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FROM VITAL & HEALTH STATISTICS OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

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HYPERTENSION: UNITED STATES, 1974^a

During 1974 the Division of Health Interview Statistics obtained hypertension prevalence estimates for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population 17 years of age and over. While hypertension data have been collected by this Division in the past, this was the first year for earmarking this condition as a supplemental topic, enabling the collection of more detailed information than had been obtained previously.

Special interest in this disease was generated in 1972 with the establishment of the National High Blood Pressure Education Program. The long-range goal of this program is to lower the morbidity and mortality associated with high blood pressure existing in this country today through improved detection and treatment of this disease. A more immediate program objective, however, is the education of both the public and the medical community about high blood pressure.

This report contains population estimates for four hypertension status categories, "ever

had hypertension," "now have hypertension," "no longer have hypertension," and "never had hypertension," by seven demographic characteristics—age, sex, race, family income, education of individual, and geographic region and place of residence. Data on a limited number of supplemental items are also included. A more detailed report containing further analysis of these and other related data is being prepared.

The following criteria were used to classify persons into four hypertension status categories which were developed for the purpose of presenting the hypertension data obtained by the Division of Health Interview Statistics.

Persons comprising the category "ever had hypertension" reported that they were told by a medical doctor that they had either hypertension or high blood pressure. These persons are also classified according to their current hypertension status: (1) persons who "now have hypertension" reported that they still had hypertension (high blood pressure) at the time of the interview, that it was under control, or that they were taking medicine prescribed by a doctor for it; (2) persons who "no longer have hypertension" reported that this condition was cured and

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Advance Data from Vital and Health Statistics replaces the supplements to the *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* as the means for early release of selected findings from the health and demographic surveys conducted by the NCHS. Most of these releases will be followed by detailed reports in the *Vital and Health Statistics* series.

Provisional vital statistics as well as advance reports of final data for a year will continue to be published in the *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*.

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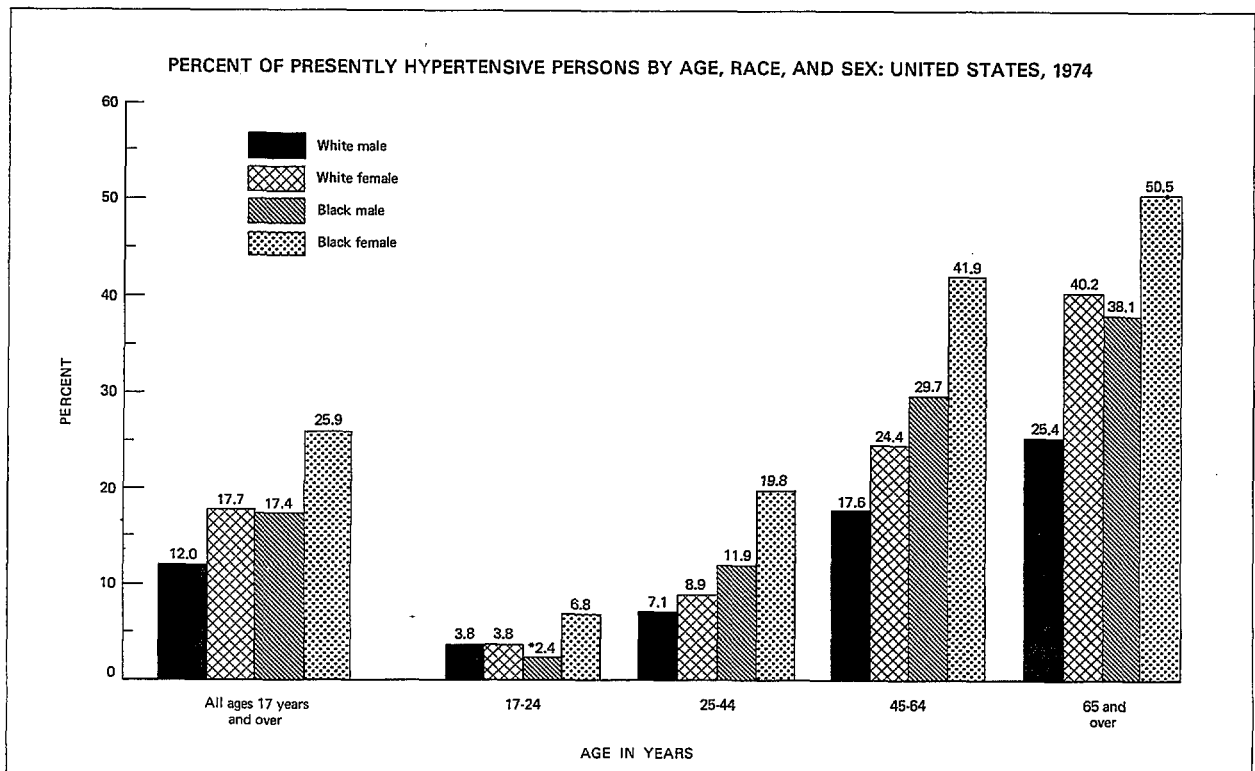
that they were not presently taking medicine prescribed by a doctor for it. Note that to be classified to either category "now have hypertension" or "no longer have hypertension" a person also had to have been told at some time by a medical doctor that he had high blood pressure or hypertension. The category "never had hypertension" comprises persons who were never told by a medical doctor that they had hypertension or high blood pressure.

According to data obtained in 1974 by the Division of Health Interview Statistics, one in five persons comprising the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States 17 years of age and over (20.6 percent) has been told by a doctor that he has hypertension, and an estimated 22.6 million Americans at these ages (15.7 percent) still have this condition (table 1). There are marked differences in the percents of persons that now have hypertension for specific sex, age, and race groups.

Proportionately more women (18.5 percent) than men (12.5 percent) currently have hypertension. This sex difference was apparent among every age group shown in table 1 except those

aged 17-24 years, where the percents of young hypertensive men and women were about the same. The likelihood of having this condition also increased with advancing age. Whereas about 4 percent of all persons aged 17-24 years now have hypertension, this proportion rose to 35 percent of all persons 65 years of age and over.

Proportionately more black persons (22.2 percent) than white (15.0 percent) currently have hypertension. This pattern was evident for each age group except those aged 17-24 years; differences between white persons and black of these ages were within sampling variation. Among all persons 17 years of age and over, white males had the lowest proportion (12.0 percent) of hypertensives, and black females had the highest proportion (25.9 percent) of hypertensives, as shown in the chart, while similar proportions with hypertension were found for white females (17.7 percent) and black males (17.4 percent). Percent differences between white females and black males with hypertension for the age groups 25-44, 45-64, and 65 years and over may be due to sampling variability.



When hypertension data are displayed by family income, education of the individual, and geographic region and place of residence the following patterns are found. As family income rose, the percent of persons with hypertension declined—from 25.7 percent of those with incomes of less than \$5,000 to 11.8 percent when income reached \$10,000 or more (table 2). A disproportionate number of older persons and black persons in the lower income bracket, however, account for some of this difference. For example, when these data were age-adjusted to the age distribution of the United States population 17 years and over (see Technical Notes), the percent changed as follows:

	Percent	
	<i>Unadjusted</i>	<i>Age-adjusted</i>
Less than \$5,000 . . .	25.7	22.0
\$5,000-\$9,999	17.2	17.1
\$10,000 or more . . .	11.8	13.3

Likewise, as level of education increased the percent of persons with hypertension decreased. An estimated 22 percent of all persons who were not high school graduates now have hypertension compared with about 13 percent of high school graduates and about 10 percent of persons completing 1 year or more of college.

The South had the highest proportion of persons with hypertension (16.9 percent) of any geographic region in the country. A slightly greater percent of persons residing outside of standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) (16.9 percent) currently had hypertension than did those living within SMSA's (15.1 percent). Within SMSA's, the proportion of hypertensives was more than 20 percent higher among people living in the central city (16.8 percent) than those living in adjacent areas (13.8 percent).

Most health practitioners agree that all persons should have a blood pressure test periodically. Based on 1974 Health Interview Survey findings, almost two-thirds of all persons aged 17 years and over were given a test of this kind within the 12-month period preceding the interview (table 3).

The percent of persons with a 12-month blood pressure test gradually increased with each older age group, from 62.6 percent of those 17-44 years to 70.4 percent of persons 65 years

and over. Proportionately more females (71.8 percent) than males (56.5 percent) had a test within the year, while about the same proportion of white persons and black were given a blood pressure test during this period. An estimated 1.4 million people 17 years of age or older (about 1 percent of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized adult population) reported they had never had a blood pressure test.

The percents of persons having a blood pressure test during the previous year were somewhat higher for the currently hypertensive population than for the general population. About 86 percent of the currently hypertensive population had their blood pressure taken within 12 months of the date of interview, and three out of every four persons with high blood pressure had a test as recently as within 6 months of the interview.

Proportionately more females than males now with hypertension had a blood pressure test within the past 6 months (76.3 compared with 70.4 percent) and within the past 12 months (87.8 compared with 83.5 percent). The proportion of currently hypertensive persons with a blood pressure test during the 6-month period also rose with each older age group, from 66.9 percent of those aged 17-44 years to 78.6 percent of those aged 65 years and over. However for the 12-month period preceding the interview, although proportionately more persons 45 years and over had a blood pressure test than did younger persons, the percents with a test during this period for the two age groups 45-64 and 65 years and over were about the same.

Of persons with a blood pressure test within the year, the proportion having multiple tests during this period rose as age increased—from 58.2 percent of persons 17-44 years to 73.6 percent of those 65 years or older. The percent with two tests or more was higher for females (65.7 percent) than it was for males (56.9 percent), and it was higher for black persons (67.3 percent) than it was for white persons (61.5 percent). Proportionately more persons now having hypertension had multiple blood pressure tests during the year than did the total U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population (81.4 percent compared with 62.1 percent).

Persons whose blood pressure was taken in the past year are classified according to the last test result (table 4). Of the total United States

civilian noninstitutionalized population 17 years of age and over with blood pressure taken in the past year, a little more than half (53.1 percent) were told their last blood pressure reading was normal. Males had a higher percent of normal readings than did females (57.3 percent compared with 50.2 percent). About the same percent of males and females had a blood pressure reading that was high (7.1 and 7.8 percent, respectively), while females had almost twice as high a percentile of blood pressure results that were low as did males (4.8 compared with 2.6 percent).

By race, proportionately more black persons (10.7 percent) than white (7.1 percent) 17 years and over had a blood pressure reading that was high.

About the same proportion of white persons (4.0 percent) and black (3.2 percent) had a blood pressure reading that was low. Overall, the proportion of persons having a blood pressure reading that was high was much greater among persons now having hypertension (29.7 percent) than among the total United States adult population (7.5 percent).

Data on doctor visits and bed days for hypertension which occurred during the 12-month period preceding the interview are presented in table 5. About three-fourths of the currently hypertensive population saw a doctor for this condition at least once during the year, while 26.9 percent reported five doctor visits or more. The percent of currently hypertensive persons with one doctor visit or more of this kind increased somewhat for two broad age groups—from about 62 percent of persons aged 17-44 years to about 77 percent of all persons aged 45 years and over. Over one-third of all persons comprising the oldest age category had five doctor visits or more for hypertension within this period compared with only about 9 percent of persons 17-24 years of age.

The percent of persons reporting one doctor visit or more for hypertension was higher for presently hypertensive females (76.4 percent) than it was for males (68.7 percent). Differences in the percents of white and black persons now with hypertension having one doctor visit or more during the year, however, were within sampling variation.

Only a small proportion of persons now with hypertension (8.3 percent) had to stay in bed all or most of the day for 1 day or more during the year because of this condition. Furthermore, the number of days spent in bed for this condition in the 12-month period totaled less than 1 week for more than one-half of those persons reporting any bed days because of their high blood pressure.

The percent of currently hypertensive women with bed days for this condition was slightly higher than was the percent of men with bed days (9.6 compared with 6.3 percent). And proportionately more hypertensive black individuals (18.9 percent) reported 1 bed day or more for this condition than did the white population (6.5 percent).

Data on interval since last doctor visit (for any reason) are included in table 6. Highlighted below are some of the differences noted in this table among certain population groups.

Proportionately more persons now with hypertension than persons comprising the general population had a doctor visit within the past 6 months (79.2 compared with 61.4 percent) and within the past 12 months (89.5 compared with 77.1 percent).

Currently hypertensive females were somewhat more likely to have had a recent doctor visit than were hypertensive males; within 6 months, 81.5 percent and 75.3 percent, respectively, and within the year, 91.7 percent and 85.9 percent, respectively.

In general, as age increased, the proportion of currently hypertensive persons that saw a doctor within 6 months and 12 months prior to the interview also rose. Whereas about 74 percent of hypertensive persons aged 17-44 years saw a doctor within 6 months, about 82 percent of those 65 years or older had a visit within this period. Similarly, 87.7 percent of the hypertensive population aged 17-44 visited a doctor during the year compared with 90.7 percent of persons comprising the age group 65 years and over.

No racial differences were found between the proportion of white persons and black with hypertension that saw a doctor either within 6 or 12 months of the date of interview.

Table 1. Number and percent distribution of persons 17 years of age and over by hypertension status, according to race, sex, and age; based on data collected in health interviews: United States, 1974

Race, sex, and age	All persons 17 years and over	Hypertension status					All persons 17 years and over	Hypertension status					
		Total ever with hyper-tension ¹	Now has hypertension		Never had hyper-tension	Un-known		Total ever with hyper-tension ¹	Now has hypertension		Never had hyper-tension	Un-known	
			Yes	No					Yes	No			
ALL RACES²		Number in thousands					Percent distribution						
Both sexes													
All ages 17 years and over-----		144,380	29,789	22,626	5,345	105,004	9,587	100.0	20.6	15.7	3.7	72.7	6.6
17-24 years-----		29,562	2,069	1,147	675	24,966	2,527	100.0	7.0	3.9	2.3	84.5	8.5
25-44 years-----		51,216	7,235	4,560	2,129	40,590	3,391	100.0	14.1	8.9	4.2	79.3	6.6
45-64 years-----		42,862	11,960	9,652	1,657	27,977	2,926	100.0	27.9	22.5	3.9	65.3	6.8
65 years and over-----		20,740	8,525	7,267	884	11,471	744	100.0	41.1	35.0	4.3	55.3	3.6
Male													
All ages 17 years and over-----		67,947	11,562	8,479	2,156	49,784	6,601	100.0	17.0	12.5	3.2	73.3	9.7
17-24 years-----		14,252	837	507	205	11,744	1,672	100.0	5.9	3.6	1.4	82.4	11.7
25-44 years-----		24,698	2,989	1,869	837	19,135	2,574	100.0	12.1	7.6	3.4	77.5	10.4
45-64 years-----		20,419	4,953	3,829	774	13,468	1,998	100.0	24.3	18.8	3.8	66.0	9.8
65 years and over-----		8,578	2,784	2,273	339	5,437	357	100.0	32.5	26.5	4.0	63.4	4.2
Female													
All ages 17 years and over-----		76,433	18,228	14,147	3,189	55,220	2,986	100.0	23.8	18.5	4.2	72.2	3.9
17-24 years-----		15,310	1,232	640	470	13,223	855	100.0	8.0	4.2	3.1	86.4	5.6
25-44 years-----		26,518	4,247	2,691	1,291	21,455	816	100.0	16.0	10.1	4.9	80.9	3.1
45-64 years-----		22,443	7,007	5,823	884	14,509	927	100.0	31.2	25.9	3.9	64.6	4.1
65 years and over-----		12,163	5,742	4,993	545	6,033	388	100.0	47.2	41.1	4.5	49.6	3.2
WHITE													
Both sexes													
All ages 17 years and over-----		127,787	25,598	19,143	4,871	93,930	8,259	100.0	20.0	15.0	3.8	73.5	6.5
17-24 years-----		25,464	1,789	959	611	21,557	2,117	100.0	7.0	3.8	2.4	84.7	8.3
25-44 years-----		44,934	6,037	3,614	1,936	36,024	2,873	100.0	13.4	8.0	4.3	80.2	6.4
45-64 years-----		38,514	10,194	8,132	1,501	25,708	2,612	100.0	26.5	21.1	3.9	66.7	6.8
65 years and over-----		18,875	7,578	6,438	822	10,640	657	100.0	40.1	34.1	4.4	56.4	3.5
Male													
All ages 17 years and over-----		60,482	10,063	7,244	1,990	44,707	5,712	100.0	16.6	12.0	3.3	73.9	9.4
17-24 years-----		12,375	761	468	191	10,218	1,397	100.0	6.1	3.8	1.5	82.6	11.3
25-44 years-----		21,922	2,617	1,564	790	17,092	2,213	100.0	11.9	7.1	3.6	78.0	10.1
45-64 years-----		18,414	4,252	3,236	668	12,377	1,784	100.0	23.1	17.6	3.7	67.2	9.7
65 years and over-----		7,771	2,433	1,976	321	5,019	319	100.0	31.3	25.4	4.1	64.6	4.1
Female													
All ages 17 years and over-----		67,305	15,535	11,898	2,881	49,223	2,547	100.0	23.1	17.7	4.3	73.1	3.8
17-24 years-----		13,088	1,029	491	420	11,339	721	100.0	7.9	3.8	3.2	86.6	5.5
25-44 years-----		23,012	3,421	2,050	1,147	18,932	660	100.0	14.9	8.9	5.0	82.3	2.9
45-64 years-----		20,100	5,941	4,896	813	13,331	828	100.0	29.6	24.4	4.0	66.3	4.1
65 years and over-----		11,104	5,145	4,461	501	5,621	338	100.0	46.3	40.2	4.5	50.6	3.0
BLACK													
Both sexes													
All ages 17 years and over-----		14,865	3,943	3,294	439	9,725	1,197	100.0	26.5	22.2	3.0	65.4	8.1
17-24 years-----		3,725	270	179	*64	3,084	372	100.0	7.2	4.8	*1.7	82.8	10.0
25-44 years-----		5,415	1,114	887	176	3,847	454	100.0	20.6	16.4	3.3	71.0	8.4
45-64 years-----		3,982	1,668	1,441	137	2,016	299	100.0	41.9	36.2	3.4	50.6	7.5
65 years and over-----		1,743	890	787	*62	779	74	100.0	51.1	45.2	*3.6	44.7	4.2
Male													
All ages 17 years and over-----		6,614	1,377	1,154	148	4,423	814	100.0	20.8	17.4	2.2	66.9	12.3
17-24 years-----		1,668	76	*40	*14	1,341	251	100.0	4.6	*2.4	*0.8	80.4	15.0
25-44 years-----		2,343	327	279	*37	1,687	329	100.0	14.0	11.9	*1.6	72.0	14.0
45-64 years-----		1,853	650	550	79	1,004	199	100.0	35.1	29.7	4.3	54.2	10.7
65 years and over-----		749	324	285	*19	391	*35	100.0	43.3	38.1	*2.5	52.2	*4.7
Female													
All ages 17 years and over-----		8,252	2,566	2,140	290	5,302	384	100.0	31.1	25.9	3.5	64.3	4.7
17-24 years-----		2,057	194	140	*49	1,742	120	100.0	9.4	6.8	*2.4	84.7	5.8
25-44 years-----		3,072	787	607	139	2,160	125	100.0	25.6	19.8	4.5	70.3	4.1
45-64 years-----		2,129	1,018	891	*59	1,012	100	100.0	47.8	41.9	*2.8	47.5	4.7
65 years and over-----		994	567	502	*44	388	*39	100.0	57.0	50.5	*4.4	39.0	*3.9

¹Includes unknown present hypertension status.

²Includes other races.

Table 2. Number and percent distribution of persons 17 years of age and over by hypertension status, according to selected characteristics; based on data collected in health interviews: United States, 1974

Characteristic	All persons 17 years and over	Hypertension status					All persons 17 years and over	Hypertension status				
		Total ever with hypertension ¹	Now has hypertension		Never had hypertension	Un-known		Total ever with hypertension ¹	Now has hypertension		Never had hypertension	Un-known
			Yes	No					Yes	No		
		Number in thousands						Percent distribution				
All persons 17 years and over ² -----	144,380	29,789	22,626	5,345	105,004	9,587	100.0	20.6	15.7	3.7	72.7	6.6
FAMILY INCOME												
Less than \$5,000-----	24,753	7,665	6,350	913	16,140	948	100.0	31.0	25.7	3.7	65.2	3.8
\$5,000-\$9,999-----	32,881	7,228	5,655	1,219	23,945	1,708	100.0	22.0	17.2	3.7	72.8	5.2
\$10,000-\$14,999-----	33,881	5,542	3,923	1,174	26,084	2,255	100.0	16.4	11.6	3.5	77.0	6.7
\$15,000 or more-----	43,629	7,442	5,214	1,759	32,926	3,261	100.0	17.1	12.0	4.0	75.5	7.5
EDUCATION OF INDIVIDUAL												
Less than 9 years-----	27,132	8,871	7,402	993	17,015	1,246	100.0	32.7	27.3	3.7	62.7	4.6
9-11 years-----	27,184	5,815	4,443	965	19,435	1,935	100.0	21.4	16.3	3.5	71.5	7.1
12 years-----	50,548	8,979	6,632	1,888	38,341	3,228	100.0	17.8	13.1	3.7	75.9	6.4
13 years or more-----	37,512	5,791	3,866	1,470	29,083	2,638	100.0	15.4	10.3	3.9	77.5	7.0
GEOGRAPHIC REGION												
Northeast-----	34,985	7,228	5,469	1,321	25,110	2,646	100.0	20.7	15.6	3.8	71.8	7.6
North Central-----	38,430	7,737	5,749	1,489	28,081	2,612	100.0	20.1	15.0	3.9	73.1	6.8
South-----	45,121	9,824	7,646	1,556	32,448	2,848	100.0	21.8	16.9	3.4	71.9	6.3
West-----	25,845	5,000	3,761	980	19,364	1,480	100.0	19.3	14.6	3.8	74.9	5.7
PLACE OF RESIDENCE												
SMSA-----	99,807	19,966	15,092	3,566	72,956	6,885	100.0	20.0	15.1	3.6	73.1	6.9
Central city-----	44,504	9,541	7,471	1,469	32,001	2,962	100.0	21.4	16.8	3.3	71.9	6.7
Outside central city--	55,304	10,425	7,621	2,097	40,955	3,923	100.0	18.9	13.8	3.8	74.1	7.1
Outside SMSA-----	44,573	9,824	7,534	1,779	32,048	2,702	100.0	22.0	16.9	4.0	71.9	6.1
Nonfarm-----	39,370	8,729	6,671	1,597	28,182	2,460	100.0	22.2	16.9	4.1	71.6	6.2
Farm-----	5,203	1,095	863	181	3,866	242	100.0	21.0	16.6	3.5	74.3	4.7

¹Includes unknown present hypertension status.²Includes unknown income and education.

SYMBOLS

Data not available-----

Category not applicable-----

Quantity zero-----

Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05----- 0.0

Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (more than 30 percent relative standard error)----- *

Table 3. Number of persons 17 years of age and over and percent distribution by interval since last blood pressure test, and number of persons with blood pressure taken during year and percent distribution by times blood pressure taken, according to hypertension status, age, sex, and race; based on data collected in health interviews: United States, 1974

Hypertension status, age sex, and race	All persons 17 years and over in thousands	Interval since last blood pressure test				Persons with blood pressure taken in past year in thousands	Times blood pressure taken in past year					
		Total ¹	Less than 6 months	6-11 months	1 year		2 years or more	Total ²	1 time	2-4 times	5-9 times	10 times or more
ALL STATUSES³		Percent distribution					Percent distribution					
All persons 17 years and over ⁴ -----	144,380	100.0	47.1	17.6	11.8	15.8	133,599	100.0	33.9	39.0	11.7	11.4
Age:												
17-44 years-----	80,778	100.0	43.4	19.2	12.9	15.5	73,795	100.0	38.1	39.6	9.8	8.8
45-64 years-----	42,862	100.0	48.6	17.1	11.1	15.8	39,859	100.0	32.7	38.4	12.4	12.3
65 years and over-----	20,740	100.0	58.4	12.1	8.8	16.5	19,945	100.0	21.5	38.1	16.6	18.8
Sex:												
Male-----	67,947	100.0	39.8	16.7	12.5	19.9	60,729	100.0	38.8	39.8	8.7	8.4
Female-----	76,433	100.0	53.6	18.3	11.1	12.1	72,870	100.0	30.4	38.4	13.7	13.5
Race:												
White-----	127,787	100.0	46.7	17.8	11.9	16.1	118,625	100.0	34.5	39.0	11.5	11.0
Male-----	60,482	100.0	39.8	16.8	12.7	20.1	54,300	100.0	38.6	40.1	8.7	8.1
Female-----	67,305	100.0	52.8	18.7	11.3	12.4	64,324	100.0	31.5	38.3	13.5	13.1
Black-----	14,865	100.0	51.2	15.3	10.7	12.4	13,418	100.0	28.4	38.9	13.6	14.9
Male-----	6,614	100.0	40.3	16.1	12.3	16.0	5,671	100.0	39.3	38.3	9.5	10.1
Female-----	8,252	100.0	60.0	14.6	9.4	9.5	7,747	100.0	21.8	39.2	16.1	17.8
EVER HAD HYPERTENSION⁵												
All persons 17 years and over ⁴ -----	29,789	100.0	68.3	14.3	7.7	8.2	29,401	100.0	19.0	38.0	18.9	20.3
Age:												
17-44 years-----	9,304	100.0	60.9	17.7	10.7	9.4	9,182	100.0	25.7	39.4	15.2	16.1
45-64 years-----	11,960	100.0	69.6	14.5	6.9	7.4	11,787	100.0	18.0	37.7	20.0	20.4
65 years and over-----	8,525	100.0	74.6	10.3	5.7	8.1	8,432	100.0	13.8	36.9	21.1	24.3
Sex:												
Male-----	11,562	100.0	63.8	15.5	9.2	10.5	11,462	100.0	22.1	40.4	15.5	17.9
Female-----	18,228	100.0	71.1	13.6	6.8	6.8	17,939	100.0	17.2	36.6	20.9	21.7
Race:												
White-----	25,598	100.0	68.3	14.7	7.8	7.9	25,286	100.0	19.6	38.0	19.1	19.5
Male-----	10,063	100.0	63.9	15.6	9.3	10.3	9,987	100.0	22.1	40.6	15.7	17.4
Female-----	15,535	100.0	71.2	14.0	6.8	6.4	15,299	100.0	18.1	36.5	21.1	20.8
Black-----	3,943	100.0	68.4	11.5	7.8	10.4	3,875	100.0	15.2	37.8	18.0	25.1
Male-----	1,377	100.0	63.3	13.9	9.7	12.2	1,362	100.0	22.2	40.0	13.9	21.5
Female-----	2,566	100.0	71.1	10.2	6.9	9.5	2,513	100.0	11.6	36.7	20.1	27.0
NOW HAVE HYPERTENSION												
All persons 17 years and over ⁴ -----	22,626	100.0	74.1	12.1	6.5	6.1	22,352	100.0	15.0	38.3	20.7	22.4
Age:												
17-44 years-----	5,708	100.0	66.9	14.3	9.0	8.5	5,636	100.0	20.2	40.6	16.9	18.9
45-64 years-----	9,652	100.0	74.9	12.3	6.2	5.1	9,513	100.0	14.0	38.0	22.0	22.4
65 years and over-----	7,267	100.0	78.6	10.0	4.9	5.5	7,203	100.0	12.5	37.0	21.8	25.0
Sex:												
Male-----	8,479	100.0	70.4	13.0	7.9	7.7	8,401	100.0	16.7	41.0	17.5	20.8
Female-----	14,147	100.0	76.3	11.5	5.7	5.1	13,951	100.0	14.0	36.7	22.6	23.4
Race:												
White-----	19,143	100.0	74.3	12.3	6.5	5.6	18,912	100.0	15.3	38.3	21.0	21.7
Male-----	7,244	100.0	70.4	13.1	8.1	7.3	7,174	100.0	16.6	41.0	17.7	20.2
Female-----	11,898	100.0	76.7	11.8	5.5	4.6	11,738	100.0	14.5	36.8	23.0	22.5
Black-----	3,294	100.0	72.8	10.6	6.7	8.6	3,250	100.0	13.1	37.9	18.9	26.7
Male-----	1,154	100.0	70.0	12.6	6.6	10.1	1,146	100.0	17.7	42.2	15.5	23.2
Female-----	2,140	100.0	74.3	9.5	6.7	7.8	2,104	100.0	10.6	35.6	20.7	28.6
NEVER HAD HYPERTENSION												
All persons 17 years and over ⁴ -----	105,004	100.0	44.5	19.8	13.8	19.0	102,458	100.0	39.3	39.4	9.1	8.2
Age:												
17-44 years-----	65,556	100.0	44.2	20.9	14.2	17.5	63,713	100.0	40.2	39.7	8.9	7.6
45-64 years-----	27,977	100.0	43.7	19.7	13.8	20.6	27,519	100.0	41.2	38.8	8.1	7.6
65 years and over-----	11,471	100.0	48.4	14.0	11.5	23.4	11,226	100.0	29.4	39.7	12.2	13.3
Sex:												
Male-----	49,784	100.0	38.8	19.0	14.8	24.3	48,496	100.0	44.1	39.6	6.6	5.4
Female-----	55,220	100.0	49.7	20.5	12.9	14.2	53,962	100.0	35.8	39.3	10.9	10.2
Race:												
White-----	93,930	100.0	44.0	20.0	14.0	19.4	91,844	100.0	39.8	39.4	8.8	8.0
Male-----	44,707	100.0	38.8	19.0	14.9	24.6	43,668	100.0	43.7	40.0	6.5	5.3
Female-----	49,223	100.0	48.8	20.9	13.1	14.7	48,175	100.0	36.8	39.0	10.5	10.0
Black-----	9,725	100.0	49.6	18.3	12.7	14.2	9,315	100.0	34.7	39.5	11.5	10.2
Male-----	4,423	100.0	39.5	19.2	15.4	19.4	4,199	100.0	46.4	37.3	8.0	5.7
Female-----	5,302	100.0	58.1	17.6	10.5	10.0	5,116	100.0	27.1	41.0	13.7	13.1

¹Includes never and unknown intervals.

²Includes unknown times.

³Includes unknown hypertension status.

⁴Includes persons of other races.

⁵Includes now have hypertension, no longer have hypertension, and unknown if now have hypertension.

Table 4. Number of persons 17 years of age and over with blood pressure taken in past year and percent distribution by last test results, according to hypertension status, sex, and race; based on data collected in health interviews: United States, 1974

Hypertension status, sex, and race	Persons with blood pressure taken in past year in thousands	Told blood pressure was—					Not told
		Total ¹	Normal	High	Low	Other	
ALL STATUSES²		Percent distribution					
All persons 17 years and over ³ -----	93,342	100.0	53.1	7.5	3.9	3.2	30.9
Sex:							
Male-----	38,425	100.0	57.3	7.1	2.6	3.3	28.3
Female-----	54,917	100.0	50.2	7.8	4.8	3.2	32.8
Race:							
White-----	82,423	100.0	53.1	7.1	4.0	3.4	31.1
Male----	34,265	100.0	57.4	6.9	2.8	3.4	28.1
Female----	48,157	100.0	50.0	7.3	4.9	3.4	33.2
Black-----	9,892	100.0	53.5	10.7	3.2	2.0	29.3
Male----	3,731	100.0	56.7	9.7	*1.1	2.3	29.4
Female----	6,161	100.0	51.6	11.2	4.5	1.8	29.2
EVER HAD HYPERTENSION⁴							
All persons 17 years and over ³ -----	24,606	100.0	45.5	25.3	1.3	6.1	20.4
Sex:							
Male-----	9,167	100.0	48.6	25.4	1.4	6.2	16.9
Female-----	15,439	100.0	43.7	25.3	1.3	6.0	22.5
Race:							
White-----	21,235	100.0	45.9	24.6	1.4	6.4	20.3
Male----	7,998	100.0	48.7	24.8	1.6	6.4	16.6
Female----	13,237	100.0	44.1	24.4	1.3	6.5	22.6
Black-----	3,350	100.0	43.0	30.9	*0.5	3.3	21.1
Male----	1,062	100.0	45.9	30.7	-	*4.1	19.3
Female----	2,088	100.0	41.6	30.9	*0.8	*2.8	22.0
NOW HAVE HYPERTENSION							
All persons 17 years and over ³ -----	19,499	100.0	40.9	29.7	1.2	6.8	19.8
Sex:							
Male-----	7,078	100.0	44.1	29.9	1.6	6.9	15.9
Female-----	12,421	100.0	39.2	29.6	1.0	6.8	22.0
Race:							
White-----	16,582	100.0	41.0	28.9	1.3	7.4	19.8
Male----	6,049	100.0	43.7	29.4	1.9	7.4	15.6
Female----	10,532	100.0	39.5	28.7	0.9	7.3	22.2
Black-----	2,746	100.0	40.7	34.3	*0.6	3.5	19.5
Male----	953	100.0	45.8	32.9	-	*3.8	17.5
Female----	1,793	100.0	38.0	35.1	*0.9	*3.3	20.6
NEVER HAD HYPERTENSION							
All persons 17 years and over ³ -----	67,538	100.0	55.9	1.0	4.9	2.2	34.7
Sex:							
Male-----	28,753	100.0	60.2	1.2	3.1	2.4	32.0
Female-----	38,785	100.0	52.8	.8	6.3	2.1	36.8
Race:							
White-----	60,129	100.0	55.7	1.0	5.0	2.3	34.9
Male----	25,841	100.0	60.1	1.3	3.2	2.5	31.7
Female----	34,288	100.0	52.3	.8	6.3	2.2	37.3
Black-----	6,609	100.0	58.7	1.0	4.6	1.3	33.1
Male----	2,597	100.0	61.4	*1.1	*1.6	*1.4	33.8
Female----	4,012	100.0	57.0	*1.0	6.6	*1.2	32.7

¹Includes unknown status of blood pressure reading.

²Includes unknown hypertension status.

³Includes persons of other races.

⁴Includes now have hypertension, no longer have hypertension, and unknown if now have hypertension.

Table 5. Number of hypertensive persons 17 years of age and over and percent distribution by number of doctor visits and bed days for hypertension in past year, according to hypertension status, age, sex, and race; based on data collected in health interviews: United States, 1974

Hypertension status, age, sex, and race	All persons 17 years and over in thousands	Number of doctor visits for hypertension in past year					Number of bed days for hypertension in past year			
		Total ¹	None	1	2-4	5 or more	Total ²	None	Less than 1 week	1 week or more
EVER HAD HYPERTENSION³		Percent distribution					Percent distribution			
All persons 17 years and over ⁴ -----	29,789	100.0	34.9	16.6	25.1	21.9	100.0	92.8	3.8	2.9
Age:										
17-24 years-----	2,069	100.0	48.4	23.9	18.7	7.3	100.0	92.2	*4.2	*2.2
25-44 years-----	7,235	100.0	48.8	19.2	18.2	12.7	100.0	93.8	3.7	1.8
45-64 years-----	11,960	100.0	30.7	16.2	28.0	23.8	100.0	91.9	4.3	3.5
65 years and over-----	8,525	100.0	25.8	13.3	28.6	30.5	100.0	93.4	3.0	2.9
Sex:										
Male-----	11,562	100.0	40.2	16.0	24.4	18.0	100.0	94.6	2.6	2.4
Female-----	18,228	100.0	31.6	17.0	25.6	24.4	100.0	91.7	4.6	3.2
Race:										
White-----	25,598	100.0	35.2	16.8	25.3	21.4	100.0	94.3	3.0	2.2
Male----	10,063	100.0	40.6	16.2	24.5	17.6	100.0	95.7	2.1	1.8
Female--	15,535	100.0	31.7	17.2	25.8	23.9	100.0	93.3	3.7	2.4
Black-----	3,943	100.0	33.4	15.6	23.7	25.2	100.0	83.3	8.7	7.4
Male----	1,377	100.0	38.9	14.6	23.5	20.0	100.0	86.1	*6.6	*6.7
Female--	2,566	100.0	30.4	16.2	23.7	28.0	100.0	81.9	9.7	7.8
NOW HAVE HYPERTENSION										
All persons 17 years and over ⁴ -----	22,626	100.0	25.2	16.8	29.8	26.9	100.0	91.5	4.7	3.6
Age:										
17-24 years-----	1,147	100.0	39.2	27.4	24.3	8.7	100.0	90.7	*5.8	*3.1
25-44 years-----	4,560	100.0	36.5	21.4	23.4	17.3	100.0	91.5	5.6	2.8
45-64 years-----	9,652	100.0	22.3	15.8	32.5	28.2	100.0	90.5	5.1	4.3
65 years and over-----	7,267	100.0	19.7	13.6	31.1	34.1	100.0	93.1	3.4	3.3
Sex:										
Male-----	8,479	100.0	30.1	15.9	29.8	23.0	100.0	93.6	3.2	3.1
Female-----	14,147	100.0	22.3	17.3	29.9	29.3	100.0	90.2	5.6	3.9
Race:										
White-----	19,143	100.0	24.9	17.0	30.3	26.7	100.0	93.3	3.8	2.8
Male----	7,244	100.0	30.1	16.1	30.2	22.7	100.0	95.1	2.5	2.3
Female--	11,898	100.0	21.8	17.5	30.4	29.1	100.0	92.3	4.6	3.0
Black-----	3,294	100.0	26.7	16.0	26.9	28.3	100.0	80.8	10.0	8.8
Male----	1,154	100.0	30.7	15.2	27.5	23.8	100.0	84.1	*7.9	*8.0
Female--	2,140	100.0	24.5	16.4	26.5	30.7	100.0	79.1	11.1	9.3

¹Includes unknown doctor visits.

²Includes unknown bed days.

³Includes now have hypertension, no longer have hypertension, and unknown if now have hypertension.

⁴Includes persons of other races.

Table 6. Number of persons 17 years of age and over and percent distribution by interval since last doctor visit, according to hypertension status, age, sex, and race; based on data collected in health interviews: United States, 1974

Hypertension status, age, sex, and race	All persons 17 years and over in thousands	Interval since last doctor visit						
		Total ¹	In past 2 weeks	2 weeks to less than 6 months	6 months to less than 1 year	1 year	2-4 years	5 years or more
ALL STATUSES²		Percent distribution						
All persons 17 years and over ³ -----	144,380	100.0	15.7	45.7	15.8	8.8	9.4	4.2
Age:								
17-44 years-----	80,778	100.0	14.2	46.0	17.7	9.7	9.0	2.9
45-64 years-----	42,862	100.0	16.3	44.1	14.9	8.3	10.5	5.6
65 years and over-----	20,740	100.0	20.2	47.9	9.9	6.7	8.5	6.5
Sex:								
Male-----	67,947	100.0	12.6	41.2	16.7	10.7	12.8	5.5
Female-----	76,433	100.0	18.4	49.7	14.9	7.2	6.4	3.1
Race:								
White-----	127,787	100.0	15.6	45.7	15.9	8.8	9.4	4.2
Male----	60,482	100.0	12.6	41.3	16.9	10.6	12.7	5.4
Female--	67,305	100.0	18.4	49.7	14.9	7.2	6.4	3.1
Black-----	14,865	100.0	16.8	45.8	14.6	8.8	8.7	4.6
Male----	6,614	100.0	12.7	40.7	15.6	10.9	12.7	6.1
Female--	8,252	100.0	20.1	49.8	13.7	7.2	5.5	3.3
EVER HAD HYPERTENSION⁴								
All ages 17 years and over ³ -----	29,789	100.0	23.0	52.1	12.4	5.8	4.7	1.9
Age:								
17-44 years-----	9,304	100.0	20.8	49.5	16.1	6.9	4.9	1.8
45-64 years-----	11,960	100.0	22.9	53.0	11.8	5.4	4.8	2.0
65 years and over-----	8,525	100.0	25.7	53.6	9.1	5.3	4.4	1.8
Sex:								
Male-----	11,562	100.0	20.7	49.5	13.0	7.9	6.5	2.3
Female-----	18,228	100.0	24.6	53.7	12.0	4.5	3.5	1.6
Race:								
White-----	25,598	100.0	22.8	52.2	12.6	5.7	4.9	1.7
Male----	10,063	100.0	20.4	49.4	13.5	7.8	6.5	2.3
Female--	15,535	100.0	24.4	54.0	12.1	4.3	3.8	1.4
Black-----	3,943	100.0	24.7	50.7	10.8	6.9	3.8	2.7
Male----	1,377	100.0	21.9	50.5	9.1	8.8	7.3	*2.0
Female--	2,566	100.0	26.2	50.9	11.7	5.8	*1.9	3.0
NOW HAVE HYPERTENSION								
All persons 17 years and over ³ -----	22,626	100.0	25.1	54.1	10.4	5.2	3.8	1.4
Age:								
17-44 years-----	5,708	100.0	23.7	50.3	13.8	6.2	4.6	1.3
45-64 years-----	9,652	100.0	24.5	55.4	9.8	5.2	3.6	1.4
65 years and over-----	7,267	100.0	27.0	55.2	8.4	4.5	3.3	1.5
Sex:								
Male-----	8,479	100.0	22.4	52.9	10.6	7.2	5.3	1.7
Female-----	14,147	100.0	26.7	54.8	10.2	4.1	2.9	1.2
Race:								
White-----	19,143	100.0	24.8	54.5	10.4	5.1	3.8	1.4
Male----	7,244	100.0	22.1	52.9	11.0	7.3	5.1	1.7
Female--	11,898	100.0	26.4	55.5	10.1	3.7	3.0	1.2
Black-----	3,294	100.0	26.9	51.6	10.1	5.9	3.6	*1.7
Male----	1,154	100.0	22.9	54.7	8.1	6.5	6.3	*1.6
Female--	2,140	100.0	29.1	50.0	11.1	5.7	*2.1	*1.7
NEVER HAD HYPERTENSION								
All persons 17 years and over ³ -----	105,004	100.0	13.8	44.4	16.8	9.4	10.5	4.8
Age:								
17-44 years-----	65,556	100.0	13.5	46.0	18.1	9.6	9.3	3.0
45-64 years-----	27,977	100.0	13.6	41.0	16.3	9.5	12.6	6.8
65 years and over-----	11,471	100.0	16.1	43.8	10.5	7.7	11.6	9.9
Sex:								
Male-----	49,784	100.0	10.9	39.7	17.8	11.0	14.1	6.1
Female-----	55,220	100.0	16.4	48.7	15.9	8.0	7.2	3.6
Race:								
White-----	93,930	100.0	13.8	44.4	16.9	9.4	10.4	4.8
Male----	44,707	100.0	11.1	39.8	17.9	10.9	14.0	6.1
Female--	49,223	100.0	16.4	48.6	16.0	8.0	7.1	3.6
Black-----	9,725	100.0	14.0	44.4	16.3	9.0	10.5	5.1
Male----	4,423	100.0	9.7	38.7	18.0	10.8	14.7	7.1
Female--	5,302	100.0	17.6	49.2	14.9	7.6	7.0	3.5

¹Includes never and unknown doctor visits.²Includes unknown hypertension status.³Includes persons of other races.⁴Includes now have hypertension, no longer have hypertension, and unknown if now have hypertension.

TECHNICAL NOTES

SOURCE OF DATA. The data presented in this report were obtained from household interviews in the Health Interview Survey. These interviews were conducted throughout 1974 in a probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. During that year approximately 116,000 persons living in about 40,000 households were included in the sample. The hypertension questions were asked of each household member 17 years of age and over who was identified as a "sample person." This subsample included approximately 26,000 persons.

SAMPLING. The sampling pattern for sample person selection was based on the total number of related and unrelated household members. Sample persons (approximately a one-third subsample of the actual Health Interview Survey sample) were selected by the interviewer at the time of interview. To determine which household member(s) to designate as a sample person, the interviewer referred to a preselected flashcard after listing all related and unrelated persons in the household on the questionnaire. The flashcard contained, for each household size, one or more person numbers that were to be identified as the sample person(s).

Since the estimates shown are based on a sample of the population rather than on the entire population, they are subject to sampling error. Standard errors appropriate for the estimates of the number of persons are shown in table I; standard errors appropriate for percentages are shown in table II.

Table I. Standard errors of estimates of aggregates

Size of estimate in thousands	Standard error in thousands
70.....	20
100.....	24
300.....	42
500.....	54
700.....	64
1,000.....	77
5,000.....	170
10,000.....	238
20,000.....	329
30,000.....	394
50,000.....	485
100,000.....	593

Table II. Standard errors, expressed in percentage points, of estimated percentages

Base of percentage in thousands	Estimated percentage				
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	20 or 80	50
70.....	4.1	6.3	8.7	11.6	14.5
100.....	3.4	5.3	7.3	9.7	12.1
300.....	2.0	3.1	4.2	5.6	7.0
500.....	1.5	2.4	3.3	4.3	5.4
700.....	1.3	2.0	2.8	3.7	4.6
1,000.....	1.1	1.7	2.3	3.1	3.8
5,000.....	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.4	1.7
10,000.....	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.2
20,000.....	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9
30,000.....	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7
50,000.....	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
100,000.....	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4

LIMITATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS OF DATA. When the 1974 Health Interview Survey hypertension prevalence estimates for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population 17 years of age and over are compared with the 1972 Health Interview Survey hypertension estimates, marked differences are found (15.7 percent and 11.9 percent, respectively). Some of this variation can be attributed to improved data collection procedures implemented in 1974 as well as to definitional differences between the 2 years. These differences will be described in detail in a forthcoming report. However, evidence from other sources also indicates that some of the increase reflects a real difference resulting from a greater awareness of this condition among some respondents.

In this report, terms such as "similar" and "the same" mean that no statistical significance exists between the statistics being compared. Terms relating to differences (i.e., "greater," "less," etc.) indicate that differences are statistically significant. The *t* test with a critical value of 1.96 (0.05 level of significance) was used to test all comparisons which are discussed. Lack of comment regarding the difference between any two statistics does *not* mean the difference was tested and found to be not significant.

Age adjustment is computed by multiplying the specific rate for each age group in the total

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population 17 years and over in 1974. The rate is obtained by dividing the cumulative figures previously computed by the total population 17 years and over.

For a more detailed discussion of the limitations and qualifications of data collected in the Health Interview Survey, see an earlier report entitled "Current Estimates from the Health Interview Survey, United States, 1974, *Vital and Health Statistics*, Series 10, No. 100, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 76-1527.

Blood pressure measurements of persons in the civilian noninstitutionalized population 6-74 years of age collected in the Health and Nutrition Examination Survey from April 1971 through June 1974 have been reported in *Advance Data* (HRA) 77-1250, No. 1, Oct. 18, 1976.



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