**Supplementary Table 6. Age-standardized participant characteristics according to total cholesterol level and status of statin use in the pooled NHS and HPFS**a

| **NHS+HPFS (Pooled)** | **Total cholesterol level** |
| --- | --- |
| **<200** **mg/dL** | **≥200 to <240** **mg/dL** | **≥240** **mg/dL** |
| **Non-user of statins**  | **User of statins** | **Non-user of statins**  | **User of statins** | **Non-user of statins**  | **User of statins** |
| Age, years | 66.6 (10.1) | 74 (8) | 66.3 (9.3) | 71.4 (8.4) | 65.8 (8.9) | 69.4 (8.7) |
| White, % | 96.9 | 97.0 | 97.1 | 96.9 | 97.4 | 96.5 |
| Body mass index b, kg/m² | 25.8 (4.9) | 27.1 (5.0) | 26.0 (4.8) | 27.1 (5.0) | 26.1 (4.7) | 26.9 (4.8) |
| Physical activity c, METs-hours/week | 25.1 (29.1) | 23.3 (27.7) | 22.9 (26.4) | 20.7 (25.7) | 21 (25.6) | 18.9 (23.6) |
| Past smoking, % | 44.1 | 47.6 | 45.9 | 48.6 | 46.3 | 48.0 |
| Current smoking, % | 6.7 | 5.1 | 6.7 | 6.2 | 7.5 | 7.0 |
| Pack-years of smoking d | 12.9 (26.9) | 15.2 (37.3) | 12.4 (22.8) | 14 (27.7) | 13.3 (22.7) | 14 (25.8) |
| Type 2 diabetes, % | 5.2 | 15.3 | 4.1 | 11.1 | 4.2 | 10.0 |
| Ever use statins, % | 0.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| Total duration of statin use | 0.0 (0.0) | 7.2 (4.8) | 0.0 (0.0) | 5.5 (4.1) | 0.0 (0.0) | 4.5 (3.2) |
| Family history of colorectal cancer, % | 16.0 | 14.9 | 16.9 | 15.9 | 17.6 | 17.3 |
| Screening colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy, % | 49.4 | 65.3 | 47.0 | 56.3 | 39.9 | 48.7 |
| Polyps, % | 9.0 | 10.0 | 9.6 | 9.8 | 10.2 | 9.6 |
| Cumulative average dose of aspirin use, tablets/week  | 2.5 (3.1) | 2.9 (2.6) | 2.6 (3.0) | 3.0 (2.9) | 2.8 (3.2) | 3.1 (3.0) |
| Multivitamin use, % | 57.2 | 63.9 | 56.4 | 61.3 | 52.2 | 56.6 |
| Total folate intake, ug/day | 671 (332) | 759 (349) | 640.8 (318) | 706 (331) | 594 (307) | 658 (322) |
| Total vitamin D, IU/day | 555 (425) | 658 (502) | 533.9 (405) | 608 (469) | 489 (369) | 548 (425) |
| Total calcium intake, mg/day | 1268 (613) | 1339 (628) | 1246 (605) | 1319 (627) | 1179 (585) | 1249 (616) |
| AHEI | 52.2 (11.4) | 54.1 (11.2) | 51.6 (11.1) | 52.9 (11.0) | 50.7 (10.9) | 51.6 (10.7) |
| Alcohol, g/day | 7.1 (11.6) | 7.2 (11.8) | 7.4 (12.1) | 7.2 (12.1) | 7.5 (12.8) | 6.6 (11.7) |
| Red or processed meat, servings/week | 5.0 (4.0) | 4.8 (3.8) | 4.8 (3.7) | 4.6 (3.6) | 4.6 (3.7) | 4.5 (3.6) |
| Total fiber, g/day | 21.7 (7.1) | 22.1 (6.8) | 20.9 (6.4) | 21.1 (6.3) | 20.3 (6.3) | 20.6 (6.1) |
| Total calorie intake, kcal/day | 1821 (595) | 1753 (599) | 1790 (570) | 1729 (573) | 1772 (562) | 1729 (567) |

Abbreviations: NHS, Nurses’ Health Study; HPFS, Health Professionals Follow-up Study; kg, kilogram; m, meter; METs, metabolic equivalent tasks; ug, microgram; IU, international unit; mg, milligram; AHEI, Alternate Healthy Eating Index score; g, gram; kcal, kilocalorie.

a Updated information throughout follow-up (NHS: 1994-2016; HPFS: 1990-2014) was used to calculate the mean (SD) for continuous variables and percentage for categorical variables. All variables are age-standardized except age.

b Body mass index was calculated as weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in meters.

c Weekly energy expenditure in MET-hours/week from recreational and leisure time physical activity.

d Cumulative among smokers.