

## 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 September 2023 through February 2024.

### **Updated the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems (CSS) to include 36 new sleep variables.**

Launched over a decade ago, NCCOR's [Catalogue of Surveillance Systems \(CSS\)](#) has become an indispensable resource for childhood obesity research, providing centralized access to over 100 relevant data sets. In 2023, NCCOR accelerated progress in childhood obesity research by incorporating new sleep variables into 36 datasets in the database.

Like diet and physical activity, research suggests that sleep is an important determinant of childhood obesity. Adequate sleep is crucial for regulating appetite hormones, controlling food cravings, and supporting overall metabolic health. While the relationship between sleep and obesity is known, few resources exist where researchers can access comprehensive data with intersecting variables on sleep, diet, and physical activity.

By integrating new sleep variables into the CSS, NCCOR is filling this critical gap and enabling researchers, health care providers, and public health practitioners to explore the intricate relationship between sleep and childhood obesity easily and efficiently. This expansion facilitates better understanding and streamlines research efforts, ultimately promoting more effective interventions and public health strategies to combat childhood obesity.

### **Published marketing materials to promote the addition of sleep variables to the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems.**

NCCOR's new campaign to advance sleep-related research includes new marketing materials to promote recent updates to the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems (CSS). The [new factsheet](#) details the addition of sleep variables and their relevance in childhood obesity research. [A social media post and graphic](#) have also been made publicly available for use on sites such as X and LinkedIn. These resources can be used by NCCOR members and partners to help spread the word about the CSS updates.

### **Conducted two NCCOR informational presentations to NIH's Sleep Disorders Research Advisory Board (SDRAB) and the U.S. Global Change Research Program's (USGCRP) Climate Change, Food Systems, and Nutrition Security Workgroup.**

In December, NCCOR member Marissa Shams-White, PhD, MSTOM, MS, MPH (National Cancer Institute) presented to NIH's SDRAB to share the recent addition of sleep variables to the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems and accompanying promotional materials. Also in December, NCCOR member David Berrigan, PhD, MPH (National Cancer Institute) presented to the U.S. Global Change Research Program to give an overview of NCCOR, emphasizing the Measures Registry and Catalogue of Surveillance Systems.

**Published a commentary with the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition in *Childhood Obesity*.**

NCCOR concluded the year by publishing a commentary with the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition in *Childhood Obesity* titled [The Influence of Social Determinants of Health and Structural Racism on Childhood Obesity](#), exploring gaps and opportunities in measuring the relationship between social determinants of health (SDoH), structural racism, and childhood obesity. Through a landscape analysis and expert interviews, several measures for SDoH and structural racism (n=47) were found; however, their application to childhood obesity was limited, highlighting the need for more comprehensive measures and frameworks to inform public health efforts. The editorial is based on an [earlier NCCOR report](#) that identified measurement tools and resources to assess individual and environmental level influences on childhood obesity.

**Conducted NCCOR's 2023 Member Survey and data collection.**

In partnership with the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition, NCCOR fielded its member survey in the fall of 2023, yielding 33 total respondents. The survey included questions regarding future directions for NCCOR, with specific topics including implementation science, treatment, life-stage interventions, and more.

**Hosted an exhibit booth at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo.**

NCCOR hosted an exhibit booth during APHA in Atlanta, where the theme was "Creating the Healthiest Nation: Overcoming Social and Ethical Challenges." Many of our booth visitors were students interested in pursuing research in the field or researchers looking for additional tools to support their work. All NCCOR promotional materials including swag, annual reports, and factsheets were distributed. Following APHA, the [NCCOR newsletter](#) received over 100 new subscribers!