



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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For Immediate Release: February 6, 2008

08-09

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RELEASES DATA REPORT ON
HAWAI'I'S LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH**

2,900 People in Hawai'i Died of Cardiovascular Disease in 2005

HONOLULU – More than 2,900 people in Hawai'i died from cardiovascular disease (CVD) in 2005, making it the leading cause of death in the state, according to a new report titled *The Burden of Cardiovascular Disease in Hawai'i – 2007*. The report, which was released today by the Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) Community Health Division, represents the most recent compilation of data on cardiovascular disease in the state. Cardiovascular disease is a group of diseases that affect the heart and blood vessels, the two most common forms being heart disease and stroke.

The Department of Health hopes this report can be used to provide updated data to community programs that address CVD issues, educate the public on CVD health disparities, and encourage partnerships with chronic disease programs and groups that are closely linked to CVD, such as diabetes and tobacco prevention.

"Cardiovascular disease is a serious, common and very costly disease," said Director of Health Chiyome Fukino, M.D. "This report provides healthcare partners as well as individuals with updated data that can be used to help take tailored steps to minimize the risk and impact of cardiovascular disease."

This technical report presents data on CVD mortality, prevalence, hospitalizations and associated risk factors. The report was completed in collaboration with a number of community partners. Highlights of the report include findings that known risk factors for CVD include high blood pressure, diabetes, and smoking. Another risk factor is low socioeconomic status, which is defined as adults who have an annual household income below \$15,000, less than a high school education, or are unemployed.

“While Hawai‘i as a whole has a relatively low rate of cardiovascular disease in relation to the rest of the country, there are widespread disparities within our population that must be addressed,” said Kalani Brady, M.D., American Heart Association O‘ahu Metro board member. “If we don’t address those risk factors and turn the tide, we could see death rates again increase.”

The Burden of Cardiovascular Disease in Hawai‘i – 2007 is available online at <http://www.hawaii.gov/health>.

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