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Prevalence of obesity and its association with diet among 13-years old Omani school children

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Introduction: Obesity is a global health disorder and the WHO considers obesity as the most serious non-communicable disease worldwide and is closely related to improper diet. All age groups are affected but the problem becomes worse when children are affected. Obesity in children is defined as BMI >95th percentile as defined in the Expert Committee Recommendations. In the US childhood obesity is about 11% and overweight is about 25%. Obesity prevalence worldwide is on the increase since 1970 especially in developed countries. A WHO report stated that, approximately 58% of diabetes mellitus, 21% of ischemic heart disease and 8-42% of cancer globally were attributable to obesity. These diseases can affect children and adolescents. Obesity also increase cardiovascular disease and increases the risks of all-cause mortality. Obese children are also more likely to become overweight in adulthood than are lean children. Approximately one half of overweight adolescents and over one-third of overweight children remain obese in adulthoods.

Results: The findings of this study provide evidence that unhealthy dietary habits were appear to be associated with obesity in this group of Omani adolescents.

Gender Females Males

Normal	60	66.67%	60	54.55%
Obese	30	33.33%	50	45.45%
Total	90	100 %	110	100%

Table1: Prevalence of obesity among male and female study subjects
Prevalence of obesity was higher in male compared to female

Conclusion: The findings of our study provide evidence that unhealthy dietary habits were prevalent in both genders. Therefore, the promotion of healthy lifestyles should be a national public health priority. In addition, there is an urgent need for national policy promoting healthy eating among Omani adolescents.

Biography

Halima Nasser Hareth Al Dhali is currently a Medical student, have interest in studying obesity and its global effects in human health. Her passion is to decrease its prevalence among new generation and looking forward for healthy generation who can serve their countries efficiently. She has published one study about obesity among children and planning to conduct more studies.

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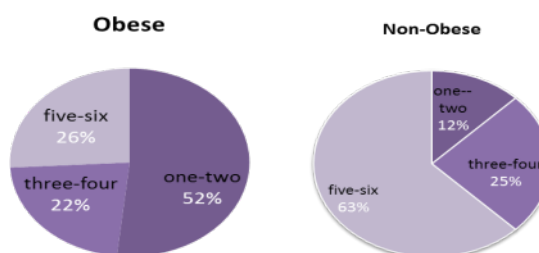


Figure 1: Fruits and vegetables consumption among obese/non obese
Obese student showed lower frequency intake of fruits and vegetables in compare to non-obese student

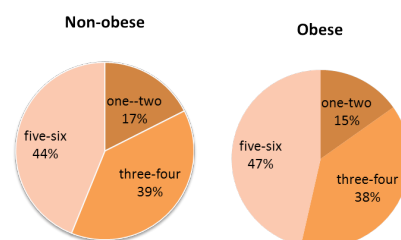


Figure 2: pattern of sweet consumption among Obese/non-obese
There was no significant difference in frequency intake of sweet among obese and non-obese student.

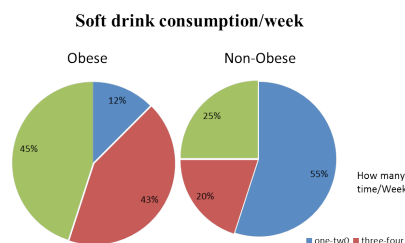


Figure 3: Pattern of soft drink consumption among obese /non-obese
Majority of obese student showed high frequency intake of soft drink