

# Illinois Child Health Examination Surveillance System (CHESS) Summit Report



## Overview

On May 1 & 2, 2008, the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC) and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBS IL) co-hosted the Illinois Child Health Examination Surveillance System (CHESS) Summit. The Summit brought together a variety of stakeholders to exchange experiences and define next steps to enhance childhood health surveillance in Illinois – with special emphasis on population-level childhood body mass index (BMI).

In 2005, the Illinois General Assembly amended the School Code with Public Act 093-0966. The Act requires that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) promulgate rules to require schools to report data from student health examinations, including data related to obesity, such as BMI. Since the passage of this legislation, a number of methods for collecting these data have been piloted. The Summit allowed for a review of pilot results and existing systems. Other key components of the Summit included experiences of other states in child health surveillance and discussion of next steps for an Illinois child health surveillance system, based on the Certificate of Child Health Examination (CHE) form.

## Goals of the Summit:

1. To present lessons learned from the BMI surveillance pilot project and other related initiatives;
2. To provide an overview of current and emerging child health surveillance systems in Illinois;
3. To learn from the experiences of other states in child health surveillance; and
4. Define next steps for child health surveillance in Illinois.

Sixty child health leaders from throughout Illinois as well as national experts on child health surveillance attended the CHESS Summit. These individuals included representatives from within Illinois state government as well as representatives from voluntary associations and non-profit organizations throughout Illinois. A list of CHESS Summit participating organizations can be found on page 4 of this report.

## Summit Agenda Overview

### Day One:

Dr. Myrtis Sullivan from the Illinois Department of Human Services, Dr. Adam Becker, CLOCC Executive Director, and Mr. Jeff Sunderlin from the Illinois Department of Public Health welcomed the Summit participants. Allison Nihiser, MPH, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent Health, gave the keynote address on “Childhood Health Surveillance and BMI Measurement in Schools.”

### Day One of the Summit also included presentations on the following topics:

- A panel presentation and discussion on the current state of child health surveillance in Illinois by representatives from the Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois State Board of Education, and the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- A plenary session by Dr. Maryann Mason (CLOCC/Children’s Memorial Hospital), and Dr. Radha Nandkumar, (National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) describing the three Illinois BMI surveillance pilot projects.
- A panel presentation and discussion detailing experiences with child health surveillance systems from other states. Speakers included representatives from the Florida Department of Health, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, and the Public Health Informatics Institute & Michigan Department of Community Health.
- A panel presentation and discussion on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and other child health surveillance legal and ethical issues by representatives from the University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Nursing, and the Illinois State Board of Education.

### Day Two:

Day Two of the Summit was dedicated to discussion in small groups and reporting back to the larger group on issues related to child health surveillance and systems for Illinois. Participants were given two different “strawman” child health surveillance system models on which to comment. Mr. Richard Sewell from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health facilitated the second day of the Summit.

- Moderators of small group discussions included: Dr. Adam Becker, Mr. William Kling, Dr. Matt Longjohn, Mr. Richard Sewell, and Mr. Jeff Sunderlin.
- Notetakers for small group discussions included: Ms. Christine Bozlak, Ms. Sarah Forrestal, Ms. Heidi Krahling, Ms. Chris Kierig, and Ms. Melody Mumford.

Right: Allison Nihiser takes questions from the audience after her keynote presentation.



**The following is a sample of the input received from the participants at the CHES Summit:**

**School, clinical, and other support needed in order to advance CHES in Illinois:**

- Buy-in is needed from all stakeholders
- Education for parents/guardians and schools on the need for and meaning of the data
- Training on data collection and reporting
- Infrastructure of IDPH to oversee system
- Incentives for health care providers to collect data
- More school nurses and a nurse consultant at ISBE
- Physicians, information technology experts, epidemiologists, and legal experts
- Technology
- Funding
- Standardization of assessment, prevention, and treatment methods

**Critical next steps that Illinois needs to take in developing CHES in Illinois:**

- Define authorized uses of data – ensure benefit to Illinois children and their families
- Obtain stakeholder buy-in before the system is developed
- Create an evaluation plan for system
- Find Illinois leaders to champion the issue
- Find funding
- Use existing resources for the system



CHES Summit participants and Planning Committee members take a moment to network.

**Summary of CHES Recommendations Received at the Summit:**

The following recommendations were echoed by participants throughout the Summit:

- Clarify why the data are being collected and how data will be used. Ensure there is a benefit to Illinois children and their families.
- Physicians should conduct the health screenings.
- Maximize the use of the Certificate of Child Health Examination form and collect as much data from the form as possible.
- Encourage IDPH and the Illinois State Board of Education to work together to collect and share child health data. A meeting between the two agencies to discuss CHES should be arranged.
- Optimally, data should be entered at the physician's office due to school nurse workload and shortage concerns.
- An electronic child health database in which physicians may enter data would be best, but the State must accommodate all physician offices until they are able to enter data electronically.
- Opportunities should be explored to integrate this system with other emerging systems so that there is eventually one child health reporting mechanism for physicians to report data to the State.
- Incentives for physicians to participate in a CHES system should be identified.
- Additional organizations throughout Illinois should be involved in CHES-related discussions.

## Recognition:

Many thanks to the following organizations for participating in the Summit:

- Action for Healthy Kids
- Altarum
- American Cancer Society-Illinois Chapter
- American Lung Association-Illinois Chapter
- American Heart Association-Midwest Affiliate
- Arkansas Center for Health Improvement
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Chicago Department of Public Health
- Chicago Public Schools
- Children's Memorial Hospital
- Cook County Department of Public Health
- Florida Department of Health
- Illinois Association of School Boards
- Illinois Association of School Nurses
- Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
- Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Illinois Public Health Association
- Illinois State Board of Education
- Illinois State Medical Society
- Michigan Department of Community Health
- National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- National Governor's Association
- National University Community Research Institute
- Oak Park Department of Public Health
- Southern Illinois Healthcare
- Takeda Pharmaceuticals
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Region V
- UIC College of Nursing
- UIC School of Public Health

Thanks to the CHES Planning Committee for your contributions to the Summit: Adam Becker (CLOCC), Christine Bozlak (CLOCC), Katherine Kaufer Christoffel (CLOCC), Victoria Jackson (Illinois Department of Human Services), Chris Kierig (CLOCC), Bill Kling (CLOCC Policy Consultant), Matt Longjohn (CLOCC Policy Consultant), Maryann Mason (CLOCC), Jill Sproat (Illinois Department of Human Services), Jeff Sunderlin (formerly of the Illinois Department of Public Health).

**CLOCC would like to thank Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois for hosting and funding the Illinois Child Health Examination Surveillance System Summit.**

Right: Dr. Richard Gayes (BCBS IL), Dr. Katherine Kaufer Christoffel (CLOCC), and Mr. Jack Segal (BCBS IL) chat at the Summit.



For more information about the CHES Summit, please contact Christine Bozlak, CLOCC Advocacy Program Manager, at [cbozlak@childrensmemorial.org](mailto:cbozlak@childrensmemorial.org), or (312)-573-7741.

The mission of the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC) is to confront the childhood obesity epidemic by promoting healthy and active lifestyles for children throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. Our work fosters and facilitates connections between childhood obesity prevention researchers, public health advocates and practitioners, and the children, families, and communities of Chicagoland. For more information on CLOCC and our initiatives, please visit [www.clocc.net](http://www.clocc.net)

