

Body Weight Status of Adults: United States, 1997–98
Advance Data No. 330:
Companion tables—unadjusted
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Advance Data No. 330, “Body Weight Status of Adults: United States, 1997–98,” published by the National Center for Health Statistics on September 6, 2002, includes two tables that show selected measures of body weight status of U.S. adults. Each table in the published report presents crude rates for the total population and age-specific rates. All other statistics included in the published tables are age adjusted to the 2000 projected U.S. population.

The following two tables are designed as companions to [tables 1](#) and [2](#) of the published report. They provide the crude (unadjusted) estimates for each of the published tables. A subtitle on each table identifies them as “INTERNET RELEASE ONLY.” These tables can be used to estimate the actual number and percent of persons by body weight status, but should not be used for analysis of differences between subgroups except insofar as variations in age composition of the groups are considered. The tables are:

[Table 1](#). Percent of adults 18 years of age and over who were overweight, by selected characteristics: United States, average annual, 1997–98. [CRUDE (unadjusted) estimates, with age-adjusted totals. Companion to Advance Data No. 330. INTERNET RELEASE ONLY]

[Table 2](#). Percent distribution of body weight status for adults 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, average annual, 1997–98. [CRUDE (unadjusted) estimates, with age-adjusted totals. Companion to Advance Data No. 330. INTERNET RELEASE ONLY]

Table 1. Percent of adults 18 years of age and over who were overweight, by selected characteristics: United States, average annual, 1997–98

[CRUDE (unadjusted estimates, with age-adjusted totals. Companion to Advance Data No. 330.)

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Selected characteristic	Overweight (BMI of 25 or more) ¹		
	Both sexes	Men	Women
	Percent of adults (standard error)		
Ages 18 years and over (crude) ²	54.6(0.26)	62.9(0.38)	46.8(0.33)
Ages 18 years and over (age-adjusted) ^{2,3}	54.7(0.25)	62.7(0.37)	46.9(0.33)
Age			
18–24 years	37.5(0.72)	42.5(1.06)	32.3(0.95)
25–44 years	53.7(0.36)	64.3(0.48)	43.2(0.47)
45–64 years	63.5(0.43)	71.5(0.61)	55.7(0.61)
65–74 years	61.1(0.67)	67.0(0.93)	56.2(0.91)
75 years and over	47.2(0.75)	50.0(1.31)	45.3(0.88)
Race-ethnicity			
Hispanic	60.1(0.68)	65.4(0.91)	54.6(0.93)
White non-Hispanic	53.3(0.30)	63.2(0.41)	43.9(0.39)
Black non-Hispanic	65.0(0.61)	66.0(1.04)	64.2(0.71)
Asian/Pacific Islander non-Hispanic	31.1(1.64)	37.1(2.64)	25.4(1.79)
Education			
Less than high school graduate	59.3(0.50)	60.5(0.76)	58.2(0.70)
GED diploma ⁴	59.8(1.31)	64.3(1.78)	54.3(1.96)
High school graduate	56.8(0.45)	64.8(0.65)	49.9(0.54)
Some college - no degree	53.3(0.59)	63.5(0.84)	43.7(0.73)
Associate of Arts degree	56.2(0.81)	67.3(1.10)	46.7(1.09)
Bachelor of Arts, Science degree	48.2(0.61)	61.4(0.84)	34.8(0.82)
Masters, doctorate, medical degree	47.4(0.88)	59.0(1.16)	32.6(1.07)
Poverty status ⁵			
Below poverty level	53.9(0.74)	54.6(1.21)	53.5(0.85)
1.00–1.99 times poverty level	56.8(0.60)	60.4(0.88)	53.8(0.77)
2.00–3.99 times poverty level	56.3(0.43)	63.7(0.64)	49.0(0.60)
4.00 times poverty level or more	53.4(0.45)	66.0(0.62)	39.1(0.61)
Marital status			
Never married	45.1(0.59)	49.0(0.78)	40.4(0.85)
Married	57.8(0.33)	68.1(0.45)	46.9(0.44)
Cohabiting	51.5(1.04)	59.7(1.48)	42.6(1.39)
Divorced or separated	56.6(0.55)	62.3(0.87)	52.7(0.68)
Widowed	52.5(0.69)	57.5(1.48)	51.4(0.76)
Geographic region			
Northeast	54.3(0.56)	63.5(0.79)	46.0(0.65)
Midwest	56.2(0.47)	64.8(0.66)	48.0(0.66)
South	55.4(0.46)	62.9(0.69)	48.4(0.59)
West	51.3(0.62)	59.7(0.87)	43.2(0.70)
Place of residence			
MSA, central city ⁶	52.9(0.46)	59.1(0.67)	47.4(0.62)
MSA, not central city ⁶	54.4(0.37)	64.2(0.48)	45.1(0.51)
Not MSA ⁶	57.3(0.61)	64.8(0.93)	50.1(0.71)

¹Body Mass Index (BMI) is calculated as kilograms/meters², using self-reported height and weight. Overweight is defined as a BMI of 25 or more, which includes obese.²Persons of other races and unknown race and ethnicity, unknown education, unknown poverty status, and unknown marital status are included in the total.³Age adjusted to the 2000 projected U.S. population using age groups 18–24 years, 25–44 years, 45–64 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over.⁴GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.⁵Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds for 1996 and 1997.⁶MSA is metropolitan statistical area (see Technical notes).

NOTE: Denominator for each percent excludes persons with unknown body mass index.

Table 2. Percent distribution of body weight status for adults 18 years of age and over by selected characteristics: United States, average annual, 1997–98

[CRUDE (unadjusted estimates, with age-adjusted totals. Companion to Advance Data No. 330.)

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Selected characteristic	Total	Body weight status ¹			
		Not overweight		Overweight	
		Underweight	Healthy weight	Overweight, (but not obese)	Obese
		Percent distribution (standard error)			
Both sexes					
Ages 18 years and over (crude) ²	100.0	2.3(0.08)	43.0(0.26)	35.1(0.23)	19.5(0.19)
Ages 18 years and over (age-adjusted) ^{2,3}	100.0	3.6(0.10)	41.7(0.26)	35.2(0.22)	19.5(0.19)
Age					
18–24 years	100.0	4.7(0.35)	57.8(0.75)	24.7(0.60)	12.8(0.50)
25–44 years	100.0	2.0(0.10)	44.2(0.35)	34.4(0.34)	19.4(0.27)
45–64 years	100.0	1.2(0.09)	35.3(0.43)	39.2(0.41)	24.3(0.39)
65–74 years	100.0	1.6(0.16)	37.3(0.65)	41.1(0.73)	20.0(0.56)
75 years and over	100.0	5.0(0.35)	47.8(0.79)	34.4(0.69)	12.8(0.46)
Race-ethnicity					
Hispanic	100.0	1.5(0.15)	38.4(0.65)	38.1(0.57)	22.0(0.50)
White non-Hispanic	100.0	2.4(0.10)	44.3(0.30)	35.0(0.26)	18.3(0.22)
Black non-Hispanic	100.0	1.4(0.14)	33.6(0.62)	36.2(0.60)	28.8(0.55)
Asian/Pacific Islander non-Hispanic	100.0	6.4(0.82)	62.5(1.75)	24.8(1.43)	6.3(0.83)
Education					
Less than high school graduate	100.0	2.7(0.20)	38.0(0.51)	35.7(0.54)	23.6(0.46)
GED diploma ⁴	100.0	2.4(0.55)	37.9(1.36)	34.7(1.31)	25.0(1.13)
High school graduate	100.0	2.4(0.15)	40.8(0.45)	36.0(0.44)	20.8(0.35)
Some college - no degree	100.0	2.3(0.16)	44.3(0.59)	34.2(0.51)	19.1(0.42)
Associate of arts degree	100.0	1.8(0.20)	42.0(0.81)	35.9(0.75)	20.4(0.68)
Bachelor of arts, science degree	100.0	2.3(0.19)	49.5(0.60)	34.1(0.55)	14.1(0.41)
Masters, doctorate, medical degree	100.0	1.7(0.22)	50.9(0.90)	34.0(0.79)	13.4(0.57)
Poverty status⁵					
Below poverty level	100.0	3.6(0.25)	42.5(0.73)	29.8(0.65)	24.1(0.59)
1.00–1.99 times poverty level	100.0	2.5(0.20)	40.7(0.58)	34.1(0.56)	22.7(0.47)
2.00–3.99 times poverty level	100.0	2.3(0.14)	41.4(0.43)	35.8(0.41)	20.5(0.36)
4.00 times poverty level or more	100.0	1.7(0.12)	44.9(0.45)	36.6(0.42)	16.8(0.33)
Marital status					
Never married	100.0	3.4(0.24)	51.4(0.57)	28.4(0.49)	16.7(0.42)
Married	100.0	1.8(0.09)	40.4(0.32)	37.6(0.31)	20.2(0.26)
Cohabiting	100.0	2.2(0.31)	46.3(1.04)	34.8(0.98)	16.6(0.78)
Divorced or separated	100.0	2.3(0.18)	41.1(0.54)	34.5(0.52)	22.1(0.47)
Widowed	100.0	4.0(0.28)	43.5(0.72)	33.0(0.62)	19.6(0.55)
Geographic region					
Northeast	100.0	2.1(0.17)	43.6(0.57)	35.3(0.44)	19.0(0.49)
Midwest	100.0	2.2(0.14)	41.6(0.45)	35.6(0.44)	20.6(0.39)
South	100.0	2.5(0.14)	42.0(0.45)	35.0(0.42)	20.4(0.33)
West	100.0	2.4(0.19)	46.3(0.62)	34.5(0.49)	16.8(0.32)
Place of residence					
MSA, central city ⁶	100.0	2.6(0.13)	44.4(0.47)	33.7(0.39)	19.2(0.33)
MSA, not central city ⁶	100.0	2.2(0.11)	43.4(0.36)	35.7(0.30)	18.8(0.29)
Not MSA ⁶	100.0	2.2(0.17)	40.4(0.59)	35.7(0.53)	21.6(0.41)

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Percent distribution of body weight status for adults 18 years of age and over by selected characteristics: United States, average annual, 1997–98—Con.

[CRUDE (unadjusted estimates, with age-adjusted totals. Companion to Advance Data No. 330.)

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Selected characteristic	Total	Body weight status ¹			
		Not overweight		Overweight	
		Underweight	Healthy weight	Overweight, (but not obese)	Obese
Men		Percent distribution (standard error)			
Ages 18 years and over (crude) ²	100.0	0.9(0.07)	36.2(0.37)	43.4(0.35)	19.4(0.29)
Ages 18 years and over (age-adjusted) ^{2,3}	100.0	1.5(0.09)	35.8(0.37)	43.4(0.35)	19.3(0.29)
Age					
18–24 years	100.0	2.2(0.33)	55.2(1.09)	29.8(0.91)	12.7(0.74)
25–44 years	100.0	0.6(0.07)	35.1(0.48)	44.3(0.49)	20.0(0.40)
45–64 years	100.0	0.6(0.10)	27.9(0.61)	47.7(0.65)	23.8(0.56)
65–74 years	100.0	0.7(0.16)	32.3(0.92)	48.0(1.02)	18.9(0.84)
75 years and over	100.0	2.3(0.39)	47.7(1.30)	40.0(1.22)	10.0(0.70)
Race-ethnicity					
Hispanic	100.0	0.8(0.20)	33.8(0.91)	43.8(0.82)	21.5(0.75)
White non-Hispanic	100.0	0.9(0.08)	35.9(0.41)	44.2(0.41)	19.0(0.34)
Black non-Hispanic	100.0	0.7(0.15)	33.3(1.04)	41.6(1.04)	24.4(0.91)
Asian/Pacific Islander non-Hispanic	100.0	2.2(0.60)	60.8(2.69)	29.6(2.15)	7.4(1.34)
Education					
Less than high school graduate	100.0	1.5(0.19)	38.0(0.76)	39.8(0.77)	20.7(0.63)
GED diploma ⁴	100.0	2.0(0.78)	33.6(1.75)	39.7(1.91)	24.6(1.62)
High school graduate	100.0	1.0(0.16)	34.1(0.65)	43.8(0.70)	21.0(0.56)
Some college - no degree	100.0	0.6(0.11)	36.0(0.82)	43.5(0.77)	20.0(0.65)
Associate of arts degree	100.0	0.5(0.16)	32.2(1.10)	46.1(1.17)	21.2(0.98)
Bachelor of arts, science degree	100.0	0.7(0.14)	37.8(0.83)	45.8(0.88)	15.6(0.68)
Masters, doctorate, medical degree	100.0	0.3(0.12)	40.7(1.17)	44.5(1.16)	14.5(0.84)
Poverty status⁵					
Below poverty level	100.0	1.9(0.30)	43.5(1.19)	34.2(1.05)	20.4(0.99)
1.00–1.99 times poverty level	100.0	1.2(0.20)	38.4(0.87)	39.2(0.90)	21.2(0.73)
2.00–3.99 times poverty level	100.0	1.0(0.14)	35.4(0.63)	43.2(0.65)	20.5(0.51)
4.00 times poverty level or more	100.0	0.4(0.08)	33.6(0.63)	47.0(0.60)	19.0(0.48)
Marital status					
Never married	100.0	1.6(0.21)	49.4(0.79)	33.7(0.67)	15.3(0.56)
Married	100.0	0.7(0.07)	31.2(0.44)	46.8(0.48)	21.3(0.38)
Cohabiting	100.0	0.7(0.21)	39.7(1.48)	42.2(1.51)	17.5(1.17)
Divorced or separated	100.0	0.7(0.16)	36.9(0.86)	43.8(0.87)	18.6(0.72)
Widowed	100.0	1.6(0.36)	41.0(1.46)	41.6(1.46)	15.8(1.19)
Geographic region					
Northeast	100.0	0.8(0.13)	35.8(0.78)	44.1(0.76)	19.3(0.75)
Midwest	100.0	0.8(0.11)	34.5(0.65)	44.8(0.74)	20.0(0.61)
South	100.0	1.1(0.14)	36.0(0.69)	42.6(0.60)	20.3(0.48)
West	100.0	0.9(0.14)	39.4(0.87)	42.5(0.73)	17.2(0.54)
Place of residence⁶					
MSA, central city ⁶	100.0	1.0(0.12)	39.9(0.68)	40.9(0.63)	18.1(0.49)
MSA, not central city ⁶	100.0	0.8(0.10)	35.0(0.48)	44.7(0.45)	19.5(0.44)
Not MSA ⁶	100.0	1.0(0.17)	34.2(0.88)	43.7(0.83)	21.1(0.58)

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Percent distribution of body weight status for adults 18 years of age and over by selected characteristics: United States, average annual, 1997–98—Con.

[CRUDE (unadjusted estimates, with age-adjusted totals. Companion to Advance Data No. 330.)

INTERNET RELEASE ONLY

Selected characteristic	Total	Body weight status ¹			
		Not overweight		Overweight	
		Underweight	Healthy weight	Overweight, (but not obese)	Obese
Women		Percent distribution (standard error)			
Ages 18 years and over (crude) ²	100.0	3.7(0.13)	49.5(0.33)	27.2(0.28)	19.6(0.25)
Ages 18 years and over (age-adjusted) ^{2,3}	100.0	5.5(0.15)	47.6(0.34)	27.2(0.27)	19.7(0.27)
Age					
18–24 years	100.0	7.2(0.60)	60.4(1.01)	19.5(0.78)	12.9(0.63)
25–44 years	100.0	3.5(0.18)	53.3(0.45)	24.5(0.40)	18.8(0.36)
45–64 years	100.0	1.8(0.16)	42.5(0.62)	30.9(0.53)	24.7(0.54)
65–74 years	100.0	2.4(0.27)	41.4(0.91)	35.3(0.94)	20.9(0.72)
75 years and over	100.0	6.7(0.50)	47.9(0.92)	30.7(0.84)	14.7(0.63)
Race-ethnicity					
Hispanic	100.0	2.3(0.21)	43.1(0.88)	32.1(0.79)	22.6(0.67)
White non-Hispanic	100.0	3.8(0.16)	52.3(0.39)	26.2(0.32)	17.7(0.30)
Black non-Hispanic	100.0	2.0(0.23)	33.8(0.71)	31.8(0.74)	32.4(0.71)
Asian/Pacific Islander non-Hispanic	100.0	10.5(1.45)	64.1(1.78)	20.1(1.57)	5.3(0.94)
Education					
Less than high school graduate	100.0	3.9(0.33)	37.9(0.72)	31.9(0.66)	26.3(0.64)
GED diploma ⁴	100.0	2.8(0.65)	42.9(2.02)	28.8(1.80)	25.6(1.72)
High school graduate	100.0	3.5(0.23)	46.5(0.54)	29.3(0.52)	20.7(0.46)
Some college - no degree	100.0	4.0(0.29)	52.3(0.74)	25.4(0.60)	18.2(0.56)
Associate of arts degree	100.0	2.8(0.35)	50.5(1.08)	27.1(0.94)	19.6(0.81)
Bachelor of arts, science degree	100.0	3.8(0.34)	61.4(0.82)	22.2(0.67)	12.6(0.50)
Masters, doctorate, medical degree	100.0	3.4(0.48)	63.9(1.12)	20.6(0.92)	12.0(0.76)
Poverty status ⁵					
Below poverty level	100.0	4.7(0.37)	41.9(0.85)	27.0(0.76)	26.5(0.74)
1.00–1.99 times poverty level	100.0	3.6(0.31)	42.6(0.73)	29.9(0.73)	23.9(0.62)
2.00–3.99 times poverty level	100.0	3.6(0.24)	47.4(0.59)	28.5(0.56)	20.5(0.48)
4.00 times poverty level or more	100.0	3.2(0.24)	57.7(0.63)	24.8(0.53)	14.3(0.44)
Marital status					
Never married	100.0	5.7(0.45)	53.9(0.84)	22.0(0.70)	18.4(0.59)
Married	100.0	2.9(0.16)	50.2(0.44)	27.9(0.38)	19.0(0.35)
Cohabiting	100.0	3.8(0.60)	53.6(1.42)	26.9(1.11)	15.7(1.01)
Divorced or separated	100.0	3.3(0.28)	44.0(0.67)	28.2(0.62)	24.5(0.62)
Widowed	100.0	4.6(0.33)	44.0(0.78)	30.9(0.68)	20.5(0.63)
Geographic region					
Northeast	100.0	3.2(0.29)	50.8(0.66)	27.4(0.60)	18.7(0.59)
Midwest	100.0	3.5(0.26)	48.5(0.62)	26.8(0.55)	21.2(0.52)
South	100.0	3.9(0.23)	47.8(0.58)	27.8(0.48)	20.5(0.44)
West	100.0	3.9(0.32)	52.9(0.75)	26.7(0.57)	16.5(0.46)
Place of residence ⁶					
MSA, central city ⁶	100.0	4.1(0.23)	48.5(0.63)	27.2(0.53)	20.2(0.43)
MSA, not central city ⁶	100.0	3.5(0.18)	51.5(0.49)	27.0(0.40)	18.1(0.38)
Not MSA ⁶	100.0	3.5(0.29)	46.4(0.68)	28.0(0.54)	22.1(0.54)

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (see Technical notes.)

¹Body weight status was based on Body Mass Index (BMI) using self-reported height and weight. The formula for BMI is kilograms/meters². Underweight is defined as a BMI of less than 18.5; healthy weight is defined as a BMI of at least 18.5 and less than 25; overweight, and not obese, is defined as a BMI of at least 25 and less than 30; and obese is defined as a BMI of 30 or more.²Persons of other races and unknown race and ethnicity, unknown education, unknown poverty status, and unknown marital status are included in the total.³Age adjusted to the 2000 projected U.S. population using age groups 18–24 years, 25–44 years, 45–64 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over.⁴GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.⁵Poverty status is based on family income and family size using U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds for 1996 and 1997.⁶MSA is metropolitan statistical area (see Technical notes).

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes persons with unknown body mass index.

Table X. Number of adults 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics, United States, average annual, 1997–98

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Selected characteristic	Both sexes	Men	Women
	Number (in thousands)		
Total ¹	196,290	94,187	102,103
Age			
18–24 years	25,213	12,659	12,554
25–44 years	83,180	40,997	42,184
45–64 years	55,783	26,996	28,786
65–74 years	18,096	8,094	10,002
75 years and over	14,018	5,441	8,577
Race-ethnicity			
Hispanic	19,624	9,990	9,634
White non-Hispanic	147,133	70,803	76,329
Black non-Hispanic	21,814	9,697	12,117
Asian/Pacific Islander non-Hispanic	6,170	3,001	3,169
Hispanic	19,624	9,990	9,634
Education			
Less than high school graduate	36,869	17,632	19,237
GED diploma ²	4,961	2,643	2,318
High school graduate	54,100	24,506	29,593
Some college - no degree	37,985	18,270	19,715
Associate of Arts degree	17,208	7,853	9,354
Bachelor of Arts, Science degree	28,758	14,357	14,401
Masters, doctorate, medical degree	14,681	8,147	6,534
Poverty status ³			
Below poverty level	18,963	7,421	11,542
1.00–1.99 times poverty level	28,596	12,972	15,624
2.00–3.99 times poverty level	52,165	25,784	26,381
4.00 times poverty level or more	58,036	30,564	27,472
Marital status			
Never married	36,462	19,912	16,550
Married	116,211	58,598	57,613
Cohabiting	9,584	4,943	4,641
Divorced or separated	19,890	7,941	11,949
Widowed	13,388	2,466	10,922
Geographic region			
Northeast	39,221	18,371	20,850
Midwest	49,781	24,066	25,715
South	69,991	33,655	36,336
West	37,297	18,095	19,201
Place of residence			
MSA, central city ⁴	56,987	26,853	30,133
MSA, not central city ⁴	97,672	47,175	50,498
Not MSA ⁴	41,631	20,159	21,472

¹Persons of other races and unknown race and ethnicity, unknown education, unknown poverty status, and unknown marital status are included in the total but not shown separately.²GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.³Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds for 1996 and 1997.⁴MSA is metropolitan statistical area (see Technical notes).

NOTE: Population estimates were calculated using the 1997–98 National Health Interview Survey and can be used in conjunction with the unadjusted statistics to calculate the numbers of persons in each category shown in tables 1 and 2.