



Breast Cancer in Jamaica: Mortality Trends from 2010-2014

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BACKGROUND

- Breast cancer (BC) is the most common cancer affecting women in Jamaica.
- Compared to women globally, Jamaican women have a more aggressive disease - earlier age of onset, more advanced stage at presentation and higher mortality.
- Low survival rates in developing countries have been linked to lack of early detection, inadequate diagnostic and treatment options.
- The main objective of this study was to analyze the mortality trends of BC in Jamaica between 2010-2014.

METHODS

- A cross-sectional study was done involving mortality data from all 14 parishes of Jamaica during the period 2010 to 2014 (5 years).
- This data was obtained from the Registrar General Department, the statutory body responsible for registering all deaths across Jamaica.
- For breast-cancer specific mortality, we included deaths which met the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision code for malignant neoplasms of the breast.
- The study entails a census of deaths from the 14 parishes for the period 2010 to 2014.
- The age-standardized rate was calculated using the Jamaica annual census population data between 2010 to 2014 from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica and the WHO World Standard Population (2000-2025).
- For age-specific mortality rates, we stratified the population in decennial age groups. All graphs and tables were generated using spreadsheets in Microsoft Office Excel.

RESULTS

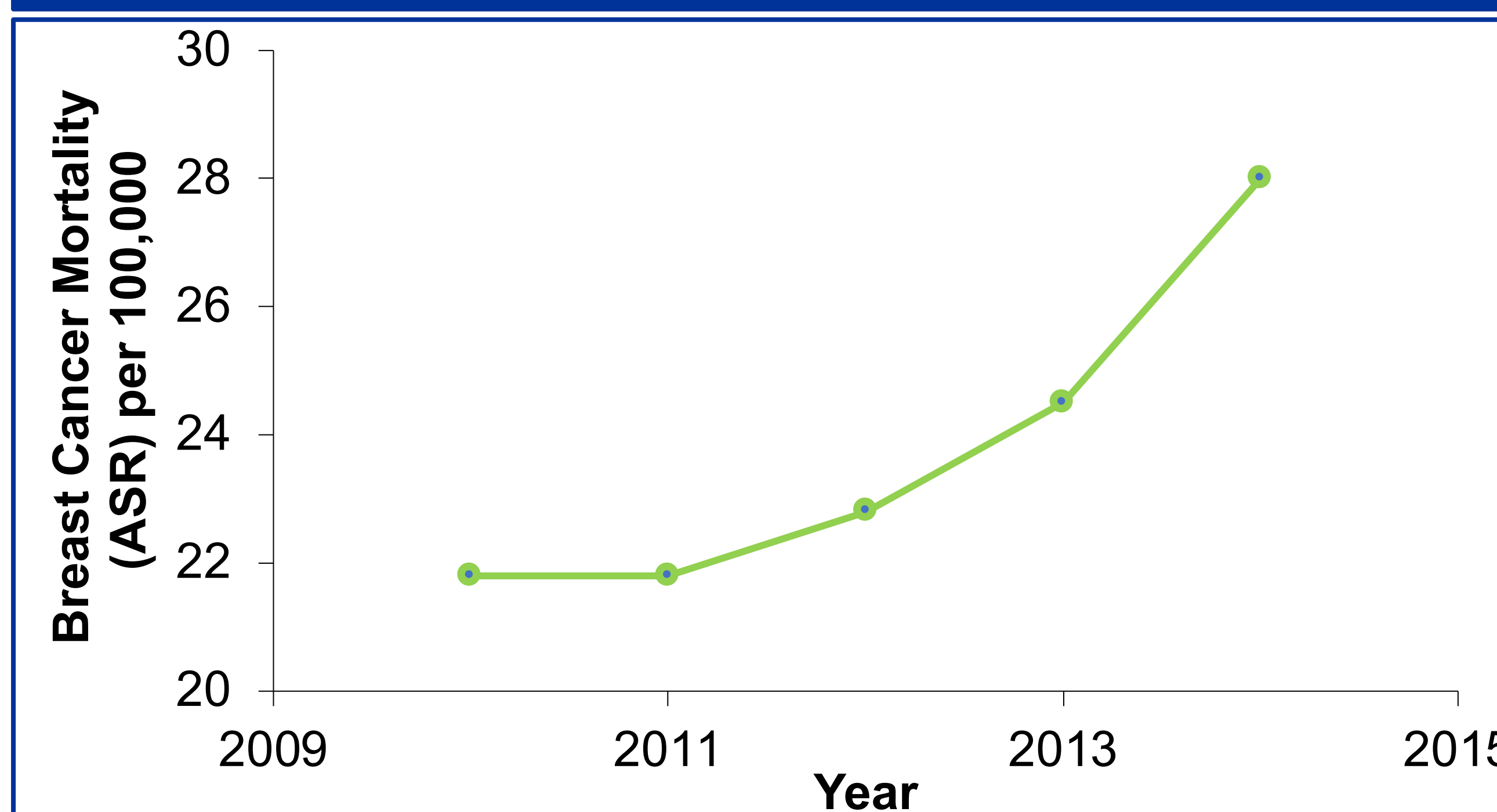


Figure 1: Breast Cancer Mortality Rate (per 100,000), 2010-2014

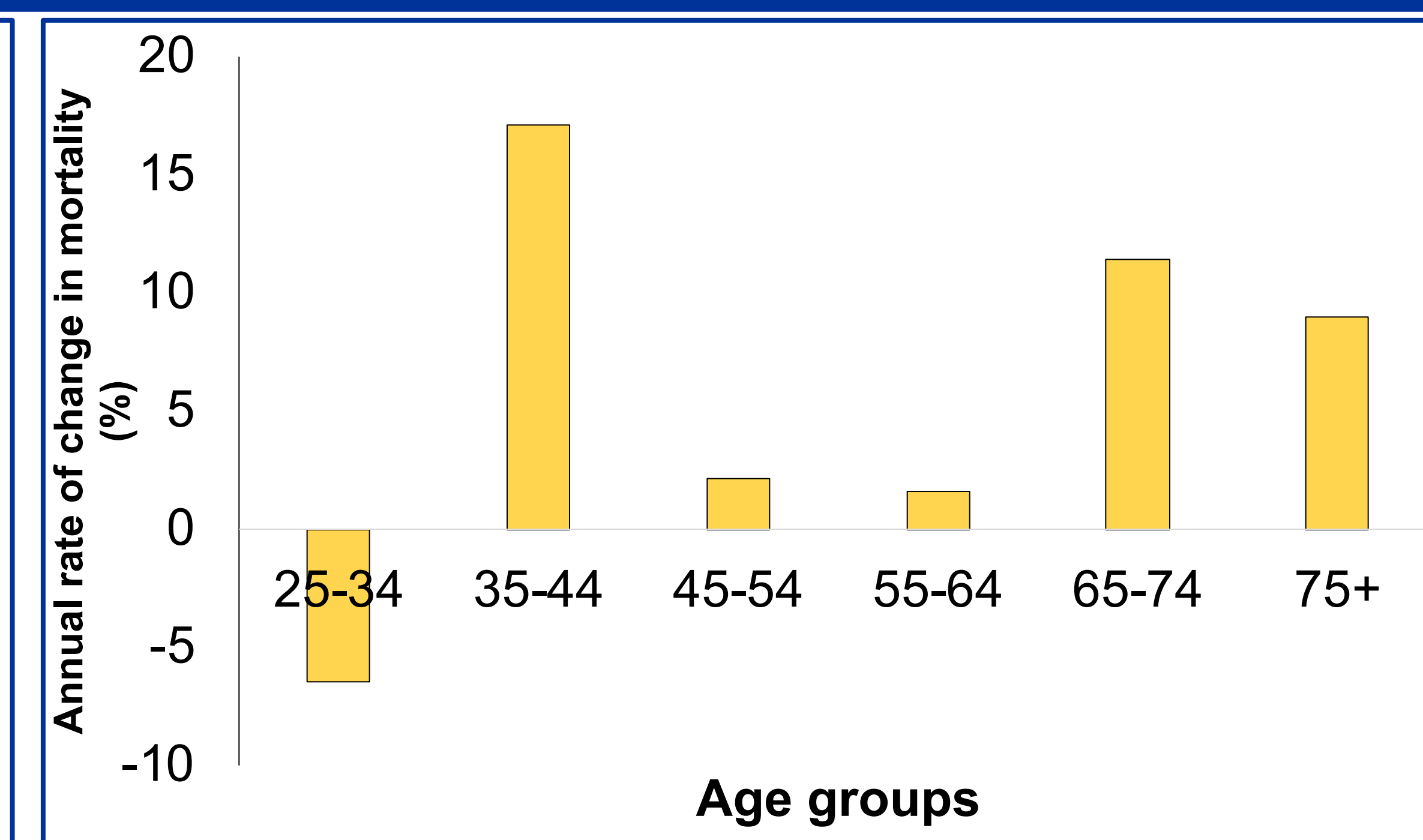


Figure 3: Annual rate of change in crude mortality rates, 2010-2014

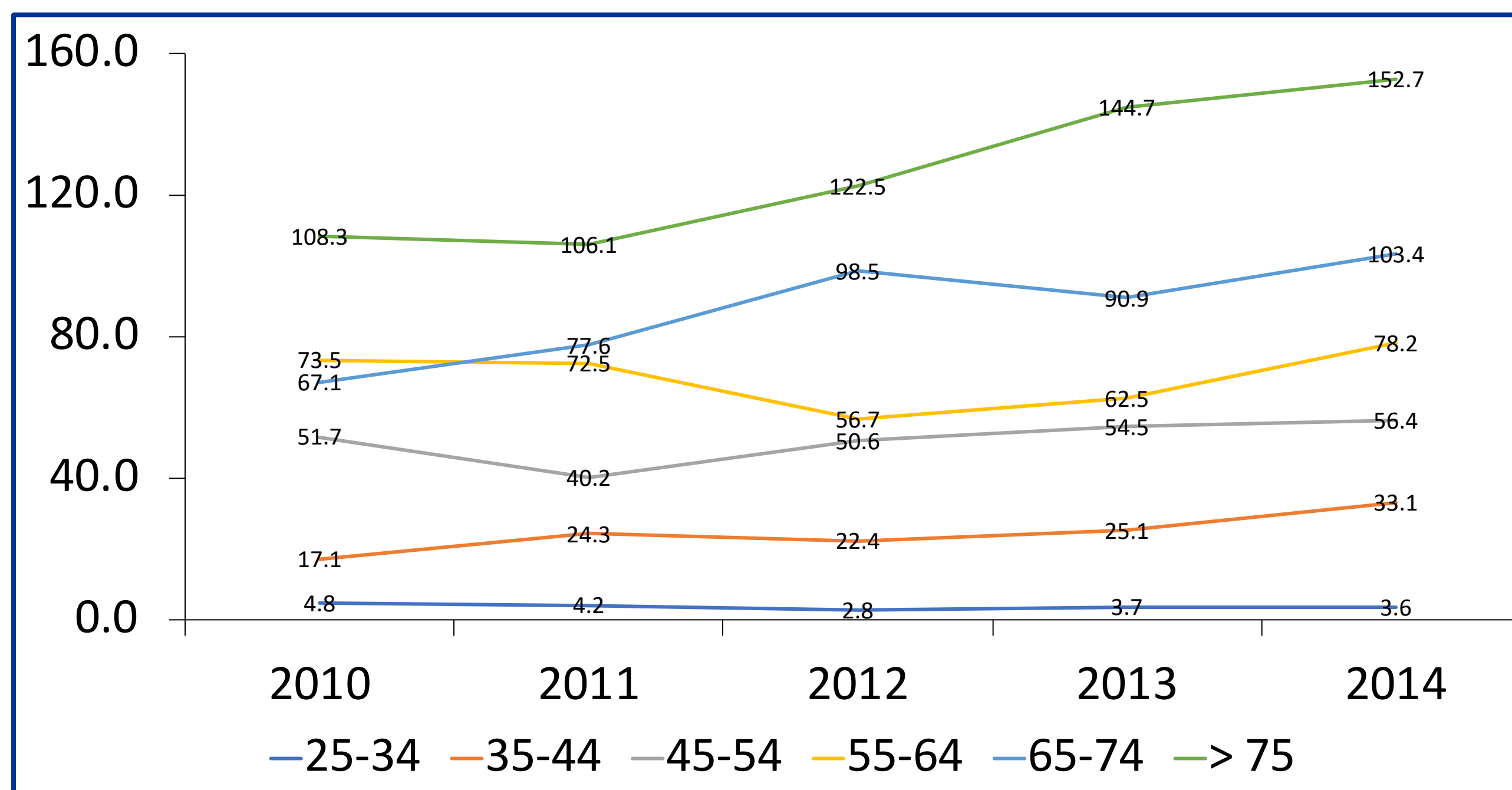


Figure 2: Annual variation in breast cancer mortality rates, 2010-2014

CONCLUSIONS

- Despite global advances in screening and management, BC remains a major public health challenge and represents a public health priority in Jamaica.
- BC remains the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Jamaican women.
- There has been an upward trend in BC mortality rate despite a steady population throughout the study period.
- Young women in the 35-44 age group had the highest annual rate of change in BC mortality rate over the 5-year period
- Early detection and improvement in treatment options are essential to reducing the BC burden among Jamaican women.