

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Although ESRD incidence rates in the United States increased dramatically through the 1980s and 1990s, the incidence of ESRD adjusted for age, sex, and race leveled off and declined after 2009, prompting speculation that the upward trend may have stabilized in the 2000s. Using a simulation model, the authors show that, despite a decrease in incidence rates within age and race groups, the aging population and changes in the racial distribution of the population will result in increasing crude ESRD incidence rates and annual numbers of new patients. These findings along with decreasing ESRD death rates will result in a substantial increase in the prevalent ESRD population by 2030. This finding has important implications for dialysis infrastructure planning and Medicare and Medicaid budgeting.