

# The Obesity Epidemic and

## **Wisconsin Students**

## What is the problem?

The 2013 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among high school students:

 12% were obese (students who were > 95th percentile for body mass index, based on sex- and age-specific reference data from the 2000 CDC growth charts).

### **Unhealthy Dietary Behaviors**

- 4% did not eat fruit or drink 100% fruit juices during the 7 days before the survey.
- did not eat vegetables during the 7 days before the survey. (1)
- 6% drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop three or more times per day during the 7 days before the survey. (2)
- 12% did not drink milk during the 7 days before the survey.
- 11% did not eat breakfast during the 7 days before the survey.

### **Physical Inactivity**

- 13% did not participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on at least 1 day. (3)
- 48% did not attend physical education classes on 1 or more days in an average week when they were in school.
- 22% watched television 3 or more hours per day on an average school day.
- 34% used computers 3 or more hours per day on an average school day. (4)
- — did not play on at least one sports team run by their school or community groups during the 12 months before the survey.

What are the solutions?

Better health education • More PE and physical activity programs • Healthier school environments

## What is the status?

The 2012 Wisconsin School Health Profiles indicates that among high schools:

### **Health Education**

- 59% required students to take 2 or more health education courses.
- 73% had a health education curriculum that addresses all 8 national standards for health education.
- 69% taught 14 key nutrition and dietary behavior topics in a required course.
- 57% taught 12 key physical activity topics in a required course.

### **PE and Physical Activity**

- 100% required physical education for students.
- 60% offered opportunities for all students to participate in intramural activities or physical activity clubs.

### **School Environment**

- 12% did not sell less nutritious foods and beverages anywhere outside the school food service program.
- 53% did not sell soda pop or fruit drinks that are not 100% juice from vending machines or at the school store, canteen, or snack bar.
- 18% always offered fruits or non-fried vegetables in vending machines and school stores, canteens, or snack bars, and during celebrations when foods and beverages are offered.
- 26% prohibited all forms of advertising and promotion of candy, fast food restaurants, or soft drinks in all locations. (5)
- 39% used the School Health Index or a similar self-assessment tool to assess their policies, activities, and programs in nutrition and physical activity.
- 1. Green salad, potatoes [excluding French fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips], carrots, or other vegetables.
- 2. Not including diet soda or diet pop.
- 3. Doing any kind of physical activty that increased their heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time during the 7 days before the survey.
- 4. Played video or computer games or used a computer for something that was not school work.
- 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.
- Data not available.

Where can I get more information? Visit www.cdc.gov/yrbss or call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).



