Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) is the leading global cause of death, accounting for 17.3 million deaths/year. About 80% of CVD deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. CVD accounts for nearly one half of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

Current Landscape:

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading global cause of death, accounting for 17.3 million deaths/year.

CVD Risk Factors:

- **Obesity:**
  - 2008: 10% of men, 14% of women
  - 1980: 5% of men, 8% of women

- **Hypertension:**
  - 40% of people over the age of 25 years have high blood pressure.

- **Dyslipidemia:**
  - An estimated 39% of the global population has elevated cholesterol.

- **Smoking:**
  - U.S. smoking rates have decreased, but at least 25% of residents living in Greece, Chile, Ireland, Hungary, Estonia, Spain, and Turkey smoke cigarettes.

CVD deaths/year are expected to grow to more than 23.6 million by 2030.