

105 *THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN INCOME INEQUALITY AND CHILD MORTALITY HAS BECOME STRONGER AFTER THE TRANSITION INTO A DEVELOPED ECONOMY IN TAIWAN: LONGITUDINAL COHORT STUDY WITH MULTILEVEL ANALYSIS*

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**OBJECTIVE** - Despite a large body of research on whether income inequality in a developed society is an important predictor of population health, there has been few analyses involving time trends. I examined the changing relation between income inequality and child mortality through different stages of economic development in Taiwan.

**DESIGN** - Longitudinal cohort study with multilevel analysis. Data came from the national certificate databases of birth and of death, and the family income and expenditure survey.

**SETTING** - all 21 regions in Taiwan.

**SUBJECTS** - Three birth cohorts of 369,502 in 1980, 326,132 in 1990, and 302,489 in 2000. All birth cohorts were followed up to exactly five years of age.

**MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES** - Under 5 child mortality.

**RESULTS** - The association between regional median share of income and under 5 child mortality, adjusted for father's educational attainment, had shifted from non-significant in 1980 (odds ratio 0.96; 95% confidence interval 0.87-1.07) to highly significant in 1990 (0.94; 0.90-0.97) and in 2000 (0.96; 0.93-0.996).

**CONCLUSION** - Income inequality has become more powerful in determining child mortality after the transition into a developed economy in Taiwan, even adjusting for the socioeconomic position of individual children.