

Obesity is a major health risk and is increasing worldwide. So, it is important to have data. Since 1997, the *Observatoire de la Santé du Hainaut* has a partnership with school medical services (Services PSE or Centres PMS) to make survey on a sample of young people (9–17 years). Surveys are completed every other year. Around twenty schools are randomly drawn for each level using a quota method. One class is selected in each school. Children are surveyed during their medical school examination at 5th or 6th grade in primary school and 2nd and 4th grade in secondary school. Children answer a self-questionnaire and weight, height, waist circumference and blood pressure are measured. Children were classified as normal, overweight or obese using International Obesity Task Force cut-off points. In 2004, 16.3% of children were

overweight and 5.6% were obese. In total, more than one out of five children exceeds recommended limits of BMI. Multivariate analysis shows that obesity is significantly influenced by socio-economic factors: profession of the father (adjusted OR: 1.83 unqualified manual workers *v.* highly skilled job) and the scholar orientation (adjusted OR: 1.60 qualifying *v.* transitional teaching). Overweight follows the same pattern. Poster will also present the 2009 update of these data. Data show that overweight and obesity are influenced by socio-economic factors. This relationship is particularly important in the province of Hainaut where socio-economic situation is unfavourable and unemployment is high. This dimension should be included in any health education and health promotion programme.

doi:10.1017/S1368980012001838

09 – BMI-for-age and developmental status of a community sample of 6–8-year-old children in rural Ireland

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Introduction: Childhood obesity has negative pervasive effects on health and social functioning. The present study examines the prevalence of clinically obese children in a community sample of children in the early years of school and their development profile at the start and end of the school year.

Method: A community sample of 217 children aged 6–8 years enrolled in mainstream schools in rural Ireland were measured for BMI, motor skill development level, behaviour and psychological well-being at the start and end of the school year.

Results: Fifty-two (24%) children were identified as clinically obese with a BMI-for-age and gender on the

85th centile or above. Four children had impaired motor skill development. None of the groups were identified by either teachers or parents as having behavioural problems. Class teachers rated 22 (42%) and parents rated 26 (50%) of the children as being at risk for psychological problems. None of the children had been referred to or were attending any health or support services.

Conclusions: Motor skill development is not adversely affected by obesity for children starting school. However, the psychological well-being of this group of children in the early years of education is of concern. Further investigation of the impact of poor psychological status on motivation and participation in school and physical activity is needed.

doi:10.1017/S136898001200184X

10 – Time trend in height, weight and obesity prevalence in Cameroonian children aged 5–16 years: 1998–2007

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