



## **03 - WHY IS U.S. LIFE EXPECTANCY DECLINING?**

The average life expectancy in the U.S. has been on the decline for three consecutive years. A baby born in 2017 is expected to live to be 78.6 years old, that's down from 78.7 the year before. That means in just a year, the average American's life expectancy has been shortened by 1.2 months.

The last three years represent the longest consecutive decline in the American lifespan at birth since the period between 1915 and 1918, a period that included World War I and the Spanish Flu pandemic, events which killed tens of millions worldwide.

Before the recent decline, life expectancy was steadily rising in the U.S., which is to be expected of an advanced nation, particularly one that spends more money per citizen on healthcare than any other country.

But this trend isn't unique to the States.

One recent study projected the U.K. lifespan will shorten by about five months. And while life expectancy is still on the rise in France, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands, these countries have also seen a sharp slowdown. Historically, life expectancy in the U.S. was on par with other OECD countries, a basket of other developed nations.

But in the last years that's changed, with the OECD average pulling ahead of the U.S. in life expectancy.

It's also important to note, that even within the U.S., life expectancy can vary greatly by state. Here in California, the life expectancy is 80.9. That makes it the second highest state in the country after Hawaii, which has a life expectancy of 81.3.

The state with the lowest life expectancy is a striking six years behind.

That's Mississippi at 74.7 years. Many of its neighboring states in the south follow closely behind. Life expectancy also differs by sex. Men can expect to live 76.1 years at birth, while women in the U.S. are expected to live 81.1 years.