**Sex and area differences in the association between adiposity and lipid profile in Malawi**

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**Supplementary methods**

*Details of assessment of covariates included in the analyses*

Ethnicity was assessed in seven groups: Chewa, Tumbuka, Ngoni, Yao, Lomwe, Nkhonde and Other. Household assets score was based on the score of 15 items (paraffin lamp 2,000, radio 8,000, mobile phone 10,000, land phone 15,000, table & chair(s) 31,500, bed & mattress 31,000, bicycle 35,000, TV 85,000, electric/gas cooker 30,000, sofa set 125,000, oxcart 200,000, fridge 200,000, motorbike 350,000, car 2,000,000, and cow 150,000). The sum of the score was divided by 1,000 and categorized into quintiles within each area. Educational level was assessed in 7 categories (illiterate, no formal education; literate, no formal education; standard 1-5 years, illiterate; standard 1-5 years, literate; standard 6-8 years; secondary; and tertiary), and then it was recategorized into: no formal education; standard 1-5 years, standard 6-8 years, secondary, and tertiary. Marital status was assessed as never married, married, widowed or divorced/separated. Parity was considered the number of pregnancies the women ever had, regardless of its outcome. Smoking status comprised regular cigarette smoking (at least weekly), and it was categorized into never smoker, former smoker (stopped more than 6 months ago), and current smoker (smoked in the last 6 months). Alcohol intake in the previous 12 months and its frequency were categorized into: never, less than once a month, 1-3 days per month, 1-4 days per week, and 5 or more days per week. The number of days and frequency of walking, moderate and vigorous physical activity in leisure-time, work and commuting was assessed, and Metabolic Equivalent of Task (MET) was calculated. Physical activity was categorized into low, moderate or high based on the IPAQ (International Physical Activity Questionnaire) scoring protocol. Use of regular lipid-lowering medication was investigated among those who reported medical diagnosis of raised cholesterol, and it was then recategorized into: no raised cholesterol, raised cholesterol not taking medication, and raised cholesterol taking medication. HIV status was investigated as well as the use of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in those who reported being HIV positive.

*Statistical Analysis for dyslipidaemia analysis*

Age-adjusted prevalence of each dyslipidaemia was described according to area of residence, stratified by sex. Multiple logistic regression analyses were used to examine the association of both BMI and WHR (in standard deviations) with each dyslipidaemia, adjusted initially for age and then for other potential confounders. The same confounders used in the linear regression analyses were used for the logistic regressions.

Differences between the age-adjusted prevalence of each dyslipidaemia and the adjusted associations of anthropometric measurements with dyslipidaemias between rural and urban residents and women and men were compared by examining the point estimates and their 95% confidence intervals. Statistical evidence for sex and area differences were obtained from interaction tests.

**Supplementary Table 1. Characteristics of the participants with missing and complete lipid data in rural area, by sex**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |   | **Males** |  | **Females** |  |
|  |   | **Missing****n=864** **(14.7%)** | **Non-missing****n=5,000****(85.3%)** | **p-value** | **Missing****n=943****(11.7%)** | **Non-missing****n=7,096****(88.3%)** | **p-value** |
| **Age -** mean (SD) |  | 36.2 (16.5) | 38.1 (16.5) | 0.002 | 42.3 (20.6) | 37.6 (15.6) | <0.001 |
| **Household assets score -** median (IQR) | 179.8 (179.8) | 207.2 (183.0) | 0.008 | 194.0 (179.0) | 201.0 (195.5) | 0.497 |
| **BMI** – mean (SD) | 21.2 (2.6) | 21.6 (2.8) | <0.001 | 22.5 (4.1) | 23.5 (4.3) | <0.001 |
| **WHR** – mean (SD) | 0.86 (0.06) | 0.86 (0.05) | 0.105 | 0.86 (0.07) | 0.86 (0.07) | 0.110 |
| **Ethnicity** % (95% CI) | Chewa | 2.4 (1.6; 3.7) | 2.1 (1.8; 2.6) | 0.354 | 1.9 (1.2; 3.0) | 2.5 (2.2; 2.9) | 0.009 |
| Tumbuka | 77.7 (74.8; 80.3) | 76.9 (75.8; 78.1) |  | 70.5 (67.5; 73.3) | 75.5 (74.4; 76.5) |  |
|  | Ngoni | 1.0 (0.5; 2.0) | 2.0 (1.6; 2.4) |  | 2.4 (1.6; 3.6) | 2.0 (1.7; 2.4) |  |
|  | Yao | 0.5 (0.2; 1.2) | 0.4 (0.3; 0.6) |  | 0.5 (0.2; 1.3) | 0.3 (0.2; 0.4) |  |
|  | Lomwe | 0.3 (0.1; 1.1) | 0.2 (0.1; 0.4) |  | 0.2 (0.1; 0.8) | 0.2 (0.1; 0.3) |  |
|  | Nkonde | 6.3 (4.8; 8.1) | 5.3 (4.7; 6.0) |  | 8.6 (7.0; 10.6) | 7.3 (6.7; 7.9) |  |
|  | Other | 11.8 (9.8; 14.1) | 13 (12.1; 14.0) |  | 15.8 (13.6; 18.3) | 12.3 (11.5; 13.1) |  |
| **Education** | No formal | 2.0 (1.2; 3.1) | 1.6 (1.3; 2.0) | 0.065 | 12.7 (10.7; 15.0) | 5.3 (4.8; 5.8) | <0.001 |
| % (95% CI) | Standard 1-5 | 13.1 (11.0; 15.5) | 10.4 (9.6; 11.3) |  | 24.1 (21.4; 26.9) | 16.1 (15.3; 17.0) |  |
|  | Standard 6-8 | 41 (37.7; 44.3) | 41.5 (40.2; 42.9) |  | 39.8 (36.7; 42.9) | 52.4 (51.2; 53.5) |  |
|  | Secondary | 40.3 (37.0; 43.6) | 43.5 (42.2; 44.9) |  | 22.5 (19.9; 25.3) | 25.3 (24.3; 26.3) |  |
|  | Tertiary | 3.7 (2.6; 5.2) | 2.9 (2.4; 3.4) |  | 1.0 (0.5; 1.8) | 1.0 (0.8; 1.2) |  |
| **Marital status** % (95% CI) | Never married | 26.3 (23.5; 29.4) | 22.7 (21.6; 23.9) | 0.015 | 9.7 (7.9; 11.7) | 7.2 (6.6; 7.8) |  |
| Married | 68.2 (65.0; 71.2) | 72.4 (71.2; 73.7) |  | 60.6 (57.4; 63.6) | 69.8 (68.7; 70.9) | <0.001 |
|  | Widowed | 0.7 (0.3; 1.5) | 1.2 (1.0; 1.6) |  | 20.6 (18.1; 23.3) | 12.4 (11.6; 13.2) |  |
|  | Divorced | 4.8 (3.5; 6.4) | 3.6 (3.1; 4.2) |  | 9.2 (7.5; 11.3) | 10.6 (9.9; 11.4) |  |
| **Number of** **pregnancies a** % (95% CI) | 0 |  |  |  | 10 (8.2; 12.1) | 6.6 (6.1; 7.2) | <0.001 |
| 1 |  |  |  | 8.8 (7.2; 10.8) | 10 (9.3; 10.7) |  |
| 2 |  |  |  | 11.6 (9.7; 13.8) | 12.5 (11.8; 13.3) |  |
|  | 3 |  |  |  | 10.9 (9.0; 13.0) | 13.2 (12.5; 14.1) |  |
|  | 4+ |  |  |  | 58.7 (55.5; 61.8) | 57.7 (56.5; 58.8) |  |
| **Smoking status** % (95% CI) | Never | 80.7 (77.9; 83.2) | 82.3 (81.2; 83.3) | 0.220 | 99.5 (98.7; 99.8) | 99.7 (99.6; 99.8) | 0.379 |
| Former | 4.1 (2.9; 5.6) | 4.5 (4.0; 5.2) |  | 0.2 (0.1; 0.8) | 0.1 (0.1; 0.2) |  |
|  | Current | 15.3 (13.0; 17.8) | 13.2 (12.3; 14.1) |  | 0.3 (0.1; 1.0) | 0.2 (0.1; 0.3) |  |
| **Alcohol intake** % (95% CI) | Never  | 57.6 (54.3; 60.9) | 58.1 (56.7; 59.5) | 0.068 | 95 (93.4; 96.2) | 96.6 (96.1; 97) | 0.038 |
| < 1 month | 9.4 (7.6; 11.5) | 9.5 (8.8; 10.4) |  | 1.7 (1.0; 2.8) | 1.4 (1.1; 1.7) |  |
|  | 1-3 days/ month | 11.3 (9.4; 13.6) | 13.4 (12.5; 14.4) |  | 1.6 (1.0; 2.6) | 1.2 (1.0; 1.5) |  |
|  | 1-4 days/ week | 16.1 (13.8; 18.7) | 15.2 (14.2; 16.2) |  | 1.6 (1.0; 2.6) | 0.7 (0.5; 0.9) |  |
|  | 5+ days/ week | 5.6 (4.2; 7.3) | 3.8 (3.3; 4.3) |  | 0.1 (0.0; 0.8) | 0.1 (0.1; 0.2) |  |
| **Physical activity level b** % (95% CI) | Low | 3.5 (2.4; 4.9) | 2.3 (1.9; 2.8) | 0.104 | 5.1 (3.9; 6.7) | 1.4 (1.2; 1.7) | <0.001 |
| Moderate | 11.1 (9.2; 13.4) | 10.6 (9.8; 11.5) |  | 5.9 (4.6; 7.6) | 3.2 (2.8; 3.6) |  |
| High | 85.4 (82.9; 87.6) | 87.1 (86.2; 88) |  | 89 (86.8; 90.8) | 95.4 (94.9; 95.9) |  |
| **Lipid-lowering medication**% (95% CI) | No raised cholesterol |  | 99.9 (99.8; 100) | 0.772 | 99.7 (99; 99.9) | 99.9 (99.8; 99.9) | 0.109 |
| No medication |  | 0 (0.0; 0.2) |  | 0.3 (0.1; 1.0) | 0.1 (0.1; 0.2) |  |
| Taking medication |  | 0 (0.0; 0.1) |  | - | - |  |
| **HIV status** | HIV negative | 89.6 (86.7; 91.9) | 89.5 (88.5; 90.5) | 0.975 | 88.4 (85.6; 90.7) | 87.0 (86.0; 87.8) | 0.319 |
| % (95% CI) | HIV positive | 10.4 (8.1; 13.3) | 10.5 (9.5; 11.5) |  | 11.6 (9.3; 14.4) | 13.0 (12.2; 14.0) |  |
| **ART status c** % (95% CI) | On ART | 5.7 (1.3; 21.4) | 10.2 (7.0; 14.4) | 0.403 | 11.1 (4.0; 27.1) | 5.8 (4.1; 8.2) | 0.197 |
| Not on ART | 94.3 (78.6; 98.7) | 89.8 (85.6; 93.0) |  | 88.9 (72.9; 96) | 94.2 (91.8; 95.9) |  |

ART: anti-retroviral therapy; HIV: human immunodeficiency virus; IQR: interquartile range; NA: not applicable; SD: standard deviation

a Information available only for females

b Level of physical activity based on metabolic equivalent (MET)

c Based on those who reported being HIV positive

**Supplementary Table 2. Characteristics of the participants with missing and complete lipid data in urban area, by sex**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |   | **Males** |  | **Females** |  |
|  |   | **Missing****n=1,520****(26.2%)** | **Non-missing****n=4,284****(73.8%)** | **p-value** | **Missing****n=2,304****(21.2%)** | **Non-missing****n=8,563****(78.8%)** | **p-value** |
| **Age -** mean (SD) |  | 32.0 (13.0) | 33.2 (14.1) | 0.003 | 30.9 (12.6) | 32.5 (12.4) | <0.001 |
| **Household assets score –** median (IQR) | 668.2 (358.0) | 793.1 (410.0) | <0.001 | 650.0 (370.0) | 707.4 (436.0) | 0.006 |
| **BMI** – mean (SD) | 22.2 (3.5) | 22.5 (3.6) | 0.002 | 24.7 (5.0) | 25.6 (5.4) | <0.001 |
| **WHR** – mean (SD) | 0.84 (0.06) | 0.84 (0.07) | 0.447 | 0.81 (0.07) | 0.81 (0.07) | 0.025 |
| **Ethnicity** % (95% CI) | Chewa | 39.7 (37.3; 42.2) | 34.2 (32.8; 35.6) | 0.002 | 40.2 (38.2; 42.3) | 37.2 (36.2; 38.2) | 0.034 |
| Tumbuka | 11.3 (9.8; 12.9) | 13.7 (12.7; 14.8) |  | 12 (10.8; 13.4) | 12 (11.3; 12.7) |  |
|  | Ngoni | 17.7 (15.9; 19.7) | 19 (17.9; 20.2) |  | 18.8 (17.3; 20.5) | 19.7 (18.9; 20.6) |  |
|  | Yao | 7.6 (6.4; 9.1) | 8.1 (7.4; 9.0) |  | 8.0 (7.0; 9.2) | 7.8 (7.2; 8.4) |  |
|  | Lomwe | 15.1 (13.4; 17) | 15 (13.9; 16.1) |  | 11.8 (10.5; 13.2) | 13.4 (12.7; 14.1) |  |
|  | Nkonde | 1.8 (1.2; 2.6) | 1.4 (1.1; 1.9) |  | 1.0 (0.6; 1.4) | 1.6 (1.3; 1.8) |  |
|  | Other | 6.8 (5.7; 8.2) | 8.5 (7.7; 9.4) |  | 8.1 (7.1; 9.3) | 8.4 (7.8; 9.0) |  |
| **Education** | No formal | 1.7 (1.2; 2.5) | 1.2 (0.9; 1.6) | 0.009 | 5.4 (4.5; 6.4) | 4.5 (4.0; 4.9) | <0.001 |
| % (95% CI) | Standard 1-5 | 5.5 (4.4; 6.7) | 4.4 (3.8; 5.1) |  | 12.1 (10.8; 13.5) | 9.1 (8.5; 9.7) |  |
|  | Standard 6-8 | 13.9 (12.3; 15.8) | 14.1 (13.1; 15.2) |  | 23.0 (21.3; 24.7) | 22.9 (22.0; 23.8) |  |
|  | Secondary | 59.3 (56.8; 61.8) | 56.9 (55.4; 58.3) |  | 45.5 (43.5; 47.5) | 50.4 (49.3; 51.5) |  |
|  | Tertiary | 19.5 (17.6; 21.6) | 23.4 (22.2; 24.7) |  | 14.1 (12.7; 15.5) | 13.2 (12.5; 13.9) |  |
| **Marital status** % (95% CI) | Never married | 45.8 (43.3; 48.3) | 47.2 (45.7; 48.7) | 0.153 | 23.7 (22.0; 25.4) | 20.8 (19.9; 21.6) | 0.018 |
| Married | 48.9 (46.4; 51.5) | 48.2 (46.8; 49.7) |  | 61.5 (59.5; 63.4) | 64.1 (63.1; 65.1) |  |
|  | Widowed | 1.1 (0.7; 1.8) | 1.4 (1.1; 1.9) |  | 6.0 (5.1; 7.1) | 6.6 (6.0; 7.1) |  |
|  | Divorced | 4.1 (3.2; 5.3) | 3.1 (2.6; 3.6) |  | 8.9 (7.8; 10.1) | 8.6 (8.0; 9.2) |  |
| **Number of** **pregnancies a** % (95% CI) | 0 |  |  |  | 21 (19.4; 22.7) | 18.2 (17.4; 19.1) | <0.001 |
| 1 |  |  |  | 20.4 (18.8; 22.1) | 17.2 (16.5; 18.1) |  |
| 2 |  |  |  | 18.7 (17.2; 20.4) | 17.9 (17.1; 18.7) |  |
|  | 3 |  |  |  | 14.2 (12.8; 15.7) | 15.4 (14.6; 16.2) |  |
|  | 4+ |  |  |  | 25.7 (24.0; 27.6) | 31.2 (30.3; 32.2) |  |
| **Smoking status** % (95% CI) | Never | 81.7 (79.7; 83.6) | 84.4 (83.2; 85.4) | 0.014 | 98.9 (98.4; 99.3) | 99.5 (99.3; 99.6) | 0.008 |
| Former | 9.3 (7.9; 10.8) | 7.0 (6.3; 7.8) |  | 0.6 (0.4; 1.0) | 0.3 (0.2; 0.5) |  |
|  | Current | 9.0 (7.7; 10.6) | 8.6 (7.8; 9.5) |  | 0.5 (0.3; 0.9) | 0.2 (0.1; 0.3) |  |
| **Alcohol intake** % (95% CI) | Never  | 59.1 (56.6; 61.6) | 64.1 (62.6; 65.5) | 0.002 | 93.6 (92.5; 94.5) | 93.8 (93.3; 94.3) | 0.804 |
| < 1 month | 8.4 (7.1; 9.9) | 8.4 (7.6; 9.2) |  | 2.6 (2.0; 3.3) | 2.8 (2.5; 3.2) |  |
|  | 1-3 days/ month | 13.8 (12.2; 15.6) | 13.1 (12.1; 14.1) |  | 2.7 (2.1; 3.4) | 2.4 (2.1; 2.7) |  |
|  | 1-4 days/ week | 13.7 (12.0; 15.5) | 10.8 (9.9; 11.7) |  | 0.7 (0.5; 1.2) | 0.7 (0.6; 0.9) |  |
|  | 5+ days/ week | 4.9 (4.0; 6.1) | 3.7 (3.2; 4.3) |  | 0.3 (0.2; 0.7) | 0.3 (0.2; 0.4) |  |
| **Physical activity level b** % (95% CI) | Low | 3.6 (2.8; 4.7) | 4.3 (3.7; 5.0) | 0.162 | 2.2 (1.7; 2.9) | 1.5 (1.2; 1.8) | 0.001 |
| Moderate | 12.3 (10.7; 14.1) | 13.7 (12.7; 14.8) |  | 3.5 (2.8; 4.3) | 2.4 (2.1; 2.7) |  |
| High | 84.1 (82.2; 85.8) | 82.0 (80.8; 83.1) |  | 94.3 (93.3; 95.2) | 96.1 (95.7; 96.5) |  |
| **Lipid-lowering medication**% (95% CI) | No raised cholesterol | 99.8 (99.4; 99.9) | 99.6 (99.4; 99.8) | 0.298 | 99.9 (99.6; 100) | 99.6 (99.4; 99.7) | 0.113 |
| No medication | 0.1 (0.0; 0.5) | 0.4 (0.2; 0.6) |  | 0.1 (0.0; 0.4) | 0.3 (0.2; 0.5) |  |
| Taking medication | 0.1 (0.0; 0.5) | 0.0 (0.0; 0.2) |  | - | 0.1 (0.0; 0.2) |  |
| **HIV status** | HIV negative | 94.9 (93.3; 96.1) | 93.6 (92.7; 94.3) | 0.125 | 92.7 (91.5; 93.8) | 89.1 (88.4; 89.7) | <0.001 |
| % (95% CI) | HIV positive | 5.1 (3.9; 6.7) | 6.4 (5.7; 7.3) |  | 7.3 (6.2; 8.5) | 10.9 (10.3; 11.6) |  |
| **ART status c** % (95% CI) | On ART | 8.3 (3.0; 20.8) | 13.1 (8.7; 19.4) | 0.371 | 11.3 (6.8; 18.3) | 10.6 (8.4; 13.2) | 0.822 |
| Not on ART | 91.7 (79.2; 97) | 86.9 (80.6; 91.3) |  | 88.7 (81.7; 93.2) | 89.4 (86.8; 91.6) |  |

ART: anti-retroviral therapy; HIV: human immunodeficiency virus; IQR: interquartile range; NA: not applicable; SD: standard deviation

a Information available only for females

b Level of physical activity based on metabolic equivalent (MET)

c Based on those who reported being HIV positive

**Supplementary Table 3. Missing data according to area of residence and sex.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **All****N=24,943** | **Rural Residents** | **Urban Residents** |
|  | **Females****n=7,096**  | **Males****n=5,000** | **Females****n=8,563**  | **Males****n=4,284** |
| BMI | 835 (3.3) | 429 (6.0) | 10 (0.2) | 394 (4.6) | 2 (0.05) |
| WHR | 828 (3.3) | 422 (5.9) | 10 (0.2) | 394 (4.6) | 2 (0.05) |
| Marital status – N (%) | 20 (0.1) | 12 (0.2) | 8 (0.2) | 0 | 0 |
| Parity a – N (%) | 22 (0.1) | 21 (0.3) | NA | 1 (0.01) | 0 |
| HIV/ART status– N (%) | 4,618 (18.5) | 1,848 (26.0) | 1,478 (29.6)  | 719 (8.4) | 573 (13.4) |

All the other variables had no missing data.

ART: anti-retroviral therapy; BMI: body mass index; HIV: human immunodeficiency virus; NA: not applicable; WHR: waist-hip ratio

a Information considered only for females

**Supplementary Table 4. Age-adjusted mean of body mass index (BMI), waist-hip ratio (WHR) and serum lipids in rural and urban residents, by sex.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Females****Mean (95% CI)** | **Males****Mean (95% CI)** | **p-value** |
| **BMI (kg/m2)** |  |  |  |
| Rural (N=6,667) / (N=4,990) | 23.3 (23.2; 23.4) | 21.6 (21.5; 21.6) |  |
| Urban (N=8,169) / (N=4,282) | 25.8 (25.7; 25.9) | 22.7 (22.6; 22.8) |  |
| P-value for difference between sex |  |  | <0.001 |
| P-value for difference between areas |  |  | <0.001 |
| **WHR** |  |  |  |
| Rural (N=6,674) / (N=4,990) | 0.85 (0.85; 0.85) | 0.86 (0.86; 0.86) |  |
| Urban (N=8,169) / (N=4,282) | 0.81 (0.81; 0.81) | 0.85 (0.85; 0.85) |  |
| P-value for difference between sex |  |  | <0.001 |
| P-value for difference between areas |  |  | <0.001 |
| **TC (mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural (N=7,096) / (N=5,000) | 4.00 (3.98; 4.02) | 3.73 (3.70; 3.75) |  |
| Urban (N=8,563) / (N=4,284) | 4.11 (4.09; 4.13) | 3.98 (3.95; 4.01) |  |
| P-value for difference between sex |  |  | <0.001 |
| P-value for difference between areas |  |  | <0.001 |
| **LDL-C (mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural (N=7,096) / (N=5,000) | 2.62 (2.61; 2.64) | 2.39 (2.37; 2.41) |  |
| Urban (N=8,563) / (N=4,284) | 2.73 (2.72; 2.75) | 2.64 (2.62; 2.67) |  |
| P-value for difference between sex |  |  | <0.001 |
| P-value for difference between areas |  |  | <0.001 |
| **HDL-C (mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural (N=7,096) / (N=5,000) | 1.15 (1.14; 1.16) | 1.09 (1.08; 1.10) |  |
| Urban (N=8,563) / (N=4,284) | 1.20 (1.19; 1.21) | 1.15 (1.14; 1.16) |  |
| P-value for difference between sex |  |  | <0.001 |
| P-value for difference between areas |  |  | <0.001 |
| **TG (mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural (N=7,096) / (N=5,000) | 0.85 (0.84; 0.86) | 1.02 (1.00; 1.04) |  |
| Urban (N=8,563) / (N=4,284) | 0.94 (0.93; 0.95) | 1.13 (1.11; 1.16) |  |
| P-value for difference between sex |  |  | <0.001 |
| P-value for difference between areas |  |  | <0.001 |

BMI: body mass index; HDL-C: high density lipoprotein-cholesterol; LDL-C: low density lipoprotein-cholesterol; TC: total cholesterol; TG: triglycerides; WHR: waist-hip ratio

**Supplementary Table 5. Age-adjusted prevalence of dyslipidaemias in rural and urban residents, by sex.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Females****Prevalence****(95% CI)** | **Males****Prevalence****(95% CI)** | **p-values** |
| **High TC (≥ 5.2 mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural (N=7,096) / (N=5,000) | 11.0 (10.3; 11.7) | 6.9 (6.2; 7.5) |  |
| Urban (N=8,563) / (N=4,284) | 13.3 (12.6; 14.1) | 11.3 (10.3; 12.3) |  |
| P-value for difference between sex |  |  | <0.001 |
| P-value for difference between areas |  |  | <0.001 |
| **High LDL-C (≥ 3.4 mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural (N=7,096) / (N=5,000) | 16.3 (15.5; 17.1) | 9.8 (9.0; 10.6) |  |
| Urban (N=8,563) / (N=4,284) | 20.8 (19.9; 21.6) | 17.7 (16.5; 18.8) |  |
| P-value for difference between sex |  |  | <0.001 |
| P-value for difference between areas |  |  | 0.016 |
| **Low HDL-C (< 1.0 mmol/L)** |  |
| Rural (N=7,096) / (N=5,000) | 42.5 (41.1; 439.) | 34.4 (33.0; 35.8) |  |
| Urban (N=8,563) / (N=4,284) | 33.3 (32.2; 34.4) | 25.7 (24.8; 26.6) |  |
| P-value for difference between sex |  |  | <0.001 |
| P-value for difference between areas |  |  | <0.001 |
| **High TG (≥ 1.7 mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural (N=7,096) / (N=5,000) | 6.0 (5.5; 6.6) | 10.4 (9.6; 11.3) |  |
| Urban (N=8,563) / (N=4,284) | 8.8 (8.1; 9.4) | 14.1 (13.0; 15.1) |  |
| P-value for difference between sex |  |  | <0.001 |
| P-value for difference between areas |  |  | <0.001 |
| **Any dyslipidaemia** |  |  |  |
| Rural (N=7,096) / (N=5,000) | 53.6 (52.2; 55.0) | 51.8 (50.3; 53.3) |  |
| Urban (N=8,563) / (N=4,284) | 48.2 (47.0; 49.4) | 46.2 (45.3; 47.3) |  |
| P-value for difference between sex |  |  | <0.001 |
| P-value for difference between areas |  |  | <0.001 |

BMI: body mass index; HDL-C: high density lipoprotein-cholesterol; LDL-C: low density lipoprotein-cholesterol; TC: total cholesterol; TG: triglycerides; WHR: waist-hip ratio

**Supplementary Table 6. Adjusted association between BMI/WHR and dyslipidaemias in rural and urban females and males.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Adjusted OR per 1 SD higher BMI (95% CI)** | **Adjusted OR per 1 SD higher WHR (95% CI)** |
| **OR of high TC (≥ 5.2 mmol/L)** |  |  |
| Rural females (N=4,971) / (N=4,975) | 1.53 (1.39; 1.70) | 1.17 (1.07; 1.29) |
| Rural males (N=3,548) / (N=3,549) | 1.51 (1.31; 1.73) | 1.39 (1.21; 1.61) |
| Urban females (N=7,455)  | 1.30 (1.21; 1.40) | 1.23 (1.14; 1.34) |
| Urban males (N=3,705) | 1.51 (1.36; 1.67) | 1.48 (1.33; 1.63) |
| P-values for difference between sex  | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| P-values for difference between area  | 0.072 | 0.408 |
| **OR of high LDL-C (≥ 3.4 mmol/L)** |  |  |
| Rural females (N=4,971) / (N=4,975) | 1.71 (1.56; 1.87) | 1.20 (1.10; 1.30) |
| Rural males (N=3,548) / (N=3,549) | 1.67 (1.48; 1.89) | 1.42 (1.25; 1.61) |
| Urban females (N=7,455)  | 1.50 (1.41; 1.59) | 1.32 (1.24; 1.41) |
| Urban males (N=3,705) | 1.63 (1.5; 1.78) | 1.45 (1.33; 1.58) |
| P-values for difference between sex  | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| P-values for difference between area  | 0.038 | 0.188 |
| **OR of low HDL-C (< 1.0 mmol/)** |
| Rural females (N=4,971) / (N=4,975) | 1.15 (1.07; 1.23) | 1.20 (1.12; 1.29) |
| Rural males (N=3,548) / (N=3,549) | 1.14 (1.05; 1.24) | 1.18 (1.09; 1.29) |
| Urban females (N=7,455)  | 1.30 (1.24; 1.37) | 1.27 (1.21; 1.35) |
| Urban males (N=3,705) | 1.24 (1.16; 1.32) | 1.23 (1.15; 1.32) |
| P-values for difference between sex  | 0.223 | 0.284 |
| P-values for difference between area  | 0.008 | <0.001 |
| **OR of high TG (≥ 1.7 mmol/L)** |  |  |
| Rural females (N=4,971) / (N=4,975) | 1.89 (1.65; 2.15) | 2.04 (1.77; 2.35) |
| Rural males (N=3,548) / (N=3,549) | 2.00 (1.77; 2.26) | 1.67 (1.47; 1.89) |
| Urban females (N=7,455)  | 1.60 (1.46; 1.75) | 1.81 (1.65; 1.99) |
| Urban males (N=3,705) | 1.82 (1.66; 2.01) | 1.69 (1.53; 1.86) |
| P-values for difference between sex  | <0.001 | 0.720 |
| P-values for difference between area | 0.001 | 0.651 |

BMI: body mass index; HDL-C: high density lipoprotein-cholesterol; LDL-C: low density lipoprotein-cholesterol; SD: standard deviation; OR: odds ratio; TC: total cholesterol; TG: triglycerides; WHR: waist-hip ratio

Adjusted for age, ethnicity, education, household assets score, marital status, use of lipid-lowering medication, smoking status, alcohol intake, physical activity, and HIV/ART status.

**Supplementary Table 7. Adjusted association between BMI/WHR and serum lipids in Malawian rural and urban females and males, according to HIV status.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **HIV negative** | **HIV positive** | **p-value** |
|  | **Adjusted difference in outcome per** **1 SD higher BMI (95% CI)** |
| **Difference in mean TC (mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural females (N=4,400) / (N=679) | 0.22 (0.19; 0.26) | 0.25 (0.14; 0.36) | 0.678 |
| Rural males (N=3,237) / (N=381) | 0.19 (0.16; 0.23) | 0.20 (0.05; 0.34) | 0.970 |
| Urban females (N=6,841) / (N=859)  | 0.13 (0.11; 0.15) | 0.17 (0.11; 0.24) | 0.180 |
| Urban males (N=3,550) / (N=243) | 0.16 (0.13; 0.18) | 0.14 (-0.01; 0.29) | 0.891 |
| **Difference in mean LDL-C (mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural females (N=4,400) / (N=679) | 0.22 (0.19; 0.24) | 0.20 (0.11; 0.28) | 0.669 |
| Rural males (N=3,237) / (N=381) | 0.19 (0.16; 0.21) | 0.20 (0.09; 0.30) | 0.992 |
| Urban females (N=6,841) / (N=859)  | 0.15 (0.13; 0.17) | 0.15 (0.09; 0.20) | 0.915 |
| Urban males (N=3,550) / (N=243) | 0.17 (0.15; 0.20) | 0.16 (0.04; 0.28) | 0.768 |
| **Difference in mean HDL-C (mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural females (N=4,400) / (N=679) | -0.03 (-0.04; -0.02) | 0.00 (-0.04; 0.04) | 0.429 |
| Rural males (N=3,237) / (N=381) | -0.04 (-0.05; -0.02) | 0.00 (-0.06; 0.06) | 0.098 |
| Urban females (N=6,841) / (N=859)  | -0.05 (-0.06; -0.04) | -0.03 (-0.05; 0.00) | 0.036 |
| Urban males (N=3,550) / (N=243) | -0.05 (-0.06; -0.04) | -0.03 (-0.09; 0.03) | 0.406 |
| **Difference in mean TG (mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural females (N=4,400) / (N=679) | 0.11 (0.10; 0.13) | 0.13 (0.06; 0.19) | 0.235 |
| Rural males (N=3,237) / (N=381) | 0.16 (0.14; 0.18) | 0.04 (-0.09; 0.17) | 0.022 |
| Urban females (N=6,841) / (N=859)  | 0.10 (0.09; 0.10) | 0.08 (0.03; 0.13) | 0.950 |
| Urban males (N=3,550) / (N=243) | 0.17 (0.15; 0.19) | 0.02 (-0.16; 0.20) | 0.033 |
|  | **Adjusted difference in outcome per** **1 SD higher WHR (95% CI)** |  |
| **Difference in mean TC (mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural females (N=4,403) / (N=680) | 0.04 (0.01; 0.07) | 0.15 (0.07; 0.23) | 0.105 |
| Rural males (N=3,238) / (N=381) | 0.06 (0.03; 0.10) | 0.17 (0.04; 0.29) | 0.006 |
| Urban females (N=6,841) / (N=859)  | 0.10 (0.07; 0.12) | 0.11 (0.04; 0.18) | 0.415 |
| Urban males (N=3,550) / (N=243) | 0.09 (0.06; 0.12) | 0.05 (-0.05; 0.16) | 0.729 |
| **Difference in mean LDL-C (mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural females (N=4,403) / (N=680) | 0.05 (0.03; 0.08) | 0.11 (0.05; 0.18) | 0.439 |
| Rural males (N=3,238) / (N=381) | 0.06 (0.04; 0.09) | 0.12 (0.03; 0.22) | 0.039 |
| Urban females (N=6,841) / (N=859)  | 0.09 (0.08; 0.11) | 0.10 (0.05; 0.15) | 0.762 |
| Urban males (N=3,550) / (N=243) | 0.10 (0.08; 0.12) | 0.04 (-0.04; 0.13) | 0.462 |
| **Difference in mean HDL-C (mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural females (N=4,403) / (N=680) | -0.03 (-0.04; -0.02) | 0.00 (-0.03; 0.02) | 0.248 |
| Rural males (N=3,238) / (N=381) | -0.03 (-0.05; -0.02) | 0.01 (-0.04; 0.06) | 0.015 |
| Urban females (N=6,841) / (N=859)  | -0.03 (-0.04; -0.02) | -0.02 (-0.05; 0.00) | 0.132 |
| Urban males (N=3,550) / (N=243) | -0.03 (-0.04; -0.02) | -0.03 (-0.07; 0.01) | 0.877 |
| **Difference in mean TG (mmol/L)** |  |  |  |
| Rural females (N=4,403) / (N=680) | 0.09 (0.08; 0.11) | 0.14 (0.09; 0.19) | 0.043 |
| Rural males (N=3,238) / (N=381) | 0.11 (0.09; 0.13) | 0.08 (-0.03; 0.20) | 0.648 |
| Urban females (N=6,841) / (N=859)  | 0.08 (0.07; 0.09) | 0.16 (0.12; 0.21) | <0.001 |
| Urban males (N=3,550) / (N=243) | 0.14 (0.12; 0.16) | 0.13 (0.00; 0.26) | 0.813 |

p-value for interaction between HIV/status and anthropometry measures

Serum lipids were assessed in in mmol/L.

BMI: body mass index; HDL-C: high density lipoprotein-cholesterol; LDL-C: low density lipoprotein-cholesterol; TC: total cholesterol; TG: triglycerides; WHR: waist-hip ratio

Adjusted for age, ethnicity, education, household assets score, marital status, parity (females) use of lipid-lowering medication, smoking status, alcohol intake, and physical activity.

BMI and WHR are used in standard deviations

****

a)

****

b)

**Supplementary Figure 1.** Age-adjusted association between quintiles of BMI (a) and WHR (b) with serum lipids in females and males, by area.

Serum lipids are used in standard deviations.

**Supplementary Figure 2.** Age-adjusted association between BMI/WHR and serum lipids in rural and urban females and males.

BMI, WHR and serum lipids are used in standard deviations.



a)

****

b)

**Supplementary Figure 3.** Age-adjusted (a) and adjusted (b) associations between BMI/WHR and dyslipidaemia in rural and urban females and males.

Adjusted for age, ethnicity, education, household assets score, marital status, use of lipid-lowering medication, smoking status, alcohol intake, physical activity, and HIV/ART status.

BMI, WHR and serum lipids are used in standard deviations.



b)

a)



**Supplementary Figure 4.** Adjusted associations of BMI (a) and WHR (b) with lipids in HIV positive and negative individuals in rural and urban males and females.

Adjusted for age, ethnicity, education, household assets score, marital status, use of lipid-lowering medication, smoking status, alcohol intake, physical activity.

BMI, WHR and serum lipids are used in standard deviations.