

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: Accounting for the Widening Mortality Gap Between American Adults With and Without a BA

Article

Link: https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/1_Case-Deaton_unembargoed.pdf

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Tweet: As of 2021, US adults with a college degree have a life expectancy at age 25 on par with Japan, but US adults without a BA have a life expectancy that's 8.5 years lower, significantly below rich country norms.

Summary: From 1992 to 2010, American adults with and without a four-year college degree saw falling mortality, but with greater improvements for the more educated; from 2010 to 2019, mortality continued to fall for those with a BA while rising for those without; during the COVID pandemic, mortality rose for both groups, but markedly more rapidly for the less educated. In consequence, the mortality gap between the two groups expanded in all three periods, leading to an 8.5-year difference in adult life expectancy by the end of 2021. One remarkable finding here is that Americans with a college degree, if they were a separate country, would be one of the best performers, just below Japan, though there was some decline in 2020 and 2021 during the pandemic. Related: Why Are Americans Dying So Young? and Who Won the Cold War? Part II and Who Won the Cold War? Part III

Primary Topic: College

Topics: Academic paper, College, Demographics, K-12, Poverty/Crime, Workforce

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