

Table 199. Age-Adjusted Percent Distributions of Body Mass Index (BMI) Among Persons 18 Years Old and Over by Selected Characteristics: 2003–2004

[See headnote, Table 197. Body Mass Index (BMI) is a measure that adjusts body weight for height. It is calculated as weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared. For both men and women, underweight is indicated by a BMI under 18.5; healthy weight is indicated by a BMI greater than or equal to 18.5 and less than 25.0; overweight is greater than or equal to 25.0 and less than 30.0; obesity is indicated by a BMI greater than or equal to 30.0. BMI is calculated from the measurement of the participant's weight and height during the examination. Based on the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)]

Selected characteristic	Underweight	Healthy weight	Above healthy weight		
			Total	Overweight	Obese
Total ¹ (age-adjusted)	1.8	32.9	65.3	33.7	31.6
Total ¹ (crude)	1.8	32.6	65.6	33.8	31.8
Age: ²					
18 to 44 years old	2.7	38.0	59.3	29.5	29.8
45 to 64 years old	(B)	26.0	73.1	37.2	35.9
65 to 74 years old	(B)	25.5	74.0	39.4	34.6
75 years old and over	0.8	33.3	65.9	42.4	23.5
Sex:					
Male	1.5	28.5	69.9	39.2	30.7
Female	2.0	36.6	61.5	28.7	32.8
Race/ethnicity and sex:					
Not Hispanic or Latino:					
White, male	1.5	27.8	70.7	39.6	31.1
White, female	2.2	39.2	58.6	28.4	30.2
Black alone or African American, male	(B)	31.3	67.0	33.7	33.3
Black alone or African American, female	(B)	18.3	80.3	27.3	53.0
Mexican or Mexican American, male	(B)	26.3	73.4	42.0	31.4
Mexican or Mexican American, female	(B)	27.2	72.1	32.6	39.5
Education: ³					
Less than a high school diploma	1.4	31.0	67.6	34.5	33.1
High school diploma or GED	(B)	27.2	71.8	36.6	35.2
Some college, bachelor's degree, or higher	1.3	31.7	66.9	35.0	32.0

B Base figure too small to meet statistical standards for reliability of a derived figure. ¹ Total includes other race/ethnicities not shown separately and persons with unknown race/ethnicity. ² Estimates for age groups are not age adjusted. ³ Education is shown only for persons 25 years old and over.

Source: U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, unpublished data; <<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm>>.