Traditionally diabetes mellitus in childhood is synonymous with type 1 diabetes. This spectrum has changed in last two decades with better understanding of patho-physiology of diabetes and the classification has become more elaborate. The epidemiology of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) in adolescents in the United States and worldwide has been reviewed multiple times. These reviews confirm the rise in the global incidence of T2DM in children and adolescents over the last two decades and suggest a close relationship between an increase in obesity in the general population and the appearance of the disorder in adolescents. However the true prevalence of T2DM in complicated by the uncertainties in diagnosis and variations in definitions. The current recommendations on criteria of diagnosis will be presented. T2DM is often associated with risk factors for cardiovascular disease that may already be present at time of diagnosis, making normalisation of blood glucose levels and diagnosis and treatment of hypertension and dyslipidaemia important.