

Inequalities in Dual-Function Life Expectancy by Education and Gender

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Dual Functionality Concept

- Good physical and cognitive function
- Loss of dual functionality
 - Social readjustment
 - Accumulating health risks
 - Revised life goals and priorities

Research Questions

1. How do dual-function rates evolve among those ages 65+?
2. What education-based gaps do we observe in age-65 dual-function life expectancy?

Data Sources

- Health and Retirement Study (N = 97,504)
- National Health Interview Survey (N = 133,664)

Measures

- Dual functionality
 - No limitations in activities of daily living
 - No indication of dementia
- Education
 - Less than high school (22%)
 - High school or some college (57%)
 - Four-year degree or higher (21%)

Methods

- Sullivan life tables
- Bootstrap confidence intervals

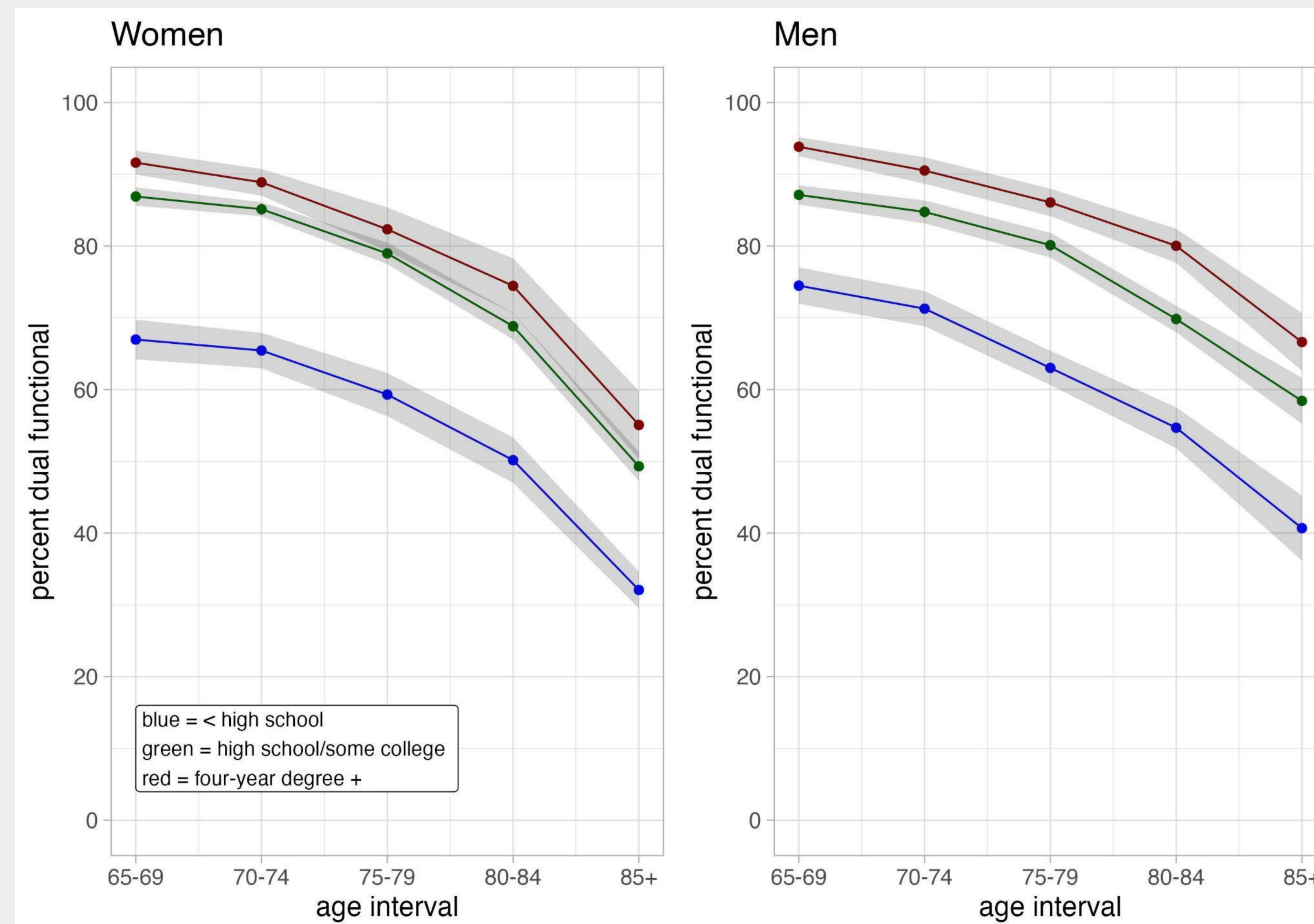


Figure 1. Prevalence of dual functionality by education

- Substantial gap in dual-function rates between less than high school and four-year degree or higher
- Lower dual-function rates for women than men at all levels of education
- Similar education gaps over later stages of life course

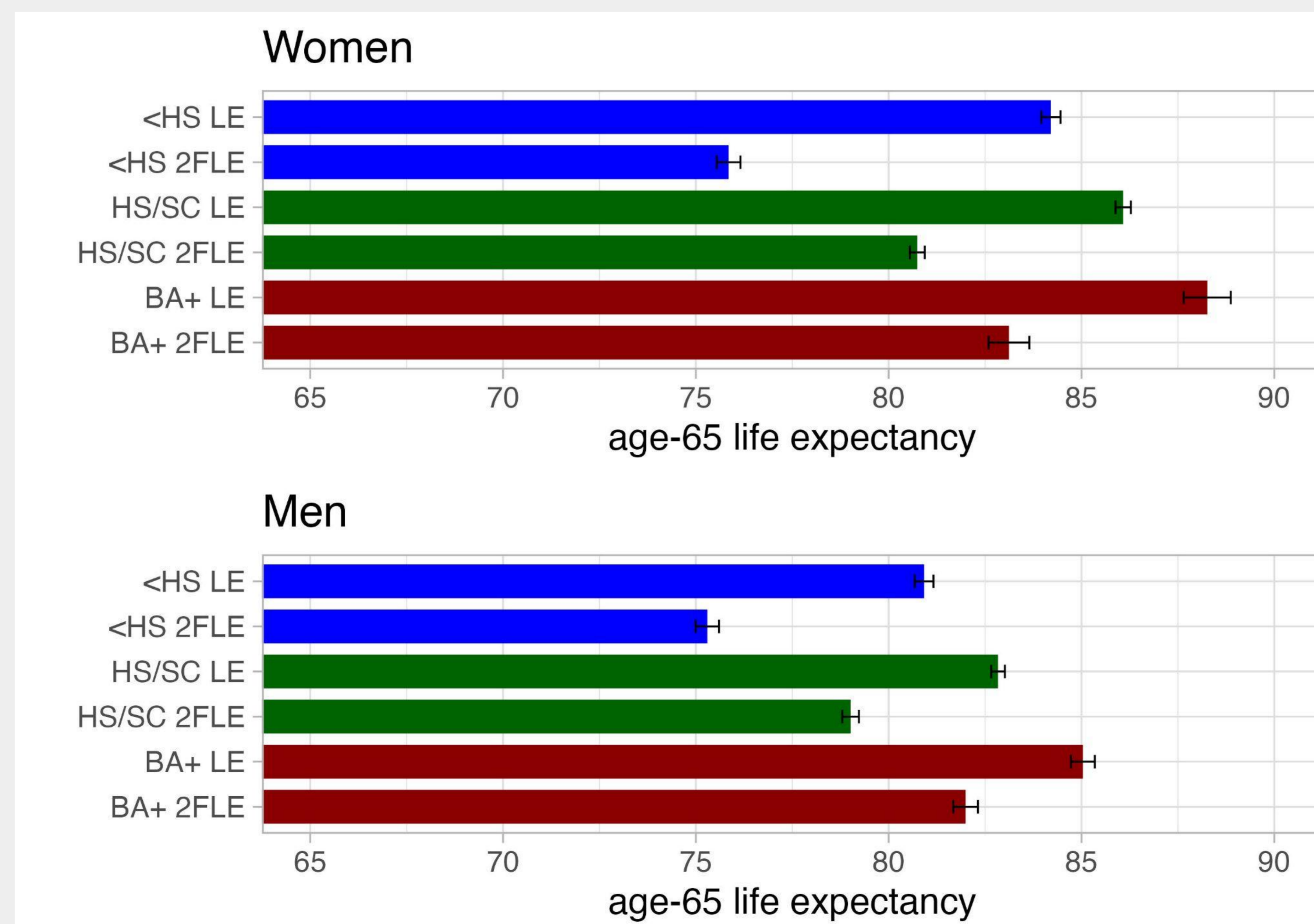


Figure 2. Age-65 life expectancy and dual-function life expectancy

- Greater education inequalities in dual-function life expectancy relative to life expectancy
- Gaps between life expectancy and dual-function life expectancy greater for women than men

Conclusions

- Complementary measure of population health
- Implications for caregiving needs and costs