

[Sidebar #8]

The New England Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Overweight and Obesity: An Update

In June, 2006, the NECON Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Overweight and Obesity in New England was chosen as a model for the nation at the National Obesity Action Forum sponsored by the U.S. Department of HHS. The development of this plan, released in 2003, represented the efforts of dozens of individuals from state health departments, universities, NGO's, and employers from every state in New England. This plan reviewed available evidence and identified actions need in eight sectors including schools, worksites, the health care system, the built environment, media channels, the food environment, economic implications, and surveillance. Although the evidence has continued to accrue in each of these areas, as encouraged by the Obesity Action Forum, the framework of the NECON Strategic Plan has been a starting point for planning actions to stem the obesity epidemic in many communities, states, and national nonprofit groups. All of the New England states have developed action plans to address the obesity epidemic. The NECON strategic plan also provided a starting point for the development of a national prevention agenda that has been incorporated into an overall blueprint to enhance health and health care (see http://www.thepresidency.org/pubs/New_Horizons.pdf).