

<p align="justify">◆</p><p align="justify">AFP <br />Wednesday, February 17th, 2010 11:15</p><p align="justify">WASHINGTON: Chronic

conditions including asthma, obesity and behaviour disorders have become more common among US children in recent years, with environmental changes and more diagnoses partly to blame, a study published yesterday shows. </p><p align="justify">Researchers led by Jeanne Van Cleave, a doctor at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children in Boston, looked at the prevalence of conditions that lasted a year or longer in three groups of children, starting with a first cohort of more than 2,000 kids in 1988. </p> That group was tracked for six years, after which a second group was studied between 1994-2000 and finally a third group from 2000-

2006. <p align="justify">Mothers of the children were asked whether their kids had any ◆physical, emotional or mental condition that prevented him or her from attending school regularly, doing regular school work or doing usual childhood activities, or that required frequent attention or treatment from a doctor or other health professional.◆</p><p align="justify">The information gathered was classified into one of four categories of chronic condition: asthma, behaviour or learning disorders, obesity and other physical conditions. </p><p align="justify">◆We found that prevalence of a chronic condition at any point during the study period was very high and increased over time,◆ the authors of the study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, said.</p><p align="justify">◆Many factors may have contributed, including environmental changes, which may affect rates of chronic respiratory conditions and obesity,◆ and greater access to health care for children during the study period,◆ which would have boosted diagnoses of childhood chronic conditions, the study said.</p><p align="justify">Source: <a href="http://www.mmail.com.my/content/27751-obesity-chronic-conditions-us-children">http://w

ww.mmail.com.my/content/27751-obesity-chronic-conditions-us-children</a></p>