

Highlights of NCCOR Accomplishments & Activities

The National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) is advancing the field through complementary and joint initiatives by its partners: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The following are ***select accomplishments*** and activities from August 2017 through January 2018.

Launched and promoted the Youth Compendium of Physical Activities. NCCOR released the Youth Compendium of Physical Activities in October 2017 to help childhood obesity and physical activity researchers and practitioners estimate the associated energy expenditure of a variety of activities in which youth participate. The Youth Compendium is the culmination of a 5-year effort between NCCOR, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and experts in the field of youth energy expenditure. Since the release, NCCOR has promoted the new resource extensively. A companion paper, *A Youth Compendium of Physical Activities: Activity Codes and Metabolic Intensities*, with a complete description of methods and data sources, was published in September 2017 in *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*. Additionally, members of the Youth Energy Expenditure (YEE) workgroup presented an overview of the Youth Compendium in October at The Obesity Society Annual Meeting. NCCOR also hosted a Connect & Explore webinar on December 6—Introducing the Youth Compendium of Physical Activities: A Breakthrough Resource for Childhood Obesity Research—to discuss the development of the Youth Compendium and ways to use the tool. 130 people tuned into the Connect & Explore webinar and 33 people viewed the webinar on NCCOR’s YouTube Channel.

Submitted two manuscripts on the development of NCCOR. NCCOR will publish two manuscripts in the March issue of the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. The first paper, *Developing A Partnership for Change: The National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research* highlights the formation, structure, and operations of NCCOR and discusses benefits of using a collaborative model to address health problems. The companion paper, *A National Collaborative for Building the Field of Childhood Obesity Research* details several principles for successful partnerships and how NCCOR used these principles to make significant contributions to build the field of research, evaluation, and surveillance for childhood obesity prevention and management.

Awarded three-year grant from The JPB Foundation. In September, NCCOR was awarded a three-year grant from The JPB Foundation to promote the Measures Registry, support training in measures selection, examine adaptation of measures for distinct populations and communities, and define next steps in measurement science to accelerate progress in reducing childhood obesity. This is the second grant award from The JPB Foundation, continuing a strategic funding alliance between NCCOR and the foundation. In the first three months, NCCOR held a series of six focus groups with researchers, professors, practitioners, health care clinicians, and graduate students to help determine how a set of teaching modules can support measurement, teaching, training, research, and program evaluation. The workgroup is currently using the results from the focus groups to develop the content and structure of the modules.

Launched new projects. The Physical Activity workgroup launched three projects: the Additional Benefits of Walkability project, which aims to identify and quantify additional benefits of walkability beyond physical activity and health; the Youth Active School Transportation (AST) Surveillance Initiative, which aims to improve public health surveillance of youth AST; and the Increasing Opportunities for Trail Use to Promote Physical Activity and Health among Underserved Youth project, which aims to understand how to increase trail use among underserved youth. All three physical activity projects are in the beginning stages of research.

In addition, the Engaging Health Care Providers and Systems workgroup initiated a new project to further their efforts to identify partnerships and foster engagement between clinical settings and communities to support interventions addressing primary and secondary obesity prevention. The new project will create a web-based learning collaborative to facilitate learning in identified areas and develop an evaluation framework. This project has started initial planning for its kickoff meeting.

Promoted National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. In recognition of National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month (NCOAM), NCCOR hosted social media activities to share resources and support communities in their efforts to reduce childhood obesity.

- NCCOR launched a Facebook page on September 6 to engage diverse audiences and promote the latest information related to childhood obesity. By December 31, the Facebook page received 226 likes.
- NCCOR hosted a Thunderclap on September 20. 108 organizations and individuals shared the following Thunderclap message on Facebook and Twitter: “September is National #ChildhoodObesityAwarenessMonth! Learn how NCCOR supports community efforts #NCOAM.” The message reached more than 336,000 individuals.
- NCCOR hosted a #childobesitychat on Twitter on September 27 along with the NCI Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) (@NCICancerCtrl); NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) (@NIHOBSSR); and CDC Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (@CDCObesity). More than 120 individuals and organizations participated reaching more than 1.2 million people. NCCOR members David Berrigan, PhD, MPH and Jill Reedy, PhD, MPH, RD of NIH DCCPS and Deborah Young-Hyman, PhD of NIH OBSSR served as subject matter experts and helped guide the discussion.

Communicated with the field and encouraged dialogue. NCCOR hosted a Connect & Explore webinar in October on “Built Environment Interventions to Increase Physical Activity.” The webinar highlighted recommendations from the Community Preventive Services Task Force report *Physical Activity: Built Environment Approaches Combining Transportation System Interventions with Land Use and Environmental Design*. Guest speakers included Christopher Kochtitzsky, MSP, CDC; Jamie Chriqui, PhD, MHS, University of Illinois at Chicago; and Ross Brownson, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis. 110 people tuned into the Connect & Explore webinar.

Promoted resources and expanded our reach. NCCOR exhibited at The Obesity Society Annual Meeting in National Harbor, MD, where 171 conference participants signed up for the NCCOR e-Newsletter and more than 650 NCCOR print materials were distributed. NCCOR also exhibited at the American Public Health Association in Atlanta, GA, where 284 conference participants signed up for the NCCOR e-Newsletter and more than 800 NCCOR print materials were distributed. Materials distributed at both meetings included the 2016 Annual Report, updated 2016 overview booklet, Measures Registry User Guides Fact Sheets, Youth Compendium of Physical Activities Fact Sheet, Behavioral Design White Paper executive summary, and NCCOR water bottles and jump ropes.