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Contact

Kendi Parvin

kendi.parvin@wismed.org, 608.442.3748

Obesity in Wisconsin

Special issue of WMJ explores prevalence, efforts to affect change

Madison—Although the health risks associated with being obese have been well-documented for decades, it's an issue that continues to affect Wisconsin's children and adults. In the latest issue of *WMJ*, researchers report on the causes and prevalence of obesity in various patient populations in Wisconsin and describe a number of efforts underway to address this ongoing problem.

"If society is going to honestly address obesity, it needs to understand it as a symptom, not a cause," said *WMJ* Editor John Frey III, MD.

"Whether through research strategies that include patients and communities or using data to address issues of availability of food or significant adjustment in attitudes of clinicians away from condescension and toward empathy, the manuscripts in [this issue](#) acknowledge the struggle to improve outcomes through collection action," Dr Frey added. "The effort will take a long time and great deal of work, but it has a greater likelihood of positive change than end of visit diet advice for patients who go back to a reality their doctor may not understand."

This special issue of *WMJ* was supported by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health through the Wisconsin Partnership Program and its Obesity Prevention Initiative. The issue is available online at www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/professional/wmj/current-issue/.

Published by the [Wisconsin Medical Society](#), *WMJ* is devoted to the interests of the medical profession and health care in the Midwest. This peer-reviewed [publication](#), which is available in print and electronic format, is one of the few state medical society-sponsored medical journals that publish a large amount of original research and academic content.

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