

Abstract

Gender gap in life expectancy is usually conceptualized as arising either because of socioeconomic phenomena or individual dynamics. In this study, these approaches were combined by analyzing the female to male differential in life expectancy from 56 countries using socioeconomic variable in conjunction with behavioral and psychological measures of citizen characteristics. Hierarchical regression analyses showed that socioeconomic factor (i.e. GDP per capita) did not predict the gender differential in longevity significantly. We also found that national alcohol consumption and communal social engagement are positively correlated with the gender differential in life expectancy, while tobacco use and life satisfaction are negatively correlated with the gender gap. The separate analyses of female and male life expectancy were used to interpret these results.