

# Noncommunicable Disease Unit

*Advancing global prevention and control*

Today, over three quarters of all deaths worldwide are due to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). These include deaths caused by injuries, such as motor vehicle injuries, and chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases.

NCD deaths worldwide now exceed all communicable, maternal and perinatal nutrition-related deaths combined and represent an emerging global health threat. Deaths due to NCDs are becoming more common in low- and middle-income countries, where the majority of NCD deaths occur and health systems are often not equipped to respond.

The enormous social and economic toll of NCDs worldwide calls for an integrated strategic approach to reduce illnesses and deaths.

## Our Mission

Global NCD programs collaborate across CDC and with private and public partners worldwide to address a range of issues surrounding risk reduction and prevention, using our stores of data to help create innovative and culturally appropriate solutions.

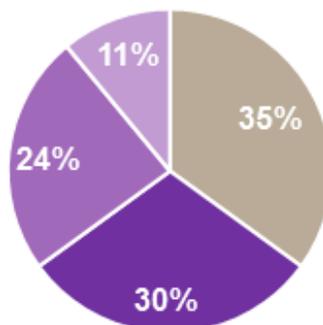
## Turning Data into Action

**Advancing a coordinated global approach** – The growing global burden of NCDs demands a strategy of connection and innovation. Global NCD programs work to:

- **Strengthen risk factor surveillance and vital registration** to improve early detection and prevention
- **Use evidence-based innovation** to develop and promote the most effective interventions
- **Increase public health capacity** through better infrastructure and a stronger, trained workforce
- **Share technical expertise** to promote meaningful action
- **Foster partnerships** to advance mutual priorities

**Building from CDC's long-standing country programs** – CDC uses existing programs as platforms to extend our reach and resources. We share ideas and expertise with partners, including a host of online resources (<http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/ncd>).

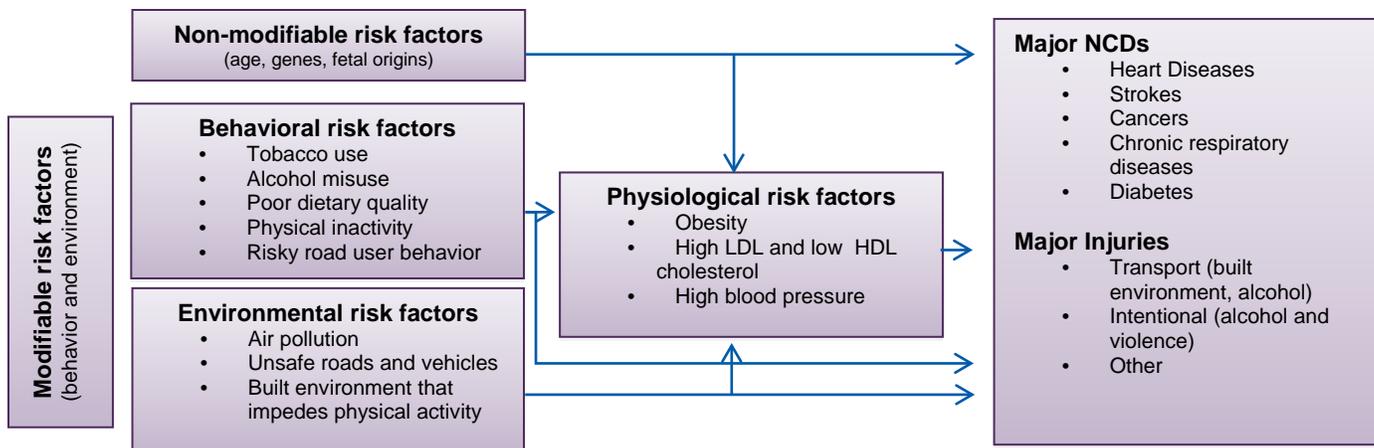
## Global Deaths by Cause<sup>1</sup>



- Communicable disease, maternal, nutritional and neonatal disorders
- Neglected Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs): depression, chronic kidney disease, digestive diseases, etc.
- NCDs: diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, neoplasms, cardiovascular disease
- Injuries

## Programs: Risk and Prevention

Certain risk factors can increase the likelihood of NCDs. Some risk factors can be prevented or changed (modified) and some cannot. CDC action focuses specifically on modifiable risk factors related to behavior and environment.<sup>2</sup>



CDC and its partners reach over 100 countries with programs in global cancer prevention and control, tobacco control, hypertension treatment, salt reduction, road traffic injury, clean and safe cookstoves, violence against children, and more.

## Accomplishments

### Standard surveillance tools

- Violence Against Children Survey helps shape policy and prevention services
- Standard Tobacco Questions for Surveys harmonize global data on tobacco use and prevention policies

### Evidence-based tools

- Million Hearts®- Sodium Reduction provides self-guided modules for policymaking and program development
- Global Standardized Hypertension Treatment Project gives healthcare providers tools for hypertension control
- Safer Cookstoves Toolkit contains a 10-step process to improve safer and cleaner cookstoves

### Training tools

- Field Epidemiology Training Program Modules will strengthen and improve skills in NCD surveillance, prevention, and control policies

## Future Direction

### Surveillance

- Support the implementation and tracking of the Global Monitoring Framework
- Explore technology platforms for NCD risk factor surveillance

### Evidence

- Scale-up successful interventions like the Global Standardized Hypertension Treatment Project
- Use economic evidence to advance NCD prevention policies

### Training

- Develop practical public health epidemiology, program and policy training tools and networks to strengthen workforce capacity

1: Jameison D, et al., [Global health 2035: a world converging within a generation](#), *The Lancet*, 2013; 382, 1898-955 (adapted)  
2: Lopez, A, et al., [Remembering the forgotten noncommunicable diseases](#), *BMC Medicine*, 2014; 12:200