

How much do you know about the childhood obesity epidemic in DELAWARE?

KEY POINTS:

- Approximately 31,000 of 86,000 Delaware children ages 10-17 years (35.5%) are considered overweight or obese according to BMI-for-age standards.
- More than half of Delaware children in poverty (54.3%) or receiving public insurance (53.5%) are obese or overweight. The state ranks last among all states on overweight/obese prevalence among poor children, and next-to-last on publicly insured children.
- Nearly half (48.9%) of Delaware’s black non-Hispanic children are classified as overweight or obese. Only one other state (New Jersey) has a higher prevalence rate among black children.
- Delaware children are less likely than their counterparts nationwide to exercise for at least 4 days per week, and more likely to spend 2 hours or more in front of a television or computer screen.

OVERALL PREVALENCE	DELAWARE %	NATIONAL %
Percentage of children ages 10-17 years who are overweight or obese	35.5%*	30.6%
State Rank for overweight or obese children (1 is best)	45	
Percentage of children ages 6–17 years who participate in 4 or more days of rigorous physical activity per week	56.2%	59.0%
Percentage of children ages 6-17 years who engage in 2 or more hours of screen time per day (includes TV, videos, computer games, etc.)	46.0%	44.9%
DISPARITIES – ACROSS AND WITHIN STATES	DELAWARE %	NATIONAL %
% Overweight or Obese by Family Income		
<100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	54.3%	39.8%
>400 % FPL	26.7%	22.9%
Income Disparity Ratio	2.03	1.74
State Rank on Income Disparity Ratio (1 is best, 39 is worst)	28	
% Overweight or Obese by Type of Insurance		
Public Insurance	53.5%	39.6%
Private Insurance	29.9%	26.7%
Insurance Disparity Ratio	1.79	1.48
State Rank on Insurance Disparity Ratio (1 is best, 49 is worst)	41	
% Overweight or Obese by Race		
Black, non-Hispanic	48.9%	41.2%
White, non-Hispanic	28.8%	26.6%
Race Disparity Ratio	1.70	1.55
State Rank on Race Disparity Ratio (1 is best, 23 is worst)	16	
% Overweight or Obese by Hispanic Origin		
Hispanic	56.6%	37.7%
Non-Hispanic	34.0%	29.5%
Hispanic Origin Disparity Ratio	1.67	1.28
State Rank on Hispanic Origin Disparity Ratio (1 is best, 21 is worst)	19	

* Difference between state and national overall prevalence is statistically significant at the .05 level of significance.
 NA – Not Available. Estimates with a relative standard error greater than 30%, or based on an unweighted sample of fewer than 25 children, are considered unreliable and are not reported.
 State rankings on disparity ratios include only those states with reliable estimates for both groups.

Data Source: CAHMI/Data Resource Center analysis of the 2003 National Survey of Children’s Health. Developed by the Child Policy Research Center and the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative/Data Resource Center (www.childhealthdata.org) on behalf of the NICHQ Childhood Obesity Action Network.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

The 2003 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) provides parent-reported information on the health and well-being of children in each state and nationwide. Two important aspects of children’s health measured in the survey are physical activity and overweight, which is calculated from the child’s height and weight as reported by the parent or guardian. Using survey results and sex-specific BMI-for-age growth charts developed by CDC, the prevalence of children with BMI scores in two separate percentile ranges (85th to 95th and above the 95th) can be estimated. Children with BMI between the 85th and 95th percentiles are classified as overweight; those with a BMI above the 95th percentile are classified as obese. Childhood and adolescent obesity measures based on parental report may not accurately reflect the true prevalence of overweight and obesity. However, previous research and comparisons of NSCH with data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES) have shown that parental reports are reliable and provide a fairly close correspondence for children 10-17 years (Ogden et al., *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics*, 2004).

What is DELAWARE doing about obesity?

The table below is derived from the 2007 edition of *F as in Fat*, published by Trust for America's Health (www.healthyamericans.org). The effectiveness of any one state approach is not known; the summary below is intended only for comparing a state's activities with others.

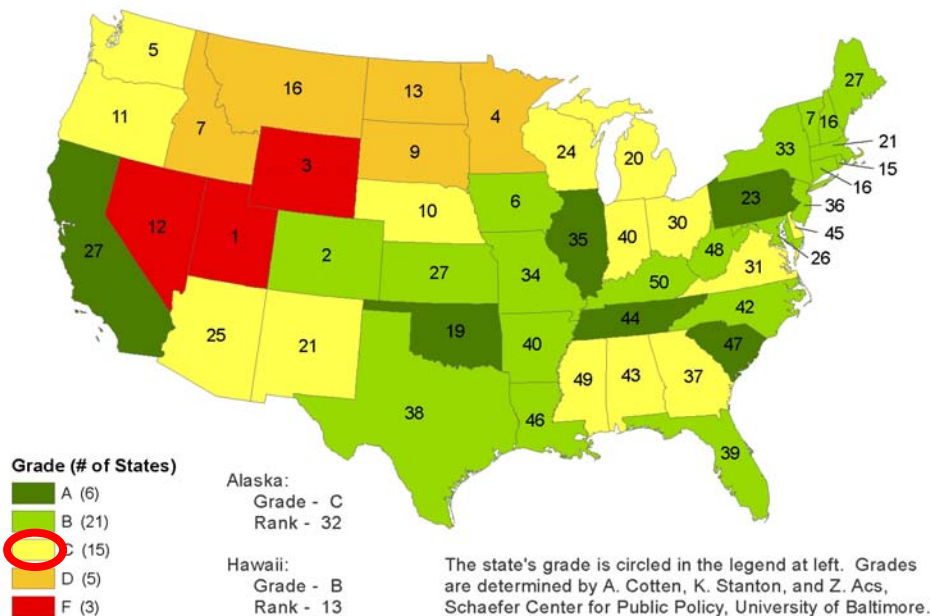
OBESITY-RELATED STATE INITIATIVES	DELAWARE	NATIONAL
Snack and/or soda tax	No	17 states + D.C.
CDC state-based nutrition and physical activity program	No	28 states
Federal STEPS grant recipient	No	7 states
Laws that limit liability for obesity and obesity-related health problems	No	24 states
OBESITY-RELATED SCHOOL STANDARDS	DELAWARE	NATIONAL
Physical education requirement <i>(Note: There is variation in whether states enforce these standards)</i>	Yes	50 states + D.C.
Health education requirement <i>(Note: There is variation in whether states enforce these standards)</i>	Yes	48 states + D.C.
Nutritional standards for school meals and snacks that go beyond existing USDA requirements	No	17 states
Nutritional standards for competitive food products sold a la carte, in vending machines, school stores or at bake sales	No	22 states
Limitation (beyond federal requirements) on when and where competitive food products may be sold	No	26 states
BMI or health information collected <i>(Note: There is variation in whether states enforce these standards)</i>	Yes	16 states
2006 OBESITY-RELATED POLICY OPTIONS	DELAWARE	NATIONAL
Provision for strengthening of private insurance coverage for obesity prevention or treatment, especially for the morbidly obese (BMI of 40 or higher). Children may or may not be covered.	No	8 states introduced
Legislation or resolutions to create obesity-related task forces, commissions, studies or other special programs	Yes	19 states introduced

NOTES:

The federal Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108 - 265) required each local school district participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program to establish a local wellness policy by the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year. To view model school wellness policies, see www.schoolwellnesspolicies.org/.

Recent legislation requires the Department of Education to develop a regulation requiring each local school district and charter school to assess the physical fitness of each student at least once at the elementary, middle and high school level and outlining the grades at which the assessment will be given. The assessment results are to be provided to the parent, guardian or relative caregiver. The intent is to provide baseline and periodic updates for each student and his or her parent, guardian or relative caregiver sharing in the knowledge of obesity and other chronic illnesses. Includes measuring body mass index as part of the testing in some local school districts (HB 372).

STATE OBESITY PREVALENCE RANKING AND REPORT CARD GRADE FOR CHILDHOOD OBESITY-RELATED ACTIVITIES



Note: The numbers shown in the map above represent the state's ranking on the prevalence of overweight and obesity among children ages 10-17. Utah ranks first with the lowest overweight/obese prevalence, while Kentucky ranks 50th. The child obesity report card grade developed for each state is a composite of the state score on five types of childhood obesity-related legislation: (1) Nutrition standards in schools, (2) Vending machine prohibitions in schools, (3) Body mass index measured in school, (4) Recess and physical education requirements, and (5) Obesity programs and education. For more information, see www.ubalt.edu/experts/obesity/index.html.