**REPORT**

###### Tuesday, December 13, 2016

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**“Large Differences Seen in Mortality Rates Among US Counties”**

**TEASE RUNS:**

**How do mortality rates vary based on where you live? …that’s next.**

**JAMA 4054**

**TRT: 1:40**

**Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 11 AM ET**

**INTRO: How do mortality rates for major causes of death vary by county in the U.S.? A new study looked at mortality data from 1980 to 2014 to see what kinds of geographic patterns exist. Authors of the new study hope that the results can help provide insight into disease-specific trends and life expectancy. Laura Berger has more in this week’s JAMA Report.**

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| **B-ROLL:**  **Graphic map of the United States** | **RESEARCH SHOWS THAT INEQUALITIES IN LIFE EXPECTANCY ACROSS DIFFERENT COUNTIES IN THE UNITED STATES ARE INCREASING, BUT LESS IS KNOWN ABOUT SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC PATTERNS AND THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF DEATH.** |
| **SOT/FULL**  **Christopher Murray, M.D., D.Phil. –Professor of Global Health, U of Washington**  **Super@: 11**  **Runs: 15** | **“Well, there’s probably two key drivers of death rates changing, changes in risks that people have, like tobacco, or obesity, getting better or worse. And then access to treatment, whether prevention or cure.”** |
| **B-ROLL:**  **Dr. walking, working in office looking at map, close up map, doctor reading papers** | **DR. CHRIS MURRAY AND CO-AUTHORS REVIEWED DEATH CERTIFICATES FROM MORE THAN 3 THOUSAND U.S. COUNTIES FROM 1980 TO 2014. THEY WANTED TO KNOW WHAT THE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH WERE IN EACH AREA AND TO DETERMINE TRENDS OVER TIME BY REGION. THE STUDY APPEARS IN JAMA, JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.** |
| **Christopher Murray, M.D., D.Phil. –Professor of Global Health, U of Washington**  **SOT/FULL**  **Super@: 47**  **Runs: 27** | **“We found that differences or disparities across counties are actually getting larger over time. So we’re not narrowing the gap, the gap is widening. And we found that different causes matter more in different parts of the country. So out West for example in the U.S., violent death is more common, whereas heart disease is more common in the Southeast. And deaths from drugs are much more common in West Virginia or Kentucky.”** |
| **B-ROLL:**  **Dr. writing at white board, showing map** | **DR. MURRAY SAYS IN THE FUTURE HE WANTS TO LOOK AT MORE DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH IN EACH AREA IN ORDER TO HELP IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF EACH COMMUNITY.** |
| **Christopher Murray, M.D., D.Phil. –Professor of Global Health, U of Washington**  **SOT/FULL**  **Super@ 1:23**  **Runs:18**  **Woman walking with daughter** | **“The biggest takeaway is that one size doesn’t fit all in the U.S. We really need to understand why there’s such variation in how long people live, and what causes children, adults, and older people to die at such different levels in different communities.”** |
| **B-ROLL:**  **Woman walking with daughter** | **LAURA BERGER, THE JAMA REPORT** |

**TAG: IN A SMALL NUMBER OF CASES, COUNTY BOUNDARIES SHIFTED BETWEEN 1980 AND THE PRESENT. SEVERAL COUNTIES WERE MERGED DUE TO THE CHANGE.**

**Please see the complete study for additional information, including other authors, author contributions and affiliations, financial disclosures, funding and support, etc.**

**TO CONTACT: Dr. Murray call Dean Owen at (206) 897-2858**

**ADDITIONAL SOUNDBITES:**

**QUOTE 1 Runs: 22**

**“Well we conclude that there is so much variation in both the death rates that we see, the trends in those death rates are going up and down in different communities, that local decision makers, doctors, public health programs, you know hospital administrators, need to use this information locally to try to find the best ways to improve health in each community.”**

**QUOTE 2 Runs: 22**

**“Well, mortality rates are really important to everybody, obviously everybody wants their family to have long healthy lives. And so it’s incredibly important for us to understand why different communities live very different life spans. And the variation across the U.S. is enormous. There’s more than 20 years difference across communities, and we really need to understand that.”**