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Obesity and Fast Food: National Analysis

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Research Question

Does an increase or decrease in fast food restaurants per capita affect the rate of obesity in the United States?

Research

Behind the research was to see if fast food restaurants has a correlation with obesity rates in the United States. Data was collected for the 2011, 2012, and 2014. To determine whether other factors that affect obesity, data was also collected for income and obesity rates by age group for each state in the United States including the District of Columbia.

Variables

Variables was collected in each state of the United States for three years. Numbers collected were done by taking the total sum of each county in a state. The controlled variable Obesity was collected by an overall percentage rate, as well as taking the average rate for three different age groups. The groups are illustrated in the data table.

Controlled Variable:
• Obesity

Independent Variables:
• Fast Food per Capita
• Income
• Obesity18_24
• Obesity25_34
• Obesity35_44

To conclude, from the data collected and run in the economic forecasting program eviews, it is illustrated that there is no significant correlation between obesity rates and fast food restaurants per capita. Other variables such as income and age group have a slight significant effect on obesity rates in the United States.