

Higher levels of Income and Education lead to longer lives.

There is an interesting link between Income and Longevity. Statistics Canada conducted a Canadian census mortality follow-up study of data, published in September 2008, and was the first in Canada to examine mortality by socioeconomic status in the total population through a linkage of census and mortality records. A key finding was that levels of Income and Education have a significant effect on length of life.

Among other things, this study found that the lowest mortality rates occurred among the university-educated, the employed, those in professional and managerial occupations, and those in the top income brackets. The highest mortality rates were among people with less than secondary graduation, those who were unemployed or not in the labour force, those in unskilled jobs, and those in the lowest income brackets. Another factor of course, is simply the ability to pay for and access upgraded levels of treatment and care in general.

These results showed consistency with each successively higher income group. In other studies, comparisons were made between the subsequent lifespans of people who retired early and those who continued working (or embarked on productive second careers, charitable work etc). The latter group, as we would expect, lived longer. These numbers were for all Canada, all ethnic backgrounds, all socio-economic groups and perhaps most importantly, individuals with all manner of health issues.

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