Table 1 Baseline characteristics of adult participants in the sixth round of the STEPS survey[a], by sex, Islamic Republic of Iran

Characteristic	All participants (n = 10 833)	Males (n = 4490)	Females (n = 6343)	P
NCD risk factor index, mean (SD)[b]	39.26 (22.40)	36.84 (18.78)	41.75 (24.31)	0.001
Low consumption of fruits and vegetables, no. (%)	7630 (73.58)	3168 (73.65)	4462 (73.51)	0.955
Insufficient physical activity, no. (%)	4506 (38.68)	1271 (26.73)	3235 (50.99)	0.001
High blood pressure, no. (%)	2914 (22.05)	1119 (20.51)	1795 (23.64)	0.168
Cigarette smoking, no. (%)	1036 (11.53)	964 (21.76)	72 (1.01)	0.001
Obesity and overweightness, no. (%)	5804 (49.23)	2125 (43.05)	3679 (55.59)	0.001
Age in years, mean (SD)	35.89 (14.37)	34.85 (12.92)	36.96 (15.67)	0.001
Household assets index, mean (SD)[c]	−0.081 (1.17)	−0.057 (1.06)	−0.150 (1.29)	0.001
Educational attainment, no. (%)				0.001
No education	2597 (16.71)	659 (10.04)	1938 (23.59)	
< high-school diploma	4103 (41.12)	1866 (44.1)	2237 (38.04)	
High-school diploma	2626 (27.28)	1212 (29.16)	1414 (25.34)	
At least some college	1495 (18.89)	743 (16.69)	752 (13.02)	
Employment status, no. (%)				< 0.001
Employed	3309 (37.44)	2755 (64.14)	554 (9.92)	
Unemployed	495 (5.44)	301 (7.41)	194 (3.40)	
Non-labour force	6990 (57.13)	1403 (28.45)	5578 (86.68)	
Type of employment, no. (%)				0.001
Employee	731 (7.55)	456 (9.98)	275 (5.04)	
Labourer	568 (6.63)	494 (11.77)	74 (1.33)	
Freelancer	1958 (22.74)	1783 (41.86)	175 (3.04)	
Home maker	4917 (37.31)	77 (1.66)	4840 (74.04)	
Unpaid work[d]	1241 (14.41)	620 (17.31)	621 (11.42)	
Retired	717 (4.44)	600 (7.48)	117 (1.31)	
Unemployed[e]	662 (6.92)	429 (9.94)	233 (3.81)	
Persian ethnicity, no. (%)	5350 (47.94)	2230 (48.12)	3120 (47.75)	0.924
Urban residence, no. (%)	7540 (68.53)	3199 (68.76)	4341 (68.28)	0.822

NCD: noncommunicable disease.

[a] World Health Organization STEPwise approach to non-communicable disease risk factors surveillance (20).

[b] NCD risk was calculated using the weighted score proportional to the contribution of the risk factor from the total burden of NCDs.

[c] A combined index of variables related to the infrastructure and living facilities of the home, including access to a dedicated bathroom, kitchen, refrigerator, vacuum cleaner, washing machine and computer.

[d] Includes school students, university students, and those doing mandatory military service.

[e] Includes individuals unable to work and those who had not actively looked for work in the previous four weeks.

Note: The data were weighted based on the population size.