Abstract

Background: Cardiovascular diseases are ranked among the leading causes of death in the industrialized countries. This study is aimed at ascertaining the mortality trends by ischemic heart disease (IHD) and cerebrovascular diseases (CVD) in Andalusia within the 1975-2004 period. Method: Based on the official IHD and CVD death statistics and the related populations, the gross rates (GR) and age-adjusted rates (TS) and the Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) were calculated. To quantify the trends and their change points, a joinpoint regression analysis was made. Results: The number of IHD deaths for females rose from 2,086 deaths in 1975 to 3,336 in 2004, the TS having dropped from 74.29 to 50.94 deaths/100,000 females, the PYLL having dropped from 173.65 years to 90.56 years/100,000 females. The number of deaths for males rose from 2,854 deaths in 1975 to 4,085 in 2004, the TS having dropped from 147.67 to 104.96 deaths /100,000 males. The PYLL showed a like behaviour from the first to the last year of the series, showing values of 716.46 and 460.04 years / 100,000 males. For the IHD in females, the number of deaths in absolute numbers dropped from 4,712 to 4,221, the TS having dropped from 166.00 to 62.08 deaths in females, and the PYLL from 338.08 to 87.63 years / 100,000 females. For males, the number of deaths dropped from 3,714 to 2,951, the TS from 206.88 deaths /100,000 males in 1975 to 76.12 /100,000 males in 2004, and the PYLL dropping from 533.12 to 182.38 years / 100,000 males. Conclusions: The trend in mortality due to IHD was not constant either among females or males, although it has always been a downward trend, the drop being statistically significant. The drop in the CVD has been such a major one that both the absolute numbers and the gross rates are lower for the most recent years that the first years in the series studied despite the aging of Andalusia's population.

Keywords