

Prevalence, Factors Associated with Obesity and Overweight among Students in Brazzaville in 2020

Simplice Innocent Moussouami^{1,2*}, Issiako Bio Nigan¹, Yvon Rock Ghislain Alongo², Polycarpe Gouthon¹, François Mbemba²

¹Sport, Health and Evaluation Research Unit (UR/SSE), National Institute for Youth, Physical Education and Sport (INJEPS), University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC), Porto-Novo, Benin

²Laboratory of Physiology of Effort and Biomechanics (LPB), Higher Institute of Physical Education and Sport (ISEPS), Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville, Congo

Email: *simplicemoussouami@gmail.com

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Abstract

Background: The prevalence of obesity is increasing dramatically around the world and it is reasonable to assume that young people attending school in Brazzaville are not spared. The objective of this study was to determine the prevalence, as well as the factors associated with obesity and overweight among students in Brazzaville. **Methods:** This is a cross-sectional study, conducted as a questionnaire survey with 2052 pupils (869 boys and 1183 girls, aged 14 to 18). Obesity and overweight were determined from the body mass index and reference curves of the International Obesity Task Force (IOTF), the associated factors, by performing the logistic regression. **Results:** The prevalence of overweight in private and public institutions was 15.6% versus 5.5% ($p < 0.001$) and obesity prevalence was 4.0% versus 1.5% ($p < 0.001$), respectively. The main factors associated with obesity and overweight were: parents' monthly income (OR = 1.73), car as a means of transportation (OR = 2.75) and family history of obesity (OR = 7.73). On the other hand, attending a public school, walking and high levels of physical activity had a protective effect against obesity in this population. **Conclusion:** The prevalence of obesity was higher in private institutions and required management and prevention strategies.

Keywords

Adolescents, Secondary Schools, Weight Status, Risk Factors, Republic of Congo

1. Introduction

Obesity is considered to be an excessive accumulation of body fat that can lead to adverse health consequences [1]. In addition to being a risk factor for cardiovascular disease, obesity is associated with a wide range of abnormalities such as hypertension, metabolic syndrome, certain cancers, sleep apnoea syndrome and type 2 diabetes [2] [3]. Obesity in children and adolescents presents risks that persist into adulthood. The shift from a diet rich in starchy, high-fibre to high fat animals, sugar and manufactured goods, and the reduction in physical activity associated with changes in social habits, are the main causes of obesity and overweight in young people [4].

Obesity is increasing rapidly, but this seemed to be the case only in developed countries. It is currently not sparing developing countries. It is now affecting children and adolescents, as indicated by the results of 450 national cross-sectional surveys in 144 countries, which report that 43 million children, *i.e.*, a prevalence of 6.7%, were considered overweight or obese in 2010 [5]. The same authors state that 35 million of these children are from developing countries and that this prevalence is expected to reach 9.1% by 2020.

Several studies around the world have shown that obesity is increasingly prevalent in schools. For example, the overall prevalence of obesity and overweight among school children in Ghana was 16.4% [6]. In a study conducted with a sample of 1781 Tanzanian school children aged 12 - 18 years, 15.9% were overweight and 6.7% were obese [7]. High prevalence of adolescent obesity has been observed in Africa. In Algeria, it has been estimated at over 10% for both sexes [8] and the Congo is not spared.

With the increase in the price of a barrel of oil in the period from 2001 to 2014, Brazzaville, the capital city, has modernized and experienced rapid demographic growth, due to a significant migratory flow. This phenomenon has been accompanied by an increase in the school enrolment rate, which rose from 73% in 1992 to 95% in 2017 [9]. As the improvement of school infrastructure, human and financial resources have not kept pace with this trend, a deterioration in the quality of education, which was almost exclusively public, has been observed over the same period. The democratization of the country's various sectors in 2001 led to the development of private education and a proliferation of public schools. These public schools are mainly attended by children from well-to-do families, who have adopted a new lifestyle characterized by car travel, consumption of high energy foods, sedentary lifestyle, etc. The consequences of this new lifestyle are not only a lack of education, but also a lack of knowledge about how to live and work. The consequences of this new lifestyle for adolescents need to be investigated.

Little work is available on the current situation of this population, particularly on the factors associated with obesity and overweight among Brazzaville students. To our knowledge, a study by Mbemba *et al.* [10] in a professional setting revealed that most people were underweight and had a low energy intake, as well as a risk

of protein, magnesium, calcium and iron deficiency. Another school-based study in Brazzaville in 2007 of 862 pupils aged 7 - 18 years reported that overweight was 4.1% [11]. Similarly, in 2010, in the same locality and still in a school setting, an increase in the prevalence of overweight of 7.4% was observed in children and adolescents aged 7 to 16 years, all sexes combined [12].

Due to the rapid development of overweight in adolescents, the available data may be considered outdated and need to be updated. The aim of this study was therefore to determine the prevalence and risk factors associated with overweight and obesity among schoolchildren in Brazzaville in 2018.

2. Material and Methods

This is a cross-sectional study, carried out in 2020 in six high schools and colleges in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. Initial meetings took place 72 hours before the actual survey with the heads of the schools, then with the students to discuss the objective and stages of the study, obtained their authorisation and agree on the date of the survey. On this occasion, a copy of the questionnaire and the informed consent form were given to each student interested in the study, with a view to informing their parents. The parents were asked to read both documents, sign the free and informed consent for their children's participation in the study, and then complete the socio-demographic section of the questionnaire. Both documents were collected the next day, after the completion check was carried out with the help of the schools' administration. The students were informed about the rest of the survey, which was to take place on the agreed day, after school, in a room that each school had made available to us. On the day of the survey, anthropometric measurements were taken and other data concerning the physical activity level of the students surveyed were recorded and transcribed on the questionnaire. The study was approved by the Comité Scientifique Sectoriel (CSS) des Sciences et Techniques des Activités Physiques et Sportives (STAPS) of the Université Marien Ngouabi de Brazzaville (Congo).

2.1. Study Population and Sampling

A sample of 2052 students (869 boys and 1183 girls aged between 14 and 18 years), well above the minimum number of 1623 students calculated from Schwartz's formula (1988), took part in the survey. Participants were selected using the random method and the three-level cluster technique. Thus, all volunteer pupils aged 14 to 18 years, attending classes of 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st year of six schools in the three geographical areas of Brazzaville drawn at random, were enrolled.

2.2. Data Collection Tool and Procedures

2.2.1. Questionnaire

A questionnaire was used to collect the first part of the socio-demographic data, *i.e.*, sex, date of birth, body mass, height, waist circumference, area of residence of the pupil, means of transport used to go to school, occupation, monthly in-

come and level of education of father. The second part of the questionnaire was the short version of the International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ), a validated tool used to determine Physical Activity Levels (PAL). The IPAQ consisted of six questions under four headings related to activities performed in the last seven days. These are: 1) intense activity; 2) moderate activity; 3) walking; and 4) sitting [13].

2.2.2. Studied Variables

The dependent variable in this study was weight status with two modalities: normo-weighted and overweight/obese. Any student with a BMI below the 85th percentile was considered normo-weighted and any student with a BMI above the 85th percentile was considered overweight/obese. The independent variables were: 1) the type of school which could be public or private; 2) the socio-economic status of the parents operationalised by the monthly income with three modalities: less than 250,000 CFA francs; 250,000 to 500,000 CFA francs; more than 500,000 CFA francs; 3) the educational level of the parents with three modalities: not enrolled, primary education level and secondary or higher education level; 4) the occupation of the parents with two modalities: office worker and manual worker; 5) means of travel with the three modalities bus/motorcycle, car, feet; 6) level of physical activity of students with the three modalities: low, moderate and high; and 7) sedentary time with three modalities: less than 2 hours/day, 2 to 4 hours/day, more than 4 hours/day.

2.2.3. Procedures

On the day of the survey, the pupils present were received in groups of twenty, by each of two trained assistant researchers. The measurements were carried out by the trained researchers using the same standard tools and the data were transcribed onto the first part of the questionnaire which was then returned to them. The other parts of the questionnaire (dietary habits, level of physical activity) were then filled in by each student under the supervision of the assistant investigators who provided explanations if necessary.

2.2.4. Anthropometric Measurements and Body Composition

Body mass and height were measured to the nearest 0.1 kg and 0.1 cm respectively, using a BC535 multifunctional impedance meter scale (Tanita, Japan) which also determined the percentage of fat and a Seca 216 wall-mounted stadiometer (Seca SA, Semur-en-Auxois, France). Body mass index was calculated using the formula $\text{BMI}/\text{height}^2$ (kg/m^2). Waist circumference was measured with an accuracy of 0.1 cm, using a flexible, non-stretchable tape measure with a spring to regulate the tension applied during measurement. Weight status was defined using the IO-TF (International Obesity Task Force) BMI cut-off points for age and gender [14].

2.2.5. Physical Activity Level

Activity level was measured using the International Physical Activity Question-

naire (IPAQ). Three levels of physical activity are defined by the IPAQ group: high (>MET-min/week), moderate (600 to 1500 MET-min/week) and low (less than 600 MET-min/week). The averages obtained were used to determine three levels of sedentary behaviour: <2 h, 2 to 4 h and >4 h per day.

2.3. Statistical Analysis

Data were entered into Epi Info and processed with SPSS Inc. software (version 22.0, USA). Differences in prevalences and anthropometric data were determined using the chi-square test and Student's t-test for independent samples, respectively. Logistic regression analysis with calculation of the odds ratio (OR) was performed to determine the association between socioeconomic characteristics, physical activity level (independent variables) and overweight and obesity (dependent variable). A univariate analysis was first performed to identify the independent variables significantly associated with overweight and obesity. These variables were then entered into the multivariate logistic regression analysis to determine the strongest associations with the dependent variable. The significance level of the statistical tests was set at $p < 0.05$.

3. Results

The mean age of the students studied was 15.00 ± 1.19 years with a mean weight of 54.99 ± 10.48 kg (Table 1).

Females accounted for 57.7% of the sample. The percentage of students with a family history of obesity was 8.5%, the percentage of students who came to school by car was 20.7%, and students from parents with secondary or higher education represented 93.0% of the sample studied. The number of pupils from public and private schools was 1022 (49.8%) and 1030 (50.2%) respectively. The total prevalence of overweight and obesity among the pupils surveyed (Table 2) was 3.5% and 9.8% respectively. This prevalence was higher in private than in

Table 1. Anthropometric characteristics of school adolescents in Brazzaville (n = 2052).

	Private schools (n = 1030)		Public schools (n = 1022)	
	Boys	Gils	Boys	Gils
Age (years)	15.5 ± 1.3**	15.2 ± 1.26	15.3 ± 1.1***	15.1 ± 1.0
Height (m)	1.63 ± 0.07***	1.61 ± 0.06	1.63 ± 0.08	1.60 ± 0.06
Weight (kg)	57.0 ± 10.9	57.0 ± 12.4	52.8 ± 7.9	51.7 ± 8.0
BMI (kg/m²)	21.5 ± 3.9	22.1 ± 4.3*	20.1 ± 3.0	20.2 ± 2.9
%G	18.8 ± 4.5	24.6 ± 7.9	17.5 ± 3.9	23.1 ± 6.6***
TT (cm)	78.4 ± 9.4***	75.7 ± 9.1	76.5 ± 7.6***	73.1 ± 6.7

BMI: body mass index; %F: percentage of fat; WC: waist circumference; Numbers in the table refer to means ± standard deviation; *: difference between girls and boys significant at $p < 0.05$; **: difference between girls and boys significant at $p < 0.01$; ***: difference between girls and boys significant at $p < 0.001$.

Table 2. Frequency distribution of weight status among school adolescents in Brazzaville (n = 2052).

	Private schools (n = 1030)		Total % [IC 95%]	Public schools (n = 1022)		Total % [IC à 95%]
	Boys % [IC 95%]	Gils % [IC 95%]		Boys % [IC 95%]	Gils % [IC 95%]	
Maigres	19.1 [15.3 - 22.8]	17.9 [16.0 - 20.8]	18.4 [21.1 - 29.2]	25.1 [21.1 - 29.2]	23.0 [19.6 - 26.4]	23.9 [21.3 - 26.5]
Normo pondérés	60.1 [55.4 - 64.8]	60.5 [56.6 - 64.4]	60.3 [57.4 - 63.3]	69.6 [65.3 - 73.9]	71.2 [67.5 - 74.9]	70.5 [67.7 - 73.3]
Surpoids	14.5 [11.7 - 17.3]	17.2 [13.6 - 20.8]	15.6 [13.4 - 17.8]	3.6 [1.8 - 5.3]	4.33 [2.6 - 5.9]	4.0 [2.8 - 5.2]
Obèses	3.5 [1.7 - 5.3]	6.9 [4.9 - 8.9]	5.5 [4.1 - 6.9]	1.4 [0,4 - 2.30]	1.5 [0,4 - 2.7]	1.5 [0.7 - 2.2]

CI: 95% confidence interval; n: number of people.

public schools (15.6% [95% CI: 13.4 - 17.8] versus 4.0% [95% CI: 2.8 - 5.2] and 5.5% [95% CI: 4.1 - 8.9] versus 1.5% [95% CI: 0.7 - 2.2] ($p < 0.001$). The prevalence of obesity among girls in public schools was 6.9% [95% CI: 4.9 - 8.9] higher than that of boys 3.5% [95% CI: 1.7% - 5.3%]. The same was true for the prevalence of overweight among girls 17.2% [CI 95%: 13.6% - 20.8%] versus 14.5% [CI 95%: 11.7% - 17.3%]. Among the 1022 participants from public schools, the prevalence of obesity among boys and girls was 1.4% [CI 95%: 0.4% - 2.30%] and 1.5% [CI 95%: 0.4% - 2.7%], respectively, and the prevalence of overweight was 3.6% [CI 95%: 1.8% - 5.3%] and 4.33% [CI 95%: 2.6% - 5.9%], respectively.

The regression analysis showed that obesity was inversely associated with the type of institution (OR = 0.22). On the other hand, obesity was significantly associated with the use of the car as a means of transport (OR = 2.75), with the monthly income of the parents (OR = 1.73) in the case of children in public schools. The level of sedentary behaviour (less than 4 hours per day) in both private (OR = 12.60) and public schools (OR = 2.60) was also significantly associated with obesity. Finally, family history of obesity had a significant contribution (OR = 4.43 in private versus 7.70 in public) (Table 3).

4. Discussion

The objectives of this study were to investigate the prevalence of overweight and obesity and to identify associated factors in the population of adolescents aged 14 - 18 years in secondary schools in Brazzaville, Congo.

4.1. Validity and Reliability

The sample of students enrolled in this study was drawn using the random method and the three-stage stratified cluster technique. The actual sample size was much larger than the theoretical sample size calculated from the Schwartz (1988) formula. In order to ensure the reliability of the data collected, a validated questionnaire and electronic equipment were used to carry out the various measurements. Robust tests were used for the statistical analysis of the data. These various precautions suggest that the results obtained can be generalized to the entire population of obese adolescents attending school in Brazzaville. However, some

Table 3. Univariate and multivariate models of socioeconomic factors and level of physical activity associated with overweight and obesity among school adolescents in Brazzaville (n = 2052).

	Private schools (n = 1030)				Public schools (n = 1022)			
	Not obese (n = 812)	Obese (n = 218)	OR brut (IC 95%)	Adjusted OR (IC 95%)	Not obese (n = 966)	Obese (n = 56)	Crude OR (IC 95%)	Adjusted OR (IC à 95%)
Means of travel								
- Bus/motorcycle	187	141	1.00	1.00	89	8	1.00	1.00
- Car	126	32	2.36 (1.5 - 3.8)***	2.75 (1.75 - 4.42)***	197	17	0.88 (0.33 - 2.16)	0.88 (0.33 - 2.16)
- Foot	489	45	0.33 (0.19 - 0.50)***	0.36 (0.22 - 0.59)***	680	31	0.54 (0.29 - 1.03)***	0.54 (0.29 - 1.03)***
Parents occupation								
- Unemployed	36	8	1.00	1.00	68	1,00	1.00	1.00
- Office worker	627	189	0.73 (0.30 - 1.85)	0.79 (0.36 - 1.31)	376	28	3.88 (0.77 - 70.51)	3.88 (0.77 - 70.51)
- Manual worker	149	21	0.46 (0.15 - 1.85)	0.49 (0.16 - 1.91)	522	27	3.07 (0.63 - 55.57)	3.07 (0.63 - 55.57)
Monthly income								
- From 200,000 to 500,000	485	119	1.00	1.00	83	6	1.00	1.00
- Less than 200,000	142	16	1.32 (0.71 - 2.20)	1.51 (0.81 - 2.51)	304	11	1.38 (0.69 - 2.95)	1.38 (0.69 - 2.95)
- More than 500,000	185	83	1.64 (0.84 - 3.71)**	1.73 (0.50 - 1.78)**	579	39	1.25 (0.38 - 3.76)	1.25 (0.38 - 3.76)
Family history of obesity								
- No	736	154	1.00	1.00	959	31	1.00	1.00
- Yes	76	64	4.38 (2.98 - 6.45)***	4.43 (3.08 - 6.71)***	10	25	7.54 (3.42 - 17.98)***	7.70 (3.50 - 18.11)***
Physical ability level								
- Low	28	115	1.00	1.00	41	33	1.00	1.00
- Moderate	434	89	0.04 (0.02 - 0.08)***	0.02 (0.02 - 0.08)***	265	19	0.03 (0.0 - 0.07)***	0.05 (0.0 - 0.08)***
- High	350	14	0.01 (0.01 - 0.02)***	0.07 (0.01 - 0.12)***	660	4	0.01 (0.00 - 0.03)***	0.02 (0.00 - 0.04)***
Sedentary lifestyle								
- [2, 4] hours/day	634	63	1.00	1.00	801	29	1.00	1.00

Continued

- <2 hours/day	39	0	0.08 (0.05 - 0.27)	0.04 (0.00 - 1.43)	56	0	0.004 (0.00 - 1.42)	0.004 (0.00 - 0.46)
- >4 hours/day	139	155	11.5 (7.5 - 18.0)***	12.6 (5.61 - 28.63)***	109	27	1.21 (0.57 - 2.83)***	2.60 (0.62 - 2.91)***

OR: odds ratio; 95% CI: 95% confidence interval; n: number of participants;*: OR significant at $p < 0.05$; **: OR significant at $p < 0.01$ ***: OR significant at $p < 0.001$.

limitations should be noted. The first is due to the type of study and its cross-sectional nature, which only allows a temporal snapshot of the phenomenon studied. The second stems from the information collected on morbid antecedents and lifestyle, which was based solely on the participants' declarations, without any other rigorous verification. Finally, as regards the measurement of economic status, there is no standardized grid, which may explain the heterogeneity of the results of the work on adolescents. These various limitations do not, however, affect the observations of this study, whose results can be considered valid, reliable and therefore generalizable to all pupils in the city of Brazzaville.

4.2. Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity

The low prevalence of overweight and obesity recorded in this study seems surprising. Given the trend in the evolution of this disease, the context (urban environment) and the target population studied (adolescents attending school in the capital of Congo), it was reasonable to expect higher values than those reported in 2012 [12]. However, two arguments could justify these results. The first is related to the reference standards used for the classification of obesity. The IOTF reference curves used in this study to determine weight status may have introduced differences from the WHO references in the other studies. The other argument relates to the nature of the target population studied. In this study it was exclusively adolescents aged 14 - 18 years, whereas the other studies involved a more heterogeneous population, including other age groups in addition to adolescents.

The prevalence rates of overweight and obesity among school-going adolescents in Brazzaville obtained in this study are similar to those found among Togolese adolescents aged 8 - 14 years, in whom overweight was 5% and obesity 13.7% [15]. On the other hand, they are higher than the rates of 8.8% overweight and 3.1% obesity recorded among Ethiopian pupils in Bahir Da [16]. Our results are also higher than those of a previous study conducted in the Democratic Republic of Congo among adolescents, which reported prevalence rates of overweight and obesity of 10% versus 1.5% among girls and 5% versus 0.4% among boys [4]. They are also higher than the rates of 0% obesity and 5% [IC 95%: 1.0% - 8.8%] overweight reported in Ouidah in Benin [17].

These high prevalences of overweight and obesity observed in our sample may be due to the current lifestyle of Brazzavillians, characterized by a reduction in

physical activity to the detriment of motorized means of transport and an increase in the consumption of foods rich in fat and sugar. Differences in prevalence were found between girls and boys, with a predominance of girls in both types of institution.

The significantly higher rates of obesity and overweight among girls can be attributed to the low levels of physical activity that girls tend to engage in, as they also have little leisure time. The low physical activity of girls is generally associated with the frequency of travelling to school by means of transport (bus and car). One plausible explanation is related to the role assigned to girls and boys by African culture. Thus, intense physical exercise is considered more appropriate for boys. In contrast, housework and other low-intensity physical activities are reserved exclusively for girls.

The study also found a higher prevalence of overweight and obesity among adolescents attending private schools. However, these results are lower than those obtained in South Africa in public schools, which reported 8.57% obesity and 15.43% overweight [18]. These results were also observed in a study conducted in Lithuania among students, which estimated the prevalence of obesity among boys and girls at 11.7% and 12.6% and 4.9% and 3.4% respectively [19]. This trend is thought to be due to the fact that adolescents in public schools are predominantly from families with a high socio-economic level (monthly income). This status of the parents gives them the possibility to consume luxury foods that are often energetic (fast food, schawarmas, cakes, etc.) purchased in shops. Also, the ability of these social groups to obtain imported food is perceived in the Congolese environment as a positive enhancement and a sign of good health. These observations also reflect the lack of health education and poor lifestyle habits (no extracurricular sports, snacking) among these pupils. In this context, we note that public school children from privileged backgrounds have less physical activity (home-school-home travel by vehicle) and they spend a lot of time in front of television screens, doing less and less domestic activities.

4.3. Factors Associated with Overweight

The risk of becoming overweight and obese was 44 times higher in pupils attending public schools and from parents with a high socio-economic status. Socioeconomic status is one of the important factors to be considered for its strong association with weight gain. Numerous studies in middle-income countries have shown this significant relationship between obesity and children who travel by car at least some of the time and who come from parents with high income and education. Our results are in line with those of authors who found that higher socio-economic status increased the risk of obesity [20]. These other authors found that parents' monthly income, father's education level higher than high school were all significant predictors of overweight and obesity [20]. In contrast, other authors found that Saudi adolescents were likely to be obese while all parental socioeconomic variables were not significantly associated with obesity [21].

Another finding of this study suggests that low physical activity level is significantly associated with weight gain. These observations are consistent with those of a study predicting obesity in adolescents (OR = 2.29; 95% CI = 1.45 - 3.68) [6]. The same finding was made in Benin in a study that found that low physical activity (OR = 44.93; 95% CI: 35.06 - 57.58) was a predictor of overweight [17]. Finally, a study in Ghana with 543 children aged 8 - 17 years found that a sedentary lifestyle characterized by time spent watching television, computers and video games was a risk factor [6].

Our results contrast with those of a study that showed that physical activity level was not associated with the occurrence of obesity in adolescents [22]. The same results were found in Palestinian adolescents [23]. These data obtained attest to the fact that the obese adolescents in this study do not participate in extracurricular physical activity in the physical education and sports classes organized in their schools. The main reason given for this was that they had more body fat than the normal weight group.

The parents' pathological history is an important contributor to weight gain in adolescents. These results corroborate those of a previous study that showed that parental body weight influences children's weight gain [24]. Similarly, epidemiological studies estimate the role of heredity in the development of early obesity at between 30% and 50%. According to these studies, a child is eight times more likely to become obese when both parents are already obese, compared to a child with parents of normal weight. Finally, compared to their normo-weighted counterparts, overweight adolescents in Brazzaville very generally have obese parents. The reasons are both behavioural and genetic. 70% of obese children have an obese parent. If one parent is massively obese, the risk in the offspring is multiplied by 5 [24].

5. Conclusion

The objectives of this study were: 1) to estimate the prevalence of obesity and overweight in private and public schools in Brazzaville; 2) to determine the factors associated with obesity and overweight in this population. The results show that the prevalence of overweight and obesity among adolescents attending school in the city of Brazzaville is higher in public schools than in public schools. They also show that the type of school, the socio-economic status of the parents and the level of physical activity are factors associated with obesity in this population. These results merit special attention and, consequently, the implementation of a strategy to prevent and combat this scourge. As a precaution, a programme that includes nutritional education and some forms of physical exercise for these adolescents could help to curb this problem. However, in the short- and medium-term, awareness campaigns on obesity and its consequences should be considered. At the level of these schools, programmes should be set up that are more adapted to all pupils, including obese children, in order to better interest them in physical activities and sports.

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State of knowledge on the subject:

- The prevalence of obesity is increasing in a worrying way in the southern countries;
- Lifestyle change and dietary transition are the main factors associated with the increase in obesity.

Contributions of the Study to Knowledge

- The study showed that the prevalence of obesity is higher in public schools than in public schools in the capital city of Congo (Brazzaville);
- It also revealed that the type of school, the socio-economic status of parents and the level of physical activity were factors associated with obesity;
- She suggested that parents and governments on our continent should be aware of the rapid evolution of this phenomenon in order to take appropriate precautions based on the identified associated factors.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Contribution of the Authors

All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

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