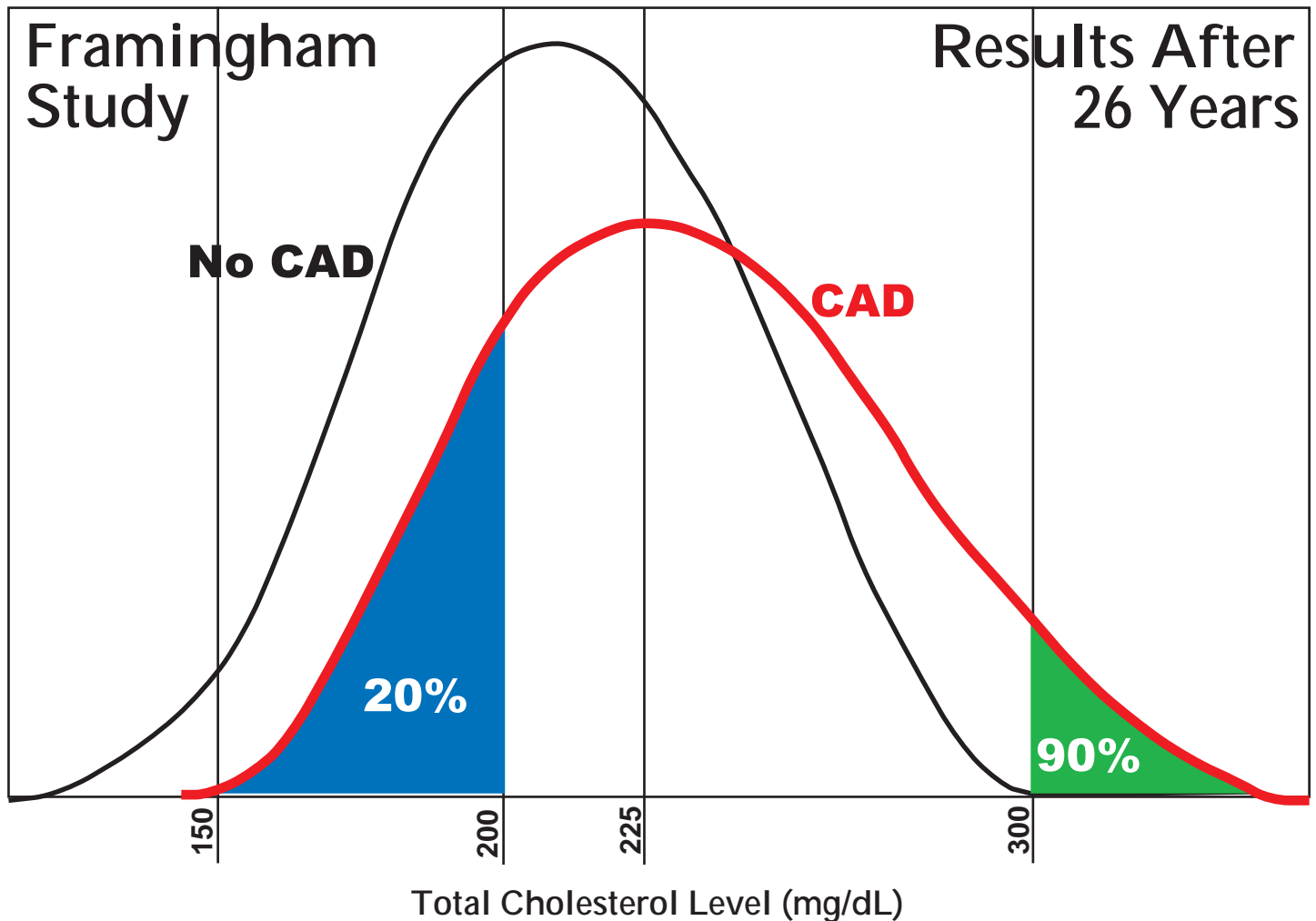


# Cholesterol Levels and Risk of Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)



- **Black Curve:** Distribution of total cholesterol levels in participants who did not develop Coronary Artery Disease in the first 26 years of the Framingham Study.
- **Red Curve:** Distribution of the total cholesterol levels of those who did develop Coronary Artery Disease.
- **Blue Area:** With a cholesterol of 150 to 200 mg/dL, the absolute risk of CAD is 20%. This group accounts for 45% of the total population.
- **Green Area:** With a cholesterol of 300 mg/dL or higher, the absolute risk of CAD is 90%. This group accounts for 3% of the total population.
- **225mg/dL:** More people have Coronary Artery Disease at this level than at any other. With a total cholesterol of 225 mg/dL the absolute risk of CAD is 40%.