



Pennsylvania *State Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Profile*

Obesity has important consequences on our nation's health and economy. It is linked to a number of chronic diseases, including coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and some cancers (NIH Clinical Guidelines, 1998). Among adults, the medical costs associated with obesity are estimated at 147 billion dollars (Finkelstein, 2009). Many American communities are characterized by unhealthy options when it comes to diet and physical activity. We need public health approaches that make healthy options available, accessible, and affordable for all Americans.

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CDC's Division of Nutrition and Physical, and Obesity (DNPAO) supports the nation's capacity to address public health in all policies and establish successful and sustainable interventions to support healthy eating and active living. The Division provides support (i.e., implementation and evaluation guidance, technical assistance, training, surveillance and applied research, translation and dissemination, and partnership development) to states, communities and national partners to implement policy, system, and environmental strategies. The goal is to improve dietary quality, increase physical activity and reduce obesity across multiple settings—such as child care facilities, workplaces, hospitals and medical care facilities, schools, and communities.

State Population of Pennsylvania

- Estimated Total Population 2010⁽¹⁾
= 12,702,379
- Adults age 18 and over⁽²⁾
= 78.0% of the total population in 2010
- Youth under 18 years of age⁽¹⁾
= 22.0% of the total population in 2010

⁽¹⁾ U.S. Census Bureau. State and County QuickFacts. 2011. Available online at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html>

⁽²⁾ Calculated estimated = 100% minus percent of the total population under 18 years old, using State and County QuickFacts, 2010 data from the U.S. Census.

Adult Overweight and Obesity

Overweight and Obesity⁽³⁾

- 65.0% were overweight, with a Body Mass Index of 25 or greater.
- 28.6% were obese, with a Body Mass Index of 30 or greater.

Dietary Behaviors⁽⁴⁾

- 35.5% of adults reported having consumed fruits at the recommended level of 2 or more times per day.
- 25.1% of adults reported having consumed vegetables at the recommended level of 3 or more times per day.

Physical Activity⁽⁵⁾

- 44.3% of adults achieved at least 300 minutes a week of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity or 150 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity aerobic activity (or an equivalent combination).
- 25.7% of Pennsylvania's adults reported that during the past month, they had not participated in any physical activity.

Source of Adult Obesity Data:

⁽³⁾ CDC. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System: Prevalence and Trend Data—Overweight and Obesity, U.S. Obesity Trends, Trends by State 2010. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>

Source of Adult Fruit and Vegetable Data:

⁽⁴⁾ CDC. *MMWR* September 2010 State-Specific Trends in Fruit and Vegetable Consumption Among Adults United States, 2000–2009. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm5935.pdf>

Source of Adult Physical Activity Data:

⁽⁵⁾ CDC. BRFSS Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System: Prevalence and Trend Data—Physical Activity, U.S. Physical Activity Trends by State 2009–2010. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>

Adolescent Overweight and Obesity

Overweight and Obesity⁽⁶⁾

- 15.9% were overweight ($\geq 85^{\text{th}}$ and $< 95^{\text{th}}$ percentiles for BMI by age and sex, based on reference data)
- 11.8% were obese ($\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ percentile BMI by age and sex, based on reference data)

Unhealthy Dietary Behaviors⁽⁶⁾

- **Fruit consumption:** 68.8% ate fruits or drank 100% fruit juice less than 2 times per day during the 7 days before the survey (100% fruit juice or fruit).
- **Vegetable consumption:** 86.3% ate vegetables less than 3 times per day during the 7 days before the survey (green salad; potatoes, excluding French fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips; carrots; or other vegetables).
- **Sugar-sweetened beverage consumption:** 25.7% drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop (not including diet soda or diet pop) at least one time per day during the 7 days before the survey.

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Physical Activity⁽⁶⁾

- **Achieved recommended level of activity:** Only 27.7% were physically active* for a total of at least 60 minutes per day on each of the 7 days prior to the survey.
- **Participated in daily physical education:** 20.9% of adolescents attended daily physical education classes in an average week (when they were in school).

Physical Inactivity⁽⁶⁾

- **No activity:** 13.1% did not participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on any day during the 7 days prior to the survey.
- **Television viewing time:** 30.8% watched television 3 or more hours per day on an average school day.

The 2010 Pennsylvania School Health Profiles assessed the school environment, indicating that among high schools⁽⁷⁾

- 41.4% did not sell less nutritious foods and beverages anywhere outside the school food service program.
- 17.9% always offered fruits or non-fried vegetables in vending machines and school stores, canteens, or snack bars, and during celebrations whenever foods and beverages were offered.
- 56.1% prohibited all forms of advertising and promotion of candy, fast food restaurants, or soft drinks in all locations. All school-related locations were defined as in school buildings; on school grounds, including on the outside of the school building, on playing fields, or other areas of the campus; on school buses or other vehicles used to transport students; and in school publications.

Sources of Adolescent Obesity, Fruit and Vegetable, Sugar-sweetened Beverages, and Physical Activity Data:

* Physical activity defined as "any kind of physical activity that increases your heart rate and makes you breathe hard some of the time."

⁽⁶⁾ CDC, Division of Adolescent and School Health. The 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>

⁽⁷⁾ CDC, Division of Adolescent and School Health. The 2010 School Health Profiles. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/profiles/index.htm>

Child Overweight and Obesity

Breastfeeding⁽⁸⁾

Increasing breastfeeding initiation, duration, and exclusivity is a priority strategy in CDC's efforts to decrease the rate of childhood obesity throughout the United States.

- 63.4% of infants were Ever Breastfed.
- 37.6% of infants were Breastfed for at least 6 months.

Body Mass Index^{(9)*}

Among Pennsylvania's children aged 2 years to less than 5 years *

- 14.9% were overweight (85th to < 95th percentile BMI-for-Age).
- 12.0% were obese (≥ 95th percentile BMI-for-Age).

Sources of Breastfeeding Data:

⁽⁸⁾ CDC. Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Breastfeeding Report Card 2011. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Immunization Survey, Provisional Data, 2008births. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/reportcard2.htm>

Sources of Child Obesity Data:

⁽⁹⁾ CDC. Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity. 2010 Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System, Table 6 (PedNSS). http://www.cdc.gov/pednss/pednss_tables/tables_health_indicators.htm

* BMI data only includes low-income children from the PedNSS sample and do not represent all children.

* BMI data is based on 2000 CDC growth chart percentiles for BMI-for-age for children 2 years of age and older.

Pennsylvania's Response to Obesity

School Nutrition Initiative

The School Nutrition Program sought to enable school-age children to make healthier food and beverage choices by implementing the following strategies:

1. Implementation of age-appropriate menu labeling systems in school cafeterias and vending machines;
2. Implementation of menu labeling system educational materials that can be incorporated into K to 12 nutrition education programs;
3. Increase the availability of foods and beverages that meet the USDA and Pennsylvania Department of Education nutrition guidelines in school cafeterias and vending machines; and
4. Promotion of healthier foods and beverages items.

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This pilot program was implemented in 50 Pennsylvania K-12 schools that contract with Metz, a food service management company.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health partnered with the Pennsylvania State University, Center for Food Innovation on the school nutrition program and worked with several food manufacturers to improve product formulation to meet the USDA and Pennsylvania Department of Education nutrition guidelines for introduction in participating schools. The Pennsylvania Department of Education continues to facilitate the nutritional analysis and assure that all new foods developed by manufacturers will meet both USDA and Pennsylvania Department of Education nutritional standards.

Community Walking Groups

To increase opportunities for physical activity, the Pennsylvania Department of Health partnered with the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health Center for Public Health Practice (U-Pgh/GSPH) to create the WalkWorks initiative, a network of community-based walking routes and walking groups. WalkWorks encourages sustainable physical activity through the built environment, social supports, and healthy lifestyle behaviors. Walking groups are promoting physical activity via the walking routes in multiple communities in each of the six participating counties: Cambria, Crawford, Greene, McKean, Venango, and Washington. WalkWorks:

- identifies, maps and promotes safe walking routes that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities;
- establishes and promotes guided community-based walking groups; and
- advocates for local policy related to pedestrian transportation in the built environment.

Community-based organizations are leading implementation at the local level. Health educators, public health practitioners and researchers at the U-Pgh/GSPH assist local partners with project implementation and evaluation by providing technical assistance in individual and group formats. Areas in which technical assistance is provided include work plan development, marketing plan design, data collection and advocacy.

Through WalkWorks, walking routes have been established with attractive signage in 24 communities located in six Western Pennsylvania counties. Forty-eight walking groups have been established to enhance social support for walking in these communities, and a website (pawalkworks.com) provides downloadable tools and resources to support the walking routes and groups.

Contact Information

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References

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Finkelstein, EA, Trogon, JG, Cohen, JW, and Dietz, W. Annual medical spending attributable to obesity: Payer- and service-specific estimates. *Health Affairs* 2009; 28(5): w822-w831.

