

Society of Actuaries Shows Continued Young Adult Mortality Spike

"The White-Collar group continues to have the highest mortality.": Part 10



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JUN 01, 2023



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In the past few days, the Society of Actuaries issued its May 2023 report, which updates U.S. group life insurance mortality [through December 2022](#).

Thrilling, we know.

It's a depressing topic, but is essential to explore if we truly want to understand the Covid era and avoid similar mistakes.

In past reports, we showed that in 2020, the initial Covid year, Americans who were older and more unhealthy died in large numbers. Then, in 2021, young and middle-age healthy people began dying at unprecedentedly high rates.

- [Where Did All the Workers Go?: Part 5](#)
- [Mortality Play: 2020 vs. 2021-22: Part 7](#)

By 2022, the milder Omicron variant dominated. One might have presumed, therefore, that mortality would have reverted to normal, or even below normal, to make up for the two prior terrible years. And yet the new SOA figures, which aggregate around 90% of all U.S. employer-based group term life policies, show that 2022 was another awful year – especially for young adults.

Table 5.8

EXCESS MORTALITY BY DETAILED AGE BAND

Age	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Apr. 2020 –Dec. 2022	COVID (%)	Non- COVID (%)	Count (%)
0-24	124%	104%	101%	119%	128%	112%	99%	104%	119%	108%	112%	2.8%	9.3%	2%
25-34	131%	120%	118%	132%	179%	137%	126%	121%	127%	123%	131%	9.9%	21.1%	2%
35-44	133%	127%	129%	134%	201%	158%	134%	123%	126%	134%	139%	17.2%	21.3%	4%
45-54	126%	129%	132%	119%	179%	151%	128%	107%	112%	123%	130%	19.9%	10.0%	9%
55-64	122%	129%	129%	114%	152%	139%	123%	100%	105%	116%	122%	17.4%	5.1%	18%
65-74	115%	132%	130%	108%	130%	124%	116%	95%	100%	104%	116%	14.0%	1.5%	17%
75-84	113%	133%	123%	105%	119%	122%	121%	102%	107%	107%	115%	11.3%	3.8%	20%
85+	103%	124%	111%	92%	105%	107%	105%	91%	93%	92%	103%	8.6%	-5.5%	27%
All Ages^a	115%	128%	123%	107%	134%	126%	117%	99%	104%	107%	116%	13.0%	2.9%	100%

a. Includes only companies that provided Age splits; see second bullet at the beginning of Section 5.

Source: SOA [May 2023 Group Life Report](#).

As you can see in the table above, 25-54 year olds continued to suffer at high rates. The data show 2022 mortality rates for working American young adults age 25-44 were 21-34% higher than normal for the entire year. For 45-54 year olds, the quarterly excess ranged from 7% to 28%. Not as bad as 2021, but far, far higher than expected when we should be enjoying mortality *deficits* to make up for 2020 and 2021.

The vast majority of excess mortality in 2022, as seen in the table below, is classified as non-Covid.

Table 5.10

EXCESS MORTALITY BY DETAILED AGE BAND – NON-COVID ONLY

Age	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Apr. 2020– Dec. 2022
0-24	93%	113%	123%	101%	98%	117%	120%	107%	95%	103%	118%	107%	109%
25-34	100%	119%	125%	112%	108%	126%	145%	116%	114%	120%	126%	122%	121%
35-44	105%	113%	122%	112%	112%	123%	140%	118%	116%	121%	124%	133%	121%
45-54	98%	110%	114%	107%	105%	106%	121%	109%	102%	105%	110%	122%	110%
55-64	97%	104%	110%	105%	99%	103%	115%	105%	99%	99%	103%	114%	105%
65-74	98%	103%	105%	107%	101%	101%	109%	103%	95%	93%	97%	102%	102%
75-84	100%	102%	105%	108%	99%	101%	108%	109%	103%	99%	103%	105%	104%
85+	96%	99%	97%	103%	94%	89%	98%	99%	93%	88%	89%	90%	95%
Unknown	56%	55%	61%	51%	59%	45%	62%	76%	53%	68%	87%	99%	65%
All Excl Unknown	98%	104%	106%	106%	99%	100%	110%	105%	99%	97%	101%	105%	103%
All Ages^a	98%	103%	106%	106%	99%	100%	110%	105%	99%	97%	101%	105%	103%

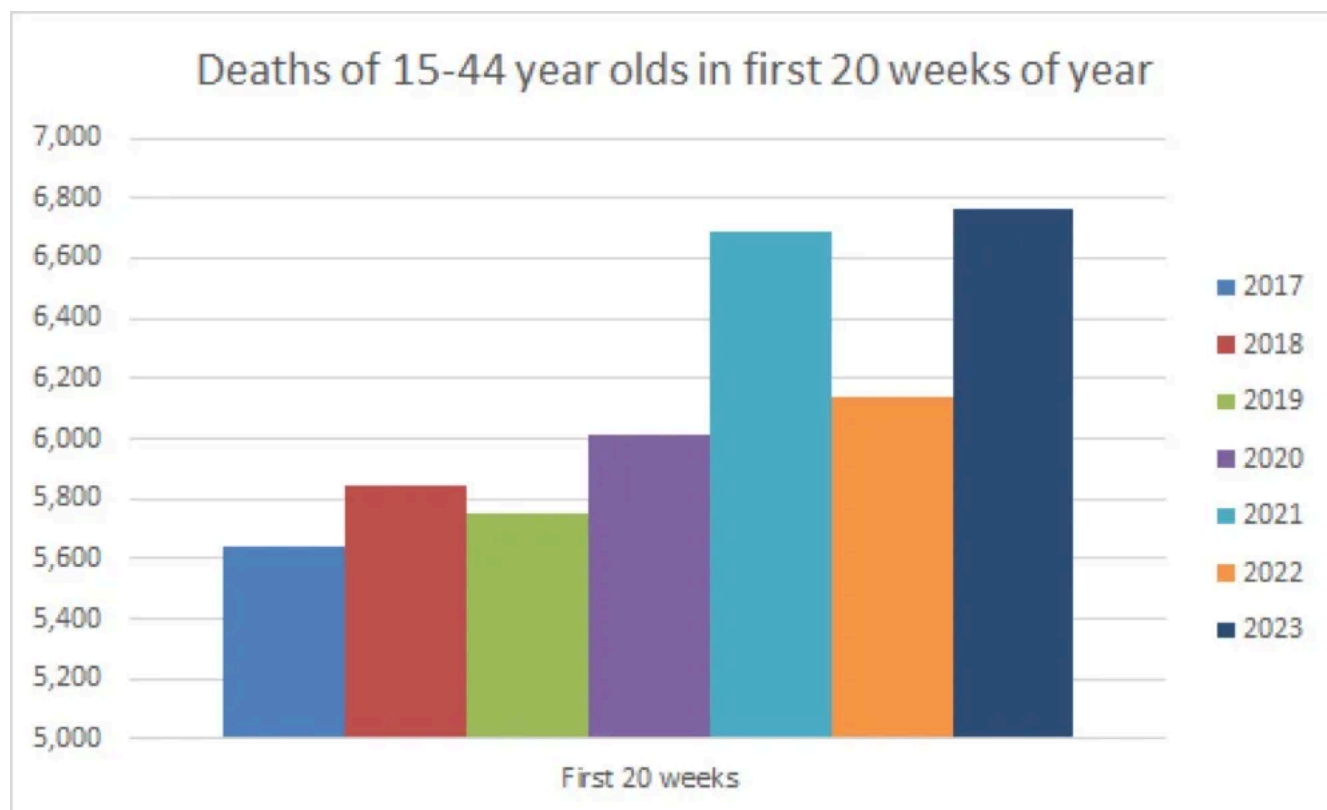
a. Includes only companies that provided claims split by age; see second bullet at the beginning of Section 5.

Source: SOA [May 2023 Group Life Report](#).

International data from high-income nations shows the same pattern in 2021 and 2022. We recently highlighted Japan and Germany.

- **Japan Matches Germany's 2022 Mortality Spike: Part 9**

Here is early 2023 data from England and Wales, showing continued excess mortality among 15-44 year old Brits.



Source: Office of National Statistics, UK, via [Dr. Clare Craig](#).

Back in the U.S., the Society of Actuaries notes another surprising finding:

The Gray-Collar group had the lowest actual-to-expected ratios (A/E's) relative to baseline over the pandemic period at around 10%, followed by the Blue-Collar group at 14%. **The White-Collar group continues to have the highest mortality A/E relative to baseline at 19% during the pandemic period.**

Why are public health authorities in the U.S. and around the world, who panicked over Covid, so silent and unconcerned when it comes to an unprecedented

epidemic of non-Covid deaths in young cohorts, now extending into year number four?

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kevin Jun 4, 2023

Bret, I wish I knew - for certain - the answer to your last question.

If I go with the razor ... there is no money or power to be had. And this implies a very depraved set of behaviors carried out by many who would be leaders. distressing.

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norstadt about data Jun 2, 2023 · edited Jun 2, 2023

I had been exploring CDC data on this topic as well. We should be able to learn from the fact that some US states are far better than others. But the whole subject is taboo.

This would be the case if the medical establishment knows the cause and has culpability.

<https://norstadt.substack.com/p/excess-mortality-for-25-44-year-olds>

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