



National Institute  
on Aging

# **Behavioral & Social Science Research on Health Disparities at Older Ages**

**April 2018**

**John Haaga**

National Institute on Aging

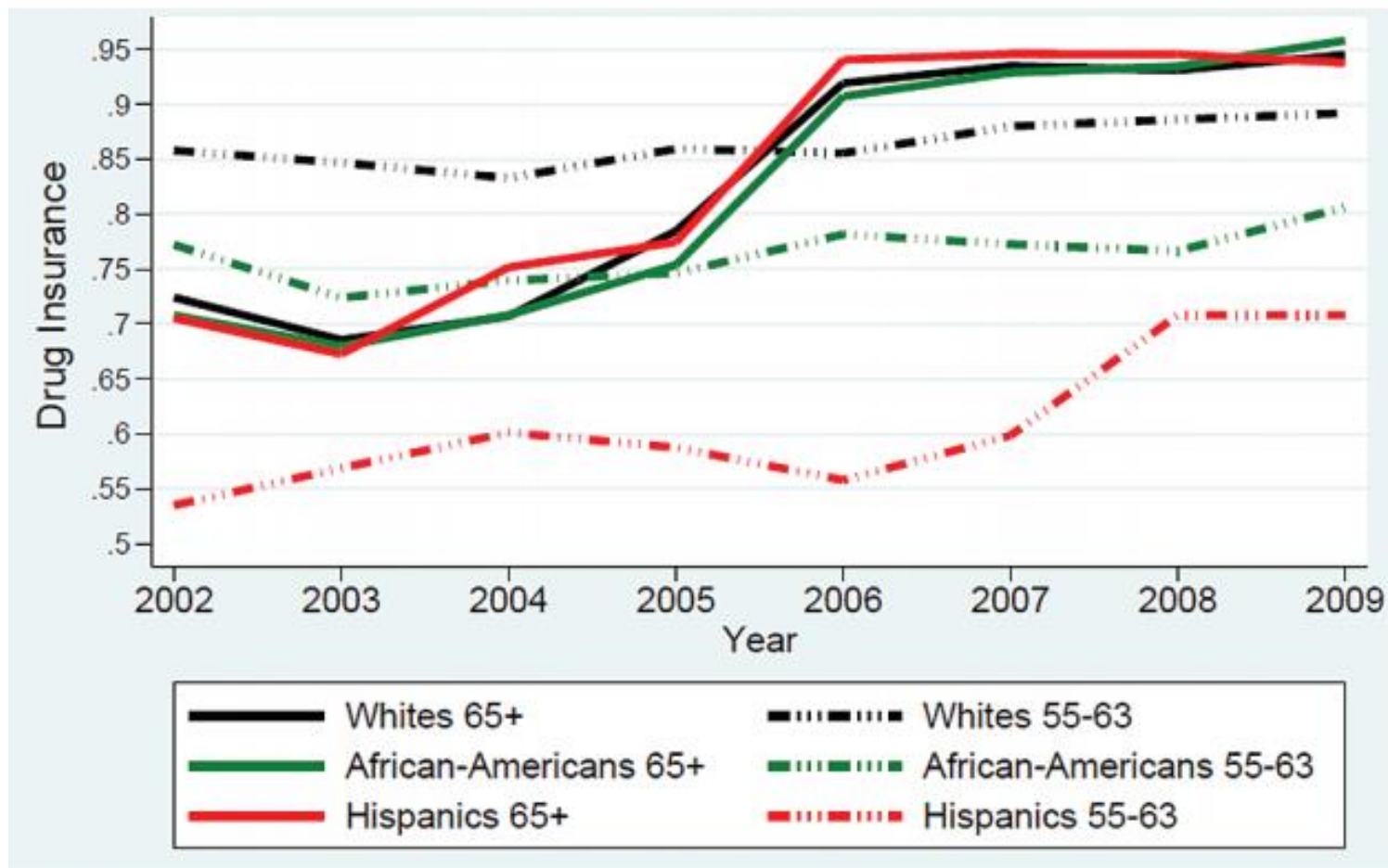
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# Behavioral and Social Science Research on Disparities

- Recent highlights from NIA-funded grants
- Broad trends affecting disparities in the US: regionalization; steeper SES gradient
- Recent Funding Opportunity Announcements; approved concepts; and strategic planning
- Thoughts for the future

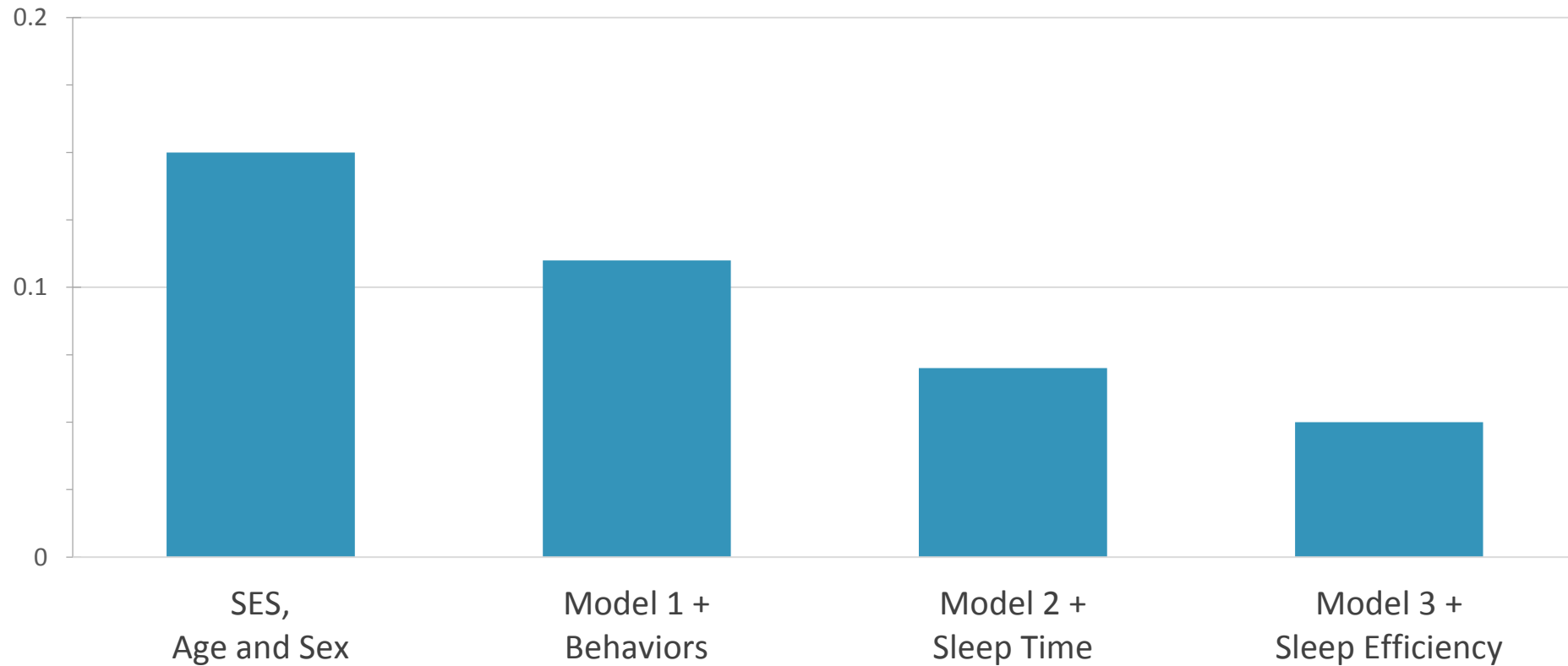
## Disparities in Drug Coverage For Those Aged 55-63

There was no race/ethnic disparity in prescription drug coverage among Medicare beneficiaries (aged 65+), but adults aged 55-63 have a large, persistent disparities in coverage.



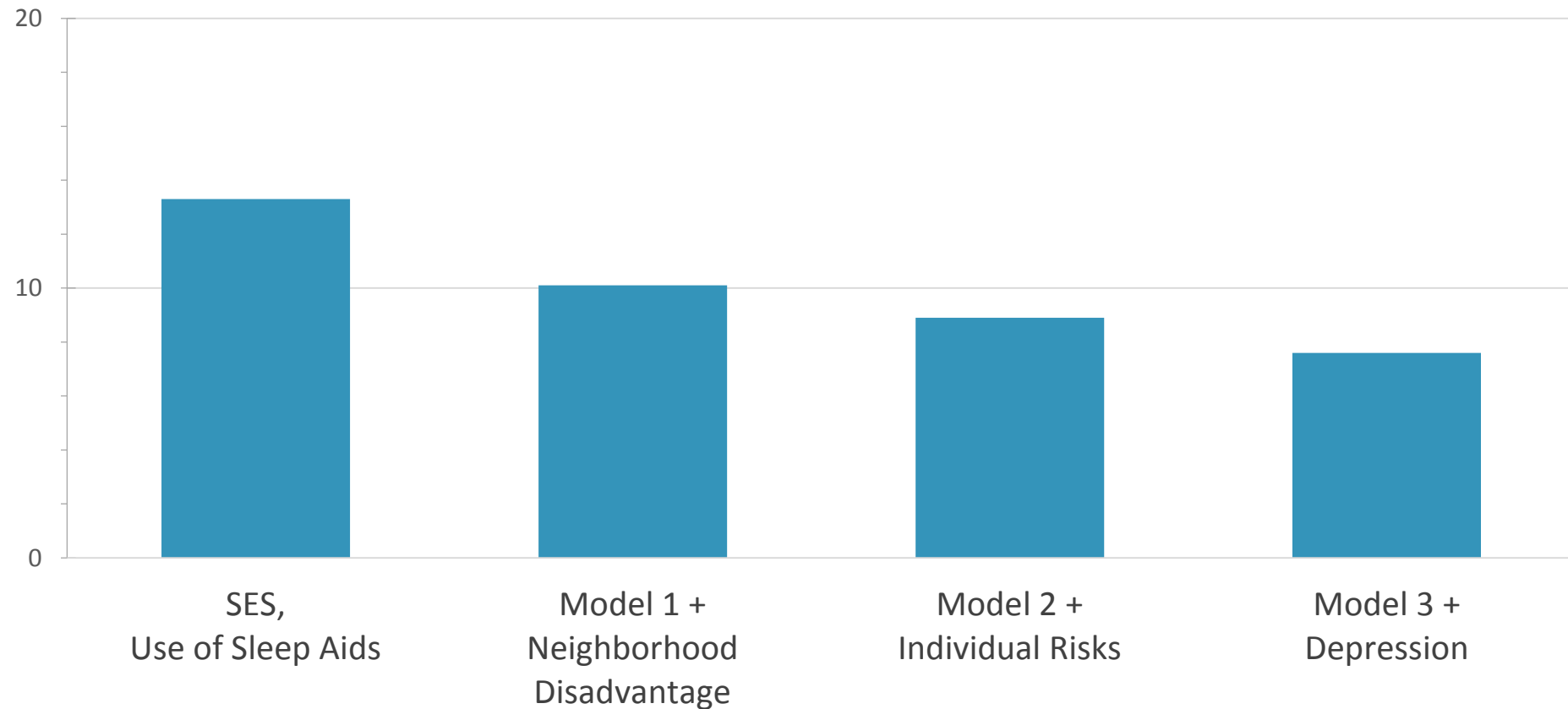
# Sleep Quality and Duration Help Explain Racial Differences in Cardiometabolic Risk

Standardized B for African-Americans

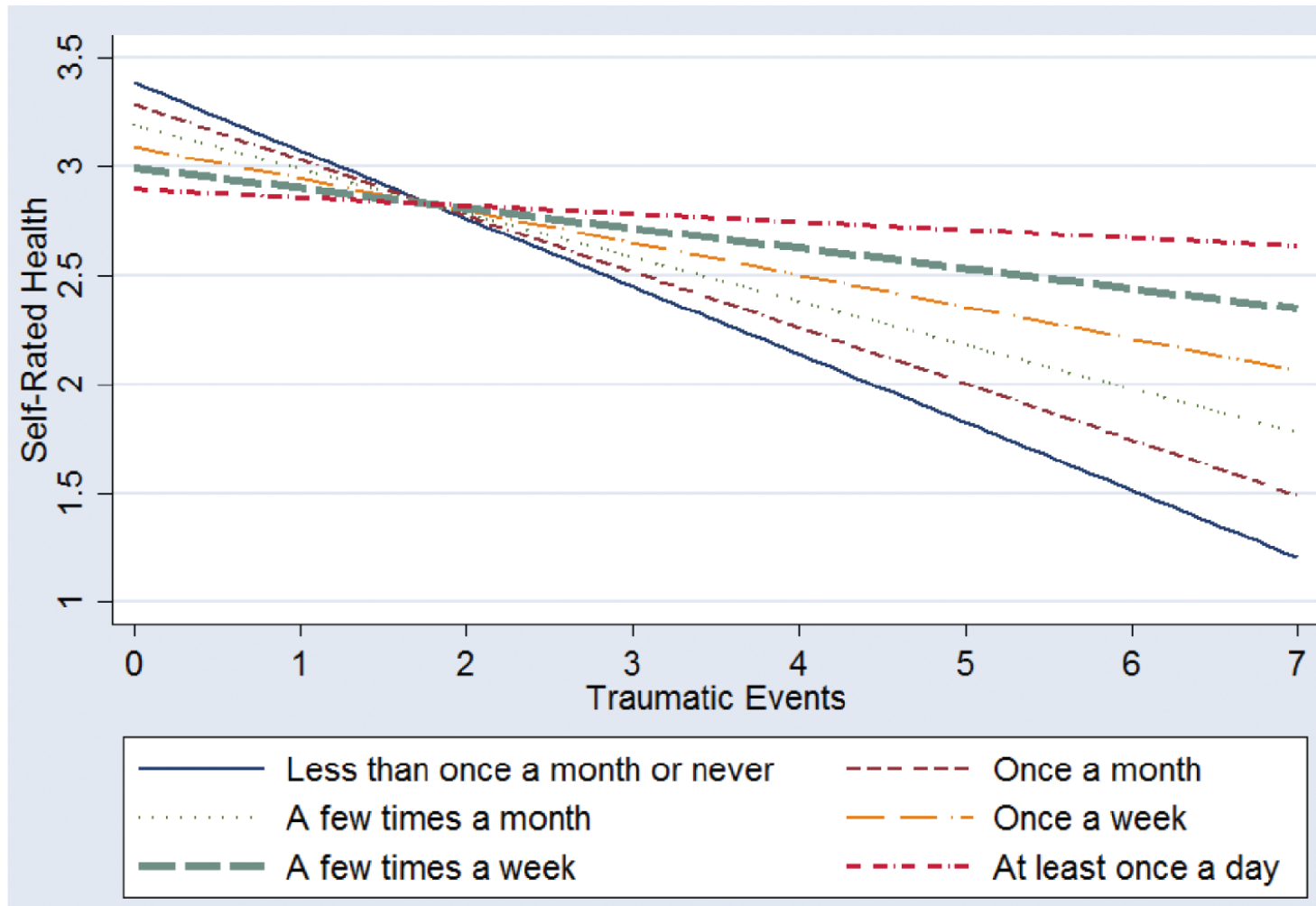


# Neighborhood Disadvantage Helps Explain Racial Differences in Sleep Quality

Coefficient for African-Americans

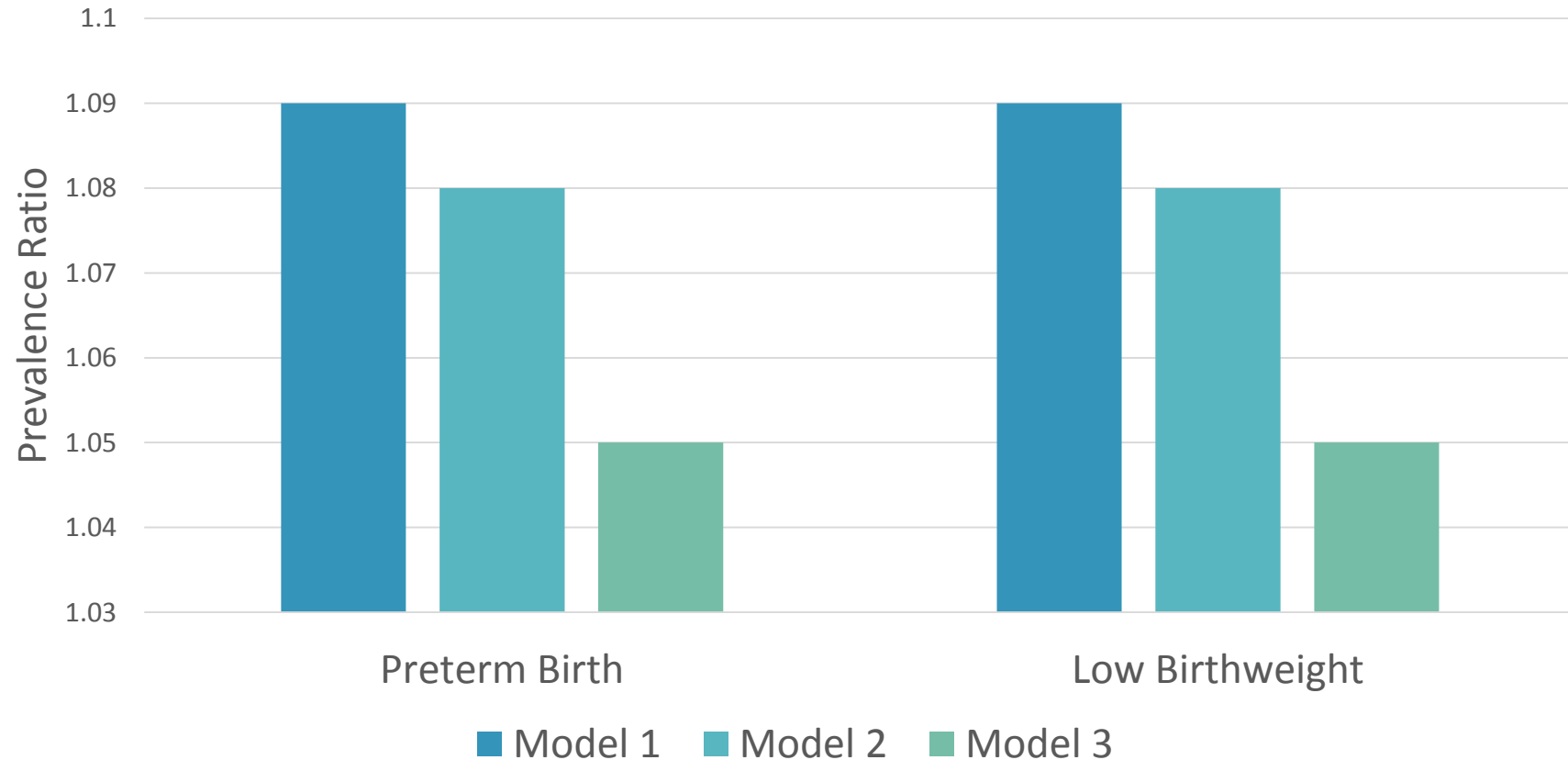


# Psychosocial Mechanisms Underlying older black men's health

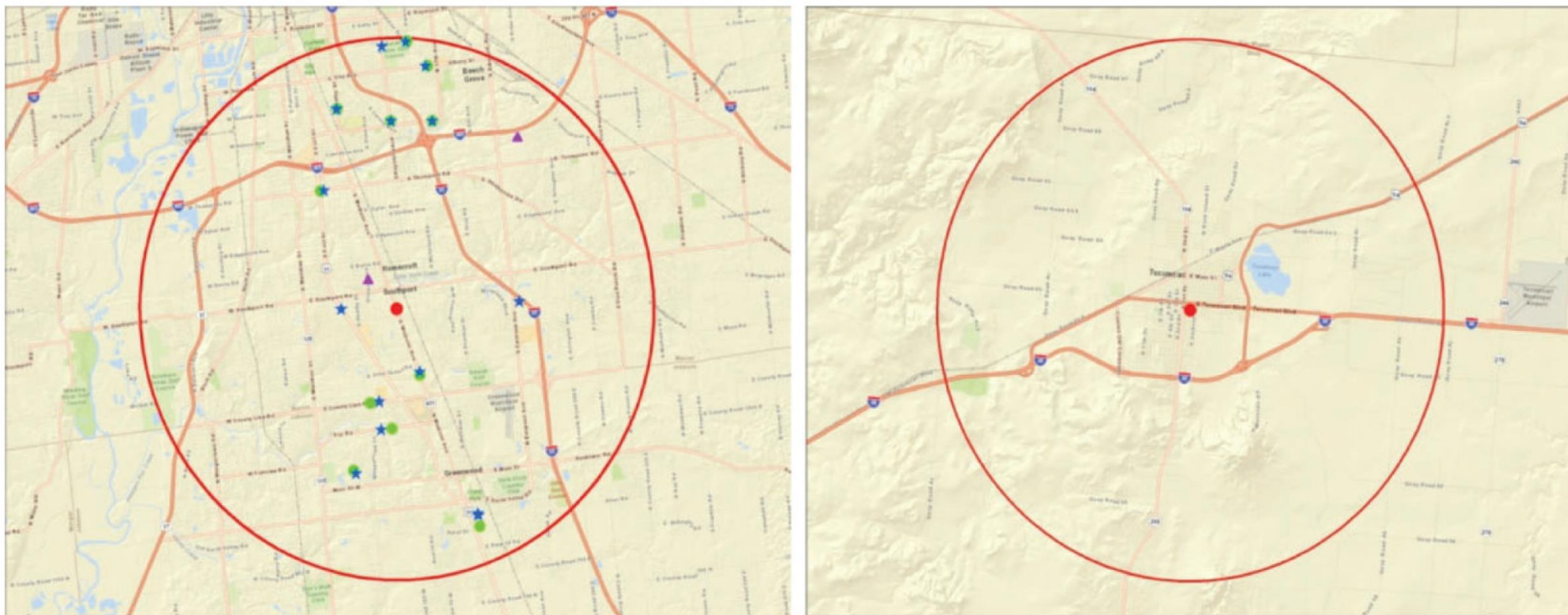


# Area-level Racism Associated with Worse Birth Outcomes among Black Women

Effect on Probability of Poor Birth Outcome for Black Women  
Of One-SD Increase in Area-level Racism Measure



# Availability of Long-Term Supports and Services Varies Dramatically



- 714 nursing home closures 2006-2010
- 30% of closures in rural areas had no other NH, ALF, or adult day services in market area
- Proportion of population in poverty had small negative association with lack of alternatives



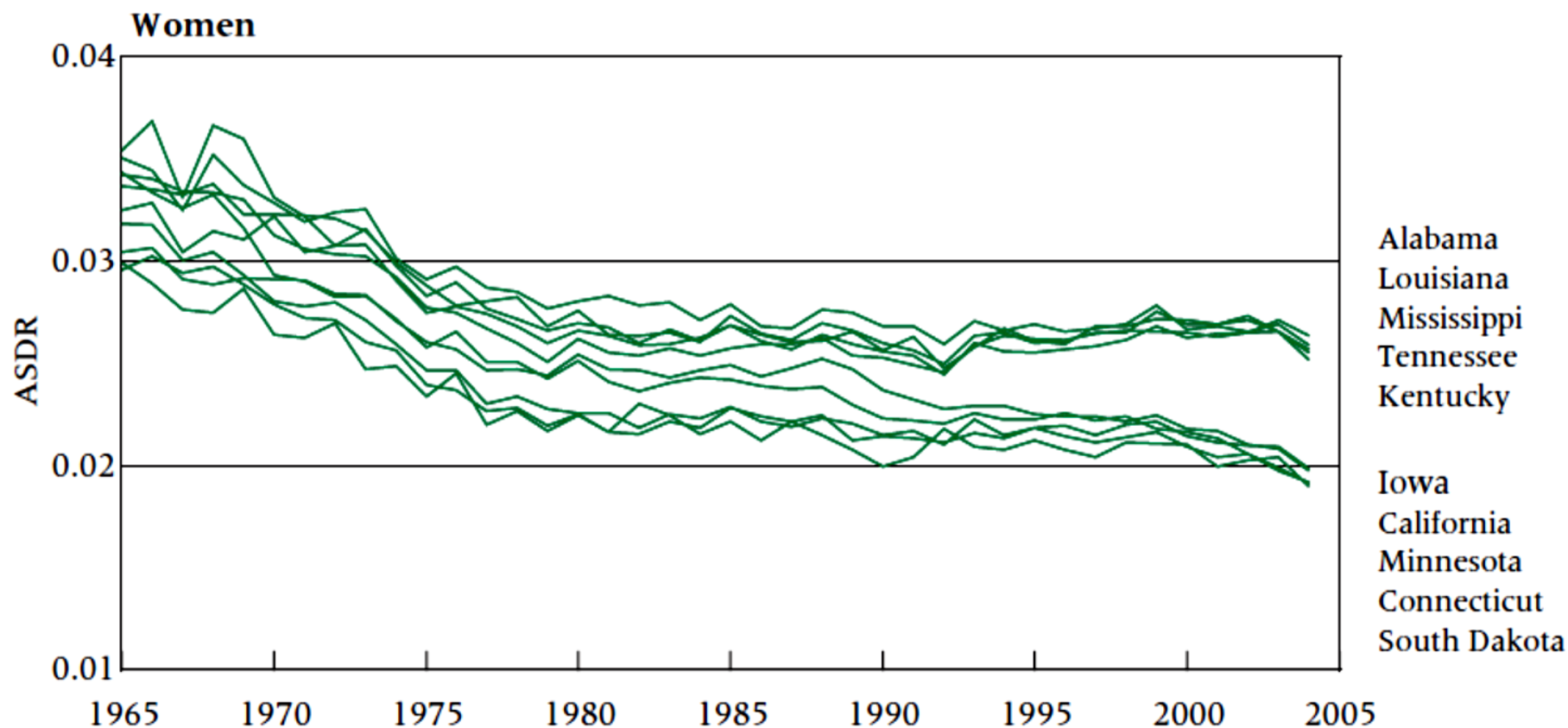
# Black-White Gap in Life Expectancy at Age 50 Has Shrunk a Bit – Mainly Because of Weak Improvements Among White Women

	White advantage 1980	White advantage 2013
Both sexes	3.6 years	2.3 years
Women	3.6 years	1.9 years
Men	3.6 years	2.9 years

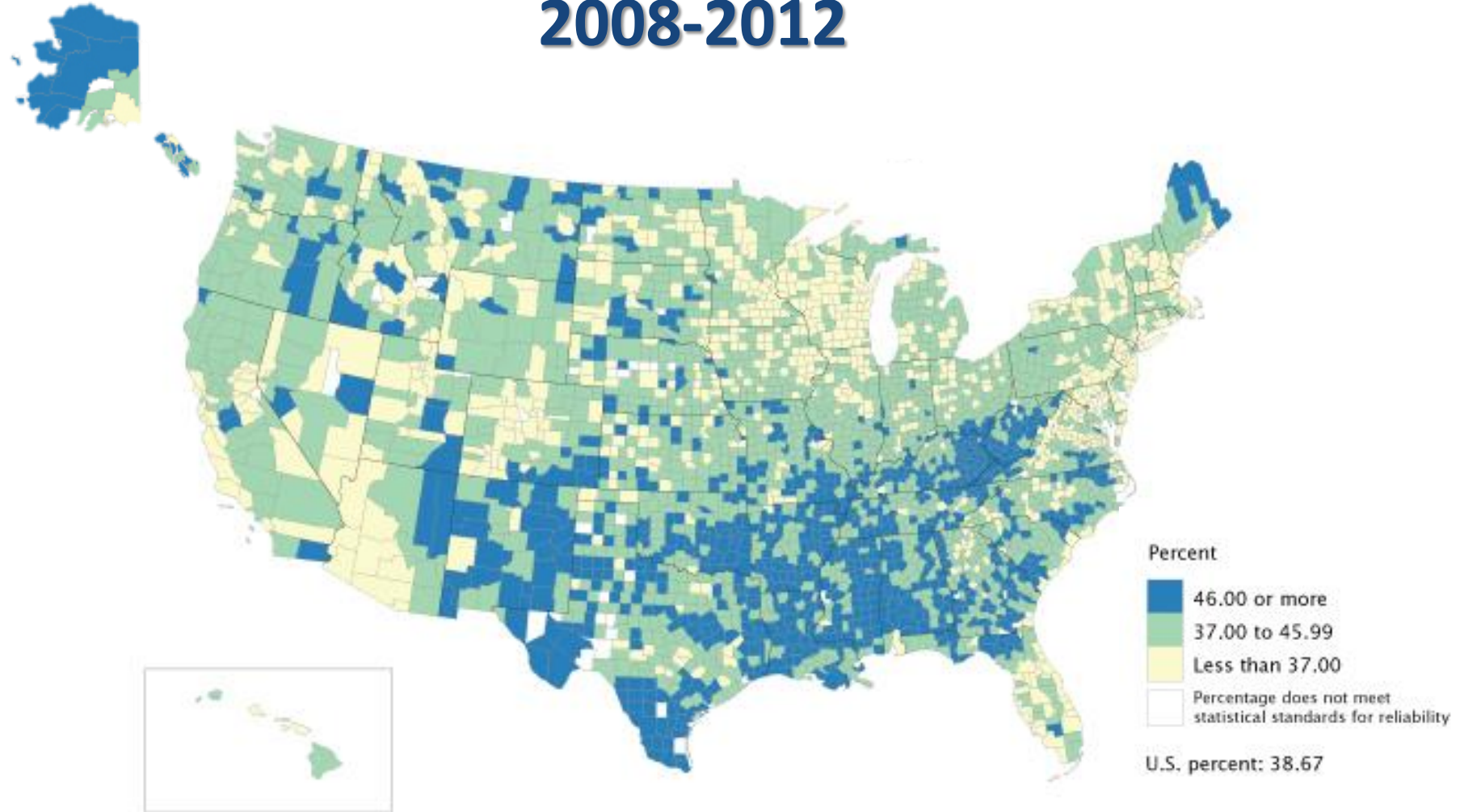
	Gain in l.e. at age 50. 1980-2013
Black women	4.2 years
White women	2.5 years
Black men	5.4 years
White men	4.7 years

# Disparities in late-life health are increasingly regionalized

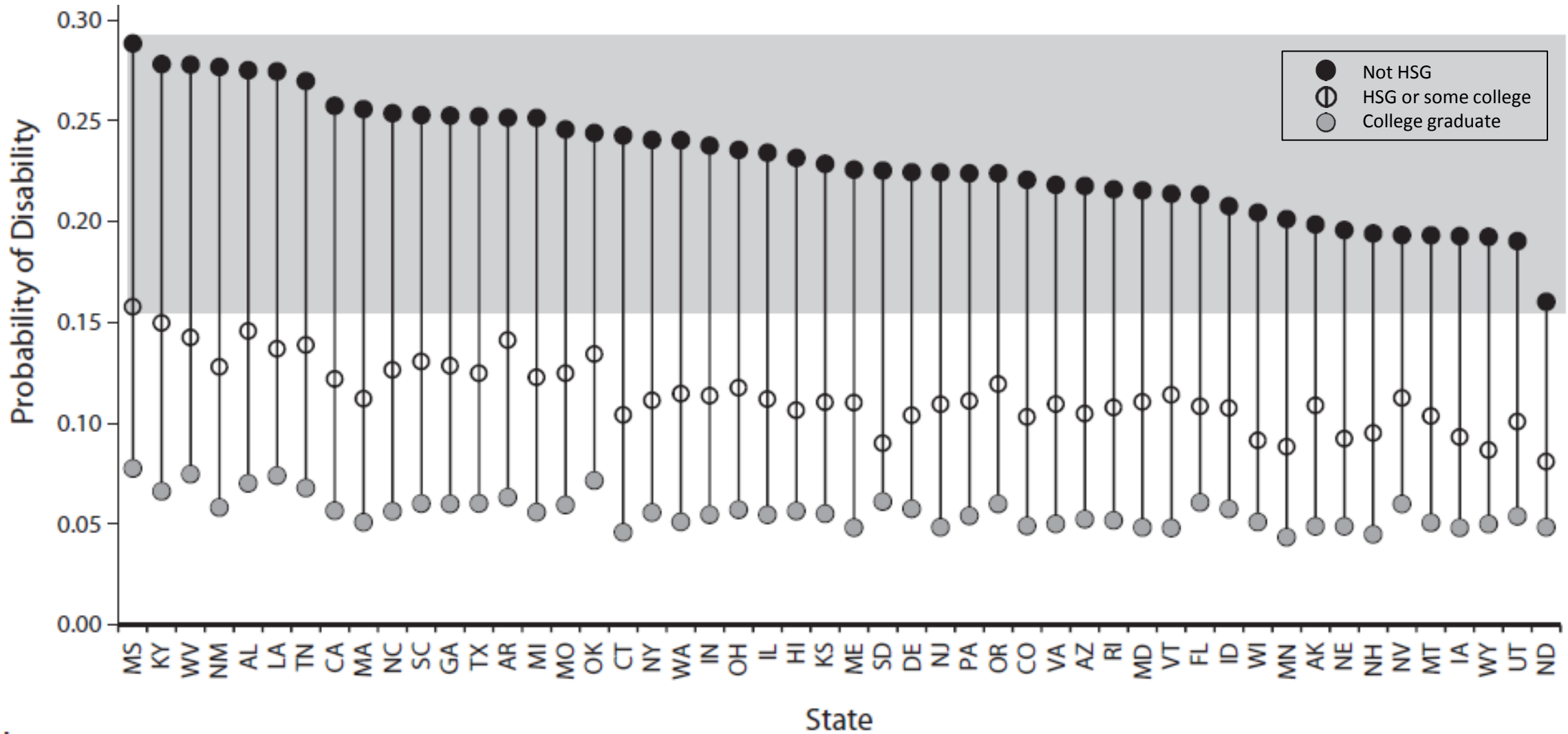
**FIGURE 2 Diverging trends in all-cause mortality by sex at ages 50 and above in five southern states and five other states, 1965–2004**



# County Population Age 65 and Over with a Disability: 2008-2012



# The Education Gap in Disability Varies Across States

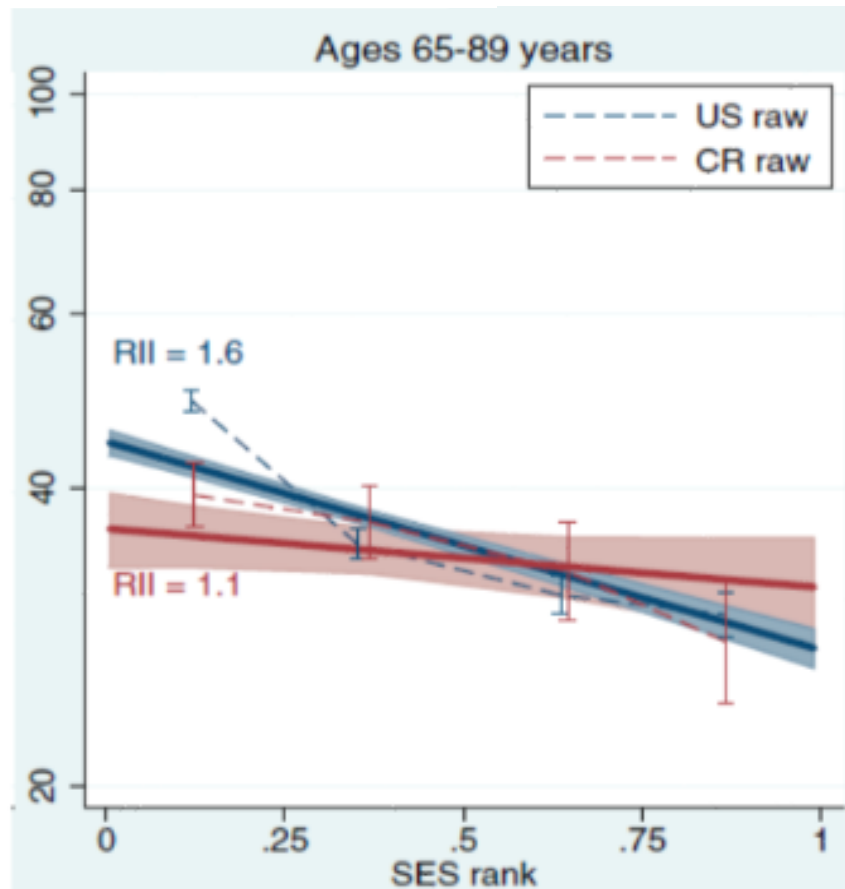
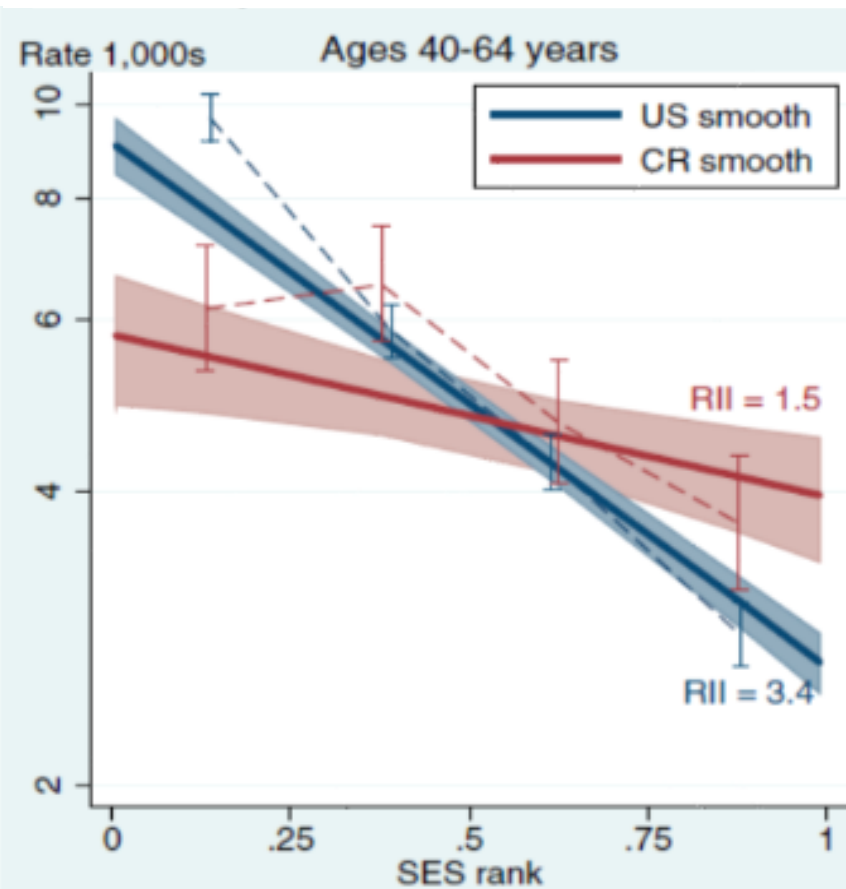


# Why Would the Bottom Half of SES Distribution be Healthier in Costa Rica?

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

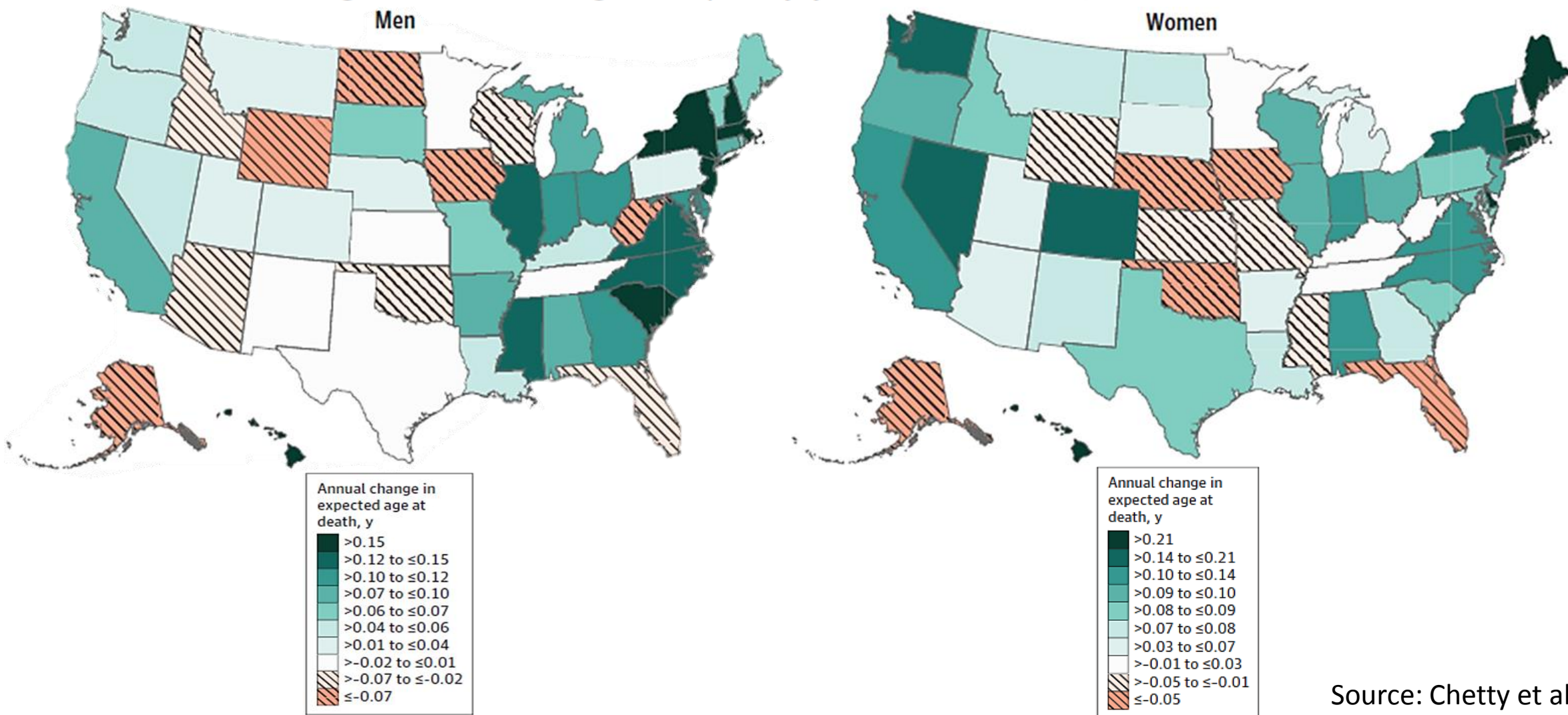
Luis Rosero-Bixby and William H. Dow

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

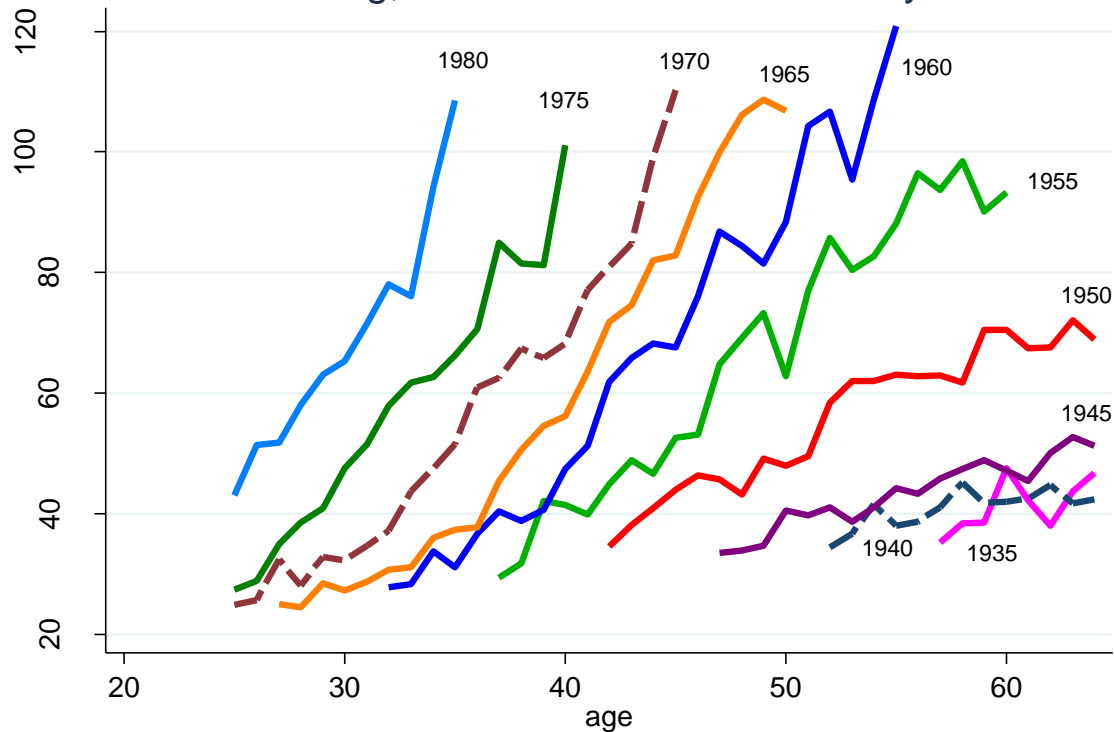
Figure 6. Mean Annual Change in Life Expectancy by State for Bottom Income Quartile, 2001-2014



# Increase in “Deaths of Despair” for Decades – for Non-Graduates

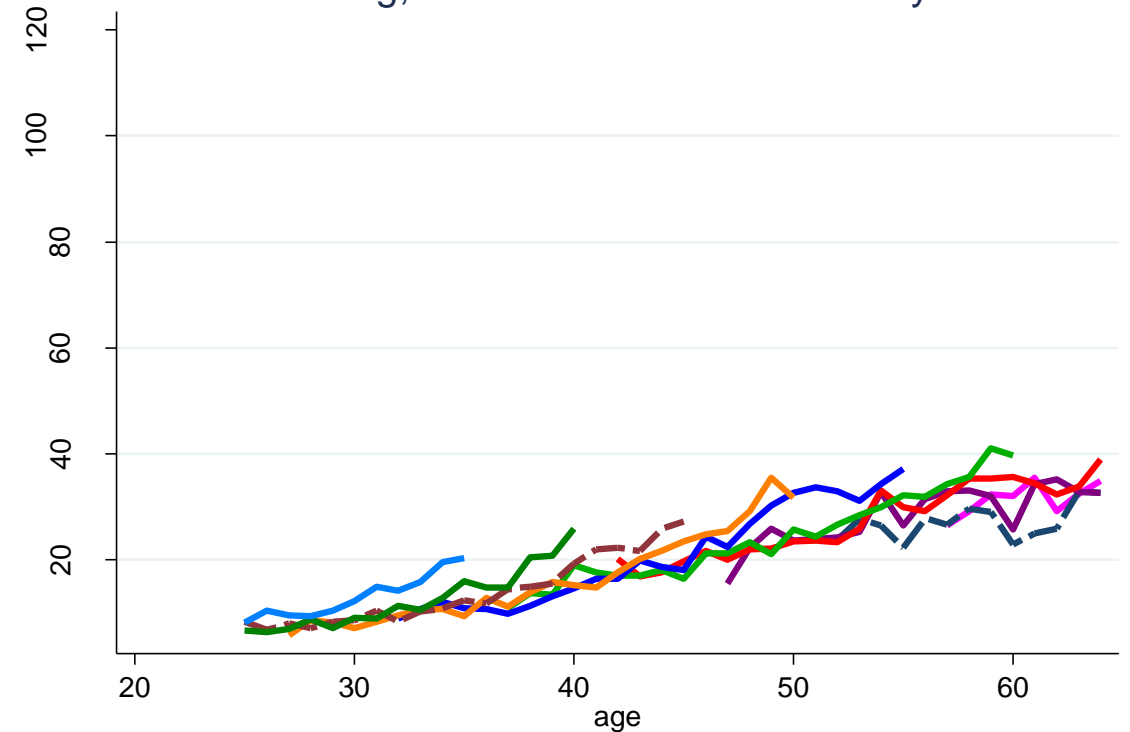
Less than BA

Drug, alcohol and suicide mortality

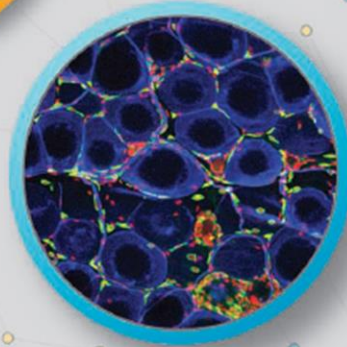


BA or more

Drug, alcohol and suicide mortality



**Drug, Alcohol and Suicide Mortality Rates, White Non-Hispanics, by Birth Cohort and Age**



## STRATEGIC PLAN FOR NIH OBESITY RESEARCH





# 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century America
- Recently approved: Network on Health at Older Ages in Rural America

# Concepts for future FOAs approved by Council January 2018

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/approved-concepts#jan18>

- **Disparities in Quality and Access to Dementia Care\***
- **Centers on the Demography and Economics of Aging: Renewal and AD/ADRD Expansion**
- **Roybal Translational Center Renewal and AD/ADRD Care Expansion**
- **Examining Factors Related to Recruitment and Retention in Aging Research**
- **High-Priority Behavioral and Social Research Networks**
- **Improving the Lives of Persons with Dementia: Impacts on Individuals, Families, and Communities\***

# Career Development Awards

- There is a range; suitable for multiple career stages:
- <https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development>
- Review managed by NIA; with four committees:
- <https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/scientific-review/chartered-review-committees-nia>
- They take the career development part seriously, not just the research plan.
- K99/R00 “Pathway to Independence” straddles post-doc and tenure track
- Talk to relevant PO and Robin Barr (barr@nia.nih.gov)

# BSR Small Business Priority Research Topics

## GOT A BIG IDEA ABOUT:



**INNOVATIONS**  
to support healthy  
aging and aging  
in place?



**TECHNOLOGY** to  
reduce burden and  
improve care and  
services for older adults?



**SOLUTIONS**  
for aging-related  
problems and  
needs?



**TOOLS** to more  
efficiently assess  
and diagnose aging-  
related diseases?



**INTERVENTIONS**  
to help people with  
Alzheimer's and  
related dementias?



**The National Institute  
on Aging can help!**

Funding is available to help turn your ideas into reality—and help Americans live longer, healthier lives!

NIA Small Business Opportunities support small-business concerns & nonprofit research organizations in two primary areas:

- Alzheimer's disease and related dementias
- Aging and aging-related diseases

Learn more about NIA's small-business programs and funding opportunities at <http://bit.ly/niasmallbusiness>.

- Assistive Technology (including robotics)
- Behavioral Interventions
- Aging in Place

## Get grant support to help turn your idea into a product or service that improves the health and well-being of Americans.

Current opportunities include funding for:

- Tools for clinical care of people with Alzheimer's disease
- Development of stem cell- or progenitor cell-based interventions
- Specific and standardized tests for diagnosing dementia
- New vaccine formulations to improve vaccine responses in older adults
- Assistive technologies for people with Alzheimer's and related dementias
- And more!

- New Methods for Population-based Studies
- Integrating Technology to Detect Age-Related Change
- Innovative tools for Big Data



# National Strategy for Recruitment and Participation in Alzheimer's Disease Clinical Research

## GOAL:

To engage broad segments of the public in the Alzheimer's and related dementias research enterprise, with a particular focus on underrepresented communities, so that studies can successfully and more quickly enroll and retain individuals in studies to better understand and eventually cure these disorders.



## Public Comment Now Open!



***How can we optimize recruitment and participation in Alzheimer's research?***

Let us hear from you!

Submit an idea or comment and vote for your favorites at:

**<http://bit.ly/ADrecruit>**

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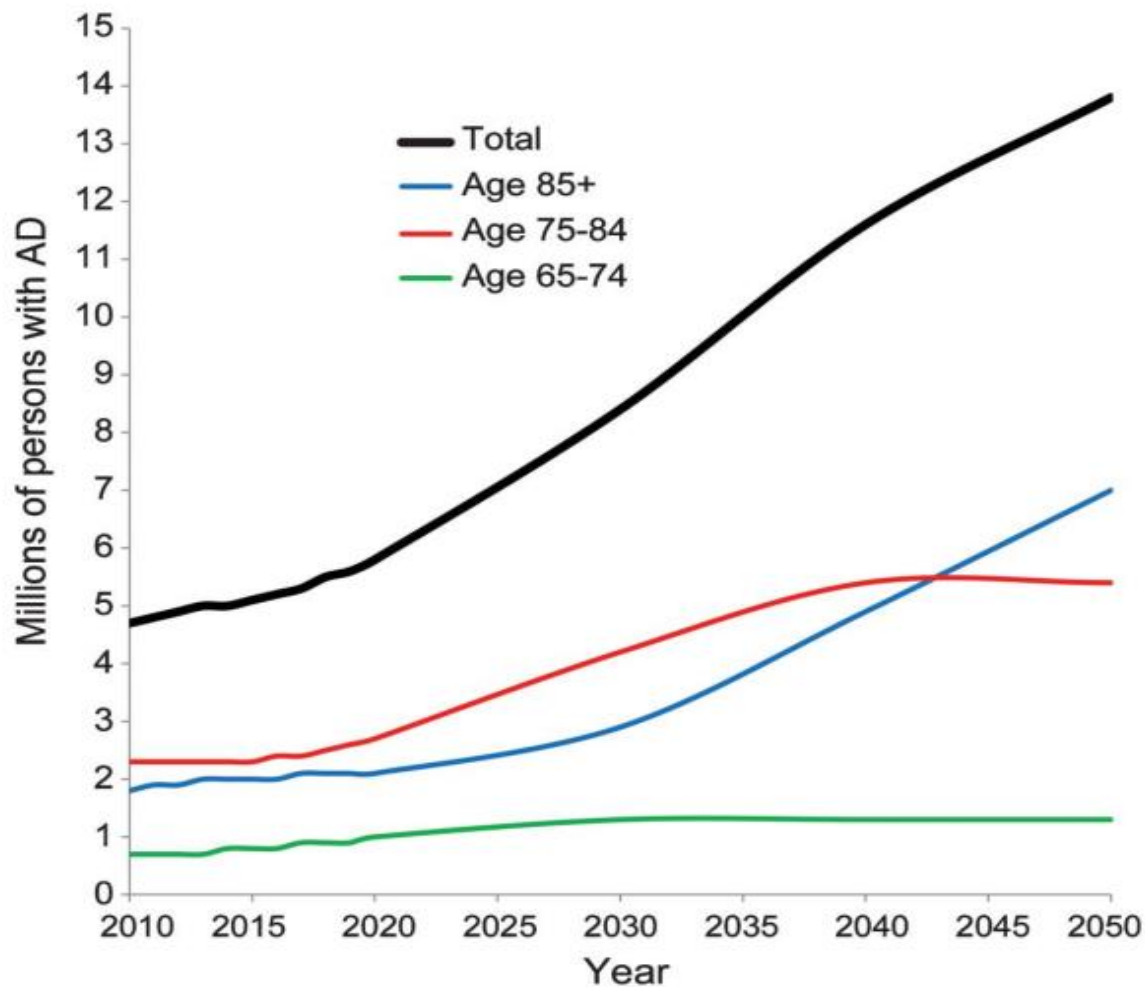
# Thoughts on Future Disparities Research

- SES gradient is fairly well understood – increasing SES gradient not at all understood and very ominous
- Need for continued progress in research on mechanisms – you intervene wherever you can, no preference for root or proximate causes nor for individual change, clinical practice or policy fixes (“Haddon Matrix”)
- Need more progress on interventions, informing and being informed by basic research (“Pasteur’s Quadrant”)



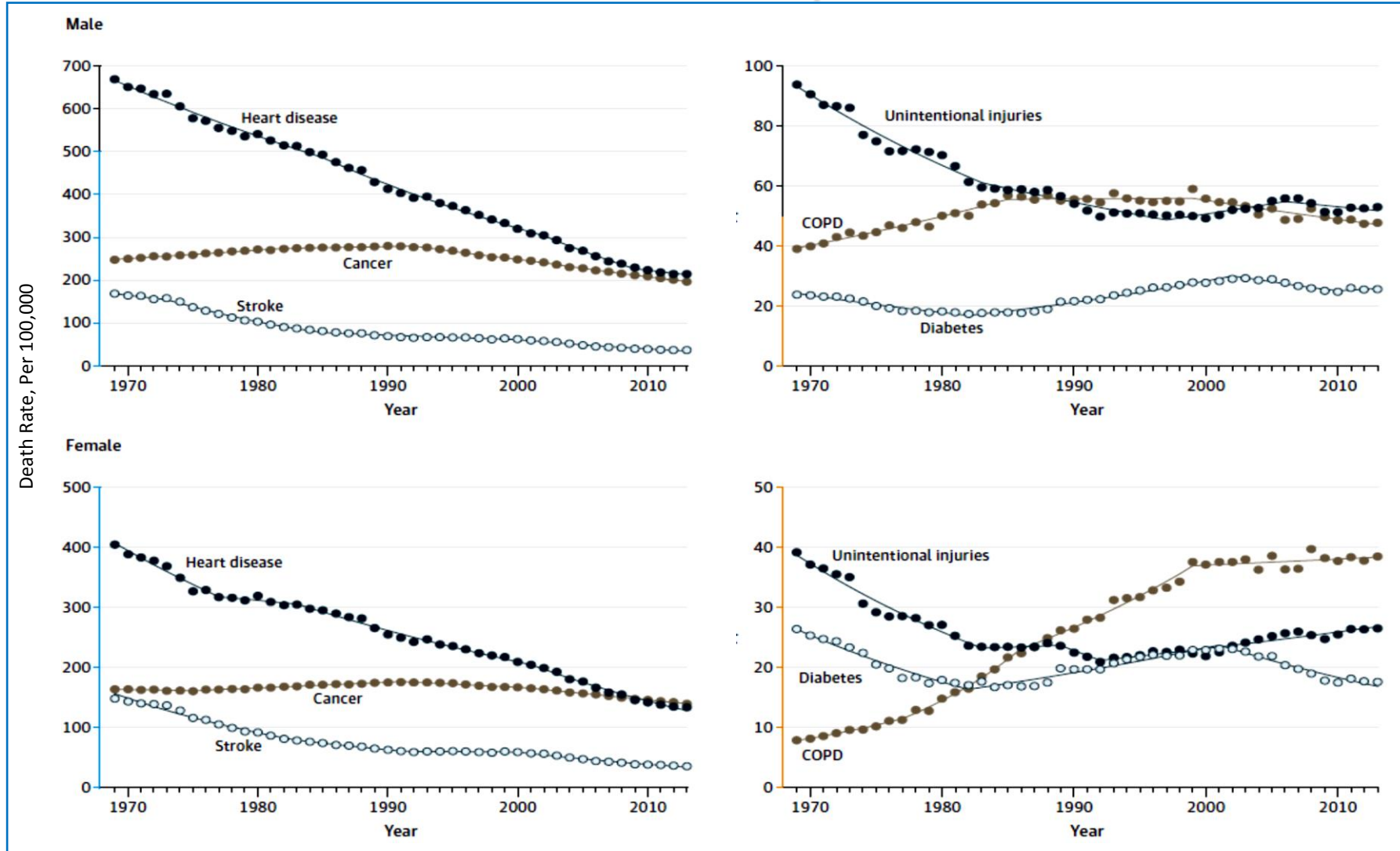
# Additional slides

# Number of Persons Living with Alzheimer's Disease Growing Rapidly



Source: Hebert et al., 2013. Alzheimer disease in the United States (2010-2050) estimated using the 2010 census.

# AGE-STANDARDIZED DEATH RATE BY SEX AND CAUSE OF DEATH IN THE UNITED STATES, 1969-2013



# Do Differences in Life Expectancy Really Matter?

	SPAIN, 2014	USA, 2014
Life expectancy at birth (both sexes)	85.6 years	79.1 years
Die before age 60	6.0%	11.3%
Die in their 60s	7.8%	10.5%
Die in their 70s	16.9%	20.0%
Reach 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	32.4%	26.0%
Source:	Human Mortality Database, April 2018	

# Life Expectancy Gains and Increased Health Spending, Selected High-Income Countries, 1995-2015

