

Overweight or Obesity-Related Calorie Imbalance in Children

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Opinion

A "caloric imbalance," or the ratio of calories burned to calories consumed, is the root cause of obesity and overweight and is influenced by a variety of genetic, behavioral, and environmental factors. Children's obesity has immediate and long-term effects on their health and well-being. Children and adolescents who are obese are more likely to have risk factors for cardiovascular disease, such as high blood pressure or cholesterol. 70% of obese children in a population-based sample of children aged 5 to 17 had at least one risk factor for cardiovascular disease.

Obese teenagers are more likely to have prediabetes, a condition in which high blood glucose levels indicate a high risk of developing diabetes. Bone and joint disorders, sleep apnea, and social and psychological issues like stigma and low self-esteem are more common in obese children and adolescents. They are more likely to be overweight as adults, increasing their risk of adult health issues like osteoarthritis, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke, and cancer. Being overweight or obese is linked to multiple myeloma and Hodgkin's lymphoma, as well as cancers of the breast, colon, endometrium, oesophagus, kidney, pancreas, gall bladder, thyroid, ovary, cervix, and prostate [1].

The media, the food and beverage and entertainment industries, families, communities, schools, child care settings, medical care providers, faith-based institutions, government agencies, and the media all have an impact on the nutritional and physical activity behaviors of children and adolescents. Policies and procedures that encourage healthy behavior play a particularly important role in schools in creating a safe and supportive environment. In the classroom, students can also learn about and practice healthy eating and exercise. Around the world, there is concern about the rising prevalence of childhood obesity. This study aims to investigate the connection between obesity and fast food consumption as well as the socioeconomic status and education of parents [2].

How junk food affects one's weight: In most parts of the world, obesity and excess weight have become a major health issue in recent decades. Over the course of a decade, India's high obesity rate among school-aged children has increased from 9.7% to 13.9 percent due to a high intake of junk food. The younger population's weight status may suffer as a result of inactivity, unhealthy eating, and adult health issues in the future. A high body mass index (BMI) and obesity in children have been linked to the consumption of fried foods and beverages with added sugar. Additionally, junk food-heavy diets provide relatively little nutrition [3].

In a 1991 study, brown and white adipose tissue from rats fed a high fat and junk diet as well as rats with dorsomedial hypothalamic lesion was examined. There were two distinct groups of rats: chow diet and control rats (groups 2 and 4) versus high fat and control rats (groups 1 and 3). He discovered that the quantity and type of calories consumed are linked to obesity. Indices of metabolic activity and thermogenesis such as brown adipose tissue weight, lipid content, protein, and NE turnover are all unreliable. Junk food was also found to increase NAc CP-AMPA function in obese rats. In rats that were more likely to develop obesity, AMPA upregulation occurred earlier

and more rapidly. Cocaine-induced locomotion was seen, and after restricting junk food, Junk-Food Gainers moved more than Non-Gainers, indicating that Junk-Food Gainers were more sensitive than Non-Gainers. He came to the conclusion that it will be important to determine whether these food-induced changes in striatal function are normal, adaptive processes or maladaptive, "addictive-like" behaviors.

During the study, children fed junk food had a higher mass of the perirenal fat pad, which is linked to body weight, than children fed junk food after weaning. The previous weight gain observed in the same animals is connected to the rise in adiposity. A study on gene expression and changes in adipose tissue cellularity [4] found that females given a junk food diet after weaning had higher pre-adipocyte proliferation levels than boys did. A regular cafeteria diet during the suckling period was linked to obesity in females and an increase in the desire for attractive foods in male offspring in young adulthood, regardless of dietary exposure prior to birth. The cafeteria's menu was available to the animals at all times. Regardless of the mother's diet during pregnancy, female offspring of JF mothers had a higher fat mass than those of control dams. It is important to note that this did not occur on a diet high in calories, which suggests that these animals were more likely to store fat in their bodies [5].

Numerous cardiac problems are associated with obesity and overweight, most of which are mediated by the risk of metabolic syndrome. In addition to causing damage to organs, obesity, like other malnutrition-related conditions, has been shown to impair immune function by affecting leucocyte count and cell-mediated responses. In addition to physiological repressions, it has significant psychological symptoms that can harm a child's intelligence and personality. Because people who are obese are more likely to experience changes in their immune systems, those who consume junk food should be more cautious during this pandemic by practicing good health hygiene and getting vaccinated. It is essential to emphasize that junk food and packaging materials weaken the immune system, which has a negative effect on health.

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Conflict of Interest

None

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