# Blood pressure and hypertension A global health perspective 

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## Blood pressure or hypertension: association of SBP and DPB with IHD



B: Diastolic blood pressure


## MRFIT blood pressure distribution and risk of death at 25 years follow-up



## MRFIT 25-year follow-up: Numbers and proportions of excess CHD deaths by SBP



Systolic blood pressure ( mm Hg )
MRC-HPA Centre for Environment and Health
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Londion
WRAdapted from Elliott \& Stamler 2005

## What is hypertension?

- "Essential hypertension is a type of disease not hitherto recognised in medicine in which the defect is quantitative not qualitative. It is difficult for doctors to understand because it is a departure from the ordinary process of binary thought to which they are brought up. Medicine in its present state can count up to two but not beyond"

Pickering 1968

## Does blood pressure rise with age?

Mean systolic blood pressure (mmHg), US population, NHANES III Phase I (1988-1991) by
age, ethnic group and gender



## Deaths attributable to leading risk factors in 2000



## Burden of disease attributable to leading risk factors in 2000



## Burden of disease attributable to risk factors in 2001, high-income countries



## Burden of disease attributable to risk factors in 2001, low-and-middle income countries



## Deaths attributable to individual risk factors in the USA in 2005

Deaths attributable to individual risks (thousands) in both sexes


## SBP data availability between 1980 and 2008 (all data)



## SBP data availability between 1980 and 2008 (national data)



## SBP data availability by year and region



## Challenges in making estimates of BP trends for countries

- Data only on prevalence (vs. mean)


## Converting prevalence to mean

- Some studies report hypertension prevalence, but not population mean
- Develop regression models using sources with both mean and prevalence to estimate mean from prevalence ("cross-walking")



## Challenges in making estimates of BP trends for countries

- Data only on prevalence (vs. mean)
- Missing data for whole countries or across time
- Missing data in older ages in some countries
- Non-linear time trends
- Some data were not national



## World trends in age-standardized mean SBP




## SBP trends in high-income regions (women)



## SBP trends in high-income regions (men)



## SBP trends in selected high-income regions



## SBP trends in selected regions (women)



## Change in SBP in 199 countries (women)



Age-standardized mean BMI in 2008


## Age-standardized mean BMI in 2008 (men)



## Age-standardized mean BMI in 2008 (women)



## World trends in age-standardized mean BMI




## BMI trends in high-income regions (men)




## BMI trends in high-income regions (women)




## BMI trends in selected regions (women)




## BMI trends in selected regions (men)




## Change in BMI in 199 countries (women)



## SBP in relation to national income 1980-2008 (women)



## SBP in relation to BMI 1980-2008 (women)



## Risk factors in the eight subgroups of US population: men $\geq 60$ years

| America | SBP (mmHg) | BMI (kg/m²) | FPG (mg/dL) | Current <br> smoking <br> $(\%)$ | Former <br> smoking (\%) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Asians | $135(4.4)$ | $\mathbf{2 7}(\mathbf{0 . 8 1})$ | $\mathbf{1 0 6}(\mathbf{1 . 9})$ | $\mathbf{5}(\mathbf{3 . 5})$ | $\mathbf{3 5}(\mathbf{1 1 . 7})$ |
| Northland rural whites | $\mathbf{1 3 3}(\mathbf{1 . 2})$ | $28.6(0.34)$ | $110(1.0)$ | $11(2.3)$ | $\mathbf{5 9}(\mathbf{3 . 7})$ |
| Middle America | $\mathbf{1 3 3}(\mathbf{0 . 3})$ | $27.9(0.09)$ | $109(0.3)$ | $11(0.6)$ | $56(1.0)$ |
| Whites in Appalachia and |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mississippi Valley | $\mathbf{1 3 3}(\mathbf{0 . 8})$ | $27.9(0.21)$ | $110(0.6)$ | $14(1.4)$ | $56(2.2)$ |
| Western Native Americans | $138(4.0)$ | $\mathbf{2 9 . 4}(\mathbf{1 . 1 4 )}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 6}(\mathbf{3 . 6})$ | $\mathbf{2 1}(\mathbf{9 . 2})$ | $40(9.8)$ |
| Black middle America | $138(2.0)$ | $28.3(0.52)$ | $112(1.4)$ | $19(4.3)$ | $45(6.1)$ |
| Southern rural blacks | $\mathbf{1 4 0}(\mathbf{2 . 0})$ | $28.7(0.57)$ | $113(1.8)$ | $17(3.7)$ | $44(5.6)$ |
| High-risk urban blacks | $138(2.9)$ | $28.0(0.78)$ | $110(2.1)$ | $\mathbf{2 1}(5.9)$ | $39(7.5)$ |

## Risk factors in the eight subgroups of US population: women $\geq 60$ years

| America | $\mathbf{S B P}(\mathbf{m m H g})$ | BMI ( $\mathrm{kg} / \mathrm{m}^{\mathbf{2}}$ ) | FPG (mg/dL) | Current smoking (\%) | Former smoking (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Asians | 143 (4.8) | 27.6 (1.37) | 103 (2.4) | 3 (2.0) | 21 (7.2) |
| Northland rural whites | 139 (1.2) | 29.7 (0.39) | 104 (0.6) | 8 (1.5) | 27 (2.7) |
| Middle America | 139 (0.3) | 28.9 (0.12) | 104 (0.2) | 11 (0.5) | 34 (0.7) |
| Whites in Appalachia and Mississippi Valley | 139 (0.6) | 29.2 (0.25) | 105 (0.4) | 14 (1.1) | 26 (1.4) |
| Western Native Americans | 140 (3.6) | 30.1 (1.79) | 108 (2.9) | 15 (5.7) | 36 (10.1) |
| Black middle America | 143 (1.6) | 31.9 (0.67) | 108 (1.1) | 14 (2.7) | 27 (3.4) |
| Southern rural blacks | 144 (1.5) | 32.7 (0.7) | 110 (1.3) | 10 (2.4) | 20 (3.0) |
| High-risk urban blacks | 144 (2.3) | 31.0 (0.87) | 106 (1.6) | 12 (3.2) | 32 (5.5) |

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