

Potentially relevant articles identified and screened for retrieval (n = 22,386)

Records after duplicates removed

Potentially relevant articles (n = 20,412)

Not associated with prehypertension and cardiovascular morbidity (n = 20,370)

Potential articles for detailed evaluation (n = 42)

Not reported RRs and 95% CIs (n = 3)

Not compared prehypertension vs. optimal BP (n = 13)

Not multivariate-adjusted RRs (n = 2)

From the same cohorts (n = 4)*

From secondary analysis or combined analysis of other cohort studies (n = 1)

Articles included in the meta-analysis (n = 19)[†]