

# Salud America!

The RWJF Research Network to  
Prevent Obesity Among Latino Children

Fact Sheet

## Childhood Obesity Has a Dramatic Impact on Latinos

- Mexican-American children ages 2 to 19 are more likely to be obese or overweight (38%) than children overall (31.9%), including African Americans and Whites.<sup>1</sup>
- Obesity increases the risk for type 2 diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers, etc.<sup>2,3</sup>

## Salud America! Aims to Help Reverse the Epidemic

*Salud America!* aims to increase the number of researchers, policy-makers and community leaders engaged in research on environmental and policy solutions to prevent obesity among Latino children. Since 2008, we've:

- Developed a network of more than 1,550 people interested in preventing Latino childhood obesity.  
Join us at: <http://www.salud-america.org/join.html>
- Increased awareness of Latino childhood obesity with Web site/E-newsletters: [www.salud-america.org](http://www.salud-america.org)
- Developed first National Latino Child Obesity Research Agenda:  
[http://www.salud-america.org/Files/Delphi\\_Executive\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.salud-america.org/Files/Delphi_Executive_Summary.pdf)
- Funded, through RWJF, 20 pilot research projects:  
<http://www.salud-america.org/research.html>
- Hosted Inaugural Scientific Summit on 9/9-11/09:  
<http://www.salud-america.org/Files/Reports/SummitReport.pdf>



## Salud America! Program Background

*Salud America!* is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation national program directed by the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. Amelie G. Ramirez, DrPH, is the director of both *Salud America!*, as is Kip Gallion the deputy director. The program's research coordinator is Patricia Chalela, DrPH. Program staff includes Kay Haverlah, Courtney Denton and Cliff Despres.

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<sup>1</sup>Ogden CL, et al. "High Body Mass Index for Age Among U.S. Children & Adolescents, 2003-2006." *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 299(20): 2401-2405, 2008.  
<sup>2</sup>CDC. "Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1988-94." Analysis by the Lewin Group (Falls Church, VA), 1999.  
<sup>3</sup>Calle E, et al. "Overweight, Obesity and Mortality in a Prospectively Studied Cohort of U.S. Adults." *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 2003 (April 24), 348:1625-1638.