hospitalisation, generally finding the strongest association to be with temperature below a given threshold measured at a lag of 7–14 days. In contrast, very little work has been done on the health effects of exposure to low indoor temperatures, and none on the best metric of this exposure, despite the fact that people have greater exposure to the indoor environment. The scarcity of studies on the association between indoor temperature and health is due to the difficulty in measuring indoor temperatures and health outcomes regularly and simultaneously over an extended time period.

Methods The Heating Housing and Health Study is an RCT which investigates the effect of installing heaters in asthmatic children’s homes. It has detailed measurements of lung function (daily) and indoor temperature (hourly).

Lung function and indoor temperature were measured for 309 children over 12049 child-days. For four measures of lung function (PEFR morning, PEFR evening, FEV1 morning and FEV1 evening) we attempted to find the strongest association between exposure to low temperatures below particular thresholds averaged over various periods.

Results Indoor temperatures were found to have a small, but significant, association with short-term variations in the lung function in children with asthma. This association was greatest for temperatures below 11°C in the child’s bedroom averaged over the preceding 11 days.

Conclusion These findings provide valuable information for future studies looking at the effects of low indoor temperatures on respiratory health.

OVERWEIGHT IN SHORT AND TALL CHILDREN

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1P van Dommelen,* 2M L A de Knor, 3Y Schönbeck, 1,2,3,4 van Burum. 1Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research, Leiden, The Netherlands; 2VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; 3Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Introduction It is known that body mass index is correlated with height. This suggests that the prevalence rates of overweight and obesity differ between tall and short children. Our aim is to study the impact of height during childhood on the national prevalence rates of overweight and obesity at childhood and adulthood.

Methods We used cross-sectional growth data from the previous two Dutch nationwide surveys performed in 1997 (n=14 500) and 2009 (n=10 129) and longitudinal data from birth to 18 y (n=708). We selected children from 2 to 10 y (before onset of puberty) from the two surveys. Overweight (including obesity) and obesity were calculated by cut-offs for body mass index (kg/m²) according to International Obesity Task Force. Short was defined as <−1 SD and tall by >+1 SD.

Results In 1997, the prevalence rates of childhood overweight and obesity were respectively 5.1% and 0.6% in short children, and 17.0% and 3.0% in tall children. In 2009, these figures were 6.9% and 1.1% in short children, and 22.9% and 5.5% in tall children. The RR of childhood overweight and obesity of tall vs short children were respectively 3.3 (95% CI 2.6 to 4.2) and 4.4 (95% CI 2.4 to 7.9). However, these RRs were lower at adulthood, respectively 1.5 (95% CI 0.5 to 5.7) and 1.5 (0.98 to 2.2).

Conclusion There is a height bias in the prevalence of overweight and obesity. Correcting for height gives better insight into (inter) national comparisons and secular trends of overweight and obesity at childhood. We will present the figures and methodological explanation of the height bias.

MACRO-LEVEL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN WELFARE STATES: A MULTI-LEVEL ANALYSIS

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1K Rathmann,* 2M Richter. 1Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany; 2Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

Introduction Previous studies have shown that macro-level factors, such as income inequality, wealth of countries or welfare state characteristics are crucial determinants of health and health inequalities among adults. So far, comparative research has rarely focused on children and adolescents. This study is among the first to examine whether different macro-level determinants are associated with differences in subjective health and socio-economic related health inequalities among adolescents in high-developed welfare states.

Methods Data were collected from the school based ‘Health Behaviour in School-aged Children’-study in 2005/2006, which includes 11- to 15-year old students from 27 European and North American countries (N=134 652), classified into five regimes (Scandinavian, Bismarkian, Liberal, Southern, Eastern). Hierarchical linear regression models were conducted for multiple complaints in health, including stepwise individual (family affluence) and