

Socio-demographic and Economic Correlates of Overweight Status in Chinese Adolescents

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Objective: To investigate overweight prevalence and socio-demographic and economic correlates in Chinese adolescents. **Methods:** Weight, height, waist circumference, and socio-demographic and economic variables of 6863 middle and high school students were measured. **Results:** 10% of girls and 17% of boys were overweight. Waist circumference and overweight risk were significantly associated with pubertal status ($P<0.05$). High levels of

parental education and family income were significant risk factors for overweight ($P<0.05$). **Discussion:** Our findings underscore the need for development of evidence-based and culturally appropriate public health programs to prevent and treat pediatric obesity in China.

Key words: overweight, waist circumference, Chinese adolescents, social and economic factors

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