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World Summit on OBESITY AND WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

February 21, 2023 | Webinar

Nutrient intakes among Jordanian adolescents based on gender and Body Mass Index

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Background: This study was conducted to examine the dietary intakes of macro- and micronutrients for Jordanian adolescents based on gender and compare their intake to the Dietary Recommended Intakes (DRIs).

Methods: A sample of 398 male and female adolescents, aged 14-18 years, was recruited from private and public schools using convenience sampling. Socio-demographic questionnaire and 3-days food record were self-reported. Bodyweight and height were measured and body mass index (BMI) was calculated for all participants.

Results: There were no significant differences between male and female adolescents regarding the intake of micro and macronutrients except for protein, insoluble fibre, saturated fat, cholesterol, omega-6, vitamin E and calcium. The intake of insoluble fibre (g/day), omega-6(g/day), and vitamin E (mg/day) was significantly higher in female adolescents (3.1±0.1, 5.6±0.5, and 3.1±0.3, respectively, P≤0.05) compared to male adolescents (2.9±0.1, 5.1±0.4, and 2.5±0.2, respectively, P≤0.05). On the other hand, the intakes of protein (g/day), saturated fat (g/day), cholesterol (mg/day), calcium (mg/day) were significantly higher in male adolescents (90.1±2.3, 31.7±1.0, 339.2±18.3, and 651.5±27.8) as compared with female adolescents (79.2±2.1, 29.2±1.2, 263.6±14.9, and 555.2±21.7) (P≤0.05). Comparing of the adolescents' nutrients intake to the DRIs, many nutrients were found to be below or above the recommendations. Conclusion: The study findings highlighted that there is an urgent need to establish a plan of action to combat malnutrition among adolescents in Jordan.

Biography

Thanaa Jaraedah has her expertise in evaluation and passion in community health like: schools nutrition, refugee's camps, pregnant health, her phD thesis was about the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Food and Nutrition Security and Dietary Habits among Syrian Women in Azarq and Zaatari Refugees Camps in Jordan. in addition to she worked with NGOs to help refugees.