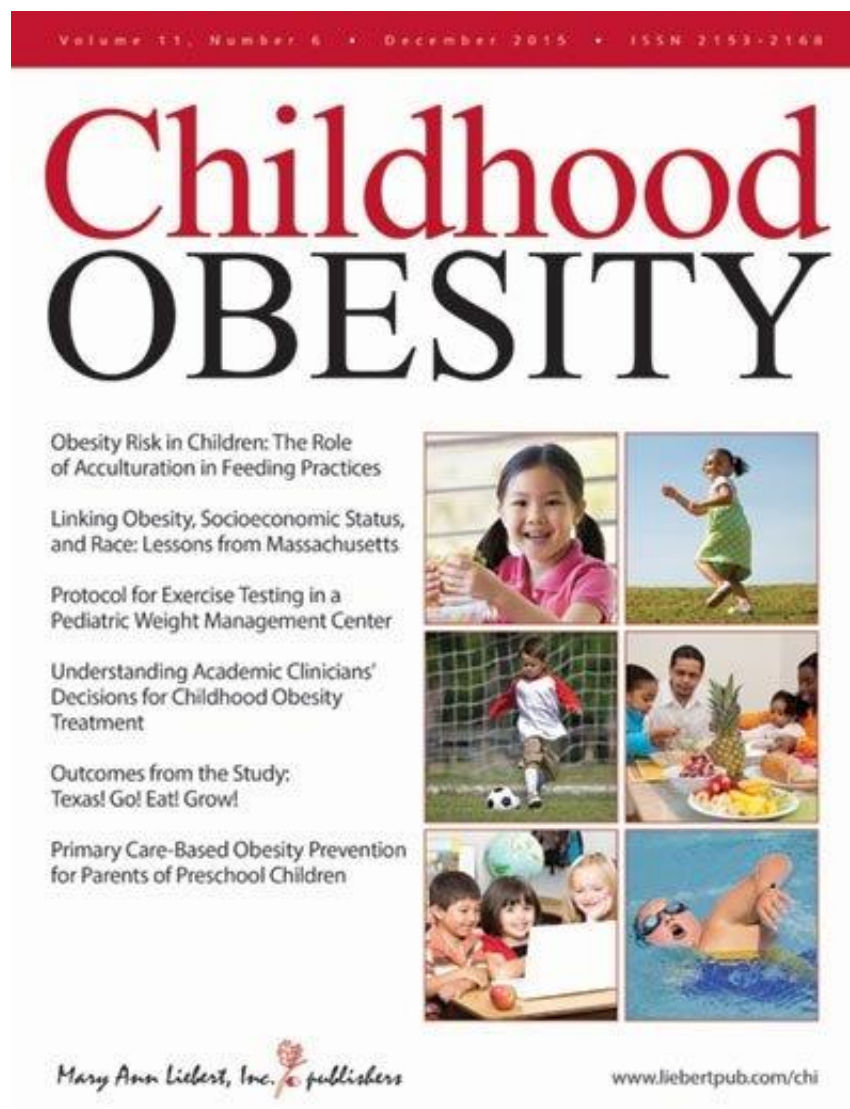


# Cardiac and metabolic risk factors significantly more likely in severely obese teens

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Credit: Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers

Compared to normal weight adolescents, severely obese teens had at least a 2-fold greater risk of having high total cholesterol, triglycerides, and fasting glucose levels, and a greater than 5-times increased risk of elevated blood pressure. These cardio-metabolic risk factors varied with weight, with risk greater for severely obese children and teens compared to moderately obese and normal weight youngsters, as reported in a study published in *Childhood Obesity*, a peer-reviewed journal from Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers. The article is available free on the *Childhood Obesity* website until February 26, 2016.

Linlin Li, PhD, MPH, Duke University Medical Center (Durham, NC), Steven Kelder, PhD, MPH, The University of Texas School of Public Health (Austin), and coauthors assessed the dose-response relationship between weight status and cardio-metabolic [risk factors](#) among U.S. youths 6-19 years of age using data collected between 1999-2012. Based on a definition of severe obesity as a [body mass index](#) of at least 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, the researchers found that among severely obese adolescents, nearly 10% had high blood pressure, 40% had high triglycerides, 30% had high levels of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, and about 27% had high fasting glucose. The results are reported in the article "[Cardiometabolic Risk Factors among Severely Obese Children and Adolescents in the United States, 1999-2012.](#)"

"These findings dramatize the heightened cardiovascular disease risks associated with severe obesity even among teenagers," says *Childhood Obesity* Editor-in-Chief Tom Baranowski, PhD, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX. "While causality cannot be inferred from these analyses, they do indicate that effective treatment programs are urgently needed for [severely obese](#) teens, and more effective prevention programs are needed at much earlier ages."

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

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