

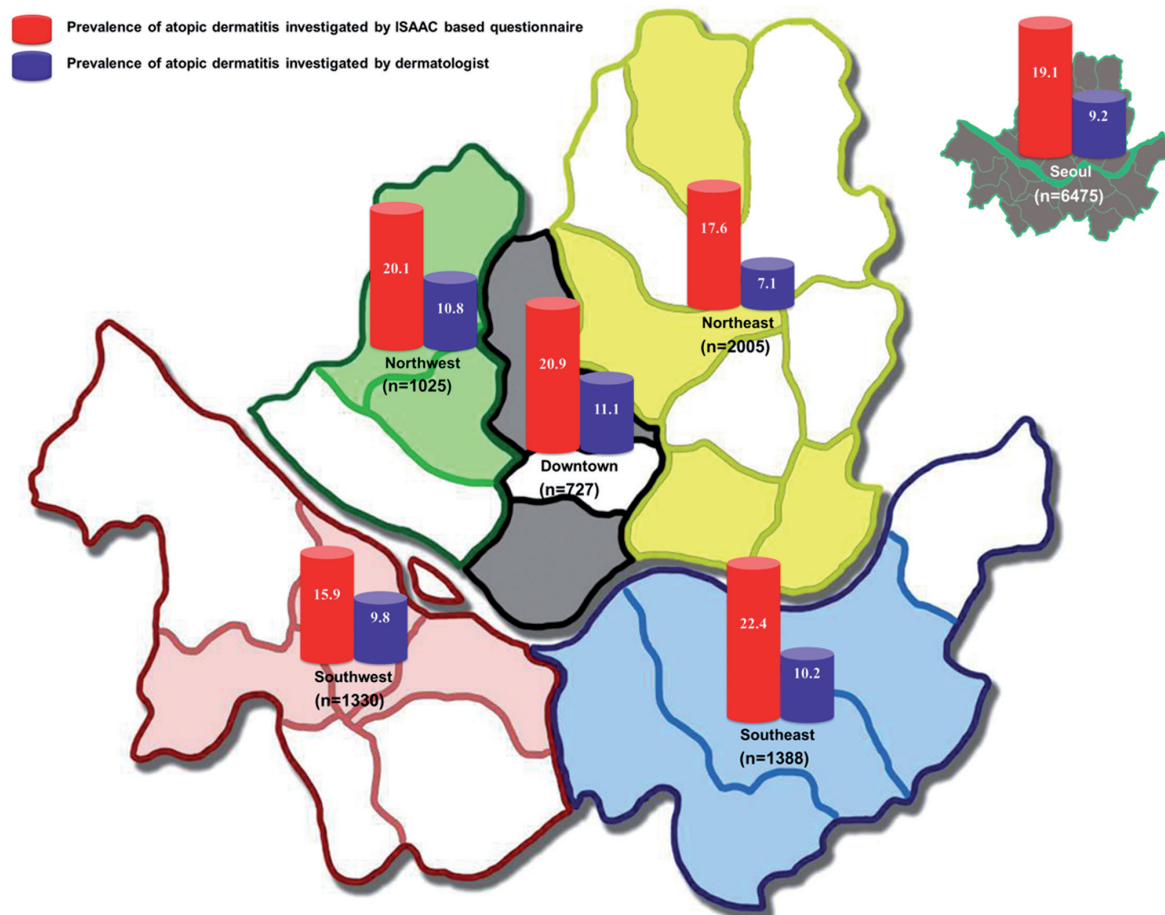


Fig. S1. Seoul. The coloured areas are where the research was performed. Bar graphs in 5 areas represent the prevalence of atopic dermatitis as assessed by International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC)-based questionnaire (red) and by dermatologists (blue).

Table S1. *Diagnostic criteria of the Korean Atopic Dermatitis Research Group (requiring at least 2 of 4 major features and 4 of 14 minor features)*

<i>Major features</i>
1. Pruritus
2. Typical morphology and distribution
1) Under the age of 2 years: face, trunk and extensor involvement
2) Over the age of 2 years: face, neck and flexural involvement
3. Personal or family history (atopic dermatitis, asthma, allergic rhinitis)
<i>Minor features</i>
1. Xerosis
2. Pityriasis alba
3. Periorbital eczema or orbital darkening
4. Peri-auricular eczema
5. Cheilitis
6. Tendency towards non-specific hand or foot dermatitis
7. Scalp scale
8. Perifollicular accentuation
9. Nipple eczema
10. Itch when sweating
11. White dermographism
12. Skin prick test reactivity
13. Elevated serum immunoglobulin E
14. Tendency towards cutaneous infections

Table SII. *The three components of the written questionnaire*

Diagnosis (3)

1. Intermittent itchy rash for at least 6 months
2. Itchy rash at any time in the last 12 months.
3. Itchy rash at any time affecting any of the following places: the folds of the elbows, behind the knees, in front of the ankles, under the buttocks, or around the neck, ears or eyes

Positive response to three questions is diagnostic of AD

Severity (2)

1. In the last 12 months, how often, on average, has your child been kept awake at night by this itchy rash?
 - a. Never in the last 12 months
 - b. Less than one night per week
 - c. One or more nights per week
2. Has this rash cleared completely at any time during the last 12 months?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Risk factors (12)

1. Passive smoking
 2. Vaccination
 3. Paternal educational background
 4. Maternal educational background
 5. Breast feeding
 6. Type of house
 7. Age of house
 8. Changing the patient's house to a newly-built house during the first year of life
 9. Air pollution
 10. Type of house heating system
 11. Keeping pets
 12. Keeping pets during pregnancy or first year of children's life
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Table SIII. Rates of return of written questionnaires

	Seoul	Downtown	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Northwest
Sent, <i>n</i>	8,592	879	2,458	2,277	1,737	1,241
Returned, <i>n</i>	6,475	727	2,005	1,388	1,330	1,025
Return rate, %	75.4	82.7	81.6	61.0	76.6	82.6