## CHANGE OVER TIME IN THE MORBIDITY PROCESS

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## The Morbidity Process



Crimmins et al. 2010. Biodemography: New Approaches to Understanding Trends and Differences in Population Health and Mortality. Demography, 47S: S41-S64.

## Death Rates in United States

- High relative to other countries - and getting relatively worse
- Relative mortality of females has deteriorated more than males
- Female death rates at older ages have not declined much over recent years


## Time change in Process Leading to Death

- Prevalence of health problems in each health dimension at multiple time points
- Progression or the link between dimensions at multiple time points
- Differences by gender


## Data

- National Health And Nutrition Examination Survey -
- 1989-1994, 1999-2002, 2007-2010
- 40+ age group - fasted, death info
- N = Time 1- 3,366 - Time 2-1,926
$\mathrm{N}=$ Time 3 - 2,752 (Death info is not considered)
- Biological Risk -Measured high risk levels 9 indicators SBP, DBP, Obese, CRP, Glycosylated Hemoglobin, HDL Cholesterol, Total Cholesterol, LDL, Triglycerides
- Chronic Diseases - 5
- diabetes, stroke, heart disease, heart attack, and cancer (except skin)


## Data (con't)

-Frailty - ADL disability - 4 items - difficulty walking from room to room on same level, difficulty getting in and out of bed, difficulty eating, and difficulty dressing.

- IADL disability - 3 items - difficulty doing chores around the house, difficulty preparing own meals, and difficulty managing money .
- Mobility disability- 2 items - difficulty walking a quarter of a mile, and difficulty walking up 10 steps without rest.
- Functional limitations - 3 items - difficulty stooping, crouching or kneeling; difficulty lifting or carrying 10 pounds; and difficulty standing from an armless chair.
Death
- -4 years after interview for first two cohorts


## Biological Risk

- First Date -
- Biological risk was higher among men until old age - then equal for men and women at later ages
- Next Date -
- Some decrease for men - Some increase for women -
- Gender cross over at younger age - at subsequent ages risk for women exceeded that of men
- Most recent date
- Large recent decline in risk for both sexes; all ages except young (40-49) women
- Gender differences in age-specific biological risk largely eliminated


## Mean Number of High-Risk Cardiovascular Risk

 Factors by Sex and Age:NHANES 1988-1994, 1999-2002, 2007-2010


## Diseases

## - Mean Number of Diseases

- Range 0-4
- Increased over time - for both men and women
- Difference between men and women widening


## Mean Number of Diseases, Females:

 NHANES 1988-1994, 1999-2002, 2007-2010

Mean Number of Diseases Males: NHANES 1988-1994, 1999-2002, 2007-2010


## - Gender Difference - Mean Number of Diseases:

 NHANES 1988-1994, 2007-2010

## Trends in disease presence for specific Diseases

- Increase in
- Diabetes - Increase
- Cancer - Increase women after 60s, Men slight increase up to old age
- Stroke - Not much change
- Heart Disease
- Women, decrease older ages
- Men, some increase old age


## What is link between biological risk score and disease

- Number of diseases
- OLS Regression at 3 time periods
- Age, age2, gender, \# high risk level biorisk factors

Regression Coefficient: Association of increase of 1 in Biological Risk on Number of diseases: OLS Coefficients 3 time periods (both sexes)


## Functioning, Mobility, ADL and IADL ability

- Time trend differs by age
- Some worsening young
- Some improvement old
- Time trend by gender
- More worsening for older men


## ADL Difficulty: NHANES



## IADL Difficulty



## Mobility Difficulty: NHANES



## Functional Limitation: NHANES



## Association of Disease and Functioning Loss, Disability

- Change over time
- Generally smaller relative effect

Association \# Diseases with ADL and IADL Difficulty: OR 3 time periods

Presence of ADL



## Mortality

- Mortality -
- 4 years after interview
- 2 time periods - 1988-1994, 1999-2002
- No mortality for most recent time period
- Lifereg - Age, age ${ }^{2}$, sex
- Presence of disease, bio risk, functioning problems


## Relative likelihood of Death for Person with Disease (compared to not having disease): 2 time points



## Relative Likelihood of Death (OR) - Number of types of

 functioning problems, Number of Diseases, Number of Biorisk Factors: 2 time points

## Sum: Changes in morbidity process

- Biological Risk declined
- Diseases increased
- More functioning problems
- Link of biological risk to disease got stronger, to death stronger
- Diseases less linked to functioning problems, Death rates lower for some diseases
- Not much change in link between functioning problems and death

Changes for males and females - similar

