

## Overweight Children in California Counties, Cities and Communities: Study Methods

The California Center for Public Health Advocacy analyzed the Physical Fitness Test Scores for each student from the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade who participated in the 2004 *FITNESSGRAM* test. CCPHA obtained the *FITNESSGRAM* data from the California Department of Education.

CCPHA analyzed the data to determine prevalence of overweight children in California, in each Assembly and Senate districts, in counties, cities and communities. School location was the basis of all geographic analyses.

For the county analysis, CCPHA used data from the University of Missouri Extension OSEDA geographic correspondence database to assign children to the 58 California counties based on their school zip code. Children were allocated to California cities and communities by school according to the name of the community listed in the California Department of Education school data file. Only cities and communities with a population of at least 10,000 and an enrollment of at least 1,000 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders were included in the study. CCPHA used 2000 Census data for population and the California Department of Education 2003-2004 public school enrollment data for enrollment data. CCPHA downloaded the enrollment data in December 2004.

Overweight rates are reported for [57 counties](#), the [10 largest cities](#), and [320 cities and communities](#).

Findings by Assembly district were detailed in publications entitled, *The Growing Epidemic: Child Overweight Rates on the Rise in California Assembly Districts*. These publications, a policy brief and report, are available on our [website](#).

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