The Decline in American Death Rates

Birthrate and life expectancy for whites

- Birthrate
- Life expectancy

[Graph showing the decline in birthrate and increase in life expectancy from 1800 to 2000]
Life Expectancy in America, 1720–1982

The Decline in American Death Rates

Life expectancy for American males

- At birth
- Age 5
- Age 20
- Age 40
- Age 60
- Age 70

Years:
- 1850
- 1880
- 1910
- 1940
- 1956
- 1959
- 1962
- 1965
- 1968
- 1971
- 1974
- 1977
- 1980
- 1983
- 1986
- 1989
- 1992
- 1995
- 1998

J. Parman (College of William & Mary)
### Leading Causes of Death in the United States, 1900

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000 people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pneumonia and influenza</td>
<td>202.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>194.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Diarrhea, enteritis, and ulceration of the intestines</td>
<td>142.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Diseases of the heart</td>
<td>137.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Intracranial lesions of vascular origin</td>
<td>106.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nephritis</td>
<td>88.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Accidents</td>
<td>72.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cancer and other malignant tumors</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Senility</td>
<td>50.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Diptheria</td>
<td>40.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Leading Causes of Death in the United States, 1998

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000 people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Diseases of heart</td>
<td>268.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Malignant neoplasms</td>
<td>200.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cerebrovascular diseases</td>
<td>58.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases</td>
<td>41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Accidents</td>
<td>36.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pneumonia and influenza</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nephritis</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Chronic liver disease</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Putting American Health in Perspective

Enrollment rate

Infant mortality rate

US - 1870
US - 1880
US - 1890
US - 1900
US - 1910
US - 1920
US - 1930
US - 1940
US - 1950
US - 1990

0 20 40 60 80 100

0 50 100 150 200 250

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April 10, 2012
The Different Experiences of the White and Black Populations

Birthrates, 1800-2000

Birthrate, white
Birthrate, black

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Life expectancy

- White
- Black

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The Different Experiences of the White and Black Populations

Infant mortality, 1800-2000

- Infant mortality rate, white
- Infant mortality rate, black

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The Different Experiences of the White and Black Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1850 White</th>
<th>1850 Black</th>
<th>2000 White</th>
<th>2000 Black</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birthrate</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>17.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate</td>
<td>216.8</td>
<td>340.0</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>71.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Possible Contributions to Racial Gaps

- Differences in average socioeconomic status
- Differences in location
- Differences in access to medical care
- Discrimination in medical care
Number of immigrants entering the United States, 1820-1988
A Timeline of Immigration Policy

Early 1800s - No Major Restrictions
1850s - Rise of Nativists
1882 - Chinese Exclusion Act
Sec. 3. That the following classes of aliens shall be excluded from admission into the United States:
All idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded persons, epileptics, insane persons...persons of constitutional psychopathic inferiority; persons with chronic alcoholism; paupers; professional beggars; vagrants; persons afflicted with tuberculosis...
The Immigration Act of 1917

...persons who have been convicted of or admit having committed a felony or other crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude; polygamists; anarchists...[persons] who advocate or teach unlawful destruction of property; ...persons coming to the United States for the purpose of prostitution or for any other immoral purpose...
...[The provision] shall not apply to the persons of the following status or occupations: Government officers, ministers or religious teachers, missionaries, lawyers, physicians, chemists, civil engineers, teachers, students, authors, artists, merchants, and travelers for curiosity or pleasure...
All aliens over sixteen years of age, physically capable of reading, who can not read the English language, or some other language or dialect, including Hebrew or Yiddish... That for the purpose of ascertaining whether aliens can read the immigrant inspectors shall be furnished with slips of uniform size... each containing not less than thirty nor more than forty words in ordinary use, printed in plainly legible type of some one of the various languages or dialects of immigrants.
1917 - Literacy Test
A Timeline of Immigration Policy

1920s - Quota Act and National Origins Act
1965 - Immigration and Nationality Act
The Forces of Immigration

- Push factors - conditions in a person’s home country encouraging emigration
  - Bad economic conditions, military conflict, religious persecution, natural disasters, ...

- Pull factors - conditions in the destination country attracting immigrants
  - Economic opportunity, religious/political freedom, presence of social networks, ...
Immigration and the Labor Force
Immigration and the Labor Force

FOREIGN-BORN WHITE POPULATION, 1930
PER CENT. OF FOREIGN-BORN WHITE POPULATION
IN TOTAL POPULATION

- No foreign-born white population, under 1 per cent., or unsettled
- 1 to 10 per cent.
- 10 to 20 per cent.
- 20 to 30 per cent.
- 30 per cent. and over
Immigration and the Labor Force

The Foreign Born in the United States
As Percentage of Total County Population, 2000

Hawaii is located 2,400 miles southwest of mainland U.S.
Alaska is located 750 miles northwest of mainland U.S. and borders Canada.
Puerto Rico is located 1,000 miles southeast of mainland U.S.

Puerto Rico is located 1,000 miles southeast of mainland U.S.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3.

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Sources of European Migrants

1831-1840
Sources of European Migrants

1921-1929

Map of Europe showing migration sources during 1921-1929.
Destinations of European Migrants
Destinations of European Migrants