Does Longer Life Mean Better Health? Not for Native-born Mexican Americans in the Health and Retirement Survey

The survey was used to investigate differences of disability and mortality of non-Hispanic whites, blacks and Mexican Americans.

What does life expectancy look like for Mexican-Americans, Blacks, and Whites?

Results found that:

Among those that are not disabled, Blacks have a significantly higher mortality rate, but there are no differences in mortality rate for whites, Mexican-Americans, and blacks who are not disabled.

As years of schooling increases, rates of disability decrease.

Mexican Americans can expect to live longer with disabilities than whites and blacks.

Life expectancy for Mexican-Americans and Whites is similar in spite of different socioeconomic status.

Compression of disability is not characteristic of long life for Mexican-Americans.

Blacks are more likely to have a shorter life expectancy and a longer amount of time living with disability.

Conclusion: Better data collection needs to be done to address minority groups to support health policy reforms.