

Health Promotion Research Branch

Health Promotion Research Branch (HPRB) provides scientific leadership and supports research in effective psychosocial and environmental community-based intervention strategies associated with behavioral and genetic factors in cancer prevention and health promotion. These factors include diet, physical activity, energy balance, obesity and genetics, virus exposure, and sun exposure. HPRB also studies national, state, and local policy on health behavior.

RESEARCH AREAS

Obesity Prevention & Energy Balance

Weight, body composition, physical activity, and diet affect numerous physiological systems and can influence the cancer process at many points. HPRB supports research that explores the effect of energy balance on cancer prevention and relevant approaches in public health.

Diet & Communication

Dietary misinformation affects dietary behaviors and contributes to an increase in the prevalence of obesity and many chronic diseases. Eating a healthy diet has been shown to reduce the risk of some cancers. HPRB supports research and activities aimed at improving dietary behaviors and U.S. fruit and vegetable consumption.

Physical Activity & Behavior

Physical activity has been linked to decreased risks of various cancers and improved physical and emotional functioning among cancer survivors. Better understanding and improvement of physical activity behavior in the U.S. population are major goals of HPRB.

Skin Cancer Prevention

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States and the number of diagnosed cases is on the rise, especially among young adults. HPRB supports both measurement and intervention studies aimed at increasing sun protection and reducing indoor tanning to improve this trend.

Behavioral Genetics

HPRB supports research to better understand the complex interplay of genes and behaviors relevant to the etiology of obesity, the examination of gene-environment interactions that contribute to obesity, and the development of preventative interventions to reduce obesity.

CONTACT

Linda Nebeling, PhD, MPH, RD

Chief

Health Promotion Research Branch

Behavioral Research Program

Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences

National Cancer Institute

(301) 451-9530

nebelinl@mail.nih.gov

<http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov>

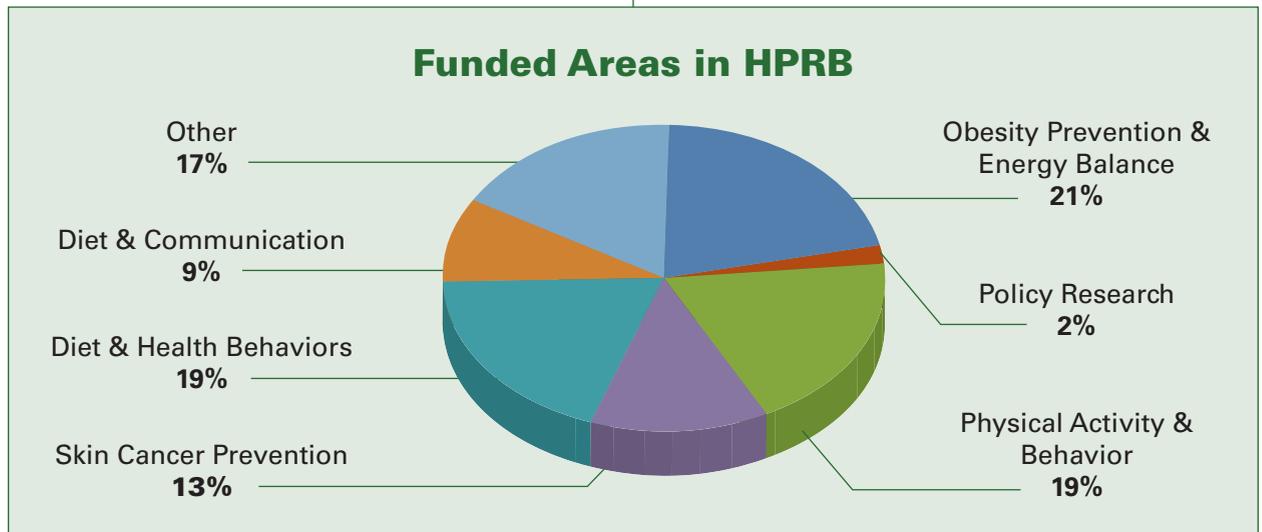
The Transdisciplinary Research on Energetics & Cancer (TREC) Centers initiative consists of four NCI-funded research centers that foster collaborations among transdisciplinary teams of scientists with the goal of accelerating progress toward reducing cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality associated with obesity, low levels of physical activity, and poor diet. The original TREC initiative was funded for five years (2005 – 2010). NCI is in the process of renewing TREC for a second five years, starting in 2010.



The Classification of Laws Associated with School Students (C.L.A.S.S.) database encompasses physical activity and nutrition databases in an empirical coding of state-level school policies. C.L.A.S.S. can be used by researchers, policy makers, and school administrators to obtain information on state laws associated with childhood obesity, evaluate changes in policy over time, and understand current state-level efforts aimed at preventing the obesity epidemic.



Classification of Laws Associated with School Students



The Food Attitudes and Behavior (FAB) Survey Project was developed to better understand and evaluate factors and predictors related to fruit and vegetable intake. It measures attitudes and opinions, health, eating behaviors, physical activity, food preferences, and demographic variables. FAB includes conventional constructs such as self-efficacy, barriers, social support, and knowledge of fruit and vegetable recommendations, as well as novel constructs such as shopping patterns, taste preferences, views on vegetarianism, reasons for eating healthy, and environmental influences.



HPRB is proud to collaborate on National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR), a collaborative effort among three of the Nation's leading research funders – the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). NCCOR seeks to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and application of childhood obesity research by developing common measures and methods, evaluating and identifying effective interventions, and assessing policy and environmental changes related to childhood obesity. (<http://www.nccor.org>)

