Record Nr. UNINA9910806967403321 Autore Boero Natalie <1974-> Titolo Killer fat: media, medicine, and morals in the American "obesity epidemic" / / Natalie Boero New Brunswick, N.J., : Rutgers University Press, c2012 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-283-68781-X 0-8135-5372-5 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (192 p.) Disciplina 369.196/398 Obesity - Social aspects - United States Soggetti Obesity - United States - Psychological aspects Health in mass media Body image Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: Weighty Matters -- 1. Obesity as a "Leading Health Indicator": Public Health, Moral Entrepreneurs, and a Confluence of Interests -- 2. All the News That's Fat to Print: The American Obesity Epidemic and the Media -- 3. Normative Pathology and Unique Disease: Weight Watchers, Overeaters Anonymous, and Behavioral Treatments for the Obesity Epidemic -- 4. Bypassing Blame: Bariatric Surgery, Normative Femininity, and the Case of Biomedical Failure -- Conclusion: Health at Every Size or Thin at Any Price? -- Appendix: Methodology -- Notes --References -- Index -- About the Author Sommario/riassunto In the past decade, obesity has emerged as a major public health concern in the United States and abroad. At the federal, state, and local level, policy makers have begun drafting a range of policies to fight a war against fat, including body-mass index (BMI) report cards, "snack taxes," and laws to control how fast food companies market to children. As an epidemic, obesity threatens to weaken the health, economy, and might of the most powerful nation in the world. In Killer

Fat, Natalie Boero examines how and why obesity emerged as a major public health concern and national obsession in recent years. Using

primary sources and in-depth interviews, Boero enters the world of bariatric surgeries, Weight Watchers, and Overeaters Anonymous to show how common expectations of what bodies are supposed to look like help to determine what sorts of interventions and policies are considered urgent in containing this new kind of disease. Boero argues that obesity, like the traditional epidemics of biological contagion and mass death, now incites panic, a doomsday scenario that must be confronted in a struggle for social stability. The "war" on obesity, she concludes, is a form of social control. Killer Fat ultimately offers an alternate framing of the nation's obesity problem based on the insights of the "Health at Every Size" movement.