

**EDITORS' PAGE**



# The Global Burden of Cardiovascular Diseases and Risk Factors

## 2020 and Beyond



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other cardiac and vascular conditions, constitute the leading cause of global mortality and are a major contributor to reduced quality of life (1,2). In 2017, CVD caused an estimated 17.8 million deaths worldwide, corresponding to 330 million years of life lost and another 35.6 million years lived with disability (1,2). Taken together with data on CVD and risk factor prevalence, these summary measures of health can be invaluable for cardiologists, other clinicians, and public health experts. They provide crucial population-level information that can guide action for CVD and risk factor prevention, treatment, and control at global, regional, national, and subnational levels.

Trends in these data provide a useful gauge of where in the world CVD mortality and burden are increasing or declining, and where progress has stalled. For example, nearly 80% of global CVD deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries

income countries compared with high- or low-income countries. But how are we monitoring these global and regional trends, and how are they informing cardiology practice, health policy, and clinical research?

Until recently, comprehensive assessments of summary measures of health and related data from internally consistent, systematic, and comparable methodology for all diseases, injuries, and risk factors were not readily available. The GBD (Global Burden of Disease) Study (6), launched by the World Bank and the World Health Organization in 1991, to address this challenge has done so in 6 cycles of GBD estimates published for the years 1999 to 2004, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2016, and 2017 (7,8). The global, regional, and national burden of CVD for 10 causes for 1990 to 2015 were published in *JACC* (9).

Beginning in 2020, through a collaborative effort involving *JACC*, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, the global, regional, and U.S. burden of CVD and risk factors will be presented in *JACC* following each new

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