

STEP 7



QUIT SMOKING

If you don't smoke, don't start. If you do, VA can help you quit.



MAINTAIN HEALTHY WEIGHT

Strive for a body mass index (BMI) between 18.5 and 24.9.



for hypertension.

WATCH CHOLESTEROL Healthy levels range between 125 and 200 mg/dL.



CONTROL BLOOD SUGAR

Aim for a fasting blood sugar level less than 100 mg/dL.





EAT BETTER

Choose healthier foods such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

KEY POINTS ABOUT HEART DISEASE:

- It's the **leading cause** of death in the U.S. Around **80 million** people in the U.S. have it.
- It's a presumptive illness related to Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War, and one of the presumptive or unexplained illnesses related to Gulf War service.

RISK FACTORS YOU CAN'T CHANGE:



Men over 45 and women over 55 years



Certain ethnicity

groups



If a close family member

had heart disease

MY HEALTHEVET CONNECTION:



and body weight online to keep tabs on your health regularly.

EAT BETTER:



Plate Method





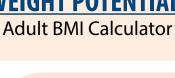
















Handling a Silent Killer: Hypertension



QUIT SMOKING: SmokeFree Vet





www.myhealth.va.gov