

Appendix 1

Search strategy

Database(s): **Embase** 1947 to present

Search	Query
1	child*.mp.
2	adolescence/ or middle aged/
3	young adult/
4	adult/
5	1 or 2 or 3 or 4
6	obesity/
7	Overweight.mp.
8	body mass index
9	body fat
10	adiposity
11	Obese/
12	body composition
13	body weight
14	percent body fat
15	body fat distribution
16	6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15
17	prevalence/
18	"africa south of the sahara"/ OR "angola" [tiab] OR " benin" [tiab] OR " botswana " [tiab] OR " burkina faso" [tiab] OR " burundi" [tiab] OR "ivory coast"[tiab] OR Cameroon [tiab] OR Central African Republic[tiab] OR Chad[tiab] OR Congo[tiab] OR Democratic Republic of the Congo[tiab] OR Equatorial Guinea[tiab] OR Gabon[tiab] OR Burundi[tiab] OR Djibouti[tiab] OR Eritrea[tiab] OR Ethiopia[tiab] OR Kenya[tiab] OR Rwanda[tiab] OR Somalia[tiab] OR Sudan[tiab] OR Tanzania[tiab] OR Uganda[tiab] OR Angola[tiab] OR Botswana[tiab] OR Lesotho[tiab] OR Malawi[tiab] OR Mozambique[tiab] OR Namibia[tiab] OR South Africa[tiab] OR Swaziland[tiab] OR Zambia[tiab] OR Zimbabwe[tiab] OR Benin[tiab] OR Burkina Faso[tiab] OR Cape Verde[tiab] OR Cote d'Ivoire[tiab] OR Gambia[tiab] OR Ghana[tiab] OR Guinea[tiab] OR

	Guinea-Bissau[tiab] OR Liberia[tiab] OR Mali[tiab] OR Mauritania[tiab] OR Niger[tiab] OR Nigeria[tiab] OR Senegal[tiab] OR Sierra Leone[tiab] OR Togo[tiab] OR (subsaharan[tiab] AND Africa[tiab])
19	5 and 16 and 17 and 18

Database(s): **Medline** 1946 - present

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	Mozambique[tiab] OR Namibia[tiab] OR South Africa[tiab] OR Swaziland[tiab] OR Zambia[tiab] OR Zimbabwe[tiab] OR Benin[tiab] OR Burkina Faso[tiab] OR Cape Verde[tiab] OR Cote d'Ivoire[tiab] OR Gambia[tiab] OR Ghana[tiab] OR Guinea[tiab] OR Guinea-Bissau[tiab] OR Liberia[tiab] OR Mali[tiab] OR Mauritania[tiab] OR Niger[tiab] OR Nigeria[tiab] OR Senegal[tiab] OR Sierra Leone[tiab] OR Togo[tiab] OR (subsaharan[tiab] AND Africa[tiab])
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