



# INTERHEART: Background

- Over 80% of the CVD burden occurs in low (L) and middle income countries (MIC), but there are few data on risk factors for CVD from these countries
- Current thinking suggests that “only 50%” of the risk of CHD is accounted by known risk factors



# INTERHEART: Aims

1. To evaluate the association (odds ratio) of risk factors for MI globally, and in each region; and among major ethnic groups in the world.
2. To quantify the impact of each risk factor alone and their combination on the population's risk (population attributable risk, PAR) overall and in each region, ethnic group, in males and females and in young and old.





# INTERHEART: History (1991 to 2004)

- |                                                          |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Single center case-control study (300 + 300) in India | 1991-1994 |
| 2. Multicenter study in India (1200 + 2400)              | 1994-2003 |
| 3. Idea and protocol development of INTERHEART           | 1997-1999 |
| 4. Vanguard phase                                        | 1999-2000 |
| 5. Full scale recruitment                                | 2000-2003 |
| 6. Data analysis/publications                            | 2004      |



# INTERHEART

Funded by 39 sources:

- *The Canadian Institutes of Health Research*
- *Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario*
- *The International Clinical Epidemiology Network, and*
- *Generous donations from pharmaceutical companies:*
  - Astra Zeneca
  - Bristol Myers Squibb
  - Novartis
  - King
  - Aventis
  - Knoll
  - Sanofi Synthelabo

Plus multiple sources in various countries.



# 52 Countries Representing Every Inhabited Continent

|                 |           |             |                   |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------|
| Argentina       | Croatia   | Kuwait      | Russia            |
| Australia       | Czech Rep | Malaysia    | Seychelles        |
| Bahrain         | Egypt     | Mexico      | Singapore         |
| Bangladesh      | Germany   | Mozambique  | S Africa          |
| Benin           | Greece    | Nepal       | Spain             |
| Botswana        | Guatemala | New Zealand | Sri Lanka         |
| Brazil          | Hungary   | Netherlands | Sultanate of Oman |
| Cameroon        | India     | Nigeria     | Sweden            |
| Canada          | Iran      | Pakistan    | Thailand          |
| Chile           | Israel    | Philippines | UAE               |
| China/Hong Kong | Italy     | Poland      | UK                |
| Colombia        | Japan     | Portugal    | USA               |
|                 | Kenya     | Qatar       | Zimbabwe          |

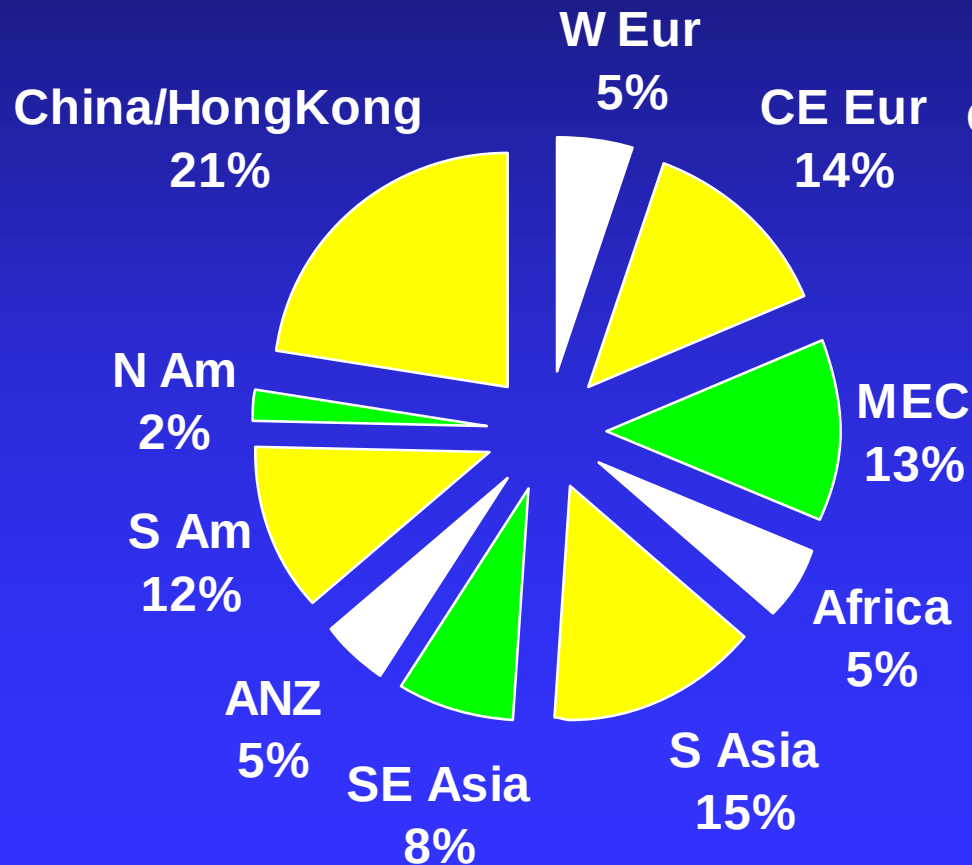


# National Coordinators

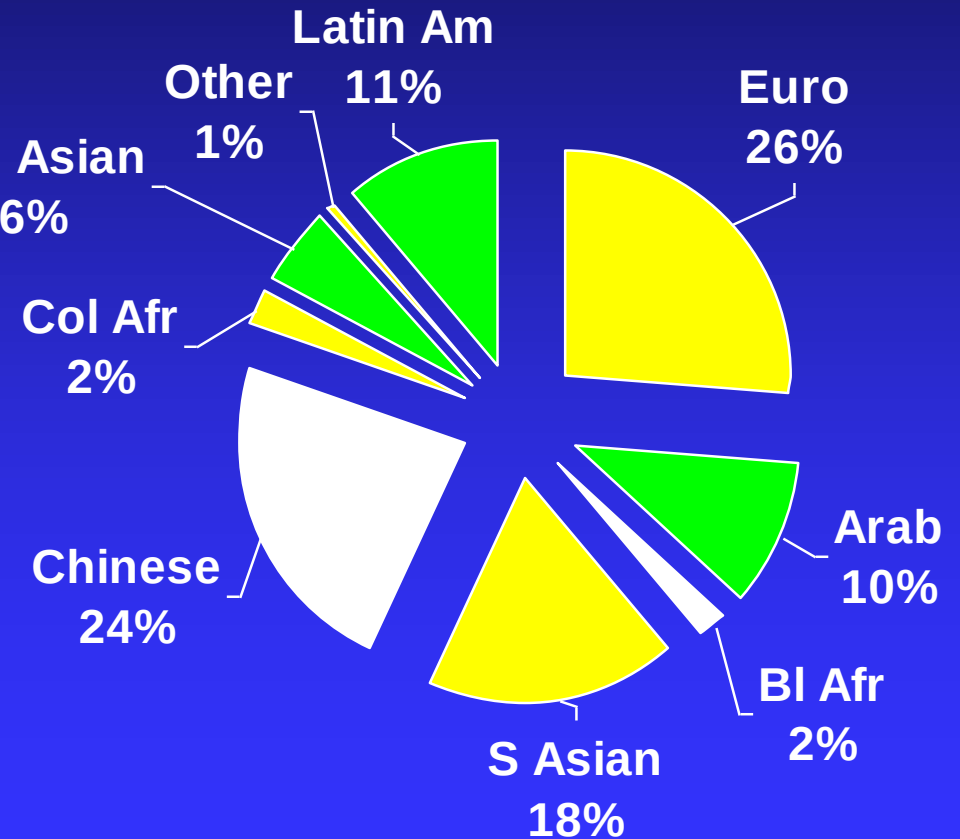
**Argentina:** Paolasso, Diaz; **ANZ:** Varigos, Hunt; **Bahrain:** Halim;  
**Bangladesh:** Haque; **Benin:** Agboton; **Botswana:** Onen; **Brazil:** Avezum,  
Piegas; **Cameroon:** Blackett; **Canada:** Yusuf, Teo; **Chile:** Lanas; **China:** Liu  
Lisheng; **Colombia:** Bautista; **Croatia:** Rumboldt; **Czech:** Widimsky; **Egypt:**  
Khedr; **Germany:** Wittlinger, Rupprecht; **Greece:** Karatzas; **Guatemala:**  
Luna; **HK:** Sanderson; **Hungary:** Keltai; **India:** Reddy, Pais; **Iran:** Hasani,  
Mirkhani; **Israel:** Lewis, Halon; **Italy:** Tognoni, Franzosi; **Japan:** Hori, Sato;  
**Kenya:** Ogola, Wangai; **Kuwait:** Zubaid; **Malaysia:** Lang; **Mexico:** Ramos-  
Corrales; **Mozambique:** Damasceno; **Nepal:** Pandey; **Netherlands:** Peters;  
**Nigeria:** Akinroye; **Pakistan:** Kazmi; **Philippines:** Dans; **Poland:**  
Ceremuzynski, Budaj; **Portugal:** Morais; **Qatar:** Gehani; **Russia:** Volkova;  
**Seychelles:** Panovsky; **Singapore:** Johan; **S Africa:** Steyn; Commerford;  
Sliwa; **Spain:** Valentin; **S Lanka:** Mendis, Jayalath; **Oman:** Al Hinai;  
**Sweden:** Rosengren; **Thailand:** Sitthi-Amorn; **UAE:** Almahmeed; **UK:** Fox,  
Flather; **USA:** Probstfield; **Zimbabwe:** Chifamba

# 15,152 MI cases and 14,820 controls

## Distribution by region

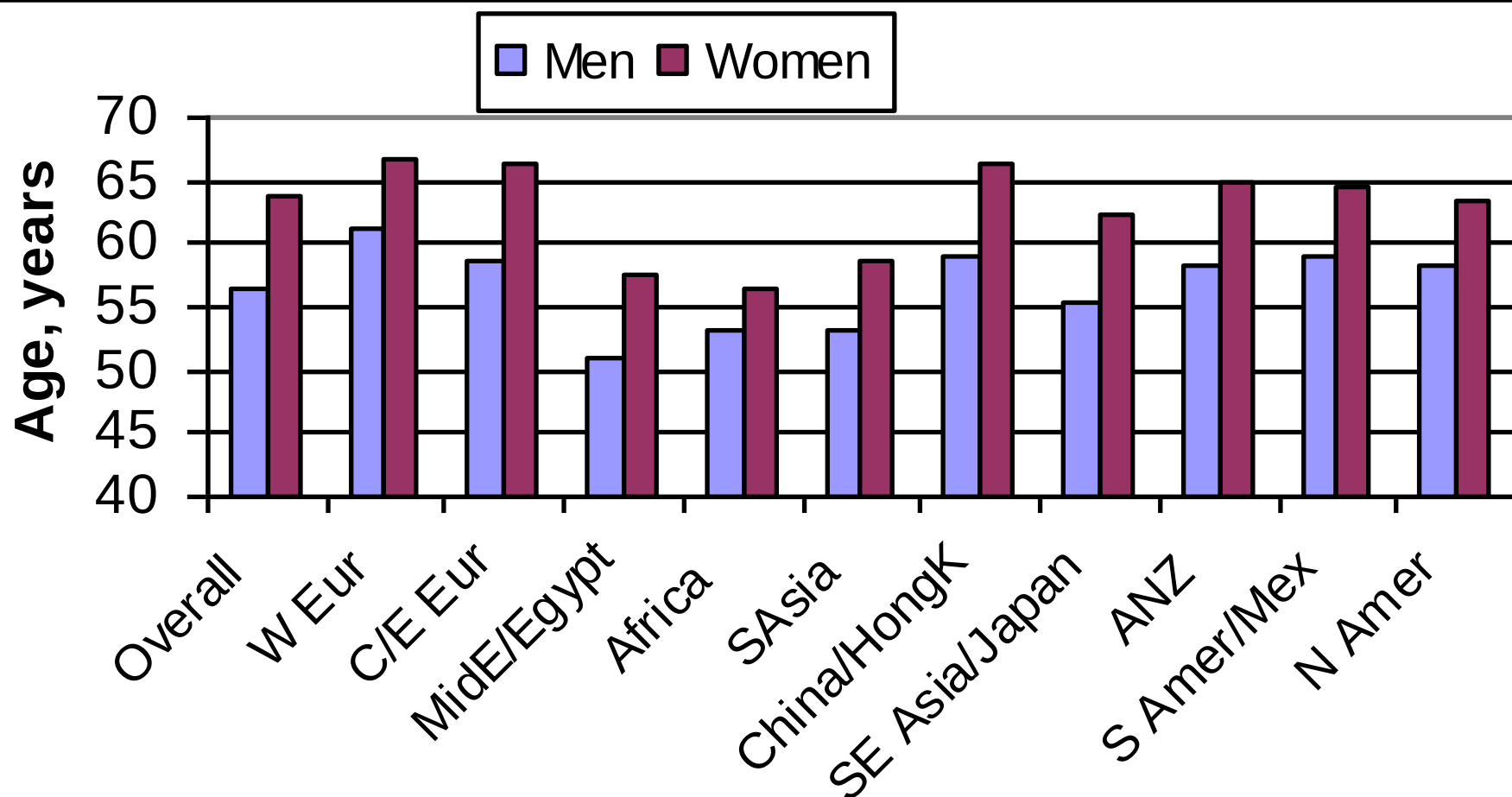


## Distribution by ethnicity



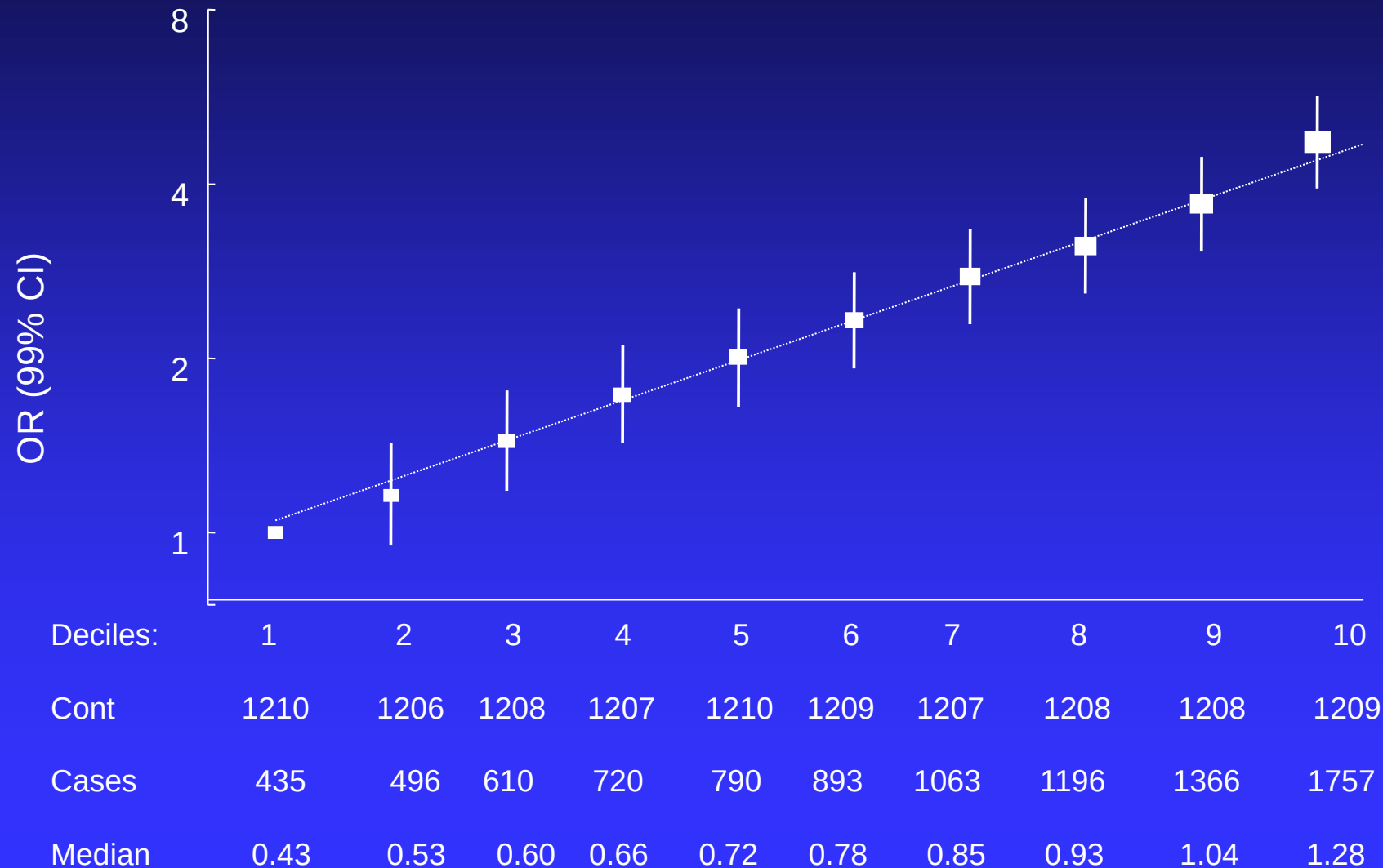


# Mean age of male and female cases, overall and by region

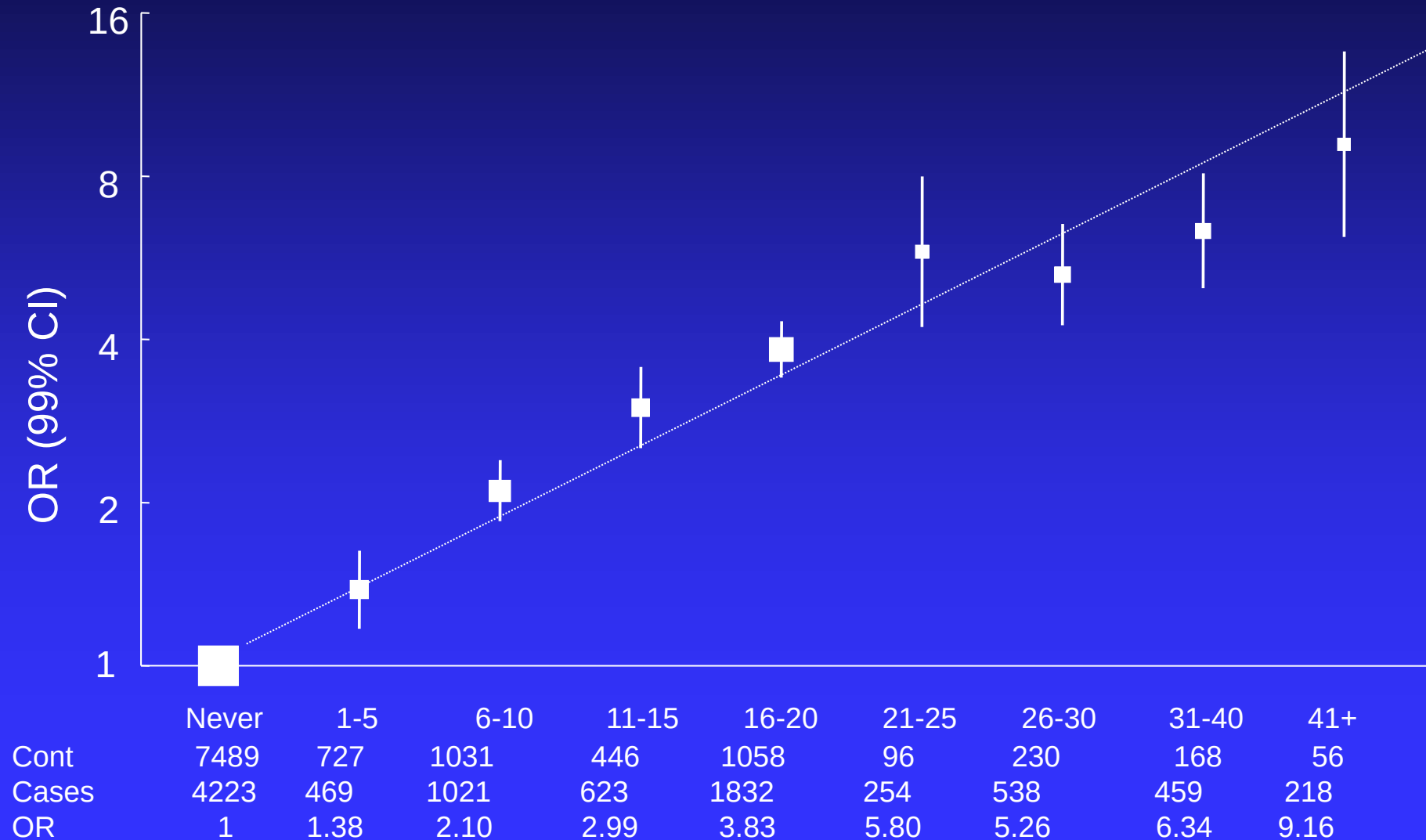




# INTERHEART: Apolipoprotein B/A-1 and MI



# INTERHEART: Smoking and MI



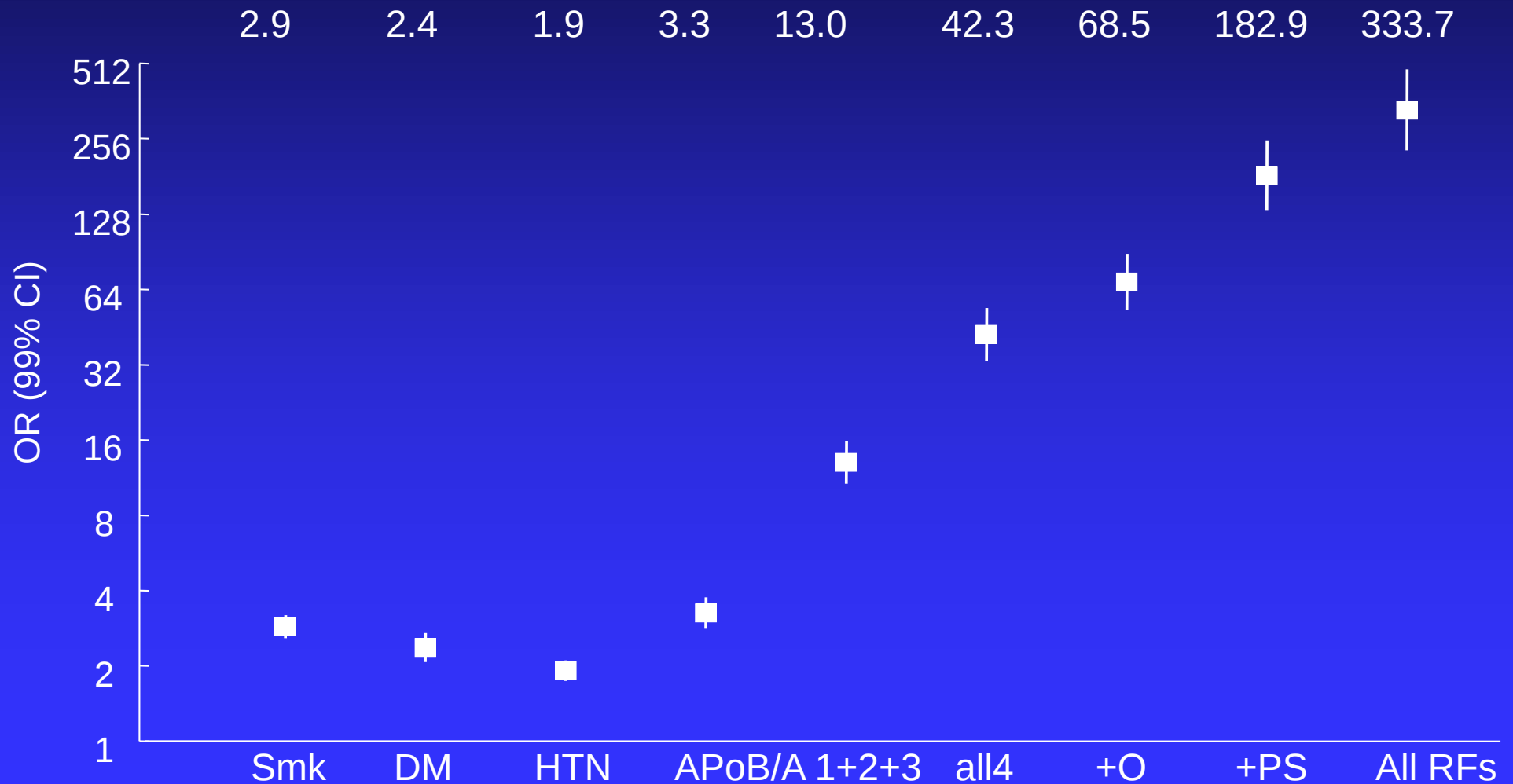
# Risk of AMI associated with Risk Factors in the Overall Population

| Risk factor                | % Cont | % Cases | OR (99% CI) adj<br>for age, sex, smok | OR (99% CI) adj<br>for all |
|----------------------------|--------|---------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ApoB/ApoA-1 (5 v 1)        | 20.0   | 33.5    | 3.87 (3.39, 4.42)                     | 3.25 (2.81, 3.76)          |
| Curr smoking               | 26.8   | 45.2    | 2.95 (2.72, 3.20)                     | 2.87 (2.58, 3.19)          |
| Diabetes                   | 7.5    | 18.4    | 3.08 (2.77, 3.42)                     | 2.37 (2.07, 2.71)          |
| Hypertension               | 21.9   | 39.0    | 2.48 (2.30, 2.68)                     | 1.91 (1.74, 2.10)          |
| Abd Obesity (3 v 1)        | 33.3   | 46.3    | 2.22 (2.03, 2.42)                     | 1.62 (1.45, 1.80)          |
| Psychosocial               | -      | -       | 2.51 (2.15, 2.93)                     | 2.67 (2.21, 3.22)          |
| Veg & fruits daily         | 42.4   | 35.8    | 0.70 (0.64, 0.77)                     | 0.70 (0.62, 0.79)          |
| Exercise                   | 19.3   | 14.3    | 0.72 (0.65, 0.79)                     | 0.86 (0.76, 0.97)          |
| Alcohol Intake             | 24.5   | 24.0    | 0.79 (0.73, 0.86)                     | 0.91 (0.82, 1.02)          |
| All combined               | -      | -       | 129.2 (90.2, 185.0)                   | 129.2 (90.2, 185.0)        |
| All combined<br>(extremes) |        |         | 333.7 (230.2, 483.9)                  | 333.7 (230.2, 483.9)       |

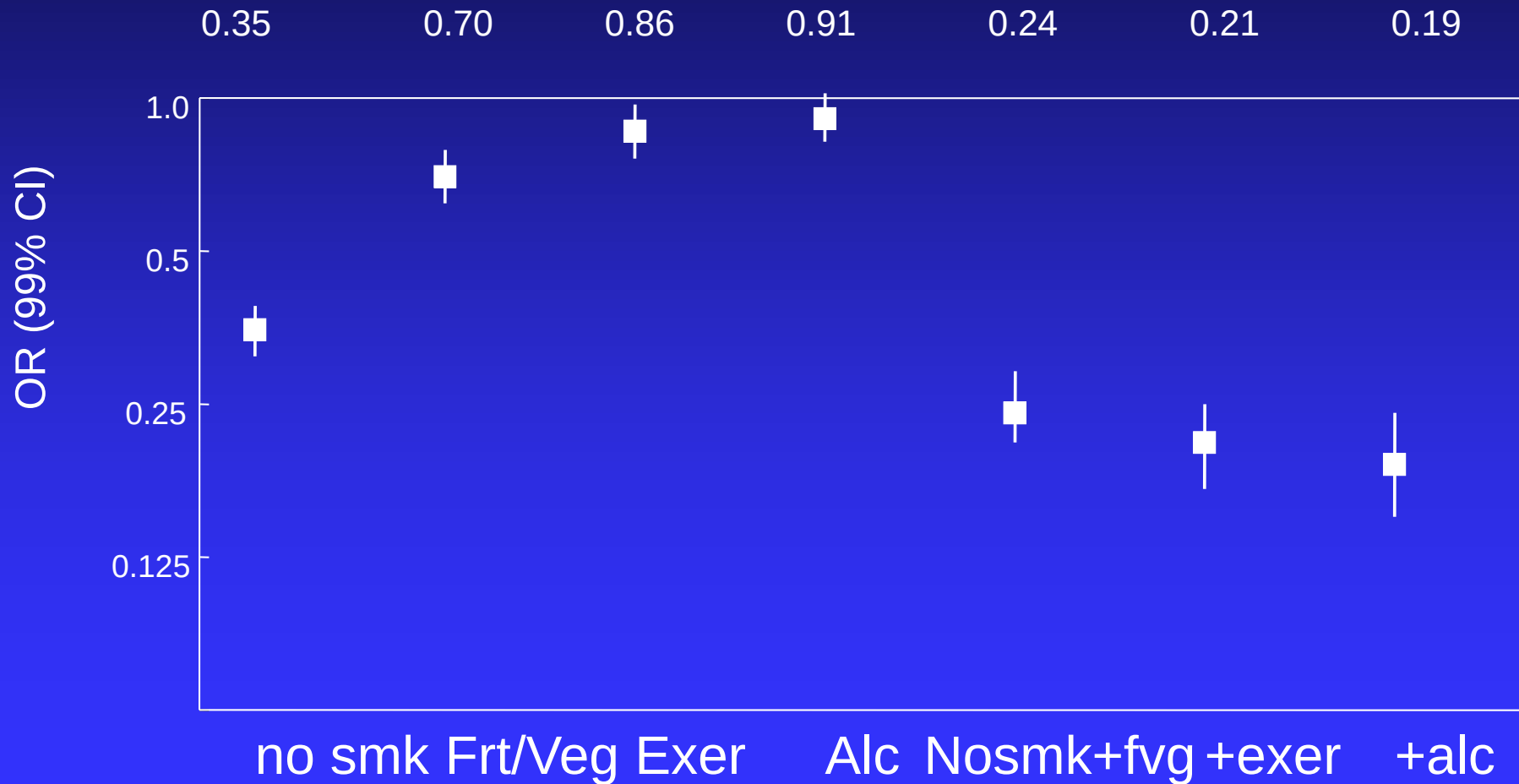
# Risk of AMI associated with Risk Factors in the Overall Population

| Risk factor         | % Cont | % Cases | PAR 1 (99% CI)           | PAR 2 (99% CI)           |
|---------------------|--------|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ApoB/ApoA-1(5 v 1)  | 20.0   | 33.5    | 54.1 (49.6, 58.6)        | 49.2 (43.8, 54.5)        |
| Curr smoking        | 26.8   | 45.2    | 36.4(33.9,39.0)          | 35.7,(32.5,39.1)         |
| Diabetes            | 7.5    | 18.5    | 12.3 (11.2, 13.5)        | 9.9 (8.5, 11.5)          |
| Hypertension        | 21.9   | 39.0    | 23.4 (21.7, 25.1)        | 17.9 (15.7, 20.4)        |
| Abd Obesity (3 v 1) | 33.3   | 46.3    | 33.7 (30.2, 37.4)        | 20.1 (15.3, 26.0)        |
| Psychosocial        | -      | -       | 28.8 (22.6, 35.8)        | 32.5 (25.1, 40.8)        |
| Veg & fruits daily  | 42.4   | 35.8    | 12.9 (10.0, 16.6)        | 13.7 (9.9, 18.6)         |
| Exercise            | 19.3   | 14.3    | 25.5 (20.1, 31.8)        | 12.2 (5.5, 25.1)         |
| Alcohol             | 24.5   | 24.0    | 13.9 (9.3, 20.2)         | 6.7 (2.0, 20.2)          |
| Combined            | -      | -       | <b>90.4 (88.1, 92.4)</b> | <b>90.4 (88.1, 92.4)</b> |

# INTERHEART: Risk of AMI with Multiple Risk Factors



# INTERHEART: Decreased Risk of AMI with Avoidance of Smoking; Daily Fruits/Veg, Reg Phys Activity & Alcohol



# Population Attributable Risk by Region and Overall

## LIFESTYLE FACTORS

| Region           | Smoke %     | Fr/vg %     | Exer %      | Alc %       | All LS      |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| W. Europe        | 28.9        | 12.9        | 38.8        | 18.9        | <b>67.8</b> |
| E/C Europe       | 30.2        | 10.2        | 11.3        | 12.9        | <b>49.6</b> |
| Middle East      | 44.8        | 8.1         | 4.0         | -4.4        | <b>45.5</b> |
| Africa           | 38.0        | 3.8         | 11.1        | 27.3        | <b>63.2</b> |
| S. Asia          | 37.5        | 18.4        | 24.3        | -5.3        | <b>55.2</b> |
| China            | 35.8        | 17.8        | 21.1        | 5.3         | <b>62.4</b> |
| S.E. Asia        | 36.2        | 11.2        | 31.4        | 27.9        | <b>69.9</b> |
| Australia/NZ     | 44.7        | 10.7        | 23.8        | 18.5        | <b>65.8</b> |
| S. America       | 38.5        | 6.7         | 27.2        | -3.1        | <b>56.9</b> |
| N. America       | 26.3        | 19.8        | 25.3        | 25.3        | <b>59.8</b> |
| <b>Overall 1</b> | <b>36.2</b> | <b>12.9</b> | <b>25.5</b> | <b>13.9</b> | <b>62.8</b> |
| <b>Overall 2</b> | <b>35.7</b> | <b>13.7</b> | <b>12.2</b> | <b>6.7</b>  | <b>54.6</b> |



# Population Attributable Risk by Region and Overall

## NON-LIFESTYLE RISK FACTORS

| Region           | HTN %       | Diab %      | Abd Obes %  | All PS%     | Lipids %    | All 9 RF    |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| W. Europe        | 22.0        | 14.9        | 63.6        | 38.9        | 44.6        | <b>94.0</b> |
| E/C Europe       | 24.5        | 9.1         | 28.0        | 4.9         | 35.0        | <b>72.5</b> |
| Middle East      | 9.7         | 15.5        | 26.7        | 41.6        | 70.5        | <b>95.0</b> |
| Africa           | 29.9        | 17.1        | 58.3        | 40.0        | 74.1        | <b>97.4</b> |
| S. Asia          | 19.4        | 12.1        | 37.0        | 15.9        | 58.7        | <b>89.4</b> |
| China            | 22.1        | 10.0        | 5.5         | 35.6        | 43.8        | <b>89.9</b> |
| S.E. Asia        | 38.4        | 21.0        | 58.0        | 26.7        | 67.7        | <b>93.7</b> |
| Australia/NZ     | 22.8        | 7.2         | 61.6        | 28.9        | 43.4        | <b>89.5</b> |
| S. America       | 32.8        | 12.8        | 45.4        | 35.6        | 47.6        | <b>89.4</b> |
| N. America       | 18.9        | 7.9         | 59.6        | 51.4        | 50.5        | <b>98.7</b> |
| <b>Overall 1</b> | <b>23.4</b> | <b>12.4</b> | <b>33.7</b> | <b>28.8</b> | <b>53.8</b> | <b>90.4</b> |
| <b>Overall 2</b> | <b>17.9</b> | <b>9.9</b>  | <b>20.1</b> | <b>32.5</b> | <b>49.2</b> | <b>90.4</b> |

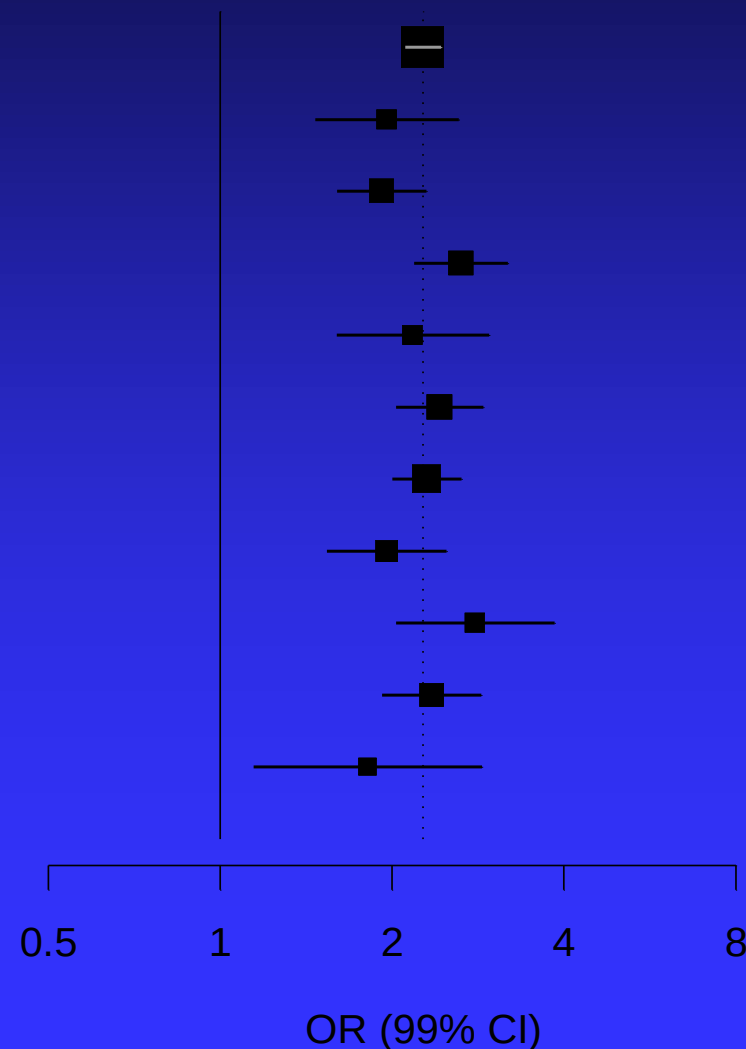
# Risk Factor Impact by Age

|              | Odds Ratio |        | PAR   |      |
|--------------|------------|--------|-------|------|
|              | Young      | Old    | Young | Old  |
| Smoking      | 3.33       | 2.44*  | 40.7  | 33.1 |
| Fruit/Veg    | 0.69       | 0.72   | 16.9  | 11.9 |
| Exercise     | 0.95       | 0.79   | 7.5   | 13.4 |
| Alcohol      | 1.00       | 0.85   | -4.1  | 11.1 |
| Hypertension | 2.24       | 1.72*  | 19.2  | 17.0 |
| Diabetes     | 2.96       | 2.05*  | 12.4  | 8.6  |
| Abd Obesity  | 1.79       | 1.50   | 24.8  | 18.1 |
| All Psych    | 2.87       | 2.43   | 43.5  | 25.2 |
| ApoB/ApoA-1  | 4.35       | 2.50*  | 58.9  | 43.6 |
| All 9 RF     | 216.47     | 81.99* | 93.8  | 87.9 |

P for interactions: \*p<0.001

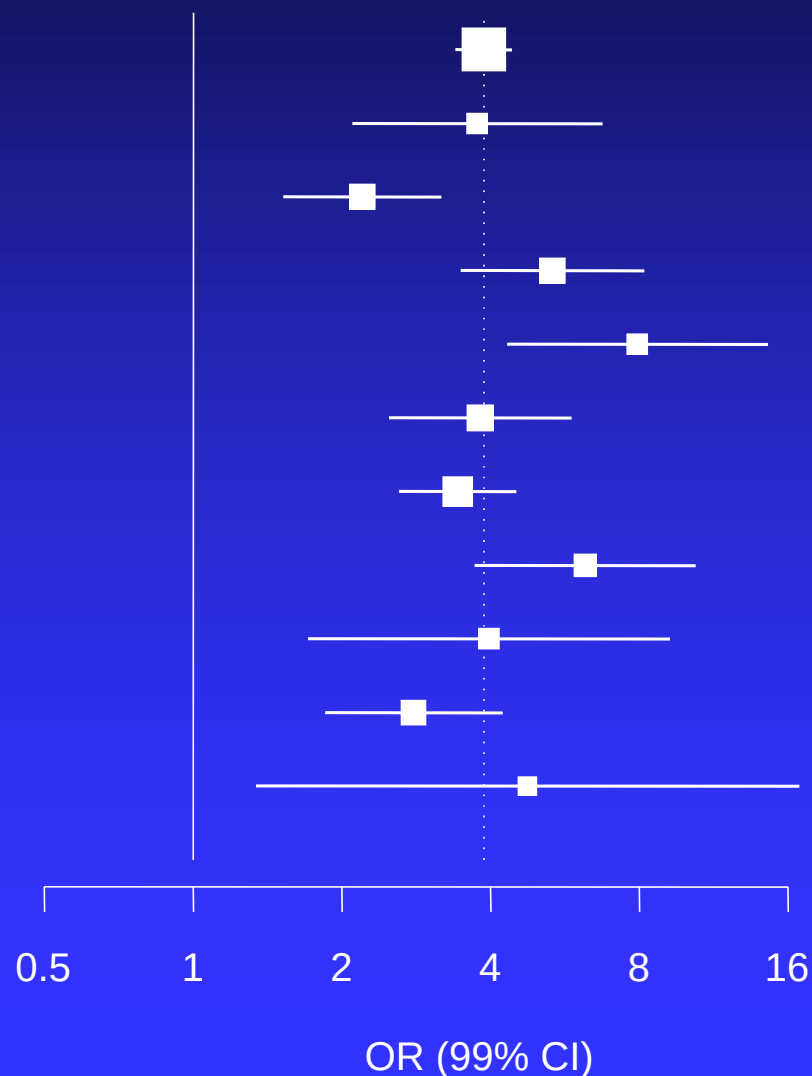
# INTERHEART: Current or Former Smoking & MI

| Region   | N     | Cont. % |
|----------|-------|---------|
| Overall  | 26527 | 47.9    |
| W Eur    | 1403  | 55.0    |
| CE Eur   | 3624  | 54.2    |
| MEC      | 3301  | 45.4    |
| Afr      | 1339  | 53.8    |
| S Asia   | 3706  | 41.0    |
| China/HK | 6062  | 42.7    |
| SE Asia  | 2131  | 57.1    |
| ANZ      | 1267  | 54.2    |
| S Am     | 3068  | 48.9    |
| N Am     | 626   | 64.6    |



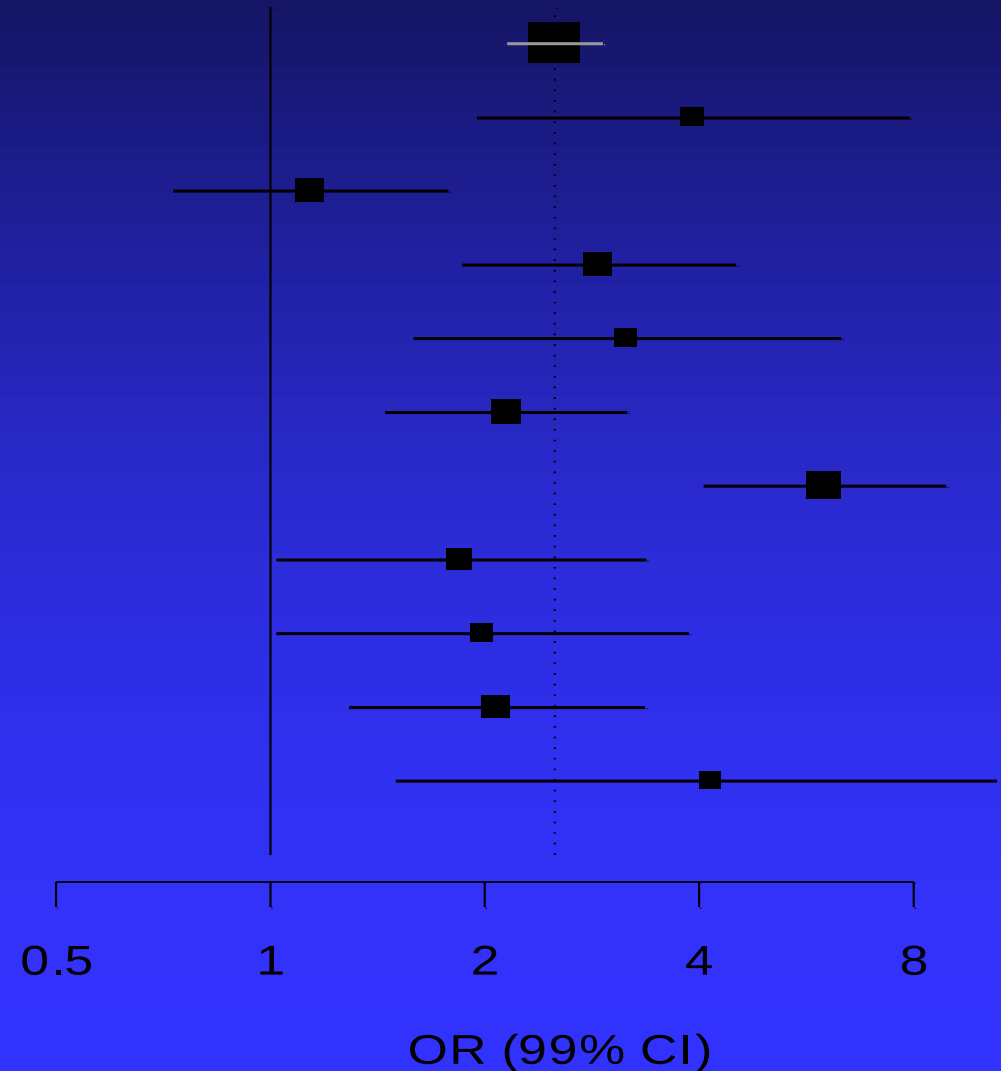
# INTERHEART: ApoB/ApoA-1 ratio (top quintile vs lowest quintile) and MI

| Region   | N     | Cont. % |
|----------|-------|---------|
| Overall  | 21408 | 20.0    |
| W Eur    | 1047  | 13.8    |
| CE Eur   | 2618  | 20.3    |
| MEC      | 3291  | 29.9    |
| Afr      | 1037  | 18.0    |
| S Asia   | 2820  | 27.7    |
| China/HK | 5400  | 7.3     |
| SE Asia  | 1858  | 22.7    |
| ANZ      | 487   | 13.8    |
| S Am     | 2644  | 27.1    |
| N Am     | 206   | 12.4    |



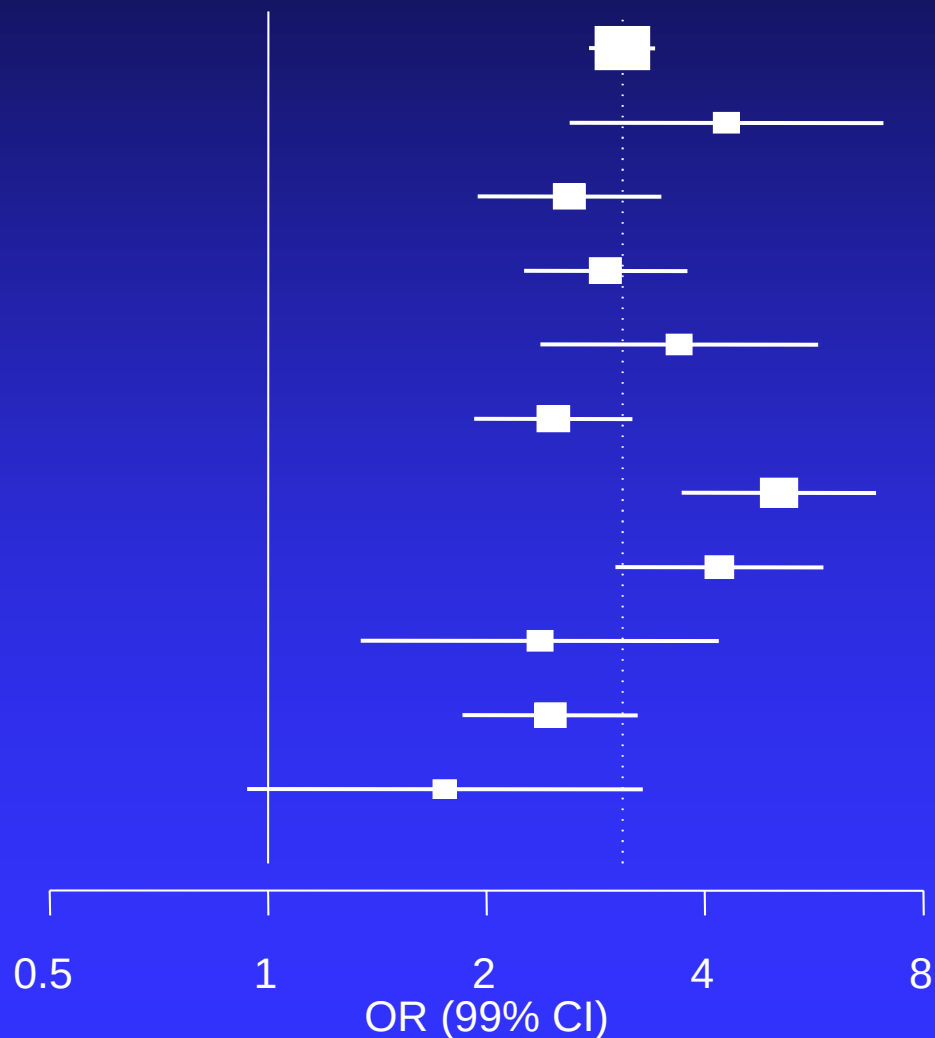
# INTERHEART: Composite Psychosocial Index and MI

| Region   | N     | OR   |
|----------|-------|------|
| Overall  | 24767 | 3.11 |
| W.Eur    | 1375  | 4.76 |
| C.E.Eur  | 3473  | 1.31 |
| M East   | 2892  | 3.21 |
| Africa   | 1259  | 4.34 |
| S.Asia   | 3300  | 2.47 |
| China/HK | 5894  | 7.72 |
| SE Asia  | 1921  | 2.76 |
| ANZ      | 1255  | 2.81 |
| S.Am.    | 2783  | 2.80 |
| N.Am.    | 615   | 4.11 |



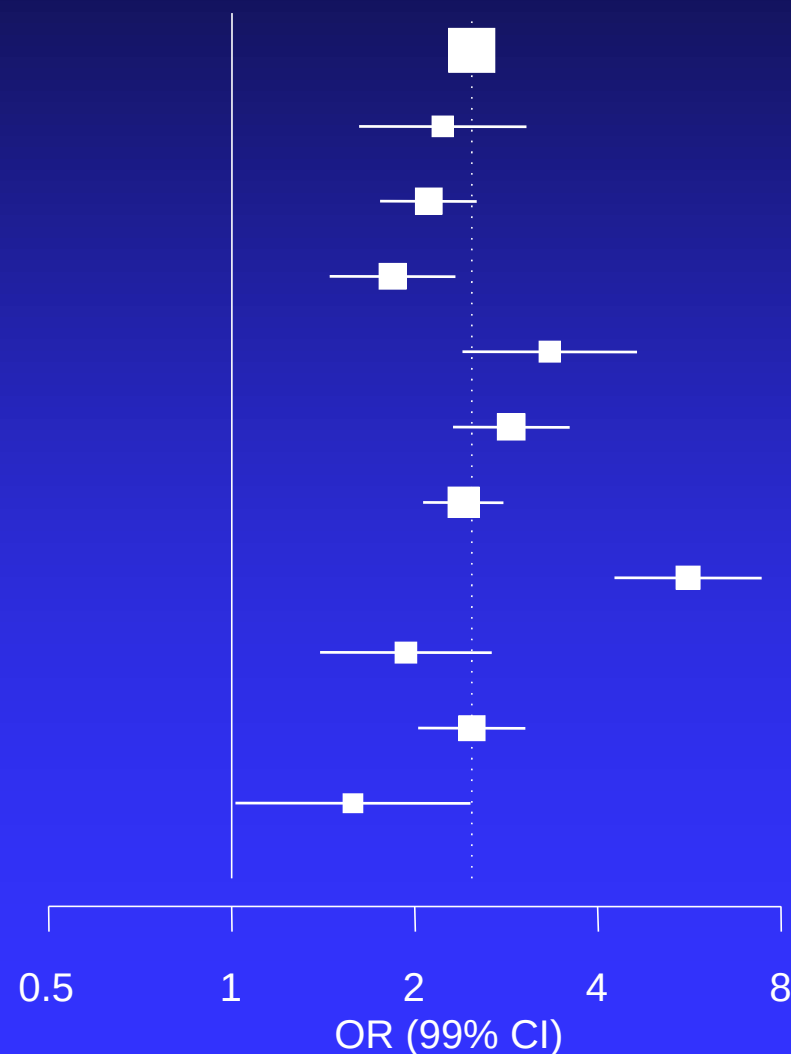
# INTERHEART: Self-reported Diabetes and MI overall

| Region   | N     | Cont. % |
|----------|-------|---------|
| Overall  | 26903 | 7.6     |
| W Eur    | 1422  | 4.2     |
| CE Eur   | 3636  | 6.8     |
| MEC      | 3401  | 11.6    |
| Afr      | 1355  | 8.0     |
| S Asia   | 3882  | 10.6    |
| China/HK | 6075  | 2.9     |
| SE Asia  | 2140  | 9.2     |
| ANZ      | 1269  | 4.8     |
| S Am     | 3093  | 9.0     |
| N Am     | 630   | 9.7     |



# INTERHEART: Self-reported Hypertension and MI

| Regions | N     | Cont. % |
|---------|-------|---------|
|         | 26916 | 22.3    |
|         | 1425  | 16.4    |
|         | 3636  | 32.7    |
|         | 3404  | 20.2    |
|         | 1355  | 21.6    |
|         | 3881  | 13.8    |
|         | 6075  | 21.1    |
|         | 2141  | 15.3    |
|         | 1269  | 22.0    |
|         | 3100  | 27.7    |
|         | 630   | 28.6    |



# Recruitment by Region

|                | MI Cases | Controls |
|----------------|----------|----------|
|                | Actual   | Actual   |
| W Eur          | 664      | 761      |
| C/E Eur        | 1,758    | 1,927    |
| MiddleE/Egypt  | 1,651    | 1,789    |
| Africa         | 579      | 788      |
| S Asia         | 1,742    | 2,204    |
| China/HongKong | 3,056    | 3,056    |
| SE Asia/Japan  | 968      | 1,199    |
| ANZ            | 592      | 681      |
| S Amer/Mexico  | 1,246    | 1,888    |
| N Amer         | 297      | 340      |





# INTERHEART: Analysis of Markers of Obesity and MI

1. Prevalence of obesity in cases & controls overall and in various regions using:  
BMI as a marker of overall obesity  
WHR as a marker of abdominal obesity
2. To assess the association of BMI alone, WHR alone and the two together to MI.
3. To assess regional variations in OR and PAR for obesity

# Measurements taken for INTER-HEART

- Height
- Weight

Body Mass Index (BMI)

- Waist circumference
- Hip circumference

Waist to hip ratio (WHR)



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in Acute Myocardial Infarction

# Proportion of cases and controls who are obese or overweight



Cases/controls 12 056/14 496 653/756 1685/1907 1593/1776 543/771 1645/2180 3010/3036 909/1188 570/674 1167/1875 281/333

# Waist –to-hip ratio

## Quintile cut points:

### Women

1. WHR < 0.80
2. 0.80 – 0.85
3. 0.85 – 0.90
4. 0.90 – 0.95
5. > 0.95

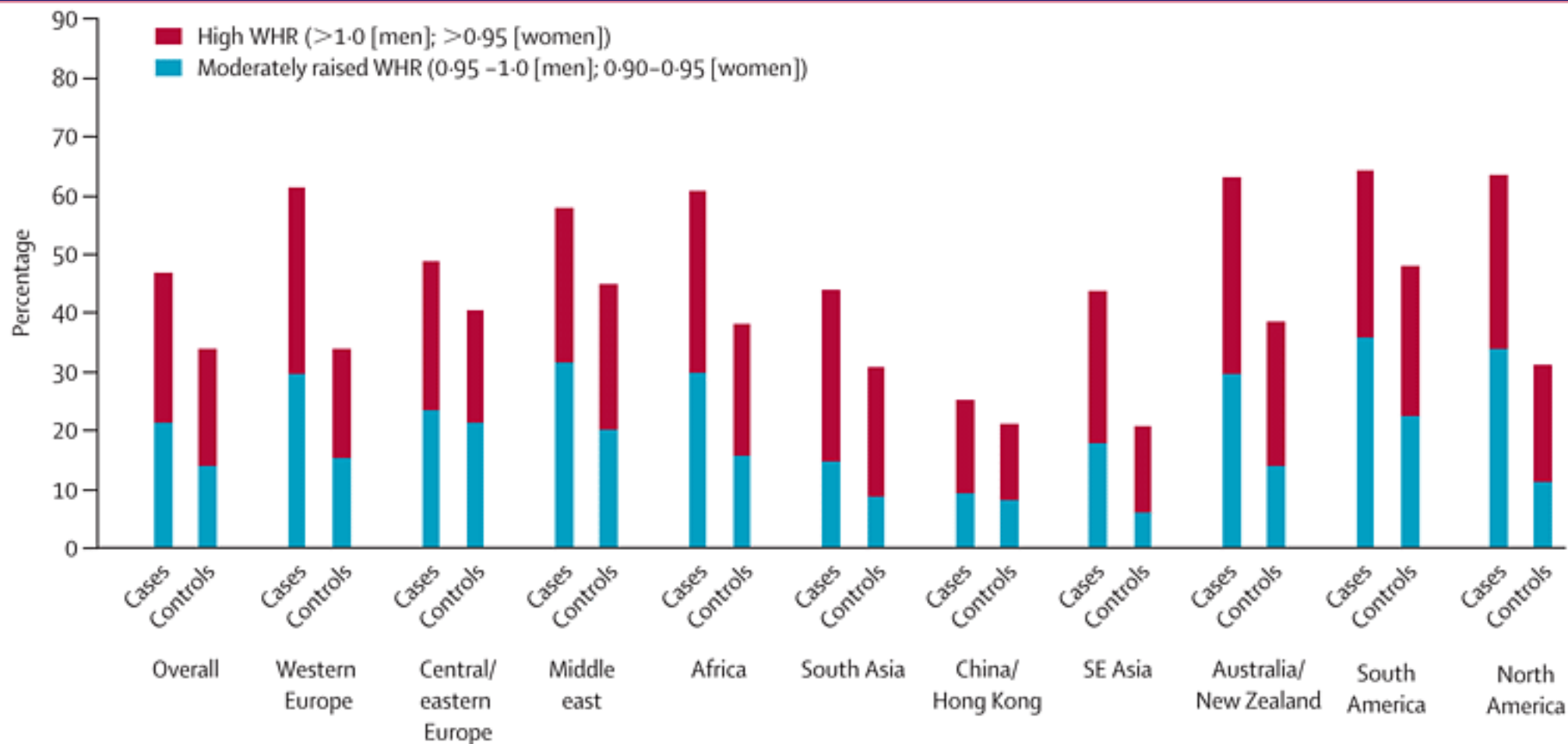
### Men

1. WHR < 0.85
2. 0.85 – 0.90
3. 0.90 – 0.95
4. 0.95 – 1.00
5. >1.00



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in Acute Myocardial Infarction

# Percentage (age-adjusted) of cases and controls with abdominal obesity (waist-to-hip ratio) overall and by region

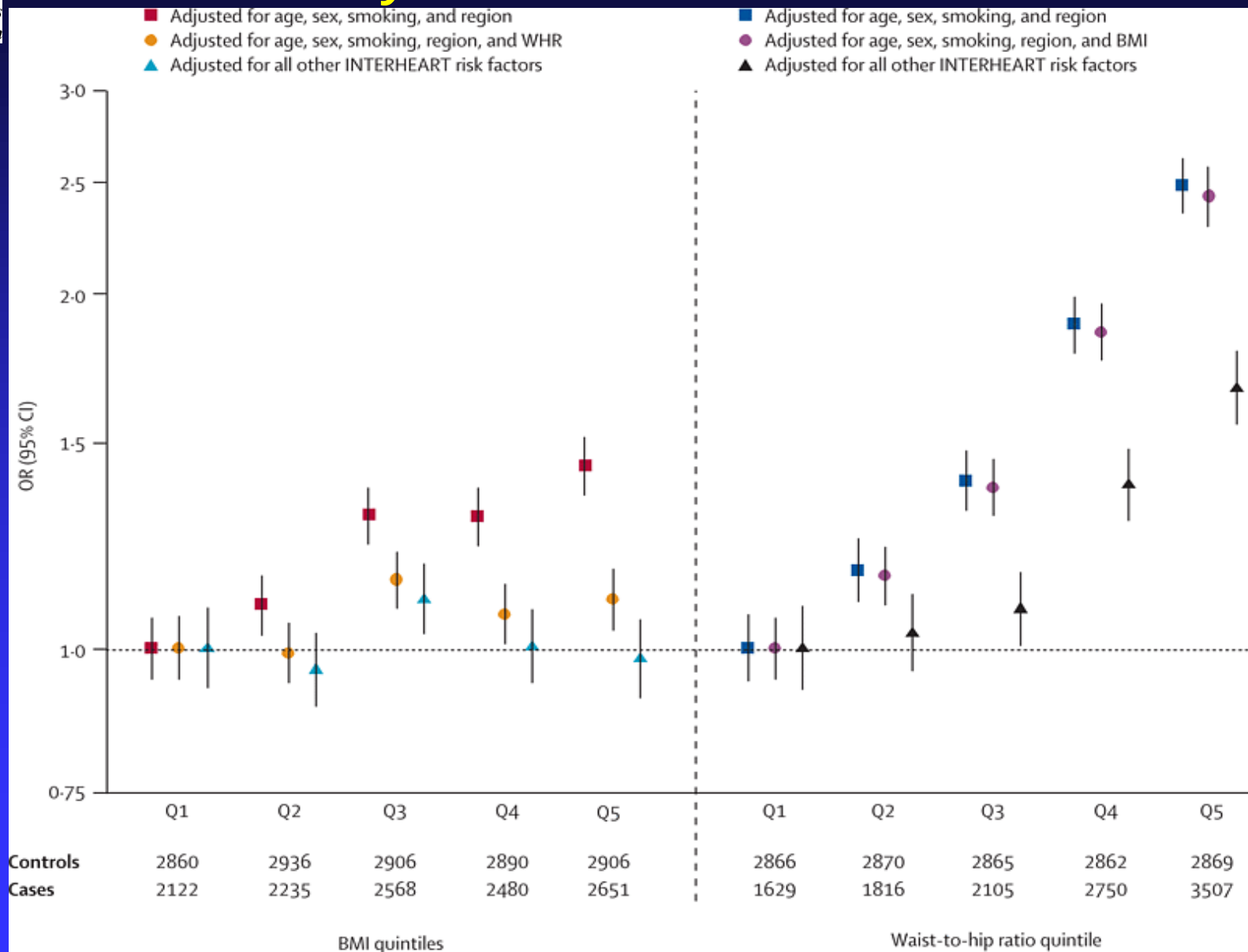


Cases/controls 11807/14329 597/709 1643/1895 1553/1756 528/737 1644/2177 2989/3029 914/1187 554/670 1118/1841 267/328



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in Acute Myocardial Infarction

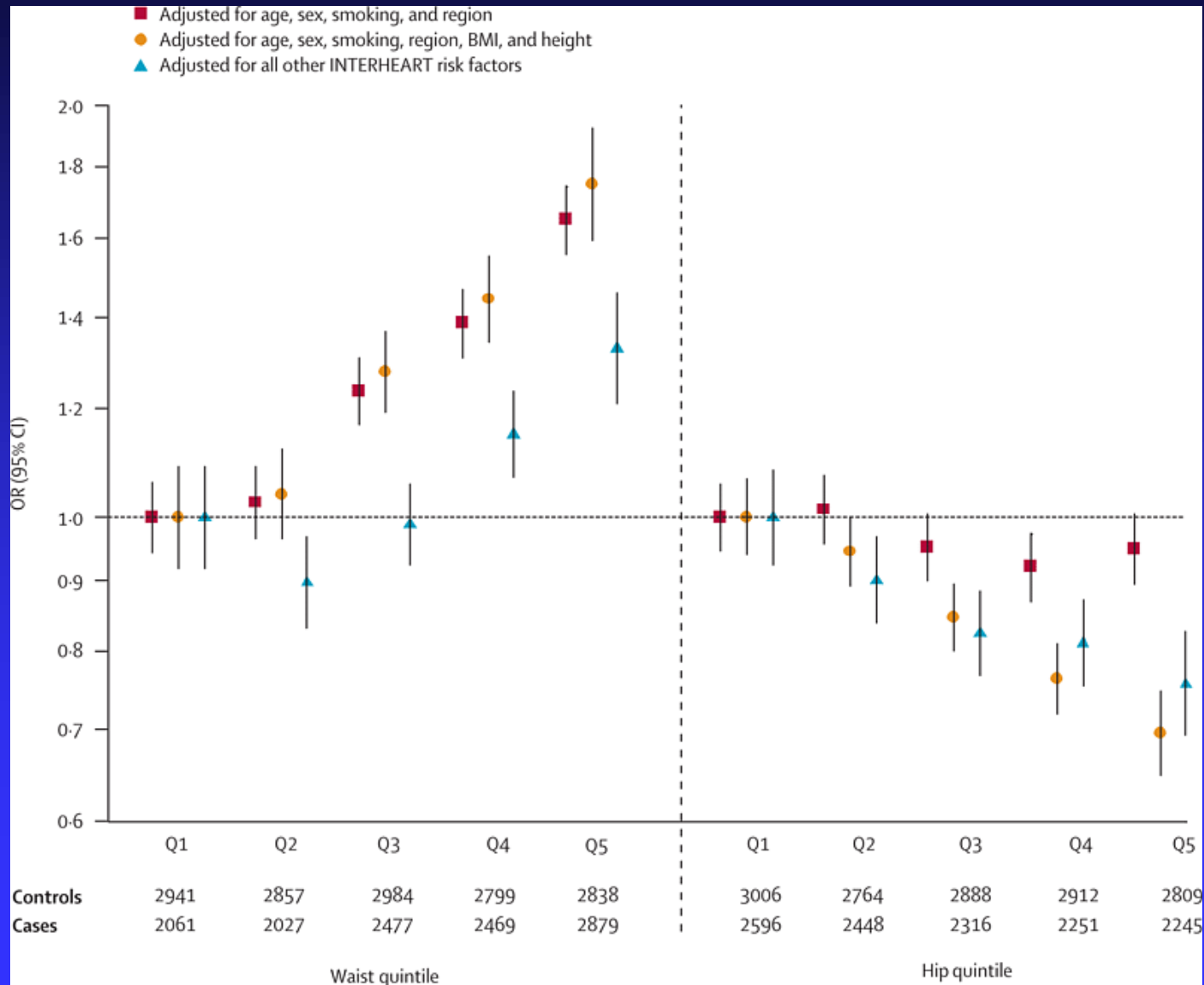
# Association of BMI and waist-to-hip ratio with myocardial infarction risk





A Global Study of Risk Factors  
in Acute Myocardial Infarction

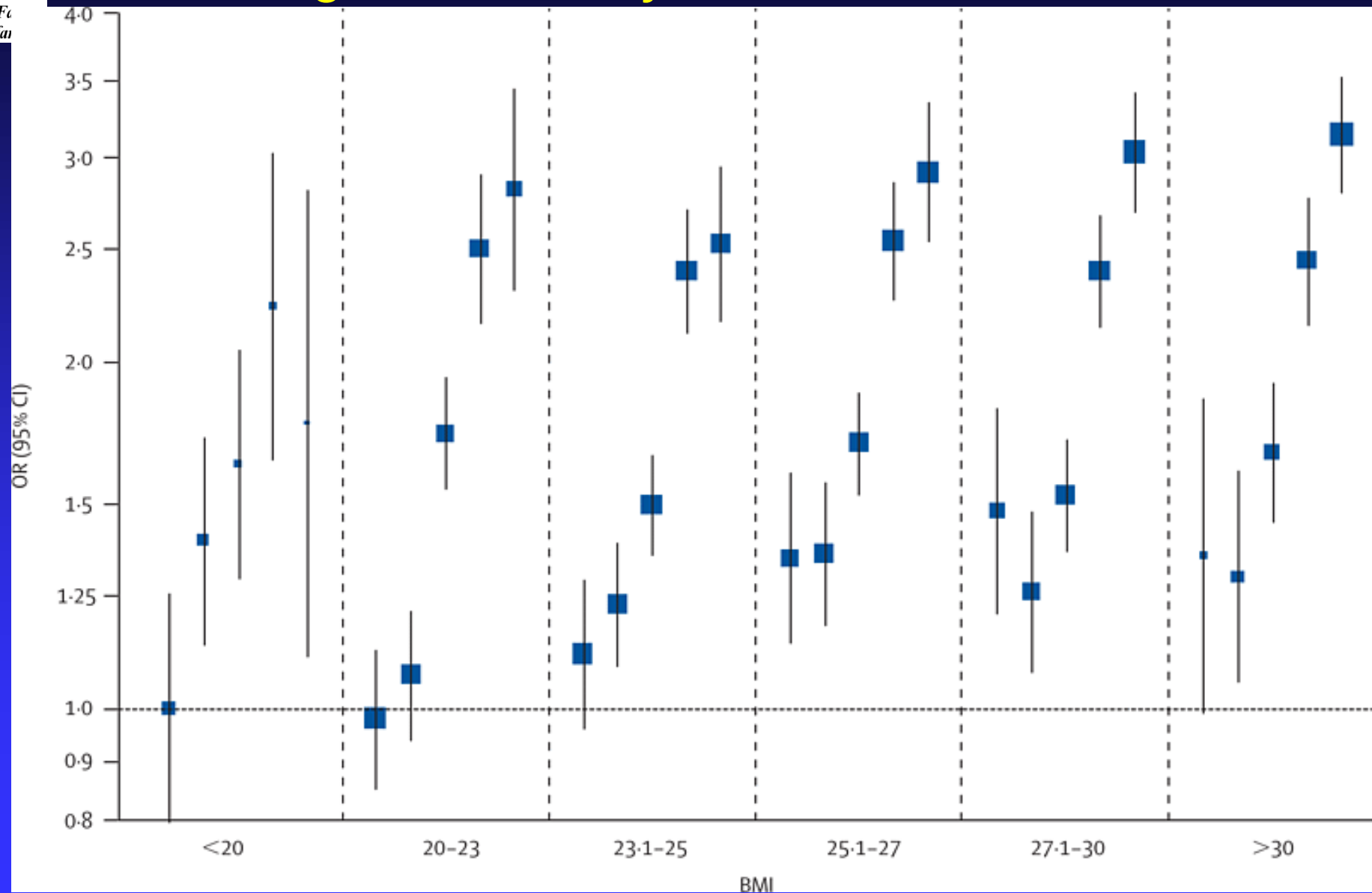
# Risk of MI associated with increasing waist circumference and hip circumference



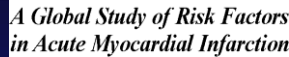


A Global Study of Risk Factors  
in Acute Myocardial Infarction

# Association of waist-to-hip ratio within BMI categories with myocardial infarction risk







for 1 SD increase

| BMI                     |        |                  | WHR    |                  |           |
|-------------------------|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|-----------|
| Population              | N      | OR (95% CI)      | N      | OR (95% CI)      |           |
| Overall                 | 26 552 | 1.10 (1.07–1.13) | 26 136 | 1.37 (1.34–1.41) |           |
| Never smokers           | 11 574 | 1.12 (1.08–1.17) | 11 362 | 1.30 (1.25–1.36) |           |
| Formersmokers           | 5412   | 1.13 (1.06–1.19) | 5335   | 1.47 (1.38–1.57) | p<0.0001* |
| Currentsmokers          | 9223   | 1.17 (1.11–1.22) | 9108   | 1.42 (1.35–1.49) |           |
| No diabetes             | 23 223 | 1.07 (1.04–1.10) | 22 851 | 1.33 (1.29–1.37) |           |
| Diabetes                | 3264   | 1.06 (0.98–1.14) | 3234   | 1.38 (1.27–1.51) |           |
| No hypertension         | 18 652 | 1.06 (1.02–1.09) | 18 395 | 1.38 (1.33–1.43) |           |
| Hypertension            | 7845   | 0.98 (0.94–1.03) | 7697   | 1.23 (1.17–1.29) | p<0.0001* |
| ApoB/ApoA1 below median | 8945   | 1.13 (1.07–1.19) | 8826   | 1.23 (1.18–1.30) |           |
| ApoB/ApoA1 above median | 12 040 | 0.99 (0.95–1.02) | 11 856 | 1.29 (1.24–1.35) |           |
| Young†                  | 11 033 | 1.11 (1.07–1.15) | 10 867 | 1.46 (1.40–1.53) |           |
| Old‡                    | 15 519 | 1.10 (1.06–1.14) | 15 269 | 1.32 (1.27–1.37) | p<0.0001* |
| Female                  | 6589   | 1.10 (1.05–1.15) | 6489   | 1.33 (1.27–1.40) |           |
| Male                    | 19 963 | 1.10 (1.07–1.13) | 19 647 | 1.39 (1.34–1.43) |           |

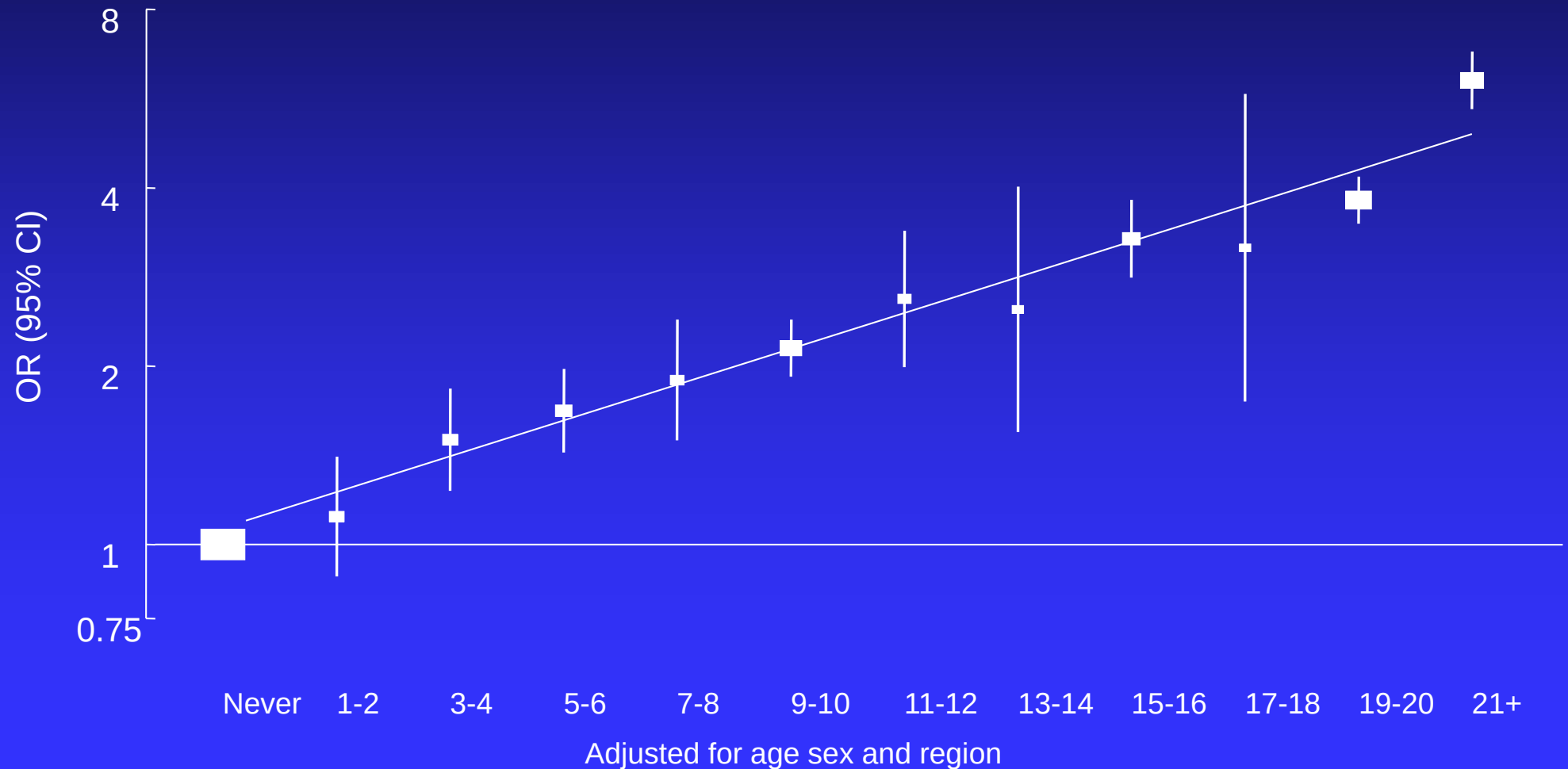
# Summary - Obesity

1. Waist circumference and waist to hip ratio which are measures of abdominal obesity, but not BMI, closely correlate with risk of AMI globally, and in all ethnic groups.
2. Markers of obesity (especially WHR) demonstrate a graded relationship with AMI risk, even at levels currently considered to be “normal”.
3. Obesity accounts for 34% of PAR overall ( 36% women, 32% men). It is more important than smoking in high income countries (e.g. North America), whereas it is less important in some regions (e.g. China)

# Conclusion

- Abdominal obesity is highly predictive of increased risk for acute myocardial infarction and other cardiovascular disease. Measures to reduce obesity should be part of risk factor modification.
- In assessment risk factors in patients, there should be routine measurement of waist circumference and waist to hip ratio in order to more precisely identify this important risk factor.

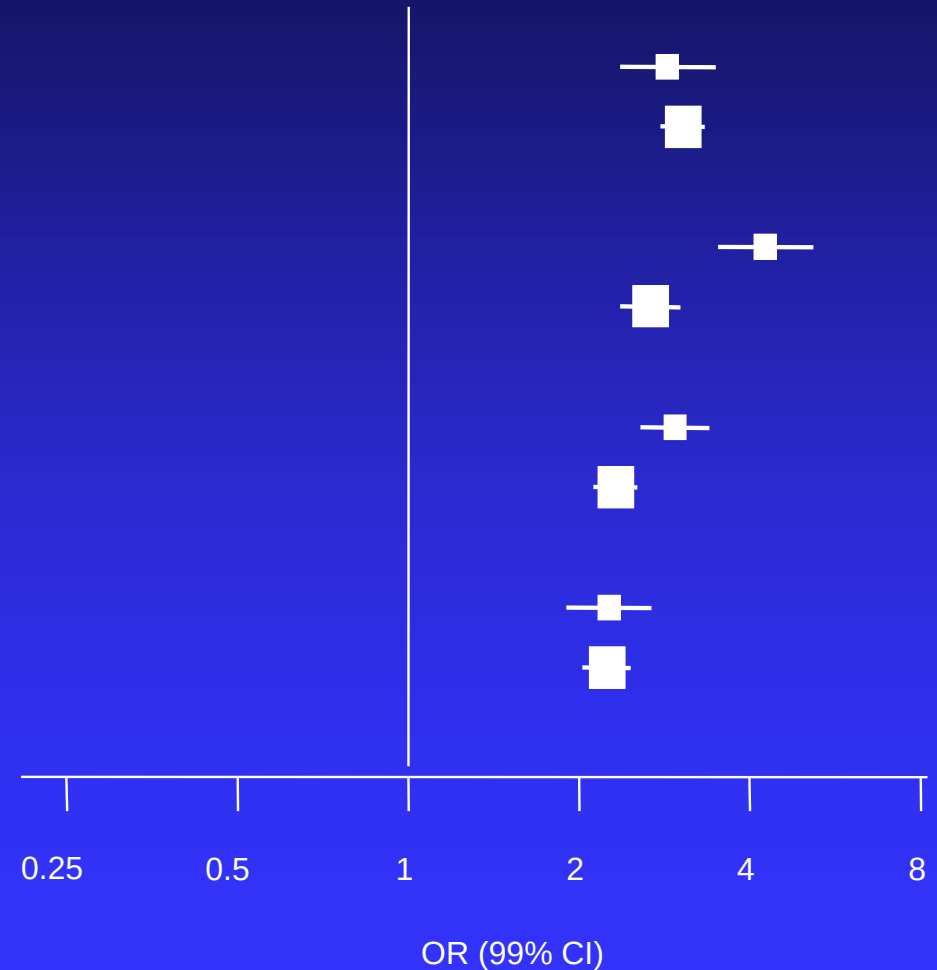
# Low Levels of Smoking and MI





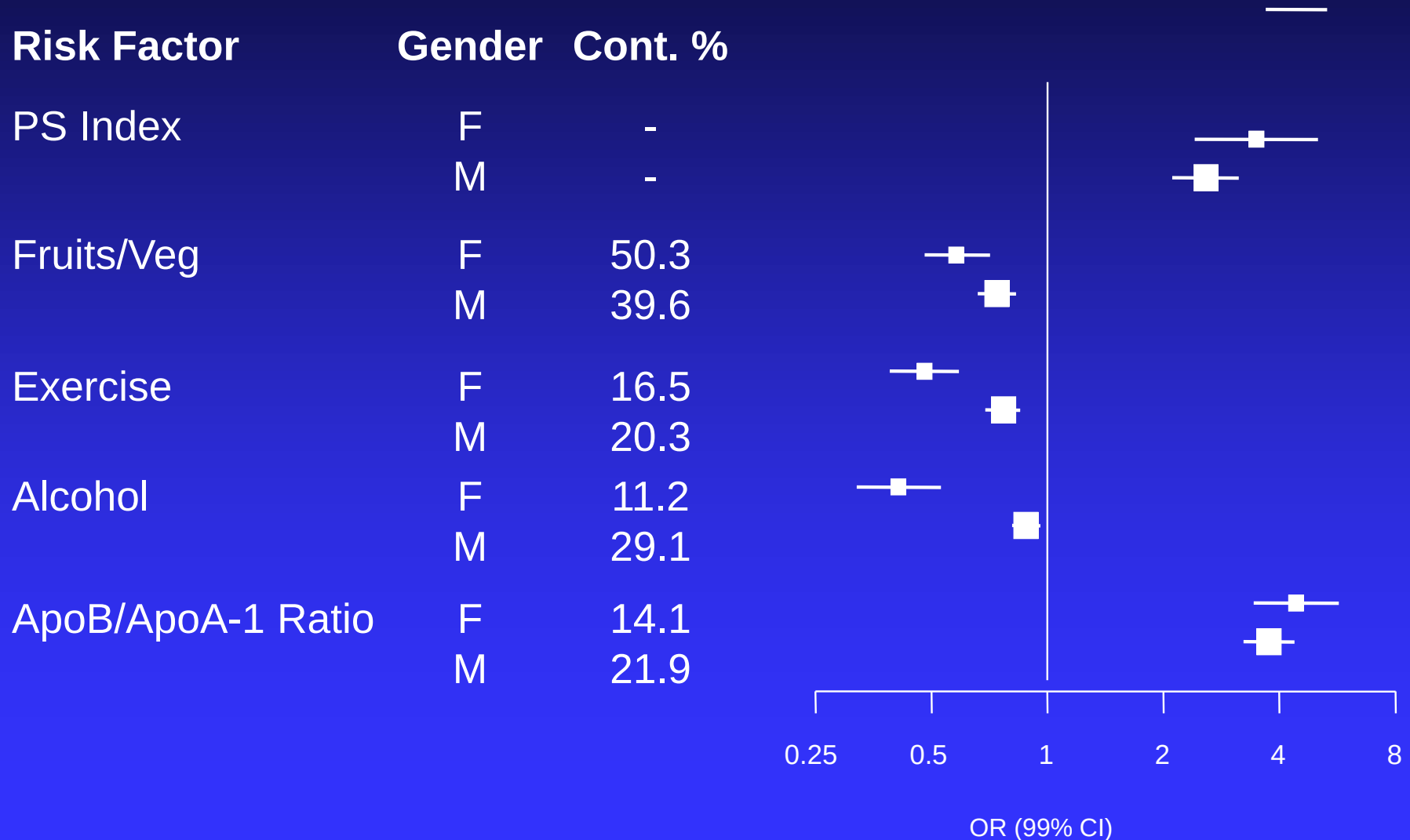
# INTERHEART: Association of Risk Factors with AMI in Men & Women (1)

| Risk Factor  | Gender | Cont. % |
|--------------|--------|---------|
| Curr Smok    | F      | 9.3     |
|              | M      | 33.0    |
| Diabetes     | F      | 7.9     |
|              | M      | 7.4     |
| Hypertension | F      | 28.3    |
|              | M      | 19.7    |
| Abd Obesity  | F      | 33.3    |
|              | M      | 33.3    |



# INTERHEART: Association of Risk Factors with AMI in Men & Women (2)

Risk factors by sex





# INTERHEART: Summary

1. Nine simple risk factors are strongly associated with AMI worldwide.
2. These risk factors are even more important in the young, and their effects are consistent in men and women, and across all regions.
3. Abnormal Apo-B/ApoA-1 ratio and smoking are the most important risk factors and account for  $>2/3$  of the PAR. All 9 risk factors account for  $>90\%$  of the PAR globally and in most regions.

IMPLICATIONS: Implementing preventive strategies based on our current knowledge would avert the majority of premature CHD worldwide.



# INTERHEART: Implications

1. Current knowledge provides a basis for a global strategy for prevention of CHD and suggests the potential for preventing the large majority of premature MI. These strategies can utilize similar principles in various regions of the world, but with consideration for the prevalence of risk factors and local economic and cultural factors.
2. Future research is likely to be particularly fruitful if focussed on why known risk factors develop and how they can be substantially modified.