Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are defined as conditions that are not transmissible from person to person; NCDs are chronic diseases, and behaviors like smoking and overuse of alcohol can increase the chance of developing one. NCDs include cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancers.

As a group, NCDs were the leading cause of health loss globally in 2017, causing nearly four times as many deaths (more than 41 million, or 73.4% of deaths) as communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases combined. Despite this, however, NCDs development assistance for health remains a fraction of total DAH. Indeed, while the global burden of NCDs has grown – in 2000 NCDs led to more than 31 million deaths worldwide, or 61.6% of global deaths – NCD DAH has not risen to meet the increasing burden these diseases cause. In 2000, NCD DAH stood at $190 million, or 1.6% of total DAH, whereas in 2019 it was $730 million, or 1.8% of overall DAH.

The leading types of NCDs include ischemic heart disease, stroke, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; NCD risk can be mitigated by modifying certain risk factors, like smoking. Globally, NCD burden is highest in many middle-income countries. For example, 31% of 2017 deaths in Russia were attributable to ischemic heart disease, and 17% to stroke.

Figure 1 shows NCD DAH by channel between 1990 and 2019. Figure 2, meanwhile, shows NCD DAH received compared to government spending in low- and middle-income countries, illustrating which countries remain dependent on DAH for NCD spending. And Figure 3 shows NCD DAH by program area in 2019.

*2018 and 2019 estimates are preliminary.
CEPI = Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations
NGOs = Non-governmental organizations
PAHO = Pan American Health Organization
UNAIDS = Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNFPA = United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF = United Nations Children’s Fund
WHO = World Health Organization
Regional development banks include the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.
**All World Bank high-income designated countries are excluded and shown in white. Values are shown in 2019 US dollars.
"Other" captures development assistance for health for which we have program area information but which is not identified as being allocated to any of the program areas listed.
FIGURE 2 Development assistance for non-communicable diseases compared to government health spending, 2017**

Percent of government health spending that is development assistance for non-communicable diseases:
- 0% to <0.008%
- 0.008% to <0.04%
- 0.04% to <0.22%
- 0.22% to <0.8%
- 0.8% to 25%

FIGURE 3 Development assistance for health for non-communicable diseases by program area, 1990–2019