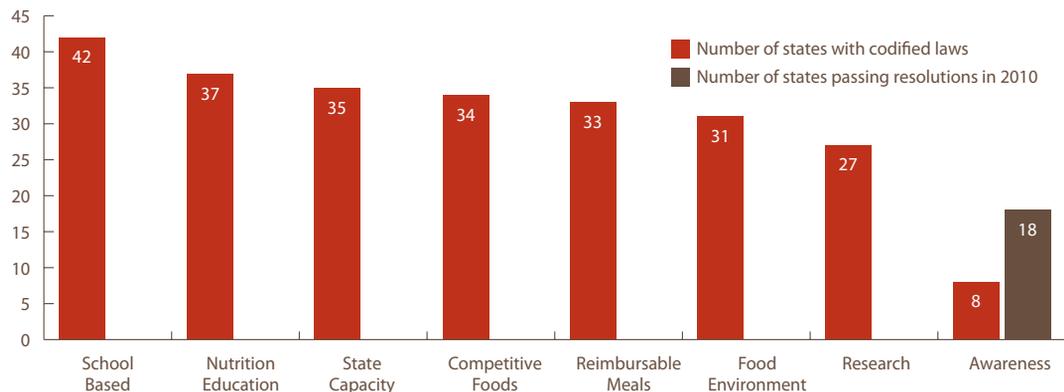




Obesity Prevention

Number of States with Enacted Laws and/or 2010 Resolutions Addressing Obesity Prevention by Topic (enacted as of September 30, 2010)



Obesity has risen to epidemic levels in the United States and has been linked to several life threatening chronic diseases, including cancer.¹ State policies that are carefully aimed at prevention of obesity could profoundly reduce health care costs, improve quality of life for citizens, and create a powerful cancer prevention tool. Forty-six states and the **District of Columbia** (collectively, states) have enacted legislation regarding obesity prevention. The legislation varies in focus; however, the majority of state efforts have centered on schools. Understanding these policy efforts is important in assessing states' progress in addressing the prevention of obesity.

All states except **Delaware, North Dakota, South Dakota,** and **Wyoming** have enacted at least one law or 2010 resolution addressing obesity prevention through food policy. **California, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Pennsylvania,** and **Texas** have enacted legislation addressing all eight obesity prevention categories monitored by the SCLD Program.

School Based. Forty-two states have enacted legislation that addresses obesity prevention specifically in the school setting.

Nutrition Education. Thirty-seven states have enacted laws addressing the provision of nutrition- or obesity prevention-related information or instruction to students and/or teachers, food service workers, the public, or healthcare workers. Twenty-four states have enacted laws requiring the inclusion of nutrition education in curriculum guidelines for local school districts.

State Capacity. Thirty-five states have enacted laws addressing state or local infrastructure dedicated to improving nutrition and/or preventing obesity.

Competitive Foods. Competitive foods are those served outside of the federal school meals program at access points

such as à la carte lines, vending machines, school stores, or fundraisers. Thirty-four states have passed laws in this area.

Reimbursable Meals. For students who qualify based on their families' income levels, school meals are provided for free or at a reduced rate through a federal-state partnership in participating schools. Thirty-three states have enacted this type of legislation, in addition to the current federal regulations governing this program. For example, **California** has enacted a law which offers funding for fresh fruit and vegetables to supplement the federal reimbursement for the National School Breakfast program. In addition, **Vermont** has enacted legislation which offers funding to school districts to initiate or expand food programs.

Food Environment. This type of legislation affects food availability and the quality of food within a specific food environment. Thirty-one states have enacted such legislation. Five states—**Arkansas, California, Illinois, Massachusetts,** and **Oklahoma**—have enacted laws to change the food environment by addressing the creation or use of financial incentives for either government entities or individuals.

Research. Recognizing the need for accurate data on obesity prevention, 27 states have passed laws related to experimental or investigative studies that lead to knowledge about obesity prevention. Twelve states have enacted laws which specifically address the gathering or use of body mass index (BMI) data to measure the incidence and/or prevalence of obesity.

Awareness. Through 2009, eight states had passed laws relating to obesity prevention awareness. During the first three quarters of 2010, 18 states adopted resolutions and one state—**California**—enacted a law to promote awareness or understanding of obesity prevention activities.

¹ National Institutes of Health: NIH Obesity Research. Accessed August 20, 2010 from: <http://obesityresearch.nih.gov/About/about.htm>.

The SCLD contains information synthesized from state-level laws. The SCLD does not contain state-level regulations; executive orders; measures implemented by counties, cities, or other localities; opinions of Attorneys General; or data addressing the implementation of state laws—all of which may vary from the laws reported here.

Source: National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Legislative Database Program, Bethesda, MD, 2010

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State Laws and/or 2010 Resolutions Addressing Obesity Prevention

(enacted as of September 30, 2010)

State	School Based	Nutrition Education	State Capacity	Competitive Foods	Reimbursable Meals	Food Environment	Research	Awareness
Alabama			●			●		
Alaska	●	●	●			●		■
Arizona	●			●	●	●		
Arkansas	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
California	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	● ■
Colorado	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Connecticut	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Delaware								
District of Columbia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	■
Florida	●	●	●		●	●	●	●
Georgia	●	●			●			■
Hawaii	●	●		●		●	●	■
Idaho								■
Illinois	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	■
Indiana	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Iowa	●	●	●	●		●		
Kansas	●	●	●	●	●			■
Kentucky	●		●	●	●	●	●	■
Louisiana	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	■
Maine	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Maryland	●		●	●	●	●	●	
Massachusetts	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Michigan	●	●	●		●	●	●	
Minnesota	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Mississippi	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	● ■
Missouri	●	●			●			
Montana		●						
Nebraska						●		
Nevada	●	●	●				●	●
New Hampshire	●	●			●			
New Jersey	●			●	●			
New Mexico	●		●	●				
New York	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
North Carolina	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
North Dakota								
Ohio	●	●	●	●	●		●	■
Oklahoma	●	●	●	●		●	●	■
Oregon	●			●				
Pennsylvania	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	■
Rhode Island	●	●	●	●	●			
South Carolina	●	●	●	●	●	●		■
South Dakota								
Tennessee	●	●	●	●			●	●
Texas	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Utah								■
Vermont	●	●	●		●	●	●	■
Virginia	●	●	●	●	●	●		● ■
Washington	●	●	●	●	●	●		
West Virginia	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Wisconsin	●	●	●	●		●		
Wyoming								
TOTAL	42	37	35	34	33	31	27	Laws= 8 Resolutions= 18

Key: ● = Enacted law ■ = 2010 resolution

Source: National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Legislative Database Program, Bethesda, MD, 2010.