How Do Individual Risk Factors Affect PM_{2.5}-Associated Wintertime Mortality in Urban Patients With COPD?



STUDY DESIGN

- Evaluated health records of 19,243 deceased veterans with prior COPD diagnosis
- Wintertime PM_{2.5} assigned to patients based on geocoded addresses
- Associations between acute air pollution and mortality estimated using a time-stratified case-crossover design

RESULTS

For Each

10 μg/m₃ increase in daily wintertime PM_{2.5}



The Estimated Mortality Risk Was

1.05 (95% CI, 1.02-1.09)

Elevated Risk Seen in	OR	95% CI
Older Adults (80-100 years)	1.089	(1.036 – 1.144)
Black Patients	1.089	(0.998 – 1.137)
Obesity	1.089	(1.001 – 1.229)
Coronary Artery Disease	1.089	(1.015 – 1.127)
Diabetes	1.089	(1.000 – 1.116)

Obesity, coronary artery disease, and diabetes are understudied modifiers of air pollution-related risks for people with existing COPD. These results provide support for future evaluations of these vulnerable groups.