“Grave Consequences”
Briefing on Adult Mortality Trends
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Additional Perspectives, and How NIH-Funded Research Can Help

• It’s not only death; many of same patterns in disability at older ages
• Educational gap varies a lot across states => we can’t just look at individuals and families
• “Diseases of despair” getting worse for each new generation, for non-graduates
• Trends began long before the current opioid epidemic
• Much poorer countries have caught and passed US in life expectancy at older ages; their non-rich are healthier than our non-rich
• New and continuing NIH research initiatives on obesity, tobacco, alcohol, and opioid epidemic
• New NIA initiatives on SES and regional differences in adult health
County Population Age 65 and Over with a Disability: 2008-2012

Percent

- 46.00 or more
- 37.00 to 45.99
- Less than 37.00
- Percentage does not meet statistical standards for reliability

U.S. percent: 38.67
The Education Gap in Disability Varies Across States

Source: Montez, Zajacova & Hayward (2017)
Drug, Alcohol and Suicide Mortality, White Non-Hispanics by Birth Cohort

TWO AMERICAS
With worse outcomes for younger birth cohorts

Source: A Case & A Deaton (2017)
Why Would the Bottom Half of SES Distribution be Healthier in Costa Rica?

Exploring why Costa Rica outperforms the United States in life expectancy: A tale if two inequality gradients

Luis Rosero-Bixby and William H. Dow

Longevity Improving (Slowly) in Some States for Lower-Income People

Figure 6. Mean Annual Change in Life Expectancy by State for Bottom Income Quartile, 2001-2014

Source: Chetty et al (2016)
NIA Research Funding Initiatives

- Socioeconomic Disparities in Health and Mortality at Older Ages
- Regional and International Differences in Health and Longevity at Older Ages
- Education and Health: New Frontiers
- Behavioral and Social Science Research on Understanding and Reducing Health Disparities
- Network on Life-course Dynamics and Disparities in 21st Century America
- Recently approved: Network on Health at Older Ages in Rural America
Additional slides
Life Expectancy Falling for the Poor, Rising for the Rich

Source: Brookings Institution; U of Michigan Health and Retirement Study
Number of Persons Living with Alzheimer’s Disease Growing Rapidly

## Do Differences in Life Expectancy Really Matter?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SPAIN, 2014</th>
<th>USA, 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (both sexes)</td>
<td>85.6 years</td>
<td>79.1 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Die before age 60</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Die in their 60s</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Die in their 70s</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reach 90th Birthday</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
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Source: Human Mortality Database
Life Expectancy Gains and Increased Health Spending, Selected High-Income Countries, 1995-2015