Predicted cardiovascular risk and blood pressure for Americans with diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and ≥65 years of age

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In November 2017, the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) published a guideline for the prevention, detection, evaluation, and management of high blood pressure (BP) in adults.(1) This guideline recommends using both predicted risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD) and BP levels to guide the initiation of antihypertensive medication. All adults with systolic BP (SBP) ≥ 140 mm Hg or diastolic BP (DBP) ≥ 90 mm Hg, stage 2 hypertension in the guideline, are recommended to initiate antihypertensive medication. Additionally, adults with SBP between 130 and 139 mm Hg and/or DBP between 80 and 89 mm Hg, stage 1 hypertension in the guideline, who have prevalent diabetes mellitus, prevalent chronic kidney disease (CKD), age ≥ 65 years, or high atherosclerotic CVD (ASCVD) risk are recommended to initiate antihypertensive medication. High ASCVD risk is defined as prevalent CVD or a 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD ≥ 10%

The 2017 ACC/AHA guideline recommends computing 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD in all adults with hypertension to establish a BP threshold for treatment.(1) However, it has been suggested that the vast majority of adults with diabetes, CKD, or ≥ 65 years of age are likely to have a 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD ≥ 10%. The purpose of the current analysis was to estimate the proportion of US adults with diabetes, CKD, or ≥ 65 years of age that have high ASCVD risk (i.e., a 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD ≥ 10% or prevalent CVD). A secondary objective was to estimate the proportion of adults with stage 1 hypertension and diabetes, CKD, or age ≥ 65 years who have high ASCVD risk, as the 2017 ACC/AHA BP guideline recommends initiation of antihypertensive medication for these individuals. To accomplish these goals, we analyzed data from 3 cycles of the US National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES).

# METHODS

NHANES was designed to assess the health and nutritional status of the non-institutionalized US population and was conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.(2) Since 1999-2000, NHANES has been conducted in two-year cycles using a multistage probability sampling design to select participants. Each cycle is independent with different participants recruited. For the current analysis, the 3 cycles conducted in 2013-2014, 2015-2016, and 2017-2018 were pooled for analysis.(3) The protocols for each NHANES cycle were approved by the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Institutional Review Board. Written informed consent was obtained from each participant. The University of Alabama at Birmingham Institutional Review Board considered the analysis of NHANES data to be exempt research.

The current analysis was restricted to adults aged 40 to 79 years of age who completed the NHANES interview and examination (n = 9,937). Participants < 40 or > 79 years of age were not included because the Pooled Cohort risk equations are not recommended to be used in these age ranges.(4) Participants who did not have three SBP and DBP measurements (n = 565) and those who were missing information on age, race, sex, total and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, smoking status, diabetes, or CKD status (n = 569) were excluded. After these exclusions, over the 3 NHANES cycles, a total of 8,803 participants were included in the analysis (Figure S1).

## Data collection

Data were collected during an in-home interview and a study visit completed at a mobile examination center. Standardized questionnaires were used to assess participants’ age, sex, race/ethnicity, smoking habits, medical history and use of antihypertensive medication, oral glucose lowering medication and insulin. Medical history included questions about whether the participant had been told by a doctor or other health professional that they have had a heart attack, coronary heart disease stroke, or heart failure. Blood and urine samples were collected during the medical examination. Of relevance to the current analysis, serum creatinine, serum glucose and glycated hemoglobin were measured. Diabetes was defined by fasting serum glucose ≥ 126 mg/dL, non-fasting glucose ≥ 200 mg/dL, glycated hemoglobin ≥ 6.5%, or self-reported use of insulin or oral glucose lowering medication. Estimated glomerular filtration rate was calculated using the Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration equation.(5) Urinary albumin and creatinine levels were measured and used to calculate the albumin-to-creatinine ratio. CKD was defined by an estimated glomerular filtration rate < 60 ml/min/1.73m2 or an albumin-to-creatinine ratio ≥ 30 mg/dL. Predicted 10-year risk for ASCVD was calculated using the Pooled Cohort risk equations for participants without prevalent CVD.(4) High ASCVD risk was defined as prevalent CVD or a 10-year predicted ASCVD risk ≥ 10%.

## Blood pressure measurements

The same protocol was followed to measure SBP and DBP in each NHANES cycle. After survey participants had rested 5 minutes, their BP was measured by a trained physician using a mercury sphygmomanometer and an appropriately sized cuff. Three BP measurements were obtained at 30 second intervals. The mean of all available measurements was used to define SBP and DBP. Quality control included re-certification of physicians every quarter with retraining if needed. All physicians participated in annual retraining.

## Blood pressure categories

Participants not taking antihypertensive medication were grouped into four non-overlapping categories based on the 2017 ACC/AHA BP guideline: Normal BP (SBP < 120 mm Hg and DBP < 80 mm Hg), elevated BP (SBP between 120 and 129 mm Hg and DBP < 80 mm Hg), stage 1 hypertension (SBP between 130 and 139 mm Hg and/or DBP between 80 and 89 mm Hg with SBP < 140 mm Hg and DBP < 90 mm Hg), stage 2 hypertension (SBP ≥ 140 mm Hg or DBP ≥ 90 mm Hg). Participants taking antihypertensive medication were placed in a fifth category.

## Statistical analysis

Analyses were conducted for the overall population and among participants with diabetes, CKD, ≥ 65 years of age, and for those with at least one of these three conditions. Participant characteristics were summarized as mean with their standard error and percentage for continuous and categorical variables, respectively. The percentage of US adults in each of the five BP categories (defined in the preceding paragraph) was computed. The 25th, 50th, and 75th percentile of 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD and the proportion of participants with high ASCVD risk were estimated overall and within each BP category. To assess the extent to which participants with a 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD < 10% were close to the 10% threshold, the proportion of participants in this subgroup with 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD from < 2.5%, 2.5% to < 5.0%, 5.0% to < 7.5%, and 7.5% to < 10% was estimated. The probability of having high ASCVD risk was estimated for each year of age from 40 to 79 years using logistic regression. Analyses of participant characteristics, distribution of 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD, and probability of having high ASCVD risk were replicated among participants with stage 1 hypertension.

NHANES sampling weights, which were calculated as the inverse probability of being selected for the survey, were used in all calculations to obtain nationally representative estimates of the non-institutionalized US population. The survey design of NHANES was also taken into account in all calculations. P-values were two-sided. Data analysis was conducted using R version 4.0.2 (released June 22, 2020) along with a collection of open-source software packages.(6–9) The first author’s GitHub repository (< *Link not yet active so we won’t be scooped* >) provides code to reproduce the current manuscript.

# RESULTS

Among US adults aged 40 to 79 years in 2013-2018, the estimated prevalence (95% confidence interval [CI]) of diabetes and CKD was 17.2% (16.0%, 18.5%) and 17.2% (15.9%, 18.5%), respectively, 25.4% (23.7%, 27.2%) were estimated to have ≥ 65 years of age, and 42.1% (40.2%, 43.9%) had at least one of these conditions (Table 1). An estimated 14.6% (95% CI: 13.3%, 16.1%) of US adults 40 to 79 years of age had stage 1 hypertension (Table 2). Among those with diabetes, CKD, age ≥ 65 years, and any of these three conditions, the estimated prevalence (95% CI) of stage 1 hypertension was 10.5% (8.5%, 12.8%), 8.9% (7.3%, 10.8%), 9.1% (7.5%, 10.9%), 10.2% (8.9%, 11.8%), respectively. Characteristics of US adults 40 to 79 years of age with stage 1 hypertension, overall and for subgroups defined by diabetes, CKD and age ≥ 65 years, are presented in Table S1.

## Predicted 10-year risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease

Among US adults aged 40 to 79 years without prevalent CVD, the estimated median (25th, 75th percentiles) 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD was 5.1% (1.9%, 11.4%) overall and 14.4% (7.0%, 27.4%), 11.4% (4.8%, 22.3%), 17.9% (11.2%, 27.4%), 13.3% (6.9%, 22.0%) among those with diabetes, CKD, age ≥ 65 years, and any of these three conditions, respectively (Table 3; top panel). Among those with stage 1 hypertension, the estimated median (25th, 75th percentiles) 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD was 4.2% (1.9%, 8.5%) overall and 8.9% (4.5%, 19.3%), 7.4% (2.8%, 12.2%), 13.8% (8.6%, 22.3%), 9.8% (5.3%, 16.5%) among those with diabetes, CKD, age ≥ 65 years, and any of these three conditions, respectively.

Among US adults aged 40 to 79 years, the estimated percentage (95% CI) at high ASCVD risk was 36.7% (34.8%, 38.6%) overall and 72.5% (69.4%, 75.6%), 64.5% (61.4%, 67.7%), 83.9% (81.7%, 86.1%), and 69.1% (66.9%, 71.3%) for those with diabetes, CKD, age ≥ 65 years, or any of these three conditions, respectively (Table 3; bottom panel). Among those with stage 1 hypertension, an estimated 24.3% (20.7%, 27.9%) had high ASCVD risk overall and 55.0% (43.7%, 66.4%), 36.7% (26.2%, 47.2%), 72.6% (63.2%, 81.9%), and 54.4% (46.7%, 62.1%) of those with diabetes, CKD, age ≥ 65 years, or any of these three conditions had high ASCVD risk, respectively.

Among US adults aged 40 to 79 years who were not at high risk for ASCVD, an estimated 69.4% (95% CI: 67.5%, 71.3%) had 10-year predicted ASCVD risk < 5% (Figure 1). Among those not at high risk for ASCVD with diabetes, CKD age ≥ 65 years, and any of these three conditions, an estimated 47.7% (95% CI: 41.0%, 54.5%), 55.9% (95% CI: 50.3%, 61.3%), 13.2% (95% CI: 8.4%, 20.1%), and 42.7% (95% CI: 38.1%, 47.4%) had a 10-year predicted ASCVD risk < 5%, respectively. Among those not at high risk for ASCVD and with stage 1 hypertension, an estimated 68.9% (95% CI: 64.3%, 73.1%) overall and 53.6% (95% CI: 35.6%, 70.6%), 52.2% (95% CI: 35.5%, 68.5%), and 7.4% (95% CI: 1.1%, 35.8%) of those with diabetes, CKD, and ≥ 65 years of age had a 10-year predicted ASCVD risk < 5%, respectively (Figure S2).

## Age-specific analysis of high ASCVD risk

The estimated probability of having high ASCVD risk increased with older age and exceeded 50% at 65 years for US adults without diabetes or CKD, compared with 54 years for US adults with diabetes and 59 years for US adults with CKD (Figure 2). Among US adults with stage 1 hypertension, the age at which the estimated probability of having high ASCVD risk exceeded 50% was 65, 55, and 65 years for US adults without diabetes or CKD, with diabetes, and with CKD, respectively (Figure S3). The minimum age where the probability of high ASCVD risk exceeded 50% was not determined for adults ≥ 65 years of age as the probability exceeded 50% at all ages above 65 years.

# DISCUSSION

In the current study, a majority of US adults aged 40 to 79 years with diabetes, CKD, age ≥ 65 years, and any of these three conditions had a high risk for ASCVD, defined by a 10-year predicted ASCVD risk ≥ 10% or prevalent CVD. Among those with stage 1 hypertension and ≥ 65 years of age, a substantial proportion were at high ASCVD risk. However, a substantial proportion of US adults with stage 1 hypertension and diabetes or CKD did not have high ASCVD risk. Among US adults with diabetes or CKD who were not at high ASCVD risk, approximately half had a 10-year predicted ASCVD risk < 5%. In contrast, over 80% of US adults aged ≥ 65 years not at high ASCVD risk had 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD between 5% and 10%. The probability of having high ASCVD risk was age-dependent with over 50% of those with diabetes, CKD, and with neither of these conditions expected to have high ASCVD risk at ≥ 54, ≥ 59, and ≥ 65 years of age, respectively.

The current study estimates that roughly 33% of US adults aged 40 to 79 years take antihypertensive medication, including half of those with diabetes, CKD, or ≥ 65 years of age. Among those with diabetes, CKD, or age ≥ 65 years, only about 10% had stage 1 hypertension. The 2017 ACC/AHA BP guideline recommends all of these adults initiate antihypertensive medication and also recommends computing 10-year predicted ASCVD risk to establish the BP threshold for treatment.(1) The heterogeneous distribution of 10-year predicted ASCVD among those with stage 1 hypertension and diabetes, CKD, or age ≥ 65 years emphasizes the importance of these two recommendations from the guideline. Prior studies have shown the 2017 ACC/AHA BP guideline directs antihypertensive medication to those most likely to receive the largest risk reduction benefit,(10, 11) and computing 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD can both inform patients and facilitate patient provider discussions on a BP threshold for treatment.

Previous studies have shown that the use of predicted ASCVD risk in addition to BP, as recommended by the 2017 ACC/AHA BP guideline, can direct antihypertensive medication to adults likely to receive the largest risk reduction benefit with treatment.(10) In an analysis of the Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke study, those with stage 1 hypertension recommended versus not recommended to initiate antihypertensive medication by the 2017 ACC/AHA BP guideline were roughly 6 times more likely to experience a CVD event over 8 years of follow-up. Although a substantial proportion of US adults with stage 1 hypertension and diabetes, CKD, or ≥ 65 years of age did not have a high ASCVD risk in the current study, they were more likely to have high ASCVD risk compared to the overall US population with stage 1 hypertension, and may therefore still benefit from initiating antihypertensive medication.

Previous randomized trials and meta-analyses have investigated whether lower BP treatment goals reduce incident CVD risk in patients with diabetes, CKD, or ≥ 65 years of age. the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial, which compared the SBP treatment target of < 120 mm Hg to < 140 mm Hg among older (mean age of 68 years) adults without diabetes, found lower rates of incident fatal and nonfatal major CVD events among those with the lower SBP target.(12) A randomized trial of patients with diabetes and baseline SBP < 140 mm hg and DBP < 80 mm Hg found lower risk of stroke among participants with more intense BP treatment goals.(13) A systematic review and meta-analysis of 123 studies with 613,815 participants found strong support for lowering SBP to less than 130 mm Hg and providing antihypertensive medication to adults with diabetes, CKD, and various other comorbidities.(14) This suggests adults with stage 1 hypertension and diabetes, CKD or ≥ 65 years of age may obtain greater risk reduction versus the overall population by initiating antihypertensive medication.

It has been suggested that the vast majority of adults with diabetes, CKD, or ≥ 65 years of age have a 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD ≥ 10%.(1) Previous research has shown that diabetes, CKD, and advanced age are each associated with an increased risk for ASCVD events.(15–18). Although the current study suggests that a high proportion of US adults with stage 1 hypertension and diabetes or CKD do not have 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD ≥ 10%, others have previously shown that adults with diabetes or CKD have a high lifetime CVD risk.(19, 20) Age-adjusted estimates for the probability of high ASCVD risk from the current study echo these findings and suggests that adults with diabetes or CKD develop high ASCVD risk at a younger age than adults without these conditions. Prior studies have also found that cumulative exposure to high BP is associated with increased CVD risk.(21) Therefore, for younger adults with diabetes or CKD, early initiation of antihypertensive medication may be an important step towards lowering lifetime CVD risk. Predicted 10-year risk for ASCVD should be computed for all adults with hypertension, as the 2017 ACC/AHA BP guideline recommends, and lifetime CVD risk should also be taken into account for younger adults with diabetes or CKD. Taken together, these risk assessment techniques can inform patients and help guide the decision to initiate antihypertensive medication.

The current study has a number of strengths. The design of NHANES allows its results to be weighted to provide results that are representative of the US population. Additionally, NHANES data are collected following a rigorous protocol by trained study staff. BP was measured three times following a standardized protocol. However, the results of this study should be considered in the context of known and potential limitations. NHANES participants completed only one visit and guidelines recommend using the mean BP averaged over 2 or more visits. Additionally, since only one measurement of serum creatinine and urine albuminuria were available, CKD status may have been mis-classified in some adults. A total of 1,271 participants had stage 1 hypertension, and some subgroups of this population based on diabetes, CKD, and ≥ 65 years of age were small.

In conclusion, a majority of US adults aged 40 to 79 years with diabetes, CKD or ≥ 65 years of age had 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD ≥ 10%. However, a lower percentage of those with stage 1 hypertension and diabetes, CKD or ≥ 65 years of age had 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD ≥ 10%. While most older US adults with diabetes or CKD had high ASCVD risk, a substantial proportion of younger adults with diabetes or CKD did not. Results from the current study support computing 10-year predicted ASCVD risk for all adults with hypertension, as recommended by the 2017 ACC/AHA BP guideline.

Table 1: Characteristics of US adults overall and in subgroups defined by diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and ≥ 65 years of age

|  | | **Sub-groups** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristic\*** | **Overall  N = 8,803** | **Diabetes  N = 2,000†** | **CKD  N = 1,790‡** | **Age 65+ years  N = 2,506** | **Diabetes, CKD, or age 65+ years  N = 4,252** |
| Age, years | 56.7 (0.2) | 60.3 (0.4) | 62.4 (0.4) | 70.6 (0.1) | 64.0 (0.2) |
| Male | 48.2 | 55.7 | 45.8 | 46.7 | 48.1 |
| Race / ethnicity | | | | | |
| Non-Hispanic White | 68.6 | 60.1 | 68.0 | 76.8 | 69.4 |
| Non-Hispanic Black | 10.1 | 13.6 | 12.2 | 7.8 | 10.6 |
| Hispanic | 12.6 | 15.9 | 11.8 | 8.3 | 11.6 |
| Non-Hispanic Asian | 5.2 | 7.0 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 5.1 |
| Other Race/ethnicity - Including Multi-Racial | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 2.7 | 3.3 |
| Total cholesterol, mg/dl | 197.0 (0.9) | 183.1 (1.8) | 193.4 (1.7) | 188.8 (1.3) | 191.4 (1.2) |
| HDL-cholesterol, mg/dl | 54.9 (0.4) | 46.6 (0.5) | 53.2 (0.7) | 56.6 (0.7) | 53.8 (0.5) |
| Systolic blood pressure, mm Hg | 126.0 (0.3) | 130.6 (0.6) | 132.7 (0.7) | 131.8 (0.6) | 130.7 (0.5) |
| Diastolic blood pressure, mm Hg | 72.8 (0.3) | 71.6 (0.4) | 71.8 (0.4) | 68.2 (0.4) | 71.0 (0.3) |
| Antihypertensive medication use | 33.5 | 60.1 | 55.6 | 53.3 | 51.8 |
| Diabetes | 17.2 | 100.0 | 35.8 | 24.7 | 40.9 |
| Chronic kidney disease | 17.2 | 35.7 | 100.0 | 32.3 | 40.8 |
| Aged 65+ years | 25.4 | 36.5 | 47.9 | 100.0 | 60.4 |
| Current smoker | 17.3 | 14.5 | 16.7 | 10.0 | 14.3 |
| Prevalent CVD§ | 10.5 | 22.5 | 22.3 | 21.4 | 18.9 |
| \*Table values are mean (standard error) or proportion. | | | | | |
| †Diabetes was defined by fasting serum glucose ≥ 126 mg/dL, non-fasting glucose ≥ 200 mg/dL, HbA1c ≥ 6.5%, or self-reported use of insulin or oral glucose lowering medication. | | | | | |
| ‡Chronic kidney disease is defined by an albumin-to-creatinine ratio ≥ 30 mg/dl or an estimated glomerular filtration rate < 60 ml/min/1.73m² | | | | | |
| §Prevalent cardiovascular disease was defined by self-report of previous heart failure, coronary heart disease, stroke, or myocardial infarction | | | | | |
| CKD = chronic kidney disease; CVD = cardiovascular disease; HDL = high density lipoprotein | | | | | |

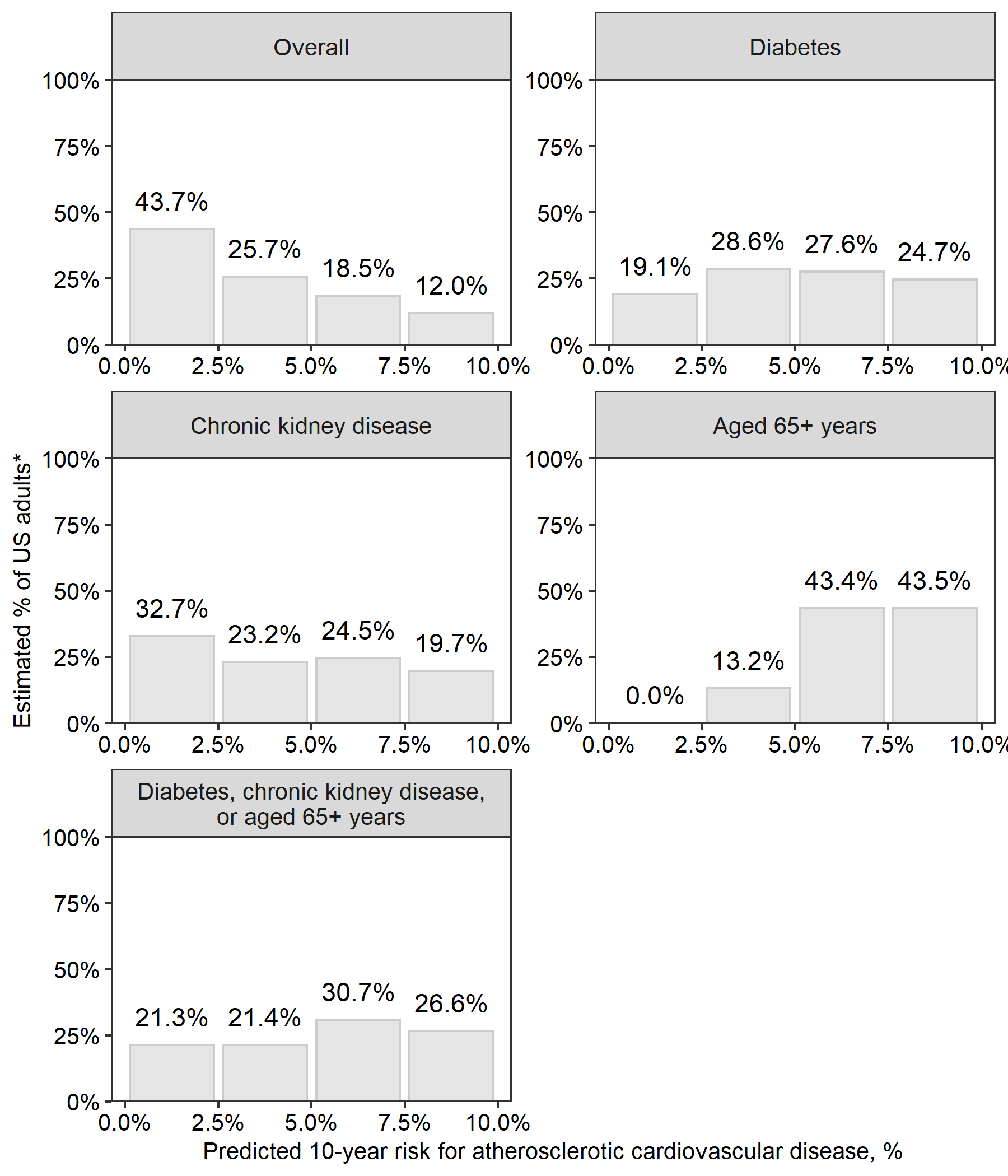
Table 2: Estimated distribution of blood pressure categories among US adults, overall and for subgroups defined by diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and ≥ 65 years of age.

|  | | **Sub-groups** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Blood pressure category\*** | **Overall  N = 8,803** | **Diabetes  N = 2,000†** | **CKD  N = 1,790‡** | **Age 65+ years  N = 2,506** | **Diabetes, CKD, or age 65+ years  N = 4,252** |
| Normal blood pressure | 28.7% | 12.1% | 14.2% | 14.9% | 15.8% |
| Elevated blood pressure | 12.0% | 7.9% | 7.2% | 11.1% | 10.3% |
| Stage 1 hypertension | 14.6% | 10.5% | 8.9% | 9.1% | 10.2% |
| Stage 2 hypertension | 11.1% | 9.5% | 14.1% | 11.6% | 11.7% |
| Taking antihypertensive medication | 33.5% | 60.1% | 55.6% | 53.3% | 51.8% |
| \*Normal blood pressure: systolic blood pressure < 120 mm Hg and diastolic blood pressure < 80 mm Hg; Elevated blood pressure: systolic blood pressure from 120 to 129 mm Hg and diastolic blood pressure < 80 mm Hg; Stage 1 hypertension: systolic blood pressure between 130 and 139 mm Hg and/or diastolic blood pressure between 80 and 89 mm Hg with systolic blood pressure < 140 mm Hg and diastolic blood pressure < 90 mm Hg; Stage 2 hypertension: systolic blood pressure ≥ 140 mm Hg or diastolic blood pressure ≥ 90 mm Hg. | | | | | |
| †Diabetes was defined by fasting serum glucose ≥ 126 mg/dL, non-fasting glucose ≥ 200 mg/dL, HbA1c ≥ 6.5%, or self-reported use of insulin or oral glucose lowering medication. | | | | | |
| ‡Chronic kidney disease is defined by an albumin-to-creatinine ratio ≥ 30 mg/dl or an estimated glomerular filtration rate < 60 ml/min/1.73m² | | | | | |
| CKD = chronic kidney disease | | | | | |

Table 3: Median 10-year predicted risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and proportion of US adults with high atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk overall and for subgroups defined by diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and ≥ 65 years of age, stratified by blood pressure categories based on the 2017 American College of Cardiology / American Heart Association blood pressure guidelines.

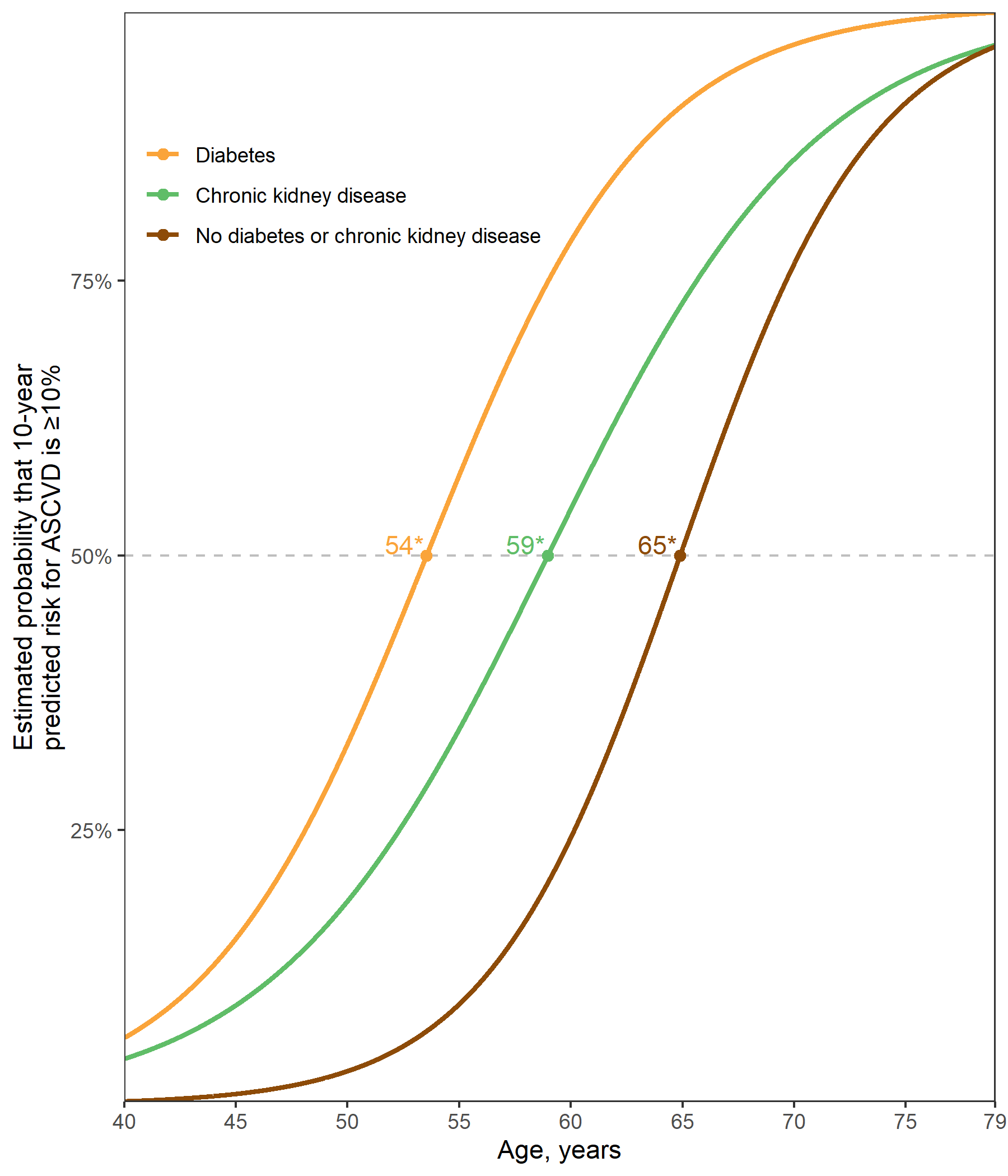
|  | | **Sub-groups** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Blood pressure category\*** | **Overall  N = 8,803** | **Diabetes  N = 2,000†** | **CKD  N = 1,790‡** | **Age 65+ years  N = 2,506** | **Diabetes, CKD, or age 65+ years  N = 4,252** |
| *Median (25th - 75th percentile) 10-year predicted risk for ASCVD among those without prevalent CVD‖§* | | | | | |
| Overall | 5.1 (1.9, 11.4) | 14.4 (7.0, 27.4) | 11.4 (4.8, 22.3) | 17.9 (11.2, 27.4) | 13.3 (6.9, 22.0) |
| Normal blood pressure | 2.0 (0.8, 4.8) | 6.8 (2.9, 15.8) | 3.3 (1.1, 8.9) | 10.6 (6.7, 16.0) | 6.8 (3.2, 12.4) |
| Elevated blood pressure | 4.3 (1.9, 9.3) | 11.4 (4.2, 17.3) | 6.2 (1.6, 16.7) | 14.6 (7.5, 19.9) | 11.3 (5.6, 17.4) |
| Stage 1 hypertension | 4.2 (1.9, 8.5) | 8.9 (4.5, 19.3) | 7.4 (2.8, 12.2) | 13.8 (8.6, 22.3) | 9.8 (5.3, 16.5) |
| Stage 2 hypertension | 8.1 (4.2, 16.0) | 18.8 (10.1, 30.2) | 13.2 (6.6, 21.8) | 20.4 (16.0, 29.6) | 16.8 (8.6, 24.6) |
| Taking antihypertensive medication | 10.5 (5.2, 19.8) | 17.4 (9.8, 31.6) | 16.8 (8.4, 28.7) | 21.4 (14.0, 31.6) | 16.9 (9.8, 27.1) |
| *Proportion (95% confidence interval) with high ASCVD risk¶* | | | | | |
| Overall | 36.7 (34.8, 38.6) | 72.5 (69.4, 75.6) | 64.5 (61.4, 67.7) | 83.9 (81.7, 86.1) | 69.1 (66.9, 71.3) |
| Normal blood pressure | 13.7 (11.4, 16.0) | 46.8 (39.0, 54.6) | 34.7 (26.2, 43.1) | 64.4 (57.7, 71.2) | 44.9 (39.1, 50.7) |
| Elevated blood pressure | 27.4 (23.3, 31.5) | 57.7 (49.6, 65.8) | 48.9 (39.0, 58.7) | 69.8 (59.6, 79.9) | 57.0 (49.8, 64.3) |
| Stage 1 hypertension | 24.3 (20.7, 27.9) | 55.0 (43.7, 66.4) | 36.7 (26.2, 47.2) | 72.6 (63.2, 81.9) | 54.4 (46.7, 62.1) |
| Stage 2 hypertension | 45.8 (40.5, 51.1) | 79.0 (69.3, 88.7) | 63.2 (53.5, 72.9) | 90.2 (83.9, 96.6) | 74.3 (67.4, 81.2) |
| Taking antihypertensive medication | 62.0 (59.5, 64.5) | 81.6 (78.0, 85.2) | 79.0 (75.3, 82.7) | 92.8 (91.0, 94.5) | 80.7 (78.2, 83.1) |
| \*Normal blood pressure: systolic blood pressure < 120 mm Hg and diastolic blood pressure < 80 mm Hg; Elevated blood pressure: systolic blood pressure from 120 to 129 mm Hg and diastolic blood pressure < 80 mm Hg; Stage 1 hypertension: systolic blood pressure between 130 and 139 mm Hg and/or diastolic blood pressure between 80 and 89 mm Hg with systolic blood pressure < 140 mm Hg and diastolic blood pressure < 90 mm Hg; Stage 2 hypertension: systolic blood pressure ≥ 140 mm Hg or diastolic blood pressure ≥ 90 mm Hg. | | | | | |
| †Diabetes was defined by fasting serum glucose ≥ 126 mg/dL, non-fasting glucose ≥ 200 mg/dL, HbA1c ≥ 6.5%, or self-reported use of insulin or oral glucose lowering medication. | | | | | |
| ‡Chronic kidney disease is defined by an albumin-to-creatinine ratio ≥ 30 mg/dl or an estimated glomerular filtration rate < 60 ml/min/1.73m² | | | | | |
| ‖Predicted risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease was computed using the Pooled Cohort risk equations, based on the guideline by American College of Cardiology / American Heart Association, 2013 | | | | | |
| §Prevalent cardiovascular disease was defined by self-report of previous heart failure, coronary heart disease, stroke, or myocardial infarction | | | | | |
| ¶High atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk was defined by a 10-year predicted risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease ≥ 10% or prevalent cardiovascular disease | | | | | |
| ASCVD = atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; CKD = chronic kidney disease; CVD = cardiovascular disease | | | | | |

Figure 1: Estimated distribution of 10-year predicted risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease among US adults with predicted risk < 10%, overall and for subgroups defined by diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and ≥ 65 years of age.



\* Results do not include data from survey participants with prevalent cardiovascular disease or 10-year predicted risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease ≥ 10%.

Figure 2: Estimated Probability of ten-year predicted risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease ≥ 10% by age for US adults with diabetes, with chronic kidney disease, and without diabetes or chronic kidney disease.



\* Age at which 50% of the population is expected to have a predicted 10-year risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease ≥ 10%.

**SUPPLEMENT**

Table S1: Characteristics of US adults with stage 1 hypertension, overall and for subgroups defined by diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and ≥ 65 years of age

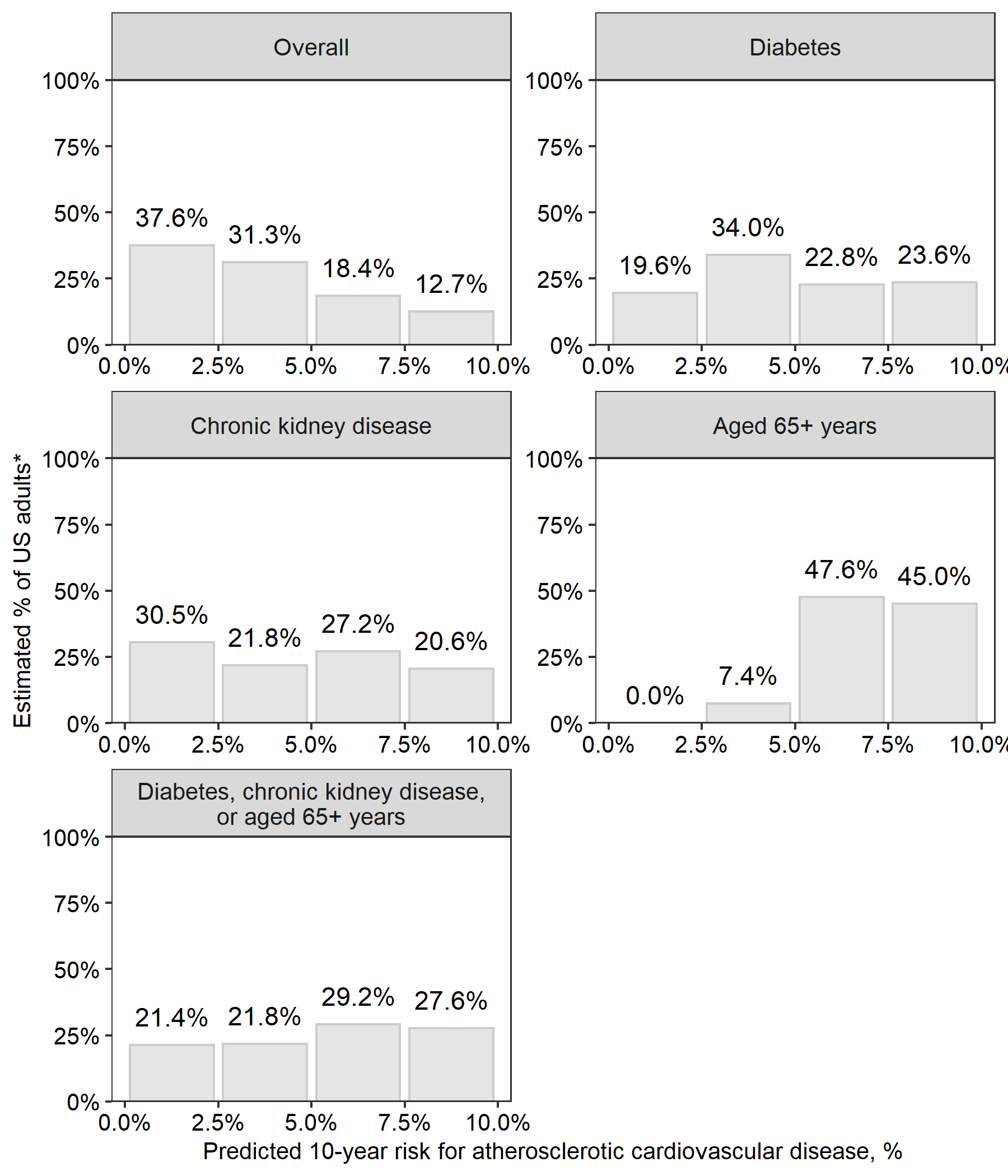
|  | | **Sub-groups** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristic\*** | **Overall  N = 1,271** | **Diabetes  N = 204†** | **CKD  N = 174‡** | **Age 65+ years  N = 236** | **Diabetes, CKD, or age 65+ years  N = 460** |
| Age, years | 54.0 (0.4) | 56.8 (1.2) | 57.7 (1.1) | 69.7 (0.4) | 61.5 (0.8) |
| Male | 52.3 | 58.5 | 49.3 | 51.5 | 51.9 |
| Race / ethnicity | | | | | |
| Non-Hispanic White | 66.3 | 60.0 | 61.6 | 73.8 | 65.3 |
| Non-Hispanic Black | 9.8 | 11.4 | 11.0 | 7.4 | 10.1 |
| Hispanic | 14.2 | 19.9 | 18.1 | 10.3 | 15.2 |
| Non-Hispanic Asian | 6.0 | 7.6 | 6.2 | 4.2 | 5.9 |
| Other Race/ethnicity - Including Multi-Racial | 3.7 | 1.2 | 3.0 | 4.4 | 3.4 |
| Total cholesterol, mg/dl | 205.0 (2.4) | 188.8 (4.6) | 196.5 (4.3) | 195.4 (3.5) | 195.7 (2.8) |
| HDL-cholesterol, mg/dl | 54.0 (0.7) | 47.1 (1.5) | 53.6 (2.0) | 57.9 (1.4) | 53.8 (1.0) |
| Systolic blood pressure, mm Hg | 129.6 (0.3) | 131.1 (0.7) | 131.4 (0.6) | 132.5 (0.6) | 131.4 (0.4) |
| Diastolic blood pressure, mm Hg | 78.6 (0.4) | 76.7 (1.0) | 75.8 (0.8) | 72.2 (1.0) | 75.2 (0.7) |
| Antihypertensive medication use | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Diabetes | 12.3 | 100.0 | 30.1 | 21.0 | 41.7 |
| Chronic kidney disease | 10.5 | 25.6 | 100.0 | 19.8 | 35.5 |
| Aged 65+ years | 15.7 | 26.9 | 29.9 | 100.0 | 53.4 |
| Current smoker | 19.3 | 18.8 | 20.5 | 10.7 | 16.2 |
| Prevalent CVD§ | 5.8 | 15.2 | 11.1 | 13.2 | 11.2 |
| \*Table values are mean (standard error) or proportion. | | | | | |
| †Diabetes was defined by fasting serum glucose ≥ 126 mg/dL, non-fasting glucose ≥ 200 mg/dL, HbA1c ≥ 6.5%, or self-reported use of insulin or oral glucose lowering medication. | | | | | |
| ‡Chronic kidney disease is defined by an albumin-to-creatinine ratio ≥ 30 mg/dl or an estimated glomerular filtration rate < 60 ml/min/1.73m² | | | | | |
| §Prevalent cardiovascular disease was defined by self-report of previous heart failure, coronary heart disease, stroke, or myocardial infarction | | | | | |
| CKD = chronic kidney disease; CVD = cardiovascular disease; HDL = high density lipoprotein | | | | | |

Figure S1: Flowchart showing the number of NHANES participants included in the current analyses.



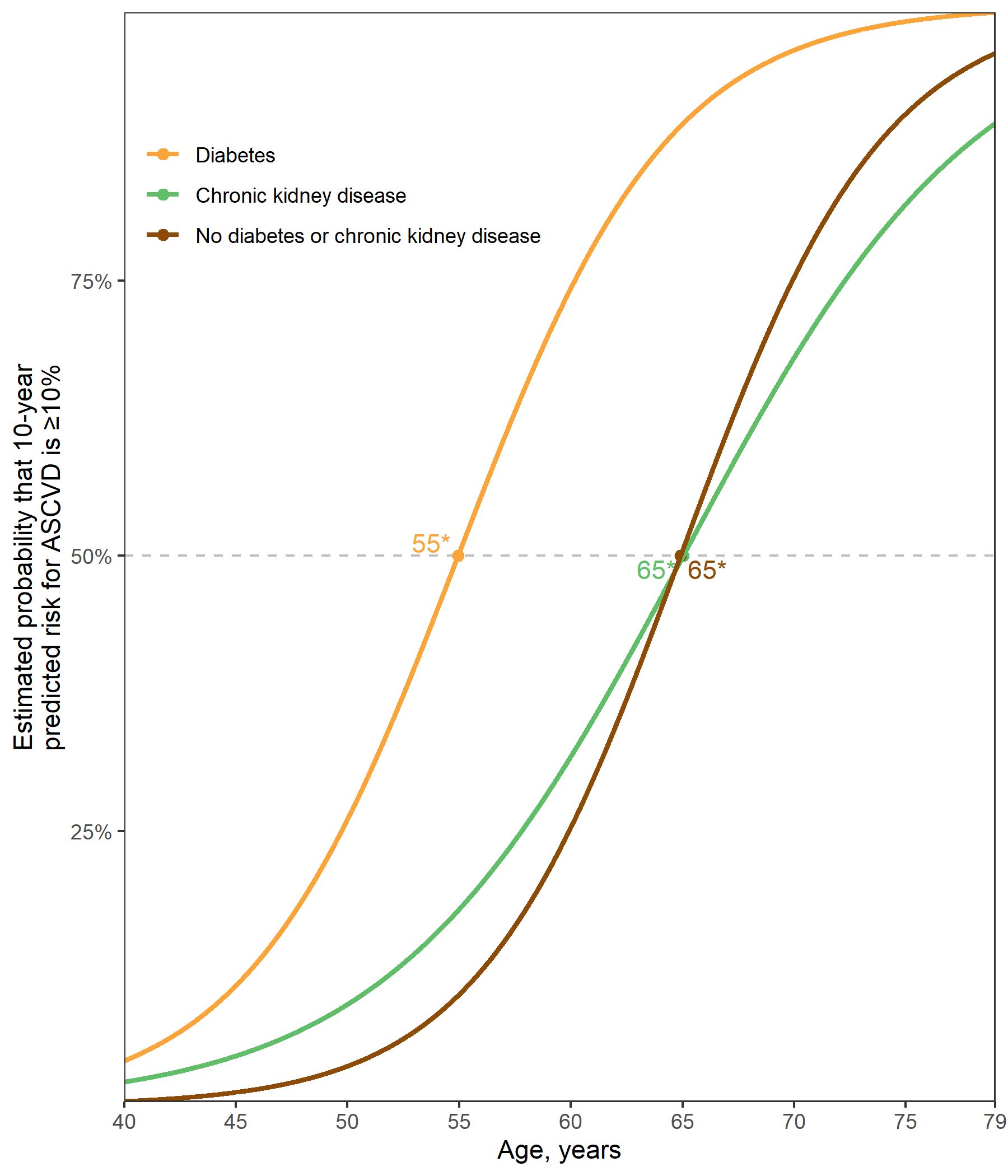
\* The Completed NHANES interview and exam cells include number with the response rate in parentheses. BP = blood pressure; NHANES = National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Figure S2: Estimated distribution of 10-year predicted risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease among US adults with stage 1 hypertension and predicted risk < 10%, overall and for subgroups defined by diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and ≥ 65 years of age.



\* Results do not include data from survey participants with prevalent cardiovascular disease or 10-year predicted risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease ≥ 10%.

Figure S3: Estimated Probability of ten-year predicted risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease ≥ 10% by age among US adults with stage 1 hypertension and diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and without diabetes or chronic kidney disease.



\* Age at which 50% of the population is expected to have a predicted 10-year risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease ≥ 10%.

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