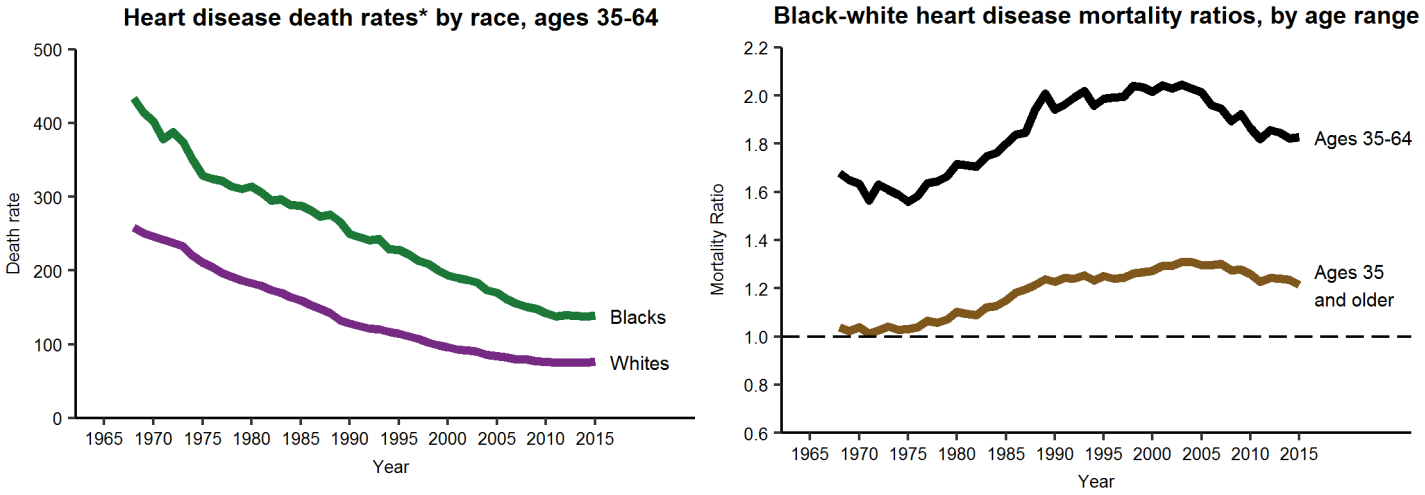
Heart Disease Death Rates Among Blacks and Whites Aged 35-64 Years — United States, 1968-2015



* Per 100,000 population, age standardized to the 2000 U.S. standard population.

Data Source: Compressed Mortality File, CDC WONDER Online Database

The MMWR Surveillance Summary entitled '*Heart Disease Death Rates Among Blacks and Whites Aged ≥35 Years — United States, 1968-2015'* presents trends in black-white disparities for Americans ages 35 and older (1). Recent increases in premature heart disease mortality reported elsewhere raise questions about trends in disparities for younger age groups (2). We offer comparisons between these two age ranges here:

Similarities for Ages 35-64 and Ages 35+

- Heart disease death rates declined substantially for blacks and whites in both age ranges.
- During recent years, declines plateaued for blacks and whites in both age ranges.
- Black-white disparities increased during the study period, with some declines during recent years in both age ranges.

Differences for Ages 35-64 versus Ages 35+

- Among ages 35-64, heart disease death rates are lower than the rates for ages 35+.
- Among ages 35-64, heart disease death rates were consistently higher for blacks than whites (figure above); whereas for ages 35+, heart disease death rates were similar for blacks and whites at the start of the study period and then elevated for blacks after the mid-1970s. (See MMWR.)
- Among ages 35-64, black-white heart disease mortality ratios were substantially larger than the ratios for ages 35 and older. (See figure above.) For ages 35-64, the black-white heart disease mortality ratio increased from 1.68 in 1968 to 1.83 in 2015. In comparison, for ages 35 and older the black-white ratio increased from 1.04 in 1968 to 1.21 in 2015. (See figure above and MMWR.)

References

1. Van Dyke M, Greer S, Odom E, et al. Heart Disease Death Rates Among Blacks and Whites Aged ≥35 Years — United States, 1968–2015. *MMWR Surveill Summ* 2018; 67(No. SS-5): 1-11.

2. Vaughan A, Ritchey M, Hannan J, et al. Widespread recent increases in county-level heart disease mortality across age groups. *Ann Epidemiol* 2017; 27(12): 796-800.