



# Obesity & severe obesity<sup>†</sup> lead to higher annual medical costs\*

Ward ZJ, Bleich SN, Long MW, Gortmaker SL. Association of body mass index with health care expenditures in the United States by age and sex. *PLoS One*. 2021 Mar;16(3): e0247307. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0247307.

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## ADULTS

*Extra*  
annual medical costs per person



With obesity

\$1,861

With severe obesity

\$3,097

## CHILDREN

*Extra*  
annual medical costs per person



With obesity

\$116

With severe obesity

\$310

\$170 billion

Total spent in the U.S. each year on medical costs due to adult obesity



**Policies to promote healthy weight at all ages are needed to both promote health & help reduce excess medical costs related to obesity & severe obesity in the U.S.**

<sup>†</sup>Obesity for adults is defined as a body mass index (BMI)  $\geq 30$ . Obesity for children is defined as a BMI  $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$  percentile. Severe obesity for adults is defined as a BMI  $\geq 35$ . Severe obesity for children is defined as a BMI  $\geq 120\%$  of 95<sup>th</sup> percentile. \*These annual medical costs are paid by both individuals and insurance providers. Costs are reported in \$US 2019.