

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 2021 through February 2022.

Published a new manuscript exploring measurement in research about childhood obesity.

NCCOR published a new manuscript in *The American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, which describes priorities and next steps for enhancing measurement tools and using high quality measures in research to address the childhood obesity epidemic. The paper, "[Advancing Measurement to Address Childhood Obesity: Results of 3 Workshops](#)," was developed from a series of workshops held in 2019 and early 2020 by NCCOR and funded by The JPB Foundation. The series of three workshops focused on measurement of individual behaviors; environmental influences; and policy influences related to diet, physical activity, sedentary behavior, and sleep. Each workshop focused on high-risk populations and communities. A white paper series that describes each workshop individually is available on the [NCCOR website](#).

Published a new white paper and manuscript focused on youth active travel to school (ATS).

NCCOR published a [literature review](#) in the *Journal of Healthy Eating and Active Living* and released a [white paper](#) summarizing a workshop that engaged experts to explore key challenges related to surveillance and measurement of youth active travel to school (ATS). In 2017, NCCOR's physical activity workgroup launched the Youth Active Travel to School Surveillance Initiative subgroup, which aims to improve public health surveillance of youth ATS across three key domains: youth ATS behaviors, environmental supports for ATS, and policy and program support for ATS. The white paper and literature review identify gaps in existing surveillance systems, pinpoint needs for users of these systems, and develop practical strategies and solutions to address those needs and strengthen surveillance where gaps exist.

Published a project page, report, and factsheet that summarize research related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on early childhood education centers (ECE).

NCCOR published a [new project page](#) based on our latest report, titled [Key Informant Interviews to Inform Nutrition and Physical Activity Efforts in Child Care Settings During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). This report highlights research needs and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related legislation on the ECE system from the perspective of researchers, practitioners, and federal representatives. NCCOR worked with the [Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition \(GSCN\)](#) to conduct key informant interviews to explore how the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and American Rescue Plan (ARP) investments may affect the ECE landscape and ECE facilities, including how it will impact children aged 0-13 years, the ages designated in the legislation. The report is also accompanied by a [one-pager](#) that highlights key themes and considerations for the strategic use of recovery funds.

Hosted three Connect & Explore Webinars.

NCCOR hosted three Connect & Explore webinars to promote new products and share research from outside partners. The webinars included:

- **Introducing: A Toolkit for Evaluating Childhood Healthy Weight Programs**
Held on October 19, 2021, this webinar explored the toolkit in more depth and featured the following subject-matter experts who collaborated to develop the tool: Brook Belay, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Ihuoma Eneli, Nationwide Children's Hospital; Nancy Sherwood, University of Minnesota; Sandra Hassink, AAP Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight; and Matthew Levy, Medical College of Wisconsin and Children's Wisconsin. A recording of the webinar is [now available online](#).
- **Assessing the Public Health Impact of the Children's Food and Beverage Advertising Initiative**
On November 10, 2021, NCCOR hosted a webinar in collaboration with the [Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity](#) and [RTI International](#) reviewing the impact the [Children's Food and Beverage Advertising Initiative](#) (CFBAI). The webinar featured the following speakers: Jennifer Harris, UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity; Frances Fleming, UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity; and Mary Muth, RTI International. A recording of the webinar is [now available online](#).
- **NCCOR Annual Showcase: Highlighting New Projects, Tools, and Resources**
NCCOR hosted its annual showcase on February 7, 2022. We highlighted the following projects: Youth Active Travel to School, Economics of Built Environments Improvement, Advancing Measurement to Address Childhood Obesity, and A Toolkit for Evaluating Childhood Healthy Weight Programs. The following NCCOR members presented: Stephanie George, National Institute of Health; Hatidza Zaganjor, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; David Berrigan, National Institutes of Health; and Brook Belay, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A recording of the webinar is [now available online](#).

Promoted NCCOR's newest resource, A Toolkit for Evaluating Childhood Healthy Weight Programs.

NCCOR has launch a promotional campaign to raise awareness of our newest resource, [A Toolkit for Evaluating Childhood Healthy Weight Programs](#). Activities include developing promotional graphics, posting a press release, promoting the toolkit in the NCCOR newsletter, hosting a webinar (see above), and conducted an online advertising campaign. In just six months, the toolkit has had approximately 300,000 page views.

Participated in two conferences: the American Public Health Association's (APHA) annual meeting and ObesityWeek Interactive.

NCCOR developed a virtual booth for the APHA conference, and several NCCOR members presented during the event. There were five presentations and five posters. [Click here](#) for a full list of the presentations, with links to abstracts. In addition to APHA, the Childhood Obesity Evidence Base project was featured during ObesityWeek during a presentation by Deborah Young-Hyman, National Institutes of Health.