

Helping All Children Grow Up at a Healthy Weight

Jasmine Hall Ratliff, *program officer*

November 2015



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

By 2025, we want to ensure that children in America grow up at a healthy weight, no matter who they are or where they live.

-RWJF President and CEO Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD

State of Obesity 2015

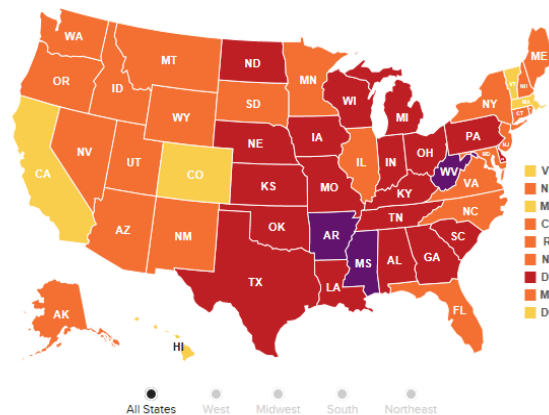
- Rates of obesity now exceed 35 percent in Arkansas, West Virginia and Mississippi
- 7 of the 10 states with the highest obesity rates for ages 10-17 are in the South.

Adult Obesity Rate by State, 2014

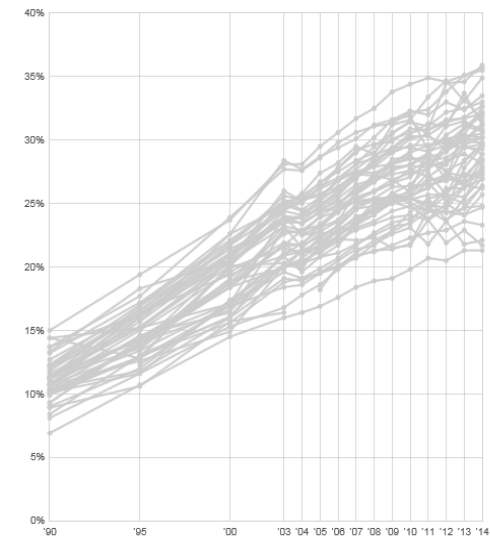
Select years with the slider to see historical data. Hover over states for more information. Click a state to lock the selection. Click again to unlock.

Percent of obese adults (Body Mass Index of 30+)

0 - 9.9% 10 - 14.9% 15 - 19.9% 20 - 24.9% 25 - 29.9% 30 - 34.9% 35%+



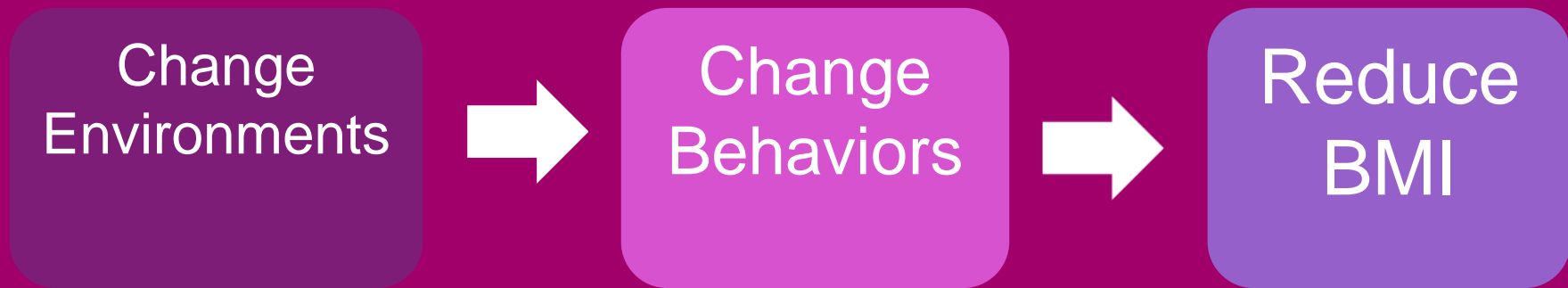
Adult obesity rates, 1990 to 2014



The Good News!

- **Childhood obesity rates are stabilizing in the U.S. after many years on the rise.**
- **From 2008 to 2011, obesity rates decreased among children ages of 2 and 4 from lower-income families that participate in WIC in 18 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and increased in only three states**
 - Since 2003, obesity rates have stabilized or decreased among every racial and ethnic group for children ages 2 to 4, except among American Indian/Alaska Natives
- **Southern states seeing declines among children include GA, FL, MS, MO and TN**





SOS pillars & RWJF commitment

Early Childhood

- *Ensure that all children enter kindergarten at a healthy weight*
- *Eliminate the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages among 0-5 year olds*
- Grantees: U Conn Rudd Center, Healthy Eating Research, Center for Digital Democracy, Berkeley Media Studies Group

Food Systems/Access

- *Make healthy foods and beverages the affordable, available, and desired choice in all neighborhoods and communities.*
- Grantees: The Food Trust, Voices for Healthy Kids, Fair Food Network, PolicyLink, Praxis



SOS pillars & RWJF commitment

Physical Activity

- *Make physical activity a part of kids' everyday experience*
- Grantees: AHA, Active Living by Design, ChangeLab Solutions, Y USA, Active Living Research

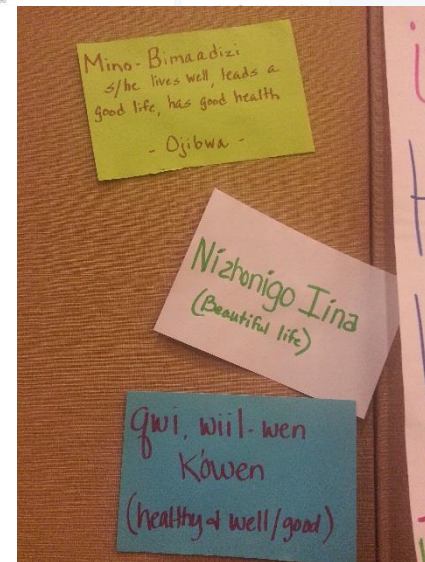
Schools

- *Make a healthy school environment the norm and not the exception.*
- Grantees: Alliance for a Healthier Generation, Pew Charitable Trusts, Mission: Readiness



Funding Activities

- Research
- Advocacy
- Media
- Convenings





Thank you!

**jratliff@rwjf.org
Twitter: [@jnhratliff](https://twitter.com/jnhratliff)**

