



Premature Mortality in Early-Onset Multiple Myeloma in the United States, 1999-2024: Trends, Disparities, and Disproportionate Years of Potential Life Lost

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BACKGROUND & METHODS

Background

Deaths before age 55 represent premature MM mortality during working, caregiving, and potentially transplant-eligible years.

Aim

Define the national burden of early-onset MM mortality, its contribution to YPLL, and variation across demographic and geographic groups.

Methods

CDC WONDER mortality data, 1999-2024; MM as underlying cause of death (ICD-10 C90.0). Early-onset MM mortality was defined as death at ages 25-54 years.

Outcomes

Deaths, crude mortality rates, annual percent change, YPLL-75, mean YPLL per death, and modern-period disparities by race, sex, and region.

NATIONAL TRENDS, 1999-2024

0.6624 to 0.2915

Crude mortality rate
per 100,000

~2.7%

Annual decline
log-linear APC

464,615

Total YPLL-75
1999-2024

Early-onset MM mortality decreased substantially over the 26-year study period.

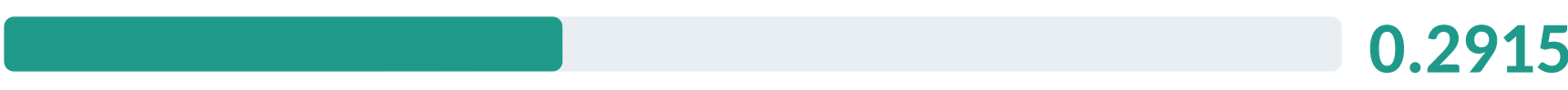
Mortality rate change

1999



0.6624

2024



0.2915

Crude early-onset MM mortality declined from 0.6624 per 100,000 in 1999 to 0.2915 per 100,000 in 2024.

Multiple-cause-of-death sensitivity analysis confirmed a similar decline in MM-associated early-onset mortality.

MODERN-PERIOD DISPARITIES, 2018-2024

Early-onset MM mortality rates were higher in several demographic and geographic groups.

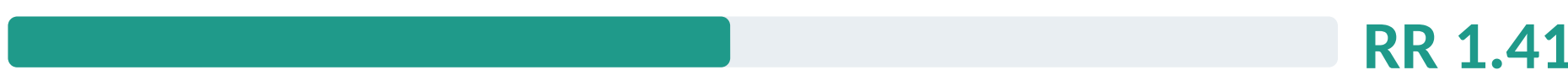
Rate ratios

Black vs White adults



RR 2.48

Men vs women



RR 1.41

South vs West



RR 1.47

Persistent racial, sex-based, and regional disparities remained evident in the modern period.

Disparities were assessed using 2018-2024 single-race mortality data.

STUDY POPULATION

25-54 y

Early-onset age group

1999-2024

Study period

17,986

Early-onset deaths

MM

Cause of death
underlying cause

Sensitivity analysis used multiple-cause-of-death records with MM listed anywhere on the death certificate.

DISPROPORTIONATE LIFE-YEARS LOST

25.8 y

Mean YPLL per death

6.1%

All MM deaths
ages 25-54

31.4%

Total MM YPLL-75
from ages 25-54

Adults aged 25-54 years represented a small fraction of MM deaths, but contributed nearly one-third of MM-related YPLL-75.

This corresponds to an approximately 5-fold disproportionate premature mortality burden.

CONCLUSIONS

Early-onset MM mortality has declined substantially in the United States.

However, deaths among adults aged 25-54 years contribute disproportionately to MM-related life-years lost.

Persistent racial, sex-based, and regional disparities underscore the need for earlier recognition, timely referral, and equitable access to specialized MM care.

These findings highlight premature mortality as a distinct survivorship and equity burden in MM.