

A Consequence of Supervision? The Gender Gap in Child Injury Deaths in the United States

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Figure 1. Non-Injury Mortality Rates 1999-2016, by Sex and Age

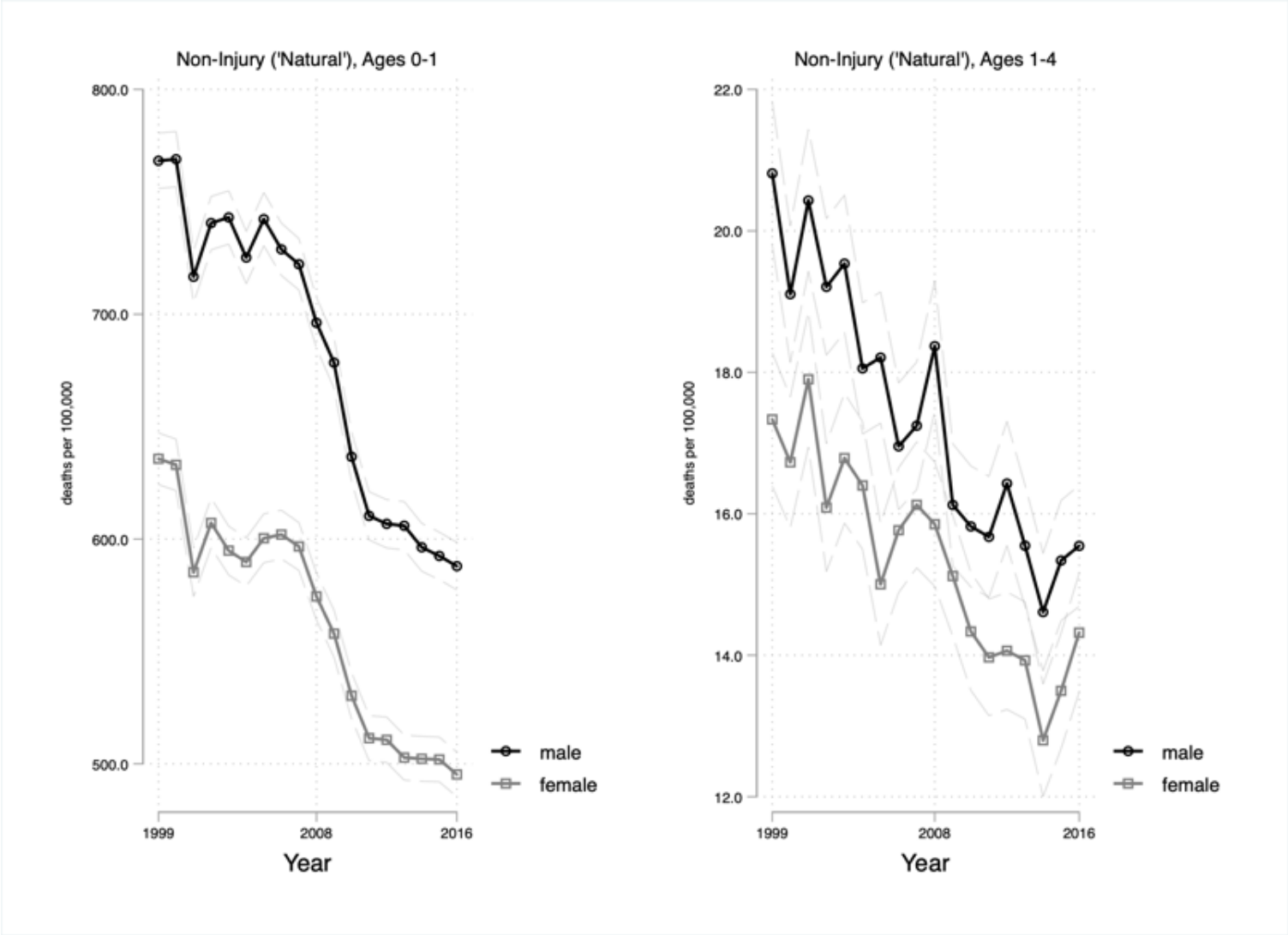


Figure 2. Unintentional Injury Mortality Rates 1999-2016, by Sex and Age

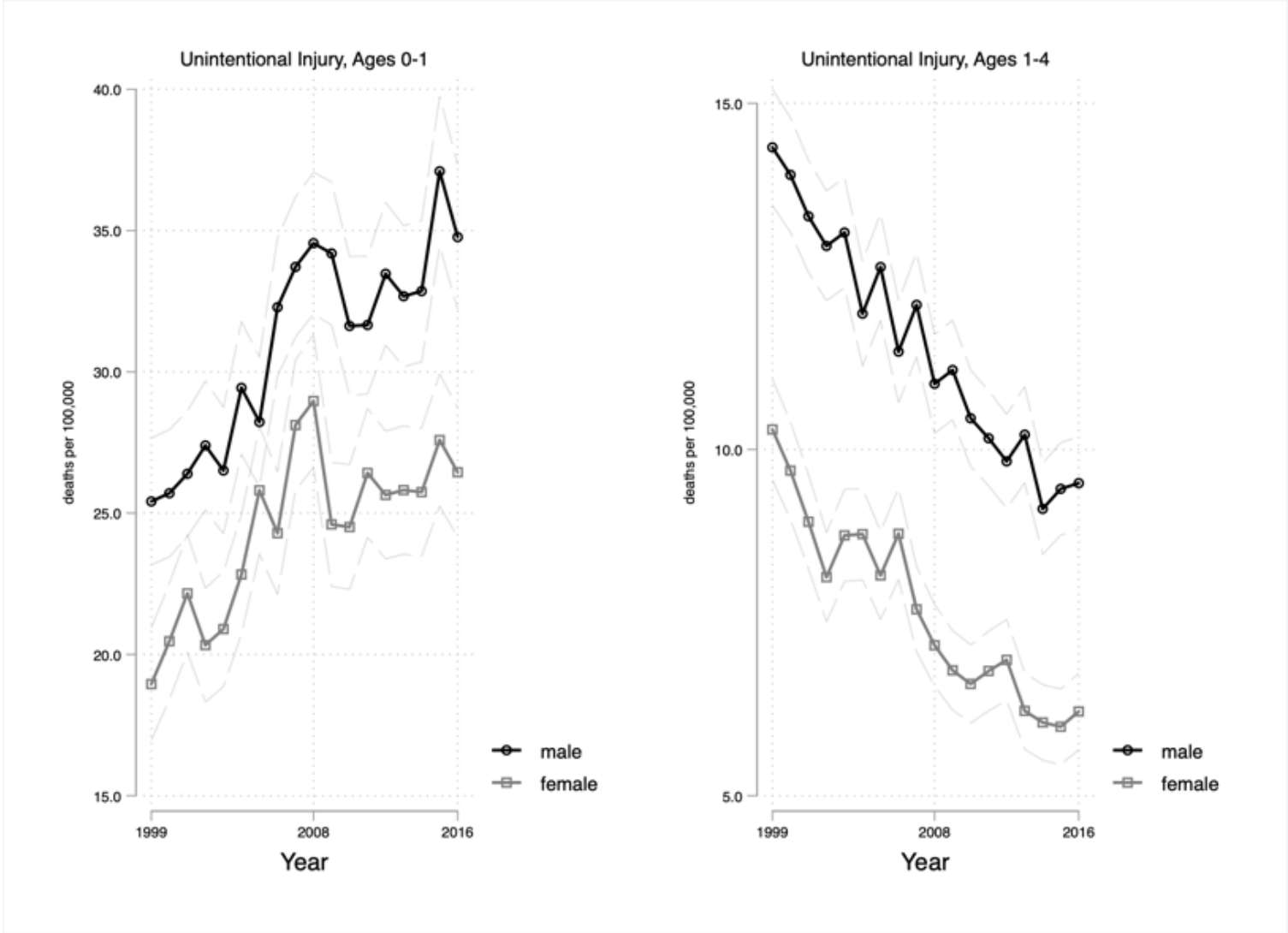
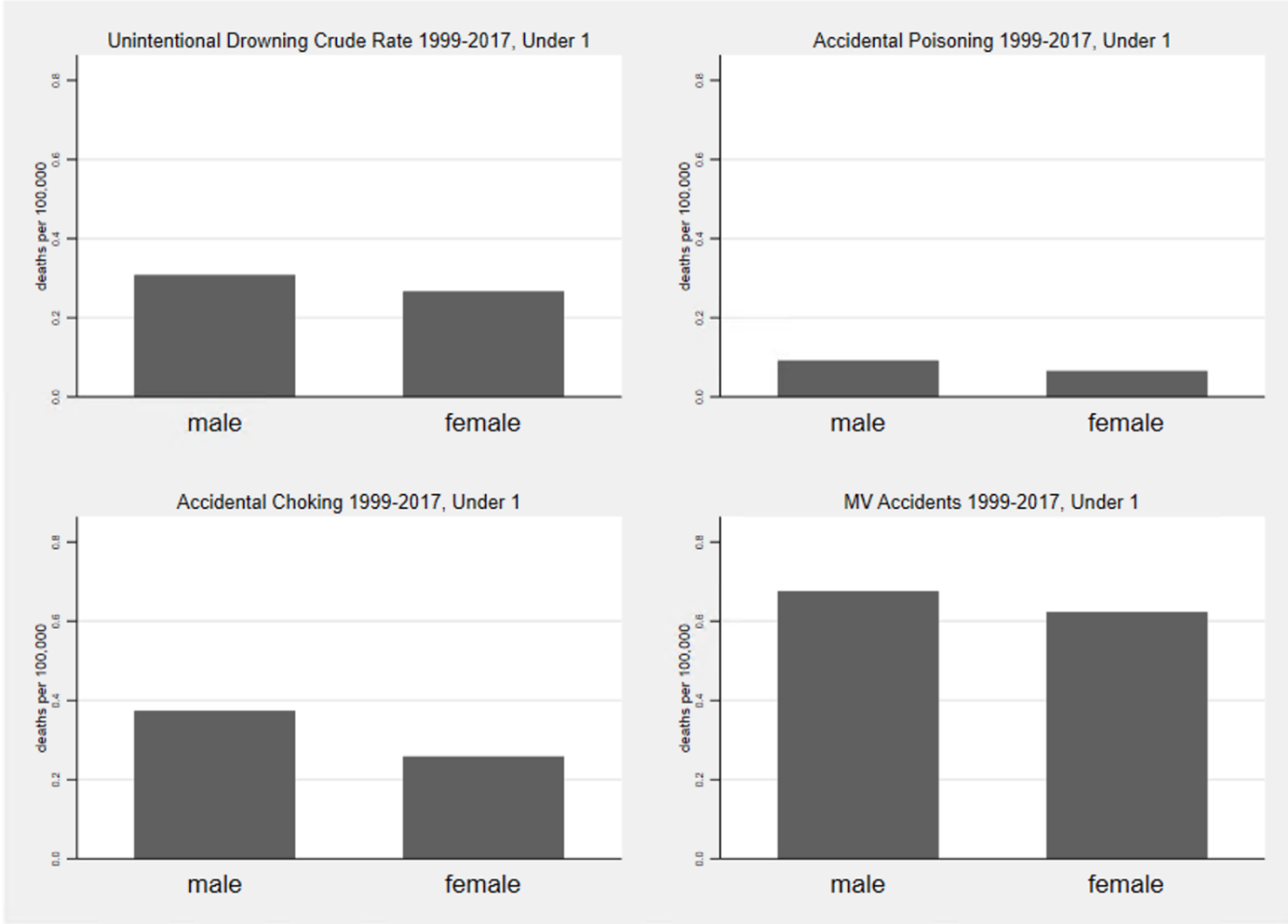
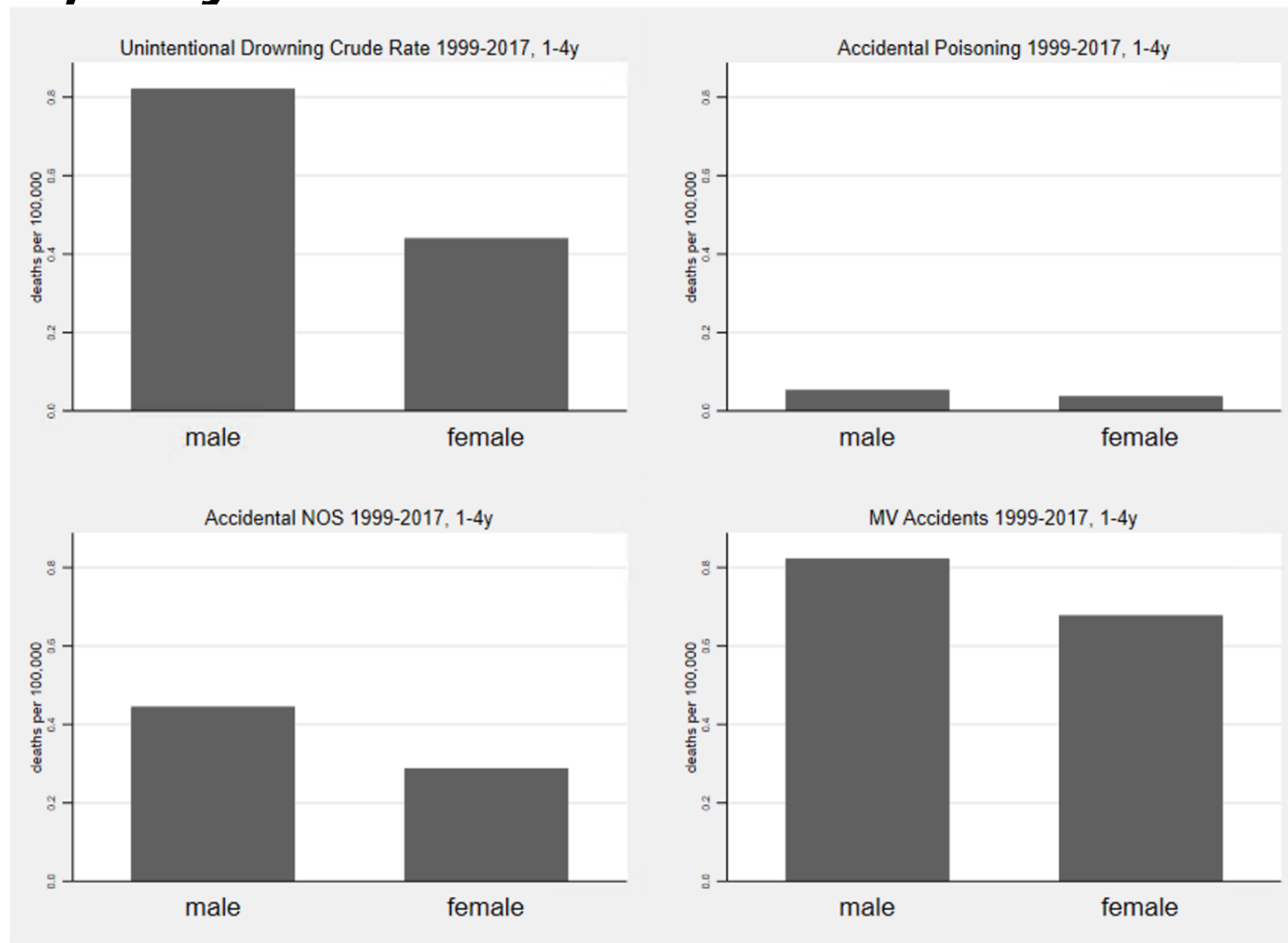


Figure 3. Crude Death Rates by Unintentional Injury Cause, Infants



Data source & analytical strategy: 1999-2017 Multiple Cause of Death Micro-Data & CDC WONDER Bridged-Race Child Population estimates. Due to small n categories, crude rates are calculated as the average across time period.

Figure 4. Crude Death Rates by Unintentional Injury Cause, Early Childhood



Data source & analytical strategy: 1999-2017 Multiple Cause of Death Micro-Data & CDC WONDER Bridged-Race Child Population estimates. Due to small n categories, crude rates are calculated as the average across time period.

Conclusions

The causes of the male disadvantage in early childhood mortality in developed nations are subsumed under causes of death in early infancy (biological fragility) or adolescence (risky behavior).

We show that a gender gap in “natural” causes of death is strongly evident in infancy, closing after age 1, while a gender gap in injury deaths emerges strongly after age 1.

Because the underlying causes of these accidental deaths are linked directly to adult supervision, we argue that **it cannot be child behavior alone driving the gender gap in injury mortality rates.**

We suspect that adults’ gendered beliefs and supervision and caretaking of children create opportunities for boys to be at risk for fatal injury.

In this sense it is not solely the behavior of the adult or the child that causes the death, but rather a **process of gendered socialization.**