SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Table S1. Cardiovascular Disease and Cancer Definitions in NHANES III.

	ICD-10
Cardiovascular disease (CVD)	I00-I09, I11, I13, I20-I51, I60-I69
Heart disease	I00-I09, I11, I13, I20-I51
Stroke	I60-I69
Cancer	C00-C97

Variable definitions constructed using ICD-10 and self-reported data fields with choice-, disease- or procedure-specific codes between brackets are shown.

Abbreviations: ICD, International Classification of Diseases.

Table S2. Sensitivity analysis in participants with completed data on all variables.

	LDL-C levels (*n* = 9,962)					
	< 70 mg/dL	**70-99.9 mg/dL**	**100-129.9 mg/dL**	**130-159.9 mg/dL**	**160-189.9 mg/dL**	**≥ 190 mg/dL**
All-cause mortality						
Model 1	**1.68 (1.13-2.50)**	1.00 (0.79-1.26)	1 (ref)	0.90 (0.77-1.05)	0.88 (0.72-1.08)	1.17 (0.91-1.50)
Model 2	**1.51 (1.03-2.21)**	0.98 (0.78-1.23)	1 (ref)	0.90 (0.77-1.06)	0.84 (0.69-1.02)	1.13 (0.85-1.49)
Model 3	**1.49 (1.02-2.17)**	0.99 (0.78-1.24)	1 (ref)	0.90 (0.76-1.05)	0.83 (0.68-1.01)	1.14 (0.86-1.51)
Model 4	**1.47 (1.02-2.11)**	0.99 (0.78-1.24)	1 (ref)	0.88 (0.75-1.03)	0.84 (0.69-1.03)	1.16 (0.89-1.52)
CVD mortality						
Model 1	1.55 (0.88-2.73)	1.19 (0.76-1.87)	1 (ref)	1.12 (0.72-1.73)	1.25 (0.87-1.79)	**1.61 (1.06-2.44)**
Model 2	1.36 (0.77-2.38)	1.18 (0.75-1.86)	1 (ref)	1.13 (0.71-1.79)	1.18 (0.78-1.80)	1.55 (1.00-2.42)
Model 3	1.31 (0.74-2.34)	1.20 (0.78-1.85)	1 (ref)	1.12 (0.71-1.76)	1.18 (0.77-1.79)	**1.58 (1.01-2.46)**

Model 4	1.31 (0.74-2.31)	1.19 (0.77-1.82)	1 (ref)	1.09 (0.69-1.73)	1.18 (0.76-1.82)	**1.60 (1.03-2.50)**
CHD mortality						
Model 1	0.94 (0.23-3.81)	1.20 (0.78-1.86)	1 (ref)	1.16 (0.75-1.80)	1.28 (0.85-1.94)	**1.83 (1.09-3.06)**
Model 2	0.78 (0.19-3.11)	1.20 (0.77-1.86)	1 (ref)	1.17 (0.73-1.87)	1.21 (0.75-1.96)	1.74 (0.98-3.07)
Model 3	0.75 (0.19-3.02)	1.21 (0.79-1.86)	1 (ref)	1.16 (0.73-1.85)	1.21 (0.74-1.96)	**1.76 (1.00-3.11)**
Model 4	0.73 (0.18-2.93)	1.19 (0.78-1.83)	1 (ref)	1.16 (0.73-1.84)	1.22 (0.74-1.98)	**1.83 (1.04-3.19)**
Stroke mortality						
Model 1	3.75 (0.99-14.27)	1.17 (0.33-4.17)	1 (ref)	0.97 (0.43-2.21)	1.13 (0.50-2.55)	0.84 (0.29-2.45)
Model 2	**4.00 (1.05-15.16)**	1.13 (0.32-4.03)	1 (ref)	0.95 (0.42-2.14)	1.06 (0.46-2.43)	0.82 (0.28-2.44)
Model 3	**3.85 (1.00-14.78)**	1.15 (0.33-4.01)	1 (ref)	0.93 (0.42-2.10)	1.03 (0.44-2.42)	0.83 (0.28-2.49)
Model 4	**4.46 (1.16-17.17)**	1.13 (0.33-3.86)	1 (ref)	0.87 (0.38-1.98)	0.98 (0.40-2.37)	0.79 (0.26-2.34)

Values are hazard ratio (95% confidence interval) and are weighted.

Model 1: adjusted for age, sex, and race/ethnicity.

Model 2: model 1+ education level, marital status, family income level, smoking status, alcohol intake, and physical activity.

Model 3: model 2+ C-reactive protein level.

Model 4: model 3+ BMI, hypertension, diabetes, respiratory diseases, liver diseases, chronic kidney disease, and cholesterol-lowering drugs.

Table S3. Sensitivity analysis in participants not taking lipids lowering drugs in baseline.

	LDL-C levels (*n* = 13,740)					
	< 70 mg/dL	**70-99.9 mg/dL**	**100-129.9 mg/dL**	**130-159.9 mg/dL**	**160-189.9 mg/dL**	**≥ 190 mg/dL**
All-cause mortality						
Model 1	**1.69 (1.25-2.28)**	1.04 (0.87-1.24)	1 (ref)	**0.89 (0.80-1.00)**	0.88 (0.76-1.02)	1.03 (0.86-1.24)
Model 2	**1.50 (1.13-2.00)**	1.01 (0.85-1.20)	1 (ref)	**0.90 (0.82-0.99)**	**0.86 (0.75-0.99)**	1.02 (0.84-1.24)
Model 3	**1.50 (1.12-2.00)**	1.01 (0.85-1.20)	1 (ref)	**0.89 (0.81-0.98)**	**0.86 (0.75-0.98)**	1.03 (0.85-1.25)
Model 4	**1.44 (1.08-1.92)**	1.02 (0.85-1.21)	1 (ref)	**0.90 (0.81-1.00)**	0.88 (0.77-1.02)	1.04 (0.84-1.28)
CVD mortality						
Model 1	**1.80 (1.14-2.85)**	1.26 (0.84-1.90)	1 (ref)	1.16 (0.84-1.59)	1.22 (0.92-1.62)	1.39 (0.99-1.96)
Model 2	**1.60 (1.02-2.52)**	1.24 (0.83-1.86)	1 (ref)	1.18 (0.86-1.61)	1.22 (0.93-1.61)	1.39 (1.00-1.93)
Model 3	**1.59 (1.01-2.52)**	1.24 (0.83-1.86)	1 (ref)	1.17 (0.85-1.59)	1.22 (0.92-1.61)	**1.40 (1.01-1.95)**
Model 4	1.54 (0.97-2.44)	1.28 (0.85-1.93)	1 (ref)	1.18 (0.86-1.63)	1.27 (0.96-1.68)	**1.42 (1.01-2.00)**

CHD mortality						
Model 1	1.34 (0.71-2.53)	1.31 (0.84-2.03)	1 (ref)	1.20 (0.86-1.69)	1.23 (0.89-1.71)	**1.56 (1.02-2.38)**
Model 2	1.15 (0.62-2.15)	1.28 (0.84-1.97)	1 (ref)	1.22 (0.88-1.71)	1.24 (0.90-1.71)	**1.55 (1.02-2.35)**
Model 3	1.15 (0.62-2.13)	1.28 (0.83-1.97)	1 (ref)	1.22 (0.87-1.70)	1.24 (0.89-1.71)	**1.56 (1.03-2.37)**
Model 4	1.08 (0.58-2.04)	1.32 (0.85-2.04)	1 (ref)	1.24 (0.87-1.75)	1.30 (0.93-1.81)	**1.59 (1.03-2.44)**
Stroke mortality						
Model 1	**3.48 (1.39-8.71)**	1.12 (0.50-2.49)	1 (ref)	1.02 (0.59-1.74)	1.19 (0.75-1.86)	0.88 (0.47-1.66)
Model 2	**3.31 (1.37-8.00)**	1.10 (0.51-2.37)	1 (ref)	1.02 (0.61-1.72)	1.14 (0.73-1.80)	0.87 (0.46-1.62)
Model 3	**3.34 (1.39-8.02)**	1.10 (0.51-2.38)	1 (ref)	1.01 (0.60-1.68)	1.13 (0.71-1.79)	0.89 (0.48-1.64)
Model 4	**3.63 (1.58-8.38)**	1.16 (0.55-2.48)	1 (ref)	1.01 (0.59-1.72)	1.14 (0.72-1.81)	0.89 (0.46-1.72)

Values are hazard ratio (95% confidence interval) and are weighted.

Model 1: adjusted for age, sex, and race/ethnicity.

Model 2: model 1+ education level, marital status, family income level, smoking status, alcohol intake, and physical activity.

Model 3: model 2+ C-reactive protein level.

Model 4: model 3+ BMI, hypertension, diabetes, respiratory diseases, liver diseases, and chronic kidney disease.