The present study was carried out to document and provide a baseline data of nasal height, facial height, maxillary height, mandibular height and orofacial height amongst adult Urhobos. This would be useful in clinical practice, forensic and anthropological studies.

THE PEOPLE

The Urhobo constitute the 10th largest ethnic group in Nigeria with the major occupation of farming, fishing and hunting. They occupy a territory bounded by latitude 5° 15’ and 6° North and 6° 25’ East.
MATERIAL AND METHOD

A cross-sectional study was carried out using a total of 140 young adult volunteers. 60 males and 80 females, age ranged between 18 and 30 years. They were all born in Nigeria of Urhobo parentage to the second generation and had had no prior plastic or reconstructive surgery of the face. Each subject was made to sit in a relaxed and upright position with head unsupported following conventional methods described by the following studies 22-27. The following parameters were then taken using a sliding digital caliper:

- Facial height: this was taken longitudinally from the nasion to the menton.
- Nasal height: this was taken from nasion to subnasion.
- Maxillary: this was taken from subnasion to the tip of the maxillary incisor teeth.
- Mandibular height: this was taken from tip of mandibular incisor teeth to the menton.
- Orofacial height: this was taken from subnasale to the menton.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

![Figure 1](image)

Measures of variation are shown in table 1 as well as P values which were used to compare the male and female Urhobo. The table shows mean values of facial dimensions as follows. Facial height for males is 12.61 cm while it is 11.91 cm for females; nasal height for males is 4.56 cm and 4.21 cm for females; maxillary height for males is 2.68 cm and 2.21 cm for females; mandibular height is 4.52 cm for males and 4.14 cm for females; oro-facial height is 6.75 cm for males and 6.36 cm for females. All of the variables studied have the mean male values higher than those of the female, this was statistically significant (P<0.05). This revealed that the male Urhobo face is on the average longer and wider than female Urhobo face. Following standard facial height dimension published by World health organization (WHO), facial height ranged between 12 cm-12.99 cm. The male Urhobo “face” fell within this range while the female Urhobo “face” fell slightly lower. These findings agreed with a previous study on anthropometry of facial and nasal length of adult Igbo. 15

This study reveals that the Urhobo people are mesoproscopic; that is they have moderate facial form. Sexual dimorphism was also observed with males having significantly higher indices than females (P<0.05).

In conclusion, a data base on facial dimension in Urhobo people has been established. This information will be very useful to facial plastic surgeons and dentists who try to achieve facial beauty which is supposed to be in congruent with patients’ ethnicity. It will also be useful to those that make facial equipment.

References

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