

Rates of intentional self-harm vary greatly among Asian subgroups when disaggregated and may show geographic clustering.

Introduction

Among American youth aged 15-24, Asian Americans (AA) stand out as the only racial group for whom intentional self-harm (suicide) ranks as the primary cause of death from 2014 to 2020. Despite this, lack of data disaggregation between Asian subgroups hinders a comprehensive understanding of this statistic. This study aims to assess completed suicide data among AA youths among the six major Asian-American subgroups from 2011 to 2020.

Methods

This cross-sectional study extracted U.S. death certificate data from the National Center of Vital Statistics for youth aged 15-24 from 2011-2020. Annual suicide numbers were extracted overall and by sex, age group (15-20, 20-24), nativity status (foreign-born, native), location of death, and race— the six Asian American subgroups (Chinese excluding Taiwanese, Asian Indian, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese) and non-Hispanic White (NHW) decedents for comparison. Age-standardized mortality rates (ASMR) were computed by adjusting for age, sex, and disaggregated Asian subgroups based on the 2010 U.S. standard population. Proportional Mortality (PM) and Proportional Mortality Ratios (PMR) were calculated to estimate the relative burden of suicide among total deaths for each race and the PM for each Asian subgroup in comparison to NHWs, respectively.

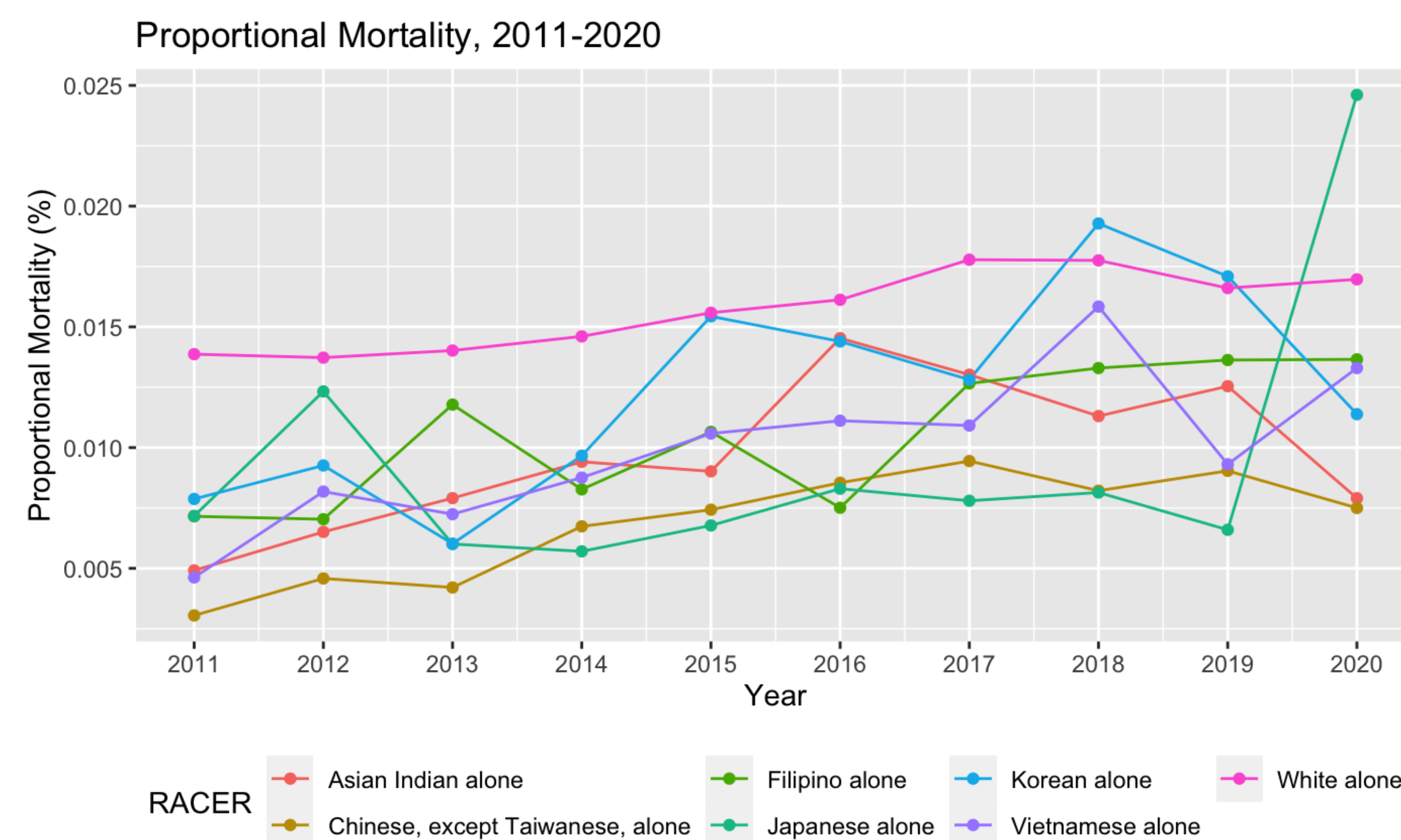


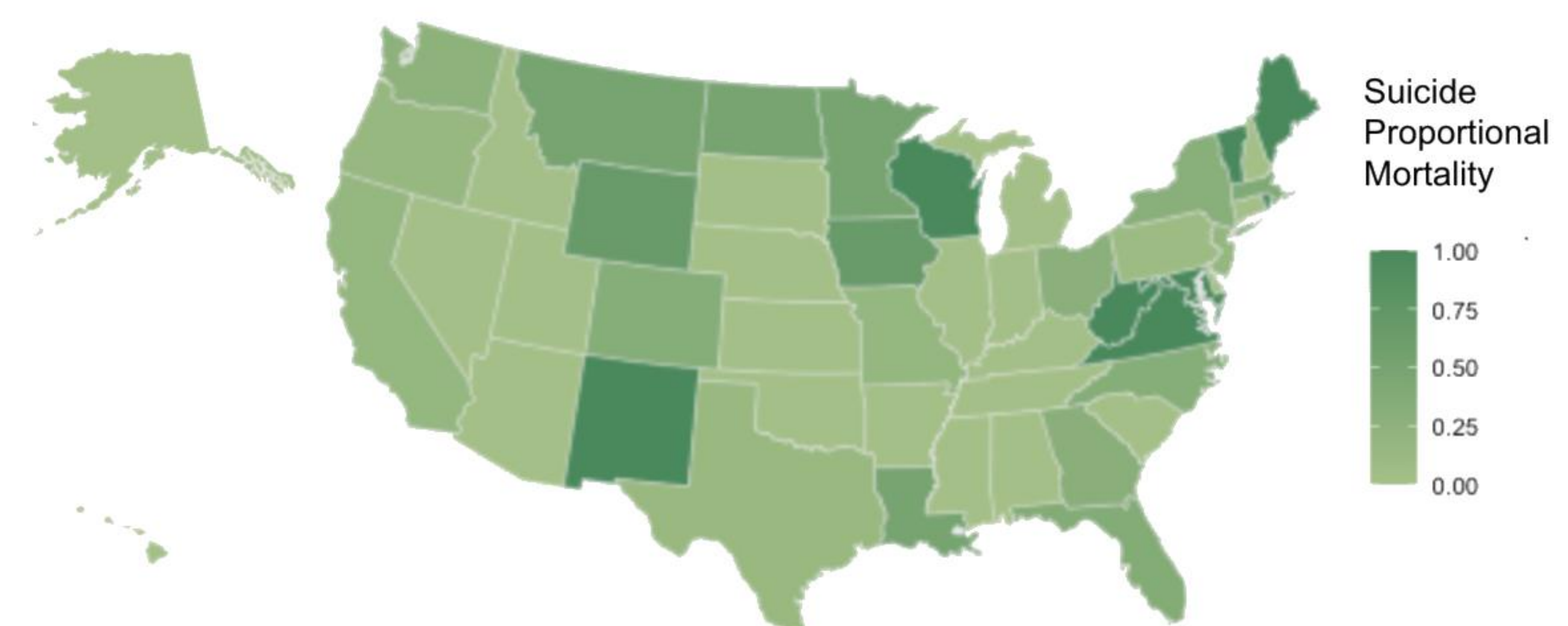
Figure 1 (left)

Proportional Mortality from 2011-2020, stratified by racial group.

Intentional Self-Harm Mortality Among 15-24 Year Olds in Asian American Subgroups, 2011-2020

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Results

Analyzing PM, aggregated Asian American suicide rates for this age group follow similar trends as their NHW counterpart, increasing from 2011-2018 and declining slightly from 2018-2020. Disaggregated, Koreans reported higher PM than NHWs in 2018 and 2019, and Japanese alone report higher PM than NHWs in 2020. For Filipino alone, Japanese alone, Vietnamese alone and White alone, native born youths had higher rates of completed suicides than their foreign-born counterparts.