

Methods and Materials of Health Expectancy

Yasuhiko Saito*

Nihon University, Tokyo Japan saito.yasuhiko@nihon-u.ac.jp

Two groups of researchers have been working on constructing summary measures of population health over the past twenty years. One group of researchers is known as REVES, international network on health expectancy and disablement process. And the other group was led by Murray whose work is well known by the Global Burden of Disease Study. Both groups of researchers compute health expectancies which combine information on mortality and morbidity. They often show the calculated values of health expectancy at birth or at age 60/65 as summary measures of population health. Are these only way to look at population health? Can't we have more than one value to indicate population health? In addition, health expectancies are computed based on one index such as limitation of activities for a population. There is a difficulty using one index to measure health status for all age groups in a population. In this study, I will review the methods and materials used for computing health expectancy, first. Then, I would like to discuss partial health expectancy and composite health expectancy as summary measures of population health.

Key Words: REVES, health expectancy, population health