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## Parent Underestimation of Child Weight Status and Attitudes towards BMI Screening

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**Objective:** This study identifies predictors of parental underestimation of child weight status and support for school-based BMI screening and reporting. **Methods:** Mailed surveys were completed by 1,002 parents of 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in *The Fit Study*. The survey assessed parent race/ethnicity, weight status, perception of child weight status, and preference for BMI screening and reporting. **Results:** Only 33% and 6% of parents classified their overweight child as somewhat overweight and their obese child as very overweight, respectively. Support for BMI screening was stronger among Hispanic (OR=2.3,  $p<.001$ ), Asian (OR=3.7,  $p<.001$ ), and Black (OR=2.3,  $p=.04$ ) parents than White parents and weaker among overweight versus normal-weight parents (OR=0.6,  $p=.01$ ). Compared to parents of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, parents of older children reported less support for BMI reporting (4<sup>th</sup> grade: OR=0.4,  $p=.04$ ; 6<sup>th</sup> grade: OR=0.3,  $p=.02$ ; 7<sup>th</sup> grade: OR=0.3,  $p=.03$ ). **Conclusions:** Parent race/ethnicity, parent weight status, and child age are associated with support for BMI screening and reporting. **Key words:** BMI screening, BMI reporting, childhood obesity, weight status

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Pediatric obesity, with an estimated prevalence of 18.5% in the United States,<sup>1</sup> is a major public health concern due to strong associations with negative health outcomes in childhood and adulthood.<sup>2,3</sup> The National Academy of Medicine recommends that schools assess students' body mass index (BMI) and send results to parents, who may then take corrective action if their child is identified as overweight or obese.<sup>4</sup> Currently, 25 states require BMI screening in schools and 11 states require reporting results to parents.<sup>5</sup>

Most studies suggest that current BMI reports do not reduce pediatric obesity,<sup>6</sup> but null results may reflect a differential impact on parents based on baseline perceptions of child weight status. Parents of overweight and obese children who underestimate their child's weight status would be expected to benefit from BMI reports more than parents of overweight and obese children who already correctly identify their child's weight status. Prior research indicates that underestimation of child overweight and obesity is prevalent among parents,<sup>7,8</sup> particularly when children are young and male.<sup>9-11</sup> However, evidence is conflicting about whether underestimation varies by parent weight status,<sup>12-15</sup> which is closely linked to child weight gain.<sup>16-19</sup> Additionally, prior studies examining the impact of parent race/ethnicity on underestimation have been mixed.<sup>12,14</sup> Understanding the association between parental characteristics (weight status and race/ethnicity) and underestimation of child weight status is important in determining the potential for BMI screening and reporting to impact health disparities.

BMI reporting may also have a differential impact on parents based on their views of schools as credible purveyors of child health information. According to established theories of persuasion, high source credibility is associated with a greater likelihood of attitude change, particularly among individuals who lack strong prior attitudes about the subject.<sup>20</sup> For this reason, parents who do not believe schools should be collecting and distributing child health

information may be unlikely to act in response to a BMI report. Qualitative studies have raised concerns from parents about schools as appropriate entities to be collecting and distributing BMI information on children.<sup>21,22</sup> Quantitative studies have shown majority support from parents, but results are mixed by parent race<sup>23,24</sup> and only one study examined differences in support by child age.<sup>23</sup> Additionally, prior studies have only examined differences in preference for BMI reporting by child BMI category, with conflicting results;<sup>23,24</sup> none have examined differences by parent weight status or parent perceptions of child weight status. Understanding how parent perceptions of BMI screening and reporting differ by child age and parent race, weight status, and perceived child weight status is important for understanding the potential efficacy of BMI screening and reporting in schools.

This paper uses baseline survey data from a large, ethnically-diverse group of parents to assess differences in underestimation of child overweight by parent weight status and race/ethnicity, as well as differences in parent support for BMI screening and reporting by child age and parent weight status, race/ethnicity, and perception of child weight status.

## **METHODS**

### **Study Design**

The current study presents cross-sectional data from a baseline parent survey administered during *The Fit Study*, a randomized controlled trial of BMI screening and reporting in schools. The design of *The Fit Study* has been described previously in detail.<sup>25</sup> Briefly, 79 elementary and middle schools from 5 school districts across California were randomly assigned to 1 of 3 study conditions: BMI screening and reporting (Group 1); BMI screening only (Group

2); no BMI screening (Group 3). This study was approved by UC Berkeley's Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

## **Participants**

Researchers recruited students in grades 3 through 7 to participate in *The Fit Study*; 18,758 students enrolled in Year 1 and 9,883 students enrolled in Year 2. In Year 1, researchers mailed a survey to the parents or caregivers (henceforth referred to as parents) of 60 randomly selected students from each Group 1 school and 30 randomly selected students from each Group 2 and Group 3 school. Sampling was stratified to obtain a 2:1 ratio of children with a BMI at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile for sex and age versus children with a BMI below the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile in Groups 1 and 2. In Year 2, additional parents were randomly selected. Excluding parents of students who moved after parent surveys were mailed, baseline surveys were mailed to 2,999 parents in Year 1 and 866 parents in Year 2.

Prior to mailing the baseline survey, researchers sent a pre-notification postcard to all selected parents. The postcard stated that a survey would arrive within one week and asked parents to complete the survey upon receipt. Parents received a paper survey the following week that included a pre-addressed, stamped return envelope and a one-dollar bill. The survey also provided a website that parents could use to complete the survey online if they preferred. Parents who did not return a completed survey within three weeks received another mailed survey. Pre-notification postcards, monetary incentives, and duplicate surveys have been shown to significantly increase response rates in previous studies.<sup>26</sup> Parents received one survey in English and one survey in Spanish or Chinese, according to district policy. A one-page cover letter

described the research process and explained that returning a completed survey implied informed consent.

## **Survey**

Independent variables were assessed via the parent survey. The survey asked parents to self-report their race/ethnicity and their height and weight, which were used to determine their BMI category. The survey asked parents to classify their child's current weight status as very underweight, somewhat underweight, about the right weight, somewhat overweight, or very overweight. Researchers combined very underweight and somewhat underweight into a single underweight category. The survey also asked parents to report their relationship to the child and their highest level of education.

The study's two dependent variables, parent underestimation of child weight status and parent views about schools as credible purveyors of child health information, were also primarily assessed via the parent survey. Parent responses to the question about child weight status were compared to actual child BMI categories to identify cases of underestimation. To assess parent views regarding schools as purveyors of health information, the survey asked, "Do you think students should have their heights and weights measured at school?" Responses included, "No", "Yes, in younger grades", "Yes, in older grades", and "Yes, in all grades." In regression analyses, affirmative responses were combined to create a dichotomous variable indicating whether a parent thought BMI screening should occur at school in any grade. The survey also asked, "If your child's school measured his or her height and weight, would you want to receive a report with your child's height and weight results?" Responses included "Yes", "No", or "No

opinion.” This question was only included on the Year 1 survey; 703 parents (70% of total sample) provided a response. For analyses, “No opinion” (N = 71) was recoded as missing.

### **Child BMI Data**

School personnel conducted height and weight measurements for students in Groups 1 and 2 during the spring of each year using research-grade equipment and following a previously-described protocol.<sup>25</sup> Height, weight, age, and sex were used to calculate a BMI for each child and a BMI category according to CDC definitions<sup>27</sup> using the zanthro package in Stata: underweight (BMI < 5<sup>th</sup> percentile), normal weight (BMI ≥ 8<sup>th</sup>-<85<sup>th</sup> percentile), overweight (BMI ≥ 85<sup>th</sup>-<95<sup>th</sup> percentile), or obese (BMI ≥ 95<sup>th</sup> percentile).

### **Data Analysis**

Parent underestimation of child weight status was examined in two ways. Among overweight or obese children, a binary ‘two-level’ underestimation variable flagged instances when parents classified their child as: “underweight” or “about the right weight” when the child was overweight; and “underweight,” “about the right weight,” or “somewhat overweight” when the child was obese. Given that only 20% of overweight children have an elevated body fatness compared to 77% of obese children,<sup>28</sup> a second approach was used to identify the most problematic cases of parent underestimation. Among obese children, a single-level underestimation variable flagged parents who classified their child as “underweight” or “about the right weight.” Mixed-effects logistic regression models assessed the association between parent support for BMI screening and parent race/ethnicity, parent weight status, parent perception of child weight status, and child grade. Models included a random effect for school

and adjusted for parent and child sex. Similar mixed-effects logistic regression models assessed the association between parental characteristics and the two types of underestimation of child weight status. Analyses were performed in Stata SE (version 15.1).

## RESULTS

A total of 1,002 parents (26%) returned a mailed survey during their child's baseline year of participation in *The Fit Study*. Response rates did not differ significantly by study group or child sex. Response rates did differ by child BMI category (underweight: 26%; normal weight: 29%; overweight: 27%; obese: 23%;  $p=.01$ ) and grade level (3<sup>rd</sup> grade: 26%; 4<sup>th</sup> grade: 24%; 5<sup>th</sup> grade: 25%; 6<sup>th</sup> grade: 30%; 7<sup>th</sup> grade: 30%;  $p=.04$ ). Table 1 presents parent and child demographics. Most respondents were mothers (80%), identified as non-White (75%), and were overweight or obese based on self-reported height and weight (58%). Forty percent had completed college or graduate school.

Table 2 compares parent perceptions of their child's weight status to CDC BMI categories. Among children classified as underweight by their parents, 15% were underweight per CDC categories, 74% were normal weight, and 11% were overweight or obese. Among children classified as about the right weight, 59% were normal weight per CDC categories and 40% were overweight or obese. Among children classified as somewhat overweight, 29% were overweight, and 70% were obese. All children classified as very overweight were either overweight (14%) or obese (86%) according to CDC BMI categories.

Using the two-level underestimation variable, 67% of parents underestimated the weight status of their overweight child and 95% of parents underestimated the weight status of their obese child (Table 3). Using the single-level underestimation variable, only 27% of parents



underestimated their child's weight status. Table 4 presents adjusted odds ratios for parent underestimation of child overweight or obese weight status. Underestimation of child weight status did not differ significantly by parent race/ethnicity or weight status.

The majority of respondents (69%) supported BMI screening measurements in schools: 50% of parents thought schools should measure height and weight in all grades, 13% supported the practice in younger grades, and 6% supported the practice in older grades. Table 5 presents support for BMI screening and reporting based on parental characteristics and child grade. In adjusted models, parent preference for BMI screening differed by parent race/ethnicity and weight status (Table 5). Hispanic (OR=2.3,  $p<.001$ ), Asian (OR=3.7,  $p<.001$ ), and Black parents (OR=2.3,  $p=.04$ ) were more likely to support BMI screening than White parents. Overweight and obese parents (BMI  $\geq 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) were less likely to support BMI screening than normal-weight parents (OR=0.6,  $p=.01$ ). Associations with child grade, perceived child weight status, child sex, and parent sex were not significant in adjusted models.

The vast majority of parents who supported BMI screening also supported BMI reporting (94%). Even among parents who did not support BMI screening, 72% wanted a report if BMI was assessed. Parent preference for BMI reporting differed by parent race/ethnicity and child grade (Table 5). Hispanic parents were significantly more likely to support BMI reporting than White parents (OR=3.6,  $p<.001$ ). Compared to parents of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children, parents of older children were less likely to support for BMI reporting (4<sup>th</sup> grade: OR=0.4,  $p=.04$ ; 5<sup>th</sup> grade: OR=0.4,  $p=.07$ ; 6<sup>th</sup> grade: OR=0.3,  $p=.02$ ; 7<sup>th</sup> grade: OR=0.3,  $p=.03$ ). Associations with parent BMI category, perceived child weight status, child sex, and parent sex were not significant in adjusted models.

## DISCUSSION

This study is the first to assess perceptions of school-based BMI screening and reporting among a diverse, statewide sample of parents of elementary and middle school youth. Findings demonstrate parental support for BMI screening and reporting in schools but suggest that support differs by parent race/ethnicity, parent weight status, and child grade. Results also confirm frequent underestimation of child weight status by parents but indicate that underestimation does not differ by parent weight status or race/ethnicity.

Underestimation of child weight status is far more prevalent if parents are expected to label an overweight child as “somewhat overweight” or an obese child as “very overweight.” Almost all parents (94.5%) of obese children failed to classify their children as very overweight. Of even greater concern, more than 1 in 4 parents do not recognize an obese child as even somewhat overweight. This suggests that parents of obese children, most of whom have elevated body fatness,<sup>28</sup> often do not view their child’s weight as deviating greatly from normal levels. BMI reports, therefore, could have an important opportunity to draw parent attention to the health risks associated with their child’s obese weight status and the importance of taking corrective measures.

Parent race/ethnicity was not associated with underestimating child weight status. Similar to the present study, Boutelle et al found no relationship between race and underestimation among parents of middle and high school youth (N = 755).<sup>12</sup> Conversely, West et al found that African American parents of 3 to 18 year-olds were more likely to underestimate than White parents (N = 1,551 parents),<sup>14</sup> adjusting for parent weight status. In two studies that did not adjust for parent weight status, one nationally-representative study found that Hispanic parents of 6 to 15 year-olds were more accurate than non-Hispanic white parents (N = 1445),<sup>10</sup> while the

other found that Hispanic parents of 2 to 18 year-olds were less accurate (N = 290).<sup>29</sup> The differences across studies may reflect differences by child age and regionalism. However, taken together, the inconsistent findings across the present and prior studies suggest that race/ethnicity does not reliably predict parental underestimation of child weight status.

Parent weight status was not significantly associated with underestimating child weight status in the present study. Among primarily White populations (over 80% White), Hearst et al found no association between parent weight status and underestimation in a sample of adolescents (N = 358)<sup>15</sup> and West et al found no association among children ages 3 to 18.<sup>14</sup> Among a more diverse population (48% White), Boutelle et al found that overweight mothers were twice as likely to underestimate adolescent weight status as normal-weight mothers (N = 755).<sup>12</sup> A large European study (N = 6113) of school-aged youth found that underestimation was greater among overweight or obese parents; parent race was not reported.<sup>13</sup> As with parent race, the mixed findings from these reasonably large studies suggest that parent weight status does not consistently predict underestimation of child weight status.

The majority of parents in this study supported BMI screening and reporting in schools, as has been demonstrated in two prior studies.<sup>23,24</sup> Our findings also corroborate Johnson et al.'s findings that non-White parents are more likely to support BMI screening and reporting than White parents.<sup>24</sup> While Kubik et al found no association between parent race and support for BMI screening,<sup>23</sup> the study population was greater than 90% White, making it difficult to identify differences by race. Prior research has also documented a greater likelihood of making changes to a child's diet and physical activity among ethnic-minority parents compared to White parents subsequent to receiving a BMI report.<sup>24</sup> Therefore, examining the impact of BMI

reporting by race/ethnicity will be important in fully understanding its potential to reduce childhood obesity.

Our findings indicate that parents who are overweight or obese themselves are less likely to support BMI screening than normal-weight parents. To our knowledge, this is the first study to report on differences in preference for BMI screening based on parent weight status. This finding may reflect greater sensitivity around weight-related screening as a result of personal body dissatisfaction, which is higher among obese adults than normal-weight adults.<sup>30</sup> To the extent that parent action in response to BMI reports is contingent on support for BMI screening, this finding is concerning given that parental weight status is highly correlated with child weight status.<sup>16-19</sup> We found that parent preference for BMI screening did not differ by parent perceptions of child weight status, similar to a prior study using objectively-measured child weight status.<sup>23</sup>

Our findings indicate that parents support BMI reporting less as children age. Parents of children in grades 4-7 demonstrated significantly less support for BMI reporting than parents of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children. Among a sample of primarily White students, Kubik et. al. similarly found that parents of older students were less likely to want BMI reports than parents of younger students.<sup>23</sup> Parents may feel that they have greater influence over the dietary and physical activity behaviors of their child at a younger age, and thus BMI information is more helpful at that time.

This study has several limitations. While parents were randomly selected to receive the mailed survey, non-response bias is likely, such that parents who returned mailed surveys may not be representative of all parental perceptions and beliefs. The survey did not assess parent age, number of children, marital status, or English proficiency, which could account for differences in

outcomes by parents race. In addition, our sample of parents included a small percentage of African American parents, making it difficult to fully test associations by race. Finally, parental weight status was self-reported, which is prone to inaccuracy and under-reporting.<sup>31</sup>

Support for school-based BMI screening and reporting is strongest among non-White parents, normal-weight parents, and parents of children in younger grades. Given that parent support for the practice may influence its effectiveness, BMI screening and reporting should be assessed among these subgroups to fully understand its impact. While reporting may be more effective among parents who underestimate their child's overweight or obese status, there do not appear to be reliable predictors of underestimation by which researchers could target those parents.

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH BEHAVIOR OR POLICY**

Findings from this paper support two important policy and research implications. First, schools that employ BMI screening and reporting should develop and implement a communications campaign to educate parents about BMI screening and reporting prior to mailing BMI reports home. Messaging should be focused on reducing stigma around children being identified as overweight, encouraging parents to view BMI reports as an opportunity to make healthy changes, and identifying supports for parents who want to make changes. The purpose of these efforts would be to build support for the practice among all parents, but particularly parents who are overweight or obese and parents of older students. Communication methods could include emails to parents and signage displayed on the school campus.

Second, although studies to date suggest that BMI screening and reporting does not reduce pediatric obesity, future research studies should assess potential differences in impact by

parent race/ethnicity, parent weight status, and child age. Findings from the present study suggest that support for BMI screening and reporting varies by these factors, and support for the practice may be critical in compelling parents to act. Assessing the impact of BMI screening and reporting on pediatric obesity among these subgroups of parents will be critical to understanding its utility.

Findings from this paper identify research priorities and school-based practices related to school-based BMI screening and reporting, which is intended to reduce pediatric obesity. If effective among at-risk subgroups, this practice is advantageous because it has the ability to reach the vast majority of youth, including those who do not see a healthcare provider regularly. This practice is a low-cost and broad-reach approach to advancing the Healthy People 2020 goals of reducing the proportion of children and adolescents who are considered obese and preventing inappropriate weight gain in youth and adults.

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### **Human Subjects Approval Statement**

This study was approved by UC Berkeley's Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (Protocol ID: 2012-07-4472).

### **Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement**

All authors of this article declare they have no conflicts of interest.

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**Table 1****Characteristics of Parents who Completed a Baseline Parent Survey During *The Fit Study*****(N = 1,002)**

	<b>Total (%)</b>
<i>Parent relation to child</i>	
Mother/Stepmother	788 (80.5%)
Father/Stepfather	150 (15.3%)
Other	41 (4.2%)
<i>Parent race/ethnicity</i>	
Hispanic	461 (47.5%)
White	188 (19.4%)
Black	37 (3.8%)
Asian	240 (24.7%)
Other	44 (4.5%)
<i>Parent BMI percentile<sup>a</sup></i>	
Underweight (BMI < 18.5 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	45 (4.8%)
Normal BMI	349 (36.9%)
Overweight or obese (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	551 (58.3%)
<i>Parent highest level of education</i>	
Didn't finish high school	127 (13.4%)
Finished high school or GED	163 (17.2%)
Some college or training	280 (29.6%)
Finished college	264 (27.9%)

Master's degree or doctorate	112 (11.8%)
<i>Parent perception of child weight status</i>	
Underweight	87 (8.7%)
About the right weight	611 (61.4%)
Somewhat overweight	280 (28.1%)
Very overweight	17 (1.7%)
<i>Child BMI percentile<sup>b</sup></i>	
Underweight (<5 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	14 (1.9%)
Normal weight (≥5 <sup>th</sup> –<85 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	314 (42.4%)
Overweight (≥85 <sup>th</sup> –<95 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	192 (25.9%)
Obese (≥95 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	221 (29.8%)
<i>Child sex</i>	
Female	531 (53.0%)
Male	471 (47.0%)
<i>Child grade</i>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	319 (31.8%)
4 <sup>th</sup> grade	315 (31.4%)
5 <sup>th</sup> grade	119 (11.9%)
6 <sup>th</sup> grade	129 (12.9%)
7 <sup>th</sup> grade	120 (12.0%)

<sup>a</sup> Parent BMI calculated based on self-reported height and weight.

<sup>b</sup> Child BMI data are provided for Group 1 and 2 children who had height and weight assessed at school.

Researchers used stratified random sampling to ensure that two-thirds of parents who *received* surveys had a child with a BMI at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Numbers within each category may not equal 1,002 due to prevalence of missing data.

**Table 2**

**Distribution of Child BMI Percentiles Based on Parent-Reported Child Weight Status (N = 737)**

		<b>Actual Child BMI percentile<sup>a</sup></b>			
		<b>Underweight</b>	<b>Normal weight</b>	<b>Overweight</b>	<b>Obese</b>
<b>Parent perception of child weight status</b>	Underweight (N = 65)	10 (15.4%)	48 (73.9%)	1 (1.5%)	6 (9.2%)
	About the right weight (N = 445)	4 (0.9%)	262 (58.9%)	127 (28.5%)	52 (11.7%)
	Somewhat overweight (N = 213)	0 (0.0%)	4 (1.9%)	61 (28.6%)	148 (69.5%)
	Very overweight (N = 14)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (14.3%)	12 (85.7%)

<sup>a</sup> Underweight: BMI < 5<sup>th</sup> percentile; Normal weight: BMI ≥ 8<sup>th</sup> - < 85<sup>th</sup> percentile; Overweight: BMI ≥ 85<sup>th</sup> - < 95<sup>th</sup> percentile; Obese: BMI ≥ 95<sup>th</sup> percentile.

**Table 3****Parent Underestimation of Child Overweight and Obesity**

<b>Weight status underestimated by parent?</b>	<b>Actual Child BMI percentile</b>		
	2-level variable <sup>a</sup> (N = 409)		1-level variable <sup>b</sup> (N = 218)
	$\geq 85^{\text{th}}$ and $< 95^{\text{th}}$ percentile	$\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ percentile	$\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ percentile
No	63 (33.0%)	12 (5.5%)	160 (73.4%)
Yes	128 (67.0%)	206 (94.5%)	58 (26.6%)

<sup>a</sup> Underestimation defined as parent classifying child as “underweight” or “about the right weight” when child’s BMI is between the 85th and 95th %tile or using any classification besides “very overweight” when child’s BMI is  $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$  %tile.

<sup>b</sup> Underestimation defined as parent classifying child as “underweight” or “about the right weight” when child’s BMI is  $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$  %tile.



**Table 4****Adjusted Odds Ratios of Parent Underestimation of Child Weight Status**

	2-level variable <sup>a</sup>		1-level variable <sup>b</sup>	
	Odds Ratio	95% Confidence Interval	Odds Ratio	95% Confidence Interval
<i>Parent race/ethnicity</i>				
White (reference)	–	–	–	–
Hispanic	1.39	[0.68, 2.84]	0.52	[0.21, 1.28]
Asian	0.76	[0.29, 1.96]	1.57	[0.38, 6.45]
Black	3.82	[0.41, 35.53]	2.50	[0.56, 11.12]
<i>Parent BMI category<sup>c</sup></i>				
Normal BMI (reference)	–	–	–	–
Underweight (BMI < 18.5 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	2.67	[0.29, 24.86]	–	–
Overweight or obese (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	0.72	[0.36, 1.43]	0.68	[0.28, 1.63]

\*p<.05; \*\*p<.01; \*\*\*p<.001

<sup>a</sup> Underestimation defined as parent classifying child as “underweight” or “about the right weight” when child’s BMI is between the 85th and 95th %tile or using any classification besides “very overweight” when child’s BMI is ≥95th %tile.

<sup>b</sup> Underestimation defined as parent classifying child as “underweight” or “about the right weight” when child’s BMI is ≥95th %tile.

<sup>c</sup> Parent BMI calculated based on self-reported height and weight.

<sup>d</sup> There were no parents with a BMI < 18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> who underestimated their child’s weight status according to 1-level variable criteria.

**Table 5**

**Adjusted Odds Ratios of Parent Preference for School-Based BMI Screening and Reporting**

	BMI Screening		BMI Reporting	
	Odds Ratio	95% Confidence Interval	Odds Ratio	95% Confidence Interval
<i>Parent race/ethnicity</i>				
White (reference)	–	–	–	–
Hispanic	2.27	[1.58, 3.25]***	3.61	[1.86, 7.03]***
Asian	3.74	[2.25, 6.23]***	1.91	[0.86, 4.23]
Black	2.26	[1.04, 4.91]*	2.32	[0.58, 9.24]
<i>Parent BMI category<sup>a</sup></i>				
Normal BMI (reference)	–	–	–	–
Underweight (BMI < 18.5 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	0.55	[0.27, 1.12]	0.60	[0.19, 1.90]
Overweight or obese (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	0.62	[0.44, 0.88]*	0.64	[0.34, 1.19]
<i>Parent perception of child weight status</i>				
About the right weight (reference)	–	–	–	–
Underweight	1.24	[0.72, 2.15]	1.85	[0.59, 5.75]

Somewhat overweight	0.86	[0.62, 1.19]	1.03	[0.58, 1.84]
Very overweight	3.57	[0.77, 16.56]	1.83	[0.21, 15.81]
<i>Grade of parent's child</i>				
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade (reference)	–	–	–	–
4 <sup>th</sup> grade	0.89	[0.62, 1.26]	0.42	[0.18, 0.97]*
5 <sup>th</sup> grade	0.97	[0.59, 1.58]	0.42	[0.16, 1.12]
6 <sup>th</sup> grade	1.33	[0.79, 2.22]	0.29	[0.11, 0.81]*
7 <sup>th</sup> grade	1.12	[0.66, 1.88]	0.32	[0.12, 0.88]*

\*p<.05; \*\*p<.01; \*\*\*p<.001

<sup>a</sup> Parent BMI calculated based on self-reported height and weight.

Models adjusted for parent sex and child sex.