



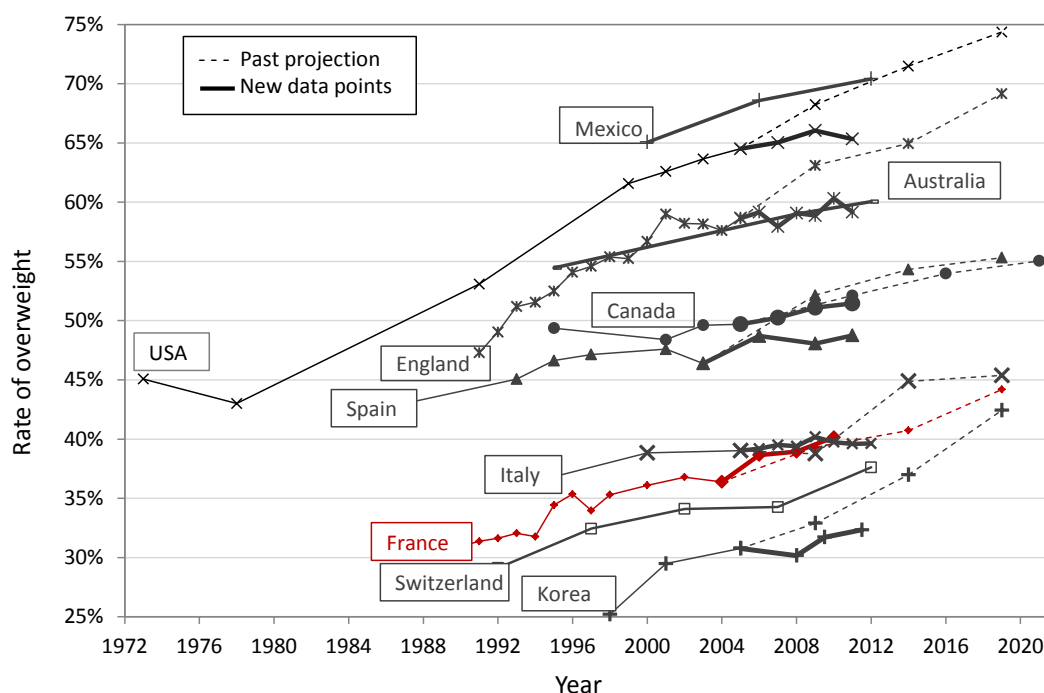
OBSESITY AND THE ECONOMICS OF PREVENTION: FIT NOT FAT

KEY FACTS – FRANCE, UPDATE 2014

A. ADULTS

1. Overweight and obesity rates in France are among the lowest in the OECD, but have been increasing steadily (Figure 1). One in eight adults is obese in France, and 40% are overweight (including obese). The latest data show that the proportion of adults who are overweight grew slightly more than previously projected by the OECD (a 1.3% per year growth until 2020 had been foreseen, assuming past long-term trends would continue unabated). A larger excess growth (relative to previous projections) was recorded in obesity rates.

Figure 1. Trends in the prevalence of overweight (including obesity) in adults, projections and recent estimates, selected OECD countries

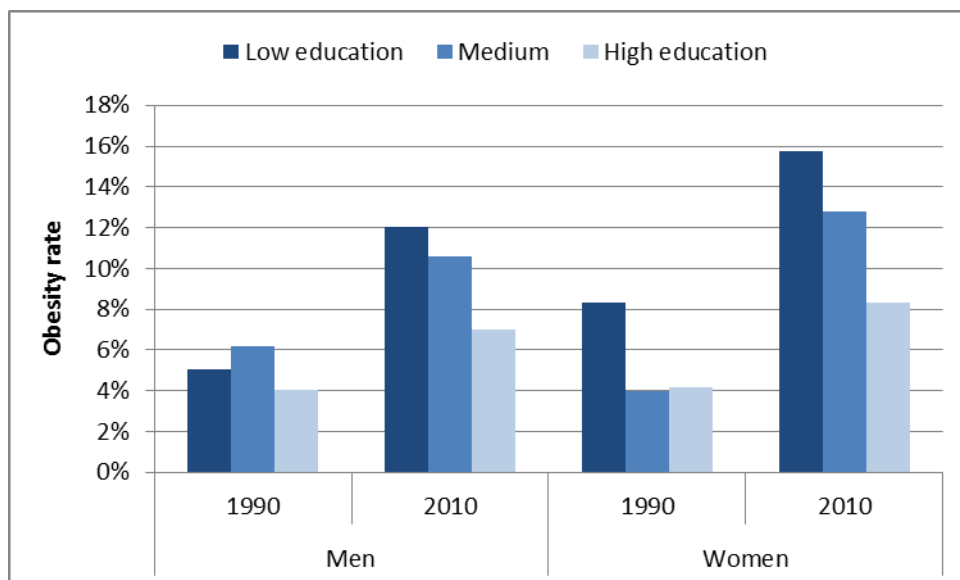


Source: OECD estimates based on national health surveys.

Note: Measured height and weight in Australia, England, Korea, Mexico and USA; self-reported data in other countries.

2. Large social disparities in obesity exist, both in men and women. Women with less education in France are twice as likely to be obese than more educated women. Unlike in most OECD countries, significant disparities are seen in men too. Men with less education are 1.8 times more likely to be obese than more educated men. Over the past years, obesity rates have increased in all education groups (Figure 2), but have increased faster in less educated men, with a resulting increase in disparities in recent years.

Figure 2. Prevalence of obesity by education level in 1990 and 2010, men and women, France



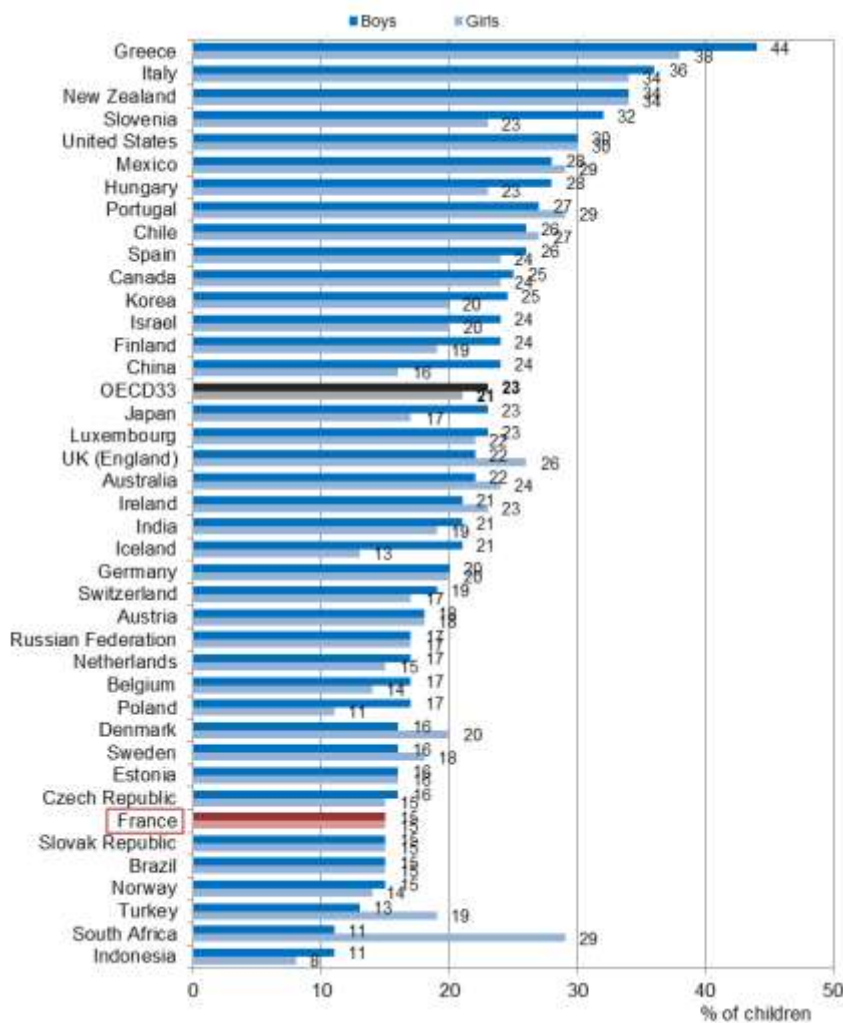
Source: OECD estimates based on the French survey *Enquête santé et Protection Sociale*

Note: Adjusted probabilities of being obesity for men and women aged 40 controlling for marital status, tobacco smoking and working status.

B. CHILDREN

3. Child overweight rates (including obesity) are also relatively low in France, in comparison with other OECD and key partner countries (Figure 3). International data collated by the International Association for the Study of Obesity show that 15% of children are overweight in France, compared with 23% of boys and 21% of girls, on average, in OECD countries.

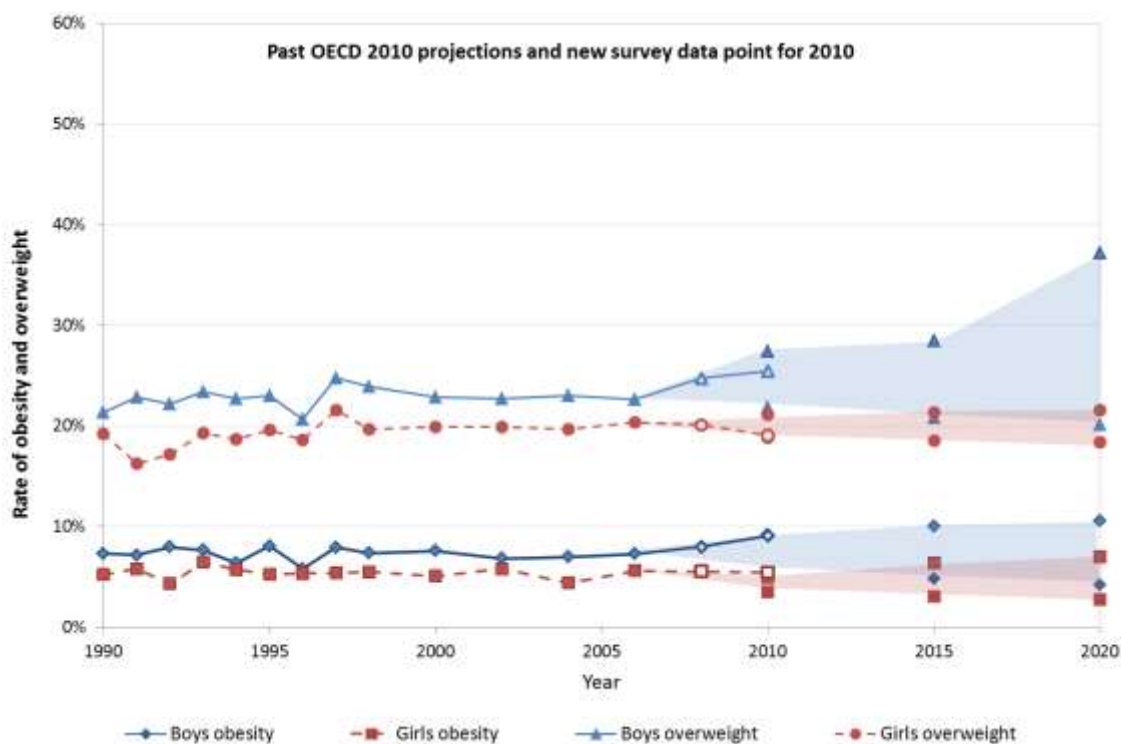
Figure 3. Measured overweight (including obesity) among children at different ages, 2010 or nearest year



Source: International Association for the Study of Obesity, 2013; Bös et al. (2004) for Luxembourg; and KNHANES 2011 for Korea.

4. Although child obesity rates are generally low in France, trends in obesity and overweight rates in boys are of concern. These rates have increased by 1.8 and 2.8 percentage points, respectively, between 2006 and 2010, and they now stand near the upper bound of 2010 OECD projections (Figure 4). Conversely, in girls, the most recent data show a slight decline in overweight rates and stable obesity rates.

Figure 4. Past and future projected trends in child obesity and overweight, age 3-17, France



Source: OECD estimates based on the French survey *Enquête santé et Protection Sociale*

Release: 27 May 2014. <http://www.oecd.org/health/obesity-update.htm>.

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