Since the 1960s, Latin America has seen a significant decrease in deaths from infectious diseases. However, deaths from degenerative diseases have increased due to changes like poor diet, inactivity and smoking, as well as poverty, social inequality and economic instability.

Ischemic heart disease and stroke are the top two causes of cardiovascular death in the Americas, diabetes is the leading cause of disability in the Americas, and in 2020, approximately 19.1 million people died from CVD—accounting for 32% of global deaths.

For nearly 100 years, the American Heart Association has been leading the fight against heart disease and stroke. In the last 10 years, we’ve expanded our reach to over 100 countries, working with organizations around the world to help change policies, implement programs, and strengthen healthcare systems to help improve and save lives.

We believe that where you live should not limit your health or the quality of your life.

The Difference Between Life and Death

Since the 1960s, Latin America has seen a significant decrease in deaths from infectious diseases. However, deaths from degenerative diseases have increased due to changes like poor diet, inactivity and smoking, as well as poverty, social inequality and economic instability.

In 2019, two million people in the Americas died from CVD; Haiti, Guyana, Suriname, Dominican Republic and Honduras have the highest CVD mortality rates in the region.

Hypertension is common across the region, although 28% of women and 43% of men are unaware.

Across Latin America, women who have strokes experience worse outcomes for disability and death compared to men. Stroke patient care differs greatly in availability and access to stroke units in parts of the region.

Our Work

**Better Hearts Better Cities**

A comprehensive program in Brazil supported by the Novartis Foundation to prevent and treat hypertension in low and middle-income countries by educating patients, improving coordination of care, increasing access to medication, and creating healthier living and working conditions.

**Best Practices in Cardiology Brazil**

Beginning in 2016, the AHA and the Brazilian Society of Cardiology collaborated on this in-hospital quality improvement program. Participating hospitals were measured over three years on their increased adherence to guidelines-based therapies for Acute Coronary Syndrome, Heart Failure and Atrial Fibrillation patients.
Mexico CVD Secondary Prevention in Clinical Practice Pilot

A new program with the Novartis Foundation, the Mexican Society of Cardiology, and the National Association of Cardiologists of Mexico to treat patients with atherosclerotic CVD to help prevent heart attack, stroke or other conditions.

Our International Go Red for Women® program educates women on the risk factors for and symptoms of heart attack and stroke and encourages healthy behaviors to prevent CVD. To date, there are 13 countries hosting community events, awareness activities and health checks, in this region.

Engaged more than 200 primary care clinics and health centers

Trained more than 2,500 primary care professionals and over 800 community health workers

Screened more than 1 million patients

Who We Work With

- Argentina Federation of Cardiology (FAC)
- Argentine Society of Cardiology
- Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados
- Brazilian Society of Hypertension (SBH)
- Cardiovascular Society of the State of São Paulo, Brazil
- Chilean Society of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery
- Colombian Heart Foundation
- Dominican Society of Cardiology
- Ecuadorian Society of Cardiology
- Guatemala Association of Cardiology
- Instituto Tellus, São Paulo, Brazil
- Interamerican Society of Cardiology
- IQVIA, São Paulo, Brazil
- The Heart Foundation of Jamaica
- Mexican Society of Cardiology
- Mexican Academic Consortium
- National Association of Cardiologists of Mexico (ANCAM)
- Novartis Foundation, Basel, Switzerland
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
- Paraguayan Society of Cardiology
- Portuguese Heart Society
- Spanish Heart Foundation
- Trinidad and Tobago Heart Foundation
- Venezuelan Society of Cardiology
- World Health Organization
- World Heart Federation
- World Stroke Organization

Our Impact

Better Hearts Better Cities Program

partners across Brazil, Senegal, and Mongolia have collectively:

- Trained more than 200,000 people
- Conducted more than 370,000 health checks
- Engaged more than 500,000 health workers
- Developed more than 1,800 community health programs

CPR Month

Event trains non-medical professionals in CPR and Hands-Only CPR (HOCPR) through online and in-person classes, events and social media.

Our Commitment

As champions for health equity, by 2024, we will advance cardiovascular health for all, including identifying and removing barriers to health care access and quality. Since 1995, we've had a presence in Latin America and the Caribbean, and continue to prioritize the health of the region by creating a network of 7,462 instructors helping save lives through resuscitation and First Aid training for over 338,000 people at more than 739 training centers and sites in this region.

2 WHO. 2021 Fact Sheet on Cardiovascular Disease https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cardiovascular-diseases-(cvds)