

Public Policies to Address the Obesity Epidemic

Ellen Wu, MPH
Executive Director



Epidemic Among Children

- **Overweight among children ages 6-11 increased nearly 4-fold from 1963-2000.**
- **Overweight among adolescents ages 12-19 increased nearly 4-fold between 1966-2000.**
- **26.5% of California children are overweight**

Consequences for Children

Health Problems NOW:

- Type 2 diabetes
- High blood pressure
- Asthma
- Orthopedic problems
- Psychosocial problems

Future Chronic Diseases:

- Heart disease
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Stroke

Overweight and Obese Adults by Race/Ethnicity

African American	65.7%
Latino	65.6%
Native American/ Alaska Native	63.8%
Asian	31.1%
White	53.1%

Overweight Children by Race/Ethnicity

African American	28.6%
Latino	33.7%
Native American/Alaska Native	25.1%
Asian	17.5%
Pacific Islander	31.1%
White	20.2%

Past Efforts

- **2001 – SB 19, Nutrition Standards
K-6 but not funded**
- **2002 – SB 1520, Soda Tax
Didn't pass**
- **2003 – SB 677, Soda Ban
K-8**
- **2004 – SB 1566, Nutrition Standards
Didn't pass**

Current Legislation

- **SB 12 (Escutia) – Nutrition standards for competitive foods sold in all public schools**
- **SB 965 (Escutia) – Bans sodas from being served in high schools**

California Center for Public Health Advocacy

Contact

- (530) 297-6000
- info@publichealthadvocacy.org
- www.publichealthadvocacy.org

Strategic Alliance

Promoting Healthy Foods and Activity Environments

- (510) 444-7738
- SA@preventioninstitute.org
- www.preventioninstitute.org/sa/