



The United States Conference of Mayors

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MAYORS SEEK WAYS TO FIGHT OBESITY IN CHILDREN

All Levels of Government Come Together for First Time to Discuss Issue

Washington, D.C. - Mayors from across the nation are participating today in the Childhood Obesity Prevention Summit at the Grand Hyatt Washington. Hosted by the Leadership for Healthy Communities, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the theme of this meeting is "Connecting Leaders to Support Healthy Children."

For the first time ever, this summit will bring together elected officials and policy leaders from all levels of government to discuss innovative partnerships, promising practices, and policy-relevant research that create healthier communities. Mayors and other leaders will share the policy approaches they have taken to prevent childhood obesity, increase opportunities for safe physical activity, and improve access to affordable healthy foods.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) is a member of Leadership for Healthy Communities, which engages and supports state and local leaders in efforts to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic through policies that support healthy eating and active living.

"Childhood obesity has taken on epidemic proportions in the U.S. and is disproportionately affecting children in poor and underserved communities in our nation's cities. The Childhood Obesity Prevention Summit offers an unprecedented opportunity for elected and appointed officials at all levels of government to meet and exchange strategies to combat this growing epidemic," said Tom Cochran, USCM Executive Director.

Participating mayors include: Mayor Robert Cluck, M.D. (Arlington, TX), Mayor Joseph Curtatone (Somerville, MA), Mayor Darwin Hindman (Columbia, MO), Mayor Juan B. Tudela (Saipan, Mariana Islands), Mayor Kevin A. Burns (North Miami, FL), Mayor Lou Ogden (Tualatin, OR), Mayor Art Madrid (La Mesa, CA) and Mayor Wayne J. Hall Sr., (Hempstead, NY).

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.