

Study: In sickness and in health: The association between health and household income, 2014

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in The Daily, Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Poor health is often associated with lower household income, partly because individuals with poor health have lower labour-market income.

For men, labour-market income is approximately \$14,000 lower for those who self-report poor general health, compared with those who self-report good general health, and is \$15,000 lower for those who self-report poor mental health, compared with those who self-report good mental health. Similarly, for women, labour-market income is approximately \$15,000 lower for those who self-report poor general health, and is \$8,000 lower for those who self-report poor mental health, compared with those who self-report good health.

In addition, labour-market income is approximately \$13,000 lower for spouses of women with poor general health, compared with spouses of women with good general health, in part because these individuals have lower hourly wages. This association is not present for men with poor health. The result suggests that women in poor health may face additional disadvantages, as their spouses tend to have poorer labour-market outcomes.

This finding is included in the new article "In sickness and in health: The association between health and household income." This study uses data from the second wave of the Longitudinal and International Study of Adults to examine the relationship between health and household income for couples.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5144](#).

The article "[In sickness and in health: The association between health and household income](#)," which is part of the *Longitudinal and International Study of Adults Research Paper Series* ([89-648-X](#)) is now available.

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