

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 April through September 2020.

Launched “A Guide to Methods for Assessing Childhood Obesity”

NCCOR released a new tool for those working on assessing childhood obesity called “A Guide to Methods for Assessing Childhood Obesity.” The guide describes six methods commonly used to assess body composition in children and highlights procedures, validity and reliability, reference data, accessibility, cost, and participant burden and risk. Each method has a case study highlighting considerations for selecting methods described in the guide offering an opportunity to enhance what users learn from this guide.

Published papers based on NCCOR’s Childhood Obesity Evidence Base Project

Childhood Obesity published four papers highlighting findings from the NCCOR Childhood Obesity Evidence Base (COEB) Project. The papers are accompanied by commentaries by Dr. Shiriki Kumanyika, Dr. Christina Economos, and Dr. Debra Haire-Joshu. The four articles in this supplement are available on the NCCOR website.

Published a new paper in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*

NCCOR published a new research paper in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* titled “Identification of measurement needs to prevent childhood obesity in high-risk populations and environments,” which reviews NCCOR’s landmark tool, the Measures Registry. The paper details an updated 2013 review of the Measures Registry, in which the authors identified and characterized individual and environmental measures of diet and physical activity used among high-risk populations. Of 351 measures added to NCCOR’s Measures Registry since 2013, 38 were used in populations at increased risk for childhood obesity.

Developed a new Childhood Obesity and COVID-19 workgroup

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, NCCOR developed a new Childhood Obesity and COVID-19 workgroup. The workgroup aims to create a research agenda for childhood obesity and COVID-19. In order to do this, the workgroup is hosting a series of virtual panels to hear experts identify the research gaps related to schools and early care and education (ECE), data efforts, surveillance, and data modeling among other needs.

Released a white paper, “Advancing Measurement of Individual Behaviors Related to Childhood Obesity: Implications and Recommendations for the Field”

NCCOR convened the “Advancing Measurement of Individual Behaviors Related to Childhood Obesity” workshop on May 20-21, 2019. This workshop was the first in a series of three

workshops funded by The JPB Foundation and focused on measurement needs to capture individual behaviors related to childhood obesity. Using findings from this first workshop, NCCOR released a white paper, “Advancing Measurement of Individual Behaviors Related to Childhood Obesity: Implications and Recommendations for the Field.” The white paper includes recommendations for actionable steps to address short-term (1-3 years) and medium-term (3-5 years) measurement needs in these areas.

Translated the Youth Compendium of Physical Activities into Spanish

In response to the rise of childhood obesity in Latin America and the need identified by NCCOR members for a tool to help address the growing epidemic, NCCOR translated the Youth Compendium of Physical Activities into Spanish. The Youth Compendium of Physical Activities provides a list of 196 common activities in which youth participate and the estimated energy cost associated with each activity. The Spanish version includes activities common in Spain, Mexico, and Colombia. It can be used by a wide variety of people—from researchers and health care professionals to teachers, coaches, and fitness professionals—and in a variety of ways—including research, public health policy making, education, and interventions to encourage physical activity in youth.

Hosted an expert panel for the Economic Impacts of Built Environment Improvement Project

On June 2-3, 2020, NCCOR hosted a two-day virtual panel on Economic Impacts of Built Environment Improvements. The panel consisted of 20 experts with a purpose of narrowing down economic indicators that public health practitioners can use to make the business case for built environment improvements that increase physical activity. The panel focused on equity, livability, safety, and more. A report was developed based on what was learned over the course of the discussion groups and expert panel.

Released a new case study for graduate students

NCCOR released a new case study for students that provides a step-by-step lesson on how to use the Measures Registry to select measures for a physical activity project. This case study examines adolescent physical activity and social networks at summer care programs.

Shared childhood obesity resources related to COVID-19

In April, NCCOR published a blog sharing childhood obesity resources related to COVID-19. Resources included research repositories, tools for teachers and parents trying to keep kids active, nutrition guidance for practitioners, resources for graduate students and faculty doing virtual learning, and other general guidance. This blog is regularly updated with the latest information.

Promoted materials during National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

During National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month in September, NCCOR promoted tools and resources for graduate students and faculty, in addition to the new *A Guide to Methods for Assessing Childhood Obesity*.

Promoted NCCOR resources and expanded our reach

Despite the pandemic, NCCOR has participated in two virtual conferences. At the Society for Public Health Education, NCCOR hosted a virtual exhibit booth and participated in a student panel highlighting NCCOR's new Student Hub. At the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior, NCCOR hosted a virtual exhibit booth and had a session, "Tools of the Trade: Using NCCOR's Measures Registry Resource Suite in the Field" which highlighted the resource suite and shared how it can be used in research and in the classroom. Fifty-five people attended the presentation.