

AMERICANS NOW DIE YOUNGER

For the first time in twenty years, the life expectancy fell in 2008 in the United States, according to a report published at the end of 2010 by the National Centre for Health Statistics (NHCHS). Average life expectancy is now 77.8, 1.2 year fewer than in 2007.

This is the first time such a decline has been noted since 1993. The explanation for the phenomenon is exclusively linked to the increase in mortality among those over 85...

The economic crisis has caused a strong increase in a marginal cost of health to revenues (themselves decreasing), and has thus weighed upon large sections of the pauperized middle classes, who have found themselves with much less protection.

Another tendency is an increase in obesity, with dire consequences in terms of diabetes and cardiac problems. This could take a major toll on life expectancy in the United States if no large-scale policy initiative is undertaken. The Medicare system seems to offer less cover for the aged. According to the most recent figures (2009) of the World Population Data Sheet, published in Washington by the Population Reference Bureau, the United States appears in only 51st position in the world for life expectancy at birth.

Life expectancy is also diminishing in other countries, notably in the former USSR: in Russia, for example, men lived to 64 in 1960, and to 61 in 2010.

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