

State of the Heart for Women

Heart Disease in South Carolina



Burden of Disease:

- In the United States, 289,758 women died from heart disease in 2013. Heart disease is a leading cause of death and disability in the United States. The most common form of heart disease in the United States is coronary heart disease, which can lead to heart attack.¹
- Heart disease is South Carolina's leading cause of death for African American women. In 2014, 1,249 African American women died from heart disease in South Carolina.
- Heart disease accounted for 22,471 hospitalizations for women in 2014 in South Carolina, with a total hospitalization cost of more than \$1.2 billion.

Smoking

- Cigarette smokers have a 70 percent greater chance of dying of heart disease than nonsmokers.²
- One out of every five adult women in South Carolina smokes.

Overweight and Obesity

- More than 62 percent of the women in South Carolina are overweight or obese.
- While 56 percent of Caucasian women in South Carolina are overweight or obese, 78 percent of African American women fit into one of these two categories.

Sedentary Lifestyle

- Regular physical activity could reduce one's risk of having high blood pressure by nearly 20 percent.³
- In South Carolina, 53 percent of women do not get the recommended amount of physical activity.
- Nearly 30 percent 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 uncontrolled hypertension (high blood pressure) are three times more likely to die of heart disease.⁴
- One in three women in South Carolina have high blood pressure.

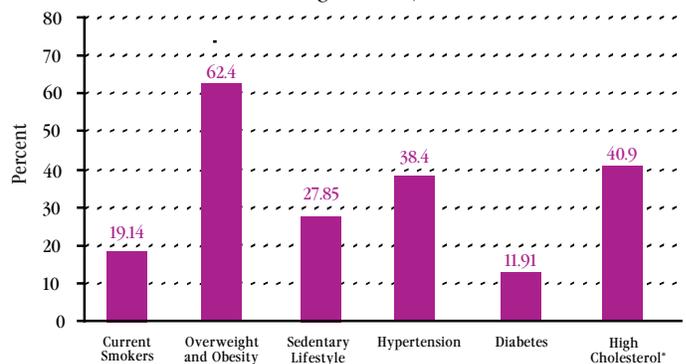
Diabetes

- Adults with diabetes are two to four times more likely to have heart disease than adults without diabetes.⁵
- One out of every eight women in South Carolina lives with diabetes.

High Cholesterol

- People with high blood cholesterol have about twice the risk of heart disease as people with lower levels.⁶
- Two out of every five women in South Carolina has high cholesterol.

Prevalence of Heart Disease Risk Factors Among Women, SC 2014



Data Source: South Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. *Data from 2013.

Risk Factors for South Carolinians:

Estimated Economic Cost of Heart Disease in the U.S. in 2012**
\$108.7 billion in direct costs (e.g., hospital, medications)
\$98.6 billion in indirect costs (e.g., loss in productivity/mortality)

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 seventh highest stroke death rate in the nation in 2014 and is part of the “Stroke Belt,” a group of Southeastern states with high stroke death rates.
- Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death for women in South Carolina, resulting in 1,335 deaths during 2014.
- African American women are at greater risk of dying from stroke than Caucasian women in South Carolina.
- Stroke resulted in 7,361 hospitalizations for women in South Carolina in 2014.

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 \$313 million for South Carolina women in 2014.
- The total cost of stroke in the United States for 2012 is estimated at \$33 billion (both direct and indirect costs).**

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

DHEC's Division of Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity and School Health at (803) 898-0584.

Data Sources: S.C. BRFSS, S.C. Vital Records, S.C. Hospital Discharge
Fact sheet produced by Division of Chronic Disease Epidemiology, December 2015

References:

¹CDC Heart disease facts. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/facts.htm>

²CDC. Perspective in disease prevention and health promotion smoking and cardiovascular disease. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 1984; 32:677-9.

³AHA Exercise can lower high blood pressure risk. Retrieved from <http://blog.heart.org/exercise-can-lower-high-blood-pressure-risk/>

⁴Stamler J, Stamler R, Neaton JD. Blood pressure, systolic and diastolic, and cardiovascular risks. US population data. Arch Intern Med. 1993;153:598-615.

⁵AHA Cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Retrieved from http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Conditions/Diabetes/WhyDiabetesMatters/Cardiovascular-Disease-Diabetes_UCM_313865_Article.jsp?Vqkk2_krLcs

⁶CDC Division for heart disease and stroke prevention. Cholesterol fact sheet. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/dhdsdp/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fs_cholesterol.htm



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control