## Inequalities in population health

## Mortality in US counties

## Life expectancy in US counties, 2006

Female


Life expectancy
1

Male


Life expectancy


## Global rank of life expectancy in US counties, 2006

## Female



International rank


Male


## Standard deviation of county life expectancies over time



## Standard deviation of county life expectancies over time, whites



## Change in county life expectancy (1961-83)



## Change in county life expectancy (1983-99)



## US county life expectancy summary

- Rise in cross-county life expectancy disparity since the early 1980s
- Continued rise in life expectancy of better-off counties but stagnation or decline in some of the worse-off ones
- The patterns are unlikely to be due to migration


## Change in probabilities of death in county groups, by cause (1961-83)

Male


■ Cardiovascular
O Other communicable diseases
® Unintentional injuries
[0] Diabetes and other non-communicable

$\square$ Other cancers
$\square$ HIVIAIDS
■ Intentional injuries
$\square$ Lung cancer and COPD

## Change in probabilities of death in county groups, by cause (1983-89)

Male


■ Cardiovascular
O Other communicable diseases
® Unintentional injuries
[0] Diabetes and other non-communicable

Female


## US county life expectancy summary

- Rise in cross-county life expectancy disparity since the early 1980s
- Continued rise in life expectancy of better-off counties but stagnation or decline in some of the worse-off ones
- The patterns are unlikely to be due to migration
- Rise in mortality disparities driven primarily by differential change in chronic diseases like lung cancer, COPD, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases (plus HIV/AIDS and homicide for men)
- Likely roles of smoking, blood pressure, and obesity should be explored


## The "Eight Americas"

- Identify sub-populations making up the US population with distinct socio-demographic and geographical characteristics that capture the range of mortality experiences across counties and races

2072 counties or merged counties; 4 races (Asians, blacks, Native Americans, whites)

Asians in 1,889 counties with

2072 counties; 3 races blacks

Pacific Islanders < 40\% of Asians

Whites in 112 Northland rural counties With white per capita income < \$11,770


All other race-county combinations

Whites in 467 rural counties in Appalachia and the Mississippi Valley with white per capita income < \$11,770

Native Americans in 359 counties in Western states

Blacks in 1,632 other counties

427 rural counties in the Deep
South with per capita black income <\$7,500

13 urban counties with homicide mortality risk > 1.0\%

America 1

America 2

America 3

America 4
America 4

America 5

America 6

America 7

America 8

## Life expectancy at birth in the Eight Americas in 2005

Male



## Deaths attributable to individual risk factors by disease

Deaths attributable to individual risks (thousands) in both sexes


## Risk factors in the Eight Americas: men $\geq 60$ years (age-standardized)

| America | SBP (mmHg) | BMI (kg/m²) | FPG (mg/dL) | Current <br> smoking <br> $(\%)$ | Former <br> smoking (\%) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Asians | $135(4.4)$ | $\mathbf{2 7}(\mathbf{0 . 8 1})$ | $\mathbf{1 0 6}(\mathbf{1 . 9})$ | $\mathbf{5}(\mathbf{3 . 5})$ | $\mathbf{3 5}(\mathbf{1 1 . 7})$ |
| Northland rural whites | $\mathbf{1 3 3}(\mathbf{1 . 2 )}$ | $28.6(0.34)$ | $110(1.0)$ | $11(2.3)$ | $\mathbf{5 9}(\mathbf{3 . 7})$ |
| Middle America | $\mathbf{1 3 3}(\mathbf{0 . 3})$ | $27.9(0.09)$ | $109(0.3)$ | $11(0.6)$ | $56(1.0)$ |
| Whites in Appalachia and |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mississippi Valley | $\mathbf{1 3 3}(\mathbf{0 . 8})$ | $27.9(0.21)$ | $110(0.6)$ | $14(1.4)$ | $56(2.2)$ |
| Western Native Americans | $138(4.0)$ | $\mathbf{2 9 . 4}(\mathbf{1 . 1 4 )}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 6}(\mathbf{3 . 6})$ | $\mathbf{2 1}(\mathbf{9 . 2})$ | $40(9.8)$ |
| Black middle America | $138(2.0)$ | $28.3(0.52)$ | $112(1.4)$ | $19(4.3)$ | $45(6.1)$ |
| Southern rural blacks | $\mathbf{1 4 0}(\mathbf{2 . 0})$ | $28.7(0.57)$ | $113(1.8)$ | $17(3.7)$ | $44(5.6)$ |
| High-risk urban blacks | $138(2.9)$ | $28.0(0.78)$ | $110(2.1)$ | $\mathbf{2 1}(5.9)$ | $39(7.5)$ |

## Risk factors in the Eight Americas: women $\geq$ 60 years (age-standardized)

| America | SBP (mmHg) | BMI ( $\mathrm{kg} / \mathrm{m}^{2}$ ) | FPG (mg/dL) | Current smoking (\%) | Former smoking (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Asians | 143 (4.8) | 27.6 (1.37) | 103 (2.4) | 3 (2.0) | 21 (7.2) |
| Northland rural whites | 139 (1.2) | 29.7 (0.39) | 104 (0.6) | 8 (1.5) | 27 (2.7) |
| Middle America | 139 (0.3) | 28.9 (0.12) | 104 (0.2) | 11 (0.5) | 34 (0.7) |
| Whites in Appalachia and Mississippi Valley | 139 (0.6) | 29.2 (0.25) | 105 (0.4) | 14 (1.1) | 26 (1.4) |
| Western Native Americans | 140 (3.6) | 30.1 (1.79) | 108 (2.9) | 15 (5.7) | 36 (10.1) |
| Black middle America | 143 (1.6) | 31.9 (0.67) | 108 (1.1) | 14 (2.7) | 27 (3.4) |
| Southern rural blacks | 144 (1.5) | 32.7 (0.7) | 110 (1.3) | 10 (2.4) | 20 (3.0) |
| High-risk urban blacks | 144 (2.3) | 31.0 (0.87) | 106 (1.6) | 12 (3.2) | 32 (5.5) |

## Life expectancy at birth in the Eight Americas in 2005 without the effects of four leading risks

Male




## Life expectancy at birth in the Eight Americas in 2005 with other baseline values

Male



## Child mortality in Mexico

## Background: Mexico health reform priority setting and evaluation

- Landmark effort to provide health coverage to the uninsured (2003)
- The Ministry of Health commissioned evaluation of the reform by the National Institute of Public Health and Harvard University
- The evaluation included a national and state level comparative risk assessment (CRA)
- Effort to quantify the relative contribution of risk factors using comparable methods


## Risk factors in Mexican CRA

Child \& maternal under-nutrition Child and maternal underweight Iron deficiency
Vitamin A deficiency
Zinc deficiency
Other nutrition-related risks \& inactivity
High blood glucose
High blood pressure
High cholesterol
Overweight and obesity Inadequate fruit and vegetable intake
Physical inactivity

Addictive substances
Tobacco smoking
Alcohol use
Sexual and reproductive health risks
Unsafe sex
Environmental risks
Unsafe water and sanitation Indoor air pollution from solid fuels
Urban ambient air pollution

## Mortality attributable to risk factors (national)



## Quantification of the distribution of mortality burden

- Analyses at the national level conceal inequalities in mortality burden of environmental exposures
- Interventions should focus on areas where mortality burden (i.e. absolute risk), not exposure, is the largest
- Subsequent analyses of the mortality effects of 3 environmental risks in finer resolution (e.g. municipio)
- Effects on child and adult mortality
- Calculate risk-factor-deleted life expectancy to account for competing causes


## Mortality effects of unsafe water and sanitation and indoor air pollution

Unsafe water and sanitation

Indoor air pollution


## Effects in the worst-off communities

In the 50 municipios with the highest child mortality effects:

- $1.5 \%$ of total population
- $5.8 \%$ of all deaths attributable to the 3 environmental exposures
- $16.2 \%$ of child deaths attributable to the 3 environmental exposures
- 10 month reduction in average life expectancy (versus 4.6 months nationally)
- Primarily communities in Chiapas, Guerrero, Oaxaca and Puebla (over 64\% of population over age 5 speaks an indigenous language)


## Municipio socio-economic status in Mexico



# Mortality effects of unsafe water and sanitation and indoor air pollution by municipio SES 

Unsafe water and sanitation


Indoor air pollution


## Cardiovascular mortality in English wards

## Cardiovascular mortality in England's wards

Men 30-64 years



## CVD mortality by community deprivation

Men 30-64 years


Women 30-64 years



| Deprivation Quintile | 1982-1986 | 1987-1991 | 1992-1996 | 1997-2001 | 2002-2006 | Absolute reduction between 1982-86 and 2002-06 | Percentage reduction between 1982-86 and 2002-06 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Males 30-64 years |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Least deprived | 222 | 170 | 129 | 98 | 75 | 147 | 66\% |
| Q2 | 245 | 199 | 147 | 111 | 85 | 160 | 65\% |
| Q3 | 270 | 210 | 165 | 128 | 102 | 168 | 62\% |
| Q4 | 297 | 244 | 193 | 156 | 126 | 171 | 58\% |
| Most deprived | 362 | 314 | 264 | 220 | 184 | 178 | 49\% |
| Q1-Q5 difference | 140 | 144 | 136 | 122 | 109 | 31 |  |
| Q1-Q5 ratio | 1.63 | 1.85 | 2.05 | 2.25 | 2.45 |  |  |
| Females 30-64 years |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Least deprived | 69.0 | 55.4 | 42.6 | 34.6 | 26.2 | 42.8 | 62\% |
| Q2 | 81.0 | 64.8 | 51.4 | 41.3 | 30.6 | 50.5 | 62\% |
| Q3 | 88.4 | 72.3 | 58.6 | 47.5 | 37.1 | 51.3 | 58\% |
| Q4 | 106.2 | 86.6 | 71.6 | 58.1 | 47.2 | 59.1 | 56\% |
| Most deprived | 140.7 | 122.4 | 104.3 | 91.4 | 72.3 | 68.4 | 49\% |
| Q1-Q5 difference | 71.8 | 67.1 | 61.7 | 56.9 | 46.2 | 25.6 |  |
| Q1-Q5 ratio | 2.04 | 2.21 | 2.45 | 2.64 | 2.76 |  |  |
| Males 65 and over |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Least deprived | 3821 | 3405 | 3014 | 2654 | 2044 | 1776 | 46\% |
| Q2 | 4015 | 3623 | 3145 | 2669 | 2157 | 1858 | 46\% |
| Q3 | 4157 | 3711 | 3289 | 2790 | 2268 | 1890 | 45\% |
| Q4 | 4309 | 3830 | 3414 | 2901 | 2382 | 1927 | 45\% |
| Most deprived | 4360 | 3934 | 3562 | 3130 | 2635 | 1725 | 40\% |
| Q1-Q5 difference | 539 | 529 | 547 | 476 | 591 | -51 |  |
| Q1-Q5 ratio | 1.14 | 1.16 | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.29 |  |  |
| Females 65 and over |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Least deprived | 2554 | 2273 | 2012 | 1714 | 1417 | 1137 | 45\% |
| Q2 | 2684 | 2401 | 2131 | 1782 | 1516 | 1168 | 44\% |
| Q3 | 2760 | 2470 | 2190 | 1855 | 1566 | 1194 | 43\% |
| Q4 | 2893 | 2559 | 2258 | 1936 | 1628 | 1265 | 44\% |
| Most deprived | 2939 | 2640 | 2380 | 2078 | 1800 | 1140 | 39\% |
| Q1-Q5 difference | 385 | 367 | 368 | 364 | 383 | 3 |  |
| Q1-Q5 ratio | 1.15 | 1.16 | 1.18 | 1.21 | 1.27 |  |  |

## Rreducing health inequalities

- Strategies to improve population health and reduce health inequalities
- Address fundamental social and economic inequalities and their institutional determinants
- Increase financial, physical, and behavioral access to health care
- Reduce inequality in the quality of health care
- Reduce risk factors through interventions acting on communities
- Reduce risk factors through interventions acting on individuals and groups not in the same community

