

Factors Influencing Obesity Among Preschoolers: Multi Level Approach

PURPOSE

To examine the contributing factors for early childhood obesity within a multi-level context, including child and family, child care setting, and community

METHODS & RESULTS

- A cross-sectional, quantitative research design
- Conceptual framework: Ecological model
- A total of 129 preschoolers and their parents from 10 preschools (3 public, 7 private) participated
- Parents completed self-administered survey questionnaire and preschoolers' weight and height were measured
- 20.9% of children were overweight (12.4%) or obese (8.5%)
- Multilevel analysis will be performed

INNOVATION & FUTURE PLANS

- In this study, multifaceted factors at different levels related to childhood obesity will be examined simultaneously
- This study is important as future interventional studies will require a deep understanding of the effects of environmental factors on childhood obesity
- The current study will also serve as the basis for my ongoing collaboration with local community agencies

Figure 1. Theoretical framework of the study based on ecological model

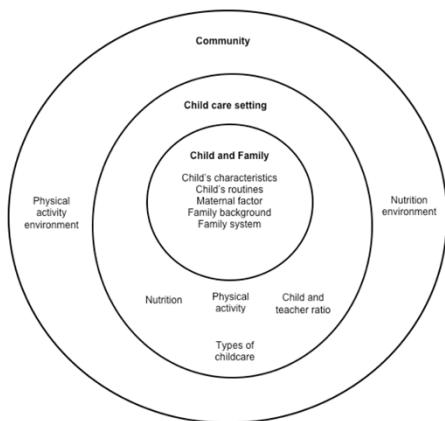


Table 1. Demographic characteristics of preschool-age children

Variables	Mean (S.D) or N (%)
Age (months)	43.68 (9.95)
Race	
Non-Hispanic White	75 (58.6)
Non-Hispanic Black	29 (22.7)
Hispanic	11 (8.6)
Asian	10 (7.8)
Other	3 (2.3)
Girls	67 (51.9)
BMI	
Underweight	9 (7.0)
Normal weight	93 (72.1)
Overweight	16 (12.4)
Obese	11 (8.5)