NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE
ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY RESEARCH
ACCELERATING PROGRESS TO REDUCE CHILDHOOD OBESITY
NCCOR’s mission is to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and application of childhood obesity research, and to halt—and reverse—childhood obesity through enhanced coordination and collaboration.
NCCOR is a unique example of a public-private partnership that brings synergy and innovation to combat childhood obesity. In building on each other’s strengths, the CDC, NIH, RWJF, and USDA are advancing the field through complementary and joint initiatives.
In 2010, NCCOR received one of the inaugural HHSinnovates Awards. More than 10,000 HHS employees voted to identify the top six innovative projects. NCCOR was one of three efforts then selected by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius for the HHSinnovates Award. NCCOR also received an NIH Director’s Award in 2011.
NCCOR Goals
1. Identify, design, and evaluate practical and sustainable interventions, especially in high-risk populations and communities.

2. Increase and improve national, state, and local surveillance of childhood obesity.

3. Improve the ability of childhood obesity researchers and program evaluators to conduct research and program evaluation.

4. Provide national leadership to accelerate implementation of evidence-informed practice and policy.

5. Work with non-health partners to integrate childhood obesity priorities with synergistic initiatives (e.g., environmental design and sustainability, food systems, food marketing, disabilities, or economics).
IDEA ➔ PLAN ➔ ACTION
The NCCOR External Scientific Panel (NESP) will provide connections between NCCOR and the extramural community. It will inform the Collaborative on new science and ideas, and associations to extramural research, practice, and policy. Further, NESP will provide ongoing refinement of NCCOR’s strategic plan, including helping to establish key performance indicators and other metrics associated with evaluating the impact of the Collaborative.

**NESP MEMBERS**

Ronette Briefel, *Mathematic Policy Research*
Ross Brownson, *Washington University in St. Louis*
Frank Chaloupka, *University of Illinois at Chicago*
Steve Gortmaker, *Harvard School of Public Health*
Shiriki Kumanyika, *University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine*
Amelie Ramirez, *University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio*
Jim Sallis, *University of California, San Diego*
Mary Story, *University of Minnesota*
Select Projects

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34 Youth Energy Expenditure Expert Workshop
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38 Strategic Communications
41 NCCOR Webinars
The Healthy Communities Study is a five-year study designed to assess the associations between community programs and policies targeting childhood obesity and BMI, diet, and physical activity in children. The study will include approximately 280 communities and almost 24,000 children in the U.S.
COMNet

Envision

The Statistical Network

CompMod
Envision links three modeling networks—COMNet (Collaborative Obesity Modeling Network), CompMod (Comparative Modeling), and the Statistical Network—to forecast the impact of public health policies and interventions on childhood obesity through innovative modeling approaches. Receiving worldwide coverage was the recently published *Lancet Obesity Series*, featuring four articles and three commentaries by COMNet highlighting global obesity trends and the need for government intervention.
In February 2011, NCCOR launched a free online resource to help researchers and practitioners more easily investigate childhood obesity in America. NCCOR’s Catalogue of Surveillance Systems provides one-stop access for users to review, sort, and compare more than 80 surveillance systems relevant to childhood obesity research and the evaluation of policy and environmental interventions.

www.nccor.org/css
### NCCOR Catalogue of Surveillance Systems

**Filter options**

- **Search**
- **Level**
  - Individual (41)
  - Household (14)
  - School (6)
  - Community (11)
  - Macro/Policy (8)
  - Other (13)
- **Scope**
  - Local (26)
  - State (36)
  - National (69)
- **Key Variables**
  - Diet related (58)
  - Physical activity related (39)
  - Weight related (33)
  - Geocode/Linkage (68)
- **Age Groups**
  - Infants (44)
  - Preschool children (41)
  - School age children (52)
  - Teenagers/Adolescents (61)
  - Adults (60)
- **Racial/Ethnic Groups**
  - Asian/Pacific Islanders (21)
  - Blacks (40)
  - Hispanics (40)
  - Native Americans/Alaskan Natives (11)
  - Whites (45)
- **Design**
  - Panel/Longitudinal (15)
  - Cross-sectional (46)
  - Other (18)
- **Cost**
  - Some/all public use data free (67)
  - Fee based (10)

### Showing all 77 systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System Name</th>
<th>Compare</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Community Survey</td>
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<td>American Time Use Survey (ATUS)</td>
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<td>Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)</td>
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<td>California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)</td>
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<td>Census of Agriculture (Agcensus)</td>
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<td>Census TIGER® (Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion Food Prices Database (CNPP/FDP)</td>
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<td>comScore</td>
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<td>Consumer Expenditure Survey (CEX)</td>
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<td>Current Population Survey (CPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dietary Supplement Ingredient Database (DSID)</td>
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<td>Dun &amp; Bradstreet</td>
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<td>Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B)</td>
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<td>Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten Class of 1998–1999 (ECLS-K)</td>
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<td>Economic Census</td>
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<td>Fast Response Survey System (FRS)</td>
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<td>Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FAR)</td>
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<td>Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR)</td>
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<td>Food and Nutrient Database for Dietary Surveys (FNDDS)</td>
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<td>Food Availability (Per Capita) Data System</td>
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<td>Food Stamp Program State Rules Database</td>
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<td>Gladson Nutrition Database</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Diet Survey</td>
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<td>Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Geospatial Data Warehouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>ImpacTeen: State Snack and Soda Tax Data</td>
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<td>Infant Feeding Practices Study II (IFFS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>InfoUSA.com®</td>
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<td>Kansas Child Health Assessment and Monitoring Program (K-CHAMP)</td>
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<td>Kantar Media North America</td>
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<td>Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)</td>
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<td>Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care Survey (IPINC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Expenditure Panel Survey-Household Component (MEPS-HC)</td>
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MEASURES REGISTRY

A product of the National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research

The NCCOR Measures Registry is a searchable database of diet and physical activity measures relevant to childhood obesity research.

The purpose of this registry is to promote the consistent use of common measures and research methods across childhood obesity prevention and research at the individual, community, and population levels.

Obesity and public health researchers need standard measures to describe, monitor, and evaluate interventions, particularly policy and environmental interventions, and factors and outcomes at all levels of the socio-ecological model. NCCOR hopes that this registry web tool facilitates access to available measures, helps identify gaps in measures, and encourages the development of new measures.

What are diet and physical activity measures?

Measures are defined broadly as tools and methodologies to assess individual diet, physical activity, and the environments in which these behaviors occur. Examples of measures in the registry include questionnaires, instruments, diaries, logs, electronic devices, direct observations of people or environments, protocols, and analytic techniques.

On this website, you can:

- search or browse the registry for measures
- learn about how the registry was developed
- find measures in development
- link to other measures registries and related resources
- submit a new measure for inclusion in the registry.

This website is best viewed using IE6, Firefox, or Google Chrome.
The Measures Registry is a web-based portfolio of more than 700 measures related to diet and physical activity. The tool allows researchers to more efficiently find and select measures that are critical to accelerating obesity prevention research. It will also help to spur the use of comparable, core measures.

www.nccor.org/measures
To make evaluation study results more directly comparable, the Evaluation Research Forum brings together leaders of major childhood obesity evaluation efforts to consider shared measures and methods for evaluating community-based and state-based strategies. The combined evaluation efforts represent a $75+ million investment in childhood obesity evaluation research.
NCCOR partnered with the National Academy of Environmental Design (NAED) and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to develop a workshop linking environmental design, sustainability, and childhood obesity prevention. The workshop was attended by over 60 health policy, research, design, education, and architectural professionals who together identified future avenues for growth in the field of green health.
To enhance food and nutrition surveillance, NCCOR is strengthening the process for updating the USDA Food Patterns Equivalents Database. This critical effort will facilitate research goals related to intervention, evaluation, and other forms of nutrition research at the individual and community levels.
The 2011 Food Marketing Research Roundtable brought together more than 60 leading researchers, advocates, and policy makers in the field of childhood obesity prevention. Attendees at the meeting identified the most pressing needs for research and policy to reduce children’s exposure to unhealthy food marketing.
Under the auspices of NCCOR, The Johns Hopkins Global Center on Childhood Obesity will bring together basic science, epidemiology, nutrition, medicine, engineering, environmental and social policy research, and other fields in an unprecedented, innovative way. The $16 million Center was awarded to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in September 2011.
Quiz

**Question 1:** Fruit (not juice) and/or a vegetable (not including French fries, tater tots, hash browns, or dried beans) is offered to toddlers and preschoolers at every meal:

- Rarely or never
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- All of the time

**Question 2:** Fried or pre-fried potatoes (French fries, tater tots, hash browns) are offered to toddlers and preschoolers:

- 2 or more times per week
- 1 time per week
- Less than 1 time a week
- Never

**Question 3:** Fried or pre-fried (frozen and breaded) meats (chicken nuggets) or fish (fish sticks) are offered to toddlers and preschoolers:

- 2 or more times per week
- 1 time per week
- Less than 1 time a week
- Never
Developed by CDC, in collaboration with University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Nemours, the Child Care Checklist is an online tool designed to help child care programs identify ways to strengthen their nutrition and physical activity practices and policies. To maximize its value and effectiveness in the field, NCCOR is supporting this effort by conducting usability testing of and enhancing the online tool.
NCCOR welcomed over 60 participants at the Farm to Fork Workshop on Surveillance of the U.S. Food System in Washington, DC. Presenters and attendees engaged in discussions about existing resources that characterize the U.S. food system, identified gaps in current efforts and proposed mechanisms to fill those gaps, and determined the data needed to inform policy that will further the goal of reducing childhood obesity.
Since 2006, the national, annual Bridging the Gap (BTG) School Wellness Survey has collected and analyzed over 2,000 school districts’ wellness-related policies. These data provide baseline information for districts prior to the implementation of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) in 2010. NCCOR is pursuing funding to continue this work, link it with other systems capturing related data, and evaluate the effectiveness of wellness-related polices adopted following the HHFKA.
The adult compendium of metabolic equivalents (METs) has enhanced the comparability of physical activity measurements in diverse studies. NCCOR is organizing an expert workshop designed to review methods of measuring and estimating youth energy expenditure and to develop plans for improving an existing compendium of METs for youth. The workshop will also explore the need for a repository of youth energy expenditure data.
In a multi-setting, multi-level community-based effort, the Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration (CORD) projects aim to reduce underserved children’s risk factors for obesity through an integrated model of primary care and public health approaches. NCCOR will have the opportunity to support and advise this critical effort by participating on CORD’s Steering Committee.
NCCOR uses multiple communication methods and social media to quickly reach, engage, and mobilize childhood obesity researchers, policymakers, and other audiences. With emphases on disseminating new research initiatives and encouraging bidirectional dialogue, the Collaborative communicates using its website (www.nccor.org), a blog, Twitter, monthly e-newsletter, webinars, conference sessions, and videos. NCCOR also publishes case studies of its work and infographics to distill key findings in childhood obesity research.
NCCOR coordinates and promotes webinars developed by its members, including sessions on the use of the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems and Measures Registry.

NCCOR has also conducted webinars on:

- Healthy Food Financing Initiative
- Measurement of Active and Sedentary Behaviors: Closing the Gap in Self-Report Measures
- Obesity-Related Policy Evaluation

Past NCCOR webinars are available for viewing at: www.nccor.org
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NCCOR CONTACT:

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The National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) brings together four of the nation’s leading research funders:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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