

State of the Heart For Women

Cardiovascular Disease in South Carolina



Burden of Disease:

- In the United States, 493,623 women died from cardiovascular disease (CVD) in 2002, which includes heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, and other diseases of the circulatory system.
- CVD, including heart disease and stroke, is South Carolina's leading killer for women among all racial and ethnic groups. In 2003 alone, 6,844 women died from CVD in South Carolina.
- Heart disease and stroke accounted for 24,990 women hospitalized in 2003 in South Carolina, with a total hospitalization cost of more than \$650 million.

Risk Factors for South Carolinians

Smoking

- Cigarette smokers have a 70 percent greater chance of dying of heart disease than nonsmokers.
- One out of every five adult women in South Carolina smokes.

Overweight

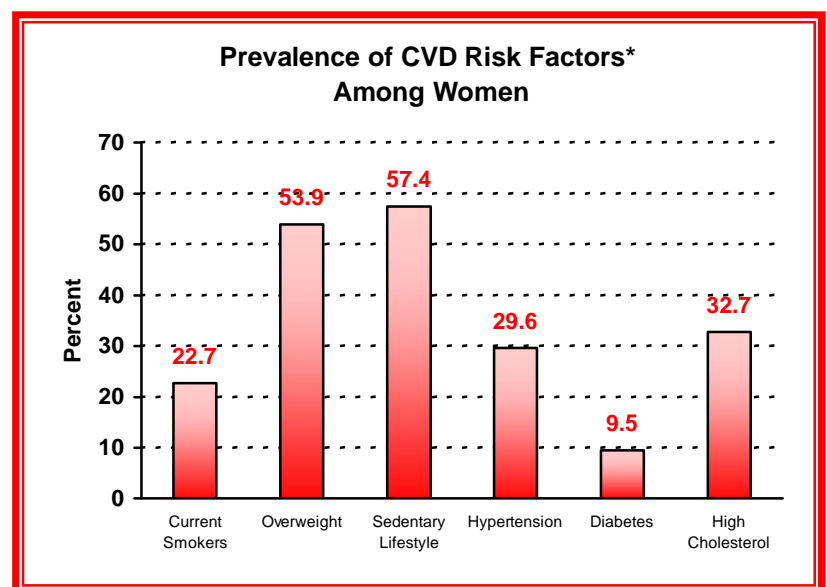
- More than half of the women in South Carolina are overweight or obese.
- While almost half of Caucasian women in South Carolina are overweight or obese, three out of every four African American women fit into one of these two categories.

Sedentary Lifestyle

- Less active, less physically fit persons have a 30 to 50 percent greater risk of developing high blood pressure.
- When it comes to physical activity, almost 60 percent of women in South Carolina are either inactive or are not regularly active.
- Approximately one-fourth of women in South Carolina do not engage in physical activity during their leisure time.
- Physical inactivity is more common among African American women than Caucasian women.

Hypertension (High Blood Pressure)

- People with hypertension (high blood pressure) have three to four times the risk of developing heart disease than those without high blood pressure.



*Data Source: South Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 2003

- Nearly one in three women in South Carolina has high blood pressure.

Diabetes

- Two-thirds of people with diabetes die of heart disease or stroke.
- One out of every ten women in South Carolina lives with diabetes.

High Cholesterol

- Lowering blood cholesterol results in a two-fold reduction of heart disease risk.
- One in three women in South Carolina has high cholesterol.

Estimated Economic Cost of CVD in the United States in 2005
\$241.9 billion in direct costs (i.e., physicians, hospital, medications)
\$151.6 billion in indirect costs (i.e., loss in productivity)

Stroke Among Women in South Carolina



Burden of Disease for South Carolinians:

- Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States.
- South Carolina had the second highest stroke death rate in the nation in 2001 and is among a group of Southeastern states with high stroke death rates that is referred to as the “Stroke Belt.”
- Stroke is the third leading cause of death for women in South Carolina, resulting in 1,654 deaths during 2003.
- African American women are at greater risk of dying from stroke than Caucasian women in South Carolina.
- Stroke resulted in 5,301 hospitalizations for women in South Carolina during 2003.

Modifiable Risk Factors for Stroke:

- High blood pressure
- Cigarette smoking
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Poor eating habits
- Physical inactivity

How to Reduce Your Risk of Stroke:

- Get your blood pressure checked.
- Stay active.
- Eat a healthy diet.
- Use less salt.
- If you drink alcohol, drink in moderation.
- Get your cholesterol level checked.
- Stay smoke-free.

WARNING SIGNS OF STROKE:

- Sudden weakness or numbness of the face, arm or leg on one side of the body.
- Loss of speech or trouble talking or understanding speech.
- Sudden dimness or loss of vision, particularly in one eye.
- Unexplained dizziness, unsteadiness or sudden falls, with no previous symptoms.
- Sudden, severe headaches with no known cause.

Economic Cost of Stroke:

- Hospitalization costs of stroke totaled more than \$107 million for South Carolina women in 2003.
- The total cost of stroke in the United States for 2005 is estimated at \$56.8 billion (both direct and indirect costs).

For more information on cardiovascular disease prevention in South Carolina contact:

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