

Obesity: a growing epidemic



The **global economic impact of obesity will reach \$4.32 trillion annually by 2035** – nearly 3% of global GDP – if current trends prevail, with **51% of the population affected**.

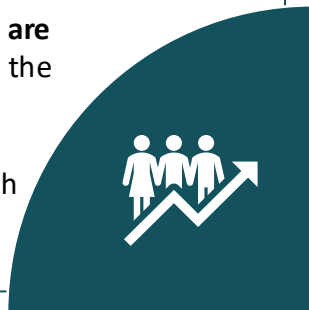
The WHO's 2023 global Acceleration Plan to Stop Obesity – endorsed in 2022 by the UK – aimed to flatten the curve by 2025 and reduce prevalence by 2030. Instead, **over 1.5 billion adults and nearly 400 million children will be living with obesity by 2035 unless action is taken**.



World Health Organization

Prevalence

Almost **30% of adults in the UK are living with obesity** (higher than the European average of c.25% and growing at a faster rate). This is exacerbated by deprivation, with **prevalence in the Core20 population of c. 37%**.



Health impact

People with obesity are at **high risk of developing co-morbidities**, including:

- Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, asthma, CKD, depression, congestive heart failure, T2D, cancer, COPD and CVD.



Economic cost

The **annual estimated full cost of obesity in the UK in 2020 was £58 billion**:

- £6.5 billion NHS spend
- £40 billion Individual costs
- £7.5 billion Wider costs
- £4 billion Covid-19 costs



Hospital Resource Utilisation

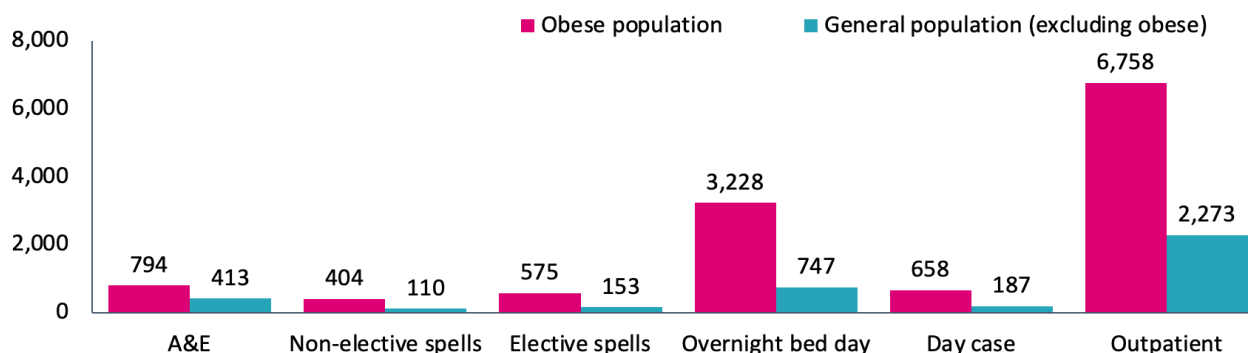
People with **obesity** experience **3-4x** the level of hospital usage per person compared to the non-obese population

Hospital admissions for people with obesity have grown **10x** as fast as the non-obese population from 20/21 to 23/24



Despite being recognised as a critical health challenge in 1991, **obesity prevalence in the UK has doubled over the past 20 years** – remaining at a higher level and growing at a faster rate than in comparative European countries. This poses a huge health and economic burden – **people with obesity have 3-4x higher levels of hospital resource utilisation** across all acute care except A&E (where it is nearly 2x)

Hospital activity per 1,000 population, 2023/24



Source: Hospital Episode Statistics; CF analysis

Actions set out in over fifteen national strategies, the NHS Long Term Plan (2019), NHS Obesity Strategy (2020), and UK Life Sciences Vision (2021) have not stemmed the tide. **Conventional approaches are crumbling under mounting demand; the scale of the challenge necessitates urgent transformation**, including:

- 1 Changes to national policies to create innovation-friendly environments
- 2 Optimisation of data and digital solutions
- 3 Continued development of the weight-loss drug market, driven by players like Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk
- 4 Fostering mutually beneficial public-private partnerships underpinned by measuring impact

Source: WHO, World Obesity Federation, Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet, National Cost Collection