

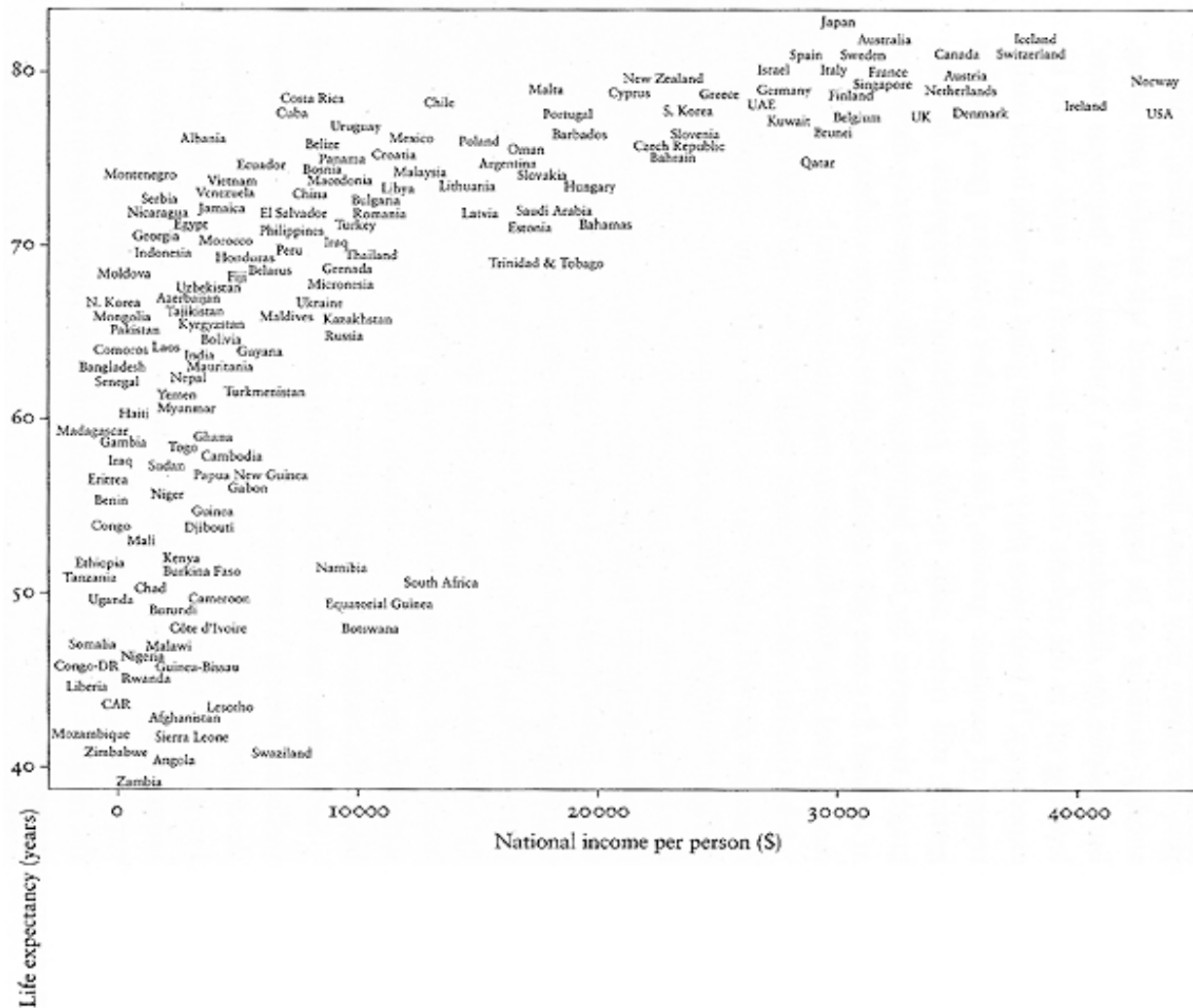
# **THE SPIRIT LEVEL**

**WHY GREATER EQUALITY MAKES SOCIETIES STRONGER**

**BY RICHARD WILKINSON AND KATE PICKETT**

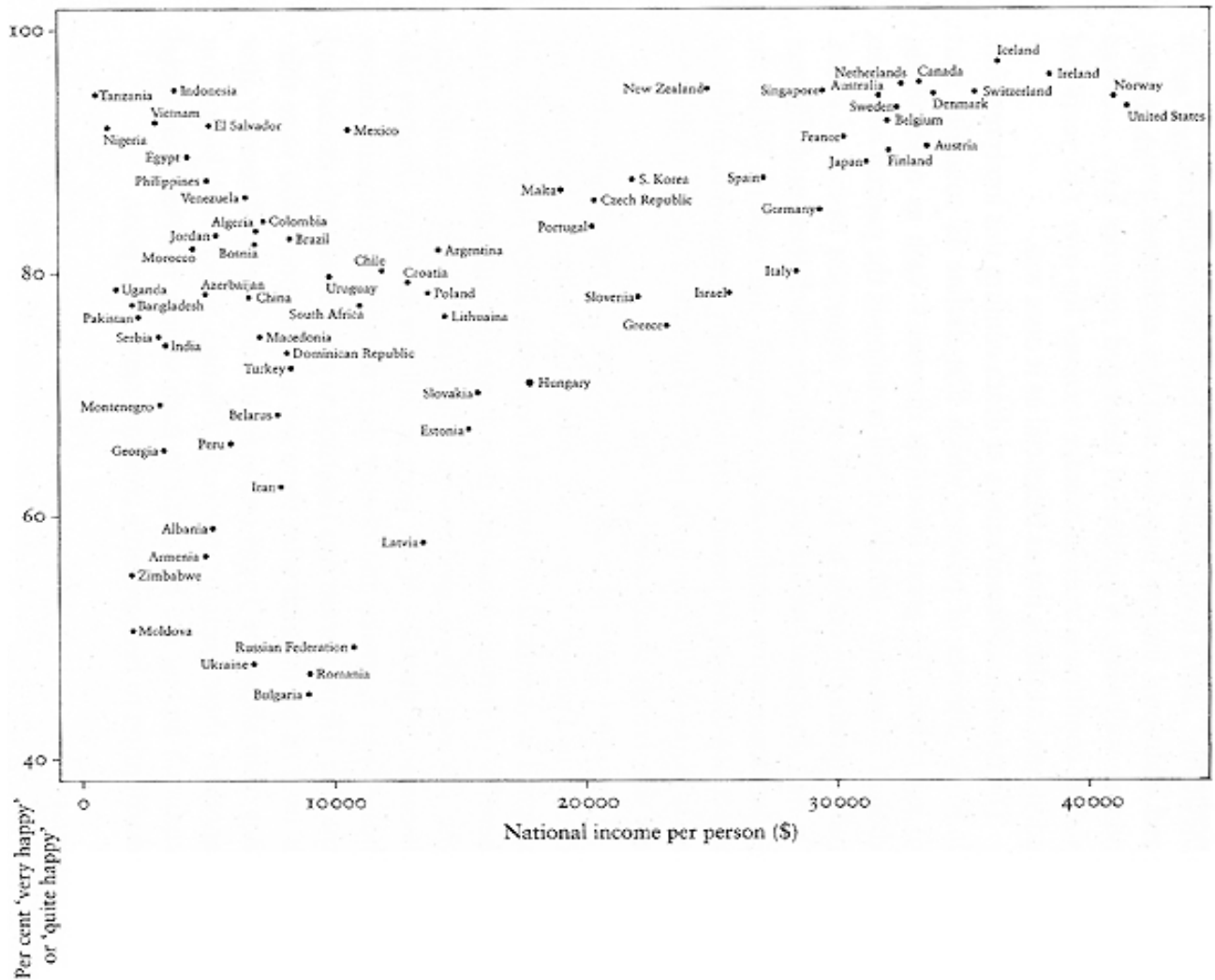
**Figure 1.1**

**Only in its early stages does economic development boost life expectancy.**



United Nations Development Program, *Human Development Report*.  
New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

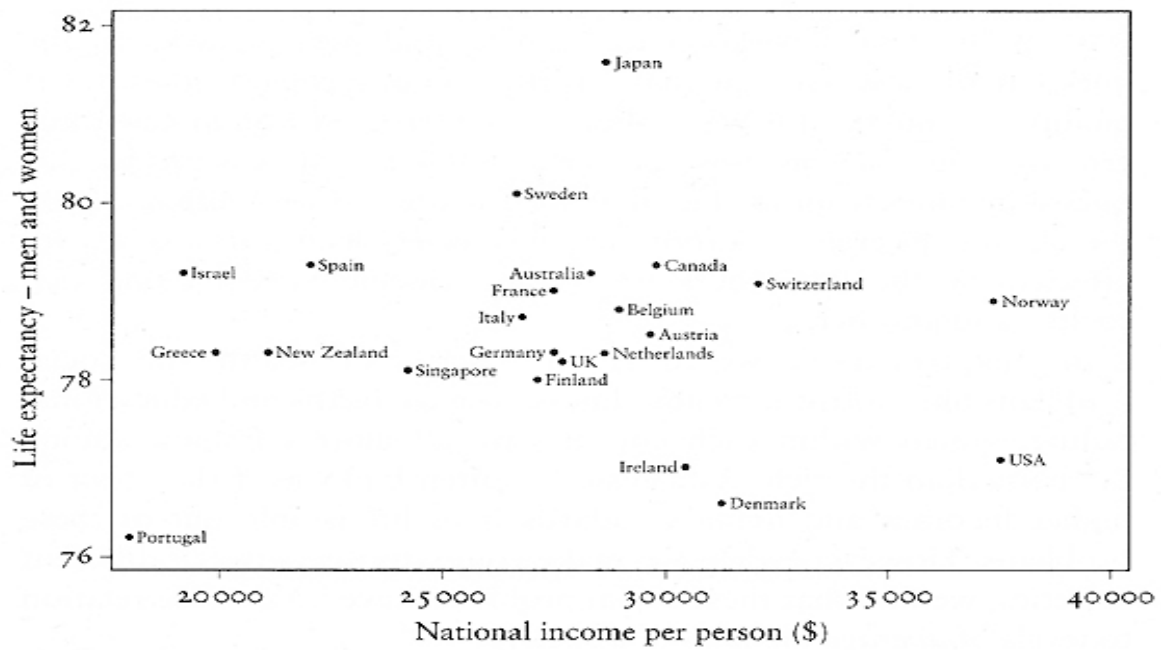
**Figure 1.2**  
**Happiness and average incomes (data for UK unavailable).**



European Values Study Group and World Values Survey Association, European and World Values Survey Integrated Data File, 1999–2001, Release 1. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, 2005.

**Figure 1.3**

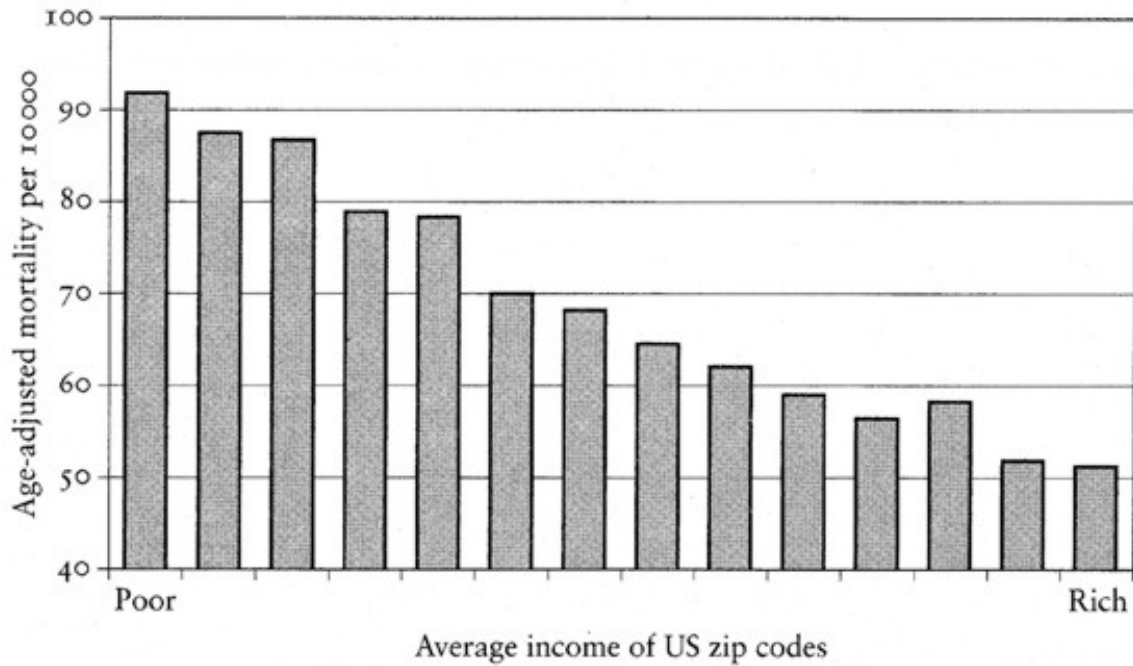
**Life expectancy is unrelated to differences in average income between rich countries.**



United Nations Development Program, *Human Development Report*.  
New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

**Figure 1.4**

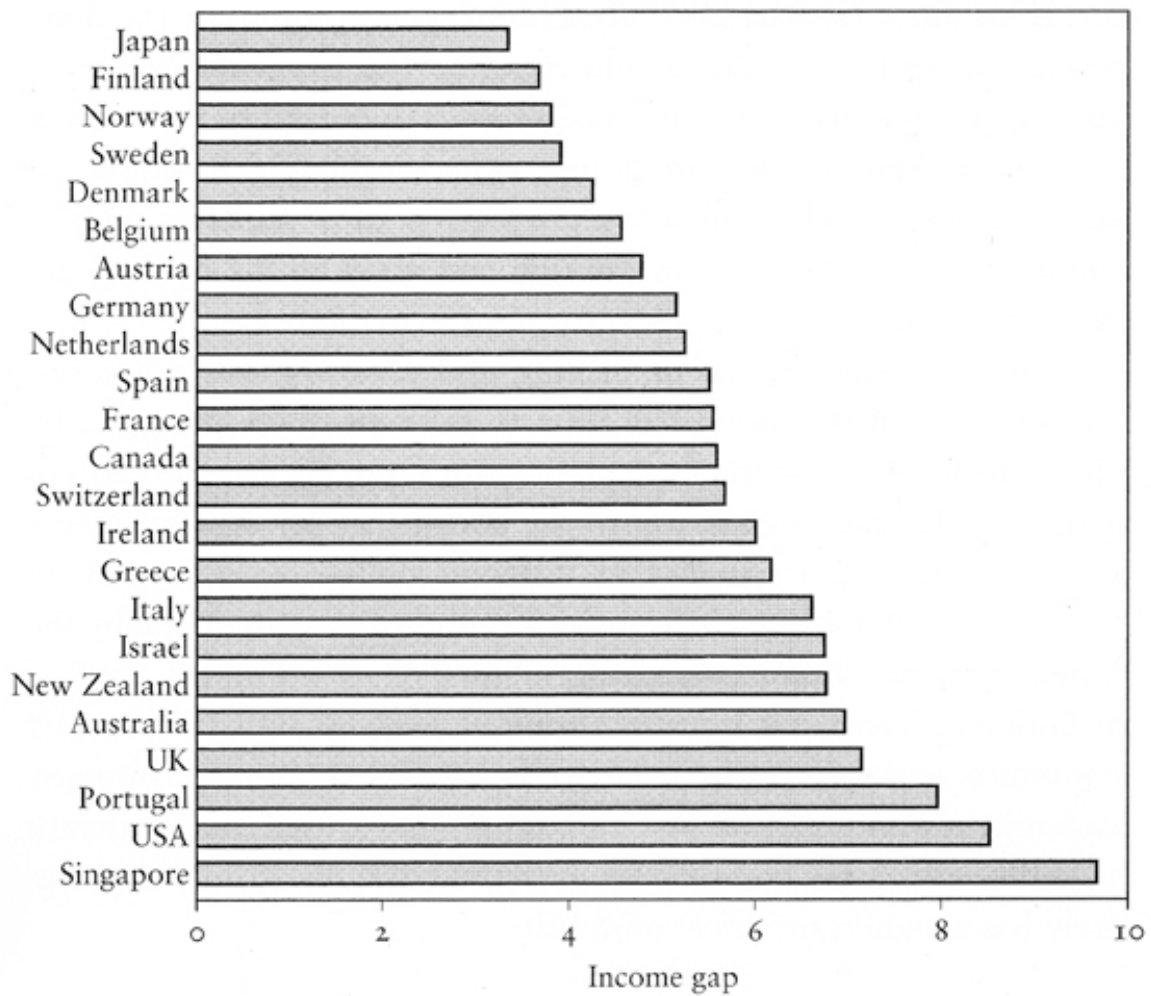
**Death rates are closely related to differences in income within societies.**



G. D. Smith, J. D. Neaton, D. Wentworth, R. Stamler and J. Stamler, 'Socioeconomic differentials in mortality risk among men screened for the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial: I. White men', *American Journal of Public Health* (1996) 86 (4): 486-96.

**Figure 2.1**

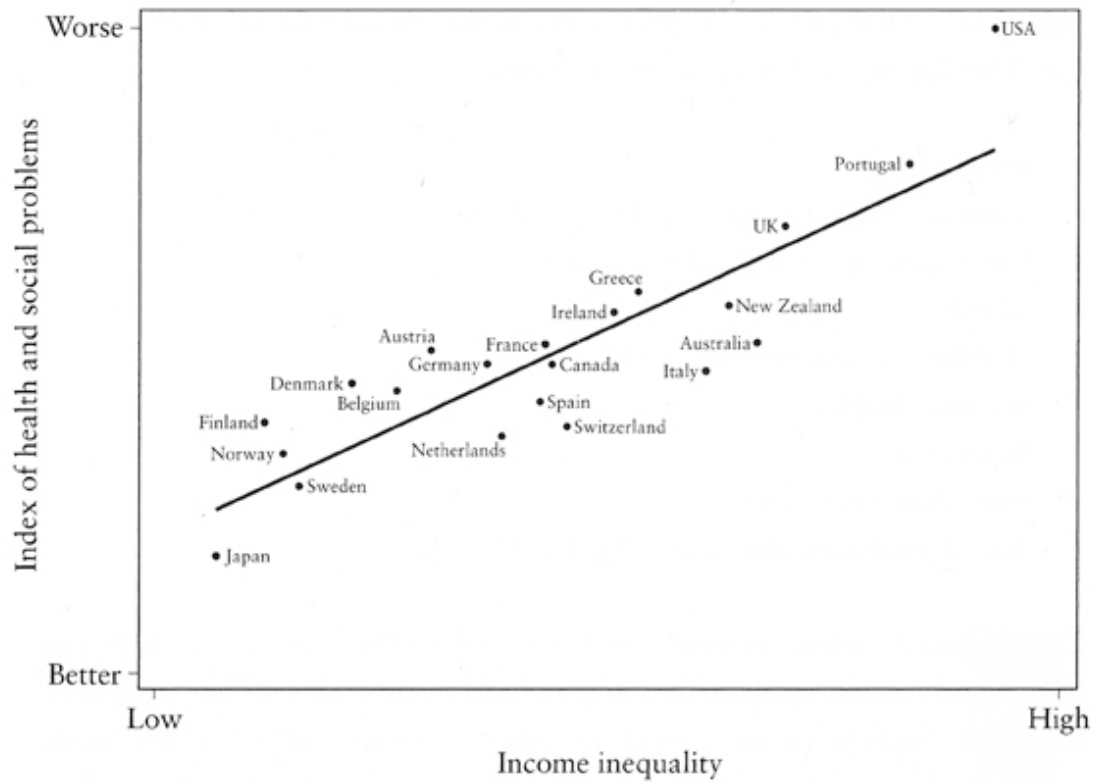
**How much richer are the richest 20 per cent than the poorest 20 per cent in each country?**



United Nations Development Program, *Human Development Report*.  
New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

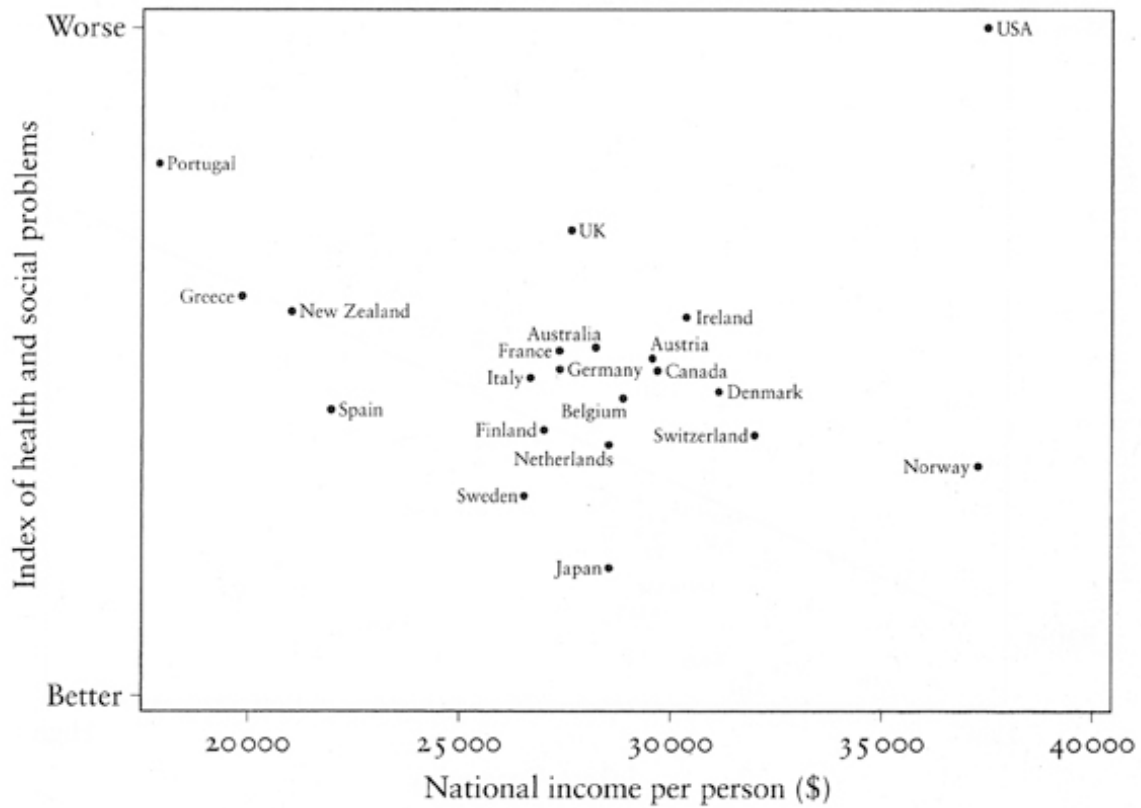
**Figure 2.2**

**Health and social problems are closely related to inequality among rich countries.**



**Figure 2.3**

**Health and social problems are only weakly related to national average income among rich countries.**





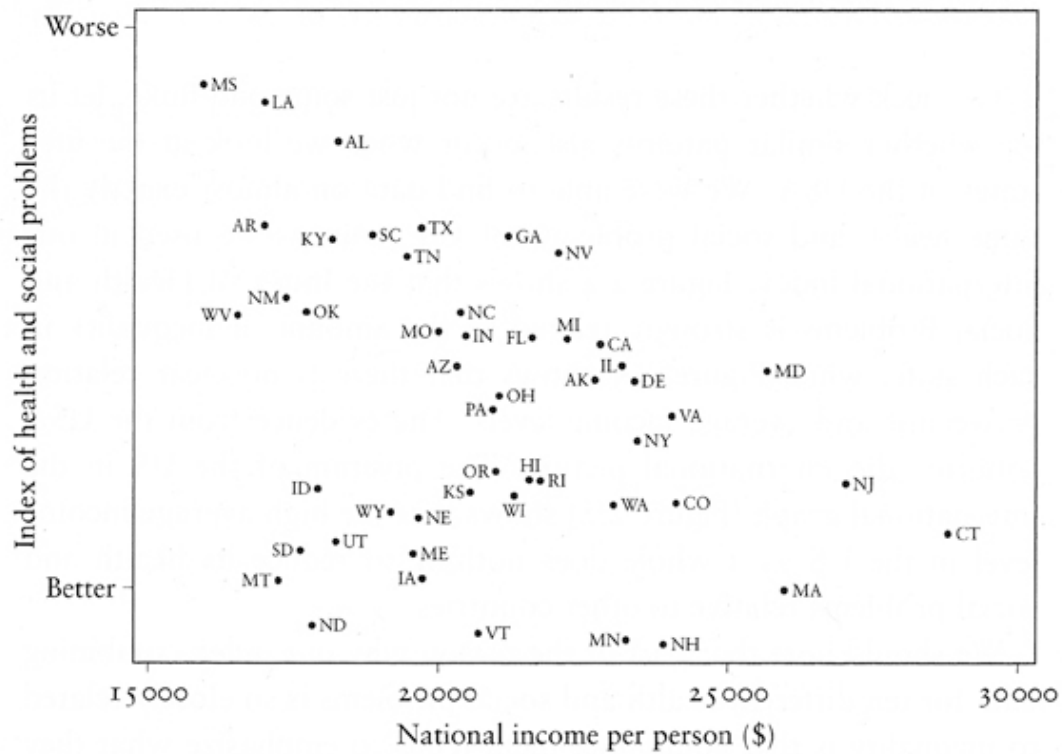
**Figure 2.4**

**Health and social problems are related to inequality in US states.**



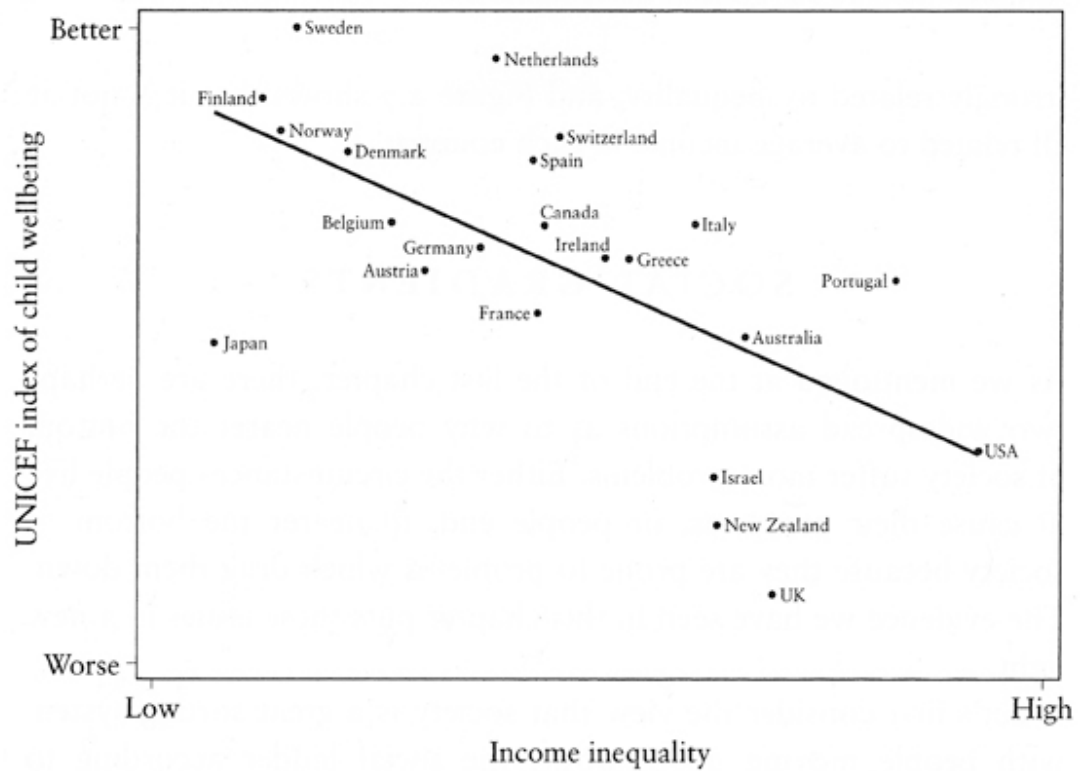
**Figure 2.5**

**Health and social problems are only weakly related to average income in US states.**



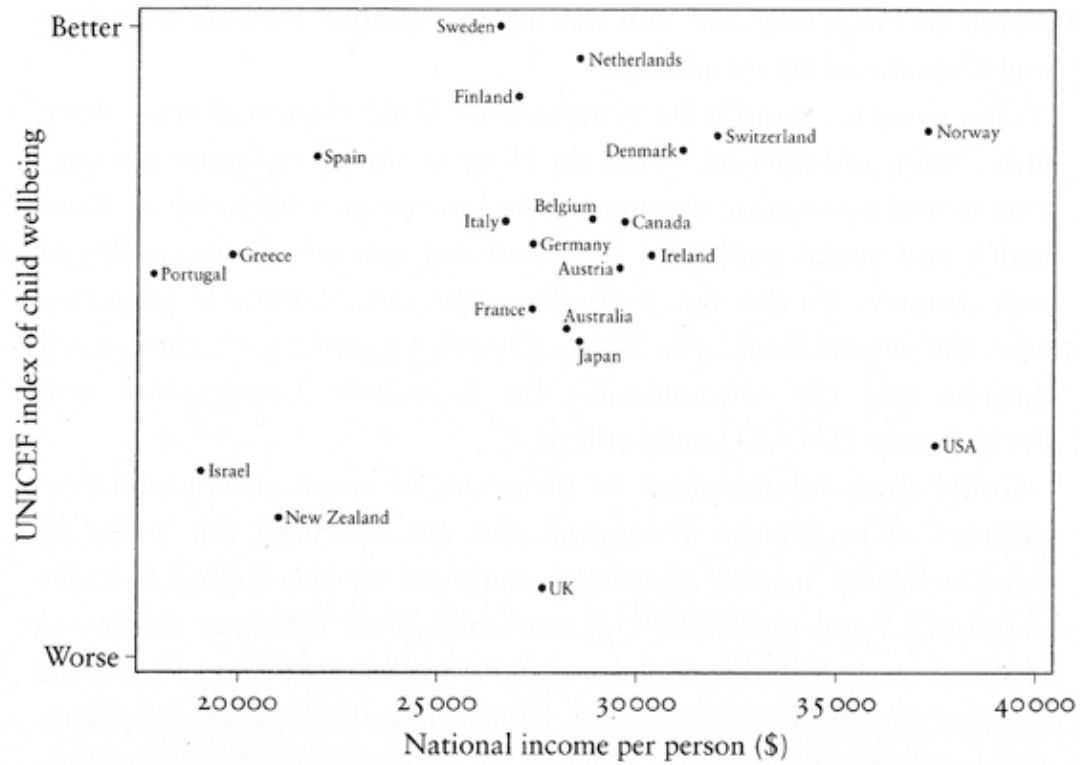
**Figure 2.6**

**The UNICEF index of child wellbeing in rich countries is related to inequality.**



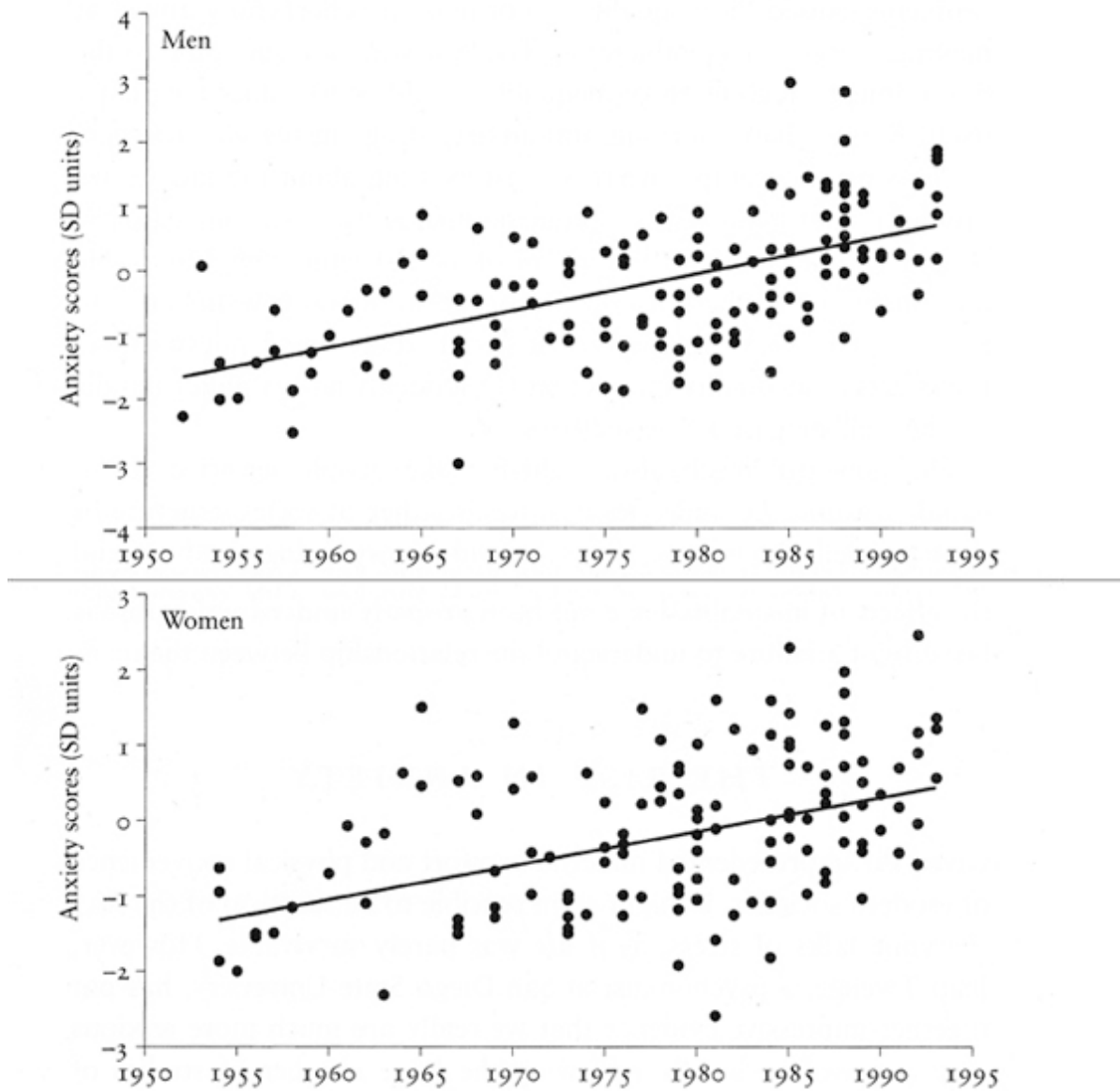
**Figure 2.7**

**The UNICEF index of child wellbeing is not related to Gross National Income per head in rich countries.**



**Figure 3.1**

**Rise in anxiety levels among US college students 1952-93. Data from 269 samples covering 52,000 individuals. (Reproduced with kind permission from Jean M. Twenge.)**



J. M. Twenge, *Generation Me*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006.

**Figure 4.1**

**The percentage of people agreeing that ‘most people can be trusted’  
is higher in more equal countries.**



**Figure 4.2**

**In more equal states more people agree that ‘most people can be trusted’.**  
(Data available for only forty-one US states.)

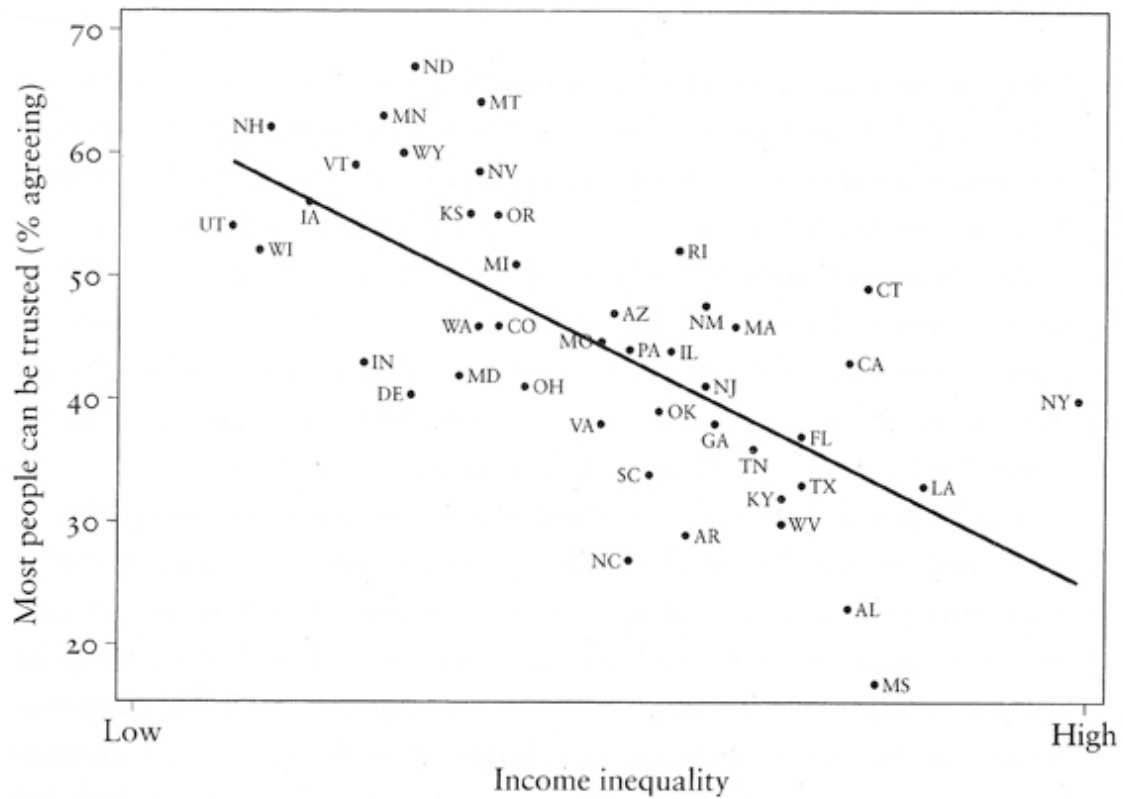
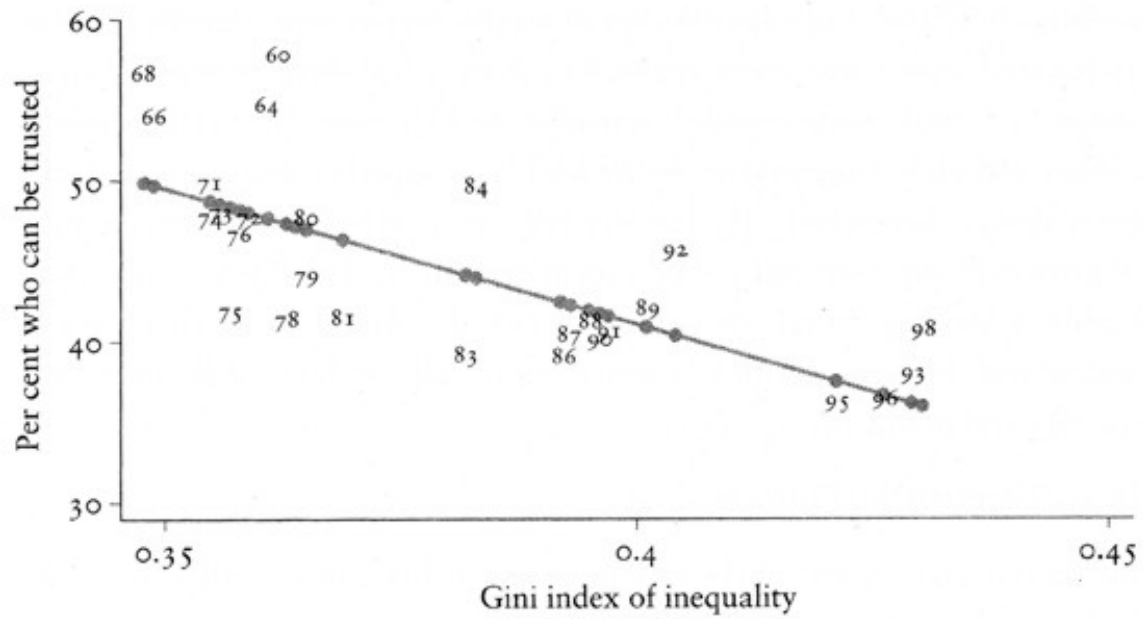


Figure 4.3

As inequality increased, so trust declined.

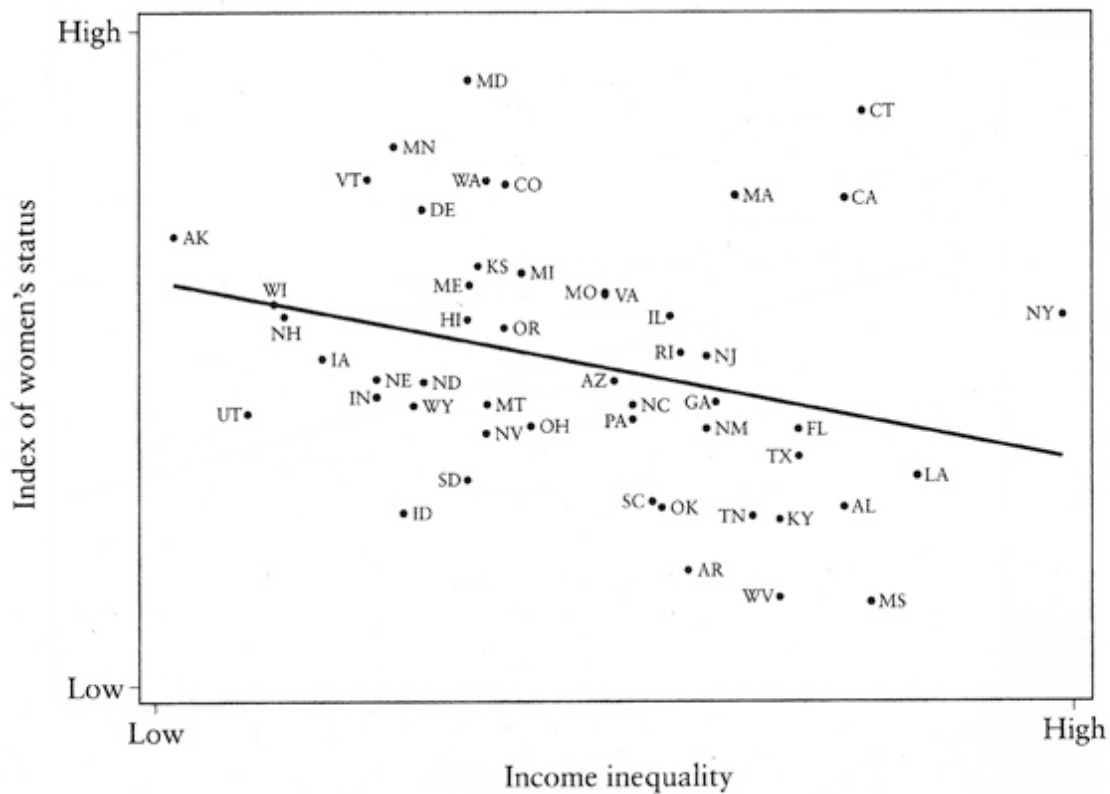


E. Uslaner, *The Moral Foundations of Trust*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002, p. 187.



**Figure 4.4**

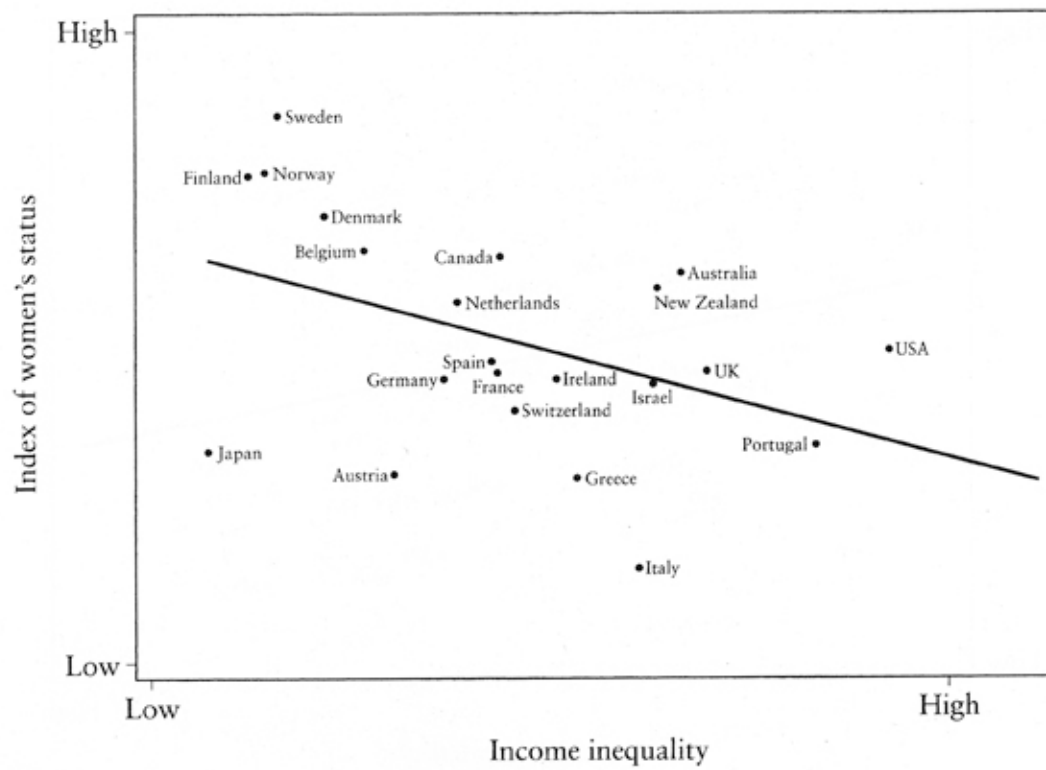
**Women's status and inequality in US states.**



I. Kawachi, B. P. Kennedy, V. Gupta and D. Prothrow-Stith, 'Women's status and the health of women and men: a view from the States', *Social Science and Medicine* (1999) 48 (1): 21-32.

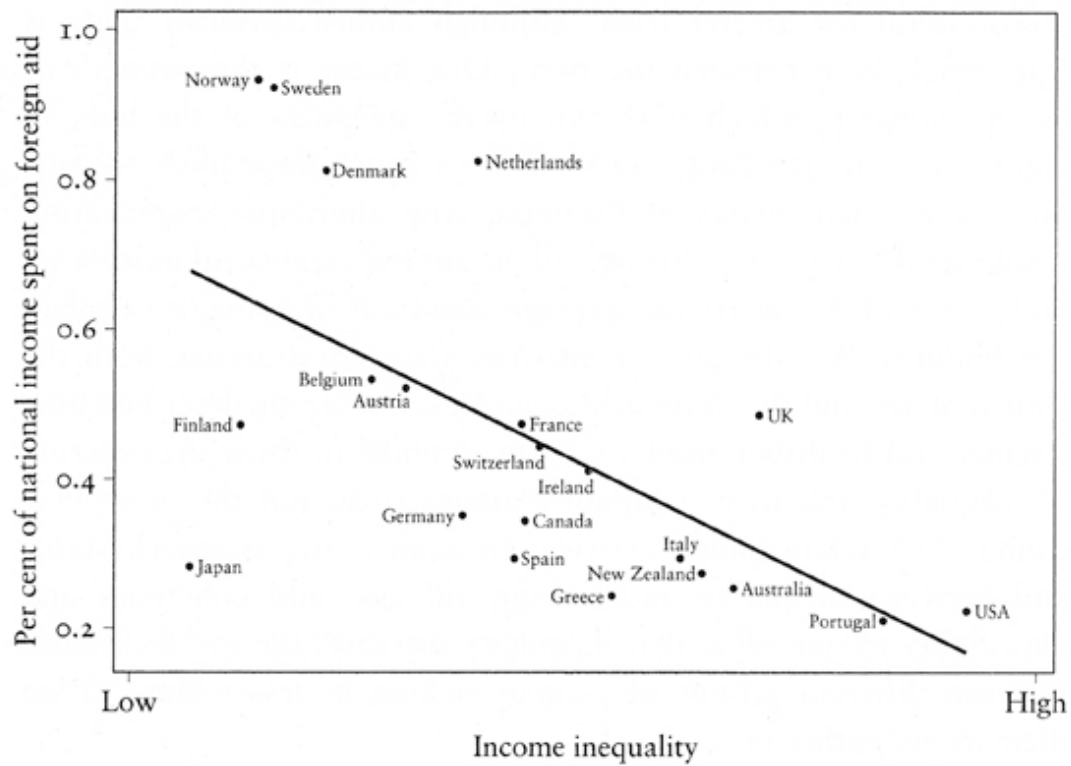
**Figure 4.5**

**Women's status and inequality in rich countries.**



**Figure 4.6**

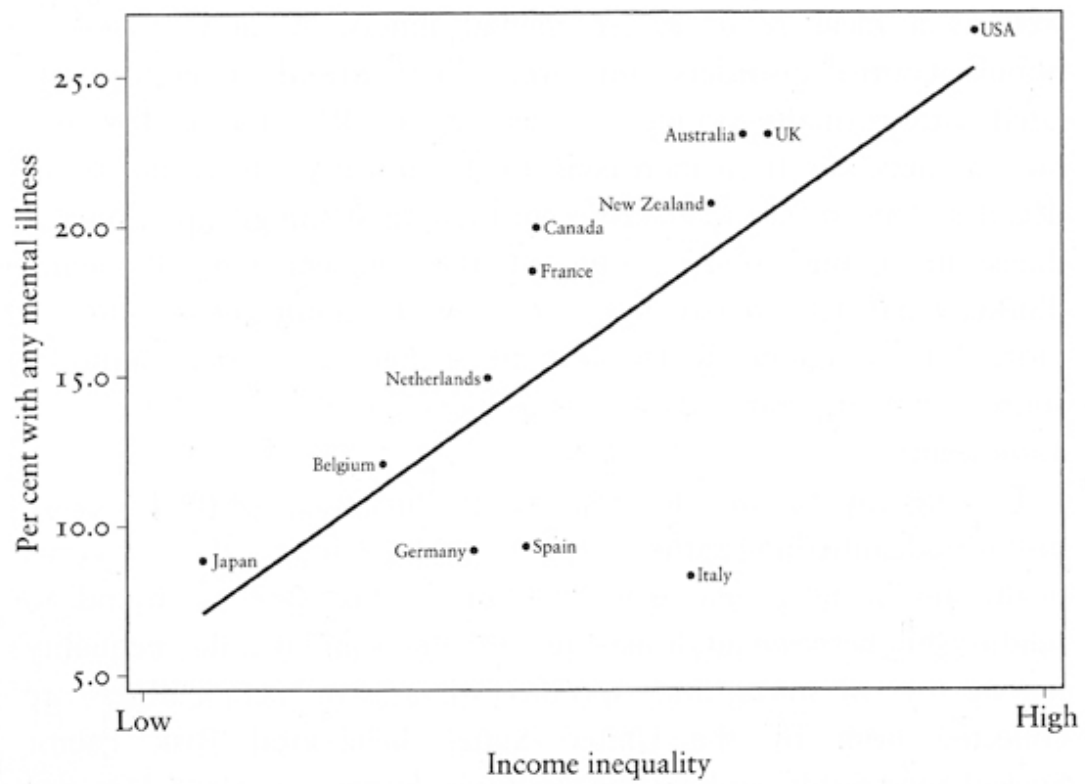
**Spending on foreign aid and inequality in rich countries.**



OECD, International Development Statistics Online. OECD. Stat:  
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/50/17/5037721.htm>, 2005.

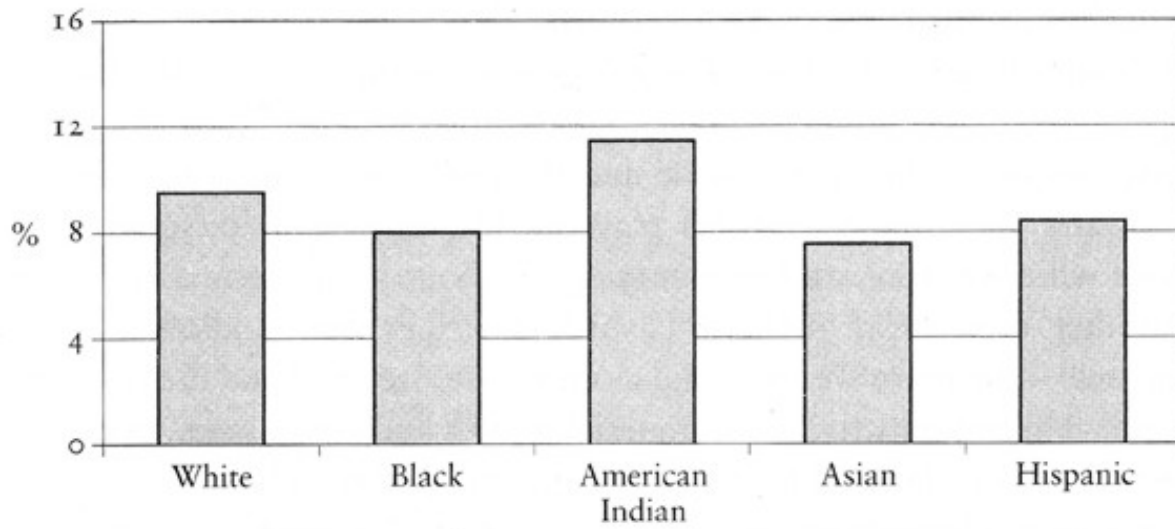
**Figure 5.1**

**More people suffer from mental illnesses in more unequal countries.**



**Figure 5.2**

**US adults reporting frequent mental distress, 1993-2001.**



Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 'Self-reported frequent mental distress among adults—United States, 1993-2001' (2004) 53: 963-6.

**Figure 5.3**

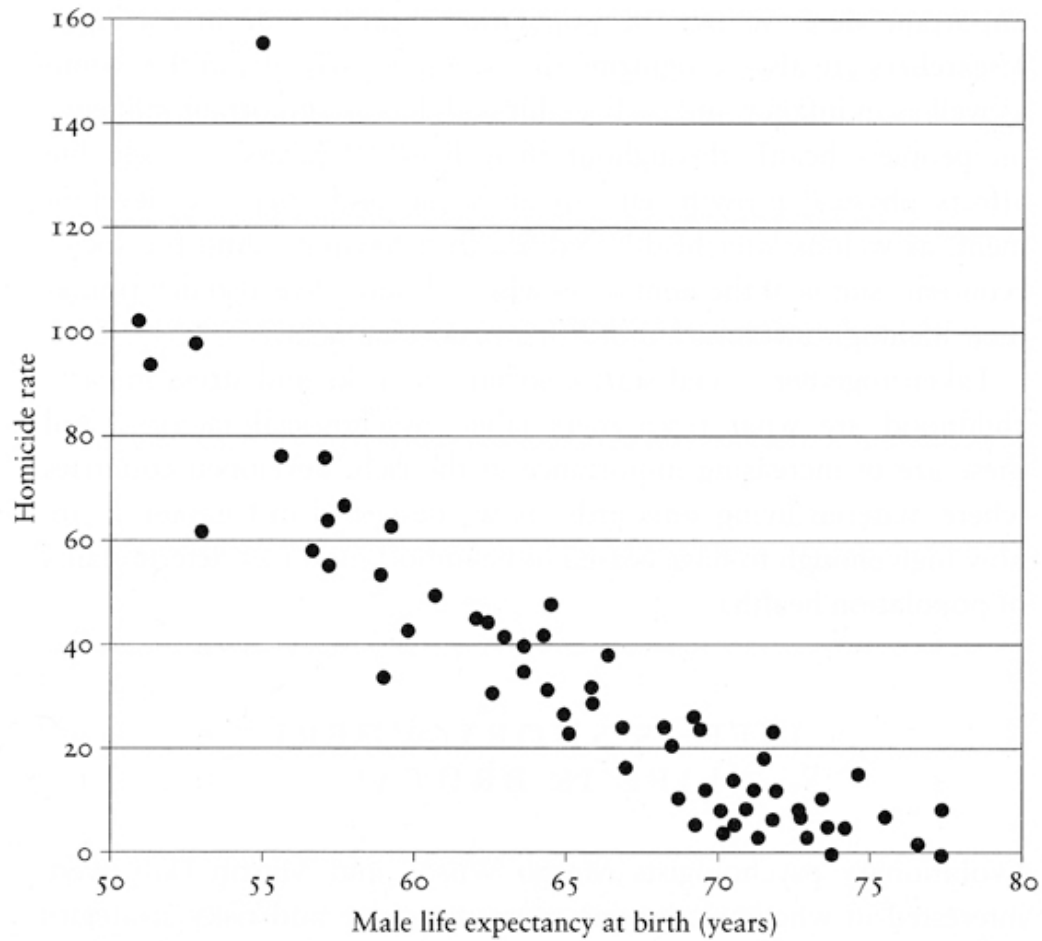
**The use of illegal drugs is more common in more unequal countries.**



United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report*.  
Vienna: UN Office on Drugs and Crime, 2007.

**Figure 6.1**

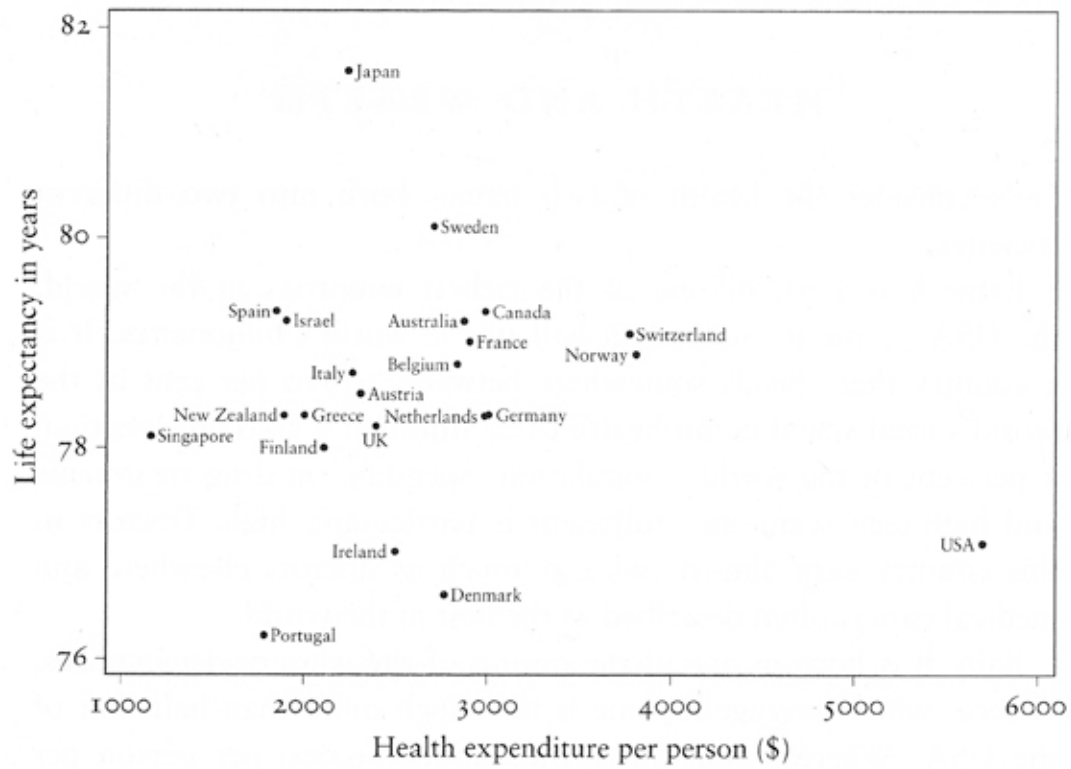
**Homicide rates are related to male life expectancy in seventy-seven neighbourhoods in Chicago.  
(Calculation of life expectancy included deaths from all causes except homicide.)**



M. Wilson and M. Daly, 'Life expectancy, economic inequality, homicide, and reproductive timing in Chicago neighbourhoods', *British Medical Journal* (1997) 314 (7089): 1271-4.

**Figure 6.2**

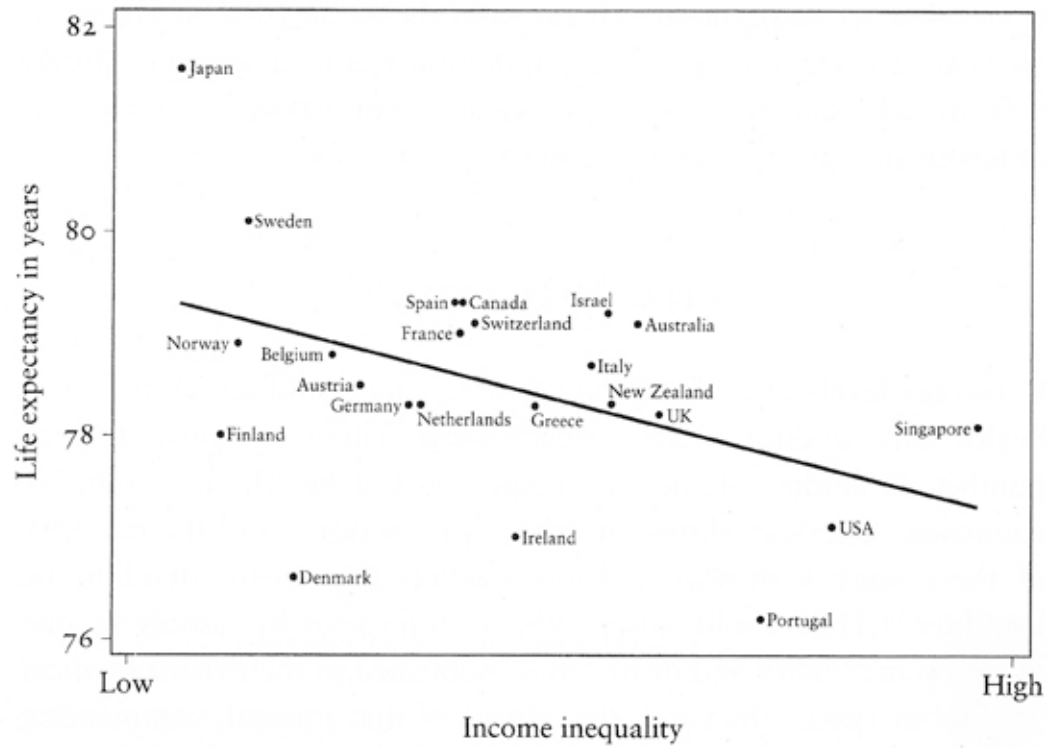
**Life expectancy is unrelated to spending on health care in rich countries  
(currencies converted to reflect purchasing power).**





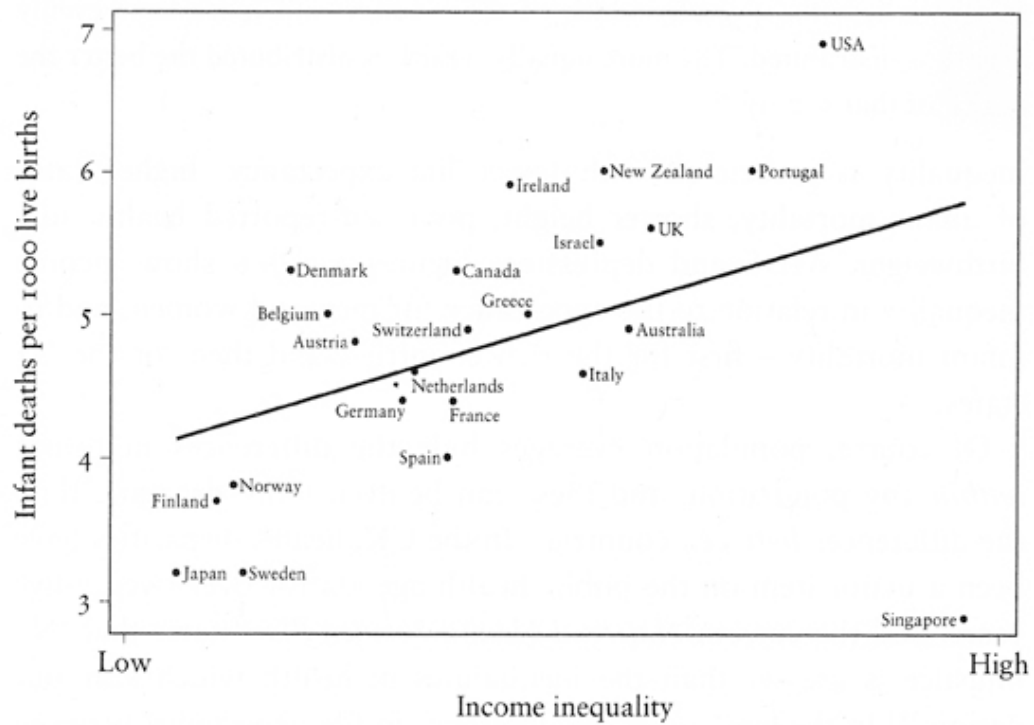
**Figure 6.3**

**Life expectancy is related to inequality in rich countries.**



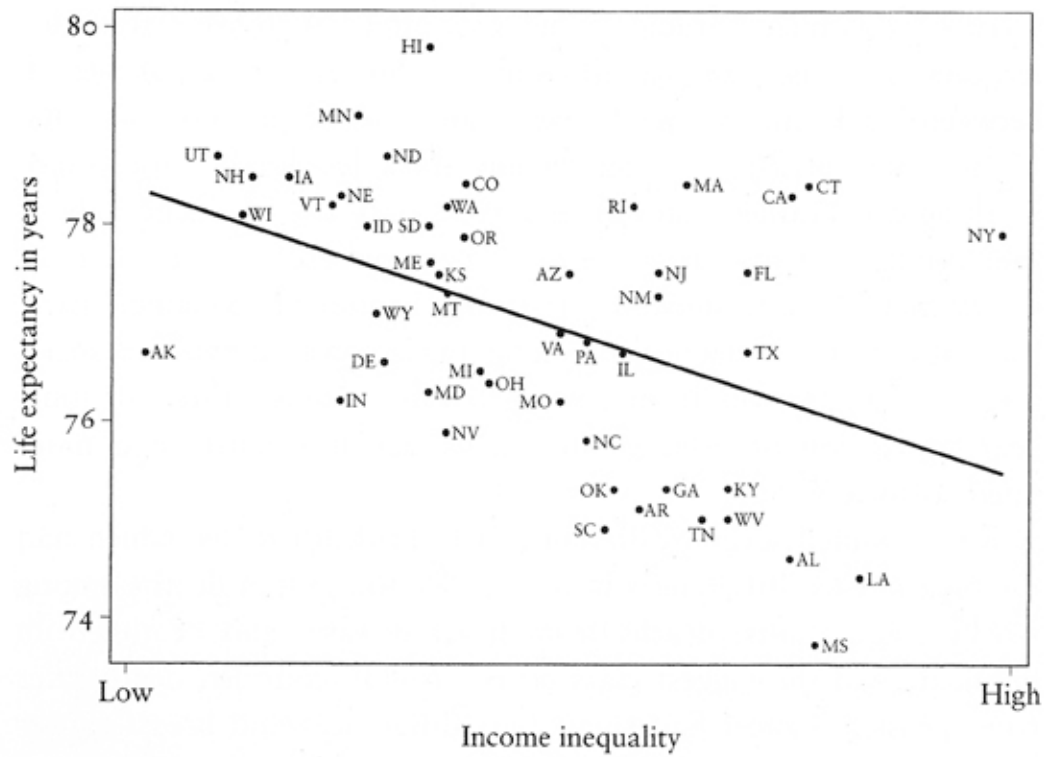
**Figure 6.4**

**Infant mortality is related to inequality in rich countries.**



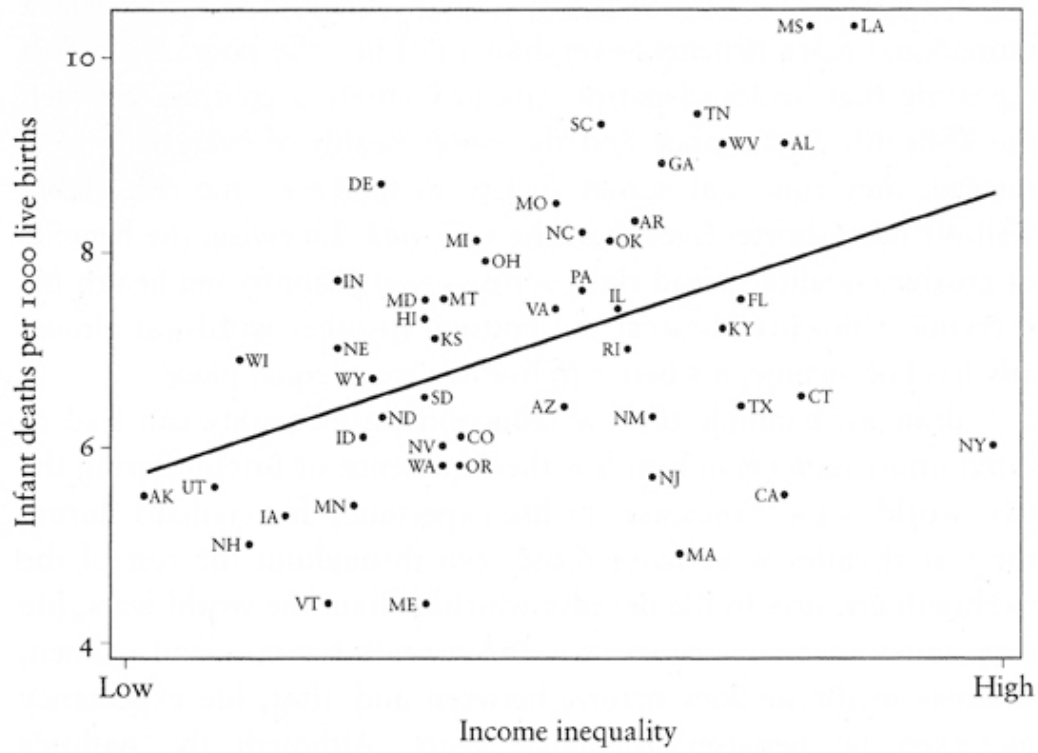
**Figure 6.5**

**Life expectancy is related to inequality in US states.**



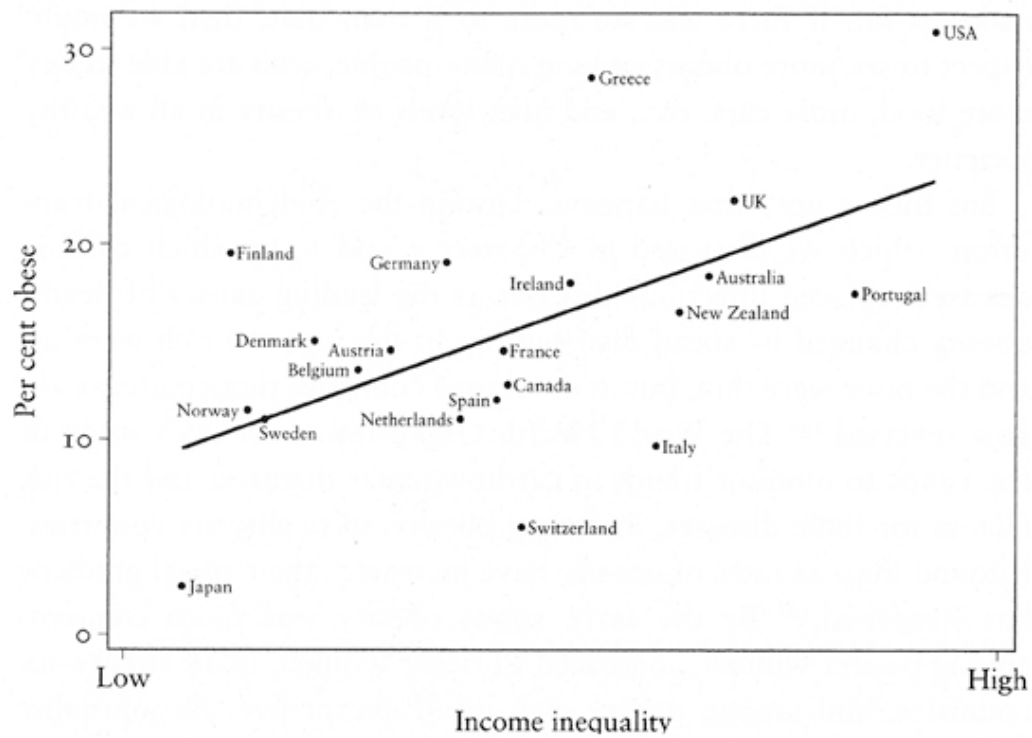
**Figure 6.6**

**Infant mortality is related to inequality in US states.**



**Figure 7.1**

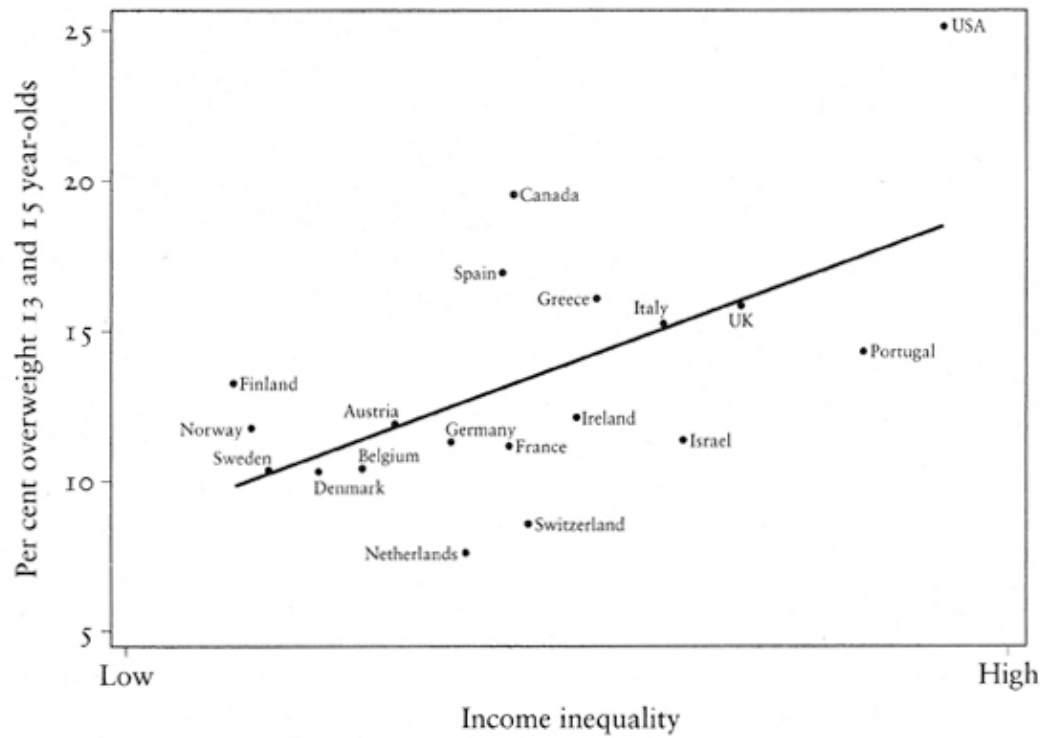
**More adults are obese in more unequal countries.**



International Obesity Taskforce, *Overweight and Obese*. London: International Obesity Taskforce, 2002.

**Figure 7.2**

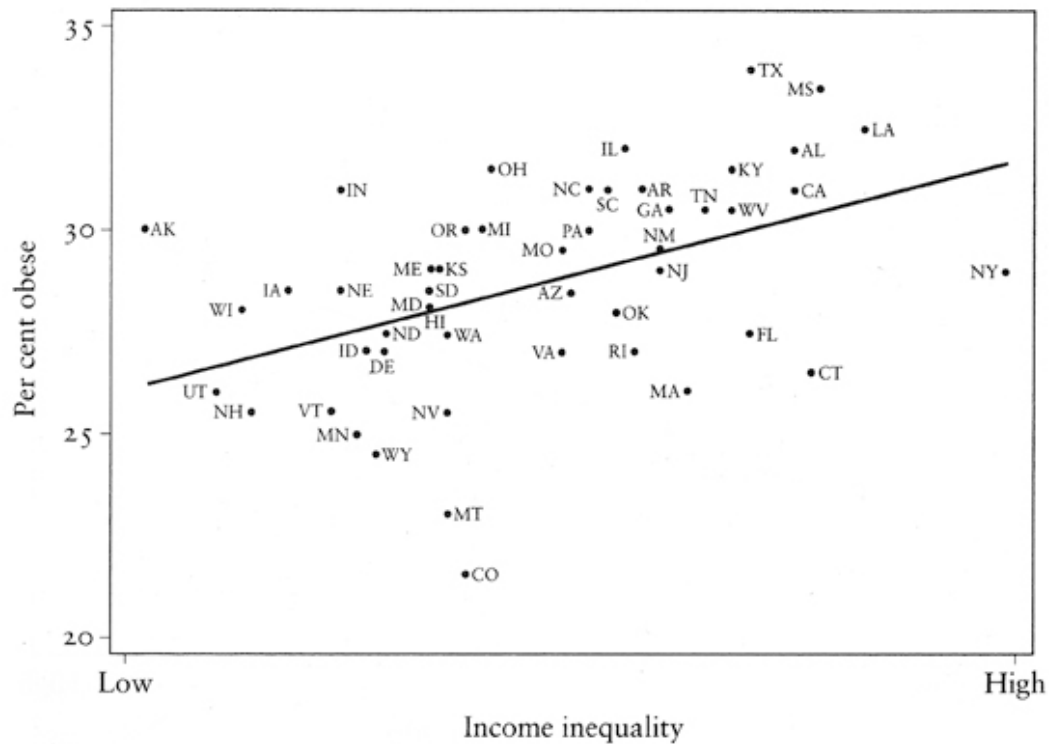
**More children are overweight in more unequal countries.**



UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. *Child Poverty in Perspective: An overview of child well-being in rich countries*. Florence: Innocenti Report Card, 2007.

**Figure 7.3**

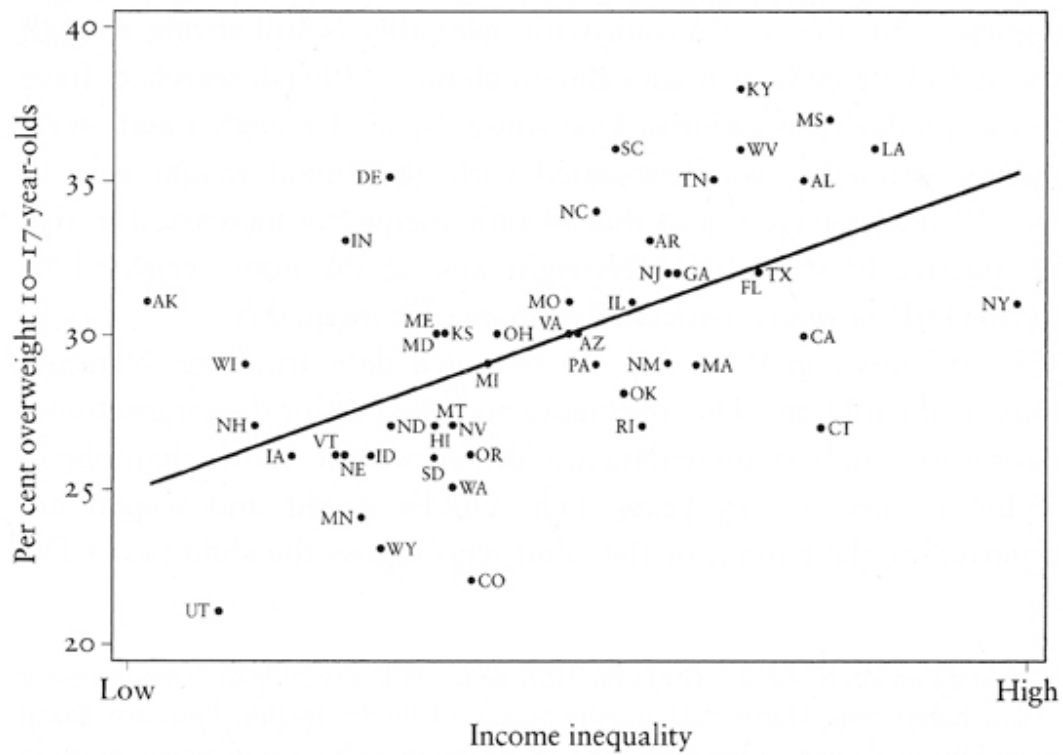
**More adults are obese in more unequal US states.**



M. Ezzati, H. Martin, S. Skjold, S. vander Hoorn and C. J. Murray, 'Trends in national and state-level obesity in the USA after correction for self-report bias: analysis of health surveys', *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* (2006) 99 (5): 250-7.

**Figure 7.4**

**More children are overweight in more unequal US states.**





**Figure 8.1**

**Maths and literacy scores of 15-year-olds are lower in more unequal countries.**

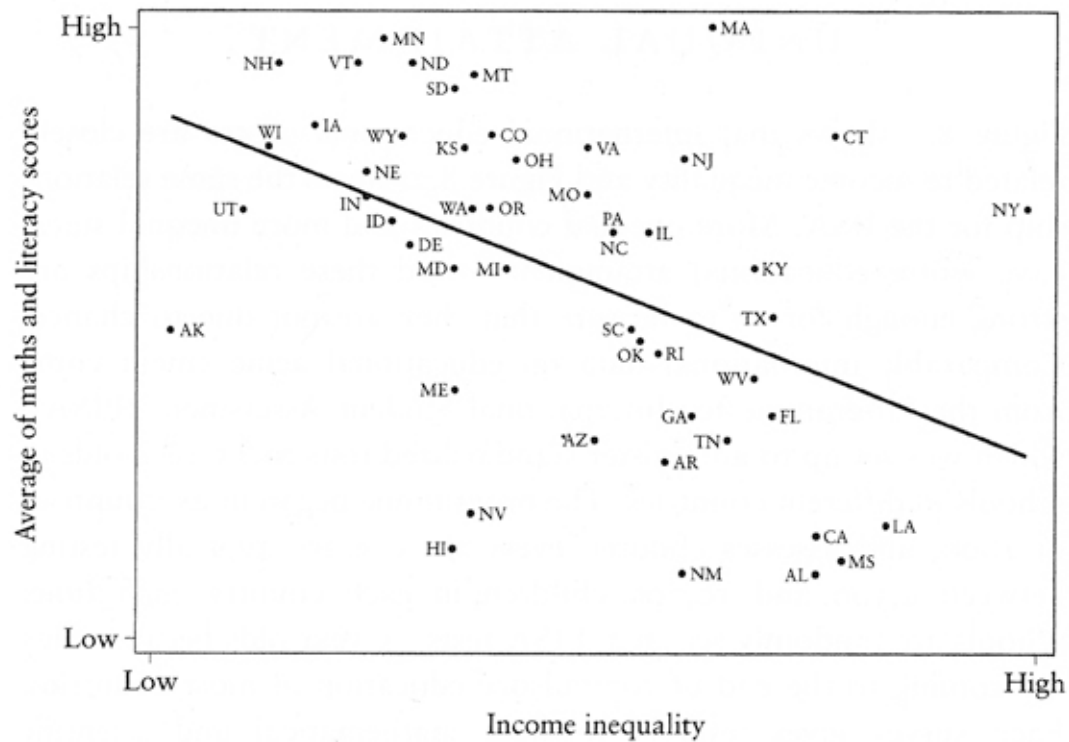


R. Wilkinson and K. E. Pickett, 'Health inequalities and the UK Presidency of the EU', *Lancet* (2006) 367 (9517): 1126-8.

R. G. Wilkinson and K. E. Pickett, 'The problems of relative deprivation: why some societies do better than others', *Social Science and Medicine* (2007) 65 (9): 1965-78.

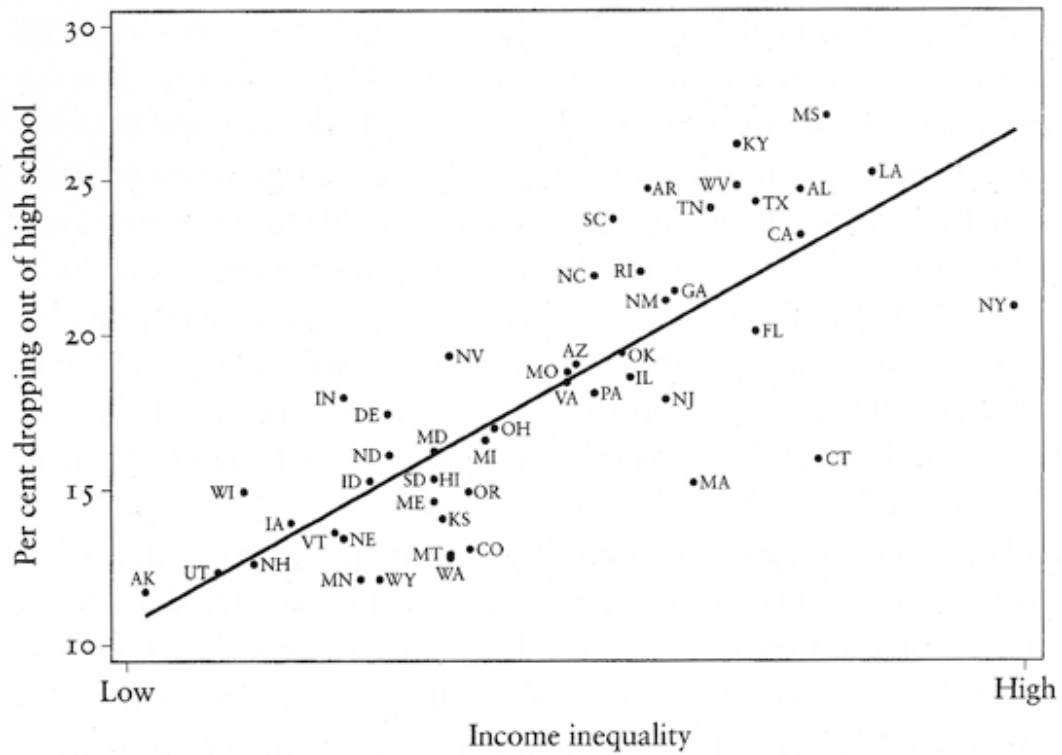
**Figure 8.2**

**Maths and literacy scores of eighth-graders are lower in more unequal US states.**



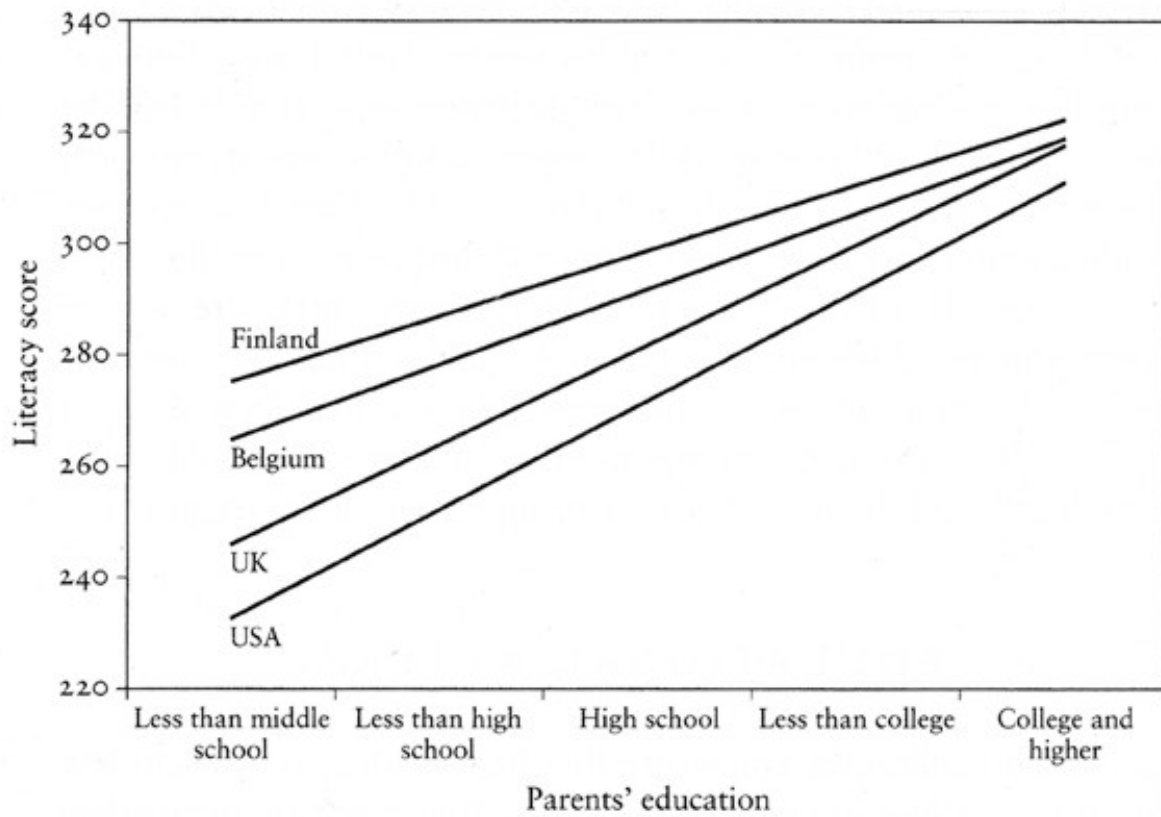
**Figure 8.3**

**More children drop out of high school in more unequal US states.**



**Figure 8.4**

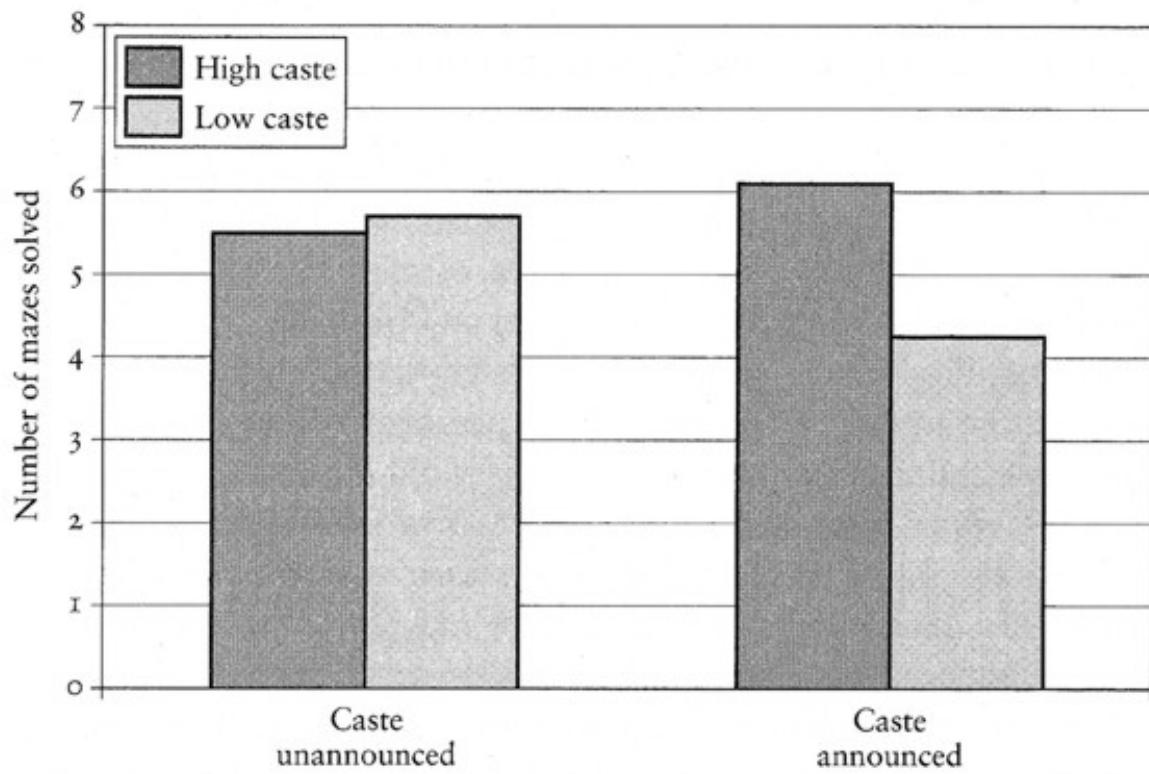
**Literacy scores in relation to parents' education in four countries**  
(data source: International Adult Literacy Survey).



J. D. Willms, 'Literacy proficiency of youth: evidence of converging socioeconomic gradients',  
*International Journal of Educational Research* (2003) 39: 247-52.

**Figure 8.5**

**The effect of caste identity on performance in Indian school boys.**



K. Hoff and P. Pandey, *Belief Systems and Durable Inequalities: An experimental investigation of Indian caste*. Policy Research Working Paper. Washington, DC: World Bank, 2004.

**Figure 8.6**

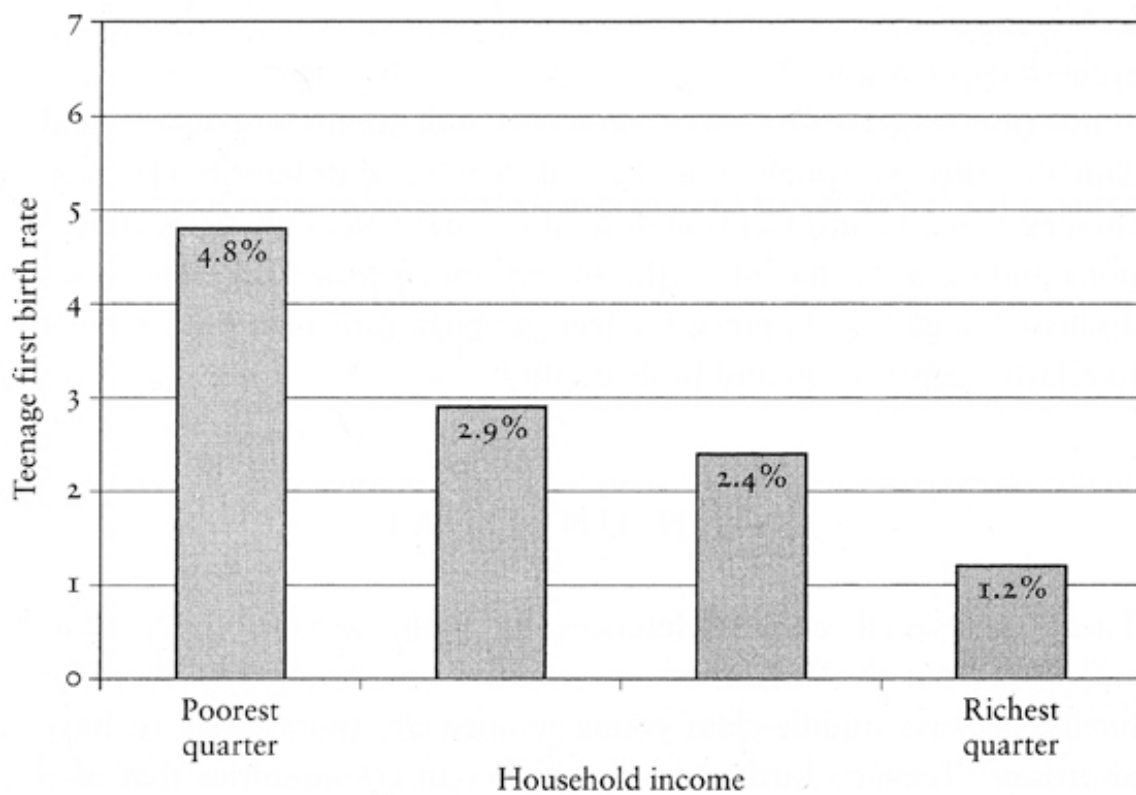
**Aspirations of 15-year-olds and inequality in rich countries.**



UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. *Child Poverty in Perspective: An overview of child well-being in rich countries*. Florence: Innocenti Report Card, 2007.

**Figure 9.1**

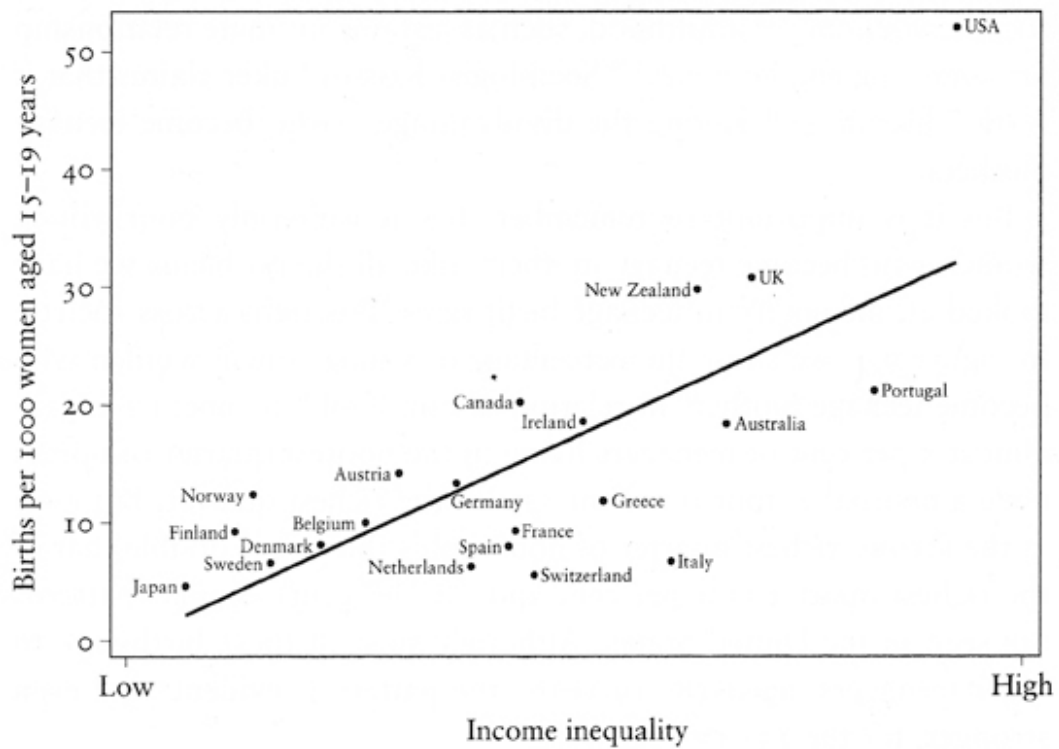
**There is a gradient in teenage birth rates by household income, from poorest to richest.**



J. Ermisch and D. Pevalin, *Who Has a Child as a Teenager?* ISER Working Papers, Number 2003-30.  
Institute for Economic and Social Research, University of Essex, 2003.

**Figure 9.2**

**Teenage birth rates are higher in more unequal countries.**

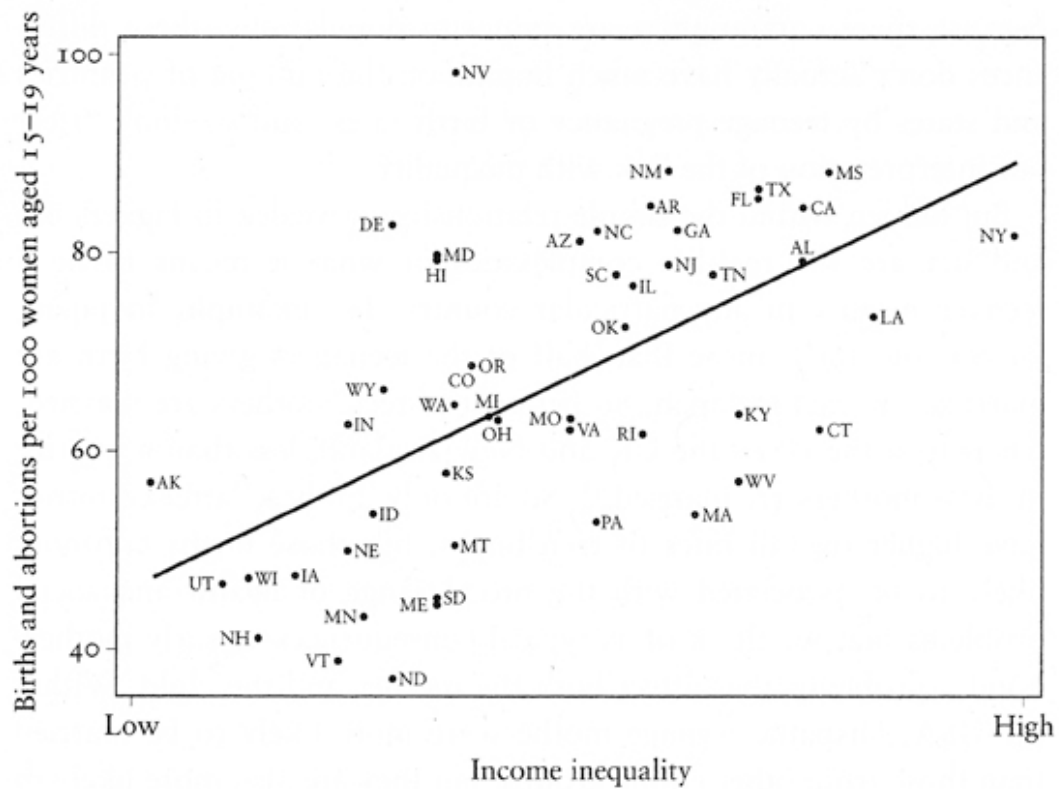


K. E. Pickett, J. Mookherjee and R. G. Wilkinson, 'Adolescent birth rates, total homicides, and income inequality in rich countries', *American Journal of Public Health* (2005) 95 (7): 1181-3.



**Figure 9.3**

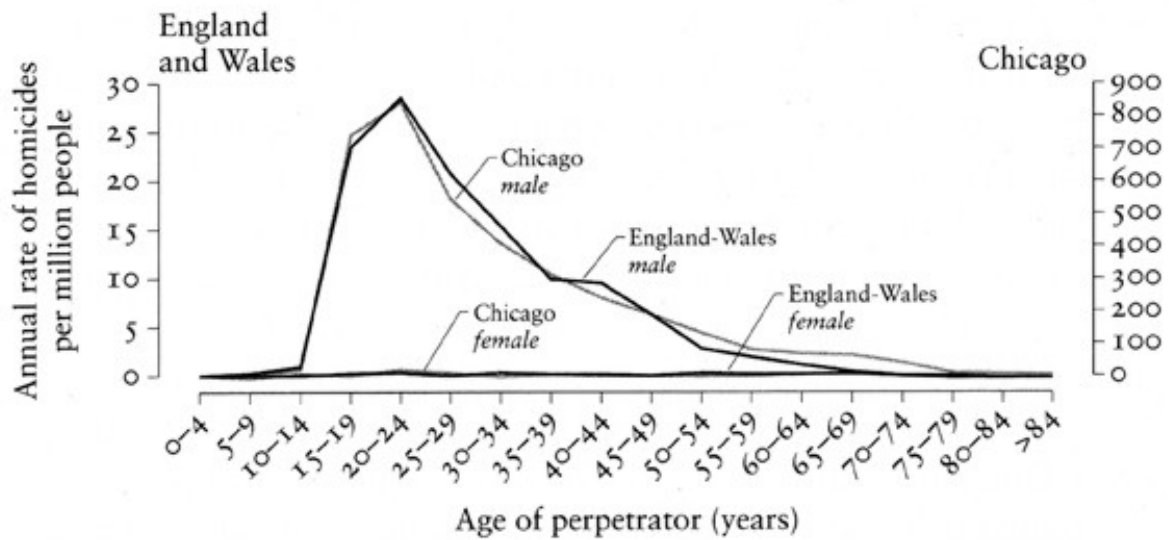
**Teenage pregnancy rates are higher in more unequal US states.**



S. J. Ventura, T. J. Mathews and B. E. Hamilton, 'Teenage births in the United States: trends, 1991-2000, an update', *National Vital Statistics Reports* (2002) 50 (9).

Figure 10.1

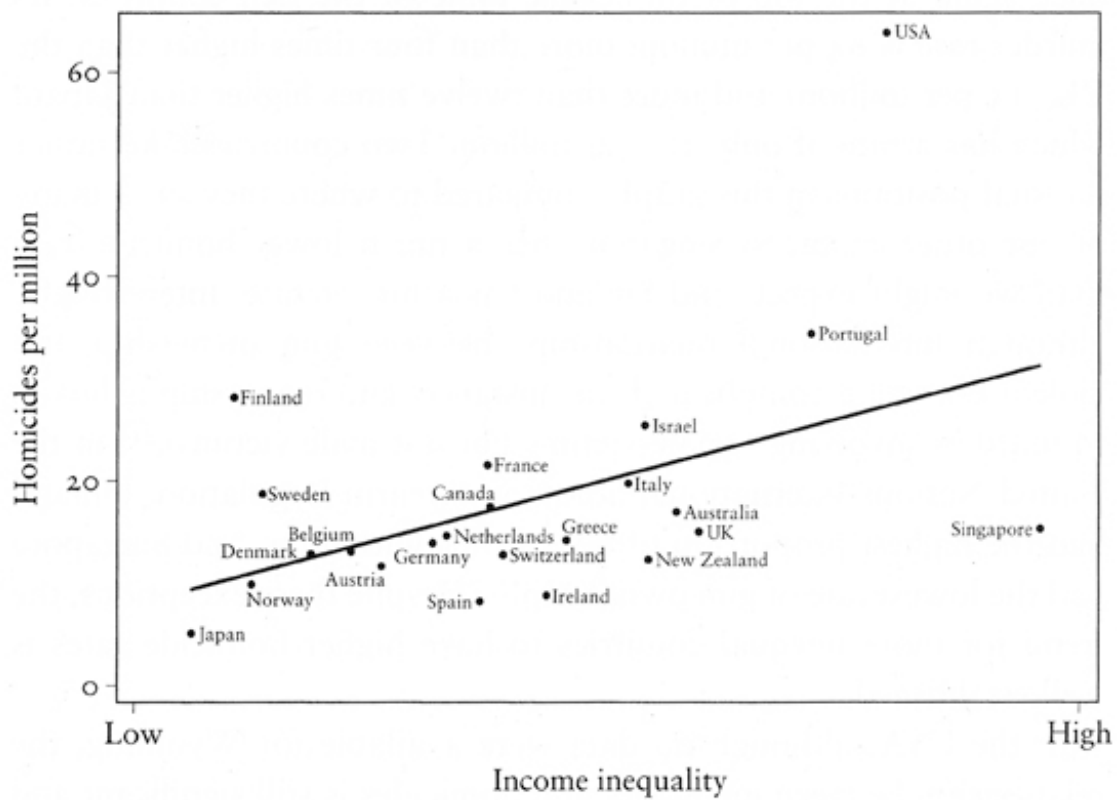
Homicides by age and sex of perpetrator. England and Wales compared with Chicago.



H. Cronin, *The Ant and the Peacock*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

**Figure 10.2**

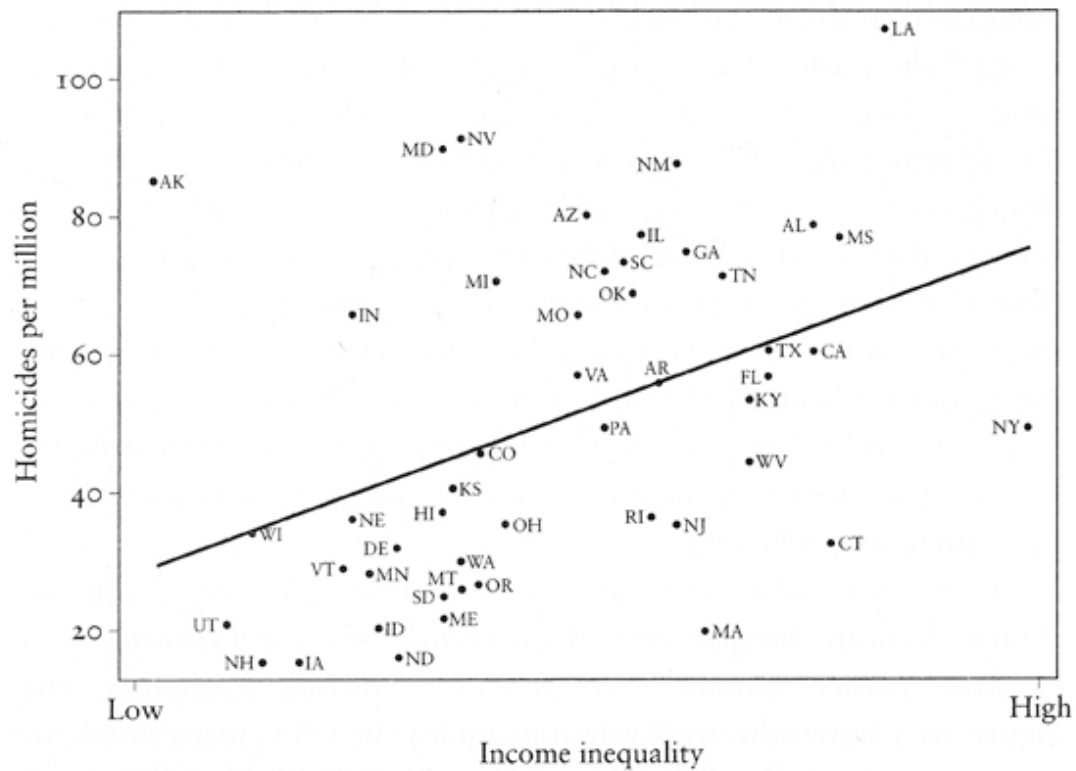
**Homicides are more common in more unequal countries.**



United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network, *Survey on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth)*. New York: United Nations, 2000.

**Figure 10.3**

**Homicides are more common in more unequal US states.**



Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States*. Washington, DC:  
US Government Printing Office, 1990-2000.

**Figure 10.4**

**There is more conflict between children in more unequal countries (based on percentages reporting fighting, bullying and finding peers not kind and helpful).**

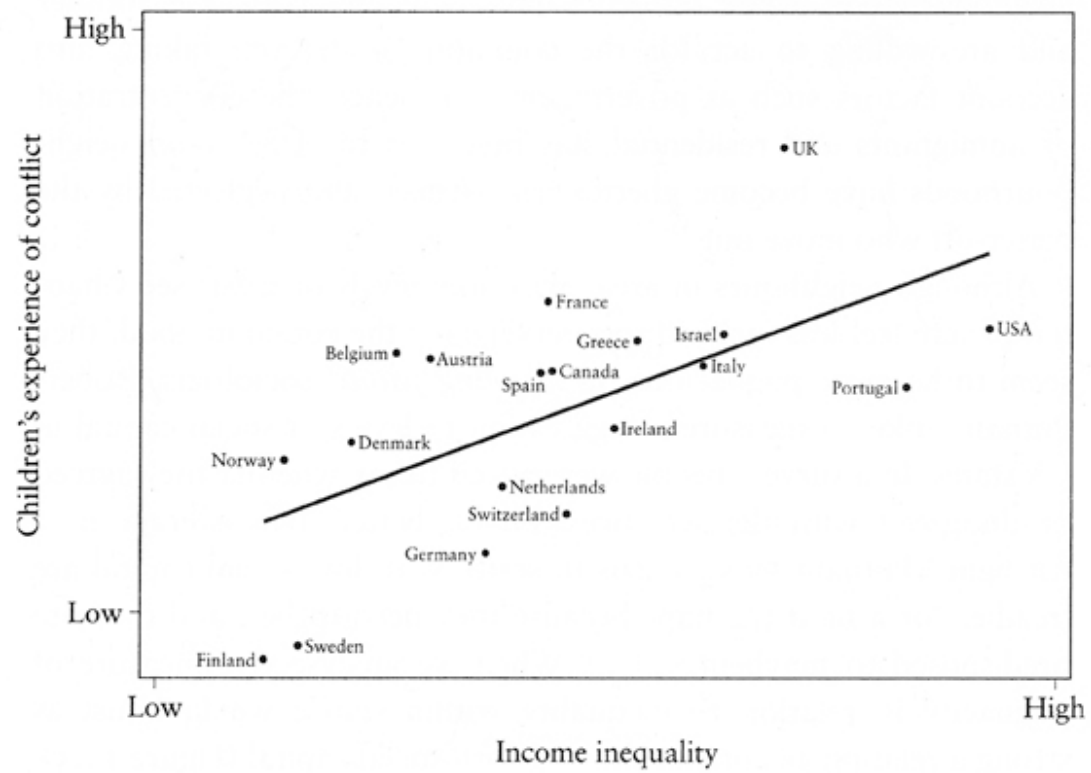


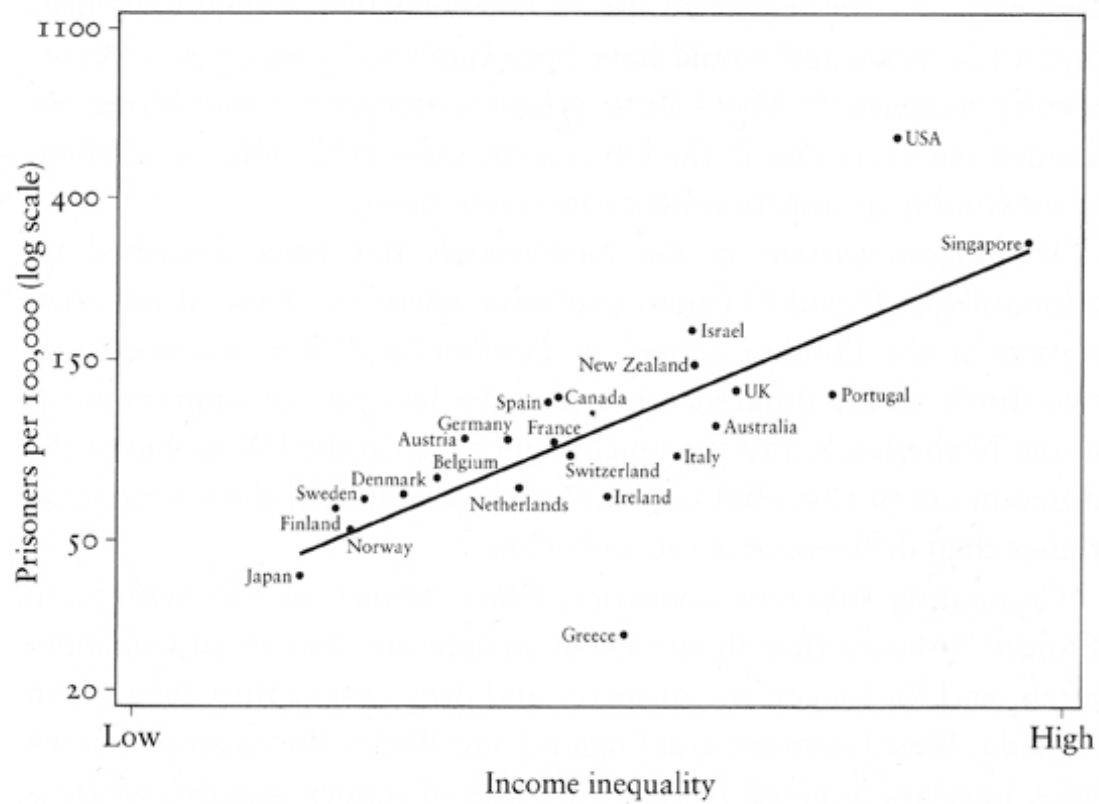
Figure 10.5

In less equal states more people think they would do better than average in a fist fight.



**Figure 11.1**

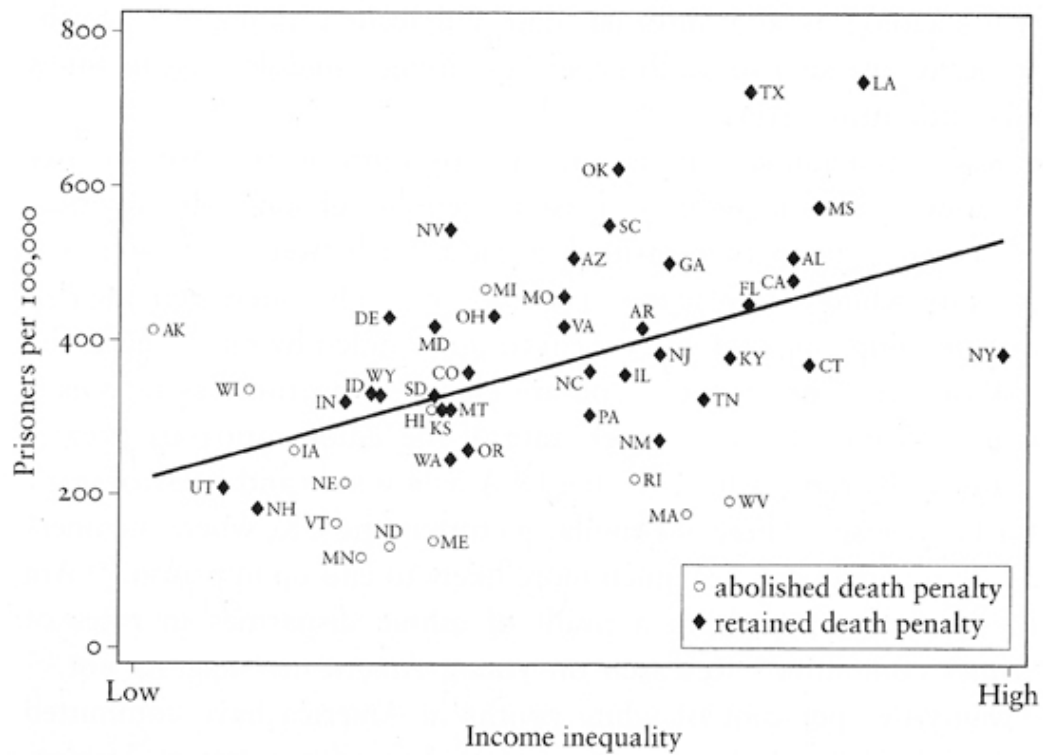
**More people are imprisoned in more unequal countries.**



R. G. Wilkinson and K. E. Pickett, 'The problems of relative deprivation: why some societies do better than others', *Social Science and Medicine* (2007) 65 (9): 1965-78.

**Figure 11.2**

**More people are imprisoned in more unequal US states.**

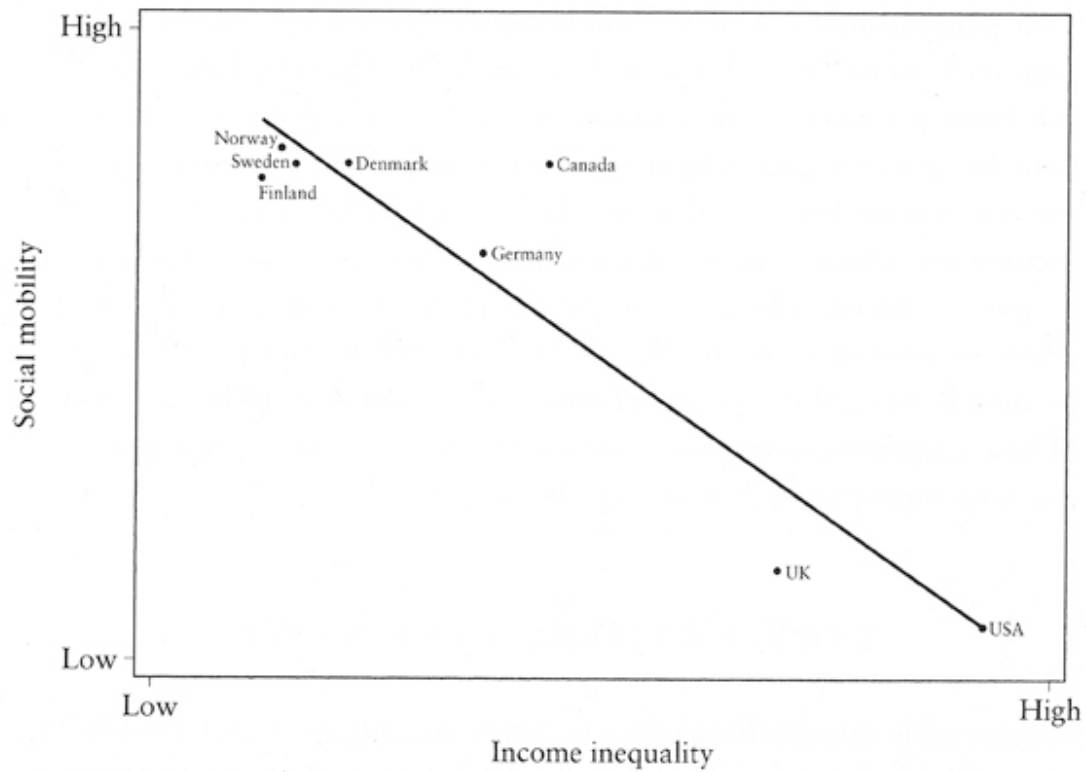


R. G. Wilkinson and K. E. Pickett, 'The problems of relative deprivation: why some societies do better than others', *Social Science and Medicine* (2007) 65 (9): 1965-78.



**Figure 12.1**

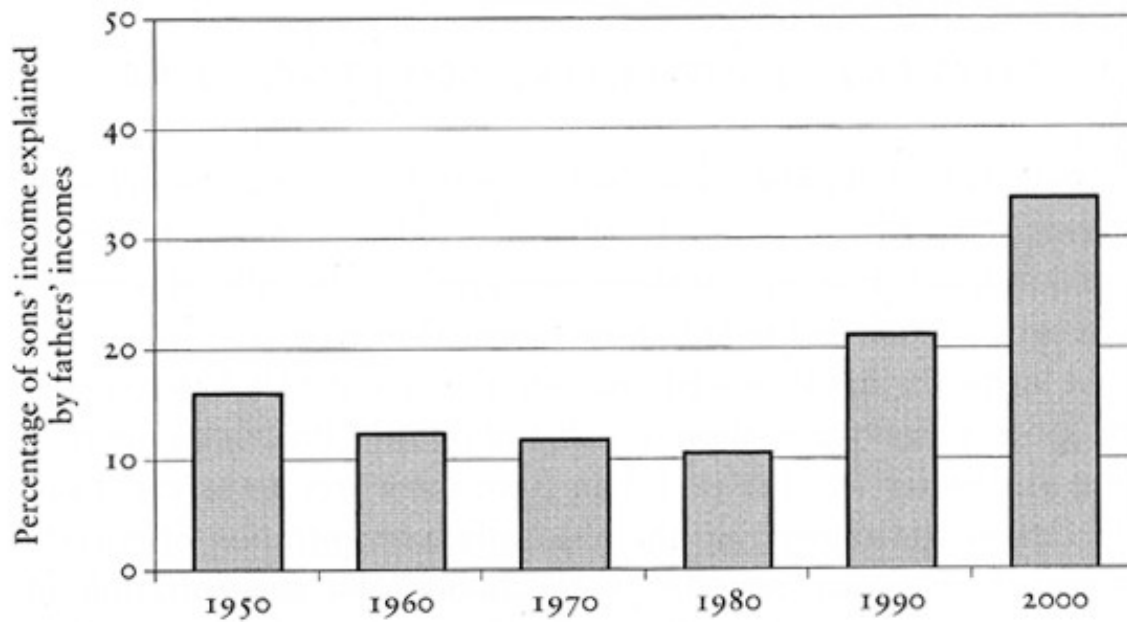
**Social mobility is lower in more unequal countries.**



R. G. Wilkinson and K. E. Pickett, 'The problems of relative deprivation: why some societies do better than others', *Social Science and Medicine* (2007) 65 (9): 1965-78.

**Figure 12.2**

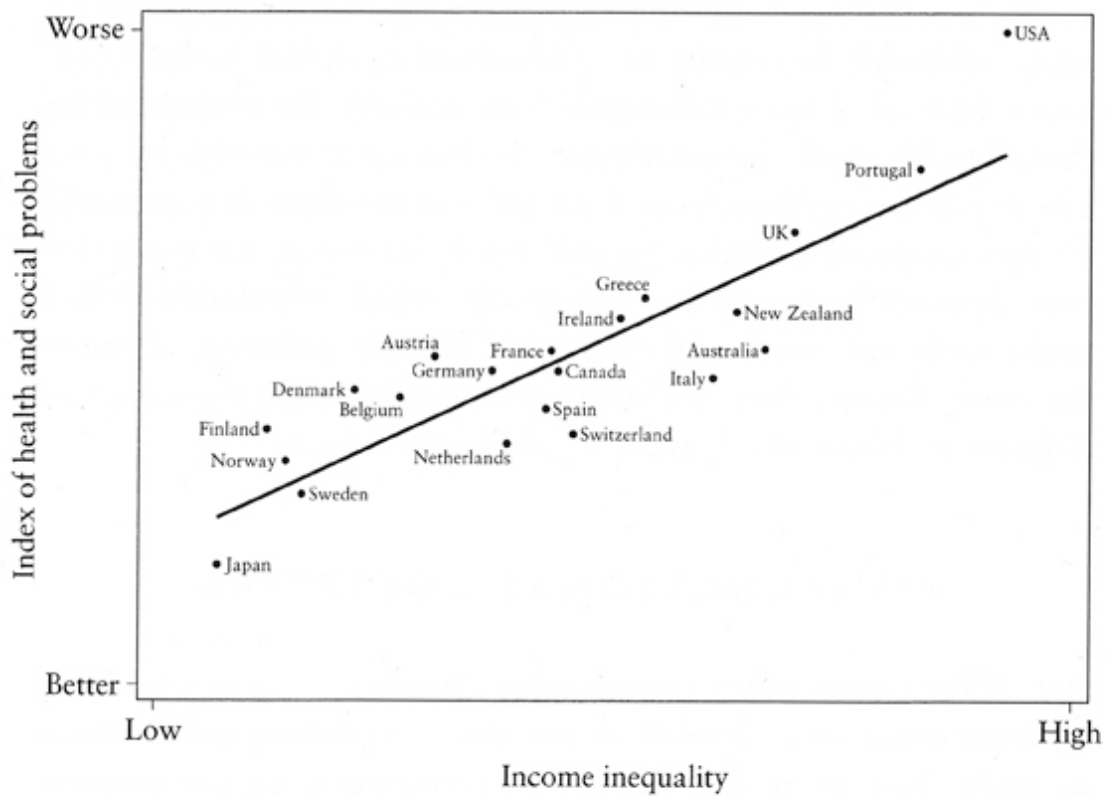
**Social mobility in the USA increased to 1980 and then decreased.**



L. Mishel, J. Bernstein and S. Allegretto, *The State of Working America 2006/7*. An Economic Policy Institute Book. Ithaca, NY: ILR Press, an imprint of Cornell University Press, 2007.

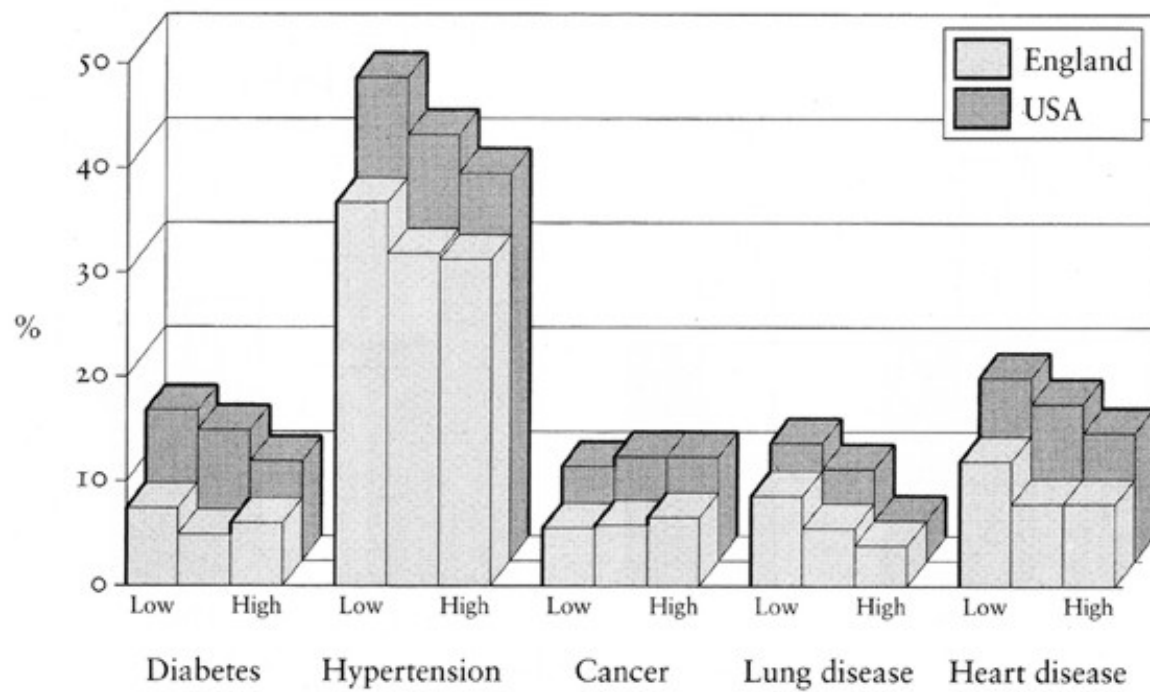
**Figure 13.1**

**Health and social problems are more common in more unequal countries.**



**Figure 13.2**

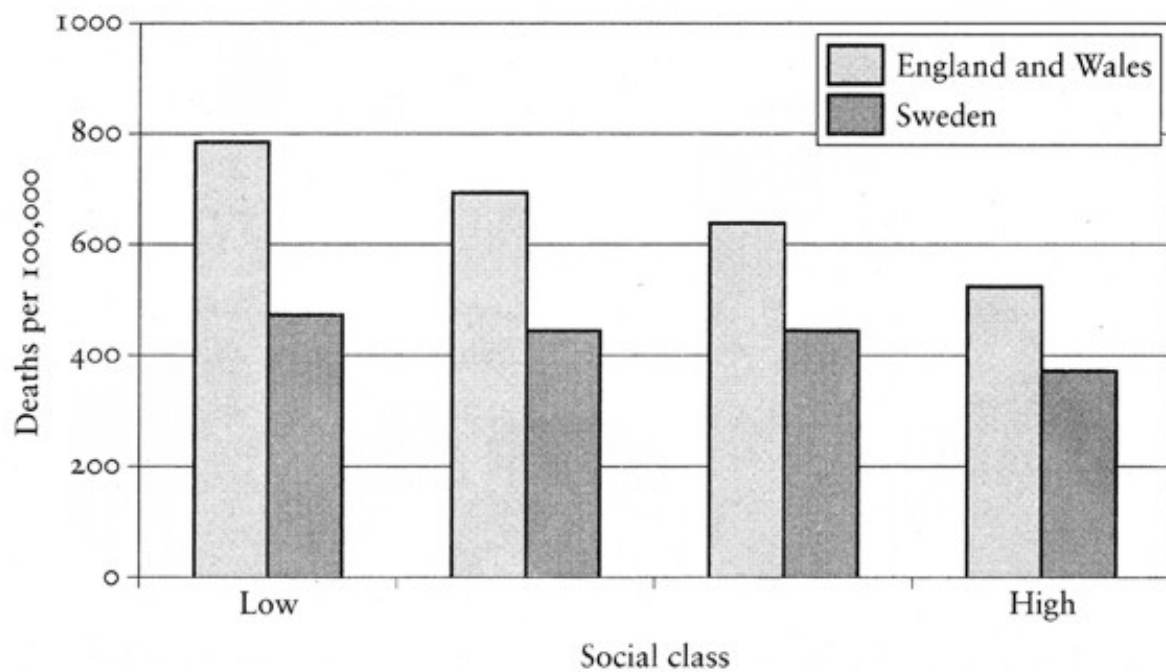
**Rates of illness are lower at both low and high educational levels in England compared to the USA.**



J. Banks, M. Marmot, Z. Oldfield and J. P. Smith, 'Disease and disadvantage in the United States and in England', *Journal of the American Medical Association* (2006) 295 (17): 2037-45.

**Figure 13.3**

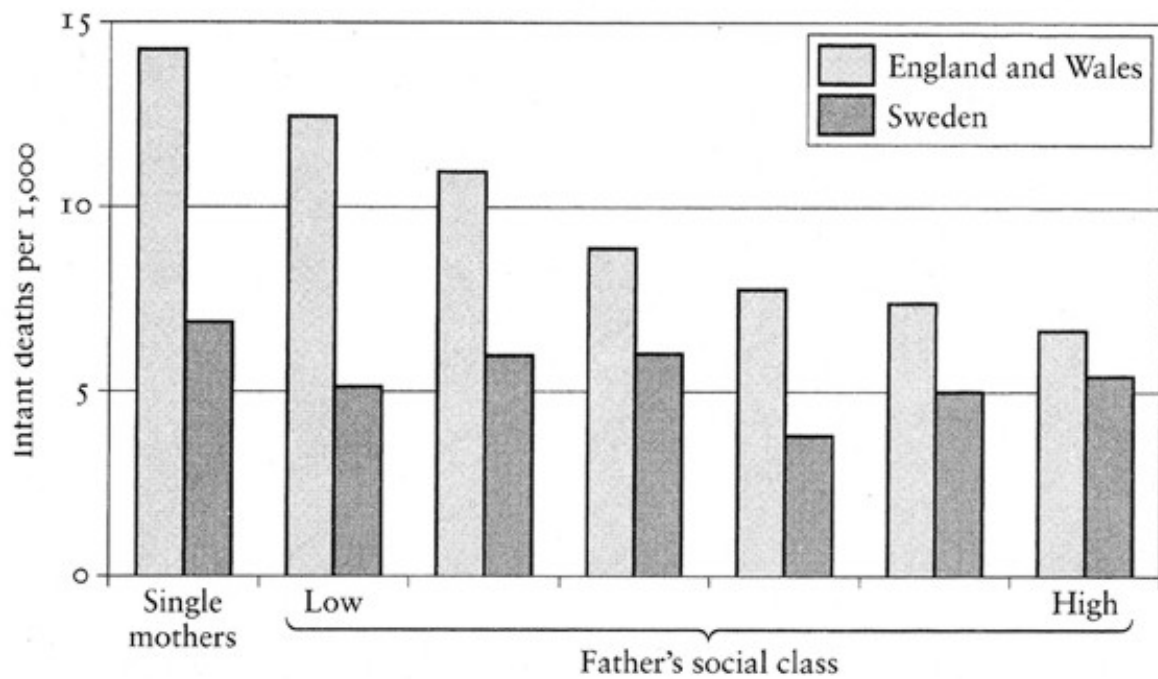
**Death rates among working-age men are lower in all occupational classes in Sweden compared to England and Wales.**



D. Vagero and O. Lundberg, 'Health inequalities in Britain and Sweden', *Lancet* (1989) 2 (8653): 35-6.

**Figure 13.4**

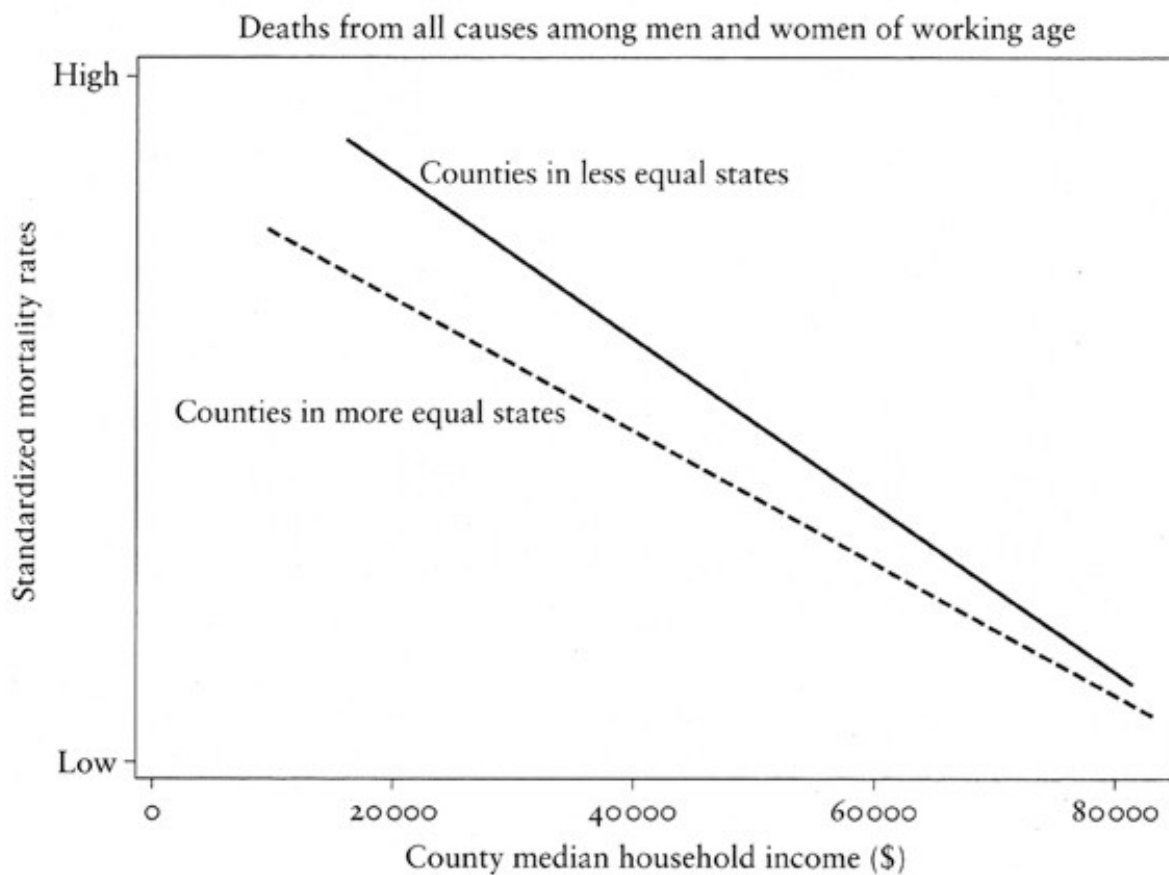
**Infant mortality rates are lower in all occupational classes in Sweden than in England and Wales.**



D. A. Leon, D. Vagero and P. O. Olausson, 'Social class differences in infant mortality in Sweden: comparison with England and Wales', *British Medical Journal* (1992) 305 (6855): 687-91.

**Figure 13.5**

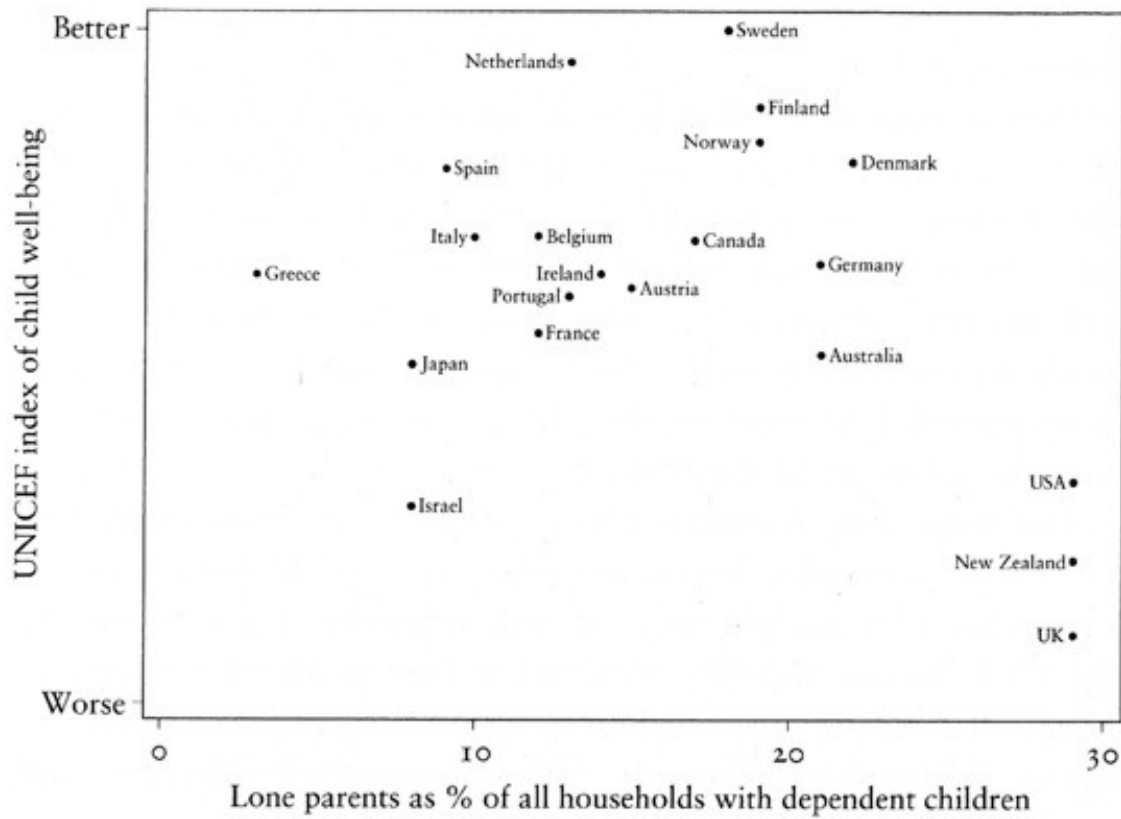
**The relation between county median income and county death rates according to whether the counties are in the twenty-five more equal states or the twenty-five less equal states.**



R. G. Wilkinson and K. E. Pickett, 'Income inequality and socioeconomic gradients in mortality', *American Journal of Public Health* (2008) 98 (4): 699-704.

**Figure 13.6**

**Child wellbeing is not related to the proportion of single parents.**

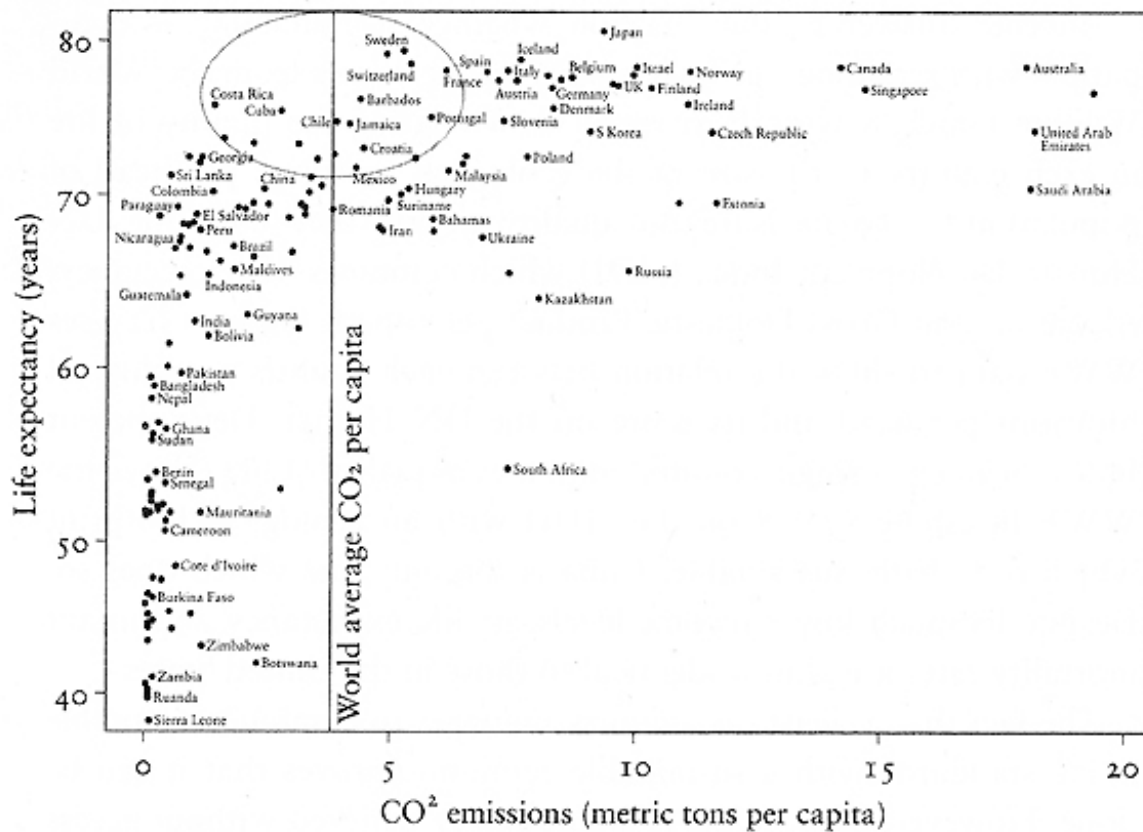


J. Bradshaw, N. Finch. A Comparison of Child Benefit Packages in 22 Countries. Table 2.2.  
London: Department for Work and Pensions, 2002.



Figure 15.1

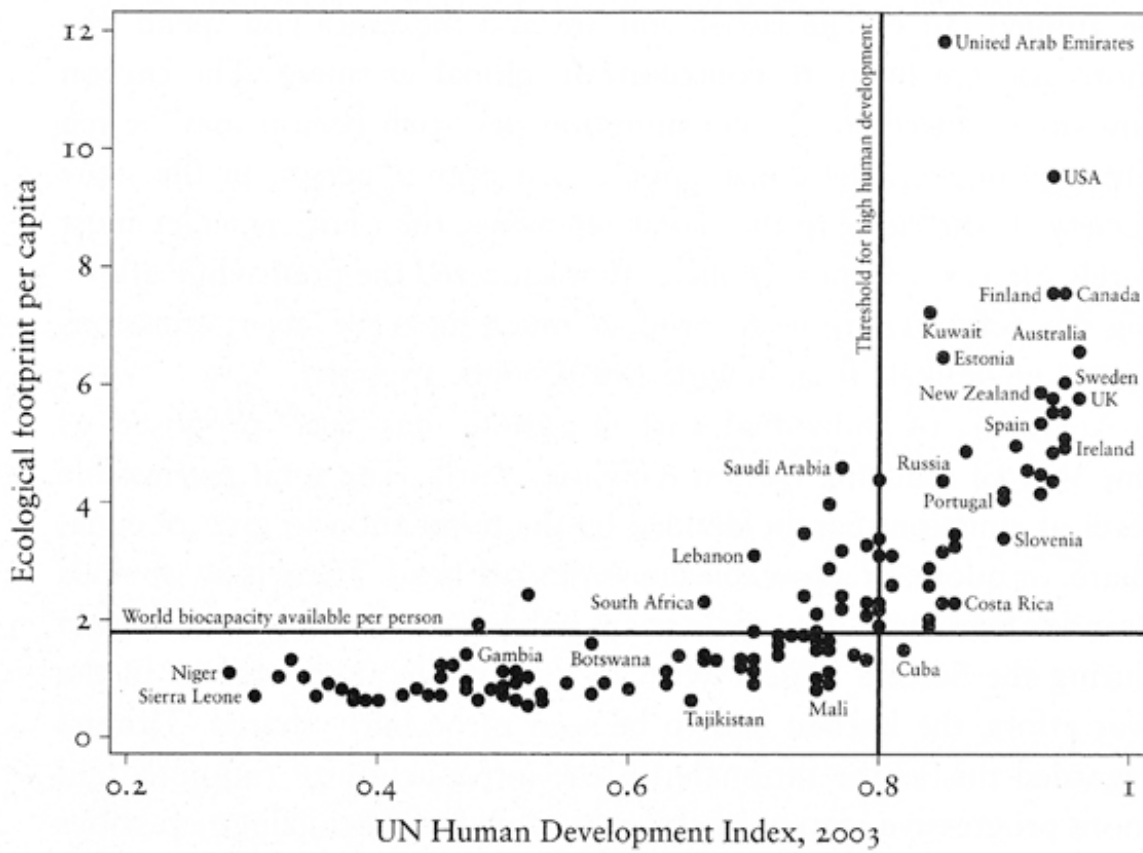
Low infant mortality can be achieved without high carbon emissions.



World Bank, *World Development Indicators (WDI) September 2006*. Economic and Social Data Service International, Manchester: Mimas.

**Figure 15.2**

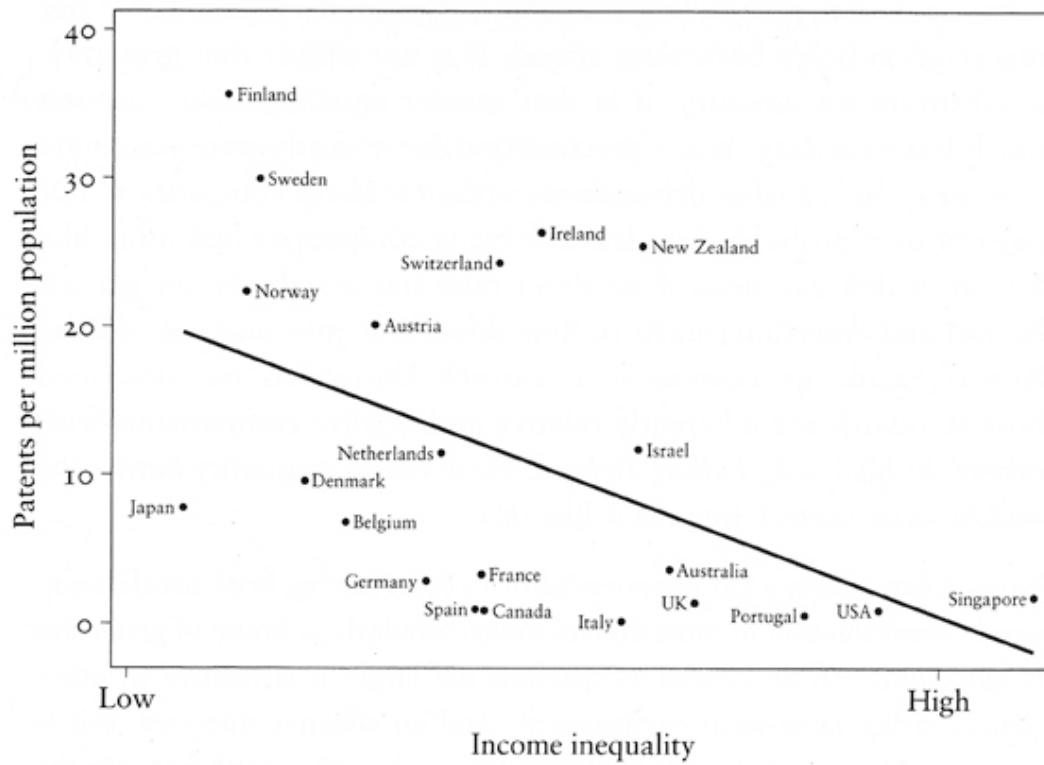
**Human wellbeing and sustainability.**



World Wildlife Fund, *Living Planet Report 2006*. Gland, Switzerland: WWF International, 2007.

**Figure 15.3**

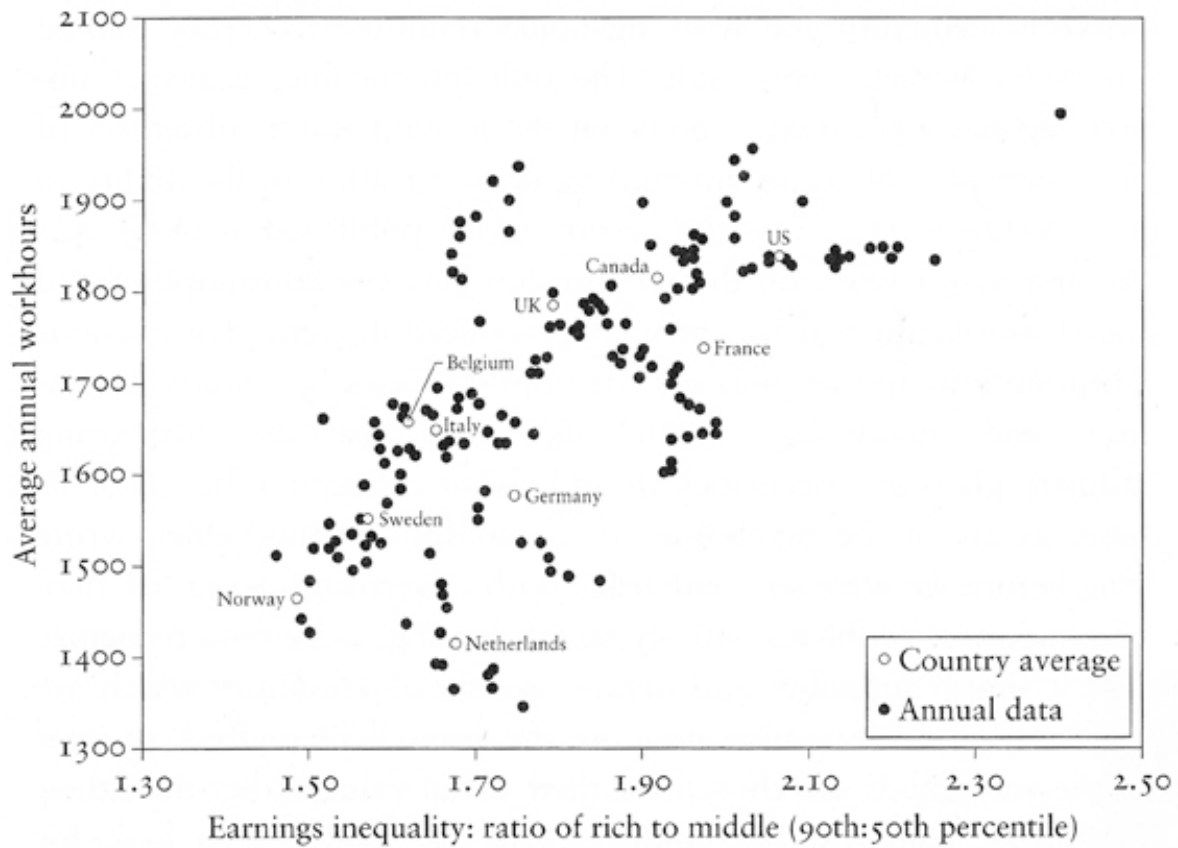
**More equal societies are more innovative.**



World Intellectual Property Organization. *Intellectual property statistics, Publication A*. Geneva: WIPO, 2001.

**Figure 15.4**

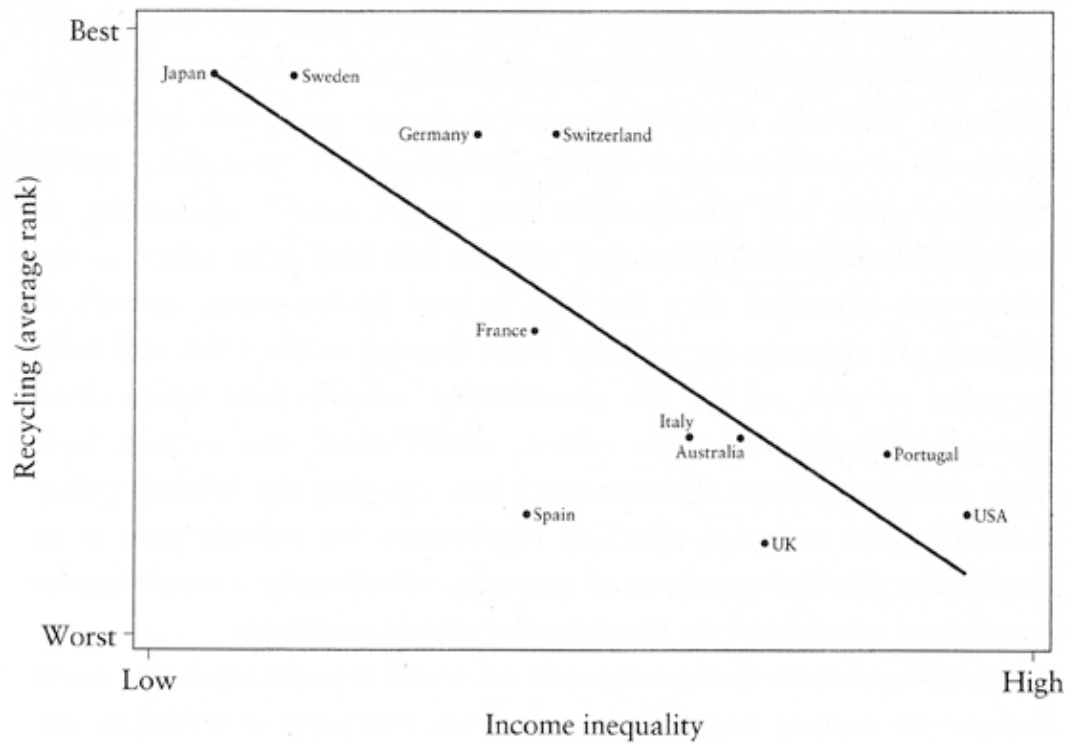
**People work longer in more unequal societies.**



S. Bowles and Y. Park, 'Emulation, inequality, and work hours: was Thorsten Veblen right?' *Economic Journal* (2005) 115: F397-F412.

**Figure 15.5**

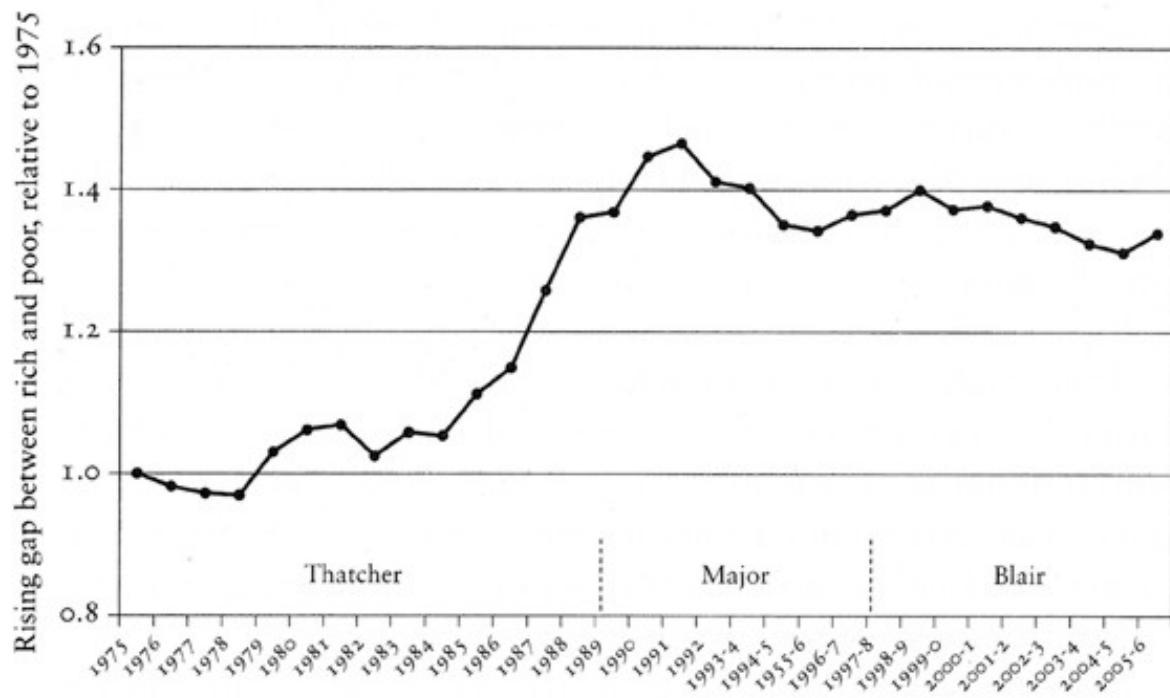
**More equal countries recycle a higher proportion of their waste.**



Planet Ark, *The Recycling Olympic Report*. Sydney: Planet Ark Environmental Foundation, 2004.

**Figure 16.1**

**The widening gap between the incomes of the richest and poorest 10 per cent  
in Britain 1975 (=1) to 2005-2006.**



**Figure 16.2**

**The widening gap between the incomes of the richest and poorest 10 per cent  
in the USA 1975 (=1) to 2004.**

