

Childhood Obesity Survey

Survey of Health Care Professionals in Cuyahoga County

Survey Population Characteristics

Total Surveys Mailed: N=1,091

- Physicians: N=566
- Nurse Practitioners: N=362
- Registered Dietitians: N=163

Total Received: 26%

- N=287

Of those received, 75.3% (N=216) saw patients aged 3-18 years old

- Physicians: N=161
- Nurse Practitioners: N=50
- Registered Dietitians: N=5

Years of Experience:

- 1-5 years: N=50
- 6-10 years: N=33
- 11-19 years: N=52
- 20+ years: N=76
- No response: N=5

Type of Practice:

- Private: N=43
- Group: N=62
- Community: N=31
- Hospital: N=56
- HMO: N=4
- Private & other type: N=10
- Group & other type: N=6
- Community & other type: N=3
- No response: N=1

Location of Practice:

- Urban: N=94
- Rural: N=2
- Suburban: N=98
- Urban & Suburban: N=16
- Urban & Rural: N=2
- Rural & Suburban: N=1
- No response: N=3

Data Highlights:

- 57.6 % of health care professionals reported that 10-25% of the children that they see aged 3-18 years are overweight (>95th percentile)
- 94.7% of health care professionals reported that <10% of their patient population has been diagnosed with Type II diabetes
- Only 56.4% of health care professionals reported that they often use the recommended method (BMI) to diagnose children as overweight
- 18.8% of health care professionals reported that they do not provide preventive care for pediatric patients at risk for becoming obese (>85th percentile)

Barriers to treatment were ranked on a 5-point scale by the respondents from 'not at all a barrier' to 'very strong barrier.' The percentage of the respondents who perceived the following barriers as 'strong' were as follows:

- Frequent fast food meals: 66.4%
- Patient motivation: 53.4%
- Parent Involvement/Motivation: 49.8%
- Lack of effective treatment programs: 42.3%
- Lack of reimbursement: 41.8%
- Lack of community resources: 34.3%
- Limited referral services: 31.9%
- Quality of school meals: 30.0%
- Lack of counseling time: 26.8%
- Price/availability of healthy foods: 23.2%
- Lack of dietitian services: 19.0%

*42.7% of the health care professionals reported that they do not believe they have received adequate training to treat overweight pediatric patients