Centre for the Study of Living Standards
Centre d'étude des niveaux de vie

Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

Explaining Life Expectancy Variation Across Census Tracts in Canadian and US Cities

Michael Wolfson
3:30-5:00 PM
Monday, October 28, 2024
Karsh Room, Rideau Club
99 Bank Street, 15th floor
Ottawa, Ontario
(please note that the Rideau Club dress code requires men to wear a jacket)

To attend, please RSVP by October 25, 2024, to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

It is well known that there are substantial variations in life expectancy (LE) between countries and at various levels of sub-national geography within countries. These variations in LE are significantly correlated with socio-economic variables.

In this presentation, Michael Wolfson from the University of Ottawa and a former Assistant Chief Statistician, extends the analysis of geographic variation in LE to the census tract level. Drawing on a recent Statistics Canada study, he will present estimates of LE for census tracts in Canada's 15 largest cities and six largest US cities. He finds variations of up to 20 years in LE between neighbourhoods in both countries, with part, but not all, of the variation explained by differences in socio-economic factors, though less so in Canada compared to the United States. Explanations for neighbourhood differences in LE beyond socio-economic factors will be explored.

The presentation will also include a discussion of the relationship between LE and voting patterns within and across Federal Electoral Districts from the 2019 and 2021 elections.

Dr. Michael C. Wolfson is Adjunct Professor in both the Faculties of Medicine and Law at the University of Ottawa. He retired from Statistics Canada in 2009 where he was Assistant Chief Statistician, Analysis and Development. Prior to joining Statistics Canada, he held positions in the Treasury Board Secretariat, the Department of Finance, the Privy Council Office, the House of Commons, and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office. His areas of expertise include program review and evaluation, tax/transfer policy, pension policy, income distribution, design of health information systems, microsimulation modeling of socio-economic policy and health dynamics, and analysis of the determinants of health. He holds a B.Sc from the University of Toronto and a PhD in economics from Cambridge University.