

# CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

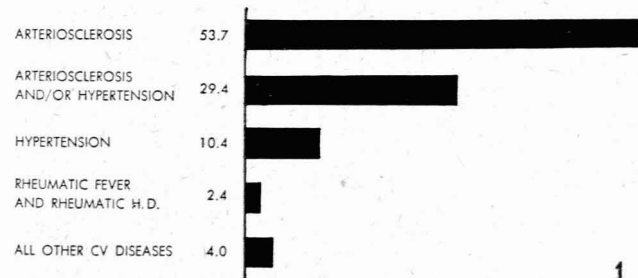
The following data are abstracted from a handbook on Cardiovascular Diseases in the United States published in March 1958 by the American Heart Association in cooperation with the National Heart Institute and the Heart Disease Control Program, Public Health Service of the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare:

## DEATHS AND DEATH RATES FOR CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES, US, 1955, BY CAUSES

Cause	Number of Deaths		Rate per 100,000 population
	Total	Male	
Cardiovascular diseases, total (330-334, 400-468)	815,532	438,316	496.4
Arteriosclerosis			266.8
Arteriosclerotic heart disease, including coronary disease (420)		405,830	247.0
General arteriosclerosis (450)		32,486	19.8
Hypertension and/or arteriosclerosis	239,764		145.9
Cerebrovascular lesions (330-334)		174,142	106.0
Non-rheumatic endocarditis and myocardial degeneration (421, 422)		65,622	39.9
Hypertension	85,045		51.8
Hypertension with heart disease (440-443)		73,883	45.0
Hypertension without mention of heart disease (444-447)		11,162	6.8
Rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease (400-416)	19,757		12.0
Other cardiovascular diseases (430-434, 451-468)	32,650		19.9

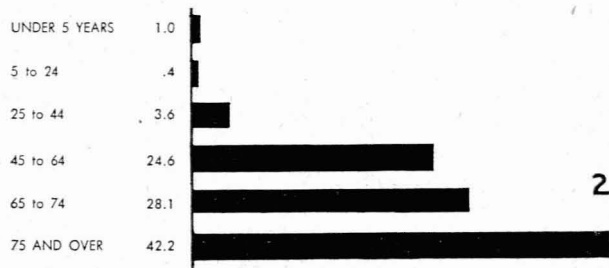
Numbers in parenthesis are code numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International List of Diseases and Causes of Death. Not included are 2,672 deaths from cardiovascular syphilis (022, 023), 9,245 deaths from congenital malformations of the circulatory system (754), and 15,821 deaths from chronic nephritis (592-594).

## DEATHS FROM CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES, 1955, BY SPECIFIC CAUSES (EXPRESSED AS PERCENT OF TOTAL CV DEATHS)



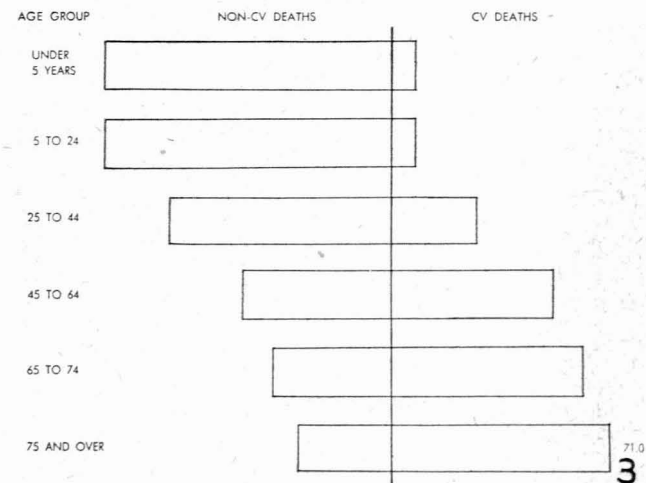
Arteriosclerosis and hypertension cause over 90% of the death from CV diseases. (Fig. 1.)

## DEATHS FROM CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES, 1955, BY AGE-GROUPS (EXPRESSED AS PERCENT OF TOTAL CV DEATHS)



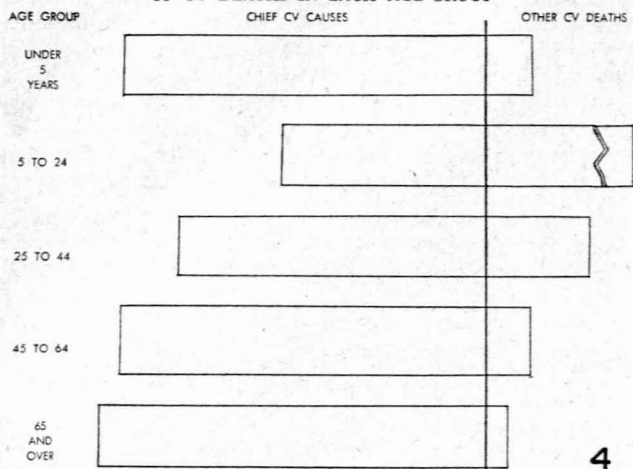
Although most CV deaths occur in the older age-groups, note that one-quarter were in the age-group 45-64. (Data include deaths from congenital malformations of the circulatory system.)

## DEATHS FROM CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES, 1955, BY AGE-GROUPS (EXPRESSED AS PERCENT OF ALL DEATHS IN EACH AGE-GROUP)



Note that, even in the age-groups 25-44 and 45-64, CV diseases are responsible for a large proportion of all deaths. (Data include deaths from congenital malformations of the circulatory system.)

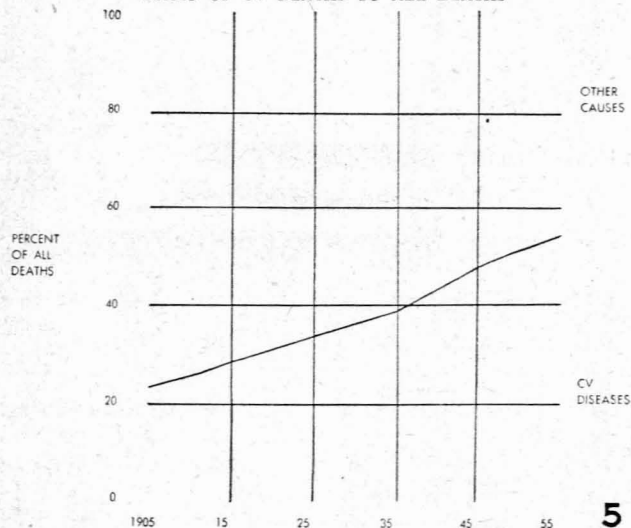
DEATHS FROM CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES, 1955. CHIEF CAUSES OF CV DEATHS IN EACH AGE-GROUP



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Although CV diseases affect all ages, note that the importance of specific forms of CV diseases as a cause of death varies according to the age group.

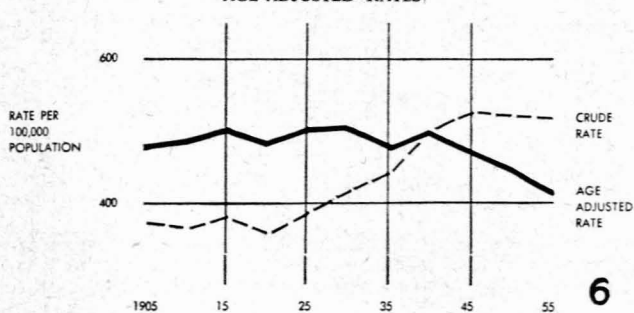
DEATHS FROM CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES, 1905-55. CHANGING RATIO OF CV DEATHS TO ALL DEATHS



5

In 1905 CV diseases accounted for only 24% of all deaths. Today more than half of all deaths are due to CV diseases. People now live longer mainly because of decreased mortality from infectious diseases; and it is in the older age-groups that CV diseases take their greatest toll. (Data include chronic nephritis.)

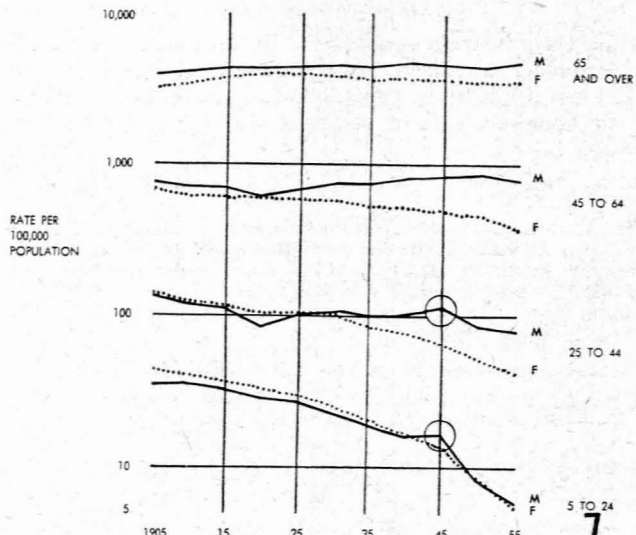
DEATH RATES FOR CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES, 1905-55. TREND OF AGE-ADJUSTED RATES



6

Has the CV death rate increased over the past 50 years? The line showing the crude death rate shows an increase, but the age-adjusted death rate shows that actually the CV death rate has been decreasing since about 1940; before then it was relatively stable. (The age-adjusted death rate is the death rate which would have resulted if the age distribution of the population had been the same as the age distribution of the United States in 1940. In comparing death rates for different years we must take into account the fact that there is a greater proportion of older people in the population than there used to be; the age-adjusted rate allows for this fact.) Data include chronic nephritis. (Fig. 6)

DEATH RATES FOR CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES, 1905-55. TRENDS BY AGE AND SEX

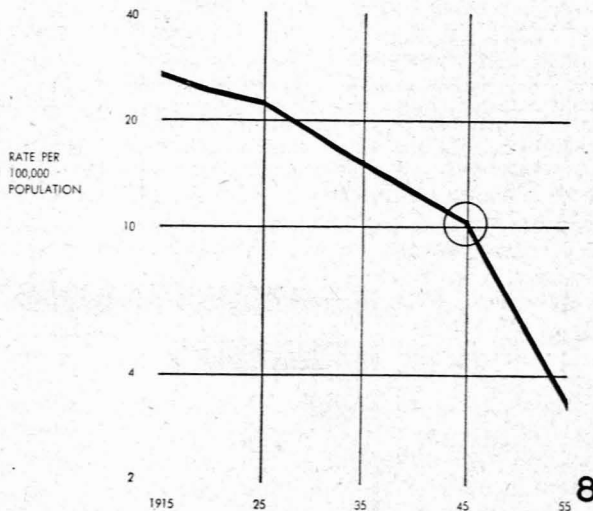


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The peaks marked with circles do not represent true increases. Armed forces overseas, generally healthier, not included.

In the 45-64 age-group, the CV death rates have gone up for men and down for women. In the older age-groups the CV death rates have remained relatively stable. In the age-groups below 45, the rates have gone down for both males and females. (Data include chronic nephritis.)

DEATH RATES, 1915-55. HEART DISEASE (LARGELY RHEUMATIC) AND RHEUMATIC FEVER, AGE-GROUP 5-24



8

The peak marked with a circle does not represent a true increase. Armed Forces overseas, generally healthier, not included.

8 November 1958

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The death rates from rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease have been declining since 1915. The decline has been more rapid since 1945, when penicillin became generally available.

Rheumatic heart disease was not reported separately from other heart diseases until 1939. Since most heart disease in this age-group is rheumatic, rates are shown for all heart disease and rheumatic fever combined. (Fig. 8.)