

Know the Difference

Cardiovascular Disease, Heart Disease, Coronary Heart Disease



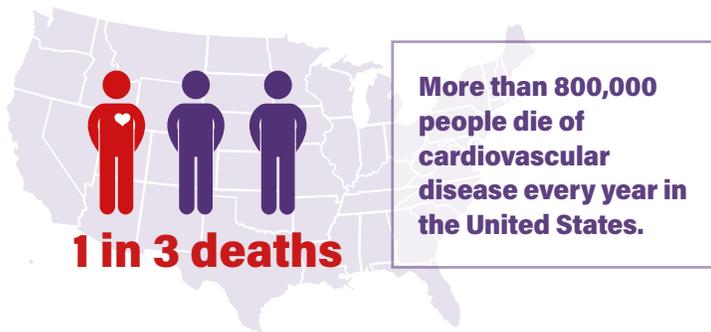
Cardiovascular disease, heart disease, coronary heart disease – what’s the difference?

Because these terms sound so similar, people use them interchangeably. This fact sheet will help you understand how these conditions differ.

Cardiovascular Disease

The big umbrella

Cardiovascular disease is the term for all types of diseases that affect the heart or blood vessels, including **coronary heart disease** (clogged arteries), which can cause heart attacks, **stroke**, **heart failure**, and **peripheral artery disease**.



Heart Disease

A type of cardiovascular disease

“Heart disease” is a catch-all phrase for a variety of conditions that affect the heart’s structure and function.

Keep in mind – all heart diseases are cardiovascular diseases, but not all cardiovascular diseases are heart disease.

The most common type of heart disease is coronary heart disease. In fact, when people talk about “heart disease” they often mean coronary heart disease.



Nearly 650,000 Americans die from heart diseases each year.

About 11% of American adults (that’s more than 1 of every 9) have been diagnosed with heart disease.

Coronary Heart Disease

A type of heart disease

Coronary heart disease is often referred to simply as “heart disease,” although it’s not the only type of heart disease. Another term for it is coronary artery disease.

About 366,000 Americans die from coronary heart disease each year.

Coronary heart disease occurs when plaque (a combination of fat, cholesterol, calcium, and other substances found in the blood) builds up in your arteries. You may have heard this called clogged arteries or atherosclerosis.

The plaque reduces the amount of oxygen-rich blood getting to your heart, which can cause chest pain (also called angina). Plaque can also lead to blood clots, which block blood flow and are the most common cause of a heart attack.

What you can do to protect yourself from cardiovascular diseases?

There’s a lot you can do to protect your heart.

- Ask your doctor about your **blood pressure, cholesterol, and A1C**.
- **Reduce the sodium**, and increase the fruits, vegetables, and whole grains in your diet.
- **Be physically active.**
- **Maintain a healthy weight.**
- **Don’t smoke.**
- **Manage stress.**
- **Keep your diabetes under control.**

