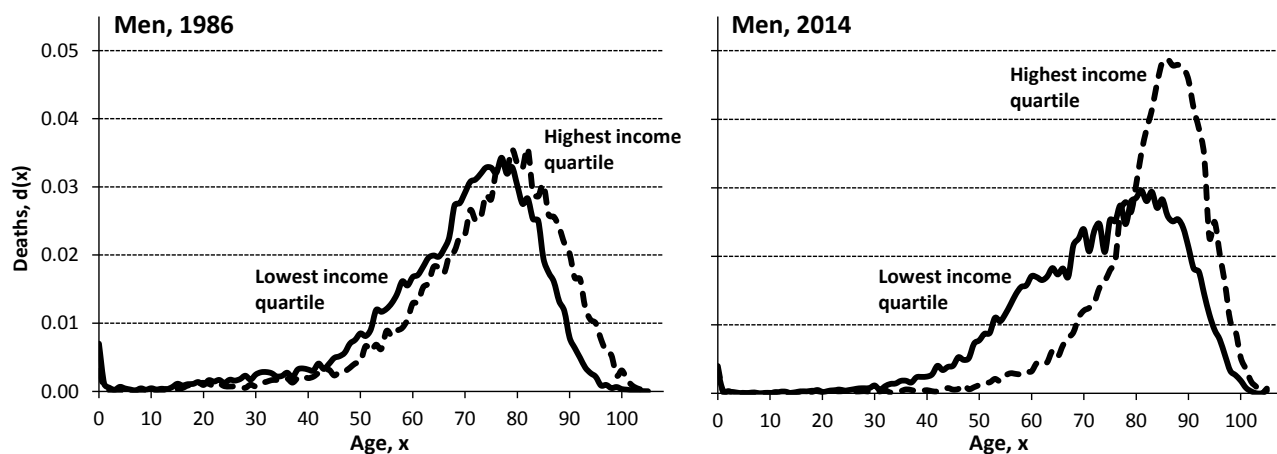


Socially disparate trends in lifespan variation

Social inequality trends in life expectancy are not informative as to changes in social disparity in the age-at-death distribution. In a Danish study social differentials in trends and patterns of mortality in Denmark was investigated.

The figure shows for men a clear compression of mortality in the highest income quartile which did not occur for the lowest income quartile. A similar but less distinct pattern for women was seen.

Life table age-at-death distributions for men in the lowest and the highest income quartiles



The study demonstrates that the increasing social gap in mortality appears differently in the change of the age-at-death distribution and the results do not provide support for a uniformly extension of pension age for all.

The study was based on register data on income and mortality from 1986 to 2014 and investigated trends in life expectancy, life disparity, and the threshold age that separates 'premature' and 'late' deaths. Mortality compression was quantified and compared between income quartiles.

The study is published in BMJ Open, <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/7/5/e014489>