

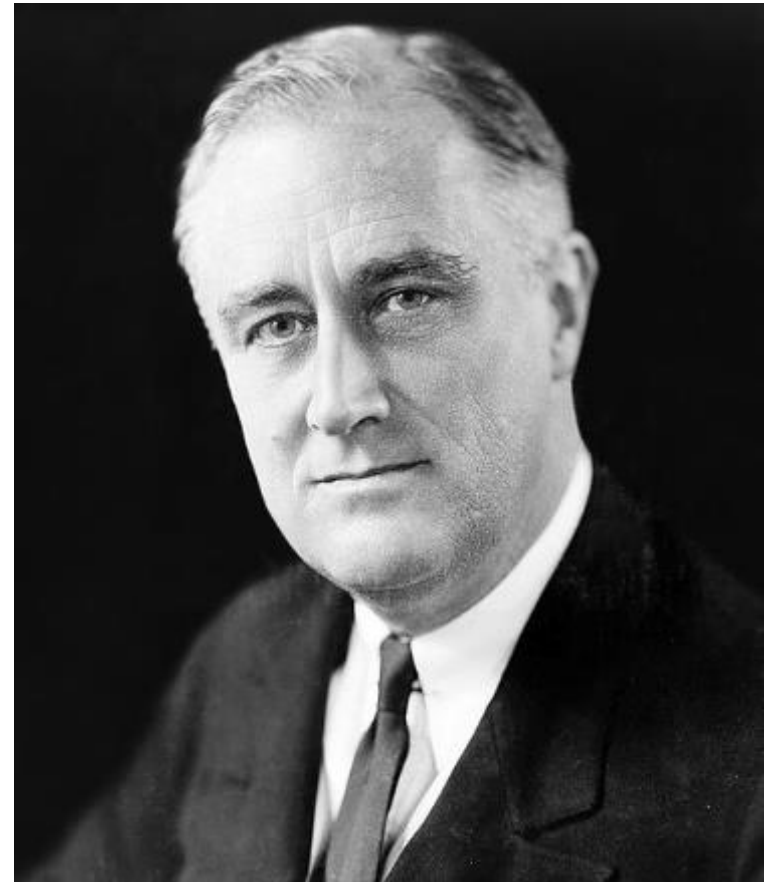
# THE FRAMINGHAM HEART STUDY

Evaluating Risk Factors to Save Lives

15.071x – The Analytics Edge

# Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR)

- President of the United States, 1933-1945
  - Longest-serving president
  - Led country through Great Depression
  - Commander in Chief of U.S. military in World War II
- Died while president, April 12, 1945



# FDR's Blood Pressure

- Before presidency, blood pressure of 140/100
  - Healthy blood pressure is less than 120/80
  - Today, this is already considered high blood pressure
- One year before death, 210/120
  - Today, this is called Hypertensive Crisis, and emergency care is needed
  - FDR's personal physician:  
“A moderate degree of arteriosclerosis, although no more than normal for a man of his age”
- Two months before death: 260/150
- Day of death: 300/190

# Early Misconceptions

- High blood pressure dubbed *essential hypertension*
  - Considered important to force blood through arteries
  - Considered harmful to lower blood pressure
- Today, we know better

“Today, presidential blood pressure numbers like FDR’s would send the country’s leading doctors racing down hallways ... whisking the nation’s leader into the cardiac care unit of Bethesda Naval Hospital.”

-- Daniel Levy, Framingham Heart Study Director

# How Did we Learn?

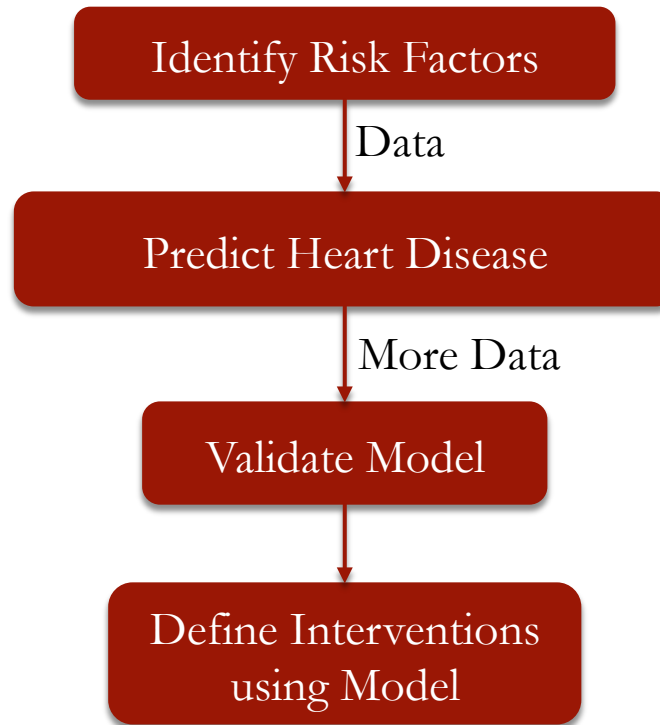
- In late 1940s, U.S. Government set out to better understand cardiovascular disease (CVD)
- Plan: track large cohort of initially healthy patients over time
- City of Framingham, MA selected as site for study
  - Appropriate size
  - Stable population
  - Cooperative doctors and residents
- 1948: beginning of Framingham Heart Study

# The Framingham Heart Study



- 5,209 patients aged 30-59 enrolled
- Patients given questionnaire and exam every 2 years
  - Physical characteristics
  - Behavioral characteristics
  - Test results
- Exams and questions expanded over time
- We will build models using the Framingham data to predict and prevent heart disease

# Analytics to Prevent Heart Disease



# Coronary Heart Disease (CHD)



- We will predict 10-year risk of CHD
  - Subject of important 1998 paper, introducing the Framingham Risk Score
- CHD is a disease of the blood vessels supplying the heart
- Heart disease has been the leading cause of death worldwide since 1921
  - 7.3 million people died from CHD in 2008
  - Since 1950, age-adjusted death rates have declined 60%



# Risk Factors



- *Risk factors* are variables that increase the chances of a disease
- Term coined by William Kannell and Roy Dawber from the Framingham Heart Study
- Key to successful prediction of CHD: identifying important risk factors

# Hypothesized CHD Risk Factors



- We will investigate risk factors collected in the first data collection for the study
  - Anonymized version of original data
- Demographic risk factors
  - *male*: sex of patient
  - *age*: age in years at first examination
  - *education*: Some high school (1), high school/GED (2), some college/vocational school (3), college (4)

# Hypothesized CHD Risk Factors



- Behavioral risk factors
  - *currentSmoker*, *cigsPerDay*: Smoking behavior
- Medical history risk factors
  - *BPmeds*: On blood pressure medication at time of first examination
  - *prevalentStroke*: Previously had a stroke
  - *prevalentHyp*: Currently hypertensive
  - *diabetes*: Currently has diabetes

# Hypothesized CHD Risk Factors

- Risk factors from first examination
  - *totChol*: Total cholesterol (mg/dL)
  - *sysBP*: Systolic blood pressure
  - *diaBP*: Diastolic blood pressure
  - *BMI*: Body Mass Index, weight (kg)/height (m)<sup>2</sup>
  - *heartRate*: Heart rate (beats/minute)
  - *glucose*: Blood glucose level (mg/dL)

# An Analytical Approach



- Randomly split patients into training and testing sets
- Use logistic regression on training set to predict whether or not a patient experienced CHD within 10 years of first examination
- Evaluate predictive power on test set

# Model Strength

- Model rarely predicts 10-year CHD risk above 50%
  - Accuracy very near a baseline of always predicting no CHD
- Model can differentiate low-risk from high-risk patients (AUC = 0.74)
- Some significant variables suggest interventions
  - Smoking
  - Cholesterol
  - Systolic blood pressure
  - Glucose

# Risk Model Validation



- So far, we have used *internal validation*
  - Train with some patients, test with others
- Weakness: unclear if model generalizes to other populations
- Framingham cohort white, middle class
- Important to test on other populations

# Framingham Risk Model Validation

- Framingham Risk Model tested on diverse cohorts

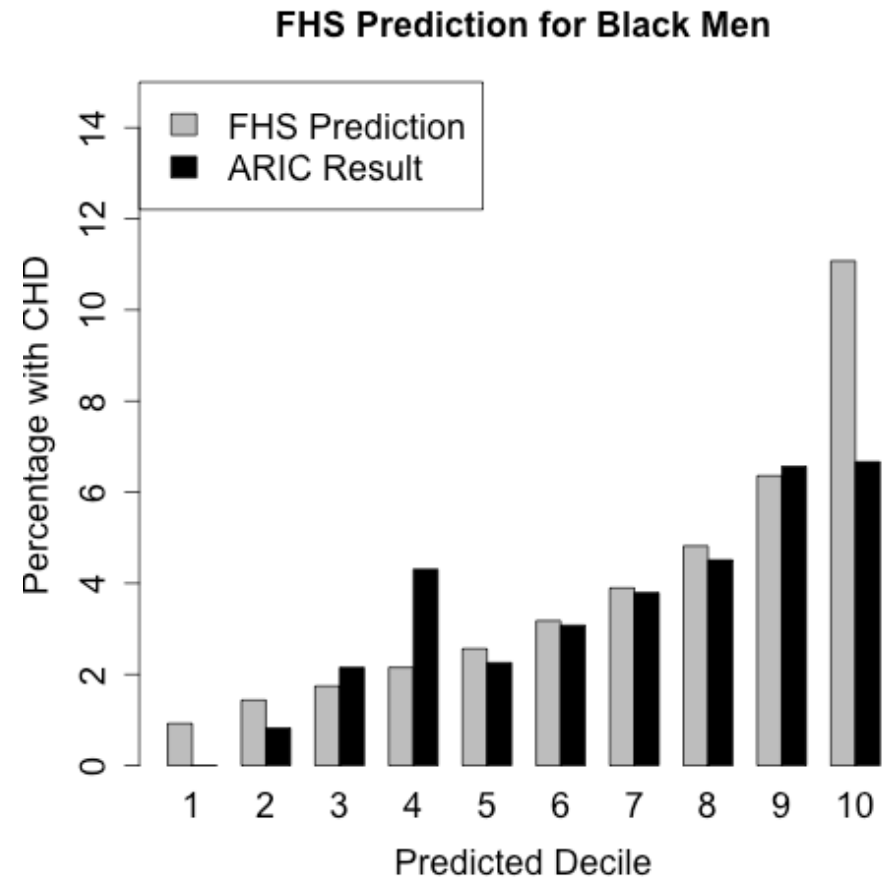
Study	Population
Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study	White and Black
Honolulu Heart Program (HHP)	Japanese American
Puerto Rico Heart Health Program (PR)	Hispanic
Strong Heart Study (SHS)	Native American

- Cohort studies collecting same risk factors
- Validation Plan
  - Predict CHD risk for each patient using FHS model
  - Compare to actual outcomes for each risk decile



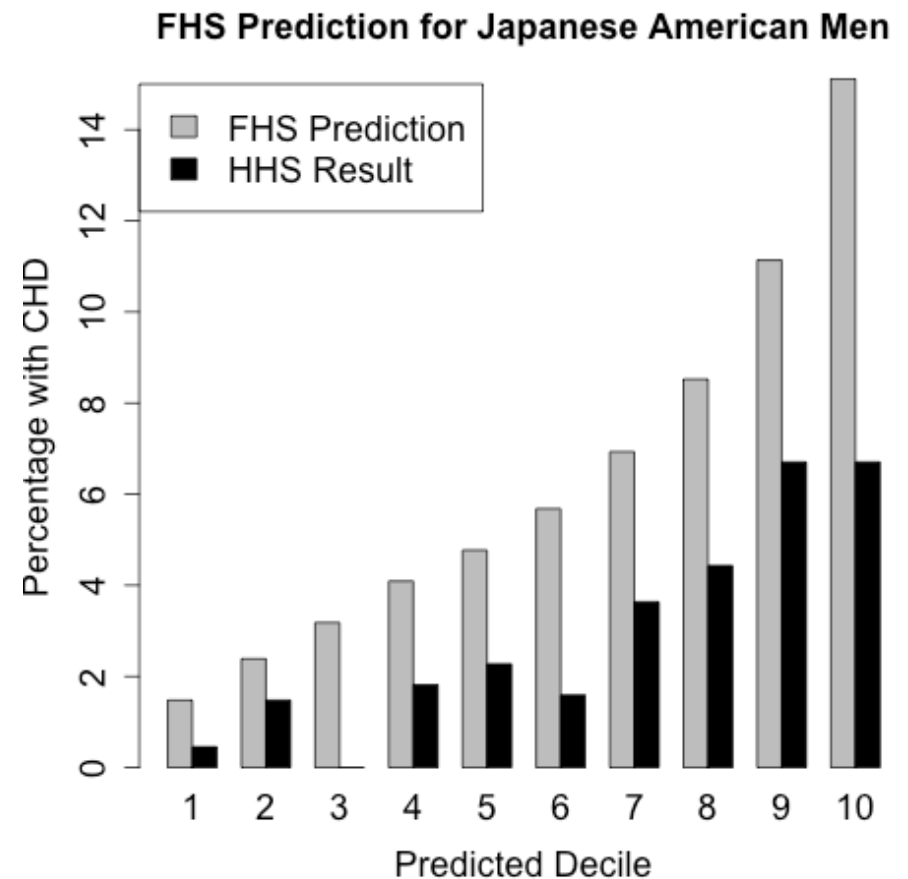
# Validation for Black Men

- 1,428 black men in ARIC study
- Similar clinical characteristics, except higher diabetes rate
- Similar CHD rate
- Framingham risk model predictions accurate



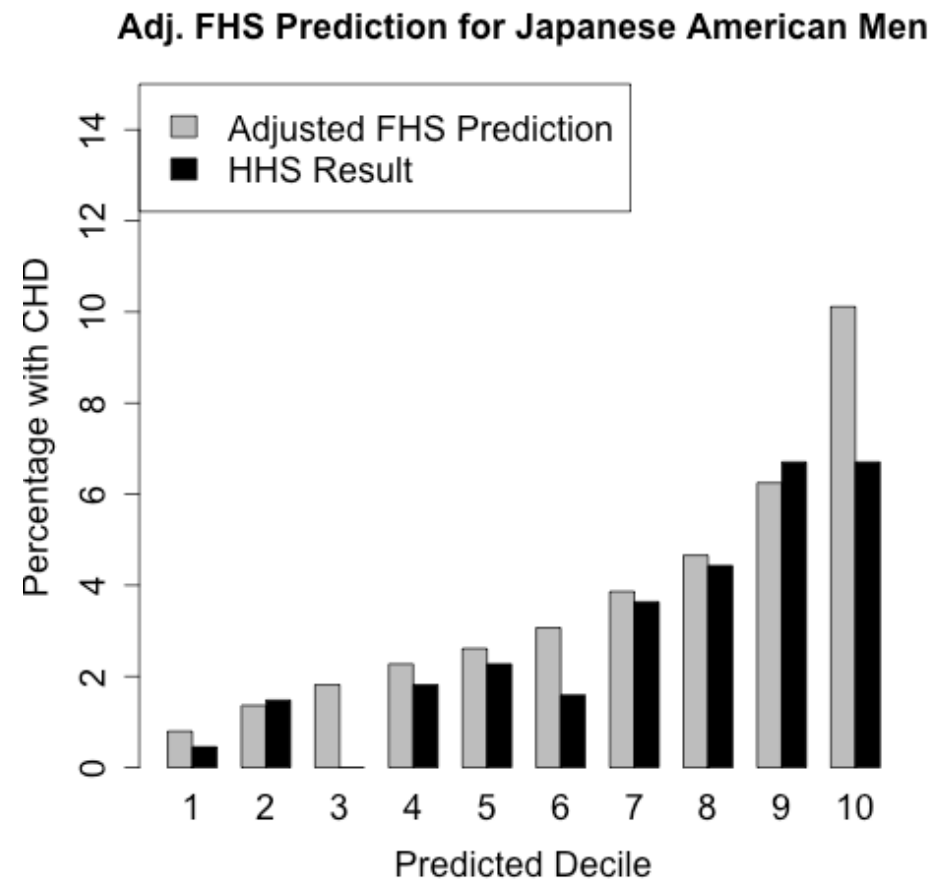
# Validation for Japanese American Men

- 2,755 Japanese American men in HHS
- Lower CHD rate
- Framingham risk model systematically overpredicts CHD risk

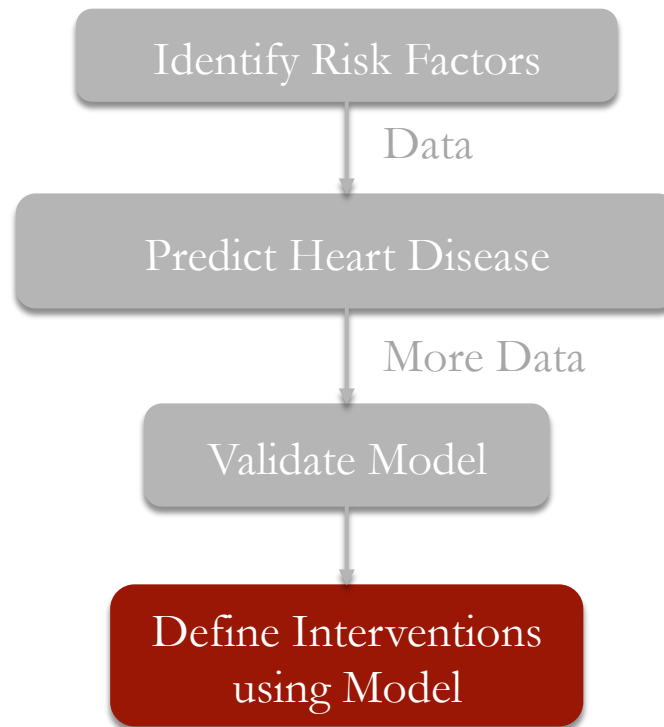


# Recalibrated Model

- Recalibration adjusts model to new population
- Changes predicted risk, but does not reorder predictions
- More accurate risk estimates



# Interventions



# Drugs to Lower Blood Pressure



- In FDR's time, hypertension drugs too toxic for practical use
- In 1950s, the diuretic chlorothiazide was developed
- Framingham Heart Study gave Ed Freis the evidence needed to argue for testing effects of BP drugs
- Veterans Administration (VA) Trial: randomized, double blind clinical trial
- Found decreased risk of CHD
- Now, >\$1B market for diuretics worldwide

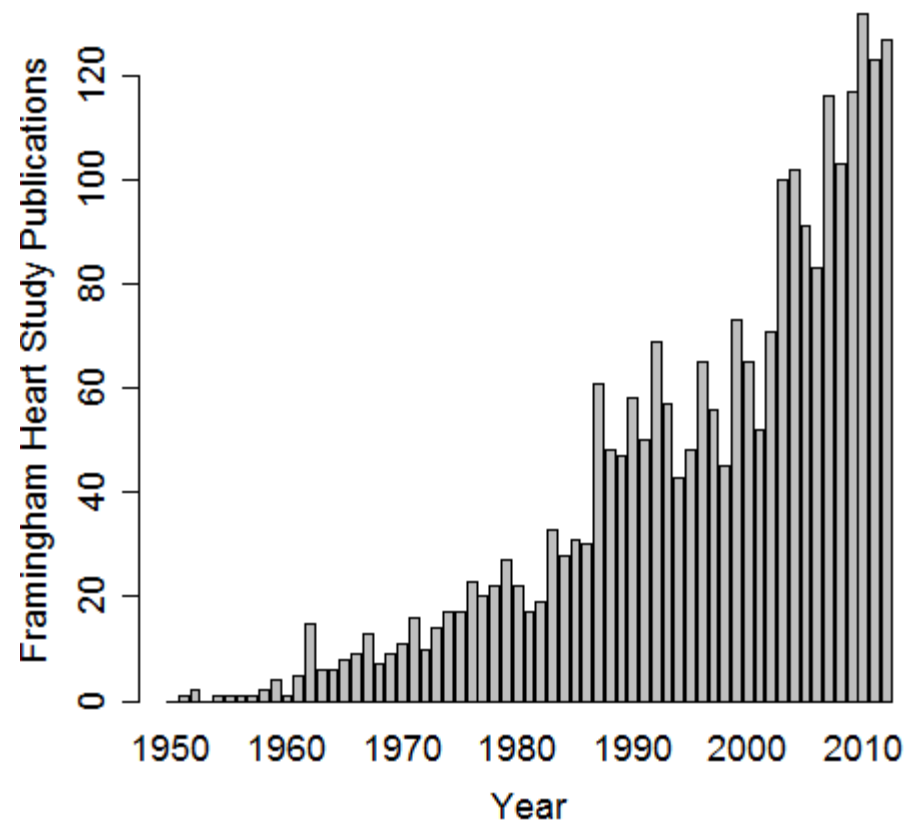
# Drugs to Lower Cholesterol

- Despite Framingham results, early cholesterol drugs too toxic for practical use
- In 1970s, first statins were developed
- Study of 4,444 patients with CHD: statins cause 37% risk reduction of second heart attack
- Study of 6,595 men with high cholesterol: statins cause 32% risk reduction of CVD deaths
- Now, > \$20B market for statins worldwide

# The Heart Study Through the Years

- More than 2,400 studies use Framingham data
- Many other risk factors evaluated
  - Obesity
  - Exercise
  - Psychosocial issues
  - ...
- *Texas Heart Institute Journal*: top 10 cardiology advances of 1900s

Framingham Heart Study Publications by Year



# Available Online

## Risk Assessment Tool for Estimating Your 10-year Risk of Having a Heart Attack

The risk assessment tool below uses information from the Framingham Heart Study to predict a person's chance of having a heart attack in the next 10 years. This tool is designed for adults aged 20 and older who do not have heart disease or diabetes. To find your risk score, enter your information in the calculator below.

Age:

years

Gender:

☐ Female ☐ Male

Total Cholesterol:

mg/dL

HDL Cholesterol:

mg/dL

Smoker:

☐ No ☐ Yes

Systolic Blood Pressure:

mm/Hg

Are you currently on any medication to treat high blood pressure.

☐ No ☐ Yes

[Calculate Your 10-Year Risk](#)



TOP

**Total cholesterol** - Total cholesterol is the sum of all the cholesterol in your blood. The higher your total cholesterol, the greater your risk for heart disease. Here are the total values that matter to you:

Less than 200 mg/dL 'Desirable' level that puts you at lower risk for heart disease. A cholesterol level of 200 mg/dL or greater increases your risk.

200 to 239 mg/dL 'Borderline-high.'



# Research Directions and Challenges



- Second generation enrolled in 1971, third in 2002
  - Enables study of family history as a risk factor
- More diverse cohorts begun in 1994 and 2003
- Social network analysis of participants
- Genome-wide association study linking studying genetics as risk factors
- Many challenges related to funding
  - Funding cuts in 1969 nearly closed study
  - 2013 sequester threatening to close study

# Clinical Decision Rules

- Paved the way for *clinical decision rules*
- Predict clinical outcomes with data
  - Patient and disease characteristics
  - Test results
- More than 75,000 published across medicine
- Rate increasing

