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Prevalence and distribution of hypertension and related risk factors in Jilin Province, China 2015: a cross-sectional study

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ABSTRACT

Objective This study aimed to investigate the prevalence and distribution of hypertension and its related factors in Jilin province, China.

Design A cross-sectional study in four cities and four rural counties in Jilin as part of a national Chinese study.

Participants and setting A total of 15 206 participants who were ≥15 years old and were selected using a stratified multistage random sampling method.

Main outcome measures The prevalence of hypertension.

Results The prevalence of hypertension in Jilin province was 24.7%. Moreover, the prevalence of hypertension increased with age in both sexes, and was higher in men than in women. The modifiable factors that were associated with hypertension were body mass index, smoking and alcohol drinking. The risk factors identified are similar to those in southern China, except smoking, which has no association with hypertension prevalence in the South.

Conclusions Age, sex, body mass index, smoking and alcohol drinking were risk factors of hypertension. Control of these related risk factors, especially smoking, may be helpful in the treatment and management of hypertension in Jilin province.

Strengths and limitations of this study

► This cross-sectional population-based study evaluated a large representative sample of individuals from four cities and four rural counties in Jilin province.

► A large sample of participants allowed for subgroups analysis of related factors.

► The causality of the relationships between hypertension and the related factors cannot be confirmed.

► Data were not collected regarding physical activity, salt intake and blood lipid levels.

INTRODUCTION

A recent WHO report indicated that cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are at the top of the list of the four prioritised non-communicable diseases worldwide and that they require immediate global action plans for prevention and control.[1] Hypertension is a leading cause of cardiovascular diseases and related deaths worldwide.[2 3] It is estimated that the global economic burden related to hypertension could be as high as US$ 370 billion.[4]

In the People's Republic of China, the prevalence of hypertension has been increasing dramatically from 5.1% in 1959 to 7.7% in 1979, 13.6% in 1991 and 18.8% in 2002.[5 6] Furthermore, there is a disproportionately higher hypertension rate reported among people living in northern China.[7 8] There are about 109.4 million people in the northeastern China. The province of Jilin is located in the northeast of China, with a population of approximately 27.5 million according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Similar to other northern provinces, Jilin has a longer winter season than southern China, and, limited by this environment, the lifestyle of the people is different from the other parts of the country.

An in-depth analysis of data from Jilin province regarding hypertension and its risk factors would improve our understanding of the differential reasons for hypertension in the North. Moreover, the analysis would assist in the development of locally effective intervention and control strategies for this preventable disease. Thus, the objectives of this study were to estimate the prevalence of hypertension in Jilin province and to explore potential risk factors that are associated with hypertension in the province. This will provide information for making recommendations on the prevention and control of hypertension in the northern region of China.

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METHODS
Study population
This cross-sectional study was conducted between July 2014 and December 2015 as a part of national China study. A four-stage, stratified sampling method was used to select participants who were aged 15 years and older from the general population of Jilin province, China. First, four cities from the urban areas and four counties from rural areas were selected using a probability proportional to size. Then two districts or two townships were selected in each city or county using simple random sampling (SRS). Next, in each district and township, three communities or villages were chosen respectively using SRS. Finally, participants stratified by sex (50% men and 50% women) and age (aged 15–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45–54, 55–64, 65–74, 65–74, ≥75 years) were chosen using SRS according to the national population composition. Participants were chosen from the list provided by the local government registers of households.[9]

Based on a design effect of 2.5 and assuming a prevalence of hypertension of 17.7% among the population aged 15 years and older, an estimated sample size of 15 200 participants was needed to ensure that the bound on the error of estimation (ie, width of the 95% CI) for the prevalence in the entire population and subpopulation defined by age and sex were less than 0.4% and 1.8%, respectively.[9] As a result, a total of 15 206 participants living in Jilin province over 6 months and aged 15 years and older were randomly selected to participate in the survey.

Measurement
The survey involved a questionnaire interview and physical examination. The standardised questionnaire was developed by the national coordinating centre of Fuwai Hospital (Beijing, China) and included questions on demographic characters, health behaviours and physical activities. The questionnaire was completed by the participants in a face-to-face interview with a trained staff.

The physical examination evaluated blood pressure (BP), body weight and height. BP was measured at the right arm supported at the heart level after participants resting for 5 min, using the Omron HBP-1300 Professional Portable Blood Pressure Monitor (OMRON, Japan). BP was measured three times, with 30 s between each measurement. The average of three readings was used for further analysis.[10] Body weight, basal metabolism (BM), body fat percentage (BFP) and visceral fat index (VFI) were measured without heavy clothing using an OMRON body fat and weight measurement device (Vbody HBF-371, OMRON, Japan). Height was measured without shoes using a standard right-angle device and a fixed measurement tape (to the nearest 0.5 cm).

Definitions
Hypertension was defined as systolic BP (SBP) ≥140 mm Hg or diastolic BP (DBP) ≥90 mm Hg or self-reported use of antihypertensive medication.[11] Body mass index (BMI) was calculated as kg/m^2. Overweight was defined as BMI 25–30 kg/m^2, and obesity was defined as BMI>30 kg/m^2.

Statistical analysis
Data were entered and validated using EpidataV.3.0 software.[12] All estimates and analyses were weighted to represent the population in Jilin Province aged 15 years or older. The weights were calculated based on the 2010 Jilin province population census data, as well as the sampling age, sex and geographic subgroups. Continuous data were presented as mean ±SD or mean with 95% CI, and differences between groups were compared using the t-est. Categorical data were presented as frequency, rate and 95% CI and the prevalence between different groups was compared using the corrected Rao-Scott χ^2 test. Logistic regression analysis was conducted assessing the relationship of hypertension with age, sex, obesity, smoking and alcohol drinking adjusted for demographic factors that have been included in similar studies, including sex, region, age, education level, employment status, marital status, BMI and family history of hypertension. All analyses were conducted using SPSSV.18.0 software.[13]

RESULTS
Distribution of participants
A total of 14 956 participants from 15 206 eligible participants (6946 men and 8010 women; aged 15–97 years) completed the survey and were included in the statistical analysis. The percentages of male and female respondents were 50.63% and 49.37%, respectively. The non-responders (1.6%) were mainly young people, and their non-response was likely attributable to their busy work schedule.

Characteristics of participants
The average age of the participants was 45.5 years, with the average age for men being 45.6±19.6 years and for women 45.5±18.9 years. There was no statistically significant difference in age between the sexes (P=0.92). The distribution of participants by age and sex are shown in table 1. The participants had average values of 24.01±3.67 kg/m^2 for BMI, 1,397.47±244.15 for BM, 26.20±8.4 for BFP and 8.54±4.99 for VFI. The mean SBP was 128.92±17.97 mm Hg, and the mean DBP was 76.81±10.36 mm Hg. These physical characteristics by age and sex are shown in online supplementary table 1. All these characters were statistically significantly different between men and women (p<0.01). In particular, male participants had higher BM and VFI values than female participants in all age groups (figure 1A and B), while female participants had higher BFP values in all age groups (figure 1C). BMI reached its highest value for men in the 35–44 year age group and for men in the 55–64 year age group (figure 1D). The SBP was similar between men and women in all age groups (figure 1E),

Table 1 Distribution of participants by age and sex in Jilin province (N, %)

Age	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
15–24	1120	9.07	1146	8.51	2266	17.59
25–34	1316	8.91	1520	8.52	2836	17.43
35–44	1084	11.95	1359	11.40	2443	23.35
45–54	1043	10.02	1333	9.68	2376	19.70
55–64	950	6.36	1121	6.47	2071	12.83
65–74	755	3.01	823	3.23	1578	6.24
75+	678	1.31	708	1.55	1386	2.86
Total	6946	50.63	8010	49.37	14956	100.0

although male participants had higher DBP values in all age groups (figure 1F).

The overall prevalence of overweight and obesity of participants was 29.8% and 6.2%, respectively. Male participants had a higher prevalence of overweight than female participants (30.9% vs 28.7%, p=0.013). No statistical difference was observed in the prevalence of obesity among male and female participants (6.3% vs 6.2%, p=0.78). The overall percentages of current smoking and ever smoking were 22.7% and 1.4%, respectively. When stratified by sex, the percentage of current smoking in men (36.9%) was significantly higher than that in
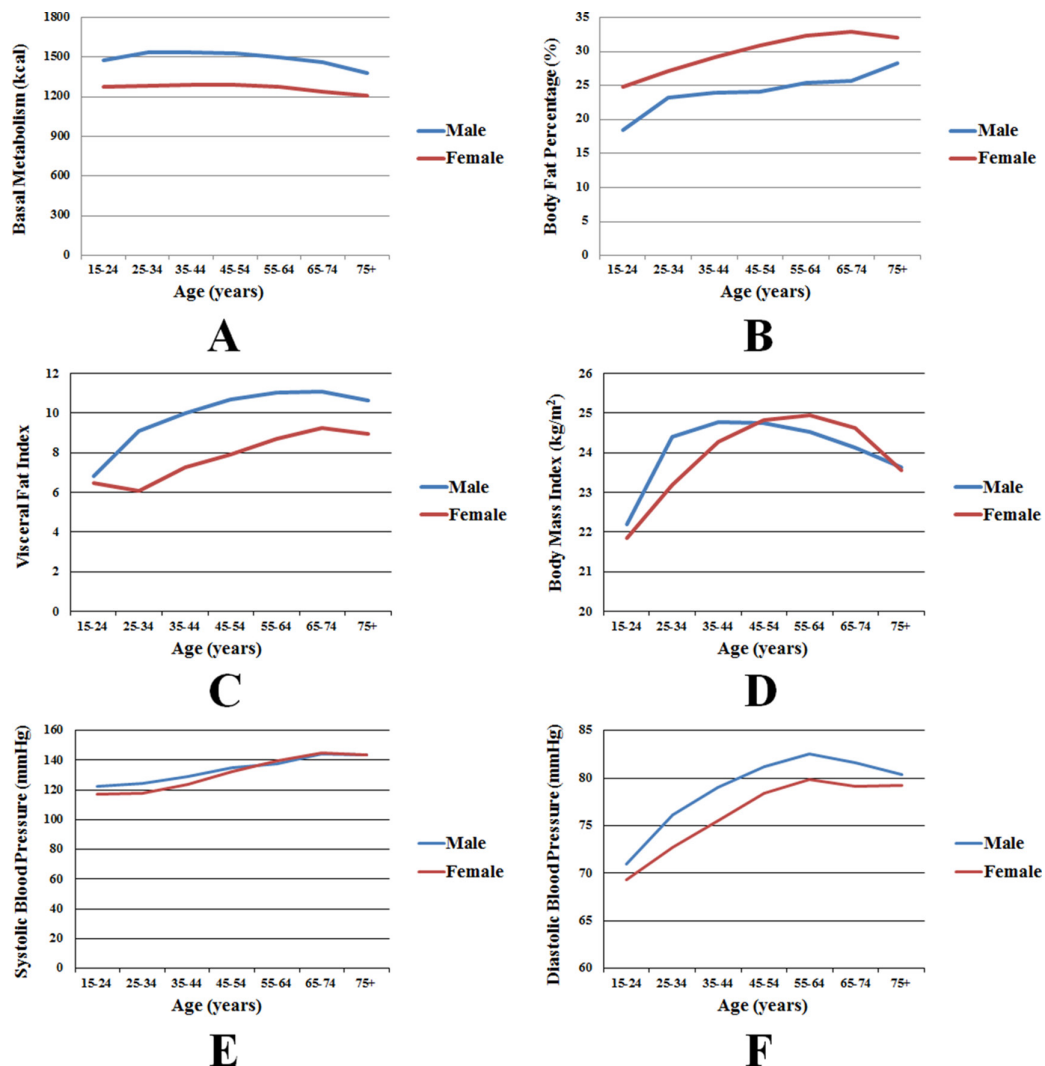

Figure 1 Trends of physical characteristics by age and sex. (A) basal metabolism; (B) body fat percentage; (C) visceral fat index; (D) body mass index; (E) systolic blood pressure; (F) diastolic blood pressure.

women (8.2%) (p<0.001). Similarly, the percentage of ever smoking in men (2.3%) was significantly higher than that in women (0.5%) (p<0.001). The overall percentage of alcohol drinking was 17.6%. The percentage in men (32.0%) was significantly higher than in women (2.9%) (p<0.001). The risk factors BMI, smoking and alcohol drinking, summarised by age and sex are shown in table 2.

Prevalence of hypertension stratified by non-modifiable factors—age and sex

Of the 14956 participants, 4332 were diagnosed with hypertension, and the prevalence of hypertension was 24.7% (95% CI 23.9% to 25.5%). The prevalence of hypertension increased as older ages and was higher in men (25.6%) than in women (23.8%) (p=0.03). among the age groups under 45 years old, the prevalence of hypertension in men was significantly higher than in women (p<0.001); while for the 65–74 year age group, the prevalence of hypertension in women was higher than in men (p=0.04); and in the other age groups, the prevalence of hypertension in males and females showed no statistical difference (P>0.05). The prevalences of hypertension stratified by age and sex are shown in table 3.

Prevalence of hypertension stratified by modifiable factors—obesity, smoking and alcohol drinking

The prevalences of hypertension varied statistically between the BMI categories (p<0.001); the highest prevalence being reported was 48.1% in the obese group, followed by the overweight group at 35.7%. The prevalence of hypertension also verified significantly when stratified by smoking (p<0.001), with the highest prevalence of 53.1% in the ever smoking group, followed by 32.2% in the current smoking group and 22.0% in the never smoking group. The prevalence of hypertension was significantly higher in the alcohol drinking group than in the no-alcohol drinking group (34.6% vs 22.6%, p<0.001). The prevalence of hypertension stratified by BMI, smoking and alcohol drinking are shown in table 4.

Factors associated with hypertension

Several factors, including age, sex, obesity, smoking and alcohol drinking are associated with the prevalence of hypertension, in both the crude model and the adjusted logistic model. In particular, the univariate logistic model indicated that the risk of hypertension was greater in males with an OR=1.1 (95% CI 1.01 to 1.2) than in females, overweight participants with an OR=2.52 (95% CI: 2.3 to 2.77) than in normal participants, obese participants with an OR=4.21 (95% CI: 3.56 to 4.96) than in normal participants, smokers with OR=1.64 (95% CI: 1.48 to 1.81) than in non-smokers, and alcohol drinkers with OR=1.81 (95% CI: 1.62 to 2.02) than in non-alcohol drinkers. All the difference were statistically significant (P<0.05). After adjustment for age, sex, region, education level, employment status, BMI, family history of hypertension, and marital status that may affect hypertension, the risk of hypertension was greater in males with an adjusted

OR=1.26 (95% CI:1.13 to 1.39) than in females, in overweight participants with an adjusted OR=2.3 (95% CI: 2.06 to 2.58) than in normal participants, in obese participants with an adjusted OR=5.11 (95% CI: 4.16 to 6.27) than in normal participants, in smokers with an adjusted OR=1.28 (95% CI: 1.13 to 1.46) than in non-smokers, and in alcohol drinkers with an adjusted OR=1.49 (95% CI: 1.28 to 1.73). These results are shown in table 5.

DISCUSSION

Based on an estimated prevalence of 24.7% for hypertension in Jilin province, approximately 6.8 million residents would be considered hypertensive. At the national level, the prevalence of hypertension in Jilin is comparable to that in Zhejiang province,[12] while the prevalence is lower than in other regions in China, including Jiangxi,[13] Inner Mongolia[14] and Macau,[15] as well as, lower than the overall prevalence in China.[16] At the global level, the prevalence in Jilin is lower than that in the US and the UK, but is higher than that in Canada.[4] However, there are some limitations in terms of the direct comparisons among these studies, given the varying methods, environments, population genetics and population age structures.

Although the prevalence from the present study is lower than the prevalence form 2012 (24.7% vs 30.8%),[17] it remains unacceptably high in terms of optimal hypertension health in the province. Our study found that the prevalence of overweight and obesity was 29.8% and 6.2%, respectively, which is higher than that reported at the national level of 17.7% and 5.6%, respectively.[18] Several studies have shown that obesity is a risk factor for the development of hypertension.[19–21] Obesity can increase hypertension through multiple mechanisms, including insulin resistance, activation of sympathetic nervous system, sodium retention leading to increased renal reabsorption and activation of the renin–angiotensin system.[22] Thus, the increasing populations of overweight and obese Jilin residents suggests the potential risk of future increasing incidence of hypertension. Unfortunately, this modifiable risk factor has exhibited no change in between the report in 2012 and now,[17] and the population of overweight and obesity may even be underestimated because the standard definitions for overweight and obesity used in our research may be too high for Asian population.[23 24] Moreover, abdominal obesity can be present in individuals with normal BMI values (18.5–24.9 kg/m^2), and some studies have indicated that this condition could be a risk factor for hypertension.[25 26] Thus, as overweight and obesity are modifiable risk factors, effective proactive intervention programme could help slow and ultimately reduce the number of individuals with obesity becoming hypertensive.

Our study found that the overall prevalence of hypertension increased with age in both men and women, especially at ages of 35–74 years. This result supports the hypothesis that age is a risk factor for hypertension.[27–30] An increasing lifespan among the population in Jilin

Table 2 Distribution of participants by age and sex stratified by BMI, smoking and alcoholic drinking in Jilin province (%, 95% CI)

	BMI				Smoking			Alcohol drinking
	<18.5	18.5–25.0	25.0–30.0	>30.0	Current	Ever	Never	
Male								
15–24	13.33 (11.11 to 15.91)	67.57 (64.24 to 70.73)	14.85 (12.58 to 17.46)	4.25 (3.03 to 5.93)	6.95 (5.47 to 8.80)	0.36 (0.10 to 1.22)	92.69 (90.79 to 94.22)	5.80 (4.62 to 7.26)
25–34	2.80 (1.98 to 3.93)	57.76 (54.70 to 60.77)	31.36 (28.57 to 34.30)	8.08 (6.52 to 9.96)	39.19 (36.20 to 42.26)	0.64 (0.30 to 1.37)	60.17 (57.09 to 63.17)	29.70 (26.96 to 32.60)
35–44	1.89 (0.18 to 3.01)	54.86 (51.49 to 58.18)	35.26 (32.10 to 38.55)	7.99 (6.35 to 10.02)	46.92 (43.57 to 50.30)	1.32 (0.79 to 2.18)	51.76 (48.39 to 55.12)	39.90 (36.62 to 43.26)
45–54	1.56 (0.93 to 2.60)	55.63 (52.33 to 58.88)	36.25 (33.14 to 39.47)	6.56 (5.11 to 8.39)	48.42 (45.13 to 51.73)	3.19 (2.25 to 4.52)	48.38 (45.10 to 51.68)	44.70 (41.44 to 48.00)
55–64	0.79 (0.39 to 1.60)	59.10 (55.67 to 62.44)	35.17 (31.96 to 38.52)	4.94 (3.65 to 6.66)	44.79 (41.38 to 48.25)	5.19 (3.88 to 6.91)	50.02 (46.57 to 53.47)	39.30 (35.99 to 42.71)
65–74	2.16 (1.26 to 3.69)	60.45 (56.54 to 64.22)	33.51 (29.91 to 37.33)	3.88 (2.66 to 5.62)	32.13 (28.57 to 35.91)	6.99 (5.22 to 9.30)	60.88 (56.97 to 64.65)	34.30 (30.65 to 38.14)
75+	3.71 (2.53 to 5.42)	62.83 (58.82 to 66.68)	30.22 (26.61 to 34.10)	3.23 (2.01 to 5.15)	22.06 (18.85 to 25.64)	5.58 (3.96 to 7.82)	72.35 (68.54 to 75.87)	18.74 (15.72 to 22.19)
Female								
15–24	13.46 (11.24 to 16.03)	70.77 (67.48 to 73.85)	12.55 (10.34 to 15.16)	3.22 (2.3 to 4.43)	0.36 (0.11 to 1.16)	0.00	99.64 (98.8 to 99.89)	0.76 (0.43 to 1.35)
25–34	6.46 (5.25 to 7.94)	66.10 (63.37 to 68.72)	22.33 (20.06 to 24.79)	5.11 (3.97 to 6.55)	2.90 (2.05 to 4.08)	0.06 (0.01 to 0.44)	97.04 (95.85 to 97.89)	3.50 (2.65 to 4.62)
35–44	1.81 (1.16 to 2.81)	61.59 (58.64 to 64.45)	29.86 (27.18 to 32.67)	6.74 (5.38 to 8.41)	8.00 (6.45 to 9.88)	0.07 (0.01 to 0.50)	91.93 (90.05 to 93.49)	4.40 (3.37 to 5.73)
45–54	1.99 (1.29 to 3.04)	54.20 (51.27 to 57.09)	36.38 (33.62 to 39.24)	7.44 (6.05 to 9.11)	10.36 (8.69 to 12.31)	0.52 (0.23 to 1.17)	89.12 (87.14 to 90.83)	3.08 (2.23 to 4.25)
55–64	2.53 (1.72 to 3.71)	48.89 (45.72 to 52.08)	40.24 (37.17 to 43.39)	8.34 (6.72 to 10.30)	16.81 (14.58 to 19.30)	1.46 (0.85 to 2.49)	81.73 (79.16 to 84.05)	2.53 (1.68 to 3.81)
65–74	4.89 (3.53 to 6.72)	50.05 (46.31 to 53.78)	38.50 (34.91 to 42.22)	6.57 (4.94 to 8.67)	17.61 (14.97 to 20.60)	1.68 (0.93 to 2.99)	80.71 (77.62 to 83.47)	1.81 (1.03 to 3.16)
75+	10.17 (7.87 to 13.04)	57.46 (53.37 to 61.45)	26.17 (22.77 to 29.89)	6.20 (4.50 to 8.50)	12.82 (10.29 to 15.87)	1.27 (0.64 to 2.50)	85.91 (82.77 to 88.55)	2.48 (1.45 to 4.23)

BMI, body mass index.

Table 3 Prevalence of hypertension by age and sex in Jilin province

Age group	Male		Female		Total	
	N	% (95% CI)	N	% (95% CI)	N	% (95% CI)
15–24	80	6.86 (5.27 to 8.87)	23	1.88 (1.19 to 2.96)	103	4.45 (3.53 to 5.59)
25–34	106	8.47 (6.89 to 10.36)	50	4.28 (3.20 to 5.69)	156	6.42 (5.43 to 7.58)
35–44	221	21.00 (18.36 to 23.91)	195	15.21 (13.14 to 17.55)	416	18.17 (16.45 to 20.03)
45–54	379	35.13 (32.06 to 38.33)	430	32.57 (29.89 to 35.36)	809	33.87 (31.82 to 35.99)
55–64	449	46.42 (43.00 to 49.87)	576	50.72 (47.54 to 53.90)	1025	48.59 (46.25 to 50.94)
65–74	451	59.91 (55.98 to 63.71)	518	65.32 (61.72 to 68.76)	969	62.71 (60.06 to 65.29)
75+	405	61.24 (57.24 to 65.10)	449	62.37 (58.30 to 66.28)	854	61.86 (59.00 to 64.63)
Total	2091	25.60 (24.41 to 26.79)	2241	23.84 (22.80 to 24.89)	4332	24.73 (23.94 to 25.53)

requires a practical and effective hypertension management strategy that targets its ageing population. The overall prevalence of hypertension was higher in men than in women. However, the prevalence in women increased more rapidly than in men aged 65–74 years. This may be partially explained by hormonal changes in postmenopausal women and the difference in lifespan between men and women.[4 31] However, the exact mechanisms need to be explored.

Consistent with previous studies,[32 33] our study also showed that smoking, both current and ever smoking, was associated with an increased risk of hypertension. Smoking can increase blood viscosity, stimulate the adrenergic nervous system and contribute to the development of both microvascular and macrovascular diseases.[34] Although some studies reported weak associations between smoking and hypertension,[13 20] smoking is still considered a major risk factor worldwide.[13 20 35–37] Additionally, drinking of alcohol is also a risk factor for hypertension in our study, which is consistent with previous studies.[4 38–40] These results indicate that some lifestyle changes, such as quitting smoking and reducing or stopping alcohol consumption, should help to reduce the prevalence of hypertension.

National studies reported that the prevalence of hypertension is higher in northern China than that in southern China.[7 16] When comparing the associations between risk factors and hypertension with Zhejiang province located in the South,[12] we found that the risk of hypertension with demographic factors, such as age, sex and region, and clinical factors, such as family history of hypertension and abdominal waist circumference, were similar in Jilin province and in southern China. When it comes to the lifestyle factors, the risk of hypertension with obesity and alcohol drinking were similar; however, there was a marked difference in the modifiable risk factor smoking; in particular, in Jilin province there was a strong association with an adjusted OR=1.28 (95% CI 1.13 to 1.46), whereas no association between smoking and hypertension in southern China was found, with an adjusted OR=1.0 (95% CI 0.9 to 1.1). These findings indicate that smoking

cessation programmes could help mitigate the prevalence of hypertension in Jilin province. Some social factors including retirement status, marital status and education level were also different between the North and the South. Of interest, there was a difference on BFP categories. In particular, for categories 10–19 for men and 20–29 for women, there was no association between BFP and hypertension in Jilin province with an adjusted OR=0.95 (95% CI 0.71 to 1.27), whereas in this category BFP is protective against hypertension in south China with an adjusted OR=0.6 (95% CI 0.5 to 0.8). In the range of over 25 for men and over 35 for women, BFP is strongly associated with hypertension in Jilin province with an adjusted OR=1.45 (95% CI 1.07 to 1.96), whereas no association was found in the South with an adjusted OR=1.3 (95% CI 1.0 to 1.5). These results indicate that BFP tends to be more of a risk for hypertension in the North compared with the South. High BFP values are associated with increased blood pressure,[41 42] and there may be ethnicity-based differences in the relationship between BFP and BMI.[43] Those results may help explain the region-specific relationships between BFP and hypertension in northern and southern China, although further studies are needed to better understand these relationships.

A survey from 2012 found a prevalence of hypertension of 30.8%.[17] The prevalence of hypertension in our study was lower. This reduction may be related to the following two factors. First, the Jilin government is aware of the damage and burden of hypertension and has increased medical insurance funding (especially for rural residents), from RMB ¥3.9 billion in 2012 to RMB ¥6.4 billion in 2015, according to the statistical bureau of Jilin province. Second, new hypertension guidelines for China were published since 2012, and these guidelines addressed the grassroots management of hypertension[44] and patient education.[45] However, some key modifiable risk factors have exhibited slight negative changes, in particular, the trend towards obesity, drinking and smoking. This can be due in part to the Jilin's growing economy, which has increased from a gross domestic product of RMB ¥361.5 billion in

Table 4 Prevalence of hypertension by age and sex stratified by body mass index, smoking and alcoholic drinking (%, 95% CI)

	BMI				Smoking			Alcohol drinking	
	<18.5	18.5–25.0	25.0–30.0	>30.0	Current	Ever	Never	Yes	No
Male									
15–24	1.48 (0.3 to .5.76)	4.39 (2.94 to 6.51)	16.22 (10.62 to 24.00)	30.17 (16.58 to 48.44)	8.17 (3.45 to 18.15)	13.13 (1.35 to 62.57)	6.73 (5.10 to 8.84)	11.60 (5.85 to 21.69)	6.56 (4.95 to 8.66)
25–34	1.45 (0.20 to 9.72)	5.33 (3.7 to .7.46)	9.15 (6.43 to 12.85)	30.70 (21.42 to 41.86)	11.49 (8.66 to 15.08)	6.89 (0.88 to 38.13)	6.51 (4.80 to 8.78)	10.64 (7.63 to 14.64)	7.55 (5.80 to 9.77)
35–44	5.49 (0.97 to 25.57)	14.76 (11.77 to 18.34)	25.87 (21.16 to 31.22)	45.98 (34.53 to 57.87)	23.76 (19.72 to 28.33)	36.23 (16.51 to 62.01)	18.11 (14.77 to 22.00)	28.02 (23.40 to 33.16)	16.34 (13.35 to 19.84)
45–54	27.39 (10.96 to 53.63)	25.02 (21.38 to 29.05)	44.90 (39.57 to 50.35)	68.73 (55.83 to 79.27)	37.10 (32.60 to 41.83)	41.53 (25.83 to 59.16)	32.74 (28.51 to 37.27)	43.01 (38.20 to 47.96)	28.76 (24.95 to 32.91)
55–64	11.46 (2.44 to 40.14)	39.64 (35.33 to 44.11)	55.87 (50.07 to 79.30)	65.91 (50.62 to 78.48)	47.15 (42.04 to 52.33)	61.46 (46.39 to 74.61)	44.21 (39.43 to 49.09)	52.10 (46.61 to 57.54)	42.74 (38.42 to 47.18)
65–74	19.58 (6.35 to 46.63)	52.27 (47.16,57.34)	73.86 (67.56,15.96)	80.86 (61.30,91.85)	60.60 (53.60,67.20)	74.69 (59.79,85.42)	57.84 (52.78,62.74)	66.86 (60.21, 72.89)	56.58 (51.40, 61.04)
75+	37.87 (21.57 to 57.45)	58.85 (53.77 to 63.76)	66.71 (59.34 to 73.34)	83.47 (57.75 to 94.91)	68.66 (60.13 to 76.08)	59.10 (41.42 to 74.69)	59.15 (54.42 to 63.71)	65.17 (55.63 to 73.63)	60.34 (55.90 to 64.62)
Female									
15–24	1.50 (0.37 to 5.81)	0.91 (0.42 to 1.98)	5.62 (2.53 to 12.01)	10.02 (3.85 to 23.67)	0.00	0.00	1.88 (1.19 to 2.97)	0.00	1.89 (1.19 to 2.98)
25–34	0.00	2.16 (1.29 to 3.59)	6.56 (4.03 to 10.51)	27.09 (16.97 to 40.31)	12.35 (4.36 to 30.33)	0.00	4.04 (2.98 to 5.44)	0.66 (0.09 to 4.63)	4.41 (3.29 to 5.87)
35–44	17.78 (5.86 to 42.90)	9.70 (7.67 to 12.20)	22.05 (17.69 to 27.14)	34.59 (24.3 to ,46.49)	19.76 (12.41 to 29.97)	100.00 (100.00 to 100.00)	14.75 (12.62 to 17.17)	25.47 (14.99 to 39.84)	14.74 (12.65 to 17.11)
45–54	0.00	24.68 (21.42 to 28.27)	40.48 (35.84 to 45.30)	60.03 (49.33 to 69.86)	34.92 (26.73 to 44.12)	61.78 (22.45 to 90.03)	32.13 (29.31 to 35.08)	27.45 (15.31 to 44.19)	32.73 (30.01 to 35.57)
55–64	40.61 (23.68 to 60.12)	39.07 (34.71 to 43.61)	61.42 (56.48 to 66.14)	70.47 (59.27 to 79.64)	51.28 (43.64 to 58.86)	62.47 (35.28 to 83.56)	50.40 (46.87 to 53.92)	51.62 (31.60 to 71.13)	50.70 (47.48 to 53.91)
65–74	38.58 (24.16 to 55.33)	59.74 (54.53 to 64.73)	74.83 (69.27 to 79.68)	72.04 (57.14 to 83.28)	65.26 (56.45 to 73.13)	57.48 (29.24 to 81.56)	65.50 (61.48 to 69.31)	50.45 (24.78 to 75.88)	65.60 (61.97 to 69.05)
75+	45.30 (32.73 to 58.49)	60.64 (55.25 to 65.79)	73.24 (65.79 to 79.57)	60.53 (43.53 to 75.31)	64.01 (52.10 to 74.41)	100.00 (100.00 to 100.00)	61.57 (57.18 to 65.79)	51.72 (26.49 to 76.10)	62.64 (58.53 to 66.58)

Table 5 Risk factors associated with the prevalence of hypertension

	Hypertension prevalence	
	Unadjusted	Adjusted
Age (Ref: 15–24)		
25–34	1.47 (1.09 to 1.99)	1.05 (0.71 to 1.55)
35–44	4.77 (3.65 to 6.24)	2.83 (1.90 to 4.22)
45–54	11.01 (8.51 to 14.24)	6.93 (4.69 to 10.24)
55–64	20.31 (15.69 to 26.29)	13.43 (9.06 to 19.90)
65–74	36.14 (27.73 to 47.11)	26.18 (17.56 to 39.03)
75+	34.85 (26.65 to 45.57)	29.89 (19.83 to 45.03)
Sex (Ref: female)	1.1 (1.01 to 1.2)	1.25 (1.13 to 1.39)
Region (Ref: urban)	1.19 (1.09 to 1.3)	1.25 (1.12 to 1.39)
Race (Ref: Han)	1.15 (0.93 to 1.42)	0.93 (0.74 to 1.18)
Employment (Ref: be employed)		
Retired	2.67 (2.22 to 3.2)	0.67 (0.53 to 0.85)
Student	0.15 (0.11 to 0.21)	1.09 (0.71 to 1.70)
Unemployed	1.18 (1.07 to 1.3)	0.84 (0.74 to 0.95)
Marital (Ref: married)	0.72 (0.63 to 0.83)	1.29 (1.00 to 1.65)
Education level (Ref: college or higher)		
Illiterate	6.69 (5.19 to 8.63)	2.18 (1.62 to 2.93)
Primary	3.26 (2.7 to 3.93)	1.98 (1.60 to 2.44)
Middle	1.55 (1.24 to 1.94)	1.24 (0.97 to 1.57)
BMI (Ref: Normal)		
Overweight	2.22 (2.01 to 2.46)	2.30 (2.06 to 2.57)
Obese	3.96 (3.31 to 4.75)	5.17 (4.20 to 6.37)
AWC (Ref:<90M, <85F)		
≥90M, ≥85F	1.41 (1.23 to 1.62)	1.35 (1.16 to 1.57)
≥95M, ≥90F	1.5 (1.32 to 1.72)	1.68 (1.43 to 1.96)
Family history of hypertension	1.74 (1.55 to 1.96)	2.35 (2.06 to 2.67)
Family history of stroke	1.33 (0.85 to 2.06)	1.79 (1.09 to 2.92)
Family history of CAD	3.18 (2.64 to 3.83)	1.65 (1.33 to 2.03)
Smoker (Ref: no)	1.37 (1.23 to 1.53)	1.23 (1.08 to 1.40)
Drinker (Ref: no)	1.56 (1.38 to 1.77)	1.47 (1.27 to 1.71)
VAI (Ref: <10)		
10~14	1.6 (1.41 to 1.8)	1.40 (1.22 to 1.60)
15~30	2.69 (2.29 to 3.16)	2.05 (1.69 to 2.49)
BFP (Ref: <10M, <20F)		
10~19M, 20~29F	1.31 (1 to 1.71)	0.95 (0.71 to 1.27)
20~24M, 30~34F	2.72 (2.09 to 3.55)	1.24 (0.92 to 1.66)
≥25M, ≥35F	3.48 (2.67 to 4.54)	1.45 (1.07 to 1.96)

Adjusted for sex, region, age, education level, employment status, marital status, BMI and family history of hypertension.
AWC, abdominal waist circumference; BFP, body fat percentage; BMI, body mass index; CAD, coronary heart disease; F, female; M, male; VAI, visceral fat.

1995, to RMB ¥857.8 billion in 2010, to RMB ¥1.4 trillion in 2015, according to the statistical bureau of Jilin province. To reverse these trends will require an effective and workable intervention programme to control hypertension by incorporating best practices identified in theory and practice. For example, rates of hypertension awareness have greatly improved from 24.4% to 42.6%, and the treatment rates have improved from 20.0% to 24.2% based on national surveys.[16] However, the control rate is only 9.3% in comparison with 53%

in the USA.[4] One of the challenges is to improve adherence to antihypertension drugs.

This study was a cross-sectional study and contained a large representative sample. These factors will allow for the generalisation of our findings to residents aged 15 years and over in northern China. However, there are some limitations in this study. First, this is a cross-sectional study design, thus the causality cannot be assumed between the risk factors and hypertension. Second, financial limitations precluded collection of data regarding physical activity, salt intake and blood lipid levels. Third, the decrease of prevalence of hypertension in our study compared with that in 2012 may be related with sampling factor.

In summary, the prevalence of hypertension in Jilin province decreased compared with that in 2012 and is lower than the overall prevalence in China. In addition, the study showed that hypertension was associated with age, sex, obesity, smoking and alcohol drinking. In particular, smoking may be responsible for the different prevalences of hypertension in northern and southern China. These factors above, especially smoking, will be important points to control and manage hypertension in Jilin province.

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