



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Mary Kay Jezzini
SAGE Publicist
212-352-1404
publicity@sagepub.com

**WHAT ARE THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY?
RESEARCH PUBLISHED BY SAGE IN SPECIAL ISSUE OF *THE ANNALS***

Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, and Singapore (January 14, 2008) – Childhood obesity in America has reached near epidemic proportions, with recent studies showing a tripling of the number of overweight children since the 1970s. Over 9 million children are now considered overweight or obese. How did that happen and what should be done now?

The January 2008 special issue of *The Annals*, published by SAGE, explores the problem of obesity in the young, providing kids, their parents and caregivers a road map for a healthier lifestyle both for them and for future generations. From agreeing on the terminology to use, to possible public policy options, the articles in the special issue provide hope that this alarming crisis can be diffused, investigating such subjects as:

- The environment of the developing child, including the home, school and neighborhood
- Parenting styles
- Food and beverage marketing in schools and in the media
- Intervention and prevention

“Clearly we need to help the 9 million children in this country who are overweight, and we need to do it now,” writes Amy Jordan, Guest Editor, author, and director of the Media and the Developing Child sector of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. “The authors in this special issue provide a research agenda that, if implemented, will continue the interdisciplinary approach we have taken to understand the problem of childhood overweight and obesity and the collective effort we will need to solve it.”

The special issue of *The Annals*, the official journal of The American Academy of Political and Social Science, is entitled “Overweight and Obesity in America’s Children: Causes, Consequences, Solutions,” and is available at no charge for a limited time at <http://ann.sagepub.com/content/vol615/issue1/>.

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The Annals is the official bimonthly journal of The American Academy of Political and Social Science, which was created in 1889 to promote the progress of the social sciences. It did so by creating a forum in which research on contemporary political, economic, and social issues could help inform public policy as well as enlighten the intellectually curious. Each volume is guest edited by outstanding scholars and presents timely, in-depth research on a significant topic of concern. <http://ann.sagepub.com>

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