Student obesity prevalence and behavioral outcomes for the Massachusetts Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration project

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Objective—Examine changes in prevalence of obesity and target health behaviors (fruit, vegetable, and beverage consumption; physical activity; screen time; sleep duration) among students from communities that participated in the Massachusetts Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration Project (MA-CORD) compared to controls.

Abstract

Student obesity prevalence and behavioral outcomes for the Massachusetts Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration project


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Clinical trial registration number: NCT02110615
Methods—MA-CORD was implemented in two low-income communities. School-level prevalence of obesity among students in grades 1, 4 and 7 was calculated for the intervention communities and nine matched control communities pre- and post-intervention. Fourth and 7th grade students’ self-reported health behaviors were measured in intervention communities at baseline and post-intervention.

Results—Among 7th graders (the student group with greatest intervention exposure), we observed a statistically significant decrease in prevalence of obesity from baseline to post-intervention in Community 2 (−2.68 percent, p=0.049) and a similar but non-significant decrease in Community 1 (−2.24 percent, p=0.099). Fourth and 7th grade students in both communities were more likely to meet behavioral targets post-intervention for sugar-sweetened beverages (both communities: p<0.0001) and water (Community 1: p<0.01; Community 2: p=0.04), and in Community 2 for screen time (p<0.01).

Conclusions—This multisector intervention was associated with a modest reduction in obesity prevalence among 7th graders in one community compared to controls, along with improvements in behavioral targets.

Keywords
Childhood obesity; intervention; public health

Introduction
Childhood obesity persists as a pressing public health issue. While evidence suggests recent progress among 2- to 5-year-olds, overall prevalence of childhood obesity is historically high and may still be increasing for older adolescents. Moreover, racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities appear to be increasing. In recent years, there has been a movement towards multilevel, multisector approaches for the prevention and control of obesity, with the Institute of Medicine stating that engagement across levels and settings is critical for reducing disparities in obesity risk. While the evidence base for such interventions is growing, there is still a need for empirical evidence for multisector approaches in diverse communities in the United States.

The Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration (CORD) project is a multilevel, multisector community intervention that integrated clinical and public health evidence-based approaches to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors and reduce rates of obesity among underserved children 2–12 years of age. Massachusetts was one of three demonstration grantees, in addition to California and Texas, under the CORD framework. The design and evaluation of the Massachusetts CORD project (MA-CORD) has been previously described. In short, MA-CORD was implemented in two low-income communities in Massachusetts (2012–2014) and targeted six community sectors or settings: schools, health centers, afterschool, community, early care and education, and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Collectively, the intervention activities were designed to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity and promote key behavioral targets: replacement of nutrient-poor foods with fruits and vegetables, decreased...
consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB), increased physical activity (PA),
decreased screen time, and increased sleep duration.

In this study, we examine changes in the prevalence of obesity among elementary and
middle school students in the two intervention communities compared with nine matched
control communities. We also describe changes in students’ self-reported diet, PA, sleep, and
media behaviors from pre intervention to post intervention for the two intervention
communities. These findings add important empirical evidence to the body of literature
concerning multilevel, multisector community-based interventions and may inform the
design of future obesity prevention efforts.

Methods

Intervention Setting

The MA-CORD intervention was implemented in two diverse, low-income Massachusetts
communities from 2012-2014; both communities received the intervention. These
communities were selected using a competitive application process, and selection criteria
included income and capacity for obesity prevention.\textsuperscript{13} For comparison with these 2
intervention communities, 9 control communities were selected based on criteria described
in the Selection of Control Communities section below.

Characteristics of the intervention and control communities and students are summarized in
Table 1. The communities were predominantly non-Hispanic white (both 68\%) with large
Hispanic populations (Community 1: 22\%, Community 2: 17\%) and had per capita incomes
that were substantially lower (Community 1: $22,620, Community 2: $21,056) than the state
overall ($35,500 in 2012).\textsuperscript{15} Approximately two-thirds of the student body in both
intervention communities were defined as low-income (Community 1: 66.5\%, Community
2: 67.7\%). Across both intervention communities, each with a single school district, there
were 28 schools eligible to participate in MA-CORD (Community 1: 3 elementary schools,
2 middle schools and 1 combined elementary/middle school; Community 2: 19 elementary
schools and 3 middle schools).

Study procedures were approved by the human subjects committees of the Massachusetts
Department of Public Health, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Massachusetts
General Hospital, and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute in June 2012.

Description of the MA-CORD Intervention Components

MA-CORD intervention components have been described in detail elsewhere.\textsuperscript{13,16} The
intervention components in sectors most likely to affect the school-aged population are
summarized briefly below and in Figure 1, and the timing of intervention components and
measures is depicted in Figure 2.

Intervention components in each city’s public elementary and middle schools included
evidence-based health education curricula (Eat Well, Keep Moving\textsuperscript{17} in grades 4–5 and
Planet Health\textsuperscript{18} in grades 6–7), as well as teacher training and resources on the curricula.
The program established a school district coordinator for each community and at least one
school wellness champion in each school to receive training and help ensure that MA-CORD activities were carried out. PA supplies were also provided to schools in Community 2, and a student media competition was held to increase awareness of MA-CORD and promote the target behaviors.19

MA-CORD intervention activities in other sectors most likely to affect the school-aged population include those implemented in health centers, afterschool programs, and the broader community. In short, each city’s federally qualified community health centers implemented training, computerized point-of-care decision support tools20, and multidisciplinary weight management programs, in addition to integrating community health workers into clinic teams and making environmental changes to support the intervention. Seven afterschool programs in Community 1 and sixteen programs in Community 2 worked with MA-CORD to implement professional development opportunities for staff related to healthy eating, PA and screen time (OSNAP), and also implemented the Food and Fun curriculum (available at www.OSNAP.org) to help children develop healthy habits.21,22 Finally, coalitions in each city built upon existing initiatives to implement community-level policy, systems and environmental change strategies, and utilized media channels to reach all children and their families living in the two communities.

Evaluation Design
This study utilized two designs: a quasi-experimental design with pre/post data for the intervention communities and the matched control communities (for obesity prevalence) and a quasi-experimental design with pre/post data for only the intervention communities (for behavioral outcomes). As described below, our approach for the obesity prevalence analysis made use of an extended (4 year) pre-baseline period and then three data collection points after the intervention began: early in each of the subsequent three school years.

Data Collection Procedures
Massachusetts public schools are required to measure heights and weights of all children in grades 1, 4, 7, and 10 on an annual basis and document prevalence of overweight and obesity by gender and grade.23 As a result, obesity prevalence data in these grades were available for the 2 intervention and 9 control communities for an extended pre-baseline period (four school years preceding the intervention), the intervention period (i.e. the 2012–2013 and 2013–2014 school years), and post-intervention.

For schools receiving the MA-CORD intervention, this procedure was modified during the 2012–2013 (baseline) and 2014–2015 (post-intervention) school years to also include a written, self-reported student survey that measured demographic characteristics (age, gender, and race/ethnicity) and the five target behaviors. All 4th and 7th graders from the intervention communities were invited to complete this survey at the time of height/weight measurement (N = 2456 students at baseline, N = 2506 at follow-up). There is evidence for moderate validity for these self-reported outcome measures in students as young as 4th grade.14,26 First-grade students did not complete the survey over concerns about their ability to report information accurately. The school nurse documented first-grade students’ demographic information using school records.
Thus, in the intervention communities, student height and weight were measured each year for all students in grades 1, 4, and 7, and student self-reported health behaviors were measured at baseline and post-intervention for students in grades 4 and 7. In the control communities, student obesity prevalence data were measured each year for students in grades 1, 4, and 7; student health behaviors were not assessed due to logistical constraints. Due to the data collection schedule and the fact that the curricula were implemented during the two years of intervention with students in grades 4–7 only, at the time of final follow-up students in grade 7 had the longest exposure to the intervention and were the only grade (of those measured) to have received any classroom based lessons.

To operationalize students’ potential exposure to MA-CORD intervention activities across the sectors, we collected information on the number of students eligible to receive the MA-CORD intervention, the percent of eligible teachers who attended trainings (in the school sector), the number of children ages 6–12 years attending each community’s health center in relation to school enrollment, and program enrollment in the afterschool sector in relation to school enrollment, in order to estimate reach of the intervention.

Selection of Control Communities

Among Massachusetts communities that collected height and weight data, sixty-six communities had complete school obesity data for grades 1, 4, and 7 during the four pre-intervention years and two intervention years (i.e. all school years ending in 2009–2014). These communities were considered eligible for selection as matched control communities. Nine control communities were selected using Euclidean distance matching, based on racial/ethnic composition (% black, % white, % Hispanic) and percent low-income in each school district. Average rates of each characteristic across the pre-intervention period (school years ending in 2009–2011) were used. The sum of linear differences across matching variables was calculated for each eligible control community in relation to each of the two intervention communities, and eligible control communities were ranked from smallest to largest distance. All distance calculations were conducted using SAS PROC DISTANCE, with matching variables standardized to a mean of 0 and standard deviation of 1. There was complete overlap in the top 9 matches for each intervention community, so those 9 districts were selected to serve as controls for both intervention districts. The inclusion of additional matching variables (percent female, obesity prevalence, and overweight prevalence), in addition to racial/ethnic composition and low-income percentage, had no appreciable impact on the ranks of control communities. Validating this matching approach, a regression model predicting average rates of obesity among the 66 eligible control communities and 2 intervention communities across the pre-intervention period, school racial/ethnic composition and low-income percentage explained 72% of the variation in obesity rates ($R^2=0.72$).

Primary Outcome Measures

Outcome measures have been described in detail previously, brief descriptions are as follows:
Prevalence of obesity—Children’s weight and height were measured by school nurses and were used to calculate child body mass index (BMI) (kg/m²) and age and sex-specific BMI percentiles (Li 2015). A standard definition of childhood obesity (≥95th BMI percentile for age and sex) was used.25

Dietary behaviors—Children were asked about fruit, vegetable, SSB (i.e., non-diet sodas and fruit-flavored drinks), 100% juice, and water consumption on the previous day, with a 4-point response scale (e.g., 0 = did not eat any vegetables, 1 = ate vegetables 1 time yesterday, 2 = ate vegetables 2 times yesterday, and 3 = ate vegetables 3 or more times yesterday).26,27

PA—Children were asked about the number of days in the past week that they participated in at least 30 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous PA (i.e. “physical activity that made your heart beat fast or made you breathe hard”).26,27

Screen time—Children’s screen time was assessed using two questions on time spent watching television/digital video discs (TV/DVDs) and time spent playing video games and computer games for a typical weekday and weekend day in the past week. This information was used to calculate average daily screen time.17,28

Sleep duration—Children recalled the times they went to bed and woke up the next morning on a usual weekday, which were used to calculate total sleep time.24

Dichotomous outcome targets were defined in accordance with MA-CORD behavioral guidelines and national recommendations as follows: 0 occasions drinking SSBs on the previous day, 1 or 0 occasions of 100% juice, 1 or more occasions of water, 5 or more occasions of fruits and vegetables, less than 2 hours of daily screen time, 10 or more hours of sleep on a usual day, and at least 30 minutes of PA every day.

Statistical Analyses

Our primary analysis examined change in the prevalence of obesity in the intervention communities compared to change in the matched controls. Repeated population cross-sections of obesity prevalence were available for all children in grades 1, 4, and 7 in the two intervention communities and the nine control communities at each of seven time points (4 years pre-baseline and three data collection points after the intervention began).

We used SAS PROC MIXED to examine change in the prevalence of obesity in each intervention community relative to the control communities. We used linear mixed models with a random intercepts model, assuming compound symmetry, and using the repeated function to account for the nesting of repeated annual grade-specific obesity rates within communities. Our model included terms for the year of observation, changes in slope following the intervention in the two intervention communities, indicators for each intervention community, indicators for grade, and measures of race/ethnicity (% non-Hispanic African American, % Hispanic/Latino, and % non-Hispanic White students) and % low-income at the school level. This last variable was defined as the % of enrollment who met any of the following: the student is eligible for free or reduced price lunch; or, the

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student receives Transitional Aid to Families benefits; or, the student is eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. This variable was not available for 2014–2015, so we carried forward the previous year’s value. Additionally, we stratified models examining change in obesity prevalence by grade level. As previously noted, we expected to see the largest effects among 7th graders because they had the longest exposure to the main component of the school intervention (i.e., the health curricula), and they were the only students of those measured to have received any classroom-based intervention at the time of final follow-up.

To assess change in the behavioral targets, the prevalence of target behaviors at baseline and post-intervention follow up was examined. Eligible subjects for behavioral outcomes analyses had complete data on gender, age, race/ethnicity, school, dietary outcomes, sleep, screen time, and PA. After excluding students with implausible values for sleep (i.e. <3 hours or >18 hours) and implausible values for screen time (i.e. > 3 SD above the mean), our analytic sample consisted of 1918 students at baseline and 1783 students at follow-up. This comparison was limited to the intervention communities since survey data were not available from a control community.

Using individual-level data from repeated cross-sections, we used log binomial regression (with generalized estimating equations to account for clustering by school) to estimate the risk ratio of meeting behavioral targets post-intervention compared to baseline. Models were stratified by community and adjusted for any differences in student gender, grade, and race/ethnicity between pre- and post-intervention periods. To test for potential heterogeneity of associations by grade, grade-stratified models were examined as well. All analyses were conducted using SAS (version 9.3; SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA).

Results

Based on the number of students eligible to receive the MA-CORD intervention and the percent of eligible teachers who attended trainings, we estimate that 100% of eligible students in Community 1 and approximately 70% of eligible students in Community 2 were reached by the school-sector classroom lessons. In contrast, based on afterschool program enrollment and public school enrollment (grades K-8), we estimate that 11% of students in Community 1 and 7% of students in Community 2 were potentially reached by the intervention in the afterschool setting, and based on community health center attendance and public school enrollment approximately 8% of students in Community 1 and 14% of students in Community 2 were reached by the intervention in the clinical setting.

Change in Obesity Prevalence

Results from the model examining change in prevalence of obesity are presented in Table 2. Overall, we did not observe a significant decrease in the percent of students with obesity from baseline to post-intervention in either community in comparison with controls (Community 1: −0.77% change per year, 95% CI = −2.06, 0.52, p = 0.240; Community 2: −0.17% change per year, 95% CI = −1.45, 1.11, p = 0.795). However, a statistically significant decrease in the percent of students with obesity from baseline to post-intervention was observed for grade 7 in Community 2 (−2.68% change per year, 95% CI = −5.34, −0.01,
p = 0.049) and a marginally significant decrease was observed for grade 7 in Community 1 (−2.24% change per year, 95% CI = −4.92, 0.43, p = 0.099) compared to the control communities. Results did not change when models were additionally adjusted for gender, and no significant effect was observed for grades 1 and 4. Additionally, in a secondary analysis examining the effect of the intervention in both communities combined, compared to the control communities, we also observed a statistically significant decrease for grade 7 (−2.46% change per year, 95% CI = −4.43, −0.49, p = 0.015) but not for grades 1 and 4.

Change in the Behavioral Targets

Results from models examining change in behavioral outcomes are presented in Table 3. Statistically significant improvements were observed in both communities with respect to consumption of SSBs (Community 1: RR = 1.29, 95% CI = 1.14, 1.46; Community 2: RR = 1.21, 95% CI = 1.11, 1.32) and water (Community 1: RR = 1.07, 95% CI = 1.03, 1.11; Community 2: RR = 1.04, 95% CI = 1.00, 1.07; although the crude result showed a decline in water consumption for Community 2, after adjusting for pre- to post-differences in gender and grade, water consumption increased). A statistically significant improvement was observed in Community 2 in screen time (RR = 1.24, 95% CI = 1.09, 1.41). There were no significant differences observed in either community for fruits and vegetables, 100% juice, sleep, or PA. There were no meaningful differences by grade in grade-stratified models.

Discussion

We observed a decline in obesity prevalence among 7th grade students in one of the two intervention communities compared to the control communities. Although the relative change in obesity prevalence in the other intervention community was not significant, the effect size was similar for both intervention communities (Community 1: −2.24% change per year, p = 0.099; Community 2: −2.68% change per year, p = 0.049). This effect was limited to 7th grade students, which is consistent with how the school-sector intervention was implemented. We sought to reduce the prevalence of obesity across all of the target ages; however, the most substantial intervention components in the school sector targeted only some grades (grades 4–7), and evaluation data from repeated cross-sections were only available from grades 1, 4 and 7—the grades in which student height and weight is measured in Massachusetts. Thus, among the students with post-intervention data, only those in grade 7 had received the classroom-based lessons while in grade 5 (during year 1 of the intervention) and grade 6 (during year 2 of the intervention). Intervention exposure for the other grades with measurement data (1 and 4) was limited to intervention components in afterschool programs and community health centers that had smaller reach, as well as some of the broader community efforts of MA-CORD. Given the brief duration of intervention, the significant effect in Community 2 and the marginal effect for Community 1 is a notable change. Future work should include a clear measure of exposure across various sectors.

With an approximately 2–3% reduction in obesity prevalence per year, these findings are comparable to results from some other community-based interventions and curricula that have demonstrated modest, statistically significant improvements in student relative weight status. In addition, there were observable improvements in both communities with
respect to SSB and water consumption as well as improvements in screen time in Community 2, but there were no observable effects with respect to fruits and vegetables, juice, sleep or PA.

Overall there were six suggested lessons from the Eat Well, Keep Moving\textsuperscript{17} curriculum (in both 4\textsuperscript{th} and 5\textsuperscript{th} grade and five from Planet Health\textsuperscript{18} (in both 6\textsuperscript{th} and 7\textsuperscript{th} grade) related to four of the five target behaviors. Because none of these lessons addressed sleep, the lack of effect on sleep duration is perhaps unsurprising. However, there was a focus on screen time reduction, and we observed a significant improvement in screen time in Community 2. There was also a focus on healthier beverages, and we observed significant improvements in both SSB and water consumption. Details regarding lessons learned from community stakeholders,\textsuperscript{29} and additional details of implementation in the school sector\textsuperscript{16}, have been previously reported. Though results reported herein are specific to students living in two low-income communities in MA, summary results from other CORD demonstration sites and cross-site evaluation results are forthcoming.

This study has several strengths, notably the large and racially/ethnically diverse sample, in addition to the use of matched controls for the primary obesity prevalence analysis. The largest limitation is the possibility that temporal trends could differ among communities for reasons other than the intervention. Though there were overall reductions in childhood obesity in Massachusetts during the study period, the use of control communities addresses the potential concern that secular trends explained intervention changes in obesity prevalence. This comparison was not possible for the behavioral targets because the student behavioral surveys were only collected in the two intervention communities.

Conclusion

Improvements in the prevalence of obesity (among 7\textsuperscript{th} graders in one community compared to controls), and in selected behavioral targets were modest, but should be considered in the context of the substantial challenges of implementing a large scale, multi-sectoral intervention in two financially constrained communities over a fairly short period of time. Future work should continue to consider factors associated with successful implementation of such community-based initiatives, as well as the long-term sustained impacts of such efforts.

Acknowledgments

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References


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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Study Importance Questions</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1. What is already known about this subject?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Obesity prevalence is at a historically high level and may still be increasing for older adolescents; racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities may be increasing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• In recent years, there has been a movement towards multilevel, multisector approaches for the prevention and control of obesity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The evidence base for such interventions is growing, but there is still a need for empirical evidence for multisector approaches in diverse communities in the U.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2. What does your study add?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• This study provides empirical evidence for implementation of multisector approaches in two low-income, diverse communities in Massachusetts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• This multisector intervention was associated with a significant reduction in obesity prevalence among 7th graders in one community compared to controls, along with improvements in behavioral targets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intervention Sectors/Settings</td>
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</table>
| **Health Centers**           | (1) training on clinical quality improvement and obesity prevention, assessment, and management  
(2) computerized, point-of-care decision support tools for clinicians  
(3) implementation of multidisciplinary weight management programs  
(4) integration of community health workers into the primary care and healthy weight clinic teams  
(5) health center environmental changes to support behavior change modification. |
| **Schools**                  | (1) evidence-based health education curricula (Eat Well, Keep Moving\textsuperscript{17} (grades 4–5) and Planet Health\textsuperscript{18} (grades 6–7)  
(2) teacher training and resources on the curricula  
(3) establishment of school wellness champions and school district coordinators for MA-CORD  
(4) a media competition for students  
(5) provision of physical activity supplies |
| **After School**             | Seven afterschool programs in Community 1 and sixteen programs in Community 2 serving elementary and middle school age children worked with MA-CORD to implement:  
(1) professional development opportunities for afterschool staff to assess and improve program practices and policies for healthy eating, physical activity and screen time: OSNAP (www.osnap.org)\textsuperscript{21-22}  
(2) a curriculum delivered during afterschool programming to help children develop healthy habits: Food and Fun (www.foodandfun.org) |
| **Community**                | Coalitions in each city built on existing initiatives to implement community-level policy, systems and environmental change strategies, as well as utilized activity groups and media channels to reach all children and their families living in the two cities. |

**Figure 1.**
Intervention components in sectors most likely to affect the school-aged population.
*This study utilized two designs: a quasi-experimental design with pre/post data for the intervention communities and the matched control communities (for obesity prevalence) and a quasi-experimental design with pre/post data for only the intervention communities (for behavioral outcomes).

**Figure 2.**
Timing of MA-CORD Implementation and Measurements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-baseline</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Post-intervention</th>
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<td><strong>Intervention</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>implementation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MA-CORD intervention</td>
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<td></td>
<td>[Fall 2012 – Spring 2014]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Measurement timing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>BMI (Repeated cross-sections in grades 1,4,7)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Intervention Communities (N = 2)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Control Communities (N = 9)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Target behaviors (Repeated cross-sections in grades 4,7)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervention Communities (N = 2)</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Table 1
Baseline Characteristics of Communities and Schools Participating in the MA-CORD Intervention, Massachusetts, USA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Demographics</th>
<th>Community 1</th>
<th>Community 2</th>
<th>Control Communities (N=9)$^3$</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population (n)$$^1$$</td>
<td>40,318</td>
<td>95,072</td>
<td>84,372</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per capita income ($)$$^2$$</td>
<td>22,620</td>
<td>21,056</td>
<td>27,742</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons below poverty level (%)$$^2$$</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Characteristics$$^6$$</th>
<th>Community 1</th>
<th>Community 2</th>
<th>Control Communities (N = 9)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity ($^4$ (% of students))</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Black/African American, non-Hispanic</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, non-Hispanic</td>
<td>42.4</td>
<td>51.0</td>
<td>50.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Low-income$$^4,5$$</td>
<td>66.5</td>
<td>67.7</td>
<td>59.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average % obesity, grades 1,4,7 (SD)$$^6$$</td>
<td>25.5 (2.9)</td>
<td>21.0 (1.7)</td>
<td>21.6 (2.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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$^3$ Control community demographics are average values across all 9 communities.

$^4$ School/District Profiles, Enrollment Data: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; [December 1, 2015]. Available from: [http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/).

$^5$ Low-income defined as being eligible for either free/reduced price lunch, transitional aid to families or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program based on family household income.

$^6$ Student demographic characteristics reported are all averages across the period 2009–2012.
Table 2
Change in percent of students per year with obesity pre- to post-intervention, overall and stratified by grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Coefficient Estimate</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervention effect, Community 1 vs. control communities</td>
<td>−0.77</td>
<td>−2.06</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervention effect, Community 2 vs. control communities</td>
<td>−0.17</td>
<td>−1.45</td>
<td>1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade 1 and 4</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervention effect, Community 1 vs. control communities</td>
<td>−0.08</td>
<td>−1.34</td>
<td>1.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervention effect, Community 2 vs. control communities</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>−0.18</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade 7</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervention effect, Community 1 vs. control communities</td>
<td>−2.24</td>
<td>−4.92</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervention effect, Community 2 vs. control communities</td>
<td>−2.68</td>
<td>−5.34</td>
<td>−0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Models included terms for the year of observation, for changes in slope following the intervention in the two intervention communities, indicators for each intervention community, indicators for grade, and measures of race/ethnicity (% non-Hispanic African American, % Hispanic/Latino, and % non-Hispanic White students) and % low-income at the school level.

**Bold text** indicates statistical significance.
### Table 3

Behavioral Outcomes by MA-CORD Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavioral Target</th>
<th>Percent (n)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baseline (n=1918)</td>
<td>Year 2 (n=1783)</td>
<td>Adjusted Model†</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>95% CI</td>
<td>p-value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSB intake (soda and fruit punch), 0 times yesterday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community 1</td>
<td>13.88 (145)</td>
<td>17.42 (182)</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community 2</td>
<td>15.47 (411)</td>
<td>17.28 (459)</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% Juice intake, ≥1 time yesterday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community 1</td>
<td>34.93 (365)</td>
<td>35.31 (369)</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community 2</td>
<td>38.59 (1025)</td>
<td>34.34 (912)</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, ≥1 time yesterday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community 1</td>
<td>42.87 (448)</td>
<td>44.11 (461)</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community 2</td>
<td>43.00 (1142)</td>
<td>40.93 (1087)</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>0.04</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit and vegetable, ≥5 times yesterday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community 1</td>
<td>5.74 (60)</td>
<td>6.99 (73)</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>0.06</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community 2</td>
<td>3.80 (101)</td>
<td>3.84 (102)</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>0.50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen time, &lt; 2 hours daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community 1</td>
<td>15.69 (164)</td>
<td>15.50 (162)</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community 2</td>
<td>15.06 (400)</td>
<td>16.91 (449)</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sleep, ≥10 hours on a usual day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community 1</td>
<td>20.10 (210)</td>
<td>20.29 (212)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>0.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community 2</td>
<td>19.73 (524)</td>
<td>18.00 (478)</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>0.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Activity, ≥30+ min every day</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community 1</td>
<td>7.95 (76)</td>
<td>8.68 (83)</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Target</td>
<td>Percent (n) Baseline (n=1918)</td>
<td>Percent (n) Year 2 (n=1783)</td>
<td>Adjusted Model&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>95% CI</td>
<td>p-value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community 2</td>
<td>6.96 (167)</td>
<td>4.88 (117)</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adjusted for grade (in non-stratified models), race, gender and clustering based on school; modeling the probability that the outcome = 1 (desired outcome as stated)

**Bold text** indicates statistical significance.