



Heart Disease

January, 2014

Heart Disease Death Rates for Branch, Hillsdale, St. Joseph Counties and Michigan



Source: Age-Adjusted Death Rates per 100,000 population, 2009-11 Michigan Resident Death Files, Vital Records and Health Statistics Section, DVRHS, MDCH

Only 4.6% of Michigianians reported engaging in all four healthy lifestyles (having a normal Body Mass Index or BMI, consuming the recommended number of fruits/vegetables, abstaining from smoking and maintaining adequate physical activity.)
MI BRFS, 2009

Heart disease is a major health problem. Every year, about 715,000 Americans have a heart attack. About 600,000 people die from heart disease in the United States each year—that's 1 out of every 4 deaths. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women.¹

Classic heart attack symptoms...

The five major symptoms of a heart attack are:

- Pain or discomfort in the jaw, neck or back.
- Feeling weak, light-headed or faint.
- Chest pain or discomfort.
- Pain or discomfort in arms or shoulder.
- Shortness of breath

Common symptoms are different with nausea and vomiting or neck pain being an important early sign. A heart attack may occur without any pain. Unexplained shortness of breath, especially when not associated with exercise, may be a symptom.

Facts on Women and Heart Disease...

- Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in the United States, killing 292,188 women in 2009—that's **1 in every 4** female deaths.
- Although heart disease is sometimes thought of as a "man's disease," around the same number of women and men die each year of heart disease in the United States. Despite increases in awareness over the past decade, **only 54%** of women recognize that heart disease is their **number 1 killer**.²
- Heart disease is the **leading cause** of death for African American and white women in the United States. Among Hispanic women, heart disease and cancer cause roughly the same number of deaths each year. For American Indian or Alaska Native and Asian or Pacific Islander women, heart disease is second only to cancer.
- About 5.8% of all white women, 7.6% of black women, and 5.6% of Mexican American women have coronary heart disease.
- Almost **two-thirds** (64%) of women who die suddenly of coronary heart disease have **no previous symptoms**.³ Even if you have no symptoms, you may still be at risk for heart disease.



References...

1. Mozaffarian D et al. Heart disease and stroke statistics—2013 update: a report from the American Heart Association. *Circulation*. 2013;127(1):e6-e245.
2. Mosca L et. al. Twelve-year follow-up of American women's awareness of cardiovascular disease risk and barriers to heart health. *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality Outcomes*. 2010;3:120-7.
3. Roger VL, Go AS, Lloyd-Jones DM, Benjamin EJ, Berry JD, Borden WB, et al. Heart disease and stroke statistics—2012 update: a report from the American Heart Association. *Circulation*. 2012;125(1):e2–220.

Chest pain may also be caused by other conditions that may involve the respiratory or musculoskeletal systems. When not sure, you should seek prompt medical evaluation. Testing can rule out an acute cardiac condition.

Prevention is the key to a healthy heart. Major risk factors include:

- Smoking,
- Obesity,
- Hypertension,
- High cholesterol and I
- Lack of regular exercise.

You need to be an advocate for your heart health and work closely with your family physician to maximize your medical care.

What to do if you suspect a heart attack...

If you think you or someone you know is having a heart attack, you should:

- **Call 9-1-1 immediately.**
- **CHEW an adult aspirin immediately.**

www.bhsj.org

Branch County Office
570 N. Marshall Road
Coldwater, MI 49036
517-279-9561

Hillsdale County Office
20 Care Drive
Hillsdale, MI 49242
517-437-7395

St. Joseph County Office
1110 Hill Street
Three Rivers, MI 49093
269-273-2161

