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Trends in healthy life expectancy in the United States, 1970–1990: gender, racial, and educational differences

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Abstract

This paper examines healthy life expectancy by gender and education for whites and African Americans in the United States at three dates: 1970, 1980 and 1990. There are large racial and educational differences in healthy life expectancy at each date and differences by education in healthy life expectancy are even larger than differences in total life expectancy. Large racial differences exist in healthy life expectancy at lower levels of education. Educational differences in healthy life expectancy have been increasing over time because of widening differentials in both mortality and morbidity. In the last decade, a compression of morbidity has begun among those of higher educational status; those of lower status are still experiencing expansion of morbidity. © 2001 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Healthy life expectancy; Active life expectancy; Educational differences; Racial differences; Gender differences; USA
