

More money doesn't solve all problems

By Ian Gagnon

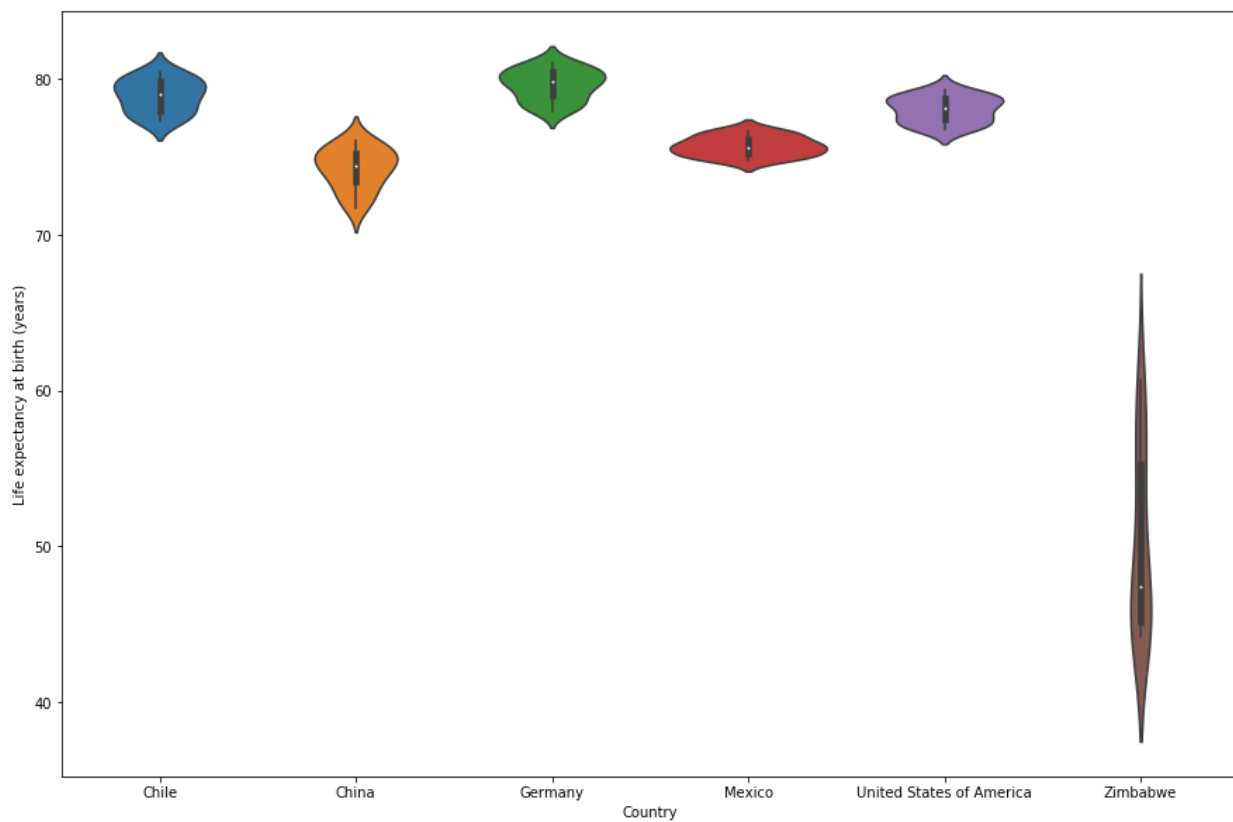
Data recently collected and analyzed by the World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that money does not solve all problems in the struggle to increase life expectancy. For some countries with higher life expectancies, increases in GDP have not lead to higher life expectancies. Similarly, some countries who's life expectancy has greatly increased over the past 15 years have not large increases in their country's GDP.

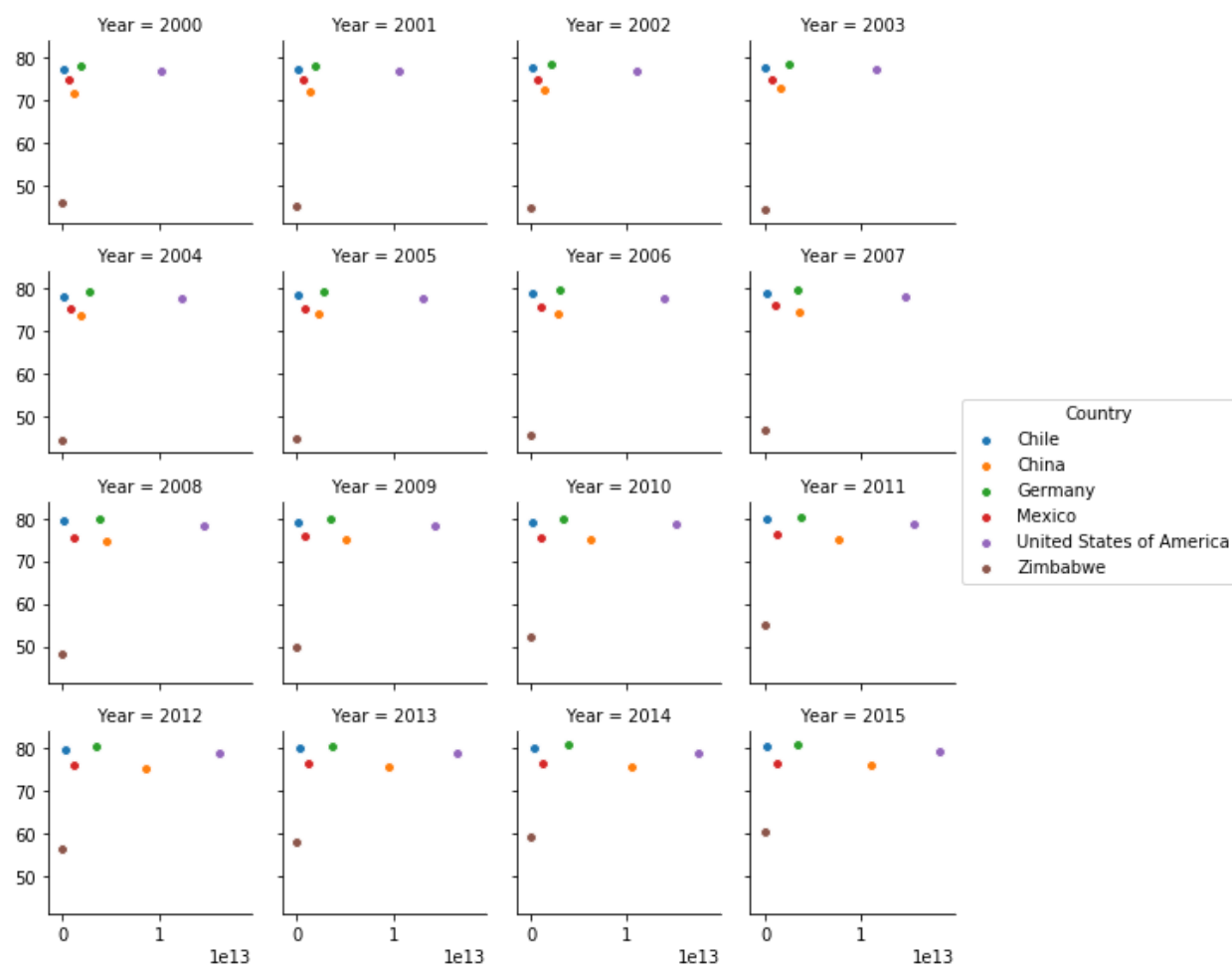
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services created or provided in a country over a one year time period. GDP is often used as a indicator of a country's economic health or progress.

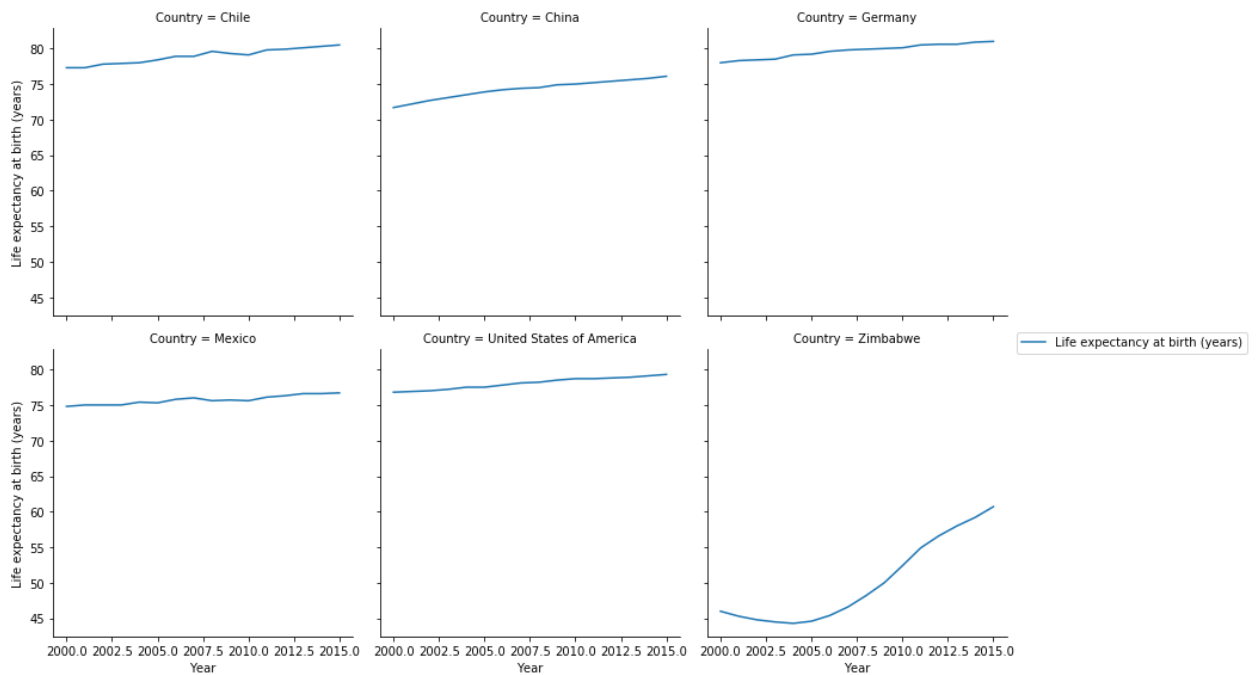
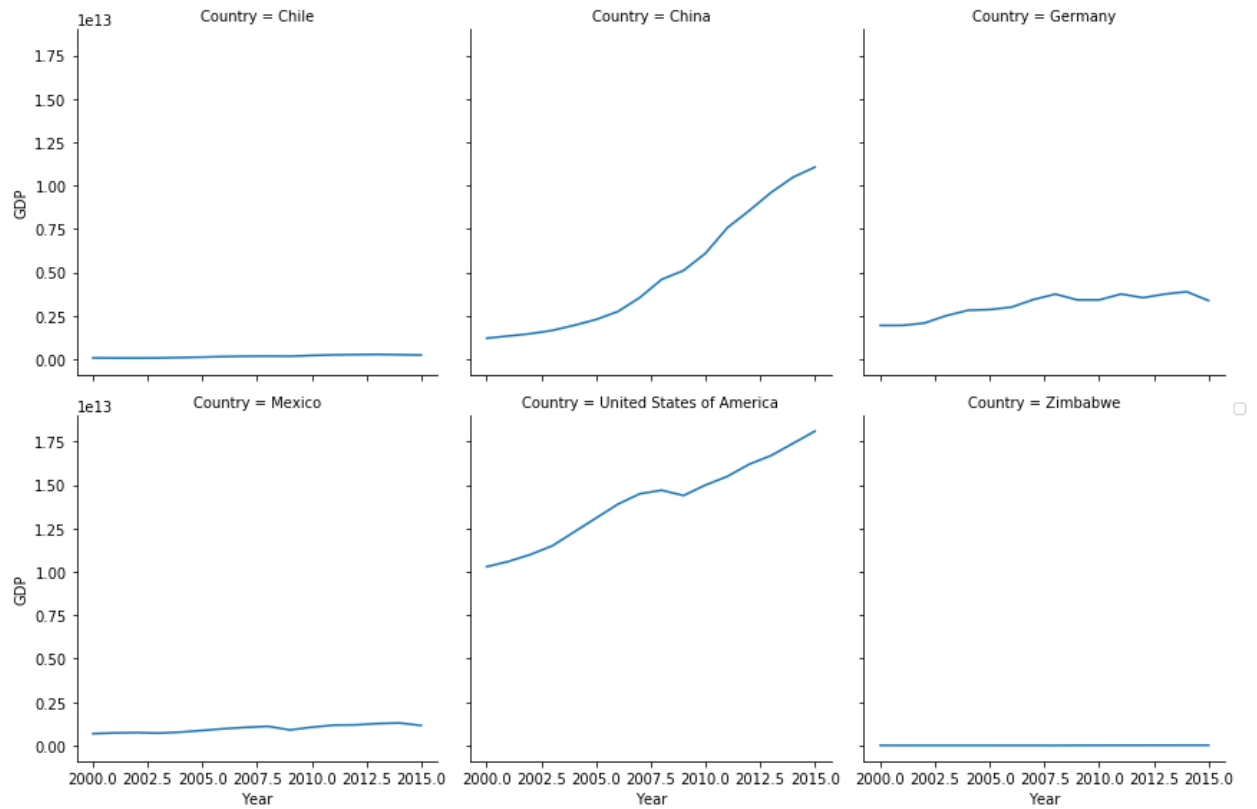
Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years the population of a country born in that year is expected to live. Life expectancy at birth is an indicator of the quality of a country's healthcare system and wellness of their people.

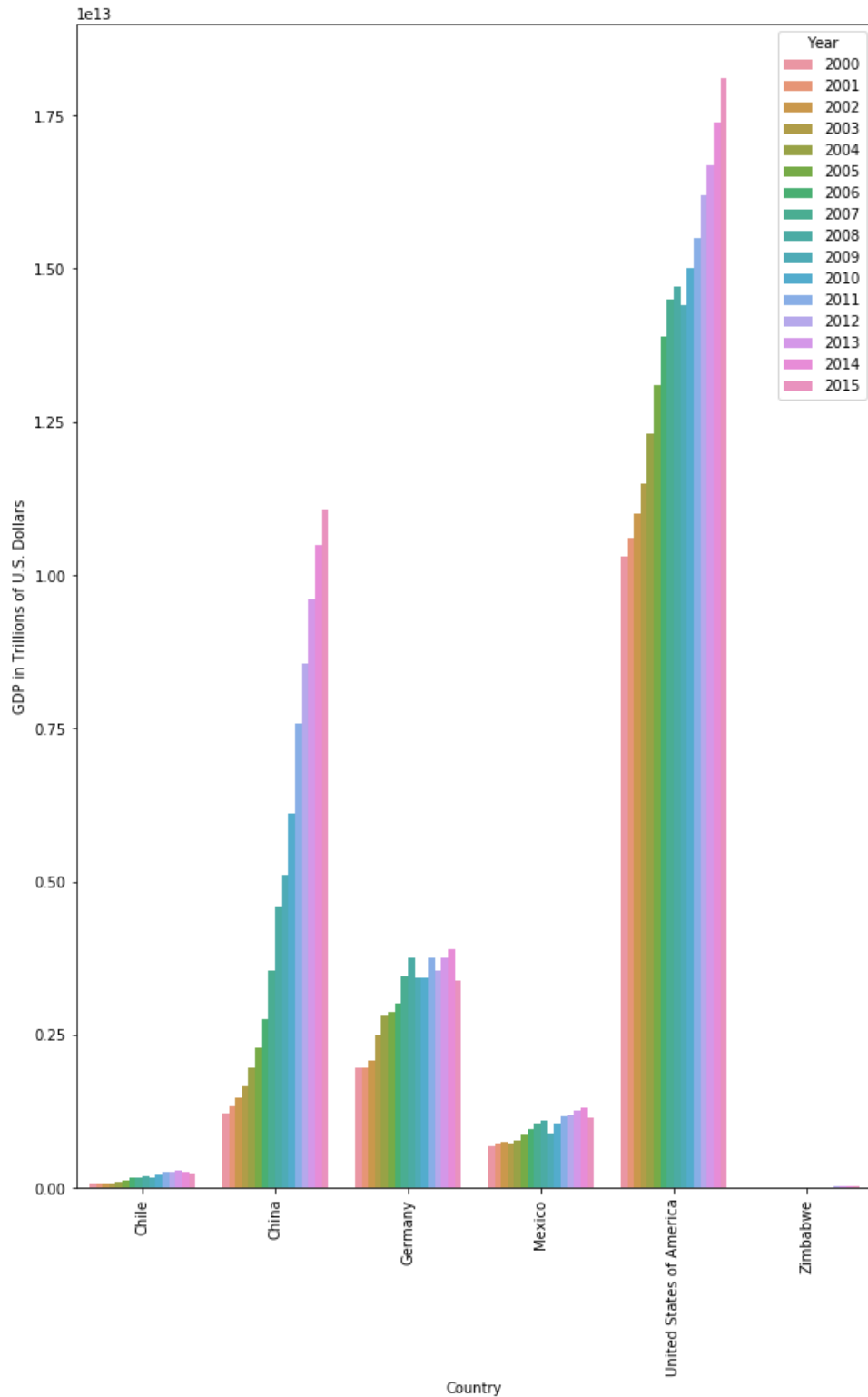
The following visualizations illustrate that changes in GDP are not correlated to changes in life expectancy. For example Zimbabwe drastically increased their life expectancy from 2005 to 2015 with only very small increases in GDP. This could partially be due to the countries problem with hyperinflation, though it is most likely due to the country taking advantage of low cost health care solutions such as focusing on proper immunizations for their population.

A very different country, the United States of America has seen large increases in GDP, but very only very small increases in life expectancy. This could be due to multiple factors. First, the majority of this increase in GDP and the country's wealth has been earned by the country's richest few. The increase in the country's wealth has not been evenly distributed throughout the country's economic class ranks, thus perhaps the richest few can afford to pay for better healthcare, but the healthcare system cannot drastically improve because the most expensive and newest innovations have not reached economies of scale. The country has also not enacted a system of nationalized healthcare like many other industrialized nations have done. The following plots illustrate these points.









This data only shows changes between 2000 and 2015. Much could have taken place since 2015. Also this data does not include levels of uncertainty, therefore we have no indication of how accurate this data is.