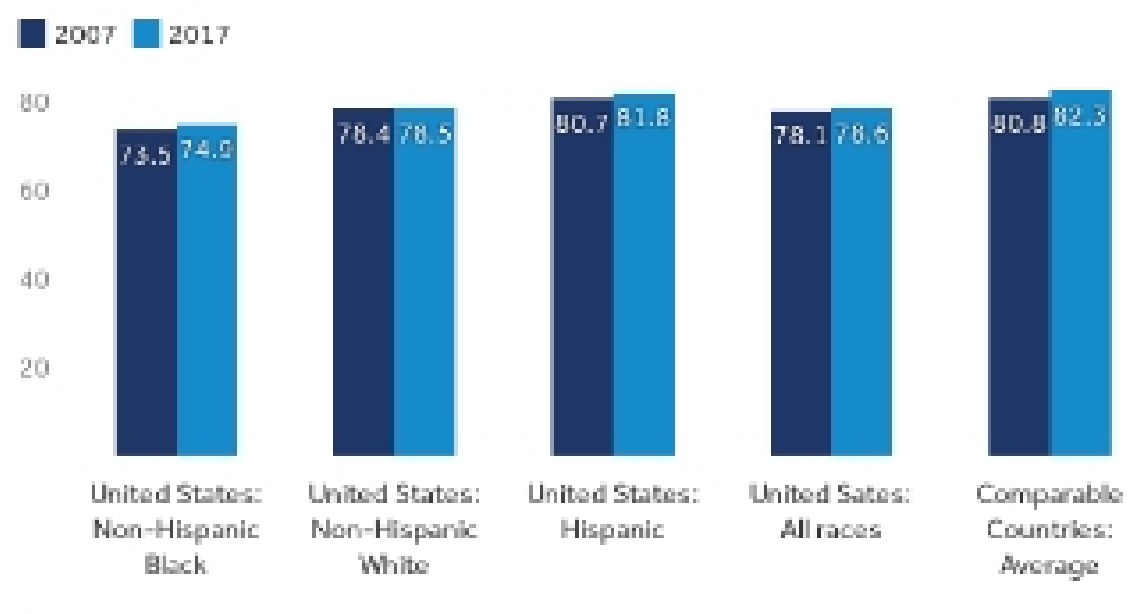


PUB 101 – Dr. Amato  
Spring 2021  
Writing Assignment #7  
Due 4/5/2021 by 11:59 PM EST

**Instructions:** Be sure to answer all parts of each question and respond in your own words. Your response should not be mostly quoting from other sources. Please provide a reference or works cited page for any references or citations you use throughout this written assignment. Expected word counts are provided for each question.

The following graph shows the average life expectancy among US residents, by race and ethnicity. *Life expectancy* means that a baby born in 2007 (dark blue bar) or 2017 (lighter blue bar) is expected to live, on average, the amount of years shown. For example, looking at all races in the United States, a baby born in 2007 would be expected to live on average 78.1 years, and 78.6 years if born in 2017. The graph shows how overtime, we've seen a slight increase in life expectancy between 2007 and 2017. However, the average life expectancy among all races is a few years lower than other comparable countries (comparing the 2 sections on the right). Looking at specific racial groups, there is a stark difference and health disparity between life expectancy among Black non-Hispanic Americans compared to both White, non-Hispanic and Hispanic Americans.

Life expectancy at birth in years, 2007 and 2017



Source: KFF analysis of CDC and OECD data

Peterson-KFF  
**Health System Tracker**

**Questions:** There are many factors that contribute to health and health inequalities. Recall the Week 7 lectures (Chapters 13 and 14) to review social, political and economic determinants of health.

1. Explain how two social determinants of health play a contributing role to in the health inequalities observed by the different average life expectancy by race and ethnicity in the United States. (suggested length: 200 words)

Lack of education and unequal access to health care are one of the most influential social determinants in terms of the health inequalities in the United States. Certain race has a lower rate of high school graduation than the others, which means there is higher proportion of students who might have not received health education that is essential for their safety and survival. For example, many high school dropouts from a certain race group are likely to be unaware of importance of

protection while having sexual intercourses. Thus, it is possible that they would be infected with STIs including HIV, which weakens their immune system and can cause deaths if gets worse. Unequal access to health care also plays a big role in the health inequalities of the United States as certain race groups have bad access to health care and might not be able to detect diseases that might develop into fatal ones. For example, certain race group lives in the places where there lack general hospitals or doctor's offices to get annual physical examinations. Thus, diseases that can be treated during their early onset can develop into fatal diseases, which lower the life expectancy of that racial group.

2. Explain how one political determinant of health (i.e. policy) plays a contributing role in the health inequalities observed by the different average life expectancy by race and ethnicity in the United States. (suggested length: 150 words)

The role of the government is to maintain public health and provide health care to every patient in the country. The way how does it is by coming up with policies and legislating them to make that happen. If the government fails to come up with health care plans that can provide health care to the people who cannot afford the full price, life expectancy of those people would be shorter than the ones who can afford it. In fact, there is certain racial groups that have more people who cannot afford their health care than the others. Thus, the statistics about life expectancy of different racial groups shows health inequalities in the United States. That is why the government has to come up with a plan that can balance between taxation and health care plans for people who cannot afford it.

3. Explain how two economic determinants of health plays a contributing role in the health inequalities observed by the different average life expectancy by race and ethnicity in the United States. (suggested length: 200 words)

Employment and income are economic determinants of health that contribute to the health inequalities in the United States. It is true that certain racial groups have better access to high quality education, which allows them to have more job opportunities after they graduate. For people from racial groups that do not have such access, they have less amount of job opportunities and employment rate of those groups will be lower than the others. Employment status determines capabilities of the individuals to pay their health care fees as they either provide health care plans to their employees or just pay enough amount of money to pay their own health care plans. Thus, certain racial groups with low employment rate are expressing their inability to pay the bills, which causes lower life expectancy and health inequalities. Income can be a similar example of how certain groups have lower life expectancy. Jobs that provide higher income to the employees require high quality education and academic excellence. Certain groups do not have such in their environment, so their income would be lower. As medical bills are rising annually, people who have jobs that pay minimum wage are becoming less able to pay the bills, which causes health inequalities.