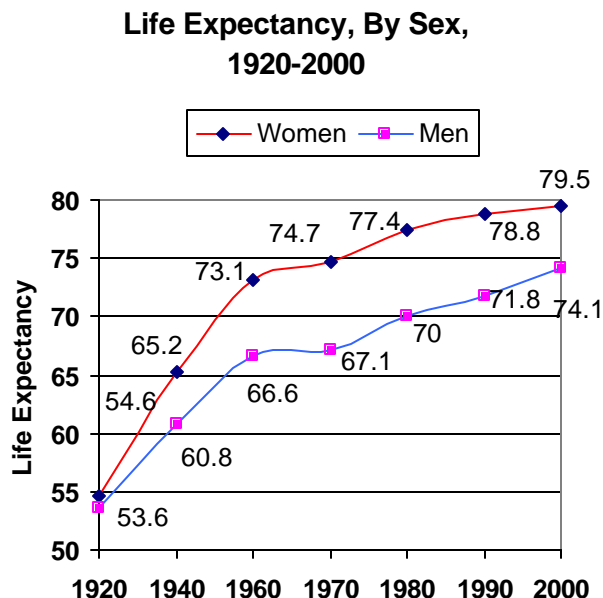


The Silent Health Crisis

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1. Life Span Gender Gap

In 1920, the life span gender gap was only 1.0 year. By 2000, men were dying 5.4 years sooner than women (diamonds are women, squares are men):



2. Leading Causes of Death

Men have a higher death rate for every one of the top 10 leading causes of death:

Cause of Death	Men	Women
Heart disease	166.9	93.3
Cancer	141.1	105.5
Injuries	43.0	17.0
Stroke	26.6	23.6
COPD*	25.9	18.1
Diabetes	15.2	12.3
Pneumonia/flu	16.3	11.0
HIV infection	9.2	2.2
Suicide	12.2	4.0
Homicide	11.3	3.2

* Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

3. Heart Disease

Almost twice as many men as women die of heart disease.

Ischemic heart disease	108.9	55.6
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4. Cancer

50% more men than women die of cancer. Examples of this disparity include:

Lung	54.2	27.5
Colorectal	14.3	9.9

1998, Figures are age-adjusted rates per 100,000 population

5. Men as Victims of Homicide

The chance of being a homicide victim places African-American men at unusually high risk.

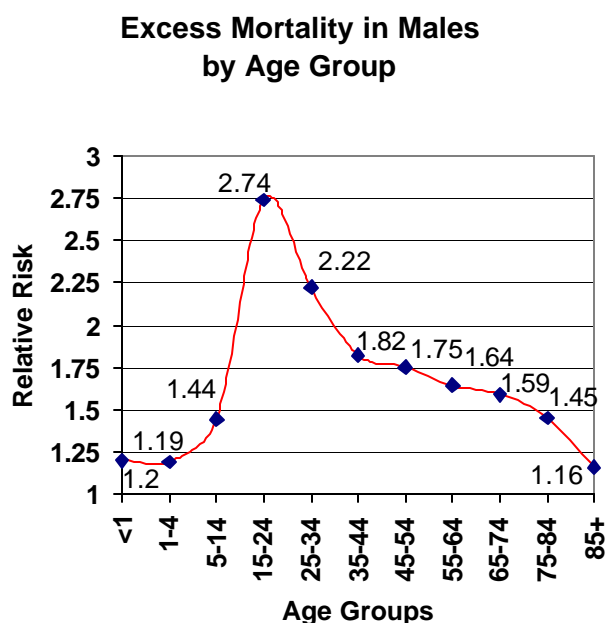
Chance of being a Homicide Victim*

1 in 30 for black males	1 in 179 for white males
1 in 132 for black females	1 in 495 for white females

* BJS Data Report, 1989, page 20

6. Excess Mortality by Age Group

Men are at greater risk of death in every age group. Risk-taking and suicide account for much of the disparity in the 15-24 year age group:



Age-adjusted data

7. Why Men are at High Risk

- 1) A higher percentage of men have no healthcare coverage.
- 2) Men make fewer physician visits each year.
- 3) Men are employed in the most dangerous occupations, such as mining, fire fighting, construction, and fishing.
- 4) Society discourages healthy behaviors in men and boys.
- 5) Research on male-specific diseases is under funded.
- 6) Men may have less healthy lifestyles including risk-taking at younger ages.

We are indebted to Feven Debas & Jennifer McCormick for their assistance with this project. The Men's Health Network is a non-profit educational organization that promotes the health of men and their families. Men's Health Network, P.O. Box 75972, Washington, DC 20013-202-543-MHN-1 - www.menshealthnetwork.org Except as noted, all data are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for Health Statistics. Data are 1998 unless otherwise noted. "Life Expectancy by Sex" is updated by data from Women's Health USA 2002 published by DHHS.