

## Obesity and the Economics of Prevention: Fit not Fat - Korea Key Facts

### A. ADULTS

1. Obesity rates in Korea are among the lowest in the OECD, but have been increasing steadily. About 4% of the adult population is obese in Korea, and about 30% are overweight (including obese). OECD projections indicate that overweight rates will increase by a further 5% within ten years.

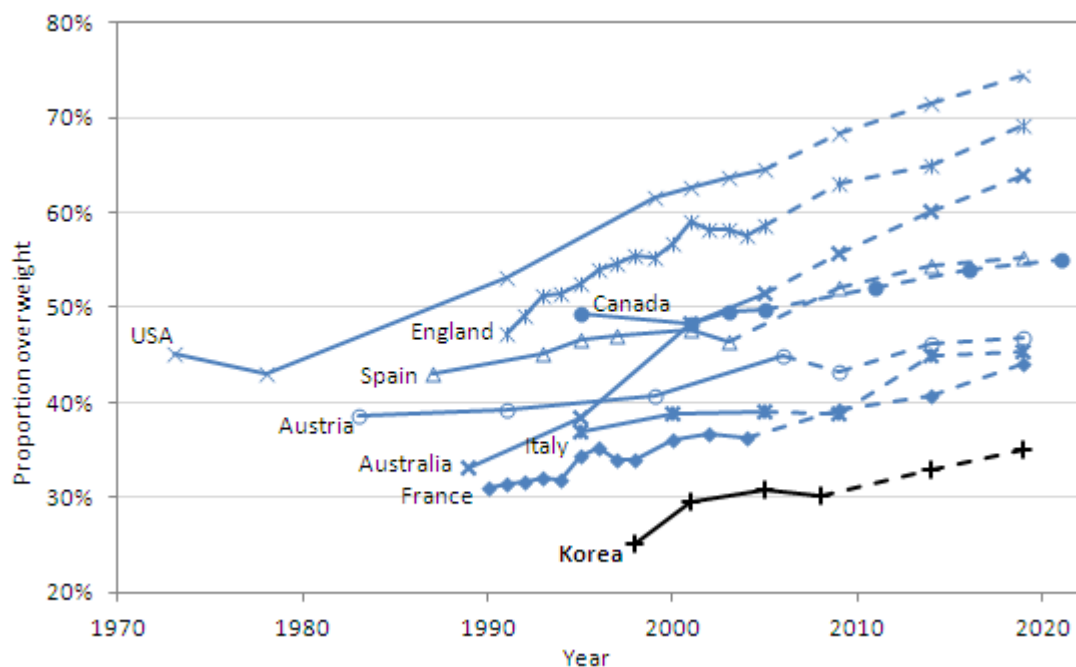


Figure 1: Past and projected overweight rates

2. Large socio-economic disparities in obesity exist in women in Korea. Women with poor education are 5 times more likely than more educated women to be overweight. Virtually no disparities exist between men of different educational levels.

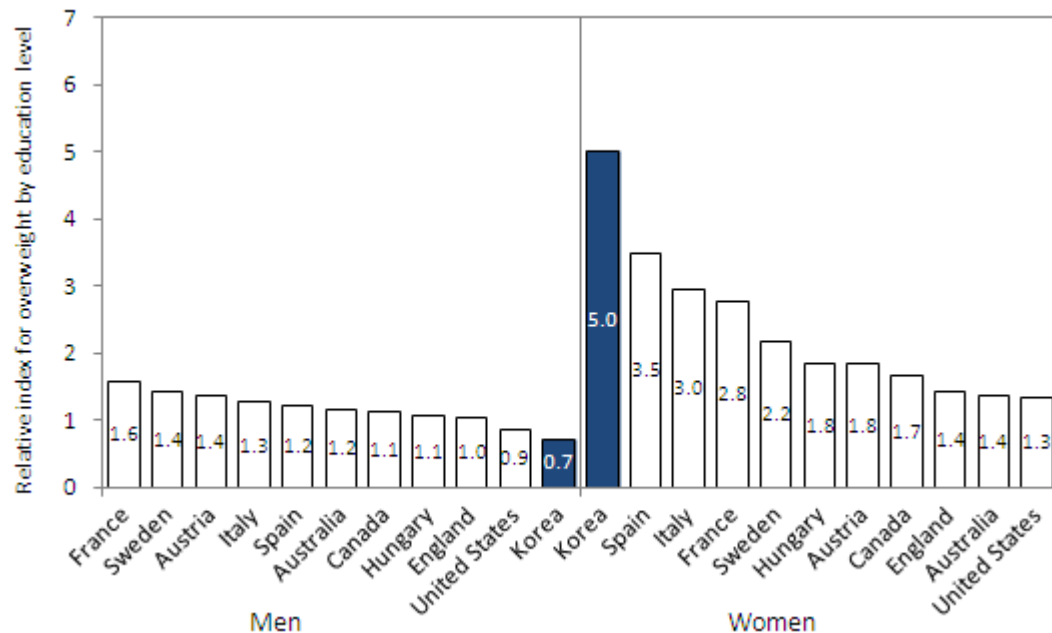


Figure 2: Relative Index of Inequality in Overweight by Education level

## B. CHILDREN

3. Child obesity rates are relatively high in Korea, especially in boys. OECD projections show a likely slight decrease of overweight and a stabilisation of child obesity over the next 10 years.

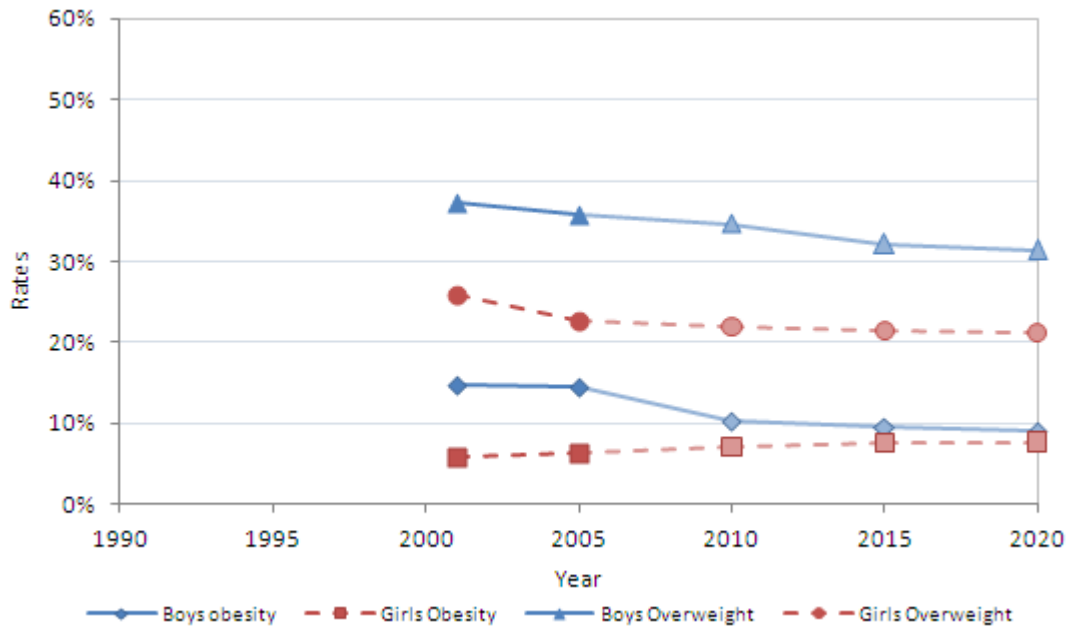


Figure 3: Past and projected rates of child obesity and overweight, age 3-17, in Korea

4. Children with obese parents are far more likely to be obese themselves. Boys are about 3 times more likely to be obese, and girls are almost 6 times more likely, if they have at least one obese parent.

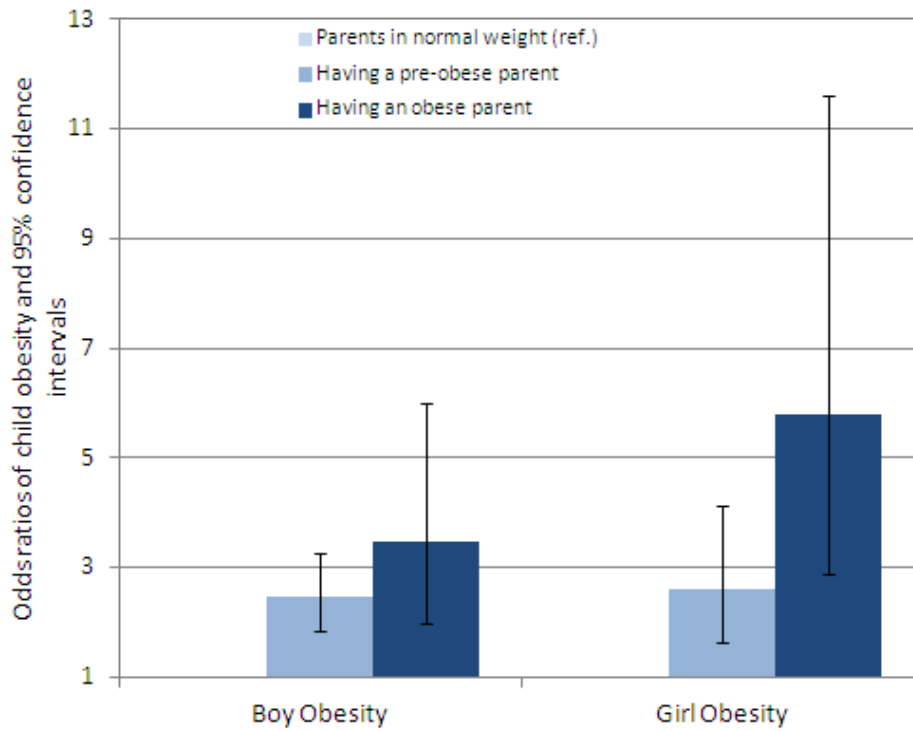


Figure 4: Odds ratios of child obesity by parents' obesity status in Korea

5. Socio-economic disparities in obesity are not apparent in children. Contrary to most OECD countries, boys in the most disadvantaged socio-economic groups are less likely to be obese than children in higher socio-economic groups.

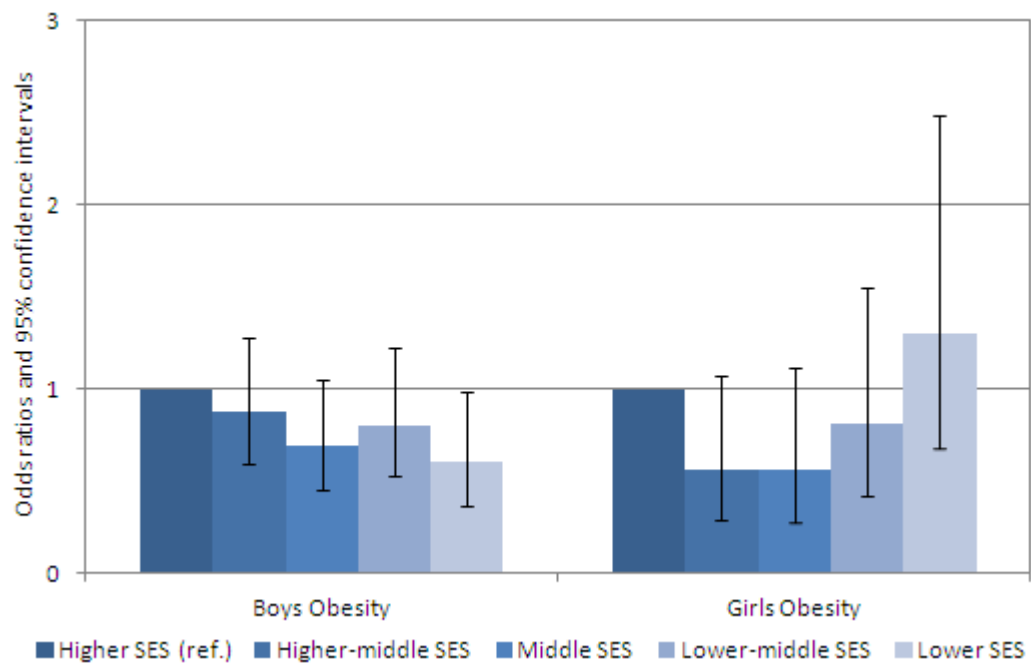


Figure 5: Social disparities in child obesity in Korea