

Policy Polarization and Population Health in the United States

Since the 1980s, life expectancy in the United States has become increasingly unequal across geographic areas of the country. The difference in life expectancy across US states has become larger than the difference in life expectancy across high-income countries. During this time period, US states' policy contexts changed dramatically and polarized; some states enacted myriad policies that invested in their population's health while other states did not invest or de-invested. This presentation will summarize recent evidence documenting how the polarizing policy contexts of US states have likely played a critical role in the widening inequalities in life expectancy.