



THE IMPACT OF CHRONIC DISEASE IN THE UNITED STATES

Chronic diseases are the major cause of death and disability worldwide

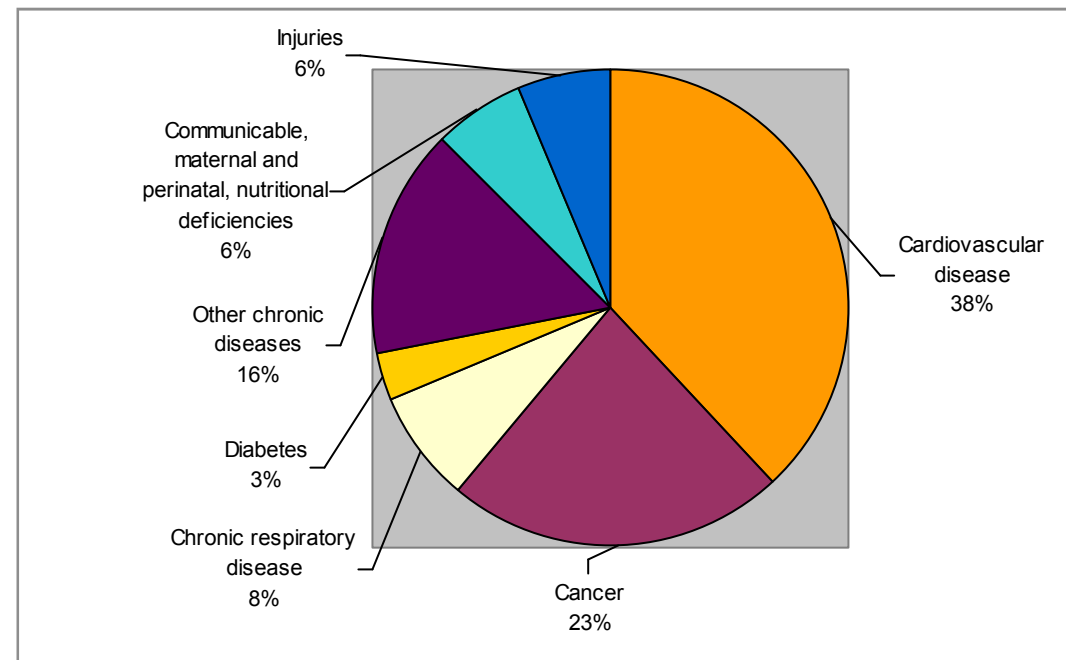
Facts:

- In the United States, chronic diseases accounted for 88% of all deaths in 2002 (see chart, right).
 - Total deaths in the United States, 2002 = 2,421,000.
 - Total deaths due to chronic disease in the United States, 2002 = 2,120,000.

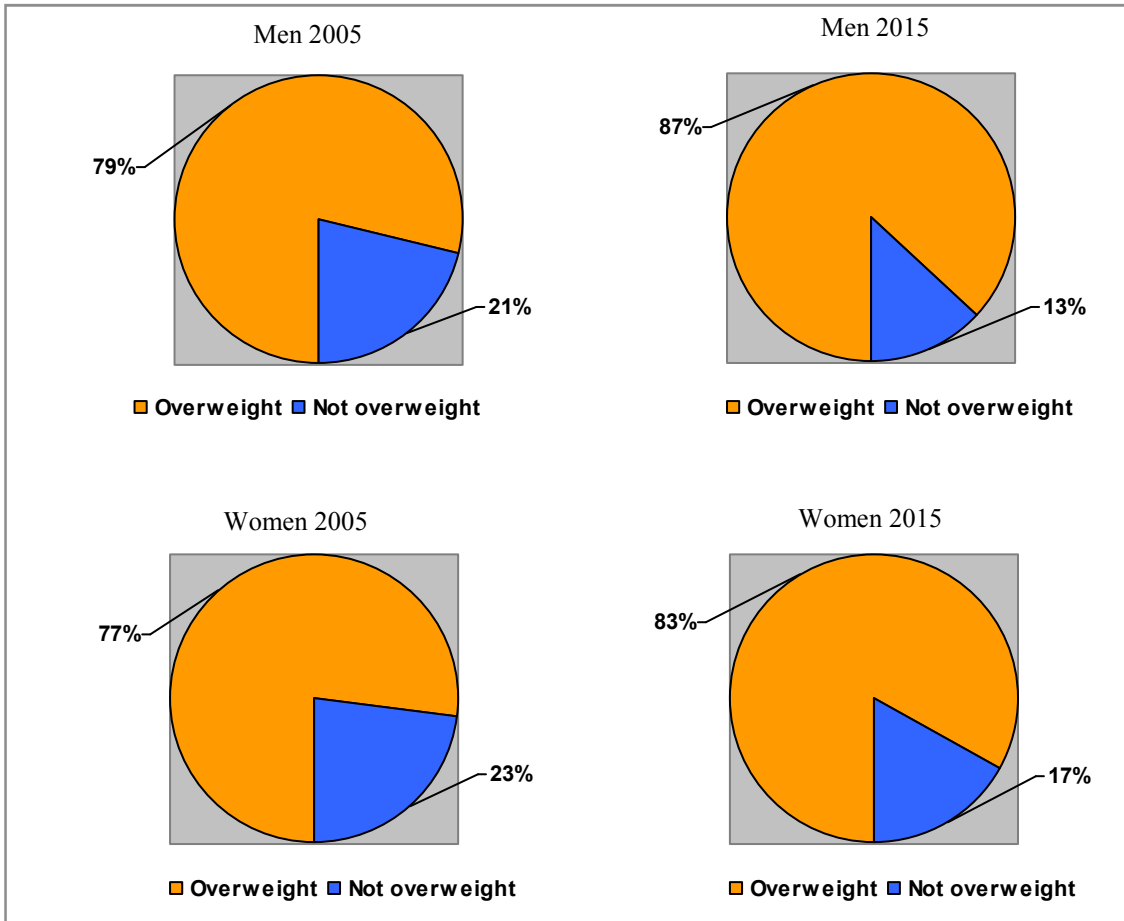
Note:

The data presented in this information sheet were estimated by WHO using standard methods to maximize cross-country comparability. They are not necessarily the official statistics of WHO Member States.

Deaths by cause, all ages, United States, 2002



Projected prevalence of overweight, United States, males and females aged 30 years or more, 2005 and 2015



Facts:

- Raised body mass index (overweight and obesity) is an important cause of chronic disease.
- Prevalence of overweight in the United States is expected to increase in both men and women over the next 10 years (see charts, left).

Solutions:

- At least 80% of premature heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes, and 40% of cancer could be prevented through healthy diet, regular physical activity and avoidance of tobacco products.
- Cost-effective interventions exist, and have worked in many countries: the most successful strategies have employed a range of population-wide approaches combined with interventions for individuals.