Inequality Across The Globe: Identifying Health Disparities

By Shawn Johnson
Marginalization, Inequality On The Whole

- Multiple factors of inequality
- Income & health correlation
- Socio-economic imbalance = gaps
- Descriptive statistics show relationship (i.e. Gini coefficient)
- Health, resources and education shift as a result of divide

Research conducted as part of the DJCG 200 Justice at the Margins class
Spain

- Healthcare Divides
  - Health drops when inequality goes up
  - Employed more likely to be healthy

- Educational Divides
  - Education = Better prepared to use healthcare
  - Lack of resources, more educated adapt

(Barroso et al., 2016)
United States

- Class Divide
  - Top 10% 16x richer than bottom 10%
  - Economic inequality up 24%
  - Rich manipulate politicians

- Racial Divide
  - Deep South: Inequality from class
  - Immigration areas: Inequality from race

(Cantante et al., 2016) (Hero & Levy, 2016)
Republic of South Africa

- High Gini = social unrest, crime
- Public deprivation of resources
- Poverty/HIV links
  - 20.5% of poor have access to HIV information
  - 47.7% of poor receive HIV exams
  - Women at far greater risk than men

(Wabiri & Taffa, 2013) (McLennan, Noble & Wright, 2016)
Brazil

• Government structure
  • Allows minority to control capital
  • Destitute vital part of society

• Health Divides
  • All destitute are unhealthy
  • Strokes felt most by LMIC
  • Gini correlates with health

(Santos, 2010) (Vincens & Stafstrom, 2015)
Overlap/Similarities?

- Spain: Lack of resources creates inequality
- U.S.: Rich dominance and power creates inequality
- Brazil: Social issues create inequality between genders on regional level
- Republic of South Africa: Lack of opportunities drives inequality
- Key areas of overlap
  - Health/Healthcare, Politics, Gender/Racial inequalities
Course Individuals’ Response?

• Karl Marx
  • America and Brazil relevance
  • Small groups manipulating majority

• Jody Williams
  • Spain and South Africa relevance
  • Lack of opportunities leads to incidental destitution

(Wright, 2016a) (Wright, 2016b)
Recap

• Civic engagement opportunities available
• Long-lasting impact of social awareness
• U.S. = Once the best, now falling
• Without change, America becomes South Africa 2.0.
References


