

Freedom of Information – Response – 27556

Under the FOI Act I would like to request the statistic for the number of obese children in your local authority, and how this number has changed annually from 2020-2025, in spreadsheet format.

Thank you for your request for information regarding the number of obese children in Suffolk and how this has changed annually from 2020 to 2025.

Suffolk County Council does not hold data on the height and weight of all children living in Suffolk. Information on child weight status is collected through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), which measures children attending state-maintained schools in Reception (aged 4-5 years) and Year 6 (aged 10-11 years). Data is only available for children who participate in the programme; parents and carers are informed of the programme and may choose to withdraw their child from measurement. Therefore, NCMP data is not a complete census of all children in Suffolk. The NCMP provides estimates of the prevalence of obesity within these age groups only and cannot be used to determine the number of obese children across the entire child population. Year-on-year comparisons should be interpreted with caution because the programme measures different cohorts of children each year rather than tracking the same children over time.

This information is publicly available through the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) Fingertips website. This includes annual data for Suffolk on the prevalence of obesity among Reception and Year 6 children:

- [National Child Measurement Programme data - Suffolk - 2024/25](#)
- [Reception Year – Prevalence of children living with obesity \(including severe obesity\) - Suffolk - Trend over time](#)
- [Year 6 – Prevalence of children living with obesity \(including severe obesity\) - Suffolk - Trend over time](#)

The Fingertips website provides annual prevalence and count data and allows users to download the underlying data in spreadsheet format. To view the data in spreadsheet format using the above links, select 'More options', then select 'Download CSV' from the dropdown list.

Suffolk County Council considers that the requested information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means and is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Information reasonably accessible by other

means).