Living Longer: Historical and Projected Gains to Life Expectancy, 1960-2060

Lauren Medina, Shannon Sabo, and Jonathan Vespa; U.S. Census Bureau

Is life expectancy projected to increase in the United States?

ência However has life expectancy changed over time in the U.S. and how is this projected to change moving forward?

Projecting the foreign-born mortality advantage

How is the foreign-born mortality advantage projected to change over time?  
Accounting for nativity will provide a more accurate projection of population growth and better reflect changes to population health.

The foreign born make up a rising share of the total U.S. population. Between 1960 and 2030, the foreign born increased from 5% to 13% of the population.  

Data and method for projecting life expectancy

Data come from inputs to the 2017 National Population Projections, which were the third series of projections based on the 2010 Census.

The first Census-developed projections to include nativity-specific life tables

Cohort-component method

Mortality data (including nativity-specific data) from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS); population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau 1

Life expectancies for the foreign born vary less by race

Despite a projected increase of 8.9 years by 2060, the native Black and AIAN population group is still projected to have the lowest life expectancy.

Race and ethnicity play a greater role in longevity for the native population

The native population is projected to experience greater gains in life expectancy, regardless of race or ethnicity, than the foreign born.

Foreign-born mortality advantage is projected to continue

Longest lived

Foreign-born women are projected to have the highest life expectancy in 2060.

Total life expectancy increased by 9 years from 1960 to 2010 but is projected to increase by 7 years from 2010 to 2060.

Life expectancy projected to rise more slowly in coming decades

Total life expectancy increased by 9 years from 1960 to 2010 but is projected to increase by 7 years from 2010 to 2060.

The foreign born are projected to continue living longer.

Race and ethnicity play a more important role in life expectancy for those born in the U.S.

Projections of life expectancy provide vital information on population aging, the future of public health and impacts on healthcare, as well as improve our understanding of social welfare and policy planning.

This poster is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion. Any views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.

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