

THE SOMATIC CONSTITUTION OF THE TRANSYLVANIAN RURAL POPULATION

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The paper refers to the Transylvanian rural population from 71 human communities with Romanian population and 10 human settlements inhabited by Saxon, Szekler, Hungarian and Roma people. We present an analysis of the somatic variation by sex and age and of sexual dimorphism as concerns the body dimensions and conformation. We point out the variation in the body mass by clusters in the male and female population and the BMI variation is graphically illustrated. As regards the BMI variation, sometimes significant differences between the rural and urban Transylvanian population were emphasized with a comparison with the entire Romanian population.

INTRODUCTION

The study of the somatic constitution in the Transylvanian rural population is part of the anthropological researches on the whole Romanian population. As a fundamental research with application in the anthropological and medical practice, it tries to define those anthropological parameters that are relevant for the population's nutritional health status.

In order to define the nutritional health status in the Transylvanian population we considered for this study the body mass dimensions and indices by which both the "normal" population's health status (within the statistic normality limits of a classification scale) and the extremes from the two ends of their variability range were highlighted.

We took into account the fact that the population's nutritional health is determined not only by genetic factors (which can outline certain constitutional "predispositions" to a certain nutritional pathology), but also by mesological factors, where the cultural factors play a cardinal role, shaping a certain lifestyle and a certain food behavior as part of it.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The anthropological study was conducted upon a number of 2,854 subjects, 1,699 men and 1,155 women (Table 1).