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Trends in utilization of bariatric surgery amongst U.S. subpopulations with morbid obesity

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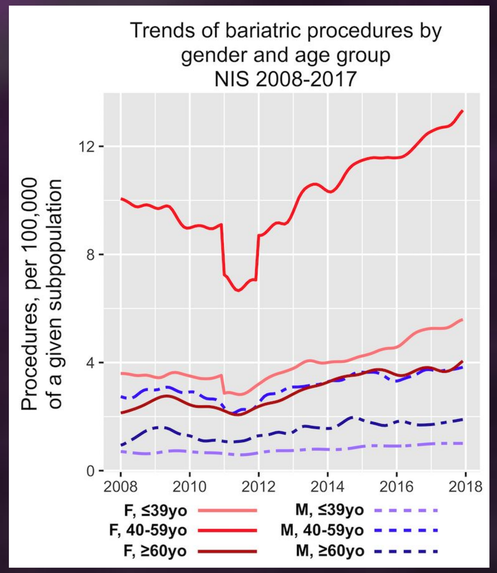
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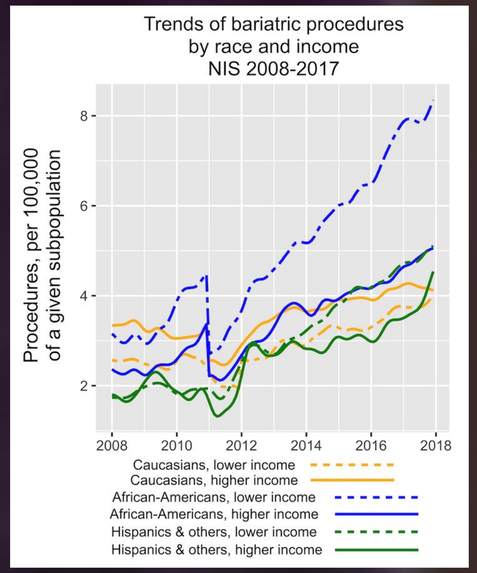
Background:

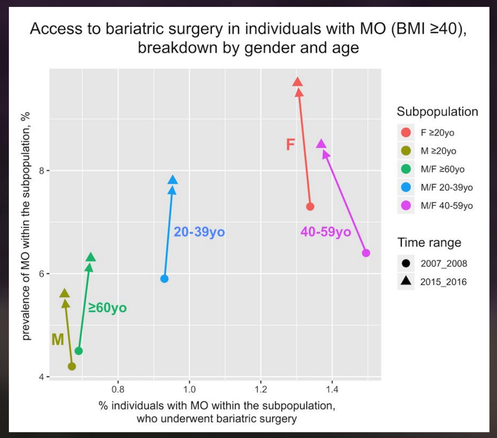
There are known disparities in utilization of bariatric surgery among eligible individuals, with advantages for females versus males, Caucasians versus minorities, and privately insured. We aimed to evaluate recent trends in utilization of bariatric surgery among different demographic groups in the U.S.

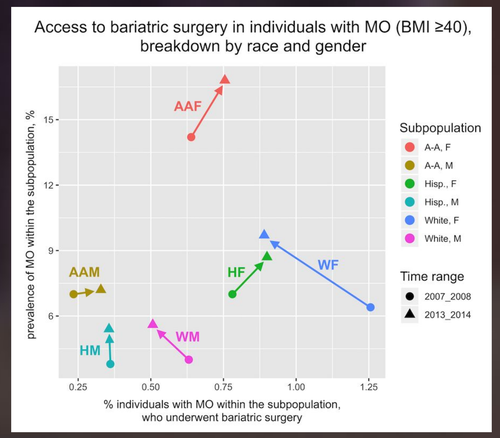
Methods:

The study population consisted of all individuals ≥20 years old (yo) who underwent bariatric surgery in 2008-2017, captured by National Inpatient Sample. Trends in bariatric procedures were calculated with breakdown by gender, age group, race, and income. Denominators accounted for annual subpopulation size according to the U.S. Census projectiles and for annual subpopulation-specific prevalence of morbid obesity (MO) obtained from National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys, 2007-2016.









Results:

During the time period 2008-2017, the utilization of bariatric surgery **among individuals with MO increased** among the 20-39 yo (0.93% to 0.95%) and ≥60 yo (0.69% to 0.72%) age groups, African-American males (0.23% to 0.33%) and females (0.64% to 0.75%), and Hispanic females (0.78% to 0.90%). It **decreased** in males (0.67% to 0.65%) and females overall (1.34% to 1.30%), in the 40-59 yo age group (1.49% to 1.37%), and in Caucasian males (0.63% to 0.51%) and females (1.26% to 0.89%). A steady increase in volume of bariatric procedures was also noted since 2011. Populations with the fastest absolute increase in bariatric procedures were females 40-59 yo, and African-Americans of lower income.

Conclusions:

The **interracial gap** in utilization of bariatric surgery in individuals with MO **substantially decreased**, mainly within females. However, **gender disparity persists**, with a fraction of males with MO undergoing bariatrics being twice as less than that of females. Our study poses compelling trends in data to prompt further investigation of factors influencing accessibility and utilization of bariatric surgery among different demographic groups.