

Missoula's Health Fundango BMI Screening Program
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Missoula City-County Health Department and K-12 public schools partner to conduct BMI screening and surveillance. The effort began in 2006 when a pediatrician from our MCH Advisory Board asked for “proof” that children are getting larger, as he wasn't seeing this in his practice. If we offered school based BMI screening, what process will be the least disruptive to students and teachers? What protocol will we follow? Is the IRB process required? Will we use opt-in or out parent permission? How will we assure inclusion of all children, including those in Special Education? How will results be disseminated? What will we do if under or overweight children were identified? How can we make BMI screening fun and engaging for students? How will we link students with nutrition counseling services, Special Olympics, subsidized and full pay physical activity opportunities? How can we use this data to “make the case” for grant funding?

An MC-CHD nutritionist and MSU nursing students began in one school, but efforts now involve community health specialists, UM HHP students, RD Interns and include measurement of 1/3 of the county's students annually. Multiple school and family based interventions are being delivered including food and nutrition policy changes, CATCH expansion, zero hour physical activity programs; Afterschool and Summer Meals expansion with physical activity activities and adoption of the AAP **5,2,1,0** health messaging for parents and medical clinics. In 2012, Missoula became a “Let's Move” community with board representation from community constituents including public and private health, United Way, UM staff, hospital representation, Parks and Recreation and YMCA leadership. Under “Let's Move, we recently hosted our third annual childhood obesity prevention summit for teachers, parents, health care providers and public health advocates.

Because our measurements include children with IEP's (16% of students) we were able to highlight the need for nutrition and physical activity policies and interventions for these students. Our program and data are presented at state and national conferences, and soon, via a NACCHO sponsored webinar for the disability service community.