

WORDS

- **according to** = as shown by something or someone
- **average** = usually, normally
- **centenarian** = someone who is a hundred years or older
- **democracy** = a system of government in a country in which people can elect its representatives
- **destination** = a place where someone goes to
- **diet** = the kind of food that a person eats every day
- **disease** = illness
- **economy** = a system in which a country produces money and goods
- **effect** = outcome
- **envy** = to wish that you are like someone else
- **expect** = people think that or believe that...
- **found** = here: the year that the country first existed
- **goods** = the things you produce and sell
- **impact** = result, influence
- **increase** = to go up
- **inflict** = to suffer from
- **lengthy** = very long
- **life expectancy** = the number of years that a person is expected to live
- **occur** = happen
- **per capita** = per person
- **rank** = to have a position in a list
- **resident** = a person who lives in a place
- **ripe** = here: to be old
- **rule** = to have the power to control a country
- **sanitation** = when you remove waste and make dirty water cleaner, hygiene
- **service** = the work that someone does for a person or organization
- **vitality** = to have great energy and strength

Babies born in the United States in 2005 are expected to live an **average** of 77.9 years, **according to** a 2007 study. That's an **increase** of more than 30 years since 1900, when Americans were **expected** to live just 47.3 years. The increase is big, but America is not at the top of the list for **life expectancy**. Actually, the United States **ranks** behind 41 other countries.



Residents of Okinawa, a Japanese island, get very old. In 2002, 34 of 100,000 **residents** were over 100 years old, the highest **life expectancy** of any area in the world. People so **envy** Okinawans' **vitality** that doctors made a popular **diet** based on theirs to help others try to live longer. While Okinawa may have the highest population of **centenarians** -- people who are 100 years of age or older -- Japan is **ranked** second in **life expectancy** with an **average** of 82.

So who does first place go? The **residents** of Andorra, a tiny mountain nation in the Pyrenees between France and Spain, are **expected** to live to the **ripe** old age of 83.5. But why are Andorrans expected to live so much longer than anyone else?

Andorra is home to around 72,000 people. It was **founded** in 1278, but was **ruled** together by Spain and France -- until 1993, when it became a **democracy**. It was generally a poor country until after World War II, when Andorra became a tourist **destination** for skiing. Now, with a gross domestic product (GDP) -- the total of all of the **goods** and **services** produced in a year -- of \$2.77 billion U.S., Andorra has a good **economy**.



But wealth alone doesn't give you a **lengthy life expectancy**. The United States is one of the world's richest countries, with a GDP of \$43,500 per person. Andorra has a **per capita** GDP of \$38

Diseases

When a **disease occurs** in a population it has an **effect** on the **average life expectancy**. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that, in 2005, 38 percent of the **adult** population of Swaziland, the African nation with the lowest **life expectancy** in the world, was **inflicted** with AIDS or **HIV**. This isn't the only reason for Swaziland's low average **life expectancy** (38 years for men and 37 years for women), but it has a great impact. In Andorra on the other hand, AIDS does not exist.

WORDS

- **access** = the right to have something
- **contribute** = add to
- **gross domestic product** = the total value of all goods and services that are produced in a country every year
- **health care** = the service that looks after the health of all the people in a country
- **life expectancy** = the number of years that a person is expected to live
- **maintenance costs** = the money it takes to repair things and keep them in order
- **per capita** = per person
- **poverty line** = when people have too little money to exist
- **resident** = a person who lives in a place
- **sanitation** = when you remove waste and make dirty water cleaner, hygiene
- **sewer** = a pipe or passage under ground that carries away dirty water

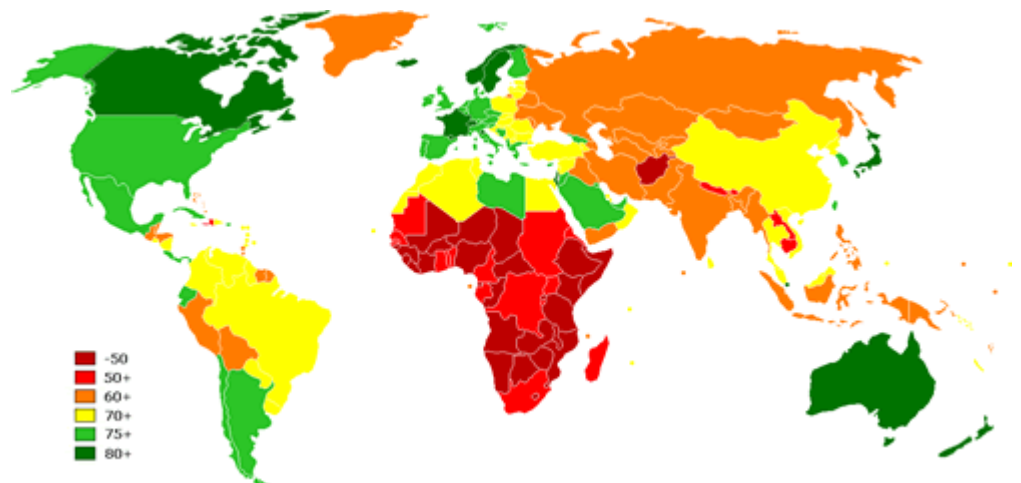
People in Swaziland don't have the same **health care** that Andorrans, in large part because they are so poor. Swaziland has a **per capita gross domestic product** of \$5,300, and 69 percent of its **residents** live below the **poverty line**.

Drinking water

Safe drinking water and **sanitation** are also problems in the African nation . Only 42 percent of Swaziland 's country population has **access** to safe water. In Andorra 100 percent of Andorra's population has **access** to safe water and **sanitation**. One reason it's easier to give Andorrans better **sanitation** is the country's size: Fewer people need fewer **sewers**, and the country saves money on installation and **maintenance costs**.

Education

Education is another factor that **contributes** to a longer **life expectancy**. Only 81 percent of Swaziland's population of more than 1 million people can read and write, compared to 100 percent of Andorra's residents.



Life expectancy in our world