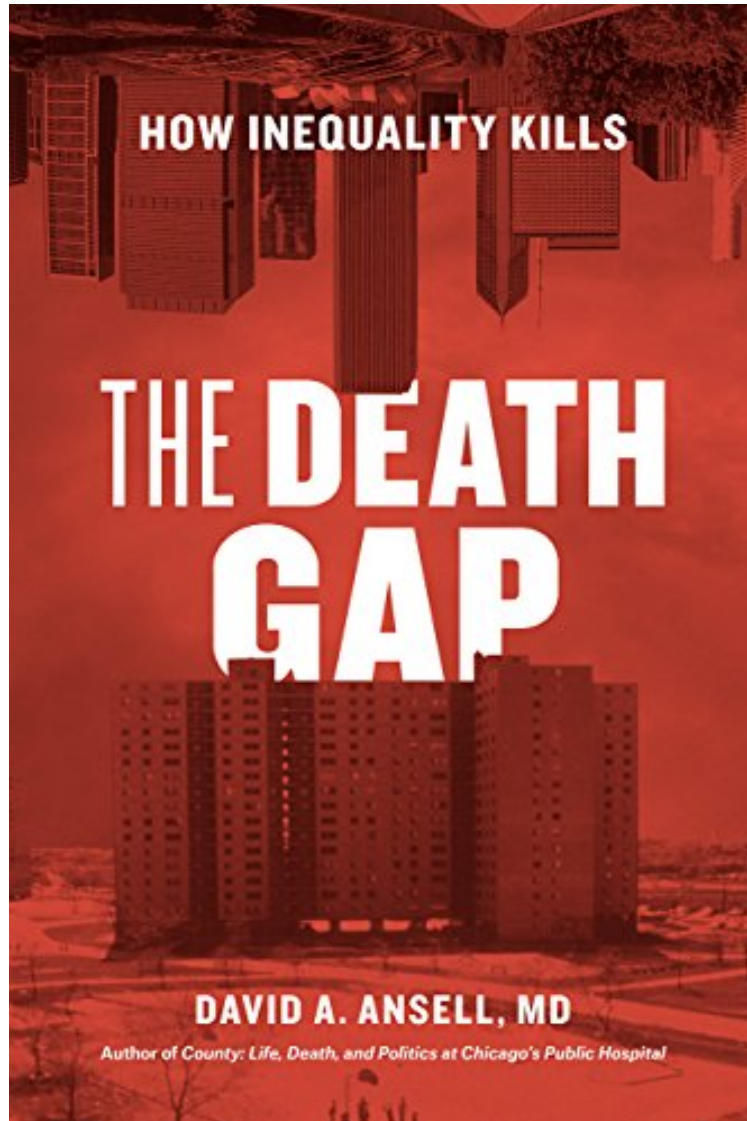


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The Death Gap: How Inequality Kills

David A. Ansell MD

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David A. Ansell MD : The Death Gap: How Inequality Kills before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Death Gap: How Inequality Kills:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Anne Marie MurphyA wonderful and insightful read8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Understanding the health crisis among the disadvantaged in the United StatesBy David A TurnerNews media have reported recently on scientific papers that show that markers of health can vary greatly between localities in the United States. For example, life expectancies can be as much as two decades

shorter in one locality than in another, not just between two parts of the country, but between two areas of the same city! Moreover, it has recently been reported African Americans who move from segregated neighborhoods to integrated ones experience significant declines in blood pressure, reducing their risk of stroke and heart attack. Dr. Ansell's powerfully-written book, based in part on his personal experiences providing health care for the disadvantaged, provides a primer on the reasons for these differences. Unequal access to quality health care among the poor, as well as the stresses of poverty, ghettoisation and racism are among the root causes. Dr. Ansell decries our society's tolerance of these immoral conditions, but he optimistically provides prescriptions for beginning to solve them. *The Death Gap: How Inequality Kills* is required reading for anyone interested in public health policy and in understanding the health crisis among the disadvantaged in the United States. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Must buy, Must read for health policy thinkers By Dr Mike Warner If you are looking for a healthcare inequity source, this is it. David A. Ansell, MD, MPH is a seasoned Chicago physician and social epidemiologist. He is well qualified to deliver *The Death Gap How Inequality Kills*. Dr. Ansell shows how the color of your skin and the zip code of where you live are determinant factors in the healthcare you receive. Sadly, the difference is great. Living in one zip code versus another, for example, can vary how long you will live by over ten years. Dr. Ansell speaks frankly against the forces of structural violence, which includes: racism, economic exploitation, mass incarceration, lack of safety, poor education and a lack of decent paying jobs. For those familiar with Chicago, you will appreciate highlights given to various neighborhoods. For those unfamiliar with the area, Dr. Ansell guides you through his city of Chicago while using geography to support his findings. Dr. Ansell supports his claims with specific reference. For example, his assessment of single women in America reveals a median wealth for a single black female at \$100, single Hispanic female at \$120, and single white female at \$41,500 (p. 180) Dr. Ansell's observations, while real and disheartening, do offer hope. People that live in neighborhoods that maintain high social cohesion, for example, live six years longer than their peers (p. This book is a must read for anyone interested in health policy. In general, we all should be aware of how our society functions. Is it fair that inequality kills? Is it really a problem worth noting? Is it a problem worth your attention? What can be done? This book will help guide you through these questions. Michael Warner, DO, CPC, CPMAPresident, Patient Advocacy Initiatives 2017 AACOM Health Policy Fellow

We hear plenty about the widening income gap between the rich and the poor in America and about the expanding distance separating the haves and the have-nots. But when detailing the many things that the poor have not, we often overlook the most critical their health. The poor die sooner. Blacks die sooner. And poor urban blacks die sooner than almost all other Americans. In nearly four decades as a doctor at hospitals serving some of the poorest communities in Chicago, David Ansell has witnessed firsthand the lives behind these devastating statistics. In *The Death Gap*, he gives a grim survey of these realities, drawn from observations and stories of his patients. While the contrasts and disparities among Chicagos communities are particularly stark, the death gap is truly a nationwide epidemic as Ansell shows, there is a thirty-five-year difference in life expectancy between the healthiest and wealthiest and the poorest and sickest American neighborhoods. If you are poor, where you live in America can dictate when you die. It doesn't need to be this way; such divisions are not inevitable. Ansell calls out the social and cultural arguments that have been raised as ways of explaining or excusing these gaps, and he lays bare the structural violence the racism, economic exploitation, and discrimination that is really to blame. Inequality is a disease, Ansell argues, and we need to treat and eradicate it as we would any major illness. To do so, he outlines a vision that will provide the foundation for a healthier nation for all. Inequality is all around us, and often the distance between high and low life expectancy can be a matter of just a few blocks. But geography need not be destiny, urges Ansell. In *The Death Gap* he shows us how we can face this national health crisis head-on and take action against the circumstances that rob people of their dignity and their lives.

"Compelling. . . . Without providing easy answers, he challenges readers to be aware of health disparities and to work toward equality."