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Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Meeting 5-2-1-0 Recommendations among Adolescents in the United States
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BACKGROUND:
Obesity prevention has become a major focus of public health efforts in the United States. The Federal Government set forth national nutrition and physical activity recommendations to prevent obesity and promote well-being among children. A succinct message developed through a program in Maine “Let’s Go! 5-2-1-0” summarizes these obesity prevention behaviors including ≥5 fruit and vegetables, ≤2 hours of screen time, ≥1 hour of physical activity, and 0 sugar sweetened beverages daily. The study evaluates racial/ethnic disparities among adolescents meeting the 5-2-1-0 targets in a nationally representative sample.

METHODS:
The 2011-2012 NHANES dataset was used to conduct a cross sectional analysis of Hispanic (n=287), non-Hispanic Black (n=321), Asian (n=145) and non-Hispanic White (n=234) adolescents 12-19 years old. The 5-2-1-0 targets were evaluated using dietary recalls, Global Physical Activity Questionnaire, and questions about sedentary activities. Differences in the proportion of racial/ethnic groups meeting the 5-2-1-0 targets were compared using chi-square tests. Logistic models accounting for the complex sampling design were used to evaluate racial/ethnic disparities in meeting the 5-2-1-0 targets.

RESULTS:
There were no adolescents that met all four 5-2-1-0 targets. Meeting individual targets and meeting none of the targets differed by racial/ethnic group. The study found 28% of White, 39% of Hispanic, 44% of Black and 35% of Asian adolescents met zero 5-2-1-0 targets. Adolescents from different racial/ethnic groups had increased odds of meeting no 5-2-1-0 targets compared to their White peers (adjusted odds ratio [95% Confidence Interval] – Hispanic: 1.76 [1.04-2.98], Black: 1.82[1.04-3.17], Asian: 1.48[1.08-2.04]).

CONCLUSION:
Understanding the uptake of national nutrition and physical activity recommendations is necessary to reduce future obesity and health consequences in adulthood. Despite national initiatives, adolescents in the United States are far from meeting the 5-2-1-0 targets and there are racial/ethnic disparities in meeting the recommendations.

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