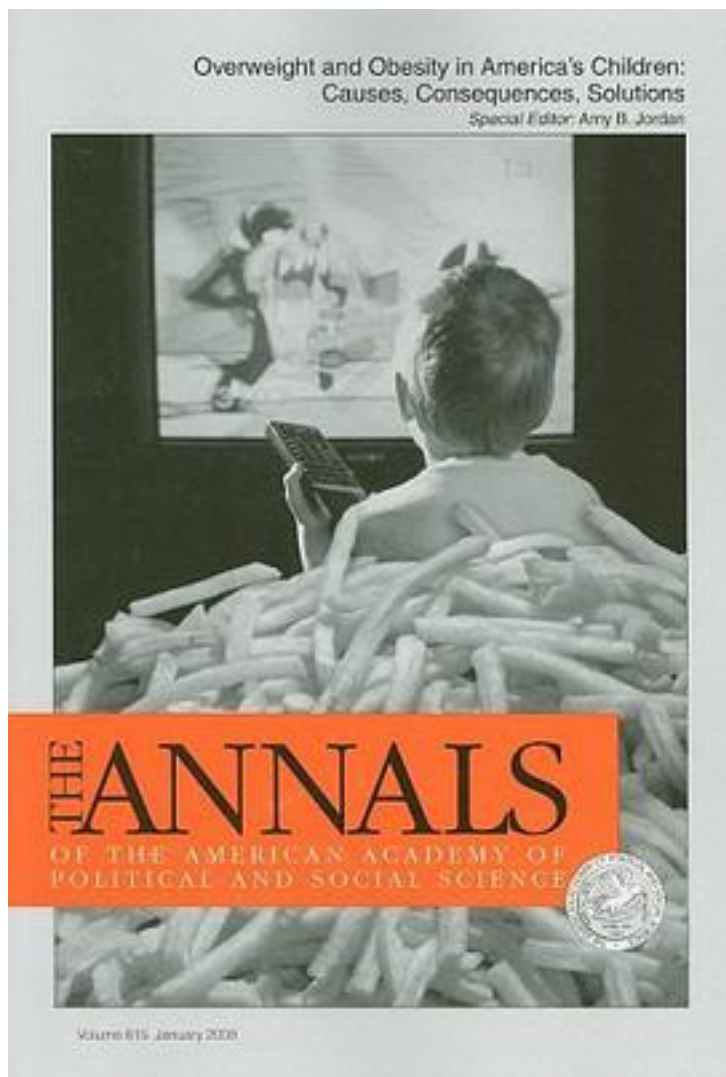


Overweight & Obesity in America's Children



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For the past several years, researchers have been examining possible causes of the rise in of childhood overweight and obesity in the U.S. Now at near-epidemic proportions, the time has come to really delve into the causes of overweight children and propose some practical solutions to help the 9 million children in this country who are overweight. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, this special issue of "The ANNALS" inspects the social problem of childhood obesity from various angles and uses empirically based, creative suggestions for overcoming and preventing unhealthy lifestyles. The authors of this special issue include health care practitioners, social scientists, philanthropists, advocates, and policy makers who understand that this is a complex issue made up of a myriad of factors. Ready to tackle this ubiquitous problem, the authors recognize that the contexts that shape weight status for children overlap in their influence. Specifically, the insightful articles in this special issue evaluate the following factors: - Influence of parents - Opportunities for exercise- Access to healthy food choices- Media influences Focusing on these and other determinants through an interdisciplinary lens, this compelling issue highlights policy initiatives that would provide families and educators with the necessary tools for teaching healthy lifestyles. Researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and students in a variety of disciplines - as well as educators - will find this to be an inspiring resource to understand and take measures against the rising problem of childhood obesity.

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