# Analysis of data from School Physical Fitness Award Scheme 

Frederick K Ho，PhD

Hong Kong Childhealth Foundation
Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine
University of Hong Kong

## 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

MEDICINE

# Big data meets public health <br> Human well-being could benefit from large-scale data if large-scale noise is minimized 

## By Muin J. Khoury ${ }^{\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2}}$ and <br> John P. A. Ioannidis ${ }^{3}$


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...



UK Biobank is a national and international health resource with unparalleled research opportunities, open to all bona fide health researchers. UK Biobank aims to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of serious and life-threatening illnesses - including cancer, heart diseases, stroke, diabetes, arthritis, osteoporosis, eye disorders, depression and forms of dementia. It is following the health and well-being of 500,000 volunteer participants and provides health information, which does not identify them, to approved researchers in the UK and overseas, from academia and industry. Scientists, please ensure you read the background materials before registering. To our participants, we say thank you for supporting this important resource to improve health. Without you, none of the research featured on this website would be possible.

Read more about Biobank UK

## ... using data to formulate nutritional guideline






Energy from monounsaturated fat (\%)


Additional mortality risk



## 5-7.5\% <br> 2.5-5\%



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

## A 4-year longitudinal study

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

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

## Categorising students into:

## Fitness groups

|  | n | \% |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Low fitness at baseline |  |  |
| $\quad$ Decreasing | 554 | 2.8 |
| $\quad$ Stable | 1210 | 6.1 |
| $\quad$ Increasing | 794 | 4.0 |
| Moderate fitness at baseline |  |  |
| $\quad$ Decreasing | 2159 | 10.9 |
| $\quad$ Stable | 4315 | 21.7 |
| $\quad$ Increasing | 2480 | 12.5 |
| High fitness at baseline <br> $\quad$ Decreasing | 2236 | 11.2 |
| $\quad$ Stable | 3904 | 19.6 |
| Increasing | 2236 | 11.2 |

Body weight groups

|  | n | $\%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Underweight at baseline |  |  |
| $\quad$ Decreasing | 194 | 1.0 |
| Stable | 199 | 1.0 |
| Increasing | 236 | 1.2 |
| Normal at baseline |  |  |
| $\quad$ Decreasing | 6007 | 20.1 |
| $\quad$ Stable | 4581 | 32.9 |
| $\quad$ Increasing | 728 | 3.1 |
| Overweight at baseline | 1510 | 7.6 |
| $\quad$ Decreasing | 715 | 3.6 |
| $\quad$ Stable |  |  |
| $\quad$ Increasing | 278 | 1.4 |
| Obese at baseline | 635 | 3.2 |
| $\quad$ Decreasing | 250 | 1.3 |
| $\quad$ Stable |  |  |
| Increasing |  |  |

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?



Better sports performance

## Virtuous Cycle



More motivated to exercise


## 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

