

**Introduction to Demography
Pardee RAND Graduate School
2016 Spring Quarter**

**Professor Ernesto F. L. Amaral
Question about April 5 class: Mortality**

Instructions

Students are required to answer one question prior to each of the five classes. These questions are going to be related to the main readings about demographic concepts and methods. Answers should be no more than 350 words and students must email their answers to the professor by the Monday before each class.

Question

The American society has significant health and mortality inequalities by residential location, educational and socioeconomic background, marital status, and race/ethnicity. What changes do you think would have to be made to eliminate the racial differences in disease and mortality that we currently observe? How this discussion relates to: (1) the issue analyzed by Anne Case and Angus Deaton on morbidity and mortality among white non-Hispanic Americans? and (2) the alternative explanation presented by Andrew Cherlin?

Extra material

Case A, Deaton A. *Rising morbidity and mortality in midlife among white non-Hispanic Americans in the 21st century*. PNAS, 112(49): 15078–15083

December 8, 2015

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1518393112>

Early Deaths in the US: Young Whites are Affected, Not Just the Middle Aged

John Weeks – January 18, 2016

<http://weekspopulation.blogspot.com/2016/01/early-deaths-in-us-young-whites-are.html>

Why Are White Death Rates Rising?

Andrew J. Cherlin – The New York Times – February 22, 2016

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/22/opinion/why-are-white-death-rates-rising.html?emc=edit_th_20160222&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=47932772&r=1

Another Explanation for the Rise in White Death Rates in the US

John Weeks – February 22, 2016

<http://weekspopulation.blogspot.com/2016/02/another-explanation-for-rise-in-white.html>