

## **Relative Deprivation, Poor Health Habits and Mortality**

Christine E. Eibner  
Woodrow Wilson School  
of Public and International Affairs  
Princeton University  
Princeton, NJ 08544  
(609) 258-7394  
ceibner@princeton.edu

William N. Evans  
Department of Economics  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742  
(301) 405-3486  
evans@econ.umd.edu

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### **Abstract**

Using individual-level on males data from the 1988-1991 National Health Interview Survey Multiple Cause of Death Files, we examine the impact of relative deprivation within a reference group on health. We use measures of relative deprivation based on Yitzhaki's index and define reference groups using combinations of state, race, education, and age. Those with high relative deprivation have a higher probability of death, are more likely to self-report poor health, have high blood pressure or disabilities, and have a host of poor health habits including smoking, not wearing safety belts, high body mass index and not exercising.

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