



## Chronic diseases and health promotion

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Chronic diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, are by far the leading cause of mortality in the world, representing 60% of all deaths. Out of the 35 million people who died from chronic disease in 2005, half were under 70 and half were women.



WHO/Marko Kokic

This invisible epidemic is an under-appreciated cause of poverty and hinders the economic development of many countries. Contrary to common perception, 80% of chronic disease deaths occur in low and middle income countries.

#### Fact File

Increasing levels of physical activity bring health benefits across age groups.



[Read the fact file](#)

#### Video

Learn about misunderstandings surrounding chronic disease.



[See the video](#)

#### What we do

##### Promote

Promote healthy living (better diet, more physical activity and tobacco cessation) and healthy societies, especially for the poor and those living in disadvantaged populations.

##### Prevent

Prevent premature deaths and avoid unnecessary disability due to chronic diseases. The solutions exist now, and many are simple, cheap and cost effective.

##### Treat

Treat chronic diseases effectively, using latest available knowledge. Make treatment available to all, especially those in the poorest settings.

##### Care

Help provide appropriate care by facilitating equitable and good quality health care for major chronic diseases.

#### Chronic disease publications

##### Global status report on noncommunicable diseases 2010



##### 2008-2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases



##### A practical toolkit for successful advocacy



#### [More publications](#)

#### Contact us

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