The Relationship Between Maternal Child-Feeding Practices and Overweight in Hmong Preschool Children

Rachada Kasemsup, MD, MS; Marla Reicks, RD, PhD

INTRODUCTION

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) data (2000–2002) showed that 10.3% of children aged 2–5 years were overweight compared to 7.2% based on earlier NHANES data (1988–1994).\(^1\)\(^2\) National data from the Women, Infant, and Children Supplemental Food Program (WIC) showed an increase in overweight prevalence among preschool children from 11% in 1992 to 13.2% in 1998.\(^3\) According to 2002 CDC Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System data for low-income children aged two to five years participating in federally funded child-health programs, 12.3% of non-Hispanic White, 12.0% of non-Hispanic Black, 19.4% of Hispanic, and 13.2% of Asians were overweight.\(^4\)

According to 2002 CDC Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System data for low-income children aged two to five years participating in federally funded child-health programs, 12.3% of non-Hispanic White, 12.0% of non-Hispanic Black, 19.4% of Hispanic, and 13.2% of Asians were overweight.\(^4\)

In an earlier study, approximately one of four low-income Hmong children aged three and four in Minnesota had weight-for-height greater than the 95th percentile.\(^7\) A longitudinal study in Hmong children from birth to five years showed a comparable increase in weight gain among Hmong and non-Hispanic White children but a significant difference in height gain between these two groups.\(^8\)

Parents influence food preferences and eating behaviors of children through environmental factors, including parental attitudes and eating behaviors, food availability and accessibility in the home, as well as child-feeding practices.\(^9\)-\(^11\) Several instruments have been developed to evaluate the relationship between child-feeding practices and overweight status in young, non-Hispanic White, African-American, and Hispanic children,\(^12\)-\(^14\) however these studies did not include a significant proportion of Asian children. The Child-Feeding Questionnaire (CFQ)