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Trends in Hospitalizations and Survival of Acute Decompensated Heart Failure in Four US Communities (2005-2014): The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study Community Surveillance

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Abstract

Background—Community trends of acute decompensated heart failure (ADHF) in diverse populations may differ by race and sex.

Methods—The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study sampled heart failure related hospitalizations (age ≥ 55 years) in four US communities from 2005-2014 using ICD-9-CM codes. ADHF hospitalizations were validated by standardized physician review and computer algorithm, yielding 40,173 events after accounting for sampling design (unweighted n=8746).

Results—Of the ADHF hospitalizations, 50% had reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF), 39% had preserved EF (HFpEF). HFrEF was more common in black men and white men, whereas HFpEF was most common in white women. Average age-adjusted rates of ADHF was highest in blacks (38.1 per 1000 black men, 30.5 per 1000 black women), with rates differing by HF type and sex. ADHF rates increased over the 10 years (average annual percent change, AAPC: black women +4.3%, black men +3.7%, white women +1.9%, white men +2.6%), mostly reflecting more acute

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DISCLOSURES

None.

HFpEF. Age-adjusted 28-day and 1-year case fatality proportions were approximately 10% and 30%, respectively, similar across race-sex groups and HF types. Only blacks showed decreased 1-year mortality over time (AAPC: black women -5.4% , black men -4.6%), with rates differing by HF type (AAPC: black women HFpEF -7.1% , black men HFrEF -4.7%).

Conclusions—Between 2005-2014, trends in ADHF hospitalizations increased in four US communities, primarily driven acute HFpEF. Survival at one year was poor regardless of EF, but improved over time for black women and black men.

Keywords

heart failure; epidemiology; mortality; race; ejection fraction

Journal Subject Codes

epidemiology; heart failure; race and ethnicity; mortality/survival

BACKGROUND

Understanding population-based trends in heart failure (HF) incidence and survival is important for planning and evaluating prevention and treatment strategies. The Institute of Medicine emphasized the importance of monitoring the cardiovascular health of the country and the value of timely, high-quality, population-based data on the incidence of heart disease and their risk factors^{1, 2}. HF was estimated to affect 5.7 million American adults in 2012, with 915,000 incident cases³. Its prevalence is expected to rise to 8.4 million by 2030⁴.

A recent population-based study in Olmsted County, MN suggested that the incidence of HF declined from 2000 to 2010, with HF with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) declining at a faster rate than HF with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF)⁵. While HF survival has improved compared to >25 years ago⁶, median survival remains at approximately 5 years^{5, 7}. Higher mortality was seen among those with HFrEF compared to HFpEF and among men compared to women⁸. However, these trends in HF incidence and survival were observed in homogenous populations comprised of >90% Caucasian Americans in a single US community, and included outpatient and chronic stable cases. Separating acute from chronic HF in more diverse US communities would enhance our understanding of trends of HF and its burden in the general population.

The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study was the first to differentiate hospitalization rates of acute decompensated HF (ADHF) from chronic stable HF in a biracial community-based population⁹. We present here the 10-year trends of validated first and recurrent ADHF hospitalizations and case fatality from four U.S. communities.

METHODS

The data and study materials are available to other researchers for the purposes of reproducing the results, subject to completion of a data use agreement¹⁰.

Study Population

Beginning in 2005, the ARIC Study conducted continuous and comprehensive surveillance of hospitalized HF events for residents age ≥ 55 years in four US communities: Forsyth County, NC; Jackson, MS; Minneapolis suburbs, MN; and Washington County, MD. Because of small numbers, blacks in Minneapolis and Washington County and persons reported to be neither black nor white were excluded from these analyses. The population of eligible blacks and whites age 55 and older in the four communities was 225,395 persons in 2014 (56% women, 21% black).

Hospital Surveillance, Case Ascertainment and Event Classification

Methods of event ascertainment and classification have been described previously¹¹. Briefly, a stratified random sample of eligible hospitalizations for HF in 2005-2014 was selected based on three criteria: (1) International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) discharge diagnosis codes for HF or HF-related condition (398.91, 402.01, 402.11, 402.91, 404.01, 404.03, 404.11, 404.13, 404.91, 404.93, 415.0, 416.9, 425.4, 428.x, 518.4, 786.0x) in any position; (2) age ≥ 55 years at the time of hospital discharge; and (3) home address within boundaries of the ARIC communities. The sampling varied by ICD-9-CM discharge codes (428 and non-428), field center, sex, and race (by race in Forsyth County and Jackson only) to achieve similar standard errors across these groups¹². Of note, unlike the cohort component of the ARIC Study, ARIC Study Community Surveillance samples hospitalizations across the 22 hospitals in the ARIC communities and cannot follow a specific patient to link the current with a past hospitalization, including past hospitalizations outside of these ARIC Study hospitals.

Medical records of eligible hospitalizations (unweighted $n=23,410$) were abstracted by trained abstractors if there was any evidence of decompensation or new onset of HF symptoms or any mention by a physician that HF was the reason for hospitalization. Abstracted cases (unweighted $n=22,394$) were independently classified by computer algorithm and/or 1-2 physicians of the ARIC Mortality and Morbidity Classification Committee (MMCC) into one of five categories¹¹: definite ADHF, possible ADHF, chronic stable HF, HF unlikely, or unclassifiable. Disagreements were adjudicated by the chair of the MMCC (board certified HF specialist). Definite or possible ADHF required evidence either from symptoms, signs, imaging or treatment of an acute exacerbation, worsening or new onset of symptoms or other decompensated circulatory state. For the purpose of this report, definite and possible ADHF were combined. When available, imaging reports of LVEF within two years of the current hospitalization were abstracted; history of prior HF diagnosis and comorbidities was obtained from the index hospitalization. ADHF events were further classified as HF_rEF (current [within 3 months or less of hospitalization] or most recent left ventricular ejection fraction [LVEF] less than 50%), HF_pEF (all recorded LVEF 50% or greater), or HF with unknown LVEF (UHF). Patients with recovered HF_rEF (subsequent LVEF $\geq 50\%$) or unknown LVEF (UHF) were excluded from analysis specific to HF type (HF_rEF versus HF_pEF) and trends, because of relatively small numbers (3.0% and 8.9% of all ADHF cases, respectively) and because the recovered HF_rEF group is considered physiologically different from chronic HF_rEF and HF_pEF.

The focus of the ARIC Study has been to identify HF events that become serious enough to require hospitalization, and among these we look for “first hospitalizations” as a proxy for incident cases⁹, as we have done for other cardiovascular diseases¹³. Vital status within one year after admission was determined by linkage with the National Death Index. Institutional review boards approved the study protocol at all participating hospitals in the ARIC communities (no informed consent was required).

Statistical Analysis

After excluding non-ADHF hospitalizations (unweighted n=6202), a small number of non-black minorities (n=225), and blacks in two predominately white communities (Minneapolis and Washington County; n=168), the final sample included 8,746 (weighted n=40,173) validated ADHF hospitalizations for the years 2005-2014 (Figure 1). Supplemental Table 1 lists the number of eligible hospitalizations and ADHF events per year, stratified by first and recurrent hospitalized events. Inter- and post-censal sex- and race-specific population estimates for each study community were computed for 2005-2014 by interpolations or extrapolations from the 2000 and 2010 U.S. censuses. For example, in 2014, there were 27104 black women, 98441 white women, 19304 black men and 80546 white men age 55 years and older in these four communities; and the number of hospitalized ADHF occurring among these populations in 2014 were 6419, 14615, 5400, and 13738, respectively.

To account for the sampling design, all analyses were conducted using survey procedures and weighted by the inverse of the sampling probabilities. Differences by race and sex in probability of a hospitalization being first or in probability of HFrEF/HFpEF were tested using Wald tests based on logistic regression models. Sex and race-specific annual event rates per 1000 persons were computed based on population inter- and post-censal estimate denominators and adjusted for age by the direct method using the 2000 U.S. population estimates as the standard. Annual 28-day and 365-day (one-year) case fatality percentages were computed based on denominators of those who were hospitalized with ADHF in the ARIC population and adjusted for age by the direct method using the ARIC combined hospitalized ADHF events as the standard. Case fatality analysis was available for all HF events hospitalized from 2005 through 2014 through National Death Index linkage data. Age-adjusted trends are reported as average annual percent change (AAPC) by race and sex, using Poisson regression for first and recurrent hospitalization rates and using logistic regression for case fatality. Null hypotheses of no difference in the trends by race and sex were tested using Wald tests of the coefficients of interactions between main effects in these models.

All data analysis was performed using SAS version 9.1.3 (SAS Institute, Cary, North Carolina) or SUDAAN release 9.0.

RESULTS

Of the 40,173 validated hospitalized ADHF events from 2005 through 2014 in those age 55 years, 20,015 (50%) were HFrEF, 15,535 (39%) were HFpEF, 1,154 (2.9%) were recovered HFrEF (subsequent LVEF \geq 50%), and 3,468 (8.6%) were HF with unknown LVEF (UHF) (Table 1). Approximately two-thirds (65%) of hospitalized ADHF events occurred in

persons with no history of hospitalized HF, although 51% had a previous diagnosis of HF (without hospitalization). The percent of ADHF events that were first events was smaller among blacks (54%) as compared to whites (69%, $p<0.0001$), and among men (63%) compared to women (67%, $p=0.0002$). The proportion of ADHF events that were HF_rEF was higher in men. Among first hospitalized ADHF, the distribution of HF_rEF was 61% in black men, 53% in white men, 42% in black women, and 33% in white women. While there was no interaction between race and sex ($p=0.24$), first hospitalized events were more likely to be HF_rEF in men ($p<0.0001$) and in blacks ($p<0.0001$). Recurrent hospitalized ADHF events were more commonly for HF_rEF for all race-sex groups. Similarly, there was no interaction between race and sex ($p=0.40$), and recurrent events were more likely to be HF_rEF in men ($p<0.0001$) and in blacks ($p=0.0007$).

For those with first hospitalized ADHF, black patients compared to whites were younger, had fewer cardiac comorbidities (including prevalent coronary heart disease [CHD], myocardial infarction history, and atrial arrhythmias), but had more hypertension, diabetes and chronic kidney disease. Signs and symptoms of ADHF presentation were similar across all race-sex groups, with dyspnea and edema as the most common. Similar patterns of demographic and clinical characteristics were observed for those with recurrent ADHF hospitalizations.

Temporal trends in ADHF hospitalizations

Table 2 shows the age-adjusted average annual event rates of ADHF hospitalizations and average annual percentage changes (AAPC) by race-sex group, HF type, and HF history (first vs. recurrent). The highest event rates were in black men followed by black women, white men, and white women. ADHF rates increased over the 10 years (average annual percent change, AAPC: black women +4.3%, black men +3.7%, white women +1.9%, white men +2.6%), mostly reflecting more acute HF_pEF. When stratified by HF type and HF history, the average annual rate of first hospitalized HF_pEF was higher in blacks than in whites, and the average annual rate of first hospitalized HF_rEF was higher in blacks than in whites.

Rates of first hospitalized ADHF increased each year for each race-sex group. The AAPC in the rates of all first ADHF hospitalizations was similar among all race-sex groups shown, ranging from an average 6.3% increase per year in black women to 1.8% in white women. Figure 2 depicts the age-adjusted first hospitalization rates per year by HF type and race-sex group. The increase in the rate of first hospitalized ADHF mostly reflected the increase in rates of HF_pEF in each race-sex group over the 10-year time period. The age-adjusted average annual increases in first hospitalized HF_pEF were at higher magnitude compared to the AAPC of all first hospitalized ADHF, with black women having the highest rise (an average 10.0% per year).

Changes in HF_rEF rates were modest but showed different race-sex patterns. White men were the only race-sex group to have a rising rate of first hospitalized HF_rEF. Changes in rates of first HF_rEF were not statistically significant for blacks and white women.

Recurrent ADHF rates showed similar patterns as first ADHF hospitalizations, with blacks having higher average rates of recurrent ADHF hospitalizations regardless of HF type (Table 2). But the age-adjusted average annual increase in recurrent events was only statistically significant for women with HFpEF and black men with HFrEF.

Case Fatality

Table 3 displays the age-adjusted average annual 28-day and 1-year case fatality proportions by race-sex group, HF type, and HF history. For all ADHF hospitalizations, only blacks showed decreased 1-year mortality over time (AAPC: black women -5.4% , black men -4.6%), with rates differing by HF type (AAPC: black women HFpEF -7.1% , black men HFrEF -4.7%). For those with a first time hospitalization for ADHF, the age-adjusted average annual 28-day and 1-year case fatality proportions were higher among whites compared to blacks aggregated across HF type ($p=0.02$ and $p=0.003$, respectively) (Table 3). Figure 3 demonstrates the age-adjusted 1-year case fatality per year by HF type and race-sex group. In general, case fatality after a first ADHF hospitalization showed modest changes from 2005 through 2014, although 1-year case fatality significantly decreased by an average of 4.7% per year in black women. Among those with HFpEF, whites had higher 28-day and 1-year case fatality compared to blacks ($p=0.01$ and $p=0.009$, respectively). Changes in age-adjusted 28-day case fatality were not statistically significant for any race-sex group (Table 3 and Supplemental Figure 1).

For patients with recurrent hospitalized ADHF, the average annual case fatality appeared higher in men than women (Table 3), but these sex-based differences were generally not statistically different. One-year mortality rates decreased by approximately 6% per year for both black women and black men over the 10 years, particularly black men with HFrEF.

Sensitivity analysis

The trends in HF incidence were sensitive to the definition of first hospitalization for ADHF. Sensitivity analyses were performed with first ADHF redefined more broadly as those with no history of HF diagnosis (regardless of presence of a hospitalization); this shifted the majority of hospitalized cases to recurrent ADHF. Demographic and clinical characteristics were similar to the population classified as an event with no previous hospitalization for HF (Supplemental Table 2). As expected, event rates were similarly shifted with significant trends seen primarily in the recurrent ADHF cases (Table 4 and Figure 4), and case fatality rates changed modestly for both first and recurrent ADHF cases, with at most a 5% absolute decrease in estimates (Table 5). Trends in 1-year case fatality were similar (decreases over time for black women with first ADHF, and both black women and black men with recurrent ADHF); however, 1-year case fatality increased over time for white women with first HFrEF (Table 5). These different trends in event rates and case fatality likely reflect differences in case-mix of ADHF created by changing the definition of a first event.

To enhance comparability with other community population studies (e.g., Olmsted County^{5,8}), we defined HFrEF as EF $<50\%$ since the beginning of ARIC HF Community Surveillance in 2005. Using other cut-points such as EF ≥ 40 or $\geq 45\%$ resulted in higher

event rates for HFpEF and lower event rates for HFrEF as expected, but did not substantially alter the trends observed using the original EF cut-point (Supplemental Table 3).

DISCUSSION

From 2005 to 2014, in the biracial ARIC Study communities, the average age-adjusted rates of first hospitalized HF were higher in blacks, with differences seen by HF type and sex. Over these 10 years, the rates of all first hospitalizations for ADHF increased in all race-sex subgroups, most notably for HFpEF. While the rate of first hospitalization for acute HFrEF was higher in black men, a significant, but modest, rise in first hospitalized acute HFrEF rate was seen in only white men; women and black men showed no statistically significant changes in HFrEF trends.

Reasons for the observed differences over time by sex, race and HF type may be related to temporal trends in coding hospital discharges and using biomarkers such as B-type natriuretic peptide for diagnosing HF. Whether increased recognition of HFpEF contributes to an increase in HFpEF diagnosis and thus its incidence is unknown. However, differences by race and sex may be related to different trends in comorbidities or etiologies of HF. For example, the incidence of acute myocardial infarction and rates of CHD deaths are decreasing^{14, 15}; perhaps this trend may explain why there is no significant change in HFrEF incidence over time, since CHD is associated more with HFrEF than HFpEF. Common comorbidities related to HFpEF are on the rise and include atrial fibrillation¹⁶, hypertension, obesity, and diabetes¹⁷. There are well-recognized race and sex differences for these known risk factors for HF and other cardiovascular diseases; e.g., blacks have a higher prevalence of hypertension than whites, and black women have a higher prevalence of obesity compared to white women³. Black patients in the ARIC communities were more likely to have chronic kidney disease; but whether chronic kidney contributes to more ADHF is controversial¹⁸. Further investigation is needed to determine whether a specific comorbidity, compared to another, is more associated with first hospitalization for ADHF.

We report trends in the ARIC Study communities that are in contrast to the findings in other populations, where the incidence of heart failure among all ages declined in Olmsted County, MN, from 2000 to 2010⁵, in the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) cohort in the United Kingdom from 2002 to 2014¹⁹, and in Medicare beneficiaries from 1994 to 2003²⁰ and 2002 to 2013²¹, respectively. However, the trends in the ARIC communities are similar to older reports from Olmsted County (1987-2001)⁸ and recent preliminary findings in the Framingham cohort for which HFpEF incidence increased over 19 years²². The recurrent HF hospitalization trends in the ARIC Study are also in contrast to the 10-year trends seen in the Medicare population and in the National Inpatient Sample, which included both incident and recurrent hospitalizations and showed a decline in all HF hospitalization from 1998 to 2008 and from 2002 to 2013, respectively, with blacks having higher HF hospitalization rates than whites^{23, 24}. The heterogeneity of findings across studies likely reflects differences in population demographics and definitions of HF. Notably, our ARIC community surveillance study population was restricted to white and black residents age 55 years, and our definition of HF incidence is based on first decompensation leading to hospitalization and did not include outpatient cases. The Olmsted County population sample

and Framingham cohort are relatively homogenous with >90% of participants of white race/ethnicity, include both outpatient and inpatient HF cases (identified by ICD-9 codes and validated using the Framingham Study HF criteria), and did not differentiate between acute and chronic stable HF. The Framingham Study used a LVEF 45% cutoff to define HFpEF²⁵; thus more HFpEF and less HFrEF were classified in their analyses. The U.K. CPRD cohort was also >95% white¹⁹. The Medicare population is restricted to age 65 years and older, whereas over 20% of the black population in the ARIC communities were age 55-64 years. HF cases in the National Inpatient Sample, the Medicare populations, and the U.K CPRD sample were classified using administrative claims data based on inpatient and/or outpatient ICD-9-CM or ICD-10 codes, defining incident HF as the initial HF hospitalization within the specified time period, and did not involve case adjudication. Of note, our previous reports suggest that HF hospitalization identified solely by ICD-9 codes may not accurately estimate the rates of ADHF⁹, missing up to 50% of cases²⁶.

Despite the rise in the rate of first hospitalization for ADHF, especially for HFpEF, there were no consistent or significant changes in 28-day mortality after hospital discharge from 2005 to 2014, regardless of LVEF or HF type, or history of hospitalized HF. However, 1-year mortality decreased over the ten years, by 5-7% per year, in black women with first hospitalized ADHF and recurrent hospitalized ADHF, and in black men with recurrent ADHF. Yet, 1-year survival was similar for HFpEF and HFrEF for most race-sex groups regardless of history of hospitalized HF (except for black men with recurrent HFrEF whose 1-year mortality decreased 5.8% per year). This minimal change in survival by HF type is in contrast to reports from Olmsted County where the survival is better for HFpEF than HFrEF^{5, 8}, and the trends where HF type was not specified^{15, 27}. Our unique results may be related to the more diverse, biracial population of the ARIC population. Lower age-adjusted case fatality rates were observed in blacks in each sex group (particularly among blacks with HFpEF), despite higher first hospitalization rates of ADHF rates compared to whites. A similar racial difference was seen in the HFpEF cohort of the Get With The Guidelines-Heart Failure registry (linked to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services administrative data) between 2006 and 2014²⁸. This racial difference may be related to younger age of HF onset in blacks and incomplete adjustment for other related factors.

Moreover, it is notable that the average age-adjusted 1-year mortality rates for first hospitalized ADHF, regardless of HF type, is approximately 30% for all race-sex groups, which is higher than estimates of approximately 20% based on populations from the Framingham Heart Study³ and Olmsted County⁵ (which included outpatient, presumably milder cases), but similar to estimates based on all acute HF hospitalizations from the Worcester Heart Failure Study²⁷ and the Medicare population¹⁵. Particular to the ARIC Study is the ability to differentiate recurrent ADHF hospitalizations, which were associated with modestly higher 1-year mortality rates compared to first hospitalized cases, with no significant change over time and no demonstrable differences by race-sex groups. Reasons for these higher 1-year mortality estimates for both first and recurrent hospitalized ADHF events in the ARIC communities are most likely related to the definition of our hospitalized HF cases, as only hospitalized cases that were considered acute and decompensated were included, which would reflect a sicker patient population. Moreover, compared to the Olmsted County sample⁵, this ARIC population was older and included more patients with

comorbidities such as CHD, hypertension, diabetes, and obesity. Evidence-based HF therapy may also be underprescribed in the ARIC communities (e.g., only 50% of HFrEF patients were on optimal medical therapy)²⁹. Given the focus of providers, payors, and health care systems to decrease readmission rates for ADHF, seeing these survival trends in both first and recurrent hospitalized ADHF may translate to more attention on the medical management of hospitalized patients with HF.

Our study is not without limitations. A design limitation of community-wide, retrospective surveillance of hospitalizations that use survey sampling methods is that follow-up of individual patients beyond vital status is not routinely incorporated. Therefore details about the patient's care beyond that sampled hospitalization are limited to only what is noted in the index hospital records, which may result in potential misclassification between "first" and "recurrent" ADHF hospitalizations. Because subsequent and prior hospitalizations cannot be linked to the index ADHF hospitalization, recurrent ADHF could have been misclassified in our study as a first hospitalization for ADHF. Furthermore, our definition of incident hospitalized HF is based on the lack of prior hospitalization for HF and includes patients with a prior diagnosis of HF (56%). Therefore, cases we classified as first hospitalized events may in fact include patients who experienced HF symptoms and received treatment outside the hospitalization setting. First hospitalization rates are also subject to misclassification bias with potential overestimation if prior HF hospitalizations were not noted in the abstracted medical records, especially in the early years before widespread use of electronic medical records. Therefore, these limitations could have led us to overestimate the rate of first hospitalization for ADHF. In a sensitivity analysis with an alternative definition of first ADHF, the pattern of increased event rates shifted from first to recurrent hospitalization for ADHF.

However, there is variation in the literature as to the optimal method for pinpointing the first onset of HF in population based studies. Since its inception, ARIC Community Surveillance has focused on identifying cardiovascular events that are serious enough to require hospitalization, as we have done for coronary heart disease since 1987¹¹. First hospitalization is a reasonable surrogate for HF incidence based on estimates from other studies. For example, most incident HF cases diagnosed in the outpatient setting in Olmsted County (74%) were hospitalized within 1.7 ± 3.1 years of the diagnosis⁷.

Second, as with any observation study, this analysis was not powered to detect interactions between various subgroups (e.g., race-sex interaction by HF type). But we present the results stratified by race and sex and HF type, which would address potential significant subgroup interactions. Finally, the current study did not include outpatient HF events that did not eventually result in hospital admission. The goal and design of ARIC HF Community Surveillance was to assess the burden of hospitalized ADHF rather than the total burden of HF, which naturally restricts case identification. Nevertheless, the ARIC study has been the first to differentiate hospitalization rates of ADHF from chronic HF in a biracial community-based population, focusing on acute HF in order to provide better estimates of trends of the HF burden in the general population.

Other limitations of this study include that our study population originates from four U.S. communities, is restricted to those 55 years old, and therefore does not represent the total U.S. population. National trends will vary given the different proportions of different racial and ethnic groups across the country.

In summary, in this biracial population of four U.S. communities, trends in hospitalized ADHF from 2005 to 2014 differ by sex and race with an overall increase in first hospitalization events primarily due to HFpEF. Mortality rates from ADHF are higher than what has been previously reported in other U.S. population samples. The trends seen in this current study should be confirmed in other diverse population-based studies.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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CLINICAL PERSPECTIVE

What's New

- Ten-year rates and trends of hospitalized acute decompensated heart failure (ADHF) differ by race/sex and HF type (preserved versus reduced ejection fraction, HFpEF vs HFrEF) in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Surveillance Study.
- Acute HFrEF was more common in black men and white men; acute HFpEF was most common in white women.
- Rates of hospitalized ADHF increased over time, with higher rates in blacks and rising cases of HFpEF.
- Mortality rates were ~30% at 1 year, with a more pronounced decrease over time in blacks, but generally did not differ by HF type.

Clinical Implications

- While overall national trends may vary by geographic region, blacks in the four ARIC communities had higher rates and trends of ADHF hospitalizations compared to whites, but also had lower age-adjusted 1-year case fatality in each sex group (particularly black women with HFpEF).
- This racial difference may be related to younger age of HF onset, comorbidities, and other community-level and socioeconomic factors that may affect HF trends.
- Given the national focus to decrease readmission rates for ADHF, more attention on the medical management of hospitalized patients with ADHF is also warranted.

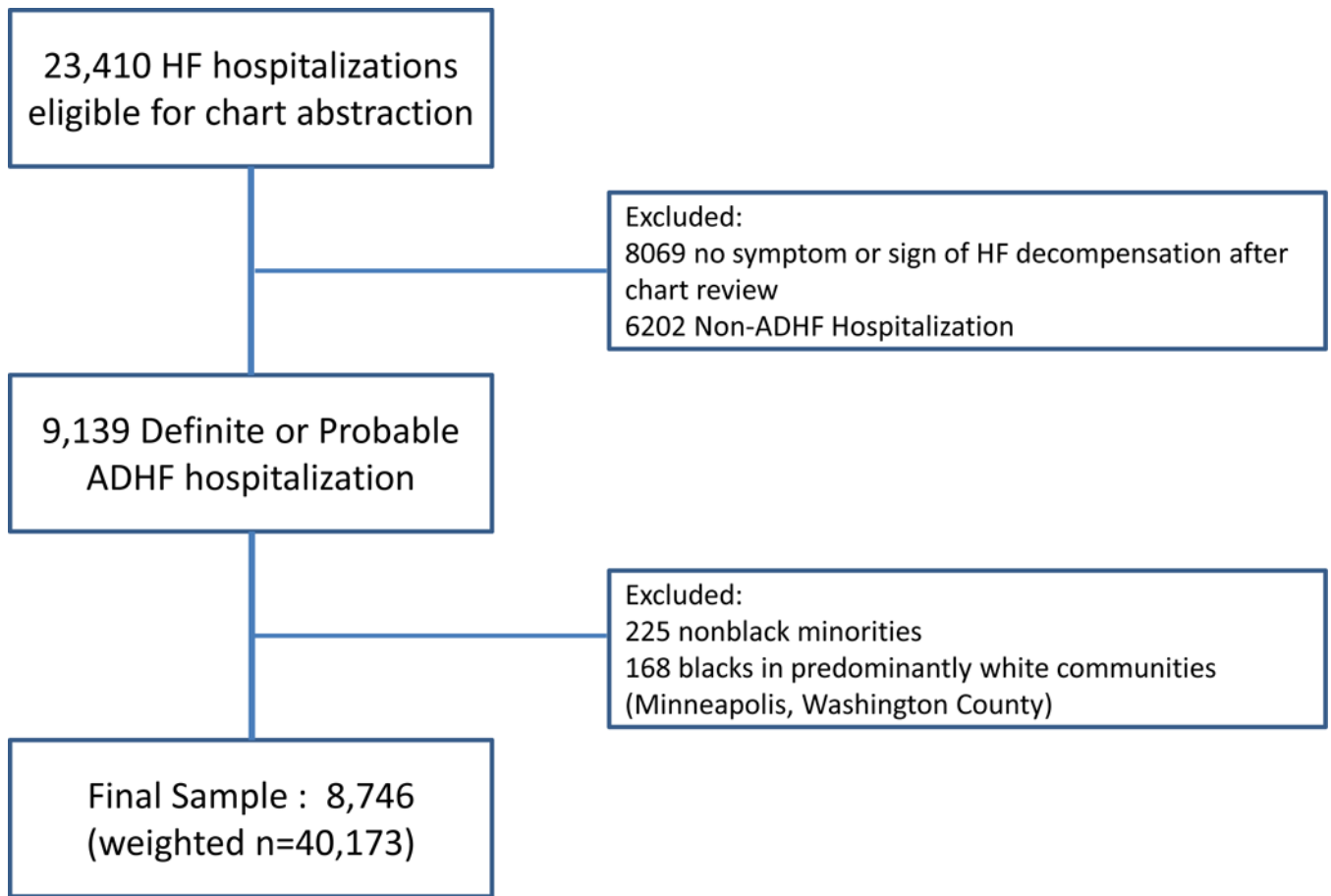


Figure 1. Flow diagram of eligible hospitalizations and the final study sample.

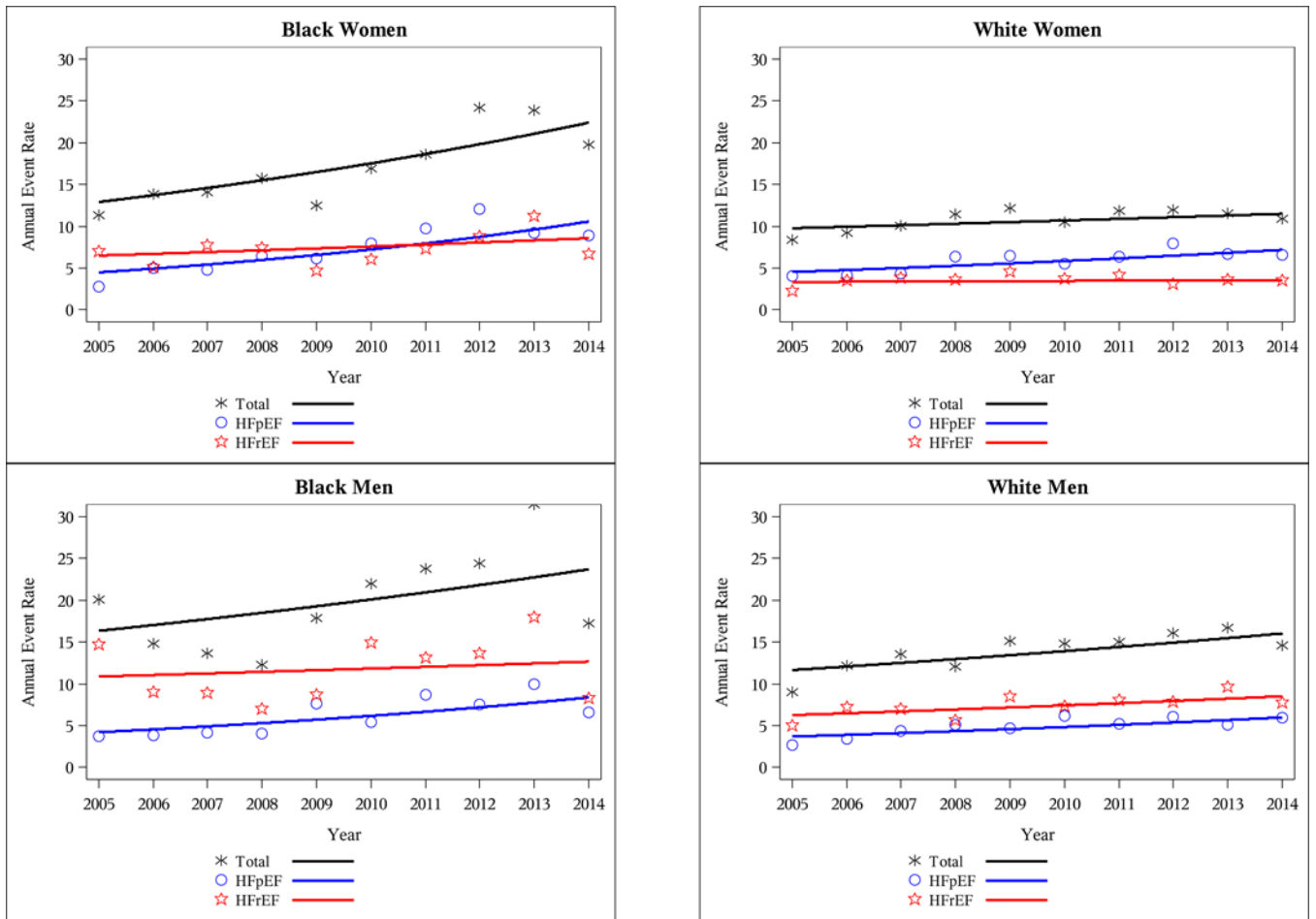


Figure 2. Age-adjusted annual event rates per 1000 for first hospitalized acute decompensated heart failure events, by heart failure type, race and sex: Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study Heart Failure Community Surveillance 2005-2014.

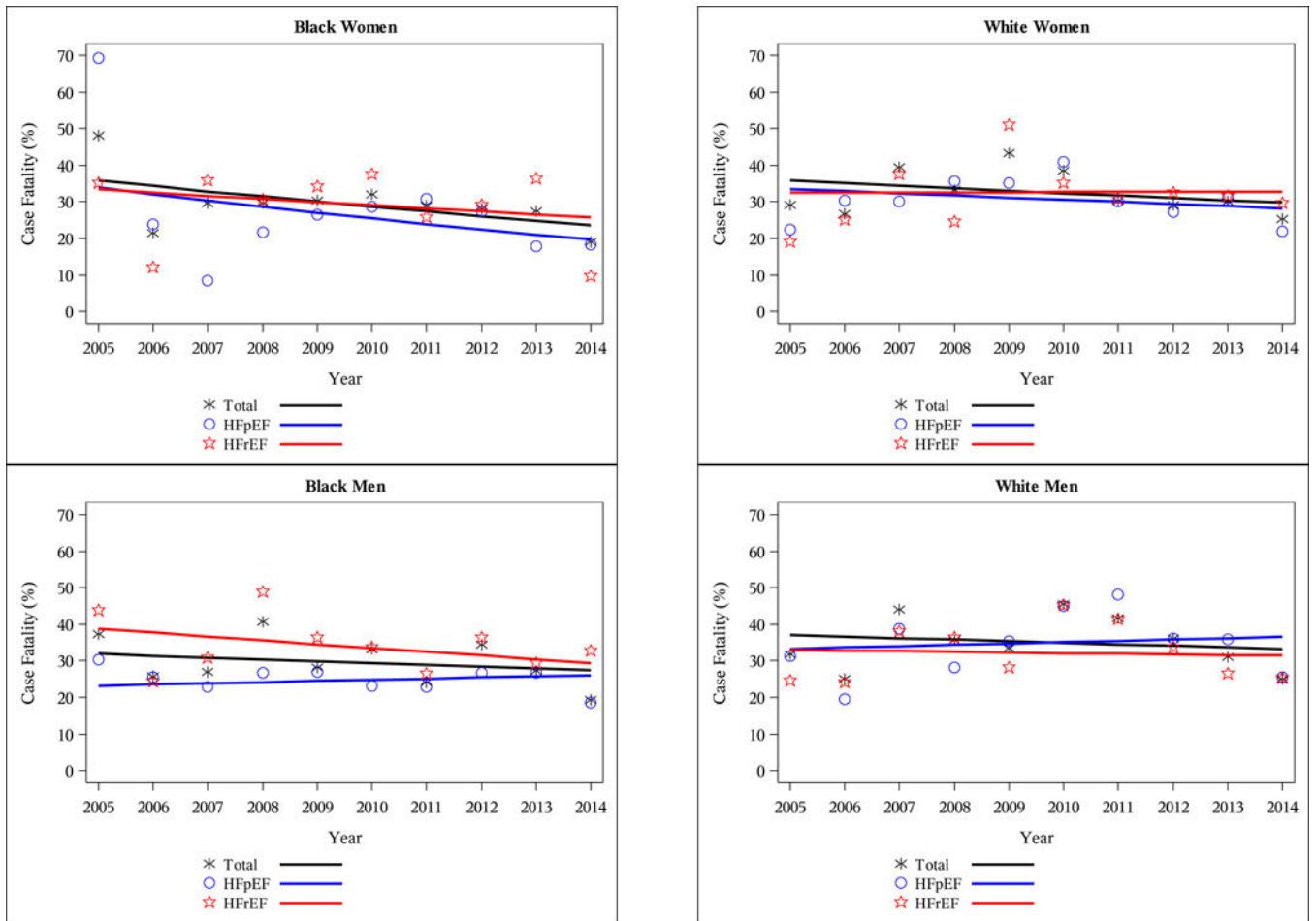


Figure 3. Age-adjusted 1-year case fatality for first hospitalized acute decompensated heart failure (ADHF) by heart failure type, race and sex: Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study Heart Failure Community Surveillance 2005-2014.

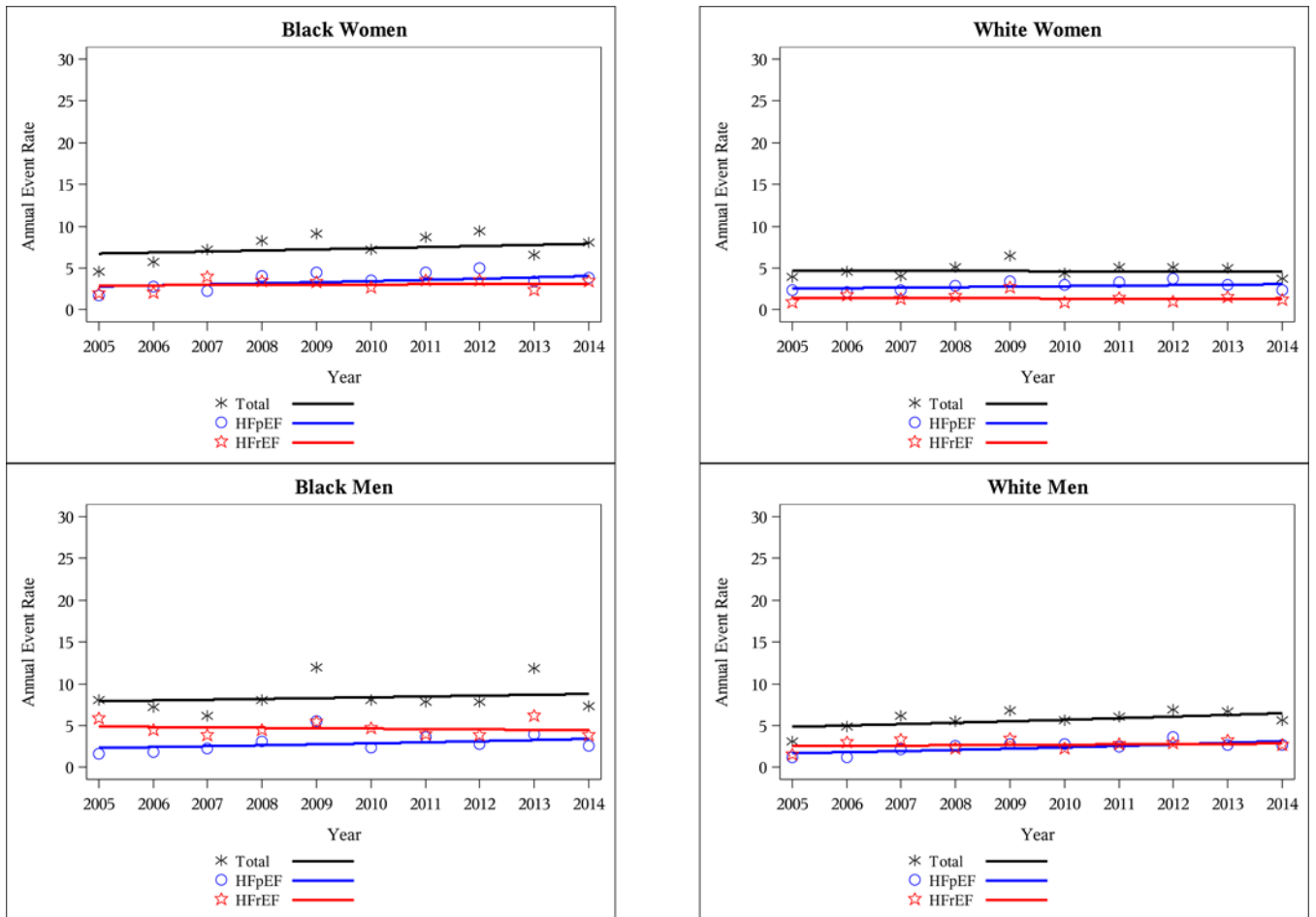


Figure 4. Age-adjusted annual event rates per 1000 for first hospitalized acute decompensated heart failure events (ADHF), by heart failure type, race and sex: Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study Heart Failure Community Surveillance 2005–2014. First ADHF was defined as cases with no history of prior heart failure diagnosis.

Table 1 Baseline characteristics of 40,176 patients hospitalized for first and recurrent acute decompensated heart failure in 2005–2014, age 55 years and older, by race and sex: Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study Heart Failure Community Surveillance.

	All ADHF (N=40,173)		First Hospitalized ADHF (N=26,028)		Recurrent Hospitalized ADHF (N=14,144)	
	Black Women (N=3613)	White Men (N=9276)	Black Men (N=2746)	White Women (N=10393)	Black Women (N=2806)	White Men (N=4462)
Mean Age (year)	72.5 (20.8)	76.3 (23.1)	69.2 (16.4)	79.3 (23.5)	72.2 (22.7)	76.8 (22.0)
Age groups (year)						
55-64	1036 (29)	1423 (15)	1087 (40)	1076 (10)	839 (30)	602 (13)
65-74	1021 (28)	2297 (25)	832 (30)	1932 (19)	739 (28)	1082 (24)
75+	1556 (43)	5555 (60)	826 (30)	7386 (71)	691 (26)	2778 (62)
HF Type						
HFpEF	1542 (43)	3251 (35)	791 (29)	5646 (54)	1018 (36)	926 (21)
HFrEF	1531 (42)	4941 (53)	1683 (61)	3431 (33)	1971 (74)	3192 (72)
Recovered HFpEF	63 (2)	286 (3)	71 (3)	247 (2)	89 (3)	139 (3)
UHF	478 (13)	797 (9)	200 (7)	1070 (10)	274 (10)	205 (5)
Comorbidities						
Prevalent CHD	1607 (44)	6518 (70)	1441 (52)	5591 (54)	1779 (63)	3765 (84)
Myocardial infarction	454 (13)	2727 (29)	456 (17)	2107 (20)	664 (24)	1986 (45)
Angina	340 (9)	1273 (14)	272 (10)	1072 (10)	460 (16)	1109 (25)
Hypertension	3296 (91)	7529 (81)	2469 (90)	8709 (84)	2584 (92)	3827 (86)
Diabetes	2080 (58)	4072 (44)	1381 (50)	4223 (41)	1773 (63)	2346 (53)
Chronic kidney disease	357 (10)	457 (5)	371 (14)	364 (4)	315 (11)	419 (9)
Atrial fibrillation or flutter	755 (21)	4102 (44)	566 (21)	4297 (41)	709 (27)	2439 (55)
Asthma/COPD	1160 (32)	3611 (39)	808 (29)	4158 (40)	1120 (40)	1991 (45)
Obesity	1545 (53)	3017 (36)	776 (35)	3534 (38)	1079 (50)	1089 (27)
Symptoms/ Signs						
Dyspnea/rales	3250 (90)	8647 (93)	2489 (91)	9615 (93)	2646 (94)	4251 (95)
Orthopnea	1171 (32)	2723 (29)	1098 (40)	2808 (27)	1140 (41)	1521 (34)
PND	492 (14)	1314 (14)	534 (19)	1169 (11)	627 (22)	671 (15)
Hypoxia	1299 (36)	4486 (48)	844 (31)	5686 (55)	925 (33)	1985 (45)

	All ADHF N= 40,173		First Hospitalized ADHF (N=26,028)				Recurrent Hospitalized ADHF (N=14,144)			
	Black Women (N=3613)	White Men (N=10393)	Black Men (N=2746)	Black Women (N=10393)	White Men (N=9276)	Black Women (N=2806)	Black Men (N=2655)	White Women (N=4221)	White Men (N=4462)	
Edema	29640 (74)	2545 (70)	1987 (72)	7274 (70)	6886 (74)	2190 (78)	2064 (78)	3156 (75)	3539 (79)	
Pulmonary edema (CXR)	18581 (48)	1753 (50)	1286 (49)	5099 (50)	4006 (45)	1441 (53)	1136 (44)	1933 (48)	1927 (46)	

Values are presented as N (%) except for mean age where values are mean (SD). Percentages were rounded to the nearest integer.

Abbreviations: CHD = coronary heart disease; COPD = chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; CXR = chest x-ray; HFpEF = heart failure with preserved ejection fraction; HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; PND = paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea; UHF = unknown subtype of heart failure (missing data for ejection fraction)

Table 2

Age-adjusted annual average event rates (AER) of hospitalized acute decompensated heart failure (ADHF) per 1000 persons in the population, and average annual percent change (AAPC), by heart failure type, race and sex: Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Heart Failure Study Community Surveillance 2005-2014.

	Total (N=40,173)		HFpEF (N=15,535)		HFrEF (N=20,015)	
	AER (per1000)	AAPC (%)	AER (per1000)	AAPC (%)	AER (per1000)	AAPC (%)
All Hospitalized ADHF						
Black Women	30.5 (29.2, 31.8) [†]	4.3 (2.7, 5.9) [*]	12.3 (11.4, 13.3) [†]	8.2 (5.2, 11.3)	13.9 (12.8, 14.9) [†]	2.0 (-0.7, 4.7)
Black Men	38.1 (36.6, 39.7)	3.7 (2.3, 5.1)	9.7 (8.7, 10.6)	5.7 (2.1, 9.4)	24.8 (23.5, 26.2)	2.8 (0.8, 4.7)
White Women	15.2 (14.7, 15.7)	1.9 (0.7, 3.1)	7.8 (7.4, 8.2)	5.9 (4.0, 8.0)	5.5 (5.2, 5.9)	-0.5 (-2.8, 1.9)
White Men	20.7 (20.0, 21.4)	2.6 (1.4, 3.8)	6.3 (5.9, 6.8)	4.6 (2.0, 7.3)	12.3 (11.7, 12.9)	2.6 (0.8, 4.4)
First Hospitalized ADHF						
Black Women	17.2 (16.1, 18.3) [†]	6.3 (3.8, 8.9) [*]	7.4 (6.7, 8.1) [†]	10.0 (6.1, 14.1) [*]	7.2 (6.5, 8.0) [†]	3.1 (-0.9, 7.4)
Black Men	19.9 (18.6, 21.2)	4.2 (1.9, 6.6)	6.2 (5.5, 7.0)	7.9 (3.4, 12.7)	11.6 (10.6, 12.7)	1.7 (-1.3, 4.8)
White Women	10.8 (10.3, 11.3)	1.8 (0.3, 3.4)	5.9 (5.5, 6.2)	5.3 (2.9, 7.7)	3.6 (3.3, 3.9)	0.7 (-2.3, 3.8)
White Men	14.0 (13.3, 14.6)	3.6 (2.0, 5.3)	4.9 (4.5, 5.3)	5.5 (2.5, 8.6)	7.4 (6.9, 7.9)	3.5 (1.1, 5.9)
Recurrent Hospitalized ADHF						
Black Women	13.3 (12.3, 14.3) [†]	1.7 (-0.9, 4.5)	4.9 (4.3, 5.6) [†]	5.6 (0.5, 10.9)	6.6 (5.9, 7.3) [†]	0.8 (-2.9, 4.7)
Black Men	18.2 (17.0, 19.5)	3.1 (0.7, 5.5)	3.4 (2.8, 4.0)	2.0 (-3.9, 8.3)	13.2 (12.1, 14.3)	3.7 (0.7, 6.7)
White Women	4.4 (4.1, 4.7)	2.0 (-0.6, 4.6)	2.0 (1.7, 2.2)	8.0 (3.9, 12.3)	2.0 (1.7, 2.2)	-2.6 (-6.6, 1.5)
White Men	6.8 (6.3, 7.2)	0.5 (-2.1, 3.1)	1.4 (1.2, 1.6)	1.7 (-3.9, 7.7)	4.9 (4.4, 5.3)	1.2 (-1.9, 4.4)

* p<0.05 for comparison between race subgroups within the HF category.

[†] p<0.05 for comparison between sex subgroups within the HF category.

Abbreviations:

AAPC = average annual percent change

AER = average event rates (number of ADHF events per year) per 1000 persons

HF = heart failure

HFpEF = heart failure with preserved ejection fraction

HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction

Table 3

Deaths within 28 days and 1 year of acute decompensated heart failure hospitalization, age-adjusted case fatality and average annual percent change (AAPC), by heart failure type, race and sex: Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study Heart Failure Community Surveillance 2005-2014.

		Total			HFpEF			HFrEF			
N	28-day CF (%)	AAPC (%)	N	28-day CF (%)	AAPC (%)	N	28-day CF (%)	AAPC (%)	N	28-day CF (%)	AAPC (%)
All Hospitalized ADHF											
Black Women	570	10.2 (8.4,12.0) [†]	161	7.2 (4.9,9.4) [‡]	2.8 (-10.2, 15.9)	302	11.6 (8.7,14.4)	-6.6 (-15.9, 2.8)			
Black Men	374	9.2 (7.5,10.9)	81	7.6 (4.6,10.5)	-0.6 (-14.6, 13.3)	261	10.0 (7.8,12.3)	-3.5 (-10.4, 3.5)			
White Women	1805	11.7 (10.4,13.1)	825	10.1 (8.3,11.8)	-1.5 (-8.4, 5.4)	651	12.2 (10.0,14.4)	-0.5 (-7.5, 6.4)			
White Men	1638	12.1 (10.7,13.5)	489	11.7 (9.3,14.2)	0.5 (-7.4, 8.4)	932	11.8 (10.1,13.6)	2.5 (-3.1, 8.1)			
First Hospitalized ADHF											
Black Women	293	9.3 (7.0,11.5) [†]	85	6.2 (3.5,8.9) [‡]	-5.7 (-24.0, 12.6)	145	10.6 (6.8,14.3)	-3.9 (-17.7, 9.9)			
Black Men	159	7.3 (5.2,9.3)	37	5.4 (2.3,8.5)	18.3 (-7.0, 43.6)	115	9.0 (6.0,12.1)	-2.9 (-14.7, 9.0)			
White Women	1279	11.5 (9.9,13.1)	591	9.8 (7.7,11.8)	-1.6 (-9.8, 6.7)	449	12.5 (9.8,15.3)	-1.0 (-9.5, 7.4)			
White Men	1065	11.8 (10.1,13.5)	371	11.4 (8.7,14.2)	-2.4 (-11.3, 6.6)	545	11.6 (9.3,13.9)	1.7 (-6.0, 9.4)			
Recurrent Hospitalized ADHF											
Black Women	277	11.5 (8.6,14.3)	76	8.7 (4.7,12.7)	13.1 (-4.4, 30.6) [*]	156	12.6 (8.5,16.8)	-9.3 (-22.3, 3.6)			
Black Men	215	11.6 (8.7,14.5)	43	11.6 (5.5,17.7)	-10.8 (-27.3, 5.6)	145	11.0 (7.6,14.4)	-4.0 (-12.4, 4.3)			
White Women	525	12.3 (9.8,14.8)	233	10.9 (7.5,14.2)	-1.7 (-14.1, 10.7)	202	11.6 (8.0,15.3)	0.3 (-12.3, 13.0)			
White Men	572	12.8 (10.4,15.2)	118	12.8 (7.4,18.1)	10.1 (-8.0, 28.2)	387	12.0 (9.3,14.7)	3.7 (-4.2, 11.6)			
N	1-year CF (%)	AAPC (%)	N	1-year CF (%)	AAPC (%)	N	1-year CF (%)	AAPC (%)			
All Hospitalized ADHF											
Black Women	1783	30.9 (28.2,33.5) ^{†‡}	597	25.2 (21.4,29.0) ^{‡‡}	-7.1 (-13.1, -1.1) [‡]	888	34.0 (30.0,38.0)	-3.1 (-7.4, 1.1)			
Black Men	1456	33.7 (30.9,36.6)	299	27.5 (22.6,32.5)	-3.7 (-9.9, 2.6)	1020	36.5 (32.7,40.4)	-4.7 (-8.0, -1.4)			
White Women	5014	33.8 (31.8,35.9)	2426	31.2 (28.5,34.0)	-2.1 (-5.3, 1.2)	1827	34.4 (31.1,37.7)	0.1 (-3.8, 3.9)			
White Men	5010	37.8 (35.7,39.8)	1506	37.0 (33.3,40.7)	2.3 (-1.6, 6.3)	2834	36.3 (33.6,39.0)	-1.9 (-4.7, 1.0)			
First Hospitalized ADHF											
Black Women	922	28.3 (25.0,31.7) [†]	347	24.5 (19.8,29.2) ^{‡‡}	-6.1 (-13.4, 1.3)	402	29.2 (23.9,34.4)	-2.9 (-9.4, 3.6)			
Black Men	649	29.4 (25.7,33.2)	170	24.0 (18.2,29.7)	1.3 (-7.6, 10.2)	415	33.4 (28.1,38.8)	-3.2 (-8.6, 2.1)			
White Women	3444	32.3 (29.9,34.8)	1736	29.9 (26.7,33.0)	-1.9 (-5.9, 2.0)	1161	32.9 (28.8,37.0)	0.1 (-4.8, 5.1)			

		Total			HFpEF			HFrEF		
	N	28-day CF (%)	AAPC (%)	N	28-day CF (%)	AAPC (%)	N	28-day CF (%)	AAPC (%)	
Recurrent Hospitalized ADHF										
White Men	3123	35.0 (32.5,37.5)	-1.2 (-4.0, 1.6)	1114	34.9 (30.8,39.0)	1.0 (-3.7, 5.7)	1507	32.2 (28.8,35.5)	-0.5 (-4.6, 3.5)	
Black Women	860	36.8 (32.2,41.4) [‡]	-5.8 (-10.4, -1.3)[‡]	250	26.4 (20.1,32.7) [‡]	-8.1 (-17.8, 1.6) [‡]	485	39.5 (33.5,45.5)	-3.2 (-8.9, 2.5)	
Black Men	806	41.4 (36.3,46.4)	-6.6 (-10.2, -3.0)	129	34.0 (25.0,43.0)	-8.4 (-17.4, 0.6)	605	39.3 (33.9,44.8)	-5.8 (-9.9, -1.8)	
White Women	1569	38.4 (34.2,42.7)	-1.2 (-5.3, 2.8)	690	35.3 (29.4,41.1)	-2.9 (-9.1, 3.2)	665	37.3 (31.7,42.8)	0.2 (-6.0, 6.4)	
White Men	1886	45.2 (41.0,49.5)	-1.0 (-4.3, 2.3)	391	44.9 (36.7,53.2)	6.4 (-0.9, 13.7)	1326	42.5 (38.0,47.0)	-3.0 (-7.1, 1.1)	

N denotes the number of deaths.

* p<0.05 for comparison between race-sex subgroups within the HF category.

[‡] p<0.05 for comparison between race subgroups within the HF category.

[‡] p<0.05 for comparison between sex subgroups within the HF category.

Abbreviations:

AAPC = average annual percent change

CF = average case fatality percentage

HF = heart failure

HFpEF = heart failure with preserved ejection fraction

HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction

Table 4

Age-adjusted annual average event rates (AER) of hospitalized acute decompensated heart failure (ADHF) per 1000 persons in the population, and average annual percent change (AAPC), by heart failure type*, race and sex: Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Heart Failure Study Community Surveillance 2005-2014.

	Total (N=40,173)		HFpEF (N=15,535)		HFrEF (N=20,015)	
	AER (per1000)	AAPC (%)	AER (per1000)	AAPC (%)	AER (per1000)	AAPC (%)
First ADHF*						
Black Women	7.5 (6.7, 8.2) ^{†‡}	1.8 (-1.7, 5.5)	3.6 (3.0, 4.1) ^{†‡}	4.2 (-1.2, 9.8)	3.0 (2.5, 3.5) ^{†‡}	0.8 (-4.8, 6.7)
Black Men	8.5 (7.6, 9.3)	1.2 (-2.3, 4.7)	3.0 (2.4, 3.5)	4.4 (-1.7, 10.8)	4.6 (4.0, 5.3)	-1.0 (-5.7, 3.8)
White Women	4.7 (4.4, 5.1)	-0.2 (-2.6, 2.3)	2.9 (2.6, 3.1)	2.1 (-1.3, 5.5)	1.4 (1.2, 1.6)	-1.4 (-6.1, 3.5)
White Men	5.8 (5.3, 6.2)	3.3 (0.6, 6.1)	2.4 (2.1, 2.7)	7.2 (2.8, 11.7)	2.7 (2.4, 3.0)	1.3 (-2.6, 5.4)
Recurrent ADHF						
Black Women	23.0 (21.8, 24.2) ^{†‡}	5.1 (3.1, 7.1) [†]	8.8 (7.9, 9.6) ^{†‡}	9.9 (6.1, 13.9) [†]	10.8 (9.9, 11.7) ^{†‡}	2.3 (-0.8, 5.6)
Black Men	29.7 (28.2, 31.2)	4.4 (2.6, 6.2)	6.7 (5.9, 7.5)	6.3 (1.8, 11.0)	20.2 (18.9, 21.5)	3.7 (1.4, 6.0)
White Women	10.5 (10.0, 10.9)	2.8 (1.2, 4.5)	5.0 (4.6, 5.3)	8.3 (5.7, 11.0)	4.1 (3.8, 4.4)	-0.1 (-2.9, 2.7)
White Men	15.0 (14.3, 15.6)	2.3 (0.7, 3.9)	3.9 (3.5, 4.2)	3.1 (-0.4, 6.7)	9.5 (9.0, 10.1)	3.0 (0.8, 5.2)

* First ADHF was defined as cases with no history of prior heart failure diagnosis.

[†] p<0.05 for comparison between race subgroups within the HF category.

[‡] p<0.05 for comparison between sex subgroups within the HF category.

Abbreviations:

AAPC = average annual percent change

AER = average event rates (number of ADHF events per year) per 1000 persons

HF = heart failure

HFpEF = heart failure with preserved ejection fraction

HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction

Table 5

Deaths within 28 days and 1 year of acute decompensated heart failure hospitalization, age-adjusted case fatality and average annual percent change (AAPC), by heart failure type*, race and sex: Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study Heart Failure Community Surveillance 2005-2014.

		Total		HFpEF		HFrEF			
	N	28-day CF (%)	AAPC (%)	N	28-day CF (%)	AAPC (%)	N	28-day CF (%)	AAPC (%)
First ADHF*									
Black Women	120	8.8 (5.4,12.2) [†]	-10.5 (-26.9, 6.0)	34	5.2(1.5,8.9) [‡]	-12.4 (-47.8, 23.1)	50	9.9(4.5,15.2)	5.7 (-13.2, 24.5)
Black Men	60	6.2 (3.3,9.0)	0.8 (-17.6, 19.3)	18	5.0(0.6,9.5)	40.7 (-10.7, 92.1)	39	7.7(3.0,12.3)	-8.0 (-28.1, 12.2)
White Women	566	11.8 (9.4,14.3)	-6.3 (-14.5, 1.8)	277	9.6(6.7,12.5)	-6.4 (-18.7, 6.0)	177	12.5(8.3,16.7)	-0.5 (-10.8, 9.9)
White Men	461	12.5 (9.7,15.2)	-2.6 (-11.8, 6.6)	177	11.0(7.2,14.9)	-2.3 (-16.3, 11.6)	242	14.3(10.1,18.5)	-3.8 (-16.2, 8.6)
Recurrent ADHF									
Black Women	449	10.7 (8.6,12.8)	-5.0 (-13.0, 3.0)	127	8.0(5.1,10.9)	6.9 (-5.8, 19.7)	252	12.2(8.9,15.5)	-3.8 (-16.2, 8.6) [‡]
Black Men	313	10.1 (8.1,12.1)	-4.2 (-10.3, 1.9)	63	8.6(4.8,12.3)	-8.7 (-22.3, 4.8)	221	10.5(8.0,13.1)	-8.8 (-19.0, 1.5)
White Women	1238	11.7 (10.1,13.3)	-0.6 (-6.2, 4.9)	547	10.3(8.1,12.5)	1.0 (-7.1, 9.1)	474	12.0(9.5,14.6)	-3.0 (-10.3, 4.4)
White Men	1177	12.0 (10.4,13.7)	-0.1 (-5.3, 5.2)	312	12.2(9.0,15.3)	2.0 (-7.6, 11.5)	689	11.2(9.2,13.1)	-0.4 (-9.2, 8.4)
First ADHF									
	N	1-year CF (%)	AAPC (%)	N	1-year CF (%)	AAPC (%)	N	1-year CF (%)	AAPC (%)
Black Women	335	23.3 (18.7,28.0)	-8.7 (-16.5, -0.8)	137	19.8 (13.7,25.9)	-6.6 (-20.1, 6.9)	130	22.9 (15.6,30.2)	-6.8 (-19.2, 5.6)
Black Men	261	28.8 (23.0,34.6)	-0.2 (-6.9, 6.5)	80	22.7 (14.4,30.9)	3.5 (-11.4, 18.5)	152	32.8 (24.1,41.5)	-1.1 (-9.1, 7.0)
White Women	1325	28.5 (25.0,31.9)	0.1 (-4.7, 4.9)	745	26.4 (22.2,30.7)	-2.2 (-8.6, 4.3)	382	28.0 (21.7,34.3)	8.6 (0.3, 16.9)
White Men	1161	31.4 (27.7,35.1)	-0.1 (-4.9, 4.8)	456	28.7 (23.3,34.2)	2.5 (-5.6, 10.6)	534	31.2 (25.8,36.5)	-0.0 (-6.9, 6.9)
Recurrent ADHF									
Black Women	1447	33.4 (30.3,36.5) ^{‡‡}	-4.9 (-8.4, -1.5)[‡]	460	27.5 (22.9,32.2) ^{‡‡}	-7.7 (-14.4, -1.1)[‡]	757	37.5 (32.8,42.1)	-2.7 (-7.3, 1.8)
Black Men	1194	35.2 (31.9,38.6)	-5.6 (-8.6, -2.6)	218	29.5 (23.4,35.5)	-5.9 (-12.8, 1.0)	868	37.6 (33.4,41.8)	-5.6 (-9.1, -2.0)
White Women	3688	36.3 (33.8,38.8)	-2.7 (-5.3, -0.1)	1681	34.1 (30.4,37.7)	-2.6 (-6.4, 1.2)	1445	36.7 (32.9,40.6)	-2.2 (-6.5, 2.1)
White Men	3849	40.4 (37.9,42.9)	-1.6 (-4.0, 0.9)	1049	42.3 (37.4,47.2)	2.8 (-1.6, 7.3)	2300	38.0 (34.9,41.2)	-2.4 (-5.5, 0.8)

* First was defined as cases with no history of prior heart failure diagnosis.

[†] p<0.05 for comparison between race subgroups within the HF category.

[‡] p<0.05 for comparison between sex subgroups within the HF category.

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N denotes the number of deaths.

Abbreviations:

AAPC = average annual percent change

CF = average case fatality percentage

HF = heart failure

HFpEF = heart failure with preserved ejection fraction

HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction