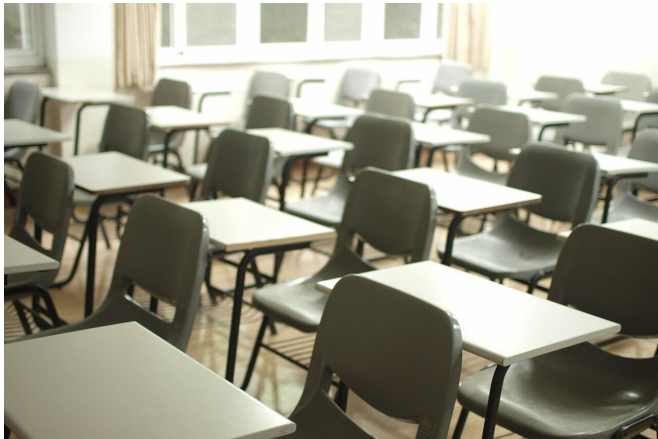


Impact of school nutrition policies in California varies by children's ethnicity

24 May 2021



higher among PI (39.5-52.5%), FI (32.9-36.7%), and AIAN (37.7-45.6%) children in comparison to White (26.8-30.2%) students. During the baseline period of the study, the overweight/obesity prevalence increased among nearly all students, with the steepest increases for PI and AIAN students. After California state policies went into effect, from 2002 to 2004, the overweight/obesity rates decreased for almost all groups, with the largest fall seen among PI girls in 5th grade (before: log odds ratio = 0.149 (95%CI 0.108 to 0.189; p

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California state school nutrition policies and federal policies for school meals have mixed impacts on childhood obesity in children of Pacific Islander (PI), Filipino (FI) and American Indian/Alaska native (AIAN) origins, according to a new study published this week in the open access journal *PLOS Medicine* by Mika Matsuzaki of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, U.S., and colleagues.

Children of PI, FI and AIAN origin are some of the most understudied subgroups experiencing [high rates](#) of overweight/obesity. California has enacted policies on foods and beverages available in schools through a series of standards beginning in 2004, and [federal policies](#) in 2010 also sought to improve [school](#) nutrition standards. In the new study, researchers used data on demographics, [body composition](#) and fitness that were collected by the California Department of Education on students in 5th and 7th grade each year between 2002 and 2016 as part of the state Physical Fitness Testing program.

Overall, the prevalence of overweight/obesity was

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