

The Nordic Gap in Cohort Survival

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Abstract

The Danish life expectancy has one of the lowest rankings among developed nations. These rankings refer to the use of period life tables, corresponding to current mortality levels. Complete long time series of mortality that allow construction of actual life expectancies experienced by cohorts is only found in a subset of developed countries, among them the Nordic countries. In this paper we compare the cohort survival of Nordic countries by using a measure of mortality analogous to life expectancy: The cross-sectional average length of life (CAL). This measure includes historical information of all the cohorts present at a given moment. By using CAL it is possible to distinguish the specific cohorts that contribute most notoriously to the disparity in mortality between the Nordic countries.