Age Adjusted Death Rate Trends in Florida 1970 to 2015

In general, age adjusted death rates in Florida have declined since 1970. The overall age adjusted death rate (AADR) per 100,000 population was 1119.9 in 1970 and decreased to 679.8 in 2015. This is a 39% decrease in the AADR from 1970 to 2015, and an average annual percent decrease of 1.107%. However, the trend has been essentially flat since 2009. The decreasing AADR is reflected in the increasing trend in life expectancy at birth. This was 71.1 years in 1970 and increased by 11.3% to 79.1 in 2015. The AADR is lower for females compared to males. Graph 1 shows the AADR by gender and overall for 1970 to 2015.

The two largest categories of death causes are Heart Disease and Cancer as defined by the National Center for Health Statistics in the list of 50 rankable causes of death. These two categories accounted for 54% of all deaths in 1970 and 47% of all deaths in 2015. This percentage was highest in the 1980’s when heart Disease and Cancer comprised around 60% of all deaths.
Graph 2 shows the AADR’s for Heart Disease, Cancer and all other causes for 1970 to 2015. In 1970 the heart disease AADR was twice the AADR for Cancer. This changed steadily from 1970 to 2007 to the point where the AADR’s for Cancer and Heart Disease were equal at 163.8 per 100,000 population in 2007. Since then both AADR’s have been very close.

Graphs 3 and 4 show the male and female AADR’s for the three cause groups from 1970 to 2015. The pattern shown in the male and female AADR’s is similar to the pattern for the overall rates, although in general, the rates for females are lower than the rates for males.
Graphs 5 and 6 show the AADR trends for Black and White Races respectively. Again the pattern is similar to the overall pattern in Graph 2. The Heart Disease AADR steadily decreases to the point where the AADR’s for Heart Disease and Cancer are virtually the same. In general the AADR’s for White race are lower than the AADR’s for Black race.
Graph 7 shows the overall AADR’s for Black and White race. On Graph 7 the difference between the AADR’s for Black and White races began to get smaller around 2002. This continued until the two AADR’s were close in 2015 at 725.4 and 673.4 for Black and White respectively. The rate ratio for these two rates is 1.08. In contrast, the rate ratio in 1970 was 1.43.
Graphs 8, 9 and 10 are the AADR’s by race for Heart Disease, Cancer, and all other causes respectively. These graphs show the same pattern as Graph 7 in the decreasing gap between the Black and White AADR’s.
Conclusions

From 1973 to 2009 AADR’s declined steadily. Since 2009 AADR’s have generally been unchanged.

Deaths from Heart Disease and Cancer account for nearly half of all deaths. The AADR for Heart Disease was more than double the AADR for Cancer in 1970. Since then the AADR for Heart Disease has decreased more than the AADR for Cancer and since 2008 the two AADR’s have been very close.

The gap in AADR’s for Black versus White race has decreased since 1970. This is true for Heart Disease, Cancer, male and Female AADR’s. The ratio of Black to White AADR decreased from 1.43 in 1970 to 1.08 in 2015.