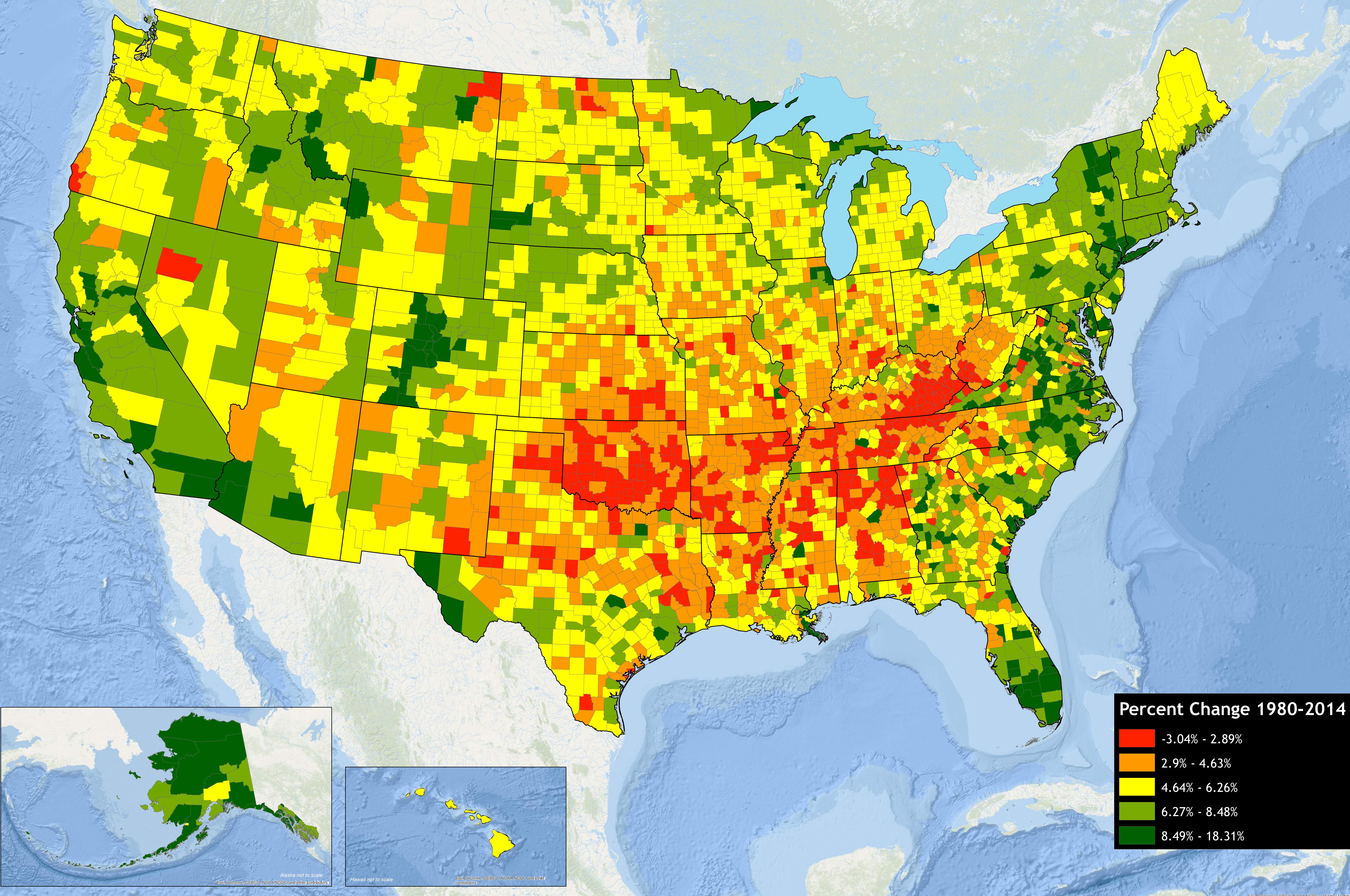


UNITED STATES LIFE EXPECTANCY BY COUNTY

Vast Geographic Disparities Increase With Time



Life Expectancy - The Growing Geographic Divide in America

No statistic is as universal as life expectancy. It is the ultimate standardizer. The United States has long been slipping in global rankings when it comes to life expectancy. It currently ranks 31st globally, between Costa Rica and long-standing geopolitical rival Cuba.

The vast majority of the developed world has long since surpassed us in the most basic of measurements. What too often remains hidden are vast - and growing - disparities that can be measured along race, income and geographic lines.

The difference in life expectancy in 1980 between the county with the highest overall life expectancy and the lowest was 15.82 years. That gap had increased to 20.08 years by 2010. Most crucial the combined effects of the Great Recession and the current opioid crisis have widened that gap even more since 2010.

No developed nation in the world has as vast a gap in life expectancies. The extremes are profound. There are counties within the United States where average life expectancy exceeds that of the global leader, Japan (where people live to be 83.7 on average)

COUNTY	STATE	LIFE EXPECTANCY	Life Expectancy Exceeds Japan (Ranked #1)
Summit	Colorado	86.33	
Pitkin	Colorado	86	
Eagle	Colorado	85.35	
Billings	Montana	83.91	

There are counties within the United States with life expectancies two decades lower. These counties have life expectancies on par with Guyana, Senegal and Turkmenistan (ranked 130-132 globally).

COUNTY	STATE	LIFE EXPECTANCY	Life Expectancy on Par With Senegal, Guyana and Turkmenistan (Ranked #130-132)
Oglala Lakota	South Dakota	66.25	
Union	Florida	68.12	
Sioux	North Dakota	68.34	
Todd	South Dakota	68.35	
Buffalo	South Dakota	68.75	

The most alarming trend in the data are the existence of counties that have had a decrease in their life expectancy from 1980 to 2010. Life expectancy across the United States increased from 73.7 to 78.8 years (an increase of 6.27%) between 1980 and 2010. A total of 71% of counties fell below this average.

The maps below tell a story of disparity. Widening gaps in income coupled with a host of socioeconomic factors has given rise to vast geographic gaps in life expectancy, gaps that will continue to increase with time... and have already begun to reverse a century of progress.

