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A novel population health data source to inform local planning: the SIMLR Study

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Abstract

Abstract of a paper that was presented at 2014 Primary Health Care Research Conference, Canberra, Australia, 23-25 July.

Disciplines

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2014 PHC Research Conference

2014 PHC Research Conference: Paper abstract

A novel population health data source to inform local planning: the SIMLR Study

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Organisation

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, University of Wollongong, Sonic Healthcare, Southern IML Pathology, Swinburne University of Technology

Aims & rationale/Objectives

Overweight and obesity are major health problems requiring high-quality data to inform preventive and management approaches at local levels. The aim of this study was to assess the feasibility of using routinely measured body mass index (BMI) data from a regional pathology database for such a purpose.

Methods

Objectively measured BMI and demographic data were extracted for 91,776 Illawarra Shoalhaven Medicare Local residents aged 18 years and over from a pathology database and matched to socioeconomic data from the 2006 Census using geocoding. Prevalence and relative risks for BMI categories were calculated by age group and socioeconomic disadvantage quintiles using sex-stratified log-binomial regression models and compared to population surveys to assess their external validity.

Principal findings

Prevalence of being overweight or obese was 79.2% for males and 65.8% for females. Increasing socioeconomic disadvantage was associated with increasing risk of being either overweight or obese for women ($p < 0.0001$) but not men. Analysis of overweight and obesity separately found differing gradients for men: the risk of obesity increased with increasing socioeconomic disadvantage ($p < 0.0001$) while the risk of overweight decreased with increasing disadvantage ($p < 0.0001$). These associations were consistent with recent reports from representative population surveys.

Implications

This study demonstrates that geocoded clinical data can yield information to assist in geographically targeting the planning, delivery and evaluation of local health services and programs. The concordance of socioeconomic gradients with representative population surveys supports the use of these data for local level planning.

Presentation type

Paper

Session theme

Local planning

Webcast



Session details

11:45am Wed 23 July, Swan Room

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Weighing in General Practice: Does it have an impact on weight management?

2014 PHC Research Conference, University of Wollongong, Illawarra and Southern Practice Research Network.

Poster presentation: Stanford L, Bonney A, Ivers R

Chaperones for Pap smears: do Australian GPs offer or use them?

2013 PHC Research Conference, University of Wollongong, Illawarra and Southern Practice Research Network.

 Presentation available