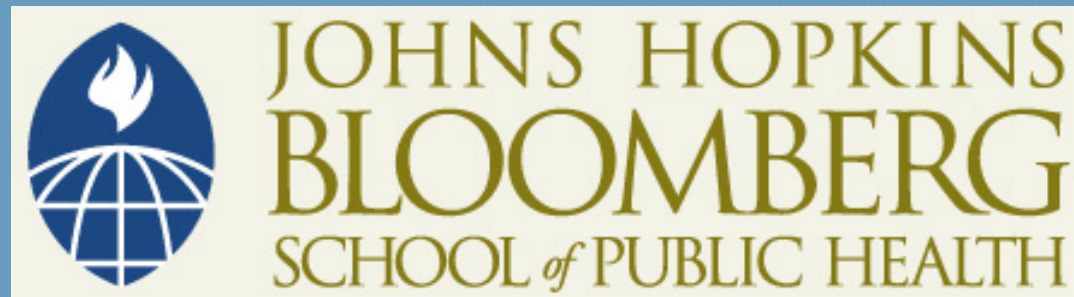


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Section C

Health Disparities

Health Disparities

- Not a new issue
- Has become a central focus for research and policy in the last 10-15 years
- In rich nations, attention to within-nation disparities
 - U.S. Healthy People 2010 goals
- Internationally, attention to global health inequalities

What Do We Mean By Disparities?

- Differentials in health across socially defined groups (race/ethnicity, socioeconomic hierarchy)
- Groups lower in status usually, though not always, have worse health than groups higher in status

Health as an Indicator of Inequality

- Health often used to index well being of a population
- Also used to assess population's well being relative to other populations, i.e., as a measure of inequality

Health → Inequality? Inequality → Health?

- Not as circular as it sounds!
 - Health inequality is the result of social stratification and indicates social stratification

Life Expectancy for Women at Age 20, Selected Nations

Zimbabwe	32.5	Brazil (2005)	58.2
Malawi	44.4	Mexico (2005)	58.9
Kenya	49.9	Panama	59.2
Bolivia	50.8	Denmark	60.9
Egypt	52.3	U.S.	61.2
Pakistan	52.6	Chile	62.4
India	53.3	New Zealand	62.6
Poland	55.4	Korea	63.0
Georgia	57.1	Canada	63.2
Malaysia	57.2	Spain	64.0
Algeria	57.7	Japan	66.2

United Nations 2006 Demographic Yearbook

Maternal Mortality in Selected Nations

Estimated Maternal Deaths per 100,000 Live Births in Selected Nations, 2005

Sierra Leone	2,100	Brazil	110
Cameroon	1,000	Azerbaijan	82
Ethiopia	720	Georgia	66
Haiti	670	Jordan	62
Bangladesh	570	Mexico	60
Togo	510	Venezuela	57
Indonesia	420	China	45
Myanmar	380	Costa Rica	30
Ecuador	210	Ukraine	18
El Salvador	170	Bulgaria	11
Viet Nam	150	Australia	4
Colombia	130	Denmark	3

World Health Organization

SES Differentials in Health, British Civil Servants

TABLE I—MORBIDITY PREVALENCE BY CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT GRADE CATEGORY (AGE-ADJUSTED)

—	Sex	Employment category*						Total sample	Test for trend (p)†
		1	2	3	4	5	6		
Number in each category	M	1026	1627	1228	1496	881	642	6900	..
	F	122	264	198	480	660	1690	3414	
Mean age (yr)	M	46.9	44.2	43.5	42.5	43.4	44.6	6900	≤0.001
	F	44.1	43.0	42.1	42.9	45.5	46.7	3414	≤0.001
Probable ischaemia on ECG (%)	M	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.4	2.1	6896	0.05 – ≤0.1
	F	0	0	0.7	0.1	0.7	1.1	3412	0.01 – ≤0.05
Probable/possible ischaemia on ECG (%)	M	6.4	4.9	5.0	6.5	6.7	10.5	6896	≤0.001
	F	3.6	3.3	3.0	6.5	7.8	7.3	3412	0.001 – ≤0.01
Angina by questionnaire (%)	M	1.7	2.4	2.5	3.1	1.9	2.9	6835	NS
	F	1.8	1.6	2.9	3.3	5.8	4.0	3351	0.01 – ≤0.05
Probable/possible ischaemia on ECG or angina (%)	M	7.6	7.0	7.3	9.3	8.4	12.3	6835	≤0.001
	F	4.5	5.0	5.5	9.8	13.3	11.1	3357	≤0.001
History of diabetes (%)	M	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.7	1.7	6852	≤0.001
	F	0.9	0.6	0	0	0.8	1.4	3386	0.01 – ≤0.05
Mean number of symptoms	M	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	5151	≤0.001
	F	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.0	2442	NS
Self-rated health average or worse (%)	M	15.3	19.5	21.5	22.8	27.5	33.7	6874	≤0.001
	F	26.2	25.5	28.7	28.9	34.4	42.1	3404	≤0.001
Regular cough with phlegm in winter (%)	M	6.7	7.3	6.9	9.2	11.0	10.9	6850	≤0.001
	F	4.2	6.1	10.3	6.4	6.5	8.6	3364	0.05 – ≤0.1
Long-standing illness (%)	M	29.9	30.4	30.1	31.6	31.8	36.4	5157	0.001 – ≤0.01
	F	30.2	35.8	26.7	33.7	31.6	30.5	2485	NS
Any health problems last year (%)	M	69.0	68.0	67.3	67.7	66.5	70.7	5148	NS
	F	69.8	70.6	73.5	72.3	75.3	75.6	2463	0.01 – ≤0.05
Drug therapy for hypertension (%)	M	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.7	4.8	5.2	6673	≤0.001
	F	3.7	4.4	4.1	2.9	3.5	4.3	3338	NS
Pre-menstrual "bloating" (%)	F	2.2	8.6	9.6	10.9	16.8	19.6	1939	≤0.001

*Category 1 – unified grades 1–6, 2 – unified grade 7, 3 – SEO, 4 – HEO, 5 – EO (and professional equivalents for categories 3–5), 6 = clerical officer/office support.
 †NS = p > 0.1

Source: Marmot et al. Lancet 991;337:1387-1393

Rates of Chronic Disease by Race/Ethnicity in the U.S.

Chronic Disease Prevalence by Race/Ethnicity, U.S. (2006)

	White	Black	Hispanic
Heart disease	13.2	11.9	8.6
Hypertension	31.7	43.8	28.0
Stroke	2.2	4.5	2.2
Asthma	10.7	10.9	8.4
Chronic bronchitis	5.8	6.2	3.5
Any cancer	9.3	4.1	3.5
Diabetes	9.0	14.9	15.9
Arthritis	30.5	29.2	21.1

National Center for Health Statistics

Life Expectancy in Selected Baltimore Neighborhoods

Life Expectancy at Birth in Selected Baltimore Neighborhoods, 2002-2006

Hollins Market	62.5
Pimlico	65.6
Westport	68.1
Allendale	69.7
Cedonia	71.3
South Baltimore	73.4
Glen-Falstaff	76.3
Federal Hill	78.6
Roland Park	82.9

Office of Epidemiology, Baltimore City Health Department