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CAN TREATMENTS HELP CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM OBESITY

In May of 2006, a surgeon researcher in the US, Anthony Wilson called attention to an often ignored health problem within the USA. Wilson said that a huge 15% rate on child obesity is considered as 'epidemic'. Since the earlier part of the 1990s, the rate has even doubled among children, while tripling among adolescents. (Wilson, 2006).

While the standard response among people to a medical epidemic is to look for a cure-all pill or a vaccine, obesity among children has proven to be more elusive. Most often, the lack of success involving recent attempts suggest that treatments may not be the solution for this problem.

Obesity can prove to be an extremely devastating issue both in an individual level, as well as in the perspective of the society. In fact, this issue can put children at risk for different medical complications, including hypertension, type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea, as well as other orthopedic issues (USA Pediatrics Foundation, 2007, p.2).

Researchers Hopkinson and Tavern (2005) have also noted that obesity is usually linked with some psychological issues including anxiety, depression, as well as binge eating. Therefore, any solution should involve, not just a focus on treatment, but also awareness of the condition.

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that same month, John and Carole Hall were killed when a Naval Academy midshipman crashed into their parked car. The driver said in court that when he looked up from the cell phone he was dialing, he was three feet from the car and had no time to stop (Stockwell B8).

Expert testimony, public opinion, and even cartoons suggest that driving while phoning is dangerous. Frances Bents, an expert on the relation between cell phones and accidents, estimates that between 450 and 1,000 crashes a year have some connection to cell phone use (Layton C9). In a survey published by Farmers Insurance Group, 87% of those polled said that cell phones affect a driver's ability, and 40% reported having close calls with drivers distracted by phones. Many cartoons have depicted the very real dangers of driving while distracted (see fig. 1).

Scientific research confirms the dangers of using phones while on the road. In 1997 an important study appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The authors, Donald Redelmeier and Robert Tibshirani, studied 699 volunteers who made their cell phone bills available in order to confirm the times when they had placed calls. The participants agreed to report any nonfatal collision in which they were involved. By comparing the time of a collision with the phone records, the researchers assessed the dangers of driving while phoning. The results are unsettling:

We found that using a cellular telephone was associated with a risk of having a motor vehicle collision that was about about four times as high as

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First line of each entry is at left margin; next lines are indented 1/2".

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Clear topic sentences, like this one, are used throughout the paper.

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