

Journal research



Analysis of an article on childhood obesity and its risks The article is d “ Child and Adolescent obesity Why we need to fight!” and was written by Flodmark, Liesau and Pietrobeli in 2005. The journal was a joint effort of pediatricians and scholar s from children’s hospitals in Italy and Denmark. The title of the study does only states the independent variable which is childhood and adolescent obesity but it does give a warning about why obesity should be avoided. The dependent variable is later revealed in the journal by citing the possible effects of childhood obesity such as early predisposal to heart diseases as well as type 2 diabetes. The introduction gave a brief description of body mass index (BMI) as a measure for obesity. The historical background of the research is focused on the increased cardiovascular risk for obese children.

The importance of measuring BMI and its validity in establishing obesity was a good platform in establishing a good hypothesis. The study was conducted no less than one of the authors (Pietrobeli) with another group of researchers. Studies citing complications that arose from obese children in a 40 yr follow-up study by Jacques et al in was presented. Accordingly, the study by Jacques revealed that childhood obesity did not only result to diabetes but led to increased mortality due to coronary artery disease as well. The present study hypothesized that early childhood obesity along with a sedentary lifestyle increases the risk for diseases such as type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. This translates to higher incidence of mortality when these children become adults.

For the methods section, a comparative survey that compares the BMI across teens in the US was used. The cited study was done by Lissau et al published in 2003. The method engaged was a cross-comparison of incidence of

obesity in teens in US against teens in Europe. The comparison resulted to the conclusion that occurrence of obesity in US teens is three times higher than European counterparts. Unfortunately, much cannot be said about statistical data since the study was just referenced in the journal. Much of the given conclusions were summaries of compiled studies. In fact, the journal is more like of an informative and persuasive article that warns the public of the dangers of childhood obesity. The journal also comments on what directions, programs and policies that European Commission must do so that European teens would not experience same situation as American teens. The suggestions posed by the researchers were interventions such as limiting access of school children to soda and encouraging consumption of milk. Unfortunately, milk is packaged as “ice-cream” which also contributes to increase in body fat. Some studies such as North Karelia project and Kiel Obesity Prevention Study were cited as means of advocating a healthy lifestyle. Nevertheless, the journal concluded that parental supervision of their children’s diet would be the first-step in preventing obesity. The researchers also suggested increased physical activity and limited amount of watching television as suggested by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The journal provides a lot of important insights on nutritional health of children. However, no study would be successful unless the partnership is a collaboration between parents, government and health professionals.

Reference:

Flodmark, C., Lissau, I., Pietrobelli, A. (2005) Child and adolescent obesity: Why we need to fight! *Acta Pædiatrica*, 2005; 94(Suppl 448): 4-7.