

State of the Heart for African Americans

Heart Disease in South Carolina



Burden of Disease:

- In the United States, 73,095 African Americans died from heart disease in 2014. Heart disease is a leading cause of death and disability for Americans. The most common form of heart disease in the United States is coronary heart disease, which can lead to heart attack.¹
- Heart disease was the leading cause of death in South Carolina for 2015.
- During 2015, 2,638 African Americans died from heart disease in South Carolina.
- African Americans face a higher risk of developing ischemic heart disease, and suffer stroke deaths more often than Caucasians.
- In 2015, heart disease accounted for 15,083 hospitalizations of African American South Carolinians, with a total hospitalization cost of more than \$824 million.*

Risk Factors for South Carolinians:

Smoking

- Cigarette smokers have a 70 percent greater chance of dying of heart disease than nonsmokers.²
- Twenty percent of African American adults in South Carolina smoke.

Overweight and Obese

- Being overweight increases the risk of heart disease by 32 percent.³
- Seventy-four percent of African Americans in South Carolina are overweight or obese. For African American women, the number is four out of every five.

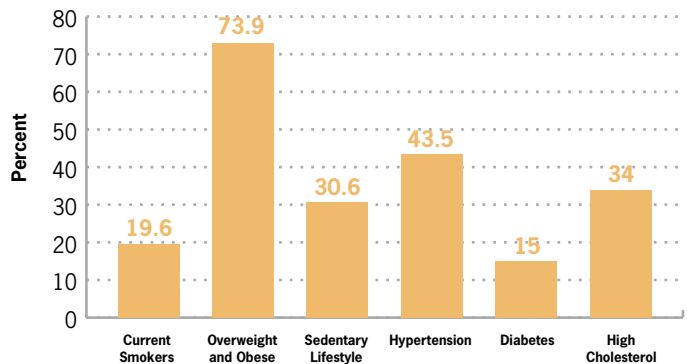
Sedentary Lifestyle

- Regular physical activity could reduce one's risk of having high blood pressure by nearly 20 percent.⁴
- In South Carolina, 57 percent of African Americans do not get the recommended amount of physical activity.
- Physical inactivity is more common among African American women than men.

Hypertension (High Blood Pressure)

- People with uncontrolled hypertension (high blood pressure) are three times more likely to die from heart disease.⁵
- Two in five African Americans in South Carolina have high blood pressure.

Prevalence of Heart Disease Risk Factors
Among African Americans, South Carolina 2015



Data Source: South Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Diabetes

- Adults with diabetes are two to four times more likely to have heart disease than adults without diabetes.⁶
- One out of every six African American adults in South Carolina has diabetes, which is 40 percent higher than the rate for Caucasian adults.

High Cholesterol

- People with high blood cholesterol have about twice the risk of heart disease as people with lower levels.⁷
- One out of every three African American adults in South Carolina has high cholesterol.

Stroke Among African Americans in South Carolina



Burden of Disease for South Carolinians:

- Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States.
- According to the most recent national data available (2014), South Carolina had the seventh highest stroke death rate in the nation and is part of the “Stroke Belt,” a group of Southeastern states with high stroke death rates.
- Stroke is the third leading cause of death for African Americans in South Carolina, resulting in 771 deaths during 2015.
- African Americans in South Carolina are more than 50 percent more likely to die from stroke than their Caucasian counterparts, and have a stroke mortality rate 25 percent higher than the national stroke mortality rate for African Americans.
- Stroke resulted in 4,923 hospitalizations for African Americans in South Carolina in 2015. Of these, 52 percent were less than 65 years old.*

Modifiable Risk Factors for Stroke:

- High blood pressure
- Cigarette smoking
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Unhealthy diet
- 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 \$296 million for African American South Carolinians in 2015.*

For more information on cardiovascular disease prevention in South Carolina contact: Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, Division of Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity and School Health, (803) 898-1635

Data Sources: S.C. BFSS, S.C. Vital Records, S.C. Hospital Discharge
Fact sheet produced by Chronic Disease Epidemiology, November 2016
*Based on provisional 2015 data

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