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### **Cost of heart disease in Latin America tops \$30bn**

- *New research shows the economic burden of Latin America's biggest killer, heart disease, for the first time*
- *The World Heart Federation's World Congress of Cardiology & Cardiovascular Health (WCC 2016) comes to Mexico to highlight the impact of CVDs in the region*

New research has examined the economic burden of four heart conditions in Latin America for the first time, indicating that the figure totalled over US\$30.9bn in 2015.

A team of researchers looked at the prevalence of cardiovascular heart disease in Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Panama and El Salvador, conservatively estimating that four conditions (heart attack, heart failure, atrial fibrillation and hypertension) affect approximately 89.6 million people in the region (or 27.7% of the adult population<sup>1</sup>). This resulted in up to 6.8 million DALYs (or years of healthy life lost)<sup>2</sup>.

The full report, intended to raise awareness about the conditions and their cost-effective prevention, will be presented to cardiologists, policymakers and health leaders from around the world at the [World Heart Federation's World Congress of Cardiology & Cardiovascular Health](#) (WCC 2016) in Mexico, 4-7 June 2016, where a variety of brand new, pioneering international research will also be showcased.

At WCC 2016, the global cardiovascular community will convene to highlight the challenges of tackling CVDs in Latin America and beyond, and discuss the latest technological advances and practical examples of how local interventions from different countries can help save lives.

#### Country-specific statistics\*

- In Brazil heart disease affects nearly a third (32%) of the population at a total cost of US\$17.3bn; or 5.5% of all health spending.
- In Chile heart disease affects 38% of the population at a total cost of US\$1.4bn. That's 4.2% of all health spending.
- In Colombia heart disease affects 17% of the population at a total cost of US\$2.4bn and takes up 7% of all health spending.
- In Ecuador heart disease affects 14% of the population at a total cost of US\$600m, representing 2.5% of all health spending.
- In El Salvador heart disease affects 27% of the population at a total cost of US\$0.2bn, representing 9% of all health spending.
- In Mexico heart disease affects 26% of the population at a total cost of US\$6.1bn and takes up 4% of all health spending.
- In Panama heart disease affects 29% of the population at a cost of US\$300m
- In Peru heart disease affects 16% of the population at a total cost of \$900m; 2.1% of all health spending.

<sup>1</sup> This percentage reflects the evidence from studies among populations aged 20 years and over.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global\\_burden\\_disease/metrics\\_daly/en/](http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/metrics_daly/en/)



- In Venezuela heart disease affects a third (33%) of the population at a total cost of US\$1.7bn.

Lynne Pezzullo, lead researcher, Deloitte Access Economics Australia said: “This research brings together a substantial collaborative effort across nine countries, showing for the first time the economic burden of heart disease across the Latin American region. The impacts affect individuals with the conditions, as well as governments, businesses, family and friends, through health care treatments, productivity losses, informal carer burden and other costs. The research shows that telemedicine and structured telephone support interventions are among the suite of options for cost effective prevention and treatment of these conditions. We hope that by raising awareness further action will be taken and hence the cost burden alleviated.”

Dr Salim Yusuf, President, World Heart Federation said: “This research is useful in highlighting the broad economic burden of cardiovascular disease in Latin America, as well as the significant number of years of healthy life lost. Heart disease not only has far-reaching effects on the health of whole populations and therefore on government spending and policies, but also deeply affects our families and communities on a personal level.

“By showcasing this research alongside new technological advances and practical examples of how interventions from around the world can be implemented in various settings to save lives, I hope that WCC 2016 will facilitate real action by health leaders, policymakers and professionals.”

## **ENDS**

To sign up to receive press materials or for more information contact the WCC 2016 press office team at 00 44 (0)203 861 3820 / [wcc2016@grayling.com](mailto:wcc2016@grayling.com). The UK press office will be open 9am – 6pm (British Summer Time) for the duration of the Congress. Alternatively please contact the named team members below:

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## **Notes to editors**

\* Research carried out by Deloitte Access Economics Australia, other Deloitte member firms in Latin America, together with inputs from Novartis entities across the nine countries, Novartis LAS (who commissioned the research), and eminent regional clinicians and key opinion leaders.



Country	Prevalence (% 20+ population)	Financial cost (USDbn)	Health cost (% financial)	Productivity loss (% GDP)
Brazil	32.0%	17.3	5.5%	0.4%
Chile	38.0%	1.4	4.2%	0.2%
Colombia	17.4%	2.4	6.6%	0.3%
Ecuador	14.0%	0.6	2.5%	0.4%
El Salvador	27.3%	0.2	8.5%	0.3%
Mexico	25.6%	6.1	3.6%	0.3%
Panama	29.0%	0.3	3.4%	0.3%
Peru	16.0%	0.9	2.1%	0.4%
Venezuela	33.4%	1.7	2.2%	0.2%

### **About WCC 2016**

The World Congress of Cardiology & Cardiovascular Health (WCC) 2016 is taking place in Mexico City, 4-7 June 2016. It is the official congress of the World Heart Federation and is held every two years. It is an international forum, showcasing experts from across the globe and convening the whole cardiovascular community to discuss and implement innovative solutions on heart health and the latest developments in cardiology. For more information about WCC 2016 including the scientific programme and abstract programme [visit the website](#).

### **About the World Heart Federation**

The World Heart Federation is dedicated to leading the global fight against cardiovascular disease (CVD), including heart disease and stroke. We are the only global advocacy and leadership organization bringing together the CVD community to drive the CVD agenda and help people live longer, better, more heart-healthy lives. Working with more than 200 member organizations in over 100 countries, we strive for a 25% reduction by 2025 in premature deaths from cardiovascular disease around the world. For more information, please visit: [www.worldheart.org](http://www.worldheart.org); [www.facebook.com/worldheartfederation](https://www.facebook.com/worldheartfederation) and [twitter.com/worldheartfed](https://twitter.com/worldheartfed)