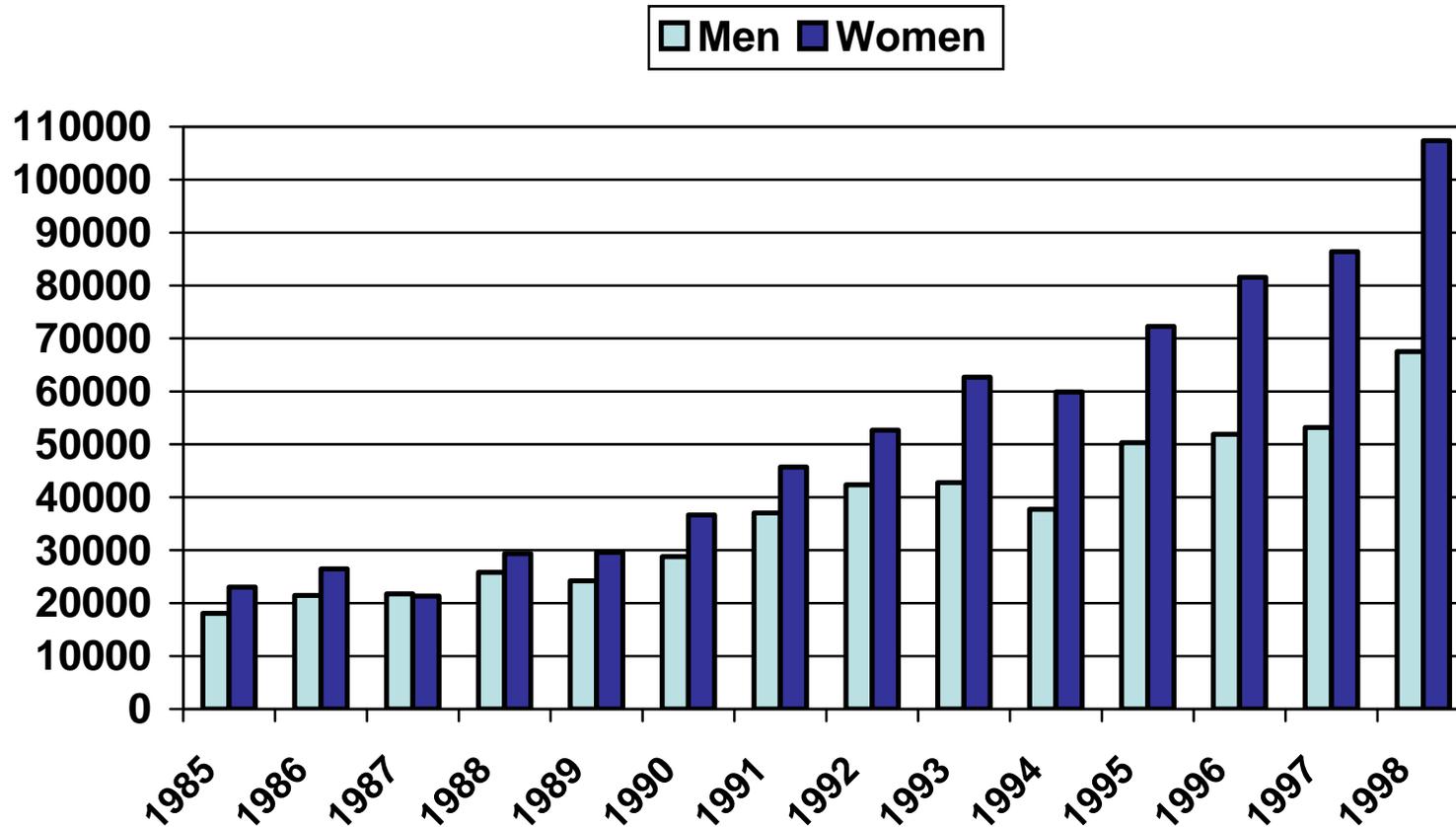




Annual number of hospitalizations among persons with pulmonary hypertension, United States, 1985-1998



Source: CDC, National Hospital Discharge Survey.

Facts on Pulmonary Hypertension

- Pulmonary hypertension is a rare lung disorder in which the blood pressure in the pulmonary artery rises far above normal levels, usually with no apparent reason.
- Symptoms include chronic fatigue, shortness of breath (dyspnea), chest pain (angina), fainting, swollen ankles and legs (edema), and fluid in the abdomen (ascites). These are also symptoms for other diseases such as congestive heart failure; therefore physicians should rule out other diseases before making a diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension.
- Pulmonary hypertension may develop after pregnancy, hypothyroidism, pulmonary embolism, autoimmune disorders, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection or result from the use of drugs such as appetite suppressants, oral contraceptives, and cocaine.
- In 1998, there were 7,139 deaths and 174,854 hospital visits among persons with pulmonary hypertension.
- Among 570,461 patients hospitalized with pulmonary hypertension as one of the diagnoses between 1995 and 1998, 61% were women and 37% were less than age 65.

CDC's Public Health Efforts

CDC currently funds health departments in 32 states and the District of Columbia to develop effective strategies to reduce the burden of cardiovascular diseases and related risk factors with an overarching emphasis on heart healthy policies and physical and social environmental changes. Through these state programs, CDC aims to reduce disparities in treatment, risk factors, and disease; delay the onset of disease; postpone death from cardiovascular disease; and reduce disabling conditions. For more information on CDC's State Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program, please visit our Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/cvh/stateprogram.htm>

For More Information

More information on pulmonary hypertension can be obtained from the following CDC partners:

Pulmonary Hypertension Association*
<http://www.phassociation.org>

American Heart Association*
<http://www.americanheart.org>

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute*
<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov>

* Links to non-Federal organizations are provided solely as a service. This link does not constitute an endorsement of this organization by CDC or the Federal Government, and none should be inferred. The CDC is not responsible for the content of the individual organization Web pages found at this link.