



NCCOR Member Call

December 17, 2025 | 2:00 p.m. ET



Building Evidence and Advancing Practice for Healthy Children, Families, and Communities

Agenda

- Steering committee updates
- Spotlight: NCI administrative supplements
 - David Berrigan, PhD, MPH, National Cancer Institute
 - Jill Reedy, PhD, MPH, RDN, National Cancer Institute
- Workgroup updates
- Communication updates
- Emerging opportunities for NCCOR
- Calendar reminders

NCCOR Winter Member Meeting

- February 25, 2026, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET
- Panel: TEAM UP Trial
 - Steve Cook, MD, MPH, Nationwide Children’s Hospital
 - Denise Wilfley, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis
 - Amanda Staiano, PhD, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Louisiana State University
 - Jeanne Lindros, MPH, American Academy of Pediatrics
- This study compares the clinical effectiveness of two treatment approaches within primary care for obesity reduction in children and adolescents.

Steering Committee Updates

CDC

Carrie Dooyema, MSN, MPH, RN

Deborah Galuska, PhD

USDA

Brandon J. Restrepo, PhD

Donna Johnson-Bailey, MPH, RD

NIH

Jill Reedy, PhD, MPH, RDN

Stephanie George, PhD, MPH, MA

RWJF

Katherine Hempstead, PhD

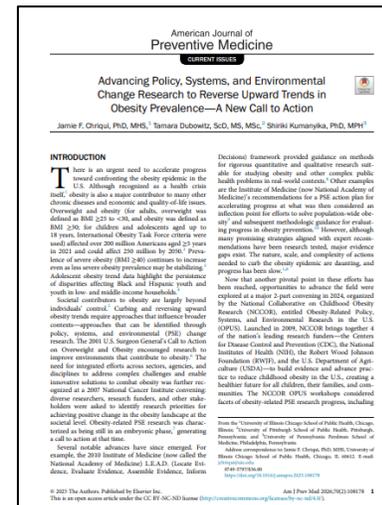
Next Steps with Administrative Supplements for Assessing Capacity to Address Obesity for Cancer Prevention and Control

Obesity-Related Policy, Systems, and Environmental Research in the U.S. (OPUS)

Jill Reedy and David Berrigan
National Cancer Institute



OPUS timeline



OPUS Themes to Guide the Next Phase of Research

- Leverage broader and more innovative research methods and partnerships
- Recognize the amount of time needed to bring policy, systems, and environmental research to fruition
- Measure proximal, distal, and partner-relevant drivers and outcomes
- Accelerate efforts to build capacity for obesity-related policy, systems, and environmental research

Notice of Special Interest, October 2024

Purpose: to build capacity and readiness for the development of *whole-of-systems* approaches to addressing obesity for cancer prevention and control via policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) approaches

1. Describe prevalence of obesity in defined geographic areas of interest
2. Conduct an environmental scan of to identify key collaborators and summarize the policy landscape
3. Convene groups to discuss community readiness to develop a whole-of-systems approach to obesity

Specific Activities – 1 of 3

- **Describe the prevalence of obesity** and its behavioral determinants such as diet, alcohol, and physical activity patterns **over the life course** and **by demographic groupings** over the **relevant geographic areas** of interest to the applicant.
- **Existing data** describing cancer center catchment areas, cities, counties, or other geographic and administrative units could contribute to this goal.

Specific Activities – 2 of 3

Conduct an environmental scan to:

1. Identify, contact, and convene key collaborators in areas relevant to obesity prevention and treatment. Those may include community leaders, neighborhood partners, local health and transportation departments, health care delivery systems, collaborators from academic centers with related expertise (e.g., schools of public health), and non-governmental organizations addressing diverse social determinants of health as well as health care and executive and legislative leadership such as mayors, county councils, and other elected representatives.
2. Summarize unique and salient features of the policy environment in different sectors relevant to obesity, including unique or modifiable aspects of policies involving schools, parks, transportation, health care, or prevention that could be part of future whole-systems approaches to obesity in your chosen region.

Specific Activities – 3 of 3

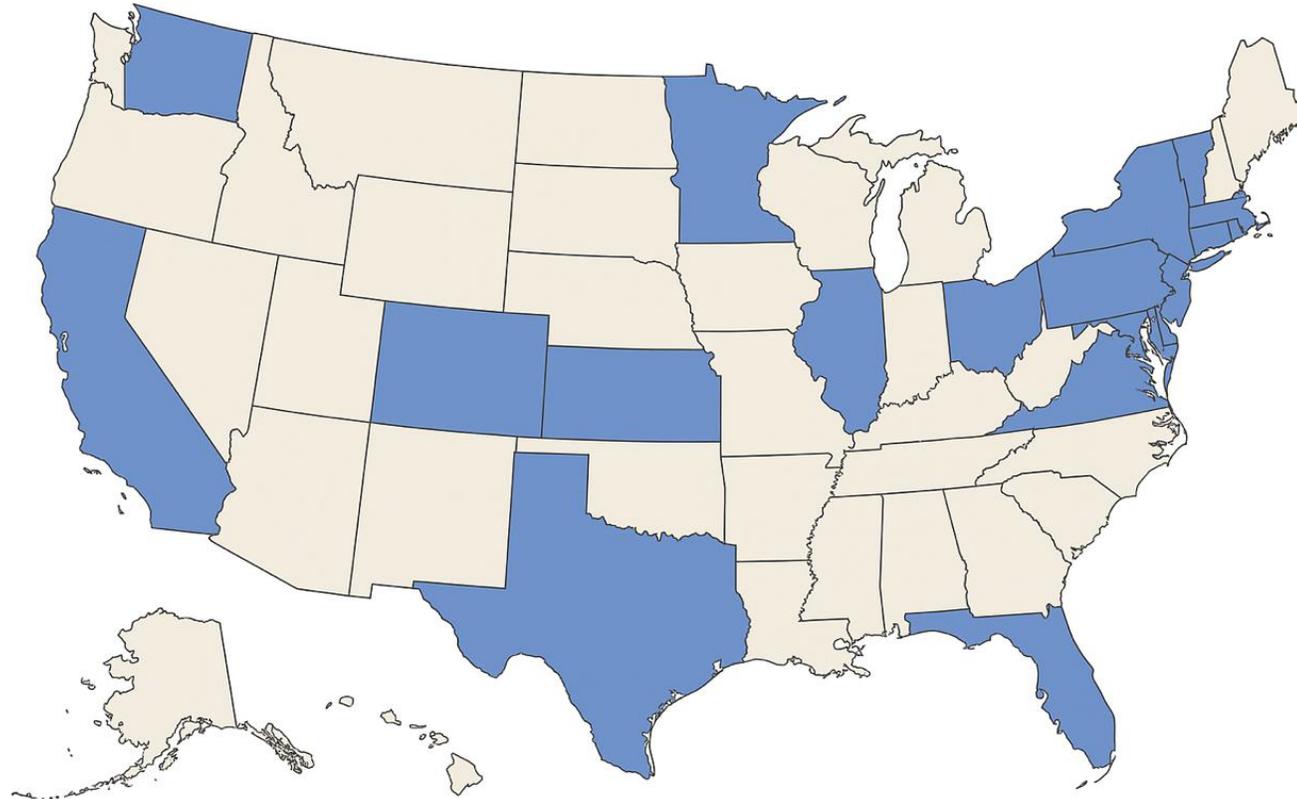
Building on specific activities 1 and 2:

- Carry out qualitative work and convening to explore the potential for, and characteristics of, an appropriate and significant whole-of-systems effort to address obesity.
- Such an effort should be strongly informed by the cancer prevention and control community and engage efforts related to other obesity outcomes such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, mobility, mental health and cognitive function, and many other correlates of obesity.
- This effort should result in a meeting report and needs assessment describing opportunities and barriers towards advancing a whole-of-systems approach to addressing obesity in the community of interest.

14 Obesity Supplement Grantees

- **Karen Basen-Engquist, PhD, MPH**
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- **Jennifer Beebe-Dimmer, PhD**
Wayne State University School of Medicine
- **Christie Befort, PhD**
University of Kansas Medical Center
Kansas University Cancer Center
- **Diane Gilbert-Diamond, ScD**
Dartmouth Cancer Center
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
- **Joel Gittelsohn, PhD, MS**
Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
- **Melinda Irwin, PhD, MPH**
Yale Cancer Center; Yale School of Public Health
- **Mariah Jackson, PhD, MMN, RDN, LMNT**
University of Nebraska Medical Center
- **Rebecca Kehm, PhD, MPH**
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
- **Marvin Langston, PhD**
Stanford Medicine
- **Melissa Laska, PhD, RD**
Masonic Cancer Center
University of Minnesota School of Public Health
- **Salma Marco-Shariff, PhD, MPH**
University of California San Francisco School of Medicine
- **Jason Mendoza, MD, MPH**
Fred Hutch Cancer Center
- **Kathryn Schmitz, PhD, MPH**
Hillman Cancer Center
University of Pittsburgh
- **Sara St. George, PhD**
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
- **Dana Verhoeven, PhD**
Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center
University of Nebraska Medical Center

14 Obesity Supplements in 13 States (\$1.4 M)



Next Steps in 2026

- Convene supplement awardees
 - Hold virtual kick-off meeting in January
 - Share brief introductions and an overview of the supplement opportunity
 - Connect grantees with NCCOR
- Discuss decisions and next steps for the upcoming year
- Optimize coordination across grantees
- Hold hybrid/in-person meeting in September
- Draft collective commentary
- Identify strategies to engage broader research community

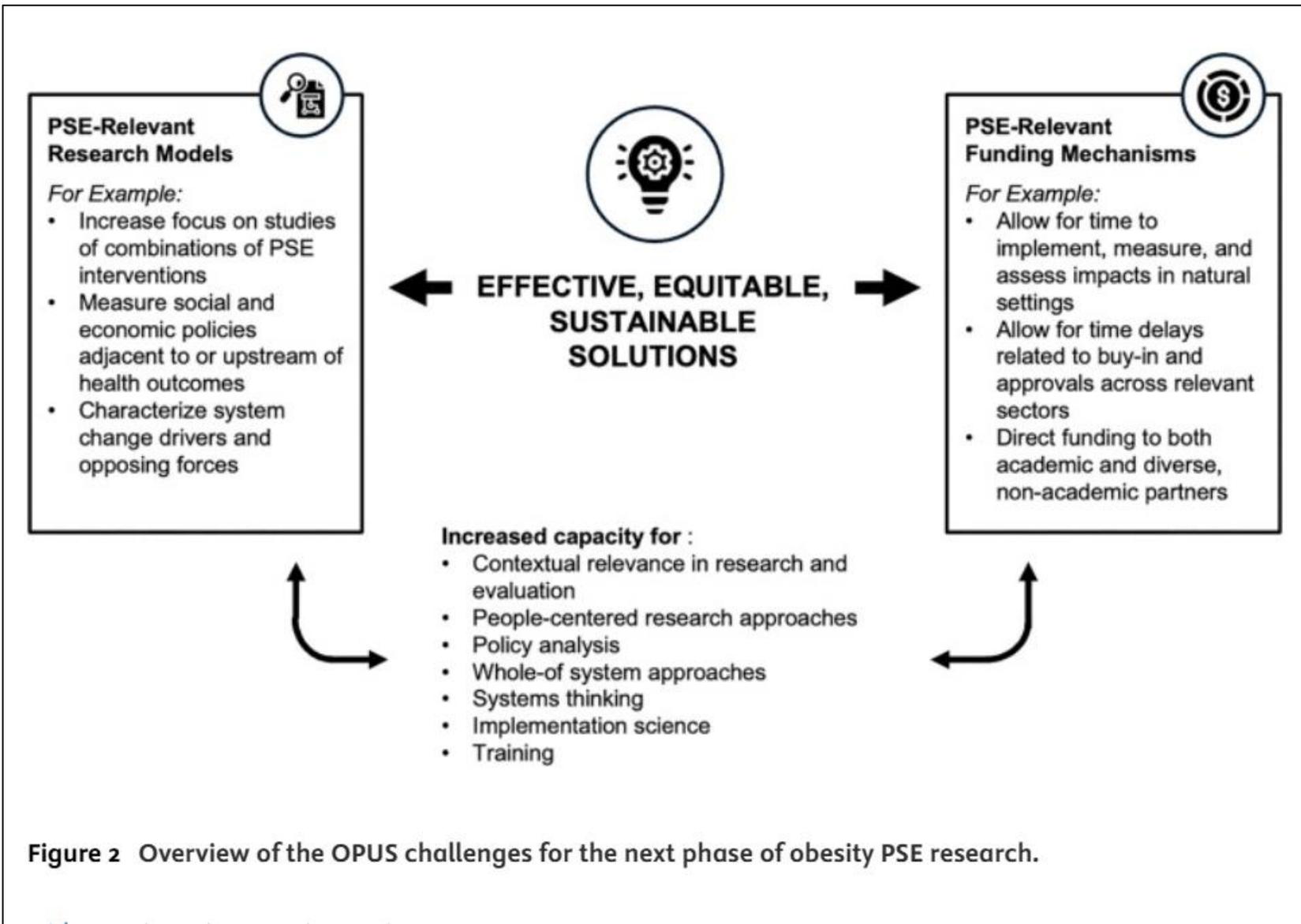


Figure 2 Overview of the OPUS challenges for the next phase of obesity PSE research.



Questions?



Thank You!

Workgroup Updates

Amanda Sharfman
NCCOR Coordinating Center

Workgroup Updates

- **Identification and Categorization of Evidence Gaps in Physical Activity**

Research: Manuscript published in the International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity. Preparing for a Connect & Explore webinar in January. Submitted an abstract to the Society of Prevention Research meeting in May 2026. Presented a poster at the Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health (Methods track).

- **Implementation Science:** Presented a poster at the Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health (Prevention and Public Health track).

- **Obesity-Related Policy Research in the US (OPUS) Workshop:** Manuscript published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine (AJPM).

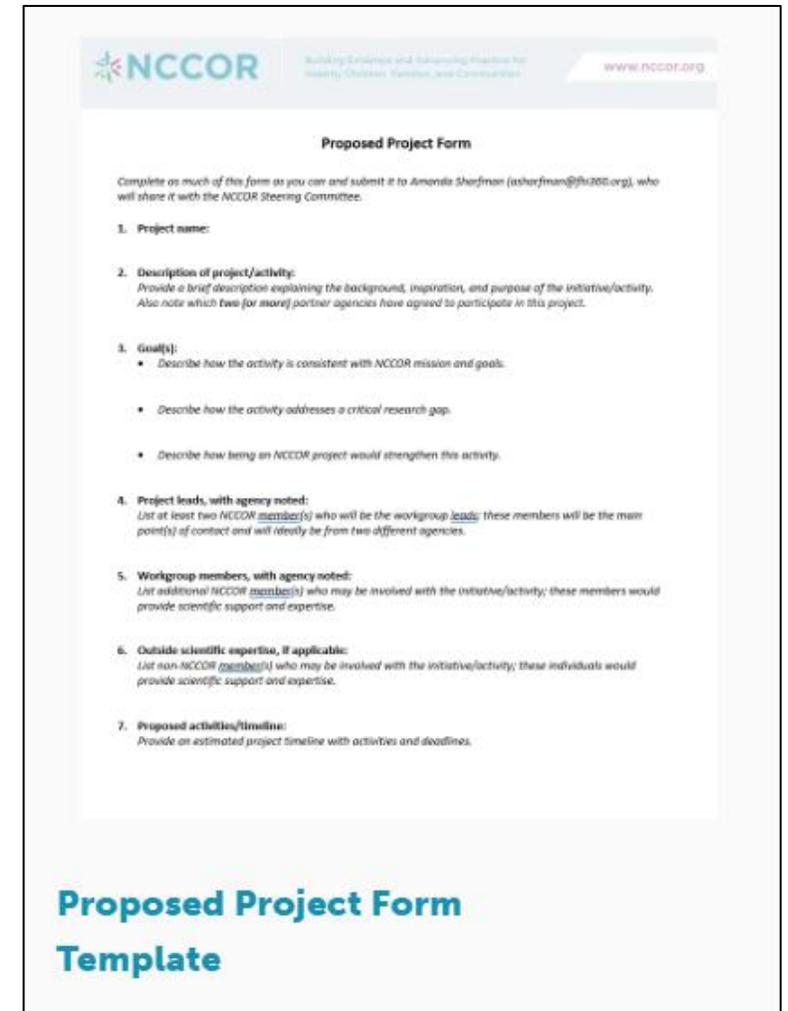
- **Research Gaps in Treatment of Pediatric Obesity with Obesity Medications:** Outlining direction for white paper. Meeting with workshop co-chairs to process ideas generated during the in-person meeting.

New Workgroup, Sport & Youth Well-Being: Measuring Context & Cataloguing What Works

- Workshop Goals:
 1. Identify priority measures that capture the context of youth sport participation and outcomes (subjective and objective, individual- and system-level)
 2. Identify exemplar school- and community-based sports programs that provide equitable access to sports.
- Aim to hold a workshop in June 2026
- If you are interested in joining this workgroup, please let Amanda know asharfman@fhi360.org
 - Goal is to have an initial meeting in January

Call for New Projects

- NCCOR members are invited to submit project ideas using the proposed project form on the Member Hub.
- Some ideas generated at the September member meeting included:
 - Research gaps around the role of organized youth sport in childhood obesity prevention and physical and mental health across the life course
 - Exploration of the role of AI-based tools and technologies in promoting healthy behaviors
 - Convening to discuss what is next for addressing childhood obesity



The image shows a screenshot of a 'Proposed Project Form' template. At the top left is the NCCOR logo with the tagline 'Building Evidence and Advancing Practice for Healthy Children, Families, and Communities' and the website 'www.nccor.org'. The title 'Proposed Project Form' is centered. Below the title, there is a paragraph: 'Complete as much of this form as you can and submit it to Amaniia Sharifian (asharifian@nccor.org), who will share it with the NCCOR Steering Committee.' The form contains seven numbered sections:

- 1. Project name:**
- 2. Description of project/activity:**
Provide a brief description explaining the background, inspiration, and purpose of the initiative/activity. Also note which two (or more) partner agencies have agreed to participate in this project.
- 3. Goal(s):**
 - Describe how the activity is consistent with NCCOR mission and goals.
 - Describe how the activity addresses a critical research gap.
 - Describe how being an NCCOR project would strengthen this activity.
- 4. Project leads, with agency noted:**
List at least two NCCOR member(s) who will be the workgroup lead(s); these members will be the main point(s) of contact and will ideally be from two different agencies.
- 5. Workgroup members, with agency noted:**
List additional NCCOR member(s) who may be involved with the initiative/activity; these members would provide scientific support and expertise.
- 6. Outside scientific expertise, if applicable:**
List non-NCCOR person(s) who may be involved with the initiative/activity; these individuals would provide scientific support and expertise.
- 7. Proposed activities/timeline:**
Provide an estimated project timeline with activities and deadlines.

At the bottom of the form, the text 'Proposed Project Form Template' is displayed in blue.

Communication Updates

Amanda Sharfman
NCCOR Coordinating Center

Two Manuscripts Published

- Advancing policy, systems, and environmental change research to reverse upward trends in obesity prevalence—a new call to action
- Development of the Physical Activity Research Opportunities (PARO) Framework

NCCOR COMMENTARY

Advancing policy, systems and environmental change research to reverse upward trends in obesity prevalence—a new call to action in *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*



NCCOR RESEARCH ARTICLE

Development of the Physical Activity Research Opportunities (PARO) Framework in *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*



Manuscript Dissemination

- Shared in DNPAO Weekly Digest
- Included in PAPREN Post
- Included in NOPREN HER Resource Digest
- OPUS shared by co-authors on LinkedIn
- PARO featured in PAPREN blog



Advancing Physical Activity Research with the PARO Framework



Jamie Chriqui • 2nd
UIC School of Public Health
1w •

+ Follow ...

I was thrilled work with [Shiriki Kumanyika](#), [Tamara Dubowitz](#), and the [NCCOR](#) team on this commentary which reflects key insights from the Obesity Prevention in the US (OPUS) workshops. If you haven't checked out the workshop talks, they are available here: <https://lnkd.in/gRYm6V-z> and we encourage you to read our commentary linked below!

 **NCCOR**
1,105 followers
1w •

NCCOR's new commentary in AJPM issues a bold call to action: advancing policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) research is essential to reverse rising obesity trends and address persistent disparities. Explore key insights from the OPUS workshop series and what's needed to accelerate impact.

NCCOR COMMENTARY

Advancing policy, systems and environmental change research to reverse upward trends in obesity prevalence—a new call to action in *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*

New NCCOR Publication Issues a Call to Action for Obesity-Related PSE...
NCCOR

NCCOR at the Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health 2025

- Two posters being presented:
 - The Development of NCCOR's Implementation Scorecard: A Decision-Making Companion for Public Health Practitioners
 - Using Qualitative Data Analysis Combined with Expert Consultation to Consolidate Research Opportunities: Developing the Physical Activity Research Opportunities (PARO) Framework



NCCOR at the Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health 2025

NCCOR WORKING TOGETHER TO REVERSE CHILDHOOD OBESITY

NCCOR is a partnership of the nation's leading funders of childhood obesity research: 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).

Using Qualitative Data Analysis Combined with Expert Consultation to Consolidate Research Opportunities: Developing the Physical Activity Research Opportunities (PARO) Framework

BACKGROUND

- Physical activity research opportunities are difficult to navigate, as they have been published in multiple consensus documents, guidelines, and reports.
- Focusing the physical activity research agenda could address gaps across the translational research spectrum, answer priority public health questions, and support scale-up of effective interventions.

Objective: Use qualitative data analysis¹ combined with expert consultation² to identify, synthesize, and categorize physical activity (PA) research opportunities into a single framework to advance PA research more efficiently.

METHODS

- Identify key source documents
- Extract physical activity research opportunities
- Code by translational phase, ecological level, setting, and priority population
- Synthesize overlapping opportunities
- Map relationships to develop the Physical Activity Research Opportunities (PARO) Framework

What this means for dissemination and implementation science:

- IMPROVES STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**
Helps researchers, practitioners, and funders target high-impact areas.
- ACCELERATES MOVEMENT FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE**
Maps how evidence can more efficiently advance into implementation and scale.
- CAN BE ADAPTED ACROSS FIELDS**
Offers a replicable model for synthesizing research opportunities in other public health areas.

Learn more about the PARO framework



Authors: Bramaramba J. Kowetha, MS, RD, LDN¹, Laura Balli, PhD², Melissa C. Green Parker, PhD³, Sueny Paloma Lima-dos-Santos, PhD⁴, Grace Stott, MS⁵, Norma Minkoff, MS¹, Meher Din, MPH¹, Daniel P. Hatfield, PhD⁴, Amanda Sharfman, MS, MPH¹, David R. Brown, PhD⁵

Authors Affiliation:

- National Institutes of Health
- Center for Nutrition and Health Impact
- Graduate College, Ohio University
- FHE 360
- Retired independent consultant

FINDINGS

Reviewed 13 source documents → Extracted 388 research opportunities

Organized by translational phase and social ecological level → Consolidated into 87 condensed opportunities

Conceptualized the PARO Framework

DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OPPORTUNITIES

Identified and synthesized:

- Taller and less taxing school-based physical activity interventions for student needs and school context.
- Assess the implementation of computer-tailored interventions, including tailoring variables and core components.
- Investigate the implementation of social support interventions in community settings, including type, message, intensity, structure, and frequency.

Policy, systems, and environment:

- Conduct policy research on improving the adoption and implementation of active transportation, land use, and community design policies.
- Determine evidence-based core components of active travel to school interventions (e.g., active school buses, school bus alternatives), primarily for homes.
- Determine which characteristics of park, greenspace, and trail infrastructure (e.g., wayfinding signs, trails, fitness centers) are most effective for increasing physical activity.
- Study the implementation of point-of-decision prompts, including format, type, size, distance to trails, and number of lights.
- Test strategies to integrate physical activity interventions in clinical settings and workplaces.

Community:

- Conduct research on the effectiveness of technical assistance to support communities in collecting data, measuring outcomes, and tailoring interventions.
- Develop and systematically test methods for improving the implementation and sustainability of evidence-based physical activity interventions in real-world settings.
- Examine how to best integrate and disseminate faith-based and faith-sited programs.
- Examine barriers to adoption, implementation, and maintenance of school-based physical activity interventions.
- Examine how community-wide campaigns can be institutionalized, such as through community coalitions.
- Systematically test implementation of multi-component physical activity interventions, including core components (e.g., voluntary time, signs, nutrition) and implementation strategies.

NCCOR WORKING TOGETHER TO REVERSE CHILDHOOD OBESITY

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The Development of NCCOR's Implementation Scorecard: A Decision-Making Companion for Public Health Practitioners

Authors: Taren Massey-Swindle, PhD¹, Karen Hilyard, PhD², Olivia Giordano Kean, MPH³, Amanda Sharfman, MS, MPH⁴, Sheila Fleischhacker, PhD, JD, RDN¹, and Melissa C. Green Parker, PhD⁵

BACKGROUND

Implementation science (IS) strategies can support communities and organizations in finding and implementing public health interventions that are evidence-based and appropriate for their context.

- IS research is not always translated into practice.
- Practitioners need IS tools to help inform daily decisions.
- To bridge these gaps, NCCOR developed the Implementation Scorecard: A Decision-Making Companion for Public Health Practitioners and an accompanying case study.

METHODS

Qualitative interviews based on the EPIS (Exploration, Preparation, Implementation, Sustainment) framework with 13 practitioners identified their IS needs by phase and informed development of a practical, phase-specific implementation tool. Received IRB exempt status.

WHO WE TALKED TO

- Purposive sample of 13 organizations
- Government agencies + nonprofits implementing obesity, nutrition, or physical activity programs

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Which implementation science concepts would help you most?
- At which phase of implementation do you need the most support?
- What tool formats or features would be most useful?

EPIS PHASE

EPIS Phase	Example Questions
Exploration	How does this audience choose interventions?
Preparation	What is this audience's attitude toward a scientific approach to planning implementation?
Implementation	When this audience implements an intervention, how do they ensure integration into the system/organization and monitor for quality?
Sustainment	What influences whether a program continues to be delivered?

HOW WE INTERPRETED THE DATA

Directed content analysis to identify:

- Support needs across EPIS phases
- Preferred ways to access IS resources

FINDINGS

Interviews revealed several consistent themes about practitioners' challenges and needs including:

- Struggle to balance adaptation and fidelity
- Seek brief, practical tools and resources
- Prefer phase-specific guidance for implementation

These insights informed the Implementation Scorecard, organized around the EPIS framework. The Scorecard includes 21 prompts, a traffic-light scoring system, and curated resources to help users identify strengths, blind spots, and actions. A companion case study demonstrates use of the tool to adapt an evidence-based school meal delivery program.

CONCLUSION

The Scorecard helps practitioners apply core IS concepts in real-world settings and sustain long-term success. The Implementation Scorecard addresses the persistent gap between IS research and implementation practice by providing a practical, accessible tool tailored to practitioner decision-making.

Download the Implementation Scorecard

Watch the webinar

NCCOR at the Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health 2025



Upcoming Connect & Explore Webinar

- Advancing Physical Activity Research and Practice with the PARO Framework
- Tuesday, January 27, 3 – 4 PM ET
- Speakers
 - Laura Balis, PhD, Center for Nutrition & Health Impact
 - Bramaramba Kowtha, MS, National Institutes of Health





Emerging Opportunities for NCCOR

Thank You, David!

2009-2025

David Berrigan by the numbers



**Published
11 articles**

in peer-reviewed
journals



Featured speaker
in **6 Connect
& Explore
webinars**



Author on **12+
conference
presentations**



Participated in over
**20 workgroups
& workshops**

- 10th Anniversary - Measures Registry & Catalogue of Surveillance Systems
- Additional Benefits of Walkability
- Advancing Measurement of Individual Behaviors Related to Childhood Obesity
- Advancing Measurement for High-Risk Populations and Communities Related to Childhood Obesity
- Advancing Measurement of Environmental and Policy Influences Related to Childhood
- Catalogue of Surveillance Systems
- Childhood Obesity & COVID-19
- Health, Behavioral Design, and the Built Environment
- Identification and Categorization of Evidence Gaps in Physical Activity Research
- Implementation Science
- Increasing Opportunities for Trail Use to Promote Physical Activity and Health Among Underserved Youth
- Measures Registry
- Measures Registry User Guides:
- Measures Registry Learning Modules
- Measures for Children at High Risk of Obesity Decision Tree: approaches
- Obesity-Related Policy, Systems, and Environmental Research in the U.S. (OPUS) I
- Obesity-Related Policy, Systems, and Environmental Research in the U.S. (OPUS) II
- State of the Science on Measures of Individual Diet, Food Environment, Individual Physical Activity, and Physical Activity Environment
- Youth Active Travel to School Surveillance Initiative
- Youth Energy Expenditure

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Calendar Reminders

Member Calls

- January 21
- March 18
- April 15
- May 20
- July 15
- August 19

Member Meetings

- February 25
- June 10
- September 16

Do you want to present your work to NCCOR members? Let us know at rgrimsland@fhi360.org!



Questions?

Thank You

We are looking forward to continuing our work in 2026!

