

**Physical Growth and Blood Pressure Among Madiga
(A Scheduled Caste) Boys of Visakhapatnam District of
Andhra Pradesh**

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ABSTRACT The cross-sectional purposive random sampling study was undertaken among Madiga boys in rural school situated in the 4 Mandals viz. Visakhapatnam (Rural), Pendurthi, Anandapuram and Bheemunipatnam of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh during February to December 1996. The sample consisted of 243 healthy Madiga boys aged 0+ through 18+ years. In this paper data on stature, body weight, upper arm, calf, chest, abdominal and head circumferences and skinfolds at triceps, biceps, subscapular, medial calf, fore arm, suprailiac abdominal and anterior thigh sites and blood pressure and pulse rate are presented, including patterns of change in these physical and physiological traits with advancing age. It has been observed that there is progressive increase in all the dimensions with advancement in age except skinfolds. Analysis of the data reveal that all the dimensions exhibited the maximum mean annual increments between 15+ and 16+ years, except triceps, subscapular and abdominal skinfolds which in turn exhibits it one years, earlier the highest peak velocity that is, 14+ and 15+ years, and two years earlier in calf circumference that is, 12+ and 13+ years, and there earlier in suprailiac, anterior thigh and medial calf skinfolds that is, 11+ and 12+ years. Blood pressure and pulse rate increase with advancement in age with few fluctuations. These boys are shorter and lighter than the ICMR 1984 observations. The findings of the study can be used as a reference material for Madiga boys of Visakhapatnam district.