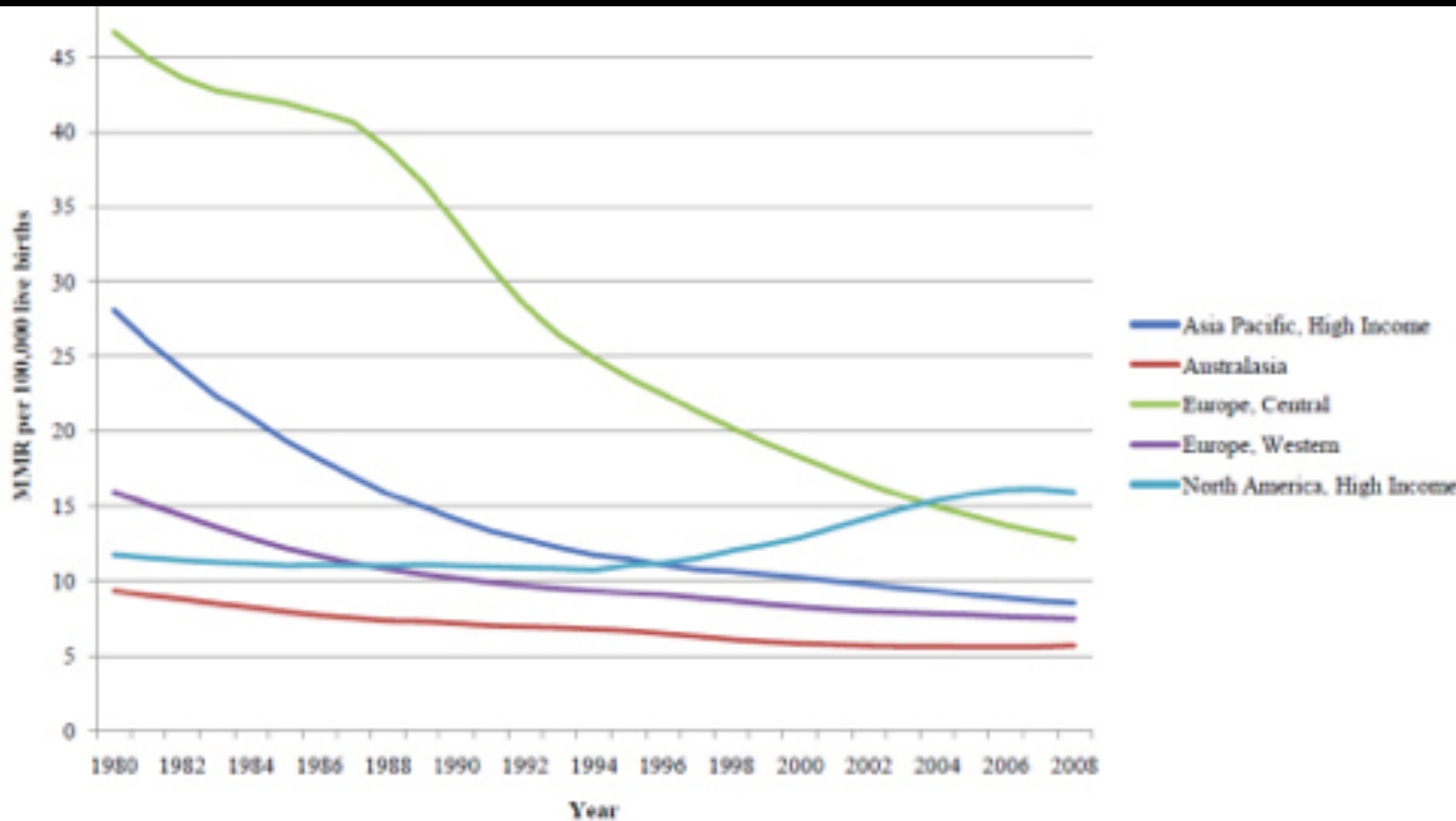


SOC 3510; WEEK 7, 10/6/16

# SES AND HEALTH II



Maternal mortality ratio per 100, 000 live births, low MMR regions

Index of health and social problems

Worse

Better

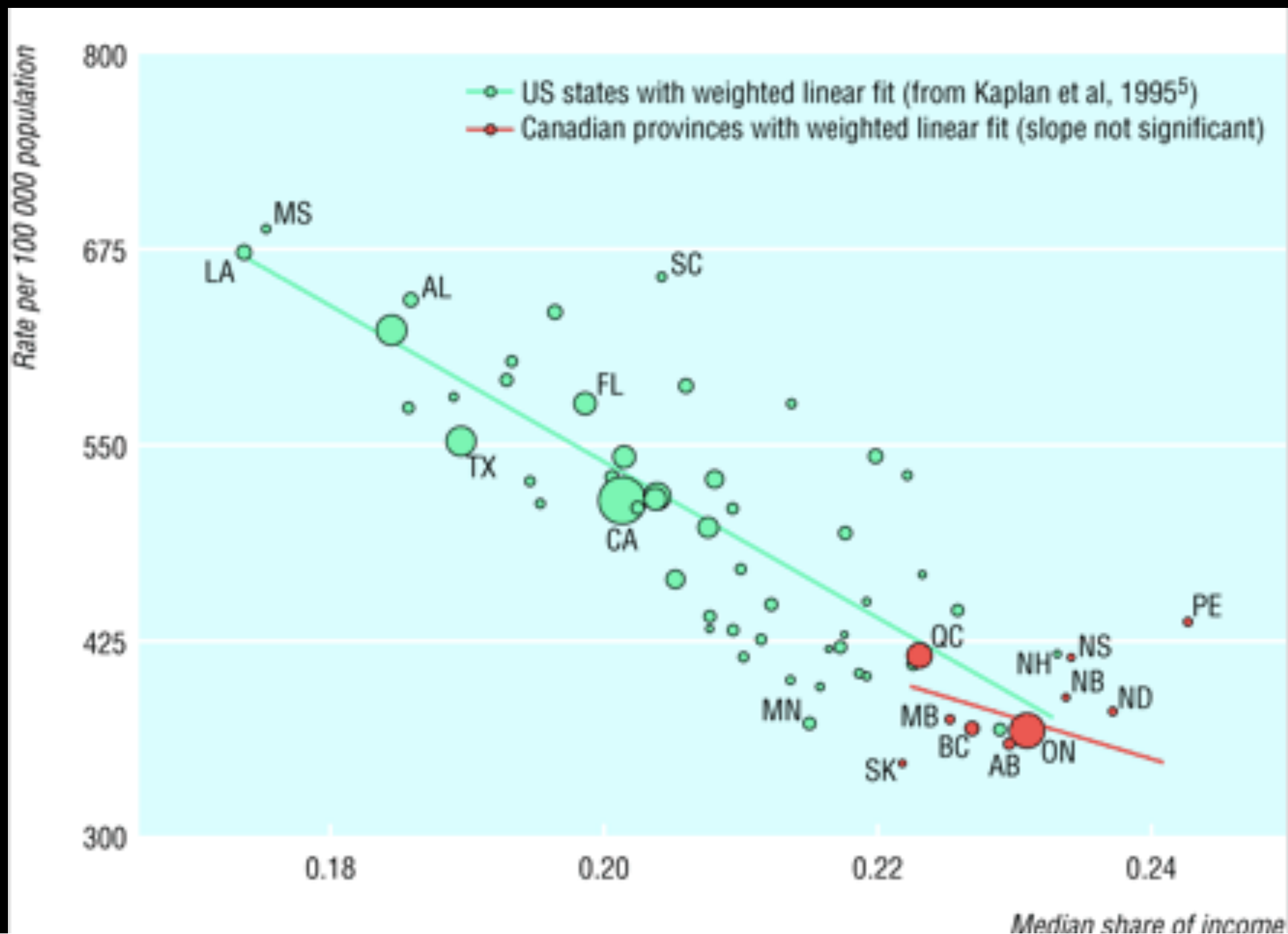
Low

Income Inequality

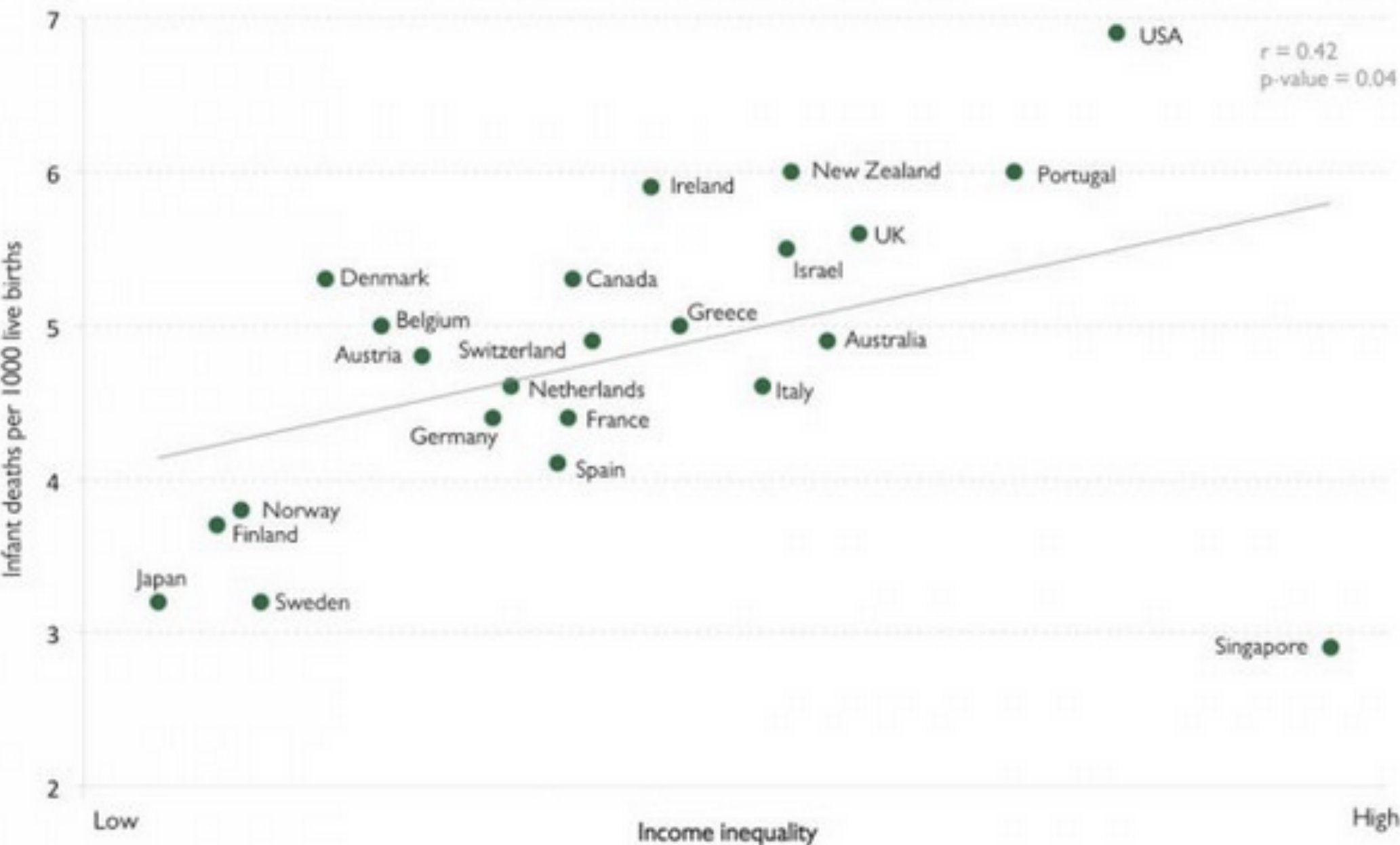
High

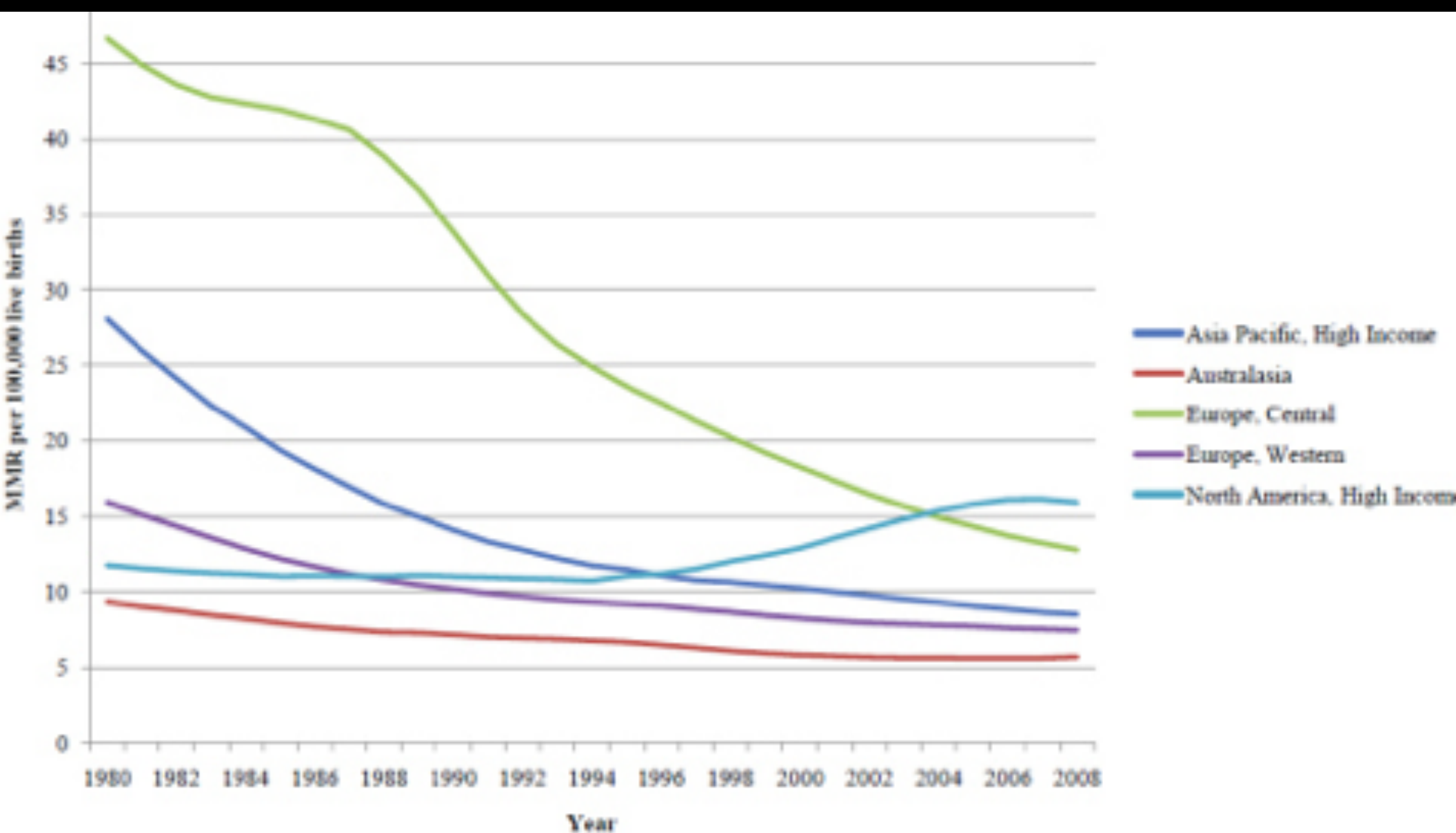


## MORTALITY OF WORKING-AGE MEN (ROSS ET AL. 2000; BMJ)



# Infant mortality rates are higher in more unequal countries

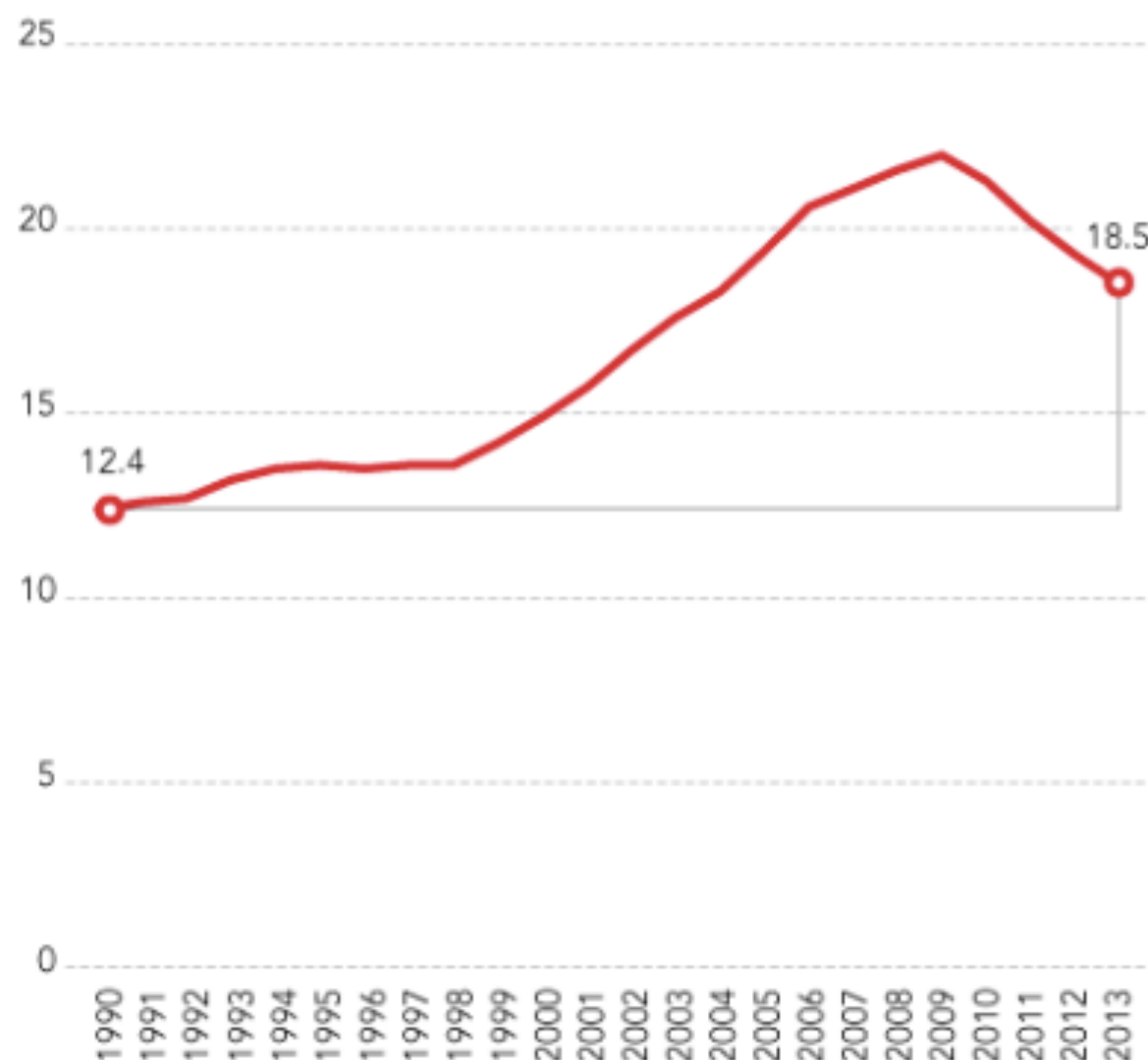




Maternal mortality ratio per 100, 000 live births, low MMR regions

# U.S. Sees Biggest Increases In Maternal Death Rates In Developed World Since 1990

U.S. maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births, 1990-2013



Percent change in maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, 1990-2013

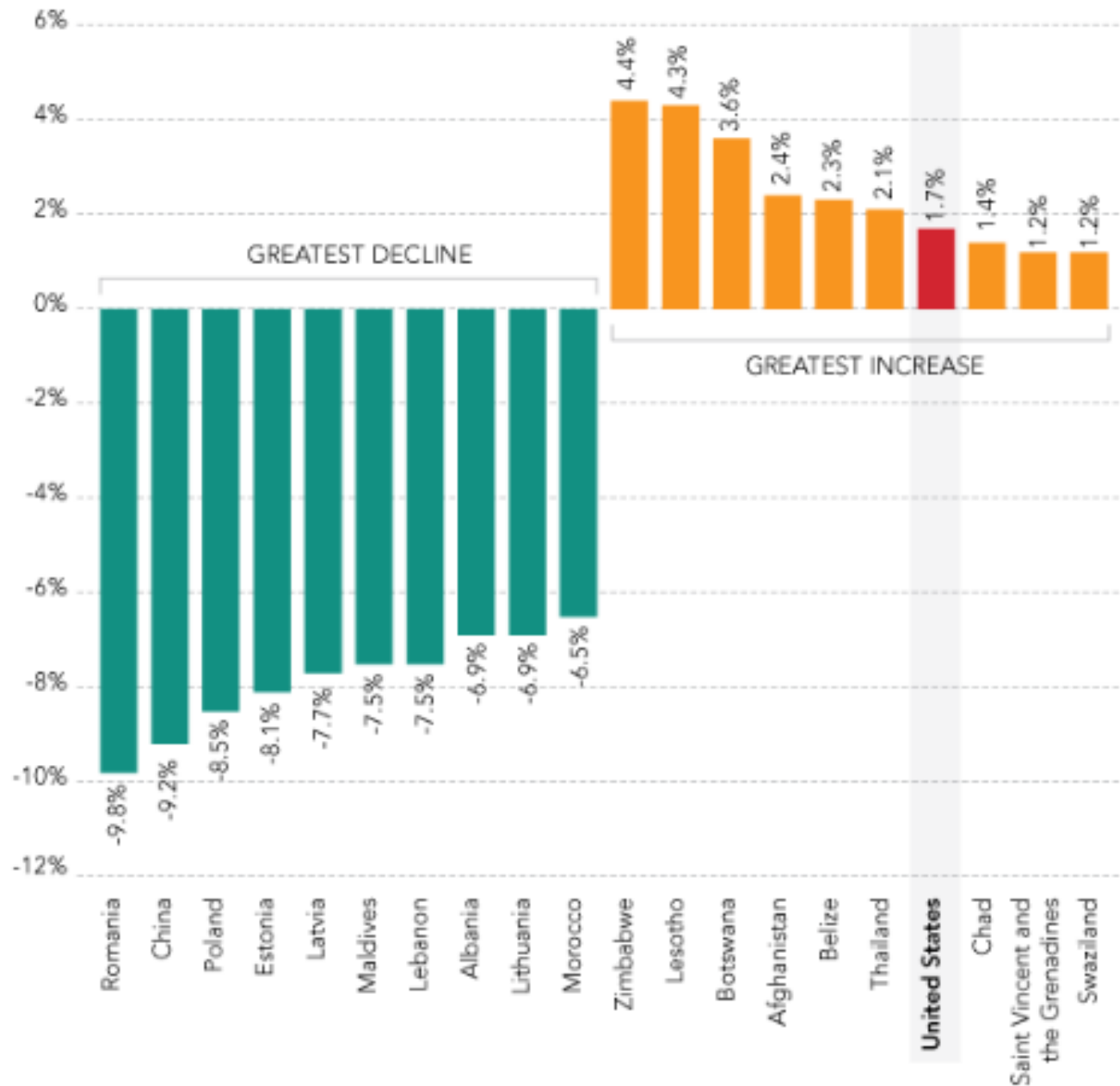


Source: The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation/The Lancet

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# U.S. Is Among Countries Where Maternal Mortality Is On The Rise In Recent Decades

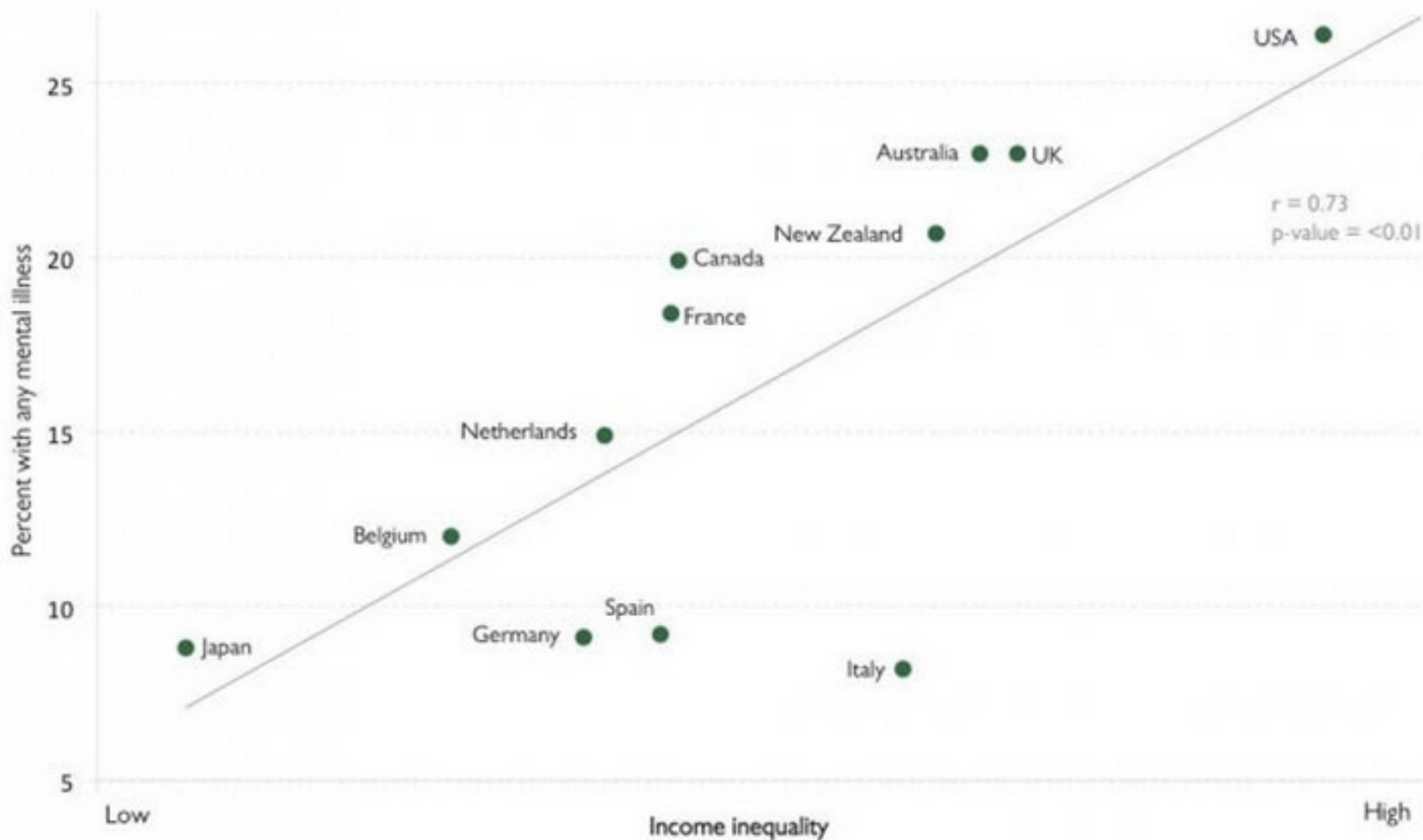
Annualized percent change in maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, 1990-2013



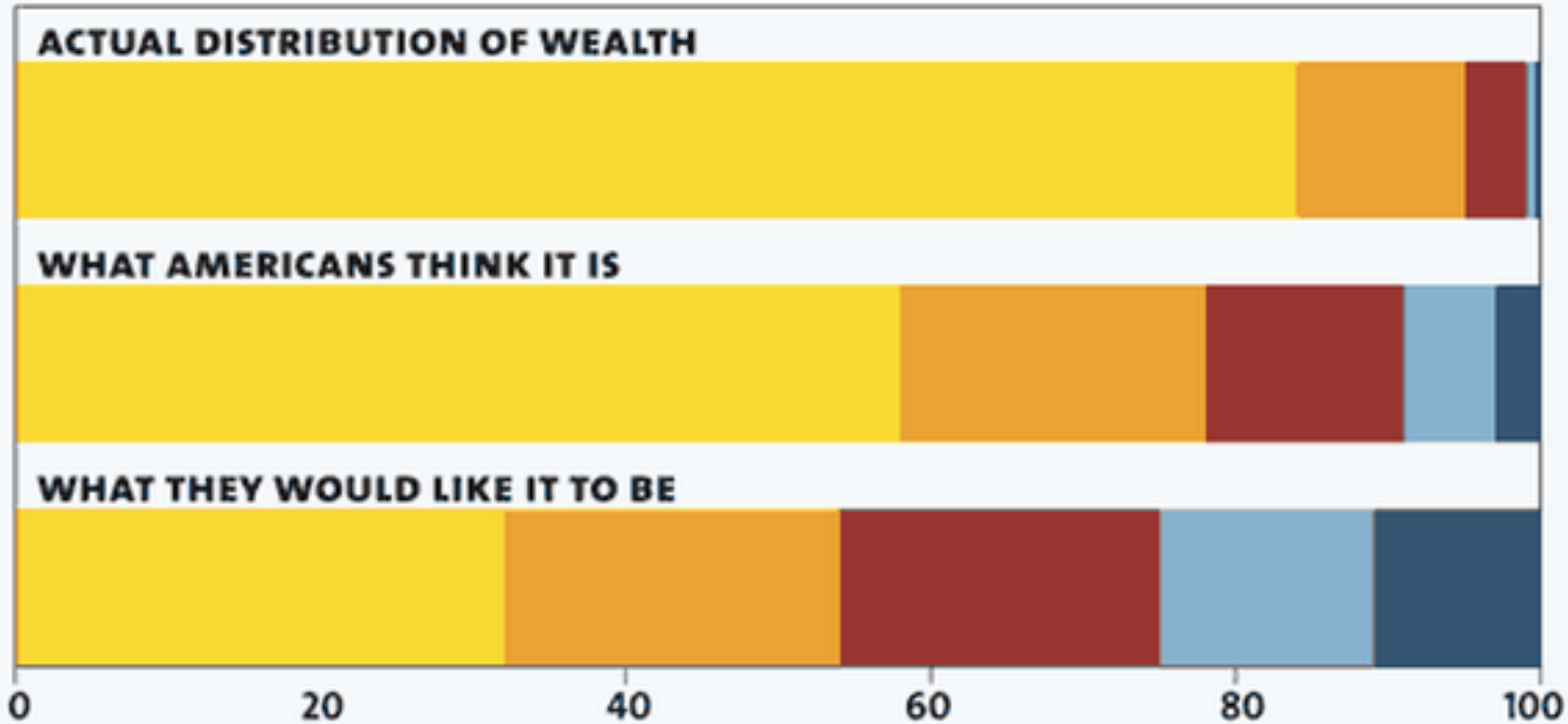
Source: The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation/The Lancet

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# The prevalence of mental illness is higher in more unequal rich countries







top 20%

second 20%

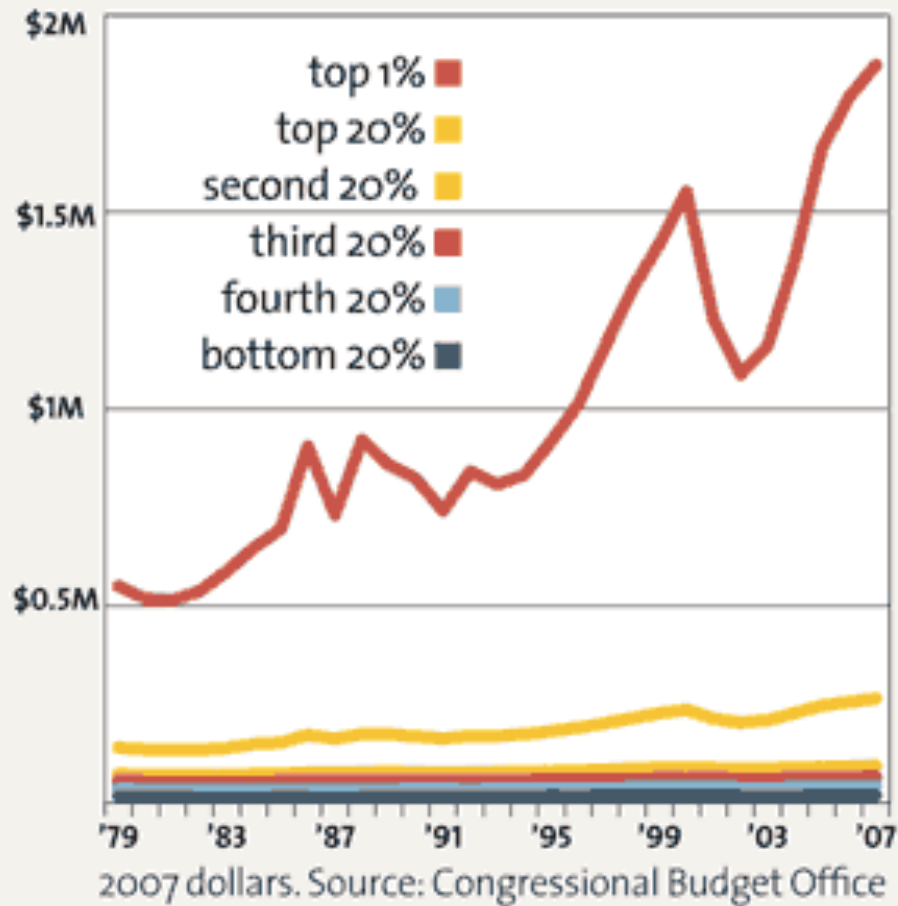
third 20%

fourth 20%

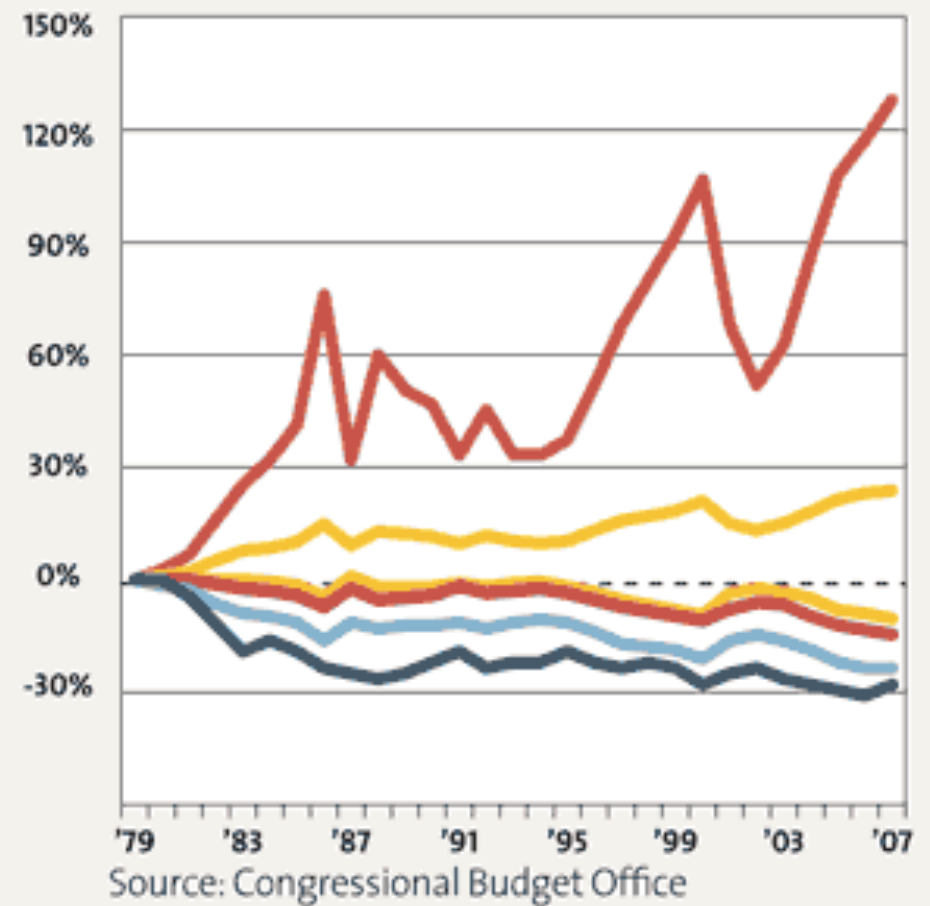
bottom 20%

Source: Michael I. Norton, Harvard Business School; Dan Ariely, Duke University

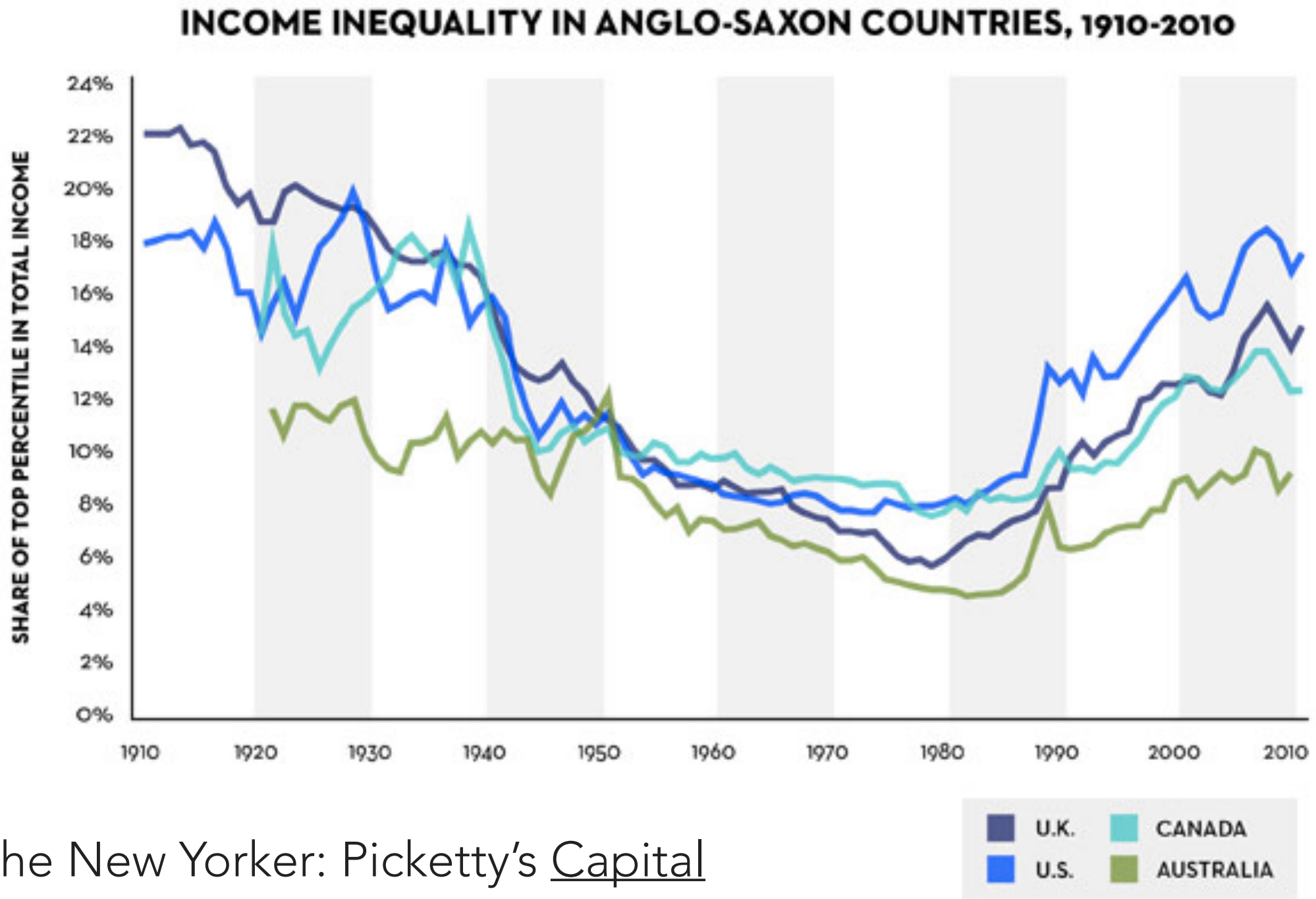
### AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME before taxes



### CHANGE IN SHARE OF INCOME vs. 1979, after taxes



Level of Inequality in US is “probably higher than in any other society at any time in the past, anywhere in the world.” - Picketty

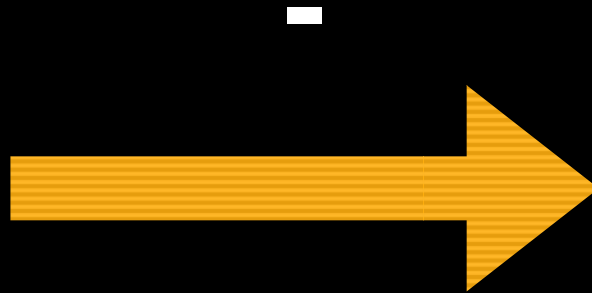


The New Yorker: Picketty's Capital

# SES AND HEALTH

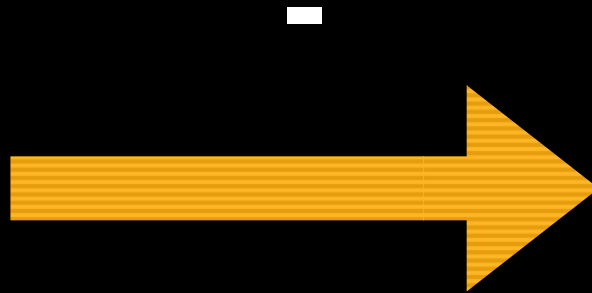
- Measured by: income/wealth, education, and/or occupational prestige
- Whitehall Studies beginning in 1967
  - British civil servants
  - Clerical jobs that are highly stratified with rankings between different classes of employees
  - Mortality/Disease rate greatest for those at the bottom of the occupational hierarchy

SES and  
Inequality



Health and  
Wellness

SES and  
Inequality



Health and  
Wellness

But Why?

# SES AND HEALTH: POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS (MARMOT 2004)

- Those lower in the hierarchy have less access to quality health care
  - Evidence? Not the main driver; why?
- The unhealthy are downwardly mobile and the healthy are upwardly mobile (selection effect).
  - Evidence? Little. Mobility opportunity varies considerably country to country to begin with

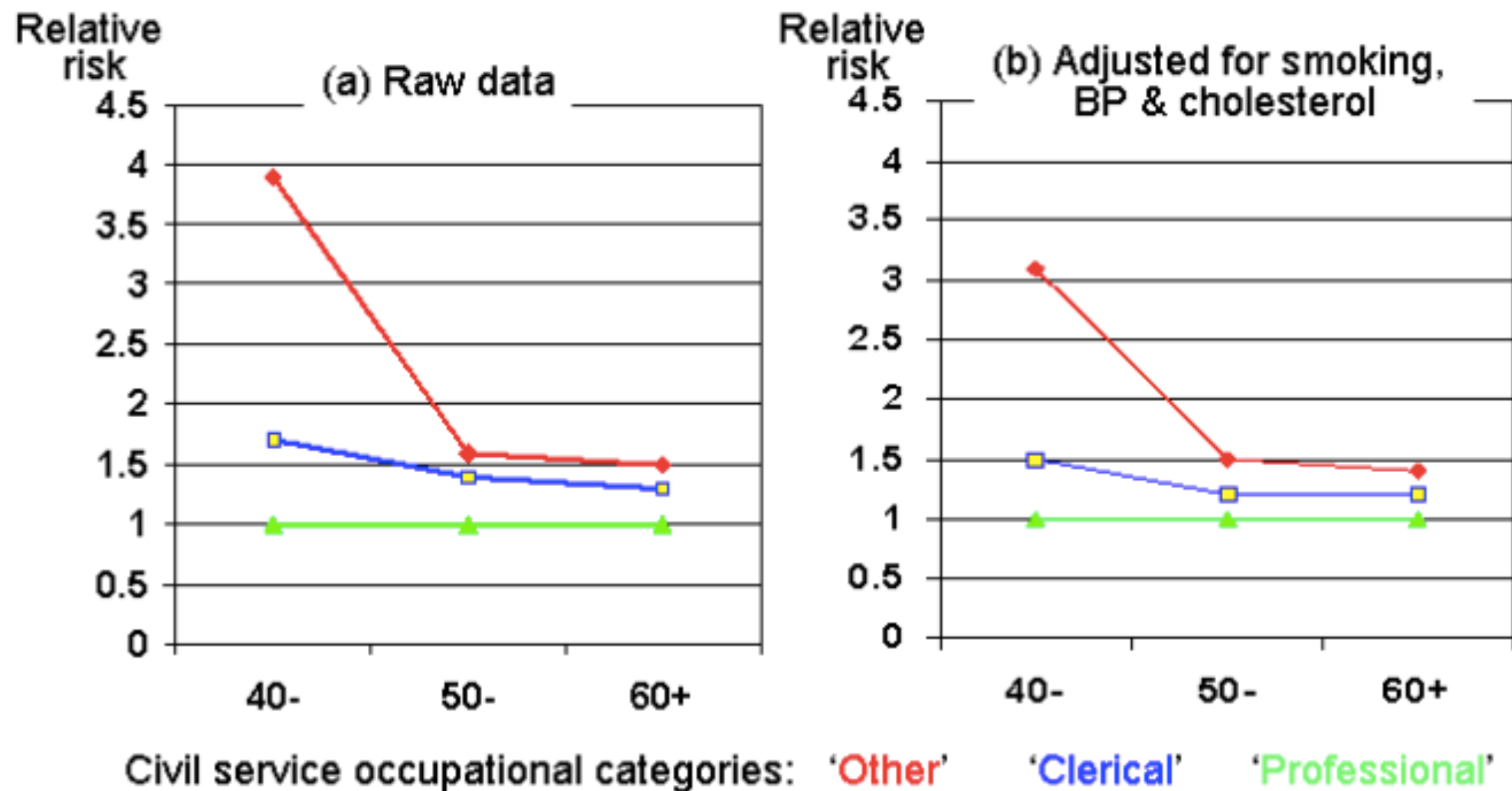
# SES AND HEALTH: POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS (MARMOT 2004)

- Those from lower classes are genetically predisposed for ill health
  - Evidence? None. Why?
- Lower classes engage in more risky behaviors.
  - Evidence? Some, but again, not the main driver

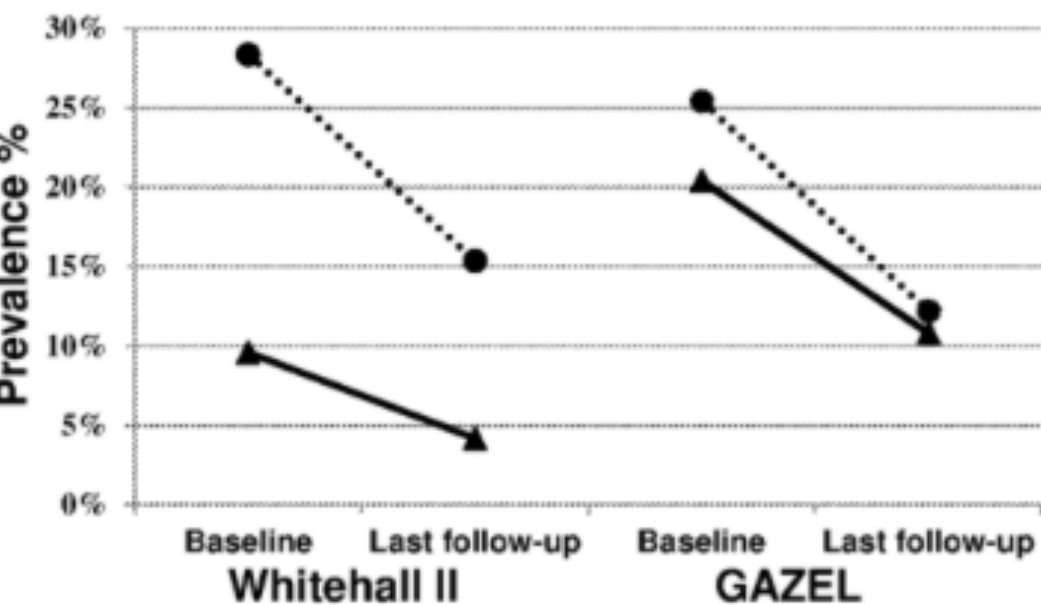


# Do conventional risk factors account for link between SES and mortality?

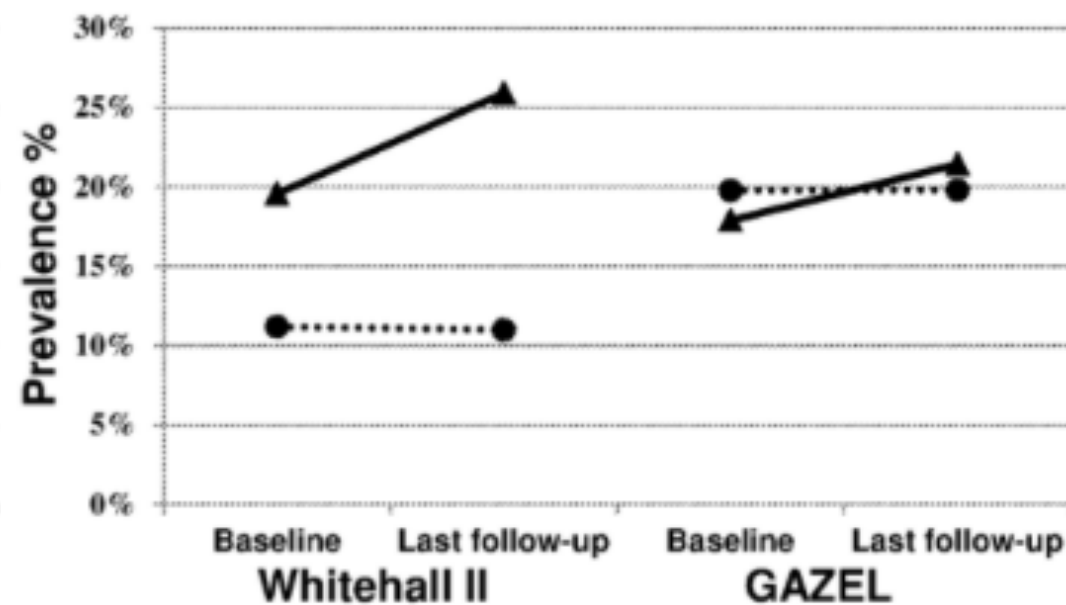
Ten-Year Relative Risks of Death (all causes) in Whitehall I Cohort  
(a) unadjusted, and (b) adjusting for CVD risk factors



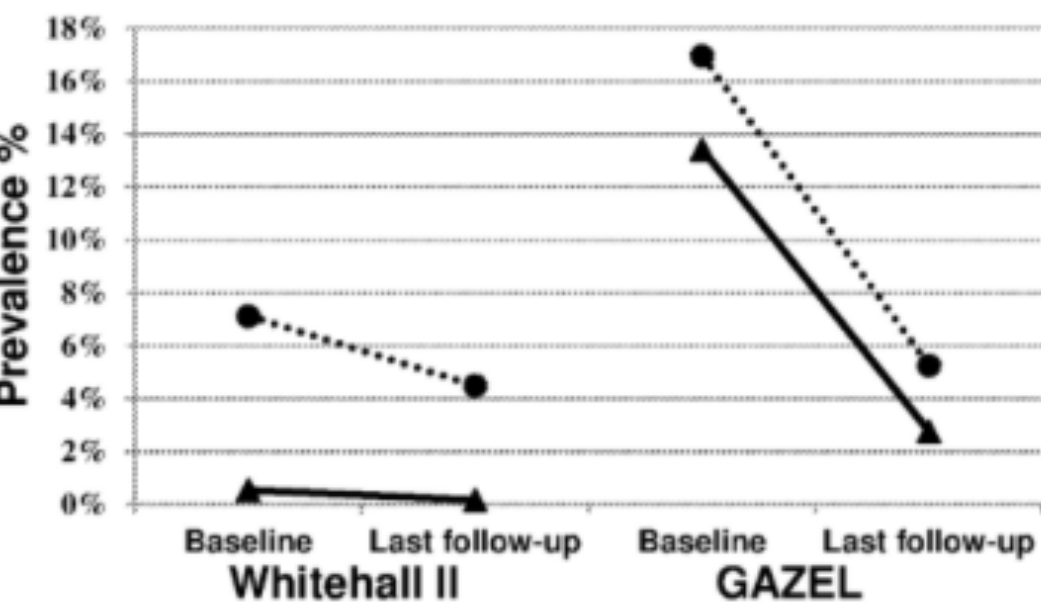
## Smoking



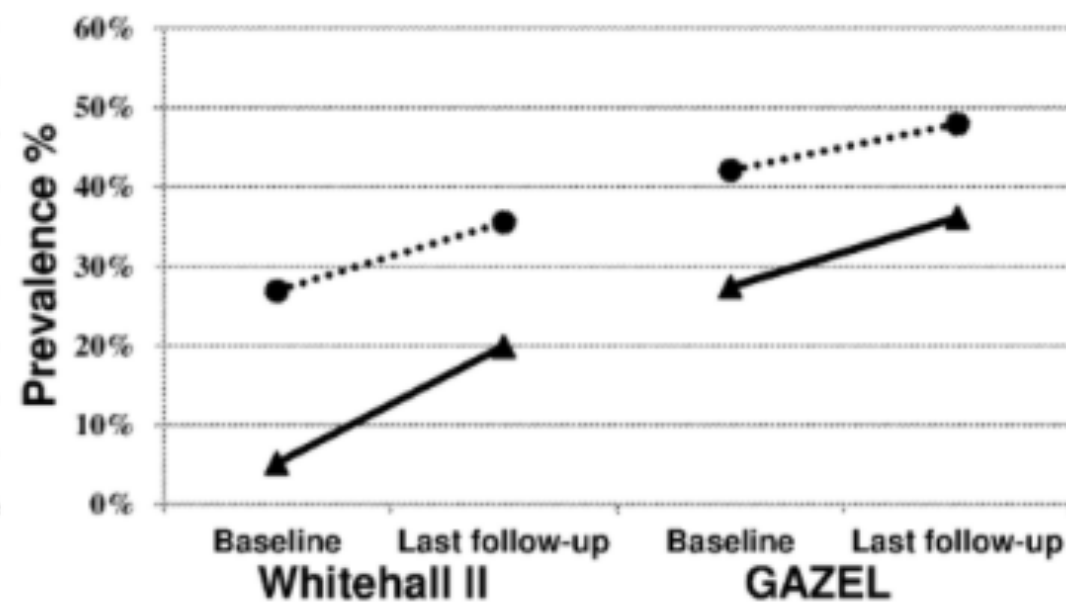
## Heavy Drinking



## Unhealthy Diet



## Physical Inactivity

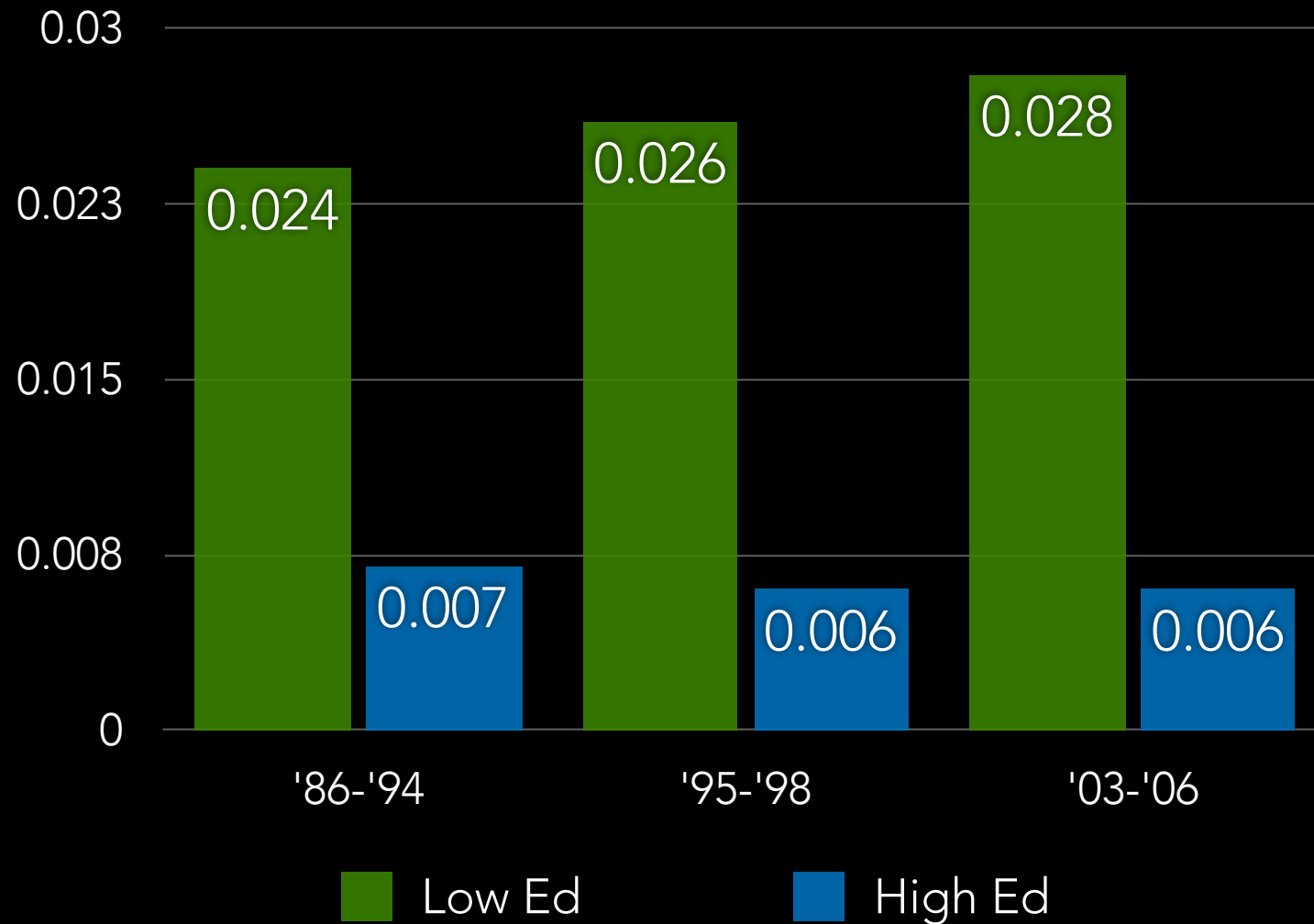


—▲— High SES    ···●·· Low SES

# EXPLAINING THE WIDENING EDUCATION GAP IN MORTALITY AMONG US WHITE WOMEN (MONTEZ AND ZAJACOVA 2013)

- Mortality gap by education has grown in the US, especially for white women
  - Lung cancer, chronic lower respiratory disease, diabetes, cerebrovascular disease, Alzheimer's disease
  - So what are the "causes of causes" of this trend?

# MORTALITY RATE FOR WHITE WOMEN AGE 45-84



# EXPLAINING THE WIDENING EDUCATION GAP IN MORTALITY AMONG US WHITE WOMEN (MONTEZ AND ZAJACOVA 2013)

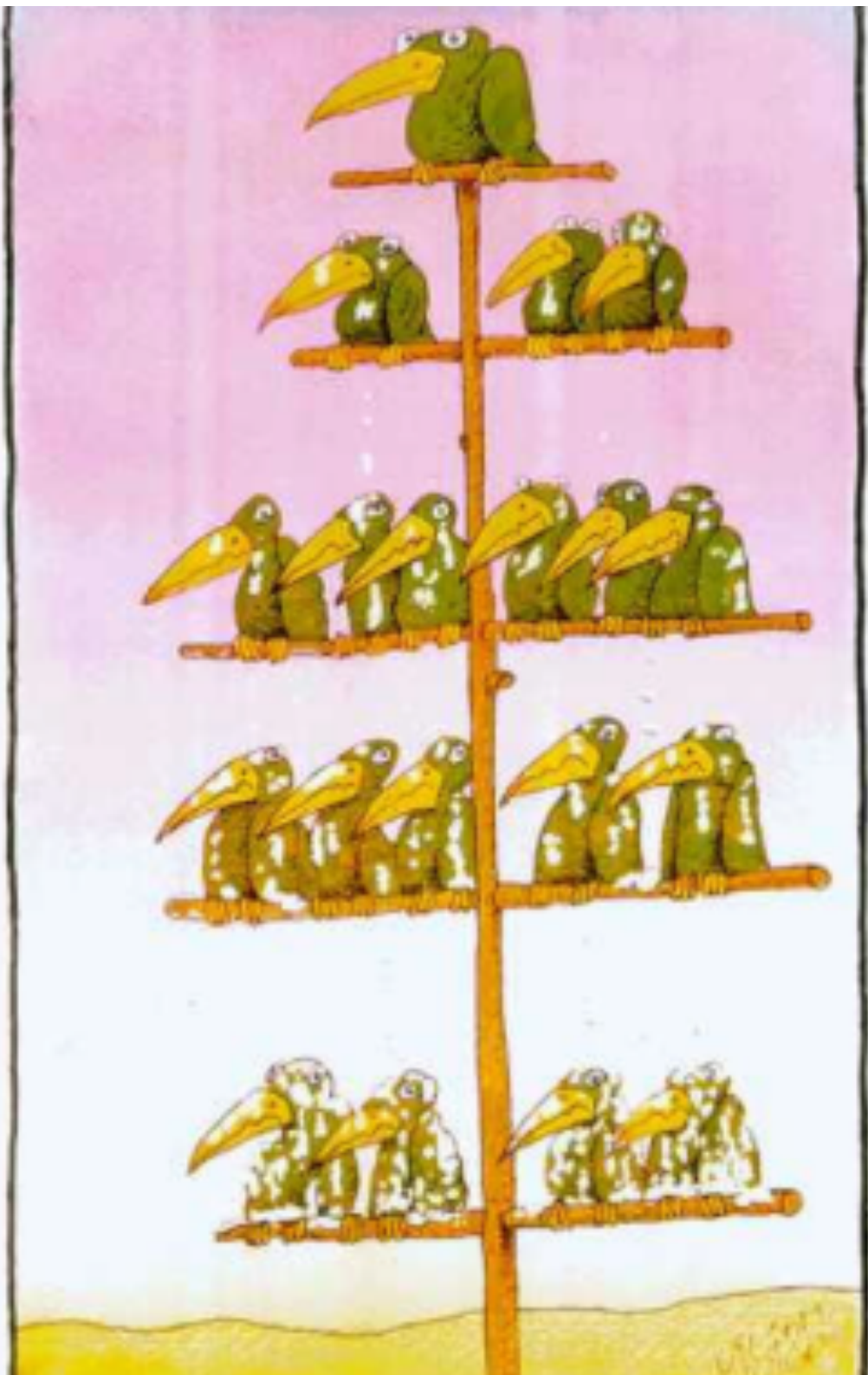
- Potential mechanisms?
  - Social Psychological
    - Marriage (proxy for social ties) and distress
  - Employment
    - Yes/no, type of job, living in poverty, home ownership, private health insurance
  - Health Behaviors
    - Smoking, obesity (proxy for poor diet and reduced physical activity), and alcohol consumption
- Findings?

# SES AND STRESSORS

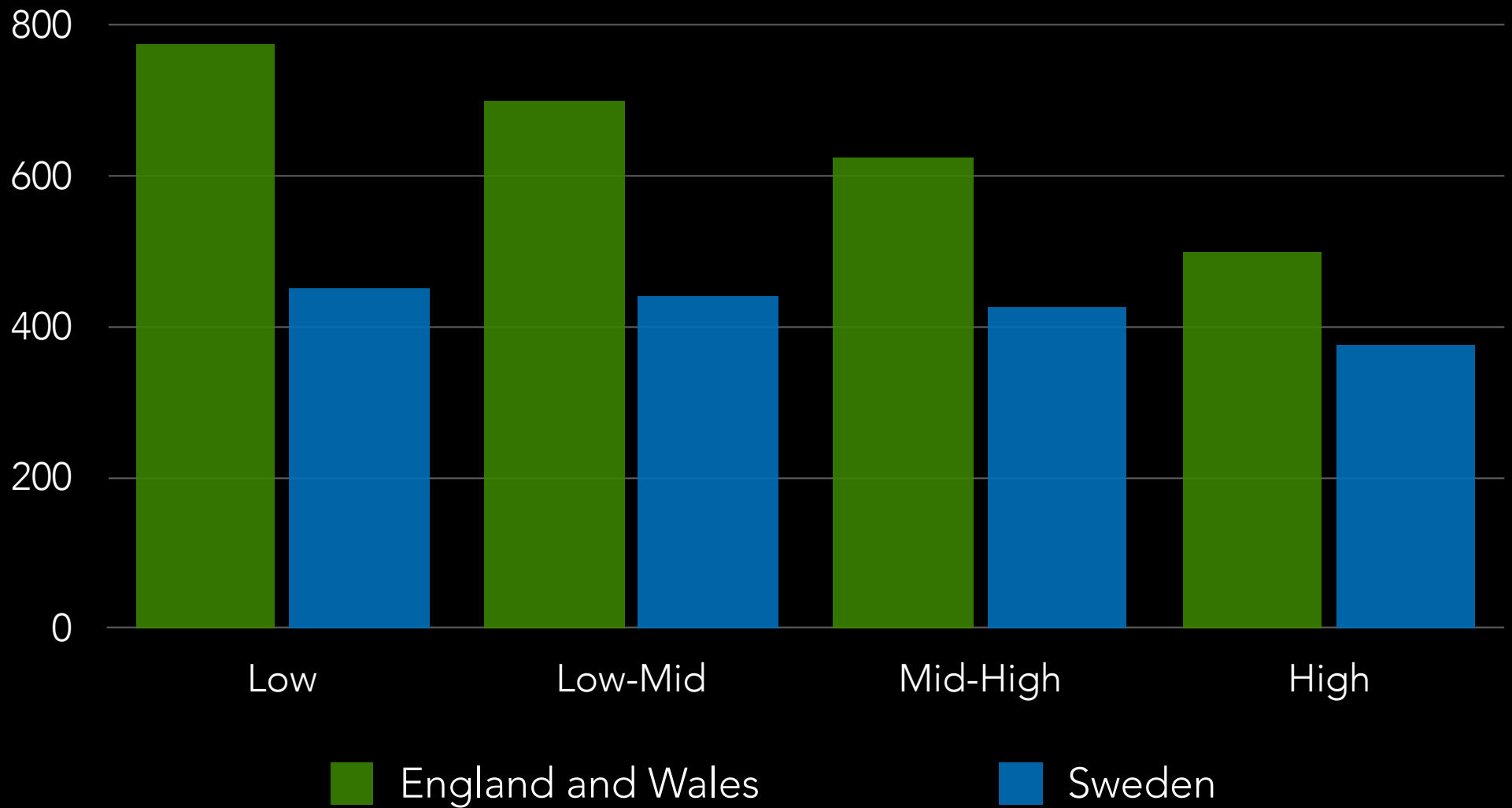
- SES and stressors negatively linked
  - One of the predominant explanations
  - Those with higher education experience fewer marital, parental and financial stressors and are less likely to experience traumatic events like the death of a child or physical assault (Lantz et al. 2005)
  - Higher SES adults tend to have more social ties and stronger self-efficacy (mastery) (McPherson et al. 2006; Mirowsky and Ross 2003)

# INEQUALITY AND RELATIVE STATUS

- Your relative standing in the hierarchy is also type of stressor - especially if that hierarchy is highly divisive/unequal
- Worry over status -> might lose it or enhance it and what those consequences may be



## DEATHS PER 100,000 BY SOCIAL CLASS





# FUNDAMENTAL-CAUSE THEORY

- SES, and other social conditions, are fundamental causes of sickness and mortality
  - For social conditions to be fundamental causes they must:
    1. Influence multiple diseases
    2. Affect these through multiple pathways of risk
    3. Be reproduced over time
    4. Involve access to resources that can be used to avoid risks or minimize the consequences of disease if it occurs

# FUNDAMENTAL-CAUSE THEORY

