Recent Trends in Health and Mortality in the US Relative to other high-income countries
Eileen M. Crimmins
University of Southern California
US Life Expectancy at Birth for Men Falls 1980-2008 compared to 22 OECD Countries
Relative US Life Expectancy at Birth for Women Falls even more -1980-2008
Current Update:
US continues to get worse relative to other countries
Life Expectancy between 1980 and 2016 by Country:

Source: The World Bank
Last two years - **Absolute Decreases in Life Expectancy in the United States**

Trends for some demographic groups within the US are worse than for others:

- Women worse than men
- Low education worse than high education
- White worse than black
- South and middle of the country worse than coasts
Men Increase in Life Expectancy more than Women: Higher Education more Increase than Lower Education

Change in Life Expectancy at Age 25 By Education: 1990 to 2010

Black Increase in Life Expectancy Greater than NH Whites: Change in Life Expectancy at Age 25 By Education: 1990 to 2010

Black-White Differences in Life Expectancy Occur within Socioeconomic groups: Difference in LE at Age 25 between Non-Hispanic Whites and Blacks by Education for Men and Women: 2010

Place matters as well as individual characteristics: Risk of dying varies by State – and is linked to social cohesion and economic conditions

Age standardized Probability of Death: US-Born Women, 45-89
Geographic differences: Life Expectancy is declining in some places
Lower than 30 years ago for women in Red Counties

Change in years of life Expectancy in US counties from 1987 to 2007

Explanations for Differences between the US and Other countries:

• Much due to ages before 50 – Not old age

• Smoking history

• Obesity

• Access to Medical Care

• Policies

• Social Safety Net
Among peer countries US Ranks as worst or second to worst in mortality at most ages up to older age
17 Peer Countries, 2006-2008

New Recent Trends:

Death Rates Rising for Middle-Aged White Americans, Study Finds
By GINA KOLATA  NOV. 2, 2015

Rising morbidity and mortality in midlife among white non-Hispanic Americans in the 21st century
Anne Case¹ and Angus Deaton¹
15078–15083  |  PNAS  |  December 8, 2015  |  vol. 112  |  no. 49
Mortality Rates for Whites in the US have been increasing and Peer countries are decreasing

Case and Deaton (2015)
Deaths of Despair Rise Rapidly in the US Relative to Other Countries

Source: Case and Deaton 2015
Increasing Deaths of Despair Extend Across Middle Ages:
Mortality by poisoning, suicide, chronic liver disease, and cirrhosis, white non-Hispanics

Source: Case and Deaton, 2015. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.; 112(49): 15078–15083, Fig. 4.
Mortality Increases for Women from 1997 to 2011 from Drug Overdoses: more for those with low education and more for non-Hispanic Whites

hepatitis C virus (HCV)  alcoholic liver disease(ALD), nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, or hepatitis B virus
U.S. Has The Worst Rate Of Maternal Deaths In The Developed World

Maternal Mortality Is Rising in the U.S. As It Declines Elsewhere

Deaths per 100,000 live births

U.S.A. (26.4)

Notes

https://www.npr.org/2017/05/12/528098789/u-s-has-the-worst-rate-of-maternal-deaths-in-the-developed-world

Declines in cardiovascular mortality have decelerated

Annual reduction in heart disease mortality
3.9% from 2000-2010
1.4% from 2010-2013

It is not just Non Hispanic Whites and it is not just Deaths of Despair

http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.k3096
What were the Trends in Peer Countries?
1. **Majority of 18 countries experienced declines in life expectancy during 2014-15;** but they more than recovered lost life expectancy in 2015-2016.  
2. European declines were from increased mortality from chronic conditions and respiratory disease at older ages.  
3. United States declines concentrated at younger ages and from drug overdose and other external causes of death.

In Western Europe the Rate of Mortality Decline among those with Low Education did not deteriorate after the Economic Crisis:

Trends in age-specific mortality among lowly educated men and women between ca. 1980 and ca. 2008 and 2008 to about 2014

Johan P. Mackenbach et al. PNAS 2018;115:25:6440-6445
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In Sum: Current Situation in United States:

• Worsening relative to peer nations

• Many inequalities within the country are increasing

• There is deterioration in multiple aspects of health among some groups
Proximate Causes

• Some evidence of increasing despair

• Opioid epidemic has unusual characteristics related to drug distribution and sudden unexpected death

• Lack of and inappropriate care for some conditions
Root Causes of Adverse Trends:

- Macro Economic Change
- Job Losses in some sectors
- Income stagnation
- Family stresses
- Lack of Supportive Social Policies
National Strategy to Increase Life Expectancy