

Stroke in Maine

March 2004

Definition

- Stroke, also known as cerebrovascular disease, is a type of cardiovascular disease that affects the arteries leading to and within the brain. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel leading to the brain is blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood and oxygen it needs, so it starts to die.

Some Facts

- Nationally, stroke is the third leading cause of death after heart disease and cancer and a leading cause of serious, long-term disability.
- In 2000, stroke killed 167,661 people (61% of them women), accounting for about one in every 14 deaths in the United States. The death rate was 61 per 100,000 population.
- Approximately 50% of stroke deaths occur before the person reaches the hospital.
- **In Maine, 827 stroke deaths occurred in 2000; the age-adjusted death rate was 56.6 per 100,000 population.**
- **More stroke deaths occurred in Maine women (518) than men (309) during 2000. However, the age-adjusted stroke death rate among Maine women (54.7 per 100,000 population) was lower than that of Maine men (58.8 per 100,000 population).**
- **There were 3,865 hospitalizations due to stroke in Maine in 2002.**

Cost Burden

- **The total Maine hospital charges for stroke in 2002 were \$53 million. Medicare or Medicaid payments covered 80% of those charges.**
- In 2002, stroke accounted for 11% of all cardiovascular-related hospital charges and 3% of all hospital charges in Maine.

Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Division of Community Health. Stroke defined as ICD-9 codes 430-438 for hospital charges data and ICD-10 codes I60-I69 for mortality data. Mortality rate adjusted to U.S. 2000 standard population. When comparing to prior mortality statistics, note age adjustment to U.S. 2000 standard and change to ICD-10 codes.

For general information call: 207-287-5388

Technical questions related to statistical methods should be directed to: Pamela Foster Albert, 207-287-7108, pamela.f.albert@maine.gov

For more information and to access this fact sheet as a PDF, go to: www.healthymainepartnerships.com/mcvhp2.html



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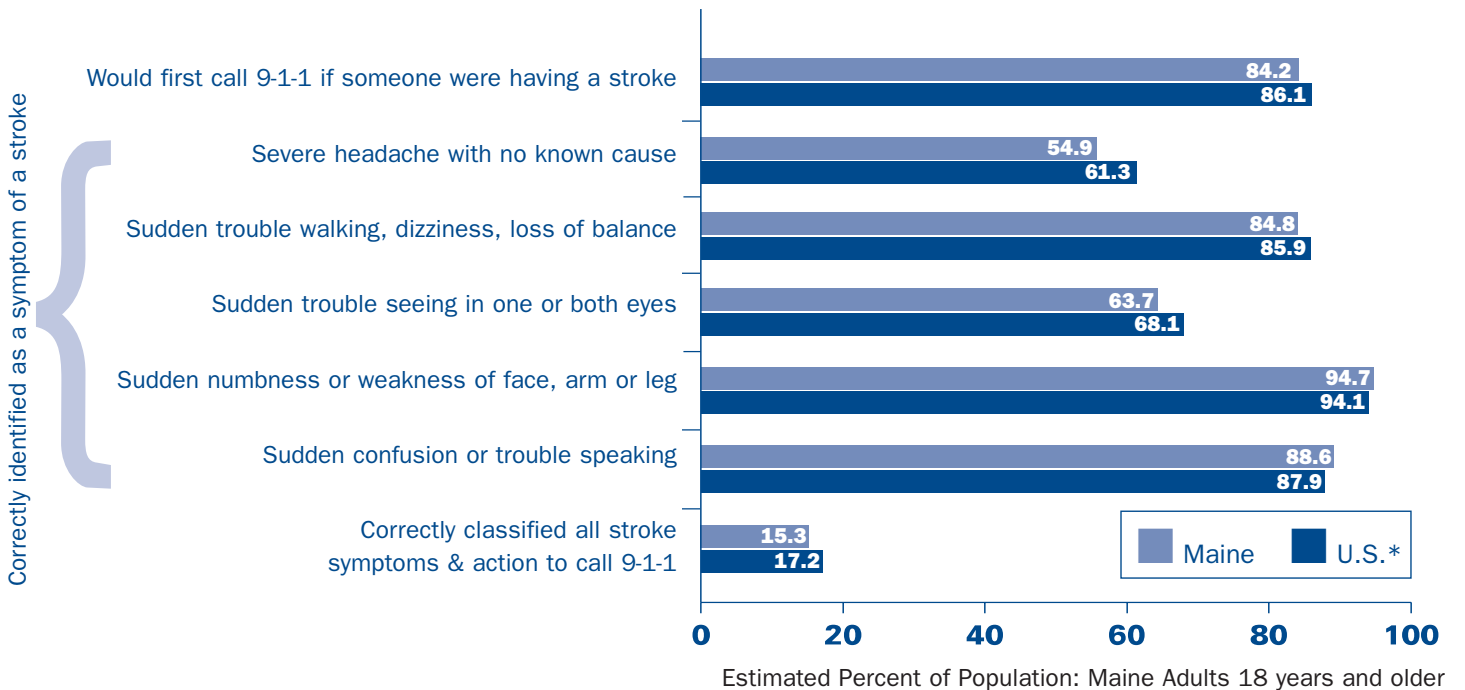
Maine Cardiovascular Health Program

Bureau of Health, Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Recognition of Stroke Signs & Symptoms Among Maine Adults

According to the American Stroke Association, the following are the warning signs of stroke:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause



* U.S. comparison data obtained from: Greenlund KJ et al (2003). Low Public Recognition of Major Stroke Symptoms. *Am J Prev Med* 2003; 25(4): 315-319.

Six questions on the signs and symptoms of stroke were included in the 2001 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), an ongoing telephone survey of adults in Maine aged ≥18 years. (Methodological details and quality control reports are available at www.cdc.gov/brfss). The questions assessed the knowledge of the signs and symptoms of stroke among Maine adults. The questions asked if each of six symptoms were a sign of having a stroke. The correct answer to five of the six questions was “yes.” The correct answer to one of the six questions, about sudden chest pain, was “no.” A question about who to call first if someone were having a stroke was also included.

Recognition of Stroke Signs & Symptoms by Gender in Maine

Maine women were more likely to know the signs and symptoms of stroke or the need to call 9-1-1 than Maine men. The following differences were noted:

- Would call 9-1-1 if someone were having a stroke86.9% of women vs. 81.1% of men
- Correctly classified ‘severe headache with no known cause’ as a symptom of a stroke60.1% of women vs. 49.2% of men
- Correctly classified ‘sudden confusion speaking’ as a symptom of a stroke91.4% of women vs. 85.5% of men

Note: Gender differences were statistically significant at the 0.05 significance level.

Source: BRFSS 2001 Heart Attack and Stroke Signs and Symptoms Module



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