

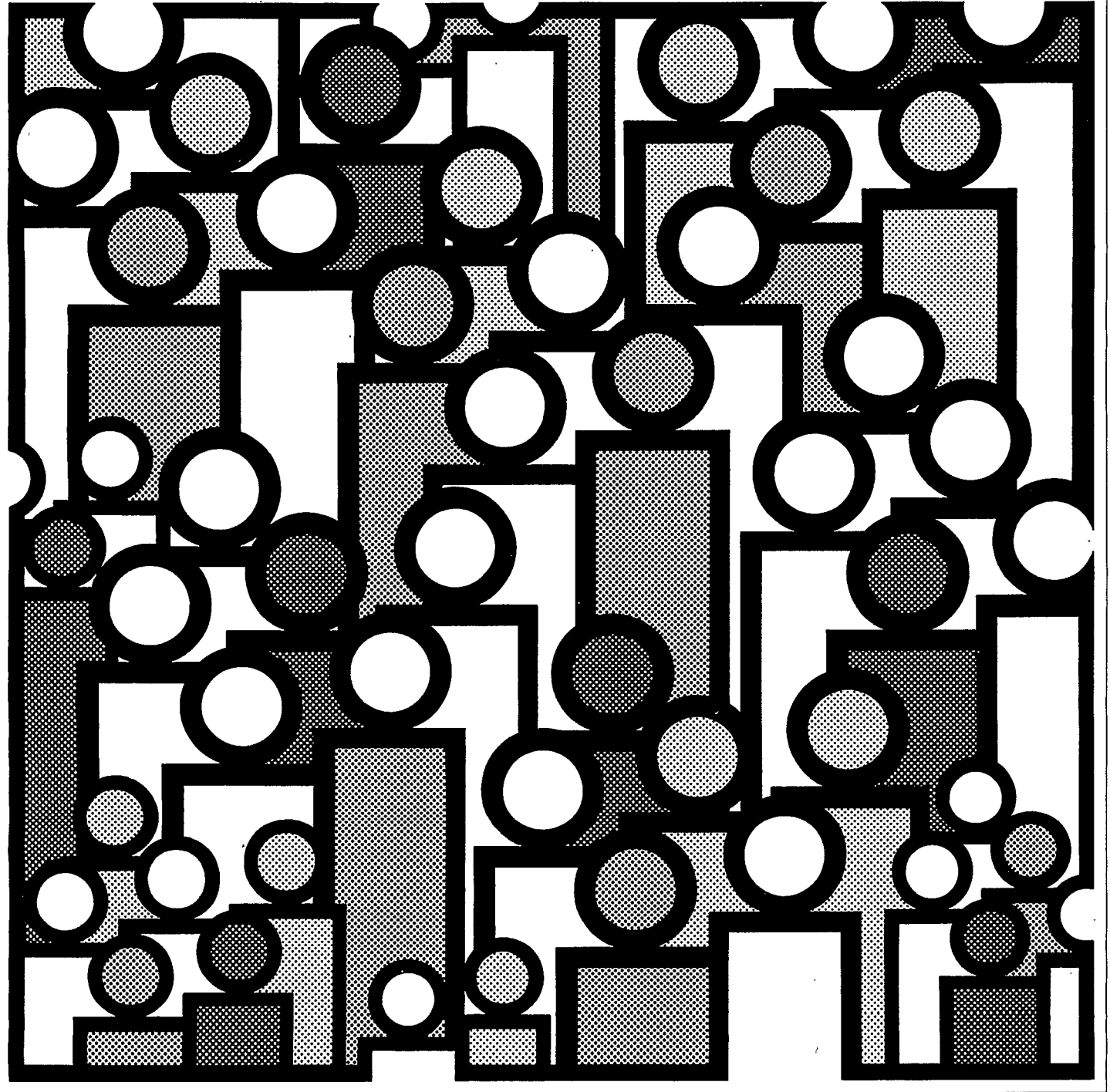
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# U.S. Decennial Life Tables for 1979-81



Volume I, Number 4  
Some Trends and  
Comparisons of  
United States Life Table  
Data: 1900-1981

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • Public Health Service • National Center for Health Statistics



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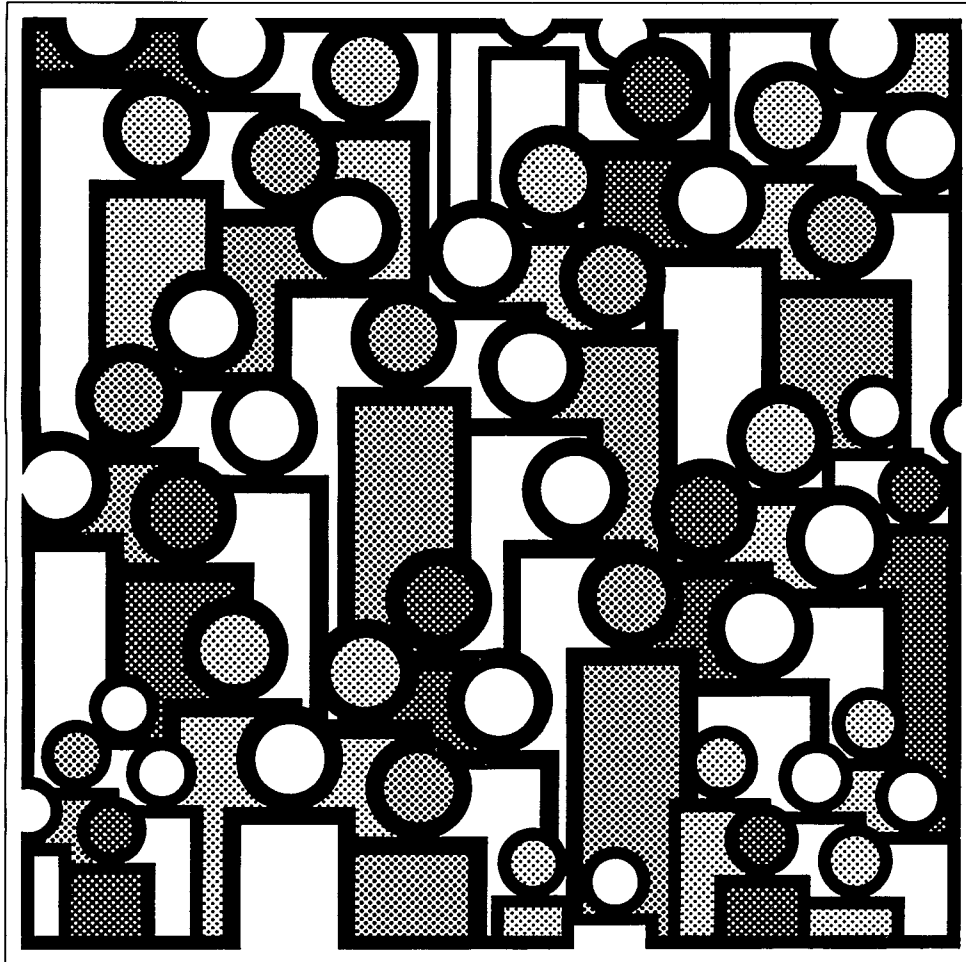
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DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 87-1150-4

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service  
National Center for Health Statistics

Hyattsville, Maryland  
June 1987

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### Symbols

- - - Data not available
  - . . . Category not applicable
  - Quantity zero
  - 0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05
  - Z Quantity more than zero but less than 500 where numbers are rounded to thousands
  - \* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (not published when fewer than 700 male or female deaths for any racial group were registered in 1979–81)
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# Some Trends and Comparisons of United States Life-Table Data: 1900–1981

by Robert J. Armstrong, Division of Vital Statistics

## Introduction

Decennial life tables have been periodically constructed for the years 1900–1981, with the first set of tables covering the period 1900–1902 and the ninth set, 1979–81. This report presents data for 1979–81 and examines the trends in life expectancy occurring since 1900.

Each set of the life tables is based on data from the U.S. decennial population census (conducted 1900 . . . 1980) and from deaths occurring in the death-registration States during the 3-year period surrounding the census year. Because annual collection of mortality data did not begin until 1900, the first set of tables used deaths occurring in 1900–1902.

The number of death-registration States has increased over the years. The tables for 1900–1902 are for 10 States (New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Indiana, and the six New England States) and the District of Columbia. By 1929–31, the tables include all States (48 States, with Alaska and Hawaii added in 1959–61) and the District of Columbia.

Thus the data bases of the nine sets of tables vary over the years. However, it is believed that the trends discussed in this report probably would hold even though data were not available for all States and all years.

This report is the fourth of a series of reports containing life tables for 1979–81 and other information related to the decennial life-table program. The following reports in this series have already been published: life tables for the United States for 1979–81, life tables for each State for 1979–81, and a report that describes in detail the methods of constructing the national and State life tables. A report on life tables that assumes that certain causes of death have been eliminated is in preparation. The selection of trends and comparisons to be examined in this report closely follows that of the 1969–71 series authored by T. N. E. Greville.

# Average lifetime

Table A shows, for each of the nine sets of decennial life tables, the average lifetime (expectation of life at birth) for the total, white, and black populations, by sex. Also shown are the increases that occurred in each of the eight decades covered.

In general terms the increases in life expectancy were small in the first decade of the century, then were substantial up to 1949-51, then became small again until the current set, which had substantial increases once again. Between 1969-71 and 1979-81 all race-sex groups showed increases, with the smallest—2.73 years—for white females and the largest—4.56 years—for black females. The major factor underlying the large increases between 1909-11 and 1949-51 was the phenomenal reduction in mortality from infectious and parasitic diseases resulting from the widespread use of vaccines and antibiotics. The substantial increase that was observed during the last decade was due to a general reduction in mortality but especially from heart disease, stroke, and motor vehicle accidents. Over the eight decades life expectancy has increased slightly more for females than for males.

Generally the average lifetime of females exceeds that of males (table A). An anomaly appeared in 1919-21. The influenza epidemic of 1918 had eliminated a large number of weak persons leaving an unusually hardy remainder. The result was a period of abnormally low mortality in 1919-21, especially for males. During this time, the life expectancy of black males was greater than that of black females. And, although the life expectancy of white females exceeded that of white males, it did so by the least amount in any decade, 2.19 years. Because of these indirect results of the epidemic, the increases in the 1910-20 decade were larger than would normally have been expected, and those in the 1920-30 decade were smaller.

Table A shows that the average lifetime of females has increased by larger amounts than that of males in every decade except the one between 1910 and 1920 and the most recent one. The earlier decade has already been discussed; an explanation for the latter decade has yet to be established. During this latter period the increase for males (3.07 years) was just slightly greater than that for females (2.98 years). The larger

Table A. Average lifetime in years and excess in years over previous period, by race and sex: Death-registration States, 1900-1902 to 1919-21, and United States, 1929-31 to 1979-81

Period	Total			White			Black		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Average lifetime									
1979-81.....	73.88	70.11	77.62	74.53	70.82	78.22	68.52	64.10	72.88
1969-71.....	70.75	67.04	74.64	71.62	67.94	75.49	64.11	60.00	68.32
1959-61.....	69.89	66.80	73.24	70.73	67.55	74.19	<sup>1</sup> 63.91	<sup>1</sup> 61.48	<sup>1</sup> 66.47
1949-51.....	68.07	65.47	70.96	69.02	66.31	72.03	<sup>1</sup> 60.73	<sup>1</sup> 58.91	<sup>1</sup> 62.70
1939-41.....	63.62	61.60	65.89	64.92	62.81	67.29	53.85	52.26	55.56
1929-31.....	<sup>2</sup> 59.3	<sup>2</sup> 57.8	<sup>2</sup> 61.1	<sup>2</sup> 60.9	59.12	62.67	<sup>1,2</sup> 48.4	47.55	49.51
1919-21.....	<sup>2</sup> 56.5	<sup>2</sup> 55.7	<sup>2</sup> 57.5	<sup>2</sup> 57.5	56.34	58.53	<sup>1,2</sup> 47.1	47.14	46.92
1909-11.....	51.49	49.86	53.24	<sup>2</sup> 51.9	50.23	53.62	<sup>1,2</sup> 35.9	34.05	37.67
1900-1902.....	49.24	47.88	50.70	<sup>2</sup> 49.6	48.23	51.08	<sup>1,2</sup> 33.8	32.54	35.04
Excess over previous period									
1979-81 over 1969-71.....	3.13	3.07	2.98	2.91	2.88	2.73	4.41	4.10	4.56
1969-71 over 1959-61.....	0.86	0.24	1.40	0.89	0.39	1.30	<sup>3</sup> 0.20	<sup>3</sup> -1.48	<sup>3</sup> 1.85
1959-61 over 1949-51.....	1.82	1.33	2.28	1.71	1.24	2.16	<sup>3</sup> 3.18	<sup>3</sup> 2.57	<sup>3</sup> 3.77
1949-51 over 1939-41.....	4.45	3.87	5.07	4.10	3.50	4.74	<sup>3</sup> 6.88	<sup>3</sup> 6.65	<sup>3</sup> 7.14
1939-41 over 1929-31.....	<sup>3</sup> 4.3	<sup>3</sup> 3.8	<sup>3</sup> 4.8	<sup>3</sup> 4.0	3.69	4.62	<sup>3</sup> 5.5	4.71	6.05
1929-31 over 1919-21.....	<sup>3</sup> 2.8	<sup>3</sup> 2.1	<sup>3</sup> 3.6	<sup>3</sup> 3.4	2.78	4.14	<sup>3</sup> 1.3	0.41	2.59
1919-21 over 1909-11.....	<sup>3</sup> 5.0	<sup>3</sup> 5.8	<sup>3</sup> 4.3	<sup>3</sup> 5.6	6.11	4.91	<sup>3</sup> 11.2	13.09	9.25
1909-11 over 1900-1902.....	2.25	1.98	2.54	<sup>3</sup> 2.3	2.00	2.54	<sup>3</sup> 2.1	1.51	2.63

<sup>1</sup>For all races other than white; values for the black population are not available.

<sup>2</sup>Approximated by taking the average of the values for the 3 years as given in table 5-5 of Volume II of *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1973*.

<sup>3</sup>Approximated (see footnote 2).



**Table B. Excess in years of female life expectancy at birth over male by race, and excess of white over black by sex: Death-registration States, 1900-1902 to 1919-21 and United States, 1929-31 to 1979-81**

Period	Excess of female lifetime over male lifetime			Excess of white lifetime over black lifetime		
	All races	White	Black	Both sexes	Male	Female
1979-81.....	7.51	7.40	8.78	6.01	6.72	5.34
1969-71.....	7.60	7.55	8.32	7.51	7.94	7.17
1959-61.....	6.44	6.64	<sup>1</sup> 4.99	<sup>1</sup> 6.82	<sup>1</sup> 6.07	<sup>1</sup> 7.72
1949-51.....	5.49	5.72	<sup>1</sup> 3.79	<sup>1</sup> 8.29	<sup>1</sup> 7.40	<sup>1</sup> 9.33
1939-41.....	4.29	4.48	3.30	11.07	10.55	11.73
1929-31.....	<sup>2</sup> 3.3	3.55	1.96	<sup>2</sup> 12.5	11.57	13.16
1919-21.....	<sup>2</sup> 1.8	2.19	-0.22	<sup>2</sup> 10.4	9.20	11.61
1909-11.....	3.38	3.39	3.62	<sup>2</sup> 16.0	16.18	15.95
1900-1902....	2.82	2.85	2.50	<sup>2</sup> 15.8	15.69	16.04

<sup>1</sup>For all races other than white; values for the black population are not available.

<sup>2</sup>Approximated by taking the average of the values for the 3 years as given in table 5-5 of Volume II of *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1973*.

increase for males came entirely from the white population where the increase for males exceeded that for females by 0.15 year. The increase for black males was 0.46 year less than for black females.

Table B shows more clearly that the sex difference has increased markedly since the turn of the century. For the white population the increase has been gradual, but for the black population most of the increase has occurred since 1960. The race difference, on the other hand, has decreased drastically over this period. It is now only about 6 years compared with nearly 16 in 1900-1902. This is the smallest differential of all the nine periods shown. The race differential varies little by sex, currently 6.72 years for males and 5.34 years for females.

## Differences in longevity by State

Table C shows the average lifetime at birth for each State for 1979–81 by race and sex. Table D shows corresponding values of the average remaining lifetime at age 65; and table E contains data for 1969–71 similar to those for 1979–81 given in tables C and D. The tables for the two periods are not entirely comparable because life tables for the total black population, black males, and black females were calculated for 1979–81 but not for 1969–71. In both cases, however, the States are ranked according to the average lifetime of the total population, and these rankings are compared in table F.

For 1969–71 the five States with the highest average lifetime were Hawaii, Minnesota, Utah, North Dakota, and Nebraska. Ten years later the only difference was that Nebraska had dropped from fifth to sixth and was replaced in the top 5 by Iowa which rose from seventh to third. Over the decade substantial improvements in the rankings were registered by New Mexico (34th to 22d), Arizona (31st to 21st), Wyoming (35th to 26th), Washington (16th to 11th), New Hampshire (20th to 15th), and Montana (30th to 25th). On the other hand, large drops in the rankings were observed in Oklahoma (19th to 31st), Texas (23d to 33d), Ohio (25th to 35th), South Dakota (11th to 16th), and Rhode Island (13th to 18th). Because several States have average lifetimes for the total population that are very close together, the precise rankings cannot be considered very reliable. Nevertheless, the States with large declines in their rankings all had increases in life expectancy of less than 2.90 years for the decade, and those that made substantial improvements in their rankings all had increases in life expectancy of at least 3.30 years.

The gain in life expectancy over the decade for the United States was 3.13 years. This gain far exceeds that of the previous decade (0.86 year). Every State experienced a large increase during the decade, with the smallest—2.25 years—in Oklahoma and the largest—3.89 years—in Mississippi and in South Carolina. As a result of these large gains, 33 States in 1979–81 exceeded the life expectancy of 73.60 years that Hawaii had in 1969–71 when it ranked first in the country.

At age 65 the average life expectancy in 1979–81 ranged from 15.74 years in Alaska to 18.27 years in Hawaii. All States registered a gain over the decade, with extremes of 1.04 years in Alaska and 2.04 years in Hawaii. Other States with relatively low gains were Oklahoma (1.19 years), Arkansas (1.23 years), Kentucky (1.26 years), the District of Columbia (1.26 years), and Texas (1.27 years). Hawaii was the only State to gain more than 2 years in its life expectancy at age 65. Other States with large gains were New Hampshire (1.90 years), Maine

(1.89 years), Nevada (1.76 years), and New Mexico (1.75 years).

Table G shows that there was considerable variation among the States in the excess of female average lifetime over male average lifetime, ranging from 6.25 years for Hawaii to 9.15 years for the District of Columbia. The States are ranked from the smallest to the largest difference between the life expectancies of females and males. Experience has shown that small differences are generally due to long life expectancies for both sexes, and therefore also for the total population; large differences usually result from the life expectancy for males being considerably below that of the total population. The life expectancy for males in States that have small differences tends to be above that for males in the entire country; the reverse is true for those States with large differences between female and male longevity. For example, the top 5 States in table G all had life expectancies for males that exceeded the U.S. figure by 0.37 to 3.97 years, and the bottom 5 were all below the U.S. figure by 1.51 to 5.56 years.

Hawaii and the District of Columbia, the areas that ranked 1st and 51st in 1979–81 (table G), held the same rankings 10 years earlier, but the range between the two extremes has narrowed considerably from 3.83 years to 2.90 years. There does not appear to be any clear-cut geographic pattern of sex differences in average lifetime; however, no southern State had a smaller value than that for the United States. This same observation was also made 10 years earlier.

As mentioned previously, the range of the differences between female and male longevity has narrowed considerably over the past decade. In 1969–71 Hawaii's sex difference was 1.09 years less than that of New Jersey, the next lowest State. In 1979–81 Hawaii's sex difference was only 0.55 year less than Utah, the State with the next lowest difference. At the other extreme, the District of Columbia had the largest sex difference for both decennia. However, the amount by which it surpassed the next highest State decreased from 0.60 to 0.40 year.

In 1979–81 Hawaii had the highest life expectancy for both males (74.08 years) and females (80.33 years), but its margin over second-ranked Minnesota was three times as large among males as among females (1.56 versus 0.51 years). The ethnic composition of the male population of Hawaii probably accounts for this difference. The life expectancy of other-than-white males in Hawaii (mainly of oriental background) was 3.71 years longer than in California, the next highest State (74.57 versus 70.86 years). For white males in Hawaii, the life

**Table C. Average lifetime in years at birth by race and sex: United States and each State in rank order, 1979-81**

[States are ranked according to the average lifetime for the total population]

Rank	Area	All other											
		All races			White			Total			Black		
		Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
1	Hawaii	77.02	74.08	80.33	76.22	73.04	79.81	77.46	74.57	80.72	*	*	*
2	Minnesota	76.15	72.52	79.82	76.25	72.63	79.90	*	*	*	*	*	*
3	Iowa	75.81	72.00	79.60	75.88	72.09	79.64	*	*	*	*	*	*
4	Utah	75.76	72.38	79.18	75.80	72.42	79.22	*	*	*	*	*	*
5	North Dakota	75.71	72.09	79.68	76.03	72.45	79.95	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	Nebraska	75.49	71.73	79.29	75.73	71.97	79.53	*	*	*	*	*	*
7	Wisconsin	75.35	71.86	78.87	75.53	72.05	79.05	71.17	67.53	74.83	70.53	66.98	74.09
8	Kansas	75.31	71.60	78.99	75.57	71.85	79.26	71.33	67.87	74.75	69.68	66.17	73.24
9	Colorado	75.30	71.78	78.80	75.37	71.84	78.89	74.09	70.74	77.32	71.01	67.41	74.66
10	Idaho	75.19	71.52	79.15	75.24	71.58	79.19	*	*	*	*	*	*
11	Washington	75.13	71.74	78.57	75.23	71.86	78.64	73.84	70.18	77.83	*	*	*
12	Connecticut	75.12	71.51	78.57	75.46	71.90	78.86	71.45	67.13	75.55	70.32	65.80	74.62
13	Massachusetts	75.01	71.27	78.46	75.11	71.38	78.54	73.66	69.60	77.51	71.74	67.53	75.73
14	Oregon	74.99	71.35	78.77	75.03	71.41	78.79	*	*	*	*	*	*
15	New Hampshire	74.98	71.43	78.42	74.94	71.39	78.38	*	*	*	*	*	*
16	South Dakota	74.97	71.03	79.21	75.94	72.07	80.07	*	*	*	*	*	*
17	Vermont	74.79	71.06	78.49	74.76	71.03	78.47	*	*	*	*	*	*
18	Rhode Island	74.76	70.96	78.33	74.87	71.06	78.45	*	*	*	*	*	*
19	Maine	74.59	70.78	78.41	74.58	70.77	78.39	*	*	*	*	*	*
20	California	74.57	71.09	78.02	74.67	71.18	78.12	74.30	70.86	77.81	69.54	65.47	73.74
21	Arizona	74.30	70.46	78.34	74.78	71.08	78.66	69.59	64.63	75.04	*	*	*
22	New Mexico	74.01	69.91	78.34	74.44	70.46	78.63	70.54	65.32	76.12	*	*	*
23	Florida	74.00	70.08	77.98	74.95	71.10	78.86	68.07	63.76	72.41	67.39	63.05	71.79
23	New Jersey	74.00	70.48	77.39	74.69	71.25	77.99	69.91	65.73	73.90	68.87	64.53	73.02
25	Montana	73.93	70.47	77.68	74.46	71.00	78.19	*	*	*	*	*	*
...	United States	73.88	70.11	77.62	74.53	70.82	78.22	69.84	65.63	74.00	68.52	64.10	72.88
26	Wyoming	73.85	69.95	78.20	74.05	70.15	78.39	*	*	*	*	*	*
27	Indiana	73.84	70.16	77.46	74.22	70.57	77.82	69.55	65.53	73.54	68.78	64.71	72.87
27	Missouri	73.84	69.92	77.72	74.48	70.64	78.29	68.74	64.02	73.29	67.96	63.14	72.65
29	Arkansas	73.72	69.73	77.83	74.44	70.46	78.59	69.95	65.51	74.16	69.49	65.00	73.77
30	New York	73.70	70.02	77.18	74.44	70.90	77.80	70.13	65.58	74.26	68.97	64.14	73.28
31	Michigan	73.67	70.07	77.29	74.46	70.94	77.99	68.91	64.73	73.17	68.19	63.87	72.58
31	Oklahoma	73.67	69.63	77.81	73.93	69.90	78.07	71.97	67.63	76.26	68.96	64.71	73.22
33	Texas	73.64	69.70	77.67	74.22	70.30	78.22	69.69	65.40	74.05	68.88	64.44	73.42
34	Pennsylvania	73.58	69.90	77.16	74.13	70.52	77.64	68.58	64.07	72.93	67.89	63.27	72.35
35	Ohio	73.49	69.85	77.06	74.01	70.42	77.53	69.21	65.16	73.24	68.67	64.56	72.75
36	Virginia	73.43	69.60	77.27	74.42	70.54	78.28	69.57	65.76	73.49	68.96	65.08	72.99
37	Illinois	73.37	69.55	77.13	74.29	70.57	77.96	68.71	64.32	72.99	67.63	63.02	72.09
38	Maryland	73.32	69.71	76.83	74.36	70.86	77.73	69.83	65.89	73.81	69.17	65.13	73.25
39	Tennessee	73.30	69.15	77.47	74.13	69.99	78.31	68.87	64.37	73.19	68.60	64.07	72.96
40	Delaware	73.21	69.56	76.78	74.11	70.53	77.59	68.98	64.93	73.15	68.38	64.35	72.53
41	Kentucky	73.06	69.14	77.12	73.39	69.46	77.46	68.91	64.90	72.93	68.32	64.31	72.38
42	North Carolina	72.96	68.60	77.35	74.27	70.02	78.53	68.61	63.66	73.58	68.31	63.33	73.32
43	West Virginia	72.84	68.86	76.93	72.98	68.99	77.09	69.05	65.03	72.88	67.91	63.66	71.94
44	Nevada	72.64	69.26	76.48	72.90	69.52	76.72	*	*	*	*	*	*
45	Alabama	72.53	68.28	76.79	73.88	69.67	78.15	68.52	63.76	73.05	68.33	63.54	72.89
46	Alaska	72.24	68.71	76.87	73.42	69.99	77.93	*	*	*	*	*	*
47	Georgia	72.22	68.01	76.35	73.80	69.56	78.01	67.87	63.41	72.06	67.66	63.18	71.88
48	Mississippi	71.98	67.64	76.39	73.61	69.26	78.09	68.90	64.19	73.40	68.81	64.09	73.32
49	South Carolina	71.85	67.56	76.12	73.60	69.40	77.81	67.78	62.96	72.47	67.58	62.73	72.31
50	Louisiana	71.74	67.64	75.89	73.26	69.20	77.42	68.12	63.63	72.48	67.85	63.29	72.27
51	District of Columbia	69.20	64.55	73.70	74.83	71.24	77.88	67.17	62.10	72.19	66.96	61.88	72.01

expectancy was only 0.41 year longer than in Minnesota, the next highest State (73.04 versus 72.63 years).

The lower mortality of males in Hawaii extends over a broad range of ages. Table H shows for each of 10 age groups the probability of dying per 100,000 population for males in Hawaii and in the State other than Hawaii having the lowest

probability for males in that age group. For each of the three age groups above age 55 Hawaii has, by a wide margin, the lowest probabilities in the Nation for males. Furthermore, in each of the other age groups, Hawaii's probability does not greatly exceed that of the State with the lowest probability.

Table D. Average remaining lifetime in years at age 65 by race and sex: United States and each State, 1979-81

Area in rank order for average lifetime at birth	All other											
	All races			White			Total			Black		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Hawaii	18.27	16.61	20.06	17.81	15.92	19.54	18.59	16.95	20.50	*	*	*
Minnesota	17.40	14.99	19.52	17.39	14.98	19.51	*	*	*	*	*	*
Iowa	17.22	14.68	19.38	17.22	14.69	19.37	*	*	*	*	*	*
Utah	17.19	15.13	18.99	17.15	15.10	18.96	*	*	*	*	*	*
North Dakota	17.31	15.17	19.37	17.32	15.19	19.37	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nebraska	17.22	14.77	19.34	17.23	14.77	19.37	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wisconsin	16.84	14.53	18.88	16.85	14.54	18.89	16.10	14.01	17.92	15.73	13.67	17.54
Kansas	17.27	14.83	19.31	17.31	14.85	19.37	16.14	14.29	17.66	15.61	13.81	17.11
Colorado	17.13	14.77	19.12	17.11	14.75	19.10	17.58	15.32	19.38	16.06	13.60	17.98
Idaho	17.12	15.01	19.18	17.10	14.98	19.18	*	*	*	*	*	*
Washington	17.00	14.78	18.93	16.98	14.75	18.90	17.47	15.46	19.51	*	*	*
Connecticut	16.80	14.41	18.72	16.80	14.41	18.72	16.75	14.48	18.50	16.21	13.86	18.01
Massachusetts	16.66	14.17	18.54	16.64	14.15	18.51	17.70	15.21	19.68	16.84	14.47	18.71
Oregon	16.98	14.70	19.06	16.96	14.68	19.04	*	*	*	*	*	*
New Hampshire	16.63	14.23	18.59	16.61	14.22	18.56	*	*	*	*	*	*
South Dakota	17.35	14.89	19.64	17.44	14.98	19.73	*	*	*	*	*	*
Vermont	16.58	14.08	18.70	16.56	14.07	18.68	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rhode Island	16.61	14.05	18.60	16.59	14.03	18.58	*	*	*	*	*	*
Maine	16.55	14.15	18.58	16.53	14.13	18.56	*	*	*	*	*	*
California	16.89	14.72	18.69	16.82	14.60	18.65	17.74	15.95	19.39	15.85	13.76	17.58
Arizona	17.21	15.13	19.18	17.21	15.10	19.18	17.18	15.53	18.88	*	*	*
New Mexico	17.21	15.13	19.11	17.15	15.04	19.06	18.14	16.40	19.94	*	*	*
Florida	17.41	15.31	19.33	17.56	15.45	19.48	15.49	13.38	17.35	15.18	13.09	17.03
New Jersey	16.15	13.96	17.92	16.20	14.00	17.97	15.61	13.42	17.40	15.26	13.09	17.01
Montana	16.67	14.55	18.69	16.69	14.56	18.72	*	*	*	*	*	*
United States	16.51	14.21	18.44	16.59	14.26	18.55	15.86	13.83	17.60	15.37	13.29	17.13
Wyoming	16.64	14.39	18.76	16.64	14.42	18.73	*	*	*	*	*	*
Indiana	16.18	13.84	18.13	16.22	13.85	18.18	15.61	13.61	17.36	15.31	13.35	17.04
Missouri	16.47	14.02	18.51	16.54	14.06	18.63	15.56	13.57	17.22	15.26	13.33	16.89
Arkansas	16.60	14.36	18.63	16.70	14.40	18.79	16.03	14.11	17.79	15.89	14.00	17.64
New York	16.32	14.10	18.07	16.35	14.13	18.12	16.12	13.90	17.79	15.72	13.48	17.33
Michigan	16.19	13.90	18.18	16.26	13.93	18.27	15.66	13.67	17.47	15.45	13.47	17.24
Oklahoma	16.66	14.21	18.76	16.61	14.14	18.74	17.24	14.98	19.13	15.73	13.80	17.41
Texas	16.65	14.32	18.63	16.75	14.37	18.76	15.90	13.90	17.66	15.67	13.68	17.43
Pennsylvania	15.92	13.63	17.80	15.97	13.67	17.85	15.32	13.06	17.20	15.09	12.87	16.95
Ohio	15.99	13.62	17.95	16.05	13.66	18.02	15.28	13.18	17.13	15.08	13.05	16.89
Virginia	16.09	13.64	18.10	16.33	13.79	18.40	15.08	13.04	16.88	14.92	12.91	16.72
Illinois	16.21	13.86	18.12	16.30	13.91	18.24	15.46	13.52	17.09	15.08	13.15	16.69
Maryland	15.99	13.60	17.92	16.17	13.74	18.11	15.09	12.94	17.00	14.86	12.71	16.78
Tennessee	16.40	13.95	18.46	16.59	14.07	18.71	15.31	13.24	17.09	15.22	13.19	16.98
Delaware	15.97	13.52	17.99	16.07	13.63	18.07	15.28	12.78	17.57	15.03	12.59	17.30
Kentucky	16.05	13.76	18.04	16.12	13.82	18.13	15.00	12.85	16.87	14.81	12.71	16.65
North Carolina	16.38	13.77	18.50	16.62	13.94	18.79	15.53	13.17	17.52	15.46	13.09	17.45
West Virginia	15.99	13.67	18.05	16.01	13.68	18.06	15.54	13.31	17.54	15.30	13.14	17.25
Nevada	16.12	14.11	18.15	16.10	14.10	18.11	*	*	*	*	*	*
Alabama	16.16	13.72	18.20	16.38	13.82	18.52	15.55	13.44	17.33	15.49	13.40	17.26
Alaska	15.74	13.80	18.08	15.59	13.54	18.02	*	*	*	*	*	*
Georgia	16.05	13.49	18.06	16.36	13.66	18.49	15.23	12.99	16.94	15.17	12.95	16.87
Mississippi	16.16	13.90	18.10	16.38	13.86	18.51	15.77	13.99	17.36	15.75	13.98	17.33
South Carolina	15.97	13.47	17.94	16.16	13.51	18.28	15.61	13.44	17.29	15.55	13.40	17.22
Louisiana	15.82	13.58	17.69	16.06	13.64	18.06	15.24	13.40	16.83	15.16	13.30	16.76
District of Columbia	15.85	13.35	17.69	17.08	14.46	18.77	15.17	12.84	17.02	15.08	12.74	16.93

Table E. Average remaining lifetime in years at birth and at age 65, by race and sex: United States and each State in rank order, 1969-71

Rank	Area	At birth					At age 65				
		Total population	White		All other		Total population	White		All other	
			Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female
1	Hawaii	73.60	(1)	(1)	71.08	76.93	16.23	(1)	(1)	15.11	18.19
2	Minnesota	72.96	69.46	76.87	(1)	(1)	15.73	13.74	17.61	(1)	(1)
3	Utah	72.90	69.54	76.60	(1)	(1)	15.67	13.82	17.34	(1)	(1)
4	North Dakota	72.79	69.55	77.28	(1)	(1)	15.77	13.85	17.92	(1)	(1)
5	Nebraska	72.60	69.12	76.92	(1)	(1)	15.86	13.73	17.89	(1)	(1)
6	Kansas	72.58	69.11	76.84	(1)	(1)	15.79	13.68	17.74	(1)	(1)
7	Iowa	72.56	68.91	76.57	(1)	(1)	15.59	13.40	17.63	(1)	(1)
8	Connecticut	72.48	69.45	76.33	63.68	70.57	15.29	13.19	17.05	14.31	17.17
8	Wisconsin	72.48	69.32	76.20	(1)	(1)	15.32	13.42	17.13	(1)	(1)
10	Oregon	72.13	68.51	76.25	(1)	(1)	15.57	13.49	17.60	(1)	(1)
11	South Dakota	72.08	69.41	77.03	(1)	(1)	15.82	13.78	18.08	(1)	(1)
12	Colorado	72.06	68.53	76.04	(1)	(1)	15.71	13.67	17.56	(1)	(1)
13	Rhode Island	71.90	68.50	75.62	(1)	(1)	14.96	12.83	16.67	(1)	(1)
14	Idaho	71.87	68.31	76.22	(1)	(1)	15.67	13.84	17.59	(1)	(1)
15	Massachusetts	71.83	68.33	75.58	63.22	72.32	15.08	12.80	16.88	13.94	17.47
16	Washington	71.72	68.29	75.99	(1)	(1)	15.26	13.11	17.32	(1)	(1)
17	California	71.71	68.41	75.60	66.81	73.73	15.52	13.33	17.35	14.92	18.01
18	Vermont	71.64	67.75	75.75	(1)	(1)	14.84	12.61	16.83	(1)	(1)
19	Oklahoma	71.42	67.83	76.15	63.47	72.25	15.47	13.23	17.49	14.02	17.85
20	New Hampshire	71.23	67.46	75.17	(1)	(1)	14.73	12.56	16.64	(1)	(1)
21	Maine	70.93	67.25	74.83	(1)	(1)	14.66	12.55	16.59	(1)	(1)
21	New Jersey	70.93	68.56	75.16	60.09	68.82	14.62	12.73	16.33	12.45	15.68
23	Texas	70.90	67.85	75.88	61.71	69.47	15.38	13.30	17.47	13.27	16.45
24	Indiana	70.88	67.65	75.18	61.89	68.98	14.73	12.71	16.63	12.70	15.61
25	Ohio	70.82	67.90	75.11	61.34	69.52	14.64	12.66	16.51	12.48	15.81
...	United States	70.75	67.94	75.49	60.98	69.05	15.00	13.02	16.93	12.87	15.99
26	Missouri	70.69	67.79	75.50	59.55	68.21	14.98	12.94	16.95	12.69	15.83
27	Arkansas	70.66	67.58	76.26	62.01	69.67	15.37	13.47	17.50	13.62	16.44
27	Florida	70.66	68.15	76.41	58.89	67.25	16.07	14.24	18.19	12.70	16.28
29	Michigan	70.63	67.99	75.24	60.95	69.28	14.71	12.76	16.71	12.97	16.17
30	Montana	70.56	67.16	75.56	(1)	(1)	15.31	13.33	17.57	(1)	(1)
31	Arizona	70.55	67.46	75.59	(1)	(1)	15.50	13.47	17.67	(1)	(1)
31	New York	70.55	68.04	74.94	60.39	69.67	14.68	12.77	16.36	12.89	16.39
33	Pennsylvania	70.43	67.71	74.69	59.42	68.25	14.35	12.50	16.08	12.22	15.42
34	New Mexico	70.32	67.29	75.07	(1)	(1)	15.46	13.70	17.18	(1)	(1)
35	Wyoming	70.29	66.34	75.40	(1)	(1)	15.30	13.20	17.60	(1)	(1)
36	Maryland	70.22	67.83	75.42	60.67	68.81	14.51	12.45	16.54	12.33	15.17
37	Illinois	70.14	67.66	74.95	59.46	68.03	14.63	12.68	16.50	12.45	15.37
38	Tennessee	70.11	67.07	75.61	61.09	67.86	14.89	12.99	16.99	12.37	15.35
39	Kentucky	70.10	66.74	74.91	59.81	67.57	14.79	13.00	16.71	11.67	15.14
40	Virginia	70.08	67.72	75.72	60.36	68.19	14.71	12.71	16.96	12.03	15.21
41	Delaware	70.06	67.66	75.37	(1)	(1)	14.36	12.29	16.56	(1)	(1)
42	West Virginia	69.48	65.84	74.04	(1)	(1)	14.46	12.71	16.35	(1)	(1)
43	Alaska	69.31	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	14.70	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
44	North Carolina	69.21	66.76	75.71	58.82	67.80	14.81	12.82	17.05	12.33	15.49
45	Alabama	69.05	66.56	75.64	59.86	67.83	14.75	12.79	17.01	12.71	15.49
46	Nevada	69.03	66.02	73.73	(1)	(1)	14.36	12.58	16.48	(1)	(1)
47	Louisiana	68.76	66.55	75.17	60.65	68.05	14.43	12.48	16.70	12.52	15.11
48	Georgia	68.54	66.18	75.38	58.59	67.10	14.70	12.39	17.00	12.62	16.01
49	Mississippi	68.09	66.14	75.32	60.17	67.78	14.63	12.68	16.95	12.97	15.54
50	South Carolina	67.96	66.11	74.82	58.33	67.01	14.47	12.21	16.52	12.74	16.17
51	District of Columbia	65.71	66.08	74.76	58.96	68.34	14.59	12.80	17.44	11.74	15.18

<sup>1</sup>Not computed because fewer than 1,600 female or male deaths of the specified racial group were registered in the 3-year period 1969-71.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics. State life tables, 1969-71. U.S. Decennial Life Tables for 1969-71, Vol. 2, Nos. 1-51. DHEW Pub. No. (HRA) 75-1150. Health Resources Administration. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, June 1975.

Table F. Average lifetime in years for the total population by State in 1969-71 and 1979-81, increase in years of 1979-81 over 1969-71, and rank in 1969-71 and 1979-81: United States

Area in rank order for 1979-81	Average lifetime			Rank	
	1979-81	1969-71	Increase	1979-81	1969-71
Hawaii	77.02	73.60	3.42	1	1
Minnesota	76.15	72.96	3.19	2	2
Iowa	75.81	72.56	3.25	3	7
Utah	75.76	72.90	2.86	4	3
North Dakota	75.71	72.79	2.92	5	4
Nebraska	75.49	72.60	2.89	6	5
Wisconsin	75.35	72.48	2.87	7	8
Kansas	75.31	72.58	2.73	8	6
Colorado	75.30	72.06	3.24	9	12
Idaho	75.19	71.87	3.32	10	14
Washington	75.13	71.72	3.41	11	16
Connecticut	75.12	72.48	2.64	12	8
Massachusetts	75.01	71.83	3.18	13	15
Oregon	74.99	72.13	2.86	14	10
New Hampshire	74.98	71.23	3.75	15	20
South Dakota	74.97	72.08	2.89	16	11
Vermont	74.79	71.64	3.15	17	18
Rhode Island	74.76	71.90	2.86	18	13
Maine	74.59	70.93	3.66	19	21
California	74.57	71.71	2.86	20	17
Arizona	74.30	70.55	3.75	21	31
New Mexico	74.01	70.32	3.69	22	34
Florida	74.00	70.66	3.34	23	27
New Jersey	74.00	70.93	3.07	23	21
Montana	73.93	70.56	3.37	25	30
Wyoming	73.85	70.29	3.56	26	35
Indiana	73.84	70.88	2.96	27	24
Missouri	73.84	70.69	3.15	27	26
Arkansas	73.72	70.66	3.06	29	27
New York	73.70	70.55	3.15	30	31
Michigan	73.67	70.63	3.04	31	29
Oklahoma	73.67	71.42	2.25	31	19
Texas	73.64	70.90	2.74	33	23
Pennsylvania	73.58	70.43	3.15	34	33
Ohio	73.49	70.82	2.67	35	25
Virginia	73.43	70.08	3.35	36	40
Illinois	73.37	70.14	3.23	37	37
Maryland	73.32	70.22	3.10	38	36
Tennessee	73.30	70.11	3.19	39	38
Delaware	73.21	70.06	3.15	40	41
Kentucky	73.06	70.10	2.96	41	39
North Carolina	72.96	69.21	3.75	42	44
West Virginia	72.84	69.48	3.36	43	42
Nevada	72.64	69.03	3.61	44	46
Alabama	72.53	69.05	3.48	45	45
Alaska	72.24	69.31	2.93	46	43
Georgia	72.22	68.54	3.68	47	48
Mississippi	71.98	68.09	3.89	48	49
South Carolina	71.85	67.96	3.89	49	50
Louisiana	71.74	68.76	2.98	50	47
District of Columbia	69.20	65.71	3.49	51	51

Table G. The United States and each State ranked by size of excess in years of female average lifetime over male: 1979-81

Rank	Area	Excess of female average lifetime over male		Rank	Area	Excess of female average lifetime over male
1	Hawaii	6.25	26	Illinois	7.58	
2	Utah	6.80	27	North Dakota	7.59	
3	Washington	6.83	28	Iowa	7.60	
4	New Jersey	6.91	29	Idaho	7.63	
5	California	6.93	29	Maine	7.63	
6	New Hampshire	6.99	31	Virginia	7.67	
7	Wisconsin	7.01	32	Missouri	7.80	
8	Colorado	7.02	33	Arizona	7.88	
9	Connecticut	7.06	34	Florida	7.90	
10	Maryland	7.12	35	Texas	7.97	
11	New York	7.16	36	Kentucky	7.98	
12	Massachusetts	7.19	37	West Virginia	8.07	
13	Montana	7.21	38	Arkansas	8.10	
13	Ohio	7.21	39	Alaska	8.16	
15	Delaware	7.22	40	Oklahoma	8.18	
15	Michigan	7.22	40	South Dakota	8.18	
15	Nevada	7.22	42	Louisiana	8.25	
18	Pennsylvania	7.26	42	Wyoming	8.25	
19	Indiana	7.30	44	Tennessee	8.32	
19	Minnesota	7.30	45	Georgia	8.34	
21	Rhode Island	7.37	46	New Mexico	8.43	
22	Kansas	7.39	47	Alabama	8.51	
23	Oregon	7.42	48	South Carolina	8.56	
24	Vermont	7.43	49	Mississippi	8.75	
25	Nebraska	7.56	49	North Carolina	8.75	
...	United States	7.51	51	District of Columbia	9.15	

Table H. Probabilities of dying among males, by age, for Hawaii and the State other than Hawaii having the lowest probability: United States, 1979-81

Age	Probability per 100,000 population	
	Hawaii	State other than Hawaii having lowest probability
0-1 years	1,121	999 (Vermont)
1-5 years	275	185 (Rhode Island)
5-15 years	308	273 (Rhode Island)
15-25 years	1,271	1,076 (Massachusetts)
25-35 years	1,374	1,275 (Vermont)
35-45 years	2,289	1,964 (Minnesota)
45-55 years	5,778	5,568 (Minnesota)
55-65 years	11,778	13,327 (Utah)
65-75 years	24,734	30,286 (Florida)
75-85 years	51,160	55,730 (Florida)

## International comparisons

The fact that women live, on the average, longer than men is a very general observation, by no means confined to the United States. Table J shows data on the average lifetime of males and females and the differences between them for selected countries. The figures for India are somewhat dated (1961-70) and are included only because they reverse the usual pattern and show greater average lifetime for males. It is not known, of course, whether the same anomaly would appear in more recent figures for India. However, the same reversal was seen in earlier data for 1951-60.

It will be noted that the United States is not among the countries having the greatest expectation of life; this is especially true for males. Even for females the United States is surpassed by Canada, France, Iceland, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland. This represents a slight relative improvement for the United States as 10 years ago both England and Wales and Denmark also ranked higher.

When ranked according to the difference between the average lifetime of females and males where a rank of one represents the greatest difference, the United States is seventh, surpassed by Austria, France, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, and the U.S.S.R. It is not surprising that females have greater longevity than males; males have higher death rates from almost every cause at almost every age but especially from violent and accidental deaths. However, it is not clear why there is substantial variation among countries in the size of the difference.

Table J. Average lifetime in years by sex and excess in years of female lifetime over male, for selected countries

Country and period	Average lifetime		Excess of female lifetime over male
	Male	Female	
Argentina 1975 . . . . .	65.43	72.12	6.69
Austria 1981 . . . . .	69.18	76.59	7.41
Canada 1980-82 . . . . .	71.87	78.94	7.07
Czechoslovakia 1981 . . . . .	67.00	74.34	7.34
Denmark 1981-82 . . . . .	71.40	77.40	6.00
England and Wales 1980-82 . . . . .	71.09	77.11	6.02
Federal Republic of Germany 1980-82 . . . . .	70.18	76.85	6.67
France 1981 . . . . .	70.41	78.47	8.06
German Democratic Republic 1982 . . . . .	69.09	75.10	6.01
Hungary 1982 . . . . .	66.14	73.68	7.54
Iceland 1981-82 . . . . .	73.91	79.45	5.54
India 1961-70 . . . . .	46.40	44.70	-1.70
Israel 1982 . . . . .	72.48	75.75	3.27
Japan 1982 . . . . .	74.22	79.66	5.44
Malta 1982 . . . . .	69.61	72.93	3.32
Netherlands 1981 . . . . .	72.70	79.30	6.60
Norway 1981-82 . . . . .	72.64	79.41	6.77
Poland 1982 . . . . .	67.24	75.20	7.96
Portugal 1975 . . . . .	65.09	72.86	7.77
Romania 1976-78 . . . . .	67.42	72.18	4.76
Scotland 1980-82 . . . . .	68.98	75.19	6.21
Singapore 1980 . . . . .	68.70	74.00	5.30
Sweden 1981 . . . . .	73.05	79.08	6.03
Switzerland 1977-78 . . . . .	72.00	78.70	6.70
United States 1982 . . . . .	70.80	78.20	7.40
U.S.S.R. 1971-72 <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	64.00	74.00	10.00
Yugoslavia 1979-80 . . . . .	67.72	73.15	5.43

<sup>1</sup>Estimate prepared by United Nations.

SOURCE: Department of Economic and Social Affairs: *Demographic Yearbook, 1983*. New York, United Nations, 1985.



# U.S. Decennial Life Tables, 1979-81

These 55 reports are published once each 10-year period by the National Center for Health Statistics.

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