

# ENGAGING SOCIOLOGY

## Life Expectancy, Infant Mortality, and Per Capita Income

Analyzing the meaning of data can provide an understanding of the health and well-being of citizens around the world. A country's basic statistics, including life expectancy, per capita gross national product, and infant mortality, tell researchers a great deal about its economic health and vitality.

1. What questions do the data in Table 7.1 raise regarding differences in mortality and life expectancy rates around the world?
2. Considering what you know from this and previous chapters and from Table 7.1, what do you think are some differences in the lives of citizens in the richest and poorest countries?

**Table 7.1** Life Expectancy, Infant Mortality, and Per Capita Income for Selected Poor and Rich Countries

Poor Countries	Life Expectancy (in Years) (2015 est.)	Infant Mortality (Deaths per 1,000 Births)	Per Capita GDP (\$)	Rich Countries	Life Expectancy (in Years) (2015 est.)	Infant Mortality (Deaths per 1,000 Births)	Per Capita GDP (\$)
Chad	49.8	88.7	2,800	Iceland	83.0	2.1	46,100
Guinea-Bissau	50.2	89.2	1,500	Japan	84.7	2.1	38,200
Afghanistan	50.9	115.1	2,000	Singapore	84.7	2.5	85,700
Somalia	52.0	98.4	400	Hong Kong	82.9	2.7	57,000
Zambia	52.2	64.7	4,300	Switzerland	82.5	3.7	59,300
Central African Republic	51.8	90.6	600	Sweden	82.0	2.6	48,000
Nigeria	53.0	72.7	6,400	Canada*	81.8	4.7	45,900
Uganda	55.0	59.2	2,100	France	81.8	3.3	41,400
Niger	55.0	84.6	1,100	Australia	81.4	4.4	65,400
Mali	55.3	102.2	1,800	United States**	79.7	5.9	56,300

Note: Infant mortality is per 1,000 live births. Most figures are 2015 estimates.

\*Canada is 18th in life expectancy and 46th in infant mortality rates.

\*\*United States is 43rd in life expectancy and 58th in infant mortality rates.

Source: World Factbook 2016b and 2016c for infant mortality and life expectancy; World Factbook 2016a for per capita income.