

9) Obesity

9.1 Numerator: The Body Mass Index (BMI) calculated for persons aged 16+ in a sample survey of the health of the population of England. BMI is defined as weight (kg) divided by height squared (m^2). For adults obesity is defined as BMI over $30\text{kg}/m^2$. BMI was calculated for all informants who had valid height and weight measurements. The height of informants who were chair-bound, unsteady or could not stand straight was not measured. Data for those who were considered by the interviewer to have unreliable measurements (e.g. wearing a wig, turban) were excluded from the analysis. The weight of informants who were pregnant, chair bound, unsteady or could not stand was not measured. Those who weighed more than 130 kg were asked for an 'estimated weight' because the scales were unreliable above this level. These have been included in the analysis.

9.2 Denominator: Respondents (with measurements) aged 16+ in a sample survey of the health of the population of England. The Health Survey for England is a series of annual surveys that began in 1991 with the aim of monitoring the health of the population. It was designed to be representative of the general, non-institutional population living in England. The current 'full' sample size of the Health Survey for England comprises about 16,000 adults aged 16 and over. For each participant, the survey included an interview and a physical examination by a nurse, at which various physical measurements, tests and samples of blood and saliva were collected. These measurements provided biomedical information about known risk factors associated with disease and objective validation for self-reported health behaviour.