The latest public health research

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**Chronic disease prevention**

**New Zealand**: The relationship between income and health using longitudinal data from New Zealand May 09, 2012 01:48 pm

Aim: Evidence for a cross-sectional relationship between income and health is strong but is probably biased by substantial confounding. Conclusion: The overall small, positive, but statistically non-significant, income-health effect size is consistent with similar analyses from other longitudinal studies.

**Canada**: Cognitive impairment and risk of cardiovascular events and mortality May 04, 2012 03:14 pm

Aim: We prospectively evaluated the independent association between Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) score and myocardial infarction, stroke, hospital admission for heart failure and mortality, and their CV composite (major CV events), in a large high-risk CV population. Conclusion: In people at increased CV risk, impairments on baseline cognitive testing are associated with a graded increase in the risk of stroke, congestive heart failure, and CV death, but not coronary events.

**UK**: A non-exercise testing method for estimating cardiorespiratory fitness: associations with all-cause and cardiovascular mortality in a pooled analysis of eight population-based cohorts May 04,
Aim: The objective of this study is to examine the association of a validated NET-F algorithm with all-cause and CVD mortality. Conclusion: The CRF-estimating method NET-F that does not involve exercise testing showed consistent associations with all-cause and cardiovascular mortality, and it had good discrimination and excellent risk reclassification improvement.

**Denmark: Tracking of overweight from mid-adolescence into adulthood: consistent patterns across socio-economic groups** May 04, 2012 01:39 pm

Aim: Socially differentiated tracking of health and health behaviours may contribute to health inequalities in adulthood. Conclusion: Strong tracking patterns were found to be independent of socio-economic background.

**Switzerland: Frequency and effects of meeting health behaviour guidelines among adolescents** May 04, 2012 01:33 pm

Aim: To assess the relationship between overweight status and the concomitant adherence to physical activity, daily screen time and nutritional guidelines. Conclusion: Meeting current nutritional, physical activity and screen time guidelines should be encouraged with respect to overweight.

**The Netherlands: A cross-national comparative study of metabolic syndrome among non-diabetic Dutch and English ethnic groups** May 04, 2012 01:24 pm

Aim: We assessed whether the Dutch and English differences in T2D prevalence reflect similar differences in MS in Whites, South-Asian Indians and African-Caribbeans living in these two countries. Conclusion: The comparatively high prevalence of MS among Dutch ethnic groups may contribute to their high prevalence of T2D.

**Sweden: The family's economic resources and adolescents' health complaints do adolescents' own economic resources matter?** May 04, 2012 01:19 pm

Aim: The present study focuses on the relevance of economic resources to psychological and psychosomatic health complaints during adolescence. Conclusion: Family economic
hardship was associated with adolescents' health complaints, and this association was largely explained by adolescents’ own economic resources.

**UK: Principles for research on ethnicity and health: the Leeds Consensus Statement** May 04, 2012 01:08 pm

Aim: There is substantial evidence that health and health-care experiences vary along ethnic lines and the need to understand and tackle ethnic health inequalities has repeatedly been highlighted. Guidance may be helpful in encouraging researchers to adopt standard practices in the design, conduct and reporting of research. Conclusion: The principles provide a strong foundation to guide future ethnicity-related research and build a broader international consensus.

**Nutrition**

**USA: Limiting variety in non-nutrient-dense, energy-dense foods during a lifestyle intervention: a randomized controlled trial.** May 09, 2012 05:21 pm

Aim: This study examined the effect of limiting the variety of different non-nutrient-dense, energy-dense foods (NND-EDFs) (ie, chips, ice cream, cookies) on dietary intake and weight loss during an 18-mo lifestyle intervention. Conclusion: Limitations in dietary variety decreased intakes in the targeted area but did not affect weight loss. Limiting variety in more areas may be needed to improve weight loss and weight-loss maintenance.

**USA: Contextual influences on eating behaviours: heuristic processing and dietary choices** May 09, 2012 04:43 pm

Summary: This paper reviews some of the evidence that dietary behaviours are, in large part, the consequence of automatic responses to contextual food cues, many of which lead to increased caloric consumption and poor dietary choices. This paper reviews some of the evidence that dietary behaviours are, in large part, the consequence of automatic responses to contextual food cues, many of which lead to increased caloric consumption and poor dietary choices.
Obesity

USA: Parenting Styles and Body Mass Index Trajectories From Adolescence to Adulthood. May 09, 2012 05:35 pm

Aim: This study assessed the relationship between parenting styles and changes in body mass index (BMI) from adolescence to young adulthood. Conclusion: Adolescents who reported having parents with authoritarian or disengaged parenting styles had greater increases in BMI as they transitioned to young adulthood despite having a lower BMI trajectory through adolescence.

Zambia: Prevalence and correlates of obesity among Lusaka residents, Zambia: a population-based survey. OPEN ACCESS May 09, 2012 05:30 pm

Aim: The objective of the study was to estimate the prevalence and associated factors for obesity among Zambian adults in Lusaka district. Conclusion: The findings from this study indicate that Zambian women are more at risk of being obese. Prevention and control measures are needed to address high prevalence and gender inequalities in risks for non-communicable diseases in Zambia.


Aim: The purpose of this study is to explore long-term time trends and socioeconomic disparities in body-mass index and obesity among U.S. adults. Conclusion: We conclude that the increase in body-mass index and obesity in the United States is a true epidemic, whose signal hallmark is to have affected an entire society. Accordingly, a whole-society approach is likely to be required if the increasing trends are to be reversed.

USA: Fast food prices, obesity, and the minimum wage. May 09, 2012 05:11 pm

Aim: Although there is growing evidence for a negative association between fast food prices and weight among adolescents, less is known about adults. Conclusion: Results are robust to including controls for area and time fixed effects, area time trends, demographic characteristics, substitute prices, numbers of establishments and employment in related industries, and other potentially related factors.
The Netherlands: Differences in Weight Status and Energy-Balance Related Behaviors among Schoolchildren across Europe: The ENERGY-Project. OPEN ACCESS May 09, 2012 05:03 pm

Aim: Current data on the prevalence of overweight and energy-balance behaviors among European children is necessary to inform overweight prevention interventions. Conclusion: High levels and striking differences in overweight status and potential risk behaviors were found among schoolchildren across Europe.

Physical activity

UK: Functional movement is negatively associated with weight status and positively associated with physical activity in british primary school children. OPEN ACCESS May 09, 2012 04:57 pm

Aim: Although prior studies have suggested that overweight and obesity in childhood are associated with poorer functional movement performance, no study appears to have examined this issue in a pediatric population.

Belgium: Self-reported TV and computer time do not represent accelerometer-derived total sedentary time in 10 to 12-year-olds May 04, 2012 01:44 pm

Aim: We studied associations of self-reported television (TV), computer and total screen-time with accelerometer-derived total sedentary time in European children (1012 years). Conclusion: This suggests that self-reported TV and computer time do not adequately reflect total sedentary time in schoolchildren.

Denmark: Low vigorous physical activity at ages 15, 19 and 27: childhood socio-economic position modifies the tracking pattern May 04, 2012 01:13 pm

Aim: The present study examines (i) if the level of vigorous physical activity (VPA) at age 15 predicts low VPA at ages 19 and 27 and (ii) whether the observed prediction pattern differs by childhood socio-economic position (SEP). Conclusion: These findings suggest that low VPA tracks through adolescence while tracking into adulthood only occurs among individuals with low childhood SEP.
Public health and the environment

USA: Creating a replicable, valid cross-platform buffering technique: The sausage network buffer for measuring food and physical activity built environments. OPEN ACCESS May 09, 2012 05:15 pm

Aim: Obesity researchers increasingly use geographic information systems to measure exposure and access in neighborhood food and physical activity environments. This paper proposes a network buffering approach, the "sausage" buffer. Conclusion: Findings from various tests in the current study show that researchers can obtain results using sausage buffers that are similar to results they would obtain by using other buffering techniques.

The Netherlands: Greenspace in urban neighbourhoods and residents’ health: adding quality to quantity May 09, 2012 01:40 pm

Aim: This study investigates the link between the objectively assessed quantity and quality of (1) green areas and (2) streetscape greenery on the one hand and three self-reported health indicators on the other. Conclusion: The quantity and also the quality of greenspace in one's neighbourhood seem relevant with regard to health. Furthermore, streetscape greenery is at least as strongly related to self-reported health as green areas.

Alcohol

Canada: Drinking in context: the influence of gender and neighbourhood deprivation on alcohol consumption May 09, 2012 01:34 pm

Aim: Findings from contextual studies have shown that living in both poor and affluent neighbourhoods increases the risk of drinking and drug use, but few studies have examined the connection between neighbourhood context and drinking from a gender perspective. Conclusion: Men, like women, experience gender-specific health difficulties (eg, alcohol-related problems) suggesting the need for a gendered focus on policies and services related to women's and men's health.
Tobacco

Jordan: Exposure of Pregnant Women to Waterpipe and Cigarette Smoke

May 10, 2012 11:05 am

Aim: The objectives of this study are to determine the prevalence and patterns of cigarette, waterpipe, and passive smoking among pregnant women in Jordan, and to assess their perception of harmful effects of cigarette and waterpipe smoking. Conclusion: Exposure of pregnant women to tobacco smoke is a public health problem in Jordan that requires immediate action.

USA: Characteristics of Alcoholic Smokers, Nonsmokers, and Former Smokers: Personality, Negative Affect, Alcohol Involvement, and Treatment Participation

May 10, 2012 10:39 am

Aim: Prior research has not established whether alcoholic smokers differ from their nonsmoking counterparts in terms of alcohol involvement severity and treatment participation. Conclusion: Common risk factors for both alcoholism and smoking behavior, such as personality traits and negative affect, may obscure personality differences between smokers and nonsmokers in an alcohol treatment sample.

Further resources

Panacea - an online network linking the global physical activity and

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**Obesity Learning Centre** - Aimed at professionals working to prevent obesity

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