

Authors' response

In our study we had calculated the prevalence of low HDL cholesterol based on the criteria <40 mg/dl for males and <40 mg/dl for females. However, in the methodology and in Table III foot note it was stated that the criteria were <40 mg/dl for males and <50 mg/dl for females.

We re-analyzed the data for low HDL cholesterol values using the criteria <40 mg/dl for males and <50 mg/dl for females. The results are presented below

We checked the values for diabetes and were found to be same as published: 14.3 per cent among men and 17.8 per cent among women in the total population

and 20.6 per cent in rural areas significantly different ($P<0.05$) than the 14.8 per cent in urban areas.

**K.R. Thankappan^{#,§}, Bela Shah^{*}, Prashant Mathur^{*},
P.S. Sarma[#], G. Srinivas^{**}, G.K. Mini[#],
Meena Daivadanam[#], Biju Soman[#] &
Ramachandran S. Vasan[†]**

[#]Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies &
^{**}Department of Biochemistry, Sree Chitra Tirunal
Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology
Trivandrum 695 011, India

^{*}Division of Non-Communicable Diseases,
Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi
& [†]Boston University School of Medicine,
Framingham, MA, USA

[§]For correspondence:
kavumpurathu@yahoo.com