

Fairness Dialogues: Questions in Troutville

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Motivations

- The public increasingly plays a pivotal role in health research, health policy, and the delivery of health care
- The simple question "What do people think?" drives many public engagement efforts
- This question is particularly meaningful when issues relate to values, such as fairness or equity

Fairness Dialogues

is a forum to obtain well-informed, reflective values of the public on fairness issues related to primary health care in Nova Scotia

Features

- An ongoing listening forum, through which researchers and policy-makers can regularly seek the public's views
- A methodological laboratory, where researchers explore different methods of public engagement
- Dynamic conversations between the general public and experts, where views of the public and experts serve as inputs to a collective and dynamic reflective process to inform health policy decisions

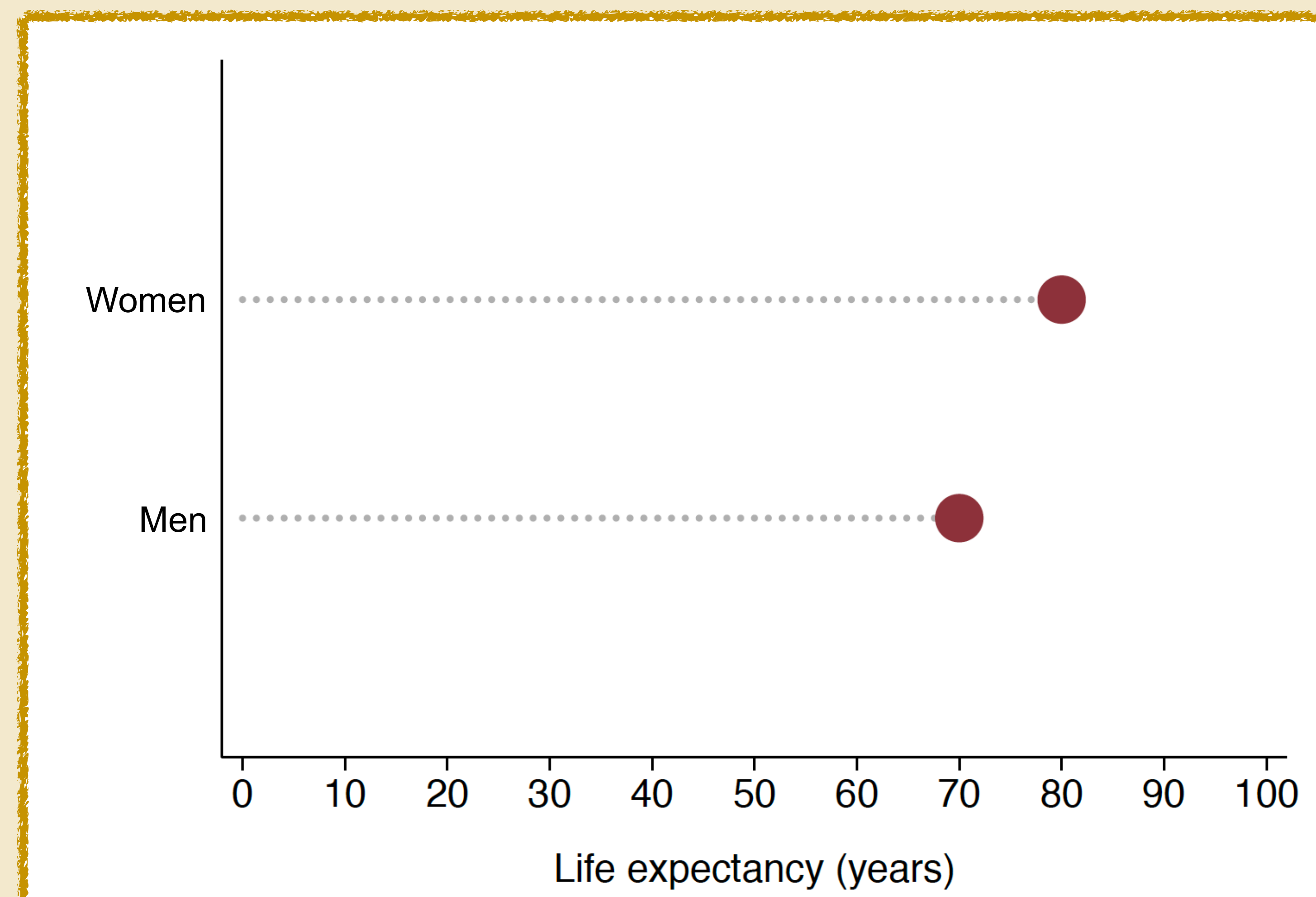
Troutville Scenario

is a scenario that describes inequalities in life expectancy in a fictional town, Troutville in Nova Scotia

An Example

Please imagine you and your family live in Troutville...

- In Troutville, men are expected to live for 70 years, and women are expected to live for 80 years
- This means men will live 10 years shorter than women, and women will live 10 years longer than men
- There is a 10-year difference in life expectancy between them
- To put it differently, men's lives will be 88% of women's lives, or men's lives will be 12% shorter than women's lives
- This means that every 100 days women will live, men will live 88 days or 12 days less



Is this difference or inequality in health between men and women unfair? why and why not?

Qualitative Study

Objectives

- To demonstrate feasibility of eliciting the public's values on fairness
- to examine, among a small sample of Nova Scotians, how lay persons conceptualize health inequity, and how lay persons' views might differ from experts' views

Study Design

- Two 1.5-2 hour focus groups (purposively sampled heterogeneous 6-8 persons in each group)
- Follow-up individual telephone interviews

Plan for Analysis

- Thematic analysis
- Comparison between emerging views of health inequity among lay persons with definitions of health inequity proposed in the academic literature

Data Visualization

Visual Communication

- Quantitative information is encoded in the graph
- The information is decoded by our visual system

An Effective Graph

- encodes the information by prioritizing easier decoding tasks in our brain

Dot Charts

- Cleveland (1985), based on psychophysics theories and experiments, recommends dot charts as a better alternative to bar charts, because:
 - dot charts call for an easier decoding task than bar charts
 - the size of bars of bar charts can provide visual cues that would encourage inappropriate judgment

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