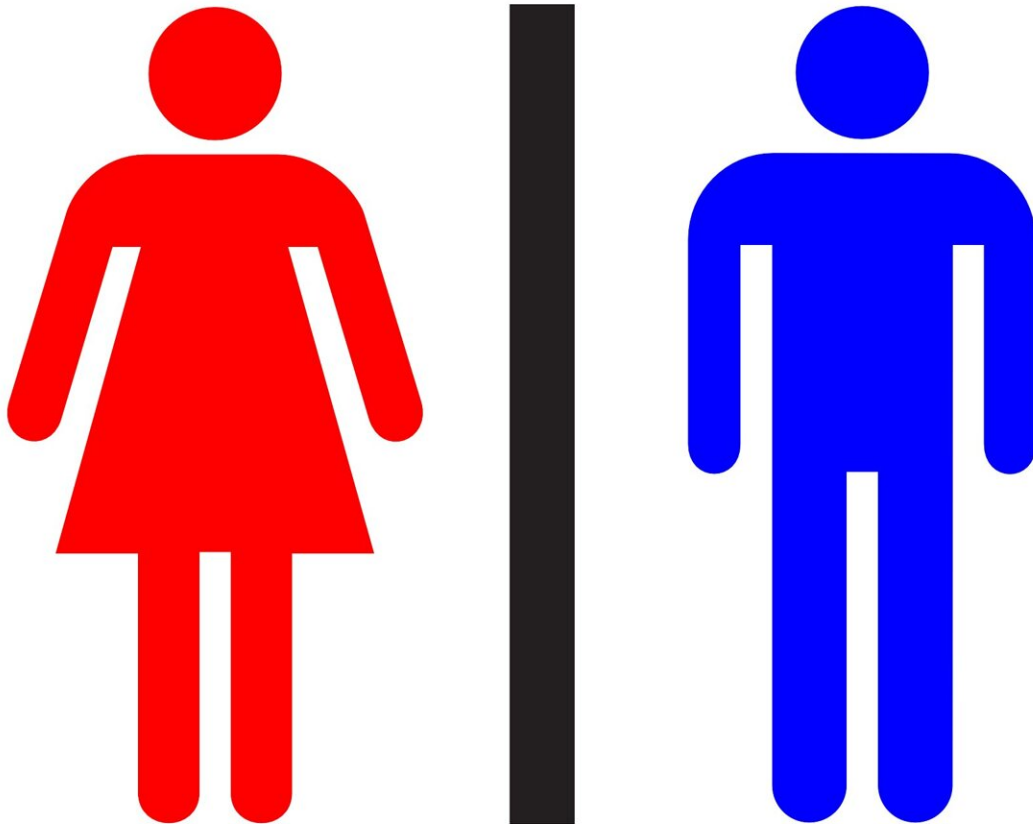


# **Risk factors for heart disease and stroke are largely similar in men and women globally, finds study**

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Women and men share most of the same risk factors for cardiovascular disease (CVD), a large international study has found—the first such study to include people not only from high income countries, but also from low- and middle-income countries where the burden of CVD is the greatest.

The study was published today in *The Lancet*.

The global study assessed risk factors, including metabolic (such as high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes), behavioral (smoking and diet), and psychosocial (economic status and depression) in about 156,000 people without a history of CVD between the ages of 35 and 70. Living in 21 low, middle and high-income countries on five continents, they were followed for an average of 10 years.

"Women and men have similar CVD risk factors, which emphasizes the importance of a similar strategy for the prevention of CVD in men and women," said the paper's first author Marjan Walli-Attaei, a research fellow at the Population Health Research Institute (PHRI) of McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS).

Overall, women had a lower risk of developing CVD than men, especially at younger ages.

However, diet was more strongly associated with CVD risk in woman than men—"something that's not been previous described, and which requires independent confirmation," said Salim Yusuf, lead investigator

of the study, senior author, executive director of PHRI, professor of medicine at McMaster University, and cardiologist at HHS.

High levels of bad (LDL) cholesterol and symptoms of depression were more strongly associated with CVD risk in men than in women. The patterns of these findings were generally similar in high-income countries and upper-middle-income countries, and in low-income and lower-middle-income countries.

**More information:** Metabolic, behavioural, and psychosocial risk factors and cardiovascular disease in women compared with men in 21 high-income, middle-income, and low-income countries: an analysis of the PURE study, *The Lancet* (2022). DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(22)01441-6 , [www.thelancet.com/journals/lan ... \(22\)01441-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lan/article/S0140-6736(22)01441-6/fulltext)

Provided by McMaster University

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