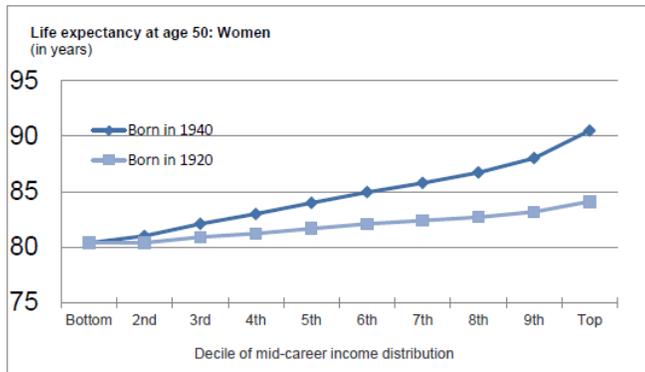


Q5 Rich/Poor Life Expectancy <https://thinkingquantitatively.wordpress.com/>

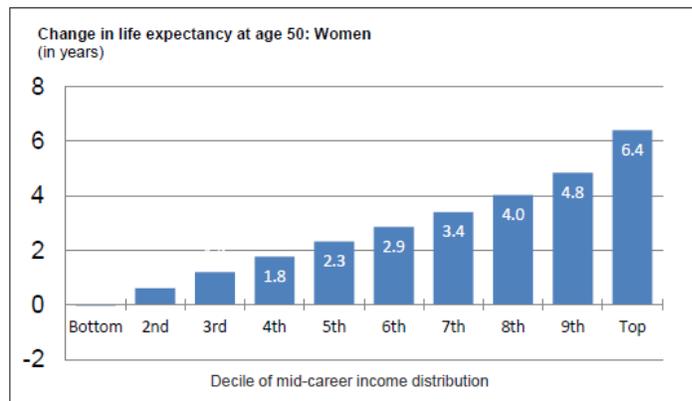
Please type answers when possible and leave adequate space for computation work.

1. The article, *Why Are Poor Americans Dying so Much Earlier than Rich Americans?*¹, references a Brookings study² which contains the following chart.

Predicted Life Expectancy at Age 50 for Women Born in 1920 and 1940 and Change in Life Expectancy between the Two Birth Cohorts, by Rank in Mid-Career Income Distribution



- a. The study contains the sentences: “Among those born in 1920, a woman in the lowest income group surviving to 50 could expect to live to age 80. A woman in the highest income group could expect to live to age 84.” Circle the points on the chart above that verify these statements.
- b. Use the chart below (and above) to compute the percentage difference for Life Expectancy at age 50 for women born in 1920 and 1940 for the top and bottom deciles.



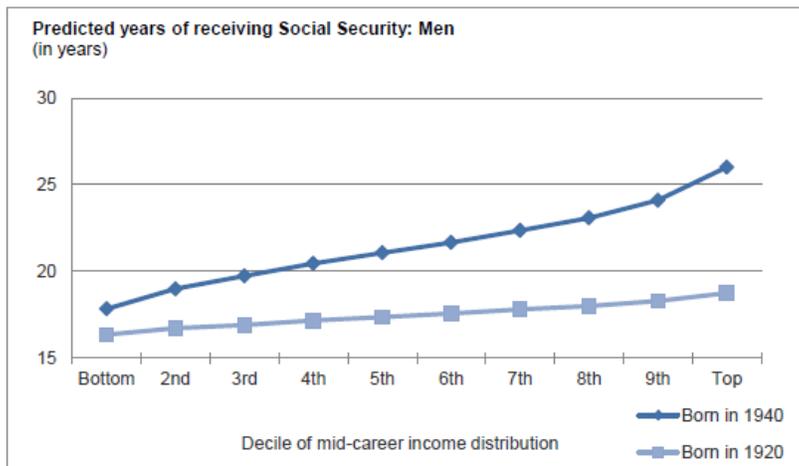
Source: Authors' calculations based on estimates obtained using Census SIPP files matched to Social Security Administration lifetime earnings and mortality data.

¹ <http://www.thenation.com/article/why-are-poor-americans-dying-so-much-earlier-than-rich-americans/>

² http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2016/01/life-expectancy-gaps-promise-social-security/execsummary_chapter4_laterretirement_inequality_longevity.pdf

- The Brookings study also has charts showing predicted years of receiving Social Security benefits. The article we read states “one of the programs that’s specifically intended to help poor Americans through retirement isn’t really working to their benefit anymore.” How does the following chart support this statement?

Predicted Years of Receiving Social Security Benefits for Men Born in 1920 and 1940 and Change in Years of Benefit Receipt between the Two Birth Cohorts, by Rank in Mid-Career Income Distribution



- How do all of these charts provide “evidence of the problem getting steadily worse.”?
- Joel Best in DLS talks about how social problems are *patterned*. Our article references smoking as “the leading cause of preventable death.” What does it mean to say smoking deaths are *patterned*?
- Joel Best in DLS talks about the importance of measurement in creating statistics. The Brookings study also discusses this problem, stating “The information needed to perform this kind of analysis is not easy to assemble. Researchers must obtain reliable indicators of Americans’ socioeconomic status at some common age.” Looking at the charts above, how did the Brookings researchers define “rich” and “poor”?