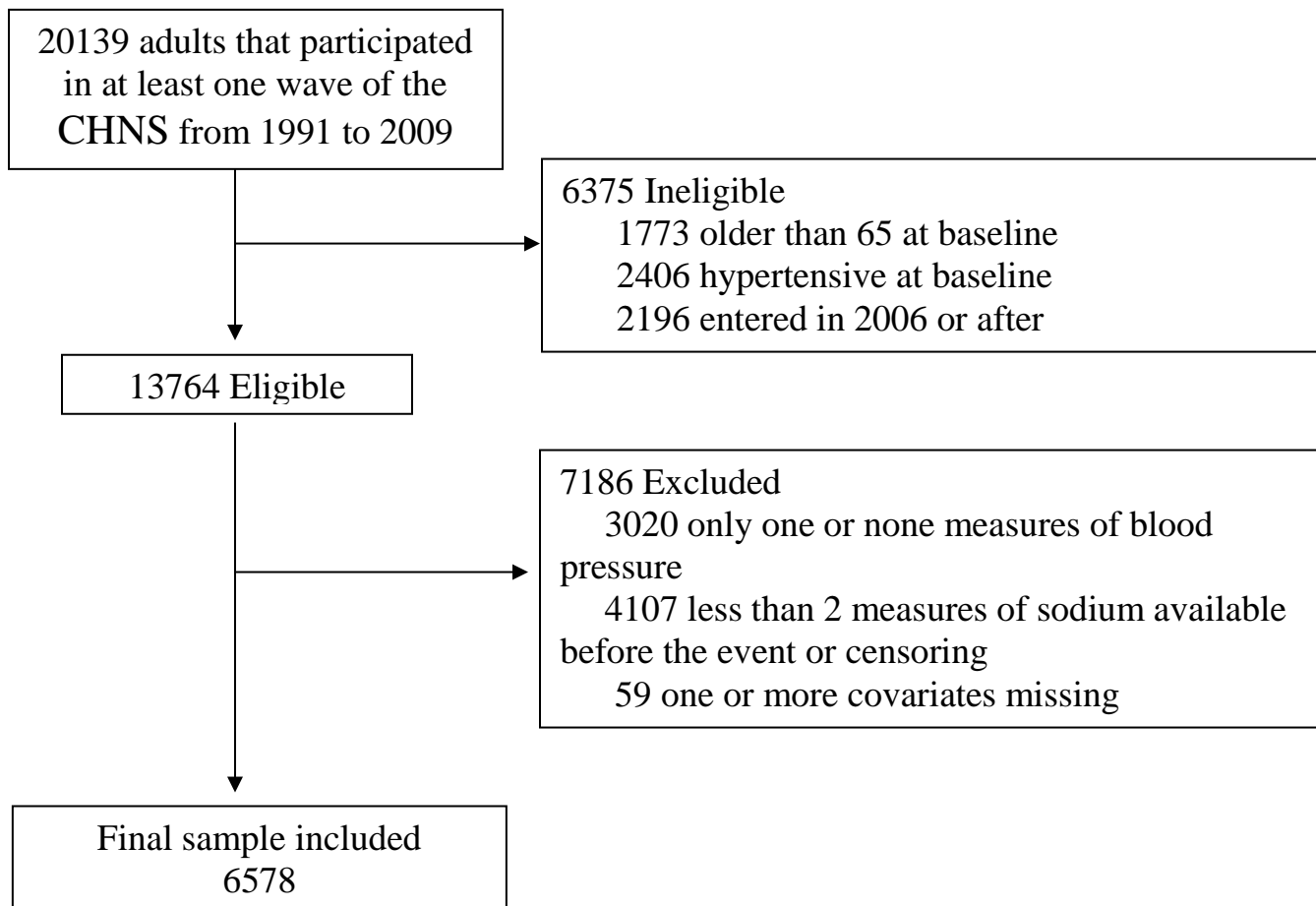


eFigure 1. Flowchart of eligibility and inclusion criteria used to define final sample.



eTable 1. Baseline characteristics of subjects included and not included in the final sample.

Variable	Not included (n=7,186)		Included (n=6,578)	
	n	mean or percent	n	mean or percent
Baseline sodium intake (g/d)	6,430	6.5	6,578	6.3
Gender, %				
Female	3,700	52	3,640	55
Male	3,481	48	2,938	45
Age (years)	7,161	32.6	6,578	36.8
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	7,096	21.8	6,578	21.7
Region, %				
North	1,405	20	1,150	17
Central	2,461	34	2,151	33
South	3,316	46	3,277	50
Residence, %				
Rural	4,342	60	4,801	73
Urban	2,840	40	1,777	27
Highest level of education attained, %				
None	964	14	1,685	26
Primary school	1,302	19	1,510	23
≥Lower middle school	4,706	68	3,383	51
Income ^a , %				
Low	1,807	26	2,193	33
Medium	2,376	34	2,203	33
High	2,739	40	2,182	33
Energy intake (kcal/d)	6,907	2,486	6,578	2,592
Potassium intake (g/d)	6,429	1.7	6,578	1.6
Physical activity ^a , %				
Low	3,249	49	2,213	33
Medium	2,191	33	2,190	33
High	1,143	17	2,175	33
Current smoker, %				
No	5,027	71	4,498	68
Yes	2,072	29	2,080	32
Alcohol intake, %				
<3 times/week	6,240	89	5,719	87
≥3 times/week	802	11	859	13
Wave of entry, %				
1991	2,783	39	3,777	57
1993	843	12	574	9
1997	1,416	20	1,216	18
2000	1,059	15	641	10
2004	1,083	15	370	6

^aLow, medium and high cutoff values were based on tertiles of the sample included.

eTable 2. Correlation coefficients of sodium intake and other dietary covariates

Dietary covariates^a	Baseline Sodium	Mean Sodium	Recent Sodium
Energy, kcal/d	0.26	0.31	0.23
Fat, g/d	0.17	0.17	0.19
Protein, g/d	0.24	0.32	0.23
Potassium, mg/d	0.15	0.18	0.17
Calcium, mg/d	0.18	0.21	0.17
Magnesium, mg/d	0.21	0.29	0.24
Red meat, g/d	0.06	0.02	0.04
Fruits and vegetables, g/d	0.08	0.08	0.05
Cakes, cookies & pastries g/d	0.00	-0.02	0.00
Fish, g/d	0.03	0.05	0.03
Poultry, g/d	0.02	0.01	0.02
Nuts and seeds, g/d	0.04	0.07	0.05

^a Dietary covariates are from baseline, mean or recent measure respectively

eTable 3. Results from different sensitivity analysis: Cumulative Risk Difference at 11 years of follow-up and Hazard Ratios for incident hypertension comparing to the lowest sodium intake group.

	Baseline sodium intake	Mean sodium intake	Recent sodium intake
	Cumulative Risk	Cumulative Risk Difference (95% CI)	
<i>A) 1st Sensitivity analysis</i>			
G1 (<3.7 g/d)	0.20	0	
G2 (3.7 – 5.2 g/d)	0.19	-0.01 (-0.06, 0.04)	
G3 (5.2 – 6.6 g/d)	0.16	-0.04 (-0.09, 0.02)	
G4 (6.6 – 8.7 g/d)	0.18	-0.02 (-0.08, 0.03)	
G5 (>8.7 g/d)	0.18	-0.03 (-0.06, 0.01)	
	HR (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)
<i>B) 2nd Sensitivity analysis</i>			
G1 (<3.7 g/d)	1		
G2 (3.7 – 5.2 g/d)	0.97 (0.82, 1.14)		
G3 (5.2 – 6.6 g/d)	0.88 (0.74, 1.04)		
G4 (6.6 – 8.7 g/d)	0.96 (0.81, 1.14)		
G5 (>8.7 g/d)	1.06 (0.90, 1.26)		
<i>C) 3rd Sensitivity analysis</i>			
G1 (<3.7 g/d)	1	1	1
G2 (3.7 – 5.2 g/d)	0.84 (0.64, 1.09)	0.76 (0.56, 1.03)	1.20 (0.94, 1.53)
G3 (5.2 – 6.6 g/d)	0.66 (0.50, 0.87)	0.86 (0.63, 1.17)	1.66 (1.27, 2.15)
G4 (6.6 – 8.7 g/d)	0.77 (0.59, 1.01)	1.18 (0.85, 1.64)	2.34 (1.77, 3.10)
G5 (>8.7 g/d)	1.03 (0.79, 1.35)	1.76 (1.20, 2.59)	2.16 (1.61, 2.90)
<i>D) 4th Sensitivity analysis</i>			
G1 (<3.7 g/d)a		1	1
G2 (3.7 – 5.2 g/d)		0.98 (0.77, 1.24)	1.06 (0.87, 1.31)
G3 (5.2 – 6.6 g/d)		0.99 (0.78, 1.26)	1.16 (0.93, 1.43)
G4 (6.6 – 8.7 g/d)		1.18 (0.93, 1.51)	1.40 (1.13, 1.75)
G5 (>8.7 g/d)		1.25 (0.95, 1.63)	1.21 (0.97, 1.51)

All sensitivity analysis were adjusted for the following covariates: age, BMI, gender, region, urban/rural, education level, income, physical activity, wave of entry, smoking and alcohol intake at baseline; and for energy and potassium intake at baseline, mean or recent period accordingly.

A) 1st Sensitivity analysis: Data from 12,159 subjects (5581 excluded and 6578 included) was used to generate inverse probability weights for selection. Two logistic regressions were run to estimate the probability of selection [Pr(X=x)] and the probability of selection conditional on the covariates [Pr(X=x | Z)], then the stabilized weights were calculated as Pr(X=x) / Pr(X=x | Z). These weights were incorporated in *proc lifereg* to estimate the cumulative risks using the Turnbull estimator. Nonparametric bootstrap was used to estimate the standard error of the risk difference. Analysis not performed for mean or recent sodium, because the majority of excluded had only baseline sodium.

B) 2nd Sensitivity analysis: Included all subjects with at least one sodium measure (N=10,017), instead of at least two sodium measures (as in the main analysis). This was performed to ascertain if requiring two

sodium measures biased the results, particularly because the reason why many subjects did not have at least two sodium measurements was that they were classified as hypertensive early in the study, and hence they had a short follow-up period with only one available sodium measure. This was also estimated only for baseline sodium.

D) 3th Sensitivity analysis: Participants were censored at first missing wave of BP and excluded if they had any wave with sodium missing and/or less than two sodium measurements before censoring (N=3835).

E) 4th Sensitivity analysis: Included same sample as in the main analysis, but only the first two sodium measures were used. Mean sodium is the mean of the first two measures, and recent sodium is the second measure (baseline sodium is not shown here because it remained the same as in the main analysis).

CI, confidence interval; G, group.
