

## 1 **Abstract**

2 Objectives: To describe the pattern of healthcare providers' advice on lifestyle modification to  
3 older adults, and identify correlates of receiving such advice.

4 Design: cross-sectional survey.

5 Setting and Participants: Data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey  
6 study from 2007-2016 on adults  $\geq 65$  years (n=3,758) were analysed.

7 Methods: We estimated the weighted prevalence and correlates of receiving advice on the  
8 following lifestyle modifications: 1) increase physical activity, 2) reduce fat/calories, 3)  
9 control/lose weight and 4) a combination of control/lose weight and physical activity. Data were  
10 analysed according to level of comorbidity (number of chronic conditions including high blood  
11 pressure, high blood cholesterol, type 2 diabetes mellitus, coronary heart disease, and arthritis)  
12 and body mass index (BMI).

13 Results: Physical activity was the most widely prescribed lifestyle modification, reported by  
14 15.7% of older adults free of chronic conditions and 28.9%, 35.4% and 52.6% of older adults  
15 with 1, 2 and  $\geq 3$  comorbidities. Advice on reducing fat/calories was reported by 9.2%, 18.5%,  
16 26.3% and 40.9% of older adults with 0, 1, 2 and  $\geq 3$  comorbidities, respectively, and advice on  
17 weight loss/control was reported by 6.5%, 19.1%, 20.8% and 37.5% respectively. The  
18 combination of advice on weight loss/control and physical activity was least commonly  
19 reported: 5.1%, 13.5%, 16.6% and 32.0% respectively. Overall, lifestyle modifications were  
20 more frequently advised to older adults who were overweight, obese, or Hispanic.

21 Conclusions and implications: In the US, lifestyle modifications are not routinely recommended  
22 to older adults, particularly those free of chronic conditions, presenting a missed opportunity  
23 for chronic disease prevention and management. Among those advised to lose or manage  
24 weight, concurrent advice to increase physical activity is not consistently provided.

25 **Key Words:** older adults; NHANES; lifestyle advice; chronic illness  
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27 **Introduction**

28 Lifestyle factors, such as physical activity and diet, can aid in the prevention of non-  
29 communicable disease and extend active life years.<sup>1,2</sup> Around half of all American adults have  
30 one or more preventable chronic diseases, but seven of the ten most common diseases (e.g.  
31 diabetes type 2, coronary heart disease) can be improved by increasing physical activity,<sup>1</sup> and  
32 eating a healthy diet.<sup>3</sup> As such, promoting healthy lifestyles is an important strategy for chronic  
33 disease prevention and management.

34 According to US national physical activity recommendations,<sup>1</sup> older adults ( $\geq 65$  years) should  
35 perform a multicomponent physical activity program. A weekly target of 150 minutes of  
36 moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity, 75 minutes of vigorous activity, or a combination  
37 of both is recommended. Additionally, muscle strengthening and balance training is suggested.  
38 These recommendations also apply to older people with chronic health conditions.<sup>4,5</sup> However,  
39 only 17% of older adults in the US meet these recommendations.<sup>6</sup> Barriers to participation in  
40 physical activity include a lack of motivation, poor health, and a lack of knowledge relating to  
41 the health benefits.<sup>7</sup> Another key lifestyle factor for healthy aging is a balanced diet,<sup>2</sup> with  
42 adequate energy and protein intake of particular importance.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, maintaining a balanced  
43 diet aids in weight control, and can help to reduce the risk of obesity-associated health  
44 conditions.

45 When considering lifestyle modification, the role of healthcare professionals is to promote and  
46 disseminate information on physical activity, nutrition, and maintenance of a healthy weight,  
47 to encourage patients, to set achievable goals and to identify barriers.<sup>9,10</sup> In previous research,  
48 a small to moderate increase in physical activity has been achieved through healthcare  
49 professionals or in the form of patient education.<sup>11,12 13</sup> An umbrella review of nutritional  
50 interventions has shown that nutritional education given by healthcare staff has the potential to  
51 improve patients' health outcomes.<sup>14</sup> Moreover, one qualitative study has demonstrated the

52 importance of lifestyle advice to aid weight control.<sup>15</sup> Despite behavioral counseling  
53 interventions having been recommended by various institutions,<sup>10,16</sup> lifestyle advice has not  
54 been fully recognized in clinical practice.

55 Using nationally representative data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination  
56 Survey (NHANES) cycles 2007-2008, and 2011-2016, the aims of the present study were: 1)  
57 to describe the pattern of healthcare providers' advice to increase physical activity, reduce  
58 fat/calories, control/reduce weight, and a combination of control/reduce weight and increase  
59 physical activity among older adults, overall and in relation to the presence of highly prevalent  
60 chronic conditions (high blood pressure, cholesterol, arthritis, coronary heart disease and type  
61 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM); and 2) to examine the correlates of receiving lifestyle advice. Such  
62 knowledge is crucial for understanding and informing clinical practice and decision making in  
63 the medical setting in order to promote successful aging.

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## 65 **Methods**

### 66 Study Populations

67 NHANES was designed to provide cross-sectional estimates of the prevalence of health,  
68 nutrition, and potential risk factors among the civilian non-institutionalized US population  
69 using a nationally representative complex, stratified multistage, probability clustered sample.<sup>17</sup>

70 Data on sociodemographic characteristics, body measurements, medical conditions, and  
71 lifestyle characteristics in the four study cycles in 2007-2008 and from 2011-2012 to 2015-  
72 2016 were extracted. We excluded participants who were younger than 65 years.

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### 74 Healthcare providers' advice on lifestyle modifications

75 Lifestyle advice queried in the NHANES interview were included in our analyses. Participants  
76 were asked: "To lower your risk of certain disease, during the past 12 months have you ever

77 been told by a doctor or health professional to: 1) increase your physical activity or exercise; 2)  
78 reduce the amount of fat/calories in your diet; 3) control weight or lose weight. Response  
79 options were yes (received lifestyle modification advice) and no (lifestyle modification advice  
80 not received). Additionally, we examined whether participants received a combination of  
81 advice on 4) control/lose weight and increase physical activity/exercise.

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### 83 Chronic conditions

84 Five prevalent chronic conditions were included: high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol  
85 level, arthritis, coronary heart disease and T2DM.<sup>18</sup> All chronic conditions were identified  
86 through self-reported doctors' diagnoses. Laboratory examination data were additionally used  
87 to identify further cases. High blood pressure was determined if the mean of at least 3 blood  
88 pressure measurements was 140 mm Hg or higher for systolic, or 90 mm Hg or higher for  
89 diastolic.<sup>19</sup> High blood cholesterol was determined if the measured total cholesterol level was  
90 6.2 mmol/L (240 mg/DL) or higher.<sup>20</sup> Arthritis included osteoarthritis or degenerative arthritis,  
91 rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and other. Coronary heart disease was defined based on  
92 participants' self-reported diagnoses of congestive heart failure, angina, heart attack, or  
93 coronary heart disease. Structured interview questions on chest pain were further used to  
94 classify angina based on existing Rose angina criteria.<sup>21</sup> Due to the high prevalence of chronic  
95 conditions in the elderly population, chronic conditions were categorized to free of chronic  
96 conditions, one chronic condition, two chronic conditions (comorbidity), and three or more  
97 chronic conditions (multimorbidity).<sup>22</sup>

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### 99 Weight status

100 Weight and height were measured during a physical examination following standard  
101 procedures. Body mass index (BMI) was calculated as weight in kg/(height in meters)<sup>2</sup> and  
102 categorized into underweight (<18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), normal weight (18.5-<25.0 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), overweight

103 (25.0-<30.0 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), and obesity ( $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) based on the standard classification.<sup>23</sup> For analytic  
104 purposes, we excluded those who were underweight due to potential underlying health  
105 conditions.

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### 107 Covariates

108 Self-reported socio-demographic characteristics included age, gender, race/ethnicity (non-  
109 Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, Hispanic, Asian, and others), annual household income  
110 (<\$25,000, \$25,000-<\$75,000, and  $\geq$ \$75,000), health insurance status (non-Medicare  
111 beneficiary and Medicare beneficiary) and education (less than high school, high school, and  
112 above high school). Lifestyle characteristics included leisure-time physical activity and  
113 smoking status. Participants reported the number of days and minutes spent in moderate  
114 recreational and vigorous recreational activities in a typical week. We summarized the total  
115 number of minutes for both activities and classified participants as inactive (zero moderate-to-  
116 vigorous physical activity), and active (any moderate-to-vigorous physical activity). Smoking  
117 status was classified into: never smokers (did not smoke 100 cigarettes in life and do not smoke  
118 now), former smokers (smoked 100 cigarettes in life and do not smoke now), and current  
119 smokers (smoked 100 cigarettes in life and smoke now). Living with physical function  
120 limitation was defined as difficulty walking for a quarter of a mile or walking up ten steps.<sup>24</sup>

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### 122 Analysis

123 Survey analysis procedures were used to account for the sample weights, stratification and  
124 clustering of the complex sampling design to ensure nationally representative estimates.<sup>25</sup> The  
125 unweighted sample size was calculated in relation to chronic conditions and participants'  
126 characteristics. Due to the small sample size of "other" racial/ethnic group, those participants  
127 were excluded in further analyses to avoid biased estimations due to insufficient power to detect  
128 relevant effect sizes. To estimate the prevalence of lifestyle modification advices, we calculated

129 the weighted proportion and 95% CI of participants who reported receiving lifestyle advice  
130 (increase physical activity/exercise, reduced fat/calories, control/lose weight, and control/lose  
131 weight + increase physical activity/exercise) overall, by number of chronic conditions, and by  
132 BMI category.

133 We used multivariable adjusted logistic regression models to identify correlates of receiving  
134 each of the four forms of lifestyle advice. Multivariable adjustments included number of chronic  
135 conditions, age (continuous), gender, BMI category, race/ethnicity, household income, health  
136 insurance status, education level, leisure-time physical activity, smoking status and physical  
137 function limitation. **As the prevalence of advice on increasing physical activity has increased  
138 from 2007-2008 to 2011-2016, we also adjusted for study cycle.** All statistical analyses were  
139 performed using STATA version 14.0 (STATA Corp., College Station, Texas, USA). All  
140 statistical significance was set at  $P < 0.05$ . P values were not adjusted for multiple tests and  
141 should be interpreted as exploratory analyses.

142

## 143 **Results**

144 Data on 3,758 older adults were analysed. Table 1 shows the unweighted sample size overall,  
145 and by BMI, race/ethnicity, health insurance status, physical activity, smoking status, and  
146 physical function limitations according to number of chronic conditions. A total of 247  
147 (weighted proportion: 5.3%) older adults were free of chronic conditions; 936 (weighted  
148 proportion: 21.4%) older adults had one chronic condition, 1368 (weighted proportion: 31.6%)  
149 had two and 1207 (weighted proportion: 41.7%) had three or more chronic conditions,  
150 respectively.

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### 152 Prevalence of advice on lifestyle modifications given by healthcare providers

153 The prevalence of lifestyle modifications advised by healthcare providers are summarized in  
154 Table 2, presented as weighted proportions and 95% CIs in the overall population, and by

155 chronic conditions and BMI category. The most commonly reported lifestyle advice was to  
156 increase physical activity (41.4%, 39.5-43.3), followed by to reduce fat/calories (32.1%, 29.8-  
157 34.5), control/lose weight (28.7%, 26.7-30.8), and a combination of control/lose weight and  
158 increase physical activity (23.3%, 21.4-25.4). The prevalence of each form of lifestyle  
159 modification advice showed a graded association with BMI in the overall population (all P for  
160 trend <.001).

161 Patterns of lifestyle modification advice according to chronic conditions were similar to those  
162 in the overall population. Among older adults free of chronic conditions, reports of having  
163 received lifestyle modification advice were comparatively lower (increase physical activity:  
164 15.7%, 9.6-24.6; reduce fat/calories: 9.2%, 4.6-17.5; control/lose weight: 6.5%, 2.6-15.3; and  
165 control/lose weight and increase physical activity: 5.1%, 1.6-14.9), and the likelihood of  
166 physical activity advice did not increase linearly with BMI, with no difference between those  
167 with a normal weight BMI (13.1%) and those with an overweight BMI (13.2%) (p for  
168 trend=0.197).

169 Among older adults living with chronic conditions, advice to increase physical activity was  
170 reported by 28.9% (25.0-33.1), 35.4% (31.9-39.0), and 52.6% (48.8-56.3) of those with one,  
171 two (comorbidity) and three or more (multimorbidity) chronic conditions, respectively. A  
172 similar pattern was observed for advice to reduce fat/calories and control/lose weight.  
173 Importantly, across all chronic conditions, not all older adults who were advised to control/lose  
174 weight received concurrent advice to increase physical activity (free of chronic conditions:  
175 6.5%, 2.6-15.3 vs. 5.1%, 1.6-14.9; one chronic condition: 19.1%, 16.1-22.6 vs. 13.5, 11.0-16.5;  
176 comorbidity: 20.8%, 18.1-23.9 vs. 16.6%, 13.9-19.7; multimorbidity: 37.5%, 33.7-41.4 vs.  
177 32.0%, 28.7-35.5).

178  
179 Correlates of receiving advice on lifestyle modifications

180 Multivariable-adjusted logistic regression analyses showed that older adults with  
181 multimorbidity were more likely to receive advice to increase physical activity (OR=5.8, 95%  
182 CI: 3.2-10.5), reduce fat/calories (OR=8.3, 95% CI: 3.7-18.6), control/lose weight (OR=8.0,  
183 95% CI: 3.2-20.5), and a combination of weight control/loss with physical activity (OR=7.4,  
184 95% CI: 2.3-23.4), compared with those who were free of chronic conditions (table 3). BMI  
185 was another influencing factor; older adults with a BMI  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> had 17.0 (95% CI: 10.3-  
186 28.1) higher odds of receiving advice to control/lose weight and 12.0 (95% CI: 7.0-20.4) higher  
187 odds of receiving advice to control/lose weight with concurrent advice to increase physical  
188 activity. Additionally, odds of receiving lifestyle modification advice were consistently higher  
189 among Hispanic comparing with Non-Hispanic whites (for ORs and 95% CIs of all forms of  
190 lifestyle modification advice see table 3).

191

#### 192 Prevalence of lifestyle modifications by chronic conditions

193 Among analysed common chronic conditions, the most prevalent were high blood pressure  
194 (70.3%), high blood cholesterol (61.2%) and arthritis (53.3%), with relatively lower prevalence  
195 in coronary heart disease (22.4%) and T2DM (18.7%) (Supplemental table). However, advice  
196 to increase physical activity was reported by the majority of older adults with T2DM (60.5%,  
197 56.0-64.8), compared with less than half of those with high blood pressure (45.1%, 42.6-47.7).

198 Across all chronic conditions, the prevalence of advice on lifestyle modification increased with  
199 BMI category (all P for trend <.001). In addition, advice on weight control/loss with concurrent  
200 advice to increase physical activity was reported by 44.0% (39.5-48.7) older adults with T2DM  
201 and 26.0% (23.6-28.5) of those with high blood pressure, lower than the advice on weight  
202 control/loss (T2DM: 51.3%, 44.6-56.0; high blood pressure: 31.8%, 29.4-34.3) (Supplemental  
203 table).

204

#### 205 **Discussion**

206 In a large, representative sample of older adults in the US, increasing physical activity was the  
207 most widely prescribed lifestyle modification. However, while the prevalence of receiving  
208 advice on increasing physical activity was high among those with multimorbidity, substantially  
209 fewer older adults free of chronic conditions reported receiving such advice. **Lifestyle**  
210 **modification advice was also more commonly reported by those with overweight or obesity,**  
211 **and Hispanics.** Importantly, when older adults were advised to control/lose weight, concurrent  
212 advice to increase physical activity was not consistently given.

213 **In light of the fact that life expectancy at birth in the US has declined for the past three years in**  
214 **a row<sup>26</sup> and more than 80% of chronic diseases are preventable through healthy lifestyle,<sup>1</sup> the**  
215 **importance of lifestyle modification is increasing.** When comparing the prevalence of advice  
216 on lifestyle modification with previous surveys of US primary care physicians, there seems to  
217 be a discrepancy between our (patient-reported) results and physician-reported data. In previous  
218 studies, 30% of primary care physicians reported giving physical activity guidance “always”  
219 and 56% “often” to patients without chronic disease, and 49% and 45% to patients with chronic  
220 disease.<sup>27</sup> **Looking at different countries, in Canada, 70% of primary health physicians reported**  
221 **carrying out verbal counselling, and 16% reported using written prescriptions.<sup>28</sup> In Denmark**  
222 **95.5% reported giving physical activity advice at least weekly.<sup>29</sup>** Common barriers to giving  
223 advice on physical activity to patients reported by healthcare providers were lack of time,  
224 knowledge, materials, system support, resources, incentives/reimbursement, and the fact that  
225 patients often ignore given advice.<sup>10</sup>

226 Our results showed that lifestyle advice, irrespective of whether it concerned physical activity  
227 or diet, was given more frequently to those with multimorbidity and/or high BMI. This disparity  
228 by chronic condition is in line with an analysis of younger adults (20-64 years) within the same  
229 data set.<sup>30</sup> In that analysis, 74.6% (69.8-78.8) of T2DM adults received advice to increase  
230 physical activity, while only 20.1% (18.4-21.9) of chronic disease-free adults received such

231 advice.<sup>30</sup> In support, another study underlines the fact that individuals at risk of chronic disease  
232 were more likely to receive lifestyle advice.<sup>10</sup> Considering the rising prevalence of chronic  
233 conditions is a consequence of inadequate health behaviors, there is a clear need for lifestyle  
234 modifications even among people free of chronic conditions.<sup>2</sup> Particularly in the aging  
235 population, preventive measures are in demand to prevent the decline in muscle mass,<sup>31</sup> muscle  
236 strength,<sup>32</sup> and frailty,<sup>33</sup> and to ensure the affordability of health care systems.<sup>34</sup>

237 Our results also indicated a high prevalence of receipt of advice to control/lose weight. Again,  
238 advice was more commonly provided to those with a higher BMI, although in the available  
239 literature BMI has been largely criticized as a health indicator.<sup>35,36,37</sup> Moreover, the obesity  
240 paradox phenomenon suggests that overweight and mild obesity may be related to the lowest  
241 all-cause mortality rate in older adults and specifically those with chronic conditions.<sup>38,39</sup> There  
242 is also limited evidence of the benefits of weight loss, as approximately one-quarter of all  
243 weight lost, when one embarks on a weight loss program, is lean body mass.<sup>40</sup> This loss of  
244 muscle mass may contribute to the development of sarcopenia,<sup>41,42</sup> and sarcopenia predicts all-  
245 cause mortality.<sup>43</sup> Tucker and colleagues<sup>44</sup> reported that maintaining muscle mass is one of the  
246 most important preventative interventions in maintaining health in older adults. As research  
247 evidence has shown that weight loss in combination with improved fitness could improve  
248 physical function and multiple health indicators,<sup>45</sup> weight management should always be done  
249 in consideration with functional status and comorbidities.<sup>38</sup> Therefore, a combination of both,  
250 is recommended.<sup>42 46 47</sup> However, in our population, 9.8% (7.9-12.2) of older adults with a BMI  
251  $\geq 30$   $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$  received advice to control/lose weight alone, with no information on increasing  
252 physical activity. Consequently, our data revealed a critical gap in the current practice of  
253 lifestyle modification.

254 A strength of this study is the use of a nationally representative data set. One limitation is the  
255 cross-sectional design, and thus causal relationships could not be addressed. Moreover, the

256 cognitive test was only available in cycles 2011-2012 and 2013-2014. Therefore, people with  
257 dementia might also be included in the sample, which might bias the results. Finally, the  
258 generalization to older adults in other countries is limited due to differences in healthcare  
259 systems and cultural and social aspects influencing lifestyle and aging. Therefore, comparable  
260 investigations should also be initiated in other countries.

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## 262 **Conclusions and Implications**

263 The present study has shown that advice on lifestyle modification is mainly given to older adults  
264 with multimorbidity and those who are overweight/obese, missing an opportunity to  
265 disseminate primary prevention strategies among apparent healthy older adults through lifestyle  
266 changes. Given the global demographic trends, such primary prevention strategies will be  
267 necessary to sustain social and health care systems. Future studies should test intervention  
268 feasibility of health care provider lifestyle behavior counseling in older adults free of chronic  
269 conditions.

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271 **Conflict of interest:** none

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**Table 1.** Sample Size for Chronic Condition Status in US older adults (65+ years) in NHANES 2007-2008, 2011-2016

	Free of chronic conditions <sup>a</sup>		One chronic condition		Comorbidity (2 chronic conditions)		Multimorbidity (≥3 chronic conditions)	
	unweighted n	weighted %	unweighted n	weighted %	unweighted n	weighted %	unweighted n	weighted %
<b>Overall</b>	247		936		1368		1207	
<b>Gender</b>								
Men	153	54.0	507	46.1	653	42.7	586	45.9
Women	94	46.0	429	53.9	715	57.3	621	54.1
<b>BMI kg/m<sup>2</sup></b>								
<25	118	51.2	317	35.6	392	28.7	266	21.7
25-<30	87	31.4	354	37.9	538	42.8	446	36.8
≥30	37	17.4	246	26.5	411	28.5	470	41.5
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>								
Non-Hispanic white	126	78.9	496	79.6	714	79.5	647	79.2
Non-Hispanic black	34	5.6	158	6.8	265	8.1	238	8.2
Hispanic	62	8.7	190	7.2	261	6.6	236	7.1
Other	25	6.8	92	6.4	128	5.9	86	5.4
<b>Health insurance status</b>								
Non-medicare beneficiary	45	16.6	209	17.6	245	14.8	201	12.9
Medicare beneficiary	202	83.4	724	82.4	1121	85.2	1001	87.1
<b>Physical activity</b>								
Inactive	151	55.9	564	53.5	816	51.7	768	58.5
Active	96	44.1	372	46.5	552	48.3	439	41.5
<b>Smoking status</b>								
Never	144	63.2	479	52.5	675	50.7	609	48.4
Former	70	25.4	364	39.0	567	42.5	508	45.1
Current	33	11.4	90	8.5	125	6.9	89	6.5
<b>Physical function limitation</b>								
No	217	90.4	763	84.3	1079	81.7	828	72.5
Yes	30	9.6	173	15.7	289	18.3	379	27.5

<sup>a</sup> Free of high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, arthritis, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease

**Table 2.** Weighted Prevalence (%) of Lifestyle Prescription according to Weight status and Chronic Condition Status among US older adults (65+ years) in NHANES<sup>ab</sup>

<b>NUMBER OF CHRONIC CONDITIONS</b>	<b>Increase physical activity</b>		<b>Reduce fat/calories</b>		<b>Control/lose weight</b>		<b>Control/lose weight+physical activity</b>	
<b>Overall</b>	41.4	(39.5 to 43.3)	32.1	(29.8 to 34.5)	28.7	(26.7 to 30.8)	23.3	(21.4 to 25.4)
BMI <25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	25.3	(22.7 to 28.1)	16.7	(13.9 to 20.0)	5.7	(3.8 to 8.6)	5.0	(3.1 to 7.9)
BMI 25-<30 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	35.9	(32.4 to 39.6)	25.3	(22.0 to 28.8)	19.8	(17.5 to 22.4)	15.5	(13.5 to 17.9)
BMI ≥30 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	61.0	(57.2 to 64.8)	52.0	(48.1 to 56.0)	57.4	(53.5 to 61.2)	47.6	(43.4 to 51.8)
<i>P</i> for trend		<.001		<.001		<.001		<.001
<b>Free of chronic conditions<sup>c</sup></b>	15.7	(9.6 to 24.6)	9.2	(4.6 to 17.5)	6.5	(2.6 to 15.3)	5.1	(1.6 to 14.9)
BMI <25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	13.1	(6.0 to 26.3)	2.4	(1.0 to 5.9)	2.6	(0.4 to 15.2)	2.6	(0.4 to 15.2)
BMI 25-<30 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	13.2	(5.1 to 30.2)	7.4	(3.2 to 16.5)	3.2	(1.1 to 8.9)	3.2	(1.1 to 8.9)
BMI ≥30 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	28.5	(10.4 to 57.8)	32.5	(11.9 to 63.2)	24.2	(7.1 to 57.2)	16.1	(2.5 to 58.7)
<i>P</i> for trend		0.197		0.002		0.015		0.062
<b>One chronic condition</b>	28.9	(25.0 to 33.1)	18.5	(15.2 to 22.4)	19.1	(16.1 to 22.6)	13.5	(11.0 to 16.5)
BMI <25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	20.3	(14.9 to 26.9)	10.5	(6.8 to 15.8)	5.7	(2.9 to 10.8)	4.3	(2.0 to 9.2)
BMI 25-<30 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	27.6	(19.9 to 37.0)	13.4	(9.3 to 18.9)	15.0	(11.2 to 19.8)	12.3	(8.5 to 17.4)
BMI ≥30 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	42.7	(34.8 to 51.0)	37.3	(28.9 to 46.5)	44.0	(35.9 to 52.3)	28.1	(21.1 to 36.3)
<i>P</i> for trend		<.001		<.001		<.001		<.001
<b>Comorbidity<sup>d</sup></b>	35.4	(31.9 to 39.0)	26.3	(23.1 to 29.8)	20.8	(18.1 to 23.9)	16.6	(13.9 to 19.7)
BMI <25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	24.3	(19.1 to 30.5)	15.8	(11.5 to 21.4)	5.1	(2.3 to 10.7)	4.5	(1.9 to 10.4)
BMI 25-<30 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	33.1	(26.9 to 40.0)	21.3	(16.5 to 27.2)	15.9	(12.0 to 20.8)	12.1	(8.5 to 17.1)
BMI ≥30 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	50.9	(45.1 to 56.6)	43.9	(37.9 to 50.0)	44.2	(37.9 to 50.7)	36.3	(30.1 to 43.0)
<i>P</i> for trend		<.001		<.001		<.001		<.001
<b>Multimorbidity<sup>e</sup></b>	52.6	(48.8 to 56.3)	40.9	(37.2 to 44.7)	37.5	(33.7 to 41.4)	32.0	(28.7 to 35.5)
BMI <25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	35.3	(28.2 to 43.1)	28.2	(21.4 to 36.2)	7.2	(4.0 to 12.4)	6.5	(3.5 to 11.8)
BMI 25-<30 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	43.4	(38.5 to 48.5)	32.1	(27.5 to 37.1)	23.4	(19.0 to 28.5)	18.5	(15.0 to 22.5)
BMI ≥30 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	70.4	(64.7 to 75.6)	56.2	(49.3 to 62.9)	66.4	(60.8 to 71.4)	58.0	(52.1 to 63.7)
<i>P</i> for trend		<.001		<.001		<.001		<.001

<sup>a</sup> All estimates were weighted to be nationally representative.

<sup>b</sup> *P* values for trend were calculated using logistic regressions modelling BMI as a continuous variable.

<sup>c</sup> Free of high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, arthritis, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease

<sup>d</sup>2 chronic conditions; <sup>e</sup> $\geq 3$  chronic conditions

**Table 3.** Weighted Multivariable Adjusted Logistic Regression Models (OR, 95% CI) of US older adults (65+ Years) Receiving Healthcare Providers' Advice on Lifestyle Modification, NHANES

	Increase physical activity	Reduce fat/calories	Control/lose weight	Control/lose weight+physical activity
<b>Number of chronic conditions</b>				
Free of chronic conditions <sup>b</sup>	Reference	Reference	Reference	Reference
One chronic condition	2.1 (1.2 to 3.9)	2.3 (1.0 to 5.4)	3.1 (1.3 to 7.4)	2.5 (0.8 to 8.0)
Comorbidity <sup>c</sup>	3.1 (1.7 to 5.6)	3.6 (1.6 to 8.0)	3.2 (1.2 to 8.2)	3.1 (0.9 to 10.1)
Multimorbidity <sup>d</sup>	5.8 (3.2 to 10.5)	8.3 (3.7 to 18.6)	8.0 (3.2 to 20.5)	7.4 (2.3 to 23.4)
<b>Age</b>	1.0 (0.9 to 1.0)	0.9 (0.9 to 1.0)	0.9 (0.9 to 0.9)	0.9 (0.9 to 0.9)
<b>Gender</b>				
Men	Reference	Reference	Reference	Reference
Women	1.0 (0.9 to 1.2)	1.1 (0.9 to 1.3)	0.8 (0.7 to 0.9)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.0)
<b>BMI kg/m<sup>2</sup></b>				
<25	Reference	Reference	Reference	Reference
25-<30	1.5 (1.2 to 1.9)	1.5 (1.1 to 2.0)	3.2 (1.9 to 5.4)	2.8 (1.6 to 4.8)
≥30	3.3 (2.5 to 4.3)	4.1 (3.2 to 5.3)	17.0 (10.3 to 28.1)	12.0 (7.0 to 20.4)
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>				
Non-Hispanic white	Reference	Reference	Reference	Reference
Non-Hispanic black	1.4 (1.2 to 1.7)	1.6 (1.2 to 2.0)	1.1 (0.9 to 1.5)	1.2 (0.9 to 1.5)
Hispanic	1.6 (1.2 to 2.1)	2.1 (1.5 to 2.9)	1.4 (1.0 to 1.9)	1.4 (1.0 to 2.0)
Other	1.1 (0.7 to 1.6)	1.3 (0.9 to 1.9)	1.2 (0.7 to 2.2)	1.3 (0.7 to 2.4)
<b>Annual household income \$</b>				
<25,000	Reference	Reference	Reference	Reference
25,000-<75,000	1.4 (1.1 to 1.7)	1.4 (1.1 to 1.8)	1.2 (1.0 to 1.5)	1.3 (1.0 to 1.7)
≥75,000	1.2 (0.9 to 1.6)	1.2 (0.8 to 1.7)	1.3 (0.9 to 1.8)	1.2 (0.8 to 1.7)
<b>Health insurance status</b>				
Non-medicare beneficiary	Reference	Reference	Reference	Reference
Medicare beneficiary	0.9 (0.7 to 1.2)	0.8 (0.6 to 1.0)	1.0 (0.7 to 1.4)	0.9 (0.7 to 0.9)
<b>Leisure-time physical activity</b>				
Inactive	Reference	Reference	Reference	Reference
Active	0.8 (0.6 to 1.0)	1.1 (0.9 to 1.3)	1.3 (1.1 to 1.7)	1.1 (0.9 to 0.8)
<b>Education</b>				
<High school	Reference	Reference	Reference	Reference
High school	1.3 (1.0 to 1.6)	0.7 (0.6 to 1.0)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.1)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.3)
>High school	1.2 (0.9 to 1.5)	0.8 (0.7 to 1.0)	0.8 (0.6 to 1.1)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.2)
<b>Smoking status</b>				
Never	Reference	Reference	Reference	Reference
Former	1.1 (0.9 to 1.3)	1.1 (0.8 to 1.4)	1.1 (0.8 to 1.4)	1.2 (0.9 to 1.5)

Current	0.7 (0.5 to 1.0)	0.8 (0.5 to 1.3)	0.6 (0.4 to 1.0)	0.6 (0.3 to 1.1)
<b>Physical function limitation</b>				
No	Reference	Reference	Reference	Reference
Yes	1.2 (0.9 to 1.5)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.1)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.1)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.2)
<b>Study cycle</b>				
2007-2008	Reference	Reference	Reference	Reference
2011-2012	1.0 (0.8 to 1.3)	0.8 (0.6 to 1.0)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.2)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.3)
2013-2014	1.3 (1.0 to 1.6)	0.8 (0.6 to 1.1)	1.0 (0.7 to 1.3)	1.1 (0.8 to 1.4)
2015-2016	1.5 (1.1 to 1.9)	0.8 (0.6 to 1.1)	1.0 (0.7 to 1.4)	1.1 (0.8 to 1.5)

<sup>a</sup> All odds ratio estimates were weighted to be nationally representative.

<sup>b</sup> Free of high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, arthritis, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease

<sup>c</sup> two chronic conditions

<sup>d</sup> ≥three chronic conditions