



Racial and Regional Disparities in Alzheimer's and Related Dementia Mortality in the United States, 2013–2023

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Background and Hypothesis

- ❖ Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) are among the leading causes of death in the U.S.
- ❖ Disparities in ADRD mortality have been observed across racial and regional lines, but findings are inconsistent.
- ❖ We aimed to analyze the latest 10-year national trends of disparities in ADRD mortality by race and U.S. census division.

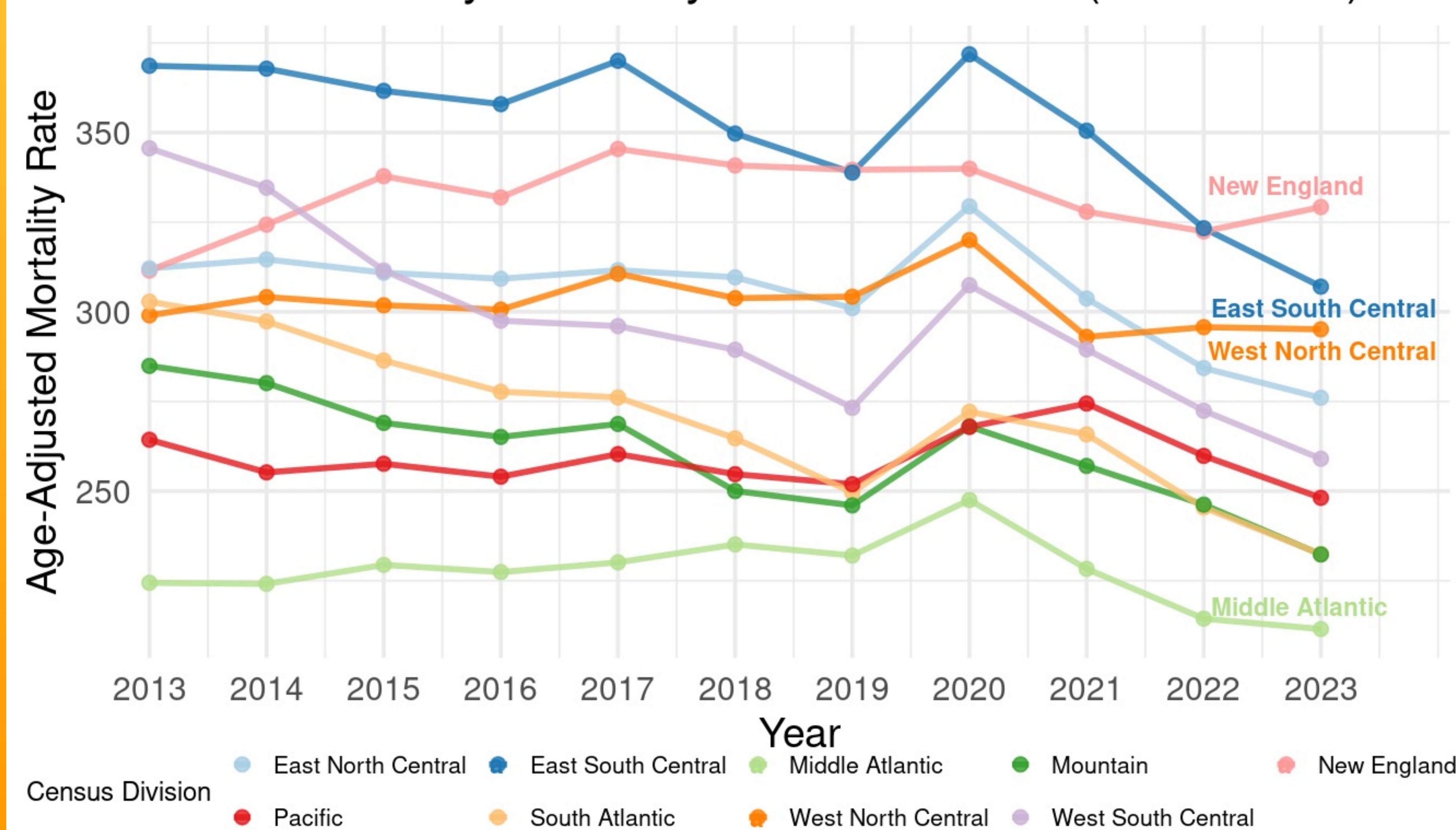
Data and Methods

- ❖ Data Source: CDC WONDER database (2013–2023).
- ❖ Population: U.S. deaths where ADRD was listed as the underlying cause using ICD-10 codes.
- ❖ Measures: Age-adjusted mortality rates (AAMR) were calculated by:
 - ☐ Race: Black and White
 - ☐ Census Region
 - ☐ Dementia Type: Alzheimer's vs. vascular dementia
- ❖ AAMR is reported as deaths per 100,000, age-standardized to the 2000 U.S. population.

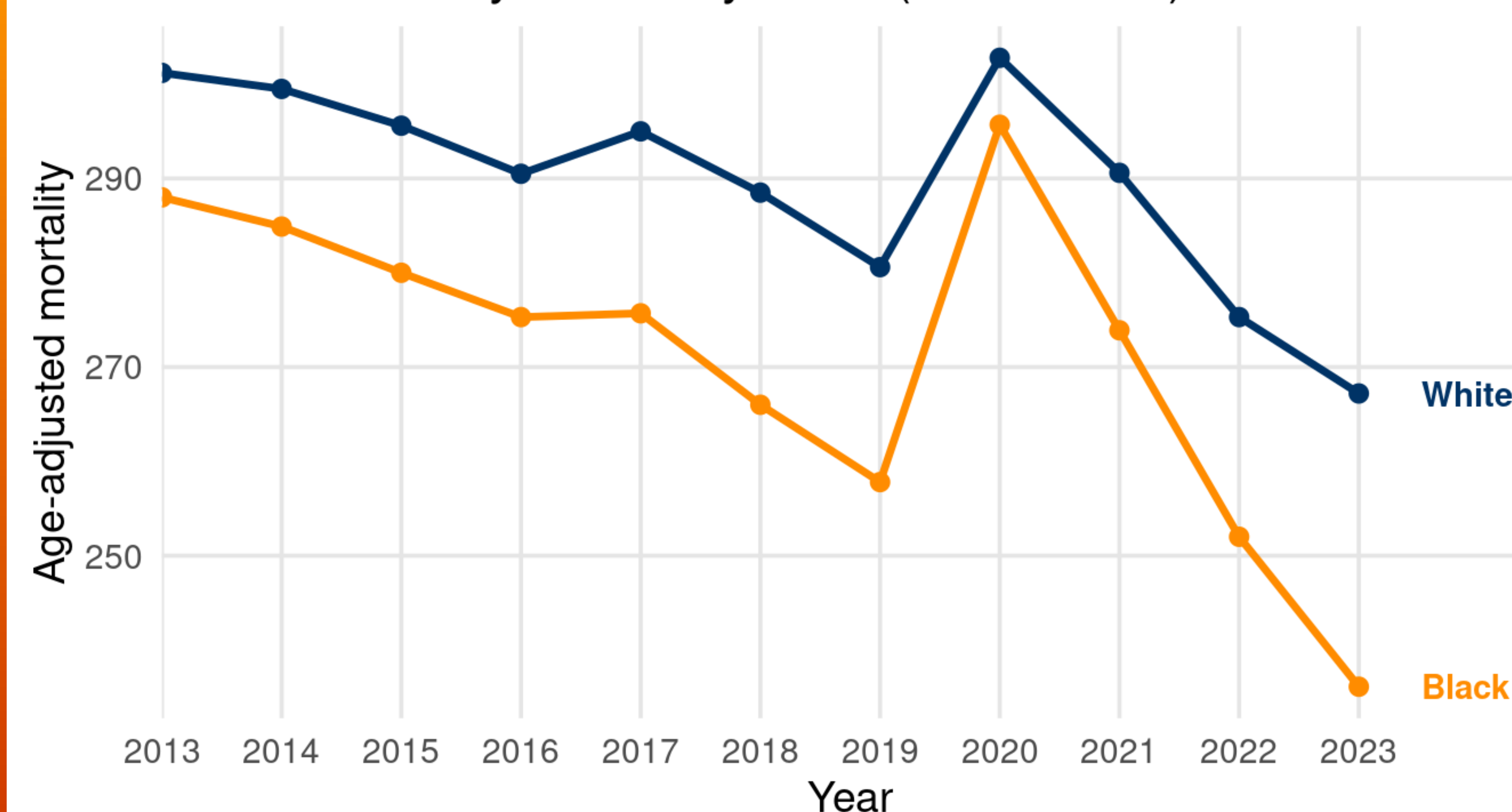
Results

- ❖ National AAMR for ADRD peaked in 2020 (294/100,000) and declined to 256.1 by 2023.
- ❖ New England surpassed East South Central in 2023 with the highest regional AAMR at 331.1 deaths per 100,000.
- ❖ White Americans had consistently higher ADRD mortality than Black Americans (267.2 vs. 236.1 in 2023).
- ❖ However, Black Americans had higher mortality from vascular dementia across most of the decade.

ADRD Mortality Trends by Census Division (2013–2023)



ADRD Mortality Trends by Race (2013–2023)



Source: CDC WONDER

Limitations

- ❖ Cause-of-death misclassification is possible using death certificate data.
- ❖ Lack of individual-level data (e.g., socioeconomic status, healthcare access, comorbidities) limits interpretation.
- ❖ Pandemic-related mortality fluctuations in 2020–2021 may influence results.

Conclusions

- ❖ Over the last decade, White Americans have had higher ADRD mortality, though vascular dementia remains more fatal among Black Americans.
- ❖ Regionally, the South was historically most affected, but New England now reports the highest mortality.
- ❖ These trends may reflect underlying vascular risk, population aging, and diagnostic differences, not just healthcare availability.
- ❖ Continued monitoring and region-specific public health responses are needed to address the evolving dementia burden.

References & Additional Data

Interested in the overall ADRD data & vascular dementia mortality trends by race?

Scan the QR code below to view the references, dataset and graphs.

