

Having a short wide face may indicate sporting potential, study shows

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University of London psychologists measured the facial width-to-height ratio, or fWHR, of 104 batters in Japan's professional Central League Pennant who played in the 2011 and 2012 seasons.

In both seasons, the players who scored the most home runs had the highest fWHR, said the study in the Royal Society journal *Biology Letters*.

Previous research has found a link between face ratio and competitiveness among politicians and financial success among corporate chiefs, but this work had focussed only on Caucasian subjects, not Asians.

The new data suggests the association "may be generalisable across cultures," according to the paper.

Why facial bulk appears to be so important in sporting success is unclear.

Wider jaws could be an indicator of testosterone, the [male hormone](#) that plays an important part in [physical strength](#) and aggressiveness.

More information: Paper: Human face structure correlates with professional baseball performance: insights from professional Japanese baseball players, [rsbl.royalsocietypublishing.org/.../1098/rsbl.2013.0140](http://rsbl.royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rsbl.2013.0140)

Abstract

Recent work has begun to highlight how one's facial width-to-height ratio (fWHR – i.e. a wider face relative to height) is linked to a number of behaviours. FWHR has also been linked to several factors that may be beneficial for sport (e.g., achievement drive, winning mentality, and aggression). Few studies have examined the relationship between fWHR and sports performance. Here, we show that fWHR is positively related

with home run performance across two consecutive seasons in professional Japanese baseball players. The findings provide the first evidence linking fWHR to baseball performance and linking fWHR to behavioural outcomes in Asian participants.

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