

**Table 71 (page 1 of 4). Cholesterol among persons 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1988–1994 through 2007–2010**

Updated data when available, Excel, PDF, more data years, and standard errors: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2011.htm#071>.

[Data are based on interviews and laboratory data of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

<i>Sex, age, race and Hispanic origin<sup>1</sup>, and percent of poverty level</i>	1988–1994	1999–2002	2003–2006	2007–2010
Percent of population with high cholesterol (serum total cholesterol greater than or equal to 240 mg/dL or taking cholesterol-lowering medications) <sup>3</sup>				
20 years and over, age-adjusted <sup>2</sup>				
Both sexes <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	22.8	25.0	27.7	27.4
Male . . . . .	21.1	25.3	27.7	28.0
Female . . . . .	24.0	24.3	27.4	26.7
Not Hispanic or Latino:				
White only, male . . . . .	21.1	26.0	28.7	28.1
White only, female . . . . .	24.2	25.1	28.2	27.4
Black or African American only, male . . . . .	18.6	20.1	22.8	25.4
Black or African American only, female . . . . .	23.1	22.0	23.3	25.6
Mexican male . . . . .	19.9	21.6	24.2	28.6
Mexican female . . . . .	19.8	19.3	24.1	25.5
Percent of poverty level: <sup>5</sup>				
Below 100% . . . . .	23.0	25.0	27.9	26.5
100%–199% . . . . .	22.1	25.9	27.6	27.6
200%–399% . . . . .	23.1	26.5	27.5	28.9
400% or more . . . . .	21.7	23.1	27.9	26.6
20 years and over, crude				
Both sexes <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	21.5	25.0	28.0	28.7
Male . . . . .	19.6	25.1	27.5	28.7
Female . . . . .	23.2	24.8	28.5	28.7
Not Hispanic or Latino:				
White only, male . . . . .	20.0	26.8	29.7	30.4
White only, female . . . . .	24.5	27.0	30.8	31.4
Black or African American only, male . . . . .	16.0	18.5	21.3	24.1
Black or African American only, female . . . . .	19.7	19.9	21.9	24.7
Mexican male . . . . .	16.2	17.0	19.3	23.7
Mexican female . . . . .	14.9	13.8	18.7	21.0
Percent of poverty level: <sup>5</sup>				
Below 100% . . . . .	19.4	21.6	24.1	22.3
100%–199% . . . . .	21.3	25.4	28.3	28.7
200%–399% . . . . .	21.3	26.2	28.1	30.6
400% or more . . . . .	21.9	24.2	28.7	29.6
Male				
20–44 years . . . . .	13.1	16.1	16.5	14.3
20–34 years . . . . .	8.2	10.4	10.2	8.5
35–44 years . . . . .	21.0	23.1	25.2	22.5
45–64 years . . . . .	30.1	36.0	35.7	39.0
45–54 years . . . . .	29.6	34.1	32.4	34.0
55–64 years . . . . .	30.8	39.1	41.6	46.2
65–74 years . . . . .	27.4	36.3	49.4	48.9
75 years and over . . . . .	24.4	29.0	37.1	45.2
Female				
20–44 years . . . . .	9.9	11.4	12.9	10.6
20–34 years . . . . .	7.3	9.1	10.8	6.8
35–44 years . . . . .	13.5	14.4	15.8	15.7
45–64 years . . . . .	36.4	31.7	37.3	39.1
45–54 years . . . . .	28.2	27.2	29.6	29.1
55–64 years . . . . .	45.8	39.2	49.2	51.4
65–74 years . . . . .	46.9	51.9	55.3	53.3
75 years and over . . . . .	41.2	44.0	47.3	52.5

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 71 (page 2 of 4). Cholesterol among persons 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1988–1994 through 2007–2010**

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[Data are based on interviews and laboratory data of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

<i>Sex, age, race and Hispanic origin<sup>1</sup>, and percent of poverty level</i>	<i>1988–1994</i>	<i>1999–2002</i>	<i>2003–2006</i>	<i>2007–2010</i>
Percent of population with high serum total cholesterol (greater than or equal to 240 mg/dL) <sup>6</sup>				
20 years and over, age-adjusted <sup>2</sup>				
Both sexes <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	20.8	17.3	16.3	13.7
Male . . . . .	19.0	16.4	15.1	12.6
Female . . . . .	22.0	17.8	17.1	14.4
Not Hispanic or Latino:				
White only, male . . . . .	18.8	16.5	15.5	12.2
White only, female . . . . .	22.2	18.1	18.0	15.3
Black or African American only, male . . . . .	16.9	12.4	10.9	10.8
Black or African American only, female . . . . .	21.4	17.7	13.3	11.5
Mexican male . . . . .	18.5	17.4	17.6	15.1
Mexican female . . . . .	18.7	13.8	14.4	13.6
Percent of poverty level: <sup>5</sup>				
Below 100% . . . . .	20.6	18.3	18.1	14.4
100%–199% . . . . .	20.6	19.1	16.7	15.0
200%–399% . . . . .	20.8	18.9	15.8	14.4
400% or more . . . . .	19.5	14.4	15.9	12.3
20 years and over, crude				
Both sexes <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	19.6	17.3	16.4	14.1
Male . . . . .	17.7	16.5	15.2	12.9
Female . . . . .	21.3	18.0	17.5	15.2
Not Hispanic or Latino:				
White only, male . . . . .	18.0	16.9	15.7	12.6
White only, female . . . . .	22.5	19.1	18.9	16.7
Black or African American only, male . . . . .	14.7	12.2	10.8	10.9
Black or African American only, female . . . . .	18.2	16.1	12.5	11.3
Mexican male . . . . .	15.4	15.0	15.7	14.7
Mexican female . . . . .	14.3	10.7	12.6	12.3
Percent of poverty level: <sup>5</sup>				
Below 100% . . . . .	17.6	16.4	16.8	12.8
100%–199% . . . . .	19.8	18.2	16.0	14.6
200%–399% . . . . .	19.3	18.7	15.8	14.6
400% or more . . . . .	19.9	15.5	17.1	13.7
Male				
20–44 years . . . . .	12.5	14.2	14.1	11.1
20–34 years . . . . .	8.2	9.8	9.5	7.6
35–44 years . . . . .	19.4	19.7	20.5	16.2
45–64 years . . . . .	27.2	22.2	19.1	17.7
45–54 years . . . . .	26.6	23.6	20.8	18.7
55–64 years . . . . .	28.0	19.9	16.0	16.3
65–74 years . . . . .	21.9	13.7	10.9	7.5
75 years and over . . . . .	20.4	10.2	9.6	6.8
Female				
20–44 years . . . . .	9.4	10.4	11.3	8.4
20–34 years . . . . .	7.3	8.9	10.3	5.8
35–44 years . . . . .	12.3	12.4	12.7	11.9
45–64 years . . . . .	33.4	23.0	23.9	21.3
45–54 years . . . . .	26.7	21.4	19.7	17.7
55–64 years . . . . .	40.9	25.6	30.5	25.6
65–74 years . . . . .	41.3	32.3	24.2	20.6
75 years and over . . . . .	38.2	26.5	18.6	20.2

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 71 (page 3 of 4). Cholesterol among persons 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1988–1994 through 2007–2010**

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[Data are based on interviews and laboratory data of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

<i>Sex, age, race and Hispanic origin<sup>1</sup>, and percent of poverty level</i>	<i>1988–1994</i>	<i>1999–2002</i>	<i>2003–2006</i>	<i>2007–2010</i>	
20 years and over, age-adjusted <sup>2</sup>		Mean serum total cholesterol level, mg/dL <sup>7</sup>			
Both sexes <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	206	203	200	196	
Male . . . . .	204	202	198	194	
Female . . . . .	207	204	202	198	
Not Hispanic or Latino:					
White only, male . . . . .	205	202	198	193	
White only, female . . . . .	208	205	203	199	
Black or African American only, male . . . . .	202	195	193	191	
Black or African American only, female . . . . .	207	202	195	192	
Mexican male . . . . .	206	204	203	200	
Mexican female . . . . .	206	199	200	196	
Percent of poverty level: <sup>5</sup>					
Below 100% . . . . .	205	201	203	196	
100%–199% . . . . .	205	204	201	198	
200%–399% . . . . .	207	205	199	196	
400% or more . . . . .	205	202	201	195	
20 years and over, crude					
Both sexes <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	204	203	200	197	
Male . . . . .	202	202	198	194	
Female . . . . .	206	204	202	199	
Not Hispanic or Latino:					
White only, male . . . . .	203	203	198	193	
White only, female . . . . .	208	206	205	201	
Black or African American only, male . . . . .	198	194	192	191	
Black or African American only, female . . . . .	201	199	194	191	
Mexican male . . . . .	199	200	200	200	
Mexican female . . . . .	198	194	196	195	
Percent of poverty level: <sup>5</sup>					
Below 100% . . . . .	200	198	200	194	
100%–199% . . . . .	202	202	199	197	
200%–399% . . . . .	205	204	199	197	
400% or more . . . . .	206	204	203	198	
Male					
20–44 years . . . . .	194	196	196	194	
20–34 years . . . . .	186	188	186	186	
35–44 years . . . . .	206	207	209	205	
45–64 years . . . . .	216	213	206	202	
45–54 years . . . . .	216	215	208	204	
55–64 years . . . . .	216	212	202	199	
65–74 years . . . . .	212	202	191	182	
75 years and over . . . . .	205	195	187	176	
Female					
20–44 years . . . . .	189	191	192	187	
20–34 years . . . . .	184	185	188	181	
35–44 years . . . . .	195	198	197	195	
45–64 years . . . . .	225	215	213	211	
45–54 years . . . . .	217	211	208	208	
55–64 years . . . . .	235	221	219	214	
65–74 years . . . . .	233	224	214	207	
75 years and over . . . . .	229	217	206	203	

See footnotes at end of table.

## Table 71 (page 4 of 4). Cholesterol among persons 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1988–1994 through 2007–2010

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[Data are based on interviews and laboratory data of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

<sup>1</sup>Persons of Mexican origin may be of any race. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are tabulated according to the 1997 *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity* and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The two non-Hispanic race categories shown in the table conform to the 1997 Standards. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group. Prior to data year 1999, estimates were tabulated according to the 1977 Standards. Estimates for single-race categories prior to 1999 included persons who reported one race or, if they reported more than one race, identified one race as best representing their race. See [Appendix II, Hispanic origin; Race](#).

<sup>2</sup>Age-adjusted to the 2000 standard population using five age groups: 20–34 years, 35–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–64 years, and 65 years and over. Age-adjusted estimates may differ from other age-adjusted estimates based on the same data and presented elsewhere if different age groups are used in the adjustment procedure. See [Appendix II, Age adjustment](#).

<sup>3</sup>High cholesterol is defined as measured serum total cholesterol as greater than or equal to 240 mg/dL or reporting taking cholesterol-lowering medications.

Respondents were asked, “Are you now following this advice [from a doctor of health professional] to take prescribed medicine [to lower your cholesterol]?”

<sup>4</sup>Includes persons of all races and Hispanic origins, not just those shown separately.

<sup>5</sup>Percent of poverty level is based on family income and family size. Persons with unknown percent of poverty level are excluded (8% in 2007–2010). See [Appendix II, Family income; Poverty](#).

<sup>6</sup>High serum total cholesterol is defined as greater than or equal to 240 mg/dL (6.20 mmol/L), regardless of whether the respondent reported taking cholesterol-lowering medications.

<sup>7</sup>Risk levels for cholesterol have been defined by the Third Report of the National Cholesterol Education Program Expert Panel on Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Cholesterol in Adults. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health. September 2002. (Available from:

<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/cholesterol/index.htm> and summarized in JAMA 2001;285(19):2486–97). Serum total cholesterol greater than or equal to 240 mg/dL (6.20 mmol/L) is considered high.

NOTES: See [Appendix II, Cholesterol](#). Standard errors for selected years are available in the spreadsheet version of this table. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>. Data for additional years are available. See [Appendix III](#).

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. See [Appendix I, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey \(NHANES\)](#).