

Heart Facts 2002: All Americans

Cardiovascular Diseases Still No. 1

FACT: Cardiovascular diseases rank as America's No. 1 killer, claiming the lives of over 40 percent of the nearly 2.4 million Americans who die each year. Cancer follows, killing 23 percent. All other causes of death account for about 37 percent.

FACT: 61.8 million Americans have some form of cardiovascular disease (CVD). This includes diseases of the heart, stroke, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, congenital heart defects, hardening of the arteries and other diseases of the circulatory system.

FACT: It's estimated that about 30 percent of non-Hispanic white men and 24 percent of non-Hispanic white women have cardiovascular disease.*

FACT: Among non-Hispanic blacks, about 41 percent of men and 40 percent of women have CVD.*

FACT: Among Mexican Americans, about 29 percent of men and 27 percent of women have CVD.*

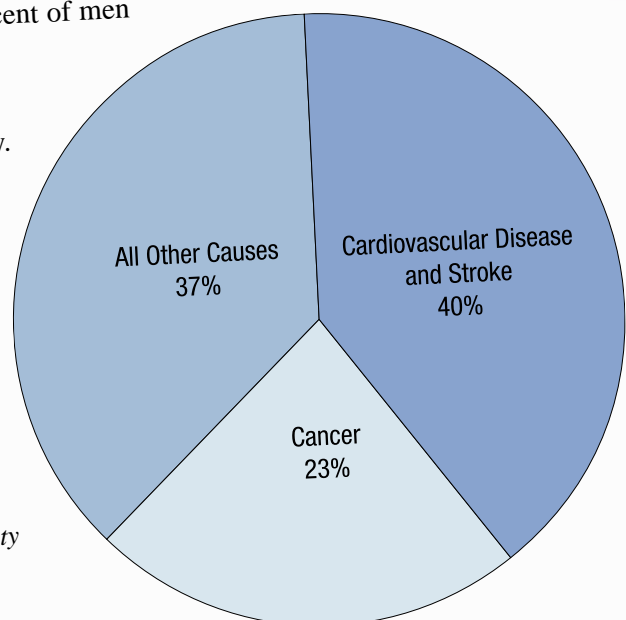
FACT: Americans will pay about \$330 billion in 2002 for CVD-related medical costs and disability.

* Estimates are age-adjusted to remove the effect of differences in the age distribution of population groups. Data from this U.S. government survey included Mexican Americans but not other people of Latino or Hispanic origin.

The American Heart Association spent about \$382 million during FY 2000–2001 on research support, professional and public education, and community service programs.

Medical research continually seeks to reduce disability and death from heart attack, stroke and other heart and blood vessel diseases.

For more information call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit us at americanheart.org.



Causes of Death
for All Americans in the United States,
1999 Final Data



Heart Facts 2002: African Americans Cardiovascular Diseases Still No. 1

Note: U.S. government agencies and population surveys use the terms “blacks” and “non-Hispanic blacks.”

FACT: Cardiovascular diseases rank as the No. 1 killer of African Americans, claiming the lives of over 37 percent of the more than 285,000 blacks who die each year. Cancer follows, killing almost 22 percent. All other causes of death account for about 41 percent.

FACT: About 4 in every 10 non-Hispanic black adults have cardiovascular disease (CVD).^{*} This includes diseases of the heart, stroke, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, congenital heart defects, hardening of the arteries and other diseases of the circulatory system.

FACT: For every 100,000 persons in the United States in 1999, about 354 people died from CVD. This is the age-adjusted CVD death rate for the total population. Among blacks the CVD death rate was even higher — 526 for males and 402 for females per 100,000 population.^{*}

FACT: The rate of high blood pressure (HBP) in blacks in the United States is among the highest in the world. Compared with whites, blacks are much more likely to have HBP, less likely to engage in physical activity, more likely to be overweight or obese, and more likely to have diabetes. All these factors raise their CVD risk.

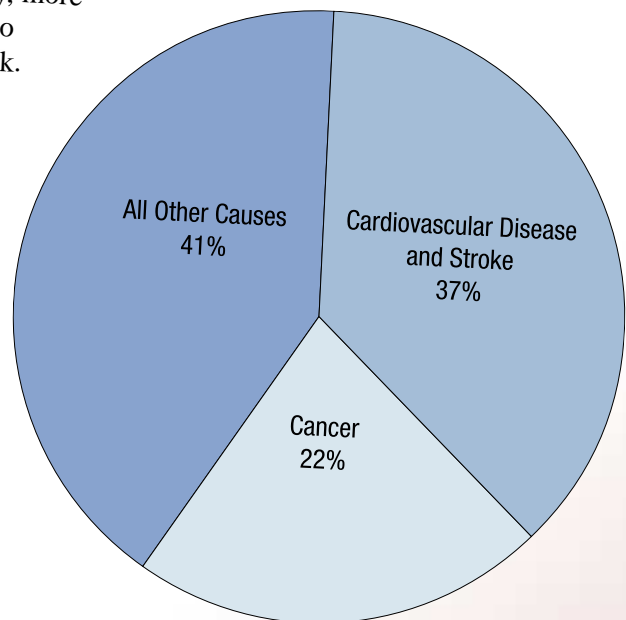
FACT: The age-adjusted 1999 death rate from coronary heart disease (CHD), which includes heart attack, was about 196 per 100,000 for the total population. The CHD death rates were 273 for black males and 193 for black females per 100,000 population.^{*}

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Causes of Death for Blacks in the United States, 1999 Final Data