

State of the Heart for Women

Heart Disease in South Carolina



Burden of Disease:

- In the United States, 298,840 women died from heart disease in 2015. Heart disease is a leading cause of death and disability in the United States. The most common form of heart disease in the United States is coronary heart disease, which can lead to heart attack.¹
- Heart disease is South Carolina's leading cause of death for African American women. In 2016, 1,246 African American women died from heart disease in South Carolina.
- Heart disease accounted for 23,105 hospitalizations for South Carolina women in 2016, with a total hospitalization cost of more than \$1.3 billion.

Risk Factors for South Carolinians:

Smoking

- Cigarette smokers have a 70 percent greater chance of dying of heart disease than nonsmokers.²
- One out of every six adult women in South Carolina smokes.

Overweight and Obese

- More than 63 percent of the women in South Carolina are overweight or obese.
- While 57 percent of Caucasian women in South Carolina are overweight or obese, 79 percent of African American women fit into one of these two categories.

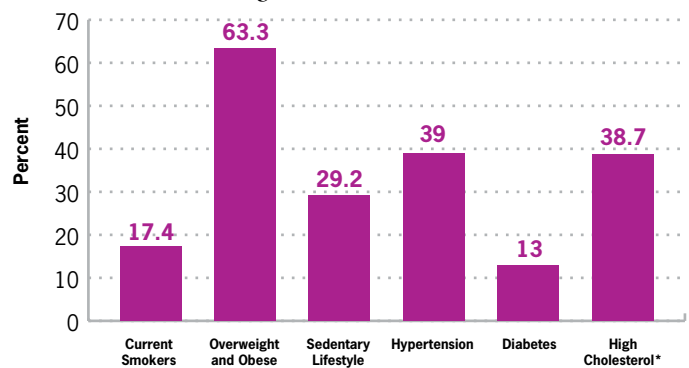
Sedentary Lifestyle

- Regular physical activity could reduce one's risk of having high blood pressure by nearly 20 percent.³
- In South Carolina, 52 percent of women do not get the recommended amount of physical activity.
- Nearly 30 percent of women in South Carolina do not engage in physical activity during their leisure time.
- Physical inactivity is more common among African American women than Caucasian women.

Hypertension (High Blood Pressure)

- People with uncontrolled hypertension (high blood pressure) are three times more likely to die of heart disease.⁴
- One in three women in South Carolina has high blood pressure.

Prevalence of Heart Disease Risk Factors Among Women, South Carolina 2016



Data Source: South Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
* 2015 data

Diabetes

- Adults with diabetes are two to four times more likely to have heart disease than adults without diabetes.⁵
- Nearly one out of every eight women in South Carolina lives with diabetes.

High Cholesterol

- People with high blood cholesterol have about twice the risk of heart disease as people with lower levels.⁶
- Nearly two out of every five women in South Carolina have high cholesterol.

Stroke Among Women

in South Carolina



Burden of Disease for South Carolinians:

- Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States.
- According to the most recent national data available (2016), South Carolina had the sixth highest stroke death rate in the nation and is part of the “Stroke Belt,” a group of Southeastern states with high stroke death rates.
- Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death for women in South Carolina, resulting in 1,477 deaths during 2016.
- African American women are at greater risk of dying from stroke than Caucasian women in South Carolina.
- Stroke resulted in 8,402 hospitalizations for women in South Carolina in 2016. Of these, 36 percent were less than 65 years old.

Modifiable Risk Factors for Stroke:

- High blood pressure
- Cigarette smoking
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Unhealthy diet
- Physical inactivity

How to Reduce Your Risk of Stroke:

- Get your blood pressure checked.
- Stay active.
- Eat a healthy diet.
- Use less salt.
- If you drink alcohol, drink in moderation.
- Get your cholesterol level checked.
- Stay smoke-free.

Warning Signs of Stroke:

- Sudden weakness or numbness of the face, arm or leg on one side of the body.
- Loss of speech or trouble talking or understanding speech.
- Sudden dimness or loss of vision, particularly in one eye.
- Unexplained dizziness, unsteadiness or sudden falls, with no previous symptoms.
- Sudden, severe headaches with no known cause.

Economic Cost of Stroke:

- Hospitalization costs of stroke totaled more than \$479 million for South Carolina women in 2016.

For more information on cardiovascular disease prevention in South Carolina contact: Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, Division of Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity and School Health, (803) 898-1934

Data Sources: S.C. BFSS, S.C. Vital Records, S.C. Hospital Discharge
Fact sheet produced by Division of Population Health Data, January 2018

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