

Does achieving fame and fortune lengthen one's  
lifetime? Re-analysis of longevity of Academy  
Award (Oscar) winners.

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**Abstract**

Redelmeier (2001) reported that “life expectancy was 3.9 years longer for Academy Award winners than for other, less recognized performers, and that this difference was equal to a 28% relative reduction in death rates.” The data analysis methods used, and in particular the treatment of ‘time zero’, raise questions as to whether some of this apparent survival advantage may be an artifact. We re-analyze the data, and find that some of the apparent advantage can be explained by a failure to fully account for the way the comparisons were formed.