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#### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Perceived effective and feasible strategies to promote healthy eating in young children: Focus groups with parents, family child care providers and daycare assistants.

Vandeweghe L, Moens E, Braet C, et al. *BMC Pub Health.* 2016; http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/ s12889-016-3710-9.

The investigators examine the perceptions caregivers have concerning the effectiveness and feasibility of various strategies aimed at increasing healthy eating in children. The study contrasts the perceptions of the caregivers with those of parents. A qualitative approach using focus groups was employed for this study. The study sampled 33 participants in Flanders, Belgium, as part of an ongoing nutrition education program. The 33 participants were recruited through the Flemish Centre for Innovation in Early Years and comprised three groups: 10 day-care assistants, mean age 36.1 years, nine females; nine family child-care providers, mean age 33 years, eight females; and 14 parents, mean age 31.5 years, 13 females. Inclusion criteria for participation was consent and having post-weaning children under the age of 6 years in their care. The participants were divided into four focus groups: Two with seven parents in each; one group of the nine family care providers; and a fourth group of the 10 day-care assistants. Focus group discussions were conducted at the Flemish Centre for Innovation in the Early Years between March and December 2013, and each discussion lasted 90 minutes. Discussions were audiotaped. Trained interviewers used a semi-structured questioning guide. Specific feeding practices and strategies aimed at increasing healthy eating were discussed during the sessions as part of either global influences, general behaviors, and specific feeding practices. The audiotaped discussions were transcribed and thematic analysis was conducted using Nvivo 10.0 (QSR International Pty Ltd., 2012) and two trained researchers independently analyzed the data for contextual accuracy.

#### **BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**

#### Absenteeism and employer costs associated with chronic diseases and health risk factors in the U.S. workforce.

Asay G, Roy K, Lang J, et al. *Prev Chronic Dis.* 2016; http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd13.150503.

The authors examine the relationship between employee absenteeism and health risk factors within the US workforce. A cross-sectional analysis was performed using data from the health risk appraisal subsection of the Truven Health MarketScan database and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. The MarketScan database represents 50 million US employees and their dependents. Approximately 380,000 employee cases met the criteria for inclusion as having a diagnosis of either/or obesity, smoking, physical inactivity, hypertension, and/or diabetes. Absenteeism was defined by the MarketScan responses to the question of missing work due to illness or injury within the past 6 months. Physical inactivity was defined as exercising 30 minutes less than four to five times per week. Obesity was defined as having a body mass index of 30 or higher. Smoking was determined by their self-reported status. Hypertension and diabetes were determined based on self-reported status as having a doctor's diagnosis. Subjects were assembled into age categories: 18 to 34 years, 35 to 49 years, and 50 to 64 years. Demographic information garnered from the database included sex, educational attainment, geographical region, industry, race/ethnicity, employment status, employer-paid sick leave, whether or not they had private insurance, and occupation code. Data sets were analyzed using Stata 12.1 (StataCorp, 2011), and a zero-inflated Poisson regression model was generated where the dependent variable was the number of self-reported workdays missed. The authors estimated six sets of regressions in two categories. First, an estimation was made of each risk factor and chronic disease separately while adjusting for different levels of controls (none, basic demographics, and full model). In the second set, the authors estimated risk factors and chronic diseases separately, and then finally an association was made between the number of conditions, risk factors, chronic diseases, and total missed workdays.

#### NUTRIGENOMICS

# Lifespan adversity and later adulthood telomere length in the nationally representative US Health and Retirement Study.

#### Puterman E, Gemmill A, Karasek D, et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*. 2016; http://dx.doi.org/10.1 073/pnas.1525602113.

The authors examine the effects of adverse experiences in childhood and adulthood with later telomere length, contrasting singular events with cumulative adversity. A retrospective cohort analysis was conducted using data in the US Health and Retirement Study (HRS). The sample contained 4,598 subjects surveyed in 2008: 55.9% female with an age breakdown of 25.7% under age 60 years, 36.7% age 60 to 70 years, 24% age 70 to 80 years, and 13.6% over age 80 years. The sample was 84.3% white, 7.3% black, 7% Hispanic, and 1.4% other. The HRS is an ongoing longitudinal, nationally representative survey over more than 26,000 US residents assessed every 2 years since 1992. Supported by the National Institute on Aging and the Social Security Administration, it tracks financial and physical health and, in 2004, biological data by way of saliva from a subsample of 5,808 subjects for DNA analysis to include telomere length. Here, childhood adversity included activities prior to age 18 years: Family receiving help due to finances; relocating due to finances; father losing his job; parents' substance alcohol use; physical abuse; repeating a year in school; legal trouble. Adulthood adversity was defined as: Medicaid; food stamps; unemployment; death of a child: death of a spouse: natural disaster; being wounded in combat; a partner addicted to drugs or alcohol; victim of an attack; having a spouse or child with serious illness. Telomere length was assayed by Telome Health (Telomere Diagnostics) using quantitative PCR (qPCR). Telomere data were available from 5,808 respondents. Observations with telomeres under 2.0 t/s

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ratio (telomere-to-single copy gene ratio) were excluded, leaving 4,598 subjects. The authors used multivariate logistic regression to investigate the relationship between the sum scores of cumulative lifespan adversity and the differential effects of childhood and adulthood adversities, childhood financial and social/traumatic adversity, adulthood financial and social/traumatic adversity, all against the odds of shortened telomere length. Statistical analyses were conducted using Stata (v12.1, StataCorp, 2011).

#### ONCOLOGY

#### A western dietary pattern increases prostate cancer risk: A systematic review and meta-analysis.

Fabiani R, Minelli L, Bertarelli G, Bacci S. *Nutrients*. 2016;8(10):626.

The authors assess the correlation between different dietary patterns and risk of prostate cancer using the a posteriori method. A systematic review and meta-analysis is used to address the issue. A sample of 12 studies was ultimately used from an initial search result of 1,349. The 12 studies used included nine case-control studies and three cohort studies. A comprehensive literature search was conducted through December 2015 using PubMed and Web of Science databases. Keywords used included: neoplasm, cancer, neoplastic disease, prostate, prostatic, dietary pattern, eating pattern, food pattern, dietary habit, diet, dietary, factor analysis, principle component analysis, cluster analysis, clustering, reduced rank regression, diet diversity, diet variety, quality, index, indices, and scores. Reviews and pools were excluded. Inclusionary criteria were: a case-control or prospective study design; evaluation of the association between dietary patterns derived by the a posteriori method and prostate cancer risk; odds ratio presented; relative risk; and hazard ratio with estimates at 95% CIs. Data extracted included: study design, first author's last name, year of publication, geographical area and country, sample size, characteristics of the dietary assessment method, name of the dietary pattern type, cutoff points of the categories of adherence to the dietary pattern, risk estimates with 95% CIs for the categories of adherence, and P value for trend and confounding factors adjustment. Statistical analyses were performed using the ProMeta Version 2.0 statistical program (Internovi, 2015) and packages dosremeta 1.3.2 for R 3.1.2 (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, 2014).

#### PEDIATRICS

Breast milk feeding, brain development, and neurocognitive outcomes: A 7-year longitudinal study in infants born at less than 30 weeks' gestation. Belfort M, Anderson P, Nowak V, et al. J Pediatr. 2016; http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2016.06.045. The authors study the associations between breast milk intake during the neonatal hospitalization and brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) characteristics at term equivalent and 7 years of age, as well as the neurodevelopmental outcomes at 2 and 7 years. The authors employ a longitudinal cohort study for this investigation. A sample of 180 infants born at <30 weeks' gestation or <1,250 g at birth was used for the study. The study population was sampled from the 224infant Victorian Infant Brain Studies longitudinal cohort at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia. Infants were born there between July 2001 and December 2003. Exclusion criteria included congenital abnormalities likely to affect brain development and those participants with missing breast milk data and left 180 subjects. The infant sample was 49% male, with a mean gestational age at birth of 27.3 weeks and a mean birthweight of 947 g. The authors abstracted daily volume of breast milk and formula intake for the first 28 days of life from medical records. At term equivalent age, participants underwent brain MRI in a 1.5-Tesla General Electric scanner (Signa Echospeed System) and again at age 7 years using a 3-Tesla Siemens Magnetom Trio Scanner. At age 2, subjects were administered the Bayley Scales of Infant Development (2nd Edition, Bayley-2). At age 7 years, the subjects were administered the Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence, as well as the Wide Range Achievement Test, Test of Every Day Attention for Children, Working Memory Test Battery for Children, Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundaments, Test of Visual Perception Skills, and Movement Assessment Battery for Children. Age, sex, social risk and neonatal illness were adjusted in linear regression. Main outcomes were regional brain volumes and neurodevelopmental test scores.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

## Level of nutrition knowledge and its association with fat consumption among college students.

Yahia N, Brown C, Rapley M, Chung M. BMC Pub Health. 2016; http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/ s12889-016-3728-z.

Researchers examine the relationship between nutrition knowledge and fat consumption levels among university students. A cross-sectional survey was employed sampling 231 students at Central Michigan University during the fall 2011-spring 2012 semesters. The sample was 71% female with a mean age of 20 years, body mass index of 24.2. Participants were recruited in the university's entry-level nutrition courses and online announcements. Participants agreed to undergo anthropometric measurements at the university and to complete a self-administered online questionnaire relating to demographic information, nutrition knowledge, and daily fat consumption. The questionnaire was made available online for a period of 10 weeks. Participants underwent testing to include weight, body fat percentage, visceral fat levels and body mass index using a Tanita bioelectrical impedance analyzer (BIA) SC-331S (Tanita Corporation). Height was measured using a stadiometer. The online questionnaire contained three sections: Demographics, Block Dietary Fat Screener, and Nutrition Knowledge. The eight-question demographics section contained questions relating to major of study, year in school, ethnicity, residence, smoking status, dieting habits, age, and sex. The 17-item dietary block screener was a food frequency questionnaire used to assess normal fat intake. The 50-question section on nutrition knowledge assessed standard dietary recommendations, sources of nutrients, food choices, and diet-disease relationships. Statistical analyses were conducted using SAS 9.3 (SAS, 2011) to perform one-way analysis of variance,  $\chi^2$ , and student's t-test.

#### RESEARCH

# Acute post-exercise energy and macronutrient intake in lean and obese youth: A systematic review and meta-analysis.

Thivel D, Rumbold P, King N, et al. *Int J Obes*. 2016; http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/ijo.2016.122.

The investigators identify and evaluate studies employing robust designs concerning acute exercise and its impact on energy and macronutrient intake in lean and obese youth. A systematic review and meta-analysis was performed to examine the body of literature. Of the initial 163 studies and 15 additional studies first identified, 14 were ultimately used in the analysis. An electronic search of MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL psycINFO, SPORTDiscus, and SocINDEX was conducted from January to December 2015. Keywords used were: Exercise, physical activity, energy expenditure, energy intake, food intake, appetite, hunger, children, and adolescents. To be included, studies had to enroll lean, overweight, or obese youth ages 5 to 18 years, include nonsmoking participants who were free of any medications which might affect the control of appetite or energy intake. Studies also had to assess post-exercise intake as a meal. All included studies had a control condition and used appropriate trial randomization. Published peer-reviewed studies, conference proceedings, theses, and dissertations were eligible. Studies were excluded if they did not report absolute or relative energy intake,

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