

# Obesity and cardiovascular disease

**Sanne Hoeks, PhD**  
clinical epidemiologist Erasmus MC

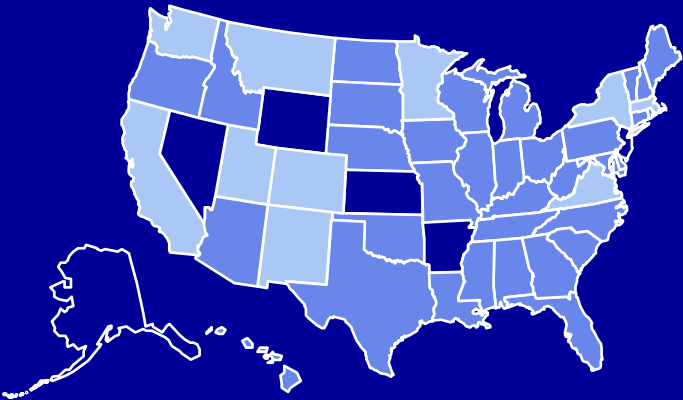
**Don Poldermans**



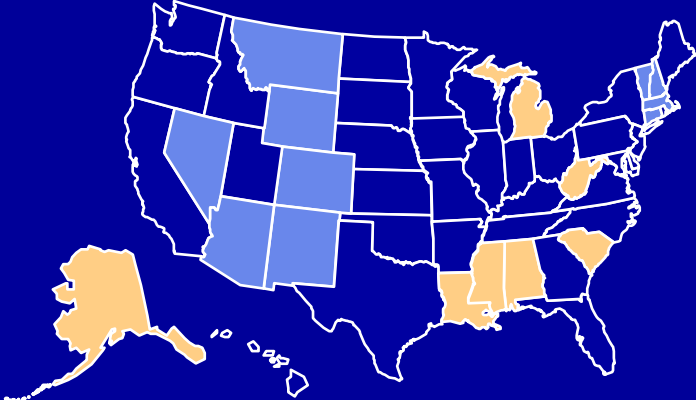
Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

# Obesity trends in US

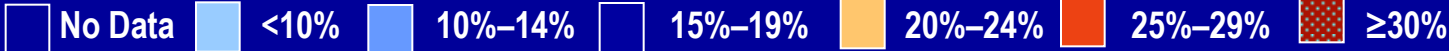
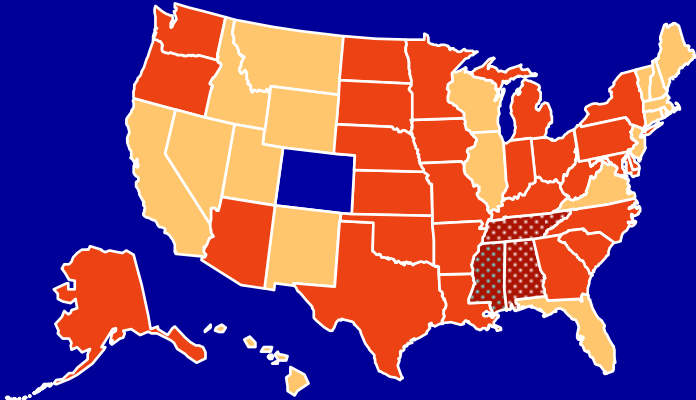
1990



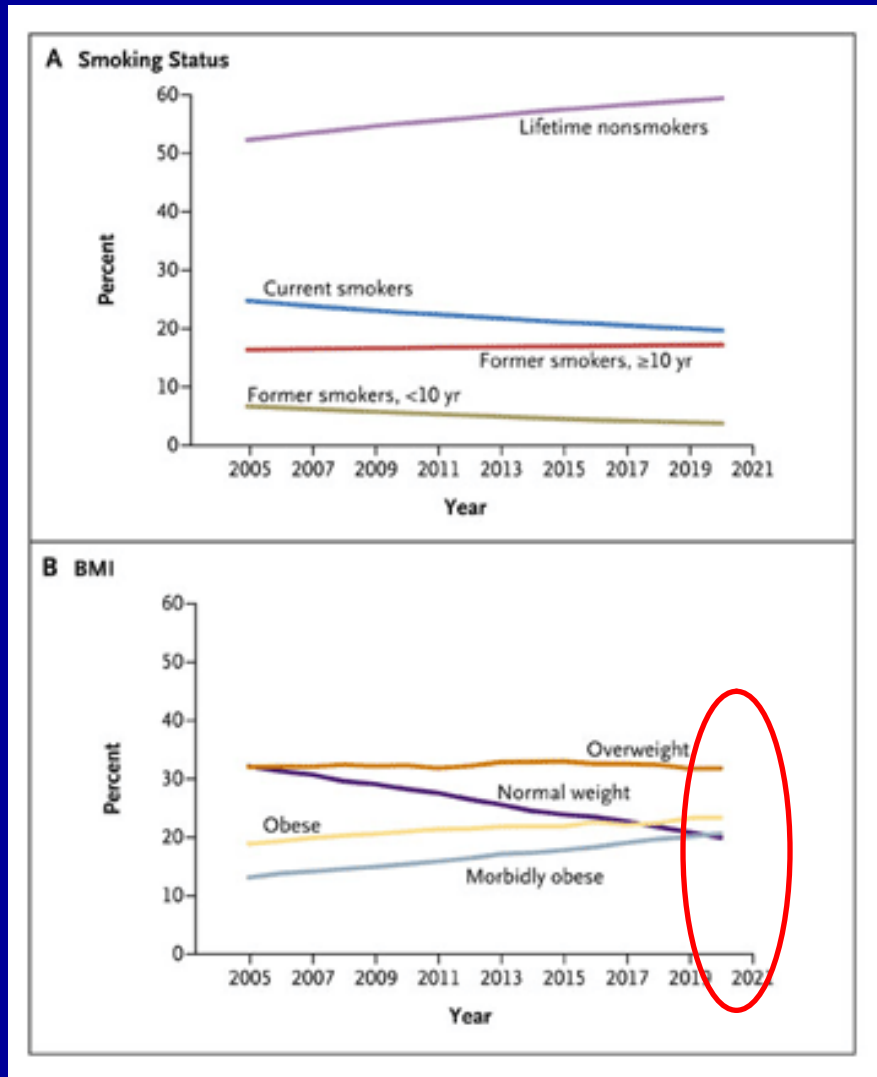
1998



2007

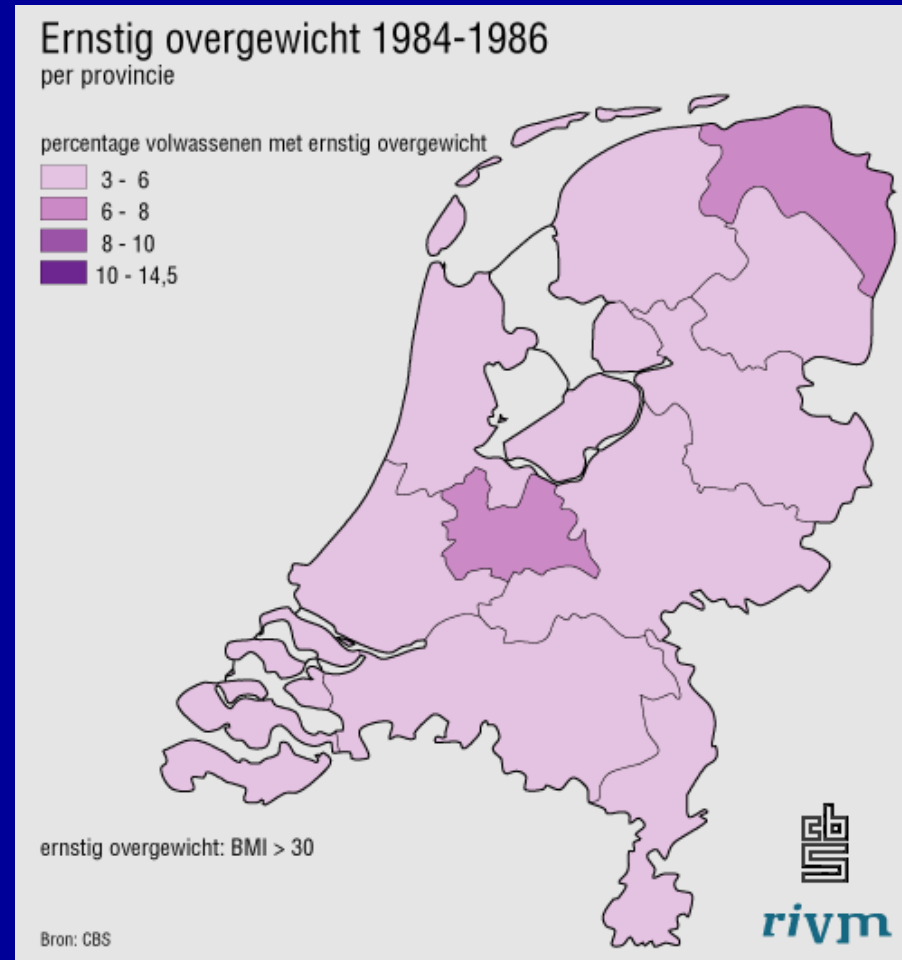


# Forecasted Trends, 2005-2020



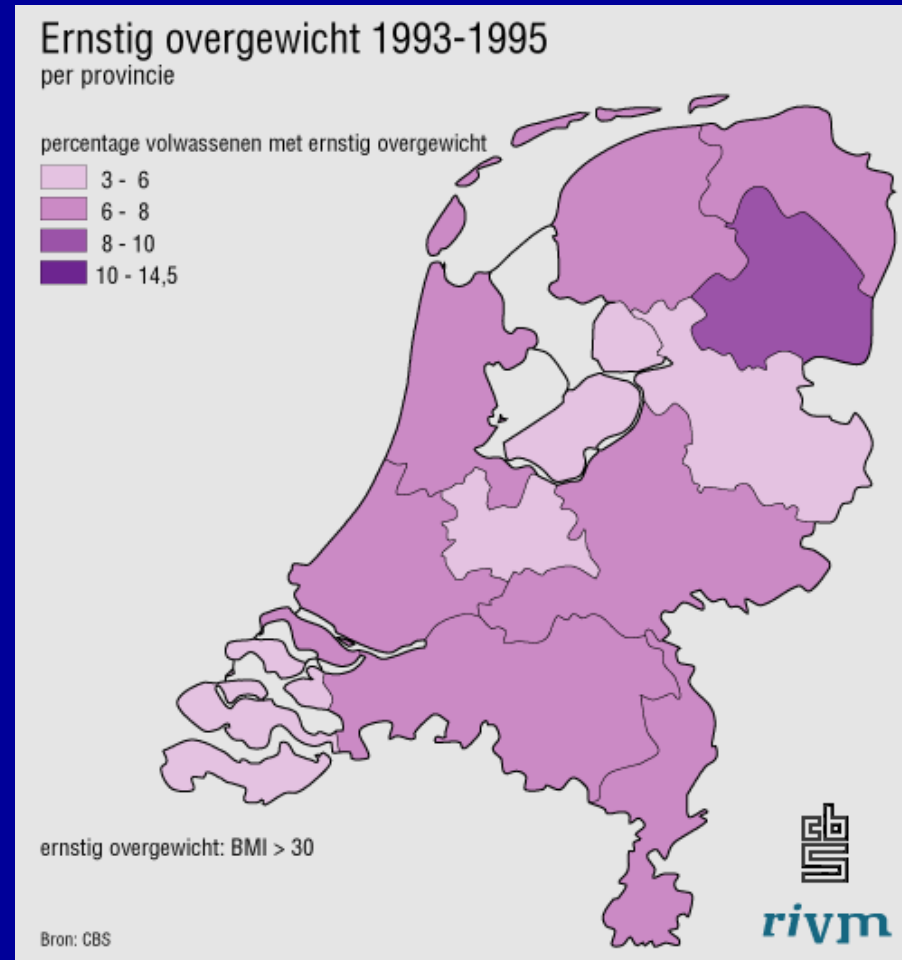
**45% expected  
to be obese by  
2020**

# Obesity in The Netherlands

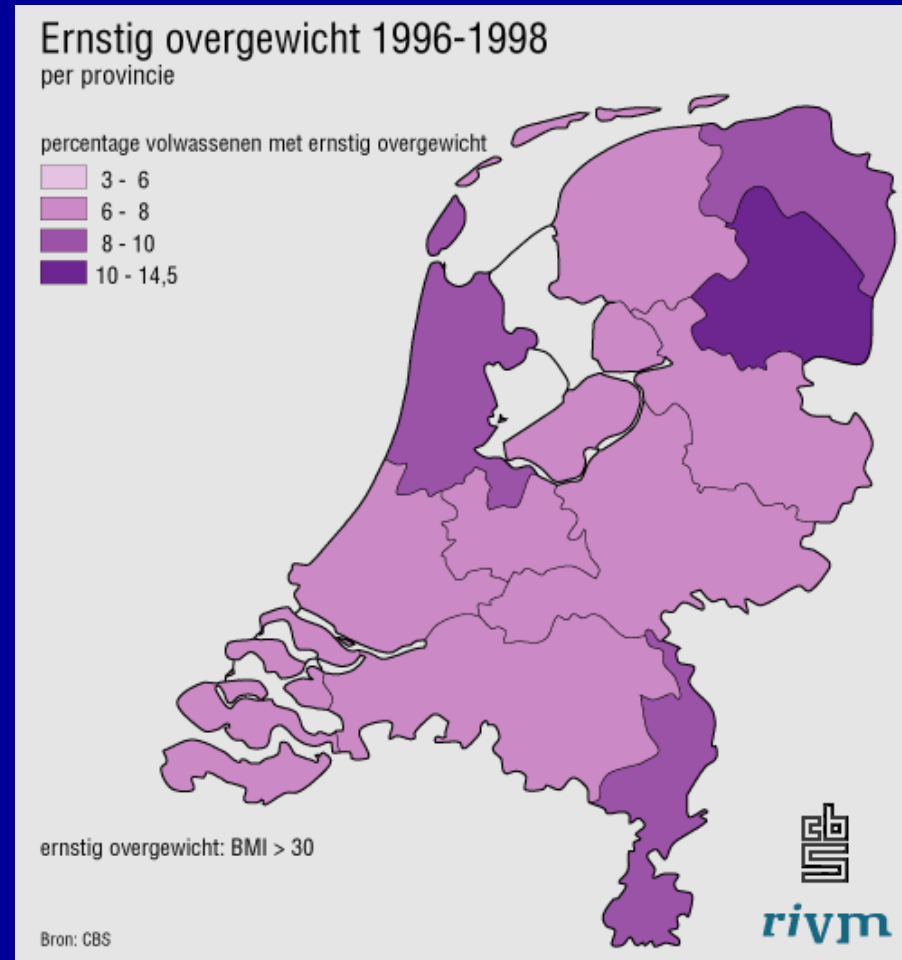




# Obesity in The Netherlands



# Obesity in The Netherlands



# Obesity in The Netherlands



# How to define obesity?

- Body Mass Index (BMI) =  $\text{weight} / \text{height}^2$ 
  - Obesity:  $\text{BMI} \geq 30$
- Waist Circumference (WC)
  - Men: 102 cm
  - Women: 88 cm



# Body Mass Index

	Body Mass index, kg/m <sup>2</sup>
<18.5	Underweight
18.5-24.9	Healthy weight
25.0-29.9	Overweight
≥30	Obese



# ESC guidelines secondary prevention

## Managing total CVD risk: BODY WEIGHT

- Increasing body weight is associated with increased total and CVD mortality and morbidity, mediated in part through increases in blood pressure and blood cholesterol, reduced HDL cholesterol, and an increased likelihood of diabetes.
- Weight reduction is recommended for obese people (BMI  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) and should be considered for those who are overweight (BMI  $\geq 25$  and  $< 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>).
- Men with a waist circumference of 94–102 cm and women with a waist circumference of 80–88 cm are advised not to increase their weight. Men above 102 cm and women above 88 cm are advised to lose weight.
- Restriction of total calorie intake and regular physical exercise are the cornerstones of weight control. It is likely that improvements in central fat metabolism occur with exercise even before weight reduction occurs.

# ESC guidelines secondary prevention

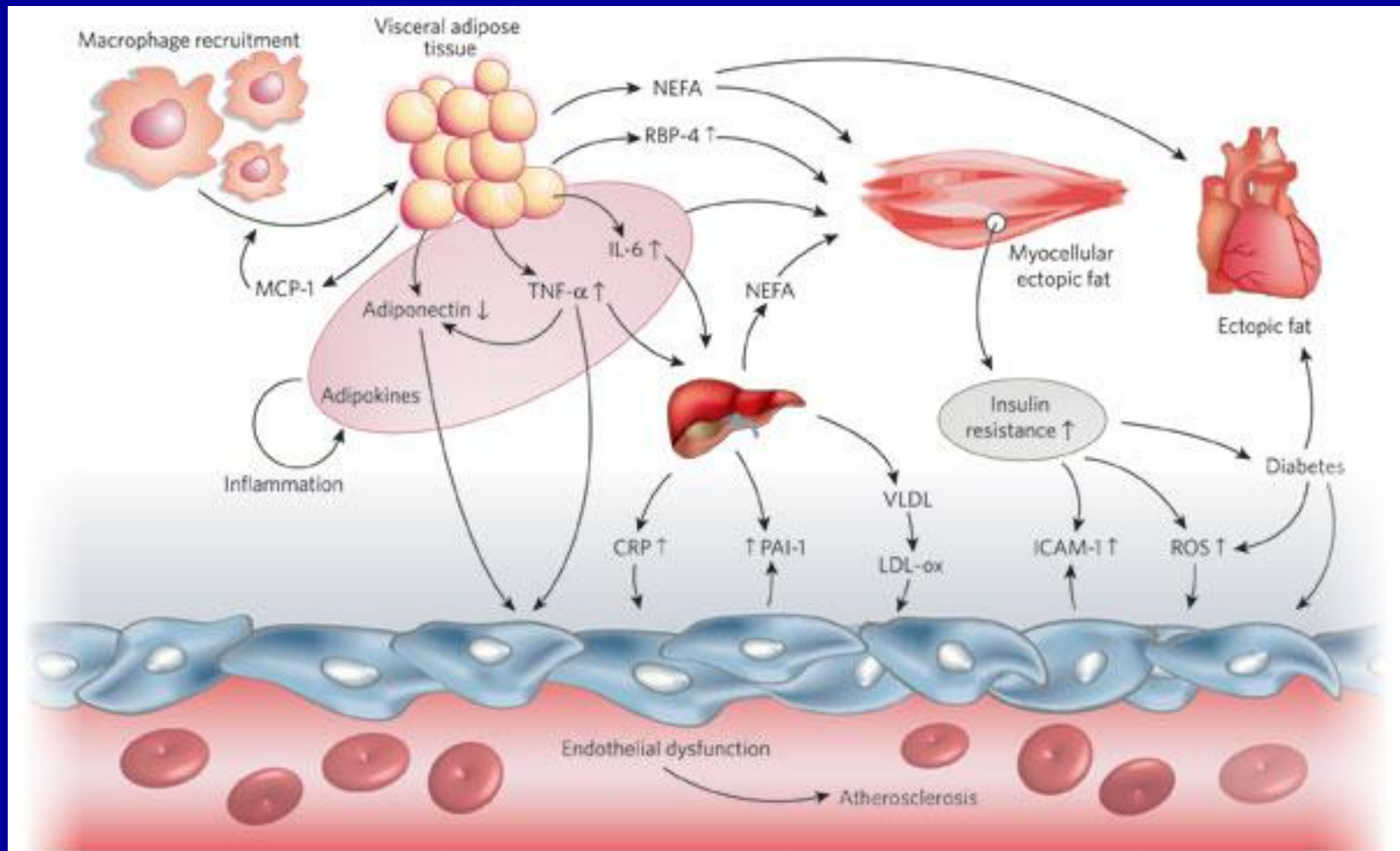
**Table 3** Impact of increasing body weight on risk factors, morbidity, and mortality

Risk factors	Morbidity	Mortality
Raised BP	Type 2 diabetes	Increased total and cardiovascular mortality
Raised total and LDL cholesterol	Insulin resistance Coronary heart disease	
Reduced HDL cholesterol	Stroke	
Increased waist circumference	Osteoarthritis (knee) Cancer	
Sleep apnoea	Low back pain due to obesity	
Obesity hypoventilation syndrome	Breathlessness	
Physical inactivity	Polycystic ovary syndrome Infertility Cholelithiasis Asthma (exacerbation) Venous thromboembolic pulmonary embolism Inflammation Autonomic nervous system dysfunction	

# Obesity – Cardiovascular disease

- Development and progression of coronary artery disease
- Associated with cardiovascular risk factors as diabetes, dyslipidemia and hypertension
- Elevated cardiovascular morbidity and mortality (stroke, myocardial infarction, cardiovascular death)

# Pathophysiology



# Pathophysiology

- Indirect: increased prevalence of diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia
- Direct: adipose tissue is an active endocrine organ:  
Increased levels of cytokines + inflammatory markers → endothelial dysfunction → atherosclerosis

# Metabolic Syndrome

## The Metabolic Syndrome

- The term 'metabolic syndrome' refers to the combination of several factors that tend to cluster together- central obesity, hypertension, low HDL cholesterol, raised triglycerides, and raised blood sugar- to increase risk of diabetes and CVD.
- This implies that, if one component is identified, a systematic search for the others is indicated, together with an active approach to managing all of these risk factors.
- Physical activity and weight control can radically reduce the risk of developing diabetes in those with the metabolic syndrome.

# Metabolic Syndrome

Risk Factor	Defining level men	Defining level women
Abdominal obesity	>102 cm	>88 cm
Triglycerides	≥150 mg/dl	≥150 mg/dl
HDL cholesterol	<40 mg/dl	<50 mg/dl
Blood pressure	≥130/ ≥80 mmHg	≥130/ ≥80 mmHg
Fasting glucose	≥110 mg/dl	≥110 mg/dl

→ 1.5-3 fold increase in risk of CHD and stroke

# Bodyfat distribution

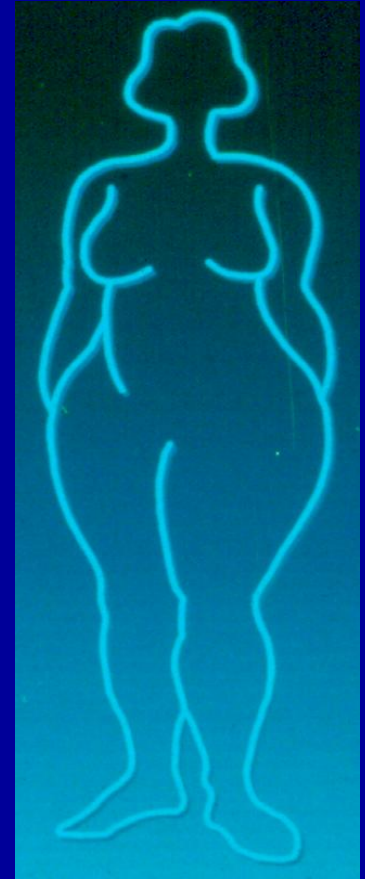
Intra-abdominal or  
Visceral type

(android or  
“apple shaped”)



Lower body or  
external type

(gynoid or  
“pear shaped”)

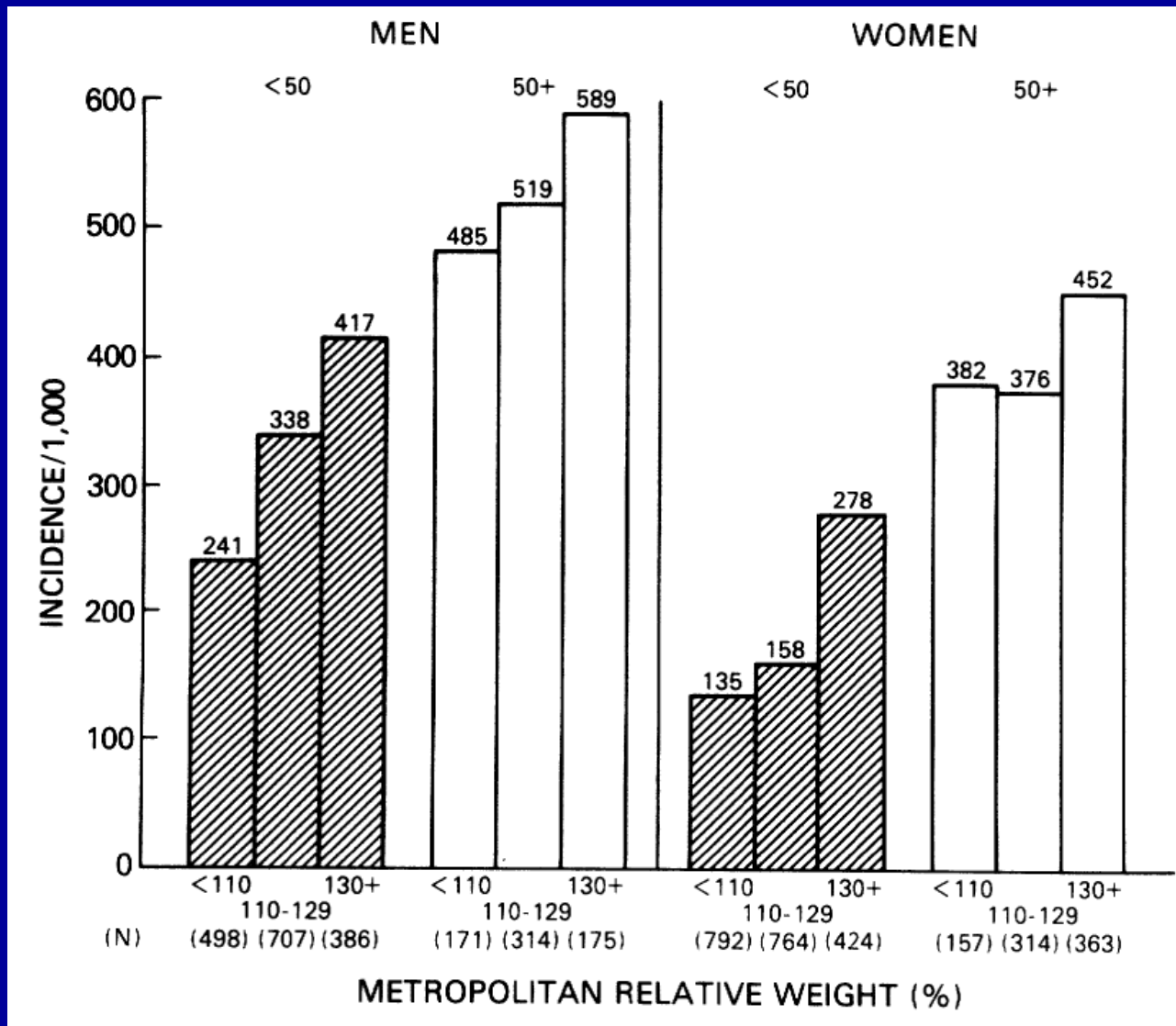


# BMI and cardiovascular disease risk

		Disease Risk Relative to Normal Weight and Waist Circumference	
	Body Mass index, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Men, ≤102 cm Women, ≤88 cm	Men, >102 cm Women, >88 cm
<18.5	Underweight	-	-
18.5-24.9	Healthy weight	-	-
25.0-29.9	Overweight	Increased	High
30.0-34.9	Obesity, class I	High	Very high
35.0-39.9	Obesity, class II	Very high	Very high
≥40	Obesity, class III	Extremely high	Extremely high

From the Clinical Guidelines on the Identification, Evaluation, and Treatment of Overweight and Obesity in Adults: The Evidence Report: National Institutes of Health

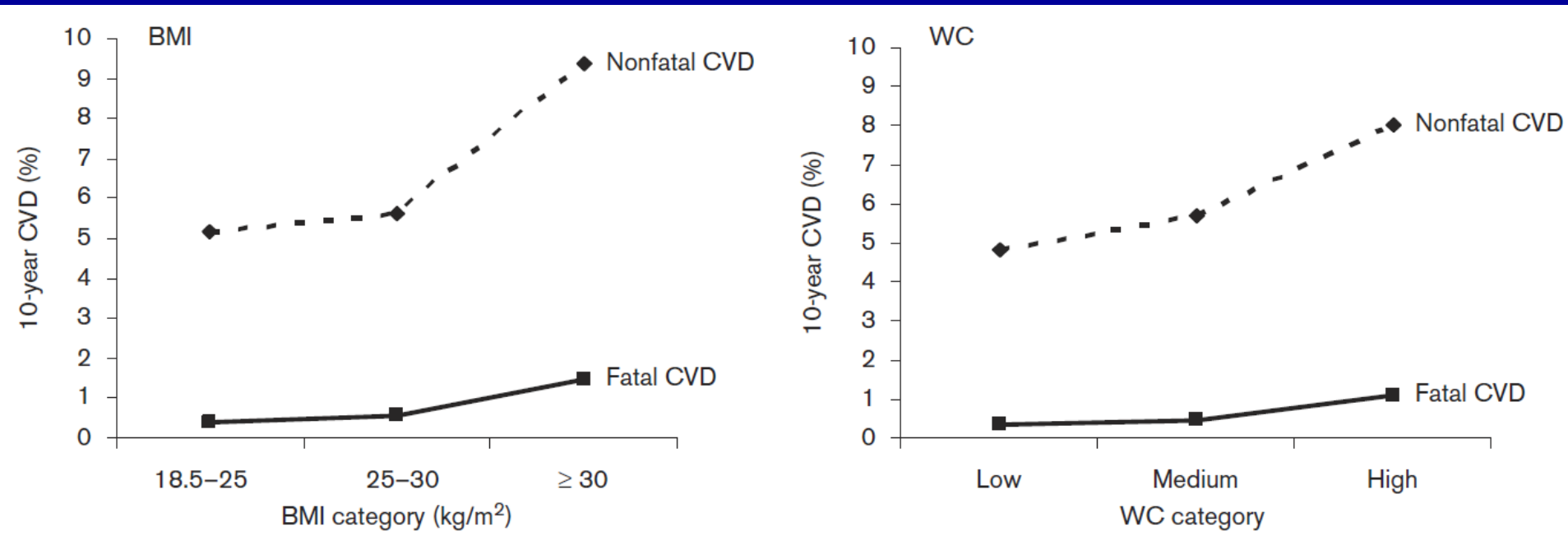
# Incidence of cardiovascular disease



Metropolitan Relative Weight=(actual/desirable weight)\*100

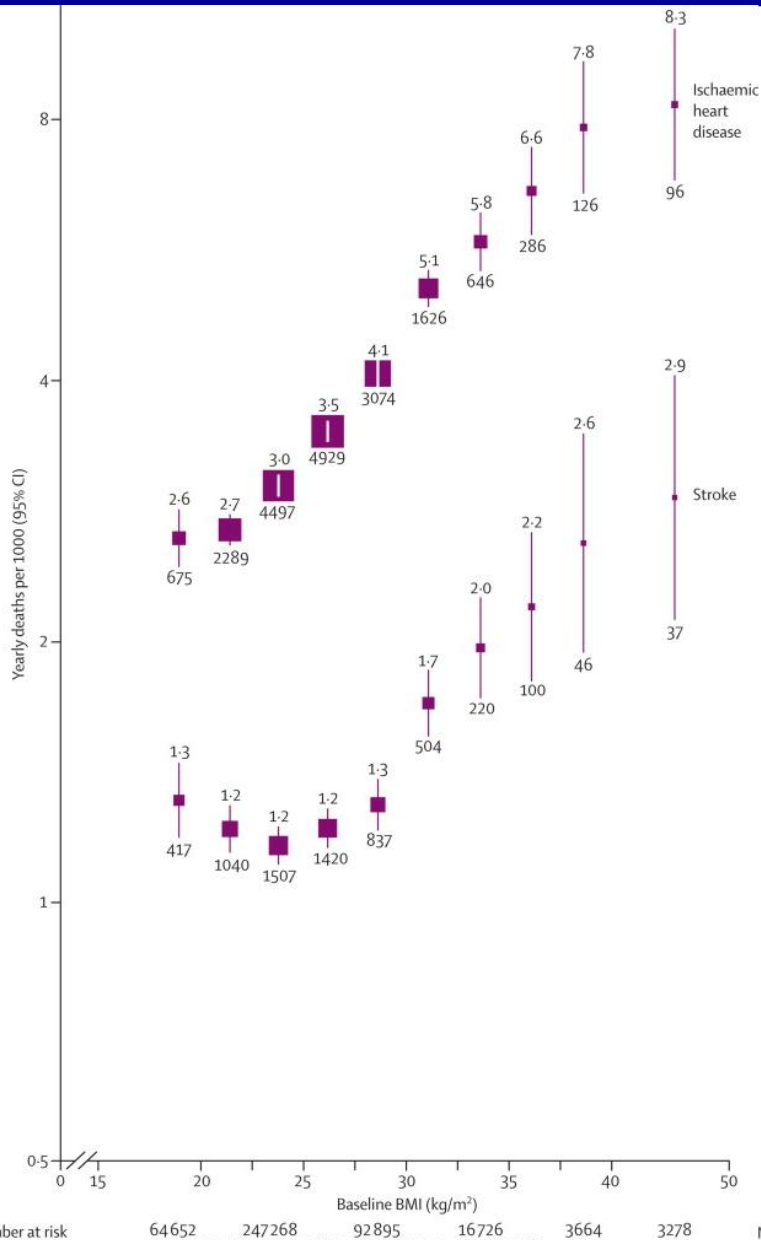
# BMI/ WC - cardiovascular disease

- 20.500 Dutch men/ women aged 20-65



→ 35% of fatal and 15% of nonfatal CVD cases could be attributed to overweight and obesity

# BMI - cardiovascular mortality



- Collaborative analyses of 57 prospective studies
- 894.576 participants
- Strong positive relation between BMI and mortality from ischemic heart disease

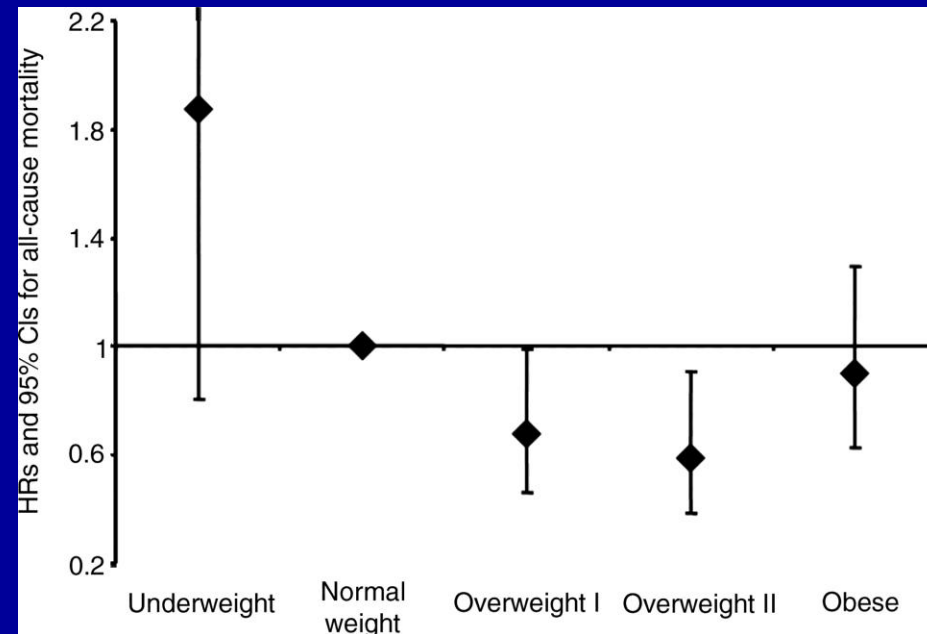
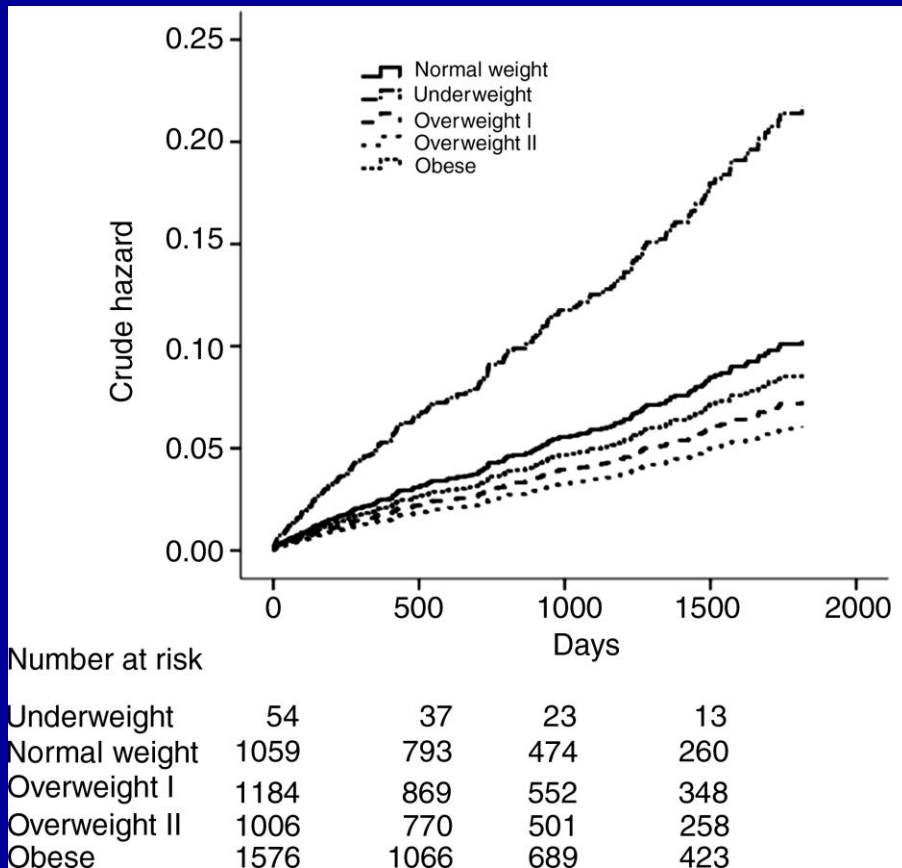
# Patients with established cardiovascular disease

- Obesity appears to be protective against an adverse prognosis
- Obesity paradox?



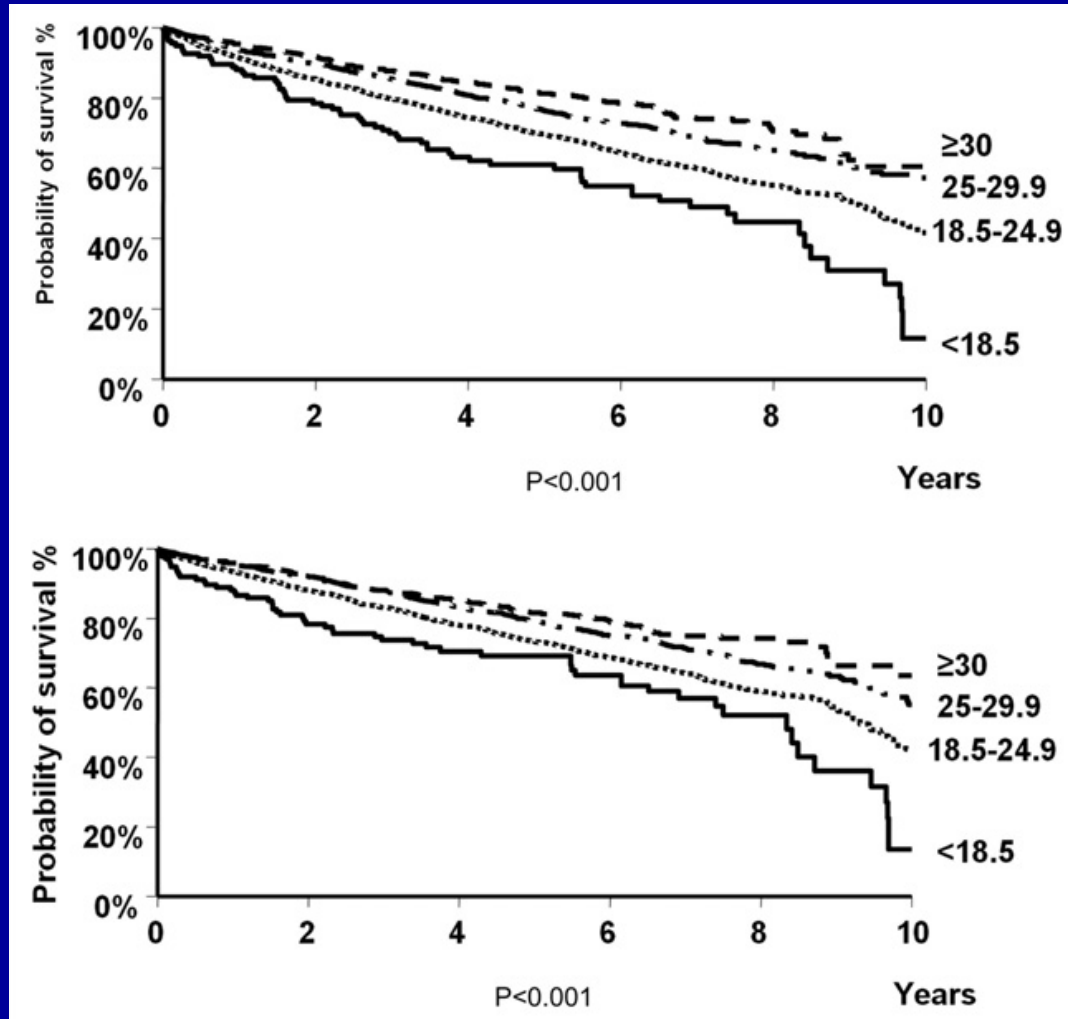
# PCI patients

- 4880 patients undergoing PCI 1997-2006



# Coronary artery disease patients

- 5950 patients with known or suspected CAD



EMC 1993-2005

All cause mortality

Cardiac death

# Conclusion

- Obesity epidemic risk factor
- Major association with metabolic syndrome, cardiovascular disease and mortality
- ESC guidelines stress importance obesity
- Obesity paradox?