

# DIVISION FOR HEART DISEASE AND STROKE PREVENTION



CDC's [Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention](#) (DHDSP) supports programs that help millions of Americans control their high blood pressure and reduce other risk factors for heart disease and stroke, the first and fifth leading causes of death in the United States.

The leading preventable risk factors for heart disease and stroke are high blood pressure, high LDL (bad) cholesterol, smoking, poor nutrition, physical inactivity, type 2 diabetes, and obesity. With an FY 2021 budget of \$175 million, DHDSP works to reduce these risk factors, especially for groups affected by health disparities, which are differences in health across different geographic, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. To meet this goal, DHDSP:

- Measures how many Americans live with, are treated for, or die from heart disease and stroke.
- Shares findings on effective interventions to the public health and clinical communities.
- Funds and guides states, cities, tribes, and territories to use interventions to prevent and manage heart disease and stroke.
- Shares information to help all Americans understand the risk factors for heart disease and stroke and how to prevent and reduce them.

## OUR IMPACT: Health Equity Highlight

### The Challenge

Black adults have significantly higher rates of high blood pressure than White adults. The rate of death from high blood pressure has also been increasing among Black adults since 2010 and is twice that of White adults.

### CDC's Approach

DHDSP is committing to advance health equity and reduce disparities by adopting two goals that will drive the division's activities through 2024.

- Decrease racial disparities in high blood pressure control by improving control rates by 5% among Black adults by December 31, 2024.
- Address surveillance gaps by improving collection, monitoring, and use of data about potential drivers of health disparities by December 31, 2024.

Each year in the United States, cardiovascular diseases cause:

**1 IN 3**

**DEATHS**

or more than 859,000 people.



**\$216**

**BILLION**

in health care system costs.



**\$147**

**BILLION**

in lost productivity on the job from premature death.



In addition:

**116**

**MILLION  
ADULTS**

have high blood pressure (130/80 mm Hg or higher).



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

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