

February 17, 1970

Dr. W. B. Kannel
Heart Disease Epidemiology Study
25 Evergreen Street
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

Dear Bill:

I found your work on sudden death very useful, and never cease to admire how you can turn out your information so regularly and well. Thanks for letting me see it.

You have stated your findings and your case without much regard to others work and for a rounded presentation you might want to make a few comparisons. Some of the discrepancies with Tecumseh, Gothenberg, Baltimore, etc. deserve comment; for example, your proportions of sudden death in those with and without prior CHD are discrepant.

We always harp on your definitions and criteria. On page 3 the parenthetical remark (documented by a physician within one hour) is ambiguous. "To have occurred within one hour"?

Page 5 is important but bogs down.

Table 7 would profit from comparative probabilities.

An age and sex grouped incidence, with and without prior CHD would be useful (rate/1000/year).

I am, of course, entirely sympathetic to your emphasis on prevention, which would be just as strong if the actual data on the proportion with symptoms, who do see a physician before hand, might be brought together a bit.

Hope to see you and your wife in New Orleans.

Regards,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB/dh