

Inequality in income and life expectancy



People in the bottom of the income distribution live shorter lives than those in the top. This is an important dimension of inequality in society. However, many people escape poverty, and some people at the top of the distribution only have high incomes temporarily. In a recent PNAS article, CEBI researchers provide a method to measure the income gradient in life expectancy that accounts for fundamental forces of social mobility. The good news is that the inequality in life expectancy is only half as big once accounting for income mobility. The bad news is that inequality continues to rise.

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Photographer: Joachim Rode

Academic article: Claus Thustrup Kreiner, Torben Heien Nielsen and Benjamin Ly Serena, "Role of Income Mobility for the Measurement of Inequality in Life Expectancy." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), 2018, 201811455.