

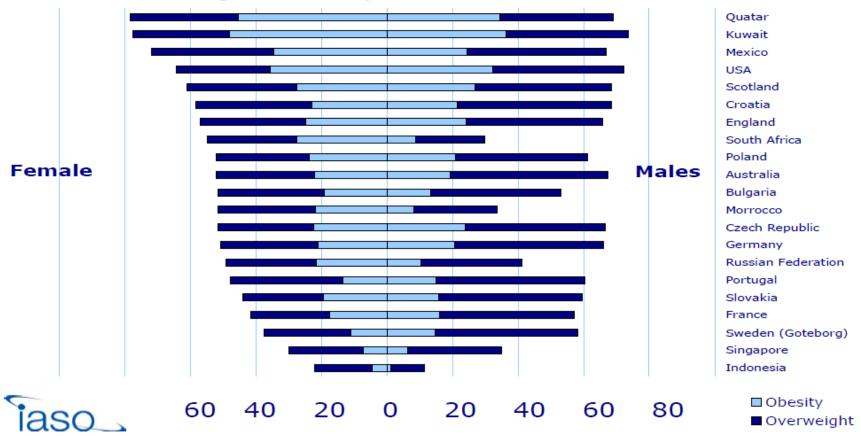
Commentary on the Social Network Lifestyle Intervention for Obesity Trial: MICROCLINIC Lawrence J Appel, MD, MPH Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology and International Health (Human Nutrition)

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> The Johns Hopkins University Nov 18, 2013

## Context: Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity

% Overweight & Obesity around the World since 2000



With the limited data available, prevalence's are not age standardised. Prevalence's are based on the best available data for the country, in some circumstances the data may be based on sub national surveys. Sources and references are available from IASO. © International Association for the Study of Obesity, London – October 2010

### **MICROCLINIC Trial**

- Cluster randomized trial
- Setting: poor rural region of Kentucky
- Features of intervention
  - 10 month program
  - MICROCLINIC groups (cluster)
  - Classes (weekly x 1m, then biweekly)
  - Social support and diffusion
- Outcomes

- Weight, blood pressure, other risk factors

#### Main Results

- Reduced weight, net ~ 6 pounds
- Reduced waist circumference, net ~ 1.3 cm
- Reduced systolic blood pressure, ~ 4 mmHg
- No significant effect on:
  - HbA1c
  - HDL cholesterol
- Other potential benefits: self-reported
  improvements in exercise, diet, confidence

## Strengths

- Underserved population
   Poor, rural
- High enrollment
- Novel theory to guide intervention
- Lots of outcomes

# (Limitations)

- Few men, < 10%
- Relatively short, 10m
- Frequent in-person contacts
- Uncertain cluster effect

By how much did the MICROCLINIC intervention differ from traditional inperson interventions?

- Common elements
  - Group sessions
  - Frequent meetings, initially weekly
  - Social support and accountability
  - Engagement of family and friends
  - Shared experiences and skill building