

Losing Ground in Health: Life Expectancy

In 1980, the U.S. ranked 14th among industrialized countries in life expectancy (LE) at birth. By 2003, we had slipped to 23rd place.

1980	Rank	2003
LE = 76.7 Iceland	1	Japan LE = 81.8
Switzerland	2	Iceland
Japan	3	Spain
Netherlands	4	Switzerland
Norway	5	Australia
Sweden	6	Sweden
Spain	7	Italy
Canada	8	Canada
Australia	9	Norway
Greece	10	France
Denmark	11	New Zealand
France	12	Austria
Italy	13	Netherlands
LE = 73.7 United States	14	Finland
Belgium	15	United Kingdom
Finland	16	Germany
New Zealand	17	Luxembourg
United Kingdom	18	Belgium
Germany	19	Greece
Ireland	20	Ireland
Austria	21	Portugal
Luxembourg	22	Denmark
Portugal	23	United States LE = 77.2
Slovak Republic	24	Korea
Czech Republic	25	Czech Republic
Poland	26	Mexico
Hungary	27	Poland
Mexico	28	Slovak Republic
Korea	29	Hungary
Turkey	30	Turkey

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Source: OECD Health Data 2007.