



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods  
at Case Western Reserve University

## PRCHN Research Seminar Series

### Predicting Childhood Obesity Risk in the Context of Adversity

*Presented by: Brittany Schuler, PhD, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, College of Public Health, Temple University*

**Wednesday, September 11, 2019, 12:00 - 1:15 pm**



Rates of childhood obesity are nearly four times as high in low-resourced communities, with rates among 2-5 year-old children more than doubling in the past four decades, contributing to long-term health consequences and disparities. Poor nutrition and eating habits are a major contributor to pediatric obesity risk. Given that major trials have demonstrated little to no sustainable effect on reducing obesity in low-resourced communities, it is essential to improve our understanding of barriers to behavior change unique to populations living in high poverty, violent, economically depressed neighborhoods.

In this talk, Dr. Brittany Schuler will present her program of research drawing on family stress frameworks to examine mechanisms linking adversity and economic hardship to the development of familial dietary patterns and subsequent pediatric obesity risk in low-resourced populations. She will share her preliminary work documenting direct associations of early life adversities and childhood dietary habits. In addition, she will highlight her work on links between specific types of economic hardship on parenting stress dynamics and subsequent family mealtime quality. Dr. Schuler will discuss how this work serves as the basis for the development of an innovative framework for addressing childhood obesity in the context of adversity. This presentation will provide foundational information on the multifaceted links between adversity phenotypes and obesity risk, information hypothesized to be crucial for childhood obesity prevention.

**Brittany Schuler, PhD** is an assistant professor in Temple University's School of Social Work. Prior to joining Temple, Dr. Schuler completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Michigan's School of Social Work. Dr. Schuler completed her doctoral training in Social Work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and earned both her BSW and MSW at Temple University. Her research interests include: Social determinants of health, maternal and child health, pediatric obesity, food and nutrition policy, social and economic justice, research methods and evaluation, and social welfare history and policy.

*The PRCHN Seminar Series is open to the public and takes place from 12:00 - 1:15 on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the BioEnterprise Building, 11000 Cedar Avenue.*

*Parking is available and a light lunch is served. Contact Madeline Castele at: [mcc92@case.edu](mailto:mcc92@case.edu) for more information.*



*The Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhood's mission is to foster partnerships within Cleveland's urban neighborhoods for developing, testing, and implementing strategies to prevent and reduce the burden of chronic disease.*