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Anthony Robbins, MD – Editor
E-mail: arobbins@phsbos.ssw.dhhs.gov

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Room 1855
John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203
Phone: 617-565-1440 Fax: 617-565-4260
E-mail: phr@phsbos.ssw.dhhs.gov

Robin Chase, Editorial Consultant
Ned Curran, Associate Editor

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FOREWORD TO THIS SUPPLEMENT:

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) supports the scientific gathering and interpretation of epidemiological data on hypertension and other cardiovascular diseases. Such data are crucial in determining needed areas of research, both basic and clinical, as well as the best approaches to preventing and treating hypertension.

One such area in need of research is hypertension among minority populations in the United States. Various reasons underlie this need. For instance, America's minorities are biologically and culturally diverse and are widely dispersed across the country. Additionally, key data such as death certificate information have sometimes not been recorded, forever lost to future epidemiologists.

And, of course, epidemiologists themselves create their own challenges. Data have been collected using different methodologies and different definitions, thereby limiting the full use of the data.

To help epidemiologists begin the difficult task of addressing these issues, the NHLBI brought together leading U.S. and international experts for an intensive 2-day workshop in Washington, DC, entitled *The Epidemiology of Hypertension in Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Asian/Pacific Islander Americans*. Workshop participants shared data and perspectives and, through two major panel discussions, recommended future research and prevention efforts. The results of their work appear in this supplement to *Public Health Reports*.

This effort is only a first step. Much more work lies ahead. Public health officials must make a commitment to share and develop existing data on minorities, working closely with minority communities nationwide to identify issues for future research. Only then will the frequency and severity of hypertension and its risk factors among minorities in the United States be reduced.

Claude Lenfant, MD
Director
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

SCIENTIFIC EDITOR: STEPHEN HAVAS, MD MPH MS

The papers presented in this supplement reflect the work of researchers who participated in a workshop on hypertension in Hispanic Americans, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and Asian and Pacific Islander Americans sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Jacob Keller, Division of Epidemiology and Clinical Applications (DECA), served as Government Project Officer and coordinated peer reviews of the papers. The CDM Group, Inc., through contract number NHLBI-HC-93-06, organized and managed the workshop under the direction of Mary Smolenski, Project Director, and provided technical editing and production management for this supplement under the direction of Jennie Heard, Managing Editor. Contributing staff included Patricia Green, Corporate Supervisor; Michael Gage, Graphic Artist; Nicole Close, Scientific Coordinator; Lisa Rimmington, Project Assistant; Marilyn Spear, Quality Control Supervisor; Roberta Hochberg, Proofreader; Niyati Pandya, Information Specialist; and Elizabeth Hayes, Editorial Assistant. Special thanks are due Donna Young for technical assistance and Margot Fromer for editorial services.

Researchers also provided summary data for inclusion in a databook on hypertension in the target populations selected for this project. Interested parties may request free copies of *Hypertension in Hispanic Americans, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and Asian and Pacific Islander Americans*, from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Education Programs Information Center, PO Box 30105, Bethesda, Maryland 20824-0105, 301-251-1222.

Abbreviations and Symbols Used in this Supplement

BMI	body mass index	ml	milliliter
BP	blood pressure	mm	millimeter
chol	cholesterol	mM	millimolar (unit of concentration)
CA	Cuban Americans	mmole	millimole (unit of mass)
CI	confidence interval	MRFIT	Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial
cm	centimeter	n	number of participants
CT	computed tomography	NCHS	National Center for Health Statistics
CVD	cardiovascular disease	NGT	normal glucose tolerance
DBP	diastolic blood pressure	NHANES	National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey
dl	deciliter	NHW	non-Hispanic whites
FI	fasting insulin	NIDDM	non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
>	greater than	OR	odds ratio
≥	greater than or equal to	PR	Puerto Ricans
HDL	high density lipoprotein	P	The probability that a test statistic [e.g., the mean] would be as extreme or more extreme than observed if the null hypothesis were true.
HHP	Honolulu Heart Program	R	coefficient of multiple correlation
Hg	mercury	s	standard deviation
HHANES	Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey	SAHS	San Antonio Heart Study
IGT	impaired glucose tolerance	SBP	systolic blood pressure
IHS	Indian Health Service	SEI	socioeconomic index
ITHP	Inter-Tribal Heart Project	SES	socioeconomic status
JNC-V	<i>The Fifth Report of the Joint National Committee on Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure</i>	SF	skinfold
kg	kilogram	s_x	standard error of the mean
<	less than	WHO	World Health Organization
≤	less than or equal to	WHR	white-Hispanic ratio
LDL	low density lipoprotein	yrs	years
m	meter		
MA	Mexican Americans		
meds	medications		
MHS	Molokai Heart Study		
mg	milligram		

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