

GM-UAW Cohort Study

Standardized mortality ratios

November 14, 2019

Table 1: Summary of study population characteristics ($N = 38\,640$; 1.52 million person-years). The cohort was restricted to individuals who were hired in or after 1938 and for whom at least half of their work history data was available. Individuals were considered lost to follow-up once they reach the maximum observed age at death.

	n	%	
Study population size (N)	38 640	100%	
Race			
White	31 494	82%	
African American	7 146	18%	
Sex			
Male	33 876	88%	
Female	4 764	12%	
Plant [‡]			
Gear & Axle	9 158	24%	
HydraMatic	17 092	44%	
Saginaw	12 390	32%	
Ever exposed to MWFs			
Straight	20 355	53%	
Soluble	31 832	82%	
Synthetic	12 512	32%	
Deceased by end of follow-up	20 616	53%	
	Median	25 th %tile	75 th %tile
Years of follow-up	39	34	47
Year of hire	1965	1952	1973
Age at hire (years)	27.68	23.42	35.75
Year of birth	1937	1922	1948
Year of death among deceased	1996	1984	2006
Age at death (years) among deceased	70	60	80
Cumulative exposure [#] to MWFs (mg/m ³ ·y)			
Straight	0.66	0.21	2.34
Soluble	4.4	1.74	10.69
Synthetic	0.44	0.15	1.56

[‡] For individuals who worked at several plants, plant was taken to be the site where they accrued the most work record time.

[#] Summary statistics calculated for ever-exposed individuals at end of follow-up only. Exposures were lagged 21 years.

Table 2: Standardized mortality ratios calculated for the GM-UAW cohort followed from 1938 to 2015. NIOSH LTAS-extracted reference rates were used for the years 1940 through 2009. CDC Mortality data were used as reference rates for 2010 onwards.

Cause of death	N	SMR	(95% CI) ^b
All causes	20 616	0.91	(0.89, 0.92)
All natural causes	18 901	0.89	(0.88, 0.91)
All cancers	5 482	0.96	(0.94, 0.99)
Esophageal cancer	184	1.06	(0.92, 1.22)
Stomach cancer	194	1.11	(0.96, 1.27)
Intestinal cancer	418	0.90	(0.82, 0.99)
Rectal cancer	89	0.86	(0.69, 1.05)
Kidney cancer [‡]	63	0.46	(0.36, 0.59)
Bladder and urinary organ cancers	146	0.95	(0.81, 1.12)
Bile duct, liver, and gallbladder cancers	162	0.88	(0.75, 1.03)
Pancreatic cancer	315	1.05	(0.94, 1.17)
Laryngeal cancer	74	1.17	(0.93, 1.46)
Lung cancer	1 894	1.07	(1.02, 1.12)
Skin cancer	73	0.66	(0.52, 0.83)
Prostate cancer	418	0.82	(0.75, 0.91)
Brain and nervous system cancers	128	0.99	(0.83, 1.18)
Leukemia	200	0.98	(0.85, 1.12)
All nonmalignant respiratory diseases	1 687	0.84	(0.81, 0.89)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	926	0.93	(0.87, 0.99)
Pneumonia	438	0.78	(0.71, 0.86)
Cirrhosis and other chronic liver disease	382	0.91	(0.82, 1.00)
All heart diseases	6 762	0.75	(0.73, 0.77)
Ischemic heart disease	5 070	0.89	(0.87, 0.92)
Rheumatic heart disease	50	0.64	(0.48, 0.84)
Cerebrovascular disease	1 082	0.83	(0.78, 0.88)
All external causes	1 678	1.03	(0.99, 1.08)
Falls, transportation, and medical accidents	517	0.76	(0.70, 0.83)
Other accidents [#]	624	2.01	(1.85, 2.17)
Homicide	195	0.96	(0.83, 1.10)
Suicide [†]	65	0.77	(0.60, 0.98)
Overdose [†]	38	1.00	(0.73, 1.38)

^b Variance estimates assume Poisson-distributed rates in the observed population. Reference rates were assumed to be parameters.

[‡] Classification of deaths as kidney cancer may be unreliable in the observed population.

[#] Other accidents includes deaths not due to falls, transportation, and medical accidents as well as deaths due to poisonings of unknown intent. Poisonings of unknown intent were included both in this category and in overdose.

[†] SMRs for suicide and overdose were calculated for the years 2000 onwards only, using CDC Mortality data as reference rates.

Table 3: Other accidents in detail.

Description	ICD	<i>N</i>
Accidents due to fires and flames	890 to 899	44
Accidents due to natural and environmental factors	900 to 909	4
Accidents caused by submersion, suffocation, and foreign bodies	910 to 915	36
Struck accidentally by falling object	916	4
Striking against or struck accidentally by objects or person	917	2
Caught accidentally in or between object	918	1
Accidents caused by machine	919	2
Accidents caused by explosions, firearms, and projectiles	921 to 923	17
Accident caused by electric current	925	2
Overexertion and strenuous movement	927	2
Other and unspecified environmental and accidental cause	928	8
Poisoning, undetermined intent	980 to 981	11
Poisoning, undetermined intent	Y10 to Y19	11
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances	981 to 982	2
Injury by firearms air guns and explosivs, undetermined intent	985	2
Falling from high place, undetermined intent	987	2
Injury by other and unspecified means, undetermined intent	988	3
Injury resulting from operations of war	990 to 999	402
Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces	W20 to W49	2
Accidental non-transport drowning and submersion	W65 to W74	11
Other accidental threats to breathing	W75 to W84	20
Exposure to smoke, fire and flames	X0 to X8	13
Exposure to unspecified smoke, fire and flames	X9	1
Contact with venomous animals and plants	X20 to X29	1
Exposure to forces of nature	X30 to X39	6
Exposure to unspecified factor	X59	22
Event of undetermined intent	Y21 to Y33	1
Unspecified event, undetermined intent	Y34	1
Sequelae of other accidents	Y86	2
Total		635

Table 4: Standardized mortality ratios by plant. The individuals who worked at several plants are not tabulated here.

Cause of death	Gear & Axle		HydraMatic		Saginaw	
	N	SMR	N	SMR	N	SMR
All causes	6 020	0.93	9 593	0.93	4 958	0.83
All natural causes	5 512	0.92	8 779	0.91	4 569	0.84
All cancers	1 535	0.97	2 458	0.99	1 472	0.92
Esophageal cancer	58	1.03	60	0.91	64	1.26
Stomach cancer	65	1.05	98	1.32	31	0.80
Intestinal cancer	129	1.02	174	0.82	115	0.93
Rectal cancer	22	0.80	42	0.87	25	0.89
Kidney cancer [‡]	12	0.35	26	0.44	25	0.59
Bladder and urinary organ cancers	30	0.77	68	0.94	48	1.13
Bile duct, liver, and gallbladder cancers	47	0.89	63	0.83	50	0.90
Pancreatic cancer	94	1.16	137	1.05	84	0.96
Laryngeal cancer	31	1.49	33	1.28	10	0.60
Lung cancer	531	1.06	870	1.15	484	0.94
Skin cancer	11	0.51	36	0.72	26	0.67
Prostate cancer	166	0.88	166	0.80	84	0.76
Brain and nervous system cancers	28	1.02	48	0.83	51	1.17
Leukemia	42	0.83	85	0.91	72	1.18
All nonmalignant respiratory diseases	447	0.81	811	0.87	427	0.83
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	233	0.96	424	0.91	267	0.94
Pneumonia	143	0.83	210	0.78	85	0.71
Cirrhosis and other chronic liver disease	129	1.11	166	0.93	87	0.69
All heart diseases	2 025	0.79	3 222	0.75	1 498	0.72
Ischemic heart disease	1 458	0.94	2 435	0.88	1 166	0.87
Rheumatic heart disease	17	0.83	22	0.53	11	0.67
Cerebrovascular disease	352	0.86	510	0.83	219	0.80
All external causes	497	1.09	796	1.20	381	0.76
Falls, transportation, and medical accidents	135	0.75	237	0.83	145	0.69
Other accidents [#]	189	1.95	329	2.64	104	1.16
Homicide	113	1.24	49	0.81	33	0.63
Suicide [†]	10	0.73	34	0.94	21	0.60
Overdose [†]	5	0.77	27	1.49	6	0.45

[#] Other accidents includes deaths not due to falls, transportation, and medical accidents as well as deaths due to poisonings of unknown intent. Poisonings of unknown intent were included both in this category and in overdose.

[†] SMRs for suicide and overdose were calculated for the years 2000 onwards only, using CDC Mortality data as reference rates.

Table 5: Standardized mortality ratios by gender.

Cause of death	Male			Female		
	<i>N</i>	SMR	(95% CI) ^b	<i>N</i>	SMR	(95% CI) ^b
All causes	18 663	0.90	(0.89, 0.92)	1 953	0.91	(0.87, 0.95)
All natural causes	17 047	0.89	(0.88, 0.91)	1 854	0.90	(0.86, 0.94)
All cancers	4 911	0.95	(0.93, 0.98)	571	1.06	(0.97, 1.15)
Esophageal cancer	176	1.05	(0.90, 1.22)	8	1.36	(0.68, 2.71)
Stomach cancer	180	1.10	(0.95, 1.27)	14	1.27	(0.75, 2.15)
Intestinal cancer	382	0.92	(0.83, 1.02)	36	0.74	(0.53, 1.02)
Rectal cancer	83	0.87	(0.70, 1.08)	6	0.69	(0.31, 1.53)
Kidney cancer	57	0.45	(0.34, 0.58)	6	0.68	(0.30, 1.51)
Bladder and urinary organ cancers	141	0.96	(0.82, 1.14)	5	0.68	(0.28, 1.63)
Bile duct, liver, and gallbladder cancers	155	0.91	(0.78, 1.07)	7	0.48	(0.23, 1.00)
Pancreatic cancer	275	1.02	(0.91, 1.15)	40	1.33	(0.97, 1.81)
Laryngeal cancer	73	1.18	(0.94, 1.49)	1	0.56	(0.08, 3.96)
Lung cancer	1 705	1.03	(0.98, 1.08)	189	1.60	(1.39, 1.85)
Skin cancer	69	0.66	(0.52, 0.84)	4	0.60	(0.23, 1.61)
Prostate cancer	418	0.82	(0.75, 0.91)	0	NaN	(NaN, NaN)
Breast cancer	0	NaN	(NaN, NaN)	76	0.79	(0.63, 0.99)
Brain and nervous system cancers	115	0.98	(0.81, 1.17)	13	1.15	(0.67, 1.98)
Leukemia	184	0.98	(0.85, 1.13)	16	0.94	(0.58, 1.53)
All nonmalignant respiratory diseases	1 504	0.83	(0.79, 0.87)	183	0.97	(0.84, 1.13)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	812	0.90	(0.84, 0.97)	114	1.23	(1.02, 1.47)
Pneumonia	393	0.77	(0.70, 0.86)	45	0.82	(0.61, 1.09)
Cirrhosis and other chronic liver disease	361	0.91	(0.82, 1.01)	21	0.80	(0.52, 1.22)
All heart diseases	6 206	0.76	(0.74, 0.78)	556	0.70	(0.65, 0.76)
Ischemic heart disease	4 714	0.90	(0.87, 0.92)	356	0.84	(0.76, 0.94)
Rheumatic heart disease	46	0.68	(0.51, 0.91)	4	0.38	(0.14, 1.01)
Cerebrovascular disease	962	0.84	(0.79, 0.90)	120	0.75	(0.62, 0.89)
All external causes	1 584	1.03	(0.98, 1.08)	94	1.17	(0.96, 1.43)
Falls, transportation, and medical accidents	483	0.76	(0.69, 0.83)	34	0.87	(0.62, 1.22)
Other accidents [#]	592	2.00	(1.85, 2.17)	32	2.06	(1.46, 2.92)
Homicide	183	0.93	(0.80, 1.07)	12	1.71	(0.97, 3.01)
Suicide [†]	63	0.77	(0.60, 0.98)	2	0.68	(0.17, 2.73)
Overdose [†]	37	1.09	(0.79, 1.50)	1	0.25	(0.04, 1.77)

^b Variance estimates assume Poisson-distributed rates in the observed population. Reference rates were assumed to be parameters.

[#] Other accidents includes deaths not due to falls, transportation, and medical accidents as well as deaths due to poisonings of unknown intent. Poisonings of unknown intent were included both in this category and in overdose.

[†] SMRs for suicide and overdose were calculated for the years 2000 onwards only, using CDC Mortality data as reference rates.

Table 6: Standardized mortality ratios by race.

Cause of death	White [◇]			African American		
	<i>N</i>	SMR	(95% CI) ^b	<i>N</i>	SMR	(95% CI) ^b
All causes	16 870	0.93	(0.91, 0.94)	3 746	0.83	(0.80, 0.85)
All natural causes	15 479	0.91	(0.90, 0.93)	3 422	0.82	(0.80, 0.85)
All cancers	4 435	0.97	(0.94, 1.00)	1 047	0.95	(0.89, 1.00)
Esophageal cancer	143	1.11	(0.94, 1.31)	41	0.92	(0.68, 1.25)
Stomach cancer	144	1.16	(0.99, 1.37)	50	0.98	(0.74, 1.29)
Intestinal cancer	328	0.87	(0.78, 0.97)	90	1.05	(0.85, 1.29)
Rectal cancer	76	0.88	(0.70, 1.10)	13	0.73	(0.43, 1.26)
Kidney cancer [‡]	54	0.46	(0.35, 0.60)	9	0.46	(0.24, 0.88)
Bladder and urinary organ cancers	132	0.98	(0.82, 1.16)	14	0.75	(0.44, 1.26)
Bile duct, liver, and gallbladder cancers	131	0.95	(0.80, 1.12)	31	0.67	(0.47, 0.96)
Pancreatic cancer	240	0.99	(0.87, 1.12)	75	1.31	(1.04, 1.64)
Laryngeal cancer	53	1.13	(0.86, 1.48)	21	1.26	(0.82, 1.94)
Lung cancer	1 554	1.08	(1.03, 1.14)	340	1.02	(0.91, 1.13)
Skin cancer	67	0.64	(0.50, 0.81)	6	1.06	(0.48, 2.37)
Prostate cancer	287	0.78	(0.70, 0.88)	131	0.93	(0.78, 1.10)
Brain and nervous system cancers	115	0.98	(0.82, 1.18)	13	1.07	(0.62, 1.85)
Leukemia	173	0.98	(0.84, 1.13)	27	0.97	(0.67, 1.42)
All nonmalignant respiratory diseases	1 461	0.88	(0.84, 0.93)	226	0.67	(0.59, 0.77)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	825	0.94	(0.88, 1.01)	101	0.85	(0.70, 1.03)
Pneumonia	360	0.81	(0.73, 0.90)	78	0.65	(0.52, 0.81)
Cirrhosis and other chronic liver disease	315	0.94	(0.84, 1.05)	67	0.77	(0.61, 0.98)
All heart diseases	5 627	0.77	(0.75, 0.79)	1 135	0.67	(0.64, 0.71)
Ischemic heart disease	4 349	0.91	(0.88, 0.94)	721	0.80	(0.74, 0.86)
Rheumatic heart disease	41	0.61	(0.45, 0.83)	9	0.78	(0.41, 1.51)
Cerebrovascular disease	839	0.85	(0.79, 0.91)	243	0.78	(0.69, 0.89)
All external causes	1 362	1.09	(1.04, 1.15)	316	0.84	(0.75, 0.93)
Falls, transportation, and medical accidents	442	0.80	(0.73, 0.88)	75	0.60	(0.48, 0.75)
Other accidents [#]	522	2.26	(2.08, 2.47)	102	1.27	(1.04, 1.54)
Homicide	105	1.22	(1.01, 1.48)	90	0.76	(0.62, 0.94)
Suicide [†]	62	0.78	(0.61, 1.00)	3	0.54	(0.17, 1.67)
Overdose [†]	26	0.95	(0.65, 1.39)	12	1.13	(0.64, 2.00)

[◇] Individuals of race "Unknown" were included into the White category.

^b Variance estimates assume Poisson-distributed rates in the observed population. Reference rates were assumed to be parameters.

[#] Other accidents includes deaths not due to falls, transportation, and medical accidents as well as deaths due to poisonings of unknown intent. Poisonings of unknown intent were included both in this category and in overdose.

[†] SMRs for suicide and overdose were calculated for the years 2000 onwards only, using CDC Mortality data as reference rates.

Table 7: Standardized mortality ratios by years since start of follow-up.

Years of follow-up	Esophageal cancer		Stomach cancer		Rectal cancer		Laryngeal cancer		Pancreatic cancer	
	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>
[0, 10)	0.28	1	1.01	9	0.48	2	1.11	2	0.79	5
[10, 20)	1.02	14	1.12	25	0.88	10	1.10	7	0.88	20
[20, 30)	1.13	35	1.02	36	0.81	16	1.08	14	1.16	57
[30, 40)	1.15	59	1.09	49	0.78	22	1.44	27	1.04	88
40+	1.01	75	1.18	75	0.96	39	1.02	24	1.05	145
<i>Total</i>	1.06	184	1.11	194	0.86	89	1.17	74	1.05	315

Table 8: Standardized mortality ratios by entry year.

Year of entry	Esophageal cancer		Stomach cancer		Rectal cancer		Laryngeal cancer		Pancreatic cancer	
	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>
1940–1949	0.84	34	1.17	70	0.90	27	1.24	21	1.02	76
1950–1959	1.08	63	1.14	69	0.75	26	1.35	30	0.96	100
1960–1969	1.20	55	0.86	28	0.91	18	0.99	15	1.14	79
1970 onwards	1.12	32	1.32	27	0.50	7	0.91	8	1.15	58
Total	1.06	184	1.11	194	0.79	79	1.16	74	1.05	315

Table 9: Standardized mortality ratios by calendar period.

Calendar period	Esophageal cancer		Stomach cancer		Rectal cancer		Laryngeal cancer		Pancreatic cancer	
	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>
1940–1954	0.99	1	1.11	5	1.11	2		0	0.57	1
1955–1969	0.63	6	1.03	22	1.03	11	1.23	6	0.68	12
1970–1984	0.92	28	1.03	41	0.65	14	1.40	20	0.90	46
1985–1999	1.09	61	1.12	64	1.10	33	1.11	24	1.12	102
2000 onwards	1.15	88	1.18	62	0.73	29	1.08	24	1.11	154
Total	1.06	184	1.11	194	0.86	89	1.17	74	1.05	315

Table 10: Standardized mortality ratios for deaths due to *all causes* by age at entry into follow-up and by number of years of follow-up.

Age at entry	Years of follow-up											
	[0, 15)		[15, 30)		[30, 45)		[45, 60)		60+		Total	
	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>
[0, 20)	0.61	97	0.76	260	0.85	680	0.95	725	0.84	223	0.85	1,985
[20, 30)	0.73	382	0.87	1,276	0.97	2,998	1.03	3,062	0.85	876	0.95	8,594
[30, 40)	0.73	334	0.92	1,291	1.04	2,430	0.88	1,553	0.61	142	0.93	5,750
[40, 50)	0.70	352	0.91	1,143	0.96	1,403	0.63	291	0.08	4	0.86	3,193
[50, 60)	0.61	189	0.88	528	0.81	301	0.23	10		0	0.78	1,028
60+	0.62	23	0.63	35	0.54	8	0.00	0		0	0.61	66
Total	0.69	1,377	0.89	4,533	0.97	7,820	0.94	5,641	0.79	1,245	0.91	20,616

8

Table 11: Standardized mortality ratios for deaths due to *all causes* by calendar year of entry into follow-up and by number of years of follow-up.

Year of entry	Years of follow-up											
	[0, 15)		[15, 30)		[30, 45)		[45, 60)		60+		Total	
	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>
1940–1944	0.49	22	0.82	100	0.84	170	0.81	172	0.77	99	0.79	563
1945–1949	0.62	133	0.80	402	0.82	554	0.81	543	0.68	241	0.78	1,873
1950–1954	0.79	188	0.93	626	0.99	1,033	0.95	1,049	0.79	327	0.93	3,223
1955–1959	0.69	245	0.92	896	1.00	1,634	0.97	1,889	0.87	282	0.95	4,946
1960–1964	0.68	74	0.90	229	1.07	428	0.96	370		0	0.96	1,101
1965–1969	0.74	128	0.87	359	0.97	738	0.97	488		0	0.93	1,713
1970–1974	0.70	127	0.88	385	1.09	861	1.04	215		0	0.98	1,588
1975 onwards	0.66	267	0.88	917	0.96	1,307		0		0	0.89	2,491
Total	0.69	1,377	0.89	4,533	0.97	7,821	0.94	5,646	0.79	1,247	0.90	20,624

Table 12: Standardized mortality ratios for deaths due to *all external causes* by age at entry into follow-up and by number of years of follow-up.

Age at entry	Years of follow-up											
	[0, 15)		[15, 30)		[30, 45)		[45, 60)		60+		Total	
	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>
[0, 20)	0.61	65	0.76	74	0.71	54	0.78	23	0.24	2	0.69	218
[20, 30)	0.83	207	1.06	269	0.98	175	0.91	80	0.83	24	0.95	755
[30, 40)	1.06	99	1.58	160	1.27	90	0.86	39	0.48	3	1.24	391
[40, 50)	1.30	61	1.90	91	1.60	59	0.97	11	0.00	0	1.54	222
[50, 60)	1.35	21	2.70	45	1.59	15	0.91	1		0	1.92	82
60+	3.73	5	2.02	3	5.46	2	0.00	0		0	3.10	10
Total	0.89	458	1.24	642	1.06	395	0.88	154	0.65	29	1.03	1,678

Table 13: Standardized mortality ratios for deaths due to *all external causes* by calendar year of entry into follow-up and by number of years of follow-up.

Year of entry	Years of follow-up											
	[0, 15)		[15, 30)		[30, 45)		[45, 60)		60+		Total	
	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>	SMR	<i>N</i>
1940–1944	0.65	5	1.60	15	1.04	8	0.91	5	1.12	4	1.09	37
1945–1949	1.10	31	1.57	53	1.97	46	1.14	18	0.91	8	1.42	156
1950–1954	1.15	56	1.66	102	1.39	55	0.66	20	0.65	8	1.25	241
1955–1959	0.94	69	1.75	153	0.95	56	0.91	49	0.61	6	1.17	333
1960–1964	0.71	18	1.06	25	1.04	17	1.26	16		0	0.97	76
1965–1969	0.84	50	0.62	31	0.90	35	0.90	17		0	0.80	133
1970–1974	0.93	60	0.82	43	0.79	34	0.83	7		0	0.85	144
1975 onwards	0.74	101	0.99	127	0.90	82		0		0	0.87	310
Total	0.89	458	1.24	642	1.06	395	0.89	155	0.69	31	1.04	1,681

Expected and observed counts

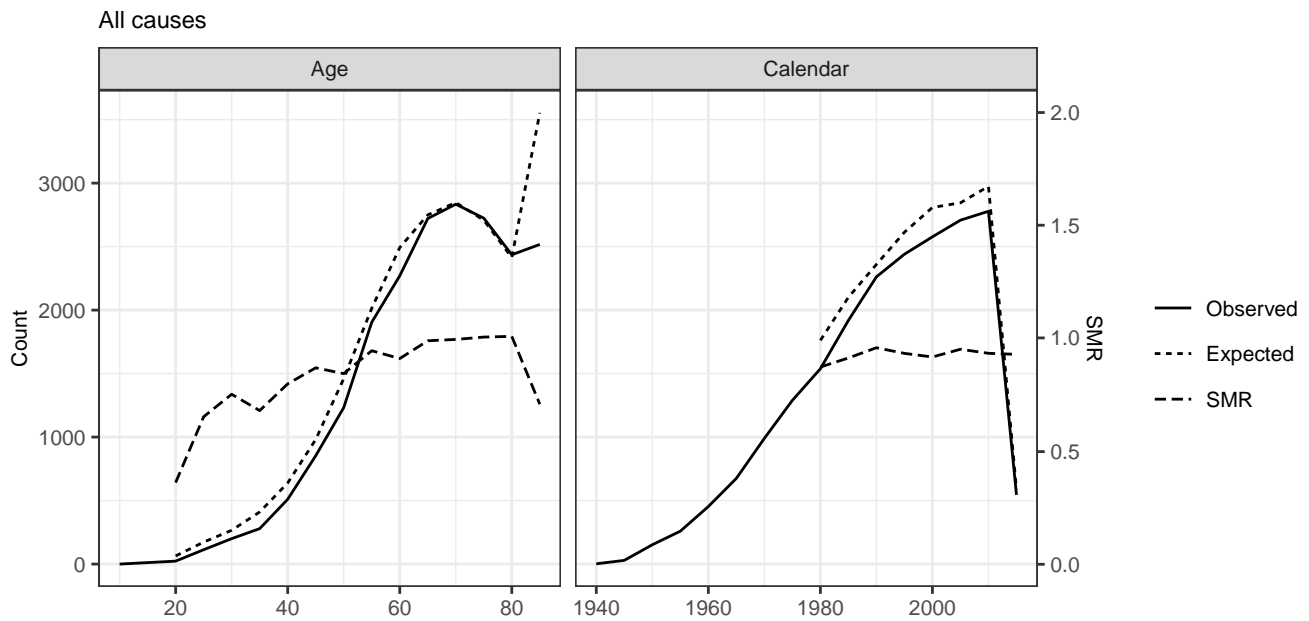


Figure 1: Change in the standardized mortality ratio for deaths due to all causes over age and calendar time.

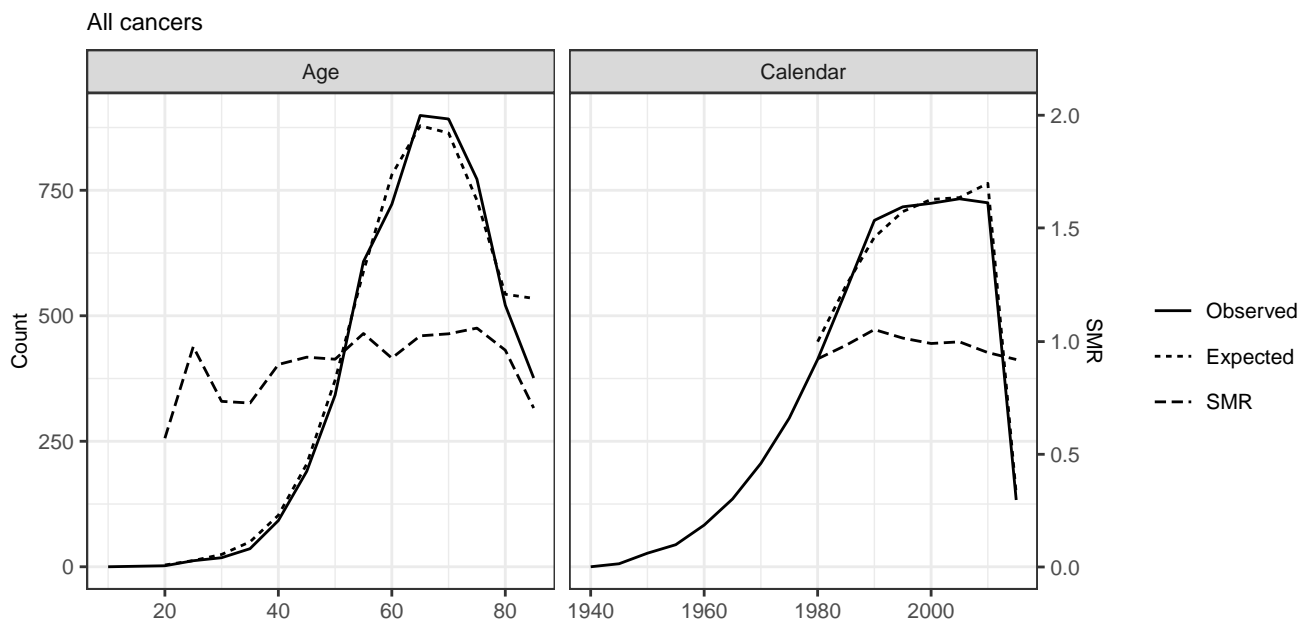


Figure 2: Change in the standardized mortality ratio for deaths due to cancers over age and calendar time.

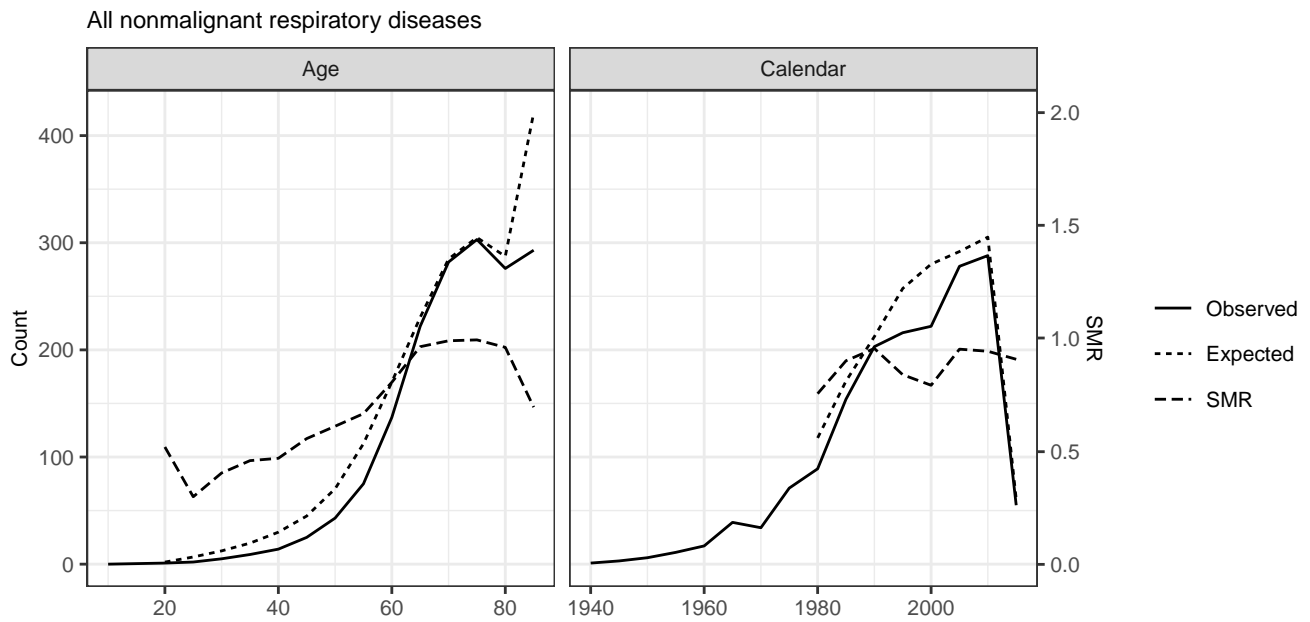


Figure 3: Change in the standardized mortality ratio for deaths due to nonmalignant respiratory disease over age and calendar time.

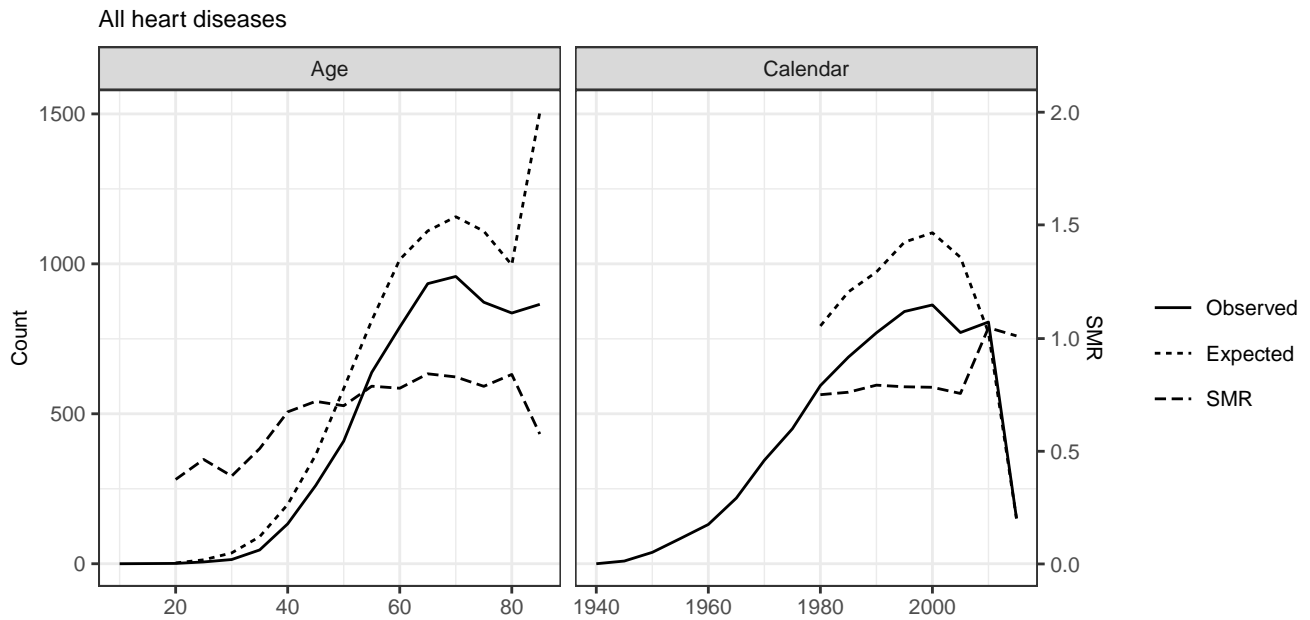


Figure 4: Change in the standardized mortality ratio for deaths due to heart disease over age and calendar time.

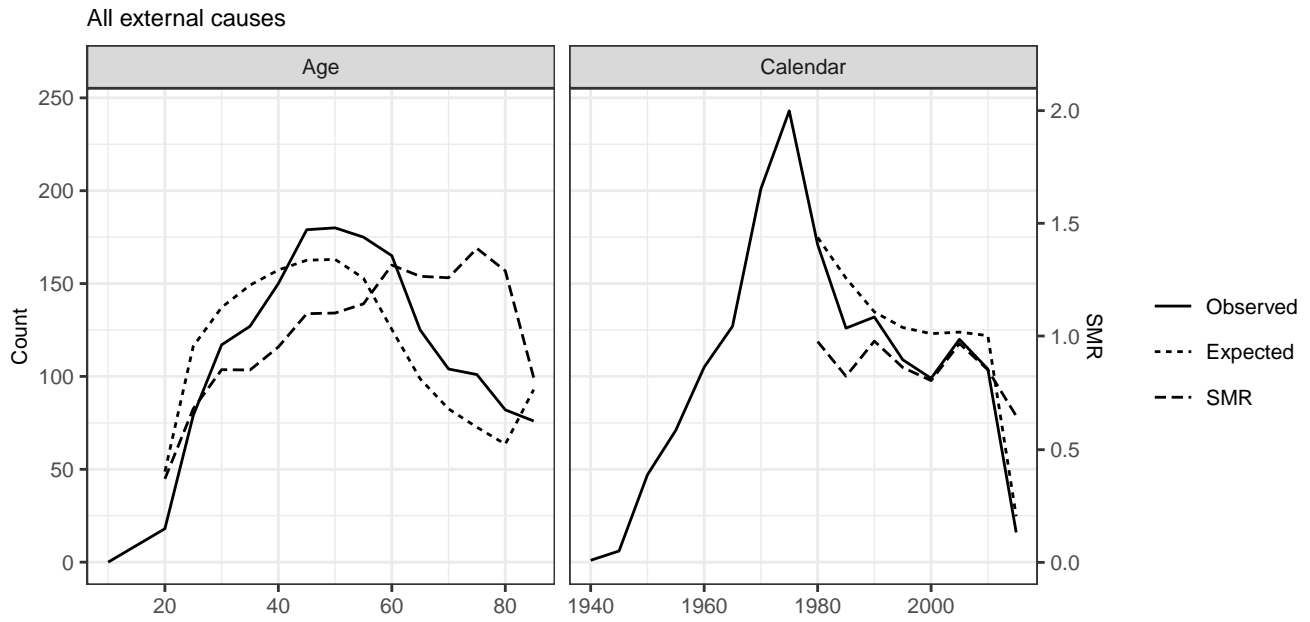


Figure 5: Change in the standardized mortality ratio for deaths due to external causes over age and calendar time.

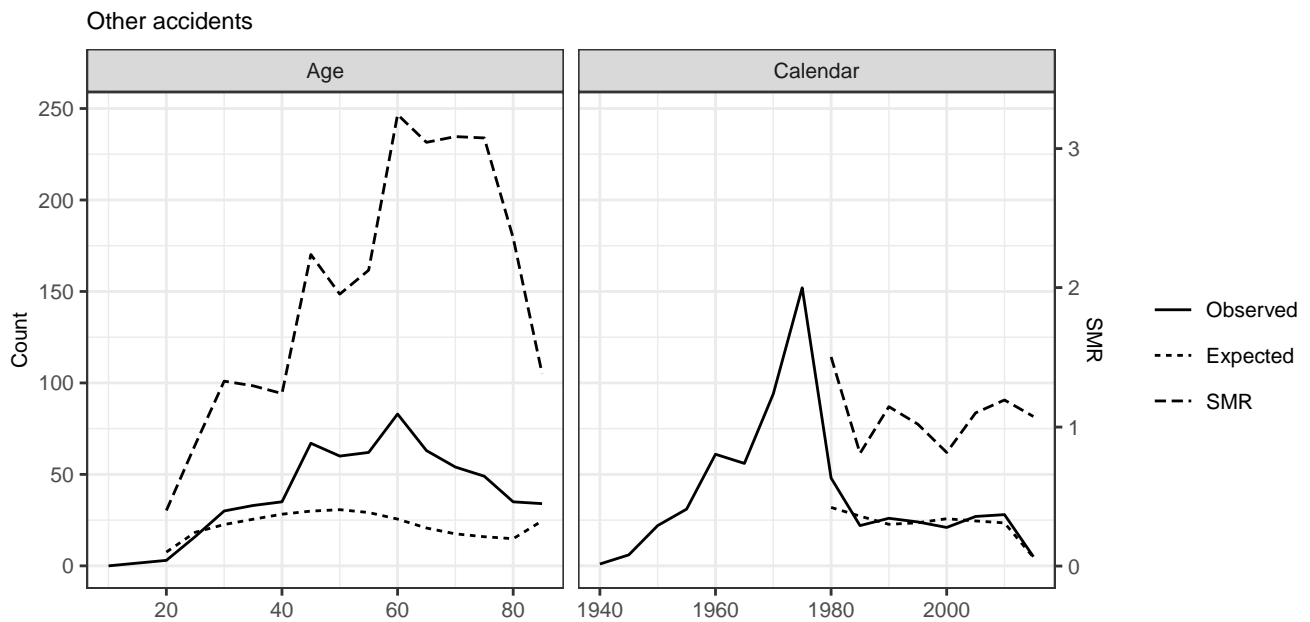


Figure 6: Change in the standardized mortality ratio for deaths due to other accidents over age and calendar time.