

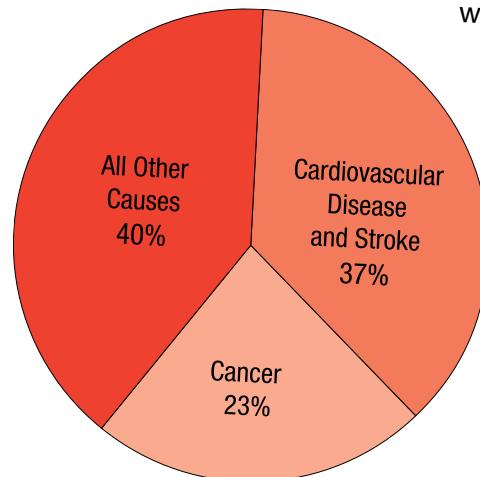
# Heart Facts 2006: All Americans

## Cardiovascular Diseases Still No. 1

**FACT:** Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) rank as America's No. 1 killer, claiming the lives of over 37 percent of the more than 2.4 million Americans who die each year. Cancer kills nearly 23 percent. All other causes of death account for about 40 percent.

**FACT:** 71.3 million Americans have some form of CVD. This includes diseases of the heart, stroke, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, congenital cardiovascular defects, hardening of the arteries and other diseases of the circulatory system.

**FACT:** An estimated 65 million Americans age 20 or older have high blood pressure, a risk factor for CVD.



**Causes of Death for All Americans in the United States, 2003 Preliminary Data**

**FACT:** It's estimated that about 34 percent of non-Hispanic white men and 32 percent of non-Hispanic white women have CVD.\*

**FACT:** Among non-Hispanic blacks, 41.1 percent of men and 44.7 percent of women have CVD.\*

**FACT:** Among Mexican Americans, 29.2 percent of men and 29.3 percent of women have CVD.\*

**FACT:** Americans will pay \$403.1 billion in 2006 for CVD-related medical costs and disability.

**FACT:** Nearly 100 million Americans age 20 or older have blood cholesterol of 200 mg/dL or above, a risk factor for CVD.

\* Estimates are age-adjusted to remove the effect of differences in the age distribution of population groups. Data from this U.S. government survey included Mexican Americans but not other people of Latino or Hispanic origin.

*The American Heart Association spent about \$439 million during FY 2003–04 on research support, professional and public education, and community service programs.*

*Medical research continually seeks to reduce disability and death from heart attack, stroke and other heart and blood vessel diseases.*

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# Heart Facts 2006: African Americans

## Cardiovascular Diseases Still No. 1

Note: U.S. government agencies and population surveys use the terms "blacks" and "non-Hispanic blacks."

**FACT:** Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) rank as the No. 1 killer of African Americans, claiming the lives of 36.4 percent of the more than 290,000 blacks who die each year. Cancer follows, killing 21.5 percent. All other causes of death account for about 42 percent.

**FACT:** Over 4 in every 10 non-Hispanic black adults have CVD\*. This includes diseases of the heart, stroke, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, congenital cardiovascular defects, hardening of the arteries and other diseases of the circulatory system.

**FACT:** For every 100,000 persons in the United States in 2003 (preliminary), about 309 people died from CVD. This is the age-adjusted CVD death rate for the total population. Among blacks

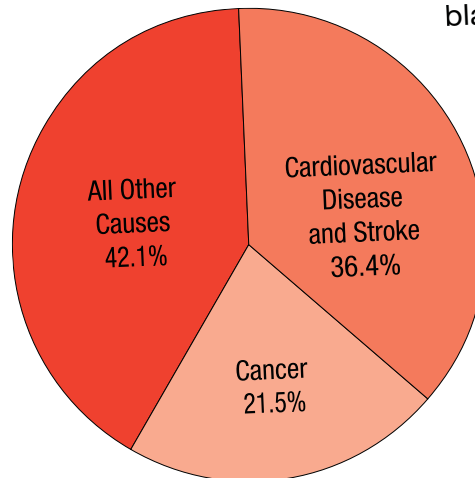
the CVD death rate was even higher — 479.6 for males and 354.8 for females per 100,000 population.\*

**FACT:** Over 40 percent of black adults in the United States have high blood pressure (HBP), one of the highest rates in the world. Compared with whites, blacks are more likely to have HBP, to be overweight or obese, and to have diabetes. All these factors raise their CVD risk.

**FACT:** The age-adjusted 2002 death rate from coronary heart disease (CHD), which includes heart attack, was almost 20 percent higher among black adults

than for the total adult population in the United States.

\* Estimates are age-adjusted to remove the effect of differences in the age distribution of population groups.



**Causes of Death for Blacks or African Americans in the United States, 2002 Final Data**

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