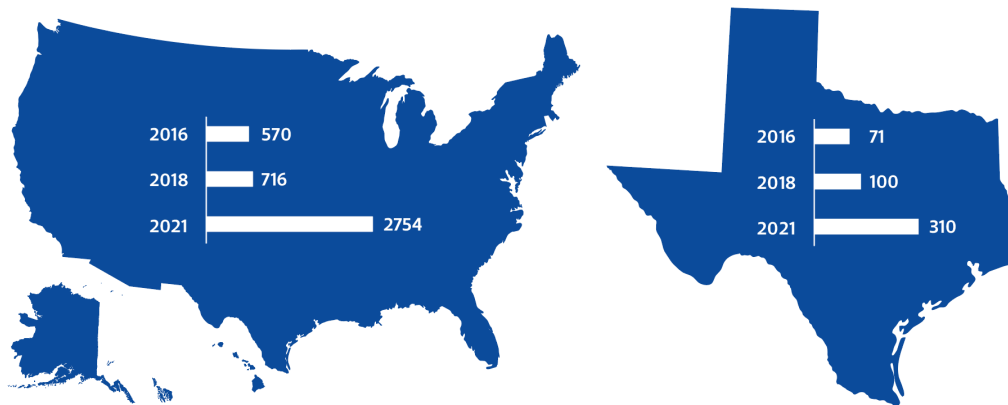


UNPROVEN STEM CELL INTERVENTIONS

HOW TEXAS CAN PROMOTE PATIENT SAFETY AND EDUCATION



Since 2016, the number of stem cell clinics in Texas has grown by 336%.¹



The Risks and Benefits of Stem Cell Interventions

Stem cell interventions (SCIs) are an exciting area of research that shows promise for the field of regenerative medicine. But most SCIs are still experimental — meaning they lack safety and effectiveness data and regulatory approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) — and many clinics in Texas use misleading tactics to advertise unproven SCIs for a variety of conditions. Patients who undergo these therapies without proper education risk experiencing side effects like sepsis, blindness and even death.

Recommendations to Improve Patient Safety

To improve patient safety and education surrounding SCIs, we recommend that Texas policymakers require clinics and physicians offering SCIs to:

1. Display disclaimers for experimental SCIs.
2. Place disclaimers on advertisements for experimental SCIs.
3. Report adverse events related to SCI treatments to Texas medical boards.

¹ Sources: Turner, *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 61, no. 1 (2018): 7–24; Turner, *Cell Stem Cell* 28, no. 11 (2021): 1891–9; Knoepfler and Turner, *Regenerative Medicine* 13, no. 1 (2018): 19–27.

Visit <https://bit.ly/Safer-SCI-Policies> to read the policy brief “Making Stem Cell Interventions and Advertisements Safer and More Effective in Texas” (2022) by Akshaya Venkatesh and Kirstin R.W. Matthews.