Each year, about 800,000 people die from heart-related conditions in the United States. From 2011 to 2012, this cost the United States about $316.6 billion in health care dollars.
Tell students that based on this data, an average of $395,750 was spent on each of these people in health care dollars. Have students compare this amount of money to other purchases and salaries, such as the cost of a home in your area or the president’s annual salary ($400,000). Lead students to understand that this is a lot of money—and a lot of deaths.