

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHY

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Ms. Lessard is a CDC Foundation Fellow serving in the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity (DNPAO) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In that role, she works on evaluation-related tasks related to DNPAO's state-based programs. Her primary duties are to support and collaborate on the evaluation of the New York City Daycare Regulations related to obesity prevention. This project is a joint undertaking between the CDC, CDC Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene with the support of ICF Macro.

In addition to her fellowship, Ms. Lessard is a third-year doctoral student in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. Her dissertation will examine the effect of the NYC regulations on parents and the home. She worked previously at FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, one of California's county-level commissions focused on children birth through age five and their families. In that role, she coordinated a county-wide working group focused on obesity prevention in young children, designed and implemented county-wide evaluation activities, and provided training and technical assistance related to evaluation to grantees and community members.

Ms. Lessard has a BA in Community Health and an MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics both from Tufts University in Boston.