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Georgia Southern Examines Abdominal Adiposity and Caregiver Recall

October 11, 2013



A collaborative study including Dr. Yelena N. Tarasenko, Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University examines Abdominal Adiposity and Caregiver Recall of Healthcare Provider Identification of Child Overweight in the United States, 2001-2010. This was an observational study using a nationally representative sample of 14,694 children (2–15 years of age) from the 2001–2010 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. Proxy respondents (i.e., caregivers) for 4906 overweight or obese (BMI \geq 85th percentile) children reported whether a healthcare provider (HCP) had ever told them that their child was overweight. Multi-variable logistic regression analyses were used to examine associations between reported HCP identification of overweight and child sociodemographic and anthropometric characteristics.

Results indicate that over 75% of caregivers of overweight or obese children did not recall being notified of their child's weight status by an HCP, though this proportion has decreased over the past decade. A significant waist circumference by weight status interaction indicated abdominal adiposity was positively associated with reported HCP identification for obese children, but not for overweight children.

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