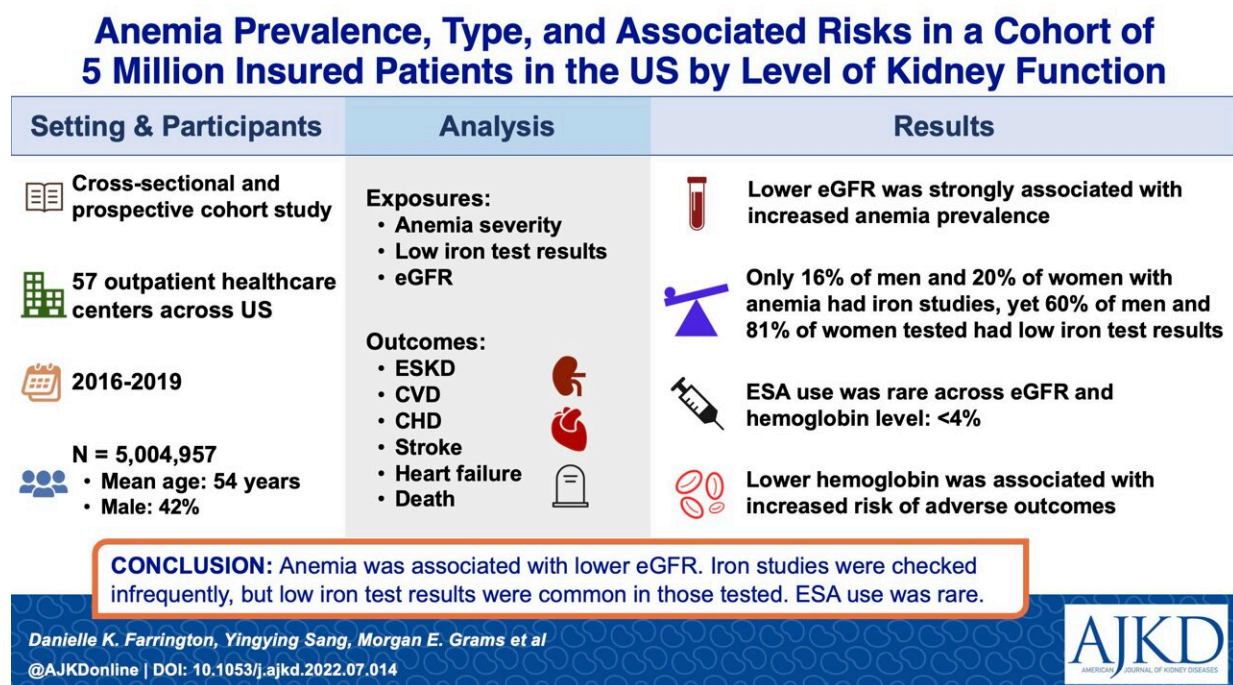


# Anemia is undertreated in adults with low kidney function

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Visual Abstract for "Anemia Prevalence, Type, and Associated Risks in a Cohort of 5 Million Insured Patients in the US by Level of Kidney Function" by Danielle K. Farrington et al (AJKD, 2022). Credit: Farrington et al, AJKD (2022)

In an analysis of outpatient data from over 5 million adults, hemoglobin level measured

Anemia, a common complication of chronic kidney disease, is associated with adverse outcomes. Unfortunately, the use of erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs) to target a normal [hemoglobin level](#) has been associated with increased cardiovascular risk. This large study of over 5 million patients sought to describe the burden and risk factors associated with [anemia](#) by estimated [glomerular filtration rate](#) (eGFR) level.

In a study published in the *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*, researchers found that severe anemia was common and strongly associated with lower eGFR and multiple adverse outcomes. ESA use was rare.

Although iron studies were checked infrequently, low iron test results were common in those tested. This highlights the need for increased testing of iron studies in patients with anemia, as iron supplementation is an effective and low-risk intervention.

**More information:** Danielle K. Farrington et al, Anemia Prevalence, Type, and Associated Risks in a Cohort of 5.0 Million Insured Patients in the United States by Level of Kidney Function, *American Journal of Kidney Diseases* (2022). [DOI: 10.1053/j.ajkd.2022.07.014](https://doi.org/10.1053/j.ajkd.2022.07.014)

Provided by National Kidney Foundation

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