

The Moral Determinants of Health

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Disclosures

- Dr. Berwick has no conflicts of interest to disclose.



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Choices for the “New Normal”

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Editorial
Comment



Interviews



Multimedia

The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has only 15 genes, compared with 30 000 in the human genome. But it is a stern teacher, indeed. Answers to the questions it has raised may reshape both health care and society as a whole.

No one can say with certainty what the consequences of this pandemic will be in 6 months, let alone 6 years or 60. Some “new normal” may emerge, in which novel systems and assumptions will replace many others long taken for granted. But at this early stage, it is more honest to frame the new, post-COVID-19 normal not as predictions, but as a series of choices. Specifically, the pandemic nominates at least 6 properties of care for durable change: tempo, standards, working conditions, proximity, preparedness, and equity.



Choices for “The New Normal”

- Speed of Learning and Change
- Standardization and Commitment to Science
- Virtual Care and Reconsidering “Proximity”
- Protecting the Workforce
- Preparedness
- Inequity



“Inequities in power, money, and resources give rise to inequities in the conditions of daily life, which in turn lead to inequities in health.”

- Sir Michael Marmot




Justice and the Health Care Workforce

CORONAVIRUS

They're Working In Healthcare During A Pandemic. They Don't Get Health Insurance.

"As a nurse or a doctor, at least you're getting paid a decent amount of money to risk your life," one hospital clerical worker earning \$15 an hour told BuzzFeed News.

 **Emmanuel Felton**
BuzzFeed News Reporter

Posted on May 13, 2020, at 3:10 p.m. ET



“More than 800,000 healthcare workers and almost 1.1 million of their children live in poverty across the US, according to a 2019 study published in the [American Journal of Public Health](#). The researchers found that roughly 18.5 million people are employed in the US health industry. And nearly 10% of them — 1.7 million — earn so little that they get healthcare through Medicaid. Another 1.4 million have no health insurance at all.”



The Social Determinants of Health

1. Early Childhood Experiences
2. Education
3. Work and the Workplace
4. Experiences of Elders
5. Community Resilience
6. Fairness



Life Expectancy and the London Tube



Life Span and Life Circumstances

Life Expectancy
Δ 10 years



Loss of Life:
6 Months/Minute
2.3 Years/Mile



*“6 months for every minute on the subway;
3.2 years for every mile travelled.”*



BMJ Open The effect of statins on average survival in randomised trials, an analysis of end point postponement

Malene Lopez Kristensen,¹ Palle Mark Christensen,¹ Jørgen Hallas

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ABSTRACT

The effects of statins on average survival....
“Death was postponed between -5 and 19 days in primary prevention trials and between -10 and 27 days in secondary prevention trials.”



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The magnitude of their preventive effect is controversial; also controversial is how such effects should be conveyed to the patients.⁴

atherosclerotic conditions such as myocardial infarction or limb ischaemia.¹ Current guidelines indicate that statins should be prescribed to all patients manifesting ischaemia and to other patients at high risk,^{1, 2} and that statins are among the most widely prescribed drugs overall.³

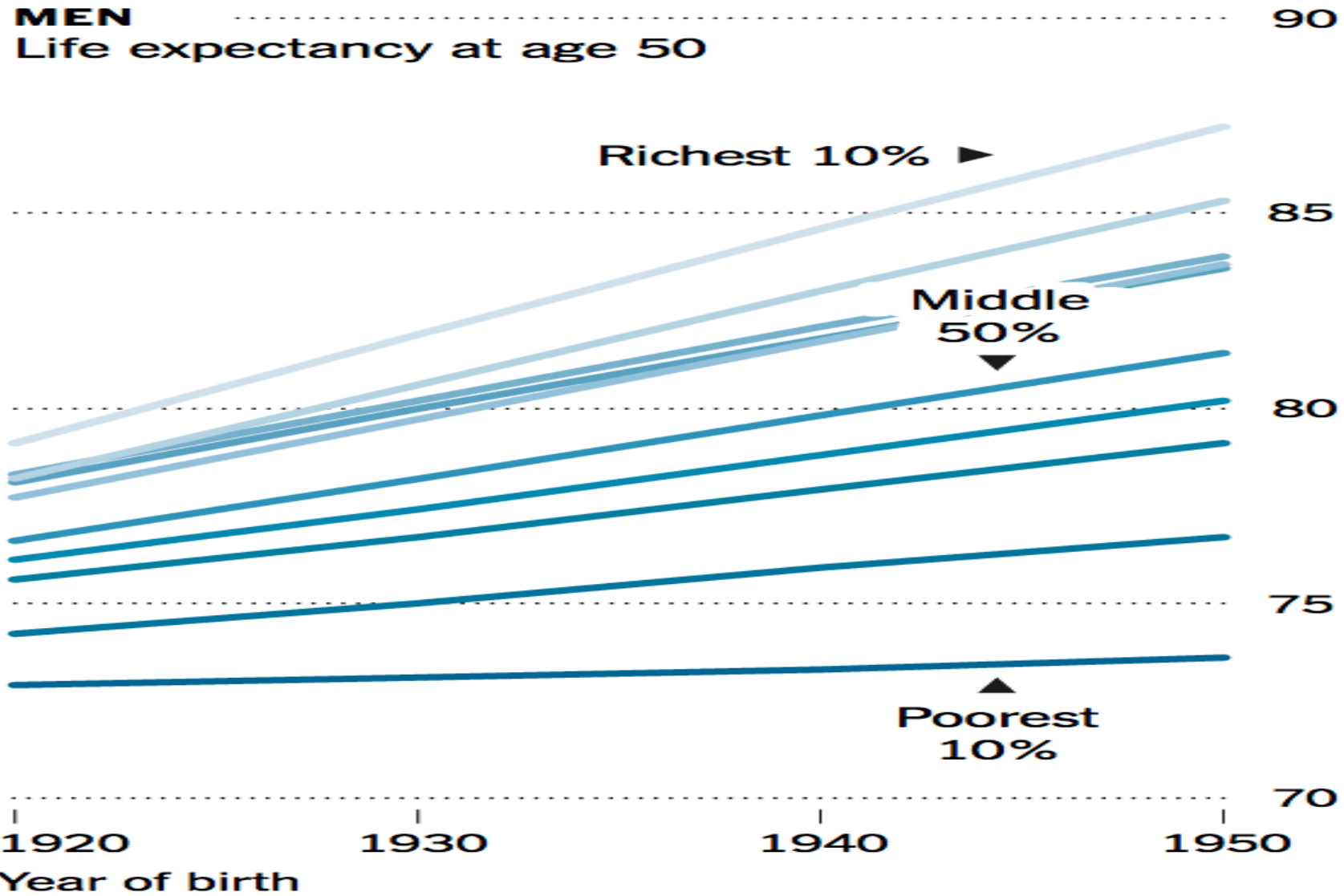
in 40 patients will have their end point postponed until after the outcome is measured. The remaining 39 patients will also have their end points postponed, but none to an extent where they cross this timeline. As an alternative to the NNT, it has been suggested that the drug benefit may be conveyed by an estimate of the average postponement in the occurrence of the end point for all treated.⁴ It has been shown that patients are more responsive to values of postponement than to values of NNT.⁷ Technically, the average postponement can be calculated as the area between the survival curves for the

BMJ Open: first published as 10.1136/bmjopen-2015-006711 on 30 November 2015

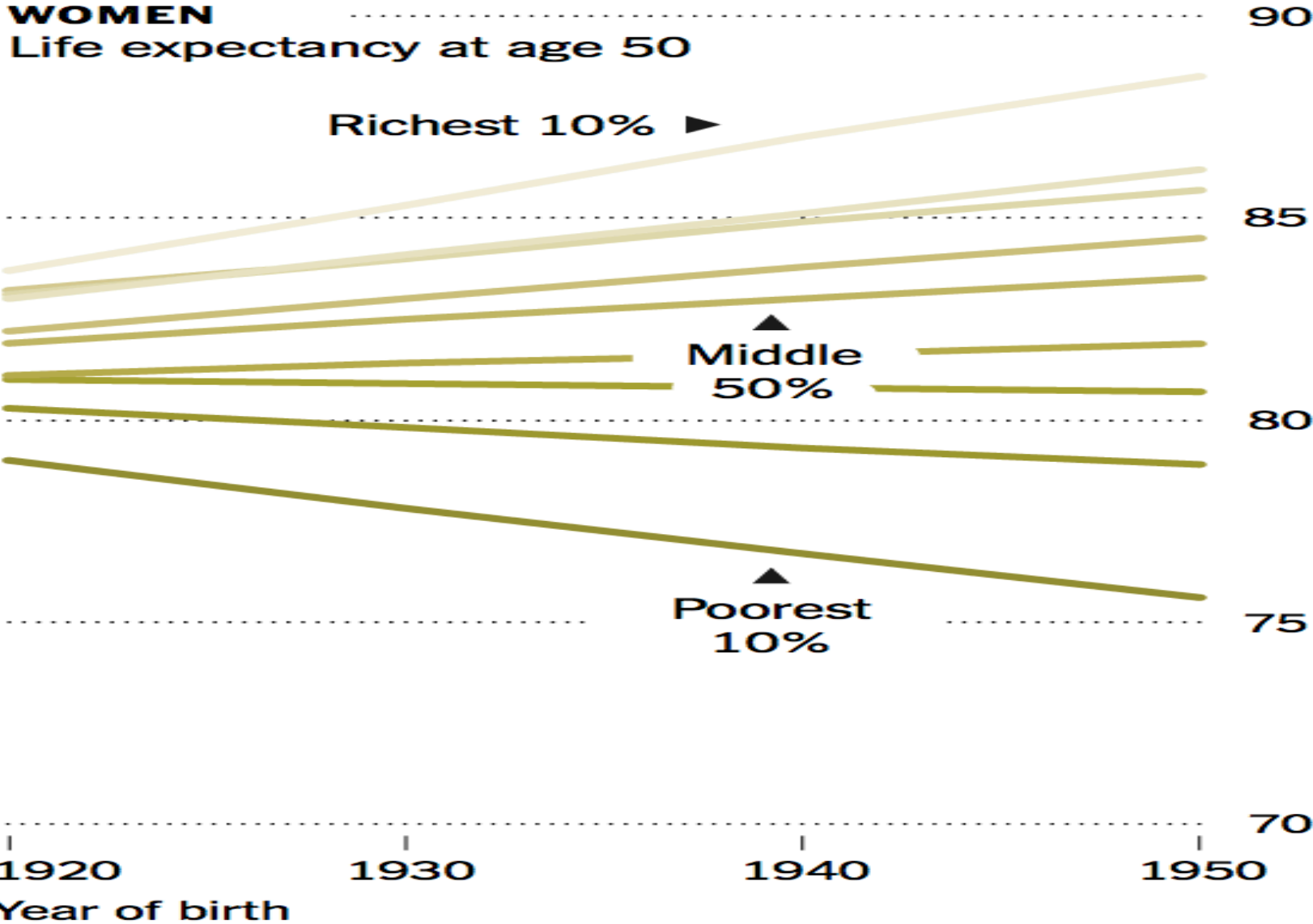
**M. Kristensen, P. Christensen, J. Hallas;
BMJ 2015; 5:**



US Life Expectancy by Year of Birth



US Life Expectancy by Year of Birth



20 Days of Your Lifespan Equals:



**Taking Statins for
20 Years**



**Riding the D Train
for 7 Seconds**



**Riding the Glasgow
Bus for 43 Feet**

A Campaign for Moral Determinants of Health

1. Achieve US ratification of major human rights treaties.
2. Make health care unequivocally a human right in our nation.
3. Restore American leadership to reverse climate change.
4. Achieve radical reform of our nation's criminal justice system.
5. End policies of exclusion and achieve compassionate immigration reform.
6. End hunger and homelessness in our nation.
7. Restore order, dignity, and equity to our democratic institutions, and assure the right of every single person's vote to count equally.



How to Interrogate Health Care “Reform”

- Universal Coverage
- Improving Quality
- Improving Social Determinants of Health
- Reducing per Capita Costs

All now in the context of...

- COVID-19 and Future 21st Century Threats
- George Floyd, Structural Racism, and Mobilization



Thank you!

