

Understanding Recent Trends in Mortality (In the United States)

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Looking at Mortality Trends

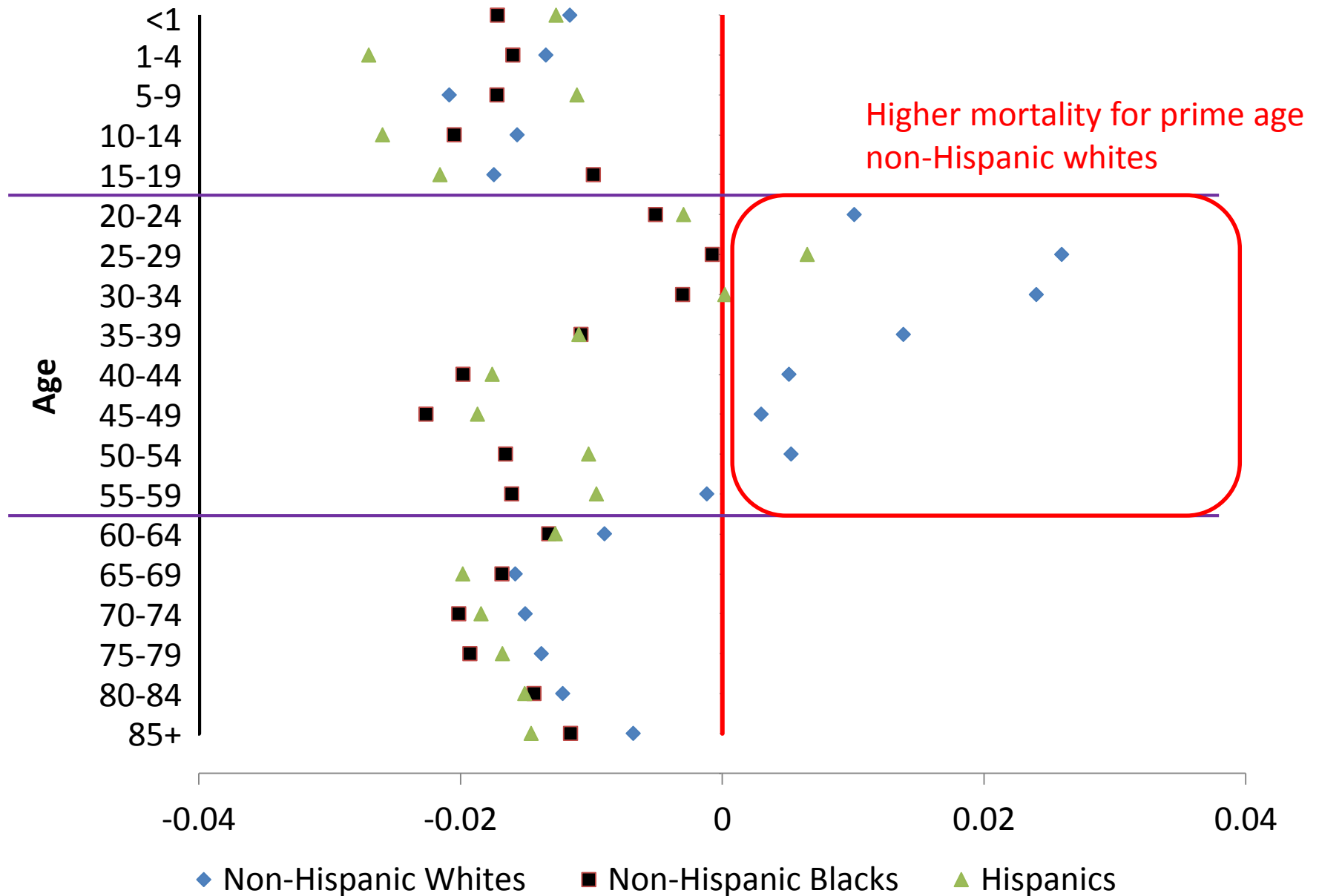
Age Groups

- Young (<18)
- Middle Age (18-64)
- Elderly (65+)

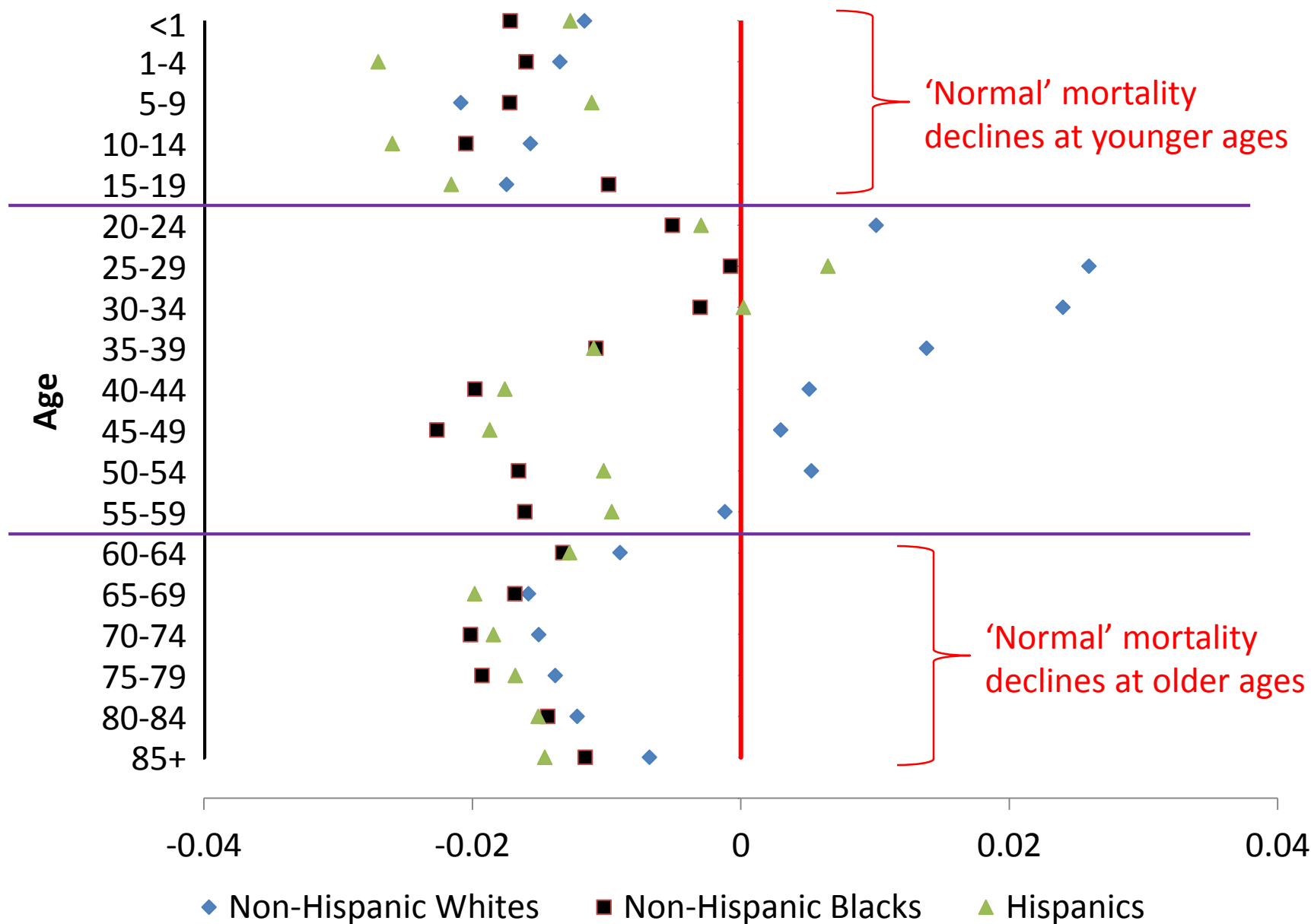
Measures

- Annual change in MR_a from 1999-2016
- Show by race/ethnicity

Annual Percent Change in Mortality by Ethnicity and Age, 1999-2016



Annual Percent Change in Mortality by Ethnicity and Age, 1999-2016

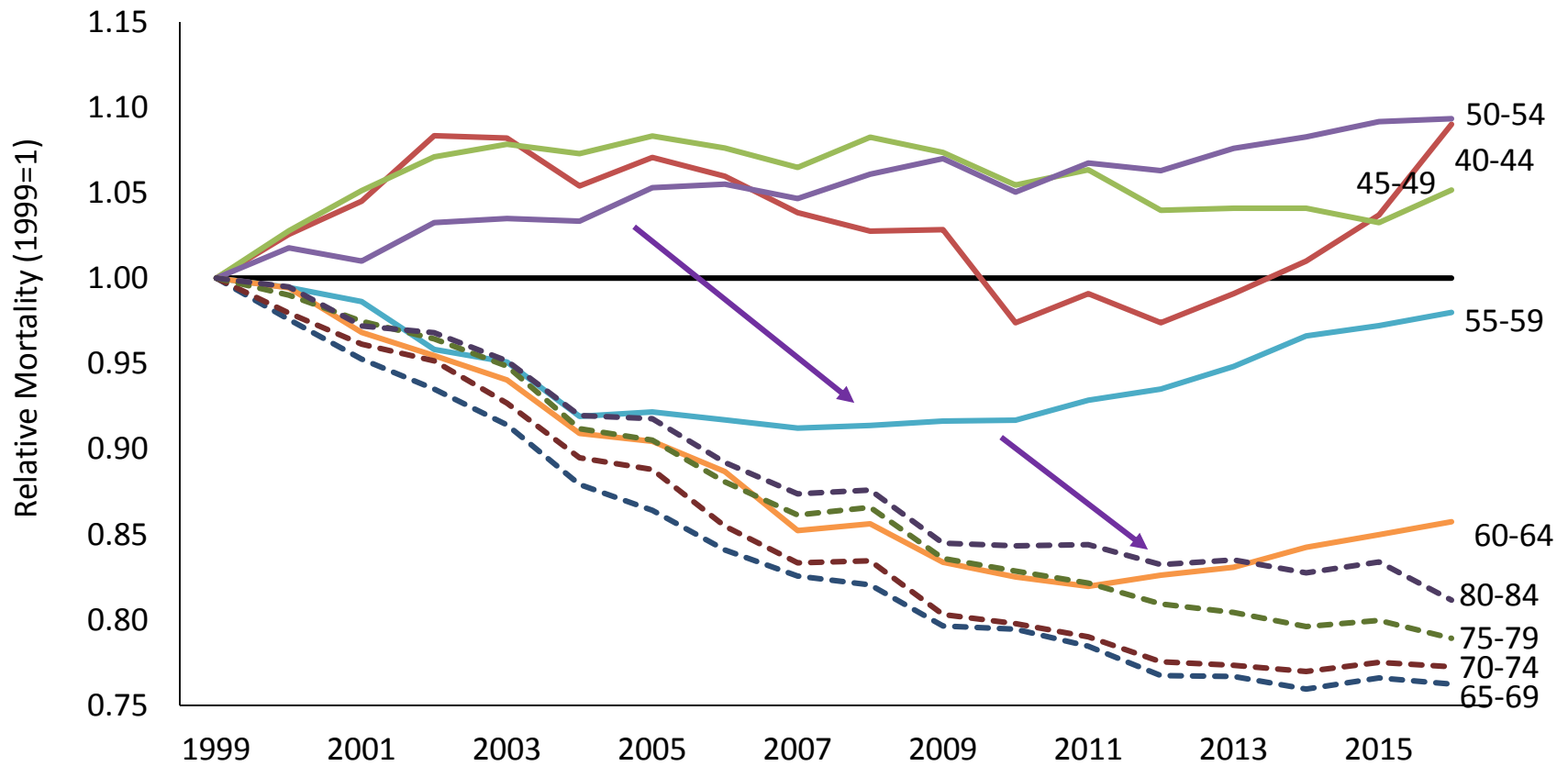


Age, cohort, or period effects (APC)

- Impossible to tell apart
- Q: have older cohorts seen a recent increase in mortality?

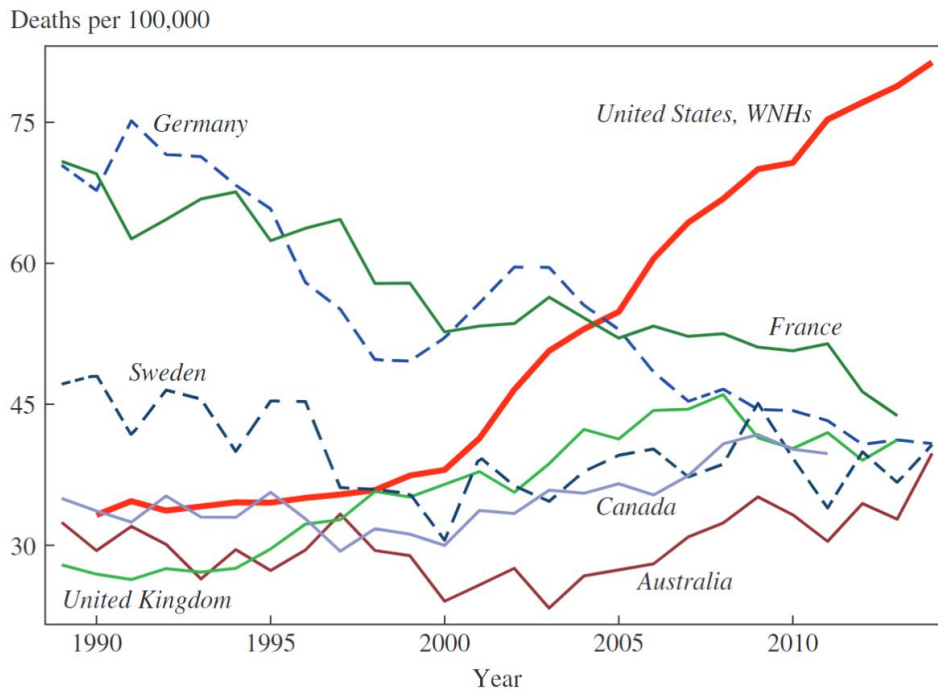
Cohort or Year Effects?

Relative Mortality by Cohort, Non-Hispanic Whites, 1999-2016



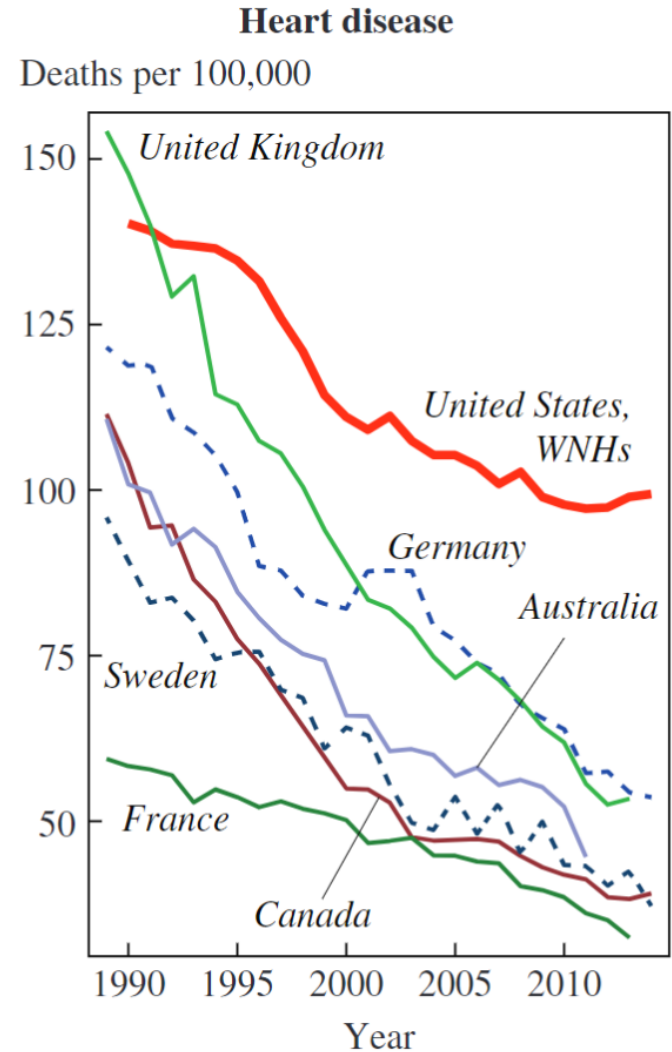
The Rise in Mid-Life Mortality

Figure 5. Deaths of Despair by Country for Age 50–54, 1989–2014^a



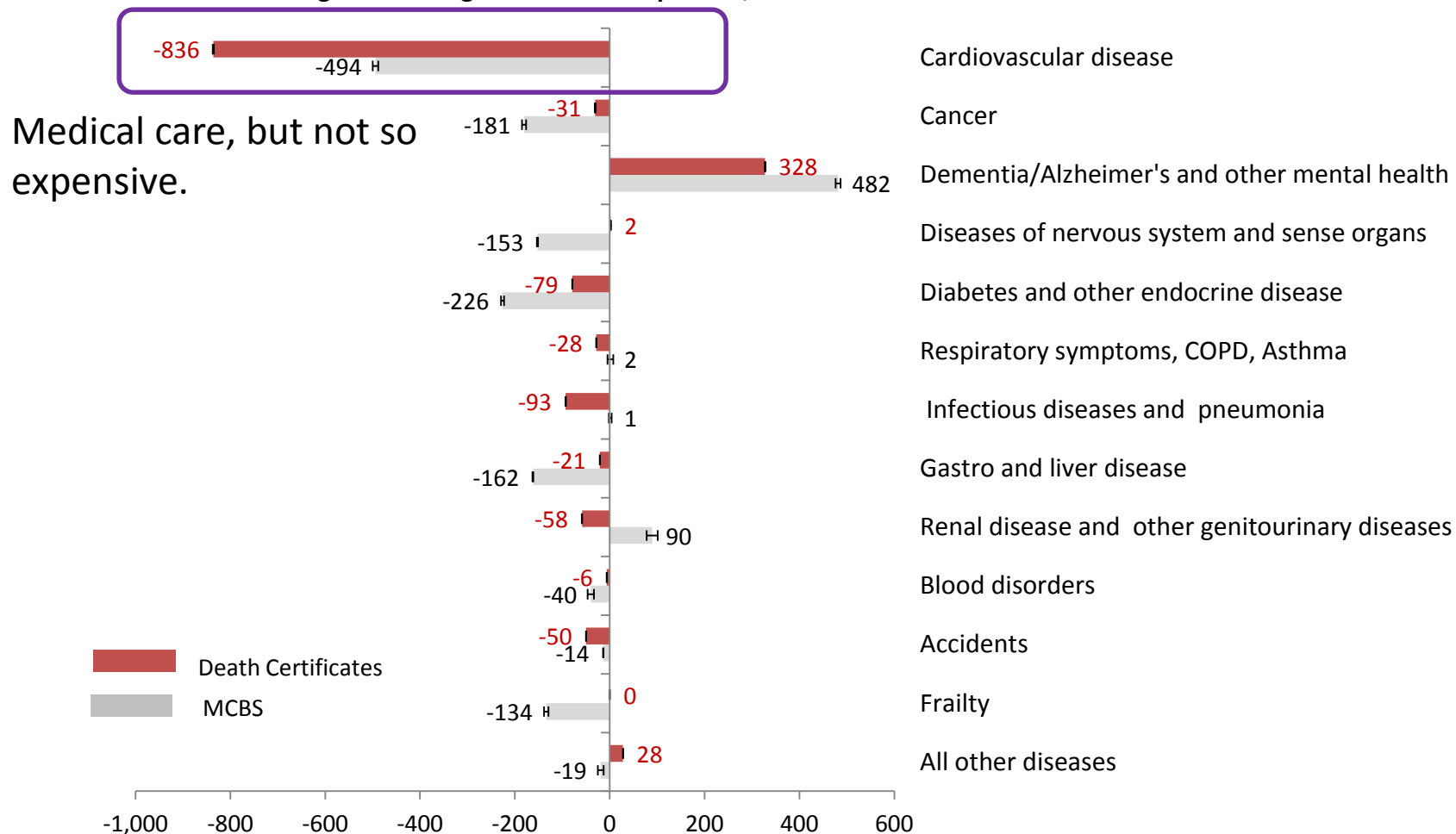
Sources: National Vital Statistics System; Human Mortality Database; WHO Mortality Database; authors' calculations.

a. Deaths of despair refer to deaths by drugs, alcohol, or suicide.

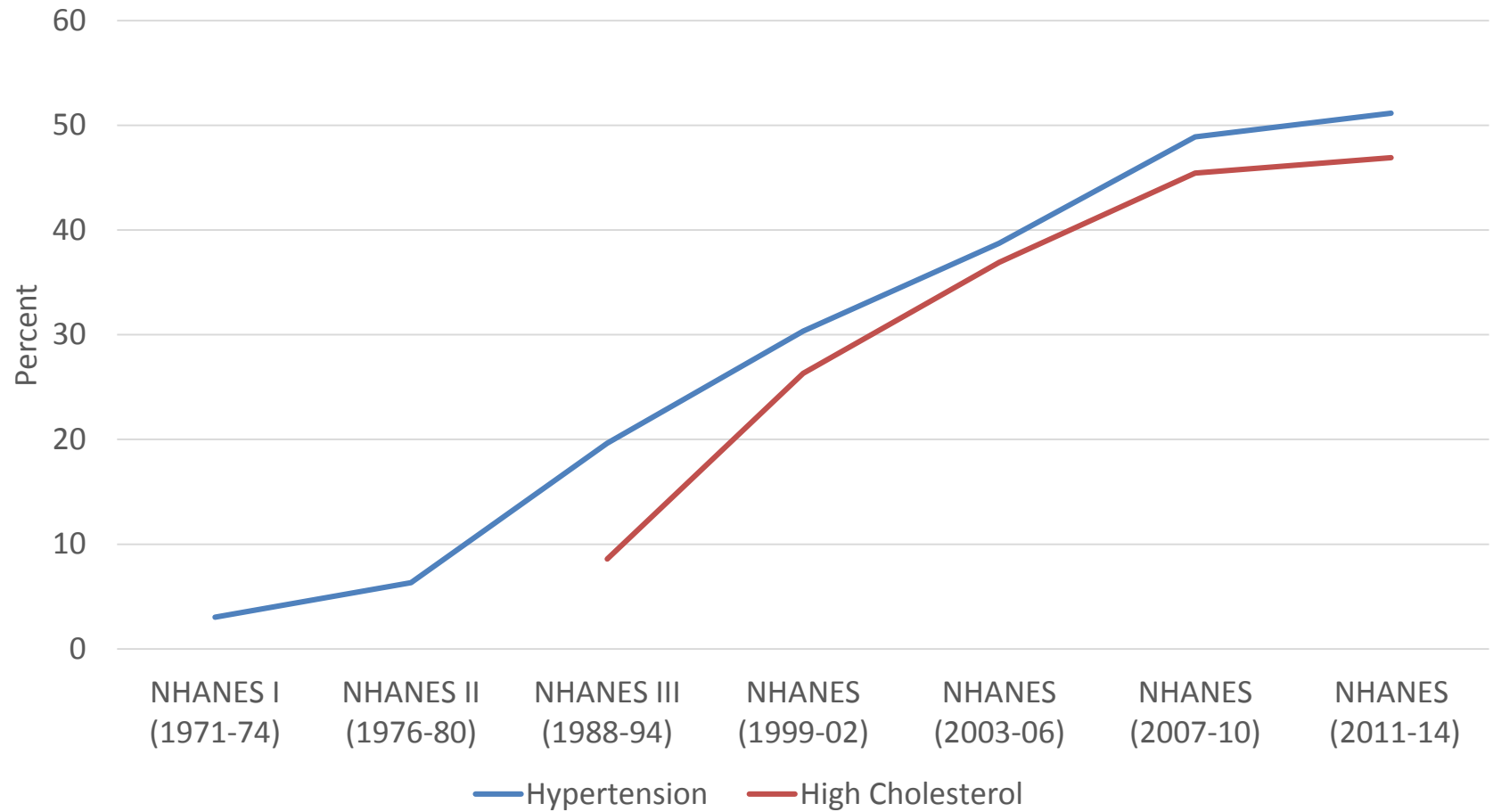


What's going on in the elderly?

Figure 3: Change in death rates per 100,000 Medicare beneficiaries from 1999 to 2012



Control of Cardiovascular Risk Factors



A unified theory: The Battle Between Technology v. Economics

Technology

- Medical technology:
 - Cardiovascular drugs
- Environmental
 - Less-polluting activities
 - Safety innovations (cars)
- Aided by (some) policy
 - Medicare, Medicaid, WIC/Head Start

The Bad

- Economic dislocation
- Aided by (some) policy
 - Tax policy