

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: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The following are **select accomplishments** and activities from May through September 2021.

Launched A Toolkit for Evaluating Childhood Healthy Weight Programs.

NCCOR developed [A Toolkit for Evaluating Childhood Healthy Weight Programs](#) to help researchers and practitioners conduct program evaluations. The toolkit offers an overview of program evaluation and provides guidance on evaluation readiness, process measures, outcome measures, contextual factors, program sustainability, and remove evaluation of childhood healthy weight programs (CHWPs). In addition, the toolkit features a [resource library](#), with links to guides, databases, research articles, and other toolkits that will support your evaluation plan.

Promoted NCCOR during National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month.

During National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month in September, NCCOR launched a back-to-school themed campaign to showcase resources and tools for educators, research faculty, and graduate students in nutrition, kinesiology, public health, and exercise science. NCCOR developed three new social media graphics and coordinated messages with members of the Communications Workgroup. Visit the NCCOR website to read more about NCCOR's campaign for [National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month](#).

Hosted a Connect & Explore webinar series examining cross-border childhood obesity research.

NCCOR, in collaboration with NIH's Fogarty International Center's Center for Global Health Studies (CGHS), hosted a two-part webinar series titled, "Childhood Obesity Research Across Borders." The webinars, which occurred on June 17 and July 20, identified the synergies between childhood obesity research conducted in Latin America and among Latino populations in the United States. The series was based on a June 2021 special issue in *Obesity Reviews* titled, "Childhood Obesity Prevention Across Borders: The Promise of US-Latin American Research Collaboration." Nine authors from the series presented their work during the NCCOR webinars. They shared ideas for successful research strategies and the benefits of citizen-involved science. They also explored how migration and cultural assimilation influence childhood obesity in the United States and Latin America. The webinar series attracted strong audience interest. The June webinar focused on social determinants of health and had 383 registrations. The July webinar explored the link between the physical environment and childhood obesity and had 465 registrations. Recordings of the [webinars](#) are available on the NCCOR website.

Produced a factsheet in English and Spanish describing cross-border research strategies.

NCCOR published a factsheet titled, "Childhood Obesity Prevention Across Borders: The Promise of US-Latin American Research Collaboration." This factsheet, which is available in both English and Spanish, was written in collaboration with the Fogarty International Center and accompanies the NCCOR webinar

series. The factsheet summarizes key themes from the special supplement in *Obesity Reviews*, including the importance of:

- cross-cultural research that addresses equity and social determinants of health
- the influence of migration when designing study methods
- innovative research methods, such as participatory action models
- supporting sustainable capacity building
- enacting policies that address gaps in evidence related to the design and evaluation of childhood obesity prevention policies and interventions.

Visit the NCCOR [website](#) to download the English and Spanish factsheets, along with more information about NCCOR's collaboration with the Fogarty International Center.

Added a new resource to A Guide to Methods for Assessing Childhood Obesity.

NCCOR's *A Guide to Methods for Assessing Childhood Obesity* recently added a new tool to its suite of resources. The [American Body Composition Calculator](#), developed by the University of North Carolina, provides estimates of body fat percentages. It uses demographic and anthropometric measures, with or without bioelectrical impedance (BIA). NCCOR's *A Guide to Methods for Assessing Childhood Obesity* is designed to assist users in selecting the most appropriate method of measuring adiposity in children when conducting population-level research and/or evaluation on obesity. The newly added tool enables researchers working with large data sets to calculate accurate body fat percentages from existing data sources. The guide is meant to be dynamic and will be updated with new resources as they become available.

Presented a virtual session at the annual meeting of the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA).

NCCOR participated in a virtual session for the ISBNPA Xchange Initiative on June 10, 2021, titled, "Diet and Physical Activity Measures for Different Target Groups." The presentation described NCCOR's work to develop a decision tree that walks users through a series of questions regarding whether to develop, adapt, or apply an instrument for obesity measures in high-risk populations that may be previously underrepresented in obesity-related research. David Berrigan from the National Institutes of Health presented the session.

Presented a virtual session at the 2021 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Annual Conference.

NCCOR participated in a virtual session for the 2021 NRPA Annual Conference on September 21, 2021, titled, "Improving Access and Use of Trails Among Youth from Under-Resourced Communities." Speakers discussed studies and existing programs that may effectively promote and increase the use of trails among youth, especially those from under-resourced neighborhoods or communities. Julian Reed, David Brown, Mike Hill, and Van Do were among the presenters.