



Journal

The American Journal of Bioethics >

Volume 18, 2018 - Issue 10

253 10

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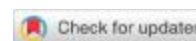
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Target Article

Shrinking Poor White Life Spans: Class, Race, and Health Justice

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Pages 3-14 | Published online: 19 Oct 2018

 Download citation <https://doi.org/10.1080/15265161.2018.1513585>

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Abstract

An absolute decline in US life expectancy in low education whites has alarmed policy makers and attracted media attention. Depending on which studies are correct, low education white women have lost between 3 and 5 years of lifespan; men, between 6 months and 3 years. Although absolute declines in life expectancy are relatively rare, some commentators see the public alarm as reflecting a racist concern for white lives over black ones. How ought we ethically to evaluate this lifespan contraction in low education whites? Should we care, or is it racist to care? Does it constitute

make determinations of health justice, and that these judgments do not vitiate concerns about racism. I conclude with reflections on US population health policy and building an inclusive health equity movement.

KEYWORDS: [population](#), [population health](#), [race and culture/ethnicity](#)

This article is referred to by:

[Shrinking Poor White Life Spans and the Requirements of Justice](#)

[Racism and the Health of White Americans](#)

[Floating All Boats: Promoting Solidarity to Advance Social Justice](#)

[A Crisis of Identity, a Crisis of Place](#)

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