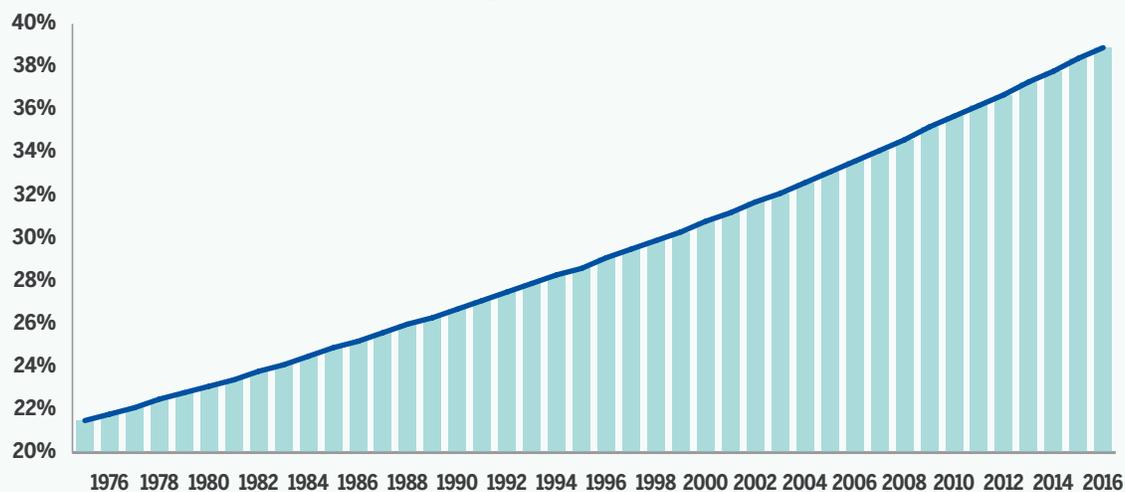


A Growing Health Care Opportunity

The number of overweight people worldwide is a growing trend, having tripled since 1975 to nearly 2 billion people, 13% of whom are considered obese. There may be a benefit to investing in health care companies that are developing products, procedures, or services to treat the complications associated with people who are overweight.

Adult Weight Problems Are Rising Globally

Percentage of Global Population that Is Overweight



Source: World Health Organization

- The percentage of overweight people in the world has been historically increasing at an accelerating rate. Over the past decade, the overweight population increased by about half a percentage point annually, faster than it grew in previous decades, and emblematic of a continuing long-term trend. It is estimated that in the United States a staggering 72% of adults are considered overweight and 40% are considered obese.¹
- A 2018 National Institute of Health study concluded that spending on drug prescriptions and inpatient care is twice as high for overweight people as it is for those of healthy weight.² This is likely because overweight people are more disposed to cardiovascular issues (e.g., heart disease and peripheral arterial disease), diabetes and some cancers (e.g., colon and breast).
- The growing trend of being overweight may prove to be a tailwind for companies that address some of the outcomes of the condition such as companies that produce life-saving medical devices such as heart pumps or advanced minimally invasive surgical devices. Pharmaceutical manufacturers treating diabetes and cardiovascular diseases may benefit too.

¹ CDC; overweight defined as BMI equal to or greater than 25 and obesity is defined as BMI equal to or greater than 30.

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6221341/>

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