

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHY

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Barbara A. Dennison, M.D., is the Director of Policy and Research Translation in the Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention at the New York State Department of Health. She is responsible for ensuring the implementation of evidence-based, best practice and promising approaches to prevent and reduce chronic diseases and related risk factors. Dr. Dennison is the Division's contact to the Commissioner of Health and the Governor for legislative proposals and internal policy initiatives, and serves as the Division's policy liaison with other state units, state agencies and external organizations in the development of chronic disease prevention policies. From 2003-2009, she was the Director of the Bureau of Health Risk Reduction, where she provided leadership of the state's community-based, primary prevention efforts to address obesity, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and other chronic diseases.

Previously, Dr. Dennison was the pediatrician and epidemiologist in the field for the Bogalusa Heart Study, and served on the pediatric faculty at Cornell Medical College and Columbia University School of Medicine. She conducted research in nutritional epidemiology, obesity prevention, cardiovascular disease risk reduction and community-based participatory research. Dr. Dennison is currently a Clinical Professor of Epidemiology at the School of Public Health, University at Albany.

She is a member of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on an Evidence Framework for Obesity Prevention Decision-Making; the National Advisory Board, Center for Excellence in Training and Research Translation for Prevention of Obesity and Other Chronic Diseases at the University of North Carolina, NC; and the Expert Panel, Pediatric Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Initiative, NHLBI at NIH.