



# Analysis of data from School Physical Fitness Award Scheme

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## School Physical Fitness Award Scheme

- Co-organised by Hong Kong Childhealth Foundation, EDB, and Physical Fitness Association in 1990
- More than 448 primary and secondary schools participated
  - Covering >200,000 students

- 269 schools using the online system and uploaded students' data
  - 156,963 students



# Data collection is hard work...

- Teachers and schools are spending significant efforts and resources to collect the data
  - Teaching time
  - Planning for physical fitness tests
  - Executing the tests
  - Data entry
  - Data upload
  - Technical issues
  - ...
- But we think the data you collected will make a difference -



# Science

#### INSIGHTS

### MEDICINE

# Big data meets public health

## Human well-being could benefit from large-scale data if large-scale noise is minimized

By Muin J. Khoury<sup>1,2</sup> and John P. A. Ioannidis<sup>3</sup>

n 1854, as cholera swept through London, John Snow, the father of modern epidemiology, painstakingly recorded the locations of affected homes. After long, laborious work, he implicated the Broad Street water pump as the source of the outbreak, even without knowing that a Vibrio organism caused cholera. "Today, Snow might have crunched Global Positioning System information and disease prevalence data, solving the problem within hours" (1). That is the potential impact of "Big Data" on the public's health. But the promise of Big Data is also accompanied by claims that "the scientific method itself is becoming obsolete" (2), as next-generation computers, such

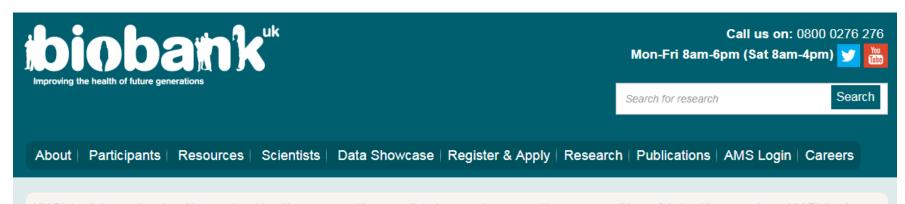


For nongenomic associations, false alarms due to confounding variables or other biases are possible even with very large-scale studies, extensive replication, and very strong signals (9). Big Data's strength is in finding associations, not in showing whether these associations have meaning. Finding a signal is only the first step.

Even John Snow needed to start with a plausible hypothesis to know where to look, i.e., choose what data to examine. If all he had was massive amounts of data, he might well have ended up with a correlation as spurious as the honey bee-marijuana connection. Crucially, Snow "did the experiment." He removed the handle from the water pump and dramatically reduced the spread of cholera, thus moving from correlation to causation and effective intervention.



# Experience in the UK...

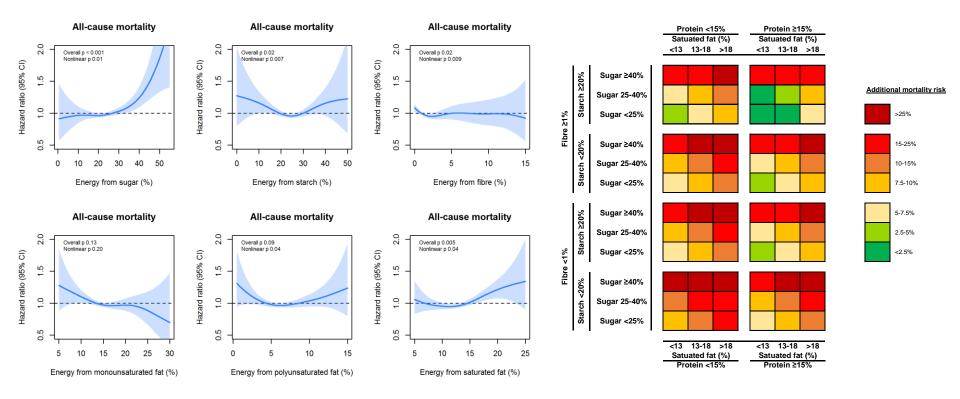


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Read more about Biobank UK



## ... using data to formulate nutritional guideline



Can we also do something in Hong Kong? Using the SPFAS?



# A 4-year longitudinal study

	2013/14	
	Boys	Girls
	(N=9935)	(N=9569)
Age, n (%), years		
6	2342 (23.6)	1889 (19.7)
7	2547 (25.6)	2393 (25.0)
8	3194 (32.1)	4053 (42.4)
9	1852 (18.6)	1234 (12.9)
10	0 ( 0.0)	0 ( 0.0)
11	0 ( 0.0)	0 ( 0.0)
12	0 ( 0.0)	0 ( 0.0)
13	0 ( 0.0)	0 ( 0.0)
Body weight status, n (%)		
Underweight	298 ( 3.0)	316 ( 3.3)
Normal weight	7402 (74.5)	7435 (77.7)
Obese	1510 (15.2)	1397 (14.6)
Overweight	725 ( 7.3)	421 ( 4.4)
Physical fitness tests, mean (SD), z-scores		
Handgrip test	0.24 (1.04)	0.27 (1.09)
One-minute sit-up test	-0.01 (1.13)	0.05 (1.12)
Sit-and-reach test	-0.12 (1.17)	-0.07 (1.14)
Endurance run test	0.14 (1.03)	0.20 (1.09)

Using the linked longitudinal data from SPFAS, we constructed a primary school cohort



# Categorising students into:

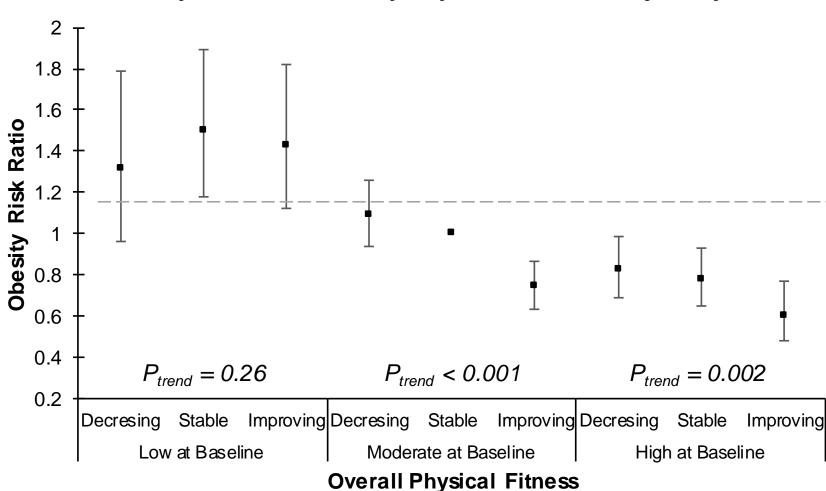
## **Fitness groups**

## Body weight groups

	n	%
Low fitness at baseline		
Decreasing	554	2.8
Stable	1210	6.1
Increasing	794	4.0
Moderate fitness at baseline		
Decreasing	2159	10.9
Stable	4315	21.7
Increasing	2480	12.5
High fitness at baseline		
Decreasing	2236	11.2
Stable	3904	19.6
Increasing	2236	11.2

	n	%
Underweight at baseline		
Decreasing	194	1.0
Stable	199	1.0
Increasing	236	1.2
Normal at baseline		
Decreasing	4007	20.1
Stable	6551	32.9
Increasing	4585	23.1
Overweight at baseline		
Decreasing	728	3.7
Stable	1510	7.6
Increasing	715	3.6
Obese at baseline		
Decreasing	278	1.4
Stable	635	3.2
Increasing	250	1.3

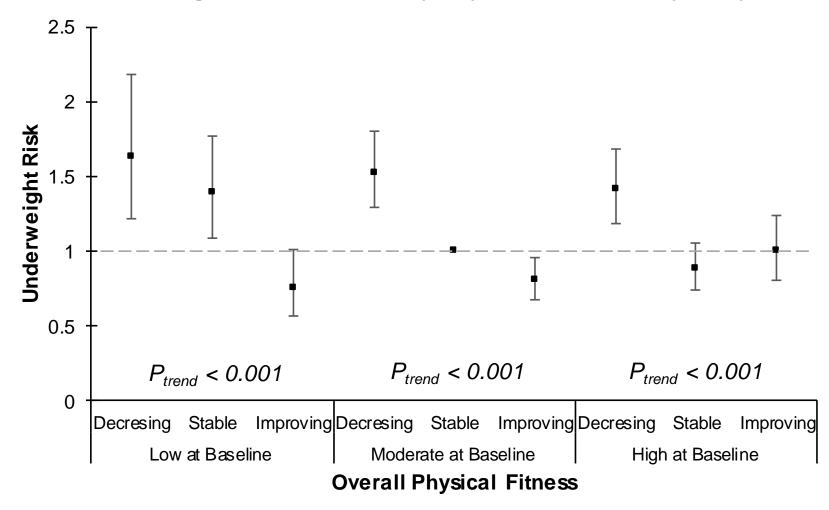




**Obesity Risk Predicted by Physical Fitness Trajectory** 

Physical fitness and its trend is highly predictive of body weight Better fitness, higher chance to have healthy body weight

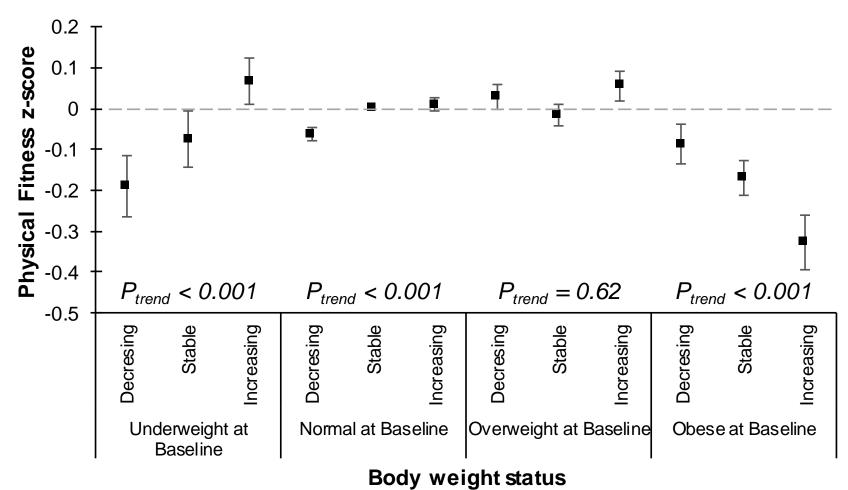




## Underweight Risk Predicted by Physical Fitness Trajectory

Better fitness, higher chance to have healthy body weight



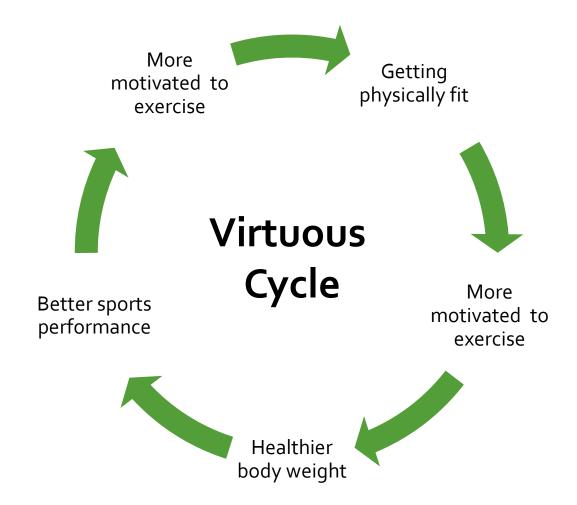


## Physical Fitness Predicted by Body Weight Trajectory

Healthier body weight, higher chance to be physically more fit



# What does it mean?





# What does it mean?

- Promoting physical fitness in schools is important to ensure our next generation is healthy
  - Fitter -> Less obesity -> lower risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, etc.
- While participating in SPFAS is hard work, it is meaningful:
  - Understanding the fitness and health situation in your school
  - Getting recognition for your efforts
  - Better insight to tailor physical education lessons and extra-curricular programmes
  - Contribute to understand how we can improve the health of our next generation
- We encourage you to:
  - Invite other schools to join SPFAS
  - Provide unique, linkage student identifiers to help linking up the yearly data





In order for man to succeed in life, God provided him with two means, education and physical activity. Not separately, one for the soul and the other for the body, but for the two together.

- Plato

