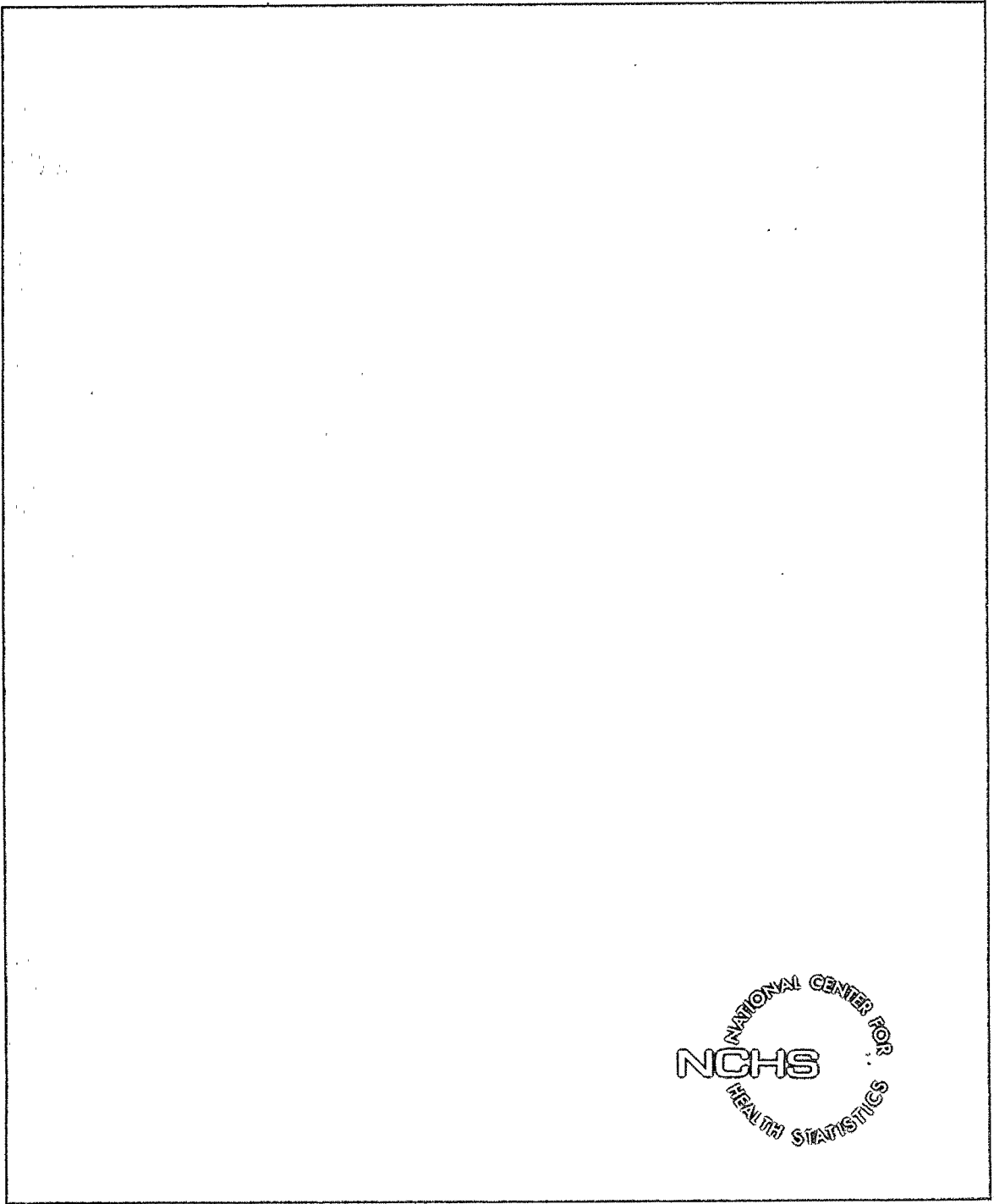


Volume I, Number 4

**Some Trends and Comparisons
of United States Life-Table Data: 1900-1971**





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SOME TRENDS AND COMPARISONS OF UNITED STATES LIFE-TABLE DATA: 1900-1971

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INTRODUCTION

There is now a series of eight sets of decennial life tables for the United States. Each set is based on the data of a decennial census and reported deaths of a 3-year period including the census year—the middle year of the 3 except for the first set; deaths of 1900-1902 were used with data of the 1900 census because death reports for 1899 were not collected. Starting with the 1929-31 tables, these life tables are for the United States, which is defined as all the States and the District of Columbia; Alaska and Hawaii are therefore included starting with 1959-61. Prior to 1929-31 the decennial life tables are for the expanding area of the death-registration States. In 1900 these consisted of the six New England States, New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Indiana, and the District of Columbia. It is believed that the rather general conclusions reached in this report would not be significantly altered if data for the entire United States were available for the entire period.

The selection of trends and comparisons to be examined is arbitrary and reflects the personal interests of the author. It is hoped that others with different interests will publish their conclusions. The topics considered here focus largely on sex differences in mortality.

AVERAGE LIFETIME

Table 1 shows, for each of the eight sets of decennial life tables, the average lifetime (also called expectation of life at birth) for the total population and also for each sex for the white and Negro populations. Also shown are the increases that occurred in each of the seven decades covered. Certain values not available from the published tables have been estimated.

In general terms the increases were small in the first decade of the century, but were then substantial up to 1949-51, and again small thereafter. The average lifetime of Negro males actually declined in the most recent decade. 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. With few exceptions the increases were greater for females than for males.

Some peculiarities in the table result from the fact that the years 1919-21 were a period of abnormally low mortality. This was true because the influenza epidemic of 1918 eliminated a large number of weak persons leaving an unusually hardy remainder. This effect of the epidemic was more marked for males than for fe-

Table 1. Average lifetime in years and excess in years over previous period, by race and sex: Death-Registration States, 1900-1902 to 1919-1921, and United States, 1929-1931 to 1969-1971

Period	Total			White			Negro		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Average lifetime									
1969-1971-----	70.75	67.04	74.64	71.62	67.94	75.49	64.11	60.00	68.32
1959-1961-----	69.89	66.80	73.24	70.73	67.55	74.19	163.91	161.48	166.47
1949-1951-----	68.07	65.47	70.96	69.02	66.31	72.03	160.73	158.91	162.70
1939-1941-----	63.62	61.60	65.89	64.92	62.81	67.29	53.85	52.26	55.56
1929-1931-----	² 59.3	² 57.8	² 61.1	² 60.9	59.12	62.67	^{1,2} 48.4	47.55	49.51
1919-1921-----	² 56.5	² 55.7	² 57.5	² 57.5	56.34	58.53	^{1,2} 47.1	47.14	46.92
1909-1911-----	51.49	49.86	53.24	² 51.9	50.23	53.62	^{1,2} 35.9	34.05	37.67
1900-1902-----	49.24	47.88	50.70	^{1,2} 49.6	48.23	51.08	^{1,2} 33.8	32.54	35.04
Excess over previous period									
1969-1971 over 1959-1961-----	0.86	0.24	1.40	0.89	0.39	1.30	³ 0.20	³ -1.48	³ 1.85
1959-1961 over 1949-1951-----	1.82	1.33	2.28	1.71	1.24	2.16	³ 3.18	³ 2.57	³ 3.77
1949-1951 over 1939-1941-----	³ 4.45	³ 3.87	³ 5.07	³ 4.10	3.50	4.74	³ 6.88	³ 6.65	³ 7.14
1939-1941 over 1929-1931-----	³ 4.3	³ 3.8	³ 4.8	³ 4.0	3.69	4.62	³ 5.5	4.71	6.05
1929-1931 over 1919-1921-----	³ 2.8	³ 2.1	³ 3.6	³ 3.4	2.78	4.14	³ 1.3	0.41	2.59
1919-1921 over 1909-1911-----	³ 5.0	³ 5.8	³ 4.3	³ 5.6	6.11	4.91	³ 11.2	13.09	9.25
1909-1911 over 1900-1902-----	2.25	1.98	2.54	³ 2.3	2.00	2.54	³ 2.1	1.51	2.63

¹For all races other than white. Value for Negroes not available.

²Approximated 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.

³Approximated (see footnote 2).

males, so that the mortality of males in 1919-21 was especially low. Thus the average lifetime of Negro males for 1919-21 is greater than that of Negro females. It is very unusual for an expectation of life for males to exceed the corresponding figure for females in the same population group. 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.

SEX DIFFERENCES IN LONGEVITY

Table 1 shows that the average lifetime of females has increased by larger amounts than that of males (with an exception in the decade between 1910 and 1920 for special reasons previously discussed). Table 2 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 Negro population it has been largely concentrated in the decade of the 1960's. (The fact that data for Negroes are not available for

1959-61 is not a significant factor; the 1969-71 sex difference for all races other than white is 8.07 years).

The fact that women live, on the average, longer than men is a very general observation, by

Table 2. Excess in years of female average lifetime over male, by race: Death-Registration States, 1900-1902 to 1919-1921, and United States, 1929-1931 to 1969-1971

Period	Total	White	Negro
1969-1971-----	7.60	7.55	8.32
1959-1961-----	6.44	6.64	¹ 4.99
1949-1951-----	5.49	5.72	¹ 3.79
1939-1941-----	² 4.29	4.48	3.30
1929-1931-----	² 3.3	3.55	1.96
1919-1921-----	² 1.8	2.19	-0.22
1909-1911-----	3.38	3.39	3.62
1900-1902-----	2.82	2.85	2.50

¹For all races other than white. Value for Negroes not available.

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

no means confined to the United States. Table 3 shows for selected countries the most recent available data on the average lifetime of males and females and the difference between them. The figures for India are older and are included only because they reverse the usual pattern with a greater average lifetime for males. It is not known, of course, whether the same anomaly would appear in more recent figures for India if they were available.

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, England and Wales, France, Iceland, Japan, the Netherlands, the Scandinavian countries, and Switzerland. However, in a ranking according to the difference between the average lifetime of females and males, the United States is tied for second place being equalled by France and surpassed only by 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 less clear why there is substantial variation

Table 3. Average lifetime in years by sex and excess in years of female lifetime over male, for selected countries: Most recent available data

Country and period	Average lifetime		
	Male	Female	Excess of female lifetime over male
Argentina 1965-70-----	64.06	70.22	6.16
Austria 1972-----	66.8	74.1	7.3
Canada 1965-67-----	68.75	75.18	6.43
Czechoslovakia 1970-----	66.23	72.94	6.71
Denmark 1970-71-----	70.7	75.9	5.2
England and Wales 1970-72-----	68.9	75.1	6.2
Federal Republic of Germany 1968-70-----	67.24	73.44	6.20
France 1971-----	68.5	76.1	7.6
German Democratic Republic 1969-70-----	68.85	74.19	5.34
Hungary 1970-----	66.28	72.05	5.77
Iceland 1966-70-----	70.7	76.3	5.6
India 1951-60-----	41.89	40.55	-1.34
Israel 1972-----	70.14	72.83	2.69
Japan 1972-----	70.49	75.92	5.43
Malta 1970-72-----	68.64	73.06	4.42
Netherlands 1972-----	70.8	76.8	6.0
Norway 1966-70-----	71.09	76.83	5.74
Poland 1970-72-----	66.83	73.76	6.93
Portugal 1970-----	65.30	71.02	5.72
Romania 1970-72-----	66.27	70.85	4.58
Scotland 1972-----	67.17	73.54	6.37
Singapore 1970-----	65.1	70.0	4.9
Sweden 1972-----	71.97	77.41	5.44
Switzerland 1960-70-----	69.21	75.03	5.82
United States 1969-71-----	67.04	74.64	7.60
U.S.S.R. 1968-69-----	65.	74.	9.
Yugoslavia 1970-71-----	65.30	70.14	4.84

SOURCE: Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Demographic Yearbook, 1973. New York. United Nations, 1974.

TABLE 4. Average lifetime in years at birth, by color and sex: United States and each State in rank order, 1969-71

(States are ranked according to the average lifetime for the total population)

Rank	Area	Total			White			All other		
		Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
1	Hawaii-----	73.60	71.02	76.79	(1)	(1)	(1)	73.67	71.08	76.93
2	Minnesota-----	72.96	69.38	76.80	73.04	69.46	76.87	(1)	(1)	(1)
3	Utah-----	72.90	69.49	76.55	72.95	69.54	76.60	(1)	(1)	(1)
4	North Dakota-----	72.79	69.23	77.01	73.09	69.55	77.28	(1)	(1)	(1)
5	Nebraska-----	72.60	68.85	76.61	72.89	69.12	76.92	(1)	(1)	(1)
6	Kansas-----	72.58	68.83	76.54	72.87	69.11	76.84	(1)	(1)	(1)
7	Iowa-----	72.56	68.83	76.50	72.64	68.91	76.57	(1)	(1)	(1)
8	Connecticut-----	72.48	69.04	75.94	72.88	69.45	76.33	67.17	63.68	70.57
8	Wisconsin-----	72.48	69.15	76.04	72.64	69.32	76.20	(1)	(1)	(1)
10	Oregon-----	72.13	68.43	76.20	72.20	68.51	76.25	(1)	(1)	(1)
11	South Dakota-----	72.08	68.49	76.19	72.96	69.41	77.03	(1)	(1)	(1)
12	Colorado-----	72.06	68.40	75.43	72.18	68.53	76.04	(1)	(1)	(1)
13	Rhode Island-----	71.90	68.31	75.48	72.07	68.50	75.62	(1)	(1)	(1)
14	Idaho-----	71.87	68.20	76.10	71.99	68.31	76.22	(1)	(1)	(1)
15	Massachusetts-----	71.83	68.12	75.45	72.01	68.33	75.58	67.73	63.22	72.32
16	Washington-----	71.72	68.07	75.78	71.95	68.29	75.99	(1)	(1)	(1)
17	California-----	71.71	68.19	75.37	71.95	68.41	75.60	70.10	66.81	73.73
18	Vermont-----	71.64	67.76	75.77	71.62	67.75	75.75	(1)	(1)	(1)
19	Oklahoma-----	71.42	67.40	75.70	71.85	67.83	76.15	67.82	63.47	72.25
20	New Hampshire-----	71.23	67.48	75.19	71.21	67.46	75.17	(1)	(1)	(1)
21	Maine-----	70.93	67.24	74.85	70.93	67.25	74.83	(1)	(1)	(1)
21	New Jersey-----	70.93	67.52	74.38	71.84	68.56	75.16	64.44	60.09	68.82
23	Texas-----	70.90	67.05	74.99	71.74	67.85	75.88	65.51	61.71	69.47
24	Indiana-----	70.88	67.23	74.72	71.32	67.65	75.18	65.37	61.89	68.98
25	Ohio-----	70.82	67.25	74.55	71.44	67.90	75.11	65.34	61.34	69.52
	UNITED STATES-----	70.75	67.04	74.64	71.62	67.94	75.49	64.95	60.98	69.05
26	Missouri-----	70.69	66.88	74.66	71.57	67.79	75.50	63.88	59.55	68.21
27	Arkansas-----	70.66	66.68	74.97	71.71	67.58	76.26	65.88	62.01	69.67
27	Florida-----	70.66	66.61	74.96	72.16	68.15	76.41	62.94	58.89	67.25
29	Michigan-----	70.63	67.09	74.48	71.47	67.99	75.24	64.97	60.95	69.28
30	Montana-----	70.56	66.73	75.08	71.01	67.16	75.56	(1)	(1)	(1)
31	Arizona-----	70.55	66.57	75.04	71.30	67.46	75.59	(1)	(1)	(1)
31	New York-----	70.55	66.95	74.15	71.48	68.04	74.94	65.10	60.39	69.67
33	Pennsylvania-----	70.43	66.90	74.06	71.16	67.71	74.69	63.80	59.42	68.25
34	New Mexico-----	70.32	66.51	74.51	71.00	67.29	75.07	(1)	(1)	(1)
35	Wyoming-----	70.29	66.19	75.19	70.47	66.34	75.40	(1)	(1)	(1)
36	Maryland-----	70.22	66.47	74.17	71.55	67.83	75.42	64.59	60.67	68.81
37	Illinois-----	70.14	66.48	73.96	71.23	67.66	74.95	63.69	59.46	68.03
38	Tennessee-----	70.11	66.15	74.26	71.22	67.07	75.61	64.52	61.09	67.86
39	Kentucky-----	70.10	66.22	74.31	70.66	66.74	74.91	63.58	59.81	67.57
40	Virginia-----	70.08	66.26	74.17	71.61	67.72	75.72	64.09	60.36	68.19
41	Delaware-----	70.06	66.29	74.07	71.42	67.66	75.37	(1)	(1)	(1)
42	West Virginia-----	69.48	65.56	73.74	69.78	65.84	74.04	(1)	(1)	(1)
43	Alaska-----	69.31	66.05	74.03	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
44	North Carolina-----	69.21	64.94	73.78	71.08	66.76	75.71	63.20	58.82	67.80
45	Alabama-----	69.05	64.90	73.41	70.93	66.56	75.64	63.93	59.86	67.83
46	Nevada-----	69.03	65.60	73.32	69.43	66.02	73.73	(1)	(1)	(1)
47	Louisiana-----	68.76	64.85	72.88	70.70	66.55	75.17	64.40	60.65	68.05
48	Georgia-----	68.54	64.27	73.01	70.62	66.18	75.38	62.89	58.59	67.10
49	Mississippi-----	68.09	64.06	72.40	70.50	66.14	75.32	64.03	60.17	67.78
50	South Carolina-----	67.96	63.85	72.29	70.32	66.11	74.82	62.64	58.33	67.01
51	District of Columbia--	65.71	60.92	70.52	70.64	66.08	74.76	63.55	58.96	68.34

¹ Not computed because fewer than 1,600 female or male deaths of this color 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. II, Nos. 1-51. DHEW Pub. No. (HRA) 75-1150. Health Resources Administration. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, June 1975.

Table 5. Average remaining lifetime in years at age 65, by color and sex: United States and each State, 1969-71

Area in rank order for average lifetime at birth	Total			White			All other		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Hawaii-----	16.23	14.77	17.89	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	16.49	15.11	18.19
Minnesota-----	15.73	13.76	17.63	15.71	13.74	17.61	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Utah-----	15.67	13.86	17.38	15.63	13.82	17.34	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
North Dakota-----	15.77	13.84	17.90	15.78	13.85	17.92	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Nebraska-----	15.86	13.72	17.87	15.87	13.73	17.89	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Kansas-----	15.79	13.68	17.70	15.82	13.68	17.74	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Iowa-----	15.59	13.40	17.62	15.59	13.40	17.63	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Connecticut-----	15.29	13.22	17.05	15.28	13.19	17.05	15.85	14.31	17.17
Wisconsin-----	15.32	13.44	17.14	15.31	13.42	17.13	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Oregon-----	15.57	13.52	17.62	15.55	13.49	17.60	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
South Dakota-----	15.82	13.74	18.02	15.87	13.78	18.08	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Colorado-----	15.71	13.69	17.55	15.70	13.67	17.56	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Rhode Island-----	14.96	12.86	16.71	14.93	12.83	16.67	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Idaho-----	15.67	13.84	17.61	15.66	13.84	17.59	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Massachusetts-----	15.08	12.83	16.90	15.06	12.80	16.88	15.80	13.94	17.47
Washington-----	15.26	13.13	17.34	15.25	13.11	17.32	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
California-----	15.52	13.42	17.37	15.48	13.33	17.35	16.43	14.92	18.01
Vermont-----	14.84	12.62	16.85	14.82	12.61	16.83	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Oklahoma-----	15.47	13.29	17.50	15.44	13.23	17.49	15.96	14.02	17.85
New Hampshire-----	14.73	12.58	16.66	14.71	12.56	16.64	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Maine-----	14.66	12.56	16.60	14.66	12.55	16.59	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
New Jersey-----	14.62	12.70	16.28	14.66	12.73	16.33	14.15	12.45	15.68
Texas-----	15.38	13.27	17.31	15.48	13.30	17.47	14.87	13.27	16.45
Indiana-----	14.73	12.70	16.56	14.77	12.71	16.63	14.16	12.70	15.61
Ohio-----	14.64	12.63	16.44	14.69	12.66	16.51	14.13	12.48	15.81
UNITED STATES-----	15.00	12.99	16.83	15.08	13.02	16.93	14.47	12.87	15.99
Missouri-----	14.98	12.91	16.84	15.05	12.94	16.95	14.29	12.69	15.83
Arkansas-----	15.37	13.48	17.25	15.49	13.47	17.50	15.01	13.62	16.44
Florida-----	16.07	14.12	18.04	16.21	14.24	18.19	14.52	12.70	16.28
Michigan-----	14.71	12.75	16.64	14.76	12.76	16.71	14.55	12.97	16.17
Montana-----	15.31	13.32	17.49	15.36	13.33	17.57	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Arizona-----	15.50	13.46	17.69	15.51	13.47	17.67	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
New York-----	14.68	12.77	16.34	14.69	12.77	16.36	14.77	12.89	16.39
Pennsylvania-----	14.35	12.47	16.03	14.40	12.50	16.08	13.84	12.22	15.42
New Mexico-----	15.46	13.77	17.20	15.43	13.70	17.18	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Wyoming-----	15.30	13.23	17.61	15.28	13.20	17.60	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Maryland-----	14.51	12.41	16.32	14.66	12.45	16.54	13.76	12.33	15.17
Illinois-----	14.63	12.65	16.39	14.71	12.68	16.50	13.96	12.45	15.37
Tennessee-----	14.89	12.87	16.70	15.10	12.99	16.99	13.89	12.37	15.35
Kentucky-----	14.79	12.89	16.58	14.91	13.00	16.71	13.40	11.67	15.14
Virginia-----	14.71	12.56	16.59	15.00	12.71	16.96	13.65	12.03	15.21
Delaware-----	14.36	12.11	16.39	14.56	12.29	16.56	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
West Virginia-----	14.46	12.61	16.28	14.56	12.71	16.35	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Alaska-----	14.70	13.13	16.96	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
North Carolina-----	14.81	12.69	16.68	15.08	12.82	17.05	13.99	12.33	15.49
Alabama-----	14.75	12.74	16.54	15.02	12.79	17.01	14.19	12.71	15.49
Nevada-----	14.36	12.63	16.45	14.35	12.58	16.48	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Louisiana-----	14.43	12.47	16.17	14.72	12.48	16.70	13.87	12.52	15.11
Georgia-----	14.70	12.39	16.62	14.88	12.39	17.00	14.50	12.62	16.01
Mississippi-----	14.63	12.76	16.39	14.89	12.68	16.95	14.27	12.97	15.54
South Carolina-----	14.47	12.30	16.28	14.56	12.21	16.52	14.60	12.74	16.17
District of Columbia-----	14.59	12.23	16.41	15.53	12.80	17.44	13.58	11.74	15.18

¹Not computed because fewer than 1,600 female or male deaths of this color 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 6. Average remaining lifetime in years at birth and at age 65, by color and sex: United States and each State in rank order, 1959-61

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	Nebraska-----	71.95	69.08	75.68	(¹)	(¹)	15.13	13.68	16.69	(¹)	(¹)
2	Iowa-----	71.91	68.81	75.41	(¹)	(¹)	15.02	13.55	16.53	(¹)	(¹)
3	Kansas-----	71.90	68.97	75.66	(¹)	(¹)	15.28	13.85	16.79	(¹)	(¹)
4	Minnesota-----	71.84	68.86	75.30	(¹)	(¹)	14.94	13.57	16.43	(¹)	(¹)
5	North Dakota-----	71.72	69.16	75.33	(¹)	(¹)	15.00	13.85	16.43	(¹)	(¹)
6	Utah-----	71.61	68.79	75.04	(¹)	(¹)	15.03	13.67	16.44	(¹)	(¹)
7	Hawaii-----	71.55	69.95	72.37	70.69	74.81	14.97	12.00	14.95	14.73	16.92
8	Wisconsin-----	71.22	68.45	74.56	(¹)	(¹)	14.52	13.25	15.85	(¹)	(¹)
9	Idaho-----	71.13	68.15	75.01	(¹)	(¹)	15.03	13.67	16.69	(¹)	(¹)
10	Connecticut-----	71.02	68.42	74.39	(¹)	(¹)	14.21	12.79	15.59	(¹)	(¹)
11	Washington-----	70.95	67.92	74.90	(¹)	(¹)	14.74	13.24	16.38	(¹)	(¹)
12	South Dakota-----	70.94	68.35	75.56	(¹)	(¹)	15.01	13.74	16.64	(¹)	(¹)
13	Oklahoma-----	70.89	67.95	75.44	62.92	68.05	15.23	13.57	17.01	13.96	15.68
14	Oregon-----	70.85	67.62	74.89	(¹)	(¹)	14.88	13.36	16.57	(¹)	(¹)
15	California-----	70.82	67.73	74.62	66.60	71.42	14.90	13.19	16.52	13.91	16.29
16	Colorado-----	70.79	67.71	74.42	(¹)	(¹)	15.11	13.68	16.53	(¹)	(¹)
17	Massachusetts-----	70.61	67.55	73.91	(¹)	(¹)	14.14	12.59	15.48	(¹)	(¹)
18	Rhode Island-----	70.60	67.83	73.68	(¹)	(¹)	13.96	12.55	15.25	(¹)	(¹)
19	New Hampshire-----	70.41	67.05	74.04	(¹)	(¹)	14.11	12.50	15.67	(¹)	(¹)
20	Missouri-----	70.40	67.94	74.76	60.72	65.79	14.61	13.17	16.19	12.21	14.76
21	Indiana-----	70.37	67.68	74.19	62.16	66.87	14.29	12.93	15.79	12.21	14.63
22	Vermont-----	70.35	66.95	74.02	(¹)	(¹)	14.23	12.61	15.76	(¹)	(¹)
23	Ohio-----	70.18	67.74	73.92	62.39	67.12	14.18	12.83	15.57	12.41	14.86
24	Arkansas-----	70.16	68.06	75.63	63.33	67.44	15.09	13.83	16.84	13.62	15.93
25	Michigan-----	70.13	67.70	73.98	64.25	67.89	14.05	12.68	15.61	13.11	15.17
26	Texas-----	70.12	67.79	75.15	62.30	67.33	14.75	13.46	16.86	13.67	16.31
27	Maine-----	70.02	66.86	73.53	(¹)	(¹)	14.14	12.62	15.65	(¹)	(¹)
28	Wyoming-----	69.90	66.62	74.47	(¹)	(¹)	14.68	13.37	16.37	(¹)	(¹)
	UNITED STATES-----	69.89	67.55	74.19	61.48	66.47	14.39	12.97	15.88	12.84	15.12
29	Florida-----	69.84	67.93	75.71	59.95	65.06	15.71	14.34	17.39	13.67	16.33
30	New Jersey-----	69.80	67.64	73.43	61.45	66.47	13.81	12.42	15.14	12.53	14.63
31	Kentucky-----	69.66	67.16	73.87	60.01	65.22	14.56	13.48	15.92	11.92	14.32
32	Illinois-----	69.64	67.31	73.78	61.48	66.20	14.01	12.59	15.53	12.05	14.38
33	New York-----	69.61	67.39	73.31	60.77	67.15	13.77	12.43	15.05	12.50	14.80
34	West Virginia-----	69.53	66.55	73.50	(¹)	(¹)	14.34	13.20	15.70	(¹)	(¹)
35	Montana-----	69.49	66.47	74.17	(¹)	(¹)	14.43	13.07	16.18	(¹)	(¹)
36	New Mexico-----	69.48	66.77	73.39	(¹)	(¹)	14.97	13.74	16.22	(¹)	(¹)
37	Pennsylvania-----	69.47	67.04	73.13	61.67	66.49	13.64	12.32	14.96	12.18	14.61
38	Tennessee-----	69.43	67.49	74.38	61.28	65.41	14.49	13.30	16.10	12.66	14.40
39	Delaware-----	69.38	67.68	74.05	(¹)	(¹)	13.85	12.58	15.44	(¹)	(¹)
40	Arizona-----	68.91	65.99	74.22	(¹)	(¹)	14.90	13.12	16.87	(¹)	(¹)
41	Virginia-----	68.80	67.20	74.37	60.17	65.14	14.13	12.90	15.85	11.96	14.22
42	Maryland-----	68.72	66.94	73.47	60.23	65.35	13.67	12.23	15.24	11.65	13.85
43	North Carolina-----	68.40	66.94	74.74	59.09	65.33	14.40	13.12	16.05	12.53	14.74
44	Louisiana-----	68.13	66.58	74.47	61.40	66.13	14.21	12.74	15.95	12.74	14.99
45	Alabama-----	68.11	67.06	74.59	60.28	64.72	14.47	13.20	16.18	12.90	14.94
46	Georgia-----	67.91	66.75	74.90	58.71	64.39	14.58	12.96	16.36	12.76	15.84
47	Mississippi-----	67.70	67.30	74.81	61.35	65.96	14.50	13.43	16.33	12.97	14.96
48	Alaska-----	67.51	66.59	73.76	(¹)	(¹)	14.03	12.72	15.36	(¹)	(¹)
49	Nevada-----	67.42	64.55	72.68	(¹)	(¹)	13.78	12.11	16.19	(¹)	(¹)
50	District of Columbia---	66.62	65.42	73.34	60.99	66.58	14.10	12.54	16.29	11.65	14.03
51	South Carolina-----	66.41	65.97	73.93	57.27	63.40	14.10	12.32	15.77	12.96	15.69

¹Not computed because fewer than 2,000 female or male deaths of this color were registered in the 3-year period 1959-61.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics. State life tables, 1959-61. State Life Tables, 1959-61, Vol. 2, Nos. 1-51. PHS Pub. No. 1252. Public Health Service. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, June 1966.

Table 7. Average lifetime in years for the total population by State in 1969-71 and 1959-61, increase in years of 1969-71 over 1959-61, and rank in 1969-71 and 1959-61: United States

Area in rank order for 1969-71	Average lifetime			Rank	
	1969-71	1959-61	Increase	1969-71	1959-61
Hawaii-----	73.60	71.55	2.05	1	7
Minnesota-----	72.96	71.84	1.12	2	4
Utah-----	72.90	71.61	1.29	3	6
North Dakota-----	72.79	71.72	1.07	4	5
Nebraska-----	72.60	71.95	0.65	5	1
Kansas-----	72.58	71.90	0.68	6	3
Iowa-----	72.56	71.91	0.65	7	2
Connecticut-----	72.48	71.02	1.46	8	10
Wisconsin-----	72.48	71.22	1.26	8	8
Oregon-----	72.13	70.85	1.28	10	14
South Dakota-----	72.08	70.94	1.14	11	12
Colorado-----	72.06	70.79	1.27	12	16
Rhode Island-----	71.90	70.60	1.30	13	18
Idaho-----	71.87	71.13	0.74	14	9
Massachusetts-----	71.83	70.61	1.22	15	17
Washington-----	71.72	70.95	0.77	16	11
California-----	71.71	70.82	0.89	17	15
Vermont-----	71.64	70.35	1.29	18	22
Oklahoma-----	71.42	70.89	0.53	19	13
New Hampshire-----	71.23	70.41	0.82	20	19
Maine-----	70.93	70.02	0.91	21	27
New Jersey-----	70.93	69.80	1.13	21	30
Texas-----	70.90	70.12	0.78	23	26
Indiana-----	70.88	70.37	0.51	24	21
Ohio-----	70.82	70.18	0.64	25	23
Missouri-----	70.69	70.40	0.29	26	20
Arkansas-----	70.66	70.16	0.50	27	24
Florida-----	70.66	69.84	0.82	27	29
Michigan-----	70.63	70.13	0.50	29	25
Montana-----	70.56	69.49	1.07	30	35
Arizona-----	70.55	68.91	1.64	31	40
New York-----	70.55	69.61	0.94	31	33
Pennsylvania-----	70.43	69.47	0.96	33	37
New Mexico-----	70.32	69.48	0.84	34	36
Wyoming-----	70.29	69.90	0.39	35	28
Maryland-----	70.22	68.72	1.50	36	42
Illinois-----	70.14	69.64	0.50	37	32
Tennessee-----	70.11	69.43	0.68	38	38
Kentucky-----	70.10	69.66	0.44	39	31
Virginia-----	70.08	68.80	1.28	40	41
Delaware-----	70.06	69.38	0.68	41	39
West Virginia-----	69.48	69.53	-0.05	42	34
Alaska-----	69.31	67.51	1.80	43	48
North Carolina-----	69.21	68.40	0.81	44	43
Alabama-----	69.05	68.11	0.94	45	45
Nevada-----	69.03	67.42	1.61	46	49
Louisiana-----	68.76	68.13	0.63	47	44
Georgia-----	68.54	67.91	0.63	48	46
Mississippi-----	68.09	67.70	0.39	49	47
South Carolina-----	67.96	66.41	1.55	50	51
District of Columbia-----	65.71	66.62	-0.91	51	50

among countries in the size of the difference and in particular why the U.S.S.R. and the United States should be outstanding in this regard.

Also of interest in this connection is the variation among the States of the United States in the sex difference in longevity.

DIFFERENCES IN LONGEVITY BY STATE

Table 4 shows the average lifetime for each State for 1969-71 by sex and color; certain values are not shown because of the small volume of data. Table 5 shows corresponding values of the average remaining lifetime at age 65, and Table 6 contains data for 1959-61 similar to those for 1969-71 given in Tables 4 and 5. The tables for the two periods are not entirely comparable, as four of the nine demographic groupings shown for 1969-71 were not calculated for 1959-61. In both cases, however, the States are ranked according to the average lifetime of the

total population, and table 7 displays a comparison of these rankings.

For 1959-61 all the top five States were in the west north central section of this country. However, during the decade between the two rankings Hawaii climbed from seventh to first place and Utah from sixth to third, producing a wider geographical dispersion of States in the highest five. Substantial improvements in ranking were registered by New Jersey (30th to 21st) and Arizona (40th to 31st). On the other hand, Kentucky dropped from 31st to 39th, and West Virginia from 34th to 42d. As there are several clusters of States with average lifetimes for the total population very close together, the precise rankings cannot be considered very reliable. Nevertheless, the States that declined in rank all had an increase for the decade of less than 0.85 years, while those that improved in rank all increased by at least 0.78 years and in most instances by more than 1 year.

As shown in table 8, there is considerable variation among the States in the difference be-

Table 8. The United States and each State ranked by size of the excess in years of female average lifetime over male: 1969-71

Rank	Area	Excess of female average lifetime over male	Rank	Area	Excess of female average lifetime over male
1	Hawaii-----	5.77	26	Oregon-----	7.77
2	New Jersey-----	6.86	27	Delaware-----	7.78
3	Wisconsin-----	6.89	27	Missouri-----	7.78
4	Connecticut-----	6.90	27	North Dakota-----	7.78
5	Colorado-----	7.03	30	Idaho-----	7.90
6	Utah-----	7.06	31	Virginia-----	7.91
7	Pennsylvania-----	7.16	32	Texas-----	7.94
8	Rhode Island-----	7.17	33	Alaska-----	7.98
9	California-----	7.18			
10	New York-----	7.20	34	New Mexico-----	8.00
11	Ohio-----	7.30	35	Vermont-----	8.01
12	Massachusetts-----	7.33	36	Louisiana-----	8.03
13	Michigan-----	7.39	37	Kentucky-----	8.09
14	Minnesota-----	7.42	38	Tennessee-----	8.11
15	Illinois-----	7.48	39	West Virginia-----	8.18
16	Indiana-----	7.49	40	Arkansas-----	8.29
	UNITED STATES-----	7.60	41	Oklahoma-----	8.30
17	Maine-----	7.61	42	Mississippi-----	8.34
18	Iowa-----	7.67	43	Florida-----	8.35
19	Maryland-----	7.70	43	Montana-----	8.35
19	South Dakota-----	7.70	45	South Carolina-----	8.44
21	Kansas-----	7.71	46	Arizona-----	8.47
21	New Hampshire-----	7.71	47	Alabama-----	8.51
21	Washington-----	7.71	48	Georgia-----	8.74
24	Nevada-----	7.72	49	North Carolina-----	8.84
25	Nebraska-----	7.76	50	Wyoming-----	9.00
			51	District of Columbia-----	9.60

Table 9. Death rates among males, by age, for Hawaii and the State other than Hawaii having lowest rate: United States, 1969-71

Age in years	Death rate per 100,000 population	
	Hawaii	State other than Hawaii having lowest rate
Under 1-----	2,177.7	1,683.0 (North Dakota)
1-4-----	69.0	58.6 (Rhode Island)
5-14-----	34.6	36.9 (Connecticut)
15-24-----	110.8	102.0 (Rhode Island)
25-34-----	146.1	132.3 (Rhode Island)
35-44-----	286.2	271.2 (Minnesota)
45-54-----	700.0	747.7 (South Dakota)
55-64-----	1,544.4	1,860.1 (North Dakota)
65-74-----	3,602.5	4,121.7 (Idaho)
75-84-----	8,218.3	8,415.0 (Florida)
85 and over-----	17,734.4	11,711.7 (Alaska) ¹

¹Based on 130 deaths.

tween the average lifetime of females and males, all the way from 5.77 years for Hawaii to 9.60 years for the District of Columbia. It is not apparent that there is any clear-cut geographic or other pattern as to which States have larger or smaller sex differences in average lifetime. It may be noted, however, that no southern State has a smaller value than that for the United States.

It will also be observed that Hawaii stands alone. Its figure of 5.77 years is less by more than a year than that for New Jersey, the next highest State in the ranking. It is clear also that Hawaii's unique position is entirely accounted for by the data for males. The average lifetime of females in Hawaii is very close to that of several other States, while that for males is greater by 1.53 years than the figure for Utah, the next highest State.

It might be suspected that the ethnic composition of the male population of Hawaii is a significant factor in producing the higher average lifetime for males. The life table for white males in Hawaii has not been published. However, since the average lifetime for males other than

white is extremely close to that for all males and white males constitute about 40 percent of the male population, it would appear that the average lifetime for white males could not differ much from that for other males. Thus ethnic composition would appear not to play a major role in Hawaii, where the population other than white is mainly of oriental background.

It is of interest to examine whether the lower mortality of males in Hawaii is concentrated at particular ages or whether it extends over a broad range of ages. Table 9 shows for each of 11 broad age groups the death rate per 100,000 population for males in Hawaii and in the State other than Hawaii having the lowest death rate for males in that age group. For each of the four age groups between ages 45 and 85, Hawaii has, by a wide margin, the lowest death rate in the Nation for males.

Table 10 shows age-adjusted death rates for males for a few major groupings of causes of death in Hawaii and in the State other than Hawaii having the lowest rate. These rates were calculated by the direct method, using as the standard population the age-distribution of the total

Table 10. Age-adjusted death rates among males for selected causes, for Hawaii and the State other than Hawaii having lowest rate: United States, 1969-71

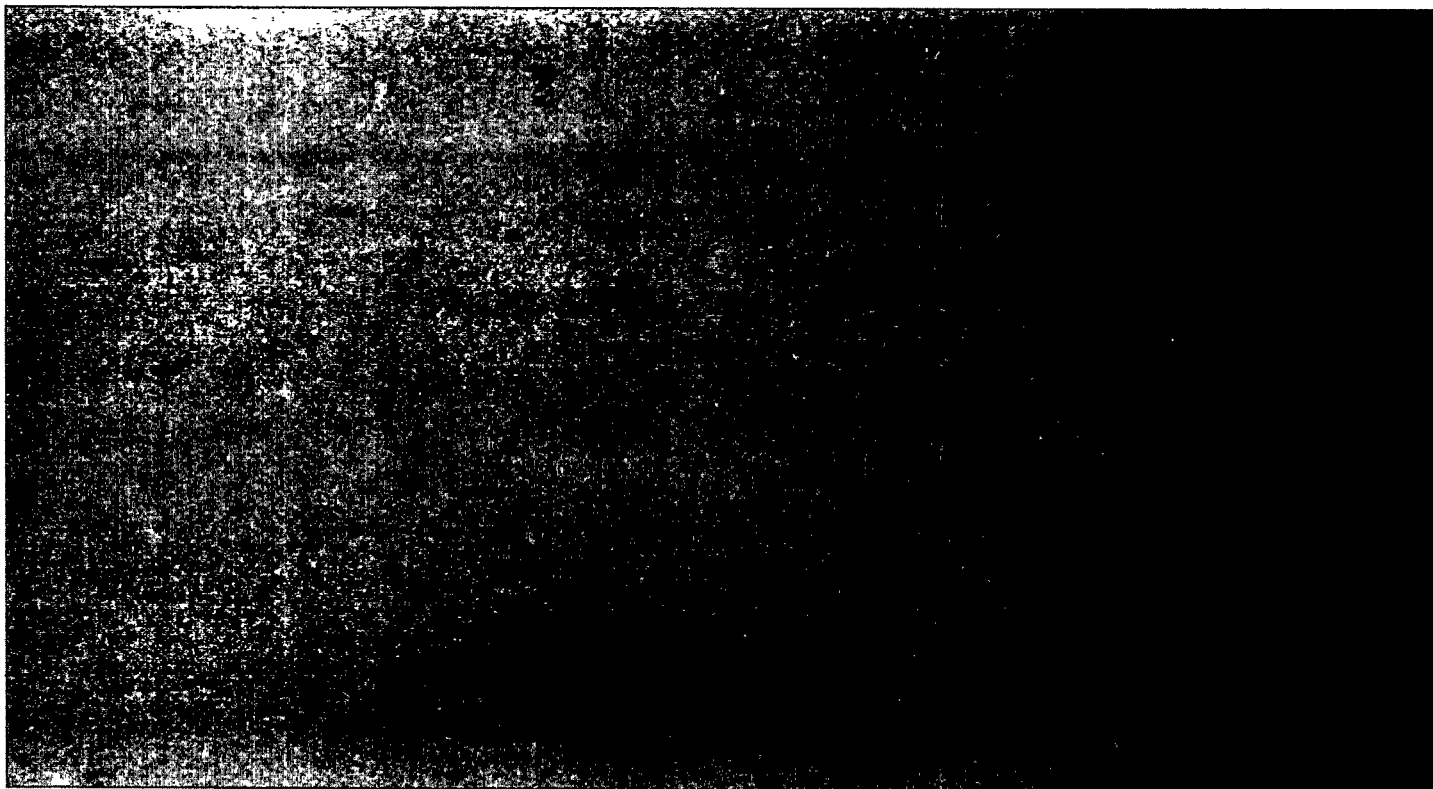
Cause of death	Age-adjusted death rate per 100,000 population	
	Hawaii	State other than Hawaii having lowest rate
All causes-----	699.7	795.1 (Utah)
Malignant neoplasms-----	127.0	113.8 (Utah)
Diseases of the circulatory system-----	315.3	348.9 (New Mexico)
Accidents, poisonings, and violence-----	81.9	65.6 (Rhode Island)

population in 1940. It is clear that Hawaii's males have a commanding advantage over males in other States in the age-adjusted death rates for all causes and for diseases of the cir-

culatory system. Further subdivision of the latter category has failed to reveal any specific causes that play a major role in differentiating the males of Hawaii from those of other States.

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