

Information for Action # 2013-5

One-third of School-age Children in New York State (exclusive of New York City) are Overweight or Obese

The Student Weight Status Category Reporting System (SWSCR) was established to monitor overweight and obesity in New York State (exclusive of New York City) public school students and support statewide efforts to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic. During the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years, 680 public school districts reported information about weight status of elementary (Pre-K, Kindergarten, 2nd and 4th grade) and middle and high school (7th and 10th grade) students to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) through SWSCR.

- More than one-third (**33.8%**) of public school students reported to the NYSDOH were overweight or obese, with **17.6%** considered obese (Figure 1).
- Rates of obesity are higher among public school students in middle and high school (**18.2%**) than among elementary school students (**17.2%**) (Figures 2 & 3).
- An objective of the New York State Prevention Agenda 2013-17 is to reduce the percentage of children and adolescents who are obese from **17.6%** to **16.7%** by 2017.

Weight Status Category* of Public School Students: 2010-12 School Years

Figure 1: Elementary & Middle/High

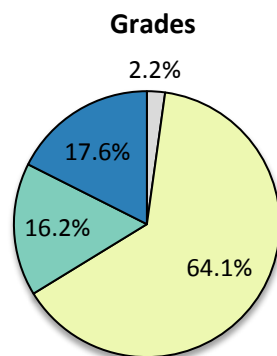


Figure 2: Elementary Grades

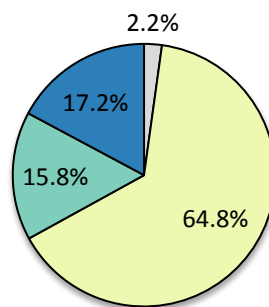
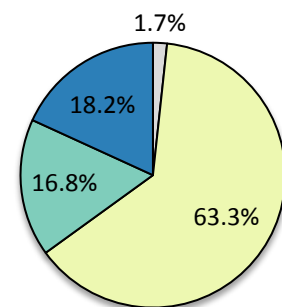


Figure 3: Middle/High Grades



Legend: Underweight (<5th percentile) Healthy Weight (5th-84th percentile) Overweight (85th-94th percentile) Obese (≥95th percentile)

Data Source: Student Weight Status Category Reporting System (SWSCR), 2010-12. SWSCR includes data from 680 public school districts outside of NYC. The percentage of students within a weight status category reflects data reported to the SWSCR system during the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years. These data should not be considered to represent all school aged-children in New York State (exclusive of New York City).

*Based on sex-specific Body Mass Index-for-age percentile.

Additional data on childhood obesity in the US and New York State is available at:

National Data: <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/childhood.html>

NYC FITNESSGRAM Data: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6049.pdf>

NYSDOH SWSCR Data: <https://health.data.ny.gov/> and

http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/obesity/statistics_and_impact/student_weight_status_data.htm

Information about the New York State Prevention Agenda 2013-17 is available at:

http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/prevention_agenda/2013-2017/

Contact:

For more information about the data included and their specific implications for action, please send an email to DCDIPIFA@health.state.ny.us with IFA # 2013-5 in the subject line.



To access other Information for Action reports, visit the NYSDOH public website:

http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury_prevention/information_for_action/index.htm