

Supplementary Table 1. Characteristics of the study population by quartiles of AST level at baseline, the ARIC study, visit 2, 1990–1992

Characteristic	Total	AST (Q1)	AST (Q2)	AST (Q3)	AST (Q4)	P
Number	12,588	3,731 (29.6)	3,411 (27.1)	2,662 (21.1)	2,784 (22.1)	
AST range (U/L)						
Male		<19	19–21	22–25	≥26	
Female		<17	17–19	20–22	≥23	
Age (yr)	56.9±5.7	56.5±5.7	56.9±5.9	57.2±5.7	56.9±5.5	<0.001
Black (%)	24	24.2	23.5	23.2	25.2	0.287
Female (%)	56.3	54.6	59.6	53.7	56.9	<0.001
BMI (kg/m ²)	28.0±5.4	28.0±5.5	27.7±5.3	27.8±5.2	28.6±5.6	
Obesity (%)	29.1	28.3	26.7	28.2	34	<0.001
SBP (mm Hg)	121.2±18.5	120.2±18.7	120.6±18.0	121.6±18.2	123.0±19.0	<0.001
DBP (mm Hg)	72.1±10.2	71.1±10.2	71.6±10.1	72.6±10.1	73.5±10.3	<0.001
Hypertension (%)	39.4	38	37.4	38.1	44.9	<0.001
Antihypertensive med use (%)	32	31.3	29.9	31.3	36	<0.001
HDL-C (mg/dL)	47.0 (37.0–59.0)	46.0 (37.0–57.0)	48.0 (39.0–61.0)	47.0 (37.0–59.0)	47.0 (37.0–59.5)	<0.001
LDL-C (mg/dL)	131.0 (108.8–155.4)	130.0 (108.2–155.0)	131.0 (109.6–154.2)	132.2 (109.6–157.2)	130.6 (108.0–155.6)	0.292
Triglycerides (mg/dL)	114.0 (82.0–162.0)	113.0 (82.0–159.0)	110.0 (81.0–156.0)	114.0 (81.0–164.0)	119.0 (82.0–175.0)	<0.001
Total cholesterol (mg/dL)	207.0 (183.0–233.0)	204.0 (181.0–230.0)	207.0 (184.0–232.0)	208.0 (184.0–234.0)	209.0 (185.0–236.0)	<0.001
Lipid lowering med use (%)	6.3	4.9	6	6.6	8.2	<0.001
Diabetes (self-report, meds, FG) (%)	15.6	18.1	13.1	13.6	17.5	<0.001
Prevalent CHD (%)	5.4	6	5	5.1	5.6	0.273
Smoking status (%)						<0.001
Current	21.9	28.9	22.1	18.2	15.6	
Former	37.8	34.1	37.6	39.6	41.3	
Never	40.3	37	40.3	42.1	43	
Drinking status (%)						<0.001
Current	21.9	28.9	22.1	18.2	15.6	
Former	37.8	34.1	37.6	39.6	41.3	
Never	40.3	37.0	40.3	42.1	43.0	

Values are presented as number (%), mean±standard deviation, or median (interquartile range).

AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ARIC, Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities; BMI, body mass index; SBP, systolic blood pressure; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL-C, low density lipoprotein cholesterol; FG, fasting glucose; CHD, coronary heart disease.