

Head circumference in Chilean school children 5 to 18 years of age and socioeconomic status Circunferencia craneana de escolares chilenos de 5 a 18 años y nivel socioeconómico.

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The objectives of this study were to determine the head circumference (HC) values of a representative sample of 4,346 school children aged 5 to 18 years from Chile's Metropolitan Region, to carry out a comparative study with international reference data of Tanner, Nellhaus and Roche et al and to compare the HC values by socioeconomic status (SES). The sample included school children of both sexes, from public, private subsidized and private non-subsidized schools and from urban and rural areas. HC was measured according to Jelliffe norms and SES through Graffar's Modified Method. Results showed a high correlation between HC values of school-age children from Chile's Metropolitan Region and Tanner, Nellhaus and Roche et al Tables, with similar growth curves; from this manner, HC values of school-age children from Chile's Metropolitan Region not differ significantly from international reference data. HC values were, in general, significantly higher in males than females in all age groups