**Appendix 1** Flow chart of participation and follow-up in the Reykjavik Study [posted as supplied by author]

n=30 795, men 14 923, women 15 872 randomly selected, in 1967, from Reykjavik and surrounding area

→ n=4306, men 2082, women 2224 were used as controls not to be examined

n=26 489, men 12 841, women 13 648 intended for examination and follow-up

→ n=1444, men 852, women 592 died before attending the study (1967 to 1991)

n=25 045, men 11 989, women 13 056 were invited (were alive at beginning of each of the five stages of the study)

→ n=6142, men 2855, women 3287 did not participate

n=18 903, men 9134, women 9769 were examined up to five times (1 to 5 times) during the five stages of the study 1967 to 1991; data from first examination were used

→ n=68, men 42, women 26 lost to follow-up for cause-specific mortality (1967 to 2007)

n=18 835, men 9092, women 9743 with complete follow-up

→ n=110, men 48, women 62 with missing data on any of (SBP, DBP, cholesterol, BMI)

n=18 725, men 9044, women 9681 subjects included in the current study