

Advanced Education and Mortality Compression in the United States

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Abstract

Studies regarding education as a “fundamental cause” of health disparities have shown that people who are more-educated enjoy longer life expectancy and a compression of mortality compared with their less-educated counterparts. Previous studies have shown the significance of education for mortality compression, but may have overlooked heterogeneity and the importance of education-mortality compression association with postsecondary schooling. This study aims to examine whether advanced education has become increasingly important in determining the life chances of individuals in the United States using the Health and Retirement Study. The results not only show the educational gradients of longevity along with mortality compression, but also imply that advanced education has become increasingly important in determine life chances in the United States.

Key Words: Education, mortality compression, modal age of death, standard deviation above the mode