

ESTIMATING THE COVID-19 MORTALITY BURDEN IN MALAYSIA IN CALENDAR YEAR 2022

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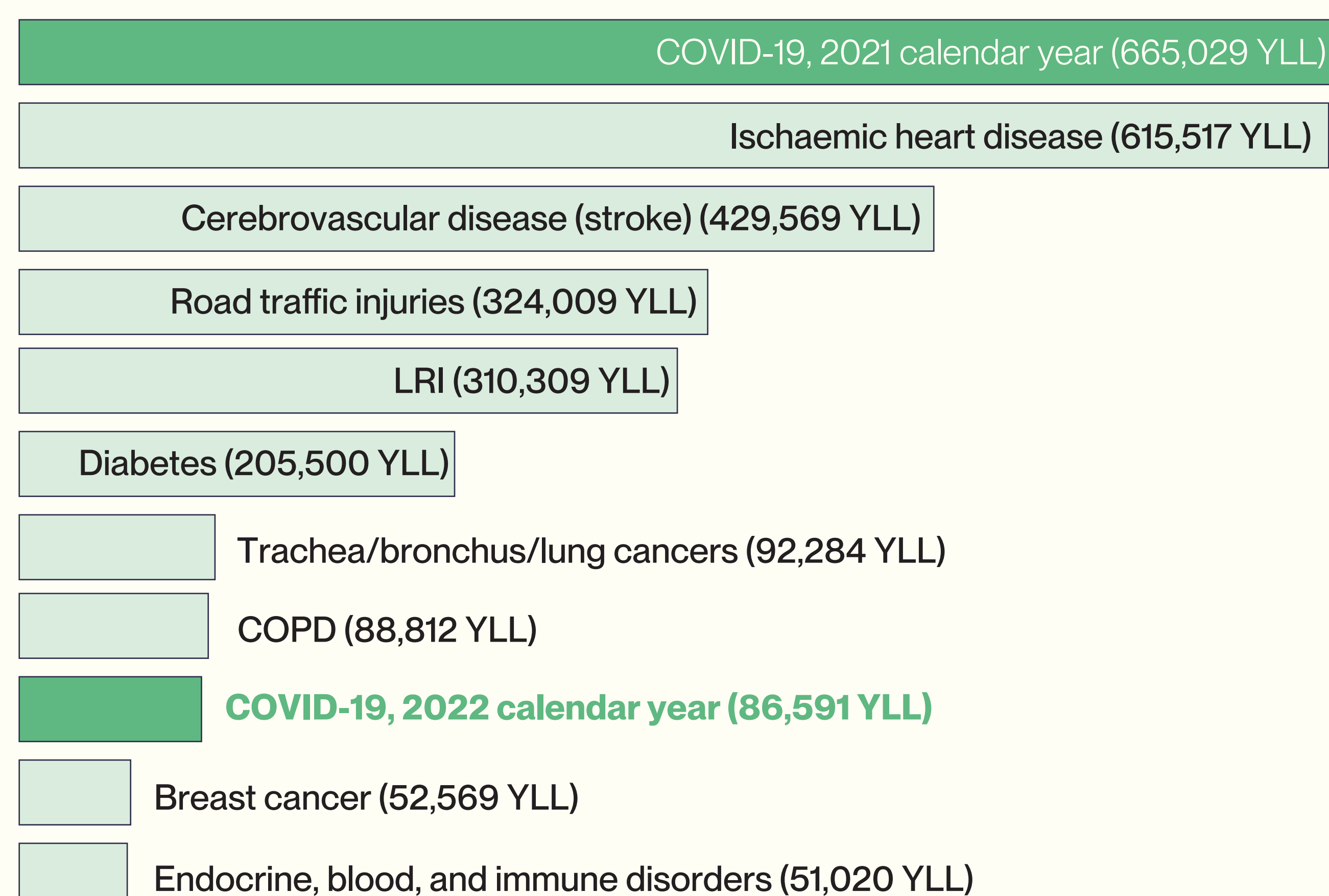
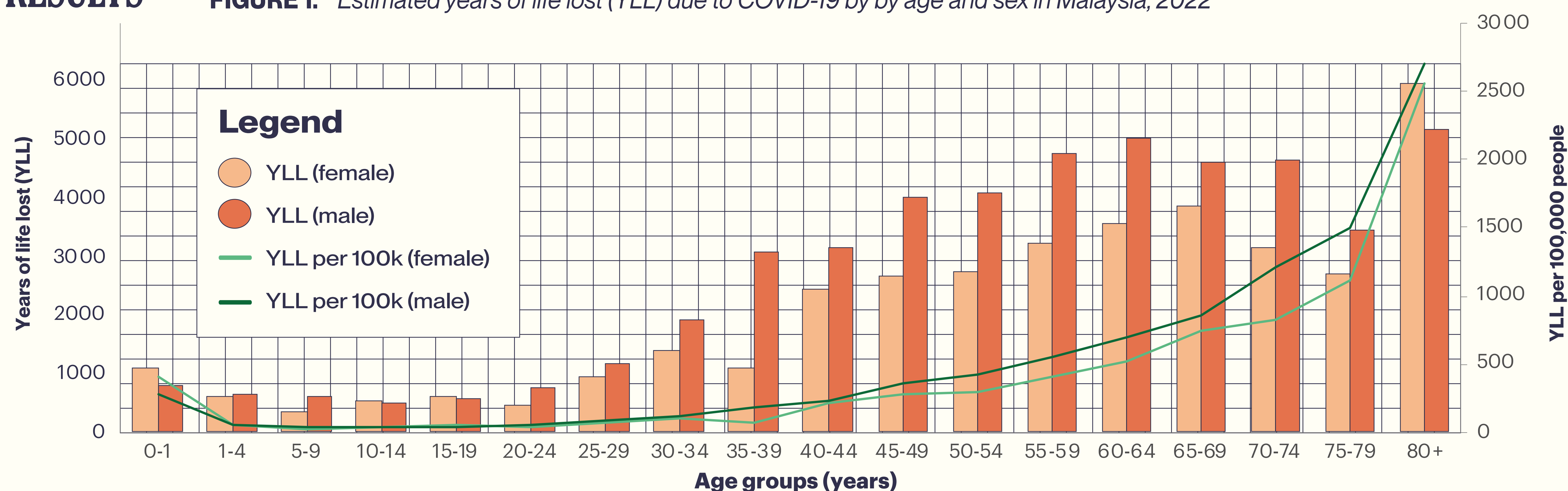


INTRODUCTION Measuring years of life lost (YLL) owing to premature death from a disease offers a more appropriate metric than absolute death counts for measuring the mortality burden of a disease. This study is part of a continued effort to estimate the burden of mortality attributable to COVID-19 by measuring YLL to COVID-19 in Malaysia in 2022.

METHODS Data on individual COVID-19 deaths in Malaysia that occurred in 2022 were obtained from the Ministry of Health's GitHub repository.¹ We calculated YLL attributable to COVID-19 using life expectancy data from the national life table for 2022 (estimates) published by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), and compared the burden of COVID-19 relative to deaths from other leading causes of disease and injury in the country as reported by the Malaysian Burden of Disease and Injury Study 2017 (MBOD 2017).²

RESULTS

FIGURE 1. Estimated years of life lost (YLL) due to COVID-19 by age and sex in Malaysia, 2022



Males lost 49,121 YLL and females lost 37,470 YLL—corresponding to 16.1 and 16.6 years lost per person who died of COVID-19, respectively in 2022 in Malaysia. The state of Kedah saw the highest YLL rate of 427.8 years per 100k people.

FIGURE 2. Comparison of overall estimated YLL due to COVID-19 in calendar years 2021 and 2022 with YLL due to the top ten leading causes of fatal burden in Malaysia in 2017

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION In 2021, the mortality burden attributable to COVID-19 was higher than that of ischaemic heart disease, which was the leading cause of fatal burden in the country in pre-pandemic times. In 2022, the mortality burden fell by more than seven-fold compared to 2021 — a likely reflection of the success of the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme / Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK), which served to prevent severe illness and hence death, thus drastically reducing YLL.

REFERENCES

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