Measures Registry

As childhood obesity rates in the United States continued to rise, so did interest in childhood obesity determinants—from the individual level to social, environmental, and policy levels. Standard measures were needed to describe and evaluate interventions to prevent childhood obesity, particularly those that address policies and environments. However, there was no way to easily find and compare measures related to childhood obesity.

The Measures Registry, launched by NCCOR in 2011, filled this gap in research resources by providing a web-based portfolio of approximately 1,200 studies on more than 100 discrete measures related to diet and physical activity. The Registry promotes the consistent use of common measures and research methods across childhood obesity research and prevention programs at the individual, community, and population levels. Each study in the Registry contains information on study design, how to use the measure, and validity and reliability information. Examples of measures include questionnaires, instruments, diaries, logs, electronic devices, direct observation of people or environments, protocols, and analytic techniques.

Measures are categorized into four domains, each of which is discussed in its own Measures Registry User Guide:

- Individual dietary behavior
- Food environment
- Individual physical activity behavior
- Physical activity environment

The NCCOR Measures Registry and Catalogue of Surveillance Systems are excellent resources. I find it especially useful to be able to access detailed information on hundreds of measures and data sources all in one place. The websites are extremely easy to navigate and provide everything I would want to know about the measure or surveillance system. I highly recommend these resources, especially to anyone preparing grants or developing studies with a focus on obesity.”

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The Measures Registry is available at www.nccor.org/measures. It is updated as new studies become available. Companion User Guides are available at www.nccor.org/mruserguides.