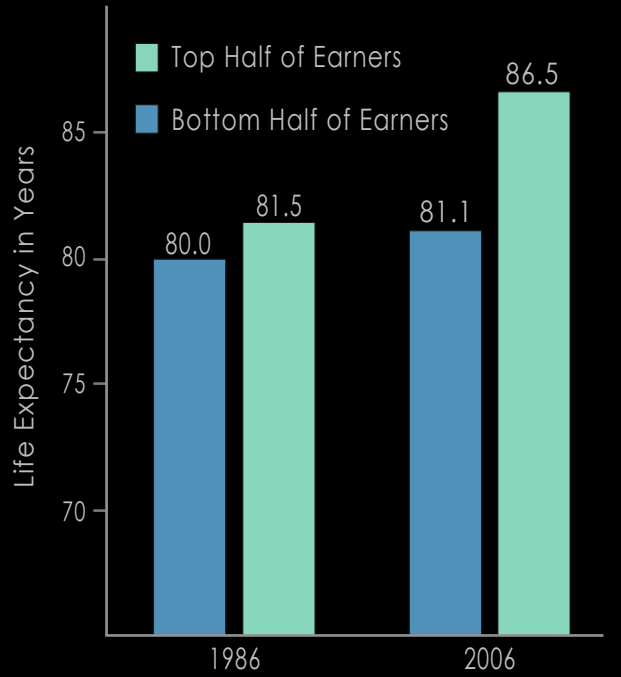


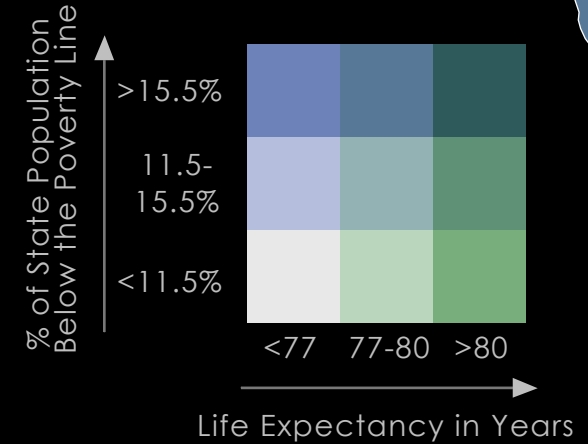
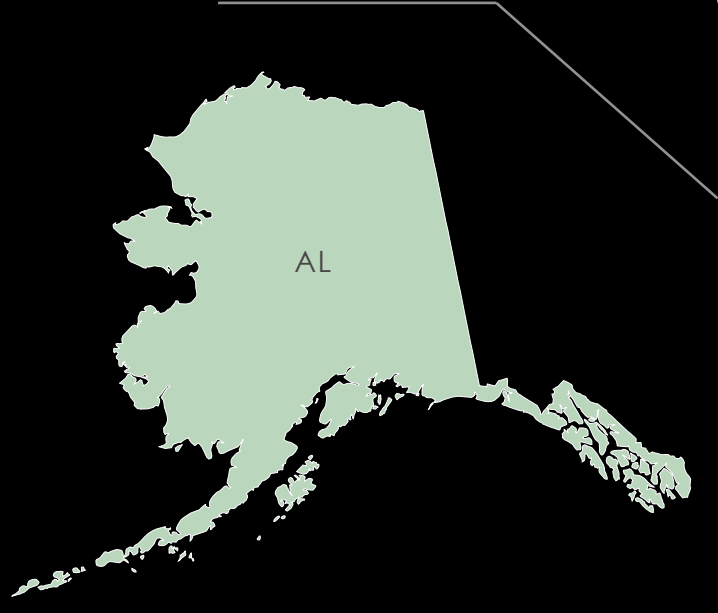
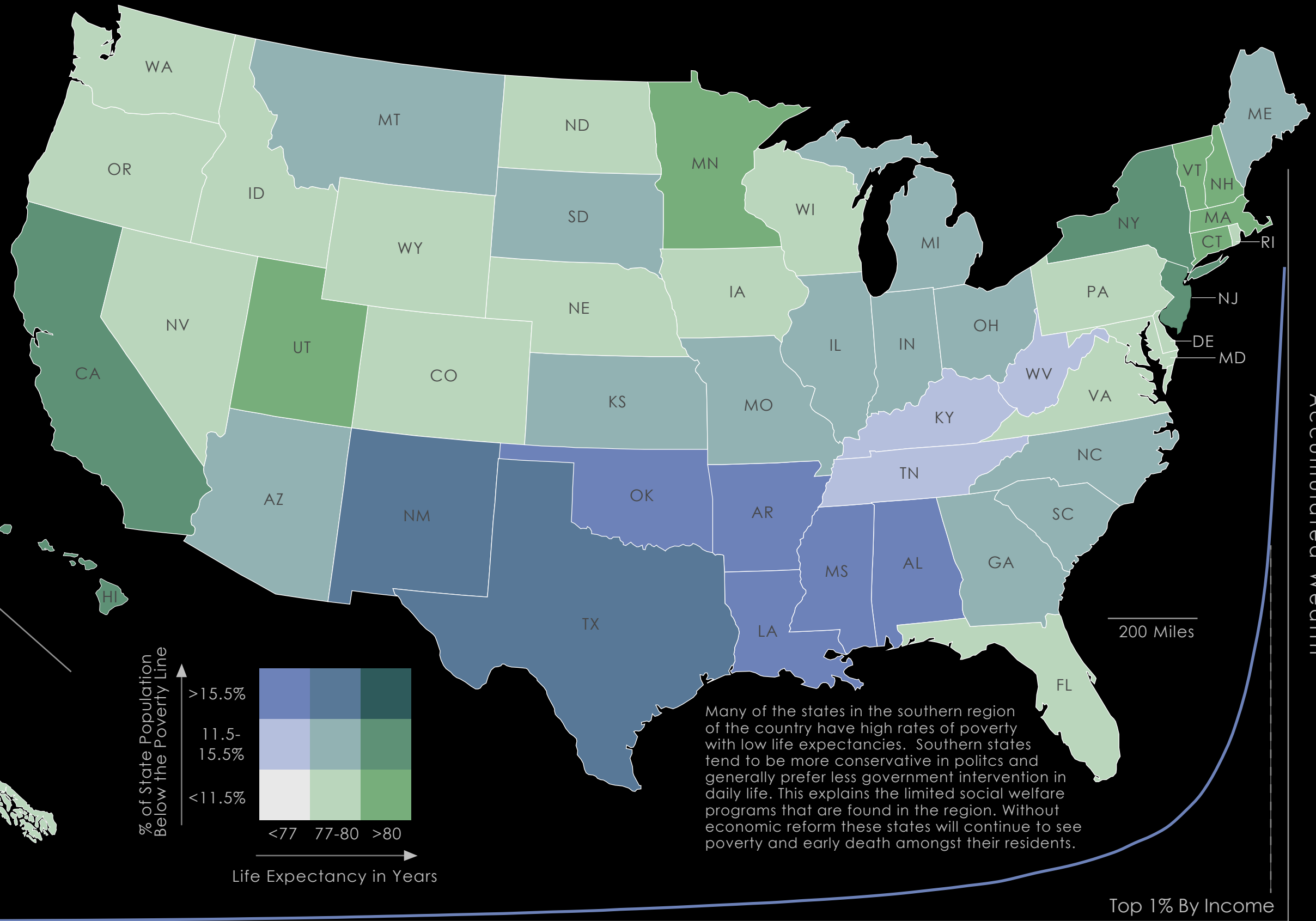
Death by Poverty

Economic Inequality in the United States of America

The United States is currently experiencing one of the worst periods of economic inequality amongst its citizens ever. One of the most striking features of this inequality is the fact that poverty stricken areas have significantly lower life expectancies when compared to affluent areas. Nationwide the middle class is shrinking while the richest forty individuals in the country hold 40% of the nation's wealth. It is time for both the federal government and state governments to take action and make broad economic reforms that bring equality and prosperity to everyone, not just the few who find themselves at the top.



The bar chart above compares the life expectancies of men in the the top half and bottom half of total yearly earnings in 1986 compared to in 2006. Clearly what began as a small difference has grown into a significant gap. This widening gap is a troubling economic trend and has grown significantly larger since 2006.



Many of the states in the southern region of the country have high rates of poverty with low life expectancies. Southern states tend to be more conservative in politics and generally prefer less government intervention in daily life. This explains the limited social welfare programs that are found in the region. Without economic reform these states will continue to see poverty and early death amongst their residents.