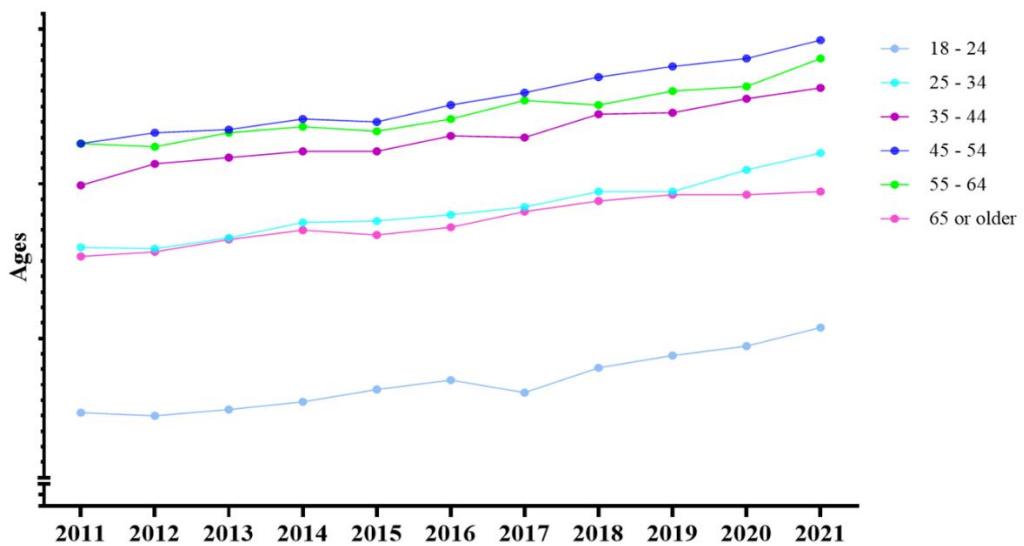


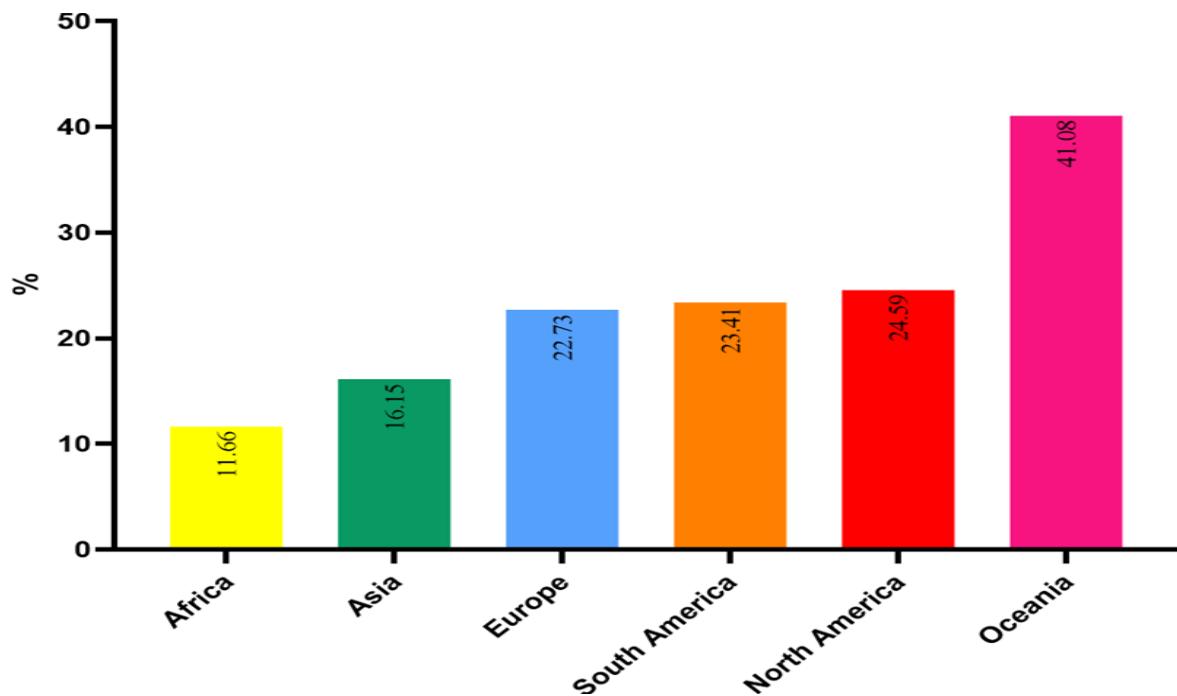
### STRING network linking POMC, FTO, and MC4R.

Protein-protein association network highlighting melanocortin-pathway connectivity; edge confidence and scores as reported by STRING. This mechanistic view is provided for biological context and is not part of the evidence grading. Source: STRING Consortium (accessed 2023) (accessed 12 Aug 2025)



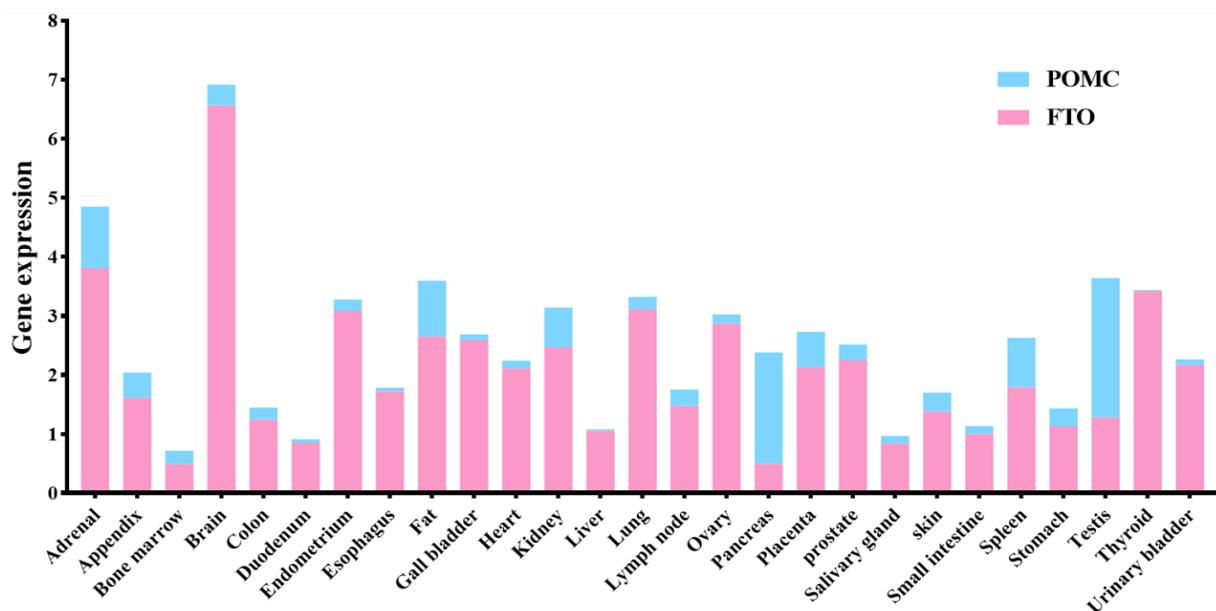
### United States: percentage of adults (≥18 years) with obesity by age group, 2011-2021.

Age-stratified trends based on CDC surveillance; descriptive context only. Source: CDC, National (accessed 12 Aug 2025) estimates



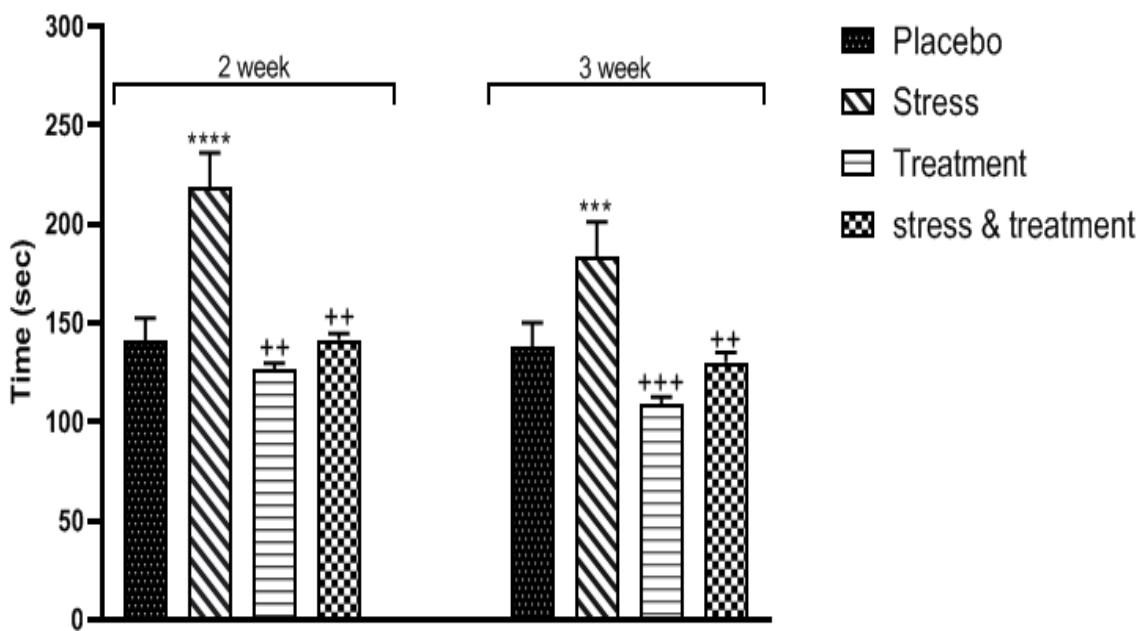
**Obesity rates by world region, 2023 (mean of country estimates).**

Regional comparison derived from WHO/World Obesity/Global Obesity Levels reports; illustrative context only (not analyzed in the review). Sources: WHO & World Obesity Federation compendium (accessed 12 Aug 2025)



**Tissue expression of FTO and POMC in humans.**

Relative expression across selected tissues compiled from public portals (e.g., GTEx as catalogued on NCBI Gene); provided for context and not included in synthesis. Source: NCBI Gene entries for POMC and FTO (accessed 2023) (accessed 12 Aug 2025)

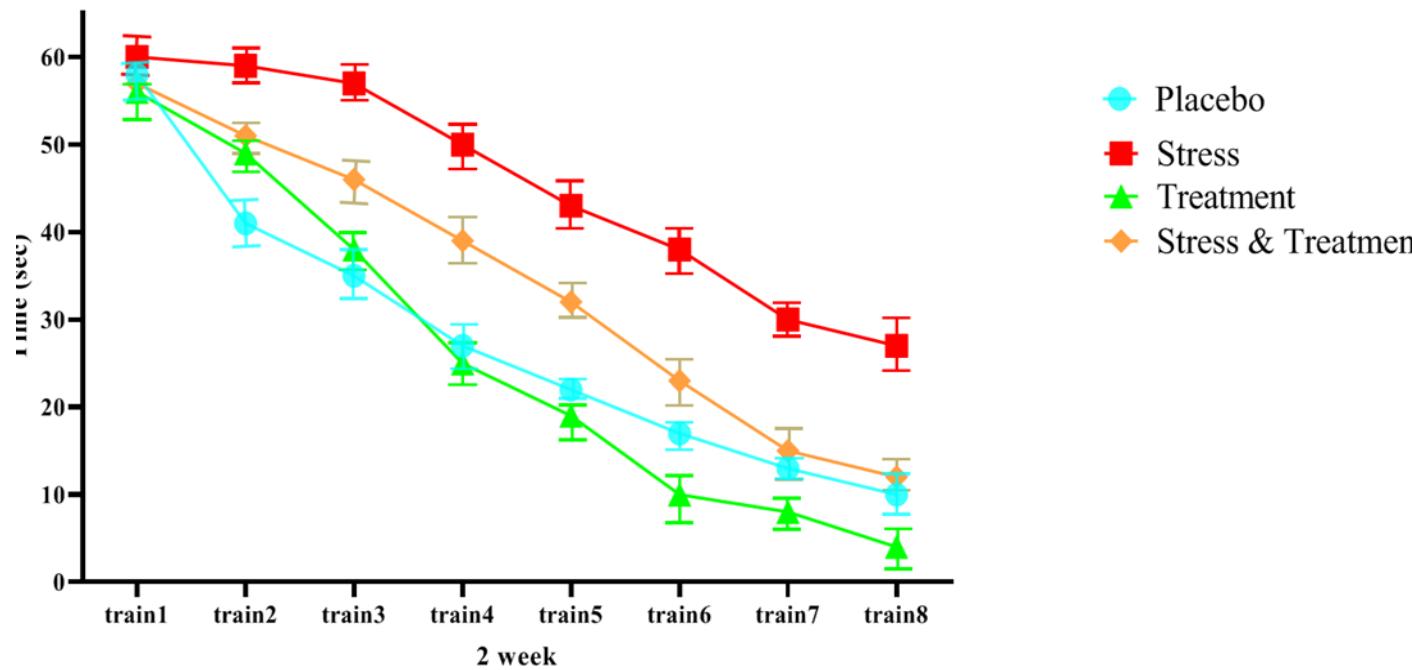


### Locomotion (2 vs 3 weeks)

Locomotion outcomes in the 2-week and 3-week groups across four experimental conditions (Control, Stress, Treatment, Stress+Treatment) in the rodent model.

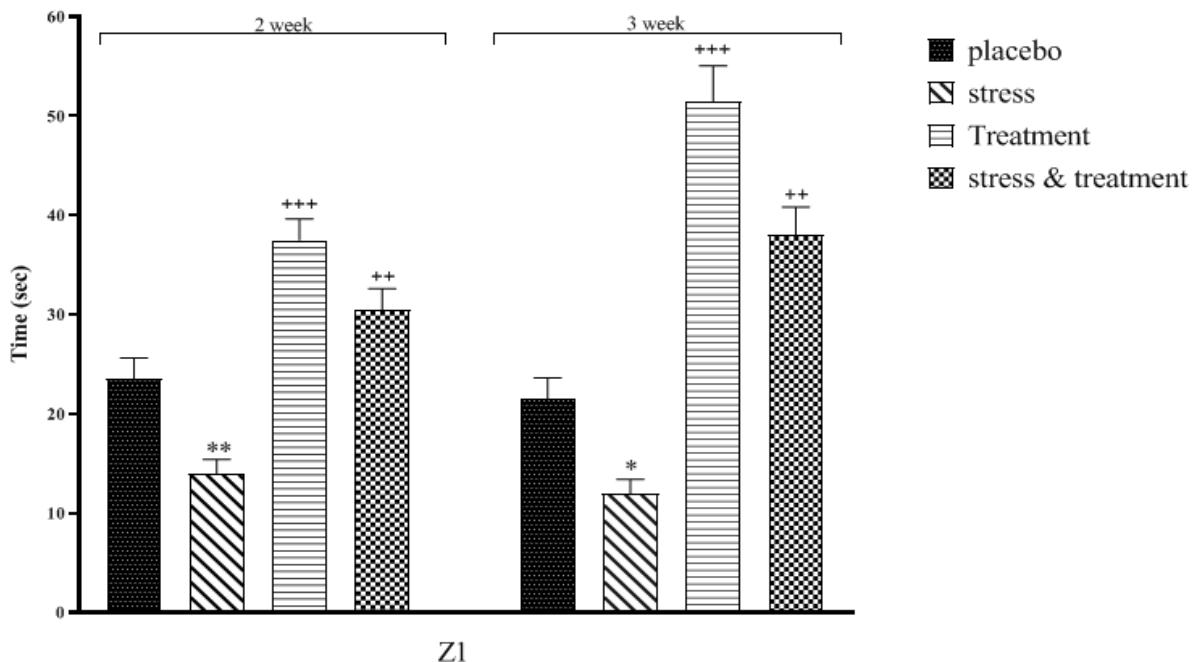
\* Significant vs. Control; + Significant vs. Stress.

\*\*\* p < 0.0001; \*\*\*\* p < 0.00001; ++ p < 0.001; +++ p < 0.0001.



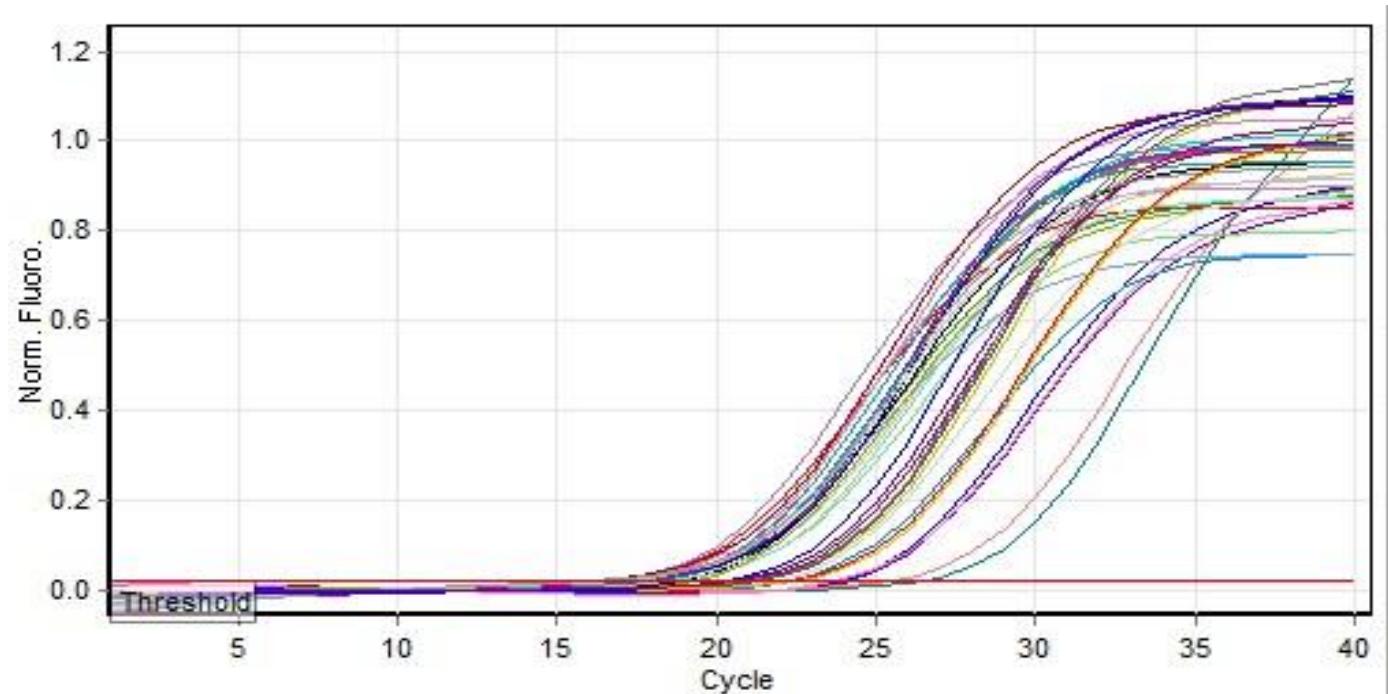
### Morris Water Maze – Training (2-week)

Figure 4-4. Morris Water Maze (MWM) training performance: time/latency across training trials in the 2-week groups (Control, Stress, Treatment, Stress+Treatment) in the rodent model.

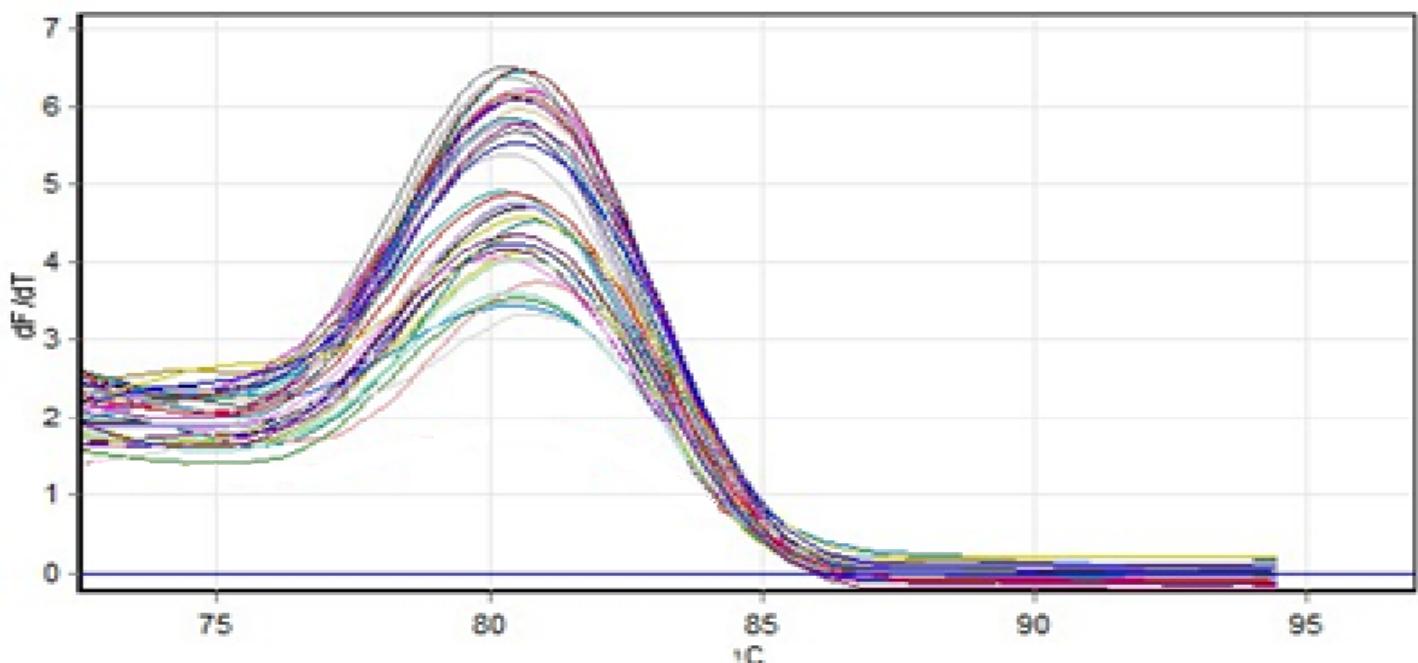


#### Morris Water Maze – Test day (2 & 3 weeks)

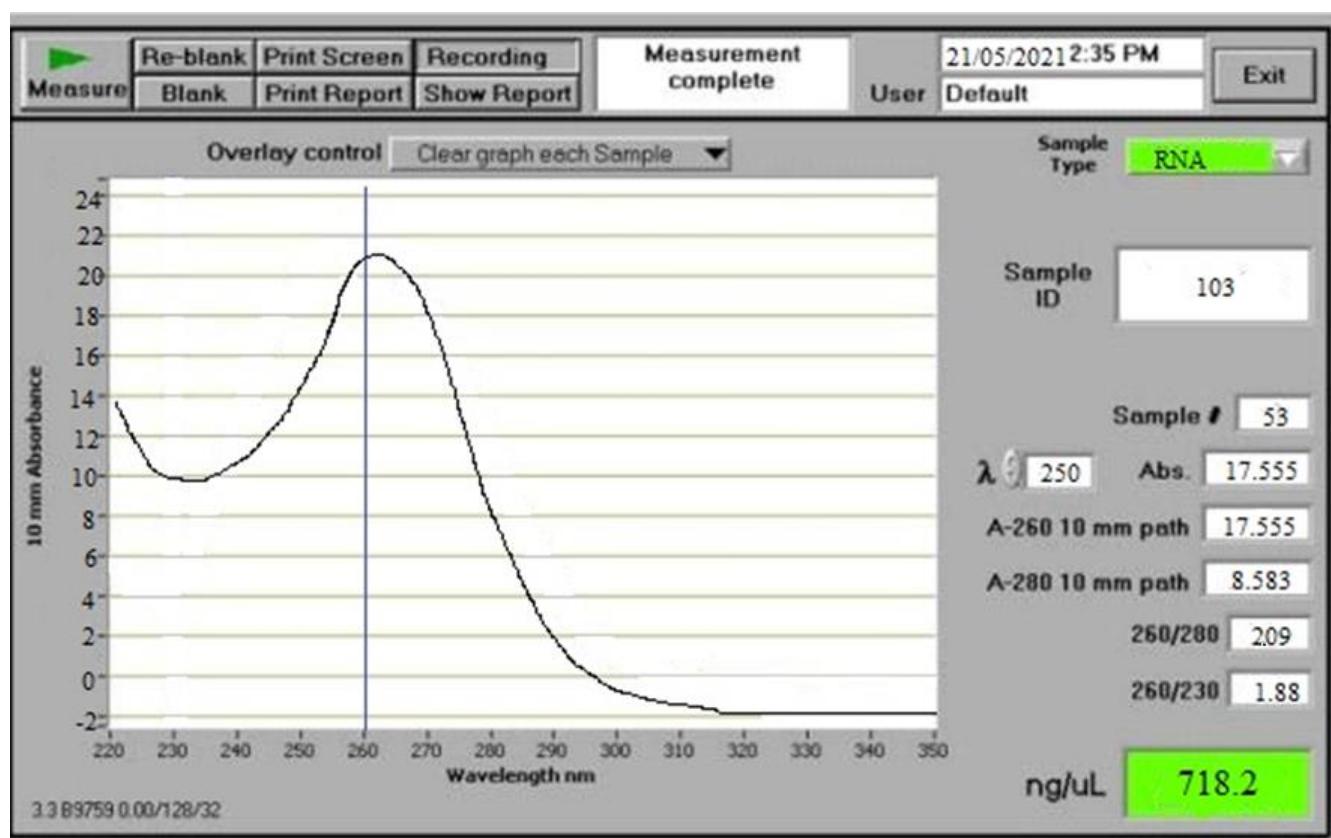
Figure 4-8. Morris Water Maze (MWM) probe/test-day performance: time/latency in the 2-week and 3-week groups (Control, Stress, Treatment, Stress+Treatment) in the rodent model. Z1 indicates the target quadrant.



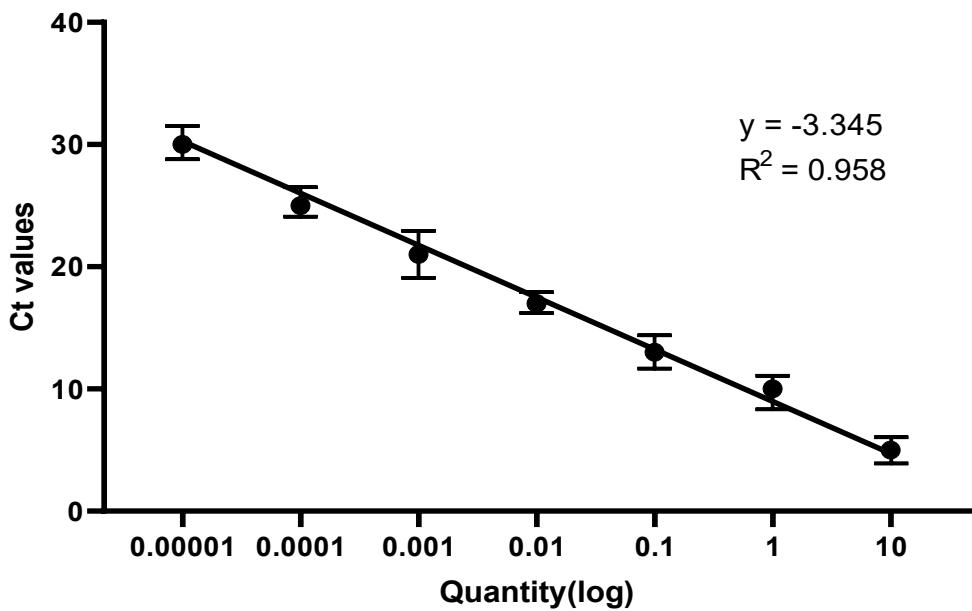
qPCR amplification curve for the BDNF gene.



qPCR melt curve for the BDNF gene.



NanoDrop measurements for RNA concentration determination.



Primer optimization curve for the BDNF gene.

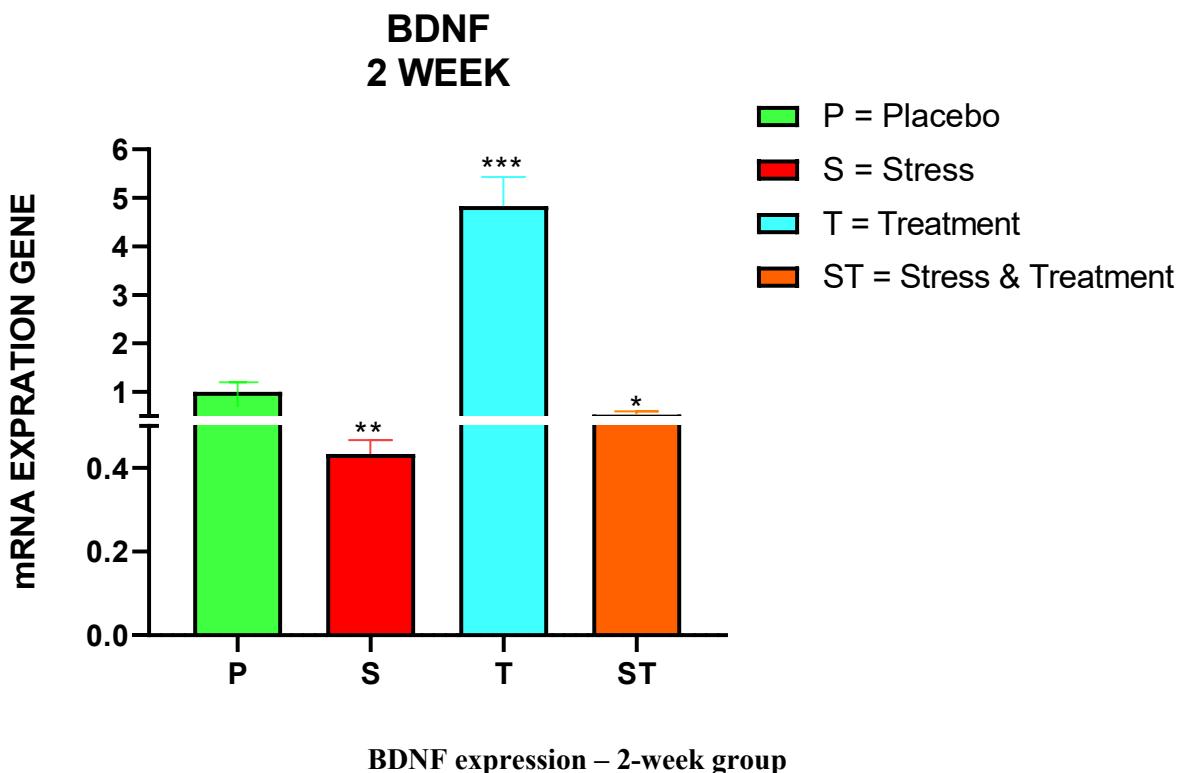
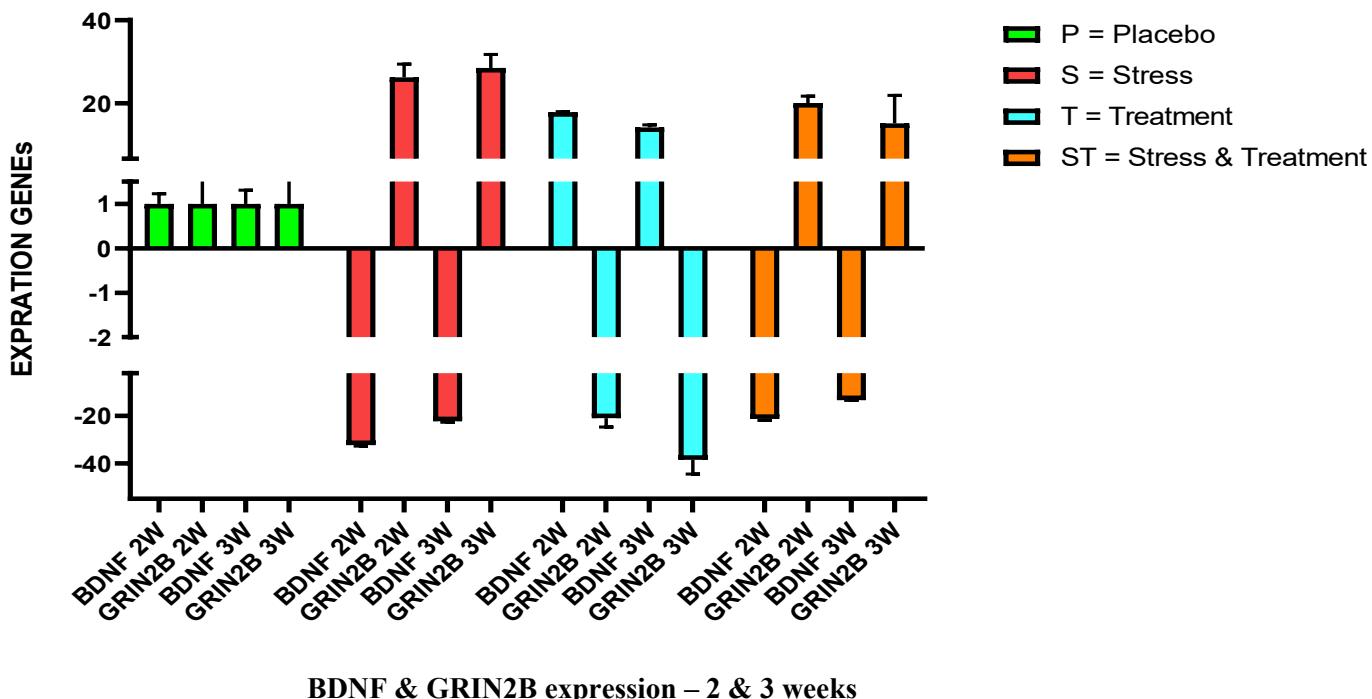


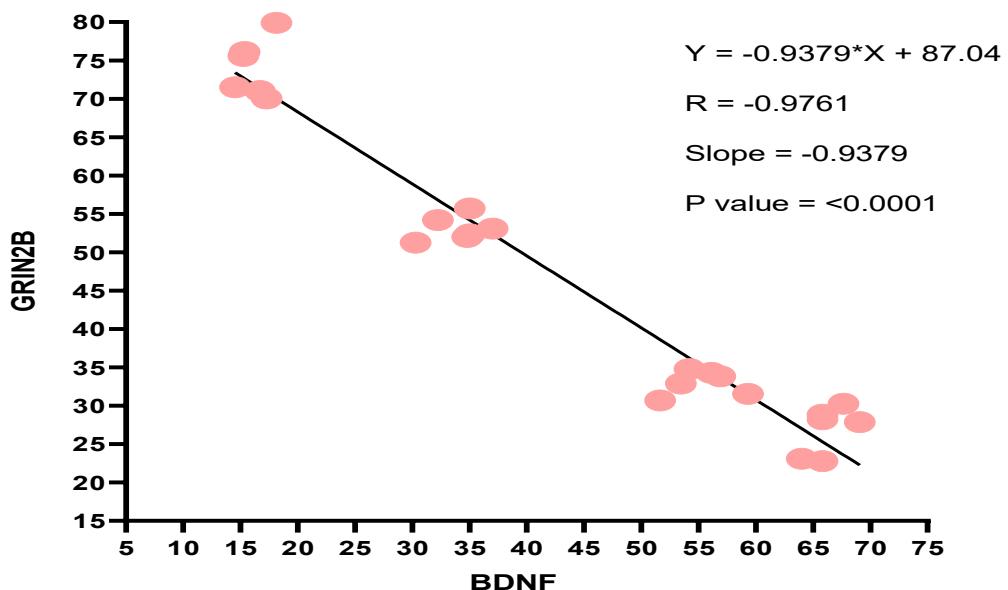
Figure 4-21. Relative BDNF gene expression in the 2-week groups (Control, Stress, Treatment, Stress+Treatment).



### BDNF & GRIN2B expression – 2 & 3 weeks

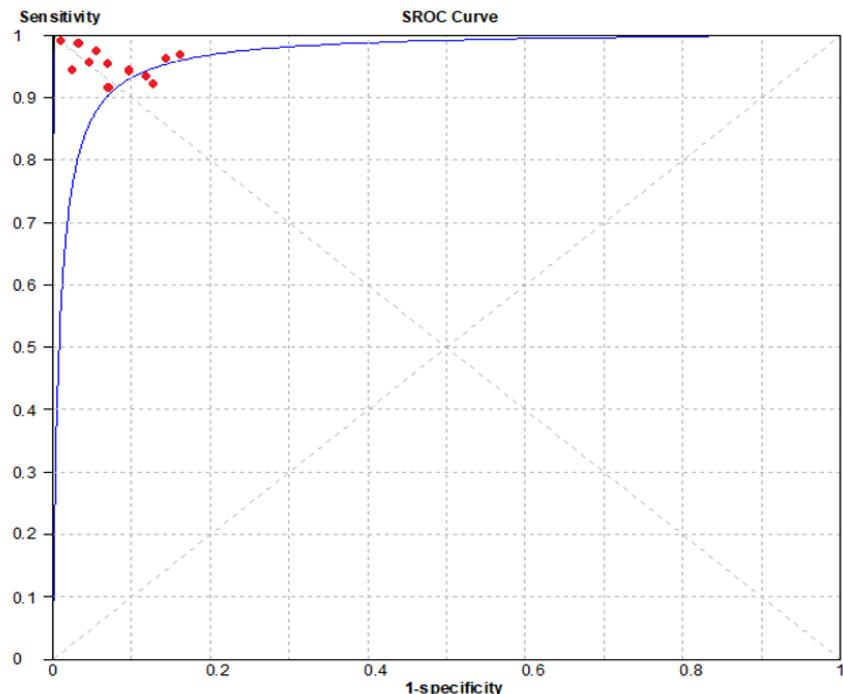
Relative expression of GRIN2B and BDNF in the 2-week and 3-week groups (Control, Stress, Treatment, Stress+Treatment).

#### 2 WEEK



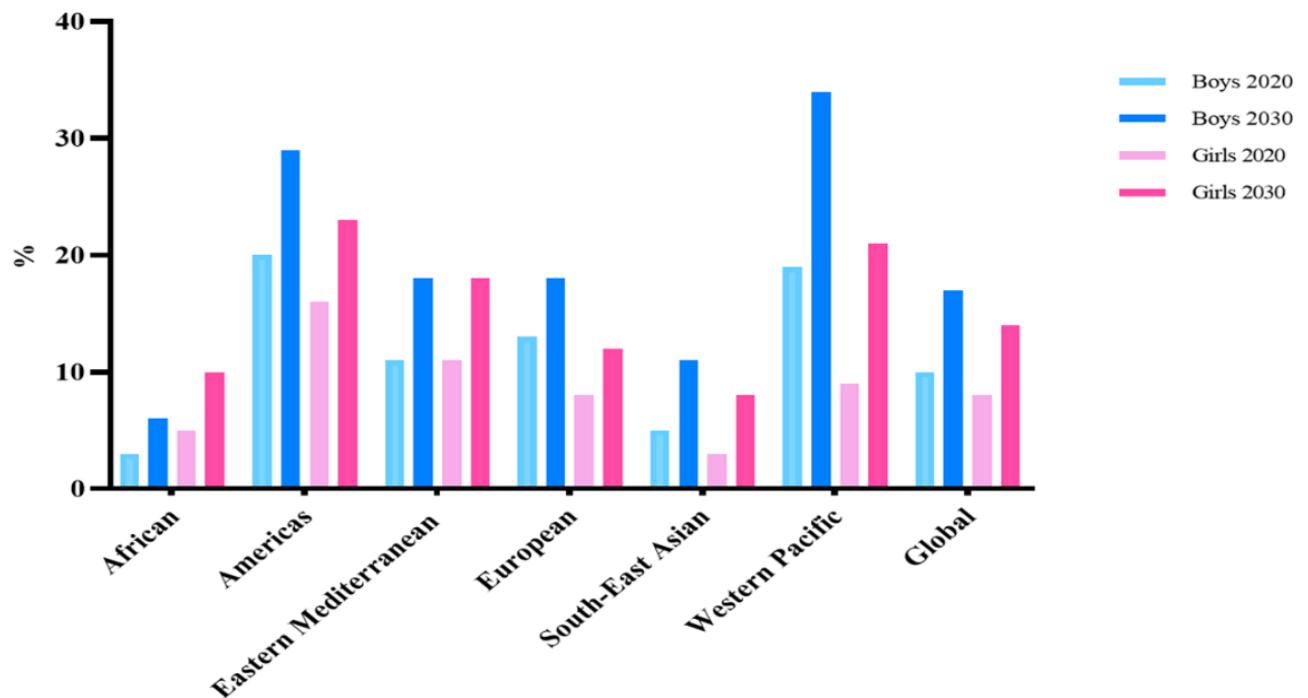
#### Correlation (2-week)

Correlation between GRIN2B and BDNF gene expression in the 2-week group.



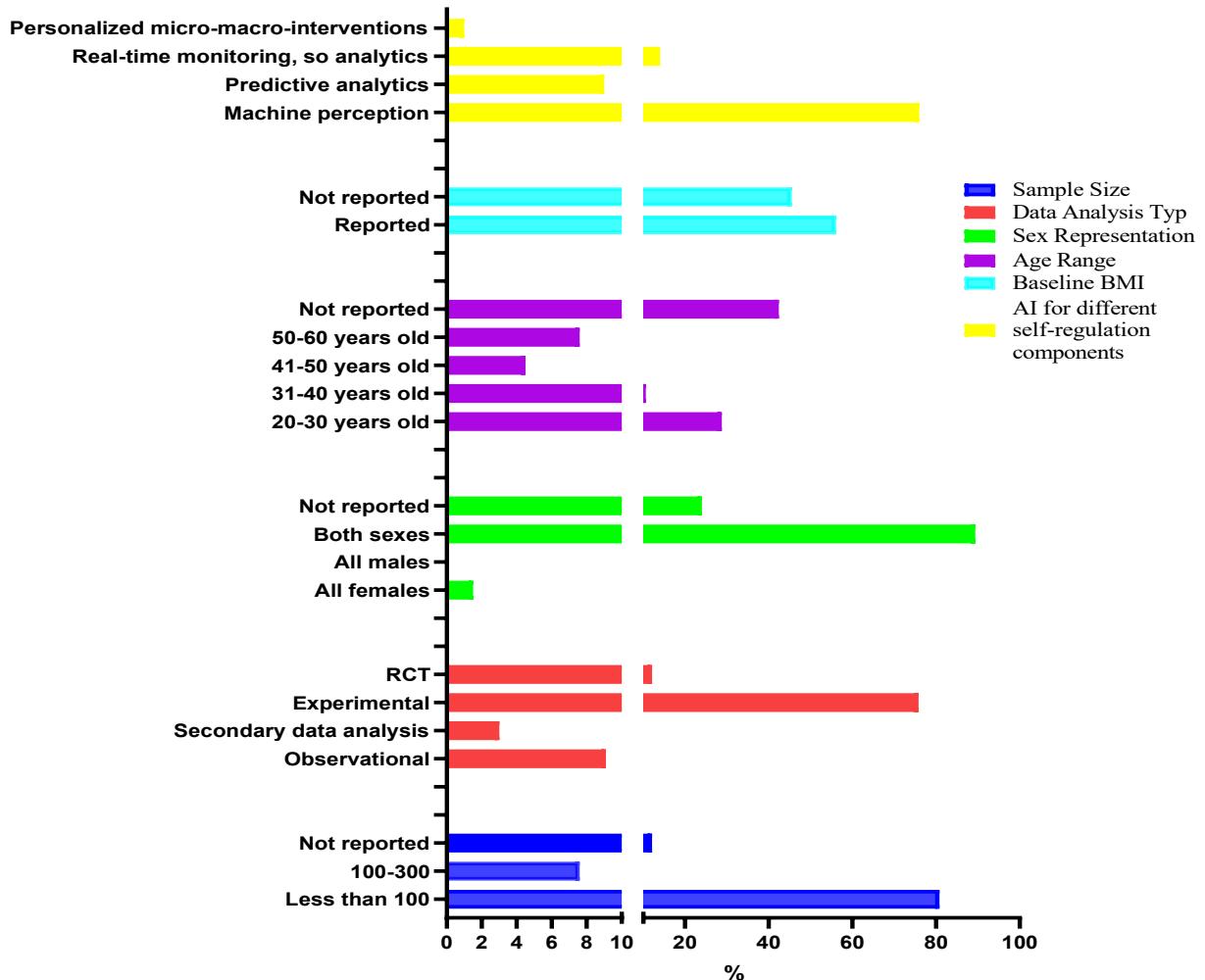
### ROC – BDNF

Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve for the BDNF gene.

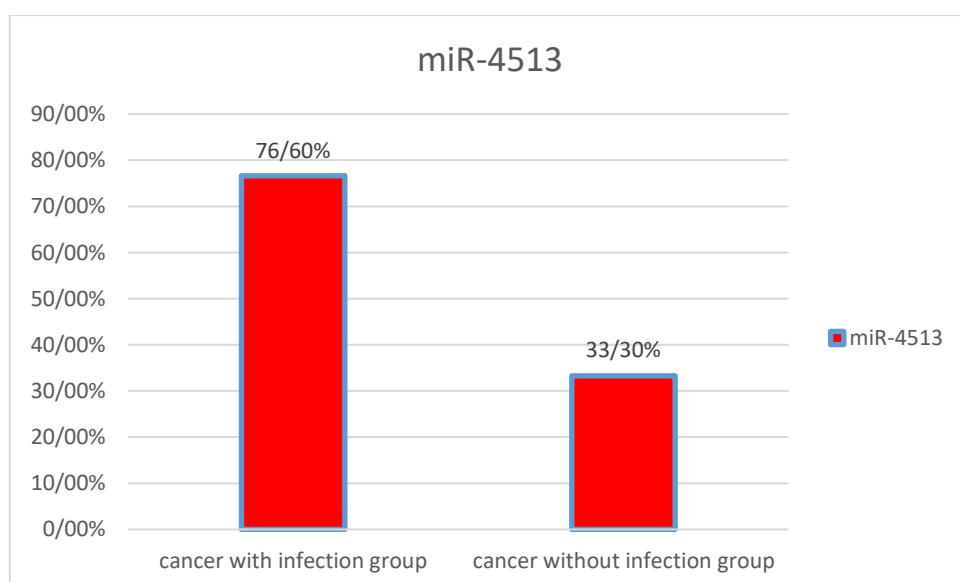


### Global obesity trends in children and adolescents (aged 5-19 years) by sex, 2020-2030.

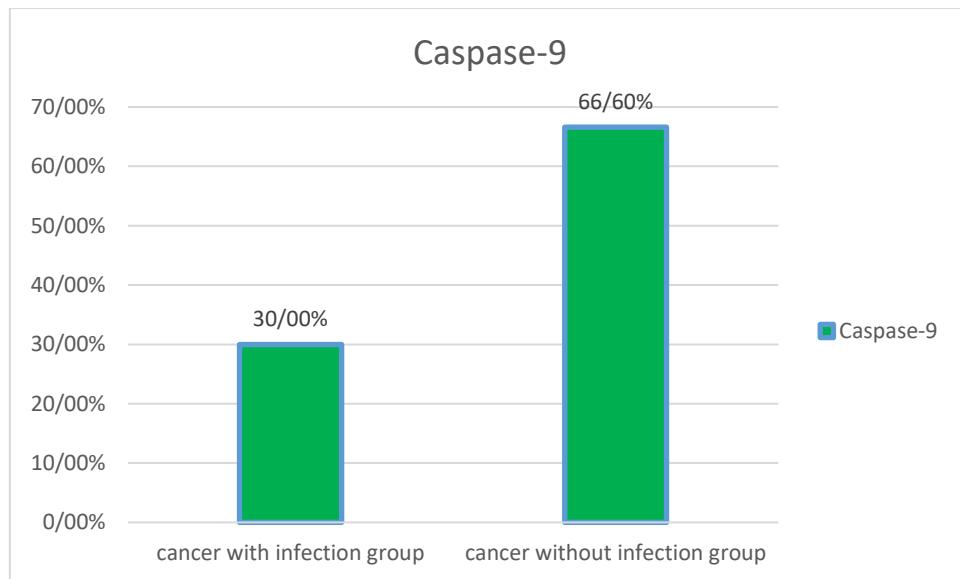
Regional prevalence trajectories for boys and girls; projections are provided for context and are not part of the genotype-phenotype synthesis. Source: World Obesity Atlas 2023 (accessed 12 Aug 2025)



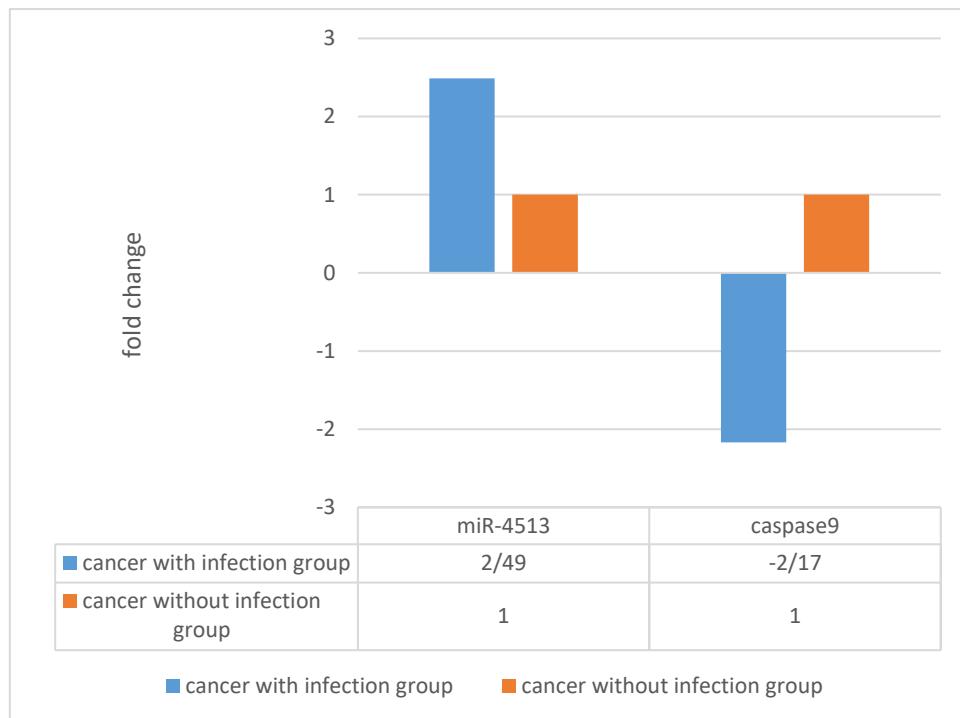
**Distribution of Study Characteristics by Percentage and Sample Size in Health Research**



**Positivity rate of miR-4513 in peripheral blood of patients with and without oral infection.** The positivity rate of the miR-4513 biomarker is higher in the patient group with oral infection.



**Positivity rate of Caspase-9 mRNA in peripheral blood of patients with and without oral infection.** The positivity rate of the Caspase-9 mRNA biomarker is higher in patients **without** oral infection.



**Differential expression of miR-4513 and Caspase-9 in patients with and without oral infection.** miR-4513 expression is 2.49-fold higher in patients with oral infection compared to patients without oral infection. In contrast, Caspase-8 mRNA expression is 2.17-fold lower in patients with oral infection than in patients without oral infection.