Electrocardiography Key Facts

The use of ECG has dramatically increased the diagnosis of heart disease. The following statistics were drawn from the 2012 Heart and Stroke Statistical Update, produced by the American Heart Association.

Prevalence
- Since 1900, cardiovascular disease (CVD) has been the number one killer in the United States every year but 1918
- 1 in 5 males and females have some form of CVD
- An estimated 82.6 million Americans have one or more types of cardiovascular disease

Mortality
- More than 2,200 Americans die each day of CVD – an average of 1 death every 39 seconds
- CVD accounted for 32.8 percent of all deaths or 1 in every 3 deaths in the US in 2008
- In 2008, 33 percent of deaths due to CVD occurred before the age of 75, well before the average life expectancy of 77.9 years.
- By 2030, 40.5 percent of the US population is projected to have some form of CVD.

Consequences
- In 2009, there were 94.8 million physician office visits and 4.7 million hospital emergency room visits with CVD as the principle diagnosis
- In 2006, $32.7 billion payments were made to Medicare beneficiaries for hospital expenses due to cardiovascular disease

Benefits of Performing ECG
- Provide the physician a baseline in which to compare the health of the heart on a recurring basis
- Help diagnose, monitor and treat patients suffering from chest pain or shortness of breath
- Allows paramedics and physicians to quickly spot and intervene in potentially life threatening cardiac arrhythmia
- Determining the course of treatment in lethal arrhythmia

Risk Factors
- Family History & Genetics
- Smoking/Tobacco use
- High Blood Cholesterol and Other Lipids
- Physical Inactivity
- Overweight and Obesity
- Diabetes Mellitus

A Report from the American Heart Association.