

Appendix Table 5. Rates of comorbidities among Chinese, Indians and Malays across BMI categories.

BMI range (kg/m ²)	WHO classification for general population	WHO classification for Asian population	Chinese n= 2,467		Indian n= 2,128		Malay n= 1,253	
			%	P-value ^a	%	P-value ^a	%	P-value ^a
Diabetes								
18.5 – 23.0	Normal	Normal	9.7%	0.003	33.0%	0.505	23.8%	0.038
23.0 – 25.0		Overweight	14.7%		35.2%		32.8%	
25.0 – 29.9	Overweight	Obese I	20.4%		36.7%		34.8%	
≥30	Obese	Obese II	29.3%		42.9%		38.5%	
Hypertension								
18.5 – 23.0	Normal	Normal	35.8%	0.002	42.8%	0.730	48.9%	0.395
23.0 – 25.0		Overweight	43.9%		43.9%		53%	
25.0 – 29.9	Overweight	Obese I	57.6%		47.6%		59.7%	
≥30	Obese	Obese II	68.7%		59.8%		69.7%	
High Cholesterol								
18.5 – 23.0	Normal	Normal	38.9%	0.001	50.0%	0.777	47.6%	0.064
23.0 – 25.0		Overweight	47.4%		51.0%		56.6%	
25.0 – 29.9	Overweight	Obese I	56.7%		52.6%		62.2%	
≥30	Obese	Obese II	58.7%		64.8%		68.8%	

a: Chi-square Test between proportion of Normal (18.5 – 23.0) and Overweight (23.0 – 25.0) who have the comorbidities (diabetes, hypertension and cholesterol)