



Extreme Obesity Affecting More Children at Younger Ages

ScienceDaily (Mar. 19, 2010) — Extreme obesity is affecting more children at younger ages, with 12 percent of black teenage girls, 11.2 percent of Hispanic teenage boys, 7.3 percent of boys and 5.5 percent of girls now classified as extremely obese, according to a Kaiser Permanente study of 710,949 children and teens that appears online in the Journal of Pediatrics.

This is the first study to provide a snapshot of the prevalence of extreme obesity in a contemporary cohort of children ages 2 -- 19 years from a large racially and ethnically diverse population using the recent 2009 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention extreme obesity definition.

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Discovery of 'Fat' Taste Could Hold the Key to Reducing Obesity

ScienceDaily (Mar. 10, 2010) — A newly discovered ability for people to taste fat could hold the key to reducing obesity, Deakin University health researchers believe.

Deakin researchers Dr Russell Keast and PhD student Jessica Stewart, working with colleagues at the University of Adelaide, CSIRO, and Massey University (New Zealand), have found that humans can detect a sixth taste -- fat. They also found that people with a high sensitivity to the taste of fat tended to eat less fatty foods and were less likely to be overweight. The results of their research are published in the latest issue of the British Journal of Nutrition.

"Our findings build on previous research in the United States that used animal models to discover fat taste," Dr Keast said.

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Nutrition Menu Labeling May Lead to Lower-Calorie Restaurant Meal Choices for Children

Pediatrics Abstract (March 2010)- OBJECTIVE Our aim was to determine whether nutrition labeling on menus would lead to lower-calorie choices for children.

RESULTS There were 99 participants, for a participation rate of 82%. There were no significant differences in demographic characteristics between the groups. Parents in the intervention arm ordered an average of 102 fewer calories for their children than did control subjects (567.1 cal vs 671.5 cal; P = .04). With adjustment for parent's gender, race, education, and BMI, fast food frequency, and child's BMI z score, the difference remained significant (P = .004). There was no difference in energy between the 2 groups in the parents' choices for themselves.

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HHS Awards \$372 Million in Prevention and Wellness Grants to 44 Communities Around the Nation

March 19, 2010- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced awards of more than \$372 million to 44 communities, to support public health efforts to reduce obesity and smoking, increase physical activity and improve nutrition.

The awards are part of the HHS Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) initiative, a comprehensive prevention and wellness initiative funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

"This is an unprecedented level of commitment to prevention," said First Lady Michelle Obama. "Investing in local communities will build a healthier America, and we aim to reach more than 50 million people who are living in the communities receiving these awards."

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The House passed the overhaul — now what?

MSNBC (March 2010)- Relieved Democrats may still be celebrating the passage of landmark health care overhaul legislation, but Republicans in the Senate still have an opportunity to try to derail the bill.

And if history is any guide, they are likely to force the House to vote on health care again before Easter. "Anybody that thinks that this is only going to be a one-time deal today in the House, I think, is grossly mistaken," said Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch on CNN's "State of the Union."

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New Food Policy and Obesity Legislation Database

The Rudd Center (March 2010)- The Rudd Center has a new tool that allows users to find the most recent information on food policy and obesity legislation. The Legislative Updates page features a comprehensive search function, a list of bills that have been acted upon in the last day and week, contact information for state and federal legislators, and educational materials on the legislative process. Bills are monitored closely and the database is updated regularly.

Search for food policy and obesity legislation filed by states and by Congress. Bill status is monitored, and the database is updated regularly.

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