

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 October 2020 through February 2021.

Developed new measurement tool for high-risk populations

In October, NCCOR created a new tool, “Measures for children at high risk for obesity: Choosing whether to apply, adapt, or develop a measure.” Children and their families at high risk for obesity are often under-represented in instrument validation studies that measure obesity and related psychosocial, behavioral, and environmental factors. Culturally and linguistically appropriate assessments are important for effective interventions and research. However, little guidance exists on when each approach is best. The new resource includes a decision tree that walks researchers and practitioners through a series of questions regarding whether to apply, adapt, or develop an instrument for obesity measures in high-risk populations. The decision tree also provides five real-world case scenarios that describe the rationale for choosing one of the three measurement approaches. Examples of case study topics include how to involve community stakeholders, how to determine whether populations are meaningfully different, and how to assess whether modifications to instruments require revalidation. Additionally, there is a resource list of guides, articles, tools, and compendia related to adapting measures.

Published a new paper on trail access and use among youth in under-resourced communities

In November, NCCOR published “Identification of Effective Programs to Improve Access to and Use of Trails among Youth from Under-Resourced Communities: A Review” in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. The primary aim of this paper was to identify programs and policies that effectively promote and increase the use of trails among youth, especially those from under-resourced neighborhoods or communities. This new research publication vividly highlights the lack of scientific evidence that addresses the underrepresentation of trail use by youth from under-resourced communities. Three additional goals of the review included identifying (1) correlates of physical activity/trail use and features of transportation systems or built environment and land use destinations that may inform and support the planning and implementation of programs to promote trail use among youth, (2) benefits associated with trail use, and (3) barriers to trail use.

Published a new brief on programs promoting trail use among youth in under-resourced communities

In February, NCCOR published a new brief highlighting youth programs that promote trail use and physical activity. The program brief reviewed several outstanding trails programs across the country and analyzed their strengths and limitations. These programs stood out for their program reach/scalability, focus on under-resourced communities, and program evaluation. The brief also highlights future considerations and recommendations for improving youth trail use.

Hosted an expert panel for the Youth Active Travel to School Surveillance Initiative

In October, NCCOR hosted a virtual workshop to identify key challenges related to measurement and surveillance of youth active travel to school (ATS) and related environmental, policy, and program supports. Participants discussed gaps in existing surveillance systems as well as needs of relevant stakeholders. As a next step, the workgroup will conduct a post-workshop prioritizing activity for recommended metrics to measure youth ATS and related environmental, program, and policy supports. The workgroup will develop a white paper summarizing recommendations from the workshop.

Hosted an expert panel on COVID-19 and childhood obesity

In October, NCCOR held a panel titled, “Interactions between COVID-19 and Childhood Obesity: Setting a Research Agenda” to learn more about pressing research needs. The panel focused on early childcare and education, schools, and community settings, and featured Dr. Caree Cotwright, Dr. Lindsey Turner, Dr. Punam Ohri-Vachaspati, Dr. Michael Yedidia, Dr. Mary Story, and Dr. Bill Dietz.

Updated the NCCOR Catalogue of Surveillance Systems

Throughout 2020 and completed in February 2021, NCCOR updated the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems. Eight surveillance systems were added to the Catalogue: the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, SNAP Policy Database, SNAP Distribution Database, WIC Infant and Toddler Feeding Practices, WIC Participant and Program Characteristics, School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study, American Housing Survey, and Linked HUD administrative data for the National Health Interview Survey and the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Updated the NCCOR Measures Registry

Throughout 2020 and completed in January 2021, NCCOR updated its landmark tool, the Measures Registry. NCCOR members reviewed thousands of articles to determine whether they met inclusion criteria. More than 250 new articles with valid and reliable measures of individual diet, food environment, individual physical activity, and physical activity environment were added to the Measures Registry. New articles include those with Spanish language tools, measures for birth to 24 months, and measures tested in high-risk populations.

Developed a new workgroup on dietary assessment for infants and young children

In December, NCCOR launched a new workgroup to continue some of the next steps described in the JPB workshop series. The workgroup is planning a series of virtual panels to better

understand what types of measures and innovations are needed to assess dietary intake for birth to 24 months.

Translated the Youth Compendium into Chinese

NCCOR worked with a member of the Youth Energy Expenditure workgroup, Dr. Barbara Ainsworth, while she was on a sabbatical in China to translate the Youth Compendium. Because China requires mandatory fitness testing, there was a great need for the tool to be translated. The translated tool was published in *China Sports Coaches* as a print version and will be published online through three databases; China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), Wanfang Data, and Chongqing VIP Data in early 2021. The materials were uploaded to the NCCOR website in February 2021.

Hosted three Connect & Explore webinars

NCCOR hosted a Connect & Explore webinar in October highlighting its new tool, A Guide to Methods for Assessing Childhood Obesity. The author of the guide, Dr. Dympna Gallagher, as well as co-chairs of the project, Brook Belay and Voula Osganian, presented. In January, NCCOR held a webinar about the new measurement tool, Measures for Children at High-Risk for Obesity, titled “Improving research on children at high risk for obesity: When to apply, adapt, or develop a measure.” Latetia Moore provided background on the tool, and the authors of three case scenarios—Dr. Melicia Whitt-Glover, Dr. Stella Yi, and Dr. Teresia O’Connor—presented on their respective research. In February, NCCOR hosted the “NCCOR Showcase: Highlighting New Projects, Tools, and Resources” on the Connect & Explore series. This webinar gave an overview of NCCOR and highlighted project successes over the past few years. Featured panelists included Laura Kettel Khan, David Berrigan, Deborah Young-Hyman, Heather Devlin, Andrew Bremer and Donna Johnson-Bailey was available for questions.

Promoted NCCOR resources and expanded our reach

NCCOR continued to participate in conferences virtually for the remainder of 2020, attending four conferences between October and December. At the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference, NCCOR presented “Bridging the Gap Between Primary and Tertiary Care: The Role of Community-based Healthy Weight Programs in Childhood Obesity Prevention and Control.” Brook Belay presented on behalf of the NCCOR Engaging Healthcare Providers and Systems Workgroup. The oral presentation highlighted findings from Collaborative Learning Project and described the need for evaluation of childhood healthy weight programs. At the American Public Health Association’s Annual Meeting, and the Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health, NCCOR presented a poster on the new Measures for Children at High Risk for Obesity decision tree resource. For ObesityWeek Interactive, NCCOR developed a poster on NCCOR’s latest guide on assessing childhood obesity.