

**FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH OVERWEIGHT/OBESITY AMONG ADULTS IN URBAN INDONESIA**  
**(FAKTOR-FAKTOR YANG TERKAIT DENGAN OBESITAS PADA ORANG DEWASA DI PERKOTAAN INDONESIA)**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Overweight/obesity is increasing in developing countries, including Indonesia, being more prevalent in urban than rural areas. Understanding about associated factors of overweight/obesity is important for intervention purposes. The study objective was to assess factors associated with overweight/obesity in urban Indonesians. This cross-sectional study involved primary data collection among 864 adults aged 18-45 years in five major urban cities of Indonesia. Weight, height, waist and hip circumference were measured, and overweight/obesity was defined as BMI > 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Factors associated to overweight/obesity was elicited by logistic regression. The study showed that proportion of overweight/obesity was significantly higher among women than men (42.8% and 29.2%). Median total energy intake was 1974 kcal/day, and median fat intake was high (75.3 g; 25<sup>th</sup>-75<sup>th</sup> percentile: 49.6-109.4 g). More than 70 percent of subjects consumed high energy dense food/beverages often. Only around 27 percent of the subjects had high intensity physical activity/PA level and more than 50 percent spent >6 hours using TV/computer, indicating low PA level. After adjusting for confounders, often consumption of high energy dense food consistently showed association, although not significant, with overweight/obesity. Moreover, men with higher sedentary activities indicated by TV/computer usage >6 hours/day and women with less days of performing vigorous PA had 1.4 and 3 times higher odds to become overweight/obese, respectively. Thus, overweight/obesity prevention should focus on reduction of consumption of high-dense energy food, including fat intake; coupled with increasing PA level by having more days of vigorous recreational PA and reduction of TV/computer usage, especially among married older urban adult.*

**Keywords:** adult, food consumption, overweight, physical activity

**ABSTRAK**

Kejadian *overweight/obesitas* terus meningkat di negara-negara berkembang, termasuk Indonesia, dan lebih banyak terjadi di perkotaan. Pemahaman mengenai faktor-faktor terkait *overweight/obesitas* penting untuk tujuan intervensi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengukur faktor-faktor yang berhubungan dengan *overweight/obesitas* di perkotaan Indonesia. Penelitian *cross-sectional* ini melibatkan pengumpulan data primer pada 864 orang dewasa usia 18-45 tahun di lima kota besar Indonesia yang meliputi pengukuran berat badan, tinggi badan, lingkar pinggang dan perut. Kategori *overweight/obesitas* adalah BMI > 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Faktor-faktor terkait *overweight/obesitas* diukur dengan regresi logistik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa proporsi *overweight/obesitas* secara bermakna lebih tinggi pada wanita daripada pria (42,8% dan 29,2%). Median asupan energi total adalah 1974 Kkal/hari, dan median asupan lemak yang tinggi (75,3 g; 25-75 persentil: 49,6-109,4 g). Lebih dari 70 persen subyek mengkonsumsi makanan dengan energi tinggi. Hanya sekitar 27 persen subyek yang melakukan aktivitas fisik berintensitas tinggi, dan lebih dari 50 persen menonton tv/komputer >6 jam/hari, yang mengindikasikan rendahnya tingkat aktivitas fisik. Setelah dikontrol faktor perancu, subyek yang menikah berisiko *overweight/obesitas* 3 kali lebih tinggi daripada mereka yang tidak menikah. Konsumsi makanan dengan energi tinggi secara konsisten berhubungan dengan *overweight/obesitas*, meskipun tidak bermakna. Pria yang duduk lama/tidak beraktivitas (yaitu menonton tv atau menggunakan komputer >6 jam/hari), dan wanita yang jarang melakukan aktivitas fisik berintensitas tinggi, berisiko mengalami *overweight/obesitas* 1,4 dan 3 kali lebih besar. Maka, pencegahan *overweight/obesitas* perlu difokuskan pada penurunan konsumsi makanan berenergi tinggi, termasuk asupan lemak; didukung dengan peningkatan aktivitas fisik, terutama yang berintensitas tinggi dan mengurangi menonton tv/komputer, terutama pada orang dewasa perkotaan yang menikah. [**Penel Gizi Makan 2015, 38(2):95-110**]

**Kata kunci:** aktivitas fisik, dewasa, konsumsi makanan, obesitas

## INTRODUCTION

In the last two decades, a shift in disease incidence from the mainly communicable to non-communicable diseases has been observed<sup>1</sup>. It is believed that the shift has been affected by demographic and epidemiologic as well as nutritional transition. Nutritional transition, which was marked by changes in dietary pattern, coupled with the changes in physical activity patterns, has shifted the subsequent nutritional disorders from the mainly deficiency disorders to the problems of over sufficiency<sup>2</sup> leading to obesity<sup>3</sup>. The latest estimation shows that in 2014 about 1.9 billion adults over 18 years were overweight and at least 600 million of these were obese<sup>4</sup>. Despite the limitations in data availability and data quality, several reviews have noted that overweight and obesity is increasing at an alarming rate in developing countries both among adults and among the younger groups, being more prevalent in urban than rural areas<sup>5,6</sup>.

The situation in Indonesia is somewhat similar. According to the 2013 Riset Kesehatan Dasar, the prevalence of overweight and obesity combined (BMI >25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) in Indonesia has reached 32.9 percent and 19.7 percent for women and men, respectively<sup>7</sup>; which had markedly increased from what was reported in 2007 (14.8% in women and 13.9% in men)<sup>8</sup>. Not only that the prevalence has increased, the problem, which was initially considered as the problem of the well-to-do family, has shifted to lower socioeconomic (SES) segment of population<sup>9</sup>. Study conducted by Khusun in 2011 has found that prevalence of overweight and obesity combined in low SES group in Indonesia had increased from 15.6 percent in 1993 to 21.8 percent in 2000, and further increased to 30 percent in 2007<sup>9</sup>. This increasing number is alarming since people in low socioeconomic status have limited resources to access treatment for degenerative diseases.

Factors associated with the increasing trend remains need to be explored. Studies have shown that determinants of overweight and obesity are multi-factorial, and the factors might play as a single factor or in combination with other factors. However, the most direct factors related to overweight and obesity are food intake and physical activity<sup>10</sup>.

In relation to food intake, while total energy intake has been postulated as cause of overweight and obesity<sup>11,12</sup>, more attention has been given towards the food, food groups and dietary habits associated with increased energy intake<sup>12</sup>. Thus, it suggests that dietary

hypothesis as determinant of overweight and obesity has moved from merely about total energy intake into a wider consumption issues. For Indonesia, a study on determinant of obesity in Indonesia using panel data from 1993-2007 showed that changes in food consumption has been associated with obesity<sup>13</sup>. Nonetheless, it was still unclear which specific food has been associated with overweight/obesity. Understanding food or food groups associated with obesity will provide a more straightforward information for intervention.

In Indonesia published dietary studies, especially about type of food linked to overweight and obesity was limited. This study is intended to assess factors associated with overweight and obesity among adult Indonesians residing in major cities of Indonesia, especially on food consumption and physical activity level.

## METHOD

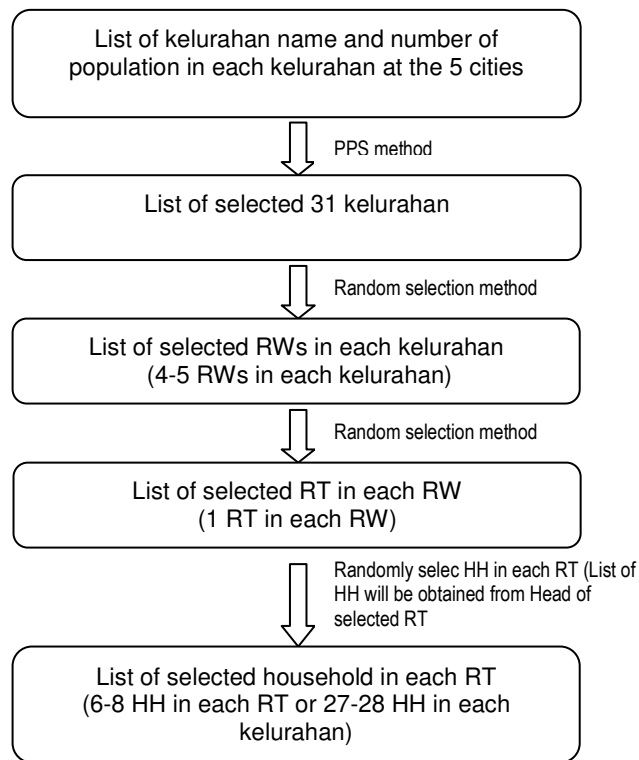
This was a cross-sectional study, conducting primary data collection in major urban areas, i.e capital city of five provinces with high number of population in Indonesia based on the 2014 data of Central Bureau of Statistics<sup>14</sup>. The cities were East Jakarta (DKI Jakarta), Surabaya (East Java), Bandung (West Java), Medan (West Sumatera) and Makasar (East Sumatera). The survey was intentionally conducted in urban area, since overweight and obesity prevalence was much higher among urban population<sup>5,6</sup> and changes in dietary pattern usually starts from urban area<sup>2</sup>. Data collection was conducted from December 2014-January 2015.

Subjects included in the survey were Indonesian men and women aged between 18 and 45, living in the selected household at least six months before the interview. Pregnant/lactating women and subjects with diet restriction (eg. people with illness or in recovery period of illness that influence his/her consumption) were excluded from the study.

### Sample size and sampling procedure

The sample size was calculated to estimate calorie intake among adult population in Indonesia and their physical activity level. Regarding the calorie intake, the following formula was used to calculate the sample size<sup>15</sup>.

$$n = \frac{(z_{\alpha/2})^2 \sigma^2}{E^2} \times DEFF$$



**Figure 1**  
**Flow of the Sampling Procedure at Community Level**

The formula above provided the sample size needed under the requirement of population mean interval estimate at  $(1 - \alpha)$  confidence level, margin of error  $E$ , population variance  $\sigma^2$  and design effect of DEFF. Here,  $z_{\alpha/2}$  was the  $100(1 - \alpha/2)$  percentile of the standard normal distribution. In this study margin of error of 5 from the mean was used.

Regarding the proportion of adult having consumption of sweet food more than once per day 1 and the physical activity level, the following formula was used to calculate the sample size<sup>15</sup>:

$$n = \frac{1.96^2 p (1-p) (DEFF)}{d^2}$$

The formula provided the sample size needed with desired level of relative precision or margin of error of  $d$  at 95% confidence level with correction for design effect of DEFF as the sampling procedure is not simple random sampling. In this study, margin of error used was relative precision of 10% for proportion of adult consuming more than once sweet food per day and adult having "active" physical activity level, while for sedentary behavior an absolute precision of 5% was used.

Based on the above formula and several references<sup>7,16,17</sup>, a minimum of 829 sample was

needed in order to answer objectives of this study, with 95% confidence interval, 10% relative precision design effect of 2 and allowing for 10% drop out during data collection. This study managed to include 867 subjects.

Sampling was done using cluster method, with kelurahan as the cluster. Total of 31 clusters were selected using proportionate-to-population size/PPS method. With PPS method, cities with higher number of population had more clusters selected for this survey compared with cities with lower number of population. In each cluster 27-28 households were visited. Selection of household for interview was done using multistage random sampling, in which 4-5 Rukun Warga/RW were randomly selected in each kelurahan. Then, 1 Rukun Tetangga/RT was randomly selected from each RW. As many as 6-8 households were selected in each RT. Flow of sampling procedure were given in Figure 1.

Survey team visited the selected household and in each household, before conducting interview, interviewer filled in household roster form to list all eligible household members aged 18-45 years, and then randomly selected one household member out of all eligible members in the respective

household. In a situation when the selected subjects are not able to be interviewed (for example, was out of town at the time of interview, refused to participate in the survey), reserve subjects were selected with the same sex as the initial selected subjects to avoid deviation in distribution of subjects toward a certain sex category.

#### Data collection

A structured interview with the respondents was performed to obtain socio-demographic characteristics, reproductive history, dietary intake as well as physical activity. All of these variables were the independent variables for the analysis, while the dependent variable was overweight status.

Sociodemographic characteristics included age, marital status, education level, household regularity of income and wealth quintile. Wealth index was constructed from data about housing condition and ownership of items using methodology described in RISKESDAS 2013<sup>7</sup>. The wealth index was then divided into quintiles, with lowest wealth quintile represented the poorest. Reproductive history was collected for women and included data on pregnancy experience and usage of contraceptives.

Dietary intake was assessed using the 24 hours dietary recall and food frequency questionnaire (FFQ). The 24-hour recall was conducted to estimate average Energy intake for the population, including from carbohydrate, protein and fat. Moreover, energy adequacy was also calculated by comparing with the 2013 Indonesian RDA for men and women with the specific age<sup>18</sup>, and categorized into three, i.e. < 70 percent adequacy, 70-120 percent adequacy and >120 percent adequacy (RefL SDT). From the 24-hour recall, dietary diversity score (DDS) was calculated based on consumption of 8 food groups in the preceding days, including staple, meat, fish, egg, milk, vegetable, fruit and sweets, modified from calculation of DDS based on guidelines from Food and Agriculture Organization<sup>19</sup>. Considering that the median DDS was 4 food groups, the score was categorized into  $\geq 4$  food groups and < 4 food groups.

Meanwhile, frequency of consumption of several types of food was assessed using FFQ. The FFQ approach asked respondents to report their usual frequency of consumption of each food from a list of foods for period of the preceding 30 days. Information is collected on frequency of consumption in a day, a week or a month. The frequency of consumption was then grouped as often, i.e. frequency of consumption

of certain food/food groups of  $\geq 12$  times per month, less frequent, i.e. frequency of consumption less than 13 times per month. The classification was done based on the assumption that consumption of less than 3 times per week in average was considered as less frequent.

Physical activity level was assessed using the long, 7-day recall of the International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ) developed by WHO ([www.ipaq.ki.se](http://www.ipaq.ki.se)). This questionnaire assesses walking and moderate and vigorous intensity physical activity profiles in three settings (or domains), i.e. activity at work and at home, travel to and from places, and recreational activities, and also assesses sedentary behavior. Prior to data collection some cultural adaptation of the questionnaire was conducted by providing examples which was relevant to the study settings. The physical activities listed were those done for the past 7 days, with minimally 10 minutes of each activity. Scoring and categorization of physical activity was conducted based on the IPAQ Scoring protocol<sup>20</sup>.

Total Physical activity level was expressed as MET-minutes/week, which is the multiplication of time conducting specific activities (in minutes per week) with the MET coefficient (MET for walking=3.3, for moderate physical activities=4 and for vigorous physical activities=8). The total MET-minutes/week score was categorized into three levels of physical activity: high, moderate, and low. Physical activity was categorized as follow: high if someone performed vigorous physical activity at least 3 days in a week and achieving at minimally 1500 MET-minutes/week or any combination of physical activity levels achieving minimally 3000 MET-minutes/week for 7 days; moderate if someone performed  $\geq$  three days of vigorous physical activities for at least 20 minutes each or  $\geq$  five days of walking/moderate physical activities for at least 30 minutes each or  $\geq$  five days of any combination of physical activities achieving minimally 600 MET-minutes/week; and low if the physical activities performed was not categorized as high or moderate. Moreover, physical activity was also expressed as the days of performing vigorous physical activities at any domain, such as vigorous gardening activities, carrying heavy objects, climbing stairs, cycling or running and doing vigorous sport activities. For sedentary behavior, time spent watching TV/using computer was used as indicator. The TV/computer usage was categorized as less than 3 hours per day, 3-6 hours per day and more than 6 hours per day.

Anthropometric assessments included body weight (using calibrated weighing scale (SECA), body height measurement (using stadiometer) and waist and hip circumference (using standard measuring tape) was assessed with a standardized procedure<sup>21</sup>. To avoid diurnal variation in anthropometric assessment, measurement will be conducted at the same time of the day or close to it ( $\pm 2$  hours) whenever possible. Body mass index (BMI) and Waist to Hip Ratio (WHR) of subjects was calculated to determine the nutritional status and abdominal over-fatness. Overweight/obesity was defined as BMI  $\geq 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>, so it included both overweight and obesity combined<sup>4</sup>; while for abdominal obesity, it was categorized as at risk for CVD if WHR  $> 0.8$  for men and  $> 0.9$  for women<sup>22</sup>.

Ethical clearance to conduct the study was obtained from Ethical Committee Faculty of Medicine, University of Indonesia, No 793/UN2.F1/ETIK/2014. Permission has obtained from the local authority health office (suku dinas kesehatan), district/municipality office (kecamatan/kelurahan) and Puskesmas. Informed consent were sought prior to data collection and data for each subject was treated confidentially.

### Statistical Analysis

As the pattern of overweight/obesity was different between men and women, data presentation of this survey results were based on sex. Continuous data was presented descriptively as mean  $\pm$ SD (for normally distributed data) and median (25-75th percentile) (for not-normally distributed data). Comparison of macronutrient intakes between sex was assessed using Mann-Whitney test since the intake data was not normally distributed. To determine factors associated with overweight/obesity, first bivariate analysis was conducted using simple logistic regression. Variables with was associated with overweight with p-value  $\leq 0.2$  was entered into multivariate logistic regression to associate dietary data as well as physical activity level to obesity, while also controlling for other possible confounding variables. P  $< 0.05$  was set as level of significance. Because the main objective of the multivariate analysis was to identify factors associated with overweight, especially dietary and physical activity factors, while also controlled for all possible confounding, the multivariate logistic regression used enter method. There is no attempt to develop prediction model in this analysis, however how much of the variation in overweight/obesity among subjects can be explained by the

variables used in the model was seen from the Negelkerke R<sup>2</sup>.

## RESULTS

### Socio-demographic characteristics and physical activity

Based on socio-demographic characteristics, Table 1 shows that mean age of subjects were 32 years and around 70 percent had at least high school education. No statistically significant different was found on age, education level, and wealth index between men and women. However, a significantly higher proportion of women than men were married (72.8% vs 60.3%, p=0.000). Occupation was generally different between men and women. Around 43.8 percent of women were housewife, while among men the three most common occupation were self-employed, blue collar worker and private employee. Among female, 68.5 percent had been pregnant and 46.7 percent use hormonal contraceptives during interview.

In terms of physical activity, only around 28 percent of the subjects had high intensity physical activity, defined as performing vigorous physical activity of at least 3 days in a week and achieving at minimally 1500 MET-minutes/week or any combination of physical activity levels achieving minimally 3000 MET-minutes/week for 7 days. Table 1 further shows that higher proportion of men than women performed low intensity physical activity (34.5% vs 20.2%), while higher proportion of women than men performed moderate intensity physical activity (52.5% vs 36.6%). In addition, more than half subjects had sedentary activity during weekdays indicated by usage of computer and TV watching for more than six hours per day. In line with the low intensity physical activity, proportion of men with sedentary activities of more than 6 hours was also significantly higher than women (59.4% vs 49.2%).

Figure 2 shows that women significantly had higher proportion of obesity than men (29.6% vs 17.4%). For overweight and obesity combined (BMI  $> 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>), the proportion in men and women were 42.8 percent and 29.2 percent respectively. This category of nutritional status, i.e. BMI  $> 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>, was used as dependent variables during multivariate analysis. In terms of abdominal obesity, the figure also shows that higher proportion of women than men had waist hip ratio (WHR) above cut-off (37.3% vs 26.2%, p  $< 0.05$ ), indicating a higher risk for cardiovascular diseases.

**Table 1**  
**Socio-Demographic Characteristics, Physical Activity and Nutritional Status**  
**among Men and Women Aged 18-45 Years in Major Urban Areas of Indonesia**

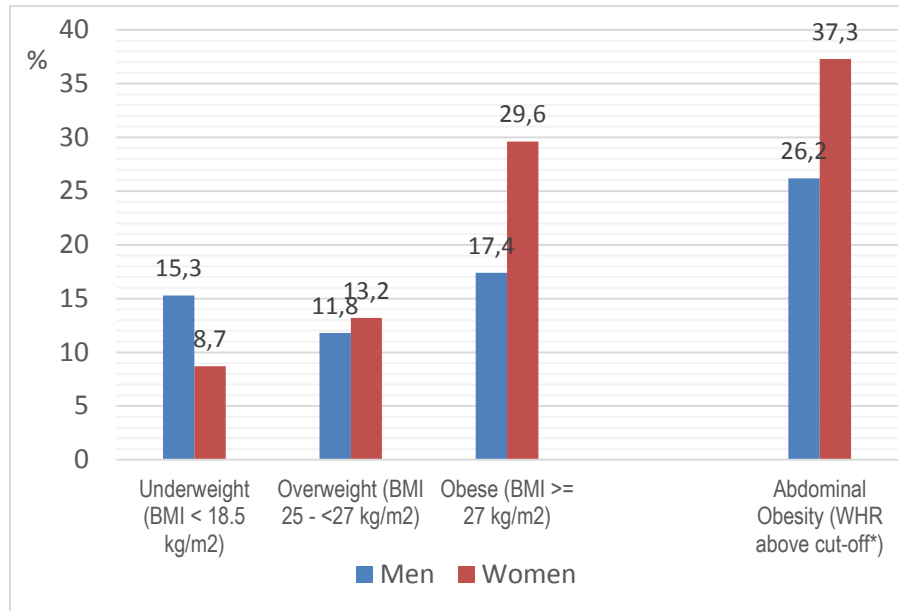
Characteristics	Total (n=867)	Men (n=426)	Women (n=441)	P <sup>1</sup>
<b>Sociodemographic Characteristics</b>				
Age (year) <sup>2</sup>	32.0 (25.0, 39.0)	32.0 (24.0, 39.0)	33.0 (26.0, 40.0)	0.073
Married (%)	66.7	60.3	72.8	0.000
Educational level (%)				
junior high or less	29.2	50.1	20.8	0.253
high school	50.1	52.6	47.6	
University	20.8	20.7	20.9	
Occupation (%)				
Housewife	-	-	43.8	0.000
self employed	20.5	29.6	11.8	
blue collar worker	16.6	24.4	9.1	
civil servant	4.6	4.9	4.3	
private employee	21.5	25.1	17.9	
student/not working	14.5	16.0	13.2	
Household 's income <sup>3</sup> (%)				0.043
Irregular	33.1	37.1	29.3	
Regular (daily/weekly)	13.0	13.1	12.9	
Regular (monthly)	53.9	49.8	57.8	
Wealth index Quintile <sup>4</sup>				0.498
Quintile 1,2	40.1	39.9	40.1	
Quintile 3	20.0	18.0	21.3	
Quintile 4,5	40.0	42.0	38.5	
<b>Reproductive history</b>				
Ever pregnant	-	-	68.5%	-
Ever use contraceptives	-	-	60.3%	-
Use of hormonal contraceptives	-	-	47.6%	-
<b>Physical activity (PA)</b>				
PA intensity (%)				
low intensity	27.2	34.5	20.2	0.000
medium intensity	44.8	36.6	52.6	
high intensity	28	28.9	27.2	
Sedentary activity <sup>5</sup> (%)				
Less than 3 hours/d	23.1	20.7	25.4	0.011
3-<6 hours/d	22.7	20.0	25.4	
≥6 hours/d	54.2	59.4	49.2	

<sup>1</sup>Chi-square test, except when stated otherwise;

<sup>2</sup>Median (25th, 75th percentile), p-value tested by Mann-Whitney test;

<sup>3</sup>Household income regularity was defined as having regular income as salary weekly or monthly;

<sup>4</sup>Wealth index was developed from housing condition and household ownership of electronic items and transportation facilities; <sup>5</sup>Sedentary activity was indicated by hours used for television watching and computer usage during weekdays



Note: \*p<0.05 (Chi square test); WHR cut-off: >0.8 for men and >0.9 for women

**Figure 2**  
**Nutritional Status of Men and Women Aged 18-45 Years in Major Urban Areas of Indonesia**

#### Energy intake and food consumption

In term of actual intake, men had significantly higher intake of energy, carbohydrate, protein and fat compared to those of the women's (Table 2). Nevertheless, when the intake was compared towards the Indonesian RDA, proportion of subjects with less energy intake (<70% RDA), moderate energy intake (70-120% RDA) and excess energy intake (>120% RDA) was not significantly different. Men significantly consumed instant noodle, egg, and sugar sweetened beverages (SSB) non milk (particularly coffee) more often than women. Moreover, significantly less men who frequently consumed vegetables, biscuits, and sweet foods. 'Often consumption' refers to consumption of ≥13 times a month.

Two of food groups which was known to have high energy density, i.e. fritters and SSB, were consumed a lot in the population. Overall, 74.7 percent of the study subjects consumed fritters often (i.e. at least more than three times a week) and 70 percent consumed SSB often. Of those consuming SSB non-milk, majority of the type of SSB non-milk consumed were sweetened tea, where 34.1 percent of the subjects consumed this type of SSB often. Bottled tea and instant coffee were consumed often by around 9 percent of the subjects, while

other type of SSB non-milk including juice, fruit flavoured drinks, carbonated soft drinks, hawker ice, isotonic drinks/sport drinks and energy drinks was consumed often only by less than 5 percent of the subject.

#### Factors associated with obesity

Table 3 and 4 show the association of several variables, including socio-demographic, diet-related and physical activity variables with overweight/obesity among men and women separately, as the pattern of overweight/obesity among men and women was very different. Overweight/obesity refers to BMI>25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Thus, the dependent variables included both overweight and obesity combined. For diet variables, only frequency of consumption taken from FFQ was used. For physical activity, physical activity level based on IPAQ criteria was not related to obesity. Therefore, number of days performing vigorous activity and sedentary activity indicated by duration of TV/computer usage was used as indicator. The table shows bivariate associations between each variable and overweight/obesity as well as the multivariate logistics regression result. Parameters shown in the table were the Odds Ratio (OR), i.e. the exponentiated values of the β, with its corresponding confidence interval (CI) and p-values.

**Table 2**  
**Macronutrient Intake and Food Group Consumption among Men and Women Aged 18-45Years in Major Urban Areas of Indonesia**

Characteristics	Total (n=867)	Men (n=426)	Women (n=441)	P <sup>1</sup>
Macronutrient intake				
Energy (kcal) <sup>2</sup>	1976 (1509, 2633)	2165 (1653, 2870)	1817 (1386, 2440)	0.000
Carbohydrate (gram) <sup>2</sup>	261.5 (193.4, 344.9)	286.5 (216.4, 371.0)	230.8 (169.2, 317.1)	0.000
Protein (gram) <sup>2</sup>	72.5 (52.1, 98.7) 75.3 (49.6, 109.4)	79.9 (56.8, 104.8)	65.9 (48.1, 91.4)	0.002
Fat (gram) <sup>2</sup>	81.8 (62.9, 109.5)	80.3 (55.3, 114.2)	69.2 (45.8, 105.5)	0.000
Percent Adequacy of energy intake (%) <sup>2</sup>		81.5 (62.8, 107.1)	82.4 (63.1, 112.3)	0.000
Category of percent adequacy of energy intake (%)				
<70%	35.2	36.7	33.9	0.292
70-120%	45.9	46.6	45.2	
>120%	18.9	16.7	20.9	
Percent of subjects consumethe type of food often <sup>3</sup>				
Instant noodle	15.1	18.5	12.1	0.012
Meat/chicken	52.5	55.6	49.7	0.085
Fish/seafood	40.1	39.4	40.8	0.673
Egg	35.1	39.4	31.1	0.012
Legumes	79.8	79.1	80.5	0.601
Vegetables	76.2	72.1	80.0	0.007
Fruits	48.1	45.6	50.3	0.174
Fritters	75.5	76.3	74.7	0.592
Bread	4.3	4.2	4.4	0.905
Biscuits	8.4	6.2	10.4	0.029
Chips	28.1	30.4	26.0	0.155
Sweet foods	37.6	29.7	45.0	0.001
SSB <sup>4</sup> milk	13.6	12.5	14.6	0.366
SSB <sup>4</sup> non milk	76.2	85.0	70.0	0.000
Non-instant coffee	14.9	24.9	5.6	0.000
Carbonated Soft Drinks	2.9	4.0	1.9	0.066
Home-prepared sweet tea	34.0	33.9	34.1	0.954
Sports drink	1.9	3.5	0.5	0.001
Bottled tea	9.5	10.0	9.0	0.649
Fruit juice	4.2	4.2	4.2	1.0
Instant coffee	14.3	19.5	9.5	0.0

<sup>1</sup>Chi-square test, except when stated otherwise;

<sup>2</sup>Median (25<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup> percentile), p-values tested by Mann-Whitney Test;

<sup>3</sup>refers to % of subjects who consumed the respective food group for ≥12 times a month;

<sup>4</sup>SSB=sugar sweetened beverages



**Table 3**  
**Bivariate and Multivariate Result of Factors Associated with Overweight/Obesity among Men Aged 18-45 Years in Major Urban Areas of Indonesia**

Variable	Overweight/Obesity: 0=No, 1=Yes				
	Bivariate			Multivariate*	
	N	OR (95% CI)	p	OR (95% CI)	p
<i>Sociodemographic Background</i>					
Age group					
18-35	268	1		1	
36-45	157	1.92 (1.16 - 3.19)	<b>0.01</b>	1.10 (0.59 - 2.05)	0.76
Marital Status					
Never married	160	1		1	
Ever Married	265	3.05 (1.64 - 5.67)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	3.26 (1.53 - 6.92)	<b>0.002</b>
Education Level					
Junior High School or less	70	1		1	
Senior High School	223	1.2 (0.63-2.42)	0.528	1.55 (0.75 - 3.21)	0.233
University	88	3.16 (1.54-6.49)	<b>0.002</b>	3.27 (1.34 - 7.97)	<b>0.009</b>
Wealth quintile					
Low	157	1		1	
Medium	128	1.27 (0.66 - 2.45)	0.473	1.15 (0.57 - 2.33)	0.690
High	138	1.88 (1.02 - 3.45)	<b>0.043</b>	1.21 (0.57 - 2.58)	0.622
<i>Food Consumption</i>					
Consumption of Noodles					
Less Frequent	27	1		1	
Often	398	2.12 (0.89 - 5.04)	0.09	2.38 (0.90 - 6.29)	0.079
Consumption of Chips					
Less Frequent	299	1		1	
Often	126	1.57 (0.93 - 2.66)	0.091	1.36 (0.76 - 2.41)	0.297
Consumption of sweet food					
Less Frequent	297	1		1	
Often	128	0.64 (0.36 - 1.16)	0.143	0.58 (0.31 - 1.08)	0.088
consumption of sweetend tea					
Less Frequent	142	1		1	
Often	283	1.56 (0.93 - 2.61)	0.104	1.58 (0.91 - 2.77)	0.105
Dietary Diversity Score					
<4 groups	138	1.64 (0.98 - 2.75)	0.058	1.66 (0.95 - 2.89)	0.073
>= 4 groups	287	1		1	
<i>Physical activity</i>					
Using TV computer					
<6 hours	351	1		1	
>= 6 hours	74	1.54 (0.84 - 2.84)	0.178	1.39 (0.71 - 2.73)	0.337

\*Logistic regression analysis using enter method, Nagelkerke R<sup>2</sup>=0.095

**Table 4**  
**Bivariate and Multivariate Result of Factors Associated with Overweight/Obesity**  
**among Women Aged 18-45 Years in Major Urban Areas of Indonesia**

Variable	Overweight/Obesity: 0=No, 1=Yes				
	n	Bivariate OR (95% CI)	P	Multivariate OR (95% CI)	P
<i>Sociodemographic Background</i>					
Age group					
18-35	263	1		1	
36-45	176	1.56 (1.03 - 2.36)	<b>0.036</b>	1.04 (0.65 - 1.66)	0.876
Marital Status					
Never married	102	1		1	
Ever Married	337	3.64 (1.95 - 6.79)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>3.13 (1.22 - 8.02)</b>	<b>0.017</b>
Education Level					
Junior High School or less	138	1		1	
Senior High School	209	0.49 (0.31 - 0.78)	<b>0.03</b>	0.73 (0.43 - 1.25)	0.253
University	92	0.70 (0.40 - 1.23)	0.216	1.07 (0.54 - 2.13)	0.846
Wealth quintile					
Low	146	1		1	
Medium	140	0.91 (0.56 - 1.49)	0.706	0.89 (0.52 - 1.53)	0.669
High	152	0.57 (0.34 - 0.96)	<b>0.033</b>	0.65 (0.35 - 1.17)	0.154
<i>Reproductive History</i>					
Pregnancy history					
Never Pregnant	139	1		1	
Ever Pregnant	300	2.17 (1.34 - 3.52)	<b>0.002</b>	0.78 (0.36 - 1.70)	0.531
Usage of hormonal contraceptives					
No	231	1		1	
Yes	208	1.73 (1.14 - 2.61)	<b>0.01</b>	1.21 (0.72 - 2.04)	0.466
<i>Food Consumption Pattern</i>					
Consumption of Chips					
Often	115	1.46 (0.93 - 2.30)	0.1	1.26 (0.76 - 2.06)	0.368
Less Frequent	324	1		1	
Consumption of SSB non milk					
Often	307	1.39 (0.87 - 2.20)	0.166	1.50 (0.90 - 2.48)	0.117
Less Frequent	132	1		1	
Consumption of SSB milk					
Often	65	0.44 (0.22 - 0.86)	<b>0.018</b>	0.50 (0.24 - 1.03)	0.061
Less Frequent	374	1		1	
Consumption of tubers					
Often	17	2.80 (1.06 - 7.42)	<b>0.039</b>	2.72 (0.92 - 8.01)	0.070
Less Frequent	422	1		1	
Consumption of Instant noodles					
Often	52	0.46 (0.22 - 0.97)	<b>0.042</b>	0.47 (0.21 - 1.08)	0.075
Less Frequent	387	1		1	

Variable	Overweight/Obesity: 0=No, 1=Yes				
	n	Bivariate OR (95% CI)	P	Multivariate OR (95% CI)	P
<i>Physical activity</i>					
Number of days performing vigorous physical activity					
Never	352	2.78 (1.05 - 4.84)	<b>0.04</b>	2.99 (1.06 - 8.41)	<b>0.038</b>
1-3 days	53	1.52 (0.48 - 4.84)	0.479	1.80 (0.52 - 6.22)	0.354
4 days or more	34	1		1	

\*Logistic regression analysis using enter method, Nagelkerke R<sup>2</sup>=0.119

Table 3 shows that before adjustment, risk of overweight/obesity in men was significantly higher among those aged above 35 years old, married, with university education and from the highest two wealth quintile ( $p < 0.05$ ). None of the food groups consumption was associated significantly with overweight/obesity. However, food groups which has borderline significance ( $p < 0.1$ ) to be associated with higher risk of overweight/obesity were noodles and chips. Consumption of sweetened tea showed tendency of association with overweight/obesity with  $p < 0.2$  and was included in the multivariate analysis, and so did the consumption of sweet foods, although the tendency was toward lower risk of overweight/obesity. Overweight/obesity risk was also higher among those with higher dietary diversity score. In terms of physical activity in men, only sedentary activity indicated by longer hours of TV/computer usage showed tendency to be associated with overweight/obesity with  $p < 0.2$  and thus included in the multivariate analysis. After adjustment for all variables in multivariate analysis, only marital status and education level were associated with overweight/obesity among men, all other variables showed no significant association. Ever married men had 3.26 (CI: 1.53 – 6.92) times higher odds to be overweight/obese than the non married one; while men with university education also had 3.27 (CI: 1.34 – 7.97) times higher odds to be overweight/obese than those with junior high school education or less.

However, consumption of noodles among men still showed strong Odds Ratio (2.38; CI: 0.90 – 6.29), but with borderline significant ( $p < 0.1$ ). The same was shown for the association between dietary diversity score and overweight/obesity among men, whereas men with lower DDS had 1.67 times higher odds to be overweight/obese than men with higher DDS.

Among women, bivariate analysis in Table 4 shows that risk of overweight/obesity was

higher among those aged more than 35 years old, married who have been pregnant and/or use hormonal contraceptives. However, by socioeconomic status (SES), contrary to the traditional pattern, a shift in overweight/obesity problem toward the lower SES groups was clearly shown. Overweight/obesity risk was higher among those with elementary/junior high school education and among those at the lowest two quintiles. Food consumption variables which was associated significantly with higher risk of overweight/obesity was only tuber, while consumption of SSB milk and instant noodle among women was associated significantly with lower risk of obesity. In terms of physical activity variables, number of days performing vigorous physical activities was associated significantly with overweight/obesity among women. After adjustment for all variables in multivariate analysis, only marital status and physical activity variables showed significant association, all other variables lost their significance. As was the case among men, married women had 3.13 (CI: 1.22 – 8.02) times higher odds to be overweight/obese than the non-married one; while women who never performed vigorous physical activity in a week had 2.99 (CI: 1.06 – 8.41) times higher odds to be overweight/obese than those performing at least 4 days in a week. In the adjusted multivariate analysis pregnancy experience and usage of hormonal contraceptives lost their significant association with overweight/obesity. Pregnancy and usage of hormonal contraceptives shared a lot of variation with marital status. Thus, the high risk of obesity among married women in fact may be explained by their pregnancy history and usage of hormonal contraceptives. The pattern of association between food consumption and obesity risk was not clear, even after adjustment for all variables. For most of the food groups, there was no significant association between nutritional status and frequency of food consumption. However,

consumption of cereals, SSB milk and instant noodles "often" showed a tendency to be associated with lower risk of obesity ( $p < 0.1$ ), while consumption of tubers was associated with higher risk of obesity, even after adjustment for SES variables.

## DISCUSSION

This study showed that the proportion of overweight and obesity combined ( $BMI > 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ) among adult Indonesian in five major urban cities being surveyed (Bandung, Jakarta, Surabaya, Medan and Makassar) were 29.2 percent and 42.8 percent for men and women, respectively. This proportion was much higher than the national prevalence reported by the Riskesdas 2013, i.e. 19.7 percent for men and 32.9 percent for women<sup>7</sup>. The same applies for abdominal obesity. However, the proportion of overweight/obesity found in this survey were still lower than the proportion found in studies in the urban slum Jakarta, where the proportion of overweight and obesity combined reached almost 80 percent<sup>16,23</sup>. Many studies have shown that in developing countries urban residents have a higher prevalence of obesity compared to rural residents<sup>24,25</sup>. The difference is marked in many developing countries, even when the population is compared at the same socioeconomic level<sup>26,27</sup>. This different prevalence may be related to differences in the characteristics of urban and rural areas. In many societies, urban areas are the place where modernisation initially took place before reaching rural areas<sup>28</sup>. As a result, there are typical differences between urban and rural areas, which include population size, density and heterogeneity, different access to education, employment and health services as well as alteration in the social and built environment<sup>29</sup>. In this study, it was noted that the educational level of the subjects was higher than the general Indonesian population<sup>30</sup>.

The study population generally had very high sedentary activities, with those performing sedentary activity (as indicated by TV/computer watching) more than 6 hours a day were more than 50 percent, which was double the proportion of those with sedentary activity more than 6 hours from RISKESDAS 2013<sup>7</sup>. This may be related to the higher urbanicity of the surveyed area compared to RISKESDAS 2013 and higher education level which lead to more sedentary occupational physical activities. High sedentary activities leads to low physical activity level and low energy expenditure, as was shown by a review on the relationship between television viewing, physical inactivity and obesity<sup>31</sup>. As much as 27 percent of the

study population had low intensity physical activity level with men had higher prevalence ( $> 30\%$ ) than women (20%), similar to the findings from RISKESDAS 2013, whereas as much as 26.1 percent of the Indonesian population had low intensity physical activity level<sup>7</sup>. Majority of the women was housewife, and thus generally considered having medium intensity physical activity level since many of the household chores fall under the criteria for medium physical activity. However, for both men and women, the prevalence of those performing high intensity physical activity level was only 27%, which was correlated well with the high sedentary activity of this population.

The study also shows that the median total calorie intake of the study population was 1976 KCal/day, with men having a significantly higher median calorie intake compared to women ( $p < 0.05$ ). For all sources of energy also, men had significantly higher intake compared to women ( $p < 0.05$ ). The median calorie intake of all subjects was higher than the mean calorie intake from the Total Diet Study (TDS)2014 of 1805 Kcal<sup>32</sup>. The same was found when calorie intake was stratified by gender (2165 vs. 1998 KCal/day for men and 1817 vs 1607 KCal/day for women)<sup>32</sup>. For the fat and protein intake, the current study population had much higher intake of both energy sources. The mean protein and fat consumption by men and women in urban areas in TDS 2014 survey were 61.8 and 50.5 g/day and 67.1 and 56.3 g/day respectively<sup>32</sup>. This was also in line with findings from other studies, which revealed that the diet of urban populations shows trends toward consumption of superior grain, more polished grain, food higher in fat and more animal products<sup>33</sup>. These consumption patterns closely reflect changes in food availability<sup>33</sup>.

The general impression from the low intensity physical activity as well as high sedentary activities coupled by the high intake of fat and protein in the study population may explain the higher obesity prevalence found<sup>31</sup>. A study by Roemling and Qaim in Indonesia showed that changes in food consumption pattern and shift in physical activities has a role in the increasing obesity problem in Indonesia<sup>13</sup>. Nonetheless, in this study statistical analysis showed no significant association between the two variables and overweight/obesity. First of all, the energy intake data from single 24-hour recall may not represent habitual intake. Secondly, under reporting of energy and fat intake was much higher among the overweight/obese individual and was much higher among women<sup>34</sup>.

Considering that overweight/obesity was much higher among women in this study, thus women was more at risk for under reporting energy and fat intake than men, leading to underestimation of their real energy intake. Third, the possibility of reverse causality may be present. Overweight/obese individual may have changed their dietary habit already at the time of survey. Since the survey is cross sectional, it can not ensured whether current dietary habit was related to their nutritional status or their nutritional status was the result of their dietary habit. Thus, a significant and meaningful association between dietary intake and overweight/obesity can not be established.

The same explanation applies for the association between physical activity level and overweight/obesity. Moreover, methodological difficulties in reliably estimating physical activity level has been the drawback in many studies<sup>35</sup>. The level of physical activity as measured by IPAQ in the study population also showed a monotonous pattern, with median physical activity level for most domain of 0 MET-minutes/week, indicating a very sedentary behaviour, especially among women. Therefore effort was made to find specific physical activity aspects that was associated with obesity. The analysis showed that for men, those with longer TV/computer viewing/usage duration tended to be more obese than those with shorter duration. This result was consistent with other studies which showed that increased TV-viewing time in a household had been positively correlated with obesity<sup>31</sup>. Meanwhile among women, because their physical activity was more sedentary than men, aspect of physical activity which was correlated with obesity was vigorous physical activity. Women with more frequency of vigorous physical activity in a week, had significantly lower risk for obesity than those without vigorous physical activity. This different domain of leisure time physical activity aspect among men and women provides important insight for specific messages to be delivered for each groups to increase their physical activities.

In terms of food intake, several food groups showed association during bivariate analysis but lost the signficiacy during multivariate analysis. This could mean that the differences in the food groups consumption was actually associated with other variables, such as age and SES level. Therefore when it was included in the regression analysis with these variables, the association lost their signficiacy. Consumption of high energy dense food such as chips and sugar sweetened beverages (SSB), consistenly showed

association, although not significant, with overweight/obesity. This result confirmed what has been found by other studies<sup>36,37</sup>. Thus, the importance of these high energy dense food in developement of obesity can not be just ignored. More studies need to be conducted to reveal the role of these high energy dense food on obesity.

On the contrary, some processed food such as sweet food, SSB milk and Instant noodles was associated with lower obesity. This does not mean that this food was a good food to prevent obesity. Further analysis showed that these food was consumed by younger aged populations, who naturally had lower risk of obesity than the older population. The fact that younger population consumed these type of food, and lower consumption of fruit and vegetables was worrying. The habit of these young adult may be carried over when they were older, when consequences of bad eating habit such as obesity and non communicable diseases started to emerged. Thus, the mesage from this study is clear that an improvement for better eating habit for younger adult as well as older adult is necessary in this study population.

One interesting observation was that in both men and women, obesity was much higher among the married individual and the effect size was high even after adjusting for age and SES variables. This result was similar with the study of Roemling and Qaim which found that eductaion level, age and marital status was the indirect factos associated with obesity among Indonesian<sup>13</sup>. Marriage in one side may influence food habit of individual<sup>38</sup>, especially in the eastern culture like Indonesia. Married individual may have more steady food pattern, with eating at home become a more feasible option and probably more enjoyable. For women, marriage also correlated very much with pregnancy experience. In our study, pregnancy experience was strongly associated with overweight. A systematic review showed that the result of studies on pregnancy weight gain and obesity is still inconsistent<sup>39</sup>. In this study population, considering the result of our analysis, the impact of pregnancy weight gain among women can not be dismissed and need further studies to clarify this phenomena.

The multivariate logistic analysis with variables shown in Table 5 and 6 showed an  $R^2$  of 9 percent for men and 12 percent for women. It indicated that the model can only explain small proportion of variation in overweight/obesity in this population. Much of the variation in overweight/obesity in the study population could not be explain. First of all it

could be related to the possibility that the indicator used in this study could not capture all dimensions of the variables intended to be measured in this study. Thus, only small fraction of dimensions of the variables were represented by the measurement, therefore explainability could be low. Secondly, there was error in measurement during data collection. Nonetheless, some quality assurance measures had already been implemented during data collection. Error in measurement could also be related to the inability of the measurement to capture the daily variation of the variables intended to be measured, i.e. Food intake and Physical activity. Thirdly, there are other variables that were not assessed in this study which was related to obesity, such as genetic and environment factors.

## CONCLUSION

This study showed that overweight/obesity was not associated with any single factor, and was generally due to multiple factors coming together, including age, marital status, food consumption and physical activity. The alarming fact was that the urban population being surveyed had a higher fat intake as compared to the general Indonesian population and consumption of high-dense energy food (i.e. fritters and sugar sweetened beverages, especially home-prepared coffee and tea) were very frequent. At the same time, the intensity of physical activity was considered low. Therefore it is quintessential to prioritize the balance of energy intake and physical activity for overweight/obesity prevention.

The study also provided a clear message that for overweight/obesity prevention it is important to reduce consumption of high energy dense food, to increase vigorous physical activities and reduce sedentary activities, especially among older married adult population. These messages supported the messages from the Indonesian Pola Hidup Bersih dan Sehat (PHBS= Clean and Healthy Lifestyle Pattern).

There was an urgent need to explore the effect of food intake, including intake of high dense energy food on overweight/obesity using method which can avoid reverse causality, such as using cohort study. Furthermore, the different food consumption pattern between the younger and older individual will also need further exploration in relation to overweight/obesity.

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