



# NIH Heart Disease & Stroke

## Research: Fact Sheet

This information is at <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3010188> and is provided by the American Heart Association.

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### **FY 2005 Appropriation Recommendation:**

National Institutes of Health (NIH): \$30.6 Billion

Heart Disease: \$2.5 Billion

Stroke: \$410 Million

### **American Heart Association Position**

Now is the time to capitalize on a century of progress in understanding the causes of heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases. Researchers are on the brink of advances to greatly enhance prevention and to provide new treatments for these diseases. But, the National Institutes of Health budget for heart disease and stroke did not keep pace with the doubling initiative and remains disproportionately underfunded compared to the enormous burden these diseases place on the nation and the many promising scientific opportunities that could advance the fight against heart disease and stroke.

### **Background**

Research is the starting point for all medical progress. Finding ways to prevent, treat and even cure heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases depends on revolutionary breakthroughs. But, despite major advances in their treatment, there is still no cure for this country's No. 1 killer. Heart disease and stroke still occur in epidemic proportions. As the baby boomers age, the number of Americans afflicted by these often disabling diseases will increase substantially.

### **Facts/Statistics**

Heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases remain the No. 1 killer of Americans and they are a major cause of permanent disability. Heart disease is America's No. 1 killer and stroke is the No. 3 killer. More than 64 million Americans of all ages suffer from cardiovascular diseases. These diseases are

major causes of permanent disability. Heart disease is the leading cause of premature, permanent disability among American workers.

- Research has demonstrated that avoiding key risk behaviors and receiving early diagnosis and appropriate treatment can prevent a significant portion of death and disability caused by heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases.

**America's progress in reducing the death rate from cardiovascular diseases has slowed, suggesting new strategies are needed to control the nation's No. 1 killer, an expert panel called by Congress reports.**

- NIH research provides cutting-edge treatment and prevention strategies and cuts healthcare costs.

**Cardiovascular diseases cost Americans more than any other disease — an estimated \$368 billion for medical costs and lost productivity in 2004. Stroke will cost \$54 billion.**

- Despite this enormous cost and burden, NIH invested only \$1.8 billion on heart research and \$288 million on stroke research in FY 2002. Heart research receives 7% of the NIH budget and stroke receives 1%.

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