

# State of the Heart for Women

## HEART DISEASE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

### BURDEN OF DISEASE:

- In the United States, **310,661** women died from heart disease in 2021.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>
- Heart disease is South Carolina's leading cause of death for African American women. In 2021, **1,532** African American women died from heart disease in South Carolina.
- Heart disease accounted for **23,454** hospitalizations for South Carolina women in 2021, with total hospitalization charges of more than **\$1.9 billion**.



### RISK FACTORS FOR SOUTH CAROLINIANS:

#### Smoking

- Cigarette smokers have a 70 percent greater chance of dying of heart disease than nonsmokers.<sup>3</sup>
- One out of every seven adult women in South Carolina smokes.

#### Overweight and Obese

- Over 67 percent of the women in South Carolina are overweight or obese.
- While 63 percent of Caucasian women in South Carolina are overweight or obese, 80 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.<sup>4</sup>
- In South Carolina, 55.4 percent of women do not get the recommended amount of physical activity.
- Over 27 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 are three times more likely to die of heart disease.<sup>5</sup>
- More than one in three women in South Carolina has high blood pressure.

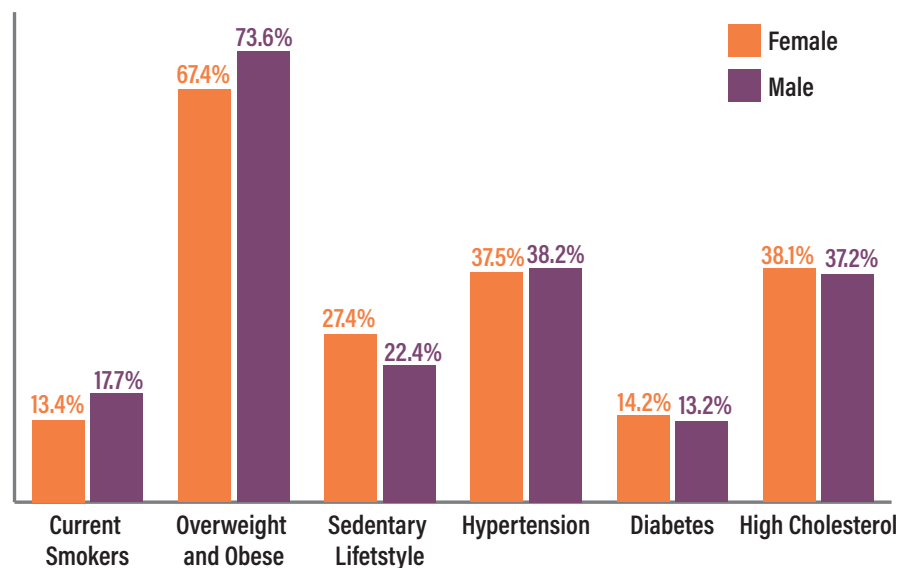
#### Diabetes

- Adults with diabetes are two to four times more likely to have heart disease than adults without diabetes.<sup>6</sup>
- One out of every seven 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.<sup>7</sup>
- More than one out of every three women in South Carolina have high cholesterol.

### Heart Disease Risk Factors by Sex, South Carolina 2021



Data Source: South Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System  
Notes: Adults 18+

# 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 2021 national data, South Carolina had the **seventh 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 **1,644** deaths during 2021.
- African American women are at a **greater risk** of dying from stroke than Caucasian women in South Carolina.
- Stroke resulted in **8,483** hospitalizations for women in South Carolina in 2021. Of these, **36 percent** were less than 65 years old.

### Risk Factors for Stroke:

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

### How to Reduce Your Risk:

- 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.



## MORE THAN \$682,000,000

Total hospitalization charges for strokes for South Carolinian women in 2020.

**For more information on cardiovascular disease prevention in South Carolina contact:**  
Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, Division of Diabetes and Heart Disease Management, (803) 898-0868

Data Sources: S.C. BRFSS, S.C. Vital Statistics, S.C. Hospital Discharge  
Fact sheet produced by Division of Epidemiology, Analysis & Data Visualization.

#### References:

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- <sup>3</sup> CDC. Perspective in disease prevention and health promotion smoking and cardiovascular disease. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep1984; 32:677-9.
- <sup>4</sup> AHA Exercise can lower high blood pressure risk. Retrieved from <http://blog.heart.org/exercise-can-lower-high-blood-pressure-risk/>
- <sup>5</sup> Stamler J, Stamler R, Neaton JD. Blood pressure, systolic and diastolic, and cardiovascular risks. US population data. Arch Intern Med. 1993;153:598-615.
- <sup>6</sup> AHA Cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Retrieved from [http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Conditions/Diabetes/WhyDiabetesMatters/Cardiovascular-Disease-Diabetes\\_UCM\\_313865\\_Article.jsp#.Vqkk2\\_krLcs](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Conditions/Diabetes/WhyDiabetesMatters/Cardiovascular-Disease-Diabetes_UCM_313865_Article.jsp#.Vqkk2_krLcs)
- <sup>7</sup> CDC Division for heart disease and stroke prevention. Cholesterol fact sheet. Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/fs\\_cholesterol.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fs_cholesterol.htm)

