Childhood Obesity and Military Readiness—Unfit to Fight?

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MISSION: READINESS
71% of young people cannot join the military.

- 1 in 5 Young Americans do not graduate on time.
- 1 in 5 Who do graduate on time can’t do well enough on the military entrance exam to join.
- 1 in 10 Have serious criminal records.
- 1 in 4 Are overweight because child obesity has tripled.

17- to 24-year-old Americans

Able to Join
29%

Unable to Join
71%
Inadequate Education Prevents Young Americans from Serving

Proportion Who Do Not Graduate
Nationwide, one in five young Americans do not graduate on time from high school. In some states it is even worse.

Proportion Who Score Too Low
Out of those who do graduate and try to join the Army, over one in five cannot join because they score too low on Armed Forces Qualification Test.


Physical Fitness & Obesity

How quickly weight gain has been increasing across america Among 18- to 24-year-olds

1995-1997

2008-2010

Overweight/Obese
ages 18 - 24

- 39% or Less
- 40 - 41%
- 42 - 43%
- 44 - 45%
- 46 - 47%
- 48% or Higher

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.
* If states were missing data for one or more years, data from 1998, 2003, 2006 or 2007 were used to generate a pooled average for three years in order to have large enough samples. Only states with enough data in both periods were included. Alaska did not have data for either period and Arizona did not have data for the later period.
MISSION: READINESS
MILITARY LEADERS FOR KIDS