- Body Mass in Adolescence: The Role of Personality, Intelligence, and Socioeconomic Status
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Abstract

One or two sentences providing a basic introduction to the field, comprehensible to a

scientist in any discipline.

Two to three sentences of more detailed background, comprehensible to scientists

in related disciplines.

One sentence clearly stating the **general problem** being addressed by this particular

16 study.

One sentence summarizing the main result (with the words "here we show" or their

18 equivalent).

Two or three sentences explaining what the **main result** reveals in direct comparison

to what was thought to be the case previously, or how the main result adds to previous

21 knowledge.

22

One or two sentences to put the results into a more **general context**.

Two or three sentences to provide a **broader perspective**, readily comprehensible to

a scientist in any discipline.

Keywords: adolescents, Body Mass Index, obesity, personality traits, socioeconomic

26 status

Word count: X

Body Mass in Adolescence: The Role of Personality, Intelligence, and Socioeconomic Status Obesity among children and adolescents is an international public health crisis. In the 29 last 40 years, the prevalence of obesity has grown from 1 in 20 American adolescents to nearly 1 in 5 (Ogden, Carroll, Kit, & Flegal, 2014). Currently, an estimated 16.9% of children and 31 adolescents under the age of 19 were obese in 2010 (Ogden, Carroll, Kit, & Flegal, 2012). 32 Efforts to reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity have now been a high 33 priority public health issue in the U.S. for several years (Frieden, Dietz, & Collins, 2010; Healthy People, 2000, 2014; Surgeon General, 2001) and several of the prominent social 35 programs focused on this issue consider children and adolescents as populations that are ripe for intervention (Dietz & Gortmaker, 2001; Frieden et al., 2010; Khan et al., 2009). Yet, there is little evidence that these efforts are working (Ogden et al., 2014). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines childhood and adolescent 39 obesity as having a BMI at or above the 95th percentile for children and teens of the same age and sex whereas overweight is defined as a BMI at or above the 85th percentile and below the 95th (Disease Control & Prevention, 2015). Although there are some alternatives to the assessment of obesity in children and adolescents, BMI – as an estimate of body fat – is a widely accepted index to determine overweight status and obesity in children, adolescents, and adults (Dietz & Bellizzi, 1999). BMI is calculated by dividing a person's weight in kg by the square of their height in meters (the same formula can be used with pounds and inches, though the result must be multiplied by a conversion factor of 703). The World Health Organization's (WHO) defines overweight status, regardless of age and gender, as a BMI greater than or equal to 25 whereas a BMI greater than or equal to 30 qualifies as obese. The WHO furthers classifies overweight individuals (those with BMIs between 25 and 30) as "pre-obese" (World Health Organization, 2011). 51 Adolescence is associated with considerable changes in body composition: all the main 52 components of body composition (total body fat, lean body mass, bone mineral content) increase during this period (Siervogel et al., 2003), which typically begins between the ages

of XX and XX years for females and between XY and XY years for males. Numerous studies (and anecdotal evidence from billions of former adolescents) suggest that this period is often psychologically challenging. Adolescents are more likely to be dissatisfied with their body (to 57 the point of endorsing a profound dislike of one's own body), experience fear of weight gain, 58 and have appearance and body shape concerns, and these concerns predispose them to the development of eating disorders (Killen et al., 1994; Story et al., 1991; Striegel-Moore, Silberstein, & Rodin, 1986). 61 The trend of increasing obesity prevalence among adolescents, coupled with its adverse 62 health outcomes, underscores the need for obesity prevention efforts, especially those targeting adolescents. Adolescence is a vulnerable period for weight gain and most of the complications that are commonly associated with adult obesity are tied to health behaviors formed in childhood and adolescence (Hampson, Goldberg, Vogt, & Dubanoski, 2007). As such, a more informed understanding of relations among key constructs within this developmental period is crucial. Numerous changes in body mass levels during adolescence are already well-documented, 69 including several pointing to important sex differences. For example, developmentally 70 appropriate increases in BMI occur at different ages for each sex, necessitating the use of age-71 and sex-specific reference values (Bibiloni, Pons, & Tur, 2013). Adolescent males and females differ substantially on average in terms of body fat percentages, with females typically 73 having more body fat than males at the same BMI (Daniels, Khoury, & Morrison, 1997; Taylor, Gold, Manning, & Goulding, 1997). Similarly, substantial differences have been 75 reported between the eating habits of males and females, even when controlling for differences in knowledge of healthy eating practices and benefits (Djordjević-Nikić, Dopsaj, & Vesković, 2013). Given these and related findings, much of the research in this area (including the work reported here) is conducted on each of the sexes independently. 79 The primary aim of this work is to identify and evaluate the wide range of individual 80 differences contributing to elevated BMI across both sexes. There is some evidence that

socioeconomic status (Sherwood, Wall, Neumark-Sztainer, & Story, 2009; Smith, 2004),
personality (Bogg & Roberts, 2004), and cognitive ability (Liang, Matheson, Kaye, &
Boutelle, 2014) are each protective factors for obesity, however, the unique (independent)
and combined variance of these attributes has rarely been considered. Before describing the
methods used to evaluate the associations among these variables and body mass in large
samples of both male and female adolescents, it is first necessary to summarize prior findings
within and across each domain.

89 BMI and personality

Research has shown that certain personality traits are associated with behaviors that 90 contribute to obesity such as unhealthy eating habits and physical inactivity. For example, 91 individuals high on conscientiousness are likely to be more self-disciplined about their diet 92 (see Bogg & Roberts, 2004; Terracciano et al., 2009) and are more physically active (Rhodes & Smith, 2006) whereas individuals with lower levels of conscientiousness tend to engage in emotional and external eating, which is a tendency to overeat in response to food-related cues like the smell or taste of food, regardless of the individual's physical need for food (Evers et al., 2011; Heaven, Mulligan, Merrilees, Woods, & Fairooz, 2001). Findings regarding neuroticism are inconclusive. Some researchers found that high levels of neuroticism are related to disinhibition and susceptibility to hunger (Provencher et al., 2008). On the other hand, individuals who have higher scores on this trait tend to be underweight 100 (Kakizaki et al., 2008; Terracciano et al., 2009) and more likely to suffer from eating 101 disorders (Bogg & Roberts, 2004). Sutin and colleagues (2015) suggested two possible 102 explanations for this phenomenon: (1) there might be a curvilinear relationship between 103 neuroticism and abnormal weight or (2) being overweight/underweight is associated with 104 different aspects of neuroticism. Higher scores on extraversion have also been found to 105 contribute to obesity (e.g., Kakizaki et al., 2008; Sutin, Ferrucci, Zonderman, & Terracciano, 106 2011). Similarly, individuals with higher scores on openness to experience were found to be 107

less successful at managing their body weight and indicated a stronger drive toward
overeating (Sullivan, Cloninger, Przybeck, & Klein, 2007). In addition, higher scores on
openness were negatively related to cognitive dietary restraint (Bree, Przybeck, & Cloninger,
2006). In summary, a growing body of research confirms that personality traits influence
eating behavior and therefore moderate the association between personality and BMI.

113 BMI and cognitive abilities

Previous studies investigating the association between BMI and cognitive abilities 114 found that individuals with lower levels of cognitive abilities have higher BMI (Cournot et 115 al., 2006; Hirshman et al., 2004; Li, 1995). Adolescents who are obese are more likely to 116 suffer from deficits in multiple cognitive domains such as attention, memory, and executive 117 function and as a result have worse school outcomes in comparison to non-obese peers (Elias, 118 Elias, Sullivan, Wolf, & D'Agostino, 2005; Lawlor, Clark, Smith, & Leon, 2006; Mond, Stich, 119 Hay, Krämer, & Baune, 2007; Sabia, Kivimaki, Shipley, Marmot, & Singh-Manoux, 2008). 120 This association remains significant even after controlling for important confounding factors, 121 such as physical activity or maternal intelligence. The mechanisms through which cognitive 122 abilities may adversely affect BMI remain unclear. One hypothesis of the underlying mechanism is that lower levels of cognitive abilities may result in poor control over neurological centers associated with impulsivity which can lead to impaired control over food 125 intake (Veldwijk, Scholtens, Hornstra, & Bemelmans, 2011). Alternatively, obesity may 126 negatively influence cognitive function via physiological changes in brain tissue (Veldwijk et 127 al., 2011). Therefore, there might be a bi-directional interaction between cognitive abilities 128 and BMI. Because there is a hereditary component to both cognitive abilities and BMI, a 129 number of genetic factors may be involved in explaining this association (Teasdale, Sørensen, 130 & Stunkard, 1992).

32 The relationship between SES and BMI

The term "socioeconomic status" (SES) is an aggregate construct defined according to 133 one's level of resources or prestige in relation to others (Adler & Rehkopf, 2008; Krieger, 134 Williams, & Moss, 1997; Lynch, Kaplan, & others, 2000). While the operationalization and 135 measurement of socioeconomic status is notably inconsistent, there is general consensus that 136 SES includes education, income, and occupational prestige (Shanahan, Hill, Roberts, Eccles, 137 & Friedman, 2014). Because children and adolescents are still in school and do not have 138 income, researchers typically use measures of parental education, parental occupation, and/or 139 household income as markers of childhood/adolescent SES (Shrewsbury & Wardle, 2008). 140 The relationship between SES and BMI has been widely investigated. Several studies 141 have found that obesity among children and adults in industrialized countries is negatively 142 associated with income and education (e.g., Booth, Macaskill, Lazarus, & Baur, 1999; Bove 143 & Olson, 2006; Molnar, Gortmaker, Bull, & Buka, 2004; Wang et al., 2007); the opposite relationship has been found in some (but not all developing countries), including urban India or Ghana (Fokeena & Jeewon, 2012). The list of proposed mechanisms placing low-income 146 children at increased risk for obesity relative to higher-income children includes the consumption of less whole meal and brown bread and less fresh fruits and vegetables, but 148 more fatty milk, eggs, and meats (Smith & Baghurst, 1992; Steele, Dobson, Alexander, & 149 Russell, 1991). It has also been proposed that the inverse relationship between SES and BMI 150 is driven by sedentary behavior as low SES children have been found to be less physically 151 active and spend more time watching television and using the computer (Brown, Halvorson, 152 Cohen, Lazorick, & Skelton, 2015; Drenowatz et al., 2010; Morgenstern, Sargent, & 153 Hanewinkel, 2009). Unfortunately, additional research has shown that SES is inversely 154 related to sedentary behavior and to rates of overweight status in children over six years of 155 age (Hanson & Chen, 2007; Inchley, Currie, Todd, Akhtar, & Currie, 2005; Lioret, Maire, 156 Volatier, & Charles, 2007) and adolescents (Lohman et al., 2006). Still other research points 157 to sedentary behavior as a mediator of BMI in children of low SES status (O'Dea & Wilson, 158

2006), among more prominent main effects.

160 SES and personality

Personality traits have been widely linked to not only mental and physical health but 161 also other criteria such as socioeconomic status. Considerable research suggests that 162 individuals raised in low SES households have higher levels of neuroticism, lower openness to 163 experience and maladaptive coping mechanisms, including external locus of control and lack 164 of problem-focused coping (Bosma, Mheen, & Mackenbach, 1999; Körner, Geyer, 165 Gunzelmann, & Brähler, 2003). These individuals are also more likely to engage in risky 166 health behaviors and have higher levels of hostility (Barefoot et al., 1991; Kubzansky, 167 Kawachi, & Sparrow, 1999) whereas children from families with higher SES are less 168 impulsive on average (Delaney & Doyle, 2012), significantly less likely to be risk-seeking 169 (Deckers, Falk, Kosse, & Schildberg-Hörisch, 2015), and more altruistic (Bauer, Chytilová, & 170 Pertold-Gebicka, 2014; Deckers et al., 2015). 171 It should be noted that associations between SES and personality are likely 172 bidirectional. Certainly across the lifespan, there is strong evidence of the effects of 173 personality on socioeconomic status in adulthood. Research shows children's conscientiousness is a strong predictor of income and occupational status, even after 175 controlling for IQ (Duckworth, Weir, Tsukayama, & Kwok, 2012). Individuals high on 176 conscientiousness tend to save more money and are more hardworking, dependable, 177 persistent and goal-oriented (e.g., Barrick & Mount, 1991). In addition, they spend money 178 more cautiously (e.g., Wilcox, Block, & Eisenstein, 2011). Some studies have also shown 179 empirical support for the influence of agreeableness on SES. Individuals high on 180 agreeableness are more likely to choose professions that are paid less such as teaching, 181 nursing or volunteer work (Larson, Rottinghaus, & Borgen, 2002; Lodi-Smith & Roberts, 182 2007). Findings on other personality traits are inconsistent (Sutin et al., 2015). 183

184 SES and cognitive abilities

A growing body of research has documented that socioeconomic status (SES) predicts 185 a variety of children's outcomes including physical and mental health, cognitive ability, and 186 academic achievement (Adler & Rehkopf, 2008; Merikangas et al., 2010). Interestingly, the 187 differences in cognitive abilities between children from families with high and low SES can be 188 observed as early as infancy and persists, on average, throughout adolescence (Lipina, 189 Martelli, Vuelta, & Colombo, 2005). A number of studies have demonstrated that low-SES 190 children performed worse in working memory or executive attention tasks in comparison to 191 children from families with high SES (Blair et al., 2011; Hughes, Ensor, Wilson, & Graham, 192 2009; Mezzacappa, 2004). Although cognitive ability has been shown to be highly heritable 193 (e.g., Haworth et al., 2010), SES also seems to have an important influence on children's 194 school performance that is potentially independent of cognitive ability (Conger & Donnellan, 195 2007). 196

SES as a moderator of the relationship between individual differences and BMI

Given the known relationships between SES and both BMI and individual differences 198 in temperament and cognitive ability, it should be no surprise that the relationship between 199 BMI and individual differences is unclear. Further complicating the relationships are 200 person-situation transactions, which may change the relationship between individual 201 differences and behavior or outcomes. One example is the "strong-situation hypothesis" (Cooper & Withey, 2009), which posits that some situations demand specific responses, 203 overpowering any potential impact of personality. Strong situations limit personal expression 204 or choice through constraint of resources or options. In the case of BMI, low SES may 205 represent a strong situation in that individuals from poorer backgrounds have fewer dining 206 options or leisure opportunities, and so food choices or activity levels reflect availability 207 rather than preference. In addition to overpowering individual differences, situations may 208 carry different psychological meaning for different persons due to their temperament 209

(Wagerman & Funder, 2009). There is some evidence that socioeconomic status moderates personality expression. For example, phenotypic expression of personality is more closely associated with genetics among those with advantaged socioeconomic backgrounds (Tuvblad, Grann, & Lichtenstein, 2006), and adolescent impulsivity has stronger effects among the disadvantaged (Lynam et al., 2000). For some trait-behavior relationships, however, socioeconomic status has no effect (c.f., Ayer et al., 2011).

216 The present study

In this study, we use a large sample of adolescents in the United States to examine the 217 relationship between personality and cognitive ability to BMI above and beyond the 218 influence of SES; moreover, we examine whether the relationship between individual 219 differences and BMI changes across socioeconomic strata. The current study aims to clarify 220 the relationship between personality traits, cognitive ability, SES, and BMI through the 221 following methods: (1) examining both broad (Big-Five) and narrow traits to better 222 determine the aspects of personality which relate to BMI, (2) utilizing a measure of SES that 223 accounts for monetary resource and social status, and (3) using both percentile and 224 categorical assessments of BMI to allow for both linear and non-linear relationships between psychosocial constructs and health.

227 Methods

228 Data Collection

229 Participants

During the data collection period, 616,270 participants provided data. Of these, 21,469 were adolescents (between the ages of 11 and 17) living in the United States. Of this sample, only 10,365 provided height and weight. This was the sample used for these analyses.

The average age of participants was 15.87 (SD = 1.29) and 7,128 (68.77%) self-reported their sex as female. Descriptive statistics are presented in Table 1.

235 Measures

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BMI Category Self-reported height in inches (M = 65.76, SD = 4.02) was converted 236 to meters, and self-reported weight in pounds (M = 141.51, SD = 35.29) was converted to 237 kilograms. Participant BMI was then calculated by dividing kilograms to meters squared 238 (M = 22.97, SD = 4.97). While some would use BMI score as the outcome of interest, this 239 value is problematic, as there are group difference in BMI by sex. Moreover, the distribution 240 of BMI tends to increase with development, meaning there is greater spread in BMI among 241 older adolescents compared to younger. To account for both sex- and age-related differences 242 in the distribution of BMI, we calculated each participant's BMI percentile score based on 243 the CDC norms for adolescents of that participant's age and self-reported sex (Disease 244 Control, Prevention, & others, 2000). 245 Importantly, lower BMI is not universally healthier. Fitting a simple linear model to 246 this outcome may obscure the relationships of traits which produce unhealthy results in both directions – that is, some traits may be associated with both overweight and underweight outcomes. Given the likely nonlinear associations, and also the clinical cutoffs that are implemented in many settings, we use the CDC guidelines to assign each participant to a weight category based on their BMI percentile: Underweight (0-5%), Normal(5-85%), 251 Overweight (85-95%), and Obese (95-100%). 252 **Personality.** Personality traits were measured using the 135-item SAPA Personality 253 Inventory (SPI-135; Condon, 2018). This scale can be used to estimate scores on both broad 254 and narrow traits. The current study leverages this feature of the personality scale to assess 255 the relationships of both broad and narrow traits to BMI category and compare the 256 predictive validity of each. 257 Big Five trait scores were estimated using a sum-score method, in which all non-missing 258 responses to items in a scale (14 items per scale) were averaged. There was evidence of good 259 reliability for each trait ($\alpha_E = 0.88, \alpha_A = 0.83, \alpha_C = 0.81, \alpha_N = 0.86, \alpha_O = 0.75$). 260

Narrow SPI-27 trait scores (5 items each) were estimated using an IRT-scoring

approach. Calibration of the IRT parameters was performed using a separate sample [MORE INFORMATION NEEDED HERE – If these are the parameters in the 400 pg doc on PsyArXiv, I can just reference that.]. Estimates were scaled using t-scoring, resulting in means of 50 and standard deviations of 10 for the entire adolescent sample.

Cognitive Ability. Participants were administered between 12 and 16 cognitive
ability items assessing Three-Dimensional Rotation, Verbal Reasoning, Matrix Reasoning,
and Letter and Number Series from the International Cognitive Ability Resource ("ICAR"
XXX). Trait scores were estimated using an IRT approach.

Parent Socioeconomic Status (SES). Participants reported their parents' highest level(s) of education and occupational field(s). From the latter, we estimated income, based on median income for that field, and prestige, based on median prestige values for the field.

All responses were standardized within sample and averaged to create a composite score.

274 Data analysis

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To assess the degree to which SES and individual differences are uniquely, concurrently associated with BMI category, we used multinomial logistic regression models, with "Normal" as the reference category. We estimated 33 versions of this model, with each model including both SES and either one personality trait or cognitive ability (thirty-three individual difference measures in total). In addition, we estimate each of these models with an interaction term, to estimate whether the relationship of personality to SES depends on parental socioeconomic status. Specific hypotheses were preregistered at https://osf.io/ypf7r¹.

Analyses were performed separately for male and female adolescents. All variables were standardized within gender sample prior to analysis, so coefficient estimates can be

¹ We note here that as part of the preregistered analyses, we also include linear regression models with BMI percentile as the outcome; these are not reported here in an effort to succinctly report analyses and because prior to data analysis, we noted that use of the CDC thresholds was the more clinically relevant outcome.

interpreted as standardized effect sizes. Logistic models were estimated using 10-fold cross-validation, repeated 10 times, with SMOTE sampling, which can be useful for dealing with imbalanced classes. Coefficient estimates are from the final model set to maximize accuracy.

All analyses described above were performed on subset of our sample containing a random 75% of the adolescent girls and 75% of the adolescent boys, stratified by BMI category. The remaining 25% of the same was used in exploratory analyses that examine the overall accuracy models that predict BMI category from (1) socioeconomic status alone, (2) SES plus the Big Five personality traits, and (3) SES plus the Narrow-27.

294 Results

Is socioeconomic status associated with BMI category? To test this 295 question, we examine the estimates of the SES coefficient in the multinomial logistic models. 296 These results are summarized in Figure 1. These figures display the odds ratios associated 297 with the SES coefficient in each model; as a reminder, there are 33 models for each gender, 298 each model regression the BMI category variable onto SES and one of the thirty-three 299 individual difference measures. Figure @ref(fig:SES_plot) represents the 95% confidence interval around each estimate, for each non-reference category, with a vertical line. Lines are red if they do not contain 1 (the traditional null hypothesis, represented by the horizontal dashed line). A solid horizontal line represents the average coefficient estimate across all 303 models. Models are ordered within weight comparison by size of the effect. 304

As evidenced by the figure, larger parental SES was consistently significantly associated with reduced odds of being obese among both boys and girls and reduced odds of being overweight among girls. SES was significantly associated with lower likelihood of being overweight among boys in 14 models, and lower likelihood of being underweight in only 7 and 12 models, for girls and boys, respectively. Overall, a one-standard deviation increase in parental SES was associated with being 45% less likely to be obese and 31% less likely to be

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overweight among girls, and with being 35% less likely to be obese and 21% less likely to be overweight among boys.

We note that the association between SES and weight categories tend to be somewhat sensitive to inclusion of personality traits, as coefficient estimates range from no affect on BMI to as much as half the likelihood.

Which personality traits are associated with BMI?.

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Next we examine the coefficients associated with personality traits – here referring to cognitive ability, the Big Five, and the Narrow 27 – in the models described above. All results are summarized in Table 2.

Two main patterns stand out. First, several traits were associated with both types of 326 weight issues. More specifically, among adolescent girls, traits Sociability, Well-Being, and 327 Emotional Expressiveness were significantly associated with reduced odds of all non-Normal 328 categories. Trait Easy Goingness was significantly associated with increased of all 329 non-Normal categories. In other words, adolescent girls low in Sociability, Well-Being and 330 Emotional Expressiveness and high in Easy Goingness are at greater risk for both 331 overweight/obesity and also underweight status. These associations are depicted in Figure 332 @ref(fig:person_plot)A. Furthermore, trait Honesty was associated with decreased risk of 333 overweight and obese statuses; traits Extraversion, Neuroticism, and Industry were 334 associated with decreased risk of obesity and underweight statuses. 335

For adolescent boys, far fewer traits were associated with weight category compared to for adolescent girls. Again, some traits were associated with both ends of the weight

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spectrum: Attention Seeking and Easy Goingnesss were associated with decreased and 338 increased risk, respectively, of both obesity and being overweight. Trait Neuroticism was 339 associated with increased risk of both being overweight and underweight, although not obese. 340 Humor was associated with increased risk of being obese but decreased risk of being 341 underweight, making this the only association in which an individual difference had a 342 consistent ordinal relationship with weight. We note there was a gender difference in the 343 number of traits significantly associated with BMI category; however, this difference is most 344 likely a result of a larger sample of adolescent girls. 345

Of note, cognitive ability was largely unassociated with BMI category, with one 346 exception: being associated with reduced risk for overweight compared to normal status among adolescent boys. This is surprising, given the extended literature on the relationship 348 between cognitive ability and health.

The second pattern is that far more traits were significantly associated with (reduced or increased) risk for underweight, while relatively few traits were associated with risk for obesity or risk for being overweight. However, this pattern is most likely due to the relatively small sample of underweight adolescents in the study, compared to the other groups.

Does the relationship of personality to BMI depend on SES?. By adding an interaction term to each of our 33 models, we test the degree to which the relationship of 355 personality to BMI category changes as a function of parental SES. As depicted in Figure 3, 356 the overwhelming finding was that the interaction terms were mainly non-significant. A handful of coefficients barely reach the statistical significance threshold, but this is expected due to chance alone.

Sensitivity analysis.

After conducting our planned analyses, we were concerned that our results were 361 potentially biased by the presence of data missing not at random. Specifically, we noticed 362 that among our adolescent sample, approximately half did not report height or weight or 363 both. The primary concern is that participants of specific BMIs may systematically skip

questions about height or weight, leading to over or under estimates of in regression models. 365 To address this concern, we imputed missing height and weight values using 32 366 personality variables that were collected through our online data collection tool but were not 367 used to estimate trait scores on any scales used in the study. These variables were chosen 368 because there were enough pairwise administrations for each pair of variables that a principle 369 components analysis including these variables and height and weight could converge. We 370 used a single PCA imputation with regularization. 371 ## Warning in if (grepl("135", x)) {: the condition has length > 1 and only the 372 ## first element will be used 373 374 ## Warning in if (grepl("135", x)) {: the condition has length > 1 and only the 375 ## first element will be used Imputation suggested that we were under-sampling from normal weight and overweight 377 adolescents and oversampling obese and underweight adolescents (see Figure 4A). If imputed 378 height and weight are included in the analyses, several key findings are no longer statistically 379 significant. Of primary interest, the single association of cognitive ability with BMI category 380 was no longer significant in these analyses. 381 However, some findings were robust to these sensitivity analyses. Interestingly, all were 382 in the comparison of Underweight to Normal BMI category. These robust estimates are 383 presented in Figure 4B and 4C. In sum, narrow traits of Well-Being 384 How does personality contribute to the accuracy of BMI prediction 385 models? Completion of the preregistered analyses yielded results that suggest that low 386 parental SES is a robust risk factor for all non-normal BMI categories, that some personality 387 traits play a role in non-normal weight for adolescents, and that the degree to which 388 individual differences are associated with BMI does not depend on parental SES. However, 380 one additional and unplanned question emerges from these analyses: to what extent does 390

personality contribute predictive validity to estimates of BMI category and does that depend

on the use of broad versus narrow traits?

To answer this question, we build three additional logistic regression models: BMI 393 category regressed onto (1) parental SES, (2) parental SES plus all of the Big Five traits, 394 and (3) parental SES plus all of the Narrow SPI 27. To avoid over-fitting, we used 10-fold 395 cross-validation, repeated 10 times. The final model was selected using the summary metric 396 of accuracy. These models were built using the same 75% of the sample that was used in 397 prior analyses. Finally, these model were used to predict BMI category in the hold-out 398 sample (25%), and these predictions were compared to reported BMI category for accuracy. 399 Our accuracy metric is Area Under the Curve. 400

Results are summarized in Figure 5. Models including SES plus personality did as well or better than models with SES only $(AUC_{female} = 0.56, AUC_{male} = 0.54)$. The models using the set of narrow SPI traits $(AUC_{female} = 0.59, AUC_{male} = 0.59)$ added more predictive power than models using the Big Five $(AUC_{female} = 0.56, AUC_{male} = 0.55)$. However, the gain in predictive power was modest, improving estimates by about 10%.

406 Discussion

The current study included many analyses, providing a wealth of potential conclusions.

We discuss our interpretations starting with the conclusions we are most confident in and

working towards conclusions that have less evidentiary value.

First, we begin with the conclusions we have strong confidence in. We believe it is
undisputable at this point that higher parental socioeconomic status (SES) is associated
with lower risk of adolescent girls and boys being underweight, overweight, and obese,
implying that SES may be protective against weight problems on both ends of the spectrum.
This finding was robust to the inclusion of nearly all traits, and conforms with prior findings
in the literature.

In addition, we conclude that some personality traits are independently associated risk for being underweight, compared to normal, even accounting for parental SES. We are

especially confident in the associations between trait neuroticism and the highly associated narrow traits well-being and emotional stability among adolescent girls, and the well-being, sensation seeking, and attention seeking among adolescent boys.

Finally, it is notable that many teens were unwilling (or perhaps unable) to provide 421 their height and/or weight on an anonymous self-report assessment of personality. Body size 422 is scrutinized among adolescents and, for some individuals, may be stimatized by their peers, 423 so it is unsuprirising that at least some individuals chose not to report these values. However 424 roughly half of our sample of US adolescents skipped one or both of these questions, 425 suggesting large bias in self-report studies attempting to measure these variables. All studies 426 of BMI in adolescents must take great care to attend to missigness in data and, ideally, avoid 427 the use of self-report as the primary means by which these data are colleted. 428

Next we move to findings that we have less certainty in . There is some evidence that perosnlaity traits may also be independently associated with risk for being overweight or obese. We qualify our confidence in these findings given that these associations were sensitive to the imputation of missing data in our study.

Limitations

The primary limitations of the current study are the use of self-reported height and weight, which imposes bias through inaccuracy and missingness, and self-selection into the study. Regarding the former, several results were robust to sensitivity analysis, including the effect of parental socioeconomic status, the lack of interaction effects,

438 Conclusion

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Table 1

Descriptive statistics of key demographic and BMI variables by gender. Numeric variables presented with means and standard deviations. Categorical variables presented with frequencies and percentages.

Variable	Female	Male
Age	15.84 (1.31)	15.93 (1.25)
BMI	23.04 (4.99)	22.82 (4.90)
Height	162.99 (7.82)	175.88 (9.19)
Parent 1 Education	5.15 (2.26)	5.13 (2.27)
Parent 1 Income (estimated)	61,625.23 (21,784.89)	61,491.45 (22,195.84)
Parent 1 Occupational Prestige (estimated)	60.76 (14.64)	60.20 (15.22)
Parent 2 Education	4.72 (2.31)	4.82 (2.26)
Parent 2 Income (estimated)	59,058.07 (22,926.91)	57,247.11 (22,364.35)
Parent 2 Occupational Prestige (estimated)	57.87 (15.76)	57.07 (15.59)
Weight	61.23 (14.48)	70.70 (17.24)
Normal Weight	4982 (69.89%)	2160 (66.73%)
Obese	857 (12.02%)	483 (14.92%)
Overweight	1107 (15.53%)	429 (13.25%)
Underweight	182 (2.55%)	165 (5.10%)

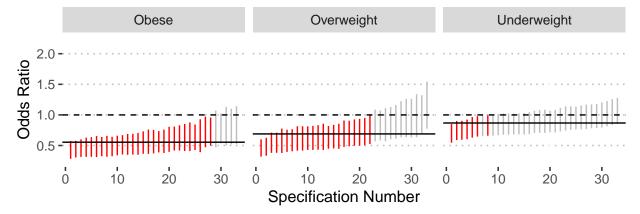
Table 2 $BMI\ category\ odds\ ratios\ associated\ with\ individual\ differences.\ All\ models\ control\ for\ parental$ $SES.\ indicates\ p<.05$

	Female			Male		
Trait	Obese	Overweight	Underweight	Obese	Overweight	Underweight
Cognitive Ability	0.79	0.97	0.97	0.87	0.74*	0.90
NA	[0.60, 1.04]	[0.76, 1.22]	[0.84, 1.12]	[0.68, 1.12]	[0.56, 0.98]	[0.78, 1.04]
NA	0.83	1.10	0.90	1.08	1.18	1.02
NA	[0.63, 1.09]	[0.87, 1.40]	[0.77, 1.04]	[0.82, 1.42]	[0.89, 1.55]	[0.88, 1.19]
NA	0.81	1.03	0.91	0.76*	1.25	1.13
NA	[0.64, 1.04]	[0.81, 1.32]	[0.79, 1.06]	[0.60, 0.97]	[0.92, 1.68]	[0.96, 1.33]
NA	1.11	1.24	1.19*	0.85	0.82	1.09
NA	[0.86, 1.44]	[0.96, 1.59]	[1.03, 1.37]	[0.65, 1.10]	[0.63, 1.07]	[0.94, 1.27]
NA	1.31	1.02	1.72*	0.97	0.85	1.03
NA	[0.91, 1.89]	[0.81, 1.29]	[1.41, 2.09]	[0.75, 1.25]	[0.67, 1.08]	[0.88, 1.21]
NA	0.83	1.16	0.77*	0.78*	0.87	0.73*
NA	[0.63, 1.08]	[0.89, 1.51]	[0.67, 0.89]	[0.62, 0.99]	[0.66, 1.14]	[0.63, 0.85]
NA	1.06	1.02	0.87	1.06	0.99	1.12
NA	[0.82, 1.37]	[0.80, 1.29]	[0.75, 1.01]	[0.81, 1.40]	[0.74, 1.32]	[0.96, 1.32]
NA	1.02	0.93	0.84*	0.87	1.28	0.79*
NA	[0.79, 1.31]	[0.73, 1.18]	[0.73, 0.97]	[0.67, 1.14]	[0.98, 1.68]	[0.68, 0.91]
NA	0.99	1.02	1.12	0.96	0.95	1.04
NA	[0.76, 1.29]	[0.81, 1.29]	[0.96, 1.31]	[0.77, 1.20]	[0.73, 1.24]	[0.90, 1.21]
NA	1.00	1.15	0.84*	0.99	0.99	1.01
NA	[0.77, 1.29]	[0.91, 1.45]	[0.73, 0.97]	[0.76, 1.28]	[0.78, 1.26]	[0.86, 1.17]
NA	0.83	0.98	0.75*	0.90	0.80	0.90
NA	[0.64, 1.09]	[0.76, 1.26]	[0.64, 0.88]	[0.68, 1.19]	[0.60, 1.06]	[0.77, 1.06]
NA	0.81	1.00	0.86*	0.98	1.00	0.82*

27.4	[0.04.4.00]		[0 = 4 0 00]	[0 4 0-1	[0 4 00]	[0 = 4 0 0 0]
NA	[0.61, 1.06]	[0.78, 1.28]	[0.74, 0.99]	[0.75, 1.27]	[0.77, 1.30]	[0.71, 0.96]
NA	0.94	0.99	1.07	0.95	1.06	1.03
NA	[0.72, 1.23]	[0.79, 1.24]	[0.92, 1.24]	[0.76, 1.19]	[0.79, 1.41]	[0.88, 1.19]
NA	1.60*	1.69*	1.26*	1.53*	1.22	1.23*
NA	[1.17, 2.20]	$[1.29,\ 2.21]$	[1.08, 1.47]	[1.13, 2.07]	[0.94, 1.59]	[1.05, 1.43]
NA	0.70*	0.73*	0.76*	0.81	1.30	0.95
NA	[0.53, 0.92]	[0.57, 0.92]	[0.66, 0.87]	[0.63, 1.05]	[1.00, 1.69]	[0.82, 1.11]
NA	0.80	0.89	0.75*	1.10	1.11	0.87*
NA	[0.63, 1.02]	[0.70, 1.12]	[0.65, 0.86]	[0.84, 1.43]	[0.85, 1.45]	[0.75, 1.00]
NA	0.70*	0.89	0.75*	0.79	1.01	0.77*
NA	[0.54, 0.90]	[0.71, 1.13]	[0.65,0.86]	[0.61, 1.03]	[0.76, 1.35]	[0.66, 0.89]
NA	0.72*	0.79*	0.94	0.98	0.96	0.98
NA	[0.56, 0.94]	[0.62, 0.99]	[0.80, 1.11]	[0.74, 1.28]	[0.74, 1.25]	[0.83, 1.15]
NA	1.65*	1.01	0.98	1.41*	0.91	0.84*
NA	[1.14, 2.38]	[0.81, 1.27]	[0.85, 1.13]	[1.06, 1.88]	[0.69, 1.19]	[0.72, 0.98]
NA	1.20	0.97	1.13	1.12	1.11	1.04
NA	[0.93, 1.55]	[0.76, 1.25]	[0.98, 1.31]	[0.88, 1.43]	[0.86, 1.43]	[0.89, 1.21]
NA	0.71*	0.88	0.76*	0.94	0.94	0.92
NA	[0.54, 0.95]	[0.69, 1.13]	[0.65,0.88]	[0.73, 1.23]	[0.71, 1.24]	[0.79, 1.07]
NA	1.26	1.07	0.98	1.06	1.24	0.92
NA	[0.96, 1.67]	[0.84, 1.36]	[0.85, 1.13]	[0.79, 1.42]	[0.86, 1.80]	[0.78, 1.09]
NA	1.06	0.85	1.25*	1.03	0.87	0.94
NA	[0.81, 1.38]	[0.67, 1.07]	[1.07, 1.46]	[0.78, 1.36]	[0.68, 1.12]	[0.80, 1.09]
NA	1.18	1.16	1.08	1.18	1.25	0.95
NA	[0.90, 1.55]	[0.89, 1.51]	[0.93, 1.25]	[0.92, 1.53]	[0.95, 1.65]	[0.82, 1.11]
NA	1.61*	1.27	1.39*	1.17	1.42*	1.22*
NA	[1.20, 2.17]	[0.96, 1.68]	[1.20, 1.62]	[0.93, 1.49]	[1.08, 1.86]	[1.06, 1.41]
NA	1.06	1.04	1.24*	1.22	0.92	0.92
NA	[0.81, 1.40]	[0.82, 1.33]	[1.07, 1.44]	[0.94, 1.57]	[0.69, 1.23]	[0.79, 1.08]

NA	0.84	0.96	0.89	1.11	0.94	0.92
NA	[0.62, 1.14]	[0.75, 1.23]	[0.76, 1.04]	[0.86, 1.42]	[0.72, 1.22]	[0.79, 1.06]
NA	0.88	0.88	0.80*	0.92	0.80	1.01
NA	[0.66, 1.18]	[0.69, 1.11]	[0.69, 0.92]	[0.72, 1.17]	[0.61, 1.05]	[0.86, 1.19]
NA	0.49*	1.14	1.07	0.81	0.83	1.00
NA	[0.35, 0.69]	[0.89, 1.46]	[0.92,1.24]	[0.62,1.06]	[0.65, 1.07]	[0.85, 1.17]
NA	1.03	1.13	1.11	0.83	1.25	0.74*
NA	[0.79, 1.35]	[0.89, 1.44]	[0.97, 1.28]	[0.63, 1.08]	[0.94, 1.65]	[0.63, 0.87]
NA	0.75*	0.78*	0.66*	0.87	0.83	0.78*
NA	[0.58, 0.98]	[0.62, 0.99]	[0.57, 0.76]	[0.68, 1.10]	[0.64, 1.08]	[0.67, 0.90]
NA	0.78	0.90	0.79*	1.13	0.90	1.16
NA	[0.58, 1.05]	[0.72, 1.14]	[0.68, 0.92]	[0.87, 1.47]	[0.68, 1.20]	[0.99, 1.36]
NA	0.52*	0.53*	0.62*	0.81	1.02	0.75*
NA	[0.38, 0.70]	[0.40, 0.71]	[0.53, 0.72]	[0.62, 1.05]	[0.79, 1.32]	[0.65, 0.87]

Female



Male

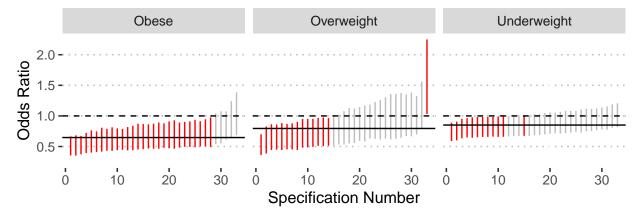
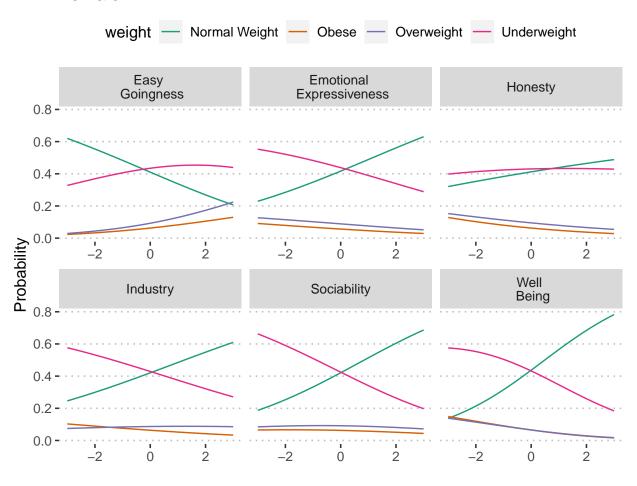


Figure 1

A Female



B Male

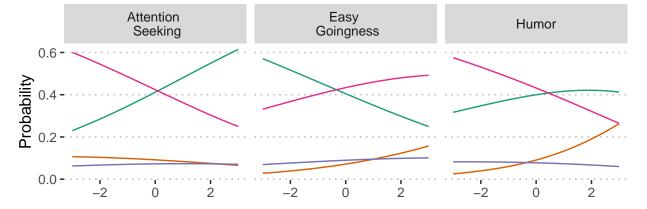
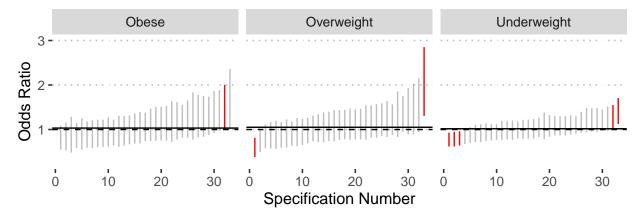


Figure 2

Female



Male

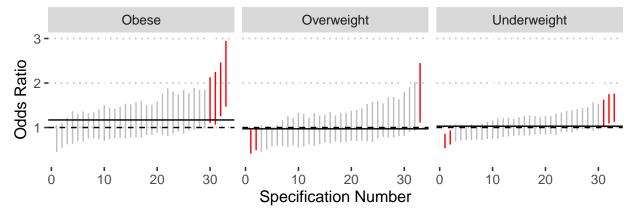
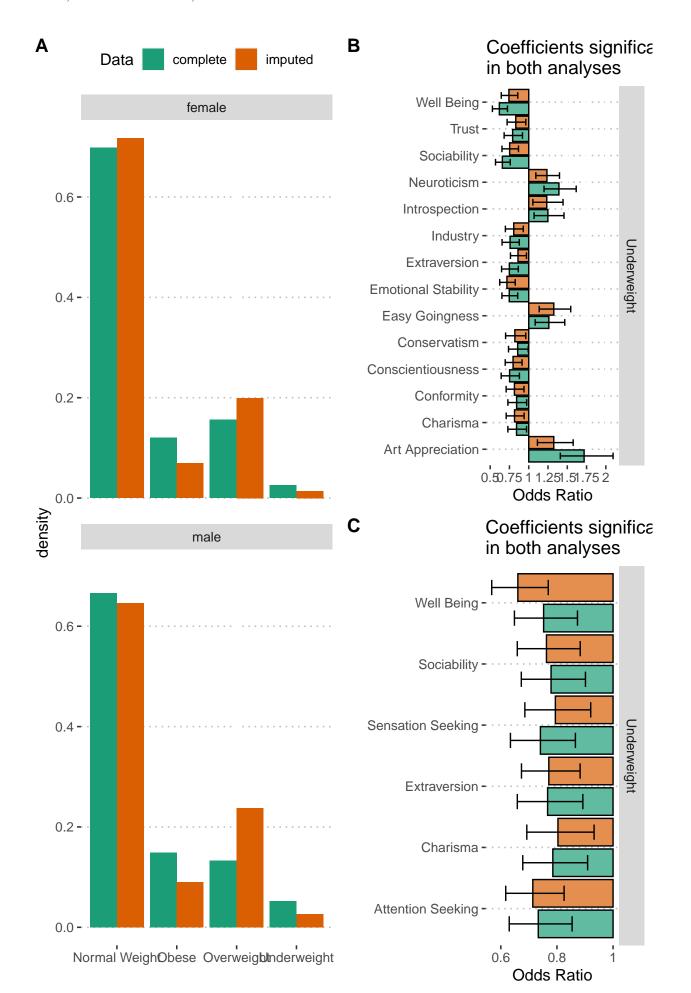
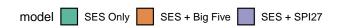


Figure 3





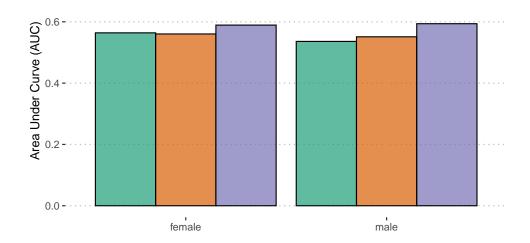


Figure 5