

Malnutrition: Overweight Population Equals World's Hungry (07/03/2000)

For the first time in history, there may be as many people worldwide who are overweight — 1.2 billion — as underfed, according to a report released by the Worldwatch Institute in Washington. Both groups suffer from malnutrition, Worldwatch claims. Worldwatch researcher Brian Halweil notes that many nations "have traded hunger for obesity, and diseases of poverty for diseases of excess." Worldwatch's conclusions differ from recent UN Food and Agriculture estimates that 790 million people in poor countries are chronically hungry. Halweil says the FAO overestimated the number by calculating calories available in the food supply rather than actual medical data.

- UNESCO Netaid News:
<www.unesco.org/webworld/netaid/news/>

Types and Effects of Malnutrition, and Number Affected Globally, 2000		
Type of Malnutrition	Nutritional Effect	Number Affected Globally (Billion)
Hunger	Deficiency of calories and protein	At least 1.1
Micronutrient deficiency	Deficiency of vitamins and minerals	2.0 - 3.5
Overconsumption	Excess of calories often accompanied by deficiency of vitamins and minerals	At least 1.1
<i>Note:</i> Hunger and overconsumption correspond to underweight and overweight populations. There is considerable overlap between micronutrient deficiency and other forms of malnutrition.		

Overfed and Underfed: The Global Epidemic of Malnutrition by Gary Gardner and Brian Halweil Worldwatch paper, March 2000, Table 1, online document:
<www.bibl.ulaval.ca/doelec/ewwp0150.pdf>

