

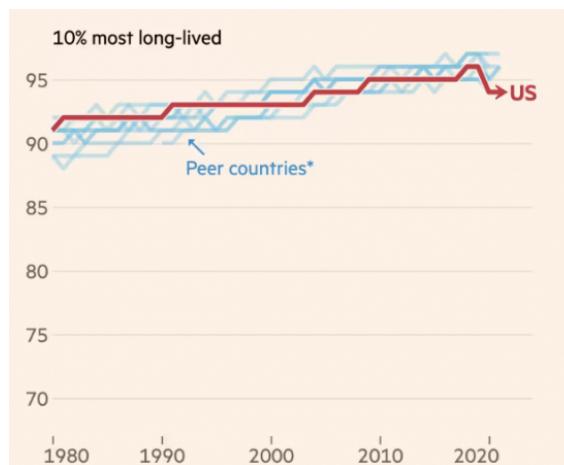
Funding the Future

Neoliberalism has a casual indifference to life

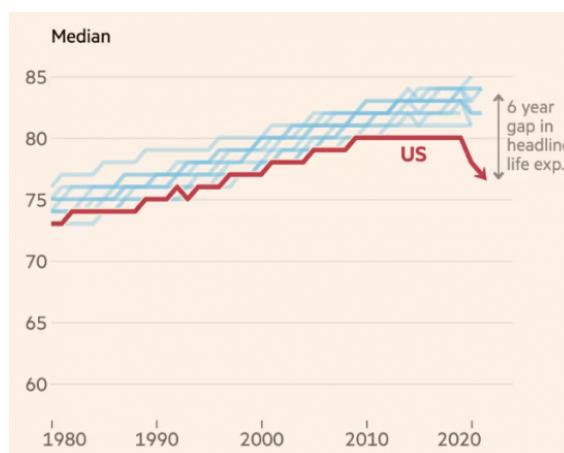
Published: January 15, 2026, 12:51 am

John Burn-Murdoch has another of his [quite amazing statistical analyses in the FT this morning](#). In this one, he compares US life expectancy of various groups in society with that of similar groups in other broadly similar societies.

At the top of the pile the US behaves pretty much like other countries:

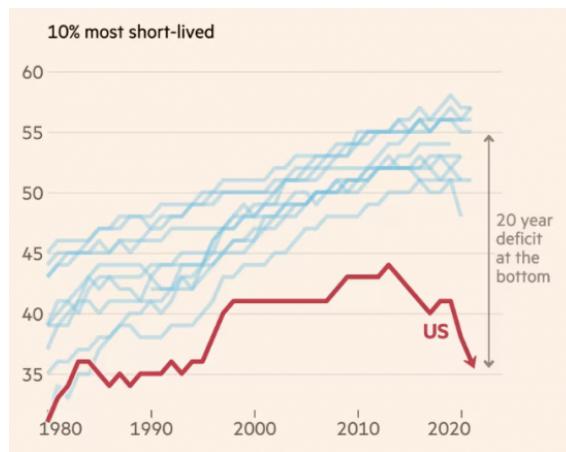


In the middle, things don't look quite so good:



A decided gap in life expectancy has opened up.

At the bottom the situation is horrendous:



For the bottom ten per cent in the US, life expectancy is about 20 years less than in most other equivalent countries at just 36 years.

Gun deaths and opiate addiction are the obvious factors making up the difference, but healthcare must also come into it.

If you want to see what the impact of unfettered neoliberalism and its causal indifference to life looks like, then that bottom chart is it.

And that's where the UK is heading, too. We are almost as willing to treat people as expendable now with our callous benefits policies and the casual indifference that the Bank of England has to the wellbeing of most people when setting its interest rate policies.

And you wonder why I get angry?