The role of age confounding—age stratification
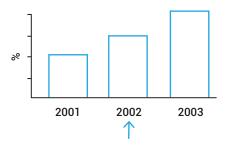
Mortality rates are used for:

%

2001   2002   2003

Evaluating the effectiveness of an intervention.

✔   ✘

Resource allocation.

But: Compared groups usually have a different age distribution.

→ Stratified rates can help you with confounding.

e.g., age-stratified rates, gender-stratified rates, income-stratified rates, …

Age	City A			City B			
	Population	No. of deaths	Mortality rate per 100,000	Population	No. of deaths	Mortality rate per 100,000	
Overall	1,000,000	1,588	159	1,000,000	995	100	**Why is the overall mortality rate higher in city A?**
20–39	250,000	38	15	550,000	105	19	The risk of death is higher in city B, but because of the older age distribution in city A more people died in city A which is reflected in the overall mortality rate.
40–59	250,000	300	120	250,000	350	140	
60+	500,000	1,250	250	200,000	540	270	

Compare the age-stratified rates