

WORLD HEART CONGRESS

May 22- 24, 2017 Osaka, Japan



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North American Scientific Committee on Cardiovascular Health, USA

Examining risk factors associated with worldwide sudden cardiac death rates in children and adults

Introduction: Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD) occurs most frequently in adults in their mid-30s to mid-40s, and affects men twice as often as it does women. This condition is rare in children, affecting only 1 to 2 per 100,000 children each year. It was reported that more than 7 million lives are lost to SCD worldwide each year, which may include over 300,000 in the United States.

Objective: The purpose of the research was to examine the relationship between identifiable risk factor which may be associated with children and adults diagnosed with heart disease.

Methods: A large randomly drawn sample (n=524, 581) of boys (n=244, 553) and girls (n=280, 028) ages 5 to 12 was examined in this research study. A Chi-square test for association was conducted to examine the association between disease prevalence, minority status, socioeconomic status and heart disease risk in children.

Results: The results of this study showed that there were statistically significant relationships between heart disease risk and socioeconomic status (p<.001), heart disease risk and minority status (p<.001), disease prevalence and socioeconomic status (p<.001) and disease prevalence and minority status (p<.001).

Conclusion: Findings from this study provided a rationale for the need of health and medical personnel, cultural competence training and awareness and also the need for special outreach initiatives to ensure and maintain the health of children in America and around the world.

Biography

Damien Byas, PhD, is an Epidemiologist and Professor of Public Health at American Public Health Association. He is an International Public Health Delegate and President of North American Scientific Committee on Cardiovascular Health.

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