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People living with peripheral artery disease risk amputation; experts advocate for change

***Map outlines non-traumatic lower limb amputation statistics throughout the U.S. and shows the disparities people living in some areas face***

[City, State, Date] — A new interactive online map has been developed to bring awareness to non-traumatic lower limb amputation, a potential and serious complication for people living with peripheral artery disease (PAD). The map offers specific data throughout each state in the country, and the numbers show that in many areas of the U.S. there is a critical need for improved health care services, screening and education for people at risk or affected by PAD, as well as for the health professionals caring for them.

PAD is a condition caused by a buildup of plaque in the walls of the peripheral arteries which reduces blood flow, most often to the legs and feet. The disease impacts more than 10-12 million people nationwide, with Black adults twice as likely to have PAD compared to white adults.

People with diabetes, high blood pressure, or who smoke face an increased risk of PAD, which if uncontrolled, can lead to amputation of a toe, foot or leg in extreme cases. Each year, 150,000 non-traumatic leg amputation surgeries are performed in the U.S. and residents of rural areas, Black and Native American people and those of low socioeconomic status face the highest risk of amputation. Experts say screening and management of PAD are key, as well as improvements in care delivery systems, research and health policy.

[Include quote from head of individual organization here]

[Individual organization] is a member of the PSA Collaborative, a group of 17 collaborating organizations focused on improved awareness, education, research, treatment, and advocacy surrounding PAD.

The “[Non-Traumatic Lower Extremity Amputations by Congressional District “Heat Map”](https://professional.heart.org/en/communities/vascular-disease-and-thrombosis/pad-collaborative/heat-map)” incorporates publicly available 2017 and 2018 data from Medicare and the U.S. Census Bureau on relative rates of lower limb amputation, both geographically and by U.S. Congressional district.

The map shows areas in the southern region of the U.S. currently have the highest rates of non-traumatic lower limb amputation.

**About the PAD Collaborative**

The PAD Collaborative unites organizations and experts committed to advancing the PAD National Action Plan to increase public awareness and understanding of PAD, prevent complications, address health barriers and improve quality of life for people living with the disease. The long-term success of the PAD National Action Plan depends on the collaboration and coordination of many groups and health care champions committed to conquering this disease. More than 17 organizations and hundreds of volunteers have already raised their hand to work together to advance the National Action Plan. For more information or to join the PAD Collaborative as an organization or individual, visit: heart.org/PADCollaborative.

**About [Individual Organization]**

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**For media inquiries:**

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