Cardiovascular disease (CVD), including heart disease and stroke, is the number one killer of men and women in the U.S., accounting for 864,500 deaths in 2005.1 CVD prevalence is higher among older Americans and, as baby boomers age, deaths from heart disease and stroke are expected to increase.2 Research has yielded breakthrough findings on CVD prevention and treatment, such as effective medications, procedures and lifestyle changes, and annual death rates from CVD have declined over the past few decades for the U.S. population,2 but there is still no cure. A continued, robust research effort to better understand the development, treatment and prevention of CVD, and its interaction with the aging process, is needed. Such research findings could have enormous health and economic benefits and allow older Americans to live more independent, productive and healthier lives for longer.

**Cardiovascular Disease Impact**

- In 2006, an estimated 80 million adults had one or more types of CVD and 38.1 million of them were estimated to be age 60 or older.1

- One in three U.S. adults has high blood pressure.1 If not properly controlled, high blood pressure can lead to heart failure, heart attack, stroke and kidney failure.3

- Stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability.4 Nearly three quarters of strokes occur in people over the age of 65 and the risk of having a stroke more than doubles each decade after age 55.4

- For 2009, the estimated direct and indirect cost of CVD in the U.S. is $475.3 billion.1

- In 2007, it was projected the aging of the population would drive up costs for CVD 54% by 2025.5

- If all major types of CVD were eliminated, life expectancy would increase by almost 7 years in the U.S.6

5 American Heart Association website. Available online at: http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3044587

All sources accessed June 29, 2009.
The Silver Book Resource Guide
For Cardiovascular Disease:
Heart Disease & Stroke

Website Information

**Searchable Databases**
The Silver Book Online: [www.silverbook.org](http://www.silverbook.org)
  - Age- A Major Risk Factor for Cardiovascular Disease
  - Prevalence and Incidence of Cardiovascular Disease
  - The Economic Burden of Cardiovascular Disease
  - The Human Burden of Cardiovascular Disease
Federally and privately supported clinical trials registry: [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)
CDC Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Legislative Database: [http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/DHDSPLeg/](http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/DHDSPLeg/)
CDC Chronic Disease Cost Calculator (State Medicaid Costs): [http://www.cdc.gov/DHDSP/announcements/cost_calculator.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/DHDSP/announcements/cost_calculator.htm)

**Maps:**
CDC’s Heart Disease and Stroke Maps: [http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/giscvh2/](http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/giscvh2/)

**Recent Innovation:**
Alliance for Aging Research News Room: [http://www.agingresearch.org/section/newsroom](http://www.agingresearch.org/section/newsroom)
Journals of the American Heart Association (AHA): [http://www.ahajournals.org/](http://www.ahajournals.org/)

**Reports:**
Alliance for Aging Research Cardiovascular Disease Publications: [http://www.agingresearch.org/section/article](http://www.agingresearch.org/section/article)
CDC’s Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Resource Library: [http://www.cdc.gov/DHDSP/library/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/DHDSP/library/index.htm)