

## **ACHI Staff Awarded 2005 Most Outstanding Abstract at National Meeting**

A description of “Arkansas’s Response to Childhood Obesity: Update on Statewide Policy Implementation,” a study conducted by the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI), was selected as one of the 2005 Most Outstanding Abstracts at the AcademyHealth’s 2005 Annual Research Meeting. The annual meeting brings together the nation’s leading health services scholars to share information, showcase important research, and advance the nation’s collective capacity to improve health and health care.

In 2003, the Arkansas legislature passed Act 1220 to combat the growing epidemic of childhood obesity. Through this Act, all public schools were required to improve school nutrition, increase physical activity, and enhance awareness of obesity. “Arkansas’s Response to Childhood Obesity: Update on Statewide Policy Implementation” reviewed the progress and challenges in implementing Act 1220 policies.

The study was authored by Kevin Ryan, JD, MA, ACHI Associate Director, and co-authored by Joe Thompson, MD, MPH, ACHI Director, Jim Bost, PhD, former ACHI Associate Director, Jennifer Shaw, MAP, MPH, ACHI Policy Analyst, and Margaret Harris, PhD, Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Health Related Professions. Ryan presented the paper during the 2005 Annual Research Meeting, which was held in Boston on June 26-28, 2005.

ACHI is a non-partisan, independent health policy center whose mission is to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Arkansans through evidence-based research, public issue advocacy and collaborative program development.

[AcademyHealth](#) is the professional home for health services researchers, policy analysts, and practitioners, and is a leading, non-partisan resource for the best in health research and policy. AcademyHealth promotes interaction across the health research and policy arenas by bringing together a broad spectrum of players to share their perspectives, learn from each other, and strengthen their working relationships.

###