

Live Long and Prosper: The Impact of Education on Mortality

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 USA TODAY

COLLEGE

NEWS CAMPUS LIFE CAREER PATH COLLEGE CHOICE STUDY ABROAD

VOICES FROM CAMPUS

Study: Higher education can help you live longer

By *Lea Giotto* July 16, 2015 12:57 pm

Krueger et al. (2015):

145,000 deaths attributed to U.S. adults having < HS education

550,00 deaths attributed to education < college education

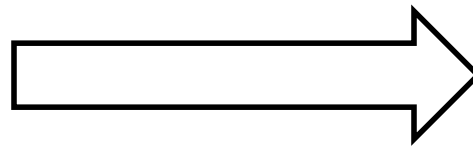
Growing Importance of Education & Social Factors for Longevity

Why?

Cruel Fate

Random
Accidents

Bad Luck



Human
Control

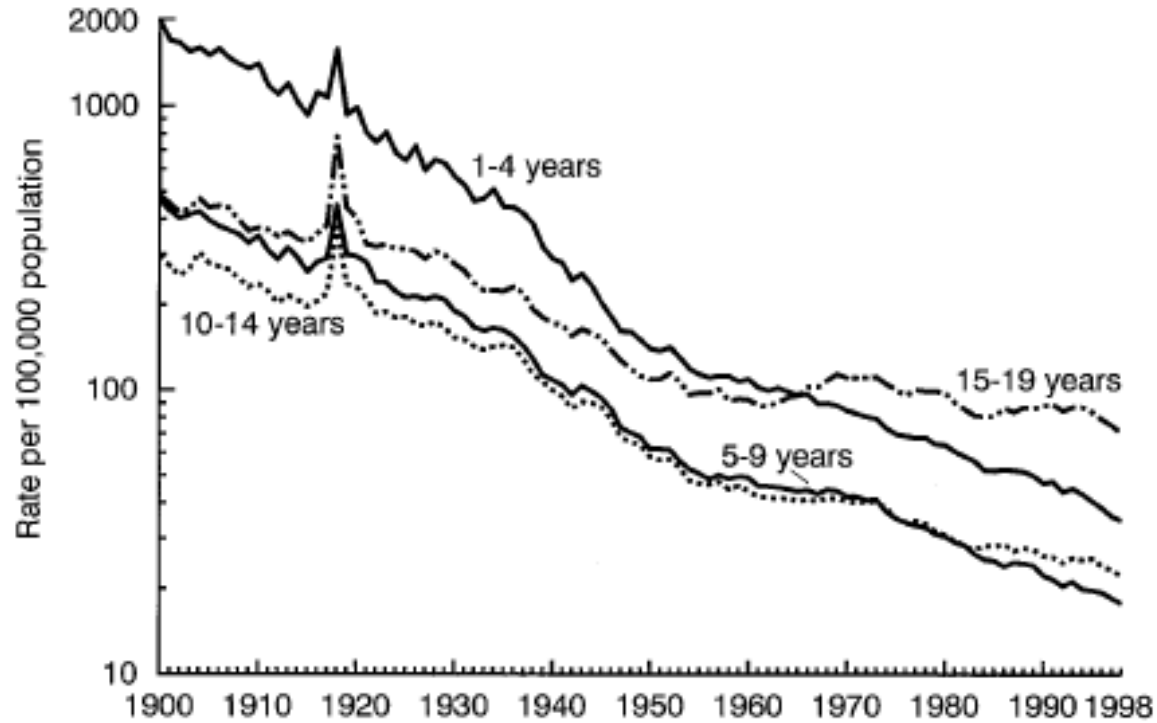
- Policies
- Knowledge
- Behaviors



“The rate of technological and human physiological change in the 20th century was remarkable” – Robert Fogel (2011)

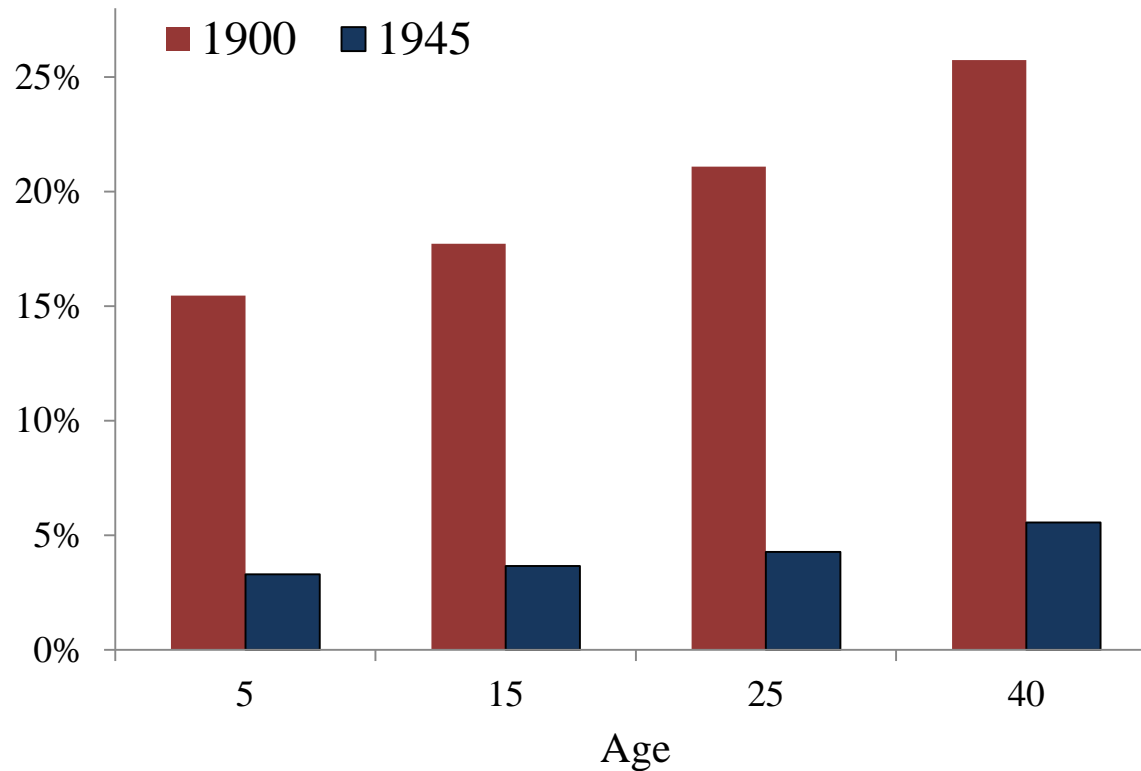
Revolutionized (1) when we die, (2) the causes of death, and (3) the overall health of the U.S. population.

Rates of Childhood Mortality in United States, 1900-1999



Source: Guyer et al. 2000

Percent Deceased by Age, Born 1900 vs. Born 1940

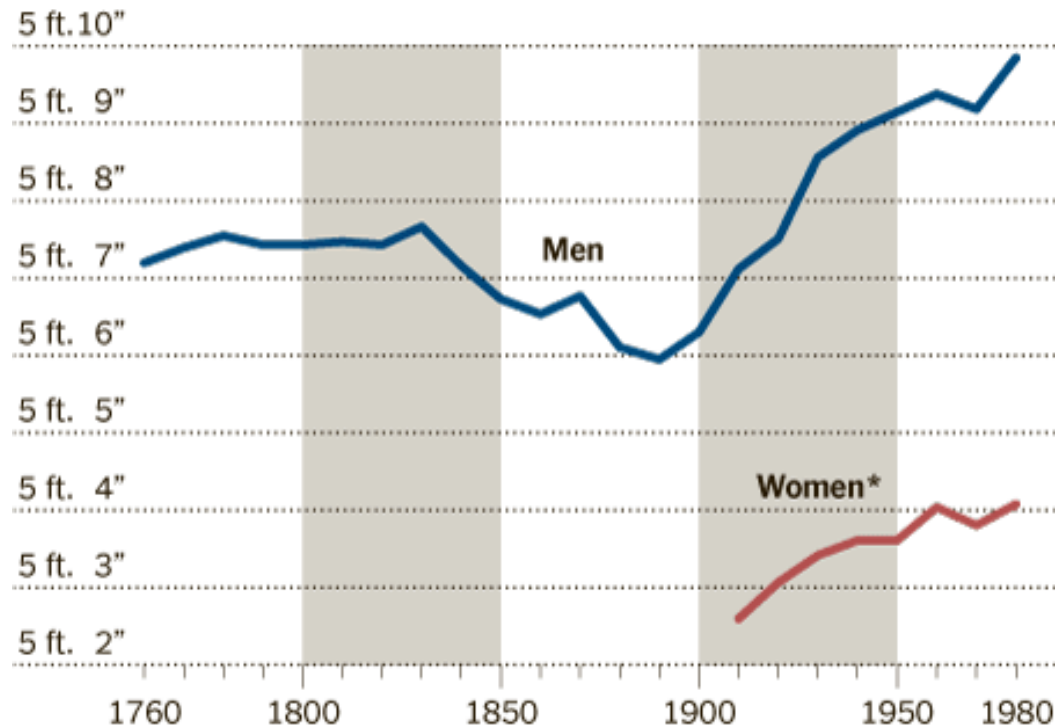


Source: Berkeley Mortality Database 2015

The Growing American

A new book due out next month examines changes in body size of Western Europeans and Americans since the 1700s. The average height of native-born American men rose four inches between 1890 and 1980.

AVERAGE HEIGHT OF NATIVE-BORN AMERICANS

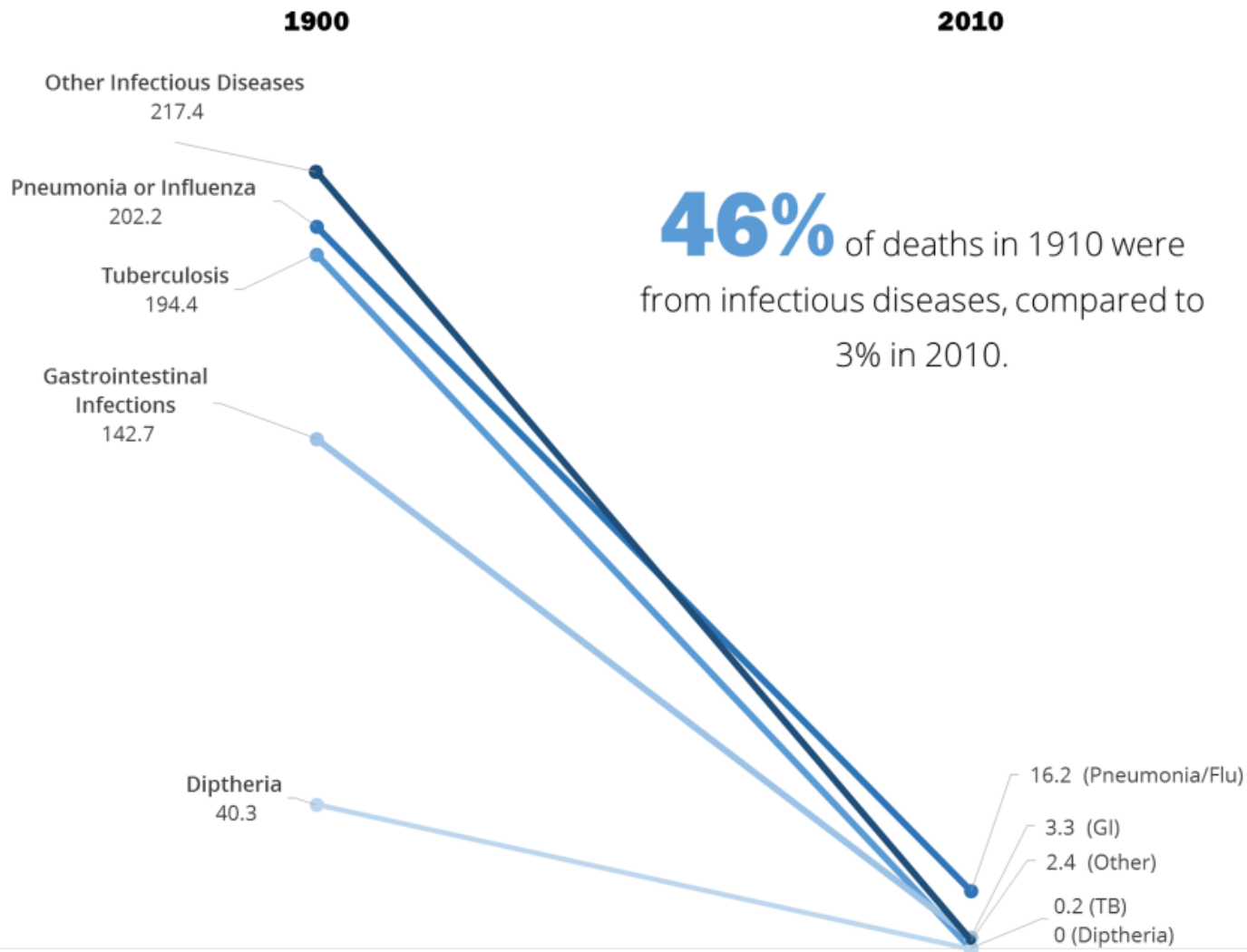


*Data not available for women prior to 1910.

Source: "The Changing Body," by Floud, Fogel, Harris and Hong

Mortality from Infectious Disease, USA, 1900 vs. 2010

(Rates per 100,000)



Data: Centers for Disease Control

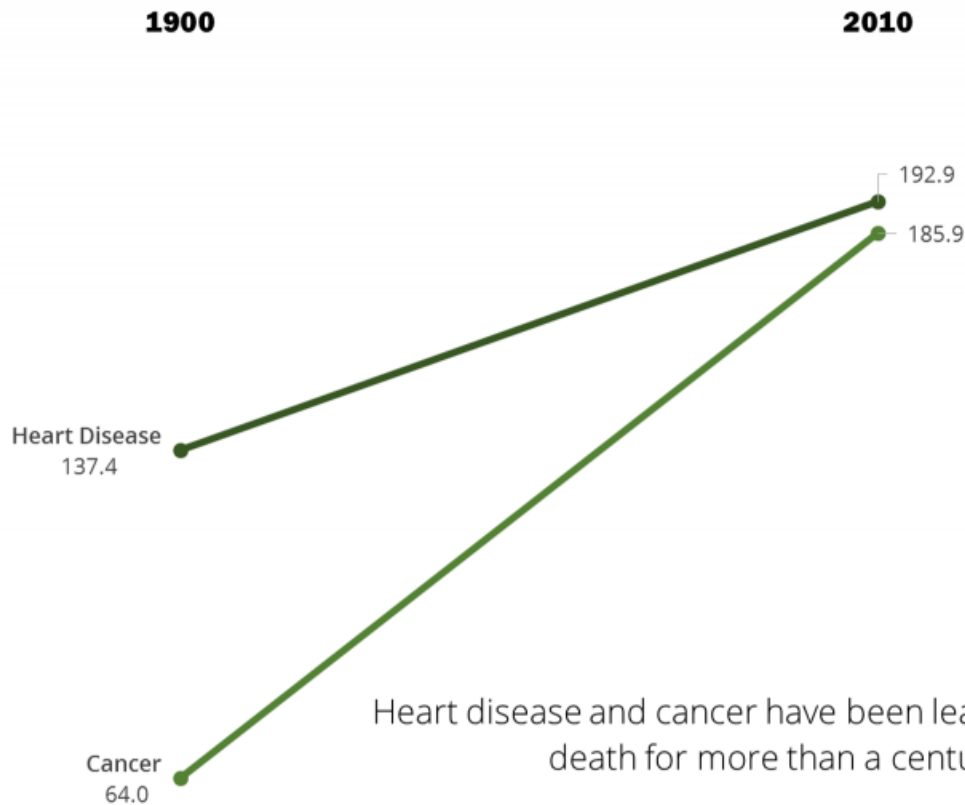


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Mortality from Heart Disease and Cancer, USA, 1900 vs. 2010

(Rates per 100,000)



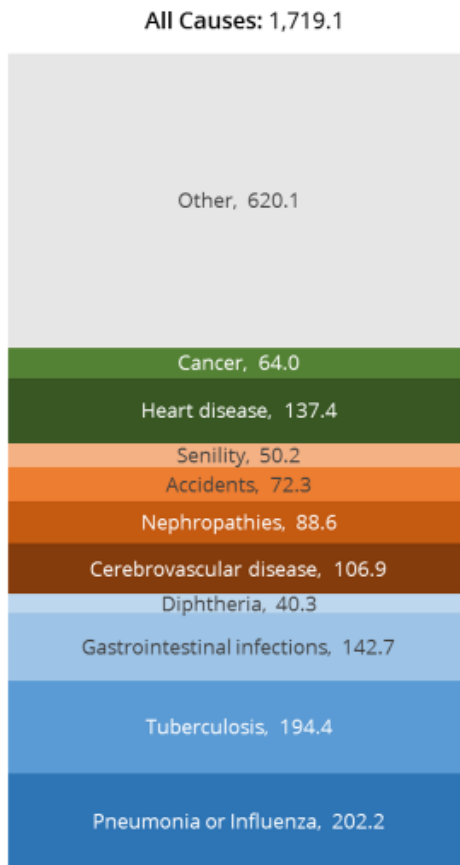
Heart disease and cancer have been leading causes of death for more than a century.

In 2010, they accounted for **47% of all deaths**, compared to 12% in 1900.

Mortality and Top 10 Causes of Death, USA, 1900 vs. 2010

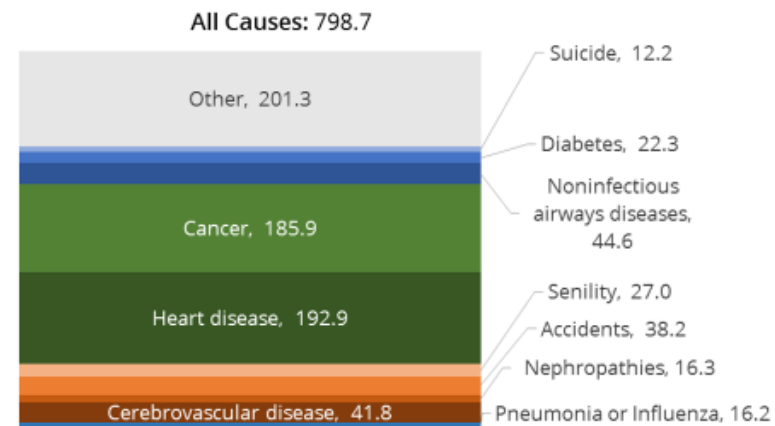
(Rates per 100,000)

1900



2010

Mortality from all causes **declined 54%** between 1900 and 2010.

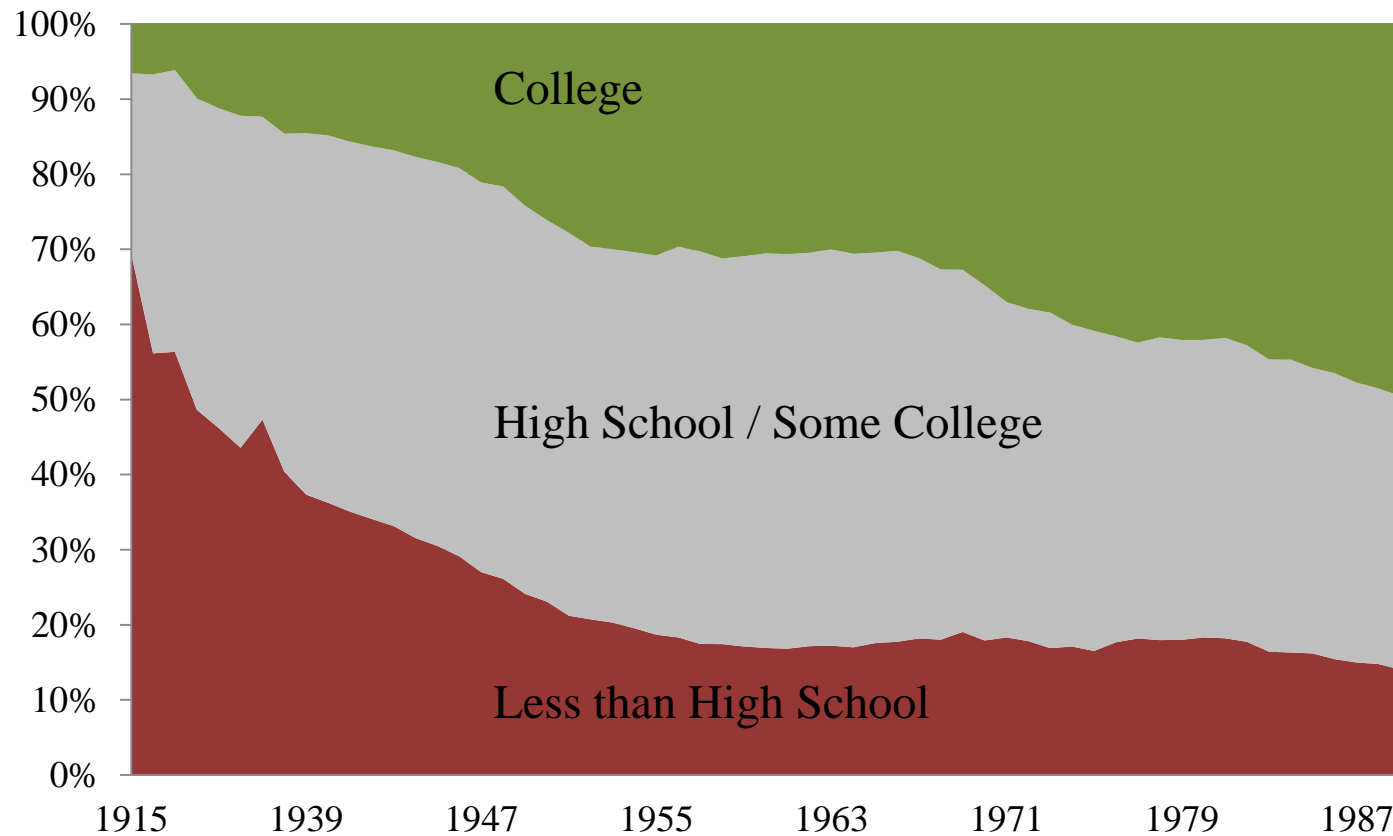


Data Source: Centers for Disease Control



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Larger Bodies, Longer Lives, Chronic Disease... and higher IQs?



“The nation’s current health trajectory is lower in success and higher in cost than it should be.”
- IOM (2013).

“When a population develops the wherewithal to avoid disease & death, individuals’ ability to benefit from that wherewithal is shaped by *resources* of knowledge, money, power, prestige, and beneficial social connections.”
- Link & Phelan (2011)

U.S. HEALTH IN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

