

# We are Heart Research UK

## We're dedicated to taking on heart disease.

**Cardiovascular disease kills more than one in four people in the UK, and coronary heart disease is one of the UK's single biggest killers.**

Since 1967, we've invested over £27m in life-saving medical research into the prevention, treatment and cure of heart disease.

We know research works, but there's a lot more that needs to be done.

We've also invested over £2.5m in community projects all over the country, aimed at increasing the heart health of the nation, and our healthy messaging has reached over 4m people already this year.

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## OUR MISSION

'Through pioneering research and accessible education, we will reduce the number of people developing and dying from heart disease, while improving and extending the lives of those affected.'

**Prevention**



**Treatment**



**Cure**



**If you have any questions please call Ebba on 0113 234 7474 or email [ebba@heartresearch.org.uk](mailto:ebba@heartresearch.org.uk)**

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“Our pioneering and world-class research focuses on delivering benefits to patients as soon as possible. We want to bring advancements made in the lab to those who need it.”

## HISTORY

Heart Research UK was founded in Leeds in 1967 by eminent cardiovascular surgeon Mr David Watson, with the aim of making heart surgery safer.

Following the death of a young patient after a long heart operation, Mr Watson launched an appeal with the Yorkshire Evening Post to raise funds to research ways to improve the safety of heart surgery.

In the last 50 years, Heart Research UK has funded major breakthroughs, including the invention of pioneering artificial heart valves, funded six of the first eight successful UK heart transplants, and funded the implantation of the world’s first permanent artificial heart, given to Peter Houghton, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. Mr Houghton was fitted with a Jarvik 2000 pump, and is to this day a Guinness World Record holder for the ‘Longest surviving artificial heart transplant patient.’

Kate Bratt-Farrar, Heart Research UK Chief Executive, said: “Heart Research UK is a forward thinking charity, always chasing the next major breakthrough that will save lives.

“Our pioneering and world-class research focuses on delivering benefits to patients as soon as possible. We want to bring advancements made in the lab to those who need it.

“Almost everyone knows someone who has been affected by heart issues. Together, we are taking on heart disease, one of the nation’s single biggest killers.”



IT IS ESTIMATED THAT:

**7.4M**  
people are living  
with cardiovascular  
disease in the UK



**2.3M**  
people are living  
with coronary heart  
disease in the UK



Around **1 in 4** people die  
from cardiovascular disease  
in the UK (**167,000 deaths**).

In the 1960s, most babies born in  
the UK with a heart defect did  
not survive to their first birthday.  
**Today, around 8 out of 10 survive  
to adulthood.**



At least  
**1 in 150** babies  
are diagnosed  
with a heart  
defect at birth  
in the UK -  
an average  
of **13 babies  
every day.**



Healthcare  
costs relating  
to CVD are  
estimated  
at **£9 billion**  
each year  
(£138 per  
person).

In the 1960s, more than 7 out of 10  
heart attacks in the UK were fatal.  
**Today at least 7 out of 10 people  
survive a heart attack.**



Coronary heart  
disease is one of  
the UK’s **single  
biggest killers**  
and caused more than  
**64,000 deaths in 2018.**

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