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Regional Cultures and Mortality in America

Across the 48 contiguous states, populations in states with more activist civic cultures have lower mortality than states that do not follow this model. Several different factors can be pointed to as causes for this discrepancy – net income, class inequality, and the history of settlement in each of the different states and regions. These observations are true of Non-Hispanic Whites and African Americans, but not of American Indians and Hispanics, neither of which are fully integrated into the state political culture and economy in which they reside. In *Regional Cultures and Mortality in America* the struggles these various populations face in regard to their health are explored in terms of where they reside.

Stephen J. Kunitz is Professor Emeritus at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. Much of his past research has focused on the Navajos in the American Southwest. He is the author of *Disease Change and the Role of Medicine: The Navajo Experience* (1983), as well as coauthor, with J.E. Levy, of *Indian Drinking: Navajo Practices and Anglo-American Theories* (1974); *Navajo Aging: The Transition from Family to Institutional Support* (1991); *Drinking Careers: A Twenty-Five Year Follow-Up of Three Navajo Populations* (1994); and *Drinking, Conduct Disorder, and Social Change: Navajo Experiences* (2000). He is also the author of *Disease and Social Diversity* (1994) and *The Health of Populations* (2007). He held a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Investigator Award in 2002–2006 and is the recipient of two Fulbright awards.

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32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107079632

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First published 2015

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Kunitz, Stephen J., author.

Regional cultures and mortality in America / Stephen J. Kunitz
 with the assistance of Ning Zhang.

p. ; cm.

ISBN 978-1-107-07963-2 (hardback)

I. Title. [DNLM: 1. Mortality – United States – Statistics. 2. Cultural Characteristics – United States – Statistics. 3. Socioeconomic Factors – United States – Statistics. WA 900 AAI]

HB1335

304.6'40973-dc23 2014027898

ISBN 978-1-107-07963-2 Hardback

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*For my grandchildren, Rachel Violet Kunitz
and Joseph Daniel Kunitz*

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Do I contradict myself?
Very well then I contradict myself,
(I am large, I contain multitudes.)

Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*

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Acknowledgments

I had been thinking about writing this book for several years but was stimulated to actually set pen to paper when I was invited to be the Heath Clark Lecturer at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in 2009. I am grateful to David Leon and Shah Ebrahim for organizing my visit and to Martin McKee and Ellen Nolte for working with me on a paper that has morphed into Chapter 2 of the current volume.

Stan Engerman read and commented on the entire manuscript (twice!), and Will Wroth read and commented on Chapter 6. Other colleagues and friends who have discussed various issues dealt with in the book and answered requests for help are Richard Rathge, Michael Card, Mike McCurry, Sharon and Jim Kunitz, John Lynch, George Davey Smith, Matt Riddle, and Bill Wiese. Nancy Krieger and a second, anonymous, reviewer for Cambridge University Press provided helpful comments.

Financial aid was provided by the Kunitz Family Foundation, of which I am the sole beneficiary and my wife, Isadora Kunitz, is the president, treasurer, and secretary. I am grateful to her for her good-humored support.