

CDC: Rates of childhood obesity higher in US than Canada

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Photo: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(HealthDay)—About 17.5 percent of U.S. children aged 3 to 19 are obese, compared with 13 percent of Canadian children the same age, according to an August data brief published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

For the report, American and Canadian epidemiologists and statisticians collaborated to create a comparison of childhood obesity in the two countries.

The investigators found that in the late 1970s, the United States and Canada had similar childhood obesity rates—roughly 5 percent. Both countries also experienced a steady increase in [childhood obesity](#)

through the 1980s and 1990s, lead author Cynthia Ogden, Ph.D., an epidemiologist at the NCHS, told *HealthDay*. But for as-yet-unknown reasons, U.S. children experienced a greater increase. By 2004, 16.6 percent of U.S. children and teens were obese, compared with 12.4 percent of Canadian children.

Children in the United States and Canada aged 3 to 6 have similar obesity rates. But for children aged 7 to 12, the rates differ dramatically—19.2 percent in the United States versus 11.8 percent in Canada, according to the report.

More information: [Full Text](#)

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