

UDC 611.01(575.3-25)+616-071.2+572.02/.5
DOI: 10.56871/RBR.2025.33.54.002

SOMATOTYPE PROFILE OF YOUNG MEN LIVING IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

© Valerii O. Erkudov¹, Lojuvar M. Rustamova²,
Muhiddin S. Tabarov², Andrey P. Pugovkin³

¹ Saint Petersburg State Pediatric Medical University. 2 Lithuania, Saint Petersburg 194100 Russian Federation

² Avicenna Tajik State Medical University. 29–31 Sino str., Dushanbe 34003 Republic of Tajikistan

³ Saint Petersburg Electrotechnical University. 5 Professor Popov str., Saint Petersburg 197022 Russian Federation

Contact information: Valery O. Erkudov — Candidate of Medical Sciences, Associate Professor, Associate Professor of the Department of Normal Physiology. E-mail: verkudov@gmail.com ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7351-0405> SPIN: 5155-2173

For citation: Erkudov VO, Rustamova LM, Tabarov MS, Pugovkin AP. Somatotype profile of young men living in different regions of the Republic of Tajikistan. Russian Biomedical Research. 2025;10(1):16–30. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.56871/RBR.2025.33.54.002>

Received: 14.01.2025

Revised: 28.02.2025

Accepted: 09.04.2025

Abstract. Introduction. Determination of somatotype opens up the possibility of creating approaches to personalized monitoring of health status of various population groups. The aim of this work is a comparative analysis and determination of prevalence of ecto-, meso- and endomorphic somatotypes in residents of regions of Tajikistan with different environmental conditions. **Materials and methods.** The study involved 701 male volunteers aged 19 to 22 years, 400 subjects lived in Dushanbe, 301 students — in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBO). Somatotyping was carried out using the Heath–Carter method. All volunteers were determined by body length and weight, knee and elbow breadth, shoulder and calf circumference, triceps, subscapular, suprailiac, calf skinfolds were measured. Based on the measured anthropometric parameters, the ecto-, meso- and endomorphic components of the somatotype were calculated using a Heath–Carter formula. The obtained data were compared using the Mann–Whitney U-test and the Pearson χ^2 test. **Results.** Young men who have lived in Dushanbe since birth surpass their peers from GBO in having greater body length and weight, massive bones determined by the breadth of large joints, and the thickness of the skinfat folds. 72% of the capital's residents had a high contribution of endomorphic and a low contribution of meso- (4%) and ectomorphic (2%) components of the somatotype. Subjects from GBO were distinguished by a high contribution of meso- (36%), ectomorphic (15%), and endomorphic (16%) body types. Overweight was determined in 35% of volunteers from Dushanbe and only 2% of subjects from GBO. Underweight was detected in only 11% of volunteers from Dushanbe and 61% of subjects from GBO. **Conclusions.** The anthropometric profile and constitutional diversity of young male residents of the Republic of Tajikistan depends on the region of their permanent residence and environmental conditions.

Keywords: anthropometric profile, somatotype, Heath–Carter, Tajikistan, Dushanbe, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast

DOI: 10.56871/RBR.2025.33.54.002

ПРОФИЛЬ СОМАТОТИПА У МОЛОДЫХ МУЖЧИН, ПРОЖИВАЮЩИХ В РАЗЛИЧНЫХ РЕГИОНАХ РЕСПУБЛИКИ ТАДЖИКИСТАН

© Валерий Олегович Еркудов¹, Лоджувар Мамадербековна Рустамова²,
Муриддин Сафарович Табаров², Андрей Петрович Пуговкин³

¹ Санкт-Петербургский государственный педиатрический медицинский университет. 194100, г. Санкт-Петербург, ул. Литовская, д. 2, Российская Федерация

² Таджикский государственный медицинский университет им. Абуали ибни Сино. 34003, г. Душанбе, ул. Сино, д. 29–31, Республика Таджикистан

³ Санкт-Петербургский государственный электротехнический университет. 197022, г. Санкт-Петербург, ул. Профессора Попова, д. 5, Российская Федерация

Контактная информация: Валерий Олегович Еркудов — к.м.н., доцент, доцент кафедры нормальной физиологии.

E-mail: verkudov@gmail.com ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7351-0405> SPIN: 5155-2173

Для цитирования: Еркудов В.О., Рустамова Л.М., Табаров М.С., Пуговкин А.П. Профиль соматотипа у молодых мужчин, проживающих в различных регионах Республики Таджикистан. Российские биомедицинские исследования. 2025;10(1):16–30.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.56871/RBR.2025.33.54.002>

Поступила: 14.01.2025

Одобрена: 28.02.2025

Принята к печати: 09.04.2025

Резюме. Введение. Определение типа телосложения открывает возможность создания подходов к персонализированному мониторингу состояния здоровья различных групп населения. **Цель работы** — провести сравнительный анализ и определить распространенность экто-, мезо- и эндоморфных соматотипов у жителей регионов Таджикистана с различными условиями окружающей среды. **Материалы и методы.** В исследовании приняли участие 701 мужчина-доброволец в возрасте от 19 до 22 лет, 400 субъектов проживали в г. Душанбе, 301 студент — в Горно-Бадахшанской автономной области (ГБАО). Для определения соматотипа по методу Хит–Картер всем добровольцам измеряли длину и массу тела, ширину колена и локтя, окружность плеча и голени и кожно-жировые складки на плече, спине, животе, голени. На основании этих антропометрических параметров производили расчет экто-, мезо- и эндоморфного компонента соматотипа, используя общеизвестную формулу. Для сравнения полученных данных использовали U-критерий Манна–Уитни и тест χ^2 Пирсона. **Результаты.** Молодые мужчины, с рождения проживающие в г. Душанбе, превосходят своих сверстников из ГБАО, имеют большую длину и массу тела, массивность костей, определяемую по ширине крупных суставов, толщину кожно-жировой складки. У 72% жителей столицы имел место высокий вклад эндоморфного и низкий — мезо- (4%) и эктоморфного (2%) компонентов соматотипа. Субъекты из ГБАО отличались высоким вкладом мезо- (36%), экто- (15%) и эндоморфного (16%) типов телосложения. У 35% добровольцев из Душанбе и всего у 2% испытуемых из ГБАО определен избыток массы тела. Дефицит массы тела выявлен всего у 11% добровольцев из Душанбе и у 61% испытуемых из ГБАО. **Выводы.** Антропометрический профиль и конституциональное разнообразие молодых мужчин — жителей Республики Таджикистан зависит от региона их постоянного проживания и условий окружающей среды.

Ключевые слова: антропометрический профиль, соматотип, Хит–Картер, Таджикистан, Душанбе, Горно-Бадахшанская автономная область

INTRODUCTION

Body type is a stable anthropometric indicator in adults associated with muscle strength and endurance [1–4], motor skills [5, 6], and athletic performance [7, 8] in both athletes of various specializations and non-athletes. Assessment of somatotypes is used in the complex evaluation of anthropometric features, their connection with motor skills and muscle work in children [9, 10]. A candidate's belonging to the "dominant" somatotype in a given sport increases the chance of being selected for elite teams [4, 11]. Body type may be a predictor both of insufficient weight [12, 13] and obesity [14–19], and also outcome of different diseases [20–23]. Moreover, body type can be related to some morphological and functional features of the body, for example, to the size of organs [12, 15], blood cell content [24–26], vegetative status [27, 28]. Information about the constitutional characteristics of patients helps in the implementation of approaches to organizing proper nutrition [29] and prescribing adaptive physical education programs [30].

Due to the above, including differentiation of body types in objective examination of healthy athletes, children and adults, and also sick people gives up the possibility of implementing approaches to personalized monitoring of their health. The scientific literature has documented population

studies to determine the prevalence of somatotypes in Russian [15, 31–33], Polish [34], Portuguese [35], Chinese [18, 36], Korean [37], Japanese [19], and Chilean [38] cohorts. At the same time, there is a lack of studies involving subjects from Central Asia. There is a limited number of publications describing the constitutional characteristics of residents of Uzbekistan [39–41], Kazakhstan [42], Kyrgyzstan [43, 44], and Tajikistan [45–47].

AIM

The aim of the study is to conduct a comparative analysis and determine the prevalence of exo-, meso- and endomorphic somatotypes determined by the Heath–Carter method in residents of two regions of Tajikistan with different environmental conditions: Dushanbe and the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO). This work is necessary to expand our understanding of the constitutional characteristics of residents of Central Asia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study included data on 701 healthy men aged 19–22 years. All of them were students of the Tajik State Medical University named after Abu Ali Ibni Sino. Of these,

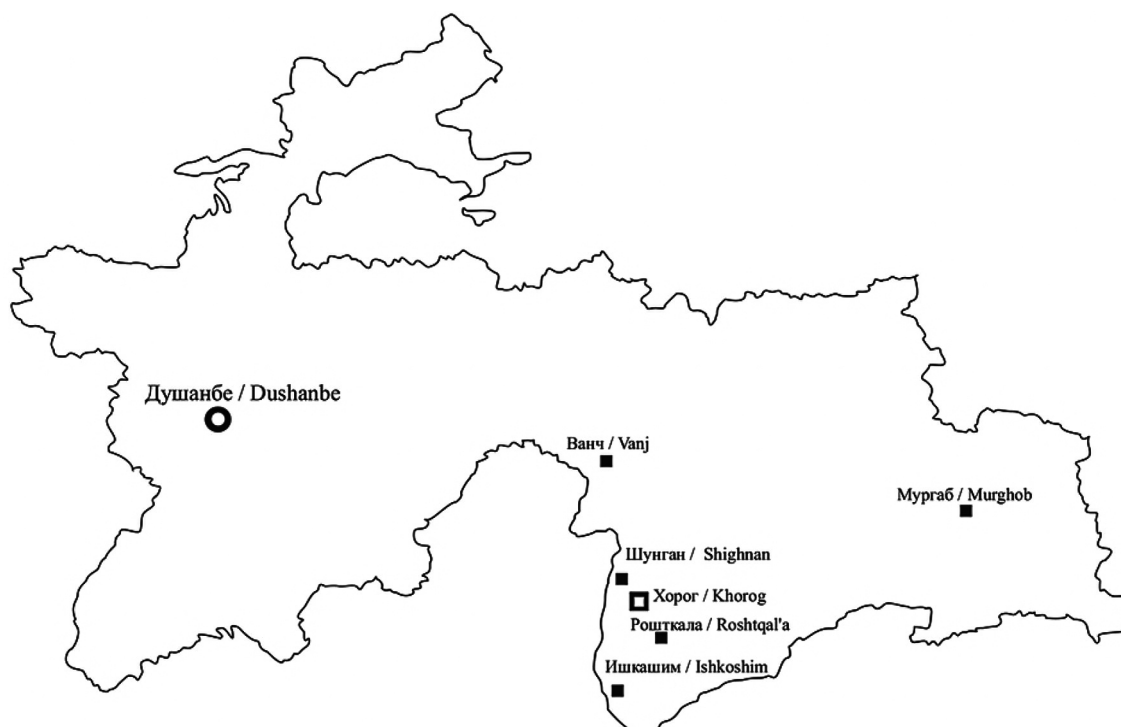


Fig. 1. Study area. ○ — capital of the Republic of Tajikistan; □ — administrative center of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast; ■ — settlements of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast

Рис. 1. Область исследования. ○ — столица Республики Таджикистан; □ — административный центр Горно-Бадахшанской автономной области; ■ — населенные пункты Горно-Бадахшанской автономной области

400 subjects lived in Dushanbe, the capital of the republic, from birth, and 301 students lived in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO): the villages of Vanch, Ishkashim, Roshtkala, Shugnan, Murghab, and the city of Khorog (Fig. 1). To assess somatotype due to the Heath–Carter method, the subjects had their apical body length (ABL) measured using a medical stadiometer MP-01/S (Moscow Weighing Plant MIDL), and their body mass (BM) measured using medical scales VMEN-150-50/100-I-D1-A (JSC Tulinovsky Instrument-Making Plant TVES). Also, the knee width (KW) and elbow width (EW) were measured using a sliding caliper (“KAFA”, Russia). A non-elastic ergonomic tape measure (SECA 203, Germany) was used to measure the upper arm circumference (UA) and lower leg circumference (LLC) with an accuracy of 0.01 cm. The thickness of the skin-fat folds (SFF) was measured using a professional caliper ET MEASURE model SK-101 (China), with a spring calibrated to create the same pressure (0.01 kg/mm²) on both sides of the fold, the measurement accuracy was 0.2 mm. SFF was measured in four places: on the back of the shoulder in the triceps area (SFF triceps), on the back in the scapula area (SFF back), on the abdomen above the iliac crest (SFF supraspinatus) and on the back of the shin (SFF shin). All anthropometric measurements were made according to modern recommendations [48].

In 1960, Barbara Heath and Lindsay Carter proposed an approach based on a series of equations requiring the above measurements of anthropometric parameters, which allows calculating the degree of expression of the ectomorphic (ECTO (1)), mesomorphic (MESO (2)) and endomorphic (ENDO (3)) components in the somatotype of a particular subject [49].

$$\text{ECTO (BL/BM, body length/body weight ratio)} = \frac{\text{BL, sm}}{\sqrt[3]{\text{BM, kg}}}; \quad (1)$$

If BL/BM $\geq 40,75$, so ECTO = $0,732 \cdot \text{BL/BM} - 28,58$.

If BL/BM 38,25 to 40,75, so ECTO = $0,463 \cdot \text{BL/BM} - 17,63$.

If BL/BM $\leq 38,25$, so ECTO = 0,5.

$$\text{MESO} = \frac{(0,858 \cdot \text{EW, cm} + 0,601 \cdot \text{KW, cm} + 0,188 \cdot (\text{UA, cm} - \frac{\text{SFF triceps, mm}}{10} + 0,161 \cdot (\text{CC, cm} - \frac{\text{SFF shin, mm}}{10})) - (0,131 \cdot \text{BL, cm}) + 4,5}{10}; \quad (2)$$

$$\text{ENDO} = -0,7182 + 0,1451 \cdot X - 0,00068 \cdot X^2 + 0,0000014 \cdot X^3. \quad (3)$$

$$X = (\text{SFF triceps, mm} + \text{SFF back, mm} + \text{SFF supraspinatus, mm}) \cdot \left(\frac{170,18}{\text{BL, sm}}\right)$$

Assessment of each component was done due to recommendations published by J.E.L. Carter, B.H. Heath [49]. The

ECTO, MESO and ENDO values from 0.5 to 2.5 were considered as low contribution; from 2.6 to 5.5 as moderate, from 5.6 to 7 as high, 7.1 and above as very high contribution.

Body mass index was calculated using Kettle formula (4). Body weight deviations were assessed taking into account the 1995 World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation for the Asian cohort of subjects [50]: BMI < 18.5 — underweight; BMI 18.6 to 22.9 — normal body weight; BMI 23.0 to 27.4 — overweight; > 27.5 — obesity.

$$\text{BMI} = \frac{\text{BM, kg}}{\text{BL}^2, \text{ m}}. \quad (4)$$

Comparison of anthropometric parameters and quantitative contribution of ecto-, meso- and endomorphic body type in residents of Dushanbe and GBAO was performed using the Mann–Whitney U-test. The decision to use a nonparametric test was made after checking the data using the Shapiro–Wilk test, which indicated a deviation from the normal distribution. Categorical variables, the numerical ratio of the distribution of the contribution of various components of somatotypes and body weight deviations were analyzed using the Pearson χ^2 test for 4×2 conjugation tables.

Calculations were performed using the statistical software Past version 2.17, Norway, Oslo (2012), the statistical algorithm StatXact-8 with the Cytel Studio software package version 8.0.0. Results were considered significant at $p < 0.05$. All continuous data are presented as arithmetic means and 95% confidence intervals (CI). Categorical data are presented as proportions with 95% CI.

RESULTS

As shown in Table 1, residents of Dushanbe, compared to their peers from GBAO, had statistically significantly higher values of body length and weight, width of large joints, sizes of all skin-fat pads and endomorphy in combination with lower values of meso- and ectomorphy. The values of shin and shoulder circumferences were not statistically significant (Table 1).

Data analysis showed that the distribution of contributions of ecto-, meso- and endomorphism of varying degrees (low, moderate, high, very high) is heterogeneous and statistically significantly differs in volunteers from Dushanbe and GBAO (Table 2, Fig. 2). Consequently, the degree of ecto-, meso- and endomorphism depends on the region of residence.

The distribution of weight deviations determined by BMI is heterogeneous and statistically significantly different in young men living in Dushanbe and GBAO (Table 3). Thus, the presence of underweight, normal or overweight, and obesity depends on the region of residence.

Table 1

Comparison of anthropometric parameters and ecto-, endo- and mesomorphic somatotype components contributions in young men living in different regions of the Republic of Tajikistan

Таблица 1

Сопоставление антропометрических параметров и вклада экто-, эндо- и мезоморфного компонента соматотипа у молодых мужчин, проживающих в различных регионах Республики Таджикистан

Параметр / Parameter	Душанбе / Dushanbe	ГБАО / GBAO	p-значения / p-value
Длина тела, см / Height, cm	171,18 (170,32; 172,04)	156,45 (155,31; 157,60)	$1,19 \times 10^{-61}$
Масса тела, кг / Body mass, kg	64,88 (63,75; 65,97)	44,23 (43,45; 45,02)	$1,87 \times 10^{-94}$
Индекс массы тела, кг/м ² / Body mass index, kg/m ²	22,08 (21,76; 22,39)	18,04 (17,80; 18,28)	$1,47 \times 10^{-61}$
Ширина колена, см / Knee breadth, cm	6,38 (6,32; 6,45)	7,04 (6,91; 7,16)	$3,27 \times 10^{-15}$
Ширина локтя, см / Elbow breadth, cm	5,44 (5,40; 5,48)	5,74 (5,67; 5,82)	$1,10 \times 10^{-8}$
Окружность голени, см / Calf circumference, cm	36,88 (36,46; 37,30)	37,16 (36,67; 37,66)	0,409
Окружность плеча, см / Upper arm circumference, cm	32,40 (31,94; 32,87)	31,92 (31,40; 32,44)	0,1868
Кожно-жировая складка плечо, см / Upper arm skinfold, cm	3,09 (2,99; 3,18)	1,28 (1,23; 1,33)	$3,49 \times 10^{-99}$
Кожно-жировая складка под лопаткой, см / Subscapular skinfold, cm	2,55 (2,44; 2,69)	1,72 (1,66; 1,78)	$1,71 \times 10^{-19}$
Кожно-жировая складка голени, см / Calf skinfold, cm	0,67 (0,65; 0,68)	0,16 (0,16; 0,16)	$5,54 \times 10^{-114}$
Кожно-жировая складка надостная, см / Suprailiac skinfold, cm	1,87 (1,76; 1,98)	1,41 (1,35; 1,47)	$1,51 \times 10^{-6}$
Эктоморфия, усл. ед. / Ectomorphy, conv. units	2,76 (2,61; 2,91)	3,91 (3,74; 4,08)	$7,64 \times 10^{-19}$
Мезоморфия, усл. ед. / Mesomorphy, conv. units	1,92 (1,75; 2,10)	4,88 (4,64; 5,11)	$1,86 \times 10^{-58}$
Эндоморфия, усл. ед. / Endomorphy, conv. units	6,69 (6,51; 6,85)	4,42 (4,31; 4,54)	$3,06 \times 10^{-60}$

Table 2

Prevalence of various components of somatotypes contributions in young men living in Dushanbe and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast

Таблица 2

Распределение вкладов различных компонентов соматотипов у молодых мужчин, проживающих в г. Душанбе и Горно-Бадахшанской автономной области

Вклад / Contribution	Душанбе / Dushanbe	ГБАО / GBAO
Эктоморфия / Ectomorphy*		
Низкий / Low	0,42 (0,36; 0,48)	0,23 (0,17; 0,29)
Умеренный / Moderate	0,56 (0,50; 0,62)	0,62 (0,55; 0,69)
Высокий / High	0,02 (0,01; 0,04)	0,14 (0,10; 0,20)
Очень высокий / Very high	0 (0; 0,01)	0,01 (0,002; 0,03)
Мезоморфия / Mesomorphy**		
Низкий / Low	0,65 (0,59; 0,71)	0,13 (0,09; 0,18)
Умеренный / Moderate	0,32 (0,26; 0,38)	0,52 (0,44; 0,59)
Высокий / High	0,03 (0,01; 0,05)	0,23 (0,17; 0,29)
Очень высокий / Very high	0,01 (0,0004; 0,02)	0,13 (0,09; 0,18)
Эндоморфия / Endomorphy***		
Низкий / Low	0 (0; 0,01)	0,01 (0,002; 0,03)
Умеренный / Moderate	0,29 (0,23; 0,35)	0,83 (0,77; 0,88)
Высокий / High	0,31 (0,25; 0,37)	0,15 (0,10; 0,21)
Очень высокий / Very high	0,41 (0,34; 0,47)	0,01 (0,001; 0,03)

Note: / Примечание: * $p=3,69 \times 10^{-55}$; ** $p=1,13 \times 10^{-53}$; *** $p=2,76 \times 10^{-14}$.



Table 3

Distribution of body weight deviations in young men living in Dushanbe and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast

Таблица 3

Распределение отклонений массы тела у молодых мужчин, проживающих в г. Душанбе и Горно-Бадахшанской автономной области

Вклад / Contribution	Душанбе / Dushanbe	ГБАО / GBAO
Дефицит массы тела / Underweight	0,11 (0,07; 0,15)	0,61 (0,54; 0,68)
Нормальная масса тела / Normal body weight	0,55 (0,48; 0,61)	0,37 (0,30; 0,44)
Избыточная масса тела / Overweight	0,28 (0,22; 0,34)	0,02 (0,01; 0,05)
Ожирение / Obesity	0,07 (0,04; 0,10)	0,00 (0,00; 0,02)

Note: / Примечание: $p=1,607 \times 10^{-9}$.

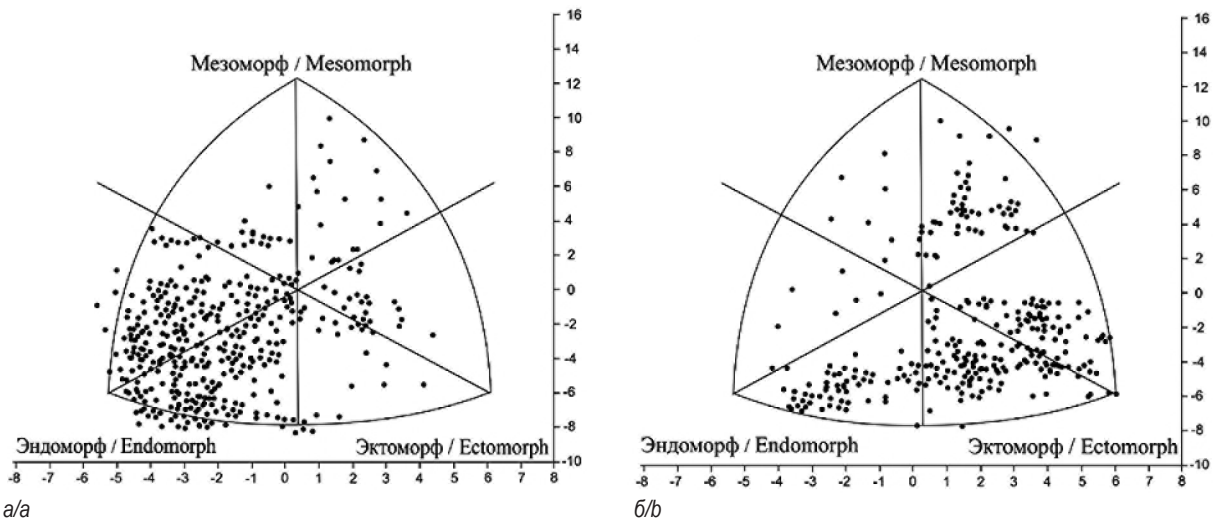


Fig. 2. Distribution of somatotype profiles in young men living in Dushanbe (a) and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (b)

Рис. 2. Распределение профиля соматотипов у молодых мужчин, проживающих в г. Душанбе (а) и Горно-Бадахшанской автономной области (б)

DISCUSSION

To our knowledge, this is the first study to compare constitutional and anthropometric characteristics of young men living in Dushanbe and GBAO. The other studies with the similar aim were conducted in children, young women and did not take into account the territorial distribution of subjects [45, 47, 51]. Persons from Dushanbe surpassed their peers from GBAO in almost all anthropometric parameters: they are tall, heavy, with a large amount of subcutaneous fat and high bone mass (Table 1). Also, 72% of the capital's residents demonstrate a high and very high contribution of the endomorphic component of somatotype (Table 2, Fig. 2). In 35% of them, overweight and obesity were identified (Table 3). At the same time, subjects from GBAO were distinguished by a high and very high contribution of the mesomorphic (36%) component of somatotype in combination with underweight in 61% of subjects. For residents of Dushanbe, these indicators were recorded at the level of 4,

2 and 11%, respectively (Tables 2, 3, Fig. 2). The high and very high contribution of the ecto- and endomorphic somatotype among residents of GBAO was approximately equivalent — 15 and 16%, respectively.

In recent studies, examining more than 1000 subjects of different sexes and ages, it was found that the prevalence of overweight and obesity among residents of the capital of Tajikistan is 20–25% [52, 53]. This generally corresponds to the 35% prevalence of these disorders obtained in our work and the results of other studies involving adults [54] and children [55].

It is noted that the main reason for the increase in metabolic disorders is the formation of incorrect eating patterns and motor behavior in the population [51]. Recent surveys have shown an increase in the total volume of food consumed in combination with a decrease in physical activity in urban residents of Tajikistan [51, 53, 54]. More than 95% of respondents regularly consumed flour products, up to 30%

of respondents indicated a preference for fast food and its regular consumption 1–2 times a week [51, 53], while 63% of respondents did not eat enough vegetables and fruits [56]. Only 8% of 1000 participants said about regular physical activity in their life [51]. It is also assumed that leptin resistance [57] and insulin resistance [58, 59] play a significant role in the development of metabolic disorders in residents of Tajikistan. Despite the innate determination of body types [60], environmental factors and lifestyle can influence the expression of one or another component of the somatotype [40, 61]. For example, endomorphic body type shows a strong positive correlation with the thickness of skin and fat folds [62]. Thus, the endomorphization of body type in Dushanbe residents can be explained by the prevalence of excess body weight, which is also shown in this work. Dushanbe is the largest city, the capital of Tajikistan, with a widespread network of public catering establishments providing high-calorie food with fast service and a developed network of public transport, eliminating the need for walking long distances [63]. GBAO, on the contrary, is a rural region, the economy of households of which is based exclusively on the agricultural sector, which forces more than 70% of its residents to work daily on their own plots, consuming large amounts of energy [53]. Fast food establishments are not widespread in this region, and the socioeconomic conditions of the population are also low [63]. In this work we identified underweight in 60% of examined men living in GBAO. Thus, we assume that intensive physical activity in combination with a negative energy balance in the majority of GBAO residents may be the reason for the increase in ecto- and mesomorphic components of body type (Table 2, Fig. 2). It should be noted, that the obtained results partially contradict the literature, which reports that the prevalence of overweight among residents of GBAO is high. According to our data, only 2% of men from GBAO had overweight (Table 3), and at the same time 16% of them had endomorphic body type (Table 2). This can most likely be explained by the wide range of ages of the subjects and the limited scope of observations [56]. Our results partially coincide with the data published on the results of studies conducted in 2000–2008 involving newborn children from GBAO [64]. It should be emphasized that the age of participants in this study suggests that they were born in 2000–2002.

The article compared anthropometric parameters of residents of flat areas from the city of Dushanbe (706 m above sea level) and volunteers who have lived in high-altitude conditions since birth — the urban-type settlements of Vanch (1722 m above sea level), Roshtkala (2696 m above sea level), Ishkashim (3037 m above sea level), Shugnan (2287 m above sea level), Murghab (3618 m above sea level), the city of Khorog (2123 m), located in GBAO. Nume-

rous studies have documented the impact of high altitude living conditions on the physical development of adults and children. Andrade et al. (2023) reported a dominant mesomorphic body type in prepubertal children living in high altitude areas of Argentina [65], which is consistent with the results of the survey of GBAO residents in this work. Observational studies conducted with the participation of Nepalese [66], Ethiopian [67], Tibetan [68], Sri Lankan [69], Peruvian [70, 71], Colombian [72, 78], Indian [36] cohorts revealed a deficit in linear growth in children living in high altitude conditions. In our study, residents of high-mountain regions also lagged behind their peers from Dushanbe in terms of apical body length (Table 1). Some authors believe that intrauterine hypoxia can cause growth retardation in fetuses and newborns from high-mountain regions [73]. Anthropometric deficiency and small lung size [74], as well as genetic polymorphism of cell cycle regulators and signalling molecules involved in the transduction of the key mechanism of bone lengthening [75], insulin-like growth factor 1 [76], are likely to be mechanisms limiting the rate of “catch-up” growth during the pubertal spurt [72, 77] in children with short stature due to the influence of high altitude. According to J.I. Martínez et al. (2021), maternal short stature caused by high altitude and hypoxia can be transmitted to the next generations [78]. It should also be noted that ectomorphic body type is positively associated with the polymorphism of the adrenoreceptor gene *ADRB3* rs4994 genotype Trp64Arg [79], the alpha-actinin-3 gene *ACTN3* RX [80], the brain-derived neurotrophic factor *BDNF* variant rs925946, neurexin-3-alpha *NRXN3* variant rs10146997, the obesity-associated gene *FTO* variant rs9939609 and the protein kinase gene *MAP2K5* rs4776970 [17]. Mesomorphic type is associated with *NRXN3* variant rs10146997, *FTO* variant rs9939609 [17]. Endomorphic type is associated with *ADRB3* rs4994 genotype Trp64Trp [79], *KLF14* polymorphism [81], *BDNF* variant rs925946, *NRXN3* variant rs10146997 [17]. Identification of genetic determination of body shape and its influence on motor functions and endurance in GBAO residents may become the subject of future research.

The high prevalence of underweight combined with meso- and ectomorphic components in residents of high-altitude regions of Tajikistan identified in the article also corresponds to literature data. Several independent studies have confirmed a reduced risk of overweight and obesity in residents of highland regions of Nepal [81], Tibet [82], and the United States [83].

The high prevalence of underweight in combination with meso- and ectomorphic components in high-altitude populations revealed in the article is a strong point of this work is the attempt to create a prognostic model of a personalized approach to monitoring the health status of residents of the

Republic of Tajikistan in connection with the territory of their residence and environmental features. Thus, the endomorphic somatotype revealed in men from Dushanbe, in case of their failure to comply with the principles of healthy nutrition and lifestyle, can be a predictor of metabolic disorders and associated functional disorders. In patients from Tajikistan suffering from obesity, a high levels of oxidative stress [84], insulin resistance [58, 59], and thyroid dysfunction [85] were revealed.

Ecto- and mesomorphic body types, found in residents of mountainous regions of the republic, can explain the development of underweight with improper nutrition and gastrointestinal tract disorders. Malnutrition and growth retardation are risk factors for the development of cognitive impairment [86, 87], decreased motor functions [88], micronutrient deficiency [89], and increased susceptibility to infectious diseases due to decreased immunity [90, 91]. However, the literature does not report the prevalence of diseases associated with growth retardation and low weight in residents of GBAO. Based on this, it can be assumed that young men have a compensated form of body weight deficiency. The prevalence of meso- and ectomorphic body types has a "positive" side. As mentioned earlier, these somatotype variants are positively associated with the development of motor skills and endurance in athletes [9, 10, 92, 93]. Thus, healthy male athletes from GBAO may gain a biological advantage to achieve maximum efficiency of sports training and the likelihood of selection into professional teams [4, 11, 94].

The described patterns are the result of the implementation of a pilot project, so this study has a number of limitations. Firstly, the work did not involve determining the functional, hematological, genetic, biochemical characteristics of residents of Tajikistan and their correlation with the somatotype. Secondly, these results require reproducibility in other comparison groups (women, children). Thirdly, it is necessary to examine a sample from other areas, focusing on the influence of environmental factors, highlands, living in rural and urban regions of Tajikistan on the anthropometric characteristics of residents of the republic.

CONCLUSION

1. The anthropometric profile and constitutional diversity of young male residents of the Republic of Tajikistan depend on the region of their permanent residence.

2. The city of Dushanbe, the capital of the republic, is characterized by high urbanization, which has led to the creation of conditions that have affected the level of physical activity and nutrition of young people. Subjects from Dushanbe are distinguished by tall stature, high thickness of subcutaneous fat, massive bones, endomorphic body type, as well as the prevalence of overweight and obesity.

3. Their peers from GBAO, a region with an agrarian economy of households requiring energy-intensive manual work, were characterized by anthropometric deficits in linear growth, weight, bone mass, subcutaneous fat thickness in combination with a predominantly mesomorphic somatotype and a high prevalence of nutritional deficiencies.

The obtained results open up the possibility of introducing elements of a personalized approach to monitoring the health of residents of Tajikistan, expressed in the creation of prognostic models of nutritional status disorders and related pathologies. They can also be useful for the implementation of sports selection programs based on the analysis of physical development.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Author contribution. Thereby, all authors made a substantial contribution to the conception of the study, acquisition, analysis, interpretation of data for the work, drafting and revising the article, final approval of the version to be published and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the study.

Competing interests. The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Funding source. This study was not supported by any external sources of funding.

Consent for publication. Written consent was obtained from the patient for publication of relevant medical information within the manuscript.

ДОПОЛНИТЕЛЬНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ

Вклад авторов. Все авторы внесли существенный вклад в разработку концепции, проведение исследования и подготовку статьи, прочли и одобрили финальную версию перед публикацией.

Конфликт интересов. Авторы декларируют отсутствие явных и потенциальных конфликтов интересов, связанных с публикацией настоящей статьи.

Источник финансирования. Авторы заявляют об отсутствии внешнего финансирования при проведении исследования.

Информированное согласие на публикацию. Авторы получили письменное согласие пациентов на публикацию медицинских данных.

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