

Journal 4/17

What is the American Dream?

Is it realistic for everyone? Explain why or why not

THE AMERICAN DREAM

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO EACH GENERATION?

BRIDGEWORKS

TRADITIONALISTS

Born before 1945

THE IMAGE



THE SELF-MADE MAN

THE MANTRA

PULL YOURSELF UP BY THE BOOTSTRAPS

ICONS



Walt Disney
Henry Ford
John D. Rockefeller

POP CULTURE

The Great Gatsby
It's a Wonderful Life
Citizen Kane

BABY BOOMERS

Born 1946–1964



THE PICKET FENCE

KEEPIN' UP WITH THE JONESES



Don Draper
The Kennedys
The Cleavers

The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet
Father Knows Best
Muscle cars

GEN X

Born 1965–1979



THE CORNER OFFICE

SUCCESS IS THE BEST REVENGE



Gordon Gecko
Scarface
Michael Jackson

Yuppies
Wall Street
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

MILLENNIALS

Born 1980–1995



LIVE FOR THE JOURNEY, NOT THE DESTINATION

YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO



Mark Zuckerberg
Mary-Kate + Ashley Olsen
Jared Leto

Harry Potter
Friends
Hipsters

GEN EDGE

Born after 1995



HAVING AND BEING ENOUGH

SUCCESS ISN'T GIVEN, IT'S EARNED

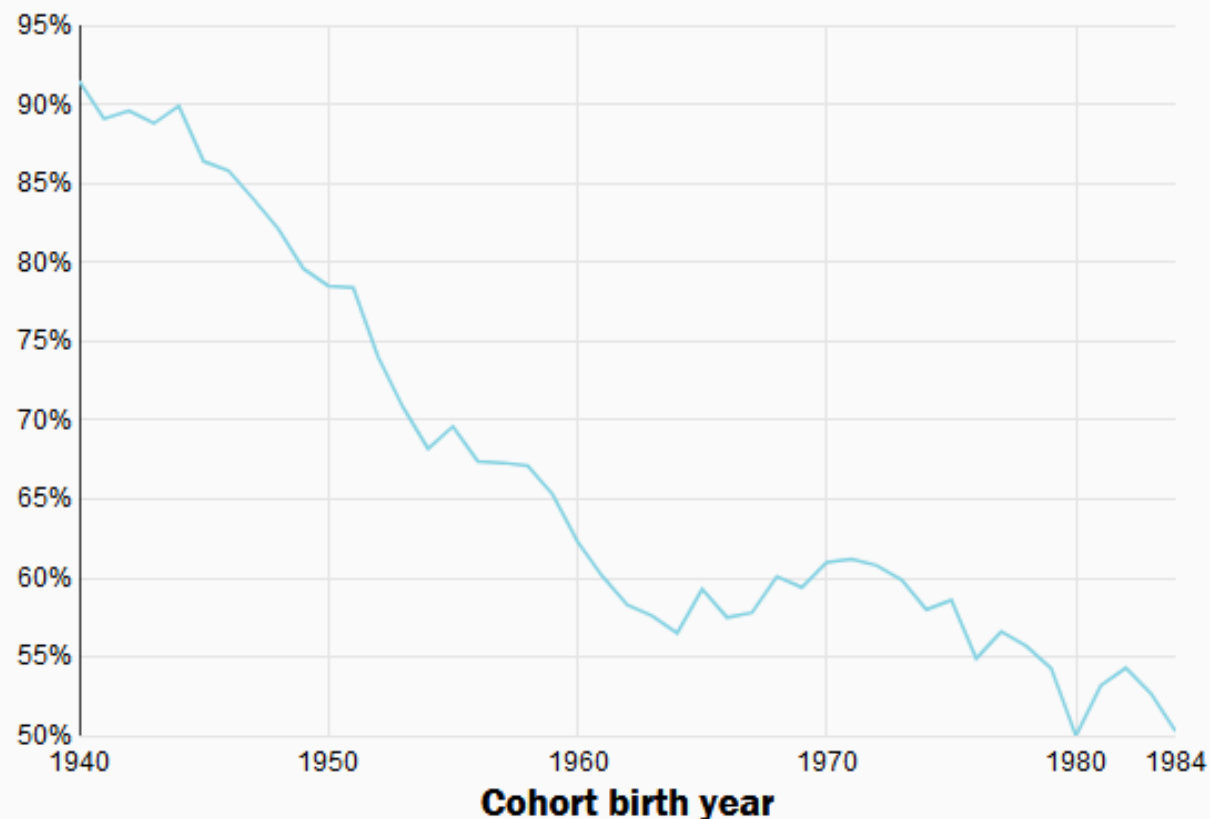


Malala Yousafzai
Barack Obama
Laverne Cox

I Am Cait
YouTube stars
The Hunger Games

Absolute mobility has plummeted

Percentage of children earning more than their parents, by birth cohort



Source: Chetty et al. "The Fading American Dream: Trends in Absolute Income Mobility Since 1940." *Science* 356(6336): 398-406, 2017. Figure 1B. Data downloaded from www.equality-of-opportunity.org/data/

BROOKINGS

Comparing Immigrants, the Second Generation and All U.S. Adults

(1st generation refers to immigrants)

Median annual household income (in dollars)



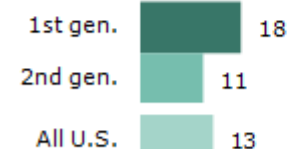
College graduates (% of ages 25 and older)



Homeownership rate (% of households)



In poverty (% of adults)



Notes: Based on adults. Annual income figure is adjusted and standardized to a household size of three; see Methodology. College graduates include those with a bachelor's degree or more. See Terminology for more on definition of generations.

Source: 2012 data from Pew Research Center analysis of Current Population surveys, Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) file

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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Unit 6: Social Inequalities

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Poverty in America

Defining Poverty in the United States

- Poverty – a standard of living that is below the minimum level considered adequate by society
- Poverty is a relative measure

Defining Poverty in the United States

- The U.S. Census Bureau defines poverty in terms of the minimum annual income needed by a family to survive
 - Minimum income is called the poverty level (line)
- The poverty line is determined by calculating the cost of providing an adequate diet (based on the USDA's minimum nutritional standards)
 - The amount is multiplied by 3 because research shows that 1/3 of income is spent on food.
 - The poverty line is adjusted each year to reflect the cost of living

Poverty Level by Family Size, 2015

Family Size	Poverty Level
1	\$11,770
2	\$15,930
3	\$20,090
4	\$24,250 (reported number)
5	\$28,410
6	\$32,570
7	\$36,730
8	\$40,890

Poverty in America

Percent of population below the poverty level

Age	All Races	White	Black	Latino
Total Population	14.8%	12.7%	26.2%	23.6%
Under 18	21.1%	17.9%	37.1%	39.1%
18 to 64	13.5%	11.9%	22.6%	19.8%
65 and over	10.0%	8.7%	19.2%	18.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015

Variations in American Poverty

- Not every American runs an equal risk of being poor
- Characteristics such as age, sex, race, and ethnicity affect poverty
- Children under 18 represent 25% of the population, but 33% of those living in poverty
- The level of poverty among Black and Latino children is more than twice the level among White children

Variations in American Poverty

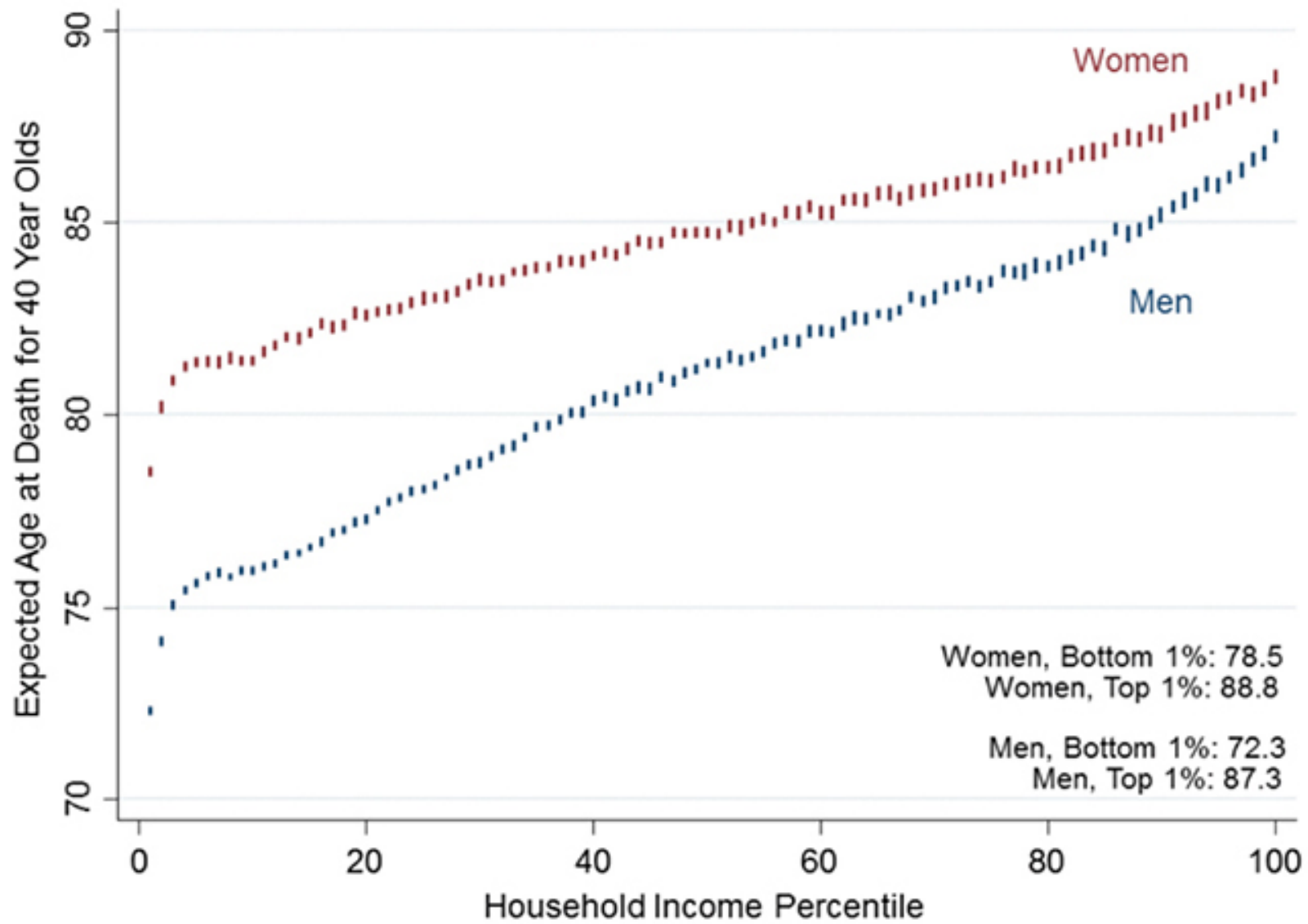
- 57% of the poor are women
- Women head about $\frac{1}{2}$ of all poor households
- 40% of households headed by Black and Latina women live in poverty
- 25% of households headed by White women live in poverty

Effects of Poverty

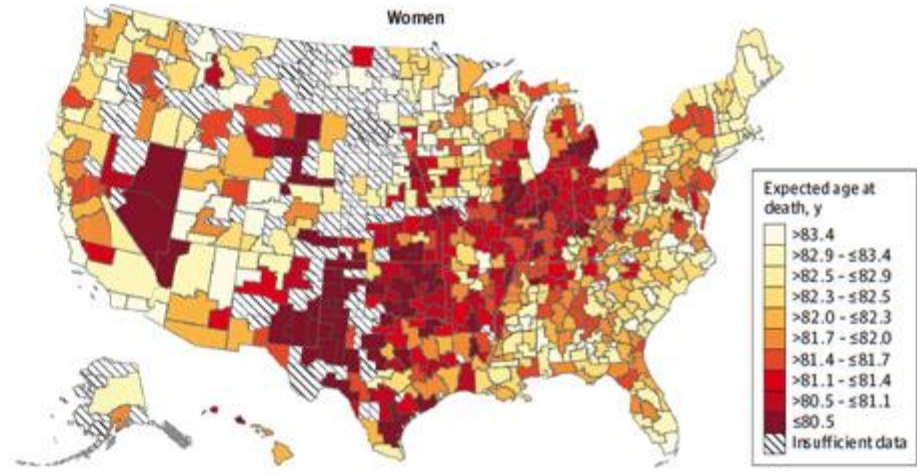
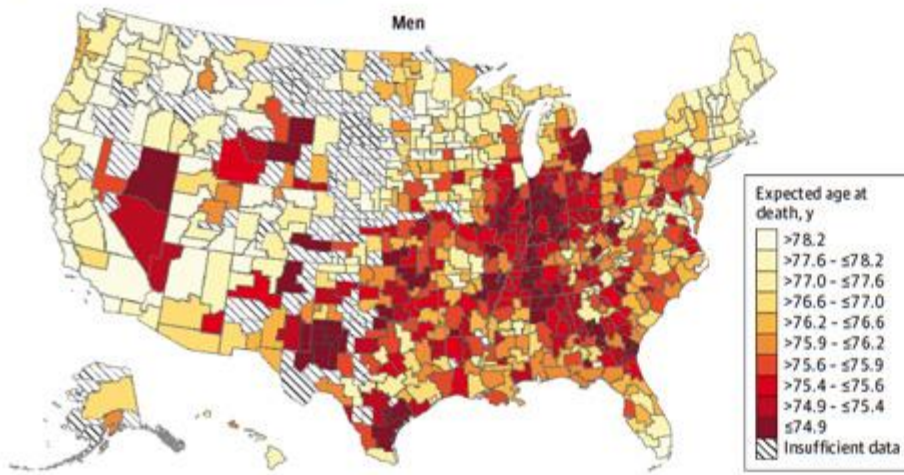
- The lives of poor Americans differ from the lives of wealthier Americans
- Poor and wealthy members of society have different life chances and behavior patterns

Effects of Poverty

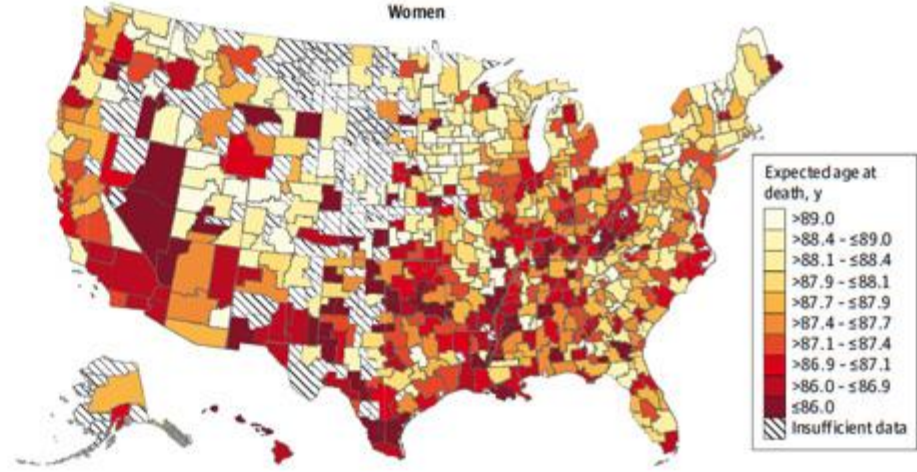
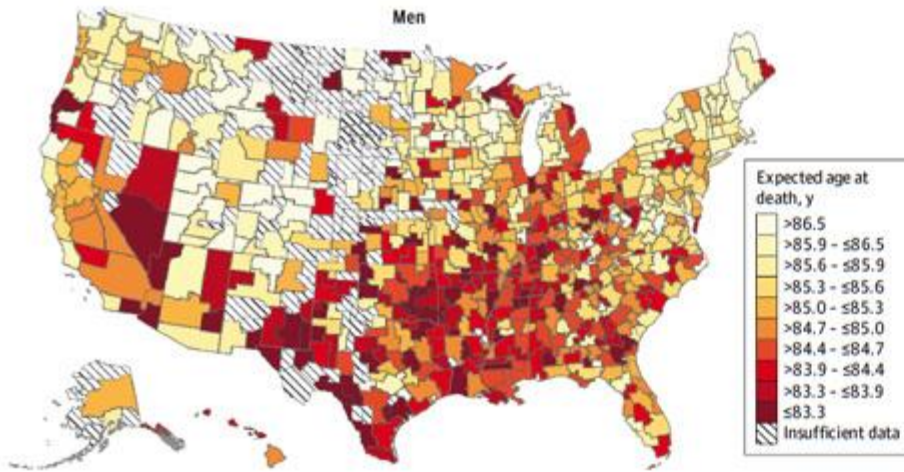
- Life Chances – the likelihood that individuals have of sharing in the opportunities and benefits of society
 - Includes health, length of life, housing, and education
- Research shows that the lower someone's social class, the less opportunity individuals have to share in the benefits of society
- Poor Americans are at a serious disadvantage in two important life chances – health and length of life
- Rates of heart disease, diabetes, cancer, arthritis, pneumonia, and tuberculosis are highest among those living in poverty



A Life expectancy for bottom income quartile



B Life expectancy for top income quartile

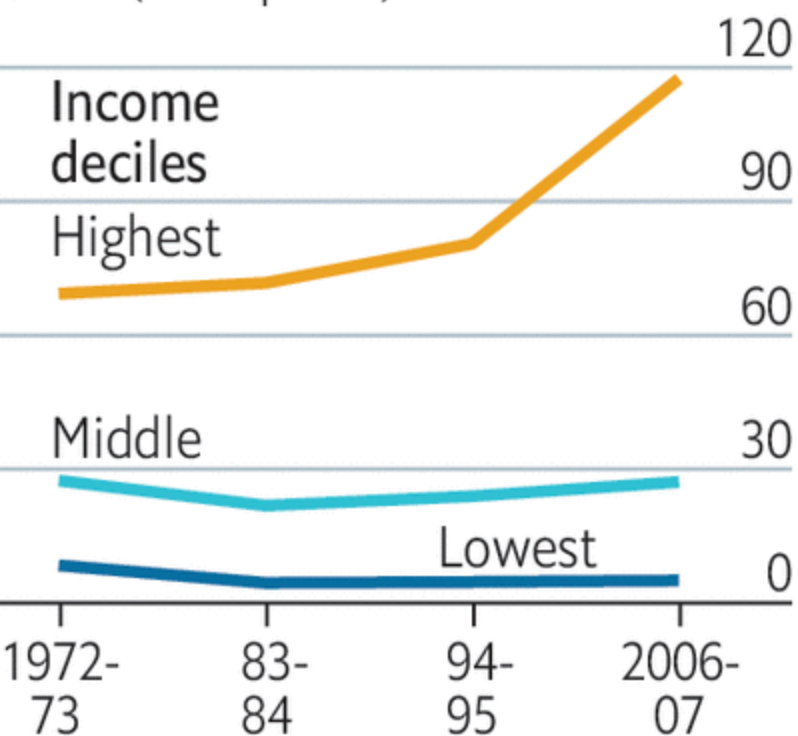


Watch your investment grow

United States, household income and spending on children, by income decile

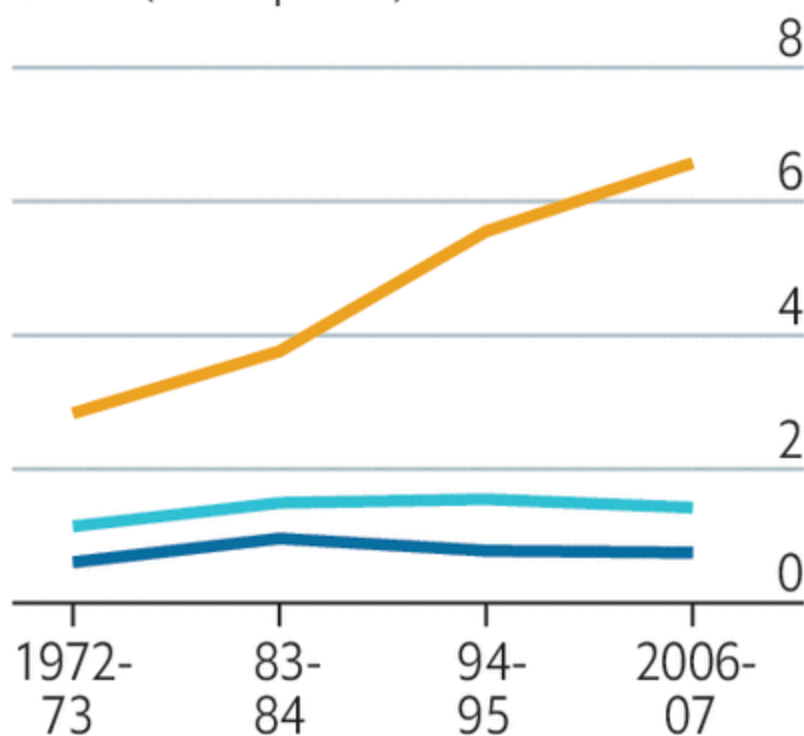
Household income*

\$'000 (2008 prices)



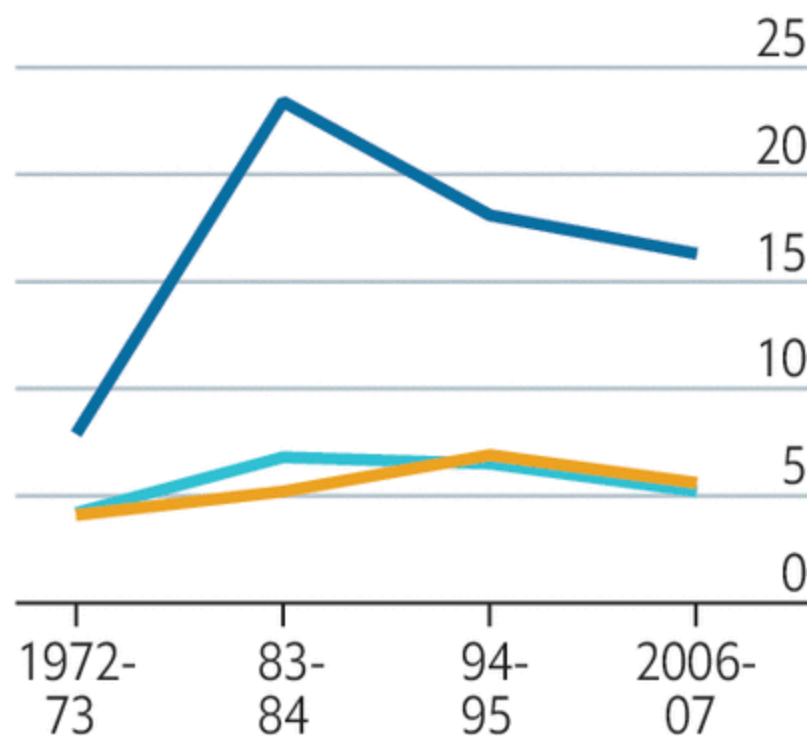
Spending per child†

\$'000 (2008 prices)



Spending per child†

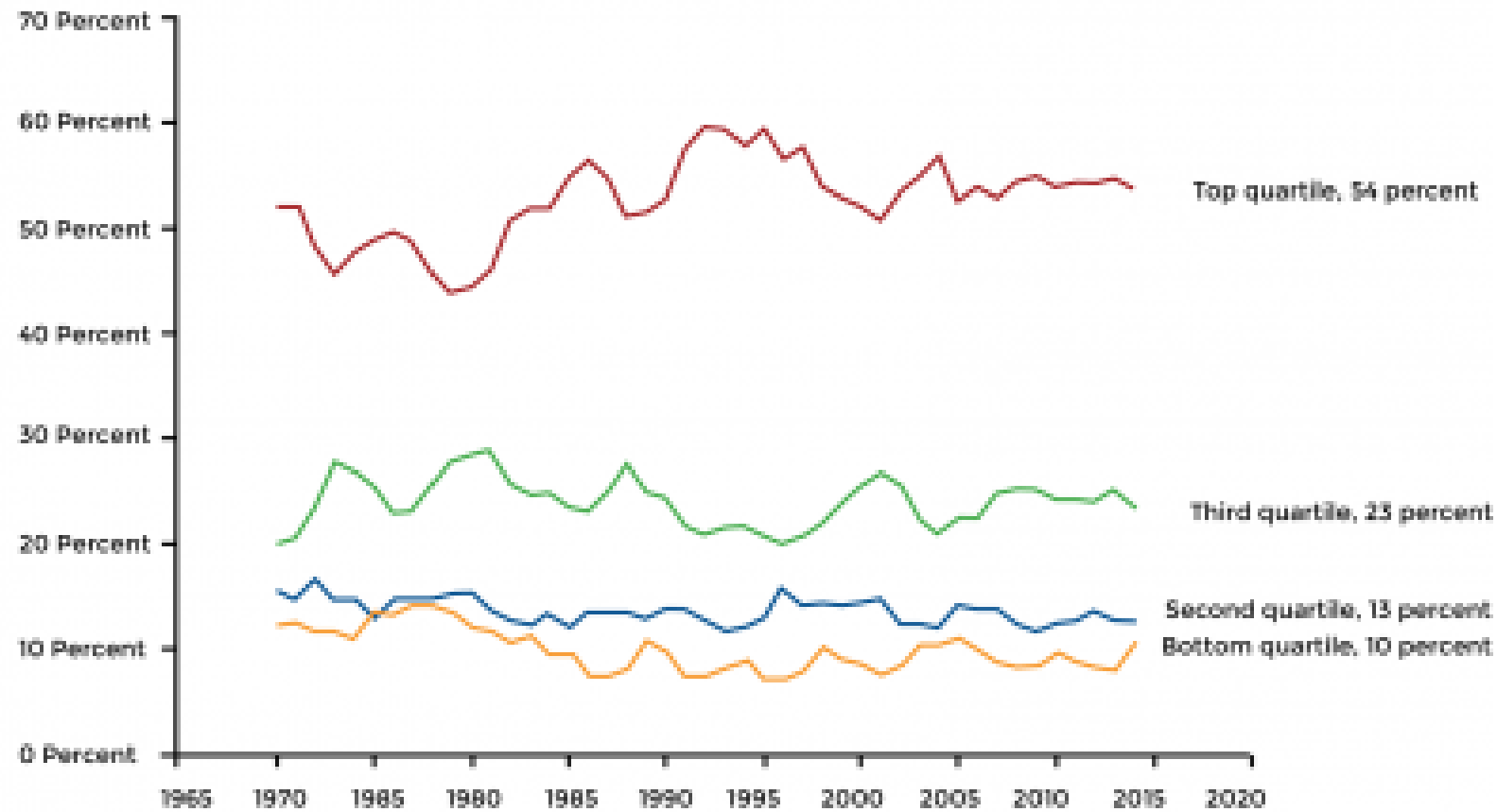
As % of income



Source: "Investing in children: Changes in parental spending on children", by Sabino Kornrich and Frank Furstenberg

*One-person equivalent †Education, child care and children's accessories

Distribution by Family Income Quartile of Bachelor's Degrees Attained by Age 24: 1970 to 2014

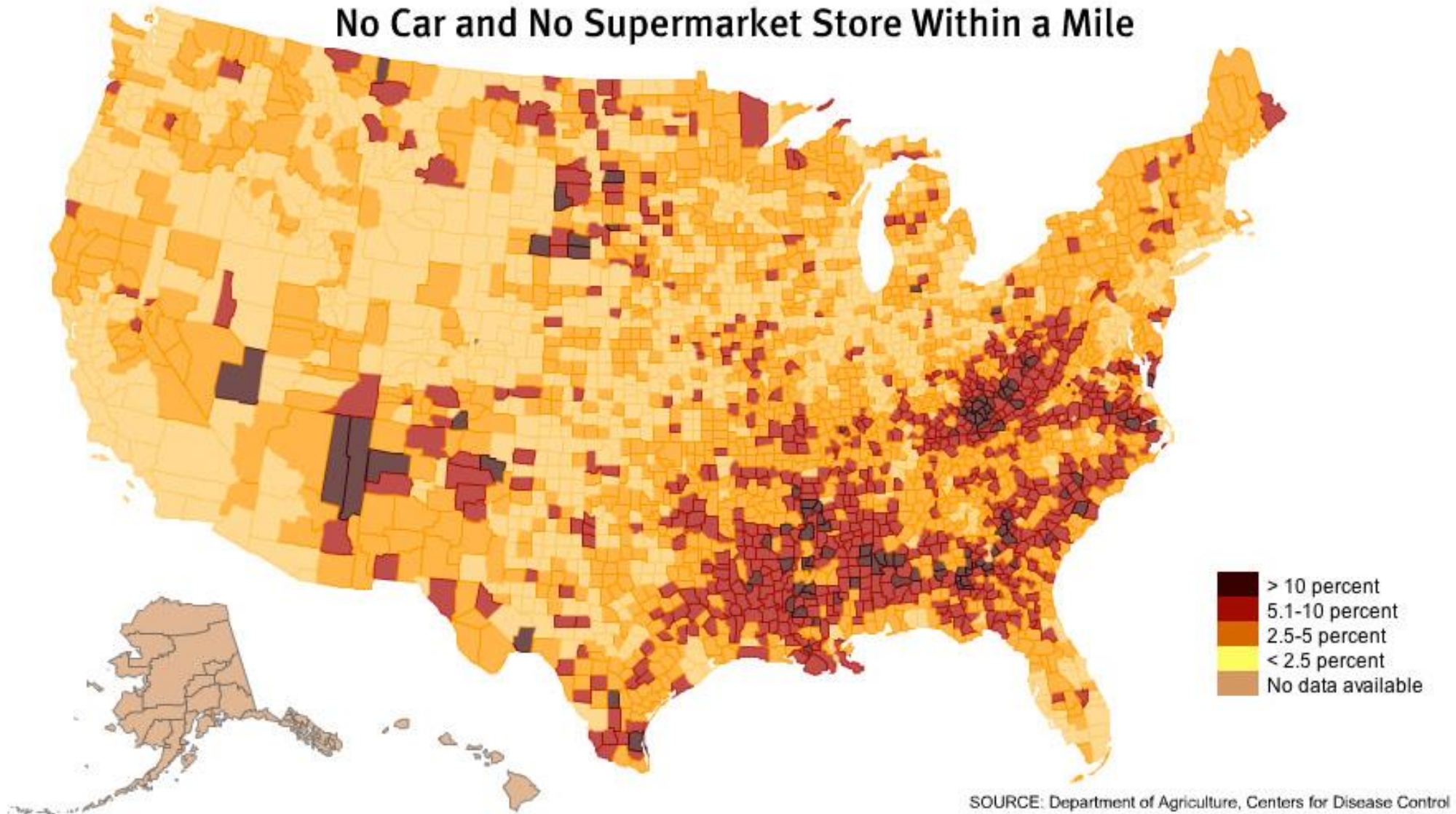


SOURCE: THE PELL INSTITUTE

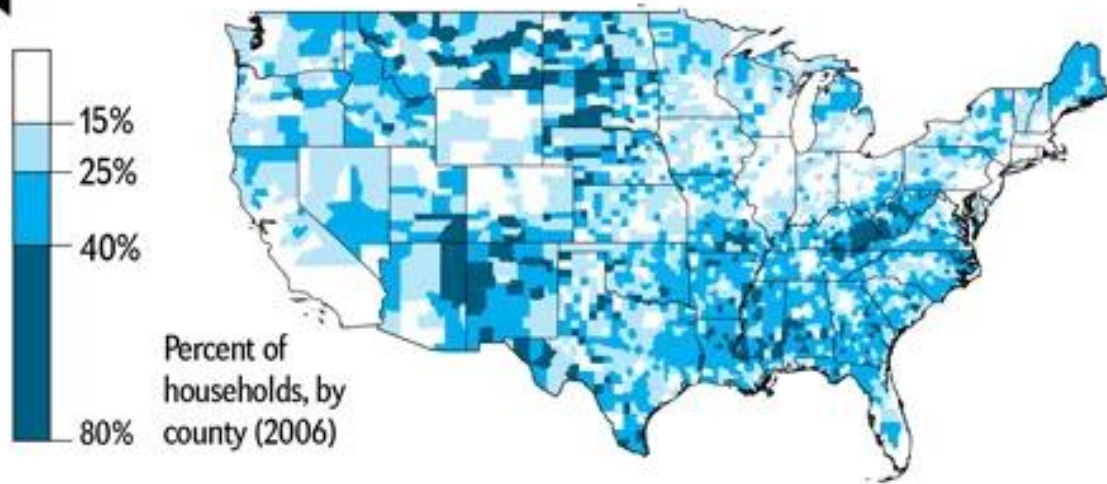
Effects of Poverty

- Poor people have less money to spend on food and are often less informed about good nutrition
- Nutritious food is often more expensive (per calorie)
- Less time to spend cooking
- Poor people often live in food deserts
 - Food desert – an area in which nutritious foods including raw foods are not available

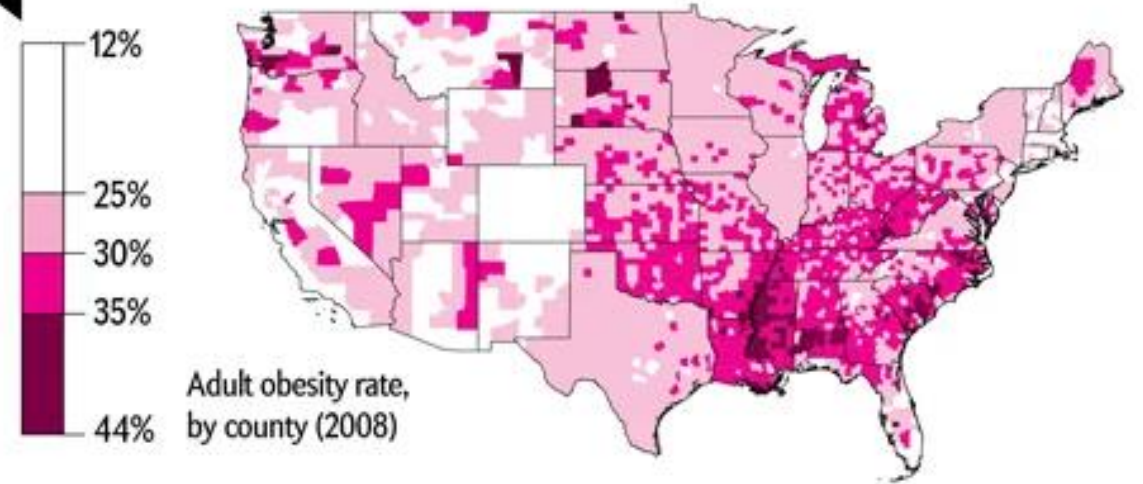
No Car and No Supermarket Store Within a Mile



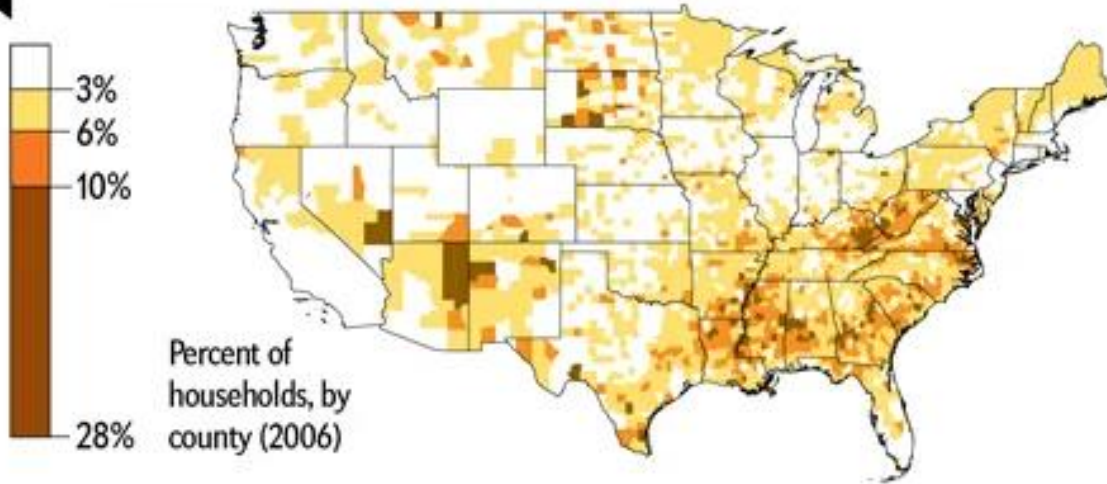
Low-Income Households (more than 1 mile from a grocery)



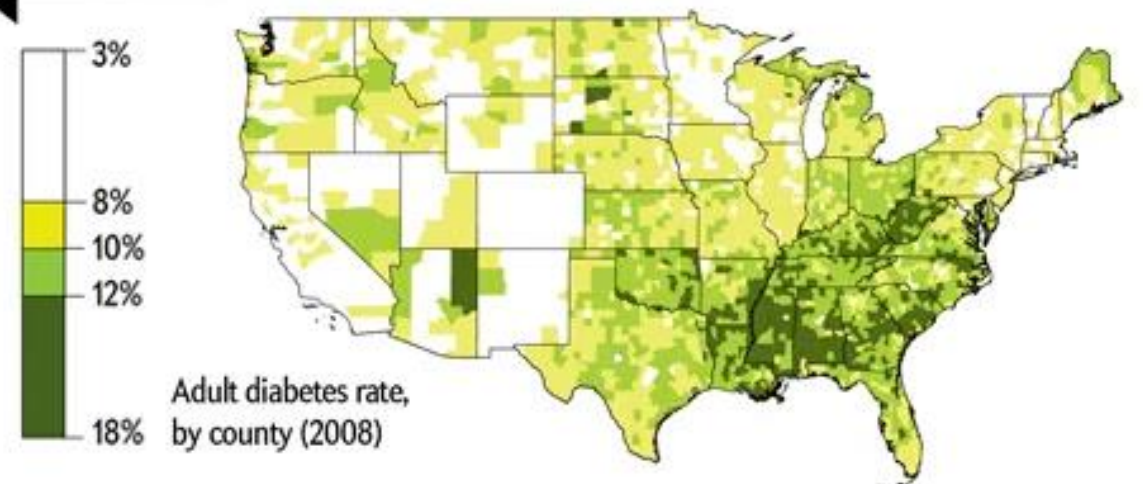
Health Indicator: Obesity



Car-Free Households (more than 1 mile from a grocery)



Health Indicator: Diabetes



Effects of Poverty

- Lack of money also limits the amount of health care that poor people receive
- A significant number of poor Americans do not have health insurance because it is too expensive
- Service class jobs do not commonly offer health insurance benefits
- Uninsured people are less likely to get check ups or other preventative care

Effects of Poverty

- The environment that poor Americans work and live in has a negative effect on health
- The working poor often have jobs that involve more health and safety risks
- Housing that is affordable is often inadequate and unsafe

Effects of Poverty

- Educational opportunities are also limited for poor Americans
- School funding is based mainly on local property taxes
- As a result, schools in low-income areas are often inadequately funded because of low tax revenues
- These educational limitations negatively affect future life chances as education is strongly tied to social mobility

Effects of Poverty

Patterns of Behavior

- Divorce rates are higher among low-income families
 - More stress
- Poor Americans are more likely to be arrested, convicted, and sent to prison
 - More likely to commit crimes that the police pursue more aggressively
 - Because criminals usually commit crimes near their communities, poor people are more likely to be the victims of crime