Changes in cardiovascular mortality (CVM) among adult population of Russia in 2005−2009 were analysed in order to evaluate the efficiency of government program to reduce CVM adopted in 2008. During the period of 2005−2009, CVM of Russian population decreased by more than 25% in adult age group (20−59 years) and by more than 15% in old age group (60+ years). The highest decline was observed at the beginning of the studied period. For males, CVM declined by 11.5% from 2005 to 2006 and by 0.7% from 2007 to 2008 among adult age group and by 6.5 and 1.8% among old age group respectively. For adult females, CVM declined by 12.5% from 2005 to 2006 and increased by 0.4% from 2007 to 2008, for older females, CVM declined by 4.2 and 2.5% respectively. During the period of 2008−2009, mortality decline significantly accelerated: by 8.2 and 9.0% for adult and by 4.2 and 5.6% for old men and women respectively. For population of working age, these trends are related to mortality decline from three major causes of death: cerebrovascular diseases, ischaemic heart disease, “other heart diseases” according to the Russian abridged classification. For older population, the highest decline is observed for cerebrovascular mortality; mortality from ischaemic heart disease slightly decreased and mortality from “other heart diseases” (determined predominantly by cardiomyopathies of alcohol origin) increased. The efficiency of this program can be substantially increased by introducing specific measures to reduce risks of ischaemic heart disease and behavioural risks related to alcoholism in particular.

**TREND OF MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE IN IRAN FROM 1970 TO 2007: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS**

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**Introduction** Recently, Iran has experienced a rapid improvement in socio economical status and improved to upper-low economic countries. The trend of maternal mortality rate (MMR) as one of the main indicators for development and health has been reviewed systematically from 1970 to 2007.

**Methods** A systematic search was performed in PubMed, Embase database, Cochrane library, WHO-EMR Library and local medical databases to identify all articles and reports on the MMR in Iran. Well qualified documents were selected for data extraction and Meta analysis. Weighted linear regression was applied for exploring the trends.

**Results** For the 5-year intervals between 1970 and 2007, MMR was estimated as 237, 140, 100.3 (95% CI 83.65 to 117.00), 54, 56.2 (95% CI 39.72 to 72.70), 40.6 (95% CI 21.70 to 59.65), 24.1 (95% CI 20.66 to 27.67) per 100 000 live births. MMR has been decreased by 40 per decade. The most heterogeneous factors were the year of the study/report and the type of the report (from inside or outside of the country).

**Conclusion** It’s obvious that the MMR trend was significantly downward in recent decades. And it’s expected with such trend, Iran will achieved the millennium development target at 2015. Although the decreasing rate is considerable among the developing countries; however, it is comparable to the increasing rate of developed countries in 1920s–30s. More reduction in MMR is achievable only other related factors such as health social determinants are considered.