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**Assessment of a non-physician screening program for hypertension and cardiovascular risk in community pharmacies**

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Corresponding Author: Dr. Marco Pappaccogli, M.D.

Corresponding Author's Institution:

First Author: Marco Pappaccogli, M.D.

Order of Authors: Marco Pappaccogli, M.D.; Lorenzo Ravetto Enri; Elisa  
Perlo; Silvia Di Monaco; Irene Pignata; Francesca Baratta; Franco Rabbia;  
Massimo Mana; Franco Veglio; Paola Brusa

Abstract: Background and Aims. The strategic role of prevention in  
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subjects. .

Methods and Results. 2731 costumers participated to the screening  
program, answering to a questionnaire about personal cardiovascular risk  
and measuring their BP with an Omron HEM 1040-E. Since no threshold for  
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and hypertensives on major cardiovascular risk factors.

Results. According to the proposed cut-offs, prevalence of hypertension  
was respectively of 31%, 45% and 59.5%, and it increased among younger  
subjects (31-65 y.) when the lowest cut-offs were applied. High BP was  
found in a large percentage of subjects self-declared on-/not on-  
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hypertensives than in normotensives.

Conclusions. Our findings demonstrated that a community pharmacy-based  
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1 **ASSESSMENT OF A NON-PHYSICIAN SCREENING PROGRAM FOR HYPERTENSION**  
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3

4 PAPPACCOGLI<sup>a\*</sup>M., RAVETTO ENRI<sup>b\*</sup> L., PERLO<sup>a</sup> E., DI MONACO<sup>a</sup> S., PIGNATA<sup>b</sup> I.,  
5 BARATTA<sup>b</sup> F., RABBIA<sup>a</sup> F., MANA<sup>c</sup> M., VEGLIO<sup>a#</sup> F., BRUSA<sup>b#</sup> P..

6 <sup>a</sup>Division of Internal Medicine and Hypertension, Department of Medical Sciences, University of Turin, Italy.

7 <sup>b</sup>Department of Pharmaceutical Science and Technology, University of Turin, Italy.

8 <sup>c</sup>FederfarmaPiemonte, Turin, Italy.

9 \*M.P. and L. R. E. equally contributed to the study.

10 #F.V. and P.B. equally contributed to the study.

11

12 All the authors take responsibility for all aspects of the reliability and freedom from bias of the data presented and  
13 their discussed interpretation.

14

15 **Corresponding author:** Dr. Marco Pappaccogli MD, Division of Internal Medicine and Hypertension  
16 Unit, Department of Medical Sciences, University of Turin, Via Genova 3, 10126, Turin, Italy.

17 E-mail address: [marcopappaccogli90@gmail.com](mailto:marcopappaccogli90@gmail.com)

18 Phone: +39 011 633 6959; fax: +39 011 633 6931

19

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32

33 **Abstract**

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49 BP values (presumptive hypertensives). Prevalence of CV risk factors was higher in hypertensives than  
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51 **Conclusions.** Our findings demonstrated that a community pharmacy-based screening is feasible and  
52 attracts the interests of many subjects, improving awareness on their BP status. The screening was also  
53 showed to be useful in order to detect potentially uncontrolled and/or suspected new hypertensives,  
54 especially among young adults, to refer to general practitioners for confirmatory diagnosis or further  
55 evaluation.

56

57 **Keywords:** Hypertension, screening, community pharmacies, blood pressure, cardiovascular risk.

58

59 **Abbreviations list**

60 CKD = Chronic Kidney Disease; CV = Cardiovascular; BP = Blood Pressure; HR = Heart Rate; SD =  
61 Standard Deviation

62

63

## 64 **1. Introduction**

65 Arterial Hypertension is one of the most important risk factors for cardiovascular (CV) and chronic  
66 kidney disease and affects more than 20% of the world's population (almost one billion people) [1]. Its  
67 effect on damaging vessels and target organs is well known [2], nevertheless it has been estimated to be  
68 responsible for more than 7 million deaths for year and 90 million disability-adjusted life-years [3].

69 Considering the magnitude of these data, prevention plays a strategic role. At present, however,  
70 hypertension is screened routinely mainly by primary care physicians and, in recent years, some events,  
71 such as the World Hypertension Day or the World Heart Day promoted by international scientific  
72 societies, have been created in order to "Promote and ensure capacity and accountability of the health  
73 system to conduct surveillance and monitoring, and respond appropriately to blood pressure levels" [4].  
74 During these events, specialists and health personnel in the field of hypertension measure blood  
75 pressure (BP) and provide information on hypertension and other CV risk factors to all individuals  
76 willing to participate. Along this line, a systematic review demonstrated that community-based non-  
77 physician screening or self-screening programs may lead to new hypertension diagnosis or new  
78 antihypertensive therapy in 44% of subjects that have been referred to primary care immediately after  
79 the screening program. However, this systematic review included studies, which are poorly comparable  
80 for high methodology heterogeneity [5]; therefore further and more standardized studies are needed to  
81 clarify the role of these alternative screening programs. In this view, community pharmacies, for their  
82 widespread diffusion in the territory and accessibility, may represent a valid partner to the healthcare  
83 system for hypertension management, as already recognized by the World Health Organization [6].

84 **The aims of this survey were (i) to assess the feasibility of a non-physicians pharmacy-based screening**  
85 **program on hypertension in the North-West of Italy and (ii) to describe the BP status and the CV risks**  
86 **of subjects who volunteered to participate to the campaign, by using a validated questionnaire.**

## 87 **2. Methods**

88 The project was promoted in northwest of Italy (Piedmont, Liguria and Aosta Valley) in 2017 by the  
89 Department of Science and Technology of Drugs and Medical Sciences of the University of Torino and  
90 Federfarma Piemonte (Turin, Italy). The project, addressed to pharmacists willing to take part of it on a  
91 voluntary basis, was designed into two parts: the first one consisted in a 6-hours training course  
92 addressed to the involved pharmacists on the correct BP measurement technique, hypertension

93 epidemiology and CV risk factors management [7]; the second part took place in the pharmacies,  
94 where the trained pharmacists administered an anonymous questionnaire to their costumers aged 18  
95 years or older who accepted to participate in the study and gave a support to the measurement of  
96 participants BP and heart rate (HR) values.

97 94 community pharmacies of Piedmont, Liguria and Aosta Valley took part to the project. From May  
98 to July 2017, 2731 customers participated to the study on a voluntary basis. All subjects participating to  
99 the survey were informed on the characteristics and the purpose of the study. No personal data were  
100 collected and there was no way to trace back the answers to a specific responder. Individuals were  
101 asked to answer to an anonymous questionnaire on personal CV risk, validated by the arterial  
102 Hypertension Italian Society during the World Hypertension Day [8] and already used in previous  
103 published studies [9-10], and then the trained pharmacists gave a support to the measurement of their  
104 BP values, following the European Society of Hypertension (ESH) standards [2] (3 consecutive BP  
105 readings after 5 min rest). The geographical location of the pharmacies, generally very far from each  
106 other, made unlikely that the same subject would be screened twice; furthermore, before starting  
107 submitting the questionnaire, pharmacists asked costumers if they had already taken part in the project  
108 and, if so, the subjects were excluded.

109 The mean of the 3 measurements was used as BP and HR reference values. Each pharmacy was  
110 provided of the same validated device, Omron HEM 1040-E (Omron Corporation, Kyoto, Japan), an  
111 upper arm BP oscillometric monitor for measuring BP and HR, with an adjustable cuff angle correcting  
112 the body posture, which tends to be stooped [11]. Demographic and CV risk factors data, as well as  
113 information on people knowledge about hypertension and its risk, were collected through the  
114 questionnaire. All data about CV risk factors (diabetes, chronic kidney disease, hypertension and  
115 dyslipidaemia) and other related comorbidities (cardiac ischemic and cerebrovascular events) were  
116 self-reported. Anamnesis and reported CV risk factors data were collected as categorical variables.  
117 Pharmacists reported the questionnaire replies and the BP and HR values on an online platform,  
118 accessible through personal credentials. No information about individual's drug treatment was  
119 collected during the screening: in fact, neither the questionnaire nor this project had the attempt to  
120 provide such data.

121 Currently, there are no clear indications about how the BP values measured in pharmacy are related to  
122 office or out-of-office BP and how these measurements should be used in the management of patients

123 with hypertension. Therefore, we adopted 3 different cut-off **in order to assess BP status and identify**  
124 **patients suspected to be hypertensive or uncontrolled hypertensive at pharmacy-based BP**  
125 **measurements:** BP  $\geq$  140/90 mmHg corresponding to office BP threshold [2], BP  $\geq$  135/85 mmHg  
126 corresponding to daytime hypertension cut-off of Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring [2], that a  
127 recent meta-analysis identified as higher sensitivity threshold for community pharmacy BP  
128 readings[12]; finally, BP  $\geq$  130/80 mmHg, the threshold proposed by the 2017 ACC/AHA guidelines  
129 [13]. We analysed the characteristics of the general population and those of the hypertensive subgroups  
130 selected according to the 3 different cut-offs.

131

### 132 *2.1 Statistical analysis*

133 Statistical analysis were carried out using STATA<sup>®</sup>14 (StataCorp. 2015. Stata Statistical Software:  
134 Release 14. College Station, TX: StataCorp LP). Continuous variables are expressed as mean $\pm$  standard  
135 deviation (SD), and comparisons were performed with a Student *t*-test. Categorical data are expressed  
136 as absolute number and/or percentage, comparisons were performed with the McNemar test and  
137 correlations were assessed by using the Pearson's chi-square test. Statistical significance of 0.05 was  
138 fixed for all hypothesis tests.

139

## 140 **3. Results**

141 The population consisted of 2731 individuals, predominantly women (58%), aged  $58 \pm 15.9$  years  
142 (range from 18 to 95 years). Dividing the sample into age categories: 6% of subjects were 18-30 years;  
143 59% were 30-65 years; 35% were older than 65 years (Table 1).

144 Among CV risk factors, 757 subjects (28%) were current smokers, 971 (36%) had a body mass index  
145 (BMI)  $> 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>, 920 (34%) referred a positive history of dyslipidaemia and 344 (13%) of diabetes.  
146 Positive family history for CV events was reported by 28% of subjects. Regarding the complications of  
147 hypertension, 4% of **subjects** reported a previous chronic kidney disease (CKD), 8% **reported a**  
148 previous cardiac ischemic events and 4% a previous stroke/transient ischemic attack.

149 Mean systolic and diastolic BP values were  $130/79 \pm 18/10$  mmHg and mean HR was  $73 \pm 10$  bpm.

150 According to the proposed BP targets (140/90, 135/85 and 130/80 mmHg), high BP values were found  
151 respectively in 31%, 45% and 59.5% of the individuals (Fig. 1).

152 In our sample 1126 (41%) subjects declared to be pharmacologically treated hypertensives, 159 (6%)  
153 untreated hypertensives, 1130 (41%) normotensives and 316 (12%) affirmed to be not aware of their  
154 own BP values (Fig. 2). According to 140/90 mmHg cut-off high BP values were found respectively in  
155 10%, 46% and 66% of normotensives, treated hypertensives and untreated hypertensives, while  
156 according to the 130/80 mmHg threshold this percentage raised respectively to 39%, 76% and 85.5%.  
157 In patients not aware of their own BP values, high BP was found in 35% and 63% when using  
158 respectively 140/90 and 130/80 mmHg cut off (Fig. 3).

159 Considering hypertensives all individuals reporting a diagnosis of hypertension at the moment of the  
160 screening (both controlled and uncontrolled at the pharmacy measurement) and presumptive  
161 hypertensives all subjects with high BP values among those who self-declared normotensives or not  
162 aware of their own BP status, the percentage of subjects with high BP values increased. Indeed, the  
163 prevalence of hypertension in our population raised from 47% to 55% and 70.5% when using  
164 respectively 140/90, 135/85 and 130/80 mmHg cut off (Fig. 4).

165 Dividing the population into 3 age subgroups (18-30 years, 31-65 years, over65 years) the major  
166 amount of subjects with high BP values was in the over 65 group (51%, for a total of 428 subjects)  
167 when the 140/90 mmHg target was applied, while, using the lower targets of 135/85 and 130/80  
168 mmHg, the percentage of high BP was higher in the 31-65 age range (53%; n=651 and 55%; n=894  
169 respectively).

170 The number of overweight subjects was significantly higher among patients with raised BP values  
171 when compared to normotensives, whatever threshold was applied (49% vs. 29.5%, 44% vs. 28%,  
172 42.5% vs. 25%,  $p<0.001$  respectively for 140/90, 135/85 and 130/80 mmHg).

173 Prevalence of dyslipidaemia was significantly higher in patients with increased BP values than in  
174 normotensives (45%, vs. 28.5%, 42% vs. 27%, and 39.5% vs. 25% according to the 3 different BP  
175 targets,  $p<0.001$ ). Prevalence of both diabetes and CKD was also higher in those with high BP  
176 measurements. In particular, more than 17% of patients with raised BP values were diabetic (according  
177 the different BP cut-offs: 21% vs. 9%, 19% vs. 7.5% and 17% vs. 6%,  $p<0.001$ ) and, among the same  
178 group of subjects, the number of individuals with CKD was almost twice whatever the BP target was  
179 used (6% vs. 3%, 5% vs. 3%, 5% vs. 2%  $p<0.001$ ). Also the percentage of subjects with previous  
180 cardiac ischemic event, among those who reported high BP values at the pharmacy based  
181 measurements, was almost twice than normotensives, and this data did not differ with the different BP

182 targets (13% vs. 6.5%, 11% vs. 6%, 10% vs. 5%  $p < 0.001$ ). The same results were observed for  
183 previous cerebrovascular events, with the exception that it became not significant when using the target  
184 of 135/85 mmHg ( $p = 0.005$  for 140/90 mmHg target;  $p = 0.057$  for 135/85 mmHg target;  $p = 0.014$   
185 for 130/80 mmHg target). Furthermore no statistically differences were found when hypertensives and  
186 normotensives were compared about history of hypertension (30% vs. 27%,  $p = 0.185$ ; 29% vs. 27%  
187  $p = 0.471$ ; 29% vs. 26.5%  $p = 0.183$ ).

188 Finally, 1023 subjects (37.5%) indicated the pharmacy as the most common place where they usually  
189 measure BP and normotensives seemed to be more accustomed than hypertensives to measure BP in  
190 pharmacy (40% vs. 31%, 42% vs. 32%, 45% vs. 33% according to the 3 different BP targets,  $p < 0.001$ ),  
191 especially among individuals with higher educational levels (27% of subjects measuring BP in  
192 pharmacies had a university degree or more).

193

#### 194 **4. Discussion**

195 To our knowledge this is the first extensive hypertension screening program conducted in community  
196 pharmacies in Italy by collecting data from a large sample in the Northern Italy, including rural as well  
197 as urban areas and using a unique protocol.

198 **First, we demonstrated that a pharmacy-based non-physicians screening is feasible and very attractive,**  
199 **as more than two thousands seven hundreds subjects were voluntarily enrolled in a short period of time**  
200 **(3 months). More than a half of the participating subjects (59%) were young adults (age range 30-65**  
201 **years), thus allowing focusing on a subset of population that, for many reasons (no free time available,**  
202 **working duties mismatching with physician's timetables), is likely to less attend general practitioner's**  
203 **consultations, remaining less screened for CV risk factors, such as hypertension, which is often**  
204 **asymptomatic. In fact, unlike general practitioners, community pharmacies may represent, especially**  
205 **for working adults, an easier accessible site, where being correctly educated on BP measurement,**  
206 **having their BP measured and, thus, improving their awareness on BP status.**

207 **Second, in** our project, we tried to overcome some limitations of BP measurement in pharmacies: the  
208 preliminary training courses on hypertension as a risk factor, its management and the BP measurement  
209 methods allowed to train the pharmacists and reduce possible bias in the second part of the study; the  
210 use of a single validated device and standardised protocols for measuring BP allowed to reduce  
211 heterogeneity and bias during the BP measurement [14]. However, the lack of recommended BP target

212 for this out-of-office measurement technique makes unclear how to use community pharmacies' BP  
213 values for hypertension diagnosis and management. A recent meta-analysis [12] suggested the adoption  
214 of the daytime ambulatory blood pressure monitoring thresholds of 135/85 mmHg for detecting  
215 patients with raised BP in pharmacies; however this finding needs to be supported by more adequately  
216 powered and methodologically consistent studies (particularly regarding BP measurement technique  
217 and devices).

218 **Third, despite these limitations and the undeniable need of a confirmatory diagnosis of hypertension**  
219 **with either office or other out-of-office techniques (i.e. ambulatory BP monitoring), in our study we**  
220 **decided to assess the prevalence of hypertension** by using three different cut-offs: 130/80 and 140/90  
221 mmHg, proposed by the new American and European guidelines [2-13] and 135/85 mmHg suggested  
222 by the recent meta-analysis [12].

223 Our results showed a high rate of hypertension presumptive diagnosis, to be confirmed by further  
224 office and/or out-of-office measurements, with a percentage ranging from 10 to 39% among those self-  
225 declared normotensives and from 35 to 62% among those not aware of their own BP status, according  
226 to different BP thresholds. In this way, the pharmacy-guided screening campaign allowed focusing on a  
227 suspect of hypertension in individuals that otherwise would have been considered strictly  
228 normotensives and not possibly adequately followed and treated. Even the BP control was  
229 unsatisfactory: uncontrolled BP levels were found in 66% and 76% of treated hypertensive patients  
230 according to 140/90 and 130/80 mmHg cut off respectively. These data, according with those reported  
231 in previous studies [15 -16], showed that BP control is still inadequate, possibly as result of many  
232 factors such as inadequate therapy, incorrect BP monitoring, clinicians' inertia, poor drug adherence  
233 and low awareness of cardiovascular risk among individuals [17]. Notably patients with raised BP  
234 values, whatever BP target applied, reported other major CV risk factors in comparison to  
235 normotensive subjects.

236 Moreover, we found that, using the lower cut-off, the percentage of individuals with raised BP was  
237 higher among those aged 31-65 years. Subjects belonging to this relatively younger age group are  
238 generally healthy and have few reasons to refer to their general practitioners, being often unaware of  
239 their own BP status, although, their BP is often around of the "normal-high" BP range, with the  
240 consequent need of a closer control. Therefore, for these subjects, community pharmacies, more  
241 frequently attended than clinical practitioners, could represent a place where easily measuring BP and

242 eventually detecting hypertension, which should be then confirmed after referring to the general  
243 practitioner. At the same time, in this age group, CV risk is mostly determined by modifiable risk  
244 factors, on which potential benefits deriving from lifestyle intervention and early pharmacological  
245 treatment may be greater than in older people, as demonstrated in many studies [8-18]. By contrast, the  
246 same rate of undiagnosed or unknown presumptive hypertension among subjects of the same age  
247 affected by other comorbidities may not be found, probably because they are already under medical  
248 follow-up, even if most of them remain not at target, as demonstrated in other reports [19].

249 Our results showed that non-physicians screening program based in community pharmacies are feasible  
250 and largely attractive for the population, especially among young adults. Furthermore, an important  
251 proportion of subjects attending community pharmacies shows BP values higher than currently  
252 established cut-offs. Despite their utility, community pharmacies cannot substitute clinician  
253 consultations and physician office and/or out-of-office BP measurements and pharmacy-based  
254 evaluation should be included in a well-defined integrated program of diagnosis and follow up. In this  
255 perspective, community pharmacies, with a “next door” availability, could play a crucial role as  
256 “sentinels” of hypertension, firstly educating the costumers on how to properly measure BP and modify  
257 CV risk factors, and secondly detecting presumptive hypertensive subjects, especially among young  
258 adults, to be referred to general practitioners for a confirmatory diagnosis. Finally, the “community  
259 pharmacy model” can therefore be of potential interest in the health policies for the management of  
260 chronic diseases.

261

#### 262 4.1 Study limitations

263 A sampling bias could be occurred because of the recruitment method (voluntary participation of each  
264 subjects to the study). Furthermore some of the data may not be accurate enough as a result of self-  
265 reported information. No data about home BP values or ambulatory BP monitoring readings were  
266 available: therefore a comparison between these values and those collected in the pharmacies cannot be  
267 performed. The design of the study did not include a medical follow-up to establish the degree of  
268 agreement between hypertension presumptive diagnosis according to community pharmacies BP  
269 measurements and office/out-of-office ones, and whether the awareness of own BP status could  
270 improve its management. In future studies, we will involve general practitioners in order to offer a path

271 in which pharmacists could act as “sentinels”, identifying people at risk and directing them to the  
272 general practitioner that will evaluate the more appropriate therapeutic intervention, if needed.

273

#### 274 4.2. Conclusion

275 This is the first pilot project conducted with a rigorous methodology on cardiovascular area in the  
276 attempt to involve community pharmacies in an extensive and standardized screening program for  
277 hypertension . Other previous projects involving community pharmacies on chronic diseases, not only  
278 in the same Italian regions, have reported interesting results [20-22]. Our survey clearly demonstrated  
279 the feasibility of a pharmacy-based non-physicians screening on hypertension, which resulted also very  
280 attractive, especially among young adults.

281 Currently, evidences of effectiveness of community-based BP screenings by non-physicians are very  
282 poor and they cannot be recommended [23]. Further and more extensive surveys studies, with the  
283 involvement of general practitioners, are needed in order to confirm the potential aid that community  
284 pharmacies could provide to physicians on hypertension detection and management and on CV risk  
285 reduction.

286

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291

292

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386 **Tables**

	N = 2731	≥140/90 mmHg <sup>2</sup>	≥135/85 mmHg <sup>2</sup>	≥130/80 mmHg <sup>11</sup>
<b>Patients with raised BP values</b>		<b>n=841</b>	<b>n=1234</b>	<b>n=1626</b>
<b>Males (%)</b>	1161 (42.5%)	448 (53.3%)	613 (49.6%)	794 (48.8%)
<b>Age:</b>				
○ <b>18-30 years (%)</b>	152 (5.6%)	5 (0.6%)	18 (1.5%)	33 (2.0%)
○ <b>31-65 years (%)</b>	1613 (59.1%)	408 (48.5%)	651 (52.7%)	894 (55.0%)
○ <b>&gt; 65 years (%)</b>	966 (35.4%)	428 (50.9%)	566 (45.8%)	699 (43.0%)
<b>Body Mass Index &gt; 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (%)</b>	971 (35.6%)	414 (49.2%)	548 (44.4%)	691 (42.5%)
<b>Current smokers (%)</b>	757 (27.7%)	256 (30.4%)	369 (29.9%)	479 (29.5%)
<b>Dyslipidaemia (%)</b>	920 (34%)	381 (45.3%)	521 (42.2%)	643 (39.5%)
<b>Diabetes mellitus (%)</b>	344 (12.6%)	179 (21.3%)	231 (18.7%)	281 (17.3%)
<b>Chronic Kidney Disease (%)</b>	98 (3.6%)	49 (5.8%)	59 (4.8%)	78 (4.8%)
<b>Cardiovascular events (%)</b>	229 (8.4%)	107 (12.7%)	136 (11.0%)	170 (10.5%)
<b>Cerebrovascular events (%)</b>	101 (3.7%)	44 (5.2%)	55 (4.5%)	72 (4.4%)
<b>Family history of hypertension (%)</b>	762 (27.9%)	249 (29.6%)	353 (28.6%)	469 (28.8%)

387 **Table 1. Characteristics of general population and of the subgroups of patients with raised BP**  
 388 **values** according to different cut-offs.

389 Values are expressed as absolute number and percentage. Raised BP was defined by systolic and/or diastolic BP  
 390 equal or higher than the cut-off.

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397 **Figures Legends**

398 **Figure 1. Percentage of subjects with high BP values according to different cut-offs\*.**

399 BP values were measured in pharmacy.

400 \* Cut-offs:  $\geq 140/90$  mmHg office BP threshold for diagnosing of hypertension according to ESH/ESC 2013 guidelines<sup>2</sup>,  $\geq 135/85$   
401 mmHg daytime ABPM threshold for diagnosing of hypertension according to ESH/ESC 2013 guidelines<sup>2</sup>,  $\geq 130/80$  mmHg new  
402 office BP threshold for diagnosing of hypertension according to ACC/AHA 2017 guidelines<sup>10</sup>.

403 Values are expressed as percentages.

404

405 **Figure 2. Awareness of hypertension at screening.**

406 Values are expressed as percentages.

407

408 **Figure 3. Prevalence of uncontrolled hypertension (between treated and untreated patients) and**  
409 **of presumptive hypertension (between self-declared normotensives and those not aware of their**  
410 **own BP status) after the screening.**

411 Values are expressed as percentages.

412

413 **Figure 4. Prevalence of hypertension before and after the screening.**

414 °Percentage of subjects with a diagnosis of hypertension (both on treatment and not on treatment) before the screening.

415 \*Percentage of subjects with a diagnosis of hypertension after the screening, according to the two different cut-offs proposed <sup>2,10</sup>,  
416 including both subjects with a previous diagnosis of hypertension (both controlled and uncontrolled) and subjects with high BP  
417 values among those self-declared normotensives or not aware of their own BP status (presumptive hypertensives).

418 Cut-offs:  $\geq 140/90$  mmHg office BP threshold for diagnosing of hypertension according to ESH/ESC 2013 guidelines <sup>2</sup>,  $\geq 130/80$   
419 mmHg new office BP threshold for diagnosing of hypertension according to ACC/AHA 2017 guidelines <sup>10</sup>.

420 Values are expressed as percentages.

421

## Tables

	N = 2731	$\geq 140/90$ mmHg <sup>2</sup>	$\geq 135/85$ mmHg <sup>2</sup>	$\geq 130/80$ mmHg <sup>11</sup>
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**Table 1. Characteristics of general population and hypertensive subgroups according to different cut-offs.**

Values are expressed as absolute number and percentage. Hypertension was defined by systolic and/or diastolic BP equal or higher than the cut-off.

Figure 1  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

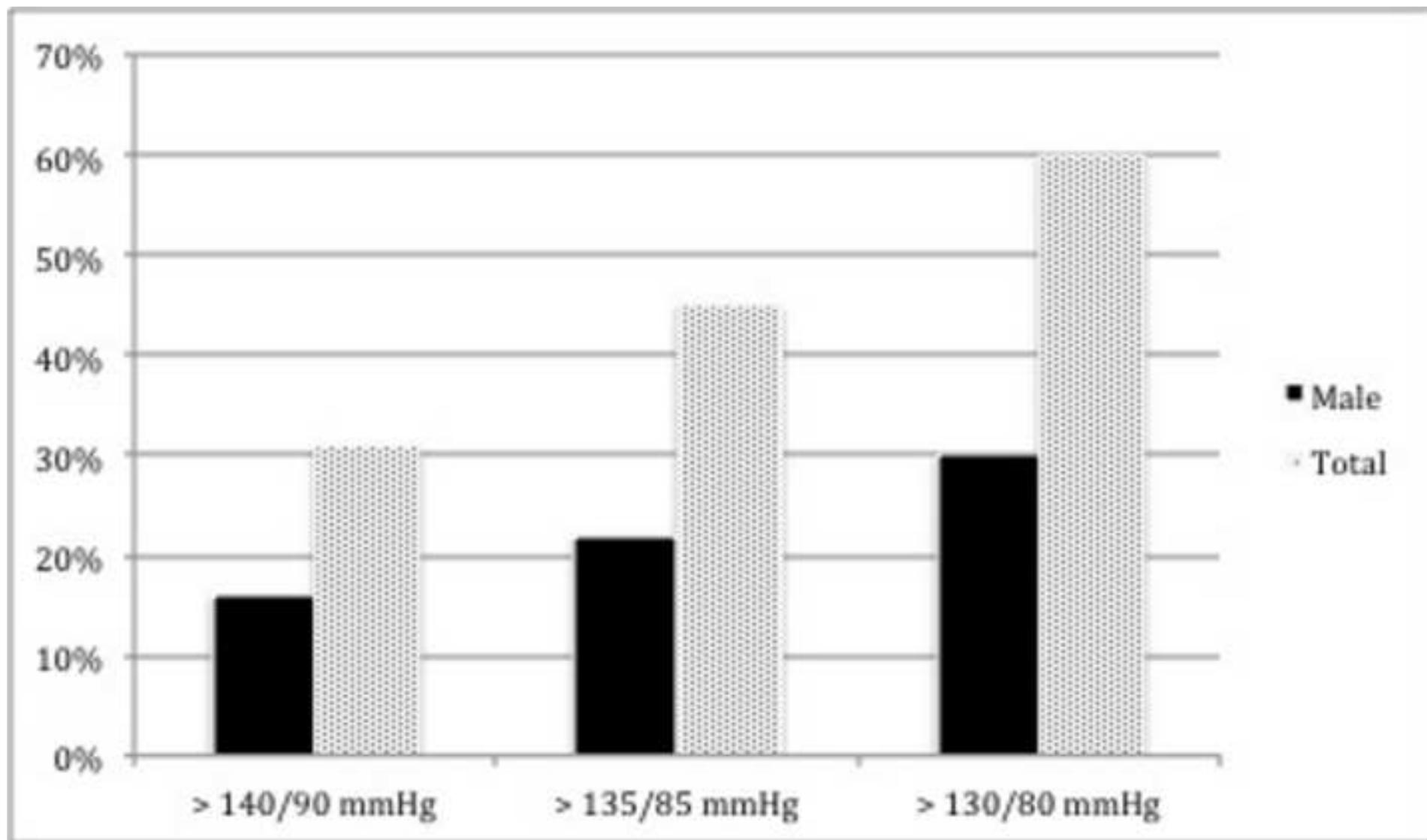


Figure 2

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- Hypertensives on treatment
- Hypertensives not on treatment
- Self-declared normotensives
- Not aware of BP status

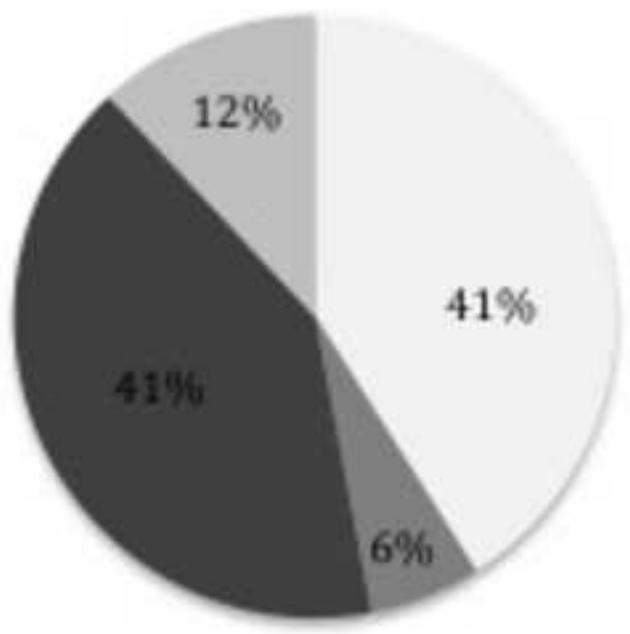


Figure 3  
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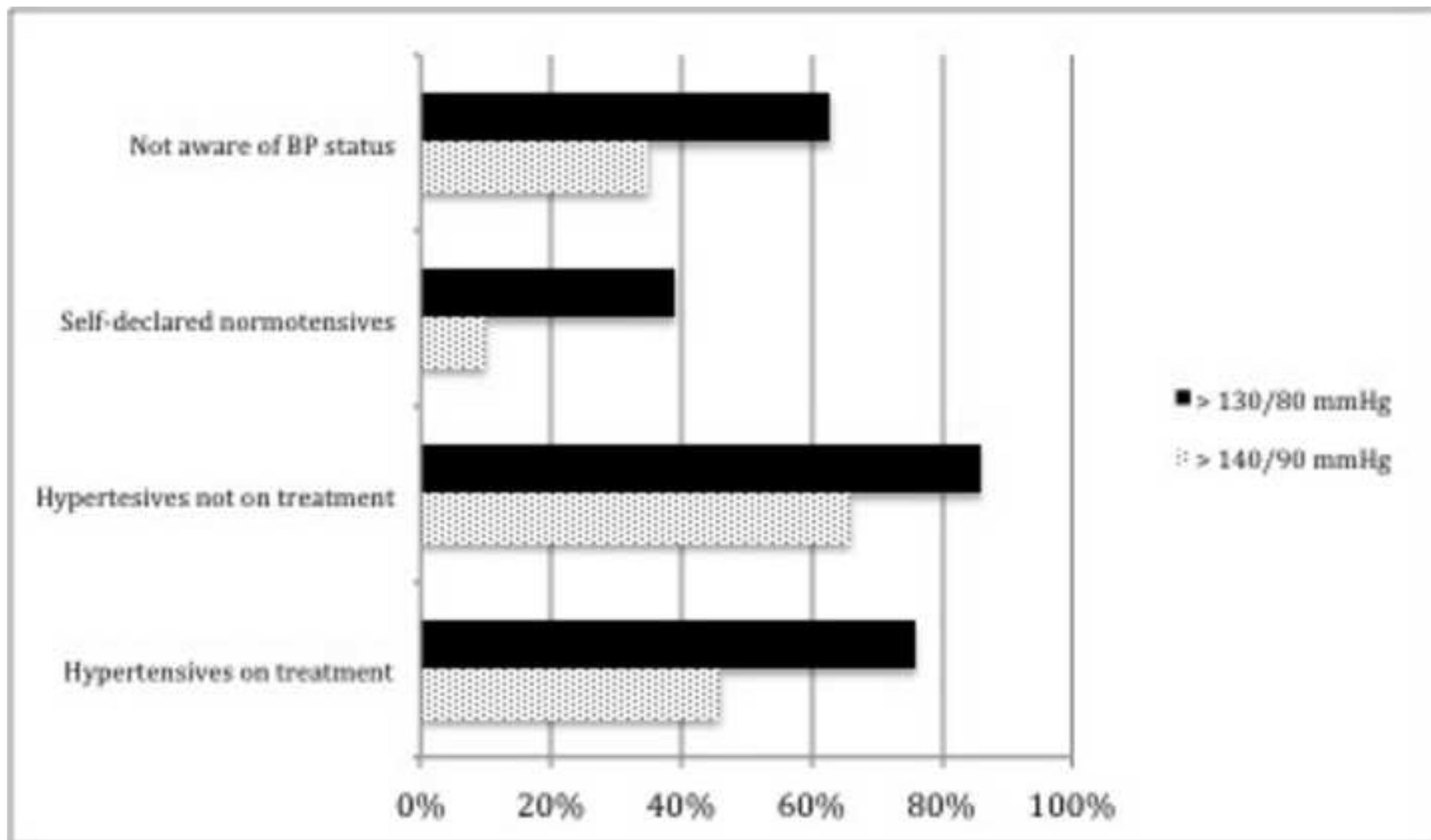
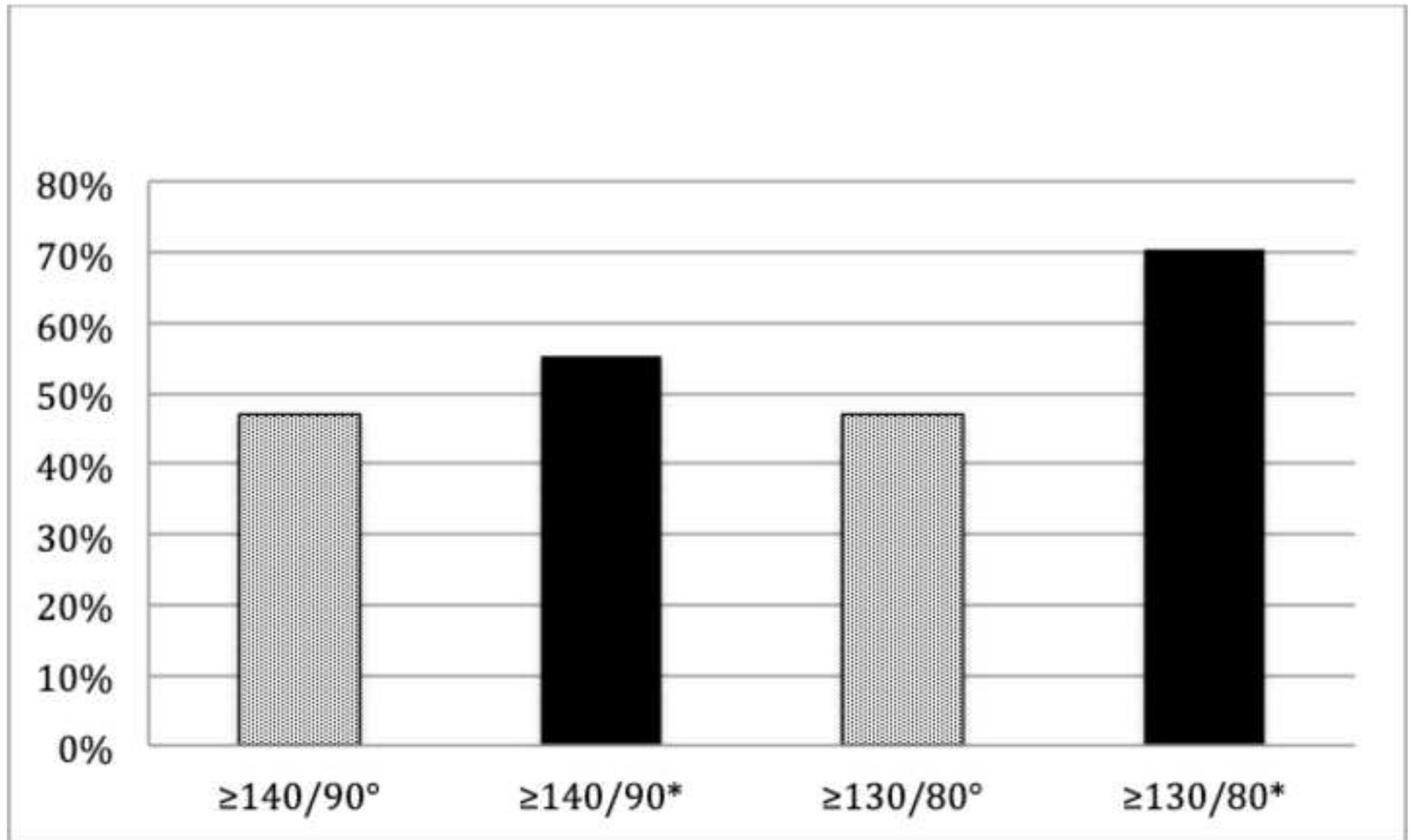


Figure 4 -Revision

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**How often do you measure blood pressure?**

daily  weekly  monthly  annually

**Where do you measure blood pressure?** (more than one possible answer)

At general practitioner  At home  At a pharmacy

## Highlights

- A non-physician screening program based in community pharmacies is easily feasible
- A pharmacy-based screening program is attractive for subjects, especially for young adults.
- Non-physician screening programs could underline how hypertension is undiagnosed
- Non-physician screening programs could underline how BP control is unsatisfactory
- Screening programs allow to detect new presumptive hypertensives among apparently healthy individuals