

Discussion: Life Expectancy and Lifestyle Factors

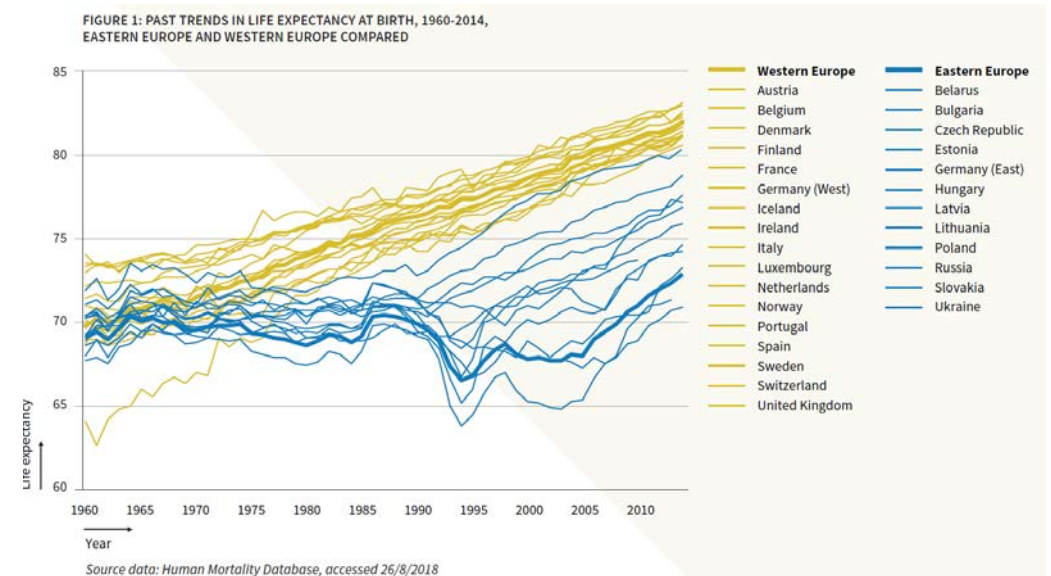
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Fascinating collection of studies

- Important stylized facts:
 - Lifestyle factors may explain a large portion of country-sex differences in mortality in Europe
 - Time-horizon of impact is long
 - “Wave-shaped” epidemics in lifestyle factors

• **What drives health behaviors?**



What drives (variation in) health behaviors?

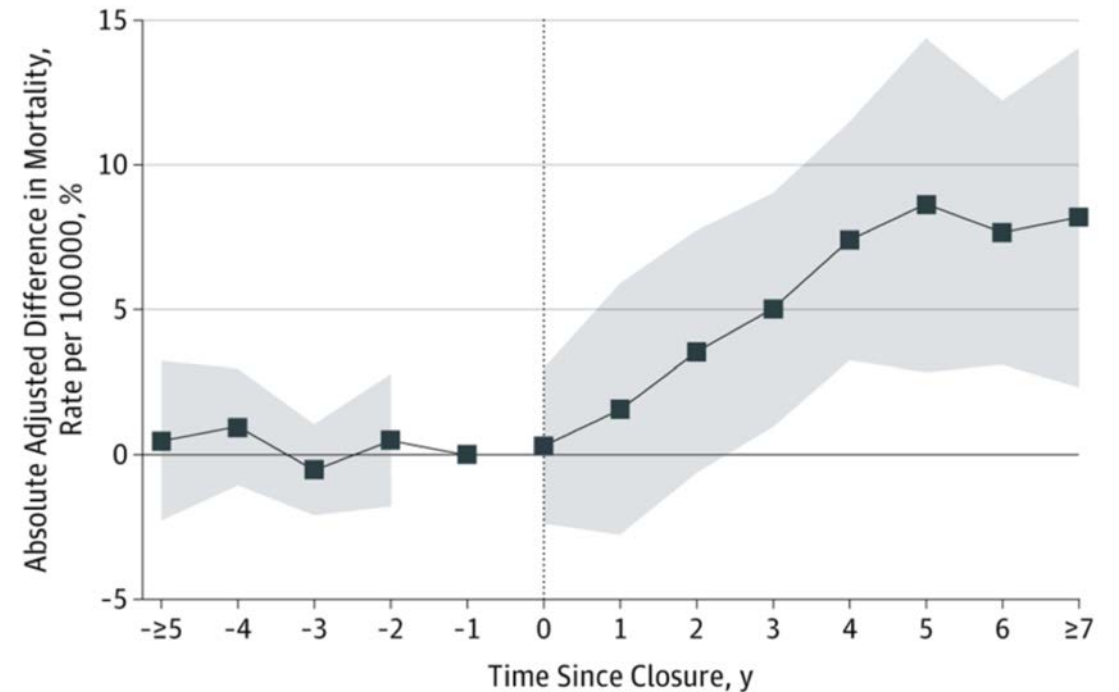
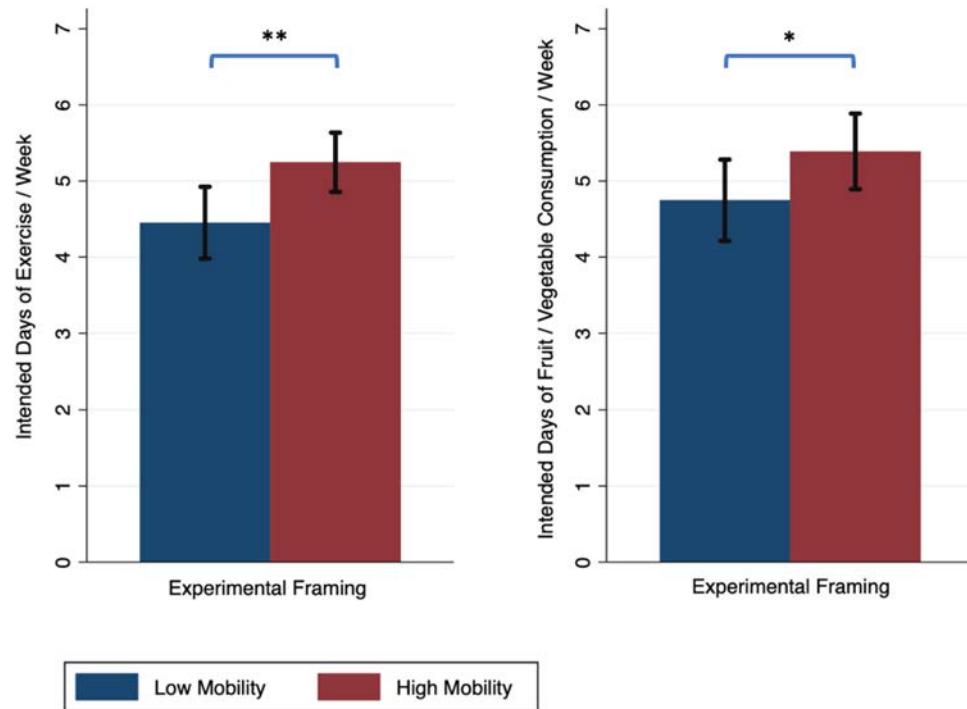
"What's the point? I'm not getting out of here anyway."

"Exercise? I'd love to. I want to. But I keep forgetting to do it... life [has become] stressful."

"Everyone smoked where I grew up."

What do we know?

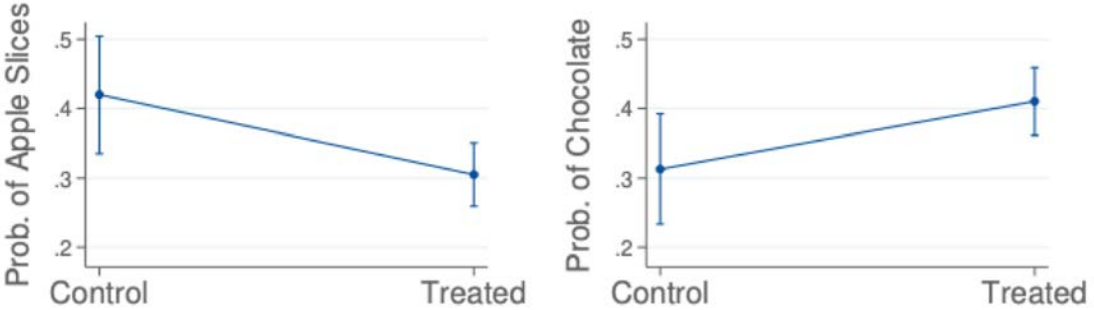
Economic opportunities



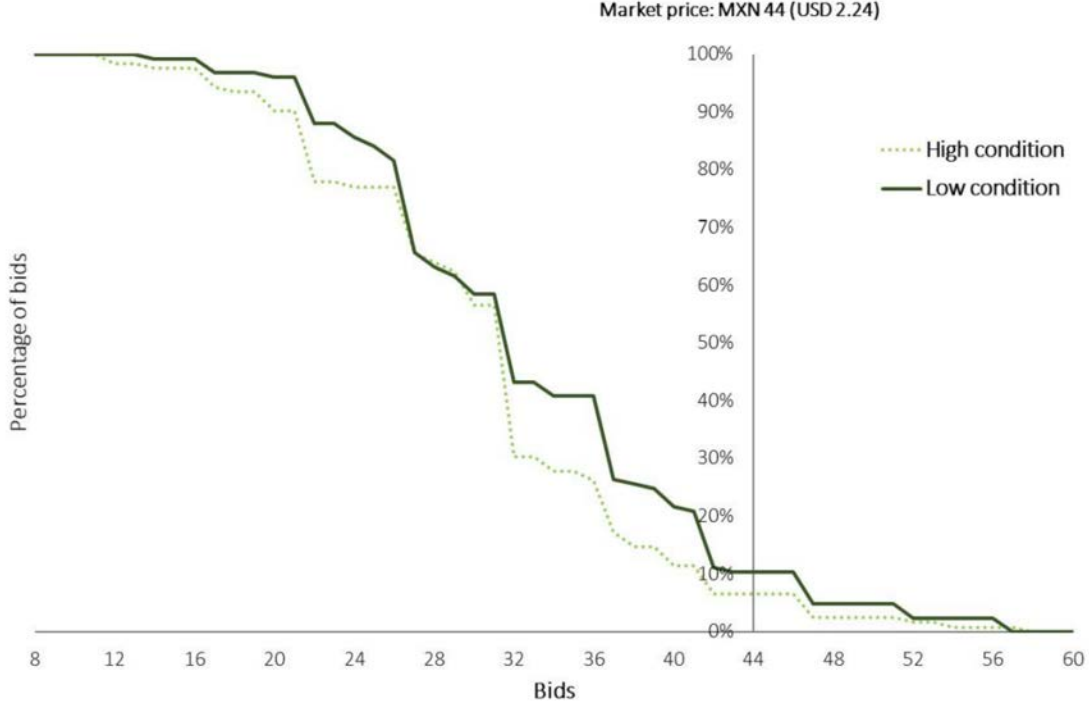
Grossman 1972; de Walque 2010; Ananat et al 2017; Copeland et al 2020; Venkataramani et al unpublished data, 2020; Pierce and Schott 2020; Autor et al 2020; Schwandt and von Wachter 2020; Case and Deaton 2015, 2021; Carroll et al 2022

Economic insecurity

Food Choice Probabilities by Treatment Status

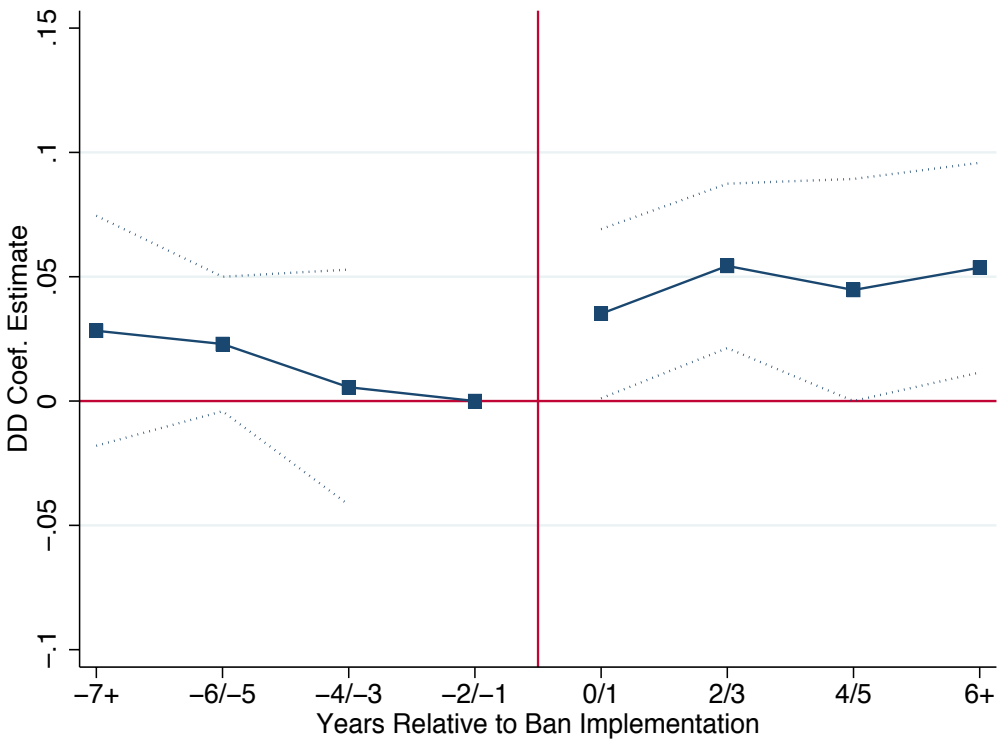
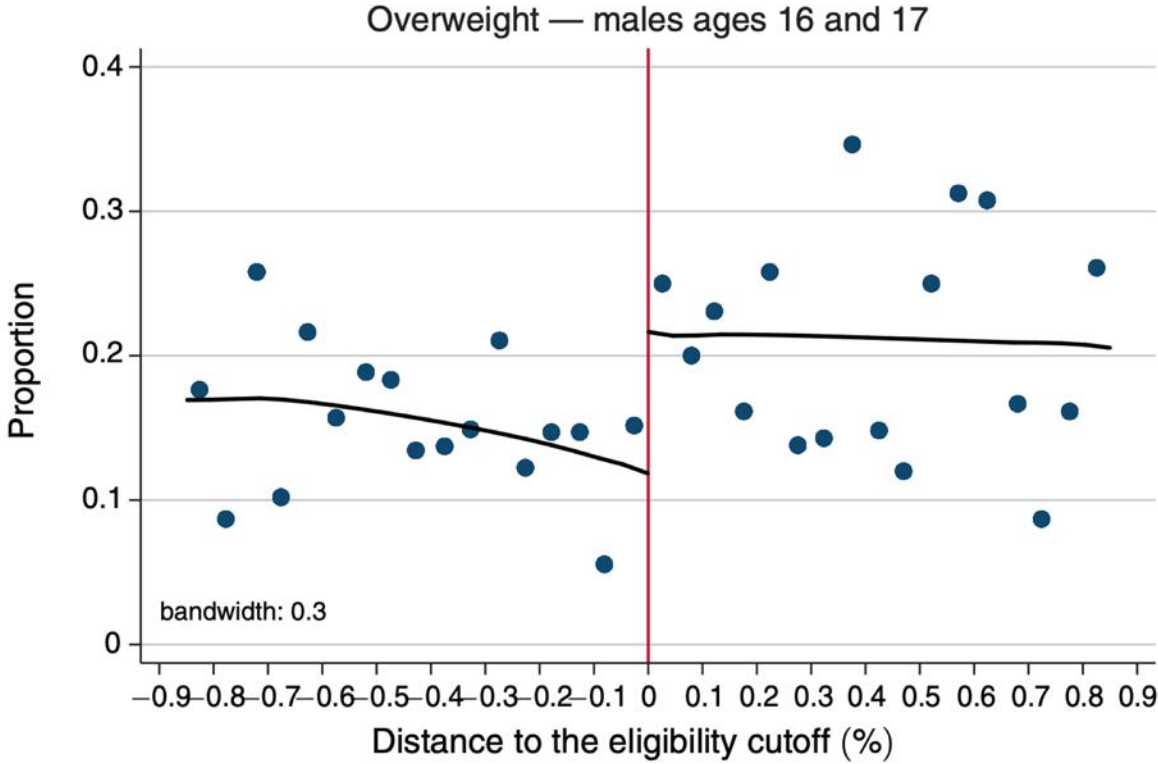


Panel I: Participants in lower-income categories



Schofield and Venkataramani 2021; Dominguez et al 2022

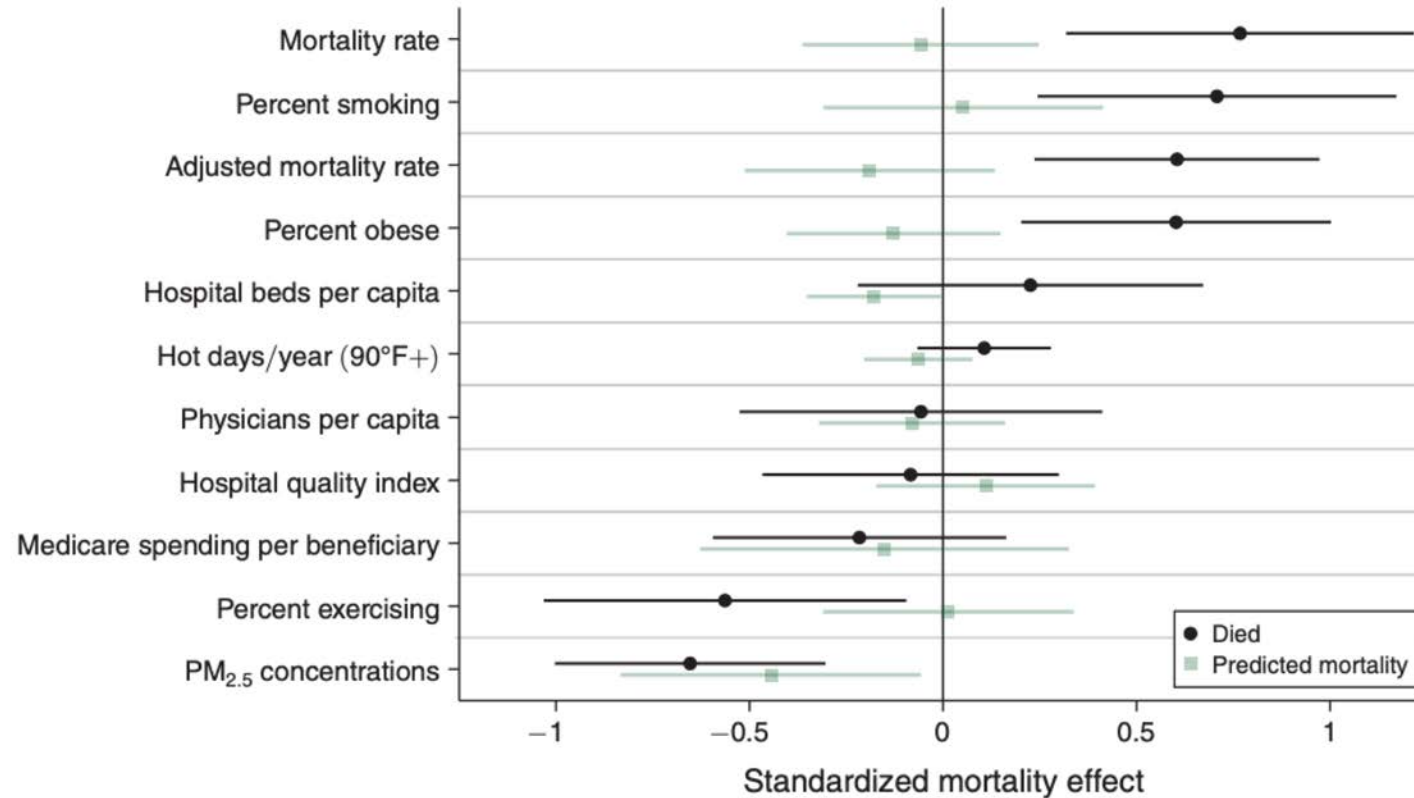
Policies



Currie and Moretti 2003; Anderson et al 2010; Ananat et al 2013, 2017; **Carneiro and Ginja 2014**; Campbell et al 2014; Conti et al 2016; Lleras-Muney 2018; Montez et al 2019; **Venkataramani et al 2019**; Coulliard et al 2020; Montez et al 2020

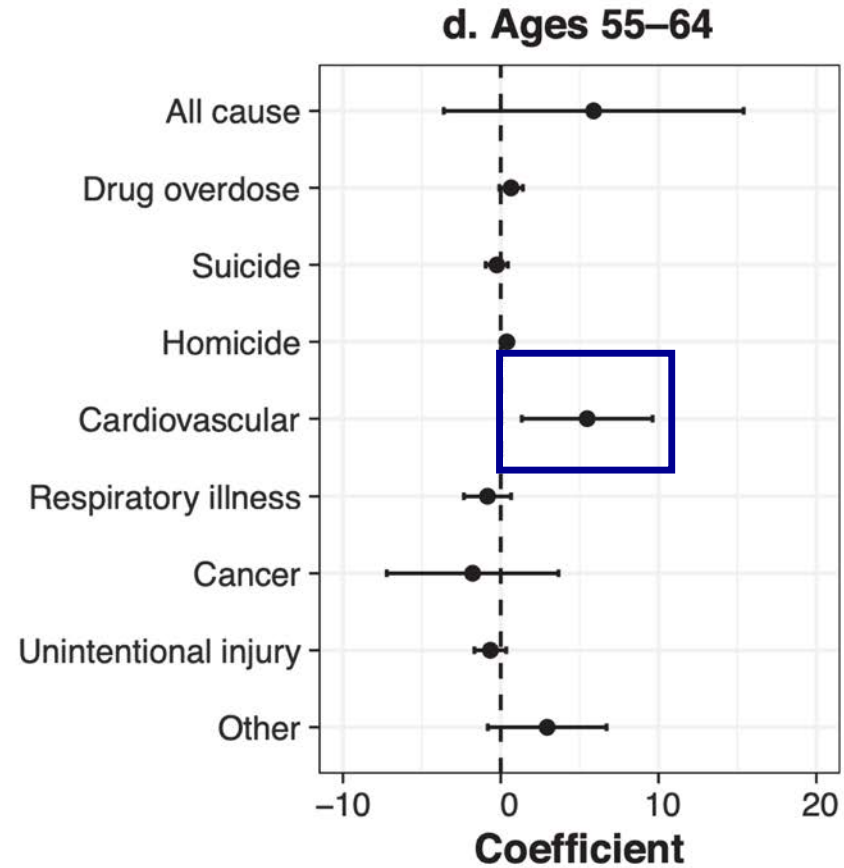
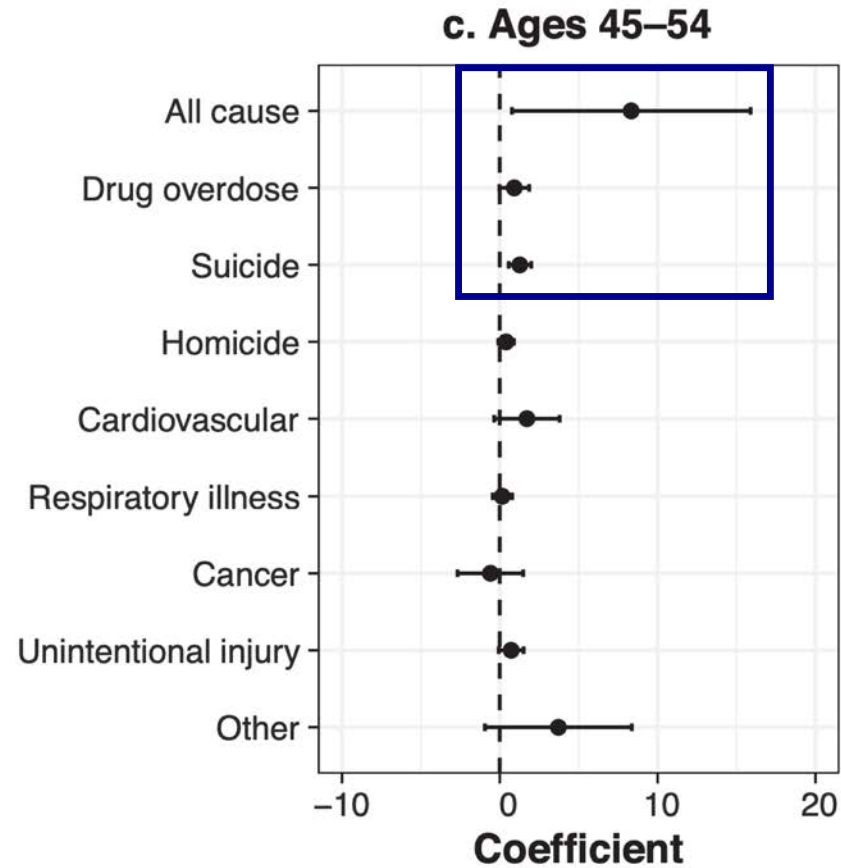
Place-based effects and norms

Panel A. Destination health characteristics



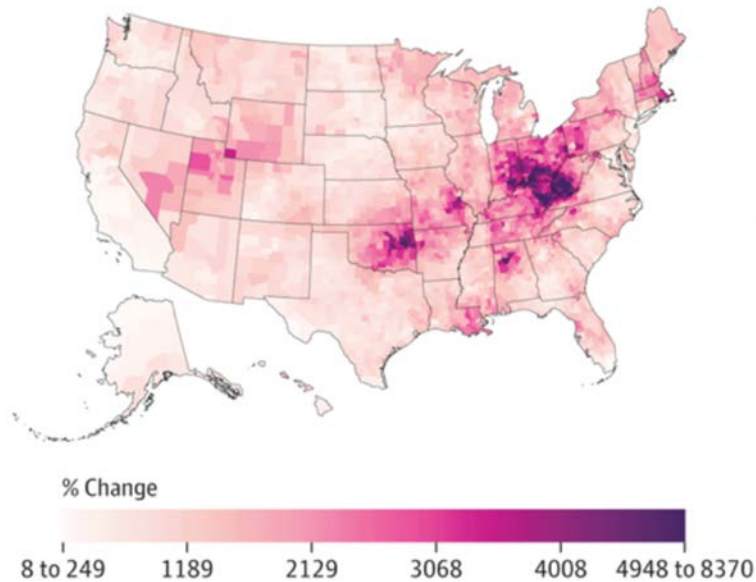
Deepening our understanding

Causes additional to "deaths of despair"

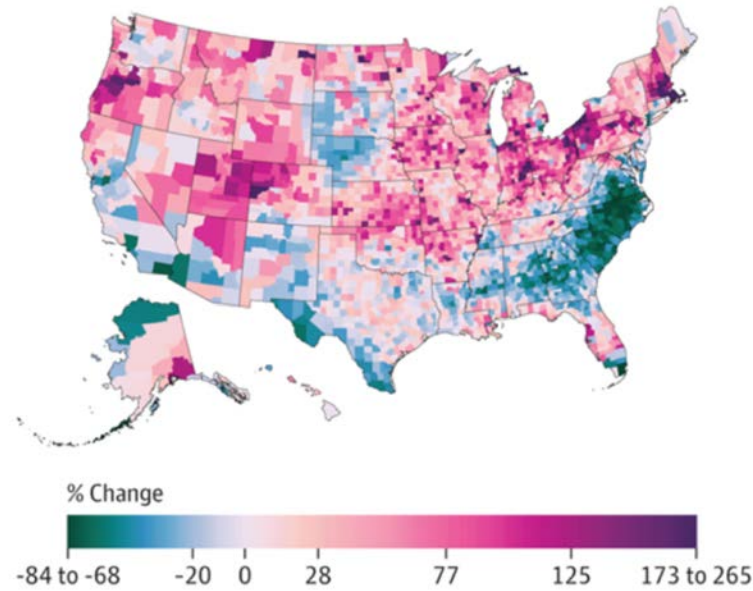


Spatial distribution of behaviors

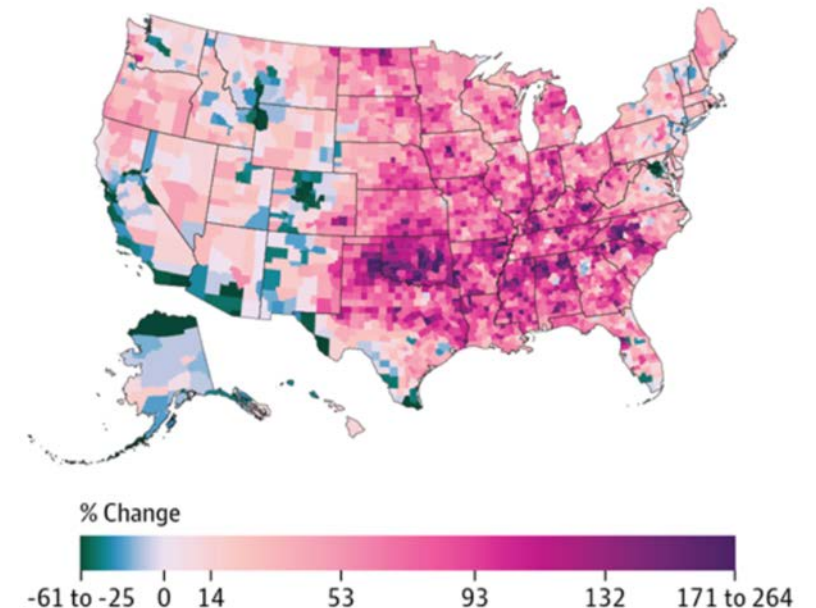
Drug overdose deaths



Alcohol-related deaths



COPD Deaths



Clustered behaviors

- Multilevel social, economic, and cultural forces can concentrate disadvantage in certain areas (e.g., syndemic theory, fundamental cause theory)
- Imply that:
 - Health behaviors may not be independent
 - Complex interactions between population- and individual-level factors shape health behaviors
 - Interventions to address health behaviors may have low returns without complementary inputs

Conclusion

- Janssen's work underscores the critical importance of health behaviors in shaping patterns in longevity and the need for careful approaches to accounting and prediction
- Highlights the need to develop a broader empirical picture of the drivers of health behaviors, incorporating a range of behaviors, potential drivers, and multi-level interactions between them
 - Epidemiology, demography, anthropology, and clinical literatures all suggest the need for richer models

Thank you

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