

Understanding Cross-National Health Differences Among High-Income Countries

Committee

Steven H. Woolf

Chair

Steven H. Woolf (IOM), M.D., M.P.H., is Director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Human Needs and Professor of Family Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University. He received his M.D. in 1984 from Emory University and underwent residency training in family medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Woolf is also a clinical epidemiologist and underwent training in preventive medicine and public health at Johns Hopkins University, where he received his M.P.H. in 1987. He is board certified in family medicine and in preventive medicine and public health. Dr. Woolf has published more than 150 articles in a career that has focused on promoting the most effective health care services and on advocating the importance of health promotion and disease prevention. In recent years, his work has turned to social determinants of health. Dr. Woolf has conducted studies demonstrating that addressing poverty, education, and the causes of racial and ethnic disparities could accomplish far more to improve the health of Americans than investing predominately in medical technological advances. In addition to scientific publications, he has tried to bring this message to policymakers and to the public through testimony in Congress, editorials in major newspapers, web-based tools, and speeches. Since 1987, Dr. Woolf has served as science advisor, member, and now senior advisor to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Dr. Woolf edited the first two editions of the Guide to Clinical Preventive Services and is author of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Clinical Practice. He is associate editor of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine and served as North American editor of the British Medical Journal. He has consulted widely on various matters of health policy with government agencies and professional organizations in the United States and Europe, and in 2001 was elected to the Institute of Medicine.

Paula A. Braveman

Member

Paula A. Braveman (IOM) is professor of family and community medicine and director of the Center on Social Disparities in Health at the University of California, San Francisco. For more than two decades, Dr. Braveman has studied and published extensively on social disparities in health and health care and actively engaged in bringing attention to this field in the U.S. and internationally. Her research has focused on measuring, documenting, and understanding socioeconomic and racial/ethnic disparities, particularly in maternal and infant health and health care. During the 1990s she worked with World Health Organization staff in Geneva to develop and implement a global initiative on equity in health and health care. Throughout her career, she has collaborated with local, state, federal, and international health agencies to see research translated into practice with the goal of achieving greater equity in health. She has been a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences since her election in 2002. Dr. Braveman is currently a member of the IOM Committee on Pediatric Health and Health Care Quality Measures. She holds an M.P.H. in Epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley, and an M.D. from the University of California, San Francisco.

Kaare Christensen

Member

Kaare Christensen is professor of epidemiology at the University of Southern Denmark. He is also the deputy director of the Population, Policy and Aging Research Center and a senior research scientist within the Duke University Department of Public Policy Studies. His research is focused on genetic-epidemiology, twin studies, aging, age-related diseases, and fetal programming. He is engaged in interdisciplinary aging research combining methods from epidemiology, genetics and demography. Dr. Christensen's recent publications include: Ageing populations: The challenges ahead; The divergent life-expectancy trends in Denmark and Sweden – and some potential explanations; and Genetic factors and adult mortality. He most recently served on the NRC Steering Committee on Advances in Collecting and Utilizing Biological Indicators and Genetic Information in Social Science Surveys. He holds a D.Sc. from the University of Southern Denmark, an MD and a Ph.D. from Odense University

Eileen M. Crimmins

Member

Eileen M. Crimmins is the AARP chair in gerontology at the University of Southern California (USC). She is an internationally recognized expert on aging, whose research focuses on the connections between socioeconomic factors and life expectancy and other health outcomes. Dr. Crimmins leads the USC/University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Center on Biodemography and Population Health, which is supported by the National Institutes of Health and provides a research environment that integrates and translates research findings from a variety of disciplines, such as epidemiology, clinical geriatrics, biostatistics, and biology, into their effects on the health status of populations and the expected life cycles of individuals. She also works on healthy life expectancy in the older population defining healthy in a variety of ways. In addition she is working on male/female differences in health and mortality as well as differences by gender in life stresses and strains. Dr. Crimmins has previously served on numerous NRC committees and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Population. She holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in demography, both from the University of Pennsylvania.

Ana V. Diez Roux

Member

Ana V. Diez Roux (IOM) is a professor of epidemiology and director of the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars program at the University of Michigan. Dr. Diez Roux's research areas include social epidemiology, environmental health effects, urban health, psychosocial factors in health, health disparities, and cardiovascular disease epidemiology. She has been an international leader in the investigation of neighborhood and community health effects and the application of multilevel analysis in public health. Other areas of research include the integration of social and biologic factors in health research, complex systems approaches to population health, the impact of stress on cardiovascular disease, and air pollution effects on health. Dr. Diez Roux has been principal investigator of several NIH funded projects and is a frequent invited speaker at international conferences on the social determinants of health, neighborhood health effects, and multilevel analysis. She is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and serves on numerous national review and advisory committees. She was recently awarded the Wade Hampton Frost Award for her contributions to public health by the American Public Health Association. Dr. Diez Roux has served on numerous NRC committees. She holds an M.D. from the University of Buenos Aires, and an M.P.H. and Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University.

Dean T. Jamison

Member

Dean T. Jamison (IOM) is a professor of global health at the University of Washington. Prior to joining the University of Washington, Dr. Jamison was on the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles, and also spent many years at the World Bank, where he was a senior economist in the research department; division chief for education policy; and division chief for population, health, and nutrition. In 1992-93, he temporarily rejoined the World Bank to serve as director of the World Development Report Office and as lead author for the Bank's World Development Report 1993: Investing in Health. His publications are in the areas of economic theory, public health, and education. In 1994, Dr. Jamison was elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. He has previously served on numerous NRC committees and is the former chair of IOM's Board on Global Health. He holds an M.S. in engineering sciences from Stanford University, and a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University.

Johan P. Mackenbach

Member

Johan Mackenbach is a professor of public health and chair of the Department of Public Health at Erasmus University Medical Center at Erasmus University Rotterdam. His research interests are in social epidemiology, medical demography, and health services research. He has (co-)authored around 400 papers in international, peer-reviewed scientific journals, as well as a number of books, and many book chapters and papers in Dutch-language journals. He is the editor-in-chief of the European Journal of Public Health, and has coordinated a number of international-comparative studies funded by the European Commission. His current research focuses on socioeconomic inequalities in health, on issues related to aging and compression of morbidity, and on the effectiveness and quality of health services. He is actively engaged in exchanges between research and policy, among others as a member of several government advisory councils in the Netherlands (the Health Council and the Council for Public Health and Health Care). He is honorary professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine. Dr. Mackenbach most recently served on the NRC Panel on Understanding Divergent Trends in Longevity in High-Income Countries. He holds an M.D. and a Ph.D. in public health, both from Erasmus University Rotterdam.

David V. McQueen

Member

David V. McQueen is a retired senior biomedical research scientist and associate director for Global Health Promotion, formerly of the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to joining the Office of the Director he was director of the Division of Adult and Community Health at NCCDPHP and acting director of the Office of Surveillance and Analysis at (NCCDPHP), as well as head of the national Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Prior to joining CDC he was professor and director of the Research Unit in Health and Behavioral Change at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland (1983-1992), and prior to that associate professor of behavioral sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health in Baltimore. Currently, he is global vice president for scientific and technical development of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), as well as leader of the IUHPE Global Programme on Health Promotion Effectiveness and chair of the International Scientific Committee for the IUHPE Global Conference in Melbourne, Australia, 2004. Mr. McQueen has no previous NRC experience. He holds an M.A. in history and philosophy, and a Sc.D. in behavioral sciences, both from Johns Hopkins University.

Alberto Palloni

Member

Alberto Palloni is the Samuel H. Preston professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin. His research explores health and inequality in developed countries, mortality and health disparities, statistical models for the analysis of self reported health data, aging in developing countries, effects of HIV/AIDS on families and households in Sub-Saharan Africa, and relations between early health status and adult socioeconomic achievement and health status. In recent research, Dr. Palloni conducted the first study to consider selection mechanisms arising from early childhood experience as a source of socioeconomic differentials in health and mortality in developed countries. He is also reconstructing adult mortality patterns for Latin American countries from 1850 onwards. Dr. Palloni uses a novel procedure to simultaneously assess completeness of death registration and age-specific distortions in observed mortality patterns. This massive estimation exercise will identify new patterns of adult and old age mortality to document a century of Latin American mortality decline. His recent publications include: Racial Targeting of Sexual Violence in Darfur; Early Childhood Health, Reproduction of Economic Inequalities and the Persistence of Health and Mortality Differentials; and the Maternal and Infant Health of the Mexican-Origin Population in the United States: The Role of Acculturation, Duration, and Selection. Dr. Palloni is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has previously served on numerous NRC committees. He holds a B.S. from the Catholic University of Chile, and a Ph.D. from the University of Washington.

Samuel H. Preston

Member

Samuel H. Preston (NAS/IOM) is the Frederick J. Warren professor of demography and the associate chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Preston's major research interest is in the health of populations. He has written primarily about mortality trends and patterns in large aggregates, including twentieth century mortality transitions and black/white differentials in the United States. Recent research, all of which is collaborative, has focused on the mortality effects of cigarette smoking in developed countries. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, and the American Philosophical Society; he is a fellow of the American Statistical Association, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has won the Taeuber and Sheps Awards from the Population Association of America (PAA) and was an International Union for the Scientific Study of Population Laureate. He has been president of the PAA and of the Sociological Research Association. Dr. Preston has previously served on numerous NRC committees and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on National Statistics. He holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in economics, both from Princeton University.