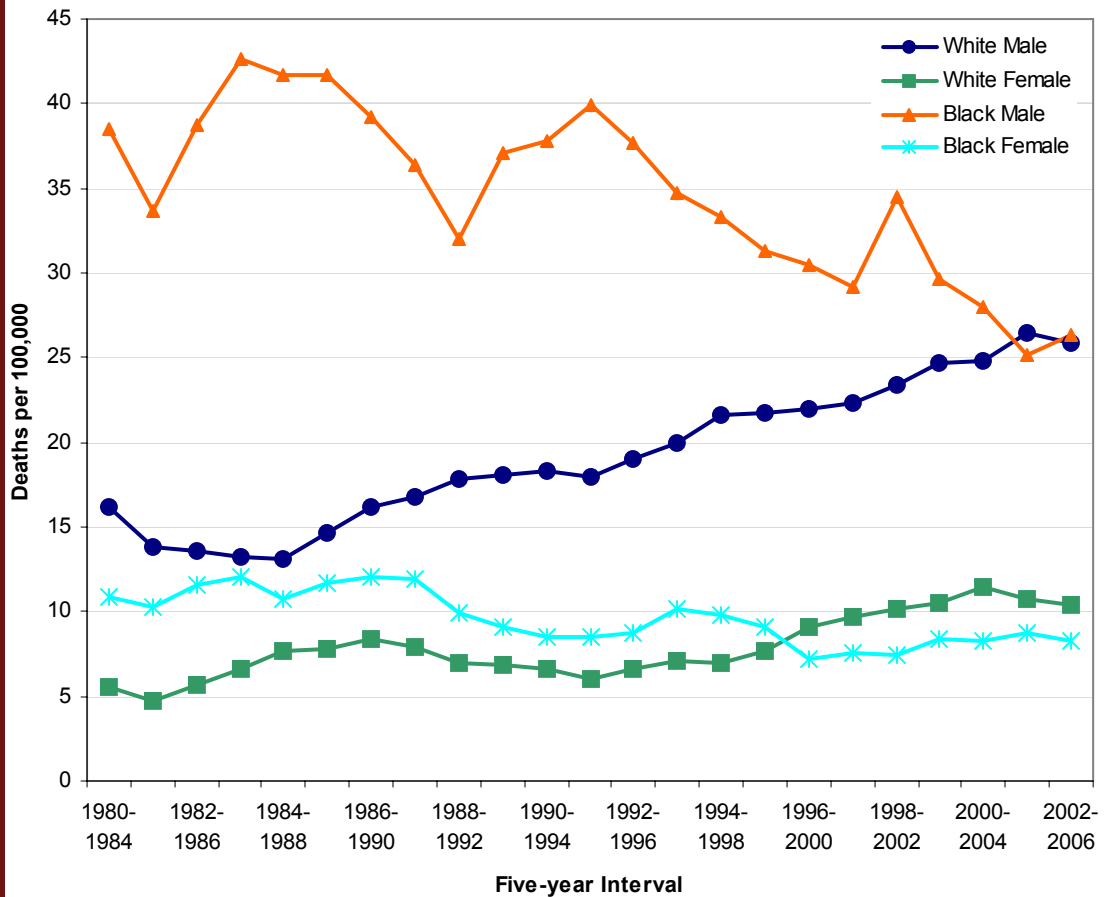


Drug- and Alcohol-induced Mortality in Delaware

Drug- and alcohol-induced deaths refer to those causes directly attributable to drug- and/or alcohol-induced mortality, including mental and behavioral disorders due to psychoactive substance use; accidental poisoning, intentional self-poisoning, and a variety of other conditions and diseases induced by drug or alcohol use (such as drug-induced folate deficiency anemia and alcohol-induced chronic pancreatitis).

Overall, drug- and alcohol-induced age-adjusted death rates (AADRs) for whites (both sexes) increased by 73 percent from 1980-1984 to 2002-2006, while AADRs for blacks (both sexes) decreased 30 percent.

Figure 1. Five-year average Mortality Rates for Drug- and Alcohol-Induced Deaths Delaware, 1980-2006



In 1980-1984, black male AADRs were more than double white male AADRs; by 2002-2006 the decrease in black males rates and the corresponding increase in white male rates resulted in both having an AADR of 26 deaths per 100,000, more than double white female rates (10.4), and more than triple black female rates (8.2).

Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Between 1980-1984 and 2002-2006, black AADRs for alcohol-induced mortality decreased by 63 percent to 7.2 deaths per 100,000 population. During the same time period, white AADRs fluctuated around 7, and in 2002-2006, their rate was 7.1 deaths per 100,000 (see Figure 2).

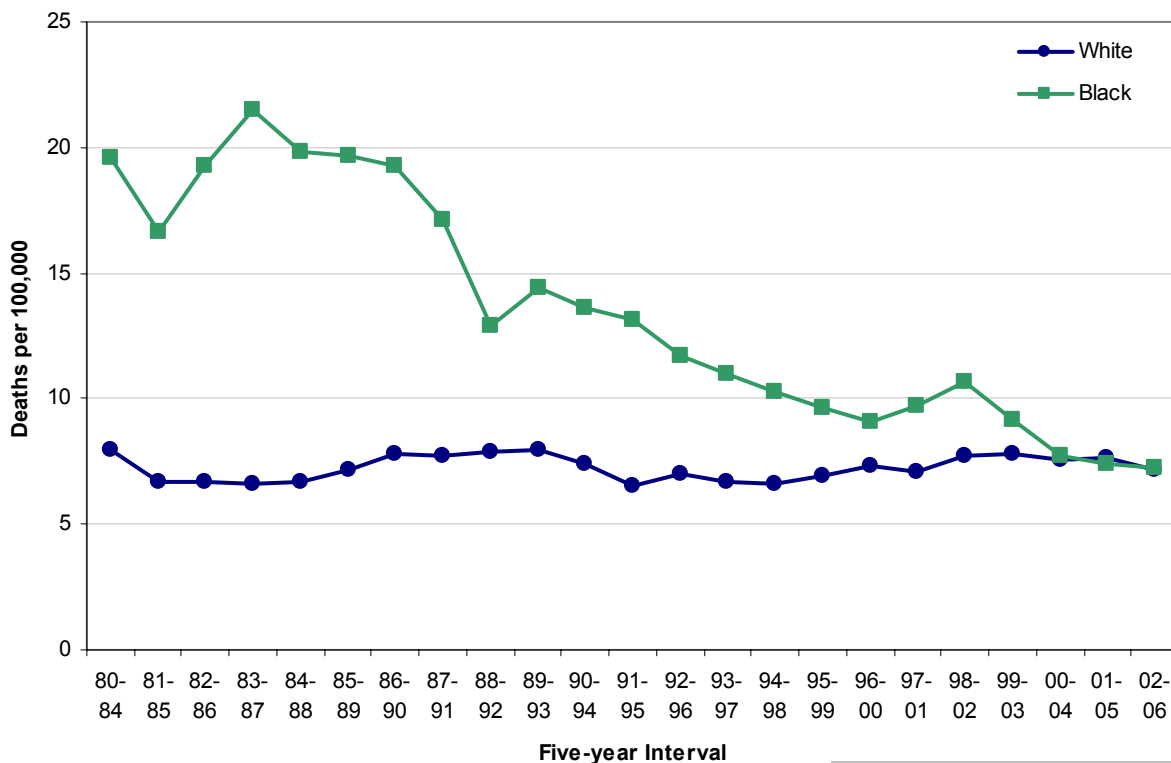
In contrast, black AADRs for drug-induced mortality increased by 148 percent, to 9.2, and white AADRs increased 345 percent to 10.8 deaths per 100,000 (see Figure 3). These same trends were reflected in the rates by gender; both males and females experienced significant increases in AADRs for drug-induced mortality.

Drug-induced AADRs increased by 88 (males) and 89 (females) percent between 1990-1994 and 2002-2006). Both sexes had higher AADRs for drug-induced mortality than for alcohol-induced mortality (see Figure 4).

AADRs for alcohol-induced mortality differed by sex; female rates remained generally stable while male rates decreased 17 percent, from 13.4 in 1990-1994 to 11 deaths per 100,000 in 2002-2006. Males had higher AADRs for both alcohol-induced and drug-induced mortality. In 2002-2006, male drug-induced AADRs were more than double that of females (13.8 vs. 6.3), and male alcohol-induced AADRs were more than triple that of females (11.0 vs. 3.4).

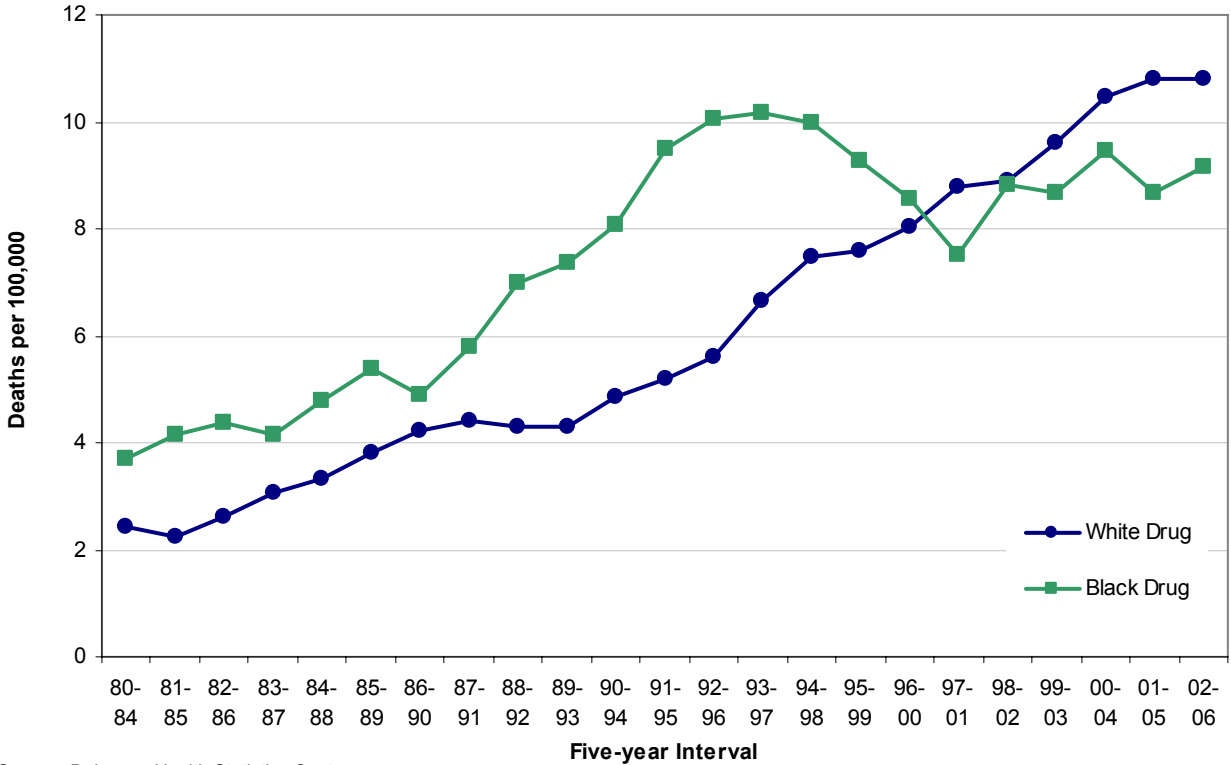
The age profile of people who died from drug-induced causes differed from that of people who died of alcohol-induced causes. In 2002-2006, death rates for drug-induced causes were highest among middle aged adults ages 35-54. In contrast, death rates due to alcohol-induced causes were highest among adults ages 55-64 (see Figure 5). Rates for both causes of death peaked at 20 deaths per 100,000. The difference in age-specific rate distribution was not surprising when the specific causes of death were reviewed; the majority of drug-induced deaths were caused by unintentional overdoses, whereas the majority of alcohol-induced deaths were due to alcoholic liver disease, which results from years of heavy drinking.

Figure 2. Five-year Age-adjusted Mortality Rates for Alcohol-Induced Deaths by Race Delaware, 1980-2006



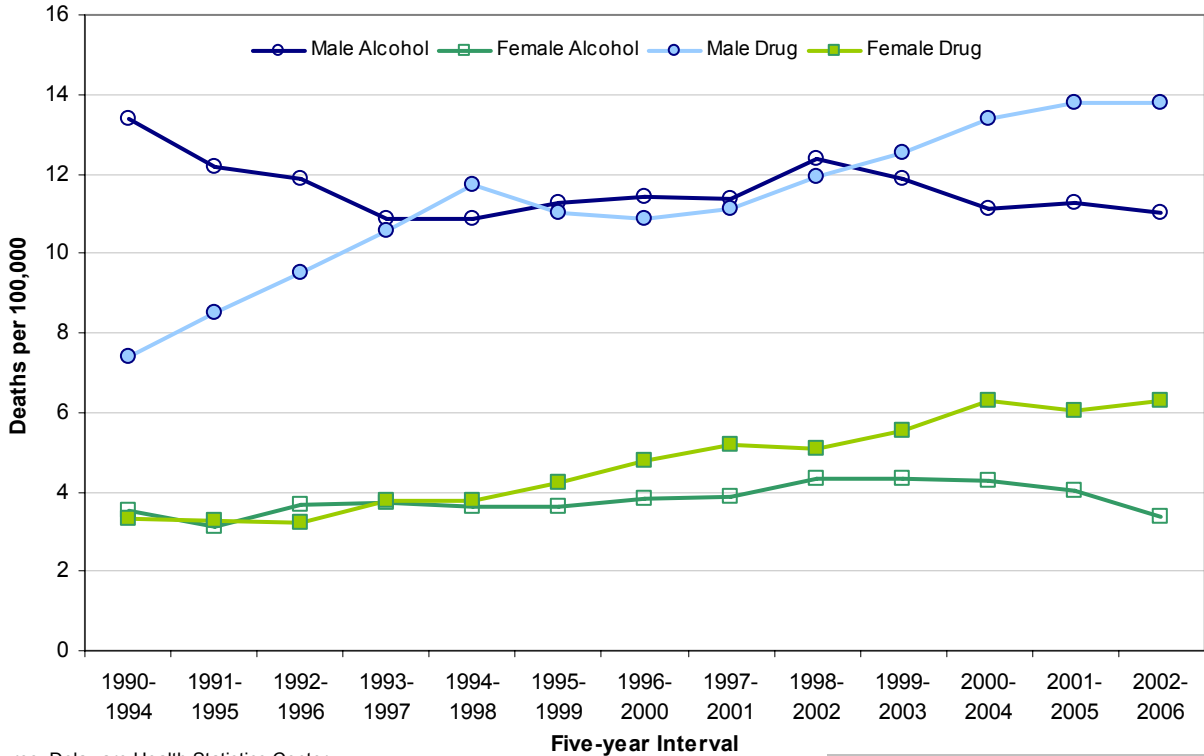
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Figure 3. Five-year Age-adjusted Mortality Rates for Drug-Induced Deaths by Race Delaware, 1980-2006



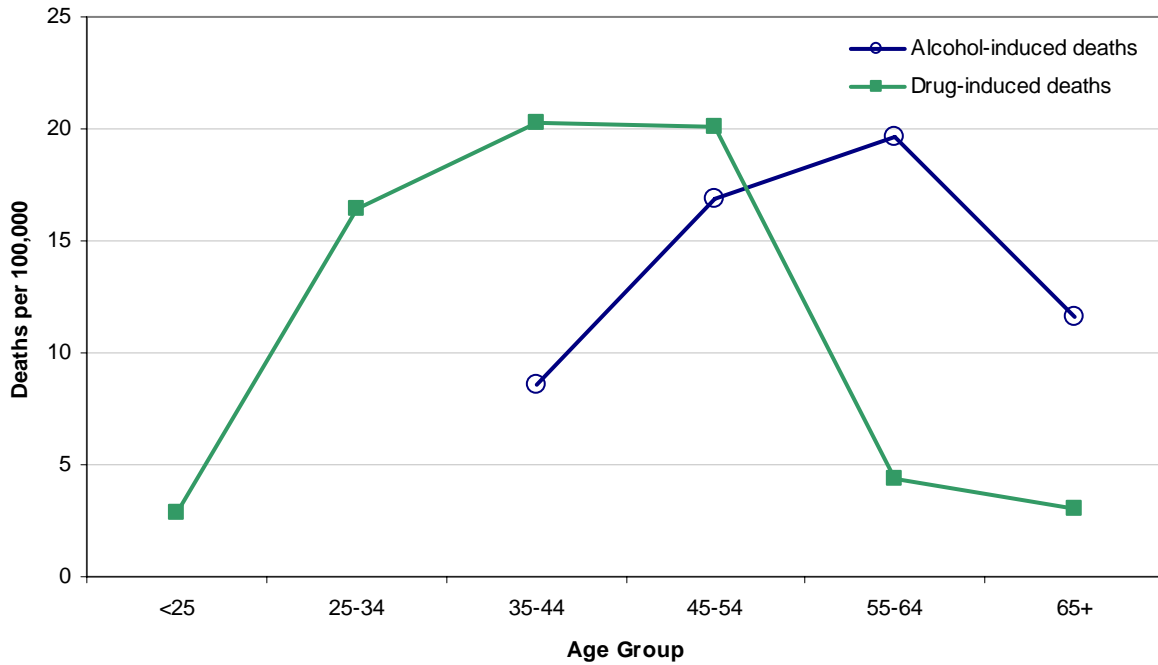
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Figure 4. Five-year Age-adjusted Mortality Rates for Drug- and Alcohol-Induced Deaths by Sex Delaware, 1990-2006



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

**Figure 5. Five-year Age-Specific Mortality Rates for Drug- and Alcohol-Induced Deaths
Delaware, 2002-2006**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

References:

1. Kung HC, Hoyert DL, Xu JQ, Murphy SL. **Deaths: Final data for 2005**. National vital statistics reports; vol 56 no 10. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2008



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Public Health

If you have comments, suggestions, and/or questions, please contact the Delaware Health Statistics Center at (302) 744-4541.

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