

41 countries beat U.S. lifespan

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The United States is slipping in international life expectancy rankings. In fact, residents of 41 countries, including Japan and most of Europe, have higher average life spans than residents of the United States. Census bureau statistics say babies born in 2004 will live an average of 77.9 years, and while that's longer than ever in the U.S., factors such as lack of health insurance and obesity may lead to America's standing. Two decades ago, the United States was ranked 11th among nations.