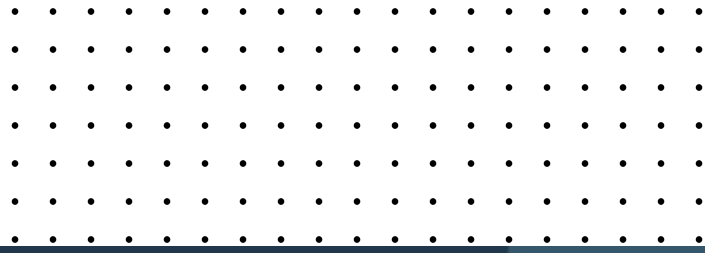


HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

TRACIE NEWMAN MD, MPH, FAAP





1 IN 36

8-YEAR-OLDS
WERE IDENTIFIED WITH
AUTISM IN 2020*

*Based on data collected in 2020 on 8-year-old children living in 11 communities across the U.S.

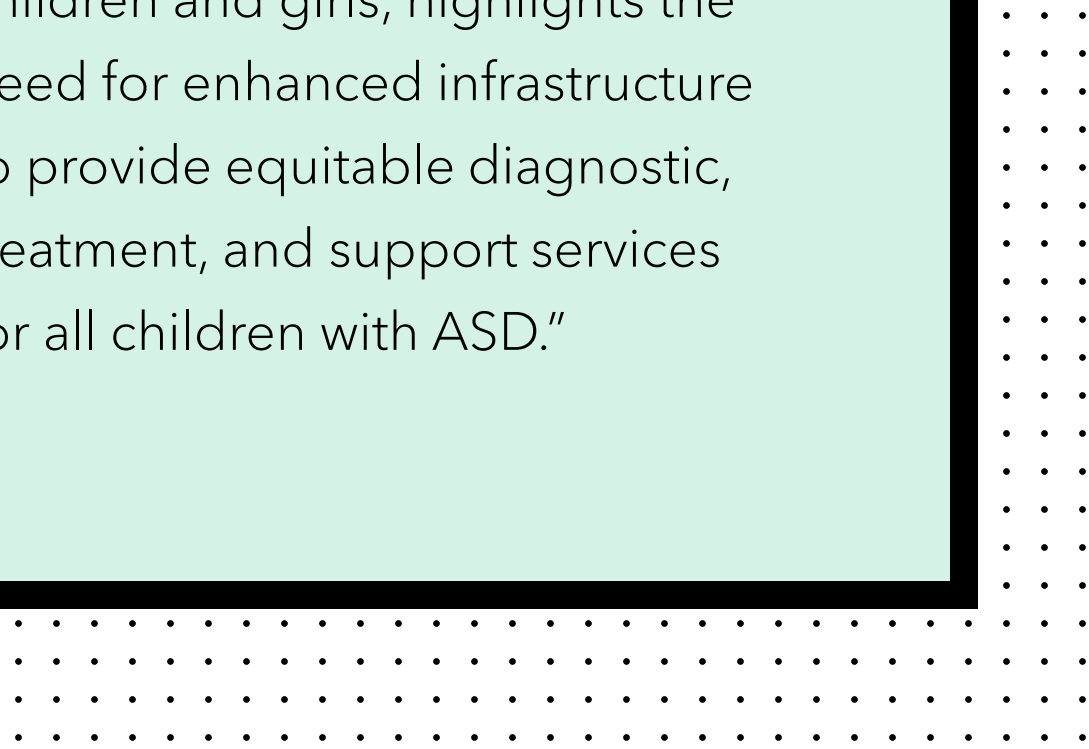
bit.ly/ss7202a1
MARCH 24, 2023

- U.S. autism prevalence rates continue to increase
 - 4% of boys; 1% of girls now have ASD
 - 20% increase from 2018 (1:44)
- New data shows discrepancies between race and gender narrowing
 - Non-white children identified at higher rates than white children for 1st time
 - 3.8 x more prevalent in boys vs girls (4.2 to 1 ratio in 2018)
 - Autism prevalence in U.S. girls now 1:88



Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (*MMWR*)

“Public Health Action: The continued increase among children identified with ASD, particularly among non-White children and girls, highlights the need for enhanced infrastructure to provide equitable diagnostic, treatment, and support services for all children with ASD.”



AMERICAN ATTITUDES AROUND VACCINES

1/3 adults not sure
(17%) or incorrect
(19%) about
immunization facts

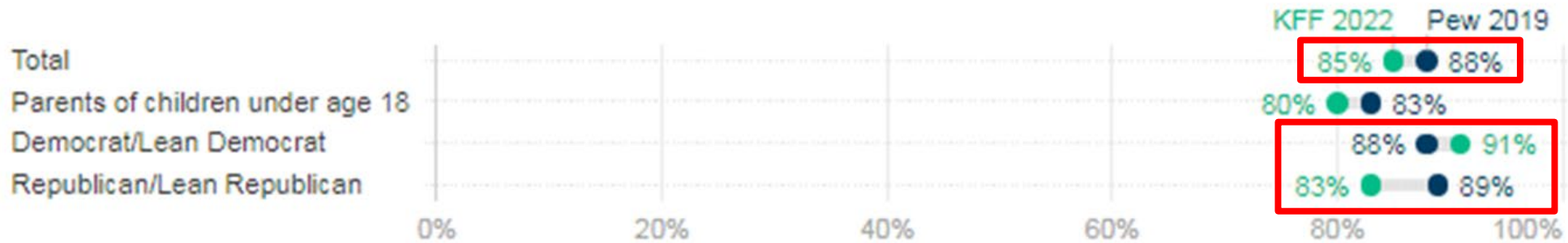
28% believe parents
should be able to
not to vaccinate
school-age children

35% parents
oppose school
immunization
requirements

Figure 1

Most Adults, Including Majorities Across Partisans, Say Benefits Of Childhood MMR Vaccines Outweigh Risks

Percent who say that the benefits of childhood vaccines for measles, mumps, and rubella outweigh the risks:



NOTE: See topline for full question wording.

SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (Nov 29-Dec 8, 2022) and Pew Research Center (Oct 1-13, 2019) • PNG

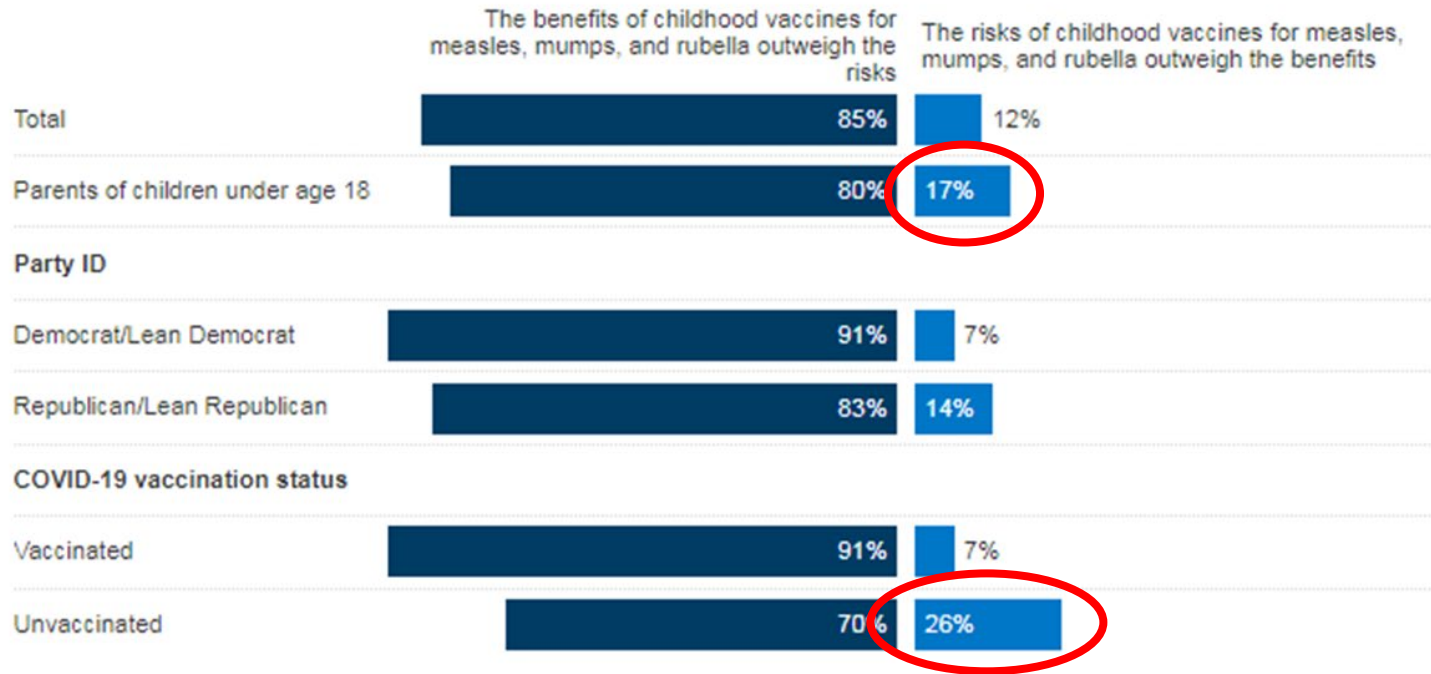
KFF COVID-19
Vaccine Monitor

- Most adults (85%) say benefits of childhood vaccines (MMR) outweigh risks; little change from 2019 (88%)
- In 2019, no significant differences across parties; in 2022 Republicans / Republican-leaning now less likely than Democrats to believe benefits of MMR vaccines outweigh risks (83% vs. 91%)

Figure 2

Even Among Adults Who Have Not Gotten The COVID-19 Vaccine, Most Say The Benefits Of Childhood MMR Vaccines Outweigh Risks

Overall, do you think...



NOTE: Vaccinated adults are those who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. See topline for full question wording.

SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (Nov 29 - Dec 8 2022) • PNG

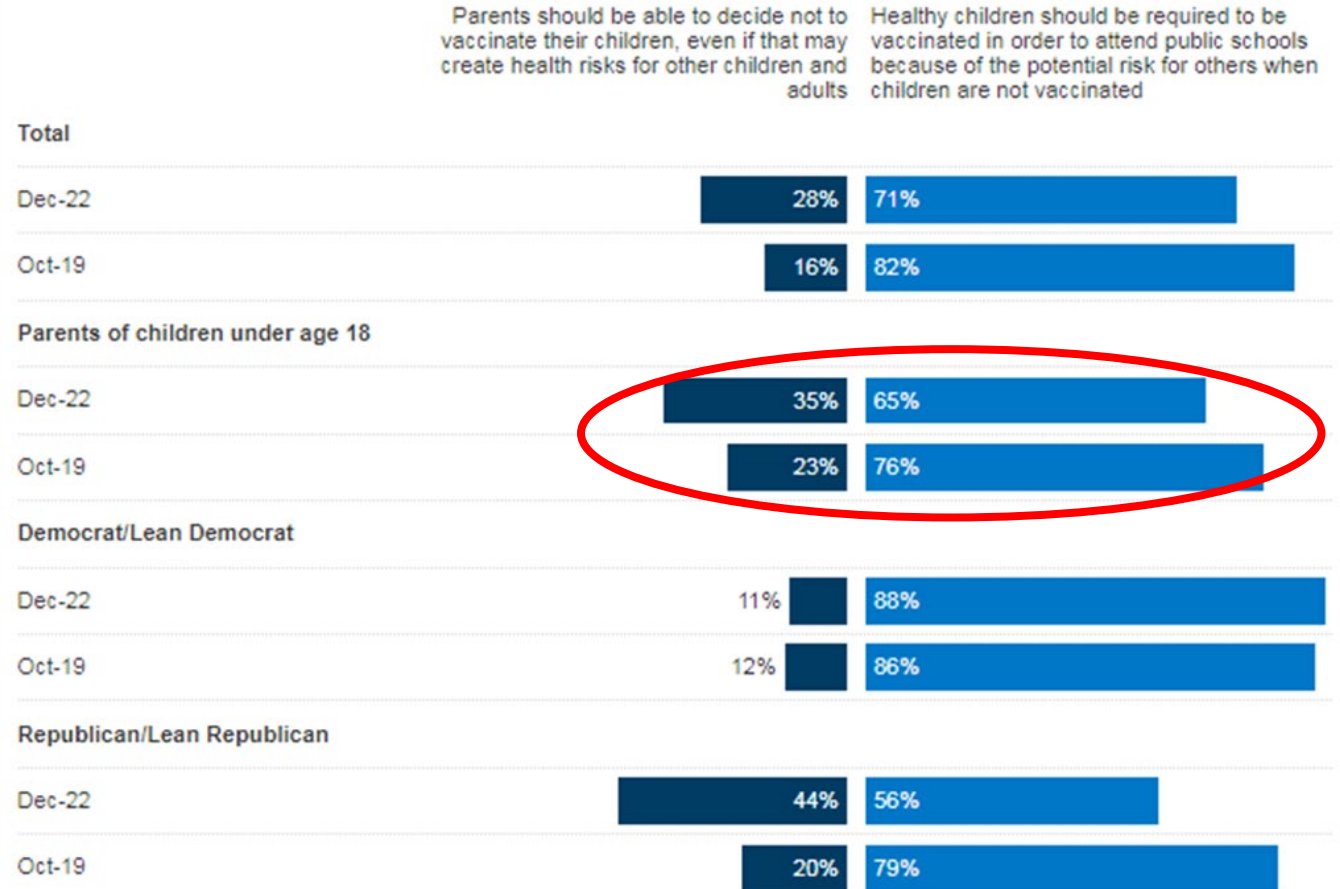
- ~1 in 6 parents of children < 18 (17%) now think risks of MMR vaccines outweigh benefits
- In adults not vaccinated for COVID-19, ~ 1 in 4 (26%) say risks of childhood vaccines outweigh benefits

- Only 2/3 of parents of children > 18 (65%) believe healthy children should be required to be vaccinated to attend public schools, down from 76% in 2019
- So, 1/3 (35%) of these parents now believe parents should be able to decide not to vaccinate children, up from 23% in 2019.

Figure 3

Compared To 2019, More Adults Now Say Parents Should Be Able To Decide Not To Vaccinate Their Children For Measles, Mumps, And Rubella

Which comes closer to your views about childhood vaccines for measles, mumps, and rubella, even if neither is exactly right?



NOTE: See topline for full question wording.

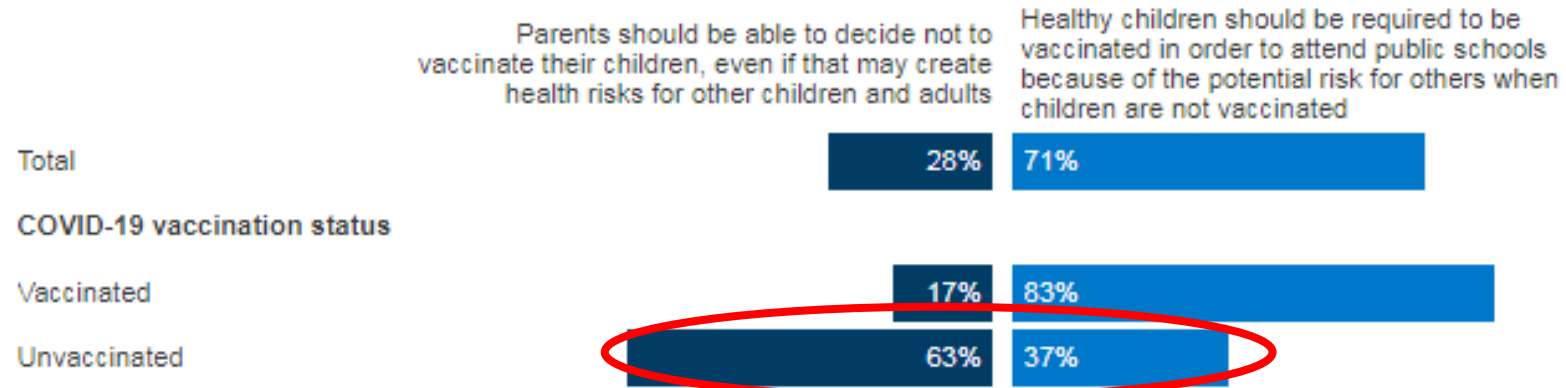
SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (Nov 29-Dec 8, 2022) and Pew Research Center (Oct 1-13, 2019) • PNG

KFF COVID-19
Vaccine Monitor

Figure 4

About Six In Ten Adults Unvaccinated For COVID-19 Say Parents Should Be Able To Decide Not To Vaccinate Their Children For MMR

Which comes closer to your views about childhood vaccines for measles, mumps, and rubella, even if neither is exactly right?



NOTE: Vaccinated adults are those who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. See topline for full question wording.

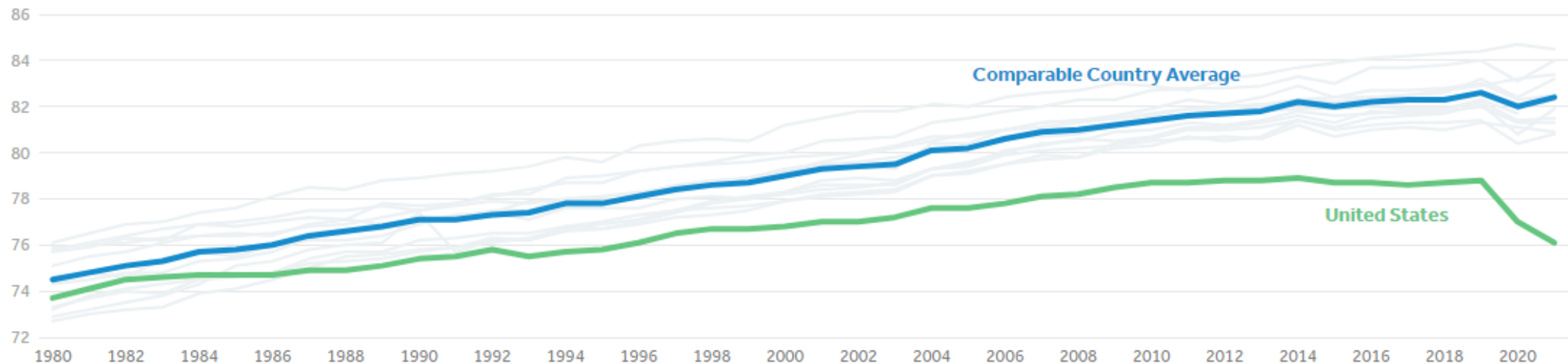
SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (Nov 29-Dec 8, 2022) • PNG

KFF COVID-19
Vaccine Monitor

- 63% of adults not vaccinated for COVID-19 believe parents should be able to decide not to vaccinate children, even if that creates health risks for children and adults
- ~ 4:10 (37%) adults not vaccinated for COVID-19 say healthy children should be required to be vaccinated to attend public school

From 2020 to 2021, life expectancy continued to decline in the U.S. while rebounding in most comparable countries

Life expectancy at birth in years, 1980-2021



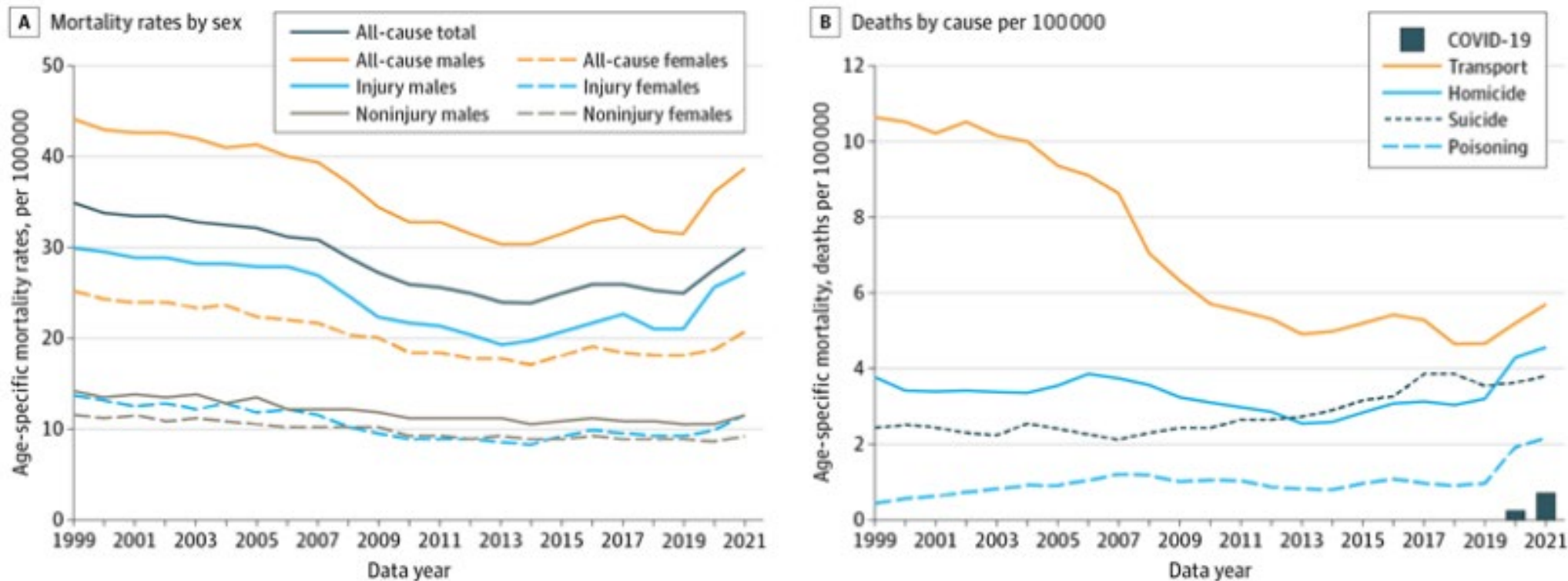
Notes: Comparable countries include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada (except for 2021), France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.K. See [Methods section](#) of "How does U.S. life expectancy compare to other countries?"

Source: KFF analysis of [CDC](#), [OECD](#), [Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare](#), [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), and [UK Office for Health Improvement and Disparities data](#) • [Get the data](#) • [PNG](#)

Peterson-KFF
Health System Tracker

- Life expectancy globally decreased in 2020 due to COVID-19
- Most wealthy countries rebounded by 2021; U.S. continued to decline

Figure. All-Cause, Injury, Noninjury, COVID-19, and Selected Injury Mortality Rates, Ages 1 to 19 Years, 1999-2021



JAMA. 2023;329(12):975-976. doi:10.1001/jama.2023.3517

- Also data recently publish in JAMA found rising mortality rates among U.S. children and adolescents

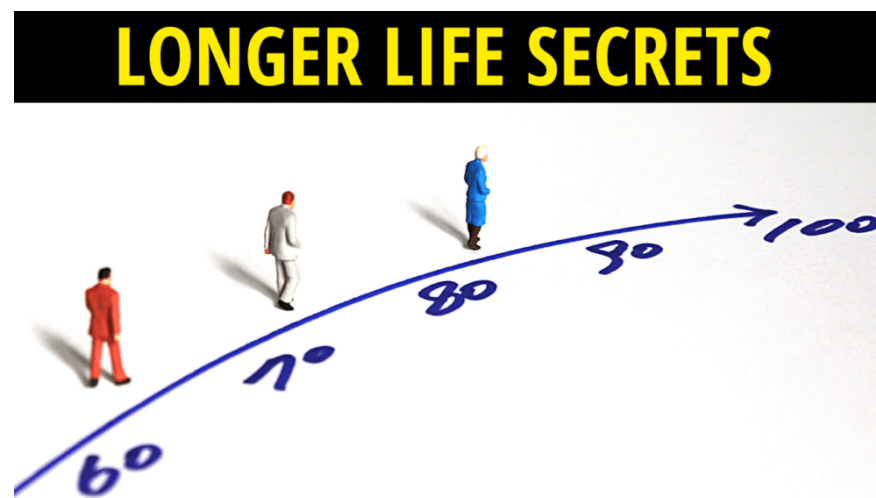
REDUCED U.S. LIFE EXPECTANCY

Factors that contribute:

- Lack of access to healthful food
- Teen pregnancies
- Drug overdoses
- HIV
- Fatal car accidents
- Access to firearms

Factors that could help:

- Improving health care coordination
- Access to education
- Health and safety protections
- Attention to pediatric health



RESOURCES

[Prevalence and Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder Among Children Aged 8 Years – Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, 11 Sites, United States, 2020 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)

[KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor: December 2022 | KFF](#)

[How does U.S. life expectancy compare to other countries? - Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker](#)

[The New Crisis of Increasing All-Cause Mortality in US Children and Adolescents | Adolescent Medicine | JAMA | JAMA Network](#)