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The American Heart Association released a report today saying that heavy cigarette smoking may contribute to or accelerate the development of heart disease.

A number of recent medical studies were cited which showed a "statistical association" between heavy cigarette smoking and death or illness from coronary conditions.

The report said in almost all of the studies, death rates from coronary disease in middle-aged men were found to be from 50 to 150 per cent higher among heavy cigarette smokers than among non-smokers.

The report was prepared by a special committee of the American Heart Association and approved by its board of directors last Saturday. It was issued today by the Association's President, Dr. Carlton Ernstene.

The Tobacco Industry Research Committee immediately released a statement by its Chairman, Timothy V. Hartnett, saying that the Heart Association's statement "raises its own questions and doubts."

"The statement admits lack of evidence to implicate tobacco use in the development of cardiovascular disease," Hartnett said.

"We certainly welcome the A.H.A.'s recognition of the need for continued research in this area of cardiovascular disease and tobacco use.

"We will continue, as in the past, to offer our fullest cooperation in this effort. Research results in the past few years have shown that many previous ideas about tobacco's effect on the cardiovascular system were wrong."

# Heart Disease Linked To Heavy Smoking

## Coronary Attack Death Rates Much Higher for Users, Report Claims

Coronary heart disease or its complications may be caused by or accelerated by heavy cigaret smoking, a report released by the American Heart Association yesterday disclosed.

The report by Dr. A. Carlton Ernstene, president of the American Heart Association, pointed out, however, that it does not prove that heavy cigaret smoking causes coronary heart disease.

### Several Studies Cited

The report, issued here by the Western Pennsylvania Heart Association, cited several recent medical studies. These show a statistical association between heavy cigaret smoking and death or illness from coronary heart disease.

Death rates from heart attacks in middle-aged men were found to be from 50 to 100 per cent higher among heavy cigaret smokers than among those who do not smoke.

The report observed that more knowledge is needed to determine the relationship between smoking and heart disease. Additional research also should be sought to determine what effect smoking has in relation to strokes and cardio-

vascular disease, the report said.

### Leading Death Cause

In 1956 the American Heart Association reported that available evidence then was not sufficient to justify the conclusion that there was a cause and effect relationship between cigaret smoking and increased death rates from coronary heart disease.

Yesterday's report pointed out that coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death and a major cause of disability among Americans. As a result, the association said, its studies should be called to the attention of the public and the medical profession.

NEWSWEEK

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## Smoky

With cautious words, the American Heart Association got around to the subject of smoking last week. It conceded that there is no scientific proof of a cause-and-effect relationship between smoking and heart disease, but claimed a "statistical association" of smoking and the disease. The AHA said studies show that coronary deaths among heavy-smoking middle-aged men are 50 to 150 per cent higher than among nonsmokers.

The Tobacco Industry Research Committee immediately denied such a statistical link.

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