

Social Research Call

Title:

The differences in mortality by social class in Spain. Approaches to health inequalities, 1940-2023



Acronym: INEQUALITY

Project leader: Francisco J. Marco-Gracia

Host organisation: Universidad de Zaragoza

Main purpose of the project: This project aims to delve into social inequality in health and adult mortality in inland Spain during the last century using the death registers for the complete regional population of Aragón (paying special attention to cause of death). We are going to study in depth the roots and drivers of health and social inequalities.

Design/methodology/approach: We are going to create a database from death records of hundreds of thousands of individuals, including information on distance to medical services and living conditions. We are going to employ event history analysis and other statistical techniques to explore the factors contributing to health inequality in cause specific mortality, with a special emphasis on socioeconomic causes and medical advances.

Potential results: First, we aim to assess how differences in social inequality at death affect our region in southern Europe compared to other regions (most literature comes from Northern Europe). Second, we seek to delve into the variations in mortality based on residence, lifestyle, access to medical services, and socioeconomic levels. Third, we will evaluate the health of advances in knowledge and treatments, their diffusion and access disparities. Finally, we intend to propose improvements for optimizing resources in policies.

Social relevance of the research: The development of this study expects to generate positive returns in terms of scientific knowledge and in the field of society and the economy. We will be able to identify risk profiles and make decisions related to care and the allocation of medical resources and promote the development of hygienic-health and social measures based on the new knowledge generated by this project.

Originality/value of the project: This project is innovative because Southern Europe, lacks extensive databases on long-term causes of death and social inequality in mortality. This will begin to change once our database is constructed, allowing us to conduct research that will positively impact well-being and longevity. Additionally, our results will enable a deeper understanding of rural/urban patterns, as well as gender and age-related disparities.