

## Why is Exercise Medicine?

**EXERCISE IS MEDICINE** Physical inactivity is a fast-growing public health problem and contributes to a variety of chronic diseases and health complications, including obesity, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, cancer, depression and anxiety, arthritis, and osteoporosis. In addition to improving a patient's overall health, increasing physical activity has proven effective in the treatment and prevention of chronic diseases.

Regular physical activity at the correct intensity:

- Reduces the risk of heart disease by 40%
- Lowers the risk of stroke by 27%
- Reduces the incidence of high blood pressure, by almost 50%
- Reduces the incidence of diabetes by almost 50%

Just 30 minutes of physical activity per day can:

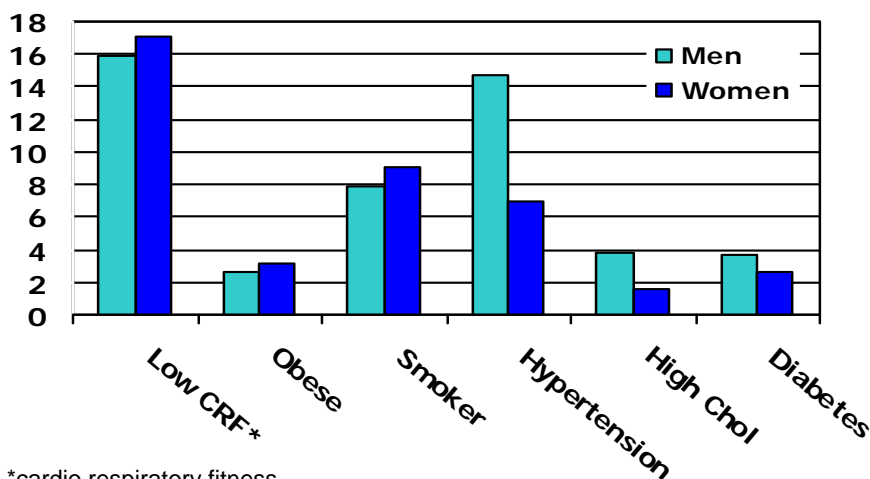
- Reduce mortality and the risk of recurrent breast cancer by almost 50%
- Lower the risk of colon cancer by more than 60%
- Reduce the risk of developing of Alzheimer's disease by one-third
- Decrease depression as effectively as Prozac or behavioral therapy

### PHYSICAL INACTIVITY LEADS TO HIGHER RISK OF DEATH

Physical inactivity has a greater effect on the rate of mortality than other major factors, such as smoking, hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol.

#### Effect of Fitness (CRF\*) on Mortality Attributable Fractions (%) for All-Cause Deaths

40,842 Men & 12,943 Women, ACLS



\*cardio respiratory fitness

Blair SN. Physical inactivity: the biggest public health problem of the 21st century. *Br J Sports Med* 2009; 43:1-2.

Support for the Exercise is Medicine™ Global Initiative is Provided By:

Founding Partners:



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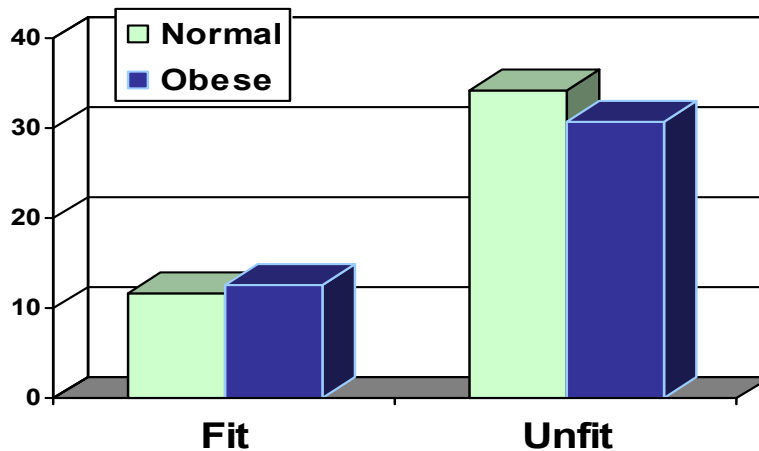


**FIT VS. FAT — LEVEL OF FITNESS HAS GREATER EFFECT ON MORTALITY THAN BODY FAT**

A low level of fitness is a bigger risk factor for mortality than mild-moderate obesity. It is better to be fit and overweight than unfit with a lower percentage of body fat.

**Joint Associations of CRF\* and % Body Fat with All-Cause Mortality, Adults 60+**

Death rate/1000 person—years



Deaths            151    190                            29    72

Rates adjusted for age, sex and exam year

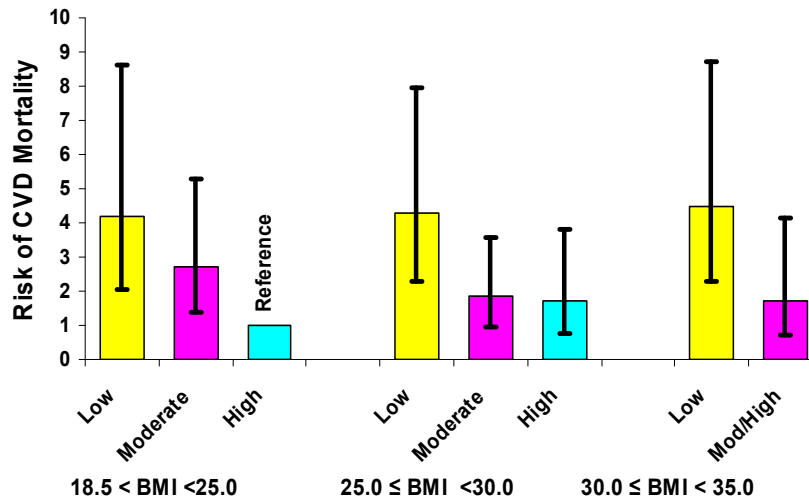
\*cardio respiratory fitness

Sui M et al. JAMA. Dec 2007

**PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DECREASES RISK FOR DIABETES PATIENTS WITH CARDIO VASCULAR DISEASE**

Fitness levels have a substantial impact on the risk for cardio vascular disease mortality. Those with a moderate or high level of fitness are much less likely to die of cardio vascular disease than those who are less active.

**CVD\* Mortality Risk by Fitness and BMI Categories, 2316 Men with Diabetes, 179 CVD Deaths**



Rates adjusted for age, sex and exam year

\*cardio vascular disease

Church TS et al. Arch Int Med 2005; 165:2114