

Funding the Future

If we want to live for a reasonable time in the UK we c...

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The Tories have been trying to undermine the NHS in a bid to deliver private healthcare for the benefit of those who own companies in that sector for so long that it is almost normal to now think that is what is happening in our healthcare system.

John Burn-Murdoch has published [a Twitter thread](#) based on his articles in the FT on this issue, comparing health outcomes in the UK and the USA. The first three tweets were as follows:



John Burn-Murdoch

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NEW: I'm not sure people fully appreciate how dire the US life expectancy / mortality situation has got.

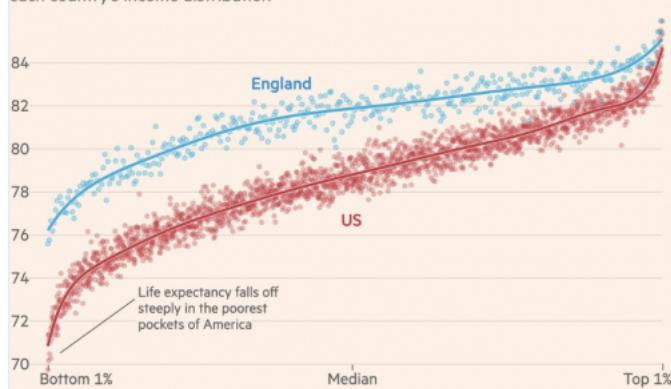
My column: enterprise-sharing.ft.com/redeem/75e5e3d...

And some utterly damning charts.

1) at *every* point on the income distribution, Americans live shorter lives than the English.

Americans die earlier than the English across the income distribution, especially at the bottom end, where the gap is more than five years

Life expectancy at different points along each country's income distribution*



*Each dot represents census tracts or Medium Super Output Areas containing roughly 100,000 people.
Sources: FT analysis of US Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project, Rashid et al. (2019), American Community Survey and ONS small area income estimates
FT graphic by John Burn-Murdoch / @jburnmurdoch
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2:48 PM · Mar 31, 2023 · 6.6M Views



John Burn-Murdoch

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2) It's actually worse than that [page 172](#) made out, because at most points on the income distribution, Americans earn much more than Brits.

If we plot the same data by actual income instead of percentile, the US deficit is vast.

There is much more in the thread. I stop at this point for a good reason. As John Burn-Murdoch himself makes clear, it is shocking to realise that as a result of spending twice as much of their GDP on health care as we in the UK do the US only manage to produce an average result the same as the worst in the whole of England.

That is not just staggering: it shows how dire Tory thinking on health is. And it shows us that the only way to deliver the healthcare we need is via a state-owned and funded NHS.

There is only one way to fund the future of healthcare, and it is to restore the NHS to the service levels we can very obviously afford because we had them only a decade or so ago.