1. Obesity rates in Korea are among the lowest in the OECD. About 4% of the adult population is obese in Korea, and about 30% are overweight (including obese). The latest data show that the proportion of adults who are overweight remained virtually stable since the early 2000s.

2. Taking account of the most recent data, new projection bands for 2010-2020 indicate that obesity rates are expected to grow, at most, by 4% during that period.
3. Large socio-economic disparities in obesity exist in women in Korea. Women with poor education are 5 times more likely than more educated women to be overweight. Virtually no disparities exist between men of different educational levels. The degree of socio-economic inequality has remained virtually unchanged in recent years.

B. CHILDREN

4. Child obesity rates are relatively high in Korea, especially in boys. OECD projections show a likely slight decrease of girl overweight and a stabilisation of child obesity over the next 10 years.
5. **Children with obese parents are far more likely to be obese themselves.** Boys are about 3 times more likely to be obese, and girls are almost 6 times more likely, if they have at least one obese parent.

![Graph showing odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for child obesity by parental weight status.](image)

6. **Socio-economic disparities in obesity are not apparent in children.** Contrary to most OECD countries, boys in the most disadvantaged socio-economic groups are less likely to be obese than children in higher socio-economic groups.

![Graph showing odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for child obesity by socio-economic condition.](image)

Note: SEC: Socio-economic condition.

Released: 21 February 2012.