

## **9.0 CONCLUSION**

In recent years researchers have adopted the population health paradigm to the analysis of health and mortality inequalities (Evans, Barer and Marmot, 1994; Health Canada, 1996). Essentially, this model is predicated on the premise that differences in health and death risk result from complex interrelations of genetic, biological, environmental, social and economic differentials in the population. The population health framework has tended to emphasise the importance of socioeconomic inequalities as the determinants of health and disease in the population. This basic idea has been implicit throughout the present investigation of immigrant mortality. Several mechanisms assumed embedded in the association between nativity and death rates have been explicated. While far from being a comprehensive specification, it was argued that the mortality of immigrants in host nations can be understood from the point of view of their social demographic compositions (age, sex, and marital status distributions), factors associated with their countries of origin, and factors associated with the country of destination. Among the former set of factors are cultural influences and conditions prior to migration. For the most part in this analysis, the influence of country of origin was found to be important in accounting for immigrant mortality in Canada.

It was surmised that one of the unmeasured factors linking immigrant mortality to the death rates of their home based countries (and there are potentially many) is their common national culture. In general, the association of country of origin death rates and corresponding immigrant death rates is inverse: high origin death rates are associated with lower immigrant mortality. However, separate analyses also revealed that for the more recent immigrants the association is positive. This difference may reflect the

different nature of immigration between the two categories of migrants to Canada. In the case of the Old Wave, many immigrants are from Western Europe, where national death rates have declined to fairly low levels in recent decades, as these countries have reached the final stages of their demographic and epidemiological transitions. However, many of the more recent arrivals to Canada are from developing countries, where in comparison to Europe and Canada mortality is relatively high. Thus, coming from generally high mortality countries, the newer immigrants will tend to reflect to some extent this fact. On the other hand, it is also possible that this finding is a reflection of the operationalizations employed to capture “origin” effects for the New Wave immigrants. Further analysis is needed with more refined measures of country of origin death rates for new immigrant groups in Canada. It will be important to focus on specific nationality groups and their countries of origin. In this study only average death rates for groups of countries could be assigned to the “origin” variable for the New Wave migrants due to the aggregate nature of this category.

In-depth studies are needed to uncover the cultural factors that may be inherent in immigrant health and mortality differentials. One possible avenue for analysis is to investigate how the background culture of an immigrant group promotes healthy behaviours and practices that in the long term may be salutogenic (e.g., healthy diets). On the other hand, it is also important to investigate how culture may promote unhealthy patterns of living (e.g. excessive use of salt and high consumption of animal fats in the diet). Another important area of concern is how culture may promote or discourage smoking and excessive alcohol consumption, both known for their eroding effects on the organism.

The multivariate analyses also indicated that SES and acculturation are in many cases linked to immigrant mortality differentials, though not always in the predicted direction. That is to say, in some cases, SES and acculturation raise the conditional risk of dying, while in others an opposite effect was detected. Again, more refined measures of acculturation are needed in order to examine this aspect of immigrant health. Acculturation is a multidimensional concept. It is highly unlikely that the present operationalization could adequately capture this concept in its entirety.

Health selectivity was also discussed as another important source of mortality differentials. The difficulty with observing selectivity effects directly led to the supposition that selection influences on immigrant mortality should diminish with duration of residence in Canada. Health selection should be felt most intensely in the early stages of the migration experience. It was also recognized in the analysis that there may be several functional forms of the selectivity effect on mortality rates. Unfortunately, this remains an elusive factor in terms of direct measurement. For this reason, duration of residence in Canada was used as a proxy to capture the effects of health selectivity on mortality rates of immigrants. The analysis was largely confined to three subpopulations: the Canadian born (as reference), and two classes of migrants, the New Wave (recent arrivals) and the Old Wave (more established immigrants).

There is a gradient in mortality risk associated with recency of settlement to Canada. In virtually every case examined in this study---general or cause-specific mortality---New Wave immigrants showed notably lower conditional risks of death as compared to the Canadian born and the Old Wave more established immigrants. This differential was generally observed even after statistical controls for a variety of factors

were taken into account. What this finding seems to suggest is that newcomers experience a better level of overall health than do their more established counterparts and the host population, while in relation to the host population, the immigrants as a whole (Old and New Wave) share reduced conditional chances of mortality. But the smaller difference in death risk between the Old Wave migrants and the receiving population suggests that with time immigrants experience some erosion of their initial health advantage in the early years of relocation to Canada. Stated differently, health selectivity accounts for part of the overall immigrant advantage in mortality over the Canadian born; but this advantage tends to reduce with increased duration in the new land. It may be that the positive health selectivity of immigrants never quite disappears, though it reduces in intensity with time. Of course, other factors are also important in accounting for mortality differentials, including genetic and environmental ones. This remains a promising area of further investigation. Below I sketch out a number of additional suggestions.

Researchers must begin to rely on record linkage to study immigrant health and mortality. The linkage of vital statistics records with other files would allow a more complete picture of the determinants of health than could be ascertained using vital statistics and census data alone. The linking of various administrative records will be necessary to gain further insight on not only the socioeconomic status of decedents, but also such things as use extent of health care services, medication and medical treatments. A question worth pursuing is: Do immigrants use health services more frequently than the Canadian born? If so, how do their patterns of utilization change with duration in the country? Is utilization more likely in the very early stages settlement, or does it pick up gradually with time? These questions are interesting in their own right, but they of critical

importance for health care policy and service delivery for newcomers to Canada. Indeed, it may be that one of the principal reasons behind the immigrants' low death rates rests with the fact that in most cases newcomers to this country are from populations with less advanced health care systems than ours. Once in Canada, the immigrants will have access to a resource not as readily available in their home countries. In combination with health selectivity, this may account for the immigrants' lower death rates in general.<sup>1</sup>

Another important focus for further analysis is the potential role of the welcoming immigrant ethnic community in helping to promote the health and well being of newcomers. The indication derived in this investigation (though its measurement is far from perfect) is that the ethnic community serves an important function for the immigrants. The effect of community would seem to be particularly relevant in deterring conditions having to do with problems in living, like suicide, homicide, and accidents and other forms of violence. The social support and integrative function of the community can make a difference in reducing the risk of ill health and thus premature mortality in general. Again, there is a need to systematically study community effects in connection with immigrant health and mortality. With some exceptions (notably the research on the mental health of newcomers), the literature in this area is limited. How do informal and formal community organisations promote health among immigrants? This is a question worth exploring in detail.

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<sup>1</sup> The principal problem with the survey as the sole means of gathering information on immigrant health is that it is often limited to self-reported perceived health status, or to the recollection of past behaviours. Unless it is a longitudinal design (and this has its own set of problems) only past behaviours can be studied. Therefore the survey is not a sufficient method to help us arrive to a more complete picture of immigrant health and patterns of health care service utilization. The best way to actualise this task would be to rely on the linkage of individual health records and vital statistics, census, and other pertinent administrative records. Unfortunately, the record-linkage approach is daunting in its complexity and costs. One other possibility is to conduct a longitudinal survey of immigrants as to observe change in response to health

A further avenue for investigation pertains to the following question: Is it possible that although immigrants enjoy relatively low death rates overall and also from most diseases, they may at the same time experience high rates of morbidity and sickness? The answer to this question may not be as intuitive as it may seem, and much research will be needed in order to provide a complete picture. The intuitive answer would be that given low mortality in a population there should also prevail in that population a correspondingly low level of morbidity. This is not necessarily so.

Indeed, low mortality levels in a population can be associated with a seemingly paradoxically high prevalence of morbidity (Pollard, 1979). A case in point is the industrialized nations. Having completed their epidemiological and demographic transitions, advanced societies enjoy very high life expectancies---the highest in history (Olshansky and Ault, 1986; Trovato and Lalu, 1996). And yet, in these societies the proportion of the population living with serious chronic health complications is rising (Riley, 2001). Why? The answer lies in the fact that we now have very effective and sophisticated therapies that prolong life, even in the face of such serious diseases as cancer and complications of the heart and circulatory system. True, such conditions will eventually kill those afflicted, irrespective of therapies, but such individuals, frail as they may be, are able to live with chronic ailments due to the availability of medicines, surgery and other therapies that prolong the lives of the sick. Thus, to extend this point to the present study, it may be that although immigrants enjoy lower death rates overall than the receiving population, they may not be as healthy as expected on the basis of this

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related questions and health related behaviours, including seeking medical help and use of health services. For a study of this nature in the context of Australia see Kliewer and Jones (1997).

observation alone.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, more research is needed to investigate this seemingly paradoxical potential relationship with respect to immigrant mortality and health.

Researchers must also address the question of how acculturation of immigrant lifestyles and behaviours evolve with increased duration of residence in the new society, and how this in turn affects health and mortality. While some aspects of the Old World will always remain with the immigrants, it seems inescapable that some degree of acculturation will take place. How do lifestyles and habits change with acculturation? How much exercise do immigrants get on a regular basis? To what extent do newcomers change their usual diets after resettlement? Given dietary modifications, are the changes for the better in terms of nutrition?

It would also be necessary to examine immigrants' understanding of the importance of such things as regular physical check ups and proper health screening for certain diseases. For instance, in the case of women, it would be important to determine the extent to which they participate in regular check up for cervical cancer (i.e. Pap smear). How frequently do they receive breast examinations or mammograms as preventive measures against breast cancer? Further questions need to be answered with regard to sexual and reproductive health (e.g., hysterectomies, tubal ligation, abortion and proper contraceptives). For men, prostate cancer is an important health problem, especially with advancing age. How frequently do immigrant men submit to regular tests for this type of condition?

It is also extremely important to monitor changes in cholesterol and obesity, as these conditions are strongly associated with diabetes and heart disease. Finally, it will be

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<sup>2</sup> For further discussion on this point as it relates to immigrants in the context of Holland and Denmark, consult the studies of Uitenborek and Verhoeff (2002) and of Krasnik et al (2002).

necessary to monitor chronic health conditions that may prevail in immigrant populations, namely cancer, heart disease, diabetes, respiratory problems, and digestive complications. As was indicated earlier, notwithstanding low death rates from such diseases, it is highly possible that morbidity rates may be quite high among different immigrant populations, particularly among the more established immigrant groups, who by virtue of their migration history, are generally undergoing demographic ageing.<sup>3</sup>

Beside concerns with physical health, attention must also be directed to the mental health of immigrants. More knowledge is needed with respect to patterns and differences in the incidence and prevalence of clinical depression and suicide ideation among immigrants, young and old. Some literature has indicated that immigrant women suffer more depression than do immigrant men. This may need to be examined in more detail, as it may be an incomplete account of depression among immigrants. Immigrant men may not be as willing to disclose feelings of depression and helplessness. This remains a challenge for additional study.

In this connection, specific attention must also be directed to the health of refugee immigrants. Due to lack of appropriate data on refugees, this study could not examine mortality among refugees. In fact, our understanding of refugee health and general adaptation to Canadian society remains rather limited. Data are particularly lacking in regard to refugee health, morbidity, and mortality. It may be that given the welcoming nature of Canadian society refugees do not suffer any special health problems as

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<sup>3</sup> A study by Wang and associates (2000) concerning arthritis among immigrants in Canada suggests that there is a gradient of incidence of this condition based on the region of origin of the immigrants. For example, Asians (more recent immigrants in general) had lower levels of arthritis than Europeans (older immigrants), who themselves were very similar to the level of the Canadian born population.



compared to immigrants in general. But this remains an empirical question.<sup>4</sup> One hypothesis worth pursuing is that life stresses are greater among refugees than among immigrants in general, due to the generally problematic nature of the refugee experience (i.e., forced migration). If this is indeed the case, refugees will likely suffer high levels of psychiatric morbidity than the general population. In this connection, a study by Swederlow (1991) in the United Kingdom suggests that among Vietnamese refugees in Britain after the end of the Vietnam War, overall mortality was very low as compared to expectations based on England and Wales' national rates. The low mortality incidence resulted primarily from the refugees' very low death rates from ischaemic heart disease and colorectal cancer in each sex, and breast cancer in women. But among the refugees some less major causes of death were higher than the host society's---tuberculosis and stomach cancer in both sexes, cancers of the nasopharynx and liver in males, and peptic ulcers in females, and cancer of the penis in males. The unexpected overall lower mortality of the refugees may be a function of the sharp improvement in social and economic environment between the experience of being a refugee in the home country and life in the receiving society (Eaton, 1992; Rennert, 1994). This is yet another hypothesis (among many others) in need of verification. Clearly, more systematic attention to immigrant health and mortality conditions is required by the health research community.

Canada is a country being transformed by immigration. To the extent that immigrants make up a significant portion of the total population, their health profile will increasingly determine the overall health picture of the nation. Further work in this area

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<sup>4</sup> Recent research on a general conceptual paradigm for the analysis of refugee mental health has been proposed by Watters (2001) and by Silove, Steel and Watters (2000).

must also incorporate the survival experience of not only immigrants as compared to the Canadian born and their populations of origin, but also their descendants. This would strengthen generalizations concerning the relationship of environment change, as in migration, and its possible effects on health and mortality (Liao et al., 2003). Another fruitful avenue for further investigation is the relationship of the geographic location in which immigrants settle and the effects of geography on survival probabilities. In this study there is some indication that region of residence is an important differentiator of mortality variations among immigrants and the Canadian born population. Clearly, part of the association of geographic location with mortality must be related to geography's correlation with quantity, quality, and persons' access to socioeconomic opportunities.

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## **APPENDIXES**

## APPENDIX A: COUNTRY OF BIRTH CLASSIFICATION

Province / Country of Birth	Nationality Code
Canadians born in the provinces/territories, plus all known Canadian-Born decedents for whose province/territory of birth was not stated on the death certificate	1 = Canadian Born
United States	2 = USA
West and East Germany	3 = Germany
Republic of Ireland	4= Republic of Ireland
England-Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland	5 = UK/Scotland/N Ireland
Greece	6= Greece
Italy	7 = Italy
Portugal	8 = Portugal
Hungary	9 = Hungary
Poland	10 = Poland
Former USSR (including Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia)	11 = USSR
Former Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic	12 = Czechoslovakia
Sweden	13 = Sweden
Finland, Norway, Denmark, Iceland	14 = Other Scandinavia
People's Republic of China, Taiwan Province of China	15 = China
Japan	16 = Japan
Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Cyprus, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran Iraq, Israel, Jordan, North Korea, South Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Macao, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Vietnam, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Turkey	17 = Other Asia
Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Zaire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, Reunion, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, Egypt, Tanzania	18 = Africa
Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Christopher-Nevis, Anguilla, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, Uruguay, Venezuela, Netherlands Antilles, Panama	19 = South -Central America/Caribbean/Mexico
Albania, Antarctica, American Samoa, Andorra, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Gibraltar, Johnston Island, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Midway Islands, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pacific Islands (Trust Territories), Papua New Guinea, Romania, St. Pierre & Miquelon, Spain, Svalbard & Jan Mayen, Switzerland, Tuvalu, United States Virgin Islands, Wallis & Futuna Islands, Yugoslavia, At Sea	20 = All Other Countries of Birth

## APPENDIX B: ANALYSIS OF IRISH REPUBLIC IMMIGRANT DEATHS AND POPULATION FIGURES

The population counts for Irish Republic immigrants in the data file used for this analysis appear to be reasonably close to those published by Statistics Canada based on 1991 census estimates.

The differences by gender between the census and the data file are shown below.

Population Figures	Males	Female	Total
In Present Data File, 1991	14,193	15,455	29,648
In 1981 Census Tables	8,155	8,600	16,755
<u>In 1991 Census Tables</u>	13,560	14,845	28,405
Difference: (1) – (3)	633	610	1,243

Sources: Statistics Canada. 1982. 1981 Census of Canada: Population. Table 2B: Population Born Outside Canada by Place of Birth and Sex for Canada and the Provinces, Urban Size Groups, Rural Non-Farm and Rural Farm, 1981. Catalogue 92-913, Volume 1-National Series: Ottawa. Statistics Canada. 1992. 1991 Census of Canada: Immigration and Citizenship: The Nation. Table 4, Immigrant Population by Selected Places of Birth, Showing Age Groups for Canada, Provinces and Territories. 1991---20% Sample. Catalogue 93-316: Ottawa.

The census population counts for the Irish Republic foreign born have been relatively small in the 1981 and 1991 censuses. This is not a large immigrant group. There appears to have been a notable increase in the population of this group between 1981 and 1991. The small differences between the data file counts for 1991 used in the present analysis and those reported by the 1991 census suggest the absence of any serious data errors in the population figures as such which were used to compute death rates for this immigrant group. Yet, as we have already determined, the crude death rates and the age-adjusted death rates for both sexes and for the total Irish Republic foreign born are unusually high, given the low mortality conditions in a country like Canada.

It would seem that if there is some error for this group, it is likely in the death counts (the numerators). What is the excess death count for this group, and where (i.e., to which group) should the excess deaths be allocated? One hypothesis that a large portion of the Irish Republic immigrant deaths actually belong to the category of “England-Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland” (EWSNI) The supposition is that some of the Irish Republic decedents would be miscoded as immigrants from Northern Ireland. Unfortunately, due to data restrictions, this category could not be disaggregated to check for this possibility.

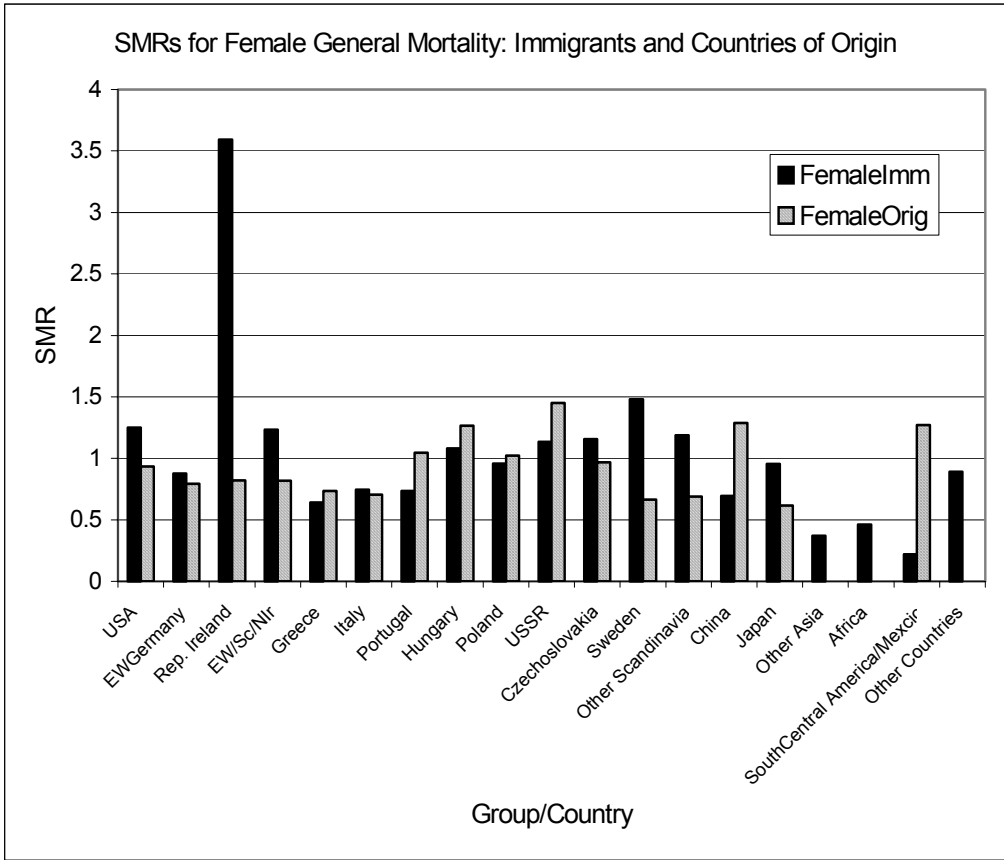
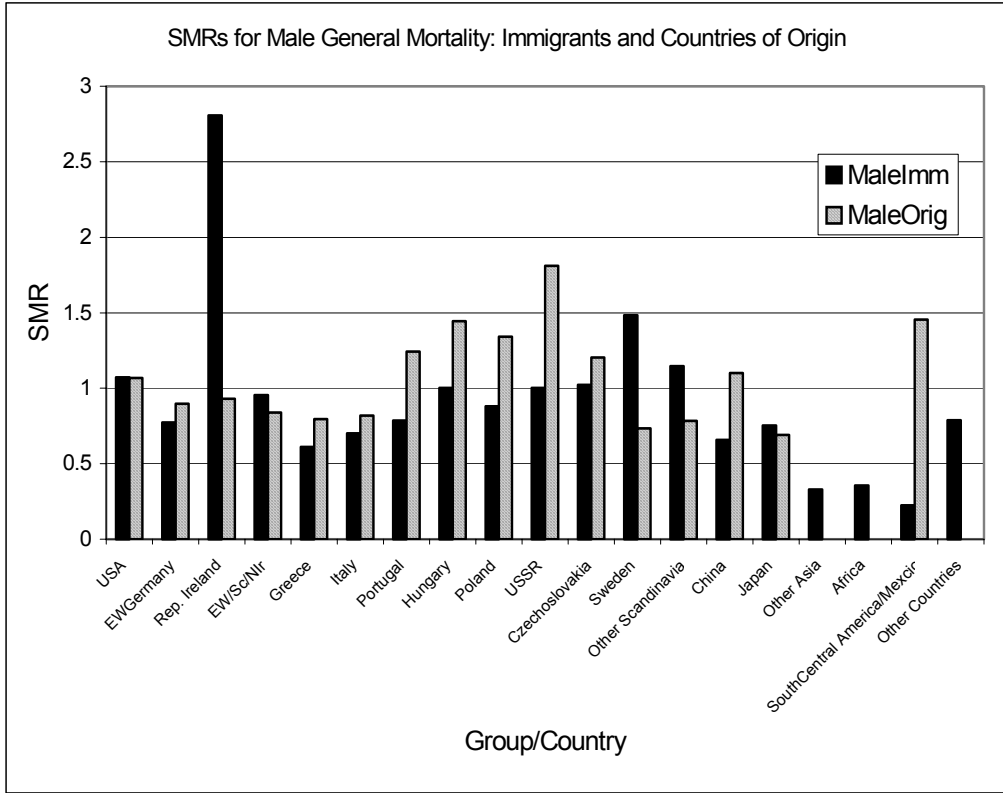
It was decided to execute two tests to check on the problem: First, the Republic of Ireland immigrants were combined with the “England-Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland” category to see what would happen to the relative risk estimates. This procedure produced unsatisfactory results, in that the new grouping always showed unusually high mortality risks. When the Irish Republic immigrants were included in the analysis as a separate category, the results for the EWSNI consistently showed below average mortality risks. What this suggests is that the Irish Republic migrants have an unusually strong influence on the relative risks. A second option was tried: the Irish Republic deaths were allocated to “Other Countries” residual class of immigrants. But this procedure also produced results similar to the preceding one: when the Irish Republic cases were added to the “Other Countries” the mortality risks of the latter changed from below average to above average. Clearly, neither of these two options is satisfactory. Given its influential effects on results, it seemed reasonable to treat Irish Republic as a separate category.

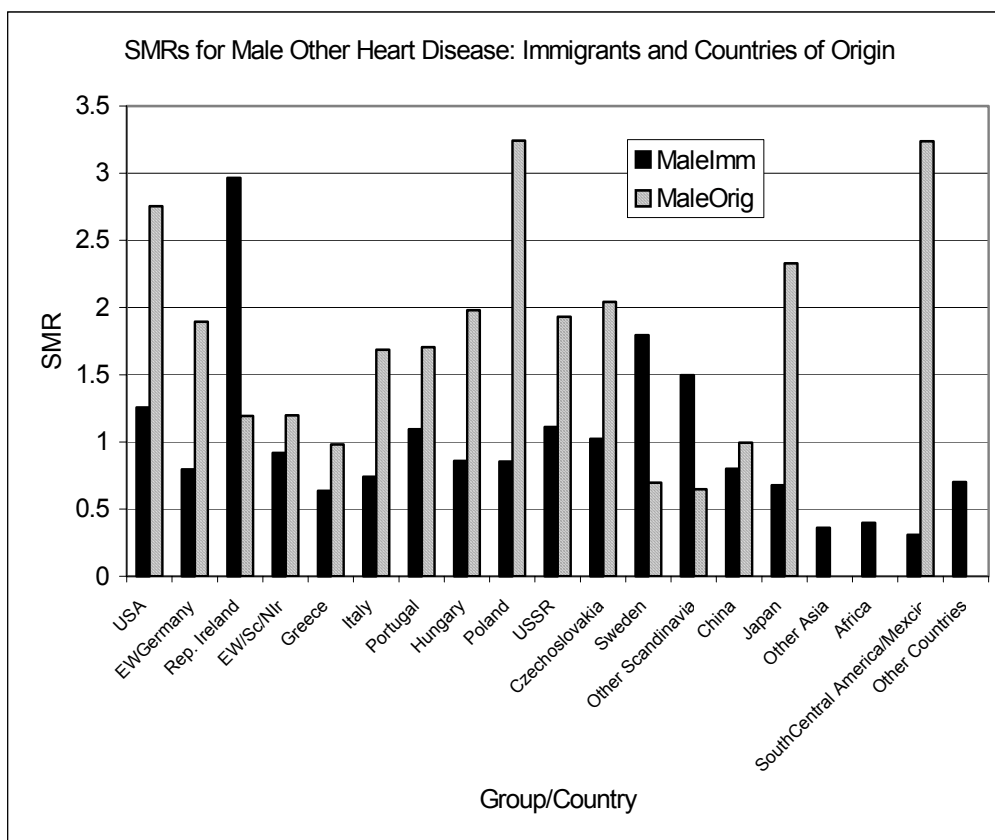
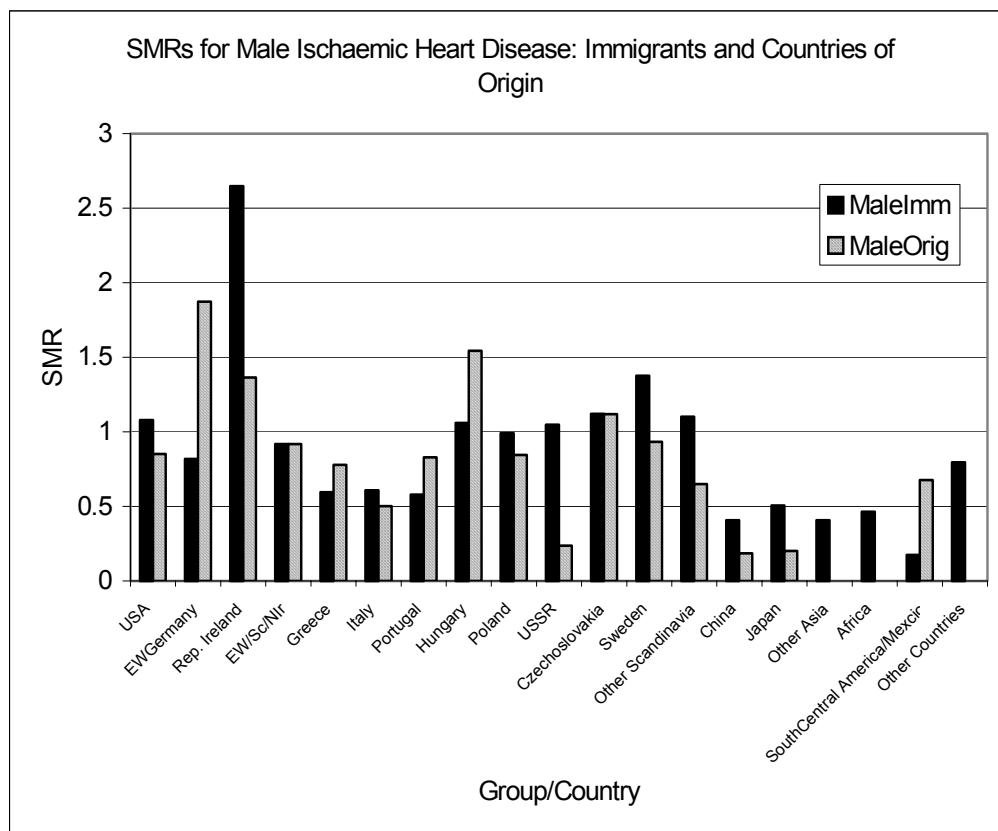
**APPENDIX C: INDIRECTLY STANDARDIZED MORTALITY RATIOS (SMRS) FOR  
IMMIGRANTS AND COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, BY SEX AND CAUSE OF DEATH;  
1991 PERIOD.**

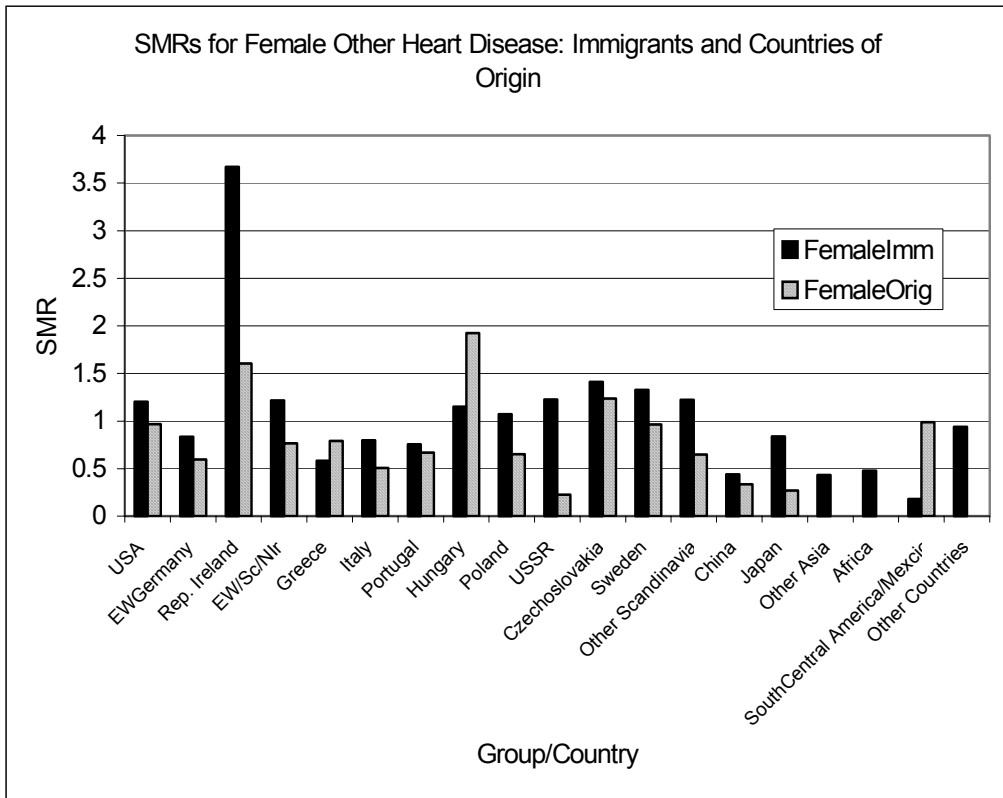
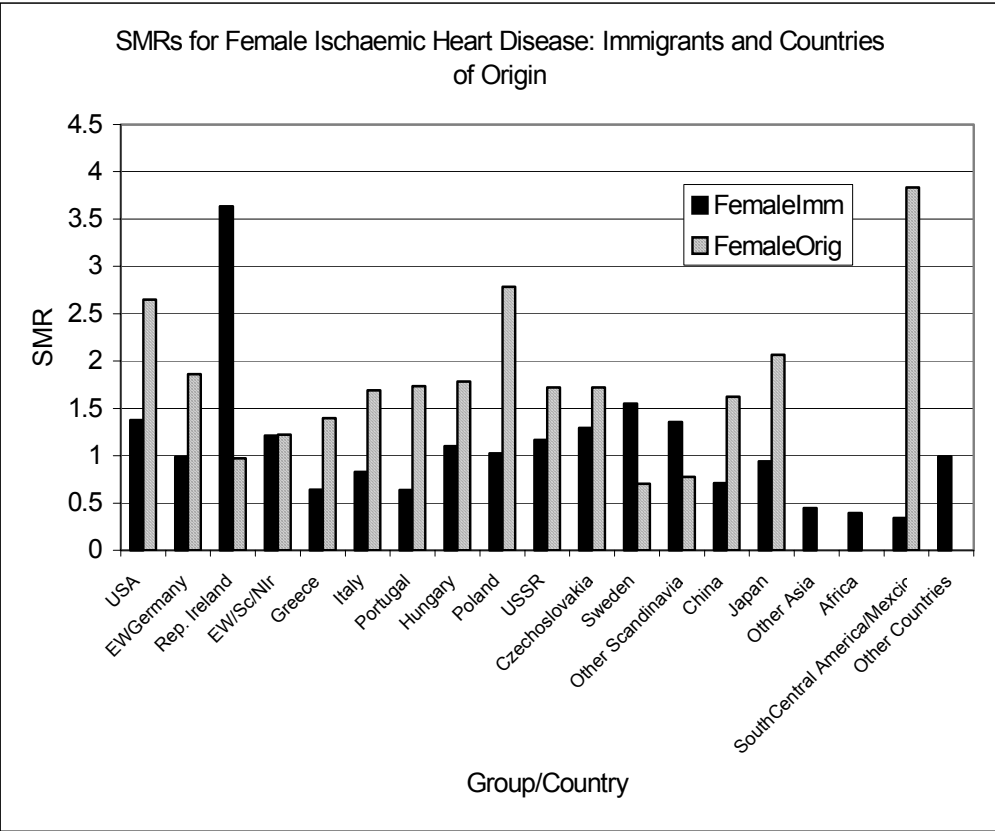
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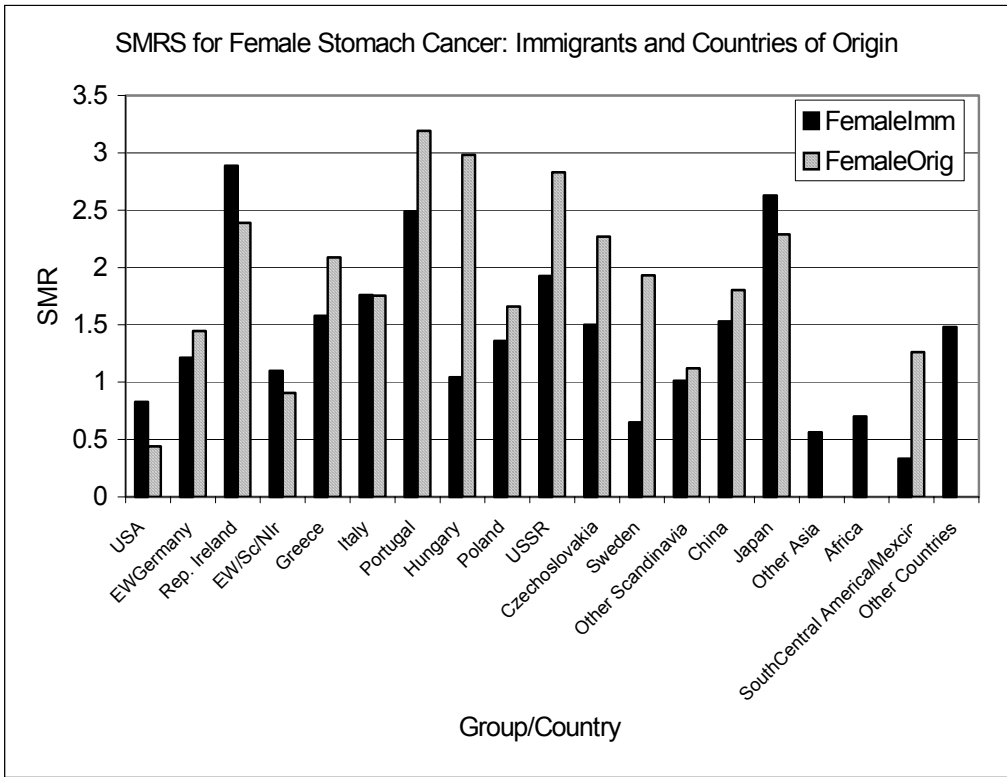
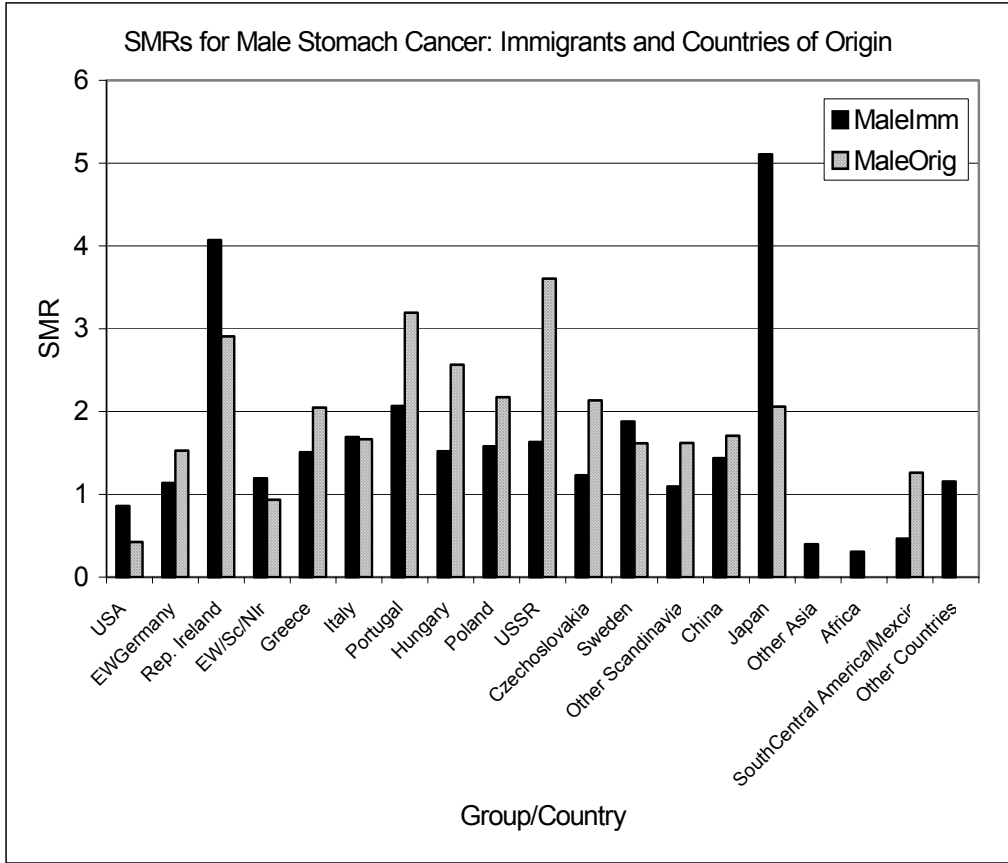
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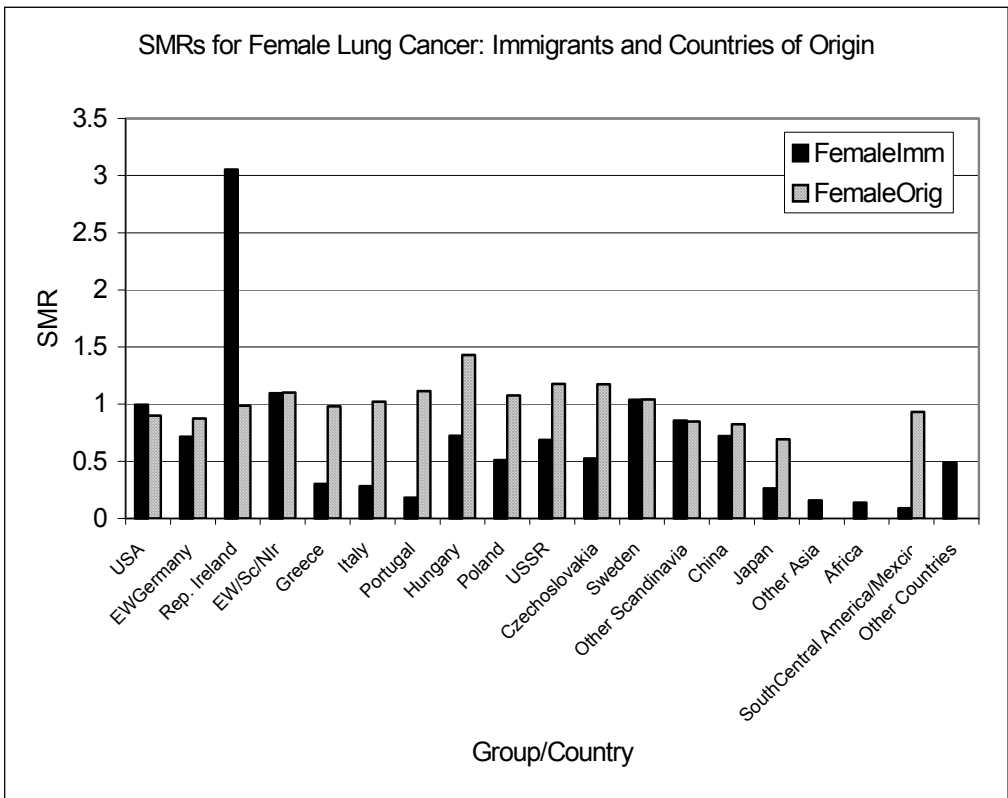
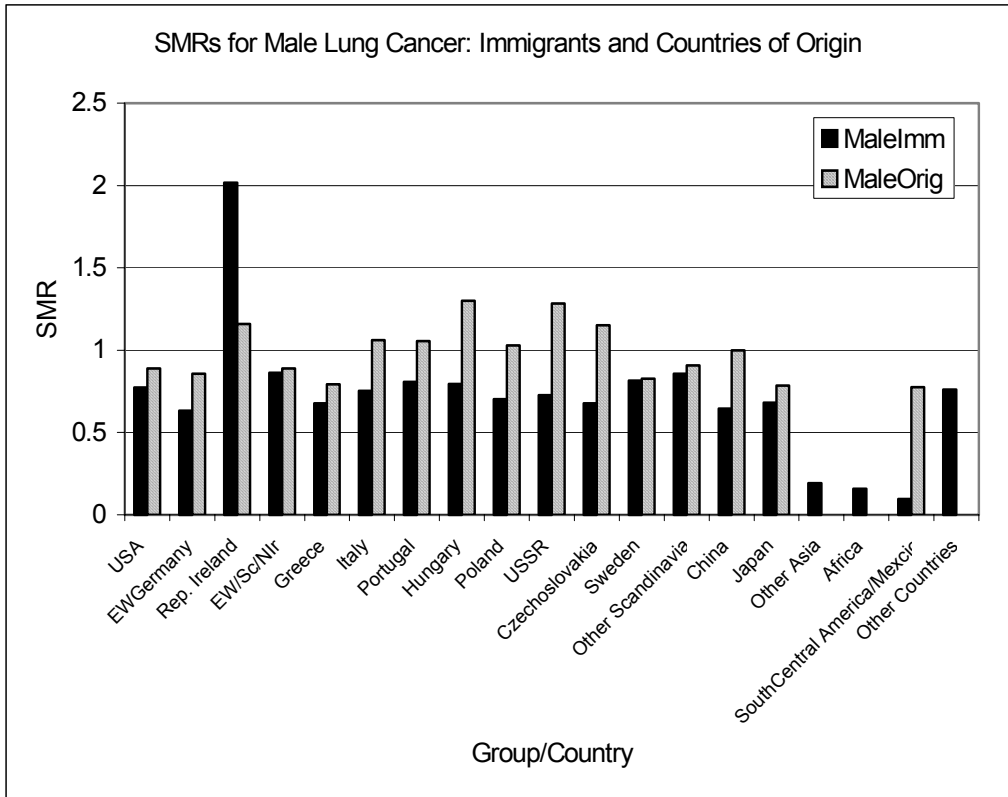


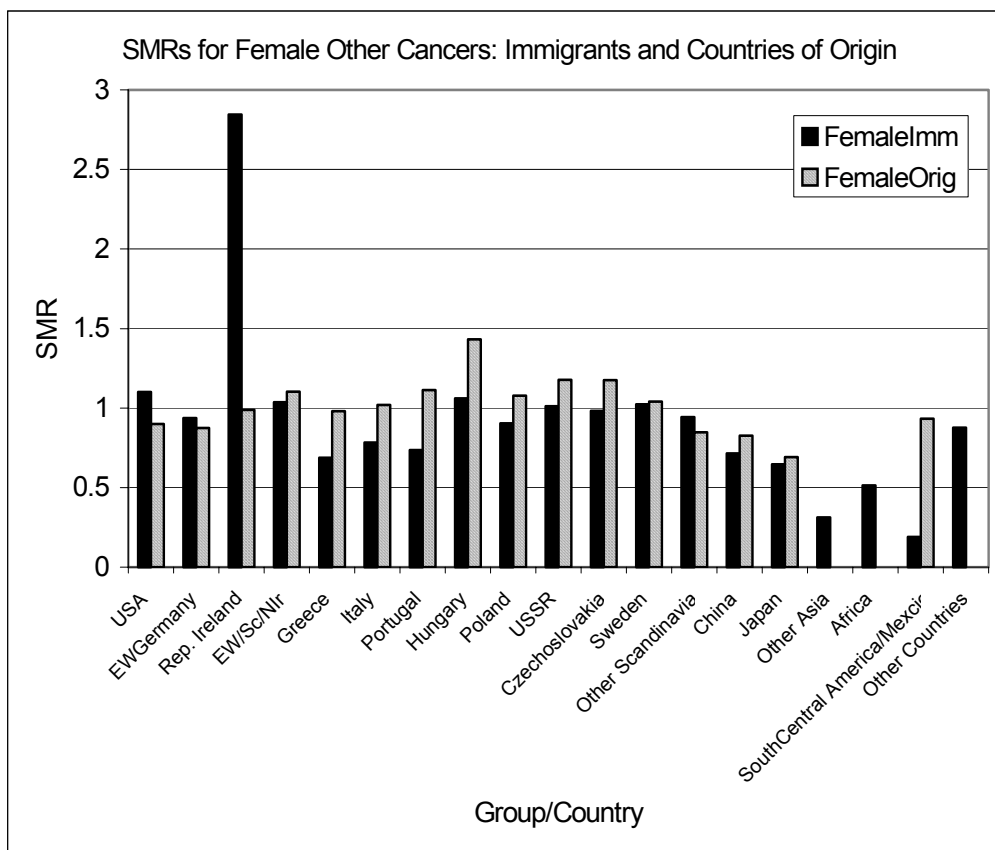
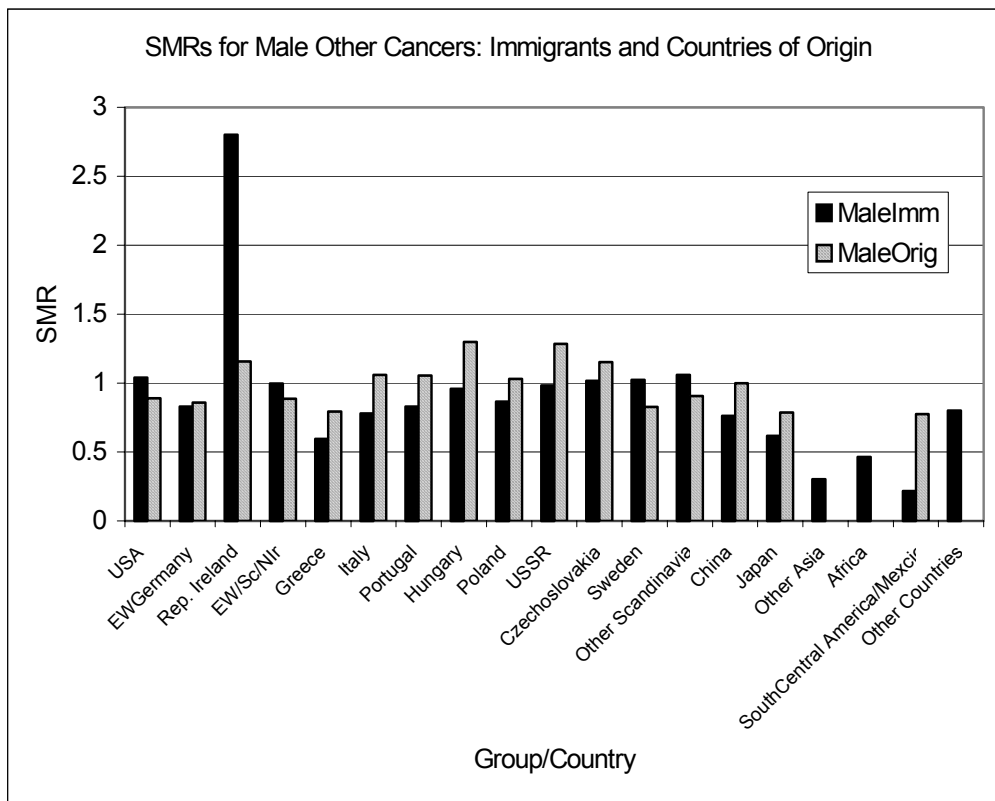


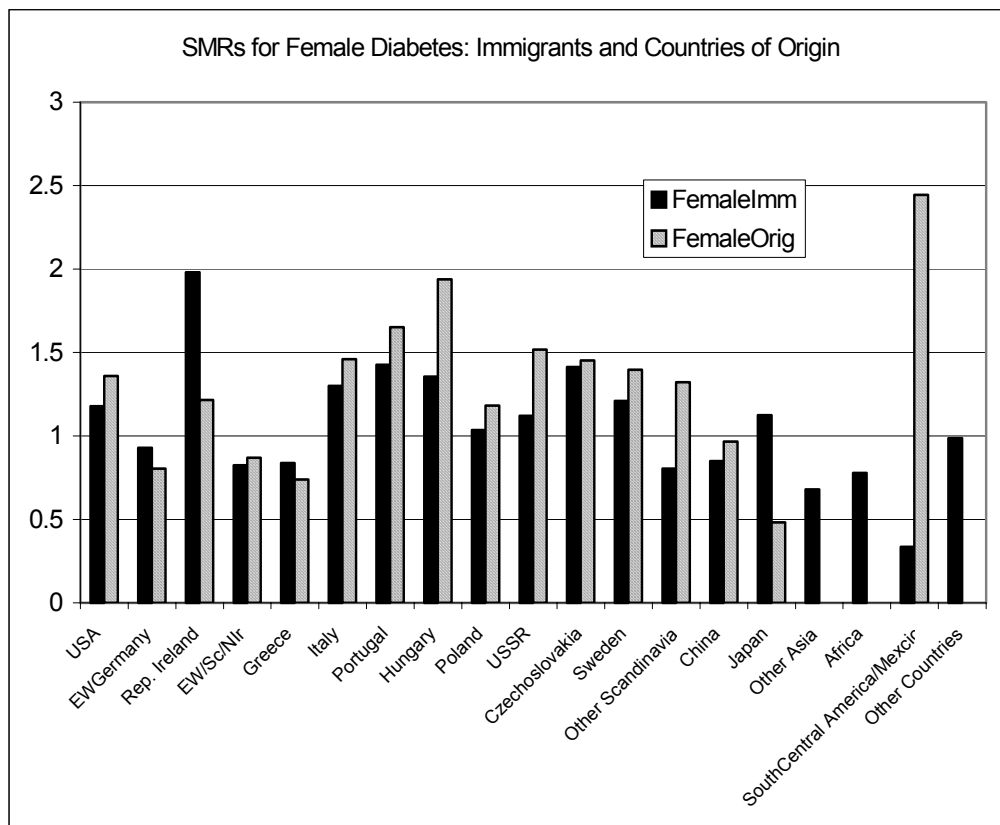
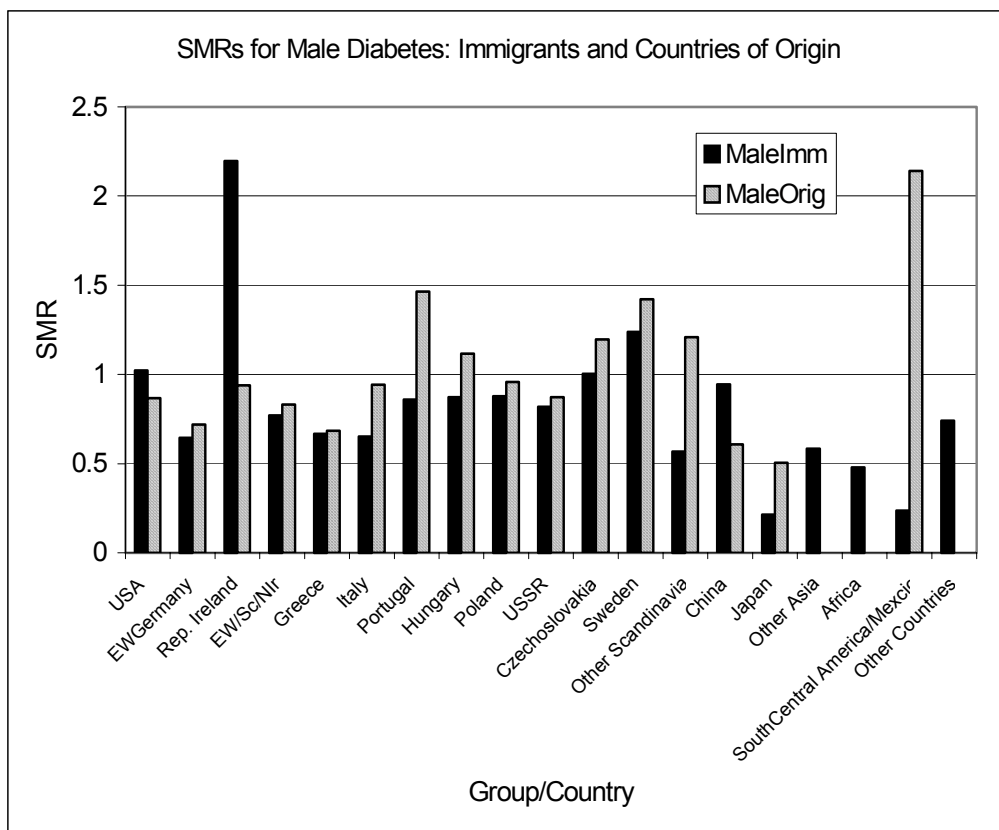


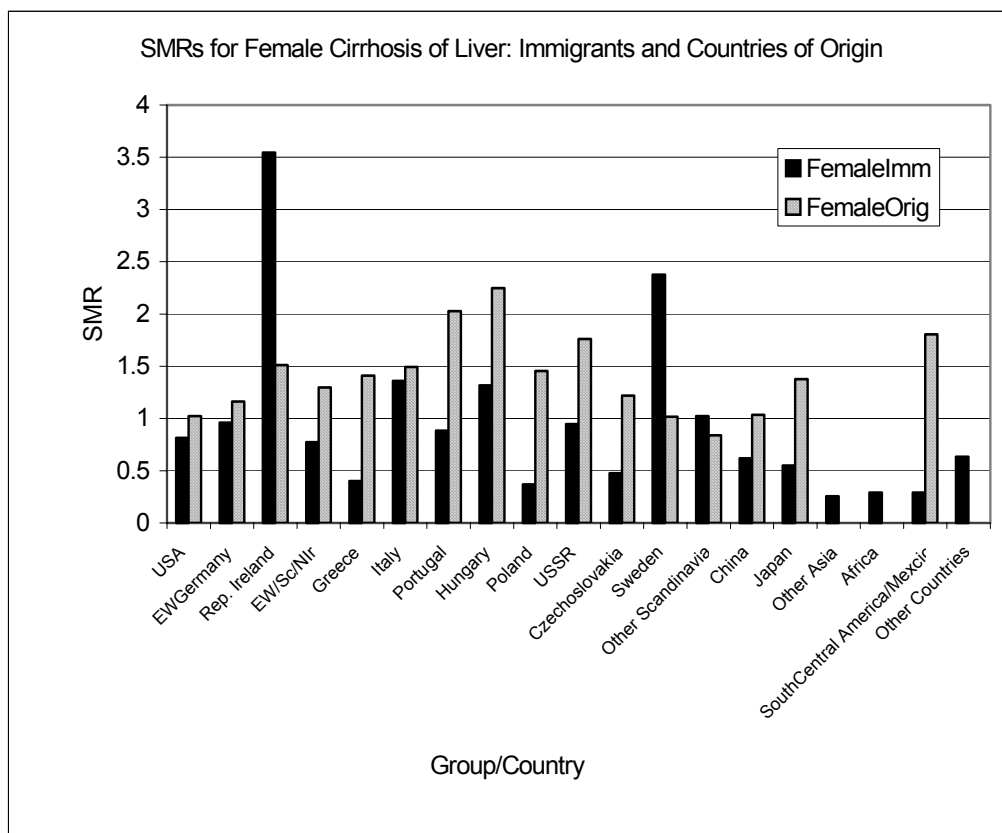
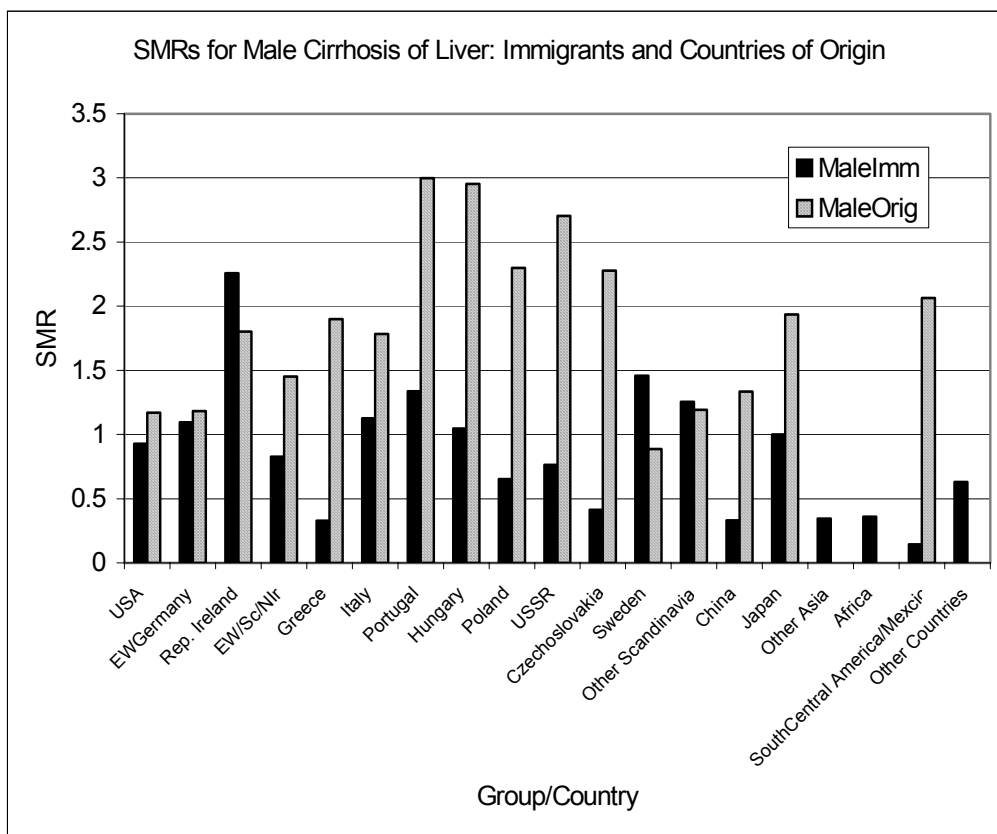




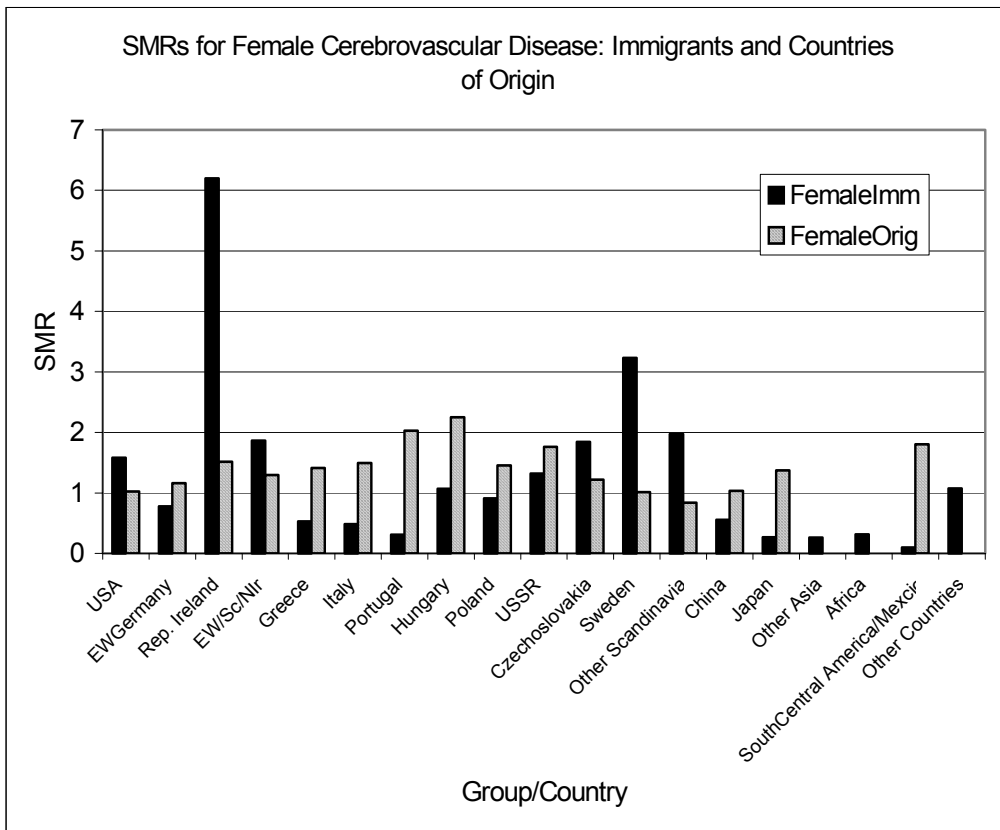
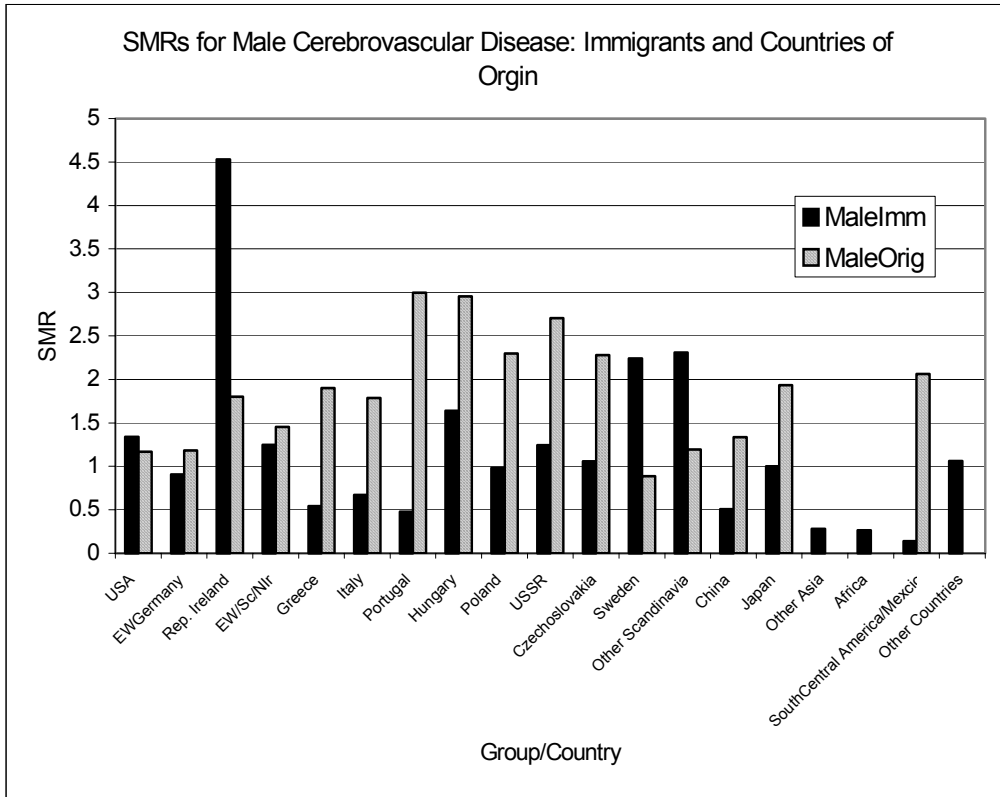


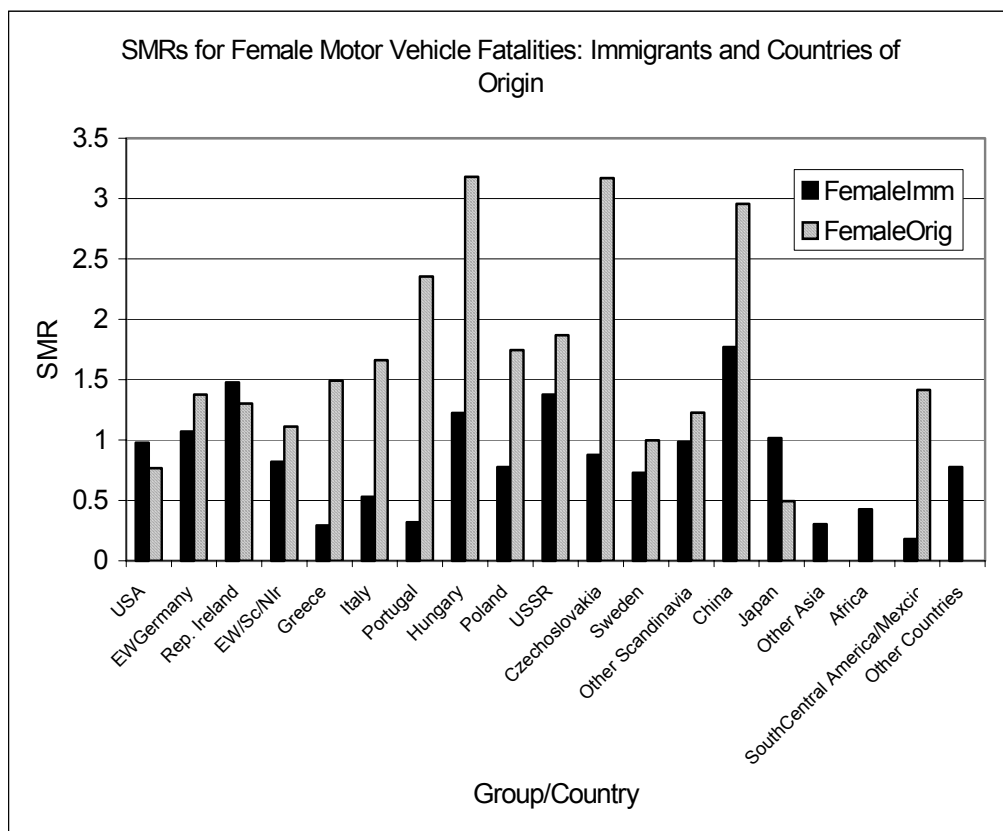
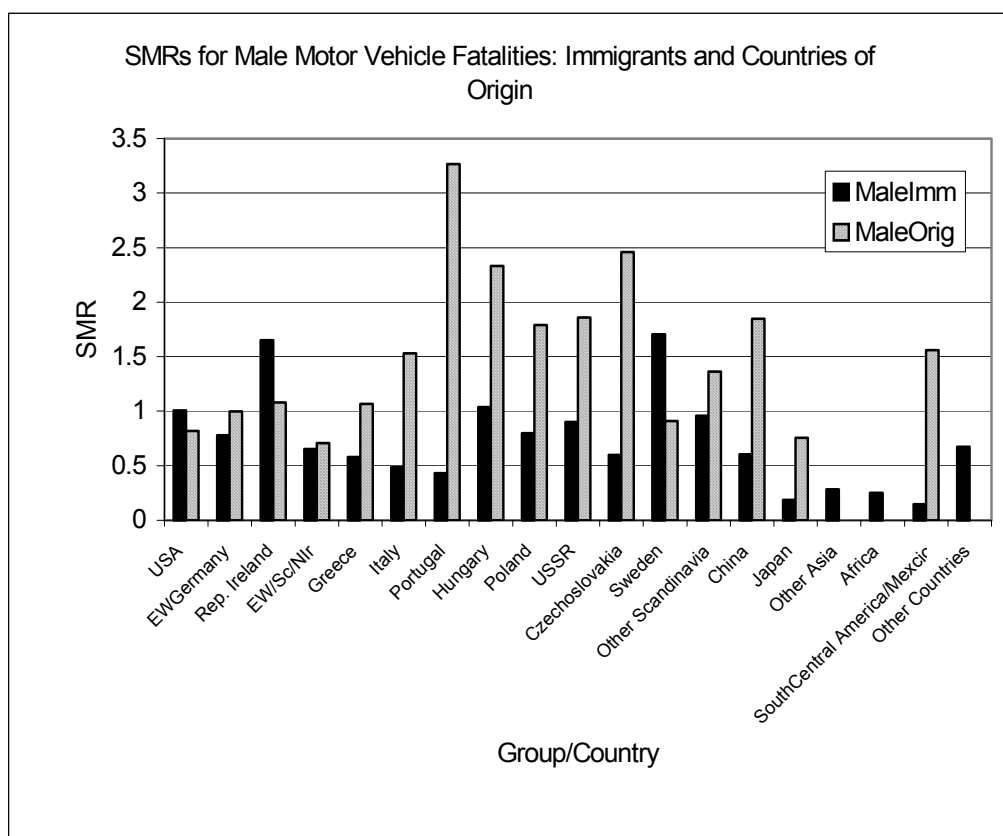


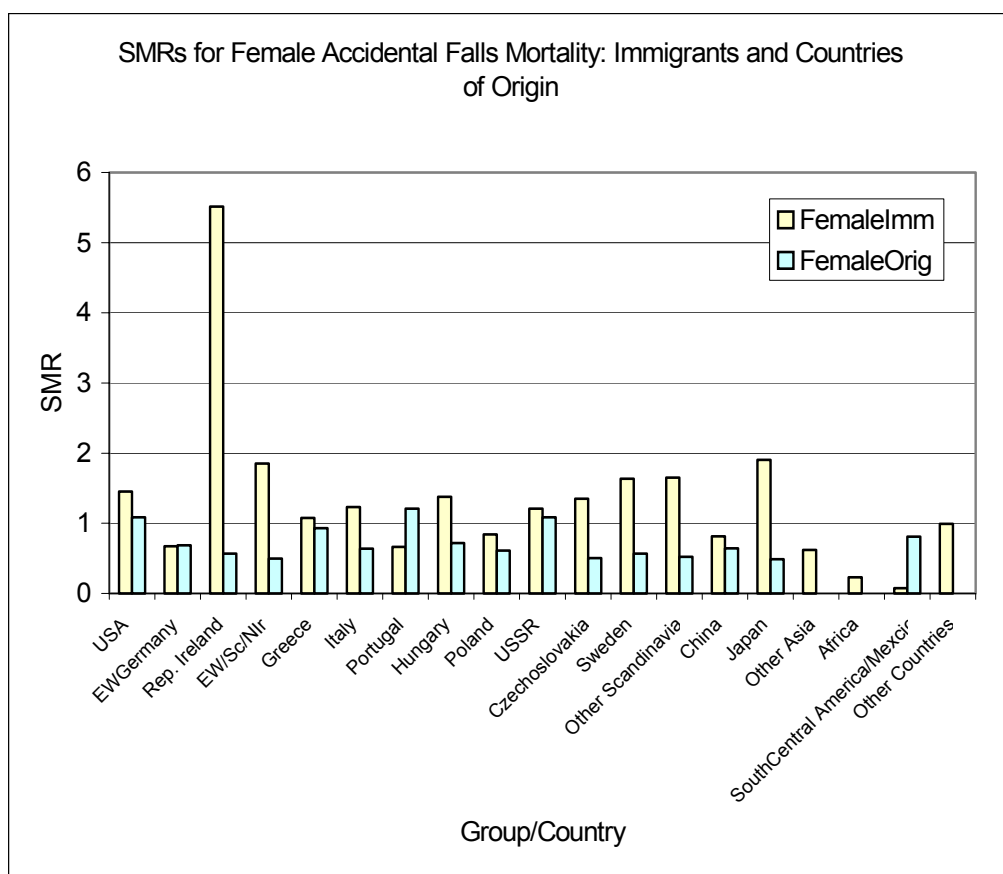
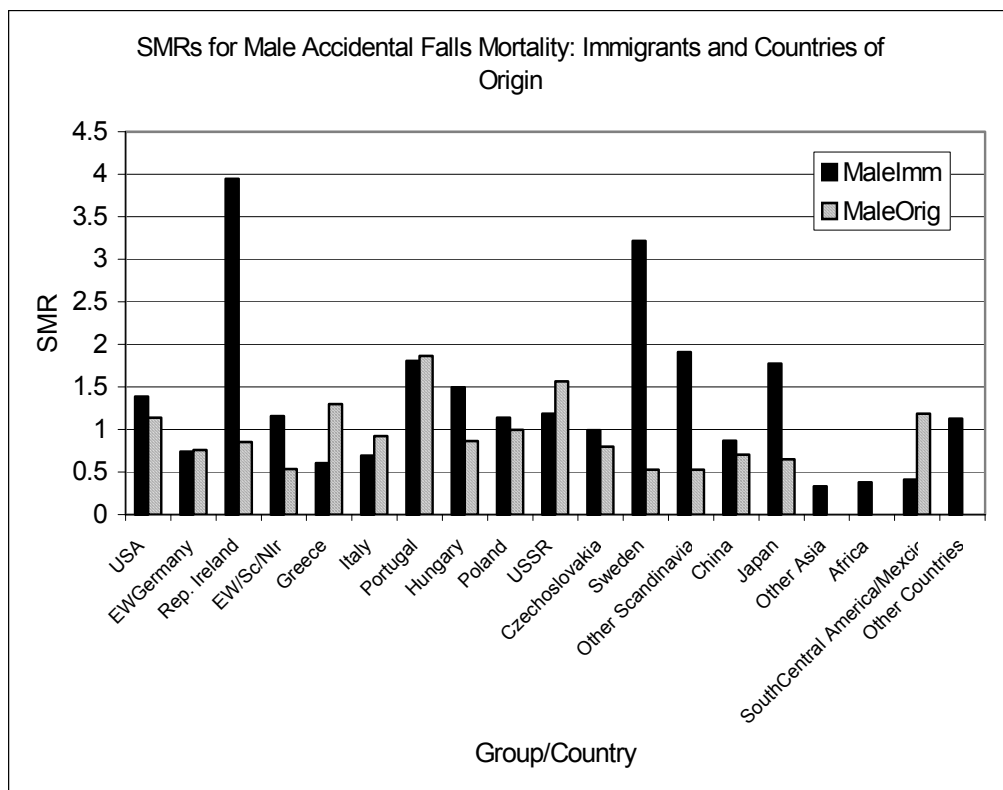




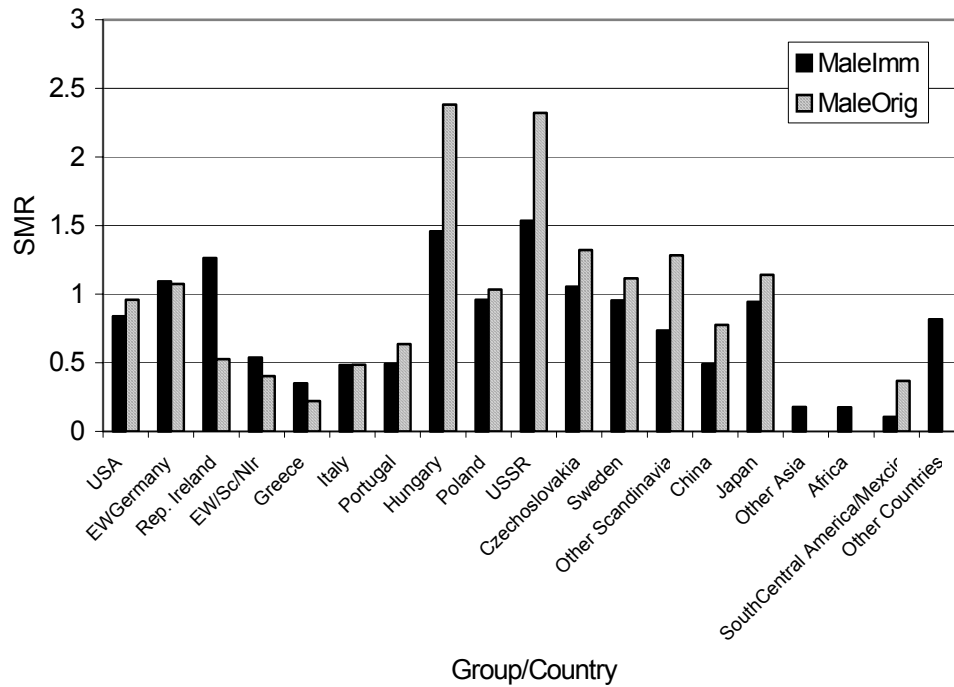




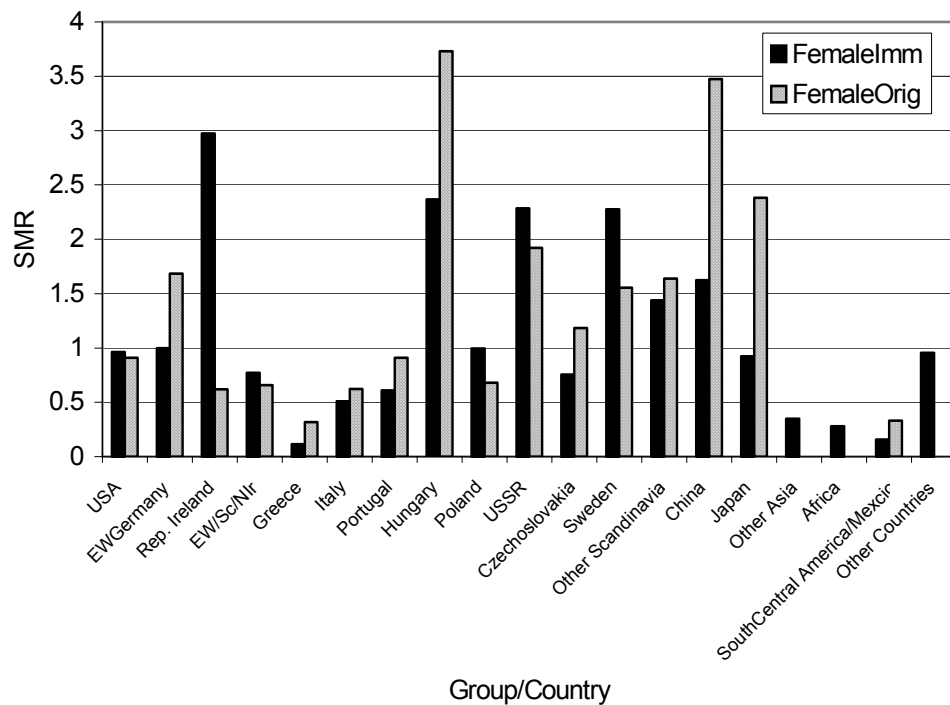


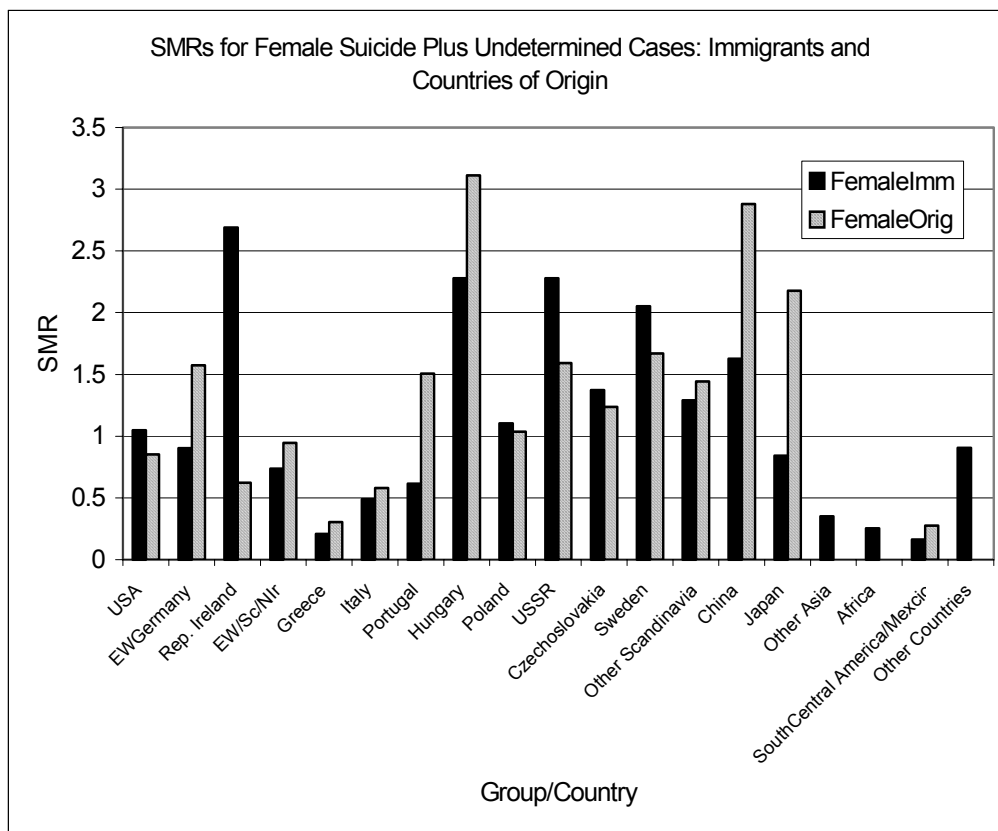
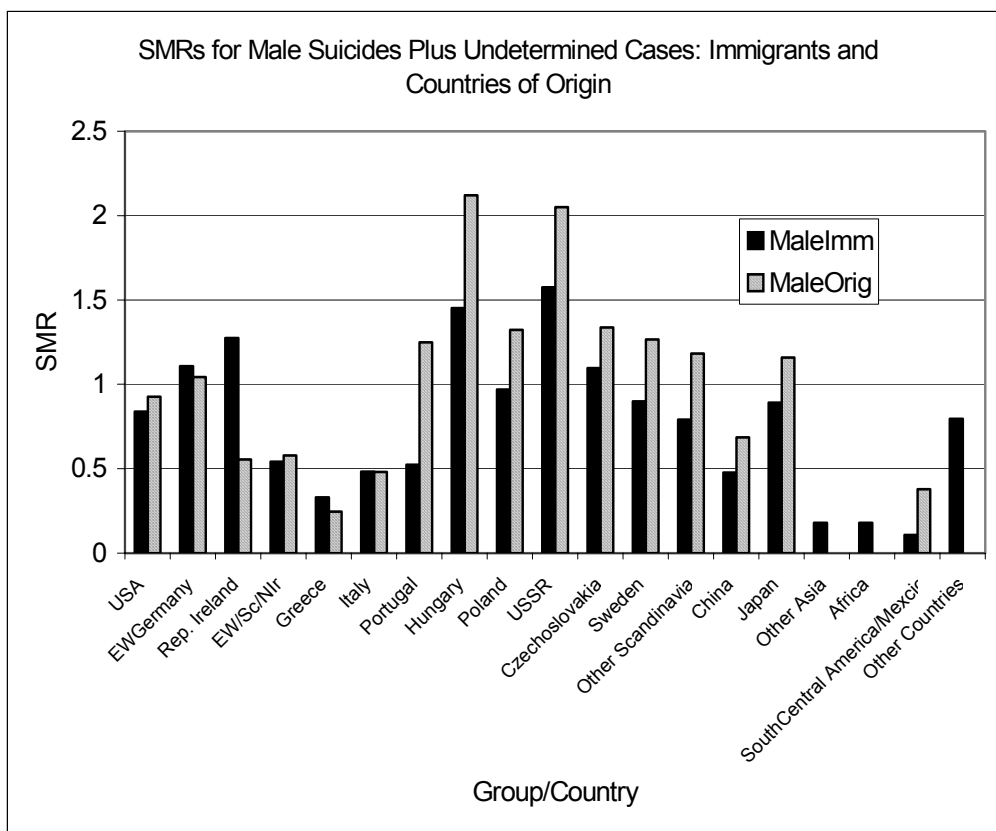


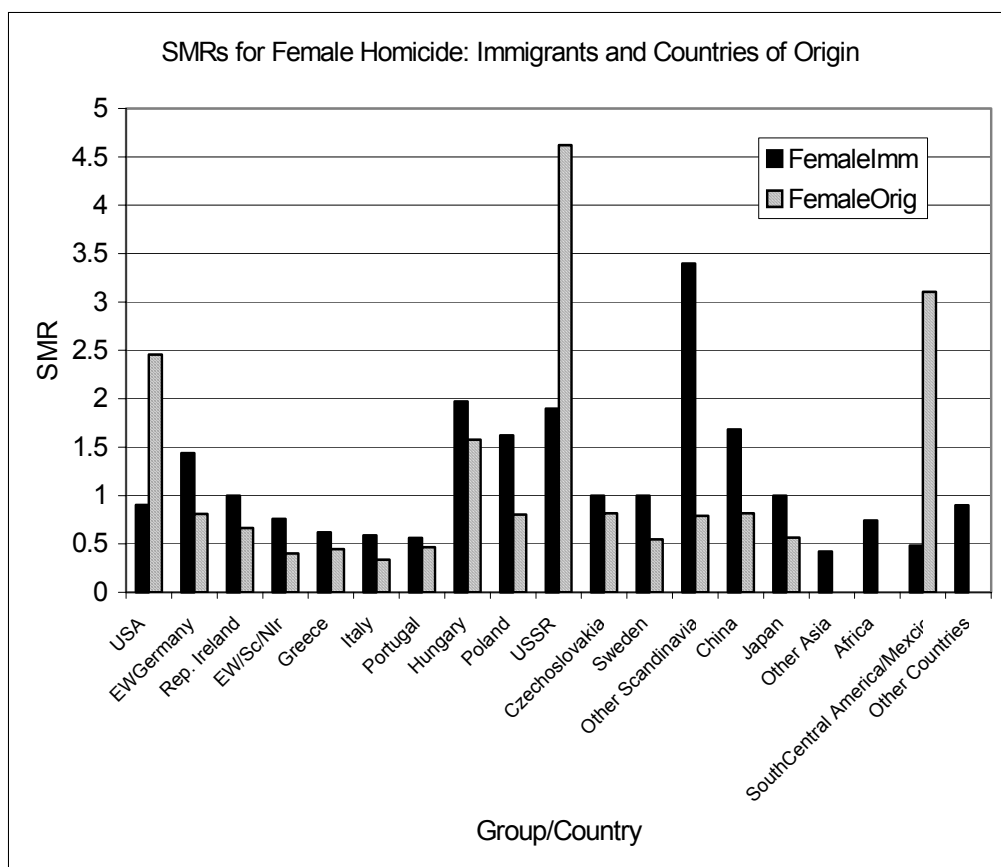
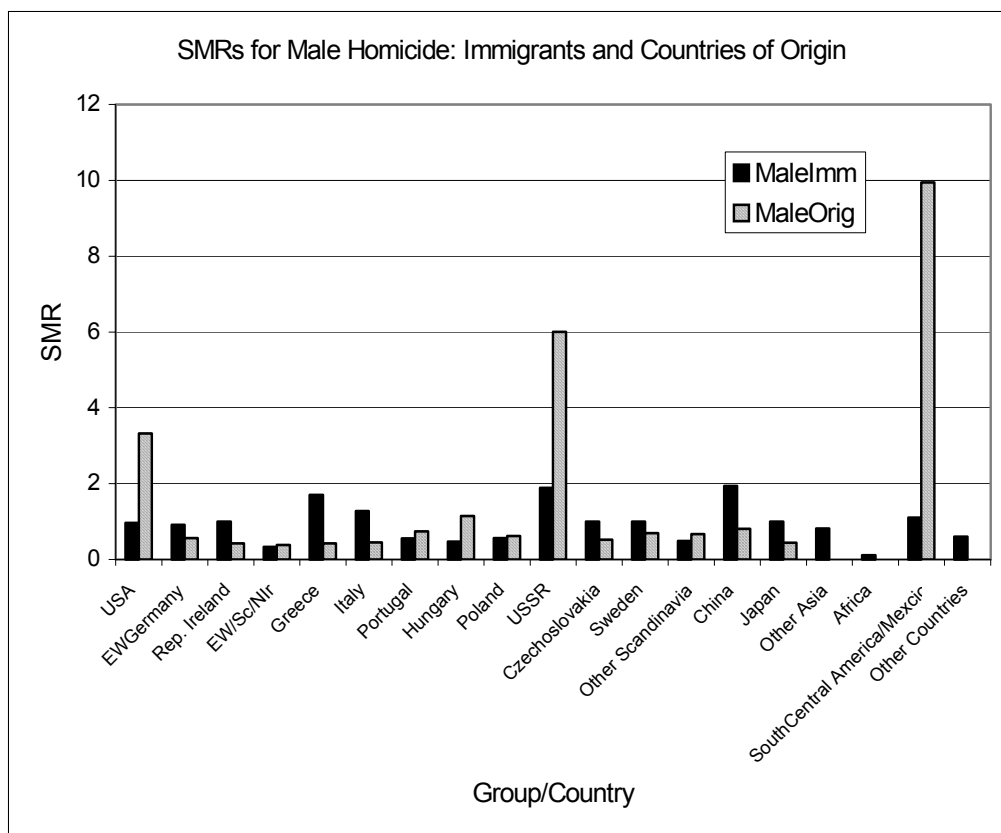
SMRs for Male Suicide: Immigrants and Countries of Origin

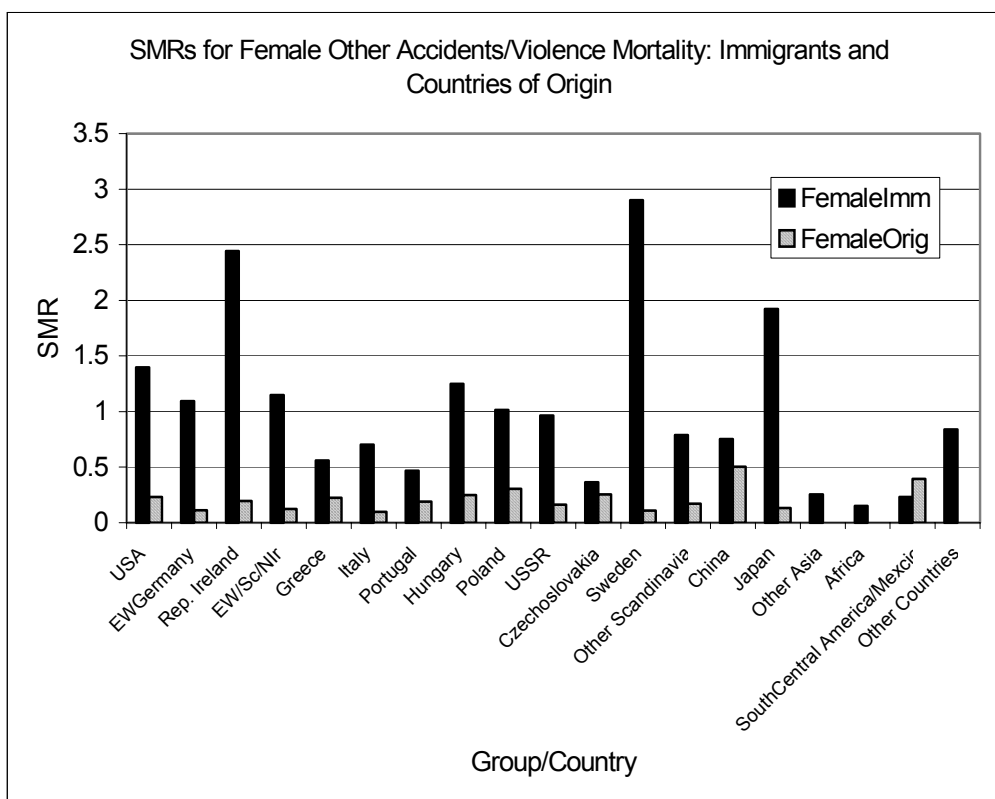
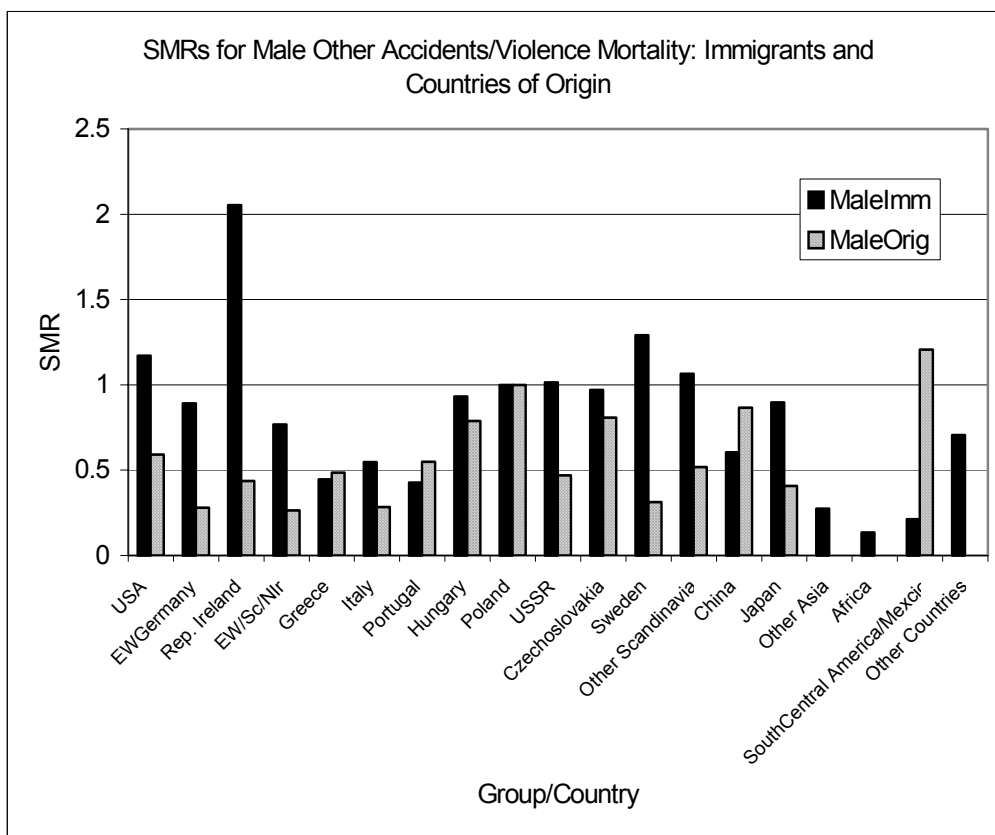


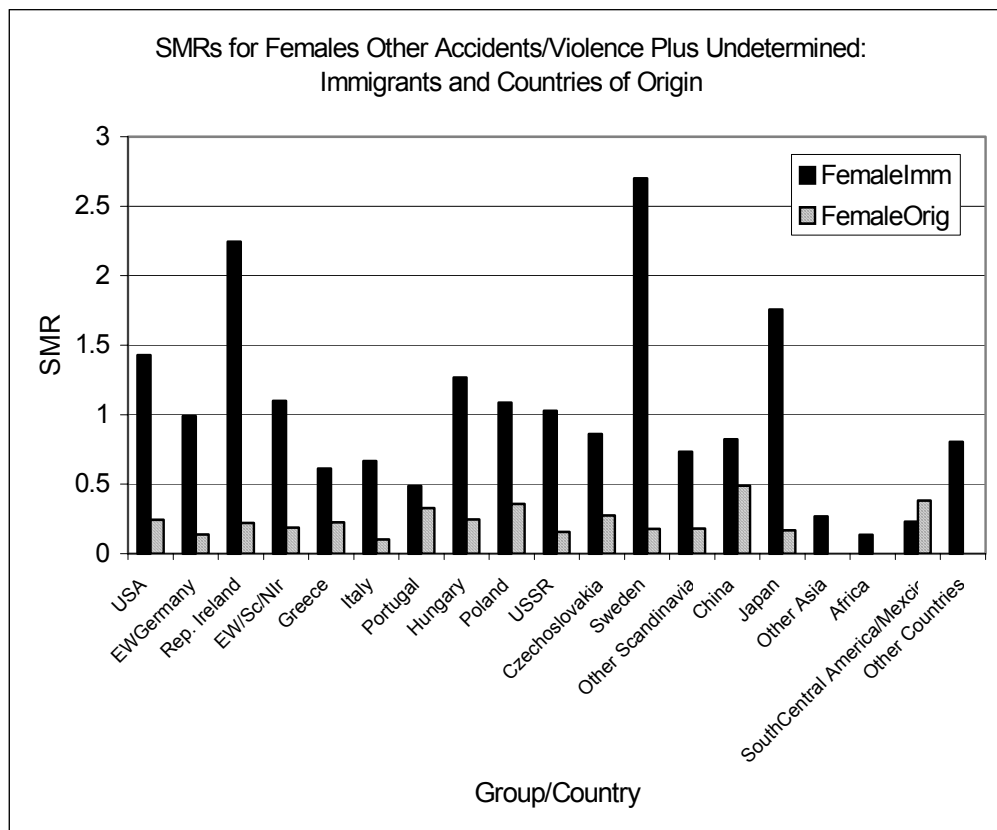
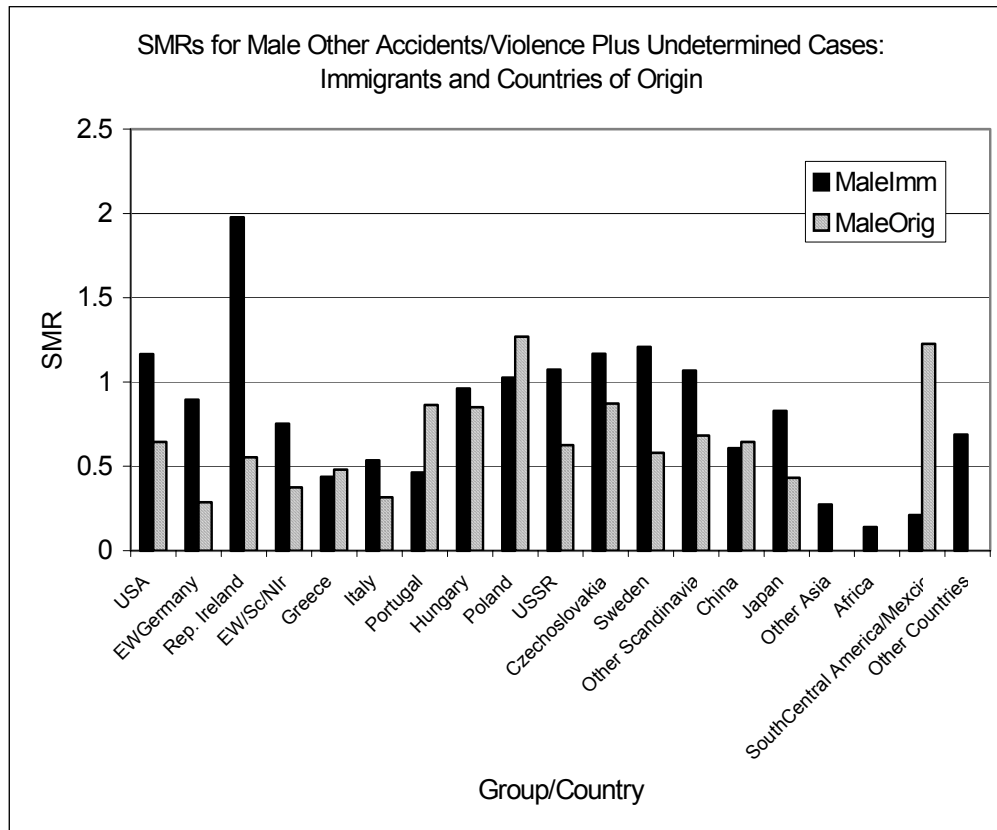
SMRs for Female Suicide: Immigrants and Countries of Origin



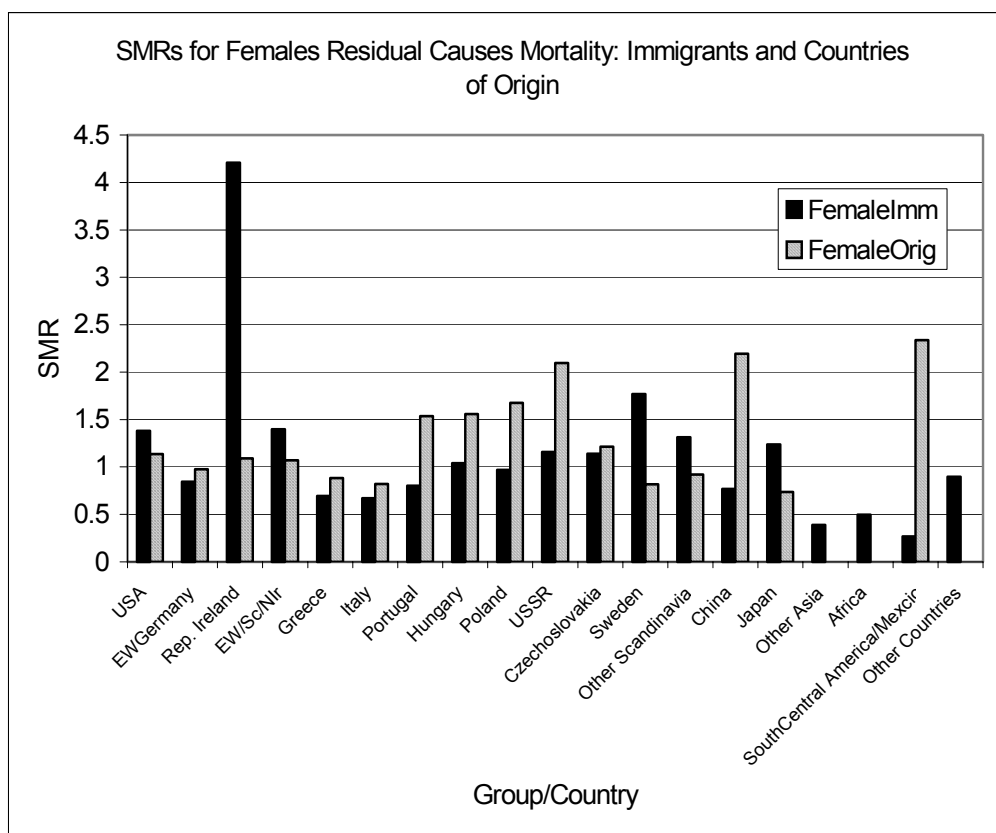
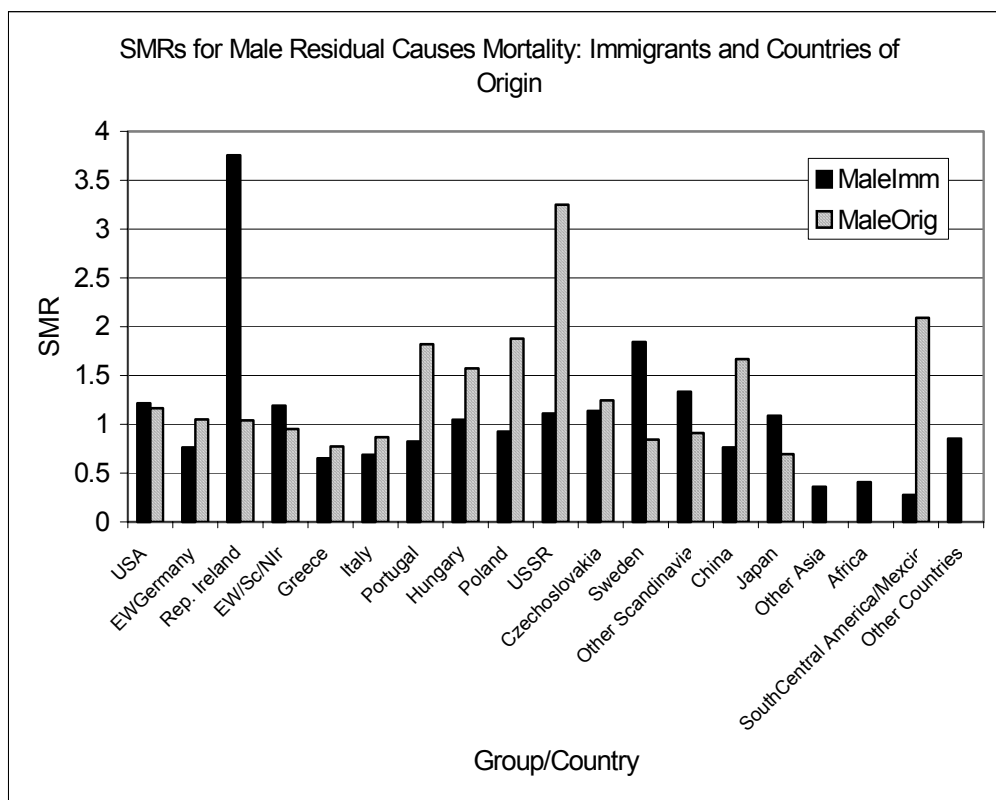












**APPENDIX D: CRUDE CAUSE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES (PER 100,000  
POPULATION) FOR IMMIGRANT GROUPS AND THE CANADIAN BORN, 1991.**

**Appendix D: Crude Cause-Specific Death Rates by Nationality Group and Sex, 1991**

			GENDER	
			MALE	FEMALE
COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF IMMIGRANTS	CANADIAN BORN	CDR--IHD	166.64	123.51
		CDR---OHD	37.71	40.19
		cdr--st. cancer	7.75	4.83
		cdr--lung cancer	68.35	31.88
		cdr--other cancers	126.79	127.35
		cdr--diabetes	14.03	14.75
		cdr--cirrhosis of liver	10.31	4.94
		cdr--cerebrovascular	4.92	7.49
		cdr--mva	19.13	8.00
		cdr--acc. falls	6.20	6.57
		cdr--suicide	22.14	5.40
		cdr--- suicide+undetermined	23.47	5.95
		cdr---homicide	2.84	1.57
		cdr---other acc/violence	18.08	5.96
		cdr---residual causes	218.86	200.87
	USA	CDR--IHD	408.14	375.89
		CDR---OHD	112.88	140.93
		cdr--st. cancer	14.20	8.68
		cdr--lung cancer	104.81	56.32
		cdr--other cancers	278.05	277.04
		cdr--diabetes	32.80	41.30
		cdr--cirrhosis of liver	16.20	6.91
		cdr--cerebrovascular	18.21	33.78
		cdr--mva	21.52	9.41
		cdr--acc. falls	20.16	25.97
		cdr--suicide	22.00	6.16
		cdr--- suicide+undetermined	23.32	7.41
		cdr---homicide	2.92	1.42
		cdr---other acc/violence	25.95	12.52
		cdr---residual causes	562.31	656.17
	EWGERMANY	CDR--IHD	276.59	174.44
		CDR---OHD	58.34	66.20
		cdr--st. cancer	18.19	10.44
		cdr--lung cancer	92.67	44.55
		cdr--other cancers	212.41	217.13
		cdr--diabetes	17.88	23.58
		cdr--cirrhosis of liver	24.48	8.96
		cdr--cerebrovascular	8.39	9.31
		cdr--mva	14.82	9.54
		cdr--acc. falls	8.11	7.04

	REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	cdr--suicide	29.89	6.95
		cdr---suicide+undetermined	32.12	6.95
		cdr---homicide	2.75	2.17
		cdr---other acc/violence	18.33	8.47
		cdr---residual causes	265.90	266.46
		CDR--IHD	925.75	880.67
		CDR---OHD	228.94	280.67
		cdr--st. cancer	66.15	26.77
		cdr--lung cancer	294.18	189.80
		cdr--other cancers	730.69	688.34
		cdr--diabetes	63.76	56.24
		cdr--cirrhosis of liver	47.96	33.12
		cdr--cerebrovascular	46.17	90.39
		cdr--mva	31.96	13.33
		cdr--acc. falls	46.13	69.53
	ENGLAND-WALES/SCOTLAND	cdr--suicide	34.25	20.49
		cdr---suicide+undetermined	36.63	20.49
		cdr---homicide	.00	2.25
		cdr---other acc/violence	44.01	19.99
		cdr---residual causes	1378.18	1525.66
		CDR--IHD	462.25	472.12
		CDR---OHD	107.95	152.62
		cdr--st. cancer	26.52	15.00
		cdr--lung cancer	160.55	87.01
		cdr--other cancers	356.43	343.47
		cdr--diabetes	32.70	36.47
		cdr--cirrhosis of liver	20.05	8.99
		cdr--cerebrovascular	21.88	47.08
		cdr--mva	13.76	8.41
		cdr--acc. falls	21.44	39.52
	GREECE	cdr--suicide	15.20	5.28
		cdr---suicide+undetermined	16.20	5.62
		cdr---homicide	1.00	1.10
		cdr---other acc/violence	15.90	11.95
		cdr---residual causes	652.08	813.28
		CDR--IHD	167.47	105.87
		CDR---OHD	37.96	37.70
		cdr--st. cancer	20.56	11.88
		cdr--lung cancer	85.59	16.86
		cdr--other cancers	130.22	144.43
		cdr--diabetes	15.26	18.58
		cdr--cirrhosis of liver	7.02	3.48
		cdr--cerebrovascular	3.79	5.68

	ITALY	cdr--mva	10.64	2.50
		cdr--acc. falls	5.45	10.13
		cdr--suicide	9.90	.85
		cdr---		
		suicide+undetermined	9.90	1.70
		cdr---homicide	5.36	.95
		cdr---other	9.60	4.19
		acc/violence		
		cdr---residual causes	191.84	194.93
		CDR--IHD	234.54	186.09
		CDR---OHD	61.85	62.14
		cdr--st. cancer	30.84	16.55
		cdr--lung cancer	125.78	18.96
		cdr--other cancers	227.28	198.52
		cdr--diabetes	20.65	36.55
	PORTUGAL	cdr--cirrhosis of liver	28.45	13.78
		cdr--cerebrovascular	7.10	6.70
		cdr--mva	9.00	4.72
		cdr--acc. falls	8.56	14.82
		cdr--suicide	13.67	3.75
		cdr---		
		suicide+undetermined	14.46	3.99
		cdr---homicide	3.90	.88
		cdr---other	12.04	5.87
		acc/violence		
		cdr---residual causes	293.10	237.45
		CDR--IHD	90.98	75.39
		CDR---OHD	35.79	20.64
		cdr--st. cancer	16.22	11.16
		cdr--lung cancer	59.65	6.32
	HUNGARY	cdr--other cancers	106.09	95.70
		cdr--diabetes	11.08	18.00
		cdr--cirrhosis of liver	17.62	4.94
		cdr--cerebrovascular	1.60	1.69
		cdr--mva	8.84	2.66
		cdr--acc. falls	9.54	3.31
		cdr--suicide	13.68	4.22
		cdr---		
		suicide+undetermined	15.39	4.64
		cdr---homicide	1.89	.96
		cdr---other	8.66	2.69
		acc/violence		
		cdr---residual causes	154.44	126.75
		CDR--IHD	586.86	464.49
		CDR---OHD	105.72	143.12
		cdr--st. cancer	38.64	15.24
		cdr--lung cancer	180.81	65.46
		cdr--other cancers	389.26	385.09
		cdr--diabetes	40.01	63.12

	cdr--cirrhosis of liver	32.39	17.28
	cdr--cerebrovascular	27.67	27.34
	cdr--mva	20.11	12.54
	cdr--acc. falls	27.12	29.83
	cdr--suicide	40.44	16.32
	cdr---		
	suicide+undetermined	42.63	17.54
	cdr---homicide	1.29	2.66
	cdr---other	20.69	13.59
	acc/violence		
	cdr---residual causes	659.75	625.15
POLAND	CDR--IHD	552.88	383.59
	CDR---OHD	111.29	117.88
	cdr--st. cancer	38.81	17.33
	cdr--lung cancer	145.82	38.28
	cdr--other cancers	341.49	278.62
	cdr--diabetes	41.52	42.48
	cdr--cirrhosis of liver	16.24	4.02
	cdr--cerebrovascular	19.19	20.81
	cdr--mva	16.87	7.69
	cdr--acc. falls	22.84	16.25
	cdr--suicide	25.66	6.41
	cdr---		
	suicide+undetermined	27.47	7.89
	cdr---homicide	1.60	2.36
	cdr---other	24.11	9.96
	acc/violence		
	cdr---residual causes	580.41	517.21
FORMER USSR	CDR--IHD	1152.97	933.89
	CDR---OHD	293.80	288.27
	cdr--st. cancer	76.35	48.14
	cdr--lung cancer	275.58	88.88
	cdr--other cancers	738.46	578.67
	cdr--diabetes	76.41	95.05
	cdr--cirrhosis of liver	31.45	17.28
	cdr--cerebrovascular	52.35	68.21
	cdr--mva	21.48	17.73
	cdr--acc. falls	48.76	51.86
	cdr--suicide	43.54	14.47
	cdr---		
	suicide+undetermined	47.27	16.41
	cdr---homicide	4.54	2.22
	cdr---other	32.24	15.58
	acc/violence		
	cdr---residual causes	1423.90	1312.46
FORMER	CDR--IHD	505.06	430.55
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	CDR---OHD	103.04	126.74
	cdr--st. cancer	25.43	17.12
	cdr--lung cancer	124.37	37.91

	cdr--other cancers	336.56	281.25
	cdr--diabetes	37.74	50.43
	cdr--cirrhosis of liver	10.32	5.05
	cdr--cerebrovascular	14.66	34.73
	cdr--mva	12.00	8.50
	cdr--acc. falls	14.94	21.77
	cdr--suicide	28.81	5.08
	cdr--- suicide+undetermined	31.79	10.25
	cdr---homicide	.00	1.92
	cdr---other acc/violence	30.21	3.33
	cdr---residual causes	579.74	520.55
SWEDEN	CDR--IHD	931.79	516.33
	CDR---OHD	300.24	198.96
	cdr--st. cancer	52.97	8.19
	cdr--lung cancer	175.90	66.28
	cdr--other cancers	576.47	303.64
	cdr--diabetes	71.61	52.14
	cdr--cirrhosis of liver	35.65	22.90
	cdr--cerebrovascular	61.59	88.50
	cdr--mva	39.03	7.35
	cdr--acc. falls	88.70	37.16
	cdr--suicide	27.37	15.62
	cdr--- suicide+undetermined	27.37	15.62
	cdr---homicide	.00	.00
	cdr---other acc/violence	17.82	29.71
	cdr---residual causes	1594.70	1052.55
OTHER SCANDINAVIA(ICELAND)	CDR--IHD	710.32	498.38
	CDR---OHD	225.68	178.77
	cdr--st. cancer	30.98	14.54
	cdr--lung cancer	203.43	72.72
	cdr--other cancers	482.20	332.02
	cdr--diabetes	30.75	37.45
	cdr--cirrhosis of liver	37.62	12.75
	cdr--cerebrovascular	52.36	52.31
	cdr--mva	19.72	10.08
	cdr--acc. falls	44.66	36.97
	cdr--suicide	20.87	10.12
	cdr--- suicide+undetermined	23.81	10.12
	cdr---homicide	1.38	4.73
	cdr---other acc/violence	30.95	8.57
	cdr---residual causes	1009.74	802.45
CHINA	CDR--IHD	152.81	122.48
	CDR---OHD	66.98	63.56

		cdr--st. cancer	24.93	15.99
		cdr--lung cancer	99.66	48.51
		cdr--other cancers	212.63	190.43
		cdr--diabetes	29.51	27.65
		cdr--cirrhosis of liver	7.34	6.19
		cdr--cerebrovascular	5.74	9.56
		cdr--mva	12.08	16.69
		cdr--acc. falls	11.07	12.01
		cdr--suicide	13.78	11.30
		cdr---		
		suicide+undetermined	14.20	12.53
		cdr---homicide	6.04	2.59
		cdr---other	12.88	6.62
		acc/violence		
		cdr---residual causes	335.01	321.32
	JAPAN	CDR--IHD	110.46	137.29
		CDR---OHD	35.68	51.02
		cdr--st. cancer	48.68	15.19
		cdr--lung cancer	51.18	8.88
		cdr--other cancers	96.21	95.65
		cdr--diabetes	3.98	21.10
		cdr--cirrhosis of liver	.00	2.97
		cdr--cerebrovascular	.00	2.96
		cdr--mva	4.11	9.10
		cdr--acc. falls	16.41	17.92
		cdr--suicide	25.45	5.99
		cdr---		
		suicide+undetermined	25.45	5.99
		cdr---homicide	.00	.00
		cdr---other	12.89	12.65
		acc/violence		
		cdr---residual causes	295.11	318.80
	OTHER ASIA	CDR--IHD	44.84	28.08
		CDR---OHD	8.84	9.52
		cdr--st. cancer	2.14	1.71
		cdr--lung cancer	9.08	3.66
		cdr--other cancers	26.85	27.67
		cdr--diabetes	5.47	5.69
		cdr--cirrhosis of liver	2.96	.99
		cdr--cerebrovascular	.79	.91
		cdr--mva	6.09	2.46
		cdr--acc. falls	1.48	2.04
		cdr--suicide	4.67	2.26
		cdr---		
		suicide+undetermined	5.04	2.47
		cdr---homicide	2.76	.76
		cdr---other	5.31	1.27
		acc/violence		
		cdr---residual causes	47.35	41.58



AFRICA	CDR--IHD	53.19	35.36
	CDR---OHD	9.88	9.93
	cdr--st. cancer	1.73	2.42
	cdr--lung cancer	8.06	3.67
	cdr--other cancers	43.22	51.72
	cdr--diabetes	4.61	7.42
	cdr--cirrhosis of liver	3.46	1.28
	cdr--cerebrovascular	.70	1.23
	cdr--mva	5.23	3.49
	cdr--acc. falls	1.69	.84
	cdr--suicide	4.80	1.82
	cdr---		
	suicide+undetermined	5.18	1.82
	cdr---homicide	.39	1.31
	cdr---other	2.59	.78
	acc/violence		
	cdr---residual causes	49.32	59.61
SOUTHCENTRAL AMERICA/MEXICO	CDR--IHD	17.73	12.73
	CDR---OHD	6.87	7.90
	cdr--st. cancer	2.34	1.09
	cdr--lung cancer	4.35	2.21
	cdr--other cancers	18.06	18.40
	cdr--diabetes	2.02	3.04
	cdr--cirrhosis of liver	1.25	1.22
	cdr--cerebrovascular	.33	.38
	cdr--mva	3.17	1.46
	cdr--acc. falls	1.68	.27
	cdr--suicide	2.48	1.04
	cdr---		
	suicide+undetermined	2.82	1.17
	cdr---homicide	4.08	.85
	cdr---other	3.98	1.18
	acc/violence		
	cdr---residual causes	39.39	31.01
OTHER COUNTRIES	CDR--IHD	271.69	208.19
	CDR---OHD	52.57	70.77
	cdr--st. cancer	18.47	12.98
	cdr--lung cancer	110.21	29.47
	cdr--other cancers	205.78	202.97
	cdr--diabetes	20.88	26.11
	cdr--cirrhosis of liver	13.69	5.76
	cdr--cerebrovascular	10.29	14.20
	cdr--mva	13.05	6.99
	cdr--acc. falls	12.74	11.41
	cdr--suicide	22.51	6.66
	cdr---		
	suicide+undetermined	23.27	6.98
	cdr---homicide	1.85	1.37

	cdr---other	15.19	6.67
	acc/violence		
	cdr---residual causes	314.87	301.72

**APPENDIX E: CRUDE CAUSE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES (PER 100,000  
POPULATION) FOR OLD WAVE AND NEW WAVE IMMIGRANTS, 1991.**

**Appendix E: Crude Cause-Specific Death Rates (per 100,000) by Sex: Canadian Born, Old Wave and New Wave Immigrants, 1991**

			GENDER		
			MALE	FEMALE	
COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF IMMIGRANTS	CANADIAN BORN	total	725.00	584.00	
		ischemic heart disease	166.64	123.51	
		other heart disease	37.71	40.19	
		stomach cancer	7.75	4.83	
		lung cancer	68.35	31.88	
		other cancers	126.79	127.35	
		diabetes	14.03	14.75	
		cirrhosis of liver	10.31	4.94	
		cerebrovascular	4.92	7.49	
		motor vehicle accs.	19.13	8.00	
		acc. falls	6.20	6.57	
		suicide	22.14	5.40	
		suicide+undet.	23.47	5.95	
		homicide	2.84	1.57	
		other accs/violence	18.08	5.96	
		residual	196.63	195.59	
		OLD Wave	total	1575.00	1475.00
			ischemic heart disease	389.68	344.31
	other heart disease		92.30	114.04	
	stomach cancer		26.72	15.04	
	lung cancer		132.83	52.67	
	other cancers		290.24	273.55	
	diabetes		28.67	36.35	
	cirrhosis of liver		20.26	8.81	
	cerebrovascular		16.37	27.97	
	motor vehicle accs.		14.27	7.91	
	acc. falls		17.74	23.98	
	suicide		20.57	6.25	
	suicide+undet.		21.87	6.88	
	homicide		2.19	1.44	
	other accs/violence		17.73	9.46	
	residual		483.55	546.31	
	NEW Wave		total	234.00	191.54
			ischemic heart disease	48.63	33.24
		other heart disease	13.72	14.17	
		stomach cancer	4.20	2.94	
		lung cancer	15.96	7.46	
		other cancers	43.27	42.53	
		diabetes	6.67	7.16	
		cirrhosis of liver	2.97	1.57	
		cerebrovascular	1.11	1.60	
		motor vehicle accs.	5.79	3.61	

acc. falls	2.42	2.36
suicide	4.95	2.72
suicide+undet.	5.32	2.98
homicide	3.13	1.01
other accs/violence	5.35	1.70
residual	70.51	63.05

## APPENDIX F: CAUSE-SPECIFIC INDIRECTLY STANDARDIZED MORTALITY

### RATIOS FOR OLD AND NEW WAVE IMMIGRANTS, 1991 (Canadian Born as standard)

Cause of Death	Males		Females	
	Old Wave	New Wave	Old Wave	New Wave
IHD	.817	.364	.907	.370
Other HD	.799	.456	.889	.479
Stomach Cancer	1.298	.658	1.232	.764
Lung Cancer	.774	.284	.812	.267
Other Cancers	.868	.413	.908	.391
Diabetes	.725	.597	.889	.647
Cirrhosis of Liver	.866	.298	.852	.343
Cerebrovascular	.866	.292	.944	.306
MVA	.701	.273	.812	.433
Accidental Falls	.897	.448	1.015	.491
Suicide	.733	.182	.898	.414
Suicide + Undetermined	.736	.187	.890	.416
Homicide	.729	.930	.961	.573
Other Accidents/Violence	.710	.270	.919	.314
Residual Causes	.813	.422	.926	.460
Total SMR	.820	.381	.909	.416
CDR per 1000	15.75	14.75	2.34	1.95

Note: Total populations included in the computations of the ISDRs.



**APPENDIX G: CRUDE AND DIRECTLY STANDARDIZED DEATH RATES**  
**(PER 100,000) FOR THE CANADIAN BORN, OLD AND NEW WAVE**  
**IMMIGRANTS; FOUR BROAD CAUSES OF DEATH**

**Table G(a): Crude Death Rates (per 100,000)**

Cause of Death	Canadian Born		Old Wave		New Wave	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Heart Disease	204.35	163.70	481.98	458.36	62.35	47.41
Cancer	202.89	164.06	449.79	341.26	63.43	52.92
External	69.71	28.09	73.80	55.92	22.01	11.66
Other	248.12	228.06	563.68	619.43	82.30	76.79
Total	725.00	584.00	1575.00	1475.00	234.00	195.00

**TABLE G(b): Directly Standardized Mortality Rates (per 100,000)**

Cause of Death	Canadian Born		Old Wave		New Wave	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Heart Disease	242.39	136.80	194.64	118.14	96.20	55.25
Cancer	231.94	148.26	198.20	130.31	90.31	56.74
External	72.10	26.32	50.71	21.50	22.74	11.57
Other	301.40	199.75	230.74	166.76	129.61	89.72



Total	847.83	511.13	674.29	436.71	338.86	213.28
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\*The Canadian Population is the standard population. The standard weights applied are: <15 = .2416; 15-19 = .0753;

20-24 = .0751; 25-29 = .0883; 30-34 = .0927; 35-39 = .0821; 40-44 = .0710; 45-49 = .0550; 50-54 = .0437; 55-59  
 = .0403; 60-64 = .0386; 65-69 = .0345; 70-74 = .0275; 75-79 = .0199; 80-84 = .0098; 85+ = .0048.

## APPENDIX H: DISTRIBUTIONS OF DEATHS (1990-92) AND 1991 CENSUS POPULATIONS FOR THREE BROAD CLASSES OF NATIVITY.

This Appendix consists of the table below, and eight graphs. The table displays the distribution of deaths by nativity and four broad causes of death for the Canadian Born, the Old Wave and the New Wave immigrants. The deaths are for the three-year period 1990-92. The population is from the 1991 census. As can be seen from the table, the vast majority of deaths belong to the Canadian Born population (about 75%). Only about two per cent of general and cause-specific deaths are New Wave immigrants. In total, Heart Disease accounts for 29 per cent of all deaths in Canada, followed by another 28 per cent attributable to Cancer. External conditions represent about 8 per cent of total deaths. The population of these nativity groups is distributed in a similar fashion. Approximately 80 per cent of the total population of Canada are Canadian Born. Of the approximately 17 per cent that is foreign born, about 10 per cent is Old Wave, and just under 7 per cent New Wave.

**Table I 1:** Distribution of Deaths During 1990-92 by Four Broad Causes of Death and 1991 Population; Three Nativity Groups (Ages 15 and Older)

	Canadian Born	Old Wave Immigrants	New Wave Immigrants	Total
<b><u>Heart Disease</u></b>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	N
Males	75.9	22.2	1.9	90,313
<u>Females</u>	<u>72.5</u>	<u>25.8</u>	<u>1.7</u>	<u>77,361</u>
Total	74.3	23.9	1.8	167,674

<b>Cancer</b>				
Males	76.8	21.2	2.0	88,512
<u>Females</u>	<u>77.5</u>	<u>20.5</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>72,543</u>
Total	77.1	20.9	2.0	161,055
<b>External</b>				
Males	86.4	11.4	2.2	27,059
<u>Females</u>	<u>79.4</u>	<u>17.9</u>	<u>2.7</u>	<u>12,106</u>
Total	84.2	13.4	2.4	39,165
<b>Other Causes</b>				
Males	76.4	21.6	2.1	108,939
<u>Females</u>	<u>72.8</u>	<u>25.1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>107,247</u>
Total	74.6	23.3	2.1	216,186
<b>Total Deaths</b>				
Males	77.2	20.8	2.0	314,822
<u>Females</u>	<u>74.3</u>	<u>23.7</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>269,257</u>
Total	75.9	22.1	2.0	584,079
<hr/>				
<b>Population 15+</b>				
Males	82.9	10.3	6.8	13,485,235
<u>Females</u>	<u>82.7</u>	<u>10.5</u>	<u>6.8</u>	<u>13,811,626</u>
Total	82.8	10.4	6.8	27,296,861
<hr/>				

It is interesting to note that the four broad causes of death do not follow a uniform age pattern of distribution. For instance, proportionately, there are few incidences of heart disease and cancer mortality in the ages below 40. Most deaths due to heart disease and

cancer are heavily concentrated in the post-retirement ages. External deaths follow a very different distribution over age. In this case there is a heavy concentration of deaths in the ages between 15 and 40, which reduces gradually thereafter. Except for the presence of a gentle rise in the older ages, External types of deaths for females tend to represent a generally “flat” distribution across age. Concerning nativity, the most noticeable differential is with regard to Old Wave immigrants. They consistently show, irrespective of gender, a pronounced rise in the percentage of cause-specific mortality in the oldest ages. Since the percentage distribution of deaths for any population is strongly related to population composition, it is clear that this tendency in the Old Wave immigrant is largely a reflection of their much older population structure as compared to the Canadian Born and the New Wave migrants. It is for this reason that age-specific death rates are computed, and further, age standardization when comparing mortality across populations.

*Graphs are not available electronically.*

*Hard copies are available upon request.*



## APPENDIX I: MORTALITY IN THE AGES 0-14

Below, deaths for 0-14 year olds were classified into three categories: complications of the heart, accidents/violence, and other causes. This was necessary due to the relatively few numbers of deaths in this age range. Deaths in the early years of life are unevenly distributed. The rate of death (per 1000) is highest in infancy. Group-specific geometric means follow an expected rank order, as noted in connection with adult mortality: Canadian born have the highest risk, followed by the Old Wave and New Wave immigrants.

Cause	Canadian Born		Old Wave		New Wave	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Complication of the Heart	.10	.09	.00	.08	.00	.04
Accidents/Violence	1.44	.88	1.08	.38	.52	.21
Other Causes	6.31	5.18	.87	.91	.42	.60
Total	7.923	6.150	1.950	1.370	0.940	0.850

In the multivariate analysis below, males are at a higher risk of dying. As far as the three causes of death are concerned, complications of the heart are relative rare in this age range, while accidents and violence and "other" causes are more frequent. Looking at the interaction effects, New Wave immigrants share a greater risk of death from complications of the heart than either Old Wave and Canadian born. However, in the remaining two interactions, the risk is lowest for the New Wave.

**Table I 1:** Log-Linear Equations; Mortality in the Ages 0-14

Effects	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Intercept	-10.10194	-10.29637	-10.33167	-10.45521
Canadian Born	1.166*	.624*	.624*	.411*
Old Wave	-.275*	-.035	-.035	.100
(New Wave)	-.891*	.589*	.589*	-.511*
Age 0		2.132*	2.131*	2.132*
1-4		-.817*	-.817*	-.817*
(5-14)		-1.315*	-1.315*	-1.315*
Male		.116*	.112*	.116*
(Female)		-.116*	-.112*	-.116*
Cause 1: Complication of the Heart			-2.203*	-2.141*
Cause 2: Accidents/Violence			.311*	.722*
(Cause 3): (Other Causes)			1.892*	1.419*
Cause 1 x Canadian Born				-.061
Cause 1 x Old Wave				-.420*
Cause 1 x (New Wave)				.481*
Cause 2 x Canadian Born				.083
Cause 2 x Old Wave				.215
Cause 2 x (New Wave)				-.298
Cause 3 x Canadian Born				-.022
Cause 3 x Old Wave				.205
(Cause 3) x (New Wave)				-.183
L <sup>2</sup> M/ df	44177.72/ 51	16971.50/ 48	3611.57/ 46	3573.57/ 42
Pseudo R <sup>2</sup>	.38	.92	.96	.98

\* p< .05