

Answer any four of the six questions below

1. You have been asked to testify before congress about current trends and potential causes of childhood obesity and to propose the most promising policy remedies to counter the epidemic. What would you convey in your testimony?
2. Social policies are designed to provide an overall safety net for the segment of the population needing it most. Considering the increasing rates of obesity, especially among the most disadvantaged groups (e.g. low-income and racial/ethnic minorities), are these policies meeting their goals? In you answer address relevant social policies in addition to policies designed to provide a food “safety net”.
3. Synthesize research findings on the role of genetics and of parenthood on childhood obesity, and discuss implications for possible prevention interventions.
4. Schools play a crucially important part in children’s lives. Discuss the educational, nutritional and physical activity school environment as a cause of and as part of a possible solution to the obesity epidemic.
5. Provide an economic model that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of a policy initiative to reduce child obesity. Discuss the nature of the initiatives that have been taken in the US in recent years to reduce child obesity. Summarize the empirical evidence with regards to the impact of these initiatives.
6. Discuss the dual relationship between health and economic status and the problems of establishing the direction of causality between health and economic status. Summarize empirical studies on the economic consequences of obesity.