



## Alabama *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.

# Alabama - State Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Profile

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 Alabama

Estimated Total Population 2010<sup>(1)</sup>  
= 4,779,736

Adults age 18 and over<sup>(2)</sup>  
= 76.3% of the total population in 2010

Youth under 18 years of age<sup>(1)</sup>  
= 23.7% of the total population in 2010

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

<sup>(2)</sup> 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<sup>(3)</sup>

- 69.0% were overweight, with a Body Mass Index of 25 or greater.
- 32.2% were obese, with a Body Mass Index of 30 or greater.

### Dietary Behaviors<sup>(4)</sup>

- 24.6% of adults reported having consumed fruits at the recommended level of 2 or more times per day.
- 26.9% of adults reported having consumed vegetables at the recommended level of 3 or more times per day.

### Physical Activity<sup>(5)</sup>

- 38.3% 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).
- 31.0% of Alabama's adults reported that during the past month, they had not participated in any physical activity.

#### Source of Adult Obesity Data:

<sup>(3)</sup> 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:

<sup>(4)</sup> 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:

<sup>(5)</sup> 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<sup>(6)</sup>

- 17.5% were overweight ( $\geq 85^{\text{th}}$  and  $< 95^{\text{th}}$  percentiles for BMI by age and sex, based on reference data).
- 13.5% were obese ( $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$  percentile BMI by age and sex, based on reference data).

### Unhealthy Dietary Behaviors<sup>(6)</sup>

- **Fruit consumption:** 77.5% 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:** 87.1% 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:** 38.8% 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.

# Alabama - State Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Profile

## Physical Activity<sup>(6)</sup>

- **Achieved recommended level of activity:** Only 19.4% 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:** 31.8% of adolescents attended daily physical education classes in an average week (when they were in school).

## Physical Inactivity<sup>(6)</sup>

- **No activity:** 22.4% 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:** 37.8% watched television 3 or more hours per day on an average school day.

## The 2010 Alabama School Health Profiles assessed the school environment, indicating that among high schools<sup>(7)</sup>

- 58.8% did not sell less nutritious foods and beverages anywhere outside the school food service program.
- 4.3% 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.
- 45.3% 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."

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

<sup>(7)</sup> 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<sup>(8)</sup>

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.

- 56.7% of infants were Ever Breastfed.
- 24.4% of infants were Breastfed for at least 6 months.

### Body Mass Index<sup>(9)\*</sup>

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

- 15.2% were overweight (85<sup>th</sup> to < 95<sup>th</sup> percentile BMI-for-Age).
- 14.1% were obese ( $\geq$  95<sup>th</sup> percentile BMI-for-Age).

### Sources of Breastfeeding Data:

<sup>(8)</sup> 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:

<sup>(9)</sup> 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](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.

## Alabama's Response to Obesity

### Healthy Vending in State Agencies

The State of Alabama is working to reduce the prevalence of obesity and chronic disease in state employees by promoting healthy foods and beverages while reducing or eliminating the availability of calorie dense, nutrient-poor foods in vending machines. They have developed the Alabama Healthy Vending Machine Policy which was implemented in a pilot study in four state agencies. Three additional agencies participated in the pilot study. (continued on next page)

# Alabama - State Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Profile

## Healthy Vending in State Agencies (continued)

They developed marketing materials regarding the vending policy and disseminated them to at least 50 state agency offices. Multiple educational programs and in-depth trainings have been held to highlight the new vending policy. New partnerships have been formed leading to additional worksite participation. An administrative order for healthy vending in all state agencies was requested by the State Health Officer. The potential population reach in the future is 35,000 state employees as the policy extends to other state agencies.

## State Board of Education Adopts Quality Daily PE Policy for Grade K-12

On November 10, 2011 the Quality PE Resolution was adopted at the State Board of Education meeting. This policy adopts the Alabama Physical Fitness Assessment which was developed by the 2010 Quality PE Task Force using criterion-referenced measures to comprehensively assess the health and fitness of all Alabama students. The State Department of Education in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Public Health put together a package containing all documents created by the Quality PE Task Force including: the definition of quality physical education for Alabama students, the Alabama Physical Fitness Assessment along with a test administrator's manual and CD and a companion instructional guide to the 2009 Alabama Course of Study for PE. The SDE conducted 22 trainings on the assessment package for physical education staff. The potential population reach is approximately 749,000 total student enrollments for the 2012-2013 school year, when the policy mandates are expected to begin.

## Contact Information

Miriam Gaines, MACT, RD, LD  
Nutrition and Physical Activity Director  
Alabama Department of Public Health  
(334) 206-5649  
Mim.gaines@adph.state.al.us

## 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.

