



Congressional Workshop Series: PREVENTING AND TACKLING OBESITY IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES

Thursday, December 10, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center

A Window for Action

Obesity is America's costliest medical condition. Related medical costs reached an estimated \$147 billion last year, with half paid by Medicare and Medicaid. Today, 1 in 3 adults and 1 in 5 children struggle with obesity.

As debate continues around health care reform, lawmakers have significant opportunities to enact policies that will help reverse the nation's obesity epidemic and address the unique challenges facing minority communities.

The data is daunting. The prevalence of obesity among Latino Americans is 21 percent higher than for white, non-Hispanic Americans, according to a 2009 CDC report, and 51 percent higher for African Americans. American Indians and Alaskan Natives are 1.6 times more likely to be obese than non-Hispanic whites. Even our youngest children are at risk. In 2008, the obesity rate for American Indian and Alaskan Native preschoolers was 21 percent, and 18.5 percent for Hispanics. Obesity rates for black, Asian/Pacific and white preschoolers ranged from 11.9 to 12.6 percent.

The Workshop

The December 10 workshop will help members of Congress, staff and representatives of key House and Senate committees identify promising policies for addressing obesity among vulnerable communities. Experts from public health and industry will discuss replicable strategies for improving access to nutritious foods, enhancing opportunities for physical activity and expanding community initiatives to prevent or reverse obesity in minority populations. Experts from the Campaign's Advisory Council, such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity, will help shape the discussion.

Each panel will be moderated by a Congressional staff member who has shown notable commitment to obesity issues. Invited participants include members and Congressional staff, and representatives of key organizations invited as delegates; all will be invited to join the conversation and help crystallize areas of consensus. Following the meeting, those specific recommendations will be widely shared with federal policymakers.

The workshop is hosted by the nonprofit Campaign to End Obesity, which convenes leaders from industry, academia, public health and associations to advocate for federal policies to reverse the obesity epidemic and promote healthy weight in children and adults.

Workshop Details

"Preventing and Tackling Obesity in Minorities Communities"

Thursday, December 10

9 a.m. – Noon

Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room South

Space is limited. Response requested by Monday, December 7.

RSVP to contact Amy Takeuchi Wanlass at amy@obesitycampaign.org, or 202-466-8100.



*The Campaign to End Obesity cordially invites you to participate as a
DELEGATE at our*

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amy@obesitycampaign.org or 202-466-8100.***

*****This invitation is non-transferrable.*****