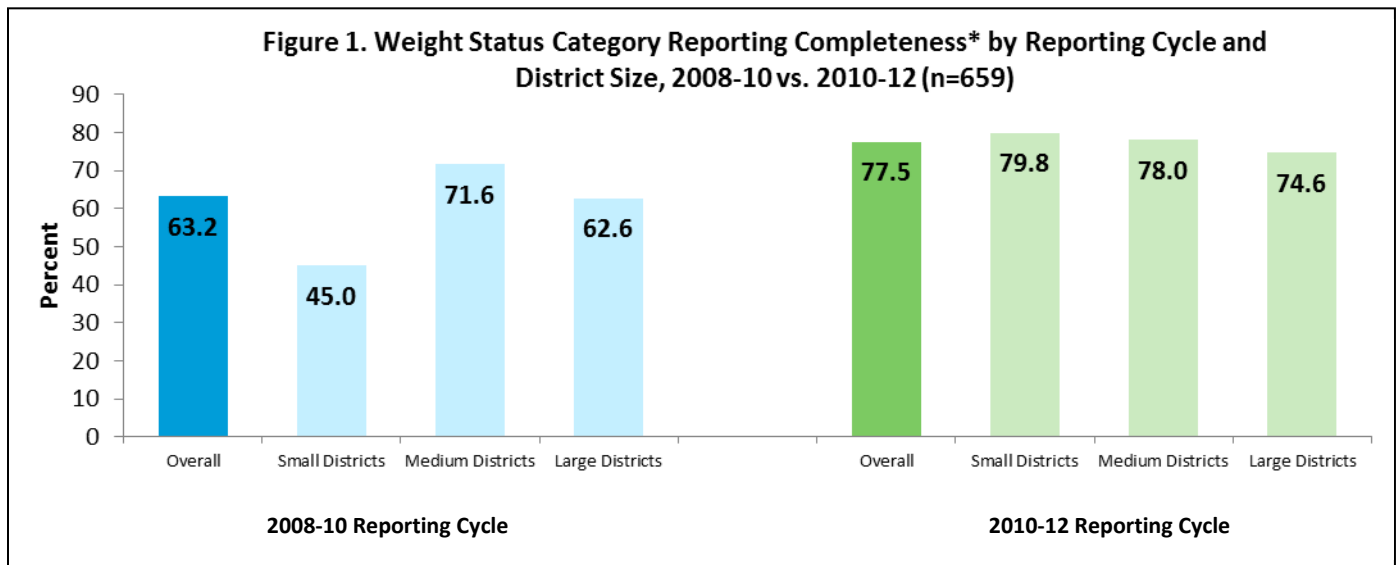


Information for Action # 2013-10

Changes to Student Weight Status Reporting Improves Data Quality

The Student Weight Status Category Reporting System (SWSCR) was established to monitor overweight and obesity in New York State public students (exclusive of New York City). An evaluation completed during the first two years of mandatory reporting showed that data suppression impacted the amount of information reported, especially among smaller schools. Changes implemented during 2010-11 and 2011-12 simplified reporting to limit missing data. Information from data reported during the past two years indicate these changes contributed to improvements in data quality.

- Reporting completeness improved by **20%** overall (from 63.2% in 2008-10 to 77.5% in 2010-12) and by **77%** among small school districts (from 45.0% in 2008-10 to 79.8% in 2010-12) (Figure 1).
- The timeliness of reporting increased. In 2010-12, **82.8%** of districts reported prior to the reporting deadline, as compared with only **49.8%** in 2008-10 (data not shown).
- Starting with the 2010-12 reporting cycle, county and state statistics will have proportional representation from both smaller and larger school districts.



Data Source: Student Weight Status Category Reporting System, 2010-12. *Reporting completeness was calculated by dividing the number of students with reported weight status category by enrollment documented in New York State Education Department enrollment records at the district level. Includes 659 districts that reported weight status information both in 2008-10 and 2010-12.

PUBLIC HEALTH OPPORTUNITY

Through improvements to the Student Weight Status Category Reporting System, the NYSDOH is able to provide more complete data on childhood obesity to support local prevention activities.

Information on student overweight and obesity from SWSCR is available at:

- Health Data NY: <https://health.data.ny.gov/>

Contact:

For more information about the data included and their specific implications for action, please send an email to DCCIPIFA@health.state.ny.us with IFA # 2013-10 in the subject line.



To access other Information for Action reports, visit the NYSDOH public website:

http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury_prevention/information_for_action/index.htm