

In the United States, rheumatic heart disease accounted for 3320 deaths in 2017. Although globally the age standardized mortality rate from rheumatic heart disease declined by nearly 50% between 1990 and 2015, the prevalence of heart failure attributable to rheumatic heart disease increased by nearly 90% over the same time interval.

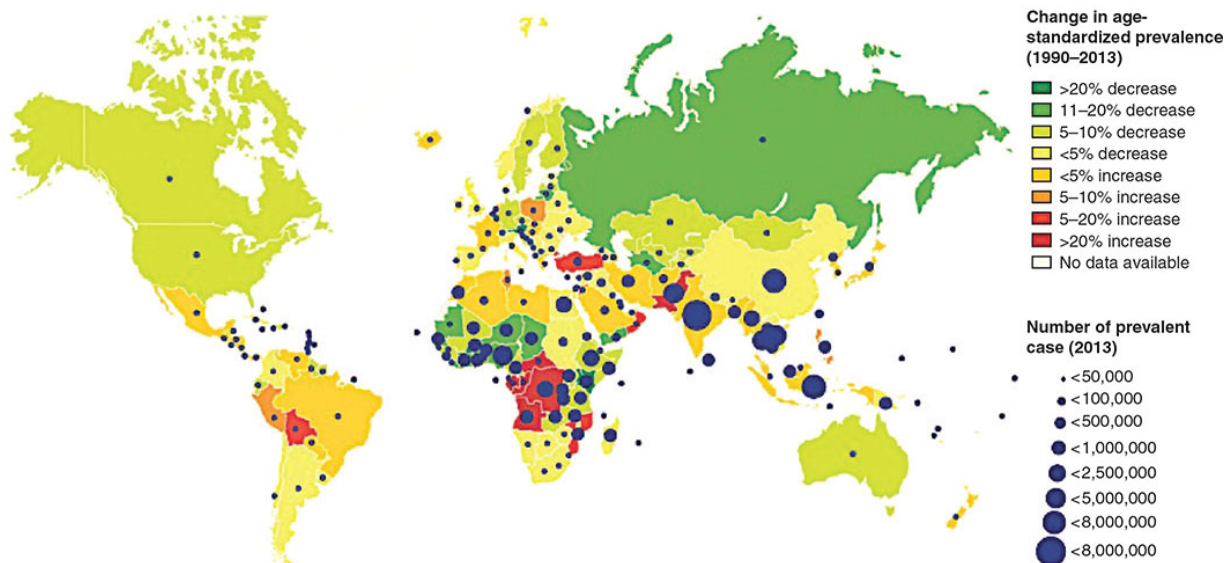


FIGURE 261-1 The global burden of rheumatic heart disease. This world map provides a snapshot of both the change in prevalence of rheumatic heart disease cases between 1990 and 2013 (upper right legend) and the estimated number of rheumatic heart disease cases per country (lower right legend). Regions in which the disease is highly prevalent include sub-Saharan Africa, India, China, and Southeast Asia. (Reproduced with permission from JR Carapetis et al: *Acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease. Nat Rev Dis Primers* 2:15084, 2016.)

Although there have been recent reports of isolated outbreaks of streptococcal infection in North America, valve disease in high-income countries is dominated by degenerative or inflammatory processes that lead to valve thickening, fibrosis, calcification, and dysfunction. The prevalence of valvular heart disease increases significantly with age. The prevalence of undiagnosed moderate or severe valvular heart disease is ~6% in individuals aged >65 years. Significant left-sided valve disease may affect as many as 12–13% of adults aged >75 years (**Fig. 261-2**). Severe aortic stenosis (AS) is estimated to affect 3.5% of the population aged >75 years. A Swedish epidemiologic study estimated the incidence of newly