

Chapter 11



- ❧ Religion, Education, and Medicine
 - ❧ Religion
 - ❧ Education
 - ❧ Medicine

Religion



☞ Religion

- ☞ Socially shared and organized ways of thinking, feeling, and acting that concern ultimate meanings about the existence of the supernatural or “beyond”

Religion



☞ Sacred

☞ Aspects of social reality that are set apart and forbidden

☞ Profane

☞ Aspects of social reality that is everyday and commonplace

☞ Rituals

☞ Social acts prescribed by rules that dictate how human beings should behave in presence of the sacred

Religion



- ☞ Religion Globally
 - ☞ Religious beliefs play a role in most people's lives today
 - ☞ Simple Supernaturalism
 - ☞ **Mana**: diffuse, impersonal, supernatural force that exists in nature for good or evil

Religion



- ❧ Religion Globally (continued)
 - ❧ **Animism:** a pattern of religious behavior that involves a belief in spirits or otherworldly beings
 - ❧ **Theism:** centered in belief in gods who are thought to be powerful, to have an interest in human affairs, and to merit worship
 - ❧ **Monotheism:** belief in one god
 - ❧ **Polytheism:** belief in many gods
 - ❧ **Abstract ideals:** dedicated to achieving moral and spiritual excellence

Religious Organizations



☞ Church

- ☞ Religious organization that considers itself uniquely legitimate and typically enjoys a positive relationship with mainstream society
- ☞ Attaches considerable importance to:
 - ☞ Means of grace
 - ☞ System of doctrine
 - ☞ Administration of rituals

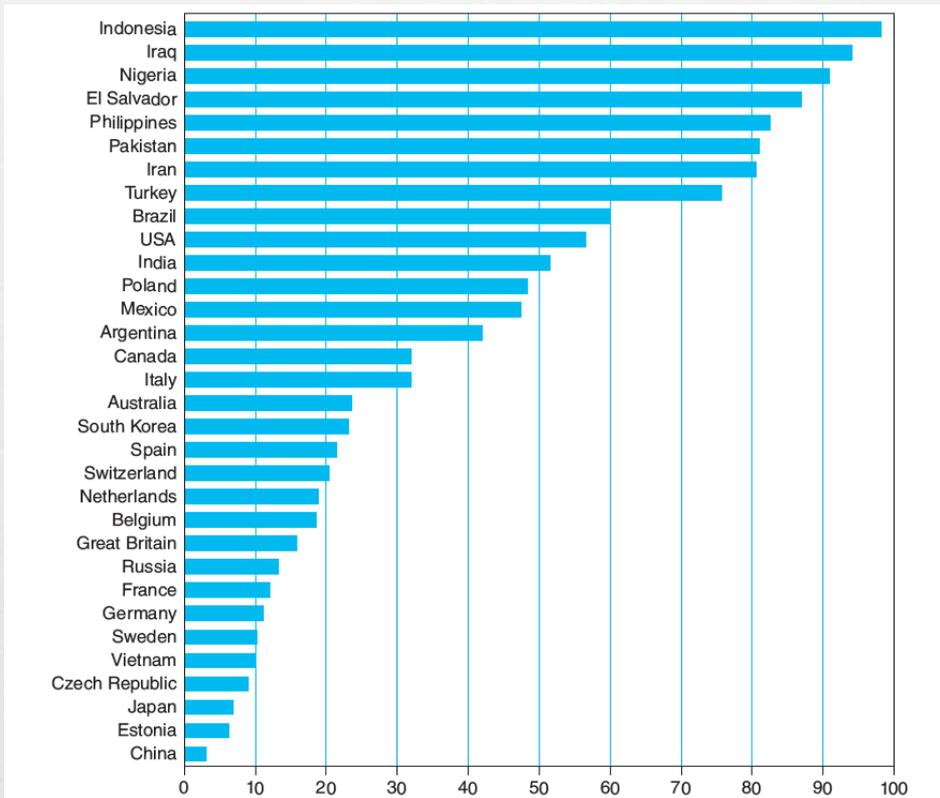


Figure 11.2 Percentage Reporting That Religion Is “Very Important” in Their Lives

Source: Figure generated by the authors after analyzing data from selected countries surveyed in the World Values Surveys and the European Values Surveys, 1981–1984, 1990–1993, 1994–1997, and 1999–2004 (European Values Study Group and World Values Survey Association, 2006, *European and World Values Surveys Four-Wave Integrated Data File, 1981–2004*, v. 20060423, available at <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/>).

Religion



☞ Denomination

- ☞ Accepts legitimacy claims of other religions and enjoys positive relationship with dominant society

☞ Sect

- ☞ Religious organization that stands apart from mainstream society but is rooted in established religious traditions

☞ Cult

- ☞ Religious movement that represents new and independent religious tradition



	Positive Relationship with Society	Negative Relationship with Society
Claims Sole Legitimacy	CHURCH	SECT
Accepts Pluralistic Legitimacy	DENOMINATION	CULT

Figure 11.1

Types of Religious Organizations

Religion & Secular Change



- ❧ The Protestant Ethic
 - ❧ Weber studied how religious **ethic** (perspective and values engendered by a religious way of thinking) affect people's behavior
 - ❧ Calvinist ethos
 - ❧ Doctrine of predestination
 - ❧ **Asceticism** (a life of hard work, sobriety, thrift, restraint, and the avoidance of earthly pleasures) is proof of salvation and faith

Religion in Contemporary U.S. Life



☞ **Secularization thesis**

☞ As societies evolve, profane, or nonreligious, considerations gain ascendancy over sacred, or religious, considerations

☞ **Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism**

☞ Fundamentalism in U.S. primarily a Protestant movement

Religion in Contemporary U.S. Life



- ❧ The “Religious Marketplace”
 - ❧ U.S. affiliations diverse and fluid
 - ❧ Many religious conservatives have entered political arena
 - ❧ High-cost faiths consistently outperform more mainstream counterparts
 - ❧ “Nonreligious movement” on rise

Religion in Contemporary U.S. Life



☞ Islamic Fundamentalism

☞ Fundamentalism feature of all religious traditions that change and evolve

☞ Iranian Revolution of 1979

☞ Important to stress that Islam and Muslims not monolithic



Table 11.2 Religious Affiliation in the United States

	Percentage of All Adults
Christian	78.4
Protestant	51.3
<i>Evangelical churches</i>	26.3
<i>Mainline churches</i>	18.1
<i>Historically black churches</i>	6.9
Catholic	23.9
Mormon	1.7
Jehovah's Witness	0.7
Orthodox	0.6
<i>Greek Orthodox</i>	<0.3
<i>Russian Orthodox</i>	<0.3
<i>Other</i>	<0.3
Other Christian	0.3
Other Religions	4.7
Jewish	1.7
<i>Reform</i>	0.7
<i>Conservative</i>	0.5
<i>Orthodox</i>	<0.3
<i>Other</i>	0.3
Buddhist	0.7
<i>Zen Buddhist</i>	<0.3
<i>Theravada Buddhist</i>	<0.3
<i>Tibetan Buddhist</i>	<0.3
<i>Other</i>	0.3
Muslim	0.6
<i>Sunni</i>	0.3
<i>Shia</i>	<0.3
<i>Other</i>	<0.3
Hindu	0.4
Other world religions	<0.3
Other faiths	1.2
<i>Unitarians and other liberal faiths</i>	0.7
<i>New Age</i>	0.4
<i>Native American religions</i>	<0.3
Unaffiliated	16.1
Atheist	1.6
Agnostic	2.4
Nothing in particular	12.1
<i>Secular unaffiliated</i>	6.3
<i>Religious unaffiliated</i>	5.8
Don't Know/Refused	0.8

Due to rounding, figures may not add to 100 and nested figures may not add to the subtotal indicated.

Source: Pew Research Center, 2007, 2008.

State-Church Issues



- ❧ State-Church Issues
 - ❧ First Amendment: separation of church and state
 - ❧ **Civil religion:** U.S. is nation under God with divine mission

The Functionalist Perspective



- ❧ Durkheim: *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* (1912/1965)
 - ❧ Showed religion serves functions of social cohesion and social control
 - ❧ **Totemism**: religious system in which clan takes name of, claims descent from, and attributes sacred properties to a plant or animal
 - ❧ Symbolization of society

The Functionalist Perspective



- ❧ Religion focuses on focusing on questions of meaning and purpose
 - ❧ Celebrate and explain the major events of the life cycle
- ❧ Religion facilitates social change

Conflict Perspective



- ❧ Religion is weapon; source of conflict or change
- ❧ Marx: opium of the people
- ❧ Frequently legitimates status quo
- ❧ Under some circumstances religion can be profound revolutionary force

Education



☞ Learning

- ☞ Relatively permanent change in behavior or capability that results from experience

☞ Education

- ☞ Formal, systematic training to transmit particular attitudes, knowledge, and skills to society's members

Education



- ❧ Bureaucratic Structure of Schools
 - ❧ Federal government
 - ❧ The Board of Education or trustees
 - ❧ Administrators
 - ❧ Teachers
 - ❧ Students

Education



- ❧ The Functionalist Perspective
 - ❧ Complete socialization
 - ❧ Socially integrate a diverse population
 - ❧ Screen and select individuals
 - ❧ Develop new knowledge

Education



☞ The Conflict Perspective

- ☞ Schools are agencies that reproduce and legitimate current social order
 - ☞ **Correspondence principle:** social relations of work find expression in social relations of the school
 - ☞ Defuse minority threats by eliminating ethnic differences and reinforcing values of dominant group
 - ☞ **Credentialism:** requirement that a worker have a degree for its own sake

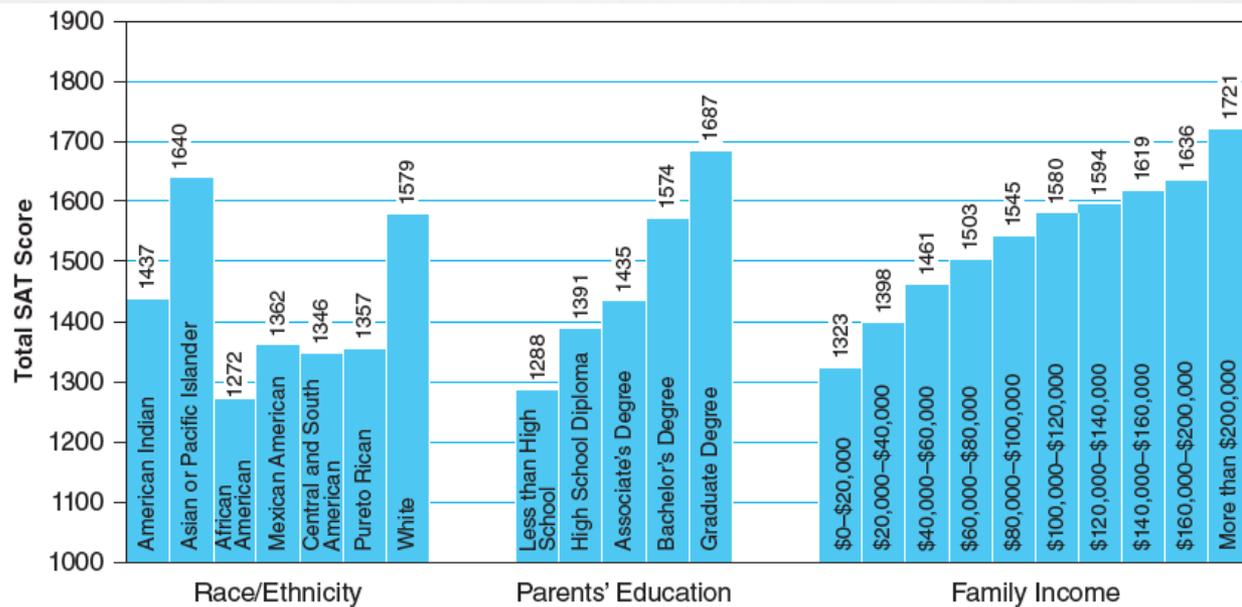


Figure 11.3 Average Total SAT Scores of College-Bound Seniors by Race/Ethnicity, Parents' Education, and Family Income, 2011

Total SAT scores, the sum of scores for the critical reading, mathematical reasoning, and writing tests, vary considerably by socioeconomic status and race/ethnicity, both reflecting and perpetuating racial, ethnic, and class disadvantages. Scores for the individual tests range from 200 to 800 points and follow the same patterns across the categories in this figure, except that Asian/Pacific Islanders score slightly below whites on the critical reading test.

Education



❧ The Interactionist Perspective

- ❧ Schools perform relatively well with upper- and middle-class youngsters
 - ❧ **Hidden curriculum:** complex of unarticulated values, attitudes, and behaviors that subtly mold children in image preferred by dominant institutions
 - ❧ **Self-fulfilling prophecies:** victimize inner city, minority, and immigrant children

Education



- ❧ The Effectiveness of Schools
 - ❧ What would make schools more effective?
 - ❧ Emotional and instructional support in elementary classrooms contributes to eliminating racial/ethnic achievement gap
 - ❧ Successful schools fostered expectations that order would prevail in classrooms
 - ❧ Just over half of Americans want more government funding

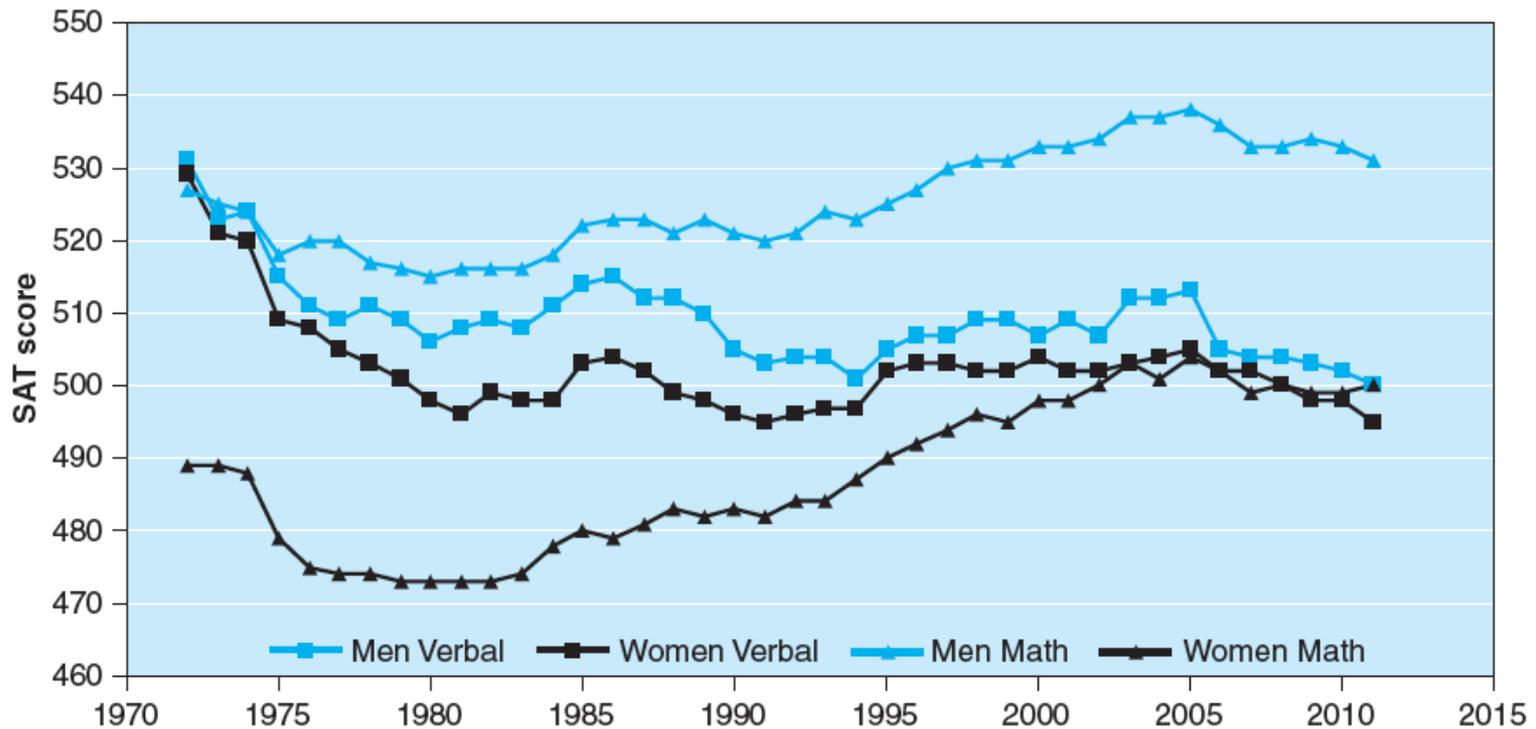


Figure 11.4

SAT Scores by Gender, 1972–2011

Source: Figure generated by the authors using data on the critical reading (verbal) and mathematics reasoning tests taken by college-bound seniors. The data were provided by the College Entrance Examination Board and are available at http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/cbs2011_total_group_report.pdf.

Education



- ❧ Alternatives to Traditional Public Schools
 - ❧ Charter schools and private schools enrollments increased significantly
 - ❧ Online learning
 - ❧ 1.5 million students taught at home in 2005

Education



- ❧ Availability of Higher Education
 - ❧ College/university student populations highly skewed
 - ❧ Cost of college education important

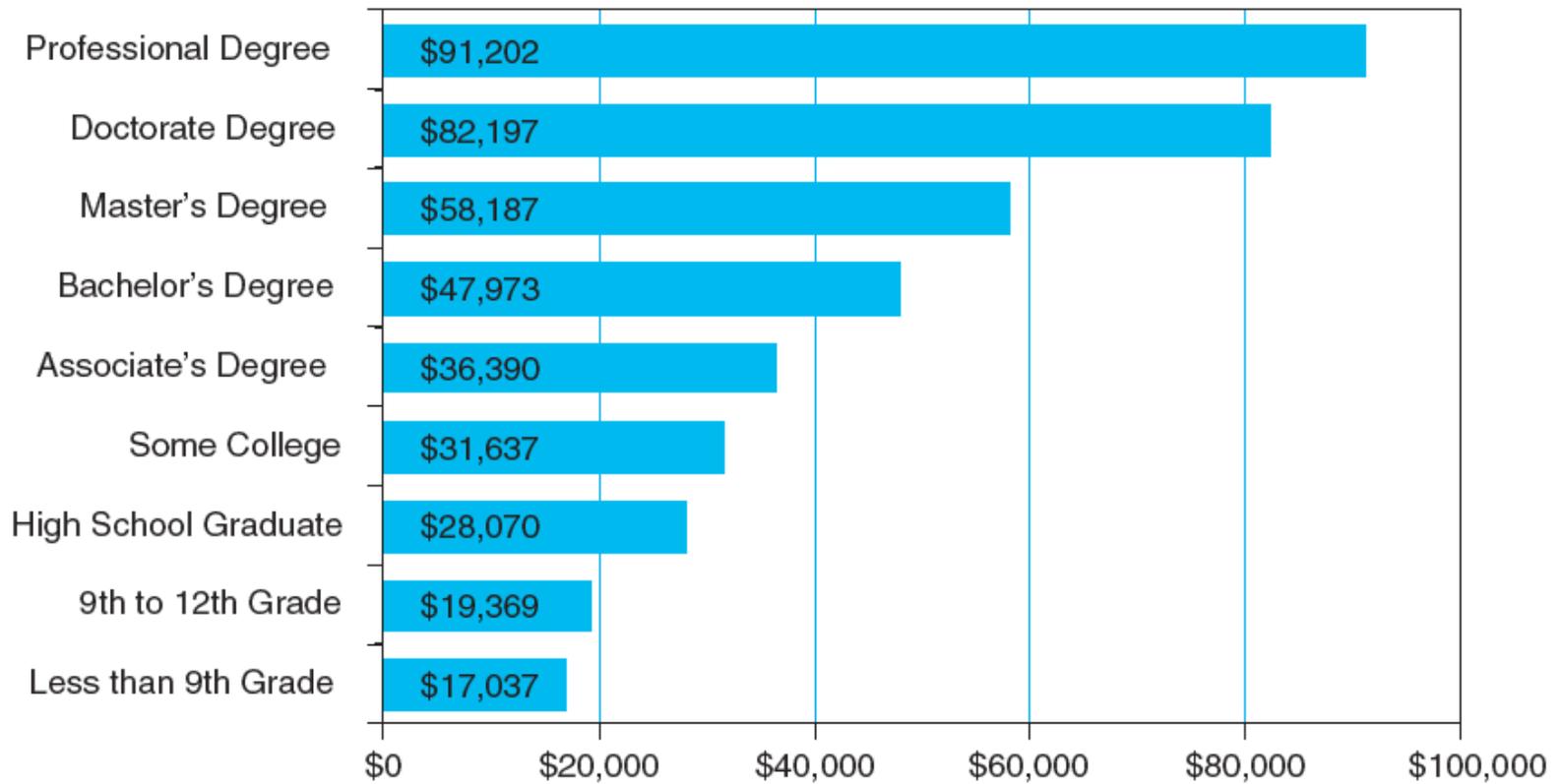


Figure 11.5 The Financial Value of a Postsecondary Education: Median Earnings by Education, 2010

Average income increases with greater education.

Medicine



- ❧ **Medicine:** institution providing an enduring set of cultural patterns and social relationships responsible for problems of health and disease
- ❧ **Health:** “state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (World Health Organization)
- ❧ **Disease:** condition in which an organism does not function properly because of biological causes

Medicine



- ❧ Health Care in the U.S.
 - ❧ Disease-cure system
 - ❧ Expectation of cure in U.S. generated explosion of invasive, expensive, and risky medical interventions
 - ❧ Hospitals
 - ❧ By mid-1960s, system for financing health care was ripe for big business and emergence of for-profit hospitals

Medicine



- ❧ Health Care in the U.S.
 - ❧ Physicians
 - ❧ Gradual development of “cultural authority” and domination of health practitioners
 - ❧ Nurses
 - ❧ Developed from menial laborers to degreed professionals

Medicine



- ❧ USA only western nation not to guarantee basic health care
 - ❧ 2009: health care costs accounted for 17.6% of U.S. GDP
 - ❧ Forces that push up costs
 - ❧ Rules that govern marketplace exchanges not applied
 - ❧ Labor and administrative costs
 - ❧ U.S. population getting larger and older

Medicine



- ❧ Soaring costs led to new ways for financing health care
 - ❧ Satellite surgical centers; mobile diagnostic labs; walk-in clinics
 - ❧ Managed care – HMOs and PPOs

Medicine



- ❧ Does the System Work?
 - ❧ A ranking of health care quality by the World Health Organization placed the United States lower than 36 other countries
 - ❧ Maternal mortality has been increasing in the U.S.
 - ❧ Other countries are able to provide universal coverage, spend less, and have higher life expectancy and lower infant mortality rates than the United States

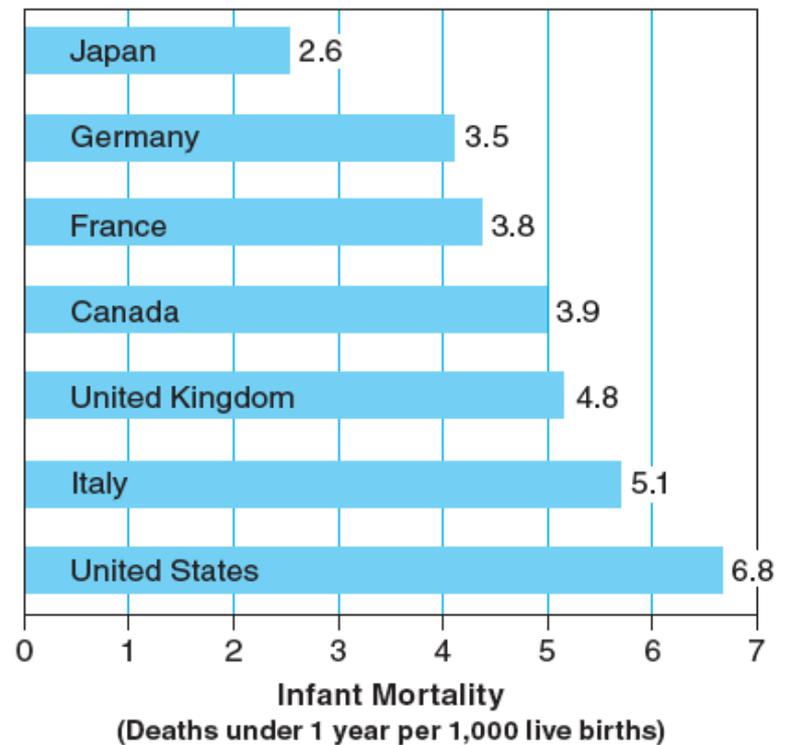
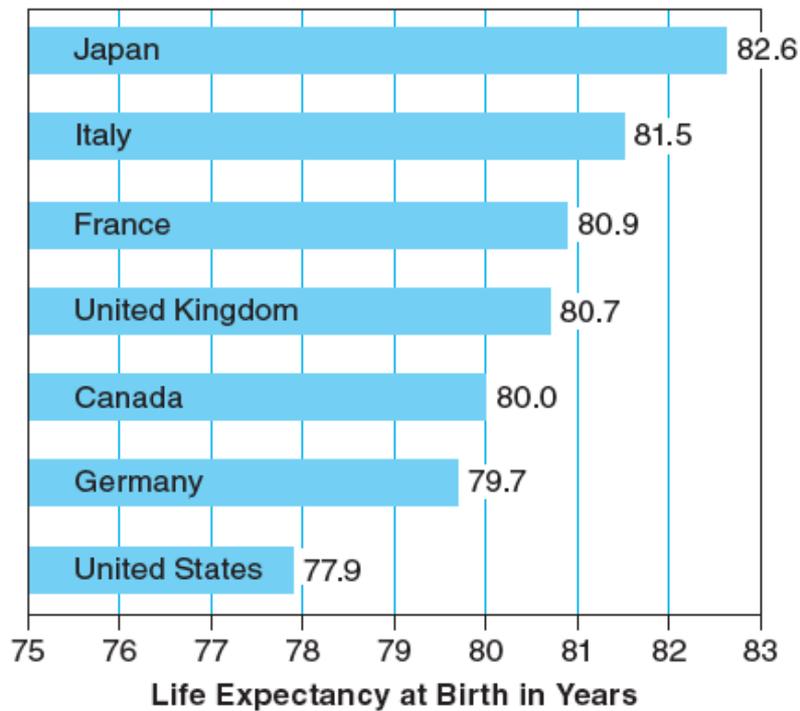


Figure 11.6 Life Expectancy and Infant Mortality Rates for Major Industrialized Democracies, 2007

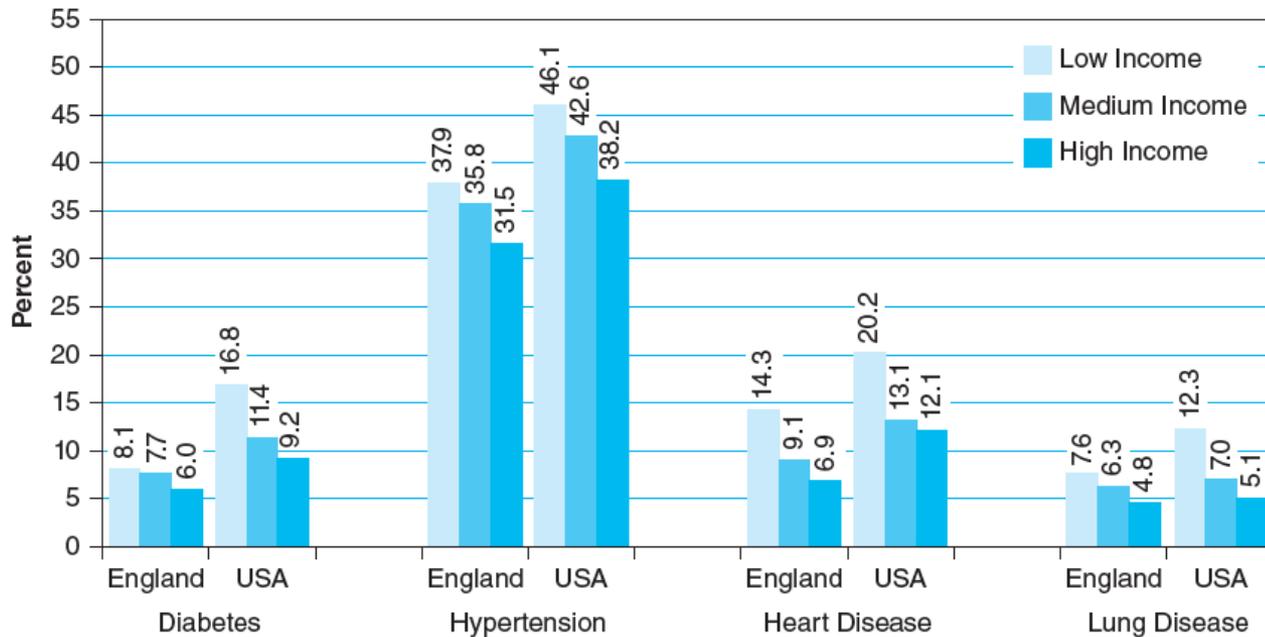


Figure 11.7 Rates of Selected Chronic Physical Disorders by Income Level in England and the United States for Persons Ages 55–64 (Adjusted for Lifestyle Risk Factors)

It is well known that socioeconomic status (SES) has a positive relationship with health. On average, health is worst at low SES, and it improves as SES rises. In this comparison of chronic physical disorders in the United States and England, we used income as an indicator of SES, and we found this positive association in both countries. But it also is clear that people are more likely to have physical disorders in the United States than in England *at every income level*.

Medicine



- ❧ Global Alternatives to U.S. Health Care
 - ❧ “Out-of-pocket” model
 - ❧ Operates in most countries
 - ❧ Those who can afford medical care get it
 - ❧ National health care
 - ❧ Payment is handled by a government-administered insurance program that all citizens pay into
 - ❧ Bismarck model
 - ❧ Health care providers, payers, and insurance plans are all private entities operating under tight regulation
 - ❧ Beveridge model
 - ❧ The provision and financing by the government through tax payments

Medicine



- ❧ Canada Health Act (1971)
 - ❧ Government pays for medically necessary health care services
 - ❧ Lower costs due to lower physician, hospital, and administrative costs
 - ❧ Citizens receive better outcomes
 - ❧ Long waits for some medical procedures and services and limitations in services

Medicine



- ❧ U.S. Health Care Reform
 - ❧ In 2010, U.S. Congress passed health care reform legislation
 - ❧ Universal coverage failed to get through
 - ❧ The U.S. is the only wealthy nation that does not guarantee health coverage for every person
 - ❧ Extends insurance coverage to 34 million currently uninsured Americans

Medicine



- ❧ The Functionalist Perspective
 - ❧ Health essential to survival
 - ❧ Medicine evolved to:
 - ❧ Treat and cure disease
 - ❧ Prevent disease through programs
 - ❧ Undertake research into health problems
 - ❧ Become agent of social control by labeling behavior
 - ❧ **Sick role:** set of cultural expectations that define what is appropriate and inappropriate behavior for people with a disease or health problem

Medicine



- ❧ The Conflict Perspective (continued)
 - ❧ Some people achieve better health than others because they have access to resources that contribute to good health and recovery
 - ❧ U.S. health care system has traditionally operated as dual system
 - ❧ The poor utilize public sources
 - ❧ Middle- and upper-income Americans use private sources

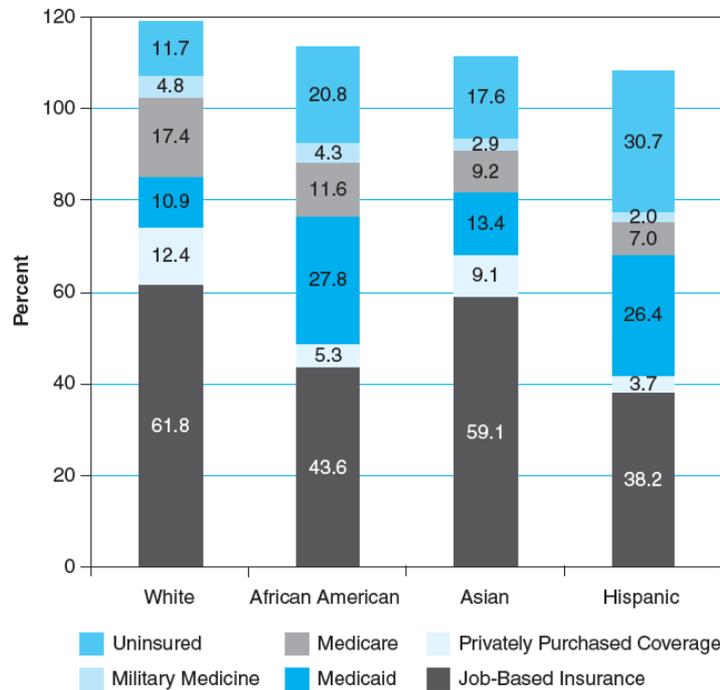


Figure 11.8 Inequalities of Access to Health Care: Health Insurance Coverage in the United States by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

Health care is unequally distributed in the United States, with African Americans and Hispanic Americans significantly less likely than white and Asian Americans to be insured or to receive high-quality care (Kaufman and Stein, 2006). Lack of insurance is related to the racial and ethnic differences in education, employment, and income that we have discussed in previous chapters. If the health reform legislation of 2010 results in providing insurance to the currently uninsured, we may see some change in these societal inequalities.

Medicine



- ❧ The Interactionist Perspective
 - ❧ “Sickness” is a condition with socially devised meanings attached
 - ❧ Meanings change with time and other motivations, including commercials
 - ❧ **Medicalization of deviance:** behaviors that earlier generations defined as immoral or sinful become seen as forms of sickness