

Eatery furniture confirms obesity trend

Chicago, IL, May. 23 (UPI) -- Furniture makers are selling bigger chairs and tables to U.S. restaurants, an apparent accommodation to growing customers.

The National Restaurant Association's four-day conference in Chicago featured numerous displays of supersized furniture for supersized diners, the Dallas Morning News reported Monday.

"The other (traditionally sized) ones can be uncomfortable," said Bob Murphy, vice president of systems and technology for Chili's Grill & Bar, the flagship chain of Dallas-based Brinker International Inc. "When you sit at them, they're too small."

Chili's has begun testing more spacious eating spaces and was looking at installing tables up to 12 inches larger at future Chili's outlets, he said.

One chair manufacturer said his company is rethinking size -- as in making products bigger -- because customers are bigger.

"Let's face it, America has an obesity problem," said Jerry Falk of Foldcraft Co. of Minnesota.