

Emerging Issues

Obesity

- Obesity is a health issue with a complex web of causes and co-morbidities. Generally speaking, obesity is the result of [social, cultural, and physical environmental factors](#) patients experience throughout their lives, [genetic factors](#), and the interaction between those factors.
- The [environment](#) where patients live, learn, work and play can increase or decrease risk of obesity. For instance, a community without safe areas for kids to play will make it harder to be physically active, which will increase risk for obesity.
- Studies have shown that [trauma](#) experienced during childhood, as well as experiencing [racism](#) in daily life, are part of the complex set of causes of obesity.
- [Epigenetics](#) is increasingly seen as a mechanism for obesity passing down through generations, as well as adult obesity and co-morbidities.
- Increasing evidence shows a connection between [maternal nutrition during pregnancy](#) and adult obesity.