Increasing All-Cause Mortality in America’s Children and Teens

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The decline in US health

Source: The World Bank. [https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/sp.dyn.le00.in](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/sp.dyn.le00.in)
Midlife mortality (ages 25-64 years), United States, 1999-2017

Death Rates Rising for Middle-Aged White Americans, Study Finds

By GINA KOLATA  NOV. 2, 2015

Something startling is happening to middle-aged white Americans. Unlike every other age group, unlike every other racial and ethnic group, unlike their counterparts in other rich countries, death rates in this group have been rising, not falling.

That finding was reported Monday by two Princeton economists, Angus Deaton, who last month won the 2015 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science, and Anne Case. Analyzing health and mortality data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and from other sources, they concluded that rising
Pediatric mortality rates, ages 1-19, 1999-2014

Pediatric mortality rates, ages 1-19, 1999-2019

Pediatric mortality rates, ages 1-19, 1999-2021

Pediatric injury and non-injury mortality rates, ages 1-19, 1999-2021, by sex

Primary drivers of increasing pediatric all-cause mortality

• Suicide
• Homicide
• Accidental drug overdoses
• Motor vehicle crashes (transport accidents)
Suicide rates, ages 10-19, by race-ethnicity

Suicide rates, ages 10-19, by race-ethnicity (including American Indian/Alaska Native)

Homicide rates, ages 10-19, by race-ethnicity

Firearm-related death rates, ages 10-19, by race-ethnicity

Age-specific mortality rates (per 100,000)

- Hispanic
- NH American Indian/Alaska Native
- NH Black
- NH White
Drug overdose death rates, ages 10-19, by race-ethnicity

Transport accident death rates, ages 10-19, by race-ethnicity

Transport accident death rates, ages 10-19, by race-ethnicity (including American Indian/Alaska Native)

COVID-19 pandemic: pouring fuel on the fire

- Injury mortality at ages 10-19 rose by 23% between 2019 and 2020.
  - Homicide rate increased by 39.1%
  - Drug overdose death rate increased by 114%
  - Transport-related death rates increased by 16% in 2020.

- Among children ages 1-9, injuries explained two thirds (64%) of the increase in all-cause mortality in 2021,
What an increase in all-cause mortality means
The meaning of rising all-cause mortality

Age-specific mortality (ages 1-19)
Remarkable advances in pediatric medicine and prevention of child and adolescent injury deaths
Policy priorities to address rise in pediatric mortality

- Mental health
- Firearms
- Inequity and marginalization