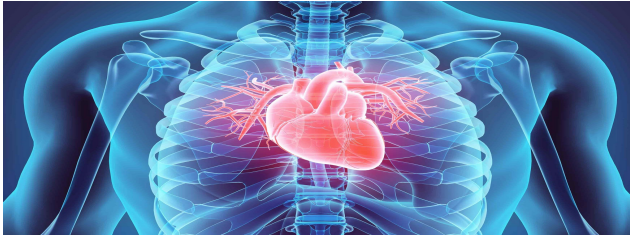


The term heart disease describes a variety of conditions that affect the heart's structure and function. NIH-supported research has identified multiple risk factors for heart disease and led to new strategies for prevention and treatment.



Heart disease is the **leading cause of death** among men and women in the United States.



1 person dies every 33 seconds in the U.S. from a heart disease-related event.



1 in every 5 deaths in the U.S. is caused by heart disease.



Heart disease costs **~\$422 billion each year** in health care services, medication and lost productivity.



About **half of Americans (47%) are at-risk** for heart disease due to factors such as high blood pressure, high LDL cholesterol, and smoking.

From 2011 to 2021, the **annual death rate attributable to coronary heart disease declined 15%** thanks to research advances supported in part by NIH.

The NIH is dedicated to promoting heart health and fighting heart disease in every possible way.

Through the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the NIH supports cutting edge research across a range of scientific areas from epidemiology to advanced surgical procedures to clinical applications of new technology.

NIH-supported researchers have:

- **Developed ultrasound blood pressure sensors** that can be worn as skin patches to help people detect cardiovascular problems earlier and with greater precision.
- **Created faster, simpler oxygen supply devices** which are being used by EMS teams to save lives and reduce the risk of disability.
- **Advanced smart technology to detect atrial fibrillation** and allow for earlier intervention and prevention.
- **Improved cardiac genetic risk factor detection.**
- **Invented clips to repair leaky mitral valves** which can reduce risks of open-heart surgery.

Sources: 1. American Heart Association. (2024). Retrieved from https://www.heart.org/-/media/PHD-Files-2/Science-News/2/2024-Heart-and-Stroke-Stat-Update/2024-Statistics-At-A-Glance-final_2024.pdf?sc_lang=en; 2. Centers for Disease Control. (2024). Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/heart-disease/data-research/facts-stats/index.html#:~:text=Heart%20disease%20is%20the%20leading,33%20seconds%20from%20cardiovascular%20disease](https://www.cdc.gov/heart-disease/data-research/facts-stats/index.html#:~:text=Heart%20disease%20is%20the%20leading,33%20seconds%20from%20cardiovascular%20disease;); 3. Centers for Disease Control. (2024). Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/heart-disease/risk-factors/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/risk_factors.htm; 4. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. (2024). Retrieved from www.nhlbi.nih.gov/science/heart-and-vascular-diseases

Reliable increases in NIH funding can reduce the health, social and economic burden of heart disease.