

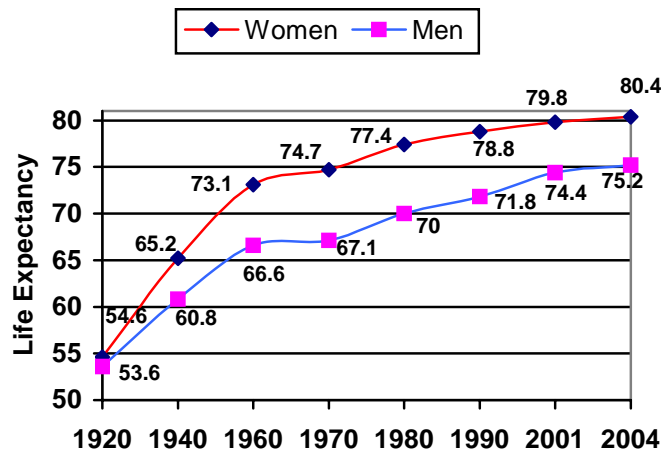
The Silent Health Crisis

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1. Life Expectancy Gender Gap

In 1920, the life expectancy gender gap was only 1.0 year. By 2004, men were dying 5.2 years sooner than women: (diamonds are women, squares are men)

**Life Expectancy, By Sex:
1920-2004**



NCHS: 2004 data from Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2004 released April 2006 & NVSR Vol 48, # 18

2. Leading Causes of Death, 2003 *

Men have a higher death rate for many of the leading causes of death:

Cause of Death	Men	Women
Heart disease	286.6	190.3
Cancer	233.3	160.9
Injuries (unintentional)	51.8	24.4
Cerebrovascular disease	54.1	52.3
Chronic lower respiratory disease	52.3	37.8
Diabetes	28.9	22.5
Pneumonia/flu	26.1	19.4
HIV infection	7.1	2.4
Suicide	18.0	4.2
Homicide	9.4	2.6

3. Heart Disease, 2003 *

Almost twice as many men as women die of ischemic heart disease:

Ischemic heart disease	209.9	127.2
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4. Cancer, 2003 *

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

Lung, Trachea, Bronchus	71.7	41.3
Colorectal	22.9	16.2

* CDC 2005, Figures are age-adjusted rates per 100,000 U.S. 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*

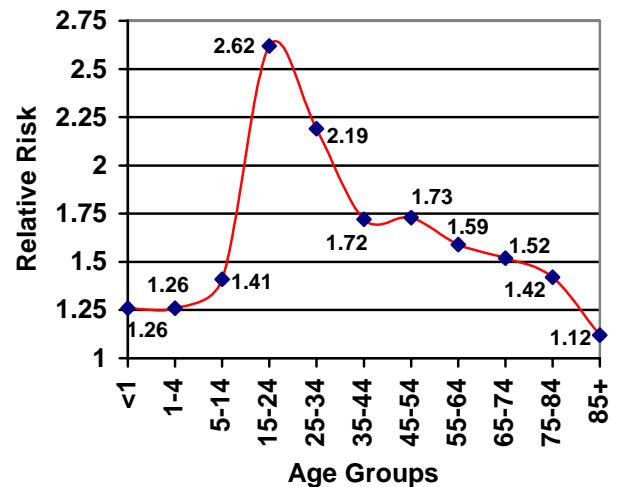
1 in 30 for black males 1 in 179 for white males
1 in 132 for black females 1 in 495 for white females

* 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:

**Excess Mortality in Males
by Age Group: 2003**



CDC 2005, Figures are age-adjusted rates per 100,000 U.S. population

7. Why Men are at High Risk

- A higher percentage of men have no healthcare coverage.
- Men make ½ as many physician visits for prevention.
- Men are employed in the most dangerous occupations, such as mining, fire fighting, construction, and fishing.
- Society discourages healthy behaviors in men and boys.
- Research on male-specific diseases is under funded.
- Men may have less healthy lifestyles including risk-taking at younger ages.

8. Effect on the Aging Population **

- More males than females are born (105 – 100), but beginning before age 35, women outnumber men.
- Of the 9 million+ older persons living alone, 80% are women.
- More than 1/2 the elderly widows living in poverty were not poor before the death of their husbands.
- At age 100, women outnumber men 8 – 1.

** U.S. Administration on Aging and The New York Times Magazine

We are indebted to Feven Debas & Jennifer McCormick for their assistance with this project. MHN 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. Tables 2, 3, 4 and 6 are from NCHS; Health, United States, 2005. Additional information can be found at www.menshealthlibrary.com.



The Men's Health Network -- An informational and educational organization recognizing men's health as a specific social concern.
www.menshealthnetwork.org