

Title: Taking a Closer Look at Obesity Rates of Children Both Pre and Post the Covid 19 Pandemic

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According to the World Health Organization (2022), worldwide obesity has nearly tripled since 1975, at least 2.8 million people die each year as a result of being overweight or obese, and an estimated 35.8 million (2.3%) of global Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) are caused by overweight or obesity. 39% of adults aged 18 years and over were overweight in 2016, and 13% were obese. Most of the world's population lives in countries where overweight and obesity kills more people than underweight.

The purpose of this study was to examine American inpatient pediatric patients using the Kids' Inpatient Database (KID), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ, 2019; 2021), prior to, and after the beginning of the current COVID 19 pandemic, using a large national random sample (N = 801,499), which will included girls (n = 410,528) and boys (n = 390,971) between the ages of 10 to 18. This study sought to determine if the factors of household income (HI), healthcare quality (HQ), ethnicity (ETHN), and gender (GEN), are significantly associated with children's BMI status in America.

The Pearson Chi Square test was applied to measure for significant variable associations in this research study in addition to the application of the Cramer's V analysis to examine for strength of variable associations. The results found a statistically significant association ($p < .05$) between BMI and HI. A statistically significant association was found between BMI and GEN and a

statistically significant association was also found between BMI and HQ. The outcome of this children's research study provides support for more improved efforts to both develop and apply effective strategies to promote positive healthy lifestyles in children's populations.

Keywords: * Children * Obesity * Ethnicity * COVID * BMI.

Biography

Damien Byas is a PhD holder and an Epidemiologist and Professor of Public Health at American Public Health Association. He is an International Public Health Delegate and President of North American Scientific Committee on cardiovascular health.