# Fitness Vs Weight: What's More Important to Your Health?



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## Past century has seen paradigm shift in our diet and activity level

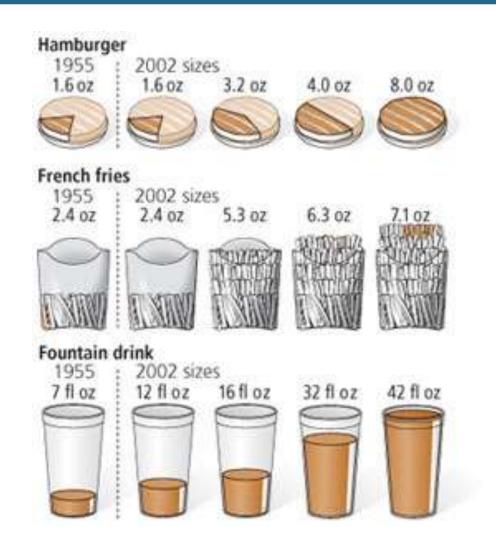
- Over the same period of time.
  - Portion sizes have dramatically increased.
  - Activity levels have dramatically decreased
- Resulting in unintended but predictable consequences that are gravely affecting our health and longevity.





## The Growth of Fast Food Portion Sizes Over 30 yrs

- Between 1971 and 2002:
  - Average man added 168 calories to his daily diet.
  - Average woman added 335 calories a day.





## The Growth of Portion Sizes; 20 years & 210 calories later

The Average Bagel:



3-inch diameter 140 calories



6-inch diameter 350 calories



## The Growth of Portion Sizes; 20 years & 360 calories later

The Average Large Size Theatre Popcorn:



5 cups 270 calories



11 cups 630 calories



## The Growth of Portion Sizes; 20 years & 270 calories later

The Average Hamburger:



333 calories



590 calories



#### Changes to the US Labor Force

- Over past century, shift from industries dominated by primary production
- 1900 Most Common Occupations:
  - Farm workers
  - Forrest workers
  - Mine workers
- 2000 Most Common Occupations:
  - Professional workers
  - Technical workers
  - Service workers







## Then Exercise Didn't Matter: Unintended Consequences of Technology

Lumberjack; Then





#### Now Exercise Matters: Unintended Consequences of Technology

Lumberjack; Now





## Then Exercise Didn't Matter: Unintended Consequences of Technology

Farmer; Then





#### Now Exercise Matters: Unintended Consequences of Technology

Farmer; Now





## Then Exercise Didn't Matter: Unintended Consequences of Technology

Play time; Then





# Now Exercise Matters: Unintended Consequences of Technology

Play time; Now





### **Everywhere We Look; Now Exercise Matters!**

#### At home and at work; Now







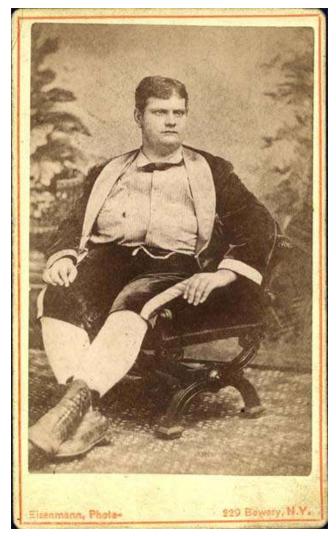
# Bottom Line – We have systematically worked physical activity out of our daily routine





#### The results have been catastrophic

- Can you guess the early 1900's occupation of these people?
  - They are circus performers.
  - Often called "fat folks", who were so unusually large that people actually paid to see them!





# Are you kidding? Compare with today's standards





#### This is NOT a genetic problem

- Look at "old" pictures!
- Humans have <u>not</u>
   experienced significant
   genetic change in the past
   50 years.
- Basic Law of Thermodynamics
  - To maintain metabolic balance:

kcal in = kcal burned

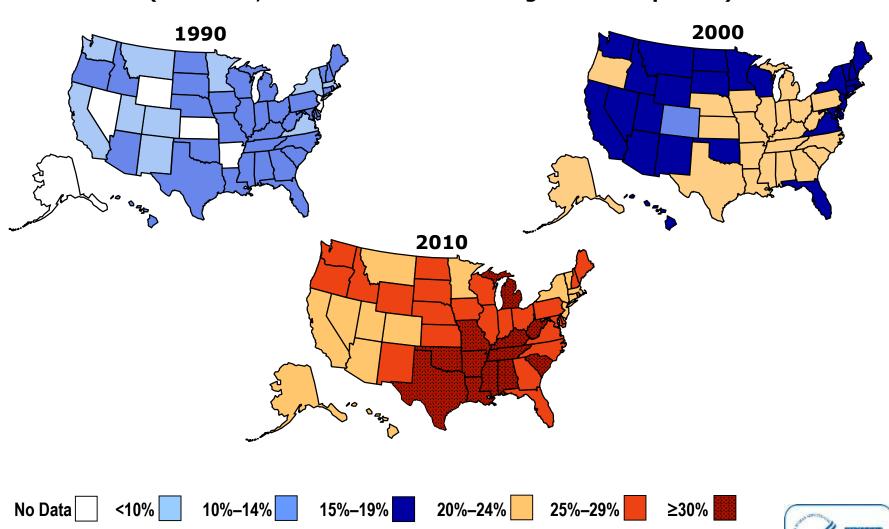




#### **Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults**

BRFSS, 1990, 2000, 2010

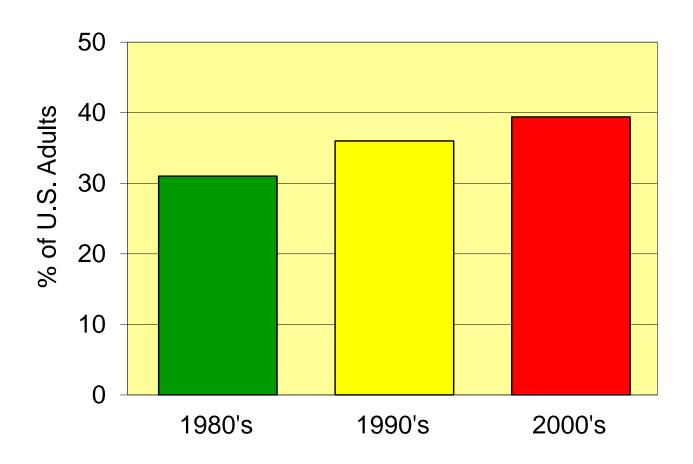
(\*BMI ≥30, or about 30 lbs. overweight for 5'4" person)



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDC.



### Prevalence of Weight Loss Attempts 1980's – 2000's



Yaesmiri et al, *Int J Obes* 2011; Bish et al, *Obes Res* 2005; Serdula et al, *JAMA* 1999; Serdula et al, *Am J Publ Health* 1994





#### Physical activity, obesity and health



### It is time to bust the myth of physical inactivity and obesity: you cannot outrun a bad diet

A Malhotra, T Noakes and S Phinney

Br J Sports Med 2015 49: 967-968 originally published online April 22,

2015

doi: 10.1136/bjsports-2015-094911

- Written by folks trying to sell diet books about virtues of a low carb – high fat diet.
- We have heard this for years obviously you can eat more calories in 10 minutes than you can burn off in 2 days.
- But can you diet away the risks of being sedentary?



### AMA Votes that Obesity is a Disease *June 18, 2013*



#### AMA declares obesity a disease

The move by the American Medical Assn. board means that one-third of adults and 17% of children in the U.S. have a medical condition that requires treatment.

June 18, 2013 | By Melissa Healy and Anna Gorman, Los Angeles Times



The American Medical Assn. voted Tuesday to declare obesity a disease, a move that effectively defines 78 million American adults and 12 million children as having a medical condition requiring treatment.

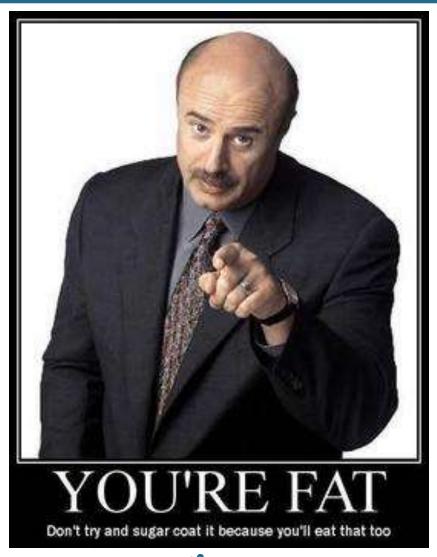


The move by the American Medical Assn. board means that one-third of adults and 17% of children in the U.S. have a medical condition that requires treatment.



#### **Obesity Hysteria**

- The world has now been sufficiently alerted to the global problem of obesity.
- Patients have been labeled and stigmatized.
- Assigned lots of blame.
- Spent lots of money.
- ...and gotten nowhere.





#### Are patients and their physicians giving up?

- Data from National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey for 1995-96' and 2007-08' showed:
  - During this period, adults who were overweight or obese increased from 52.1% in 95' to 63.3% in 08".
  - Patients seen in 2007-08; had 46% lower odds of receiving weight counseling than 95-96'.
  - Patients with hypertension 46% less likely and diabetics 59% less likely to receive counseling.
- The campaign on obesity is not working!
- What's the definition of insanity?



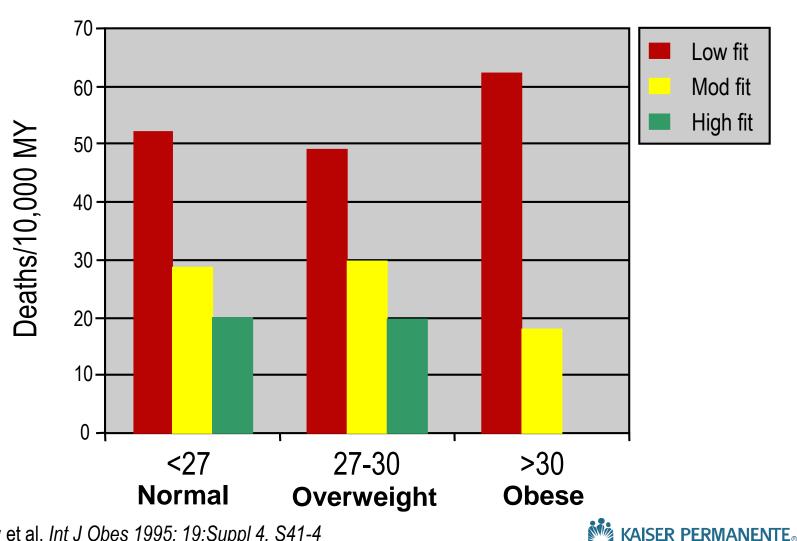
#### We need a new (and fresh) approach!

- We need to give patients permission to be fat; And still be healthy!
- Shift focus off of BMI and onto physical activity.
- Health At Every Size (HAES)
  - Focus on broader health.
  - 95% regain lost wt. in 3-5 yrs.
  - Change in BMI is not a success measure for an exercise program.

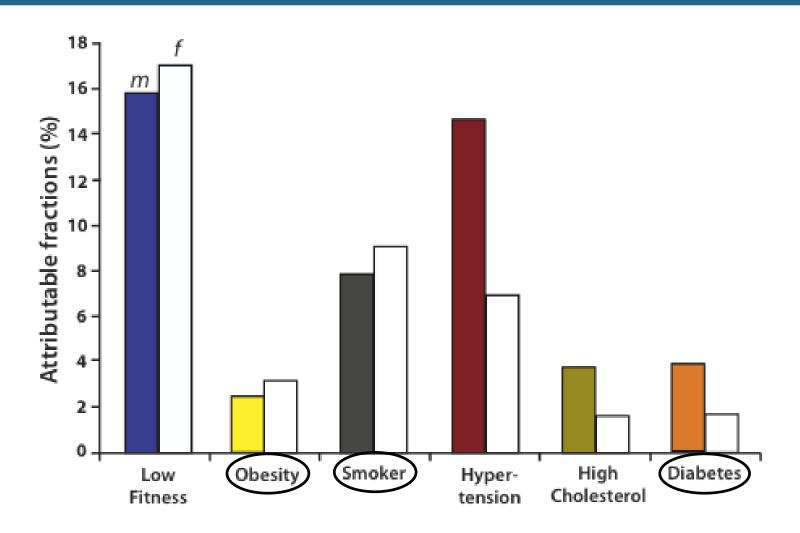




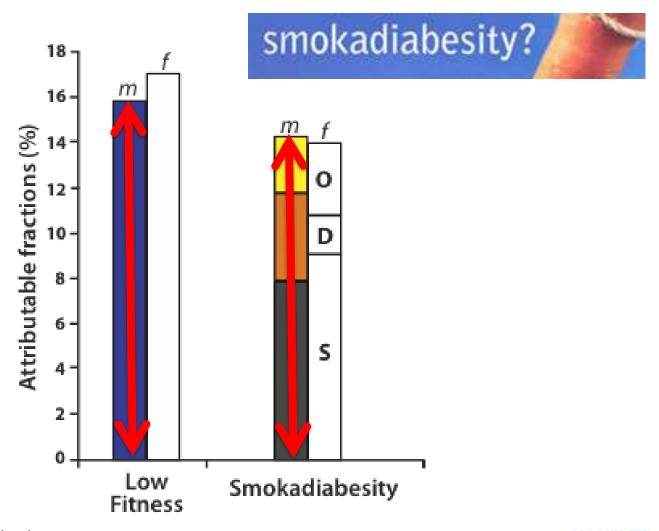
#### Death Rates by Fitness & BMI Categories



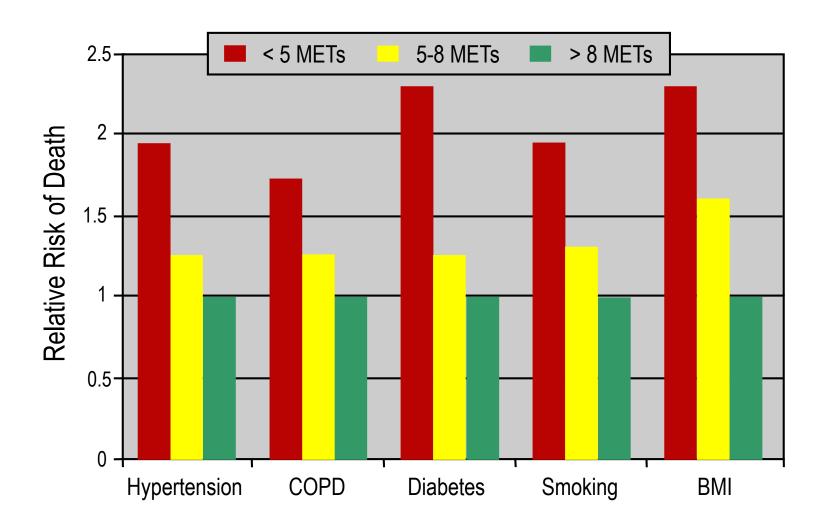
#### Which kills more people?



#### Low Fitness Kills More People than Smokadiabesity!



#### **Exercise & Chronic Disease Mortality**



### The Classification of Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease

- Surrogate outcomes of poor lifestyle choices and stress (high blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes and obesity), along with smoking are defined as "causal" risk factors for Cardiovascular disease.
- Physical inactivity is generally referred to as a "predisposing" risk factor.
  - Suggesting its influence on disease is entirely due to intensification of the causal factors.
  - Result has been disproportionate focus on drugs (mainly lipid and BP) to treat disease.
  - Research has proven this is incorrect.



#### The Effect of Exercise on CVD Risk

- Even after accounting for traditional CVD risk factors (BP, DM, lipids, weight), the inverse relationship between PA & CVD risk persists.
  - ~59% of the reduction in CVD risk with exercise is due to reducing Inflammation & Clotting (32.6%), BP (27.1%), lipids (19.1%), BMI (10.1%), A1C (8.9%).
  - 41% of risk reduction due to other unknown mechanisms (perhaps endothelium function and remodeling or LV structure and function).
  - Effect of weight loss is only on traditional risk factors.

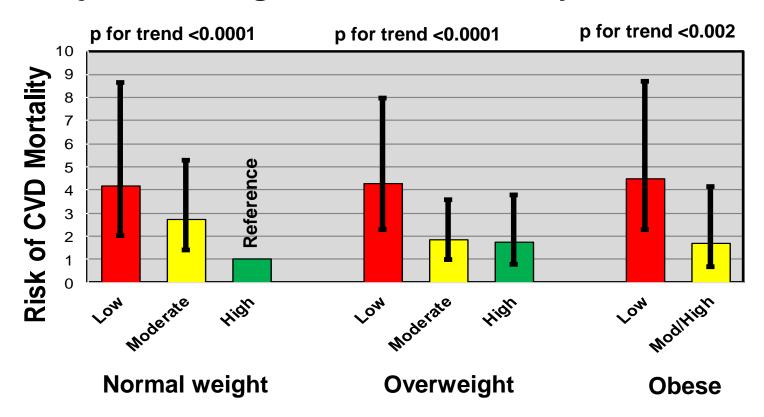


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### Fitness Correlates with CVD Mortality Risk\* Regardless of BMI

### \*2316 Men with Diabetes; 179 CVD Deaths Adjusted for age and examination year



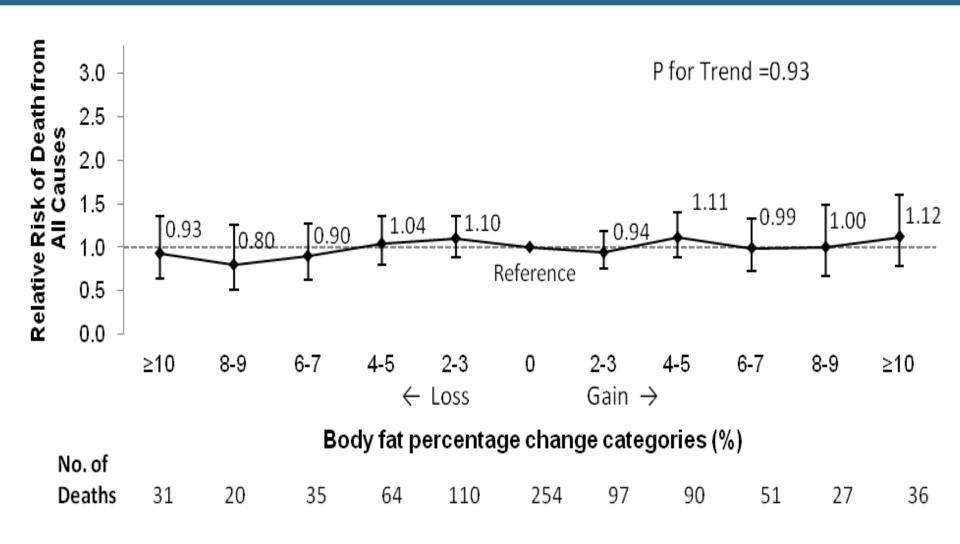


## Is Mortality Risk Reduced More by Weight Loss or Increasing Fitness?

- 14,345 mostly middle-aged men (>19 years of age); All had 2 or more exams and Cooper Clinic
- Over 11.4 years of follow-up (165,186 man-years)
   914 all cause deaths (300 CV deaths)
- Excluded those with chronic disease, <1 year of follow-up, or BMI <18.5 BMI</li>
- Evaluated changes in fitness and body composition in relation to all-cause mortality



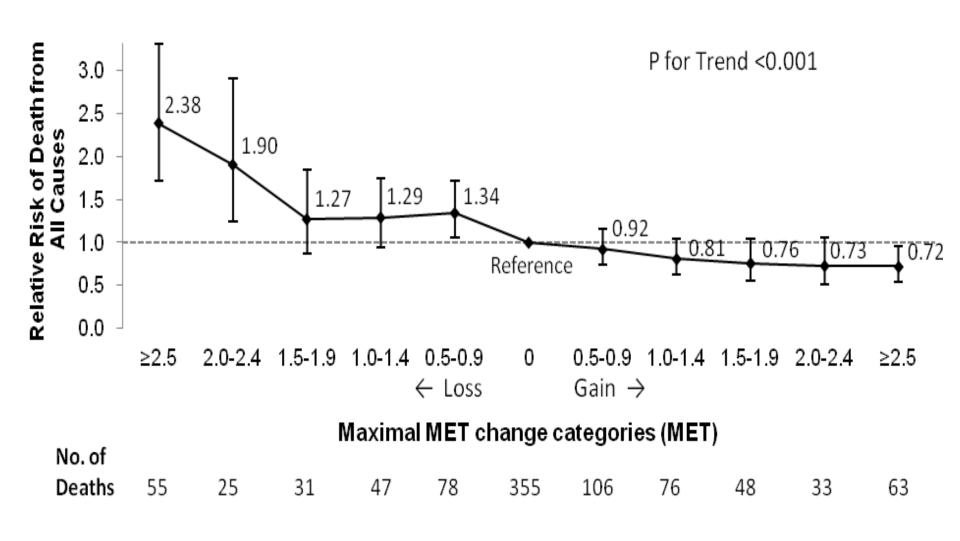
#### **Change in Percent Body Fat**



Lee DC; Circulation, 2011

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#### **Change in Fitness Level (Maximal METs)**



Lee DC; Circulation, 2011

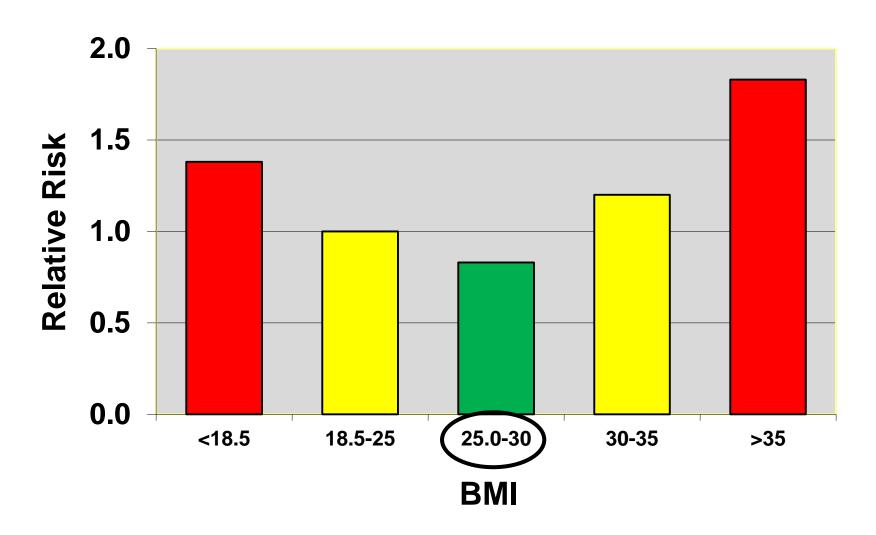


## Where should our Focus be to Lower Mortality? Fitness vs Fatness vs Smoking

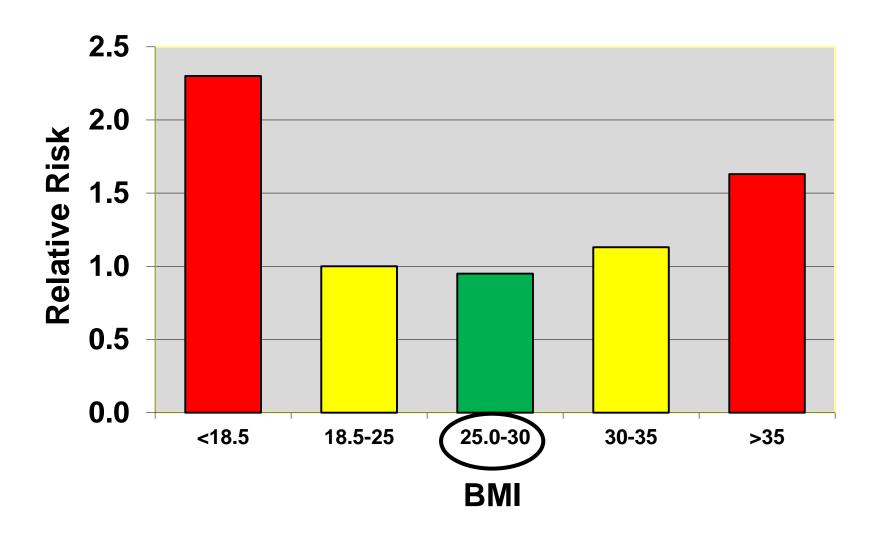
- Fit and normal BMI (non-smoker)
- Fit and elevated BMI (non-smoker)
- Fit, normal BMI, & smoker.
- Unfit and normal BMI (non-smoker)
- Unfit and abnormal BMI (non-smoker)
- Unfit, abnormal BMI, & smoker.



## All-Cause Mortality, Relative Risk, Age 25-59 NHANES Data

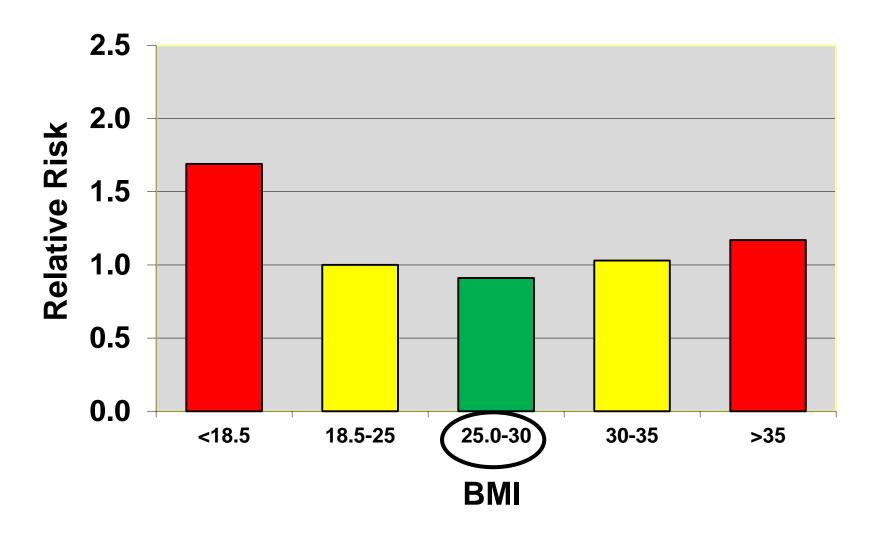


## All-Cause Mortality, Relative Risk, Age 60-69 NHANES Data

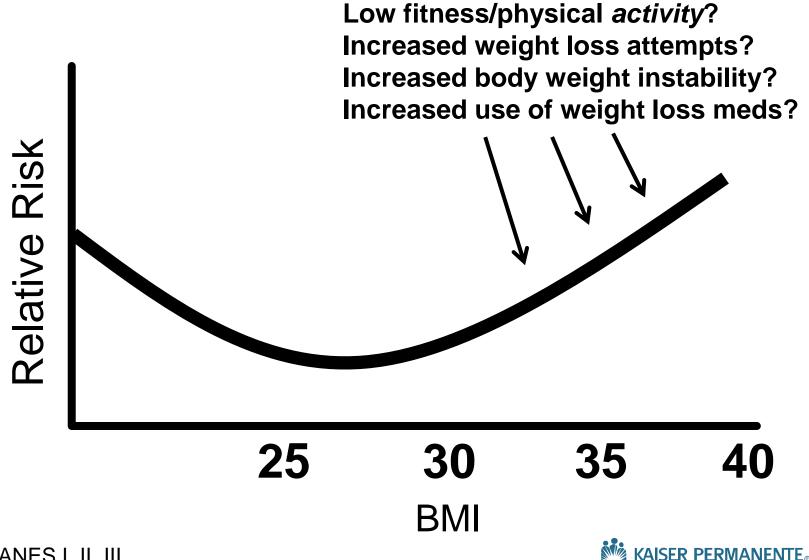




## All-Cause Mortality, Relative Risk, Age ≥70 NHANES Data

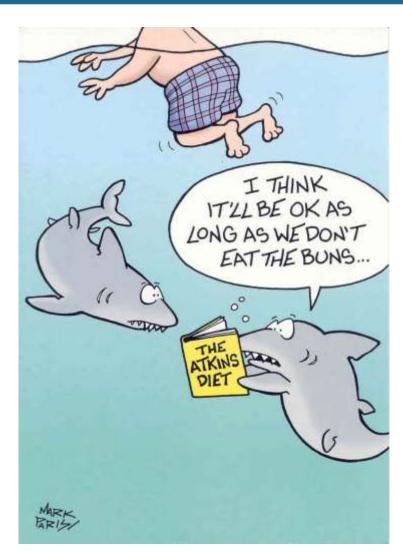


#### BMI and Mortality; The U-shaped Curve



#### Fitness vs. Fatness

- Better to be fat and fit, than skinny and un-fit.
- Low level of fitness is a bigger risk factor for mortality, than mild to moderate obesity.
- Benefits of physical activity are the same, regardless of how much you weigh.



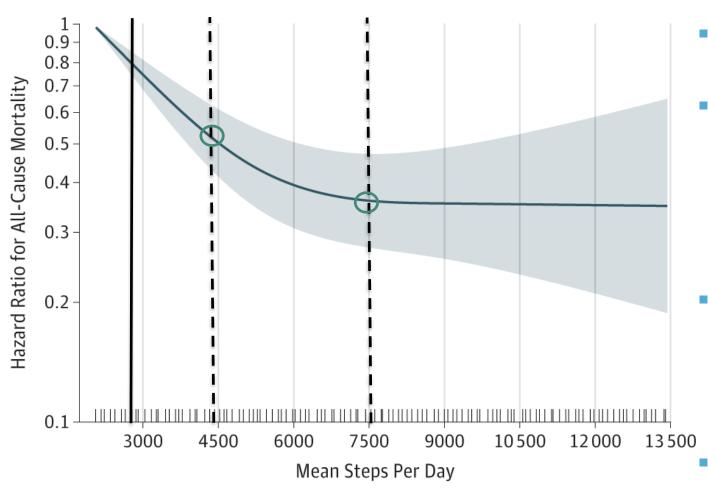


### **The Walking Prescription**

Name: John W. Smith	Age: 30
Walking $\mathbf{R}$	Date:
Recommended activity level:	Moderate
Minutes per day: 30 minutes	
Number of days per week: 5 or	more
ntensity: Hard enough that you can'	
Stop: If you experience chest percessive shortness of b	
Signature: Robert Sallis,	MD
Every B	ody
VAZAT	VI
MA	walk.org



#### It Doesn't Take a lot of Steps!



- 16,741 women
- Mean age of 72 yrs followed 4.3 yrs.
- Those averaging ~4400 steps/d had significantly lower mortality compared with those who took ~2700 steps/d
- Mortality rates
   progressively
   decreased before
   leveling at approx
   7500 steps/d.
- Step Intensity not related to mortality

Lee; JAMA Intern Med; 2019

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#### A Tale of 2 Male Patients; Pick the Heart Patient

- 5'8" Tall
- 158 lbs.
- Never drank alcohol
- Low Fat/High Fiber Diet
- Marathon Runner
- Former smoker

- 5'8" Tall
- 270 lbs.
- Heavy drinker
- High Fat/Low Fiber Diet
- Sedentary
- Heavy cigarette and cigar smoker



#### Jim Fixx; died age 52 while jogging

- 5'8" Tall
- 158 lbs.
- Never drank alcohol
- Low Fat/High FiberDiet
- Marathon Runner
- Former smoker





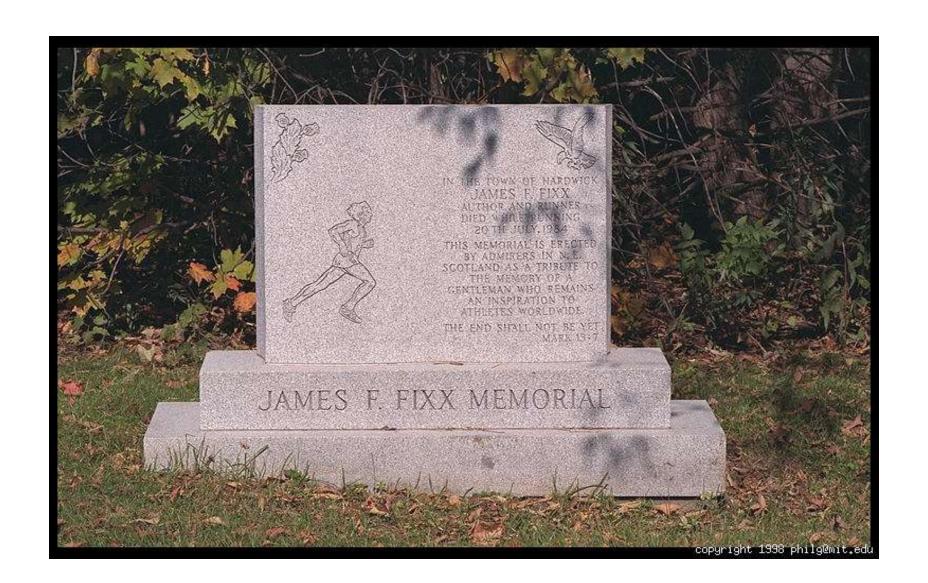
#### Winton Churchill; died age 90 at home



- 5'8" Tall
- 270 lbs.
- Heavy drinker
- High Fat/Low Fiber Diet
- Sedentary
- Heavy cigarette and cigar smoker



# Sometimes you cannot outrun (or out-diet) your genes!



#### Summary

- Strong evidence suggests that you CAN outrun a bad diet.
- Multiple studies have proven that you are better off being Fat & Fit than Skinny & Unfit
- For this reason, the promotion of PA should be placed on at least equal footing with weight mgmt.
- In the clinical setting, Exercise should be assessed and prescribed at every visit using a PA Vital Sign.



## It's time to get off the couch...





# Final Exercise is Medicine Presentation Robert Sallis, MD

 Wednesday @ 8 PM; "Managing Chronic Pain: What Are the Best Non-Drug Options?"

#### Thank You!



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Questions?