**Numbers Can Talk: Exploring Statistical Data**

**Using the 2007 Childhood Obesity State Report Card and other statistical data, let’s make connections between the numbers and lifestyle choices!**

Visit The National Survey for Children’s Health at [http://www.childhealthdata.org/](http://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/data-snapshots/obesity-2007)

[browse/data-snapshots/obesity-2007](http://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/data-snapshots/obesity-2007) to complete the following web search.

View state report cards based on geographic location. After recording your state’s data, select five other states of differing geographic location, and record the data below.

Review of your state’s report card: In which state do you reside?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Your State: % Overweight or Obese |  | National Rank: |
| State in Northeast: % Overweight or Obese |  | National Rank: |
| State in Southeast: % Overweight or Obese |  | National Rank: |
| State in Northwest: % Overweight or Obese |  | National Rank: |
| State in Southwest: % Overweight or Obese |  | National Rank: |
| State in Central US: % Overweight or Obese |  | National Rank: |

Find the state average (% overweight/obese) from the data you collected. Show your work.

What is the national average for overweight and obese children?

How close does the average of the five states that you calculated compare to the

website’s quoted average?

**I’m sure you’re left wondering, “How were these numbers obtained?” and “What are these numbers saying about childhood health?”**

**Let’s answer those questions now!**

How were these numbers obtained?

Visit the 2007 NSCH Guide to Topics and Questions at [http://childhealthdata.org/](http://childhealthdata.org/learn/NSCH/topics_questions/2007-nsch)

[learn/NSCH/topics\_questions/2007-nsch](http://childhealthdata.org/learn/NSCH/topics_questions/2007-nsch)

Read through the survey questions and answer the following questions:

With health being the major concern, which survey question(s) asked in the interview related directly to researching childhood obesity?

The survey was divided into eleven sections.

• List these sections below.

• Circle/Highlight the sections you feel have the most influence in childhood

obesity.

Visit the 2007 NSCH Sampling & Administration Process at [http://childhealthdata. org/docs/nsch-docs/2007\_nsch\_sampling\_and\_administration\_508-pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=2](http://childhealthdata.org/docs/nsch-docs/2007_nsch_sampling_and_administration_508-pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=2)

 Draw a flow chart in the space below to explain the process researchers used in

this study.

 How many people were interviewed nationally?

 How many people were interviewed from each state?

 Which statement best fits the description of proper research? Explain.

• The number of participants or trials does not influence the validity of the

research.

• The larger the number of participants or trials, the more valid the research becomes.

• Less is more!

Go to ***Indicator 1.4: What is the weight status of children based on Body Mass Index (BMI) for age?****,* on the 2007 National Survey of Children’s Health at [http://childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=226&r=1](http://childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=226&amp;r=1)

 What are these numbers saying about childhood obesity?

Go to ***Indicator 1.5: Physical activity, age 6-17***, on the 2007 National Survey of

Children’s Health at: [http://childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=228&r=1](http://childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=228&amp;r=1)

 Describe what you think the graph is telling you.

 Record the Nationwide data:

Percentage (%) engaged in physical activity

Nationwide: 0 days 1-3 days 4-6 days Everyday

 In the ***Edit Search Criteria*** box, select your state in the state dropdown menu.

Compare your state’s percentage (%) of children engaged in physical activity to the nationwide results for each category.

Percentage (%) engaged in physical activity

Your State: 0 days 1-3 days 4-6 days Everyday

 After recording your state’s data, select five other states of differing geographic

locations and record the data below.

Percentage (%) engaged in physical activity

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| State in Northeast: | 0 days | 1-3 days | 4-6 days | Everyday |
| State in Southeast: |  |  |  |  |
| State in Northwest: |  |  |  |  |
| State in Southwest: |  |  |  |  |
| State in Central US: |  |  |  |  |

 Which state percentages are similar?

 Which states are different?

 Why do you think they compare or contrast? What inferences can be made? (What do you know about each state’s demographics, food, lifestyles, etc.?)

In the ***Edit Search Criteria*** box, select *household income level* in the subgroup dropdown menu.

 What conclusions can be drawn? (Note: 0-99% is the lowest income level)

 Select any combination of income levels to compare and draw a graph comparing your data (use color in your graphing).