Risk factor study of students here indicates early origins of disease

High blood pressure, high cholesterol and smoking are acknowledged as "risk factors" which increase the chances of heart attack and stroke in middle-aged and older persons.

Studies of adults in Frankfurtham, Mass., and other areas have shown that smoking is a "major" or "significant" risk factor, but do not always mean people who smoke are in danger of smoking-related illness.

But researchers also know that the "risk factors" themselves have a history. That is, they grew even more entrenched in childhood and adolescence.

By Donald L. Lauer, professor of pediatrics at The University of Iowa, directing a continuing study of various health problems among children, is the University's first major health study in which the "risk factors" are being evaluated.

The study encompasses all children ages 6 through 18 who live in the Muscatine, Iowa, area. The study is aimed at determining the extent of the "risk factors" and their possible long-term effects on the health of the population. The study group includes five school districts in the area.

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