



# Sustained Lower Incidence of Diabetes-Related End-Stage Kidney Disease Among American Indians and Alaska Natives, Blacks, and Hispanics in the U.S., 2000–2016

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## OBJECTIVE

Diabetes-related end-stage kidney disease (ESKD-D) disproportionately affects U.S. racial/ethnic minority populations compared with whites. However, from 1996 to 2013, ESKD-D incidence among American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIANs) and blacks declined. We assessed recent ESKD-D incidence data to determine whether trends by race/ethnicity have changed since 2013.

## RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

United States Renal Data System data from 2000 to 2016 were used to determine the number of whites, blacks, AIANs, Asians, and Hispanics aged  $\geq 18$  years with newly treated ESKD-D (with diabetes listed as primary cause). Using census population estimates as denominators, annual ESKD-D incidence rates were calculated and age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Joinpoint regression was used to analyze trends and estimate an average annual percent change (AAPC) in incidence rates.

## RESULTS

For adults overall, from 2000 to 2016, age-adjusted ESKD-D incidence rates decreased by 53% for AIANs (66.7–31.2 per 100,000, AAPC  $-4.5\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), by 33% for Hispanics (50.0–33.3,  $-2.1\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), and by 20% for blacks (56.2–44.7,  $-1.6\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ). However, during the study period, age-adjusted ESKD-D incidence rates did not change significantly for Asians and increased by 10% for whites (15.4–17.0,  $0.6\%$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). In 2016, ESKD-D incidence rates in AIANs, Hispanics, and blacks were  $\sim 2.0$ – $2.5$  times higher than whites.

## CONCLUSIONS

ESKD-D incidence declined for AIANs, Hispanics, and blacks and increased for whites. Continued efforts might be considered to reverse the trend in whites and sustain and lower ESKD-D incidence in the other populations.

In the U.S., diabetes is the leading cause of end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) (i.e., kidney failure requiring dialysis or transplantation), accounting for 47% of newly treated cases of ESKD in 2016 (1). This proportion varies among racial and ethnic groups, ranging from 43% among blacks to 74% among American Indians and Alaska

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Natives (AIANs) (1). Although diabetes burden remains highest among AIANs (2), their diabetes-related ESKD (ESKD-D) incidence declined by 54% between 1996 and 2013, more than other racial or ethnic groups (3). ESKD-D incidence during this period also declined significantly by 18% for blacks (3). Between 1996 and 2013, the ratio in age-adjusted ESKD-D incidence compared with whites was reduced from 4.7 times to 1.7 times higher in AIAN adults and from 4.3 times to 2.8 times higher in black adults.

In the U.S. population with diabetes overall, after declining for more than a decade, the incidence of ESKD-D has leveled off since 2010 (4,5). Furthermore, after increasing for many years, the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes has declined in AIANs and leveled off in other U.S. racial/ethnic groups (6,7). Thus, we wanted to explore whether recent trends in ESKD-D incidence by race or ethnicity have changed.

## RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

Data from the United States Renal Data System (USRDS) were analyzed to assess trends in the incidence of ESKD-D among U.S. adults from 2000 to 2016. The USRDS (funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health) is a surveillance system for ESKD that is based on clinical and claims data reports to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) (1). The CMS Medicare program covers ESKD treatment for beneficiaries regardless of age and pays >80% of the cost of ESKD treatment in the U.S. (1). Data from the CMS Medical Evidence Report form (CMS 2728) collected by USRDS include demographic (e.g., age, sex, race, ethnicity) and ESKD-related (e.g., first date of treatment, primary cause of ESKD) information. Renal care providers are required to complete the CMS Medical Evidence Report for each new patient with ESKD, regardless of Medicare eligibility status.

For each year studied, USRDS data were used to determine the number of adults aged  $\geq 18$  years in the U.S. who began treatment (dialysis or kidney transplantation) for ESKD-D (i.e., with diabetes listed as the primary cause of ESKD). Data were analyzed for adults overall and by age-group for whites, blacks, AIANs, Asians, and Hispanics. Racial groups included people of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin; the

Hispanic group included people of any race. For each year from 2000 to 2016, ESKD-D incidence was calculated as the number of newly treated adults divided by the respective age- and race- or ethnicity-specific resident population estimates from the U.S. census. ESKD-D incidence for adults overall was age adjusted by the direct method to the 2000 U.S. population using age-groups 18–44, 45–64, 65–74, and  $\geq 75$  years (8). Trends were examined using Joinpoint Regression Program version 4.3.1.0 software (Statistical Methodology and Applications Branch and Data Modeling Branch, Surveillance Research Program, National Cancer Institute) (9). Joinpoint regression uses permutation tests to identify points where linear trends change significantly in either direction or magnitude. Each trend segment is described by an annual percent change (APC) with a 95% CI; the overall trend is described by an average APC (AAPC) with its corresponding 95% CI. The rate of change for linear trends was tested to determine whether it was significantly different from 0, and results were considered statistically significant with a two-sided  $P < 0.05$ .

## RESULTS

Selected characteristics of the study population are shown in Table 1. For AIANs, the absolute number of adults starting ESKD-D treatment declined by 6% from 878 in 2000 to 825 in 2016. In contrast, for the other racial/ethnic groups, the number starting ESKD-D treatment increased from 2000 to 2016 (27,306–38,794 [42%] for whites, 11,355–13,742 [21%] for blacks, 6,897–10,187 [48%] for Hispanics, 1,141–2,618 [129%] for Asians) (Table 1).

### ESKD-D Incidence Trends From 2000 to 2016

From 2000 to 2016, the age-adjusted ESKD-D incidence rates for adults overall decreased for AIANs by 53% from 66.7 to 31.2 per 100,000 (AAPC  $-4.5\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), decreased for Hispanics by 33% from 50.0 to 33.3 per 100,000 ( $-2.1\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), and decreased for blacks by 20% from 56.2 to 44.7 per 100,000 ( $-1.6\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) (Table 2 and Fig. 1). For Asians, the age-adjusted ESKD-D incidence rates did not change significantly and remained  $\sim 20.0$  per 100,000 throughout the study period. On the other hand, for whites, the age-adjusted ESKD-D incidence rates increased

by 10% from 15.4 per 100,000 in 2000 to 17.0 per 100,000 in 2016 ( $0.6\%$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ).

During the study period, among people aged 18–44 years, ESKD-D incidence rates remained stable for AIANs (AAPC  $-0.8\%$ ,  $P = 0.81$ ) and for whites ( $0.7\%$ ,  $P = 0.06$ ) but increased for Asians from 1.2 to 2.0 per 100,000 ( $4.3\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), for blacks from 8.0 to 10.3 per 100,000 ( $1.8\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), and for Hispanics from 3.9 to 4.4 per 100,000 ( $1.1\%$ ,  $P = 0.03$ ) (Table 2). In the age-groups  $> 18$ –44 years, ESKD-D incidence rates from 2000 to 2016 declined for AIANs, blacks, and Hispanics (Table 2 and Fig. 2). For Asians, ESKD-D incidence rates throughout the study period remained stable for those aged 45–64 years and  $\geq 75$  years and decreased for those aged 65–74 years from 75.6 to 61.1 per 100,000 ( $-1.3\%$ ,  $P = 0.001$ ). On the other hand, for whites, ESKD-D incidence rates increased for those aged 45–64 years from 20.7 to 23.3 per 100,000 ( $0.8\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and  $\geq 75$  years from 37.3 to 46.2 per 100,000 ( $1.4\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and remained stable for those aged 65–74 years (Table 2).

### ESKD-D Incidence Trends Between 2000 and 2016

For AIANs overall, the decline in rates occurred between 2000 and 2013 (APC  $-5.6\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), and then rates leveled off through 2016 (Table 2 and Fig. 2). Between 2000 and 2016, ESKD-D incidence rates remained stable for AIANs aged 18–44 years. For AIANs aged 45–64 years, ESKD-D rates declined from 2000 to 2013 ( $-5.8\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and then leveled off to 46.6 per 100,000 in 2016. For AIANs aged 65–74 years, rates declined from 2000 to 2012 ( $-7.6\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and then leveled off to 92.8 per 100,000 in 2016. For AIANs aged  $\geq 75$  years, rates declined consistently throughout the study period from 119.3 per 100,000 in 2000 to 61.9 per 100,000 in 2016 ( $-4.2\%$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).

ESKD-D incidence among blacks declined from 2000 to 2008 (APC  $-0.7\%$ ,  $P = 0.048$ ) and more steeply from 2008 to 2012 ( $-4.3\%$ ,  $P = 0.009$ ) before leveling off from 2012 to 2016 (Table 2). This trend pattern—an initial period of decline followed by a stabilization in rates—was also seen among blacks aged 18–44, 45–64, and 65–74 years (Table 2 and Fig. 2). Among blacks aged  $\geq 75$  years, ESKD-D incidence declined steadily throughout the study period from 131.9 to 118.8 per

**Table 1—Number of U.S. adults aged ≥18 years beginning treatment for diabetes-related ESKD by race or ethnicity,\* sex, age, and treatment modality, 2000 and 2016**

	AIANs, n (%)		Asians, n (%)		Blacks, n (%)		Whites, n (%)		Hispanics, n (%)	
	2000	2016	2000	2016	2000	2016	2000	2016	2000	2016
Total	878	825	1,141	2,618	11,355	13,742	27,306	38,794	6,897	10,187
Sex										
Male	397 (45.2)	440 (53.3)	602 (52.8)	1,546 (59.1)	4,800 (42.3)	7,054 (51.3)	14,282 (52.3)	22,755 (58.7)	3,451 (50.0)	5,890 (57.8)
Female	481 (54.8)	385 (46.7)	539 (47.2)	1,072 (40.9)	6,555 (57.7)	6,688 (48.7)	13,024 (47.7)	16,039 (41.3)	3,446 (50.0)	4,297 (42.2)
Age (years)										
18–44	88 (10.0)	124 (15.0)	61 (5.3)	156 (6.0)	1,195 (10.5)	1,741 (12.7)	2,644 (9.7)	2,776 (7.2)	640 (9.3)	1,053 (10.3)
45–64	514 (58.6)	422 (51.2)	438 (38.4)	944 (36.1)	5,450 (48.0)	6,294 (45.8)	10,848 (39.7)	15,665 (40.4)	3,372 (48.9)	4,927 (48.4)
65–74	210 (23.9)	205 (24.8)	384 (33.7)	789 (30.1)	3,086 (27.2)	3,639 (26.5)	8,214 (30.1)	12,161 (31.3)	1,924 (27.9)	2,667 (26.2)
≥75	66 (7.5)	74 (9.0)	258 (22.6)	729 (27.8)	1,624 (14.3)	2,068 (15.0)	5,600 (20.5)	8,192 (21.1)	961 (13.9)	1,540 (15.1)
Treatment modality										
Hemodialysis	802 (91.3)	754 (91.4)	1,030 (90.3)	2,241 (85.6)	10,698 (94.2)	12,689 (92.3)	24,361 (89.2)	34,800 (89.7)	6,413 (93.0)	9,290 (91.2)
Peritoneal dialysis	70 (8.0)	68 (8.2)	97 (8.5)	356 (13.6)	586 (5.2)	1,000 (7.3)	2,457 (9.0)	3,636 (9.4)	433 (6.3)	845 (8.3)
Transplant	NA†	NA†	NA†	20	22	48	299	318	17	46
Unknown	NA†	NA†	NA†	—†	49	—†	189	40	34	—†

NA, not available. \*Racial groups include people of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin; Hispanics may be of any race. †Cell size ≤10.

100,000 (−1.7%,  $P < 0.001$ ). ESKD-D incidence also declined throughout the study period for Hispanics aged 45–64, 65–74, and ≥75 years (Table 2). However, among Hispanics aged 18–44 years, ESKD-D incidence remained unchanged between 2000 and 2003, increased between 2003 and 2009 (4.0%,  $P = 0.001$ ), and then leveled off between 2009 and 2016.

Among Asians overall, ESKD-D incidence between 2000 and 2016 did not change significantly, and trends by age-group were similar to the overall trend (Table 2 and Fig. 2). For whites overall, ESKD-D incidence increased from 2000 to 2006 (APC 0.8%,  $P = 0.01$ ), leveled off from 2006 to 2012, and increased again from 2012 to 2016 (2.1%,  $P = 0.001$ ) (Table 2). However, somewhat different trend patterns were seen by age-group. ESKD-D incidence increased for whites aged 18–44 years from 2005 to 2016 (1.6%,  $P < 0.001$ ), for those aged 45–64 years from 2000 to 2011 (0.3%,  $P = 0.009$ ), and more steeply from 2011 to 2016 (1.9%,  $P < 0.001$ ); for those aged 65–74 years from 2012 to 2016 (1.6%,  $P = 0.03$ ); and for those aged ≥75 years from 2000 to 2005 (3.6%,  $P < 0.001$ ) and then again from 2012 to 2016 (2.2%,  $P = 0.03$ ) (Table 2).

## CONCLUSIONS

The ESKD-D incidence rate among AIAN adults overall declined by 53% from 2000 to 2016, more than for other race and ethnicity groups and similar to a previous report for this population (3). During

the study period, the ratio in incidence rates between AIANs and whites decreased by more than one-half, from 4.3 times in 2000 to 1.8 times in 2016. Although not as steep as the decline seen in AIANs, ESKD-D incidence rates declined by 20% for blacks and by 33% for Hispanics, also narrowing the gap with whites in these two population groups. Despite these declines, ESKD-D incidence rates in 2016 for AIANs, Hispanics, and blacks remained nearly twice as high or higher compared with whites. Furthermore, after an initial significant decline, ESKD-D incidence rates leveled off for AIANs from 2013 to 2016 and for blacks from 2009 to 2016, a finding that is consistent with the recent plateau in ESKD-D incidence in the overall U.S. diabetic population (4,5). This plateau in ESKD-D incidence after about a decade of continued decline may be due in part to the disproportionately higher prevalence of diagnosed diabetes in AIANs and blacks compared with whites (2) in combination with the reduction in diabetes-related mortality in AIANs (10,11). Because incidence of ESKD-D was defined by people beginning ESKD treatment in a given year, other factors may have affected incidence, including changes in treatment and care practices (e.g., when to begin dialysis) (1,12).

The significant reduction in ESKD-D incidence among AIANs parallels sustained improvements in glycemic, lipid, and blood pressure control for AIANs

with diabetes (3,13–16). In 2014, among AIANs with diabetes, 76% were prescribed ACE inhibitors or angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs) compared with 56% of U.S. adults with diabetes during 2009–2014 (3,17). Among AIAN patients with diabetes and hypertension or chronic kidney disease (CKD), prescription of ACE inhibitors or ARBs between 2003 and 2015 was ~80% (3). Furthermore, in 2015, blood pressure levels among AIANs with diabetes and hypertension were well controlled (mean 133/76 mmHg) (3,13). These advances, in turn, likely resulted from improvements in patient care provided by the Indian Health Service (IHS), tribal, and urban Indian health facilities and services funded by the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) (3,13,15,16). Starting in the mid-1980s, IHS, tribal, and urban Indian health facilities implemented population health and team-based approaches to diabetes care, including CKD testing and CKD case management as part of diabetes care, with the goal of reducing risk factors for diabetes complications (3,15). These efforts were complemented and supported, in part, by the SDPI grant programs that have successfully implemented evidence-based and community-driven strategies to prevent and treat diabetes since 1997 (13,15,16).

In addition to declines in ESKD-D incidence in AIAN people, diabetes prevalence and mortality, diabetic retinopathy, and hospitalizations for uncontrolled

**Table 2—Incidence rates of diabetes-related ESKD and incidence trend analysis among adults aged ≥18 years by race or ethnicity\* and age-group, U.S., 2000–2016**

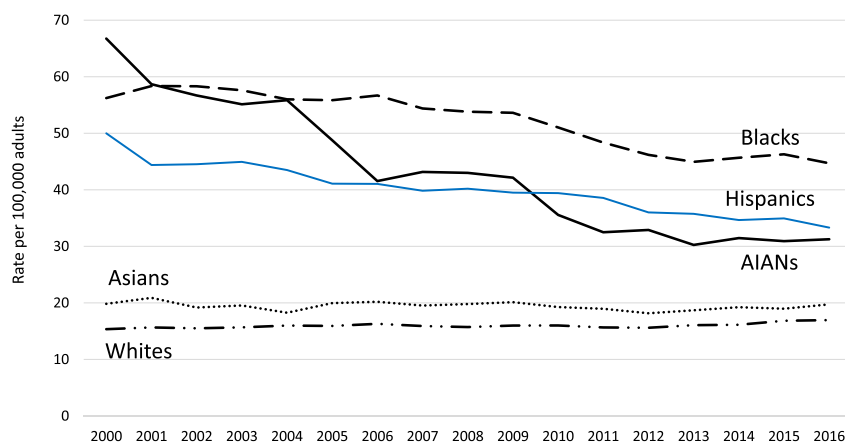
Incidence rate (per 100,000 adults)			Overall trend				Initial trend			Subsequent trends		
Age (years)	2000	2016	Percent change	AAPC (95% CI)	P	Years	APC (95% CI)	P	Years	APC (95% CI)	P	
AI/ANs												
≥18†	66.7	31.2	−53	−4.5 (−5.9, −3.0)	<0.001	2000–13	−5.6 (−6.4, −4.8)	<0.001	2013–16	0.7 (−7.2, 9.3)	0.85	
18–44	7.7	7.6	−1	−0.8 (−7.2, 6.0)	0.81	2000–09	1.1 (−2.3, 4.5)	0.49	2009–12	−10.8 (−38.1, 28.4)	0.49	
45–64	108.3	46.6	−57	−4.5 (−6.2, −2.8)	0.002	2000–13	−5.8 (−6.7, −4.8)	<0.001	2012–16	2.9 (−8.3, 15.5)	0.58	
65–74	231.2	92.8	−60	−5.8 (−7.7, −3.8)	<0.001	2000–12	−7.6 (−9.0, −6.2)	<0.001	2013–16	1.2 (−8.0, 11.4)	0.79	
≥75	119.3	61.9	−48	−4.2 (−5.7, −2.8)	<0.001	2000–16	−4.2 (−5.7, −2.8)‡	<0.001	2012–16	−0.0 (−7.7, 8.3)	0.99	
Asians												
≥18†	19.8	19.7	−1	−0.0 (−2.1, 2.1)	1.00	2000–09	0.0 (−1.0, 1.1)	0.94	2009–12	−2.4 (−12.9, 9.3)	0.63	
18–44	1.2	2.0	64	4.3 (3.0, 5.5)	<0.001	2000–16	4.3 (3.0, 5.5)‡	<0.001	2012–16	1.7 (−1.9, 5.4)	0.31	
45–64	19.6	21.0	7	−0.5 (−1.1, 0.2)	0.17	2000–16	−0.5 (−1.1, 0.2)‡	0.17	—	—	—	
65–74	75.6	61.1	−19	−1.3 (−2.0, −0.7)	0.001	2000–16	−1.3 (−2.0, −0.7)‡	0.001	—	—	—	
≥75	81.2	85.7	6	0.3 (−0.2, 0.8)	0.24	2000–16	0.3 (−0.2, 0.8)‡	0.24	—	—	—	
Blacks												
≥18†	56.2	44.7	−20	−1.6 (−2.4, −0.8)	<0.001	2000–08	−0.7 (−1.3, −0.0)	0.048	2008–12	−4.3 (−7.1, −1.4)	0.009	
18–44	8.0	10.3	30	1.8 (1.1, 2.6)	<0.001	2000–07	4.2 (2.7, 5.7)	<0.001	2012–16	−0.6 (−2.5, 1.3)	0.49	
45–64	82.0	60.2	−27	−2.0 (−2.8, −1.1)	<0.001	2000–08	−1.5 (−2.2, −0.8)	0.001	2007–16	0.1 (−0.9, 1.0)	0.91	
65–74	188.0	129.8	−31	−2.6 (−3.5, −1.6)	<0.001	2000–08	−1.3 (−2.1, −0.5)	0.005	2008–12	−4.6 (−7.7, −1.4)	0.01	
≥75	131.9	118.8	−10	−1.1 (−1.6, −0.7)	<0.001	2000–16	−1.1 (−1.6, −0.7)‡	<0.001	2012–16	−0.2 (−2.2, 1.9)	0.82	
									2008–12	−5.8 (−9.2, −2.3)	0.005	
									2012–16	−1.7 (−4.0, 0.6)	0.12	
									—	—	—	
Hispanics												
≥18†	50.0	33.3	−33	−2.1 (−2.4, −1.8)	<0.001	2000–16	−2.1 (−2.4, −1.8)‡	<0.001	—	—	—	
18–44	3.9	4.4	12	1.1 (0.1, 2.0)	0.03	2000–03	−1.4 (−5.3, 2.7)	0.46	2003–09	4.0 (2.2, 5.9)	0.001	
45–64	68.6	44.1	−36	−2.2 (−2.4, −1.9)	<0.001	2000–16	−2.2 (−2.4, −1.9)‡	<0.001	2009–16	−0.4 (−1.5, 0.7)	0.42	
65–74	176.9	110.9	−37	−2.9 (−3.2, −2.6)	<0.001	2000–16	−2.9 (−3.2, −2.6)‡	<0.001	—	—	—	
≥75	143.4	97.9	−32	−1.7 (−2.3, −1.2)	<0.001	2000–16	−1.7 (−2.3, −1.2)‡	<0.001	—	—	—	
Whites												
≥18†	15.4	17.0	10	0.6 (0.3, 1.0)	0.01	2000–06	0.8 (0.2, 1.3)	0.01	2006–12	−0.5 (−1.2, 0.2)	0.16	
									2012–16	2.1 (1.1, 3.2)	0.001	
Continued on p. 2094												

*Continued on p. 2094*

**Table 2—Continued**

Age (years)	Incidence rate (per 100,000 adults)			Overall trend		Initial trend		Subsequent trends	
	2000	2016	Percent change	AAPC (95% CI)	P	Years	APC (95% CI)	Years	APC (95% CI)
18–44	3.0	3.2	9	0.7 (−0.0, 1.4)	0.06	2000–05	−1.3 (−3.3, 0.7)	2005–16	1.6 (1.0, 2.2)
45–64	20.7	23.3	13	0.8 (0.6, 1.1)	<0.001	2000–11	0.3 (0.1, 0.6)	2011–16	1.9 (1.1, 2.7)
65–74	51.3	50.7	−1	−0.3 (−0.8, 0.3)	0.34	2000–06	0.2 (−0.5, 1.0)	2006–12	−2.0 (−2.9, −1.0)
≥75	37.3	46.2	24	1.4 (0.7, 2.0)	<0.001	2000–05	3.6 (2.3, 4.9)	2012–16	1.6 (0.2, 3.1)
								2005–12	−0.7 (−1.6, 0.3)
								2012–16	2.2 (0.3, 4.1)

\* Racial groups include people of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin; Hispanics may be of any race. † Age-adjusted based on the 2000 U.S. standard population. ‡ APC = AAPC (i.e., 0 joinpoints).

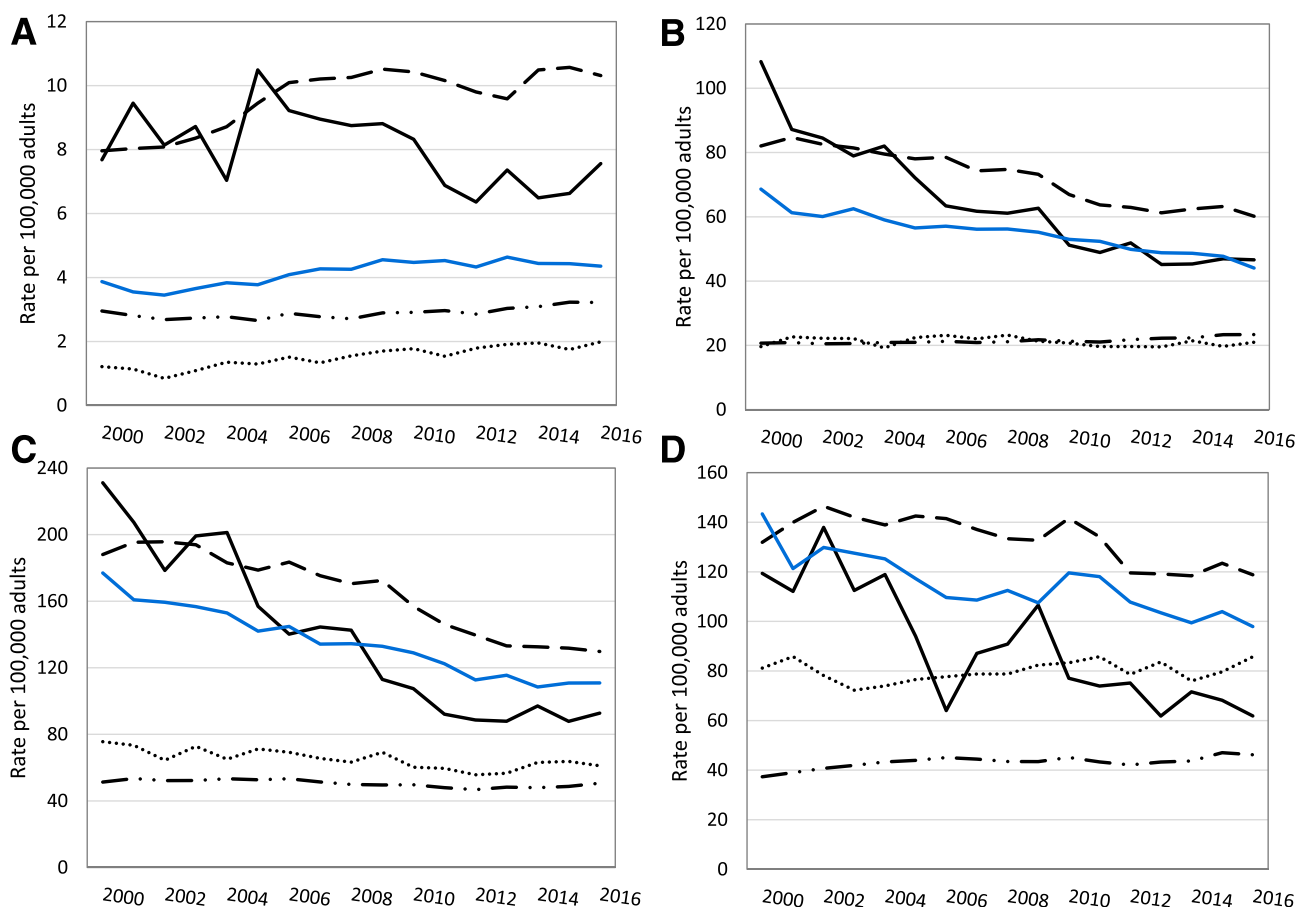


**Figure 1**—Incidence of diabetes-related ESKD among adults aged  $\geq 18$  years by race or ethnicity, 2000–2016. Age-adjusted based on the 2000 U.S. standard population. Racial groups include people of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin; Hispanics may be of any race.

diabetes have decreased, and prevalence of childhood obesity has stabilized (6,10,11,18–20). Furthermore, ESKD prevalence in the AIAN population has declined by 36% since 2000 (1), the only instance of a decline in ESKD

prevalence for a major racial group since the beginning of the Medicare ESKD program in 1973. Taken together, these trends are promising signs for the future of diabetes complications in AIAN people.

In 2016, use of ACE inhibitors or ARBs was  $>70\%$  among AIANs, Asians, blacks, whites, and Hispanics aged  $\geq 65$  years with diabetes and CKD (21) and 76% among Hispanics aged 18–74 years with diabetes and hypertension between 2008 and 2011 (22). In people with diabetes and CKD, blood pressure control with ACE inhibitors or ARBs has been shown to slow CKD progression to ESKD (23,24). However, not all racial and ethnic groups experienced decreasing trends in ESKD-D incidence. During the study period, ESKD-D incidence rates did not change significantly for Asians and increased for whites. Although reasons for the increase in ESKD-D incidence in whites are unclear, this finding is consistent with documented and previously reported ESKD-D incidence trends in this population (3,5). Furthermore, the lack of decline in ESKD-D incidence in all racial and ethnic groups aged 18–44 years is of particular concern and may be due in part to poorer risk factor control in young adult diabetic populations



**Figure 2**—Incidence of diabetes-related ESKD among adults aged  $\geq 18$  years by age and race or ethnicity, 2000–2016. Racial groups include people of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin; Hispanics may be of any race. A: Aged 18–44 years. B: Aged 45–64 years. C: Aged 65–74 years. D: Aged  $\geq 75$  years. Dashed line, blacks; solid black line, AIANs; solid blue line, Hispanics; dotted line, Asians; combination dashed/dotted line, whites.



compared with people with diabetes in older age-groups (25). In 2016, the Medicare expenditure per person per year for patients with ESKD-D on hemodialysis was \$95,563, and the total Medicare spending for ESKD-D was \$16.1 billion, about one-half (46%) of the \$35.4 billion Medicare spending for ESKD overall (1). Barring countervailing forces, a decrease in ESKD-D incidence in the U.S. population would foreseeably reduce or lower total Medicare expenditures for ESKD and diabetes in general. An analysis of the impact of the reduced ESKD-D incidence in AIANs as a result of the SDPI and other IHS efforts estimated the potential Medicare cost savings between \$174 and \$520 million over a 10-year period from the reduction of ~2,256–2,602 new ESKD-D cases (26).

The major strength of this study is that the reported results are based on data from the USRDS, a national registry of virtually all patients being treated for ESKD. On the other hand, the findings in this report are subject to a few limitations. First, people who refused treatment, died before receiving treatment, or whose treatment was not reported to CMS were not included. Second, diabetes as the primary cause of ESKD could be overascertained because it is based on the physician's assessment of the patient at the time of the indication for ESKD treatment (27). Third, differential classification of race in the USRDS and the U.S. census (physician reported vs. self-identified) could result in over- or underestimation of the actual incidence of ESKD-D in racial- or ethnic-specific groups. Finally, because of a lack of data on type or duration of diabetes, we could not examine the impact of these factors on the risk of developing ESKD-D.

Managing risk factors such as diabetes and high blood pressure has been shown to help to prevent or delay CKD, and CKD treatment can slow disease progression and reduce the risk of complications, including ESKD (28). In late 2017, the CDC announced a new 5-year cooperative agreement to scale up the National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP) in underserved areas and to reach populations currently underrepresented in the program relative to their risk. These populations include Medicare beneficiaries, men, African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics, AIANs, Pacific Islanders, and noninstitutionalized people with visual impairment or physical

disabilities (29,30). The CDC's National DPP is a partnership of public and private organizations working together to build a nationwide delivery system for a 12-month lifestyle change program proven to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes (29). The CDC also supports state health departments' efforts to make the National DPP and evidence-based diabetes management interventions available to high-burden populations and communities and supports tribes and tribal organizations directly to expand access to and participation in the National DPP lifestyle change program.

In July 2019, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched the Advancing American Kidney Health initiative outlining government strategies and activities to reduce the risk of kidney failure, among other goals (30). This initiative aims to increase efforts to prevent, detect, and slow the progression of kidney disease, including addressing risk factors like diabetes and high blood pressure. Integrating public health, clinical, and community-based approaches to deliver evidence-based interventions aimed at reducing ESKD-D risk factors, such as has been done by the IHS, may prevent ESKD-D and decrease incidence (3,13,15). Continued efforts to monitor trends and racial/ethnic disparity gaps in ESKD, CKD, and their risk factors, in addition to tracking other factors such as awareness, pre-ESKD care, and risk factor control, will be crucial to assessing the success of these interventions (1,31).

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