

## 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 November 2022 through January 2023.

### **Hosted a virtual workshop exploring applications of implementation science for childhood obesity research initiatives.**

On November 30, 2022, NCCOR hosted a three-hour virtual public workshop titled “Implementation Science & Childhood Obesity: Sparking Conversations and Actions to Advance Equity.” The workshop offered an engaging introduction to implementation science for researchers working in childhood obesity, nutrition, and physical activity. Several experts from the field provided examples of implementation science “in action” by illustrating how their programs advance equity during pre-implementation, implementation, and sustainability. Workshop participants learned how the theory and practice of implementation science can promote equitable outcomes for evidence-based childhood obesity interventions. Janet Fulton, PhD, from CDC and April Oh, PhD, MPH, from NIH moderated the workshop. Additional speakers included Taren Swindle, PhD, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; Gabriella McLoughlin, PhD, Temple University; Sandra Echeverria, PhD, MPH, UNC Greensboro; Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan, DrPH, MPH, Oklahoma State University, Center for Indigenous Health Research and Policy; Courtney Parks, PhD, Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition; and Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RD, LD, CNS; UTHealth School of Public Health. The complete [recording and slides](#) are available on the NCCOR website. In addition, the speakers provided a helpful resource list with links to peer reviewed articles, websites, videos, and professional trainings about implementation science.

### **Hosted three Connect & Explore webinars to connect the field to emerging issues and findings.**

NCCOR reached over 200 people through these webinars.

#### ***Create Thriving, Active-Friendly Communities***

On November 17, 2022, several members of NCCOR’s Physical Activity workgroup demonstrated how to use NCCOR’s new tools, [Create Thriving, Activity-Friendly Communities: Making the Case for Investments in Activity-Friendly Communities](#) and the [Economic Indicators Library](#). Together, these tools provide a comprehensive suite of resources that help communities meet the demand for equitable, active community spaces. During this interactive Connect & Explore webinar, speakers shared research and discussed practical, real-world strategies to illustrate how economic benefits can offer a power incentive for promoting physical activity. Speakers included Hatidza Zaganjor, MPH, and Cole Youngner, MPH, from CDC and Mark Fenton, MS, adjunct associate professor at Tufts University’s Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and public health, planning, and active transportation consultant. The [recording and slides](#) are available on the NCCOR website.

***Optimizing Recess for Healthy Child Development***

On December 6, 2022, NCCOR hosted a Connect & Explore webinar titled “Optimizing Recess for Healthy Child Development.” This webinar discussed how recess affects child development and energy balance, approaches to improving recess, and the current state of recess and related surveillance and policy in the United States. Expert speakers answered audience questions and emphasized the need for more research about the harms of recess-related bullying and how improvements to training, policies, and local programs could improve student’s physical, social, and mental well-being. An October 2022 [recess-themed issue](#) of the Journal of School Health inspired this Connect & Explore webinar and included articles authored by the speakers William Massey, PhD, Oregon State University, College of Public Health and Human Sciences and Kimberly Clevenger, PhD, MPH, Utah State University, Department of Kinesiology and Health Science. NCCOR member David Berrigan, PhD, MPH, of NIH identified the speakers and suggested this webinar topic. The [recording and slides](#) are available on the NCCOR website.

***Does Breastfeeding Initiation Vary by WIC Participation and Race/Ethnicity? An Examination of Long-Term Trends from 2009–2017.***

On January 11, 2023, NCCOR hosted a Connect & Explore webinar titled “Does Breastfeeding Initiation Vary by WIC Participation and Race/Ethnicity? An Examination of Long-Term Trends from 2009-2017.” A panel of expert speakers provided a first-hand look at the long-term breastfeeding initiation trends by prenatal WIC participation, based on a [research study](#) soon to appear in the *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*. This paper used birth certificate data from a sample of 24 states from 2009–2017 to examine trends in breastfeeding initiation among WIC-participating women on Medicaid compared to those not on WIC. The large number of women included in the dataset allowed the assessment of trends among different population groups, including American Indian/Alaska Natives and Asian/Pacific Islanders. This unique information supports current efforts to improve breastfeeding among women from diverse groups that participate in WIC programs. In addition to reviewing this new research, speakers discussed how WIC works to promote breastfeeding and reduce breastfeeding disparities. Marie Elizabeth Thoma, PhD, MHS, of the University of Maryland presented, as did several speakers from USDA: Amanda Reat, PhD, RD; Joanne Guthrie, PhD, MPH; and Leslie Hodges, PhD, MA. The [recording and slides](#) are available on the NCCOR website.