

TABLE 5

Changes in prevalence of overweight and obesity per year. Data are taken from 28 pairs of studies which surveyed comparable populations of children, with at least three years between surveys. Definitions of overweight and obesity were consistent within each pair of surveys but not necessarily between different pairs of surveys. The average annual change in prevalence is plotted against the mid-year between the first and second survey of each pair.

The average annual rise in prevalence was under 0.2% of the child population during the 1970s, rose to around 0.4% during the 1980s, rose above 0.6% in the 1990s and is expected to be around 1.0% during the early 2000s.

